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Preliminary Work, undertaken June, July, August.

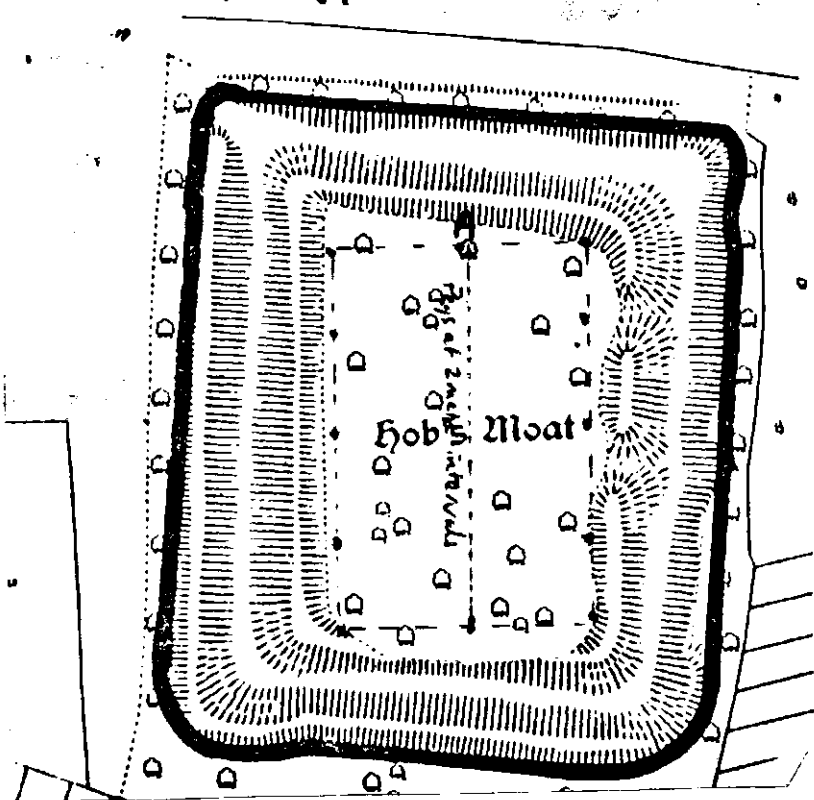
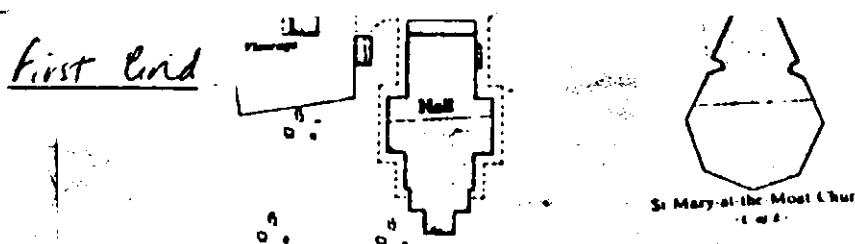
During this period the Department of Geology at Birmingham University undertook resistivity and proton magnetometer surveys of the site, in conjunction with myself. Dr Ron Barker, senior departmental lecturer, arranged for this, providing research student P. V. Pancharathan of the Centre for Earth Science Studies, Kerala, India, for the purpose. Mr Pancharathan is primarily a hydrologist but he has a keen interest in the behaviour of resistivity / proton magnetometer devices in archaeological contexts. He shares this with Dr. Barker.

Pancharathan's findings were in due course presented to the university as the results of his Commonwealth-funded period of study in a paper entitled

where he investigated several archaeological sites and discussed the interpretation of the readings obtained. Subsequently the sections of his report relevant to H6b^{Moat} were forwarded on to the project, and we have two copies of this edited version. A full version of his paper is retained by the university, I would imagine at the Department of Geology.

The surveys were undertaken using as a basis a grid laid out for the purpose in early June. Marked out with wooden pegs it consisted of a centre line / base line with pegs at 2 metre intervals. This was 80 metres long. A rectangle 48 metres wide was developed from this setting pegs at the corners and at 20 metre intervals along the 2 long sides. The long ~~side~~^{axis} of the rectangle was roughly north/south aligned with the long axis of the moat. For the purpose of

archaeological research the accuracy of this grid was insufficient being laid out with a surveyor's telescope (the mounting of which was somewhat worn); but for the requirements of readings taken at 2×2 metre intervals it was entirely adequate. Later this first grid was replaced by a second grid laid out by Gary Taylor using a theodolite. More or less coinciding with the first grid, the degree of accuracy now obtained ensured that many ~~or~~ most of the pegs were relocated to some extent.



The base line ('200' line) of the second grid is in effect a corrected version of this first grid, using point A as the start. This is 200/200.

N.B. Resistivity / proton magnetometer maps use first grid exclusively.

16th September to 10th October.

Survey in plan of the earthwork, accomplished using first grid, measuring to any part of the earthwork by means of points extended from rectangle. Measurements taken with linen tapes.

The survey positioned all the trees on the earthwork and identified them by species. The majority were found to be the common oak, *Quercus robur*, while the second species in abundance was discovered to be the sessile oak, *Q. petraea*. There were comparatively few of these. On the earthwork itself only one other species of tree was represented — the Spanish chestnut, *Castanea sativa*. The two examples of these were obviously artificial plantings.

11th October.

Visit to Solihull Enterprise Agency, Phoenixley Wood, to reclaim theodolite, sent back to them yesterday as being no longer required. The property of Solihull M. Borough Council, we have however discovered that the Agency's surveyor's theodolite is substantially inaccurate — so we decided to reclaim the theodolite as a Emporary substitute. Having missed it at the Agency I hurried along to the Council Offices in central Solihull where I met Mr Perkins of the Surveyor's Department (Technical Services, I guess); a kind man he lent me a theodolite and a Dumpy level. I promised to return them soon.

Also while I was there I enquired after geological maps and the like, and met Mr Stokes of the town planning dept. Mr Stokes is well disposed to our

dig and greatly interested, as too are all the other borough officers whom I met today. There are geological maps - I saw them, at 4 inches to the mile; and the surveyors and town planners have other maps and the like which could be of interest to us.

12th, 13th October.

Weekend.

14th October

To the central police station in Solihull in the morning where I handed in an 'horrendous collection of offensive weapons collected from the site', as I said to the duty desk officer. He was non-plussed and asked under what category we should record the five cutlery knives, one crossbow flight and one crossbow bolt, since he thought his senior officers might find the recording of the collection as originally suggested somewhat excessive. I saw his point and we mutually agreed that lost property might be the most appropriate designation. "And where did you say they came from?", he said. I replied, "I told you, Hobbs Moat Ancient Monument." "But that's a big area", he demanded - "Hobbs Moat". "You'll have to say where the monument is". Somehow this seemed to me to encapsulate previous attitudes to the earthwork. I sighed.

Thereafter I went to the central library and did some archive work. I recorded all entries on the catalogue for Olton Hall, Olton, Hobbs Moat, Ulverley, and

Odeneil, but I found nothing here, in these, that was not known to me previously. I examined, too, Solihull Place-Names by Jay Woodall and Mothie Varley, which I found to be a most excellent survey - comprehensive, well researched and well written. I noted reiteration all entries and comments immediately relevant to our work.

During this work I met Mrs Susan Bates, local studies librarian of the library. Aware of who I was and the project, I was not given initially a very encouraging response - though Mrs Bates was not uncivil. After a while our conversation became a great deal easier, even developing warmth, but not before I had realised that the difficulty was with the reputation of the community programme, as such, and in particular Solihull Enterprise Agency. I believe ~~that~~ Mrs Bates was very averse to find out that we were not going to pilfer the ancient monument and indulge in an antiquarian expedition justified because of present unemployment problems, and I think that from now on she will give us every assistance she can.

15th October.

A quiet day - general work on site. Gary has come up with something very interesting which appeals to me greatly. Reading British Archaeological Reports 121 - 'Meated sites of north-west Europe' in a section right at the end he has encountered the term 'hoggs werf', which is a local word in Zeeland for a meat. In 1656 Dugdale gives the name of our site as Hoggs Meate end we know

of course that the de Oddingseller family came from Flanders. It is tempting to see something in this. It is certainly far better than deriving, as Dugdale does, ~~the~~ Hogg from Ogginsel (sic), which seems most forced, and it is infinitely preferable to other derivations, such as seeing the devil in the word Hob!

16th October

Today I levelled two areas, one preparatory to open area excavation:

17th October

Work began on stripping area H.M.1 of leaf mould 14 metres by 5 metres completed today, on the western side of the area.

I have also been able to consult a Middle English dictionary in pursuit of words like Hogg or Hogg, and I have discovered a number of possibilities. The most likely seemed ~~to be~~ a word hōga or hōge which means a hill or a mound. In the plural this would be hills or mounds which is a least coincidental since I have heard the moat referred to in recent times as 'mounds'. So I think there is a very good chance that the name of the moat is a fossil Middle English term for the moat - which suggests that the abandoned appearance which it gives today, of mounds, is of some antiquity. Very interesting.

18th, 21st, 22nd October (weekend 19th & 20th)

Further leaf mould stripped from H.M.1. Completed on October 22nd. All over the leaf mould was very shallow: of the order of 5cms

23rd, 24th October

Surface exposed by stripping leaf mould in H.M.1 trowelled and cleaned up. We think it is a final plough soil (I'm want of a better term), which has been much disturbed by root activity and, in recent times, here and there, by illicit digging activities - in particular there is a depression caused by the bottom of a large hole dug by the local children on the site last year. The layer does not appear at this stage to contain any archaeological features. Having worked exhaustively for two days, and having reasonable lighting conditions, at 3.45 p.m. today, Oct 24th, we photographed the layer. Gary Taylor took the photographs.

October 25th.

A shallow slit trench 12 metres long by 1 metre wide was dug today in H.M.1 to examine the next layer down. This was encountered at between 5 and 10 centimetres below the plough soil surface.

It is a hard stoney layer which appears yellow (orange in places) at one end of the trench and yellowy grey with stones at the other end. Throughout it is heavily compacted and hard to penetrate.

Midway along the surface as it appears in the trench there are patches of daub and charcoal. Some of the former appears burnt.

The dividing line between the yellow and the yellowy grey seems quite positive and is perhaps something to be considered closely in the immediate future.

28th October (26th and 27th weekend)

This morning Gray and I on separate occasions contemplated the section through the plough soil layer and we both became rather concerned lest it may have an archaeological significance which we have perhaps missed. In the circumstances we have decided to err on the side of the caution. We set the team to cleaning out the root disturbances in the greatest detail possible to see if anything might just appear; but so far there has been no suggestion that the top of the layer contains anything at all. Gray's worry however is that we have overcut the trench through an archaeological context in the bottom of this layer. In that I must say I share his concern; the same thought has occurred to me. This is going to be a long job.

N.B. I forgot to record ^{that} on Tuesday 22nd October ~~that~~ we had our first small finds — two clay pipe bowls. They were found in the leaf mould. Both are well preserved, one being a common 19th century type (I would say). The other typologically looks to belong to the period 1640-1680; it is marked BN.

29th October

Further clearing of the 'plough soil' layer. The removal of the root disturbance is beginning to make it look like a cheese or as if it has had giant maggots in it at some stage. It has become a strange sight.

The plough soil matrix now seems in part to contain small particles of carbon and little bits of maroon clay, sometimes itself apparently burned. It is possible that this has come up from below because of root activity.

By the late afternoon about 6x5 metres had been cleaned.

30th October

Further of the same, but so far the clearing of the 'plough' surface has shown nothing but root disturbance and occasional colour changes. These seem to be the consequence of lenticular areas in the layer, which may perhaps be explained by the material having been dumped and spread. The layer does not seem to have been 'ploughed', as such.

31st October

We have decided that this apparently meaningless pattern at the top of the 'plough soil' should be plotted ^{and} drawn; this of course is the absolutely correct thing to do, if very time consuming - and uncomfortable at this time of the year! It will be a mind-numbing exercise. By the afternoon enough of the surface had been cleaned to allow

me to grid out an area 7 metres x 6 metres
preparatory for drawing, which I shall begin tomorrow.

November 1st

Some more of the area was prepared today, and I started drawing. I was not very impressed with my efforts: the root activity, presented by hachuring, dominated the whole plan, seeming to drown out everything else. I will persevere on Monday, weather permitting.

November 2nd, 3rd

Weekend.

November 4th

Today I drew some more metre squares of the prepared area and I find I enjoyed myself quite a lot: I am not much of an artist but I can rise to a certain minimal standard of draftmanship (who talked about that - Wheeler, Hogg? Whoever it was made the point that basic draftmanship - drawing as the eye sees - that is, a discipline - counts for as much as artistic skills. I know what he means). At the end of the day, Eray seemed not unimpressed, for he pronounced it 'pretty good'. Come from an absolute perfectionist, if ever I met one, this is praise indeed.

November 5th

The same as yesterday but now I am receiving assistance

for I am training them to draw. Today it was the turn of Frances Connolly and Fakrah Mir to receive the benefit of my wisdom. He made quite respectable progress.

Both are competent drawers, particularly Fakrah, but she is rather temperamental and rather given to moods. Today she was rather burdened down by the weather, which I must admit was rather foul: it is blew all day and sometimes seemed as dark as doom.

November 6th.

The alternate team, the so-called A team, started back today (the teams change every Wednesday - A team, B team, A team and so on) and so I had to find more candidates for drawing duties. I chose Josey Chinery, Christopher Birch and Martin Tuck. All three did a good job during the day, and we made excellent progress.

November 7th

Today we carried on drawing but Stuart required a change of personnel. He asked me to take young Nigel Douglas, somewhat of a nuisance bather on the site, in exchange for Josey, who spent all day typing. I of course disagreed, but Stuart replied that he wanted more to learn to draw, not just a small group who might be most easily trained.

As usual I had put my foot in my mouth for when I got the offensive Douglas to draw, whom I doubted could sign his name unless unusually motivated, it turned out that he was very quick and with a good

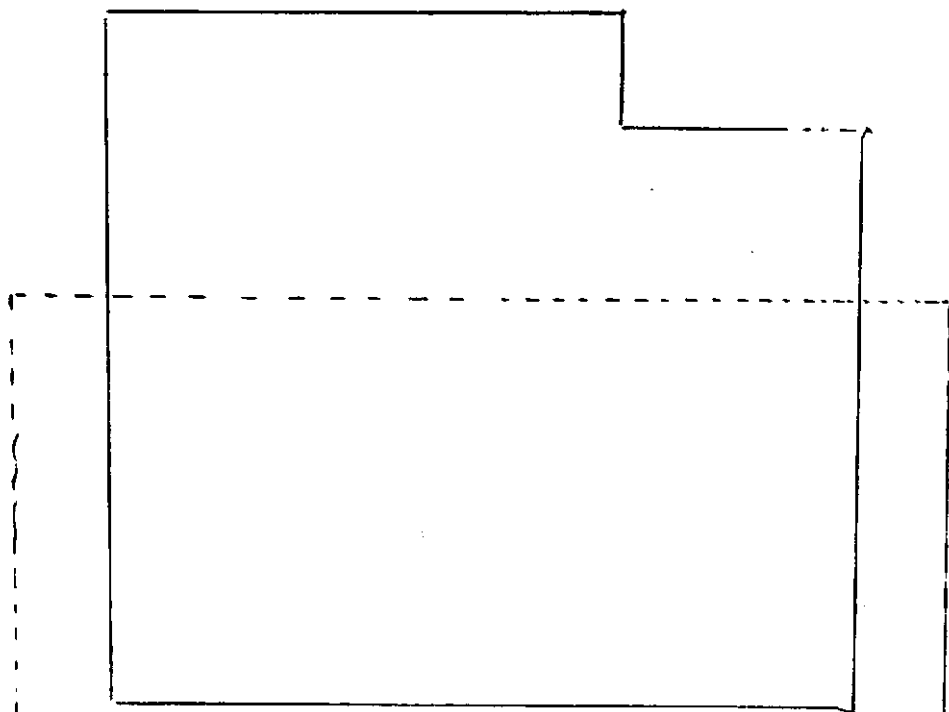
^{grasp} ~~the~~ for detail and what is required. In no time he had demonstrated that he has a considerable eye for draftmanship. I was suitably humbled.

November 8th.

More drawing today, but at least the end is in sight, because Stuart has determined that he wants to take the plough layer up on Monday. I am considerably relieved, and excited at the thought of getting on.

We persevered with the drawing throughout the morning and into the afternoon and by 2.00 p.m., finishing time on Fridays, we had almost completed the task. There are about 12 square metres to do on Monday if it is held necessary to completely finish this exercise.

Summary of H.M. 180 Par, to November 8th



November 9th, 10th

Weekend. I was amazed to see on Sunday morning that it had snowed overnight. This seems very early in the winter to me for such weather. I hope it is not a foretaste

November 24th - Sunday.

I have been very remiss lately with my note-keeping. The reason is simply pressure of work - the site, other affairs, and renovation work at home which has been going on for weeks now. I am rather tired, and very guilty that I had to let my diary lapse; but I really, finally, had no alternative. I console myself with that thought, but feel very uncomfortable in it.

The site continues to develop very well and exceedingly interestingly. The weather has closed in over the last few days (frost, sleet, rain and so on) and this difficulty has been compounded by falling leaves. But before this the drawing of area 1 had been completed and the top of the plough layer, over the part of H.M. 1 currently being dug, had been taken off; this showed very distinct archaeological features in the layer below (? is just above the stoney layer): burning, burnt daub, 'tram lines', possible post holes. All told, it looks as if we are in the vicinity of a building - confirming, perhaps, a suggestion of this in the magnetometer survey.

About ten days ago, when taking ^{upper levels of the} the 'plough' layer off, one of our employees, Martin McDavid, far from being the ~~next~~ obviously most sharp-sighted digger in our midst, brought the proceedings temporarily to a halt when he asked me, quite casually, whether two pieces of dark, earthy, woody-looking material in

in his hands might be pottery. I couldn't believe it; I almost jumped on him with indecent haste - for these cottage little objects were really pottery, the first medieval ware to be found on the site not absolutely without context. I was surprised that anyone would have seen them in a stripping operation; I congratulate Martin most heartily on his attention to the job.

The two pieces of pottery are a rim - of perhaps quite a shallow vessel - and a small piece of a pot body. They are both made from the same fabric, which is a thin, brownish ~~dark~~ ware with a somewhat gritty aspect. It seems to bespeak a quality use ~~for the fabric~~, since ^{the fabric} it is not really at all coarse. Perhaps it is a domestic ware. A late thirteenth / early fourteenth century date has been suggested for it - though I want to know more about it first before I settle on any particular conclusion.

January 6th, 1986

The last entry summarises my discomfort at a break in my recording of events. The reason is the same this time but I venture that the lacuna is not great since we have in fact made slow progress on the site, not least because the weather has been against us a great deal over the last few weeks and because the festive season has intervened. It is now the depth of winter; I rather doubt that any archaeological site would expect to make progress at this time, if one is working! The current state of progress is:

H.M. 1. November was spent taking off the upper part of the 'plough soil' layer ~~the~~ (about the top two thirds

down to a context somewhat above - or very close to - the stoney layer. We may indeed be almost on the stoney layer, and we have seen archaeological features here and there being revealed: patches of burning, possible post holes, clay, 'tram lines', the odd bit of clinker (?) protruding from the matrix. Part of early December was spent in this surface cleaning it up, but later on as the month proceeded and the weather deteriorated, it was decided to backfill, over a polythene membrane, before Christmas, to protect the excavation from damage. This was done; and it has only been within the last week that part of this material has been removed, over an area about 5 metres by 11 metres at the western end of the excavation. No further work has yet been undertaken.

H.M 2 This is Erany Taylor's section through the western rampart. Started in November it has been developed with great care and similarly followed through; in the immediate run-up to Christmas it was partially backfilled for the same reasons as '1'. Today Erany is working on it with a team, having last week started to clear it ready for further work. Presently it is the only aspect to the dig making physical progress.

H.M 3 - the latest area. This was started in November, in the gap between the ramparts in the north-eastern part of the moat platform. For many years it has been known that there are dressed sandstone blocks protruding from under the roots of a tree here fronting the rampart facing the ditch, and the purpose of opening this area is to establish what the significance of these is and the gap in the rampart. The additional intention was to

produce an all-weather area for excavation, since the drainage here is rather better than H.M.I., but the weather has been rather too extreme lately, i.e., in the last few weeks, to fulfill even this intention. Just before Christmas it was backfilled and so it is at present.

The findings from the area so far have been that there is quite a depth of leaf mould - say 25 cms at it its maximum in the middle of the gap - overlying a worn surface derived from the rampart. Strewn about in this loamy / leaf mould upper layer are bits, chips usually, of a medium hardness red sandstone - possibly a stratum from the Keuper. This is curious because I have developed the impression that the build-up of leaf mould is comparatively recent, and we have indeed seen dressed Victorian slate, from Odenest Farm I expect, immediately at the base of this layer; the conclusion seems to be that something made of sandstone could have been disturbed in very recent times (and does not Pemberton record that sandstone was said ^{by locals} to have been removed within living memory, say 1850-60?). Interestingly, one of these bits of sandstone was found to have a carved edge along its surface almost like a rebate; we think that this implies a monumental structure. From December onwards we have been retaining every bit of sandstone found in the area.

Documentary Research This has been proceeding with considerable intensity recently as a result of the weather. Stuart has been to the P.R.O.; Gary and I have been to the Central Library in Solihull with some frequency. It is still in an amorphous state, but we are

pursuing a number of aspects :

1. The Tithe Map. Earlier times revealed a number of curial names in the vicinity of Hobs Mead - Phancel Close, Great Olton Field and the like - and now some of our employees are copying out the entire tithe schedule by hand. They are being supervised by Adrian Cox, full time archaeologist with the project.

2. The Enclosure Map, 1843. This is kept by the legal department of the borough council and we have had to wait some time to see it. However, it turned out to be a disappointment as far as we were concerned. It contained no information additional to what we already know and it was rather an uninformative document generally.

3. The Library Catalogue. The local studies section has been examined fairly thoroughly by now but it has not revealed any aspect to our background investigation of the moat and its historical setting such as we did not already know. All the entries mentioning Olton / Olton Hall / Ulverley / Hobs Mead / Moats / Oldenil have been contemplated and recorded in our own records but nothing particularly striking has so far emerged.

4. State Papers. Some brief work has been done here, particularly in the volumes published by the Dugdale Society. I have looked at the Feet of Fines Rolls and ~~noted~~ noted that Ulverley / Hulferle occurs from time to time in the 13th century along with the neighbouring manor of Kington / Kinton, but it disappears from these records soon after, being replaced by frequent references to Solihull. The incidence of references to Kinton keeps on at the same rate suggesting that the identity of Ulverley

has been completely submerged by the emergence of Soshull.

It is curious to note that Olton as a place name occurs very early on in these records, and there is a mention elsewhere of Olton, according to Woodhall and Vadoy, in the 1180's. This is difficult to associate at the moment. (I have noted too that in the late medieval, Tudor period the 'ends' of Soshull were recorded as including both Uvedey and Olton. It could be thought that the ~~identification~~ ^{identity} of the history of these two places as one and the same may be less satisfactory than hitherto thought, resting solely with Drydale).

4. Field Walking. A little of this has been done, though the area is of course intensely urban in character. Visits to Gindon have been interesting, while a trip in late December to the head of the Mill Pool Spring was especially so, disclosing an earthwork at the top of the feeding stream's course which suggested proprietorial activity on some stage in the past. We had no means of dating this but I was mindful of the area's former name, Dimpl - the Sunpool, the lord of the manor's pool. As archaeologists we could see that the earthwork had been thrown up to enhance an artificial hole in the side of the hill which had created an artificial pond or head of water, which had provided, in the string of three, the pond furthest away from Lode Lane on the Tilth Map. At an earlier time the hole had doubtless been a quarry of some sort, so it seems the structure had a considerable history. We shall look at this again.

January 7th

A very odd day indeed. I struggled up on to the site and, with Alex Evans and Martin McEaid, levelled several lines, 234-240, between 260 and 245. Gary came on with H.M.C. We finished levelling at about 12.40, just as it began to snow. It carried on snowing thereafter - by 3.30 the build-up had become very considerable. I took Jessie Chinery home, and then went off home myself. I nearly didn't make it, at least with the car. The worst snow fall of the winter there were very soon abandoned cars all over the place. Overnight some 5 inches of snow accumulated.

January 8th

No archaeology ^{today}, not surprisingly with such a vast snow fall. Instead Gary and I went to Solihull Enterprise Agency where we had a prior appointment with an applicant for the position of archaeologist (leading hand, actually - horrible term) with the project. He, J. Sharman, turned up, on the worst day of the year though he was understandably somewhat late --- so late that we had in fact returned to the site by the time he got to Helmsley. He was brought over to the moat and Gary and I interviewed him, giving him then a conducted tour in all the snow. Gary and I agreed on our recommendation.

January 9th

A slow thaw set in overnight but physical work on the

site is still impossible. I went to the central library in Solihull where I did more research - at present I am compiling a list of all the material related sites known in Solihull. Mrs Bates spoke to me about our forthcoming display in the central library which has been scheduled for March 25th or so. She seemed friendly and interested; her principal concern, I think, is the quality of the display, and its presentation. This interest derives from difficulties which she has had from other displaying groups in the past. I tried to assure her that we would co-operate with the library services requirements in every detail. Some members of our team said that I looked odd today, very tired. Towards evening I began to feel unwell.

Tuesday 10th

Overnight the snow thawed almost completely, but of course leaving the site very wet. No work could be contemplated. We busied ourselves with tidying our facilities in the Church Hall, and left at the usual time for Fridays, 2.00. During the course of the morning I felt it appropriate that I should remind everyone of the disciplinary requirements of the project, which I did with each person in turn. The headings I itemised were: punctuality and time-keeping, cleanliness with tools after work and a site, attitudes to supervisors. These were the major topics.

All day long I felt unwell and when I got home I felt very cold and was running a temperature.

January 11th, 19th

Weekend. Sick - perhaps 'flu.

January 13th.

Today I had to take a day off work because I felt rather unwell. I 'phoned Stuart last night to say that this was a probability, adding that this is the first time in nearly twenty years that I have had to have a day off from work. As I think about it, it is the first time I've ever had a day's absence from work through sickness. I think this deserves commemoration.

I spent the day huddled at home attempting to read and trying to get down the backlog of paper which seems to surround me. My dog huddled with me - extraordinarily, she has this bug too: twice in 12 hours she has been sick.

January 14th.

I was a lot worse yesterday than I had expected on Sunday and by mid evening I was little better. In the circumstances it seemed right to have today off too - and certainly I have found myself a lot weaker than I could have predicted. I shall go to work tomorrow.

Today I have busied myself much as yesterday.

January 15th.

Today I returned to work feeling a lot better though

still rather weak generally and rather 'stupid' in my mental processes. This bug has been a lot more virulent in its course than I thought, though at every stage rather insidious (and very long term too). I heard that one doctor is calling it the Echo-virus, because it keeps coming back and lasts such a long time). I returned to my disciplinary role today, ^{giving} ~~giving~~ to each and everyone of the 'A' team the same speech as the 'B' team received last week. It seemed to have an effect in everyone I spoke to. I am told that on Monday and Tuesday this week the B team behaved exceedingly well and observed the site requirements in detail.

January 16th

As soon as I got in this morning Stuart sent me straight out again, to Rhelmsley Wood, where I had to obtain our pay slips from Neil Davies. When I got back I only had a few moments before the MSC inspecting team arrived; this was planned a little while ago. They saw each of the team at work and asked them individually various questions - what do you do? do you like your work? how do you get along with the supervisors? etc. I think they were satisfied with the answers they got and went away content. I got the impression that they were generally very impressed with the project.

Gary and I went to the council offices in the afternoon.

January 17th

Neil Davies turned up with a party of visitors from the Jobcentre in Edwinstree this morning. I had been

to the central library to drop off me & our employees, who had been asked to make a contour map of the immediate area, and I was thus not on site when he arrived. When I did see him I was surprised to find that Derek Bourne of the MSC was with him. Practically his, Neil's, first question was to demand of me that the Enterprise Agency should know more of the displays in the central and branch libraries which we have planned and we are ^{in the} process of organising. I did not and do not see ~~the~~ ^{his} point - we have had so much difficulty with the Agency seeking to control every aspect of the project, saying that we may or may not talk to this academic body or that academic, demanding that we do everything in their name, trying to, in effect, hijack the dig. I told him that there was no problem: it is part of our brief, had been from the beginning, it was in ^{any} case part of the work the team did anyway - merely arranged ^{seas} to provide a display. He doggedly refused to see the point (all this is in front of Mr Bourne), and challenged me with remarks like 'how much will it all cost?', 'the expenditure hasn't been authorised', 'you must consult us before you do anything' etc. I couldn't believe all this, but formed the impression that Neil hadn't got the slightest idea of what a display entailed, how it was done and what it was for. (but I told him and everyone else from the beginning that such activities were a ~~very~~ major aspect to the project. This was agreed without question and is in the original submission to the MSC, which I wrote). I assured him that there was no expenditure involved and nothing which might redound

to the discredit of the Agency or anybody else; this had been planned in expected consultation with the Librarian Service in Solihull. He bumbled on and ended up saying that he wanted myself and Stuart in his office on Monday morning to 'consult' over this. Knowing that I wasn't sold on his reasoning he added that ^{it} was for the purpose of discussing also our strategy statement, submitted last week. However, I formed the impression that there was quite another reason for this sudden contretemps - perhaps two. One, certainly, seems to be a need on the part of nameless souls to show how effective they are - even in areas they clearly know nothing about.

After this I joined Gary on site levelling. He was rather unwell with this virus and soon had to leave for the office; so I carried on in his place. With Terry Hood as surveyor we rapidly levelled lines ~~243~~, 243, 244, 245 from 260 to 290 at metre intervals, ~~at~~ which at this time of the year seemed reasonable progress. In the office later I began a map which will show the progress of the levelling day by day. We have done quite a lot by now and it is getting difficult to keep track of what has been levelled and what has not been.

January 18th, 19th.

Neckend. On Saturday the bug returned; I felt very unwell again. I hope that's the last of it, however.

January 20th

To Chelmsley Wood where Stuart and I had our meeting

with Neil Davies. It was a mild affair - Stuart and I were both quite optimistic when we left. Neil asked for certain administrative procedures to be established; we agreed in broad outline. There was some discussion of the so-called strategy 'document' - which is a presentation to the MSC about the development of the project.

When we got back to Hobbs House I went out again more or less immediately, to the central library where I carried on with research.

January 21st

A pleasant day, so the majority of the team were on site doing whatever appeared useful. I supervised the uncovering of H.M.3, having also decided that the area under excavation should be increased. This entailed the re-positioning of the chestnut fence around the area.

A lovely day

January 22nd

Harry and I went to Birmingham University library today - I somewhat under the weather and I think Harry too. He had initially a somewhat frustrating time of it, as seems to be the way with the library cataloguing system, but in the end we made quite reasonable progress. He obtained facsimiles of *Domesday* for Warwickshire, a translation of the part in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle mentioning Cristina's retirement - and we went to the Dept of Geography, where made our long-threatened visit to the map room. There we met Jamie Peart,

the keeper of the map collection, who was most diligent in his efforts to help us in our wants. He is a most charming and pleasant person. He obtained various maps including relief and drainage of the northern part of Sotiknull.

Thursday 3rd

To the central library in Sotiknull again today where I procured material, chiefly maps, which we need for our forthcoming display in the branch library at Hobbs Most. While there I met Fay Woodall, co-writer of 'Sotiknull Place-Names' (with Mother Varley), she was presently putting up a display herself in the central library. She is very interested in our project and seemed very well disposed towards it; we had quite a long conversation. I promised to keep in touch and asked her to come and see the site sometime. She said she would.

Back at Hobbs Most the artistic members of the team were busy working on display material. I am organised this.

Further kneeling arrived circa 200, which we immediately put up round the M3.

Adrian and I went out today buying artists materials which we adjudged appropriate for producing heraldic shields (for ~~de~~ Oddingswelles and ~~de~~ Liness) on cartridge paper. We went to several establishments (having had several plans for our task), in the end turning to W. H. Smith where we bought water-based paints. Adrian is to experiment over the weekend. In the afternoon I went to Melmsley Wood where I

had a brief conversation with Neil Davies, having attended to a number of administrative matters and queries.

January 25th

West Midlands Pottery Research Group meeting held at the Chasthouse, Coventry. Gray, I and Adrian attended this, which was on the subject of imported pottery in medieval and post-medieval period. The speakers were John G. Hurst and Bob Thompson. A very interesting meeting and well worth attending. In the afternoon Adrian went shopping and didn't come back! Gray and I went home on our own.

January 26th

Sunday - day off.

January 27th

The forthcoming display in the branch library at Hobs Moat claimed my attention all day long - comparing its general shape out, and deciding headings etc. We seemed to make a good start ~~in this~~ and I feel quite happy in what has been put together so far. The rest of the week is likely to be taken up entirely with this project.

January 28th

The same as yesterday, as I fiddled with the introductory statement all day long. I made scant

progress, and felt very irritated with myself at the end of the day. ~~But~~ The difficulty did not end there, for I went on ~~into~~ into the evening and still made no progress. This was a bad day.

January 29th

Letter, as yesterday. Again I made scant progress with the introductory part of the display.

January 30th

Gary joined in today and produced the introductory statement more or less instantly! I have said to him before that there is much of the populist in him. This is an ability which I could truly envy.

By the end of the day, the display progressing, I felt much more optimistic.

January 31st

Gary and I continued with the display, producing a couple of attractive features for it. The first was a translation of lines 14-19 from the Petrobrough Chronicle, first literally, then 'freely'; the second concerned the geophysical survey of the site - we were sure that some people would find it very interesting. The lines from the Chronicle are about Edgar Atkeling leaving King Siltham's court, followed by Estrid, his sister, taking the veil and retiring to Romsey. As tenant-in-chief of Ulverley, we felt that this entry in the Chronicle, itself, would interest people greatly.

At the end of the week the display is somewhat over half finished - headings done, commentaries and explanations at an advanced stage, display material mostly to hand.

February 1st

Weekend. An exceedingly cold day today with a raw easterly wind. The weather forecast describes the immediate outlook as miserable. Perhaps the winter has yet some way to go.

February 2nd

Sunday.

February 3rd

Further work on the display. It's not complete, but assemblable in the library as if in the course of being put up. I guess that's the way it will look for a couple of days.

In the afternoon I went to the central library in Schinckel to finish off a map of meat distribution which I have been putting together. There I met Mollie Vadey, the other half of the Vadey / Woodall partnership. Actually I was introduced by Joy Woodell. She is a very pleasant lady of reassuring manner absolutely absorbed in her historical researches. Like Mrs Woodall she was most anxious to be of help to us - I asked her to look us up when she could.

February 14th

We began putting up the display today - principally Adrian and I, with some help from the team. We got quite a bit done - but the display is far from complete. However, the effect is pretty good.

Crang was rather unwell and seemed to get worse as the day progressed.

In the morning, Neil Davis surprised us with the ~~February 14th~~ news that Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit had been commissioned to monitor our activities. He said it was merely 'good housekeeping' to reassure them - S.E.A. - and the MSC that we ~~are~~ were functioning appropriately. It is of course not a wish to organise another talking shop, or an attempt to find a stick with which to beat us.

Our projected meeting with Andrew Brooker-Crany, we were informed, was scheduled for Thursday - two days hence. With just two days notice it was unreasonable of Crang to have arranged a prior appointment weeks ago, with some time off starting Thursday. The point was put to Neil - who was told that we would not meet anybody without Crang present - and suddenly the date was negotiable: now it is for a week today. I hope they told Andrew Brooker-Crany first that dates were to be pushed around like this.

I wonder what BUFAU will make of SEA's approach to matters archaeological; and I hope they do not contemplate us in the same light.

February 5th.

More work on the display, but in the office because the library is closed on Wednesdays. In the morning I put in two pegs on the site: 225/300 and 245/300, so that we ~~can~~ can level the bottom of the moat in this corner. This is because Ted Banks (landscape supervisor) wants to use this area for a dump.

In the afternoon it began to snow heavily, which I guess is this unpleasant weather which I thought might be on the way last weekend. It has now become exceptionally cold.

February 6th:

Back to the library today for more work on the display. Not much to say: it's coming along. Adrian was away attending an interview and Gary is off, so I was more or less on my own.

February 7th

Ortto, but Adrian was assisting me today. He is very patient and very artistic; I like working with him. By 3.30 or so we had made quite considerable headway, with half the display entirely finished, and the other half well advanced. Monday should see it complete.

February 8th.

Saturday. A very cold day; the temperature did not

rise above freezing point all day.

February 9th

Sunday, Very cold (indeed).

February 10th

A new week and an encouraging beginning. Adrian and I more-or-less finished the display during the course of the day, and I must say it looks very good indeed. I hope it is of interest to the Adk who were haunting us at the mid end of last year, wondering what we were doing. Perhaps, however, their expectations of archaeology will not be confirmed by the reality.

February 11th

As Stuart said today, an *ongoal*! I do not know what S.E.A. thought they were doing interpolating B.U.F.A. on to our site (or their peculiar motives and reasoning) but we got along famously. I rather imagine that this autocratic way of doing things which they have has abounded in their times and certain people at S.E.A. will be in receipt of difficult questions. - more especially since this will have cost them money.

We very much liked Andrew Brooker-Lacey and his colleague Annette Roe and we ~~compared~~ look forward to some sort of co-operative arrangement with B.U.F.A. I know them both slightly from my university days - they graduated the year after me.

Andrew and Annette are due to visit the site on Wednesday 19th February, when apparently David Smith, Education and Training Officer for SMBC, will also ~~be~~ be present.

The weather, too, seemed to get slightly warmer.

February 12th.

It may have got slightly warmer yesterday, but it was still pretty damn cold: it never got above freezing point all day. Today was no different - but we were out slaughtering out HM1, HM2 and HM3 all the same, the first archaeological work for some time. We got some amazed looks from the few intrepid souls who ventured out to the moat during the day walking their dogs, and I don't doubt that it looked extraordinarily odd. There we were, practically the full daily complement, working away as if it was a perfectly normal occurrence, surrounded by snow with the ground literally as hard as iron.

We made some progress, however. I squared off HM1 and made the section vertical (rather than nearly so), Gary developed further HM2 dropping two sondage-like trenches into the floor of his section, and Stuart energetically tackled HM3. There I was interested to note the appearance of 'archaeology': for the day's activities showed some cobbles and a spread of sandstone under the removed, disturbed layer and, most interestingly, a piece of what looked like fired tile in this material. If in its correct context this is a most unexpected find and is surely unlikely

to 12th / 13th century. in date.

February 3th

Another exceedingly cold day; in fact it was slightly colder today than yesterday. Stuart had all the team up on site - though not everybody turned in: I guess they had gone 'sick' as a result of lessons learned yesterday. My job for a change was not to be at the physically taxing end of the project - I was in the office re-writing a couple of the notes for the display, along with an outstanding letter, and pursuing a couple of other jobs. I looked out the window on a couple of occasions and felt rather guilty; but this is the first time that I've been, as it were, on the 'easy' side of things.

February 14th.

It's getting repetitive to say how cold it is, but this cold spell is exceedingly so and is becoming rather long-lasting. Today it was if anything colder still, with the temperature well sub-zero all day long. I stayed indoors as did most of the team, but in the early part of the ~~pm~~ morning I went out and bought material - chip board, clips, etc - for an idea I have had for storage in the office. This is a persistent problem, with time sheets, plans and miscellaneous papers left about, heaped on one another, so that it is often very difficult to work. My intention was to put as large a sheet of chipboard on one wall as could be done and cover it with clip-board clips and bulldog clips for the purpose of document storage.

so that.

-when people come in, my idea is, with various bits of paper and plans they should hang them up, like coats, making the office a lot tidier (we could hope). Simple; and I quickly put together my device, which looked competent and efficient when finished. It will be interesting to see just how much paper it removes from the various surfaces in the office, or whether new forms of ephemera will appear to fill the empty spaces.

In the afternoon we went to S.E.A. in response to a memorandum from N. Davies, received earlier in the week, where he talked vaguely of an experimental form which was to be filled in by supervisors each week on Friday. There were no further details as to what this form might be, or what its purpose would entail. When we got there, Ted and I, it was of course non-existent - 'the experimental system hadn't been finished yet!'. More, it turned out that he only wanted one supervisor from each site on successive Fridays. So a wasted journey, though Neil did indicate that the form, had it been put together, was intended to make wage collection easier for S.E.A. staff on Friday afternoons.

1.1.20

February 15th.

Very cold again - there is no end in sight. Today is Saturday.

February 16th

Sunday.

1.1.20

February 17th

It remains very cold - though some work was done on the site. I finished my clipboard in the office, which looks efficient and orderly. It has created a good deal of space in the office.

February 18th

The weather continues over cold, and so there was little work done on site. Stuart requested a shelf to be put up above my clipboard, which I organised by mid-morning. After this, Adrian and I went to the library to check up on the sequence of events affecting Hobbs Mount in the period 1935-1937. We found that John Gorman had alerted people to the impending danger to the site in February 1935, after which the council had agreed that it should be preserved as a 'private open space' - this was in March 1935. In December 1937 the owners of the site, the Ideal Benefit Society, had given it to the people of Solihull as an open space amenity. A ceremony celebrating this was held at the George Hotel on Saturday December 11th 1937.

While we were there we thought to check on the census entries for the Olton area. We found nothing remarkable about the returns for Parishes, but the place names did seem worth recording. Olton, firstly, clearly has 'moved' in recent times, that is from ca 1880 onwards; prior to that time it was definitely located in the vicinity of the moat - now it is thought of as about two miles away, centring on St. Bernard's Rd and Warwick Road. Secondly, the

found no mention; at all, of Ulwerley ~~being~~ⁱⁿ the census returns for 1851, 61 & 71, but rather it was replaced exclusively by 'Overley' - written as such in the three consecutive censuses, ^{at} ~~separated~~ ten-yearly intervals, by three different hands. In 1881 the enumerator, a fruit man, began his survey of this area at 'Overley Rd', thus seeming to us to continue the pattern, but soon began recording a Ulwerley and Ulwerley Green place names, all these clearly associated with the development of new housing. We came to the conclusion that the Ulwerley place names had appeared as a development out of Overley in hand with the new housing perhaps because people had sought to correct what they took for a colloquial rendering of a former place name. However we could ^{not} avoid the impression that Overley might be an independent word, merely sounding like its near-namesake. When we turned to the 1891 census, expecting to find a fifth example of this word, we were surprised to find not Overley, or even Ulwerley, but instead Beggarly - which is a word which appears on eighteenth century maps. So now we have Beggarly, Ulwerley/Culwerley (Hutton) for the eighteenth century, Overley for much of the nineteenth, and Ulwerley making its appearance later, with the growth of housing in the well-offs. If we delete Ulwerley from Hutton's account as being informed speculation, as indeed he is capable of, we are left with a curious mish-mash which doesn't seem to say anything in particular, except that the 'hard' identification of Ulwerley with the area is of recent origin. Indeed if we accept this we are

left with place-name evidence much like that which Singdale gives us. And here, curiously, the strongest candidate for Ulvaley becomes Ulleny as in Ulleny's Rd, which is precisely the sort of evidence which Singdale gives us when he talks about 'Hulleny' - the field which preserved the name of the former village.

February 19th.

Visit of BuFAU to the person of Andrew Brooker-Carey. A good-natured discussion in which the various aspects of the project were aired. Andrew agreed to the proposal originated by S.G.A. for BuFAU to, as it were, oversee a 'strategy document' (that phrase again) - but wondered openly why they were heeded in any capacity.

Andrew suggested an order of headings for the ~~proposed~~ document, with me to write the history section. His suggestions were accepted ^{by} all present (which included Ned Jones and David Smith).

During the day some work was done on site. H on 3 is now showing a good deal of evidence of a former structure.

February 20th.

During the morning I re-wrote two sections for the display and composed an additional note on the derivation of Hoby Hogg's. These were put up before midday. In the early afternoon Andrew and I and Francis Conolly ~~and~~ went to the library to do more archive work of one sort or another.

but the library was too busy to make work of any sort a reasonable possibility. We came back just before 3.00 p.m.

I spent some time with Cray discussing the various possibilities afforded by speculation on the local road system in the Middle Ages. I wondered whether it would be possible to deduce the whereabouts of Ulveday ~~by~~ by establishing the earliest routes. He seemed to concur - looking quizzically at the maps.

February 21st

Day-off

February 22nd, 23rd

Weekend. Still very cold indeed.

February 24th

Again extremely cold. Adrian and I went to the central library in Bournemouth; Martin Truitt was with us. The day was spent copying a further section of the tithe schedule.

February 25th

Sitto, as yesterday. Martin was not with us. In his place were Linda Gabriel, Ina Fuller and Fakroch Mir

February 26th

The weather continuing exceedingly cold, we went to Birmingham Central Reference Library today, because the libraries in

Shkull are closed. Adrian and I took Joy Whately, Pauline Richards and Chris Birch.

Adrian and Chris obtained photocopies of articles from Birmingham Arch. Soc. Transactions, while I sent Joy and Pauline to find four articles from Medieval Archaeology, which were also photocopied.

The rest of the day was spent examining the catalogue of the library to see whether anything pertinent to the project might emerge. Nothing did.

I wrote some notes for Stuart on the history of H. in February 27th.

The team was sent home during the morning because the weather was so fiercely cold that it made any work on the site impossible. It was pointless detaining just a handful of them on other work, so there was no visit to the library.

I continued with writing some notes for Stuart on the history of the Hobs Meat for a lecture he is to give to the NALGO Retired Group (which meets in the church hall) next week. Having typed them I went home.

February 28th

Stuart sent to S.G.A at Valence House this morning to discuss the extension of the project with more employees. Again the weather was exceedingly cold so the team was sent home during the morning. Some work in the office was accomplished by Gary, myself, Ted and Alex.

March 1st, Cnd.

Weekend. Still the weather is extremely cold; but the outlook, according to the weather forecast, is for an improvement.

March 3rd

Adrian and I went to the branch library in the morning to reassess the display before ^{re-start} producing a second version for the Central Library in Strickland. The rest of the day was spent in putting together the first elements of this display.

March 4th

The thaw set in today - thank god! The temperature went up markedly during the day, and it rained for the first time in ages. The return to only slight sub-normal temperatures made it feel like spring.

Very little work could be done by the team, but Adrian and I were able to make some progress with the revised display.

March 5th

To S.E.A. where I had a meeting with Tom Lewis to discuss my probationary term with the project which is now at an end. We had a friendly conversation - my services were not dispensed with!

In the afternoon, back on site, there was some archaeology for the first time in a benign climate.

this year. It was very refreshing to start work again on H.M. 1.

March 6th

Further work on H.M. 1 preparing an area 5 metres x 5 metres for photographing and drawing. This was completed (starting at 9.00 and working without a break) by 1.30, when it was photographed, by Adrian with assistance. The team then moved on to start a further area 5 metres x 5 metres.

March 7th

As yesterday - by 1.00 p.m. the second area had been completed and photographed.

Adrian started drawing the first prepared area and completed quite a sizeable section.

The two areas together are now seen to have a number of features apparently sitting on or in the 'worn stone' surface first talked about last year (this was the first clearly definitely horizon below the 'plough soil' layer). These seem to be slabs of one kind or another filled with burned material - mostly burnt clay - Cray thinks that one at best is a room divided, so we are operating within the limits of a building.

March 8th, 9th

Weekend. The weather has now turned quite mild as compared with the excesses of February.

March 10th

Work today on H.M. 1. Adrian continued drawing the area prepared first, while the second prepared area - with the most obvious features - was improved with further travelling. There are now very clearly visible two sets of parallel lines - reddish with dark spacing - with at least one post hole. Between these are darker areas with some burning, which appear to be occupation material.

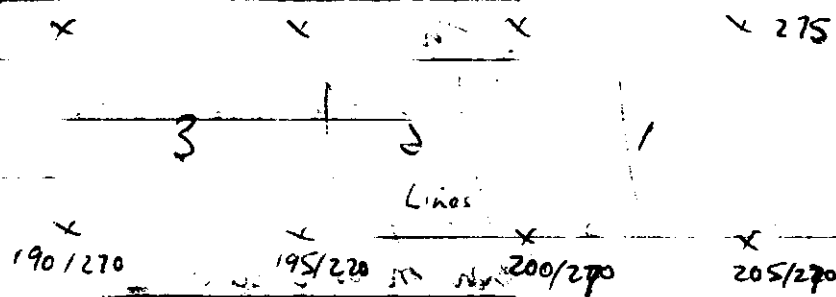
The rest of the Team and I started preparing the third 5x5 metre square for drawing and photography.

March 11th

Work on the display today. In the afternoon Ted, I, Chris and Peter saw a fenced part of the H.M. 1 trench - the earlier fence had been transferred to H.M. 2 some while ago.

March 12th

The third 5x5 metre square



proved to have a considerable clapping layer of brown soil in places, on further inspection. This was removed with hoes, & by me, T. Head, M. Butler and others. At the end of the day I was satisfied that we are approaching a layer appropriate to the 'building' and antedating modern layers - that is, all the ones above which seem to be post-medieval and without structures.

These appear to be surprisingly shallow and

are essentially hemic in content.

~~March 13th~~

~~After the morning long period, followed by travelling
up the surface. Not yet completed. More to come.
The relationship of the new surface to the building
area is the really crucial point to get under.~~

March 13th.

A late start for me today: when I arrived on site (11.45) Adrian had had the team working since about 9.00. It was a very cold day, with temperatures only just above freezing point.

The rest of the day was spent travelling up the new surface, while Adrian and I started to ~~map~~ delineate the relationship of ~~that with~~ the surface with the building area. This proved elusive - more work on this tomorrow.

Around 3.00 pm Terry Read found a piece of pottery, a fair-sized rim of mottled (manganese) ware pressed face down on to context 12, the hemic layer above the new surface, now called 14. 12 looks like an accumulation of turf. The sherd of pot indicates that it had accumulated by 1640-1680.

March 14th

Further travelling of 14: I spent the morning trying to establish the relationship with the occupation area. It now seems that there is a

band of humic material separating the two, about $\frac{1}{2}$ metre wide. On the building side the material then has bits of burnt clay, carbon and a yellow, ~~clayey~~ clayey substance. It is stoney, much lighter in colour, with a sandy feel. The humic zone ~~is~~ between has no stones, no burnt clay and is 'silky' overall in character. More in this next week. There are now numerous features over the ^{the} 5x5 metre squares most recently prepared - between lines 200 and 190 - and I think ~~on Monday~~ we should ~~start to go~~ go over the lot again with the plasterers' leasus to delineate the elements more clearly.

March 15th & 16th

Weekend,

March 17th

The plough soil layer, 12, removed from the remainder of ~~the area~~ ^{the pit} currently under excavation - i.e. beyond 275 and up to the Paving is a band straight across the trench. No small finds in this context, which appeared to be as featureless as elsewhere in the excavation. The layer below, 14, seemed to have clay features in it as in the area so far developed; these will become clear ~~after~~ with travelling.

March 18th

To Wiltshire today with Martin Tuck, Chris Birch, Neil Butler, and Terry Head, ~~of~~ E. Penelope's, where we visited Avebury, Silbury Hill, West Kennet, and

Stonehenge. Such trips have been long-promised by Stuart as part of the life of the project, and he took a party, somewhat larger, to this area last week in fulfillment of this. We had a most enjoyable time on our trip, though the weather was not very good - foggy and cold in the morning followed by heavy rain in the late afternoon. Avebury was a wondrous place to me and the others and, though I am of course familiar with it from papers and books for years past, I could not help but be awe-struck with the reality. To think that Neolithic and Bronze Age societies had been capable of such things and organisation in this country! If these monuments had been discovered in the Middle East, English intellectuals would have been busy tripping off to see them in hordes, giving much greater importance to them than we do currently! It's rather curious that we do perceive this area as quite the treasure house it is.

March 19th,

Further work on H. M. I.: I regret that I was so tired today that I was only able to straighten up the edge of the trench on its southern side, preparing to level off of this area, which is the next job.

March 20th

British
to the Red Cross Society in Salisbury today for a first aid course booked by the Enterprise Agency. It will last today and tomorrow.

The morning started well with a burst of sun on

my way there. I had no jack, no tools and the spare tyre was flat. Neil Davies came to my rescue sending the van out with tools. But the tyre, which had to be replaced, cost me £40.!

March 31st

Second day of course; I rather enjoyed it. In the evening Mr David Wilkes phoned to tell me of a superficially rather offensive article in the Birmingham Mail headed 'Hummy dig fears in Local Site' or something, which then went on to hint at incompetence in the Enterprise Agency and in Solihull MBC generally in the approach to the dig, quoting the unfortunate sayings - garbled - of Mr Gibson in the Education Committee the previous night (when it had been agreed to set up a management body for the dig). The cast appeared to be against the archaeologists themselves in the lead-in to the article, but the rest of the copy made it clear that the reporter had no story at all, just a rag bag of half-remembered remarks in the Education Committee. But the headline had to appear to attack someone or they chose the archaeologists, innocents in the whole story. Forgive them, lord.

As soon as David finished, Fossie Chambers was on the 'phone asking me to tell Stuart as soon as possible. I ventured that nothing could be done: nothing could be unsaid. But I phoned Stuart so that he could 'phone Fossie to have the article read to him.

March 22nd, 23rd

Weekend

March 24th

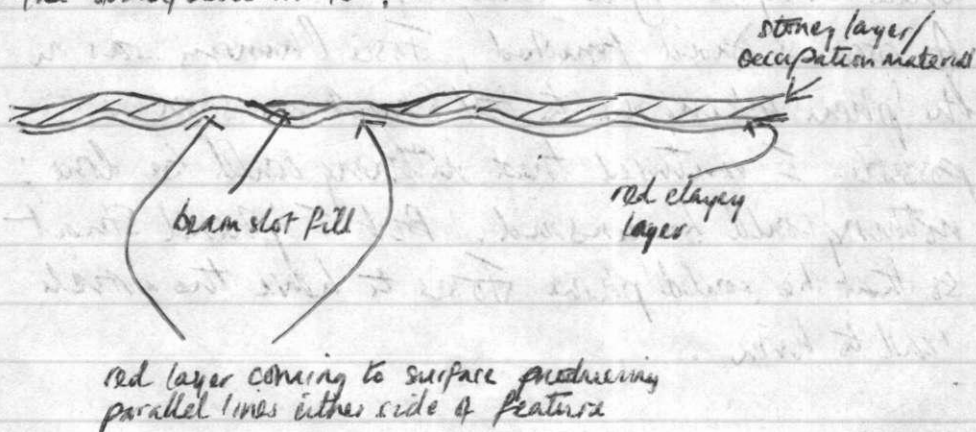
A very wintry day with high winds, rain, snow and sleet. Little work was possible, though the attempt was made. Around 11.30 we came down from the site and busied ourselves with outstanding jobs in the office.

Stuart is on holiday this week, and so is Adrian. Cray and I are having our own way!

March 25th

The weather improved slightly today and some work was possible on site - -- between showers. Cray concerned himself with H.M.3 (in Stuart's absence), I continued with H.M.1. The section newly prepared last week was traversed, revealing further features. There are a continuation of those found in the northern part of the trench.

Cray thinks the structure of these features, or rather the stratification is:



This differs from my first estimation. I considered that

the red lines represented beams pulled up where burnt material lying around on the surface had fallen into the vacated slot.

March 26th

Further travelling of the extended area in H.M.1; this first transit completed by 3.00.

Terry Head and I concerned ourselves with preparing 35 square metres for drawing between lines 200 and 195 in the trench. He used plasterers' leaves for the job, and I began drawing after dinner (around 1.30).

The rectangle is in the zone which contains the most features - clay lines, burning, charcoal etc; but it is very confused. Drawing is a considerable problem.

By the end of the day I had completed 3 square metres only.

Travellers today were Neil Butler, Tony Whateley, Pauline Richards, Martin Tuck and Terry Head (with me). Chris Barrett was emptying the buckets.

In the morning Tony Allen, known as 'Bone' to his friends, on account of his idleness, refused to travel saying that his knee prevented him from doing so. I told him he should go home if he was not fit for work - or do as I told him. Grudgingly he went up on site, but very soon afterwards went home.

He has already had at least one written warning from Stuart.

March 27th

I drew 8 more metre squares today, making 11 in all since we started this area. Tony is in front of me preparing

the surface.

There are so many stones I have accused him of salting the site with them just to keep me drawing. Secondly, this particular area is very confused (with the remnants of tree root activity), has lots and lots of stones, and there seems to be evidence of fires.

Yesterday Terry disturbed a piece of pottery from almost exactly the same area, so it could well be a living area of some kind.

In the afternoon workmen came from S M B C Technical Services and erected two signs for the site - metal, green background with white lettering. They are not what we asked for six months ago but they will have to do.

What we did ask for were two types of sign, two of each - one, rather like the ancient monument signs one sees, metal, green with white lettering saying (in effect)

'Hobs Moat Ancient Monument. This is a site protected by the Ancient Monuments Act 1977. Persons causing damage to it will be prosecuted'. The other was to be a larger, more temporary type announcing, close to the road, the beginning of work under the Community Programme to conserve the site, and saying something of its history and the archaeological project. Instead we got both types elided in to one sign, giving a claustrophobic ill thought-out appearance. The signs look illiterate but very permanent.

However, it's Easter and there will be no work on site for five days. I wonder if the signs will be there when we return.

March 28 - 31, April 1st

Easter holiday

April 2nd.

The signs are still there!

Drawing for me today, with Fone, Stephen Johnson, Vernon and Kato travelling H.M. 1: Lany wanted to photograph the rectangle in the corner of the trench to the east of 195 and north of 270.

Alex began drawing part of H.M. 3. While Lany and Alex put some grid pegs in for levelling. Because of interruptions I made slow progress.

April 3rd.

I note that Lany is referring to the various areas in H.M. 1 as they are drawn and photographed by Greek notation. I shall do the same from now on.

The areas north of the medial section are α , β and γ in order looking north from left to right — i.e. α contains pegs 200/270, 200/275, 205/270 and 205/275. It was the first area to be drawn and photographed at this level.

I cannot recall when the second area, β , which I am now drawing, was photographed (perhaps it was in my absence), but today the third area, γ , was photographed.

Throughout the day I continued drawing β , making slow progress. I completed 3 square metres only. But it is clear that this area is very complicated with all sorts of contexts impinging on one another, thus thoroughly confused and obscured by root activity (there was a tree formerly directly over the area). ^{any}Forming the impression that the nearer I move to γ the more is preserved of the

building evident in the two features seen in β .
In particular I am seeing a more coherent
occupation layer evidently 'over' the context so
far drawn as I approach the red line/slot
close to line 195 in β .

In the late afternoon Stuart came across ~~to~~
and showed me a splendid piece of medieval
green-glazed ware found by Adrain in H.M.1.
It has raised ~~an~~ ornamentation typical of such
ware, and was incorporated in the upper layer
which is currently being excavated - so it looks
like a first class piece of dating evidence.
Stuart thinks that this layer in H.M.3 ~~is~~ is
a late feature, making the date implied by
the pot sherd of even greater significance.

April 4th

More drawing - today I completed four metre
squares in β including two ~~actually including~~
incorporating the linear feature, context.

In preparing these I cleaned up the whole
line of metre squares along the slot from the
medial section, five in all (which made a
splendid photograph), and was surprised to
find two post holes ^{put together}, as judged by the fill,
at . Further work on clearing this
line of squares later in the afternoon made me
speculate that the way we have perceived the
building at this point may not entirely account
for the facts as I am seeing them on the
ground. In particular I am not entirely convinced
by the proposed explanation for the red line(s),

and also I am struck by a a humic / turky
lineal area on the outside of this feature.

At the northern end of the red line and just beyond
the post holes, also, there is a slightly raised
mass of compacted yellow clay with bits of drab
and stones. It looks passingy like the occupation
material which I have stippled on to my plan
close to the red line - and indeed moving across it
- but it is not the same.

I find this side of the structure disquieting.
I am on holiday from this evening for a week,
but I shall go in on Monday anyway to have
another look, lest we commit ourselves to
further work before we are ready.

April 5th, 6th

Weekend

April 7th

The weather today was threatening all day long and
by lunchtime or just after it began to rain
continuously, defeating the possibility of further
work.

Examining the red lines etc in greater detail -
became more convinced that their structure, and
the reason for their being there, is not quite as
we have perceived it so far. - talked to Larry
about this, adding for good measure the suggestion
that the red lines - which seem now to be made of
marl - might be the remnant of a dais wall
of some kind. At that ~~and the father~~ he demurred.

I ^{then} also talked to him about the remarks of Norra Dent, volunteer on the site, about me passed in front of members of the team, she promptly came and told me. This is the only comment I shall allow myself about ~~a certain~~ tone and a certain attitude to me among my immediate colleagues.

April 8, 9, 10, 11th

Holiday. During this time I learned that I shall need next Tuesday off (15th), so I shall take that as my fifth holiday day.

April 12th, 13th.

Weekend

April 14th.

The weather was very difficult again - heavy rain showers separated by periods of pleasant sunshine.

During the time that I have been away Stuart has had the material removed from the slot running alongside clay line context 13, disclosing in its course two pot holes, ~~a~~ . These are additional to the two that I recognised last week, which however Stuart does not accept. He thinks that they are patches of burnt material on the inside of the building - we shall see. Increasingly ~~however~~, it looks as if the red clay line is not the product of an all -

embracing layers over the shale trench, but an individual feature related to each wall, if indeed we have two or more parallel walls. Moreover a rather different and fainter clay line, more pink than red, on the y side of 'B' in B seems to suggest that the structure has more than one building phase, since the mud in that feature seems to be derived from farther up the Kemper sequence, suggesting a different source for the same purpose at, therefore, a different time.

The best guess currently is that the structure in H.M.1 is a narrow but very long building similar to the wooden 'walkway' found at Webley 25 years ago. If that is so it would have been flimsy and weather-battered in life, which is perhaps now somewhat represented by these curving clay lines. I have suggested that they might represent 'torching' which has been washed out from between the timbers and is deposited as we see it today.

April 15th

Last day of Holiday

April 16th

The weather continues cool, showery, and very wet. The site is soaking.

Today almost no work was possible, though Gary made slight progress with H.M.2. I could do nothing with H.M.1 because of standing water.

Adrian was able to a small amount of drawing on H. M. 3.

April 17th.

No work was possible - having rained all night and most of the morning the site was sodden. Around lunchtime I went to the museum in Birmingham to have a look at medieval pottery in general and that from Wesley Castle in particular. The intention was to attempt some dating and provenance for the sherds so far discovered at Hobbs Mount.

Nothing in the museum was strongly reminiscent of our ware, except for a single sherd of Malvern ware which seemed to be along the same lines. The overall impression was either that H. M. pot is completely outside the scope and perhaps chronology of the museum's collection or that it was a locally made fabric with a very restricted range.

As for Wesley Castle - very badly displayed at the museum - I was told bluntly that the records, such as they are, of the excavation are chaotic and rudimentary in nature. It seems that Mr Oswald bothered little with them.

Nevertheless I feel fairly sure that the building on H. M. 1 has parallels with the wooden phase structures at Wesley.

April 18th.

The long rainy spells seems to be abating and, for once, some work was possible. Martin Trick and I started drawing further metre squares in

H.M.1. Once again I was particularly interested in the beam slot and clay line, 13 and 120, which I am trying to understand as fully as possible before I commit a final drawing.

Over the past week as I have been able to look at these and the area immediately outside them I have become more sure that this area is quite complicated.

April 19th, 20th

Weekend.

April 21st

Yet more rain today: after a threatening start, followed by frequent showers, by the afternoon it became wet generally.

We were able to work intermittently until about 2.30 p.m.

I organised the general tidying of H.M.1 — 'eaves, straightening of sections etc, Adrian did the same with

H.M.3; Cray continued developing his section at H.M.2. In the early part of the morning Stuart was off site visiting A. Furness Henson Henson to discuss the landscaping of the banks.

The outlook for the rest of the week, apparently, is for this difficult weather to continue.

April 22nd

As anticipated, ~~it~~ rained off again. Adrian and I went to the library; He drew some pottery which we are displaying there; I did some general research. In

The afternoon Mr. David Walker came to the site to have a look round.

April 23rd.

The weather was a little kinder today, but we were rained off for the greater part of the morning. I drew some metre squares in H.M. 1, and Martin took continued drawing 8, which he started last week. Adrian completed drawing the second layer of wobbles in H.M. 3. Cray was able to do some work in H.M. 2.

My drawing concerned the two post holes at the northern end of the beam slot, 120. Separated by something over one metre they are suggestive of an entrance, and this is compounded by the change in material on either side of the 'threshold' both inside and out. It is distinctly more dirty here, and there are quite large amounts of carbonaceous ~~material~~ ^{particles} in the material. Some of these seems to be carbonized bits of hardwood, such as perhaps - oak.

April 24th.

The slight improvement in the weather has continued. I was able to draw a number of metre squares today. They are on the 'outside' of 120, but there is another apparent slot, or at least the clay line associated with it, running through them. The inference seems to be that there has been at least one total rebuilding of the structure - we shall see.

Elsewhere on the site Cray made further progress with

his section, and Stuart continued with H.M.3. Adnair helped him.

They now have a substantial but very ramshackle wall ^{is now} appearing in the northern part of the trench.

April 25th

The weather became quite fine today and I think that at last spring is on the way. With luck there will be no further entries beginning 'The weather ...'.

Work continued as yesterday, with me managing to draw a number of squares on H.M.1. Martin Tuck made good progress on the southern side of the trench.

In P I have now detailed a number of quite definite contexts, with the result that I am inclined to think that the structure has ^{indeed} been rebuilt. The features, too, seem to carry on into the southern part of the trench, as judged by the small arrow that can be seen presently.

Next week I intend to take down the southern area in places over the building to develop the trench in the way I have with the northern part.

April 26th, 27th

Weekend. On Saturday Bryan and I attended the W.E.A. day school on The Medieval Landscape of Warwickshire in Coventry. The speakers were Dr Della Hooke (Warwickshire: Contrasting Landscapes), Dr Nat Alcock (Medieval Coventry), David Wilson (Moated Sites and Their Problems) and Mike Hodder (Sutton Chase). We found the exercise very well worthwhile.

David Wilson, unknown to us, had visited Hobs Moat

and we were very ~~surprised~~ surprised when he suddenly produced a couple of slides of it recently taken. He is very impressed with the site and regards it as one of the most formidable in the country. He intends to visit us again soon.

April 28th

A change from drawing: ~~because~~ because Tom Head and I started to take down the level in E slightly because the occupation material and building seem to be below the present level.

Strat was off site today lecturing, and Harry continued work on H.M.2. His earlier bank is now very clear in the trench.

During the afternoon A. Spencer, a former employee on the project, reported that he had trouble obtaining his holiday pay when he left. Enquiring at the Agency he had discovered that somebody had put an additional remark on his holiday requisition slip saying that he left on the day he started his holiday - i.e. implying that he was not entitled to his holiday pay. This was attributed to Ted Banks.

April 29th

Tom continued travelling & Mike Martin continued drawing Y (as he did yesterday). I returned to drawing B.

It is proving very hard to locate the building and occupation material in E, though the sort of material we might expect exists in patches in the overburden. I am beginning to suspect that the whole area of ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{thing is because} ~~the~~ whole area of

the ranch has been ploughed in the past, probably - as Hutton indicates - in the 1770's/80's. For this reason the building can only be located here and there - and not apparently easily. ~~WV~~

I imagine that this attempt to make the platform arable land was given up after a short while because of poor returns. The soil there can have been no thicker than it is now and capable, as anyone can see, of producing little in the way of crops.

~~As~~ As is implicit in Hutton's account, it was doubtless then that the spruce decided to plant the site with trees and have done with it.

April 30th

Further work on E (principally by Terry) showed a change in the material to from the dark occupation of B proceeding away from 275 towards the edge of the trench. This new context is lighter and stonier than 111 (the occupation material), but it seems to have no definite edges; though parallel to 275, at about 275.40, it is more distinctly different than elsewhere. I think initially that it anticipates the building 'running out' - that is, I imagine that there is less occupation activity here as we approach the edge of the building in the southern part of the trench. Possibly we will get the edge of the building in E after all.

I managed to draw a few squares during the day, and we also had a few finds - one piece of chert, several bits of burnt marl and few small pieces of what may be iron. The chert I attributed to 125, but later on I came to the

conclusion that it was actually in 12 pressed down in to 125. I shall make a note of my thought in the finds book tomorrow.

I concerned Terry closely in the bagging and recording of the finds as part of some training for him here and if he is promoted full time. He entered the finds in the finds book.

May 1st

Very much as yesterday: Terry worked on E, I drew the last 7 squares in B. Martin - who yesterday visited our friends at Sandwell - drew nearly all the remaining squares in Y.

I have been ill with a mild flu for the last few days and yesterday I felt very unwell. Today I felt no better until the late afternoon when I began to recover slightly. Curiously it has made my thinking processes slow and stultified - I have found my ability to speak coherently with fluent thoughts compromised. I am embarrassed to think about it!

May 2nd

No drawing! ^{Arise again} ~~for once no drawing~~ today. Instead Terry and I worked together on E, ^{where were} later joined by Martin who finally finished Y.

^{He} travelled back across the area, and removed the fill of the BMX scoop (dark and dirty - obviously very modern) ^{where} it became clear that beyond 125 there is another context, which appears essentially to be a much lighter and very much more compacted version of the occupation material () in

B. It is sandy, very resistant to the road, and with a considerably higher incidence of pieces of red mud, and with flecks of carbon. Clearly it appears that there is 'something' in E after all, but it is too soon to make guesses.

In the early afternoon our colleagues from BUFAU turned up for a meeting with us and representatives of the Agency scheduled by the Agency last week. It was a very proper and friendly affair - to talk further about the so called Strategy Document (who invents those terms?). Andrew Brooker-Carey once again asked Neil why the involvement of BUFAU was necessary.

With him on this tour were Charlotte and John Cairne, another girl whose name I don't know, Allan Furness - Hinson and Neil Davies. Charlotte and John I know quite well since we graduated together at Birmingham University having been co-undergraduate for three years.

May 3rd, 4th.

Weekend

May 5th

Bank Holiday - May Day

May 6th

A visit with Brian Hutton to see his ditch system near Ullenhall, which he has called Hobditch Causeway.

Most of the team came with me, Cray and Stuart.
 They are a most impressive construction, stretching
 for some 4 and-a-half miles based on the R. Alne.
~~around~~ ^{about} Blunts Green. Cray and I were greatly
 interested - Stuart too I think.

I came to the conclusion that they were probably
 Romano-British in origin, but I cannot imagine
 what their purpose was. Because of the possibility
 of a Romano-British building - there is a
 spread of tiles in a field - in close proximity with
 them I was tempted to imagine some large scale
 enterprise of a considerable landowner or under
 imperial sponsorship.

The land was probably very valuable for some
 reason in Roman times because it was certainly
 so in later times, as judged by the clear ridge
 and furrow around Hobditch Copse. I think
 however there has always been a considerable problem
 with drainage - which may perhaps provide a
 clue to the origin of some of the extensive
 brian has been contemplating the area for about
 12 years

May 7th

Stuart, Ted and I went to the Agency today to
 decide on the arrangements for the expanded team
 to take effect from next week.

The expansion of the team was decided upon sometime
 ago and only now has the necessary administrative
 procedure been gone through to allow us to ~~restructure~~
 appoint people to positions.
 The archaeological side will have one senior

supervisor (Stuart), four supervisors - instead of one as at present (which is me), six leading hands, and two full-timers. After various changes over the next month the final outcome for our existing staff will be Adnan Cox - supervisor, ^{to T. Thompson} John Phiney - leading hand, M. Tuck - leading hand, T. Head - leading hand, S. Johnson - full time, E. Walford - full time, A. Mill - leading hand. This will leave us with three vacancies: supervisor, and two leading hands.

I am very pleased for our ^{these} ~~other~~ employees ^{who are in 'arm'} whom I think thoroughly deserved promotion. ^{But} I must say these considerations were not shared by the Agency ~~and~~ so we could have had a hard fight in other circumstances. But as it was we just had to be determined.

Back to archaeology in the afternoon to be rained off at about 3.15. Martin found a piece of orange coloured ware in H.M.1 at this time and we got staked to skin 3-D recording it. It is the first piece not grey or blue grey or brown that we have found.

May 8th

The weather has been deplorable for the last few days - heavy rain showers at all the wrong times ~~for~~ as, as it were. So I have ^{had} to mention the weather again, after all.

In the afternoon David Wilson visited the site. He was interested in all its aspects, and once again remarked on its great size and formidable character.

He said that you might find any one of its characteristics on many other sites, but that the combination of them is, in his experience, unique. H.M. is the most impressive monument in the country.

He is clearly interested in the progress of the excavation and offered us any assistance that we might think ourselves able to give.

May 9th

May 9th

A slightly better day - but H.M. was too wet for work to be done. Another dreadful day. ~~Strat~~ Erry, Martin, I and ~~others~~ joined Stuart in H.M. 3 where he is planning an extension. ~~He had a little work in the bottom of the stone to the tower.~~

In between times I went to the Agency with Erry where Neil intrigued me into his office with the purpose of putting to me a case for the Field Archaeology Unit contributing a substantial paper rather than the much thinner one which Neil thinks they have in mind - or no contribution at all. Aware of the various aspects to this ongoing situation - archaeologists vs. Solihull's idiosyncratic Community Programme - I essentially avoided the issue, wishing I was somewhere else. But I could see part of Neil's position and so I thought it right that I should ~~represent~~ ^{take to} his views in conversations, making no recommendations.

In the early evening Stuart, Florian, Erry and myself went to BUFAU at the university for a meeting scheduled last week to discuss further this Strategy Paper. In no time at all we were talking about a presentation to H.B.M.C. for a licence for ~~future~~ ^{subsequent} excavation work over a long period of time. No further mention was made of the 'Strategy documents', and for all intents and purposes as a presentation to M.S.C., or as a sort of brochure that S.E.A. can bendy about as, as it

~~were, the product of commissioned consultants~~

In the evening Stuart, Gary, Adrian and I went to BUAU for a meeting scheduled last week to discuss the Strategy Paper. Shortly the conversation turned this into a presentation to the H.B.M.C. for a licence to excavate Hobs Mead subsequently. We felt ~~that~~ ^{this to be} the most important thing of the moment, ~~outweighing~~ outweighing the need for the paper S.E.A. have asked for, which seems to be a brochure-like thing to be shown to the M.S.C. and so on.

I referred to Neil's views expressed to me earlier in the day ~~and he agreed that we should provide them with something~~ and we agreed that we should attempt to provide ~~them with~~ ^{him with} something along the lines of their idea. That way we might help the project ~~and~~ while dealing with the fixity of purpose at the Agency

May 10th, 11th.

Weekend

May 12th

Occasional rain over the weekend made H.M.1 too wet for any work today. Instead all present turned to H.M.3 where the trench is being expanded to include the southern side of the gap ~~overlapped~~ ^{between} the internal ramps.

Stuart has also decided to develop a second trench in the ditch here extending from 3, which Adrian is to supervise. Work began on clearing scrub

on Friday and was continued today.

During the morning I went to the Agency to see whether the various administrative procedures relating to the staff promotions were under way. They were not. But I was pleased to be told that promotions would be effective anyway from today.

Honorey Elford, personnel manager, asked me if a simplified method for interviewing job applicants could be acceptable to us. I said that I was sure it would be and that I would relay the gist on to Stuart.

May 13th

Still wet - we were only able to work sporadically and very carefully on H.M.1.

H.M.2 and H.M.3 continued in like manner. In the afternoon I took Fahrah Mir, who is working with clay on H.M.3, to the Sixth Form College in St. Helens so that she could do some chemical analyses of the soil samples we have been collecting (or at least she has) from H.M.1. Specifically today she ^{was} ~~was~~ to establish the pH value of the samples. ~~After~~ later she will detail phosphate and nitrate content, as we go.

Around 3.00 Mike Hodder and Kate Morgan - Boyer (Forest Ranges at Sandwell) came to see the site and were given the usual conducted tour. They stayed until about 5.00, and Mike seemed well-disposed generally to our enterprise - though I noted he still held reservations about the need to dig that site which he had expressed to me two years ago.

Mike is another of the class of B'ham University of ca 76-79, whom I graduated with. I knew him earlier though; we worked together from 1973 at Wall or Lichfield R. site.

N.B. Large shard of gritty orange ware found in H.M. 3 today
May 14th

It doesn't stop raining. Work was again brought to a halt generally on the site this afternoon because of a downpour and thunder.

In the morning some work was possible in H.M. 1. Presently I am being assisted just by Terry and Martin. Both spent a good part of the time today plotting the spread of iron or iron-like objects Terry has found over the last two days in E.

I am not convinced that they are ~~definitely~~ iron; but there does seem a possibility of ² hearths or hearths in E, as judged by the colour of one part of the deposit, and so it is possible that iron blooming was going on here.

I travelled back across E in the direction of 3 and encountered, first, a clay line ^{towards} ~~the~~ across the surface ~~in the direction of~~ the bean slot in B, and then beyond ~~that~~, nearer to 3, a filled in ditch or depression parallel with the line. I could see it in the section.

With so small a workforce at present it is difficult to do more than minimal amounts of work when the weather allows. And when it does the results are too small to allow much in the way of interpretation. I suspect this

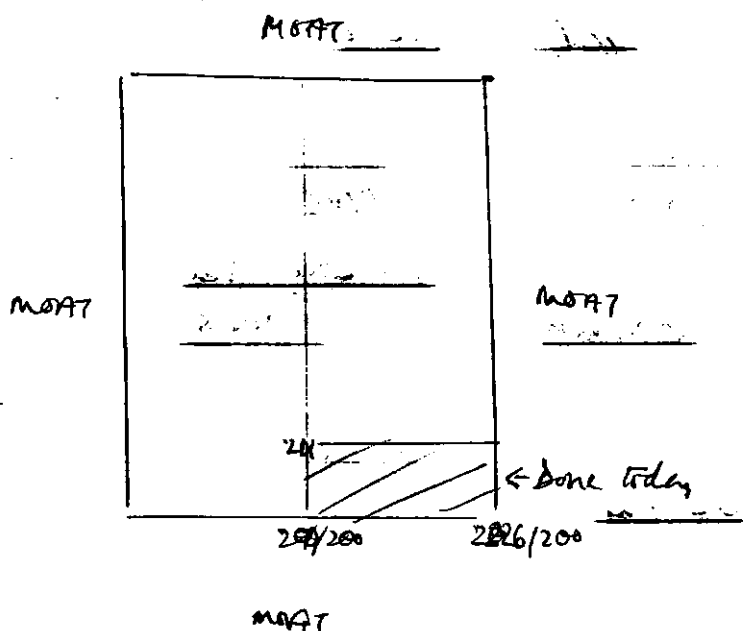
brates will continue until the new part-time workers join us

May 15th

This morning H.M.I was sodden with standing water all over the place, No work was possible.

Instead Terry and I started a probe survey of the moat platform. The intention is to test soil resistance in the same way as the resistivity survey last year but using actual physical contact ~~with~~ ~~the~~ this time. It will be interesting to see how the results compare with the resistivity survey and whether we will come up with additional information.

Using the present grid we will probe at 1 metre intervals. Today we accomplished 11 x 26 probes in the north western part of the platform — that is from 200/200 → 226/200 — 24/200, 24/226. We will continue down the western side of the 200 line up to ca 285 then repeat the survey for the eastern side, up to ca 285:



In the afternoon Neil Davies turned up with the rather startling news that English Heritage have asked us to close H.M.3 until the inspector of ancient monuments in this area (M. Parker Pearson) has had a chance to talk to us. We understand that he is to call in on May 27th.

I think this is some sort of misunderstanding brought about by having three trenches under excavation. After all no licence from English Heritage is for a limited excavation of the monument and three trenches may look rather less than limited.

We shall see.

May 16th

I went to the Agency in the morning to discuss various administrative matters. ~~That was~~ In all I was there for about an hour and a half. When I got back I talked to Stuart for a good while about a difficult subject that had been raised. ~~That was put in an informal position~~
~~Stuart and I went to the university - the~~
 early afternoon

Some general work was done on H.M.1 and H.M.2, while H.M.3 was tidied up and covered with polythene.

The small amount of work which we have done on H.M.1 this week suggests that there is a band of accretion-type material in G bounded by two indistinct pink clay lines. Whether this is a structure wall remains to be seen. If it is, it is a narrowed extension

of the building is B.

At the end of this week I must confess that I am heartily perplexed by the weather which is now causing disruption to the project schedule. It seems to have rained on nearly every day since sometime in March.

May 17th, 18th

Weekend

May 19th

A fine day for a change with temperatures more appropriate to the time of the year.

Our schedule did not coincide with this unexpected improvement and - for once - we were not able to take advantage ~~advantage~~ of the fine weather. Instead all of the senior members of the team were engaged in planning a long paper which is to provide the basis of the presentation in English Heritage to be made in due course.

It has been brought forward because of the visit of M. Parker Pearson on May 27th; I gather Patrick's intention is to use an first version of the presentation in our discussions on the day. Present were Stuart, Gary, myself, Adrian Cox, Fakrak Mir and Jorie Chinnay. Various parts were assigned to all except Jorie - I was designated to do 'History' (part 2), and strategies for subsequent ^{historical} research.

In the afternoon Jorie and I went to the Agency on various matters. There, Wendy Elsworth

asked us if we could provide two volunteers for a First Aid course starting ~~Monday~~ Wednesday for two days and a suitable candidate for an Electrical course. She also told us that Adrian and Gary are promoted supervisors from Monday. The rest of the day was spent in arranging and typing an introductory letter to various councillors which Stuart wishes to send immediately.

May 20th

After yesterday's unusual benign weather today a truly hideous day with colossal downpours, and thunder from time to time. I have never in my life seen so much stinking water in and around the moat.

I spent the day finishing off Stuart's letter to councillors (having been to the Nursery in the early morning first) and arrived 3.00 went home to continue work on my section of the paper.

Last night I was up until after midnight working on this.

May 21st

The site is waterlogged and no work is possible. I spent the day working on my section of the paper.

May 22nd

Sitto, as yesterday

May 23rd

Rather better today but there were a number of jobs outstanding elsewhere which prevented me working on H.M.1. I went to the Agency, among other things, to sort out various administrative matters.

Bruce remained in the office with Adrian and Sonie finishing off the papers.

At 12.30 I started work on the probe survey, managing May 24th & 25th 4×26 readings before and after lunch

Weekend

May 26th, 27th

Public holiday. Mailed letters to 18 council members

May 28th

Today spent in tidying up the site in advance of visit by assistant inspector (M. Parker Pearson) from English Heritage.

Over the weekend there has been a serious outbreak of vandalism, the worst since the project started. Fences were pushed over, timber and polythene was removed elsewhere, and litter was dropped everywhere. The team had to work hard indeed to clear up the mess.

May 29th

In the morning I did a great deal of photocopying, producing 7 copies of the ^{or} paper we had produced ~~for the~~ - now entitled 'Hobs Moat Archaeological

Project² - Research Design¹.

Parker-Pearson came in the afternoon and was presented with a copy. He also encountered a considerable deputation from Solihull Borough Council, and seemed, not surprisingly, a little taken aback. Present were: David Smith, A. Furness-Huson, David Wilkes, Tom Lewis, Peter Dawson, Andrew Brooker-Carey (BuFAU)

It also transpired during the day that we are to enter a float in the annual Solihull carnival on June 7th, transport provided by the Parks Dept. The idea occurred to me last week and I suggested it, mostly in jest, yesterday. I was surprised when it was taken seriously. Now I have the task of producing said float p.d.g.

May 30th.

This should have been a quiet day after the bustle of late, but about mid morning I was surprised to see ~~a little gaggle~~ David Smith then Tom Lewis appear on the car park. It then transpired that Michael Sweet was about to visit the site but nobody had told me.

He arrived soon after and we had a lengthy stroll around the site, with him looking at all the aspects of the work so far. The excursion was much like the last one and he expressed an identical level of interest. Then he went away. Like last time

In the afternoon I went to do some more photo-copying and to firm up our arrangements

for the carnival float. I was not particularly successful in the latter.

May 31st, June 1st.

Weekends

June end

I was able to get hold of somebody on the carnival committee today and I was told that we be alright to enter a float on the day. The rest of the week will be spent in making it.

June 3rd - 6th.

Working on carnival float: theme 'Sotchull. Domesday 900, '086 - 1986'.

June 7th, 8th.

Weekend. The carnival took place on Saturday and our entry was well received, attracting a lot of attention. In the time in which it took to construct the float I think we made a gallant effort.

June 9th

A cold, rather autumnal morning, but at least dry. In the afternoon Stuart, I, Gary Adrain and Ted went to the Agency for a meeting scheduled at short notice by Neil Jones last week. It was a most uncomfortable affair, coming in the

wake of ^{the} many difficulties Stuart had had with the Agency over a period of time.

It was an attempt by certain individuals to bring Stuart to heel (and the project), presided over by David Smith, Education and Training Officer for SMBC. ~~But~~ David Smith was not the instigator of the move nor necessarily was he in sympathy with it; in effect he was doing his job as an Officer of the authority - ~~at~~ he was required to act as a buffer because of his connection with the Agency.

He tried hard in what appeared to me an impossible situation. Stuart does not get on with the management of the Agency, nor will he ever do; for their part the Agency ^{principal officers} ~~do~~ not get on with him - and clearly have no intention now of doing so. The whole position appears to be irreconcilable.

He parted with a patched-up compromise, but I should be surprised if there was any goodwill attached to it.

June 10th

This morning I learn that Stuart has received a final disciplinary note signed by Neil Davies giving him 5 days to accept certain conditions of employment with the Agency; ~~or~~ the alternative is dismissal. Stuart does not accept this and is naturally intensely aggrieved.

This is not in line with the apparent compromise of yesterday and it appears to question the value of David Smith's influence with the Agency, which

he is nominally responsible for as the link between S.E.A. and the Education Committee under which it was set up. We shall await events.

In the afternoon a second scheduled meeting took place with Alan Funnell-Hinson, Ted Banks, Stuart and Neil Davies walking the site to discuss the landscaping part of the project. I took no part in it.

Instead Martin, Adrian and I undertook some more of the probe survey, reaching line 218 N - completing now about $1/10$ of the platform.

June 11th

The weather was objectionable for a large part of yesterday and overnight. This morning we found the site swimming with water.

No archaeological work was possible and so Larry and I went to Birmingham University to catch up on various aspects to the dig here.

One was a meeting with Andrew Brooker-Lacey, where we asked him to estimate the cost of environmental sampling and the like plus external reports for the project for next year (this had been sprung on ~~me~~ us yesterday as being a figure required 'the day before'). Andrew lifted his eyes heavenwards - and then said that it had cost £500 in such-and-such a project. I multiplied the figure by 4, and said that I doubted that we'd be far wrong in that!

Afterwards we went to see Dr Ron Baker in the Dept. of Geology, who organised the geophysical

surveys of the site last year. He had already organised his students' work for this year and could not help us in this respect ~~then~~ at the moment. But, very usefully, he offered us the use of a proton magnetometer whenever we want it at a nominal fee, and in addition gave us a lot of information on where to store the measuring equipment.

Back at the site there was little that could be done and so I went back to the probe survey with Martin and others.

June 12th

A better day, but still there was water everywhere in the circumstances, in the morning Martin, Terry and I continued with the probe survey, getting as far as 230 by the time we stopped for lunch.

In the afternoon the H.M.1 had dried somewhat and so we spent the rest of the day preparing it for renewed excavation.

June 13th

I was otherwise engaged today but I instructed Martin, Terry and Michael Birch (new employee - brother of Chris Birch) to begin work on E preparatory to me drawing it. By ~~the~~ 2.30 they had probed most of the area.

We saw nobody during the day, which was a bit surprising because Mr. Wilke had phoned me last night to say that he had taken

the matter of Stuart's disciplinary letter up with ~~the~~ senior officers of the Authority. He said that the event was being taken very seriously, since (if nothing else) S.E.A. had broken their own disciplinary code, which he takes to be the same as the Authority's. He struck me as very irritated.

June 14, 15th.

Weekend. On Saturday I attended St. Mary's annual Fête, along with Stuart, Larry and Adrian, where all four of us gave guided tours round the excavations. These were surprisingly well attended.

There was also a display in the chapel on the side of St. Mary's of the research findings of the project so far.

June 16th

I began drawing today with Martin, Terry and Martin. Terry and Michael Birch cleaned E11 fire detail in preparation for me drawing the area. I was otherwise employed for ~~part of~~ the day, running a variety of errands. ~~My first~~ ~~three~~ ~~times~~ - three times to S.E.A., once to the Sixth Form College and more. By the time I was free it was too late to start work.

June 17th

~~Start~~ Started drawing E, completing S square

metres by the end of the day. It is a very complicated surface, with a great deal of disturbance, - removed making hills. The occupation layer of the building merges into 125 then imperceptibly into 127 - the whole seems suggestive of this part of the building wearing out or indeed the structure coming to an end.

With me today were Terry, Martin and Michael.

June 18th.

I was very preoccupied this morning with various matters and then I fell into a long conversation with Stuart about the future of the site. Because of the shortened timescale that we are beginning to consider (after all, the first year of the project finishes in September), I relinquished the drawing of E to Martin. I joined the travellers preparing B for a final examination before we start removing the beam slot fill and the occupation material.

I had decided on this second look to see if I missed anything in drawing it and to see how it compares with our drawings.

So far it looks good - I was amazed at how like my plan the surface is!

June 19th

Spent the day looking for the remains of the beam slot which Stuart worked on some months ago. It is very difficult to see; and in pursuing I had to remove some of 125, which I now perceive as being stratigraphically 'above' the occupation.

layer of the building. ~~Because~~^{and} It is somewhat lumpy or lumpy in texture I wonder if it represents a build up of ~~this~~ material subsequent to the building going out of use.

Elsewhere in the trench Terry, Fry Whetley and Pauline Richards finished re-cleaning B - ~~not~~ I now see that it compares well with my plan, except that ~~there~~^{there} is some additional detail which ~~that~~ I can put in with respect to the clay (was in the western part of the trench (next to 200 line) Some of the root disturbance ~~seen~~ seemed superimposed not possible post holes - one of which appears to be very large.

June 20th in situ

In tracing ^{the extension of} Stuart's beam slot, 13, I perpetrated an act of over-enthusiasm today. Quite unaccountably in my effort to see the the thing I had the material dug out without sectioning it in the appropriate manner.

Actually in my mind's eye I was following Stuart's previous work on this slot where he had the post holes and slot drawn at intervals laterally with the post holes sectioned at 180 degrees. In looking at his work it appeared to me that he had done this after the material had been ~~down~~ removed, whereas, apparently, it was done progressively with the fill in situ.

Stuart drew this to my attention - that I had emptied the slot without drawing sections - and went on to explain how it should be done. From this it appeared that it hadn't done it according

to the prescribed method either, for he had not sectioned it longitudinally, building this up as he went along.

He was certain that this couldn't have been so until I demonstrated to him that it was. If he had been less unfortunate in ~~his~~ ^{his} advice to me, ~~over~~ after the event and after almost no help or assistance over the last nine months, I think I shouldn't have bothered.

As a result of today's work it seemed to me that the extension of the beam slit is under 125 and probably under 127 as well. It is different in character from the part exposed earlier, being deeper, wider and with a different type of fill (very few large stones). ~~That~~ many in fact represent a separate phase of the structure - it is separated from 13 proper by a long break in the slit.

We have noted and drawn two pink-type clay lines in or over 127. They are fragmentary but definite. I wonder therefore whether they suggests that 127 is a phase subsequent to 13 and its 'extension'.

June 21st, 22nd.

Weekend

June 23rd.

A new archaeologist started today with the full-time

team, Sean Steadman. The morning was spent in introducing him to the Agency administratively and getting him registered for income tax (it is his first job since graduating in 1985).

12 H.M. the day ~~was spent~~ ^{started} developing the features observed over the preceding months preparation to taking out the occupation material of the building. Sean was deputed ^{from} to bring the drawn sections up to date. These included a new section which we started today north south down the middle of the trench (and building, therefore) which I have thought would be a useful addition ~~was~~ to our understanding of the stratigraphy.

True date

Rain overnight left the site wet and generally unsuitable for work. As a tolerable substitute Terry, Martin, Sean and I ran off from here of the probe survey during the morning.

We have now completed up to 235 north south, in the course of which we seem to have detected a number of shallow (i.e.) features. Some of these appear to be comparable with anomalies in the resistivity survey.

By the afternoon it was dry enough to accomplish some work on H.M.1 and we attended to developing the beam slot 141, which, excavated Friday, is the extension of 131. Its counterpart among the tree root activity close to the 200 line east is 145.

This ^{feature} may or may not be a slot and may or may

not have a companion running part of the way along side it, dog leg fashion.

Looking at this whole area in some detail many times I have come to the conclusion that the light pink areas, which often appear to be lines, are the remnants of a clay floor. The bright orange red clay must have a different origin, in all probability.

I spent an hour or two towards the end of the day making out context sheets to bring the trench up to date.

June 25th

Very much the same work today in H.M.1 as Monday and Tuesday afternoon. Attention was paid to developing the vicinity of 145, which is highly confused, while I had 125 taken down 5 cms or so on one side of the medical section to see how the area would develop.

Sean and I ~~at~~ continued work on 141, looking for its further extensions (myself), sketching and drawing it as already known (Sean).

During the course of all this Martin, somewhat inauspiciously, drew to my attention the break between 141 and 131 - and got a boulder clay - which he saw as appearing elsewhere in the trench in a ~~line~~ line across the excavation. When I looked ^{I could see that} he was right, there is a line of bright yellow scum running across the trench.

The further meaning of this is not clear yet ~~to~~ ^{me}, but it does look at first sight as if there

is a structure below the uppermost occupation material running at slightly more, or less, than a right angle ~~to the~~ across the trend under the presently excavated structure. This does of course look very interesting.

June 28th. to July 3th

Two weeks holiday.

On Wednesday 2nd July the mayor of Solihull, Cllr. Mrs Noll-Allen, visited the project and was shown around the site. On Tuesday 8th July Cllr. Wright, Chairman of the Education Committee visited the project with a view to setting up the proposed steering group for the dig - he was accompanied by Messrs Sweet, Smith, James, Lewis and others. I was present at both events

July 14th

Back at the site. - I did little work today except for beginning an outline plan of H M 1 showing the principal features at 1:20.

July 15th

Little, as yesterday. During the day my frustration at certain aspects of the management of the project reached new heights - which I expressed in due course.

July 16th.

I am owed many days off in lieu, so I took one today.

July 17th

A difficult day; Stuart is in all sorts of difficulties with the Agency. ~~which~~ ^{These} are now coming to a head.

All this is to some extent of his own making, and he is now the subject of a disciplinary process initiated because he was unable to negotiate his way round problems created by the Agency. Instead he chose to be more than difficult himself, allowing a disciplinary charge to be made. The impasse was seized upon with alacrity by certain people.

Thus it was that when I came in this morning Stuart has just received notice of which officer of the Council the Director of Education had appointed to look into the matter. About half an hour later he received a note from the Agency telling him that his holiday application had been ^{partially} rejected because he had not indicated for ^{some of} it in the due period (the holiday year for S.M.B.C. officers commences in April, which Stuart and I am commencing in April). Much I drew to Stuart's attention in March realising that unless we regularised the position promptly he and I would lose our holiday entitlement for September 85 to March 86. He did nothing - and has now lost part of his holiday 'credit' in consequence. It is certain that every effort now ^{being} made ^{to make} as difficult as possible for him.

In the afternoon we received a visit from David

Wilson who went round the site and seemed more impressed than ever. He studied the two semi-circular walls (buddled up to one another) on H.M.3 for a good while and pronounced himself perplexed. He wondered whether they might record two wells, one dug subsequent to the other. All this, he thought, might then have been superseded by the large moat which we now see, where there was a gap in the rampart at H.M.3, possibly for a bridge.

I wondered afterwards whether the gap in the rampart with its very odd latest 'structures' - just a spread of cobbles and so on - might be an approach to the moat, over some sort of platform, where a bucket was lowered into the moat for water - thus serving essentially the same use for this part of the earthwork.

Later he was standing on H.M.2 when Neil Davies came on site rather animatedly and demanded to know why the section had not been shored as the Agency had decreed. Not being introduced to David Wilson, and not knowing who he was, Davies demanded in front of ^{Strat} ~~him~~ that it should be either be shored appropriately or filled in. Strat treated the matter somewhat dismissively.

Davies left in an uncompromising mood and said he would be back tomorrow.

I cannot imagine what David Wilson made of this entire, which must seem implausible to him in the same way that they seem unnecessary to us.

July 18th

Neil Danes and the new safety officer for S.G.A. - (Terry) - turned up this morning, Neil saying that he was in charge ^{of the site} until the section had either been filled in, shored appropriately, or, otherwise, by some sort of combination of the two, made safe the health and safety requirements.

Strat ~~of course~~ does not find it easy to deal with such situations so I interceded rapidly to find a compromise - making sure Labour was satisfied on both sides who could both claim some sort of victory.

Strat and I rapidly drew the section - which was explained to Neil as a substitute for the sort of work we would have done - while I organised several of my team to back-fill the dangerous part from the spoil tip. Between 10 a.m and 2 p.m we moved something like 50 tons, much to the amazement of Neil and Terry, who I am sure were confident that such a hole could not be filled in with the labour and tools available.

Those doing the greater part of the work were Kato, Phil, Terry, myself, Steve Johnson and several others whose ^{names} as new employees, I do not know.

July 19th, 20th

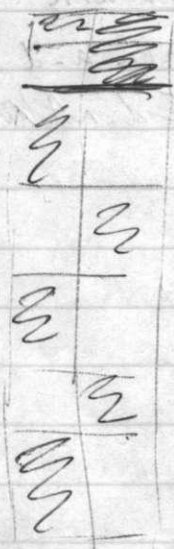
Weekend

July 21st

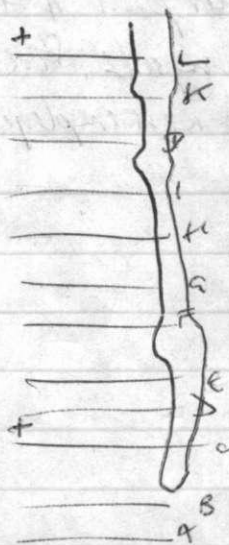
Strat is on holiday.

In the morning I went to the Agency to ask about the renewal of contracts for some of our employees, in particular Martin Tuck and Terry Head. I was told that this was not normally possible but that it might be in certain circumstances - i.e. if the team were to be put in difficulty by others leaving whom ^{we} anticipated to remain. The matter was left for further consideration.

On the site work on 11m continued with the diagrammatic drawing of the features (myself) and with the beginning of the removal of the 'barths' between various shallow trenches with their attendant sections which Strat organised last week. These sections were ^{supervised} ~~organised~~ by Terry Head and given a very complicated numbering system - which I have reduced on my diagram, at least at the beginning, to sections A to G. As they are in two groups this may not be the final shape in the plan.



20/1



20/1

Elsewhere on site H.M.2 continued to produce much pottery, as it has been recently. While Sean Steadman investigated the construction of trenches to the two semi-circular walls on H.M.2.

July 22nd.

at the site.

Work continued on H.M.1 much as yesterday. By 4.00 the baulks between the sections on the ridge & had been removed, allowing the area to be prepared for drawing.

During the course of the day I received news that Messrs R. Meacham, leader of the controlling ~~body~~ group on the Metropolitan Borough Council, and J. Scarpion Chief Executive of the Authority are to visit us tomorrow. Numerous preparations for this took up most of the afternoon.

July 23rd

We put on a display this morning in the Church Hall for our visitors this afternoon. I decided that it would be a good idea to draw attention to the quantity of m. finds, so as many objects were included as possible.

Mr Meacham and Mr Scarpion arrived at about 3.30 and stayed until after 5.00. If this visit had been motivated by a suggestion of necessity the aspect of our guests soon implied that they were considerably surprised at what they found and impressed both by the site and by the ^{quantity & the} project. Mr Meacham in particular

was most complimentary about ^{our activities} ~~the project~~ ~~and its work~~; but I fancy that Mr Scamper, who is perhaps not naturally inclined to archaeology, also recognised ~~the~~ worth of the project.

The visit was, I was told afterwards, a complete success.

Tom Lewis was present and Neil Davies. David Wilkes and David Smith made up the party.

July 24th

A quiet day - work continued on HM1 and HM3, with Liang supervising some work on HM2.

It has been clear for some days that Liang is unwell and he has decided to go home to see his family doctor. He expects to have a few days off, starting tomorrow.

July 25th

Rain during the night left the site rather wet. No work was possible until about 11.00 a.m.

I had the team doing various duties until about 1.30 p.m. when I let them go home.

Several members are on holiday next week, four of our team leaving on a joint holiday today: Chris, Martin, Terry and Steve Johnson. Unbelievably they have borrowed a black taxi and intend to tour Wales looking for archaeologists and whatever else. I thought it reminiscent of 'Summer Holiday' as they set off, and wondered whether they might sport a banner Hobbs Meat On Tour or Hobbs Meat Roadshow. I wonder whether the natives

will make of them

July 26, 27/11.

Weekend

July 28th

Work continued generally on H.M.1 with the sections in B and Y being developed further. A first look was taken at the feature now seen in X (some sort of depression with a dirty fill)

During the late morning Neil Daniels called me to the Agency to answer a query regarding the letter received ~~by the Agency~~ from English Heritage a little while ago (June, I think). It called for "estimates of resources and academic and excavation intentions to be submitted to English Heritage by August 1st" — I recognised immediately that we are right in the top of the deadfish. ~~This was the purpose of the interview~~ ^{new task} whether we are on course for this; but I knew nothing about it. ~~I expressed surprise~~ ^{Neil asked} until today. ~~I expressed surprise~~ and said I would see to the co-ordination of our efforts.

The understanding of Heritage is that BUFAU ~~will~~ is to prepare this strategy and resources plan, but this too is news to me. I shall go and see Arthur Brooker-Lacey tomorrow.

July 29th

To BUFAU with Adrian. Andrew was there and

spoke somewhat cagey to us. He did understand that the unit was to prepare the plan called for by Hentage and said that they would meet the deadline. Pressed further he said the plan would be with the Agency by Monday.

Back on the site some further on Mon (was possible) — the trenches and sections were drawn almost up to date.

July 30th

Rain today made the site unworkable. I sent the landscapers home around mid-morning and divided the archaeologists into two groups; one to be sent home also. The others I retained on the understanding that the next time it rained they would be sent home early.

The reduced team was put to work drawing, tracing, tying up, pot-washing etc. By the end of the day a good deal had been accomplished — which was the intention of my idea; that smaller numbers, and less diversions, would make for better progress.

Today it certainly worked out that way.

July 31st

The site remained wet this morning and so no physical work was possible until after midday. The team (all of them) came on with the efforts of yesterday. By lunchtime I was looking round for the last scraps of unfrushed work, which I think is the first

time even that the project has been up to date.

In the afternoon we managed some work on H. M1 and a little on H. M2; also Sean and others were able to do a bit of the probe survey - reaching about line 240.

In H. M1 we are trying to sort out some of the unfortunate work done in my absence during my recent holiday. At the same time I am having the various new surfaces drawn; while we begin to approach the interesting question of whether the ridge in γ and ξ , now called 175, is earlier than building or later than it. To establish this I am beginning a section on the line 275 across the transect from the building through 175 to the bank.

August 1st.

Friday - today is a 'short' day, as always. I got the team out early saying that we would work hard until 2.00 p.m., then go home.

This, I thought, would be better than a slightly longer period with all sorts of interruption with all the dispersion of efforts which tends to occur.

A good deal of work was done in H. M1, with the present work in H. M2 brought completely up to date, ready for lay on Monday.

All told, a good day.

Street is also back on Monday. With Adrian and Sean I have been running the site on my own for the last two weeks.

August 2nd, 3rd.

Weekend

August 4th

After starting work this morning at the usual time Stuart was called to the Agency around mid-morning and ~~there~~ told that he was suspended from duties until the outcome of his disciplinary enquiry is known. The grounds for this are that he has once again contravened the disciplinary code as set out by the Agency, that is to say, that he has communicated with someone without the permission of the Agency. ^{and in defiance of his management, which is something that he has never done before} The someone is David Smith, whom he wrote to complain about his difficulties during his recent holidays.

The ~~rest~~ rest of the day was spent in handling the problems arising from this. In particular, ^{to} consult with the Agency to assess the current condition of the project.

Low Key's illustration

August 5th

Further difficulties arising from Stuart's suspension prevented me from much personal supervision of the site today. ^{but for my things} ~~It~~ carried on appropriately, supervised by Adrian and Sean.

My role this week will be largely to prevent any avoidable mishaps to the project and to keep everything ticking over until Stuart returns or is dismissed or his contract runs out.

Today the void behind the wall in H.M.3 (ie between the wall and the ramp) was filled.

August 6th.

Work continued this morning as usual with Larry in the last stages of preparation to take the pre-existing H.M. rampart in this area out. While my team made some progress in H.M. 1 in planning areas 1, 2, & 3 (the ridge ^{NS} top-surface, the area between the ridge and the ~~old~~ building, and the occupation material in the building) & No work was done in +/m3.

The original development of areas 1 & 2 in H.M. 1 was done in my absence ~~by~~ under Stuart's supervision ~~and seems to have~~ by volunteers from the Sixie Form College; ~~it~~ ^{they} has not been recorded appropriately, nor does it seem that anybody understood what they were doing.

Adrian, ~~I~~ and Sean ^{therefore} are presently trying to make some sense of it, and to take forward its development in a sensible fashion.

In the afternoon Larry, Ted, Adrian and I went to the Agency at Neil's request to discuss the ~~the~~ arrangement's for the project next year. (Ted, I and Larry have been renewed for a second year). I think the actual purpose was to discuss the report for Phase I of the project which is required by English Heritage in December and which is therefore of considerable importance - since Phase 3 and subsequent work is dependent on its appearance. Stuart has been insisting for some time to the Agency that this is his sole responsibility and that only he can write it, Larry for his part and others since this latest difficulty ^{being} have been saying that

they will take no part in its compilation
 to assist the Agency out of this difficulty
 I ~~realist~~ ^{not taking part in the discussion} that there are a number of
 possible arguments ~~in this~~ at this point
 and I was glad when Neil summed up the
 difficulty and asked Cary print blank in
^{exchange} whether he would do it. Rather him than
 me! Cary quietly assented that in those
 circumstances he would have to.

August 7th

This is a wretched summer - like last year,
 and all the time, I think, in between.
 Today it didn't know whether to rain or to
 shine; consequently work proceeded
 throughout the day with one eye cast
 heavenwards.

As it happened, surprisingly, it didn't
 actually deluge and quite a lot of work
 was accomplished, particularly on Hm2
 Here Cary took ^{out} alternate sections of the
 caliche bank over

It is, as we expected, a simple structure,
~~but in its own~~ but if we are lucky we may
 be able to say something of its date and
 implications

August 8th

Pretty much as yesterday, but Cary managed
 to complete his sections leaving them to be
 drawn next week

He goes to Greece now for 6 weeks and ~~he~~ doesn't know whether he will be back. However, we will complete the Hm2 section and backfill in due course in the appropriate manner.

August 9th, 1966

Weekend.

August 11th.

After a wet weekend the site was almost unworkable. I set a number of the team to do residual tasks in the trenches, like planning, and the rest were employed on the probe survey and on tidying up the crew room etc. For myself I went to the Agency and began photocopying my plans. By the time I'd finished I had completed all the plans and drawings for Hm1.

The photocopying is for a complete duplicate set of records which I shall store in a safe place. (at S.E.A., I have decided). I dread to think what would happen if someone were to break into our office.

During the afternoon while I was still at the Agency we took delivery of a large container from a container wagon, which is intended to store our tools etc outside the present facilities. I do ^{not know} the circumstances of its being acquired by the Agency (or how much it cost) but it is a most splendid store for our purposes. It is a vast improvement.

Ted organised its off-loading and had it placed near the medieval lane approx mid way between the church and the churchhall. It had been intended that it should go behind the church hall but the wagon was a side off-loader and in any case the container seemed to big to fit into the intended position.

August 12th.

The accumulated water on site and the seeming threat of more to come made the site unworkable ~~again~~ ^{once} again. So ~~the circumstances~~ ^{circumstances} I ~~requested~~ ^{asked} everyone to transfer the tools to the new store, and to make the crew room as clear and pleasant as possible. When that was done most ~~of~~ ^{the} were sent home.

I went to the Agency during the morning and did some more photography, completing all for H.M.2 by the early afternoon. ~~During the morning, however,~~ ^{Earlier} Tom Lewis called on me on one side and had a long conversation with me, becoming quite ~~pleasant~~ ^{pleasant} ~~very shortly~~ - more conversational ~~with me~~ ^{than I have ever} before. It is clear, ~~however~~ ^{clear} that he does not like Stuart, but it is equally obvious that he has an entirely different view of what ~~and the purpose of the project~~ ^{that} is projected by Stuart. It is hard to see why the two don't get along and never will. For my part I am inclined towards Tom's

viewing things and his values, and I am
 disinclined to be supportive of Stuart's attitudes
 and perceptions. I like Tom Lewis for all
 his intransigence and I am very grateful that
 the project became a lighted path of insight
 out of extraneous nonsense and infighting.

August 13th

To the Agency in the morning but I managed
 to do little in the way of photography. Rain
 insured that nothing could be done on the
 site, so I set the team to brotting, improving
 the facilities. These now work better than
 ever the church has kept them in many
 years past.

August 14th

An exceptionally busy day. The first twelve months
 of the project is coming to an end and many of
 the two teams will have to leave shortly. I am
 increasingly involved in planning for this.

Having rushed about all day, here and there, I
 was very glad when, about 3.00 p.m., we went
 home.

August 15th, 16th

Ditto
 Weekend

August 16th, 17th

Weekend

August 18th

Another extraordinarily busy day. Currently I am involved in planning for the new team (to start in September), in organising the office appropriately — better than hitherto, in ordering large amounts of tools and equipment for the project's second year. At the same time, since Gary and Adrian are away and since Stuart is in kinbo, I am trying to oversee ^{after all time} the site. Keeping up with the archaeology is quite difficult!

Added to this, every day something completely unexpected happens. Today it was because of Tom Lewis — who allowed me to organise for his last week the sale of a projector television to S.G.A. courtesy of a friend of mine.

Quoting an order number he agreed readily to purchase at a price of £1800. My friend, on the strength of this, went to Debenhams and purchased the projector television laying out pound notes for it. And the arrangement should, in any conceivable circumstances, have been alright — but this morning a message arrived emanating from T. Lewis to say that it was all a mistake, that he has changed his mind. There's no mention of the regret suffered by my friend or the ethics of this decision — just a bald statement that since the order hasn't actually been signed it doesn't exist.

This of course is not quite accurate and I know that my colleagues will not learn

it that. But I can't imagine what possessed Lewis to act in such a flippant manner - it really is too bad that he cannot be trusted to know his word in such circumstances.

Peter and I have learned a lesson from this - I do not feel any less embarrassed because I had no financial interest in the deal.

August 19th

Much the same. I flew around all day trying just to keep all the balls in the air.

August 20th

The same again. The unexpected occurrence today was brought to us by Betty, the vicar's wife, she met me outside the church hall to tell me that the facilities were not up to the standard they required, that is to say that the members of the project are not looking after them in the appropriate way.

This sudden and amazing interest in the condition of the church's facilities after nearly a year's inattention ~~to them~~ by the vicar or anybody else, except myself, Ted and occasionally Tony, caused me to bristle somewhat, and at one point in the discussion I allowed myself to say ~~to Betty~~ that the cause of their problem lay elsewhere (I have in any case lightened up most vigorously in Stuart's absence) as she would know. ~~But~~ otherwise I was placed

with her and courteous, but not really giving much away. I said that I would attend to things right away - beginning by banning everyone from the kitchen facilities. She seemed taken aback.

August 21st

Yet more rushing around. ~~Today~~ we ran out of Bernatrace and marking tape; and I could stand no more the ~~poor~~ lack of pencils and the like. I wrote out an urgent order for these and got Ray the van driver to take it direct to a supplier in Birmingham.

During the morning the rev. Roe stopped me in the car park and assailed me about the state of the facilities used by the project. He said that they were in grossly unsatisfactory condition, and cited a couple of examples, neither of which ~~however~~ would occur to anyone as more than trivial.

I disagreed with him, saying that I had checked the facilities personally the evening before - as is my way - even washing the cups in the kitchen before I went home. But ~~he however~~, insisted that I was mistaken, ~~and that~~ I and the whole team were in effect negligent.

This conversation ~~got~~ very vitriolic and I ended up telling Mr Roe a few home truths. ~~But~~ at no time did I lose my temper or say anything which was untrue or could not be justified.

August 22nd

August 23rd, 24th.

Weekend

August 25th - 28th

No record kept, Monday and Tuesday 8.H & P.H.

August 29th

Holiday - one day

August 30th, 31st

Weekend

September 1st, 2nd

No record kept. Very busy preparing for new steam stationery and equipment being received.

September 3rd, 4th, 5th

Holiday

September 6th, 7th

Weekend.

September 8th

Once again very busy all day - preparing for new teams. The news today is that Adrian is leaving, and has handed in his notice last week. He leaves on Wednesday. His new job is Field Assistant on the Sandwell Valley Project, which is a C.P. run by my colleague Mike Hodder. Effectively, Adrian has been 'pouched', and I am unimpressed by anybody's behaviour in this latest incident. I propose to protest.

Over the weekend there has been an increase in vandalism on 3. ^{Someone has excavated a 18" x 18" x 12" hole into the wall. It is situated and appears to be the work of treasure hunters. The smashed sandstones fill the hole and have been stacked on one side.}

September 9th
Interviews at Blithwell Job Centre for new teams. In total over the last few weeks I have recruited about 20 employees. Yesterday I had an advert put in the Canadian for senior staff. It will appear on September 11th & 18th.

September 10th

Visited this morning by Mr. Halkwood the S.M.C. officer investigating the disciplinary case against Stuart. I talked to him for a good while and gave him my opinion; he seemed to be in a similar mind. Essentially he seemed to be saying that the events were the product of the personalities on both sides but that Stuart was a sinner as well as sinned against, though probably more often simply naive. He suggested that S.C.A.

was not an appropriate vehicle for the council to manage the HMs Most Urged.

In the afternoon I put together more of the shape of the new teams - intending to get letters sent out to new employees straight away. But when I got the Agency T. Lewis deflected my attention. I was in his office for an hour and half talking about this and that.

On site Sean supervised H.M.3 and H.M.2. (H.M.1 is in abeyance at the moment).

The damage on H.M.3 has been surveyed and drawn, while on 2 we now see that there is a ditch in front of the earlier rampart underneath the corner of the later one.

Sean is investigating - judiciously.

September 11th

In the morning to S.B.A. to sort out staffing arrangements in the short term. Set on all but three or four of those selected, the just happened to be archaeologists.

In the afternoon I went to Strickland Job Centre to cancel the Job Centre adverts for all but F.T. archaeology.

Today an advert which I had placed in the personal column of the Guardian for archaeologists appeared. Six or seven people phoned during the course of the day, all with appropriate degrees, but none met the employment criteria of the community program. The advert will appear again on Thurs Oct.

September 12th

I am supervised 2 today while I had
oversaw (as time allowed) 3, then Joy
Whitely and Sarah Cronley ^{were} removed a
further layer of cobbles. Sarah has a
modern history degree from the University of
Sussex, but seems to have no ability for
or interest in archaeology. I had to prevent
her from doing further work.

At 1.00 pm. we called it a day and the
site was shut down for the weekend. The
reason was that many of our original team
finish today - every body wanted to have
a drink on it. I felt rather low myself,
sorry to see go: Steve Johnson, Colin Wilford,
Terry Hard, Martin McDavid, Chris Birch,
among others. In these ways they were a
pretty good bunch.

September 13th, 1964

Steelend

September 15th

A new full time archaeologist started today -
Graham Smyth. I recruited him recently at
Chelmsley Wood Job Centre. He applied there
for a part time job on the project, not stating
anywhere that he had a degree in ancient
and medieval history. Amazing.

In the morning to S.G.A. where T. Lewis

had had typed out my memorandum to English Heritage concerning the recent damage to HMZ in letter form. It was a mess. I took it back to the site and re-drafted it. In the afternoon I took time off to pursue a personal matter.

September 16th

A.m. - Chelmsley Wood Job Centre: saw two or three acceptable part-time applicants, including an excellent artist, Tony Deming. I started him later in the day.

In the afternoon Mr Hodges of SMRE (effectively deputy director of technical services) came to fill in the application to Heritage for a second year on the project. No difficulties.

While occupied with Mr Hodges I received a visitor whom I recognised immediately though I'd never seen him before. He was Brian Nutty's son. He told me that his father had died last Friday, ~~thursday~~ ~~last~~ ~~night~~ never having left hospital since his admission. I was very saddened to hear this. Brian was a nice, good hearted man with a good head. I wish I'd known him ~~longer~~ longer. He was only, I think, 62 or 80.

As a result