ONE of the characteristics of Saxton’s map of Lancashire is the presence of a large number of enclosed areas, drawn as little circles, in the middle of which the sites of houses are frequently indicated. The creation of these parks, created with or without royal permission, became possible as soon as the crown started to surrender or sell its royal forest rights at the end of the twelfth century. Some are known to have existed in Lancashire during the Middle Ages. In 1292 Sir Robert Lathom had at Knowsley “a wood which is called a park” and in 1302 he complained that the bounds of his park were being broken. In 1325 Robert Lathom and Katherine his wife held “the manor of Knorselegh... a park of which the herbage in summer is worth 20s.” They also held “a messuage and one carucate of land and a wood containing within itself 3 acres in the said town of Lathom held of the prior of Burscough”. The Lathom estates passed to John Stanley as a result of his fortunate marriage to Isabel, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Thomas Lathom, in 1385. It is likely that Lathom Park came into existence soon after this. Robert de Rydygege, parker of Lathom, is mentioned in a document of 1403.

That John Stanley II’s son, Thomas Stanley (1406-59), was an enthusiastic hunter is shown by a licence given to him for life “to hunt each year in the summer and winter seasons, when he will, in any park, forest and chase of the king within the palatine counties of Chester and Lancaster... and slay therein two harts, two hinds, two bucks and two does with dogs, bows and other arts or engines and carry the same whither he will”.


From a Stanley account roll which has been dated to c. 1460 it seems that much fencing and ditching was going on at this time in Lathom Park. Payment is made to “Henry of Bruscogh and ther felows for dichyng . . . betwene the Brome feld and the parke” and to a number of others for “cleyng 5330 pallas stavys [fencing staves], price of 100, 12d.”. Often more substantial works were involved in imparking, as when William Stanley, William Spencer and John Austyn were authorized to take stone cutters, carpenters, plumbers, masons and tilers, smiths and other workmen for the “works of the king’s maners of Wodestok . . . and the enclosure of the Park of Wodestok”. This kind of work was controlled by royal licence. Crawford points out that the purpose of parks was to protect deer from straying out or in; and “since deer were royal property such restriction of their feeding was illegal unless a royal licence had been obtained”. It is probable that during the fifteenth century many parks were created without such licences, and it was typical of the general tightening up of royal rights under the first Tudor king that Sir Harry Willoughby was given a commission to enquire among other things into “waste in woods, fishing the king’s waters and hunting in his parks, etc., encroachments on the king’s lands, parks made without licence, etc”. We find a pardon was given to William Walle of Lathom, county Lancashire, of “offence against the statutes of liveries and trespasses of vert and venison in the kings forests”.

About three-quarters of a mile west of Lathom was the third park in Lancashire associated with the Stanley family. It is uncertain when this park was made, but it was undoubtedly in existence in the early part of Henry VIII’s reign, when the family estates were in the king’s hands through the minority of Edward, third earl of Derby. At this time it appears to have been called Lady Park. The absence of early reference to the park may mean that it was not created until the sixteenth century, but it is also possible that this park had been previously included within Lathom Park, and only received a separate identity when there was a definite residence there.

One wonders whether the park was formed out of the waste or whether arable land was used and tenants dispossessed. The

(7) TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 113 (1961), pp. 203, 204.
(9) Crawford, op. cit., p. 193. An example of such a licence was that given to the king’s knight, Thomas Beauchamp, to enclose and impark 250 acres of land and wood in “le Shawe” within his manor of Aysshehull, Somerset (Cal. Pat. Rolls, 14 Hy. IV, p. 47).
Augustinian canons of Burscough held lands in this area up to the dissolution, and from the foundation charter of 1189(12) there would appear to have been a small settlement here called Alton or Olton. This name appears again in the cartulary of Burscough Priory as “campum qui vocatur Olton”.(13) “Altunegate” is mentioned in a charter of Richard Lathom to Cockersand Abbey (1221-32)(14): he granted “le Wythares” to the abbey “cum communi pastura et eisiamentis de Latham, et cum pessoa propriis porcis hominium existencium in eadem terra; excepto parco meo et Burchisscoh” (with the common pasture and easements of Lathom, and with the pannage for the pigs of the men living on that land, except for my park at Burscough). Is this perhaps a reference to a park at Alton? A “Stephanus filius Ricardi de Alton” is noted by Dugdale in a charter of Burscough Priory,(15) and an “Alic’ de Olton” appears in a list of those promising to support a priest at Ormskirk in 1366.(16) An interesting reference also occurs in a pardon granted to Adam, son of Adam de Lathom, by Edward I, for “breaking the house of Richard de Olton”.(17) A careful study, however, of an air photograph of the area(18) revealed no signs of an earlier field system overlain by the park, whose boundaries are almost exactly those of 120 years ago when the tithe commutation award was made.(19)

The air photograph does, nevertheless, bring out several interesting features which are not visible from ground level. The “moat” at New Park is connected to Ormskirk by a grass-grown drive which today joins the Lathom-Ormskirk road near the club house of the Ormskirk Golf Club: this drive divides just before it reaches the club house and goes for a short distance in the Burscough direction. It stops short when it reaches the road. From the air photograph it is seen as a distinct dark line continuing across the fields until it links up with the winding Ormskirk-Burscough road near Blythe Hall. There are also several large pits now filled with water or recently drained and levelled. These are all within a few hundred yards of the “moat” and were, no doubt, clay pits used for providing local building

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(12) W. Farrer, *Lancashire Pipe Roll and Early Charters* (1902), pp. 349-50. For “Altona” he reads Dalton, which is most unlikely to be correct.
(13) *Burscough Register*, section XXV. Transcript available in the Lancashire Record Office.
(19) Lancashire Record Office, DRL 1/46.
materials such as bricks. Cheetham's conjectural interpretation that they provided water for the earl of Derby's gardens in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries seems devoid of foundation (20). A further point that the air photograph makes obvious is that the park has undergone considerable changes in the last 120 years. The traces of field walls now destroyed since the site has been used as a golf course are seen plainly from the air and are confirmed by a study of the tithe award map. The tendency to consolidate holdings and increase the size of fields is noticeable within the park area and even more outside it between the years 1846 and 1891, the date of the first edition of the 25″ to 1 mile map. The wall described in Cheetham's article, for instance, originally enclosed a roughly square area which included most of the moated site, but this has now been destroyed on its northern and eastern sides. All the fields now included in the park were described in the tithe commutation award as being used for pasture, except one which then, as now, is wood.

Something is known of the history of the New Park from the end of the sixteenth century. A sermon was preached there to Henry, fourth earl of Derby, on 2 January 1577, (21) and he was again there for Christmas 1586. The earl was also at New Park from 26 September to 27 December 1588, from 4 October 1589 to 10 January 1590, and from 6 April to 21 June 1590. (22) He was accompanied by a great retinue whose ordinary weekly consumption was about one ox, a dozen calves, a score of sheep, fifteen hogsheads of beer, and plenty of bread, fish and poultry. The names of the gentry, Halsalls, Scarisbricks and Shireburnes, appear again and again in the accounts as those of visitors to the earl's household.

New Park was also the scene of the examination of “Sir James Stonnes otherwise called Uncle James”, a recusant priest.

(20) F. H. Cheetham, “New Park, Lathom, a vanished residence of the earls of Derby,” Lancs. & Ches. Ant. Soc. T., Vol. 31 (1913), p. 12. This appears to be the only article ever devoted entirely to New Park, but it contains several statements which, under fresh examination and with new materials now available, are seen to be erroneous. For instance, it claims that the lands contained within New Park were part of those given to Burscough Priory by Robert Lathom: it quotes as evidence the charter of 1189 printed by Farrer, but this only mentions the ford between Hurleston and Alton, which Cheetham identifies, it seems correctly, with New Park, as one of the points used to fix the relevant boundaries. This is no proof that Alton was given to the Burscough canons.


(22) The dates of the earl of Derby's residence at New Park, the details of the food eaten and the visitors there are in the Household Books printed by Canon Raines in his edition of the Stanley Papers, Chetham Soc., O.S., Vol. 31 (1853), pp. 18-32.
before the earl of Derby on 19 November 1583. The household accounts also mention recusants at New Park on 18 June 1590: “Mr. Blondell of Crossby, his son and Robert Wodroffe the Seminary were apprehended and brought to my L.; and on Saturday they were sent to Chester as prisoners.” This account is supported by the narrative of William Blundell himself: “In the yeare of our Lord God 1590 the 11th of June the Right honble. Henerie Earle of Darbie sent certaine of his men to searche the house of Richard Blundell of little Crosbie, in the Countie of Lancaster, Esquire, for matters belonging to Catholicke Religion, &c., where they apprehended and tooke away with them to his honor’s house (the New Parke) one Mr. Woodroffe, a seminarie priest, and the said Richard Blundell and mee Willm Blundell, sonne of the said Richard.”

Blundell was again arrested and taken for examination to New Park in 1592.

Less is known about New Park after this. It was one of the estates that figured in the prolonged litigation which followed the death in suspicious circumstances of Ferdinand, fifth earl of Derby, in 1594. It finally passed with most of the other Stanley estates to William, the sixth earl; a grant of 7 January 1601 gives “the Manor House of Lathom and the Manors and Lordships of Lathom and Aughton, alias Aughton next Ormskirk, with all their appurtenances and all lands etc. thereto belonging situate in Latomh and Aghton, and in Crossehall, Tarlsough, Marton, Newparke, Westhead and Burkskough”, to William, and this was confirmed by an act of parliament of 1607. During the civil wars New Park was the headquarters of the troops of parliament who took part in the first and unsuccessful siege of Lathom House in 1644. After this we lose trace of the house, and there is no known documentary evidence to indicate when it was abandoned. Draper thought that it was possibly pulled down in the early part of the eighteenth century, while Raines claimed, apparently without any evidence, that the house was falling into decay in 1650.


(26) Ibid., p. 22.


Cheetham thought that it was abandoned after the siege and fall of Lathom House when the fortunes of the Stanley family were low.\(^{(31)}\) The New Park estates were among those which the tenth earl of Derby bequeathed to the Stanleys of Cross Hall when the direct line of the earls of Derby became extinct.\(^{(32)}\)

Various theories have been put forward concerning the dating of the moat and the nature of the house, which is referred to on the 1891 map as "Horton Castle (supposed site of)". It has been classified as a homestead moat; "not infrequently we find that the dwelling place which once stood within the defended area and which was of wood has disappeared leaving the island platform vacant; this is so for example at Horton [sic] Castle in Lathom."\(^{(33)}\) There seems no reason to believe that all the moats around this kind of site were defensive in purpose or evidence of an early date. Beresford and St. Joseph note that the fashion of surrounding a farmstead with a moat continued long after defensive needs had been forgotten.\(^{(34)}\) A number of sections cut across the upcast of the moat at New Park revealed no pottery earlier than the late part of the sixteenth century. It seems that the moat is contemporary with the structures within it.

About the house itself little apart from intelligent guesswork has been written. Draper thought that there was "a residence of considerable dimensions which was pulled down in the early part of the last century. This building appears to have been a castellated mansion surrounded by a moat."\(^{(35)}\) Cheetham considered that Halton Castle existed in the Middle Ages, but "as to the date when the castle was erected we know nothing; if it were a medieval building the probability is that the house of the earl of Derby in the sixteenth century was a newer erection taking its place or perhaps the old castle adapted to the requirements of the day. But as a matter of fact we know nothing as to what kind of building either Halton Castle or New Park was".\(^{(36)}\)

II NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Excavations made at Easter and Summer between 1960 and 1962 have made it possible to correct some of these surmises

\(^{(32)}\) Ibid., p. 14. For the history of the site after this time Cheetham gives sufficient detail.
\(^{(34)}\) Beresford and St. Joseph, op. cit., p. 55. The V.C.H. also notes that moats continued to be made up to the time of Elizabeth.
NEW PARK, LATHOM
and to give a more detailed account of life at New Park during its occupation.

The only part of the site available for excavation was the extreme western part between the moat and the wall which is mentioned by Cheetham as running straight across the area and carried over the moat itself. The rest is occupied by a fairway of the golf course and during the summer of 1962 a further part was encroached upon by an extension of the huts belonging to the golf club. To add to the difficulties of the diggers, their chosen area was covered by a thick layer of brambles and several sizeable sycamore trees (see Fig. 10).

The first trench exposed a ditch with a black filling underneath a massive masonry wall, and this ditch was traced for 40' running obliquely to the lines of the wall in a N.W.N.—S.E.S. direction. The ditch was about 6' wide and 2' or 3' deep; it was overlain by walls and a layer of building material, brick and sandstone rubble and clay 2' or 3' deep (see Figs. 5b and 5c). It yielded fragments of brown glazed roof tiles and pottery dated to the early sixteenth century. It was filled with black organic matter, and at once place, where it was dug into the boulder clay subsoil, straw manure, perfectly preserved, was found. The ditch did not seem to be a foundation trench, but was rather in the nature of a broad drainage channel or open runnel which had silted up. The finds in the infilling show that New Park was occupied in the early Tudor period, but there was no trace of the whereabouts of the house at this time. In all probability it stood to the north of the excavated area, under the fairway. There are several humps and depressions in the fairway, and the head greenkeeper of the golf club remembers the removal of several large stones from this area. There are two large single stones with four centred arches cut into them, near the site. These were perhaps some of the stones removed, and were perhaps lintels or fireplace arches.

That the house was extended, and possibly entirely rebuilt, in the later sixteenth century is apparent from the massive masonry wall footings found above the ditch. In the north-west corner of the moated area was a complex of buildings, which, judging by their size, were in the nature of outhouses rather than main structures. The walls found were 3' thick, composed of large, roughly squared stones set in clay and bounded on the south side by a stone lined and capped conduit which ran down to empty itself into the moat. Another conduit, 10' to the north, was exposed, but much of it had been destroyed and a clay floor laid down over it. This clay floor was bounded on the north by further rough masonry footings, again massive in
Figure 5. SECTIONS

(a) Runs across brick floor towards entrance in N.W. direction.
(b) Runs across E. side of brick floor in S.W. direction.
(c) Runs across W. side of brick floor in S.W. direction.
bulk. The area so enclosed measured 11' by 18'. To the north of these another section dug from the wall mentioned by Cheetham to the edge of the moat exposed a series of several superimposed floors. The bottom layer consisted of the black filled ditch mentioned previously; above this was a thin line of stones 4" to 6" thick and set irregularly in decayed mortar. On this was set a floor or hearth composed of bricks, heavily burned on their surface, which had sunk in places following the contours of the stones below. The whole area of burned bricks which extended up to the wall footings to the south measured 10' by 12'. It was terminated to the west by a minor wall only one stone in thickness in places, and nowhere wider than 2' 3", which ran parallel to the moat edge up to the massive wall already mentioned. This small room had been refloored by the simple process of putting down a levelling layer of clay and covering it with bricks, this time laid on end. These bricks bore no sign of burning. Above them was clay and brick rubble some 1' 9" to 2' in thickness (see Figs. 5b and 5c).

The line of a well-laid wall with a double-stepped plinth was found running out towards the moat on the north side. This was parallel to the footings found west of the field wall also leading to the moat edge. The stone work of the first of these walls, far superior in mason's work to the other foundations, obviously stood flush with the surface when originally built, which makes it seem likely that this work was meant to be seen. The driveway from Ormskirk and Burscough approached the site at this point, and it seems therefore that the entrance was here. The later field wall was laid across the moat on top of the original entrance which is likely to have been by a wooden bridge. The width of the "entrance" was some 12'. A wall adjoining it at right angles was traced running eastwards for 15' but it could be followed no further since it went straight towards the fairway.

The third interesting feature of the site was the well, found in the centre of the area enclosed on three sides by massive masonry foundations. It had been cut through the black ditch already referred to, and also post-dated the second conduit which had been broken off and covered under a red clay floor. This makes it seem likely that it was of later date than the outer wall with a similar conduit running on the outside. This was confirmed by the finds at the bottom of the well, which were all of the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The well was in an excellent state of preservation, 3' 6" in diameter and lined with small slabs of stone set without mortar. This lining was laid upon solid rock which was reached at 10'.
The bottom of the well was hollowed out of the rock in a key-hole pattern. In the grey, gravelly silt were found a small wooden tool handle with yellow metal ferrule, a turned wooden object, a complete pipe, hazel nut shells, several plum stones, a w-bone of a sheep, several pieces of leather and some large pieces of green wine bottles. The well had been filled when the house was demolished by the simple process of throwing in several massive baulks of timber, the size of railway sleepers, and then piling on top squared stones and a hollowed out trough, or possibly a small water filter.

To the south of the main structures just described a series of walls was found but none of them was associated with any occupation layers, nor were finds frequent, and it seems that here were outbuildings and courtyard walls. A number of paths composed of stone chippings were traced in this area. The
Plate 5.

SECTION THROUGH TWO BRICK FLOORS
With black ditch under second brick floor at 3' 6" depth.
main wall, which may well have been the back wall of a wooden-framed barn, was found running parallel to the moat edge. It was finished off at the edge facing the moat by a chamfered plinth and was of squared stones with a rubble core. Only the first two courses of stonework had survived. Its massiveness, 6½' in thickness, suggests that it held a roof of considerable weight. This is in contrast to the other walls outside the northwest corner. These others were all about 2' thick, and only one stone in width. In places these stones have been robbed down to foundation level, but their original place was clear from the disturbed places in the sections dug across this area. Much of this part of the site has had loads of red clay dumped upon it, but this clay did not yield any dating material and does not appear to have been used. The stones of the walls were in places set in red clay, and at one point where they might have slipped
into the moat a retaining ditch had been dug outside the wall and filled with red clay, which was packed against the sides of the stones and in between them. Decayed mortar was found in only a few places, and this is probably because most of the stonework found would have been below ground level. It had been used to strengthen the corner of the “barn” wall, where a thinner wall met the main one at a wide angle, about 120°.

III OCCUPATION FINDS

POTTERY
1. Sixteenth-century wares. In the ditch running N.W.N.—S.E.S. below the main structures a few fragments of pot were
found which were dated to the first half of the sixteenth century.\textsuperscript{(37)} These were:

Fragments of a two- or three-handled Cistercian-ware pot. Dated in London and Yorkshire to the last part of the fifteenth century, but continuing to at least 1540. (Fine reddish ware with a greenish-brown glaze, not susceptible of illustration.)

Sherd from a jug in dark brown ware decorated with broad bands of white slip covered by a clear glaze. Though not unlike Cistercian ware, and probably contemporary with it, this does not fall into any of the known forms of this ware (Fig. 6d).

Two pieces of very hard bowl, with handle from same vessel, with partial dark brown glaze and thumb-pressed decorative cordon round neck.\textsuperscript{(38)} Both fabric and

\textsuperscript{(37)} The identification and description of the pottery in Fig. 6 were kindly provided by Mrs. H. E. J. Le Patourel, who writes of these finds: "The whole group resembles closely the fabrics and forms found in the 'Dissolution levels' at Pontefract and Kirkstall Abbeys; a date somewhere in the first half of the sixteenth century would therefore seem reasonable. In spite of the similarities it is likely to be of local manufacture. The only sherd that may have travelled is the piece of Cistercian ware, and this is more likely to have come from somewhere near Chester than across the Pennines."

\textsuperscript{(38)} For general type of these late bowls see \textit{Ant. J.}, Vol. 116, p. 25, and \textit{Pontefract Priory Excavation Report}, No. 98, Thoresby Soc. Misc., Vol. 49, forthcoming. (Reference provided by Mrs. H. E. J. Le Patourel.)
Figure 7.

SIXTEENTH- TO EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY WARES

decoration can be exactly matched from among wasters from kilns at Cowick, though not found on the same pot (Figs. 6b and 7e).

Sherd from jug in same substance as that shown in Fig. 6b. The three thumb impressions are part decorative and part functional, attaching the lower end of the handle securely to the pot. The colour is slightly different from that of the bowl, but this is a factor varying greatly according to the position of the pot in the kiln. (Fig. 6c).
2. Seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century wares. Large quantities of pottery of this period were found all over the site, but especially in the north-west corner. There was much coarse ware, with a thick coat of dark glaze either inside or outside and occasionally on both sides of the pot. Finer wares were represented by thin brown and yellow glazed wares, and by numerous small fragments of Staffordshire slip and combed ware. Besides bowls and dishes there were a number of mugs and also several candlesticks. There was also one very small fragment of blue-glazed Delft ware. Examples from this period were:

Rim fragment of high-fired reddish ware, with black glaze inside and out. Probably from a bowl, with a ridge running round the pot just below the rim, which is very broad and flat (Fig. 7a).

Rim fragments of same ware and glaze, rather badly applied inside and out, as fragment shown in Fig. 7a.
Perhaps from a bowl, with thick heavy rim for extra strength (Fig. 7b).

Rim fragments as in Figures 7a and 7b, but with black glaze on the inside only. Thick, broad rim, with lightly scored lines running underneath (Fig. 7c).

Handle and rim fragments of same ware and glaze as Figures 7a and 7b. Pot very thick and heavy, and the handle strong and very well bonded into the rest of the pot. Obviously from a vessel intended to carry great weight, perhaps a large bowl or pitcher (Fig. 7d).

Base fragment of brownish-red ware, finer in texture than the pottery shown in Figure 7, with brown glaze and black patches, inside and out. Probably part of a vase or small jug (Fig. 8a).

Large rim and base fragment of a fairly fine grey ware, with yellowish glaze inside and out, turning green in patches. Part of the base is burnt. The base of the handle just visible on the pot, handle fragments found elsewhere of the same ware and glaze, and the smooth rim type suggest that it is from a drinking mug (Fig. 8b).

Side and base fragment of grey ware, similar to, but coarser than, fragment shown in Figure 8b and thicker. Glazed brownish-yellow on the inside, and clear on the outside. Probably from a wide, shallow dish (Fig. 8c).

Fragment of a candlestick in coarse red ware with brown glaze (Fig. 8d).

Fragment of a candlestick in the ware and black glaze of fragment shown in Figure 7a, etc. (Fig. 8e).

Fragment of imitation Bellarmine ware. Made of a fine, hard, grey stoneware, with brown glaze on the outside covering the pot and the stamped, stylised decoration. Probably a fragment of a jug or perhaps a stoneware wine vessel (Fig. 9a).

Rim fragment in same ware, though slightly redder, as fragment shown in Figure 8a. Dirty brown glaze and
narrow everted rim and strip decoration, applied by pressing it upon the pot with a pointed instrument, thus giving the decorative "bubble" effect. Probably part of a bowl (Fig. 9b).

PIPES
A large number of clay pipes, all broken except one which was found in the well, were picked up, nearly all within two feet of the surface. Fourteen of them had makers' stamps upon either the flat heels or the bowls, and upon one stem fragment part of the word "Liverpool" was stamped. Following the typology established by A. Oswald, (39) it is possible to suggest the names of the makers and the approximate dates of these pipes. There are several of Oswald's types three and four, with a small bowl, tapering at the edge of the cup, with a single band of decoration and the stamp on the heel. These were:

(i) R.L. Richard Legg of Broseley, 1651-1714, or Richard Legg of Broseley, 1621-1700.
(ii) T.L. Thomas Legg of Broseley, 1653-1759.
(iii) I.B. Joseph or James Ball, both of Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1674, or John Baddeley, Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1675. One with stamp on heel, two with stamp on bowl.
(iv) R.H. Richard Hunt, Chester, 1669.
(v) T.D. Thomas Darkes, Broseley, c. 1700.
(vi) T.H. Thomas Harthborne, Broseley, c. 1700, or Thomas Hughes, Broseley, c. 1700.
(vii) I.G. Jonathan Grayson, Liverpool, 1711.
(viii) W.M. William Meakin, Chester, 1747, or William Mason, York, 1698.

Also one of type nine with the top of the bowl parallel with the stem and with a flat heel, no stamp, dated 1690-1740; and one of type seven with spur and top of bowl parallel with the stem, no stamp, dated 1670-1730.

METAL FINDS
1. Iron. A number of iron objects were found, but most of them were unrecognisable owing to rust. Among those in a tolerable state of preservation were:

(39) A. Oswald, "The Archaeology of the English Clay Pipe", Brit. Arch. Ass. J., Vol. 23 (1960), pp. 40-102. This article gives a list of pipe makers and their stamps which is the source for these identifications. It should be emphasised that Oswald's list may not be complete. (Reference provided by F. H. Thompson).
A handle (\? to a box or door) 5" long and 2\(\frac{1}{2}\)" broad.
A ring, 2" in diameter: part of a horse harness.
A chain: eight links and shaped rings, 1\(\frac{1}{2}\)" long and 1" across. Possibly part of a horse harness.
A sickle blade, elliptical in shape. Blade 6" long, attached to a tang 2\(\frac{1}{2}\)" long. This was found near the surface and so is probably recent in date.
A key with ring at end.
Three bolts, with wide heads, 1\(\frac{1}{2}\)" square.
Seven roof nails, 2" to 3" long. Several of the stone slates showed rust marks around the holes through which they were attached to the roof timbers.
Two iron bars: one 6" by 1\(\frac{1}{2}\)" by \(\frac{1}{2}\)"; the other 5\(\frac{1}{2}\)" by 1" by \(\frac{1}{2}\)".
A piece of iron, 8" long with a hook at one end \(\frac{3}{4}\)" long and pointed at the other end.

2. Lead. A number of pieces of lead were found which had run into fantastic and contorted shapes, doubtless because of heating and melting. A lead spindle whorl was also found, 1\(\cdot\)1" in diameter, with the centre hole 0\(\cdot\)3" in diameter. It was decorated with chip carving.

3. Other metal finds. These were a small brass ring, 0\(\cdot\)4" in diameter and 0\(\cdot\)2" in width, which appeared to be a ferrule from the tool handle which was found in the well; and a coin, totally defaced on both sides, but corresponding in size and weight to a halfpenny of William and Mary.

WOOD
Naturally the number of wooden objects was very small. Only two survived, both in the muddy sediment in the well bottom. They were black and spongy. One appeared to be a tool handle, 3" in length with a tapering from 1" in diameter at the top of the handle, 0\(\cdot\)4" at the ferrule end; the other was a turned wooden object, possibly a chessman or a piece from a spinning wheel. It was 2\(\cdot\)7" long and 0\(\cdot\)8" in diameter.

GLASS
Several pieces of glass from wine bottles were found. The glass was dark green and of varying thickness; one base fragment measured some 7" in diameter. All was probably of the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century.

BONES
A few bones were found, as might have been expected. Most appeared to come from domestic animals.
LEATHER

The pieces appeared to be from a welted shoe and the tab indicates that it was a tie shoe and not buckle. These facts and the heel pegging (diamond shaped pegs) indicate that the shoes were dated about 1650-1700 or slightly later. The heel attached was built and not solid wood. The larger piece showing stitch holes was probably an inside counter, although this is not certain; the small piece was not identifiable. The sole piece (of which the heel remained) may have been cut for further use of the leather, as was common.

IV BUILDING MATERIALS

BRICKS

Numerous bricks were found, mostly broken; they were thinner and longer than modern bricks. Most were reddish, though a few, especially those mentioned as being heavily burned, were yellowish grey. Many were badly fired, and crumbled easily. Many were found in rubble with red clay on several parts of the site. A number were found laid as floors, either flat or on their sides. At no place on the site were bricks found laid in a fashion which might indicate that they formed a wall, and no mortar was found adhering to them. Numerous bricks of this type are to be found in the wall surrounding the
golf course, especially in the part to the south, and also in the
wall described by Cheetham.

**TILES**

1. Roof and ridge tiles. These were found in the black layer
and clearly belong to the early building period. Figure 6a
shows a decorated, crested ridge tile;\(^{[40]}\) a clear lead glaze
on a red surface gives a mid-brown colour. Three ridge tiles
of this type were found, and a number of flat roof tiles, of
much the same ware and glaze, though one had a glaze
which was considerably blacker. A number of these tiles
showed the holes through which they were affixed to the
roof.

2. Floor tiles. A few fragments of flat floor tiles were discov­
ered, all of them of the later building period. They were 1"
thick, of reddish ware and unglazed, except for one fragment
which had a brownish glaze.

**SLATES**

A large number of stone slates were found, many with holes
for roof nails, and one with the roof nail still through it. They
were about 15" by 12" and of varying thickness. When in
position they must have formed a roof of considerable weight.

**TIMBER**

There were several large pieces of timber, most of which
appeared to be beams or joists, found almost exclusively in the
well, and all associated with the latest building period. The end
of one piece was shaped into a tenon for a mortise-and-tenon
joint.

**STONEWORK**

The walls on the site were of two major types: the thin and
rather crudely built walls without much foundation, mainly
found in the southern part of the site, and the more massive
double walls, sometimes given added bulk by a rubble core.
This first type were probably courtyard walls, though in the
north-west corner they perhaps represent partition walls. The
other walls were meant to carry roofs and, near the entrance,
were sufficiently well-built to suggest that they were to be seen.
Among the stones composing these walls were found several of
particular interest:

\(^{[40]}\) For this type see *Medieval Archaeology*, Vol. IV (1960), pp. 48, 52. At
Corfe Castle they have been dated c. 1350-1500.
(i) Sculptured stone found in the mass of masonry at the west end of the double wall running alongside the conduit. A deep groove was cut into the stone, and the edge was rounded (see Plate 9).

(ii) Sculptured stone found in the north-west corner, measuring 12" by 9" by 6". It was moulded with four grooves, three rounded and one squared, and suggests the architrave of a door or window. The moulded part was turned inward, and would not have been noticed if the stone had not been removed; this was true also of the other moulded stones. This indicates that the stone was not sculptured for the purpose which it was found serving and shows that it was re-used. Burscough Priory was perhaps a useful quarry for the builders of New Park (see Plate 10).

(iii) Sculptured stone found in the clay layer by the well. This was a small fragment, which was scored with two grooves and the area between them rounded. It is of especial interest as it has precisely the same moulding as a stone found in the eastern part of the wall surrounding the golf course. This seems to suggest that many of the stones, as in the case of the bricks, which were robbed from New Park, found their way into this boundary wall. It certainly contains many roughly squared stones similar to those found all over the excavated area.
Plate 10.
MOULDED STONE FOUND IN WELL

Plate 11.
STONE FILTER FOUND IN WELL
Figure 10. PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS

- Clay packing
- Mortared corner
- Rubble trench
- Collapsed brick wall
- Ditch
- Site of new huts of Ormskirk golf course
- Moulded stone
- Brick floor
- Rubble
- Stonework
- Stone chippings

Legend:
- m.s = moulded stone
- Clay floor
- Brick floor
- Rubble
- Stonework
- Stone chippings

Scale: 5 ft to 1 inch

New Park, Lathom
(iv) A stone hollowed out into a small trough, measuring 18\" by 12\" by 9\", which was found in the well. Its association with the well suggests that it was perhaps a water-filter into which the water from the well would be poured to be purified as it drained through the sandstone. (See Plate 11. There is an example of such a water-filter in the Folk Museum, Rufford Old Hall.)

PLASTER

Perhaps surprisingly almost no plaster or mortar was found on the site, which perhaps reinforces the view that these were not major buildings.

GLASS

A large quantity of window glass, most of it greenish and not very clear, and some of it pitted and decayed, was found. Several pieces had become opaque and iridescent. Most was found at the southernmost part of the excavated area, where it had perhaps been dumped. Among the glass, no fragment of which exceeded 1\" across, were found one or two pieces of window-leading.

V GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

There was a settlement in this area called Alton from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries, but it cannot be said definitely that it was in the area now covered by New Park, though this is likely.

On the site marked by the Ordnance Survey as Horton Castle (in its modern editions as Halton Castle) no trace of medieval occupation was found. Therefore the tradition concerning Halton Castle is not supported by archaeological evidence.

The moat is not of an earlier date than the occupation material found on the site, and cannot therefore be dated earlier than the first half of the sixteenth century.

No structure of the first half of the sixteenth century was discovered. It should be emphasised that only one third of the area formerly enclosed by the moat was available for excavation, and that the main site of the house appears to be under the fairway of the golf course.

The main structures found are probably of the second half of the sixteenth century. As they were built on top of layers dated to the first half of the sixteenth century, and all finds dated after 1650 were found on top of these main pieces of
stonework, a date c. 1550-1650 seems most reasonable; documentary evidence points to the latter half of the sixteenth century as the most likely building date.

The buildings excavated were clearly demolished c. 1725, the date of the latest pottery on the site. There were no remains to be noticed by the topographical recorders of the late eighteenth century, such as Yates with his 1" to 1 mile map of Lancashire of 1787.

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