

Excavations on the Site of Banbury Castle, 1973-4

By K. A. RODWELL

INTRODUCTION

THE proposed redevelopment as a shopping centre of the north side of Banbury market place, formerly the site of the castle, caused a series of rescue excavations and observations to be carried out under the direction of Mr. P. J. Fasham in 1972.¹ In 1973 the major part of the site was cleared of its buildings, and in the winter of that year a second phase of archaeological work took place, directed by the author for the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. The work was divided into two stages, an excavation, which lasted from the beginning of November 1973 to mid February 1974, and a watching brief during the first stage of the contractors' work in April 1974.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people assisted directly or indirectly with the excavations. Thanks must go to the Department of the Environment and Banbury Charities who provided grants for the work ; to Banbury Borough Council, particularly the former Town Clerk, Mr. J. S. T. Williams, for permission to excavate, provision of office accommodation, and ready co-operation whilst work was in progress ; to the contractors, Hinkins and Frewin, particularly their site agent, Mr. F. Albuta, and to others connected with the redevelopment for their co-operation, particularly during the watching brief ; to the hard core of the excavation team, Messrs. T. Akister, D. Bond and P. Crane, and Miss S. Stallibrass, together with all other volunteers who worked under difficult conditions ; to members of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit particularly the director, Mr. T. G. Hassall for assistance in many different ways ; to the staff of Banbury Museum, who washed and marked all the finds, and to Mr. W. J. Rodwell for the benefit of much valuable discussion regarding the interpretation of the site.

DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND METHOD OF EXCAVATION

The site was bounded by the Market Place on the south, Castle Street on the north and north-east, and a lane which connected the two on the west (FIG. 1). The south-eastern boundary took an irregular course between properties. Three streets crossed the site ; a north-south road, Market Approach, which intersected an east-west lane, Factory Street, and Compton Street, a cul-de-sac. The two former streets were thought respectively to perpetuate the approach to the main gate of the castle, and the line of the outer ditch ; the third was a 19th-century creation.

The buildings south of Factory Street outside the castle perimeter ranged in

¹ P. J. Fasham, 'Excavations in Banbury, 1972 : First Report', *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii (1973), 312-38.

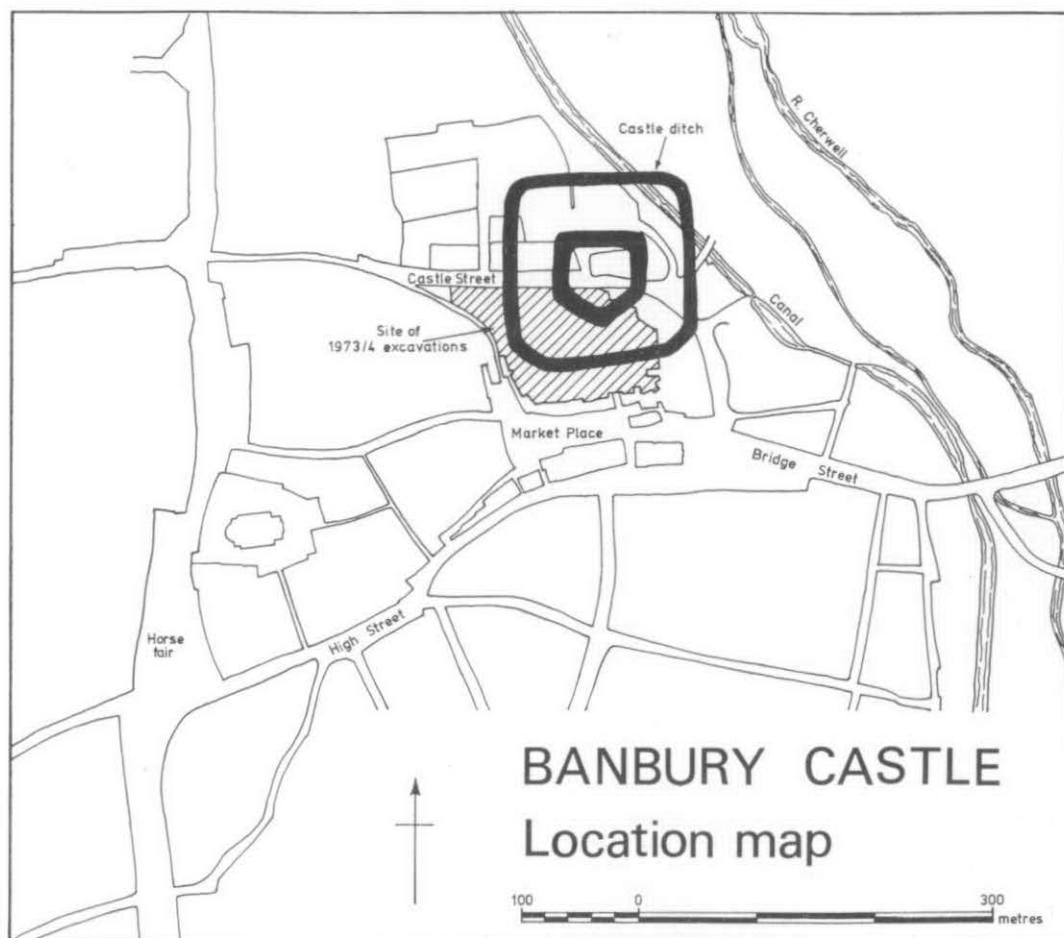


FIG. 1
Location map.

date from the 17th to the 19th centuries, but stood upon medieval plots, and the fronts of these premises were retained in the redevelopment scheme. Rear wings, outbuildings, and everything north of Factory Street was demolished.

The land north of Factory Street was developed in the 19th century, before which it had been gardens. Industrial premises had been built along Factory Street west of Market Approach, and terraced houses along Compton Street, Castle Street and the east end of Factory Street.

The destruction caused to the archaeology by this 19th-century development was not excessive; only two deep cellars, both close to the road, were encountered north of Factory Street. A large, reinforced concrete half-basement prevented excavation west of Trench Ia, but layers were found to be sealed beneath it when it was removed by contractors. Part of the north-east corner of the site had been excavated for the subway and there were numerous service trenches under all the

roads. The footings for the terrace houses were not substantial, however, being built in places on top of earlier stone walls, and the houses were uncellared. In Area II there was a good deal of small-scale disturbance by 19th-century pits, cess pits, sewers and wells, but further west a surprisingly large area had remained open or had been sealed beneath floors and yards of single-brick thickness. Hence in Area III the surviving castle bank was only 0.1 m. below the surface. South of Factory Street, however, cellars were very numerous and most were deep enough to remove all stratification.

As the site was large, manpower limited and time uncertain, it was decided to establish the plan of the castle by locating² the ditches but devoting most attention to the examination of the structures in the outer bailey. Accordingly a series of eight trenches was opened and the most promising of these, II and III, subsequently extended. Machinery³ was used to clear 19th-century and recent features and also to excavate or partially excavate sections, for it soon became clear that most of the layers were large and unproductive and that the labour force available could not hope to make an impression on the site by hand. Therefore Trenches I and IV-VII, together with selected parts of Areas II and III, were excavated primarily by machine, and hand excavation was concentrated in Areas Ia, II and III. Though some information may have been lost as a result, the overall development of the castle could not otherwise have been understood. Since much had been destroyed by cellars and resources were limited, no excavation was undertaken on the south side of Factory Street.

Because of the unstable nature of the superficial geology, which consisted of bands of gravels, sands and clays, the shopping centre was to stand on piled foundations, the boreholes for which provided useful information about the depths of the ditches. Before these were drilled however the area was levelled. This involved the removal of between 1 to 3 m. of soil over the majority of the site, and encompassed the entire stratigraphy of the castle apart from the lower portions of the ditches, some tower and wall foundations, and part of the buried soil. Before work began the highest part of the site was in the vicinity of Area II and the lowest (average 94.7 O.D.) just north of the Market Place.

Owing to the softness of the ground the site had to be levelled by two JCB 6Cs working from the surface.⁴ Archaeologically this was a fortunate expedient because it meant that there was always a near vertical working face, which progressed across the site from west to east. Furthermore the floor of the excavation was not immediately churned and obscured by machine tracks. Drotts however were used for the final levelling, with useful archaeological results. In addition the south-west corner of the outer ditch proved to be so wet that test holes were dug into it from the new level, thereby increasing the depth of the ditch section recorded at the west end of Trench II.

² Sectioning the ditches would have been a major undertaking as they were waterlogged, and would have greatly exceeded the contractor's depth limit (at cleared level). In fact test piles provided the necessary information on their depth and filling and as they proved to have been recut in the 17th century, the gain in knowledge would probably not have justified the effort.

³ A Hymac, except for the extension of Area III where a Drott was used.

⁴ If, as had been the intention, the site had been levelled by machinery working on the floor of the excavation, almost no archaeological information would have been recovered. The earth was removed from the site by lorries and dumped just north of the castle on low lying land between the canal and the Cherwell.

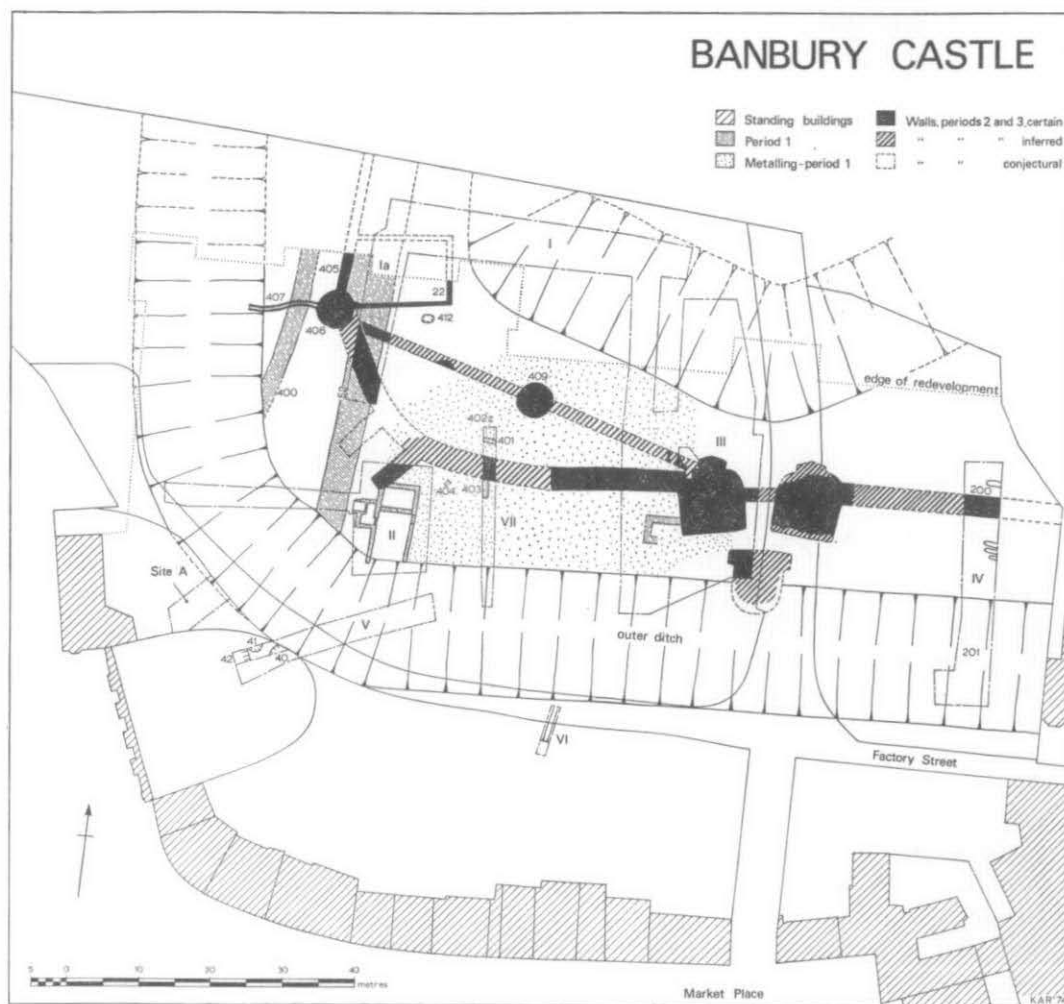


FIG. 2
Site plan.

A co-ordinate grid was used for recording. This has been omitted from the report for the sake of clarity. Layer and feature numbers form a single sequence. Only those which are mentioned in the text are shown on plans and sections. Features for which there is no large scale plan are labelled on FIG. 2. The key to all sections is on FIG. 6. Site datum (= SD) was at 95.47 O.D. The limit of commercial levelling, referred to as cleared level (Cl on sections) was 93.47 O.D.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of Banbury castle and the origin and development of the town as a whole have been discussed in several recent publications,⁵ and this summary is

⁵ V.C.H. Oxon., X (1972), 1-125; M. D. Lobel (ed.), *Historic Towns Atlas*, I (1969), Banbury; also summarized in Fasham, *op. cit.* note 14.

therefore principally concerned with outlining the evidence which relates to the fabric of the castle, meagre though this is.

The castle was built by Alexander de Blois 'The Magnificent', Bishop of Lincoln from 1123 to 1148. He was a prodigious builder who also erected castles at Newark and Sleaford. Banbury was begun in either 1125 or 1136,⁶ but it seems to have been unfinished in 1139,⁷ for Alexander was allowed to retain it when his other castles were confiscated by Stephen, which suggests that it had no strategic value at that time. The castle remained in the hands of the Bishops of Lincoln till the Reformation, only reverting to the Crown when the See fell vacant,⁸ or through confiscation.⁹

Medieval references are few; a letter of King John, written in 1207,¹⁰ when the See was vacant, refers to 17 workmen who were strengthening and fortifying the castle, but there is no clue as to what form the defences took. A chapel can be inferred from mention of a chaplain with other castle officials during an earlier vacancy in the See in 1166-7.¹¹ The last mention of this building was in 1298, when the Master of Sempringham professed his obedience,¹² and by 1340¹³ it seems to have fallen out of use for the Constable of the castle had his daughter baptized in the parish church. Two blasphemers were sent to Banbury in 1222,¹⁴ but the first definite reference to a prison occurs in 1276.¹⁵ The prison remained in use until the mid 16th century, and is mentioned by Leland,¹⁶ who gives the first, albeit brief, overall description of the castle: 'There is a castle on the north side of this area (the market place) having two wards and each ward a ditch. In the utter is a terrible prison for convict men. In the north part of the inner ward is a fair piece of new building of stone.'

This description is borne out by an estate map¹⁷ made for Lord Saye and Sele, then the owner of the site, in 1685. Though the castle had been demolished for some years, the former ditches were still serving as boundaries to the gardens which then occupied the site, and in places they still held water. They were concentric and enclosed roughly rectangular plots of land of about 7 acres and $\frac{3}{4}$ acre. The inner ditch was five-sided, and what is now Market Approach intersected the apex of its two southern sides. This road led from the north-east corner of the Market Place to the centre of the castle enclosure and perpetuated the line of the main entrance.

Other 16th-century references provide a little information on the defences and interior buildings. Bailiff's accounts for 1510¹⁸ list repairs totalling 6s. 2d., which included the mending of an old bridge over the moat, the cleaning and repair of the moat itself, and repairs to a stone wall on the east side of the garden, a lattice window,

⁶ Fasham, *op. cit.* note 1, note 14.

⁷ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, X, 39.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 39. After 1319 the diocese bought the right to retain property during vacancies.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 39. In 1321 the castle was delivered into the custody of Robert Arden because the Bishop of Lincoln supported the revolt of the Earl of Lancaster.

¹⁰ W. Potts, *A History of Banbury* (1958), 24.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, X, 40.

¹² *Ibid.*, 40.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 40.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 40.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 40.

¹⁶ Leland, *Itin.*, v. 4, pt. 2, fol. 162b. Quoted in A. Beesley, *The History of Banbury* (1841), 64.

¹⁷ Potts, *op. cit.* note 10, Fig. 6.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 24.

and a chamber over the new tower called Eynsham. This last appears to have been on the north side of the castle adjoining a meadow of the same name.

In 1564¹⁹ it was recorded that 'the castle aforesaid is in great decay and specially the outer gatehouse thereof, near unto the which there is one little old ruinous house sometime a prison covered all over with slate, saving one little piece covered with lead'. It was decided to use the prison to repair the gatehouse, the total cost of the work being about £50. An inquisition of 1606²⁰ describes this gatehouse as being of 6 bays roofed with slate and also mentions, 'a mansion house within the inner gates of the same castle, 23 bays covered with lead', which may have been the same as Leland's 'fair piece of new building of stone'.

An inquisition of 1552²¹ listed the castle property immediately outside the walls which included orchards, a fish stew, two watermills under one roof and a meadow adjoining, three acres of land contained by a ditch, and one tenement and garden by the castle gate.

During the civil war the castle, which was seized and held for the Royalists by Sir William Compton was besieged twice, the only time in its history when it saw any action. On neither occasion was it taken by force. During the first siege,²² which lasted from 19 July to 25 October 1644, the parliamentary army bombarded the castle from batteries at the church, North Bar and the Market Place. They succeeded in making a breach in the west wall nearly 30 yards long,²³ but the inner side was well lined with earth. Plans to mine the castle²⁴ and drain the outer moat²⁵ were foiled when hidden springs were released, and an attempt to storm the castle by filling the moat with bundles of furze and scaling the walls with ladders met with no more success.²⁶ The castle was finally relieved by the advent of reinforcements who drove off the besieging force.

There are many references to refortification and repair works being carried out at the castle during the latter part of 1644 and 1645. In November 1644²⁷ a parliamentary spy reported that he had seen '100 men at least digging at the works and they have made a new moat round the castle'. In January 1645²⁸ it was reported that a large part of the castle wall 'was fallen down towards Grimsbury'. In February²⁹ it was said that 'they still daily fortify and have made two new bulwarks and two sally ports', and in March³⁰ they were 'pulling down the Market Place and other houses near the castle and are daily at work making trenches and bulwarks and repairing the breaches which were about it'. Later in the same month³¹ another spy reported that there were 'every day near 300 labourers digging

¹⁹ Beesley, *op. cit.* note 16, 64.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 64.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 64.

²² *Ibid.*, 291-437. This gives a very full account of the civil war period. Many letters are reproduced and there are full references.

²³ *Ibid.*, 376.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 375.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 375.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 376.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 385.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 393.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 395.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 397.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 400.

and making up the works about it and repairing a great breach in the wall which fell down the other day towards the Market Place'.

The second siege was started at the beginning of February 1646³² but was slow in taking effect for want of ammunition. A letter written at this time said that the castle had a triple moat.³³ There were many attempts at sapping and mining the defences but these were countermined and no real progress was made towards capturing the castle. Only when the king sought refuge with the Scottish army at Newark and there was no hope of relief was the castle surrendered on very generous terms.³⁴ Arms were to be deposited in the 'half-moon' before the gate.³⁵ This would have been a gun emplacement, perhaps the barbican which is mentioned in the deeds of some of the properties fronting onto the market place.³⁶ Joshua Sprigge,³⁷ a Puritan, writing at the time of the second siege described the castle 'though old through time' as having been 'revived by art and industry unto an incredible strength much beyond many places of greater name and reputation'.³⁸

At first it was intended to slight only the earth defences of the castle so as to make it untenable. However in response to a petition submitted to Parliament in 1648 by the inhabitants of Banbury it was subsequently decided to demolish the entire castle and allow the building materials to be used for repairing the town, which had been severely damaged.³⁹ Lord Saye and Sele, the owner, was paid £2000 in compensation.

The demolition appears to have been rapid and thorough; Stukeley⁴⁰ writing in 1712 stated that 'a small part of the wall of this [the castle] is only now left, of good hewn stone; but the ditch went along the middle of the adjacent street [Factory Street] and houses are built by the side of it out of its ruins as people now alive remember. In the civil wars it received new additional works for there are plain remains of four bastions, a brook running without them'.

The only buildings to survive were described in 1648⁴¹ as a 'little stable' and a 'little storehouse' both 'lately built'. They were kept to house the hundred courts and are shown on the 1685 estate map. One lay on the north side of the inner enclosure and was said to incorporate a fragment of the north wall of the castle 10 ft. long and 19 ft. high.⁴² This might be the fragment to which Stukeley referred. Both it and the cottage were demolished early in this century. Workmen digging for gravel near the second building, which stood on the east side of the outer enclosure, unearthed a great quantity of human bones; and animal bones, fragments of bomb shell, musket balls and cannon balls from 1 to 18 lb. weight were frequent finds over the rest of the castle area.⁴³ Potts⁴⁴ states that traces of the moat were

³² *Ibid.*, 413.

³³ *Ibid.*, 414.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 419.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 420.

³⁶ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, X, 41.

³⁷ Beesley, *op. cit.* note 16, 421.

³⁸ During both sieges the defending force numbered 300-400 men, and the attacking force 3000-3500 men.

³⁹ Beesley, *op. cit.* note 16, 428.

⁴⁰ W. Stukeley, *Itinerarium Curiosum* (1776), 48.

⁴¹ Beesley, *op. cit.* note 16, 430.

⁴² *Ibid.*, 431.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 431, note 34.

⁴⁴ Potts, *op. cit.* note 10, 19.

found at the building of the Vine Inn, in the rear premises of the houses facing the Market Place, and when the sewer was laid along Factory Street.

The south-western half of the castle was developed in the 19th century, but apart from the construction of the canal, which cut across the north-eastern corner, the northern part of the site was untouched till recent years and the north-west corner of the defences was recorded on the first edition of the O.S. in 1881.

THE EXCAVATIONS

Five main periods of activity were encountered on the site and these have been used as a basis for the description of the excavation and the classification of the finds.

Period O : A buried soil antedating the construction of the castle.

Period I : The 12th-century castle, which was completely remodelled in the 13th or 14th century but preserved in places beneath make-up layers. The history of the building in Area II could be subdivided into three phases (A-C).

Period II : The concentric plan castle, constructed in the 13th or 14th century and in use until the mid 17th century when it was demolished. Features could be ascribed to two phases ;

- (a) The 13th/14th-century reconstruction.
- (b) Features, mainly pits, which post-dated this reconstruction.

Period III : Modifications to the defences carried out during 1644-5.

Period IV : Features post-dating the demolition of the castle and pre-dating the 19th century.

Period o ; Pre-Castle

Beneath the earliest castle layers lay a buried soil (61), which appears to have survived across the entire site, except where it was destroyed in places by deep features. It varied in thickness from 0.4 m. to 0.8 m. This old ground surface seems to have sloped gradually to the north-west from its highest point under the buildings fronting the market-place, the reverse of the present day contour.

Limited areas of this soil were completely excavated by hand (S3, S12, S13), otherwise excavation ceased at the top of the layer. Because they were filled with the same fine grey loam, pre-castle features could not be detected until the buried soil had been removed. Two were found, both sealed by the Period 1 metallurgy, 123. Feature 141 (S12) was a ditch running N.W.-S.E. ; only one edge of it was excavated but it produced a sherd of Iron Age pottery. Feature 112 (S13) seems also to have been a W.-E. ditch. It produced no finds. Worked flints, bone and Roman pottery were also found in the buried soil, but in quantities too small to suggest that the site had ever been intensively occupied. A small quantity of early medieval pottery was also found on the surface of the layer.

Three features (FIG. 2) of uncertain date were observed outside the castle at the west end of Trench V. They were cut into the natural sand but were truncated by 19th-century layers under the Vine.

Feature 40 seemed to be a pit at least 0.9 m. deep with two fills, sandy brown loam sealing a thin dark brown organic layer.



FIG. 3
Plan, Area II.

Feature 41 was 0.9 m. deep with a reddish/brown sand fill, and was probably also a pit.

Feature 42, which was observed in both faces of Trench V, seems to have been a ditch running N.W.-S.E. It had a sandy grey loam fill, was more than 0.9 m. deep and of unknown width. No finds were directly associated with any of these features. They may have been connected with the earliest features excavated at site A in 1972.

Period 1 ; First Castle, 12th-13th/14th century

The first period castle was constructed directly on the surface of the buried soil. Internal buildings were excavated in Areas II, III and VII, but most of the information about the defences, which only survived on the western side, was obtained during the watching brief. These structures were completely demolished during the Period 2 rebuilding.

The Defences

The defences consisted of a bank, a wall, and, less certainly, a ditch, all orientated N.-S.

A feature best interpreted as a wall was sectioned in Trench II (S3), partially excavated in Trench Ia (S2, 21) and observed in plan and in temporary sections between these areas. In Area II it consisted of a steep-sided trench with a clean sand backfill, but the fill became dirtier and stonier in Trench Ia. No stonework survived in position and it is difficult to gauge its true width, for the western edge was destroyed by F84 (S3). However its soil-mark was just over 4 m. wide at cleared level. The bottom of this feature lay c. 0.7 m. below the contemporary ground surface except at the north end of Trench Ia, where there was evidence for a much deeper foundation, filled with alternating layers of blue and brown clay (S2) (proved to SD-4.3 m.), into which the Period 2 Wall 22 had subsided. The edge of this feature was not located precisely in Trench Ia but augering suggested that it was steep-sided. Its soil-mark, visible when the area was levelled, was at least 7 m. wide and of unknown length, its northern edge lying outside the limit of clearance. This feature could be interpreted as the robbed foundation for an interval tower.

Behind the curtain wall on both west and south sides was a well-preserved internal bank, 57/272 (S3, S7). It was 4 m. wide and survived to a maximum height of 1.5 m. Layer 85 (S3) appeared to be the remnant of an external bank, seen better in temporary faces north of Trench II, where it stood over 1 m. high against the west edge of the curtain wall robber trench.

The volume of earth in these banks was too great to have been derived solely from foundation digging and suggests that there was a ditch. By comparison with the Period 2 ditches this can only have been slight, for the relative positions of the Period 1 and 2 defences dictate that any Period 1 south ditch must have lain wholly or partly to the south of the existing Period 2 ditch, and no major feature was observed in this position. However, Feature 400 (FIG. 2), which could be interpreted as a ditch, was observed on the west side of the castle during the watching brief. This consisted of a linear soil-mark, up to 3 m. wide (at cleared level) which ran parallel to the curtain wall, 7 m. to the east, for a distance of 27 m. from the edge of the

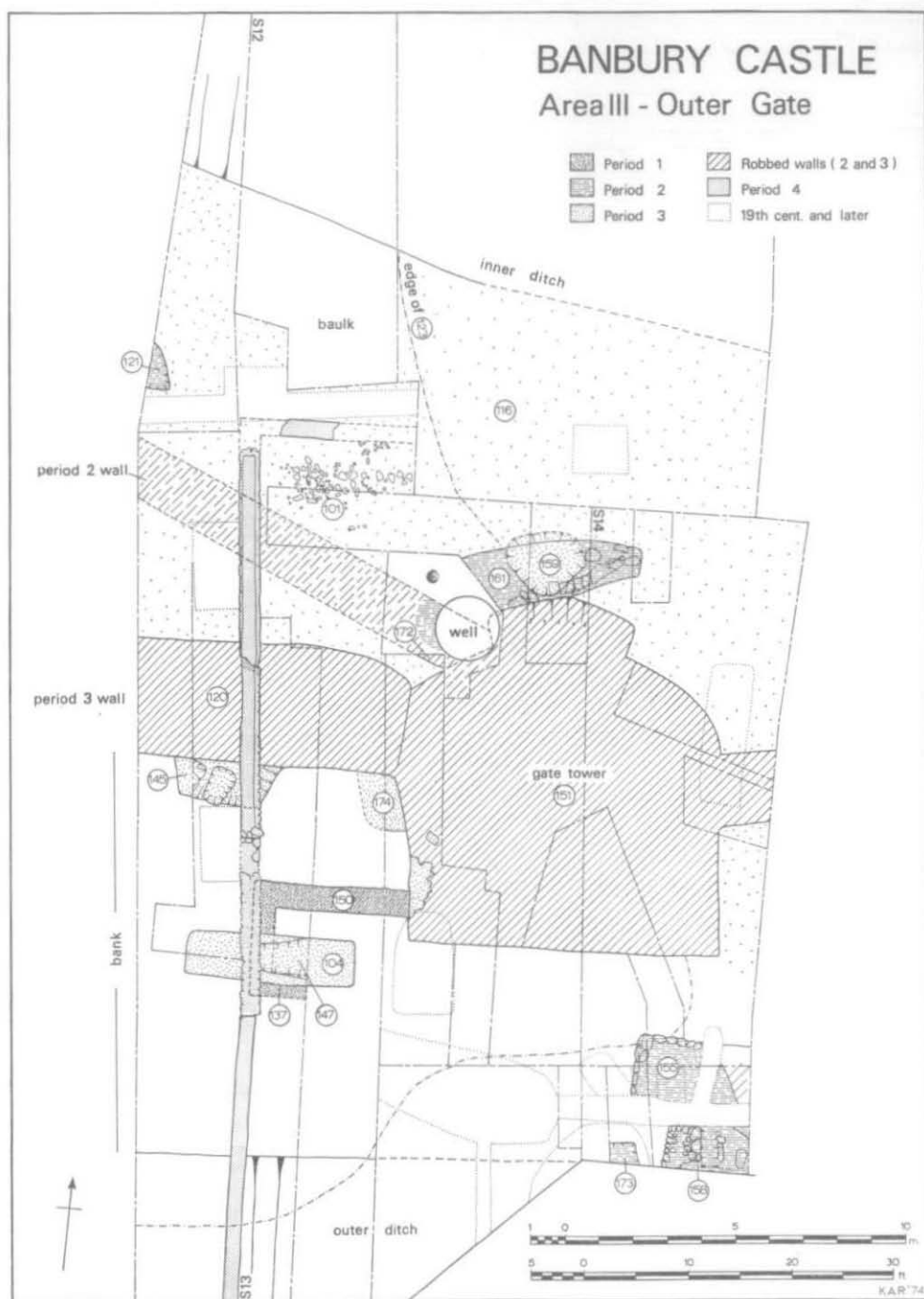


FIG. 4
Plan, Area III.

contractors' excavation to the point at which it was truncated by the Period 2 outer ditch. It was filled with clean sandy clay, which contrasted sharply with the surrounding grey buried soil. It was not excavated, so that its depth and profile are unknown, but it can be produced to create a ditch which would have been about 5 m. wide and 2 m. deep at Period 1 ground level (0.7 m. higher than cleared level, at which it was observed). Its position in relation to the curtain wall would support its interpretation as a ditch and its southern side may have been located in Trench VI, where one edge of an E.-W. ditch with a brown sandy loam fill was observed at the north end of the trench. This was originally thought to be the edge of the Period 2 outer ditch but it subsequently proved to be too far south. Feature 400 could be interpreted in other ways, as a palisade trench for example, but no other linear features, large or small, were observed south of Factory Street, nor does it seem probable that the Period 2 ditch would have enclosed substantially less land on its southern side than its predecessor.

Internal Features

Much of the castle interior was covered with a layer of crushed ironstone metalling, 123. In the west this terminated abruptly at the foot of Bank 57, and its eastern limit was defined in Area III, where it petered out unevenly (S14). Both southern and northern edges were cut by the Period 2 ditches (S5, S12, S13), and it was also observed in section on the northern edge of the contractor's excavation running 17 m. westwards from Area III. It was laid directly on the buried soil and varied in thickness from 0.02 m. to 0.35 m. An iron pan had formed on the surface in places (S5).

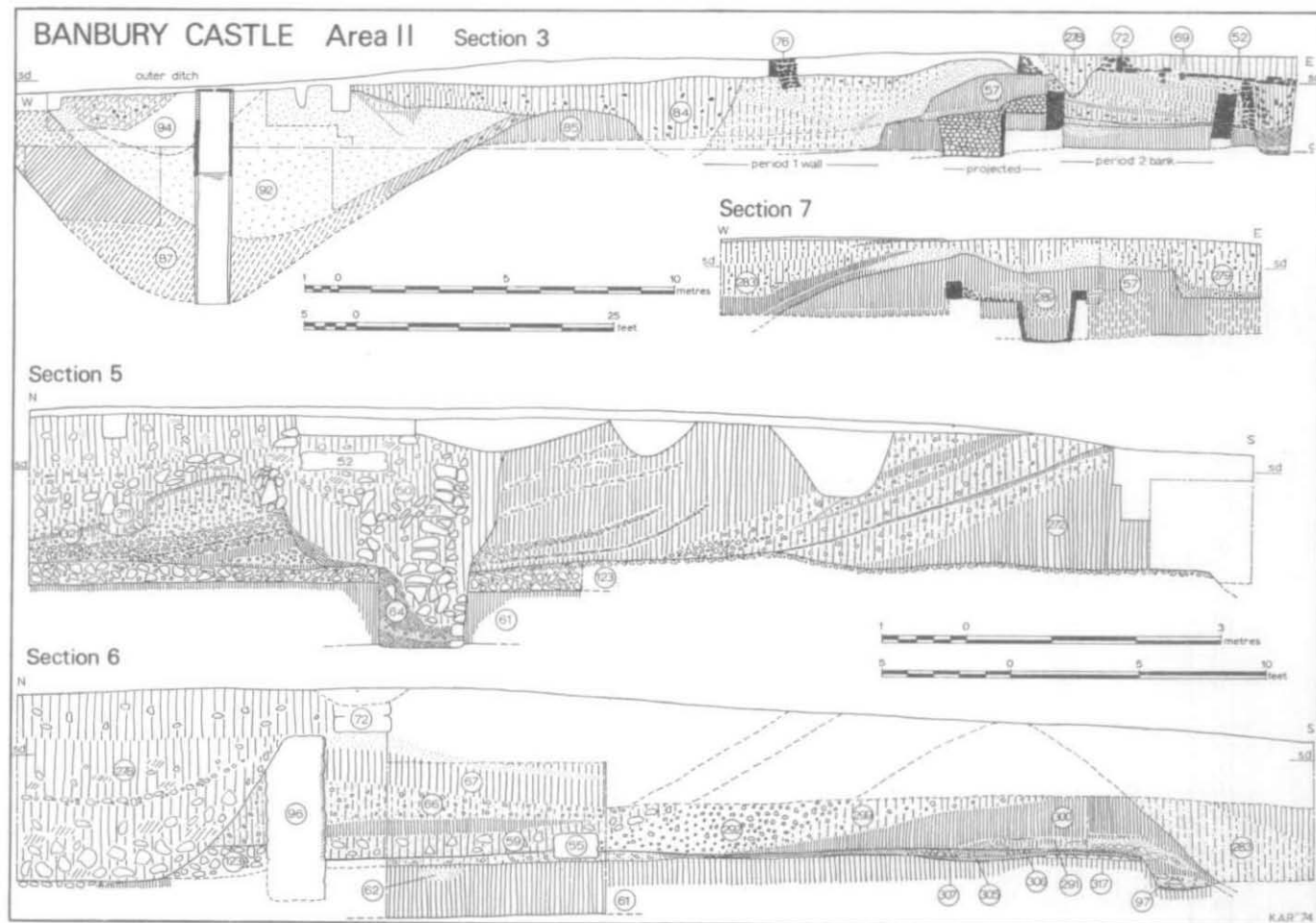
The best preserved and most fully excavated building lay in Area II, although fragments of two other stone buildings and some traces of timber buildings were investigated in Areas III and VII. The watching brief added relatively little information except to confirm that building activity was confined to the southern edge of the castle enclosure, west of the gate.

The earliest feature in Area III (FIG. 4) was a slot, 147, 4.5 m. long and 0.9 m. wide, which was cut through the metalling, 123, and was sealed by 137 (S13). A similar feature was sectioned just north of the Period 3 curtain wall (S12).

North of 147 was an ironstone rubble wall, 150, 0.9 m. wide and standing two courses high. It was built on the surface of the metalling (S13), and traced for 4.5 m. from the section to the point where it was destroyed by the western gate tower. It could not be found west of S13, and layer 137 which contained many large lumps of ironstone rubble may represent a poorly preserved return wall (S13), 2.6 m. long. The southern corner may be indicated by a vertical joint with the bank (136) which covered it, but the course of the rest of this wall was uncertain. This structure sealed 147.

There were several fragmentary structural features in the vicinity of Trench VII, but they do not make a coherent plan (FIG. 2).

Feature 401 was a wall 0.7 m. wide, built on the surface of the metalling, which had been heat-reddened to a depth of 0.1 m. and was covered with a thin layer of charcoal at this point. This wall stood 0.3 m. high and was built of flattish iron-



stone lumps bedded horizontally in light grey sandy clay. Fresh ironstone metalling had been laid around it. Its course outside Trench VII is unknown.

Just north of Trench VII the metalling was cut by Feature 402, seen only in section. It was 0.45 m. wide and 0.3 m. deep with near vertical sides and a mottled yellow-brown clay fill. It could have been a beam slot or a post-hole.

South of Wall 401 the metalling was cut by a north-south linear feature, 403, 0.7 m. wide and not more than 3 m. long. It had near vertical sides and was 0.4 m. deep with a clean sand fill containing a few large lumps of ironstone.

West of Trench VII a linear feature, 404, orientated N.W.-S.E. was located. It was 0.9 m. wide (at cleared level) and a 0.5 m. section showed it to have been a palisade trench, with a post-hole 0.5 m. deep within a trench 0.35 m. deep. It was filled with fine grey loam and its length is unknown.

None of these features can be assigned to any particular phase within Period 1. However the two stone walls, 150 and 401, were clearly not primary features and one (150) appeared to post-date a burning.

Area II

A complete building was excavated in Area II (FIGS. 3, 5, 8; PL. IV, A). Its structural history can be subdivided into three phases, A-C.

Phase A

The building was erected in the extreme south-western corner of the castle enclosure. It was aligned on the curtain wall and stood hard against the back of Bank 57. The ironstone metalling, 123, was laid up to its north and east walls. It was 4.6 m. wide internally by at least 10.7 m. long, but its southern end was destroyed by the Period 2 outer ditch. The two long walls 53 and 54 were 0.5 m. wide with trench-built foundations 0.4 m. deep (below Period 1 ground level). The north wall, 96, was thicker (0.7 m.) and had a deeper foundation (0.6 m.).

All the walls were built of uncoursed ironstone rubble, apparently once bonded by a weak lime mortar, which had gradually reverted to sand. Generally the largest blocks were at the base of the walls and the stones had been laid in such a way that the internal wall faces were noticeably smoother than the external faces. Large, roughly dressed ironstone slabs were used as quoins on the north-east corner (the only one to survive). Except at the extreme southern ends of Walls 53 and 54 and at the north-west corner, which was destroyed by Feature 272, the walls survived to an average height of 1 m. above floor level, though part of Wall 96 stood 1.4 m. high.

In its first phase the building (comprising Walls 53, 96 and 54) was entered through a doorway at the south end of Wall 53. The south side of this doorway was destroyed by the outer ditch and the north side exhibited no special features, except for a gully, 318, 0.9 m. long, which projected into the interior of the building. It was 0.2 m. deep and had a brown sand fill containing lumps of ironstone and cream mortar. Its position suggests that it held some kind of door screen.

The surface of the buried soil 61 formed the floor within the building and there appeared to have been a central hearth, shown by a spread of charcoal, 307 (S6).

Two other features were associated with or ante-dated this phase. The first,

317, was a thin layer of yellow sandy mortar edged with small lumps of ironstone, triangular in shape and 0.05 m. thick. It was cut by 318 and sealed by subsequent floor levels (S6). It bears no obvious relationship to the building and its function is unclear. It has been suggested that it represents a corner of the footings for a cob building which predated the stone building.

At the northern end of the building were the vestiges of a cross-wall, 62, 0.5 m. wide, bonded into the bottom of Wall 53. At its eastern end the lowest course of ironstone survived, but most of the foundation was reduced to an irregular streak of sandy mortar (S3, oblique). It was sealed beneath the first floor surface by a thin layer of fine grey loam indistinguishable from the buried soil 61. Its position suggests that it was designed to be the original north wall, but that this was repositioned before it had risen above foundation level.

The hearth was moved from the centre of the room to the middle of the east wall and Feature 318 went out of use, for it was sealed by charcoal spreading from the new hearth. A layer of fine grey loam (306, S6) filled the hollow where the original hearth had been.

Subsequently all these layers were sealed by about 0.15 m. of clean sand and gravel (59a, S3, S6; 305, S6) which seemed to have been deliberately laid. Intense heat had baked the surface of this new floor and burnt the internal faces of the walls a rich dark red. Traces of this fire were confined to the interior of the building.

Phase B

A number of alterations were made after the fire, but it is impossible to say whether they were a direct consequence of it or whether they were contemporary with each other.

The original doorway was blocked and a new door made 5 m. further north. Only two courses of the blocking survived; it consisted of a single thickness of re-used stones, some of which were burnt, laid directly on the floor surface. The upper part⁴⁵ of Wall 53 immediately to the north was also rebuilt, probably at the same time. The rubble used was unburnt, very widely jointed, and bonded with a great deal of weak lime mortar. Like the door-blocking it had no east face. This was because a bank, 272, at the rear of the curtain wall on the south side of the castle enclosure had been created or enlarged so as to encroach over the metalling 123 and block the original doorway (S5). Consequently there was no need to rebuild a free-standing wall. Logically these events ought to have been part of a single building operation, otherwise there would have been no means of access to the building.

This south bank was also excavated at the southern end of S13 (167, 110, 111) in Area III.

A new partition wall, 97, was inserted into the south side of the original doorway. Its true width could not be established because of its partial destruction by the outer ditch, but its eastern end was 0.3 m. wider than the rest of the wall. There was a gap of 1.7 m. between this enlargement and Wall 54, presumably an internal doorway. Wall 97, which was robbed, had a foundation trench 0.4 m. deep (S6).

A new east doorway, 1.3 m. wide, was simply cut into Wall 53. It remained in

⁴⁵ From 0.4 m. above floor level.

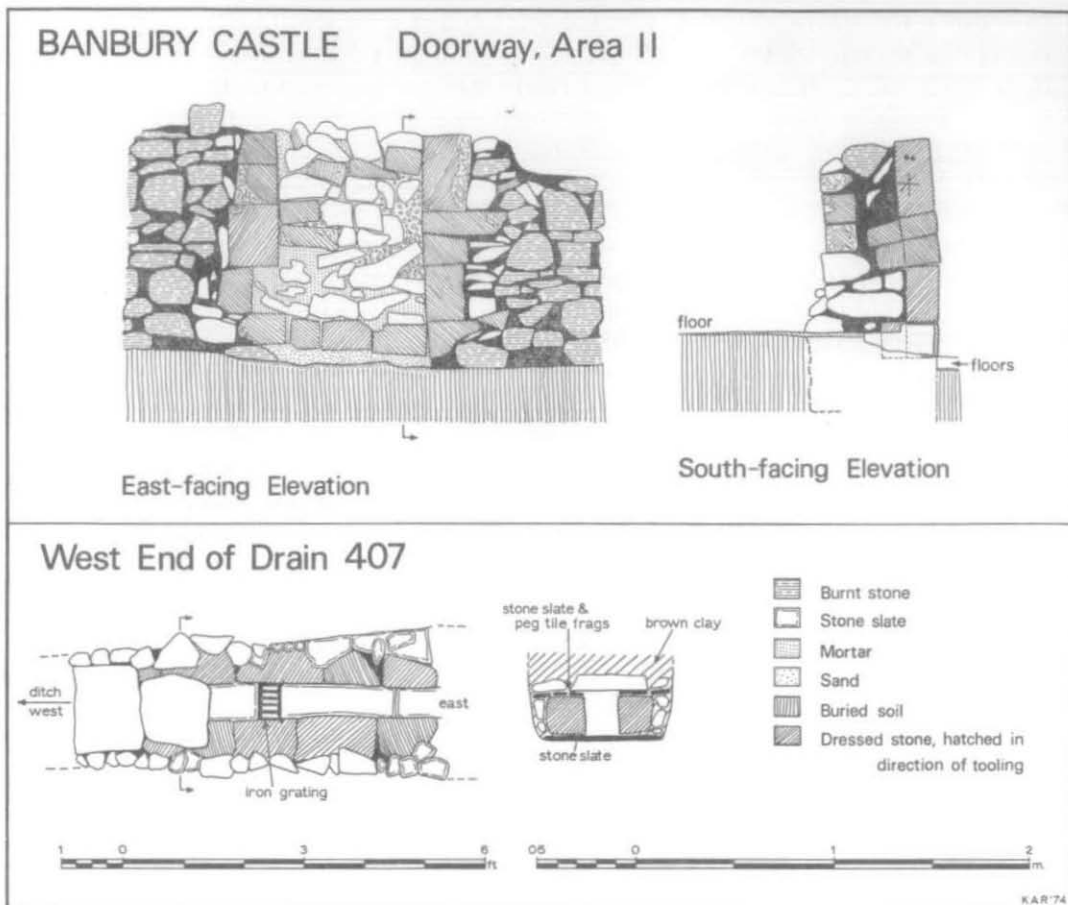


FIG. 7

Elevation of doorway in west wall of building, Area II and plan of Drain 407.

use for as long as the building. Four spikes (*e.g.* FIG. 18, no. 16) found close to the edges of the opening were possibly connected with the door or its framing.

On the west side of the building a garderobe chamber (PL. IV, B) was added with access from a new door in Wall 54. The chamber was constructed within Bank 57 and had a floor level 0.15 m. higher than the floor level then in use in the main room. The walls (56, 273, 98), which were butted against 54, were 0.5 m. wide and dry-stone built with roughly dressed blocks at the south-west corner and at the junction between 54 and 273. Wall 98 was in a poor state of preservation. The walls had no foundations, being constructed directly from floor level. A cess-pit, 99, was built into the north-west corner of the room by excavating a pit 1.9 m. by 1.3 m. through the bank (57) and the buried soil (61) to the natural sand beneath, and facing it with ironstone rubble on all but the west side. The north side of the pit was bonded into the bottom of Wall 56, but the other two sides seem to have been finished at floor level with a course of pitched rubble, retained by a row of flattish

stones, set on edge. A short length of this survived just south of Wall 56. The full depth of the pit was 1.4 m. The west ends of the north and south walls were neatly finished and the buried soil formed the western edge of the pit.

The doorway to this room, inserted into Wall 54, had dressed stone jambs (FIG. 7) preserved to a height of 1.15 m.⁴⁶ Thirteen blocks of stone were used; five for each jamb and three for the doorstep; they were all ironstone and had pronounced diagonal tooling. The two lowest, and some of the upper jamb-stones, were L-shaped, to facilitate their keying into the wall, but the rest of the stones were roughly rectangular. No attempt was made to dress the back faces of the stones bonded into the wall. Both jambs projected 0.1 m. in a north-south plane from the face of the wall behind, and the lip of the doorstep was 0.5 m. higher than the floor level in the garderobe chamber. Two holes, 0.02 m. in diameter and 0.05 m. deep, had been drilled in the inner face of the topmost north jamb-stone and there was a star-shaped masons mark just beneath them. The holes were probably sockets for a bolt; the door must have been hinged within the garderobe chamber.

The gap between the dressed stonework and Wall 54 was packed with small lumps of unburnt ironstone set, like the dressed stones, in weak lime mortar.

The room had an earth floor, which was kept very clean. The only deposits to accumulate during the life of the building were patches of sandy mortar, 284, overlaid in places with a thin layer of charcoal. Just inside the doorway was a patch of dirty sand. None of these layers was more than 0.01 m. thick.

The cess-pit likewise appeared to have been cleared out regularly or to have had only a short life for there was less than 0.1 m. of deposit in the bottom when it was backfilled.

Traffic from the east door across the main room to the garderobe chamber had worn a hollow in the floor (through 305/59a (S6)), but there is otherwise no way of gauging how long the room remained in use.

Phase IC

At the start of this phase the garderobe chamber went out of use and was filled in.

A layer of demolition rubble was found on the floor of the chamber and at the bottom of the cess-pit beneath the thick layer of fine grey loam, 289 (S7), which filled the rest of the room, and which was indistinguishable from the undisturbed sections of Bank 57.

The doorway was roughly blocked up with lumps of ironstone, some of which were dressed, after the room behind had been filled in. A fairly hard white mortar had been plastered over the lower blocks so thickly that they were almost obscured. The upper blocks however did not appear to have been bonded at all and earth pressure from behind had caused them to bulge forward up to 0.15 m. The change in the bonding therefore probably indicates the extent of a previous collapse.

Wall 55 was possibly constructed during this phase, though it may have dated to Phase IB. This wall, which was 0.6 m. wide, was butted against the burnt faces of Walls 53 and 54, and was built of fairly large lumps of re-used stone, some of

⁴⁶ After the excavation it was removed for preservation.

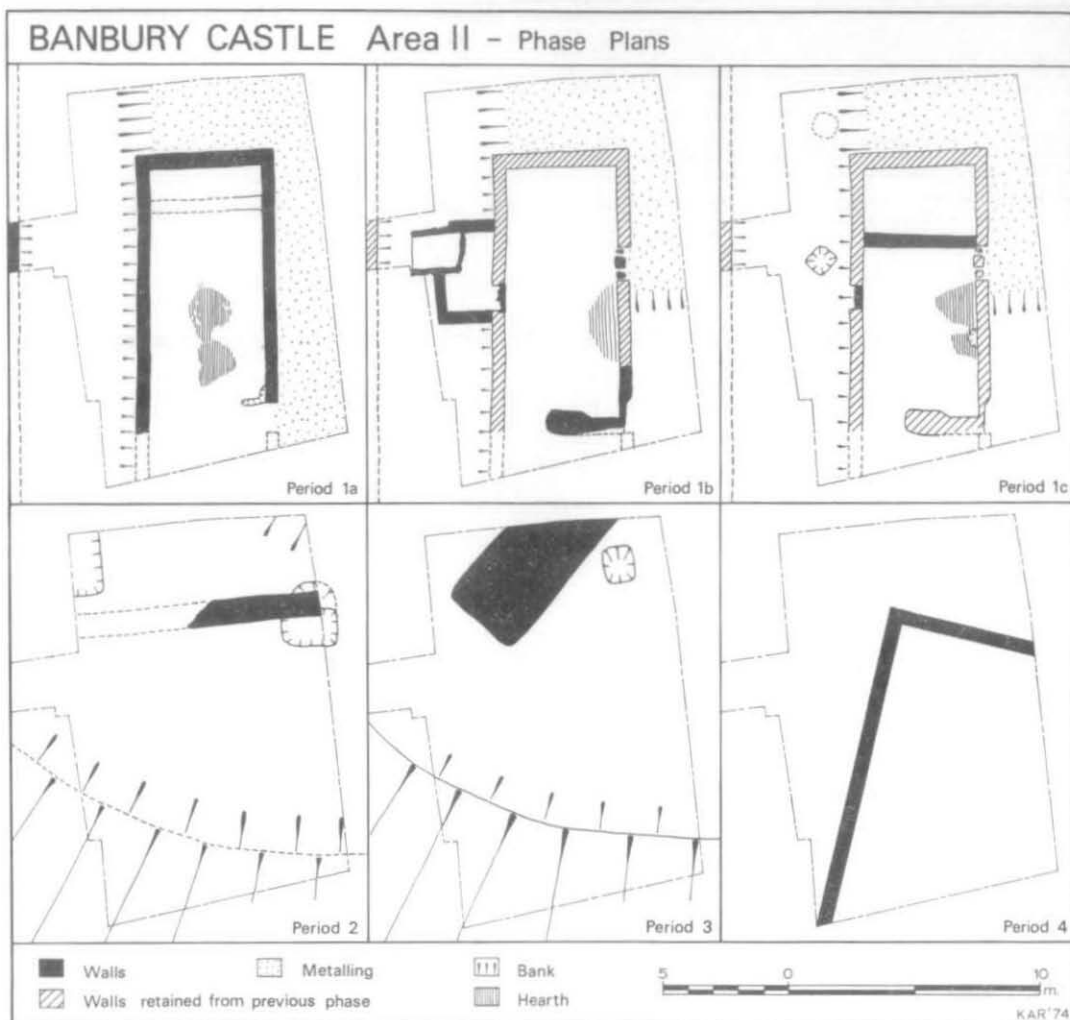


FIG. 8
Sequence of features, Area II.

which were dressed and some of which had one burnt face. No mortar was used. It had no foundations and all but the lowest course had been demolished at its east end (S6), although at the other end it stood 0.76 m. high.

The burnt floor surface 305 continued in use throughout Phases IB and IC. It must have been cleaned regularly for the only accumulation on its surface was a thin layer of charcoal, 60, derived from the hearths against the east wall. There was an ash-filled pit, 314, at the foot of this wall and there was a localized patch of soot-blackening on the wall face above the pit.

Outside the building, to the west, a rectangular feature, 287, with a dirty sand fill (bottom at SD-1.25 m.) cut the backfilled garderobe chamber. A second feature with similar dimensions and filling cut the bank 6 m. further north. Though they

are parallel to the curtain wall a connection between them cannot be proved and the outer ditch would have removed any trace of a third member of the group to the south.

Period 2 ; Rebuilt Castle, 13th/14th-17th century

In the late 13th or early 14th century the castle was completely remodelled to assume the concentric form which it retained till its demolition and which is suggested by the 1685 estate map.

This involved the total demolition of the original castle and its replacement by a system of defences comprising an outer ditch, a bank, a curtain wall with interval and corner towers, and an inner ditch. The spoil from the latter ditch was spread across the castle interior, raising the ground level by about 1 m. and sealing Period 1 levels. A little information on the internal buildings was recovered, but most of these, of necessity, would have been sited in the inner bailey, which lay outside the area available for investigation.

Because of the total robbing of all the major walls the chronology of this period must remain crude, and localized stratigraphical sequences cannot be grouped into meaningful phases.

The Outer Ditch

The outer ditch was located in Areas II, III, IV, V, and VII and was observed during the watching brief. It was not possible to excavate it fully and the most complete, though rather oblique section of it was obtained at the west end of Trench II (S3). Superficial modern deposits apart, it had only three main fills; rubbly brown clayey loam, 94, the uppermost; clayey orange sand, 92; and waterlogged dark grey clay, 87, in which organic material was preserved. This last layer, which filled the bottom of the ditch, was over 3 m. thick and was recorded in a test pile hole drilled through the centre of the ditch, just to the south of Trench II. The total depth of the ditch from the surface (95.19OD) was 6.7 m. in this bore hole.

Every layer contained 17th-century finds, which seems to indicate that the ditch was recut, and possibly enlarged, at this date. Layer 87 seemed to have been the result of subsequent silting or rubbish dumping and layer 92 was probably backfill from the demolition. Layer 92 was also clearly visible in Trench V, which was otherwise uninformative, being disturbed by services under Factory Street, the back of the Vine (west end) and a deep cellar (east end). These features had destroyed the ditch edges at a high level.

The western side of the ditch, previously inaccessible beneath a reinforced concrete basement, was clearly revealed during the contractor's excavations where at cleared level it was on average 14 m. wide. This would give a surface width of about 18 m. The clean orange backfill, 92, so obvious on the south-western corner, gradually gave way on the north to a brown, rubbly clay loam.

The inner lip of the ditch was located at the southern end of Area III (S13, 164, 165) and in Trench IV. Here too none of its fills pre-dated the 17th century.

The Outer Bank

The spoil from the outer ditch was used to create a bank between the ditch and the curtain wall. Before this bank was constructed the Period 1 defences appear to have been systematically dismantled and backfilled with clean material, and the building in Area II was partly demolished. Unlike the curtain wall, however, no attempt was made to demolish more than was necessary to ensure that the building was covered. This suggests that ironstone rubble was not at a premium as a building material and that conversely the curtain wall was built of a better quality dressed stone which it was viable to salvage for re-use.

Traces of demolition inside the building were fairly scarce; a few large stones lay on the floor, a rubble layer abutted the east side of Wall 53, and a few other layers had a fairly high rubble and mortar content, but the building was mainly filled with alternating layers of gravel, sand and fine grey loam (S3, S6; 291-67). The pressure of earth inside was sufficient to push the top of Wall 53 0.2 m. out of true (S3).

On the south-west corner of the castle the outer bank was over 14 m. wide, although it was rather narrower in Area III. The tail of the bank was visible in section 5 (turf-line 321) and in section 13 (136), where it was cut by the Period 3 curtain wall. It was also located in Trench IV.

The Curtain Wall

Fragments of a curtain wall were excavated in Trenches Ia, II, III, IV and VII, but the watching brief yielded important additional information which made it clear that these formed part of two separate defensive circuits.

All foundations had been heavily robbed, a factor which hindered their recognition during the watching brief. This was aggravated by the discovery that foundation depths varied considerably, so that although the towers and the gate were substantial enough to survive at cleared level, much of the wall, built directly from Period 1 ground level, or even higher, was completely removed in the levelling operations. Consequently fixed points on parts of the wall were few and stretches of it remain conjectural.

The evidence for the Period 2 curtain wall was derived almost entirely from the watching brief. A drum-tower, 406 (FIG. 2), 5.4 m. in diameter, was discovered just west of Trench Ia, at the south-western corner of the curtain wall. Most of its dressed ironstone facing survived at cleared level, although the core of the tower was filled with rubbly clay. The facing had been severely heat-reddened. Sufficient stone also survived in the western curtain wall 405 at cleared level to show that it was bonded into the tower. It was 1.5 m. wide and was traced north for just over 5 m. to the limits of the contractor's excavations. The full depth of these two foundations is not known.

The top of a drain, 407 (FIG. 7), leading from the base of the tower to the outer ditch was revealed at cleared level. It was constructed of ironstone blocks, squared on three faces, laid on a base of large stone slates and capped with thick limestone slabs. Fragments of stone slates and peg-tiles were packed beneath the capping-stones, and the rest of the construction trench was filled with rubble. An iron

grating anchored into the floor and roof of the drain was discovered 2 m. from its outfall into the ditch. The fall on the drain, which was 10 m. long, was negligible.

The construction date for this drain cannot be established: no useful dating evidence was found and its precise relationship to the tower is unknown.

East of Tower 406 the Period 2 curtain wall seems to have taken a straight course to the gate, and it could be seen in section 2 as a robber trench (20), cut by the Period 3 robber trench (14). It had shallower foundations than the western wall (1.8 m. below site datum) and due to this its junction with Tower 406 was not recorded: nor is its true width known, for a brick foundation destroyed its southern edge in Trench Ia, and a complete section was not observed elsewhere, but it seems to have been in the region of 1.4 m. to 2 m. wide.

Its southern edge, preserved as a robber trench 1.9 m. deep, was seen in a temporary section 14 m. south-east of Tower 406. The foundation trench penetrated 0.3 m. into the buried soil (1.9 m. below SD), and thin layers of mortar and charcoal lapping the wall on the surface of this layer indicated that at least the lower part of the wall was constructed before the ground level was raised.

The foundations of a second round tower, 409, were observed midway between the corner tower and the gate. It was 5 m. in diameter and had been completely robbed and backfilled with clay. The depth of this foundation is unknown.

The evidence for the curtain wall between this tower and the gate was slight. Most of its junction with the western gate tower was destroyed by a 19th-century brick well, but the southern edge of a robber trench (172) was located just to the south of it, and a fragment of unrobbed wall was preserved in the baulk immediately north-west of the well, although this was not discovered until the site was levelled. During this operation the wall was also sighted about 3 m. north-west of the gate tower. It was robbed, and apart from the higher rubble content, the fill of the trench could barely be distinguished from the surrounding sandy clay make-up. This would explain its apparent absence in S12, for most of the critical area was unexcavated, or destroyed by the back face of a brick-lined cess-pit, and the undisturbed portion of the layer was so small that a slight soil change in what was anyway a mottled fill could easily not have been recognized. It seems that the metalling, 123, where it existed was used as a base for the foundation.

The Gate

The western gate tower was excavated in Area III and the eastern tower was located under Market Approach during the watching brief. They were 4 m. apart and linked by a cross wall 2 m. wide. Both were completely robbed. The western tower was 9 m. wide and a maximum of 10.4 m. long. It had a square front and a circular back with a roughly triangular central spur to the rear. The western edge of this latter feature was destroyed by the 19th-century well. The foundation trench was not fully excavated; its lower fills had a high rubble and mortar content, whilst the upper layers were much more clayey (S14). The shape of the foundation trench is probably the result of more than one period of construction, and its semi-circular back face suggests that it may originally have been round.

The eastern tower was much damaged by the services under Market Approach

and it proved impossible to establish more than its width (9 m.) and its distance from the western tower.

Part of another foundation was excavated in the south-east corner of Area III. Its position on the edge of the outer ditch suggests that it was part of a bridge abutment, but it was fragmented by a sewer and several 19th-century pits, and its southern end was destroyed by a cellar.

The sewer seems to have severed the junction between two foundations: 155 to the north was trench built and the ironstone rubble was bonded with a rather pebbly cream mortar. The east end was robbed. Its full depth is unknown, but it was proved to 2.1 m. below SD. To the west was a layer of construction mortar 0.1 m. thick, which overlaid and had truncated some of the layers in the outer bank, suggesting that this foundation was not primary.

The foundation to the south of the sewer (158) was only 0.75 m. deep (bottom at 1.9 m. below SD). It was also trench built but was bisected by a north-south 'gully' 0.4 m. wide and 0.35 m. deep, with a mortary brown loam fill. This seemed to be something more than the result of random robbing and could once perhaps have held a timber. East of this feature the foundation resembled 155, but to the west the rubble appeared to have been unmortared. This foundation had no associated construction layer.

To the west of 158 was a fragment of a third robbed foundation, 173, truncated by a 19th-century pit. It was also trench built but its full depth is unknown. Not enough of it survived to suggest its function.

More of the foundation 155/158 was uncovered by the contractor's excavations under Market Approach, but it proved impossible to establish a coherent plan due to the difficulty of distinguishing the robbed foundation from the backfilled ditch, where both were filled with rubbly clay loam, and fragmented by service trenches.

The Inner Ditch

The inner ditch was located in Trenches I and III (S12), and additional observations were made during the watching brief. Its inner edge lay outside the area available for excavation, but it seems to have been at least 18 m. wide at the surface. Only the uppermost 2.5 m. were excavated, of which the first 1 m. was brick footings. Beneath this the ditch had been backfilled with layers of moderately rubbly clay loam except in the north-eastern corner of Trench I, where there was a layer composed entirely of mortar and rubble, much of it burnt. This appeared to have been derived from demolition in the inner bailey, and indicated the proximity of the inner lip of the ditch. Like the outer ditch it seems to have been recut in the 17th century, for the only layer not certainly of this date (and it produced no finds) was 132, on the extreme southern edge of the ditch.

The ditch lay about 9 m. inside the curtain wall, and reflected its plan exactly. The angle north of the gate, depicted on the 1685 estate map, was confirmed by observations north of the eastern gate tower and by a test pile beyond the edge of the redevelopment, which proved the ditch to a depth of 5 m.

The spoil derived from the ditch was spread across the castle interior, raising the ground level by about 1 m. in both baileys (122; S12, S13).

Other Features

There were relatively few non-defensive features belonging to Period 2. This was partly because the raised ground level was never more than 0.5 m. below the modern surface and had suffered from 19th-century and later destruction, and partly because the area enclosed by the outer bailey was anyway rather limited. However, the enormous berm on the south-western corner appeared to have been utilized.

A building was constructed on the back of the curtain wall east of Tower 406. Part of this wall, 22, which was 13 m. long, was excavated in Trench Ia (S2). It was built of coursed ironstone rubble and stood 0.7 m. high from its foundation offset. It was subsequently demolished and sealed by a layer of clay (10). Its eastern return wall was traced to the limit of the contractor's excavation, but the north wall was not located.⁴⁷

A pit bottom, 412, was observed at cleared level just south of Wall 22. It measured 1.25 m. by 1.5 m. and its fill suggested that it had been a cess-pit. There were no finds.

In Area III the surface of the make-up 122 was metalled with a layer of small ironstone lumps 0.1 m. thick (124), except in the gateway, where much larger lumps were used and a layer of crushed ironstone had been laid on top of these, giving a total thickness of up to 0.3 m. There was also a localized area of larger stones (101) north of the curtain wall. Where not cut away by later features this was overlain by grey brown clayey loam, 100.

Only two features were cut through this surface. The first was a pit, 121, 0.8 m. wide and 1.0 m. deep with a charcoally lower fill (126); the other was a wall foundation, 161 (S14). This was a problematical feature whose function was unclear. It comprised an oblong foundation built of dressed stone and rubble, bonded in a cream mortar, with a tapering east end. It was trench-built within Layer 122 and did not penetrate the buried soil beneath. It was cut by a Period 3 feature, 159, and by the edge of the robber trench for the western tower. The 19th-century well obscured its western end. It seems to have been demolished before the end of Period 2.

Area II produced evidence of occupation on the berm in the form of a cess-pit dug into the tail of the external bank (S3, S5). It was 2 m. deep and had a dry-stone lining, 51, carried to the base of the pit on the south side but only as far as the metalled surface, 123, on the north and west. The bottom of the shaft measured 1.2 m. by 1.8 m. The lower part of the pit had an organic fill (64) which was sealed with rubbly brown loam (50) incorporating the collapsed stone lining. It cut an earlier and shallower pit immediately to the north, which also seemed to have had a partial stone lining. Layer 321 (S5) seemed to have been the ground surface from which the pits were dug and the post-hole, 311, might have been part of an associated structure.

Much later a wall, 52 (S3, S5), was built over the backfilled pits. It was 1 m. wide but only the bottom two courses were preserved. It is best assigned to a late phase in Period 2, for it was cut by the robbed Period 3 Foundation 278, with which, on grounds of plan, it is unlikely ever to have been associated. In the north-west corner of Area II was another steep-sided rectangular pit of uncertain function, 279.

⁴⁷ The west end of Trench I was not excavated deep enough to find it.

Period 3 ; Civil War

At the time of the civil war the Period 2 curtain wall between Tower 406 and the gate fell down or was demolished, and was replaced by a new wall following the line of the outer rather than the inner ditch. The gate towers were probably refronted and the ditches recut at the same time.

Most of the evidence for the curtain wall was derived from Trenches Ia, II, III, IV and VII. From Tower 406, which was retained, the wall ran south across Trench Ia (S2, 14, oblique) and turned east just north of Trench II. From this corner a wall, 278, projected south-west into Trench II. It was 3.4 m. wide and terminated in a square butt-end 6 m. from the edge of the trench, destroying the junction between the Period 1 and Period 2 banks and the corner of the Period 2 building (S3, 278, an oblique section). It was 1.5 m. deep (below SD). To make a plausible structure it must have had a western counterpart between Trenches Ia and II, and a large 'pit' with a grey-brown clayey loam fill was observed in this area, although its exact position and dimensions were not recorded.

From this corner the wall ran east to the gate through Trench VII and Area III, where it was 3.4 m. wide. Seven metres east of Trench VII there was a change in the depth of the foundation, which became *c.* 1 m. deeper in relation to the site datum, though perhaps not in relation to the former ground level. At this point the soil mark of the robbed wall which was visible at cleared level and which was continuous from the gate, stopped abruptly.

In the angle between the wall and the western tower were two features, 145 and 174, which can be interpreted as the footings for scaffolding used in the repair of the gate. They both contained 17th-century material.

Feature 145, 3 m. long and 2 m. wide, projected from the south face of the curtain wall, and appeared to have been excavated at the same time, to judge from the continuous trench bottom. It held at least two large posts, which were withdrawn when the wall was completed, and the resultant void was filled with building debris (S12). Its surface was sealed by a spread of charcoal, and further layers of earth and rubble were dumped on the tail of the outer bank before the curtain wall was robbed.

Feature 174 was a pit in the corner between the wall and the tower. Only part of it was excavated but its fill had a high rubble and mortar content.

Two other features of this period were excavated in Area III, a post-hole, 171 (S13), cut through the back of the bank, and a pit, 159 (S14). It is not clear whether this was dug to rob Wall 161, or whether their coincidence is fortuitous.

A section of robbed curtain wall, which, from its dimensions and alignment, ought to have been part of the Period 3 circuit was excavated in Trench IV. The area either side of the wall had been used for burials. Two, both orientated west-east were excavated but proved much disturbed, and others had clearly been destroyed when the ditches were backfilled, for there were disarticulated bones in the fill. Evidence for further burials was noted on the lip of the inner ditch north of the eastern gate tower during the watching brief. Their date is uncertain as they appear too numerous to have been connected with the civil war sieges for which the number of casualties is approximately known. Furthermore, they included

children's burials, they appear to have been bisected by the Period 3 defences, and the disregard with which they were treated when the castle was slighted suggests that their presence had by then been forgotten. A medieval date is perhaps more likely.

Period 4 ; Post Demolition

Several features were excavated which post-dated the demolition of the castle and ante-dated the 19th-century redevelopment of the site. One of the most prominent of these was a wall 25 m. long built of reused ironstone which ran across Area III. Part of it was built over the backfill of the outer ditch and the Period 3 curtain wall, and it also sealed a steep-sided rectangular pit, 104, of early 18th-century date. Four different builds could be detected. There was a fragment of an eastern crosswall at its northern end, but their junction had been destroyed by 19th-century foundations.

Two walls, both orientated N.E.-S.W., were located in Area II (72 and 76, S3) ; the corner of 72 overlay the southern lip of Feature 278. A north-south wall was also built over the outer ditch at the southern end of Trench IV. It met a crosswall at its northern end.

Features Outside the Castle

Apart from Trenches V and VI no excavation was undertaken outside the castle perimeter. Levelling, which removed no more than 0.5 m. of soil in places, reduced this area to the natural gravel, and there were places where the overlying deposits were only 0.3 m. deep. These consisted principally of an undifferentiated grey-brown loam. There were however a few pit bottoms between Trench VI and Market Approach, the area least destroyed by cellars.

There were over a dozen stone- or brick-lined wells in the area, all of which were post-medieval. Several (*e.g.* S3) were constructed in the backfill of the outer ditch. The stone-lined wells, like some of the cellars and the party walls between the older houses, were almost certainly built of re-used castle stone.

DISCUSSION

The character of the buried soil beneath the castle and the large area over which it was observed shows that the site was never intensively occupied at any time before the construction of the castle. The prehistoric and Roman features (141 and 112) and finds are best interpreted as the remains of successive field systems, although the incidence of pottery suggests that there was a settlement of some kind at no great distance away. Similarly, the Saxon focus of Banbury must have been elsewhere and the environs of the church would seem to be the obvious place for this and earlier settlements.⁴⁸

Documentary evidence confirms that the castle and Market Place were built on agricultural land, for in 1170⁴⁹ and again in 1172, when accounting for the revenues of the vacant See of Lincoln, the reeves of Banbury were allowed to deduct

⁴⁸ See references in note 5.

⁴⁹ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, X, 18.

30s. from the sum they owed in default of the rent from the demesne land 'where the market place now is'. It seems preferable therefore to ascribe the traces of early medieval occupation excavated in the extreme south-west corner of the site (site A, 1972⁵⁰ and Trench V) to the 12th rather than the late 11th century.

The existence (FIG. 9) of a 12th-century castle with a different plan to its successor was unsuspected before excavations took place. It appears to have enclosed the same area of land and to have been defended by a thick embanked curtain wall with a relatively small ditch. There was evidence to suggest an interval tower close to the middle of the west wall, which supposes that there may have been others regularly disposed round the walls and at the corners. Such towers on other castles of the period tend to be rectangular rather than round.⁵¹ For topographical reasons the principal gateway probably occupied the same general position as its successor, although it must have been sited further south. The buildings excavated in the centre of the interior may have been part of the principal range, and there was also a group in the south-west corner. They were separated by an expanse of open ground, the western part of which was metalled.

It used to be thought⁵² that the original castle was of motte and bailey type because a mound thought to be the remains of a motte formerly stood on the north side of Castle Street; however, excavations by the Banbury Historical Society⁵³ proved that it was of recent origin. After the 1972 excavations north of Castle Street, and the discovery of a range of early buildings sealed beneath a make-up layer, it was suggested that the first castle took the form of a manor house,⁵⁴ which perhaps had no defences. However, whilst the central range may have been domestic rather than military in character, it seems to have been protected by substantial defences from the outset and there is no evidence to suggest a preliminary timber phase.

Bishop Alexander's building activities were prodigious, and renowned in his own day. His castle at Newark was described by Henry of Huntingdon⁵⁵ as 'a magnificent castle of very ornate construction', and his style of living was so splendid that he was styled 'The Magnificent' in the court of Rome,⁵⁶ which suggests that Banbury Castle would have been designed as a building of some architectural pretensions.

The best parallels are provided by the other castles Alexander and his family built. In common with Newark and Sleaford, Banbury is sited on low-lying, not particularly defensible land close to a river, on the periphery of a town which the Bishop was partly instrumental in founding.⁵⁷ Newark Castle,⁵⁸ begun about 1130, is much the best preserved of the three. The site is a very constricted one, between

⁵⁰ Fasham, *op. cit.* note 1.

⁵¹ D. F. Renn, *Norman Castles* (1968), 34-45.

⁵² *V.C.H. Oxon.*, II, 322; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, X, 41.

⁵³ V. Bromley, 'Castle Interim Report', *Cake and Cockhorse*, 1, No. 2 (Nov. 1959), 18.

⁵⁴ P. J. Fasham, 'Banbury Castle, a summary of excavations in 1972', *Cake and Cockhorse*, Summer 1973 116.

⁵⁵ Quoted in H. Braun, 'Notes on Newark Castle', *Trans. Thoroton Soc.*, xxxix (1935), 57.

⁵⁶ Beesley, *op. cit.* note 16, 63.

⁵⁷ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, X, 20.

⁵⁸ Braun, *op. cit.* note 55; *Trans. Thoroton Soc.*, LX (1956), 20 ff.; *Trans. Thoroton Soc.*, LXXVII (1973) 34 ff.; Renn, *op. cit.* note 51, 252.

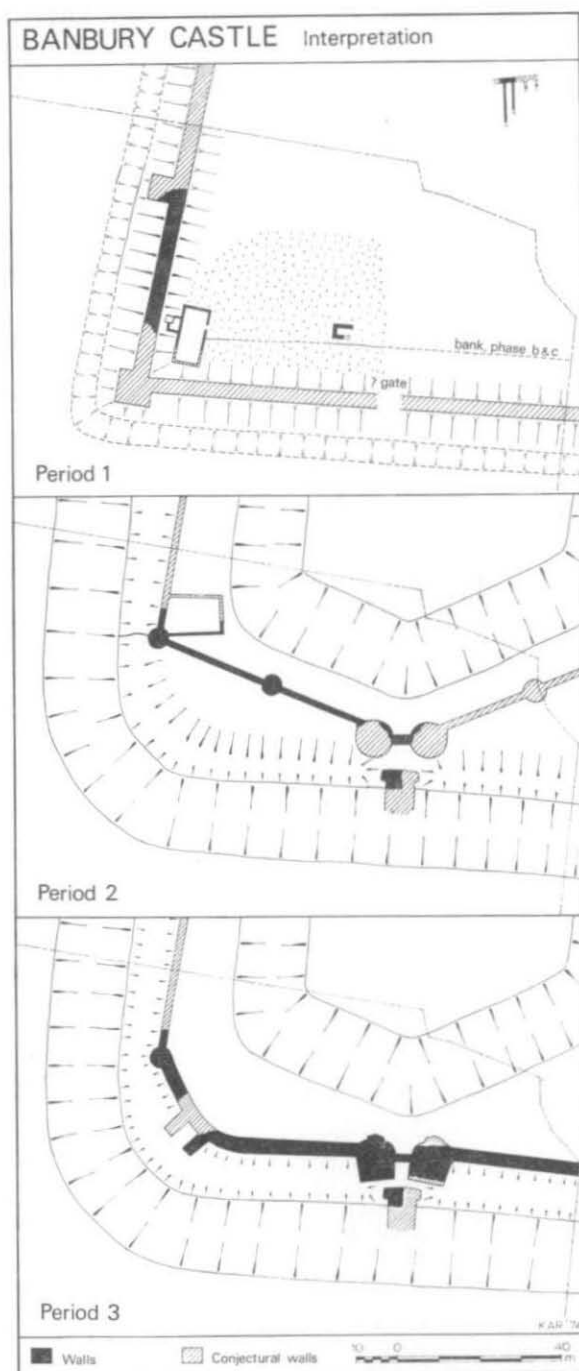


FIG. 9
Suggested development of the castle.

the Fosse Way, which had to be diverted,⁵⁹ and the river Trent, so that the castle is rectangular. The western half of the bailey survives, including a long stretch of curtain wall 3 m. wide and 12.5 m. high, and the original gatehouse which also served as a keep. A slightly projecting rectangular tower protected the south-west corner. Because space was at a premium the internal buildings were built against the curtain wall. The wide curtain wall is paralleled at Banbury and there might have been a similar disposition of corner towers.

Sleaford,⁶⁰ built on a less constricted site, had a square plan and, according to Leland⁶¹ there was 'an high tower in the middle of the castle but not set upon a hill of raised earth'. Little else is known about it, but the description indicates that the principal buildings were centrally placed within a square enclosure.

Sherborne castle,⁶² built between 1107 and 1135 by Alexander's father, Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, perhaps provides the best parallel. It is rectangular in plan, measuring 143 m. by 100 m. internally, but has splayed corners. The main gate lies in the middle of the north side and there are subsidiary gates at the southern angles of the north-east and south-west splays. These are matched on the two corresponding angles by projecting rectangular corner towers. A notable feature of the interior, which is flat, is the grouping of the main buildings round a courtyard in the centre of the enclosure. The keep, situated at the south-west corner, formed only one element of the group. Most of the subsidiary buildings clustered round this range, but a few were built against the curtain wall. This kind of arrangement could well have been paralleled at Banbury, although only further excavations in what remains of the centre of the castle could prove the point.

The building in the south-west corner of the castle enclosure merits some discussion. Unlike some of the more fragmentary buildings further east, it appears to have been a primary feature, because of its relationship to the wall, the bank and the metalling. About a quarter of its length must have been destroyed by the outer ditch, for otherwise it would not have been worthwhile to partition the southern end, and it was probably a free-standing building, as it is unlikely that the curtain wall would have closed the southern side when it did not close the much longer west side. The hearths and the addition of a garderobe chamber suggest that the building had a domestic function for most, if not all of its history, and they would also seem to indicate that the building was single storied and not an undercroft to a first-floor hall. No traces of windows were found, but these would probably have been set high in the wall. It was clearly a domestic building of some quality, although subsidiary to the main group, and parallels are difficult to come by. Halls were often built close to the curtain wall, but most are rather larger, being one of the principal buildings, and invariably two-storied.⁶³ The fire during Phase Ia seems to have been confined to the interior of the building, for the metalling and the external wall faces were unburnt. It may have been caused by the roof catching fire.

The documentary evidence gives no direct clue as to when or why it was

⁵⁹ The charter permits the diverting of the Fosse Way. Quoted in Braun, *op. cit.* note 55, 53.

⁶⁰ E. Trollope, 'Shadows of the past history of Sleaford', *Assoc. Architectural Soc. Reports and Papers*, vii (1863), 72; Renn, *op. cit.* note 51, 312.

⁶¹ Leland, *Itin.*, I, 27.

⁶² R.C.H.M., *West Dorset* (1952), 64, plan facing plate 104.

⁶³ M. E. Wood, *The English Medieval House* (1965), 16.

decided to demolish the first castle and start afresh, for none of the features so far excavated was retained, although it is just possible that some major buildings in the centre might have been. Nor did the 1973/4 excavations do more than confirm the wide 13th/14th-century date bracket suggested for this event by work on site B, where a buckle perhaps of this date was excavated from the make-up layer. However the disappearance of the chapel may have had some bearing upon the date of the rebuilding. It was in use in 1298 but was apparently disused by 1340,⁶⁴ which suggests that the castle had in the meantime been rebuilt without a chapel or alternatively that work was still in progress.

It is perhaps unlikely that strategic considerations were the only factors governing the complete rebuilding of the castle. Structural reasons may have played a part, although there is no evidence to suggest this. The underlying sands, gravels and clays are unstable and the walls were not deeply founded. The site may also have become very wet, for the water table is high even at the present day, the north side of the castle is very close to the river, and the first ditch does not seem to have been large. Large ditches would have served the double purpose of draining the site more effectively and providing material to raise the internal ground level.

The castle was rebuilt in the concentric form described by Leland and suggested by the 1685 estate map. The defences comprised an outer ditch, a bank, a curtain wall with drum towers, a narrow outer bailey and an inner ditch, all proved by excavation, and an inner wall for which there is only documentary evidence, all of which enclosed the principal buildings of the castle.

The first step in the reconstruction appears to have been the demolition and backfilling of the existing defences. Common sense would dictate that it was easier to dig and lay the foundations for the towers and the curtain wall before the ground level was raised, and this appears to have been followed in practice, as is indicated by the construction layers abutting the face of the wall on top of the buried soil between Towers 406 and 409. Next the ground level would have been raised with the soil from the ditches, and finally the new internal buildings constructed. The foundations for Wall 22 appear to have been excavated through the make-up layer.

There is no reason to believe that the new castle was not designed as a single entity nor constructed in a single, if protracted, operation. The relationship between the curtain wall and the inner ditch was clearly intentional and was quite possibly matched on the south-east side of the gate.⁶⁵ The awkwardness of the south-west corner was caused by superimposing a polygonal plan within a pre-existing square perimeter.

The castle in its rebuilt form, with its symmetrical plan, concentric walls, drum towers and massive gateway was clearly influenced by the principles of Edwardian military architecture,⁶⁶ but it has no exact parallels. Beaumaris castle,⁶⁷ built like Banbury on level ground, is similar in some respects. It is symmetrically planned with two concentric lines of walls, although they are not separated by a moat, and the outer wall, which is polygonal, is strengthened by numerous round towers.

⁶⁴ See above, notes 12 and 13.

⁶⁵ The pre-existing excavations for the south side of the subway made it impossible to prove this point.

⁶⁶ S. Toy, *The Castles of Great Britain* (1963), 164.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 173.

No trace of a bridge abutment was found north of the outer gate, which suggests that the inner gate may have been offset for defensive reasons. If so the eastern side was perhaps the most probable position as there were no obvious structural traces along the south-west side of the ditch, and the building at the corner seems to preclude access from that point. However, excavations in the interior produced no evidence for an entrance. The eastern part of the site was occupied by buildings, some of them substantial whilst the western end served for a time as a rubbish dump. The 1685 map shows a direct route to the inner bailey, but this could be the result of post-castle expediency. From the position of buildings excavated on site B the inner wall must have been built close to the lip of the inner ditch.

The only building known to have stood in the outer bailey was the prison, which was apparently situated near the gate.⁶⁸ This could possibly be equated with the building at the rear of the curtain wall on the south-west corner, which seems to have been demolished whilst the Period 2 curtain wall was still standing. The prison is known to have been demolished in the 16th century to provide building materials for repairing the gate.

The frequent documentary references to repairs and refortification in the winter of 1644/5 can leave no doubt that it is to this period that the final alterations to the castle belong. Repairs to the structure were carried out in the 16th century but there were no circumstances to demand major alterations, as the castle was little used.

The castle had seen no action prior to the civil war, but it seems to have withstood mining and cannon bombardment during the first siege surprisingly well, considering that the walls were neither particularly thick nor deeply founded. Earth banks seem to have afforded the walls some protection, whilst mining operations were seriously hampered by water and probably also by the instability of the ground. But these activities seriously weakened the structure and the real damage became apparent the following winter, when there are reports of long stretches of the curtain wall falling down, including one 'towards the Market place'.⁶⁹ This event would seem to have occasioned the refronting as it provided an opportunity to bring the defences into line with 17th-century military practice by moving the walls forward to follow the line of the outer ditch and constructing bastions on the corners so that guns could be moved closer to the enemy batteries. These bastions were generally diamond-shaped with their flanks at right angles to the main rampart in the Dutch manner,⁷⁰ whether they were added to pre-existing defences, as at Cambridge castle,⁷¹ or whether they formed part of a new fortification, like the Queen's Sconce at Newark.⁷² They seem usually to have been constructed of earth and it is difficult to see the function served by the Period 3 wall projecting from the south-west corner, unless perhaps it formed part of a sally port to which there is reference.⁷³

⁶⁸ See above, note 20.

⁶⁹ See above, note 32.

⁷⁰ B. H. St. J. O'Neil, *Castles and Cannon* (1960), 83 ff.

⁷¹ W. H. St. J. Hope, 'On the Norman Origin of Cambridge Castle', *Proc. Cambs. Ant. Soc.*, xi (1906), Pl. XXII, 343.

⁷² M. W. Barley, 'The Queen's Sconce, Newark', *Trans. Thoroton Soc.*, Lxi (1957), 26; R.C.H.M., *Newark on Trent; the Civil War Siege Works* (1964); R. T. Lattey, E. J. S. Parsons and I. G. Philip, 'A contemporary map of the defences of Oxford in 1644', *Oxoniensia*, 1 (1936), 161-72.

⁷³ See above, note 30.

The reference to the excavation of a new moat probably refers to the recutting of the outer ditch, which had been partly filled and drained during the first siege. The third moat mentioned in a letter was probably the Cuttle Brook, which ran along the north side of the market place and which would have given the impression of a third water defence if there were no intervening buildings, which was the case when the letter was written.

Contemporary writers were in no doubt as to the great strength of the castle following its refortification, but the second siege does not seem to have tested this to the full, owing to a shortage of artillery on the Parliamentary side. The generous terms on which it was surrendered seem to have been a reflection of the difficulty of taking it by force.

THE FINDS

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

The quantity of medieval pottery recovered from the site was not great, totalling only a few hundred sherds. There were no large groups, for none of the excavated pits was very productive, whilst the pottery in the make-up layers cannot be regarded as closely stratified. The pottery has been assigned to periods on the basis of the stratigraphy but no statistical analysis or detailed classification of fabrics has been attempted because of the small quantity of material involved. The pottery suggested a broad date bracket in the second half of the 13th or first half of the 14th century for the major alterations to the castle. Period 2a features contained 12th- and 13th-century types, whilst 14th-century pottery occurred in Period 2b features. The 12th-century use of the Area II building is attested by the pottery from the associated cess-pit (FIG. 10, 8).

Period 0 (FIG. 10)

Finds from the buried soil, 61, comprised several small Romano-British body sherds (from Areas II and III), including the footring from an orange colour-coated imitation of samian f.33 (Area II), a small Saxon rim (FIG. 10, 1, Area III), and 11 sherds of shell-tempered St. Neots type pottery, including two rims (FIG. 10, 2, 3).

1. Small abraded rim sherd from jar. Soft, black, coarse sand-tempered fabric. Apparently Saxon. Made without use of a wheel.

2. Rim of jar, fine shell-tempering, smooth pinkish-grey soapy surface. St. Neots type.

3. Rim of flat-topped bowl, fine shell tempering, smooth pinkish-buff soapy surface. St. Neots type. A similar bowl (4) was found unstratified in post-medieval layers in the inner ditch.

4. Rim of bowl, fine shell tempering, smooth pinkish-grey soapy surface.

All these forms can be compared with vessels from Logic Lane, Oxford,⁷⁴ and appear to date to the 10th or 11th centuries.

Period 1 (FIG. 10)

There was a dearth of pottery associated with the Period 1 building in Area II, the pottery from the cess-pit (FIG. 10, 8) providing the best dating evidence. Three fabric types were represented, mostly as small body sherds; sandy wares, shell-tempered St. Neots type wares, and coarser shell- and limestone-tempered wares with a lumpy surface. They were present in roughly equal quantities. In Area III sand-tempered wares predominated though the quantity involved was very small. There were also four sherds of a hard, very

⁷⁴ Cf. F. Radcliffe, 'Excavations at Logic Lane', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961/2), 38-69, Fig. 9, 10; Fig. 10, 13, 18.

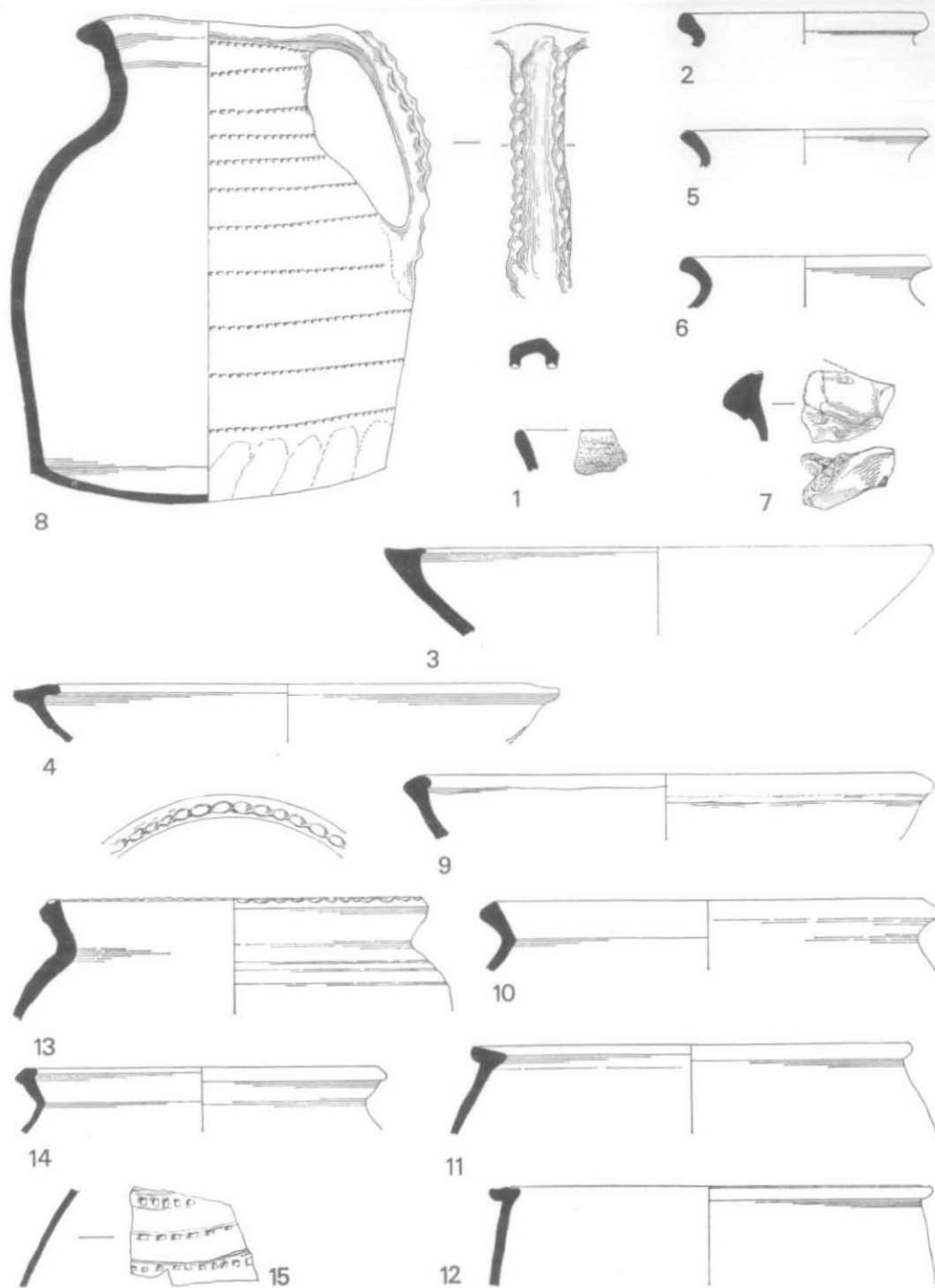


FIG. 10
Medieval pottery Periods 0-1. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

coarsely tempered fabric (particles up to 1.0 mm. long).⁷⁵ No glazed wares were found in Period 1 levels.

5. Rim of jar, fine shell tempering, smooth pinkish-buff soapy surfaces. (II, 306).
6. Rim of jar, as 5. (II, 272).⁷⁶
7. Rim of bowl with part of a projecting horizontal handle. Shell-tempered, smooth dark grey slightly soapy surfaces. This arrangement is reminiscent of a bar-lip,⁷⁷ although it is normally the inner rather than the outer lip which is thickened. (II, 284).
8. Complete profile of unglazed pitcher with sagging base, the rim beaded, with a pushed-out spout, a concave strap handle affixed to the rim and decorated with two rows of finger-tipping. Body decorated with 11 bands of coarse rectangular rouletting, base knife-trimmed. Fabric tempered with coarse sand, grey core, buff, slightly lumpy surfaces, small areas of base discoloured by heat. Oxford vessels from the Bodleian extension and St. Giles' church⁷⁸ provide close parallels for this form although they are decorated with wavy lines, not rouletting. The latter appears to have been a popular technique of decoration on pitchers at Banbury, cf. 15, 36 and 48. The Oxford parallels are dated to the 12th century. (II, 290) in cess-pit (99).
9. Rim of bowl, limestone-tempered, reddish-grey roughly finished pimply surfaces. (II, 289).
10. Rim of jar, coarse sand and limestone tempering, dark grey core, pale buff exterior. (II, 289).
11. Clubbed cooking-pot rim, coarse limestone tempering, dark grey fabric, pimply surfaces. (II, 57).
12. Clubbed rim of straight-sided cooking-pot, fabric as 11. (II, 57).⁷⁹
13. Everted rim of cooking-pot, tempered with sand and coarse inclusions up to 3 mm. long, dark grey core, hard sandy buff surfaces, finger-tip decoration on top of rim, rilling on shoulder. (II, 57).⁸⁰
14. Everted rim of cooking-pot, hard, sand-tempered grey-buff fabric. (III, 137).⁸¹
15. Ten sherds from a pitcher, some joining, coarse sand- and shell-tempered fabric with dark grey core, smooth slightly soapy pinkish-buff surfaces, lumpy interior face caused by hand working. Decorated with uneven bands of coarse rectangular or trapezoidal rouletting, separated in places by poorly drawn single incised lines. (III, 123).⁸²

Period 2a (FIG. 11)

The pottery ascribed to this period was derived from the demolition and construction layers associated with the major medieval alterations to the castle in Trench Ia and Areas II and III. Pottery from Trench Ia was relatively prolific and the finds from Layer 21 constitute the largest group from the site. In the relatively large groups from this trench and Area III sand-tempered fabrics were very much more common than shell- and limestone-tempered wares. These were however the commoner in Area II, but no layer in this area contained more than an occasional sherd, which may have been residual.

⁷⁵ Similar to fabric 2 in Fasham, *op. cit.* note 1, and the very coarse wares from Swinbrook in D. A. Hinton, 'Medieval pottery from Swinbrook, Oxon.', *Oxoniensia*, xxxvi (1971), 107-10.

⁷⁶ For 5 and 6 cf. Radcliffe, *op. cit.* note 74, Fig. 9.

⁷⁷ See J. G. Hurst, 'Saxo-Norman pottery in East Anglia', *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, xlix (1955), 43-70, Fig. 2, 5.

⁷⁸ See R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, 'The archaeology of the Bodleian extension in Broad Street, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), 114 and Pl. X.1.

⁷⁹ 9, 11 and 12 are all characteristic types of the 11th and 12th centuries, cf. E. M. Jope, 'Recent medieval finds in the Oxford region', *Oxoniensia*, xiii (1948), 67-73; E. M. Jope and R. I. Threlfall, 'The 12th-century castle at Ascot Doilly', *Antiq. J.*, xxxix (1959), 219-73, Figs. 9 and 15.

⁸⁰ For a similar pot but with larger finger-tipping, see M. Robinson, 'Excavations at Copt Hay, Tetsworth', *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii (1973), 41-115, Fig. 16, 18. Dated to the 12th century.

⁸¹ Cf. M. Biddle, 'The deserted medieval village of Seacourt, Berks.', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii, (1961/2), 70-201, Fig. 23, 15. Dated to the 13th century.

⁸² For rouletted pottery, see note 78.

Layer 21

16. Flat-topped cooking-pot rim, five adjoining sherds, hard, sand-tempered, dark-grey to red-brown fabric, rilling on shoulder, exterior soot-encrusted.
 17. Flat-topped cooking-pot rim, pinkish-grey sand- and grog-tempered fabric.
 18. Everted slightly beaded cooking-pot rim, sand-tempered fabric with a grey core and buff surfaces.
 19. Everted angular cooking-pot rim, sand-tempered fabric with a grey core and buff surfaces. Soot encrustation on exterior.⁸³
 20. Everted rim of straight-sided cooking-pot, fabric as 19. Soot encrustation on exterior.⁸⁴
 21. Handle, sand-, shell- and limestone-tempered, grey core, pinkish-buff, slightly soapy surfaces, vesiculated internally. Decorated with two rows of deeply cut wedge-shaped incisions. Covered with a thin patchy yellow-green glaze.
 22. Body sherd from lower part of pitcher, fabric as 21. Decorated with diagonal combed and incised wavy lines. A dull, thin yellow glaze on the exterior.⁸⁵ Sherds from similar vessels were found in Layer 17.
- Four tripod pitcher body sherds, grey sandy fabric, yellow-green glaze, decorated with applied strips and incised straight and wavy lines. (Not illus.).

Layer 17

23. Everted cooking-pot rim, grey sand-tempered fabric, buff surfaces, rilling on shoulder, finger-tipping on outer angle of rim.
24. Rim of cooking-pot, shell-tempered, grey-buff fabric, finger-tipping on outer angle of rim, heavily soot-encrusted.
25. Rim sherd from cooking-pot, grey sand-tempered fabric, finger-tipping on outer face of rim.⁸⁶
26. Flat-topped cooking-pot rim, grey-buff sand- and shell-tempered fabric.
27. Body sherd, sand-tempered fabric with larger inclusions, grey core, pinkish-buff surfaces, flaking internally. Decorated with combed wavy lines and applied strips.
28. Rim, grey, sand-tempered fabric. (II, 302).
29. Clubbed rim of bowl, grey limestone-tempered fabric, pimply brown surfaces. (II, 59).
30. Rim sherd, limestone- and shell-tempered, grey core, buff surfaces. (II, 59).
31. Rim of cooking-pot, limestone- and shell-tempered, grey core, soapy brown surfaces. (II, 59).

Layer 122

The following sherds were scattered widely throughout the layer which covered much of Area III, and cannot therefore be considered a closely associated group.

32. Everted cooking-pot rim, grey sand-tempered fabric.⁸⁷
33. Everted cooking-pot rim, sand-tempered, grey core, buff surfaces.⁸⁸
34. Cooking-pot with angular everted rim, dark grey sand-tempered fabric, soot encrusted surfaces.
35. Rim of flat-topped bowl, grey, limestone- and shell-tempered fabric, pimply surfaces.

⁸³ For 16-19, cf. Biddle, *op. cit.* note 81, Fig. 22, 2; Robinson, *op. cit.* note 80, Fig. 17, 26 and Fig. 18, 49, where these forms are dated to the 13th century.

⁸⁴ Cf. Joep, *op. cit.* note 86, Fig. 8, 12th century.

⁸⁵ For pitchers with the same fabric, glaze and mode of decoration, see Joep, *op. cit.* note 79, Fig. 18, 12th century.

⁸⁶ For 23-5, see Radcliffe, *op. cit.* note 74, Fig. 14, 3-7, 12, and Robinson, *op. cit.* note 80, Fig. 16. Dated to the 12th century.

⁸⁷ Cf. Biddle, *op. cit.* note 81, Fig. 23, 18. Early 13th century.

⁸⁸ Cf. Biddle, *op. cit.* note 81, Fig. 22, 13. 13th century.

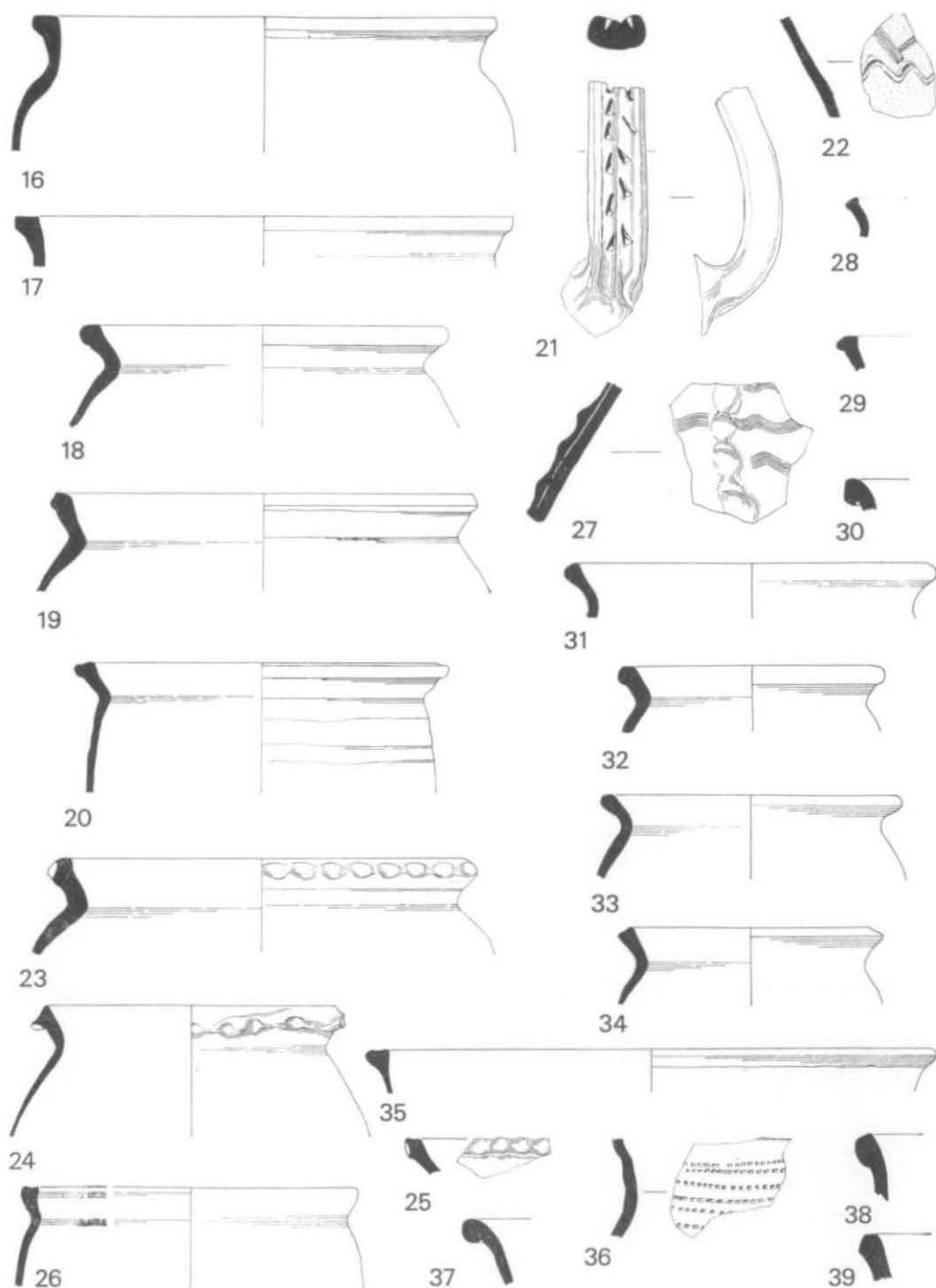


FIG. 11

Medieval pottery Period 2a. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

36. Body sherd from neck of pitcher, tempered with coarse sand, light grey core, reddish-brown surfaces. Decorated with bands of coarse rectangular rouletting.⁸⁹
37. Beaded cooking-pot rim, fine sand tempering, dark grey core, smooth grey-buff surfaces.
38. Small abraded rim sherd, sand-tempered, grey core, buff surfaces.
39. Small rim sherd, limestone-tempered, grey core, brown surfaces.

Period 2b (FIG. 12)

The pottery ascribed to this phase is derived from features cut through the Period 2a make-up or from layers which accumulated on its surface. Several pits belonged to this period but none produced large groups of pottery.

40. Many sherds from a glazed jug giving a near complete profile, fine hard sand-tempered orange-pink fabric with smooth surfaces. Decorated with dark brown painted lines under a yellow-green glaze, which was thickest at the top of the pot, where it contained dark brown streaks. This type of jug is a common 14th-century type in the Oxford region and is usually ascribed to Brill. (III, 101).⁹⁰

41. Clubbed rim of bowl with internal projection, hard grey sand-tempered fabric. Finger-tipped decoration on top of rim. (III, 124).⁹¹

42. Clubbed cooking-pot rim, pale grey-buff sand-tempered fabric. (1a, 10).

43. Rim of bowl, grey-buff shell-tempered fabric, smooth soapy surfaces. (II, 50).⁹²

44. Everted cooking-pot rim, coarse sand-tempered grey-buff fabric, soot-encrusted exterior. (II, 64).

45. Cooking-pot rim (2 adjoining sherds), hard grey-brown sand-tempered fabric, finger-tip decoration on outer face of rim. (III, 126).

46. Flat-topped cooking-pot, hard, sand-tempered grey-brown fabric. (III, 126).⁹³

47. Cooking-pot rim sherd, grey sand-tempered fabric. Rim decorated with finger-tipping. (III, 121).

48. Rim of jug (several sherds, some joining, including 2 from 126). Coarse sand tempering, grey core, pale buff surfaces. Decorated with a band of coarse triangular rouletting. (III, 121).⁹⁴

49. Rim of cooking-pot (about 20 sherds, some joining), tempered with sand and a little crushed flint, dark grey core, smooth pink surfaces, spots of yellow-green glaze on top of rim. (II, 279).⁹⁵

50. One large and two small body sherds from a glazed jug, pink-buff sand-tempered fabric with a smooth finish, mottled green external glaze flaking in places, decorated with two incised grooves. (II, 279).⁹⁶

POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY (*Periods 3 and 4*)

Post-medieval pottery occurred abundantly in the back-fill of the castle ditches and the robbed-out walls and gate towers. With the exception of some later sherds from the uppermost fillings of the ditches and Pit 104 it formed a homogeneous mid 17th-century group comparable with such collections as those from Basing House,⁹⁷ Dover Castle,⁹⁸

⁸⁹ Cf. above, Fig. 10, 8 and footnote 78.

⁹⁰ For a similar jug, see T. G. Hassall, 'Excavations at 44-6 Cornmarket Street 1970', *Oxoniensia*, xxvii (1971), 15-33, Fig. 5, 21/1, and also E. M. Jope in 'Whittington court Roman villa', *Trans. Bristol & Glos. Archaeol. Soc.*, LXXI (1952), 70-5. 14th century.

⁹¹ Cf. Robinson, *op. cit.* note 80, Fig. 21, 91, mid 13th century.

⁹² Cf. Robinson, *op. cit.* note 80, Fig. 21, 97, late 13th/early 14th century.

⁹³ For similar form, but not fabric, see Biddle, *op. cit.* note 81, Fig. 26, 1, late 13th century.

⁹⁴ Cf. Fasham, *op. cit.* note 1, for a small sherd of a similar fabric found in a late 13th-century pit.

⁹⁵ For a pot of similar form and fabric including spots of glaze, see Biddle, *op. cit.* note 81, Fig. 27, 1. Dated pre-1400.

⁹⁶ Cf. Fasham, *op. cit.* note 1, Fig. 9, 32, from a late 13th-century pit.

⁹⁷ S. Moorhouse, 'Finds from Basing House (c. 1540-1645): Part I', *Post Medieval Archaeology*, 4 (1970),

11-91.

⁹⁸ D. C. Mynard, 'A group of post-medieval pottery from Dover Castle', *Post. Med. Arch.*, 3 (1969), 31-46.

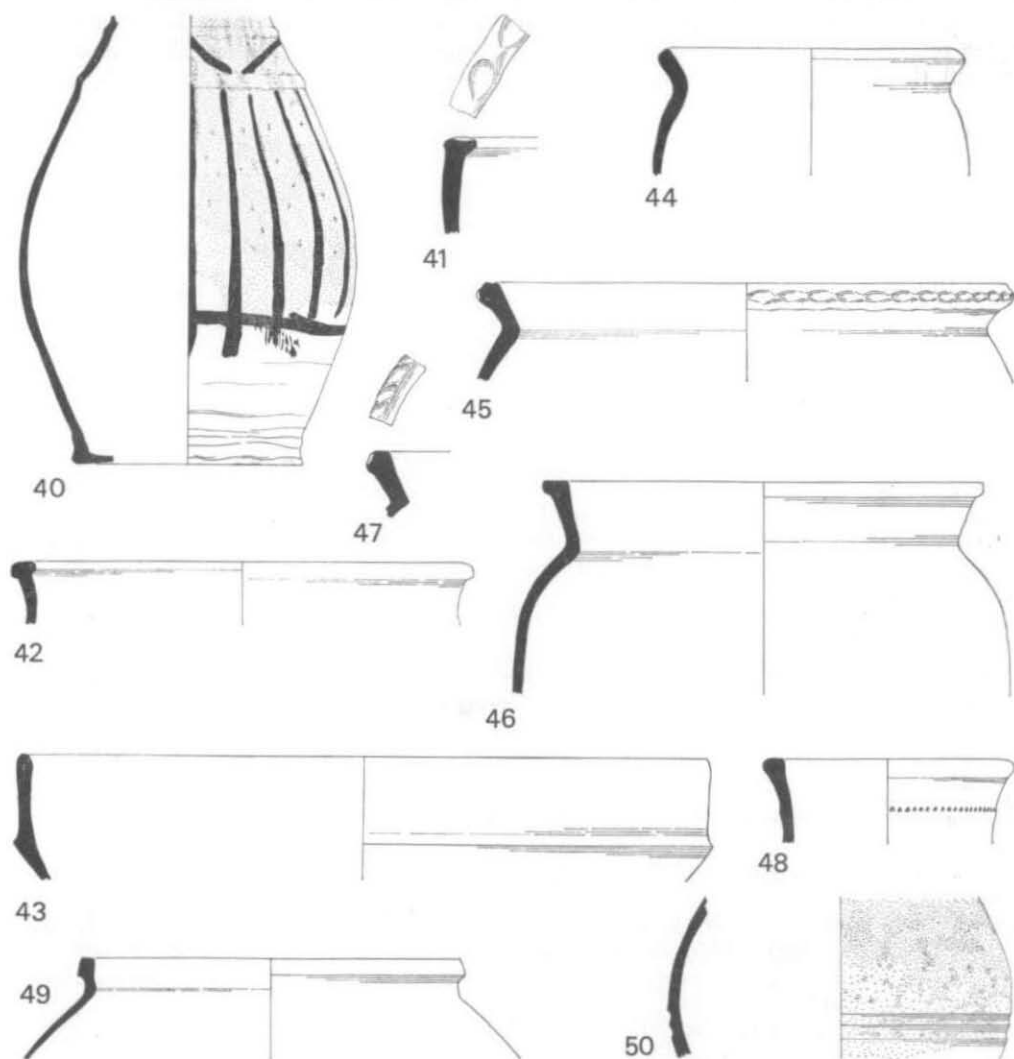


FIG. 12
Medieval pottery Period 2b. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Potter's Bar,⁹⁹ or St. Nicholas' Almshouses, Bristol¹⁰⁰ and confirmed that the demolition following the petition of 1648 was both rapid and thorough. Because of its homogeneous nature and because the relevant features were only sampled and not fully excavated the pottery has been published by type rather than in groups.

Coarsewares

Hard fired red wares with a green, brown or black glaze in large bowl, pan, or jar forms comprised the bulk of the pottery, and a representative selection of these is illustrated.

⁹⁹ K. Rutherford Davis and J. H. Ashdown, 'A 17th-century pottery group and associated finds from a well at Potter's Bar', *Hertfordshire Archaeology*, II (1970), 88-104.

¹⁰⁰ K. J. Barton, 'The excavation of a medieval bastion at St. Nicholas' Almshouses, King Street, Bristol', *Medieval Archaeology*, VIII (1964), 184-212.

These products must have been manufactured locally, although differences in fabric suggest that they were not all derived from the same source. Potterspury, Northants,¹⁰¹ and Brill, Bucks., are possible production centres.

FIG. 13

51. Bowl in a sandy pink-buff fabric with a reduced core, internal yellow-green glaze. (I, 3-6) inner ditch.
52. Bowl in a hard dense pink fabric containing creamy yellow clayey particles up to 0.3 mm. long. Thick black internal glaze which does not reach rim, dull red-brown external slip. (II, 283) outer ditch.
53. Bowl in same fabric as 52, thick dark brown internal glaze. (II, 283) outer ditch.
54. Bowl with a squared rim in the same fabric as 52, black internal glaze, dull red-brown slip over rim and exterior. (II, 69).
55. Bowl in a sandy red fabric with a reduced core, interior burnt and flaked but formerly covered with a yellow-green glaze, spots of glaze on exterior. (II, 283) outer ditch.¹⁰²
56. Bowl in a fine hard buff fabric, unglazed, slightly burnt. (III, 154).
57. Bowl in a fine hard sandy fabric, red core, reduced grey surfaces. A broad band of cream slip painted round the rim externally. (I, 3-6) outer ditch.
58. Bowl in a red sandy fabric, internal orange-brown glaze. (IV, 201) outer ditch.
59. Small bowl in red sandy fabric, internal brown glaze, reduced grey exterior. (I, 3-6) inner ditch.
60. Small bowl in red sandy fabric, internal orange-brown glaze, spots of glaze externally. (III, 100).¹⁰³
61. Bowl in hard fine buff fabric, unglazed. (I, 3-6) inner ditch.
62. Rim of bowl in sandy buff fabric, unglazed. (I, 3-6) outer ditch.

FIG. 14

63. Rim, base and much of wall from a straight-sided jar, exact height unknown. Fabric as 52. Internal black glaze, external dull red brown slip, patches of glaze on base. (II, 283) outer ditch.
64. Rim of straight-sided jar, fabric as 52, dull red all-over slip, patches of black glaze internally. (I, 3-6) inner ditch.
65. Rim of straight-sided jar, fine orange-red fabric, clear internal glaze. (III, 104).
66. Rim of straight-sided jar, fabric as 52, but fired at a high temperature and vitrified. Black internal glaze with streaks externally, dull purplish brown external slip. (II, 283) outer ditch.
67. Rim of jar, sandy red fabric, green internal glaze, reduced grey exterior. (III, 151).
68. Rim of jar, fabric as 52, black internal glaze, dull red brown external slip. (Ia, 14). Several other examples of this form.¹⁰⁴
69. Rim of jar, fine orange red fabric, thin internal brown glaze, grey slipped exterior. (II, 283) outer ditch.
70. Rim of jar, hard fine pink-buff fabric, self coloured external slip. (III, 115).
71. Rim of jug, sandy orange fabric, small spot of dark brown glaze on exterior, scar near lip of vessel where handle was attached. (III, 114).¹⁰⁵
72. Rim of jar, fabric a finer version of 52, pink-buff external slip. (III, 154).
73. Handle and part of rim of jar, fine hard sandy fabric, reduced core and surfaces. (III, 114).

¹⁰¹ See P. Mayes, 'A 17th-century kiln site at Potterspury, Northants.', *Post. Med. Arch.*, 2 (1968), 55-82.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, Fig. 28, 14.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, Fig. 30, 15.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, Fig. 31, 22 for form.

¹⁰⁵ Cf. Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 97, Fig. 15, 137-45.

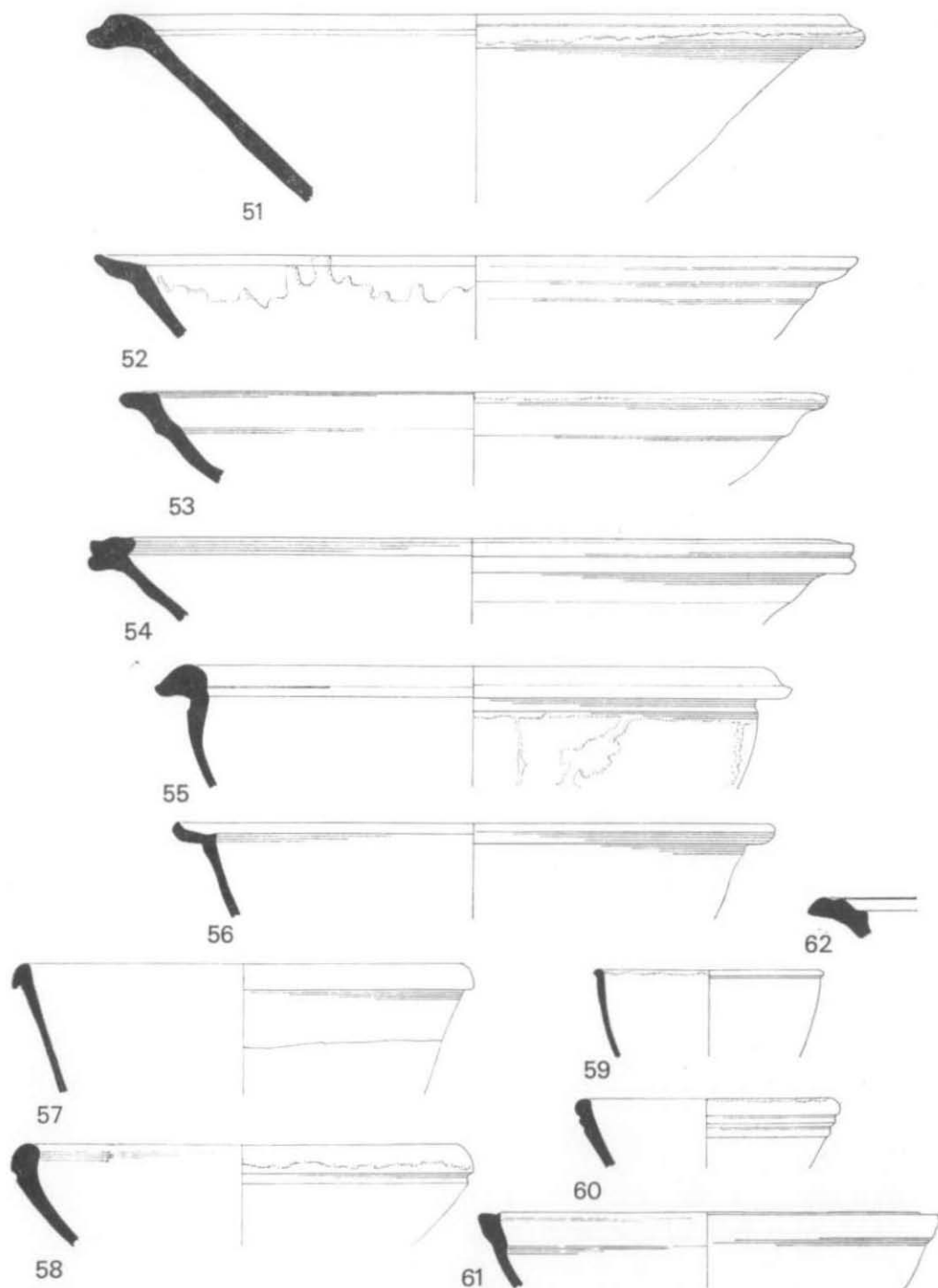


FIG. 13

Post-medieval pottery ; coarsewares. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

74. Base of a tripod pipkin with part of one foot, sandy red fabric, internal green-brown glaze, external purplish brown slip with splashes of glaze on the underside of the base. (II, 283) outer ditch.¹⁰⁶

75. Chamber pot, 3 non-joining sherds giving complete profile, rim dented, combed lines on the shoulder, base knife-pared. Hard red sandy fabric, olive green internal glaze, purplish-brown external slip. (III, 130) inner ditch.¹⁰⁷

FIG. 15

Fragments of black-glazed drinking vessels were common and the following sherds illustrate the range of forms.

76. Body sherd from shoulder of pot, hard red fabric, dark brown external and part internal glaze with yellow speckles. Decorated with yellow-glazed rosettes. (III, 114).

77. Rim from handled beaker, dark grey vitrified fabric, dark brown external and part internal glaze. (III, 154).

78. Rim from ribbed beaker, hard dark red fabric, black all-over glaze. (II, 283) outer ditch.

79. Lower part of ointment pot, hard red fabric, black all-over glaze, terminating externally above footring. (III, 104).

80. Base of two-handled tyg, hard red fabric, black all-over glaze. (II, 283) outer ditch.¹⁰⁸

81. Lower part of one-handled tyg, hard red fabric, black all-over glaze. (II, 92) outer ditch.

Yellow-glazed white wares

Two distinct fabrics could be discerned amongst this class of vessel. The first was true 'Surrey white ware' directly comparable with material found on sites such as Basing House (Hants.),¹⁰⁹ whilst the second, though similar in form, was inferior in fabric and appears to have been manufactured in the Coventry region.¹¹⁰ The majority of the post-medieval layers contained sherds of these wares, although the latter was the more common.

82. Rim of small jar, hard sandy buff fabric (Surrey), internal yellow-green glaze. (III, 120).

83. Base of colander, hard sandy pink-buff fabric (Surrey), internal yellow glaze. (II, 283) outer ditch.

84. Rim of pipkin, hard sandy off-white fabric (Surrey), glazed internally and in the bottom of the lid seating with a pale yellow-green glaze. (III, 115).

This group of vessels had a softer off-white or pink fabric containing occasional coarse red grog particles. An off-white slip was applied to the pink-fabric vessels before glazing. The glaze was usually orange-yellow in colour and often adhered poorly to the body of the pot.

85. Rim of platter, off-white fabric, internal glaze, poor adhesion. (III, 151).

86. Rim of bowl with horizontal strap handle, white-slipped pink fabric, internal glaze. (III, 151).¹¹¹

87. Rim of beaker with ribbed shoulder, white fabric, all-over glaze. (III, 151).

88. Rim of beaker with ribbed shoulder, white-slipped pink fabric, all-over glaze. (III, 120).¹¹²

89. Base of straight-sided handled jar, off-white fabric, all-over glaze. (II, 92) outer ditch.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, Fig. 15, 148-9.

¹⁰⁷ Cf. Mayes, *op. cit.* note 101, Fig. 31, 11-12.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, Fig. 30, 20.

¹⁰⁹ Cf. Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 97; for 82 cf. Fig. 13, 102; for 83 cf. Fig. 10, 24-7; for 84 cf. Fig. 10, 6-13.

¹¹⁰ P. Woodfield, 'Yellow glazed wares of the 17th century', *Proc. Birmingham Arch. Soc.*, LXXXI (1963-4),

78-87.

¹¹¹ Cf. Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 97, Fig. 12, 63.

¹¹² *Ibid.*, Fig. 12, 75-6, for form of this and 87.

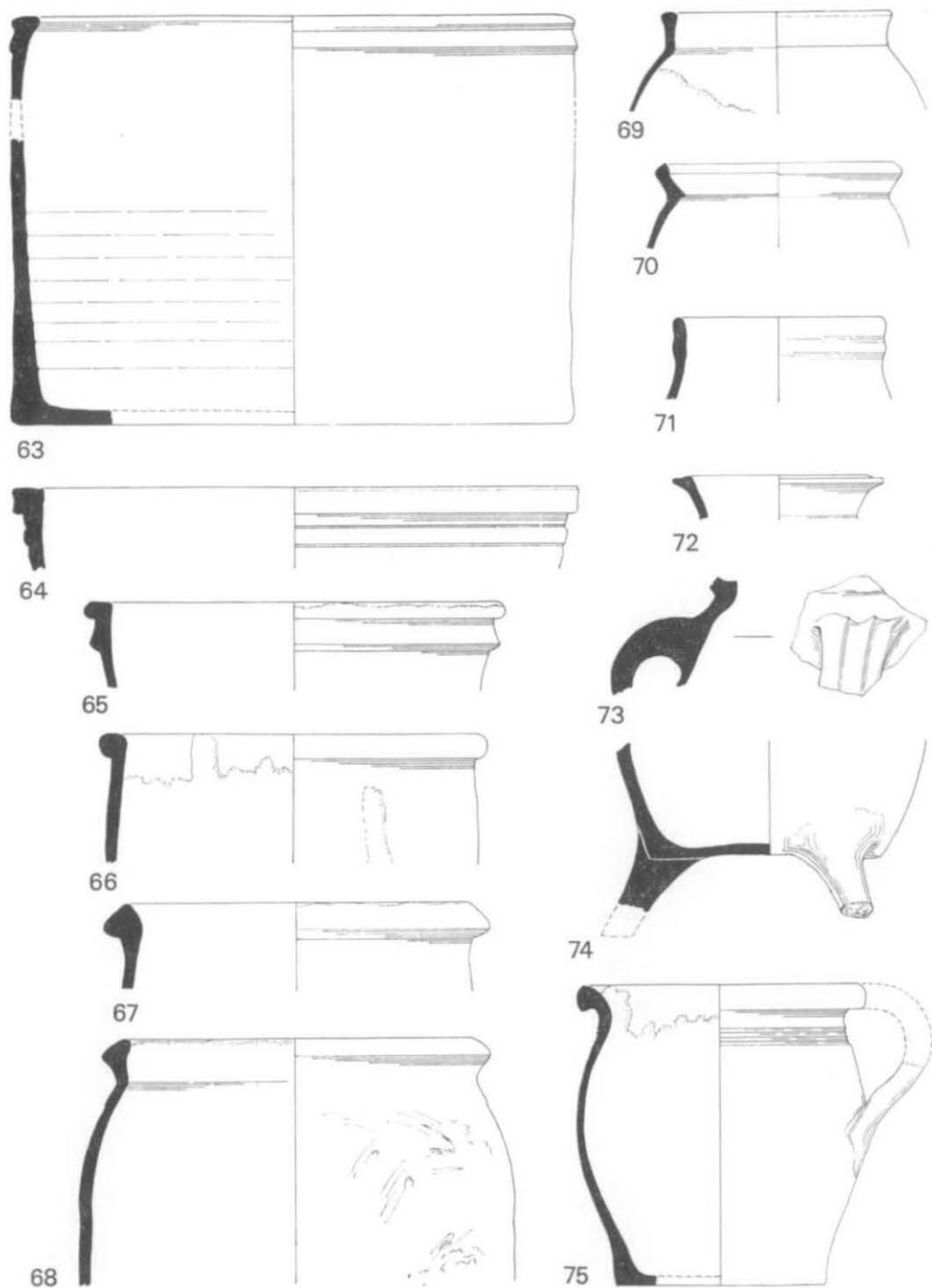


FIG. 14

Post-medieval pottery ; coarsewares. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

'Tudor Green' wares

The sherds in this category, which was not a homogeneous group, were small and not very numerous, suggesting that it was no longer in general use by the mid 17th century.

90. Rim of platter, fine buff fabric, internal green glaze. (III, 151).¹¹³
91. Rim of jug, sandy buff fabric, external thick dark green glaze carried over rim and into interior. (III, 115).¹¹⁴
92. Rim of jug, fine off-white sandy fabric, internal mottled green glaze. (III, 151).
93. Rim of bowl, fine buff fabric, mottled green glaze internally, clear glaze externally. (III, 151).
94. Rim of ointment pot, sandy buff fabric, mottled green external glaze. (III, 102).¹¹⁵
95. Handle, sandy buff fabric, all-over green glaze, stamped decoration on upper surface. (III, 104).
96. Handle, pink fabric with red grog inclusions similar to 52 above. All-over mottled green glaze flaking in places. (III, 154).

The remaining types occurred only in small quantities, stoneware fragments forming the largest group, and all but small fragments are illustrated.

Slipwares

97. Rim of bowl, fine sandy buff fabric, clear internal glaze over cream (spots) and green (black) linear decoration. (IV, 201) outer ditch.
98. Rim of bowl, red fabric, cream and brown marbled decoration under clear glaze internally and on rim. (III, 151).
99. Shoulder of enclosed vessel with applied strip decoration. Fine buff fabric, marbled brown and yellow external glaze, plain orange-brown internal glaze. (III, 104).
- 100-103. Four fragments of 'Metropolitan ware' bowls. All have a fine, hard orange red fabric with a clear internal glaze over white trailed slip decoration. These may well have been Potterspury products.¹¹⁶ From III, 120 ; III, 151 ($\times 2$) ; IV, 201 respectively.

Unglazed Imports

104. Rim of globular storage jar, orange-pink slightly micaceous fabric with coarse inclusions, micaceous external cream slip, abraded on rim, rilling on shoulder ; an olive jar of Mediterranean origin. (II, 92) outer ditch.¹¹⁷
105. Flask complete except for rim, hard, fine, unglazed orange-red fabric. The body is nearly globular but dented in places, divided into two zones by a wide band of vertical rilling running from the base of the neck. One zone is decorated with a series of concentric grooves, the other is roughly finished with a small flattened area in the centre. A hole was roughly cut in the body over which the rilled neck was luted. This type of flask has been discussed by Hurst¹¹⁸ and is thought to be of French origin. Examples have been found at Dover Castle¹¹⁹ and Potter's Bar.¹²⁰ (III, 120).

¹¹³ *Ibid.*, Fig. 14, 122, for form.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Fig. 14, 129A, 135, for 91, 92 and 96.

¹¹⁵ See L. G. Matthews, 'Green glazed English Albarellos', *Post. Med. Arch.*, 6 (1972), 202-6.

¹¹⁶ Cf. Mayes, *op. cit.* note 101, Fig. 27, 30.

¹¹⁷ See T. J. Miles and A. D. Saunders, 'King Charles' Castle, Tresco, Scilly', *Post. Med. Arch.*, 4 (1970), 23-29 ; for fabric but not form see Barton, *op. cit.* note 107, Fig. 72, 95 ; for later examples see J. H. Ashdown 'Oil jars from the Mewstone wreck, Plymouth', *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, 1 (1972), 147.

¹¹⁸ J. G. Hurst in 'Kirkstall abbey excavations 1960-4', *Publications of the Thoresby Society*, LI (1966), 54-9.

¹¹⁹ Cf. Mynard, *op. cit.* note 98, Fig. 11.

¹²⁰ Cf. Davis and Ashdown, *op. cit.* note 99, Fig. 11, 17.

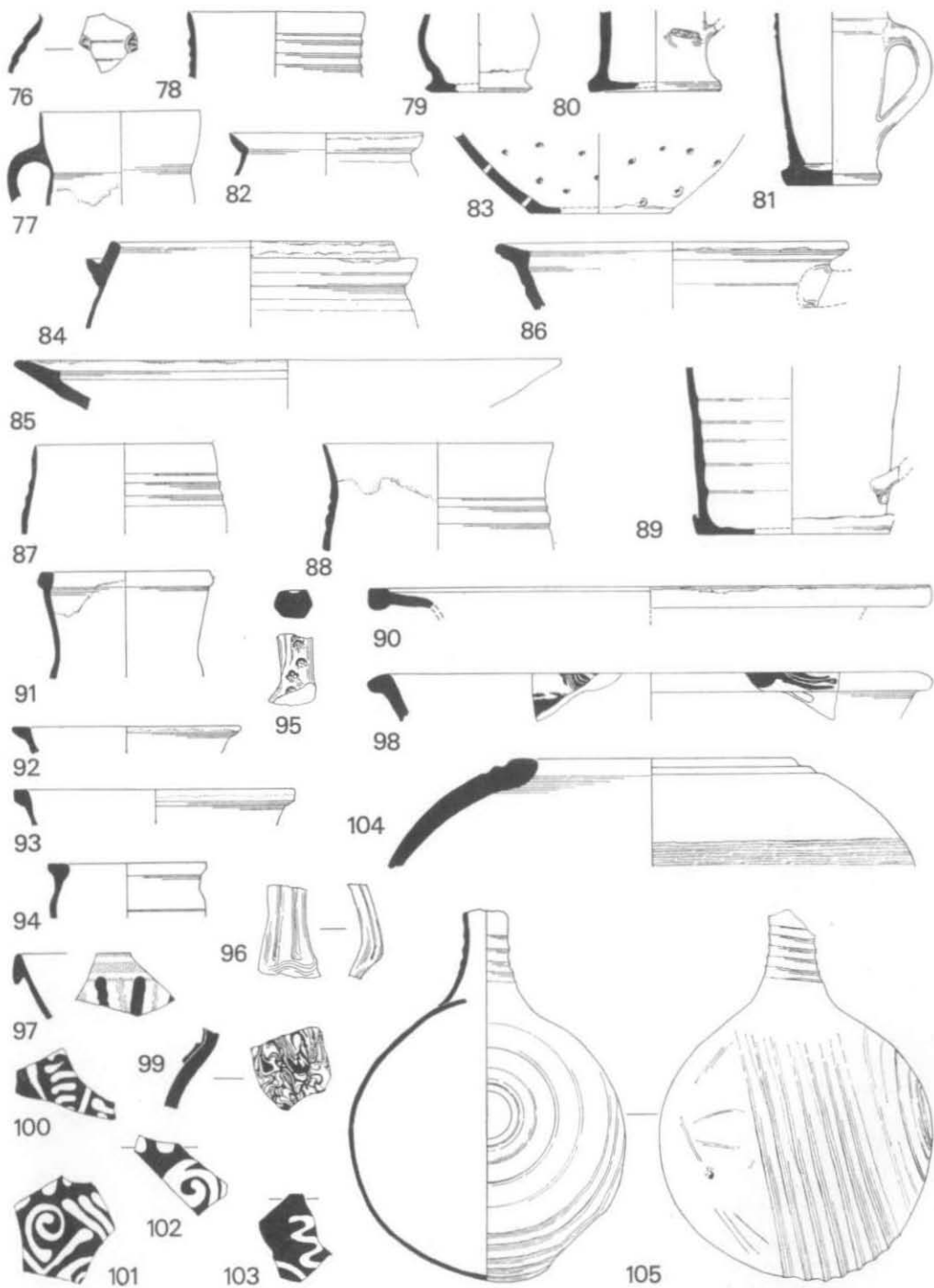


FIG. 15

Post-medieval pottery ; miscellaneous. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Stoneware (FIG. 16)

106. Rim and handle from a globular jug with a vertical neck grooved below rim. Light grey stoneware, unglazed internally, with a yellow-brown slightly mottled external glaze, Rhenish (Frechen). (IV, 201) outer ditch.¹²¹

107. Base of a globular jug, grey fabric, speckled brown external glaze. (II, 92) outer ditch.

108. Neck of bellarmine,¹²² grey fabric, brown internal and thick mottled external glaze. (I, 3-6) inner ditch.

109. Neck of bellarmine, grey fabric, brown internal and lightly speckled external glaze. (III, 151).

110. Rim of jug, pale grey stoneware, clear glaze, Westerwald, late 17th-/early 18th-century. (III, 104).

111. Rim of jug, pale grey fabric with horizontal band of cobalt blue between heavily moulded cordons, Westerwald late 17th-/early 18th-century. (I, 3-6) inner ditch.¹²³

112. Body sherd from globular jug, pale grey fabric as 111, incised curvilinear design reserved on cobalt blue stripe. (I, 3-6) inner ditch.

Tin-glazed wares

113. Rim of tankard, sandy pink-buff fabric, speckled manganese external glaze. (III, 159).¹²⁴

114. Base of tankard (2 non-joining sherds), pink fabric, speckled manganese external glaze. (III, 120).

115. Ointment pot, near complete profile, off-white fabric, blue (black) and orange (spots) geometrical decoration on exterior. (III, 120).¹²⁵

116. Rim of ointment pot, pink fabric, blue striped external decoration. (III, 105), 19th-century pit.

117. Base of ointment pot, off-white fabric, blue striped external decoration. (III, 145).

118. Base of ointment pot, off-white fabric, plain white glaze. (II, 69).

119. Base of ointment pot, pink fabric, plain white glaze. (III, 151).

120. Body sherd, possibly from storage jar, pink fabric, internal buff glaze, blue external decoration on white ground (pale blue hatched). (III, 120).

121. Rim of platter, buff fabric, blue decoration on interior of rim. (III, 114).

122. Base of plate with footring, blue decoration on interior (pale blue hatched). (II, 283) outer ditch.

BRONZE (FIG. 17)

1. Broken trapezoidal plate with central oval boss. Face gilded and decorated with crude punched lines, gilding worn off boss. (III) top of buried soil.

2. Plate decorated with ring-and-dot ornament, secured at either end with an iron rivet, whose heads have been capped with sheet bronze. (II, 314).

3. Perforated ring, slightly convex face decorated with pairs of incised lines at regular intervals, flat back. (II, 291).

4. Decorative buckle with pin and part of a leather strap attached to a central crossbar. (III, 120).¹²⁶

¹²¹ Cf. Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 97, Fig. 21, 258.

¹²² See M. R. Holmes, 'The so-called Bellarmine mask on imported Rhenish stoneware', *Antiq. J.*, xxxi (1951), 165-79. The two Banbury masks are too broken to allow classification.

¹²³ Cf. P. A. Rahtz, *Excavations at King John's hunting lodge, Writtle, Essex, 1955-7* (1969), Fig. 56.94.

¹²⁴ Cf. Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 97, Fig. 18, 197 C-E, 198, where a date of 1630-45 is suggested.

¹²⁵ For parallels to 115-22, see *ibid.*, Figs. 19 and 20; Brian J. Bloice, 'Norfolk House, Lambeth: excavations at a Delftware kiln site, 1968', *Post. Med. Arch.*, 5 (1971), 99-159.

¹²⁶ Cf. S. Moorhouse, 'Finds from Basing House, Hampshire, (c. 1540-1645): Part II', *Post. Med. Arch.*, 5 (1971) 35-76, Fig. 25, 169. Dated to the 1st half of the 17th century.

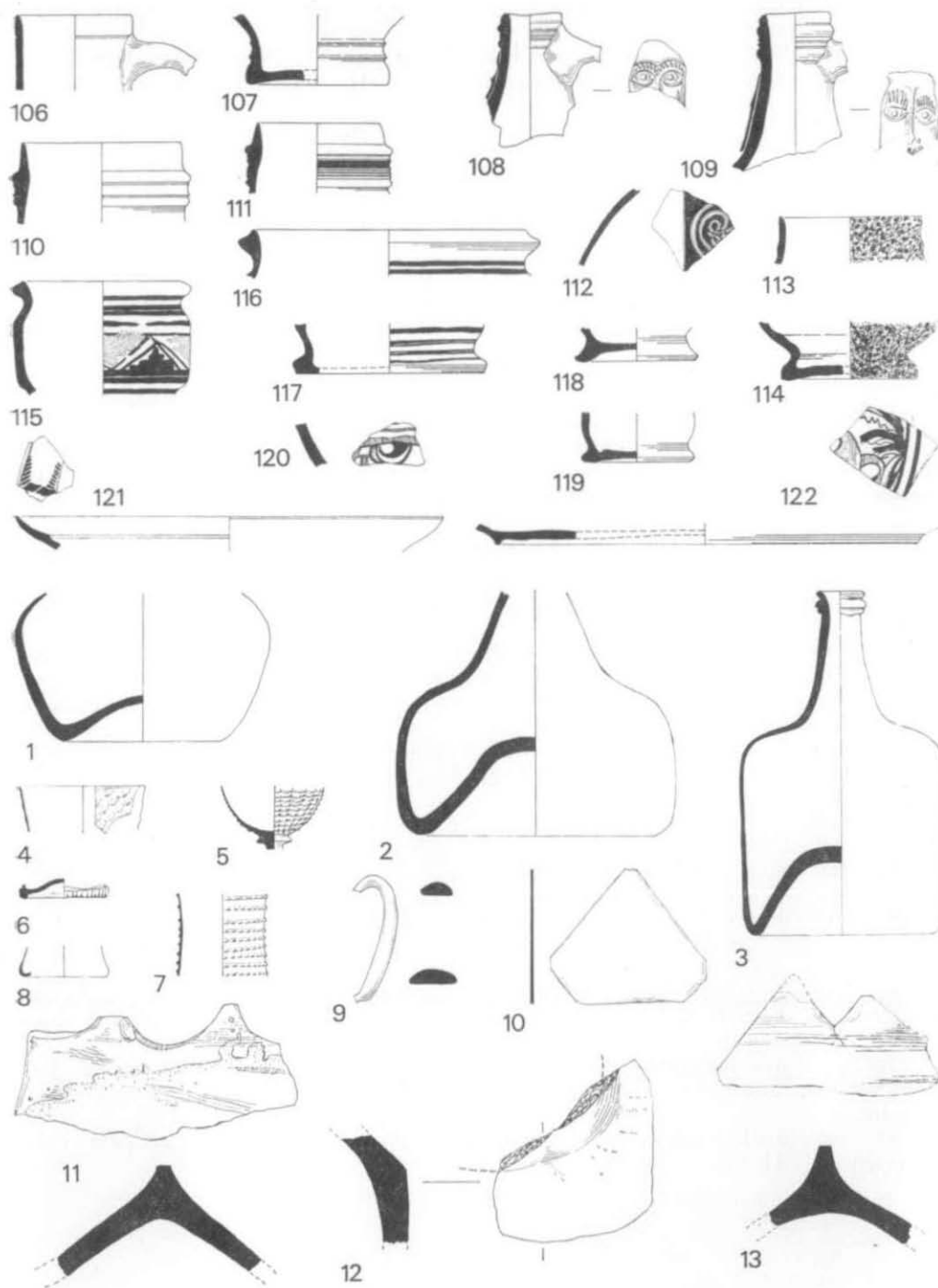


FIG. 16

Post-medieval pottery, glass, and roof tiles. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

5. Plate from a strap-end buckle, attached to semi-circular folded leather sheet by two small bronze rivets. (Ia, 14).

6. Thimble, flattened with part of side missing, tapering sides and slightly domed top decorated with closely set rows of punched dots. (III, 120). A fragment of a second was also found. (III, 151).¹²⁷

7. Plain ring (I, 3-6) ; inner ditch. Two more the same from (III, 120).

8. Strip of ornamental bronze binding, right-angled in section, bent, damaged and corroded at one end. One face decorated with a continuous row of roundels, each stamped in the centre with a tiny flower, the other with an elaborate curvilinear design of flowers and leaves. There were four rivet holes in this face close to the edge of the strip. (III, 100).

9. Pin from small buckle. (III, 120).

10. Round-headed domed stud, shank formerly clenched. (III, 136).¹²⁸

11. Highly domed stud decorated with concentric incised lines, shank lost. (III, 151).

12-17. Pins, illustrating the range of sizes and head treatment. (IV, 201 ($\times 2$) ; III, 114 ; III, 120 ($\times 2$)). There were a further 3 identical to 19 and one identical to 20.

18-20. Lace ends. (III, 100 ; Ia, 14 ; III, 151).

Not illustrated ; binding strip, 700 mm. \times 100 mm. Both ends are perforated and bent back at right angles to the rest of the strip. A flat-headed bronze rivet was driven through one of these holes from the inside. (III, 151).

IRON (FIG. 18)

The ironwork from the site, most of which was derived from 17th-century levels, was in a poor state of preservation and many of the drawings were prepared with the help of X-rays.

1. Key with oval bow, plain stem with a broken end and asymmetrical bit. (I, 3-6).

2. Key with kidney-shaped bow, plain stem and symmetrical bow. (III, 120).¹²⁹

3. Rectangular section shank with a perforated head, the other end flattened and expanded. A mass of corrosion on the rear face of this plate might conceal a projection at right angles to the body. (III, 120).

4. Pair of scissors with a closed finger loop set on dog-leg ended handles. (III, 120).¹³⁰

5. Spur with straight sides deepening towards the neck, which is broken off. (III, 130) inner ditch.¹³¹

6. Saw blade, two fragments. (III, 120).

7. Bar with bent down, forked end. (III, 130) inner ditch.

8. Horseshoe with plain outline and fullered groove on the line of the nail holes, worn front edge, late medieval or post-medieval. (III, 100). Another similar from (Ia, 15).¹³²

9. Horseshoe with sinuous edge and countersunk depressions for the nail heads, small calkins, worn front edge. Very heavily encrusted so that nail holes not clearly visible on X-ray, 13th-century or earlier. (III, 120).¹³³

10-14. Nails, illustrating the range found on the site ; all were heavily corroded and there were no more than a few examples of each type. All were from 17th-century deposits.¹³⁴

15. Waisted bar tapering to a point, upper end broken, bend in lower part of shaft not original. (II, 61).

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*, Fig. 25, 166.

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*, Fig. 25, 156.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, Fig. 18.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, Fig. 17, 16.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, Fig. 21, 83-6.

¹³² *Cf. London Museum, Medieval Catalogue*, 112-7, Fig. 37, 4.

¹³³ *Ibid.*, Fig. 37, 1-3.

¹³⁴ See Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 126, Fig. 22.

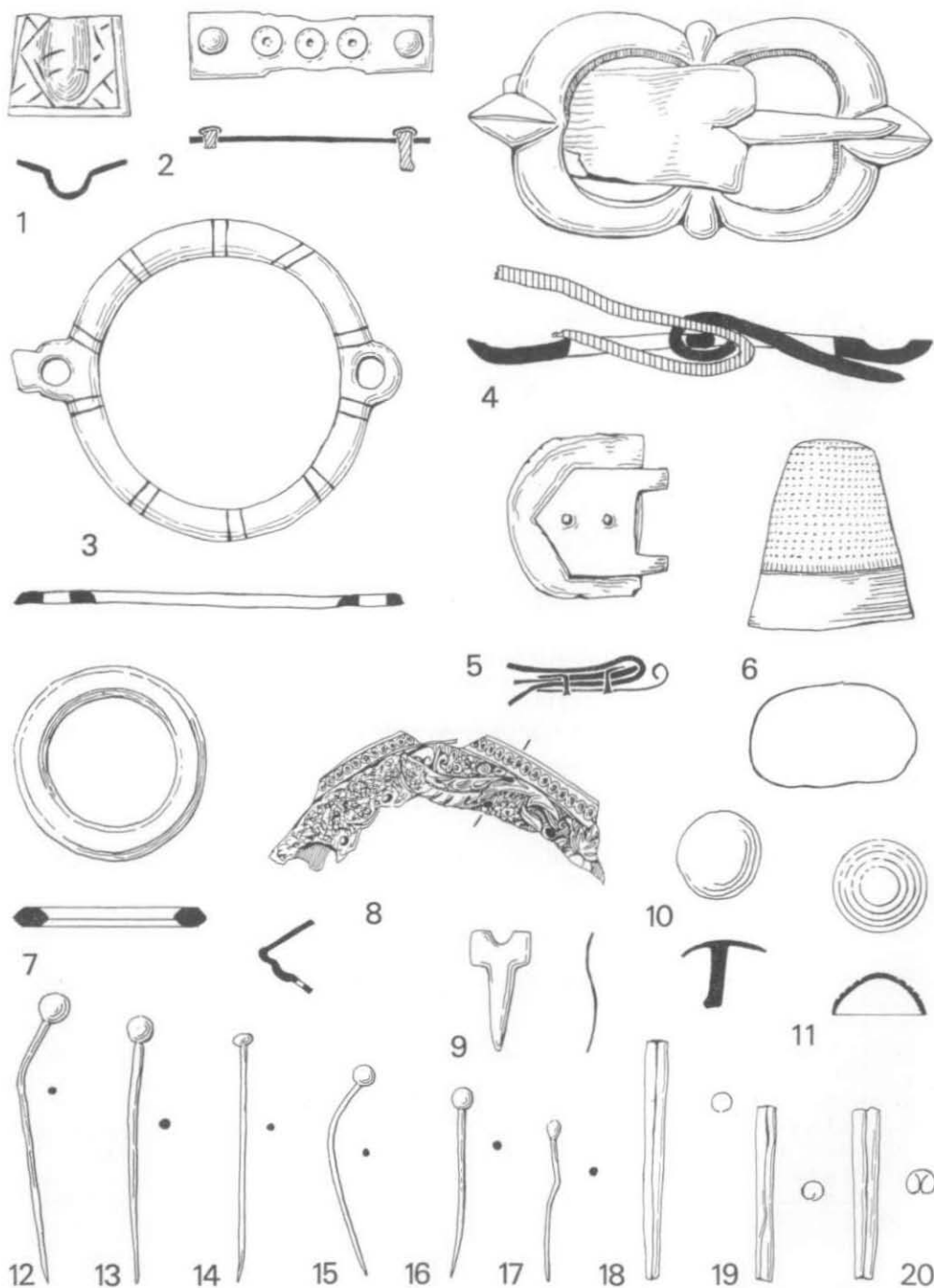


FIG. 17
Bronzes. Scale 1 : 1.

16. Spike, tapered rectangular section. Traces of wood, with the grain running at right angles to the metal, preserved at the pointed end. This was the best preserved of four identical spikes found adjacent to the walls in the eastern doorway of the stone building, Area II. They may therefore have been connected with the door, especially as no other ironwork was found in the vicinity.

17. Spike. (III, 120).
18. Hook or hinge pivot intended for driving into the wall. (II, 59).
19. Curved bar slightly tapered at one end. (III, 151).
20. Small hook, possibly a latch rest or hinge pivot. (Ia, 17).
21. As 20. (Ia, 13).¹³⁵
22. Hook. (III, 159).
23. Cone. (III, 159). Another identical from (III, 120).
24. Flat section blade with broken square tang, possibly a chisel. (Ia, 9).
25. Flat section blade with broken tang, possibly a chisel. (IV, 200).¹³⁶
26. Handle, concave central grip, one suspension loop broken. (III, 118).
27. Buckle, loop with base of attachment for pin and part of plate. (III, 100).
28. Flat-section bar tapering slightly towards one end, which has been bent over to form a loop. (III, 120).
29. Bar with a central dog-leg, one end tapered, the other turned over, possibly a latch lifter. (III, 120).¹³⁷

Not illustrated: Cannon ball, 12.8 cm. in diameter, weight 7.765 Kg. (III, 159).

A civil war period cannon 3 m. long was recovered from the vicinity of tower 406 during the watching brief. A full report on this object has been deferred until it has been conserved.

LEAD (FIG. 19)

1. Musket ball, 18 mm. diameter, 32 others identical. From all 17th-century layers.
2. Musket ball, 16 mm. diameter, a single example. (Ia, 14).
3. Musket ball, 12 mm. diameter, 5 others identical. Mainly from (III, 120).
4. Pellet, polygonal section. (III, 120).
5. Pewter spoon, distorted bowl, conical tapered handle formed by wrapping sheet metal over itself. (Unstratified).
6. Pewter spoon, flat handle, cut from one piece and beaten into shape; more carefully fashioned than 5. (Ia, 14).¹³⁸
7. Folded sheet. (III, 120).
- 8 & 9. Window cames, representative fragments. (III, 120).
- 10-18. Assorted scraps and offcuts, all from (III, 120).

FLINT (FIG. 20)

Nineteen flints were found, both in the buried soil and residual in medieval levels.

1. Primary flake retaining cortex on one face.
2. Flake, pale grey opaque flint.
3. Retouched flake, pale grey opaque flint.
4. Flake, traces of cortex.
5. Broken flake.
6. Flake, pale grey opaque flint, traces of cortex.
7. Broken flake.
8. Possible core, many small irregular flakes detached.
9. Leaf-shaped arrowhead with both ends snapped off, finely pressure-flaked, translucent grey flint.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, Fig. 22, 116-7.

¹³⁶ Cf. Biddle, *op. cit.* note 81, Fig. 30, 4.

¹³⁷ For a somewhat similar object see *ibid.*, Fig. 30, 7.

¹³⁸ For 5 and 6 cf. Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 126, Fig. 17, 15. 17th-century.

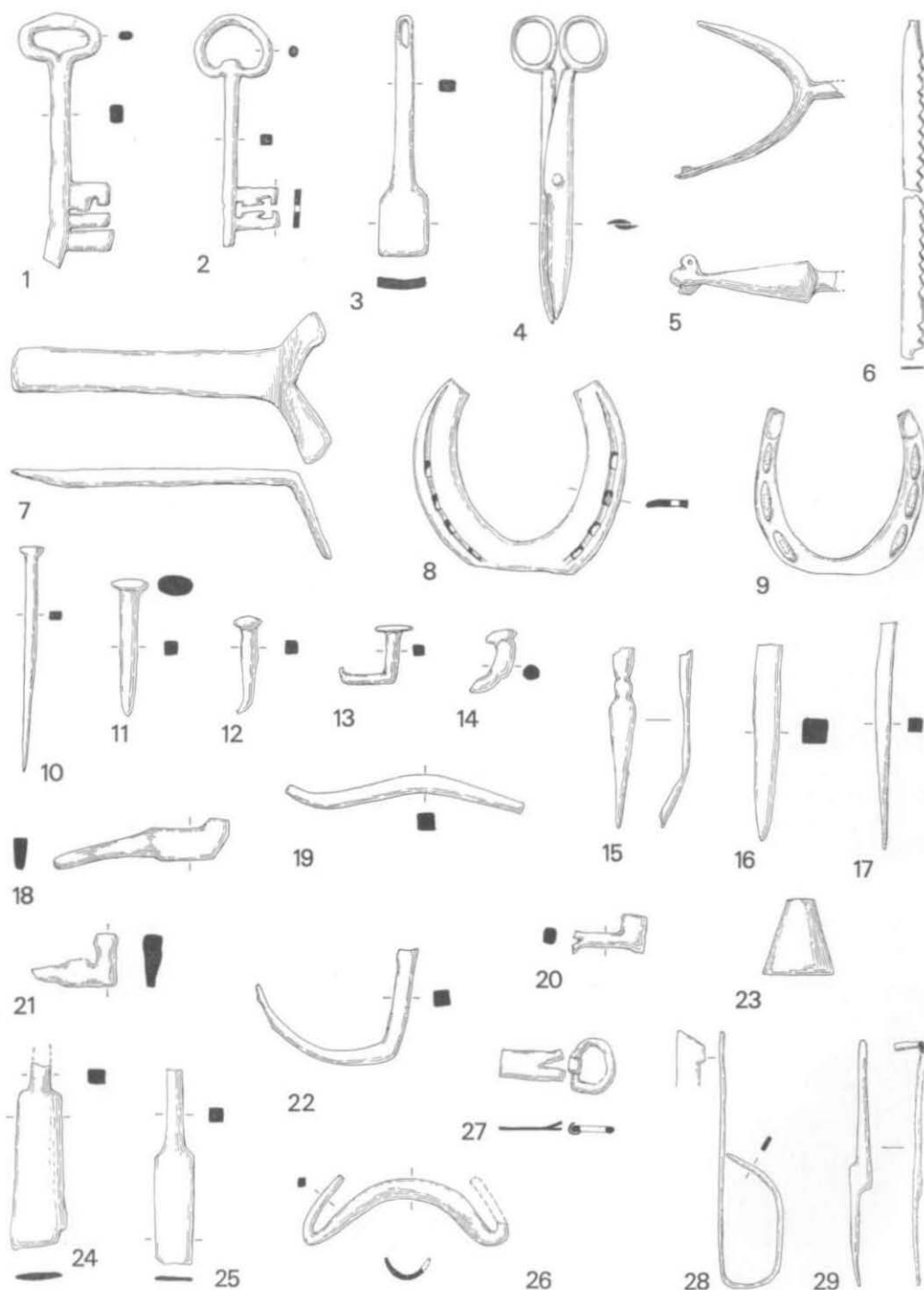


FIG. 18
Ironwork. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

BONE OBJECTS (FIG. 20)

10. Polished bone knife handle of flattened oval section, the ligatured initials, TB, scratched on near the base. (III, 104).¹³⁹
11. Thin bone plate, rivetted at one end to an iron plate of the same size. (III, 120).
12. Fragment of an ornamental bone plate, decorated with lines and incised circles. (II, 59).¹⁴⁰

STONE OBJECTS (FIG. 20)

13. Hone fragment, rectangular section, brown micaceous sandstone. (II, 283).¹⁴¹
14. Hone, roughly rectangular section, quartz-mica-schist. (III, 120).¹⁴²

CLAY PIPES (FIG. 20)

The bowls and stems of clay pipes, the majority of which dated to the mid 17th century, were a common find in all the post-medieval layers.

15. This was the best preserved example of the main type and representative of 48 other more fragmentary examples. They are made of a hard white clay with a smooth polished finish, and have a small bulbous bowl invariably finished with a line of milling round the lip, a thick stem, and a flat circular heel at the base. Two bore makers' marks on the heel but the remainder were unmarked. The overall dimensions of the bowl varied very little throughout the group.

Their form dates them to c. 1640-60,¹⁴³ and the homogeneous nature of the group suggests a single source of manufacture. This may have been local; the death of a Banbury pipemaker, John Harris, was recorded in 1683/4.

16. Maker's mark on the heel of a bowl of the same type as 15. A heart enclosing the relief initials IW and three small stars. (III, 154).

17. Fragmentary maker's mark on heel of pipe, bowl shape unknown. Circular impression enclosing an initial W in relief and another unidentifiable letter with a small five-pointed star beneath. (III, 104).

18. Bulbous bowl with milling beneath the rim and a small stumpy spur less well finished than 15, c. 1640-70. One other example. Both (III, 120).¹⁴⁴

19. Bowl and part of stem from spurred pipe, smoothly finished, c. 1690-1730, one other example. Both (II, 69).¹⁴⁵

20. Broken bowl and stem from spurred pipe, relief decoration of leaves and bunches of grapes. First half of 19th century. (III, unstratified).¹⁴⁶

GLASS (FIG. 16)

1. Base of wine bottle, light green glass, badly laminated surface, c. 1660-70. (V, outer ditch).¹⁴⁷

2. Base and neck of wine bottle, light green glass, badly laminated surface, 1720-30. (III, 104).¹⁴⁸

3. Cylindrical wine bottle of clear dark olive green glass, c. 1750-70. (III, 104).¹⁴⁹

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, Fig. 17, 4-5. 17th-century.

¹⁴⁰ Cf. box lid from Ludgershall, *Med. Arch.*, v (1966), plate XV.

¹⁴¹ Cf. Biddle, *op. cit.* note 81, Fig. 32, 23.

¹⁴² Cf. Robinson, *op. cit.* note 80, 108.

¹⁴³ Cf. A. Oswald, *Clay pipes for the Archaeologist* (1975), Fig. 3, type 5.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, Fig. 4, type 17.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, Fig. 4, type 20.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, Fig. 9, 18 and Fig. 17 for shape.

¹⁴⁷ Cf. E. T. Leeds, '17th and 18th century wine bottles of Oxford taverns', *Oxoniensia*, vi (1941), 44-55, Fig. 11, where there are comparable examples in the 1660 column; and Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 133, Fig. 29, 36.

¹⁴⁸ Cf. J. de Goris, 'Post medieval pottery from Pembroke College Bursary, Oxford, 1970', *Oxoniensia*, xxxvi (1971), 99-105, Fig. 1, 7; Leeds, *op. cit.* note 154, Fig. 11, 1720 column.

¹⁴⁹ Cf. I. Noel Hume, 'The glass wine bottle in colonial Virginia', *Journal of Glass Studies*, 3 (1961), 91-117, Fig. 4, 15.

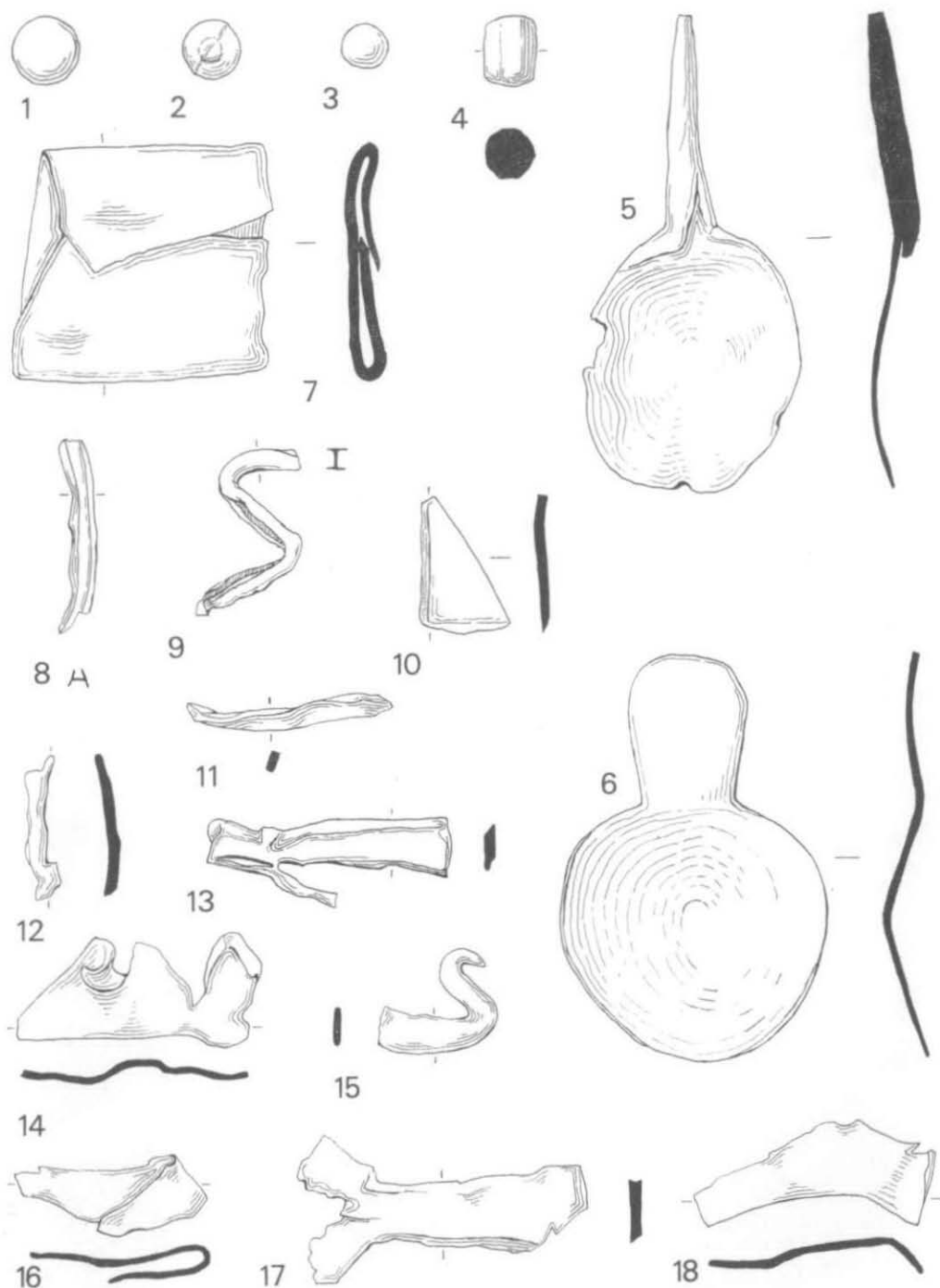


FIG. 19
Lead. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

In addition the upper fills of both inner and outer ditches contained wine bottle fragments which appeared to be of early 18th-century type.

4. Rim of a beaker with a mould-blown decoration of small oval blobs arranged in diagonal rows, clear light green glass with badly flaked surfaces. (III, 151).¹⁵⁰

5. Bowl of fluted drinking glass with a merese beneath and a solid stem. The bowl is decorated with a spiral trailed thread, white glass with iridescent surfaces. (I, 3-6).

6. Kicked base from a beaker, the footring formed from an applied flattened thread which has been notched externally with a rigaree. Clear blueish glass, iridescent surfaces. (III, 120).¹⁵¹

7. Wall sherd from a concave sided beaker, decorated with a spiral trailed and notched thread, pale yellow-green glass with iridescent laminated surfaces. (II, 283).¹⁵²

8. Kicked base from small cylindrical bottle, light green glass, badly laminated surfaces. (II, 283).

9. Mould cast handle, dark green glass, weathered surfaces. (Ia, 9).

Not illustrated: kicked base from cylindrical bottle 600 mm. in diameter, opaque dark green glass, weathered surfaces. (III, 114).¹⁵³

A small quantity of window glass was recovered from the robbed wall trenches; most of it was both very fragmentary and very badly weathered. No. 10 is the only illustratable fragment.

10. Diamond-shaped quarry, not broken but cut to size, very pale green glass, laminated surfaces. (III, 151).¹⁵⁴

Not illustrated: a second pane of similar size and shape.

TILE (FIG. 16)

The 17th-century destruction layers produced a small quantity of roof tile. Four distinct types were present in approximately equal quantities.

I. Fairly soft limestone, shell- and grog-tempered fabric with a dark grey core and buff surfaces, often covered with a thin yellow-green glaze. All the fragments appear to be from ridge tiles, including part of a knife-cut serrated crest (FIG. 16, 13), late 13th-early 14th-century.¹⁵⁵

II. Harder sandy pink fabric with a speckled green glaze. All fragments from ridge tiles, including a fragmentary serration and part of a circular vent (FIG. 16, 12).

III. Hard red sandy fabric, often dark grey and vitrified, covered with a patchy dark green or brown glaze. All fragments from ridge tiles, including a crest with knife-cut serrations (FIG. 16, 11).

IV. Hard red sandy fabric, unglazed. All fragments from peg tiles, some nibbed. The tiles were fairly thick, 20 mm. on average, but none was complete enough to give other dimensions.

BRICK (not illustrated)

Two complete and several fragmentary bricks were found in 17th-century robber trenches in Area III. They had a hard sandy reddish-purple fabric with a grey core. All appeared to be the same type and measured, when complete, 0.26 x 0.125 x 0.05 m. The two complete bricks had had one long edge trimmed after firing to form a chamfer.

¹⁵⁰ Cf. D. Crossley and A. Aberg, '16th century glass-making in Yorkshire: Excavations at Hutton and Rosedale, North Riding, 1968-71', *Post. Med. Arch.*, 6 (1972), 107-59, Fig. 64, 74. The furnaces were in use at the end of the 16th century.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, Fig. 67, 111-12.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*, Fig. 60, 19-20.

¹⁵³ Cf. Moorhouse, *op. cit.* note 126, Fig. 29, 61 etc.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, Fig. 31, 94-5.

¹⁵⁵ Cf. E. M. Jope, 'The development of pottery ridge tiles in the Oxford Region', *Oxoniensia*, xvi (1951) 86-8.

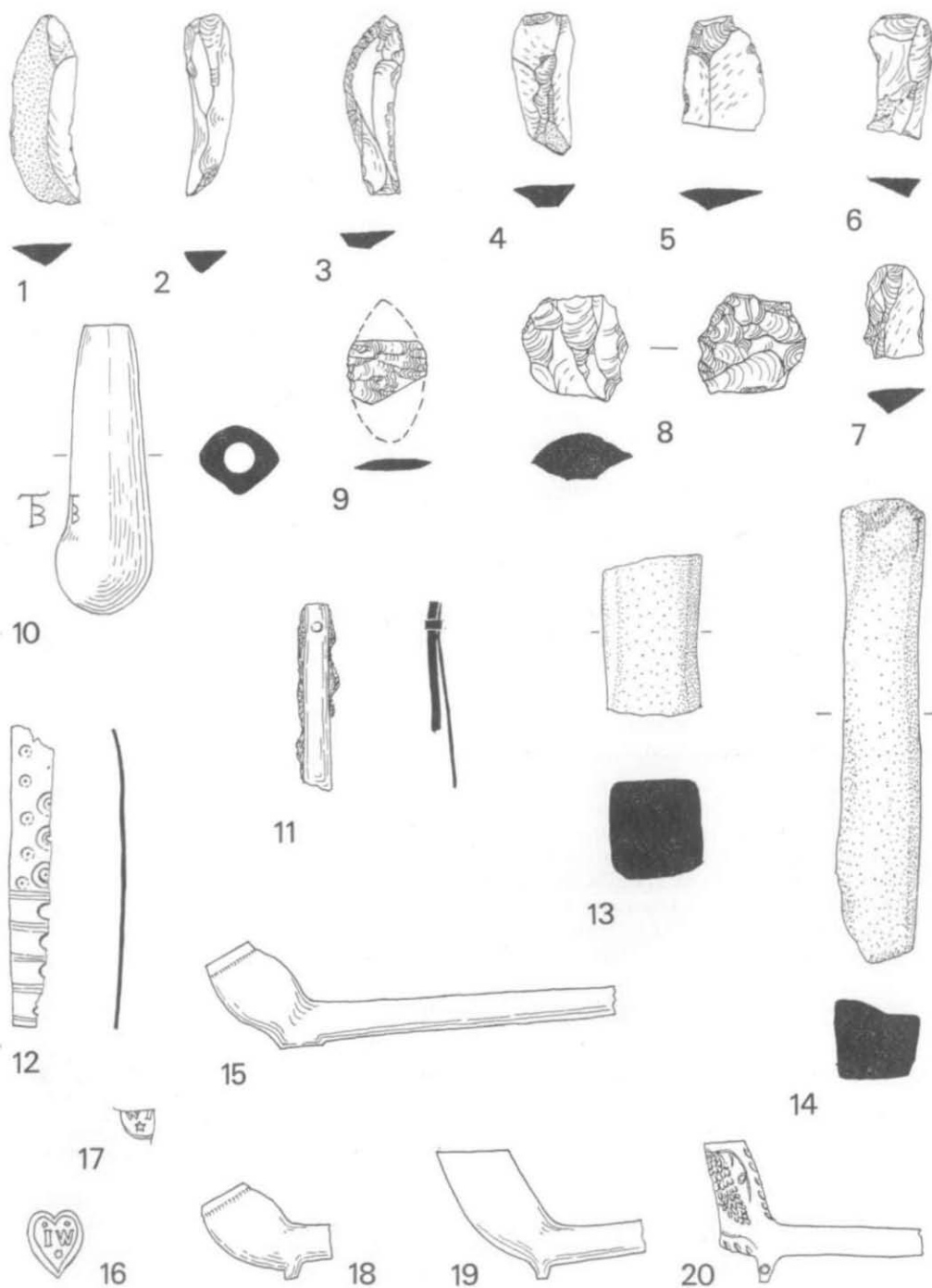


FIG. 20

Objects of flint and bone, hoes and clay pipes. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ except for 16 and 17, 1 : 1.

STRUCTURAL STONWORK (FIG. 21)

A number of stone roof slates occurred in the 17th-century destruction layers. These were subrectangular and of various sizes with single drilled peg holes. They occurred more frequently than tile and were probably the predominant roofing material. It is however impossible to say how early they were used on the site.

A few fragments of structural stonework were recovered from various parts of the site. Of the illustrated fragments, the local brown ironstone (part of the middle lias limestone beds) was used for all but 2 and 7, which were a shelly limestone.

1. Block of stone with angular mouldings, complete except for one corner; pronounced fairly coarse diagonal tooling, little weathering. (Ia), unstratified (may have been derived from the drum tower in this area).

2. Part of a large circular moulding broken from a larger block, for rear and lower faces fractured. Front face slightly convex, weathered and abraded. Possibly part of a parapet moulding. (III, 120).

3. Small block of burnt stone with two corners broken off. Finished with diagonal tooling which was finer and more closely worked on the front face and chamfer. A subrectangular socket was cut out of the rear face of the stone. (III, 121).

4. Section of the moulding from a broken stone block, surviving length 0.22 m. Front and rear faces finely tooled, lateral faces damaged and broken. (VI, unstratified).

5. Section of a window moulding, full length of block 0.71 m. A subrectangular socket 0.1 m. \times 0.19 m. roughly cut out of one convex face 0.14 m. from the end of the stone, finely tooled, some weathering. (III, unstratified). Also a second fragment of an identical moulding 0.3 m. long.

6. Wedge-shaped block, top and rear faces of stone broken off, diagonal tooling which was finest on the vertical faces, remains of a chamfer, unweathered. (II, 278).

7. Section of a chamfered rectangular block 0.38 m. long, roughly tooled on all faces, unweathered. (III, 145).

NUMISMATA (Not illus.). By N. J. MAYHEW

1-3 Three lead tokens with cross and pellets reverse, and an unusual and distinctive arrangement of lines and pellets on the obverse. Three tokens of exactly this type have been found in Abingdon. (II, 9-11).

4 Nuremberg type jetton—16th-century—bent double. (III, 2).

5 French type jetton—late 14th-15th-century. (Outer Ditch).

6 Nuremberg jetton of Hans Krauwinckel, c. 1580-1600. (Outer Ditch).

7 French type jetton—late 14th-15th-century. (Robber trench).

Charles I—Rose farthing. (Robber trench).

Lead token, with hole. Uncertain date, 16th-century ?? (Robber trench).

THE ANIMAL BONES. By BOB WILSON

574 well-preserved bones (16.5 kg.) were examined from the stratified medieval and post-medieval deposits. 1% were burnt, 1½% weathered, 1½% dog-gnawed and 1 fragment rodent gnawed. 49% of this sample was identified (88% of the total weight). Cattle and horse bones comprise 45% of the identified remains while similar large bone fragments make up 62% of the unidentified debris. No count was made of recent bone breakages.

Fragment numbers. 12th-14th century: cattle 48, sheep 67, pig 42, horse 13, roe deer 2, dog 4, cat 6, hare 4, immature hare or rabbit 9 (F.64), and rat 2 (probably black rat, 13th-14th century, F.59). 17th-18th century: cattle 47, sheep 22, pig 3, horse 9, and dog 3. *Minimum numbers of individuals.* 12th-14th century: cattle 4, sheep 6, pig 7, and other species 1 each. 17th-18th century: cattle 5, sheep 3, pig 1 and horse and dog 2 each. *Measurements.* (a) Total lengths (mm.); 12th-14th century: horse mc. 217, cattle

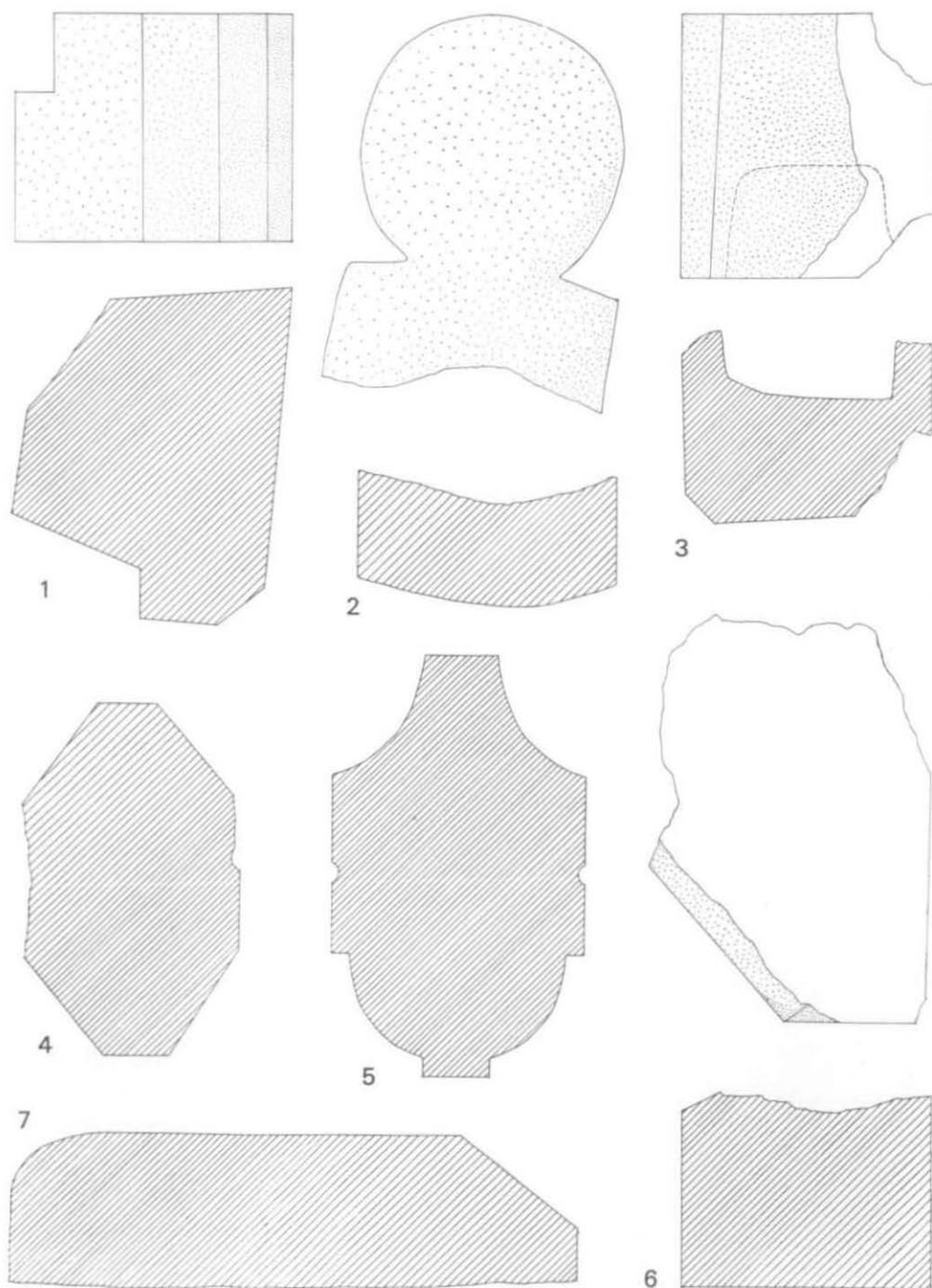


FIG. 21

Structural stone. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ except for 1 and 2, 1 : 8.

mc. 187, sheep hu. 137; 17th–18th century: horse mc. 234 ra. 352, cattle mc. 179, dog hu. 123. (b) Distal widths (mm.); 12th–14th century: cattle ti. 59 mc. 64, sheep hu. 28 28, pig hu. 35; 17th–18th century: horse mc. 52, cattle mc. 64 est. 61 54 ti. 52, sheep hu. 28 28. (c) Basal circumferences of horn cores (mm.); 17th-century long-horned cattle 229 210 147. *Fused epiphyses.* Cattle 14 medieval and 14 of 21 post-medieval epiphyses. Sheep 23 of 28 medieval and 6 of 7 post-medieval epiphyses. Pigs 2 of 13 medieval epiphyses. *Mandibles with 3rd molar in wear.* Sheep 3 medieval and one post-medieval. Also equivalent are the front of a mandible of a 5–6 year old horse and a pig maxilla, both medieval. *Less mature mandibles.* Pig 4 medieval and sheep 1 medieval. Also 1 post-medieval cattle maxilla.

Butchery Notes. Cattle; medieval, trimmed acetabulum, transverse dorsal cuts on first phalanx; post-medieval, 5 atlases chopped more or less through the midline, 1 complete axis, proximal humerus chopped on medial side (dorso-lateral blow), proximal femur chopped through medially (parallel to trimmed acetabulum above), calcaneum with vertical cuts on lateral side of anterior lobe. Sheep; medieval, cuts parallel to midline fracture of parietal and frontal bones, posterior of unfused first sacral vertebra trimmed transversely (also dog-gnawed) and articulated with 2 lumbar vertebrae bearing transverse cuts on the ventral and dorsal surfaces of their lateral processes, lateral side of sacrum trimmed off parallel to midline, proximal tuberosity of humerus trimmed dorsally and posteriorly (posterior blow—approximately as on articulated skeleton in standing animal). Pig; medieval, diagonal cut on lateral side of mandible from the base of symphysis toward the 4th premolar. Horse; medieval, trimmed posterior of tuber calcis. The medieval species fragment numbers are extremely small but the percentages of bones from the skull and feet (mt. phal. 1–3, carpal and hock joints) of cattle and sheep are low compared to the percentage ranges from medieval sites in Abingdon¹⁵⁶ e.g. 23% cattle skull debris (22–55%), 15% sheep skull debris (24–44%), 15% cattle foot debris (19–31%) and 12% sheep foot debris (18–32%). Post-medieval cattle skull debris comprises 32% and foot debris 21% of the meagre sample of 47 bones.

Worked Bone. Irregular oval hole evidently cut rather than drilled through shaft of a 4th pig metatarsal. Crudely worked sheep metatarsal with slightly oblique transverse saw cut through the distal end, the proximal end broken and trimmed off and the ridges of the shaft partly planed off.

Discussion

Although medieval and post-medieval samples are small they are derived from 39 features and may be representative of site activities. Little change is observable within the results from the sub-grouping of the medieval period. There are more pig bones than in bone samples from Abingdon¹⁵⁷ and, with the roe deer remains, may indicate differences in the environments of the two towns, although diet and hunting privileges of town and castle people should also be considered. Limited age data suggests similar practices, like the slaughtering of a high proportion of pigs at an early age. The idea that sheep were chiefly reared for wool at this time also seems supported.

Comparatively low percentages of foot and skull debris in these small samples suggest that preliminary butchery tended to be done off the site and may be indicative of purchases of at least mutton and beef at Banbury markets. These fragment proportions, the evidence of a varied diet and the presence of game animals are what might be expected from the domestic rubbish on a castle site.

Post-medieval debris appears to be a more typical town rubbish scatter apart from an incomplete 17th-century ulna from a very large dog, possibly 70 cm. in shoulder height. It is unlikely to be a wolf as extinction in England probably occurred by the early 16th century. The greater proportion of cattle bones may indicate change in the local economy;

¹⁵⁶ R. Wilson, Bone reports for Broad Street, The Old Gaol, and West St. Helen Street, Excavations in Abingdon 1972–4, *Oxoniensia*, XL (1975).

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, Tables 9 and 13.

certainly the presence of long-horned cattle is interesting since they were widespread over much of England by the end of the 18th century but their origins are less certain. They were valued in cheese making districts even after their 'improvement' for beef production by Robert Bakewell and others.¹⁵⁸

THE BIRD BONES. By D. BRAMWELL

12th-14th Century :

Goose, domestic	6 bones	2 individuals
Fowl, domestic	41 bones	8 individuals
The fowl bones include 2 medium, one small/medium, one small, and 2 Bantams, and there are bones of 2 pullets of small size. A cock bird of small size has well-developed spurs.		
Stock dove	1 bone	1 individual
Golden plover	1 bone	1 individual
Duck sp., cf. Mallard	1 bone	1 individual
Dove or Jackdaw size	1 bone	1 individual (immature)
Magpie	24 bones	1 individual (F.64)

17th Century :

Goose, domestic	1 bone	1 individual
Fowl, domestic	4 bones	2 individuals

A Department of the Environment publication grant for this report is gratefully acknowledged.

¹⁵⁸ R. Trow-Smith, *A History of British Livestock Husbandry 1700-1900* (1959), 84-9.

PLATE IV



A. 12th-century building, Area II, from the north.



B. Garderobe chamber, Area II, from the west.

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