

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 122 FEBRUARY 1993

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PROGRAMME - CHANGE OF DATE FOR APRIL MEETING

Please note that we have had to change the date of the April lecture: This is now Thursday, April 1st, so please amend your programme card.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO THOSE WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE FIELDWORK**

For anyone intending to participate in future fieldwork, i.e. fieldwalking or excavation, it is important to ensure that your tetanus inoculations are up to date. Nicola Hawes has a first-aid certificate and has offered to act as First-Aider on digs.

Those of you who have bravely forwarded your names for fieldwalking, I have not forgotten you. Due to the extremely inclement weather and the Christmas season, any fieldwalking had to be postponed to 1993, weather permitting, of course.

Those of you interested in taking part in field work
please contact David Miles : tel 0734 691905.

Steven R Strongman

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, 11th February, 7.30pm, in the Conference Room, QMC.

Britain's Earliest Structures: the Mesolithic site at Bowmans Farm, Romsey.

Frank Green (Test Valley Archaeological Trust) is no stranger to the Society and we look forward to his return visit. It is two years since the excavations took place on this important site, giving time for the processing of soil samples, radio-carbon dates etc., so we shall be treated to an up-to-date assessment of the site.

MARCH MEETING: Thursday, March 11th, 7.30 pm in the Conference Room, QMC

THE TRIREME PROJECT

Tom Hassall is Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, formerly Director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit and past President of the Council for British Archaeology. Tim and Barbara Herrington were fascinated by his talk on the Trireme Project given on board the M.T.S "Orpheus" in Greek waters during a Swan Hellenic cruise. Tom Hassall was a member of the crew of the reconstructed Trireme commissioned into the Greek Navy in 1987, and he will trace the origins of such vessels, their purpose and the story of the re-birth and first voyage of the modern reconstruction of this ancient Greek ship.

THE APRIL MEETING: Thursday, April 1st, 7.30 pm in the Conference Room, QMC

The Red Hills of South Essex

Rosemary Arscott

Some of you may remember Rosemary Arscott's involvement with the Alice Holt Pottery Project, resulting in a publication with co-author Malcolm Lyne. At present, she is concerned with the archaeology of the area in which she lives (S. Essex) which includes the intriguing "Red Hills" site, the name referring to the colour of the burnt residues of what is thought to be Roman salt workings. We look forward to a story to be told about an area not well known to most of us.

PREHISTORIC MALTA, MAY 1993

Members may like to know about a new company "Kognos Ltd", who plan to lead archaeological tours. Their first trip, to Malta 23-30 May, will be lead by Kay Ainsworth, Assistant Keeper of Arch'y, Hampshire County Museum Service, and will concentrate particularly on the remarkable temple sites. Further details available at the next meetings (Kay and organiser Malcolm Roberts will be at the February meeting). Otherwise, 'phone Kognos on 0459 132218.

ANDOVER MUSEUM VISIT, SATURDAY 27th FEBRUARY.

The Andover Museum has recently been transformed with exciting new displays, from archaeology through to more recent times. As in Basingstoke, town development resulted in many archaeological discoveries, now displayed in the Dacre Room which commemorates the work of Max and Peggy Dacre. A booklet, the Andover Story (price £1.50), is available at our meetings but the Committee thought that a visit together would be a good idea for a winter Saturday morning, and we shall perhaps get a taste of what we can look forward to when the Willis is re-displayed later this year. David Allen will be there to welcome us at 10.30 am, and there is parking next to the Museum.

Those who have not yet visited the Museum of the Iron Age next door might like to do so and perhaps be tempted to Danebury too, weather permitting. Andover also has a Town trail, with leaflets available at the Museum, and the Victorian Early English architecture of the Church nearby is praised by Pevsner.

If you are interested in this excursion, please contact Mary Oliver (0256 24263) who will try to arrange lifts for those without transport.

ANCIENT FARM, BUTSER

Those of you who have seen "Beneath Basingstoke" will appreciate how much filming at the Ancient Farm helped us to bring to life the story of Basingstoke's Iron Age sites. The two years that we filmed there spanned the change from the old site at Queen Elizabeth Park to the new one at Windmill Hill. This summer, there will be more to see as the centrepiece of the new site, a large round house, is completed and dressed as a high status dwelling. This house is based on one excavated at Longbridge Deverill and is even larger than the Pimperne house on the old site.

There are other buildings too, and the labyrinthine herb garden, the different breeds of animals and the crop research programme, all combining to make a visit to the farm most interesting.

At the moment, the Ancient Farm is in particular need of financial support. The Society has taken out membership of the "Friends" as a gesture of thanks for all the help we received and to continue our links with the Farm. Newsletters will be available for members to read and to keep up with the progress of research, though some may prefer to take out individual membership at £5 per year, which would allow free site visits.

As an additional token of support, Mary Oliver will hold a coffee morning/bring & Buy on Saturday 20th March at 3, Milking Pen Lane, Old Basing between 10 to 12.30 .

Please come along and enjoy each other's company over a more leisurely cup of coffee than is sometimes possible after the meetings.

THE FINAL SHOT - VIDEO UPDATE

Historians are keen, so it seems, to give out labels. So we have the Age of Enlightenment, the Age of Reason, the Stone Age. Will the last few years merit the title "Age of the Video"? Our Society's efforts to enter this "new age" have been partially chronicled in past Newsletters. Now we can tell you about "the final shot".

* rough editing - this involved choosing best "takes" from over 100 hours of filming, with many more script revisions - what a blessing the word processor has been !

* narration finalised and recorded at Sony by Gareth Thomas (Director of Queen Mary's Centre and the "godfather" to this project).

* slides and artwork put onto video, using the rostrum camera and video graphics at Sun Life of Canada.

* time chart created by Magic Image.

* music composed by Cliff Eastabrook and performed by The Morrigan.

* final editing at the Sony editing suite and putting all this together.

* designing box cover and leaflet (by a professional artist).

* master tape duplicated, copies boxed and ready for sale !

Nobody should be under any illusions about the inherent difficulties of the final stage. The creative processes and technical know-how of Cliff Eastabrook as Director were given full rein, and others involved had to sit back, watch and at times pray! The mass of electronic gadgetry available made it possible to manipulate each shot, allowing insertions and cuts to an unbelievable precision, a very time-consuming and labour-intensive process.

We were able to meet our target of having BENEATH BASINGSTOKE for sale before Christmas, both to our members and in the shops. The next stage is a high-profile launch in March to capture a wider public.

For those directly involved, the project has seemed like a white-knuckle ride and its completion produces a feeling of elation similar to that which Hillary and Tensing must have felt on reaching the summit of Everest.

A pleasure of being a member of a society is to share a common interest and to offer this to a wider audience. We established very early in our deliberations that we wanted to do this video well with the highest level of historical scholarship. This self-imposed discipline required a great commitment over three years from a relatively small group. So, when you watch the end result, the success of the whole is the result of "blood and sweat - but never any tears". As Director of the video, and "the best Beowulf-teller in the business", Cliff Eastabrook ultimately made it happen.

Finally, fellow Atrebatians, having completed what we believe to be a unique view of the history of Basingstoke, you will have confidence to buy a copy, tell your friends and spread the word !

John Horrocks

PAST PIECES OF BASINGSTOKE HISTORY - Another Society Publication

At Our Society's 21st Anniversary conference, we announced that a collection of past articles from our Newsletters (now numbering 122!) was being brought together into a booklet for open sale. This 46 page booklet was put on sale soon after the Conference and, to date, it has sold over 130 copies.

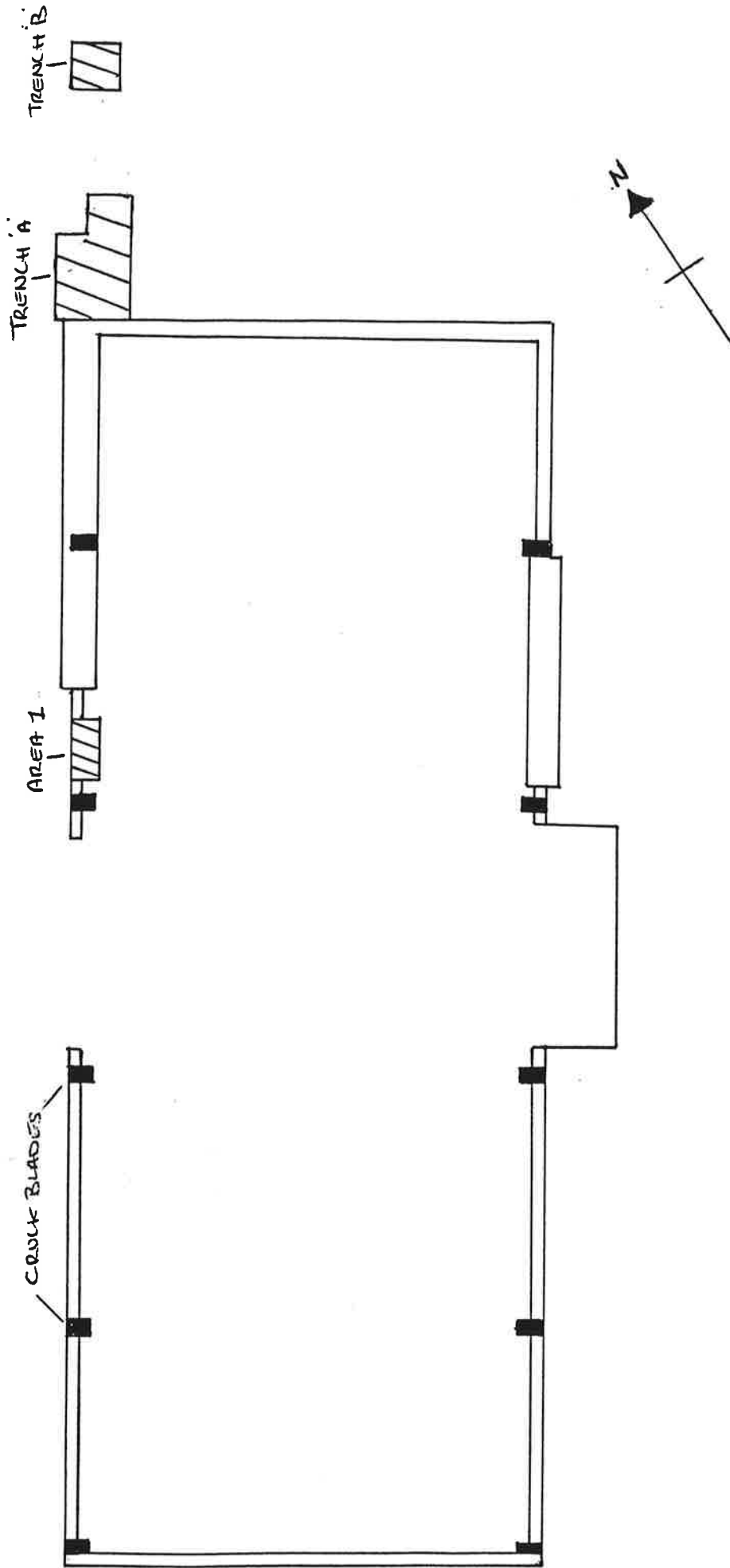
We have had a number of favourable comments on the appearance of this melange of pieces ranging from the local Saxon skirmishes with the Danes near Basing recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles of AD 871, to comments on the Basingstoke of the period just before development. On the way, there are snippets about the Vyne before the Sandys, The Angel Inn, The Welfare State in 1798, and the Hazards and Rewards of Culture & Entertainment in 19th C B'stoke to name but a few.

If you have not yet purchased a copy (price £2.50 to members), please take your opportunity at our meetings or 'phone Tim Herrington on (0256) 22090.

EXCAVATIONS AT BREACH BARN, SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON

Finally, I have managed to complete the write-up on the excavations carried out by members of the Society, over the weekend of the 15th and 16th of August 1992, at Breach Barn, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hampshire. The version of the excavation which appears in these pages is based on the full report. For anyone interested a copy of the full report may be obtained from me upon request.

Breach Farm is a Medieval moated site consisting of an 18th century farmhouse and circa 15th century cruck barn of five bay construction. The site is located at the end of a short lane just east of the A33 at the village of Sherfield-on-



PLAN OF BREACH BARN SHOWING POSITION
OF EXCAVATED AREAS.

0 5

SCALE = 1:100

DRAWN BY: S.R. STRONGMAN

Loddon in Hampshire. The barn, a grade II listed building, is orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment and has been the subject of several phases of alteration during its lifetime. It is at present undergoing an extensive restoration programme, co-ordinated by the Development Department of Basingstoke and Deane District Council.

The Society was asked by Frank Dowling, from the Development Department, to carry out archaeological investigations in an attempt to provide answers relating to the barn's past structure.

The opportunity to conduct an excavation at Breach Barn arrived unexpectedly and at short notice, as is often the case with archaeological excavations. The purpose of investigation was threefold. Firstly to attempt to verify the past position and existence of the cruck arch at the north-east end of the barn. It seems that the original pair of cruck blades at this end of the barn had been replaced at some time during its history. Secondly to determine if the barn had ever extended out beyond its present five bay status. Thirdly to remove a short section of the brick underpinning from the exposed north-west side of the barn and record any evidence, if present, of an earlier ground sill and/or foundation material.

Before I continue with the results of the excavation, a brief description of the condition of the barn at the time of excavation would prove useful. At the time the excavation took place the barn was in a sorry state of repair. Although the barn had been subjected to many modifications during its history, it still retained the original oak cruck blades, although these had been truncated when a new roof was constructed. Other original oak timbers are also evident, such as the ground sill beams which are badly decayed. The superstructure of the barn is supported internally by a complex network of scaffolding poles. Relatively recently in the barn's history, brick footings, consisting of five or six courses, have been laid to help support the timbers. However, due to further subsidence, the footings and the horizontal oak sills, which lay across the upper course, have been encased in concrete. As part of the restoration programme, most of the concrete has now been removed from the north-west side, leaving a deep trench running the length of the barn, thus exposing the brick work and the ironstone pads which once supported the feet of the cruck blades.

In an endeavour to resolve the first two objectives, two small trenches were excavated at the north-east end of the barn. The first trench was dug at the corner of the barn on the north-west side (see PLAN, Trench "A") and the second (see PLAN, Trench "B") was situated a bay's width (approximately 4 metres) out from the corner on the north-west side. It should be mentioned here that the closeness of the moat to the opposite end would have prevented any extension in that direction.

The task of excavating both of these trenches was made difficult by first having to clear away part of a mound of potato soil, which had been deposited there over the years by the farmer. Eventually after much toil the natural soil was reached, which was composed of a high percentage of small flints and pebbles suspended in a brown clayey matrix. However, after further careful trowelling, no evidence was found for the past existence in either trench of the siting of any cruck blade supports.

To investigate the third objective, a metre-long section of the brick footings was removed from the north-west side of the barn (see PLAN, Area 1). After removal,

it was found that the bricks had been laid on a layer of mortar directly on top of the natural clay river gravels. Some of the floor surface in this area was also trowelled down, but no evidence of any earlier features was found.

In conclusion, although no evidence was found in trench "A" of an ironstone pad, it does not necessarily mean one never existed there. It seems logical, because of the usual construction of cruck barns, that a pad was once sited here to support the now removed blade. It was most probably removed when the trench was dug around the periphery of the barn to insert the brick footings.

As with trench "A", the negative evidence from trench "B" does not prove beyond all doubt that the barn had not once extended to more than the present five bays. Any evidence for a padstone could have easily been removed or obliterated, due to soil disruption and dumping that had taken place at this end.

With regard to the area of the floor and brick footings, any evidence of previous features might have been removed when the bricks were laid down.

Steven R Strongman

.... WHO AM I?

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, as some of you are probably wondering who Steven Strongman is and what does he do? Well, a certain amount of mystique is okay but I'd like to give you a hint. (I promise to be brief, so please don't stop reading).

My principal role as a committee member is to arrange, organise, coordinate and direct a programme of fieldwork throughout the year. I am also available to undertake any other tasks which may arise.

So what qualifies me to undertake such a mammoth (not the woolly kind) task? I graduated from the Institute of Archaeology, University College, London, with a degree in archaeology. My area of specialisation whilst at university was in human osteo-archaeology, as for some reason unknown to me I acquired a fascination for studying bones. Therefore human osteoarchaeology is the area of archaeology I would like to work in most. I have a varied excavation experience, from participating on digs in England, Poland and Barbados. I am also expecting to act as Human Osteoarchaeologist on an excavation to take place in the United Arab Emirates in April 1993. To keep myself occupied during the slack times I am also conducting my own research projects.

I promised at the beginning of this personal introduction not to harp on too much so you'll be relieved to know that I will conclude very shortly. However, before I do so I'd just like to mention that I am an easily approachable person. Therefore I would be pleased for members to waylay me at meetings if you would like to discuss any matters of an archaeological nature or just for a general conversation.

Steven R Strongman

BYZANTIUM

At the time of Alexander the Great, Byzantium was a small Greek town on the shores of the Bosphorus. In 326 the Emperor Constantine moved his capital from Rome to that town and renamed it after himself, Constantine's Polis, or rather Constantinople. Now a Christian city, it waxed and waned following the fortunes of the Byzantine Empire until in 1203 when it was sacked by the Fourth Crusade, from which it never really recovered.

In 1453 it was finally taken by Sultan Mehmet II who turned it into the capital of his burgeoning Ottoman Empire and called it Istanbul (city of Islam). Its fortunes grew again with the building of many beautiful mosques, castles and palaces. On the eventual demise of the Ottoman Empire, after the First World War, Kemal Ataturk abolished the Sultanate, made Turkey a secular state, introduced the Roman alphabet and transferred his capital to Ankara, leaving the city with its 7.1 million population to rest with its memories.

This in brief is the history of one of the world's most famous cities, but unless the sequence of events is remembered it is very difficult to understand what one sees there when one visits it. The year 1453 is not only the end of the Roman Empire but also a new start to the city under a completely different culture.

On my recent visit I was particularly interested in the Byzantine city, many of whose buildings remain. The most well known, of course, is the basilica of Hagia Sophia, now a museum. It stands on a shallow hill at the end of a promontory at the edge of the Bosphorus, surrounded on three sides by water, the fourth (European) side being defended by a wall. The size of the building is huge. The area covered by the dome is made to look even larger by having a half dome at either end; the usual technique employed by builders of basilicas. There remain some beautiful wall mosaics, the jewel being that of Our Lady high up in the main apse. Much of the wealth, internal furnishings and marble facings were stripped off in 1204 and taken back to St Mark's in Venice. After 1453 it was turned into a mosque but, although the mosque furnishings are still there, one can still see and enjoy the original majestic basilica.

There is a similar but smaller basilica next door which is much less well known, Hagia Eirene (Holy Peace). This is a real gem because it was never converted into a mosque but into an armoury so the original shape and windows remain and no mihrab (prayer niche) or minarets were added.

Underneath the adjacent flat area which used to be the Hippodrome are the cisterns built to store the water needed for the city. These were "lost" until the eighteenth century when a curious house owner lifted up a kitchen slab and found he could catch fish by lowering a line. The architecture gives a new meaning to the word Byzantine, since the ceiling is about fifty feet from the floor and the galleries up to three hundred yards long, the roof being supported by the familiar barrel vault of the Romans. Some of the reused masonry was from the pagan period and includes the head of a Minerva placed upside down.

Any of the mosques which are older than 1453 are former Christian basilicas and they can be easily recognised by the carved Greek inscriptions and their ambulatories. Since some of them are so poor, no major alterations have taken place, so it is not difficult to imagine them as they used to be.

There are still one or two Orthodox churches in use, but the best preserved one

is now a museum and lies to the east near the outer city wall, St.Saviour-in-Chora. Here, the original cycle of mosaics remains on the interior walls, recounting themes and stories from the New Testament. The most moving fresco is of a Resurrection where Christ is shown lifting up Adam and Eve from their coffins. This lies in the apse of a side chapel and is so full of movement and humanity that you can feel that the Renaissance can only be a few years away.

What comes after 1453 is also of great interest but now you have to change gear mentally and see it in terms of Islam. The Mosques follow the same shape as the domed Basilicas but with the addition of minarets. Since effigies of human likeness are proscribed in the Islamic religion, frescoes and mosaics give way to a plethora of beautiful glazed tiles, usually of differing shades of blue. The palaces, the Topkapi being the most famous, were obviously organised on oriental lines, having such places as the Harem. However, the later nineteenth century buildings have a strange feeling of European culture in them as the economy of Turkey became more involved with that of Europe and more often than not they were designed by European architects.

There is one more Byzantine surprise to be found, and that is in the Archaeological Museum. The museum was founded at the time of the Ottoman Empire, so many of the exhibits come from places which are now outside Turkey. On the top floor are the finds from Palmyra, an ancient town in east Syria. Here are displayed some "late Roman" carved heads. Late Roman? Yes, the date is right but the heads themselves have long chins and lozenge-shaped eyes so typical of Byzantine sculpture and paintings, leaving one to ponder where the source of the Byzantine tradition lay.

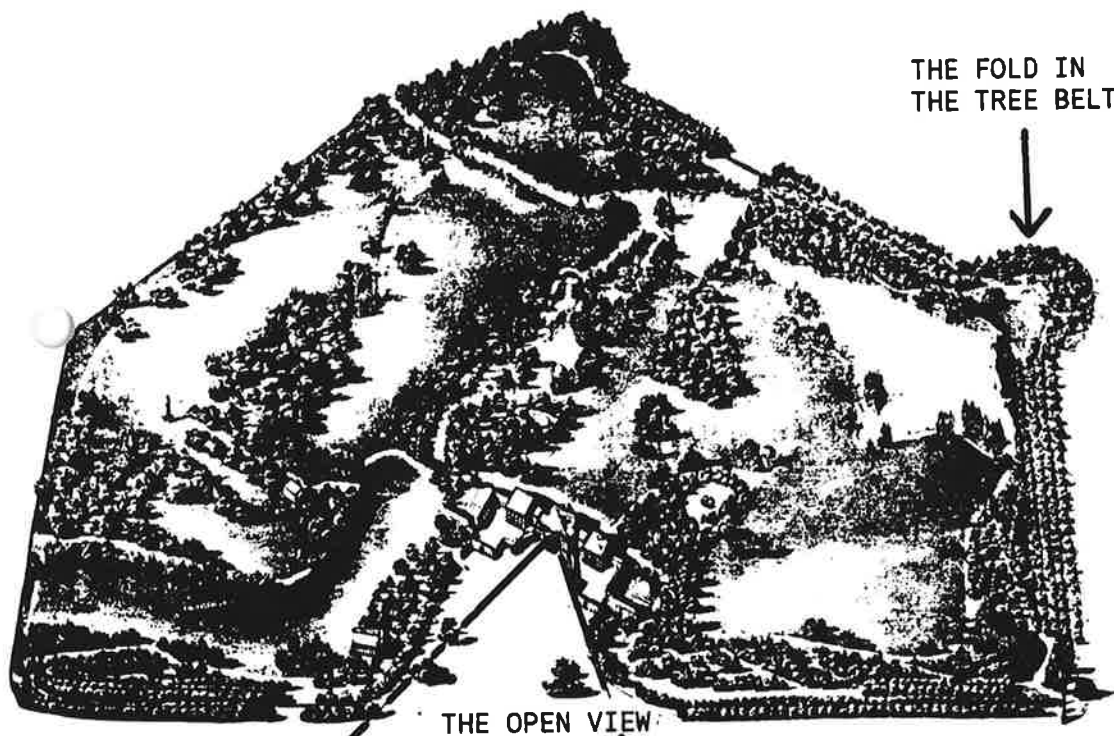
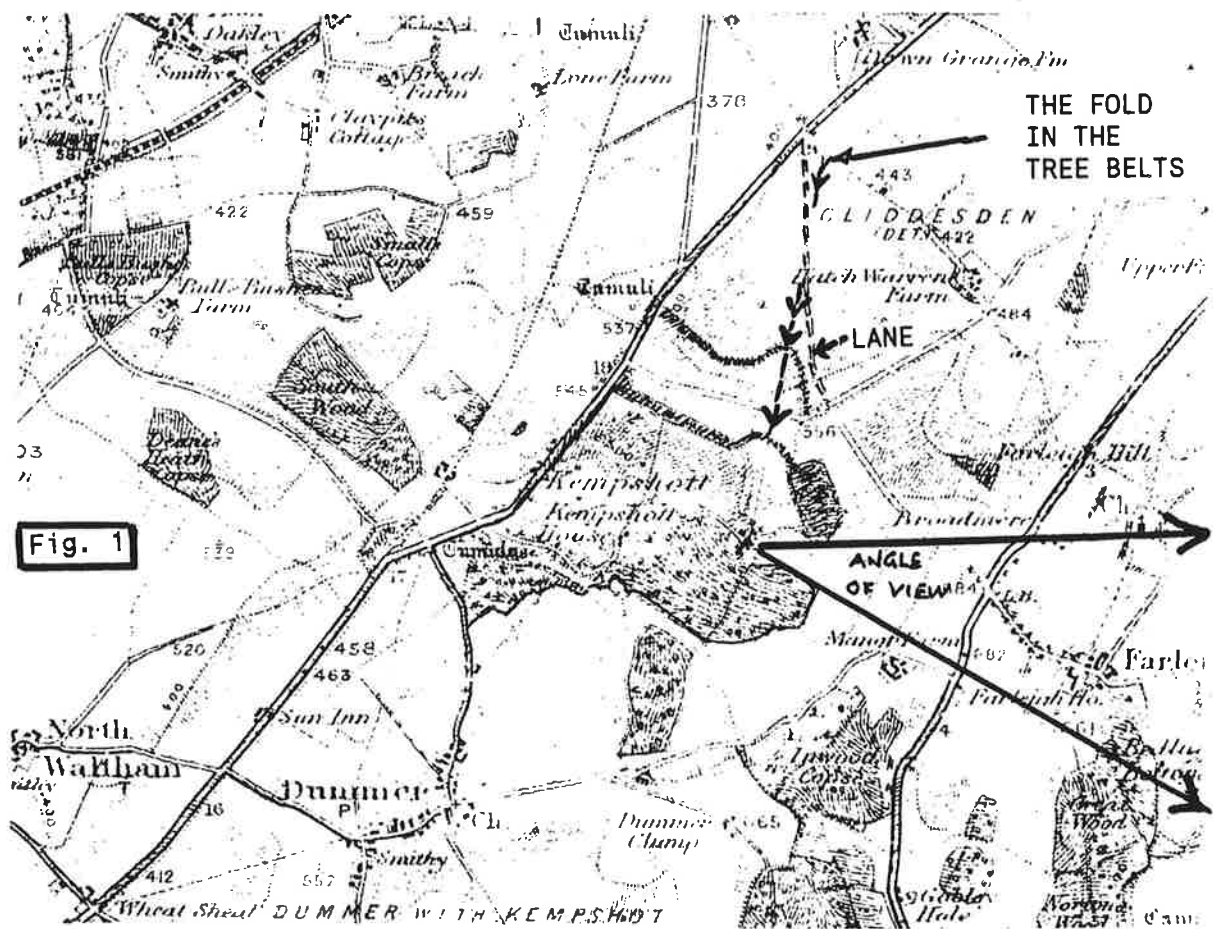
Richard Dexter

MUSINGS AT KEMPSHOTT

Archaeologists hope to conserve the traces of prehistory which show up like shadowy finger-prints on the landscape of the countryside. Yet every rescue excavation implies an acceptance of the destruction or alteration of that landscape. Archaeologists work ahead of the motorway engineer and the property developer, attempting to snatch from the ground, in too short a time, the evidence of past communities before it is destroyed forever. Acceptance of the latter task, even though it can be argued that it is essential, illustrates the continuous conflict between conservation and destruction which every archaeologist has to come to terms with in his professional life.

When the excavations at Hatch Warren took place, they emphasised this paradox. The discovery of a mediaeval village was made possible only because commercial development was about to destroy the ancient landscape of the open farmland, cultivated since the pre-Roman farmers settled there. Never again would we see the corn rippling in the wind, framed by the wooded slopes of Farleigh Hill, or hear the song of larks high in the sky above the hay.

Suddenly the landscape is lost forever, and the bricks and tiles of a modern housing development have taken its place. The fields are covered with "closes". The scant remains of the mediaeval communities that worked so hard to till that difficult and unrewarding soil are now buried forever. Only the garden spade



Bird's eye view by Desmadril of the naturalistic design by Lancelot Brown for the gardens at Stowe, Northamptonshire, which supplanted (and destroyed) the earlier layout. (Right) Detail of a portrait of 'Capability' Brown by Sir Nathaniel Dance-Holland.

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

will turn up, at random, a pottery shard or an old bone or two, to remind us of the history beneath our feet.

One feature of the landscape still remains: the great belt of trees which runs along the top contour line from Beggarwood lane to the old turnpike road to Winchester, now the A30. It seems to cross that road and continue to the line of the Roman road, from Silchester to Winchester, but that is a later planting, as can be seen from a study of the old maps.

This belt of trees, actually a double one, with an area of land between poses a question to the student of landscape, and there has been some speculation about its age, including one in an early newsletter of the Society. A short time ago a local Councillor spoke of seeing it as a natural boundary to the expansion of the town to the West. This statement as to the "role" of the tree belt is misleading, an "Alice through the Looking Glass" conception, completely the reverse of its true function when it was planted.

A clear-headed examination of its origin must not be influenced by a sense of mystery, a subjective reaction to the beauty of such tree-belts in the high summer or on windy days, when there is continuous movement along them, undulating waves which create in the mind of the traveller an inner feeling difficult to contain within rational thought. The impact on the senses is very strong, and every walker or worker in the fields has experienced this. Edward Thomas defines it well:

"... there in fact is nothing at all
Except a silent place that once ran loud,
And trees and us, - imperfect friends, we man
And trees since time began. And nevertheless
Between us we bred a mystery."

Scientific thinking must, however, label the concept of mystery as subjective, and we should take our minds back to the time when these trees were saplings, planted by men for a purpose, a planned and considered operation, just as planned as the saplings planted among the houses of the estate it now borders.

So what were the reasons for this planting? It would not seem to have been done to define a field boundary. There is no mound and no obvious boundary line. Why is it shaped in such a strange fashion? It is obviously not a random planting; very few features in a cultivated landscape are (Fig 1).

A study of the old maps shows that, at the South-Eastern end, it ran in parallel with an old lane long since disused, now restored as a major spine road across the estate, which led from the turn-pike road junction with the access road to Hatch Warren Farm, across the fields to Farleigh. These early maps give us a clue to the answer to our question, not obvious on modern Ordnance Survey sheets (Fig 2).

West of Basingstoke, between Worting and Cliddesden, lay an exposed area of open fields rising 200 feet from the town to the first tree-belt. To the South-West and slightly below the 500 foot contour line stood Kempshott House. Half a mile beyond the tree-belt was a second one with a similar loop in it, and running parallel with the first. It seems possible that these two belts were planted as a deliberate landscape feature designed to protect the house from the North-East winds, which must have swept across the open fields with lethal

ferocity in the Winter months. In addition the two tree-belts would have softened the harsh outline of the 500 foot contour line.

Now, the second belt to the West of Beggarwood Lane has been rudely bisected by the line of the M3 Motorway, which shattered the perfection of the Park. It is difficult to visualise from the present Ordnance Survey map what it was once like. It is a valid criticism of these modern O.S. maps that the pattern of the landscape has been sacrificed to show the road systems which overlay it, and we are poorer as a result. Now the whole Park is threatened by development. If that goes ahead, and the golf course becomes one more housing estate, the owners of those houses will have cause to thank the unknown landscape gardener who planted those wind-breaks, now majestic in their maturity. For they will create pleasure by appealing to the sense of beauty they convey, or will intrude at times with

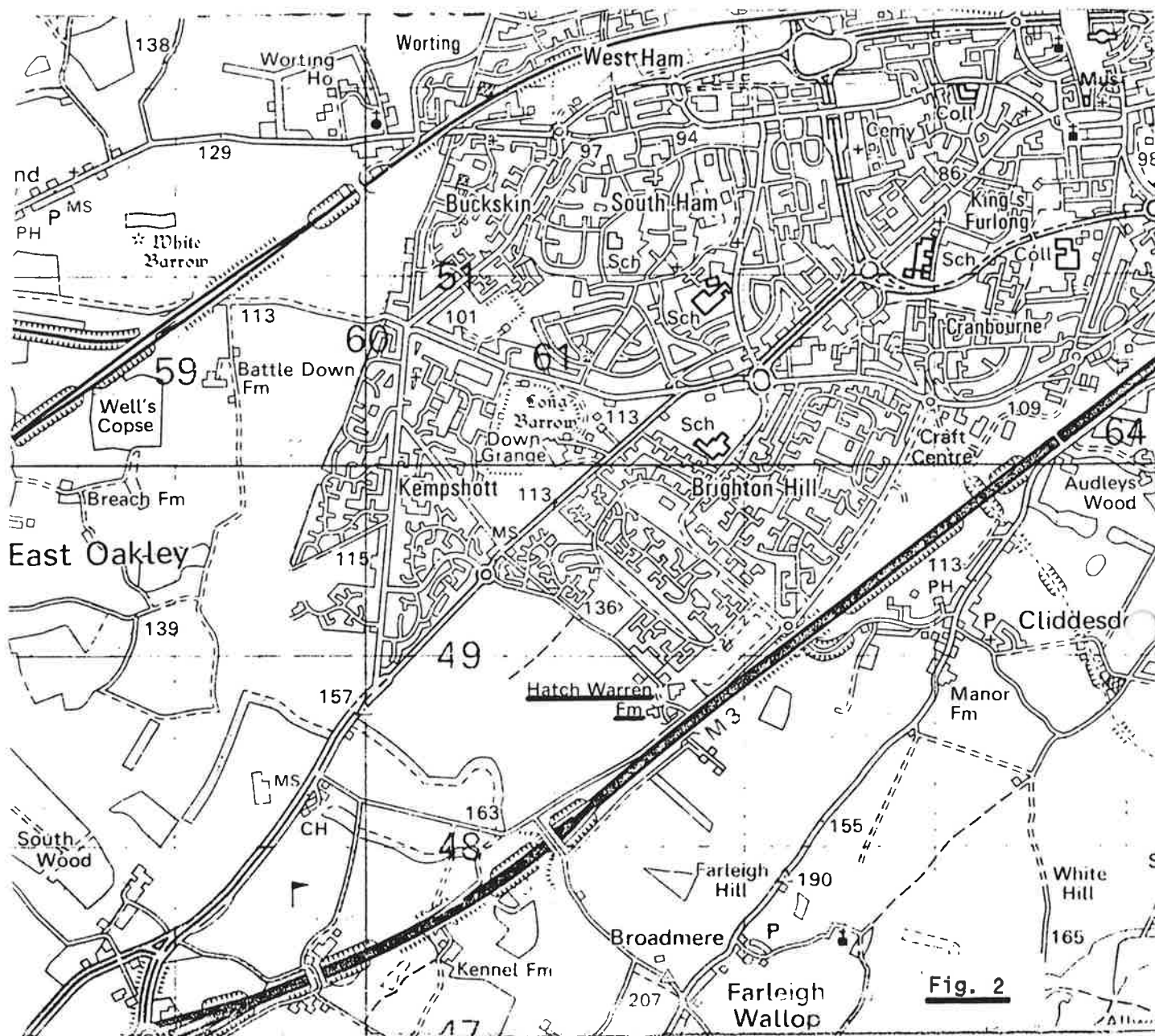
"The never-ending noise when the wind blows, as if a train were moving; a train that never stops or ends"

to quote Edward Thomas again. They will create terror in people's minds when the Westerly gales take off the brittle branches, will be sweet with bird-song in the Summer months, and paint the landscape with colour from Spring to Autumn.

We are left with the question of who landscaped the Park, and planted these tree-belts. Only research can give us the answer to this query, but let us examine the possibilities. There are two interesting features which may give us a clue. The first is the strange loop in both belts which are on the same alignment from the house, and the second is the rectangular covert which forms the end of the inner belt. Clearly the park was carefully planned and planted in the 18th century style of Lancelot (Capability) Brown (1716-1783) (Fig 3). Apart from the great Parks such as Blenheim, Charlecote, Longleat, etc, he and his assistants designed many smaller parks, and his ideas were dominant for almost 100 years, until a more formal pattern developed in the mid-Victorian period. He instilled a sense of security and serenity in his landscape designs. The park-land came right up to the house, with gently serpentine paths, natural-seeming groups of trees, and an entire absence of any rigidity of layout. The only feature missing at Kempshott is his uncanny sense of the use of water in the landscape, but the area had no natural stream which could be used for this purpose.

A study of some of his designs shows exactly two features we notice in the Kempshott House layout. One is the loop in the tree-belts mentioned above, the other the opening up of a view to Farleigh Hill, which rises to 684 feet to the East of the House. The loop may have contained a small folly, such as a classical temple, an obelisk or a statue as a view point from the house, hugged by the trees as if in an entrance, and breaking up the plainness of the long tree-belt. The open area to the East would be the natural view of the countryside, sought by all landscape designers, from the terrace and drawing rooms of the House, expanding the apparent size of the estate. A look at the map shows that the rectangular covert seems to be the end of a wood which may have been deliberately cut through to create this view, or perhaps planted at the time as a firm boundary shape to the left of the vista. A study of Brown's design for the Park at Stowe (Fig 4) shows both these features at (A) and (B) on the illustration.

An added bonus would have been the sunrise over the hill at Farleigh, and a



long period of sunshine on a fine day, bathing the house with light. Without it the demesne would have been dark and unwelcoming within its woods. Welcoming it certainly was, when the Prince Regent took his mistress there, leading the local farmers astray at cards and drinking, much to the distress of their wives, and filling the house with guests from London and beyond, for there is a record that he once entertained a group of French emigré noblemen there, hunting deer across the open fields of Steventon and North Waltham.

We have covered a lot of ground together in these notes, back 250 years from today. We haven't covered much local history, but the alteration to the landscape of the countryside around Basingstoke is of interest to all of us. The house has long gone. Its parkland will soon follow, patterned with closes and avenues, and only the tree-belts will remain to remind us of the chequered history of what was one of the six great houses which surrounded the old town with their estates like a bracelet - Malshanger, The Vyne, Beaurepaire, Hackwood, Farleigh and Kempshott.

Andrew Duckworth

CALENDAR

Thurs 11 Feb	BRITAIN'S EARLIEST STRUCTURES - THE MESOLITHIC SITE AT BOWMAN'S FARM, ROMSEY Frank Green (Test Valley Archaeological Trust)	*
Fri 12 Feb	The Source of Cranbury Park Graham Soffe (Hyde Historic Resources Centre, Winchester, 7.30 pm)	HFC
Thurs 18 Feb	Basingstoke Bottles George Plummer	FWM
Thurs 4 Mar	New Light on Heywood Sumner Gordon Le Pard (place to be confirmed, 7.30)	HFC
Thurs 11 Mar	THE TRIREME PROJECT Tom Hassall (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England)	*
Thurs 18 Mar	How Well Do You Know Hampshire (Part 2) Pat & Roger Haddock	FWM
Thurs 1 April	THE RED HILLS OF SOUTH ESSEX Rosemary Arscott (South Essex Archaeology Section)	*
Thurs 15 April	The Wessex Ridgeway - Ancient History and Modern Problems	FWM
Thurs 13 May	ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF A MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE: EYNHAM, OXFORDSHIRE by Graham Keevill	*
	* Society lecture, Conference Room, Queen Mary's Centre, 7.30 p.m.	
	FWM Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm., Willis Museum	
	HFC Hampshire Field Club	

