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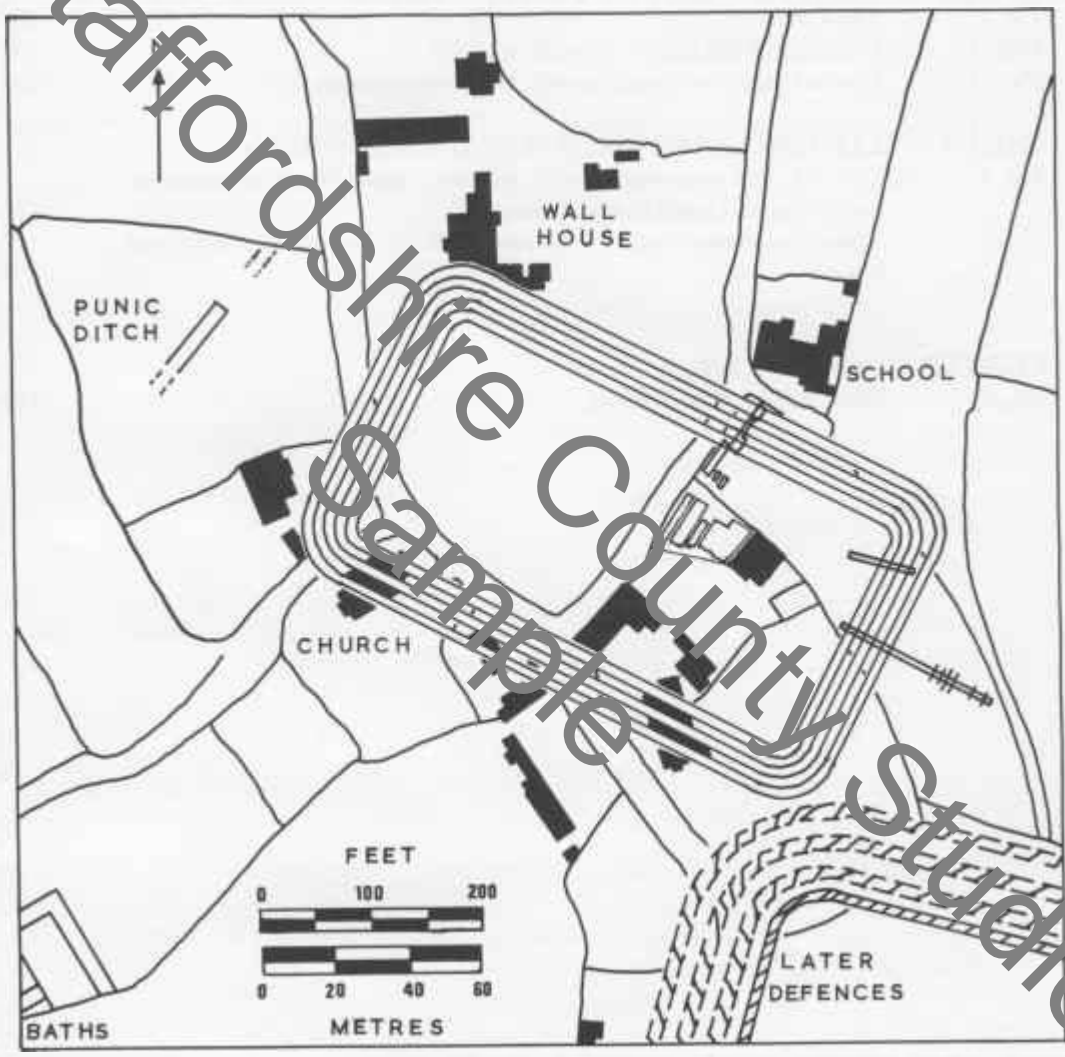

Fig. 1 Location of excavation site

EXCAVATIONS AT WALL (STAFFORDSHIRE), 1968-1972 ON THE SITE OF THE ROMAN FORTS (WALL EXCAVATION REPORT No. 12)

A. A. ROUND, F.S.A.

SUMMARY

This report describes further excavations designed to investigate the interior of the Roman forts at Wall, Staffordshire. The first fort on the site (Nat. Grid Ref. SK/100067) is shown to be Neronian and not Claudian as previously thought. Two Flavian forts followed and the final phase, Trajanic or early Hadrianic, was probably non-military.

INTRODUCTION

Excavations by the Society in 1966-7 within the forts *(Wall Excavation Report no. 9,* Site W) could not be extended to the south-west owing to the presence of trees and a boundary hedge. In 1968 Mr. and Mrs. K. Cutler generously made available an area (Nat. Grid. Ref. SK/100067) beyond these features, and the opportunity was taken to add to the information obtained from the earlier excavations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. K. Cutler who willingly continued to allow the storage of tools and equipment on their property and always took a lively and helpful interest in the work. Space forbids mention of all who assisted in the excavation but those who worked regularly each Saturday throughout the year, often under very difficult conditions, included Misses P. Melsom, H. Moore, J. Weatherhead and D. M. White (now Mrs. D. Wilkes), Mr. and Mrs. E. Pengelly, Rev. S. B. Coley, Dr. J. G. L. Cole, Messrs. C. J. Baddeley, P. R. Bennett, S. Coley, J. Corfield, I. L. Davidson, B. L. Haywood and G. Perry. Mention must also be made of the regular mid-week contingent of students from the Bilston College of Further Education, ably led by Mr. J. Lees.

Specialist help was provided unstintingly by many people who gave generously of their own time. Every fragment of samian pottery found was examined by Mr. B. R. Hartley and every glass fragment by Dr. D. B. Harden. The writer was fortunate in having the assistance of Mr. B. Eccleston who drew the samian ware and Mr. D. F. Mackreth who reported on and drew the brooches. Dr. J. G. L. Cole reported on the animal bones. Mrs. K. Hartley examined and commented on all the mortaria, and Mr. N. Thomas the flints. The coins, most of which were badly corroded by the acid soil, were identified by Miss M. M. Archibald, and Dr. K. Greene saw and commented on most of the Fine Wares. The writer is much indebted to all these contributors, without whose help this report could not have been completed. At the same time, he takes full responsibility for any errors and for the opinions expressed. Finally, the comments and advice of Dr. Graham Webster both on his visits to the site and elsewhere were always a source of encouragement and inspiration.

The excavation records and the finds have been deposited in the City of Birmingham Museum.

THE MORTARIA (fig. 15)

KATHLEEN F. HARTLEY, F.S.A.

PERIOD 2

From the occupation layer

M.1. Fragment from Hartshill-Mancetter kilns, probably A.D. 100-150.

From the destruction layer

M.2. Fragment probably from Verulamium region, probably A.D. 65-130.

M.3. Fragment from Verulamium region, A.D. 70-110.

PERIOD 3

From the occupation layer

M.4. Rim in fine cream fabric with grey flint grit, made in south-east England or Gaul. Form similar to those used by Q. Valerius Se... (*Arch. J.* cxxiii, 1966, p.46, fig. 8, 22-25). A.D. 55-80.

From the destruction layer

M.5. Rim with partial stamp in hard, fine textured cream fabric with tiny red-brown and grey inclusions, and darker slip; hard, angular grey, red-brown and a very few white trituration grits. The broken incomplete stamp is from a die which can be attributed to Junius, who had kilns at Hartshill and Mancetter probably in the period A.D. 160-190.

M.6. Rim of uncertain origin and date, but the heavy gritting on top of the flange is normally a Flavian practice.

PERIOD 4

From the build-up layer below the stone floors

M.7. Flange fragment in granular brownish-cream fabric with pale core; slightly burnt. The incomplete, diagonally impressed stamp,]LBIИV[is from one of at least seven name-dies used by Albinus. He is the most prolific mortarium potter known for Roman Britain — 280 stamps of his have been noted from sites throughout England, Wales and Scotland. One of these is from Inchtuthil (*c.* A.D. 83-87), three from the Neronian-Flavian fort at 'The Lunt', Baginton, and there are a number from a pit at Verulamium filled during the early Flavian period. A date of A.D. 65-95 is indicated for his work.

M.8. When complete this stamp appears to read VIA̲NVA̲ CA̲E (or ...CFE) retrograde: it is the counterstamp always used with one name-stamp of Albinus (no. M.7. above). It seems likely to be an unrecorded place-name: it would not be impossible for it to refer to a workman, slave or colleague but it would be highly unusual. (For a fuller discussion of Albinus see S.S. Frere, *Verulamium I,* pp.371-2). A.D. 65-95.

M.9. Flange fragment in granular off-white fabric with buff slip; quartz-like trituration grit. When complete stamps from this die read L·ARRICA LVDVF and some impressions suggest that a second stop should be read before the C.

The interpretation of the stamps is in doubt — L Arri(us) Caludu(s) F or Ca-LuduF are possible, since Ludu F could well be a mistake for *Lugudu F.* This potter worked in the potteries south of Verulamium and he was a contemporary of Albinus (see above). Other stamps have been noted from London(5) and Northwich. A.D. 70-100.

M.10. Slightly burnt fragment in sandy, pinkish-cream fabric with buff slip and small white and grey grits, from the potteries south of Verulamium. *c.* A.D. 65-110.

M.11. Two flange fragments of Gillam 238, made in south-east England or less probably Gaul. A.D. 70-100.

M.12. Fragment in slightly granular cream fabric with darker slip, made in the potteries south of Verulamium. A.D. 70-110.

M.13. Burnt flange fragment in fine cream fabric with tiny quartz-like grits on the surface, made in south-east England or Gaul. A.D. 50-80.

From Roman layers associated with the stone floors

M.14. Flange in granular brown fabric with brownish-buff slip; much white and grey trituration grits. The incompletely impressed stamp]VGVD[is from a die giving F.LVGVDV which was used in conjunction with one of Albinus's name-dies. Counterstamps reading F.LVGVDV, presumably *factum Luguduni,* are common in the products of Albinus and a few other potters, and undoubtedly establish manufacture at a place called Lugudunum. In the past it has been usual to assume that the potters using these worked at Lyons, Lugdunum Batavorum or Lugudunum Convenarum. It is now certain that all of them worked in Britain in the potteries situated near Watling Street in the region between Verulamium and London (including Radlett and Brockley Hill). A.D. 65-95.

M.15. Flange fragment in soft fish fine-textured creamy-white fabric. The worn and broken stamp reading]VSTI in an ansate frame is from a die of Surus. His work has been recorded from a kiln primarily used by Victor at Mancetter and it is probable that he worked there. Only two other stamps are recorded from other sites — Holditch and Rocester. His association with Victor and the stamp from Holditch (from a site producing only pre-Antonine Samian) point to a date within the period A.D. 100-140.

M.16. Six joining fragments and two others forming more than half of a mortarium in granular cream fabric. The trituration grits has been worn away by heavy use. The surviving stamp is from the most commonly used die of Sollus. More than seventy stamps of Sollus are known from sites throughout England including thirty-two from London, two from the kilns at Brockley Hill and three from Flavian forts in Scotland. His fabric, forms and distribution are all typical of major potters working in the potteries south of Verulamium (see above) in the Flavian period. His rims are consistent with a date of A.D. 70-100. (For stamp see S.S. Frere, *Verulamium I,* p.377, fig. 146, 38).

M.17. Fragment in fine cream fabric with white and dark-brown grits, from the Hartshill-Mancetter potteries. A.D. 100-150.

M.18. Three flange fragments in fine creamy-white fabric with brown and dark grey trituration grits, made in the Midlands, possibly at the Hartshill-Mancetter potteries. It was probably made by some such potter as Septuminus, Moe or Surus, but it is unlikely to be from the mortarium of Surus already described (no. M.15.). A.D. 100-140.

M.19. Fragment of Gillam 238, made in south-east England or less probably Gaul. A.D. 70-100.

M.20. Fragment, made in the Verulamium region. Late first or early second century.

M.21. Nine fragments from the Hartshill-Mancetter potteries. Second century.

M.22. Fragment, made in the Verulamium region. First or second century.
M.23. Spout fragment, made in the Midlands. Probably A.D. 100-140.
M.24. Flange fragment, made in the Verulamium region. This mortarium can be matched by mortaria recorded from pre-Boudiccan levels at Verulamium and is not unlike some mortaria made by Devalus and Albinus who were amongst the earliest potters stamping mortaria in these potteries.
M.25. Fragment made in south-east England or perhaps Gaul. First century or perhaps Trajanic.
M.26. Fragment made in south-east England or just possibly in Gaul. Almost certainly Flavian.
M.27. Flange fragment made in the Verulamium region. A.D. 80-140.

From the trench through the stone floor, Area A

M.28. Body fragment, fabric similar to M.16. above. A.D. 70-100.

UNSTRATIFIED

M.29. Body fragment, made in the Midlands. Not strictly datable but more likely to be second century than any other date.
M.30. Body fragment in yellowish-cream fabric made in Kent or in the vicinity of Colchester, or just possibly in Gallia Belgica. This is probably from a mortarium like those of Quintus Valerius Se[illegible] (*Arch. J.* cxxiii, 1966, p.46, fig. 8, 22-25) or a Gillam 238. The fabric could perhaps link also with the second-century Colchester products, but this is most unlikely since Wall is not in the normal marketing area for these potters. *c.* A.D. 50-100.
M.31. Two fragments from the Verulamium region. First or second century.
M.32. Two fragments, probably from south or south-east England. Difficult to date, but likely to be Flavian.
M.33. Fragment, probably from a Gillam 238, made in south-east England or Gaul. Probably A.D. 70-100.
M.34. Two fragments of Midland manufacture, date uncertain but second century likely.
M.35. Fragment in granular brownish-cream fabric with paler core. A.D. 65-95.
M.36. Fragment made in the Midlands and can be closely paralleled in the work of such potters as ERUCANUS and COERTITINUS who may have worked at Mancetter. A.D. 100-140.

THE FINE WARES (fig. 15)

A. A. ROUND, F.S.A.

All the Fine Ware sherds found are listed and those of identifiable form or decoration have been seen by Dr. K. Greene, whose comments are given below.

From the trampled surface of the otherwise undisturbed subsoil
Here were two small sherds of Lyon Ware.

PERIOD 1
From the drainage trenches
Here were three small sherds of Lyon Ware.

From the occupation layer
Here were two small sherds of Lyon Ware and the following:

1. Three joining fragments of a beaker or bowl with foot-ring and barbotine decoration with groove below, in cream-buff fabric with yellow-brown glaze on both inner and outer surfaces. 'Central Gaulish glazed ware, either a large squat version of *Usk*, p.96, 16 or a bowl like p.94, 12 with the decoration of the former. *c.* A.D. 43-70. K. Greene[K.G.].'.

From the destruction layer
Here were two Lyon Ware fragments.

PERIOD 2
From the construction trenches
Here were five Lyon Ware fragments, including a cup rim which could belong to any of the decorated varieties, and the following:

2. Fragment of Lyon Ware cup with rustication and internal fine sand roughcast, and green-brown colour-coat on both surfaces. 'Type 2 cup, *Usk*, p.19. K.G.'.

From the occupation layer
Here were three Lyon Ware fragments, including a base 50mm diam.

From the drainage gutter

3. 'Minute body sherd of Lyon Ware Type 4.1 cup. *Usk*, p.21. K.G.'.

PERIOD 3
From the foundation beam slots
Here was a small fragment similar to 3 above.

PERIOD 4
From the build-up layer below the stone floors
Here was a Lyon Ware fragment and the following:

4. Wall fragment of beaker in pinkish-buff micaceous fabric with dark brown colour-coat on both surfaces, rouletted scale decoration with two grooves below and one above, and what appears to be a trace of scale rouletting above this. 'The fabric suggests a Central Gaulish origin for this vessel, which was probably a barrel-shaped beaker like those frequently decorated with roughcast or barbotine, *Usk*, p.44, fig. 17, 3-4: p.45, fig. 18,1. Flavian-Hadrianic? K.G.'.

From Roman layers associated with the stone floors

Here were eleven fragments of Lyon Ware and the following:

5. Two wall fragments of beakers in orange-brown fabric with grey core and patchy light and dark brown colour-coat, and sparse clay particle roughcast on exterior. 'Probably of the Flavian second-century bag-shaped form and from Northern Gaul or the Rhineland. See A. Anderson, *A Guide to Roman Fine Wares,* (Highworth, 1980), for fabric descriptions and forms. K.G.'.
6. Beaker in buff fabric with mica, and yellow-brown metallic glaze on both surfaces, and 'hairpin and dot' barbotine decoration. 'Central Gaulish glazed ware beaker combining the decorative elements of *Usk,* p.96, 13 and 16. An identical vessel from London was published in K. Greene, 'An unusual Roman glazed vessel from Woodcuts in Cranborne Chase', *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.* xciii (1971), pp.163-6; it is no. 4 on fig. 24. *c.* A.D. 43-70. K.G.'.
7. Rim in pinkish-buff micaceous fabric as 4 above, with dark brown colour-coat and three shoulder grooves. 'Central Gaulish, probably from a vessel such as that described in *Usk,* p.46 under "ORIGIN". Some are illustrated in H. Vertet, "Remarques sur l'Influence des Ateliers Céramiques de Lyon sur ceux du Centre et du Sud de la Gaule", *Acta Rei Cretariae Rom. Fautorum,* xiii (1971), pp.92-111. They were made in Lezoux, and in other places, it seems, in the late-first/early-second centuries. Rather rare. K.G.'.
8. Two-ribbed handle in the same fabric and probably from the same vessel as 7 above.

UNSTRATIFIED

Here was a fragment of Lyon Ware and the following:

9. Wall fragment of beaker in hard pale-buff fabric with dark brown metallic glaze on internal surface, and clay particle roughcast and patchy light and dark brown metallic glaze on outer surface. 'Probably of the Flavian second-century bag-shaped form and from Northern Gaul or the Rhineland. See Anderson above for fabric and forms. K.G.'.
10. Base of a non-roughcast beaker in hard buff fabric with dark brown colour-coat on internal surface and patchy light and dark brown glaze on outer surface. See Anderson above.

THE FLINTS (fig. 15)

NICHOLAS THOMAS, F.S.A.

Forty prehistoric flint artifacts were recovered from the site, of which fifteen were unworked flakes and ten amorphous rough chips produced in the flaking process. The material is usually a mottled grey flint, sometimes translucent and generally patinated in varying degrees to white, similar to that found in the fort excavations of 1966-7 *(Wall Excavations Report no. 9).* It was probably available locally as river gravel and is generally not of good quality for flaking. In contrast, however, the material used for nos. 9, 13 and 14 is an attractive and very workable dense black flint which appears to be from one source and is readily distinguished by colour and excellence from the other flint found at Wall.

The two *petit tranchet derivé* arrowheads point to the later Neolithic i.e. towards the end of the third millenium B.C., while the waste material and utilized fragments could all occur in an assemblage of this period.

THE BRONZE OBJECTS (figs. 17 & 18)

A. A. ROUND, F.S.A.

PERIOD 1

From the drainage trenches

1. Bronze strip with two very small holes, and apparently a larger hole through which passes a rivet carrying a grotesque head, perhaps of a satyr or Silenus, at one end and a circular washer near the other, which appears to have been rivetted over. Probably a belt fitting.
2. Circular object with raised rim on both sides and a central dome with small central depression on one side. Purpose unknown.
3. Crescent-shaped harness trapping *(Hod Hill I,* fig. 3, A.43).
4. Fragment of thin strip 5mm wide, possibly from tweezers. *(Not illustrated).*

From the occupation layer

5. Strip with three rivets, perhaps for attachment to a belt.

From the destruction layer

6. Cuirass-hinge *(Hod Hill II,* fig. 56, no. 10).
7. Scale from a cuirass, with two rivet holes and remains of one rivet *(Richborough IV),* p.143, 178, although this example appears to have had a different method of attachment).
8. Part of the bronze lid of a jug with projecting thumb-piece *(T.B.A.S.,* lxxxv for 1971-1973 (1973), p.71, no. 16).
9. Binding, with one edge folded, the other curved, and a rivet hole with raised rim.
10. Tankard handle. The average length of grip in these handles, which occur in the first-and early-second centuries, is about 75mm, but one from Brodon Hill is, like the present example, only about 40mm. It is thought that they were not gripped as is the modern handle, but used to steady with the fingers only *(P.P.S.,* xviii, 1952, p.85).

PERIOD 2

From the destruction layer

11. Circular seal-box with lid. These were frequently decorated, but this lid is merely pierced with four holes.
12. Head of pin.
13. Camp kettle, found in a much corroded and fragmentary condition in association with some unidentifiable bone fragments. Its reconstruction, for which the writer is indebted to the City of Birmingham Museum, shows it to have been flat-bottomed with a greatest diameter of about 270mm and a height of about 210mm. A 40mm length of iron rod rusted into a hole in the rim appears to be the remains of a handle. (For a slightly smaller example see *Wroxeter, 1923-27,* p.209 and Pl. 53A).
14. Ferrule.

PERIOD 3

From the foundation beam-slots

15. Part of decorative thin sheet mount in repoussé, with two shallow domes pierced for attachment.

Fig. 17 The Bronze Objects, nos. 1-25 (½, except no. 18 which is ⅛)

16. Saucepan handle with round hole and corded bead round circular end, broken in antiquity and repaired with two bronze rivets. The metal is corroded, but not sufficiently to obscure a maker's name if this were present *(T.B.A.S.,* lxxxi for 1963-1964 (1966), p. 13, where various examples are cited).

From the destruction layer

17. Thin iron sheet with bronze rivet, possibly part of legionary cuirass.
18. Simple ring, probably from harness.
19. Dished washer.
20. Shaped head of probe or stylus, with break at one end only.
21. Decorative boss with pin for attachment and thickened rim, with traces of central decoration.
22. Thick boss, without obvious means of attachment.
23. Much corroded plate with four rivets. Possibly a belt mount, but the British Museum, who kindly examined it, report that it shows no trace of decoration.

PERIOD 4

From the build-up layer below the stone floors

24. Thin sheet, with fragments of thin sheet rivetted to it on both sides.
25. Cuirass hinge with bronze rivet. See no. 6 above.
26. Part of a buckle.
27. Part of bronze lid of jug with thumb-piece. See no. 8 above *(Not illustrated).*
28. Fragment of tweezers *(Hod Hill I,* pl. xi, 155).
29. Fragment of harness ring, diameter *c.* 40mm. *(Not illustrated).*
30. Pin with grooved head.
31. Four fragments of simple harness ring, diameter *c.* 45mm *(Not illustrated).*

From Roman layers associated with the stone floors

32. Fragment of simple harness ring.
33. Rivet.
34. Curved strip-end with hollowed back, possibly part of harness-eyelet.
35. Flanged perforated disc, with fine circular groove on upper surface.
36. Ornamental bronze bolt with perforated shank *(Richborough V,* p.105, 22).
37. Simple ring.
38. Dome-headed stud, probably for attachment to leather.

UNSTRATIFIED

39. Head of pin with square shank.
40. Fragment of circular seal-box lid with hinge. See no. 11 above *(not illustrated).*
41. Saucepan handle with round hole and corded bead round circular end, similar to, but slightly smaller than, no. 16 above.

THE LEAD OBJECTS & MISCELLANOUS SMALL FINDS (fig. 21)

A. A. ROUND, F.S.A.

Small fragments of lead were found in all layers. Rod and sheet fragments are listed but not illustrated.

PERIOD 1

From the occupation layer

1. Folded fragment of thin sheet, thickness 2mm.

PERIOD 2

From the occupation layer

2. Split tube, possibly a net weight.
3. Lump cast by pouring into bottom and part side of an inclined pot, with central basal 'kick'. Wt. 156 gm.

From the destruction layer

4. Strip, 65mm × 10mm × 3mm, narrowing at ends, bent into U-shape.
5. Folded fragment of thin sheet, thickness 1mm.

PERIOD 3

From the destruction layer

6. Fragment of thin sheet, thickness 1mm.

PERIOD 4

From the build-up layer below the stone floors

7. Weight (14.34 gm).
8. Weight with central hole (20.25 gm), or perhaps small spindle whorl.
9. Weight with central hole, or perhaps spindle whorl.
10. Rod, 30mm × 6mm.
11. Rod, 28mm × 4mm.

12-16. Five fragments of thin sheet, thickness 1-2mm.

From Roman layers associated with the stone floors

17. Weight with central hole, or perhaps spindle whorl.
18. Object in form of a partial ring, of diamond section, with three small projections.
19. Perforated disc, with projecting collar round hole on one side, perhaps a weight (10.54 gm)
20. Counter or small weight. (5.64 gm)
21. Fragment of perforated sheet, thickness 1-2mm, with *c.* 10mm holes arranged in approximately parallel lines. The holes appear to have been made by pushing a pointed instrument through the sheet, leaving a collar round each hole on the other side.
22. Rod, 30mm × 4mm.
23. Strip, 56mm × 18mm × 1mm, folded into three.

UNSTRATIFIED

24. Object with central conical hole, transverse perforation with corroded iron at one end, and slightly projecting rim round the rounded base. Possibly a steelyard weight. (84.77 gm)

25. Amber bead, cylindrical with central perforation *(Roman layer associated with stone floors).*
26. Pottery counter in buff fabric *(Period 2, occupation layer).*
27. Pottery spindle whorl with central hole, made from base of buff-coloured vessel *(Period 2, destruction layer).*

MELON BEADS

Those of glass have already been described. The eleven described below are of the well-known greyish white opaque frit with bright blue finish. Most are fragmentary and only nos. 28 and 30 are illustrated.

	Diameter (mm)	*Width* (mm)	
28.	17	15	*(Period 1, drainage trench).*
29.	16	13	*(Period 1, destruction layer).*
30.	25	20	*(Period 3, destruction layer).*
31.	17	14	*(Period 3, destruction layer).*
32.	15	14	*(Build-up layer below stone floors).*
33.	28	22	*(Build-up layer below stone floors).*
34.	28	26	*(Build-up layer below stone floors).*
35.	23	18	*(Roman layers associated with stone floors).*
36.	17	15	*(Roman layers associated with stone floors).*
37.	25	22	*(Roman layers associated with stone floors).*
38.	28	20	*(Roman layers associated with stone floors).*

OBJECTS OF STONE

A. A. ROUND, F.S.A.

QUERN STONES

All were too fragmentary for illustration, but it was possible in some instances to determine the position of the stone in use.

PERIOD 1

From the destruction layer: Two top stones of Millstone Grit.

PERIOD 2

From a construction trench: A top stone of Millstone Grit.
From the occupation layer: Two top stones of Millstone Grit and Rhineland Lava respectively.

PERIOD 3

From the destruction layer: A Millstone Grit fragment.

PERIOD 4

From the build-up layer below the stone floors: A Millstone Grit fragment.
From Roman layers associated with the stone floors: A grooved top stone of Rhineland Lava.
From the trench through the stone floor in Area B: Two Millstone Grit fragments.

TWO FACE-URNS (Pl. I)

A. A. ROUND, F.S.A.

The smaller sherd (pl. Ib), bearing only the nose and the closed left eye, was found in the Period 4 build-up layer in Area B. The fabric is grey and somewhat soft, and the sherd, though abraded, is obviously part of a vessel of rounded form.

The second sherd (pl. Ia), also found in Area B but in the destruction level of Period 3, is of hard buff fabric. Although the back is hollowed, the mask is feather-edged as if it were made for applying to a rounded surface, of which no trace remains. Below the beetling brows two angular fragments of green glass are set to represent the eyes. The nostrils are indicated by slight depressions.

Both sherds are unusual, and the use of glass for eyes in the second example seems to have no parallels. They are roughly made compared with face-urns of the third and fourth centuries when the face, usually female, was often made by the use of a mould. Face-urns are thought to have religious associations and occur in both military and civilian contexts, as in the Romano-Celtic shrines of Normandy (de Vesly, *Les Fana ou Petits Temples Gallo-Romains de la Région Normande*, 1909). This is of particular interest in the light of the existing evidence for a Romano-Celtic shrine at Wall.[1]

1. *Trans.* xxi for 1970/80 (1981), pp. 7–11.

THE ANIMAL BONES

J. G. L. COLE, M.B., F.R.C.R.

The acid nature of the soil, to which reference has already been made, had affected much of the animal bone found. The number of unidentifiable fragments, some of which showed signs of butchering, was too small for any conclusions to be drawn other than that both ox and sheep were represented.

The Council for British Archaeology has kindly given a grant towards the cost of publishing this paper.

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used for references to authorities:

Ant. J.	*Antiquaries Journal*
Arch. J.	*Archaeological Journal*
Atkinson	D. Atkinson, *Journal of Roman Studies,* iv (1914)
B.A.R.	*British Archaeological Reports*
B.M.C.	*British Museum Catalogue*
Camulodunum	C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum.* Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, no. 14 (1947).
Curle	J. Curle, *A Roman Frontier Post and its People: The Fort of Newstead,* (1911)
D.	(Figure-type in) J. Déchelette, *Les Vases Céramiques ornés de la Gaule romaine* (Paris, 1904)
Fishbourne II	B. W. Cunliffe, *Excavations at Fishbourne, Vol. II: The Finds,* Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, no. 27 (1971).
Gadebridge Park	D. S. Neal, *The Excavation of the Roman Villa in Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead 1963-8* (1974)
Gillam	J. P. Gillam, *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain* (1970)
Hermet, 1934	F. Hermet, *La Graufesenque* (Paris, 1934)

A MANORIAL ENCLOSURE AT BAGOTS BROMLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE

DAVID ANDREWS

INTRODUCTION

In May 1991, the Department of the Environment's Central Excavation Unit undertook a limited programme of excavation and survey at Bagots Bromley in advance of building work which was going to encroach on the scheduled area, and also to assess whether tree-planting at the eastern end of the latter would cause any archaeological damage.[1]

The work was carried out by David Andrews (CEU site supervisor), Richard Baugh, the late John MacGowan, Robin Melia (CEU site assistant) and Jo Woodiwiss. We are grateful to Mr. C. R. Jackson, manager of Bagots Bromley Farm, and to Bromley Construction, whose co-operation greatly facilitated our work. Of the many people who helped in various ways, we should especially like to thank Martin Carver, Andrew Brooker-Carey, Jon and Charlotte Caine, and Sheila King of the Birmingham University Field Archaeological Unit; Lady Bagot; David Barker of Stoke City Museum; Charles Hill of Stafford Castle Project; and the staff of the County Record Office and William Salt Library.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULED SITE

Bagots Bromley Farm lies about five miles to the south of Uttoxeter and one and a half miles north-west of Abbots Bromley (fig. 1).[2] It is situated above the valley of the Tad Brook at the south-west edge of a plateau formed of boulder clay in places overlain by sand and gravel, which here lies above the Keuper Marl (Stevenson and Mitchell 1955, 84, 90). To the north of Bagots Bromley, much of the plateau is covered by the still extensive woodland of Bagots Park. The scheduled area is a flat rectangular field measuring about 160m by 90m, and about 1.4 ha (3.5 acres) in extent, located immediately to the east of the farm buildings (fig. 2). Once it was surrounded by a hedge and a ditch at least 5-6m wide but these are only at all well preserved on its north and east sides. The ditch has been largely filled in, and where still open is rapidly silting up. On the north side of the field, the hedge is notable for the variety of species present in it. These include oak, elm, elder, field maple, hawthorn, holly and sycamore, as well as brambles. At the south end of the west side of the field, there is a bank about 25m long, standing to a maximum height of about 1.5m. Whether or not this bank is a feature of some antiquity, and originally existed behind the ditch round the entire perimeter of the field, is uncertain. A low, narrow bank outside the ditch at the western end of the north side of the field looks like a recent feature created in the course of cleaning out of the ditch.

At the south-east corner of the field, there is a pond, now very silted up and stagnant. Close to it is the Bagot Monument, a plain sandstone construction set on a stepped base. It bears a marble plaque with an inscription, and records the demolition in 1811 of a building which Lord Bagot identified as the home of his forebears. His account of this event is worth quoting

1. The excavation archive and finds are stored at the City Museum and Art Gallery, Broad Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. A microfiche of the archive is also available at the National Monuments Record.
2. Map reference SK 066 259.

in full:

In the year 1811, Lord Bagot pulled down the old farm house within the Moat, at Bagots' Bromley; (where had been the ancient residence of the Bagots) when he discovered considerable remains of the old mansion; and with the foundation stones, (of what appeared to have been the Hall, and upon which rested many oak, carved pillars,) built a monument.[3]

This description closely matches a drawing (plate 1) made at the time which shows a cross-section through the partly demolished structure.[4] The position of this building is not evident today from the terrain, and indeed there are no conspicuous earthworks in the field.

THE INVESTIGATION OF THE DITCH ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE FIELD

The building work was to take place immediately to the east of a large modern barn at the north-east corner of the farm complex. The area affected was about 30m square and included no surviving earthworks or other features. It extended across the former line of the ditch about 8m inside the scheduled area, but the work to be done here consisted mainly of the construction of an access road which would have had a minimal effect on any underlying stratigraphy. A hole left where a tree had been felled was extended by machine to provide a section through the ditch (trench 2, fig. 2). This proved to be 7.5 — 8.0m wide, and about 0.8 — 0.9m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat bottom. It was cut through a reddish-brown

3. See Bagot 1824, 10 note a. Lord Bagot also gives the text of the inscription, which is now illegible.
4. A photograph of this drawing, which was apparently made by Lord Bagot at the time, is deposited in the National Monuments Record Library (negative No. BB60/3130). A copy of the drawing may be found in the family edition of the *Memorials of the Bagot family* (Staffs RO D3260/8, facing p.11).

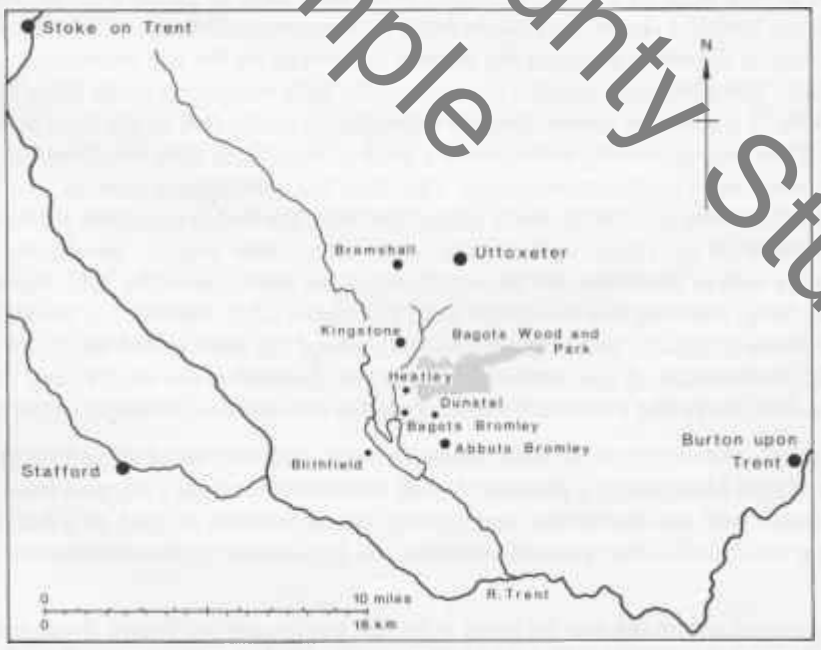

Fig. 1 Bagots Bromley and other places mentioned in the text

THE GATEHOUSE OF RUSHALL HALL, STAFFS: A SURVEY AND EXCAVATION

N. J. BAKER

SUMMARY

Structural survey and excavation in advance of restoration work showed that the gatehouse of Rushall Hall is a 16th-century addition to a curtain-wall of c.1300. The gatehouse was partially demolished in the early 19th century, and the ruins were subsequently adapted as a garden feature in the 'gothick' tradition.

Rushall Hall is a fortified manor-house about 2km (1.2 miles) north-east of the town centre of Walsall (fig. 1). The hall lies on a gravel spur overlooking marshy ground beside a stream flowing westwards and then southwards towards Walsall, and eventually to the River Tame. The hall is one element in a group of features — hall, farm, tithe barn, and a medieval chapel (replaced by a 19th-century church), that forms the medieval core of the *vill* of Rushall, now largely overtaken by suburban sprawl. In the meadow to the immediate north of the hall are the damaged earthworks of former settlement, and to the west is a mound which, trenched in the 19th century, produced human bone and 'Saxon' coins, now lost (Willmore 1892, 6).

Rushall Hall itself consists of a rectangular enclosure of 5383 square metres (6438 sq. yards), defined by a crenellated limestone rubble curtain-wall, surviving in places to its full height of 6.3 metres (20.7 feet). The principal building occupies the north-west corner of the enclosure, and is mainly 19th century in date, with a late medieval core.

By the late 1970s the ruins of the gatehouse on the western side of the enclosure, were becoming unstable and dangerous, and a programme of repairs and consolidation was initiated by West Midlands County Council. The Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned by the Council in 1980 to record the fabric of the gatehouse before the repairs began. As part of this work, soil and debris on the first-floor area over the archway were to be recorded and removed archaeologically. The survey was carried out by a team of two, with volunteer help to excavate the first floor. Interpretative drawings were made of all principal wall-faces, supplemented by a photographic survey. The field record is deposited as an archive collection with the West Midlands C.C.'s Sites and Monuments Record. All drawings and excavation data were referenced to a three-dimensional grid laid out by theodolite.

DOCUMENTARY OUTLINE

There is virtually no documentary evidence relevant to the site and its buildings before the Civil War. Prior to this, even the manorial descent is not completely certain, relying as it does on a source that is of variable accuracy. This is a psalter, supposed to have been written for John Harpur of Rushall in the mid 15th century, containing a history of the Rushall families based upon a yet older manuscript, now lost (see Appendix). The psalter was quoted from at length by Shaw (1801, II, i, 62-64) and used by Frederic Willmore in 1892, who treated it with greater caution (Willmore 1892, 10). Using some of this material, in conjunction with evidence from the Pipe Rolls, the early (pre Civil War) history of Rushall Hall may be outlined as follows:

1. The manor is first recorded in Domesday as held by Turchil, then lord of much of Warwickshire, from William Fitzansculf as part of the Baronry of Dudley. Rushall remained part of the Baronry until the early 14th century.
2. A family of Rushall is first recorded in the Pipe Rolls for 1164-5 (11 Henry II).
3. The manor passed by marriage to the Boweles family in the 1230s; they held it until 1346. During this period an incident is recorded that has some bearing on the site itself. In 1323-4 (17 Edward II), John de Wetales, a well-known local thug, was fined for having beseiged the house William de Boweles at Rushale, *vi et armis* seeking Robert de Esinton, who was concealed there out of fear of him, and had shot arrows over the gate of the said William (Coram Rege *SHC* x, 1889, p.48).
4. The manor passed through various hands until *c.* 1430, when John Harpur acquired it through marriage to Eleanor, daughter of William Grobbere.
5. When William Grobbere married his second wife, Alice, in *c.* 1400, his father-in-law, Geffrey Ive of Henley, rebuilt the hall: 'Geffrey Ive pullede doun an olde halle at Rushale, and set up a newe halle' (Shaw 1801, II, i, 63).
6. The Harpurs remained in possession of the manor until 1540 when it passed by marriage to the Leigh family (Willmore 1892, 7-40).

THE CIVIL WAR

Rushall Hall began the war in Parliamentarian hands, the owner, Colonel Edward Leigh, supporting that cause. During his absence, Rushall was besieged by Prince Rupert's forces and captured for the Royalists after fierce resistance from Leigh's wife who 'valiantly defended her house with the only helpe of her men and maides' *(Certaine Informations from severall parts of the Kingdom . . .*, 8 April 1643).

A year later, in May 1644, the hall was under siege again, by Parliamentarian forces under the Earl of Denbigh. In a detailed account of the siege, Denbigh described Rushall Hall as follows:

> The house watered round about, admirable works where are four forts at each end of the house, one from the water to the top of the works is some four or five yards high, besides the breadth of the trench, which is answerable to it, and a stone wall within the works much higher, beside a very strong drawbridge, and but only one passage through the stone wall into the house, which is as strong as art can make it, and within the wall, in the yard, they have made galleries for their better defence, and great stones laid thick round about the works, which upon any assault would have done as much execution as the muskets (Willmore 1892, 63).

Despite the apparent strength of the defences, the hall surrendered to the Parliamentarians and remained in their hands for the rest of the war.

LATER HISTORY

The Hall remained in the possession of the Leigh Family until 1811, when it passed to the Mellish family by marriage. Soon afterwards, Canning, a relative of the family, is reported to have slept in 'the tower' during a visit; this presumably refers to the gatehouse (Duignan 1924, 7).

At some point before 1845, a farmer by the name of Groucock demolished a large part of the gatehouse 'and coveted the stone, which he burned for lime'. He also demolished part of the curtain-wall for the same purpose, 'and was proceeding with the destruction when he was

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ABBREVIATIONS

SHC	*Staffordshire Historical Collections*
Staffs. Vis 1583	The Visitation of Staffordshire AD 1583, in *SHC* III, part 2, 1882.

APPENDIX

THE RUSHALL PSALTER

J. W. WHISTON, F.S.A.

The Rushall Psalter is a large folio volume bound in leather-covered boards. It was originally chained in Rushall church. It is made up of 197 leaves of vellum, 370 × 246mm; pasted in at one end is a leaf from a large notated and illuminated antiphonal of late-15th-century English manufacture. The volume is said to have received new covers in the 17th century.

One part seems to have been a service book written for John Harpur in the 15th century. It contains the Sarum Kalendar, Horae BVM, Litany, Vigils of the Dead, a liturgical psalter with litanies, prayers, etc. and *Originalia Doctorum* (i.e. quotations from Bernard, Augustine, Jerome etc.) Many of the pages are illuminated.

At fo.20v. the intentions of the donor, John Harpur are given in three 8-line stanzas printed in blue, crimson, black and red. The first stanza is

This present book legible in scripture	*blue*
Here in this place thus tacched with a cheyn	*crimson*
Purposed of entent for to endure	*blue*
And here perpetuelli stylle to remeyne	*crimson*
Fro eyre to eyre wherfore appone peyn	*black*
Of cryst is curs of faders and of moderes	*red*
Non of hem hens atempt it to deleyne	*black*
Whille ani leef may goodeli hange with oder	*red*

The three verses are given in Willmore, p.35.

The Kalendar records some family deaths, the death of the vicar William Ball, in 1455 and also the consecration of St. Wulstan's church, Rushall on St. Wulstan's day 19 January 1440. John Harpur and his wife Eleanor rebuilt the church and endowed a perpetual chaplain (William Ball was the first) and it is likely that the service book was written for the consecration of the church. In the illuminated border on fo.21r., the first page of the Horae BVM, are the arms of Harpur; they also appear in an illuminated border at fo.79.

The main interest lies in the leaves which precede the service book. These contain ten 8-line stanzas entitled 'A dietarie for the body' (these are often included in other MSS and were printed by Caxton), fifteen 7-line stanzas on the kings of England from William the Conqueror to Henry IV, three 7-line stanzas from 'Fall of Princes', a stanza 'A Balade for dysceyuors': all by Lydgate. Then follows a history of the family of Rushall from the Conqueror to Henry VI when it was written. This part contains marginal notes added later, some of which have been slightly shaved, presumably when the volume was re-covered or rebound in the 17th century. At the time of rebinding, an extra section was inserted and information added about the family descendants in the 17th century.

On fo.2v. is a copy of Chaucer's 'Fle fro the pres' with the title 'Le bon councell de Chawcer' and at the end of the Kalendar quire at fo.20r. is a copy of Chaucer's 'Balade of Gentilesse' followed by a number of proverbs. These have attracted the attention of Chaucer scholars — see bibliography.

The volume still has the chain fixed to the centre edge of the front board. The chain is 1.26m long and has 26 links with a two part swivel dividing the chain into lengths of 5 and 21 links.

Sir Edward Leigh (1602-1671) in his will left to his eldest son Henry

> the olde booke with a leather cover and a chaine (mentioning our several ancestors, living at Rushall Hall from the Conquest) . . . my desire is that they (other books are named in the will) may be carefully preserved by him and continue to the familie in successive generations . . .

When Shaw saw the volume it belonged to Rev. William Leigh, whose bookplate with the Leigh arms and crest with *'Tout vient de Dieu'* is now in the volume. This William Leigh became Dean of Hereford. The Psalter remained in the Leigh family and came to the Mellish family of Hodsock Priory, Notts. by marriage into the Leigh family, and then to the Buchanan family. The trustees of the Mellish estate have deposited it in the Library of Nottingham University (ref. Me LM 1). There have been three other deposits in the University Library of Mellish papers and a metereological record, none of them refers to Rushall or Walsall.

Shaw quoted extensively from this volume, as did Willmore who gives a good description of the book and made full use of it, including the marginal notes when writing his history of the Rushall families. Willmore states that the account of the family of Rushall appears to have been copied and slightly amplified from a still older manuscript formerly in the possession of Mr. Walker of Aldridge. Shaw also refers to the Walker MS. A transcript of some parts of the Psalter had been published in *The Topographer* II, April 1790, pp. 197-204 (a journal of which Shaw was the compiler) before the publication of Shaw's *History*. In *The Topographer* Shaw acknowledges the use of Mr. William Walker's manuscript so some of the Rushall Psalter which came from the Walker MS. can be identified. Shaw also acknowledges the use of the Walker MS. in his notes on Wednesbury in *The Topographer* II, 1790, pp. 356-9, but he does not refer to it in the Wednesbury part of his *History*.

Willmore states that Walker married a daughter of Samuel Leigh. He must be the William Walker who lived at Shutt Cross House, Aldridge and was buried at Aldridge 21 May 1754 and whose wife Katherine was probably daughter of the Samuel Leigh of Aldridge who died in 1735. Katherine's will makes bequests to members of the Leigh and Dilke families and refers to her sister Ann — see Leigh pedigree, Willmore p. 81. A copy of her will is in the Birmingham Reference Library (Accn. no. 252611).

I have to thank Mrs. M. A. Welch M.A., Keeper of Manuscripts at the University Library, Nottingham for a great deal of help in writing this paper and Mr. Andrew G. Buchanan of Hodstock Priory for his encouragement.

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EXCAVATIONS IN LOWER RUSHALL STREET, WALSALL, 1975

STUART WRATHMELL, F.S.A. AND SUSAN WRATHMELL

SUMMARY

Excavation of a house-site in Walsall revealed that the area had been used for limestone quarrying in the Middle Ages. Domestic occupation began in the 13th or 14th century; but the earliest structural evidence, in the shape of limestone footings, is dated to the 15th or 16th century. One of the footings had supported a timber-framed wall until 1974. Limestone mining continued at the rear of the property until the mid 17th century.

INTRODUCTION

In 1971 a survey of timber-framed buildings revealed only three extant structures in the borough of Walsall.[1] They were merely fragments of walls, a pitiful and inadequate reflection of the once dominant building tradition of the town. Many timber buildings were no doubt masked, mutilated and replaced by brick in the 18th and 19th centuries; but significant numbers probably survived behind later frontages until the central slum-clearance schemes of the late 1930s and early 1950s.[2] The most important group of buildings, in the High Street opposite the Guildhall, was demolished in the late 1960s.[3]

Of the three structures recorded in 1971 the most coherent remains belonged to a gable wall on the west side of Lower Rushall Street, 19m south of its junction with Intown Row (SP 0169 9858). This, too, was demolished a few years after recording, and the opportunity was taken to excavate its site, the adjacent areas of frontage and in the rear of the property (fig. 1). Two small areas, designated A and B, were opened up. In both of them the structural remains and artefacts were predominantly of 18th century and later date. Area A did, however, produce a sequence of deposits and foundations extending from medieval times to the mid 17th century, and it is this sequence which is described below. The site records and finds — including some interesting early post-medieval pottery recovered from later contexts — have been deposited in Birmingham City Museum.

The excavations were directed by Susan Wrathmell on behalf of Birmingham City Museum, under the auspices of Walsall Local History Society. She wishes to thank the Museum for financial support, and its staff for their active assistance. Members of the Local History Society were kind enough to share administrative burdens. Equipment was loaned by Walsall Borough Council, Birmingham City Museum and the Dept. of Archaeology, University College, Cardiff. The greatest debt is owed to the small but dedicated number of excavators who laboured during hot weather on a difficult site. Finally, the writers wish to thank J. H. Kelly for his advice on the pottery, and Dr. I. Strachan for observations on the strata of the site.

1. Susan Claxton (now Wrathmell), 'Rural and urban timber-framed buildings in S. Staffordshire', B.A. Thesis, University College, Cardiff (1972).
2. *ibid.* 5; *V.C.H. Staffs.* XVII, 149.
3. A row of jettied houses recorded by Mr. V. F. Penn during demolition. See also V. F. Penn, 'Wall-Painting in a house in High Street, Walsall', *Trans.* xvi for 1974/75 (1976), pp.62-4.

DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND

The medieval borough of Walsall was centred upon Church Hill, a limestone outcrop occupied by the church of St. Matthew (fig. 1). The form and extent of the pre-borough settlement are unknown, and are probably now irretrievable: all that can be said is that a village may have existed in the vicinity of the church long before the earliest documentary reference to Walsall manor in the mid 12th century.[4] Early in the following century various liberties and rights were granted or confirmed to the burgesses by their lord, William Ruffus.[5] It was probably at this time, or shortly before, that Ruffus had removed his manorial settlement from the town to a site in his new park.[6]

There is some documentary evidence for the topographical features of the 14th-century town. The principal lines of settlement were along several routeways which radiated from Church Hill. Rushall Street, running northwards from the hill, was the main road to Lichfield until the construction of Lichfield Street in the early 19th century. It was first mentioned by name in 1339;[7] but is probably to be identified with the 'street from the house of John Bodde to Abelwellsych' which appears in the 1309 borough charter.[8] Abelwellsych was presumably in the area of Ablewell Street, first recorded in 1403,[9] which at its northern end divided Rushall Street into its Upper (southern) and Lower sections. The 1309 grant may signify that the borough then encompassed only Upper Rushall Street. This would not, however,

4. *V.C.H. Staffs.* XVII, 169.
5. K. F. Brown, 'Two Walsall charters', *Trans.* xvii for 1975-6 (1977), 65-8.
6. *Trans. XVI* for 1974-5 (1976), 21[illegible]; *Trans.* xviii for 1976-7 (1977), 29-31.
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9. *V.C.H. Staffs.* XVII, 147.

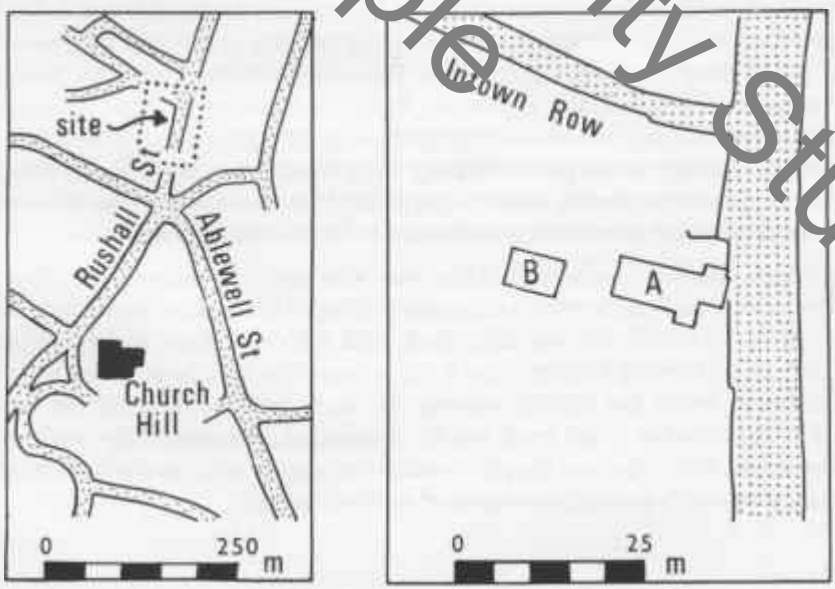

Fig. 1 Walsall town centre and the excavated areas

THE LICHFIELD CANAL AND THE WYCHNOR IRONWORKS

JIM GOULD, F.S.A.

In the mid 18th century, the difficulty of transporting goods to other areas was one of the major factors preventing greater economic expansion of the Black Country. Transport to the north and east was especially difficult. Often goods were carried by wagon from Birmingham and Black Country towns to Burton upon Trent. Immediately below Burton, as far as Wilden Ferry, Lord Paget, under an Act of Parliament passed in 1699, had made the Trent navigable for boats hauled by men. Although Phillips writing at the end of the 18th century, spoke of twenty shallows between Burton and Wilden where boats could be grounded, and of a forge which could draw off water and so ground boats.[1] From Wilden Ferry the boats carried goods to either Gainsborough or Hull. From these two towns, sailing vessels took cargoes to the Continent, or else round the coast to the estuaries of other British rivers from whence the goods could travel overland to their destinations. As late as 28 March 1774, the front page of *Aris's Birmingham Gazette* carried two advertisements; the first advised Birmingham merchants that a ship (the *King of Naples*) would sail from Hull with goods for Salerno, Naples and Messina and that goods for her could be carried overland from Birmingham to Burton and thence by the Trent to Hull in eight days at two shillings per cwt., or by the new canal (i.e. the Trent and Mersey Canal) in fourteen days at one shilling and sixpence per cwt. The second advertisement was that a sloop sailed regularly from Gainsborough to Colchester and that goods could be sent by her for overland distribution from Colchester to Lavenham and other Suffolk towns. According to Phillips, even iron from the Ketley-Coalbrookdale area was sometimes sent by road via Ivetsey Bank to Burton for despatch down the Trent.[2]

A canal connecting Liverpool with Hull had been considered by Liverpool merchants as early as 1755[3] and in 1758, James Brindley was commissioned by Earl Gower and Lord Anson to survey a route for such a canal. Brindley did not consider the route in isolation. He envisaged branches from the canal linking it to other areas and to rivers other than the Trent and Mersey. Hence Grand Trunk Canal as an alternative name for the Trent and Mersey Canal. In 1760, his map (revised with J. Smeaton) was published for that part of the canal from Burslem to Wilden Ferry[4] and fig. 1 is based on that map. By avoiding Burton, possible difficulties with Lord Paget and his obstructive lessees who charged tolls and wharfage between Burton and Wilden, was to be avoided. The map indicated possible branches to both Lichfield and Fazeley.

Matters did not move forward immediately with regard to the main canal. Instead, Brindley drew up an estimate of the cost to build the stretch from Lichfield to beyond Burton at Donnington. A blundered copy of his estimate is in the Bodleian Library.[5] From Minster Pool Lichfield, to below Pones Mill (1,500 yards or 1,372 m) was to cost £2,302 with two

1. J. Phillips, *History of Inland Navigation*, 4th edn. (1803), p. 14.
2. ibid. p. 142.
3. ibid. p. 115.
4. C.R.O.; MSS. D593/11/9/1.
5. Bodleian Library; MS. Top. Staffs. C.1.

bridges, a foot-bridge and locks at each of the Minster, Stowe and Pones pools. The digging of the cutting was to cost £100 per mile, and the purchase of the land, £30 per acre. The whole stretch from Lichfield Minster Pool to Kings Mills, Donnington was to have cost £16,490 (not £15,940 as shown on the blundered copy of the estimate).

It is not clear for whom this estimate was prepared, but plans to build this stretch of canal went forward. A leaflet 'Observations as Inducements' to promote the canal was printed for consideration by the merchants of 'Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall and other Trading Towns in the counties of Stafford, Warwick and Worcester'.[6] The leaflet claimed that a broad-wheeled wagon with a load of three tons, travelling from either Birmingham or Wolverhampton to Burton and back, took three days for the round trip, summer and winter alike. Two overnight stops were needed each journey so that expenses at inns for both men and horses were 28 shillings each trip. If the canal were built, and the wagons travelled to Lichfield instead of Burton, then it was claimed, the round trip would take one day only, save in the depths of winter when two days would be needed. This, averaged over summer and winter, would reduce the cost from 20 shillings per ton to Burton, to ten shillings per ton to Lichfield. Similar savings were anticipated for journeys from Walsall, Dudley and Stourbridge. Further, the cost of journey from Lichfield by canal and river, to Gainsborough, using horse haulage, was to cost no more than that then charged from Burton to Gainsborough. The latter must have been expensive, understandably since man haulage was used and since between Burton and Wilden Lord Paget was empowered to charge a toll of 3 pence per ton, whilst his lessees charged wharfage on top of that and were opposed to traffic carried by boats other than their own. Not until 1780 was horse haulage, instead of man haulage, used from Burton. Thus the economic basis for the proposed canal was not just traffic from Lichfield, but from Birmingham and the whole of the Black Country. On 1 December 1759 a prospectus was issued with the declared intent of applying forthwith to Parliament for the necessary act. The capital to be raised was not to exceed £20,000. It was stated at the same time that a scheme to make the Trent and Tame navigable as far as Willeford had been abandoned in favour of the Lichfield scheme.

Despite the prospectus, no act was obtained for the Lichfield scheme. Instead, interest was revived in the full Trent and Mersey Canal with connections to London and the Thames via Fazeley, Coventry and Oxford, and with the Severn, Gloucester and Bristol by means of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Since these schemes would give a much better outlet for goods from Birmingham and the Black Country, it is no surprise that the Lichfield scheme died.

Meanwhile, knowing the proposed route of the Trent and Mersey Canal, a small group of men based on Lichfield, drew up plans taking advantage of this knowledge. The four men involved were, John Barker, Erasmus Darwin, Robert Bage and Samuel Garbett. They planned to build an ironworks (mainly a rolling and slitting mill) at Wychnor (Nat. Grid. SK 189157) where it would be able to take full advantage of the canal. They planned to supply the ironworks with water-power by digging a wide cutting from the Trent, along the line of the proposed canal to a point where a mill-pool could supply plenty of power from a fall of seven feet (2.13 m).

6. County Record Office, Stafford (C.R.O.); MSS M727/3.
7. C.R.O.; MSS. M727/4.

APPENDIX

Schedule of machinery as listed in the 1825 lease of the Wychnor ironworks. (Some uncertainty remains owing to the omission of punctuation from much of the original document.)

Thirty pieces of castings, Sills and Iron work belonging	£78. 15*s*. 6½*d*.
New Mill	
Two Water Wheels, Shafts, Gudgeons, Carriage etc. Arms Starts Ladles & Two Cog Wheels Shaft Carriages and Chucks, Two small pillars, Shear Blade Bed Iron Work and two Wheels Lindleys Shear Blade Bed Cam and Iron Work Crane pullies etc. Pinion Rack and Wheels cast metal plates Timber and Iron work Two Sheet Iron ffurnaces Castings etc.	£815. 16*s*. 7*d*.
Bar Mill	
One ffly Wheel Sockett Two Gudgeons Carriage Chucks and Crabs (Grabs?) Two Cog Wheels and one Socket Wheel and pinion Timber Sills and Iron Work Bloom ffurnace Castings etc.	£355. 4*s*. 8*d*.
Old Mill	
Two Shear Blades Standard Block Castings Sills and Iron Work, Sheet Iron ffurnace Castings and Ironwork	£136. 14*s*. 8½*d*.
Forge	
Water Wheel Shaft Arms Sockets Segments Gudgeons Carriages Chucks and Cam Two Cog Wheels and one Socket ffly Wheel Beam Rug (Ring?) and Socket Arms Gudgeons Carriages Chuck and Standard Anvill Block Helve and Standard Timber Iron works Sills and Castings Balling furnace Castings and Ironwork	£979. 12*s*. 10*d*.
Blowing Machine and Water Wheel	£75. 0*s*. 0*d*.
Total	£2441. 4*s*. 4*d*.

The Trustees of the Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust have kindly given a grant towards the cost of publishing this paper and the following paper on the Lichfield Conduit Jugs.

THE LICHFIELD CONDUIT JUG

ADRIAN OSWALD, F.S.A.

In the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum at Lichfield is a large brown salt-glazed jug of Nottingham Ware. This carries an incised inscription 'Litchfield Cunditt Wakes June ye 26 1711 in Nottingham made'. It has a rich medium-brown glaze and is decorated with swirling incised flowers. It stands about 16.35 inches (415 mm) high and with a giant punchbowl of 1750 in the Victoria and Albert Museum is the largest piece known of dated Nottingham ware.

This stoneware began to be made at Nottingham about 1690 by James Morley and is notable for the lightness and thinness of the fabric, and the lustrous brown glaze with an orange-peel surface. The decoration, mainly incised, can claim artistic merit in its flowing scrolls and sprays in the first half of the 18th century. There are more inscribed dated pieces of this ware than in any other branch of British pottery. By about 1800 production had ceased being superseded by cheaper wares from Derbyshire.[1]

1. For a fuller account of Nottingham ware see A. Oswald and R. G. Hughes 'Nottingham and Derbyshire stoneware', *Trans Eng. Ceramic Circle*, 9, Pt. 2 (1974), and A. Oswald, R. S. C. Hildyard, R. G. Hughes, *English Brown Stoneware* (London, Faber and Faber, 1982), ch. 3.

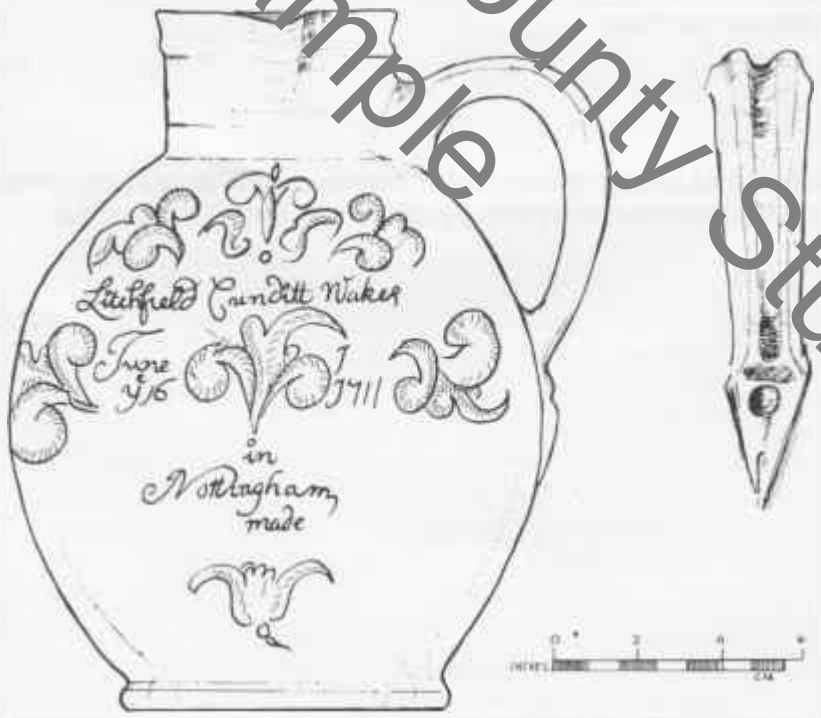

Fig. 1

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PROGRAMME 1981-82

1981

9 May		Meeting of CBA no. 8 Group in Darwin Lounge, Civic Centre, Lichfield Review of excavations at Wall — Frank Ball Catholme—Stuart Losco-Bradley Stafford Castle — Charles Hill, B.A.
16 May		Guided tour of Shrewsbury. Leader: Mrs. Moran
20 June		Excursion to Wychnor, church, DMV, Darwin's canal, and the ironworks. Leader: John Gould, M.A., F.S.A. Alrewas, tour of buildings. Leader: Alan Taylor, M.A., Dip.T.P.
2 Oct.	(L)	Annual General Meeting. Recent excavations at Wall — Frank and Nancy Ball.
23 Oct.	(T)	The traditions of structure and form in vernacular buildings — Richard Harris
6 Nov.	(L)	Archaeology in Staffordshire — R. A. Meeson, M.A., F.S.A.
20 Nov.	(T)	Fashion and Bath in the 18th century — Penny Byrde, M.A., A.M.A.
4 Dec.	(L)	The London Livery Companies — M. M. Hallet, C.B.E., M.Sc., F.S.A.

1982

8 Jan.	(L)	Cancelled due to severe weather.
22 Jan.	(T)	Excavations of the Tudor Palace at Greenwich — Dr. Philip Dixon, M.A., F.S.A.
5 Feb.	(L)	Staffordshire woodlands in the Middle Ages — Jean Birrell, M.A.
19 Feb.	(T)	Staffordshire Pottery — David Barker, F.A.
26 Feb.		At the Heritage Centre, Lichfield, jointly with the Lichfield Civic Society. Timber-framed buildings of Staffordshire — R. A. Meeson, M.A., F.S.A.
5 March	(L)	Industrial Archaeology, how we go about it — D. S. Palmer and Dr. Marilyn Palmer
19 March	(T)	Civic Evening Victorian churches in the South Staffordshire area designed by architects of national importance — Andor Gomme, M.A.

(L) Lichfield Public Library (T) Tamworth Castle

EXCAVATIONS

Excavations continued on the Roman 'villa' site at Wall under the direction of Frank and Nancy Ball, on behalf of the Department of the Environment.