

# Excavations in Banbury, 1972: Second and Final Report

By P.J. FASHAM

## SUMMARY

*Excavations in 1972 on the site of the inner bailey of Banbury Castle revealed a sequence of features starting in the 11th century and continuing until the 17th century. The castle was completely rebuilt and redesigned in the 13th century, after which six periods of building activity were identified.*

## INTRODUCTION

The construction of a shopping precinct on the north side of Banbury market place led to a series of excavations by the writer in 1972 and by Mrs. K.A. Rodwell in 1973 and 1974. In 1972 two sites, A and B, were excavated and a sewer trench in Castle Street was observed. Site A and the results of the sewer trench have been fully reported and an interim statement of Site B has been published.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Rodwell has reported separately on the 1973-74 excavations.<sup>2</sup> This report presents a final account of the 1972 excavations on Site B (The Car Park). The historical background to both the castle and town of Banbury has been discussed in several publications<sup>3</sup> and will not be referred to in any detail in this report.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks to all those bodies and individuals who made the excavations possible or who worked on the excavations have already been recorded.<sup>4</sup> I should like to thank the Department of Environment for financial assistance for the post-excavation work, Miss Annie Robinson for her report on the pottery, Dr. Clive Gamble for his study of selected groups of animal bones. Sallyann Fasham drew the pottery and Mrs. P. Coulson typed the final report. Mrs. Vanessa Winchester drew Fig. 1, Lorna Jones Fig. 5, Annie Robinson Fig. 17, and Robert Read and Liz James assisted with the illustrations.

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

<sup>2</sup> K.A. Rodwell 'Excavations on the Site of Banbury Castle, 1973-4', *Oxoniensia*, xli (1976), 90-147.

<sup>3</sup> *V.C.H. Oxon.* x (1972), 1-125; M.D. Lobel (ed.), *Historic Towns Atlas*, 1 (1969), Banbury.

<sup>4</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 312-14.

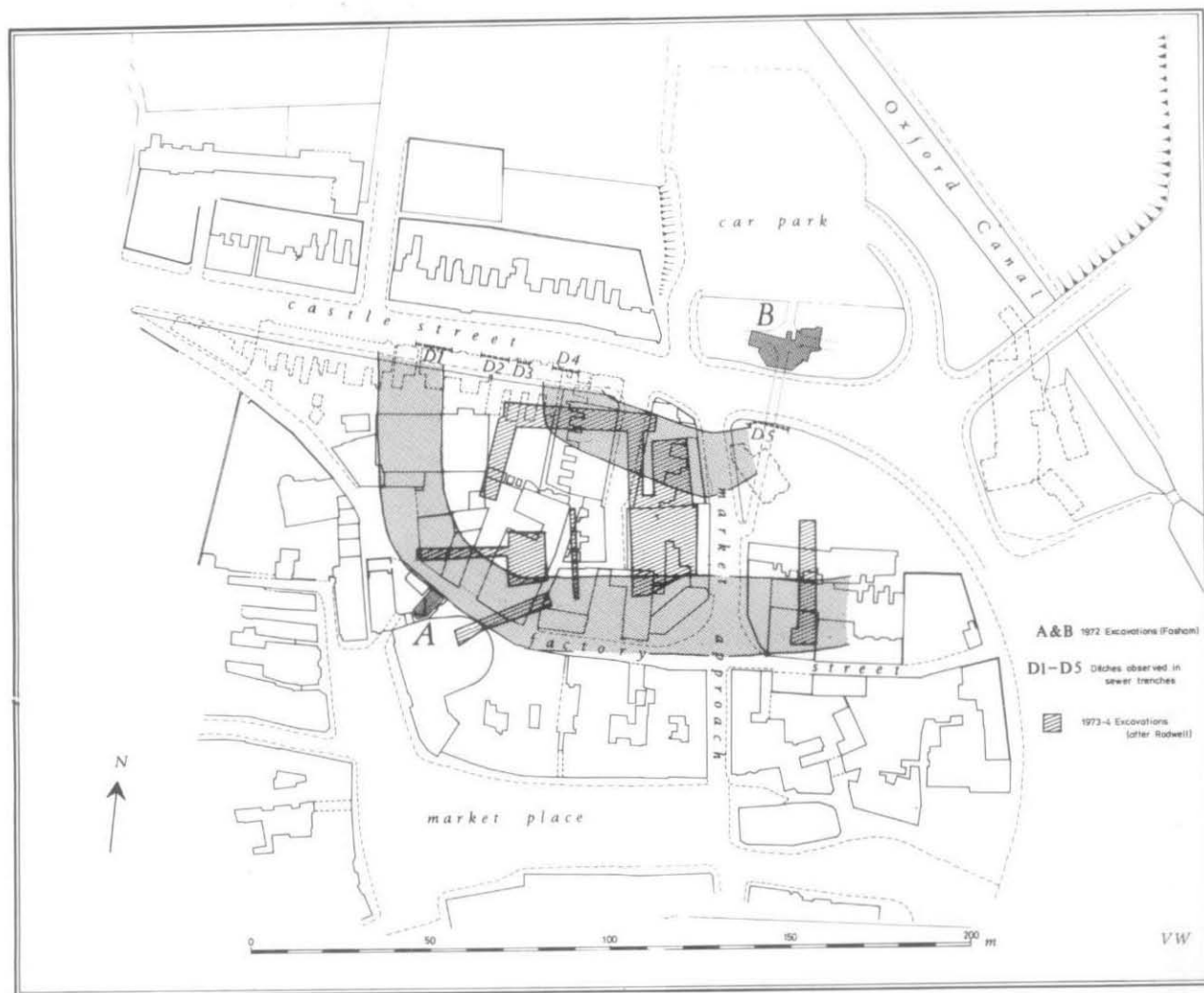


Fig. 1. Banbury Castle. Location map of the southern part of the castle area. The 1972 excavations are denoted A and B and observations D1-D5. The 1973 excavations of Mrs Rodwell are shown in hatching. The observed lines of the inner and outer ditches of the castle are toned.

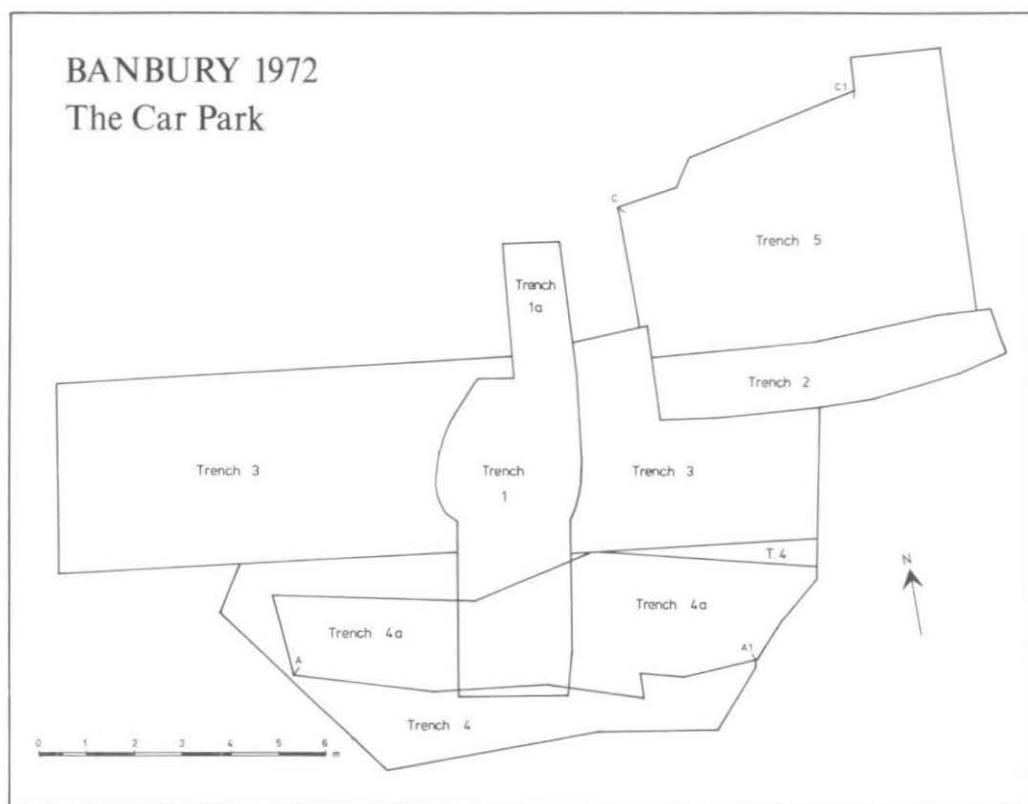


Fig. 2. Banbury Castle. Plan showing the location of the trenches and the published sections on the Car Park Site. For section A-A1, see Figure 6 and for C-C1, see Figure 10.

#### THE SITE AND METHOD OF EXCAVATION

The site, sandwiched between Castle Street, a car park and its access roads, (Fig. 1) was excavated in advance of a pedestrian subway the final form of which severely limited the area available for excavation. The budget was equally limited, and this affected both the strategy and the tactics of the excavation.

Site B had been regarded traditionally as the site of the castle motte<sup>5</sup> and thus at the initial stage of trial excavations in March and April 1972 it was important to investigate this claim. A trial trench, Trench 1, (Fig. 2) 8m. × 2m. was excavated with a JCB to below a deposit of gravel which was interpreted at that stage as part of the motte but which subsequently proved to be part of the rebuilding of the castle. Towards the end of the initial trial stage the JCB trench was extended northwards, Trench 1a, and eastwards where Trench 2 was excavated to the base of the gravel. Trenches 1a and 2 were both mechanically excavated in an attempt to determine the limits of the dumped gravel. The excavation of Trench 2 revealed foundations of the Phase 2 building. The project was

<sup>5</sup> *V.C.H. Oxon.* ii. 322; *ibid.* x. 41.



Fig. 3. Banbury Castle. Plan of features and structures of Phases 1 and 2 at the Car Park site.

reappraised in the light of this new evidence which suggested that the gravel dump represented merely a phase in the development of the castle and that there were stratified archaeological deposits both below and above the gravel. It was decided to examine as large an area as possible above the gravel and to cut at least one more trench through the gravel. Trench 3 was mechanically stripped of post-castle deposits and then excavated by hand to the surface of the gravel. The contractors then allowed the southward extension of the site for Trench 4 and the excavation of the deep trench 4a to the base of the gravel. Finally Trench 5 was excavated.

Finally the construction of the subway was observed. The most important feature that came to light was the inner edge of the ditch for the inner bailey of the rebuilt castle in roughly the location shown by Mrs. Rodwell.<sup>6</sup>

#### THE RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATION

Ten main phases of medieval activity have been isolated on the site. All but Phase 1 are interpreted as relating to the castle and indicate a major rebuilding and successive minor alterations within the inner bailey. The phasing has been amended and renumbered since the publication of the interim report<sup>7</sup> and is as follows:

Final phase numbers	Interim phase indicators
1	Pre-gravel phase 1
2	Pre-gravel phase 2
3	The gravel dump
4	Phase T
5	Phase V and Stone Buildings II and III
6	Phase V
7	Phase V-W
8	Phase X
9	Phase Y
10	Phase Z

#### Phase 1 (Fig. 3)

Some vague stone alignments and a number of pits were stratigraphically and physically earlier than the structures interpreted as the earliest buildings associated with the castle. The pits could be divided into two groups, A and B, on the basis of their fills but this distinction cannot be regarded as having any bearing on the chronology, stratigraphic relationship or the function of the pits.

#### Group A Pits

Pits 1, 3 and 4, characterised by their blue clay filling, formed Group A, but Pits 1 and 4 had admixtures of brown loam. They were observed during the construction of the subway and were not properly excavated. They formed part of a group of intercutting pits which appeared to be fairly large and sub-rectangular in shape although only the shape of

<sup>6</sup> Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. Fig. 2.

<sup>7</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 317-323.

Pit 3, 2.5m. by 2m. was readily discernable. Pit 1 was cut by Pit 3 which in turn was cut by Pit 4.

#### Group B Pits

Group B pits, filled with a red-brown loam, were recorded during both the excavation proper and contractors excavation. The incompletely observed and recorded Pit 2 appeared to be rectangular with one side at least 4m. long. It was cut by Pits 1 and 3 and presumably by F245 and thus can be regarded as the earliest of these features. Pit 5 was a small circular pit some 1.3m. in diameter and seemed to be sealed by the southern continuation of the Phase 2 Wall F76.

The circular pit F240, 1.95m. in diameter and 0.5m. deep was sealed by the Phase 2 wall F224. The east side was stepped but the west sloped gently. Charcoal flecks were noted in the reddish-brown sandy-loam fill. Four sherds of the Saxo-Norman Fabric 1 pottery were recovered.

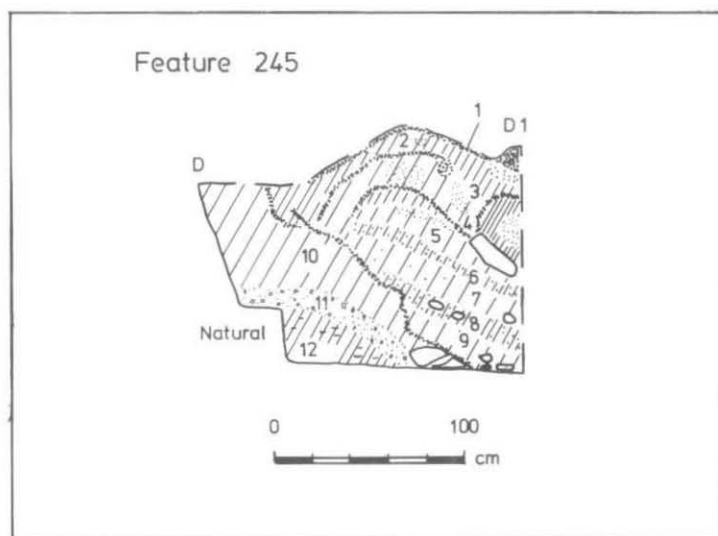


Fig. 4. Banbury Castle. Section of feature 245.

#### Feature 245, Fig. 4.

Feature 245, apparently cutting Pit 2, was only partially excavated because of the confines of the trench. Its fill was different from those of the other pits in Phase 1. The upper western edge was recorded as F35 in the original excavation of Trench 1 in April 1972, the remainder was excavated in October 1972 as the final stage of the excavation of Trench 5. It was probably rectangular measuring 2.4m. by at least 1.9m. and was 1.3m. deep with straight, vertical sides except for the upper weathering cone. The thin band of gravel between F245/9 and F245/10 may represent a re-cut. Possible stake holes, forming no pattern, were found in the top of F245/1. The compactness of the gravel bands, particularly F245/1 and F245/4, was reminiscent of iron pan and may indicate water percolation through the pit after its abandonment. The pit was later sealed by a layer of brown loam, 244 (Fig. 6) but was still visible as a depression in layer 244. The hollow was filled with a dump of ironstone lumps, layer 36.

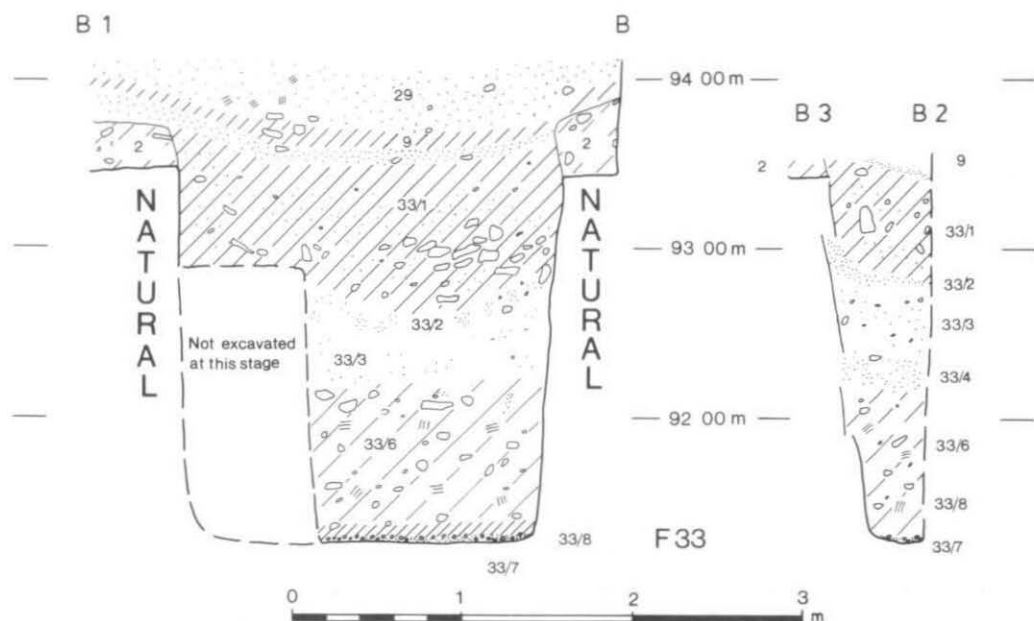


Fig. 5. Banbury Castle. Section of pit 33.

#### Feature 33, Fig. 5.

The partially excavated F33, the only pit in Trench 1, was oval in plan, at least 2m. wide and 2.4m. deep. Dark vertical streaks visible in the western side probably represented the remains of a wooden lining. Although in 1972 the water table was 10cm. above the bottom of this pit it may be interpreted as a well, the water table having been lowered by modern pumping and drainage schemes. The pit was filled before the construction of the Phase 3 gravel dump. It may have been contemporary with either Phase 1 or Phase 2 – the stratigraphy is not clear. The finds indicate a late 11th- or early 12th-century date.

#### Phase 1 Structures

F246, a 2.3m. straight length of largish ironstone blocks, may have been the foundation of a timber framed building, Building I. It was later than some of the pits, such as pit 2, but was cut by F245. The four pieces of ironstone, F247, to the north-east may have been an associated post-rest. There were no associated floors or finds. Underneath was a gravel deposit, 250 associated with 251, with many charcoal flecks which could indicate an earlier phase of occupation.

The evidence for a second possible structure in Trench 1, Building II, consisted of seven clusters of ironstone lumps, 37, and 42–47, forming a crude alignment some 6m. long, perhaps the bases for the vertical timbers of a timber-framed building. The gap between 42 and 47 could have been created by the mechanical excavation, in which case as many as three clusters may have been removed. The average spacing between these features was 80–100cm. The relationship of F43 to the stones sealing F240 and to post-hole 235 suggests either a corner or a recessed doorway in one of the long sides of the structure. Post-hole 272 may be related. The pottery indicates that Phase 1 dated from about the third quarter of the 11th to the second quarter of the 12th century.

*Phase 2 (Fig. 3)*

This phase contained the best preserved building remains on the site, comprising the four walls, floors and hearths of Building III which was at least 12.2m. by 7m. internally. Wall 224 in Trench 4a was of dry-stone construction, 0.5m. wide. Eleven courses survived up to 1m. high at the south of Trench 4a but at the north the wall had been reduced to a single course. It was recorded as a robber trench, F27, in the north-east corner of the original Trench 1.

Wall 76 in Trench 4a had foundations of ironstone blocks up to 50cm. long and 12–15cm. thick held together by a dark brown coarse mortar. Above foundation level it was preserved to a height of 73cm., and was 50–56cm. wide. The west face was covered with a creamy coloured plaster, up to 2cm. thick, which contained quite large grits. In Trench 2 it had been reduced to two courses including the foundations.

Wall 223 inserted on a dirt floor between walls 76 and 72 in Trench 2 was 58cm. wide. One course above the foundations was preserved and the wall was 28cm. high. At the south there was a door.

Of the fourth wall, wall 72, only the ironstone foundations up to 70cm. wide survived. Robber trench 81 in Trench 1a, 90cm. wide and 25cm. deep, was filled with ironstone rubble in brown loam with charcoal flecks, and was the only evidence of an east–west wall.

North of robber trench 81 was layer 77, a white mortar floor up to 2cm thick. In Trench 2 was a deposit, 75, probably a hearth, of black soil and charcoal between walls 72 and 76. There had been a hearth midway between these two walls but it was abandoned by the time wall 223 was constructed. On the east side of wall 76 was another hearth. Between walls 76 and 224 in Trench 4a were the remains of a sand and grit floor, 237. There were no floors east of wall 72, or south of robber trench 81 and west of wall 224.

Building III, then, consisted of a north–south spine measuring 10m. by 7m. internally, and an east–west wing of unknown size, with dirt and gravel floors; at least one of the walls had a plastered face.

There were, unfortunately, few finds associated with Building III but the ceramic evidence suggests a period of occupation from the second quarter of the 12th to the second quarter of the 13th century. The former date coincides so nicely with the date of 1125 or 1136 for the construction of the castle that there can be no doubt that the Building III range belonged to the initial phase of Bishop Alexander's castle.



Fig. 6. Banbury Castle. Section through the excavation showing Phase 1 pits 240 and 245, Phase 2 walls 76 and 224, the Phase 3 dump of gravel, the Phase 4 floor 6 and the subsequent medieval and post-medieval deposits. Above Phase 4 the section has been projected.



*Phase 3 (Fig. 6)*

This phase reflects the major rebuilding of the castle when it was converted into one of concentric form with double ditches and retaining walls. The material, mainly sand and gravel, that was excavated from the ditches was spread throughout both the inner and outer baileys.<sup>8</sup> Building 1 was apparently dismantled before the gravel was dumped as demonstrated by the reduction of Wall 76. The gravel dump was 1–1.4m. deep with numerous clay and loam tip lines. The varied nature of the subsoil is reflected by both the tip lines and the concentrations of blue clayey gravel such as 233. The dating of this most important period of rebuilding remains vague. Neither the 1972 nor the 1973/4 excavations provided any dating evidence.

Miss Robinson's detailed analysis of the pottery suggests the following dates for the related phases: Phase 2 — Early-middle 12th century to early-middle 13th century; Phase 3 — Early-middle 13th century — albeit from a handful of sherds; Phase 4 — Early 13th century — early 14th century. This suggests a date of around 1225 to 1250 for the rebuilding which is considerably earlier than previously assumed.

*Phase 4 (Fig. 7)*

Physical remains of this phase were found across the whole site. The most distinctive component was a floor of eroded and compacted ironstone, with occasional patches of a white, ? limestone, mortar or cement, 6 (Figs. 6 and 7). Where not exposed to later weathering, as inside the Phase 5 Buildings IV and V, it was preserved; between these buildings it had been largely eroded.

In the floor was a series of slots and post-holes. The slots were found mainly in the eastern part of the site. Slot 185, aligned east-west was a little over 6m. long and 50cm. wide at the top, 20cm. wide at the bottom and 10–15cm. deep at the west end. Slot 186 ran south from 185 and bifurcated at its southern end. It had a slightly rounded bottom, was 24cm. wide with vertical sides 7–10cm. deep and was of regular profile along its length. The eastern arm of 186 was designated 189. It was a little under 3m. long and was 36cm. wide and 15cm. deep at its west end declining to 14cm. wide and 7cm. deep at its east end. Two metres further east, on approximately the same alignment as 189, was another slot, 164/2, which had been partly destroyed by the construction of Building IV in Phase 5. Between 189 and 164/2 were four post-holes 194, 195, 207 and 208 and a cluster of stake-holes, 190. The smallest slot was 200 which was 6–13cm. wide and 6cm. deep. There was one large slot or socket, 191, 2m. long, 50cm. deep and 30cm. wide at the east end and 62cm. wide at the west end. There was a high gravel content in its fill and whatever posts it contained were probably removed deliberately.

Post-holes 212 and 267 apparently relate to this phase. One hearth, 74, was recorded.

The slots, post-holes and hearth suggest that the Phase 4 remains are from a building; it was presumably larger than the excavation as no substantial foundations or footings were located. That the features were internal components of a building is clearly indicated by the erosion of the floors in the exposed areas between the later buildings.

The gravel mound appears to have subsided during this phase, particularly in the south-west of the site over the large pits of Phase 1 and 2. Such subsidence would account for the deliberate demolition of the building suggested by 191.

<sup>8</sup> Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 109.

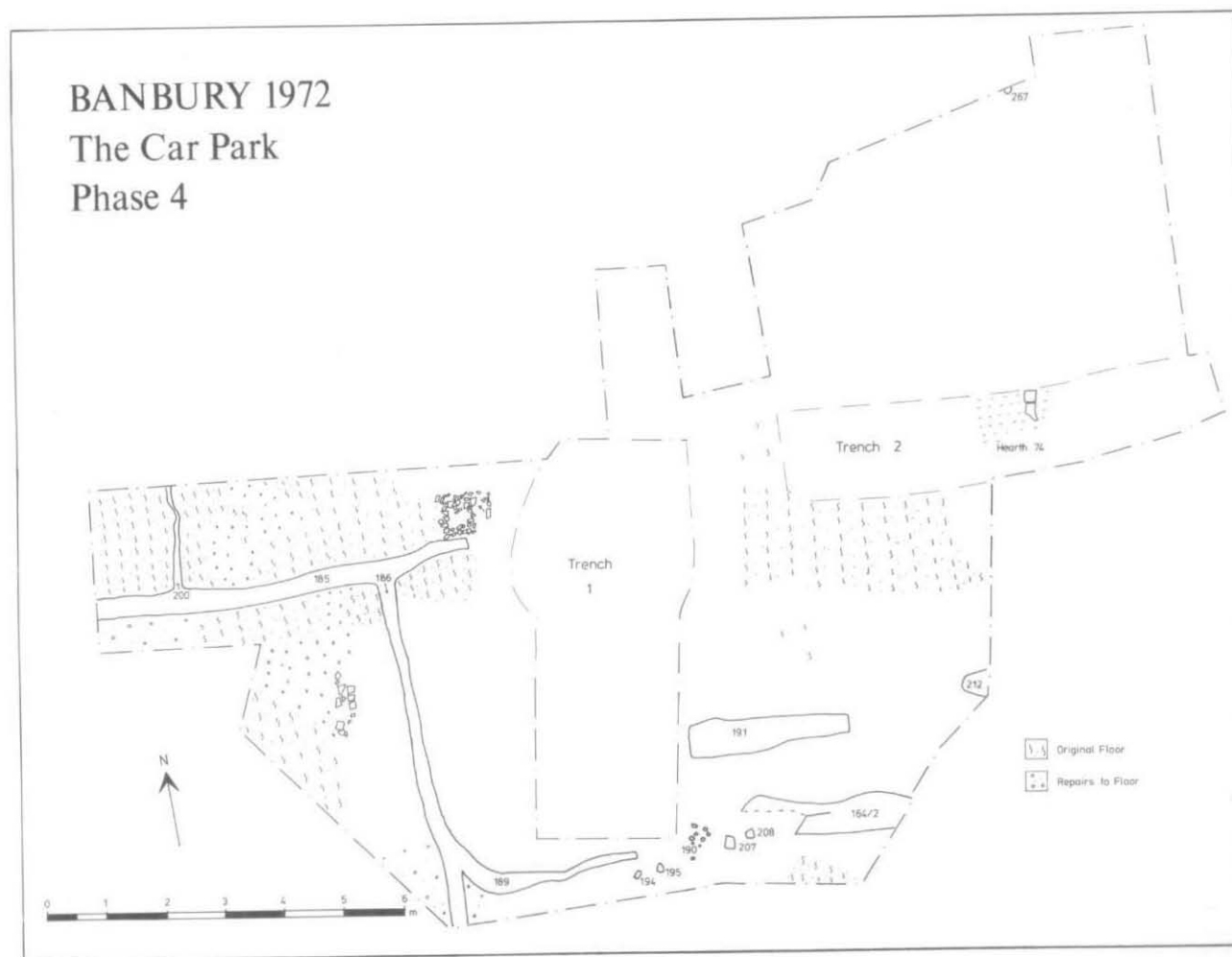


Fig. 7. Banbury Castle. Plan of the Phase 4 structure built on the top of the gravel dump.

The dating evidence is again ceramic. The pottery forms are similar to those of Phases 1-3 but the fabrics do show some changes. The most reasonable date brackets are from about the 2nd quarter of the 13th century to *c.* 1300.

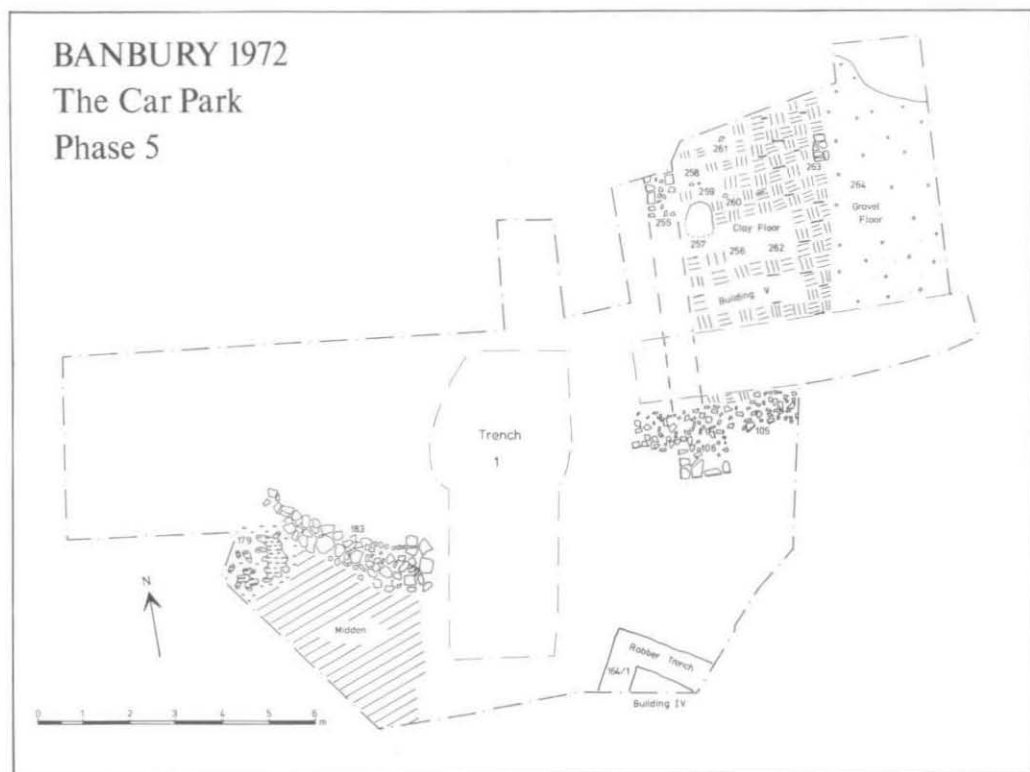


Fig. 8. Banbury Castle. Plan of the Phase 5 buildings IV and V and the midden.

#### Phase 5 (Fig. 8)

Two stone buildings were constructed and a midden developed. Building IV, in the south-east of the site, was represented by a 2m. length of robber-trench, 164/1, 50-60cm. wide and up to 20cm. deep. It was built of ironstone, probably of dry-stone construction as suggested by the absence of mortar in the robber-trench. Only the north-west corner lay within the excavation. The ceramic evidence implies that the building was demolished in the late 15th or 16th century.

Building V, 3.2m. north of Building IV, was rectangular measuring at least 7m. by 4.8m. internally. Its southern wall, 105, had been partially robbed, except for the foundations of an external support, 106. The west wall had been robbed except for a 1m. length of 70cm. wide foundation, 255, at the north end. This foundation was of reused ironstone ashlar blocks with rubble core, probably of dry-stone construction. The eastern limit could not be defined because of subsequent disturbances and the north side was not located. The eastern half of the 5cm. thick white clay floor had been heavily burnt. A

hearth, 257, was close to the west wall. To the north were four post-holes: 258 was 10cm. in diameter and 7cm. deep; 259, 6cm. in diameter and 5cm. deep; 260, 10cm. in diameter and 8cm. deep, and 261, 10cm. long and 6cm. deep. A small rectangular ironstone structure, 263, 70cm. by 40cm., defined a north-south change in the floor. To the east was an intensely burnt gravel floor, 264. This change in flooring material presumably represented an internal division.

The midden covered 20 square metres in the south-west corner of the site where the gravel dump had slumped. It was up to 40cm. deep and contained over 1100 pot sherds, mainly from cooking pots, 270 fragments of animal bone, mainly food refuse of cow, pig and ovicaprid, and a bone-handled iron knife, Fig. 16, No. 8. The midden consisted of layers 181, 182, 187 and an upper layer 179 which partly overlay a deposit of stones, including ashlar, 183, which formed the northern boundary of the midden.

The pottery from Phase 5 was mainly derived from the midden. The assemblage, comprised chiefly of cooking pots, dates to the late 13th century or early 14th century.

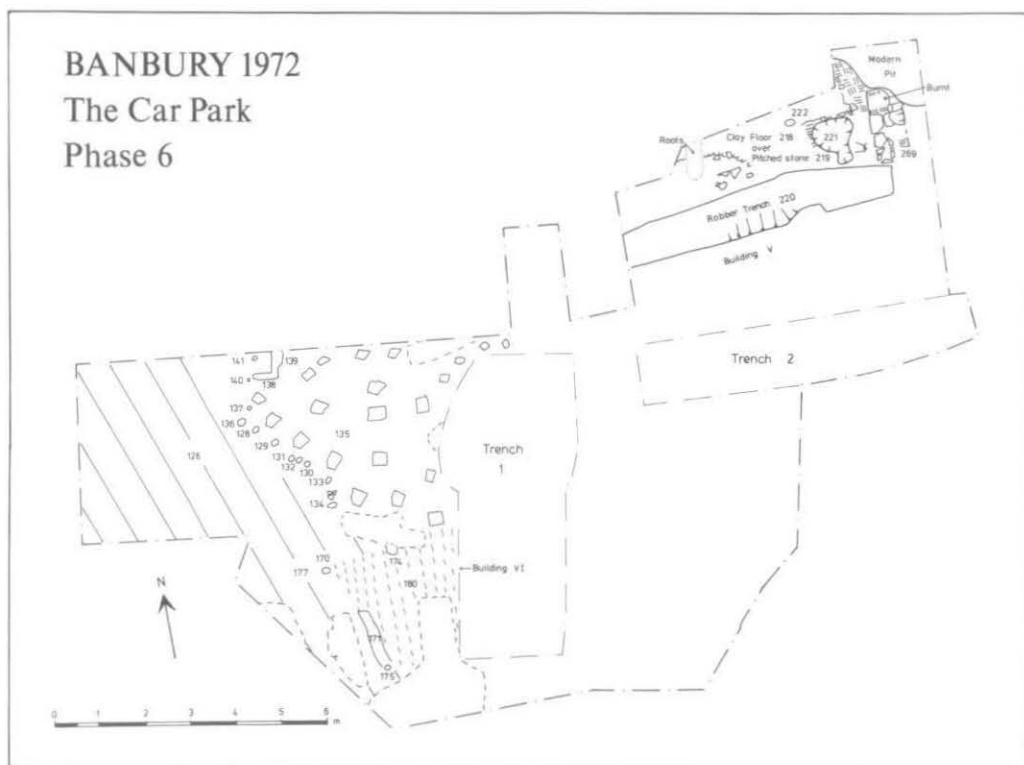


Fig. 9. Banbury Castle. Plan of the rebuilt Building V and ther Phase 6 structures including Building VI.

#### *Phase 6 (Fig. 9)*

Building V was rebuilt but Building IV appears to have stood through this phase. The south wall of Building V was rebuilt 3.5m. to the north and was represented by a 6m. length of robber trench, 220, which was 90cm. wide. The floor was of pitched slabs of ironstone, 219, set into clay, layers 234 and 252, Fig. 9. The floor was surfaced with a layer

of creamy clay, 218, into which was cut the 10cm. deep pit/scoop 221 of irregular shape and a small V-profiled stake-hole, 222, 15cm. in diameter and 10cm. deep. The eastern limit of the building appeared to be represented by the short extant length of wall 269. It was 80cm. wide and the single course that survived showed that it was built of medium sized facing blocks of ironstone with an ironstone rubble core. Extensive burning suggested that 269 may have been a hearth or fireplace.

The rebuilt Building V had a new floor at some stage in its life. A 5cm. thick layer of orange gravel, 216, was laid on the earlier clay floor and surfaced with mortar 214 and clay 215 (Fig. 10). Post-hole 268 was associated with this floor. Building V did not extend into the western part of the site.

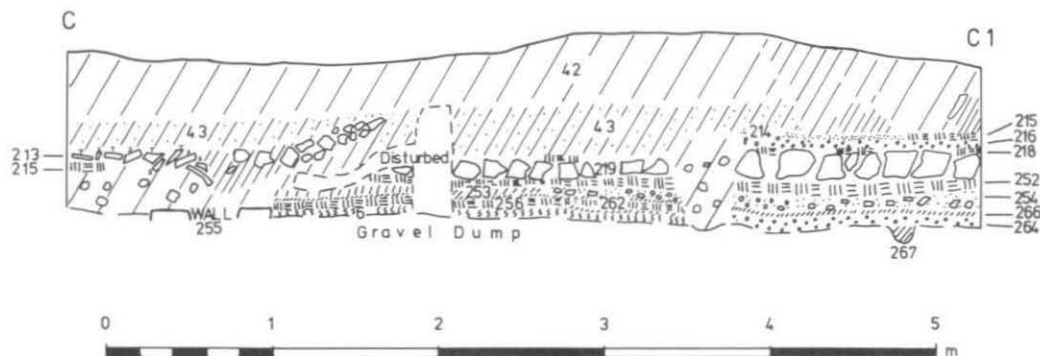


Fig. 10. Banbury Castle. Section through the floors of Building V.

On the western part of the site a rectangular timber structure, Building VI, was erected over the phase 5 midden. A floor, 180, of hard compact ironstone lumps, occasional ironstone lumps, brown soils and a lot of white mortar was surrounded by three post-holes, 170, 174 and 175. Running north from 175 for 1.3m. was a 25cm. wide rest for a beam, 171.

An irregular fence ran north from Building VI; it comprised eleven post-holes of varying depth and diameter, 128-134, 136, 137, 140 and 141. At the northern end was a right-angled slot, 138 and 139. East of the fence was a layer of rubble and mortar, 135, and to the west was brown soil, 126 and 177.

The phase is dated to the 14th or 15th century.

#### Phase 7 (Fig. 11)

The Phase 5 Building IV and possibly the rebuilt Building V were still standing but the timber Building VI of Phase 6 had been demolished. Phase 7 is represented by a limited amount of activity in the western half of the site. A crude path of compact rubble and cobbles, 122, was laid down approximately on the alignment of the Phase 6 fence. East and west of the path were layers of loam mixed with rubble, respectively 121 and 123.

The phase is most likely dated to the 15th century.

#### Phase 8 (Fig. 12)

The major changes again occurred on the western part of the site and it must be assumed



## BANBURY 1972

## The Car Park

## Phase 8

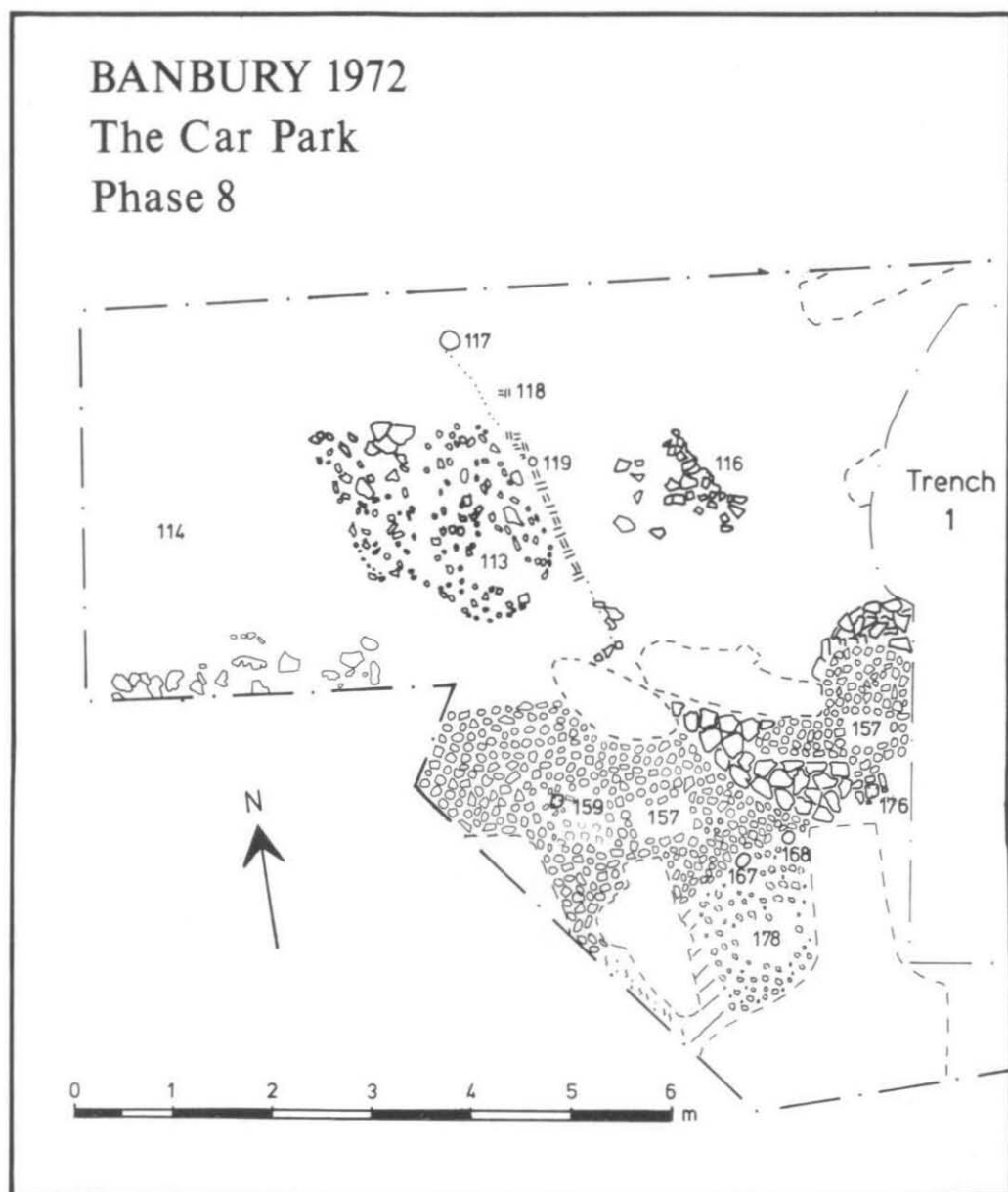


Fig. 12. Banbury Castle. The west half of the site. Plan of the Phase 8 features. Later intrusive features are in dotted outline.

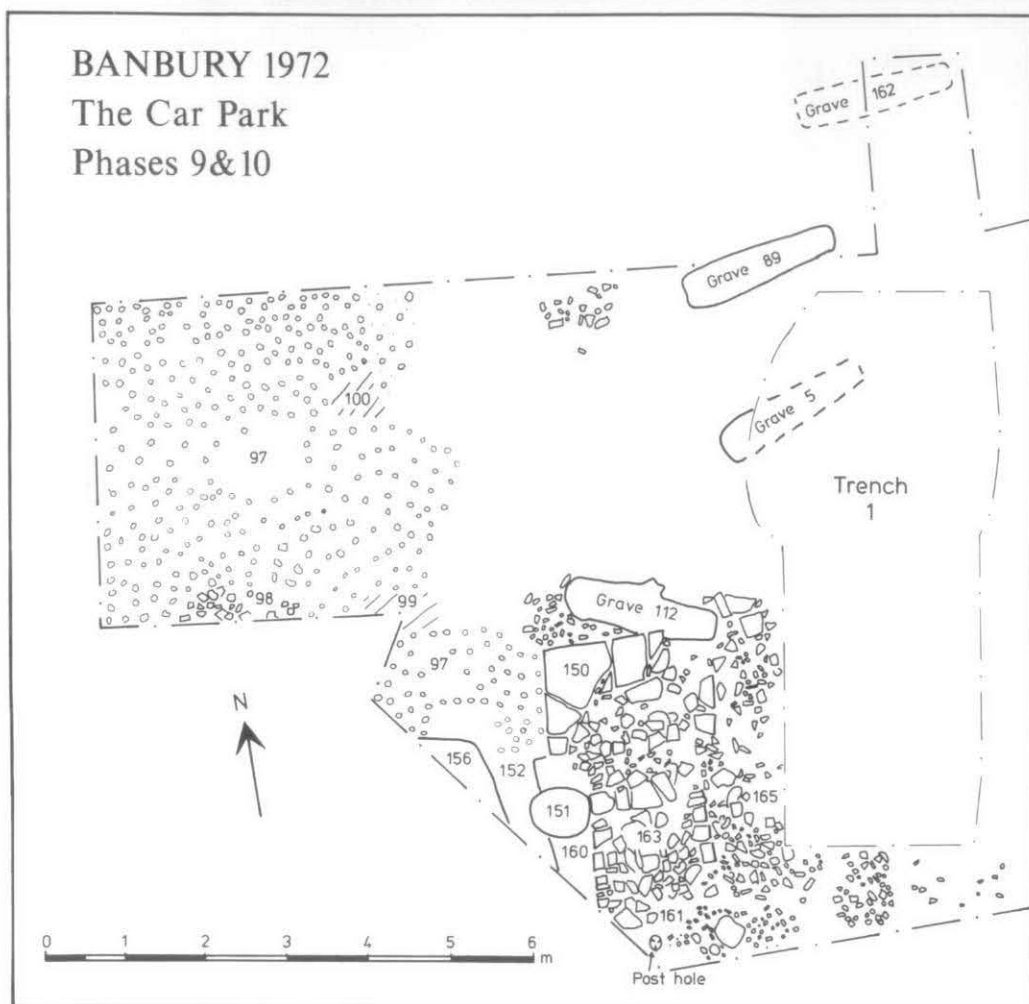


Fig. 13. Banbury Castle. The west half of the site. Plan of the features and structures in Phases 9 and 10.

that the more substantial Buildings IV and V at the east remained standing.

At the west were remains of one or two structures. One structure was defined by a series of small post-holes, 117, 118 and 119, and stake-holes. Intermingled with and on the same alignment as those features was a strip of clay 15cm. thick and 2m. long. Pieces of ironstone indicated a corner at the south-east end, but it was not clear whether it was an internal corner or the end of the structure. Adjacent to the west side of the clay band was a deposit, 113, of smallish stones and pebbles up to 10cm. in diameter, which could have been a floor. Parallel to and 1.6m. east of the clay strip was another alignment of ironstone blocks with loose ironstone behind, 116.

At the south of the site was a floor of small rounded pebbles and orange grit with patches of yellow mortar, 157. An extension of this surface or possibly a yard was made of a compact mixture of ironstone and limestone rubble with white mortar patches, 178. Floor



157 was divided by a band of flat ironstone blocks, each about 20cm. across, at the east end of which was post-hole 176. Post-hole 159 was cut into 157 and post-holes 167 and 168 stood at the interface of 157 and 178.

All these features could have formed a single structure with the southern end defined by post-holes 167 and 168, and the strip of clay forming the east side. Such a structure would have measured at least 6.8m by 5.1m. with a yard to the south and a porch at the south-east.

This phase dates to the 15th century.

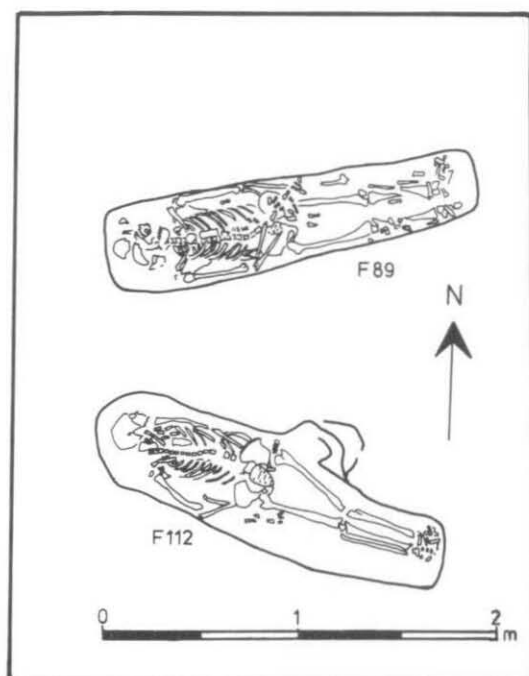


Fig. 14. Banbury Castle. Burials 89 and 112. North is to the top.

#### *Phase 9 (Fig. 13)*

Evidence for activity is again restricted to the west of the site although either or both of Buildings IV and V may have been demolished during this phase.

The main features are difficult to understand. Feature 150 was a triangular area of worn flagstones some 8cm. thick; there had been an attempt to make the feature rectangular by imposing flatly hard limestone blocks and some pieces of ironstone on the south.

The first course and foundations of wall 163, 1.5m. wide and incorporating a considerable volume of reused building material, were south of 150. On the east was a construction/foundation trench filled with loam and rubble which spread onto and extended over the existing soil surface to the east. A trench, 160, was dug on the west side with ironstone rubble in the base. Wall 163 was laid on these prepared, but not very sound

foundations, and was made of re-used dressed stone. An area of cobbles, 97, spread north from 150.

This phase dated to the late 15th or early 16th century.

### *Phase 10 (Fig. 13)*

The final phase of discernable archaeological activity was related to six features which are probably associated with the Civil War.

There were four burials, all with the heads to the west. The exact alignment of burial 5 was not determined as only a portion of the grave survived in the side of Trench 1; burial 162 was similarly disturbed by the mechanical excavation of Trench 1a but its orientation was 7° south of east-west. Burial 89 was aligned 3° south of east-west and burial 112 was 22° north of east-west. The difference in orientation of 30° for 112 is accounted for by the presence of feature 150. The remains of all four skeletons were sent to the Pathology Department of Horton General Hospital for study but unfortunately they were misplaced before a report was prepared. Burial 89 appeared to have a broken leg.

Pit 151 was about 85cm. in diameter and 30cm. deep and contained several thick pieces of iron. Only part of the rectangular pit 156 was discovered.

### *Phase 11*

This phase consists of all the modern deposits and activities on the site.

## THE FINDS

### METAL OBJECTS

Metal objects are tabulated by Phase in Table 1. Only a selection of the finds are described in detail or illustrated in accordance with the Frere report.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Bronze objects.*

- Fig. 15, No. 1. Small bronze buckle with eroded fleur-de-lys terminal. Phase 2, layer 34.
  - Fig. 15, No. 2. Round-headed pin. Phase 2, feature 76.
  - Fig. 15, No. 3. Circular-headed pin with decorated head. Unstratified.
  - Fig. 15, No. 4. Conical fitting, possibly for box. Function unknown. Phase 5, midden, layer 181. Drawn by N. Griffiths.
  - Fig. 15, No. 5. Boot-lace tag. Phase 10, grave 89.
- Other bronze objects included a ring from feature 114 in Phase 8 and a series of minute fragments of bronze wire of about 1mm. diameter found together which may have formed a decoration of an object like a purse, found in feature 106 in Phase 5.

#### *Iron objects.*

- Fig. 15, No. 6. Possible stirrup with lace/strap holes at end of each long arm. Other functions are possible. Phase 5 midden, layer 182.
- Fig. 15, No. 7. Barrel lock with engaging staple. Phase 5, layer 103.
- Fig. 16, No. 8. Bone-handled iron knife, with broken tip. The handle of the knife consists of the iron haft

<sup>9</sup> The Principles of Publication (DoE 1975).

TABLE 1  
Distribution of metal finds through phases

	Bronze	Nails	Iron Horseshoe	Knife	Objects	Lead	Other	Totals
Phase 1	-	7	2	-	3+ ? horse bit (frag- mentary)	-	Slag	14
Phase 2	Buckle Pin	5	-	-	-	Sheet fragment Blob	Slag	10
Phase 3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Phase 4	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Phase 5	1+ ? purse decoration	17	-	1	Lock Eyelet/ring ? Stirrup	Offcut	-	22
Phase 6	1	16	-	-	2	fragment	-	22
Phase 7	-	5	-	-	Iron sheet (fragment)	Sheet	-	7
Phase 8	Ring	20	2	-	1	-	-	24
Phase 9	-	64	-	1 (frag- ment)	2	Window lead 2 frags of sheet	-	70
Phase 10	Lace Tag	86+	-	-	1 plus coffin fittings Large pieces	7 window lead Offcut 24 musket balls	Slag	112+
Totals	7	217	4	2	16+	40	3	289+

The totals of nails are all approximate due to the fragmentary nature of many of the nails. In Phase 10 coffin nails represent at least 72 of the total.

between thin copper sheets on the outside of which are bone plates. The copper sheets have been hammered to about 1mm. thickness and traces of the hammering are visible. On one of the copper sheets is a six-armed cross, probably the coppersmith's mark. The copper and bone plates were attached to the iron handle by three rivets, one of which damaged the maker's mark. A red substance on the blade is more likely to be a trace of wood than of leather, (Shishtawi pers. com.). Phase 5 midden, layer 179.

Fig. 16, No. 9. Fragment of knife blade. Phase 5, layer 115.

Other iron objects included a bar 204mm. long, 6mm. wide, and 2mm. thick from Phase 1, layer 240, and a large iron ring from 164 in Phase 5. Most of the iron was in poor condition and formed amorphous lumps of corrosion. In the Phase 10 pit 151 were several large, thick curved pieces of iron of unknown function. There were over 200 nails, often fragmentary. It was possible to suggest that two sizes of nail were used in the construction of coffin 112, the smaller being about 400mm. long, the larger 650mm. long.

Two nails are illustrated:

Fig. 16, No. 10. Nail from Phase 1, pit 33.

Fig. 16, No. 11. Nail from Phase 9, layer 97.

#### Lead objects.

Musket balls: there were five unstratified musket balls. The Phase 10 feature 151 contained 24 musket balls of which 18 were 19mm. diameter, the remainder ranged down to 15mm. diameter and were presumably pistol balls.

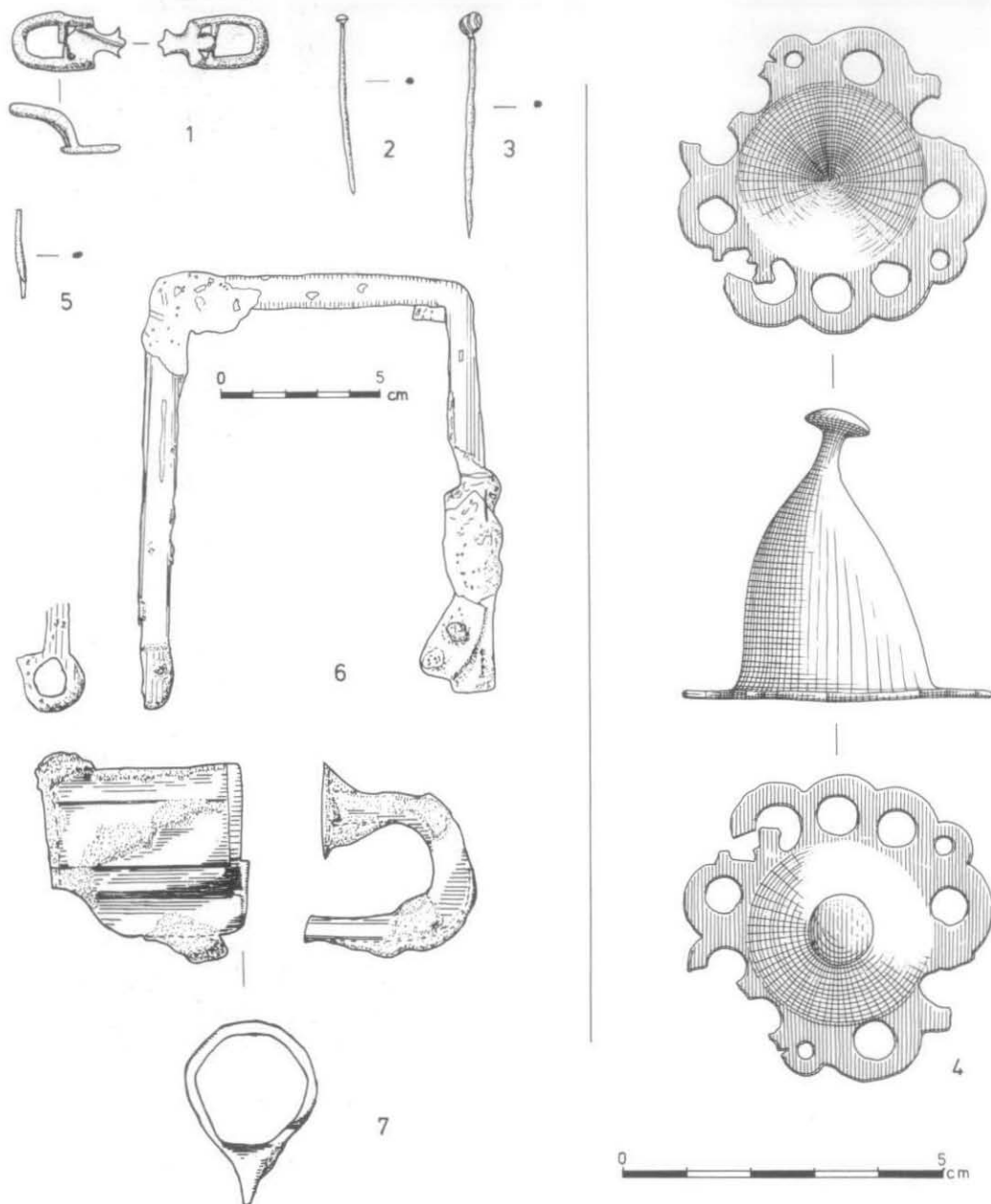


Fig. 15. Banbury Castle. Objects of bronze, 1-5, and iron, 6 and 7. Scales: 1-3, 5-7- $\frac{1}{2}$ ; 4-1.

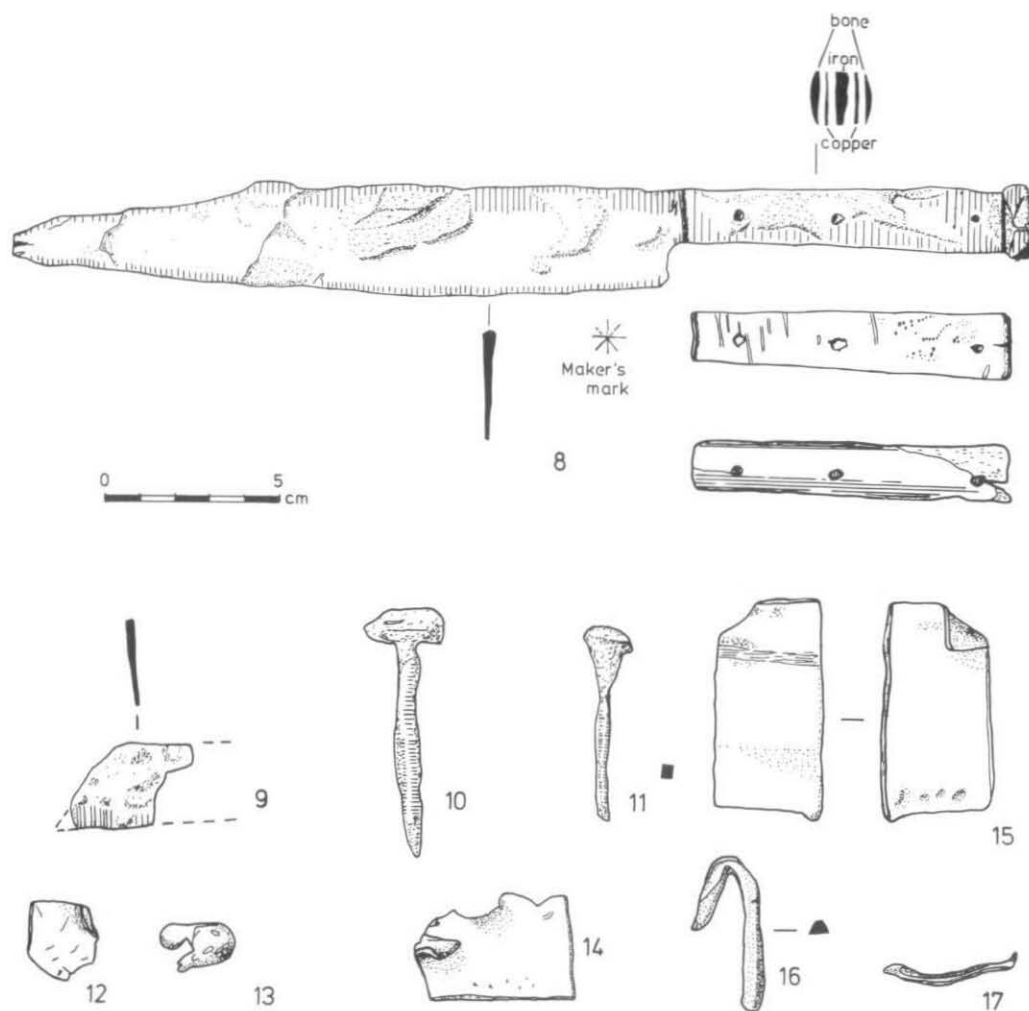


Fig. 16. Banbury Castle Objects of iron, 8-11, and lead, 12-17. Scales:  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Fig. 16, No. 12. Fragment of lead sheet. Phase 2, layer 73.

Fig. 16, No. 13. Lead globule. Phase 2, layer 77.

Fig. 16, No. 14. Corner of lead sheet, 40mm. by 29mm. Phase 7, layer 123.

Fig. 16, No. 15. Subrectangular sheet of lead 61mm. long, 29-31mm. wide, up to 2.5mm. thick. Phase 9, layer 146.

Fig. 16, No. 16. Twisted small length of lead of varied sub-rectangular cross-section. Phase 9, layer 102.

Fig. 16, No. 17. Piece of grooved window lead. Phase 10, layer 89.

#### THE POTTERY By A. M. ROBINSON

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## INTRODUCTION

There were some 3,200 sherds of well stratified and residual sherds. The pottery has been studied in detail following current methodology and has been compared with the sequence obtained from sites in the Oxford area.<sup>10</sup> It is hoped that the description of this pottery will draw together the evidence from other recently excavated sites in Banbury<sup>11</sup> and facilitate an assessment of this material in the context of other sites and assemblages from the region. Unfortunately there are no complete vessels and few with substantial body profiles; there is also a noticeable lack of glazed and highly decorated wares indicating that the collection is of a different nature to those from other contemporary assemblages. Nevertheless the group indicates the major ceramic trends and traditions in the early medieval period.

With the exception of a few residual Saxon and late Saxon sherds the sequence appears to start in the late 11th or early 12th century with the latest stratified material coming from 17th-century contexts, although this site, unlike other areas<sup>12</sup> excavated near the castle, did not produce a great quantity or wide range of wares and forms of 17th-century date. The apparent lack of recognisable material from the transitional phase between medieval and post medieval wares is probably due partly to the shallow stratigraphy of the site and partly to an imperfect understanding of ceramic traditions in this period; similar problems have been encountered on a number of other sites.<sup>13</sup> The most notable aspect of the ceramic sequence from the site is the transition from limestone to sand tempered wares beginning in the 12th century and completed in the earlier mid 13th century. This transition parallels traditions from a great number of local sites<sup>14</sup> and together with the introduction of fine glazed wares and the adoption of larger diameter cooking pots coincides with the transition between phases 3 and 4, thus providing a useful horizon for phases associated with a major structural reorganisation on the site.

The only dating evidence comes from the pottery itself<sup>15</sup> and inevitably depends on comparison with other local assemblages; unfortunately it is difficult to correlate the material with that from 27 Cornhill, Banbury, (Site A) which has, in Phase II, a dated ceramic group of the later 13th century.<sup>16</sup> Site B does not contain any of the distinctive highly decorated pottery, although it does contain a much greater proportion of sand tempered cooking wares and a greater range, albeit in small quantities, of wares found in the Northampton and Midlands areas. The evidence from comparable collections at Oxford and Northampton, together with the sequence from Banbury Site A, makes it possible to date some of the major phases at Banbury Castle.

The report consists of: 1 — a description of the ceramic types; 2 — phase summaries; 3 — a discussion.

The phase, feature and or layer number and fabric of each illustrated sherd is recorded in order in the captions to the pottery illustrations. Thus 1. 1/33.1/1 is illustrated sherd 1 of Phase 1 from feature 33 layer 1 and fabric 1.

## 1. CERAMIC TYPES

a. *Fabric types.* The main fabric types have been identified and given numerical codes following the system adopted for the site at 27 Cornhill Banbury, termed Site A.<sup>17</sup> The current type series incorporates fabric types 1–77 described in that report, but the bulk of that material has not been re-examined or re-assessed. In this report some of the earlier fabric types have been combined so that 6 = 4, 6 and 7; 8 = 8, 12 and 14. To facilitate comparison with the Oxford series<sup>18</sup> the fabrics have been divided into groups according to their predominant inclusions, with additional groups included where appropriate.

- IV Vegetable tempered<sup>19</sup>
- 1a Shelly limestone

<sup>10</sup> R. Haldon and M. Mellor 'Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery' in B. Durham 'Archaeological Investigations in St. Aldates, Oxford.' *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), 111–139.

<sup>11</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 312–38; Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 90–147.

<sup>12</sup> Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 90–147.

<sup>13</sup> Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 139. M. McCarthy 'The Pottery' in J.H. Williams *St. Peter's Street, Northampton. Excavations 1973–1976* (Archaeological Monograph No. 2., 1979), 151–240.

<sup>14</sup> For a useful summary see Haldon and Mellor *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 111–39.

<sup>15</sup> A buckle with a fleur-de-lis terminal was sealed beneath phase 4, Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 319, and was tentatively dated to the 13th or 14th century, but this is subject to the inherent problems of dating by typology and association and unlike the pottery it is a single item; according to the ceramic evidence it belongs to the early or mid 13th century.

<sup>16</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 329.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* 329–38.

<sup>18</sup> Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 111–39.

<sup>19</sup> According to recent terminology defined by Mr. R.G. Thompson (unpublished).

Ib	Oolitic and other limestone
II	Predominantly flint
III	Sand or no grains visible, here subdivided into
IIIa	predominantly coarse quartz
IIIb	predominantly fine quartz
IIIc	predominantly very fine quartz and grains too small to identify.
V	Stoneware

The sherds were divided into different fabrics according to characteristics which were termed primary and secondary, greater reliance being put on the primary assessment which involved the use of a binocular microscope to identify the relevant inclusions<sup>20</sup> and to assess the frequency, size and rounding of the grains and the overall inclusion content.<sup>21</sup> Secondary characteristics took account of colour,<sup>22</sup> hardness, feel, fracture, thickness, manufacturing techniques and glaze presence, colour, mottle and condition.<sup>23</sup> The fabric descriptions are a summary of these characteristics, for which the following abbreviations and standards are used:

Secondary characteristics are in the order of colour, hardness, feel and thickness.

very hard	not scratched with metal
hard	not scratched with finger nail
soft	scratched with finger nail
very harsh	comparable with 40 grit emery paper
harsh	comparable with 80 grit emery paper
rough	comparable with 100 grit emery paper
smooth	comparable with 220 grit emery paper
thin	1-3mm.
med. thick	4-7mm.
thick	8-10mm.
very thick	more than 10mm.

Inclusions, are in the order of frequency, size, rounding and total inclusion content.

frequency,	dense	approximately 25%
	common	approximately 10%
	sparse	approximately 1%
size,	vf	very fine, less than 0.1mm.
	f	fine, 0.1 - 0.25mm.
	m	medium, 0.25 - 0.5mm.
	c	coarse, 0.5 - 1.00mm.
	vc	very coarse, more than 1.00mm.
rounding	roun	rounded
	sub-r	sub angular/rounded
	a	angular
	plateing r	plateing rounded
	plateing ang	plateing angular

Total inclusion content,

abundant	approximately 70%
moderate	approximately 35%
sparse	approximately 5%

b. *Form.* There were no complete vessels, making it very difficult to ascertain the forms in use. The classification has depended on rim profiles although base types, either flat or sagging, and handle types, either strap or rod, have both been noted. Vessels with a straight or a continuous incurving profile are called cooking pots (CP), everted profiles are called bowls (B), incurving profiles and rims of less than 120mm. are termed

<sup>20</sup> D.P.S. Peacock, 'Key to Identification of Common Inclusions in Pottery' in *Pottery and Early Commerce* 1977, 30-2.

<sup>21</sup> Adapted versions of estimation charts published in J.M. Hodgson (ed.) *Soil Survey Field Handbook*, Technical Monograph No. 5, 1976, were used.

<sup>22</sup> *Munsell Soil Color Chart*, 1973.

<sup>23</sup> Use was made of methods and charts outlined in A.M. Robinson 'Three Approaches to the Problem of Pottery Fabric Descriptions' in *Medieval Ceramics*, iii (1979), 3-35.

Group/ Fabric	Phases	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Overall %
IV 46												±
Ia —												±
Ib 1												8
10												±
30												2
38												±
42												±
5												2
52												±
II 2												±
11												±
IIIa 20												±
21												±
45												±
22												±
6												24
9												±
18												57
IIIb 8												±
26												±
28												±
16												±
34												±
39												±
17												±
15												±
53												±
54												±
IIIc 23												±
19												±
3												±
55												±
57												±
58												±
40												±
48												±
49												±
51												±
V 50												±
Total Weight Gms.		2758	818	93	3597	15590	5236	1593	1963	1561	637	33886

Fig. 17. Banbury Castle. Fabric types. Histogram showing fabric weights, in gm., in each fabric as a percentage of the total in each phase. + indicates less than 2%.



jugs (J) or pitchers (P), although in some cases these may include cups, and vessels of less than 50mm. rim diameter are termed jars (G).

The major rim forms were limited and fell into the following divisions: simple everted, necked and everted, inverted and necked and inverted. Within these divisions there were many minor variations, but they do not seem to be technologically, typologically or chronologically relevant and therefore are not discussed. Each variant is included in the illustrations to show that it conforms to the traditions of the relevant periods. Recurrent or very similar rim types are not illustrated, but instances are noted in the catalogue of illustrated pottery. Cooking pot diameters do seem to be relevant and are included in the phase descriptions.

c. *Decoration.* The range of decorative motifs associated with each fabric is indicated in the fabric and phase descriptions and examples of each motif type are included in the illustrations. Decorative motifs were relatively restricted and included horizontal and vertical applied strips, incised horizontal and combed lines, stylized wheel rilling, finger impressed rims and handles, zones of geometric rouletted designs and handles with plaited strip insets or stabbed and incised lines. None of the fine wares was painted or had applied decoration.

d. *Quantitative assessments.* The pottery from each layer was examined and recorded for fabric, form, decoration etc. Quantities were estimated by sherd number, weight and rim percentage, but due to the fragmentary nature of the material no attempts have been made to estimate the minimum or maximum number of vessels present and generally weight estimates have been used. In the phase summaries the number of rims belonging to individual vessels is included as a guide to the minimum number of vessels present in each phase. For the report the results from each layer have been combined for assessment according to the relevant phases; obviously these are related to the stratigraphical sequence on the site and do not represent chronological periods of comparable duration.

e. *Table of fabric types* from Banbury Castle, Site B (Figure 17). The table follows the format of that used for 79-80 St. Aldates, Oxford to facilitate comparison with that material.<sup>24</sup> The histogram shows each fabric as a percentage of the total weight of sherds in the phase and in addition weight totals are shown for each phase. The fabric types have been arranged to correspond with the major inclusion groupings set out above and are in the order used for the individual fabric descriptions in Table 2.

f. *Table of ceramic types* from Banbury Castle, Site B (Table 2). The descriptions combine most of the information outlined above. Each fabric is treated within its overall predominant inclusion group and corresponds to the order used in Figure 17. The type code is followed by the fabrics common name(s) and any other relevant codes. There is a brief description of the primary and secondary characteristics, of the associated forms and decorative motifs, of the relevant phases and finally of the date, which is the broadest likely date and relies on the use of parallels from other sites and on the stratigraphic evidence from the site itself.

## PHASE SUMMARIES

These contain details of ceramic types and individual fabric, form and decorative types for each phase. Descriptions for each layer are not published, but are lodged with the archive. The phase summaries should be used in conjunction with Figure 17 and Table 2 and with the illustrations; numbers in brackets refer to the drawing numbers. When weight quantities are less than 2%, only the fabric numbers along with any other relevant details are listed. The summaries also include a brief discussion of ceramic dating evidence for the phase.

*Phase I, Fig. 18, 1-17. Late 11th/early 12th - mid 12th century Total of 333 sherds weighing 2758 gm.*

### *Fabric Group 1b*

1. Weight 71%  
11 CP rims (1, 2, 4, 8-12, 14)  
14 bases  
Less than 2% of the sherds are decorated with applied strips and finger impressed rims (1, 8, 14)

### *Fabric Group II*

- 2.

[continued on p. 104, after Table 2]

<sup>24</sup> Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 111-139.

TABLE 2  
Ceramic Types from Banbury Castle, Site B

Fabric Code	Comparable Fabrics	Description	Vessel Forms	Decorative Motifs	Phases	Date
<i>Group IV</i> 46		Reduced very dark grey (10YR3/1), hard, smooth, med. thick. Handmade, wiped wet and dry. Not glazed. Sparse to dense f, m, c sub-r to ang. quartz. Common vf ang. mica. Common vc platey-ang. grass/straw Total: abundant	-	-	3	Saxon
<i>Group Ia</i> – None present						
<i>Group Ib</i> 1 <sup>25</sup>	Oxford AC, Early Medieval Ware, Ascot Doilly Standard, Abingdon type K	Patchy oxidised and reduced firing reddish brown (5YR 5/4) to very dark grey (5YR 3/1), hard, smooth, thin. Hand coiled, wiped wet and dry, fingered, wheel finished. Not glazed. Sparse to common m, c, vc sub-r limestone. Sparse vf, f, m, c sub-r quartz. Sparse f, m roun, iron. Total: abundant	CP, B, P. Simple everted, inverted and necked rims. CP mostly with curving profile; the straight sided variety is present, but rare.	finger impressed rims	1–8	late C10/C11 to late C12 or later
10 <sup>26</sup>	Lyveden, Northampton T2	Oxidised light reddish brown (5YR 6/3), reduced grey core (5YR 5/1), soft, smooth, thick. Hand coiled, wiped wet and dry, wheel finished. Occasionally glazed. Dense m roun. ooliths. Sparse to dense f, m, c, vc roun. and sub-r limestone. Sparse to dense vf, f, m, ang. quartz. Common m, c, vc roun. iron. Total: moderate	smooth, fingered	incised horizontal curvilinear (combed) motifs	4, 6, 8–10	C13 – C15 (C12 onwards in Northamptonshire)
30 <sup>27</sup>	Lyveden, Northampton T2C	Oxidised light red to light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/6 – 5YR 6/4), soft, rough, med. thick. Hand coiled, wiped wet, fingered, wheel finished. Not glazed. Sparse to common m, c sub-r limestone and ooliths. Sparse to dense f, m, c sub-r quartz. Sparse f, c sub-r iron. Total: moderate	P, J, CP. Necked and inverted rims.	random single and multiple incised lines; wheel rilling; bands of rectangular and trapezoidal rouletted motifs; finger impressed handles	4–8	C13 – C15 (C12 onwards at Northampton)

38 <sup>28</sup>	Lyveden, ? Northampton T2C	Oxidised pinkish grey (7.5YR 6/2) reduced gray core (2.5YR N5), soft, smooth, thin. Hand made, wiped wet, wheel finished. Not glazed. Sparse f, m roun. limestone. Sparse to dense m, vc platy-r shell. Total: abundant	-	-	5	C13 - C15 (C12 onwards at Northampton)
42 <sup>29</sup>	Similar to Northampton V1 and V7	Oxidised dark brown to reddish yellow (7.5YR 3/2) - 5YR 6/6), reduced grey core (5YR 6/1), hard, rough, med. thick. Hand and wheel made, wiped wet and dry, wheel finished. Not glazed. Common m roun. limestone. Common to dense f, m, c roun. and sub-r quartz. Common vf ang. mica. Common m roun. iron. Total: abundant.	-	-	5-10	C13 - C15 (C12 onwards at Northampton)
5 <sup>30</sup>	Lyveden, no parallels at Northampton	Patchy oxidised and reduced firing, red, brown to very dark grey (2.5YR 5/6 - 5YR 3/1) hard, smooth, med. thick. Hand/wheel made?, wiped wet, wheel finished. Common to dense m, c, vc sub-r limestone. Sparse to common vf, f, m, c sub-r quartz. Sparse f, m roun. iron. Total: moderate	CP, with simple everted, necked and everted rims	-	4-10	mid C13 - C15
52 <sup>31</sup>	Similar to Northampton W47	Reduced grey (10YR 5/1 - 6/1), hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheel made, wiped wet and dry. Sparse to dense f, m, c, vc roun. limestone. Common m, c, roun. quartz. Sparse to common m, c, vc roun. iron. Total: abundant	-	-	11	At Northampton C12 - C16. At Banbury ? C14 onwards
<i>Group II</i>						
2 <sup>32</sup>	Oxford BF, Abingdon type B, Swinbrook type	Reduced light grey to black (5YR 2.5/1 - 5YR 7/1), hard, smooth, thick. Handmade, wiped wet. Sparse to dense m, c, vc sub-r quartz. Sparse to common m, c, vc ang. flint. Sparse c ang. quartz. Sparse m roun. iron. Total: abundant	-	-	1	C10 - C12
11 <sup>33</sup>		Oxidised white to light grey (5YR 8/1 - 7/1), soft, smooth, med. thick. Handmade, extensively dry wiped surfaces. Sparse to dense f, m, c sub-r quartz. Sparse c, vc ang. flint. Sparse f, m, c sub-r limestone. Sparse m, vc roun. to sub-r. iron Total: abundant	-	-	none on this site BAN A only	-

Fabric Code	Comparable Fabrics	Description	Vessel Forms	Decorative Motifs	Phases	Date
<i>Group IIIa</i>						
20		Oxidised reddish yellow (5YR 7/6), reduced grey (10YR 6/1), hard, harsh, med. thick. Handmade, wiped wet. Not glazed. Sparse to dense f, m, vc ang. quartz. Sparse vc sub-r sandstone. Sparse m sub-r limestone. Sparse m sub-r iron Total: abundant	-	-	1	Saxon
21		Oxidised reddish yellow (5YR 6/8), reduced grey (2.5YR NS/), hard, rough, thick. Handmade, wiped wet. Dense f ang. quartz. Common f, m, sub-r iron Total: abundant	-	-	1	Saxon
45		Very reduced (10YR 2/1), hard, very harsh, thin. Handmade, wiped wet, burnished. Common m, vc sub-r quartz. Sparse vc sub-r sandstone. Common vf ang. mica Total: moderate	-	-	8	Saxon
22 <sup>34</sup>	Oxford AG, Abingdon type A Wallingford type	Oxidised light reddish (5YR 6/4), reduced grey core (5YR 6/1), hard, harsh, med. thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet. Sparse to dense m, c sub-r quartz. Sparse vc sub-r flint. Sparse m sub-r iron. Total: abundant	CP, P with simple everted rims	horizontal and vertical applied strips; single bands of rouletting on rim and body	1, 2	late C11 – C15
6 <sup>35</sup>	Oxford Y, Oxford Medieval Ware, Abingdon type A, Seacourt Fabric 2	Patchy firing. Oxidised red (2.5YR 5/6), light grey (10YR 7/1), reduced grey (5YR 6/1), very hard, rough, thin to med. thick. Wheelmade, sometimes hand coiled, wiped wet, fingered, knife trimmed, wheel finished. Sometimes glazed externally with a brown green glaze. Common to dense f, m, c, vc sub-r quartz. Sparse c, vc ang. flint. Sparse to common f, m, roun. iron Total: abundant	CP, B, P with everted and necked rims	finger pressed rims and handles; finger impressed strips applied to neck recess; single and multiple incised lines; incised curvilinear (combed) motifs. Single and block bands of rouletting, wheel rilled, handles with plaited strip inset.	1–10	late C11 – C15

9 <sup>36</sup>	? Oxford Y	Oxidised light brown (7.5YR 6/4) very hard, smooth, thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet. Green and transparent glaze. Common f, m, c sub-r quartz. Sparse f, c roun. iron Total: abundant	CP, P	incised horizontal curvilinear (combed) motifs, incised horizontal lines.	1, 2, 4, 5, 9	late C11 – C15
18 <sup>37</sup>	Oxford AE	Patchy firing. Oxidised red (2.5YR 5/6), reduced grey 5YR 6/1), hard, rough, thick. Wheelmade and handmade, wiped wet and dry, fingered, wheel finished. Not glazed. Sparse to common f, m, c, vc sub-r quartz. Sparse c ang. flint. Sparse f, m, vc sub-r iron. Sparse m roun. limestone Total: abundant	CP with everted and necked rims	Similar to fabric 6. Also, finger pressed 'frilled' handle.	1, 2, 4–10	At Oxford C10 – C12, at Banbury to C15.
<hr/>						
<i>Group IIIb</i>						
8 <sup>38</sup>	Oxford AM, Brill type, Oxford Late Medieval Ware, Abingdon types D and L, Northampton W14.	Usually oxidised light reddish brown-pink (5YR 6/4 – 8/4), hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet. Sometimes slipped and often partially glazed in a clear to olive brown glaze. Common f, m sub-r quartz. Common f roun. iron. Rarely flint and/or limestone Total: moderate	CP, J with everted rims	multiple incised horizontal lines; diagonally incised handle.	4–10	? late twelfth, mid C13 – C16
26 <sup>39</sup>	Oxford AW, Brill type	Oxidised light brown (7.5YR 6/4), reduced dark gray (2.5YR N3/), hard, rough, med. thick. Wheelthrown, wiped wet. Sometimes glazed with an olive yellow, olive brown glaze. Common f, m sub-r quartz. Sparse m roun. iron Total: moderate	CP, J with everted rims	diagonally incised handle	2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10	? late twelfth, mid/late C13 – C15
28		Oxidised pink (7.5YR 7/4) hard, smooth, thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet. Often partially glazed in olive to olive yellow glaze. Sparse to dense f, m, sub-r quartz. Common to dense m, c roun. iron Total: moderate	-	-	3, 4, 5, 6, 9	mid C13 onwards
16 <sup>40</sup>	Potterspury, Northampton W18	Oxidised reddish yellow to pinkish grey (5YR 6/6 – 7.5YR 7/2) to very pale brown (10YR 3/1) reduced dark grey (10YR 3/1), soft, smooth, med. thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet. Some patchy olive and transparent glaze. Sparse to dense vf, f, c, sub-r quartz. Common to dense vf, f, c sub-r iron. Sparse vf, c sub-r limestone Total: moderate	CP, J with everted rims	incised horizontal lines; wheel rilled; diagonally incised handles	5, 6, 9, 10	mid C13 – C16

Fabric Code	Comparable Fabrics	Description	Vessel Forms	Decorative Motifs	Phases	Date
34	? Potterspury	Oxidised reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6), reduced dark grey core (7.5YR N4/), soft, rough, thick. Wheel and handmade, wiped wet. Sometimes olive glaze. Sparse to dense f, m, c, sub-r quartz. Sparse to common f, c roun. iron. Common m roun. limestone. Total: abundant	probably roof tiles	-	5, 6	mid C13 – C16
39	?Potterspury	Oxidised light red (2.5YR 6/6), reduced dark grey core (2.5YR N4/), very hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheel made, wiped wet and dry, not glazed. Sparse to dense vf, m, vc ang. quartz. Sparse vf, f roun. iron. Sparse to common vf, f, m, vc roun. to ang. limestone. Total: moderate.	-	-	5, 9	mid C13 – C16
17 <sup>41</sup>	? Nuneaton	Oxidised white to very pale brown (2.5Y 8/2 – 10YR 7/4), very hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet, not glazed. Common f, m, c sub-r quartz. Common f, m roun. iron. Total: moderate	-	single incised horizontal lines	5, 7, 9, 10	mid C13 – C15 or later
15 <sup>42</sup>	? Warwickshire Midlands white or an import	Oxidised pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2), hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet, not glazed. Sparse to common f, m, c sub-r quartz. Common f sub-r iron. Sparse m sub-r limestone. Total: moderate.	-	-	6	
53 <sup>43</sup>		Oxidised light reddish brown (5YR 6/3), very hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet, areas of reddish yellow glaze. Sparse to dense f, m, c sub-r quartz. Total: moderate	-	-	10	C16/C17
54		Oxidised reddish yellow (5YR 7/6), very hard, rough. Common f, m sub-r quartz. Sparse m, vc sub-r iron. Total: moderate	J	diagonally incised handle	10	C16/C17

Group IIIc 23		Oxidised light reddish brown (5YR 6/4), soft, smooth, med. thick. Common vf, f roun. limestone. Common f roun. iron. Common vf ang. mica Total: moderate			1	Romano-British (very eroded)
19 <sup>44</sup>	Stamford D, O.	Reduced light grey (10YR 7/2 - 5/1), very hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheelmade, not glazed. Common to dense vf, f sub-r quartz. Common f sub-r iron Total: moderate	cresset, pedestal or lip	-	1	C10, pre 1120
3	Stamford G, 1	Oxidised white to very pale brown (10YR 8/2 - 8/4), very hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheelmade, glaze no. 1. Sparse to dense vf, f, m, sub-r quartz. Sparse to common f, m, vc roun. iron Total: moderate	-	-	5	late C11 onwards
55	"Developed Stamford Ware" B, 3	Oxidised very pale brown (10YR 8/3), hard, smooth, thick. Wheelmade, glaze no. 3. Sparse to dense vf, f, m sub-r quartz. Sparse to common f, m, vc roun. iron. Total: moderate	-	applied strips with impressed 'hand' motif; single incised horizontal lines	5, 9	C. 1200 onwards
57	Stamford BVII, O	Oxidised reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6), very hard, smooth, thick. Wheelmade, not glazed. Common vf, f, sub-r quartz. Common vf, f roun. iron Total: sparse	foot	-	5	c.1200 onwards
58	Similar to, but not Stamford 1.	Oxidised pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2), very hard, smooth, med. thick. Wheelmade, yellow glaze. Dense vf sub-r quartz. Sparse to common vf, m, c sub-r iron. Total: moderate			1	? late C11/early C12
40 <sup>45</sup>	Cistercian, Northampton X2a	Oxidised yellowish red (5YR 4/6), very hard, thin. Wheelmade, glazed. Dense vf quartz.	J, (cups), single rim	-	5, 9, 10	mid C15 - mid C16
48 <sup>46</sup>	Midland Yellow	Oxidised light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4), very hard, smooth, thin. Wheelmade, transparent glaze. Very fine inclusions.		single bands of rouletting on the body	8-10	late C16/C17
49		Oxidised light reddish brown (5YR 6/3), very hard, smooth, thick. Wheelmade, wiped wet, not glazed. Sparse f ang. quartz. Total: sparse			10	C16/C17

Fabric Code	Comparable Fabrics	Description	Vessel Forms	Decorative Motifs	Phases	Date
51		Miscellaneous post medieval fine earthenware fragments.		-	10	C16/C17
Group V 50	Stoneware	Very pale brown grey (10YR 7/4) Wheel-made, glazed.			10	C16/C17

<sup>25</sup> Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 121, note 51 for relevant references. Also see Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 329–30; Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 121–26 which have references to an apparently similar fabric.

<sup>26</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 335; M. Gryspeerdt in J.H. Williams 'Excavations at Grey Friars, Northampton 1972', *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, xiii (1978), 134–5; McCarthy in *St. Peter's Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973–76*, 156–7. The latter includes a useful summary of other literature relating to this fabric.

<sup>27</sup> See note 26, especially Gryspeerdt.

<sup>28</sup> Gryspeerdt, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, xiii. 134–5.

<sup>29</sup> McCarthy in *St. Peter's Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973–76*, 157–8.

<sup>30</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 332. This includes fabric 41 which is very similar, but may justify individual treatment.

<sup>31</sup> McCarthy in *St. Peter's Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973–76*, 164.

<sup>32</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 330–2; D.A. Hinton 'Medieval Pottery from Swinbrook, Oxon' *Oxoniensia*, xxxvi (1971), 107–10; Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 121, note 55 for relevant references.

<sup>33</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 335.

<sup>34</sup> Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 121, note 65 for relevant references.

<sup>35</sup> This fabric was subdivided into other types, fabrics 25 and 27, which are finer harder and better fired versions of the same. The type includes fabric 7, a glazed variant which is present from the earliest phase. Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 332–3.

Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 121, note 61 for relevant references. Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 121–6.

<sup>36</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 333.

<sup>37</sup> This fabric was subdivided (fabrics 32 and 33), especially notable is a coarse version (fabric 24) which does not seem to occur elsewhere. Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 117.

<sup>38</sup> This includes fabrics 33, 36, 37, 44, some of which seem to be later types. Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 333–6; Gryspeerdt, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, xiii. 134–5; Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 119, note 69 for relevant references; McCarthy in *St. Peter's Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973–76*, 161; Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 126–7.

<sup>39</sup> This includes subdivisions 32 and 33; see Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 119, note 28 for relevant references, and above note 38.

<sup>40</sup> This includes subdivisions. Another Potterspur type is fabric 13, but this was only present at the 27 Cornhill, Banbury site. Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 336; Gryspeerdt, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, xiii. 134–5; McCarthy in *St. Peter's Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973–76*, 162, 228–9 and also includes a list of relevant references.

<sup>41</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 337.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid. 336.

<sup>43</sup> Apparently a similar fabric has been identified at Deddington Castle, information from Richard Ivens.

<sup>44</sup> K. Kilmurry, 'An Approach to Pottery Study: Stamford Ware' *Medieval Ceramics*, i (1977), 51–63. This contains a list of useful references; I am grateful to Dr. Kilmurry for the detailed identification of the Stamford fabrics.

<sup>45</sup> P.D. Brears, *The English Country Pottery. Its History and Techniques* 1971; H.E.J. Le Patourel, 'The Pottery' in P. Mayes and E.J.E. Piries 'A Cistercian Ware Kiln of the Early Sixteenth Century at Potterton, Yorkshire', *Antiq. Jnl.* xlvii, (1966), 262–9. McCarthy, *St. Peter's Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973–76*, 164.

<sup>46</sup> P. Woodfield, 'Yellow glazed wares of the Seventeenth Century', *Trans. and Proc. Birmingham Archaeol. Soc.* lxxxi (1963–4), 78–87.



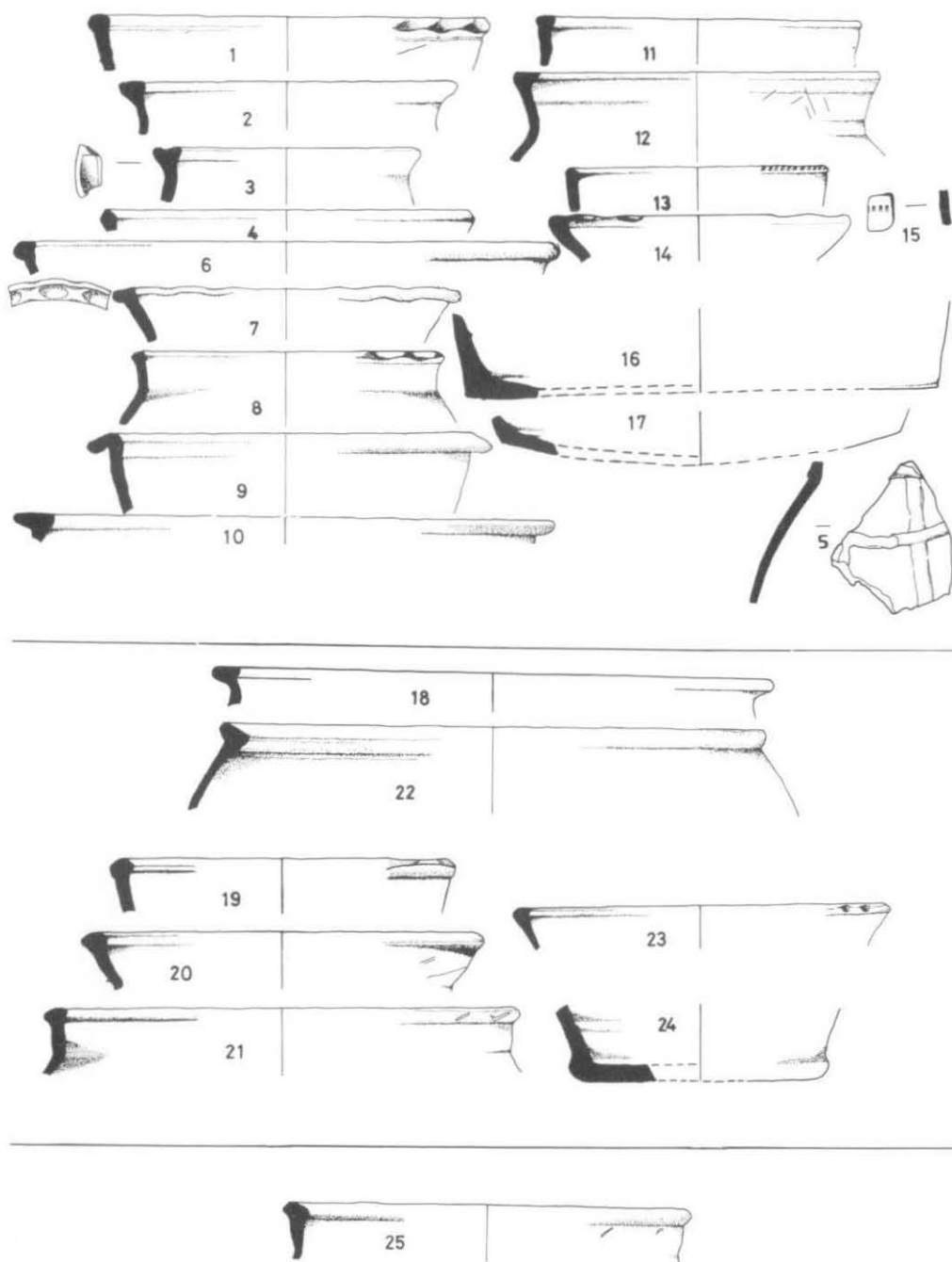


Fig. 18. Banbury Castle. Phases 1-3. 11th- and 12th-century pottery from Banbury Castle. Scale 1:4.  
 1 1/33.1/1; 2 1/2/1; 3 1/33.1/6; 4 1/71/1; 5 1/242/22; 6 1/238/6; 7 1/238/6; 8 1/80/1; 9 1/36/1; 10 1/240/1;  
 11 1/33.3/1; 12 1/243/1; 13 1/33.6/6; 14 1/33.1/1; 15 1/243/6; 16 1/242/1; 17 1/33.6/6; 18 2/82.1/6; 19  
 2/82.1/18; 20 2/73/1; 21 2/75/1; 22 2/230/1; 23 2/230/1; 24 2/27/9; 25 3/233/1.

*Fabric Group IIIa*

20, 21.

22. Decorative motifs include single lines of stabbing/rouletting and applied strips (5)

6. Weight 22%

6 CP rims (3, 6, 7)

1 P/J rim (13)

2% of the sherds are decorated with single bands of stabbing/rouletting on the rim and body (13, 15) and with finger impressed rims.

9.

18. Weight 4%

2 bases

*Fabric Group IIIc*

23. 1 jar rim

58, 19.

Forms include CP (16 rims, diam. range 130–300mm) P/J (2 rims). Bases are either thickened and flat (16) or slightly sagging (17) and only occur in fabrics 1, 6 and 18. Twelve sherds (4%) are glazed, of which one is fabric 58 and the rest fabrics 22, 6 and 9. Some sherds (3% of the phase total) of fabrics 1, 22 and 6 are decorated with finger impressed rims, bands of stabbing/rouletting and thin applied strips forming lattice designs.

*Dating.* Apart from some residual Romano-British and Saxon sherds (fabrics 23, 20, 21) the ceramic types belong to late 11th/early 12th-century traditions. There is an absence of Group 1a shelly limestone 'St Neots-type' ware which is common in the area until the mid 11th century<sup>47</sup> and very little of fabric 2 which was present at 27 Cornhill, Banbury (Site A) and is dated from the mid 11th to the mid 12th century and at Oxford not later than the early 12th century.<sup>48</sup> In this phase fabric 1 appears to be at its height of popularity, this peak being dated at other local sites to the late 11th or early 12th century.<sup>49</sup> The sandy wares (fabrics 22, 6, 9 and 18), some of which are glazed presumably as tripod pitchers, are starting to be used, again indicating a late 11th-century date. The presence of Stamford ware and the South Oxfordshire fabric 22 indicates that at least occasionally vessels were imported from outside the region. Fabric 58 (layer 33/1) is an anomaly, because although similar to Stamford ware, it does not belong to that group; presumably it represents another (Midlands?) fine glazed ware dating to the late 11th/early 12th century.

*Phase 2 Fig. 18, 18–24. Mid–late 12th century.*

Total of 86 sherds weighing 818 gm.

*Fabric Group 1b*

1. Weight 66%

8 CP rims (20, 21, 22, 23 and compare Fig. 19; 2, 9, 12)

2 bases

2% of the sherds are decorated with finger impressed (23) and slashed rims (21)

*Fabric Group IIIa*

22.

6. Weight 20%

3 CP rims (18 and compare Fig. 18, 7)

9.

1 base (24)

18.

Weight 3%

1 CP rim (19)

finger impressed rims (19)

26.

Weight 4%

Forms include CP (12 rims, diam. range 110mm.–300mm., most of which repeat earlier types although there are a few new varieties (18–23). Bases are of the flat type (compare Fig. 18, 16) although there is one smaller more

<sup>47</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensis*, xxxviii. 329–30, phase 1 here termed fabric 1, but in fact the St. Neots type ware is different from fabric 1; Rodwell, *Oxoniensis*, xli. 121–3 periods 0 and 1; Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensis*, xlii. 111–13, 138.

<sup>48</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensis*, xxxviii. 329–30; Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensis*, xlii. 111–13.

<sup>49</sup> Compare Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensis*, xlii. 113, phase 6b.

waisted example which occurs in fabric 9 (24). There are a total of four glazed sherds in fabrics 22 and 6 and a few sherds of fabrics 1, 6 and 18 have finger impressed and slashed rims (20 and 21).

*Dating.* Fabric and form types and fabric proportions are similar to Phase 1, although the absence of fabric 2 may indicate a date after the mid 12th century. There is one sherd of fabric 26, a Brill type fabric which is more usually dated to the mid 13th century.<sup>30</sup> Either this sherd is intrusive (F27) or Brill products are starting to appear on local sites in the mid-late 12th century; this evidence does not conflict with that from St. Aldates, Oxford, where small quantities of fabrics AM and AW appear in phase 8, which is dated to the late 12th century.<sup>31</sup> Together, the ceramic and stratigraphic evidence indicate a mid-late 12th century date.

*Phase 3, Fig. 18, 25. Late 12th century.*

The amount of ceramic material from this phase is very small and consists of 10 sherds weighing 93gm.

*Fabric Group IV*

46. Weight 12%

*Fabric Group 1b*

1. Weight 23%
- 2 CP rims (26 and compare Fig. 18; 2)

*Fabric Group IIIa*

6. Weight 27%
- 1 CP rim (compare Fig. 18; 7)
- 1 sherd has a finger impressed rim

*Fabric Group IIIb*

28. Weight 6%

Forms include CP (3 rims diam. range 130–220mm.) of which one is a new variety (25). There are two glazed sherds in fabrics 6 and 28.

*Dating.* The amount of material is too small to provide any close dating evidence. The fabric and form traditions echo those of phases 1 and 2, since fabric 46 is presumably a residual Saxon type. There is one sherd of fabric 28 which may be a Brill type of fabric. The evidence would seem to indicate a late 12th-century date.

*Phase 4 (Fig. 19, 27–43) Early thirteenth century*

Total of 207 sherds weighing 3597 gm.

*Fabric Group 1b*

- 1, 10
30. Weight 5%
- 1 strap handle (36)
- 2 sherds are decorated with horizontal scored lines and a handle is finger frilled (37)
5. 1 rim (27)

*Fabric Group IIIa*

6. Weight 20%
- 4 CP rims (33, 34 and compare 31)
- 1 base
- 1 strap handle (35)
- Decorative motifs include scored horizontal lines (39), exaggerated wheel rilling, rouletted bands, finger impressed rims (34) and applied strips (39) and 'rope' twisted/plaited handle insets.
9. 2 sherds decorated with scored horizontal and curvilinear (combed) motifs (40)
18. Weight 73%
- 9 CP rims (28, 29, 30, 31, 32)
- 8 bases (42, 43)
- 1 strap handle (37)

<sup>30</sup> e.g. Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 119.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.* 113, 138.

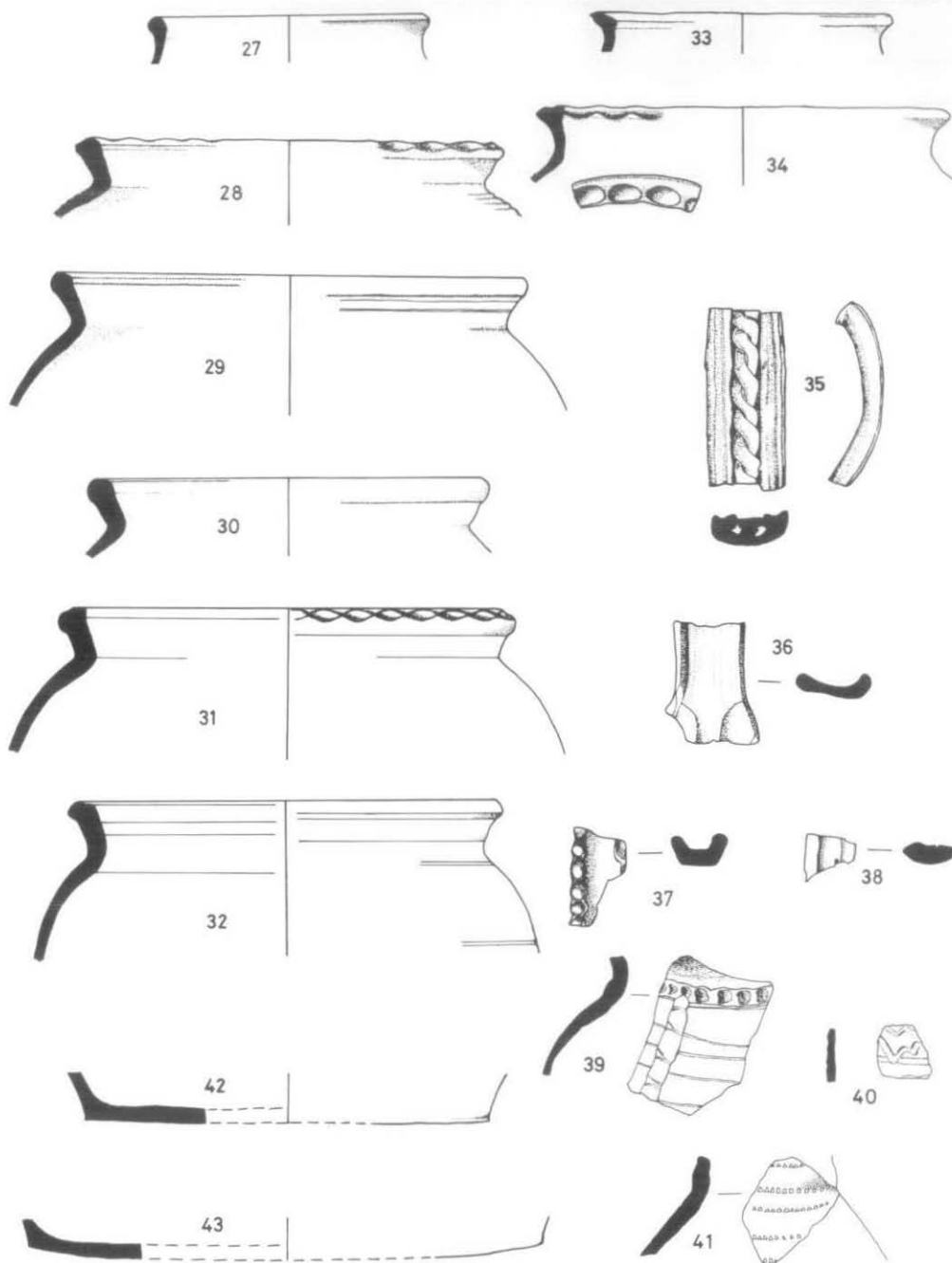


Fig. 19. Banbury Castle. Phase 4. Early 13th-century pottery from Banbury Castle. Scale 1:4.

27 4/186/5; 28 4/189/18; 29 4/186/18; 30 4/186/18; 31 4/186/18; 32 4/186/18; 33 4/189/16; 34 4/189/16;  
35 4/189/6; 36 4/189/30; 37 4/186/18; 38 4/191/28; 39 4/189/6; 40 4/191/9; 41 4/186/18; 42 4/189/18;  
43 4/267/18.

Decorative motifs include scored horizontal lines (32), wheel rilling (28), rouletting (41), finger impressed rims (28, 31) and handles (37).

#### *Group IIIb*

8. 28: 1 strap handle (38)

Forms include B (1 rim) CP (13 rims diam. range 150mm.-260mm.) PJ. Rim and vessel forms follow earlier traditions although the rim forms are all new variations; handles, all of which are of the strap variety appear for the first time and provide stronger evidence for the presence of pitchers/jugs. Similar decorative motifs occur on a range of fabric types, although only 3% of the phase total are decorated. Only four sherds from fabrics 6, 28 and 8 are glazed.

#### *Dating*

The almost total replacement of fabric 1 by the sandy wares, fabrics 6, 9 and 18, the presence of Brill type fabrics, the greater proportion of larger diameter cooking pots and the appearance of new rim varieties indicate an early 13th-century date.<sup>32</sup> Fabric, form and decorative types (excepting the Brill products) have close parallels with Period 2a at Banbury Castle,<sup>33</sup> dated to the 12th and 13th centuries, and generally the small proportion of glazed wares, conservative decorative motifs and the strap handles indicate an early 13th-century date. The presence of Lyveden type wares (fabrics 10, 30, 38, 5) and the absence of developed Stamford (fabrics 55, 57) and Potterspury type (fabrics 16, 34, 39) wares confirms this dating.

*Phase 5.* Fig. 20, 44-64. Late 13th/early 14th century. Total of 1393 sherds weighing 15,590 gm.

#### *Fabric Group Ib*

1. 2 bases  
30. 1 base, 1 strap handle (compare Fig. 19; 36) decorated with basal thumb impressions.  
42.  
5. 1 B rim (compare Fig. 19; 27)  
2 CP rims (56 and compare Fig. 19; 34)  
1 base

#### *Fabric Group IIIa*

6. Weight 26%  
28 CP rims (compare Fig. 19 and 47, 54, 55, 57)  
46 bases  
Decorative motifs include finger impressions, scored horizontal lines, wheel rilling, and rouletting and incised curvilinear lines.  
9. 2 bases  
18. Weight 67%  
43 CP rims (48, 49, 50, 53, 58)  
1 G rim (52)  
38 bases  
Decorative motifs include scored horizontal lines, wheel rilling, finger impressions (50, 58)

#### *Group IIIb*

8. 1 J rim (45)  
1 rod handle (61)  
26. Weight 2%  
1 CP rim (51)  
1 J rim (44)  
1 base  
2 strap handles (60 and compare Fig. 19; 38)  
28.  
16. 1 J rim (46)  
2 sherds decorated with horizontal scored lines

<sup>32</sup> *Oxoniensis*, xlii. 113 phase 8, 128, Fig. 21.

<sup>33</sup> Rodwell, *Oxoniensis*, xli. 123-6.

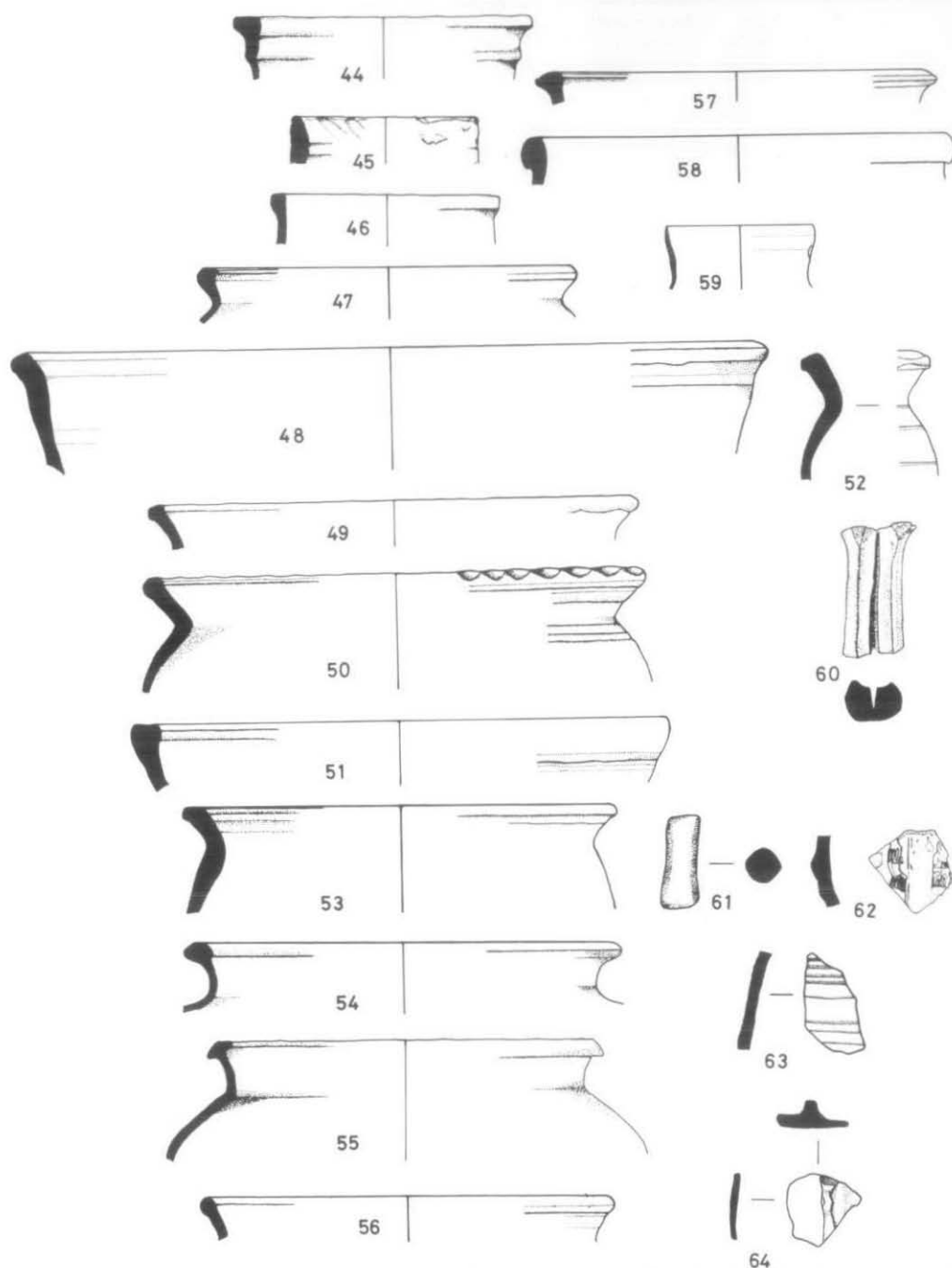


Fig. 20. Banbury Castle. Phase 5. Late 13th–early 14th-century pottery from Banbury Castle (excepting 59). Scale 1:4.

44 5/103/26; 45 5/155/8; 46 5/146/14; 47 5/155/16; 48 5/184/18; 49 5/109/18; 50 5/155/18; 51 5/164/26; 52 5/164/18; 53 5/181/18; 54 5/182/6; 55 5/182/6; 56 5/181/5; 57 5/182/6; 58 5/155/18; 59 5/164/40; 60 5/155/26; 61 5/155/8; 62 5/181/55; 63 5/103/8; 64 5/181/8.

34. 1 strap handle (compare Fig. 21; 69)  
vertical slashed decoration on handle.  
17.

*Group IIIc*

3. —  
55. 1 sherd decorated with applied bands impressed with 'hand' motifs (62)  
57. 1 base  
40. 1 jug rim (59)

Forms include G (2 rims — 52, 59) J (3 rims — 44, 45, 46), dishes (1 rim — 48) B (1 rim) and CP (73 rims, diam. range 200–280mm.). Earlier base forms continue and a number of CP rim types recur; there are both strap and rod handles (60, 61). A number of the fabrics are glazed and a considerable quantity, 13% of the phase total, are decorated but mostly with conservative motifs.

*Dating. Phases 5, 6 and 7.* The lack of distinctive dating horizons and the markedly domestic nature of the pottery makes it difficult to provide close dates for phases 5, 6 and 7. The fabric, form and decorative types demonstrate consistent traditions; the lack of highly decorated and red painted wares and of 'three-decker' jugs and the small proportions of Brill and Potterspury type wares make dating very difficult. Fabric, form and decorative types fit 14th- and early 15th-century traditions, as does the increase in mottled glazes and decorated pottery. The more regular presence of Brill type fabrics (8, 26 and 28), the presence of 'developed' and later Stamford type fabrics (55, 3, 57) and the appearance of Potterspury type fabrics (16, 34, 39) would seem to indicate a late 13th-/early 14th-century date for phase 5 and 14th- or early 15th-century dates for phases 6 and 7.

It will be noted that there is a small quantity of fabric 40 (59) present in phase 5. This is intrusive (F164) and probably belongs to a later robber trench cutting a foundation trench.<sup>54</sup>

*Phase 6.* Fig. 21, 65–67, 70. 14th and 15th centuries.  
Total of 465 sherds weighing 5236 gm.

*Fabric Group Ib*

1.  
10. 1 sherd is decorated (70)  
30. Weight 3%  
1 CP rim (66)  
42.  
5. Weight 3%  
1 CP rim (compare Fig. 18, 34)  
3 bases

*Fabric Group IIIa*

6. Weight 24%  
10 CP rims  
9 bases  
Decorative motifs include scored horizontal lines, wheel rilling, rouletting and applied strips  
18. Weight 49%  
11 CP rims (65, 67 and earlier types)  
11 bases  
Decorative motifs include finger impressed rims and handles, scored horizontal lines, wheel rilling and rouletting.

*Fabric Group IIIb*

8.  
26. 1 CP rim  
28.  
16.  
34.  
15.

The rim types all appear to belong to cooking pots (24 rims, diam. range 150–300mm.), most of which reflect earlier styles. Of the sherds 15% are decorated and many of the fine wares are glazed and in addition there are a number of glazed and unglazed roof tiles.

<sup>54</sup> Above p. 79.

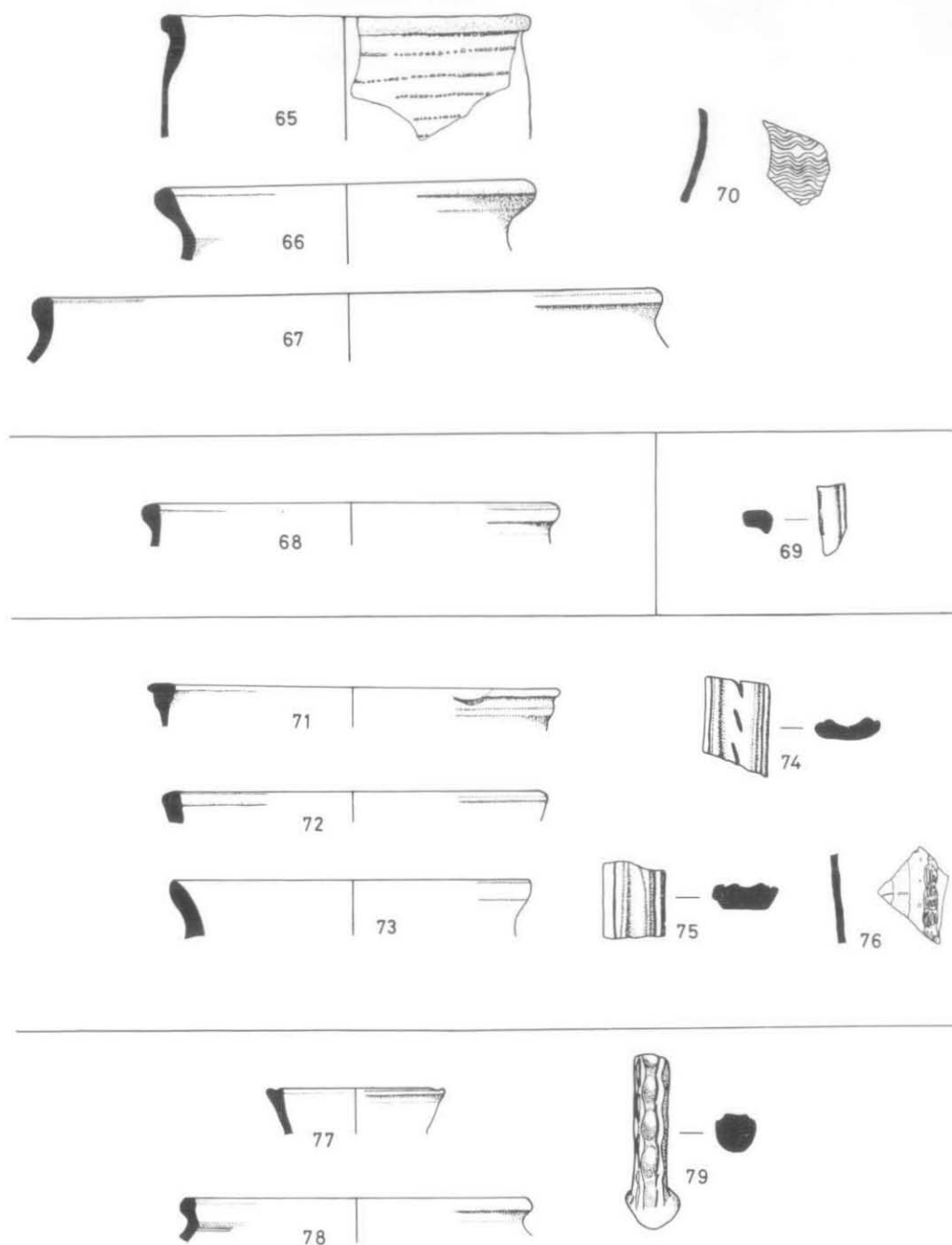


Fig. 21. Banbury Castle. Phases 6 and 7. 14th- and early 15th-century pottery. Phases 8-10. 16th- and 17th-century pottery. Banbury Castle. Scale 1:4.

65 6/127/18; 66 6/126/30; 67 6/126/18; 68 7/125/6; 69 8/178/26; 70 6/180/10; 71 9/154/42; 72 9/165/5; 73 9/102/16; 74 9/97/8; 75 9/102/9; 76 9/160/55; 77 10/89/8; 78 10/151/8; 79 10/48/54.



*Dating.* The dating seems to be 14th-century, see above phase 5.

*Phase 7.* Fig. 21, 68. 14th – early 15th century.

Total of 107 sherds weighing 1593 gm.

*Fabric Group Ib*

- 1. 30
- 42. Weight 4%
- 1 base
- 5

*Fabric Group IIIa*

- 6. Weight 9%
- 2 CP rims (68)
- 2 bases
- 18. Weight 49%
- 4 CP rims
- 7 bases
- Decorative motifs include scored horizontal lines and wheel rilling

*Fabric Group IIIb*

8, 17.

Forms include CP (6 rims, diam. range 180–230mm.). There are no new fabric types and rim and base types mostly reflect earlier varieties. The only glazed fabric is 8, although there is one piece of glazed floor tile.

*Dating.* A 14th- or early 15th-century date seems probable, see above phase 5.

*Phase 8.* Fig. 21, 69. Late 16th century

Total of 200 sherds weighing 1963 gm.

*Fabric Group Ia*

- 1. 1 base
- 10.
- 30. 1 CP rim
- 42.
- 5. Weight 6%
- 1 CP rim

*Fabric Group IIIa*

- 45.
- 6. Weight 27%
- 2 CP rims
- 1 base
- Usual decorative motifs
- 18. Weight 58%
- 8 CP rims
- 4 bases
- Usual decorative motifs

*Fabric Group IIIb*

- 8. 1 rod handle
- 26.
- 48. Decorated with a single band of rouletting.

Forms include CP (13 rims, diam. range 200–350mm.). There are strap and rod handle fragments.

*Dating.* The conservative fabric, form and decorative types and the fragmentary nature of much of this material would seem to indicate that much of it (which includes some Saxon sherds) is residual. The only dating evidence comes from some sherds of fabric 48 (F178) which is dated to the late 16th/early 17th century.

*Phase 9.* Fig. 21, 71–76. 16th century.

Total of 213 sherds weighing 1561 gm.

*Fabric Group Ib*

10.  
42. Weight 4%  
1 B rim  
5.

*Fabric Group IIIa*

6. Weight 24%  
1 base  
Usual decorative motifs  
9. 1 strap handle (75)  
18. Weight 43%  
5 CP rims  
2 bases  
Usual decorative motifs

*Fabric Group IIIb*

8. Weight 8%  
1 strap handle (74)  
26.  
28. Weight 7%  
1 base  
16. Weight 3%  
1 B/CP rim (73)  
39.  
17.

*Fabric Group IIIc*

- 55, 40, 48.

Forms include B/CP (9 rims, diam. range 200–230mm.). Again most of the pottery seems to be residual, but a 16th-century date is indicated by the presence of fabrics 40 and 48; if the former is in situ it would suggest a date pre c. 1550.

*Phase 10*, Fig. 21, 77–79. Late 16th- – 17th-century. Total of 89 sherds weighing 637 gm.

*Fabric Group Ib*

- 10, 42, 5

*Fabric Group IIIa*

6. Weight 16%  
18. Weight 16%

*Fabric Group IIIb*

8. Weight 10%  
2 B rims (77, 78)  
26. Weight 5%  
16. Weight 5%  
1 B rim  
17.  
53.  
54. 1 handle (79)

*Fabric Group IIIc*

40. Weight 4%  
48. Weight 6%  
49.  
51.

*Fabric Group V*

50.

The pottery includes bowls and cooking pots. Presumably some of the material is residual, but a number of small fragments of post medieval fine earthenwares (termed fabric 51) and the presence of fabrics 40, 48, 49, 50, 53 and 54 would seem to indicate a late 16th- or 17th-century date.

## 3. DISCUSSION

The pottery from Banbury Castle, site B, seems to indicate four major periods of activity. These are phases 1-3: late 11th/early 12th-century; phase 4: early 13th-century; phases 5-7: late 13th- to early 15th-century and phases 8-10: 16th- and 17th-century. The most noticeable and most significant break in the sequence is that between phases 3 and 4 (see Fig. 17), which is reflected in the pattern of external fits of vessels from different phases; there are fits between phases 1-3 and 4-9 but none across phases 1-3 and 4-10.

Many phases contain a large quantity of apparently residual material, this again being reflected in the pattern of external fits between phases of which there are quite a number between phases 4 and 9. Broadly speaking the evidence fits that from the Oxford region,<sup>35</sup> although fabric 18 (Oxford AE) seems to continue until at least the 15th century, not to the 12th century as at Oxford, and fabric 6 (Oxford Y) seems to continue beyond its 14th-century Oxford date. However, the 11th- and 12th-century predominance of oolitic tempered wares and the late 12th-early 13th-century transition to sand tempered fabrics closely parallels the Oxford sequence. There is a marked absence of shelly-limestone tempered fabrics at the beginning of the site's history presumably indicating a later 11th-century starting date.

In contrast to the traditions at Oxford there is a noticeable lack of Brill type fabrics (8, 26 and 28). These replace sand tempered wares at Oxford in the later 13th and early 14th centuries.<sup>36</sup> It is possible that at Banbury Castle sand tempered fabrics continued to be used instead of these finer wares. On the other hand there is, from the late 13th century, a steady trickle of wares from the Northampton area, starting with Lyveden type wares (10, 30, 38, 5) and being supplemented by Potterspury types (16, 34, 39) in the 14th century. At Banbury Castle these are at least as important as Brill type fabrics. Such a trend is not generally reflected at Oxford although medieval Potterspury types have been noticed in Oxford previously.<sup>37</sup> Small quantities of other fabrics from the east and central Midlands also appear at Banbury from the earliest to latest phases (e.g. Stamford types: 19, 3, 55, 57 and Midlands Yellow wares: 48). These indicate that Banbury, as one might expect, had slightly different marketing and trading connections from Oxford.

One of the most striking aspects of the material is its notably domestic character. Most vessels seem to be cooking pots, bowls or pitchers and there is a distinct lack of highly decorated, glazed and fine wares, which do occur at other contemporary sites in the immediate vicinity.<sup>38</sup> Many of these domestic fabrics are coarse, patchily fired and often seem to have been hand coiled and wheel finished. Vessel forms, base types and decorative motifs are distinctly conservative and very mundane in character.

## GLASS

Apart from the four illustrated pieces all the glass was unstratified and consisted mainly of bottle fragments.

Fig. 22, No. 1. Rim of jar or bottle, 60mm. diameter, of opaque light green glass. Phase 2 layer 76.

Fig. 22, No. 2. Rim of very fine bottle of slightly bubbly glass. Phase 9 layer 97.

Fig. 22, No. 3. Fragment of stained glass with blue pattern on red background. Unstratified.

Fig. 22, No. 4. Fragment of decorated glass with a pair of three parallel white lines on blue glass. Phase 6 layer 126.

## STONE

The principal building material was ironstone with shelly limestone slates; by Phase 9 Stonesfield slate was used.

Fig. 22, No. 5. Fragment of sandy limestone whetstone. Phase 1 pit 33.

<sup>35</sup> e.g. Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 121-134; R.L.S. Bruce-Mitford 'The Archaeology of the site of the Bodleian Extension in Broad Street, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), 89-107; Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 111-39; E.M. Jope and R.I. Threlfall, 'The twelfth century Castle at Ascot Doilly', *Antiq. Journ.* xxxix (1959), 239-65. E.M. Jope and W.A. Pantin, 'The Clarendon Hotel, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958).

<sup>36</sup> Haldon and Mellor, *Oxoniensia*, xlii. 139.

<sup>37</sup> E.M. Jope 'Medieval Pottery Lids and Pots with Lid-Seating', *Oxoniensia*, xiv (1949), 78-9.

<sup>38</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 312-38; Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 90-147.

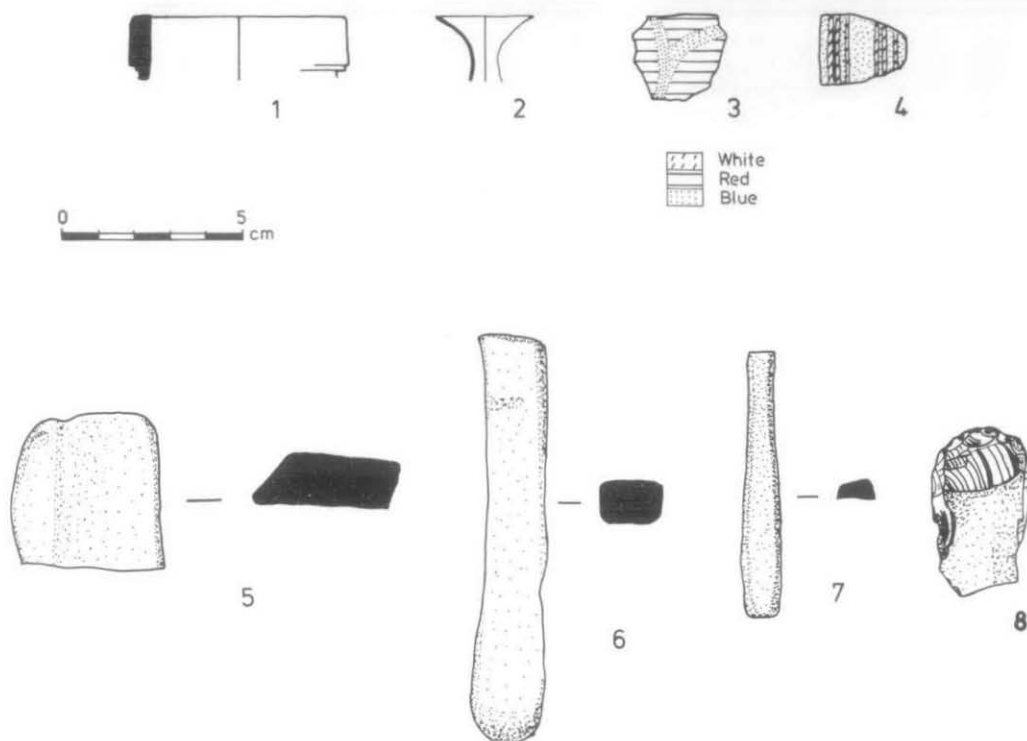


Fig. 22. Banbury Castle. Objects of glass, 1-4, stone, 5-7, and flint, 8. Scale 1:4.

Fig. 22, No. 6. Partially complete mica schist whetstone. Phase 5 occupation layer 266.

Fig. 22, No. 7. Mica schist whetstone. Phase 5 midden layer 181.

Fig. 22, No. 8. Flint end scraper. The only flint object. Phase 3 gravel dump.

#### THE ANIMAL BONES By C. S. GAMBLE

A sample of 1189 animal bones from Phases 1 and 5 was studied. The occurrence of species and the number of identified elements are presented in Table 3. Further anatomical descriptions, age data and measurements have been placed in the archive, since the sample size makes them of limited interest. The comments here are confined to a brief behavioural analysis of the animal bones.

The contexts presented for analysis suggested that we should be able to observe, through a study of the bones they contained, a marked change in human activity on the site. In Phase 1, Saxo-Norman, the context consisted of large pits, floors and soil horizons. A further sample, without clear archaeological context, came from the digging of the subway complex at the southern end of the site. Because of the different recovery procedure, this sample has only been examined in a cursory fashion to extract simple information for comparison with the trench-dug bone. The bone from Phase 5, late 13th- or early 14th-century, comes from a deposit described by the excavators as a midden.

The analysis of the bones was undertaken to determine whether the excavator's description of the contexts could be confirmed by the material they contained. We are not therefore examining the animal management of the time, nor looking at chronological developments that may or may not be due to cultural factors, rather, the animal bones are being used to evaluate the archaeological classification of excavated features. By relating patterns of

discard to contextual evidence we hope to improve our knowledge of the connection between past behaviour and the formation of the archaeological record.<sup>59</sup> Animal bones are potentially of enormous value for such a study since they are biological rather than cultural material. We know the initial target population, complete skeletons, from which our sampled populations are drawn.<sup>60</sup> Comparison of the target population with the samples allows us to monitor past human behaviour which converted the skeletons into the bone recovered by the excavation.

TABLE 3  
Banbury Castle. The distribution of animal bone material.

	Ovi- caprid	Cattle	Pig	Horse	Roe deer	Red deer	Dog	Human	Stoat	Bird	Rabbit	Fragments
<i>Phase 1</i>												
Pit 245/34, 35	14	9	6	8	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	86
Pit 242/36	5	19	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	50
Pit 33	9	21	15	2	1	—	—	—	—	63	—	75
Pit 229	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Pit 240	5	24	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	50
Post hole 246	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Soil 244	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Soil 238	2	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	30
Soil 241	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Soil 243	24	16	26	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	63
Floor 250	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Floor 251	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Extension 71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Extension 80	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Subway Pits	17	51	18	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	*
TOTALS	79	158	78	14	6	1	1	1	1	68	0	388
<i>Phase 5.</i>												
Midden 179	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	53
Midden 181	29	16	29	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	6	119
Midden 182	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	28
Midden 184	16	16	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	66
Midden 187	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
TOTALS	50	37	45	—	1	—	—	—	—	18	13	270

\* = not counted.

#### *Phase 1*

The five pits and soil level 243 accounted for 93 per cent of the bone identified to species. This is hardly surprising in view of such factors as poor preservation in open contexts and the regular clearance of rubbish from the structures of the site.<sup>61</sup> The samples from even the rich bone contexts are generally too small to comment in detail

<sup>59</sup> P. Halstead, I. Hodder and G. Jones, 'Behavioural Archaeology and refuse patterns; a case study', *Norwegian Archaeol. Review*, xi (1978), 118–31.

<sup>60</sup> C.S. Gamble, 'Optimising information from studies of faunal remains', in J.F. Cherry, C.S. Gamble and S.J. Shennan, (eds.) *Sampling in Contemporary British Archaeology*, (BAR 50, 1978), 321–53.

<sup>61</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensis*, xxxviii. 319.

on differences between contexts. Domestic fowl occurred mainly in pit 33 while the one red deer bone was found in layer 244. Pits 229 and 240 were very much poorer in bone than the other three pits, all of which contained horse. There is a slight indication that cow was better represented in the pits than in the other contexts. A number of bones showed signs of gnawing as well as occasional knife cuts and chopping marks.

The subway pits confirm the findings from the other parts of the site. Cattle are well represented and horse is present. Roe deer is also found here and it occurs in two of the pits in layer 243.

#### Phase 5

The midden deposit only produced evidence for cattle, ovicaprids and pig, together with one bone of roe deer; horse was not found. Domestic fowl and other birds were present, together with the only remains of rabbits on the site. The last were thought to be a Medieval introduction to England, but a well stratified Saxon example has recently been recorded from Southampton.<sup>62</sup> Occasional bones showed signs of carnivore gnawing or butchery marks.

#### Interpretation

The presence or absence of species in the two phases provides some indication that the bone in them is the result of different activities; the absence of horse and the presence of rabbit in Phase 5 is the clearest example. In order to investigate this further some simple ratios were calculated to measure the proportion of carcass waste to profitable cuts of meat. Halstead *et al.*<sup>63</sup> suggests a division of the skeleton into waste (skull, teeth), limbs with variable cuts of meat (long bones) and the trunk which contains mostly prime cuts (vertebrae, ribs, scapula and pelvis). In this analysis the scapula and pelvis have been included with the limbs, and because of problems of identification ribs and vertebrae have been omitted. We are therefore comparing the use of the animal carcasses by observing the ratio of cranial to skeletal elements.

TABLE 4  
Banbury Castle. Ratios of cranial to skeletal elements.

	RATIOS		NUMBERS	
	Cranial elements (skull, horn core, teeth)	Skeletal elements.	Cranial elements.	Skeletal elements.
<i>Ovicaprids.</i>				
Phase 1.	1.06	: 1	32	: 30
(Subway sample)	1.1	: 1	9	: 8
Phase 5.	0.06	: 1	3	: 47
<i>Cow.</i>				
Phase 1.	3.65	: 1	84	: 23
(Subway sample)	1.1	: 1	27	: 24
Phase 5.	0.2	: 1	7	: 30
<i>Pig.</i>				
Phase 1.	5.0	: 1	50	: 10
(Subway sample)	3.5	: 1	14	: 4
Phase 5.	0.95	: 1	22	: 23

In Phase 1 (Table 4) cranial elements consistently outnumber skeletal material with a range of from 1.06:1 (ovicaprids) to 5:1 (pig). The coarser subway sample supports this observation. The midden deposit, however, presents a very different picture, with bones outnumbering skull and tooth fragments for all three species. There is thus a greater deposition of meat-bearing parts of the carcass in the midden than in the various contexts of Phase 1. Moreover, when the change in the ratio of cranial to skeletal material between the two phases is examined for

<sup>62</sup> J. Bourdillon and J.P. Coy, 'The animal bone' in P. Holdsworth (ed.) *Saxon Southampton: Excavations in Melbourne Street*, C.B.A. Res. Rep. No. 33 (1979).

<sup>63</sup> Halstead *et al.* *Norwegian Archaeological Review*, xi, 118-31.

each of the three main species, it is apparent that those changes are not independent of each other. The Phase 1 ratios showed a greater dominance of teeth/skull over bone for pig than for cattle, and a greater dominance for cattle than for ovicaprids, and the same order of species is maintained in Phase 5. This order may be explained partly by differential size recovery and the greater number of teeth in pig than in the other species. The recovery problem posed by the small size of sheep teeth is illustrated in the ratios for this species, where bones are better represented in Phase 1 because of their better chance of recovery. With cattle the larger size of individual specimens results in less size bias recovery, but the ratios between phases still indicate a major change in the proportions of deposited elements.

#### Conclusion

The animal bones confirm the view derived from considering the range of contexts and features in the two phases that we should expect different patterns of activity on the site. The midden in Phase 5 illustrates a smaller range of activities than the Phase 1 contexts. The primary activity in Phase 5 is the disposal of food refuse, demonstrated by the smaller range of species, especially the absence of horse, and the ratios of meat bearing parts of the skeleton to waste. Inferring activity from Phase 1 samples is more difficult, but it is clear that we are not dealing with just the primary disposal of food debris but with a wider spectrum of human behaviour, notably specialist butchery. This conclusion sounds a cautionary note: a traditional analysis of husbandry, based on such samples, between the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods would be in grave danger of comparing two collections whose behavioural origins were entirely dissimilar.

It would perhaps be possible to proceed further with the analysis of behaviour by, for example, comparing the density of bone with that of other finds such as pottery and metal objects. A spatial analysis of bone distribution would also probably reveal further behavioural correlates, and it is probably only through such an analysis that the activities which led to the observed pattern of discard can be understood properly. It has, however, not been the purpose of this report to attempt a total explanation of the evidence, but rather to comment upon the contribution bones can make to archaeological interpretation.

#### DISCUSSION

The chronological sequence revealed by the two campaigns of excavation at Banbury Castle appears to be as follows. The pre-castle activities include features which may have been prehistoric or Roman<sup>64</sup> and Saxo-Norman features such as some described as Period 0 by Mrs. Rodwell,<sup>65</sup> and others at 27 Cornhill<sup>66</sup> and Phase 1 at the Car Park site. The first, 12th-century, castle seems to have occupied more or less the same area as its successor and to have possessed a thick embanked curtain wall with a small ditch, a range of central buildings (Building III), some buildings in the south-west corner and an area of metallurgy.<sup>67</sup>

The detailed ceramic evidence provided by Ms. Robinson suggests that the major rebuilding occurred as early as 1225–1250 and not at the end of the 13th century or the beginning of the 14th century as was originally suggested.<sup>68</sup> None of the material published as belonging to Mrs. Rodwell's Period 2A<sup>69</sup> need post-date 1250. The castle was rebuilt in a concentric form with a pentagonal inner bailey. There are some differences between the observation of 1972 and the excavations of 1973–4 in the precise location of the ditches for the inner and outer baileys; these can almost certainly be accounted for by variations in surveying techniques and available fixed points during demolition of the buildings in the area involved. Mrs. Rodwell's period 2b<sup>70</sup> corresponds to Phases 4–9 on the Car Park site. The latter site provides evidence for a series of changes in structure and function of a small

<sup>64</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 317; Rodwell *Oxoniensia*, xli. 98–9.

<sup>65</sup> Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 98–9.

<sup>66</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 324.

<sup>67</sup> Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 116 and Fig. 9.

<sup>68</sup> Fasham, *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii. 317–23.

<sup>69</sup> Rodwell, *Oxoniensia*, xli. 90–147.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.* 109–113.

area located within the inner bailey, probably just inside the gate. Similar evidence was largely missing from the 1973-74 excavations but the conditions under which that work was carried out would have made the observation and recording of such subtle changes over such a large area very difficult. There was a series of buildings, open areas, paths and middens within the inner bailey. An excavation as small as that on the Car Park site would not be expected to reveal so many changes of use within an inner bailey. Nevertheless it did so. Dr. Gamble's study of the animal bones has shown that the Phase 5 assemblage was of different character to the pre-Castle assemblage and that it was probably kitchen refuse. The quantity of cooking pots from the same area in the same phase reflects the possibility that the kitchens, although not discovered, were adjacent to the excavated area.

The inner bailey went through a series of changes until the Civil War, when probably hastily constructed features were built (Phase 9). During the Civil War the castle was refortified and undoubtedly some of the casualties of the Civil War were recovered in Phase 10.

It is a little ironic that from the seventeenth century to 1972 the only major reminder of the Castle was in the name of Castle Street and that the redevelopment which caused the excavations of 1972-74 to take place should ultimately be designated the Castle Shopping Precinct.

The finds and the archive have been deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum at Woodstock.

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