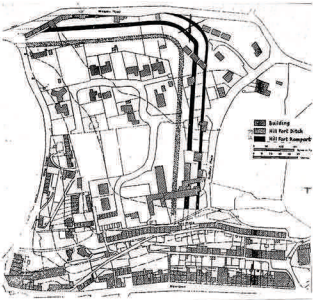


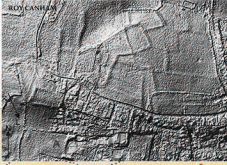


# PRE 1001

This first board looks back to the time before anything was known about Barton Farm itself. But it seems certain that by the 10th Century there was an established settlement at Bradford, probably on the north side of the river. It is likely that this was part of an early West Saxon Royal estate.



An aerial laser scan (Lidar) survey of 2013 has revealed a complex of field systems in this area of Bearfield, probably going back to prehistoric times. Here, bottom left, is the edge of the Roman Villa building.



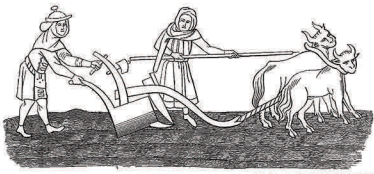
The villa was the centre of a large farming estate. Excavations found the bed-rock had been scratched by ploughing with an ard.



The Iron Age hill fort at Budbury built about 700 to 600 BC, was excavated in 1969 by Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright. His findings showed there had been intermittent use of the site until the end of the Roman period.



THE JULIUS HYMNAL



ANGLO-SAXON MANUSCRIPT

Two medieval images of Anglo Saxon farmwork.

A ford across the river existed in Roman times and probably before. Roman coins have been found west of the present town bridge.

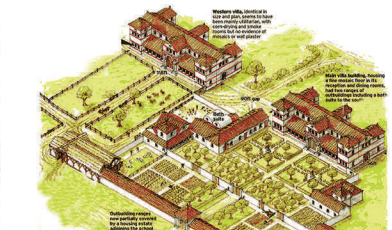
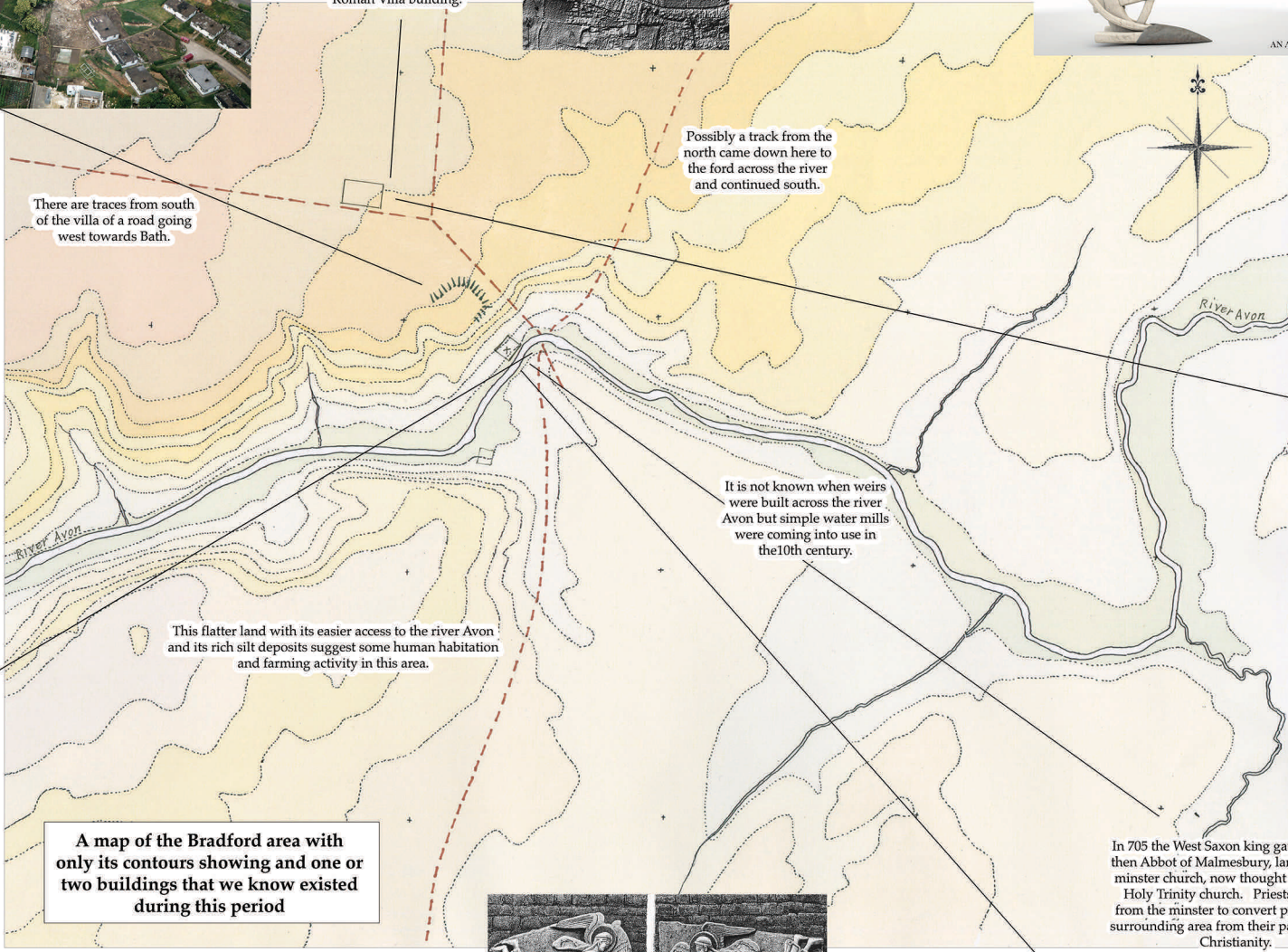


Little is known of the area south of the river, now occupied by Barton Farm. Excavations have taken place in 2014 and have revealed what may be foundations of earlier buildings and possibly a defensive ditch of Anglo Saxon date.

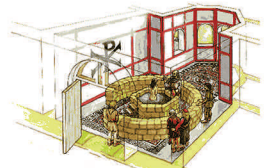
This carved stone panel (the drawing is by JT Irvine) was found in the mid nineteenth century built into a doorway in Holy Trinity church. Now in the chapel of St Laurence as part of the altar table, it is dated to the late seventh or eighth century. Was it part of Aldhelm's original church?



These two angels now in the Saxon Church, one of them the emblem of the Preservation Trust, also date from this period.

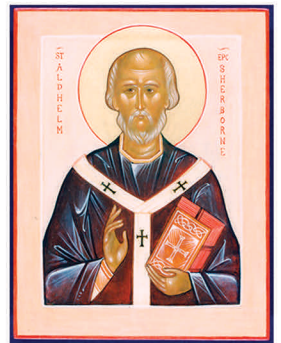


The Roman Villa (excavated in 2002 and 2003) was no doubt built for a wealthy British family in the second and third centuries. It has a high quality Roman mosaic floor.



Damage to this in the 5th century, probably to create a Baptistery, suggests that the family may have become leaders of the local Christian converts.

In 705 the West Saxon king gave Aldhelm, then Abbot of Malmesbury, land here for a minster church, now thought to be under Holy Trinity church. Priests went out from the minster to convert people in the surrounding area from their pagan gods to Christianity.



Saint Aldhelm

Bradford must have been important for the Witan (the great council of the West Saxon King Eadred) to meet here in 957. It appointed Dunstan, the Abbot of Glastonbury to be Bishop of Worcester and chief adviser to the King.

Battle of Dyrham: victory of West Saxons over western British Kingdoms | 577 AD

St Adhelm made Abbot of Malmesbury and from 705 Bishop of Sherborne | c.674-709 AD

Vikings raid up the River Frome | 978 AD

Alfred the Great, King of Wessex | 871-899 AD

Alfred founded the Abbey of Shaftesbury | 888 AD

Aethelred II becomes King | 978 AD

