

# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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**Details of the Society's activities and  
publications will be found inside the back cover.**

# *Cake and Cockhorse*

The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society, issued three times a year.

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**First, an important correction:** on the Summer Programme that members received a week or two back, the date of the A.G.M. at Hook Norton was wrongly given (although the correct date was stated on the reverse in the official notice of the A.G.M.). As usual it is on a Saturday. **The correct date is 29<sup>th</sup> July 2000.**

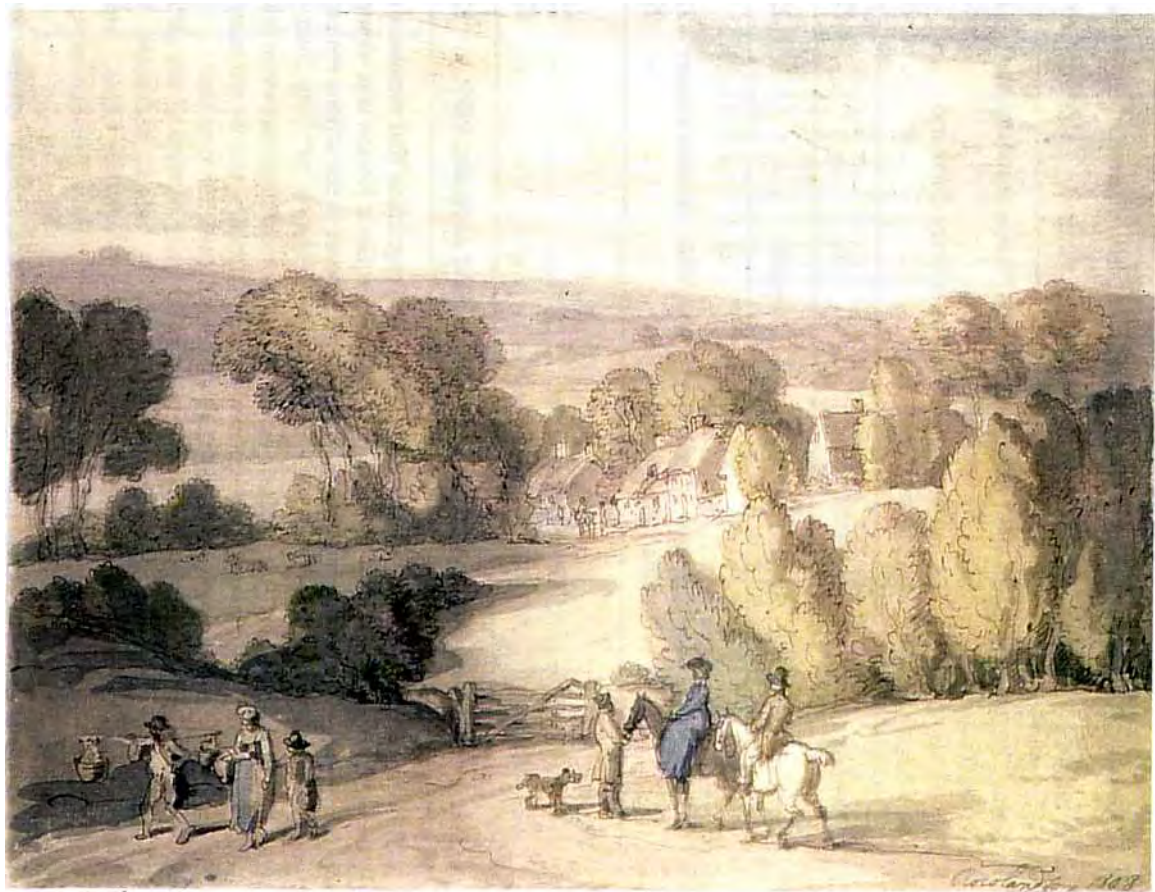
For our Millennium Year, perhaps for historians the most important event is the laying of the foundation stone for the new Banbury Museum, and we are assured that work is going on apace. We look forward to its completion next year.

Apart from that, we do in this issue attempt to cover aspects of the earlier centuries of the past thousand years: the Castle, which dominated the authoritarian side of medieval Banbury; and our original Cross, which symbolised both religion and the over-riding reason for Banbury's existence, its market.

Our congratulations to our Vice-President, Dr Barrie Trinder, on his recent election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Our annual Reception at Banbury Museum will be on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

*Cover:* The original Banbury Cross: detail from a field map of c.1550.



## **‘A VIEW NEAR BANBURY’**

**by Thomas Rowlandson, 1756 – 1827**

[Oxfordshire Museum Collection accession number OXCMS 1999.71.1]

*Simon Townsend*

Perhaps the most rewarding task for a museum curator is the development of the museum collection. This is a task that is never complete and one that gradually adds quality and breadth to the displays. Proof of success can be witnessed in some of our great museums which draw upon collections that have been improved over a hundred years or more, a good example of which is Oxford University's very own Ashmolean Museum founded in 1683.

Banbury Museum is in its infancy compared with that famous neighbour (though its origin is in the 1840's), but I am pleased that our collection is developing and includes a recently purchased watercolour by the renowned Thomas Rowlandson.

Rowlandson is best known as a caricaturist, his works brimming with satire and slapstick humour. But he also had a serious side, and began his career as a painter of portraits. It is also significant that he was a friend of George Morland, whose landscapes record the rural poverty that was rife at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries. Like Morland, he travelled around England recording the country life he saw. On his death in 1827 he left a tremendous quantity of work, much of which is of very high quality and typical of the English School.

**‘A View near Banbury’**, signed *‘Rowlandson 1808’*, is in the tradition of George Morland. It records an unidentified village near Banbury with two groups of people in the foreground. The village is typical of the area, with houses of stone construction and steep thatched roofs. But it is the people that deserve close scrutiny.

There are two groups in the foreground, carefully juxtaposed. On the right are two figures on horseback, one a woman riding sidesaddle. They have stopped and are talking to a man with a dog. This well-dressed little group are noticeably at leisure and contrast with the group on the left, a man, woman and child. Significantly this latter group are loaded with goods, the man supporting two loads on a stick across his shoulder and the woman with a bag on her arm. Who are they? It is impossible to tell,

but it may be that they are going to work in the fields, or travelling to market, or, perhaps more likely, a homeless family carrying their possessions with them. The historic context is one of unemployment, a result of enclosure, and rising mechanisation. There was increasing unrest in the countryside, a direct outcome of poverty that led to homelessness and hunger. Although a French-style revolution never occurred, these were bad and dangerous times, evidenced by the arrival of Captain Swing (see George Herbert's *Shoemaker's Window*) and the formation of militias to protect landowners' property.

Whatever the story behind this painting, it is a fine work and I am delighted to be able to add it to the collection. In particular I would like to acknowledge our Society's contribution to its acquisition.

This painting was purchased with the generous assistance of:

**The MGC/V&A Purchase Grant Fund;**  
**Oxfordshire County Council, Cultural Services;**  
**The Banbury Historical Society.**

*Note.* This is not the first time we have reproduced a Rowlandson picture in *Cake & Cockhorse*, even if it is a first for colour. In *C&CH* 5.7 (Autumn 1973), to illustrate accounts of Astrop Spa in Jeremy Gibson's 'Travellers' Tales', we published Rowlandson's entertaining view of those 'taking the waters' there in 1813. Unfortunately its present owner and location are unknown.

Even more tantalisingly, there have been reports (many years ago) of a Rowlandson drawing of Banbury itself showing a surviving tower or other part of the castle mainly demolished a century and half earlier. Maybe one day it will reappear.

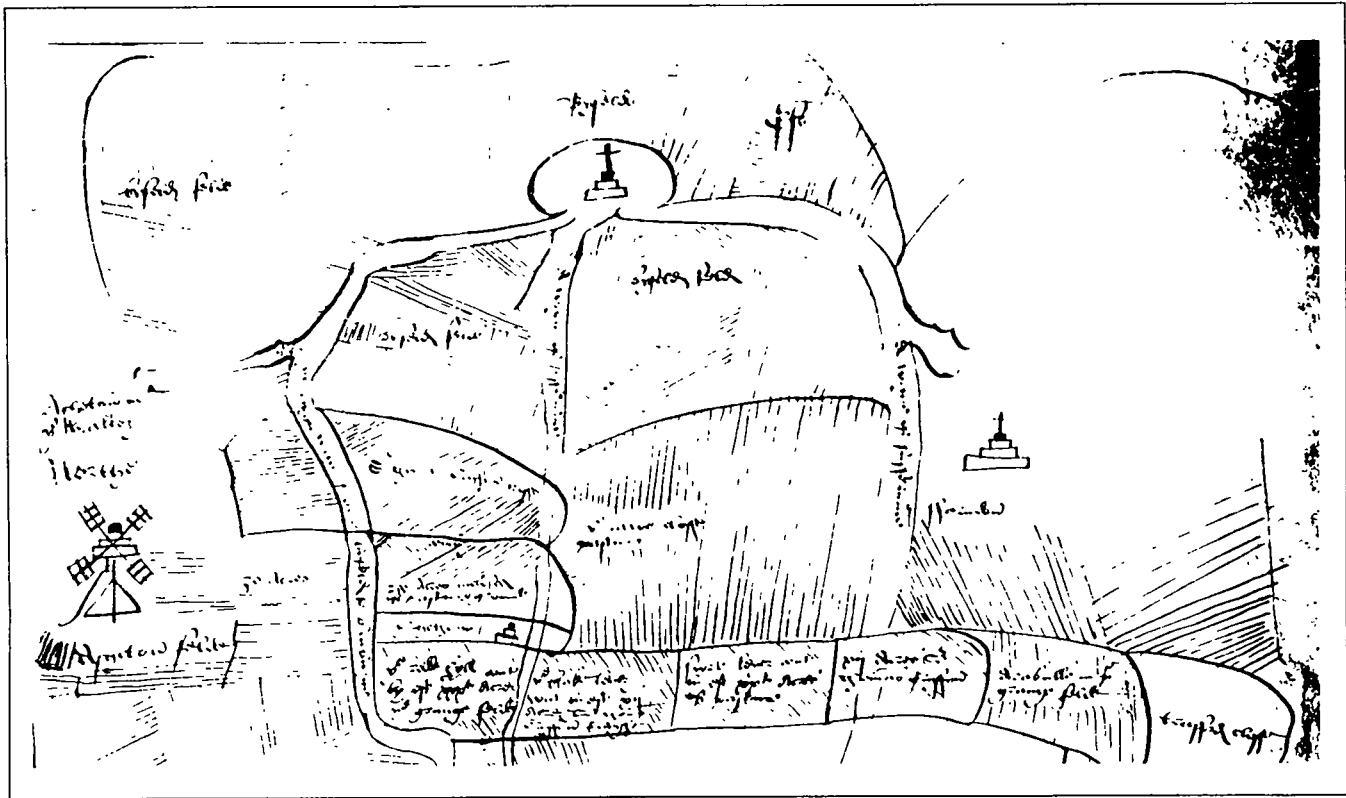
# THE ORIGINAL BANBURY CROSS

*Jeremy Gibson*

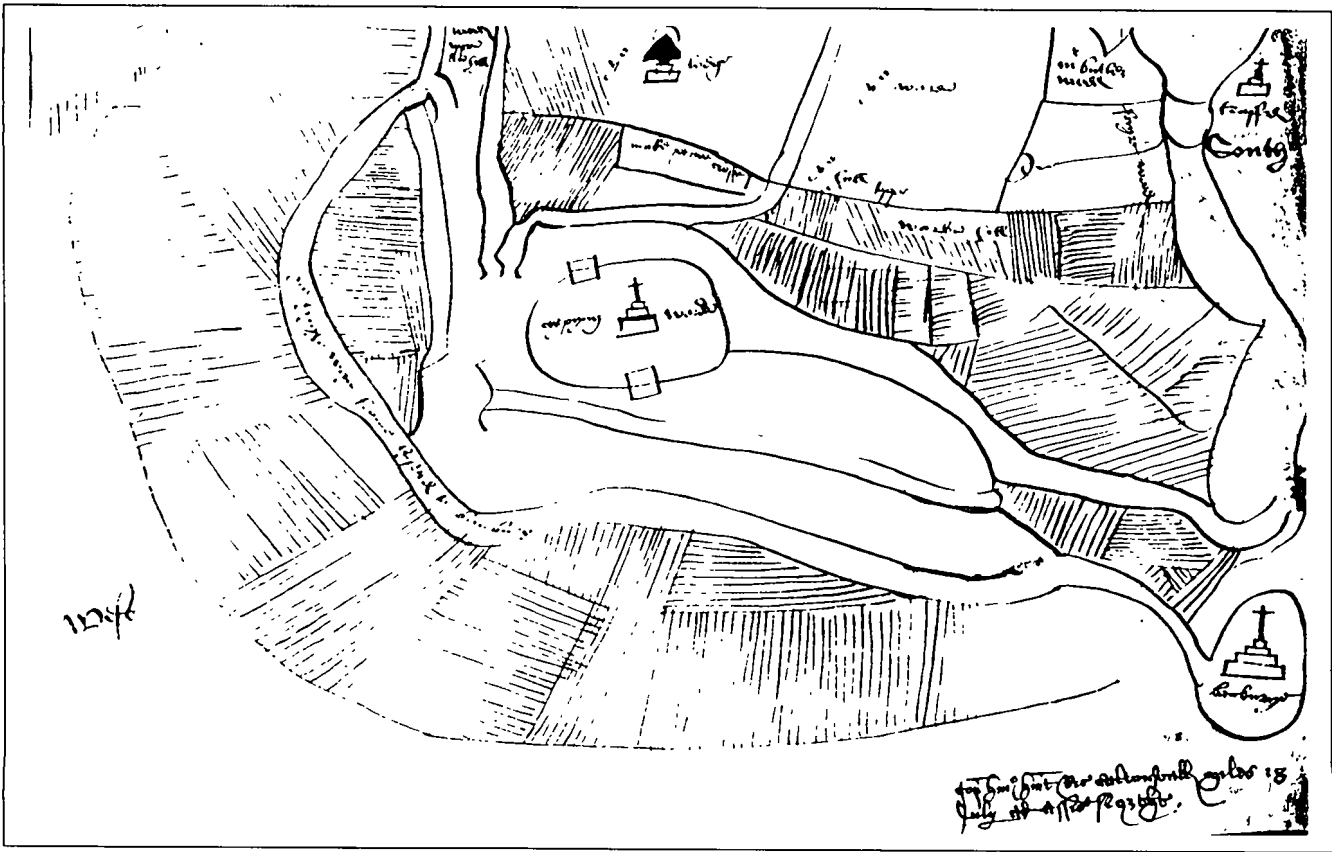
In 1993 The Public Record Office and The British Library jointly published a sumptuous volume entitled *Maps in Tudor England*, edited by P.D.A. Harvey. In due course I acquired a copy (after it had been remaindered!). Amongst the illustrated maps was one (fig. 73, B.L. Additional MS 63748) entitled 'Byfield and Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire, c.1550.', which, by permission of the British Library, is printed here, together with its catalogue entry.

This reads: 'Plan relating to the enclosure of fields surrounding Warden Hill in the parishes of Chipping Warden, Byfield and Aston-le-Walls; circa 1550. Scale variable. The plan would seem to illustrate a dispute arising from the unauthorised enclosure by Sir Thomas Gryffyn [Griffin] of parts of the highway from Byfield to Banbury and of two "wayes of sufferaunce" leading from Byfield to the Welsh Road. The eastern "waye of sufferaunce" can still be seen, somewhat diverted in its southern reaches, in the first edition of the Ordnance Survey. The plan is annotated (lower right) "*Copiam huius habuit Ricardus Saltonstall miles 18 July ad assisam Northamptoniae*" [Sir Richard Saltonstall had a copy of this at the assizes at Northampton on 18 July]. The plan shows "*Maister butler's woodd*". Sir Thomas Griffin and Alban Butler were in dispute over lands in Chipping Warden from 1544 onwards [Add. Roll 6125].

'The plan extends from Byfield to Banbury and from Aston-le-Walls ("Asheton in ye wallez") to [West] Farndon, but the area around Warden Hill between Byfield, Aston-le-Walls, West Farndon and the now vanished village of Trafford, on the east bank of the Cherwell, is shown on a far larger scale. The boundaries of the disputed fields (which to the north-west in large part coincide with the line of an unnamed tributary of the Cherwell) are marked with heavier lines than the other boundaries. These field boundaries can still be recognised on the first edition, 6 inch Ordnance Survey of Northamptonshire, sheets LIV, NW & NE and XLIX, SW & SE. The map gives cardinal points but these are distorted: the plan seems to be oriented from Trafford. The open fields are indicated by hatching, towns and villages by market crosses, with their relative sizes suggested by the number of steps at their base. Windmill







shown (left centre) near Aston-le-Walls. The disputed woods and fields are named, with the acreages given by estimation. Land use, as between wood, arable and pasture is also indicated and the line of the upper reaches of the Cherwell is shown near Trafford. Purchased at Sotheby's, 27 May 1986, lot 398.

Ink on parchment, 330 x 280mm.'

In the published book Professor Harvey comments: 'The note bottom right shows that a copy of this plan was taken to the assizes at Northampton... This implies – but does not prove – that a landowner concerned in the dispute made the map for his own purposes but sent a copy to be shown to the court when it seemed that this would be helpful. Unless the copy sent was a careful adaptation of the map that we have it cannot have been very suitable for general display and will have been meant for close inspection by the court.'

Sir Richard Saltonstall died on 11 December 1619. The son of a Lord Mayor of London (1598) of the same name (d. 1601/2), he had acquired the manor of Chipping Warden from the Griffin family some time after 1569. The Griffin family had long held Warden, but the descent was complicated in the earlier part of the sixteenth century. By 1561 it was in possession of Sir Thomas Griffin, who died in 1566, his heir being his idiot son Edward, who himself died in 1569. The map may have been part of the records of the manor passed to Saltonstall, which would justify the 1550 date tentatively given to it; but it may be rather later.

The manor of Aston came to John Butler through his marriage to Margaret daughter and heiress of Sir John Sutton some time between 1541 and their deaths in 1563, descending to their eldest son Alban (d.1609). (His second son, Simon, married Barbara, a daughter of Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave.)

For orientation, 'West' is in the lower lefthand corner, 'Northe' just above the windmill, 'Est' top off-centre right and 'Southe' halfway down the righthand side.

'Byfeld' is shown by the cross at the top, and the three fields around are the unenclosed 'byfeld feld', with 'ye hyghwaye from byfeld to banburye' intersecting on the left. 'Asheton in ye Wallez' is written above the windmill, '30 acres' to the right and 'Asheton feld' beneath. One enclosure to the right, inscribed 'Sr Thomas Gryffyn close', appears to straddle the highway, its boundary shown unbroken across the road, and is presumably one of those in dispute. Beneath this, to the right

of the highway, are two closes, '20 Acres inclosed / of pasture ground' and 'ye hethe house' (with steps presumably indicating a building). The large enclosure to the right again is 'ye newe crosse / pasture'.

Two tracks lead from Byfield, one directly down the map, i.e. from north-north-east to south-south-west; the other to the right, i.e. south, and bending south-west, towards and past (West) Farndon, a hamlet in the parish of Woodford, again with a cross; both eventually leading to Chipping Warden. Each track is annotated 'A waye of sufferaunce'.

A line of six closes runs across the map from the highway and beneath the 'newe crosse'. The first track from Byfield runs through Sir Thomas Gryffyn's Close, the 20 acre close and Hethe House, and separates the first and second of the line of closes, although boundaries are shown crossing it at all these points. The first close is labelled 'ye redde hyll out / by est xxx'ti Acres / ye grange felde', with, immediately beneath it 'woodd / uppon / An hyll'. There is still a Redhill Farm halfway between Byfield and Chipping Warden, just east of the main road, with a copse to the south where the road descends the hill. Across the central track is the second close, 'ye blake leyez / out by est xii / Acres Sr Thomas / Gryffyn knight'.

To the right of that is 'swet leyez out / by est xx'ti Acres / of pasture', followed by 'xii Acres sr / Thomas Gryffyn'. The right hand track runs across this and again the boundaries are shown overlying this. Beyond this is 'Arabelle in ye / grange feld'.

All the fields and closes so far mentioned are hatched with strips. Those on the extreme right and beneath the line of closes are left blank. The far right one is named 'trafford crosse' and beside it 'trafford' is shown with a cross. Trafford lies between Eydon and Chipping Warden, on the Cherwell (the two meandering lines seem to represent streams and water meadows). Six hundred sheep were kept there in 1547 and it was 'pasture' by 1637, with 323 acres of old closes in 1780. One, called 'Old Town', was probably the site of the vill of Trafford.

To the left are 'Mr Butler woodd' and 'fayr wood'. To their left is 'ye warden' and 'ye hyll Uppr'. This area is on the right of the track and to its left is 'ye lodge'. This is marked by a symbol of steps and a filled-in triangle, and stretches beneath the line of closes to the central track. Part is shown with strips. Below the lodge is a small enclosure 'make peace crosse', with strips to the left and open ground beneath. The right hand track curves left (west) towards 'Chypyng Warden', with that village indicated by the usual cross. A number of strip fields are indicated to the



*Above: Byfield cross, by the main road.  
Below: Chipping Warden cross, outside the church.*



right (south), one named 'Warden hill'. The highway, to the left, bypasses the village, with strip fields shown on its left (west) and some of the village side.

The highway is then shown leading to the right (south) in an obviously simplified form with no further intervening places (Wardington, Williamscot) shown, to end at 'banburye'.

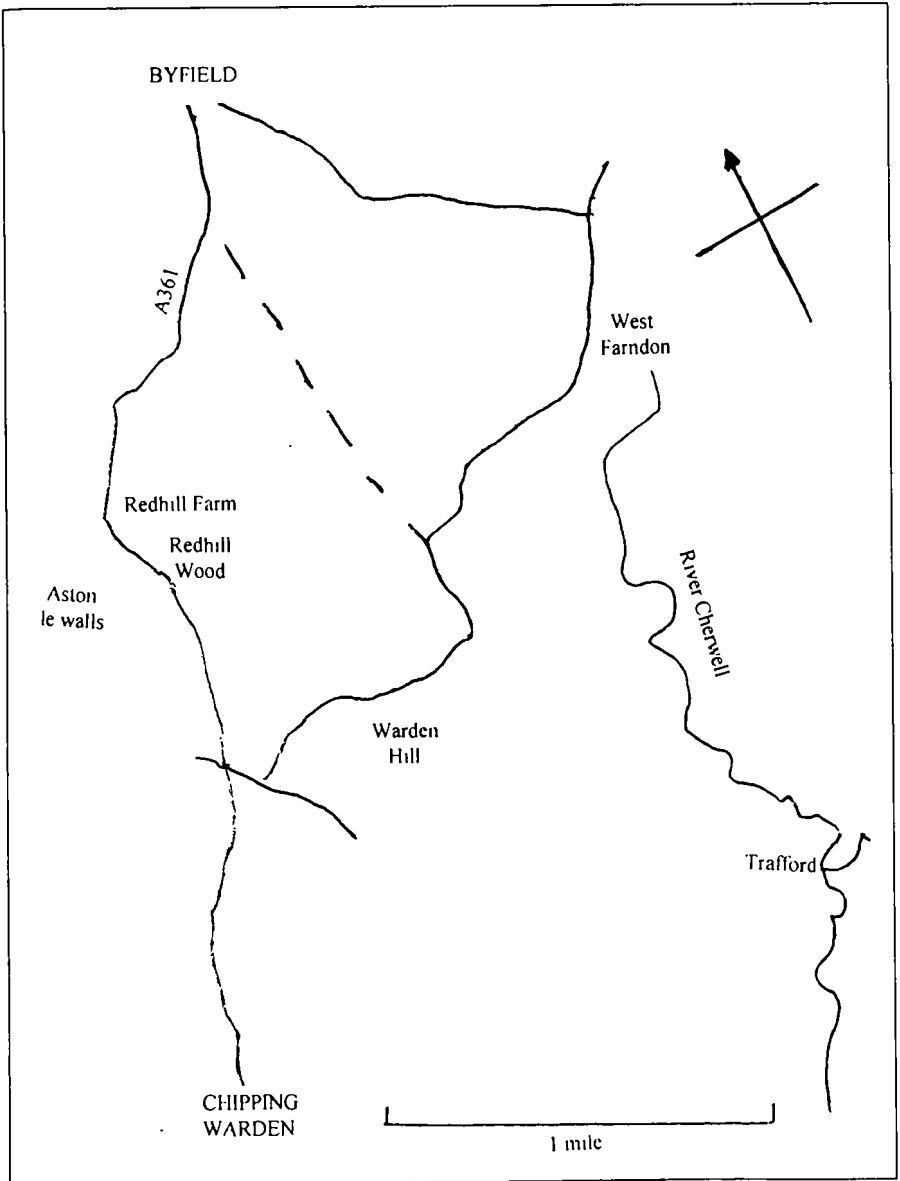
Which brings us to the title of this article. As mentioned the places are symbolised by a cross on steps. Byfield's cross has two steps, Farndon's three, Trafford's two, and Chipping Warden's three. The cross for Banbury is the largest, with four steps. Obviously these are stylised, like the Ordnance Survey's cross surmounting a circle or square for churches with a spire or just a tower. Even so, Byfield and Chipping Warden did have crosses, as their remains still survive. Byfield has one high block or step with the stump of its cross, beside the main road. Chipping Warden has a massive six steps beneath its stump, outside the church. Farndon is now a tiny hamlet, but may have been larger, as suggested by its three steps. Trafford is a clear example of a deserted settlement taken over by sheep, but perhaps its 'Old Town' once boasted a cross. Neither remain.

Banbury's original cross was destroyed by puritans in 1600. Thus the four-stepped cross shown on the map is the only known illustration of our high cross. For a town for which otherwise the earliest drawings date from the eighteenth century, the identification of a contemporary picture, however crude, of our famous medieval monument, is a worthy contribution to the Millennium Year!

\* \* \*

*Note.* My initial interest in this map was sparked by the realisation that it portrayed the original Banbury Cross. Deciphering the place names aroused a wider interest, encouraged by a visit to the Northamptonshire Record Office whose archivists patiently helped me decipher and identify some of the more obscure legends on the map. On my return journey I explored Byfield, West Farndon and Chipping Warden, and the roads between. Location of Redhill and of crosses in the two villages resulted, with subsequent photography.

It seems probable that the disputed fields lay north-west to south-east in a line from Redhill to Trafford, south of Farndon and north of Warden Hill. A dedicated grass-roots historian with local knowledge and prepared to get his/her boots muddy might be able to discover hedges of ancient closes – 'Byfield': enclosure was in 1779. Sites of the 'heth house' and 'Ye lodge', and Aston-le Walls' windmill, might be located (none appear on the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map, though there was a windmill just south-east of the highway near Byfield) Are 'Mr Butler wood' and 'fayr wood' the same as Bushill and Roundhil



A rough sketch map of the Byfield and Chipping Warden area from modern cartography. Only certainly identifiable places have been shown. Whilst the distance between the two villages, two miles, corresponds with the 1550 map, that between Redhill and Trafford is there exaggerated.

Spinnies, both near Trafford, as is another unnamed one? The right hand track way seems similar to the present road from Byfield to West Farndon and back to the main road south of Redhill. The centre track may be recognisable in a bridle way to those familiar with the land (there are several leading off the West Farndon to Chipping Warden road). But in the over four hundred years since the map was drawn, the open fields have been enclosed and boundaries changed, even before modern farming techniques have so altered our landscape. Information from those who know the area well would be greatly welcome.

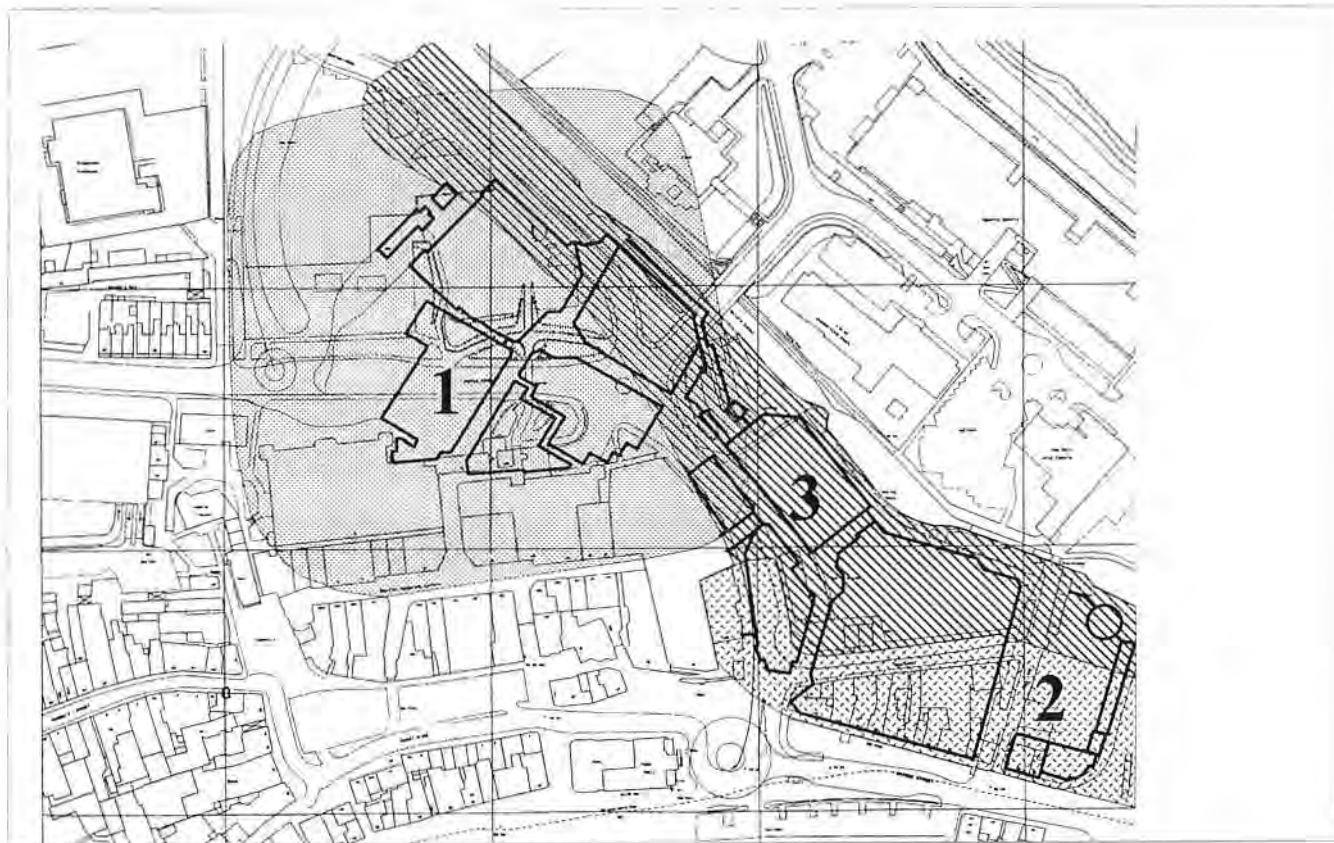
## Sources

The map illustrated is in The British Library's Manuscript Collection, Additional MS. 63748, and is reproduced here by permission of The British Library. It was first reproduced (fig. 73) in *Maps in Tudor England*, edited by P.D.A. Harvey, published by The British Library and The Public Record Office in 1993, with caption and text based solely on the catalogue entry quoted above. I have not had any opportunity to follow up the 'Add. Roll 6125' reference which may throw more light on the legal dispute.

Information on the Saltonstall and Griffin families is from George Baker's *History and Antiquities of the County of Northampton*, vol. 1, 1822-30 (Chipping Warden, pp.526-7). Sir Thomas Griffin was lord of the manor from at least 1561 until his death in 1566. For Trafford see David Hall's *The Open Fields of Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Record Society 38, 1995, p.228; and Christine Howes 'Eydon Field Names', *C&CH.14.7*, p.176, reprinted from *Graffiti, Pigs and Old Lace! – Tales from Old Eydon*, Eydon H.R.G., 1998.

Detailed drawings of the remains of the medieval crosses at Chipping Warden (1884) and Byfield (1870), are in the Dryden Collection at Northampton Central Library. I am most grateful to the local history staff for providing me with photocopies even though in the event they proved unsuitable for illustration here.

For a description of the location of Banbury's High Cross in the Market Place and its destruction on 26 July 1600 see 'Where Were Banbury's Crosses?' (*C&CH.3.10*, Winter 1967, pp.183-191) and 'Where Was Banbury's Cross', (*Oxoniensia* 31, 1966, pp.82-106), both coincidentally also by Paul Harvey (who had prepared the medieval section on Banbury in *VCH.10*).



**Fig. 1** Zones of archaeological response (scale: 100m grid-squares)



# RECENT EXCAVATIONS at CASTLE QUAY, BANBURY: A Second Interim Report

*Steve Litherland and Kirsty Nichol*  
*Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit*

## ***Introduction***

This article presents an overview of the main findings of the recently completed programme of fieldwork carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in advance of the development of Castle Quay in Banbury. While this text is intended to stand alone as a summary, the interested reader may also wish to consult earlier articles in *Cake and Cockhorse* (12.3 and 14.4), which provide a lot of background information that is not repeated here. It is also worth stressing that the results presented here should only be regarded as a provisional statement. A lot of detailed post-excavation research by specialists on ceramics, other finds and environmental evidence remains outstanding, and most importantly all these diverse forms of evidence need to be drawn together and analysed before a set of definitive interpretations can be offered.

To briefly recap, archaeological work began in the late 1980s, when the idea of an extension to the Castle Shopping Centre was first mooted. Various elements, including documentary and map research, ground-probing radar survey, bore-hole survey, test-pitting, trial trenching and building recording culminated in a targeted campaign of area excavation in 1998 and 1999.

The area affected by the redevelopment offered a unique opportunity to study a significant portion of the north-eastern periphery of the historic town, adjacent to the crossing of the River Cherwell, and later the Oxford Canal. Land use was mixed and somewhat run down, including a bus station, car parks and a triangle of mainly 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings on Bridge Street and Mill Lane.

Three main zones of archaeology were identified within the development area (Fig.1), which reflected specific characteristics of the archaeological and historical resource, although some degree of overlap and repetition between them should be recognised. These zones were:

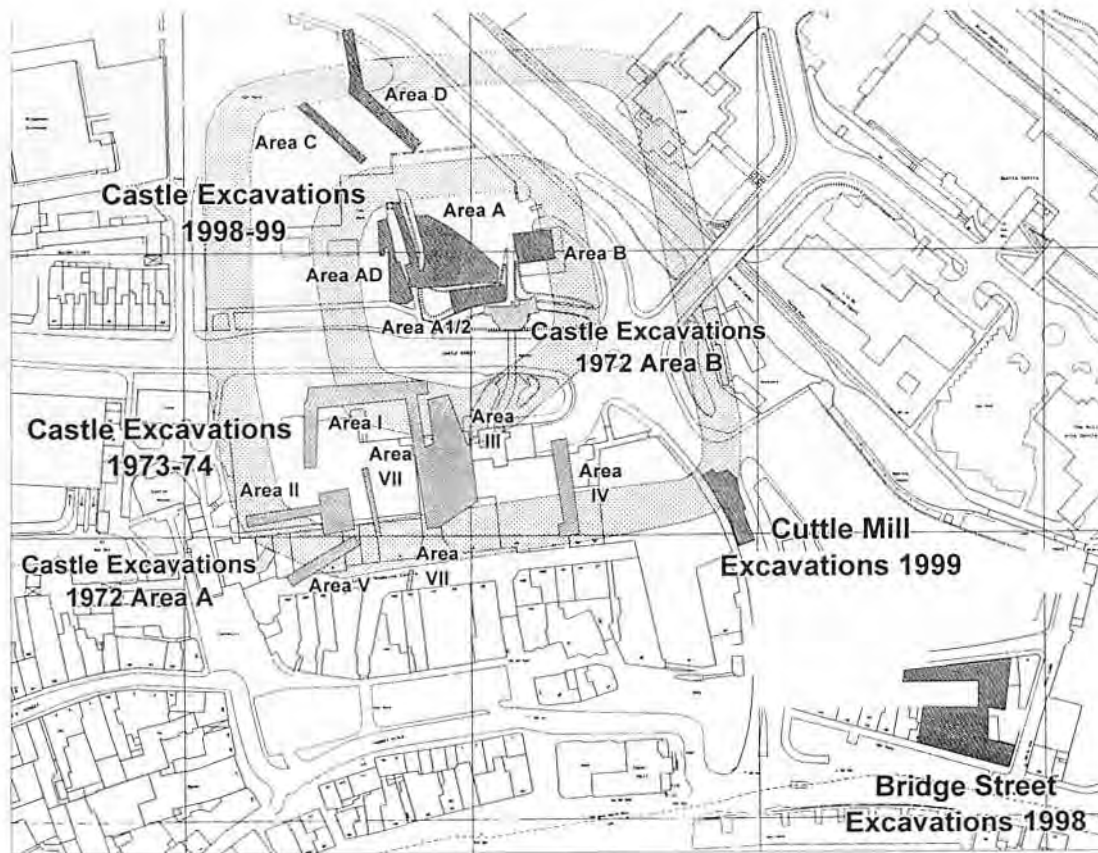


Fig. 2 Location of excavations (scale: 100m grid-squares)

**Zone 1, The Castle**, originally occupying a slight knoll to the north of the market place.

**Zone 2, Bridge Street/Mill Lane**, a triangular-shaped street block located on the eastern fringes of Banbury market.

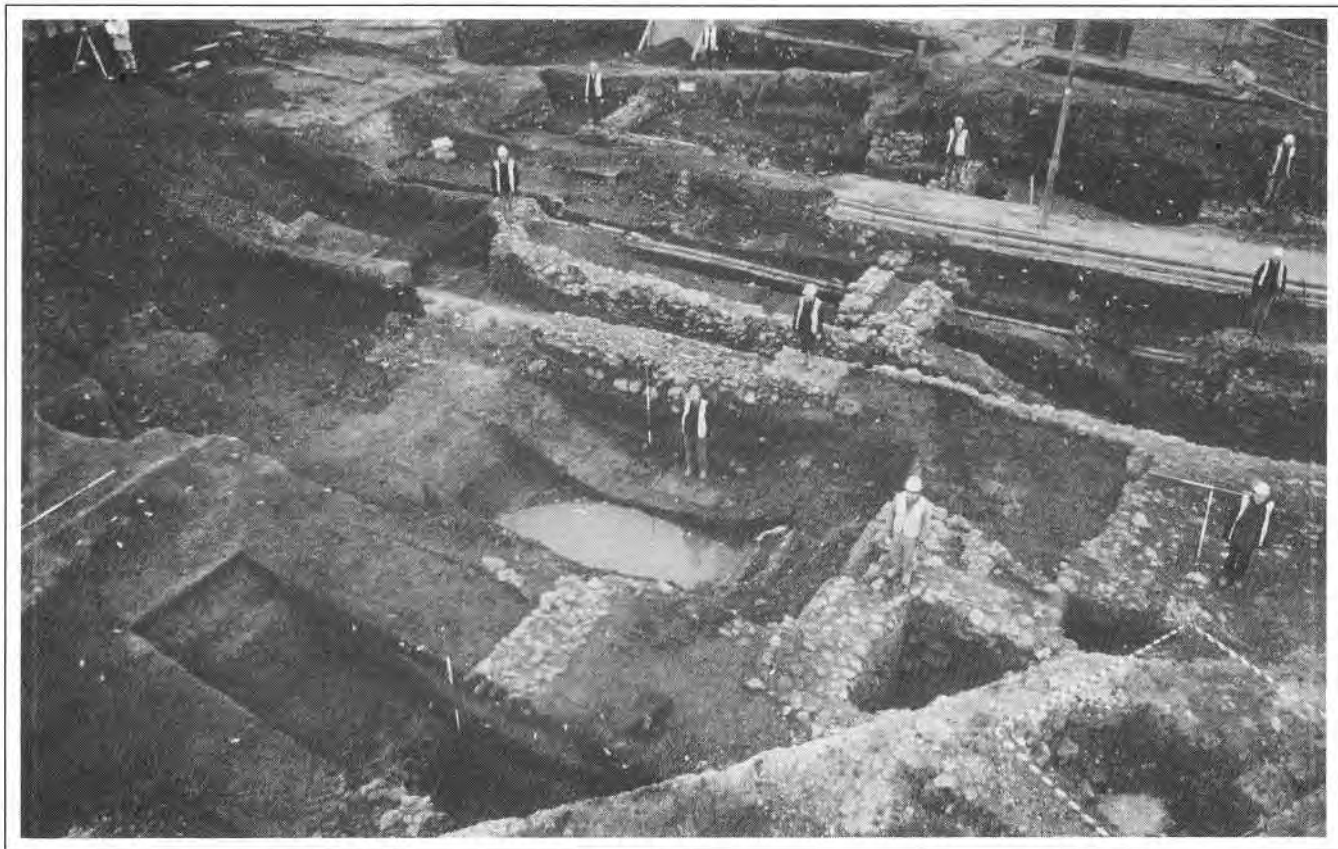
**Zone 3, The Canal-side**, which included the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Tooley's Boatyard.

The archaeological evidence ranged in date from the early-Saxon to the later-19<sup>th</sup> century, although not every period was represented in each zone. This information is summarised in the provisional phasing table below ('X' indicates the presence of archaeology of a given period in each zone).

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Zone 1</i>	<i>Zone 2</i>	<i>Zone 3</i>
0	PRE-SAXON	X		
1	LATE-SAXON/EARLY NORMAN	X	X	
1a	Timber Castle	X		
1b	Restructuring of the timber castle	X		
2	1150-1250 PLANNED TOWN	X	X	X
3	1250-1640 MATURING MARKET TOWN	X	X	X
4	CIVIL WAR	X	X	X
4a	Refortification	X		X
4b	Demolition of the Castle	X		
4c	Reconstruction of the town in the aftermath of the war		X	
5	1778 IMPACT OF THE CANAL	X	X	X
6	LATER VICTORIAN IMPROVEMENTS	X	X	X
7	20 <sup>th</sup> CENTURY	X	X	X

### ***Previous Archaeological work***

In Zone 1 approximately one half of the castle was excavated by Peter Fasham and Kirsty Rodwell prior to the building of the Castle Shopping Centre in the 1970s (Fig. 2, Fasham 1973 and 1983, Rodwell 1976). They found that an embanked curtain wall and a relatively small ditch defended the front of Bishop Alexander's Castle that was built in the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Banbury Castle was remodelled between 1250 and 1350, when two large concentric ditches were dug, and the spoil used to create a raised central platform. The battlements also included drum towers and an imposing gateway from the market place. During the excavation of a subway under Castle Street Fasham also excavated part of a small cemetery which, he believed, was probably associated with the siege of the castle in 1644.



*Plate 1. General view of the castle excavations, showing the first moat with structures contemporary with Alexander's Castle overlying the ditch.*

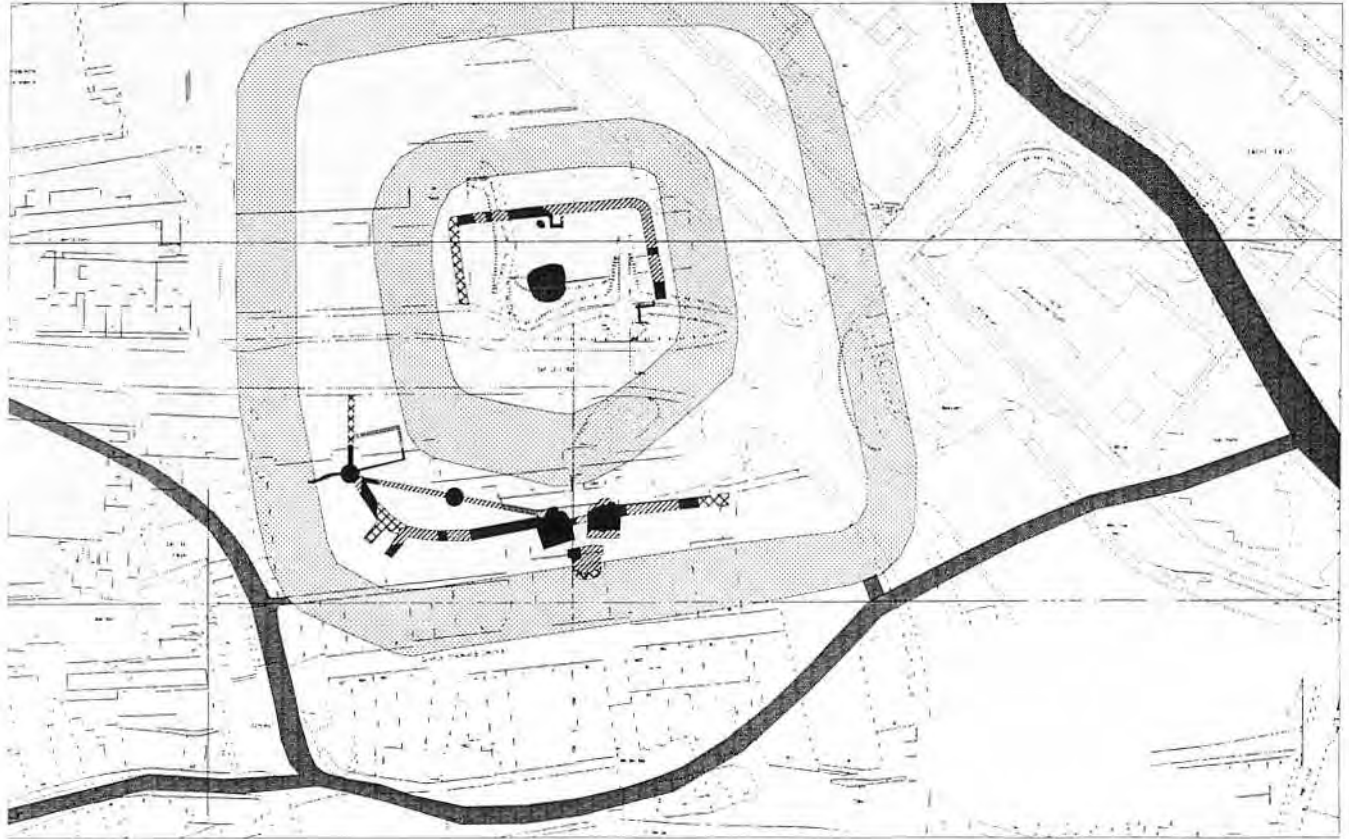
In Zone 2 the Oxford Archaeological Unit conducted excavations in advance of the construction of the Inner Relief Road which identified evidence of the river cliff of the Cherwell, located to the east of Mill Lane (Chambers *et al.* 1991). The cliff appeared not only to have defined the floodplain of the river but also the extent of the medieval town. Late-medieval development was also found along the north side of Bridge Street close to the river crossing.

No previous excavation was documented within Zone 3 prior to the current redevelopment scheme, although a building survey of Staley's Warehouse and detailed research of the history of the development of the canal wharves to the east of Mill Lane were carried out by Robert Kinchin Smith (1992 and 1993).

### *The Castle*

The archaeological investigation of the castle was concentrated upon the large car park to the north of Castle Street (Plate 1). Excavation was targeted towards those areas previously identified as being of high archaeological potential, but account had to be taken of several live services here, hence the unconventional shape of the site. A more detailed account of the evaluation of the castle was given in *Cake and Cockhorse* 14.4, and a broad chronology of the major phases in the development of the castle was established in the accounts of the 1970s excavations, so neither will be repeated here. The most significant point was that area excavation confirmed that over 3m depth of ground had been cleared from the highest end of the car park between the 1960s and 1990s. This had largely removed evidence of activity after about 1250, apart from deeply cut features such as moats and ditches, and deep wall foundations. Here, we would like to make a plea for any photographs or memories anyone may have about the redevelopment of Castle Street East in the 1960s and the disappearance of the 'castle mound'.

Despite this loss, in several important ways the results of the 1970s and 1990s excavations complement and enhance one another. On the one hand, much of the earliest archaeology found by Fasham in his Area B was directly comparable to the 1990s excavation nearby (1983,72). While on the other hand, Rodwell's excavations mainly provided information on the layout and development of the castle from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards on the south side of Castle Street. In contrast, the 1990s excavations have mainly charted earlier phases in the development of the castle to the north of Castle Street (Fig.3).



**Fig. 3 General plan of concentric castle (scale: 100m grid-squares)**

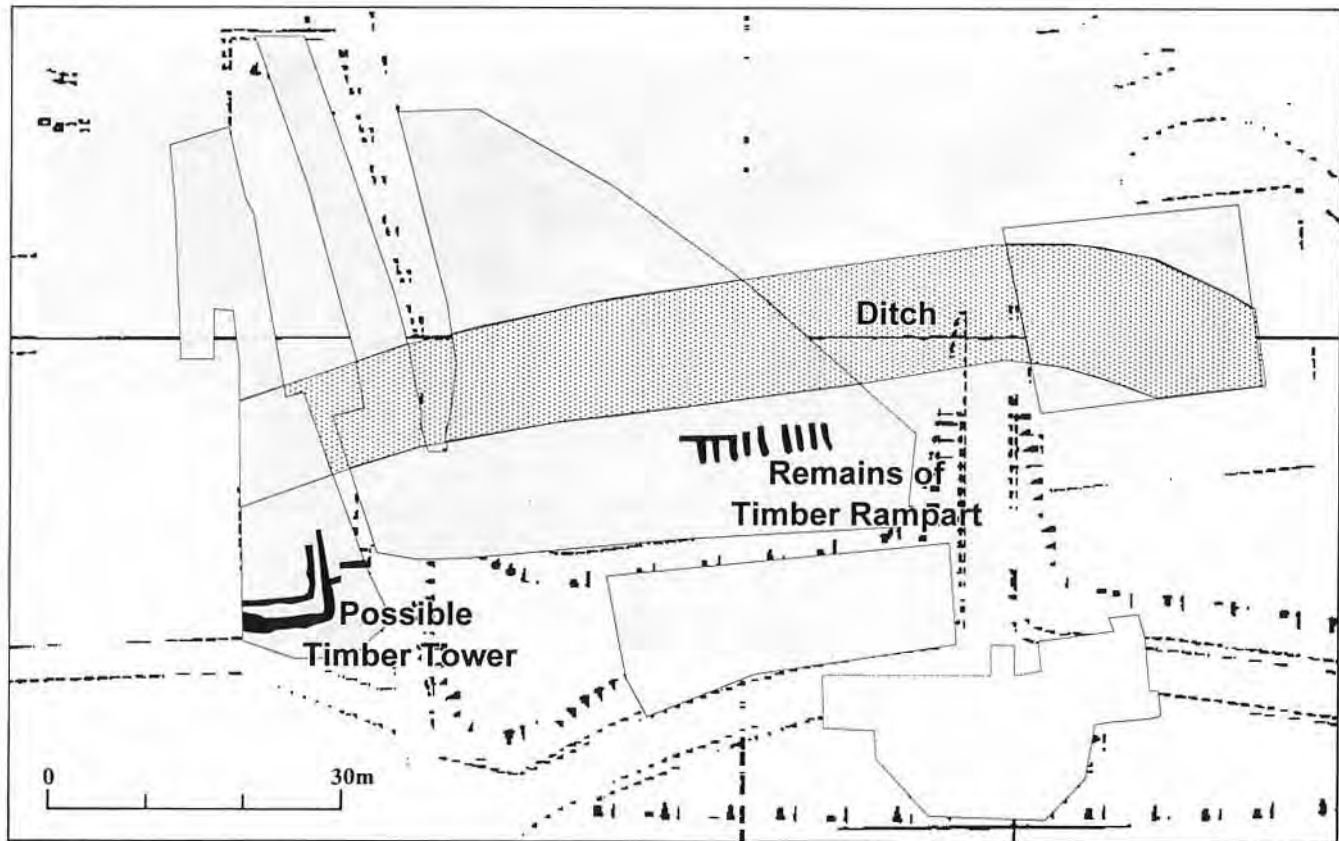


Fig. 4 The timber castle



*Plate 2 Detail of the oak drain within the first moat.*



### ***Pre-castle occupation (Phase 0)***

Banbury Castle was sited upon a low, but relatively well-drained, gravel knoll sloping away to the north and east towards the marshy flood plain of the River Cherwell. Underneath the gravel were Blue Lias Clays. At the interface of the clay and gravel several streams drain eastwards into the River Cherwell, including the Cuttle Brook, subsequently diverted to feed the castle moats. Scatters of flint flakes and implements show prehistoric occupation of the gravel knoll, which was a popular choice of site within the Thames Valley region. Likewise, Roman pottery was also found, but mainly within late-Saxon contexts. A marked bias within this assemblage towards higher status and colourful fabrics may indicate that it was deliberately collected.

### **A timber 'castle' (Phase 1a, Fig. 4)**

The earliest defensive remains consisted of a large ditch dug to form what appeared to be a moated enclosure, approximately 50m wide but of unknown depth. On the inner lip of this ditch a series of beam slots was cut into the up-cast material from the ditch that may represent the foundations of a timber palisade. A more complex system of beam slots and post-holes was also dug near the north-western corner of the moat, and is probably the remains of a timber tower. Subsequently, the moat silted up, probably as a result of seasonal inundation from the River Cherwell. One of the earliest of a number of smaller re-cuts of the moat included a drain, constructed from hollowed sections of oak (Plate 2). A number of circular, bowl-shaped pits was clustered near the northern side of the enclosure. Two of the pits were cut through the beam slots of the timber rampart, which implies it was demolished, but it is by no means clear if all these pits were dug at the same time or what their function was (Phase 1b).

### **Alexander's Castle c.1150-1250 (Phase 2, Fig. 5 and Plate 1)**

The defended enclosure of the first stone castle was expanded by digging a new, but smaller moat, some 5m further north. A range of ironstone buildings was built against the northern side of the castle, some of which were built over the Phase 1 moat. Perhaps, and not too surprisingly, this resulted in later subsidence problems. There did not appear to be a curtain wall on this side of the castle. Instead, the outer faces of the buildings seem to have been judged to afford sufficient defence.

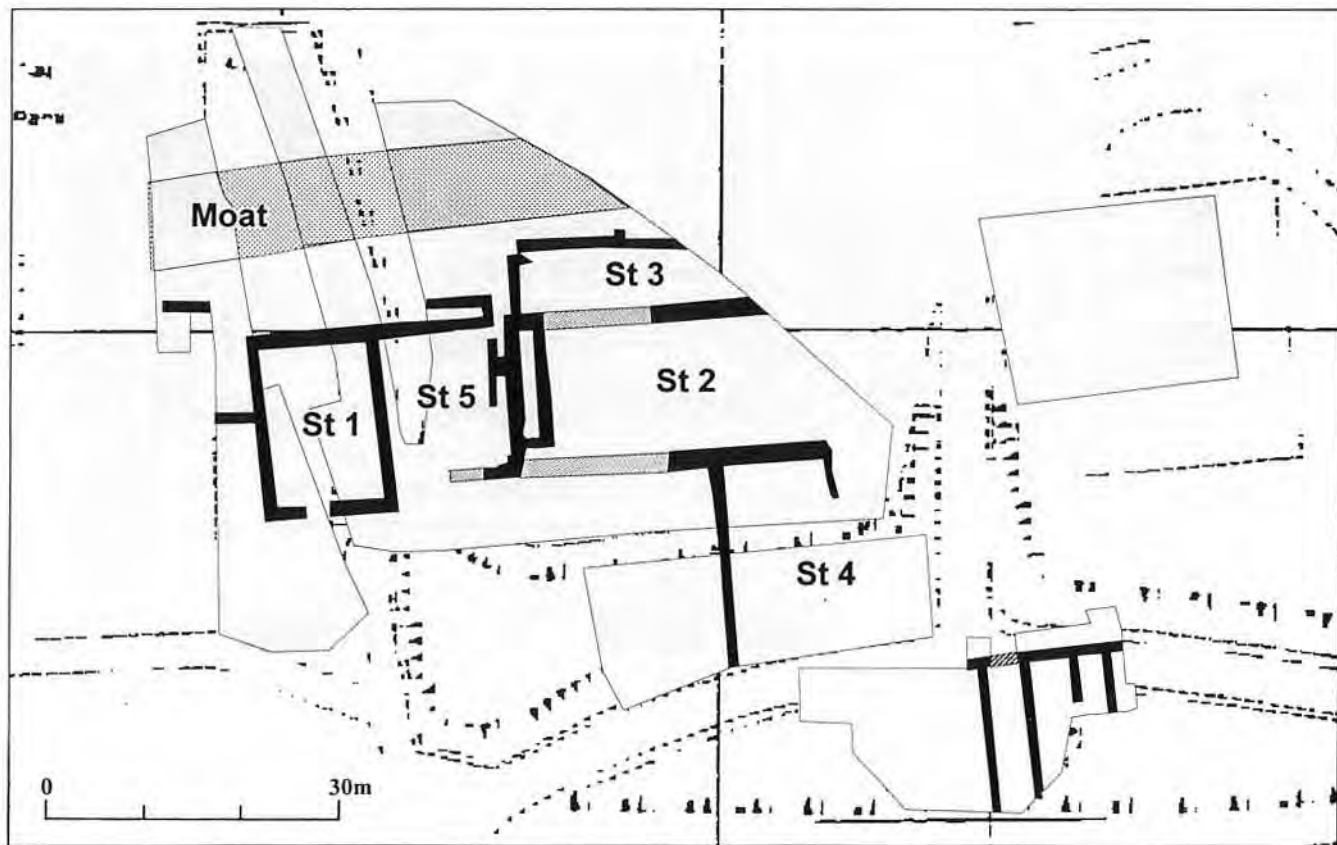


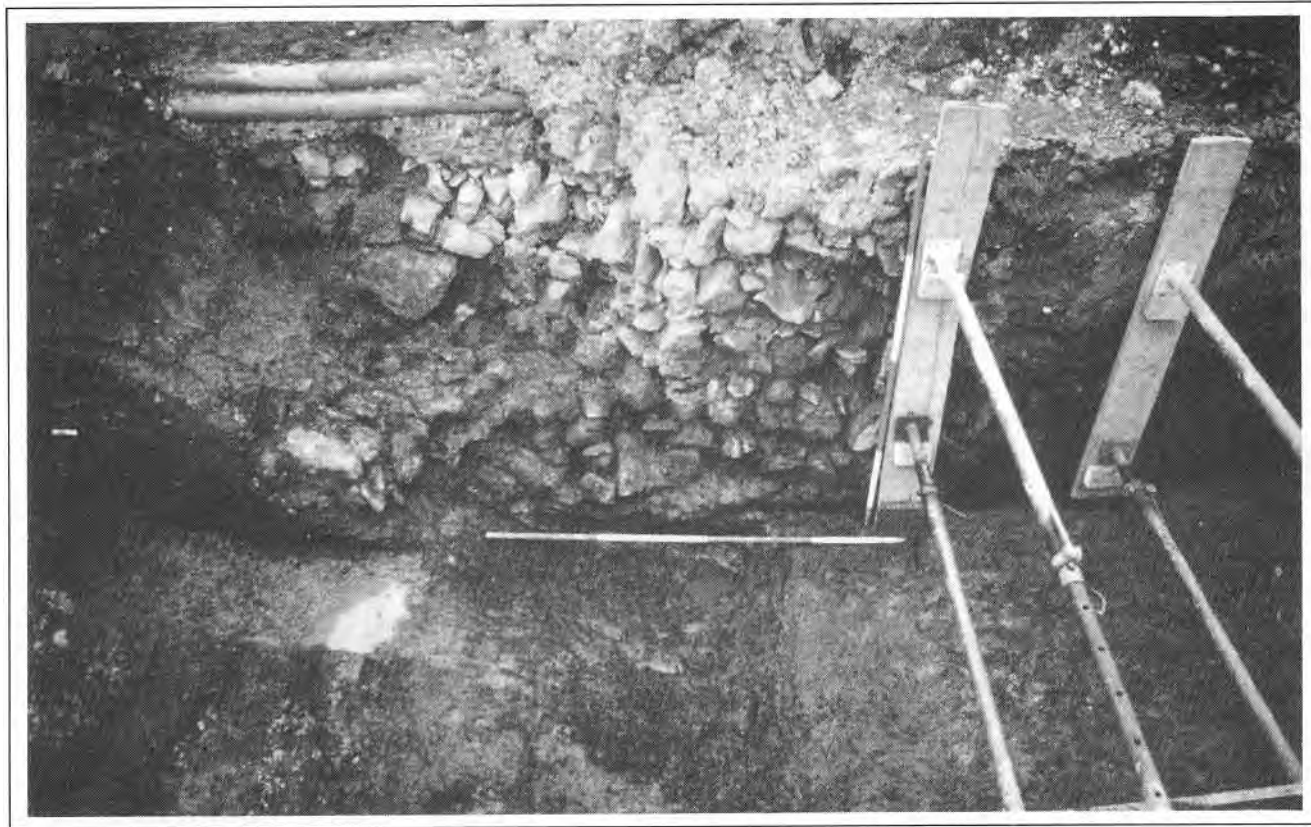
Fig. 5 Bishop Alexander's Castle

Only one free-standing rectangular ironstone building (2/1) retained a floor, central hearth and up to six courses of rubble masonry above foundation level. There was an entrance to the building from the south, which was later adapted into a sub-chamber. The building probably had a household function for most, if not all, of its life, and was single-storied rather than an undercroft to a first-floor hall. Both floor and walls had slumped severely into the soft fill of the earlier moat the building was constructed over. This was probably exacerbated by the pressure created by the dumping of material here to raise the height of the inner bailey of the next castle, which helped to preserve the demolished remains of this building.

The largest building (2/2) formed the core of a complex of other structures, and was at least 15m long and 8.5m wide. Because of levelling for the car park only the foundations survived, so the precise form and function of the building can only be guessed. However, its build was wider and better faced. The foundation of the north wall was strengthened with a foundation of compact, relatively clean Blue Lias Clay. While the foundation of the west gable wall, which bisected the moat and was subject to greater longitudinal stress within the building, was supported upon a deep rubble base set into the fill of that moat. An adjacent building (2/3) was furnished with a large rectangular hearth, while in another (2/4) part of a moulded door-jamb survived *in situ*. The main building (2/2) was clearly the most important in the northern range and may have been two-storied. It is tempting to interpret the building as a hall, surrounded by ancillary buildings, but it is not likely to have formed part of the principal range of the castle.

### **The concentric double-ditched casle (Phase 3 and Fig. 3)**

The 1970s excavations found a lot of new information about the design of the next castle, including the fact that the buildings of Bishop Alexander's Castle were dismantled and their foundations encapsulated under a gravel mound. The new defences comprised an outer and an inner ditch and bank, curtain walls with drum towers, and a raised platform within the inner bailey which sealed the dismantled remains of the earlier castle. While little of this castle survived north of Castle Street, sufficient evidence was found to suggest certain modifications to the hypothetical plan of the northern part of the castle which was proposed in the 1970s.



*Plate 3 Section through the moat of Alexander's Castle, with the curtain wall of the later concentric castle sitting within it*

No trace of an outer curtain wall was found on the northern side of the castle, the only outer defence consisting of a moat. The reduced defences on the north side of the castle may be explicable in terms of the natural defensive barrier represented by the marshy land here.

The inner moat was situated just outside of the inner curtain wall, its inner lip being embanked against the foundations of that wall. When it was originally dug the inner moat was about 15m wide and 5m deep. The large quantity of spoil excavated from this feature was then dumped to artificially raise the height of the inner bailey of the castle. The inner moat was re-cut a number of times during its lifetime, the last and most disruptive occasion being the Civil War refortification.

Several sections of deep foundations for the inner curtain wall survived on the north and east sides of the inner bailey. Where the foundations of the north curtain wall had been constructed in the moat belonging to Bishop Alexander's Castle these survived to a height of nearly 2m (Plate 3). The wall itself was 12 feet or 4m wide, constructed from faced ironstone blocks with a rubble core, but most of the facing stone had been robbed. A small garderobe or interval tower was built later onto the middle of the curtain wall. The garderobe drain fed into the inner moat.

The most tantalising feature was a large, straight-sided circular pit, nearly 10m in diameter and 2m in depth, which was located very close to the centre of the inner court. A large broken storage vessel had been thrown into the back-fill of this pit. The vessel was made in the Banbury Ware style that began to be superseded by Potterspurty Ware in the late-14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century. While the pit may merely have been dug as a borrow-pit to quarry gravel, certain characteristics, including its very regular straight-sides, suggest that it may represent a comprehensively robbed circular building. This interpretation begs many questions concerning the possible function of such a building, and demands further comparative research

There was little evidence relating to the Civil War, but various intrusive finds from this period included cannonballs, a large, unexploded, trench mortar (12 inches in diameter) which had sunk into the inner moat, and part of a human femur. A lot of demolition material was subsequently dumped into the inner moat when the castle was pulled down in the late-17<sup>th</sup> century. The development of the Castle Gardens probably started in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Evidence of this phase of activity was confined to the cultivated soils within the upper fills of the inner



*Plate 4. General view of the Mill Lane excavations.*

moat. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was also levelling to create wharves around the canal, and a lime works was built. Castle Street East was laid out together with a terrace of houses.

### ***Bridge Street and Mill Lane***

Zone 2 is situated at the eastern end of the medieval market place. The interested reader may refer a summary of the historical evidence for the development of this area presented in *Cake and Cockhorse* 12.3. This will not be repeated here except as background to the archaeological findings. Both roads are at least 14<sup>th</sup> century in origin. Bridge Street runs from the Cherwell up to the market place, and is the main east-west arterial route out of the town, connecting Banbury with Buckingham to the east. Mill Lane ran behind Bridge Street, connecting the Bishop's Mill to the market, creating a triangular plot of land up to the Bishop's Mill (now the Arts Centre). The triangular plot was itself dissected by the later insertion of Mill Street between 1825 and 1838. The area was severely affected by the sieges of the Castle during the Civil War. In a survey of 1653 four tenements and one barn were described as burned down in the Bridge Street area. It is likely that these tenements were some of the 30 houses that were burned down in the first siege of the Castle in 1644 because they were reported to have been giving cover to the besiegers' operations. The late-18<sup>th</sup> century arrival of the canal led to a growth of canal-side services and by the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Mill Lane was peppered with small warehouses belonging to carriers and merchants. In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Mill Lane became renowned for its unsavoury characters and attempts were made to improve the area, of which the Temperance Hall on Bridge Street is, perhaps, the most obvious.

The earliest archaeological feature was a small east-west orientated ditch of Saxo-Norman date, which may have been an early field boundary running parallel with the Cuttle Brook. Mill Lane follows the same alignment as this ditch. The first evidence of occupation was found along Mill Lane, and certainly by the 1400s buildings had been erected along the frontage (Plate 4). The first evidence for occupation along Bridge Street dates to c.1500. The development of buildings along this frontage may be typified by the history of the structure on the corner plot of Mill Street and Bridge Street (formerly Banbury Cycles or 54, Bridge Street), which at first sight might easily be mistaken for a typically mid-19<sup>th</sup> century property (Plate 5). Evidence for the 16<sup>th</sup> century origin of



*Plate 5. The facades of 53 and 54 Bridge Street.*



the structure included the remains of a hearth and a floor surface at the western end of the building which was built against a late-medieval property boundary, and an eaves drip outside the eastern gable. There is good evidence that Bridge Street and Mill Lane were remodeled in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. New ironstone buildings, probably commercial in nature, sprang up along Bridge Street, although several elements of 16<sup>th</sup> century structures, including an intact timber roof made of ash, can be demonstrated to have survived the Civil War destruction. Two wings were added to the rear of 54, Bridge Street each with a stone-lined cellar. Further evidence of change was gathered through systematic recording of the standing building, which charted an increasingly complex subdivision of space inside the building accompanied by a gradual increase in the size of the retail space. The window arrangement on the frontage was altered several times, reflecting changes in fashion as well as internal subdivisions, and an extra storey was added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The overwhelming majority of the buildings within the Bridge Street/Mill Lane triangle were built during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in red brick. There were almost twice as many buildings constructed in clamped-brick rather than machine-cut brick. This seems to indicate that later-Victorian improvement of the area - symbolised by the construction of the Temperance Hall in 1875 - was not widespread. Instead, the clearance of court housing behind both street frontages probably occurred over a protracted time-span, beginning in the early-Victorian period. Improvements included service provision, most clearly seen in the addition of rear wings to buildings, and the provision of tapped water supplies, attested to by a large number of capped wells. The clamped-brick buildings, in particular, provide an interesting opportunity to examine in more detail the development of brick building in Banbury in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At present, it would appear that the widespread choice of this type of brick began in the late-18<sup>th</sup> century and continued as late as the 1870s/1880s. After that time mass-production of machine-cut brick began to eclipse local production. The choice of Flemish bond seems to have been popular for frontages, particularly for commercial premises along Bridge Street, although no obvious correlation appears to exist between the choice of bonding and the status of a building. What is perhaps most interesting is the number of buildings constructed in unusual, and often irregular, bonding, which is, perhaps, evidence of a continued tradition of ironstone building techniques in the Banbury building trade well into the 1800s.

On balance, it would appear that a period between 1825 and about 1850 saw the most profound change in the built environment of Bridge Street and Mill Lane. The development of the Paving and Lighting Commission yard to the east of Mill Street (now also called Mill Lane) may have acted as a catalyst for this change. At this time several merchants who sat on the commission, including J.G.Rusher and Thomas Staley, began to invest a lot of capital in the area. Crucially this coincided with the decision of the Wardle family, who had owned a lot of land near the canal, to begin to sell up. This was also *the* era of canal-based expansion. Thereafter, the built environment of Mill Lane, in particular, seems to have largely stagnated. What is clear is that further study has great potential to answer a number of important questions concerning the dynamic inter-relation of commercial, industrial, distributive, service and housing needs in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Banbury. The broad cross-section of building types within Bridge Street and Mill Lane also provides an opportunity to examine the changing fortunes of each building type within a single street block. It also provides an opportunity to examine lesser-studied building types, such as minor warehouse/distributive structures and commercial premises, alongside more-intensively-studied types such as institutional buildings, inns and pubs.

### *The Canal-side*

The exploitation of water resources for power and transport was realised commercially at Banbury from an early date. Three watermills were noted in the Domesday survey. Written references to the Cuttle Mill begin in the early-15<sup>th</sup> century, but the mill itself could, of course, predate these. A Crown survey of 1552 noted that the Lordship comprised the castle and courts and gardens, a fish stew, watermill and adjoining fisheries and meadows situated between the castle and the Cherwell. By 1606, Cuttle Mill appears to have fallen into disuse. Later, during the Civil War, this area would have formed an important part of the outer defences of the castle. The line of the Cuttle Brook here formed part of the town boundary from the medieval period until it was in-filled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. For twelve years, between 1778 and 1790, Banbury was the terminus of the proposed Coventry to Oxford canal until the section to Oxford was finished. The precise location of this canal terminus remains unclear, although the main company wharf at Mill Lane, is perhaps the best candidate. It was always known as 'the

Old Wharf, and possessed a sufficiently large basin to allow a canal boat to turn around; in addition, the break in level represented by the river cliff would have made a sensible stopping point for a contour-hugging canal, such as this one. The canal transported cheaper and better quality coal from the Warwickshire coalfields southwards, and grain from the fertile Banbury hinterland northwards. The arrival of the railway in the 1850s heralded the beginning of a marked decline in canal trade, although this took place over a number of decades.

The most likely location of the Cuttle Mill that was available for excavation appeared to be in the vicinity of Marks and Spencers on Castle Street. However, no direct evidence of the mill was found in the excavations here. Instead, it now seems most likely that the remains of Cuttle Mill are buried under Marks and Spencer near the food hall cash tills! Within the excavations a series of ditches showed that the area was part of a much wider water management regime dating from the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century, and several of these ditches, as well as the Cuttle Brook itself, were still open into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Another large linear channel on an east-west alignment was located beneath the former line of Factory Street, itself built sometime in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This channel was in all probability an outlet from the outer ditch of the castle draining into the Cherwell, and may also have been part of the water-management system of the Cuttle Mill. After the decline of the castle the outer moat was allowed to gradually silt up, excavation of a wooden drain showing it was used as a sewer in this period. Following the construction of the canal, the drainage pattern of all these various watercourses became redundant and it was then that the Cuttle Brook was finally backfilled and levelled with extensive dumps of animal bones and cattle horn.

During excavation of the castle the western part of a canal dock was uncovered (Plate 6). The dock was situated at right angles to the Castle Wharf, a spur off the canal. Castle Wharf was built in 1792 by James Golby, a prominent Banbury grocer and coal merchant. A U-shaped ironstone rubble wall that survived to a height of 1.2m formed the dock. The base of the dock had been covered with re-used boat planks that formed a crude floor. The floor implied a working surface, and hence the possible function of a dry dock. The backfilling of the dock occurred sometime in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. Detailed recording was also carried out on Tooley's Boatyard just after it had closed down, with the aim of identifying important features of interest and the relationship of artefacts to operational and functional zones around the boatyard.



*Plate 6. View of the dock showing the re-used boat timbers. The dock can be seen to cut the curtain wall of the concentric castle on the left and right*

Some very interesting results have come out of this research, which could be summarised for *Cake and Cockhorse* sometime in the future.

### ***Further research***

Where does all this new archaeological information take us in terms of understanding the development of Banbury? Broadly speaking, the new evidence is particularly strong for the earlier and later episodes of development c.1000 to 1900. There are lacunae, in the later-medieval period in particular, but when the evidence from the 1970s excavations is also considered, then it should become possible to reconstruct an almost uninterrupted chronological sequence at the castle and this part of the town. The outcome of this is that it will be necessary to re-assess, and then integrate, the relevant evidence from the 1970s excavations with that of the most recent discoveries. This is especially important for the ceramic and structural evidence.

A significant opportunity also exists to test the archaeological evidence against previous models for the development of the town, which were mainly derived from documentary and cartographic analysis. Perhaps, the most significant contributions which the recent excavations have the potential to make concern the early development of the burgh and the castle in late-Saxon or early-Norman times. Following on from this there is also clearly a need to reassess the published discussions of the earlier phases of development of the castle. Another important research issue, which feeds directly into on-going research into the town, lies in the potential of the archaeological evidence to provide a new angle on understanding the industrial development of the town from the late 1700s.

In regional terms, the results of the excavations will contribute to further understanding of later-Saxon settlement, including nuclei based upon royal and episcopal estates, which, like Banbury, became market centres in the Middle Ages. The potential for refining the chronology of late-Saxon and early-Norman ceramic development is also apparent. New information about the development of the castle will also feed into regional debate concerning the development of castles and other fortified sites in the region. Finally, research at Banbury has potential to further investigate nationally important research themes, including the development of the smaller market town, the study of the urban castle, and the distribution of craft and industry.

### ***Acknowledgments***

We would like to thank all the staff from BUFAU who worked with us in Banbury over the last few years. Thanks are also due to Paul Smith and Carol Rosier, the curatorial archaeologists representing Oxfordshire County Council. The aid of various members of Cherwell District Council, the staff of Banbury Local Studies Centre and Simon Townsend and the staff of Banbury Museum, is also gratefully acknowledged. The generous funding of all this work by the developers, PillarCaisse and Banbury Shopping Centre, is also most gratefully acknowledged, as is the co-operation of the groundworks contractors, Bryants. Finally, but by no means least, we would like to acknowledge the interest and enthusiasm of the people of Banbury and the villages around in the excavations, for without this vital connection our work can be dry as old bones.

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## Lecture Reports

*Brian Little and Jeremy Gibson*

**Thursday 9th December 1999.**

***An Update of Archaeological Finds in North Oxfordshire – Edward Shawyer***

Archaeology today has tended to become the domain of the professionals, even if they have unskilled volunteers working under them. Thus funding is the essential first requisite, and excavation is generally restricted to rescue digs, such as at Banbury Castle, or sites of known outstanding importance.

It is easy to forget that the pioneers were *all* amateurs, in the best sense of the word, as doing something because they love it, and Edward was here to remind us that the breed is still enthusiastically with us. Just because he and his like-minded helpers are independent of outside funding, they can choose sites which would be very unlikely ever to receive attention otherwise. Thus his team had worked on a mill at Somerton with several constructions from sixteenth to nineteenth centuries; and a field with interesting bumps – remains of medieval cottages and outbuildings – at Barford; amongst others.

The most important site, which has received attention before, is the Roman villa at Swalcliffe Lea. Here walls and a mosaic pavement were uncovered. We wished that more time could have been spent on describing this dig, which was clearly much the most interesting, and really deserved a whole lecture to itself. But the descriptions of other sites had well shown the value of work by the enthusiastic amateur, be it only field walking, so long as a proper record is kept and deposited with the appropriate archaeological repositories.

**Thursday 13th January 2000.**

***The History of Bells and Bell-ringing in Oxfordshire – Barry Davis***

‘For whom the bell tolls’ is not only the title of a famous book but also symbolises the pre-thirteenth century era of bells hung singly and pulled on a tug to chime basis.

The start of a church sermon was once a reason for ringing but, after the Reformation, other purposes surfaced. These included the need to catch public attention because of fire, the approach of mid-day for field workers and onset of curfew (surely ‘The curfew tolls the knell of parting day’ is an even more famous quotation). Bells could indeed be involved in both joyous and sad occasions.

By the fifteenth century, the speed at which bells were swung became an issue and inevitably this led to inter-church competition.

The activities of foundries became much linked to the growth in the number of bells. At the time of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee of 1897, Banbury wanted to go from six to eight.

When bell foundries first got going those who worked in them were itinerants of the fields. Well known locations included Spittlefields, Whitechapel (longest continuous business), Loughborough and Croydon. A small foundry was that of Tony Bond at Burford. The Bagley family at Chacombe were famous for two centuries (see *C&CH* 13.4). However, the quality of work was not as good as in the larger factories.

Bells are a bit like Guinness and Banbury Cakes. The ingredients in their manufacture include secret elements. Once complete, bells might then have names of donors added. However, a tendency to mis-spelling was a problem.

The history of ringers also fascinates. Many of those involved early on were given to heavy drinking and bad language. Some ale flagons were specific to individuals. By 1875 and at Adderbury, times were better. There was good pay on a monthly basis and seasonal collections were taken for ringers who were identified groups and in some cases had their own newspapers.

Overall Barry's talk was most informative, well illustrated and gave rise to much discussion.

**Thursday 9th March 2000.**

***The New Oxfordshire County Archive Office – Carl Boardman***

This could have been a very dry account of administrative change but not in the hands of Carl Boardman, who contrived to weave his usual story full of twists and turns.

The measure of this achievement in the county is that he has upgraded a run-down provision into a brand leader. Apart from Carl's professionalism and enthusiasm, the other major catalyst has been accommodation. Who could have guessed that his friendship with the former archdeacon would be strong enough to secure a redundant church at Cowley?

Ironically St Luke's had started life as the car workers' cathedral. However back in 1935 many of those on the assembly lines were Welsh Methodists! Maybe future storage of the county's records might find a wider acceptance.

The battle for premises had been long and often bitter. At one stage Carl actually confronted councillors with their own inadequacies. Shamed into a response, they voted a million pounds. This helped the preparation stage but hard core funds needed to come from Paul Getty, the Lottery Fund and anything else accessible. Michael Heseltine unlocked the Getty box.

Although soon there will be an interregnum between closure in the city and the era at Cowley, the new image service excites the blood. With a major foot in the age of computerisation, the user base will widen substantially. Over the next 25 years, of which Carl expects to experience 20, new accessions such as brewery papers, new effects like the electronic web and new facilities, notably a coffee bar, will ensure that records are accorded a place of worth in the pecking order of Oxfordshire affairs.



## ***Correspondence***

*Our member Walter McCanna, of Portsmouth, whose article on 'The War Effort at Henry Stone & Son Ltd' appeared a year ago in C&CH.14.5, writes commenting on our last issue:*

In her review of *Banbury Past and Present* Christine Bloxham wonders, *re.* Springfield Avenue, 'what sort of people lived in the houses?' Curious.

The inhabitants of Springfield Avenue were much the same as anywhere else: tradesmen, office-workers, railway employees, factory workers; all trades and professions, in fact. During my time in Banbury at least six employees of the Furniture Division of Henry Stone & Son lived there. Five were cabinet-makers and the other was a machinist. Fred Watts was at No. 10 and at the last house at the far end No. 150 was Bill Green. Both were cabinet-makers and both had been severely wounded serving with the Ox. & Bucks. L.I. during the Great War. Along the middle of the Avenue were Horace Betts, Frank Hutchings and Frank Howe, who was also a fine violinist, playing in Pryor's Band. These three were cabinet-makers at Stone's whilst Ernest Jelfs was a woodworking machinist.

During the 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s there were Stone's employees to be found all over Banbury and Grimsbury and out in the villages.

Mr McKenna also reminds us, in relation to Michael Clifton's article on 'The Kingham Stopping Goods', of the excellent book by the late Jim Russell, *The Banbury and Cheltenham Railway 1887-1962*, published by Oxford Publishing Co. (ISBN 0 902888 45 5). 'As an ex G.W. Railway man Jim knew the line very well and as a professional photographer took a host of photographs to illustrate his book. He was a friend of mine.'

*The following letter from Alan Sargeant appeared in the January 2000 issue of 'Four Shires Magazine', and is partially reprinted here by kind permission:*

When I saw the words 'Baker 54' just on the left of the picture of the White Horse Inn (page 11 of the November issue) I remembered that it used to be called 'Café 54'. This reminds me of an incident from the time when I was in Mr Brinkworth's class at Dashwood Road School around 1944. He lived in Banbury and was an eminent university lecturer in history who had been seconded to Banbury to take the place of a teacher who was in the forces. We in the class called him 'Tubby' behind his back and reckoned that he liked three things, history, hitting us and sugar buns. At least once a week he would point at a lad and bellow: "YOU BOY! GO TO ELSIE'S AND BUY ME SOME SUGAR BUNS". Off the boy would run to Café 54 with sixpence, for which he could buy seven sugar buns after telling Elsie that they were for Mr Brinkworth.

Even at this time, bakers could occasionally make and sell some sort of cakes made to wartime recipes, but you had to know or get to the bakers early to get some.

On his return the boy would be given a bun for fetching them and Tubby would proceed to eat the other six by pushing them whole, one by one, straight into his mouth until his lips touched his fingers. He would then hurl the remaining inch of each bun unerringly through the open top window out into the playground with the words: "For the birds boys, for the birds".

On one occasion he hit a teacher called Mrs Thorne in the side of the face with a sticky bun stub. I have never forgotten this performance. It was like something out of Nicholas Nickleby with the unshaven collarless Wacker Brinkworth taking the place of Wacker Squeers!

*Ted Brinkworth's sweet tooth remained – in the '50s and '60s we met regularly at Brown's 'Original Cakeshop' for coffee, Banbury cakes and historical natter. Fortunately I was of an age not to experience his third liking!* **J.G.**

The above letter has been reprinted from *The Four Shires with Banbury Fare*, a monthly magazine now with over thirty issues, £1.40 from local shops. At a first cursory glance it seems too glossy to be true, but in fact amongst the ads. for house agents and pubs there is a wealth of readable articles often involving original research. My attention was caught, in the April issue, by the piece on engineer Henry Warriner's windmill at Bloxham Grove and his famous engine powered boat *The Firefly*. Descriptions of local churches appear regularly, invariably with outstanding photography by Graham Wilton. Old photos and Paul Lester's reminiscences attract a growing amount of correspondence.

Altogether a publication our members would enjoy.

## Book Reviews

**Houses of the Gentry, 1480-1680**, by Nicholas Cooper, published for The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, in association with English Heritage, by Yale University Press, 1999. xiv, 368 pp., £50.00.

Members will recall Nicholas Cooper's very readable history of Aynho and his contributions to *C&CH*, particularly on the rebuilding of St Mary's church. This superb and lavish volume crowns his career with the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments.

The deep knowledge and research that has gone into its preparation is matched by the very high quality of printing, which does full justice to the hundreds of illustrations, both colour and monotone. Their comparative juxtaposition again and again makes the author's point – the sense of design that made this possible is, as in all such books, rightly invisible. This is not the place to attempt to discuss the authoritative and perceptive text.

Fifty pounds may seem a lot, but it's only the cost of half a dozen paperbacks, and infinitely better value!

**J.G.**

**Charlton and Newbottle: The History of Two Villages.** A4, 265pp., 105 illustrations including 29 in colour. Charlton and Newbottle History Society, 2000, £12.50 (available from bookshops or direct from C. & N.H.S., Walnut House, Charlton, Banbury OX17 3DR – add £3.50 for p&p).

This impressive local history has been supported by a grant from the National Lottery under the 'Awards for All' scheme. The Society is to be congratulated on its initiative in tapping this source, but the grant could not have been forthcoming without the research and writing of approaching twenty contributors, in particular the Hayter family. The excellence of the text is matched by the lavish and appropriate illustration, much in colour.

As explained in the Preface, these two places at the southern tip of Northamptonshire 'fit well together. Charlton, a village without a church or manor, complements Newbottle, a church and a manor without a village.' This helps to increase the interest of the book, as comparisons between the two places can be made at different levels – why did one succeed as a settlement, the other fail?

In the space available it is impossible to do full justice to the book. Opening with a 'Tour of the villages', the subjects covered range from the iron age Rainsborough Camp and a Roman villa in neighbouring Croughton, to the famous F.E. Smith, Lord Birkenhead, who lived in Charlton in a house inappropriately named 'The Cottage'. There are plenty of twentieth century reminiscences, and an absorbing account of 'Wilf Grant and the Forge'. Wilf was the third generation, with an amazing memory and business records to back it, and they never threw anything away. 'There was a heavy bit of iron ... Wilf looked at it. "This was made specifically for putting up a giant fruit cage made up of pipe in about 1926." Wilf could remember all the details – what the weather was like on the day, how he and his father cycled over there, how much a foot the pipe cost, etc.'

There are detailed descriptions of various houses, some with plans. The medieval period, often a problem for places with few records, is brought to life by discussion of the Black Death and its consequences, illuminated by judicious use of taxation records. Later centuries are equally well researched and presented. In the comprehensive chapter on 'Landownership and Farming after the Enclosure' we find our old friend Francis Burton, agent to the Cartwrights at Aynho, once again acting as Commissioner (see review of *Aspects of Helmdon 2, C&CH.14.4*).

And this brings my one criticism of this fine book – the index. This is deceptively selective. Families are sensibly grouped together rather than all individuals being named. But in this chapter and the preceding one on seventeenth century Charlton, a disturbing number of names are silently omitted. For a book of this excellence, especially with so many contributors, the index should unify the strands – but you won't find Francis Burton there!

**J.G.**

## OBITUARIES

### Dr Elizabeth Asser

Elizabeth Asser, who died at Bodicote in January, became a member of the Banbury Historical Society after coming to live in Deddington in the 1970's. She was already well acquainted with Oxfordshire and adjacent areas, for, as a medical student in Birmingham and as a member of staff in the Stratford upon Avon hospitals, she had spent what free time she could spare in pursuit of her great interest in historic houses and gardens. She had visited many places of note in the locality and, it being wartime with restriction on the use of petrol, these had to be made on a bicycle when possible.

On becoming a member of the Society's committee in 1977, she was well qualified to take on the organisation of the Summer programmes, and arranged many enjoyable trips. Sadly she had to leave the committee in 1986 through ill-health. This failing health prevented her taking any further active part in the Society's events, but she was always keen to hear about them and to receive the publications.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her, and we extend our condolences to her daughter and relatives. F.T.

### Hugh White

We record with great regret the death in January of Hugh White. He and his wife have been regular B.H.S. supporters for many years, with Hugh being a valued member of committee from 1988 to 1994.

He had been a chorister at Westminster Abbey and a classical scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge. After war service in Italy in the ranks of the R.A.M.C. (see his account in *C&CH.13.1* – 1994), he taught classics and became headmaster of Twickenham Grammar School, and later headmaster of Newland House School, Twickenham, until his retirement. He also obtained in 1976 a Diploma in Archaeology (with distinction) after an extension course at London University, and was heavily involved with the London Classical Association in publishing *Londinium – a practical guide to the visible remains of Roman London*. In retirement Hugh (with his son) continued to run from home their publishing enterprise – *Classical Studies, Film strips and slide sets*.

He shared his expertise with us in a lecture on Romano-British mosaic pavements, and on excursions which he arranged to Corinium Museum, Cirencester and Chedworth Roman Villa. He also organised more than a dozen trips, including one to Balscote (with Sally Stradling as expert guide) ending with his and Dorothy's hospitality at Priory Farm. His enthusiasm and self deprecating sense of humour will be sadly missed. J.R.

# BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT, 1999

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 42nd Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1999.

The Officers and Committee were once again re-elected at the A.G.M. without change. Some fresh faces would be welcome! With sadness we record the deaths of former committee members Dr Elizabeth Asser and Mr Hugh White.

Membership of the Society has fallen slightly but still remains well over two hundred and fifty, most as records members. Attendance at meetings and new membership continue to benefit from the publicity efforts of Joan Bowes, who has distributed posters (fresh for each meeting) for display at an ever-increasing number of key places.

The year's meetings, again arranged by Nick Allen, maintained their accustomed entertaining variety. Reports, generally prepared by Brian Little, have appeared in *Cake & Cockhorse*.

In the summer we visited Coughton Court in Warwickshire and Doddershall Park in Buckinghamshire. Once again we are grateful to Fiona Thompson for her initiative and efficient arrangements.

For the A.G.M., we were invited to Wardington Manor where, with the precedent of Chacombe Priory in 1996, and weather to match, we again held the meeting in the garden. We are most grateful to Lord and Lady Wardington for their hospitality.

In the autumn our popular start-of-season reception at Banbury Museum was much enjoyed; we are most grateful to Simon and his staff for their willingness to receive us.

The normal three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* appeared, with contributions from Christine Bloxham, Michael Clifton, Jacqueline Eales, Allan Hawkins, Michael Hoadley, Christine Howes, John Rivers, Barrie Trinder, Walter McCanna and Steven Weaver as well as from regulars Nicholas Allen, Jeremy Gibson and Brian Little.

Favourable reviews of Ross Gilkes' *The 'Bawdy Court' of Banbury, 1625-1638*, published early in 1998, continued throughout the year, with sales reflecting this interest. Alan Rosevear's *Turnpike Roads to Banbury* has still to appear, but Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson's work on the diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848, is now approaching completion.

The continuing slight fall in membership is reflected in the reduced income from subscriptions; our financial position remains strong because expenses remain low and records volumes are in arrear. A donation of £100 was made to the Museum to assist in the purchase of a Rowlandson landscape of cottages near Banbury. The full income of the Brinkworth Fund was on this occasion expended on educational aids at Banbury Museum.

## Banbury Historical Society

## Revenue Account for the Year ended 31 December 1999

	1999	1998
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	2101	2195
Less transfer to Publications Account	<u>(462)</u>	<u>(480)</u>
	1639	1715
Income tax refund on covenants	39	142
Building Society interest	620	647
Sundries	<u>25</u>	<u>35</u>
	2323	2539
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Cake & Cockhorse – costs less sales	1314	1423
Secretarial and administration	19	66
Meetings	279	232
Reception and AGM	171	135
Publicity	42	55
Donation towards purchase of Rowlandson	100	-
Sundries	<u>88</u>	<u>64</u>
	2013	1975
<b>SURPLUS for the year</b>		
transferred to Accumulated Fund	£ 310	£ 564

## Publications Account for the Year ended 31 December 1999

<b>INCOME</b>		
Proportion of Subscriptions	462	480
Sale of records volumes	585	473
Grant from Greening Lamborn Trust	-	2000
	1047	2953
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Records volume – publication and despatch	26	3303
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the year</b>		
transferred (from) to Publications Reserve	£ 1021	£ (350)

## Brinkworth Fund Account for the Year ended 31 December 1999

<b>INCOME</b>		
Building Society Interest	137	159
Other	-	46
	137	205
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Grant (educational aids at Museum)	142	20
<b>DEFICIT (SURPLUS) for the year</b>		
transferred from (to) to the Brinkworth Fund	£ (5)	£ 185

## Banbury Historical Society

## Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1999

	1999	1998
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
As at 1 January 1999	7608	7044
Add surplus for the year	<u>310</u>	<u>564</u>
Balance at 31 December 1999	7918	7608
<b>PUBLICATIONS RESERVE</b>		
As at 1 January 1999	4150	4500
add Surplus (less Deficit) for the year	<u>1021</u>	<u>(350)</u>
Balance at 31 December 1999	5171	4150
<b>BRINKWORTH FUND</b>		
As at 1 January 1999	3026	2841
Less Deficit (add Surplus) for the year	<u>5</u>	<u>185</u>
Balance at 31 December 1999	3021	3026
<b>TOTAL BALANCE at 31 December 1999</b>	£ 16,110	£ 14,784
<b>REPRESENTED BY -</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
NatWest Bank, Banbury – Current Account	145	28
Leeds & Holbeck Bldg Soc. – Main Account	13682	12482
Leeds & Holbeck B S – Brnkworth Account	3021	3027
Cash	<u>42</u>	<u>33</u>
	16890	15570
Sundry debtors	<u>75</u>	<u>161</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	16965	15731
<b>Less LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions received in advance	270	412
Sundry creditors	<u>585</u>	<u>535</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>855</u>	<u>947</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	£ 16,110	£ 14,784

I have reviewed and audited the books and records of the Banbury Historical Society and confirm that the accounts prepared by the Hon. Treasurer represent a fair and accurate summary of the financial transactions completed in the year ended 31 12 99

B S Goodchild, ACIB, ACIS.

# BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Banbury Historical Society was founded in 1957 to encourage interest in the history of the town of Banbury and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The magazine *Cake and Cockhorse* is issued to members three times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Well over a hundred issues and some three hundred articles have been published. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied.

Publications still in print include:

- Old Banbury - a short popular history*, by E.R.C. Brinkworth.
- The Building and Furnishing of St. Mary's Church, Banbury.*
- The Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn, Banbury.*

Records series:

- Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836* (vol. 11, with Phillimore).
- Banbury Wills and Inventories 1591-1650*, 2 parts (vols. 13, 14).
- Victorian Banbury*, by Barrie Trinder (vol. 19, with Phillimore).
- Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village*, by Nicholas Cooper (vol. 20).
- Banbury Gael Records*, ed. Penelope Renold (vol. 21).
- Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838* (vol. 22).
- Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestation Returns and Tax Assessments 1641-1642* (vol. 24).
- Adderbury: A Thousand years of History*, by Nicholas Allen (vol. 25, with Phillimore – now reprinted).
- The 'Bawdy Court' of Banbury: The Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury and Cropredy 1625-38*, ed. R.K. Gilkes (vol. 26).

Current prices, and availability of other back volumes, from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum.

In preparation:

*Turnpike Roads to Banbury*, by Alan Rosevear.

Selections from the *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848*.

The Society is always interested to receive suggestions of records suitable for publication, backed by offers of help with transcription, editing and indexing.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the North Oxfordshire College, Broughton Road, Banbury. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local historical, archaeological and architectural subjects. Excursions are arranged in the spring and summer, and the A.G.M. is usually held at a local country house.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer being needed. The annual subscription is **£10.00** including any records volumes published, or **£7.50** if these are not required; overseas membership, **£12.00**.

