

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

Number 77

March/April 1983

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## THE MARY ROSE

.....  
 Illustrated lecture by Richard Harrison at  
the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke  
at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 7th April  
 .....

Suspense, drama, human interest, expertise and skill - the raising of the Mary Rose last October had all these ingredients. The number of people who were glued to their television sets must have surprised even the most optimistic of programme planners. But this was, of course, the culmination of years of patient work and the beginning of many more. Our April lecturer will be able to set this great event into its context and to tell us something of the logistical problems of such an undertaking - for he is Richard Harrison, the Executive Director of the Mary Rose Project.

Richard's talk will cover the background to the project, the significance of the ship and the events leading up to its sinking in 1545. He will go on to tell of the rediscovery of the ship, its excavation and the recovery of the hull, with the finds and details of the ship's structure that emerged. We shall hear of the plans being made for the museum that is to be developed in association with other maritime resources in Portsmouth.

For this very special lecture, we are expecting a larger audience than usual (yes, bring all your friends) so please note that this will be held not at Chute House but at the Carnival Hall. We shall ask visitors to pay 50p entrance (25 for children and students) and this, with any donations received, will go to the Mary Rose Trust to help with the expense of conservation and display. There will be a small display arranged by the Trust, and they are bringing items for sale.

## HILLFORT EXCAVATION, METHODS AND RESULTS

Our May lecture (back at Chute House at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 5th May) will have many local references, as the speaker, Ken Smith of the Department of the Environment, carried out the excavation of the Basingstoke hillfort of Winklebury in 1977. Some members saw (or even took part in) these excavations and the report is available in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, Volume 43 for December 1977. Ken Smith has had a close association also with the excavation of the hillfort at Barksbury and will take this opportunity of comparing and contrasting this with Winklebury. It will be interesting to see these examples placed in a wider context, with a consideration of recent advances in methods of hillfort excavation. (This lecture is particularly a 'must' for the Technical College archaeology evening class).

## TRAINING EXCAVATION

There is no suitable site available for the training excavation planned at Easter, but we do hope to carry out a training excavation later in the year. Watch this space ...

FIELD-WALKING

Volunteers are still needed for Sunday field-walking. Please ring Eric Robinson (28503) or Peter Heath (27713) for details.

POT WASHING

There is plenty of pottery coming in from the field-walking, needing to be processed. This will be in the annexe behind the Willis Museum (entrance from Flaxfield Road) from 7 pm on alternate Wednesdays: 30th March; 13th and 27th April; 11th and 25th May; 8th and 22nd June. Peter Heath would be glad to know beforehand who plans to go.

STOP PRESS!

'When will Anne Hawker's book be out?' I'm afraid I still can't give you the exact date for the publication of VOICES OF BASINGSTOKE 1400 - 1500, but we really are getting nearer. The illustrations are nearly finished, and they will be top quality and of great local interest too.

Thanks to our long-suffering printers, the delay gave Anne the chance to call - well, maybe not exactly STOP PRESS! - but at least HOLD IT! I had worked out on the galley proofs (the sort that come in long strips) where the page endings would fall - and that was a hair-greying job, as the pages inevitably wanted to end on a heading or in the middle of an illustration - and was feeling very pleased with myself when Anne rang up in great excitement after a day at the County Record Office: 'I've found Wolfes!'

This really was a discovery that could not be ignored. Anne's book has a fascinating section about Anne Dennet, who appeared to be a woman of character, with involved family relationships. Anne had wanted to identify the various houses that Anne Dennet and her family had in Basingstoke, but one house, Wolfes, had been particularly elusive. All Anne could say, after complicated suggestions, was that perhaps it was part of the present Memorial Park ... And now, when there really should be no changes to the text, Anne had discovered where Wolfes really was! I shan't spoil the story. You'll have to read the book! But it did mean Anne rewriting almost a page, and I added what sounded a nonchalant note on the proofs 'Insert replacement text attached' and kept my fingers firmly crossed. I just hope Anne doesn't make any more discoveries like that until the book is published.

BARBARA APPLIN

EVENING CLASSES - LOOKING AHEAD

The WEA and Southampton University are jointly planning a series of evening classes in Basingstoke on an archaeological theme (next autumn and winter). We have suggested that they should be on Mondays or Tuesdays, to avoid clashes with our lecture and pot-washing evenings, and we have been invited to suggest possible topics. David Johnstone, who spoke to us last May about 'The Romans in North Africa', has offered a series of lectures on the classical world, entitled 'Cities in the Sand'. If you would be interested in that topic or would like to suggest another, please let the Secretary know at or before the beginning of April.

EXCAVATION REPORT

EXCAVATION AT WORTING WOOD FARM, BASINGSTOKE  
9TH - 12TH APRIL 1982

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The area first came to the notice of the Society through field observations made by Mr Eric Robinson, who recovered Iron Age/Romano-British pottery sherds scattered over the surface. His enquiries at the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments produced aerial photographs, taken in 1976, which showed numerous earthworks crossing the area. The outline of the ditches followed the familiar "D" shape of an Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure, with three concentric ditches to the north and two to the south. The back of the "D" to the west is formed by the public trackway leading to Wootton St Lawrence; there is no evidence, from the photographs, of the ditches extending into the adjoining field.

Using the aerial photographs as a guide, it was decided to excavate a strip one metre wide by ten metres long. The occasion was used to train new members in the techniques of excavation, recording and drawing sections and plans.

The ten metre strip was laid out so that the inner of the southern ditches of the enclosure would be cut at an angle to its length. The area in which the excavation took place was restricted to a narrow strip parallel to the hedgerow bordering the field so that as little damage as possible would be caused to growing crops.

The topsoil was removed for the whole length of the excavation to a depth of 25 cm and at the north end of the trench an area of loose chalk was exposed. Removal of a further 25 cm of soil revealed four distinct features: F1 and F2 running in NW-SE direction; F3 and F4 SW - NE. F1 and F2 were 'bottomed' out at one metre depth. F4 was slightly less deep, with F3 only half the depth of the main ditches.

Neither F2 nor F3 showed any signs of silting and it would appear that both features filled rapidly after being dug. Feature F4 however, after partially filling, was re-cut and then F1 was cut through it at some later stage.

Dating evidence was absent, with the possible exception of a sherd of 'saucepan pot' found in the silt at the bottom of F1, of either 2nd or 1st century BC. A piece of iron slag was resting immediately above the silt.

No other identifiable pottery sherds were found, but small deposits of animal bones were located in the subsoil above the plough marks at the south end of the trench, and other small unidentified bone pieces in F2.

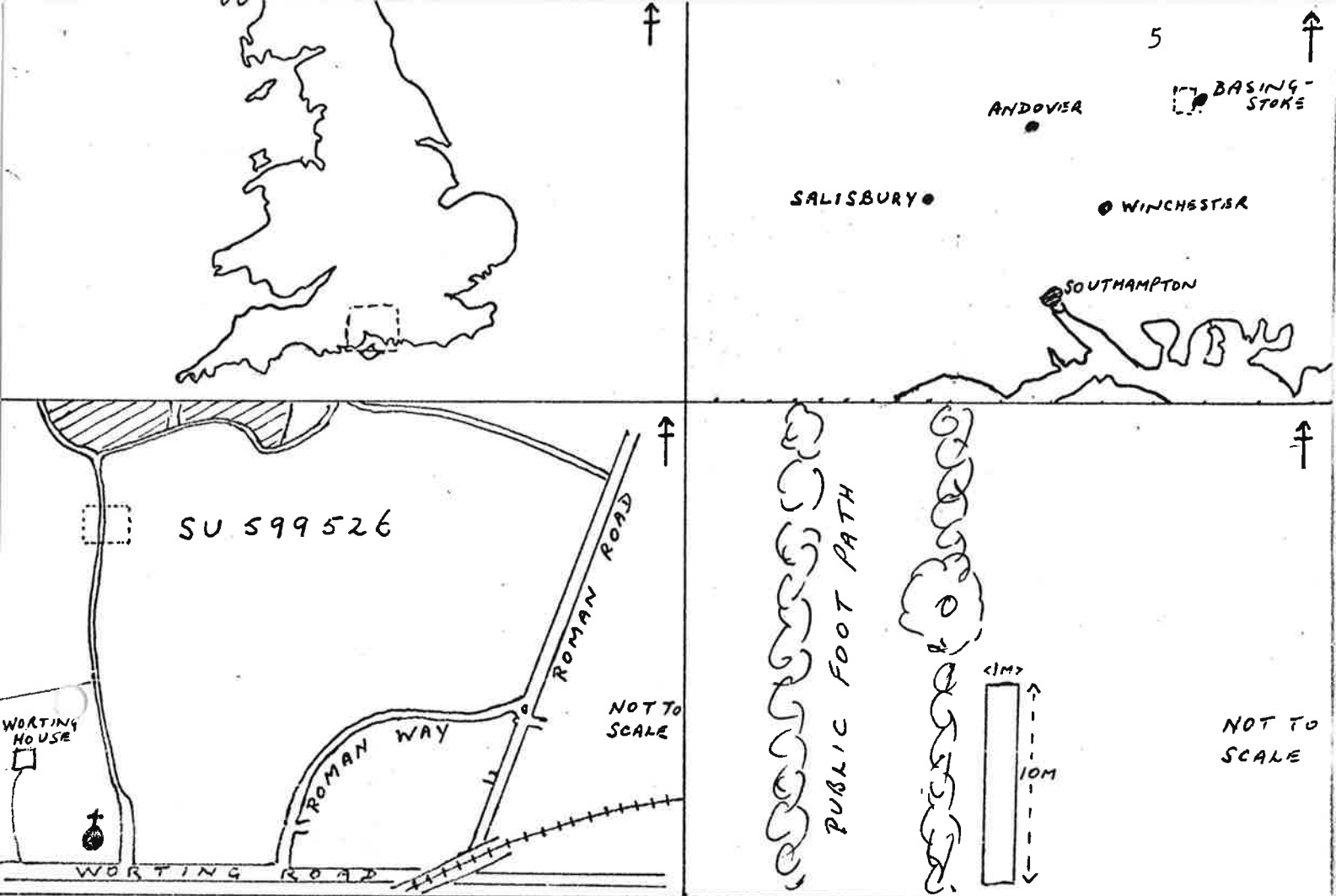
A small piece of quern stone was also recovered from F2 at a depth of 47 cm. No finds were recovered from the shallow gully F3 or the associated small pit.

The site was typical of many Iron Age sites in the Basingstoke area and, as expected, produced little in the way of finds. However, the position and direction of the ditches showing on the aerial photographs were satisfactorily confirmed.

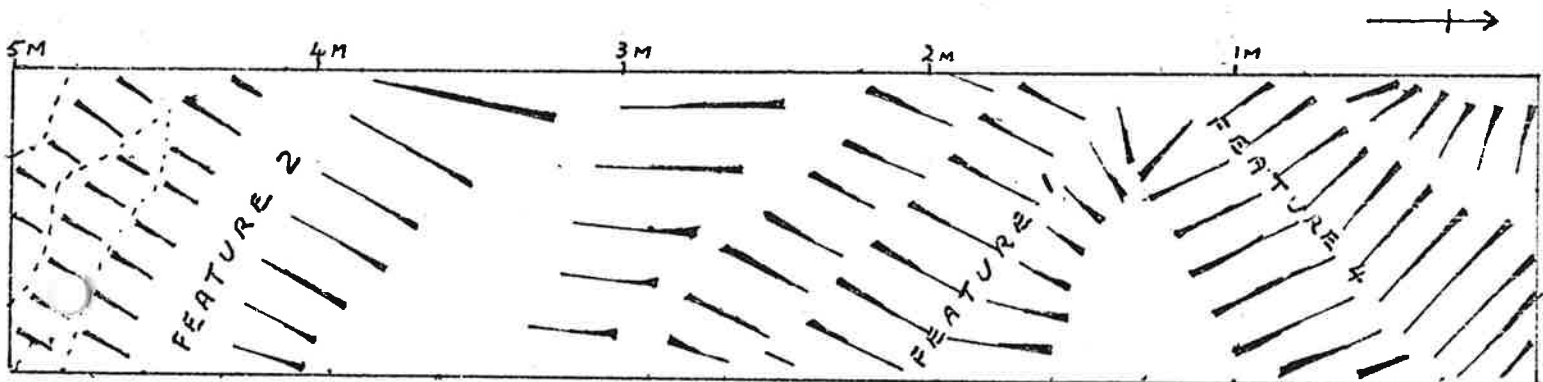
In conclusion, I would like to thank the farmer, Mr Dabinett, and the landowner, Mr Oliver-Bellasis, for their help and interest in allowing the excavation to take place.

PETER C HEATH

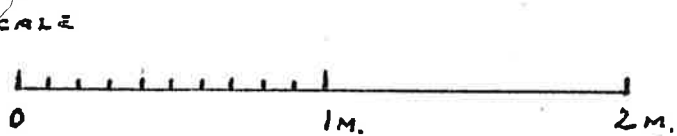
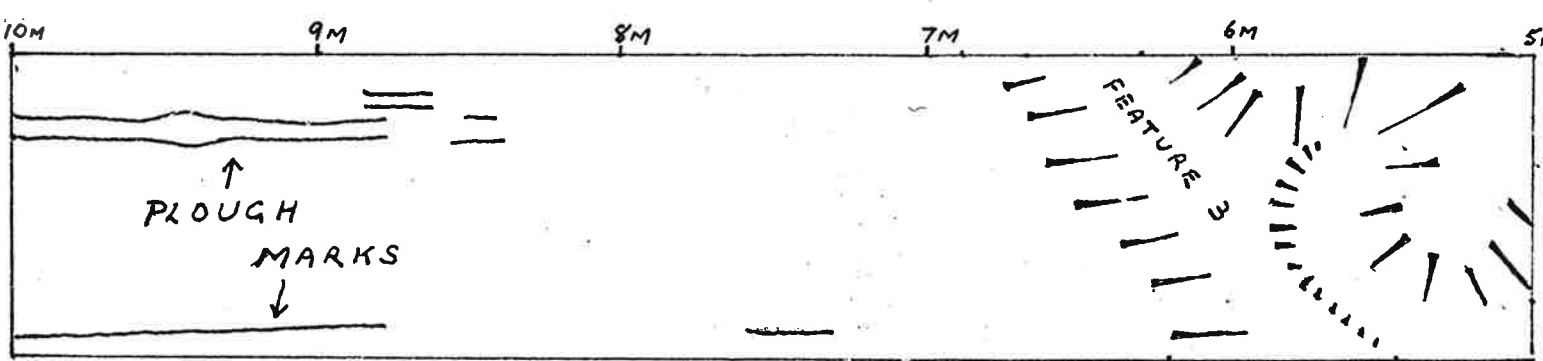
Note: Finds and records will be deposited with the Willis Museum.  
Aerial photograph reference: SU6052/69/168 SF922



WORTHING WOOD FARM - BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE

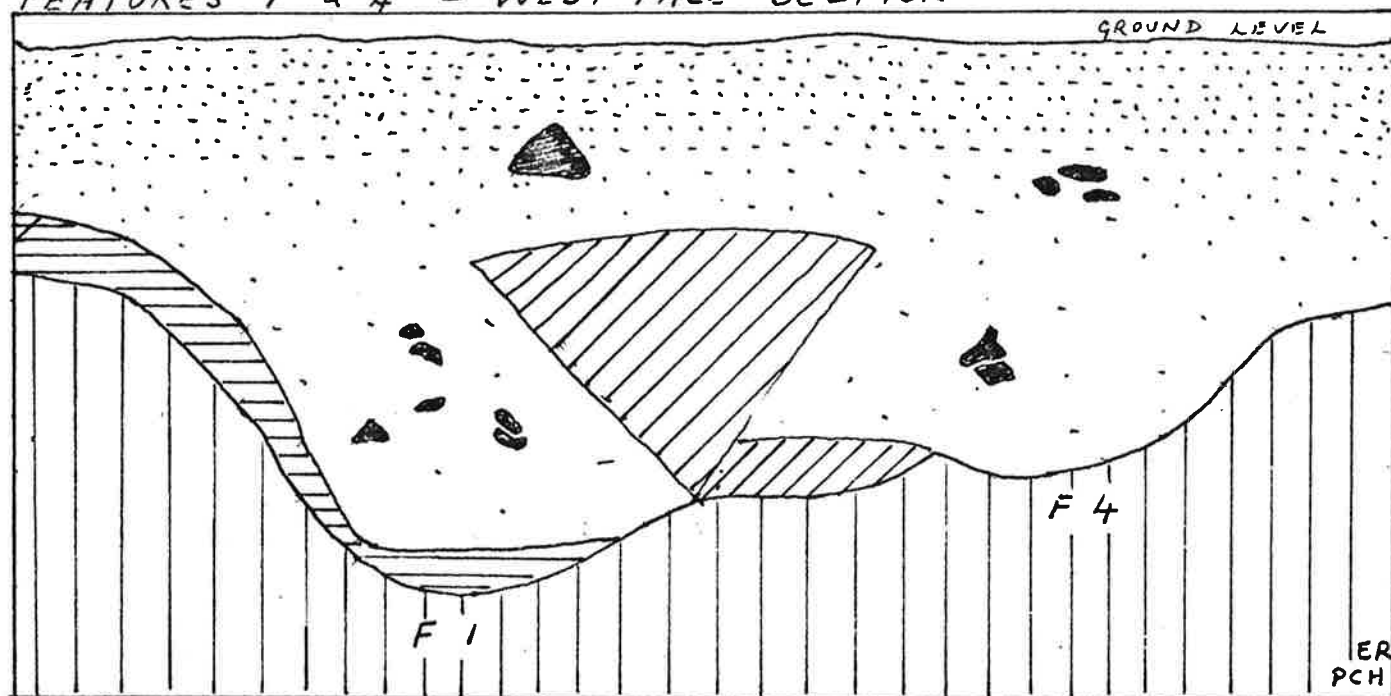


PLAN OF EXCAVATION

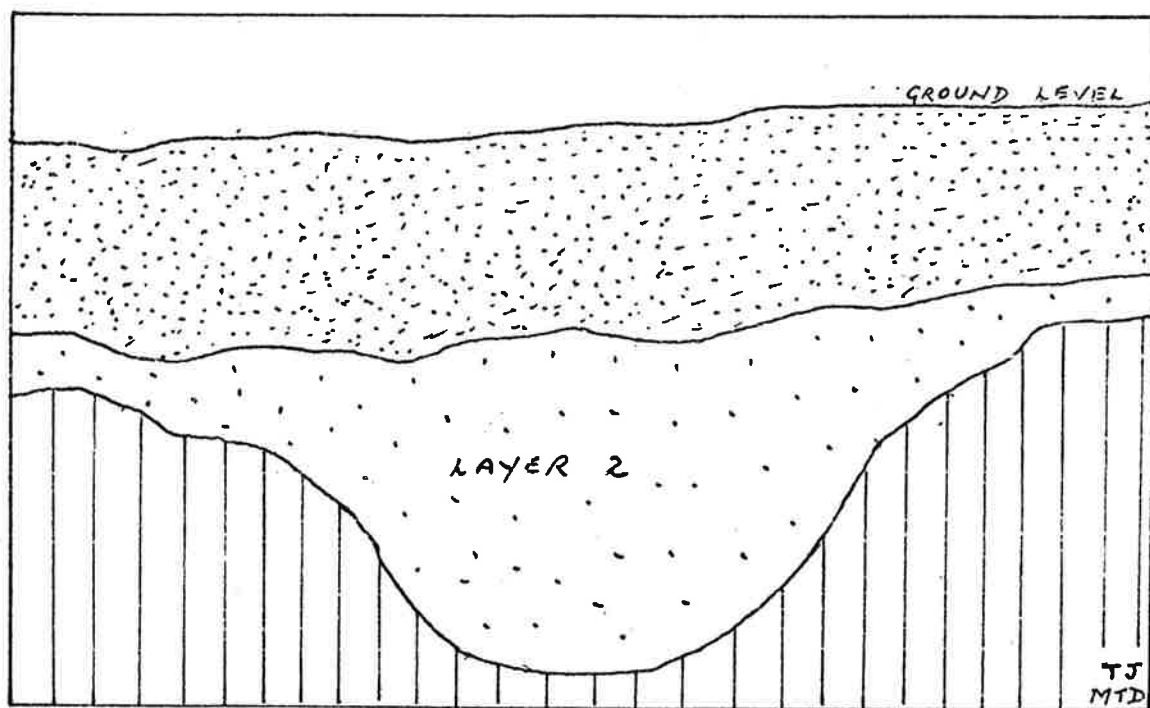


# WORTING WOOD FARM - BASINGSTOKE

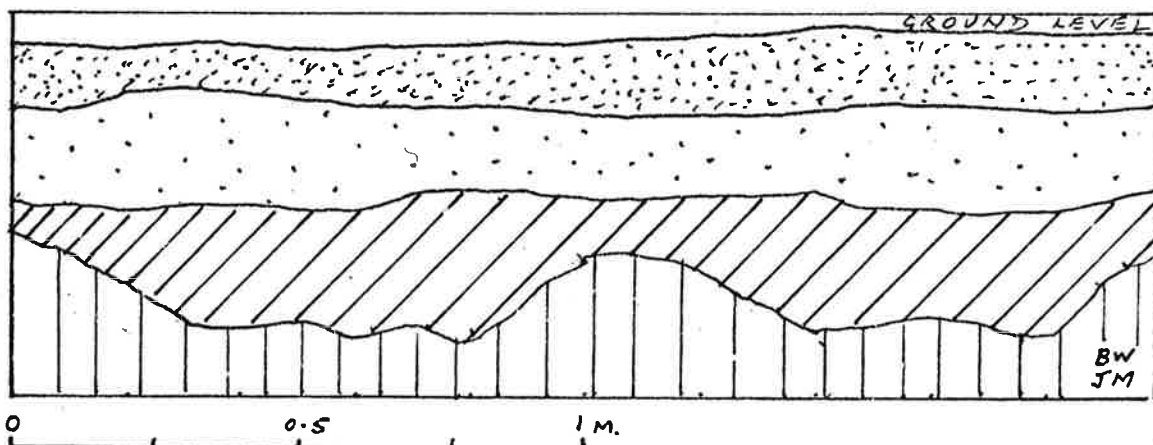
## FEATURES 1 & 4 - WEST FACE SECTION



### FEATURE 2



### FEATURE 3



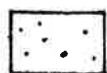
TOP SOIL



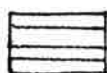
FLINTS



LOOSE BROKEN  
CHALK



LOAM WITH  
CHALK



SEDIMENT



NATURAL  
CHALK

## DAY-SCHOOLS

// READING ABBEY at the University of Reading on Saturday 9th April, from 9.30 to 5.30. Abbey Gateway, Abbot's Walk, Reading. Cost £3.50. Details from the University of Reading.

// THE CARPENTRY OF TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS at The Lupton Hall, Bedales School, Church Road, Steep, near Petersfield on Sunday, 10th April 1983. Arranged by the Petersfield Area Historical Society in conjunction with the WEA and the Hampshire Field Club.

The Programme for the day consists of four lectures: 'Timber Framed Buildings - Traditions of Structure and Form', 'Woodworking Tools used for Timber Framed Buildings', 'The Sources, Characteristics and Shaping of Oak' and 'The Dismantling and Re-erection of the Sotherington Barn'.

Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch (coffee will be provided). The fee is £5 (cheques payable to P.A.H.S.). The Secretary has an application form.

// RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN HAMPSHIRE at the Adult Education Department, Southampton University on Saturday, 16th April. Arranged by the Hampshire Field Club in association with the Adult Education Department.

The lectures are as follows: 'Records for the Study of Religious Minorities in Hampshire', 'Methodism in Hampshire', 'The Lollards in Hampshire', 'Hampshire Catholics, 1688 - 1829' and 'The Salvation Army Martyrs of Whitchurch'.

The cost is £4 which includes morning coffee and afternoon tea. A ploughman's lunch is available, if ordered in advance, for £1.20. Lunch-time coffee (20p) or wine (40p) may also be ordered. The Secretary has an application form - applications to be made by 9th April.

## SUMMER STUDY COURSES

// THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE AND GARDEN at Chamberlain Hall, Glen Eyre Road, Southampton, 4th - 10th July. The course is a programme of lectures and visits. Among the places to be visited are Sutton Place, Loseley Park, Ditchley Park, Hackwood, Rousham, Stourhead, Wardour Castle, Goodwood and Bailiffscourt. The cost is £150 (non-residential) or £210 (residential). Further details are obtainable from the Secretary.

// CASTLES, CATHEDRAIS AND HOUSES at Avonscroft College, Bromsgrove, 23rd - 29th July. This is another mixed lecture/visits programme, including four full-day excursions (with packed lunch). The stated objective of the course is to seek to understand and enjoy the buildings themselves in an architectural sense and their significance as social and historic 'documents'. The buildings to be visited include Goodrich, Chepstow, Berkeley, Broughton, Warwick and Kenilworth Castles and Tintern Abbey, Worcester and Gloucester Cathedrals and, on a more modest scale, the parish churches of Wootton Waven and Hampnett.

The course appears to offer amazingly good value at £91 + VAT on a shared room basis and £95 + VAT for a single room (if available). The Secretary has an application form, but forms may also be obtained from Avonscroft College (0527 31331).



## NORTHINGTON GRANGE

### Part 1: The official version

On 17th January, Leonard Lee, Bob and I went to a lecture given in Winchester as a joint meeting of the Hampshire Field Club and the Winchester branch of the Historical Association (Historic Buildings Section). The subject, Northington Grange near the Candovers, is a building that has aroused a great deal of controversy and has, until now, been tantalisingly near but inaccessible.

The speaker, Dr Geddes, combined an attractive speaking style with considerable expertise and her use of two projectors made it possible to compare 'before' and 'after' photographs (Mike Wall's skill as projectionist at our March lecture proved that we can hold our own here).

She began by showing 'gaunt and romantic porticoes floating above the lake', a ruin that seemed beyond repair, roofless and derelict, and she outlined the history of the house through its five main periods. First a seventeenth century mansion by Samwell designed around a 100' module (one particular feature being a very early example of the 'Imperial Staircase' with its light-well up the middle. The estate was then sold to the Drummond family and during the eighteenth century major landscaping was undertaken. It was leased to the Prince of Wales as a hunting lodge, and a complete inventory taken. The most exciting period of The Grange's history, however, was when the young Drummond commissioned Wilkins to transform it into the design of a Greek temple set in a Palladian landscape, making it a key feature in the history of architecture. It was said, however, that this dramatic conversion 'turned a good family house into a very bad one', creating a good stage set but reducing the available light and the number of bedrooms. So, when the Baring family bought the house in 1816, further alterations were made, adding a private wing with a dining room and conservatory which later became a ballroom. The house remained in the possession of the Baring family until it was bought by a millionaire whose fortune was based on safety devices and the use of liquid paraffin in medicine. It became almost a museum for the collection of furniture and paintings. During the war the house was taken over by the American army, and after that it was allowed to become derelict.

The proposal to demolish what was left in 1972 caused an uproar among those who regarded its remains as a vital part of England's architectural heritage, however ruined, and the Department of the Environment undertook a programme of restoration which is now almost complete. The interior was beyond salvation, and all that could be attempted was to replace the roof and restore the exterior of the house and the conservatory. Dr Geddes graphically showed how much of the previous splendour of the house has gone forever, but what a brave effort has been made to rescue at least the core of something that is so striking and unique.

The disappointment is that the grounds are untouched and that nothing can be seen of the interior of the house, although from May this year the Department of the Environment will allow access to the area of grounds in their guardianship and it will be possible to walk round the house. The cost of the restoration was three-quarters of a million pounds - and the controversy will continue, whether this was too much to pay when so large a part has been destroyed, or whether what has been saved is indeed priceless. What did become apparent from Dr Geddes' talk was that the very process of restoration was undertaken with considerable skill and has produced much information about design details and building methods used in successive



periods, information which had not been recorded or had been lost and could only be discovered now by very careful scrutiny of the constructional elements that remain.

BARBARA APPLIN

## Part 2: Over the gate!

Owing to other commitments on the evening of the Northington Grange lecture, Mary and I were disappointed in not being able to attend. A few days later Barbara and Bob gave a glowing account of what we had missed and we learnt that it was possible to see the outside of the house. The following Sunday being fine, we loaded up the car with grandparents and children and set out for the Grange.

Unfortunately, lines of communication had been a little crossed and we did not realise that the opening was not until May, so that we were somewhat nonplussed to find a large notice at the gate to say 'No admittance'. After some hesitation, we were overcome by sudden short sightedness or illiteracy and drove in. The driveway twisted on for quite a distance until we came to a junction; one route went towards a hill, crowned with trees and with the roof of what looked like a mausoleum poking through, the other route was dead straight through an avenue of mature trees at the end of which we could see the grey form of a classical house. Down we drove. At the end of the avenue we were barred by padlocked gates, now we were so near to the house that there was no hesitation in climbing over to get nearer. Grandparents, with more care for their bones and law of trespass, stopped behind.

We were impressed, at this view of the house, by its grand scale and classical decoration. Walking round to the back of the house we could see where the latest additions had been removed and a rather different brick with stone dressings elevation exposed; this was probably part of the original house.

Round to the far side found us on a raised terrace with a broad flight of steps down to a lower level. At the end of the terrace was an incredible porticoed Greek building which reminded me of a larger edition of The Treasury of the Athenians at Delphi. Perhaps this was the ballroom.

We could not resist going down the steps and round to the fourth side of the house - what a sight! You could imagine you were in Greece. This was not a house, it was certainly a Greek Temple. A large stone stylobate or podium with broad steps was surmounted by Doric columns and pediment. This composition was all set at one side of a valley, overlooking a lake and Arcadian landscape. Quite idyllic even in the midst of winter. I know a vast amount of money has been spent on preserving this unique scene, but I am sure in this world we need some uplifting sights to offset the innumerable depressing ones.

Just one quibble, could they not have found a few more pounds to provide a decent railing to the terrace - galvanised steel tube is so out of place?

Needless to say, this family will be returning in more legal circumstances for a more leisurely eye feast.

(J.....r's name as author of this article has been withheld for obvious reasons)

## RESEARCH - THE BASINGSTOKE WORKHOUSE 1835 TO 1842

I became interested in the early days of the Union Workhouse at Basing Rd when I attended a course at the local library on original documents. One of these documents came from the Workhouse punishment book of 1873 to 1882 for Kingsclere. I was surprised at some of the punishments meted out to the inmates. The one that caught my eye was:

1897 - 4th Sept "Charlotte Stratton - Threw a quart pint of boiling water over Ann Harmsworth.  
Punishment - 3 weeks in county prison."

Since then I have visited the County Archives at Winchester on several occasions and have consulted the first two volumes (there are 36 in all) of the Minutes of the regular weekly meetings of the Guardians of the Basingstoke Workhouse. These give tantalizing glimpses into the building of the Workhouse and of the staff and inmates of the Workhouse. So often they mention something but give no details or conclusions. As Winchester has only a few other documents on the Workhouse, it has been difficult to work out many of the Minutes without guesswork and conjecture.

Researching further afield, I have consulted a number of general works on the Poor Law, read the book on the Workhouse at Andover by Ian Anstruther, "The Scandal of the Andover Workhouse", looked at a number of local maps of varying dates and spoken to a few local people - one, a Mr Brown who kindly loaned me some photographs of the Workhouse just before it was pulled down.

Also at Winchester are certain baptism and burial registers which I have looked through to try and find out something about the inmates who appear in the Minutes. However, there were 36 parishes that could send paupers to the Basingstoke Union Workhouse and although I was limiting my period to about seven years, 1835 to 1842, the births and deaths could have occurred any time up to ninety years either way!

One very useful source was the 1841 census, which not only had a separate section for the Workhouse but for the first time included names, age and in some cases previous occupations. Surprisingly, only a very few of the inmates mentioned in the Minutes appear in the census, suggesting a quick turnover of inmates.

I am hoping to write this up following the plan below:

- Introduction - unemployment
- National and local events 1830 - 1840
- The history of the Poor Law and the 1834 Amendment Act
- Basingstoke and the 36 parishes - background data
- The Swing Riots - 1830
- The Union Workhouse:
  - Building
  - Guardians and Staff
  - The Inmates
  - Other Workhouses
- Conclusions

The Workhouse was the old Basing Road hospital pulled down just a few years ago. It was built to house orphans, 'idiots', the aged, the sick and the able-bodied who were out of work. It was meant to be worse than anything they could experience outside. In some Workhouses it was. One writer penned the comment that some Workhouse inmates broke the rules

so that they could be sent to the local jail (in this case, it was Odiham Bridewell) because prisoners were fed better.

In the 1830s unemployment was running at about one million out of a population of 13.8 millions, a much higher percentage than today. Many saw the unemployed as idle workshy people who needed to be shamed into working. There was at this time a lot of casual work where workers were not employed on a regular basis, so it is hard to know just how serious the unemployment problem was. The Workhouse was seen as a refuge by some and a prison by others. For the pauper it was a place of humiliation and shame.

Since starting this research, I keep expecting someone in Parliament to bring up the idea of a Workhouse for our modern unemployment problem!

PS: I am still short of data about people of this period 1830-1840 - townspeople, business, 'corporation' councillors as well as inmates. If anyone can help ...

ERNEST MAJOR

#### BEWARE OF SWEEPING STATEMENTS!

Members who attended a recent lecture to the Friends of the Willis Museum by Ken Barton, on "Castles in the Channel Islands" may remember him saying there was nothing of interest on Alderney except the pubs. From the Castle point of view this is probably true, as the majority of Alderney's forts and castles were built as part of the Channel defences in the Napoleonic Wars - it was designated the 'Gibraltar of the Channel'.

Alderney does have some interest, however, for archaeologists, as the following extract from the Alderney Journal of 7th February shows. Previous prehistoric finds are already on display in the island's museum.

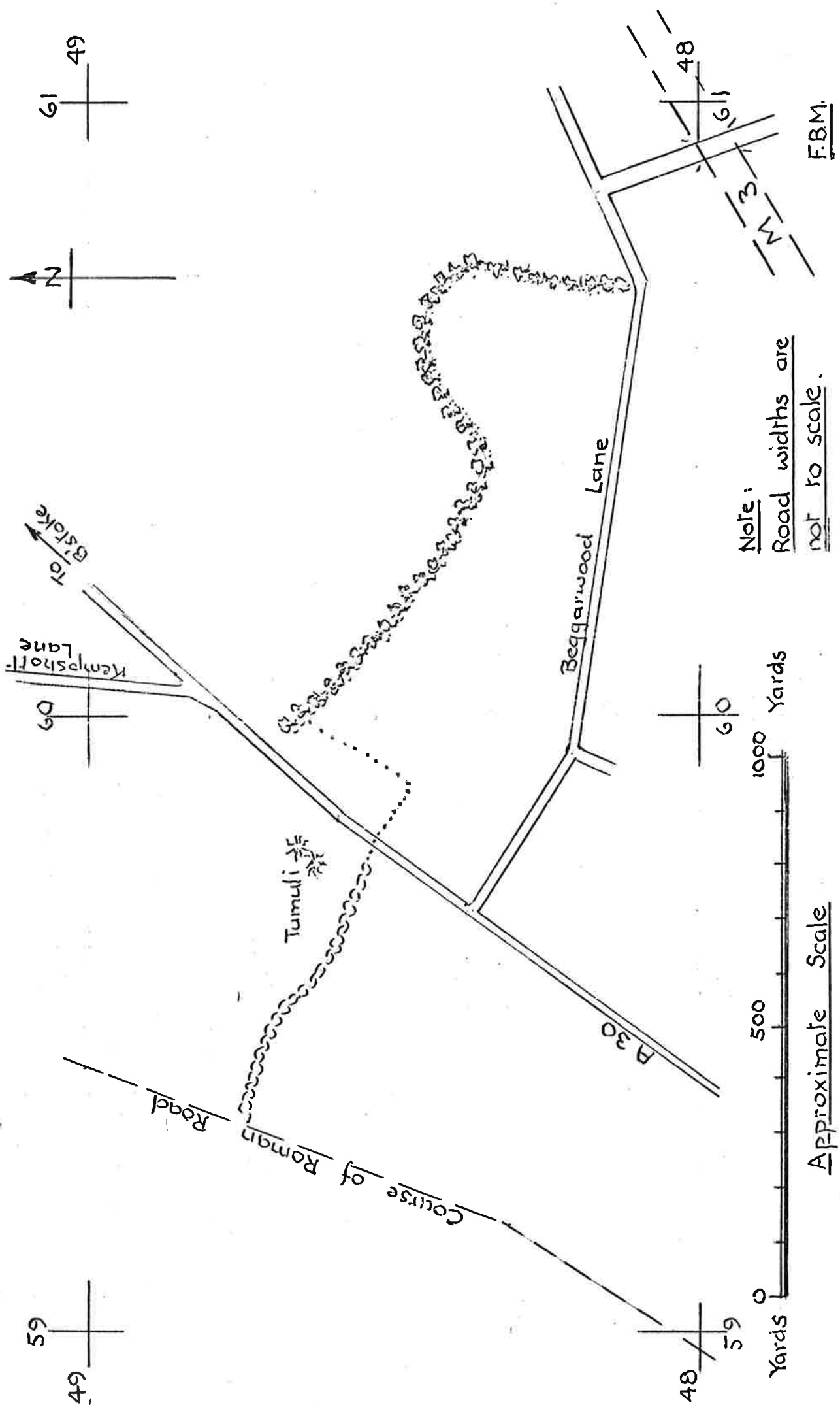
#### " Finds Could Prove Exciting

Dr Ian Kinnes, head of the Prehistoric and Romano-British Department of the British Museum, paid a brief visit to Alderney this week and spoke of the possibility of important archaeological sites in Alderney. This is his third exploratory visit, during which he met the Curator of the Alderney Museum, Mr Reg. Harris, and members of the Alderney Society who have been making preliminary investigations of a number of island sites. Dr Kinnes, who led the excavations at Les Fouaillages in Guernsey two years ago, returned to London with a bronze axe head and what is believed to be an early spear shaft, both found in Alderney, which are to be examined and preserved."

BETTY WATERS

#### AN ANCIENT BOUNDARY HEDGE?

The wide boundary hedge on the south side of the A30 at the top of Kempshott Hill (see sketch plan) appears to have some interesting features. Its sinuous line on plan from map reference SU 600487 to Beggarwood Lane at



SU 607481 is approximately 1250 yards. It is shown on the earliest 1 inch edition of the O.S. map (sheet 12, published 1817) as a narrow strip of woodland running first about 800 yards south-east from what is now the A30 and thence almost due south to Beggarwood Lane.

On the 1910 edition of the 1-2500 scale O.S. map sheet 18-14 it is shown clearly as a strip of woodland averaging about 100 feet wide and named 'Lower Belt'. The survey for this sheet was done in 1871 and revised in 1909. On this map a parish boundary is shown along the northern (i.e. Hatch Warren) edge of the feature.

The hedge (if so it may be called) is still of impressive width, varying along its length. The trees and shrubs growing there include ash, beech, hawthorn, ivy, holly, elder, hazel, wild rose, sycamore, yew, thorn, oak, bramble and silver birch.

The appearance of this hedge on comparatively recent maps provides tenuous support for any evidence of its age. A search for boundary references or other older but relevant documentary evidence by Mr Douglas Paterson of Hatch Warren has, the writer understands, been so far unsuccessful.

Nevertheless, a tempting theory is that this hedge was the southern boundary of the Domesday Hatch (Warren) parish which was merged with Cliddesden in 1380 (Wykehams Reg., Hants Record Society Vol II, Notes 56, p. 292 and 57, p. 391).

If this theory is indeed correct, then the hedge would be one of the oldest remaining natural features on the south-west side of Basingstoke.

F. B. MAYO

#### FINE ARTS AUCTION FOR THE MARY ROSE

A major auction of antiques and objets d'art will be held at the Elmers Court Country Club at Lymington on Saturday, May 21st (with running buffet at lunch-time plus a wine bar and a champagne bar offering the special cuvee of Mary Rose champagne!)

The President of the Mary Rose Trust, HRH the Prince of Wales, has donated a special item for sale and further donations are invited (it is suggested they should be of the value of £25+).

Further details from Paul Jackson on Lymington (0590) 75025 or the Mary Rose Press Officer, Arthur Rogers on Portsmouth (0705) 839766.

... And don't forget our April lecture!

CALENDAR

- + Wednesday, 30th March Pot washing at the Willis Museum from 7 pm
- + Thursday, 7th April 'THE MARY ROSE' by Richard Harrison, Carnival Hall, Basingstoke, 7.30 pm
- Saturday, 9th April Reading Abbey One-day school, University of Reading; £3.50; 9.30 - 5.30. Abbey Gateway, Abbot's Walk, Reading
- Sunday, 10th April The Carpentry of Timber Framed Buildings  
The Lupton Hall, Bedales School, Church Road, Steep, near Petersfield. £5. Petersfield Historical Society/WEA/Hampshire Field Club
- + Wednesday, 13th April Pot washing at the Willis Museum from 7 pm
- Saturday, 16th April Religious Minorities in Hampshire Symposium, Local History Section, Hampshire Field Club, University of Southampton, £4.
- Thursday, 21st April Friends of the Willis Museum: evening visit to Whitchurch Silk Mill
- + Wednesday, 27th April Pot washing at the Willis Museum from 7 pm
- + Thursday, 5th May 'HILIFORT EXCAVATION, METHODS AND RESULTS' by Ken Smith, Chute House, Basingstoke, 7.30 pm
- + Wednesday, 11th May Pot washing at the Willis Museum from 7 pm
- Saturday, 14th May Friends of the Willis Museum: field trip to Old Sarum & Salisbury Museum
- Thursday, 19th May Friends of the Willis Museum: musical evening
- Saturday, 21st May Annual Conference of the Hampshire Field Club (details to be announced later)
- + Wednesday, 25th May Pot washing at the Willis Museum from 7 pm
- + Saturday 25th June Society's Summer Outing - details to follow.