Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES 1969-70

Chadlington, Oxon. A stone axehead was found by Mr. J. Blackwell in gravel workings near Dean Grove. (Ashmolean Mus. 1969.527; SP/343214.)

Chinner, Oxon. Iron age and Romano British pottery was found by Dr. J. Evans, in the side of Chinnor Quarry, in a buried soil profile 4-5 feet below the

present land surface. (SU/753994.)

Chipping Norton, Oxon. A Roman site is indicated by finds of a considerable quantity of Romano British pottery fragments, and the foundations of a wall. Stones are often turned up during ploughing, and coins are reported to have been found in this area in the past. (SP/321265.)

Combe, Oxon. A quantity of 16-17th century pottery was found at Pound

Cottage while digging a trench in the garden. (SP/412158.)

Enstone, Oxon. Several large stones were ploughed up in a field at SP/358252. The size of the stones and the description of their finding suggest the possibility that they formed part of a burial chamber. The stones have been placed at the side of the field beside the track to Lidstone.

Enstone, Oxon. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Reeves have completed their detailed survey of the Deserted Medieval Village earthworks. The village consisted of one long street running east-west with house sites and crofts along each side. At the east end a complicated group of earthworks may indicate a manor house. Preliminary work on the documentary evidence suggests that this is the lost village of Broadstone. (SP/353252.)

Enstone, Oxon. Mr. M. Aston and Mr. C. Reeves investigated earthworks around the hamlet of Lidstone. Most consisted of house platforms and holloways, indicating that Lidstone had formerly been a larger settlement than it is now.

(SP/355247.)

Islip, Oxon. Mesolithic flints were found about half a mile east of the village

on the south bank of the river Ray. (SP/535138.)

Lewknor, Oxon. A scatter of medieval pottery was found by the Oxford University Archaeological Society whilst surveying the line of the M40 motorway. It may indicate the site of a deserted farmstead. (SU/705995.)

Lewknor, Oxon. A survey of Tonn Farm by Mr. M. Aston and Mr. T. Rowley revealed that the late 18th century farmhouse was built around a timber-framed hall of three bays. The north end has been substantially altered, but the south remains open to the roof. (SU/716975.)

Lewknor, Oxon. A barn at Church Farm was examined, and seems to be a 3-bay aisled hall; it has been provisionally dated by Mr. J. T. Smith to 1350-1430.

(SU/715977.)

Marsh Baldon, Oxon. An extensive scatter of Romano British pottery was surveyed by Mr. M. Aston and Mr. C. Young. Fragments of mortaria, red-colourcoated pottery and kiln debris indicate the site of workshops and perhaps 8 or 9 pottery kilns. (SU/562977.)

North Leigh, Oxon. A survey of earthworks by Mr. M. Aston showed that there had once been more houses and crofts around the church than there are now. The village is now centred around the windmill, a third of a mile to the south, suggesting shrinkage of the village or movement to the new site. (SP/387137.)

Oxford, Headington. Roman and medieval pottery was found by Mr. J. Millard

during excavations at the Oxford School. (SP/539053.)

Oxford. In addition to the work reported elsewhere in this journal, the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee has been involved in rescue work at the following sites:

92-93, High Street. Medieval rubbish pits were exposed during the construction of a new strongroom at Barclays Old Bank; a good group of pottery was salvaged. (SP/51670620.)

Jesus College. The tops of medieval pits were seen in the foundation

trenches for concrete ground beams in the new quadrangle; no pottery was

recovered. (SP/51320634.)

University College. In building a new common room, a large stone-lined chamber with a brick vault was uncovered lying across the line of the medieval Kybald Street; it was almost certainly a large cess pit. Trial excavation failed to throw any light on Kybald Street, but a good group of post medieval

pottery was discovered. (SP/51730616.)

The Blackfriars. The west end of the church was located during excavations on the west side of Albert Street. Nearly all the stone walls had been robbed out to below water level, but the end of the nave, part of the north aisle and south aisle (?) were uncovered. These excavations mean that the plan of the church is now complete. Several burials and one stone coffin were found. (SP/51210582.)

Radley, Berks. Excavations have been started at Peach Croft Farm by the Radley College Archaeological Society on a gravel site patterned with cropmarks. Several ditches and pits have been excavated, and have yielded pottery and coins mainly of the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. The site had also produced a few scraps of

earlier, south Gaulish Samian ware. (SU/514986.)

Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. A ring ditch, with internal diameter of 23 metres, was destroyed during gravel quarrying. The crushed remains of a Bronze Age Urn containing a cremation were found in a shallow pit dug into the gravel at the centre of the circle. The ditch filling had been scooped out and dumped to one side; a hollow-based flint arrowhead, several worked flakes and sherds of Romano British

pottery were found in the dump. (SP/408045.)

Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. Discovery of part of a blocked side window by Mrs. Hilary Hide during restoration work in the chancel of Stanton Harcourt parish church led to an investigation which has established the main phases in the structural history of the chancel and enabled the preservation of large parts of the decorative schemes of the 13th and 15th centuries, including slight fragments of a figure scene and heraldry. New evidence for the fittings of the chancel in the medieval and later periods was also discovered. Further publication is intended. (SP/416056.)

Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. A quantity of Belgic pottery was found by Mr. L. Bishop in a rubbish pit in an abandoned corner of a gravel pit. (SP/405053.)

104

Swinbrook Cottage produced large quantities of 12th and 13th century pottery, bone pins, various iron objects and a large quantity of bones. There was some

slight evidence for a post-hole building.

Toot Baldon, Oxon. An earthwork, first ploughed during the summer of 1970, was examined by Mr. M. Aston. It proves to be part of the boundary bank of the village. Other earthworks in the vicinity indicated that there were formerly many more homesteads and crofts in the village, and that it must now be considered to be a severely shrunken settlement. (SP/569009.)

Warborough, Oxon. A sherd of Beaker pottery was found by Mr. R. T. Rowley on the surface of the heavily crop-marked field illustrated in J. K. St. Joseph, The

Uses of Air Photography, 1966, pl. 59. (SU/591946.)

Waterperry, Oxon. A Neolithic polished greenstone axe was found at Bakers

Farm while digging a drainage trench.

Woodeaton, Oxon. A triangular fragment of sheet gold, a clipping from an amulet, was found by Mr. Beaumont at the Temple site. The fragment is inscribed in Greek letters, many repeated three or four times for greater magical significance. Only one word, Adonae, the Hebrew word for Lord, is intelligible. The fragment is illustrated in Britannia 1, 1970, 305. (SP/536126.)

Wytham, Berks. Struck flints including a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead, a plano-convex knife and an end-scraper were reported by Mr. H. Bailey from ploughed

ground at the Experimental Farm. (SP/472096.)

M. Aston and P. D. C. Brown.

WOODEATON INTAGLIOS

Amongst the objects published by Miss Joan Kirk, from the temple site of Woodeaton, was a 3rd century bronze ring set with a glass paste intaglio (imitating Nicolo-an onyx with an upper blue layer and a lower dark one). The device (PL. XVII) was described as a 'barbarian archer', but as it is in fact based very closely on a statue of Poseidon (Neptune), dating from the 4th century B.C., it seemed sufficiently important to write this note as a correction.

The god is depicted facing right, with a trident held in his right hand and a drape over his right arm. His left arm is outstretched and upon the hand he supports a small dolphin. His right leg is straight and takes the weight of his body; but his left is flexed and rests upon a ship's prow, thus emphasizing the god's dominion

The only certain glyptic parallel from Britain is a nicolo paste, also set in a 3rd century bronze ring, from the fort at South Shields.2 This is very similar to the Woodeaton specimen, although it is not exactly the same and cannot have been cast in the same mould. Another paste, again set in a bronze ring, comes from Coventina's Well, at Carrawburgh; it seems to depict Jupiter, seated on his throne and facing left, but the god represented could conceivably be Neptune, for the object he holds is more like a dolphin or a wave than an eagle. However if this is Neptune,

1 Oxoniensia xIV (1949), 22, no. 16, and Fig. 5, no. 13.

² Arch. Ael. x (1885), 266, no. 14—Arch. Ael. xxxxx (1961), 32, no. 17, which is probably the same as Arch. Ael. xxxxx (1961), 32, no. 8.

³ Arch. Ael. xxxxx (1961), 29, no. 66 and pl. 5, no. 1. For a relief showing a reclining Neptune from Carrawburgh cf. J. Collingwood Bruce, The Roman Wall, (3rd edn. 1867), 172.

it hardly reflects the statue type to any great extent.4 It is worth mentioning that the Celts in the Roman provinces sometimes equated Neptune with healing deities such as Nodens.5 This certainly explains the presence of a statue of the god—if not of the intaglio-at Carrawburgh and might also plausibly explain the dedication

of our seal-ring at Woodeaton.

One other bronze ring containing an intaglio has been found at Woodeaton and is also in the Ashmolean museum. The gem (PL. XVII) shows a hare with long ears standing on its hind legs;6 the creature is dressed in a cloak or birrhus and holds out a patera in its front paws. Scenes with animals dressed as humans and performing human actions are relatively common on Roman gems and were evidently thought to bring luck or avert the 'Evil Eye'. However I only know of two other examples from Britain: an unpublished cornelian from Malton depicts a seated hare playing the double-pipe while a bird looks on from the top of a nearby column,8 and a mouse driving a cart pulled by a cock is the theme of a red jasper intaglio from Aldborough (Isurium Brigantium).9

MARTIN HENIG.

ANOTHER EARLY SAXON COIN FROM SHAKENOAK

The excavations at Shakenoak Farm, North Leigh, Oxon, which produced in 1968 a Saxon penny of the first quarter of the 8th century, have now produced a second coin of the same period.





FIG. 12 (Scale 2:1)

Obverse: Diademed bust to right, holding cross.

Reverse: Figure standing facing, head right, holding two long crosses; cross-

hatching on shirt.

↑ Nt. 0.70 gm. Debased silver, slightly worn (the obverse being badly struck). See C. F. Keary, A Catalogue of English coins in the British Museum, Anglo-Saxon series, vol. I, type 15(a). The coin is now in the Ashmolean Museum.

4 For the statue type in general cf. F. P. Johnson, Lysippos (1927), who gives numismatic parallels. On samian ware, F. Oswald, Index of Figure types on Terra Sigillata (reprinted 1964) 16, and pl. 1, nos. 11 and 13; and on gems, G. Sena Chiesa, Gemme del Museo Nazionale di Aquileia (1966), no. 46 and E. Zwierlein-Dichl, Antike Gemmen in Deutschen Sammlungen II, Staatliche Museen Berlin (1969), no. 361 and works there cited.

5 A. Ross Pagan Celtic Britain (1967), 179.
6 A projection to the front of the head makes it possible that the animal is wearing a broad rimmed hat; its large feet and rodent-like snout makes any other identification of the animal unlikely.

7 C. W. King, Antique Gems and Rings, (1872), 271, and Carinthia I, CLVI (1966), 422 ff, fig. 114
 for a possible Egyptian origin. For other gems, cf. Chiesa op. cit., nos. 1350-1, 1358-61.
 8 In the Roman Museum, Malton; found in excavations in the north-east corner of the Fort

(1926-1930). 9 Yorkshire Arch. Journ. XL (1959), 77, and fig. 26, no. 14 (jasper not cornelian as there stated).

The coin came from the fill of the enclosure ditch which bounds the site on its northern side. A 500 ft. length of this ditch has now been excavated and the results are reported in Excavations at Shakenoak III, to be published in 1971.10 Since the finds from this ditch are of considerable interest and may shed light on the possibility of continuous occupation of the site a summary of them is given here. It has already been established that occupation of the stone buildings A and B continued until at least the decade 420-430 A.D. Fragments of late-Roman mercenary beltfittings found in the latest levels of Building A may indicate the presence of Germanic mercenaries at this period. The ditch itself was dug in the last years of the Roman period, the earliest deposit containing pottery of the late 4th and early 5th centuries. The ditch then gradually filled up over a period of many years, different lengths being filled in at different times, so that it was possible to separate out three post-Roman deposits of different periods. The earliest of these deposits contained a mixture of wheel-made, rilled, calcite-gritted ware (but no other wheel-made wares) and sherds of hand-made vessels with pierced and cupped lugs, together with a further two mercenary belt-fittings and a brooch dated to the end of the fifth century. The second deposit seemed to date from the 6th and 7th centuries and included grass-tempered pottery and a large range of other objects which demonstrate extensive iron-smelting and iron-working, bone-working and weaving on the site. The Saxon coin described here came from an otherwise sterile area and is the latest object from the ditch. 8th-century occupation is confirmed on Site B (Shakenoak II) where the other penny was found in close association with a bronze buckle of the late 7th century. Occupation seems to have ceased entirely soon after the middle of the 8th century and the burials on Site A (Shakenoak I) and on Site C (Shakenoak IV, forthcoming) are probably connected with this.

D. R. WALKER.

EXCAVATIONS AT NORTHFIELD FARM, LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.

The well-known cropmarks at Northfield Farm¹¹ are threatened with destruction by gravel quarrying. In a response to this threat the Upper Thames Archaeological Committee has begun a series of excavations on the site. Work began in 1969 with a seven-week season in Scabbs Field (SU/553953). Nine-tenths of an acre were mechanically stripped of top-soil and hand-cleared before total excavation of all ditches and features encountered (plan, Fig. 13). The following chronology is suggested.

Pre-Roman Features

A. Ring-ditch with causeway interrupting its west side, the south side being cut by a Roman ditch and a Roman interment. There were no signs of any internal or peripheral structures, apart from a pit slightly off centre, which may contain burnt bone (analysis awaited), but it was obvious that continuous ploughing had destroyed a great deal, the present depth of topsoil being only 15 cm. There was slight evidence on the south side of there having been an external bank which had slipped back into the ditch which suggests a Class I Henge as at the neighbouring

 10 Copies of this volume and of the two preceding ones may be obtained from Dr. A. R. Hands at Exeter College, Oxford, price \pounds_1 each post free.

11 Proc. Soc. Ant., 25, XVIII, 10 ff; Oxoniensia VI (1940), 164-5.

Dorchester site¹² but there was no sign of post pits in the bottom of the ditches, which were completely flat at the bottom. The size of the ring-ditch (18·50 m. by 15 m. from outer edge of the ditches) does not correspond with those at Dorchester, the depth of the ditches being 1 metre from the gravel surface. There was no occupation debris, or indeed any finds at all, which precludes the possibility of a hut site. It is therefore suggested that this may be a type of Henge-barrow as mentioned by P. Ashbee.¹³ As there was no Roman pottery in the top filling of the ditches these had probably completely filled up by the time a Roman ditch cut through them.

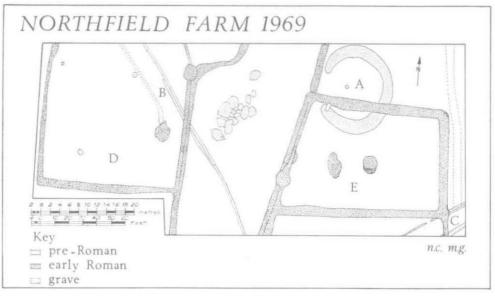


FIG. 13

B. Two parallel ditches, running north-west to south-east and continuing as a crop-mark for some distance on each side of the excavation; these are probably related to C, two ditches which crossed the south-east corner of the excavation, running north-east to south-west. The junction would probably be 18 metres south of the present excavation. All these ditches were cut by Roman features, the most westerly of B showing only as staining on the gravel, vanished completely after its interruption by a large Roman pit, but shows clearly as a crop-mark outside the area of excavation. There was no dating evidence from any of these ditches but their shape suggests that of Celtic fields. The ditches varied in depth from 60 cm. to 85 cm.

There was also a complex of intersecting shallow pits, just to the west of A,

R. J. C. Atkinson, Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon. (1951).
 P. Ashbee, The Bronze Age Round Barrow in Britain (1960), 132.

which produced small fragments of possibly Bronze Age pottery; these may have been quarry pits for A or for other ring-ditches in the close vicinity.

Roman features

D. The West Enclosure. Only the southern part of this enclosure could be excavated as the northern ditch lay under crop. It is possible that this area had some relationship with the wide droveway showing so clearly as a crop-mark further north-east and that the entrance from this was at the north-east side of the enclosure. The excavated area measured 28 metres east-west by 28 metres north-south, the south and west ditches being contemporary and having definite post-holes for a timber palisade set into a ditch averaging 60 cm in depth from the gravel surface. These posts were not seen in the east ditch as the earlier ditch which was associated with the south and west ditches had been cut by a later ditch which was probably associated with the large pit at its northern end. This west ditch shows on the air

photographs as continuing south for some way before terminating.

E. This enclosure was totally excavated and found to contain a large Roman pit and a deep hollow where there was a concentration of pottery indicative of a living area whose post holes could have been lost in subsequent ploughing. It is possible that this trapezoidal enclosure was a northern extension, in the form of a stockaded cattle or sheep corral, to an existing field which shows up clearly on the air photographs. The west ditch of enclosure E has three phases, one of which is contemporary with the other three ditches of E, the two others being both earlier and later. Further work is needed on the pottery, which is plentiful, to confirm the exact sequence of events postulated during the excavation of this ditch. The ditches of E average 75 cm. in depth and the post holes of the palisade showed up very clearly where the water-table allowed for their proper excavation. An area of stained gravel with slight rutting suggests the existence of a road on the west side of E.

It seems likely that these enclosures are the field system for the buildings further south excavated by Mr. Hewitt in 1893; the scarcity of pottery in the ditches on the north and west sides in comparison with those on the south and east supports this theory. That this community had only a short existence is suggested by the fact that the pottery can be dated to the end of the 1st and most of the 2nd century A.D. The interment cut through both the ring-ditch and the north ditch of enclosure E which had, before this date, been deliberately filled back, the skeleton had with it a bowl of third century date which seemed to have been broken up before its deposition.

M. Gray.

MEDIEVAL FLOOR TILES FROM GODSTOW

The tiles recorded in the following lists come from the reserve collection of Medieval floor tiles in the Ashmolean Museum. The tiles were found at the site of the Godstow nunnery over the last ten years. Both inlaid and printed tiles are represented and are listed below according to the serial numbers in Loyd Haberly's Medieval English Pavingtiles (Oxford, 1937). All but one of the Godstow tiles which Haberly records as being in the Ashmolean collection have been identified. The exception is printed tile number CLXXVI and Haberly says that he completed this design from identical tiles in Stone Church, Bucks. The two other tiles which he records from Godstow (without reference to the Ashmolean) have not been recognized. They are printed tile no. CCXXI and inlaid tile no. LXXV.

Inlaid Tiles

All the inlaid tiles were keyed. Abbreviation: s indicates that the tile was scored before firing, into triangles (st), quarters and triangles ($s\frac{1}{4}t$), or eighths ($s\frac{1}{8}t$),

CERTAIN

I: Two fragments.
III: One fragment.

IX: Two fragments. slt. Complete.

XI: One fragment.

XIII: One tile. Complete.

XIV: Five fragments. Three were st.

XVI: One fragment. slt. XVII: Four fragments.

XVIII: Seven fragments. One a corner frag. XIX: Four fragments. Two complete tiles.

XXIV: One corner fragment, two broken fragments and one complete but

broken tile with a third concentric line instead of a circle in the

corner.

XXIVa: One complete but broken tile. A variation of the design—without

holes in the circle.

XXV: Four small fragments and two broken and incomplete tiles.

XXVI: One corner fragment. XXVIII: One complete tile.

XXIX: One fragment and one tile st but unbroken with traces of glaze.

XXXI: One corner fragment and tile st but unbroken. Both faded.

XXXII: One complete tile and one corner fragment with traces of glaze.

XXXVI: One complete tile.

XXXVII: Fragments and one complete tile (mended).

XXXIX: One fragment.

XLIII: Two corner fragments with Fleurs-de-lys four small fragments (one

 $s_{8}^{1}t$), two broken and incomplete tiles and one complete tile.

LI: Four small fragments, one incomplete and broken tile, one tile st, and two complete tiles (one broken). All of these were a slight variation on Haberly's design—the four inlaid squares were

incomplete.

LIII: One corner fragment st.

LIV: Seven fragments, three larger broken pieces and three corner fragments

with Fleurs-de-lys.

LVI: Twenty-five fragments. Thirteen were st. LX: One nearly complete but broken tile.

LXI: One fragment.

LXII: Sixteen examples. Five fragments, eight broken and incomplete

tiles, three complete tiles.

LXIII: Four broken and incomplete tiles. LIX: One glazed fragment. (st).

LXV: One complete tile.

LXVIII: One incomplete and broken tile.

Eleven pieces. Eight small fragments, one (st), and two broken tiles.

Haberly p. 301 E: One fragment. Haberly p. 301 F: One fragment.

UNCERTAIN

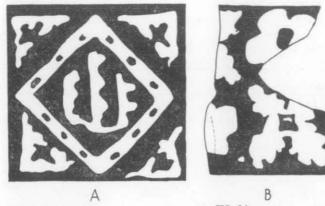
In the collection there are five additional fragments which are either design XXIV or XXV. One of these displays the variation of the third concentric ring instead of a circle in the corner.

There is one fragment which is either design XVII or XVIII.

UNIDENTIFIED

Four inlaid tiles carried designs not illustrated in Haberly.

(A) There were two of this design. It consists of the letter W inside a perforated diamond with four corner inlays. There are no exact parallels but it has similarities





with a tile that appears elsewhere. See : A Parker, Trans. Thoroton Society (Nottingham), Vol. xxxvi, 1932, nos. 43 and 44; P. B. Chatwin 'Medieval Pavingtiles of Warwickshire', Birmingham Arch. Soc. Trans., LX, 1936, 24, FIG. 21; N. Whitcombe, Floor Tiles of Leicestershire, 1956, Nos. 135-137.

(B) This is a broken and incomplete tile. The design is deeply inlaid and is

similar to a tile from Bicester Priory.
See: D. A. Hinton, Oxoniensia, Vol. xxxIII, 1968, 45, FIG. 13 K.

(C) This is a triangular tile with a design also similar to an inlaid tile from Bicester Priory. Unlike the Bicester example the terminal in the design is solid. See: Ibid, 45, FIG. 13 A.

Printed Tiles

All the printed tiles were unkeyed.

CERTAIN

One tile. Complete. LXXIX:

One fragment and one complete tile. LXXX:

One complete tile and one broken fragment. LXXXI:

XCVIII: One tile. Complete.

C: One complete glazed tile and one corner fragment with traces of glaze

and Fleurs-de-lys.

CVII: Four fragments. CLXVII: One fragment.

CLXVIII: One fragment stamped but not printed and coated with green glaze.

CLXX: Two examples. One complete tile.

CCX: Two examples. One complete tile. This design shows a monogram

AM or inverted IHC.

CCXIII: Two complete tiles; one very worn.

CCXVII: One corner fragment. Traces of glaze

CCXIX: Two complete tiles. Traces of glaze.

CCXXII: One complete tile.

CCLI: Seven examples. Five fragments. One complete tile and one com-

plete and broken.

CCLII: Two fragments. CCLVI: One tile.

CCLVII: Nine fragments.

CCLVIII: One fragment and two complete but with variation in top left hand

corner.

CCLIX: Six fragments.

UNCERTAIN

One incomplete and worn tile with traces of glaze which is possibly CCLVIII.

UNIDENTIFIED

Four tiles (two small fragments and two almost complete) are too badly printed and badly worn to be identified. The two small fragments have dark brown glaze.

Plain Tiles

There are also some plain tiles from Godstow. These are tiles that were glazed but not pattened. From these tiles five types were distinguished:

(1) Type I was represented by rectangular tiles about 13 × 6 · 5 × 1 · 75 cm. The tiles had soft red and grey fabrics and all were black glazed. All

were keyed.

(2) Type II was represented by eight small triangular tiles with dimensions of about $6 \times 6 \times 9$ cm. and 2 cm. thick. Red sandy fabric. Six of the tiles had light green or yellow glaze. This effect is achieved by applying white slip and then glaze to the red clay before firing. All were keyed.

(3) Type III was represented by rectangular, thick (and therefore probably later) tiles. All had a length of about 15 cm. and were about 2.8 cm. thick. Hard, red and brick-like fabric. They were all unkeyed and had dull, dark-

green glaze.

(4) Type IV was represented by one large triangular tile. Hard fabric and keyed. The tile was sooty, indicating possibly that it is from a hearth.

Triangular $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2} \times 20$ cm. and 2 cm. thick.

(5) Type V was represented by two small fragments. Fabric and colour are very like type III. Type V however are keyed. Dark green and black glaze. Thickness was about 2 · 7 cm. Alison Howard-Drake.





Casts of intaglios from Woodeaton; scale 4:1.

Photo: Ashmolean Museum