

Excavations at the Old Gaol, Abingdon

By MICHAEL PARRINGTON

SUMMARY

The main archaeological features excavated on the site were pits of medieval and post-medieval date. The substantial stone foundations of a medieval wall and the remains of a post-medieval structure were also excavated.

INTRODUCTION

THE Old Gaol site is located on gravel terrace 1B of the River Thames. As on the Broad Street site, excavation areas were limited by existing and proposed buildings.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Old Gaol site is situated to the west of Bridge Street and Abingdon Bridge. Abingdon Bridge was built in 1416-18¹ and Bridge Street appears as Butcherow or Burford Street in a charter of 1555.² Amyce, in his survey of 1554, refers to an inn called the Harte which stood on the Old Gaol site and was tenanted by a widow called Johanna Wyks, who also held an adjoining tenement called the Slaughter House.³ The Harte stood on the site until 1803 when it was demolished prior to the construction of the County Gaol.⁴

THE EXCAVATION

Trench I (FIGS. 41 to 48)

Trench I was 10 m. N.-S. × 5 m. E.-W. As shown on the Trench I plan (FIG. 42), a large proportion of the trench was negative archaeological ground having been disturbed by features associated with the construction of the Gaol in the early 19th century and later developments. These features are numbered 23, 25 and 33, and the areas marked unexcavated and partially excavated on the plan are also early modern construction features. Feature 2 (FIG. 42) at the north end of the trench represents the foundations of cottages built in the Gaol yard in the late 19th century,⁵ when the Gaol had gone out of use, and was also negative archaeological ground. The undisturbed stratigraphy of Trench I is shown in FIG. 43. Various service trenches, Features 4, 6 and 9 were cut into a layer of black garden soil, layer 11,

¹ J. Townsend, *A History of Abingdon* (1970), 52-54.

² *Ibid.*, 165.

³ *M.S. Survey of Abingdon, 1554*, by Roger Amyce (Manuscript in Abingdon Museum).

⁴ Townsend, *op. cit.* note 1, 154.

⁵ *Ibid.*

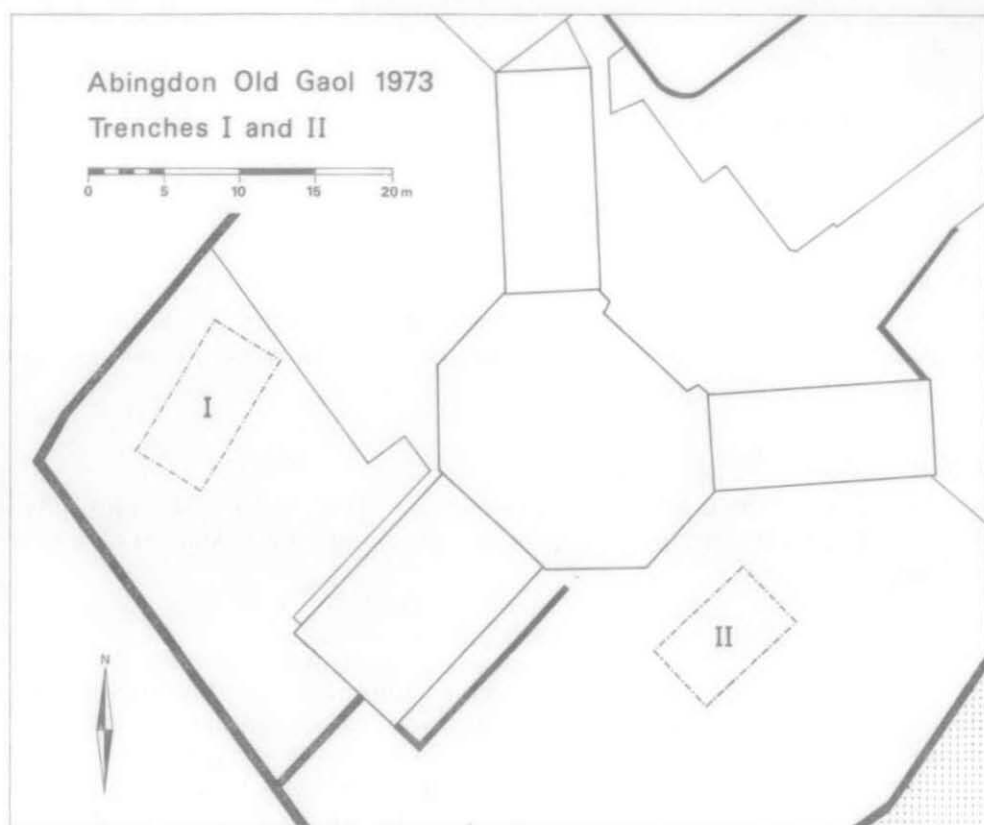


FIG. 41
Site Plan.

which was up to 70 cm. thick. Layer 11 overlay the natural clay and had disturbed the top fill of a number of pits of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date which were cut into the natural clay and underlying gravel.

The Features

The earliest feature in Trench I was a pit of Roman date, Pit 41 (FIG. 42), which was cut into the natural to a depth of c. 1 m.; its fill was dark brown loam with small stones. Pit 41 was cut by Pit 40 (FIG. 42). The remaining Trench I pits were medieval and post-medieval in date. Because of the restricted size of the area available for excavation it was only possible to excavate four of the pits fully, 21, 22, 39/42 and 15, and two shallow features, 31 and 32 (FIG. 42). The remaining Trench I features yielded little of archaeological interest and are not considered in detail in this report.

Pit 21 (FIG. 43) was cut into the natural to a depth of 1.30 m. and was cut by features 31 and 32. Its fill was brown stony loam with lenses of sand and clay and large fragments of limestone at the bottom. Pit 22 (FIG. 45) was cut into the natural

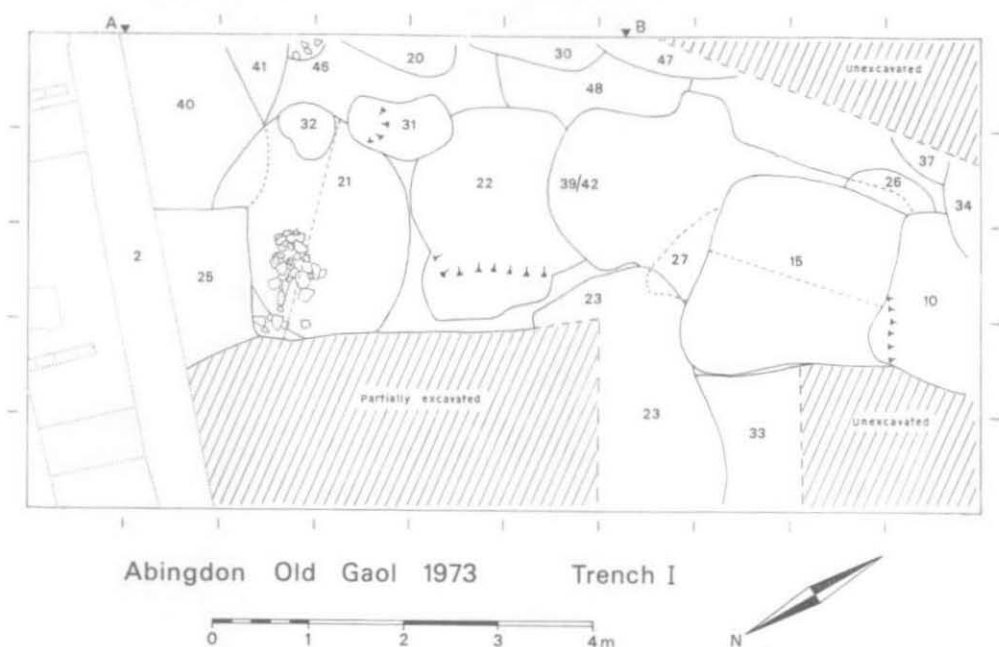


FIG. 42
Trench I, Plan.

to a depth of *c.* 1.30 m. and was cut by 31 and 39/42 (FIG. 44). The fill of 22 was brown stony loam with lenses of clay, sand and gravel. Pit 15 (FIG. 43) was cut into the natural to a depth of 1.30 m. and was cut into the fill of Feature 39/42. The fill of 15 was brown loamy soil. Feature 39/42 was an irregular-shaped pit cut into the natural to a depth of 1 m., and cut into the fill of Pit 22. The fill of 39/42 was brown loam and layers of sand with an ashy layer near the bottom. Fragments of dressed stone lining the sides of the feature survived to a height of 45 cm. on one side and a few flat slabs of stone lined the bottom of the feature. There was much evidence of burning on the stones.

Feature 32 (FIG. 42) was cut into the fill of Pit 21 to a depth of 20 cm. The fill of 32 was ashy grey loam and charcoal and small fragments of limestone. Feature 31 (FIG. 42) was cut into the natural to a depth of *c.* 15 cm. and was cut into the fill of Pits 21 and 22. The fill of 31 was brown loamy soil. The remaining Trench I features were Pits 20, 26, 27, 30, 37, 40, 46, 47 and 48 which were medieval in date, and Pits 10 and 34 which were post-medieval in date. Since all of these features were adjacent to the edges of the trench, it was possible to excavate only a small portion of them and the quantity of material of archaeological interest recovered was small.

Trench II (FIGS. 41, 46-8; PL. III, A, B)

The dimensions of Trench II were 8 m. N.E.-S.W. \times 5 m. N.W.-S.E. Its stratigraphy is shown in FIG. 48. A layer of black garden soil, layer 5, up to 1.10 m.

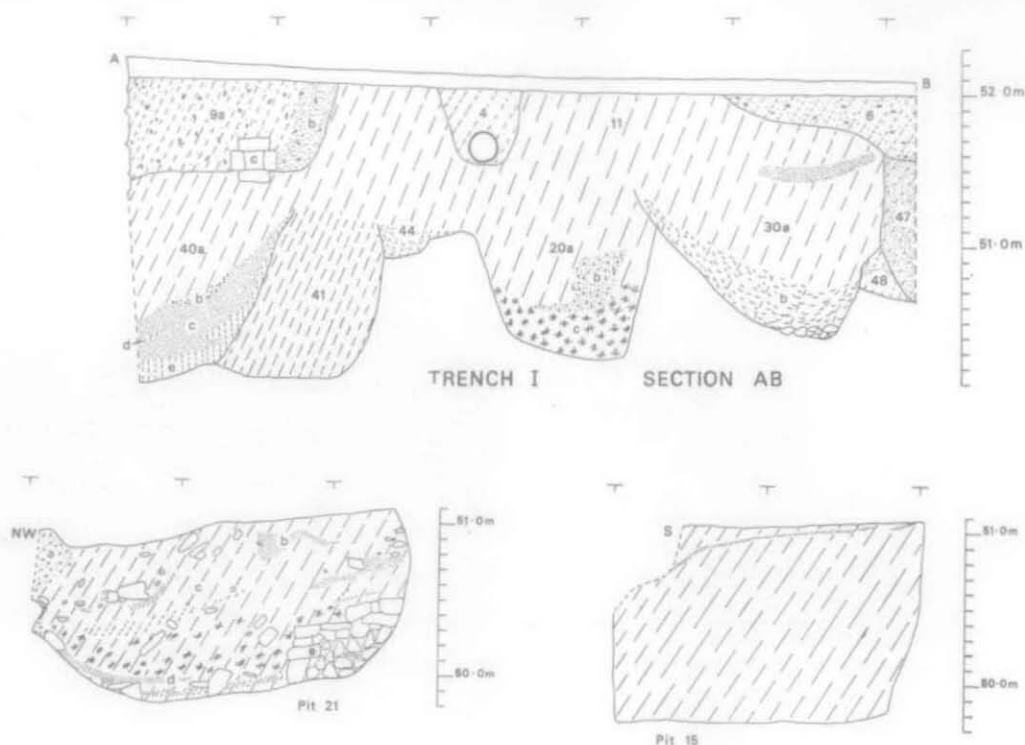


FIG. 43

Trench I, Section A-B, and Pits 15, 21, Sections.

- | | | | |
|------|---|----------|---|
| 4. | Drainpipe. | 40c. | Yellow-green compacted sand. |
| 6. | Light brown compacted loam with small stones. | 40d. | Fine brown gravelly loam. |
| 9a. | Light brown mortar, gravel and fine rubble. | 40e. | Greyish brown clayey loam. |
| 9b. | Whitish mortar and rubble. | 41. | Dark brown loam with occasional small stones. |
| 9c. | Brick drain. | 44. | Light brown loam with sandy flecks. |
| 11. | Dark brown loam. | 47. | Light brown loam. |
| 20a. | Brown loam. | 48. | Brown loam with sandy layers. |
| 20b. | Yellow-green sandy gravel. | Pit 15. | Brown loam with thin sandy layer towards top. |
| 20c. | Greenish-brown loam. | Pit 21a. | Sand and gravel. |
| 30a. | Brown loam. | 21b. | Yellow clayey sand flecked with brown loam. |
| 30b. | Light brown ashy loam, with stone fill at bottom and sides. | 21c. | Brown loam with stones containing occasional darker layers of loam. |
| 40a. | Brown loam. | 21d. | Greenish sand. |
| 40b. | Red-brown gravelly loam. | | |

thick was removed in 10 cm. spits. Various 19th-century features associated with the construction of the Gaol were encountered towards the bottom of the layer. After the removal of layer 5, four substantial slots filled with rubble were located. The slots were cut into a layer of black garden soil, layer 11, and into the fill of Pits 14 and 16a. The fill of the slots was removed, and Pits 14, 16a and layer 11 were excavated. After the removal of 14, 16a, and layer 11, three shallow pits, Features 18, 19 and 24, the foundations of Wall 15 and two ditches, Features 26a and 27, were recognized. Ditches 26a and 27 were cut down below the level of the water table

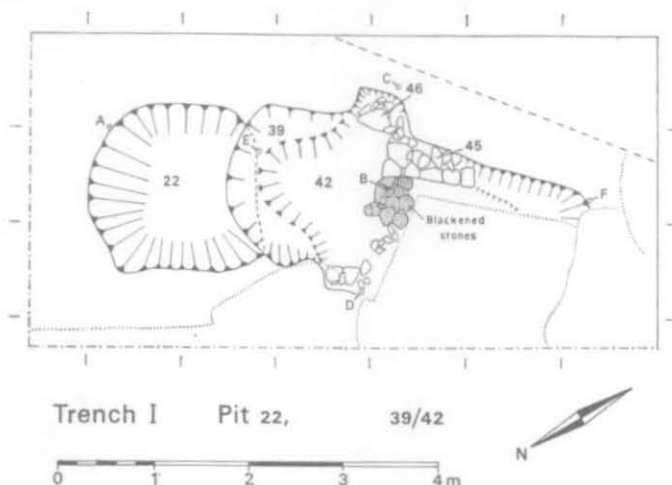


FIG. 44
Trench I, Feature 39/42, Plans and Sections.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 39/42a. Yellow clayey loam overlying charcoal band. | 39/42e. Brown-yellow sand. |
| 39/42b. Brown loam. | Pit 22a. Yellow loamy clay. |
| 39/42c. Yellow sand with brown loam flecks and patches of ash and charcoal. | 22b. Yellow sand flecked with brown loam. |
| 39/42d. Brown loam becoming charcoally and ashy towards bottom. | 22c. Brown, slightly gravelly loam with many stones. |
| | 22d. Yellow sand and gravel. |

and so were not fully excavated. The unexcavated portions of the two ditches are hatched on the plan (FIG. 47).

The Features : The earliest Trench II feature was ditch 27 (FIG. 47). Because of the depth of the ditch below the water table what may have been the bottom of this feature was only attained along the east section of the trench (FIG. 48). If this in fact was the bottom of the ditch it was about 1.50 m. deep and would originally have been over 5 m. wide. The fill of the ditch was brown loamy soil over a layer of charcoal and charcoal-flecked brown loam which overlay layers of gravel and sandy clay. Ditch 27 was cut by Ditch 26a and by Pits 18 and 19 (FIG. 47). Ditch 26a had a maximum depth of 1.10 m. and would originally have been more than 3.50 m. wide. Its fill comprised charcoal-flecked brown loam over layers of sand and gravel. Ditch 26a was cut by Feature 15 and Pit 24 (FIG. 47). The three pits excavated at this level, Pits 18, 19 and 24, were all shallow, being c. 10–15 cm. deep. The fill of each pit was brown loamy soil. Pit 18 was cut into the fill of Pit 19 and Pit 24 was cut by Pit 16a (FIG. 47). The substantial foundations of a wall, Feature 15, were also cut by Pit 16a.

The wall foundations consisted of unmortared limestone and brown sandy earth. The maximum width of the wall was c. 1.60 m. and the maximum depth of the foundations was 75 cm. Pit 16a had a fill of reddish brown gravelly loam over a layer of sticky blue clay and charcoal. The maximum excavated depth of the pit was 80 cm., but it was not possible to excavate this feature fully because of its depth

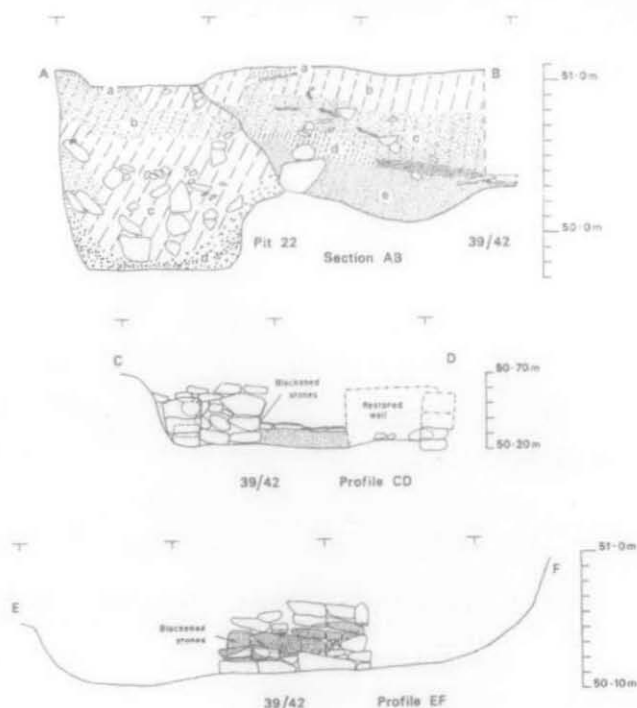


FIG. 45
Pit 22, Trench I. Sections.

in relation to the water table. Pit 14 was a shallow pit which cut into the fill of Ditch 26a, Wall 15 and Layer 11. The fill of the pit was a reddish brown loam and its maximum depth was 30 cm. Slots 7, 8, 9 and 10 (FIG. 46) were up to 60 cm. wide and up to 70 cm. deep. The fill of the slots was a mixture of brown earth, mortar, stone, and brick and tile rubble. A shallow stone-packed post-hole, Feature 13 (FIG. 46), was recognized at the level of the slots. Feature 13 had a fill of dark brown soil and was cut into layer 11 to a depth of c. 8–10 cm. The only find from the post-hole was an iron nail. Three 19th-century features were recorded within layer 5, Features 3, 4 and 17 (FIG. 46). Features 3 and 17 were stone-lined drains. Feature 4 was a substantial robber trench with a fill of mortary brown earth and rubble. Feature 4 cut Feature 17.

CONCLUSIONS

The small size of the area available for examination makes it difficult to draw any firm conclusions from the excavation. However, similarities exist between Feature 39/42 in Trench I, badly damaged by medieval pits as it was, and corn dryers. The presence of a small quantity of carbonized cereal grains in the feature also tends to indicate that this may have been its function. It seems likely that the masonry walls of the feature may have been discovered during medieval pit digging activities

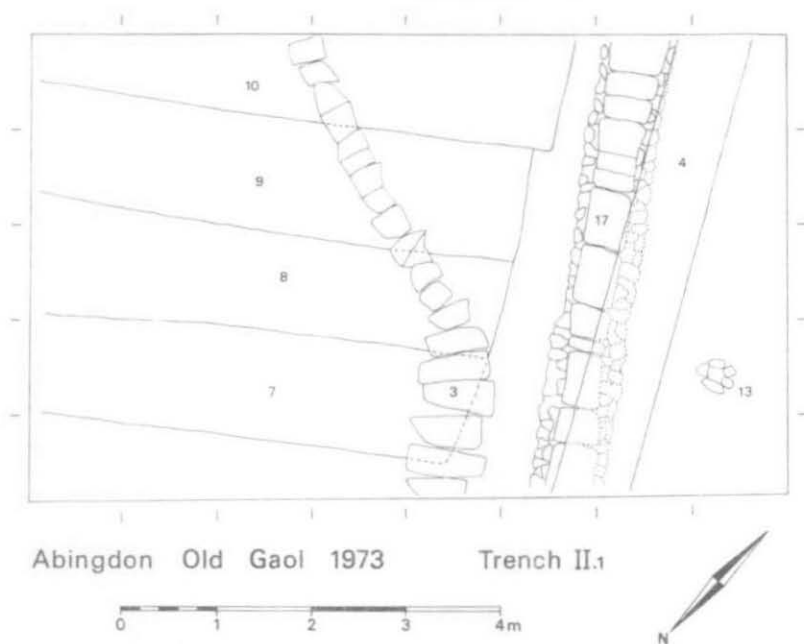


FIG. 46
Trench II.1, Post-medieval Plan.

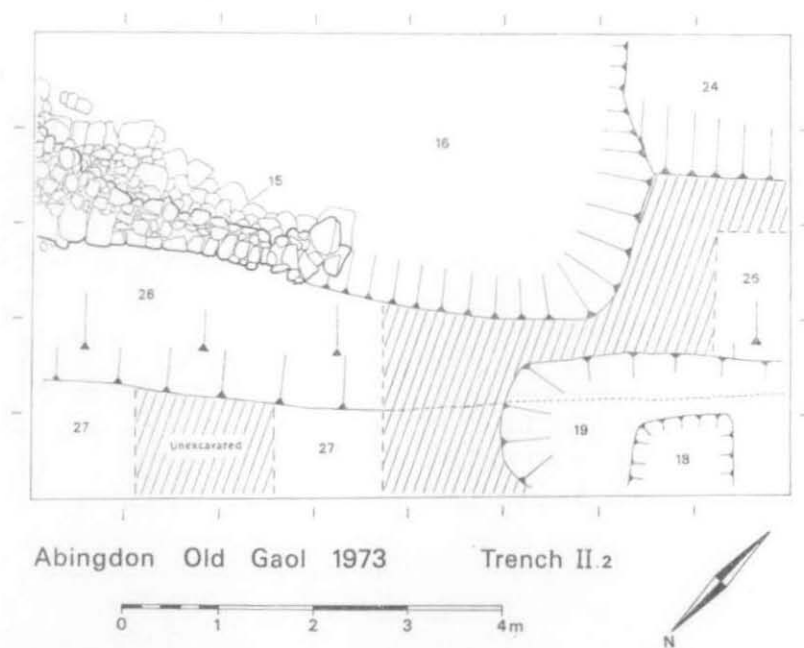


FIG. 47
Trench II.2, Medieval Plan.

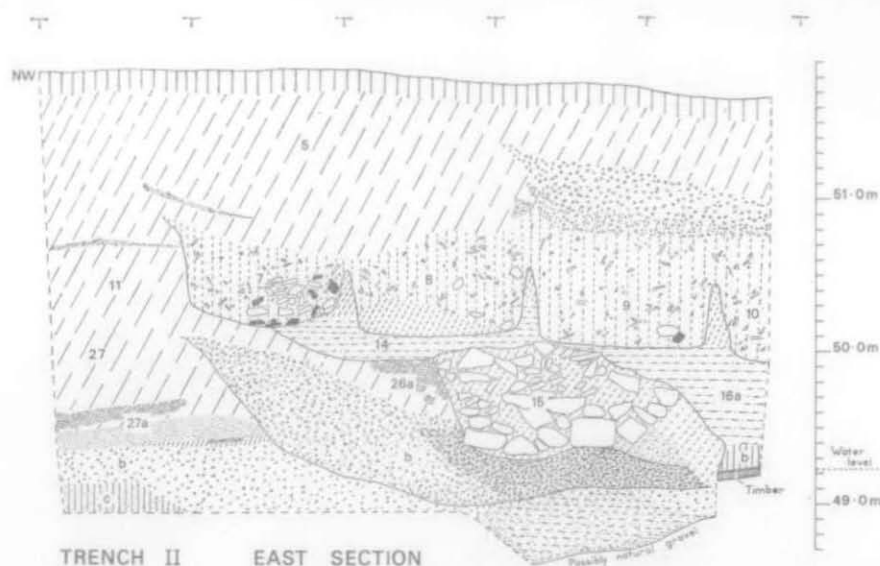


FIG. 48
Trench II, East Section.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 7. Mortar rubble, stones and brick. | 16b. Blue-brown clay. |
| 8. Mortar rubble over brown loam. | 26a. Brown loam, ash and charcoal. |
| 9. Mortar rubble. | 26b. Sand and gravel layers. |
| 10. Mortar rubble. | 27. Layers of charcoal, brown loam and sand. |
| 15. Unmortared limestone wall. | 27b. Yellow gravel. |
| 16a. Reddish-brown gravelly loam. | 27c. Blue-grey sand and clay. |

and robbed out in the medieval period. The feature is quite close to the site of the alleged Roman building discovered during 19th-century building activities on East Saint Helen Street and may be related to it.⁶

The medieval features consist of pits of varying shapes and sizes and the two ditches in Trench II. As the ditches were close to the river, it seems likely that they served as drains. The portion of medieval wall in Trench II was massive and may have been the foundation for a wharf fronting on to the river, or possibly the remains of a retaining wall.

The post-medieval features were mostly pits, presumably dug to dispose of rubbish, and the slots in Trench II. The pottery recovered from the slots is dated to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and it seems probable that the slots held the wooden beams of a wharf, constructed for the unloading of stone during the building of the Gaol, and then dismantled and back filled with rubble.

THE FINDS

POTTERY

Iron Age

The earliest ceramic material from the site is a few sherds of Iron Age pottery from residual contexts. Most of this pottery is undatable, but two rim sherds resemble rims

⁶ *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, 111, 145-202.

dated to the late Iron Age B period by Harding.⁷ One distinctive decorated body sherd has two bands of incised horizontal decoration interspersed by diagonal incised decoration. A similar sherd is dated as early as the 6th century B.C. by Harding.⁸ Most of the excavations in Abingdon have yielded Iron Age pottery mostly in a residual context. One site, however, has produced a primary deposit of early Iron Age pottery.⁹ This site together with the quantity of late Iron Age material from other excavations may be indicative of occupation throughout the Iron Age period in Abingdon.

Roman

Although a large quantity of Roman pottery was recovered during the excavation, only one feature of Roman date was recorded. This was Pit 41, which contained nine sherds of Roman pottery. Of the nine sherds, three were of grey ware, two orange ware, one black-burnished ware, two Oxfordshire ware, and one small fragment of *terra sigillata*. The remaining Roman material was residual in context and included sherds of Oxfordshire ware and *terra sigillata*.

The only other sherd to which attention will be drawn here was a grass-tempered body sherd from Feature 39/42. This sherd had a grey fabric and was fired dark grey on the inside, with an orange brown finish on the outside. Grass-tempering marks were present on the surfaces and the sherd seems consistent with some of the early Saxon material excavated in the Abingdon area.¹⁰

Medieval

The only large group of medieval pottery excavated on the site was that from Ditch 26, Trench II (FIG. 46), which yielded a total of 164 medieval sherds. The remaining features discussed in this section contained groups of less than 40 sherds most of which were body sherds. Ditch 27, Trench II (FIG. 46) contained 34 sherds, three of which were cooking-pot rims and two others glazed and decorated sherds. The pottery from these two ditches is illustrated and the material from the other features is described with reference to the type series for Abingdon evolved from the study of the Broad Street medieval pottery (p. 32). The number of sherds of each fabric in each medieval feature is shown in Table 4.

Trench I

Pit 21. 12th to 13th century

Fabric A, ten sherds including three with dark olive green glaze, one with orange glaze and brown slip decoration, one tripod pitcher foot, one rim and one base. Fabric B, one body sherd, two bases and one rim. Fabric C, two body sherds. Fabric J, one body sherd, one rim. Fabric K, three body sherds.

Pit 22. 13th century

Fabric A, twenty sherds including twelve unglazed body sherds, five green glazed body sherds three of which have white slip decoration, two handle sherds both green glazed with white slip decoration and slashed decoration, one body sherd with orange glaze. Fabric B, five body sherds and one base. Fabric D, three body sherds with green glaze. Fabric E, two body sherds, green glazed with rouletted decoration. Fabric K, one body sherd. Fabric L, eight body sherds with orangey yellow glaze and red slip decoration.

Feature 31. 13th century

Fabric A, twelve sherds including ten unglazed body sherds, one body sherd with pale green

⁷ D. W. Harding, *The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin* (1972), Pls. 61A and 62C.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Pl. 46H.

⁹ Lombard Street, C.B.A. Group 9 Newsletter, 3 (1973), 23.

¹⁰ Cf. M. Avery and D. Brown, 'Saxon Features at Abingdon', *Oxoniensia*, xxxvii (1972), 66-81: Fig. 6, 1.

TABLE 4
Fabric numbers in each feature.

	Trench I						Trench II				
	21	22	31	32	40	39/42	15	18	19	26	27
A	10	20	12	3	7	17	7	1	9	144	29
B	4	6		2	8	5	5		8	16	4
C	2					2					
D		3	2					2	2		
E		2								1	
G									1		
J	2									3	
K	3	1									1
L		8		20							
M						1					
Total	21	40	14	25	15	25	12	3	20	164	34

glaze and one body sherd with orange glaze. Fabric D, one unglazed pitcher rim and one orange glazed pitcher rim with a fragment of slashed handle attached.

Feature 32. 13th century

Fabric A, two unglazed body sherds and one cooking-pot rim. Fabric B, two body sherds. Fabric L, twenty sherds with orange and green glaze and red slip decoration including a rim and base sherd.

Pit 40. 12th to 13th century

Fabric A, seven body sherds including one with patchy pale green glaze, the rest unglazed. Fabric B, six body sherds and two sagging bases.

Feature 39/42. 13th century

Fabric A, seventeen sherds including one cooking-pot rim, one body sherd with green glaze and one body sherd with orange glaze. Fabric B, four body sherds and one cooking-pot rim. Fabric C, two body sherds. Fabric M, one body sherd with apple green glaze.

Trench II

Wall 15. 12th century

Fabric A, seven sherds including two bases and one cooking-pot rim. Fabric B, three body sherds, one base and one cooking-pot rim.

Pit 18. 13th to 14th century

Fabric A, one body sherd. Fabric D, one pitcher base with flecks of green glaze and one body sherd with pale green glaze.

Pit 19. 13th to 14th century

Fabric A, nine sherds including eight body sherds and one cooking-pot rim. Fabric B, five body sherds, two bases and one cooking-pot rim. Fabric D, two body sherds, one unglazed, the other orange glazed with green flecks. Fabric G, one body sherd.

The following abbreviations are used in describing the illustrated pottery :

- Joep*, 1958 E. M. Joep, 'The Clarendon Hotel, Oxford. Part 1, The Site', *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958), 1-83.
Seacourt M. Biddle, 'The Deserted Medieval Village of Seacourt, Berks.', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961-2), 70-201.

Ditch 27 (FIG. 49)

- 1 Cooking-pot, Fabric A, finger-tipping on rim.
- 2 Cooking-pot, Fabric A, finger-tipping on rim (*Cf. Seacourt*, Fig. 22, no. 6).
- 3 Cooking-pot, Fabric A (*Cf. Seacourt*, Fig. 23, no. 13).
- 4 Five joining body sherds, Fabric A, greeny brown glaze, decoration of combed horizontal and vertical grooves.
- 5 Body sherd, Fabric A, orange glaze, decoration of horizontal grooves interspersed with incised wavy lines.

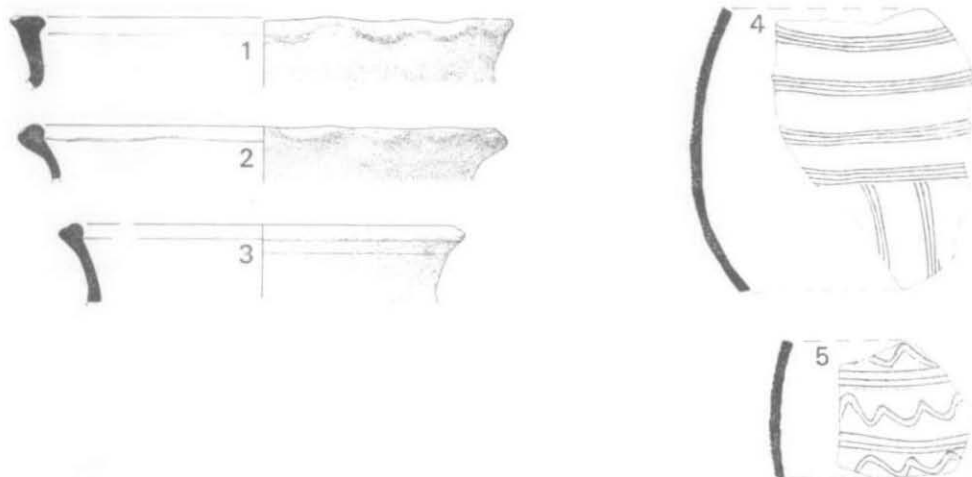


FIG. 49

Trench II, Ditch 27, Medieval Pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Unillustrated pottery from the ditch comprises : Fabric A, twenty sherds including one non-joining body sherd of 4, two non-joining body sherds of 5, three green glazed body sherds, eleven unglazed body sherds and three unglazed sagging bases. Fabric B, four body sherds. Fabric K, one body sherd.

Nos. 2 and 3 are dated to the 13th century at Seacourt where neither quoted parallel has the finger-tipping of the Abingdon examples. In view of the ditch's stratigraphic relationship with Ditch 26 which is later than Ditch 27, a late 12th- or early 13th-century date would seem more appropriate.

Ditch 26 (FIG. 50)

- 6 Cooking-pot, Fabric A, finger-tipping on rim.
- 7 Cooking-pot, Fabric A.
- 8 Cooking-pot, Fabric A, finger-tipping on rim (*Cf. Seacourt*, Fig. 22, no. 9).
- 9 Cooking-pot, Fabric B.
- 10 Large dish, Fabric A, finger-tipping on rim, (*Cf. Joep*, 1958, Fig. 18, Z. 12).
- 11 Body sherd, Fabric A, green and brown glaze, white slip decoration.

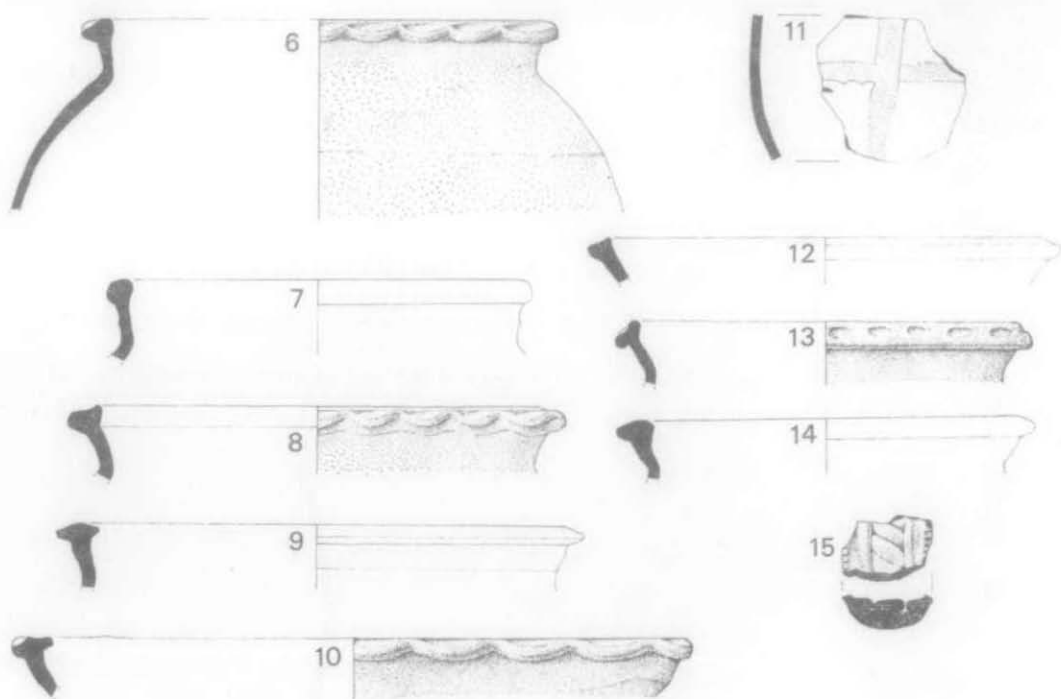


FIG. 50

Trench II, Ditch 26, Medieval Pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

- 12 Cooking-pot, Fabric A, (Cf. Seacourt, Fig. 24, no. 11).
 13 Cooking-pot, Fabric A, finger-tipping on rim (Cf. Jope, 1958, Fig. 18, A4.2).
 14 Cooking-pot, Fabric B (Cf. Seacourt, Fig. 22, no. 5).
 15 Handle fragment, Fabric A, dark olive green glaze with brown speckles. Decoration on the handle consists of a twisted rope of clay and notching.

Unillustrated pottery from the ditch comprises: Fabric A, 33 body sherds with green glaze, some with incised decoration as nos. 4 and 5, and including a non-joining fragment of no. 11, and one body sherd with orange glaze. Twelve unglazed base fragments and 90 unglazed body sherds. Fabric B, three rims, four bases and seven body sherds. Fabric E, one body sherd with green glaze. Fabric J, three body sherds. The presence of no. 11 with its white slip decoration and the five sherds with quoted parallels in the 13th century indicate a 13th-century date for the ditch. The absence of Fabric D would point to a date in the early to mid 13th century.

Post-medieval. By JO DE GORIS

A quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the Old Gaol site, most of which came from general layers or from a residual context in early modern features. Only the material stratified in a secure post-medieval context is discussed here. This material consists of a 16th-century group of pottery from Pit 16, a small group of pottery from Pit 14, the post-medieval pottery from a general soil layer, layer 11, which sealed the two pits, and which was cut into by Slots 8, 9 and 10, which are probably contemporary with the construction of the Gaol in 1803. In addition to these features which were all in Trench II, the pottery from Pit 15 in Trench I is described here.

*Trench I**Pit 15 (FIG. 51)*

Lead-glazed earthenware

- 1 Rim sherd of small hollow pot, possibly lobed cup, buff fabric, rich green glaze both sides, d. approx. 15 cm. ; 15th to 17th century.
- 2 Base-angle sherd of hollow pot, coarse gritty red fabric, int. patchy brown glaze, base d. c. 24 cm. 17th century?

Slipware

- 3 Rim sherd of large bowl or dish, fine red fabric, cream trailed slip pattern, clear greenish-brown glaze int., rim d. 50 cm. Fabric and design similar to products from Pottersbury kilns, Northants. 17th century.¹¹

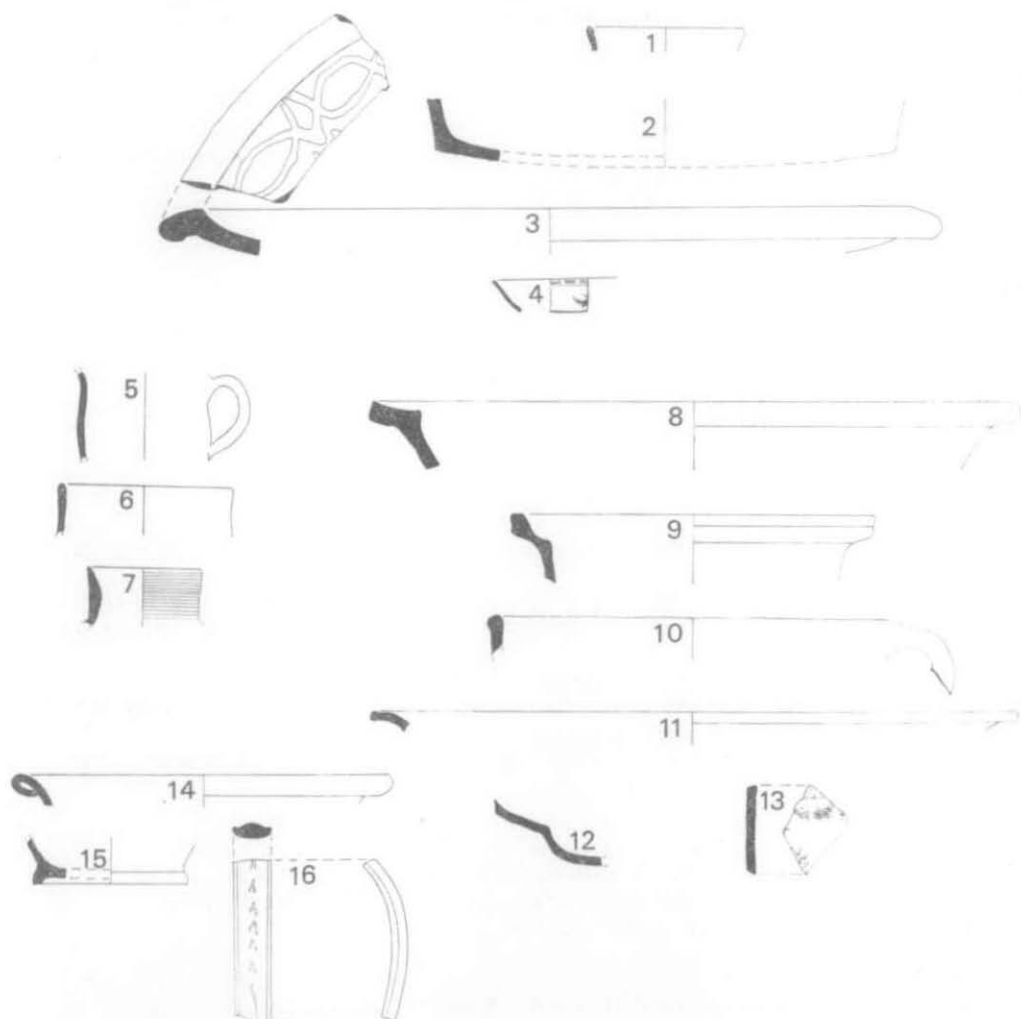


FIG. 51

Trench I, Pit 15, and Trench II, Slots 8-9 and 10, Post-medieval Pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

¹¹ See *Post-Medieval Archaeol.*, II (1968), 71 and Fig. 27.

Chinese porcelain

- 4 Rim sherd of saucer, blue painted, d. 17 cm.

*Trench II**Slot 8, c. 1803 (FIG. 51)*

Lead-glazed earthenware

- 5 Cup body sherd with handle, Cistercian ware with hard red fabric, dark brown glaze. 16th century.
6 Rim sherd of cylindrical pot with mark from upper join of handle, probably tankard/jug, creamware, rim. d. 9 cm. Late 18th century.

Stoneware

- 7 Neck sherd of small jug or tankard, grey stoneware, ext. purple-painted ridged decoration, German stoneware. 18th century.

Slot 9, c. 1803 (FIG. 51)

Lead-glazed earthenware

- 8 Rim sherd of dish, red fabric, traces clear glaze int. and ext., d. 38 cm.
9 Rim sherd of hollow pot with everted rim, possibly pipkin with seating for a lid, red fabric, traces of dark green glaze int., rim d. 21 cm.
10 Rim sherd of hollow pot with handle joining at rim, chamberpot (?), red fabric with int. thick shiny brown glaze, d. approx. 22 cm. 17th to 18th century.
11-12 Two rim sherds of creamware plate. Late 18th century.
13 Body sherd of cylindrical pot, blue-printed earthenware. Late 18th century.

Slot 10, c. 1803 (FIG. 51)

Lead-glazed earthenware

- 14-15 Two sherds of creamware.
16 Blue-printed pearlware handle, probably jug. Late 18th century.

Layer 11, pre-1803 (FIG. 52)

Lead-glazed earthenware

- 17 Base angle sherd of cup or small jug, hard red fabric, pinkish-dark brown glaze, base d. 6 cm. 16th century.
18 Rim sherd of Cistercian ware cup, hard red fabric, finely-potted, brown glaze, slightly bulbous body with constriction approx. 2.5 cm. below rim, rim d. approx. 10 cm. 16th century.¹²
19 Rim sherd similar to 18 (above), but with blacker glaze, d. 11 cm.
20 Everted rim sherd of hollow pot, coarse light pink fabric, thickly-potted, int. dark brownish-green mottled glaze, d. 20 cm.
21 Everted rim sherd of hollow pot, hard dark red fabric, shiny black glaze both sides, chamberpot?, d. 20 cm.

Unglazed earthenware

- 22 Flowerpot rim sherd, red fabric with ext. white slip stripes, d. 24 cm.
23 Rim sherd of hollow pot with everted rim, gritty light red fabric, d. 27 cm.
24 Rim sherd of globular pot, red fabric, d. 11 cm.

Stoneware

- 25 Body sherd of bellarmine, medallion with classical bust.
26 Base-angle sherd of bellarmine.
27-28 Handle sherds of bellarmine-type.

¹² See illustrations of Cistercian Ware type series, P. C. D. Brears, *The English Country Pottery* (1971).

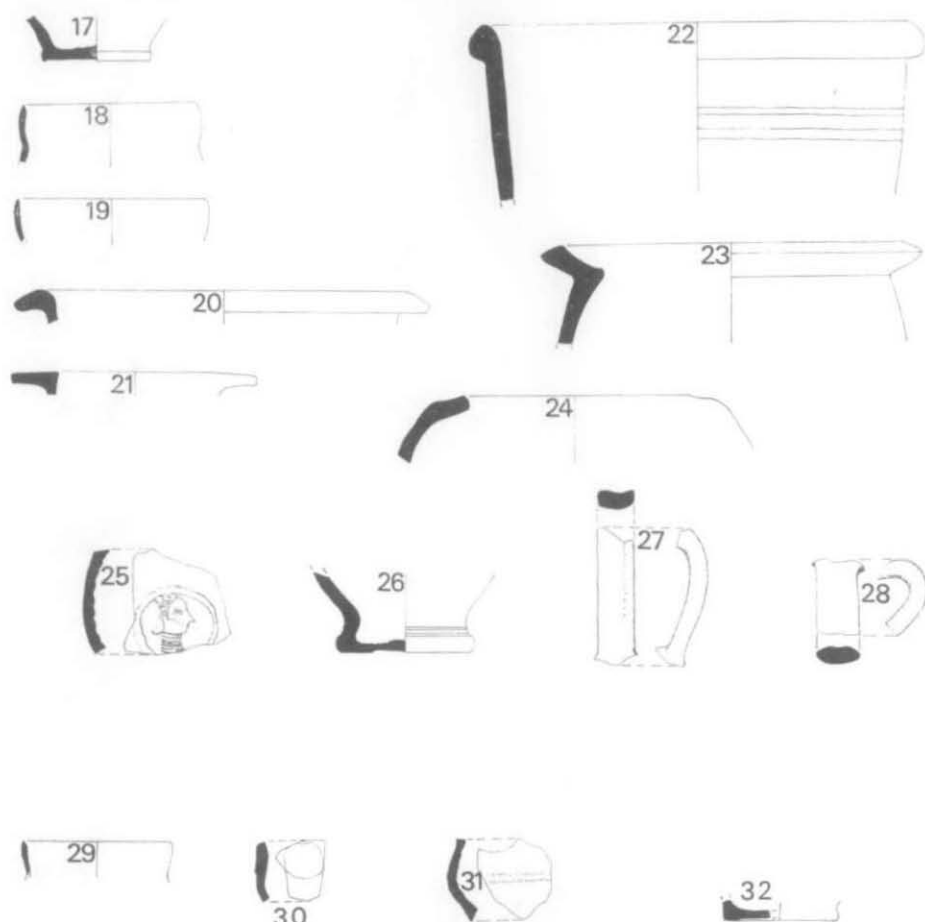


FIG. 52

Trench II, Layer 11 and Pit 14, Post-medieval Pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.*Pit 14, 16th century (FIG. 52)*

Lead-glazed earthenware

- 29 Rim sherd of cup, Cistercian ware, hard red fabric, brown glaze, finely-potted, d. 9 cm.
- 30 Body sherd of cup, Cistercian ware, hard red fabric, brown glaze with applied decoration of pad of white clay, the clear glaze making it bright yellow.
- 31 Body sherd of cup, Cistercian ware as described above, shiny brown glaze with slight horizontal ridging.
- 32 Base-angle sherd of small hollow pot, Cistercian ware, dark greenish-brown glaze.

Pit 16, 16th century (FIG. 53)

Lead-glazed earthenware

- 33 Loop-handle, possibly horizontal, red fabric, specks of brown glaze.
- 34 Base-angle sherd of bowl or jug, light red fabric with fine grits, specks of light brown glaze ext. under base, base d. 12 cm. 15th or 16th century?

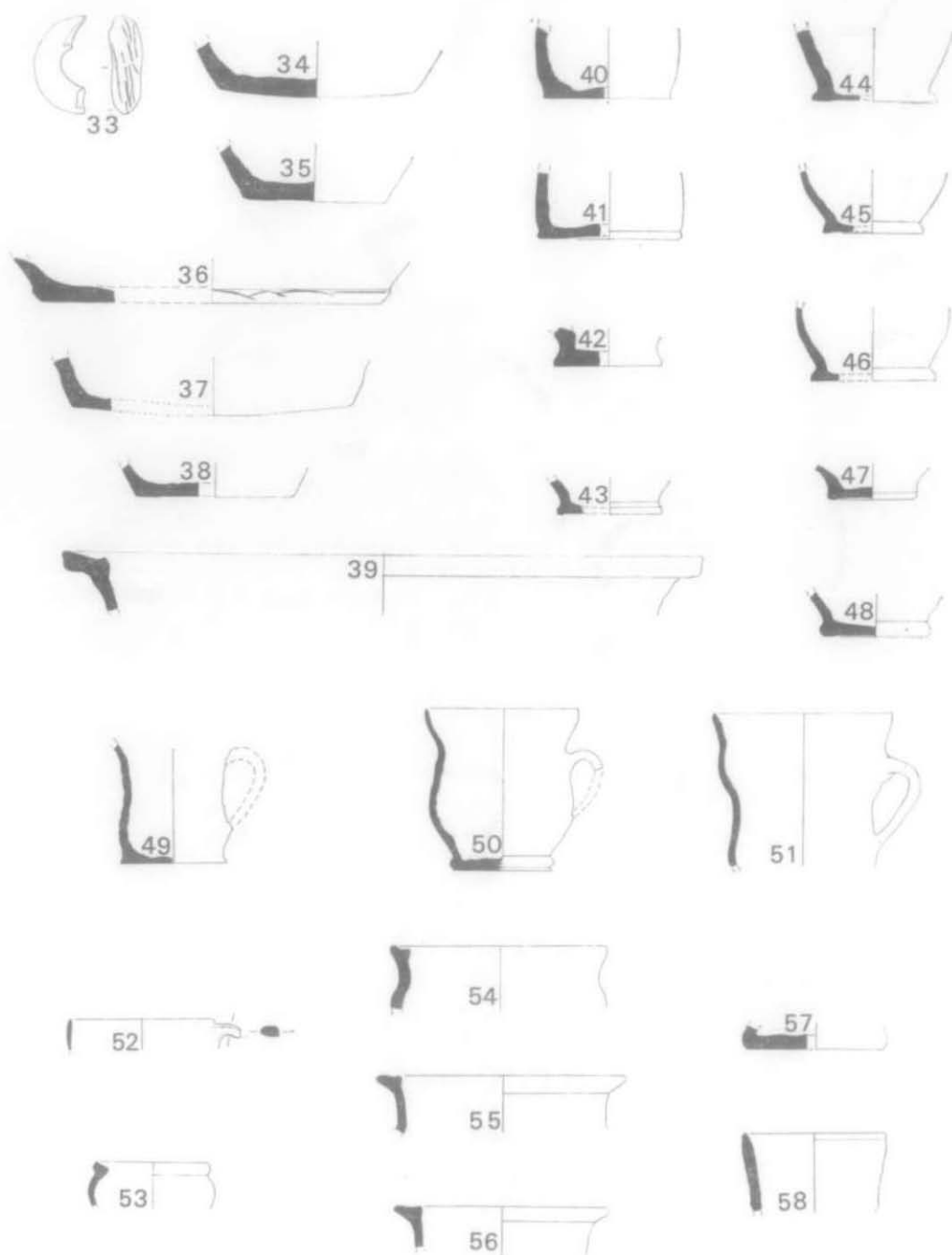


FIG. 53

Trench II, Pit 16, Post-medieval Pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

- 35 Base of thickly-potted hollow pot, gritty light red fabric, int. brown glaze, d. 8 cm. 15th or 16th century?
- 36 Base-angle sherd of hollow pot, light pink fabric with buff streaks in it and a few large dark red inclusions, int. light yellowish-brown glaze, ext. knife-trimmed base edge, base d. 20 cm. 16th century?
- 37 Base-angle sherd of colander, red fabric, ext. knife-trimmed base edge, int. brown glaze, rectangular holes, base d. 16 cm.
- 38 Base-angle sherd of hollow pot, hard dark grey fabric, traces of dark green glaze under base, base d. 9 cm.
- 39 Everted rim of large dish, gritty red fabric, trace of clear glaze int. on inner angle of rim, d. 50 cm.
- 40 Base-angle sherd of small hollow pot, gritty red fabric, thin layer of clear glaze int. on base, base d. 7.5 cm.
- 41 Base-angle sherd of cylindrical pot, hard red fabric, glazed brownish-black int. and partially under base externally, base d. 8 cm.
- 42 Base-angle sherd probably of cup, red fabric, bright brown glaze int. and ext., base d. 6.5 cm.
- 43 Base-angle sherd of cup, red fabric, bright brown glaze int. and ext., base d. 7 cm.
- 44 Base-angle sherd of cup, hard red fabric, dark brown glaze int. and ext., base d. 7 cm.
- 45 Base-angle sherd of cup, hard red fabric, dark brown glaze int. and ext., base d. 6 cm.
- 46 Base-angle sherd of cup, hard red fabric, dark brown glaze int. and ext., base d. 7 cm.
- 47 Base-angle sherd of cup, hard dark grey fabric, brownish-black overfired glaze int. and ext., base d. 6.5 cm.
- 48 Base-angle sherds of cup, hard red fabric, bright brown glaze int. and ext., base d. 6 cm.
- 49 Base-angle sherd of cup, hard red fabric, dark brown glaze both sides, lower join of handle, base d. 7 cm.
- 50 Sherds of cup amounting to complete profile, hard red fabric, rich dark brown glaze both sides, base d. 5.5 cm.
- 51 Rim of two-handled cup (one handle complete, one edge of join only), hard red fabric, bright brown glaze both sides, d. 10 cm.
- 52 Rim sherd with upper part of handle, cup, hard red fabric, bright brown glaze, d. approx. 8 cm.
- 53 Rim sherd of small drug jar, buff fabric, yellow glaze with occasional bright green specks ext. and partially int., d. 6.5 cm.

Unglazed earthenware

- 54 Rim sherd of hollow pot, gritty red fabric.
- 55 Rim sherd of hollow pot, gritty red fabric.
- 56 Rim sherd of hollow pot, gritty red fabric.

Stoneware

- 57 Base sherd of bellarmine type, d. 8 cm.
- 58 Cylindrical neck and rim sherd of jug, grey fabric, brown glaze int. and ext., rim d. 8 cm. Late 16th century?

Layer b in Pit 16 (FIG. 54)

Lead-glazed earthenware

- 59 Rim sherd of cup with upper part of handle, hard dark red fabric, bright brown glaze both sides, d. approx. 7 cm.
- 60 Rim sherd of cup thickly potted gritty light red fabric, brownish-green glaze both sides, d. 7 cm.
- 61 Watering can, slightly chipped otherwise complete, globular bottle-shaped pot with narrow neck and flat top; many small holes in the base, one in the top to control the



FIG. 54
Trench II, Pit 16b, Post-medieval Pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

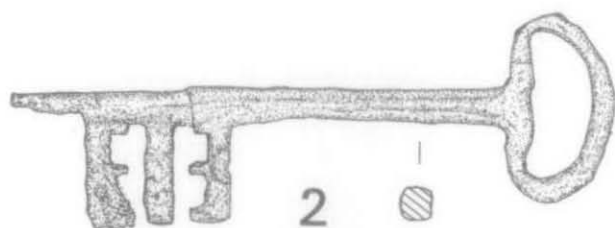
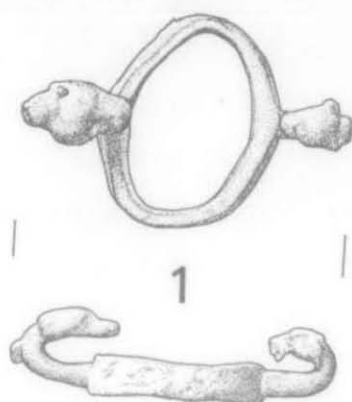


FIG. 55
Small Finds: 1 Bronze, 2 Iron. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

flow of water; light red fabric with a few small dark red inclusions, rough bib of brown glaze round shoulder, splashes of brown glaze under base, h. 26 cm. Late 16th or 17th century. Three further examples are known from the Oxford area.¹³

SMALL FINDS (FIG. 55)

- 1 Bronze annular brooch with snake head projections (from Ditch 26, Trench II).
- 2 Iron key, one of a pair originally hung on an iron ring. (Cf. *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, Fig. 42, vii A; also at Winchester, B. Cunliffe, *Winchester Excavations* (1949-60), I, Fig. 54, no. 3 from a 16th-century context (from Pit 16, Trench II).

Unillustrated small finds included a baked clay spindle whorl, a bone pin fragment, and a coin kindly identified at the Heberden coin room, Ashmolean Museum, as a 17th-century token.

obverse: JOHN.SMALLBONS IN = A hat 1656

reverse: FENNY.STRATFORD = I.E.S.

SEED REPORT. By MARTIN JONES

45 g. of charcoal-rich soil from the base of Feature 39/42 was floated over water and the float collected in a mesh with apertures of approx. 200 μ diameter. c. 15 gms. of carbonized plant material was thus acquired and scanned for carbonized seeds. The finds are as follows:

Cereals	No. of Seeds
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (hexaploid wheat)	5
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (wheat)	4
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (barley)	3
Unidentified cereals	4
Cereal total	16
Other species:	
<i>Avena</i> sp. (wild? oats)	2
<i>Bromus</i> sp. (chess or brome)	2
<i>Carex</i> sp. (sedge)	1
<i>Caryophyllaceae</i> :	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> (mouse-ear)	1
Others	1
<i>Chenopodiaceae</i> :	
<i>Atriplex</i> sp. (orache)	2
<i>Atriplex/Chenopodium</i> sp.	2
<i>Chenopodium album</i> (fat hen)	5
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp. (goosefoot)	4
<i>Compositae</i> :	
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> (mayweed)	5
<i>Tripleurospermum</i> sp. (mayweed)	2
Others	1
<i>Euphrasia/Odontites</i> sp. (eyebright/bartsia)	2

¹³ a. Ashmolean Museum 1915-39 (excavated Radcliffe Square). This is a very similar pot to no. 61 (above) but slightly smaller.

b. OX 70 W. Feature 112 (from the Westgate site, Oxford). An earlier example (14th or 15th century) of the same shape, but with a light red gritty fabric, ridged decoration and bib of dark green glaze.

c. OX 68 A. layer 70 (a miscellaneous layer from the Church Street site, Oxford). A base sherd from a pot similar to b, but having smaller holes in the base.

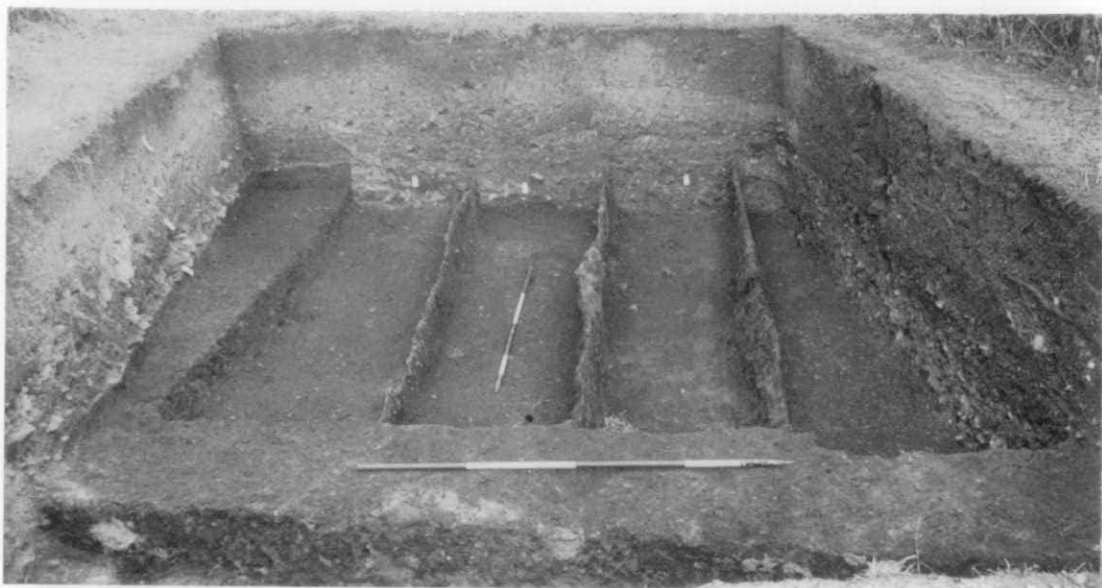
Cereals	No. of Seeds
<i>Leguminosae</i> :	
<i>Vicia sp.</i> (vetch)	2
Others	2
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> (corn gromwell)	1
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (ribwort plantain)	1
<i>Rumex sp.</i> (dock)	2
Unidentified species	12
Total	50

Discussion :

This sample, though far smaller, has much in common with a similarly placed deposit in a Roman corn dryer at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon (forthcoming). Both samples are composed of a mixture of cereal grain and arable weed seeds, the latter constituting at least three-quarters of each sample, by number, and in both samples there are over twice as many wheat grains as barley grains.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine the species of wheat present, owing to the poor state of preservation of the grain.

PLATE III



A. Abingdon. Trench II, Old Gaol, foundation slots of post-medieval wharf from south-west, scale 2m.



B. Abingdon. Trench II, Old Gaol, remains of medieval wall from south-west, scale 2m.

Phh.: M.P.