

Notes

A SILVER RING FROM THE WENDLEBURY AREA

A Roman ring said to have been found in the area of Wendlebury was brought into the Ashmolean Museum for identification and through the good offices of Mr Arthur MacGregor I was able to study it and prepare a report.¹ As it belongs to a category not of the commonest and one moreover to which relatively little attention has been paid in the past it seemed to be worthy of publication here.

The ring consists of a hoop of (probably base) silver widening markedly towards the shoulders, from 4.5 mm. at the narrowest point to 14 mm. at the mid-point of the bezel. Externally it is elliptical in shape with a width of 23.1 mm. and a height of 17.5 mm.; internally it is circular with a diameter of 18.2 mm. The type is characteristic of the second half of the 2nd century.² However, the oval setting is not the expected intaglio but an inset of rather purer silver than the ring itself with a raised device, 11 mm. in length by 8 mm. in breadth.

This inset is somewhat worn but still preserves the form of a female bust, wearing a crested helmet, shown in profile to the left. It is probably the goddess Roma or else Minerva; the lack of any clear indication of a breastplate (aegis) with serpents and Gorgoneion would suggest the former.³ A silver ring of the same form and more or less the same dimensions from Watton (Norfolk) contained a gold plate displaying a bust of Mercury.⁴ Outside Britain there is a silver ring from Turkey with a bezel showing a head of Hercules.⁵ Standing figures of Cupid (London), Cupid and Psyche (Brampton, Norfolk) and Bonus Eventus (Leicester), all in relief, may be noted, as also a number of representations of clasped hands (Richborough in Kent, Grovely Woods in Wiltshire, Selsey in Sussex, and Akeman Street in Gloucestershire) designating concord and, in most instances, betrothal.⁶

Two comments may be made concerning the intrinsic importance of the ring. The first is that these settings mark a shift in interest away from the practical signet ring towards the ring as a protective charm. Secondly, in the 3rd century all-metal rings were very

¹ The ring is currently the property of Mr E.T. Houlihan and we are most grateful to him for lending it to the museum for study.

² M. Henig, *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from British Sites* (2nd edn. 1978), 37–8 and fig. 1, type V.

³ Cornelius C. Vermeule, *The Goddess Roma in the Art of the Roman Empire* (2nd edn., Cambridge, Mass. 1974), pl. iv, nos. 7 and 8 (gems) and 9 (Severan coin).

⁴ M. Henig and R.A. Brown, 'Silver and Gold Roman Finger Ring from Watton, Norfolk', *Norfolk Archaeology* xxxvii, part ii (1979), 201–2 and pl. i.

⁵ F.H. Marshall, *Cat. of Finger Rings Greek, Etruscan and Roman in the Departments of Antiquities, British Museum* (1907), 185 and pl. xxix, no. 1172; note also F. Henkel, *Die römischen Fingerringe der Rheinlande* (Berlin, 1913), 12–13 and pl. iv, nos. 82 and 83 for two gold rings evidently of 1st-century form from a treasure found at Zürich, set with Hercules busts in relief.

⁶ Henig op.cit. note 2, 277–9 nos. 762–4, and 775–8, pl. xxii.



Fig. 1. Silver ring with inset bezel 'from near Wendlebury' (Alchester?) Scale: 2:1 (Photo: Ashmolean)

much the vogue, and were often works of great elaboration such as the openwork (*Opus Interrasile*) gold ring from Oppen bei Merzig near Trier, incidentally set with a relief figure of the seated Roma.⁷ Instead of flimsy metal settings gold and silver coins were sometimes used, which some economic historians ascribe to the process of 'thesaurisation', though a much more 'flashy' taste is probably at least as important as the urge to keep part of one's material wealth on one's finger or around one's neck.⁸ The visual effect of these coins set in the bezels of rings was virtually the same as on a ring with a specially manufactured setting such as ours.

The ring, however, has another importance to us in its local context. The Roman small town of Alchester is some three quarters of a mile north-east of Wendlebury, and it would seem very possible that this was the provenance; in any case comments I made in 1975 apropos a more ordinary base-metal ring found 'near Bicester' remain relevant.⁹ The social context of antiquities gain from the perspective of excavation or at least accurate recording and planning. This ring is clearly an item of much higher status than the other and its owner would seem to be someone for whom the personification of Rome meant something.

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⁷ Henkel op. cit. note 5, 14 and pl. v no. 8.

⁸ For a discussion of the new taste see M. Henig, 'Continuity and change in the design of Roman jewellery' in A. King and M. Henig, *The Roman West in the Third Century, Contributions from Archaeology and History* (1981), 127-43. See Marshall op.cit. note 5, 47 and pl. vii no. 267, for the setting of a gold coin in a gold ring found in Ilchester; more modest is the silver coin in a silver ring from a cremation burial at Chichester, clearly not treated as 'treasure'; cf. A. Down, *Chichester Excavations 3* (1978), 9, 319, fig. 10.48.

⁹ M. Henig, 'A Signet-Ring from Roman Alchester', *Oxoniensia*, xl (1975), 325-6 pl. xii B.

TRIAL TRENCHING OF A SAXON POTTERY SCATTER AT NORTH STOKE,
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE, 1988*Acknowledgements*

We are most grateful to the landowners, Messrs. Allen of North Stoke, for permission to do the fieldwork and for their assistance in topsoil stripping. We would also like to thank Adam Hadley and Geoff Mees for their help on site, Maureen Mellor for her comments on the pottery and Julie Lovett for identifying the bones. The finds and archive will be deposited in the Ashmolean museum.

Widespaced fieldwalking in the North Stoke area near Wallingford in the Thames Valley located several pottery scatters of Prehistoric to Medieval date, in addition to large quantities of struck flints. These have been reported on elsewhere.¹ Somewhat unexpected was the recovery of 34 sherds of Saxon pottery, 17 of which came from the field south of North Stoke village (ST56) (SU 607858).

Subsequently a 1.5 hectare area was divided into a grid of 5 × 5 m. squares and was 'total collection' fieldwalked.² 2,246 sherds and 3,253 struck flints were recovered. The pottery total included 796 sherds of Saxon pottery mostly tempered with grass/sand (dung?). Only 18 sherds were tempered with grass alone. It has been tentatively suggested that this may indicate a date very early in the Saxon period.³ No sherds of middle Saxon date were found but eleven sherds were Late Saxon shell-tempered St Neots' ware. The distribution of the pottery is shown in fig. 1.

Three machine cut trenches (c. 10 × 2 m.) were dug across one of the higher density areas to the south. The main purpose of this was to determine if the pottery scatters are coincident with contemporary subsoil features.

A number of subsoil features were indeed found cut through a clay silt overlying the gravel as shown in fig. 2. Up to nine features were recorded. Five were shown to be shallow pits and a sixth (F14) is a probable posthole. Three features were unexcavated. Eighty-four sherds were recovered including all small fragments. Nine were probably Roman, two Prehistoric, and one was daub. The remainder were Saxon, again mostly with grass/sand tempering.

Fifty-seven bones and bone fragments were recovered indicating good survival of faunal remains; 17 were identifiable.⁴ Cattle and sheep predominated but with goose and Roe deer (antler) represented. Three small fragments of sandstone and two of Jurassic limestone were also found.

It appears therefore that the scatters of early Saxon pottery do indicate settlement with subsoil features present. If all of the denser parts of the scatters in fig. 1 similarly indicate the location of subsoil features, then we seem to have an extensive area of archaeological deposits. Whether this indicates a large or long-lived settlement, or both, remains to be seen.

STEVE FORD and ANNETTE HAZEL

¹ S. Ford, 'Flint scatters and prehistoric settlement patterns in South Oxon. and East Berks.' in A. Brown and M. Edmonds (eds.), *Lithic analysis and later British Prehistory* (1987), (BAR clxii), 101-136; S. Ford and A. Hazell, 'Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon Settlement Patterns at North Stoke, South Oxon.' *Oxoniensia*, liv (1989).

² A fuller report on both the fieldwalking results and the trial trenching is with the finds and archive (Ashmolean), and with the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments record (Woodstock).

³ Maureen Mellors, pers. comm.

⁴ Identified by Julie Lovett.

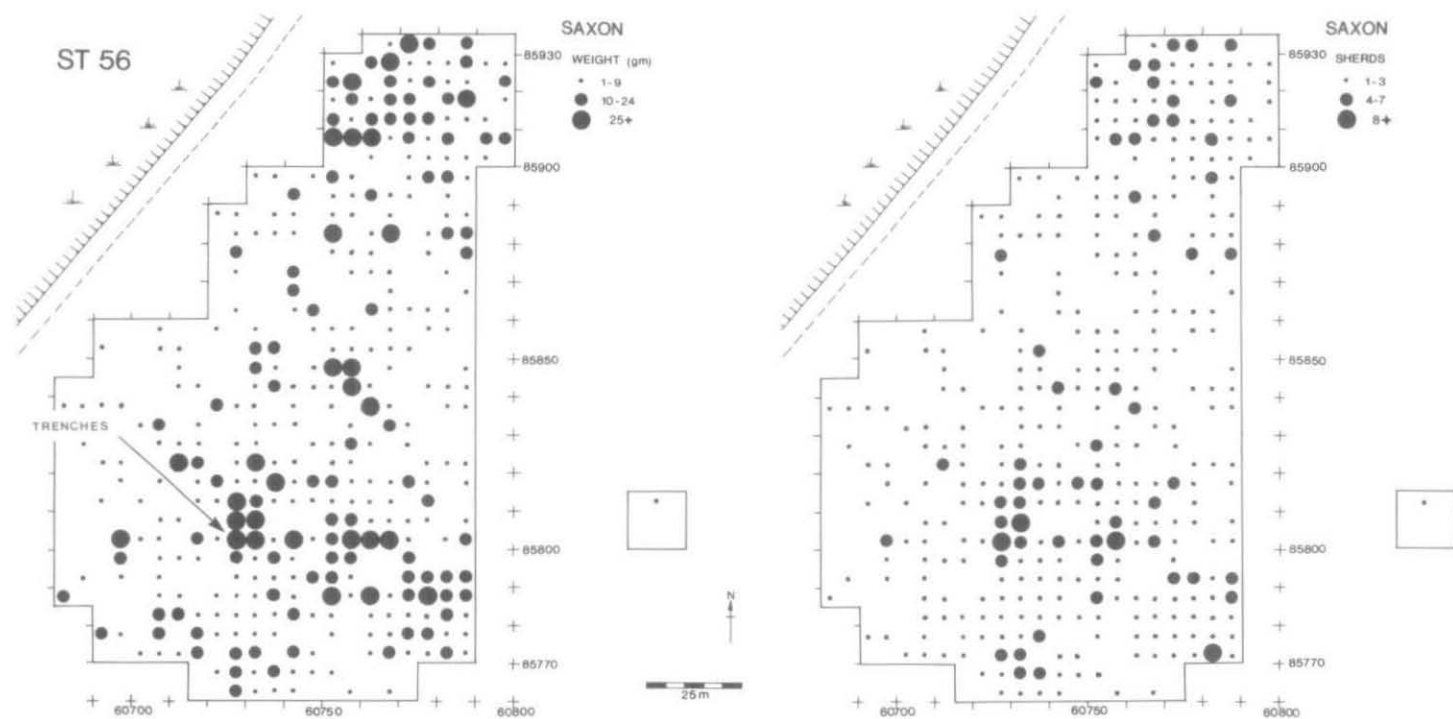


Fig. 1. North Stoke. Plan showing distribution of Saxon pottery recovered by total collection fieldwalking and the location of the excavated trenches.

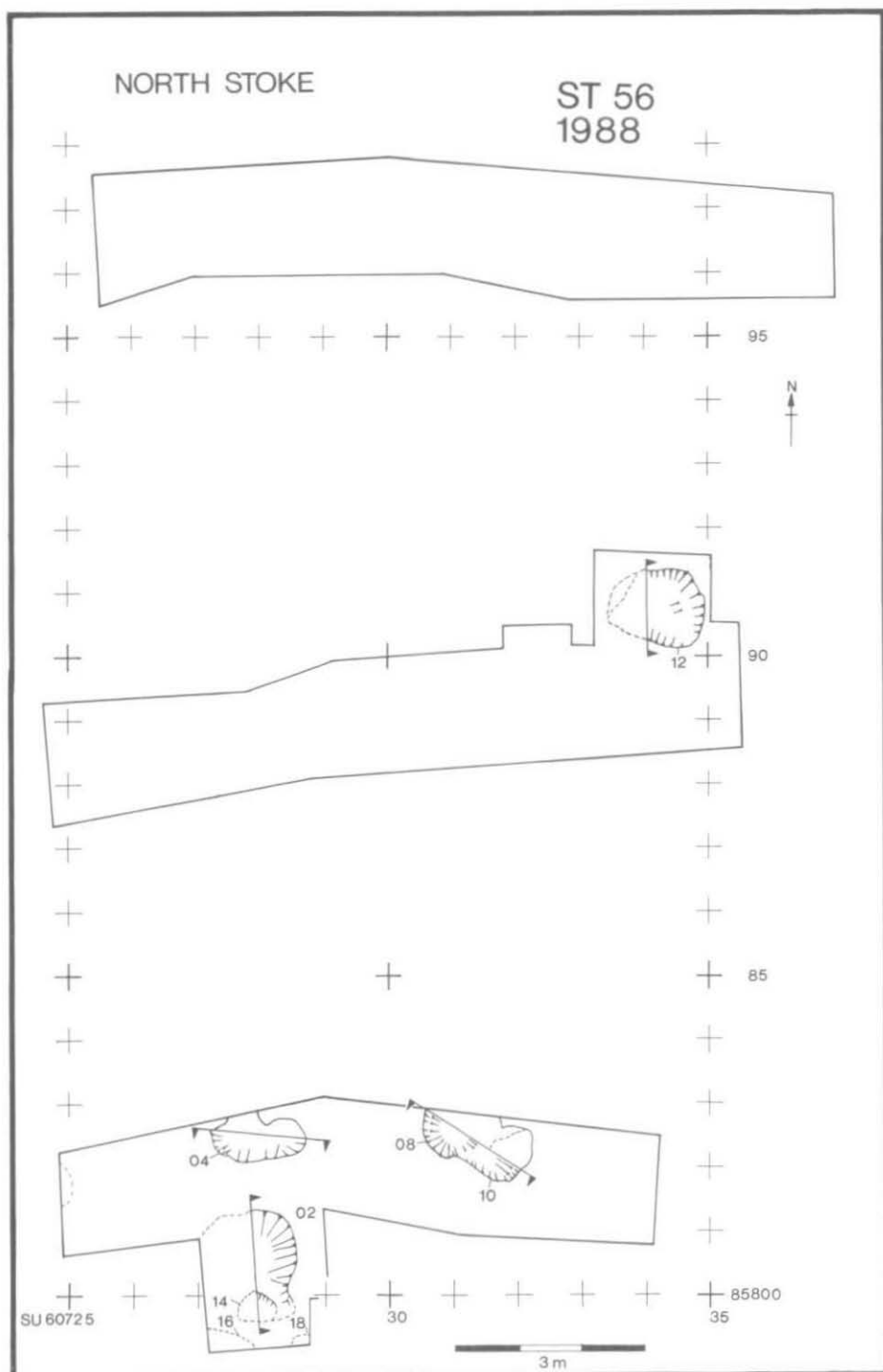


Fig. 2. North Stoke. Plan of the excavated trenches.

AN INVENTORY OF ANCIENT AND HOLY WELLS IN OXFORDSHIRE

Holy wells are a notoriously neglected aspect of history and folklore, the only areas to have been satisfactorily surveyed being Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Devon and Dorset, with Brittany and a few Irish counties. This lack of serious investigation is an enormous loss, since holy wells can shed light on a large number of historical themes. Besides the question of when the cult of water (which Theo Brown has termed 'hydrolatry'¹) began and why, these sites raise important issues such as the extent to which the Romans absorbed native culture after the conquest, the survival of the British Church, the possible connection between Christian holy wells and early ecclesiastical centres, the attitude of the medieval Church to survivals of pagan worship, and the disruption of 'traditional culture' among the ruling classes after the Reformation, and among the lower classes from the second half of the 18th century.

So far the historical and archaeological establishment has generally abandoned the holy well to the mystics and antiquarians, allowing myths to develop: notably that most holy wells are derived from Celtic or even Neolithic originals, although Oxford itself, a non-Celtic city with a high number of wells, argues against it. Virtually no wells have been properly excavated, although in Oxfordshire, wells at Bicester, Eynsham, Cowley, Binsey, Stanton St John, Bampton, Woodstock, Curbridge, Tadmarton and North Leigh all have substantial remains and the sites might repay careful investigation. Information on the age of holy wells is desperately needed, and excavations would be most welcome.

The following inventory can make a fair claim to completeness, but does not pretend to have gathered all the information available on each site: the aim is to provide a basis for future research. Place- and field-names suggesting wells have been tentatively included, although the possible translation of *wiella* as stream remains a constant danger; and the suggested sites are precisely that, since it has not been possible to examine tithe maps, etc., in detail. Readers are asked to bear these limitations in mind, and the compiler would welcome any additions or corrections.

The inventory follows the scheme: parish; well name; suggested map reference; date of first record; other information.

ADWELL: Adda's Well, SU 699995. 1086 (M. Gelling, *Place Names of Oxfordshire* (1953-4), 101).

AFFENTON: Prophetic Spring. Site lost. 1676. Its rising foretold dearth of corn and provisions (R. Plot, *Natural History of Oxfordshire*, (1705), 30).

ASCOT UNDER WYCHWOOD: Cold Well, SP 299173? c.1822 (Gelling op. cit. 336).

ASTHALL: Fordwell, SP 309129. 1641 (Gelling op. cit., 300).

Holy Well, SP 294124. Modern name.

Pinna's/Pinnel Spring, SP 297105? 1226 (Gelling op. cit. 300).

ASTON BAMPTON: Holy Well, SP 358026. 1432. 'Holywellefeld' mentioned on court roll of 1432, Exeter Cathedral Dean & Chapter, MS. 4755 (inf. from Dr. J. Blair).

BAMPTON: Lady Well, SP 309032. 1848. Cured eye diseases; near castle/Anglo-Saxon royal palace; minster town; May Doll processed through town on Whit Monday traditionally said to represent St. Mary (J.A. Giles, *Hist. Bampton* (1848), 66-8; J.L. Hughes-Owens, *The Bampton We Have Lost* [n.d.], 13-14; P. Manning, 'Stray Notes of Oxon. Folklore', reprint from *Folk-lore* (1902-3), in two parts, i, 9-10; *Annual Record of Oxford & District Folklore Soc.* (1951), 8).

BANBURY: Holy Well, SP 456403. Presumably medieval. (M.D. Lobel (ed.), *Atlas of Historic Towns*, i (1969): shown on map of Banbury; original source not given).

Jacob's Well. Site lost. c.1750. Traditionally named from a Jew who fell into it (T. Beesley, *Hist. Banbury* (1841), 524-5 and n.).

¹ 'Holy and Healing Wells of Devon', *Trans. Devon Assoc.* (1957 and later).

- St. Stephen's Well, approx. SP 447403. 1841. 'Well known and still often visited' in that year; water analysed 1910 (Beesley op. cit., 97; R. Tiddeman, *Water Supply of Oxfordshire* (1910), 73).
- BECKLEY: St. Donanverdh's Well, SP 565123? Church dedicated to St. Tinniver, a supposed Celtic Saint (M. Hobson & K. Price, *Otmoor & Its Seven Towns* [n.d.], 26).
- Woodperry Well, approx. SP 575104. 1858. Ghosts laid in it in that year by Dr. Wilson, President of Trinity College (Manning op. cit. i, 13).
- BERRICK SALOME: Hillpit Spring, SU 625937. c.1840 (Gelling op. cit. 120).
- BICESTER: Brockless Spring. Site lost. 1910. Used for public supply (Tiddeman op. cit. 28).
- Crock Well, SP 582228. 1211. From OE. *croc* = pottery, or (local tradition) 'Well of the Cross' (*V.C.H. Oxon.* vi, 16; S. Hedges, *Bicester Wuz a Little Town* (1968), 18-19).
- St. Edburga's Well, SP 575225. 13th c. 'Early gained a miraculous reputation'; connected with St. Edburga's Minster; water used to fight 1666 fire (*V.C.H. Oxon.* vi, 16; Hedges op. cit. 133-5).
- BINSEY: St. Margaret's Well, SP 516065. c.1170. Beside church; rose at St. Frideswide's prayers; connected with her minster at Oxford; used for cures (especially eyes); used for wishing with pins; popular pilgrimage; well pulled down 1637, rebuilt 1874 (R.C. Hope, *Legendary Lore of the Holy Wells of England* (1893), 126-7; J. Blair, 'St Frideswide Reconsidered', *Oxoniensia* lii (1987); A. Wood, *Survey of the Antiquities of the City of Oxford* (Oxf. Hist. Soc. xv, xvii, xxxvii), i, p.577, n.34; E. Ettlinger, 'Documents of British Superstition in Oxford', *Folk-lore* (1942-3), 248).
- BLOXHAM: Godswell, SP 431357. Undated; name of a house in the town (*V.C.H. Oxon.* ix, 34).
- Snap Dragon Spring, SP 423367? 1802 (Gelling op. cit. 395).
- BOURTON: Butter Well, SP 459457? 1716 (ibid. 18).
- BRIGHTWELL BALDWIN: Cada's Well, SU 647957. 1086 (ibid. 121).
- Bright Well, SU 655951. 887 (ibid. 14).
- Holy Well. Site lost. 1245. Perhaps identical with the above (ibid. 121).
- BRITWELL SALOME: Briton's Well(?), SU 673936? 1086. From OE. *brytta* = lord, or *bryta* = Briton (ibid. 105).
- BROUGHTON: Chad's Well, SP 405390? 1969. Possibly St. Chad's, or perhaps from OE. *ceald* = cold: cf. Chadwell in Essex (P.H. Reaney, *Place Names of Essex* (1935), 150; *V.C.H. Oxon.* ix, 86).
- CASSINGTON: Pear Tree Well(?), SP 443120. 1551-2. From OE. *pir* = pear tree, *pyr* = stream, or *burgh* (Gelling op. cit. 253; E.T. Leeds and M. Riley, 'Two Saxon Cemeteries in Cassington', *Oxoniensia*, vii (1942), 61-70).
- CAVERSFIELD: Hawk's Well, SP 568245. c.1840. Perhaps connected with tribal totems? (Gelling op. cit. 204).
- CHARLBURY: Spurnell's Spring, SP 392201. Modern name. Near Roman villa site (C.A.R. Radford, 'A Roman Villa at Ditchley Park', *Oxoniensia*, i (1936), 24-69).
- CHARLTON ON OTMOOR: Healing Wells, approx. SP 562157. Peat-water wells, cured cattle disease, 'moor evil', and eczema in humans, also eye diseases; tale of coach vanishing into bog nearby (Hobson and Price, op. cit. 32).
- CHURCHILL: Churchill Mill Spring, SP 277246. 1676. Saline; frequented by pigeons (Plot op. cit. 37-8).
- CLEYDON: Perennial Spring. Site lost. 1676. Flows most in driest weather (Ibid. 30).
- CORNWELL: Crane's Well, SP 269271. 1086 (Gelling op. cit. 346).
- COWLEY: St. Bartholomew's Well, SP 534655. 1661-6, but probably dates to within a few years of the foundation of St. Bartholomew's Chapel, 1126, or precedes it. Attached to leper hospital; pilgrimage licensed 1336; cult involved an image of St. Bartholomew: suppressed under Elizabeth I, but garlanding of the well on May Day and Holy Thursday retained; possibly a boundary perambulation; also called Hickwell, Strowell (Wood op. cit. ii, 514-17; W. Boase, *Historic Towns: Oxford* (1887), 30).
- CRAWLEY: Showel Spring, SP 342133. 1822. From *seofen wiella* = seven wells (Gelling op. cit. 314).
- CROWELL: Crow's Well, SU 794999. 1086 (ibid. 111).
- CUDDSDON: White Horse Well, SP 603030. A spring by the road with a relief of the White Horse of Uffington above it. It is unknown in the village; perhaps the recent work of local pagans.
- CURBRIDGE: Ancient Well, SP 317087. Undated. A well marked in Gothic lettering on the Ordnance Survey, but otherwise unknown. May be identical to Ashmore or Kettle Wells below.
- Ashmore Well. Site lost. c.1840 (Gelling op. cit. 310).
- Kettle Well. Site lost. 969 (ibid.).
- Coral Spring. Site lost. 1822. The name suggests a petrifying spring (ibid. 316).
- DEDDINGTON: King's Spring, SP 466324. Modern name, but perhaps derived from Charles King, vicar of Deddington 1697-1700 (H.M. Colvin, *Hist. Deddington* (1963), 119).
- DORCHESTER: Coll Well, SU 579961. c.1470-80. Cured eyes; haunted by ghost of farmer on horseback (Gelling op. cit. 6; Manning op. cit. i, 14).
- DRAYTON ST. LEONARD: Shad Well, c.1840. From OE. *scad* = boundary; on parish boundary; cured eyes; haunted by the same ghost as at Dorchester (Gelling op. cit. 10; Manning op. cit. i, 14).
- DUNS TEW: Bickwell Spring, SP 458285? 1793 (Gelling op. cit. 17).
- ELSFIELD: Penny Well, SP 538099. 1703. Surely a reference to votive offerings; 200 yd. from church (ibid. 170).
- ENSTONE: Gold Well, SP 373244. 1664. Used by Thomas Bushell for waterworks and romantic fountains and

- grottoes at his house; known as Bushell's Wells in 1664 (K.A. Jordan, *Parochial Hist. Enstone* (1857), 18-20). Holy Well, SP 378255? c.1280 (Gelling op. cit. 14).
- EPWELL: Eoppa's Well, SP 353405. 956 (ibid. 421).
- EWELME: Ewelme Well, SU 647916. 1676. Ran lowest in winter and highest in summer (Plot op. cit. 30). Great Well, SU 642916. 1086 (Gelling op. cit. 127; cf. G.B. Grundy, *Saxon Land Charters of Wilts.* 2nd ser. (1919), 80-1).
- EYNHAM: Abbey Well, SP 434091. 1213-28 (as Holewell). Abbey founded 1005; Saxon minster town (H.E. Salter (ed.), *Eynsham Cart.* (Oxf. Hist. Soc. xlix, li), i, 157; ii, 42, 66, 227; J. Blair, 'Eynsham as a Central Place in Anglo-Saxon Oxfordshire', *Eynsham Record*, v (1988), 4-6).
- FRITWELL: Wishing Well, SP 523293? 1086. From OE. *fyhrt* = augury (Gelling op. cit. 211).
- GARSINGTON: Combe Well, SP 574026. c.1240 (Gelling op. cit. 175; *V.C.H. Oxon.* v. 134). Elf Well. Site lost. c.1240 (Gelling op. cit. 175; *V.C.H. Oxon.* v. 134). Manual Spring, SP 589031. 956 (as Maerwelle). On parish boundary (Gelling op. cit. 9). Pettwell, SP 580022. Local, unrecorded name. Priest's Well. Site lost (*V.C.H. Oxon.* v. 134). Scholar's Well, SP 583029. Local, unrecorded name; cf. Scholar Well, Morland, in A.H. Smith, *Place Names of Westmorland* (1967-8), ii, 145.
- GREAT HASELEY: Holy Well, approx. SP 667047. c.1680. Cured eyes; next to chapel of 1449; unspecified rites performed by park-keepers at it (J. Aubrey, *Remains of Gentilisme and Judaisme*, ed. J. Britten (1881), 121; J. Sherwood and N. Pevsner, *Buildings of Oxon.* 747). Queenshood Spring, SP 650004. 1951, but cf. Queenswood Close, c. 1840. A 'famous spring', unnamed, still spoken of in village (Gelling op. cit. 130).
- GREAT ROLLRIGHT: Lady Well, SP 328314? 1602 (Gelling op. cit. 17).
- GREAT TEW: Holy Well, SP 388296? c.1270 (ibid. 14).
- HANBOROUGH: Holy Well. Site lost. 1957. In field called Priest's Close; pilgrims' well (Mrs Eley in *Annual Rec. of Oxford & District Folklore Soc.* (1957), 6). Wotmell Well. Site lost. 1608 (Gelling op. cit. 17).
- HANWELL: Perennial Spring, 1969. Feeds medieval fishponds (*V.C.H. Oxon.* ix, 172).
- HETHE: St. George's Well, 1718. Cf. Ad Fontem family, 13th century (*V.C.H. Oxon.* vi, 174).
- HOLWELL: Holy Well. 1189 (as Holewella), but Haliwell 1222 (Gelling op. cit. 325).
- HOOK NORTON: Robber's Well. c.1260. From *seaece* = robber (ibid. 354-5).
- HORLEY: Yellow Well. 1705 (*V.C.H. Oxon.* ix, 123).
- ISLIP: Holy Well (?) 1954. Tessellated pool near Roman-British temple (R. Goodchild & J.R. Kirk, 'The Romano-Celtic Temple at Wood Eaton', *Oxoniensta*, xix (1954), 17).
- KENCOT: Bed Well, SP 262043. Modern name.
- KIDDINGTON and ASTERLEIGH: Moorlake Spring, SP 409231. Modern name. Wood Well, SP 409198. 1268 (Gelling op. cit. 359).
- KIRTlington: Dunsbey Spring, SP 518192. Modern name. Dashwood's Pond. Site lost. 1902/3; Sir J. Dashwood's ghost laid in it (Manning op. cit. i, 16).
- LITTLE TEW: Cherwell Spring, SP 370299. Local, unrecorded name. Seven Wells, SP 356291. 1086 (Gelling op. cit. 291).
- MIDDLE ASTON: Horse Well, SP 471271. 1682 (as Holy Well). Became Horse Well by 1896 (C.C. Brookes, *Hist. Middle Aston and Steeple Aston* (1929), 22).
- MINSTER LOVELL: Lady Well, SP 327116. c.1822 (Gelling op. cit. 245).
- NETTLEBED: Mother Hibblemeer's Spring, SP 700870. 1676. Never fails (Plot op. cit. 31; G.A. Cooke, *Topographical Description of the County of Oxford* [c.1830], 133).
- NOKE: Healing Well. Site lost. c.1900. Cured sore eyes (Hobson and Price op. cit. 24).
- NORTH LEIGH: Lady Well, SP 378148. c.1900. Processions made until c.1900; ghostly coach passes it and a Black dog laid in a pool nearby (*V.C.H. Oxon.* xii, 299; *Annual Record of Oxf. & District Folklore Soc.* (1959), 3-4; K.M. Briggs, *Folklore of the Cotswolds* (1974), 95).
- ODDINGTON: Healing Wells. Site lost. 1676. Peat-water wells, cured eyes and 'moor-evil'; calcareous; one in 'Parsonage Field' (Plot op. cit. 49; Hobson and Price op. cit. 24).
- OSNEY: Harold's Well. Site lost. 1661-6. Abbey founded 1129 (Wood op. cit. i, 316 n.6; *V.C.H. Oxon.* iv, 365).
- OXFORD: Aristotle's well, SP 503079. 1382 (as *Brummannyswelle*). Robert Brooman, landowner c.1260; Burghmanneswelle by 1423; Aristotle's Well by 1615; wishing; sugar and water drunk there until c.1880; in 1718, victors of student games on Ash Wednesday left their trophies here (H.E. Salter, *Rec. of Medieval Oxford* (1912), 43; H.E. Salter, *Medieval Oxford* (1936), 149; Wood op. cit. i, 353 n., 354-5; P.H. Manning, in *Oxford Magazine*, 11 Mar. 1903). Aylmer's Well. Site lost. 1205. Robert Aylmer, landowner c.1230 (Wood op. cit. i, 352). Child's Well, approx. SP 509061. 1586? Cured barrenness 'by virtue of the holynesse of the chapelynes

- successively serving there'; perhaps a pool in the Thames (Wood op. cit. i, 319n.; H. Hurst, *Oxford Topography* (1899), 25, 36).
- Crow Well, SP 519065. 1246. Cross nearby, c.1270; covered by Dr Aglionby, c.1620, and by Dr Rawlinson, 1626; cured eyes; still existed c.1870 (Wood op. cit. i, 385-6, and app. A, n.27; Hurst op. cit. 97, 136).
- Holy Well of Holywell, SP 520067. 1086. Next to church with hermitage nearby; covered by the warden of Merton, 1488; Sibella de Haliwelle was landowner in 1377 (Gelling op. cit. 36; Wood op. cit. i, 388-9; Hurst op. cit. 186). Much confusion with the following three wells.
- Holy Well of Holywell Green, SP 520065. 1651. Built by Mr Cowdrey; perhaps the 'well of late erection and now most used' in 1705 (Wood op. cit. i, 386; Plot op. cit. 365).
- Holy Well of Holywell Manor, SP 520067. 1896 (rediscovery?). Beneath altar of Manor Chapel; fed 'cold bath'; perhaps also covered by the Merton warden, 1488; called SS. Winifred and Margaret's Well after a Clewer Sisters' convent in the Manor, but a St. Winifred's Well was said in 1887 to have been E. of St. Bartholomew's Well, Cowley (inf. from Mr C. Morgan; Hope op. cit. 120; Hurst op. cit. 137; Boase op. cit. 30).
- Jenny Newton's Well, SP 521066. 1675? Cured eyes; in Holywell graveyard; perhaps to be identified with Holy Well on Logan's map, 1675 (Hope op. cit. 123).
- Postern Well, SP 519063. 1661-6. At Eastgate; perhaps the pool drained in 1395? (Wood op. cit. i, 294n.; Hurst op. cit. 137).
- Pule Well. Site lost. 1386 (Gelling op. cit. 36).
- St. Edmund's Well, SP 525061. 1291. St. Edmund had a vision of Christ here and the well rose at his feet; bishop of Lincoln condemned its miracles as fraudulent in 1291, and condemned the offering of candles there in 1304; cured wounds and general disease; 'pattern' on St. Edmund's Day (16 Nov.) when vows made at the well; restored 1630 but almost lost in Wood's time; *not* the medieval well in front quad. of St. Edmund Hall with the modern inscription *haurietis aquas in gaudio de fontibus salvatoris* (Hope op. cit. 120-2; Wood op. cit. i, 288-91, 289n., 328-9; Plot op. cit. 50; Boase op. cit. 57).
- St. Mary's Well, SP 516065. 1661-6. Next to chapel of St. Mary-at-the-Smith-Gate (Wood op. cit. i, 388n.).
- Slaying Well, SP 513060. 1672. Stopped up at that date (Hurst op. cit. 46; Wood i, 308n.).
- Stock Well, SP 509065. c.1205. Also called Cornish Chough/Cough Well, and Plato's Well (Wood op. cit. i, 365-6; Salter, *Med. Oxf.* 146, 148; Gelling op. cit. 44).
- Ulward's Well. Site lost. 1661-6. Named from John Ulward, landowner (Wood op. cit. i, 354n.).
- Walton's Well, SP 505074. 1661-6. Modern fountain built by William Ward, 1885; much confusion with Aristotle's Well since both were owned by Brumman le Rich (Wood op. cit. i, 352-3 nn.).
- PIDDINGTON: Cow Close Spring, SP 644162. Modern name.
- Muswell Spring, SP 644154? c.1151. From OE. *musewiella* = mossy spring; on county boundary (Gelling op. cit. 185).
- ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD: Kingwood Well, SP 698821. c.1900? Roadside well (S. Butler, *Memories of Rotherfield Peppard before the First World War* [n.d.], 34).
- Sedgell Spring, SP 712810. 1285. From Seggeswelle, 'Secga's Spring' (Gelling op. cit. 80).
- ROUSHAM: St. German's Well, SP 482242. 1626. Church, now dedicated to St. Mary, was St. German's (*V.C.H. Oxon.* xi, 159).
- SANDFORD ST. MARTIN: Ledwell Well, SP 420283. 1080. Sulphuric? (Gelling op. cit. 280).
- Holy Well, approx. SP 422267. 1676. Cured 'putrid and fetid old sores'; probably the same as the medicinal spring culverted and lost in 1910, in field north of the church (Plot op. cit. 49; Tiddeman op. cit. 68).
- SHENINGTON: Kinwell Spring, SP 366443. c.1741. Derivation uncertain (Gelling op. cit. 403).
- SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD: Trot's Spout, SP 278172. Modern name, but Plot speaks of a ferruginous spring in the village (Plot op. cit. 47).
- SIBFORD GOWER: Cain's Well, SP 366397. Modern name.
- Holy Well, SP 357577. 1884. On the Ordnance Survey of that date.
- SPELSBURY: Cirver Wells, SP 342221? 1553. Now a garden feature; tenants told to maintain them at the manor court, 1553: 3s. 6d. fine for breaching this injunction and 4d. for each duck polluting the water (E. Corbett, *Hist. Spelsbury* (1962), 77).
- Holy Well, approx. SP 348215. 1929, but dates at least to mid-19th century; c.50 yd. from church; used for baptismal water until c.1880 (E. Corbett, in *Folk-lore* (1929), 78).
- Tenants' Well. Site lost. 1962. By Tenant's Well Stone, perhaps the base of a cross (Corbett, *Hist. Spels.* 278).
- STANTON HARCOURT: Lady Alice's Pond, SP 416055. 1902/3. Adapted from medieval fishpools; Lady Alice Harcourt said to have been murdered and thrown into pond and her ghost later laid in it; ghosts also of Lady Frances, and of female suicide laid in dried pond who now rides in a coach-and-four (Manning op. cit. i, 14-15; ii, 15; *V.C.H. Oxon.* xii, 277).
- STANTON ST. JOHN: Nanny/Nelly Martin's Well, SP 552086. 1902/3, but obviously much older. Roman bath-house, villa site nearby, said to cure eyes and to be haunted by murdered/suicide well-guardian, laid

- in nearby pond, now dry; also black dog and headless woman in Barton Lane (ibid. i, 14-15; W. Jewitt, letter to *Folk-lore* (1903), 183-5).
- STEEPLE ASTON: Duckworth's Well, 1767 (as Ducket's Well) (Gelling op. cit. 247).
- STEEPLE BARTON: Seven Wells. Site lost. c.1210 (ibid. 249).
- STOKE LYNE: Old Oak Well, approx. SP 568287. 1910; preferred to the public supply in that year (Tiddeman op. cit. 73).
- STOKE ROW: Maharajah's Well, SU 677842. 1864. A modern well built 1864 as the gift of the Maharajah of Benares (L.D. Williamson, *Illustrated Hist. of the Maharajah's Well, Stoke Row* (1988)).
- STONESFIELD: Ruddy Well, SP 394183. 1298. From OE. *rothere* = cattle. Used for public supply in 1910 (Tiddeman op. cit. 7; Gelling op. cit. 284).
- SWALCLIFFE: Stour Well, SP 378363. 1797. Source of the Stour (Gelling op. cit. 426).
- SWERFORD: Digger's Well, SP 377314? c.1160-70 (as Digeneswella). From the name *Dicen* (ibid. 383).
- SWINBROOK: Seven Springs, SP 285143. Modern name.
- TADMARTON: Holy Well, SP 392356. 1346. A paved way led from a Roman hillfort to the well; very pure water; also called Sugar Well (Gelling op. cit. 406; Tiddeman op. cit. 7; T. Beesley, *Chemical Analysis of the Waters of Holywell, Tadmarton Heath* (1853)).
- THAME: Cottmoor Well, approx. SP 723052. 1797, but cf. Cottmoor 1517 (Gelling op. cit. 146).
- Court Well, approx. SP 702059. 1860. Restored c.1830; held as curative for eye diseases until mid-1850s (I. Lupton, *Hist. Thame and its Hamlets* (1860), 7-8; J. Brown and N. Guest, *Hist. Thame* (1935), 248).
- WARDINGTON: Granny Well, SP 493463. 1957. Near reputed British village site; possible dedication to St. Anne; cured eyes (Miss Loveday in *Annual Rec. Oxford and District Folklore Soc.* (1957), 6).
- WESTCOTT BARTON: Robber's Well/Gagingwell, SP 408251. c.1173. From OE. *gaedeling* = kinsman/robber (Gelling op. cit. 348-9).
- WESTWELL: West Well, SP 222099. 1086 (ibid. 332).
- WIGGINTON: Holy Well, SP 385323. 1685 (as Hollowell) (ibid. 408).
- WITNEY: Boar Well, SP 343090. 1315 (ibid. 315).
- WOLVERCOTE: 'St Frideswide's Well'. Remains of a well near the chapel of Godstow nunnery; water presumably used for ritual purposes in the chapel and may thus have borne a dedication.
- Wolward's Well. Site lost. c.1260. From William Wolward, landowner c.1240 (Gelling op. cit. 36).
- WOODEATON: 'Holy Rood Well'. Spring rises beside churchyard; may have been holy, cf. Matilda ad Fontem, 14th c. (*V.C.H. Oxon*, v, 309).
- WOODSTOCK: Fair Rosamund's Well, SP 436165. 1165 (as Everswell; from OE. *eofer* = boar?). Named after Rosamund de Clifford; in ruins by 1577 (C.J. Bond and K. Tiller, *Blenheim, Landscape for a Palace* (1987), 46-7; Briggs op. cit. 72-5).
- New Found Well, approx. SP 437152. c.1830. Mineral spring and garden feature (Cooke op. cit. 155).
- WOOTTON: Slut's Well, SP 439203. 1961. From 'St. Luke's Well' or O. Norse *slytr* = sleet, impure liquid, or OE. *slyte* = muddy (*Annual Rec. Oxford and District Folklore Soc.* (1961), 4; K. Cameron, *Place Names Lincs.* (1985), 39).
- WYCHWOOD: Cyder Well, SP 336171. Modern name.
- Wort Well, SP 334167. Modern name, but Leafield people visited the springs on Easter Monday before the enclosure of the Reserve, mixed the water with liquorice, and kept for healing (Briggs op. cit. 100).

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