

Fairlawn Wharf, Abingdon

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DURING the summer and autumn of 1974 observations of contractors' excavation at Fairlawn Wharf (FIG. 1), SU 487969, was carried out by kind permission of the owners of the site, Peake Estates Ltd. An existing range of warehouses on the site is being converted into cottages. This work involves strengthening the fabric of the existing buildings, inserting internal partition walls and lowering the internal ground surface by *c.* one metre. All excavation on the site was done by the contractors.

The excavations on the site revealed large numbers of pits (the deepest being *c.* 2.50 m. deep) cut into the natural gravel which occurred at *c.* one metre in depth. No other features were noted but a large collection of pottery was recovered by the workmen. Most of this pottery came from the internal partition trenches, which being only 60 to 70 cm. wide and dug into very disturbed ground, made it impossible to associate any of the pottery in groups.

The bulk of the pottery is medieval and post-medieval in date and similar in the range of form and fabric to the stratified pottery recovered from other sites in the town. The Roman pottery is mostly grey-ware probably of 1st- or 2nd-century date. A fragment of a bronze spoon handle and fragments of roof tile, also of Roman date, were recovered from the site. An iron spear-head and a stone net-sinker, both of medieval date, were also recovered.