Excavations at Hanwell, near Banbury, Oxon., 1974

By R. A. Chambers

SUMMARY

A deserted part of the shrunken medieval village of Hanwell was investigated by a rescue excavation during April 1974 before the development of the site for house building. The earthworks[1] suggested several building platforms in the north-west corner of the field with contiguous enclosures to the south and east, the whole separated from the open fields by a major linear boundary bank and ditch. Trenching and area excavation[2] revealed several buildings, the earliest of which probably dated from the mid-medieval period. The land had been cleared of remaining standing structures and the site allowed to grass over in the late 17th or early 18th century. During the excavation a number of late Saxon pottery sherds was recovered suggesting nearby occupation.[3]

INTRODUCTION

THE site was excavated by the writer for the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. I would like to acknowledge Cherwell District Council for permission to excavate the site and also to Mr. A. P. Pick of Spring Farm for his general help and advice. Thanks are also due to Mr. John Hazelden of the Soil Survey for England and Wales for advice on the local geology and to all of the volunteers and assistants who assisted with the excavation.

The parish of Hanwell, in Bloxham Hundred, lies mainly between 120 m. O.D. and 150 m. O.D. and the landscape is of a typically upland character.[4] The present village lies on high, open ground to the east of the hill brow. Four villages, Shotteswell, Little Bourton, Drayton and Horley lie to the north, east, south and west, within a radius of 1·6 km. (1 mile) of Hanwell, and the medieval market town of Banbury lies 3·2 km. to the south.[5] The village was first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it was valued at £7.[6]

The site lies on high open ground, 130 m. above sea level and is situated in a field at the eastern end of the village on the southern side of the Wroxton-Bourton road (area centred SP 43754380, PL. V). The earthworks lay on ground which drops gently to the east into a broad north-south valley 30 m. below. South of the site the land slopes away into a small east-west valley which had been dammed to create the castle fishponds.[7]

[1] I am indebted to M. Aston of the Oxford City and County Museum Woodstock, who originally recorded the site (P.R.N. 5924).

[2] The finds and excavation records will be deposited with the O.C.C.M.

[3] The name Hanwell implies that the village was originally settled in Anglo-Saxon times. Margaret Gelling, *The Place-Names of Oxfordshire* (English Place Name Soc. XXIII, 1954), ii, 398.

[4] *V.C.H. Oxon.*, IX, 112.

[5] O.S. Map. One inch, 1968 ed.

[6] *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 424.

[7] *V.C.H. Oxon.*, IX, 114.

The water-table lies 6 m.–9 m. below the site.

The subsoil consists of non-calcareous, Middle Lias silty clays and shale beds.[8] The Marlstone Rock Bed caps the ridge immediately to the west, slightly above the village.

THE EARTHWORKS (FIG. 1, PL. V)

A topographical survey was undertaken to record the limits of the settlement on this side of the village where the remains lay under permanent pasture. The present field (FIG. 1) was probably formed during the enclosure period in about 1780.[9] The field boundary comprised drystone walling which in places had been denuded of its stone almost to ground level. A N.E.-S.W. pre-enclosure period land boundary F21 showed within the field as a low, linear bank. To the S.W. this bank increased to 0·75 m. high by 4·6 m. wide where the present field boundary wall built along the top had afforded it protection. Within the field the decreased height of the boundary bank may have been due to a brief period of cultivation.

The major earthworks comprised building platforms and enclosures and lay in the western half of the field. F1 and F3 were enclosure ditches, F6 was a N.-S. boundary bank later shown to be a wall, and F5 was a very low, wide, linear bank which suggested a levelled enclosure boundary. The land east of F6 and F3 may have originally been divided into two enclosures by F5, with the land west of F3 representing another enclosure. F1 formed a steep break of slope and was observable for 80 m. north of the Wroxton-Bourton road even though it had recently been ploughed over (PL. V). A ramp, F4, crossed the ditch immediately south of the road. The more gentle, extended slope opposite the south end of F1 suggested a late access route to this enclosure after Ditch F3 had silted up. F11 was a sunken area 1·5 m.–2·0 m. below the ground surface to the east and north with a broad mound F10 to the west.

Of the possible building platforms F12–17, F12–14 showed as level, semi-rectangular, slightly depressed areas 0·1 m.–0·2 m. deep. F15 was a platform cut into the sloping ground. F17 presented an abrupt east edge and level top. The western half of F17 lay in a neighbouring front garden and all trace of it had been lost. F16 differed from the rest, being a low, circular mound approx. 0·4 m. high with a slightly hollow centre. Within each of the platforms, F12–16,[10] the vegetation of stinging nettle and cow parsley grew noticeably denser than in the rest of the field. The topography gave no indication of the existence of the buildings uncovered in Trench L at the northern end of F6.

An unexplained large rectangular hollow F7 approx. 1·7 m. deep lay inside the southern corner of Boundary F1. Between F7 and F1 the height of the boundary bank accompanying F1 increased. A broad, shallow, depressed area F8 was filled in before recording was finished.

There was well formed ridge and furrow ploughing on the triangle of ground to

[8] E. A. Edmonds, E. G. Poole, V. Wilson, *The Geology of the Country Around Banbury and Edgehill*. Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain (1965), H.M.S.O.

[9] In 1768 Sir Charles Cope was Lord of the Manor and owner of all the lands except the Glebe. In consequence no Enclosure Award map was drawn and the Enclosure Act for Hanwell (1783) is a private act.

[10] Not evident on the aerial photograph (PL. V) which was taken in August 1961.

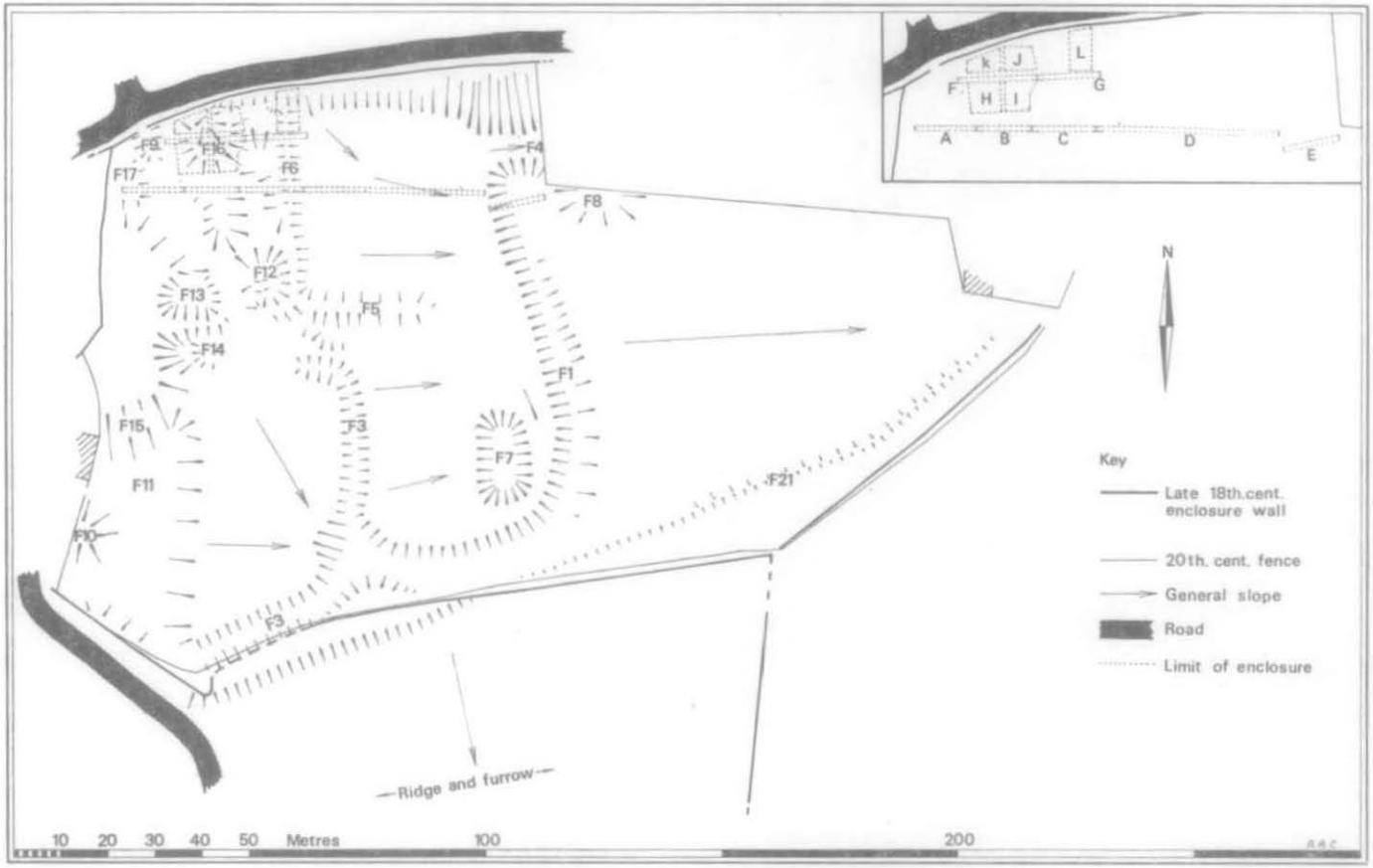

FIG. 1
Earthwork Survey

the south of the site.[11] The ridge and furrow probably once extended over the fields to the east but has since been levelled by modern ploughing.

THE EXCAVATIONS

The site was under permanent pasture and the excavation demonstrated that the earthworks west of Boundary F1 had not been under cultivation since the site had been deserted. Excavation was confined to the area required for house building. The area between F17, F6 and the enclosure east of F6, was explored by a single 1·2 m. trench 78 m. long from east to west (A–D). The boundary bank and ditch F1 was explored by a 1·2 m. trench 12 m. long from east to west (E). These two trenches could not be coterminous because of the need to section the boundary at right angles. The raised area F16 was examined by a single 1·2 m. trench 30 m. long from east to west (F–G). Trench F was expanded into an area excavation (H, I, J, K) covering approx. 160 sq. m. to examine F16 more fully. The abrupt ending of the boundary F6 north of Trench G was examined by excavating an area 9 m.×5 m. (L).

In general the remains lay immediately under the turf which was stripped by hand.

General Stratification

The natural bedrock comprised silty clays with non-calcareous shale beds of varying thickness and hardness. In areas A, B, H, I excavation revealed hard shale 0·2–0·3 m. below the surface. The ground slope had cut obliquely through the natural bedding and eastwards the natural changed to thinner, softer shale bands in a light brown and grey, streaked, silty clay.

The majority of the building stone found at all levels on the site was of a local brown sandy ferruginous limestone from the Marlstone Rock Bed which in the Banbury area is known as ironstone.[12]

Limestone roofing slate and occasional pieces of oolitic building stone were often found with the ironstone rubble. These limestones were both of a fissile, sandy, oolitic and detrital limestone most probably from the Great Oolite.

Trench A (Section S^1–S^2, FIG. 3 and FIG. 2)

Removal of the turf revealed that the edge of Platform F17 was bounded by an unmortared, coursed ironstone, rubble wall W1, the east edge of which had at this point been destroyed by a 20th-century service trench. About 1·5 m. behind or west of W1 lay a second wall W2 of similar construction but 18° out of parallel with W1. The western edge of W2 appeared to merge into the clean, brown silty clay of Platform F17 which remained unsectioned. An exploratory trench along the west edge of W1 revealed that three foundation courses remained to a depth of 0·35 m. An occupation layer of dark soil with charcoal flecks (layer 17, Section S^1–S^2, FIG. 3) revealed two medieval coarseware sherds. It was not possible to examine F17 any further at that time.

[11] Also not evident on the aerial photograph because of bad light.
[12] Also mined for its iron content. W. J. Arkell, *Oxford Stone* (1947), 83.


Key
Ironstone
Worked stone
Natural shale
Prominent edges
Area H upon removal of the rubble layer (21)
Trench F
Area H
Area J
Area K
Area L
Area H
Area I
W4
W5
F–G
N
Service trench
S1
W2
W1
S2
A–B
B–C
W3
C–D
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Metres
20
30

FIG. 2

East of Wall W1 and below 0·2 m. of turf the ground dropped slightly with a spread of well packed ironstone and some oolitic slate rubble (layer 46) which extended for 6 m. from the edge of the service trench before merging into a small patch of larger ironstone rubble. At the east end of Trench A the natural shale bedrock lay beneath approx. 0·2 m. of turf.

Trench B (FIG. 2)

The shale bedrock continued from Trench A for 4·3 m. into Trench B. This then changed into a heavy mottled clay laden with shale fragments. Ironstone rubble (layer 62) had been trodden into the surface of this softer natural.

Trench C (FIG. 2)

The ironstone rubble extended 4·4 m. into Trench C before the natural bedrock again changed into a hard, shaley clay that formed an unbroken surface flush with that of the ironstone. The surface of layer 62 was uneven with an approx. 0·1 m. deep linear depression that ran obliquely E.S.E.-W.N.W. and a slightly depressed area covering the eastern 1·5 m. of the layer.

The east end of Trench C sectioned Boundary F6 (FIG. 2). At this point the bank stood 0·4 m. high and comprised a low pile of medium and small ironstone rubble under a covering of turf. The rubble lay in and over a shallow N.-S. trench 1·60 m. wide by 0·1–0·15 m. deep. The rubble probably represented the core of a drystone wall (W3) robbed of its large and consequently useful facing stones, although the foundation trench appears unusually wide. The irregular eastern edge of the trench suggested that it had been enlarged, perhaps to assist foundation robbing.

East of Wall W3, mixed small ironstone and shale rubble lay directly below the turf and above the natural. This continued into Trench D for 0·5 m.

Trench D (FIG. 2)

Removal of the turf revealed that the natural clay was overlain by a sterile red-brown silty, sandy, clay subsoil. At 11·5 m. from the west end of Trench D a small pit 0·3 m. deep by 0·4 m. wide in section with slightly sloping sides lay partly beyond the southern edge of the trench. The pit fill was of a similar colour but more friable than the subsoil and contained flecks of charcoal.

Trench E (Sections S3–S4 and S5–S6, FIG. 3)

The centre of Trench E sectioned the boundary ditch revealing a 3 m. wide, post-medieval recutting (*b*) of a deeper, possibly late medieval ditch (*a*). The main fill of Ditch *a* contained charcoal flecks and one small abraded sherd of medieval sandy fabric cooking-pot. The dimensions of Ditch *a* estimated from the top of the old ground surface, layer 63, were approximately 1·2 m. deep by 2 m. wide. There was no clear division between the fill of the shallower, flat bottomed, post-medieval Ditch *b* and Ditch *a* (66). The grey-brown sandy, clayey, loam which covered the bottom of Ditch *b* and filled Pit F18 contained fragments of coal, probably derived from a coal tip, the remains of which could be seen as layer 59 sealing the turf line 63 to the east of the ditch. The coal (layer 59) appears to have sealed the ground surface (63) after the bank (64) had been thrown up and the first ditch (*a*) had silted

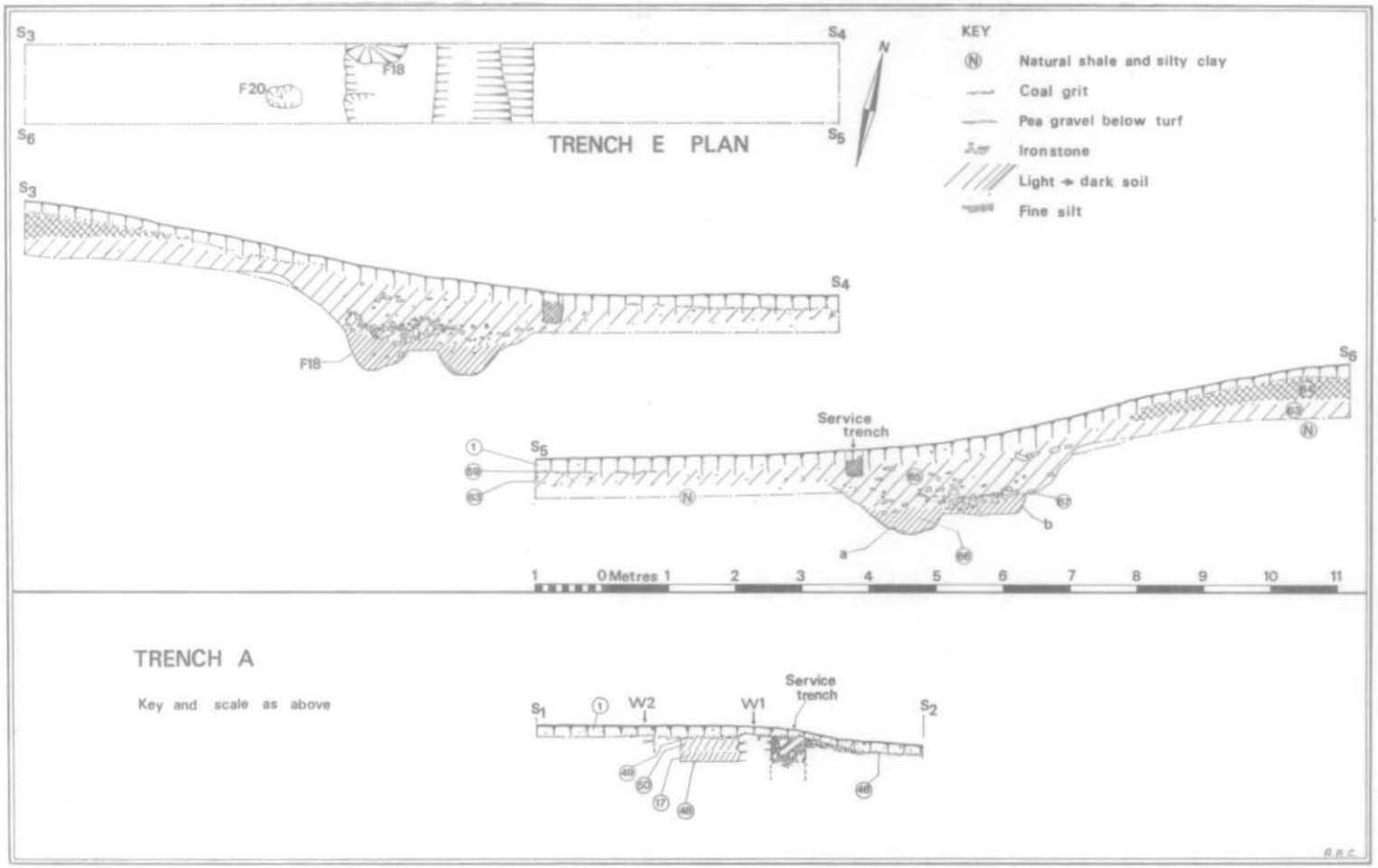
S3
S4
S6
S5
F20
F18
N
TRENCH E PLAN
KEY
Natural shale and silty clay
Coal grit
Pea gravel below turf
Ironstone
Light → dark soil
Fine silt
Service trench
1 0 Metres 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
TRENCH A
Key and scale as above
S1
W2
W1
S2

FIG. 3

up to a level above that of the remaining fill. Layer 67 was a mixture of large ironstone rubble, occasional oolite roofing slate, coal fragments and some silty clay inclusions in a matrix similar to layer 65 above. Both layers may represent a deliberate infilling of the ditch from the west bank during the late 17th or early 18th century. The high proportion of medieval pottery found in layers 65 and 67 may indicate that late medieval rubbish originally filled the upper half of the primary ditch (*a*) which was later recut to form Ditch *b*. The upcast from Ditch *b* was later returned as infilling.

The west end of Trench E part-sectioned the accompanying bank, a layer of silty clay and soil mix, layer 64. The bank sealed an earlier turf line (63) which merged into natural at the bottom of the trench. Layer 63 merged laterally into the ditch infilling (65) but was clearly discernible again in both sections east of the ditch.

Trench F (FIG. 2)

The circular mound with a slightly depressed centre (F16) proved to be the tumbled remains of a post-medieval, circular walled enclosure, possibly a pen. The wall (W4) comprised unmortared ironstone some of which was re-used stonework.

Cattle had scattered and trodden the surface rubble from the remains of the wall into a rough, small cobble at the base of the turf. In the western half of Trench F removal of this tread exposed the natural hard shale upon which the wall rubble was also later found to rest.

The east end of the trench exposed the return of the enclosure wall. From the trench centre eastwards mottled silty clay had replaced the shale bedrock, and 2·3 m. from the east end of the trench a flat-bottomed gulley 0·15 m. deep (F19) had been cut into this natural clay. The east edge of the gulley appeared to lie under the wall rubble and perhaps pre-dated the pen.

Trench G (FIG. 2)

The scatter of ironstone rubble from Trench F extended 1·5 m. eastwards into Trench G. Four metres from the east end of Trench G, F6 was shown to be an unmortared N.-S. wall W5, 0·8 m. wide, composed of roughly squared uncoursed ironstone. The ground surface contemporary with the wall was reflected in the southern section of Area L (Section S^8–S^9, FIG. 4).

Areas H and I (FIG. 2)

Areas H and I lay south of Trench F. Each area was stripped both of topsoil and the underlying cattle-trodden small cobble to reveal the semi-circular ridge of rubble that marked the southern line of the pen wall. This stripping revealed shale bedrock in the southern end of Area I and the southern and western parts of Area H. Area H was further stripped of rubble (layer 21) to reveal the patchy remains of the ground surface (layer 22) contemporary with the pen. Layer 22 contained coal fragments with medieval and 17th-18th-century pottery sherds. On stripping and sectioning the wall rubble, Wall W4 was found to have contained worked stone, some of which may have been taken from the jambs of splayed windows.

Areas J and K (FIG. 2)

Areas J and K were stripped of turf to reveal the larger, more concentrated line

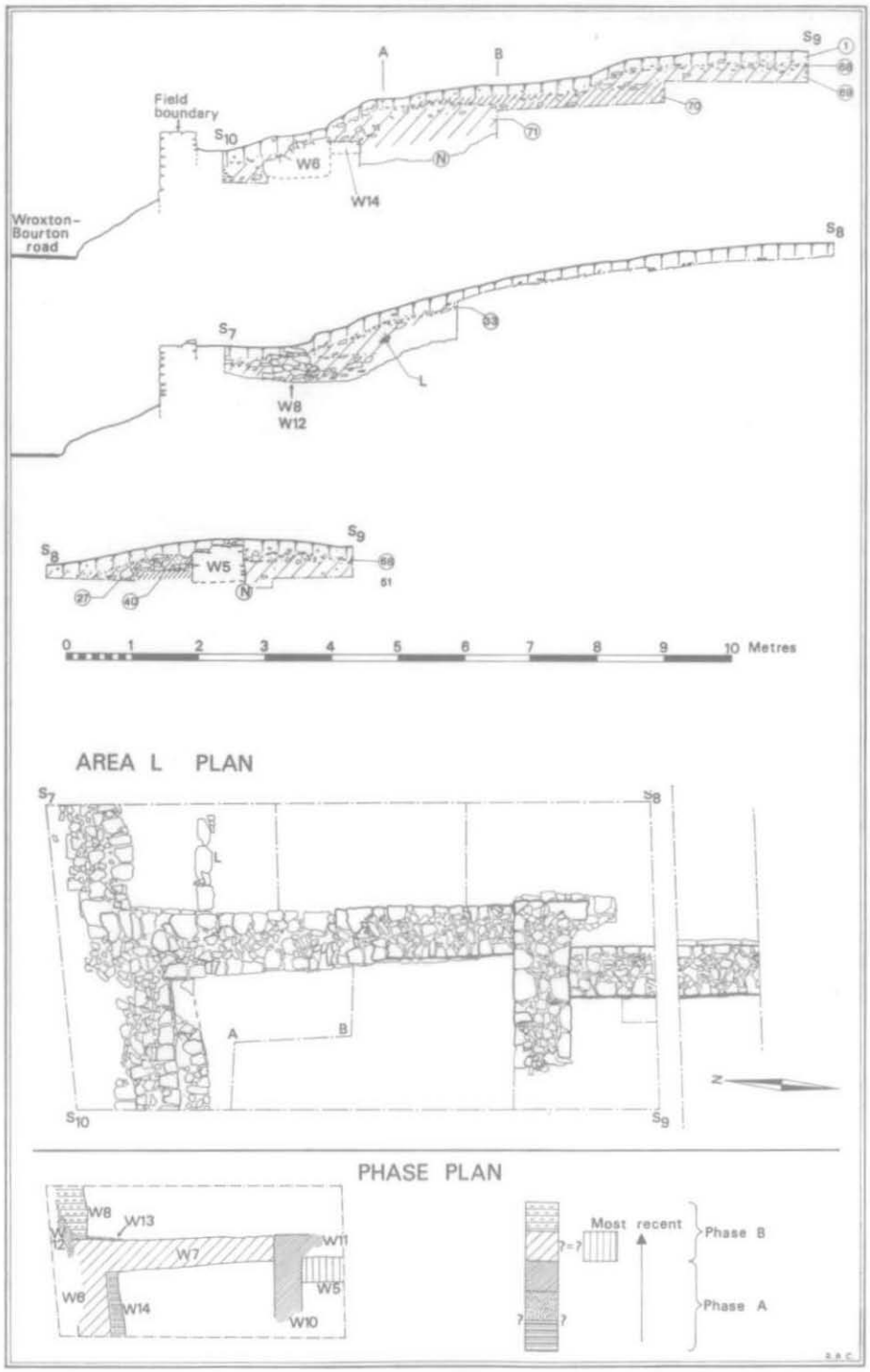
Field boundary
Wroxton–Bourton road
S10
S9
S8
S7
W6
W14
W8
W12
W5
A
B
L
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Metres
AREA L PLAN
PHASE PLAN
W8
W13
W7
W11
W5
W14
W10
Most recent
Phase B
Phase A

FIG. 4

of wall tumble showing through the level of small cattle-trodden cobble common in areas H, I, J and K. It was not possible to excavate Areas J and K any further at that point.

Area L (FIG. 4 ; PL. VI, A, B)

Area L investigated a small area surrounding the end of Boundary Wall W5 north of Trench G.

Removal of the turf and underlying shallow ironstone rubble spread revealed five unmortared ironstone rubble walls. All the walls were constructed with rubble centres and faced with larger, roughly squared, uncoursed ironstone. W8 butted against the exterior of the junction of W6 and W7 which were contemporary. W7 and W5 butted against either side of W10.

W5 0·3 m. depth, 2–3 courses of random rubble foundation laid in red-brown silty clay subsoil. Two courses (0·25 m.) of free-standing wall 0·75 m. wide capped this (Section S^8–S^9). W5 butted against (so was later than) W10.

W6 Contemporary with W7. Founded on shale bedrock, only the 1 m. wide foundation remained (Section S^9–S^{10}). The southern edge of W6 stood 0·5 m. high and the northern edge had been destroyed down to the first course. The foundation trench for this wall had removed the northern edge of an earlier wall W14.

W7 Contemporary with W6. Only the 0·95 m.–0·73 m. wide foundation of this wall remained except at the southern end where approximately five courses (0·5 m.) butted against W10. The wall was slightly better laid and slightly narrower than the foundation. Removal of the W6–W7 junction revealed that the W7 foundation overlay the lower courses of an earlier wall foundation W13.

W8 Only the foundation, approximately 1 m. wide, remained. This foundation butted up against the foundation for W7. The foundation W8 had been laid on the lower courses of an earlier wall foundation (W12).

W10 and W11 The N.E. corner of a building. Shallow foundations 0·2 m. shallower than W9 and 0·3 m. shallower than the southern end of W7. Approx. one course of foundation rubble (0·15 m.) below one remaining ' course ' (0·2 m.) of random rubble wall. At the east end of W10 several large stones forming a stub were all that remained of W11 which had been demolished to allow the construction of W5. The bottom of the old turf level on which W10 and W11 had been founded was protected from excessive tread and mixing by the presence of W5 and this layer (27) may be seen in section S^8–S^9. Wall W10, 0·87 m. wide, ended 0·6 m. from the western edge of Area L. No robber trench was observed but the widespread uniformity of soil colouration, texture and content at that high level may have concealed any trace of the bottom of a robber trench. Within the rubble spread (layer 68) beneath the present turf, a rectangle clear of rubble existed immediately in front and to either side of the curtailment of W10. The ground beneath did not

appear to have been disturbed and this indicated that the rectangle was probably formed by an object placed there at the time the walls were finally levelled.

W12 Lower part of random rubble wall foundation laid on shale bedrock. W8, which was the rebuilding of W12 also used these foundations (section S7–S8).

W13 W12 and W13 were contemporary. W7 overlay W13.

W14 Shallow foundations laid on clay subsoil. Random rubble wall. Foundation trench for Wall W6 removed the north edge of this wall.

Section S10–S9 (FIG. 4)

There was little evidence for occupation levels in Area L. In section S10–S9 the southern end shows a line of small ironstone (layer 68) below the turf (layer 1), which may be fine demolition rubble. Layer 68 sealed the northern edge of a thin lens of light brown silty clayey soil (69). This partly sealed the northern edge of another lens of soil (70) slightly darker though similar in texture to 69. The edge of this lens sealed a thick layer of once removed mottled natural silty clay subsoil (71) in which were sealed several sherds of medieval sandy ware. Layer 71 merged into the undisturbed natural subsoil (layer N) which lay on hard shale bedrock. Layers 71 and 70 appeared to represent a levelling off of the naturally sloping ground after the construction of Wall 14.

Section S7–S8

In the area to the east of Wall 7 only the northern end of the trench was excavated down to natural to examine Walls 8 and 12. Beneath the turf (1) a layer of small ironstone (33) was again encountered. This appeared to seal the natural mottled silty clay subsoil which had been slightly disturbed by tread at the top. Disturbed, slightly darker and loamier subsoil sealed a single line of large lumps of ironstone level with L in the section. These may represent the remains of an earlier wall, earlier than Walls W12 and W13, or it may represent the beginnings of a foundation that was almost immediately abandoned for a better position (W12). At the division between the bottom of Wall 8 which butted against W7 and the top of the remaining footing of W12 which ran under W7 several sherds of a probably late 13th-century sandy ware jug were found. In line with Section S7–S8 appeared a rubble spread, layer 72. Excavation was not continued into this section and the nature of the rubble not determined.

Section S8–S9

Removal of the turf revealed W5 founded on firm, silty clay subsoil. A level layer of small ironstone rubble (layer 68) at the bottom of the topsoil suggested rubble covering a floor surface. The surface of the light, silty soil (layer 51) below 68, contained fragments of charcoal but no pottery and merged into the natural subsoil after approx. 250 mm. An ironstone rubble layer (27) containing several pieces of oolitic roofing slate lay below the turf (1), on the east side of W5. Layer 27 also

sealed a thin layer (40) of fine, dark, grey-brown, silty, clayey loam which extended under the shallow foundations of Walls W10 and W11. This layer which may represent the bottom of the old ground surface contained no pottery.

THE FINDS

POTTERY

Abbreviations

Jewry Wall	K. M. Kenyon, *Excavations at the Jewry Wall Site, Leicester.* (Soc. Antiqs. Research Rep., XV, 1948).
Jope	E. M. Jope, 'Recent Medieval Finds in the Oxford Area', *Oxoniensia*, x (1945), 96.
Logic Lane	Fabian Radcliffe, 'Excavations at Logic Lane, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), 38–69.
New Bodleian	R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, 'The Archaeology of the Site of the Bodleian Extension in Broad Street, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), 89–146.
Northolt Manor	J. G. Hurst, 'The Kitchen Area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex', *Medieval Archaeology*, v (1961), 211–300.
O.A.E.C.	Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee.
Sadler's Wood	R. A. Chambers, 'A Deserted Medieval Farmstead at Sadler's Wood, Lewknor, Oxon. 1972', *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii (1973), 146–67.
Seacourt	M. Biddle, 'The Deserted Medieval Village of Seacourt, Berks.', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), 70–201.

The site produced three sherds of Romano-British pottery and one dateless coarseware body sherd in a thick, heavily limestone-gritted fabric.

As the quantity of pottery in general from the site was small and the site stratigraphy generally shallow and disturbed no statistical analyses have been produced. There was much more post-medieval than medieval pottery present. Of the medieval pottery there were more coarse than sandy fabrics among the unglazed sherds and the glazed sherds were all sandy fabrics except for the roof tiles which were in two coarse wares. Apart from the Roman wares probably the earliest pottery from the site is represented by two rims similar to St. Neots type ware and similar pottery has been found in Oxford (*O.A.E.C.* fabric R).[13] Because of the small quantity of pottery and restricted excavation area the more easily recognized glazed wares were few in number. Stratigraphical dating of the more local, coarser wares by association with dateable pottery was rarely possible because of the paucity of finds and the shallow and consequently often disturbed nature of many of the layers.

Descriptions[14] (FIG. 5)

Glazed Wares.

1 Pitcher handle. Fine, hard, buff-orange fabric with a light grey core in places, medium sand. Elaborately decorated with finger pressings along the edges and diagonal slashes down the centre, three vertical and parallel slashes at the top. One edge of the upper surface of the handle is covered with a rich green-brown glaze, patches of which occur on the underside of the handle. The fabric is characteristic of the Brill kilns and *O.A.E.C.* fabric type AM. The style is similar to a 13th-early 14th-century pitcher handle from *Seacourt* (Fig. 20, 12) and a jug handle from *Northolt Manor* (Fig. 72, 27). Trench E, Layer 67.

[13] Not published at the time of writing.

[14] I am grateful to Mrs. R. Haldon of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit for advice on the pottery.

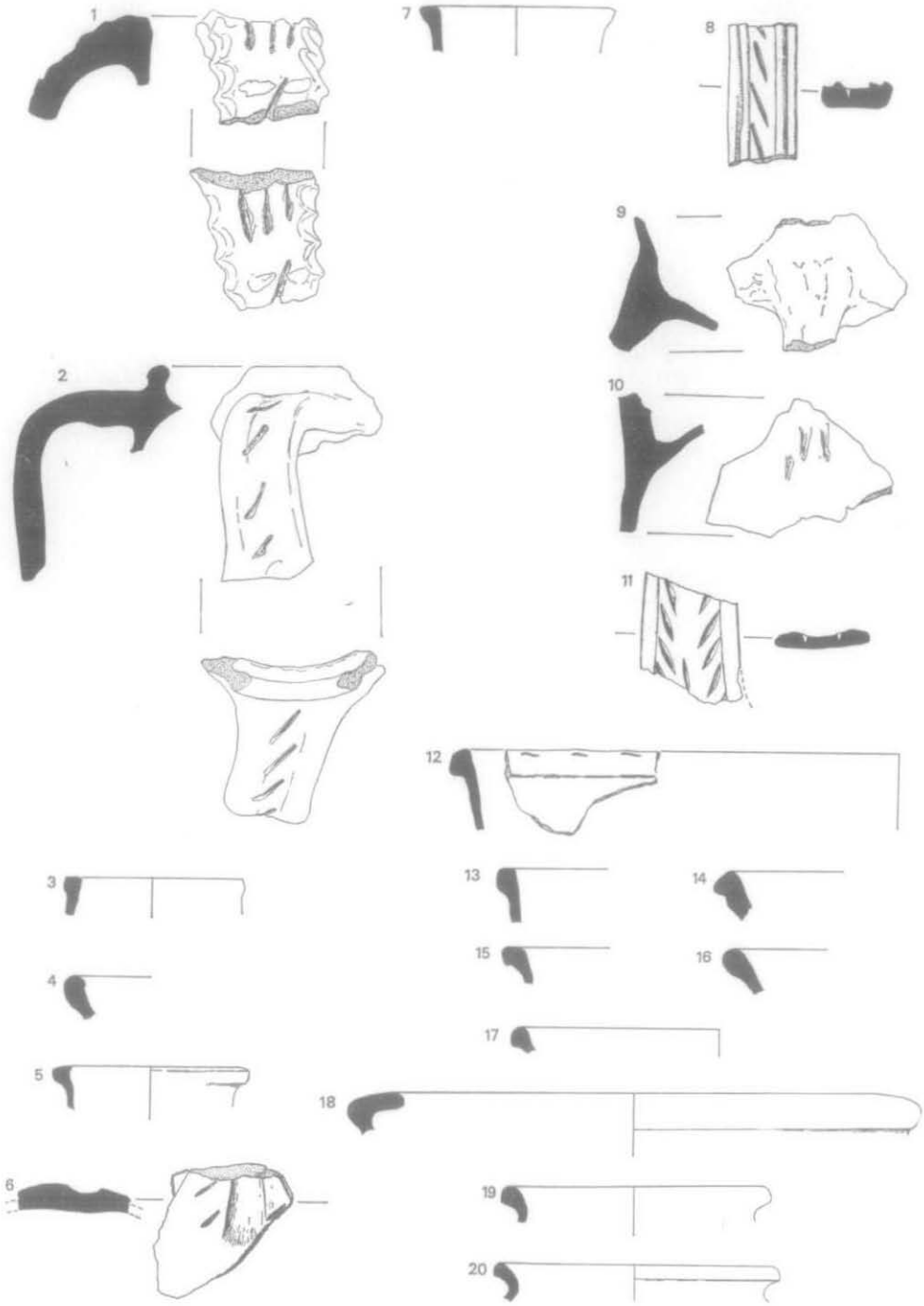

FIG. 5
The Pottery. Scale ½.

2 Pitcher handle. Very hard, buff-orange fabric, light grey core, lightly sanded. Diagonal stabbing down the centre. Just below the lip of the pitcher on the inside there is a ledge perhaps for a lid. The handle and body are glazed with a thin, brushed-on, continuous reddish-brown and greyish-brown wash with several small spots of mottled green glaze both on top and on the underside of the handle ; the inside of the vessel is not glazed. The fabric is similar to No. 1 (above) and has similar characteristics to pottery excavated from a kiln at Brill (*Jope*).[15] The hardness of this piece suggests a 14th-15th century date. Trench E, layer 67.

3 Jug rim. Hard, buff fabric with light grey core, medium sand. Clubbed rim of a type usually associated with Brill. 13th–14th century, *cf. Seacourt*, Fig. 25, 2 and *Sadler's Wood*, Fig. 9, 10. Half of the exterior is covered with a rich, dark green-brown glaze over a matt grey wash. Area L, Layer 68.

4 Bowl rim. Very hard, buff fabric, medium sand. Similar fabric to No. 3 (above) with traces of grey, matt wash on the exterior below the lip. Usually associated with Brill, probably 14th century. Area H, layer 21.

5 Jug rim. Hard, buff fabric, medium sand. Clubbed rim of a type usually associated with Brill. Rich, plain green glaze covering the exterior and lip usually ascribed to the late medieval period, probably 15th century. Trench E, layer 65.

6 Lower part of jug handle. Hard, buff fabric, grey core, medium sand. Stabbed decoration around either side of springer. Covered with a reddish-brown brushed-on matt glaze and several small patches of a thick rich brown-olive green glaze. Usually associated with Brill, probably 14th century. Trench E, layer 67.

7 Jug rim. Hard, buff fabric, grey core, medium sand. One small patch of olive green glaze on the exterior. The rim, which is thickened at the top is of a type usually associated with Brill, 13th–14th century. Trench D, lower half of topsoil.

8 Strap handle. Buff fabric with light grey core, medium sand with occasional red grog inclusions. Vertical knife cut groove and ridge on either side of handle with diagonal stabbing down the centre. Buff and olive green glaze on outside and traces on the inside. Very abraded. Probably late 13th–14th century. Trench D, lower half of topsoil.

9 Cauldron leg. Smooth, buff surface internally, cream core. A poor, green-buff glaze externally, mottled green glaze with pin-hole sized pores internally over the bottom. A thin, hard, non-calcareous, creamy coloured deposit covers part of the glazed bottom, evidently a result of the use to which the pot was put. A similar cauldron, in a different fabric, came from the *Jewry Wall* site (p. 235, Fig. 67). This cauldron appeared to be a pottery imitation of the metal cauldrons in common use in the Middle Ages from the thirteenth century onwards. Trench E, Layer 65.

Unglazed Wares

10 Handle springer. Hard, white fabric with dark grey core, medium sand. Three stab marks at the base of the springer. Not before the 13th century. Area L, rubble associated with the rebuilding of Wall W12.

11 Strap handle. Hard white fabric with dark grey core, dark red sand. Two lines of opposing stabbing down centre of handle. Area L, rubble associated with the rebuilding of Wall W12.

12 Rim. Dark red-brown fabric with grey core, coarse sand. Stabbed decoration around top edge of rim. A cooking-pot of similar fabric and decoration but not rim form has been ascribed to the early 13th century, *cf. Seacourt*, Fig. 23, 12. Trench D, lower half of topsoil.

13 Rim. Red-brown fabric, blackened on the outside, dark grey core, coarse sand and medium limestone grit. Stabbed decoration around top edge of rim. Rim form and decoration similar to No. 12 (above). Trench D, lower half of topsoil.

14 Bowl rim. Slightly soapy texture, reddish-brown fabric with grey core, medium sand and occasional limestone detritus. Expanded and rounded rim somewhat undercut, *cf. Seacourt*, Fig. 24, 1. Early–mid 13th century. Trench E, Layer 65.

[15] The pottery was not published.

15 Cooking-pot rim. Soft, buff fabric on the inside, rim blackened on the outside, coarse sand and medium limestone grit. Squared and slightly overfolded rim. Trench D, lower half of topsoil.
16 Cooking-pot rim. Reddish-brown, slightly soapy fabric, reddish-buff core, medium sand. Plain rim, thickened and rounded. Trench E, Layer 65.
17 Rim. Soft, medium brown fabric, black core, limestone detritus. Plain rim. Saxon-Medieval. Area L, topsoil.
18 Mixing bowl rim. Soft red-black fabric, black core, limestone detritus fill has been leached out in places. The style is a copy of the St. Neots type ware, *cf. Logic Lane*, Fig. 10, 1. Probably 11th century. Area H, topsoil.
19 Rim. Black fabric, limestone detritus fill. Everted rim. Similar to St. Neots type. Trench F, base of topsoil.
20 Rim. Black fabric, limestone detritus fill. Everted rim. Similar to No. 19 (above). Trench F, Layer 16.

ROOF TILE

The roofing tile from the site was of three distinct fabrics. Several pieces of a flat, sandy, buff roof tile, some bearing a mottled deep green glaze came from the lower topsoil covering the circular pen F17. A large, flat edge fragment of a more coarsely gritted, hard, buff roof tile, unusually thin at 8 mm. also came from layer 18, Area L. Several fragments of a thicker, dirtier, brown-orange tile with much more limestone detritus came from Trench B (see No. 1 below).

Description (FIG. 6)
1 Ridge-tile fragment. Coarse grey fabric flecked with white limestone detritus the major part of which has leached out ; reddish-brown surface layers 1–2 mm. thick, the outside surface covered with a patchy wash of greenish-yellow glaze. The serrations are hand moulded and on the underside below the peak there is a V-sectioned oblong impression. A lower edge, probably from the same tile, bears an irregular knife trimmed bevel and a finger impression. There is very little glaze on this piece. From the base of the topsoil immediately above bedrock, Trench B ; *cf.* E. M. Jope, *Oxoniensia*, XVI (1951), 86–8, Fig. 21, 1 and 4 ; and also *Seacourt*, Fig. 33, 2 and 3. These are all dated to pre-1400.

STONE

Several small struck flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil and underlying rubble from all parts of the site.

Many pieces of fissile, oolitic, detrital limestone roofing slate were found and some had retained their single circular peg-hole intact. These slates had been mined from the Forest Marble[16] of which the nearest deposits underlie the area around Tadmarton approx. 9·6 km. south-west of Hanwell.

A mica-schist whetstone fragment was found, broken at each end.[16] The fragment measured approx. 50 mm. wide by 120 mm. long and 15–20 mm. thick and had been worn smooth on all four faces. From Area L, Layer 18.

An edge fragment from an amygdaloidal lava[17] quern was found in the bottom of the topsoil, Area L. The quern fragment was flat on both sides, one side was uniformly rough and pitted, the other was rough with faintly tooled radii ; the outer edge bore chisel marks. The fragment was 30 mm. thick and approximately 0·45 m. diameter. The overall impression was that it had lain on the surface and weathered for some time. Lava querns were imported into this country from the Rhine ; either from Niedermendig or more likely from Mayen, being traded through Niedermendig.[18] Pieces from similar lava querns were

[16] Kindly identified by Mr. Philip Powell, Univ. Museum, Oxford.
[17] This was also kindly identified by Mr. Powell.
[18] F. Hörter, F. X. Michels and J. Röder, 'Die Geschichte der Basalt lava industrie von Mayen und Niedermendig. Pt. 1 ; Vor-und Fruhgeschichte', *Jahrbuch für Geschichte und Kultur des Mittelrheins und seiner Nachbargebiete*, II–III (1950–1), 1–32 (summarised in *Antiquity*, XXIX (1955), 68–76).

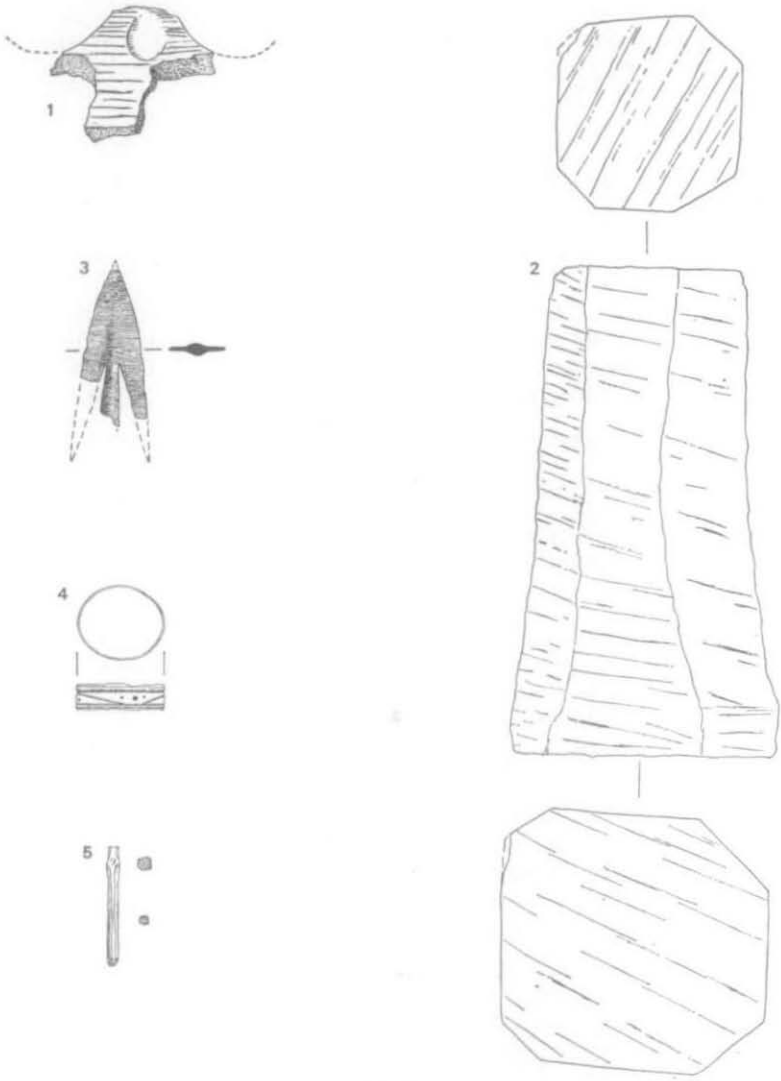

FIG. 6
Objects of Tile, Stone, Iron, Bronze and Bone. Scale ½.

found in the kitchen area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex, in deposits dated to between 1150 and 1350 A.D.[19]

The wall rubble in Area H contained 30 pieces of worked ironstone of which 19 had one edge cut at an angle ; one to 50°, two to 55°, fifteen to approx. 63°, and one to 70°. These are suggestive of stonework removed from, for instance, splayed window jambs. All except two pieces were roughly tooled diagonally ; several were weathered. Two pieces, trapezoidal in cross-section suggested stone taken from an arch.

[19] J. G. Hurst, The Kitchen Area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex, *Medieval Archaeology*, v (1961), 278–9, Fig. 73.

Description (FIG. 6)

2 Octagonal, tapering gable finial? Ironstone, height 260 mm., base 140 mm. square with broadly bevelled edges continuing to the flat top ; roughly chiselled and slightly weathered. Base of Wall W8, Area L.

IRON

All the iron objects came from the present turf level or levels containing 18th-century pottery. The only clearly medieval ironwork was an arrowhead (below) found in the topsoil.

Description (FIG. 6)

3 Socketed arrow-head with long barbs and flat blade. Compares with the more elaborate examples of barbed and socketed hunting arrows belonging to the 14th and 15th centuries, *cf.* London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue* (1940), Fig. 16, type 14. A similar arrowhead came from Thame, in Ashmolean Museum : acc. no. 1920. 87. From the topsoil, Area K.

BRONZE

A dropping of molten bronze was found in the topsoil of Area H. Two bronze pins, one 26 mm. long, the second 38·5 mm. long both with thin shafts and small plain heads, also came from the topsoil.

Description (FIG. 6)

4 Finger ring. Edges chipped and irregular. Two raised circumferential bands, one at each edge, the inside of each band marked by a circumferential line of punched dots. A symmetrical, wavy line of punched dots alternates from side to side dividing the area between the two circumferential bands of edge decoration into four separate triangular segments, each of which contains a centrally placed rosette with a single heavy dot on either side. From the bottom of the topsoil, Area K.

COINS

A Royal Farthing Token of 1620–40 was identified by the Ashmolean Museum. From the rubble, layer 21, Area H, in association with 17th–18th-century pottery. The coin was too worn for further identification.

BONE (FIG. 6)

5 Carefully cut bone tool, not polished ; roughly circular in cross-section ; 62 mm. long with 1 mm. wide by 4 mm. deep groove at its narrow end ; the broad end is rectangular in cross-section. Perhaps a thread picker. Layer 23, Area L.

GLASS

This comprised several fragments of thin, clear, slightly green window glass and one bottle end, all of which may be 18th-century or later and occurred in association with 17th–18th-century pottery.

THE ANIMAL BONES. By ROBERT WILSON

232 bones were collected from the subsoil and features at Hanwell. These represented a scatter of fragmented animal remains over a long period. There were no rubbish pits within the excavated area nor had there been any concentrated attempt to dump rubbish in the only ditch to be excavated (Trench E).

Sample condition. 196 (85%) of the remains were fragmentary, while the domestic animal teeth, horse and bird remains, were more intact. 23 fragments (10%) were more weathered than the rest of the sample, 7 fragments (3%) were animal-gnawed, but no burnt bone or shell was present.

Animal species. The identified remains were of sheep (33 fragments and a minimum of four individuals), cattle (27 fragments, four individuals), horse (13 fragments, two individuals), pig (12 fragments, two individuals), domestic fowl (five fragments, two individuals) and single bones of dove/stock dove and cat.

Butchery. 45 of the 52 cattle, sheep and pig bones (excluding teeth) were fragmentary, eight had definite chop marks, and two bore knife cuts. Nine of the ten horse bones were intact, and the tenth had a chop mark. Much of the unidentified bone was likely to be the result of deliberate fragmentation.

In general, mature animals were represented. Of the 27 ageable cattle, horse, sheep and pig bones, only one (cattle bone) indicated an individual that was less than one year old at death.

INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

A small scatter of Romano-British pottery was found during the excavation. Roman remains have previously been recorded in the village.[20] The earliest evidence of post-Roman activity came from two residual, everted rim sherds of St. Neots type (FIG. 5, nos. 19 and 20). These suggest the closeness of the documented late Saxon settlement.[21]

With only a limited amount of the site opened up for examination, the excavation was concerned more with the chronology of walls than of whole buildings, and the function and extent of these buildings remained uncertain. The walls and their footings were all of random coursed ironstone, quarried locally,[22] and probably clay-bonded as are similar post-medieval walls still standing throughout the present village. As in almost all cases of stone-built peasant houses the walls excavated at Hanwell varied in width between about 0·7 m.–0·9 m.[23] although it was impossible to demonstrate their original heights. The walls were unusually well founded for the medieval period generally[24] and foundation trenches had been dug for every wall. Only in the case of Walls W10 and W11 (Area L) were the foundations shallow enough to have sealed the bottom of old topsoil.

A provisional interpretation of the building phases in Area L was made difficult by the limited size of the excavation.[25] The earliest constructions, Phase A, appeared to comprise the corner of a building (W10 and W11) and a walled enclosure (W12 and W13) which butted up against the corner of the building. The enclosure may have been extended later by the more shallowly founded wall W14. The relationship of W14 with W12 and W13 was destroyed by W7. A factor which suggested that W14 formed an integral part of the original layout is that these three enclosure walls W12, W13 and W14 were later rebuilt (W6, W7 and W8), probably at the same time as the building W10 and W11 was suppressed. A boundary wall W5, which took the form of a southerly extension of W7, was also constructed after the

[20] *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 337–8.
[21] *V.C.H. Oxon.*, IX, 112.
[22] R. B. Wood-Jones, *Traditional Domestic Architecture of the Banbury Region* (1963), 3.
[23] M. W. Beresford and J. G. Hurst (eds.), *Deserted Medieval Villages* (1971), 94.
[24] *Ibid.*, 94
[25] Further information may be gained during the forthcoming development of the site in 1975.

suppression of the building suggesting a general phase of intensive rebuilding and replanning.

The rebuilding, Phase B, appears not to have taken place before, and probably after, the 13th century. This was demonstrated by several sherds from a single jug including the handle springer (FIG. 5, no. 10), all of which were found either between Walls W12 and W8 or in the associated rebuilding rubble.

That walls W12, W13, W14 and later W16 were so well founded suggests that the hollow way (Wroxton-Bourton road) was in existence prior to their construction. The foundation for Wall W6 which was laid onto the hard shale bedrock approx. 0·35 m. deeper than the preceeding Wall W14 suggested that W14 was considered to be insufficiently founded.

The low, circular mound F16 appeared to be the remains of an almost circular pen built partly, if not wholly, of re-used stone, perhaps from nearby early structures already in a state of disrepair. The pen had been built over an earlier gulley of unknown origin. The pen was levelled out probably sometime after it had fallen into disrepair and some of the larger stonework was used elsewhere. A turf line, layer 22, beneath the wall rubble (layer 21) was void of dateable material. Several pieces of 16th-17th-century pottery were found within the rubble.

The west end of Trench A uncovered two walls, W1 and W2. A layer of dark soil with charcoal flecks (layer 17, section S^{1-2}, FIG. 3) which appeared to have been sealed by the construction or enlargement of the platform, did not contain any closely dateable material and a mid-late medieval date is suggested.

Animal bone came from every area of the site and horse, cattle, sheep and pig were represented. There were no unusual species present. No archaeological significance could be drawn from the scatter of the bones as this was of a general nature covering the whole of the site. No rubbish pits or middens were found and no details of the local diet or agrarian economy were established.

From the lack of any quantity of late Saxon or early medieval pottery present this site appears to represent an expansion of the village in about the 13th century. In consequence any evidence for the change-over from building in timber to that of stone that occurred in many areas of England during this period[16] may not be present here.

The limit of the late medieval village appears to have been defined by the bank and ditch F1. This boundary continued northwards on the opposite side of the present road (PL. V). F1 had been re-cut several times, and the earliest ditch was difficult to date ; the fill provided only one small sherd of medieval sandy ware. The ditch in its final re-cut form appears to have been purposely back-filled some time after coal had arrived on the site. From the nearby remains of a coal tip (layer 59, FIG. 3) this seems unlikely to have happened before *c.* 1790 as coal in bulk would not have appeared in the Banbury region until the opening of the Oxford Canal. Evidence that this boundary divided village from field comes from the very slight remains of N.N.W.-S.S.E. ridge and furrow, directly east of F1 probably almost cultivated out of existence at the same time as the boundary bank F21.

The desertion and gradual clearing of the site appears to have taken place around the 17th- early 18th centuries. Standing walls and buildings probably went

[16] M. W. Beresford and J. G. Hurst (eds.), *Deserted Medieval Villages* (1971), 94.

first as a source of building stone and the back-filling of the boundary ditch F1 in the late 18th or early 19th century. The Davis map of 1797[27] shows only the present cottages. The scale of the map is too small to include further detail.

The Society thanks the Department of the Environment for a publication grant for this paper.

[27] Richard Davis (1797), Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Aerial view of Hanwell. The excavations took place in the field ringed by the dotted line (see Fig. 1).
(Courtesy of Oxfordshire County Council)

A. The walls uncovered in Area L and the eastern end of Trench G as viewed from the south (see Fig. 4).

B. The southern end of Area L and part of Trench G as viewed from the east. The north-east corner of a building (Walls W10 and W11) is clearly shown with the later walls W7 and W9 butted against it (see Fig. 4).

Phh.: R.A.C.