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Editorial

As W.G. Hoskins once wrote when referring to the English landscape 'everything is older than we think'. This is well illustrated in the original papers by A.E. Squires and W. Humphrey tracing the history and boundaries of the medieval parks of Bardon and Loughborough.

The Society's dig at Long Whatton has been active every summer since 1971 and progress has been briefly reported in previous Bulletins. The stage has now been reached when Anne Tarver has found it possible to produce a substantial interim report. This paper is an example of the Society practising what it preaches; excavation is of no value unless it is recorded and published. The diggers are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and persistence.

Mr. B. Elliott will be known to many for his histories of local schools including Loughborough College School, so who better to detail some of the sources available to local historians. Will a member, I wonder, take up the challenge contained in his paper?

THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF TWO LEICESTERSHIRE PARKS : BARDON AND LOUGHBOROUGH

A.E. Squires and W. Humphrey

INTRODUCTION

Deer parks were a common feature of the medieval landscape. They were usually established in waste land by the lord of the manor and enclosed by a ditch and bank, on which a fence was erected. This was the park pale. Within it the lord was able to hunt his deer both for sport and for the meat they provided.

At first parks were small because of the expense of building long stretches of secure pale, but later they were often expanded to reflect the power, wealth and aspirations of their owners, who frequently used local peasants for the work of construction and maintenance. Possibilities for commercial use arose. Extensions, often made in piece-meal fashion, provided pasture for animals other than deer, areas of managed woodland, rabbit warrens and mineral quarries.

The ravages of the Black Death in the second half of the fourteenth century reduced the rural population to such an extent that only the crown and the wealthiest nobles were thereafter able to maintain, let alone expand, their parks with the traditional expensive pale. In those places where parks did not fall into disuse, or even where new ones were established, it was usual for the former type of pale to be abandoned and for a more modest structure to be erected to contain the deer. Loughborough Park did expand at some time after the Black Death because it became a profitable enterprise. The history of ownership of Bardon, however, its large size, the nature of its boundary and its topographical setting all suggest that there was no expansion after about 1350.

The ancient parish of Loughborough was bounded on its western side by a belt of parkland which has exercised considerable influence on the development of the urban area. To the south lay Beaumanor, to the north lay Burley, and between them was the park of Loughborough itself. Some of what was Burley Park is now within the University campus, which cut the western side of the town into two parts until a road was built across in 1980. Loughborough Park also restricted residential development until the 1950s, and its eastern pale became the dividing line between privately owned bungalows and council houses in Shelthorpe. There is still open country, however, immediately to the south of this area.

Bardon Park was sited on infertile land and so it always offered a poor return to the farmer. This factor, with the survival of long sections of bank and the existence of a Hall-house, ensured its preservation as an entity even after disparkment. After a period of rapid growth, the park contracted equally rapidly, but the most distant pales became the boundaries of a distinct parish, which survived until 1968. It has had little or no influence on the development of Whitwick, which had space to grow in other directions. Loughborough was one of three adjoining parks. Bardon stood as a salient within the waste of Charnwood, and on a winter's day it still has a quality of bleak isolation that is not to be found in the group of three down in the sheltered valley.

BARDON PARK - HISTORY

In the year 1264 Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, died without male

heirs. His lands passed to his two daughters the younger of whom, Elizabeth, received (among other properties) the manor of Whitwick. By the following year she had married Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, and the two were resident in Leicestershire for some time. Their Park of Whitwick, also known as Bardon Park, is first mentioned in 1270 (Farnham, MVN, Vol.6, p.352).

The ownership and development of the park for the years 1270-1507 largely concerns the powerful families of Comyn and Beaumont and spans a period of widespread civil and military unrest. For most of the 16th and part of the 17th century management of Bardon Park was in the hands of one or other of the two great rival Leicestershire families of Grey and Hastings. On several occasions the park reverted to the crown, to be managed or regranted in favour of royal revenues. In 1611 royal interest was finally relinquished to the Hastings family who purchased both manor and park and who brought about disparkment in about 1622. Thereafter, and to the present; this ancient inclosure has, like the site of Loughborough Park, remained a park in name only.

Much of the material for the period from the earliest days to approximately the year 1600 is to be found in the public records; there is very little surviving family archive available. From the beginning of the 17th century onwards, family records and material in private hands are the main sources; but again they are disappointingly small in volume. Only from about 1850 do the records become sufficiently numerous for more than an outline appraisal to be made.

Shortly after receiving the de Quincy inheritance of Whitwick, Alexander and Elizabeth Comyn made over the manor of Whitwick to their son John (Farnham 1930, p.134). After the death of his father and the receipt of his Whitwick properties in 1290 (Cal. Fine R.), John began to intrigue against the king (Edward I) to the point of rebellion. For this action he forfeited his estates to the crown; and in 1299 the king appointed John Barr as custodian of Whitwick with licence 'to sell the wood within the park of the manor of Whitwick' (Cal. Pat. R., 1292-1300, p.560). However by 1304 Comyn was back in favour with the king who returned Whitwick manor. John Comyn died four years later childless. His heir was his niece Alice who was a minor. Thus the estate was delivered to the crown who placed the wardship in the hands of Hugh le Dispenser, Lord of the manor of Loughborough.

At this point John Comyn's youngest brother William, then heavily in debt, illegally dispossessed Alice of her inheritance at Whitwick, including 'a park called Berdon'. The matter was taken up by Henry Beaumont whom Alice had married in 1309 and whose influence with the king (Edward II) ensured the return of the Whitwick property to its rightful owner. Thus by 1312 the manor and park had passed by marriage to the Beaumont family.

During a temporary period of disgrace Henry Beaumont found his lands confiscated in 1329 (Farnham 1930, p.128), and committed by the crown to the keeping of John de Insula. (Cal. Fine R., 1329). A year later his lands were restored. Available evidence suggests that for much of the time after 1327 the Beaumonts were absentee landlords for in 1332 Henry obtained a licence to lease the manor of Whitwick to whomever he pleased for a term of twelve years. In the same year a lease was agreed with a society of foreign merchants (Farnham 1930, p.129). Henry Beaumont died in 1339 when the agistment of the park was worth 100s. yearly. (Farnham 1912, p.88). Four generations of Beaumonts followed and the widow of the last of these died in 1427, having held the Whitwick properties, including the park, in dower.

During the early years at least, Bardon park was clearly well-managed and was producing a steady income (over and above its use for hunting) and as a supply

of fresh meat. In 1325 the underwood was worth 20s. and the herbage of the wood 100s. yearly (Farnham MVN, p.361). The presence of the deer in particular attracted a great deal of unwelcome attention. In the time of John Comyn poaching was a serious problem. In 1289 a group of about a dozen men, three of them clergymen, broke the park at Whitwick and took away game worth £40 with swords, sticks, bows and arrows. (Farnham MVN, p.355). Henry Beaumont encountered at Bardon the problem he met at Loughborough for in 1327 thirty and more persons 'broke his park at Whitwick and took therefrom 30 horses, 40 mares and 60 foals' (Cal. Patent R. 1327, p.70). A commission of oyer and terminer was called in 1330 'touching with the murder of John le Parkere of Berdon at Charnewode' (Cal. Pat. R. 1330, p.560). The following year Henry Beaumont once again complained that men had 'hunted in his park, cut down his trees and carried them away with his deer' (Cal. Pat. R. 1331, p.125). Further, in 1363, his grandson Henry, similarly outraged, said that fourteen men, including Roger, Prior of Ulverscroft, had hunted in his several parks (including Bardon) and had taken away deer at divers times (Cal. Pat. R. 1363, p.445). To these was added a similar complaint of the earl of Arundel on behalf of the Beaumont estates that various persons, again including the same Prior of Ulverscroft, had illegally hunted in Bardon park (Cal. Pat. R. 1363, p.446).

By the close of the 14th century the Whitwick property had been much reduced in value by misfortune and neglect. The IPM in 1427 of Elizabeth Beaumont refers to the manor as containing 'a castle old and ruinous and in which are no buildings and worth nothing yearly'. There were in the same place 21 messuages of which twelve are in the lord's hands for want of tenants (Farnham 1930, p.137). John Beaumont, her son, was created viscount Beaumont in 1440. He was killed at the battle of Northampton in 1460. His son William succeeded him only to forfeit his estates the following year for supporting the Lancastrian cause. From about the death of John in battle his second wife Katherine duchess of Norfolk by her first marriage, held Bardon park for life. In 1464 she granted it to William lord Hastings who already held Loughborough Park (Hastings MSS vol.1, p.41).

On the accession of Henry Tudor as Henry VII, William Beaumont regained his estates at Whitwick and passed them to Katherine, lady Hastings, for her life (Farnham 1930, p.138). This proved to be a wise move since, as has already been noted, William lost his sanity the following year and his other lands passed into the custody of John, earl of Oxford. When Katherine died Whitwick passed to the crown once again. In 1505, with William alive but insane, the earl of Oxford was seised of Bardon park, at which time there were four dwelling houses.

The crown, still in possession of the Beaumont lands, exchanged them in 1512 with Thomas Grey, second Marquis of Dorset, for some of his properties in Kent. The king however reserved for himself and his heirs, the park of Bardon (Nichols III, p.1116). Yet by 1528 the Marquis had persuaded the king to grant him the park also. Dorset died in 1530 to be succeeded by his son Henry, 3rd Marquis and later Duke of Suffolk. This nobleman's execution saw the return yet again of the park to the crown. However, along with the Park of Loughborough it was held in dower by the duchess of Suffolk until her death in 1559.

For the fifty or so years following the death of the Duchess of Suffolk the park's management in the hands of the crown's agents is difficult to determine. The Whitwick properties, excluding the park, seem to have been used to reward creditors and favourites. In 1560 a grant for life for services to the queen (Elizabeth) was made to Richard Ryall, a yeoman in ordinary, as 'bailif and collector of the manor of Whitwick' with wages of 4d. a day to be paid from the revenue of the manor. (Cal. Pat. R. 1560, p.467). Again, in 1569, a grant was made for life to Henry Skipwith, an equerry of the stables, of the office of general steward of the manors of Groby, Whitwick and eight other Leicestershire

manors, late of Henry duke of Suffolk, and of the office of surveyor of the woods there. (Cal. Pat. R. 1569, p.17).

Evidence for the history of the park from the middle of the 16th century to the turn of the 19th century is scanty and conflicting. During Elizabeth's reign the park appears to have been granted separately from the manor. By an unknown date prior to 1591 the park had been granted to Thomas Hood 'as a fee farm for a term of his life...' (Farnham MVN, p.386). Thomas was the son of John Hode who had been resident at Bardon during the reign of Henry VIII. He died about 1558 (Nichols IV, p.806). Thomas Hood's grant also included two further lives, those of Elisabeth his wife and of Richard his eldest son. The same Thomas Hood held a lease in Reversion on the park for a term of 21 years after the expiration of the three lives (Ibid.). The annual rent was £12, with the queen reserving for herself, her heirs and successors all the quarries within the park (Ibid. The product of the quarries is unknown since Farnham indicates that the manuscript of the Exchequer Bill from which he is quoting is either blank or indecipherable). In 1591 Richard Hood, leased the park to one John Welles for a specified but unknown number of years (Ibid. The manuscript is similarly defective). On the expiration of this lease the park once again returned to the management of the Hood family under the crown.

Thomas Hood died about 1623 (Nichols IV, p.806), and the date of the death of his wife and that of his son are unknown. However it is clear that the new king (James I) sold the park and manor of Whitwick for £4000 to Henry Hastings, knight, and Henry Cutler, gent., who received it in trust for Henry, Earl of Huntingdon. By 1624 at the latest the transaction had been completed and the earl had added both park and manor to his already extensive Leicestershire estates which included Loughborough Park and manor. (Farnham 1930, p.145). With the sale of the Bardon park, the crown severed its final link with the Whitwick properties it had come to know so well over the centuries.

In 1625 Thomas Hood, son of the above-mentioned Thomas, became the second husband of Anne Handley, daughter of Thomas Charlton of Sandiacre, Derbyshire (Nichols IV, p.806). In the Leicestershire Record Office there is a document recording the sale of Bardon park by Henry, earl of Huntingdon, to the same Thomas Charlton for £650. It is not certain from this item whether or not the sale was finalized, and evidence beyond this point is virtually nil. The will of Thomas Hood, dated 1680, indicates that he possessed only a dwelling near the moat and certain closes in the park (PCC Wills, P.R.O.). The bulk of the Hood papers appears to have been lost and no Charlton papers of any value have come to light.

Over a period of forty years or so following this supposed sale it appears that both Hoods and Charltons had financial interest in the park. In 1652 an unidentified person was paying 'Cosen Thomas Hood for his share of Bardon Rentes' the sum of £19-6-7d. (Derbyshire Record Office, 1792/B1). Four years later Edward Charlton, son of Thomas Charlton and brother-in-law of Thomas Hood junior, left in his will a fee-farm rent arising from Barton Parke (sic) to his wife Anne for her life and then to Stephen, one of his younger sons (Nottinghamshire Record Office, DD.CH 22/2).

At some point during the second half of the 17th century or early 18th century the park came into the absolute ownership of the Hoods. In 1792 Mrs. Celia Hood was leasing land in Bardon park (L.R.O., 39'30/33). The last male Hood, William, died childless in 1835. It is certain only at this point that the Hoods possessed the freehold of the park. The whole estate, comprising land inside and outside the ancient boundary pale was left to a nephew, Robert Jacomb, on condition he changed his name to Jacomb Hood. The Jacombs' interest in the

estate was primarily pecuniary. Whilst erecting the New Hall in 1835 and demolishing the Old Hall some five years afterwards, they made little effort to improve the poor agricultural return from the estate. (Mr. John Jacomb Hood of Thorpenesss, Suffolk, in pers. com.). In 1864 the family accepted an offer from William Herrick of Beaumanor of £40,000 for the Whitwick property. This comprised about 1260 acres of park together with an area of approximately 32 acres beyond the pale (Ibid. and L.R.O., DG9/2021/2).

Details of the early period of the Herricks' management of the park are little known since, despite more extensive searches, very little documentary material appears to have survived. This is particularly regrettable in view of the considerable archive that is available for their other Leicestershire properties. However, from an agricultural point of view firm efforts were made by the Herricks to improve the productivity of the land, in particular by an extensive programme of drainage between the years 1860 and 1880. On the north side of the hill, land in the north west corner was subject to leases which were granted for the exploitation of stone. The first of these had been made in 1857 to Breedon Everard. By 1865 the company, then known as Ellis and Everard Ltd., had leased rights over almost 290 acres although only a small area was being actively exploited. Production increased rapidly to the point where, at the turn of the century, the extraction of Charnwood granite was a major Leicestershire industry and this county's stone was the single most important source of Britain's roadstone.

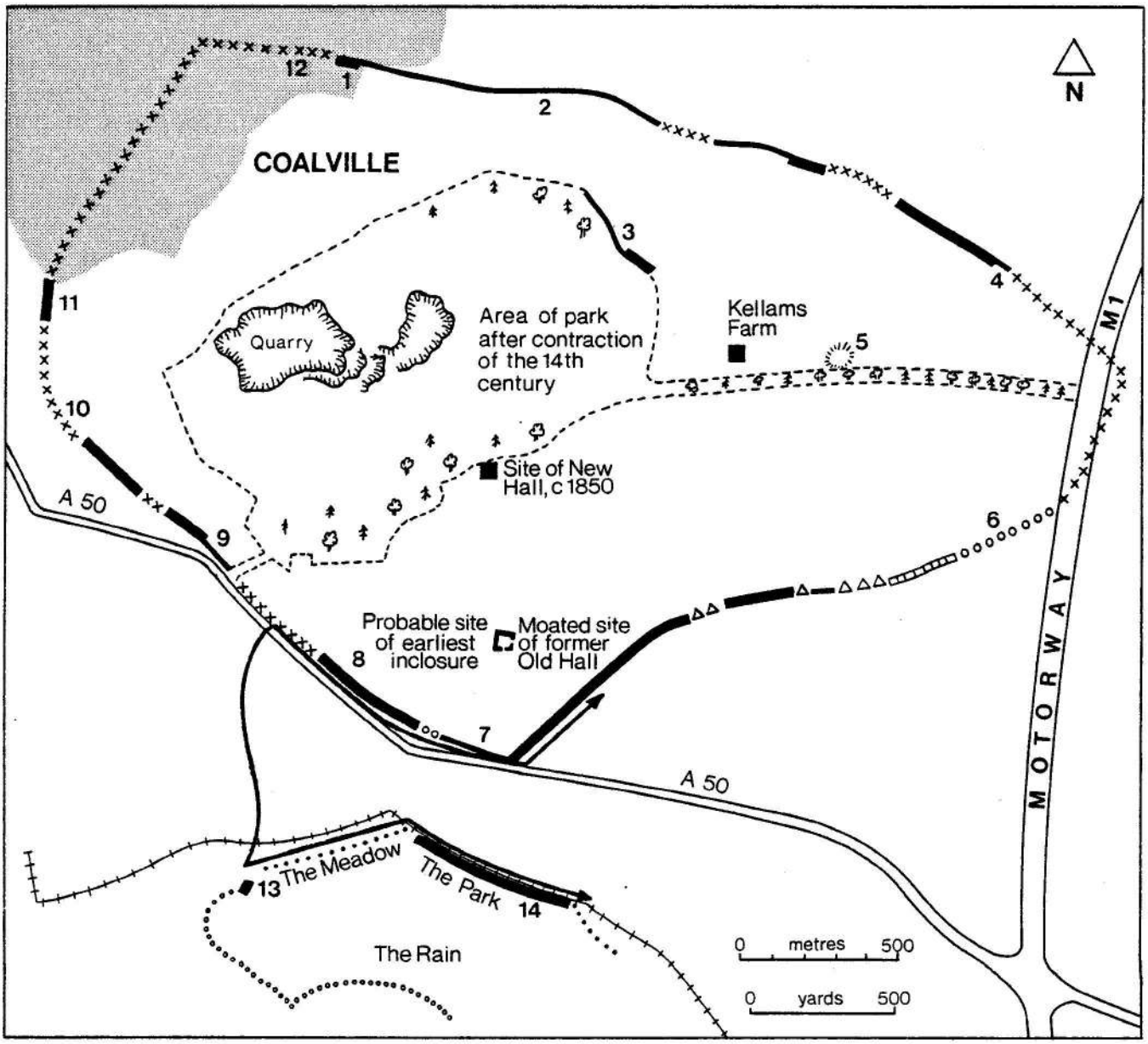
In common with a good many landed families, the Herricks found themselves in severe financial difficulties in the years immediately following two world wars. At Bardon 1103 acres were offered for sale by auction in 1947. Of this area, 855 acres were within the old park pale. The outcome was that the estate was conveyed to various private purchasers, mostly local farmers but including Bardon Hill Quarries (Ellis and Everard) Ltd. (L.R.O. DE.1278/4). The Herrick family reserved for themselves land and the mineral rights thereof extending over approximately 400 acres. A lease of 1954 by the family to the quarry company allowed for continued expansion of quarrying over approximately 216 acres on the northern part of the hill's preCambrian core. As late as 1975 the Herrick's holding was finally sold to the quarry company, then known as Bardon Hill Quarries Ltd. (Bardon Hill Quarry Co.). Thus was relinquished the last of the family's interests in Bardon.

BARDON PARK - TOPOGRAPHY

Unlike Loughborough Park, the park of Bardon has retained so much of the bank of its perimeter pale that there is little doubt as to its precise boundary at the time of its maximum extent. This is fortunate, since the poor documentary record supplies little details of its development and decline. In this account an attempt is made to analyse the fragments of evidence of many kinds and to suggest an outline of the Park's topographical history.

The maximum extent of the Park, reached in the middle of the 14th century, contained an area of approximately 1260 acres (see figure 1). Bardon Hill itself, which lies in the centre of the park and occupies an area of about 300 acres, rises to a maximum of 912 feet to provide the highest point in the county. It largely comprises a well-defined 'core' of old and hard pre-Cambrian rocks which weather to poor, thin and acid soil. At Irish Hill, on the northern border of the Park, a further but much smaller area of such rock gives rise to similar conditions. Whilst unproductive in agricultural terms, the pre-Cambrian soils have demonstrated a capability of supporting a heavy cover of oak woodland.

Fig.1. Bardon medieval park



KEY

	Built up area of Coalville		Area of woodland surrounding quarry
	Lengths of bank extant		19th Century railway embankment
xxxx	Bank totally removed	△△△	Bank present but height reduced
	Bank present, includes later wall	→	Area unenclosed until 1808
.....	Probable boundary of annexe	.....	Conjectural boundary of annexe
1	Bank at bottom of gardens	2	Bank much eroded in this section
3	Remains of early inclosure bank	4	Course of bank in path to bungalow
5	Presumed Iron Age site	6	Former bank course as vegetation mark
7	Two fragments indicate former line	8	Bank concealed in woodland strip
9	Bank incorporated in garden lawn	10	Two oak trees indicate line of bank
11	Bank survives in wood	12	Former line indicated by tree line
13	Fragment of bank	14	Section follows former course of parish boundary

The lower slopes of the Hill are encircled by an overlying belt of the more recent Keuper Marl. This extends in a wide sweep to occupy the north and north-west of the Park and gives rise to a deeper and more fertile soil. Much of the rest of the Park is overlain with the very recent glacial Boulder Clay, heavy in nature and difficult to work, but not infertile.

The first task of reconstruction is to examine the evidence for the date of the foundation of the Park and to suggest a site for the original inclosure.

It was noted earlier that in the mid 13th century the manor of Whitwick was held by Roger de Quincey, Earl of Winchester, and that Bardon Park was first noted by name in 1270. The resolution in 1242 of a dispute between the Earl and the Abbot of Garendon, concerning the grazing rights of the latter's cattle, records that the Earl granted for himself and his heirs 'that they should hold as enclosed all his enclosure of Bardon for ever', the object being to exclude the Abbot's cattle on a permanent basis. Moreover, the Earl agreed to return promptly any beast which did gain entry to his inclosure 'for default of hedges or gates'. Failure of the Earl to carry out his part of the agreement would entitle the Abbot to enter 'the said close' and recover the cattle himself (Farnham MVN, pp.350-351). It is interesting to note the absence of any mention of a pale, only a hedge; furthermore, there is no mention of deer. The term 'park' is not used and this omission is important since it occurs at a time when the possession of a park was an important symbol of status and when other local parks, including that at Loughborough, had been established by name. The evidence at Bardon implies the existence of a modest inclosure used largely or solely for cattle and with limited grazing.

A second record, this time of 1240, of an agreement between the Earl of Winchester and the Earl of Arundel, is also worth noting. This regulated Arundel's rights of hunting in Winchester's great tract of woodland known as the 'Wood of Challenge' which Potter, not unreasonably, considered to have occupied an area to the west, north-west and south-west of the monastic settlement of Charley (Potter, p.17). The terms of the agreement included Arundel's right to hunt where he wished in the Wood and 'as far as the road which comes from Whitwick to Groby'. If any beast crossed the road 'towards Bardon' it was to be lawful for Arundel and his men to follow it with hounds until it was taken (Farnham 1912, p.34). The modern road from Whitwick to Groby runs in part from Whitwick to Copt Oak and its present line was determined by the Inclosure Commissioners in the early 19th century. The medieval road - probably a mere track across the heath by modern standards - took an unknown route; but if Arundel was to chase his beasts 'towards Bardon' it could only have been located to the north and east rather than to the south and west of the Hill. Further, if one makes the not unreasonable assumption that the road in question ran through Whitwick manor rather than through the nearby manor of Barrow in Charnwood, the course must have followed a line somewhat close to that of the modern road since the boundary between Barrow (which included Charley and most of the Wood of Challenge) and Whitwick manors followed a line north and east of, and very roughly parallel to the modern road. Inherent topographical probability is not helpful on this point. Whatever the situation, it is clear that once again the absence of any reference to a park is very important. Moreover, the absence of a pale (or even a simple boundary fence) supports the idea that the above-mentioned inclosure was well away from the route of the road.

The evidence outlined so far strongly suggests that at the time of the above-mentioned agreements, i.e. c.1240, there was in existence at Bardon nothing more than a simple inclosure and that the foundation of the Park, i.e. as a place containing deer, took place sometime during the period 1240-1270. The next step is to determine whether or not the inclosure was the precursor of the park and to consider where the inclosure was located.

Of all the possibilities for the location of the first inclosure only two merit serious consideration. The first of these, and by far the more probable, is the area around what later became known as the Old Hall. This is in a sheltered valley, screened from the north by Bardon Hill itself. In addition, the Bardon brook at this point provides a plentiful and reliable water supply, an asset which was probably absent from the surrounding heath of the 13th century. Moreover, the area of heath over which the original dispute arose included an area called Alvestonemed which, according to a 13th century perambulation of the manor of Whitwick (Farnham MVN, p.350), appears to have been located in this general area, i.e. to the south and west of the Hill. In contrast to the light soils of the heathland, the clay and alluvium of the Old Hall area would have provided some of the best grazing in the district. Again, the topography of the area would have ensured that the valley bottom was a natural point of focus, and conversely, make the establishment of any but the most temporary of inclosures difficult elsewhere. Finally and leading from this, it is difficult to see why a dispute of the nature of that of 1242 should lead to litigation if the inclosure was not in a place where the cattle readily wandered.

The possibility that this inclosure developed into the first park is suggested by the fact that the ground rises steeply on all sides and at few points would the expense of erecting anything more substantial than a fence or hedge be necessary to retain deer. In this case the absence of physical evidence on the modern landscape is of little importance.

The second possible site for the early enclosure is an area to the north east of the Bardon Hill summit. Here a small but well-preserved length of ancient bank survives clearly indicating an inclosure boundary similar to that forming the pale around the rest of the park. From considerations of topography the inference is that this bank extended along part of the north and south-east of the area and inclosed an unknown, but probably small area of this part of the upper slopes. Against this idea are four important points. First, there is no reliable water supply. Second, the grazing here would have been markedly inferior to that over most of the surrounding area, and from this one would hardly expect litigation to have arisen. Third, this spot is in any case well away from the area grazed by the abbot's cattle. Finally, the decline of the park, its contraction in the late 14th century and its subsequent history must be taken into account.

It is now necessary to consider the growth of the park from its modest beginnings in the Old Hall region. One may reasonably expect a park of more than 1000 acres to have developed slowly in a series of stages. At Bardon there is no evidence whatsoever that this happened. First, the line of the perimeter pale at its maximum extent contains as far as one can tell today no obvious 'weak' point where the position was not advantageous for the retention of deer and for ease of maintenance. Indeed, together with its topographical setting, the shape and outline of the perimeter suggests a grand design, the vision of one mind. Whether or not the physical fulfilment of such a plan was achieved in one generation is open to doubt; but the time-scale proposed here for the creation and development of the park i.e. c.1240-c.1332, leads one to believe that piecemeal development to have been very unlikely. In short, it is suggested that the park of Bardon expanded very rapidly with a temporary pale, perhaps a mere fence, along its approximate five-and-three quarter mile perimeter and a more substantial bank replaced this within a short period of time.

An examination of the early owners of the park i.e. the Comyn family and the first three Beaumonts, is now necessary. In the case of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan, there is little doubt that Alexander and John, father and son, were immensely rich and powerful men and, when not plotting against the monarch, were resident

for some of the time at Whitwick. William Comyn's brief illegal seizure of the estates was not atypical of the determination of each member of the family to advance his own best interests. The Beaumonts who followed them appear to have been little different in this respect but, since two of their number were minors, the only person of concern here is Henry Beaumont (1312-1340). However, Henry appears to have lost interest in his Whitwick properties for by 1332 he was leasing the Park to foreign merchants. This action does not suggest the level of enthusiasm necessary to carry out the huge and expensive effort required for the erection of the bank and fence, almost six miles in length. Again, had the park not already been expanded substantially from its original form of an 'inclosure', he would hardly have been able to interest a society of foreigners in leasing it. They in turn would hardly have taken on the massive effort themselves and managed the task in so short a time. Thus it is suggested that the park's expansion took place during the period c.1240-c.1332, which means a little less than ninety years.

It is most likely that the creation of the park was largely the work of the Comyns and probably of John Comyn (died 1308). In his study of the 15th century holdings of the abbey of St. Mary de Pratis, Hilton (Hilton 1947), refers to the grants of land by the Comyns to the abbey in Stanton-under-Bardon. He states that 'the tithe meadow....had been relinquished, together with the whole of Stanton north meadow, by the consent of the village community so that the Lord Comyn could enclose it in Bardon Park and fill it with game'. This had taken place prior to the death of John Comyn and one doubts the villagers had much choice in the matter. What is important here is to discover the location of this apparent addition to Bardon Park.

The discovery of this area has provided additional support for the ideas put forward concerning the date and nature of the Park's creation. Three possibilities as to the location of Stanton North meadow present themselves. First, it could have occupied an area alongside the original inclosure and may have been incorporated without trace by the pale along the line of maximum extent. However, there is no evidence to support this idea. Second, Stanton North meadow may have been adjacent to, and contiguous with the pale without and along its line of maximum extent, in the direction of Stanton Village. Such an addition would have appeared as a 'bulge' to this line. Again, there is no evidence to support this notion. Indeed, circumstantial evidence to the contrary exists, for the whole area where such an addition must have been located was unenclosed up to the General Inclosure of 1808.

The third possible location of Stanton North meadow is altogether more encouraging, although it is clear that the evidence is all circumstantial and has no documentary support. This third view proposes the addition was in the form of an 'annexe', i.e. an inclosed area close to, quite distinct from, and not adjoining the main park. Such an area would not have disturbed the line of the main park pale but at the same time would have been close enough to the main hunting area to allow easy transport of deer. The provision of a separate inclosure outside a park - rather than within it which was more usual - is known from other counties. Since the area concerned must have been in Stanton, the search was limited to that part of the modern parish which neighbours Bardon.

Fieldname evidence identifies a field called the 'Park' on the north west perimeter of the parish. (See Fig.1.). Moreover, a field adjacent to this has always been known as 'The Rain'. (H. Bell in per.com.). Field suggests (Field J., Dictionary of English Fieldnames p.179) this is derived from the Old Norse meaning 'land on a boundary'. Site-investigations have revealed sections of a bank of substantial size and similar in character to that around the main park. This bank is wholly separate from the railway embankment of the 19th century which runs alongside it for part of its length. The ancient bank was followed by the old parish

boundary and its remains are indicated on the map. Unfortunately much of its length has been lost beneath the well-cultivated acres to the south and west. However, one can suggest a line for its former course on the basis of inherent topographical probability.

The creation of this annexe to the main park may reasonably be assumed to have taken place prior to the death of John Comyn in 1308. Whether or not the erection of the pale in the form of a bank and fence was his work is unknown; but it seems likely that it was. The creation suggests that the southern line of the pale of the main park was already in existence. The separation of park and annexe can also be accounted for if one makes the assumption that a highway crossed the heath between the two and that it followed very approximately the route of the present A50 from Bardon roundabout for approximately five hundred yards in an easterly direction. Such a highway may well have been so important that even Lord Comyn was reluctant or unable to inclose it.

The aftermath of the Black Death together with the lack of interest on the part of the absentee Beaumont landlords are discernible in the records of the late 14th and early 15th centuries. The I.P.M. of Elizabeth Beaumont in 1427 describes the Park as 'containing 100 acres of wood and pasture which is worth per annum 40 shillings apart from the fees of the park and the enclosures of the same park' (Nichols 3, p.1114). Here one detects the contraction of the wooded area and the opening up of the rest of the park to agricultural purposes, albeit through want of labour to maintain it in the traditional manner. The problem which now arises is the location of the new park i.e. the area set aside for deer.

Once again, evidence is slight but in the first instance it seems reasonable to assume that, with the decline of hunting, the raison d'être of the annexe ceased. Alternatively, if it did continue as a park - and there is no evidence for its existence beyond the supposition given above - it does not represent the 100 acres of wood and pasture of 1427. This leaves two possible areas and these have been already met with: the region around the Old Hall and that near the summit.

The former area, that of the original park, seems less likely for three reasons. First, its position as the best agricultural site in the district would have meant that it would have been the last site for the accommodation of deer, particularly at a time when the rest of the park was unused or under-used and available for such a purpose. Second, the area of 100 acres would have extended far beyond the bounds of the original 'inclosure' as envisaged and described above. Third, one could reasonably expect some field- or other place-name evidence for such a site; but nothing whatever has been found. Much more likely as a site for the deer inclosure is the summit area. First, on account of the very poor nature of its soils it would have been the least productive area in agricultural terms. At the same time it would have been tree-covered and would have provided the most suitable environment for the deer. Records after 1350 refer to illegal hunting of the deer and the presence of the length of embankment strongly suggests the presence of a secondary pale. Against this must be set the problem of the lack of water-supply.

From the 15th century onwards the entire area within the ancient bank at its maximum extent was known as Bardon Park, although it was only the area of the upper slopes which was retained as an inclosure for deer. Clearly, this small area allowed hunting on only a modest scale. Grants of 'Bardon Park' included the entire park since the revenue from the deer inclosure would hardly have maintained successive noble recipients and there are no records which differentiate between the two areas. The grant of the Park separate from that of the manor first occurred in the 16th century. This recognised the existence of the redundant bank and it is from about this time that one discerns the establishment of

Bardon as a distinct political and administrative entity, quite separate from that of Whitwick manor.

Against this background it is necessary to examine the evidence provided by the buildings in the park. Nichols states that in 1505 there were four dwelling houses in Bardon Park (Nichols IV, p.803). At present there are sixteen sites which merit attention within and without the pale and all but two appear to be of post-medieval origin. The oldest site is that of 'castle mound' which is now believed to date from the Iron Age (P. Liddle in pers.com.), but the earliest human activity at Bardon relates to the Bronze Age, although it is not possible to pinpoint a site for a settlement.

The second oldest site of human habitation is that known as the Old Hall. The building itself was demolished in about 1840 and nothing of the original fabric remains as a pointer to its antiquity. The sole surviving documentary reference is an engraving provided by Nichols in 1811 when the building was still inhabited (Nichols IV, p.803). This view simply suggests a building with 17th century features. The site is certainly much older since moat-construction for purposes of defence had largely been discontinued in England by about the year 1450. In view of the lack of evidence the relationship of this site with the rest of the park is unknown. The New Hall on the other hand is known to have been erected in 1830, at a point about half a mile north of the building it replaced.

The buildings at Kellams Farm and Keepers Cottage contain certain notable features. Carpentry details in the construction of the roof at Kellams suggest a late 16th or early 17th century date with subsequent additions and improvements (D.H. Smith in pers. com.). At Keepers Cottage reconstruction over the years has resulted in much internal change. Residual evidence suggests a building of similar antiquity to Kellams. The barn to the south-west of Keepers Cottage dates from the early 18th century while the adjacent stable block is contemporary with the New Hall (Ibid.). At present there is no way of knowing whether or not existing structures are built upon sites of earlier occupation.

In 1620 a commission investigating tithe-payments heard evidence that Bardon Park contained by estimation 100 acres. Furthermore, it lay near the parish of Markfield and the parish of Whitwick but not within those parishes 'nor any other parishes next thereto adjoining, for which park or ground no tithes were paid (Farnham M.V.N., p.384). This evidence supports the notion mentioned above that the park, in its reduced form, was not that of the annexe noted as being in Stanton-under-Bardon parish. It also confirms the earlier reference to the contraction of the Park and supports the idea that it did not occupy the ground adjoining the pale at its maximum extent, i.e. the Old Hall site.

Burton, writing in 1622, describes Bardon Hill as 'very rough and full of wood' and also mentions quarries of hard stone, presumably those first noted in Elizabeth's reign.

Little is known of the nature of the Park from the time of Burton's comments to the middle of the 19th century. The General Inclosure of Charnwood which took place after 1808 transformed completely the landscape surrounding most of the Park but its effects were not felt within the pale. A summer house was erected near the summit in about 1743 (Dare 1925, p.22) and this was demolished only recently. During the ownership of the Jacomb Hoods the estate slipped into agricultural decline. This was arrested and reversed by the Herricks who drained many fields between 1860 and 1880 and improved the quality of the pasture. In order to improve access to the recently-erected New Hall, a carriage road bordered by woodland was driven across the park in about 1860 from Copt Oak in a south-westerly direction.

In terms of topography the single most important post-medieval development within the Park has been the growth of the granite quarries. The very early existence of stone quarries has already been noted but it is clear that prior to the mid 19th century production by modern standards had been minute. Following the re-opening of the quarries by Bernard Everard in 1857, a railway was constructed to facilitate the removal of the stone. At first growth in output was slow but, as technical advances were made, expansion of the quarry area gathered pace. In 1865 the area under active exploitation occupied no more than ten acres. This was to the south-east of Botts Hill farm. By 1882 this figure had doubled. Shortly after the turn of the century the quarries extended over seven floors and had a total depth of over 400 feet (Everard 1907, p.189). In 1947 exploitation was taking place in three separate areas of the Hill which in total covered well in excess of 100 acres. With the demand for roadstone showing a sharp rise in the late 1950s the rate of expansion quickened until by 1975 much of the north and western slopes of the Hill had been removed. In recent years large banks of overburden have been raised with the result that the quarrying operations have been largely screened. It is expected that developments in the near future will result in the removal of the rest of the northern aspect of the Hill.

The construction of the M1 motorway in the mid 1960s and the more recent expansion of Coalville's housing estate have destroyed some sections of the line of the ancient pale. Other 20th century developments such as the arrival of the electricity pylons in 1948 and the erection of the police tower have made a different but notable contribution to the modern landscape. Yet, if one discounts massive and sudden change from an unexpected quarter, it does not seem unreasonable to believe that the essential features of this ancient park, especially the line of its medieval pale, will continue to make a distinctive and welcome contribution to the Charnwood landscape for many years to come.

LOUGHBOROUGH PARK - HISTORY

In 1229 Hugh le Despenser was allowed to take ten does and two bucks from Sherwood Forest for his new park at Loughborough, which was held on a fee of one pair of gloves annually (Hastings MSS 1928 p.330). The King allowed further gifts of deer over the next three years, so that Hugh's initial stock rose to 43 does and 11 bucks, in addition to the young animals bred by the earlier arrivals (Cal. Close R. 1229 p.224: 1230 p.341: 1231 p.555: 1232 p.110). Loughborough Park is not mentioned in the entries for 1229 and 1232. In the former, however, there is a reference to Despenser's fishpond in Loughborough and in the latter the deer were to be taken from Sherwood, like all the others, so it may be presumed that Loughborough was to be their destination.

Subsequent documentary evidence is not so complete or so clear, often being restricted to those occasions when the normal administration of the Park was interrupted by some unusual incident. Fortunately, enough routine material has remained for it to be possible to trace the history of a small medieval deer park through the various stages of development outlined in the introductory note, until family misfortunes obliged the owners to sell up and leave, and on to modern times, when the western side is dominated by the combine harvester and the eastern by the speculative builder.

The existence of a park presented an opportunity, if not a challenge, to thieves to break through the pale and poach the animals within. Evidence of what was no doubt a frequent occurrence arises in 1323, when it was alleged that men had entered the Despenser manors, including Loughborough, had broken their parks and had stolen animals (Cal. Patent R. 1323, p.309). This unpopular family was completely disgraced in 1326, but in 1331 Henry Beaumont made a similar complaint. A group of men had taken away from Loughborough '30 horses, 20 mares and 30 colts of his, worth 200 marks, hunted in his park, cut down his trees and carried them away with his deer' (Cal. Patent R. 1331 p.125). In 1363 the Prior of Ulverscroft, with other canons and some laymen, broke Beaumont's parks in Loughborough, Beaumanor and Bardon. This trespass was not an isolated occasion, there had been 'divers times' (Cal. Patent R. 1363 p.446).

Before the death of Henry Beaumont in 1340, the purpose of the park had begun to change. In that year the value of rents for the pasturage of animals was assessed at 20 shillings per annum (Farnham 1912 p.88). Two sets of fifteenth century Loughborough Ministers' Accounts illustrate the growth of the park as a commercial enterprise. In 1427/8 John Palicer (the pale maker) was paid 7s. 5d. for 44½ roods of fences. This length of about 300 yards may well have been new work, since John was also paid 2s. 3d. for removing and mending an additional 3 roods. Stray animals had become a problem. John Palmer received 10d. 'for two days by the job', for mending the pinfold. Thomas Pegge, the parker, was employed on a regular basis at the rate of 2d. per day.

The accounts reflect the agricultural depression of the fifteenth century. Nothing was received for the pannage of pigs, while £7 1s. 2d. was entered for the park pasture, with the note that it was 'in the hands of the Lord for want of tenants it appears.' Elsewhere in Loughborough matters were much the same. In 1413 a paddock and warren in the town itself was let for £2, whereas it had previously been worth £5 (Hoskins 1957, p.85).

The second set of accounts, for 1468/9, presents a slightly happier picture. The 'rent of the herbage of the park of Loughborough beyond the tithes' was £6 13s.4d. while £4 11s. 0d. had been received for the pannage of pigs in the parks of Loughborough and Burley. Sale of wood also provided an income. 243 cartloads from Loughborough Park alone were sold for £8 4s. 3d. Of this sum, 13s. 4d. was entered

for 'tress blown down by the wind and prostrated.' 280 faggots, called kyddes, were also made for sale, at 18d. the hundred. Thomas Marshall, the seller of wood, was paid 6d. the hundred for making them and other expenses included 8s. 3d. for four acres and a half (about 144 yards) of pale at 22d. the acre. This item is under the heading: 'Cost of Enclosing the Parks.' No doubt this was a regular charge if the pale was to be extended and also kept in a satisfactory state of repair.

The two sets of accounts had been provided for different principals. In 1427 the Beaumonts had been lords of the Manor of Loughborough. In 1467 the misfortunes of civil war placed William Hastings in possession (Cal. Patent R. 1467 p.26). Richard III executed him in 1483 and gave Sir Robert Harrington the stewardship of the manor of Loughborough and other places, as well as 'th'office of keping of two parcs and warrene there' (Nichols 1795 p.139). The two parks were Loughborough and Burley, while the warren was probably that in the town, in the area still known as The Coneries.

Sir Robert's appointment was ended by the Battle of Bosworth and very soon afterwards, on 23rd September 1485, Henry VII appointed Libeus Dygby bailiff of the town 'during pleasure', and keeper of the park for life (Cal. Patent R. 1485 p.8). William Beaumont also successfully petitioned the King for the return of the lands forfeited to Hastings in 1464. Later he lost his reason and was placed in the care of the Earl of Oxford. He died in 1507, when the first recorded reference is made to the Loughborough Outwoods as distinct from the Park. William Lathbury was appointed by the King keeper there, a post which Ralph Smyth 'lately had' (Cal. Patent R. 1507 p.549).

When poor William Beaumont's widow died in 1537, the manor of Loughborough passed to the Grey family. Henry Grey was executed in 1554 for his part in the rebellion against Queen Mary, who granted the manor to Sir Edward Hastings. The park was, however, left with Grey's widow, Frances, Duchess of Suffolk, as part of a general financial settlement on her. Her husband had sold property worth over £175, which had been assigned to her by Act of Parliament (33 Hen VIII), 'without any satisfaction therefor being made .....'. Frances received, with other properties, a grant for life of the park, except the great trees and timber, rendering annually for it £11 18s. 4d. (Cal Patent R. 1554 p.106). In 1558 Sir Edward Hastings was advanced to the title of Lord Loughborough and given the reversion of the park 'and all the deer therein' (Nichols 1804, p.579).

An informative survey of the Park and the Outwoods was made in 1559 - the year in which Frances died (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 41). The management of the standing timber had not been very efficient: 'In the said greate park is conteigned no timber but all scrubbe okes and old riven trees and so thyne growen that there is no wood to be solde.' The acreage of the Outwoods was estimated to be 120 and even here the timber was in poor condition: 'In the saide wood are conteined tymber trees all for the most pte the rest shrubb oakes all loppe and thyn growen.' There is a note in the margin: 'The loppinge thereof is more proffite to the Lord than the sale. It may be lopped once in xviij yeres.' This is a reference to the practice of coppicing. The trunk of the tree was severed near the ground, to encourage the growth of poles, which were cut and sold at intervals.

Lord Loughborough died in 1573 and in 1575 the park was granted to his nephew Henry, third Earl of Huntingdon, who made over to his sister, Lady Mary Hastings, an annuity of 100 marks based on income from it (Nichols 1804 p.886). In the last quarter of the century the low value of the timber was offset by leases of substantial areas of pasture, either grassy clearings in the woodland called laund, or parrock (paddock). Some of the tenancies were held at will,

that is, they were annual leases of the kind recorded in the fifteenth century Ministers' Accounts, but others were by indenture, longer leases involving legal procedures. The 'Great Lawnd next Loughborough' was held by Adrian Stocks, who had been Master of Horse to the Duchess of Suffolk. He later married her, she no doubt seeking a life of anonymity after the notoriety of her first husband's treason. Parcels of land known as Butcher's lawnd and the Pocket lawnd are listed, as well as Wydone adjoining Forest Road, which was at that time leased to Sir George Hastings (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 42).

The Great Lawnd, then assessed as 267 acres 3 roods, was leased again in 1639 to Henry Hastings, son of the fifth Earl, as part of nine lots, eight in the park and one in Loughborough, including a messuage in the 'Old Park', which must have been that part of the building now known as Moat House which was erected around 1620. The total rent was £458. From 1614 to 1642, land in the Pocket Gate area changed hands four times and in Butcher's Lawnd twice. The Widon was re-leased in 1642 when it was estimated at 17 acres (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 40).

In 1627 a wood sale was organised in the Outwoods. It began on 16th November and was a substantial undertaking. Buyers came from most of the local villages, as far as Wysall and Queniborough, both over 10 miles away by road. It included the underwoods throughout the Park, which were sold to John Wells of Quorn, and all the ashes in the upper, or western, end, bought by John Cruchley of Loughborough. By 27th June 1628, 381 lots had been sold for a total price of £428 8s. 0d. Clearly forestry in the Outwoods had improved since 1559, or the survey of that year had greatly underestimated the value of the timber. In 1636 there was another sale, which realised £55 12s. 11d. (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Boxes 4 and 13).

The sixth Earl, Ferdinando, now taking further income from the Outwoods, leased them on 1st July, 1651 to Norton Everard, together with the keeper's house (Moat House), the keepership of the Park and all the deer there. The lease was for 99 years. It was worth £220, 'the lessee paying the yearly rent of five shillings with two clean and well fed capons at Christmas' (Hastings MSS 1928 p.81). The Earl, however, still retained the right to the timber.

By 1651, of course, the Civil War had been fought. The Hastings family had chosen the losing side and the Earl's brother, Henry, had been a prominent district commander in the King's Army. Ferdinando's estates were sequestrated and, to make matters worse, his property in Ireland was affected by an outbreak of the troubles there. The restoration of the family fortunes depended on the ability of his son, also named Henry, to make a good marriage. The chosen lady was Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir Theodore de Mayenne, a Swiss gentleman, but Henry died of the smallpox on 24th June 1649, still a single man. Ferdinando was imprisoned for a time in the Fleet. On 9th November 1653 he procured an Act of Parliament permitting the sale of the Manor of Loughborough (Hastings MSS 1947, p.351).

On 20th April the following year Norton Everard bought the land he held on lease. It was sold without any restrictions and was described as the 'Outwoods parkes and launds within the pale'. The total area was 379 acres 2 roods and 1 perch and the purchase price was £765 (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 44). Norton died childless and his wife, Isabel, remarried, the family lands being settled on Norton's brother, Robert, at her death. In 1667 Robert complained that Isabel had 'committed great wast spoyle and Destruccion ... in ye woods ... felling and laying and cutting downe and selling and disposing of ye said timber woods in a most outragious manner ...' This was particularly serious because the Outwoods were nearly all woodland. Herbage was worth £50 per annum or less.

Robert went on to protest that the loss of trees on such a scale would soon destroy the 'Laire of the Deere'.

Isabel did not need to answer the charge of timber felling, since the Outwoods belonged to her. She replied to the complaint about the deer by alleging that when Norton died there were 'very few straglinge Deere' left. To make matters worse, the Earl of Stamford had said that the Outwoods were no lawful park and, against her wishes, he had killed the few deer that were there, claiming that most of them were stragglers from Bradgate (Bill of Complaint 1667).

Neither Isabel nor her husband could say if the Outwoods were, or ever had been, a lawful park. Nichols (1804 p.910) says that they were imparked by Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, 'in the reign of Queen Elizabeth', (that is, after 1575) and that they were disparked about the year 1630. These relevant facts could hardly have been lost without trace in 1667 and it is therefore very unlikely that the Outwoods were ever a park in its original sense of an enclosed hunting area. As far as the Great Park is concerned, Nichol's volume of 1804 (p.910) simply states that it had been 'long since' disparked. In 1811 (p.782) he gives the date as 1630 also, quoting as his source the corrected copy of Burton's History, in 1641. If we regard effective disparkment as dating from the first sale of land, it was in 1654, although much of the park had ceased to be used for hunting purposes long before.

On 20th July 1654 Oliver Bromskel bought 'Howett's Parke and warens grounds in Loughborowe parks' (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 44). This is the first clear reference to a warren in the park itself. Howett's park was the area formerly known as Willock Lawnd or Broad Oake, on the northern boundary. Bromskel was Rector of Loughborough from 1647 until the Restoration. He was evidently not a poor man. He paid £1,010 for his land in the park and in the same year he and two other men bought the Manor House in Loughborough, with its adjoining land, for £1,390 (Cook 1934 p.120).

On 27th May 1655 Thomas Palmer paid £600 for Staples Park, fifty acres of land lying in the north-east 'next to the common field of Loughborough' (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 35). On 1st September William Rawlins, described as a citizen and pewterer of London, bought Pocket Gate House, its croft and adjoining land of 51 acres, as well as 165 acres elsewhere in the park. Most of it is shown as meadow or pasture but one close of 46 acres contained both meadow and arable (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 31). This is not the first reference to arable land within the park. In October 1633 the fifth Earl had protested that the 'auncient pasture ground' known as Willock Lawnd had been ploughed up and converted to tillage. His position was difficult because the offender had 'by some casuall meanes' obtained both copies of the lease, and so the Earl could not properly present his case. Nevertheless, he persisted (Bill of Complaint 1633). He could not, of course, have been expected to foresee that twenty years later he would no longer have any influence on the way the land was used.

The sales authorised in 1653 had no doubt solved some of the problems of the Hastings family, but they created others. In February 1654 Christopher Packe, Norton Everard and eighteen other buyers complained that the Earl Ferdinando and his brother had agreed to convey to them land in Outwoods Park and elsewhere 'freed and discharged of and from all manners of titles troubles chardges and incumbrances whatever'. They had discovered that it was by no means free, but subject to many other leases and mortgages, and they insisted that their ownership should be absolute. The Earl replied that he had never pretended that the land was entirely free of incumbrance, but that the proceeds from the sale would make it so (Bill of Complaint 1654). In 1659 Joseph Dawson made a similar complaint. The family had agreed to sell him the Lodge, with 12 acres, and a further 156 acres in the park. He alleged

fraud against the Dowager Countess in that, after the death of her husband in 1656, she did not honour the contract. The complicated legal arguments in this case demonstrate that Earl Ferdinando's attempts to satisfy creditor after creditor had led to considerable confusion in his affairs. Two other men who had also bought land from the Earl gave evidence that they were 'meare strangers' and altogether ignorant of the whole matter. Indeed, this must have been a wise attitude to adopt while the finances of the Hastings family followed such an unconventional pattern (Bill of Complaint 1659).

The fact remains, however, that sales were completed and land was occupied. Nichols (1804 p.910) gives some details of six enclosed farms which had been established by 1656, with a total area of 410 acres. Other sources here quoted make it clear that this was not the entire acreage which had then been sold. In 1727 William Busby owned five separate farms. In all of them enclosure had reached the point where houses had been built within the farms themselves. Four of them can be traced: Moat House, farmed by Thomas Bilson, Park Grange (Isaac Leake), Halfway House (Edward Bilson) and Outwoods Farm (William Price) (Nichols 1804 p.910).

In 1849 there were eleven farms, nine of them with their own houses. The largest covered 207 acres. There were also five small holdings, that is, of less than 20 acres, as well as independent dwelling houses, plantations, a windmill, and small allotments of land in the north-east corner (Tithe Map 1849). In the period between 1914 and 1939 there was a little encroachment along Beacon and Forest roads, but the area remained substantially the same until the 1950s, when new houses spread up the eastern slope, on to the ridge and down the other side, to be halted at Moat House and its stream by land use planning policy.

The House enjoyed a period of some elegance in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was described by Nichols as a 'pleasant abode' and he includes an engraving of it. In the early years of the 18th century it was the home of John Oldershaw, who was a county magistrate, and in Nichols' day the owner was an attorney-at-law, Henry Whatton, whose pedigree is taken back to the time of the Conqueror (Nichols 1804, p.912). Edwin Goadby, a journalist and local historian, writing in 1961, remembers in florid Victorian prose the days when the house was a 'ryghte hospitable and ever-open mansion' (Goadby MSS 1861, p.63). To prove his point, he says that one Oldershaw managed to acquire a wife who had for her fortune her weight in gold, although he adds with great tact that it amounted to only about £9,000. He regrets the disappearance of 'Loughborough Park Hall', by which he means, not that the building had been pulled down, but that it had ceased to be the home of those whose worth could be calculated so accurately in the good and lawful money of England. As he puts it:

'A merry place they say in days of yore
Though something ails it now.'

Apart from this one spell of grandeur, Moat House has always been a place where people work. So it has been with the park. It was never ornamental. There were no formal gardens or contrived "natural" landscapes. Indeed, for a few years around 1800, coal wagons rumbled along a tramway running through the north-east corner, linking the Forest Canal with the main wharf in Loughborough. Neither were there any splendid sheets of water, although a rather functional reservoir was built in the Outwoods in 1870. The park has always been part of the county in which it stands, where there is a proper provincial concern for practical things. It is perhaps a reflection of our times that the sturdy buildings of Moat House, rich in centuries of useful life are now confronted by that minor folly of the day - a row of twentieth-century 'Georgian' houses.

LOUGHBOROUGH PARK - TOPOGRAPHY

"Close adjoining to the Park Field near Loughborough, on the farther side thereof next the Forest, lie Loughborough-park and Loughborough Out-woods, the same being a park long since disparked. Part thereof, being on a hilly ground, and covered with wood, affords a delightful prospect towards the town ....." So wrote John Nichols in 1804 (p.910). Although housing estates have since swallowed up twenty per cent of the total area and much hedgerow has been destroyed in the remainder, the view from the town is no less attractive today, where the land rolls easily up from the Soar Valley, through the steeper slopes of ancient woodland to the Charnwood hills beyond.

Nichols saw the Park when its boundaries had reached their greatest extent. They are suggested in Wild's Plan of Charnwood Forest dated 1754 and the Parish of Emmanuel Tithe Map of 1849 defines them more closely. Tithes arising from Loughborough open fields had been commuted by the Parliamentary Inclosure Act of 1762, but three districts of old inclosure remained to be dealt with, by far the largest of which was the Park. The boundaries of 1849 are repeated on O.S. sheets up to fairly recent revisions, and are shown in Fig.2. With the Outwoods, they enclose a rough rectangle, its corners being at the woods west of Pocket Gate to the south-west, a line a little to the north of the present Nanpantan reservoir to the north-west, a point opposite Fairmount Drive, on Forest Road Loughborough, to the north-east, and the wall of Beaumanor Park to the south-east.

As we have seen, the old hunting enclosures out of which the later parks grew were usually quite small. Whereas Nichols describes 1120 acres of countryside, including the Outwoods, the area first imparked by Hugh le Despenser, on a bed of boulder clay in the waste overlooking his manor of Loughborough, covered only 146 acres. The eastern pale was set generally on the 200' contour line and ran northwards from the present Shelthorpe golf course along Hazel Road and Cross Hill Lane, stopping at Beacon Road, Loughborough.

This and the other boundaries of the original park are shown in Fig.3, area A. They form a typically compact shape which allows for economy of fencing. They are marked on the southern side by a sturdy hedge, near which there is evidence of a bank and ditch, and on the north by the line of Beacon Road. The western pale is now lost behind houses in Bramcote Road.

The eastern pale was a poor choice from a topographical point of view. It lies across a slope running down from the Park, whereas a pale on rising ground obviously presents a greater obstacle to deer. No more than 500 yards to the west there is a ridge which offers this advantage, but Despenser ignored it for good administrative reasons. Although the thirteenth century was a period of land shortage, there is no record of any dispute over the original imparkment. The people of Loughborough were probably willing for Despenser to occupy the difficult boulder clays and he, no doubt, was happy to establish a clear line limiting local encroachment into the waste. Land was certainly being brought into cultivation in the area before 1321, when there was a transfer of half an acre 'extending on the Park Dyck' in a district then known as Les Greves, at the Shelthorpe end of the pale (Market Bosworth G.S. Schedules D.16). The name appears again in a 1427/8 reference to three roods there and a further rood at Parksgate', probably at the Beacon Road end. A third reference occurs in 1468/9, this time to a piece of fresh land near the Park (Loughborough Ministers' Accounts).

The growth of the Park after the thirteenth century and the probable use of successive pales as boundary lines in later land sales present an intriguing problem. An attempt is made here at a reconstruction based on major features and a count of shrub species of all the remaining hedges, using the formula suggested

by M.D. Hooper in 'Hedges and Local History' (1971, p.6). Limited weight has been placed on the hedge counts and they have been held to be significant only when supported by patterns of land ownership or traces of earthworks.

The first main feature is a lane which runs right through the park. It is an extension of Beacon Road, Loughborough, and may have come into being as a track outside the northern pale of the original park, going in a south-westerly direction as far as the entrance to Charnwood at Pocket Gate. Since subsequent development was to the north of it, it ceased to be on the boundary on that side and became the southern boundary of the later additions, from a point 400 yards south-west of the area known as Pignut Spinney, as will be seen from Fig.3. It was actually known as Pocket Gate Road in 1762 (Loughborough Inclosure Award). At its Forest end it was referred to in 1558 as 'the way at the Pocketsicke' and was then in need of repair (Will of John Fowler 1558). A 'Pockysicke bridge' existed before 1575 and was maintained at the public expense, so the lane was of some local importance (Loughborough Bridgemasters' Accounts 1575).

The lane is bordered by hedges which contain, over their entire length, an average number of shrub species high enough for them to be classified as of fourteenth century origin, if Dr. Hooper's formula is strictly applied. He stresses that the range of variation is quite large but they are clearly quite elderly even when this is taken into account. As late as 1849 land ownership crossed the present lane at only two points. One was in the Pocket Gate area. Here it is still hedged as far as the 1559 western pale, but as it enters the area known as Pocket Lawnd it becomes an unfenced track. This is the point at which it would have completed a dual function of being part of the southern boundary and also an enclosed way to the rest of the park. A lease of the Lawnd in 1614 provides for 'libertie of passage and drift for cattell by the now most usual waies through the other grounds' (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 40). This must have included the right to use the lane. The other ownership crossing was at Pignut Spinney. There is clear evidence on the 1849 Tithe Map of an old diversion here. It may be added that no other track, apart from farm access roads, entered the main park before the post-1945 period.

The second main feature is Moat House, classified in Victoria County History as a moated homestead (1907 p.264). It was once known as the Lodge. The moat itself shows no signs of a medieval origin and may be a later ornamental addition (R. Mitchell: site inspection). The available evidence suggests that the site was used for a parker from an early date and the first name we have is that of Thomas Pegge in 1427/8. The first indication that the keeper lived at the Lodge is in the will of John Larance, who died in 1556. The house then had some status - John lived very comfortably by Loughborough standards. It was in no sense a gatehouse and its situation had some influence on the topography of the park.

Prior to 1559, when the park was estimated to contain about 500 acres (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 41) expansion was along a northward extension of the thirteenth century eastern pale, which limited further growth of the adjoining Loughborough open fields. There is no evidence on the ground of an early southward extension. The settlement of Woodthorpe lay at this end and its fields did reach a point 340 yards further into the waste, along its boundary with Shelthorpe (Fig.2). After this stage the Black Death may have occurred, reducing the pressure for new land, or there may have been a decision that all that was left on this side was within the demesne. Even so, as late as 1559 the southern pale ran along the irregular line of the original park, Moat House grounds and Pocket Gate Lane (Fig.3). The first indication of enclosure on the southern side of this pale occurs in the late sixteenth century and then only in the Pocket Lawnd area (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 42). The final line on this side was contiguous with the northern boundary of Beaumanor Park, first shown on an

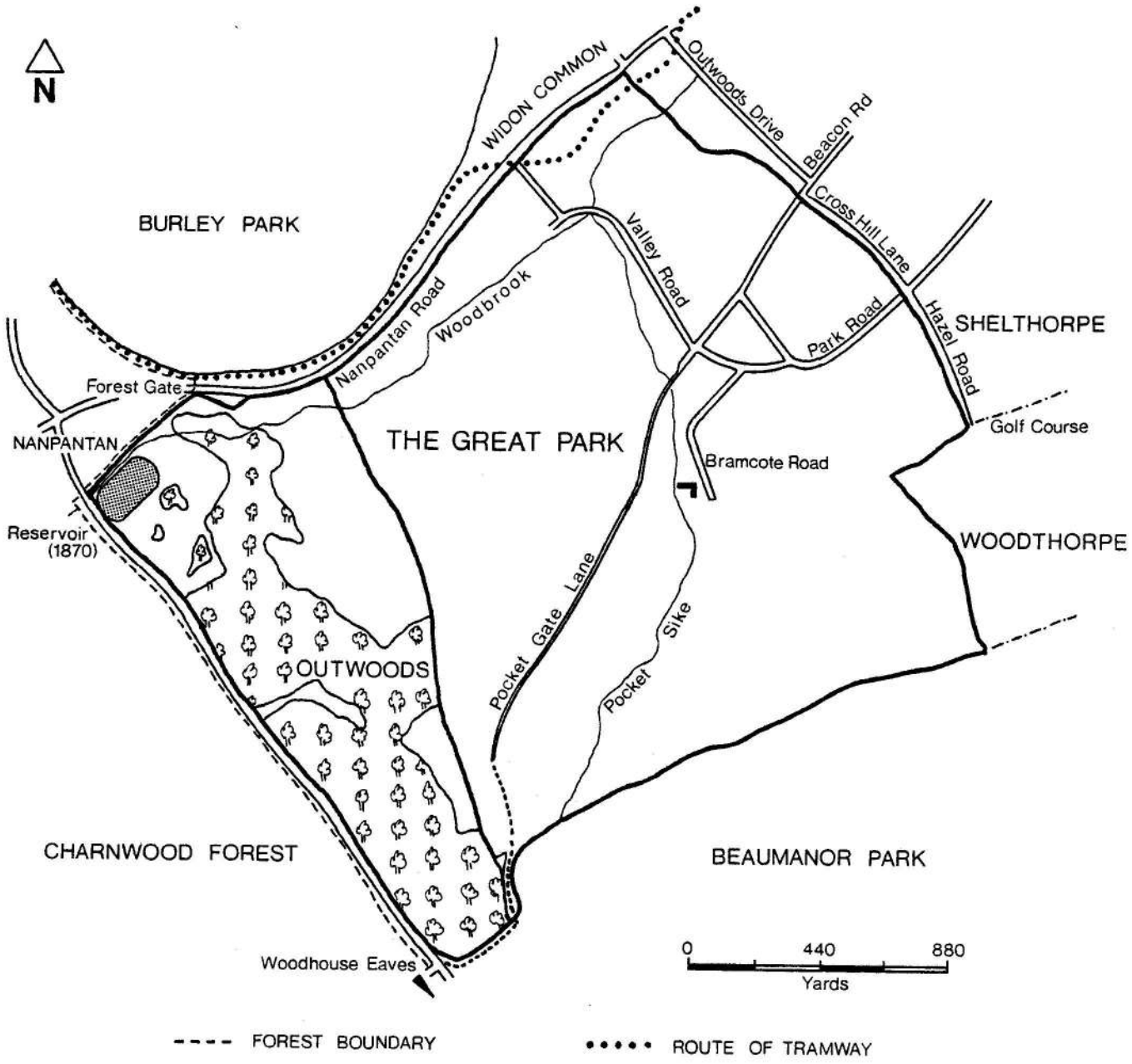


Fig.2. Loughborough Parks at their greatest extent. Some modern roads are shown.

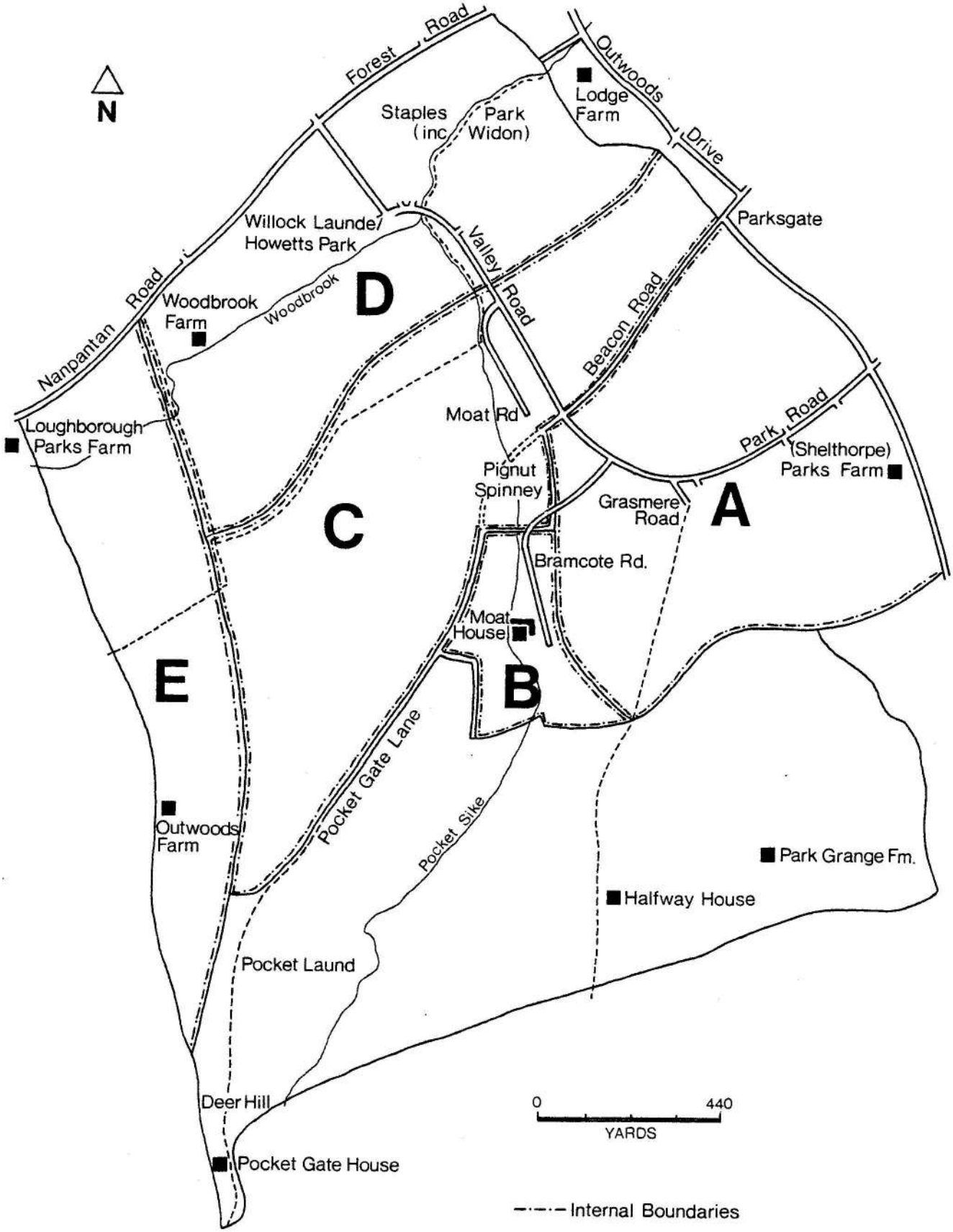


Fig.3. Loughborough Great Park.

It is possible, by using public rights of way, to walk near all the park pales shown on this map. The footpaths now start from the urban area of Loughborough at the points marked.

estate map of 1621.

The eastern pale had reached the present Forest Road before 1559. The northern pale ran westwards along it towards the Outwoods. Beyond was the southern boundary of Burley Park (Fig.2). The land between was called Widon Common in the Loughborough Inclosure Award of 1762. The lane from Loughborough to Nanpantan ran through it, generally along the line of the modern road. Wild's Plan of 1754 has the Loughborough Park pale following the lane beyond the eastern edge of the Outwoods. Here it meets the boundary of Charnwood Forest, which bears away a little to the south to reach the road from Nanpantan to Woodhouse Eaves, near the present bridge over the Woodbrook.

In 1559 the western pale ran for a short distance on the line of the modern farm track from Nanpantan Road to Outwoods Farm. From the point where the track turns west the pale went directly along a clearly defined length of hedgerow, as far as Pocket Gate Lane. Land to the west was imparked subsequently, so that the final boundary ran from Loughborough Parks Farm to Outwoods Farm, along the edge of the woods and across a rise to Pocket Gate House (Fig.3). There is a substantial ditch at the Parks Farm end and a stone wall from Outwoods Farm onwards.

It will be seen from Fig.3 that there were five phases of growth within the Great Park. The first was, of course, the original Despenser park. A second phase could have been Area B, the land around Moat House, 33 acres in size, in which land was taken from the waste to build a parker's house during a period of expansion. An accompanying phase could have been C (162 acres), with traces of a bank on its northern pale, followed by D (141), which completed the growth of the park up to 1559. The total area is 482 acres, as against the estimated figure of 500 already quoted. Area E (75) was added afterwards. As the medieval park expanded, the Pocket Gate Lane was embraced but not closed, indeed it became essential to the commercial use of the park.

The Outwoods, the demesne woodlands of Loughborough, have a separate history of stewardship and the contract for their sale in 1654 to Norton Everard of Ibstock implies that they were outside the park pale (Huntington Library: Hastings Papers Box 44). Nevertheless, they were known locally as Far or Norton Park and the word 'Parks' was used to describe the entire area, which in 1849 consisted of 946 acres of farmland and 174 of woods (Tithe Map 1849). The present acreage of open country is 891, including the Outwoods, which have remained virtually unchanged since 1849. They now belong to the Borough of Charnwood, which allows the public free access.

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Abbreviations:

LRO: Leicestershire Record Office
PRO: Public Record Office

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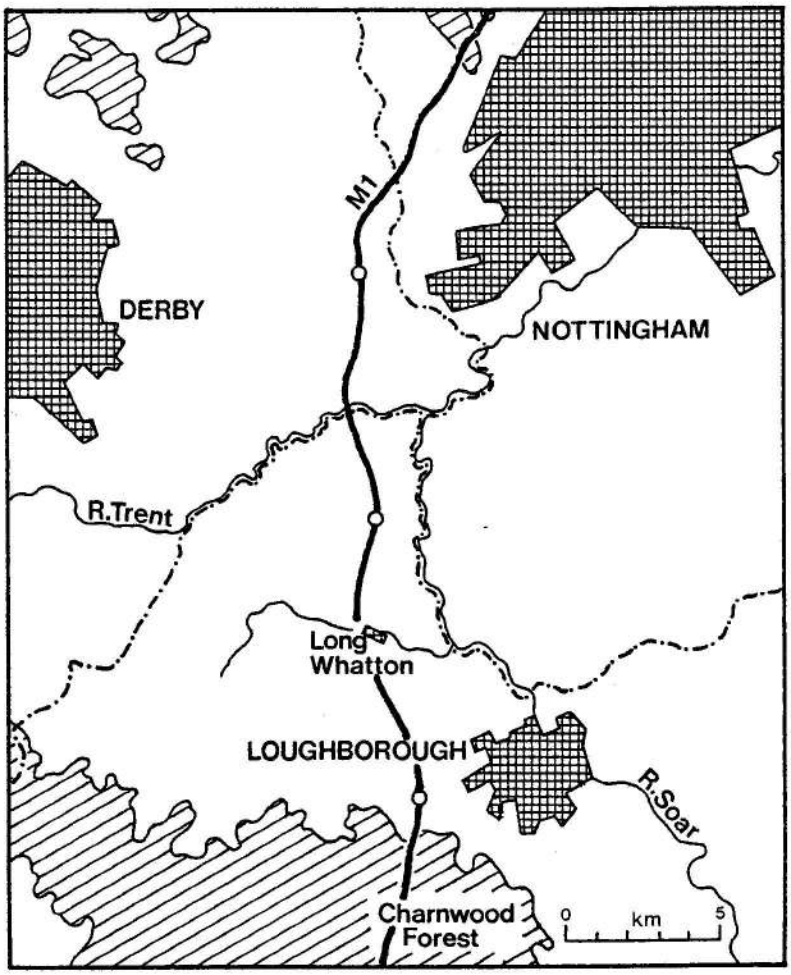


Fig.1(a). Long Whatton village in N. Leicestershire.

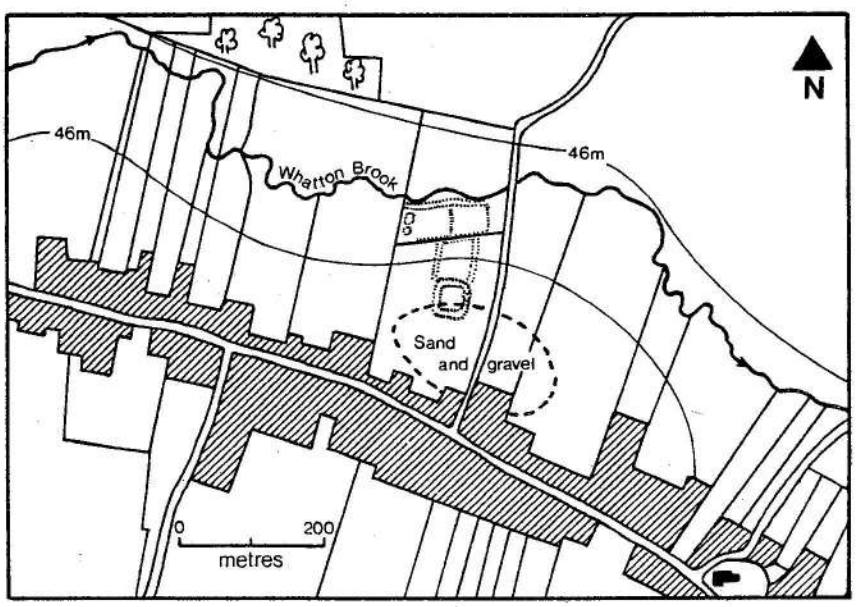


Fig.1(b). Position of moated site in relation to village of Long Whatton.

INTERIM REPORT ON THE MEDIEVAL MOATED SITE, LONG WHATTON, 1981

Anne Tarver

SITUATION

The site lies to the North of the present Main Street of the village of Long Whatton, some 500m. West of the church, in a field known as Olivers. The field itself contains a great many earthwork features - the most obvious being a rectangular moated site on the N facing slope of the shallow valley of the Whatton Brook. Associated with the moat is a rectangular enclosure, the N bank of which being planted with a quickthorn hedge at the time of the enclosure of the parish. Between this hedge and the book itself lie a series of fishponds, together with a possible leat for a water mill. Only one of these features - a linear bank - is shown on any O.S. map. It is hoped that a complete survey of the field will be carried out during 1981. The complexity of the earthworks and the proximity of the fishponds to the site would imply a manorial status, although this cannot yet be proved. Other evidence will be discussed later which also reinforces the concept of a higher social status for the site.

The geology of the site is very simple - the whole parish being situated on an area of Keuper Marl, a red clay matrix with thin bands of sand/mudstone in undisturbed layers. Small areas of glacial sand and gravel occur and the area covered by the earthworks does in fact lie upon one of these, although the boundary of this gravel is not a distinct one.

One interesting feature of the location of the site can be seen from the sections drawn across the platform - the slope of the ground being such that even if the N (downslope) ditch of the moat was filled to capacity, the S (upslope) side would still not contain water - even allowing for a considerable degree of silting in the ditches since their last cleaning. It has been proposed that, if water was essential in this particular moat, it could have been retained by the use of dams across the central axes of the moat. There is in fact, a pronounced causeway on the E side of the moat and the possibility of an eroded one on the W side. This will need to be tested by excavation, the E causeway possibly relating to the removal of stone in the post-destruction period.

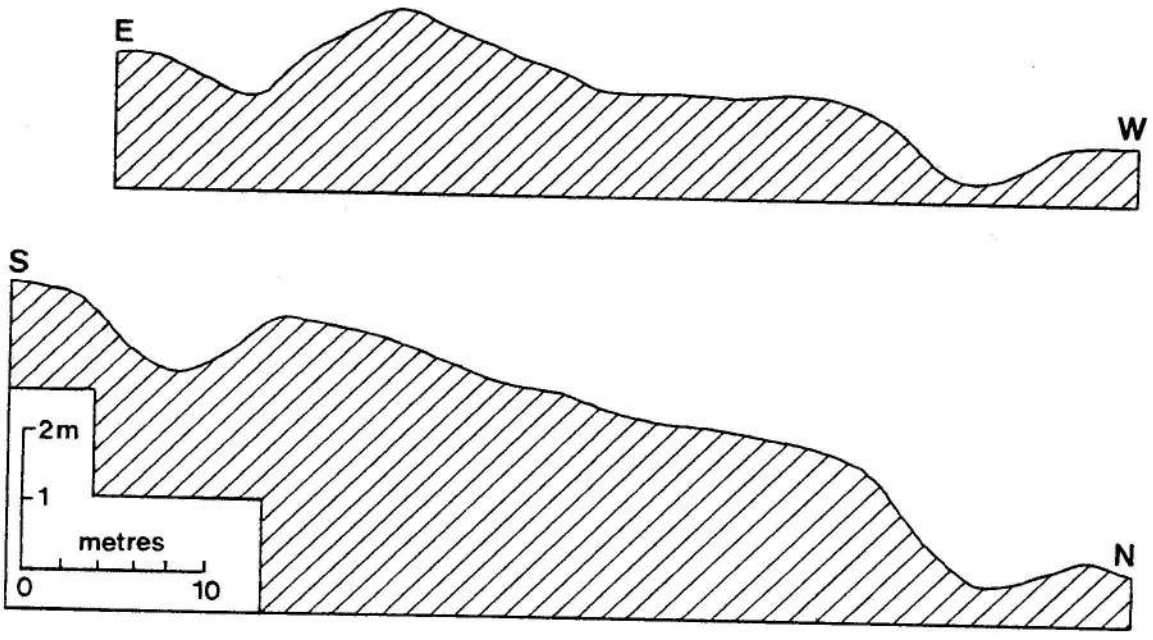


Figure 2. Sections across site.

THE MOATED SITE

Investigation of the medieval moated site at Long Whatton commenced in the summer of 1971, with a contour plan of the site being drawn by Civil Engineering students from Loughborough University of Technology. A trial trench was excavated by the then Rector of the parish, Rev. S.B. Coley. Further excavations took place in the summer of 1972 and the Loughborough and District Archaeological Society joined the excavations in 1973 and published a plan of the site in the Bulletin. Work has continued annually and it is hoped to complete the site during the summer of 1981.

The platform within the moat is almost rectangular, measuring 33m from E to W and 39m from N to S. The moat is approximately 9m wide and is considerably shallower and less well defined on the W side. There are shallow banks, both internal and external relating to the moat.

Excavation has, to date, exposed a building of 4 rooms, together with a yard area and a possible gatehouse area and these will be described in turn.

Room 1

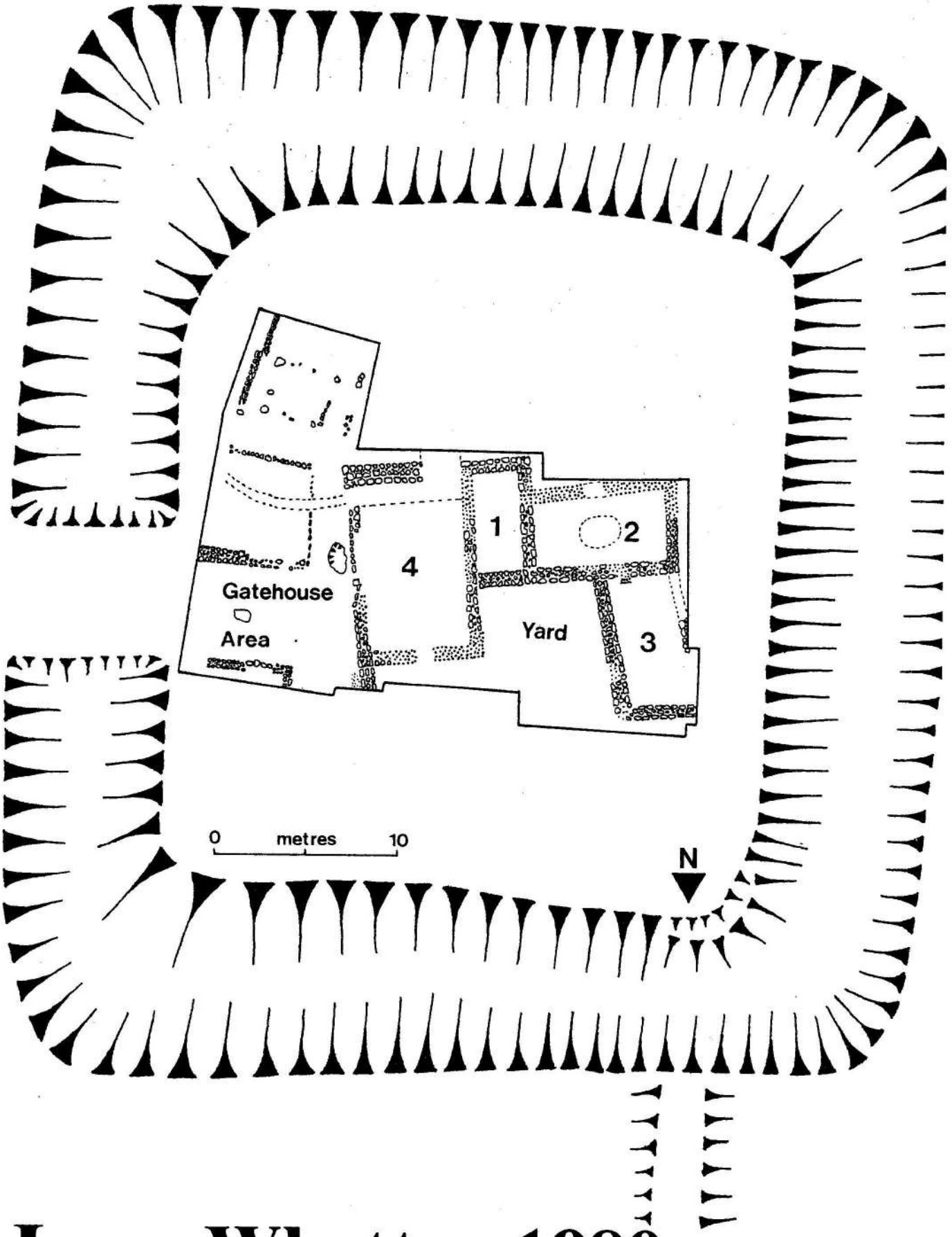
The N wall of Room 1 was revealed by Rev. Coley during his first trial trench in 1971 and the entire room was investigated during the summer of 1972. The room is 5.5m in length and 2.5m wide internally. The entire area was covered by a layer of roof slates, pitched and overlapping one another, interspersed with corroded iron nails and ceramic ridge tile fragments and loops. Beneath the roof slate layer was found the remains of a bonfire against the E wall of the room, the ashes of which contained clay pipe stem fragments and oxidised shelly ware sherds. There was no evidence for a floor of any kind, except in the SW corner where a very small area of cobbles was preserved. The evidence for occupation of this area continued to a level below the wall foundations where it slowly thinned out. Low in this layer was found a large fragment of a blue glass drinking vessel.

The S wall of this room was of very poor quality and in the NE corner a poor repair had been attempted and there were also fragments of brick in the upper remaining layers of the wall. The wall itself consisted of sandstone blocks on water-worn cobble foundations, with an offset course on the outer side. The N wall of the room was built of Forest stone and survived to three courses. The E wall of the room had been robbed out to the level of the foundations whilst the W wall was still extant to a level of four courses. The junction of the S wall of Room 2 and the wall of Room 1 was robbed out also. No trace of a doorway was found linking this room to either of the adjacent ones, although the robbing could have destroyed any traces on the E side. No trace was found of a hearth.

Room 2

Extension of the trench in a westerly direction led to the location of Room 2, the main axis of which was at right angles to that of Room 1. The inside area of the room was partially covered in a layer of Forest stone roof slates, again pitched in all directions, although not as densely as in Room 1. As can be seen from Fig.4 (a) the S wall of the room was completely robbed out, even below the foundations in the central area. Except where robbed out, all the walls were built of sandstone blocks, enclosing an area 7.25m in length and 3.5m wide. Most of the area was covered with a layer of roof slates, although the SW corner showed signs of disturbance with one or two pieces of glass and pottery of a post-medieval date. Removal of these slates revealed a small area of stone in the SW corner,

Fig.3. Site plan



Long Whatton 1980

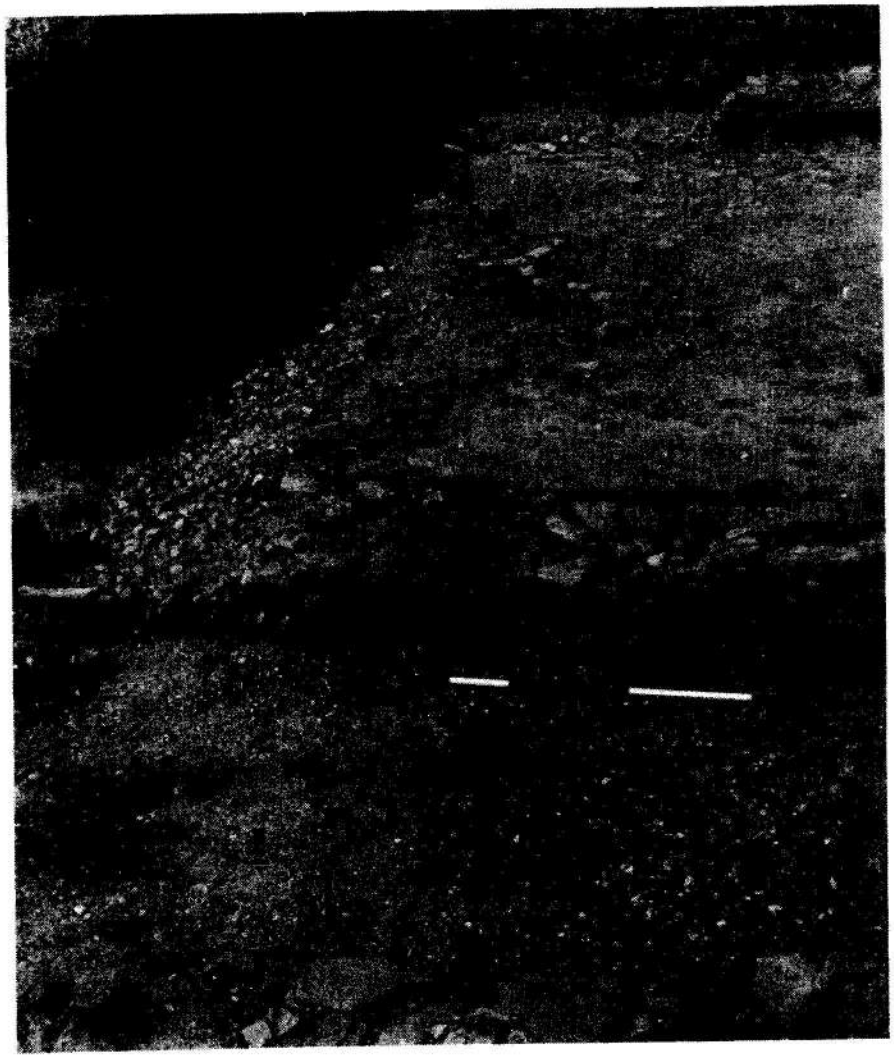


Fig.4(a). Room 1 excavated to the lowest level of occupation with Room 2 showing lowest level of roof slates. The robbed out wall on the S side of Room 2 even had the cobble footings removed in the central area.

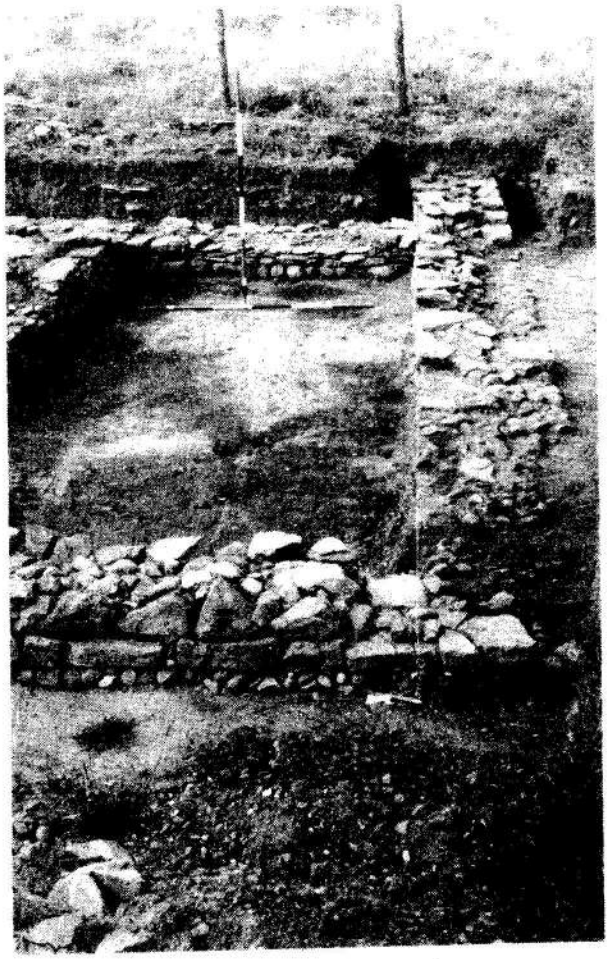


Fig. 4(b). Room 1 showing the offset course in the S wall in the foreground and the butt-jointed wall at the N end.

overlying the lowest level of slates. There was no evidence of flooring. Clearance of the uppermost occupation levels uncovered a circular feature, containing a great many fragments of charcoal, or even coal, and part of the rim of a large green-glazed jug, illustrated with other examples of pottery from the site. The feature measured 2.5m from E to W and 2m from N to S and was 12cm in depth and probably contained at least one hearth stone, if not more. There was however, no evidence of heat of any kind in the vicinity, as one would expect from a heavily used hearth.

Occupation material, in the form of charcoal, bone and pot fragments was sparse but continued to a level beneath that of the wall footings, giving the impression of a frequently cleaned room. There was no evidence of an entrance to this room from the exterior, although this would have been destroyed by later interference. There was also no evidence of any link with Room 1.

Beneath the floor of Room 3 an area of cobble footings butting up to the N wall of Room 2 was located. This may either have been a buttress to support the wall, in which case it was not a very substantial one, or, more probably, the base support for an exterior staircase to an upper room at an early stage in the history of the house.

Room 3

This room lies on the N side of Room 2 and was built entirely of sandstone walling, and measured 7.5m from N to S and 3.5m from E to W. The stratigraphy was similar to that of Room 1 - a thick layer of Forest stone slates and occasional broken pieces of sandstone covering the occupation layer, the slates being particularly dense at the N end of the room. The only floor to have been found on the site consisted of a thick layer of clay - 7.5 - 15cm in depth, within this room. The occupation material on top of the floor consisted of small fragments of Tudor green pottery, two dome-headed nails and a gilt-bronze pendant, illustrated with the metal finds. There may have been a doorway linking this room with Room 2 but evidence for this is not conclusive. The clay floor was laid over a sterile layer of sandstone building rubble. Beneath this was a thin occupation layer with a quantity of cobbles strewn around at the north end of the room.

The NE corner of the room appears to have been rebuilt prior to the laying of the floor - the sandstone blocks are less regular and interspersed with cobbles. An area of clay, similar to that used in the floor, continues into the yard on the E side of the wall. Regrettably the junction between this wall and the better preserved N wall is entirely missing. The remains of the W wall can be seen in Fig. 5 (a). The wall has, in fact, almost completely disappeared. The line of the wall was preserved by the edge of the clay floor, the stone having been extracted in the post-occupation period. The whole area to the W of this wall consists of sandstone and mortar fragments compacted within a clayey matrix.

Again, no trace of a hearth was found. The line of the W wall also disappears at the N end and no junction can be traced, the clay floor extending out towards the moat at this point.

Room 4

This lies on the E side of Room 1 and is the largest room to have been found, measuring 9.5m from N to S by 5.25m from E to W. There has been extensive disturbance to the stratigraphy of this area in the post-medieval period, the most obvious element being a broad trench across the S end of the room as can be seen from Fig. 6 (a). The room itself must have been of some importance within

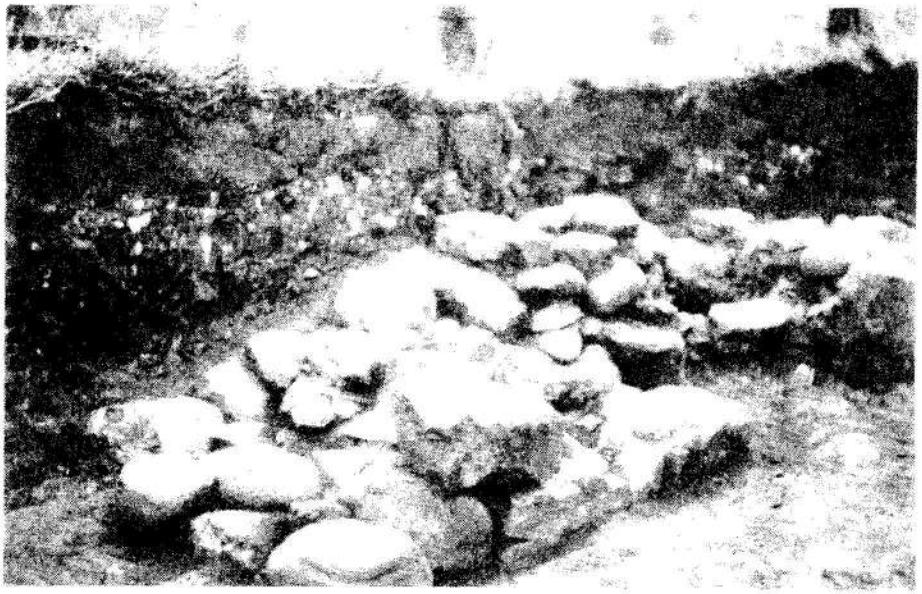


Fig.5(a) Remains of the W. wall of Room 3. The line of this wall was preserved by the edge of the clay floor. The section in the background shows the compacted sandstone and mortar debris

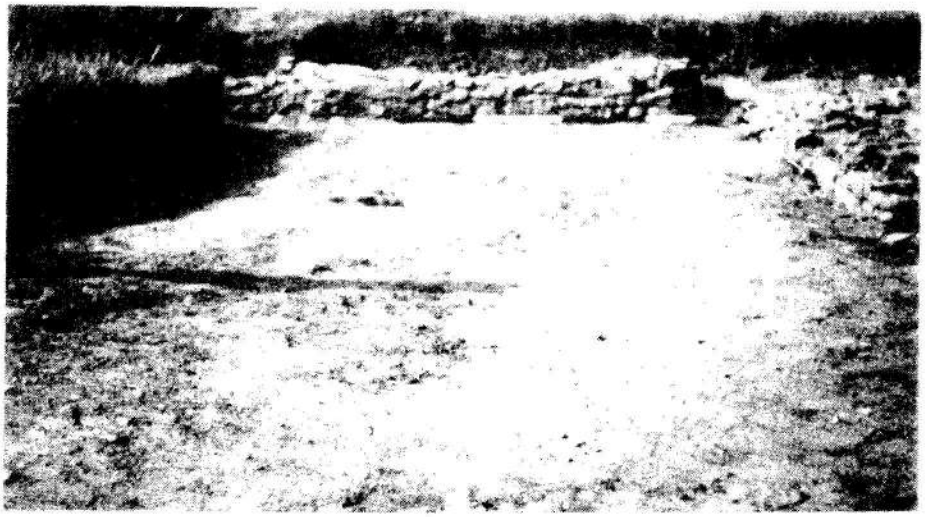


Fig.5(b) Clay floor in situ in Room 3. Walls of sandstone blocks with damage in the NE corner.

Fig.5(c) Forest stone wall in gatehouse area, with a much narrower extension running W.

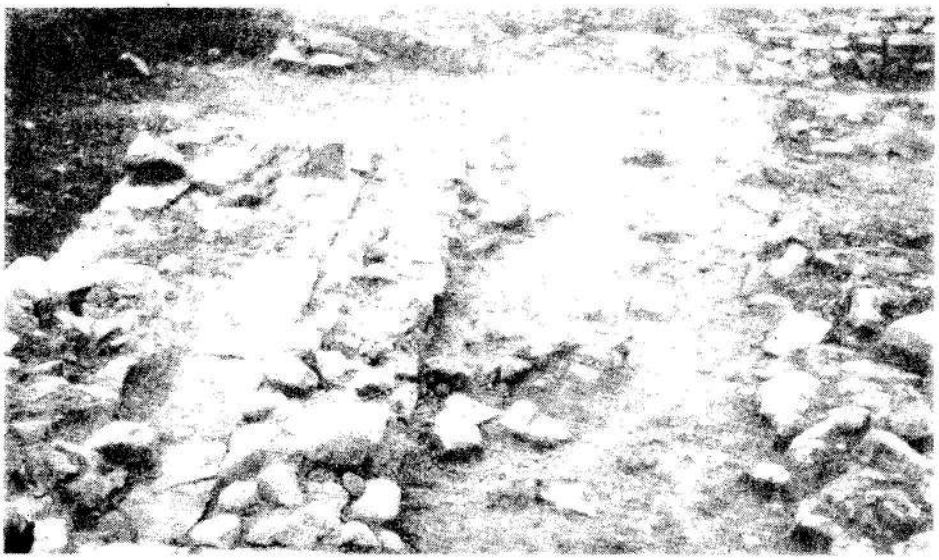


Fig.6(a). S.end of Room 4, showing robbing trench parallel to the wall and turning at a right angle towards the S. The cobbles between the wall and the trench cover an offset course of stone slabs.

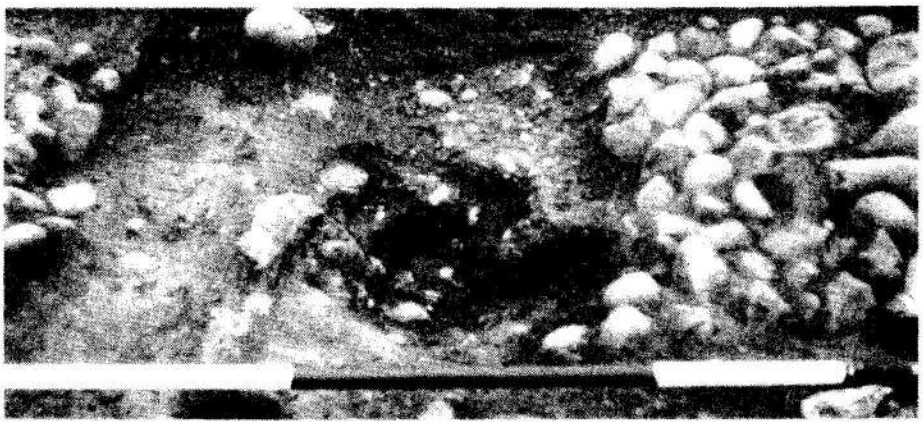


Fig.6(b). Doorway to Room 4, showing cobble footings of robbed out walls and pit beneath threshold.

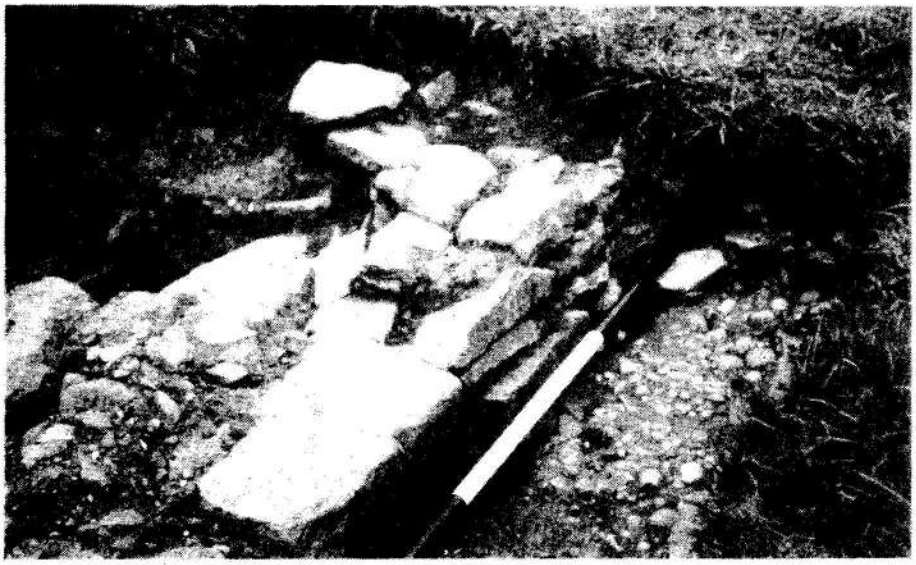


Fig.6(c). Northward extension of the E. wall of Room 4, showing the Forest stone addition to the earlier sandstone wall.

the house - there was an offset course of sandstone slabs along the inner face of this wall which escaped damage when the trench was cut through. The trench also destroyed the junction between this room and Room 1. Further disturbance was located half way along the E wall where a later drain had been inserted, the structure of which contained several bricks. The N wall had also been robbed out, leaving only the cobble foundations to mark its position. In the centre of this wall the cobbles ceased abruptly on either side of what must have been a doorway, as can be seen in Figure 6 (b). There was no trace of a threshold stone - this was probably removed along with the superstructure. The pit illustrated represents the combination of rodent damage with the burial of a long bone beneath the entrance.

The whole area of this room was much closer to the surface than the other rooms and was not covered to the same extent with roof slates. A number of bricks were found in the upper levels, together with the remains of a bonfire, but this was in no way related to the occupation levels. The evidence for occupation was again sparse and yet extended to below the foundation levels as in the other rooms. As with Room 3, there was no evidence of a hearth in the room. There was also no evidence of any linking doorway with Room 1 to the W, but again this could have been destroyed by the robbing of stone.

The first coin from the site came from the N edge of the robbing trench in this room - a long cross silver penny of Edward I, dating from between 1302 and 1310. Regrettably this came from disturbed layers and cannot be used to date the room.

A secondary wall of light construction had been built for a short length alongside the E wall of the room but there is insufficient length of it or any associated features to suggest why it was built. A later extension to the E wall was built of Forest stone and this can be seen on Figure 6 (c).

The Yard

The area to the N of the range of rooms excavated has been designated as a yard, and it contains a number of features to suggest that this was its purpose. The main feature is a large midden area on the N side of the excavated area, containing quantities of building rubble and pottery. The soil in this area was very varied in both colour and texture, but predominantly very dark, implying the dumping of organic waste.

To the S of this feature a length of wall, parallel to and 1m from the E wall of Room 3, with padstones to the E of it and this may represent the back wall of a later cattle byre.

In the corner between Room 1 and Room 4 a line of cobbles was located, behind which was an area of ash and charcoal. Insufficient heat was generated from the fire to mark either the cobbles or the surrounding earth.

The upper levels of the entire yard were covered by a very thin and unevenly distributed layer of roof slates. Amongst the upper levels was found a quantity of corroded ironwork which may have represented the decorative hinges of a door. In the lower occupation levels a much corroded piece of metal was shown by X-rays to have been an iron spear head (see drawings of metal objects). Small quantities of pottery have been found from all areas of the yard, together with bone fragments and pieces of coal.

Gatehouse area

The area between Room 4 and the moat has been loosely described as the

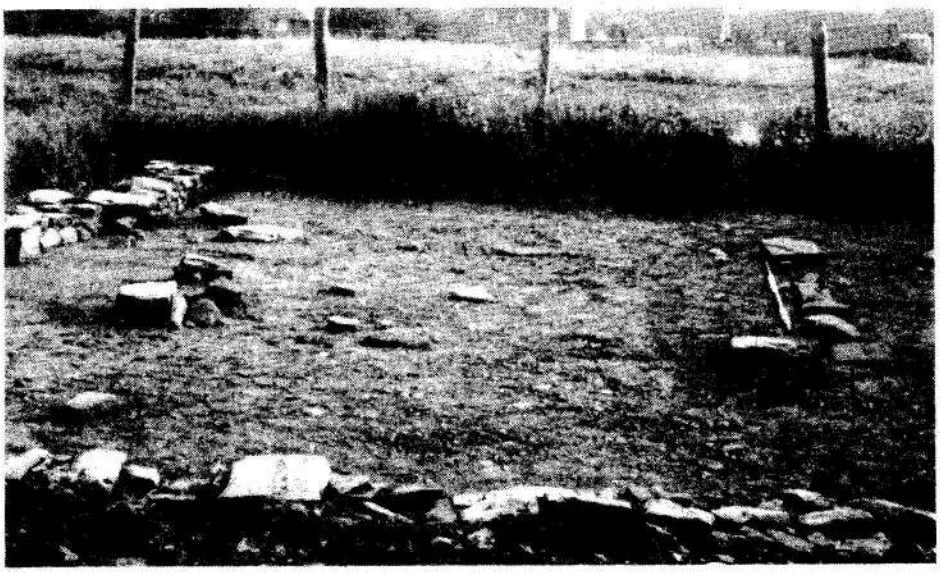


Fig.7(a) Remains of structure at the SE corner of the platform. The dog-leg wall on the E side peters out without showing any relationship to the wall in the foreground.

Fig. 7(b). Doorway into structure at SE corner showing pivot hole for door. Pivot block and threshold stone made from sandstone.

Fig.7(c). Possible doorway in gatehouse area, showing slate layer in relation to threshold stones.

gatehouse area and has been the most complex area yet to be excavated. At the S end of this trench, flimsy Forest stone walls only 40cm in width have been found. Once again, vital stretches of walling are missing and there is no evidence yet of a complete room at this end of the trench. Several padstones and a narrow wall give the impression of a barn like structure as can be seen from Figure 7 (a). An entrance to a room was found at this end of the trench, complete with a pivot block for a door, although the actual area of the room has not yet been defined. The whole of this area was covered with a thick layer of Forest stone slates, interspersed with ridge tile fragments, predominantly knife cut forms and a few Swithland slates.

The central area of this trench shows signs of post-destruction disturbance with a long, curving gully linking with the trench cut through the S end of Room 4. Another pit with a very dark brown/black infilling lies to the N of this gully, alongside Room 4. The gully also cut through a layer of roof slates which butted up to a massive Forest stone wall, 1m wide, running W from the direction of the moat, shown in Figure 5 (c).

To the N of this massive wall a series of destruction layers have been located, these in turn partially covering the upper levels of another parallel wall. This wall shows signs of a doorway with four threshold stones in place, the broken slates from the destruction layer funelling through the probable doorway. On the E side of this complex area, fragments of lead came and stained glass fragments have been found. One large ball of tangled came pieces containing small pieces of glass was found in situ, plus one piece of decorated glass. These are illustrated with the other finds.

Another find of interest was a coin of Constantine, perforated for suspension, one side being worn absolutely smooth. Once again, this coin was found in an area of later disturbance and could not be placed in any stratigraphic context.

Trial trench - NV quadrant of platform

A small trial trench was taken out along the N edge of the platform to determine whether there had been any kind of defensive structure in this area and also to investigate the relationship between the moat and the building. No trace of any wall or palisade was found in the upper levels. The trench was taken down and produced the jawbone of a pig in an otherwise totally sterile deposit of clay. However, beneath this the old ground surface was exposed and three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. Having thus ascertained the depth of the original land surface, further trenches will be taken out in an attempt to discover whether the building was built on the upcast from the moat. The clay from the trial trench was very clean, showing no traces of organic residues that would build up in a moat where the water moved little, and was probably the original soil from the digging of the moat.

FINDS

Metal Objects

a) Coins. Two coins have been found, both in unstratified contexts. The perforated coin of Constantine, issued in the fourth century, was found to have a very low silver content, as one would expect from a coin of this period.

The long cross silver penny contains over 95% silver and was minted in London. The damage to the crucial point of the crown renders accurate dating impossible.

The gilt-bronze pendant from Room 3 has a lobed circumference and shows a tricephalos on the front, consisting of a frontal view of a face with a side view of each side using the eyes from the front view. The item has a loop for suspension and is thought to date from the early sixteenth century. However, further advice on this object is being sought. Our thanks are due to the staff of the Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester for their help with the dating of these objects.

Glass

Evidence has been found for one drinking glass vessel - a fragment of blue glass was found in the lowest occupation levels of Room 1, together with much smaller fragments of the same type coming from the Yard area, just outside the W wall of that room. The only evidence for window glass has so far come from the gatehouse area on the E side of the site. Here, pieces of stained glass, one with a border type decoration, were found.

The glass itself is badly decayed but blue, green and yellow pieces have been identified. Associated with the glass were lengths of lead came, the quantity suggesting a stained glass window of modest size. The destruction of the window was, by the condition of the lead, a violent one - the lead being folded and twisted and enclosing small pieces of glass. The metal showed no sign of having been subjected to heat and the window was most probably pushed out.

Pottery

The bulk of the domestic pottery from the site ranges in date from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries. At the present state of knowledge very precise dating of this material is extremely difficult and a further report will be prepared dealing with this material separately. The medieval material consists predominantly of sandy wares - cooking pots and jugs, splash-glazed in many cases. One example of a rouletted band of decoration has been found as has one piece of applied strip decoration. However, the overall impression is of pottery of comparatively poor quality. One interesting ware would appear to consist of hand-built pots with applied wheel turned rims in a reduced sandy ware with no trace of glaze. A small quantity of shelly ware has been found, one rim with a thumb-impressed decoration. This ware has a soapy feel with a corky surface.

The amount of pottery from the sixteenth century onwards is very small indeed, implying the abandonment of the site at this point. There are very few sherds of Midlands Purple and almost nothing from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and these have come from areas of disturbance, particularly in Room 2 and the E area of the site.

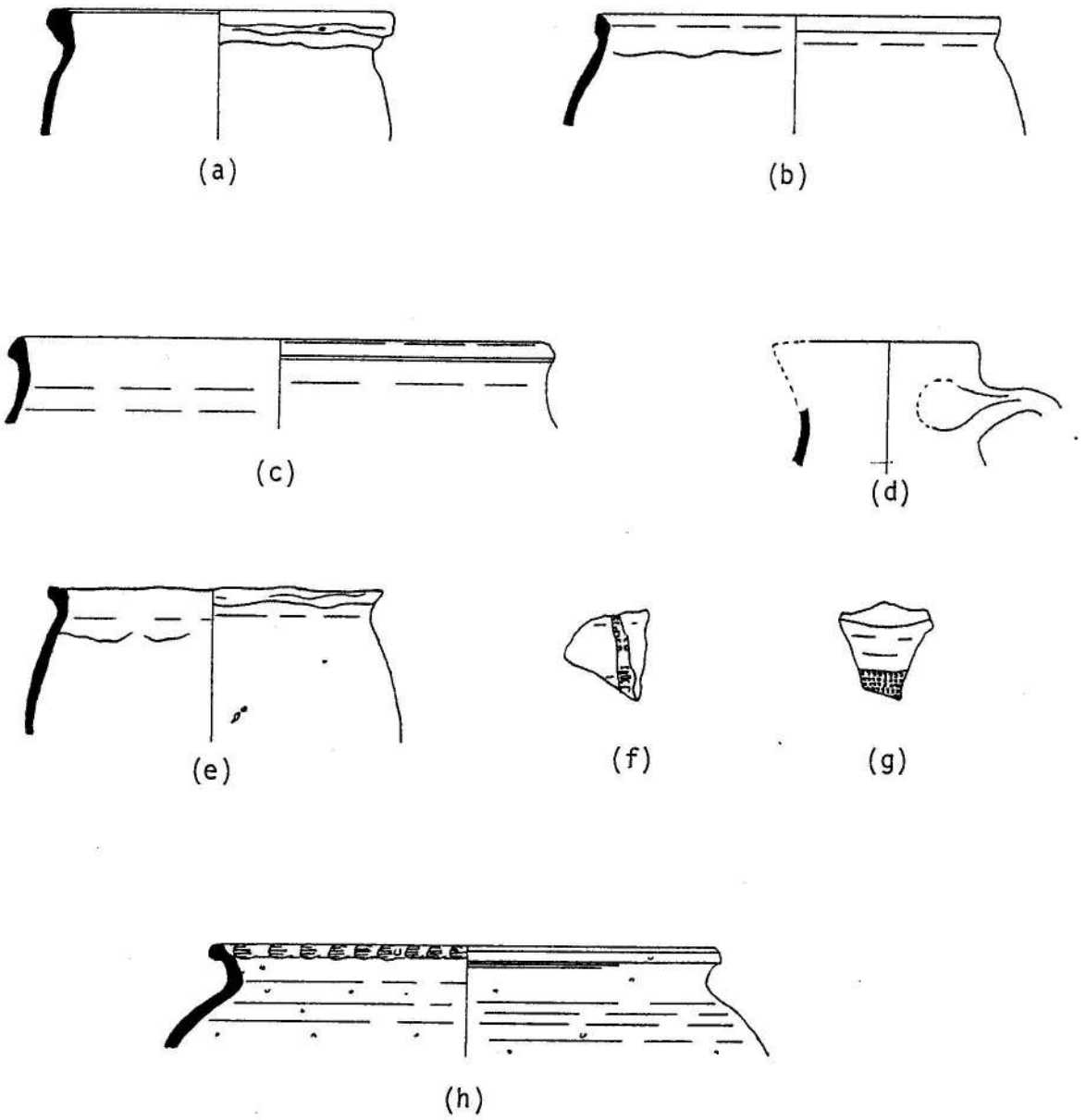
A number of Roman sherds have been found, including one mortaria sherd. It is well known that most medieval sites will provide at least two or three Roman pieces, but at Long Whatton this number is increasing to a point which could suggest earlier occupation.

No floor tiles have been found but a large quantity of ceramic ridge tiles have come to light in the roof debris and these are discussed under 'Building Materials'.

BUILDING MATERIALS

The house on the site was built on a foundation of water-worn cobbles, laid on a very thin layer of sand. No trace of foundation trenches has been found. Two main types of stone were used in the construction of the building - a fine sandstone and pieces of volcanic stone from the Charnwood Forest area.

The remaining walling survives to four or five courses and we can only



(a) Fine gritted grey/brown sandy ware. Hand made with wheel turned rim.

(b) Grey/buff sandy ware with large inclusions. Hand made with wheel turned rim.

(c) Buff sandy ware, no glaze apparent.

(d) Orange/buff sandy ware. Dark green glaze. Stabbed handle.

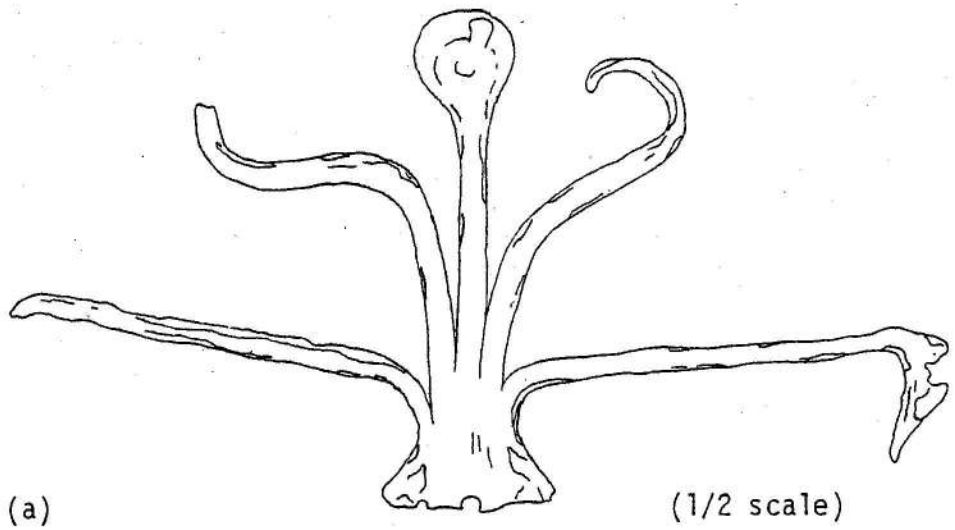
(e) Dark grey sandy ware with large inclusions. Hand made with wheel turned rim.

(f) Sandy ware with applied strip decoration. Green glaze on pale grey body.

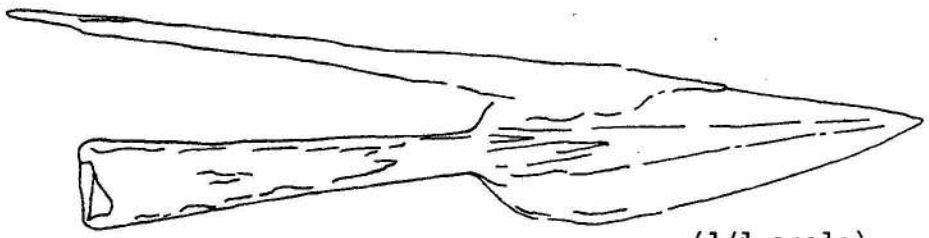
(g) Shoulder of green glazed orange/buff sandy ware. Rouletted decoration.

(h) Brown corky ware with soapy feel. Thumb-impressed decoration of rim.

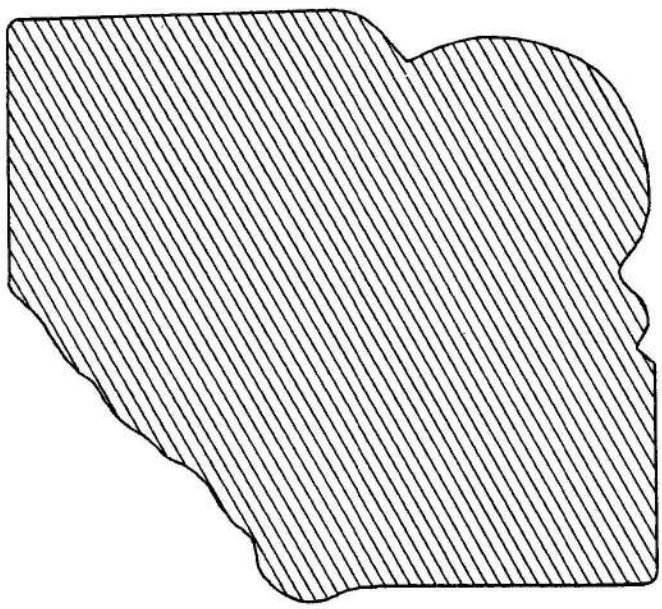
Fig.8. Pottery



(a) (1/2 scale)

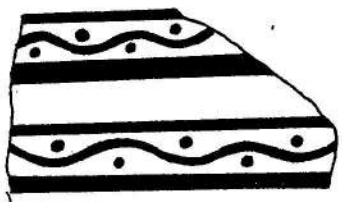


(b) (1/1 scale)



(c) (1/4 scale)

(d) (x 2 scale)



(e) (1/1 sc

(a) Drawing from X-ray of wrought iron object from Room IV.
(b) Drawing from X-ray of iron spearhead and associated object from Yard.
(c) Sandstone moulding, probably from door frame.
(d) Gilt-bronze pendant from Room III.
(e) Stained glass fragment from Gatehouse area, showing 'border' type of decoration.

Fig.9. Stone and metal objects

speculate as to the superstructure. No evidence has been found for a timber structure with wattle and daub infilling and we must assume that the walls were completely built of stone. This will be discussed further at a later date.

The roof was constructed of Forest stone slates, analysis of which to determine standard sizes has proved difficult due to the brittleness of the stone, resulting in incomplete slates. The slates were basically rectangular trimmed to a triangle at the top with a single perforation. A small quantity of Swithland slates has been found, mainly on the east side of the site, these probably representing later repairs. The quantity of rusted nails in the roof debris would suggest that this was the standard method of attachment of the tiles to the laths, rather than wooden pegs.

The roof was capped by ceramic ridge tiles, much as Victorian roofs were capped by decorated tiles that can still be found in the area. The medieval forms from Whatton were either decorated with knife-cut pyramids or applied loops, the former glazed with a dark brown glaze and the latter with various green glazes. The looped tiles were made from ¼" thick slabs of clay, 18" square which were moulded over wooden formers with three loops pressed on to the crest of the tile. Only one example has been found of a double loop attached to the body of the tile by a peg. The knife-cut forms were also made from 18" squares of clay but had been chamfered on the lower inside edges and at each end.

No evidence has been found for flooring materials apart from the simple clay floor in Room 3 and the small area of pebble floor in Room 1.

The only evidence of window glass has come from the gatehouse area where lead cames and stained glass fragments would suggest a possible chapel.

DISCUSSION

We are now in a position to begin to consider the basic development of the site and its relationship with other sites of a similar type in the local area. By examination of the structure of the house it would appear that Room 2 may have been the original focus of the site. This may have been either a single storey building or have been constructed with an upper room as suggested by the presence of a possible stair base. Room 3 was certainly later, being butt-jointed up to Room 2. Room 4, being so much larger, could have replaced Room 2 as the focus of the buildings at some time after the construction of Room 2 - the dating of which depending upon ceramic evidence. The pottery of this period is extremely difficult to date with sufficient accuracy as to render its evidence potentially insubstantial. What is very clear, however, is that Room 1 was a later addition, the N. wall being butt-jointed in between Rooms 2 and 4. By considering the type of building material used, it would appear that sandstone was used in the earlier phases of the building, with Forest stone being used for later additions. On this evidence, the gatehouse area, as at present revealed, represents a later phase of building than Rooms 2, 3 and 4. The presence of a greater number of knife-cut ridge tiles would also suggest a later date for these areas. A greater number of Swithland slates also came from this area, although insufficient in number to represent the remains of an entire roof. The quarries of Swithland were not mentioned in documentary evidence until 1343 (1).

It is unfortunate that, at this time, we have no historical evidence for the site. We can establish that it was deserted in the first half of the sixteenth century by the total lack of later pottery. However, the reasons for this desertion are not yet apparent and are worthy of further study.

The only positive dating evidence to have been found on this site - the

long cross silver penny, was found on the edge of a rubbish trench, within Room 4. The dating of this coin cannot be absolutely accurate due to damage but it was minted in London between 1302 and 1310. The presence of this coin however, does imply that the site was occupied some time after this date but gives no indication of how long it had been settled. This point will have to be determined by a close examination of the pottery.

We can now say, with some degree of certainty, that the site was in fact a manorial one. The presence of a carved stone door frame, the use of stone slates for roofing, and the stained glass window would all point to a house of some importance. This site may well have been one of two manors in the village. Place name evidence would certainly point to this, the farm adjacent to the church being known as Manor Farm and the farm on the corner of Kegworth Lane being called Manor House Farm.

The site is one of a series of 12 moated sites in North West Leicestershire. (2) One of these moats - Belton, is of Iron Age date and one on the Forest at Copt Oak is of the motte and bailey type. Of the remaining homestead moats, Bardon, Staunton Harold, Stordon Grange, Holywell Hall, Moat Farm, Horsepool Grange and Donington le Heath still have buildings upon them. Only Breedon and Bradgate moats are totally abandoned - Breedon covered by trees and Bradgate by bracken. However, the most interesting site in relation to Whatton is that at Donington le Heath. This site has been in continuous occupation since the late thirteenth century, purchased by the County Council in 1966 and restored as nearly as possible to its late medieval state. The site was partially excavated in 1970. (3) This site offers at least the most basic comparison with Long Whatton. Both sites contained buildings of stone - the Donington house utilising quoins in a totally stone structure whilst that at Whatton must to some extent remain conjectural. Certainly no traces of quoins have been found but this would not be surprising in view of the amount of stone robbing that has taken place. The basic plan of the buildings is similar in that a number of rooms are contiguous and arranged around a courtyard, which, in the case of Whatton, has not yet been fully defined. The rooms are also of similar size in both cases. It is not possible to compare roofing materials closely but excavation has shown that Donington also utilised ceramic ridge tiles at one stage, although the remaining fragments are too small in many cases to permit reconstruction.

In terms of dating, Ann Dornier proposes a date of 1280 for the standing structure of the house, although this represents the later of two phases of building. It is highly probable that these two houses were close contemporaries but for some reason, Donington continued to be occupied until the present. A comparison of the pottery from both sites will be discussed in the final report on the Whatton site.

Work will continue at Long Whatton during 1981 and we are hoping to finish in the autumn. We are hoping to investigate the causeway to determine whether or not it was contemporary with the house or merely a later addition. The problem of the relationship between the house and the moat will be explored more fully. The sections across the site would suggest that the upcast from the moat was spread over the entire platform and further attempts will be made to locate any evidence of this beneath the building. We are also hoping to complete work on the gatehouse area and its relationship to the moat and causeway.

Finally, our thanks are offered to Lord Crawshaw for his patience in allowing us to occupy an area of his land for so long. Thanks are also due to all the members of the Society who have worked so hard on their Saturday afternoons to enable me to write this all too brief report.

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SOME SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF LOUGHBOROUGH

Bernard Elliott

The original sources for the study of the history of Loughborough are very good indeed and of these three in particular are important: the parish registers, the churchwarden's accounts and the bridgemasters' records. In 1538 Thomas Cromwell ordered the clergy to enter in a book all the weddings, baptisms and burials that took place in their parishes.[1] These first entries were actually made on paper. Then sixty years later Queen Elizabeth I ordered future entries to be made upon parchment and the former entries to be copied out on parchment as well.[2] But many clerics at that time, instead of copying out the old entires, simply threw them away. Fortunately, this did not happen at Loughborough, thanks to the master of the Grammar School at that time, John Dawson, who took it upon himself to copy out the entries of the paper register into the new parchment one. This fact Dawson himself recorded in the parish register on 13 May 1540: "John Dawsone The sonne of Henry Dawsone bapt. the iii day of May. This John Dawsone did coppye and writte out this booke oute of the ould paper booke when he was of the age of Threscore and one yeares and at that tyme had been scolemaster of the Grammar Scole in Loughborowe XXXVi yeares."[3] Dawson was not content merely to copy out entries: he drew a pointing index finger to mark items relating to important local people, such as Sir George Hastings who lived in the Manor House, and he made little drawings in the margin to illustrate other entries. Thus, in 1592, he made this entry: "John Goodwyn being a mercer and grocer in London did gyve XL buckettes of Lether m^{ch}are" and on either side of the entry he drew little mohair buckets.[4]

Dawson entered not only the baptisms, marriages and deaths of Loughborough people in the late sixteenth century but also anything of importance that occurred at that time. For example, on 13 January 1552 a gale did damage to the parish church and Dawson's entry recording that event he gave partly in Latin and partly in English: "Hoc die fuit ingens ventus qui eversit sex pyramides in summa Campanalis..The great wynd that blewe downe the pynacles of the church." The entry for June 1551 is a reminder that plague was an ever present threat to our Tudor ancestors: "The Swatt, called New acquayntance alias Stoupe, knave and know thy master, began the iii of this month 1551." There follow the names of nineteen people who died of the plague in six days. In 1558 there was a more violent outbreak which broke out in June and continued until the following June and by the side of the entry Dawson wrote: "Noote that from Midsomer in a^{o} 1558 until Midsomer in a^{o} 1559 ther was Buried fourteyn score and fifteyn 295 of all sorts of Deiseases and Sicness."[5]

Another sad entry in the register was the death of Agnes Elam. She was sitting in a neighbour's house when she was killed by a thunder clap.[6] Another dismal entry occurs on 20 August 1579 when we read that Roger Sheppard, stepson of Nicholas Woolands, was slain by a lioness which was brought into the town to be seen of such as would give money to see her. Roger was sorely wounded in sundry places so that he died and was buried XXi August 1579. The unfortunate Roger was merely a boy of six when presumably he strayed too near the cage and suffered this cruel fate.[7]

The parish register indicates that some Loughborough people lived to a ripe old age in the sixteenth century. Agnes Smith "maid unmarried" lived to be one hundred and eleven - by the side of her death Dawson wrote "Rara avis in terris."[8]

Mistress Brigethurtt, a widow, lived to be 96 and by the entry of her death Dawson wrote: "A good ould mother, succour to a great number of poore people; her dethe was bewayled of mannye people."[9] An interesting entry concerned Symon Bryant: he married Johan Osman on 9 April 1578 but within a week was imprisoned in the Bridewell prison in London "Because he had married the mother of this woman being alyve, and now by false and unlawful meanes his wifes daughter, contrary to the law of God."[10]

Thus, Loughborough parish registers, now deposited in the Leicestershire Record Office, are an important source for a study of Loughborough's history. Also deposited in the same record office are the churchwarden's accounts, another important source for the town's history. The office of churchwarden goes right back to the Middle Ages and as time went on it became customary for the vestry to elect two churchwardens at its Easter meeting - a rector's warden and the people's warden.[11] From the accounts we can see that the brass lectern in the parish church was well looked after, for payments were made on many occasions for scouring the eagle. Then in 1639 the sum of £1 14s. was paid to Thomas Sewell 'for painting the stone the eagle stands on.'[12] Preaching was clearly thirsty work and visiting preachers slaked their thirst not merely with water or even beer but with wine. In September 1681, Mr. Colburne preached in All Saints' Church, for which the churchwarden gave him a quart of wine costing 2/4d.[13] In 1684, the churchwarden paid 2/4d. to Mr. Bunney, the Loughborough wine merchant, for a bottle of wine to give to Mr. Reaner when he preached.[14] Parson Knight did better than Mr. Reaner in the following year: the wine he quaffed cost 3/2d.[15] In 1707 Mr. Hill preached twice and so received two bottles of wine, costing 4/6d.[16]

From time to time the churchwardens made grants of money to people in need: thus, in 1601, they paid to "lame souldiars and hospitalls xxxs.iiiid." and in 1650 they gave to an Irish woman and three children 6d.[17] In 1660, they collected 5/- "towards the ransome of Captain John Linsey who at present remains prisoner to the Turks" and in 1685 they gave 1/6d. "to a Germane haveing great losses at sea, being cast upon Scotland shore."[18] Another task the churchwardens undertook was the supervision of people's conduct. Thus, in 1637, they charged Bowet Stabley 1/- for swearing and Robbert Kettle 1d. for being drunk. Clearly, they regarded swearing a greater sin than getting drunk. This suggestion is confirmed by a fine of 8/- which was levied on Robert Hutchinson for "swearing and oathes."[19]

But by far the most important source for Loughborough's history are the records connected with the town's unique officer - the bridgemaster.

In the late Middle Ages, Tudor and Stuart times, one main road from London to the North came through Northampton, Welford, Leicester and Loughborough. In Loughborough it turned east and crossed the river Soar over the bridge at Cotes, which was one of the largest bridges in the kingdom, possessing nearly fifty arches and its maintenance had an important bearing upon the town's history. First of all, it gave rise to the unique office of bridgemaster, who for over five hundred years was the main official in Loughborough. As his title indicates, his main duty was to maintain the Cotes bridge, which cost a considerable sum of money; and he got the necessary money not by levying tolls on those who used it but from the rents of various properties in and around Loughborough belonging to the town estate. How the town estate acquired this property is difficult to say: the process is lost in the mists of time. But certainly by 1332 Loughborough had a bridgemaster whose main job was to provide the stone from Charnwood Forest and the lime from Barrow-upon-Soar for the repair of the bridge.[20]

In course of time the many bridgemasters to occupy that post produced several types of records. First in time and importance are the Account Books[21] which vividly illustrate the vast range of services provided to the town by them. The first

account book runs from 1570-1597 and is numbered on the front cover "No. 68" and the words "The Bridgemasters Booke" preceded by the initials I.D. which presumably stand for John Dawson, whose vigorous hand is discernible in many entries. The writing in the book is beautifully done and the paper, which has been exposed to damp and stained at some time, is handmade pure rag in a laid mould and contains a watermark in the form of a jug.[22] After the initial volume, there are five more account books, 1603-1677; 1679-1732; 1733-1764; 1796-1827 and 1827-1860. The following extract taken from the third account book for the year 1682-3 shows the kind of work the bridgemaster did for Loughborough: (that year the bridgemaster was Bartholomew Hickling, the founder of the future Loughborough College School.)[23]

	£	s	d
Imprimis paid Mr Bladen his half years stipend for Lady Day 1682	7	0	0
Given John Plant eld^{r}		1	0
Pd Mr Bunneys when we mett		1	4
Pd Mr Summervile his half years stipend for Lady Day 1682.	15	0	0
Pd to Tho. Clemerson, Jo Hornburkle for work ab^{t} the Bridges		16	0
Pd to James Capp for two bulls	4	6	8
Pd more for the bulls fetching		2	4
Given to Abram Nuton's boy about clothing him to putt him to trade		10	0
Given to Thos. Clark to drink when he paid his rent			3
Given to Fred James being sicke		1	0
Pd for two bulls hay for a fortnight		6	0
Pd Pim, Hornbuckle and Clemerson for work done at the Bridges		14	0
Given to Richard Abell's wife			6
Pd to Jo. Wood and Fra. Turner for work done at the Bridges		8	9
Pd to Jo Wood " " " " " " " Bridges more		8	6
Pd Thomas Haine for mending the common plough		2	0
Pd to Mr. Robinson for a wagon load of coals fetching to drink		2	8
Pd for carrying them in the schole			7

From the above entries it is clear that the bridgemaster had four main duties to perform: first of all, he had to look after the maintenance of the Grammar School, which included the payment of the staff's salaries and the heating of the school. In 1683 the master, who was paid £30 p.a., was one of the most famous masters of L.G.S., John Somervile who in his will left money to provide exhibitions at Jesus College, Cambridge, for boys from the school, a benefit still in use.[24] The usher in 1683 was William Bladen, who received £14 p.a. and who was a long-serving member of staff, being at the school from 1671 to 1702.[25] Possibly, however, the bridgemaster's main duty was to keep in good repair the long bridge at Cotes and the entries show how keenly Hickling carried out this aspect of his work. Seventeenth century Loughborough was still largely dependent upon agriculture and so the bridgemaster provided a common plough for his fellow townsmen. He also provided several bulls for them, which suggests that the farmers of the area knew something about selective breeding long before Robert Bakewell appeared on the scene. Many are the entries indeed in the account books relating to the purchase, feeding and treatment of the town's bulls. The importance of apprenticeship at the time is well shown and there are many entries in the account books relating to the clothing of boys about to be apprentices. Finally, the bridgemaster was always willing to help poor people and Loughborough had its own health service as early as the seventeenth century.

As well as the account books the bridgemasters kept memorandum books, only one of which has survived, that for the years from 1736 to 1773.[26] The entries in it relate entirely to education in Loughborough and show how the Burton Charity was introducing in the eighteenth century an elementary type of education into the Grammar School. It also shows what happened to a schoolmaster at that time who disagreed with the school trustees over the subjects to be taught in it - he was promptly dismissed.

From 1795 to 1819 the bridgemasters kept an order book and the following extract shows the kind of petitions addressed to them and the replies;

PETITIONS	ORDERS
1795 May 2nd. George Tacher and wife request the trustees for some clothes for some shifting for their children. The said George is very ill. They have four children.	Not allowed
May 8th. Widow Basford wishes for a Bible and Testament in a larger print.	Allowed the Bible and Testament for the use of the school.
May 27th. John Bombroff requests the trustees to pay a year's rent due Lady Day last two pounds six children.	Not allowed
May 27th. Jacob Hickling wants two dozen of catechism books for the use of the children of the under school.	Ordered.
June 23rd. Fra.Warner and wife hope the trustees will grant them some assistance having a family of six children which they cannot maintain without some assistance.	Allowed 5/- for the present and to give further assistance, if necessary.

These entries in the order book show that the trustees of the Burton Charity, for whom the bridgemaster acted, dealt with petitions from poor people and from the school teachers of the day. Widow Basford was mistress of the Hickling School for girls and Jacob Hickling was the usher of that section of the Grammar School, now entirely devoted to elementary education and called the low or under school. From these few entries it is clear that tremendous poverty existed at this time in Loughborough, the era of the Napoleonic Wars, and that the trustees were not over generous to their poorer fellows.

Thus, the parish registers, the churchwarden's accounts and the bridgemasters' records indicate that the material for a study of Loughborough's past are very good indeed. So it should not be long before some student, realising the wealth of original evidence at his disposal, does for Loughborough what Dr. Hoskins did some years ago for Wigston[27] - write its definitive history.

NOTES

1. W.E. Tate, The Parish Chest, (1960), p.44.
2. ibid., p.45.
3. A. White, A History of Loughborough Endowed Schools, (1969) p.37.
4. ibid., p.40.
5. ibid., p.41.

6. ibid.
7. ibid., p.42.
8. ibid.
9. ibid.
10. ibid., p.41.
11. Tate, op.cit., p.84.
12. H.W. Cook, Bygone Loughborough, (1934), p.114.
13. ibid.
14. ibid.
15. ibid.
16. ibid.
17. ibid., p.115.
18. ibid.
19. ibid., p.116.
20. White, op.cit., p.76.
21. Leicestershire Record Office, DE664/
22. White, op.cit., p.61.
23. B. Elliott, The History of Loughborough College School, (1971), p.7.
24. White, op.cit., p.103.
25. ibid., p.107.
26. Leicestershire Record Office, DE 664/31.
27. W.G. Hoskins, The Midland Peasant, (1957).

The Society's Activities

1979

May 4	Snowshill Manor	P. Greaves
June 2	Members Evening	
June 9	Ironbridge	I.J.E. Keil, B.A., Ph.D.
July 21	Uffington	J. Buckeridge
Aug. 4	Tewkesbury	J. Stretton
Sept. 1	Grantham	J. Brownlow
Oct. 6	Woodland History	A.E. Squires
Nov. 3	Stone Axes: a prehistoric industry	T.H. McClough, M.A., A.M.A.
Dec. 1	The development of map-making in England	H. Nichols, M.A., F.L.A.

1980

Jan 5	Members Evening	
Feb. 2	Industrial Archaeology	J.G. Ollé, M.A., F.L.A.
March 1	Recent work at Nottingham Castle	G.J. Drage, B.A.
March 29	A.G.M.	
May 3	Liverpool	I.J.E. Keil, B.A., Ph.D.
June 7	Members Evening	
June 14	Bury St. Edmunds	T. Sparling
July 26	Dorchester	J. Buckeridge
Aug. 16	Buckinghamshire	G. Lowe
Sept. 6	Hereford	J. Stretton
Oct. 4	Development of Castles	J. Werrell, B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.E.E.
Nov. 1	The Excavation of a Roman Villa in Leicester	Jean E. Mellor, B.A.
Dec. 13	Industrial Archaeology in Leicestershire	R. Bracegirdle

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Jan. 3	Members Evening	
Feb. 7	Field systems and enclosures	Prof. R.A. Butlin. M.A., F.R.G.S.
Mar. 7	The Archaeology of Mongolian Nomads	Miss M. Shackley, B.A., Ph.D. F.G.S., F.R.G.S.
April 4	A.G.M.	