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From: E G PRICE Frocester Court: A Romano-British Settlement, its Antecedents & Successors forthcoming Britannia Monograph 1997
HON SECRETARY’S REPORT TO THE 1996 AGM

Martin Ecclestone

I must begin my report by paying tribute to three of the guiding spirits of GADARG, who died during the past year. Bernard and Barbara Rawes contributed all their expertise and their enthusiasm, and helped to make GADARG a widely respected Group. Though their archaeological interests were different, that made their partnership even more effective. Then Dick Turner, who was much older, though his remarkable vitality made it hard to realise that his 20-year Presidency of GADARG came after his retirement from a distinguished career in public education. I feel privileged to have known these three stalwarts.

On behalf of the Committee I next want to thank all those members who contribute in so many different ways to the Group’s life and work. I cannot name everybody, but those who enjoy the lectures or take part in the summer excursions are especially indebted to Pat Jenkins for organising them so well. We are grateful to Amy Woolacott for taking over the work of coordinating our field activities, and Don Mayes for maintaining the membership database, without which I would have to spend hours addressing envelopes. Let me thank also Jo Spry, Kay Swayne, Ruth Moore-Scott and others for ensuring there is coffee at the Gloucester meetings, and all the partners of committee members, who welcome us to their houses, sometimes for hours!

This last winter we have had a remarkably interesting lecture programme, and as I usually pick out only one lecture for special mention, the choice has been difficult. Eventually I chose David Miles’ description of the Uffington White Horse area, which was masterly. It seemed a perfect example of how archaeological excavation can be only one part of a successful multi-disciplinary study of the landscape and man’s continual interaction with it. His lecture will be followed up by our visit to the White Horse in September. Last September’s coach trip to Danebury hill-fort was as usual excellently organised, and very well complemented by the displays at Andover Museum and Avebury’s still more ancient and evocative sarsen stones.

Our President Eddie Price is to be congratulated on his election as the Bristol & Gloucester Archaeological Society’s President for 1997-8. We are also looking forward to the publication towards the end of this year of his report on the Frocester Excavations. In 1995 his work there entered a new phase, when an area on the boundary of the villa precinct was opened up, with help from Sheffield University. Excavations will begin again on 27th April, and new recruits are always welcome.

The Group also congratulates Nigel Spry, who not only works with Don Mayes to produce Glevensis, but is now Chairman of the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire, the key link between professionals and amateurs in the County. Nigel’s considerable knowledge and experience will help to ensure that the CAG operates fruitfully. Nigel is also GADARG’s representative on the committee which is organising the celebrations in 1997 of the 1900th anniversary of Gloucester’s foundation as a colony. As part of the programme, GADARG is arranging a Symposium on Roman coloniae in Britain.

Many of our members are satisfied that GADARG provides a lecture programme, summer visits and our excellent journal Glevensis. But the Committee also wants to encourage fresh initiatives that will involve members, however few; these currently include transcribing Tithe records, helping at the Witcombe Villa open days, monitoring archaeological sites on National Trust property, field walking, surveying a possible medieval settlement and cataloguing slag blocks found in the Severn Vale. The Newsletter can always be used to publicise proposals and ask for volunteers, and this is one of the ways that GADARG can develop as a Group, now that excavation possibilities are so limited.

The Committee is quite often involved in one other important area, that of Planning Proposals. The public - both individuals and organisations - are entitled to comment on development proposals before they are given planning permission by the appropriate Council. Conflicting interests mean of course that our comments may often be overruled, but that should not discourage us. The real problem, as I see it, is how we should formulate appropriate comments, since we cannot involve the whole membership.

In the most recent case, the proposal by Arrowcroft to develop a large part of Gloucester’s south-west quadrant, it was possible for several members of the Committee to attend a presentation in the Council Chamber, where the proposals were explained in some detail and questions could be asked. This was a great help to me in drafting comments on the proposal, which after some amendment were sent to the Planning Department in February. This is the Outline Planning stage, and we shall comment again when detailed planning permission is required.

Nevertheless, I am conscious that the comments we submitted would not necessarily be supported by some members, or thought to be strong enough by yet others. But the considerable impact that these
proposals will have on the appearance, atmosphere, economic future and archaeological remains of Gloucester surely means that GADARG has a responsibility to comment. Anyone who is interested can see our letter to the Council, and I would suggest that if members (especially those who live in Gloucester) have radically different views, they should make their own submission when detailed planning permission is sought.

I will conclude by reporting our current membership position. We now have 196 members, of whom 26 are Associates, 3 Junior and 4 Honorary. The total number has hardly changed over the past four years, so we are keeping pace with the inevitable losses. But if every member managed to recruit a new member from among their acquaintances, GADARG would be much stronger.

RICHARD TURNER MA (Dunelm) 1907-96

It is with great sadness and a sense of loss that we record the death earlier this year of Richard Turner - Dick to all who knew him. He was one of GADARG's early members and helped to steer the Group through its formative, and sometimes stormy, years both as a hard-working committee member and as our President, an office he held for in all twenty one years.

Dick was not a ‘digger’ as such, although in his fitter days he was always ready to help with the hard work of site clearing and backfilling. His major contribution was in his committee work and the considerable skills and knowledge of local government which he often brought to bear in the Group’s interests.

Dick was born in 1907 at Whitley Bay, Northumberland. He attended the local grammar school and then went on to King's College, Newcastle (then part of Durham University) where he took a degree in history. While at King's, he did research work on Hadrian’s Wall for which he was awarded a year’s fellowship to the British School at Rome. He began his teaching career at Cockermouth Grammar School and then went on to become Organising Tutor for Adult Education in Derbyshire. Dick came to Gloucester in 1947 as Deputy Education Officer and was appointed Chief Education Officer for the city in 1955, a post he retained until his ‘retirement’ in 1972.

‘Retirement’ has to be in inverted commas because he then took up a very active life of service to the community belonging to, and working with great enthusiasm for, a wide variety of local organisations.

He was one of the founding members of the Friends of Robinswood Hill, the Gloucester Country Park, and led many successful battles against attempts to encroach on the Park.

Dick was Chairman of the Riverside Walk sub-committee of the Gloucester Civic Trust from 1973 to 1988, working hard to open up the old towpath between Hempsted and Sandhurst as a public footpath. It was while sitting in a Gloucester pub that he first had the idea of a footpath along the whole length of the Severn and subsequently, in his quiet way, he campaigned for it. The first stretch of the ‘Severn Way’ between Berkeley and Tewkesbury was opened in 1989.

He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Gloucester, which was another avenue through which he served the local community.

Dick was both a keen walker and cyclist and, when he gave up driving, he used to cycle from his house in Reservoir Road in order to attend GADARG’s meetings and cycle back uphill even in his eighties. Indeed, it was hard to appreciate his advancing years as each successive year throughout his Presidency he expertly chaired GADARG’s annual general meeting and, not so very long ago, spoke with such vitality at one of our members’ evenings. We are all the poorer for his passing.

All of the things that Dick did would not have been possible without the loving support of his wife Mamie and our thoughts and condolences go to her and to their children Peter and Gillian.

John Punshon
Thirty years ago, as GADARG's founding members were assisting with the Gloucester New Market Hall excavations, Bernard Rawes was modestly, independently undertaking his first rescue excavation on the nearby Roman pottery kiln site at Brunswick Road. It would be two more years before he would join the group, and having done so, start to take a pivotal role in local archaeology.

Bernard was born in Oporto in 1917, into a business family that had emigrated to Portugal in the early 19th century. He was educated at Cheltenham College Junior School and at Charterhouse. Before the war he worked in a London bank, then joined the RAF, but later became a lieutenant in the Devon Regiment. In 1941, he married his first wife Margaret by whom he had a son, Julian. They settled in Cheltenham in 1952 and three years later Bernard joined Dowty Rotol, where he worked as a technical librarian until retirement in 1983.

He married his second wife Barbara in 1968. From then on with her devoted support and encouragement he began, first as GADARG secretary, then as secretary and subsequently chairman of the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire, (which he helped to set up), to be seen more and more as the reference point for all archaeological finds and happenings within the county.

At a time when rural sites were increasingly being threatened and destroyed by pipeline installation, road construction schemes and by building developments, he industriously committed himself to monitoring, recording and to rescue excavation in the north of the county. By nature unassuming, he was never happier than when he and Barbara were working in the field alone, or with a small group.

Bernard assiduously published reports on all his fieldwork. Including his Gloucester kilns, between 1966 and 1984 he excavated 12 sites. Others were: Wadfield Villa outbuildings, Tredington Rise, Wycomb, Wells Bridge, Brockworth Court allotments, Manless Town, The Portway, Haymes, Northleach bypass and Vineyard's Farm.

Bernard's reports are his memorial. They are substantial detailed studies, enlivened by his particularly individual style of site drawing. Most of the finds illustrations he did himself and they demonstrate his feeling for the observation and interpretation of artifacts. This is especially so of samian ware, and local Romano-British pottery on which he became an authority.

For two decades he assembled the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire's Annual Review, a major contribution to the documentation of archaeological activity in the county. This demonstrated the ability of Bernard, assisted as always by his wife, to gather disparate information often requiring considerable cajoling of contributors - then painstakingly to sort and edit the data into a coherent format for publication.

Bernard was a keen traveller and he and Barbara visited many archaeological sites and museums in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and elsewhere. He had a deep interest in books and created one of the largest archaeological libraries in the county. A further absorbing interest was researching the family's history.

For his long commitment to GADARG, notably for his work as editor of Glevensis 20 to 24, Bernard was made an honorary member of the group. His many contributions, particularly to Romano-British studies, were recognised by his election in 1992 as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was elected president of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for the year 1995-96, an honour that was sadly cut short by his death on 8 June 1995, after a long struggle against cancer.

JR, AS, NPS
I was first introduced to Barbara when she came to visit Bernard, after they had met on an archaeological tour of Northern France in 1967. To be strictly accurate they did not meet until after the trip, when they were both in the cafeteria on Birmingham Railway Station. The story goes that train after train then went out unboarded while they continued to talk.

Barbara (who had been born in Broadstairs, and completed her training at Goldsmiths’ College, University of London in 1946-8) was then living and teaching in Guildford, having been widowed some years previously. Her first husband, Alan Pocock, had died suddenly at an early age. She married Bernard the year after meeting him.

Barbara served on the Committee of GADARG, and was Secretary for a number of years and Chairman for a time. She was made an honorary member of the Group a few months before her death on 30 August 1995. In 1972 she commenced compilation of the GADARG Sites and Monuments record of over 7000 entries - a major work, which was handed over to the County in 1982. Barbara also served on the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire and was for many years on the Council of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

She always had a great interest in local and county history. One of her earliest enthusiasms was for ‘cuckoo pens’ and for a while almost any conversation was inexplicably apt to end up in one! She found examples in no less than 33 Gloucestershire parishes. It is a delightful concept ‘hurling the cuckoo to keep it always Spring’ and her article in Glevensis No 11 in 1977 makes interesting reading.

After she retired from teaching at Rowanfield School in 1985 she had more time to give to local history. Field names remained a consistent interest and she became an expert on transcribing old documents. An article she wrote on the Cheltenham Hundred appeared in the second issue of the Journal of the Cheltenham Local History Society, which she was largely instrumental in founding; she was a Committee member for a number of years. She had almost completed transcribing the early parish registers of Cheltenham; and left notes on too many subjects to detail here. In 1993 she received a Cheltenham Arts Council Award for her many contributions.

Latterly she became involved with the Garden History Society to which her archaeological and documentary experience enabled her to make a valuable contribution.

I believe between them that Barbara and Bernard belonged to no less that twenty-eight societies; a measure of the great commitment and wide-ranging interest they had shared in the pursuit of knowledge in their chosen subjects.

Amina Chatwin
‘Birthday as a city’ may first need some explanation. Human habitation at Gloucester began much earlier than 1900 years ago: on the Telephone Exchange site in Berkeley Street there were Late Neolithic remains dating back at least 4,000 years. A city for us is the largest and most complicated type of human settlement, which also serves special functions, and until the reorganisation of 1974 it also had a technical meaning as the top rank of community in Local Government terms. This birthday is of being a city in that technical sense. Gloucester was a colony, the top ranking type of Roman provincial city, a status shared in Britain only with Colchester and Lincoln (York was given the title in the third century, when it meant much less).

Nineteen hundred is a good age and certainly deserves a celebration, but it is not rare. Many modern cities throughout the area of the Roman empire are older, like Gloucester’s twin, Trier, which became a colony half a century before Gloucester, having been a lower status urban community before that. Britain was added to the Roman empire late and Gloucester became a city relatively late in Britain.

But what does colony mean, how do we know that Gloucester became one 1900 years ago, and what was life in the city then really like?

Coloniae were special because, legally speaking, they were miniature Romes, and their inhabitants had the full rights of Roman citizenship, unlike the vast majority of the population of the empire. At the time of the creation of Glovum colony there were probably less than 50,000 Roman citizens in Britain (say, 200-250,000 with their families), while the population as a whole has been estimated at between 2 and 6 million. Citizenship meant exemption from the principal taxes, preferential treatment in court and, if you had enough money, the possibility of a glittering political career, starting as a town councillor, but if you really had money you could be admitted to the equestrian or even senatorial orders of Rome and ultimately even become emperor. The first ‘provincial’ emperor was Trajan, a Spaniard, whose reign began just after the foundation of Gloucester.

Why was Gloucester selected to be a colony over, say, Cirencester, which was larger in Roman times? To a considerable extent, because it had been a legionary fortress. Legionaries were the elite of the Roman army and they were recruited only from among those who were already full Roman citizens. So, over the long years when the army was based at Kingsholm (probably from the late 40s) and Gloucester city centre (from the mid 60s), quite a few Roman citizen families would have come to live in the area. Roman soldiers were not allowed to marry while they were on active service (16 or 20 years for a legionary), but they married on retirement or had partners whom they subsequently married, so that their right of citizenship might be passed on to their descendants. In retirement, they would have stayed in substantial numbers near the places where they had been based in active service. Not because of nostalgia for the ‘good old days’ (although there would undoubtedly have been some of that) but because this is where their family and social contacts were. And, as their sons grew up, quite a few would have become soldiers like their fathers.

So, to put ourselves back into the mind of the Roman authorities, wishing to decommission a long-established legionary fortress, first there was a significant number of citizen families, who needed looking after, secondly there was a former military
installation with all its facilities, thirdly a quite substantial civilian community (of shopkeepers and service suppliers) which would have grown up outside the fortress defences, and fourthly probably a significant amount of farmland in the vicinity whose use had been kept under careful control by the army for their food and other needs. All of this may well have been in a good strategic location for communications and the general control of the province, as was plainly the case with Gloucester. An obvious step was to turn the whole community into a self-governing city and give it all the full citizen status enjoyed by part of its population. Colchester and Lincoln became coloniae in exactly the same circumstances, respectively half a century and a decade or so before Gloucester.

The formal establishment of the colonia would have been recorded in a written charter, setting out not only the date at which the grant was made, but also a whole range of rules, from the election of the city's chief officials and how many flute-players they were entitled to have at public expense, to planning regulations, public rights of way and so forth. Such a charter survives on a series of bronze tablets from Urso, in Southern Spain, founded under Julius Caesar, a century and a half before Gloucester. While we wait for a lucky archaeologist to find Gloucester's charter, we can make an informed guess that many of the arrangements for Urso would also have applied to Gloucester, because they were fairly standardised. But we also have some direct evidence. Two tombstones especially are revealing. The first, found in Bath, is of a man who lived to the remarkable age of 80, or so his tombstone claims. The stone tells us that he was dec. coloniae Glevi (a decurion - town councillor - of the colony of Glevum); in other words it is stated that Glevum was a colonia and implied that it had the normal organisation with a council of (usually 100) decurions. The crucial evidence for the date of foundation of Gloucester is provided by a second tombstone of a man from Glevum, who died in Rome itself. (fig 2) There has been quite a bit of discussion of this, some wide of the mark, so it is worth going into the technical details. The relevant part of the inscription reads

D.M
M.VLPI.NER
QUINTO.GLEVIII
MIL.FR.LEG.VI.

(Dis Manibus. Marco Ulpio Nervia Quinto Glevi, militi frumentario legioonis VI Victricensis... 'To the Departed Spirits. For Marcus Ulpius Quintus, of the Nervan voting tribe, birthplace Glevum, a soldier (food procurement) of the VIth Victrix Legion...').

All Roman citizens were assigned to a voting tribe in Rome and, as their numbers were expanded, new voting tribes were created. When coloniae were created, the voting tribes were sometimes named after the official title of the colony. NER here, then, suggests that it was part of Gloucester's official title, which might therefore have been Colonia Nervia (or Nerviana) Glevenis (or Glevensium) - 'the Nervan colony of Glevum (or the people of Glevum)' . Nerva was a distinguished senator who became emperor on 18 September AD 96 when he was in his late sixties, and died on 27 or 28 January 98. Therefore, it might seem safe to reason, the colonia of Gloucester must have been founded between AD 96 and 98, and summer 1997 would be an excellent time to celebrate its 1900th birthday.

But, as in life, in Roman epigraphy things are never that straightforward. The man's middle name or nomen (his family name) is Ulpius and that was the family name of the emperor Trajan, who succeeded to Nerva in AD 98. Newly created Roman citizens were often named after the emperor in whose reign they received citizenship, so Ulpius's family only became citizens in Trajan's reign at the earliest; if - a big if - this was on the creation of Glevum colonia, the colonial foundation might then have happened under Trajan rather than Nerva. And it was not unknown for emperors to name new official foundations after their predecessors, so a colonia Nervia might indeed be Trajanic.

Against that line of thought, which might push the colonia foundation a decade or so later (Trajan's reign ended in 117), is a tendency on the part of (modern) Romano-British military strategists to make the date go back earlier, to the reign of Domitian, Nerva's predecessor. They argue that Gloucester became redundant as a legionary fortress in the 70s, when Caerleon was established, or at the latest in the early 80s, so that would be the appropriate time to create the colonia - and Domitian was a bad emperor who suffered damnatio memoriae (ie his name was erased from official inscriptions), so maybe Glevum was really a colonia Domitiana renamed when this
occurred. Like many dubious arguments, this one introduces unnecessary complexity and conjecture. Caerleon becoming a base of the IInd legion from the mid 70s is not a reason for Gloucester immediately ceasing to be a legionary fortress - fortresses were located strategically around the empire but not tactically, in the sense that at all times they had to exactly fit any perceived threat; and, as with the permanent headquarters of modern army regiments, it was no light matter to move.

The archaeological evidence at Gloucester could also be in direct contradiction, since I think that it was rebuilt as a legionary fortress after AD 86-7 - the dating being provided by coins of that date stratified in the construction levels of buildings which are best interpreted as legionary barracks. We also have a stone building inscription of a cohort of the XXth legion (and another fragmentary one, not naming a legion), which it seems appropriate to link to this late 80s rebuilding, when extensive use was made of masonry, unlike the earlier period of legionary building at Gloucester, which was mainly of timber and clay (it is quite possible that the two inscriptions came from the defences, where there is a sequence of timber-and-turf rampart of the first period, followed by a stone wall facing in the second).

The arguments are complicated, but the conclusion is simple: there is no good reason to push the foundation of the colonia before AD 96-8. And, not to make too much of a meal of it, there is archaeological evidence that the colonia foundation had happened by around AD 110, since the earliest example of a roof tile stamped with the mark of the municipal tiley, RPG (Res Publica Glevesium, 'Gloucester Corporation' in effect), is found in an archaeological level of about that date. The RPG tiles must imply the existence of the colonia. So, if the foundation probably wasn’t before 96-8 and after 110, why don’t we just accept that 96-8 was the most likely date and enjoy the 1997 celebration!

A third tombstone brings us back to the question of what Glevum colonia was like. It was found recently in a cemetery area at Kingsholm and is of a veteran of the XXth legion called Aurelius. This name and the style of the lettering suggests that it was of third century date, so well after the colonia’s foundation. Yet the link with the XXth legion (whose active fortress from the early second century was at Chester) is still there: perhaps this was a continuation of the tradition already mentioned, that Glevum sent many of its sons into the army, particularly, perhaps, to the legion which had once been based there. Of course one stone on its own tells us little, but encouragement to believe that it may be representative is given by other legionary fortresses and coloniae with a military flavour where many more tombstones survive.

We can, then, imagine a military feel about Glevum’s population and that was undoubtedly reinforced by the look of the place. The conversion from fortress into city had left Glevum with

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Fig 3 The east end of the Basilica and southeast corner of the Forum, showing the equestrian statue of which fragments are on display in the City Museum

Axonometric drawing by Philip Moss
walls, gates and a street layout following that of the fortress - as today's city-centre layout just preserves the Late Saxon plan (but will shortly cease to if the proposed brutal transformation of Longsmith Street goes ahead). The city's main civic complex of its forum and basilica (the open colonnaded space and civic hall) (fig 3), where local public life, from the election of magistrates, through legal and various administrative activities probably to market-type activity took place, was the same basic design and on exactly the same spot as the earlier legionary headquarters complex. Some houses also looked military. At the Telephone Exchange site in Berkeley Street, for example one house exactly fitted the plan of an underlying centurion's quarters in the legionary fortress and another grander courtyard house was very similar to the commandant's house at Housesteads on Hadrian's Wall.

But the walled area was only a part of the city of Glevum - and not to appreciate this sufficiently is a mistake which has often been made in the past. The built-up area spread out northwards for several hundred metres towards Kingsholm and along the modern London Road, where there were buildings with mosaics and monumental architecture. There was also unquestionably a substantial river frontage, with port facilities, on the west (remembering that the main channel of the river ran closer in, just west of modern Archdeacon Street and Lower Quay Street) and discoveries have also been made of urban structures outside the walls on the other sides also. The whole built-up extent of Glevum made it one of the larger cities of Roman Britain.

As we slowly learn more, we can place it among other Romano-British cities rather better. One of the most interesting aspects is that, despite its rather special origin as a fortress and the physical and other reminders of its military past which have been mentioned, a generation or two after the colonia foundation it seems to have come to look like Romano-British cities with a different origin, like, say, Silchester or Cirencester, which we might have imagined would have been different. While the first generation of colonial settlers were housed in the densely packed former legionary barracks, their grandchildren lived in a generously spaced settlement, with substantial garden or other open areas between the houses, as in other Romano-British cities. How the principal Romano-British cities actually worked in the later Roman period (third and fourth centuries AD), some apparently with a low level of population within their walls and with a particularly low level of commercial activity, has been much discussed over the last decade or two. Without entering the arguments, it looks as though we are beginning to see a real Romano-British hybrid city, which drew as much, perhaps, on pre-Romano-British ideas as it did on those from Rome: such cities were loosely defined in a spatial sense, despite in many cases having walled circuits, so that the town/country division was blurred in all sorts of ways, from the types of houses to commercial activity (rural fairs and occasional markets, such as might occur in association with religious festivals in rural shrines like Uley or Lydney, rivalled anything which took place in a town).

A colonia, as Gloucester, meant not just the urban area but all the territory attached to it - so its story will be reflected in the surrounding countryside too. Here one thinks particularly of the work done in recent years by the late Bernard and Barbara Rawes in plotting new sites and looking at the question of land divisions. The rich Severn Valley land around Gloucester was intensively farmed from pre-Roman times and this was the basis of the Roman settlement, which is very visible from the time of the colonia foundation onwards; locally, farms and field boundaries were laid out in an orderly way, but there was no grid planning or centuriation over the whole territory all at once. There were attractive villas, the best known of which is Witcombe, just as within the town there were houses on a grand scale with lavish mosaics. Of these, unfortunately, only the merest traces often survive the destruction caused by the later centuries of intensive settlement.

In the town there are tantalising hints too of special features: a complex with many mosaics (at least an exceptionally grand private house), on the present Woolworth site between Bell Walk and Eastgate Street, and a public building with huge columns, on the north side of Westgate Street, stretching for 60m or more west of the Cross. In the "old view" of Glevum it was sometimes compared unfavourably with Cirencester and termed a failure because of the small size of the walled area and what was thought to be the rather modest character of its architecture, mosaics and other artistic remains. That no longer stands up to what we know, but if there is any single message for this 1900th anniversary, it is that, both in the town and in the surrounding area, there still is a tremendous amount more to learn.

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WEBSTER, Graham (ed.). Fortress into City.巴斯ford. 1988. My own chapter, 'Gloucester (Glevum)' sets out nearly all of the information summarised here, with full references.

NEAL, David S. Roman Mosaics in Britain. Britannia Monograph No 1. 1981. pls 52-6, illustrates the fragmentary remains of several mosaics from Gloucester.
The 35th consecutive season of excavations ran from 10 April to 29 October 1995, and was divided between two separate areas. The earlier work (fig 1), over a 12m length of two medieval plough ridges, lay alongside the shallow ditch excavated on the NE side of the bath suite of the 4th century villa in the 1960s. This year saw uncovered most of the length of a stone and gravel pathway outside, and parallel to the NW side of the front courtyard wall. The path crossed the ditch, here deliberately backfilled with layers of reused stone tiles, and was almost certainly the approach to a side entrance into the workshop, Room 12. A decorated glass annular bead from the soil overlying the path, along with the tentative identification of a 1993 season glass find from Room 6 as a fragment of a claw beaker, provided additional evidence for the suggested Pagan Saxon occupation.

A spread of stone rubble and smashed tile from roof collapse covered mid 4th century rubbish deposit which yielded the greater part of a small glass bowl engraved with a hunting scene of a man netting a coursed hare. Other finds included a collection of 24 tiny translucent bi-conical blue glass beads, a small penannular brooch, and 25 coins, the best of which may be from a small scattered hoard of late 3rd century base-silver antoniniiani. They came from a plough disturbed context interpreted as one end of some as yet unexplained ridge and furrow aligned at right angles to, and underlying, a combined 11th and 13th century ridge.

In May a small team from Sheffield University undertook a geophysical survey over a large part of the unexcavated SE half of the settlement. It produced much valuable information on the site layout and the most prominent features, and was followed in August by the first season of a second excavation conducted jointly with the university, Frocester A (fig 2). This covered an area of 20m x 10m, located at one end of a major recorded anomaly close to the prehistoric trackway excavated in 1989. Boundary gullies associated with this early Iron Age feature defined two phases of a path from the SE leading into it. In the late 1st-early 2nd century AD these long abandoned features were partly sealed under yard surfaces of pebbly gravel and rubble and were in places cut by a series of ditches and drains, presumably related to what may be domestic buildings to the NE and SE. In the N corner of the excavation, this stony surface was overlain by a further length of the known road from the 2nd-3rd century buildings to the west. Although it had been badly damaged by a medieval plough furrow, a number of its kerbstones survived: one of them was a re-used door pivot. Their alignment suggested the possibility of another timber bridge, probably similar to that discovered in 1987, over the as yet unexcavated part of the main NE-SW ditch alignment.

Most of the area excavated was covered by a black/brown occupation deposit from 50mm to as much as 500mm thick which contained many artefacts, animal bones, and much shattered, but mostly unabraded pottery. On the NW side of the ditch the soil overlay the road and was in part sealed under a solid limestone rubble floor spanning at least the full width of a plough ridge, and which was defined by facing blocks on its NW and SE edges.

On the other side of the ditch a line of postholes suggested that it had been fenced off. It subsequently became a convenient hollow for the deposition of stone rubble and 3rd-early 4th century rubbish to depths of up to 200mm. The deposit did not appear to encroach on either the lime stone floor or, in the E corner of the excavation, the surviving part of one end of a stone-walled building preserved immediately under the modern ploughsoil.

On the SW edge of the track, a deep hollow over the earlier ditches was the site of much burning prior to backfilling with domestic rubbish, while near the south corner of the excavation, a single unstratified, stonepacked posthole, apparently associated with a drain and an irregular gully, may be for one cornerpost of a timber building lying just beyond the baulk.

The rubbish deposits were exceptionally rich in finds, producing many bone hairpins, one of jet and another of bronze. Other finds included two Langton Down Derivative and three bow brooches of the late 1st-early 2nd centuries, a finger ring, and some ornamental fittings. A hand-held candlestick and a pruning hook were noteworthy among the ironwork. Stone objects included a Neolithic axe, a fragment of a 250mm diameter column and other material, along with part of a clay tile stamp of ARVERI. The pottery mainly of late 1st-3rd century date but with some later sherds, included large quantities of Severn Valley wares, along with Dorset black-burnished, and sandy and micaceous fabrics. Fine wares included a far greater proportion of Samian than normal for the site, plus Rhenish, Wiltshire and a scatter of Oxford white wares.

It is intended to complete the geophysical survey of the rest of the enclosure early next year, and to continue excavation in conjunction with Sheffield University on the sites of what may well be ancillary buildings of the Roman period.

Many thanks to our loyal and devoted band of helpers, both for their digging assistance and for various post-exavcation work on pot-washing, marking and drawing etc. Their continuing presence and involvement are very much appreciated.
Fig 1 General area of early 1995 excavations at Frocester Court
Fig 1 The City Archaeology Unit’s Major sites and Watching briefs for 1995
Introduction

Fieldwork carried out by the City Archaeology Unit in 1995 included 10 major sites and over 50 watching briefs (fig 1). We also continued to maintain and encourage strong links with local schools - a record 18 students taking up work experience placements with us.

The summer exhibition Death of a Princess involved a facial reconstruction of the Birdlip skull and reproductions of the Iron Age mirror. Displays such as a round house were used to set the material in context. Competitions and various hands-on activities were also provided.

Gloucester Archaeology’s contribution to National Archaeology Day (16 September) proved a great success. Members of staff were on hand in the Wheatstone Hall to discuss and demonstrate various skills from deciphering Anglo Saxon inscriptions, to making leather shoes. Conservation techniques were explained to a very interested audience, and there was the opportunity to handle a selection of Roman ‘household’ artefacts. It was also an ideal forum to exhibit the material from Olympus Park, Quedgeley. The excavation was recreated with full size replica coffin, and the story retold using posters and photographs.

Fieldwork - major sites

With contributions by Sue Byrne, Phil Greatorex, and Wayne Laughlan.

Olympus Park, Qudgeley (Site 48/94)
SO 8130 1485

In December 1994, during construction work on the Cobe development site at Olympus Park, large amounts of Roman building materials were observed by Patrick Garrod (fig 2). Over the next few days, the Gloucester Archaeology team battled through rain and thick clay to make sense of the badly disturbed remains.

A number of walls, an area with evidence for a hypocaust underfloor heating system and the remains of an opus signinum floor were located. Also excavated were many ditches, rubbish pits, a kiln or hearth, and a stone lined pit, perhaps a cess pit. Slowly, a picture emerged of a Roman settlement site, probably a small villa.

The finds recovered, included masses of brick, tile, stone, tesserae, pottery, and animal bone. Many of the finds were of good quality, suggesting that the buildings were of high status. They also suggested that people had been living and working on the site for several hundred years; with the pottery dating from the 1st to 4th Centuries AD.

Olympus Park, Qudgeley (Site 7/95)
SO 8125 1485

A rescue excavation was carried out following the discovery of a Roman stone coffin burial on the Cobe development site. The coffin was intact and hewn from single block of limestone with the mason’s toolmarks still clearly visible (fig 3). However, the coffin lid had broken into many pieces due to weathering. It contained a single burial, probably female, with the head to the south and feet to the north (fig 4).

Six jet pins were discovered nesting between the feet (fig 5). Four of the pins had facettted cube heads, two had elaborately carved and pierced heads (see below). Immediately to the west of the coffin a large Severn Valley ware storage jar and two copper alloy coins were found. One coin was corroded and therefore illegible, the other was a sestertius of Severus Alexander (AD 222-231). These finds were probably buried at the same time as the coffin.

RAF Qudgeley, Site Number 3 (Site 34/95)
SO 8070 1490

An evaluation of the 15ha site consisted of a 20% magnetometry survey followed up by trial trenching. While there was some evidence of medieval ridge and furrow on the site, almost all the anomalies revealed by the magnetometry survey turned out to be geological features.

Gloucester Cathedral Precinct (Site 35/95)
SO 8308 1876

A watching brief was maintained during improvements to the cathedral precinct and St Mary’s Gate. New drainage trenches cut through the post-reformation cemetery to the south of the cathedral. Five articulated burials and large amount of disarticulated human bone was recovered for later reburial. Also observed was a large block of worked stone, probably a post-reformation memorial.

Blackfriars, 11 Ladybellegate Street (Site 42/95)
SO 8295 1845

A trial excavation was funded by English Heritage to establish the pattern of the 19th century formal
Fig 2 Roman Settlement at Olympus Park, Quedgley (Sites 48/94 & 7/95)
Fig 3
Roman stone coffin burial
Olympus Park, Quedgely
(Site 7/95)

Fig 4
Detail of burial
probably female

Fig 5
Jet pins lying between the feet
&
Detail of one pin
gardens and investigate the position and survival of the medieval church. The formal gardens shown on the Board of Health map, 1851, were positively identified through land drainage patterns only. The north wall of the church has been completely robbed of masonry, though a single nave pier base survives intact. The western end of the nave is characterised by closely packed inhumations with no evidence of a covering floor surface, suggesting this too has been removed.

Fig 6 Roman Gravestone from St Magdalen’s Chapel (Site 85/95)

Southern Reinforcement Main (Site 46/95)
SO 8155 1350

Extended watching brief for Severn Trent Water along a 5km stripped corridor through pasture and rough grassland from Whaddon to Quedegeley. Medieval ridge and furrow in the vicinity of Manor farm, Quedegeley, and a single, undated, field boundary 2km to the east. Surface finds consisted of a handful of very abraded late Roman pottery sherds and a single flint core.

Commercial Road (Site 53/95)
SO 8286 1845

A watching brief was maintained during the construction of a new electricity substation. The raft foundation cut into only the post-medieval levels, thus preserving in situ the earlier deposits on the site.

69 Deans Way, Kingsholm (Site 54/95)
SO 8325 1950

Evaluation in advance of future development in the rear garden of the property. The area is covered by a c1m thick overburden of victorian refuse sealing a 0.4m layer of waterlogged peaty silt with in situ oak tree stumps. This overlies a relatively clean estuarine silt cut by late Roman, right angled, ditches and a single cess pit. The sandy gravels sealed by the silt were tested to a depth of a further 1.2m and were still producing Roman pottery. Excavation had to be suspended due to the presence of pockets of running sand.

Gloucester Cathedral, Lady Chapel (Site 75/95)
SO 8317 1877

A full drawn survey of the medieval floor tiles was carried out in advance of a protective floor covering being laid.

St Magdalen’s Chapel, London Road (Site 85/95)
SO 8432 1899

General renovations and re-roofing of the chapel revealed a Roman gravestone reused as capping to the north wall (fig 6). The stone has been split along its centre line, is placed with the four line inscription uppermost and reads:
T.LVS(I)VS, NYM(M)IVS, ANN(0)R XX, H(S).E.
(TITUS LUSIUS NYMMIUS, AGED 20, HERE HE LIES).
The stone was recorded by taking a plaster cast (accurate drawing proving too difficult due to the proximity of the roof eaves) and this is currently on display in the City Museum.

Finds (Sue Byrne)

Most evaluations conducted this year produced only small amounts of Post Medieval material. That at Blackfriars also yielded large quantities of worked stone, including cut and polished marble. This was probably the legacy of Joseph Bryan, a stone mason known to have worked at Blackfriars c1755. The most outstanding finds of the year were those recovered from a rescue operation at Olympus Park, Quedegeley, and these are described in detail below.

We also received finds, photographic, and archival material collected by the late Bernard and Barbara Rawes, representing twenty or so years of fieldwalking in Gloucester. The finds from GADARG’s excavation at St Giles Church, Maisemore, were also deposited with us. Full details are stored in the Unit archive.

Many finds were displayed to the public for the first time. A selection of objects, first excavated in 1978 at St Mary de Lode, are now on display within the church. We hope to add even more finds to the showcase this summer. Roman military objects, the fruit of 25 years excavation in Gloucester City, also went on display at the City Museum. Many splendid items recovered by Patrick Garrod at Coppice Corner in 1983 can now be seen, along with more recently acquired material. A cast of the Roman tombstone discovered at St Mary Magdalen’s chapel, London Road, also went on display in the entrance hall of the City Museum.
The Quedeley Pins

During the final cleaning of the Quedeley skeleton, six jet pins were found nestling between its feet. Four of them had faceted cube heads the commonest form for jet pins. Two, however, had elaborately carved and pierced heads, and are much more unusual. All were in remarkably good condition, resting in the thick, wet sediment on the coffin floor.

The pins were arranged in a neat bundle, as if purposely placed there. It is unclear why the pins, presumably used to dress the hair, were placed at the feet rather than the head. It seems that they were meant to be unworn, and may have had a symbolic or religious significance.

Unworn personal objects are frequently found in the graves of young girls and, occasionally, older females. It has been suggested that, when buried with young girls, such jewellery would denote marriageable status, and provide a token dowry in the afterlife (Green in Philpott, 1991, 70). The Quedeley skeleton, probably female, is definitely an adult. Perhaps these pins simply represent familiar, treasured possessions, or perhaps a gift to the gods, appropriate to her station.

The two more unusual pins have faceted heads, decorated on each face with a diamond bordered by triangles. Within each diamond is a motif of four petals, and within each triangle, a motif of three petals. Holes have been drilled in the centre of each floret, and some penetrate right through. Lindsay AllasonJones has suggested that these holes may have held some contrasting filling (AllasonJones, 1996, 41).

Similar pins have been found in York and Germany, although there has been some debate as to their date. One is from York is recorded as coming from an AngloScandinavian context, whilst those from Germany are thought to be of Roman date. Luckily, the Quedeley pins can be securely dated to the Roman period, probably early to mid 3rd century, as a sestertius of Severus Alexander was found 200mm from (and associated with) the burial.

Fieldwork - watching briefs (Anthony P Garrod)

Cheltenham Road Sewer Scheme (Site 26/93)
SO 8550 1945
September 1993 to June 1994
Covering Cheltenham Road, Oxtalls Lane, Oxtalls Drive, Wellsprings Road, Windermere Road, Old Cheltenham Road, Grafton Road, Kenilworth Avenue, Merewale Road and Elmbridge Road. Casual observations made in open trenches along lengths of the above carriage ways. Variable depths from 5 to 2m deep.

Geological
A spread of Jurassic sand and gravel overlaying Lias Clay, part of the Barnwood gravel terrace levels extending across the Elmbridge and Longlevens area, located between the Horsbere and Wotton Brooks. A possible undefined channel or linear undulation in the Lias Clay was identified at the junction of Elmbridge Road and Merewale Road and Cheltenham Road junction with Wellsprings Road. Waterlogged sand, silts and gravel fills exceeded 5m deep.

18th-19th Century
Some scant evidence for night manuring was noted in plough soil levels of former farm land, now covered by the above 20th century suburbs. The narrower sunken alignments of the Old Cheltenham Road and Elmbridge Road were recorded.

United Artists TV Cable Trenching (Site 8/95)
1994 to 1995
Observations made in trenching within the shallow archaeological levels of Kingsholm, Wotton, Barton and Tredworth suburbs 400mm deep.
Negative Archaeological Evidence
Made ground or level cuts by existing service trenches were noted below respective pavement make-ups.

117 Bristol Road, Quedeley Garage (Site 9/95)
SO 8110 1462
April to March 1994
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension to car showroom, 1m deep.
Geological
Alluvial loam overlay, Jurassic sandy gravel deposits.
Negative Archaeological Evidence
for land adjacent to Olympus Park Roman Villa (Site 48/94).

Coney Hill Hospital (Site 10/95)
SO 8580 1680
June to August 1994
Observations made during excavation of a flood water Balancing Pond, discharging into artificial course of the River Twyer, bounding west side of the hospital grounds, 2.5m deep.
Geological
A plough reduced alluvial loam level, containing derivative (Bunter) pebbles and course rolled Jurassic gravel pebbles, overlay Lias Clay on the upper shoulder of Coney Hill.
Negative Archaeological Evidence

149-153 Bristol Road, Auto Express (Site 11/95)
SO 8243 1703
April 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for the above redevelopment, 1.4m deep.
Geological
Alluvial loam overlay and thin spreads of Jurassic silty
gravel, above Lias Clay natural.

*Negative Archaeological Evidence*

for land bounding main Roman road alignment, extending south from Gloucester.

1 Hedingham Close, Tuffley (Site 12/95)

SO 8162 1481

April 1995

Observations made in foundation trenches for east side extension, 1m deep.

*Geological*

A clayey alluvial loam overlay Lias Clay natural.

*Negative Archaeological Evidence*

258 Bristol Road, Lidl Development (Site 15/95)

SO 8230 1690

August 1994 to January 1995

Observations made in foundation trenches during redevelopment of former Nick's Timber Yard land, Canada Wharf, 1.2m deep.

*Geological*

Jurassic alluvial clay with occasional pockets of gravel merged with sandy river terrace deposits containing Bunter pebbles at the western end of the site. Both deposits overlay a Lias Clay base.

*Medieval to Post Medieval Levels*

A large undated pit 5.6m wide, containing a mottled clayey loam fill, lensed with black ferric oxide saturations, cut medieval/post medieval plough soil levels to a depth of 1.6m.

*19th Century Level*

A redeposited puddled Lias clay makeup, extending across the former timber yard area, overlay the above levels.

173 Barton Street, Barton (Site 16/95)

SO 8386 1799

April 1995

Observations made in foundation trenches for extended rebuild of demolished 19th century rear kitchen, 1m deep.

*Geological*

Jurassic sandy loam was recorded below Layer Above Natural.

*Medieval*

An 11th to 13th century potsherd was found in former plough field levels, bounding the Lower Barton Street frontage.

13 Denham Close, Tuffley (Site 17/95)

SO 8219 1427

April 1995

Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1m deep.

*Geological*

Spreads and pockets of Jurassic silty gravel, associated with mineralised (Ice Age) horse tooth, was recorded on the Upper Lias Clay shoulder of the Tuffley hillock.

*Negative Archaeological Evidence*

127 Deans Way, Kingsholm (Site 18/95)

SO 8337 1966

September 1994

Observations made in underpinning trenches below subsiding front bay window foundation, 1.7m deep.

*Geological*

A fine silt loam level was recorded beneath Layer Above Natural from 1.4m deep.

*Roman*

An undefined pit feature containing Neronian Flavian potsherds, part of a human skull, an articulated skull and a vertebra column of a butchered horse. Also sheep and cattle bone fragments were recorded to 1.8m deep.

2A Denmark Road, Wotton (Site 19/95)

SO 8439 1904

March 1995

Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1m deep.

*Geological*

A Jurassic sandgravel cap on the Wotton hillock was recorded from 800mm deep.

*Roman*

A small sherd of Late Roman grey ware was found in the base of former medieval/post medieval plough soil levels. Negative evidence for the Wotton Roman Burial Ground along the east side of Denmark road (Roman Ermin Street).

37 Green Lane, Hucclecote (Site 20/95)

SO 8730 1707

May 1994

Observations made in foundation trenches for south side extension, 1.28m deep.

*Geological*

Alluvial Clay deposits bounding the north side of Wotton Brook, were recorded below garden lawn levels.

*Negative Archaeological Evidence*

149 Escourt Road, Kingsholm (Site 23/95)

SO 8444 1941

January 1995

Observations made in foundation trenches for small front extension, 1m deep.

*Geological*

Stiff Lias Clay loam merging with Lias Clay was recorded from 300mm deep.

*Negative Archaeological Evidence*

Chequers and Marlborough Road (Site 24/95)

SO 8440 1724

January to March 1995

Observations made in Severn Trent Water trenches along the above roads, maximum depth 5m.

*Geological*

Deposits of fine Jurassic sand were recorded to 3.7m
deep above sandy Jurassic gravel levels, exceeding depths below 5m.

19th to Early 20th Century
Evidence of extensive 19th to 20th century sand pits cutting former undated plough soil levels, were recorded beneath the north side carriage way of Chequers road.

Negative Archaeological Evidence

26 Briar Lawn, Abbeydale (Site 25/95)
SO 8527 1495
May 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1.1m deep.

Geological
Lias Clay was recorded beneath former undated plough soil level.

Negative Archaeological Evidence

1-5 Godwin Close, Stroud Road (Site 26/95)
SO 8343 1710
May 1994
Observations made in new access road, service and foundation trenches, maximum depth 2.8m.

Geological
A Jurassic sandy loam deposit overlay Lias Clay at 700mm deep.

19th to 20th Century
Dismantled railway track 1m high. Phase 1 - Timber rail track sleepers 1m apart, were embedded on Lias clay makeup 300mm thick. Phase 2 - A crushed brick makeup 150mm thick, bedded on Lias clay 200mm thick sealed Phase 1. Phase 3, - Modern Lias/Carboniferous limestone ballast sealed Phase 2.

286 Cheltenham Road, Elmbridge (Site 27/95)
SO 8620 1993
May 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1m deep.

Geological
A Jurassic alluvial loam level overlay Lias Clay.

Negative Archaeological Evidence

57A Upton Close, Hucclecote (Site 28/95)
SO 8639 1728
May 1995
Observations in foundation trenches for new house infill plot 1.15m deep. Within back filled sunken area of extensive early 20th century gravel pit bounding the above Close, formerly part of Upton Lane alignment.

Geological
Lias Clay containing pockets of Jurassic gravel, was recorded at 2.35m, below modern pavement level.

Negative Archaeological Evidence

Lobleys Drive, Abbeymead (Site 29/95)
SO 8690 1650
May to December 1995
Observations made in foundation trench for new rear side boundary wall flanking Victoria Street, 750mm deep.

Geological
Jurassic sand silt and gravel deposits overlay Lias Clay. Estuarine topsoil spread over part of the development area was imported from Worcester. Contains Bunter pebbles and 19th century wares.

Negative Archaeological Evidence
Observations continuing.

Abbots Road, Abbeymead (Site 30/95)
SO 8666 1676
March to December 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches 1.4m deep.

Geological
Spreads and pockets of Jurassic sand silt and gravel deposits overlay Lias Clay.

Negative Archaeological Evidence
Observations continuing.

Lobleys Farm Site
Respective Victorian 80mm brick foundations were recorded in trenching. Other than a contemporary yard surface of reused 60 to 70mm handmade brickwork, no earlier farm occupation was discovered.

24 Stratton Road, Barton (Site 31/95)
SO 8389 1782
May to June 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rebuild of rear kitchen and bathroom extension, 1m deep.

Geological
A Jurassic fine sand deposit was recorded from 840mm deep.

Negative Archaeological Evidence
Undated plough soil levels of former Barton Fields were overlain by 19th to 20th century garden loam.

29 Hucclecote Road, Hucclecote (Site 33/95)
SO 8664 1774
June 1995
Observations made during machining of double garage site, on vacant land to the east of the above property.

Geological
Jurassic sand and gravel was recorded below a truncated Layer Above Natural level, from 400mm deep.

Post Medieval
Levelled terrace or platform associated with former demolished 17th to 18th century stone, thatched cottage site. Levelled area is 640mm above the modern sunken Hucclecote Road alignment (Roman Ermin Street).

136 Barton Street, Victoria Inn (Site 36/95)
SO 8380 1810
June 1995
Observations made in foundation trench for new rear side boundary wall flanking Victoria Street, 750mm deep.
**Late 18th to 19th Century**
Successive eastwest cambered metalled surfaces, approximately 5m wide, were recorded from 600mm deep to the rear of the above building.

**9 Redstart Way Abbeydale (Site 37/95)**
SO 8531 1677
June 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for northend extension, 1m deep.

**Geological**
Layer Above Natural recorded at 860mm, below developers made ground and modern garden levels.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
for Pre-historic and Roman Settlement (Site 98/75).

**Faraday House, Plot 11 Barnett Way (Site 39/95)**
SO 8595 1831
June to July 1995
Observations made in foundation and service trenching during construction of the above new building, average 1m deep.

**Geological**
Jurassic oolitic sand and gravel terrace levels were recorded from 400mm deep. Occasional derivative (Bunter pebbles) were noted in the plough soil truncating Layer Above Natural.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
The plough soil contained a small number of 19th to early 20th century pottery, china ware and clay pipe stem fragments.

**3 The Vines, Hucclecote Road (Site 40/95)**
SO 8758 1724
July 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 900mm deep.

**Geological**
Stiff buff sand-silted alluvial loam was recorded from 600mm deep.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
for land bounding Hucclecote Road (Roman Ermin Street).

**44 Park Avenue, Longlevens (Site 41/95)**
SO 8552 2049
July 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1m deep.

**Geological**
Alluvial clayey loam overlay Lias Clay.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**

**56 Dunster Close, Tuffley (Site 43/95)**
SO 8206 1437
June 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1m deep.

**Geological**
A thin deposit of Jurassic gravel overlay, stiff clayey loam, from 700mm deep.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**

**Olympus Park, Qudgeley (Site 45/95)**
SO 8122 1465
August to September 1995
Observations made during machining extension to the main service road, south from the new Cobe factory site, 240m long, 1m deep.

**Geological**
Alluvial loam containing derivative (Bunter) pebbles, overlay stiff clayey loam deposits above Jurassic gravel terrace.

**Prehistoric**
One small beaked flint tool and outer core flake, were found in the base plough soil level.

**Roman**
A shallow eastwest ditch feature 2.3m wide, edged with Lias and occasional Oolite stones, containing 1st to 2nd century Roman potsherds, was recorded near the northern end of the new road alignment. The ditch bounds the Roman Villa complex recorded beneath the new Cobe Factory (Site 48/94).

**Saxon**
An east-west ditch feature 3.4m wide was recorded towards the southern end of the new road alignment. The fill containing banded and garden snail shells, is associated with 10th century cooking bowl sherds and numerous butchered bone fragments. Similar sherds which were recovered from a ditch located on the south side of the above Roman Villa complex when the adjacent M5 link road was constructed (Site 28/76 - Garrod & Heighway, 1984, 30-2).

**59 Alders Green, Longlevens (Site 47/95)**
SO 8460 2038
September 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1m deep.

**Geological**
Jurassic sandy gravel was recorded at 800mm deep.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
A former plough soil level was recorded beneath modern made ground, at 560mm deep.

**Church Hall, 191 Painswick Road (Site 48/95)**
SO 8515 1605
August to September 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for above building, 1.5m deep.

**Geological**
Former plough soil level overlay Lias Clay natural, from 1.2m deep.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
Made ground capping modern tip levels, totalling 1m thick, overlay the site area.
21 Sulgrave Close, Tuffley (Site 49/95)
SO 8212 1424
September 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 800mm deep.
Geological
Lias Clay natural was recorded at 500mm deep.
Negative Archaeological Evidence
for rise of Tuffley hillock.

4 Podsmead Place, Podsmead (Site 50/95)
SO 8264 1625
September 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1m deep.
Geological
Lias Clay was recorded from 800mm deep.
19th to 20th Century
A linear pit or ditch feature extended north south beneath modern garden levels.

52 Barnwood Avenue, Barnwood (Site 55/95)
SO 8569 1777
August to September 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rear extension, 1m deep.
Geological
Sticky alluvial loam overlay Lias Clay base.
Negative Archaeological Evidence

1-8 Wellington Parade (Site 56/95)
SO 8367 1874
November 1995
Observations made in trench for new east side kerb alignment 260mm deep.
Regency Terraced Houses Frontage
A row of contemporary domeheaded 70mm brick wells were exposed beneath the pavement level. The wells were approximately 2m deep, 1.2m internal diameter. A small 230mm diameter inspection hole was capped with a red sandstone slab. Respective wells contained either individual or party lead pipework, formerly serving pumps in the basement kitchens of the above properties.

4 Langdale Gardens, Longlevens (Site 59/95)
SO 8551 2029
November 1995
Observations made in trenches for new side extension, 1.2m deep.
Geological
Lias Clay overlaid by garden loam.
Negative Archaeological Evidence

254 Painswick Road, Filling Station (Site 60/95)
SO 85091599
November 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for new canopy supports, 2.3m deep.

Geological
Lias Clay with lenses of Jurassic sand/silt.
Negative Archaeological Evidence
Former plough field levels contained sherds of 18th to 19th century pottery and china wares.

89 St Kilda Parade (Site 61/95)
SO 8355 1837
September 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for rebuild of respective rear kitchens, 1.4m deep.
Geological
A loam Layer Above Natural overlays Jurassic sand and gravel deposits, of unknown depth.
Roman
Four undefined pit features, possibly associated with gravel extraction, cut natural, within the trenched area. A subsequent Roman/Post Roman plough soil layer cut and reduced contemporary Roman ground level down to Layer Above Natural.
Medieval to Post Medieval
A uniform thick black loam layer with numerous large charcoal flecks is associated with former agricultural land outside the walled area of the City.

63 Reservoir Road, Matson (Site 62/95)
SO 8417 1615
November 1995
Observations made in foundation trench for rear extension, 1 metre deep.
Geological
A loam Layer Above Natural overlays an orange clayey silt deposit.
Negative Archaeological Evidence
Foundations of a demolished building within the former Robinswood Army Barracks site, was recorded in the trenched area.

21 Kingsholm Road, Kingsholm (Site 73/95)
SO 8348 1946
December 1995
Observations made in trenches cutting the cellar floor, to underpinning the main south side wall of the above building.
Geological
Truncated levels of Jurassic sandy gravel were recorded beneath the cellar floor.
The Kingsholm Central Roman Burial Ground
Remains of an adult inhumation lying in a prone position with feet west was dug out by the builder. The burial is sited 14.5m in from modern street frontage and estimated to be 1.4m below contemporary Roman ground level. See adjacent Roman burial (Site 34/93). A possible deeper undisturbed burial cut on the same alignment was recorded 1.4m west of the above inhumation burial. As with all inhumation burials recorded in the Kingsholm Central Burial Ground area there was no evidence for the Pagan custom of including additional grave goods or cremation burials.
113 Hucklecote Road, Hucklecote (Site 74/95)
SO 8788 1785
December 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches for new house infill within south side garden area of the above property, 1.2m deep.

Geological
Layer above natural overlay a thick deposit of fine silty sand.

Roman
Negative evidence for land fronting the Roman Ermine Street alignment.

Late 18th to 19th Century Sand Pit
A back filled sand pit of undefined area, extended beneath and beyond the northern half of the new building plot, maximum depth 1.4m.

Deans Way Redevelopment Phase 1 (Site 76/95)
SO 8328-1930
July 1994 to January 1995
Observations made in new foundation and service trenches on the site of demolished council houses; 2-38 Deans Way, 50-60 and 61-69 St Mark Street, and 45-49 Edwy Parade. Also the development surface water pipe trench extending into meadow land west of Deansway, site of the Old Severn channel.

Geological
Jurassic sandy loams and gravel were recorded on the eastern side of the development area. The levels slope westwards below site trenching towards the former silted River Severn channel bounding Kingsholm, known as the Old Severn.

Roman
Patchy and truncated Roman loam ground levels and undefined area of 1st to 2nd century pitting were recorded in the above development area south of St Mark Street. Unstratified finds include remains of a Roman burial machined out from Roman levels. This isolated burial lies outside the Kingsholm Central Roman Burial Ground area.

Medieval to Post Medieval
Loam levels of former Kingsholm meadow land bounding the Old Severn was recorded throughout the development area, from 800mms deep.

19th to 20th Century
Late 19th to early 20th century City tip levels overlay the low lying Kingsholm meadow land. The prewar Deansway council house development was subsequently built upon the made ground tip area.

The Old Severn River Channel
Upper estuarine clay silts within the Old Severn channel cut/bounded the 18th - 19th century level of Kingsholm Meadows, 10.6m west of the Deansway carrigeway. An east side concrete revetment wall for a narrower open water course within the former river channel bounded the city late 19th century tip levels 37.7m west of Deansway.

River Twyver Culvert
The modern culverted course of the River Twyver, diverted along the open water course alignment, was recorded 6m west of the above revetment wall.

Lobleys Drive, Abbeymead (Site 77/95)
SO 8660 1630
May to December 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches 1.8m deep.

Geological
Jurassic sand and gravel deposits overlay Lias Clay.

Negative Archaeological Evidence
Observations continuing.

19th Century
Some small scale localised sand and gravel pitting was recorded.

Abbeymead Avenue, Abbeymead (Site 78/95)
SO 8620 1695
October 1995 to February 1996
Observations made during machining for a new roundabout at Roman Road junction, also access road into site area.

Geological
A Jurassic terrace of course gravel 1.5m thick above a Lias Clay base was recorded beneath the Abbeymead Avenue alignment alias Upton Lane. Capped with brown clayey loam, the south side of the terrace thins away within the site area.

Negative Archaeological Evidence
Observations continuing.

19th Century Coney Hill Hospital Estate
Two possible parallel rumble drain/boundary alignments 900mm wide by 250mm deep, packed with furnace fire clay lining fragments and some clinker was recorded at 20m spacings from the north side of the hospital West Lodge Drive. 19th century night manuring evidence from the former plough field areas contained hospital china ware fragments.

Thomas Stock Gardens, Abbeymead (Site 79/95)
SO 8648 1657
September January 1996
Observations made in foundation and service trenches Plots 22 to 27, maximum depth 1.5m.

Geological
Alluvial brown clay overlay pockets and lenses of Jurassic sand, gravel and clay silts above a Lias Clay base.

Roman (Plots 23 to 27)
Remains of a possible mid to late 1st century farm site associated with a complex of ditches and pit features, were recorded in the above plots area. Respective features contained numerous friable sherds of native cooking pot and large heavy rimmed vessel made in the Iron Age tradition, together with Severn Valley potsherds. The pottery assemblage is probably typical of small 1st century rural sites around Roman Gloucester.
The Briars, Qudgeley (Site 80/95)
SO 8080 1470
November - February 1996
Observations made during machining off site road and also in foundation trenching 1m deep.

**Geological**
Spreads and pockets of Jurassic sand and gravel overlay Lias Clay base. Numerous derivative (Bunter) pebbles within a plough reduced clayey loam level post date the deposition of the limestone, sand and gravel deposits.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
Observations continuing.

**18th to 19th Century**
Some scant evidence of night manuring was recovered in the plough soil level.

Green Farm, Qudgeley (Site 81/95)
SO 8106 1510
November - February 1996
Observations made during machining off site road and also in foundation trenching 1m deep.

**Geological**
Spreads and pockets of Jurassic sand, gravel and clay silts overlay Lias Clay base. Numerous derivative (Bunter) pebbles within a plough reduced clayey loam level post date the deposition of the limestone, sand and gravel deposits.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
Observations continuing.

**18th to 19th Century**
Evidence for night manuring within respective farm fields was recovered.

Birds Eye Walls, Barnwood (Site 82/95)
SO 8623 1894
August 1995
Observations made in foundations of new milk storage plant, 1m deep.

**Geological**
Pockets and lenses of alluvial Jurassic sandy loam overlay Lias Clay.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
Area previously observed (Site 24/83).

Magdalen House, London Road (Site 83/95)
SO 8411 1887
August 1995
Observations made in foundation trenches 1.4m deep, for west end extension onto site of demolished property 34 Hyde Close.

**Geological**
Jurassic clay and sandy silts overlay Lias Clay from 1m deep.

**Negative Archaeological Evidence**
Original 19th century foundations of 80mm brickwork on lower limestone courses, were recorded beneath a reinforced concrete rebuild of the above demolished property.

Water Main Repairs, Kingsholm (Site 2/96)
July November 1995
Observations made in a series of boxes dug along the carriageways, average 1.10m deep.

**Deans Way (East Side)** SO 8335 1960
Loam Layer Above Natural recorded at 840mm deep overlies Jurassic sand and gravel of the Kingsholm Terrace.

Box outside number 64, location of southern edge to undefined area of mid 1st century Roman Bunter and limestone pebble metalled surface seals Layer Above Natural.

Box between numbers 66-68, part of a mid 1st century rammed Bunter pebble metalled surface, showing successive slitted and cambered layers of Bunter pebbles and Lias limestones. Possible east-west Roman street alignment.

Box outside number 70, mid 1st century military building slot-trench type feature 560mm wide. Cuts Layer Above Natural in west side section only.

Box between numbers 82-84, Southern edge of a stoney, Bunter and limestone pebble metalled surface or street alignment recorded at late Roman to Saxon level.

Box between numbers 86-88, east-west trench or pit feature containing large Bunter pebbles and Oolite stone, exceeds 600mm wide, cuts Layer Above Natural from Late Roman or Saxon level.

Box outside garage of number 102, adult inhumation in supine position with head east, probably associated with the Kingsholm central late Roman burial ground.

Burial cuts possible contemporary Bunter pebble metalled surface level.

**St Mark Street (South Side)** SO 8334 1934
Box between numbers 5759, part of 1st century Roman metalled surface. Rammed limestone pebbles on makeup of gravel and Lias stone fragments, sealed Layer Above Natural at 1.1m deep.

**Sweatbriar (North Side)** SO 8350 1917
Box at junction with Kingsholm Road, possible late Roman metalled surface of Bunter pebbles and Lias stone fragments above makeup of Lias stones, recorded from 740mm deep.

Box at junction with Swan Road, possible Roman surface or makeup layer of Lias stones, recorded at 900mm deep.

**Denmark Road/Seabroke Street** SO 83901927
Part of a Roman Lias stone foundation 480mm wide, cut Layer Above Natural. Recorded in westside section only. The feature bounds the northside of the former sunken Denmark Road alignment. (Roman Ermin Street).

Observations continuing.

**REFERENCES**


BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER PRIMARY SCHOOL EXCAVATION

Philip J Piper & Toby Catchpole

Introduction
An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Bourton-on-the-Water Primary School. The site is located c120m to the north of the parish church, on the summit of a low gravel ridge (fig 1). The site was assessed to have the potential to provide information relating to several periods of occupation. As well as the high density of prehistoric occupation in the Windrush valley, the late Iron Age enclosure at Salmonsbury Camp is only 400m to the east (RCHME 1976). Although Roman occupation at Bourton was concentrated around the Fosse Way at Bourton Bridge, a coin hoard has been recovered from under the church and stone walls have been recorded as far east as Mousetrap Lane, c200m to the north-west of the school (O'Neil 1968, Renfrew 1977-81, Catchpole 1992). Saxon occupation at Bourton may have been continuous from the sixth century. Find spots of early and mid Saxon material are concentrated on Salmonsbury and the Fosse Way which probably indicate foci of archaeological observations rather than past activity (Dunning 1932, O'Neil 1962).

A building was to be constructed in the existing playground to the north of the Victorian school, as the first phase of a programme of temporary classroom replacement. An evaluation was carried out in the summer of 1995 which identified the presence of Iron Age and Roman features on the site (Piper 1995). The entire footprint of the new building was excavated during September and October 1995.

This report has been produced by Toby Catchpole and is an edited summary of the draft full report (Piper forthcoming).

Results of the excavation

Cut features were recorded which date to the early Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods. The majority of the features were truncated but otherwise well preserved. No occupational or cultural layers remained in situ. The only layer existing from antiquity was interpreted as a possible ploughsoil which developed during the late Iron Age or early Roman periods (fig 2, context 310).

a) The early Iron Age

The excavation has produced further evidence of early Iron Age settlement in Bourton-on-the-Water. The high concentration of features and their stratigraphic relationships suggest that several periods of re-building occurred. The pottery recovered from the features suggests that the settlement was occupied between the eighth to sixth centuries BC (Morris 1995).

The largest group of features on the site comprised 150 post holes. Forty four of these produced early Iron Age pottery, two were Saxon in date and the rest were undated, suggesting that the majority of post holes relate to the early Iron Age occupation. Due to the mass of post holes present, no clear building plans have been discerned. Subsoil type rather than date or specific building seems to have been the determining
factor in post hole form. The larger stone packed post holes were concentrated on the clay subsoil to the north-west of the trench. Ten post holes (fig 3, 561, 563, 576, 579, 630, 642, 645 and 650) appeared to form the eastern half of a circular or penannular structure approximately 7m in diameter, any westwards continuation of the feature had been truncated by the digging of a Roman ditch. A semi-circular gully (fig 3, 391) may have formed the western part of a further structure c.8m in diameter.

Nine pits securely dated to the early Iron Age were excavated (fig 3, 217, 222, 300, 272, 494, 497, 540 and 545 which truncated 560). Similar pits are commonly referred to as grain or food storage containers. Unfortunately no plant macro-fossils were present in the soil samples taken from the features. Pit groups and alignments of a similar date have been recorded during excavations at The Loders (Darvill 1986) and Roughground Farm (RCHME 1976) near Lechlade. A further pit group of slightly earlier date was also discovered at Shorncombe Quarry during the 1992 excavations (Hearde and Heaton 1994). These features are often found in isolated groups where they represent the only evidence of early Iron Age activity found. There were also examples similar to the possible post hole structure and circular or penannular gully recorded at Roughground Farm and Shorncombe Quarry.

The major early Iron Age features were located within the south-eastern third of the excavation trench where the subsoil comprised alluvial gravels. If that pattern continues the nucleus of the settlement would have been to the south and east of the excavation on the gravel terrace running parallel to the Windrush. It may have continued to Salmonsbury Camp where shallow early Iron Age pits and pottery have been recovered (RCHME 1976). There is no evidence for continuous occupation throughout the Iron Age.

b) The Roman period

A ditch and group of gullies were interpreted as part of a Roman field system. The size and shape of the ditch (fig 2, 311) suggests that it was a primary field boundary, the individual plots being drained by smaller gullies. A gap between the ditch and gullies may have been deliberately constructed as an access route. Seeds of barley, oats and corn were present within the primary fills of the features. Seven coins dating from AD 330 to 380 and pottery of the third and fourth centuries were retrieved. The Roman settlement at Bourton Bridge is known to have expanded eastwards in the late third century and it is possible that the field system was expanded or redesigned at that time.

c) The Saxon period

Evidence of Saxon activity was recorded in the form of post holes and at least one pit. No structures could be identified and no relationships between these features were observed during the excavation. It is possible that a number of the undated post holes originated during this period. As stated above the large number of post holes dating from at least two phases of occupation have rendered it impossible to fully interpret the post hole structures.

Grass-tempered Saxon pottery was recovered from the upper fills of the Roman ditch. The type of pottery recovered compares with material found at Frocester Court Villa (Heighway 1984) and the Roman site at Wycomb, Andoversford (Rawes 1980, Morris 1995).
Fig 3 Plan of early Iron Age features

The discovery of grass tempered pottery within the upper fills of the ditch suggests that it may have remained partially open and been utilised during the 5th century AD.

Very few sub-Roman / early Anglo-Saxon sites have been recorded within Gloucestershire and little is known about the local population during this period.

There does however seem to be accumulating evidence to suggest that Bourton-on-the-Water was occupied at this time. If further areas of the primary school are redeveloped an opportunity may occur to excavate and record substantial and well preserved archaeological remains of national importance.

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Abbreviations

GCC - Gloucestershire County Council
TBGAS - Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society


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PROPOSED MAGISTRATES' COURT SITE: 1995 Excavation

Charles Parry and Sarah Reilly

Introduction

In 1995 excavation on the site of the proposed Magistrates’ Court, Gloucester, was undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council’s Archaeology Service. The work was commissioned by the developer, Gloucestershire County Council. The site is located between Ladybellegate Street and Barbican Road (centred on SO 829180) in the south-western quadrant of the Roman colonia. In the medieval period the locality was occupied by Gloucester’s Norman castle, constructed in the late 11th century. Prior to the commencement of excavation in 1995 the site incorporated the disused structure of Gloucester’s first electricity works, constructed c1900.

Background to the 1995 programme of work

The proposed development area measured c0.7 hectares, the footprint of the proposed courthouse occupying c0.25 hectares adjacent to the Ladybellegate Street frontage. The site is of national archaeological importance, forming part of a Scheduled Monument (County no 330, Glevum Roman colonia). Preliminary assessments of the implications of construction were commissioned by the developer. These included a field evaluation undertaken in response to a previous design of the proposed court building, and a desk-based assessment and a field evaluation undertaken in response to the current design.

The preliminary assessments revealed that the site had been severely truncated by the construction of deep basements and mass foundations associated with the electricity works, but that archaeological deposits were present below the proposed footprint of the courthouse. To preserve deposits in situ the proposed courthouse structure was designed to be supported on piled foundations above the archaeology. Insertion of piles would, however, necessitate the prior removal of any hard obstructions such as the former foundations of the electricity works. The 1995 programme of work was, therefore, proposed in order to record archaeological deposits exposed during demolition of the electricity works, and to supervise the reduction of the ground to the level required for piling. The work was undertaken to a brief approved by English Heritage as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent.

Fig 1 Magistrates' Court Site: 1995 excavations
The archaeological programme was integrated with site clearance and demolition operations undertaken during May - August 1995. Immediately prior to demolition a photographic record of the electricity works was made to supplement a detailed record of the building compiled by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) in 1993. As predicted by the preliminary assessments archaeological preservation was poor under the electricity works' footprint. Archaeological deposits were well preserved along a narrow strip of ground alongside the Ladybellegate Street frontage, and within the northern part of the proposed development site: these areas had not suffered deep intrusions when the electricity works was constructed. A summary of the results of the 1995 excavation is presented below, illustrated by fig 1.

**Roman period**

A Roman building was exposed within an area measuring a maximum of 54m long by 22m wide. The majority of the plan was revealed directly below a mass foundation of the electricity works, where the building was represented by a series of wall foundations associated in some areas with floor make-up deposits. These features lay below the level required for the insertion of piles and, following recording, they were left in situ. Close to the Ladybellegate Street frontage the Roman building was preserved at a higher level and required excavation. There, robbed walling was found associated with a minimum of three, superimposed mortar floors, the latest one surfaced with a tessellated pavement finds from these deposits suggested that the building was in use during the later Roman period: the tessellated floor and the presence of copious painted wall plaster fragments indicated that it was a moderately well appointed structure.

The plan of the Roman building is incomplete; to the south it had been destroyed by a deep basement of the electricity works and to the north it had been destroyed by the construction of a large medieval ditch (described below). The partial nature of the evidence makes interpretation difficult and the function of the building is, as yet, uncertain below the excavated structures a small wall foundation associated with a mortar floor suggested the presence of an earlier phase of Roman occupation. The character and date of these deposits have not, so far, been established.

**Medieval period**

The northern side of the Roman building was cut by the southern edge of a large ditch. The ditch was sampled during the evaluation of 1994 when it was established that it measured a minimum of 7m deep, but that only post-medieval fills were present at the proposed level of construction. Medieval infills of the ditch were, therefore, preserved in situ below the level required for the insertion of piles. The ditch is interpreted as part of the defensive circuit of Gloucester's Norman castle constructed in the late 11th century, and attested archaeologically from an excavation conducted in Commercial Road c50m south of the Magistrates' Court site.

The location of the northern edge of the castle ditch was not established but it would appear to lie beyond the 1995 limit of investigation. If so, the ditch would measure over 20m broad. To the south of the ditch, close to the Ladybellegate Street frontage, a small area roughly paved with limestone was observed above the robbed remains of the Roman building: this may represent a surface associated with the Norman castle.

**Conclusion**

The 1995 programme of work undertook detailed investigation of c0.25 hectares. This represents the largest area of central Gloucester examined by archaeological excavation since investigations at 13-17 Berkeley Street were completed in the early 1970s. Thus, notwithstanding the truncated nature of the deposits on the site, the proposed construction of the Magistrates' Courts provided an opportunity to view the archaeology of an extensive area, and the results will make a significant contribution to our understanding of the Roman and medieval town.

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OFFA’S DYKE MANAGEMENT SURVEY, 1995-6

Jon Hoyle

Introduction

The monument recognised as the southern portion of Offa’s Dyke follows the River Wye in the western part of Gloucestershire through the Parishes of Tidenham, Hewelsfield, St Briavels, Newland, English Bicknor and Lydbrook. It consists of approximately 15.2km of earthwork, in five discrete lengths, each divided by a number of small gaps between 20 - 800m wide. The distance between separate portions varies from c.2.5km to c.8.5km (fig 1). None of these earthworks have been securely dated and although they have been generally recognised as Offa’s Dyke since at least 1831 (Fosbroke 1831), their status as part of this earthwork has been questioned for almost as long (Playne 1877, Bellows 1877).

When compared with many other linear monuments, Offa’s Dyke has received little academic attention and has not been systematically reviewed since Fox’s 1933 survey (Fox 1955). Many of the management problems which affect it, particularly the impact of the Offa’s Dyke Long Distance Path, have never been addressed in any strategic way.

As a response to this, Gloucestershire County Planning Department, Archaeology Service was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a management survey of Offa’s Dyke in Gloucestershire. The survey was undertaken between January 1995 and March 1996.

Methodology

The first part of the project consisted of collecting all data of relevance to the monument and its immediate environs from a number of published and unpublished sources. This was followed by a programme of field survey which recorded current land use both on and off the monument, its present form, its relationship with other landscape features and the location and extent of visible erosion or damage which affected it.

All the shorter gaps between recognised portions of the monument (those less than c800m) were searched to identify previously unrecognised sections of the monument or visible reasons why it was missing in that area.

In the longer gaps, discrete earthworks which had been identified as possible portions of the monument in documentary or mapped sources were investigated and transects were walked through selected areas where remains of the dyke could reasonably be expected.

Results of the survey - archaeological issues

The field survey indicated that the monument can be divided into two basic types, differentiated by the relative heights of the inner and outer faces of the bank. In the most common type (Type A), the dyke has a high, steep scarp on the outer face (west side) of...
its bank with a lower face on the inner side. This type is frequently found in association with a ditch, berm, or counterscarp on the outer side of the bank and a series of quarry pits on its inner side. The less common type of the monument (Type B) was more uniform in terms of the height of the faces of the bank, and was only occasionally found with the visible remains of associated features.

This variation in construction reflects the topography through which the monument was constructed and need not indicate a different function or date for different types. Type A sections generally followed the break in slope along the edge of the Wye Valley, often with very steep slopes on their outer side, whilst Type B portions of the monument are found where the topography is more level. This was principally where the monument was constructed in the area of St Briavels Common, although monument type also changed even for relatively short changes in topography, such as where the monument crosses small valleys. Geology and landuse (both past and present) were also closely related to present form of the monument. Not only are these inextricably linked to topography, but also influenced later landuse which has had a significant effect on the form of the monument visible in 1995.

Very little indication of the original appearance of the dyke was found during the survey, although the available evidence did suggest that, parts at least of it, had a vertical face on its outer side, and was not simply of dump construction. Laid stonework on the outer face of the bank was identified in a number of areas, and the evidence of a section, cut through the monument in the 1960s (Lewis 1965), suggests that it may have been faced with turf or timber at that point.

The function of the dyke can only be inferred from the available evidence, although a wall-like appearance, combined with the position of the Type A sections of the monument along the top of the Wye Valley, suggest that these portions of the monument, at least, acted as more than simply a boundary marker. The dyke in these areas is likely to have fulfilled a broadly defensive role, both dominating the actual boundary between Mercia and the Welsh kingdoms to the west (probably the River Wye), limiting access across the frontier and acting as a visible demonstration of the power of Offa’s Mercia.

In the area of St Briavels Common, the monument followed a different topographical course, running to the east of the break in slope along the edge of the Wye Valley. No evidence for the original appearance of the dyke is known from this area, and the difference in form (it is almost exclusively Type B here) has been explained as a reflection of the difference in topography in which it was built. The fact that the monument does not follow the edge of the Wye Valley to the west, however, may indicate that it fulfilled a different function here, although this has not been fully explained by the results of the 1995 survey. It is possible that the St Briavels Common section is an earlier earthwork incorporated into the Offan system, or was constructed in an area where dominance of the frontier was less important.

The 1995 survey identified six short stretches of the monument which had not been previously recorded, and is the most complete record of the extensive system of quarries on the inner side of the monument. These are a more or less ubiquitous feature of the monument in Gloucestershire and had not previously been fully recorded.

A number of possible original access points through the monument were also identified in the course of the survey. These often combine known or likely early routes across the line of the dyke and placenames containing the element gate. Ramparts associated with earlier Iron Age hillforts at Lancaut and Symonds Yat (a gate placename) may also have represented access points through the Mercian frontier.

No evidence of the dyke was found in the major gap between Redbrook and English Bicknor, although it is possible that the political situation in the ninth century meant that a physical frontier earthwork was not necessary as, in this area, Mercia bordered Ergyng, which may have been a Mercian client territory at that time.

Some evidence was also found suggesting that the monument had been destroyed by nineteenth century quarrying to the north and south of the Lancaut Peninsula, and possibly also to the east of Symonds Yat.

The dyke is also absent in the area immediately to the east of Chepstow, although Chepstow may have been the site of a Mercian bridgehead on the western side of the Wye, and, consequently, the dyke would not have been necessary here (Gelling 1983).

Two features were identified which may be integral parts of the monument. The Tallards Marsh earthwork in Sedbury, may be an original fort overlooking the Wye. Buttington Tump is a large mound, also in Sedbury, which may be an original feature associated with an access point through the monument.

Recommendations have been made for further archaeological work to identify the full extent of the monument in Gloucestershire and establish the status of the possible access points. It has also been recommended that a number of existing sections through the monument, such as where it has been cut
by a recent track, should be archaeologically cleaned and excavated to record the internal structure of the dyke, and assess its environmental potential.

Results of the survey - management issues

Visitor erosion, principally that associated with the Offa’s Dyke Long Distance Path (which coincides with over 50% of the dyke in Gloucestershire), was identified as the most serious form of active erosion affecting the monument in Gloucestershire. To combat this it has been recommended that, where possible, the Offa’s Dyke Footpath is re-directed away from the monument, all erosion scars repaired and the regeneration of vegetation actively encouraged.

Erosion caused by badger setts is also a significant problem (arguably the most serious problem) affecting the dyke in Gloucestershire. As badgers are a protected species it has been recommended that the erosion is regularly monitored and expert advice sought to prevent badger erosion from spreading. Other wildlife erosion was insignificant.

As much of the monument in Gloucestershire (nearly 80%) is found in areas of woodland, other forms of erosion, such as livestock, cultivation, or building development, were not widespread, although these were recognised as acute problems in some areas.

Earthworks in areas of woodland are, however, subject to a number of particular management problems such as the effect of tree roots, tree throw, loss of protective vegetative cover due to shading and a greater incidence of destructive burrowing animals, especially badgers.

Recommendations have been made for the clearance or selective thinning of woodland on the monument

Although no active quarrying was identified during the 1995 survey, it is possible that this has destroyed up to approximately 28% of the original monument in Gloucestershire.

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HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY
by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service
Antonia Douthwaite

Historic towns present one of the most complex and important forms of archaeological evidence as they are composed of buried archaeology and standing buildings of all periods. They provide a nationally important resource for the study of past societies, and for an understanding of the development and changes undergone by communities over time. In 1981 Roger Leech published a survey of 24 towns in Gloucestershire which had been undertaken for the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset. The document provided a brief summary of the archaeology and history of each settlement, attempted to explain which parts of the historic towns surveyed were archaeologically sensitive and made suggestions for further research. The study included places that were boroughs in the Saxon or medieval periods, including some that are today regarded as having ‘failed’, but ignored settlements that have flourished only within the last 100-200 years, or pre-date the Saxon period and did not continue into later periods.

Following the establishment of the Monuments Protection Programme in 1984, a number of pilot studies were undertaken for selected Gloucestershire historic towns (both ‘large’ and ‘small’), including Gloucester, Tetbury, Tewkesbury and Berkeley. This culminated in the production of an update of Leech’s 1981 work by Heighway (1993) covering 27 historic towns, but which again omitted possible Roman and ‘modern’ settlements.

In November 1995 staff at Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service began a third survey of the historic small towns in Gloucestershire, which, it is hoped, will be the final and definitive study of the county. Thirty-eight towns have so far been selected (see Appendix) though suggestions for additions are welcome. These range from Roman settlements which may have ranked as towns, like Kingscot and Dorn, to medieval towns that are considered as little more than villages today, such as St Briavels and Leonard Stanley. And from settlements which have managed to maintain their medieval importance, like
Tewkesbury, to resort and industrial towns which have developed over the last one or two centuries still holding an important position in the local economy, such as Cheltenham, Cinderford and Coleford. As similar studies are also being undertaken for Somerset and the area previously Avon, it is hoped that we will be able to liaise with the teams working on these projects with a view to developing a consistent approach for the wider geographical area. It should be noted at this point that Gloucester and Cirencester will not be covered in this survey as they are considered large enough to merit separate studies of their own.

The project has three main aims: to review and enhance the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) database for urban areas in Gloucestershire; to produce a descriptive account of the history and archaeology of each town; and to produce a strategy document for each settlement which will outline possible approaches for the protection and management of the urban archaeological resource through the planning process. The whole study is expected to take a minimum of eighteen months and will involve a desk-based assessment of each urban area, drawn from the available published sources, followed by a short period of field checking which will involve visiting each town in order to gain a better understanding of its plan and surviving archaeological and historical features.

The main sources that the survey will rely on include Anglo-Saxon and medieval charters, Domesday Book, all available volumes of the Victoria County History for Gloucestershire, local historical studies and antiquarian accounts, especially Atkyns, Rudder, Bigland and Smith’s survey of able-bodied men taken in 1608. All the volumes of the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society and Glevesnis have also been searched for any articles or references which may be of use. Early maps are also a vital tool, providing information on the pre-twentieth century form of the settlement, and illustrating the late-nineteenth and twentieth century developments which have been undertaken in and around the settlements, as well as providing information on upstanding and lost monuments such as market houses, nonconformist chapels and industrial establishments which played a role in the development of the towns.

It is hoped that these sources will provide information relating to the origins and development of each settlement, as well as to institutions and features which may have had an influence on the town’s local and regional status (eg markets, fairs, trade and industry, religious foundations and the lordship of the manor), or on the development of its form/plan (eg religious foundations, secular structures such as castles and manor houses, rivers and road links).

The information gathered relating to the plan development of each settlement will be mapped onto a computer database using the County Council’s Geographical Information System (GIS). This is a resource which can be continuously updated and which allows all new developments and discoveries to be entered into the system. GIS provides the most up to date information for immediate consultation, and is a tool which is becoming increasingly used within the archaeological infrastructure of British heritage management.

The problems we have encountered in the last three months relate mainly to the availability of information about small towns. Published sources are relatively sparse, and it appears that most time and interest has been devoted to settlements such as Gloucester, Cirencester and Tewkesbury, while the smaller market towns and villages have been largely ignored, except for their churches, monastic foundations or defences, where they exist. This is a situation common all over the country, not a phenomenon specific to Gloucestershire, and it is hoped that our work will do a little to redress the balance and to stimulate an interest in the smaller settlements of the county. In this light we would be happy to hear from anyone who may have information relating to the sites we will be studying, or who would like to suggest other settlements to be considered for survey.

Appendix

Historic Towns to be included in the survey

| Berkeley       | Leonard Stanley |
| Bishop's Cleeve| Lydney          |
| Bisley        | Minchinhampton  |
| Bloxley       | Mitcheldean     |
| Bourton-on-the-Water | Moreton-in-Marsh |
| Chalford      | Nailsworth     |
| Cheltenham    | Newent          |
| Chipping Campden | Newnham      |
| Cinderford    | Northleach     |
| Coleford      | Painswick      |
| Dorn          | Prestbury      |
| Dursley       | St Bravais     |
| Dymock        | Stow-on-the-Wold |
| Fairford      | Stroud         |
| Frampton-on-Severn | Tetbury   |
| Great Witcombe| Tewkesbury     |
| Kingscote     | Wincscombe     |
| King's Stanley| Wotton-under-Edge |
| Lechlade      | Wycomb         |

(Gloucester and Cirencester are included in other projects and so do not appear here)
A GRAFFITO IN THE CRYPT OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

Carolyn Heighway

In the south ambulatory of the crypt of Gloucester Cathedral is an incised drawing, first noticed by Cathedral Guide Mr Henry Isherwood. The drawing is executed on the side of one of the ribs of the vaulting, in the third bay from the entrance. The drawing or graffito is well above reach of even the tallest person and moreover is set at an angle on the stone: it is unlikely that it could have been so executed with the stone in its present architectural position, and the drawing must have been done before the stone was put in place; ie in the mason’s yard or quarry.

The rib, of which the stone is part, springs from a massive drum column which encloses the original late 11th century piers. This strengthening, which occurs throughout the crypt, is thought to have been carried out in the early 12th century and before the building of the superstructure of the Norman abbey church was finished (Weland 1991, 30).

The drawing depicts a bearded face set in a ribbon border with simple leaf shapes at each corner. The face is surmounted by a pointed head-dress which obstructs outside the border. The drawing is uneven but fairly confident in style and could have been done by an apprentice mason or even illustrator accustomed to working with a stylus.

The face is shown with a full beard and hair parted in the middle. The style of hair and beard, with simple but effective lines, is similar to a bearded figure on a Psalter of c1170 (Zarnecki et al 1984, 59 no 75) and the beard style is also seen in sculptured form in the second quarter of the 12th century on a head from Norwich (Zarnecki 1984, 163 no 120). The hairstyle with its formal central parting is similar to that of the South Cerney crucifix of c1130 (Zarnecki 1984, 160 no 115). A 12th century date seems certain, and late 12th century most likely.

Graffiti drawings of human heads are not uncommon in churches. Some such faces represent the Veronica, or Vernicle, the legendary image of the face of Christ (Jones-Baker 1992). In this case a Vernicle seems unlikely because the face carries a head-dress of some kind. At first sight, the head-dress looks like a helmet, but it does not have the distinctive nosepiece which all pointed Norman helmets have. In any case the portrait is unlikely to be of a military person, because it has a full beard. Kings, bishops, and clerics are often shown with such beards in the 12th century illustrations (eg Psalter, c1170, (Zarnecki 1984, 59)) but knights hardly ever; the Norman and Anglo-Saxon knights in the Bayeux Tapestry are always clean-shaven with curly moustaches (although there is a copy of John of Worcester c1130-40; (Zarnecki 1984, 103), showing a
helmeted knight with a full beard, so perhaps this was becoming more the fashion in the mid 12th century). Conical hats were sometimes worn (eg Zarnecki 1984, 96, no 21 or Boase 1953, plate 6a) but they were modest affairs and the graffito seems to emphasise the size of the headgear as though it were of particular importance.

It seems likely that the pointed head-dress represents a mitre. The triangular type only came into fashion c1150 (Zarnecki 1984, 190). There are extant examples of actual mitres dating to the late 12th century (Zarnecki 1984, 357 no 491 and illustrated in a manuscript of c1170-80, (Zarnecki 1984, 125 no 71). Such mitres even have a strip down the middle which appears to be represented on the graffito.

Mitre were not worn at all by church dignitaries before cAD 1000. The first mention of an episcopal mitre in literature is in 1049. The first grant of the mitre to an English Abbot was in 1063 (to Abbot Elsin of St Augustine’s). Great churches like Milan only obtained the privilege of the mitre at the beginning of the twelfth century and it was not until the middle or third quarter of that century that it began to be regarded as an inevitable part of a bishop’s costume. Abbeys and other dignitaries continued to obtain it by privilege from the Pope until the 17th century when the few remaining non-mitred abbots were granted the use of it ex officio (Dix 1943, 40-56). The Abbots of Gloucester did not wear the mitre until the second half of the 14th century (Abbey Historia translated in Weland 1991, 63-78). This suggests that the ‘portrait’ is not of an Abbot of Gloucester, but is more likely to represent a Bishop probably of Worcester, and both the style of the drawing and the late development of mitre wearing suggest it must be in the second half of the 12th century.

The Bishops of Worcester in the 12th century were:

- Theuls 1113-23
- Simon 1125-50
- John of Pagham 1151-57
- Alfred 1158-60
- Roger of Gloucester 1163-79

Of these, Roger seems a likely candidate, as being of Gloucester Abbey and also famous for one incident during his episcopate. During Divine Service at Gloucester, one of the western towers collapsed; but the Bishop continued unmoved with the Sacrament, thereby earning great admiration. Another candidate is St Thomas a Becket, who was murdered in 1170 and whose cult spread rapidly all over Europe (Boase 1953, 204). The earliest representations of Becket do not show him with a beard (Zarnecki 1984, 48 no 72) but Boase says ‘there was no traditional iconographic pattern’ for his portrait, so the illustrator might have created his own likeness.

The crypt strengthening on which the graffito appears is usually held to be early 12th century. If the graffito is indeed late 12th century then either the date for the crypt strengthening is wrong, or the art historical date is wrong, or the graffito was, in spite of its position, added later than the original strengthening, perhaps during a programme of repair. The last option seems most likely; the conundrum may however be solved by future evidence from elsewhere in the building.

I am grateful to Michael Hare for providing a number of references.

References

THE HISTORY AND PRACTICE OF CHEESE MAKING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Cedric Nielsen

The making of cheese from the milk of cattle, sheep and goats must have originated in the very roots of farming. There are references to cheese in the Bible. To the early farmers of the late Bronze Age and Iron Age it would have been the only method of preserving and storing surplus milk. The surplus occurs because lambing and calving take place in the spring and early summer to coincide with the flush of new herbage. By the autumn most of the stock would have ceased to produce milk.

Fussell and Trow-Smith have described what little is known about the practice of dairy farming in England before the 18th century. The main sources of detailed information are 13th and 14th century manorial account rolls, but Gloucestershire examples are unpublished apart from a brief note by Watson. In John Smyth's Lives of the Berkeley, indirect information is given in the household accounts of Thomas II, 1281 to 1321; these include references to cheeses stored in the castle. The reeves' accounts for Thomas III, 1326 to 361 include references to cheeses, cheese vats and cheese clouts. Surviving account rolls show that between 1286 and 1317 the Berkeley manor of Alkington produced more than 900kg of cheese for the Castle annually from about 30 cows and up to 100 goats, while Cam and Hurst manors produced much less.

At nearby Minchinhampton, the annual output was about 700kg of cheese from 10 cows and 250 ewes in 1306 to 1321. Nearly all this output was sold, except in 1307, when 307 eight pound (3.6kg) cheeses were sent to Caen Abbey in Normandy.

Cheese making for personal use by farmers with the sale of the surplus at village and town markets must have been common practice throughout medieval times. It was not until the mid-seventeenth century that it developed into an industry. A search of the inventories in the Reference Library Gloucester show, for example-

Thomas Biddle, Tibberton, 1663, item 9 cheese rings, and item 39 cheeses.

Thomas Blisse, yeoman, 1677, Well Farm, Painswick, item in the cheese loft 43 cheeses.

Such numbers would have been far in excess of the family's needs and imply that they were for sale.

The most important areas for the industry were those on heavy soils in the Severn Vale, where grass was the main crop, although dairy farming was fairly common in the sheltered valleys of the Cotswolds supplying local needs of the communities.

Two types of cheese were made; the Single Gloucester for home consumption and the Double Gloucester for sale. Double Gloucester was made from the mornings milk to which the cream of the evenings milk had been added; these were made from May until September and weighed from 15lb (6.8kg) to 25lb (11.4kg) each. They were ripened in cheese lofts and were ready for sale at cheese fairs, markets or to cheese factors about 3 months later. Single Gloucester cheeses were often made from semi-skimmed milk and were smaller, 9lb (4kg) to 12lb (5.6kg). They ripened quickly and did not have the depth of flavour of the Double.

Marshall describes cheese making in 1783. It started with the milking of the cows at 5am and 4pm by hand by teams of male and female milkers. The cattle were Gloucesters, Shorthorns and Longhorns. Herds varied from 10 to 100 cows, usually about 30.

Cream was obtained from the evening’s milk after it had been placed in large shallow bowls and left overnight. By the morning the cream had risen to the surface and could be skimmed off. This was added to the fresh mornings milk and both were poured into large vats to which rennet was added. (fig 1) Rennet curdled the milk and caused the curds to separate from the whey.

The making of rennet by pickling the stomachs of very young calves (velts), was an art in itself. It seems that
often farmers obtained it from a particular farm where the process was carried out, hence Velthouse Farm and Velt Lane.

The renneted milk was left to set until it was firm to the touch, then it was cut with curd knives; this caused the whey to separate from the curds which settled on the bottom of the vat. Some of the whey would then be removed and the curds heated by placing the pan over boiling water or by the addition of boiling water. The objective was to raise the temperature to encourage the growth of micro-organisms which break down milk sugar (lactose) into lactic acid. The acidity prevents the growth of undesirable bacteria which would cause spoilage of the cheese. Heating also causes the curds to become firm and this removes excess whey. The skill of the dairymaid at this stage was most important as she had to decide when to drain off the whey and continue the process.

The curds had to be kept warm as the acidity developed to reach a point when by placing a small piece of curd against a red hot iron threads of about twenty millimetres long were produced as the piece was pulled away. Then the curds were cut into small cubes and salt added. The salted curds were put into cloth lined moulds with wooden tops and bottoms and these were placed in the cheese press. At first, pressure was applied gently to consolidate the cheese. After several hours the mould was removed and the cloth pulled tight to remove any folds, then returned to the press the load increased to 500kg over night and next day to 750kg. After two days the cheese was taken from the mould and the ripening process started, first to develop a rind and then the cheese was stored in the cheese loft and turned daily until mature.

The earliest presses were made of wood with a frame which held a box into which gravel could be added to increase pressure. The box was raised and lowered by ropes and a pulley. There are examples where the box was replaced by a shaped Cotswold stone, but this did not give the dairymaid the same control at pressing. (fig 2) Later presses were made of cast iron and pressure was controlled by a series of levers and weights. These can still be seen on some dairy farms.

The cheese loft is often the only sign left that a farm made cheese. In Gloucestershire it was the practice to build the loft above the bedrooms in the farm house. The signs are dormer windows covered with wooden louver boards (fig 3), or vents placed at the gable ends often each side of the chimney stack. Another clue is that the bedroom windows are at least one metre below the roof, indicating a high loft above.

In some houses signs stating ‘Cheese Room’ are still on the door into the loft or outside the louvered windows. The reason is that rooms used for storing cheeses were exempt from the window tax (enacted 1696 and abolished 1851).

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Bibliography
GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNPUBLISHED EXCAVATIONS LIST

Guy Kilminster

First compiled by the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire in 1987, this is a list of unpublished excavations from the period 1960 to 1975, in the post-1974 County. Urban excavations in Bristol, Cirencester and Gloucester have been omitted and will require separate treatment. The list is intended to act as a reminder that this work has been undertaken and, hopefully, to encourage publication where a site remains unpublished.

Some of the excavations listed were very small-scale and of limited results, which do not require further publication.

Any additional excavations not listed can be added by contacting the Honorary Secretary of the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire. He would also welcome additional information about those on the list, details of the location of site archives (including finds) and any plans for publication. Where known, these details are included in the list.


8. BA/IA/RB Cheltenham, Sandy Lane, Charlton Kings, SO 955 197, 1971, C J Young. DOE-funded (?) excavation by the Committee for Research into the Iron Age in the North-West Cotswolds. Finds and archive with Cotswold Archaeological Trust who are seeking funding to write up the report.

9. RB/Med Misden, Bidfield medieval village, SO 907 106, G T Harding. Photo and newspaper cutting with Harold Wingham. Might Harding have more?


26. Med/P-Med Kiln, Dymock, Haind Park Wood, 1965, R D Abbott and R Coleman-Smith. Finds in Gloucester Museum. Photos, pottery analysis (by John Rhodes) and site papers with Coleman-Smith who (according to John Rhodes) agreed to write up the excavation.


30. Med/P-Med St Briavels, SO 558 045, 1960s, DOE excavation by B Davison or P Curnoe?

31. RB Badgeworth, Barrow Wake, SO 928 152, 1972, Lawson, Cheltenham College.


Revised by CAG, January 1996.
THE STREET AT MINSTERWORTH  
and the road from Over  

Margot Johnson

Introduction

There has been much misunderstanding of the nature and period of stretches of paved causeway which run along the north side of The Street in Minsterworth, and from which The Street possibly derives its name.

The causeway, approximately 1.4 m (55 in) wide, comprises worked stones set on edge, each with an upper surface up to about 300mm long and 75mm wide (although some are smaller), and 150mm to 240mm deep, and has neatly made stone kerbs. The surface is rounded to carry off water (fig 1).

There is strong local opinion that the origin of this causeway is Roman, an idea supported by the feature and the road both east and west of it being labelled 'Roman Road' on the 1:2500 OS Sheets XXXII.4, (1st ed & 3rd ed), and XXXIII.1 (1st ed & 1936 rev). However it is different in construction and too narrow to be of Roman origin. It has neither agger nor ditches. The construction of such a causeway would have been expensive and may suggest the interest of a wealthy proprietor. The stone is of a type used extensively in Minsterworth in the vicinity of houses and cottages, pig styes, cider mills and agricultural buildings. [Arthur Price reports that it is a very hard, almost certainly Jurassic, sedimentary mudstone containing shelly fossils.] It is said locally to have been brought from a quarry near Westbury.

The causeway: visible evidence

As fig 2 shows, a strip of causeway can be traced in considerable lengths from its western extremity at the side of the road opposite Minsterworth church and from here runs in an easterly direction. A wide grassy track passing the west end of the church marks the way to the site of the former Church Landing Yard and the bank of the River Severn.

Other visible strips of causeway by the north side of the road through the village, ie The Street, are as follows, and have all been checked on the ground:

a Opposite the west end of the church a slightly wider strip in front of the brick wall of the former vicarage garden. (fig 3)

b On either side of a new entrance to the church car park in the grounds of the former vicarage.

c In front of a new bungalow, but the causeway is not visible where the drive enters.

d In front of a new bungalow, but the causeway is not visible where the drive enters.

e Along a raised bank beside the front garden, gable end and rear garden of Tithe Cottage (fig 4), beyond which to the east, its rear entrance has broken into the causeway.

f The causeway is visible to Bury Lane (connecting with the A48) and continues on the opposite (E) side.

Fig 1 Typical construction of causeway showing kerbs, sets and rounded surface
g  The causeway continues past a new bungalow except for its drive.

h  It continues past the garden of Lyn Paddock.
i  It continues past the garden of Craycroft where the drive has not interfered with it, but the road has been built up and in places is being slowly moved to the north.
j  It continues past Court Cottage where the drive goes over but has not interfered with the causeway.
k  At Lynetta, the causeway is covered by grass banks, the drive and road surface.
l  The grass bank continues to the S end of School Lane.
m  From School Lane past Old Beams no causeway is visible.
n  Beyond and at the side of Old Beams/School Cottage drive, the edge of the causeway opposite Snowdrop Cottage is clearly visible curving round to follow the footpath to The Elms (see below).
o  Here the causeway disappears; but the footpath strikes out to cross the rising ground of parcel 382 towards The Elms where, the present occupiers believe, the causeway continues diagonally across the field to their yard.

‘Traces of paving’ on early OS maps

The existence of paving has been recorded on the
1:2500 OS sheets

On OS Sheet XXXII.4, no ‘traces of paving’ are marked; but a footpath from the SW corner of parcel 382 to The Elms is shown. (fig 2)

The sketch map (fig 5) shows the positions of the recorded ‘Traces of paving’ detailed below.

On OS Sheet XXXIII.1, (1936 rev):
a  The present road running E from Calcotts Green, the south edge of which abuts parcels 105 and 104, is marked ‘traces of paving’.
b  Opposite Pound Farm (133) the NE edge of parcel 103 is marked ‘traces of paving’.
c  Continuing past Walker Farm (137), the lane joins another at a T junction. Here the right turn to Ham Green runs along a stretch marked ‘Traces of paving’.
d  The description ‘Traces of paving’ is marked twice on parcel 158 alongside a farm track running NE to Ham Green (161).
e  ‘Traces of paving’ are shown crossing parcel 191 below Moorcroft House.
f  Beyond Marsh Cottage (250), now known as Long Meadow House, the description ‘Traces of paving’ appears along the course of the alleged Roman Road (see below) and onto OS Sheet XXV.13 (ed 1923).
Fig 5 Location of 'Traces of Paving' and 'Roman Roads' on early 25" OS maps

'Roman roads' on early OS maps

Although there are good grounds for rejecting these features as being of a pre-medieval date, it is nevertheless worthwhile reviewing what the evidence is for a Roman road, starting with what is shown on the early OS maps.

a. The closed-off spur (330) off the A48, at the bottom left hand corner of OS Sheet XXXII.4 (1st & 3rd ed) is marked 'Roman Road'. The spur off the A48 to Pershbrook Cottage (358) is now a dead end; but a continuation on this map, forming a loop to join the present A48 just west of the house called Severn Bank (362) is labelled 'Roman Road (site of)'. (fig 2)

b. The street from Bury Lane (between 414/415 & 375) to Calcott’s Green (114) is also labelled 'Roman Road'. It passes the property now known as ‘The Court’; but on the 1st ed OS Sheet XXXII.4 and also on the 1881 Census named ‘The Farm’. Modern maps call the whole of this road 'Church Lane'. (fig 2)

c. 'Roman Road' is marked on OS Sheet XXXIII.1 (rev 1936), as continuing from Calcott’s Green, passing Jeffroy’s Farm (131) to Pound Farm (133).

d. Also on this map, a track running between Ham Green (161) and Moorcroft House (191) is labelled 'Roman Road (course of)'. (fig 5)

e. The track between parcels 258 and 259 running NE by N from Marsh Cottage (250) is similarly labelled. (fig 5)

f. On OS Sheet XXV.13 (ed 1923), the A40 going west from its junction with A48 is marked 'Roman Road' but not the A48 itself.

Modern interpretation of 'Roman Road' evidence

Ivan D. Margary, discusses these references to Minsterworth:

It has previously been thought that the coastal road for South Wales branched from the other road out of Gloucester... near Highnam and Over, and went through Minsterworth and Westbury on Severn to Newnham. The older Ordnance Survey maps mark 'Traces of Roman paving' upon this and many other routes in the district... In the present instance, the points so marked at Minsterworth could scarcely represent a Roman line for they mark a very twisting course on ground that would not have required this, and furthermore the route is far too close to the Severn for convenience at that time and would have to cross very wet land, some of it liable to floods

He points out that the present road to Newnham is very winding; but after Newnham it follows a number of short alignments suited to the ground to Etole, just beyond Blakeney. Here, a major alignment begins, evidently Roman, which is followed for 10 ml to Tidenham just before Chepstow. He considers that at Newnham a ferry joined this road to another at Arlington, and therefore accepts this road as certainly Roman only from Newnham. While he confirms that the 'traces of pavement' marked at Minsterworth are unlikely to be evidence of Roman routes, he does not suggest the possible origin of the road from Gloucester to Newnham.

The relationship between The Street, former village plan & the river

The author has been puzzled by the apparent layout of the village. The name, The Street, with the causeway
along its north side, suggests that this is the main village street, running along low ground liable to regular flooding from the river Severn. Further investigation indicates a different plan.

Minsterworth was laid out, for practical reasons, on the high ground alongside the road (now A48) from Gloucester to Newnham. The late Gwladys Davies observed that the properties on the north side of The Street originally faced what is now the main road (A48). This is borne out by research into the history of individual properties. The Street, therefore, was the back lane of the medieval village, and probably gained its name from the Latin *stratuma* a pavement.

The tofts and crofts were set well back from the upper road, and took in the cleared land left on either side of roads (where otherwise robbers could lurk or lie in ambush). The plan has been obscured in recent times by the sale of parts of the crofts for building alongside the main road, so that most of the earlier houses have lost their original front access. The former backs of the dwellings are now treated as their fronts, and the back lane with its Street has become their main or only access; eg Jeffroy’s Farm once had access to the main road; Tithe Cottage had no vehicular access except from the main road until very recently; Lyn Paddock has access from the Main Road; and Craycroft retains a right of way to the main road across part of its former croft.

Although the road from Gloucester to Newnham passed through the earlier settlement at Minsterworth, the village did not grow up at the side of the main road; its original importance was connected with the river, where the Church Rock formed a safe haven for vessels which traded with ports as far distant as Bristol and Cardiff within living memory.

In earlier times the river banks were lower than at present. The Severn overflowed regularly at the high tides in the spring and autumn. A stone causeway would be useful in giving firm footing to pack horses taking or fetching goods transported by water traffic using the landing yard.

**The way from Over to Minsterworth**

The late Gwladys Davies traced the line of the way crossing the fields to Over passing on its way a number of properties or sites of dwellings. Her theory of a continuous track and its purpose is amplified in her unpublished manuscript notes and sketch maps of 1952 in the Gloucestershire Collection at Gloucester Library.

The route outlined by her begins with Over Causeway. It continues from Linton and is marked by a line of farmhouses: Upper Moorcroft, Upper Murcott, Lower Murcott, an unnamed 18th century farmhouse fronting Ham Green, across Watery Lane passing other farms and cottages to Pound Farm, and crosses Calcot's Green. She omits Street End Cottage (385) (when was it so-named?), and passes on to Minsterworth Court (formerly called 'The Farm') and along The Street, to end at Minsterworth church and the Church Landing Yard. (As there have been changes in the names of these farms and houses, they are listed with dates in a Table below.)
The Vineyard at Over

At Over lies the site of a vineyard, owned by the Abbots of St Peter’s, Gloucester. It formed part of the estate of Wulfin de Rue which he gave as a pittance for killing seven monks nearby.4 Adjacent to the vineyard, the monks built a summer residence later considerably extended. Two references of 1301 (extracts from the early charters of St Peter’s Gloucester) indicate its nature and importance:

(a) If the monks go for a walk to Vinea they may not eat or drink there except the Cellarer when he collects tithes.
(b) The kitchen steward is to have charge of the vineyard and to sell the fruit to buy wine.

Obviously the produce of the vineyard was of commercial value; and the second extract suggests that the abbots bought their wine elsewhere. Pack horses and mules could have been used to take baskets of grapes to Minsterworth quay; and that a wealthy monastic foundation could afford to construct a good causeway to avoid wastage of fruit when it became ripe at the time of the autumn floods. A necessary supply of wine would be brought back for the abbot’s table and his guests.

Conclusions

The hypothesis associating this route with the Street presents several problems. The causeway could not have been constructed without the consent of the lord of the manor. If it originated in connection with the Over vineyard, its probable date must have been at the height of its prosperity. Minsterworth, however, owed no allegiance to St Peter’s Gloucester; and the advowson of the church was in the hands of St Oswald’s Priory. However in 1435 Edward III granted the weir at Minsterworth and half the weir at Duneye (with other property) at a fee farm rent of £48 a year to St Peter’s Abbey Gloucester.5

A cross country route to the riverside at Minsterworth from the Over Causeway and the vineyard, taking travellers also from the Gloucester to South Wales road, would be especially useful if it included a stone causeway on the lower wet ground.

It is certain that The Street is not Roman; nor are the disconnected ‘Traces of paving’, nor the alleged stretches of Roman Road south of A48.

Medieval causeways are uncommon, and unfortunately this attractive example (if we accept it is of this date rather than slightly later), has received little notice. Mostly through ignorance of its nature and importance, it is being eroded slowly by the creation of entrances to recently built properties.

Acknowledgement

Thanks are due to Roger Dauncey of Craycroft, Minsterworth, for kindly supplying the map references and checking the causeway on the ground, also to Nigel Spry and Don Mayes for producing maps and photographs.

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WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR - and the Story of a Royalist Widow

Russell Howes

Wars are made by men, and suffered by women. So it seems in the English civil war of the seventeenth century, when, more clearly than before, the part played by women appears in the historical record.

Anne Boyd's husband was in Sir William Waller's army. She followed him to Gloucestershire. As she passed Beverstone Castle she was taken prisoner by the King's army, stripped naked of all her clothes, and £2 in money was taken from her. She addressed a petition for assistance to Colonel Edward Massey, governor of Gloucester for Parliament; he ordered her to be given 40 shillings.1

A woman of the other side who was close to the fighting was Lady Wyntour. Her husband Sir John Wyntour was the leading royalist in Gloucestershire. He left his wife in charge of his house at Lydney. Writing to Prince Rupert in November 1644, he besought him to forget not a poor lady with her children and family at his house.2

The wives and widows of soldiers endured the hardships of war. Other petitions to Colonel Massey reveal their problems. Joan, the wife of John Harris, wrote that her husband kept garrison at Tewkesbury all winter, and never received a penny; then he went with Sir William Waller to the Vize (Devizes), and lost his life. Massey ordered 15s for her. The widow of Richard Morgan declared that her husband brought a horse to the troop, which was still in service; Massey ordered that she should have 40s to carry her to her country.3 After the siege of Gloucester in 1643 the treasurer of the garrison, Captain Thomas Blayney made payments of £1 to Mary Birkett and £2 12s 6d to Anne Morgan, whose husbands had been slain in the siege.4 In 1644 Blayney paid 2s 6d each to four Stroudwater women whose husbands had been taken at Painswick.5

The justices in quarter sessions had the duty of relieving the wives and widows of wounded and slain soldiers. The records of the sessions for the city of Gloucester at this period have survived, but not those of the county justices. The Gloucester quarter sessions in 1654 ordered pensions for Anne, the relict of John Hill, who was blown off the mount of the Tower at London; for Bridget the relict of William Plim, a soldier slain in the service of the state; and for Margaret, the widow of Amity Clutterbuck lately a soldier, and her four children. Anne Nethaway and Elizabeth Hardway both lost husbands in the State's service in Ireland; they were awarded 6s 8d each in 1655. Elizabeth Downes' husband Thomas had been wounded in Friars' Orchard (within the south-east corner of the city wall) during the siege; in 1657 she was granted 14s quarterly.6 The chamberlains of the city of Gloucester gave 14s to Goody Latyma, a soldier's wife, to help her and her child to her country in 1651.7

Women might not be able to wield weapons, but they could work at fortifications. John Dorney, the town clerk of Gloucester during the siege of 1643, told how our women and maids wrought in the face of the enemy, fetching in turf for repairing the works.8 When war again threatened, on the eve of the restoration in 1660, the accounts of the Chamberlains of Gloucester recorded that women as well as men were working at the Bulwarks at Dockham and the Barbican Hill; and women as well as men were given beer.9

Some women were caught up in the fighting. During the siege of Gloucester a burning grenade fell into the street near the South gate; a woman passing with a pail of water threw the water upon it, and extinguished the fuse.10 Jane Heards was wounded in Friars' Orchard, and Blayney paid her £1.11 Dorothy Wallis's husband Ralph was employed by Massey to collect rents for the payment of the soldiers; he was captured by royalist scouts from Sudeley Castle, and sent a prisoner to Oxford. Dorothy was left with three children; and she asked to go to Oxford to see if she could get her husband exchanged. She begged something of Massey, and he paid her 18s.12 Not long after Ralph Wallis was again active for Parliament.

Horses and carts were pressed into the service of the fighting men. A vivid picture of a woman's unwilling contribution to this work is in a brief note sent to Captain Blayney: 'this poor woman ... bring her team to help us to Dean & backe to the Colledg for the guards - shee was one day in the work - what you a all thinke fitt I pray pay her, or if you do not shee will scrat my eyes out'.13

Women had to give lodging to soldiers in their homes, for the troops were quartered in inns and private houses. Joan Butt of Norton complained to Massey in 1644 that, when the garrison at Boddington was besieged, thirteen bushels of oats were had of her while she quartered two troopers.14 Parliament made an effort to pay for quartering. Three troopers were quartered with Widow Langley of Ealing 'when they went to releave Gloucester'; after Newbury fight they returned to their old quarters, but then there were only two; the total cost of quartering and oats for the horses was £8 12s 0d; the filing of the bill among the commonwealth exchequer papers indicates that Widow Langley was paid.15 When Sir William Waller
was in Gloucester in the spring of 1644 before the battle of Cropredy Bridge, he made several orders for payment to both men and women for billeting soldiers.\textsuperscript{16} The care of sick and wounded soldiers was the responsibility of a man, Jasper Clutterbuck, one of the aldermen of Gloucester from 1645. From time to time he made payments for nurses, and presumably these were women.\textsuperscript{17} There were women camp followers. In Shurdington parish register was recorded on 7 September 1643 the burial of Margaret, 'which came with the Lanquishire soldiers', probably men of the King’s besieging army.\textsuperscript{18}

Normal life continued during the war and the Commonwealth. Gloucester had its ducking stool. The quarter sessions in 1654 ordered a ducking stool to be made, and erected in a convenient place, for the punishment of scolds. In 1656 the chamberlains paid Augustine Loggins for hauling the ducking stool into every street in the town to affright scolds.\textsuperscript{9} Some women were guilty of unruly behaviour. In 1657 Nicholas Drinkwater, constable of Southgate Street Gloucester, was awakened from his bed at 1 o’clock at night; he looked out of the window, and saw Joan Watterson quarrelling with Mrs Woolley; he told her to be quiet and go home; but she gave him ill language, ‘bidding him kiss her Arse”; for these unseemly words she was ordered to appear before the sessions.\textsuperscript{20}

The problem of the poor was exacerbated by the war; and women were called upon for help. The common council of Gloucester decided in 1647 to employ Elizabeth Berry and Anne Mason to teach poor people to spin and knit jersey; they worked in the college (cathedral) stable.\textsuperscript{21} The chamberlains’ accounts show that the two women came from Bristol, and taught children; they were paid 5s a week between them for twenty weeks.\textsuperscript{22}

It is probable that soldiers who served at Gloucester may have married local girls. Toby Jordan, mayor of Gloucester, complaining of the city’s poverty in 1659, cited soldiers’ marriages as one of the causes.\textsuperscript{23} A few men are known to have come to Gloucester as soldiers and stayed; for example, William Harris of the city of London, who served Parliament in the defence of Gloucester, and was made a freeman; he became weak and impotent, and his wife Susanna was to be paid 10s.\textsuperscript{24} Colonel Massey showed indulgence to an officer who had apparently fallen in love, and ordered in 1644: let ‘this mad Major Thomas’ pass to Oxford to see his lass.\textsuperscript{25}

Elizabeth Colchester, a Royalist Widow

The most revealing document of a woman’s hardships during the civil war in Gloucestershire was the account book kept by Elizabeth Colchester of Westbury on Severn.\textsuperscript{26} She was the second wife of Richard Colchester. He died on 11 September 1643, a few days after the end of the siege of Gloucester. He was subsequently accused of having been there in the King’s army. The first payments which Elizabeth recorded were for her husband’s last illness and his funeral. Elizabeth paid Mr Knight, a herald, for a hatchment to hang in the church in Oxfordshire where the decedent (so Elizabeth usually called her husband in the account) was interred. On the wall of the church at Kenct near Burford is a wooden memorial plaque to Richard Colchester. Each year Elizabeth balanced her account: at the end of the first year she received from the estate £305, but paid out £669, so that there was due to her £364. The debt would steadily mount.

Richard had been one of the six clerks of the Court of Chancery. Elizabeth found it necessary to travel to Oxford, the King’s headquarters, in order to settle her husband’s affairs. Then she had to go to London, Parliament’s headquarters. It was a perilous journey: she recorded the costs of coach hire, and payments to soldiers at several courts of guards, “upon the accomptant’s removall from Oxford to London, shee beinge bigge with child, and passinge through both Armyes”.

Amid this turmoil Elizabeth had a young family to care for. Benjamin was born about this time. There were three older boys and two girls. The second son, Richard, died in 1644. Duncombe Colchester, the son and heir of Richard by his first wife, was still only a boy, having been born in 1630. He was a ward of Lord Saye and Seal, one of the parliamentary leaders.

Elizabeth seems to have stayed near London, with her brother in law Anthony Smith, clergyman of Abinger Hammer. She recorded going by water from Greenwich to London, being sent for by Mr. Lenthall the Speaker, about the delivery of her lodgings at the six clerks’ office; she paid for removing her goods from the six clerks’ office to the Rolls (in Chancery Lane, where the Public Record Office stands now). While Elizabeth was absent from Gloucestershire, the forces of Colonel Massey advanced from Gloucester towards the Forest of Dean, and secured Westbury on 7 May 1614; one narrative specified the capture of the house of Mr Colchester.\textsuperscript{27}

Then news came that her estate had been sequestered by Parliament. A paper by the committee of the county of Gloucester, dated 22 October 1644, and inserted in Elizabeth’s account book, declared that Richard Colchester had been in arms against the Parliament; therefore his estate at Westbury, the Lea and Mitcheldean, valued at £300 per annum, was to be sequestered.
Thomas Colchester came to Elizabeth’s aid. (His relationship to her is not clear; maybe he was ‘my cozen Thomas Colchester’ remembered by Elizabeth in her will). He persuaded the committee at Gloucester to get the sequestration lifted. The committee of Parliament for sequestrations in London recorded on 24 October 1645: in the case of Mrs Colchester, upon hearing the examinations returned from the committee at Gloucester, and counsel on both sides, and long debate, it was ordered that the sequestration on her estate be discharged.27 For this happy result Elizabeth allowed to Thomas Colchester £35, which he had disbursed.

Further Troubles

However Elizabeth’s misfortunes were by no means at an end. Her husband’s estate had been charged with an annuity of £300, payable as a joint venture to Mrs Frances Waite.28 She had previously been married to Nicholas Roberts, an uncle of Richard Colchester; Elizabeth called her ‘my aunt Waite’. In 1646 Elizabeth tended her during sickness, and in the following year she died. Mrs Waite was described by Parliament as a delinquent and a recusant. The committee of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire (the two counties had been combined) now claimed that Elizabeth had £1200 in her hands, because the jointure had not been paid to Mrs Waite for four years, and served her with a warrant to bring in the money. It was perhaps in connection with this claim that an information was lodged on 28 November 1645 with the Committee for the Advance of Money, alleging that Richard Colchester had been a delinquent in actual service against the Parliament.29 This committee imposed contributions on delinquents, that is royalists. Elizabeth for her part claimed an annuity of £100 from the estate of Sir Philip Tirwhit in Lincolnshire; on 28 August 1646 the Committee for the Advance of Money ordered that this should be allowed to her.30

The unhappy Elizabeth had by now lost three of her sons. Little Benjamin died in 1645; in the following year Elizabeth paid for achievements to hang in the church where her sons Hugh, Richard and Benjamin were buried; so she had lost her two older boys. Only one son and two daughters remained. Daughter Elizabeth was boarded with Mrs Knight. Son John went down to Mr Smith’s in Surrey. In 1647 the army marched on London; Elizabeth removed her husband’s goods from Chancery Lane in order to secure them. The army was discontented, demanding the payment of arrears. Parliament authorised officers to ‘discover’ the estates of delinquent, from which money might be raised. Some officers were systematic in searching for discoveries. Colonel John Moore was one such. He had no connection with Gloucestershire; in 1644 he had been governor of Liverpool. He was involved in over a dozen cases of sequestration. Acting in association with Colonel Anthony Hungerford (probably a relation of Sir Edmund Hungerford, a prominent parliamentary in Wiltshire), he prosecuted a claim against Elizabeth Colchester.

The Committee for the Advance of Money on 17 March 1648 ordered that tenants at Westbury and Mitcheldean, because of the arrears payable to Mrs Waite, should pay their rents to the committee. On 8 September the Committee received a petition from Moore and Hungerford, complaining that Mrs Colchester was delaying a settlement by her untrue suggestions. On 29 September the committee ordered that Mrs Colchester’s estate be again sequestered.

Because of the renewed danger Elizabeth in 1648 went to Westbury. She collected what rents she could; she noted ‘all I could receive’ against £14 8s 6d from tenants at Lea and Baysham. The account book recorded moneys gathered by order of the House of Commons for the payment of Colonel John Moore and Colonel Anthony Hungerford; and noted that they pretended £1650 to be due to them, which the accounant endeavoured to preserve, but could not. There was also John Collins, formerly a cornet in Colonel Scroop’s regiment and in the life guard of the General Sir Thomas Fairfax; he had married Catherine Roberts, and claimed on the estate of Mrs Waite. The account book stated that he threatened to plunder Elizabeth, and she was advised to pay, ‘though contrary to Lawe, yet by force of Armes’; she parted with £15. The account book at this time recorded the quartering of soldiers; and even that Elizabeth was imprisoned by the officers for forbidding tenants to pay rents.

Elizabeth had to go to London to attend the committee. It was another dreadful journey. She paid coach hire to fetch her to London, accompanied by her two daughters, ‘she beinge frightened with the soldiars and very weake...the frost beinge soe greate that they durst not travell soe that the coachman was out 15 days’. The hire was £15, besides money for a guide to cut the ice.

In London came another blow. There was a letter, dated 20 November 1648, from ‘your loving brother’ Richard Colchester (a half brother of Elizabeth’s late husband). He demanded that Elizabeth should pay money due to him out of the estate of her husband. He went on that, if she did not, ‘I will cause your estate to be sequestered, and that in such a naturer as it never yett was’, and that ‘when the late Insurrection was in Surrey by the Duke of Buck’, I can make it appear by several witnesses that Mr Dun was then In Arms against the parliament.”
Saving the Family Property

Elizabeth paid four lawyers to fight her case. The Committee for the Advance of Money on 29 December 1648 ruled that, of Mrs Waite's money, £600 was to be paid to Colonels Moore and Hungerford, and the residue of the debt was to be paid to Mrs Colchester; 'Mrs Colchester and her securities to be absolutely discharged and freed from any claim on the part of the Waites'.

This was not the end of anxiety for Elizabeth. On 10 March 1649 the Committee for the Advance of Money received from the county commissioners of Gloucestershire deposits about Richard Colchester. These endeavoured to prove that he was in arms against the Parliament at the siege of Gloucester, and that after his death his widow had lived in Oxford, and employed a clerk in the six clerks' office. Also forwarded were deposits in his behalf, which declared that he had a son, a lieutenant, in Gloucester at the siege, and tried to save his life, and died at the time at Kingscote near Burford of the new disease.

Elizabeth still had difficulty in collecting rents. Mrs Hopkins, tenant of the Wilderness, owed £4, but she was a poor woman, and 'I was contented to take £2, rather than sue'. Elizabeth likewise had trouble in getting her money from Sir Philip Tirwhit, until six bailiesses arrested him in Piccadilly, and he paid £100. Something similar happened to Duncombe; he was arrested in London, and Elizabeth had to pay to get him released. Elizabeth believed Duncombe to be spendthrift; she received the money from a wood sold at Westbury, fearing that Mr Duncombe would misspend it.

In 1651 the Committee for the Advance of Money noted an information that Richard Colchester was a delinquent, and Elizabeth his widow had in 1643 and 1644 sent the King £961 to his court at Oxford. But no further action seems to have been taken; this was the final reference to Elizabeth in the records of the committee. The government brought its activities to a close in 1654.

It is a relief to turn to Elizabeth's domestic affairs. Payments were noted for her two daughters: silk and gold for their work, ribbons, stockings, shoes, gloves, thread, pins and needles. Elizabeth sought for her son John serge for a suit and a cloak, together with ribbons and buttons, and shoes, gloves, stockings and shoe-strings. Elizabeth's care for her daughters was rewarded. In 1650 or 1651 the daughter Elizabeth married a son of Mr Knight, with whom she lodged. Two years later her sister Jane was brought home from Bow, and went to Northamptonshire to Mr Dyrrham. Elizabeth was nearing her last days. In 1651 she struck a final balance in her account book: received £447 2s 1d; disbursed £2459; due to the accompant £2011 17s 11d. In spite of this debt she contrived to leave bequests when, describing herself as of London, she made her will in 1654.22 Brother in law Richard Colchester, who threatened to denounce Duncombe in 1648, received £50; cousin Thomas Colchester, who had had the first sequestration cleared, received £10. There were £10 for the poor of the parish of St Andrew Undershelt, born, and £5 for those of the parish of St Dunstan in the West. Perhaps mindful of her own suffering, Elizabeth left £40 for releasing eight poor men out of the two compters in London, the prisons of Ludgate and Newgate.

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4. P.R.O SP 28 129/5, pp. 46-47.
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10. Fosbrooke(1819), p. 36.
12. P.R.O SP 28 228, f. 299.
13. P.R.O SP 28 228, f. 229.
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18. Glos R.O. P292 INI 1/1.
19. Glos. RO. GBR G3 S05, f. 2141v; GBR F14/6, p. 131.
23. J. Washbourn, Bibliotheca Gloucestrensis (1825), appendix, no.XXI, p. 430
27. Washbourn (1825), p. 93
28. P.R.O SP 20 1, f. 537.
29. Calendar of the Committee for the Advance of Money, p. 839, case of Colonel Henry Waite and Mrs Frances Waite.
BRIZEN RECREATION FIELD LECKHAMPTON: ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT

T Moore-Scott with D Goult

In mid-1995, a green-field site at SO 930197, beside Shurdington Road and bounded on its SW side by the Cheltenham Borough boundary, was undergoing contractor work for a new recreation field (fig 1). Over the SE part of the site, topsoil had already been stripped up to a depth of about 0.25m and piled up as spoil heaps. The NW half of the site had some time earlier been stripped by road contractors and a temporary rubble surface laid down. In the centre where a sports pitch was planned, further ground reduction had taken place down to about 1m into natural silty clay.

Archaeological interest was aroused by information given to the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum by a member of the local metal detectorists' club. The informant said that Roman coins had been discovered by unknown metal detector users engaged in an unauthorised survey of the area. Reportedly, around 200 coins of 4th century date had been found inside a broken pottery vessel. The coins had been removed from the vessel and taken away from the site but about half of the vessel (of dark grey fabric) was subsequently retrieved from where it had been discarded.

With the need for prompt action in mind, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum called in GADARG and the Gloucestershire Archaeologist. Initial field walking by GADARG members produced a quantity of mostly Romano-British pottery sherds, including two sherds of mortaria, flints and oyster shell all lying on the base of the topsoil around the west, south and east sides of the central excavated area.

On-site consultation between representatives of Cheltenham Borough, GADARG and the County Archaeologist concluded in agreement that, as further contractor work was unlikely to entail damaging incursion into possible archaeological deposits, the contractor work should be allowed to continue. Arrangements were made though for a representative of the County Archaeological Section to monitor further developments on the site. This produced a further quantity of surface finds including more pottery and a gilded bronze finger ring of Roman date of a type not dissimilar to finds made at Uley in 1977-78.

A later metal detector survey of the site organised by the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum during topsoil reinstatement yielded a probable 1st century dolphin style bronze brooch and three bronze coins, one of the late 3rd century and the others (very worn) probably of the late 3rd/early 4th century.

There was no firm evidence of structural deposits but, on the base of the top soil in the SE part of the site, possible remains of a wall were indicated by a scatter of oolitic limestone fragments aligned roughly NNE/SSW over an area of about 4m by 0.6m (fig 1). Apart from this, traces of two small possible ditches or pits were noted during observations by the County Archaeological Section; with similar fills of dark sandy clay, these were about 20m apart in the SW section of the central excavated area.

The site forms part of an originally larger parcel of land which is now occupied on its NE side by the recently constructed Up Hatherley Way and, beyond that, by a new housing estate. The discoveries may represent no more than the fringe of a larger settlement to the east now covered by housing.

Although the county was densely populated during Roman times, no archaeological sites have previously been reported in this vicinity and this would be the first clear evidence of Roman settlement within Cheltenham itself.

Acknowledgements:

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References


Fig 1 Brizen Recreation Field Leckhampton: Romano-British Settlement
KEMBLE WOOD

Tom Heyes

Position

Kemble Wood ST 974964 lies just inside the Gloucestershire border with Wiltshire, 1.5km southwest of the village of Kemble [at the time of Domesday Kemble was in Wiltshire, being transferred to Gloucestershire in 1897. ed].

History

Kemble is a British word meaning border, brink or edge. The earliest mention of Kemble Wood is in two Saxon charters the first has a supposed date of AD 682. It records a grant by Ceadwalla, king of Wessex to Malmesbury Abbey of 132 hides 'on either side of the wood called Kemele'. The second has a supposed date of AD 688 and records a grant by Ceadwalla king of Wessex to Aldhelm, abbot of Malmesbury of land 'on both sides of a wood which is called Cemele'. Grundy points out that the suffix 'haga' in the name Kemeleshaga in the Saxon charter for Brokenborough, 'refers to part of the Kemble forest'. He goes on to say 'a later charter speaks of the wood (Kemble) as having to a great extent ceased to exist'. The Domesday Book (1086), according to Grundy records 247 acres [1 league long and 3 furlongs wide] of woodland in Kemble. The subsequent history of the wood up to the 19th century has yet to be researched. The plan of the estate of Elizabeth Ann Coxe dated 1807 shows the wood boundaries as they are today, except for the large assart into the southeast corner of the wood.

Survey

A survey was made in 1991 of the earthworks and similar features in the wood with the permission from the estate manager Mr David Ball. Banks and ditches were surveyed using a 50m tape and prismatic compass, and five profiles were measured with 50m and 3m tapes, and spirit level.

On the west side of the wood and extending around half the southern side are two banks with external ditches shown in profiles g-h and i-j. It seems most likely that the outer of the two banks replaced the inner one at some unknown time. The distance between the two banks varies throughout their length, with the maximum width of 28m. The inner bank and ditch have a width of c 7.5m, and the outer 8.5m. The ends
of the outer bank merge with the inner bank. The inner bank has more and larger irregularities in its general outline.

The north side of the wood is marked by a bank and ditch 7.5m wide, profile a-b, broken by an entrance roughly half way along its length. Just to the west of this entrance are the remains of a stone wall. At 59m to the east of the entrance the bank is topped by a pollard oak (i.e. a tree formally lopped at intervals at a height of 2.4m to produce crops of wood; on woodbanks they often constitute boundary markers). One other pollard, also an oak, can be seen at the south-west corner of the wood on the outer bank. The northern bank and ditch seem to be a continuation of the inner bank and ditch of the west side.

The south-east corner of the wood has been grubbed out, or assarted, and given a new, irregularly shaped bank and ditch only 3.0m wide, profile e-f, marking a new boundary within the wood as it is at present. This assart has in recent times been planted with beech and cypress, so that the south-east corner of the wood would seem to have been restored more or less to the same shape it had before the assart. The beech at 1991 have diameters of 400mm.

The eastern side of the wood has a wide and fairly low bank with both an external and internal ditch, the whole up to a maximum of 12m in width, profile e-d.

In the south-west corner of the wood is a short length, c30m, of bank and ditch running from north-east to south-west. This relatively narrow bank and ditch, c4.2m, appears to have been truncated by the outer bank. It may well be the remains of a hedgebank absorbed when the wood was enlarged; it does seem to be roughly in line with a hedge which runs south-west from the new outer bank near this point.

Comment

Kemble Wood has five different sizes of bank and ditch. In general their sinuous line is typically medieval, or earlier, as is their width. The bank marking the assart in the south-east of the wood is narrower than any others and probably later, but certainly not later than 1807. Its irregular shape suggests that it could be relatively early.

The northern and inner western banks and ditches are classic medieval or saxon woodbanks in appearance, with an external ditch designed to exclude grazing animals such as sheep or cattle which would eat the regrowing coppice stools. The size of the banks and ditches made them permanent features which prevented unscrupulous neighbours from surreptitiously stealing wood. The wood still has a good semi-natural coppice structure with very ancient coppice stools all of a similar age of, for instance, maple. At some later time the wood was extended towards the west by construction of an outer bank and ditch, at the most only 28m away. This surprisingly small increase in the size of the wood, involving the building of a substantial new bank and ditch emphasises the high value of woodland in the medieval period.

The remarkably wide bank on the east side of the wood, with ditch on either side, is of the kind associated with medieval deer parks, designed to prevent deer from escaping from the enclosure. A deer park is recorded as having once existed on the north side of the village of Kemble but there seems to be no documentary evidence of one near the wood. The stone wall on the woodbank was probably a late replacement for a fence or wood hedge.

The variety of the banks of Kemble Wood indicates a long, complicated and as yet little known history of this ancient wood.

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HON TREASURER’S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 29 FEBRUARY 1996

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<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant to Delegate to CIA Conference</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition Stand</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car park fee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,094</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,167</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surplus of Expenditure over Income for the year  
(270) (134)

Deficit for the Year Transferred to Accumulated Fund  
(270) (134)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 29 February 1996

CURRENT ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1995-96</th>
<th>1994-95</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank Accounts</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer’s Account</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Interest Account</td>
<td>1,007</td>
<td>1113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in hand</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,356</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,626</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,356</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,626</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

ACCUMULATED FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1995-96</th>
<th>1994-95</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brought Forward from last year</td>
<td>1,626</td>
<td>1,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Deficit for the year</td>
<td>(270)</td>
<td>(134)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As at Year End</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,356</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,626</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J Newbury  Hon Treasurer

Reviewed and found correct  
PAISH TOOTH & CO 15 April 1996
FROCESTER PUBLICATION FUND

Income and Expenditure Account for year ending 31 December 1995

Income

1994 Balance brought forward  
Feb 95 - Nov 95 Sundry Donations  
Interest due 1995  

£2,651.78  
£253.79  
£161.66  

£3,067.23

Expenditure

nil

Balance forward to 1996  

£3,067.23

Examined and found correct  \textit{R M Wade BA ACA}

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REVIEW


Do not be misled by the glossy picture-book covers to this publication. Far from being a book for the coffee table or casual reader, this is a comprehensive and technical (but also highly readable) archival record of the extensive excavations of the Crickley Hill ramparts since the project began in 1969. As such it has been and will be welcomed by all those locally and nationally with a special interest in this remarkable archaeological site.

This first volume summarizes the methodology and aims of the work and describes and analyzes in considerable detail the results of all the work done on the ramparts. It begins with useful short contributions, one by Margaret Gelling on the background to the name Crickley, the other a revealing account of the geological setting of the site by Prof R Firman. The remainder of the book (well over 200 pages) provides a series of admirably written statements from Mr Dixon and several co-authors covering successive seasons of work on the fort’s defences together with full reports on finds (mostly pottery and bone). As befits any proper post-extraction report, detailed attention is also devoted to analysis of stratification, contexts and individual features. Throughout, the text is supported by a large number of illustrations and photographs both black-and-white and colour. The publication concludes with a useful bibliography and index of contents.

In his preface, Mr Dixon explains that the plan is for later volumes to be published dealing with the settlements within the ramparts, the Long Mound, the Neolithic banks and settlements, and finally the Sub-Roman village. One can only hope the resources will be available to complete this ambitious project and for the excellent standard of this first volume to be maintained.

Aside from its technical merit and visual attraction, the book conveys all of the experience that digging at Crickley must have been for thousands of diggers over the years, making it all the more agreeable to read. The book is described as being a limited edition of 600 copies but, as of the time of this review, copies are still available through the secretary of the Crickley Hill Trust, Mr Richard Savage, tel 01452 813958.

T Moore-Scott

T Moore-Scott