A Medieval Grange of Abingdon Abbey at Dean Court Farm, Cumnor, Oxon.

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SUMMARY

Excavations carried out in 1975–6 and in 1984–7 in advance of housing development investigated fourteen buildings belonging to a medieval settlement interpreted as a grange of Abingdon Abbey. The settlement originated in the late 12th century, and substantial stone buildings were put up close to a natural spring line in the first half of the 13th century, with flimsier peasant structures in the valley bottom adjacent. At the end of the 13th century the grange centre was moved to a new site in the valley bottom, and this later grange was surrounded with a moat.

The 14th century saw the maximum expansion of the settlement, with stone buildings replacing the earlier peasant structures and encroachment by new tofts onto the open fields. Considerable investment went into the later grange, which included fishponds, a fish-kitchen and a dovecote, the moated site being surrounded by a stone boundary wall. Documentary evidence suggests that the grange also contained a church, but this was not located.

After the mid-14th century parts of the settlement were abandoned, but new buildings were erected on the main peasant holding in the 15th century. This was abandoned in the 16th century, when the moat was also allowed to silt up. The kitchen and hall of the later grange were demolished early in the 17th century, when the existing farmhouse was built on the site of the hall incorporating the still standing medieval solar as its south wing.

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EXCAVATION

The site lies at the bottom of an E.–W. valley between the limestone outcrops of Wytham and Cumnor hills, and extends northwards up the lower slopes of Wytham Hill as far as a natural spring line where the Oxford Clay meets the overlying Corallian limestone. Several isolated farms are marked along this line on Rocque's 1761 map of Berkshire (Fig. 98),[1] one of which, Busby's Farm (mistakenly labelled Owlington Farm by Rocque), was still partly standing, though ruined, when archaeological work began. This site and other medieval earthworks and findspots were recorded on the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record, PRN Nos. 2718, 10795, 10796 and 10797, but the character and significance of the medieval settlement was not known prior to the excavations.

Attention was first drawn to the site by the construction of the A420 Cumnor bypass. Fieldwalking carried out in advance of this by George Lambrick and the Oxford University Archaeological Society (hereafter O.U.A.S) in 1975 established that substantial medieval earthworks survived at Busby's Farm. These were surveyed, and a small excavation by David Critchley with the O.U.A.S demonstrated that the site had been occupied since the late 12th century (Site E, Section 2.6 and Fig. 68).[2] In 1976 part of another medieval building was exposed by topsoil stripping some 200 m. to the SW. (Site A, Fig. 1, Building I) and was excavated by the author with the O.U.A.S. under the supervision of G. Lambrick of the Oxford Archaeological Unit (hereafter O.A.U) (see Section 2.1, Site A and Fig. 3).[3]

No further interest was taken in the site until 1980, when the ivy covering the farmhouse of Dean Court Farm died back, revealing two medieval two-light windows. These were noticed by a neighbour, Dr G. Harriss, who drew them to the attention of Dr J. Blair. Dr Blair researched the documentary history of the site and wrote a short paper,[4] in which he stated that the windows, dated to the late 13th century, were part of a surviving two-storey medieval building (Building X) belonging to a grange of Abingdon Abbey, possibly of sub-conventual layout.

[1] From E. to W. these are: Tilbury Farm, Owlington Farm, Busby's Farm. Note also the streams running down to the valley bottom at frequent intervals.

[2] 'Cumnor By-pass', CBA Group 9 *Newsletter*, vi (1976), 72–3.

[3] 'Cumnor Hill By-pass', CBA Group 9 *Newsletter*, vii (1977), 71.

[4] This paper is not published, but forms the basis for the reports by Dr Blair upon the documentary history (Section 5.1) and upon the surviving windows (Section 2.5, Site D: the Hall and Solar, the standing medieval buildings).

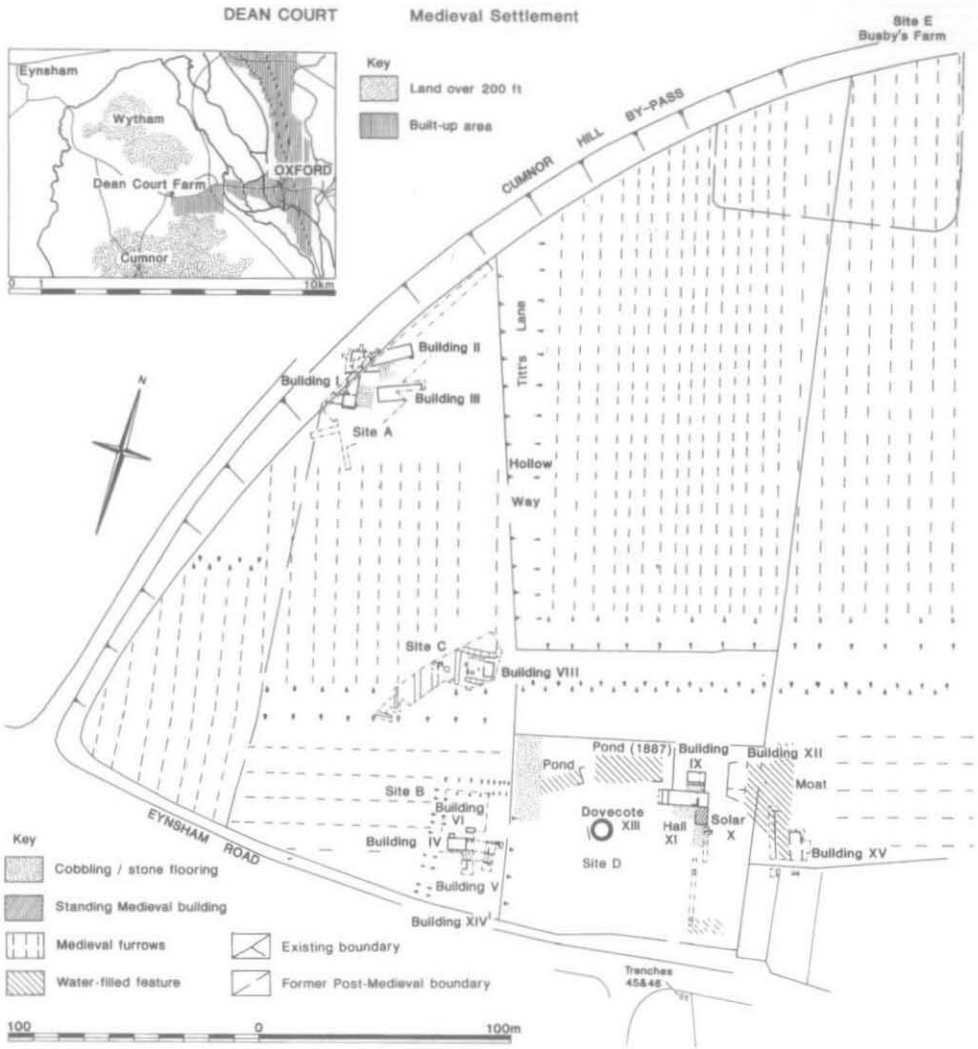

Fig. 1. Overall site plan and location plan. For details of the excavated areas in Site D see Fig. 37.

Shortly after this the University Estates Department decided to sell the farm and surrounding land for redevelopment as a housing estate, and as a result of Dr Blair's interest the O.A.U. was invited to carry out an archaeological investigation. A further investigation of Site A had already been begun by the O.U.A.S at the prompting of the author, and this was enlarged, revealing two substantial stone buildings of the 13th century (Buildings I and II).[5] In the SE. corner of the same field a ditched enclosure containing house platforms was

[5] T.G. Allen, 'Cumnor: Dean Court Farm', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xv (1985), 94–7; T.G. Allen, 'Oxfordshire, Cumnor', *Medieval Village Research Group annual report*, xxxii (1984), 16–19.

Fig. 2. Aerial view of site showing excavated areas, ridge-and-furrow and hedge boundaries, taken from the S.

visible as an earthwork (Fig. 1 Site B), and this was trenched, revealing stone buildings of the 14th and 15th centuries.[6]

The farmhouse was still occupied and much of the farm was covered by buildings and a concrete yard, but three machine-trenches were dug north and south of the farmhouse. The S. trench did not reveal any medieval buildings or occupation, but did catch the N. edge of the medieval moat. There was however no dating evidence from this feature, and its date and significance was not recognised. Of the N. trenches, the western one cut across a post-medieval pond filled with 19th-century rubbish, and was abandoned. The eastern trench revealed the boundary wall of the 17th-century farmhouse, and the E. wall of a building of 14th-century date (Building IX) just N. of the farmhouse.[7]

A geophysical survey of the eastern part of the field containing sites A and B was carried out by Alister Bartlett and Andrew David of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in 1984 (see Section 2.4 and Figs. 33–5). This revealed a further area of intense activity on the line of the road corridor of the proposed development, Site C, and by October 1984 funding

[6] Allen, 'Dean Court Farm', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xv (1985), 95–6; idem, 'Cumnor', *Medieval Village Research Group annual report*, xxxii (1984), 16–19; 'Medieval Britain and Ireland in 1984', *Medieval Archaeology*, xxix (1985), 195 No. 129.

[7] Allen, 'Dean Court Farm', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xv (1985), 94–7; idem, 'Cumnor', *Medieval Village Research Group annual report*, xxxii (1984), 16–19; 'Medieval Britain and Ireland', *Medieval Archaeology*, xxix (1985), 195 No. 129.

from English Heritage was obtained for a five-week excavation of Sites B and C in advance of the housing development. Site B contained a range of 14th/15th-century buildings (Buildings IV and VI) N. of a cobbled area, with further late medieval buildings (Building V and XIV) to the S. Site C proved to be a cottage toft (Building VIII) of the 14th century overlying ridge-and-furrow.[8]

The housing development was carried out by 2 separate firms: the farm buildings were sold to a local builder, Mr J. Rendell, for redevelopment into 12 luxury houses, while the fields around were developed by McLean Homes South West Ltd. and contained 250 new houses. Despite the recommendation of Dr Blair and the evidence for the existence of a 14th-century building found in the trial-trenching, the University Estates Department was unwilling to pursue archaeological investigation around the farmhouse and it was not until Mr Rendell took possession of the site that the opportunity for further work arose.

In January 1985 the O.A.U.'s Manpower Services Commission team was prevented by ground frost from working as scheduled, and Mr Rendell kindly allowed access and provided free use of a JCB to strip and excavate the building N. of the farm, which proved to be the kitchen/bake- and brew-house.[9] Further trenching by hand E. of the kitchen revealed the walls of another medieval building (Building XII), but it was not possible to carry out an area excavation.

The kitchen was very well preserved, and as a result of this excavation English Heritage agreed to fund further trenching S. of the farm and a watching brief on alterations to the existing building. Machine-dug trenches S. and S.W. of the farmhouse uncovered a dovecote (Building XIII) flanked by another stone wall.[10]

Cumnor Parish Council were preparing to construct a football pitch in the field containing Site A, so a further area stretching S.W. from Building I and including the west end of Building III was stripped by machine and partially excavated. The water table, however, was so close to the surface that this excavation could not be completed. Excavation of Building III continued by volunteers at weekends later in the same year.

Foundation trenches for internal partition walls inside the farmhouse revealed a succession of floor and occupation layers, and demonstrated that the farmhouse sat almost exactly upon the walls of an earlier stone hall (Building XI), which was abutted both by the upstanding medieval building and by the excavated kitchen. Mr Rendell very kindly allowed the excavation of further small trenches aimed at clarifying the plan and sequential development of this building.[11]

McLean Homes did not have this sympathetic attitude to the archaeology, though access was granted to the author for a limited watching brief. A further medieval building (Building XV) together with a length of boundary wall and of the moat, was revealed E. of the farm, and was hastily recorded over a single weekend.[12]

Observation of foundations and services within Mr Rendell's development revealed the existence of further stonework N.W. of the farm, and another small excavation was carried

[8] Allen, 'Dean Court Farm', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xv (1985), 96; idem, 'Cumnor', *Medieval Village Research Group annual report*, xxxii (1984), 16–19; 'Medieval Britain and Ireland', *Medieval Archaeology*, xxix (1985), 195 No. 129.

[9] Allen, 'Cumnor', *Medieval Village Research Group annual report*, xxxii (1984), 16; idem, 'Dean Court, excavations in 1984–5', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xvi (1986), 96–9.

[10] Allen, 'Dean Court, excavation in 1984–5', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xvi (1986), 96–9.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid. 98.

out on Building XII by volunteers at weekends. This completed the recording within the redevelopment areas.[13]

A final season of excavation on Site A was prompted by a new Thames Water main, whose line ran alongside the S. side of the Cumnor Bypass, passing right through the site. In April 1986 a 4-week excavation uncovered the rest of Building II and the full length of Building III.[14]

A watching brief was maintained along the line of the easement, which did not recover any traces of medieval activity S. of Busby's Farm, but did reveal stretches of post-medieval cobbling further E., probably belonging to Owlington Farm.

The final opportunities for excavation were provided by the owners of the properties E. and S. of the redevelopment. Both Mrs Gilbert, into whose garden the boundary wall continued, and Mrs Strange, whose property adjoined Building XV on the S., kindly allowed access for small trenches to trace these features. South of the Eynsham Road Dr Harriss also allowed the excavation of two exploratory trenches in the N.E. corner of his garden, which sadly proved unproductive. The demolition and rebuilding of the kitchen, however, provided compensating excitement, since this incorporated a wide variety of re-used architectural fragments which we were able to record (Section 3.8).

1.2 THE SITE RECORDS AND ARCHIVE

The site was recorded using the then current Oxford Archaeological Unit recording system, which allocates a single context number to each feature or layer, and uses subdivisions of the feature number for each deposit within a feature, e.g. layer 201 or ditch 319 containing layers 319/1, 319/2 and 319/3.

Blocks of numbers were allocated to each site as follows:

Site A – 1 to 40, 100 to 112, 200 to 375, 1700 to 1800.
Site B – 500 to 583, 600 to 667, 900 to 958.
Site C – 700 to 830.
Site D – 400 to 499, 1000 to 1062, 1100 to 1126, 1200 to 1297, 1300 to 1381, 1400 to 1409, 1500 to 1599, 1600 to 1624, 1801 to 1814, 1900 to 1908.

Bulk finds, such as pottery and tile, were bagged according to context number; other finds were given unique small finds numbers. Soil samples were numbered both with context information and with unique numbers of their own.

The Archive, comprising the site records, the finds, the working papers and draft reports of the post-excavation analysis and correspondence relating to the excavations, is deposited at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

1.3 THE SITE TODAY

Site A was to be landscaped for a football pitch, but this threat has not materialised, although the S. edge of the site is now under a children's play area. The rest of this site is now preserved under grass. Site C was destroyed by the access road for the housing

[13] An interim account of these discoveries was published in a booklet, T.G. Allen, *Dean Court Farm. A medieval Settlement*, published by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1986.

[14] Allen 'Dean Court' *South Midlands Archaeology*, xvii (1987), 82–3.

development. The northern half of Site B has been destroyed by new housing, but much of the uninvestigated southern half lies preserved beneath the back gardens of these properties. New housing now covers the W., N. and E. sides of Site D, now called Grange Court. Much of the internal stratigraphy of the Hall and Solar is preserved beneath the refurbished farmhouse. Building XII and the N. and S. parts of the Kitchen lie beneath the back garden of this property, although a sewer trench destroyed the tanks and the central part of the Kitchen. A substantial length of the E. and S. sides of the enclosed area was not built over and now lies under the gardens of the new houses. E. of Building XII much of the moat is still preserved in the gardens of the new housing outside Grange Court, though on the S.E. this lies beneath 106 Eynsham Road.

1.4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For permission to carry out the 1976 excavation I would like to thank Mr and Mrs White, the tenant farmers of Dean Court Farm, who also provided storage for the site equipment and shelter for the work force. The excavations preceding the redevelopment were made possible by the enlightened interest and financial support of the University Chest Estates Office, and I am particularly grateful to the successive Bursars Mr M. Brooks and Mr B. Rivers. In connection with this I would like to thank both Dr G. Harriss of Magdalen College and Dr J. Blair for their interest in the site and support within Oxford University. Thanks are also due to Mr G.A. Barnett of Tilbury Farm, who farmed the field containing Sites A, B and C, for his co-operation during these excavations and subsequent continued interest in allowing fieldwalking N. of the Cumnor Bypass.

I would also like to express the warmest gratitude to Mr J. Rendell for his interest and co-operation throughout the redevelopment of Site D, now Grange Court. Mr Rendell provided free machining and without his personal interest the clarification of the later grange would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to McLean Homes South West Ltd., through their engineer Mr Palfreyman, for access to sites B and C prior to their redevelopment, and for allowing a limited watching brief during construction of the new houses.

The identification of Site C was made possible by a geophysical survey carried out by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in 1984, and I would like to thank Mr A. Bartlett and Mr A. David for this. Permission to carry out this survey in the western part of the site was granted by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. During the excavation of Sites B and C accommodation was provided at Hill End Camp for the digging team, and I would like to thank Mrs Baughan for helping us out in this matter.

I would also like to thank Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Strange and Dr and Mrs Harriss, owners of adjoining properties along the Eynsham Road, for permission to dig in their gardens. Dr and Mrs Harriss also allowed us to borrow and record architectural fragments found in the demolition of their kitchen, and it was through their interest in the farm that the 14th-century block was first brought to the attention of Dr Blair.

Funding for the initial work was provided by the University Chest Estates Office, and for subsequent excavation by English Heritage, The Manpower Services Commission and the Thames Water Authority.

For the initial excavation of Site A in 1976 I would like to thank all the members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society who helped, particularly Duncan Wilson and Andrea Leone, and would also like to acknowledge the general supervision and advice of George Lambrick. For the subsequent area excavation of Site A and the trial trenches in Sites B and D in 1984 I am particularly indebted to Elizabeth MacRobert (who acted as assistant site supervisor), Robert Bailey and Ashley Coombes. Trevor Dennis had the unenviable task of supervising the excavation of Site A in 1985, and Mark Collard supervised the final season in 1986. I am very grateful to all these for their competent support.

The excavation of Site B was ably supervised by Peter Fuller, and similarly that of Site C by Ralph Isserlin. I would like to thank all of those who took part in these excavations, which were subject to extremely wet winter weather, and in particular Kate Steane, who acted as Site Planner.

The winter excavation of the kitchen on Site D was supervised by Andrew Mudd. I am again very grateful to all who took part, particularly as much of the excavation was carried out in sub-zero temperatures. Trevor Dennis assisted in the excavation of the trenches inside the standing building, and in the excavation of Building XV in the McLean Homes development.

I am indebted to all the volunteers who helped on Site A and with Building XII, and would particularly like to thank Nicholas Palmer, Roger Ainslie, Rachel Everett, Alison Gledhill and Richard Hornsey.

The post-excavation was funded by English Heritage and by grants from the Pantin Trust and from the Greening Lamborn Trust. Thames Water also provided a grant towards the cost of some of the drawings. I am very grateful to all of these bodies for their support.

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2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

2.1 SITE A: THE 13TH-CENTURY GRANGE

Summary

Site A lay on the lower south-facing slopes of Wytham Hill, along the spring line between the Corallian sand and limestone and the underlying Oxford Clay. The clay here was covered by a thin deposit of Corallian sand, but drainage was poor.

In the later 12th and early 13th century (Phase 1) the site was crossed by a succession of gullies and ditches, none of which contained many finds. One group of ditches suggested rectilinear enclosures *c.* 38 m. wide. Many of the earliest features were characterised by redeposited tufaceous material, apparently recemented, perhaps indicating a recent episode of clearance. The only structural evidence was a group of three postholes and a narrow wall, but one or two pits containing domestic rubbish suggest occupation nearby.

In the second quarter of the 13th century (Phase 2) an L-shaped stone building (Building I), consisting of several rooms with a byre at the N. end, was erected. Both wings appear to have been built at the same time, and the whole of the 24 m. long N.–S. range, including the byre, which was open on the W. side, seems to have been covered by a single roof. S. of the byre the rest of the range consisted of a single room with a hearth and probably a doorway to the N. end. Towards the S. end the floor was crossed by a covered drain, which debouched into a succession of ditches running past the S.E. corner.

A second stone building (Building II), this time with mortared stone walls, was added in the mid 13th century (Phase 3). The only internal feature was a covered drain, and this building was probably a barn. Probably at the same time a passage was built through Building I and the byre was walled in on the W. side and converted to domestic use. Probably also during Phase 3 the N.–S. range of Building I was sub-divided by stone partition walls, creating a square room at the S. end and a larger central room between this and the cross-passage next to the former byre. The central room contained the hearth, the S. room seems occasionally to have been heated by a brazier. The S. room is believed to have had a first-floor chamber, which was reached by an internal stair in the S.W. corner of the central room. Buildings I and II were both closely surrounded by a succession of drainage and boundary ditches, which on the S. divided the farmstead from arable fields.

In the later 13th century (Phase 4) Building III was constructed overlying these ditches, S. of and parallel to Building II. This stone building was of very similar dimensions to II and was perhaps

another barn. The area between Buildings I and III was cobbled over for use as access for carts. Attempts to drain the site using ditches seem to have been abandoned altogether, as the ditch around the N. sides of Buildings I and II was also infilled and cobbled towards the end of the 13th century.

The buildings now surrounded three sides of a small yard, but this arrangement did not survive for very long. The site was abandoned around the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries (Phase 5) and the buildings were robbed down to their foundations, but there was no indication that ridge-and-furrow was extended over the site.

Introduction

The excavation took place over several seasons in widely varying circumstances, so that the quality of the information is not uniform over the whole site. The N. end of Building I was the first area examined (Fig. 3); this was excavated over the winter of 1975–6 by the O.U.A.S. in advance of construction of the Cumnor by-pass, when the size and complexity of this settlement was not appreciated. The rest of Building I and most of Building II were excavated by the O.A.U., funded by the Oxford University Estates Department, in late spring and early summer of 1984 in fairly dry weather. Linking the main area to the 1976 excavation, however, involved widening the drainage ditch alongside the Cumnor by-pass, which had badly damaged the stratigraphy, and constant problems with water meant that only the latest deposits in this area were fully recorded.

Building III and the area S. of Building I were first examined in the summer of 1985 by the O.A.U. and O.U.A.S., when exceptionally wet weather frustrated all attempts to comprehend the sequence. A further excavation took place in April 1986, when the E. end of Building II and the yard to the S. of it were also investigated. In spite of the high water table this final excavation, funded by Thames Water in advance of a new pipeline, clarified the stratigraphic sequences and the layout of the buildings; but the yard between Buildings II and III and the area S. of Building I, which had been partly examined in 1984 (Fig. 3), could not be fully excavated due to the high water level.

The area is illustrated in Figs. 3–5. Figs. 7 and 8 show the area excavated and recorded in detail. Extension trenches were also dug S.W. and S. from the S. end of the area, and N.E. alongside the N. boundary of the fields up to the N.E. corner (see Fig. 1). No features other than a post-medieval boundary ditch were found in the S.W. extension. One possible ditch aligned approximately E.–W. was seen towards the end of the S. extension, but could not be excavated due to the high water table; this may have marked the N. boundary of the ridge-and-furrow S. of Site A. To the N.E. a modern pipe crossed the trench just beyond gully 1785, and no further archaeological features were seen beyond that.

Phase 1: the pre-building occupation

The earliest features were a small number of pits, gullies and hollows of 12th-century date, though residual Roman pottery was also found. Fieldwalking N. of the Cumnor by-pass suggested that there was a small Roman settlement *c.* 100 m. further up the slope (see also Sections 3.1 and 3.6: Cat. No. 6). Among the medieval pits 336 (Fig. 4) contained both later 12th-century pottery (Section 3.2) and a small assemblage of carbonised seeds (see Section 4.3), pit 13 (Fig. 8) contained early 13th-century pottery and pits 13, 17 and 19 contained charcoal flecks, but in general there were few finds.

Cutting pit 336 was gully 333=298, one of a series of gullies characterised by a light grey clay fill rich in mollusc shells with a high proportion of white tufa-like concretion (see Fig. 4 and Section 4.5). There were also pits such as 350 and 368 with the same fill.

Apart from pit 336 these gullies cut only ditch 1711, and this was undated; the finds from the gullies themselves suggested a late 12th-century date. 294 was cut by 330, and the varying alignments of these gullies also indicate more than one phase. Three of them, 1765=1794, 1704 and 1724, form a group at right angles aligned almost N.–S. by E.–W., possibly indicating plots some 38 m. wide (see Fig. 4). The others were not at right angles to one another. The longest distance over which one of these gullies was traced was 31 m. (gully 333).

Cutting through 294, 219 and 1794 was a succession of broad shallow ditches on a N.E.-S.W. alignment (Fig. 4). Fills were generally of dark loamy clay. These ditches underlay Building II (see Phase 3), and probably continued beneath Building I (see Phase 2); ditches 21 and 23 emerge on the W. side of Building I in line with them. At the N.E. edge of the site these shallow ditches ran into much deeper terminals 1776 and 1791. 311 and 314 were joined at right-angles by gully 292, which like 312 was infilled with large stone rubble in its top. 292 cut 312, which ended within it, and 314, but was itself cut by 311=1788. The few finds from this group of ditches fit into a late 12th- or very early 13th-century date bracket.

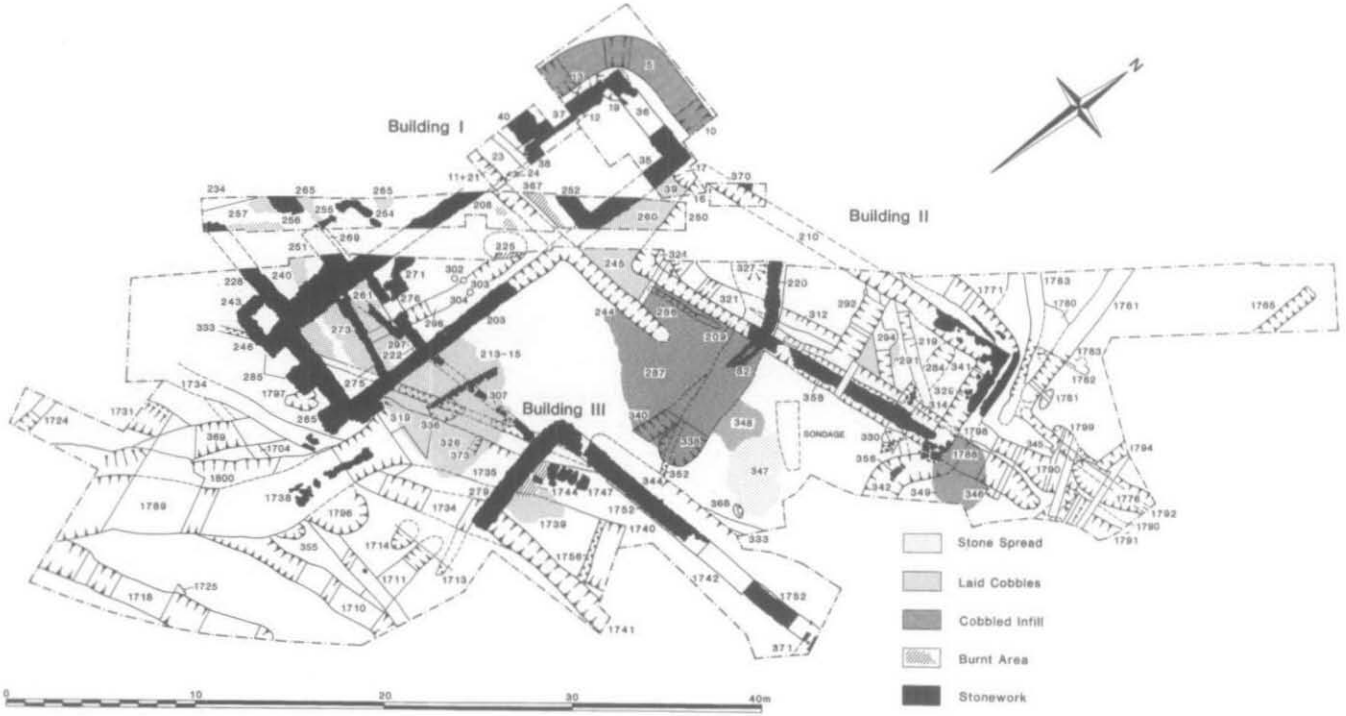

Fig. 3. Site A: Overall plan of excavated features of all phases.

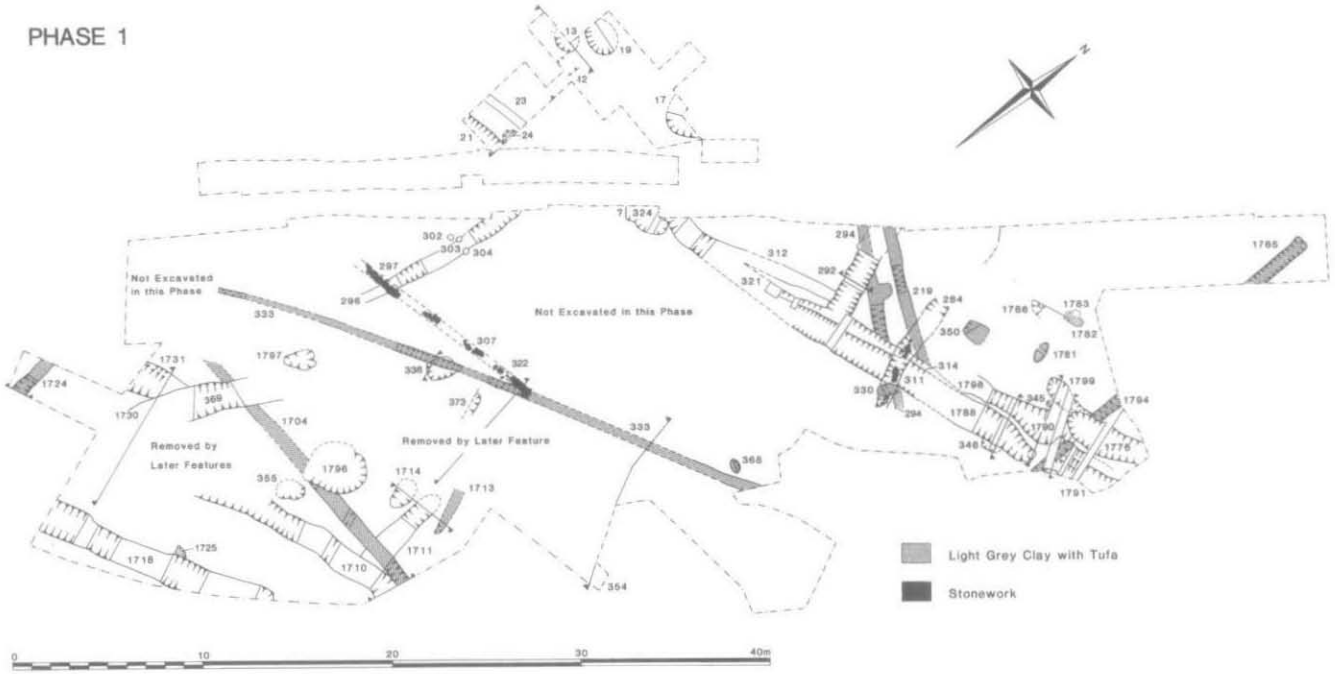

Fig. 4. Site A: Plan of Phase 1, late 12th and early 13th centuries.

Features outside the area of the buildings cannot be shown stratigraphically to predate them, but are included here on the basis of the limited pottery evidence.

Parallel to 311=1788 but more that 20 m. further S. were ditches 1710 and 1718, the latter terminating within the excavated area. Just N. of 1710 were features 355 and 1796, both truncated on the W. side by the later Phase 3 ditch 1789. 355 may have been the terminal of a ditch rather than a pit, perhaps connected with 1730 further W. (see Figs. 3 and 13). 1796, which cut 1704, contained pottery of early 13th-century date, and may instead belong in Phase 2.

N.W. of 1718 and 1710 was another ditch on a similar alignment, 1731. This was very shallow. Just E. of 1731 ditch 369 was later excavated cutting 1704 and running N.N.E. until cut by ditch 1734, beyond which it did not reappear (see Fig. 3). 1731 and 369 may be the same, but a soilmark was planned as the continuation of 369 running S.W. across the line of 1731 until obliterated by ditch 1800. Few finds were recovered from these features, and the impression is that there was as yet no intense occupation close by.

Beneath one of the buttresses of Building I was a shallow hollow 1797, and cut through by drain 275 of Phase 2 was a shallow gully 296. The few sherds from its fill were undiagnostic.

At its S. end 296 was filled with large stones, possibly foundations for a narrow stone wall running E.–W., which was numbered 297 beneath Building I and 307 outside it (Fig. 4). This wall, which also overlay ditch 333, had only survived intermittently, but the wall-line was visible as a darker band more heavily flecked with iron-staining than the surrounding soil, probably the result of compaction beneath the wall. Beneath Building I, where it underlay partition wall 301 and was cut by wall 203, and E. of that beneath cobbling 280=213 it consisted of one course of flattish slabs. Just before it disappeared beneath Building III the wall was two courses deep, and was *c.* 0.5 m. wide. E. of this the wall was destroyed by ditches 1735 etc. (see Phases 2 and 4). To the W., 297 did not reappear W. of drain 212 (see Phase 2).

Wall 307 was abutted on the N. by a light grey soil 322, which produced an assemblage of late 12th- or early 13th-century pottery. On the S. side the shelving edges of later ditches had eroded almost up to the wall, and here 307 was abutted by make-up layer 316 (see Phase 4).

Further N. a single course of limestones was found in a shallow trench 284. This cut across 219 and 294, 314 and 311, was cut by 209 (see Fig. 9), and continued S. over gully 330, but was not traced further due to the high water table. At the N. end it was cut by the N. wall of Building II and by ditch 1771, but may have continued N. of ditch 1771 as a slight soilmark (Figs. 3 and 4). This feature may have been another slight wall contemporary with 297=307, but was undated, and could instead belong to Phase 2.

Phase 2: the first building

A large stone building on a N.–S. alignment, with a byre at the N. end and a wing projecting westwards at the S., was constructed in the second quarter of the 13th century. This was Building I (see Figs. 5–7). Externally the main block was 23 m. long and from 5.9 to 6.4 m. wide, with walls nearly 1 m. thick at the ends but narrowing to *c.* 0.7 m. towards the middle of the long sides. The walls were of roughly squared limestones laid in courses, usually bonded with sandy yellow clay, though grey clay was sometimes used.

Running obliquely across the southern end of the main block was a stone-lined and stone-capped drain 275, leading from drain 212 through wall 208 across and out beneath wall 203. The drain was built in a wide construction trench packed with clay, which cut through gully 296. Adjacent to 275 on the S.E. corner of the building was an external buttress 272, perhaps suggesting that drain 275 was intended from the start to debouch into a ditch just outside.

Walls 204, 203 and 208 (the S., E., and W. walls of the main block were all solidly built and survived two or three courses deep on the S., but about 12 m. from the S. end the foundations of both 203 and 208 narrowed and shallowed (see Fig. 7). Further N. 35=203 had been robbed out completely. Where it reappeared (here numbered 35), a cross-wall 252=38, which was built together with 203, divided the house from a byre to the N. which was open on the W. side. Wall 35 and the N. end wall 36 were both bonded with yellow sandy clay, and survived 3–4 courses high at the N.E. corner, although 36 shallowed as it ran upslope to the W.

S. of 38 only a few stones of the W. wall survived in the top of the underlying gully 23 (Fig. 7). There was no other trace between 38 and feature 11=244, the robber trench of a later wall 372, which was completely robbed out, parallel to 38 some 1.6 m. to the S. The original entrance was probably here, or alternatively this part of 208 was removed when wall 372 was added, creating a cross-passage (see Fig. 9 and Phase 3).

The domestic part of the building, between walls 204 and 252, was some 15 m. long and 4.5 m. wide internally. The floor surface was simply the underlying clay and gravel, upon which a thin occupation layer, 262=277=289, accumulated. Beneath this layer in the middle of the floor were three limestone-packed postholes, 302–304 (Fig. 3). 302 and 303 cut gully 296, 304 lay W. of it (see Fig. 4). These features contained no finds, and it is uncertain whether they were contemporary with Building I or belonged to Phase 1.

At the N. end was a large hearth, 367=360. This consisted of intensely reddened soil and gravel at least 0.07 m.

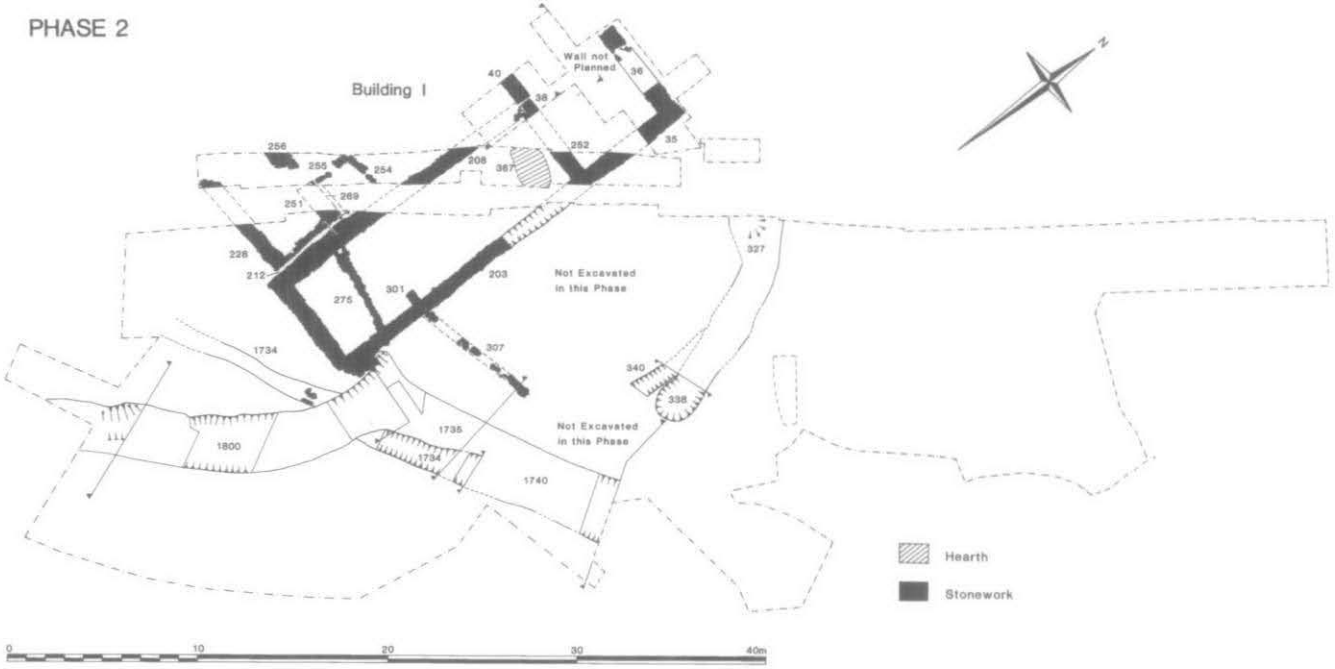

Fig. 5. Site A: Plan of Phase 2, second quarter of the 13th century. The first grange building.

Fig. 6. Site A from the S.W. with Building I in the foreground.

deep and more than 1.3 m. in diameter, surrounded by a ring of patchy burning 3.5 m. across. The hearth was contemporary with occupation layer 289. Patches of burnt sandy gravel may represent resurfacing of the hearth. The reddened soil was overlain by a blacker charcoal-rich soil 366.

Towards the S. end of the room a short wall 301, 0.8 m. long and 0.45 m. wide, was built onto the E. wall 203 (Fig. 5). Only a single course of stones survived, abutted by occupation layers 262 and 289. This wall was replaced in Phase 3 by a wider and longer wall 222 (see Fig. 9).

The W. 'wing' was built at the same time as the main block, since both the outer face of the W. wall 208 and the ends of the 'wing' walls 228 and 251 were laid on flat slabs forming the floor of drain 212 running alongside 208. This 'wing' was 4.2 m. wide and at least 6.0 m. long; walls 228 and 251 were 0.75 m. and 0.65 m. wide respectively.

W. of wall 208 only a confined space was available for excavation in the trench next to the by-pass, and the high water level prevented more than a cursory examination of the earlier stratigraphy. Walls 228 and 251 were clearly built together with 208 upon the base slabs of drain 212 (Fig. 8). In the trench next to the by-pass 228 appeared in the E. section, but a modern ditch had destroyed any evidence on the W. side.

251 did not appear in this trench, but in line with its N. edge was the more southerly of a pair of upright slabs flanking a narrow drain channel 269 backfilled with yellow clay 266. The other end of this drain emerged alongside wall 251 at the N. end of drain 212, and here the yellow clay overlay clayey silt 211, which filled drain 212. At the junction of the drains there was no stone lining on the N. side of 269, and the S. side was formed by wall 251 (Fig. 8). 269 thus ran alongside wall 251 into 212, and was eventually backfilled with yellow clay 266.

At the W. end 269 sat in a wide but shallow feature 264, possibly a foundation trench. The drain lining was contiguous with the S. end of a narrow clay-bonded wall 255, also within 264, which ran N. at right angles to 269 for 2 m., and returned eastwards as wall 254. 255 and 254 consisted of large limestone blocks interspersed with much smaller stones, and were only 0.4 m. wide. The area enclosed by these walls contained no obvious floor horizons or distinct stratification.

On its W. side 255 was abutted by a layer of stones 265, also bedded upon 264. The northern limit of 265 was unclear (Fig. 7), but the S. edge was clearly defined by a row of large limestones, and abutted 256, a wide block of masonry whose N. edge continued the line of 251. This lay on the W. side of the modern drainage ditch, and so

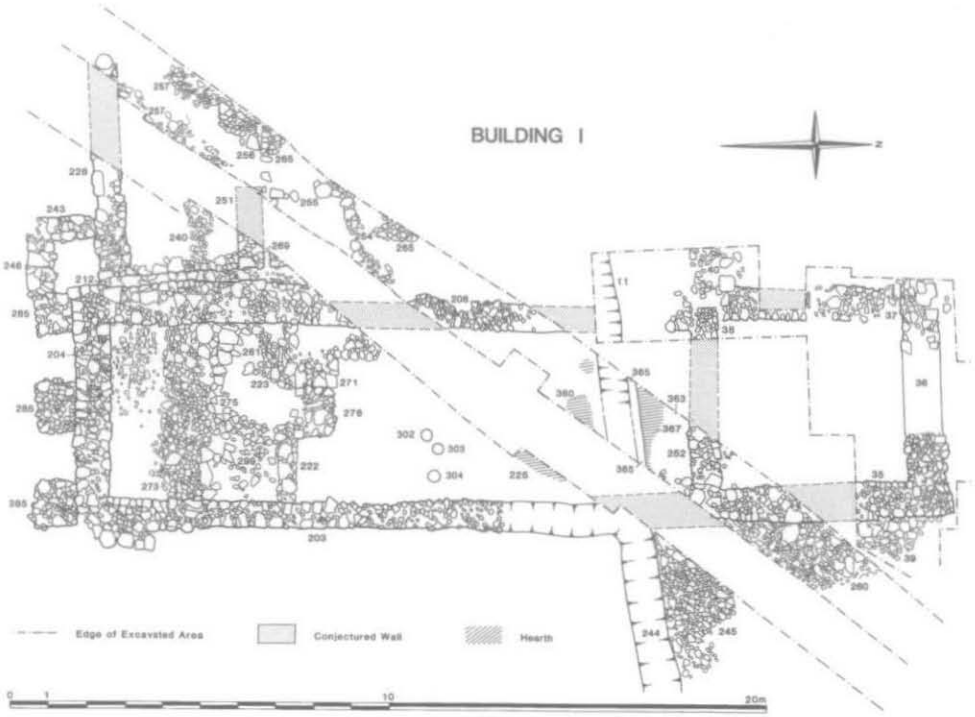

Fig. 7. Site A: Detailed plan of Building I, all phases.

had no direct relationship with 269, but it was bedded upon a layer of sand overlying a rubble foundation set in 264, and 256 is thus believed to be contemporary with, or a rebuilding of, wall 251.

Abutting the S. side of 256 was a cobbled surface 257, which extended all the way across the room S. to wall 228 (see Phase 3, Fig. 9). Layer 257 also occurred E. of the surviving end of 256 across the line of walls 251–256, showing that there was a gap between them. The foundation of 256 also ended on the W. side of the trench suggesting that this wall did not extend further E.

The gap between 251 and 256 on the N. side of this room was presumably for an entrance. 251 perhaps ended in line with the W. end of drain 269 and wall 255, making the entrance *c.* 1 m. wide. The small 'outshot' or porch 255–254 and stone platform 265 are contemporary. 265 may originally have been an extensive yard surface.

Inside the room between walls 228 and 251 the stratigraphic sequence was very similar to that in the main building. A thin occupation layer 325 accumulated over the pre-building soil surface, overlying the construction of drain 212 and abutting the walls. This is equivalent to layers 262 and 289 in the main part of the building.

S.E. of the building ditch 1734 was probably contemporary with its early use, both because of the date and because of the quantity of pottery found within it. 1734 cut ditches 1704 and 1711.

Just S. of Building I two limestone slabs were set on edge parallel to one another along either side of the ditch bottom (Fig. 5). These slabs were the full height of 1734 (0.4 m) and were presumably to support a wooden plank bridge for access to the building enclosure. For *c.* 1.5 m. W. of this there was rubble along the N. side of the ditch bottom, perhaps collapsed from a low wall alongside. E. of the slabs 1734 was obliterated by later ditches 1735 and 319 (Figs. 5 and 13), but re-emerged S. of these continuing up to and beneath the later Building III (Phase 4). The domestic pottery from 1734 was dominated by wide shallow pans, illustrating the emphasis on dairying in the early grange economy (Section 3.2; Figs. 70.1–4 and 70.7–8).

Drain 275 probably originally emptied into 1734, but 1734 was cut and replaced by ditch 1735, which ran parallel to 1734 along its N. side as far W. as the drain 275. Here the N. side of 1735 shelved up towards the drain exit, but yet another ditch 319 ran between them (see Phase 3). Beyond the drain 1735 turned away to the S., possibly respecting wall 307 which outside Building I may have continued to stand throughout Phases 2 and 3 (Figs. 5 and 9).

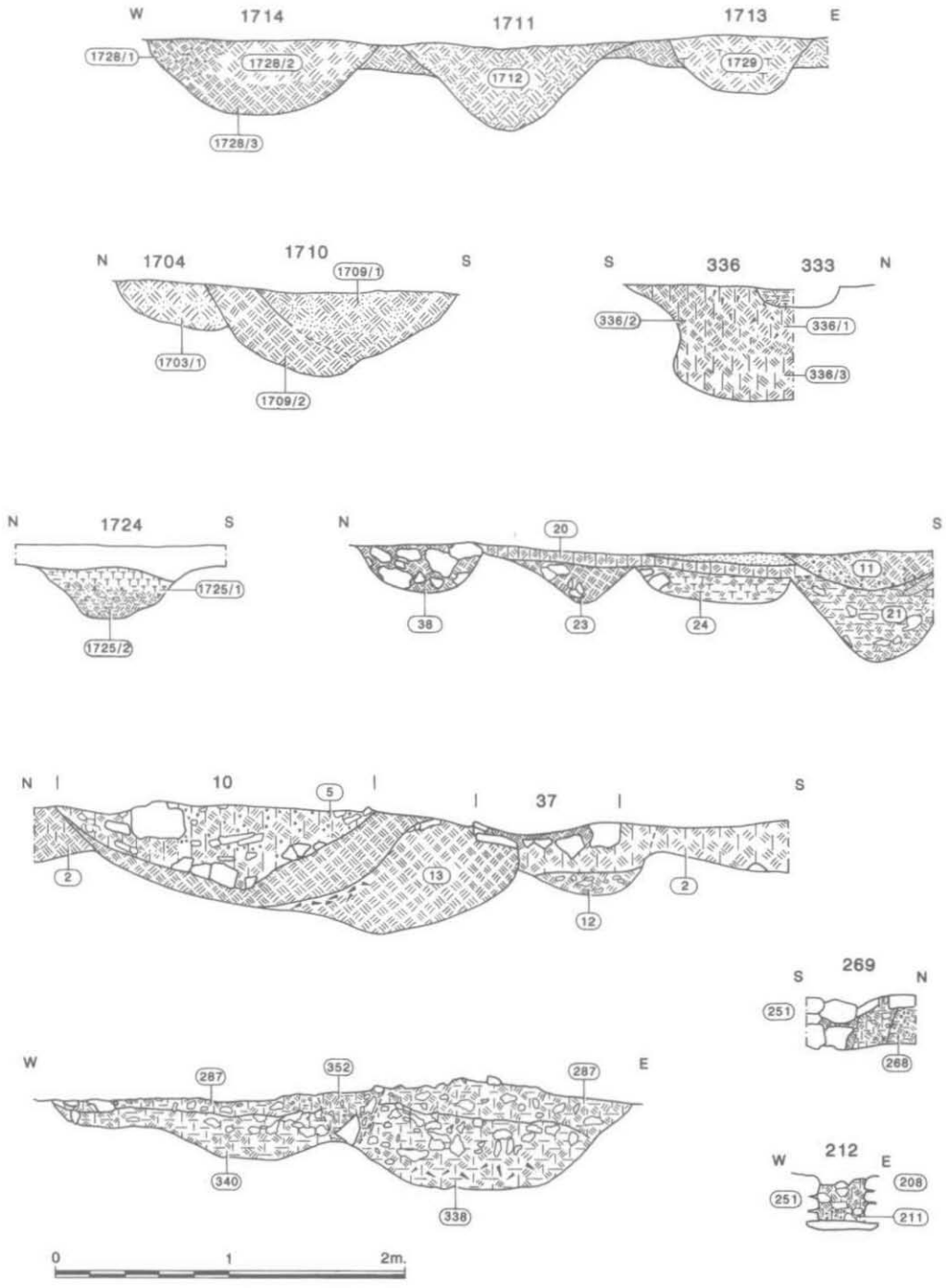

Fig. 8. Site A: Sections of pre-building features and of Building I.

The lower fill of 1735 was rich in carbonised grain and other charred material, and was overlain by a lens of charcoal (Section 4.3 and Table 12). Both fills contained much pottery of the first half of the 13th century (Section 3.2 and Fig. 70). Some sherds in the upper part of the ditch belong to the mid 13th century, perhaps indicating that 1735 remained open until then, but these sherds may alternatively belong to the clay layer 317 which infilled the top of both 1735 and later ditch cuts on its N. side (see Phase 4).

E. of Building I and N. of 1735 and 1734 another deep ditch 338 ran N. and then curved westwards. 338 was overlaid by Building II (see Phase 3); inside the building the ditch was numbered 327. A large assemblage of early 13th-century pottery including glazed tripod pitchers in Fabric Y (see Section 3.2) was recovered from 338, showing that 338 was contemporary with either 1734 or 1735, but the sherds were unfortunately lost during post-excavation. Together these ditches enclosed a yard just over 10 m. wide on the E. side of Building I, with an entrance between 4 m. and 6 m. wide.

Ditch 338 was not seen in the trenches to the W. Early 13th-century pottery was recovered from an early ditch or pit (13) sectioned at the N.W. corner of the building (Fig. 8).

On its W. side 338 cut an earlier shallow ditch 340. This ditch was not observed in the side of the ditches to the S., so must have ended adjacent to 338.

Both 338 and 340 were filled with limestone rubble and blue-grey clay, numbered variously 287 and 288 (see Phase 3). This rubble infill covered the whole of the ditches S. of Building II, but did not extend inside it, so was later than the construction of the building. Inside Building II, 338=327 had completely silted up when the walls were built; probably therefore 338 was deliberately dug out and filled with rubble to provide a hard-standing.

Phase 3

This phase is defined by the construction of Building II. Building II was a rectangle *c.* 19.2 m. long and 6.2 m. wide. The walls were largely robbed by trenches 250=16, 210, 329 and 209 on the W., N., E. and S. respectively. Much of the foundation of the S. wall 358 however survived, *c.* 0.7 m. wide and 0.3 m. deep at most. It consisted of roughly squared limestones laid in courses and bonded with grey clay, and the surface of the foundation was covered with a spread of loose white mortar. Towards the S.E. corner one course of the wall proper survived; this was only 0.58 m. wide, but was built of carefully-dressed limestone blocks bonded with this same white mortar.

The foundations were shallow where they bottomed on undisturbed gravel, but deeper along the E. part of 358 and the E. wall 341, where the building overlay a succession of Phase 1 ditches: 1790, 1798=314 and 311=1788. At the W. end the little of the foundation which survived was apparently laid together with a spread of limestone cobbling, numbered 39, 245 and 260 (Fig. 9).

There was a projecting buttress at the S.E. corner and probably another, 370, on the N.W. The former was clearly original, but the N. wall had been completely robbed adjacent to 370. As with 272 in Building I, the buttresses may have been constructed because of the proximity of a ditch outside. Around the eastern part of 210 and the E. side of the building ran a drainage ditch, 1771=342. The lip of a ditch was also observed adjacent to 370 on the N.W., and it is believed that 1771 was continuous along the N. side of Building II, and became ditch 10 around the N. end of Building I. At the S.E. corner of Building II 342 kinked slightly around the corner, before continuing southwards.

The lowest fill of the ditch, 1772, abuts the bottom of the foundations for walls 210 and 341 (Fig. 10) and these foundations lie along the inner side of the ditch bottom suggesting that 1771=342 was dug when Building II was constructed. Around the N.E. corner of Building II these earliest ditch silts were overlain by a course of stonework parallel to the walls of the building Figs. 9 and 15), forming a stone-lined drain 342=1774=1775. Further drain lining was identified at the S.E. corner, and a stone pier 356 was found in the ditch bottom S. of the building (Fig. 15). This lay in the middle of the ditch, and may have supported a footbridge (cf. Phase 2, ditch 1734).

There was no stone lining in ditch 10, which was wider and deeper than 1771, as it lay further up-slope (Fig. 8). Two cuts are recorded, and the fill of the earlier (15) may correspond to 1772 (see Fig. 10). The S.W. end of ditch 10 was not seen, but no continuation was observed alongside wall 208, so it is assumed that the ditch ended before reaching stone feature 40 (Fig. 9). Pottery from 10, 15 (Fig. 71.4), 1771 and 342 dates to the mid to late 13th century.

Inside Building II no internal divisions were apparent. A stone-lined and capped drain 220 ran across the floor following the E. edge of Phase 2 ditch 338, and carried on through the S. wall onto the cobbled hard-standing 287. Where 220 crossed 358 only the foundations below the level of the drain survived, so no direct relationship to the building was obtained. Since however 220 so closely followed the line of 338, and continued across 287 as a shallow channel flanked by lines of stones on edge, integral with the surrounding cobbling, 220 must have been contemporary with the building. It was probably intended to carry some of the water from ditch 10, perhaps acting as an overflow for ditch 1771=342.

The drain channel petered out *c.* 2 m. S. of the building, but towards the S. edge of the hard-standing 287 a small gully 352 continued southwards along the top of 338 into the E.–W. ditches S. of Building I. This was later cut by ditch 344 (see below).

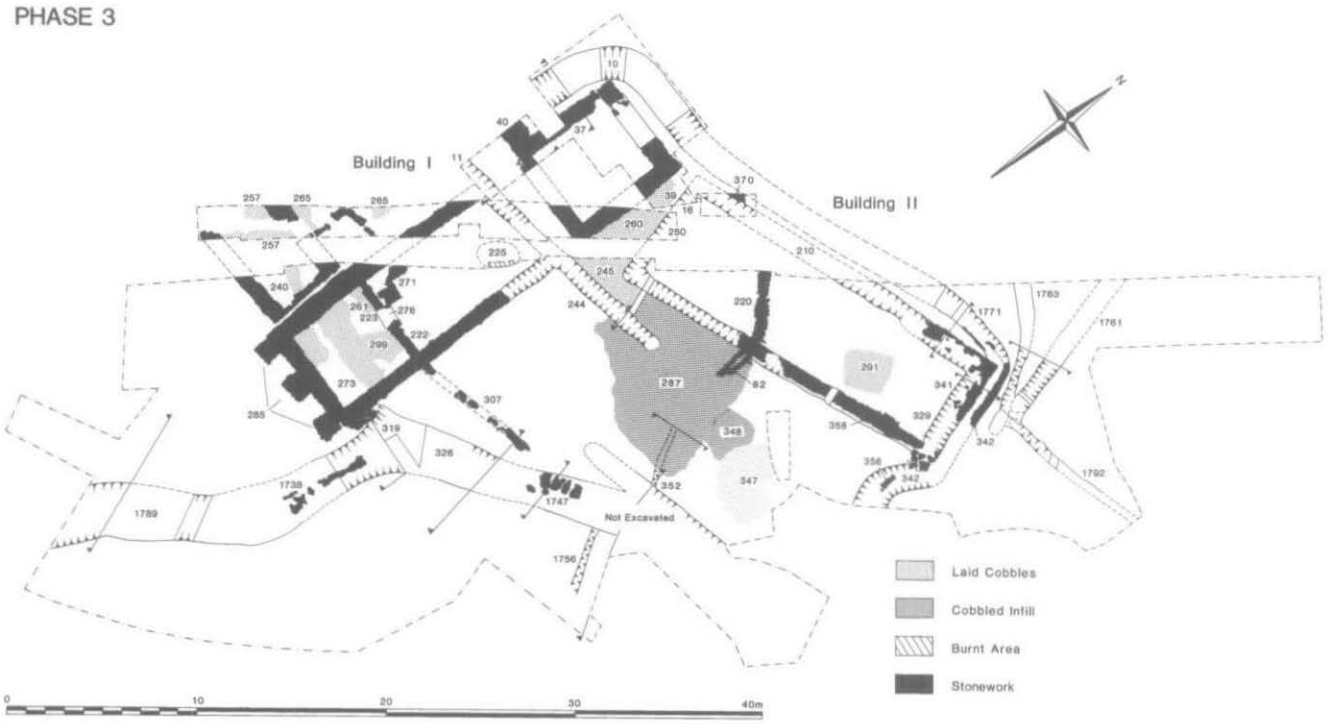

Fig. 9. Site A: Plan of Phase 3, mid 13th century. Building II and alterations to Building I.

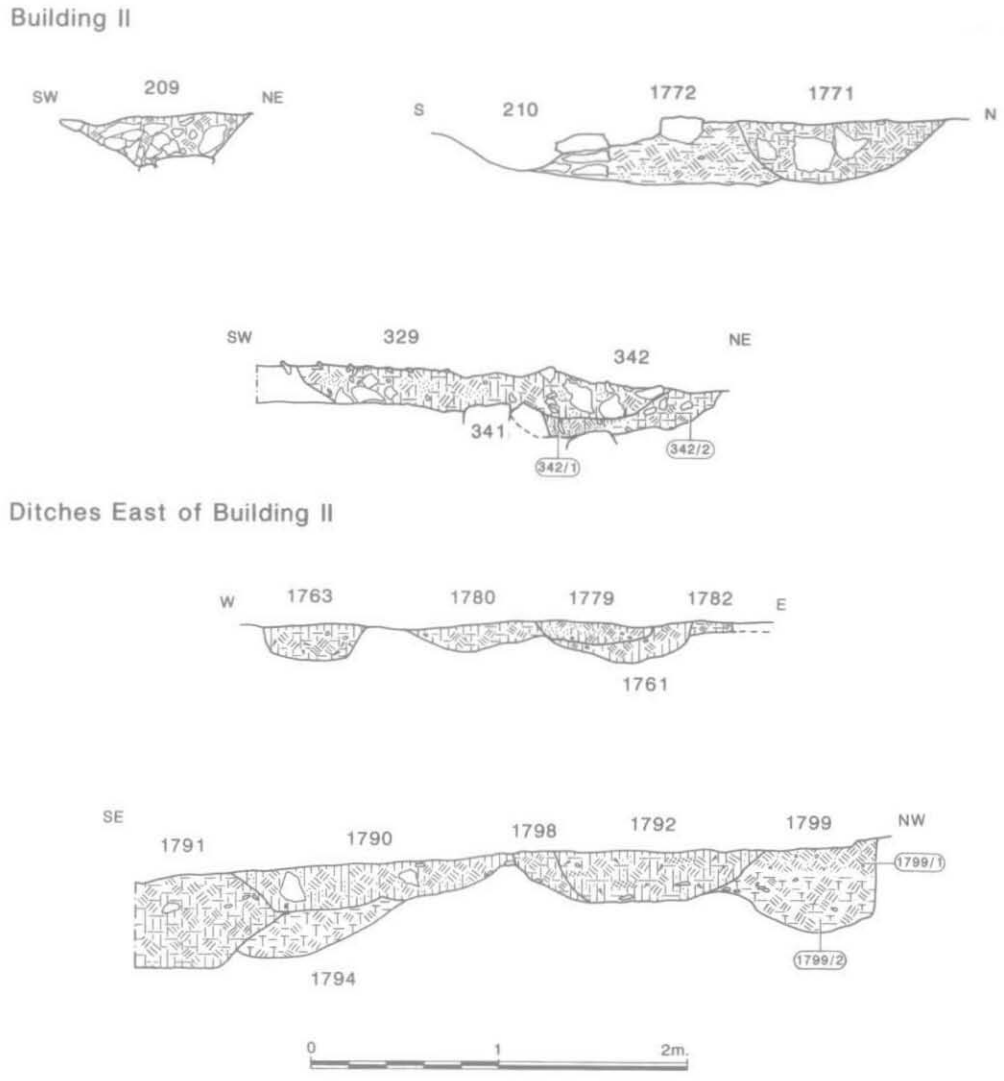

Fig. 10. Site A: Sections of Building II and ditches to its E.

There were few floor layers within Building II. The construction trench of drain 220 and the floor area to the W. was overlain by 320, which was probably upcast from the drain trench, and towards the E. end patches of pebbles may indicate a floor surface. This was overlain by a series of clay-loam spreads, numbered 291, 216 and 218, which did not extend as far as the walls in any direction, and were not compacted or obviously trampled. They were directly overlain by 207, the stony post-abandonment ploughsoil (see Phase 5). Finds from Building II and from the adjacent areas outside were scarce and gave no clue to its function.

Building I was modified either at the same time as or shortly after the construction of Building II (see Figs. 7 and 9). The digging of ditch 10 around the N. and N.W. sides of the building rendered the byre at the N. end of the building inaccessible, and the open W. side was enclosed by wall 37. 37 was butted-up against 36 and 38, and was bonded with grey, not yellow, clay. Only a single course of this wall survived, and there was no foundation trench; the wall overlay a linear feature 12 on the same alignment and two pits 13 and 17, earlier features perhaps of Phase

Fig. 11. Site A, May 1984. Building II looking W.

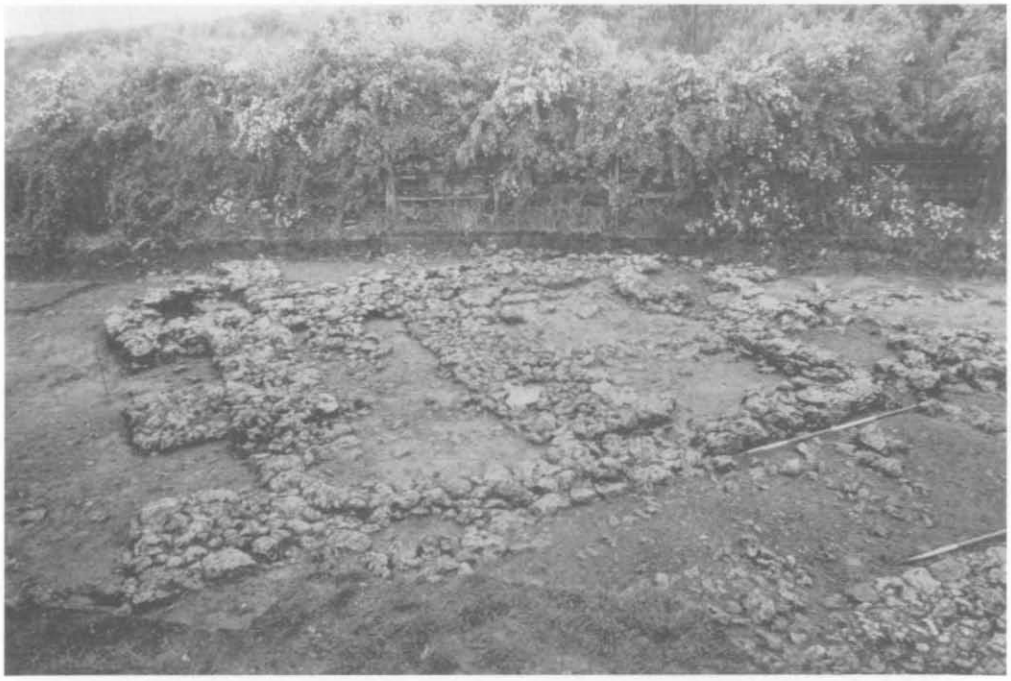

Fig. 12. Site A: Detail of S. end of Building I from the E.

1 (Figs. 4 and 8). There were no surviving floor levels within this room, nor any indication of the position of the entrance (see Figs. 7 and 8).

The outer edge of wall 37 projected beyond the end of wall 38. At the S.W. corner of 37 was a large flat slab, and continuing the line of 38 W. from this was a spread of stones numbered 40 (Fig. 7). These may indicate a dwarf wall or foundation for a timber wall running W. from the junction of 37 and 38 at the end of ditch 10.

Within the main part of the building wall 301 abutting 203 was replaced by a longer wall 222, and a similar wall 223 was built onto wall 208 opposite, dividing off a room *c.* 4.5 m. square at the S. end. 222 and 223 were 0.5 m. wide and were constructed of large unmortared limestones set on a thin bed of orange sand, surviving two and three courses high respectively.

The new room was entered through a central doorway 0.9 m. wide between 222 and 223; across this entrance were a number of large stone slabs (276) probably forming a threshold. The large slabs were surrounded by a scatter of smaller limestones, perhaps suggesting that there was once a more extensive stone floor here.

Within the southern room the slabs covering drain 275 were overlaid by a band of stone cobbling 273, which was linked to 276 by a further spread of cobbling 299. The stones were not heavily worn. In the N.W. angle between 208 and 223 another area of cobbling 261 was laid, and there were also more jumbled patches of stones over the floor S. of 273.

Both 261 and partition wall 223 were constructed upon occupation layer 262 (see Phase 2). 262 continued to accumulate on either side of 273, and represents an exposed soil surface continually reworked by wear, except where protected as beneath cobbling 261. It contained a sizeable assemblage of domestic pottery, most of it very small sherds.

In the room W. of wall 208 a similar band of cobbling 240 was laid in a shallow trench cut into layer 325 and into the soil below. 240 ran parallel to the N. and S. walls of the room and was in line with 273. 240 was stratigraphically equivalent to cobbling 257 further W., which extended across the full width of the room to wall 228, and also occurred across the line of walls 251–256 (see Fig. 7). 325 continued to accumulate on either side of 240, as did 262 around 273.

Just N. of wall 223 and occupying the corner between it and wall 208 was a stone platform 271. This ran parallel to both walls, 1.1 m. wide alongside 223, 0.90 m. wide alongside 208, its inside edges defined by contiguous large limestones forming a right-angled corner. 271 extended the full 1.8 m. length of 223 up to the slabs of threshold 276; alongside 208 it ran for 2.1 m., its N.E. corner lying just inside the trench. The stones were not however continuous right into the angle of 208 and 223, a triangular area here being bare. Here a greyish-brown clay loam 270 accumulated abutting the stones; both 270 and 271 overlay occupation soil 289=277.

271 is interpreted as the stone base for a wooden stair up to a first floor chamber over the S. end of the building. The doorway into this chamber lay directly over the doorway between 222 and 223, large slabs at the corners of 276 supporting a platform at the top of the stairs spanning the doorway (see also Fig. 100).

At the N. end of the main room charcoal 366 on hearth 367 was cut through by the foundation trench 365 of a new wall 372 (Fig. 7). On either side of the foundation trench the hearth material was thrown out as upcast layers 361 and 362. N. of 362 was a levelling-up layer of sandy clay 363 overlying 289, and alongside the edge of 365 was a kerb of limestones 364. At the W. edge of the building a similar upcast and levelling layer 20 ran from the N. edge of the robber trench of this wall up to wall 38, which it abutted (Fig. 8). Trench 365 was 0.15 m. deep. Only the N. side of the foundation trench survived, and none of the wall itself, but its robber trench, numbered variously 11 and 244, suggested that it was 0.7–0.8 m. wide. This wall ran approximately E.–W. *c.* 1.2 m. S. of wall 38 and at a slightly oblique angle to it, diverging from 38 to the W. The robber trench continued beyond wall 208 on the W. but was only followed for *c.* 1.3 m. outside it, where it directly overlay the earlier Phase 1 ditch 21. On the E. the robber trench also continued beyond wall 203, and was numbered 244. It ran for *c.* 6.7 m., ending part of the way across stone platform 287=288, into whose top it cut (Fig. 9).

244 marked the southern boundary of stone cobbling 39=245=260, which overlay pit 17 and ditches 321 and 324 and infilled the whole of the area between Building I and Building II. The cobbling abutted wall 35 on the W., stopped short of ditch 10 on the N. and was cut by robber trench 250 on the E. It continued around the S.W. corner of Building II, but faded out just short of cobbling 287. The surface of 39=245=260 was however higher than that of 287, which was level with the soil beneath 245. This demonstrates the contemporaneity of Building II with Building I, and of wall 372 with both.

Although not parallel to the original structure, wall 372 may have formed a cross-passage with pre-existing wall 252; cobbling 39=245=260 shows that wall 35 at the N. end of Building I continued in use. It is also unlikely that the shallow foundation trench 365 could have supported a new gable end to the building. At the E. end robber trench 244 ran a little way across 287 before ending, implying that its wall had done likewise (Fig. 9).

Within Building I the S. edge of robber trench 11 cut floor layer 224 which overlay layer 289 in the central room. This was over 0.1 m. deep and was flush with the top of stone features 276 and 271, and was probably laid when wall 372 was built or shortly afterwards. 224 was cut into by a shallow pit 225 on the edge of the excavation. This was filled with dark grey clay and charcoal, and the charcoal may indicate a replacement hearth for 367 beneath the unexcavated baulk adjacent (see Fig. 9).

The courtyard S. of Building II and E. of drain 220 was not examined in detail for lack of time. All of this area

was covered with a spread of irregular limestones 239, which probably derive from the demolition of the buildings (see Phase 5); one small sondage was dug down to subsoil, but did not reveal any features (see Fig. 3). Stone cobbling 287 was dumped to fill in ditch 338 (see Phase 2 above), and did not extend further E. Running parallel to wall 358 across the top of 287 for a distance of over 4 m. was a narrow slot 286 with a semi-circular cross-section. This was only 0.3 m. from the edge of the robbing 209, and was probably a structural feature connected with the building. Since however it was visible in layer 239 overlying 287 it was perhaps dug later on in Phase 4 (see Fig. 14).

S. of Building II the E. edge of drain 220 was abutted by an occupation spread 331 up against the building, and E. of 331 a spread of construction debris 300 overlay the clay subsoil. Areas of possible limestone cobbling such as 347 and 348 were found S. of 331 below 239, but these produced no dating evidence.

E. of Building II ditch 1763 clearly respected the end of the building, and both 1792 and 1761 also ended where 1763 terminated, 1761 cutting both the other ditches. 1792 perpetuated the line of the ditches that predated Building II, (see Fig. 4); 1761 was at right angles to it. None of these ditches contained any finds.

During Phase 3 the ditches S. of the buildings also underwent several modifications. Ditch 1735 silted up and was cut across by gully 1749=1756, which may have been a continuation of gully 352 (Fig. 9). 1735 was also cut by feature 353=1751, on the E. edge of the site (Fig. 13).

Gully 352 was cut by 344=1754, the northernmost of the complex of ditches running from S.W. to N.E. Its terminal was not seen, but 344 must have ended short of Building I (Fig. 9). On the N.E. 344 ran into the other similarly aligned ditches, though its relationship to them was not established.

These features (1735=1800, 353 and 1749) were cut through by ditch 1789=1737=319. This lay E. of 1800 at the S. edge of the site, but crossed over to pass closer to the corner of Building I and ran off eastwards on the N. side of 1735 (see Fig. 10). S. of Building I 1789 and 1800 were excavated together and numbered 1716.

E. of Building I, 1789 was numbered 326 and 1747. Here it presented a very broad profile possibly made up of two cuts. Due to the high water table it was not possible to establish the sequence of events with certainty. There was a ridge of large limestone rubble in mottled clay along the middle of the ditch bottom. This was numbered 328 and 1768 E. of Building I.

Several very large flat capping slabs were supported upon 1768; these bridged the ditch for 2–3 m., providing access wide enough for a cart. The stones in clay, however, continued 2 m. E. of the capping slabs, and *c.* 6 m. to the W., up to the outflow of drain 275. Possibly the stones in clay were originally capped throughout their length, forming a crude drain. Below the capstones the ridge was very roughly faced with up to 3 courses of stones; on the N. side the capstones rested upon only 1 layer of stones, below which the sides and bottom of the ditch were lined with stiff yellow clay. There was, however, no visible difference between the fill of 319 N. and S. of 1768.

S. of Building I, large limestones without clay bonding were found along the upper part of the E. edge of the ditch. These may have tumbled in from a wall alongside, since at the S. edge of the excavation a small area of large flat limestones (1727) was found just E. of the ditch edge. 1727 was, however, only 1 course deep and was only traced for 1 m., and the stones could instead have been brought in to backfill the ditch (see below).

Overlying both 1768 and 1717 the ditch fill was numbered variously 1715, 319/2, 1747/2, 326/6 and 1767/2 (see Figs. 9 and 13). This fill came up to the top of the outlet of drain 275; the drain fill 211=318 was not excavated where the drain passed under wall 203, but must have accumulated during the deposition of 319/2.

The top of the ditch was infilled with further dumped layers, 317=319/1=1786. S.E. of Building I a large spread of stiff clay and flat limestones (1738=1707=1708) lay along the top of the middle of the ditch, and a dump of limestones in loose sandy soil 1705 was found at the S. end of the trench. Overlying 317 etc. and spreading beyond the ditches was yet another dump layer 316, a grey clay containing pockets of sand. This continued S. of Building I, where it was numbered 249.

Layer 249 abutted three almost square buttresses, numbered 285a, b and c, added to support wall 204. These were constructed of roughly-dressed limestones bonded with grey clay, were 1.0–1.2 m. wide and projected up to 1 m. from the S. end of the building (Figs. 7 and 12). They were built without foundations and survived *c.* 0.25 m. high. The middle buttress overlay feature 1797, and ditch 319 passed within 0.10 m. of the easternmost one, but there was no relationship. It is uncertain when the buttresses were added, but they provide further support for the suggestion that Building I had an upper storey.

Phase 4

Over the infilled ditches S. of Building I another stone building was constructed, parallel to Building II and of very similar dimensions. This is called Building III, and was *c.* 18.5 m. long and nearly 7 m. wide (Figs. 14 and 15). On the W. and N. sides, where the walls were built over the ditch fills, the foundations were deep and had survived up to 0.55 m. high; the S. wall, which was founded on undisturbed gravel, was shallower and had been completely robbed out (Fig. 13). Only the inside edge of the E. wall 371 at the N. end lay within the excavation, but the foundations of this also survived.

The surviving walls were generally 0.9 m. wide, built of roughly-dressed limestones bonded with clay: 279 on the

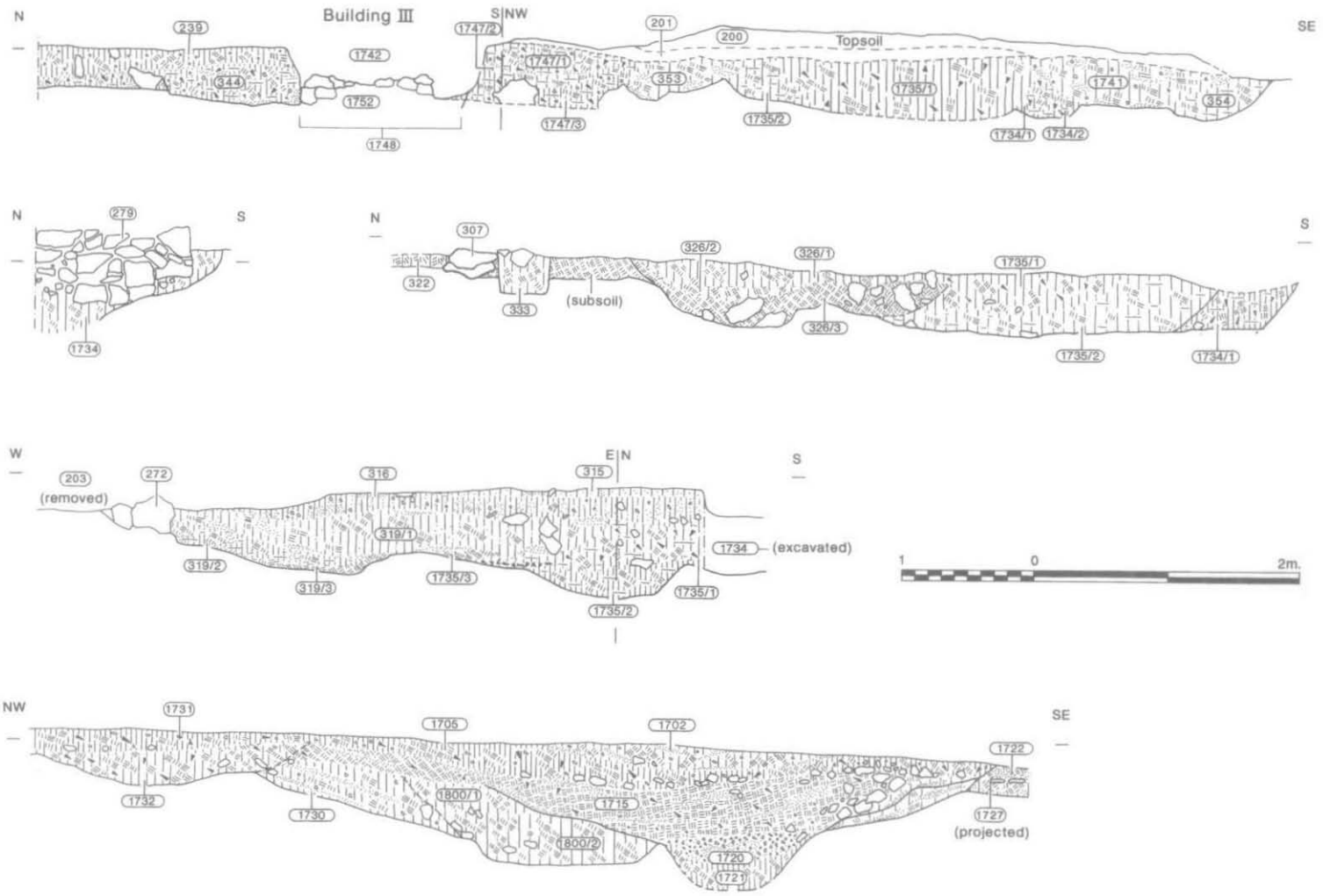

Fig. 13. Site A: Sections of Building III and the ditches S. and E. of Building I.

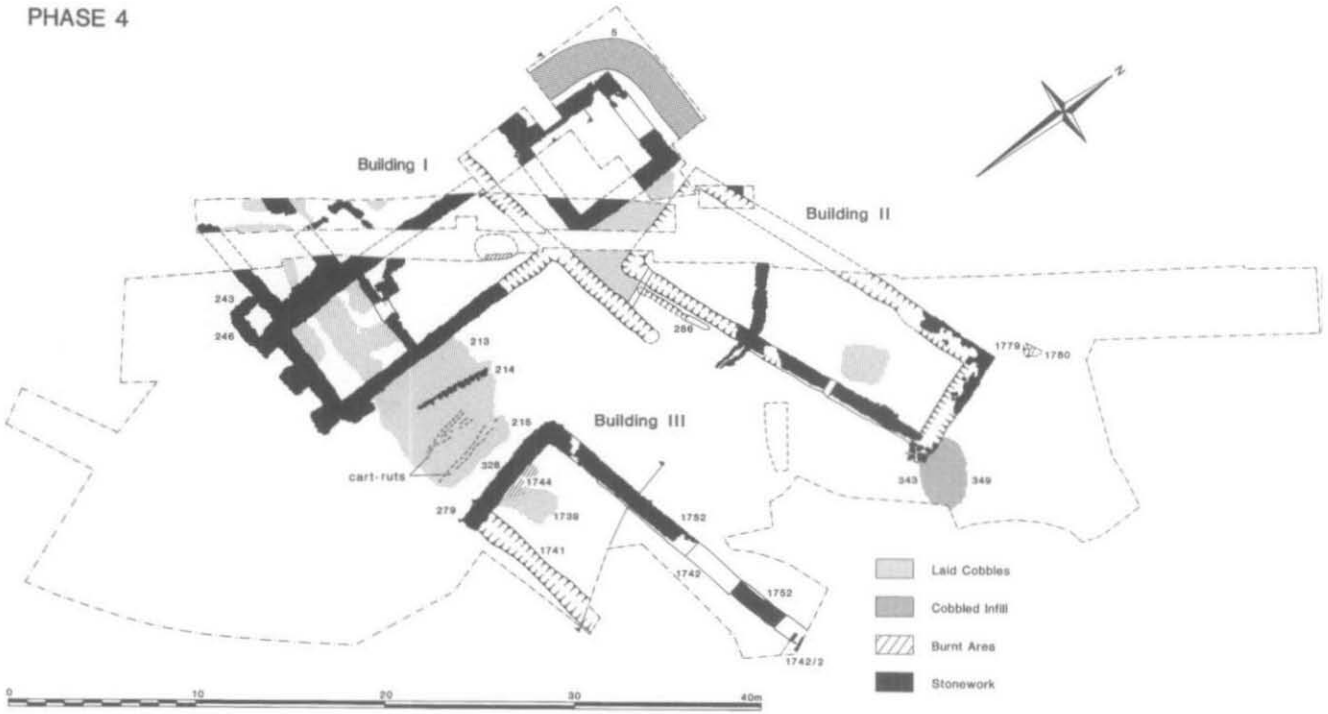

Fig. 14. Site A: Plan of Phase 4, late 13th century. Buildings I, II and III and the cobbled yard.

W. had yellow clay bonding, 1752 on the N. was bonded with grey clay. 1752 was set in a wide construction trench 1748=1753, which cut 1747=1767 (see Fig. 13), but no clear construction trench for wall 279 was observed. The robber trench of the S. wall 1741 was only 0.35 m. deep and 0.65 m. wide at the bottom, but widened out to *c.* 1.5 m. at the level where it was truncated by later medieval ploughing (see Fig. 13).

Inside the building the W. wall was abutted by layer 1740, a grey clay make-up layer similar to 316, which overlay the ditch fills N. and W. of Building III. 1740 only occupied the S. half of the interior. N. of it was 1746, which overlay the capstones of drain 1747. 1746 included limestones and pebbles within it, and may originally have been a laid surface.

The stratigraphy in the N.W. corner of the building was better-preserved than elsewhere, due partly to the protection afforded by the surviving walls and partly to the slumping of layers over the infilled ditch 1747. Here there survived in small patches a second cobbled layer 1739 overlain by burning 1744, the site of a temporary fire up against the W. wall. This was in turn overlain by gravelly layer 1743, possibly further floor make-up. Building III thus had at least one cobbled floor surface, 1739, and possibly as many as three in succession. All these however only occurred within 2 m. of the W. wall; E. of this a patch of stones 1766 was found over 1740, but other traces of flooring were absent, probably removed by later ploughing.

To the N. and W. of Building III 316=1787 abutted Building III, Building I and the stub of wall 307. Wall 307 could conceivably have remained in use during Phases 2 and 3, forming a barrier between the yard outside Buildings I and II and the drainage ditches to the S., or the wall stub may simply have been left proud when Building I was constructed.

Between Buildings I and III layer 316, together with 307 and 322 belonging to Phase 1 or 2, was overlain by another make-up layer 315=274, which formed the base for a cobbled surface of small pebbles called variously 283, 308 and 281. Down the middle of this cobbling ran a slight V-profiled channel 278, consisting of two lines of large inclined stones (along the line of 214 on Fig. 14). Cart ruts were visible across the surface of 283, running N.–S. between the buildings; these were spaced 1.45–1.6 m. apart (centre to centre) and were up to 0.05 m. deep (Fig. 14).

The cobbling was confined to the area adjoining the end wall of Building III. The cobbling did not extend as far as the wall of either building; close to Building I and Building III the pebbly make-up (numbered 247 and 282 respectively) was left exposed. Pottery from the make-up for the cobbling is largely residual, dating to the mid-13th century, though a few sherds are dateable to the late 13th or early 14th centuries.

Drain 278 was later infilled with close-packed small pebbles and a new cobbled surface of large flat limestones 214 was laid over the top. Along its W. side this was edged with a kerb of squared limestone blocks, not quite parallel to Building I. In the gap between this and Building I the original cobbling 281=283, here called 213, was left exposed. This cobbling was little worn, in contrast to the cobbling around 278 and that of 214 overlying it, showing that traffic was heaviest midway between the two buildings. Close to Building I an occupation layer 274 developed over the make-up and the edge of 213, which contained pottery of the late 13th century.

Outside Building II parallel slot 286, which apparently cut cobbled spread 239 overlying 287, may have been dug at this time. Layer 239, however, was not a single deposit, being variously areas of genuine cobbling, soil over and between rubble infilling such as 287 and robbing debris from the buildings. 239 may here simply represent the top of 287, and 286, which at the W. end respects platform 245, could date from any period within Phases 3 or 4. Within Building I further occupation soils accumulated in the room at the S. Overlying 262 was 231, which masked all but the E. end of 273 and the westernmost capstones of 275. 231 also abutted 261, which stood proud of the general level of the floor, showing that where unprotected the soil surface of the floor had been worn away. In the N.E. part of the room there was a roughly circular patch of burning upon 231, probably where a brazier stood. On the surface of this layer there was a scatter of pottery and of charcoal flecks, numbered 232=306. This assemblage includes late 13th- or early 14th-century sherds, and is the latest within Building I.

In the room W. of wall 208 an occupation layer very similar to layer 231 accumulated over layer 325 N. of cobbling 240.

Two short lengths of wall, 243, running S. from 228, and 246, running W. from the westernmost buttress, enclosed a square *c.* 1.2 m. across outside the S.W. corner of the building (Fig. 14). They were constructed of roughly-dressed limestones bonded with a stiff grey clay, and survived up to 0.33 m. and 3 courses high. Walls 243 and 246 were built upon 249=316.

The area enclosed by 243 and 246 was extremely small, and there was no difference between the soils inside (241) and outside (233). Drain 212 ran into the area enclosed by these walls (see Fig. 7), but seems to have been blocked before they were built, since there was no accumulation of fine silt such as was found along the length of 212. The upper part of 212 had stones along most of its length, and across both the S. and N. ends there were lines of stones apparently blocking the ends of the drain. These were probably inserted when drain 269 was filled with yellow clay.

The absence of soil differences inside and outside walls 243 and 246 suggests that it was not a garderobe or even a pen, but conceivably the walls might have supported an external staircase.

At some point the ditch running around the N. side of Buildings I and II was infilled. Adjacent to Building I rubble was tipped into the wet clay ditch fills, but the majority of ditch 10 was infilled with mixed sand, gravel and

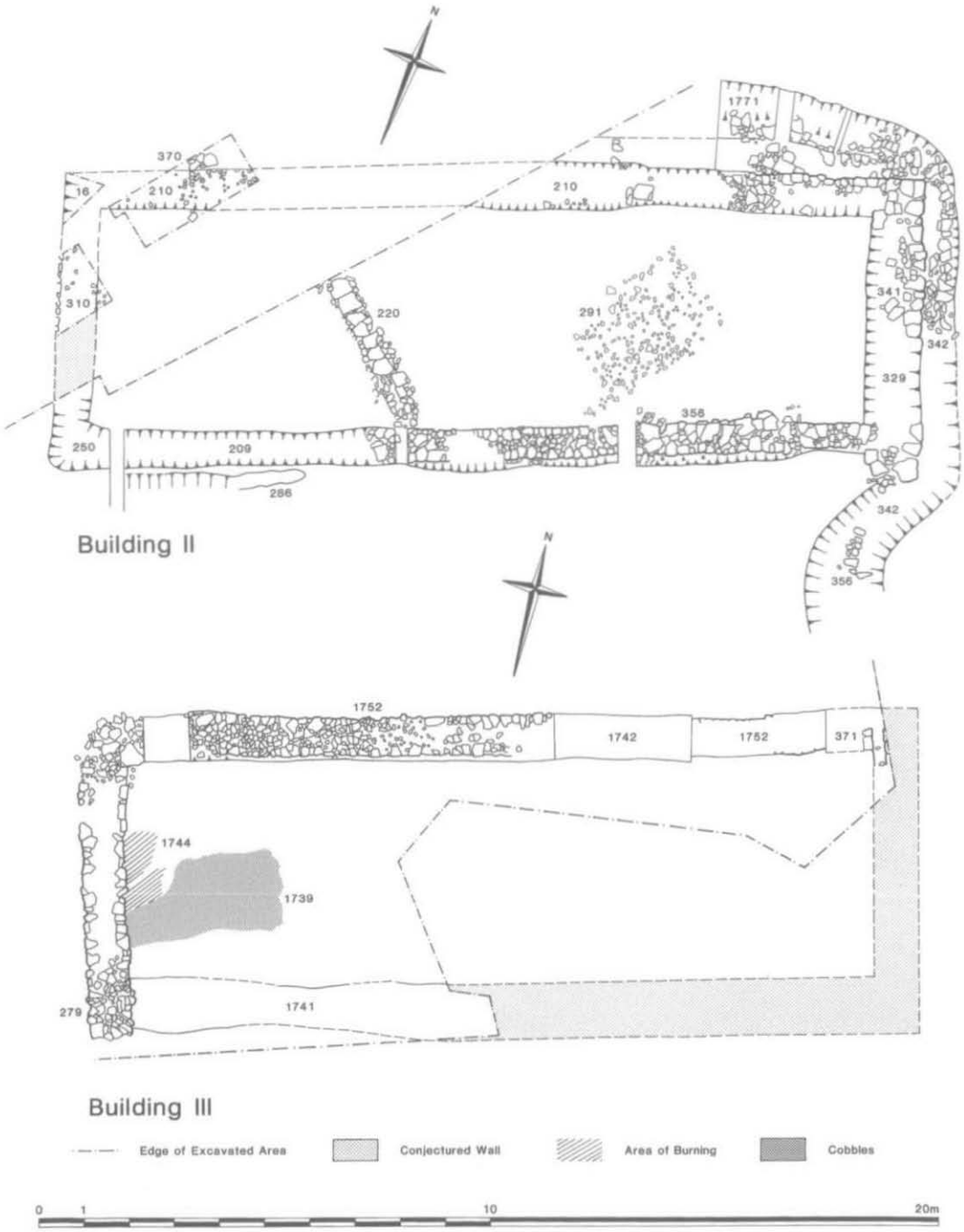

Fig. 15. Site A: Comparative plans of Buildings II and III.

limestone rubble, layer 5. At the top this was surfaced with a more compact layer of limestones; these were not, however, rounded cobbles, and formed an irregular surface. Early 14th-century pottery was recovered from this surface.

Where the ditch re-entered the excavation at the E. end of Building II it was partly filled with clay and stones 351. Along the E. end of Building II there were fallen courses of squared blocks in the ditch, probably derived from the wall 341 rather than from the drain lining 342. This was overlain by sandy make-up 343 and by rough limestone cobbling 349 right up to the walls of Building II on the E. and SE. Other patches of sandy loam like 1779, which infilled the top of former ditch 1761 E. of Building II, may be contemporary with 343.

The infilling of this ditch seems to have followed the demolition of Building II. It is possible that this occurred at the start of Phase 4, since drainage ditches were abandoned on the S. side of the site at this time, which would imply that Building III was a replacement for Building II. There is, however, no evidence for occupation or laid surfaces over Building II, and the infilling may have been part of a general levelling when the site was abandoned in Phase 5.

Phase 5: abandonment

The walls of all three buildings were robbed down to foundation level, and the walls of Building II, wall 372 and part of wall 203 in Building I and the S. wall of Building III to the bottom of the foundations.

At the S. end of Building I occupation layer 232 was overlain by 230, a mottled layer of clay lumps and limestones. 230 was confined to the interior of Building I, but is interpreted as a destruction layer derived largely from the clay bonding of the walls when they were being robbed. This interpretation is borne out by the pottery found within it, a small assemblage of early 13th-century character.

230 was overlain by layer 229 which masked the robber trenches of walls 203 and 204 and sealed the latest occupation in the W. 'wing'. 229 contained fragments of an early 14th-century bottle. Outside the building a similar soil 206 overlay cobbling layers 213–215.

229 was overlain by a stony layer numbered 258=1 and 205 over Building I, 201 and 202 outside to the S. and E., 207 within Building II, 239 in the courtyard S. of Building II and 1784 and 1785 overlying the E. end of that building. All the stone was small irregular fragments, and in insufficient quantity to suggest that any of the buildings had simply collapsed rather than being robbed. This was a ploughsoil in which the stone discarded from robbing had been reworked.

The date of the pottery from the robber trenches 209, 210, 244 and 1742 is late 13th- or early 14th-century, as is the date of overlying layers 229 and 206=226. This may however date the latest phase of occupation rather than the robbing. The ploughsoils contained mostly residual 13th- or early 14th-century sherds; there was only one later medieval sherd and three 19th-century sherds.

A late 17th-century field boundary ditch 234 running S. was found just S.W. of Building I, and a modern pipe-trench N.E. of Building II (Fig. 3).

2.2 SITE B: THE WESTERN ENCLOSURE

Summary

Site B lay in the south-east corner of the field west of the farm, within an enclosure defined on the north and west sides by a ditch, and on the east by a hollow lined with willow trees. Ridge-and-furrow on an east–west alignment ran up to the enclosure on the west side and continued north of it.

Early in the 13th century (Phase 1) the site was crossed by ditches and gullies on N.–S. and E.–W. alignments, none of which contained many finds. These features suggest a system of rectilinear enclosures (compare Site A phase 1). During the mid and later 13th century a large stone hearth was constructed and several pits were dug, indicating domestic occupation close by. An almost complete tripod pitcher was also found, buried upside down.

Towards the end of the 13th century (Phase 2) a succession of thin gravel floors, some bounded by linear bands of clay, were laid in the centre of the site. These are interpreted as belonging to at least one clay-walled structure (Building VI), though the limits of the floors and clay bands were not established within the excavation. From the associated pottery the building or buildings appear to have remained in use until at least the mid-14th century.

During the later 14th century (Phase 3) the E. end of Building VI was overlain by a stone platform,

Fig. 16. Site B: Detailed plan of excavated stone features of all phases.

interpreted as the floor for a timber-framed replacement. S. of Building VI further clay bands were overlain by stone Building IV. This began as a single room 7.7 m. × 3.8 m. internally, with a door in the middle of the S. side. There was only one internal feature, a pit, and the pottery from this was of later 13th-century manufacture. The E. part of this room, however, overlay most of the floors associated with the clay-walled Building VI, and so Building IV was most likely constructed around the middle of the 14th century.

Building IV was later (Phase 4) extended E. by 13 m. into a range of rooms 22.7 m. long. There were probably three new rooms in the eastern extension: the westernmost contained a central stone hearth and a corner oven, and was probably the kitchen, the central room had a stone bench along the E. wall, and the floor of the easternmost room was partly paved. The little pottery recovered from the interior suggests late 14th- and early 15th-century occupation, and two silver pennies, the later minted in 1442 A.D., were found in the E. room just below the post-abandonment deposits.

Building IV was abutted on the S. side by an E.–W. cobbled road. S. of this were the stubs of further walls, belonging either to pens or buildings.

In the 15th century (Phase 5) a barn or shed with dwarf stone walls and earth floor (Building V) was built flanking the S. side of the cobbled road. This remained in use after Building IV had been abandoned. Another probable domestic building which may have been in use at this time is Building XIV, a section through which was recorded during salvage. (Figs. 1 and 24.)

From pottery found outside, Building V probably continued in use into the 16th century, but during this century all of this site was abandoned, and thereafter (Phase 6) only stray artefacts from the farm to the E. occur.

Introduction

A north–south trench *c.* 4 m. wide was excavated in the middle of the enclosure. This revealed stone buildings, which were occupied from the later 14th to the 16th century, on both sides of a cobbled road running from east to west. Beneath the stone buildings were occupation spreads and features of the 13th century, but funds did not permit full examination of these. On the basis of these discoveries a larger excavation was planned, aiming to recover a substantial part both of the 13th-century and later occupations. With the help of contingency funding from English Heritage this finally took place during late October and November of 1984. The area available for excavation was limited by the position of the houses planned for the new development, beneath which excavation was not permitted down to the 13th-century levels. Part of the enclosure had been destroyed by a large water-main running north–south through the middle, whose construction had not been monitored archaeologically (Fig. 16). Within the remaining area the main threat was to the northern part of the enclosure, the whole of which was stripped; additional trenches were dug both east and west of the original trench to recover the plan of the main domestic building, Building IV. The southern part of the enclosure was not investigated, but with the exception of one or two drain trenches the stratigraphy here was untouched, and still survives in the gardens of the new houses.

Phase 1

The subsoil was yellow Oxford clay with patches of darker gleyed clay. The earliest features were ditches 574, 575, 620 and 623 forming a north–south by east–west grid (Fig. 18 Phase 1); one of these produced pottery of the early 13th century. These ditches may represent parcelling-out of this area (compare Site A Phase 1) but no complete enclosure lay within the excavated area. Site B was defined on the W. and N. sides by an enclosure ditch 578 and the excavation was confined within the area surrounded by it.

The later fills of enclosure ditch 578 cut across the grid of early 13th-century ditches, but the original date of 578 and its relationship to them was not established; because of the proximity of the N. arm of 578 to 623 it is however unlikely that 578 was as early as this.

During the mid and later 13th century rubbish pits 571, 576 and 622 were dug (see pottery Fig. 74.1–5). They imply domestic occupation very close by. An almost complete tripod pitcher (Fig. 74.6) was buried upside-down in pit 624. There were also a number of other possible small pits and postholes but no buildings were found in the excavated area: these perhaps lay beneath the later stone buildings further south. Overlying one of these early ditches was a large limestone-slab hearth 621 surrounded (and partly overlaid) by an occupation soil 535. 535, which also overlay pit 622 and posthole 625, contained mid and late 13th-century pottery.

Fig. 17. Site B: General view of excavation with west room of Building IV in the foreground, taken from the S.W.

Phase 2 The first building, Building VI

The limits of 535 were not clearly defined, and there were no indications of a surrounding structure. Overlying 535 however, were successive compacted, gravel floors (534, 537 and 538), each with an occupation build-up on it. These gravel floors were less than 10 mm. thick and were patchy, but were bordered by bands of clay aligned E.–W. and N.–S. (555, 629). These clay deposits were often thin, and at no stage during excavation did they form the complete outline of a building, but are interpreted as wall-lines, the base either for wattle and daub walling or for timber-sill construction. A composite plan is illustrated (Fig. 18 Phase 2) incorporating the evidence associated both with floor 534 and floor 537. Some edges were defined only by the limits of occupation layers, but these too formed straight lines. Beyond the westernmost clay band, and abutting it, was an occupation layer 544. The limits of this soil on the S. lay outside the excavated area; on the N. it mostly followed a straight edge aligned with the N. edge of the clay walled building, perhaps indicating a fence or timber sill along this line. 544 extended beyond this on the N.E., perhaps indicating an entrance to the N.

This building, called Building VI, was only excavated as far south as the north edge of the later stone Building IV (see Fig. 19 Phases 3 and 4). Here another east–west clay band 516 was seen below the N. walls of Building IV. Since this clay continued east beyond the original end of Building IV (see Phase 3 below), it probably belongs to an earlier phase, and shows that the clay-walled early buildings continued below the stone ones. Further S. another layer of sandy gravel and cobbles 582 was possibly contemporary with this or with the Phase 1 occupation. The alignment of 516 was slightly north of west, and it disappeared beneath wall 505 at the east end. It was *c.* 0.10 m. deep and its bottom was at the same level as floor 537.

It is not clear how much of the area was roofed. If there were timber-sills along the soil edges, the buildings were of mixed construction. At the nearby contemporary settlement of Seacourt the buildings were also constructed using a mixture of different techniques, though there the methods employed were postholes and timber slots.

Layer 535 contained one late 13th-century sherd, and the building thus dates from towards the end of the 13th century or later. Pottery from the floors and occupation levels is consistent with late 13th- to early or mid 14th-century use.

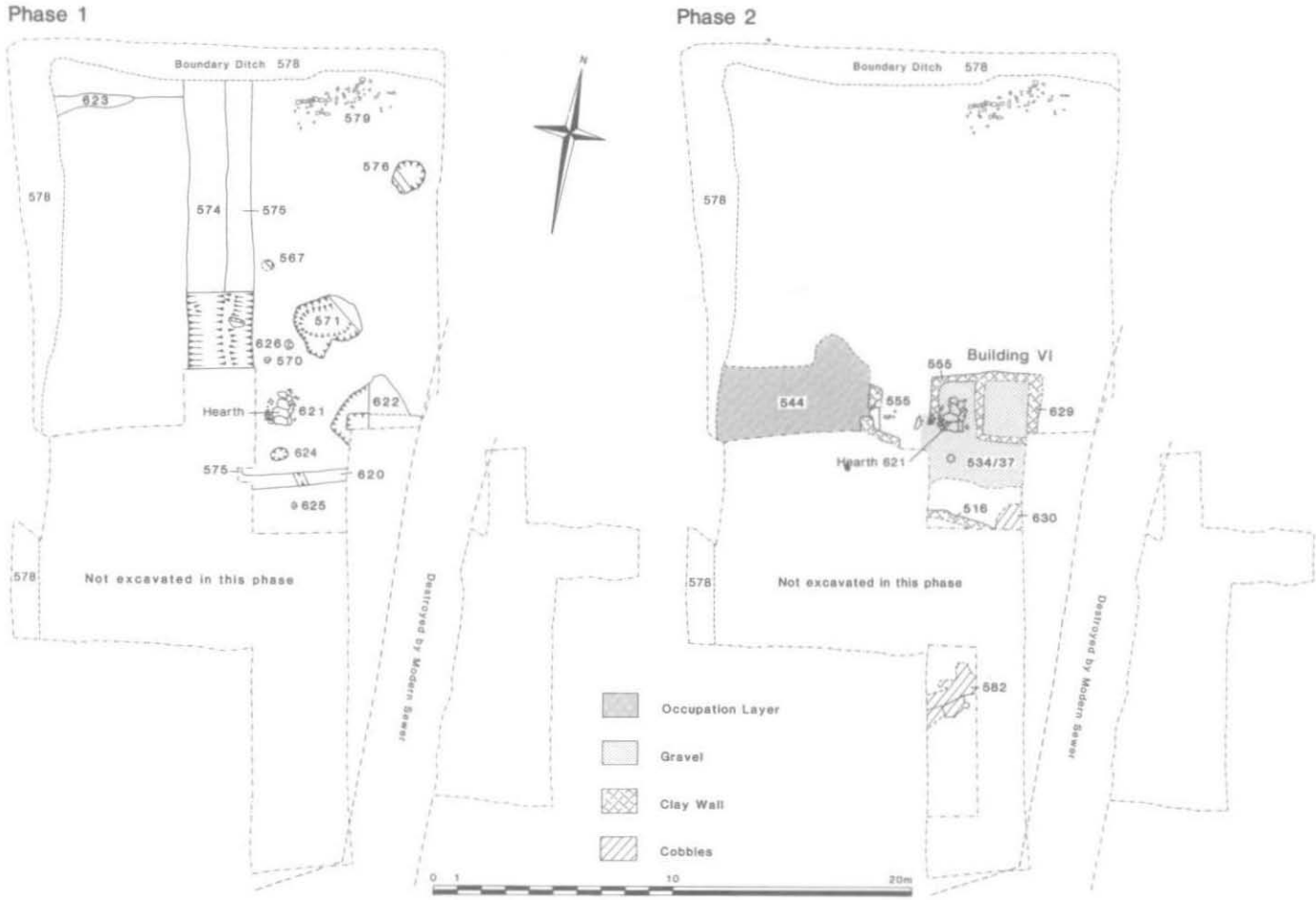

Fig. 18. Site B: Phase 1: 13th-century ditches, hearth and pits; Phase 2: late 13th- or early 14th-century clay-walled Building VI.

Phase 3

The final gravel surface 538 was patchy and a scatter of flat limestones may indicate that there were once areas of stone flooring. This surface contained largely 14th-century sherds, though some intrusive 16th- or 17th-century red earthenware was also found. Within 538 was a single course of stones forming a short wall 581 on a N.N.W. alignment, slightly different to that of the Phase 2 clay wall beneath (see Figs. 18 and 19). Stones along the tops of other clay walls to the E. may also indicate rebuilding in stone (see Fig. 19). This was the Phase when stone Building IV was constructed, since wall 581 was aligned with its east end.

Building IV was a rectangular block on an east–west alignment, 7.7 m. × 3.8 m. internally, with walls 0.65 m. thick built of roughly dressed Oolitic limestones and bonded with brown-grey clay.

The N. and S. walls had a slight foundation trench up to 0.20 m. deep; the E. and W. end walls were built directly upon the surface of the underlying clay loam. The west wall had been completely robbed. The surviving walls were up to three courses and 0.45 m. high. There was a doorway 1.25 m. wide in the south wall with an external stone threshold 612. The building was not divided internally, and the floor surface was simply the clay loam on which the end walls rested. There were no internal features except for a shallow pit 610 in the N.W. corner.

The N. wall of Building IV (531) sat directly upon clay bands 611 and 516, 516 being abutted by 538, and it is possible that this stone building replaced a earlier clay-walled structure. Only one small slot was excavated inside Building IV, and in this no earlier floors were found, but bearing in mind the patchy survival of these earlier floors it is not certain that there were no earlier buildings beneath Building IV. Pit 610 contained pottery of 13th-century manufacture, but Building IV is unlikely to have been built before the 14th century, as it overlies most of the Phase 2 occupation levels of Building VI. South of Building IV there were no certain traces of contemporary features; a thick clay loam layer 523=541=927, which built up over cobbling 582, probably spans both the Phase 2 and Phase 3 occupations.

Phase 4

The clay walls of Phase 2 Building VI, N.E. of Building IV, were exactly overlain by a rectangular stone platform 517, which may therefore have followed closely upon floor 538. The stones at the N. end of wall 581 were found after removing one layer of stones from 517, but there is some doubt whether 581 really continued beneath 517 and was earlier than the stone platform; certainly the best surviving length of wall 581 lay S. of the platform. 517 may therefore belong in Phase 3 rather than Phase 4. It consisted of a single layer of limestone cobbling covering a rectangular area *c.* 5.2 m. E.–W. by 2.75 m. N.–S., edged with larger limestones, and was abutted on the E. side by a smaller area of cobbling 542 (Figs. 16 and 20). The surface of 542 was 0.05 m. below that of 517, and this cobbling lacked edging stones, so was probably external to the building, which is interpreted as a timber-framed structure whose ground-sills rested upon the edges of the stone platform. Pottery upon 517 dated to the later 14th and the first half of the 15th century.

Building IV was extended eastwards by walls 505 and 524. 505, which survived three courses and 0.41 m. high, was constructed of smaller and more carefully dressed limestones than those of walls 530 and 531, and was bonded with yellow sandy clay. 524 was robbed down to the bottom foundation-course. The bottom courses of 505 abutted 531, but the upper courses were bonded together.

The modern sewer-trench removed any stratigraphic links between walls 505 and 921 and between wall 524 and robber trench 912 to the E. 921 was of similar width and construction technique to 505, so may have been built at the same time. The alignment of robber trenches 908 and 912 is however slightly different from that of 505. Stones projecting from the bottom of 921 (at the west end) may just possibly represent an earlier phase of wall, implying that two separate buildings were later joined up, but these stones were more likely foundations. The finds suggest that 505 and 921 were parts of a single phase of construction, extending Building IV by 13 m. into a range 22.7 m. long.

The room bounded by walls 530, 505 and 524 contained a large stone hearth 527. This sat upon a floor of clay loam, whose surface was blackened with charcoal from the hearth. This clay loam was not excavated, but probably corresponded to the latest of the occupation soils N. of the building. Overlying this a circular oven 513 was constructed in the N.W. corner of the room, with the flue on the S. side. The oven floor was covered with charcoal, except for a central hollow which was probably created by shovelling out the ashes after each firing, and was also where food to be cooked was placed. Some stones of the oven walls were burnt slightly red, but the oven did not appear to have been intensively used. Hearth 527 was resurfaced on several occasions, and the N.W. corner of the hearth was linked to the oven by a layer of flat limestones (Fig. 16).

There were few sherds of pottery from the occupation level or features in this room and despite the rebuildings of hearth 527 there was very little build-up on the floor itself, suggesting that it had been kept clean. The pottery suggests occupation in the late 14th and early 15th centuries.

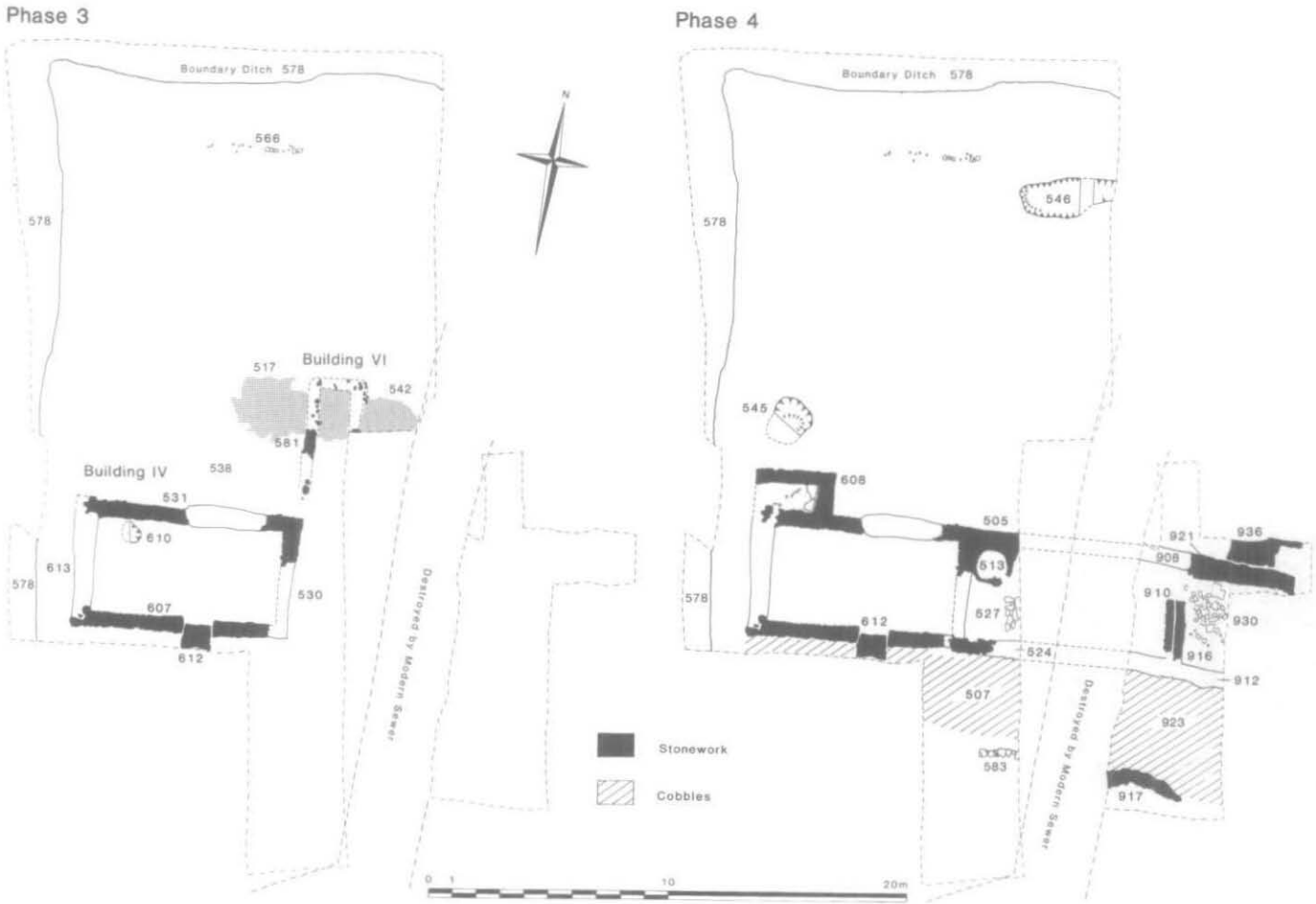

Fig. 19. Site B: Phase 3: late 14th-century stone buildings IV and VI; Phase 4: early 15th century. Extension of Building IV with cobbled road.

Fig. 20. Site B: stone platform 517 and 542 of Building VI, from the E.

Fig. 21. Site B: Building IV, stone hearth 527 in central room, from the W.

Fig. 22. Site B: east end of Building IV, with bench 910 and wall 916 in the foreground, viewed from the W.

Fig. 23. Site B: cobbled roadway 507 from the N.E., with later cobbling 504 and Building V to the S.

East of the sewer trench the earliest floor surface, 934 was of orange-brown clayey loam surfaced in places with gravel. 934 was probably the same horizon as the clay floor further west. It continued beneath the partition wall 916 into the east room where it was numbered 930. Here it was surfaced with patches of yellow clay and a scatter of small stones as well as gravel, numbered 937; the northern part of the east room probably had a roughly laid limestone floor. South of this and directly overlying 930 was a burnt area 929, the site of a temporary fire.

This eastern area was later divided by a stone partition wall 916. This, built of small flat limestones and surviving 6–7 courses high, was only 0.40 m. wide, but was abutted all the way along the west side by a stone feature of similar width, 910. This consisted of a stone facing three courses high backed by a clay core up against 916, the whole topped by a layer of large flat slabs (Figs. 16 and 22). It was probably a stone bench contemporary with the wall. An area of small stones 938 lying upon 934 (Fig. 22) may have been laid deliberately to counter the effect of scuffing by people sitting on the bench. At the north the partition wall stopped, leaving a doorway just over 1 m. wide and across this doorway was a patchy threshold layer 926, probably contemporary with floor 937. The iron hinge pivot for the door between these rooms was found in layer 925 above 926 at the end of 916 (Section 3.6 Cat. No. 133).

Attached to the N.W. corner of the original building range was a small stone structure 608, consisting of wide walls on the east and north sides surrounding and partly overlying a flagged floor 617. There was probably a large area of limestone paving (number 617 below 608 and 619 E. of that) on the north of Building IV prior to the construction of 608, overlying occupation layer 544. There was no occupation soil upon 617, which was directly overlaid by humic soil 618 formed after abandonment. The walls only survived two courses high. The east wall butted onto Building IV but the west wall had been robbed out of 608 with the west wall of the range. The internal area of this structure was only 1.3 m. wide and up to 2.5 m. long. It may have functioned as a pigsty, but was very small for this; alternatively it may have been the base of an external staircase up to a first floor loft.

Close to the N.E. corner abutting Building IV was a stone platform 936, 2 m. E. to W. and extending at least 1.3 m. northwards to the trench edge, where it appeared to be widening out eastwards. This platform seems rather large for a stone step or threshold. No postholes for a covering structure were visible at the edges of the platform but the area was not examined in detail, and it is possible that such evidence was missed. Alternatively this could have been the base for a wooden stair corresponding to the possible stone staircase outside the N.W. corner of the range.

South of the building range was a band of close-set limestone cobbling over 4 m. wide, numbered 507 and 923 (Fig. 19). Its thin gravel bedding overlay 541 and 927. In the western trench there was a slight hollow running east–west down the middle of the cobbling, perhaps acting as a drain. Towards the south edge of 507 was an east–west boundary of large flat stones 583, which survived two courses deep on the east side. South of 583 there was a little more cobbling, but this ended up against 533, large limestone slabs possibly forming the base of another wall. 583 and 507 were clearly laid together, and 583 probably represents the bottom of a narrow wall bounding the cobbling on the south side (see Fig. 23). In the south-east corner of the excavation the cobbling sealed feature 919, of uncertain function, which cut clay loam 927.

The cobbling between 583 and 533 probably acted as a narrow path between the boundary wall and the structure represented by 533. In the eastern trench there was also a line of larger stones, numbered 917, at the south edge of the cobbling. This appeared to represent a curving wall *c.* 0.65 m. wide. 917 may have been a continuation either of 533 or 583. Wall 533 was overlaid by a thin occupation layer 532, which abutted the cobbling and overlapped 523 (see Phase 3) to the S.

Over 532 and 523 was a grey/brown clay loam numbered 510 and 501 covering the whole of the south end of the west trench, and overlying the south edge of the cobbling 507 and wall 583.

The interior of the E. rooms of Building IV was subsequently covered by a thick build-up of very dark humic soil and large stones. Above this a soil accumulated slowly within the abandoned building once the roof had gone. The very bottom of this accumulation contained charcoal and small clay patches, plus a quantity of pottery and two silver coins (Section 3.6 Cat. Nos. 2 and 3), and this would appear to be occupation upon the floors mixed into the post-abandonment soil by root action. The later coin dates to A.D. 1442, and a mid 15th-century date is also suggested by the latest pottery from this layer.

Phase 5

S. of the cobbled road Building V was erected (Phase 5). It was built upon layer 510, parallel to Building IV along the south side of the cobbled area.

Only the east end of Building V lay within the excavation (Fig. 16). Its walls (522) were built of large roughly squared limestones and were only 0.4 m. wide (Fig. 23). The original bonding may have been yellow-brown clay, but only one course of stonework survived. The north wall continued on the same line east of the building, replacing 583 as the southern boundary to the cobbling.

Up against the north face of this wall, which sat upon 507, a second layer of cobbling 504 was laid. This

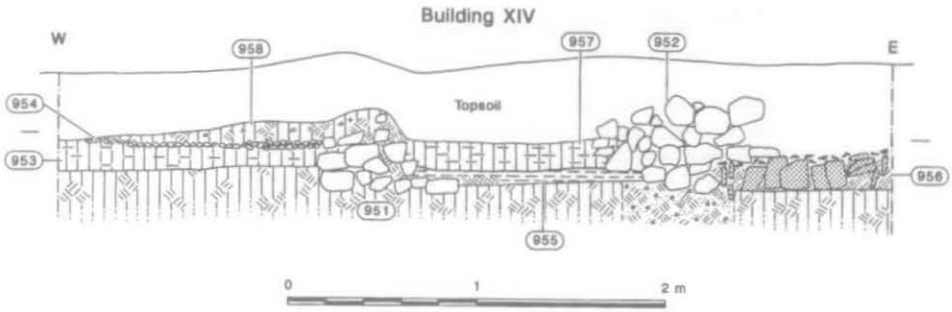

Fig. 24. Site B: Section through Building XIV exposed in the roadside drainage ditch N. N. of the Eynsham Road.

extended *c.* 1 m. north from Building V. It was bordered by a line of larger roughly squared limestones on the north and west; the eastern limit of the cobbling lay outside the west trench, and may be represented in the east trench by 915, the upper layer of large cobbles overlying 923 (Fig. 16).

The presence of layer 510 over wall 583 suggests a reasonable interval between the demolition of 583 and construction of Building V. This clay loam resembled a gradual accumulation rather than dumped soil. It did not overlie 583 east of the confines of Building V, and this part of the wall may therefore have remained standing. 510 did not occur over 507 north of Building V, and was thus confined to the southern edge of the cobbling, the majority of which was kept clean and in use.

Within Building V the surface of 510 was used as the floor, there was no made-up floor in this building. This surface was not noticeably more compacted inside than outside the walls, showing that the floor had been little walked upon and together with the absence of occupation layers suggests that it was an agricultural building, perhaps a barn or shed.

There was no rubble over or around Building V, strongly suggesting that it had only had dwarf walls of stone with a timber superstructure. In contrast, there were substantial rubble layers over and around Building IV. The deep humic layers overlying Building IV contained increasing amounts of rubble as time passed, and like the lines of tumbled stone alongside the walls demonstrate a long period of gradual collapse before partial robbing occurred.

The soil layers beneath and south of the cobbling contained fair-sized pottery assemblages. Pottery from 523, 541 and 927 contained nothing late medieval, but feature 919=905 included sherds of the later Brill-Boarstall fabric, suggesting that the cobbling 507 was not laid until the late 14th century, which agrees with the dating evidence for Building IV which the cobbling abuts.

Layers 532 and 510 which overlapped the cobbling can be dated to the late 14th century outside the area of Building V, but finds from the same layer inside included 15th-century sherds. There was also 15th-century pottery in the body of the walls of Building V. In the east trench 923, the cobbling layer equivalent to 507, had upon it a sherd from Brill-Boarstall dated to the later 15th or 16th centuries, sealed below a later cobbled surface 915. In the west trench the corresponding later cobbling 504, which abutted Building V, contained a late medieval assemblage, but could not be more closely dated. Finds from layer 502 upon the later cobbling include several 16th-century sherds, but there was no pottery later than this apart from some intrusive 19th-century earthenware and creamware.

The rubble tumble from Building IV contained a number of late 15th- or 16th-century sherds. Given that the latest occupation of Building IV can be dated to the 15th century, it would appear that Building V continued in use after Building IV had been abandoned; the fact that only the southern part of cobbling 507 was resurfaced by 504 may imply that Building IV was already ruinous by the time it was laid.

Building XIV

Use of Building V may have been connected with continued domestic occupation further south in Site B. A section through another stone-built late medieval building, Building XIV, was exposed by the drainage ditch alongside the N. side of the Eynsham road (Figs. 1 and 24).

Two clay-bonded walls, both *c.* 0.5 m. wide, ran approximately N.–S. only 1.2 m. apart. A foundation trench for the E. wall 952 was seen cutting the underlying yellow clay; nothing similar was recorded for the W. wall

951. The W. wall seems to mark the limit of the building, as it was abutted on the W. side by a silty loam 953 which probably represents gradual soil accumulation outside. This was overlain by a spread of limestone cobbling 954.

Between the walls the surface of the underlying clay was scorched up against the W. wall, and the clay was overlain by a thin layer of silt 955 which overlay the expanded footing of wall 951 and the foundation trench of wall 952, abutting both upstanding walls. The surface of layer 955 may have been used as a floor. E. of wall 952 the yellow clay was overlain by a pitched stone hearth 956 constructed of fragments of stone roof tile set of edge and bonded with clay. This clearly abutted the wall.

The hearth was overlain by flat limestones up against the E. side of wall 952, possibly forming a kerb. Limestones also overlie 955 up against the W. side of 952, and appear to sit flat upon it, suggesting another kerb on this side. It is possible that the wall was rebuilt from this level. The stones of the 'kerb' and the rest of layer 955 are overlain by layer 957, which continues up to the surviving top of wall 951. 15th-century pottery was recovered from the top of hearth 956, and another 14th- or 15th-century sherd from 957.

Above this level wall 951 had been destroyed, although a hump of yellow clay loam overlying the wall is probably the remains of the robbed wall core. On the W. side this was abutted by a spread of similar clayey loam and small stone fragments, destruction debris layer 958.

Phase 6

Pottery from the soil accumulating around Building V and in the post-abandonment build-up in Building IV suggests that the site continued to be used for domestic occupation into the 16th century. Within this century, however, the site was finally abandoned.

2.3 SITE C: THE COTTAGE TOFT

Summary

Site C lay between Sites A and B (Fig. 33). In the 13th century (Phase 1) this was part of an arable field under ridge-and-furrow cultivation, the furrows oriented N.–S. down the line of slope. In the very late 13th or early 14th century (Phase 2) a one-roomed cottage (Building VIII) was built over the silted E. boundary ditch of the field, with a yard on the W. encroaching upon the first ridge of the field. The stone cottage, which was oriented N.–S., was 4.5 by 3.0 m. internally, with a single doorway at the N. end of the W. side opening onto the yard.

On the S. and N. sides the yard was bounded by wide drainage ditches; the ditch along the N. side extended further than the S. ditch crossing the second ridge of the former field, in which small quarry pits were dug. Access to the yard from the E. was between the building and the N. ditch via a covered passageway. The W. side of the yard was occupied by a square malting kiln and a stone trough. In the centre of the yard was a circular oven, and a pebble hearth lay between this and the cottage.

In the later 14th century (Phase 3) the cottage remained in use but the S. ditch was filled in and the kiln and trough went out of use.

The site was abandoned before the end of the 14th century (Phase 4).

Introduction

This site was highlighted as an area of likely buildings by a geophysical survey carried out by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in 1984. The layout of the trench was dictated by the line of the access road for the proposed housing development, and extended to recover the full plan of Building VIII. The excavation was carried out over 5 weeks in October and November 1984 in extremely wet and windy weather, and much time was spent in water management and in constructing temporary covering structures to enable work to continue on the clay soils.

Phase 1 pre-building activity

As in Site A the undisturbed sandy gravel was overlain by a clay subsoil. In the road corridor trench this was marked by clay patches, some of which (710, 739–744) were investigated. Most were irregular, none contained any finds and they are presumed to be of geological origin.

These were cut across by a series of linear shallow broad features on a N.–S. alignment, numbered 820, 714, 712, 717 and 745 from W. to E. 717 and 745 are contiguous, 712 comprised two adjacent features and 714 consists of two parallel features very close together, only the E. one of which was excavated. 820 ended just N. of an E.–W. soilmark 819, which ran along the S. edge of a surviving broad earthwork (Figs. 1, 2 and 33). This is interpreted as a headland, and 819 etc. are furrows of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, traces of which are faintly visible on Fig. 2.

The double furrows show that two phases of ridge-and-furrow are present, and allowing for this the spacing of the furrows was fairly regular, between 10 m. and 12 m. The E. boundary of the field was ditch 811, whose W. edge lay 12 m. E. of 717 beneath the later Building VIII. There were possibly two phases of this ditch; the E. edge was not located, but 811 had gently sloping sides and a flat bottom (Fig. 31). The fill of 811 consisted of clayey silts with varying proportions of gravel; there was no evidence that 811 had been backfilled to construct Building VIII.

N. of the building ditch 719 is in line with 811, and, although stratigraphic links were severed by later ditch 703 (Fig. 25), 719 is interpreted as a continuation of 811. This ditch was at least 2.5 m. wide.

No finds were recovered from 811; from 719 came pottery ranging in date from the later 13th to the 15th century. The upper fills of 719 were, however, the same as those of ditch 703 bounding the N. side of the toft (see Phase 2), and probably 719 was recut to drain E. into 703.

Phase 2

Building VIII was constructed over ditch 811 (Fig. 25). This building was 6 m. long and 4.5 m. wide externally, with clay-bonded walls 0.7–0.8 m. wide constructed from roughly squared limestones. The N., W. and S. walls (numbered respectively 721/4, 721/2 and 721/3) sat upon the subsoil and overlay 811, but the E. wall (721/1) was founded on gravel at the bottom of ditch 811 (Fig. 31). At the N. end of the W. side there was an entrance just over 1 m. wide, with a squared block up against the N. wall acting as a doorstop, and a hinge pivot was found in the destruction debris against the S. side (layer 781, Section 3.6 Cat. No. 124, Fig. 91).

The floor of the building was simply the underlying subsoil and the surface of ditch 811, numbered 818. There was no made hearth within the building, but lying on 818 in the N.E. corner of the interior was a charcoal deposit 807 and this was overlain by 804, which included patches of burnt soil. The stones of the wall adjacent were not however scorched, so this was probably only the site of an occasional fire. 807 included sherds of late 13th- or early 14th-century date.

Just inside the door was a very large floor slab, and smaller limestones extended this hard-standing, numbered 787, across the N.W. corner. These slabs were contiguous with a drain channel 816 which ran from 787 along the W. edge of 811 and then across the floor to exit beneath the E. end of the S. wall. The sides of 816 were lined with vertical limestones throughout; along the edge of the former ditch 811 the bottom was unlined, but the S. part of the drain was lined with flat slabs. The drain was sealed with capstones except at the S. end.

The slabs of 787 overlay the edge of occupation layer 807, suggesting that the hard-standing was secondary. S. of occupation layers 804 and 807, surface 818 was overlain by layer 802, a gravelly clay which covered the central part of the interior and extended over some of the capstones of drain 816. Towards the S.E. corner this layer was surfaced with small limestones in patches, and was numbered 805. Floor 805 extended up to the S. wall of the building, overlying the outlet of drain 816. In the S.W. corner beyond the drain a very similar soil, numbered 809, was probably more of the same flooring.

Outside Building VIII the drain did not continue, but around the drain exit the S. wall was built upon a layer of limestones and large pebbles 799. This layer overlay the fill of ditch 811, and continued S. to the edge of the excavation, but did not occur further W. alongside the wall. 799 may have been laid long before the building, but may alternatively have been laid specifically to protect the ground outside from erosion from drain flow.

Just 1 m. S. of the building a wide shallow ditch 793 ran E.–W. cutting through ditch 811 (Figs. 25 and 31). On the E. it continued beyond the limit of the excavation, on the W. it ran for 6.5 m. beyond the building, ending 2.5 m. short of furrow 745. At the terminal the ditch curved slightly northwards. The primary ditch fill, 793/1, contained domestic rubbish of the 14th century. Despite the absence of a direct stratigraphic relationship between the ditch and Building VIII (see below), the domestic debris implies that the ditch and the building were contemporary. The primary ditch fill was overlain S. of the building by 797, a thin pebbly layer in a matrix of gravelly clay loam, and this in turn by a mixed layer of gravelly loam, pebbles and limestones up to 0.3 m. across, numbered 813 S. of the building, 792 W. of it and 765 at the very W. end. This layer included a large assemblage of pottery and other domestic rubbish, and was probably originally a ditch silt containing contemporary rubbish, into

Fig. 25. Site C: Phase 2, early 14th century. Building VIII and its yard, with hearth, oven, trough and possible malting kiln.

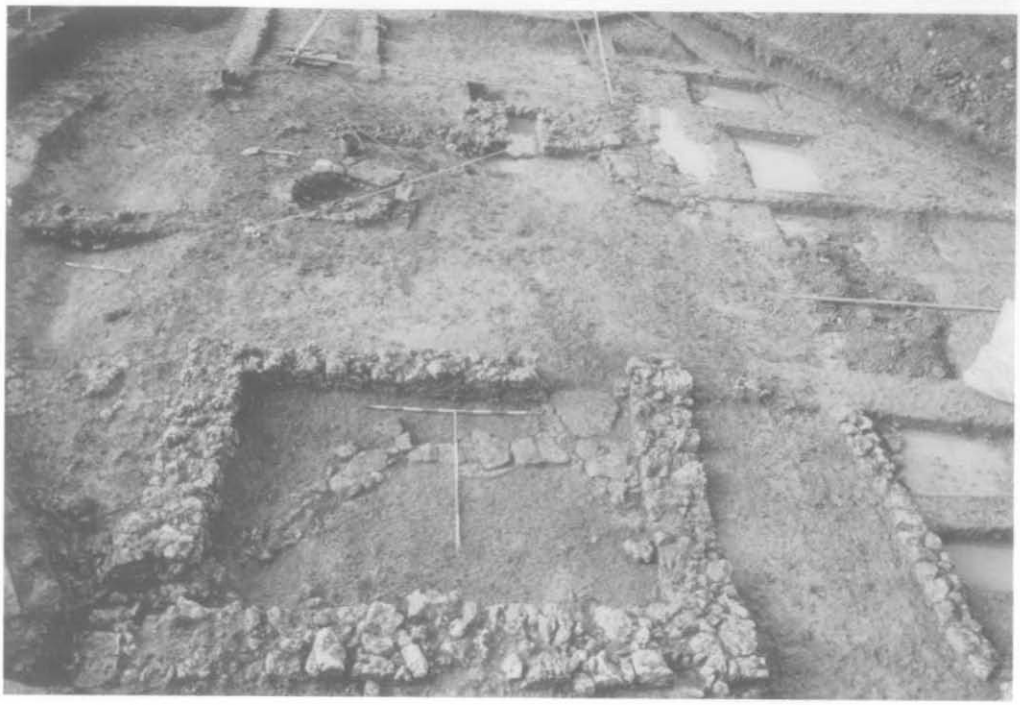

Fig. 26. Site C: overall view of the excavation with Building VIII in the foreground, looking W.

Fig. 27. Site C: oven 748 from the N.

Fig. 28. Site C: trough 759 showing secondary limestone flooring 759/2, with malting kiln 775 in the background, from the S.

which sank stones from the deliberate infilling of the ditch. W. of the building 797 faded out, and here 792 directly overlay 793/1.

To the W. of 799 between Building VIII and ditch 793 was a layer of pebble cobbling in a matrix of gravelly clay loam, 798. It was not possible to establish a direct relationship between 798 and ditch 793, but 798 was very similar to 797 which overlay the primary fill of the ditch. A narrow band of clay and pebbles 812 ran between 798 and 797 along the N. edge of the ditch, apparently overlying both. This was probably more of layer 792. This layer was overlain by slabs 795 (see Phase 3).

Layer 798 extended W. of the building alongside the ditch and was perhaps a pebbled walkway, or possibly simply upcast from the ditch (Fig. 25). On the S. side ditch 793 was cut into the clay subsoil 754, which was directly overlain by post-abandonment layer 724.

Some 2.2 m. N. of Building VIII another wide shallow ditch ran E.–W., cutting across furrows 717 and 745 on the W. and ditch 719 further E. (Fig. 25). This was numbered variously 703, 715, 716, 718 and 733. The ditch was filled with layers of clay containing occupation debris; the lower fills also contained frequent limestone specks, the upper clays had a higher humic content. Large assemblages of pottery were recovered throughout the fills, all dating from the early to the late 14th century.

Where the ditch ran past the N. end of Building VIII a parallel wall 720 had been constructed along its S. edge. This was only 0.35–0.5 m. wide and was constructed of roughly dressed unmortared limestones surviving two courses high. 720 was abutted by the primary fill of the ditch, and had clearly been built when the ditch was first dug, probably to revet the fill of ditch 719=811 and perhaps also supporting some form of roof over the access to the yard between Building VIII and ditch 703 etc. (Figs. 25 and 31).

The remains of a drystone wall aligned E.–W. were found within ditch 719 *c.* 1.5 m. N. of its intersection with 703, running down into the ditch from the W. The upper fills of 719 were continuous with those of 703, demonstrating that N. of this 719 was at least partly recut and remained in use. Possibly this wall was constructed when ditch 703 was dug to direct the flow within 719 E. into 703. The wall had partly collapsed, and was overlain by 719/1=703/2. Also within the ditches at their junction was a layer of yellow gravelly clay 777, below 719/1, and overlying 719/1 was a lens of stiff clay 729 which ran into the E. edge of the trench. This was presumably infilling similar to that in the tops of ditches on Site A.

N. of ditch 703 etc. no other features were found. Here the clay subsoil was numbered 763, and was directly overlain by post-occupation soil 701=705.

Between wall 720 and Building VIII the soils were not removed right down to gravel, but the gravel showed through layer 814 in places. 814 is recorded as underlying wall 720 but abutting the N. wall of Building VIII, suggesting that ditch 703 was dug after the building had been built. 814 was however very similar to 818, the fill of ditch 811=719 which ran beneath both 720 and Building VIII, and probably represented the very top of 818 reworked and spread by trampling. It is not therefore certain that 814 indicates a difference in date between Building VIII and wall 720.

Ditches 703 and 793 were at right angles to Building VIII and were parallel to one another. Other than layer 814 there was no stratigraphic link between ditch 703 and Building VIII, but the pottery from both ditches suggests that they were open at the same time, enclosing both the building and the yard to the W.

In the yard the clay subsoil was numbered 800, and the reworked surface of this layer 761. This was a thin layer through which the gravel appeared in places. On the S. side of 703 the clay subsoil was overlain by dumped patches of gravel numbered 762 (Fig. 25). These patches were thin; they did not correspond to the area of the overlying stone structures, so were not deliberate make-up, nor did they infill hollows as levelling, but were probably upcast material from the ditch when it was first dug. 789 (see below) may have been more of this material, though spread more intentionally.

In the middle of the yard layer 761 was cut through into the underlying gravel for the construction of oven 748, and the upcast 815 thrown out to the N.W. over 761. Oven 748 was circular, just over 1.2 m. in diameter internally, with unmortared walls of limestone 0.2 m. wide surviving 2 courses high (Figs. 27 and 31). The inner face of the walls was carefully constructed, the outer edge was irregular. The oven flue, which lay on the N. side, was 0.4 m. wide. The walls of the oven may have been free-standing within the construction pit, since a band of gravelly soil 0.2 m. wide was observed following the curve of the wall outside on the N.E. side (Fig. 25), but this was not further investigated.

The oven bottomed on gravel; the profile was saucer-shaped because of repeated scooping out of the ashes and burnt material from the floor. In the middle the gravel was burnt purple and red, and around the edges were patches of charcoal. Filling the middle and deepest part was 748/3, a dark grey silt containing flecks of burnt soil and charcoal (Fig. 31).

Around the flue of 748 on the outside was a band of burnt soil 767, which abutted the wall of the oven to a depth of 0.1 m. on the N., N.W. and N.E. This was contiguous with 771 on the N.W., a dark clay and charcoal spread which overlay 815 and 800, and extended 4.5 m. N.W. of the oven.

Rake-out 771 was overlain on its W. edge by a group of flat slabs 776 which abutted a stone-lined 'trough' 759 on a N.–S. alignment. The easternmost slabs of the group, those adjacent to 771, were cracked and heavily burnt, but there was no trace of associated charcoal, and these slabs may have been laid after they had been burnt.

Fig. 29. Site C: malting kiln 775 from the E.

Trough 759 was around 2.3 m. long and at most 0.65 m. wide. Along the W., N. and E. sides it was lined with a single row of limestone slabs set vertically on edge, 0.05 to 0.10 m. thick (Fig. 28). Most of the stones were contiguous, but there were gaps of as much as 0.05 m. between some, particularly on the E. side, and edging stones had collapsed inwards at the S.E. side and were missing at the S. end of the E. side. Two large slabs lying flat upon 761 just 0.15 m. S. of 759 may also have collapsed from the S. end, and on the S.E. stones had spread beyond the line of the edging, probably indicating further collapse at this point.

The stone lining was set up against the edges of a slight cut into gravel (Fig. 31). At the S. end 759 overlay a natural silt-filled hollow in the gravel 0.3 m. deep, which may explain why the edging collapsed at this end.

The primary fill was a dark gravelly clay, from which fragments of a 14th-century ceramic bottle were recovered. This was overlain by a layer of limestones 759/2, mostly laid flat (Figs. 30 and 31), but these did not cover the whole of the interior.

There were further flat slabs outside 759 along the W. side, numbered 759/6. These overlay layer 734, which contained occupation debris and probably represents the exposed and reworked subsoil at this point, and hollow 817. Layer 734 abutted the edging of 759, as did some of the stones of 759/6; others however appear to have overlain the edging stones, so may represent either collapse of the upper edging or part of the rubble infill. Despite the absence of any surviving caulking of the joints between the slabs, this feature is interpreted as a trough (see also 702 below).

Adjacent to the N. end of 759 and was the S. wall of a rectangular structure 775. This had limestone walls on the S., W. and N. sides, but was open on the E; the walls were unmortared and were 0.8–0.9 m. wide on the N. and S., 0.3–0.4 m. wide on the W. The inner faces of the walls were lined with roughly squared blocks, but the walls were only roughly coursed, most of the stones being unmodified limestone rubble (Figs. 25, 29 and 31).

The floor sloped down from the W. to the E., the walls surviving only 1 course deep at the W. end, but up to 3 deep on the E. The floor of the western sloping part was simply the underlying clay, the deeper flat part was roughly floored with flat limestone slabs. The largest slab lay between the ends of the N. and S. walls, and this had been burnt (Fig. 25).

This feature is interpreted as a malting kiln. There was only a small area of burnt soil within the kiln floor, at the lower end of the sloping part, but the primary fill was a dark clay containing both charcoal and burnt soil. Burnt

soil and charcoal had also accumulated up against the end of the S. wall just outside. There was a gap between this and both charcoal layer 771 and the slabs 776 which overlay it; it is possible that the flooring of 775 was contemporary with slabs 776, but more likely some of layer 771, which lay only 2 m. from the entrance to the kiln, was derived from the use of 775 rather than from oven 748.

The final feature within the yard was a small sub-rectangular hearth 752, halfway between the door of Building VIII and oven 748. This consisted of an area of rounded pebbles and flat limestones set in a shallow scoop in the surface of 761, burnt and blackened by heat. A tail of raked-out charcoal and burnt soil 753 extended N.W. from the hearth for 0.8 m. This feature was stratigraphically isolated and it may alternatively belong in Phase 3.

W. of 759 and 775 the subsoil 734 was cut into by shallow irregular hollows 766 and 817. 817 did not contain any finds and was overlain by slabs 759/6, but 766 contained limestones and is probably man-made. Another shallow hollow or pit 736, filled with sandy soil flecked with charcoal, was cut into furrow 745. There may have been a fourth shallow feature beneath the W. edge of 775, but this was excavated as layer 734. It is possible that some of these features represent holes dug for trees or shrubs forming a boundary to the yard on the W. side; at the W. end of ditch 793 a shallow tail ran N.W. towards these holes.

Furrows 717 and 745 were cut into by a large pit 746, and similar pits 735, 708 and 709 were clustered just to the N.W. A further pit 756, cut into subsoil 754, lay S. of ditch 793. The larger of pits were generally sub-circular or sub-rectangular with vertical or steep sides and flat bottoms, but none were more than 0.5 m. deep. These pits contained few finds and scattered charcoal flecks; exceptionally 756 had red and black burnt soil 756/3 against one side. The finds indicate a 14th-century date, and were probably contemporary with the occupation of the croft. These may have been shallow gravel pits dug for material used in the yard or Building VIII.

The group of pits numbered collectively 709 cut into 712, the furrow W. of 717, and together with ditch 703 etc. show that this croft was at least 25 m. wide from E. to W. Their position is reminiscent of cess-pits in medieval urban tenements, but although their primary clay fill was somewhat concreted, a common mineral effect in cess-pits, there was no indication of faecal material within the fills. Cess-pits are not commonly found on rural medieval settlements, probably indicating either that human excrement was added to the dung heap for mucking-out onto the fields, or that a 'go-where-you-please' attitude prevailed.

Phase 3

Within Building VIII 809 was overlain and the uncapped drain 816 infilled by a dark grey-brown clay 803, within which were patches of charcoal and burnt soil. This layer was also numbered 788 in the S.W. corner (Fig. 30). The soil was thickest in the corner, as if it had either been swept there or had been cleared out elsewhere. As with burning 804 and 807 in the N.E. corner, there was no trace of heating on the walls, indicating that this was only the site of an occasional fire.

In the N.E. corner 804 was overlain by a layer of orange clayey sand 801, which extended up to the edge of paving 787. S. of the paving stones at the entrance and of 801 a band of clay and pebbles 806 ran E.–W. across the floor parallel to the N. and S. walls (Fig. 30). This may mark a partition of sorts within the living space. S. of 806 was layer 810, a clean clay overlying 802=809 and in part 803=788. There were few finds from the floor and occupation contexts just described, but all of these were of the 14th century.

In the yard ditch 793 was backfilled and cobbled over. Layer 792 was overlain by a layer of smaller limestone rubble in a sticky clay matrix, numbered 791 W. of the building and 796 S. of it (Fig. 32), and this in turn was overlain along the S. edge of the ditch by a tightly packed layer of limestones and pebbles numbered 755 and 764 (Figs. 30, 31 and 32). 755 slumped as the backfill settled, and a clayey occupation soil 768 accumulated in the hollow down the centre of the former ditch.

Along the N. side of the ditch fill 798 was overlain by a layer of flat limestone slabs, numbered 795 S. of Building VIII and 758 further W. (Fig. 30). The S. edge of 758 slightly overlapped the N. edge of the infilled ditch 793, overlying layer 792. 795=758 formed a path along the S. side of the building and the yard to the W., similar to path 702 on the N. (see Fig. 30 and below).

Outside kiln 775 on the N. the clay subsoil and patches of 771 were sealed by a spread of yellow sandy gravel 789, filling in hollows and perhaps providing bedding for a close-set layer of limestones 786, which abutted 775 on the W. and extended into the E. half of its floor over the primary fill. There was however no burning either of the stones of 786 within the malting kiln or any charcoal rake-out over the stones outside, and the kiln must therefore have gone out of use at this time. The top of 'trough' 759 was infilled with smaller limestone rubble 759/1, possibly at the same time.

On the N. side 786 abutted a line of large flat slabs 702, which overlay 762 and formed a walkway parallel to the ditch along its S. side (Fig. 30). Feature 702 ran for a distance of *c.* 8 m., and was at most 1.5 m. wide. There were gaps, particularly towards the E. end, where the underlying gravel dumping showed through. At the W. end 702 stopped just short of furrow 745, at the E. end *c.* 1 m. short of Building VIII. The N. edge of the path was irregular, the S. edge was straight and in line with the outer edge of the N. wall of Building VIII, except close to kiln 775

Fig. 30. Site C: Phase 3, mid 14th century. Southern yard ditch, trough and malting kiln infilled, flagstone paths along the N. and S. sides of the yard.

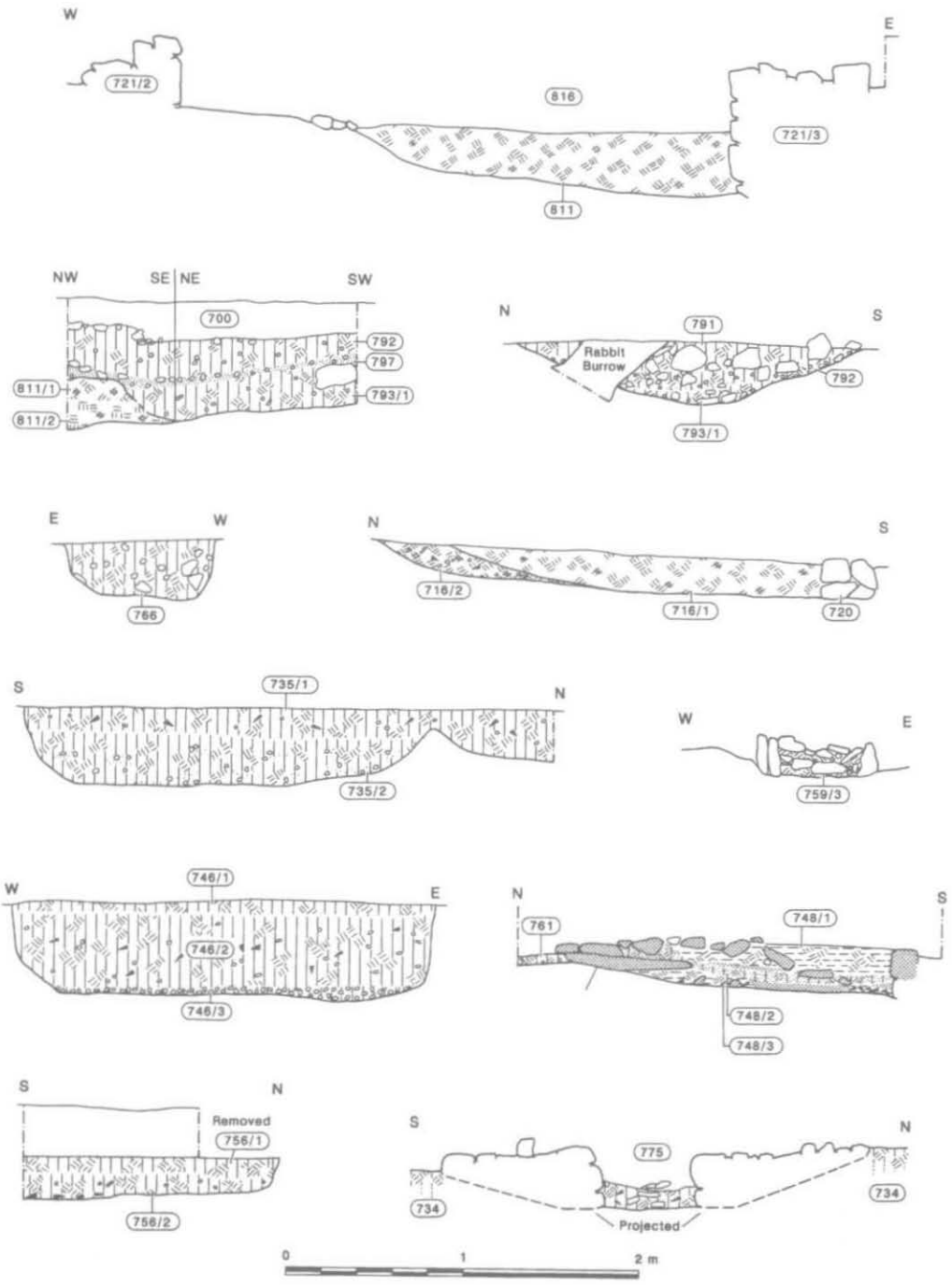

Fig. 31. Site C: sections across Building VIII, the ditches and structures in the yard, and pits.

where it widened to the S. and was abutted by limestone cobbling 786. Here the S. limit of the path was marked by a slab set on edge.

Abutting 702 on the S. side E. of 786 was soil layer 749, which lay in a linear band *c.* 0.5–0.6 m. wide bounded on the N. by 702 and on the S. by a spread of limestones 750, which overlay a thin yellow sand 751 (Fig. 30). 751 lay directly upon 762 and the clay subsoil 761. There was no stratigraphic link between stones 786 and 750, but both overlay sand layers, and 751 may be equivalent to 789 and 786 to 750. Layer 749 certainly abutted both 750 and 786. The stones of 750 were not however closely-packed like those of 786, and the sand was a series of small circular patches rather than a continuous layer. Nevertheless 750 is probably the remains of a cobbled surface.

Layer 749, in line with the N. wall of Building VIII and lying between path 702 and cobbling 750, clearly marks a structural feature of some sort. It is conceivable that it represents the bottom of a foundation trench for a low wall alongside 702, which was robbed out and the sand and rubble thrown out on the S. side. There was, however, no trace of sand or rubble in 749, and it is difficult to explain how the sand was deposited underneath, rather than mixed in with, the limestones. More likely 749 represents the soil of a shallow bedding trench for a hedge or other plants along the N. side of the yard. 702 is then a walkway alongside this, which extends around its W. end to the entrance of the malting kiln.

S. of 702 layer 706 is probably equivalent to 749. Although this soil was said to run under the stones of 702 root penetration might be expected to carry some of the soil under the edge of the stone path if this was a bedding-trench.

S. of this 'cobbling' 786 (also numbered 778) simply petered out, and was abutted by a soil layer 785, which overlay 771 and abutted 776. Cobbling 786 and the adjacent soil 785 were overlain by a sandy make-up layer 779, upon which was laid a further area of stones 769. S. of this and overlying slabs 776 was a layer of dark soil 770, which included specks of yellow sand probably scattered from 779. This was thus a build-up of soil over 776 before the cobbling was renewed.

Oven 748 was modified by the addition of a large flagstone across the flue, which overlay burning 748/3. This stone was heavily burnt, and overlying both this and 748/3 was a lighter grey silt 748/2, also containing red burnt clay patches (Fig. 31).

Phase 4

Overlying the Phase 3 floors were the destruction layers of Building VIII: 780–784 overlain by 772–774. These were dumps of clay loam or of sandy clay containing varying proportions of limestone. All of these were overlain by another sandy rubble layer 730 which completely masked the N. wall of the building, and 730 was in turn covered by rubble and clay 727. Outside on the S., tumble 794 overlay layers 795, 796 and 797, and clay and stones 760 and 757 were dumped up against the stub of the S. wall. On the E. clay and stones 723, only a little of which lay within the trench, was probably more tumble.

In the yard the occupation deposits and cobbled areas were overlain by clay loam 747, which is interpreted as a slow-forming topsoil. A similar soil 731 lay between Building VIII and wall 720, overlapping the stubs of the walls. Cutting into this soil was a small pit or posthole 732 filled with blue clay but without finds. Both 731 and 732 were sealed by destruction layers 730 and 727.

In the yard 747 was sealed by 737, a stony clay layer representing more of the robbing of the croft. This layer partly sealed oven 748, kiln 775 and trough 759. N. of path 702, which was partly visible through this layer, the destruction soil was numbered 704. W. of the yard structures were successive spreads of limestones 738, 726 and 725. The lowest of these, 738 may have been dumped during the use of the croft, but the others overlay both furrows 717/745 and the adjacent pits 746 and 735.

Overlying the destruction layers was a ploughsoil, numbered 724 and 705 over the yard, 701 over the ditches to the N. and over Building VIII and 711 W. of the croft over the earlier furrows. N.–S. ploughmarks filled with this soil were evident in the top of rubble 727 within the area of Building VIII. This layer was sealed by modern topsoil 700.

2.4 THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY, by ALISTER BARTLETT

A resistivity survey was carried out during the course of the excavations at Dean Court Farm at the request of the Oxford Archaeological Unit by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory (of English Heritage). The survey was carried out by the author together with A. David. The object of the initial stage of the survey, done in August 1984, was to test for evidence of other structures near to the already excavated building at Site A. The survey was then extended to the S. (to take in a 60 m. wide strip along the E. side of the field). This located an additional disturbed area, which was excavated as Site C. The survey was subsequently enlarged (in December 1984) to cover much of the remainder of the field to the W. of the original survey (Fig. 33).

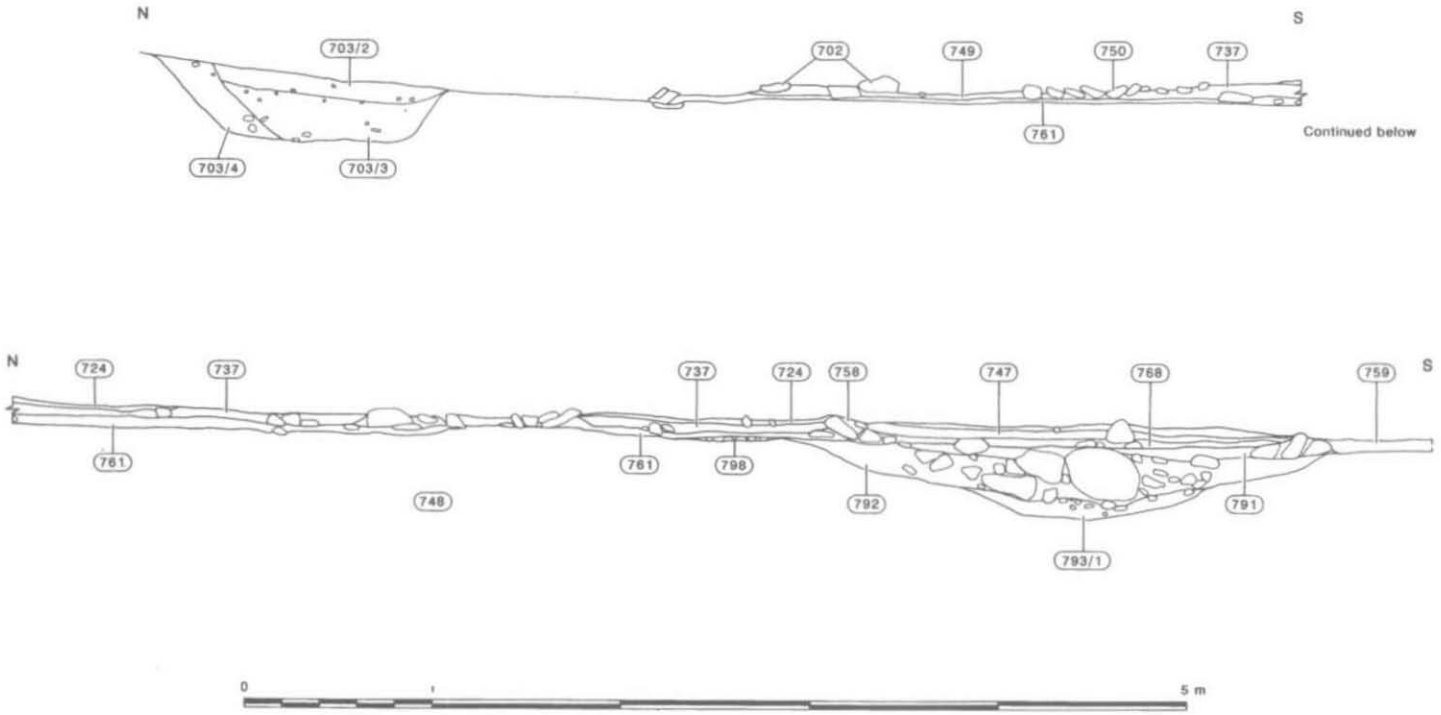

Fig. 32. Site C: N.–S. section through the yard.

Survey Procedure

The procedure as followed was the standard A.M. Laboratory practice for a large area survey of this kind. A Martin-Clark meter was used with probes in the twin electrode configuration (with one pair of current and potential probes mounted on a moveable frame, and the other pair fixed outside the survey area). This method provides ground penetration to a depth rather greater than the probe separation (0.5 m. in this case). The site was marked out in a 30 m. grid (indicated by crosses on the plans), and readings collected at 1 m. intervals over the greater part of the site. Some areas to the west which gave a very uniform response were tested initially by taking readings along traverses 5 m. apart, with intensive coverage only in areas which showed variation. These results have been combined and interpolated to a uniform 1 m. grid for presentation as Figures 33 and 34.

The site is on a clay soil which gave low readings, but with sufficient variation for areas of anomalous response to be identifiable. (Mean of readings = 14 ohms, standard deviation = 6 ohms.) An increase in soil moisture content may in part account for the very quiet response from the W. part of the site, which was surveyed late in the year. Fig. 34 shows the results from the complete survey after treatment to equalize variations in the background levels of the different sections of the survey, and smoothing (done by taking a weighted mean of each reading with its neighbours) to reduce noise levels in the data. The half tone plots (Figs. 35 and 36) show the results from areas centred on Site C after additional treatment with a high-pass filter. This helps resolve detail within areas of anomalous response. High readings are shown as black on these plots, low readings as light areas.

Results

It is probable, given the generally low readings from the site, that most of the detected features represent masonry, or deposits of paving or rubble, and that the response from earthworks or ditches is very incomplete. Comparisons with the excavation findings support this view. At Site A, the N. wall of Building III runs into the corner of the survey by a short distance, and its E. wall may be marked by the anomaly at A (Fig. 34). The N. wall was robbed intermittently; the S. wall of the building had been completely robbed out and was not seen in the survey.

Other anomalies can be seen in Fig. 34, in the N.E. corner of the survey at P and at the edge of the survey at B. These features are well separated against a quiet background, but could perhaps represent such features as cobbled surfaces, pits with rubble in their fill or even further partially robbed buildings. That at B is close to the line of a post-medieval field boundary, and could represent stone dumped into the ditch at one point.

An area of 60 × 30 m. alongside and to the S. of Site A was surveyed also by magnetometer. The results are not reproduced here because the only identifiable finding was a pit-like feature at the location circled as C on Fig. 34. There was also interference from buried pieces of iron, some of which could be of archaeological origin.

Features detected by the resistivity survey between Sites A and C are concentrated at the E. side of the site, where they suggest some degree of ground disturbance alongside the hollow way which follows the E. boundary of the field. It is difficult to be precise about the nature of the features, but there are indications of a parallel linear pattern centred at D.

A number of stronger anomalies found at Site C can be identified with features found in the excavation. These include part of the outline of Building VIII, which is represented by high readings at E. (labelled on Fig. 35). The anomaly arrowed at F appears to represent a stone path, and other high readings just S. of this are probably caused by a layer of stones which infilled a ditch and by other stone features. The N. boundary ditch of the toft is visible running parallel to F as a band of low readings just to the N. Several pits were excavated, and other such features, if they had a loose or stony fill, could account for a number of localized anomalies visible to the S. of Site C. Some of these features align, as arrowed at H, which could indicate stony deposits within the fill of a ditch. The particularly strong anomaly at G corresponds to rubble noted on the surface, and may be modern. There is a strong linear anomaly at J at the E. edge of the survey, which could be part of an additional building, or perhaps a paved surface.

Site B was not surveyed, except for part of its enclosing ditch, which extends into the S.E. corner of the survey. The outline of the N. arm of the ditch cannot be seen clearly in the survey, but the group of anomalies at K falls within its assumed line, which again suggests that some debris within the fill has been detected. Faint traces of its W. arm may be visible on the edge of the survey on Fig. 34. There does not appear to be any noticeable continuation of activity from Site B to the W. or N. of this ditch.

The most conspicuous finding from the unexcavated W. part of the field is the group of strong anomalies at L (Fig. 34). These are more isolated than the features described above, and do not form any identifiable plan. They occur close to the line of the post-medieval field boundary mentioned above (see Fig. 33), at a point where this boundary has a pronounced kink. They are thus most likely to represent an area of hardstanding at a gateway between fields.

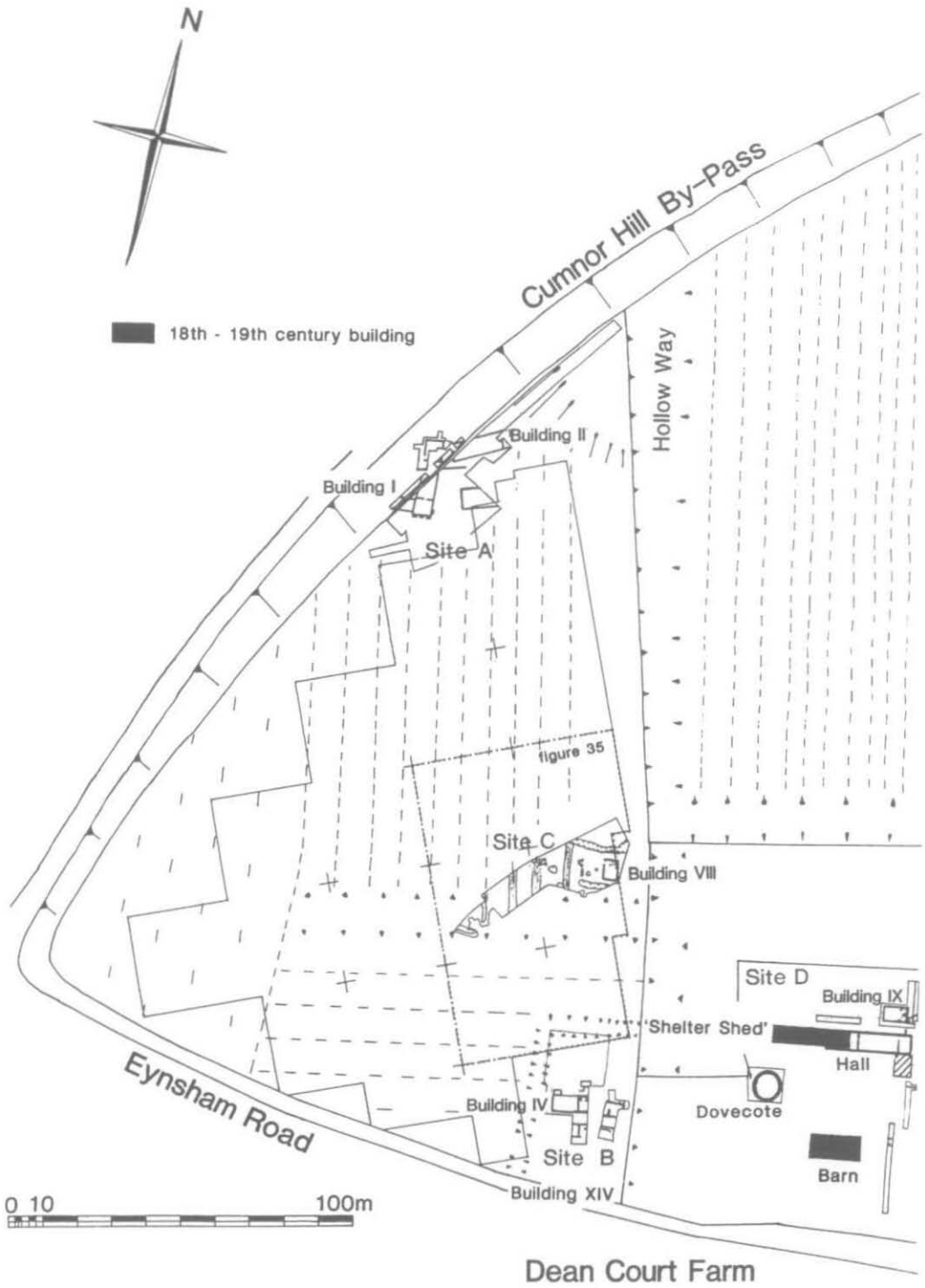

Fig. 33. Location of the geophysical survey.

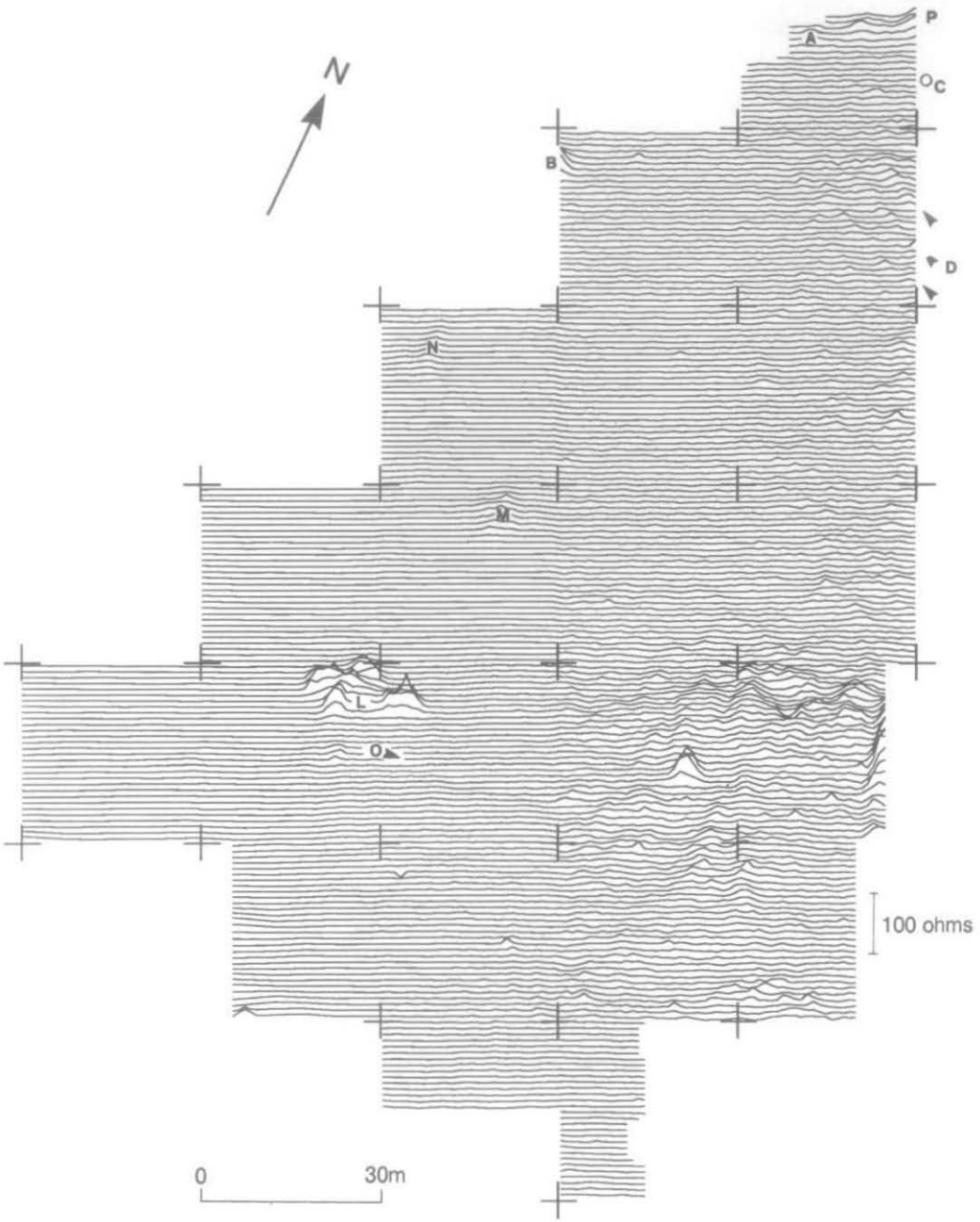

Fig. 34. Resistivity survey plot showing the principal anomalies.

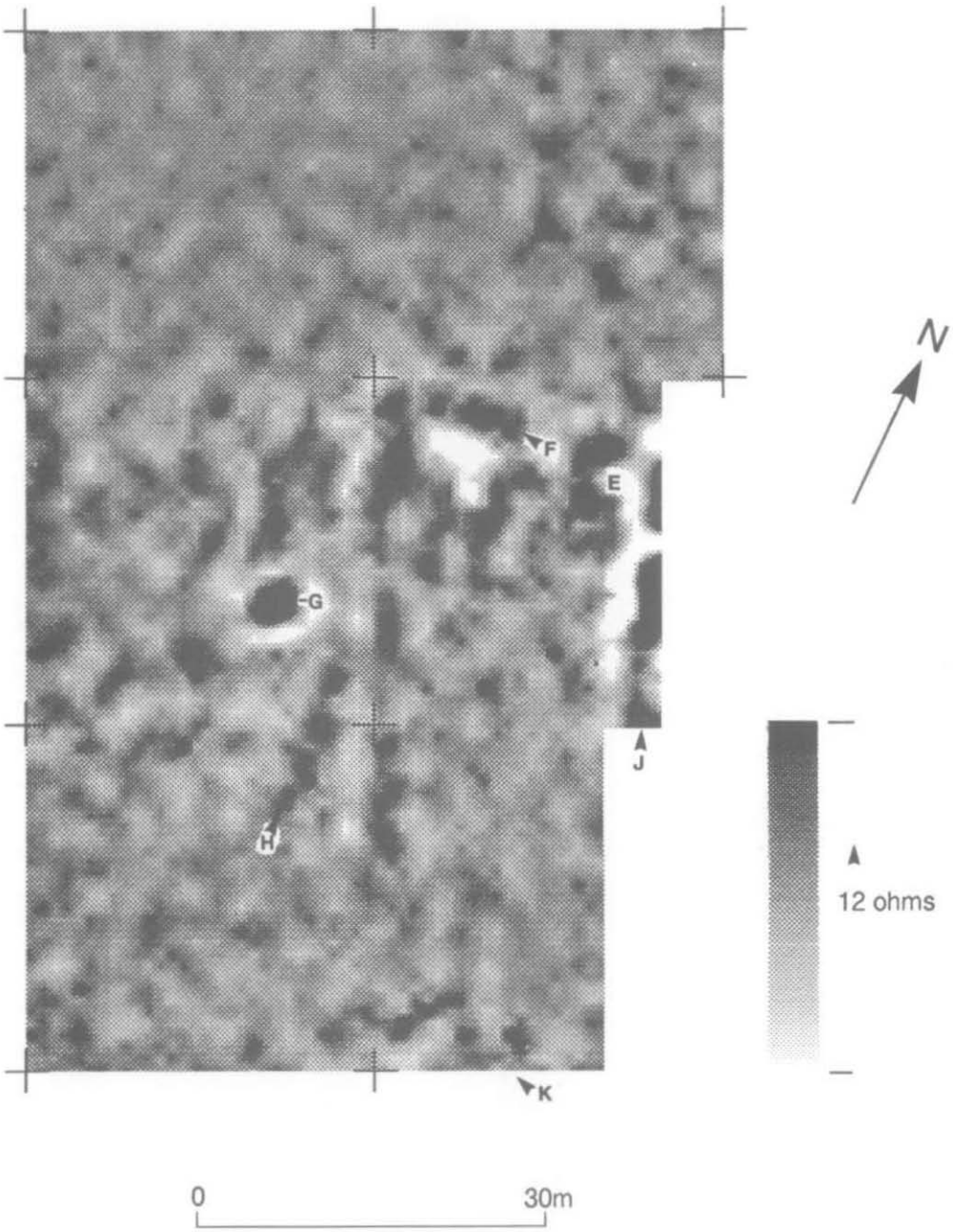

Fig. 35. Half-tone plot of area around Site C.

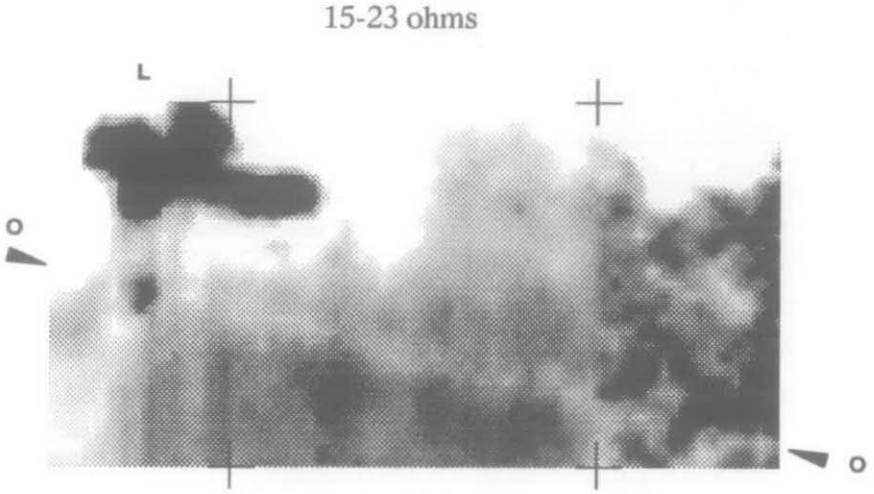

Fig. 36. Half-tone plot showing E.–W. boundary of field just S. of Site C.

Other less distinct features can be seen at N. and M. That at N. is also on the line of the post-medieval boundary, and could represent stone within the ditch, as suggested at point B. There is also a very faintly defined depression in the chart, arrowed at O, which could perhaps represent the ditch found by excavation S.W. of Site C, at the S. of the headland which separated two fields of ridge-and-furrow. This is shown more clearly on a half-tone plot, Fig. 36.

Summary

The survey has located the main areas of archaeological activity associated with the medieval settlement within the area investigated, and has provided evidence for their distribution and extent which relates well to the findings from the excavation and other fieldwork sources. Building VIII and other features at Site C can be identified in the survey, together with outlying features at Sites A and B. There appear to be few features in the W. half of the site, although the contrast is emphasised by the wetter ground conditions at the time of the fieldwork in that area. Most of those that were detected can be related to known former topographical features, and the survey suggests that few areas of significant archaeological significance lie outside those identified by the excavations.

2.5 SITE D: THE 14TH- TO 15TH-CENTURY GRANGE

Introduction

Site D was the site of the 14th-century and later grange centre containing the principal domestic buildings (Hall, Kitchen and Solar), and was surrounded by further stone buildings including a dovecote, the whole enclosed by a moat and boundary wall (Fig. 1). This site continued to be the centre of a farm until very recently, when the farm was converted into housing. One wing of the domestic accommodation, containing the Solar, survived the demolition of the Kitchen and the rebuilding of the Hall as a farmhouse in the early 17th century, and still stands to the height of the eaves today, virtually the only above-ground remains of the medieval settlement.

Because of the continuing use of this site as farm and farmyard until redevelopment began, access for excavation was restricted in comparison to Sites A, B and C, and area excavation was only possible for two of the buildings, the Kitchen and the Dovecote. Some of the buildings were only investigated

by keyhole trenches. Excavation and recording had to be fitted around the builder's programme of demolition, refurbishment and new building, and was carried out sporadically as opportunities arose over a period of 16 months.

The work was undertaken by a varied team, sometimes involving MSC labour, sometimes watching brief by professional staff and sometimes voluntary labour, and the results are of variable quality. The site is low-lying, and a final limiting factor was the water table, which rose suddenly during the winter of 1985 and flooded all the trenches within the Hall and Solar, forcing their abandonment before the lowest levels could be fully investigated or recorded.

The scope of the work is shown in Fig. 37. The description begins with the Hall, Building XI, which underlies the existing farmhouse (Trenches 1–2 and 5–12), and then continues with the excavated evidence relating to the Solar, Building X (Trenches 3–4 and 26–8). This is followed by a discussion of the standing remains. Then follows the area excavation of Building IX, the Kitchen which lay N. of the Hall (Trenches 13–17), and this is followed by an account of the trenching of Building XII (Trenches 18–24). The adjacent moat and the boundary wall are then described (Trenches 40–42, 35 and 36), followed by the building salvaged E. of the moat, Building XV (Trenches 43–4). The W. part of the grange enclosure, which includes the Dovecote (Building XIII) (Trench 30), salvage observations of the ponds W. of the farmhouse (Trenches 16, 29 and 37) and salvage of other features around the farm buildings, is then described. The two trenches dug S. of the modern Eynsham Road (Fig. 1 Trenches 45–6) are dealt with last.

The Hall (Building XI) and Solar (Building X)

Discovery

Contractor's trenches dug E.–W. and N.–S. across the E. room of the farmhouse revealed a series of earlier floors extending beneath the internal walls of the standing building, and showed that the E. and N. walls of the farmhouse directly overlay the walls of an earlier medieval stone structure, Building XI (Figs. 38–40). Permission was obtained for a series of small trenches to investigate the S. limits of this and its junction with the standing medieval block Building X (Fig. 38 Trenches 3–6). Building X proved to have been built onto Building XI. A further trench outside on the N. (Trench 13) established that Building IX, the medieval kitchen, also abutted Building XI. This building is identified with the medieval hall.

Another trench (Trench 7) was dug to investigate the W. limits of Building XI, and demonstrated that another of the standing walls overlay a medieval predecessor, one corner of which survives above ground. Observation of further contractor's trenches (Trenches 8–12) established the continuation of the medieval structure W. of this, but there was no opportunity for thorough investigation of this area.

Repointing of the building inside and out enabled the identification of blocked doors and windows in Building X (Fig. 46), and a drain arch was found in the S. wall of the building (Fig. 45). This was exposed and its stratigraphic associations established by Trench 28.

Due to the high water table and to the limits imposed by the developer it was not usually possible to excavate the earliest levels or bottom the walls. In addition, most of the trenches were small, and because of this it is rarely possible to link the stratigraphy between trenches. The following account of the medieval buildings is thus necessarily provisional.

The Hall

Summary

This was a stone building on an E.–W. axis, 6.6 m. wide and probably 18.8 m. long externally. Its construction is not securely dated: only a single sherd of pottery (of late 12th or early 13th-century date) was recovered from the early floor levels. Building XI was however abutted on the N. by the Kitchen, Building IX, and on the S. by the Solar, Building X, both of which were built by the early 14th century.

The interior, which measured 16.7 m. by 5.2 m. wide, was divided into at least 3 parts by stone

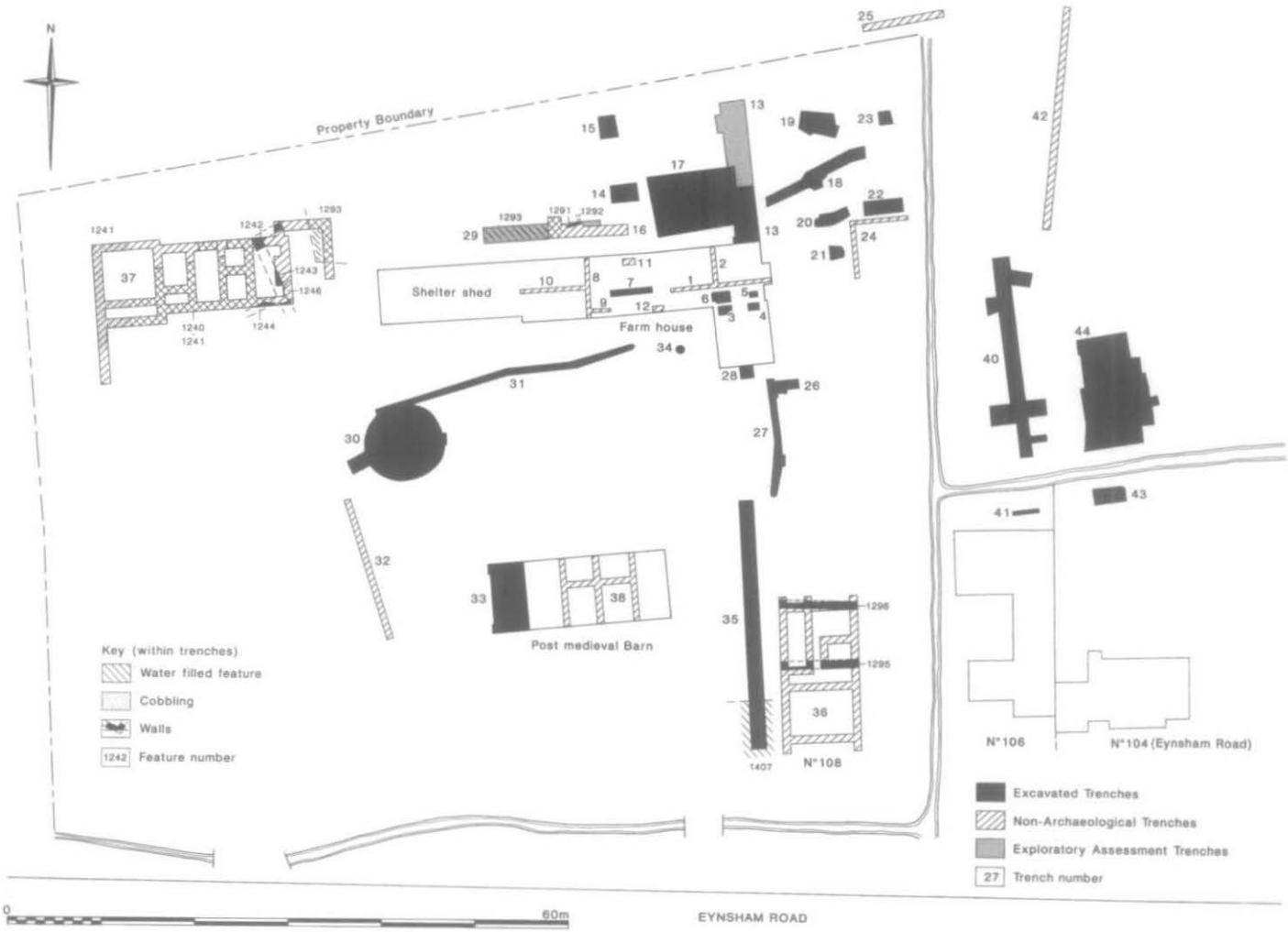

Fig. 37. Site D: Location plan of excavated trenches, showing features recorded in salvage W. and S.E. of the farm.

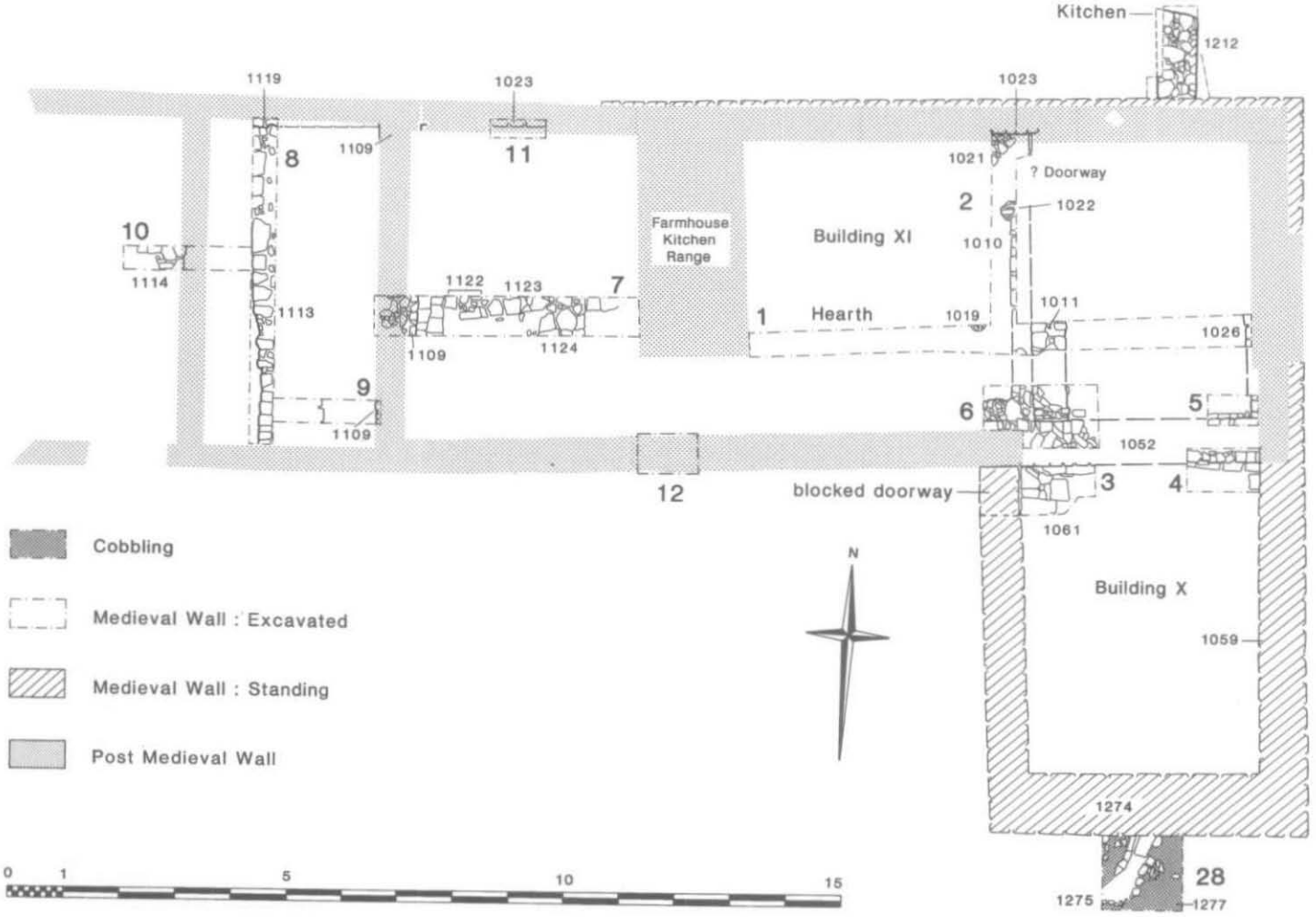

Fig. 38. Site D: Plan of Building XI (the Hall) and Building X (the Solar). The 17th-century farmhouse overlying the site of the hall is on the left.

partition walls. At the W. end was a cross-passage 1 m. wide, at the E. end a room 3.3 m. by 5.2 m. was divided off early in the building's use. This was entered by a doorway between the partition wall and the N. wall of the Hall. The remaining area may all have been one room, although it is possible that a further partition wall lay beneath the kitchen range of the 17th-century farmhouse, beneath which investigation was not possible.

The floors were of clay surfaced with gravel or mortar. In the E. part of the central room a succession of burnt areas shows that there was a central hearth. A stone bench ran along the E. wall and the E. part of the S. wall. Domestic 'table' bone debris upon the floors suggests that this was the main dining area.

This building was demolished and directly overlain by the walls of the existing farmhouse. The fireplace in the E. wall suggests that the farmhouse was built in the early 17th century.

Description

The outer walls of the Hall were located in trenches 1–7, 9 and 11–13. This was a rectangular building 6.6 m. wide and at least 18.8 m. long from E. to W. The N., E. and S. walls were built of courses of thin flat limestones alternating with courses of larger blocks with dressed faces but of irregular shape, the gaps infilled with small stones. The bonding was of stiff clay. The faces of the walls were flat and even, and on the inside there were traces of mortar rendering on the N. wall 1023. On the W. it is unclear which was the end wall of the building, but most likely is wall 1113. Insufficient of this survived to establish whether this clay-bonded wall had the same characteristic coursing as the other walls.

The external walls were of different thickness: the E. wall 1026 was 1.0 m. wide, the S. wall 1052 was 0.8 m. wide, the N. wall 1023 only 0.65 m. wide. On the W. wall 1109 was 0.7 m. wide, wall 1114 was 0.6 m. wide and wall 1113 was 1 m. wide (see below Trenches 8–10). The N., E. and S. walls had offsets both inside and outside, formed of a layer of flat limestones projecting 0.08–0.14 m. from the wall. The internal offset of walls 1026 and 1052 (Trenches 5 and 6) was on average 0.15 m. lower than the external offset (Trenches 3, 4 and 13); both offsets varied in level by a few centimetres within the trenches.

The bottoms of the walls lay beneath water level, and were only tentatively established by limited probing. In Trench 5 wall 1026 appeared to bottom 0.17 m. below the internal offset, and in Trench 6 wall 1052 also bottomed on gravel 0.18 m. below the bottom of the offset. This level corresponds to the surface of gravel established S. of Building X in trenches 27, 35 and adjacent to the boundary wall in Trench 40. The N. wall 1023 was not bottomed, but was exposed on the outside continuing below the level of the offset to just above the bottom of the E. and S. walls. Unlike the inner face of the S. wall, however, which was much more roughly coursed and dressed below the offset, the outer face of 1023 was even all the way down.

On the outside of the S. wall 1052 there were two or more offset courses with a total depth of at least 0.24 m., but neither in Trench 3 or Trench 4 was this dug down to the level of the bottom on the inside.

In Trench 3 the uppermost course of the offset, 1057, overlay two stone platforms 1061 and 1062, both of which appeared to continue beneath the S. face of wall 1052. 1062 directly underlay the W. wall of Building X, and its E. edge was contiguous with the straight W. edge of 1061, whose surface however was 0.1 m. lower than that of 1062. Both platforms were at least 0.15 m. deep. Neither feature was evident in Trench 6 N. of wall 1052, and it is therefore probable that these features were bonded into the foundation courses of 1052 below the offset, rather than belonging to a separate, earlier, structure.

The earliest layer abutting the wall over gravel was a brown clay (see Trench 6, Fig. 41). Just above the water level this was overlain by a horizon of pebbly gravel, and above this floor 1017 was laid; the surface of this layer was level with or slightly above the top of the internal offset of 1052, and was flat and very hard. It had been surfaced with a skin of yellow-brown sandy gravel mortar, but this only survived intermittently in the central part of the building. There were several clay and gravel red burnt spreads upon 1017, indicating the presence of shifting hearths.

1017 was overlain by a thin occupation deposit 1018, which contained within it at least 10 layers of dark grey or black clayey silt, some separated by thin brown clay and white gravel resurfacings of parts of the floor. Two postholes 1019 and 1022 were cut into 1018 and packed with limestones.

At this point the building was divided internally by a N.–S. wall 1011, which was constructed in a shallow foundation trench cut into floor 1017. This wall butted up against wall 1052 on the S. (Fig. 40), and stopped short of wall 1023 on the N. 1011 was 0.60 m. wide and was constructed of large squared facing blocks and rubble infill bonded with clay. It is not certain whether 1011 was constructed before or after the deposition of 1018, since this was cut away 0.4 m. from the wall down to the surface of 1017, and filled with sandy clay loam 1020 level with the top of 1014, a new clay floor, which overlay 1018 and 1020 and abutted 1011. 1020 appears to be a bedding layer for a later feature abutting 1011 rather than for the construction of the wall itself, but on balance it is also likely that 1011 postdated layer 1018 (see also below).

The room E. of wall 1011 is referred to hereafter as 'the E. room', the room to the W. of 1011 as 'the central

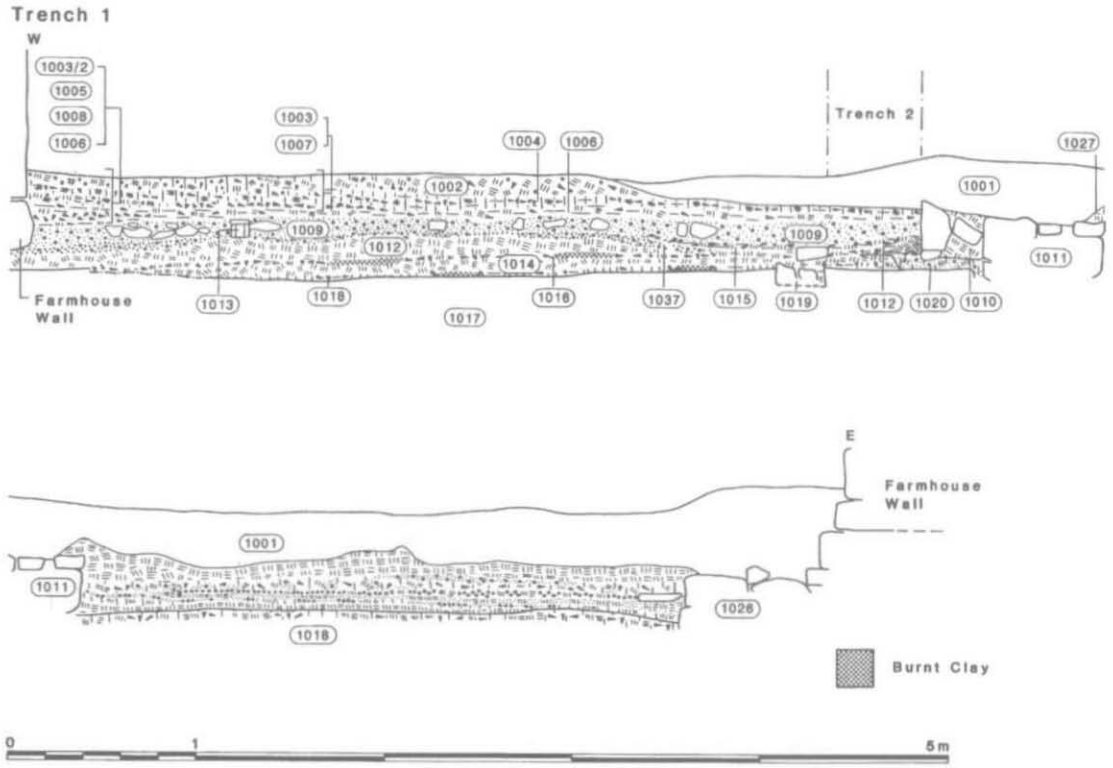

Fig. 39. Site D: Section of Trench 1 across the E. part of Building XI (the Hall).

Fig. 40. Site D: Junction of the S. wall of Building XI (the Hall) 1026 and dividing wall 1011, from the N.W.

room'. In the long section across the E. room (Fig. 39) the bottom of the observed stratigraphy was a dark grey clay with charcoal flecks, which appeared to underlie the E. edge of wall 1011. This occupation was not evident in Trenches 5 or 6, but was perhaps part of layer 1018. It was overlain by a make-up layer which abutted the wall. This room had a succession of floors, 1040, 1039 and 1038, all of which consisted of a sandy clay bedding layer surfaced with a thin skim of gravel or mortar. No finds were recovered from the section to date any of these layers.

The latest floor 1038 was overlain by a thick deposit of pale grey clay 1027, which overlay the edges of both wall 1011 and wall 1025, but stopped just short of the E. wall of the farmhouse. This is interpreted as a levelling layer dated to the early 17th century, and was overlain by limestone rubble.

Only a very small part of this room was exposed within Trenches 5 and 6, and the series of floors evident in Trench 1 was not recognised here. This may be because the floors received less wear in the corners of the room, and were therefore less frequently replaced; it is noticeable that fewer layers are evident in section in Trench 1 close to wall 1011. The sections of Trenches 5 and 6 were similar; Trench 6 is illustrated here (Fig. 41). Layer 1017 was

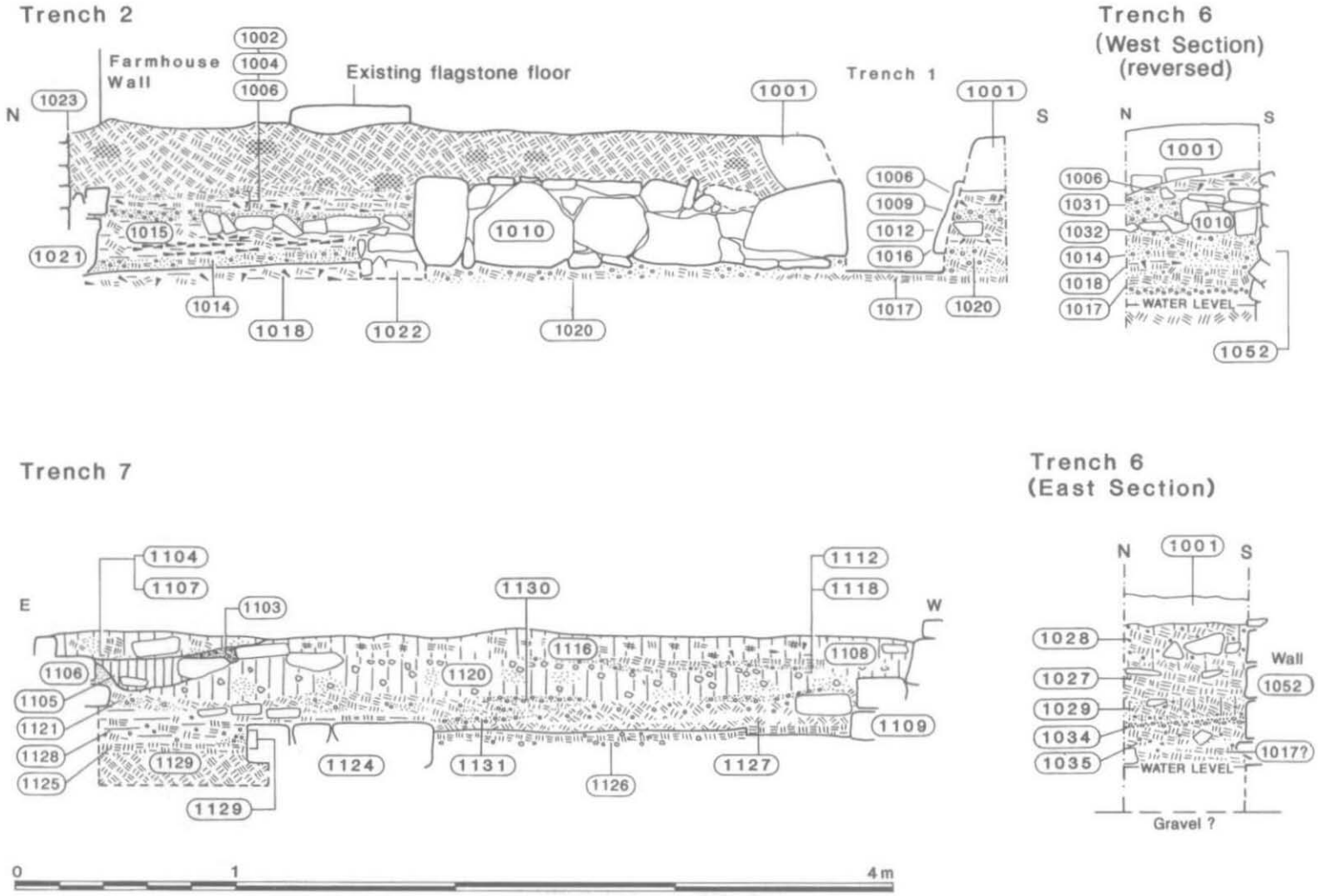

Fig. 41. Site D: N.–S. sections across the E. end (Trenches 2 and 6) and along the W. end (Trench 7) of Building XI (the Hall).

overlain by a very sandy and gravelly clay 1035, which was surfaced with a thin layer of gravel mortar 1034, which abutted walls 1011 and 1052. 1034 is probably the same as 1040. It was overlain by further sandy clay make-up 1029, equivalent to both 1039 and 1038; the surface of 1039 did not extend right up to wall 1011 in Trench 1. This was sealed by layer 1027, and this was overlain by a thin layer of gravelly loam, and then by further rubble and clay levelling 1028.

In the central room the first floor was 1014. This partly overlay posthole 1019, but the post itself probably continued in use during the life of this floor. Posthole 1022 was infilled with stones overlying 1014, so was probably also in use at this time. Before any occupation material had accumulated upon this floor additional stone features 1010 and 1021 were constructed at the E. end.

Feature 1010 consisted of a band of yellow clay and limestones 0.35 m. wide and 0.4 m. high abutting walls 1011 and 1052. This feature began 1.5 m. short of the N. wall of the Hall 1023, overlying the edge of posthole 1022, and ran S. alongside 1011 all the way to the S.E. corner, where it turned W. and continued up against 1052. Nearly 2 m. of its W. edge was exposed in Trench 2; this was faced with large limestone slabs set vertically to form a straight edge. These slabs were however irregular in elevation, and the gaps between them were filled with small limestone packing. The surviving surface of 1010 was flat.

Alongside 1011 feature 1010 was bedded upon layer 1020, which appears to have been the fill of a shallow foundation trench slightly wider than 1010 cut down to floor 1017 (see also 1021 below). Against 1052 the foundation was absent, 1010 directly overlying 1014. Feature 1010 was abutted by occupation upon floor 1014, layer 1016.

Feature 1021 consisted of roughly dressed limestones bonded with yellow clay abutting the N. wall of the Hall, with a straight edge on the E. side leaving the wall opposite feature 1010 and running diagonally S.W. Like 1010 this was bedded upon layer 1020, and overlay 1014. The bottom of 1021 had sunk slightly into the surface of the floor.

Feature 1010 is interpreted as a stone bench, similar to feature 910 on Site B (see Figs. 16 and 22). The gap between 1010 and 1021, which was 0.9 m., is likely to have been a doorway between the central and E. rooms. A very small extension to Trench 2 was dug to look for the junction of wall 1011 with 1023, but no trace of 1011 was found, and this may have ended parallel with 1010 which abutted it. The function of 1021 is unclear; just possibly this was the bottom step of a newel stair to an upper floor at the E. end, but 1021 is rather high for this.

Floor 1014 was overlain by a dark greasy occupation soil 1016, which abutted 1010 and probably abutted the posts in postholes 1019 and 1022. Samples from this deposit and from the surface of floor 1014 below proved rich in fish bones (see Section 4.2). There were several patches burnt red upon the surface of 1014, showing the continued presence of an open hearth. 1016 continued N. of 1010 and of 1011, and was overlain by a single layer of limestones forming a straight edge on the line of the W. edge of 1011. This may have been a temporary threshold between the rooms.

1016 was overlain by a further clay floor 1012, which was on average 0.1 m. thick. This was worn away completely at the E. end, except for a band right up against the face of bench 1010. The resulting hollow was infilled with white mortar 1037, and the floor subsequently resurfaced with gravelly mortar 1036, but close to 1010 this too was largely worn away. A thick deposit of dark occupation soil 1015 accumulated in this hollow; between bench 1010 and 1021 numerous resurfacings were evident within this accumulation during which time posthole 1022 was backfilled (see Fig. 39).

In Trench 6 this occupation sequence was not evident. 1010 was however abutted over 1014 by a thin make-up layer 1033 which was probably equivalent to 1012.

Overlying 1015 and other occupation lenses upon 1012 the central room was re-floored with cream gravel mortar 1009=1031, bedded in places upon a layer of limestones 1032 (Fig. 41). This floor was cut by a shallow posthole 1013 which bottomed upon 1012 below. 1009 was overlain by another layer of dark occupation material 1006.

At the W. end 1009 stopped against the foundations for the kitchen range of the 17th-century farmhouse. The floor was not mortared onto the foundation in section, but this was probably due to subsequent shifting of the overlying wall, and 1009 is believed to have been laid when the farmhouse was constructed. Overlying this at the W. end of Trench 1 was a layer of charcoal which abutted the foundation of the fireplace on the W. side of the range and extended 0.6 m. N. This was sealed by clayey silt containing much grey ash and charcoal, which 1 m. from the fireplace merged into 1006 and overlay the infilled posthole 1013.

Above this the fireplace was abutted by a succession of burnt red soils, charcoal spreads and ashy occupation deposits, 1005, 1007, 1008, 1004 and 1003. Both 1006 and 1004 abutted feature 1010 at the E. end, showing that the partition wall continued in use after the replacement of the medieval Hall with the farmhouse. This period of use is characterised by the rapid build-up of occupation soil derived from the use of the fireplace, and the absence of further made floors. It would appear that the bottom of the kitchen range at first stood proud of the floor, with the foundation course exposed.

The surface of 1003 was at the same level as 1002 overlying 1004 further E. This layer consisted of clay containing small stones and charcoal flecks, and appears to have been another made floor contemporary with 1003, although their relationship was destroyed by a shallow bowl filled with a mixture of redeposited soil from

both layers. 1002 was cut away on the E. before reaching 1010, probably in connection with the demolition of wall 1011, and was overlain by rubble and clay 1001 which sealed the wall.

The build-up of floor and occupation layers in the central room was considerably greater than in the E. room throughout. Floor 1009 was at a higher level than 1038, the uppermost floor contemporary with wall 1011 in the E. room, and the build-up was accelerated by the material raked out from the fireplace at the W. end of the central room in the farmhouse. The virtual absence of occupation debris or burnt material accumulating on the floors of the E. room is similar to the state of the ground floor room of Building X, from the limited evidence available.

W. of Trench 1 the kitchen range of the farmhouse was nearly 2 m. wide. Beyond this Trench 11, a contractor's trench dug beneath a doorway through the N. wall of the farmhouse, showed that the N. wall of the medieval Hall was continuing on a line 0.15 m. N. of the overlying farmhouse wall. A similar contractor's test pit, Trench 12, was dug below a doorway in the S. wall of the farmhouse in line with the kitchen range. This did not reveal clear evidence of wall 1052, but the foundations of the farmhouse wall overlay a course of flat slabs similar to those at the offset level of 1052, and these rested upon a layer of large undressed limestones in a matrix of sandy clay whose depth was not ascertained. These were similar to the limestones underlying the Solar in Trench 4 (see below).

Trench 7 was dug E.–W. across the middle room of the farmhouse (Figs. 38 and 41). The lowest deposit exposed was a blue-grey clay 1129, which was not bottomed. This was overlain by and surrounded an E.–W. wall or platform of roughly dressed large limestones up to 0.4 by 0.4 m. across, numbered 1123. The stones were bonded with clay and the surface was flat; the feature was made of two courses of stones for most of its length but was of varying depth, 0.4 m. at the E. end of the trench but only 0.26 m. on towards the W. end. 1123 was constructed together with 1124, a platform of similar stones 0.8–0.9 m. wide running off to the S. (Figs. 38 and 41). This feature was only a single course deep and bottomed within the top of the blue-grey clay (1129).

On the E. side 1123=1124 was abutted by a thin clay floor 1125, possibly surfaced with a skin of mortar, on the W. side at a slightly higher level by another compact clay with pebble floor 1126, which also abutted the lower offset foundation of wall 1109 at the W. end of the trench. Floors 1125 and 1126 are probably equivalent to layer 1017 in Trench 1. 1126 and the W. end of 1123 were overlain by a layer of thin limestones 1122, which were contiguous on the S. side with a gritty clay layer 1127 which extended E. as far as 1124. The surface of this layer was not as compact as that of 1126 below, but together with 1122 presumably represents a floor.

Floor 1125 was overlain by 1128, a thick deposit of silty clay which overlay 1124 and the very E. edge of the gritty clay floor 1127. This layer was surfaced in part with flat limestones, and at the junction between 1127 and 1128 both layers were sealed by a localised spread of mortar 1131. 1127, 1128, 1131 and 1122 are thus all parts of a single floor, perhaps equivalent to floor 1014 in Trench 1.

Stones 1122 and layer 1127 adjacent were overlain by a line of limestones up against the offset foundation of 1109, forming a kerb against the wall. Some of the slabs were fitted under the projecting edge of the upper course of the offset. The kerb was abutted by a make-up layer 1121, consisting of gritty clay similar to 1127 at the W. end, but merging into silty clay *c.* 1 m. to the E. This silty clay overlay 1128, to which it was similar. 1121 was surfaced intermittently with mortar 1130.

1121 came up almost to the top of the offset of wall 1109 on the W., and at the E. end of the trench was cut into by the foundation trench for the offset foundation of the farmhouse kitchen range, 1106. This layer is broadly equivalent in level to floor 1012 in Trench 1. It was overlain by a thicker make-up layer 1120=1105, a compact sand containing small limestones which gave the surface a metalled appearance. This was the first floor contemporary with the farmhouse, its surface level with the top of the foundation of 1106 on the E. and abutting the wall proper of 1109 on the W. It is level with floor 1009 in Trench 1.

The surface of 1120 was worn away in places, particularly on the W. side of the room, and was repaired by laying 1118, a sandy loam and gravel mortar make-up, which was surfaced with a clean compact clay floor 1112. Clay floor 1112 was overlain by a roughly co-extensive deposit of ashy loam and charcoal 1108. Within this layer was a line of irregular limestones abutting the E. face of wall 1109; these were charcoal stained, and those on the N. side of the trench were burnt red, suggesting that a hearth lay just N. of the excavation.

On the E. adjacent to foundation 1106 a shallow drain numbered 1107 was created by digging away 1120 and 1118 alongside the wall and lining the resulting gully along the W. edge and down the W. side with thin flat slabs 1103. Several of these slabs were mortared. The drain filled up with friable black silty loam.

Overlying the E. side of burning 1108 was a mixed clay and mortar make-up 1116. This was sealed along the N. side of the trench by a single thickness of flat limestones 1117, which had an irregular edge on the S. 1117 included much larger slabs on the E. forming the capping to drain 1107, and was perhaps part of a more extensive floor later removed, hence the uneven surface of 1116 where not covered by 1117.

Layers 1117 and 1116 were overlain by an occupation soil 1101 consisting largely of charcoal and reddened soil derived from the kitchen range. 1101 respected the edge slabs of the drain S. of 1117, but was cut away by 1104, a shallow hole overlying the drain, probably dug to remove the capstones. This was backfilled with sandy clay and brick rubble. Along the N. edge of the trench 1101 was also cut by a shallow linear feature 1111, which bottomed in part on 1117 and at the W. end on 1112 beneath. This was backfilled with sandy gravel 1110 and silty clay 1102.

W. of wall 1109 three contractor's trenches (Trenches 8–10) were examined. Trench 9 uncovered the W. offset of

wall 1109, which projected 0.2 m. from the wall, and a wide wall or stone platform 1113 running just E. of N. only 1 m. to the W. of it. The W. edge of 1113 ran down Trench 8, and consisted of large roughly dressed limestones along the edge with smaller limestones in the core, all bonded with clay. 1113 was approximately 1.2 m. wide, including a slight offset on the E. side.

Both the offset of 1109 and that of 1113 appeared to rest upon, or possibly to be abutted at the very bottom by, a compact red-brown clay containing pebble cobbles, which was very similar to 1126 E. of 1109. This was overlain by another clay layer 1115, slightly gritty, with a hard flat surface level with the top of 1113 and the top of the offset of 1109. This layer is similar to 1121 E. of 1109, and demonstrates the contemporaneity of 1109 and 1113. A sherd of late 12th- or early 13th-century pottery came from layer 1115. It was overlain by a thick layer of clay loam with peagrit gravel, which abutted 1109 but overlay 1113.

At the N. end of Trench 8 1113 ran into wall 1119, the continuation of the N. wall of the medieval Hall. This wall was traced W. from its junction with 1109, into which it was bonded, as far as 1113, the foundations of both walls being built at the same level. 1119 had large foundation blocks averaging 0.3 by 0.3 by 0.2 m. across, overlain by a wall of dressed limestones on the face and irregular limestones in the core. W. of 1113 wall 1119 was not evident, the farmhouse wall overlying a deep deposit of dark blue-grey silty clay with fine sand. On the S. 1113 continued beneath the S. wall of the farmhouse, and no wall was visible returning E. Presumably the S. wall of the Hall lies slightly S. of the existing wall at this point.

Since wall 1119 did not continue beyond it, wall 1113 may have been the W. end wall of the Hall. The E. gable wall of the building, 1026, was over 1 m. wide, much wider than the N. and S. walls, and the foundation of 1113 was similarly massive and much more so than either of the adjacent N.–S. walls 1109 and 1114 (see below). The narrow space between 1113 and the contemporary wall 1109 perhaps indicates that this was a cross-passage.

Some 1.4 m. W. of 1113 was another N.–S. wall 1114. This was *c.* 0.6 m. wide, constructed of large limestones dressed on the faces and bonded with clay. It lay just W. of and below a later farmhouse wall (Fig. 38), and was sealed by the dark grey sandy clay. Below this clay W. of 1113 was a thin horizon of sandy gravel, and this overlay soil very similar to 1115 E. of 1113. The relationship of these soils to wall 1114 was not established.

The Solar

Summary

This two-storey stone building abutted the S. wall of the Hall at its E. end. At ground level it was entered by a door at the N. end of the W. wall, and had a succession of clay floors, some surfaced with gravel mortar. A drain ran through the S. wall onto a cobbled yard outside, but was not traced inside the building. The Solar is dated to between 1280 and 1320 by an original window *in situ* on the first floor.

Three successive cobbled surfaces were found outside the building on the S. and W., one of which formed a platform edged with a limestone kerb. S. of the cobbling several features possible of Early Saxon date were revealed.

Description

Building X, the surviving medieval block, is 6.7 m. long N.–S. and 5.75 m. wide (Fig. 38). The S. wall is 1.2 m. thick, the E. and W. walls between 0.75 and 0.8 m. thick. The walls are constructed of well-dressed blocks of limestone laid in even courses and bonded with a hard cream sandy mortar. Longer quoins are used at the exposed S.W. and S.E. corners (Fig. 42).

The S. wall 1274 was built in a foundation trench 0.3 m. deep and 0.28 m. wider than the wall, cut through orange clay down to gravel. This is numbered 1282. On the W. side of Trench 28 the E. half of an earlier feature filled with soft purplish brown clay was cut by 1282; there were no finds, but here the bottom course of the offset foundations extended further from the wall to compensate for this soft area. There were three courses of offset foundation, the lower two within 1282, the uppermost course projecting 0.2 m. above the top of the foundation trench. This was abutted by 1281, a make-up layer of small thin limestone rubble which also sealed the foundation trench. Above the offset a narrow round-headed drain arch had been built in the centre of the S. wall (Figs. 43 and 45).

The junction of 1052 with 1059, the E. wall of Building X, in Trench 4, demonstrates clearly that Building X abutted the Hall (Figs. 43 and 44). Wall 1059 was constructed on a level with the uppermost course of the offset of 1052, and its second course was mortared onto the top of it. The wall did not appear to have a foundation trench at this point, but rested upon a layer of large squared limestones in a matrix of brown clay, which appeared to extend westwards along the S. side of wall 1052.

Fig. 42. Site D: W. wall of Building X (the Solar), 14th-century standing block.

At the N. end of the W. wall of Building X there is now a blocked doorway. The N. jamb of this, which belongs to the post-medieval farmhouse, can be seen in Trench 3 overlying 1052 (Fig. 43), as can the larger slabs of the foundation course below the threshold, 1053. The absence of any trace of the wall of Building X below this level, and the continuation of internal floor layers 1556, 1555 and 1550 across the line of the W. wall, shows that this doorway also existed in the original medieval building (see Fig. 46). Stone feature 1062 may thus represent the threshold of this doorway, and 1061 an area of hardstanding just inside.

Layer 1061 was partly overlain by a thin deposit of clay and frequent pebbles, which extended E. beyond the edge of Trench 3. This and 1061 were covered by a thin layer of coarse grey sandy mortar 1063, and this was replaced by a finer sandy mortar with small pebbles 1058. These floor layers abutted the offset stones of wall 1052 on the N. and 1062 on the W. 1058 also appeared in Trench 4 in the N.E. corner abutting wall 1059 and sealing the raft of limestones and brown clay on which 1059 was built. Mortar floor 1063 is at the same level as the lowest floor seen in the Hall adjacent, 1017.

Floor 1058 and offset 1057 were overlain by a dumped layer of small flat limestones in sandy clay loam 1056, and this was overlain up against wall 1052 by a thin layer of clay with mortar fragments 1055. On the E. side the mortar gave way to a layer of roughly shaped limestones. The surface of 1056 and 1055 was level, and may have been surfaced with a layer of thin slabs, but was not very compacted. This was sealed by a further layer of thin slates in sandy clay and gravel 1050. In Trench 4, 1056 was not distinguished from 1050 in excavation or in section (Fig. 43), but a floor 1060 was identified halfway down this deposit by a trampled surface of grey clay 1060 with a patch of purple and black burning upon it. Close to wall 1052 this merged into a layer of roughly shaped limestones, which is probably the same as 1055 in Trench 3.

This floor was overlain in both Trenches 3 and 4 by 1050, which was surfaced with a layer of large thin limestones, and may have been another floor. No finds were recovered from any of the floors within the building below this level. 1050 was overlain by layer 1051, dumped make-up consisting of limestone rubble, mortar fragments and charcoal specks in a matrix of clay loam. This layer both underlay and surrounded the foundation slabs 1053 of the post-medieval farmhouse rebuilding, and it was overlain by 1054, a brown clay floor whose surface was level with the top of wall 1052 and slightly higher than 1053. This is the first floor following the building of the post-medieval farmhouse, and must date to around 1625 A.D.

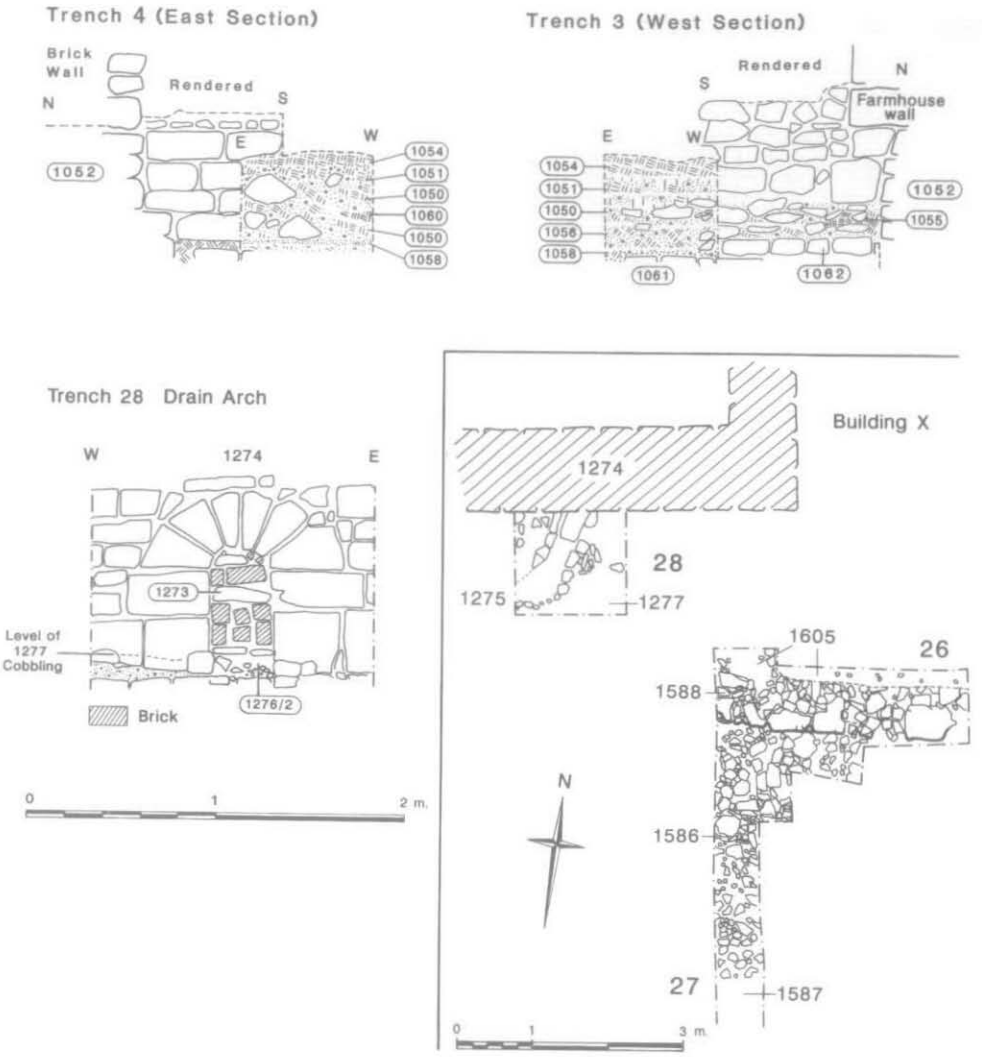

Fig. 43. Site D: Building X (the Solar): sections showing the E. wall abutting the S. wall of the Building XI (the Hall) 1052, the blocked doorway at the N. end of the W. wall, and the blocked drain arch in the S. wall. Plan of cobbling in Trenches 26 and 27 to the S.

The Standing Medieval Buildings, by JOHN BLAIR

The standing medieval remains comprise the S.E. wing of the farmhouse (Building X) and a very short length of N.–S. wall towards the W. end of the Hall (Building XI, wall 1109). A survey of Building X was made by the author prior to the redevelopment, and this report is substantially as written from that survey. Further details were exposed during repointing of the interior, and by excavation both inside and outside the building. These were recorded by Tim Allen.

The S.E. wing of the farmhouse (Building X) is the only structure with visible medieval features. It is of coursed limestone rubble, measuring 4.1 m. by 5.7 m. internally. Both side walls are 0.80 m. thick;

Fig. 44. Site D: View of E. wall of Building X (the Solar) abutting the S. wall of Building XI (the Hall), from the S.W.

Fig. 45. Site D: Blocked drain arch in S. wall of Building X (the Solar).

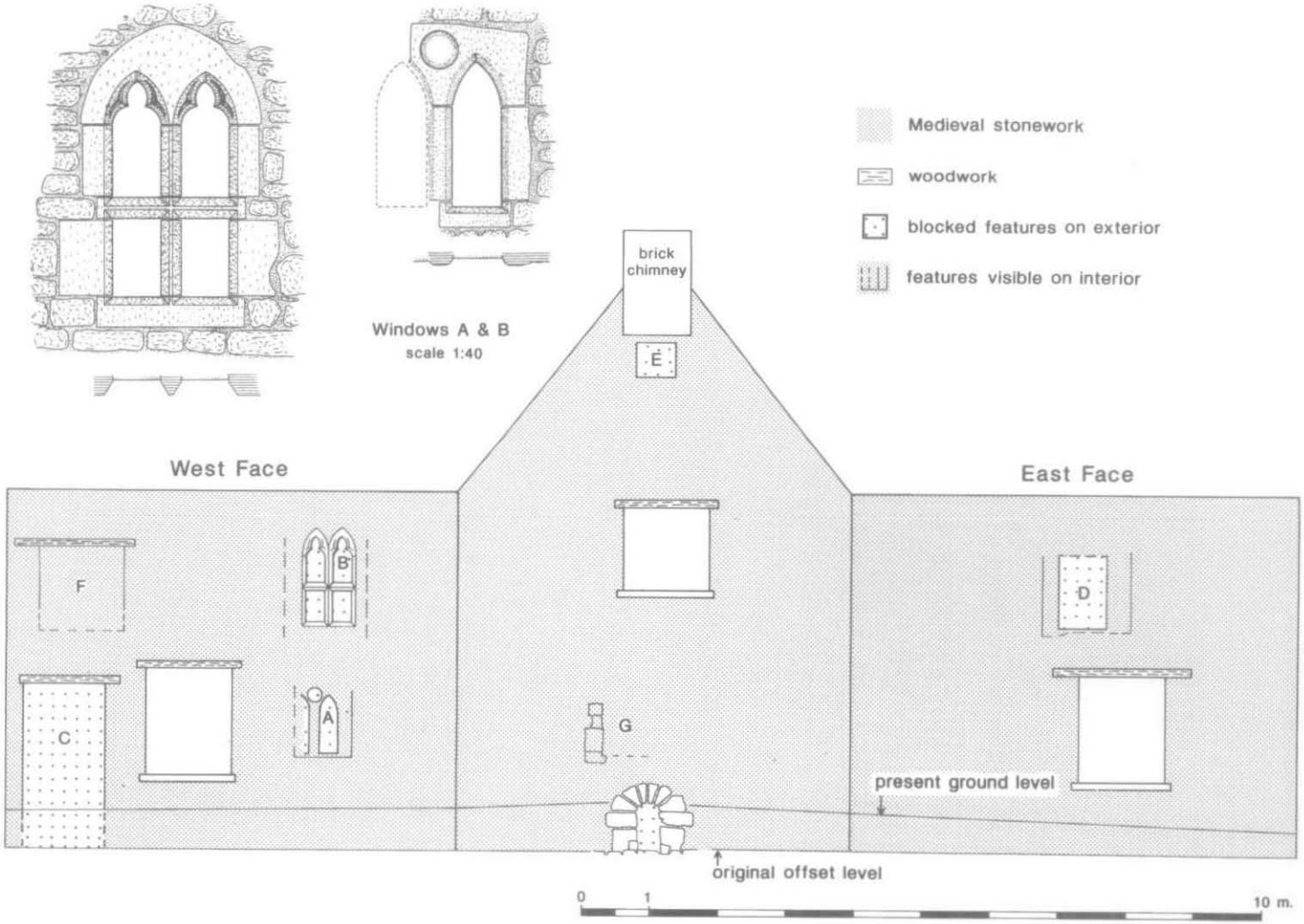

Fig. 46. Site D: Elevation of Building X (the Solar) showing surviving medieval features.

the southern end, which is original, is 1.06 m. thick on the ground floor, reducing to 0.85 m. above. At the N. end excavation has shown that the E. and W. walls abutted the S. wall of an E.–W. Hall (Building XI).

Visible in the external west elevation are two medieval two-light windows (A and B), both blocked. The lower window (A) is incomplete; this was confirmed during the repointing on the inside (see Fig. 46). In the same face is a blocked doorway (C), and a second blocked window was visible above this on the inside during the repointing (F). The east elevation contains a blocked first-floor window (D). High in the south gable another blocked window (E) can be seen, and at the foot of this wall, largely below ground, is a round-headed drain arch (see also Figs. 43 and 45). The W. edge of another opening (G) was visible at ground floor level on the inner face of the S. wall during repointing.

Openings C, D, E and F are all headless, with plain, rather roughly dressed jamb-stones; probably they all once had timber lintels like that surviving on the inner face of F. Three windows of this simple and standard post-medieval type (one in each side wall on the ground floor, the third on the first floor in the gable-end) are still in use. Opening G, which was largely destroyed by the later insertion of a chimney, bottoms at the same level as the medieval window A adjacent, and may thus be of medieval date. The wing has a rough butt-purlin roof, probably of the 18th or 19th century. Thus the medieval features are windows A and B, the round-headed drain arch and probably opening G, though C has been shown to overlie an earlier door contemporary with the medieval building. Other windows could have been removed by the later windows without leaving any perceptible trace.

Opening G, whose edge lies 1.3 m. from the S.W. corner, has no corresponding edge at the same distance from the S.E. corner, and is thus not symmetrically placed in the S. wall. There is no sign of interruption to the coursing on the exterior of the S. gable wall corresponding to G on the inside, and given the extreme thickness of this wall G is better interpreted as a niche rather than a window.

The ground-floor window A was of two pointed lights, with a recessed circle between their heads. The edges of the lights are rounded off as simple quarter-rolls. Both in the lights and in the roundel it is possible that the blocking conceals cusps recessed from the wall-face, but at present no evidence for this is visible. The upper window B is of two cusped trefoiled lights, with chamfered transom and mullion. The heads are cut into a single arch-shaped stone, as with domestic windows of *c.* 1240–80 at Cogges (Oxon.), Barnston (Dorset) and West Dean (Sussex).[15]

Measurement of the outlines of the internal splays after plaster-stripping revealed that the position of window B conforms exactly to its embrasure. Window A, by contrast, had a narrow internal opening accommodating only the width of the single light which survives externally. This seems clear evidence that window A is re-used (presumably from elsewhere on the building or site) in the post-medieval period. There is no reason why window B should not be *in situ*, and this must be the presumption given the independent archaeological evidence that the building is medieval. A date-range of 1280 to 1320 would be reasonable for window B, and is consistent with the excavated pottery.

Towards the W. end of the stone farmhouse a medieval wall 1109 was found underlying an existing N.–S. wall which abutted the N. wall of the farmhouse (Fig. 38). Just E. of this junction the N. wall of the farmhouse butted up against the scar of a N.–S. wall, which is in line with the medieval wall 1109. This is likely to be a small section of the medieval wall left standing when the farmhouse was built. The scar was visible up to a height of 2 m.

Trenches 26, 27, 28 and 35

Trench 28 was dug by hand up against the S. wall of Building X to investigate the stone drain arch, whose top was visible at ground level. Subsequently a N.–S. trench, Trench 27, was dug by machine from just S. of Trench 28 as far as evaluation Trench 35, in order to provide a complete transect from the medieval building almost to the S. limit of the site. Both Trench 27 and Trench 35 were excavated by machine and were not recorded in detail. At the N. end of Trench 27 a possible stone wall was found, and an extension to the E., Trench 26, was dug by hand.

[15] Examples cited by M. Wood, *Thirteenth-century domestic architecture in England* (Royal Archaeological Institute, London, 1950), 127.

The undisturbed subsoil was yellow or orange clay 1587, which sloped slightly southwards, being 0.7 m. down adjacent to the wall of Building X and 0.8 m. at the S. end of Trench 27. Thereafter the level remained fairly constant throughout Trench 35.

Outside Building X make-up 1281 surrounding the foundation offset of the S. wall in Trench 28 was cut by a ditch 1280 running S.W. This had two fills: a grey clay overlain by a dark grey clay with frequent charcoal and worn limestones. Both 1280 and 1281 were sealed by three successive thin cobbled surfaces of small limestones and pebbles: 1278, 1279 and 1277, all of which abutted the uppermost offset course of 1274. 1279 was bedded on an orange-yellow gravel; this middle cobbling was not distinguished close to wall 1274, but patches of orange-yellow gravel were noted between 1278 and 1277, and this layer probably also extended right up to the offset of 1274 (Fig. 43).

In Trenches 26 and 27 the cobbled surfaces were evident as a stone platform with a kerb of large limestones 1588. The lowest cobbling in Trench 28, layer 1278, was probably equivalent to 1611, an intermittent layer of large and smaller limestones (up to 0.7 by 0.4 m. across), most in evidence along the line of the later kerb. This was overlain by a thin layer of yellow clay 1610, on which was bedded the platform proper 1605.

Platform 1605 consisted of a layer of small limestones and pebbles in a sandy clay or sandy mortar matrix, and was bounded on the S. side by a kerb of larger limestones 1588 which stood a little proud of the surface of 1605, forming an E.–W. edge (Fig. 43). The pebble and mortar surface of 1605 generally respected the N. edge of 1588, but at the E. end of Trench 26, where 1588 was not evident, the mortar extended across its line down to its S. edge. 1605 is equivalent to the intermediate layer of cobbling 1279 in Trench 28.

S. of 1588 and slightly lower than it was another layer of limestone cobbling 1586, consisting of irregular fragments up to 0.35 m. across forming a discontinuous surface. This extended 3 m. S. of 1588. It lay upon yellow clay 1587 and abutted 1588, but at the E. end of Trench 26 it extended over 1605 up to the line of the N. edge of 1588.

Both platform 1605=1588 and cobbling 1586 were overlain by another more compact layer of pebble and limestone cobbling 1580, which ended at the same point as 1586 beneath it, just over 6 m. S. of Building X. This is equivalent to cobbling 1277 in Trench 28.

1277 surrounded the stone lining of a drain 1275 leading S.W. from the drain arch in 1274. The drain was edged with 2 courses of thin roughly squared limestones, and bottomed on the surface of 1278 below. Close to the wall the drain channel was 0.30 m. wide, narrowing to 0.25 m. further S.W. (Figs. 38 and 43). 0.6 m. from the wall the drain was cut through by a modern pipe, and S. of this only the E. edge was visible. Within the thickness of wall 1274 the drain was filled with a fine sandy silt 1276/2. A secondary floor was laid over the first 0.1 m. of silt, presumably because of rising floor levels inside the building, and from this a slate sloped down onto the floor of the drain outside (see Fig. 43). The fill of this secondary drain, layer 1276/1, was very similar to 1276/2.

The drain arch was subsequently blocked with tightly-packed bricks and sandstone slabs 1273, and this blocking was abutted by a deep layer of brown loam, limestone and brick rubble, numbered 1272 in Trench 28 and 1579 in Trenches 26 and 27, which also overlay the silted drain 1275 and cobbling 1277. This was cut by a narrow E.–W. trench 1271 parallel to and 0.8 m. from wall 1274. The trench had cream mortar in the bottom overlain by a dark pebbly soil, bedding for a line of limestones forming a low wall or border close to the building. This may have been associated with 1589 in Trench 26, a thin layer of clay with mortar specks. 1271 and 1589 were overlain by recent topsoil.

From the limited clearance of the S. wall face the drain arch in wall 1274 appears to be an original feature. The absence of a drain channel in the earliest cobbled surfaces outside, 1278 and 1279, is not a serious objection to this, as water from the drain may simply have been allowed to run onto the cobbles. The level at which the drain floor exits from the building, however, is 0.15 m. higher than the lowest floors inside. If the drain ran for any distance across the floor, the drain floor will have to have been some way below the contemporary floor level, and in this case the earliest floor with which this drain could have been contemporary is 1055/1060. This would clearly indicate that the drain was not an original feature. However, the drain could have been connected to a tub or tank just inside the wall and above the general level of the floor.

Just 2 m. S. of the cobbled area adjacent to Building X the clay subsoil was interrupted by a large feature whose approximate limits were marked by a spread of limestones 1593 in its top. These were concentrated in a band 2 m. wide, but had outliers spreading another 1 m. to the N. Only a small sondage was dug into 1593, and the limits of the underlying feature were not established. 1593 overlay 1602, a dark clay layer 0.12 m. deep containing some limestone rubble, and this overlay a hard yellow clay 1603 some 0.07 m. deep. This appeared to be undisturbed subsoil like 1587, but overlay a layer of sandy clay 1604 which contained charcoal, small limestones and shells. This was not bottomed, but was at least 0.2 m. deep. 1604 may have been a natural waterlaid deposit, but the presence of charcoal perhaps indicates a man-made origin.

Trench 35 contained a possibly Anglo-Saxon feature. This was 1402, a wide feature running E.–W. across the trench, which contained a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery. 1402 was 2.8 m. wide on the W., widening to 3.2 m. on the E., and was cut 0.57 m. deep into gravel. The S. side and the lower part of the N. side shelved gently down to the bottom, the upper part of the N. side consisted of a couple of shallow steps. In the upper part of the N. side of 1402 was a possible posthole 1401. Both 1401 and 1402 were filled with grey clay stained by mineral leaching, and in 1402 this was overlain by further clay and irregular limestones. There were no other finds.

Fig. 47. Site D: Overall view of Building IX (the Kitchen) from above, taken from the S.W.

Just S. of 1402 and at right angles to it was the W. edge of a linear feature 1405, which was traced for 5.5 m. S. At this point it was cut by a post-medieval sheep burial, and beyond this the trench was not excavated deep enough to establish whether it continued. Just W. of 1405 was another possible posthole 1406, and S. of 1406 a larger sub-circular feature 1409. The posthole was not investigated; 1409 was shallow and contained no finds. Both the linear features, the posthole and the shallow pit contained the same stained clay fill as 1402, perhaps indicating that all of these features were of one phase.

1402 was cut into by a post-medieval posthole 1404, which lay adjacent to pit 1404 cutting feature 1405. The only other feature in this area of the trench was a post-medieval dog burial.

At the S. end of Trench 35 the N. side of the moat surrounding the grange, here numbered 1407, and a spread of stones belonging to the boundary wall N. of it, were found. For details of these see 'The Moat and Boundary Wall' below.

The Kitchen (Building IX)

Summary

Following the discovery of the E. wall of Building IX in a N.–S. trial trench (Trench 13) dug just behind the N.E. corner of the farmhouse, an area was opened up to reveal as much of this building as possible. This area was limited on the S. side by the proximity of the standing building, close to which excavation was not permitted. A deep land drain was revealed by the trial trench running E.–W. just N. of the N. wall of the building, which effectively limited excavation in this direction, and another modern drain was found running approximately N.–S. just outside the W. wall of the building. A narrow extension trench (Trench 14) was dug to investigate whether further medieval buildings existed beyond this (Fig. 38), but only a boundary wall was found.

The Kitchen was a roughly square building abutting the N. side of the Hall. The walls were of stone

and the roof appears to have been tiled. Internally it was divided into two halves by a large E.–W. drain, fed from the W. side, which was later replaced by a pair of stone tanks with a V-profiled stone inlet channel. The tanks were probably used for keeping fish.

The N. half of the building had a circular oven in the S.E. corner, later joined by a second oven in the N.E. corner. Along the centre of the N. wall was a hearth, which was resurfaced with stones several times. At the W. end was a large shallow pit. The floor at various times was either of earth or was surfaced with clay or mortar. The ovens were later replaced by a square malting kiln occupying the whole of the E. end, and the pit at the W. end was cobbled over.

S. of the tanks the floor was cobbled; the whole of this S. half could not be excavated, but two burnt areas were observed on the outside of the Hall wall within the Kitchen, suggesting the presence of further hearths along this side, at least in the later phases.

The Kitchen was probably constructed in the late 13th or early 14th century; the earliest firm dating evidence came from the fills of the E.–W. drain, which date from the early to the late 14th century. The building was demolished some time during the 16th century, possibly not long before the farmhouse was rebuilt in the early 17th century.

Some 3.6 m. W. of the Kitchen lay a N.–S. free-standing wall 425, which appears to have been contemporary with it. This continued beyond the N. limit of the Kitchen, and was perhaps a boundary wall containing the domestic buildings. Its projected intersection with the Hall (Building XI) was not investigated.

Just E. of the Kitchen another N.–S. wall was built continuing the line of the E. wall of the Hall. This ran over the top of the infilled E.–W. Kitchen drain, and the body of the wall itself contained 16th-century pottery. This wall dates either from late in the life of the Kitchen or, more probably, was constructed together with the farmhouse which replaced the Hall and Kitchen in the early 17th century. A probable W. return of this wall was seen overlying wall 425 N.W. of the former Kitchen.

Description

Because of the W.–E. drain dividing Building IX the sequences of development in the N. and S. halves of the building are largely stratigraphically independent of one another, and insufficient pottery was found to provide a secure means of linking developments in either half. Accordingly, the description treats the two halves of the building separately, and the full development of the S. half through Phases 1–3 is described before Phase 1 of the N. half. The phased plans (Figs. 48, 50 and 54) combine the earliest, secondary and latest developments in each half on a single drawing, but it is possible that some of these overlap with developments of an earlier or later phase in the other half of the building.

Building IX abutted the N. wall of the medieval Hall 1023, and was nearly square, measuring 8.4 m. E.–W. by just over 7.3 m. N.–S. The walls are numbered 406=1212 on the E., 417 on the N. and 418 on the W. These were generally 0.7 m. wide and were constructed of roughly dressed limestones in courses bonded with clay. The interior of the building measured 7.0 m. E.–W. by 6.6 m. N.–S., and was divided into two equal halves by an E.–W. drain 439=411 (Fig. 48). The walls survived 0.5 m. and up to 5 courses high. It was not possible to excavate the southernmost part of the building adjacent to the Hall wall 1023, but a small trench along the line of the E. wall established that 1212 was butted up against it, and very limited cleaning of the face of the Hall wall demonstrated that in two places hearths had stood against its outer face. The W. wall 418 did not reappear S. of drain 439, showing that there was a gap of at least 1.65 m. on this side; the projected junction of the W. wall 418 with the Hall could not however be investigated.

The N. wall 417 was virtually without foundations, bottoming on clay 1527 which also formed part of the earliest floor level within the building. Walls 406=1212 and 418 were deeper and the stonework was better coursed. 406 was constructed on top of the E. end of wall 423, which formed the N. side of drain 411 and was at least 0.5 m. deep, the wall being carried over the drain on a large capstone, and the continuation of 406 S. of the drain, wall 1212, had foundations nearly as deep. Wall 418 had rough limestone foundations, not bottomed but at least 0.2 m. deep, except at the N.W. corner, where it shallowed to meet wall 417.

The original form of the E.–W. drain was not established. Within the E. part of the building the N. side of the drain consisted of a wall 423 of coursed limestones extending at least 0.75 m. below the level of the earliest floor. S. of the wall face was a layer of blue-grey clay 1551 at least 0.2 m. deep; neither this layer nor the wall were bottomed due to the water table, but it seems likely that this was the underlying clay into which the construction trench of the wall was dug.

Across the W. part of the building the line of wall 423 was continued by 467, which was bonded into wall 418 at its W. end. Both the S. edge of 467 and drain 439 itself were damaged in Phase 2 by the insertion of stone-lined tanks 1514 and 1515 (see Fig. 50). These were not removed during the excavation.

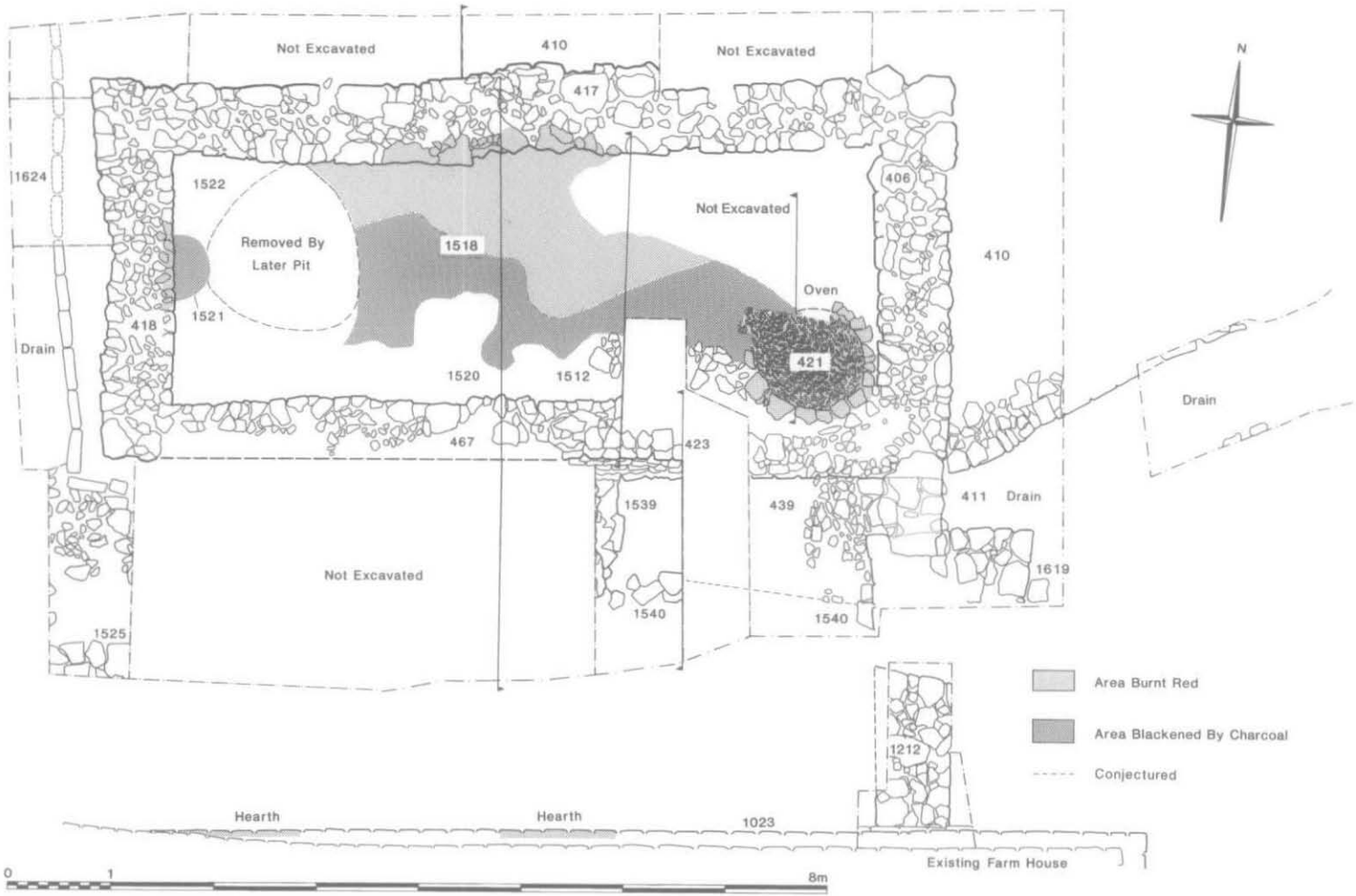

Fig. 48. Site D: Building IX (the Kitchen): Phase 1, 14th century.

No corresponding wall was present within the excavated area on the S. side. 1551 was overlain by a thin layer of gravel, upon which large limestones were laid, two deep beneath the E. end of later tank 1514 and a single line running approximately E.–W. 1 m. S. of 423. These areas of stone were numbered 1539 and 1540 respectively, but were contiguous and are probably part of a single deposit. S. of the drain wall the E. wall of the building 1212 was built upon 1540, which here overlay further limestone rubble. A hollow was left between 1539, 1540 and wall 423, which filled with a dark sticky clay 1531=1537, which was partly waterlogged, containing fragments of preserved wooden twigs and a fragment of leather as well as charcoal. This layer extended S. over 1540 to abut 1542, a dump of small limestone rubble and clay (Fig. 53). 1542 was banked up behind 1540, and overlay 1538, a yellow clay surfaced with stones S. of that. Neither 1542 nor 1538 was bottomed.

During excavation it was thought that 1538 might be undisturbed clay, representing the S. edge of the construction trench for drain 439. Given however that 1538, like 1551, occurs below the level of waterlogging, the difference in colour between these two deposits suggests rather that 1538 was another layer of dumping between the Hall and wall 423.

The accumulation of 1537 implies that some time elapsed between the dumping of the underlying layers and the construction of the drain which followed. 1537 was overlain by a yellow-grey clay levelling layer 1530=1536, which was surfaced with small flat irregular limestones. These stones continued outside the building on the bottom of the drain, and were contiguous with large flat slabs which formed the base of the drain beneath the capstone of 406 (Fig. 48). These slabs were bonded into wall 1212 and abutted wall 423 on the N. To the S., where the surface of this layer rose over 1542, one or two stones overlay the expanded pier of 1212 on the S. side of the drain and underlay the upper courses of the wall.

The drain was filled by a pale grey clayey silt 1509=1532=411/2–5, and over this by 1508=1529=411/1. Much early and mid 14th-century pottery and glazed roofing tile came from the lower layers. Where the drain floor overlay layer 1537 the floor settled, and the fill of this hollow, part of layer 1509, is numbered 1523. Layer 1509 probably accumulated during the life of the drain, but the upper layer 1508 etc. was probably deliberate infilling for a cobbled floor 1507. This layer contained sherds of the late 14th or early 15th century (Section 3.2, Fig. 79).

No S. side to the drain was found within the excavated area. The irregular stone flooring of the drain did not however continue more than 0.8 m. from wall 423, and at the S. edge of the trench dumped layer 1542 rose above the level of the drain floor, perhaps suggesting that the S. edge lay somewhere between them. The level of the floors elsewhere in the building would suggest that, though wide, the drain was not more than 0.45 m. deep, and it appears that the S. side of the drain was robbed out when the drain was abandoned.

Neither of the later stone tanks occupying the line of the former drain was removed during the excavation, although both tanks were cut through by a contractor's trench subsequently. This revealed grey sticky clay 1614 below and beside the tanks, from which an undiagnostic sherd of medieval pottery was recovered. No trace of an earlier drain structure was observed, and this deposit may either have been drain fill or waterproofing around the tanks.

W. of the tanks however a line of well-dressed slabs set vertically on edge ran S. from outside the N.W. corner of the building along the outside of wall 418 and turned at right angles to enter the building just S. of the end of 418 (Fig. 48). These slabs, numbered 1624, were between 0.3 and 0.45 m. long, 0.10 m. wide and 0.3 m. deep, and clearly represent one side of a drain (Fig. 49). The slabs rested on a surface of flat irregular limestones similar to the floor of the drain at the E. end of the building, and the respective levels would indicate a slope of around 0.15 m. from the W. to the E. end of the building.

No excavation was carried out between the vertical slabs 1624 and wall 418. It is therefore possible that the drain in fact lay between the vertical slabs and the wall, rather than W. and S. of them, as was believed during excavation. No corresponding side to the drain W. of the vertical slabs was found within the excavated area, but a trench was cut to the S. where it turned E. to enter the building. The stone floor petered out 0.8–0.9 m. from the drain wall, and no trace of a similar S. line of slabs was found, although 1.5 m. to the S. a layer of large close-set limestones 1525 rested upon the same horizon on which the drain was built (Fig. 48). The N. edge of 1525 appeared to run E.–W. parallel to the drain, but the limits and function of this feature were not established. Both 1525 and the drain floor were overlain by 1526, equivalent to 1529 at the E. end of the building, a layer of make-up for a cobbled floor 1516, which corresponded to 1507 at the E. end of the building, and for the V-profiled inlet channel 495 (see below).

The infilled drain was replaced by a new system of water management involving a new inlet channel 495, two stone-lined tanks 1514 and 1515 and an exit drain 469, as well as the cobbled floor 1516=1507 (Figs. 47 and 50).

Cobbling 1507 was contiguous with the N. edge of a stone-lined drain 469. Drain 469 ran S.E. from the E. end of a stone tank 1514, and was fed through a V-profiled slot cut on the same alignment at an angle across the end slab of the tank. The tank and drain 469 were therefore contemporary. Behind the inner lining slabs the E. wall of the tank consisted of limestone rubble in a matrix of red-brown gritty clay similar to make-up layer 1529, which abutted it. This rubble extended from the level of the bottom of the earlier drain 439, resting upon 1539.

Tanks 1515 and 1514 were of one construction, whose floor and sides consisted of large well-dressed blocks up to 0.9 m. long by 0.4 m. wide, very neatly fitted together and caulked with clay (Fig. 51). Tank 1515 was 1.15 m. long, tank 1514 2.2 m. long; both tanks were 0.67 m. wide. Both tanks had slightly sloping floors, tank 1515 being

Fig. 49. Site D: Building IX (the Kitchen). Detail of V-profiled channel, reusing the side of the Phase 1 drain, taken from the S.

30 mm. deeper at the W. and tank 1514 some 100 mm. deeper at the E. end. The walls on the long sides were built up of several courses, the slab dividing 1514 from 1515 was a single slab.

At the W. end tank 1515 abutted the former drain N. wall, whose top edge was now reused as the base of a V-profiled inlet channel 495. The sides of this were constructed of large contiguous slabs set on a slant; on the E. side their outer edges rested against the W. wall, on the W. side the outer edges were supported upon a line of roughly dressed stone blocks (Fig. 49).

The channel started from a flat stone surface outside the N.W. corner of the building. This consisted of irregular but contiguous limestones up to 0.2 m. across, and was numbered 478. 478 abutted wall 418 on the E., and continued N. of the building beyond the limits of the excavation; on the E. side it was bordered by a slight kerb of larger limestones, which was roughly in line with the W. edge of wall 418, and on the W. by a continuation of the supporting blocks of 495. The surface of 478 was flush with that of the base of the channel. The stratigraphy was not investigated below this level.

Where the former drain slabs turned E. at right angles to enter the building there were no angled slabs on either side. On the N. side a large dressed slab was added abutting the S. end of wall 418, similar to the slabs forming the tanks to the E. (Figs. 49–50). On the S. side a line of irregular limestones ran parallel to this up to the S. edge of tank 1515, at a similar distance from the centre of the channel to those supporting the slabs on the W., suggesting that there had been further angled slabs on this side.

The surface of the floor of the inlet channel was flush with that of the W. wall of tank 1515 which abutted it, but the N. and S. walls of the tank survived in part 0.18 m. higher (see Fig. 47). A shallow groove (only 20 mm. deep) directed the water across the W. wall of the tank onto a slight projecting lip (Fig. 52) and into the tank. The tank was 0.46 m. deep below this. Another very shallow channel (only 15 mm. deep) had been cut across the slab dividing 1515 from 1514; this narrowed from 1515 to 1514. Tank 1514 was 0.39 m. deep at the W. end below this. At the N.W. corner the N. wall of 1514 also survived 0.18 m. higher, and presumably originally stood to this height all along the N. and S. sides. At the E. end of 1514 the top of the tank wall was at the same level as the W. end of 1515. From the E. end of 1514 a V-profiled cut 120 mm. deep ran S.E. across the tank wall into drain 469. A narrow vertical slot cut to the same depth ran across the V-profiled channel at right angles; this was presumably for a sluice-gate to control flow.

Fig. 50. Site D: Building IX (the Kitchen): Phase 2, late 14th and 15th century.

Fig. 51. Site D: Building IX (the Kitchen). Tanks 1515 and 1514 from the W.

Fig. 52. Site D: Building IX (the Kitchen). Detail of overflow channels in tank 1515 (*sic*), from the E.

Drain 469, which had a limestone floor and was lined with a single course of dressed limestones at the sides, was only just over 0.2 m. wide and up to 0.14 m. deep. The combination of deep tanks and very shallow connecting channels suggests that a slow but steady trickle of water was required, which would freshen but not replace the water in the tanks.

South of the tanks the cobbled floor 1516 consisted of a single layer of close-set but irregular limestones with a somewhat uneven surface. On the W. this continued beyond the limits of the excavated trench and on the E. extended up to the contemporary drain 469, N. of which it was numbered 1507. In between the stones and in places overlying them was a stiff yellow clay, suggesting that the floor had originally been surfaced with clay throughout, but that much of this had worn away. The surface of the cobbles began flush with the tank walls, and rose slightly across the first metre to the S., but then stepped down by 0.05 m. and continued level thereafter (Fig. 53). The camber adjacent to the tanks was possibly to ensure that water splashed from the tanks drained back towards them.

Cobbling 1507 was laid together with drain 469, but did not appear to extend as far N. as wall 423, being overlain by a thin gritty make-up layer 489 over which was laid another cobbled surface 487=461. This did extend up to the top of wall 423 and abutted the capstone overlying the former drain exit in wall 406. Both cobbled surfaces however slumped considerably as the infill of the former drain settled (Figs. 47 and 53), and areas of unevenness within 487=461 were noted during excavation. It is likely that 1507 extended originally up to wall 439, but separated upon settling, and was replaced by cobbling 487 which was added to level up the hollow caused by slumping further S. Sherds of 15th-century date were found in the body of cobbling 461.

S. of the capstone layers 489 and 487 overlay the stone pier on the S. side of the drain, suggesting that the E. wall of the building was demolished, or alternatively had never existed above ground at this point. S. of the drain wall 1212 did survive to a slightly higher level, the S. edge of the drain forming the N. limit of 1212, but only to a maximum of 0.12 m. above the floor of 469. From the limited area available for excavation at this point it was not possible to establish whether the wall was reduced to this height during the use of the building or later, but probably the latter.

S. of drain 469 cobbling 1516 was overlain by a thin make-up layer 1506=498 and then by a second cobbled floor 451. Over the W. part of the building this had a kerb of rectangular blocks along the N. edge just S. of the upstanding tank walls, but towards the E. end of 1514 this faded out, and 451 ran up to the S. edge of the tank. Beyond the E. end of 1514 it sloped down to abut the outer edge of the lining of drain 469, and is probably contemporary with 487 N. of the drain. Beyond the W. end of 1515 it petered out just S. of a line of blocks which may have supported drain 495 (see above).

From layer 498 came a sherd of 16th-century pottery. This may well date the reflooring, but this soil was very similar to layer 481, the lowest fill of the V-profiled channel when it went out of use. At the S. end of 495 the angled slabs of the inlet channel were missing along the S. side where the channel entered the building, and it is possible that the sherd came from layer 481 and was trampled into the underlying layer when the supporting slabs were robbed and the layer beneath exposed.

Behind the upstanding blocks along the N. side of tank 1515 ran a narrow wall 467. This was bonded into wall 418 at the W. end, and continued as wall 423, the upper part of drain wall 439, beyond tank 1514. From the line of 423 to the E. and the end of 418 to the W. its S. edge must have been removed for the insertion of the tanks, although this was not excavated.

N. of 467 the earliest floor was a thin mixture of yellow clay and gravelly mortar 1520, which sat upon the clay subsoil 1527. This was burnt red and black alongside the central part of the N. wall, and charcoal layer 1518 spread out from it southwards, but did not reach wall 467 N. of the tanks; further E. a deposit of limestones and clay 1512 lay upon floor 1520 up against the N. side of wall 423, and this was abutted by charcoal 1518 (Fig. 48). At the W. end of the building both floor 1520 and charcoal 1518 were cut away by a later pit 1503, and beyond this in the N.W. corner the floor was a sandy clay numbered 1522. Halfway down the W. wall this was overlain by a layer of charcoal 1521, and the face of wall 418 adjacent was reddened by burning. 1521 was cut on the E. by pit 1503 (see below), and had no relationship with 1518, but must have been broadly contemporary.

In the S.E. corner an oval oven 421 was constructed, with a floor of thin limestones set on edge and rammed flat. The internal dimensions were 1.3 m. by 1.0 m. On the S. side the oven was cut back into the face of wall 439. Around the southern half the inner face of the oven, which was burnt red, was preserved as far as the start of the flue within the walls of later kiln 465; the N. side was largely destroyed by the insertion of a later oven 1533 and by the levelling of the floor of malting kiln 465 (see Figs. 50, 53–54). The walls were of roughly dressed and coursed limestones which survived up to 0.3 m. high. 421 was not removed, and no direct relationship was established between the construction of 421 and the unmade hearth to the N.W., but deposit 1512 was very similar to the infill of the oven walls, and probably represents the remains of the flue of 421.

The unmade hearth and charcoal 1518 were overlain by a sub-rectangular hearth 1505=1535 consisting of close-set but irregular limestones abutting the N. wall 417. All of these stones were heavily burnt. The hearth was approximately 3 m. long and up to 1 m. wide, and the inner face of wall 417 was burnt all along the length of the hearth. A layer of charcoal 1519 overlay the S. edge of this hearth, and spread S. and E. to meet charcoal on the floor of oven 421, which was numbered 1513. Layers 1513 and 1519 were indistinguishable, and appear to represent contemporary use of both the hearth and oven.

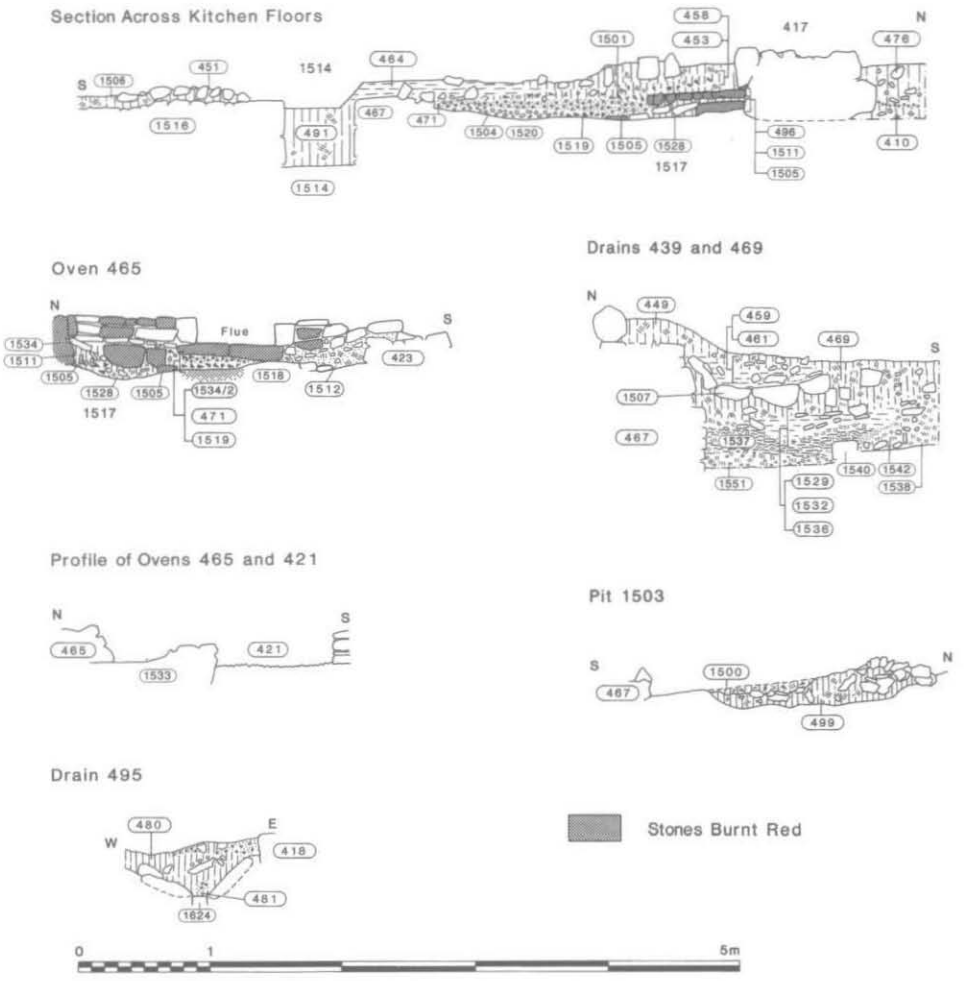

Fig. 53. Site D: Building IX (the Kitchen) sections.

A second oven 1533 was built overlying this charcoal spread in the N.E. corner of the building. This was circular, with a floor of flat limestones 1.2 m. in diameter and a flue 0.25 m. long and 0.5 m. wide on the W. The oven wall included the face of wall 417 at one point on the N; at no point did the oven wall survive more than two courses (0.23 m.) high, but from the evidence of burning on the inner face of wall 406 higher up it is likely that this wall was also exposed on the inside of the oven. On the S. side the oven wall ran across the N. edge of the pitched floor of oven 421, but both sides of the wall were faced with roughly dressed blocks, and both ovens apparently continued in use. This wall was 0.4 m. wide; it was largely demolished by later kiln 465 (see below), but survived up to 0.15 m. high (Figs. 47 and 53). On the W. the walls did not survive either on the S. or N. sides of the flue, but the position of the flue was indicated by the burnt stone floor.

Along the N. wall hearth 1505=1535 was overlain by a layer of dark silt and charcoal 1511. Both 1505 and 1511 were cut by a slot 1517 0.4 m. wide and 0.10 m. deep running E.–W. 0.2–0.3 m. from wall 417. This ran as far as pit 1503 at the W. end, and ended just short of oven 1533 on the E. Although the wall of this oven was destroyed at this point, the fact that the slot stopped short of the oven flue suggests that the oven was already in existence. The slot was infilled at the bottom with dark silt perhaps derived from 1511, and was surfaced with flat stones 1528, which stood proud of 1505. The majority of these stones were unburnt. At the E. end between 1528 and wall 417

layer 1511 was overlain by further flat stones 1534, which were roughly level with the surface of 1528. The stones of 1534 were burnt, and may represent a resurfacing of hearth 1505 destroyed elsewhere by slot 1517. 1528 may therefore have been a reinstatement of 1534.

Overlying charcoal spread 1513=1519 the central part of the building was refloored with yellow clay 1510 surfaced with pebbles 1504. This layer, which only survived in an area *c.* 1 m. across, was overlain by further patches of charcoal.

At the W. end of the building the floor was cut into by a large shallow pit 1503 (Figs. 50 and 53). This pit, which had shelving sides and a flattish bottom, occupied most of the N.W. corner of the building. It cut charcoal layers 1518 and 1521, and may also have cut slot 1517, though this may have respected the open pit. The function of this feature is unclear.

Following this the building was substantially remodelled with the insertion of a square malting kiln (465) occupying the whole of the E. end and with a new clay floor and hearth W. of that (Fig. 55).

A layer of yellow sandy clay 471 was laid over the central and E. part of the building, abutting wall 467 on the S., overlying 1504 and the edge of feature 1528 on the W. and the floors of ovens 1533 and 421 on the E. On the W. it petered out just short of pit 1503, but was contiguous with its upper infilling 1500. This floor may have been used along with the repaired hearth 1528 for a short while, since patches of charcoal and burnt clay (numbered 1534/2) were found overlying 1528 and spilling onto 471 beneath the wall of kiln 465.

Kiln 465 was square and occupied the entire width between walls 417 and 467. It was constructed upon floor 471 by dumping limestones and clay up against walls 417, 406 and 467 and over oven 421 to create a square chamber 1.1 m. wide and 1 m. deep, whose edges were faced with coursed limestones. The N., E. and S. walls were numbered respectively 419, 420 and 422. On the N. side each facing course was stepped out from the one below. On the W. the flue was floored with large stone slabs, and the W. walls of the kiln were built upon these. The W. walls 424 were constructed of coursed and well-dressed limestones bonded with clay; the flue between them was 0.8 m. long and 0.55 m. wide.

Outside the kiln and abutting it a new rectangular hearth 496 was laid along the N. wall, which consisted of a single layer of flat roughly dressed slabs. 496 and 471 were contiguous, showing that they were laid at the same time, and charcoal layer 1501 from use of the fireplace overlay the clay floor. Along the N. side the hearth was edged with a line of slabs set vertically, which overlay the N. edge of 496 and the earlier hearths and formed a new face to wall 417 S. of the original burnt face. These slabs abutted the W. wall of kiln 465; like the hearthstones both the new wall face and the outer edge of the kiln adjacent were intensely burnt.

Wall 417 is of different widths in its E. and W. halves, being thicker on the W. and with the wall face lying further S. The narrow E. part can be seen behind the malting kiln, and continues W. of this behind the hearths alongside the N. wall for *c.* 1 m., but was not evident in the body of the wall beyond that. The refacing of the wall along the back of the fireplace may have been due to damage caused by the heat, but is also in line with the face of the wall beyond the burnt area W. of this. It is possible that the wall was originally of uneven construction, and that the repairs behind the fireplace simply followed the existing alignment to the W., but alternatively the W. part of 417 may have been rebuilt at this time; the original alignment of the wall may be visible close to the junction with wall 418, where the wall narrowed and the S. face of the wall was absent. This hole in the wall was however interpreted as a post-demolition posthole 482.

It was probably at this time that pit 1503 was infilled with limestone rubble 499; some of the limestones lay flat, and 499 may have been intended to form a rough cobbled surface. The filling of 1503 subsequently settled, and further stones in a matrix of clay loam (numbered 1500) were added to infill the resulting hollow. Floor 471 was abutted at its edge by the stones of 499 and 1500.

Adjacent to 499 floor 471 was overlain by a thin clayey occupation soil containing shells and charcoal numbered 497. S. of the cobbled infill of the pit the S.W. corner of the building contained an uneven layer of stones in a very similar soil matrix, layer 488, which abutted wall 467, overlay the edge of 1500 and abutted the edge of floor 471. This was in turn overlain by a patchy layer 490, which was very similar to layer 497, and may have been contemporary with it. A small area of limestones 486 covering an oval area *c.* 0.4 m. by 0.7 m. was also found overlying 471 further E. This may have been a stand for a bucket.

Unlike the cobbled surfaces S. of the tanks, however, layer 488 was not laid and its surface was not well-defined. It was very similar to layer 470, a mixture of irregular limestones, clay and patchy charcoal which overlay it. This layer also had small areas of flat stone slates in its surface, particularly on the N. side, but was generally irregular. These deposits were more likely make-up than floor surfaces, but were directly overlain by a layer of larger limestone rubble 475=493, containing within it solid blocks of tumbled wall 484 and 483, in which the coursing was still visible.

In the S.W. corner 451 was overlain by another sandy make-up layer 479 which had patches of yellow mortar in its surface, and upon this was bedded another area of cobbling 477. This presumably represents a localised repair. 451 and 477 were both sealed by a sandy clay loam and stones 454, interpreted as a make-up layer for a third stone surface 442, which was confined to the very S.W. corner of the site (Fig. 54). E. of 442 was another layer of stones and clay 452, which may have been more of the same deposit, but whose stones were less dense and even.

Fig. 54. Site D: Building IX (the Kitchen). Phase 3, later 15th and 16th century.

Fig. 55. Site D: Phase 3 malting kiln at E. end of Building IX (the Kitchen), from above.

Phase 4

The stone tanks silted up, 1515 with a succession of gritty clays 1524 overlain by 494 and 492, 1514 with a similar clayey fill but including limestone rubble, layer 491. 1524 contained very degraded organic material, the only recognisable matter being roots penetrating from higher up after the demolition of the building. To the W. the V-profiled channel had a primary fill of sandy clay 481, and over this was filled with a mixed rubble and soil fill 480. At the N.W. corner of the building overlying the limestone floor 478 the fill contained clay lumps and was called 476. E. of the tanks drain 469 silted up with sandy clay 473.

Towards the E. end of the building deposits of greenish yellow clay 474 and 472 overlay wall 467 and wall 423 E. of that. The clay was very similar to the bonding in the walls of kiln 465, and is interpreted as collapse of the superstructure of the kiln. This was overlain by a deposit of sticky clay loam and much charcoal 453, which spread from the mouth of the kiln over much of the central part of the building, covering 496 and floor 471. This appears to correspond to 463, the bottom fill of the kiln itself, the bulk of which was filled by 462, similar to 463 but containing less charcoal. S. of the kiln the cobbled floor 487=461 and clay deposit 472 were overlain by localised sandy clay layers 460 and then 459.

At the W. end of the building the rubble layer 475 was overlain by 470, which was of very similar composition to 453 at the E. end of the building. 470 was apparently overlain by 453, which overlapped slightly with it, but the two were probably parts of one deposit; the line dividing them corresponded to a N.–S. section line across the building, which unfortunately proved to correspond with the edge between the well-stratified floors to the E. and the series of stony layers on the W.

Over 453 and 459 was a destruction layer 466=449, a mixture of clay loam, charcoal, rubble and mortar patches, which blocked the flue of 465. This layer was confined to a band around the W. and S. sides of kiln 465 and extending alongside the N. wall 417. It is probably largely tumble derived from the kiln itself. On the S. it overlay cobbling 461 and layer 459. This layer contained sherds of 16th-century pottery. S. of this, but not contiguous, a layer of sandy clay loam 450 overlay 473, the fill of drain 469. This is probably equivalent to a thin spread of sandy loam which overlay the stub of wall 1212. In this S.E. corner there were further dumps of stones and clay loam, layer 468=1211 and 1210, both of which had trampled surfaces.

This tumble and dumping was sealed by an extensive layer of gritty silt, numbered variously 445, 455, 457, 464 and probably 1208, which obscured all the internal medieval features with the exception of the kiln. This is interpreted as silting within the disused building, and was accompanied at the W. end of the building by further collapse of the walls 485, represented by a layer of rubble in the same silt matrix. Along the line of the tanks a series of further silts accumulated: outside the W. end of the building and over tank 1515 layer 456 overlain by 440=444, which contained much charcoal; within tank 1514, which had not silted up completely, rubble 447, clay 448, slates 443 and sticky clay 441.

N. of the tanks the silting was overlain by a spread of stone 458, following which silting continued (layer 427) interspersed with horizontal spreads of roof slates (layer 436), presumably from episodic re-roofing of the farm. In the S.W. corner of the trench cobbling 442 was overlain by silting 444, following which both 444 and 452 were sealed by building debris: rubble 438, mixed mortar and sandy clay 437 and then roof slates 432. A dense spread of slates 431 overlying the centre of the former Kitchen is probably contemporary, suggesting major alterations to the farmhouse at this time. Similar dumps of limestone rubble were evident in the S.E. corner: layers 1206–1204. More silting took place thereafter, layer 412, and included much domestic debris and charcoal along with some limestone rubble and stone slates. This mixed layer is likely to have been reworked as a garden soil, incorporating rubble from the building below and rubbish thrown out from the back door of the farmhouse adjacent. Close to the building further discrete dumps of slates, 1203 and 1202, and a further spread of large rubble 415, were evident.

The walls enclosing the domestic buildings

Approximately 3.6 m. W. of the Kitchen a N.–S. wall 425 was traced for 13 m. through Trenches 14, 15 and 16 (Fig. 37). Trench 14 was a hand-excavated extension to the excavation of the Kitchen, Trench 15 was also hand-dug, but was only dug down to the top of the wall, and Trench 16 was a contractor's drain trench, and here the wall was only briefly observed in section. Wall 425 was 0.8 m. wide and was constructed of well-dressed limestone blocks bonded with clay. It survived 0.7 m. deep W. of the Kitchen, but had been truncated to a lower depth further N. in trench 15, where it was overlain by the E.–W. return of post-medieval boundary wall 401.

Trench 14 was separated from the main Kitchen excavation by a modern pipe trench, and the stratigraphy was therefore not linked into that outside the Kitchen, very little of which was excavated. It is clear from Trench 16 that the wall was built upon natural sand overlain by clay in a construction trench, and the wall faces were dressed all the way to the bottom. In Trench 14 the construction trench was not observed, the wall presumably filling the complete width of the trench, and being hard up against a thick layer of yellow clay containing pebbles and some limestone fragments 446. The surface of this layer is at the same level as that from which Building IX was built.

446 was overlain by a pale mottled clay 435 abutting 425 on its E. side. This was overlain in part by a layer of pebbles and limestone 434 in the same soil matrix, and W. of this alongside the wall by a layer of darker clay loam and charcoal 433 containing larger limestone rubble. 433 and 434 were partly overlain by further limestones in clay 429, and this layer also contained medieval roof tile. All of these layers were sealed by 428, a greyish yellow clay containing mortar specks and rubble, which abutted 425 and appeared to overlie its E. edge. A slight hollow in 428 against the edge of the wall was filled with dark silt and brick 413.

On the W. side wall 425 was abutted by a layer of pebble cobbling 426, which also appeared to overlie the W. edge of the wall, but did not extend over it therefore had no relationship with layer 428. 425, 426, 428 and 413 were all overlain by a sandy clay loam 430, which contained brick and 19th-century pottery. Along the N. edge of Trench 14 all the layers down to 446 were cut by 414, an E.–W. land drain which also cut wall 401 further E.

E. of Building IX drain 411 widened out, the N. wall curving away to the N.E. (Figs. 48 and 56). The drain fills and the top of the drain wall were overlain by a level trampled surface 410, the level from which wall 401 was constructed. On the S. side the drain was bounded by the pier of wall 406=1212, which extended for 0.8 m. E. of the wall, but beyond this no clear side was evident. The lower fills of the drain continued S. along the E. side of the pier, and at the junction of the E. wall of the building 1212 with the Hall wall 1023 a series of very similar claycy silts was found extending at least 0.4 m. down both walls on the E. side. This suggests that another drain joined 411 from the N.E. corner of the Hall, but it was not possible to extend the trench eastwards to investigate this.

Towards the top of drain 411 a layer of flat slabs had been laid alongside the pier of 406 S. of the main E.–W. drain channel. This slab surface was overlain by a thin layer of clay, which was followed by the gritty clay and large stones 411/1 that infilled the main drain (Fig. 50). It is not clear whether the slabs represented an attempt at resurfacing the southern drain channel, or were simply part of the backfill, but wall 401 directly overlay the clay upon these slabs S. of the main drain.

Wall 401 was built from the surface of layer 410, which overlay the drain infill and masked the drain sides E. of Building IX. This layer was trampled, probably from the activity of constructing the wall. There was nothing diagnostic in the pottery from this layer, but wall 401 itself contained sherds of 16th-century pottery in the clay bonding the wall. The wall was 0.6–0.65 m. wide and was constructed of well-dressed limestones laid in regular

courses and survived up to 0.5 m. deep and 4 courses high. 401 was bedded upon a shallow rubble foundation slightly wider than the wall, generally only 0.1 m. deep.

Wall 401 was traced running N.–S. for 11.6 m. from a point just over 2 m. N. of the farmhouse. The middle of the wall was aligned on the N.E. corner of the farmhouse, but the intersection was not investigated. N. of Building IX the wall was cut through by a deep modern land-drain, and N. of this the trench was not excavated below the exposed top of the wall. Towards the N. the wall was not so well-preserved, and could not be traced at this level to the very N. end of the trench. A wall of very similar construction was found in Trench 15 running E.–W. over wall 425, and this may represent a return of 401. If so, the junction between these walls should have lain at the N. end of the original evaluation trench, but this was precisely where the wall was no longer traceable at the machine-stripped level, and this was not further investigated.

Building XII

Summary

It was not possible to open up an area to investigate Building XII. Instead Trench 18 running E.N.E. from wall 401 was excavated by machine down to archaeological levels, and was supplemented by a series of hand-dug small trenches, Trenches 19–23, and by salvage observation of contractor's foundation Trench 24 (Fig. 37). This has inevitably resulted in an imperfect understanding of this building, not least because two phases were represented, the earlier of which was not clarified until after most of the trenches had been backfilled.

Building XII was a stone building on a N.–S. alignment constructed in the late 13th or early 14th century (Fig. 56). It was partially floored with mortar and with a N.–S. drain running down the middle. The W. wall was built upon the slabs supporting the Phase 1 Kitchen drain, and both buildings were probably built at the same time. Its E. wall formed part of the W. boundary of the medieval moat which surrounded the grange on the E. and S. sides. The foundations indicate a range at least 16.5 m. long and just over 7 m. wide, divided into two or more rooms. A single course of the wall proper survived at the S.E. corner of the northernmost room; this was constructed of dressed mortared ashlar masonry, and was considerably narrower than the foundations, suggesting an internal size of 9.8 by 6.0 m. for this room. The N. and S. walls of the building were not at right angles to its long axis, giving the appearance of a trapezoidal shape, longer on the E. than on the W. side.

The building does not appear to have had a long period of use, being abandoned by the 15th century, although it must have remained visible into the post-medieval period, since it was rebuilt and extended to the S. in the 17th century, when it was given a cobbled floor. It was demolished in the 18th century.

Description (Fig. 56)

E of Building IX the line of the N. edge of drain 411 was traced below wall 401 curving sharply to the N.E. A little way E. of this (Trench 18) the drain turned due E. At the point where it changed direction it was cut by a N.–S. ditch 1544, which removed both the drain wall and its infill, and E. of this the drain was numbered 1547. Only the N. side of the drain was contained within the excavation. This consisted of a line of roughly dressed upright blocks resting on a layer of flat slabs 472, which marked the level of the floor of the drain. The slabs lay upon a layer of hard orange sandy gravel numbered both 1570 and 1571; away from the drain walls flat stones only occurred in patches, 1570=1571 constituting the drain floor (Fig. 57).

1570 and 1571 overlay blue-grey clay 1567, possibly the undisturbed subsoil. From the uppermost part of this layer came a sherd of medieval pottery. In the area of ditch 1544 a dip within layer 1567 was filled by 1573, a variable sandy silt containing mottled clay patches and heavily manganese-stained in places. This was overlain by further blue-grey clay 1546, which had gravel and flat stones 1570 on its surface. 1546 was manganese-stained like 1573 below, but whether the staining was due to the hollow beneath or to seepage from ditch 1544 above is unclear.

The primary drain fill was 1569, a grey clay, and this was overlain by 1553, a grey sandy silt containing some limestones. On the W. a thin layer of sandy gravel 1568 separated 1569 and 1553. 1569 probably corresponds to 411/5 and 1553 to 411/3, which is equivalent to 1509 within Building IX. Over this the drain was infilled for most of its length by 1554, an orange sandy clay with some limestones. On the E. this is also called 1548. At the W. end however 1553 was overlain by large stone rubble 407=1543=1545, up to 5 courses deep. This was mixed with sandy silt 1561, a variant of 1554, and contained areas of grey clay 1562. At the E. end a flat slab lay upon the side

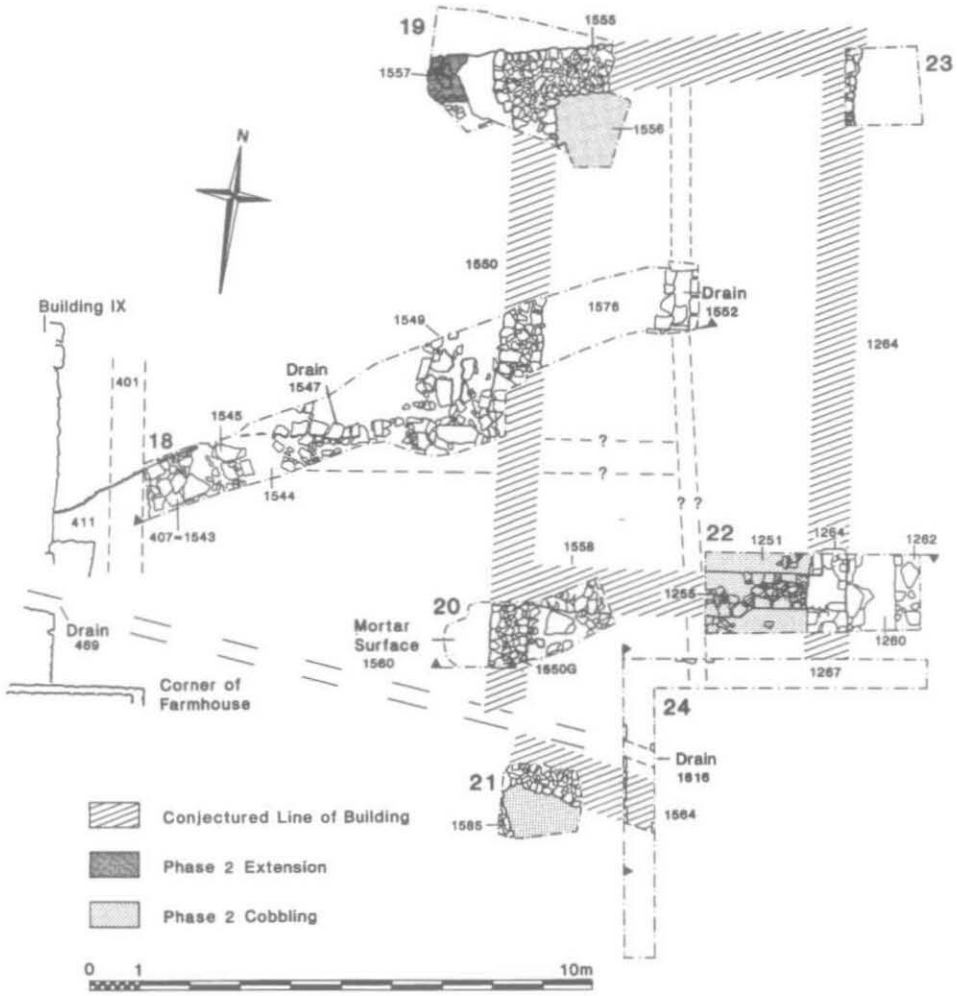

Fig. 56. Site D: Plan of drain 411=1547 and Building XII.

of the drain, and its surface was just below the top of the drain infill 1554 (Fig. 57). This slab did not extend S. over the drain, but was probably part of an original capstone.

The drain was traced for approximately 8 m. E. of Building IX up to wall 1550, the W. wall of Building XII. 1550 was built upon 1572, the supporting slabs for the drain, but only the junction of the back edge of the N. side of the drain with the wall lay within the trench. The drain infill 1554 however abutted wall 1550, demonstrating that the drain and the wall were contemporary, and the drain presumably passed through the wall just S. of the trench.

Wall 1550 was 0.75–0.85 m. wide, and only survived up to 0.4 m. and 2 courses deep. It was constructed of roughly dressed limestones bonded with clay. At the S. side of the trench close to the junction with the N. wall of drain 1547 the wall widened out, probably to provide added strength where the drain passed through the wall.

N. of drain 1547 and just W. of wall 1550 was a group of large stones 1549. These stones were at the same level as the surviving wall adjacent, and bottomed at approximately the same level upon 1567. No clear structure was apparent, though the larger stones were aligned parallel to 1550 and at right angles to 1547, and there may have been a narrow channel between the more southerly of these. The wall slab of 1547 closest to wall 1550, some

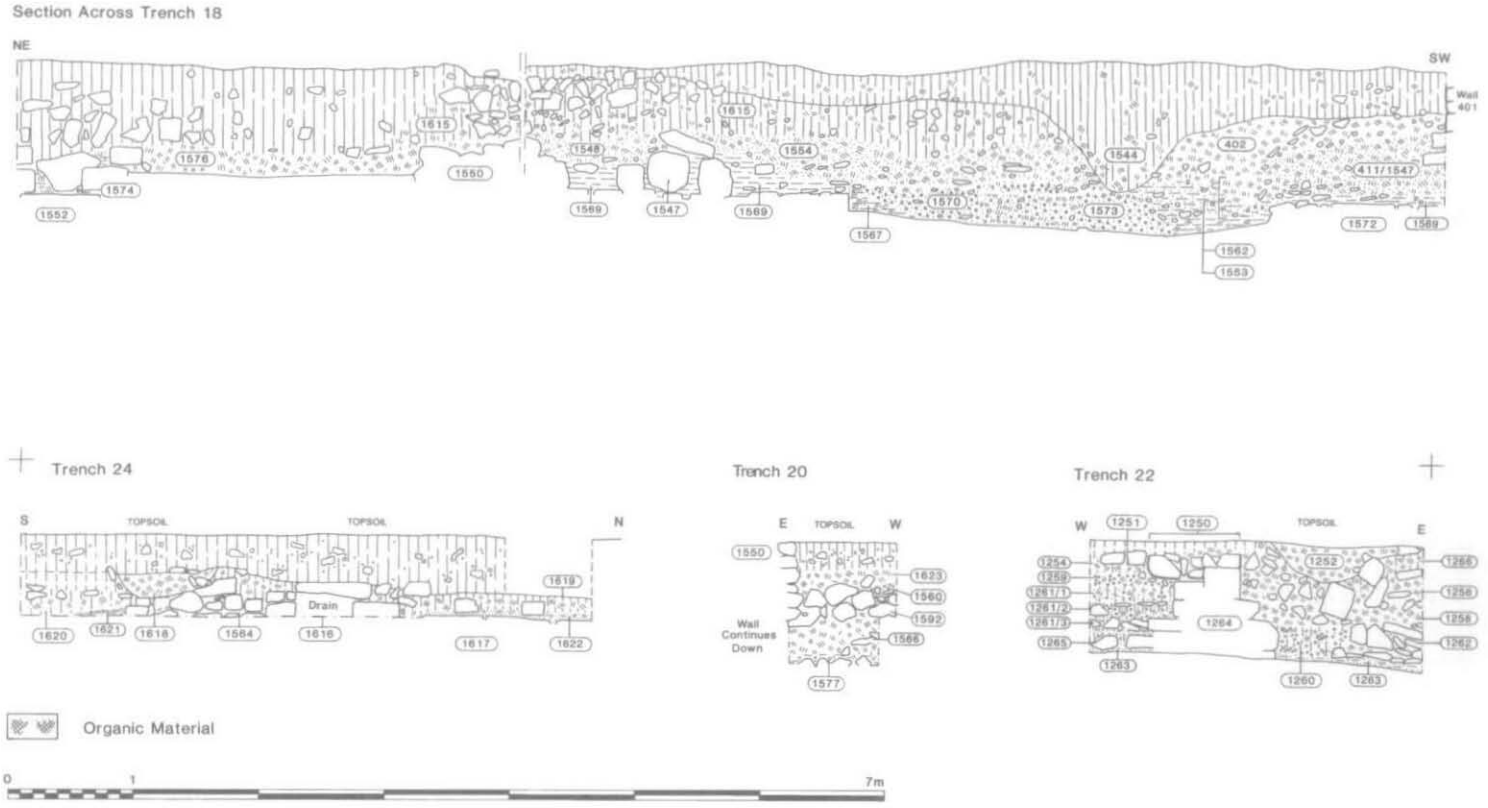

Fig. 57. Site D: Sections of drain 411=1547, Building XII and the adjacent watercourse to the E.

Fig. 58. Site D: Masonry of the N.W. corner of Building XII seen from the S.

0.3 m. away, was aligned N.–S. in line with the stones of 1549, and was dressed on the sides parallel with the wall; it is therefore possible that 1549 represented the remains of another drain channel running into 1547 from the N.

Wall 1550 was abutted on the E. (inside Building XII) by a thick layer of yellow clay 1576, probably a floor. This extended E. up to a N.–S. drain 1552, whose sides it overlay, the surface of the floor layer being flush with the capstones of the drain. 1552 ran N.–S. parallel to wall 1550 and *c.* 2.5 m. E. of it. The drain was constructed of two courses of well-dressed limestone blocks and sealed by limestone capping 0.10 m. thick. On the S. side of the trench the drain had a flat stone floor, on the N., where it was deeper, it bottomed on clay. The drain was between 0.37 and 0.43 m. deep, and was filled with dark silty clay 1574 overlain on the N. side of the trench by 1575, a yellow sandy clay. The level of the bottom of drain 1552 was slightly lower than that of drain 1547 (see Fig. 57), and since 1552 deepened to the N. it is possible that 1547 drained into it.

At the N. end (Fig. 56 Trench 19) wall 1550 returned E. as wall 1555, which was 0.9 m. wide. 1555 survived 3 courses high, the first of which was laid before 1550, the following courses being continuous between the two walls (Fig. 58). Wall 1555 extended 0.3 m. (1 foot) beyond the outside edge of 1550, probably the base for a small buttress at this corner. 0.6 m. W. of this a single layer of stones 1557 appeared to represent a continuation of wall 1555, being 0.9 m. wide and with clearly defined N. and S. straight edges. These stones were nearly 0.3 m. shallower than the base of wall 1555, laid on clay which abutted the deeper wall. Within the building at this corner was a cobbled surface 1556.

In Trench 20 a wall was found running N.–S. on the line of 1550. This is called 1550G. This wall survived 4 courses high and was 0.75 m. wide; the lowest course of stones consisted of a foundation of very large blocks which extended eastwards wider than the wall. 1550G abutted an E.–W. wall 1558 whose S. edge was visible in the N. section of the trench, and which was at least 0.75 m. wide. 1558 was also built of roughly dressed limestones bonded with clay, of which 3 courses survived, and it bottomed at the same level as 1550 on a layer of large limestones in grey clay 1577 (Fig. 59).

Both walls were abutted by a fine grey silt 1566 up to 0.3 m. deep, over which a tightly packed and compacted foundation level some 0.25 m. deep had been laid. E. of wall 1550G this consisted a red sandy clay with limestone rubble 1565, W. of the wall of irregular limestones 0.3–0.5 m. long in grey clay 1592. The surface of both layers was at the same level, and it seems clear that having put down a preliminary foundation level (in this case 1577) the

Fig. 59. Site D: Building XII, detail of the junction of walls 1550G and 1558, taken from the S.E.

Fig. 60. Site D: Building XII, S.E. corner, Trench 22, with moat in foreground, from the E.

walls were constructed next, and then the areas between infilled up to the required level. The same process is evident at the E. end of wall 1558 (see below). While, however, wall 1558 was constructed of faced courses from the very bottom, the bottom part of wall 1550G up to the bottom of the compacted make-up consisted only of very roughly laid foundations of irregular limestones.

W. of wall 1550G this make-up was surfaced with a thin layer of mortar 1560 forming a floor at a similar level to 1576 within Building XII and the top of drain 1547 in Trench 18 to the N. 1560 was covered with a thin layer of yellow and green clay 1623, which abutted the wall and may have been another floor. On the E. 1565 was overlain by a make-up layer of sandy clay and small stones 1559, which had a single large flat slab on its surface. This is interpreted as all that remained of a paved floor. 1623 was overlain by the collapse of wall 1550 G, which seems to have fallen in this direction, and 1559 was directly overlain by modern topsoil.

Wall 1558 appeared to end only 1.4 m. E. of 1550 G, though it may simply have been damaged, since further large limestones were evident in the E. section. A continuation of the line of 1558 was uncovered in Trench 22, where it was numbered 1255. In this trench 1255 joined the E. wall of Building XII returning N., numbered 1264.

In Trench 22 the surface of a yellow gravelly clay was found at the same level as 1577 in Trench 20. This was judged to be undisturbed, and was not further investigated. It was overlain by 1263, a gleyed clay silt with much white sand and gravel, which was probably waterlain. On the surface of this a N.–S. line of massive limestone blocks had been laid, marking the E. limit of Building XII, and to the W. of these a layer of large limestone slabs 1265 in a similar matrix to 1263 was laid at the same time. This was followed by another layer of smaller limestones in clay, 1261/3, bringing the level up to the top of the massive foundation slabs. Upon this level surface walls 1264 and 1255 were constructed (Fig. 60).

Wall 1255 was 0.7 m. wide, edged with very close-fitting dressed stones and infilled with smaller limestone rubble bonded with clay. This wall only survived at the very S.E. corner, and only one course high; W. of this it had been removed by a post-medieval feature 1253. The bottom course of the N.–S. wall 1264 was the same width, but above this the second course was stepped back on the outer E. side, reducing the width of the wall to 0.55 m. (Fig. 57). This narrow wall was built entirely of dressed blocks which were bonded with yellow mortar.

Abutting the S. side of 1255 another wall 1267 continued the line of 1264. This was of exactly the same width as the lowest course of 1264, and on the E. side was bedded upon the same line of massive blocks. Layers 1261 and 1265 were only removed N. of wall 1255, so the stratigraphy behind these blocks at this point is unknown, but this wall appears to be in the same relationship to 1255 as wall 1550G to wall 1558 in Trench 20, so that the two walls were broadly contemporary. The top of 1267 was visible in the N. section of Trench 24, but all trace of it had been obliterated in the S. side by a modern posthole.

Further layers of sand, gravel and stones, 1261/2 and 1261/1, abutted both wall 1255 and 1264 on the inside of the building. These broadly correspond to the make-up layers 1565 and 1592 in Trench 20, although 1261/2 was surfaced with flat stones, and the upper surface of 1261/1 was also very flat, and corresponded to the level of the top of 1576 in Trench 18 W. of drain 1552. This surface was not finished in any way, and did not appear to have been used as a floor itself.

1261/1 was overlain by a levelling layer of clay, gravel and limestones numbered 1259 and 1257 N. and S. of wall 1255, upon which the foundation for a new wider N.–S. wall 1250 was laid, overlying and incorporating the stub of wall 1264, whose E. edge was followed by the new wall (Fig. 57). 1250 was built of roughly dressed limestones bonded with clay, and continued S. of 1264 over the top of wall 1267 beyond the edge of the excavated trench.

Wall 1250 was abutted on the W. (or inside) by a further thin make-up layer of clay loam 1254, upon which was bedded cobbling 1251. The cobbles were sub-rectangular limestones up to 0.2 × 0.1 m. across. This extended *c.* 1.2 m. W. of the wall, but was then cut by 1253, a 19th-century disturbance which also removed wall 1255 below.

E. of wall 1264 and overlying sandy gravel layer 1263 was a deposit of large limestones 1262 in a matrix of mottled clay. The limestones included both slabs and boulders, the whole tightly packed, and giving the impression of tipping towards the E. The surface of this layer appeared to be level with the top of the massive foundation slabs underlying wall 1264. No direct relationship with the wall foundations however existed, since between them was 1260, a band of very dark grey to black silty clay containing lenses of gravel and much degraded organic material. This layer was the same depth as 1262, with which it formed a nearly vertical edge *c.* 1 m. from the wall, and abutted the large foundation slabs of 1264 on the W. These slabs did not form an even edge, so that the width of 1260 varied between 0.5 and 0.85 m. 1260 contained 14th-century pottery, 1262 included a sherd of 18th- or 19th-century date.

Environmental samples from layer 1260 demonstrate that it contained slow-running water, and the waterlogged organic material shows that it was open for some time, silting up slowly (Section 4.4). This suggests that 1260 was an open channel on the E. side of the building. The character of 1260 is very similar to that of moat 1357 further S.E., and 1260 is believed to have been linked to this.

Overlying both 1260 and 1262 was 1258, another dark clayey silt containing limestone rubble. This layer was followed by 1256, larger rubble in a matrix of grey mineral-stained clay. 1256 abutted wall 1264 and wall 1250

overlying it, but was sealed by the robbing of wall 1250, a thin layer of yellow clay and rubble 1615 following the line of the wall. 1256 contained sherds of 17th- or 18th-century pottery.

The relationship of 1260 to 1262 is difficult to determine. Throughout the sequence of deposits E. of the building there appeared to be horizontal divisions, ie between 1262 and 1258 and again between 1258 and 1256, which broadly corresponded to the changes in foundation of the building. If genuine, these would imply that 1262 was earlier than 1260, and was a levelling layer contemporary with the construction of the building, but the angle of rest of the stones within the rubble layers suggests that these layers may belong together (see also Fig. 61). It is possible that the observed layer changes were the result of the relationship of the various levels to the permanent and seasonal water table, rather than separate phases of deposition.

Several interpretations are possible. All of layers 1262, 1258 and 1256 may be part of a single period of collapse of the building, post-dating layer 1260, which was the fill of the open moat E. of Building XII. Alternatively 1262 may have been separate from the later rubble fills; it may have been a levelling layer similar to 1265 cut by 1260, or perhaps a foundation raft infilling a hole dug through 1260 after the moat had silted up. The fact that layer 1262 contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery would support the first option.

The robbing of 1250 contained a sherd of 19th-century pottery. This, the wall collapse and cobbled floor 1251 were overlain by a layer of clay loam 1266. Just E. of the former building this was cut by 1252, a shallow N.–S. ditch filled with clay silting.

Trench 23 was dug to locate the E. wall and if possible the N.E. corner of the building (Fig. 56). Neither time nor resources were available to excavate this fully, and once the E. edge of the robber trench of the N.–S. wall was located this was abandoned. The N.–S. wall was found along the full length of the excavated trench below topsoil.

S. of the junction of 1558 and 1550G another wall 1564 was discovered in Trench 21 running E.S.E. In this trench yellow pebbly clay 1584 was found at a slightly higher level than 1577 in Trench 20. This was judged to be undisturbed subsoil, and was not excavated. It was overlain by a thin layer of very sandy clay silting, which had an intermittent layer of flat stones on its surface. Upon this wall 1564 was founded. The wall was constructed of roughly squared limestones on the faces and more irregular limestone rubble in the core, the whole bonded with clay. Above the bottom three courses (*c.* 0.55 m.) the wall changed character; only three facing stones from a single course survived, but these were somewhat better dressed.

At the W. end the bottom courses were bonded in with further limestones extending southwards along the W. edge of the trench, feature 1585. The E. edge of this was not regular like the S. edge of 1564, and this may have been a compact area within 1578, a layer of limestone rubble up to 0.25 m. across in grey sandy silt, which covered the flat stones throughout the trench. This layer was however only distinguished from the bottom of wall 1564 by the compactness of the stones in the wall and its regular edge, so 1585 may similarly have been a wall foundation.

Layer 1578 was 0.2 m. deep, thicker up against 1564. It was overlain by further clay interleaved with layers of limestones, some such as 1582 very compact. Above 1582 the clay became less stony, and this was overlain by a dense layer of stones in a matrix of clay and mortar specks 1563. This was approximately level with the change in the character of wall 1564. Similar clay overlay both 1563 and the top of wall 1564 below topsoil.

A steep-sided pit cut 1563 and the overlying clay along the W. side of the trench, bottoming on 1585. During excavation this was interpreted as a recent pit, but it may alternatively have been a trench robbing this wall, which is approximately in line with 1550G. Both stone layer 1582 and layer 1563 appeared to slope down from the edge of this 'pit', as they might from a wall.

The sections of the foundation trenches for a new garage (Trench 24) were examined, though only after concrete had been laid. The W. section (Fig. 57) revealed wall 1564 continuing, flanked on the N. side by a stone-line and capped drain 1616. Wall 1564 appears to have been *c.* 1 m. wide; the bottom of the wall and drain was not seen. On the S. side it was abutted by a layer of orange gravelly clay 1621, which had a flat surface. This was overlain by a friable clay loam 1620, which overlay the edge of the wall, but abutted a further layer of stones above these which may represent the wall proper. The N. part of the wall was overlain by a further layer of clay loam which overlapped the top of the capstone of the drain, and both this and 1564 were cut by a shallow trench 1618.

Drain 1616 was constructed of well-dressed blocks and was capped with a flat limestone slab. It was 0.4 m. wide in the W. section, but was only 0.25 m. wide in the E. section. The drain was at least 0.2 m. deep. This drain is aligned E.S.E. and is in line with drain 469 running from the Kitchen past the end of wall 1212 (see Fig. 56 and above). The level of drain 1616 is at least 0.10 m. below that of 469 and it is interpreted as the continuation of 469 to the S.E.

On the N. side the drain had an uncertain relationship with a layer of large flat limestones 1617, which were surfaced with a thin skim of orange sandy clay 1622. This surface was at the same level as 1621 S. of the wall; the two are probably contemporary. This surface is level with the bottom of wall 1264 in Trench 22, and 1617 probably corresponds to make-up 1261/3. 1620 was overlain by clay 1619, which abutted the N. side of drain 1616 up to the bottom of the capstone. This was another make-up layer and probably corresponded to 1261/2 in Trench 22.

The Moat and Boundary Wall

Summary

S.E. of Building XII the N. end of a large wall 1350 was found and was traced running S. for 25 m. This was nearly 1 m. wide and survived up to 0.5 m. high, and had wider stone foundations up to 0.5 m. deep. It was abutted on the E. side by a flat-bottomed ditch more than 5 m. wide and filled with clays containing aquatic molluscs, which is interpreted as a moat. The adjacent wall is seen as the free-standing boundary wall of the grange.

At the N. end the wall was surrounded by waterlain fills on both sides, and ran into an E.–W. cross-wall, which on the E. ended 1.4 m. into the moat. This is tentatively considered to be one side of a sluice-gate, dividing the narrower moat from a wider water-filled pond extending W. up to Building XII.

The moat was exposed continuing N. along contractor's trench 42 (see Fig. 37) over a total length of more than 48 m. The return of the moat along the S. side of the grange was found in Trench 35, where it was 0.75 m. deep and at least 5.4 m. wide. A probable corresponding boundary wall 1295, here separated from the moat by a berm some 2.5 m. wide, was also identified in Trench 36 adjacent.

The few finds from the lower fills of the moat suggest that it was in use in the 14th century. The upper fills included much stone, and this is interpreted as deliberate infilling of the moat, probably including the slighting of the top part of the adjacent wall, which is interpreted as a boundary wall to the grange. The roughly level top of the infilling was followed by further collapse of the wall during the post-medieval period.

Discovery

Some 12 m. S.E. of Building XII and 25 m. E. of Building X wall 1350 was exposed crossing a contractor's drain trench, which ran E.–W. alongside the drainage ditch N. of the gardens of 104 and 106 Eynsham Road. The wall was subsequently traced by hand excavation for 25 m. running N.–S. (see Fig. 37 Trenches 40 and 41).

Description

1350 was constructed of dressed limestone blocks laid in rough courses and bonded with yellow clay; it was 0.95–1.0 m. wide, and survived 0.5 m. high above foundation level. The wall was founded upon two or three courses of large limestone blocks wider than the wall, the lowest of which was laid within a foundation trench cut into the plateau gravel (Fig. 61). The foundation trench was 0.25 m. deep, the foundations 0.5 m. deep overall.

On the N. 1350 ended where it met wall 1355, a narrower wall on a W. by N. alignment. 1355 ran westwards out of the excavated trench, but to the E. ended only 1.4 m. beyond wall 1350. Only one course of wall 1355 survived above foundation level; this was 0.6 m. wide and was constructed of dressed limestone blocks bonded with clay. Below this the foundations were 0.5 m. deep and 0.7 m. wide, bottoming on gravel at the same level as the foundations of 1350. Both 1350 and 1355 were robbed down to foundation level at their junction, but the uppermost layer of the foundations of 1355 overlay those of 1350. No trace of 1350 was observed N. of 1355, and the two walls are considered to be contemporary.

Wall 1350 was traced S. for 19 m. in Trench 40, and was picked up 6 m. further S. again in a slit trench dug in an adjacent garden, Trench 41. Here only the topsoil and a layer of clay and stones was removed to reveal the robber trench of the wall 1358, some 0.95 m. wide.

Towards the S. end of Trench 40 a small area was excavated to gravel on the E. side of 1350. Here a hollow in the gravel was filled with blue-grey sticky clay, pebbles and charcoal. This appears to have been an earlier feature cut by the foundation trench for the wall (Fig. 61). Both this and the foundation trench were sealed by 1360, a thick layer of sandy clay loam containing occasional slates and pebbles, which lay at an angle sloping down towards the E. This soil overlay the lowest foundation layer and came up to the top of the foundations on this side. This soil dump only extended 0.5 m. from the wall, its E. edge forming one side of a large ditch 1357.

The composition of layer 1360 does not suggest upcast material from the excavation of either the wall foundation trench or ditch 1357, yet was dumped up against 1350 just after its construction and before ditch 1357 silted up, presumably to help stabilise the wall on its E. side, and perhaps provide some protection from the erosive effects of the watercourse adjacent (see below).

Layer 1360 was abutted on the E. by the fills of 1357, a wide ditch with steeply sloping sides and flat bottom, whose western edge lay just 0.5 m. from the wall. This feature bottomed on gravel 0.1–0.2 m. deeper than the wall, and was filled with dark blue-black clay containing fragments of waterlogged wood, charcoal specks, pebbles and slates overlain by a sticky blue-grey clay. In the contractor's trench these layers were traced continuing E. almost as far as Building XV (Fig. 37 Trench 44), giving the feature a width of more than 5 m.

Fig. 61. Site D: Moat and Boundary Wall: plan and sections.

These same fills were observed throughout the length of Trench 42, another contractor's drain trench to the N.E. of wall 1350 (Fig. 37). Here they were of the same depth as 1357 adjacent to 1350, suggesting that this feature extended for more than 48 m. from N. to S. Environmental samples were taken from the lowest fill both alongside 1350 and further N; these have been examined by Mark Robinson, who has established that this feature contained flowing water, and was therefore linked to a stream (see Section 4.4). Feature 1357 is therefore interpreted as a moat, and wall 1350 as the boundary or precinct wall of the moated enclosure. Finds from the moat fills were few, but suggest that the moat was in use in the 14th century.

The top of the offset foundation of wall 1350 and layer 1360 adjacent were overlain by a thin layer of yellow sandy clay 1359. 1359 spilled into the moat, overlying most of the clay silting of 1357. The fill of 1357 continued to accumulate as high as the bottom of wall 1350 proper, a total depth of *c.* 0.6 m. At the level of the surface of 1359 (and the bottom of 1350 proper) the ditch fills were overlain by a layer of irregular limestones 1375, mostly lying horizontally (Fig. 61). The surface of these stones sloped down eastwards slightly from the wall, and there was no bedding layer, the stones resting directly upon the underlying ditch fills, and towards the E. sinking into them. This layer is interpreted as deliberate infilling of the moat.

This infilling was overlain by tumble from the wall 1374, rubble from the wall core and squared blocks from the facing. This was confined to an area within 2.5 m. of the wall, perhaps suggesting that the maximum height of the wall was less than 3 m. The stones of 1374 were very similar to those of 1375, and possibly the upper part of the wall was demolished to level off the moat, and the remainder left to decay of its own accord.

Towards the S. end of Trench 40 a small area was excavated on the W. side of 1350. Here the wall was not bottomed, but the lower foundation stones were cut into a compact stiff yellow clay just above the level of undisturbed gravel on the E. This was overlain by 1370, a yellow gritty sandy clay abutting but not covering the upper foundation offset. This had a flat surface and was probably the level from which the wall proper was built.

Layer 1370 was overlain by 1369, a grey sandy clay and stones similar to 1374 E. of the wall, and this was in turn overlain by 1368, a mixture of large stone rubble close to the wall and a brown sandy loam with spreads of thin stones further away. 1369 and 1368 correspond to the tumble layers E. of the wall. The upper part of 1368 was more stony than the lower part, and from the former came a sherd of 17th-century pottery.

Overlying 1368 was a narrow path (0.65 m. wide) with stone edging 1352, running S.E. and abutting the top of the wall. Towards the N. end of 1350 the wall robbing 1358 was overlain by an area of grey clay and stones 1353, and this was cut through by a post-medieval pipe trench 1351.

At the N. end wall 1355 was constructed on gravel, and on the N. side was abutted by grey clay 1371, which also directly overlay the gravel. This clay, which was 0.38 m. deep, is equivalent to 1357 further E., and is also moat fill. The top of this layer was also exposed E. of 1350 on the S. side of 1355, where it abutted the foundations of both walls and was numbered 1372.

N. of 1355 this was overlain by 1363, a similar but sandier clay which contained many small limestone chips. 1363 was a thin layer, deepest against the wall, and abutted the top of the offset foundation of 1355. 0.4 m. from the wall, where 1363 thinned out, it was overlain by a layer of limestone rubble in sticky grey clay 1366, which formed a close-set and horizontal, if uneven, surface. 1366 is clearly equivalent to 1375 E. of 1350, and 1363 is possibly equivalent to 1359. S. of 1355 the moat fill was overlain by 1364, clay and small stones possibly equivalent to 1366.

Wall 1355 proper was abutted above this level by 1361, a yellow-grey friable clay loam, and this was overlain by wall tumble 1356 in a matrix of clay loam, equivalent to 1374 E. of 1350. This tumble was cut into by a post-medieval cow burial.

W. of 1350 towards the N. end a narrow trench was excavated down to gravel. Overlying this and abutting the wall foundation was a thick layer of dark blue-grey clay 1373 containing aquatic molluscs, equivalent to 1371 and 1357. This was overlain by 1367, a less sticky clay containing small limestones, which was 0.2 m. deep. This layer had an uneven flattish surface, and may correspond to 1375 and 1366. In a band 0.9 m. wide up against wall 1350 this was sealed by 1365, large stone rubble in a matrix of clay with sandy pockets. This is possibly tumble from the wall. It was sealed by 1354, a grey clay loam with small stones, which was cut by the robber trench 1358 of wall 1350.

The level of gravel W. of 1350 at this point is recorded as 0.3 m. deeper than the bottom of the moat E. of the wall, and this reading is probably inaccurate. It is clear, however, that moat fills occur both E. and W. of 1350 at the N. end, and both wall 1350 and wall 1355 are apparently surrounded by water. On the E. side the moat clearly extended further E. than the end of wall 1355, so that this wall did not divide the moat completely. 1355 might be interpreted as part of a dividing wall containing sluice gates both E. and W. of 1350. The moat fills W. of 1350 are consistent with the evidence of a watercourse (represented by 1260) just E. of Building XII, 11 m. W. of the boundary wall.

It appears that the moat W. of 1350 did not continue far S. of this, since no trace of these fills was found in the trench alongside the wall at the S. end of Trench 40.

The return of the moat along the S. side of the site was located in Trench 35, one of the original assessment trenches, and the boundary wall in Trench 36, the foundation trenches for a new house alongside (Fig. 37). The moat, feature 1407, was 0.75 m. deep, flat-bottomed and at least 5.4 m. wide; the N. edge was steeply sloping, the

S. edge lay beyond the limits of the trench. Fills were a dark grey clay containing fragments of preserved wood overlain by a lighter grey clay containing small limestones and chalk fragments. In the lower fill and at the interface between the fills there were many stone roofing slate fragments. No finds were recovered from 1407. In foundation trenches 36 to the E. the moat was not excavated, but dark grey clay was observed at the S. end which was probably moat fill.

The boundary wall was not recorded in Trench 35, although a spread of stones was noted from 2.5 m. to 6.5 m. N. of the edge of the moat. This part of the assessment trench was not dug down to natural. In foundation trenches 36, however, a wall 1295 was recorded running E.–W. whose S. edge was *c.* 2.5 m. from the N. edge of the moat. This wall was approximately 0.85 m. wide, and was constructed of large roughly squared limestones bonded with clay. On the N. side it appeared to be abutted by a layer of yellow sandy clay 1297. The wall bottomed on a thin layer of dark blue-grey clay which overlay gravel, at a level corresponding to the bottom of the upstanding part of wall 1350.

No dating evidence was recovered for this wall. Its position suggests that it may have been a medieval boundary wall corresponding to 1350 on the E., although both the dimensions of the wall and the level from which it was constructed are different. This may be explained by the fact that 1350, at least at its N. end, was surrounded by water on both sides, hence the use of foundations and a more massive construction.

At the N. end of Trench 36 another wall 1296 was found, running E.–W. at a slight angle to wall 1295. This wall was slightly deeper than 1295, bottoming on gravel, but was only 0.75–0.8 m. wide, constructed of large roughly dressed limestones bonded with orange-brown clay. This wall did not appear in Trench 35. In the E. section a deep post-medieval pit 1404 on the projected line of 1296 would have obliterated the wall had it continued this far, but its absence in the W. section as well suggests that it either ended short of this or was interrupted at this point. No dating evidence was recovered from 1296.

Building XV: Trenches 44 and 43

Summary

The outline of the northern part of a stone building on a N.N.W.-S.S.E. alignment was found just E. of the moat. The walls were bonded with clay. The N. wall and the N. end of the W. wall were aligned E.–W. and N.–S. respectively, not at right angles to the long axis. The plan of the E. and W. walls indicates short lengths of wall with clearly defined edges on varying N.–S. or N.N.W.–S.S.E. alignments, which are offset from one another to the W. or E. and are of varying widths. There were possible entrances marked by cobbled paths in the middle of the W. and E. sides. Towards the S. end there was a wide shallow feature running down the interior. In a second trench to the S. another E.–W. wall of medieval date was found, cut through by a continuation of the wide ditch seen to the N. Very limited excavation in the interior revealed burnt deposits and occupation debris of the 14th century, with another phase of occupation in the 17th–18th centuries.

The building is interpreted as of two phases, the 14th-century phase comprising the N. wall and some stretches of the E. wall, much of which had been robbed out. This building was 5 m. wide and at least 11 m. long; if the parallel wall to the S. belongs, the building was 17 m. long. The pottery suggests a domestic function. The post-medieval phase consists of a rebuild incorporating the N. wall and parts of the earlier building in a narrower structure only 2.7–3.3 m. wide. The imperfectly aligned short stretches of wall and the presence of wider sections of wall at intervals may indicate cruck construction.

Introduction

Stone spreads believed to indicate a building were uncovered in 1985 during contractor's topsoil stripping in the McLean Homes' development E. of the boundary wall and moat, and an area was cleared to salvage a plan (Trench 44, Fig. 63). The plan as uncovered did not correspond to that of a single regular building, but there was not time to investigate this further. In 1987 a small excavation was carried out immediately S. of this in the garden of 104 Eynsham Road with the kind permission of the owner, Mrs Strange. This (numbered Trench 43) revealed further evidence of medieval activity, possibly including another wall of Building XV.

Description

At the N. end of Trench 44 an E.–W. wall 1303 was uncovered, consisting of a band of limestones in clay *c.* 0.7 m. wide, edged with slabs forming a straight edge and with a rubble core. Subsequent salvage observations showed that this overlay a layer of contiguous more regular slabs extending further E. and slightly further W. These are numbered 1343. On the W. 1343 had a clear end, and returned southwards at right angles. On the E. 1343 continued for at least 1 m. beyond the end of 1303; 1303 was 4 m. long, 1343 at least 5 m. long.

Fig. 62. Site D: Building XV under excavation, taken from the S.

Running S. from the W. end of 1303 was a band of limestones on a S. by E. alignment which was traced for 11.5 m. and continued beyond the S. end of Trench 44. This was made up of lengths of varying width with clearly defined edges, some of which ran into one another, while in other places the wall appeared to have been completely destroyed. This 'wall' is numbered variously 1306, 1315, 1312, 1321, 1324 and 1319. Salvage observations showed that the squared contiguous limestones underlying 1303 returned southwards for at least 1.5 m. beneath the W. edge of wall 1306, but on a N.–S., not a N. by W.-S. by E., alignment. The W. edge of 1306 can be traced all the way S.S.E. to 1324, though there is an offset outer edge along 1312; the E. edge can similarly be traced up to 1324, and its two lengths of offset, 1315 and 1324, are in line. The width of wall 1306 is between 0.6 and 0.75 m., that of the offsets 1.0–1.1 m. A soil change along the line of this offset edge was seen N. of both 1324 and 1315, but could not be traced very far.

At the S. end of 1312, an offset edge on the W. edge of the wall, a band of limestone cobbling 1323 ran W. from the wall up to the edge of the trench. This band of cobbles was 1.1 m. wide, and was bounded N. and S. by parallel straight edges roughly at right angles to the alignment of the wall. This may possibly represent a path leading up to an entrance through the wall, although the wall edge at this level continued across its line.

Beyond 1324 there was a gap, S. of which wall 1319 lay 0.15 m. further E., and was on a more N.–S. alignment. This wall was 0.75–0.8 m. wide, and though badly robbed further S. appears to have continued out of the trench at the S. end. An E.–W. section was dug E. from 1319 (see Fig. 63), indicating that the wall was only one course deep at this point; the gap between 1324 and 1319, which was filled with clay and small limestones 1333, is therefore likely to be the result of robbing or recent disturbance, possibly a continuation of that crossing the E. wall.

Wall 1319 was built upon grey clay 1332, which overlay flat limestones. 1332 was overlain by sandy clay and limestones 1331, and was in turn overlain on the E. side by clay loam 1326. Layers 1331 and 1326, which contain post-medieval pottery, appear from the drawn section to be within a broad shelving feature, possibly a ditch (see also Trench 43 below). A layer of limestones 1342 abutted 1319 on the E. side and overlay both 1331 and 1326. This was overlain by clay and charcoal 1318, which extended E. up to and over 1317.

On the E. side a similar band of limestones in clay ran S.S.E. from 1303, *c.* 2.6 m. E. of 1306 and approximately parallel to it. This band was less well-defined than the wall on the W., and appeared to comprise at least 4

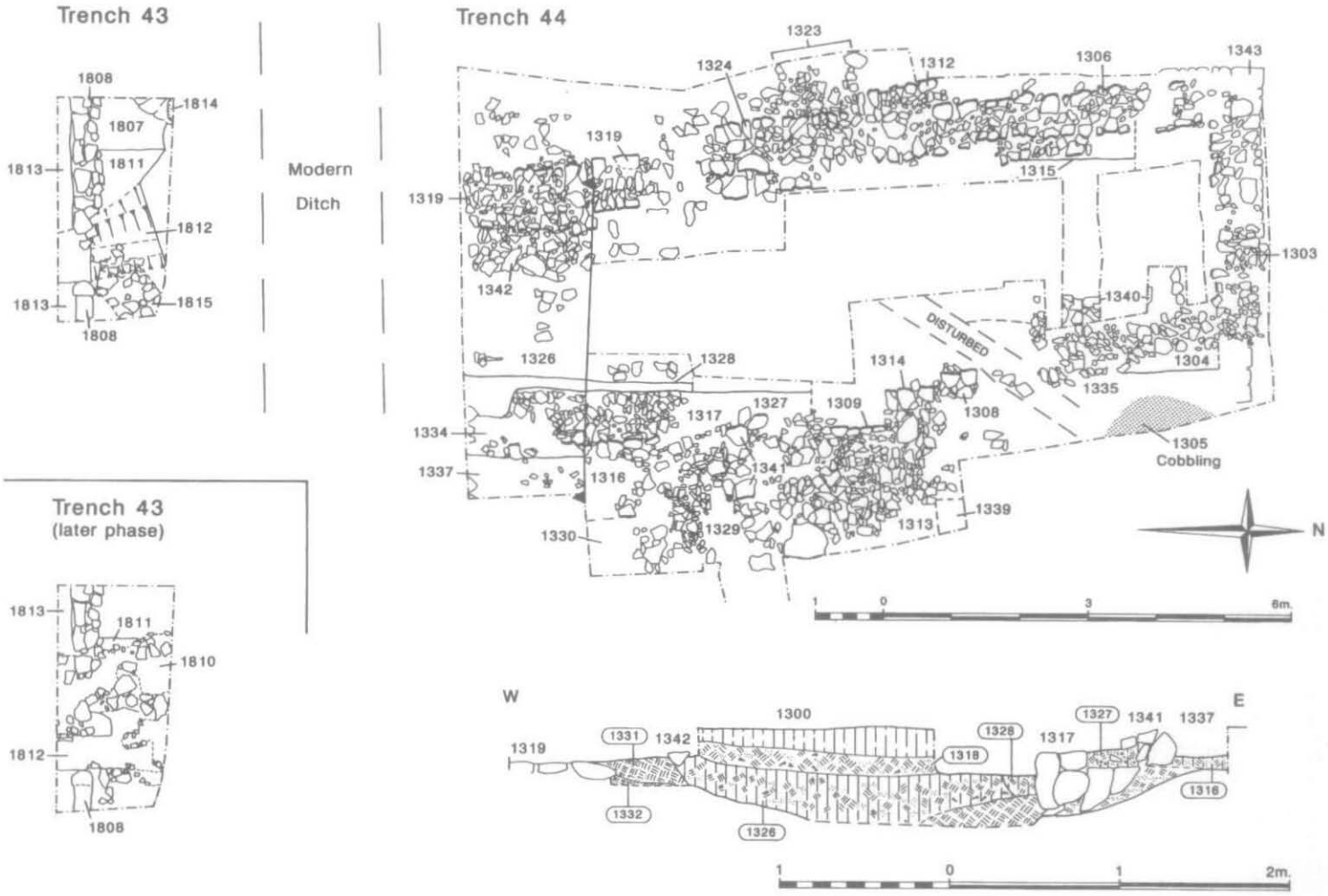

Fig. 63. Site D: Building XV, Trenches 44 and 43: plan and section.

disparate elements. At the N. end 1304 was of similar width and alignment to 1306, but lacked edging slabs on either W. or E., and faded out after only 3 m. This feature branched from 1303 nearly 1 m. short of the end of the underlying squared limestone blocks, and is therefore perhaps not contemporary with the original phase of 1303. E. of 1304 a soil edge was observed running at right angles to 1343, dividing 1335 clay, pebbles and gravel on the E. from yellow sandy clay to the W. 1335 was overlain by a layer of irregular limestone cobbling 1305.

S. of 1304 there was a gap, probably the result of a modern disturbance running N.E., beyond which two short lengths of facing slabs, the more southerly 1314 apparently offset 0.2 m. E. of the more northerly 1308, formed edges on a more N.–S. alignment. 1314 lay within a wider spread of limestones 1313 which extended eastwards to the edge of the trench. This was probably equivalent to 1305 further N. At the E. edge of the cleared area a small sondage below 1313 revealed some depth of dark silty clay from which medieval pottery was recovered, suggesting that the cobbling overlay a ditch. 1313 was overlain by limestone tumble from the walls.

S. of 1314 a line of roughly squared limestones 1309 formed the W. kerb to 1313, running parallel to the line of 1314 0.5 m. further E. This edge became less regular after 1 m., but the W. limit of the limestone spread continued on much the same line down to a group of large slabs 1341 opposite 1324, which may possibly have originally been part of an offset of corresponding width (see Fig. 63). These slabs lay within 1329, a continuation of spread 1313, and this spread stretched S. for another metre up to another wall 1317.

Wall 1317 followed the same alignment as 1314 further N. It was 0.7–0.75 m. wide and was traced for 2.5 m. before fading out just before the S. end of the trench. On its W. side there was a narrow slot 1328 from 0.15–0.20 m. wide alongside the wall, and the edge of this continued into the S. section. This was at first interpreted as a construction trench for wall 1317, but did not extend to the bottom of the wall in section, and appeared to widen out across the line of the wall S. of the surviving masonry, so was probably dug after the building had gone out of use. This was overlain on the E. by layer 1334, clay with small pebbles, which abutted 1317 on the N. and was cut by layer 1316 on the E. It probably represents fill of the robber trench of 1317. N. of the surviving wall clay and gravel layer 1327 followed the line of the W. edge of the wall for 2 m., and this probably also represents fill of the robber trench of 1317. The last 1 m. between this and wall 1314 was not excavated to the level at which 1327 appeared.

Slot 1328 was cut into layer 1326 on the W. (see Fig. 63). It was overlain by layer 1318, clay with charcoal flecks, which also overlay 1326. 1318 covered the whole of the area between wall 1319 and 1317, and also occurred in amongst the stones of wall 1317, and so probably overlay this wall. It also overlay some of the stones of 1342 adjacent to wall 1319.

On the E. side wall 1317 was partly overlain by a thin layer of soil 1344, which underlay further stones forming a straight edge in line with 1341, and interpreted as a continuation of it. This continuation of 1341 was almost entirely robbed at the S. end by 1316, a shallow trench filled with gravelly clay overlain by 1337, loam clay with small limestones and some post-medieval tile. 1316 cut layer 1330 to its E.

Adjacent to 1308 on the W. side a small area was excavated. This showed a gravelly clay S. of 1308, whose W. edge corresponded to that of 1308, possibly representing fill either of a construction or robber trench. W. of this was a layer of dark clay, gravel and charcoal specks 1336, possibly equivalent to 1326 further S. Just N. of this a narrow trench was dug E.–W. from wall 1315 to wall 1304. This bottomed on yellow clay right across the trench. On the E. side this was overlain by a line of close-set limestones 1340, which lay below 1304 adjacent, though may have been used as a foundation for this. 1340 was abutted by dark clay loam and charcoal 1338, and this was overlain by a dark silty clay with patches of soft red burnt soil, possibly equivalent to 1336.

S. of Trench 44 a small trench, Trench 43, was excavated in the garden of No. 104 Eynsham Road. This contained an E.–W. wall 1808, constructed in a trench 0.13 m. deep cut into a layer of yellow clay 1807. 1808 was built of roughly dressed limestones bonded with clay, was 0.4–0.5 m. wide and survived two courses deep. At the E. end of the trench the wall was not well-preserved, but had squared contiguous limestone foundations like those of wall 1343 further N. On the S. side the wall was abutted by a layer of sticky clay 1813 containing medieval pottery; on the N. by layer 1811 and E. of that by the clay and limestone fill of a N.E.–SW feature 1815. 1807 was also cut into in the N.W. corner of the trench by a vertical-sided feature 1814, which was filled with soft silty clay overlain by a stiffer clay (Fig. 63).

Wall 1808 was cut through by a shallow ditch or gully 1812 on a N.W.–SE alignment, widening towards the N. This was filled with yellow clay overlain by grey sticky clay, and was overlain by 1810, a layer of rough limestone cobbling containing fragments of medieval roof tile, which continued both N. and S. of the former wall. Feature 1812 is very similar both in character and fills to the shelving feature containing 1331 and 1326 in Trench 44, and these were probably parts of one linear feature. Cobbling 1810 was overlain by a layer of limestones 1805 and W. of this was an area of compacted gravel 1803, possibly indicating a floor surface. These were sealed by post-medieval loams and spreads 1806 and 1804 beneath topsoil.

Interpretation

The plan appears to represent two phases of building, the first represented by wall 1343 at the N. end with the beginning of a return at the W. end and with an E. wall represented by lengths of wall 1314 and 1317 with robbing 1335, 1327 and 1334 in between and to the S. The majority of the W. wall must lie on the very edge of the cleared

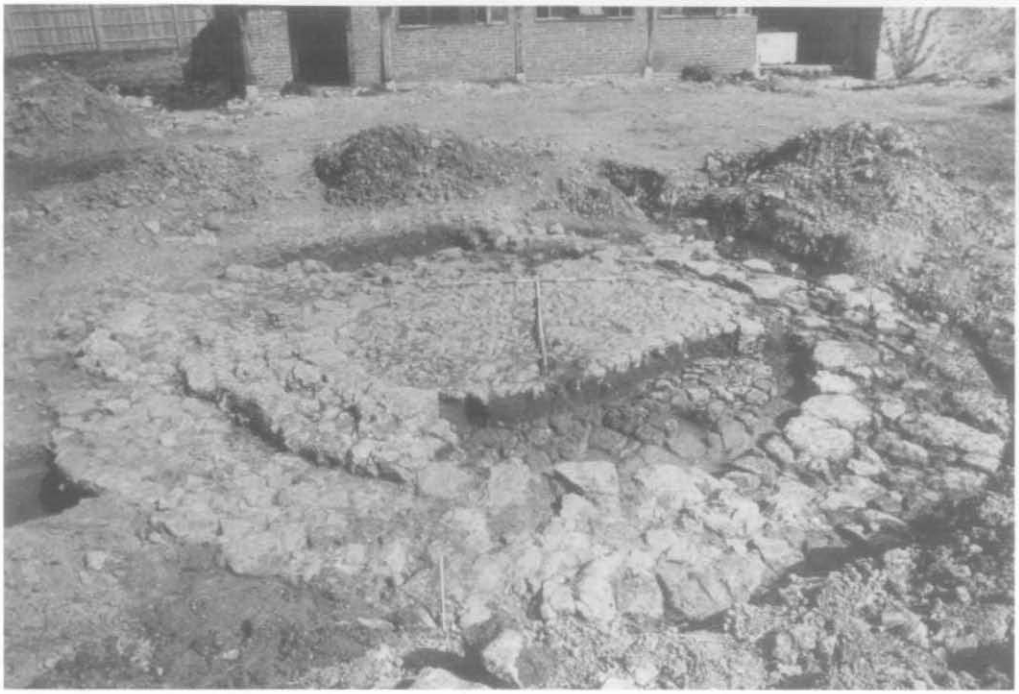

Fig. 64. Site D: Building XIII (Dovecote) seen from the S., showing both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 limestone cobbled floors.

area, which was not investigated below the level of the latest stone spreads. Wall 1808 in Trench 43 is parallel to wall 1343 at the N. end, and this may also be part of this building. This building is *c.* 5 m. wide and at least 11.5 m. long; if 1808 represents the S. end then the total length would have been 17 m. long. Associated internal layers 1338, 1332 and 1336 contain medieval pottery, as does the robbing of 1314, layer 1335, and wall 1808 is securely dated to the 14th century. The character of the medieval pottery assemblage suggests a domestic function for this building.

This building was overlain by another of much rougher construction on a slightly different alignment. This comprises wall 1303, apparently re-using the N. wall of the earlier building as a foundation, a W. wall made up of 1306, 1312, 1324 and 1319 and a parallel E. wall comprising 1304, re-using 1308 and 1314, and continuing as 1341. Its W. edge is marked by the line of slabs up against and partly overlying 1317, and S. of this it is robbed by trench 1316. This later building is 2.7 m. wide internally at the N. end and 3.3 m. wide at the S. The presence of wider lengths of wall at intervals, and the slight shift in line of the wall from section to section may indicate that the stone walling was infilling between load-bearing structural timbers, a characteristic of cruck construction.

The date of this second phase is 17th to 19th century.

The Dovecote (Building XIII)

Summary

The Dovecote was circular and 7.8 m. in diameter, the clay-bonded wall being 1.4–1.5 m. thick (Phase 1). The floor, nearly 5 m. in diameter, was a single layer of limestones, upon which a thick deposit of guano formed. This contained a little 14th-century pottery.

The wall was later (Phase 2) thickened by the addition of a further wall on the inside, probably

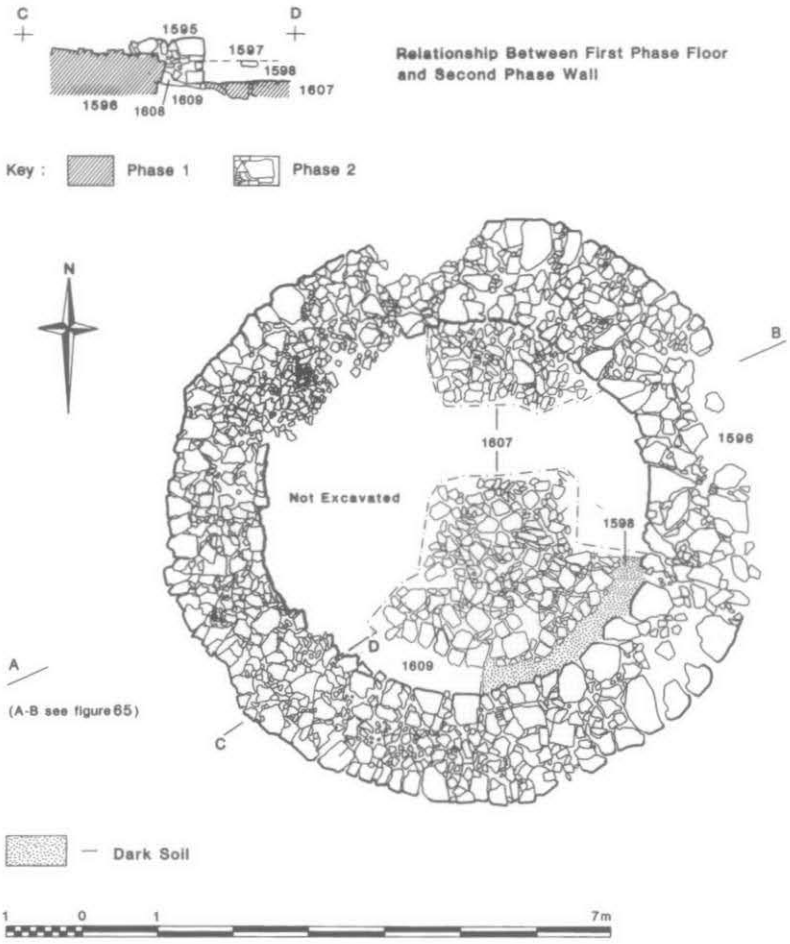

Fig. 65. Site D: Building XIII (Dovecote): Plan of Phase 1, 14th century, and section across the Phase 1 and 2 walls.

following a partial collapse. This was between 0.5 m. and 1.0 m. thick, and reduced the internal diameter to 3.7 m. A new floor of limestones was laid, with a large central slab, possibly to support a post for a revolving ladder. The start or length of Phase 2 is not dated.

The Dovecote was demolished and overlain by successive layers of post-medieval cobbling in the farmyard.

Discovery

The Dovecote was discovered during the excavation by machine of E.–W. Trench 31 across the farmyard S. of the farmhouse. An area, Trench 30, was subsequently opened up to reveal the full extent of this feature.

Phase 1

The Dovecote was circular, with an external diameter of 7.8 m., and the wall 1596 was between 1.4 and 1.5 m. thick and survived up to 0.45 m. high. It was built upon a layer of hard yellow clay 1609, and was constructed in level courses of very large limestones dressed on the outer and inner faces with a core of slightly smaller limestones

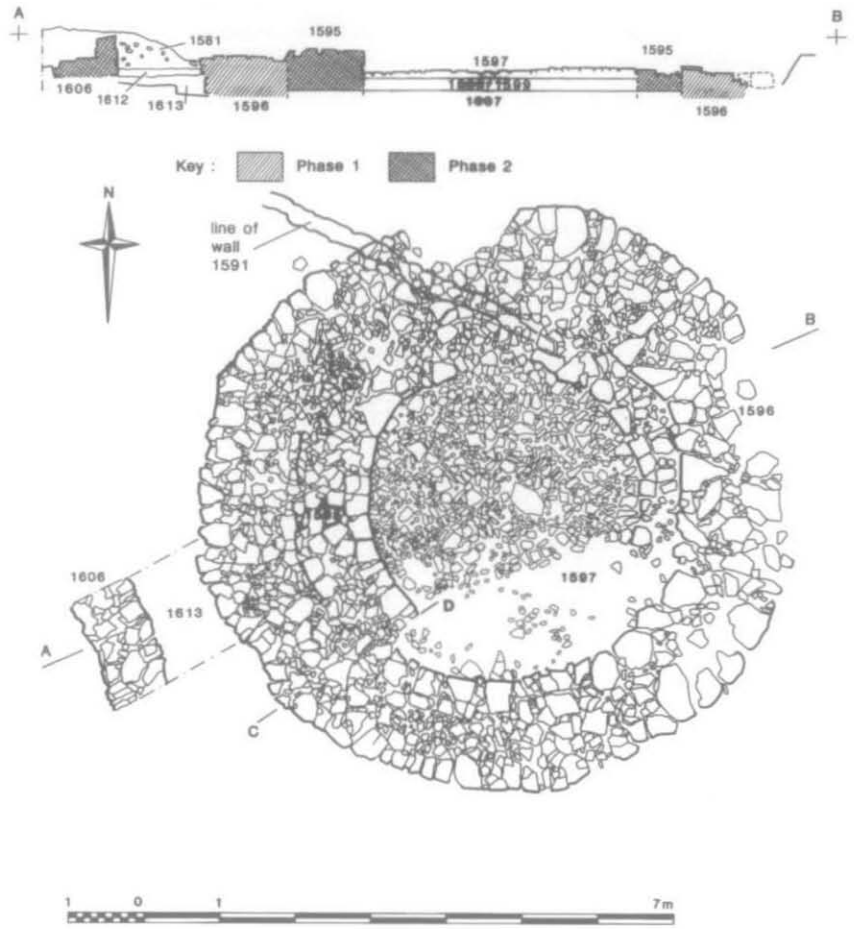

Fig. 66. Site D: Building XIII (Dovecote): Plan of Phase 2, and cross-section A-B.

bonded with clay. The lowest course consisted of slabs over 0.5 m. across, and was slightly wider than the courses above. Three courses survived at most. Part of the outer edge of the wall on the N. side was removed by the machine during the excavation of Trench 31 (see Figs. 65 and 66).

The interior of the building was nearly 5 m. in diameter. Inside clay 1609 was surfaced with a single layer of tightly-packed limestones 1607, which formed a flat surface abutting 1596 on the N. side, but stopped between 0.3 and 0.4 m. from the wall on the S., leaving the clay exposed. On the S.E. this exposed area formed a shallow gully bottoming up to 0.1 m. below the adjacent floor and wall, and filled with clay 1598 (Fig. 65). This was a thick deposit of clay varying from blue-green to black in colour, and including frequent specks of charcoal and some limestones. It covered the whole of floor 1607 and abutted the wall 1596. 1598 is interpreted as an accumulation of bird dung and other largely organic matter on the floor of the Dovecote; sherds of 14th-century date were recovered from this deposit.

Phase 2

An extension trench on the W. side revealed a wall 1606 less than 1 m. away running N.N.W.–S.S.E. (Fig. 66). This was constructed in courses of large limestones roughly dressed on the faces and bonded with clay. The wall was 0.75 m. wide and survived 3 courses and just over 0.5 m. high. It was founded upon 1613, a layer of yellow-brown clay and a few stones which abutted the lowest courses of the Dovecote 1596, and both 1606 and 1596 were

Fig. 67. Site D: Building XIII (Dovecote), detail of cobbled floors seen from the E.

abutted by layer 1612, sandy loam and limestones, whose surface was level with, and possibly contemporary with, 1597 inside the Dovecote.

Following the deposition of 1598 the Dovecote was thickened by the addition of a further wall 1595 on the inside, reducing the diameter of the interior to 3.7 m. Overlying 1598 another floor of limestone cobbling, numbered 1597, was laid. 1595 was constructed with large dressed limestone blocks up to 0.4 m. across laid in regular courses around the inner exposed face of the wall, and a core of limestone rubble bonded with clay. Around the S. side of the Dovecote the core of the wall was a dump of yellow clay numbered 1608 (see Section C–D on Fig. 65), but on the N. the core was entirely of rubble. Wall 1595 was bedded directly upon floor 1607 on the N. side, and on either the exposed clay 1609 or upon 1598 in the gully around the S. side. The wall varied in thickness between 1 m. on the W. and 0.5 m. on the E., and survived a maximum of 0.25 m. high above floor 1597. The surviving courses of wall 1595 were not generally bonded into 1596, except on the N.W., where it was not possible to distinguish an inner face to the original wall 1596. It may have been the collapse of this section of wall which prompted the wall thickening.

Wall 1595 was abutted by floor 1597, a single layer of pitched and flat limestones *c.* 0.10 m. thick. In the centre was a larger limestone slab nearly 0.5 m. across, which perhaps supported a central post (Fig. 66). In the S. part of the interior this floor and the underlying layer 1598 had been disturbed, resulting in a mixed clay and limestone layer 1599.

The Dovecote was probably demolished before the 1808 survey of Cumnor was made, as it is not shown on the map (Fig. 99). It may have gone before 1761 since it is absent from Rocque's map of Berkshire (Fig. 98), but this map is not always accurate (see also Section 3.8). The N. part of the Dovecote was overlain by a destruction layer 1594, consisting of rubble in clay and sandy loam. This layer had been roughly levelled, and the sandy clay was probably added as further levelling material. 1594 was directly overlain by a compact metalled farmyard surface 1583, and by 1591, a line of large limestones running N.W.-S.E. across the N. side of the former Dovecote (see Fig. 66). This was abutted by another area of cobbling similar to 1583, and was probably contemporary with it. The date of this wall and cobbling is post-medieval, possibly as late as the 19th century.

On the W. side the Dovecote was overlain by 1581, another rubble layer in a matrix of sandy clay, which also overlay wall 1606. On the S. layer 1599 was overlain by 1590, a layer of rubble and brick fragments and mortar patches in a loam matrix, which also overlay floor 1597 and the adjacent Dovecote walls.

The Ponds: Trenches 37, 29 and 16 (Fig. 37)

Summary

The E. and W. ends of a large pond, which is marked on the first edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1887, were revealed by contractor's trenches N.W. of the existing farmhouse (Trenches 16, 29 and 37). This feature was lined at the S.E. corner with stone walls to a depth of more than 2 m., but was not bottomed. A sherd of late 15th-century pottery were recovered from the lowest fill excavated.

W. of this pond three stone walls were found in foundation trenches for a new house (Trench 37). Two of these formed the S.E. corner of a large hollow filled with clay containing aquatic molluscs, and this is interpreted as a shallow pond fed by an active stream, possibly via channels leading in from the N.W. side. The top of one of these walls formed a level platform around the S. edge of the pond. On the W. side this clay overlay a thick deposit of gravel, possibly the material upcast from excavation of the pond. No dating evidence was recovered from this pond, but it was overlain by post-medieval cobbling in the farmyard corresponding to that overlying the Dovecote.

Description

Trench 29 was one of three original evaluation trenches on Site D, and was dug E.–W. along the N. side of the farmhouse towards its W. end. The trench was only dug to a depth of 0.92 m., and for all but the easternmost 2.5 m. the fill consisted of mixed backfill layers containing 19th- and 20th-century rubbish. Upon being informed that there had been a pond in this area until the early years of the 20th century, this trench was not investigated further. At the very E. end of the trench a length of wall 1290 was observed running along the S. section. This consisted of a single course of squared blocks of limestone *c.* 0.3 m. across bedded upon a layer of orange sand, which in turn overlay a tightly packed layer of sandy clay with small limestones and pebbles. The wall bottomed only 0.7 m. below the modern ground surface, and is likely to be post-medieval in date, perhaps related to wall 401 behind the farmhouse. The layer of pebble and limestones on which it was founded is at the same level as layer 426 in Trench 15, which overlay medieval wall 425.

The cutting of a sewer trench parallel to the farmhouse along the N. side, Trench 16, offered a second opportunity to examine this area. The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 2.05 m., but the bottom of the pond was not found. The fills, also found in Trench 37 (numbered 1293 on Fig. 37), were a brown silty clay overlain by a dark grey silt with organic content, and this was succeeded by a series of grey clayey silts.

On the S. and E. the pond was apparently stone-lined, as the pond fills abutted a 1.2 m. length of wall 1291 on a W.S.W.–E.N.E. alignment. This wall was 0.57 m. wide, and was constructed of very large squared limestone blocks (up to 0.7 m. across) which were bonded with clay. The N. face of these blocks was dressed, the S. side was irregular. The wall was not bottomed, but survived at least 1 m. high at the E. end, where the blocks were overlain by two layers of thin slabs, on top of which was a single surviving flagstone 0.09 m. thick, bevelled on the N. edge.

Overlying the flagstone at the E. end was a wall returning N.N.W., which was built of well-dressed close-fitting blocks and survived 0.35 m. and two courses high. This is numbered 1292. N. of 1291 this return wall deepened; it was only followed down for 0.1 m., but appeared to be of one build with wall 1291, and presumably continued down to a similar depth. E. of the dressed W. face of wall 1292 were a series of clay and limestone layers infilling the construction trench behind the stone retaining wall of the pond. Although part of the E.N.E.–W.S.W. wall 1291 was removed by the machine, no finished S. edge was observed, and it is probable that the wall was irregular on this side and the construction trench infilled in similar fashion.

W. of the observed length of wall the whole of 1291 was probably removed in machining, but no obvious continuation was visible in the W. section of the trench. E. of the construction trench of 1292 the stratigraphy of this trench was not recorded except for wall 425 at the very E. end (see Kitchen, above).

Observation of foundation trenches dug for a new house W. of the existing farmhouse conversion (collectively numbered Trench 37) showed that the E. end of the building lay within the large pond (labelled 1293 on Fig. 37) N. of the farmhouse in Trenches 16/29. In Trench 37 this had steep sides and was at least 1.85 m. deep.

Just W. of this three lengths of wall were found, two running approximately parallel in a W.S.W.–E.N.E. direction with a third at right angles running N.N.W.–S.S.E. between them. The northern and southern walls, which are roughly 6 m. apart, are numbered 1242 and 1244 respectively, the wall at right angles 1243. Wall 1242 was 0.75 m. wide, constructed of roughly squared limestones bonded with clay, and survived 0.65 m. and 4 courses high. The courses were not however regular. The wall was built upon a layer of small pebble and limestone cobbling which sat directly upon the clay subsoil, and is probably equivalent to an extensive spread of similar cobbling 1241 further S. The E. and W. ends of this wall, which was only 2.7 m. long, appeared in parallel E.–W. foundation trenches. The E. end of the wall was abutted on both the N. and S. sides by a dark blue-grey clay containing small limestones, and over this by a light grey clay with mineral staining.

At the W. end 1242 was contiguous on its S. side with a huge block measuring 0.88 × 0.80 × 0.65 m. deep, which

was aligned with the wall and bottomed at the same level. This block formed the N. end of a return wall 1243, which was picked up in a N.–S. foundation trench and was traced for 5.4 m. before being cut by a large pit 1246. Beyond 1246 a probable continuation of 1243 was observed in the S. edge of the foundation trenches, 0.85 m. wide, which on the W. side partly overlay a flat platform of stones 1247 running up to and probably contemporary with wall 1244. The platform did not continue beneath the whole of wall 1243, suggesting that the two were in fact contemporary.

Wall 1244 was only observed in the S. edge of the foundation trenches for the new house. It was constructed within a foundation trench dug into gravel, and survived 0.58 m. and 4 courses high. The N. face was vertical and constructed of squared blocks from the very bottom, but the S. side consisted of undressed limestone rubble and tips of clay and sandy gravel for 0.3 m., though a dressed face was present above this level. The foundation trench on this side was overlain by the platform of limestones 1247 which ran into wall 1243.

W. of wall 1244 an extensive layer of small pebble and limestone cobbling in clay 1241, which directly overlay gravel, was seen covering most of the foundation trench area (see Fig. 37). It was overlain by 1240, a layer of sticky grey clay 0.2 m. deep, from which fragments of preserved wood and aquatic molluscs were recovered, indicating that this had been part of a flowing water system at the time (see Section 4.4). The character of the molluscan assemblage is very similar to that of the moat on the S. and E. sides of the site. 1241 died out just W. of walls 1244 and 1243, and between this and the wall the natural gravel was directly overlain by 1240.

In the E.–W. trench along the N. side of the new building, which was recorded first, 1240 was not a continuous layer, but two areas of this clay were seen, one 2.3 m. wide just 0.6 m. W. of 1242 and the other over 1 m. wide another 1.5 m. W. of that. Both of these bands of clay were linear and oriented N.–S., perhaps indicating channels feeding into 1240 from the N. 1240 was overlain by a layer of light grey clay with mineral staining 0.35 m. thick, which came up almost to the top of wall 1244.

The character of wall 1244, faced on the side adjacent to 1240 and simply infilled with rubble behind, is similar to the pond-retaining wall seen in Trenches 29/16. On the W. side of wall 1244 the edge of a possible cut through layer 1240 was observed adjacent to 1244. Since however this did not extend down to the bottom of the wall it is unlikely to represent a foundation trench.

On the E. side of wall 1244 the stone platform 1247 was level with the surviving top of wall 1244, indeed the top course of the wall consisted of very similar stones to those in the platform, and smaller than those in the courses of the wall below. Moreover, this top course of the wall did not extend across the full width of the wall, being only 0.52 m. wide from the E. edge, unlike the courses below. This could indicate that 1244 was only intended to form a retaining wall up to the platform level, which provided access around the edge of the water-filled feature. It is alternatively possible that 1244 was earlier than both the platform and 1243, and was truncated to this level before the platform was built. However the common alignment of 1242 (which is contemporary with 1243) and 1244, suggests rather that they all belong to one contemporary system related to water management.

Pit 1246, which cut away the junction of 1244 and 1243, was approximately 2 m. across and 1.75 m. deep, and was filled with large limestone rubble and charcoal. The pit may have been dug to rob or demolish 1244, since it followed the line of this wall closely, and two courses of squared limestones on the same level as those of 1244 were evident on its N. face at one point. E. of wall 1243 further stonework continued E. to the edge of the foundation trench. This bottomed at the level of the stone platform between 1243 and 1244, and consisted of roughly laid limestone blocks in yellow clay. It probably represented the core of a wall partly robbed by 1276. N. of 1246 and E. of 1243 the W. edge of a shallow cut in the gravel 1245, filled with grey silty clay and snails similar to the pre-building features on Site A, was noted. The gravel surrounding this feature was very hard and was stained green, perhaps indicating the use of this feature as a cess pit.

At the W. end cobbling 1241 gradually thickened and shallowed, forming a 'road' 0.3 m. thick along the W. edge of the observed trenches. No trace of the waterlain clay 1240 was observed beneath it, and this raised causeway was probably an upcast bank forming the W. limit of the pond, though it may have been added to in connection with the railway carrying stone and clay from Wytham Hill to the Chawley Brickworks in the 18th and 19th centuries.[16]

The evidence would suggest that walls 1242–1244 were constructed as part of a system bounding and dividing large water-filled areas. Wall 1242, which appears to be surrounded by clay identical to 1240 on both the N. and S., is reminiscent of wall 1355 within the moat on the E., and this suggests that the pond clearly identified to the E., which continues into trenches 29/16, may originally have been part of a much more extensive system of ponds. No record of the stratigraphy E. of 1243 was made to indicate whether the dark clay continued as far S. as feature 1245, but probably it did not.

No secure dating evidence was recovered for any of the features described above. One post-medieval rimsherd was

[16] I.C. Dodsworth, 'The Chawley Brick and Tileworks, Cumnor', *Oxoniensia*, xli (1976), 348–53.

found upon the surface of 1241 after machining, but this was believed to have been deposited from higher up by the machine bucket. Walls 1242 and 1243 were sealed by a layer of cobbling in orange clay, which also sealed the pond to the E. Part of this pond further E. was open into the 20th century, but the infilling at this point cannot be dated.

Other trenches

Summary
Various trenches (31–34) were investigated in the centre of the site. Trench 34 contained a circular stone-lined post-medieval well. Trench 33 was opened to investigate stone walls at the W. end of the standing barn S. of the farmhouse. These were continuations of the N. and S. barn walls joined by a N.–S. return at the W. end, and indicate either that the barn had been shortened or that a lean-to some 3.9 m. wide had been added at some stage (Trench 33). Trench 31 contained yard surfaces, and Trench 32 did not reveal any features.

Trench 31
This E.–W. trench was excavated by machine to look for further medieval buildings S. of the farmhouse, and revealed the Dovecote Building XIII at the W. end. E. of this there were no obvious structural remains, and the layers were not planned or recorded in detail. The stratigraphic sequence was similar along most of the trench.

An orangey yellow clay, similar to the undisturbed subsoil 1587 S. of Building X, was found between 0.9 m. and 1 m. down. In the eastern part of the trench, up to 17.5 m. W. of Building X, this was overlain by a layer of large flat slabs up to 0.6 m. across; W. of this the subsoil was directly overlain by brown clay. At the W. end of the paved area the slabs were contiguous, and there was a concentration of smaller stones possibly indicating a N.–S. wall foundation; further E. the slabs were intermittent, with clay visible in between, and the slabs were confined to the N. side of the trench. This surface was not dated, but from its level is likely to be contemporary with the medieval cobbled surfaces S. of Building X. The stone layer was up to 0.2 m. deep, and probably indicates a paved area or levelling layer extending 4–5 m. S. of the Hall.

This was overlain by layer of brown clay up to 0.2 m. deep, which probably represents a long accumulation of farmyard muck. It was sealed by a bedding layer of small stones 0.15 m. deep, and this was overlain by a layer of compact cobbling of similar depth, whose surface was only 0.3 m. below modern ground level. This is equivalent to the cobbling overlying the Dovecote in Trench 30, and is post-medieval in date. This cobbling was sealed by make-up for the modern tarmac.

Trench 32
This trench was dug by machine running S.S.E. across the farmyard from just S. of the Dovecote along the E. side of an existing ditch. The trench was dug to 0.1 m. below the depth at which wall 1606 W. of the Dovecote was found, but could not be taken deeper due to the height of the water table. No trace of medieval features or finds was encountered, the fill appearing to be an undifferentiated orange-brown clay. The S. end of the trench was flooded before it could be recorded.

Trench 33
During clearance immediately outside the W. end of the stone barn S. of the farmhouse stone and pebble foundations *c.* 0.7 m. wide were found continuing the line of the N. wall. An area was cleared by hand and a N.–S. return wall running the full width of the barn was found 3.9 m. W. of the existing wall. This was constructed of roughly dressed limestones bonded with clay and the single surviving course of the wall was 0.5 m. wide, resting upon a foundation 0.7 m. wide. The S.W. corner was clear, but the continuation of the S. wall was poorly defined, foundation stones forming an intermittent spread over a band up to 1 m. wide between this corner and the existing S. wall of the barn. A spread of mortar specks and some small stones covered the interior up to 2.2 m. from the outside edge of the S. wall. This was presumably derived from the demolition.

No floor surfaces were evident in the interior, which like the interior of the standing barn consisted solely of blue-grey clean clay, and there were no finds. It is unclear whether these foundations represent the original full extent of the barn, which was later shortened, or belong to a building erected up against the standing barn, but in either event they date to the post-medieval period.

Trench 34
This was a circular stone-lined well centred 4 m. S. of the farmhouse and 4.05 m. E. of Building X. It was 0.8 m. in diameter, and was lined all the way down with roughly dressed limestones in courses approximately 0.1 m. deep, but including some much larger blocks. The well was filled with sticky sandy clay, from which was recovered a few sherds of 18th- and 19th-century pottery and a pair of 19th-century spectacles, and was cleared to a gravel bottom at just over 2.2 m. down.

Trenches S. of the Eynsham Road: Trenches 45 and 46

Summary

Two trenches were excavated by hand in the garden of the house S. of the later grange.

Description

Two small trenches aligned just E. of N. were dug by hand in the N.E. corner of the garden of 89 Eynsham Road due S. of the later grange, in an attempt to locate a large E.–W. building visible on Rocque's 1761 map (see Figs. 1 and 98). Undisturbed subsoil, a mottled yellow and light blue-grey clay with pockets of sand and gravel, was found at 1.2 m. down. This was numbered 1904. It was cut by a wide ditch on a N.E.–S.W. alignment 1905, whose W. edge crossed the S.E. corner of Trench 45 and whose E. edge was rising in the S.E. corner of Trench 46. The ditch was 0.3 m. deep, with steep sides and a slightly shelving broad bottom, and was approximately 1.8 m. wide. The primary fill of 1905 was a light brownish grey clay silt containing small fragments of late medieval or early post-medieval tile and scraps of pottery and bone. The majority of the ditch was filled with limestones 1903 up to 3 deep. The surface of the second layer of limestones was compact and worn, and the uppermost layer of stones, which was irregular, was probably infilling after the fills had settled. 1903 continued outside the limits of feature 1905 overlying the surface of subsoil 1904.

The stones were overlain by a yellowish grey stiff clayey loam numbered 1902 in Trench 45 and 1907 in Trench 46. This contained fragments of clay pipe and transfer-printed wares of the 19th century. It was overlain by a similar yellow lumpy clay, numbered 1901 in Trench 45 and 1908 in Trench 46, and this was cut by the trench for an iron pipe 1906, and was sealed by 0.9 m. of garden soil.

A building is marked on Rocque's map, just S. of the Eynsham road. This building is not marked on the more accurate early 19th-century maps of the area, and, if genuine, was presumably demolished in the later 18th century. No trace of this was found in Trenches 45 and 46, but this does not necessarily deny its existence, since Rocque's map is not exact, and the building could have lain further N. beneath the modern Eynsham road, and possibly also further W.

2.6 SITE E: BUSBY'S FARM

Site E (Busby's Farm) lay on the route of the Cumnor by-pass, and was investigated by George Lambrick of the O.A.U. with the assistance of the O.U.A.S. in 1975.[17] Part of this farmstead had remained in use until the 1940s, and the site contained a ruined building still standing to over 1 m. in height, surrounded by pronounced earthworks. The earthworks were surveyed using plane tables (Fig. 68) and two small trenches were excavated by the O.U.A.S. within the main platform containing the ruined building under the supervision of David Critchley. The original records and finds from this excavation were handed over to the O.A.U., but have since been lost.

The earthwork survey showed that the farmstead consisted of several platforms joined by a hollow way leading W. to Titts Lane. A large depression in the N.W. corner of the farmstead was thought to result from spring sapping; it is known from Rocque's map of 1761 that a stream formerly rose within this site (Fig. 98). The building plan illustrated is made up of several elements: the farmhouse lay at the N. end, with an enclosed yard to the S., and the two rectangular structures S.E. of this were shelter-sheds with a cobbled yard to the E.

The trenches contained contexts with pottery dating from the later 12th to the early 14th century, and a part of a stone wall dated to the late 13th century was uncovered. The position of the two excavated trenches is uncertain, but the trench which revealed the medieval wall is thought to have been in the N.W. corner (Fig. 68).

No medieval features or finds were encountered when a Thames Water pipeline was laid along the southern boundary of the by-pass in 1986, and no finds were recovered from fieldwalking N. of the by-pass in the same year, perhaps suggesting that the medieval occupation was largely confined within the area taken up by the by-pass.

[17] 'Cumnor By-Pass', CBA Group 9 *Newsletter*, vi (1976), 72–3.

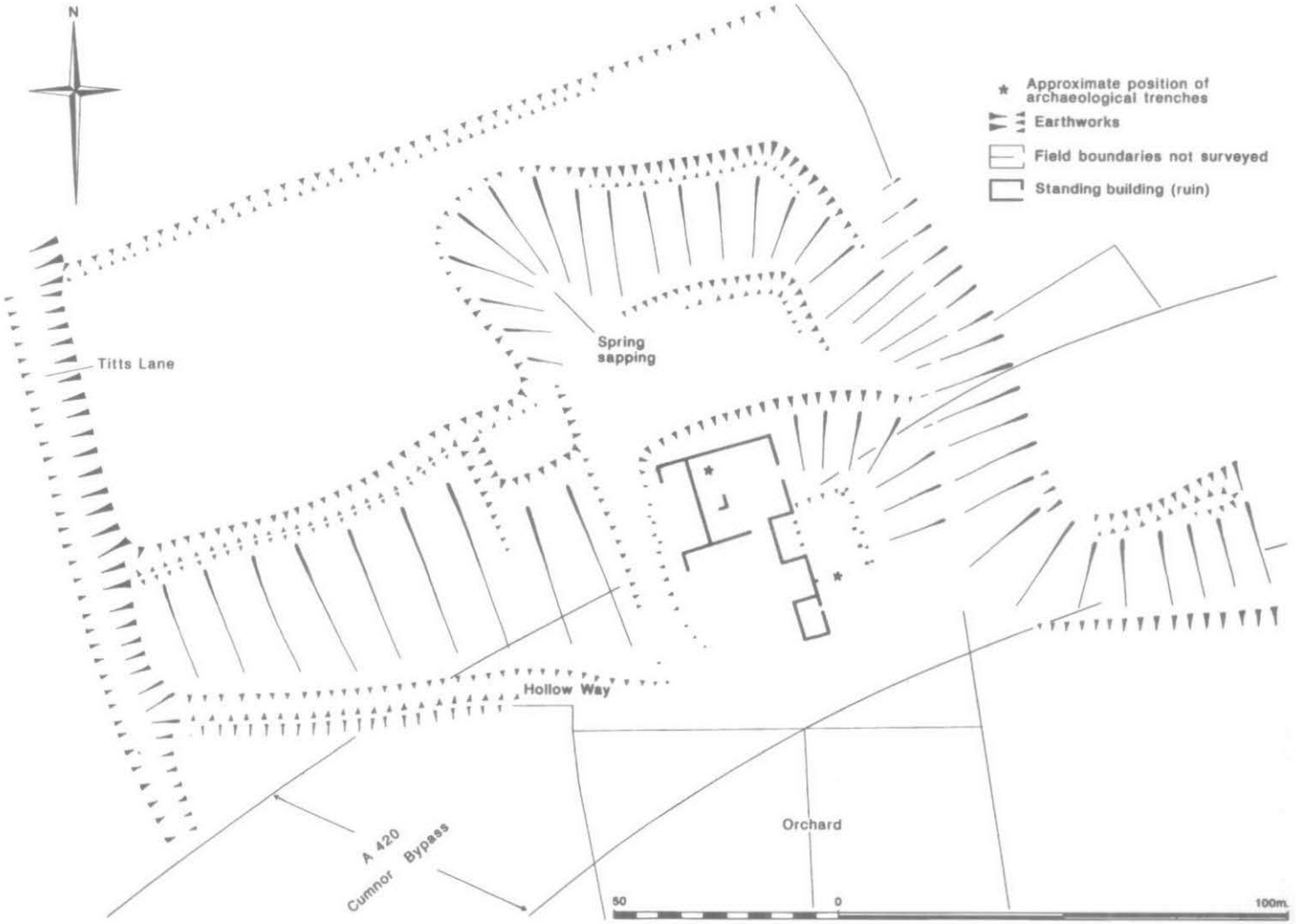

Fig. 68. Site E: survey of earthworks and standing ruins, with approximate location of the excavated trenches.

3 THE FINDS

INTRODUCTION

Limited funds were available for analysis of the finds. The approach was first to provide a chronological framework for the stratigraphic sequences, and secondly to examine the range of activities undertaken on the various sites. Further questions relating to markets were addressed in the pottery report (see Section 3.2 'Objectives' below). A full catalogue of the small finds was compiled, since no site of this type had previously been excavated in the region, in order to compare the range of finds with other rural settlements of different character and status both within and outside the region.

Further questions addressed were: the relationship of the finds to the different numbers and types of building both within and across the sites; whether specialist activities were indicated; and whether differences of wealth or status were indicated between any of the sites. In the event the excavated finds proved similar to the range found on excavated medieval villages rather than to that of seigniorial sites. The numbers of small finds did not allow meaningful analysis of finds distributions within single sites, nor were any large assemblages of individual categories of finds identified.

Small assemblages of finds of the Roman, Saxon and post-medieval periods were found during the excavations. Since these were easily dealt with they have been included in the report for the sake of completeness.

3.1 ROMAN POTTERY, by SARAH GREEN

87 sherds of Roman pottery were examined from Sites A to D at Dean Court, Site A having by far the largest number (67). One or two Roman sherds were also noted by Maureen Mellor from Site E, but are now lost. Most of the sherds examined were highly abraded.

The majority were fragments of locally produced greyware jars. Apart from these, locally produced fabrics were represented by a few fragments of mortaria and other vessels (probably bowls) in white and red/brown colour-coat and also by one sherd of a parchment ware bowl. One rim and one body sherd in a groggy fabric are probably of local manufacture.

The only imports to the area that were identified were two fragments of Nene Valley colour-coat, both apparently from Castor Boxes, and nine sherds of samian. The samian fragments were mainly small but at least one Dr 27 of South Gaulish origin was represented. The rest were of Central Gaulish manufacture.

Most of the identifiable sherds are 3rd- to 4th-century in date and their small size and abraded state probably indicate manuring and redeposition rather than Roman occupation at Dean Court itself.

3.2 EARLY SAXON, MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY, by MAUREEN MELLOR

Summary

Some 12,000 medieval sherds were recovered dating from *c.* 1175 to 1500 A.D. Two possible Saxon sherds and a small assemblage of the early post-medieval period were also found.

The major ceramic coarseware industry supplying the site was that associated with Abingdon rather than Oxford. This trend persists throughout the 13th and 14th centuries although, as in Oxford, from the mid 13th century tablewares are dominated by the Brill/Boarstall kilns.

The pottery is largely domestic coarsewares but demonstrates a strong emphasis on dairying, evidenced by shallow dishes/pans and bowls. When compared with contemporary urban assemblages the range of vessel types and of decoration shows no indication that the inhabitants enjoyed a more

frugal diet than the townsmen, and the hamlet may even have had its own alehouse licensed by Abingdon Abbey.[18]

Objectives

The aims of the pottery researcher were:

1. To establish the market patterns of the pottery on site.
2. To establish whether difference in function existed a) between discreet areas within the site and b) between rural and urban sites.
3. To provide dating for the stratigraphic framework of the site.

Methodology

The pottery was recorded directly onto an Epson HX20 in 1986, using the nomenclature developed for recording pottery from Oxford (2 miles east of the site). The fabrics were classified according to the Oxford fabric type series.[19] These fabric types may be divided into the following broad fabric groups:[20]

Group IA (Shelly limestone)	Fabric type *BK*
Group IB (Calcareous gravel)	Fabric types *AC, BB*
Group II (Flint)	Fabric types *AQ, BF*
Group III (Sand)	Fabric types *AB, AG, AM, AP, AW, BG, BW, BX, CU, Y*
Red earthenware	Fabric type *REW*
Rhenish stoneware	Fabric type *RST*
Miscellaneous	Fabric type *ZZ*

The presence/absence of each fabric type from each context was noted and the dominant type highlighted. Residual and intrusive sherds were also indicated where possible.

Given the general lack of deep vertical stratigraphy, and that the majority of features were open ditches rather than sealed contexts such as pits, the sherds were not analysed in any further detail. This information was then transferred to the IBM XT where the records were sorted, indexed and printed out by dBase III.[21] The report was edited and the discussion updated in 1993.

Sherds representative of each area, and of each phase within an area, are illustrated. Details concerning the context, section (where present), layer, individual drawing number and fabric type may be found in the captions under each figure.

Form terminology

Where the surviving profile indicated a large, open pot with a diameter more than three times its height, it has been classed as a shallow dish/pan.[22]

[18] C. Dyer, *Standards of living in the later Middle Ages* (Cambridge Medieval Textbooks, 1989), 158.

[19] Detailed fabric descriptions are published in R. Haldon and M. Mellor, 'Late Saxon and medieval pottery', in B.G. Durham, 'Archaeological Investigations in St. Aldates, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), 111–39; M. Mellor, 'Pottery', in N. Palmer, 'A Beaker Burial and Medieval Tenements in The Hamel, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), 160–82, Fiche 1 E06. The reference collection is housed with the Oxford Archaeological Unit.

[20] It may be noted that at nearby Seacourt 'white flecked fabrics' embrace groups IA, IB and II. M. Biddle, 'The Deserted Medieval Village of Seacourt, Berkshire', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961/2), 128–66.

[21] I am very grateful to Simon Palmer who wrote the programs for this site.

[22] Haldon and Mellor, 'Late Saxon and medieval pottery', in Durham ,'St. Aldates', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), 112.

Bowls often have a similar ratio of rim to height but have curving profiles and are deeper than shallow dishes/pans. On this site unglazed thin-walled vessels in fabrics *AM* and *AW*, where the diameter of the rim is similar to the height, have been grouped with the bowls.[23] They often display external rilling, and may or may not be sooted on the exterior surface.

Rims of small diameter (50–100 mm.) have been classed as jugs or pitchers. Where an applied spout survives the pots have been called spouted pitchers and where tripod feet survive, tripod pitchers. Unique to the Brill/Boarstall workshops are the 'three-decker' or 'triple-decker' jugs so-called because its body has three distinct zones.[24]

Bottles have very small diameters for both rims and bases (20–40 mm.)[25]

All the remaining rims have been classed as cooking pots or jars. Where sooting occurs, its presence is stated.

Site A: The early grange

This was situated on the lower slopes of Wytham Hill just W. of a N.–S. track from Wytham to Cumnor. It began as a series of shallow ditches and a scatter of pits, and was overlain by a large L-shaped domestic building and byre, Building I, to which were later added two barns, Buildings II and III. All the buildings were of stone. The whole complex was surrounded by drainage ditches, but these were later abandoned and parts of the yard cobbled over.

Some 5,596 medieval and 7 post-medieval sherds were associated with the early grange. This site produced many more Romano-British sherds than the other areas, suggesting some Romano-British activity nearby (Section 3.1).[26]

The pottery from Phase 1 (pre-dating the buildings) probably dates to the late 12th and early 13th century, and implies a domestic focus of that date nearby.[27]

In Phase 2 Building I was constructed, sometime in the first half of the 13th century. The surrounding ditches contain similar pottery. Building I continued in use throughout Phase 3 and contained much pottery dating to the mid and later 13th century. Some residual pottery was also present (Fabrics *AC*, *BF* and *Y*). As in Phase 2, the ditches and courtyard areas outside Building I, acting as midden areas, contained the largest assemblages and the pottery from them was contemporary with the pottery in Building I.

Building II appeared to have been first occupied in the second half of the 13th century (Phase 3) and the ditches and yard areas adjacent contained pottery similar to that recovered within the building.

Buildings I and II continued in use into the next phase (Phase 4), including a little pottery of probable early 14th-century date. Building III however, although stratigraphically belonging to this phase, contains largely residual sherds, and the area outside Building III also showed a similar range of sherds to the previous phase. Hardly any pottery was associated with the use of this building, and its function seems unlikely to have been domestic.

The area of cobbling between Buildings I and III was also dominated by residual pottery but included sherds of late 13th or early 14th-century date contemporary with the latest use of the building.

Phase 5, the destruction levels and overlying soils, contained largely residual pottery concentrated over and around Building I, and nothing suggests abandonment later than the early 14th century. Stray sherds of later medieval date were found in layers overlying the robbing of the buildings.

One post-medieval ditch contained two sherds of 18th-century pottery.

[23] Ibid. Fig. 22.23 for a complete vessel.

[24] D.A. Hinton, *Medieval Pottery of the Oxford Region* (Ashmolean Museum, 1973), No. 13.

[25] Ibid. No. 16.

[26] Cf. Biddle, 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), 138–39.

[27] Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer 'The Hamel', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), Fig. 8, D3b, 156.

The site appears to have seen much activity for some four generations from *c.* 1200 to *c.* 1300 A.D. and then to have been abandoned. Building I was obviously a substantial domestic building surviving some 50 or more years, and had large quantities of pottery associated with it throughout its 'life'. Although most of the pottery was found in the ditches and yard areas immediately outside, some 750 sherds came from the interior, in contrast to the floors of many contemporary urban tenements,[28] which are normally swept clean. The other two buildings were apparently in use over a shorter span of time and unlike Building I had very few sherds associated with their interiors.

There appears to be much residual pottery on Site A (Phases 1 and 2), and this has hindered dating the internal phasing of the site.

Phase 1

292 medieval sherds were recovered. These can be further broken down into ditches yielding 224 medieval sherds, pits 49 sherds and other layers 19 sherds. Very few assemblages produced 20 sherds or more (only 311, 1718 and 1731).

A wide range of fabric types was in use reflecting different production sources serving the inhabitants and no one fabric type was dominant, but the sandy wares (Fabrics *Y*, and *AG*, Group III) were more popular than the calcareous and flint tempered wares (Fabric *AC*, Group IB and Fabrics *AQ* and *BF*, Group II). A few sherds from the Brill/Boarstall workshops (Fabric *AW*, Group III) and an unknown source of regional import (Fabric *BK*, Group IA) both located to the east of Oxford, were also present. The latter were also present at nearby Seacourt.[29]

The vessels were predominantly cooking or storage vessels (Fig. 69.5–9). Shallow dishes are represented by the classic form in this tradition with inturned rim (Fig. 69.2) and an unusually large pan/dish (Fig. 69.3), bowls by Fig. 69.4, but these, together with jugs and pitchers, were few. The latter, however, included a strap handle with applied finger-pressed strip and green glaze (Fig. 69.10); 2 decorated sherds (Fig. 69.12 incised and Fig. 69.13 with applied strips) both with thin yellow glaze; a twist from a strap handle (Fig. 69.11) with green glaze, possibly from a tripod pitcher, and a strap handle (Fig. 69.14) with white slip decoration under the green glaze.

The vessels associated with the regional import (Fabric *BK*, Group IA) included a bowl (Fig. 69.1) with some sooting on the external surfaces.

The pottery probably dates to the late 12th to early 13th century.[30]

In comparison with tenements in Oxford of a similar date, there is a much higher proportion of Fabric *AG* to Fabric *Y*, Oxford Medieval Ware, the latter being the dominant fabric in Oxford during the second half of the 12th and first half of the 13th century.

Phase 2

816 medieval sherds were found. The medieval sherds can be broken down into 306 sherds associated with Building I, 459 sherds coming from the ditches, 30 sherds from a pit and 21 from other contexts.

Few assemblages within Building I contained more than 20 sherds (these are 9, 22, 212, 262 and 264). Building I contained the same wide range of fabric types as found in the pre-building level but Fabric *AQ* (Group II) was now the most popular fabric for cooking pots (e.g. Fig. 69.16) and storage jars. Less common was a type of storage jar with applied thumb-pressed strip (Fig. 69.15) and a jug from the Brill/Boarstall workshops (Fig. 69.17) partially glazed with dark green glaze. The latter may be of 14th-century date, and so intrusive.

The pottery from the ditches, the pit and the levels outside the building also comprised a similar range of fabric types to that from within Building I. The ditches produced more profiles and larger pieces of pottery and vessels including a high proportion of shallow dishes/pans from four different sources: from N. or W. Oxfordshire (Fabric *AC*) came Figs. 70.1, 70.2 (with thumbed decoration on the rim) and 70.3; from the S.W. (Fabrics *BF* and *AQ*) came Figs. 70.4 and 70.5; from N.E. of Oxford (Fabric *Y*) came a bowl (Fig. 70.6); from an unknown source (Fabric *ZZ* Group III) came a bowl, which may belong to the East Midlands Reduced ware tradition[31] and can be paralleled in ditch fill 15 (Fig. 71.4, *ZZ* Group III) in Phase 3. There are also cooking pots (Fig. 70.7 with thumbed decoration and Fig. 70.8) as well as tablewares (Fig. 70.9) with much worn glaze and some with white slip decoration

[28] Ibid. 177.

[29] Biddle, 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), Fig. 23.2 and 23.7.

[30] Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer 'The Hamel', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), D3b, Figs. 9 and 10, 161.

[31] M. Mellor in 'Hollybush Row and St. Thomas' (forthcoming) and idem. in B.G. Durham, *Oxford Before the University* (1993 draft held at O.A.U.).

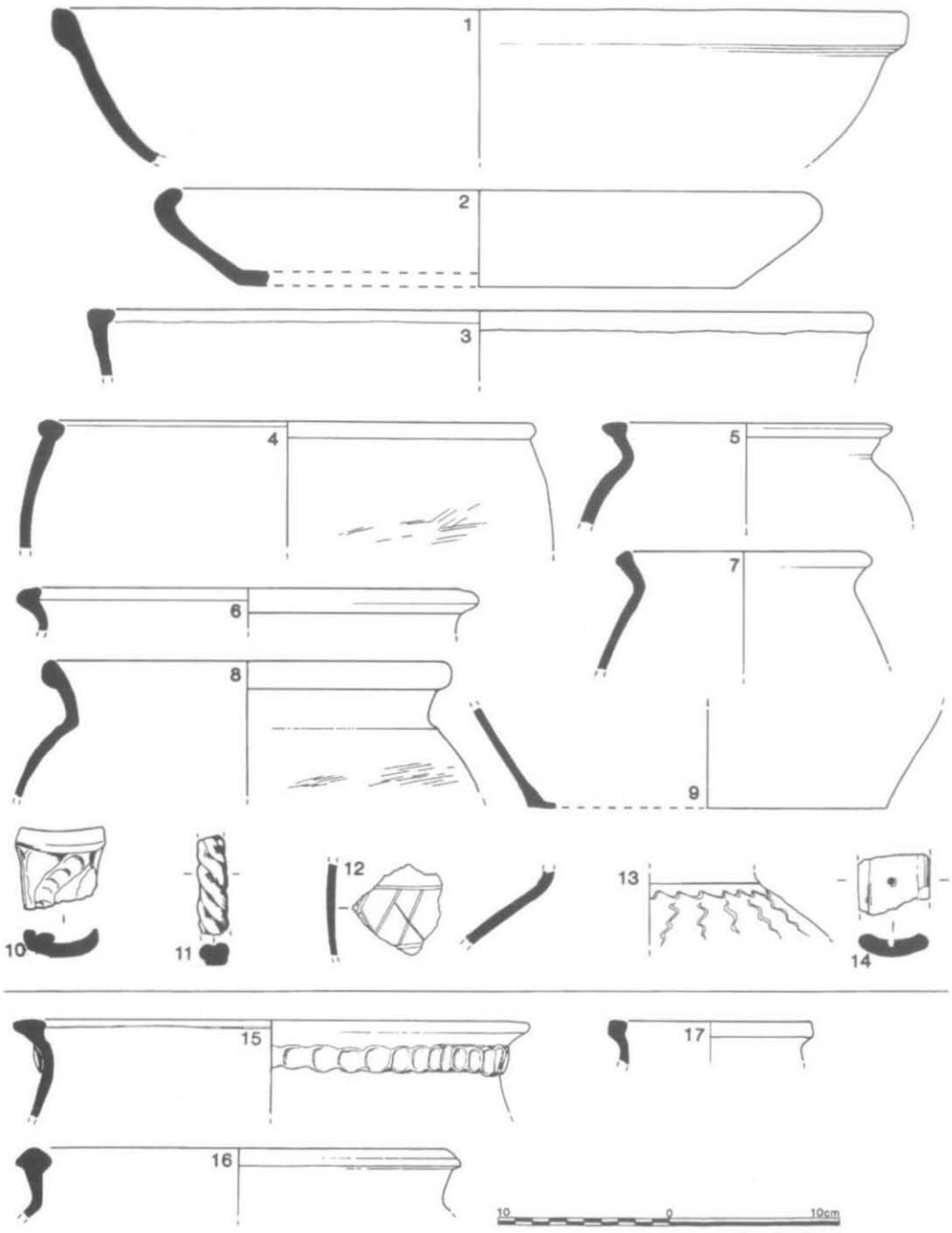

Fig. 69. Pottery from Site A. 1–14 Phase 1 Pre-building; 15–17 Phase 2.

1. P294/1/1	*BK*	7. P1731/B/2/1	*AC*	13. P1731/0/2	*Y*
2. P336/3/1	*AQ*	8. P1731/B/2/2a	*AG*	14. P337/A/1	*AG*
3. P336/2/1	*AC*	9. P1731/B/2	*AG*	15. P22/0/1	*AC*
4. P1790/B/1	*Y*	10. P1776/0/1	*Y*	16. P264/0/1	*AQ*
5. P1776/B/1	*BF*	11. P336/2/2	*Y*	17. P264/0/2	*AM*
6. P337/A/2	*Y*	12. P1731/0/1	*Y*		

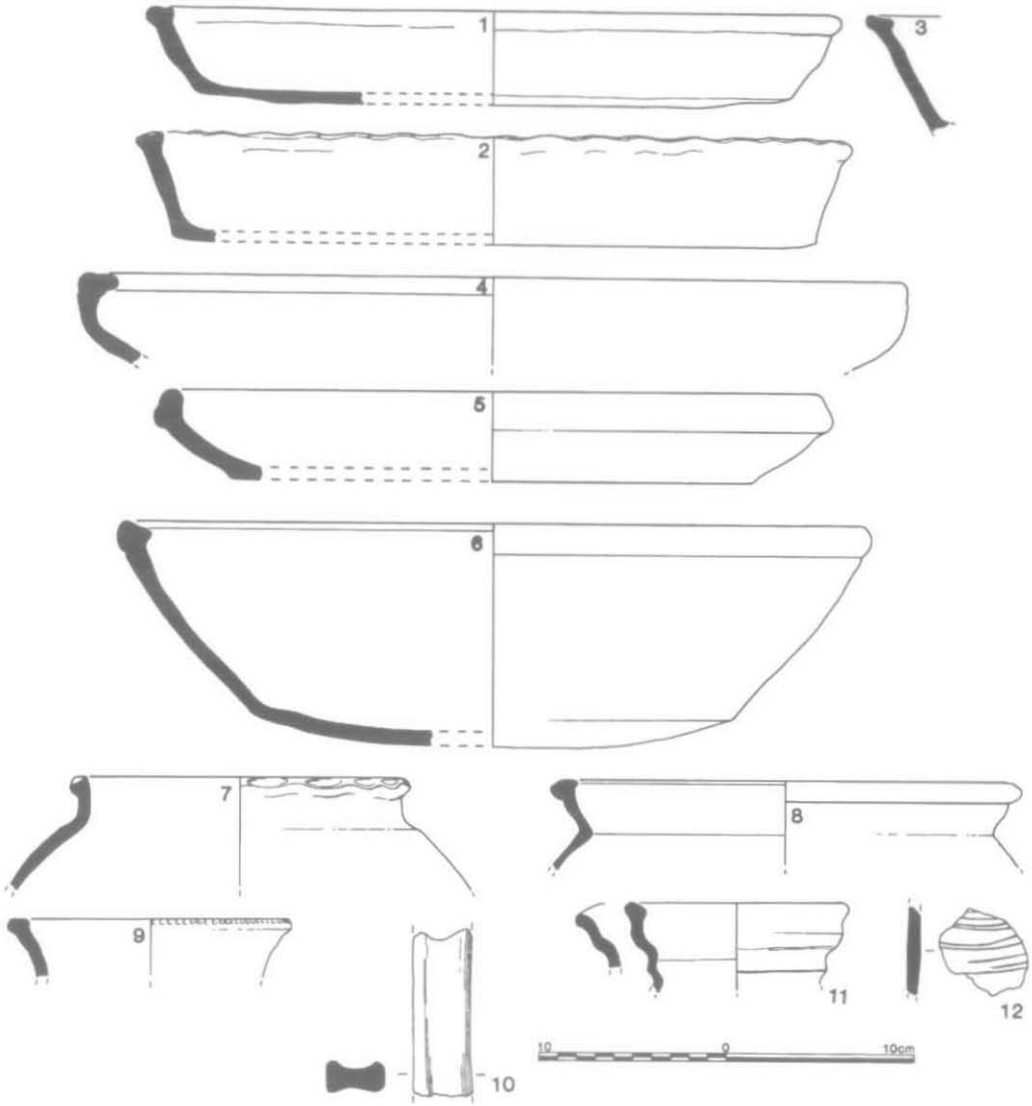

Fig. 70. Pottery from Site A. 1–12 Phase 2 Ditches.

1. P1734/2/1	*AC*	7. P1734/1/1	*Y*
2. P1734/1/5	*AC*	8. P1734/1/2	*Y*
3. P1734/1/3	*AC*	9. P353/0/1	*AG*
4. P1734/1/4	*BF*	10. P1735/0/2	*AW*
5. P1735/0/1	*AQ*	11. P1735/0/3	*BG*var
6. P1735/1/1	*Y*	12. P1735/0/4	*BG*var

synonymous with Fabric *AG*. From Surrey came a sherd with horizontal grooved decoration and glossy yellow/brown glaze (Fig. 70.12) and a jug rim (Fig. 70.11) with glossy green glaze; and from the Brill/Boarstall workshops came a strap handle with mottled green glaze (Fig. 70.10).

The wide range of fabric types suggests a date in the first half of the 13th century for the bulk of the contexts but a variant of fabric *BG*, which occurs in contexts 251, 256 and 1735, is usually dated to the mid to late 13th century.

Phase 3

This phase contained the largest assemblage, 2,131 medieval sherds. The vast majority of these (1,509 sherds) came, as in the preceding phase, from ditches outside Building I and from the layers overlying them.

Building I

Building I containing 343 medieval sherds again included a wide range of fabric types (Fabrics *AC*, Group IB, *AQ* and *BF*, Group II, *Y*, *AB*, *AG*, *AM*, and *AW*, Group III and a regional import Fabric *BK*, Group IA). However Fabric *AC* was less evident than in earlier phases and must be residual. The dominant fabric type supplying domestic vessels was Fabric *AQ*, including a bowl with combed decoration internally and externally (Fig. 71.10, but domestic vessels such as cooking pots and dishes were also made in Fabric *AG*. Tablewares were almost exclusively supplied by the Brill/Boarstall pottery workshops, for instance Fig. 71.2, partially glazed mottled green. Some fragments of highly decorated jugs were also found.

The area outside Building I (672 sherds) included cooking pots of classic rim type in Group II fabric *AQ* (Fig. 71.9) and some with thumbed decoration on the rim (Figs. 71.5 and 71.6). There were also cooking pots and dishes in Group III sandy fabric (Figs. 71.3 and 71.7). Shallow dishes were less popular than in Phase 1 and occasionally cooking pots or storage jars in fabrics *AM* and *AW* occurred, for instance Fig. 71.8 with external rilling on the shoulder. A highly decorated sherd (Fig. 71.10) with applied grid stamped pattern over red slip and applied rouletted strips and mottled green glaze was recovered (see ditches this phase). A regional import from Minety, north Wiltshire was noted. This was a strap handle with slashed decoration and poor green glaze (Fig. 71.11), a type more common in the later medieval period in Oxford and present at Seacourt for the same period too.[32]

Building II

Only 67 sherds were associated with this building, and individual assemblages were very small. A similar range of fabric types to Building I was present, and the ratio of cooking pots to jugs was also similar. Cooking pots included those of smaller size. Some fragments of highly decorated jugs were recovered as in the area outside Building I, as was a strap handle from a jug which probably dates to the mid to late 13th century.

From the area outside Building II (102 sherds), the fabric types were similar and vessels included a small cooking pot (Fig. 73.2) and a splayed base from a baluster jug of probable mid to late 13th-century date. A skillet handle, (Fig. 73.3) comes from the Brill/Boarstall workshops. Fig. 73.1 is a bowl with a similar rim to a vessel, also from the same source, found in the pre-building phase (Fig. 69.1). This example, however, was from a smaller vessel.

Ditches

Some 839 sherds were associated with the ditches. Fabric *AQ* (Group II) was the most popular, followed by Fabrics *AG* and *Y* (Group III) and then Fabric *AC* (Group IB). A few highly decorated sherds in Fabric *AM* (Group III) were recovered: Fig. 72.7 with applied stamped grid, applied rouletted decoration and mottled green glaze; Fig. 72.8, a small strap handle with stabbed and rouletted decoration and mottled green glaze; and Fig. 72.9, a splayed base with mottled green glaze. These are probably from one jug, a small baluster type which is often highly decorated.[33] A fragment found outside Building I may have come from the same jug (Fig. 71.10).

Several interesting vessel types in Fabric *AG* were noted, including a cooking pot (Fig. 72.2) and a wide strap handle (Fig. 72.6) with vertical incised decoration and light green glaze. A cooking pot (Fig. 72.3) with external rilling on the shoulder and a splash of green glaze and a base (Fig. 72.4) may in fact be a variant of Fabric *AW* (Group III), but it contains flecks of limestone together with the abundant quartz temper.[34] A rod handle (Fig. 72.5) with incised vertical

[32] Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer, 'The Hamel', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), BII5, BII6 etc. dated to the early 15th century and later; Mellor in 'Hollybush Row and St. Thomas' (forthcoming); and Biddle, 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), Fig. 27.4, 27.7, and 27.10.

[33] M. Mellor, 'The Pottery' in B.G. Durham, 'The Infirmary and Hall of the Medieval Hospital of St. John the Baptist at Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, lvi (1991), 49–54; M. Mellor, 'Late Saxon, Medieval and Later Pottery' in B.G. Durham, 'The Thames Crossing at Oxford: Archaeological Studies 1979–82', *Oxoniensia*, xlix (1984), Fig. 7.14, 71.

[34] For a similar fabric type see B.G. Durham, 'Witney Mount House' (draft report at O.A.U.).

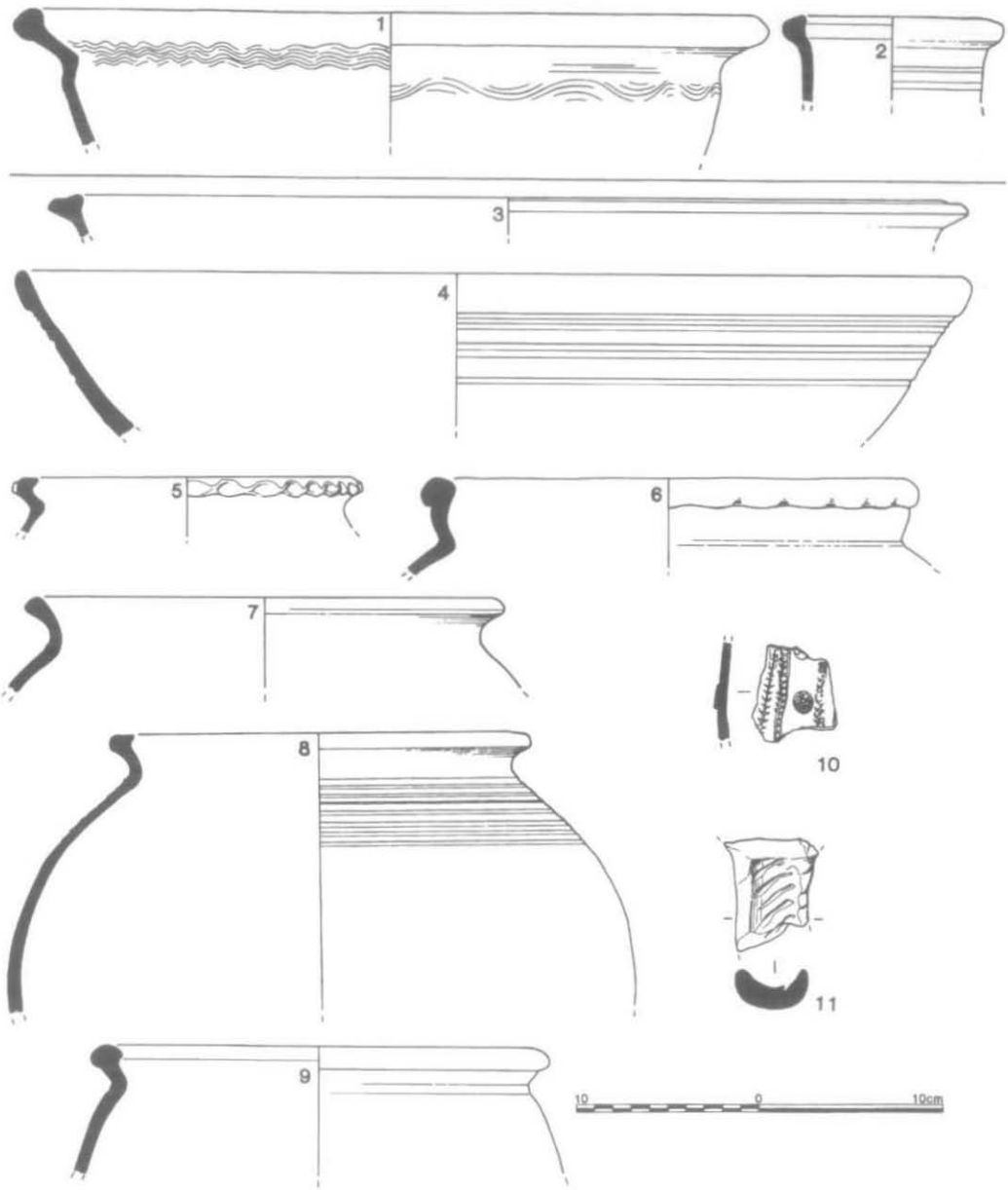

Fig. 71. Pottery from Site A. 1–11 Phase 3.

1. P20/0/1	*AQ*	7. P326/2/3	*AG*
2. P273/2/1	*AM*	8. P316/1/1	*AM*
3. P326/1/1	*AG*	9. P326/2/2	*AQ*
4. P15/0/1	*ZZ*	10. P316/3/1	*AW*
5. P316/1/4	*AQ*	11. P1746/3/1	*BB*
6. P326/2/1	*AQ*		

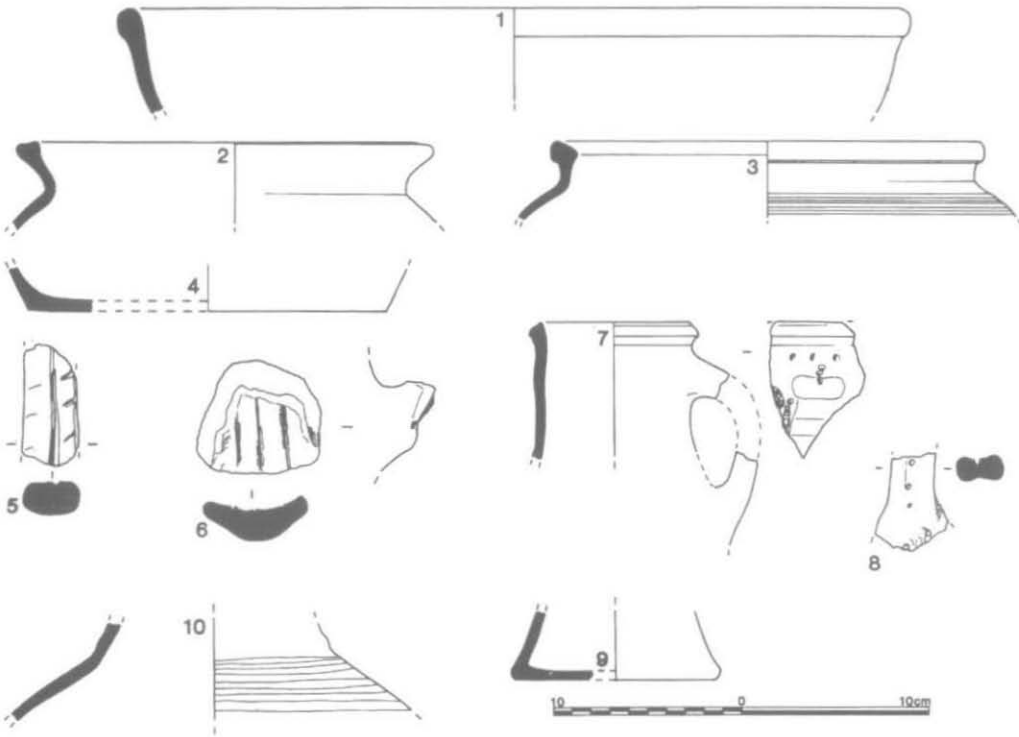

Fig. 72. Pottery from Site A. 1–10 Phase 3 Ditches.

1. P319/A/1	*BK*	6. P319/C/3	*AG*
2. P319/C/2	*AG*	7. P319/0/2	*AW*
3. P317/1/1	*AW*var	8. P319/0/3	*AW*
4. P317/1/1a	*AW*	9. P319/0/1	*AW*
5. P1767/3/1	*AC*	10. P319/C/2/1	*BG*var

and horizontal notches on the outer margins in Fabric *AC* is a rare form associated with this fabric since very few jugs in this fabric have been recovered from Oxford excavations, but parallels may be found at Mount House, Witney, Oxon.

Regional imports again included a Surrey type – a pitcher (Fig. 72.10 Fabric *BG*) with irregular horizontal grooves on the shoulder and glossy green glaze with brown iron staining in the glaze. For a similar pitcher style see Fig. 70.12. There was also another bowl (Fig. 72.1) in Fabric *BK* (Group IA).

The levels outside the buildings (108 sherds) included a fire-cover Fig. 73.4 (source unknown Group III) with wide strap handle with thumbed decoration along the outer margins and slashed decoration to ensure even firing and drilled vents, made in the leather hard state at either end of the handle. A large square cut hole was made after firing beneath the strap handle, presumably to improve the air flow to keep the embers alight.

Phase 4

1,378 medieval sherds were recovered from Phase 4.

Building I contained 96 sherds. The fabric range included Fabrics *AQ* (Group II), *AG*, *AW* (Group III) for domestic wares and Fabric *AM* (Group III) for tablewares, with sandy wares dominant. A date in the second half of the 13th (or the very early 14th century) is likely. Some contexts just outside the building (5 and 10) contained predominantly Fabric *AM* (Group III) and these included a fragment of double-shelled lamp and decorated jug fragments. These two contexts probably date to the early 14th century. The area outside the building yielded 825 sherds in total. The fabric range was similar to the previous phase, suggesting some residuality.

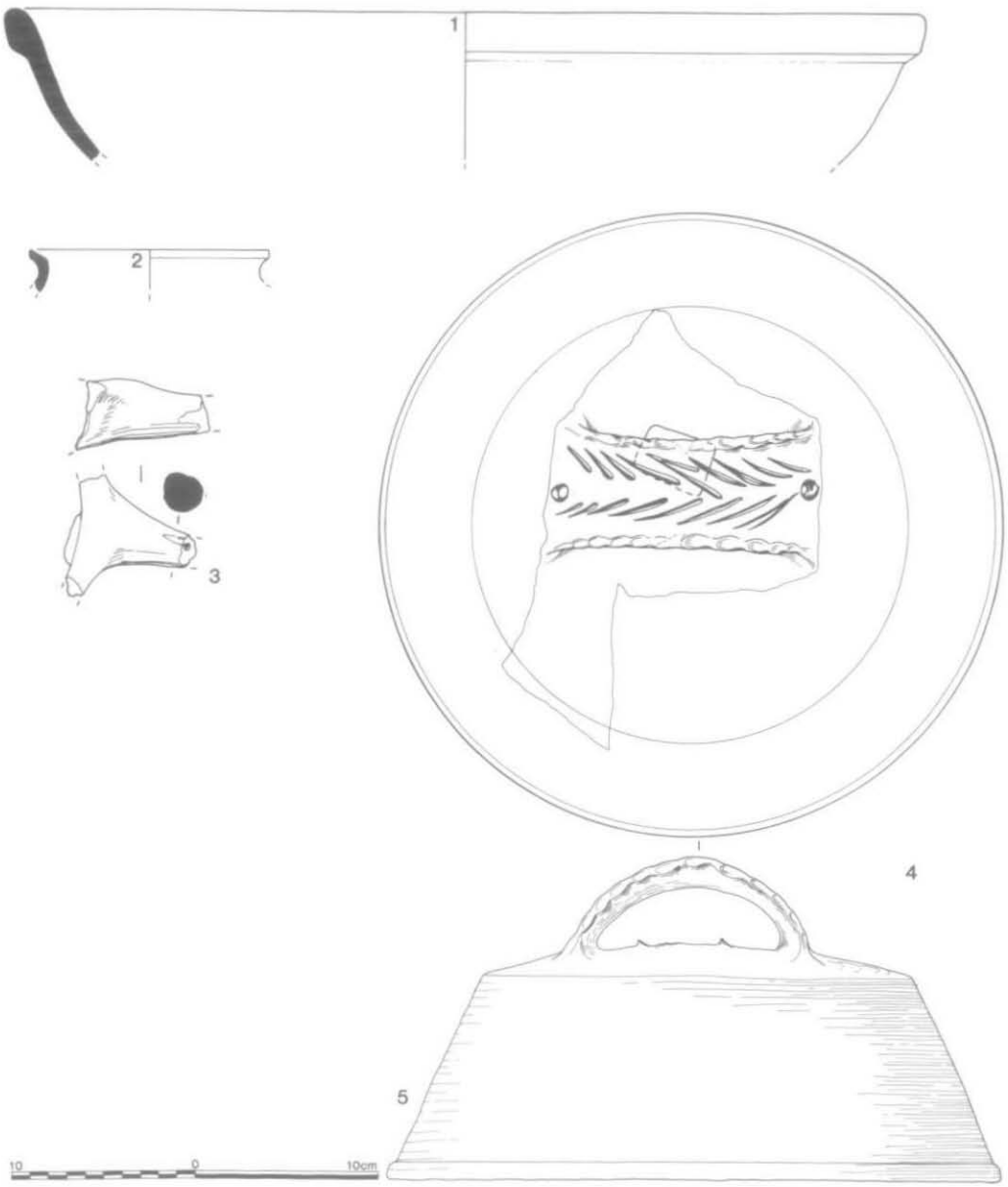

Fig. 73. Pottery from Site A. 1–5 Phase 3 outside the buildings.

1. P291/2/1 *BK*
2. P1771/A/1 *AG*
3. P309/0/1 *AM*
4. P322/0/1 ZZ Fire-cover
5. Reconstructed drawing of 4

Only one sherd came from the interior of Building II. The area immediately outside Building II produced 122 sherds, the assemblage dating largely to the second half of the 13th century, with some residual pottery and one or two possibly 14th-century sherds.

Building III also contained very few sherds (35), whose fabric types were similar to those found in the previous phase, suggesting residual pottery.

The cobbling with some 228 sherds also contained much pottery similar to the previous phase, and was probably residual. No one assemblage suggested a late 13th/early 14th-century date, although the soils lying upon the cobbled surfaces (206 and 226) contained individual sherds of the early 14th century.

The remaining areas (68 sherds) also contained pottery similar to the previous phase; some assemblages, however, probably dated to the late 13th century e.g. 1705 and 233/1.

Phase 5

There were 979 sherds from this final phase.

The destruction levels of Building I contained 140 sherds including some residual pottery but also highly decorated jugs (Fabric *AM*) and domestic wares (Fabric *AQ*) dating to the second half of the 13th or the early 14th century.

The majority of the pottery from this phase, from a general layer covering the destruction level, numbered 205 and 207 over the building and 201 and 202 to the west and east of it, was residual from the later phases of occupation, but included 14th and 15th-century sherds.

The destruction layers and robber-trenches of Building II contained only 23 sherds which were mainly Fabric *AQ* domestic wares and Fabric *AM* tablewares. Outside Building II (layer 239) the pottery included fabric types typical of the second half of the 13th century, and a sherd from Brill dating to the 15th century.

The robber trenches of Building III also included residual material dated to the second half of the 13th century.

One post-medieval ditch (234) contained two sherds of 18th-century Brill slipware.

Site B

Site B lay in the valley bottom surrounded by a ditched enclosure, immediately W. of the later grange (Site D) and with the N.–S. track from Wytham to Cumnor running between the two. The earliest activity was represented by linear ditches and a scatter of pits, and these were overlain by clay-walled buildings, including Building VI which occupied an E.–W. band across the middle of the enclosure. Later part of Building VI was rebuilt as a timber building on a stone raft and other clay-walled buildings were gradually replaced by a stone range Building IV, with a cobbled road to the S. Further S. domestic and agricultural buildings (Buildings XIV and V respectively) were found.

Some 2,803 medieval sherds and 33 post-medieval sherds were recovered from this part of the site.

The earliest levels of occupation (Phase 1) probably date to the second quarter of the 13th century.

Overlying these levels, the successive floors and occupation layers of Building VI in phase 2 contained some pottery which is contemporary with the latest pottery in Phase 1 and some material which dates to the later 13th and early 14th century.

Building VI continued in use throughout the 14th century (Phase 3). The barn at the west end of Building IV, called IV W, had very little pottery associated with it; it contained a pit with late 13th-century jug fragments in it (Phase 3) but more substantial evidence from Phase 4, and was probably in use from the 14th to the mid 15th century. The additions on its eastern side, Building IV C and IV E, appear to start in the late medieval period (Phase 4) and continue for some four generations until the late 15th century. Building V was not built until the 15th century (Phase 5); it had very little associated pottery but finds from just outside suggest that it continued in use into the 16th century.

The levels north of the buildings contain pottery from the mid 13th century up to the 16th century (Phase 6). There is also some 19th-century pottery, presumably from manuring practices.

The pottery is typical of domestic assemblages and is comparable with urban tenement assemblages in Oxford. There is also a degree of residuality present throughout Site B.

Phase 1

The earliest occupation (Phase 1) contained 75 sherds. The domestic vessels were mainly represented by Fabric *AQ* (Group II), a few sherds of Fabric *BF* (Group II) and Fabrics *Y*, *AG* and *AW* (Group III). Vessels from the Brill/Boarstall workshops included small cooking pots (Figs. 74.1 and 74.2), the latter with a splash of green glaze. Finer tablewares from the same source included a pitcher (Fig. 74.3) with mottled green glaze, a splayed base

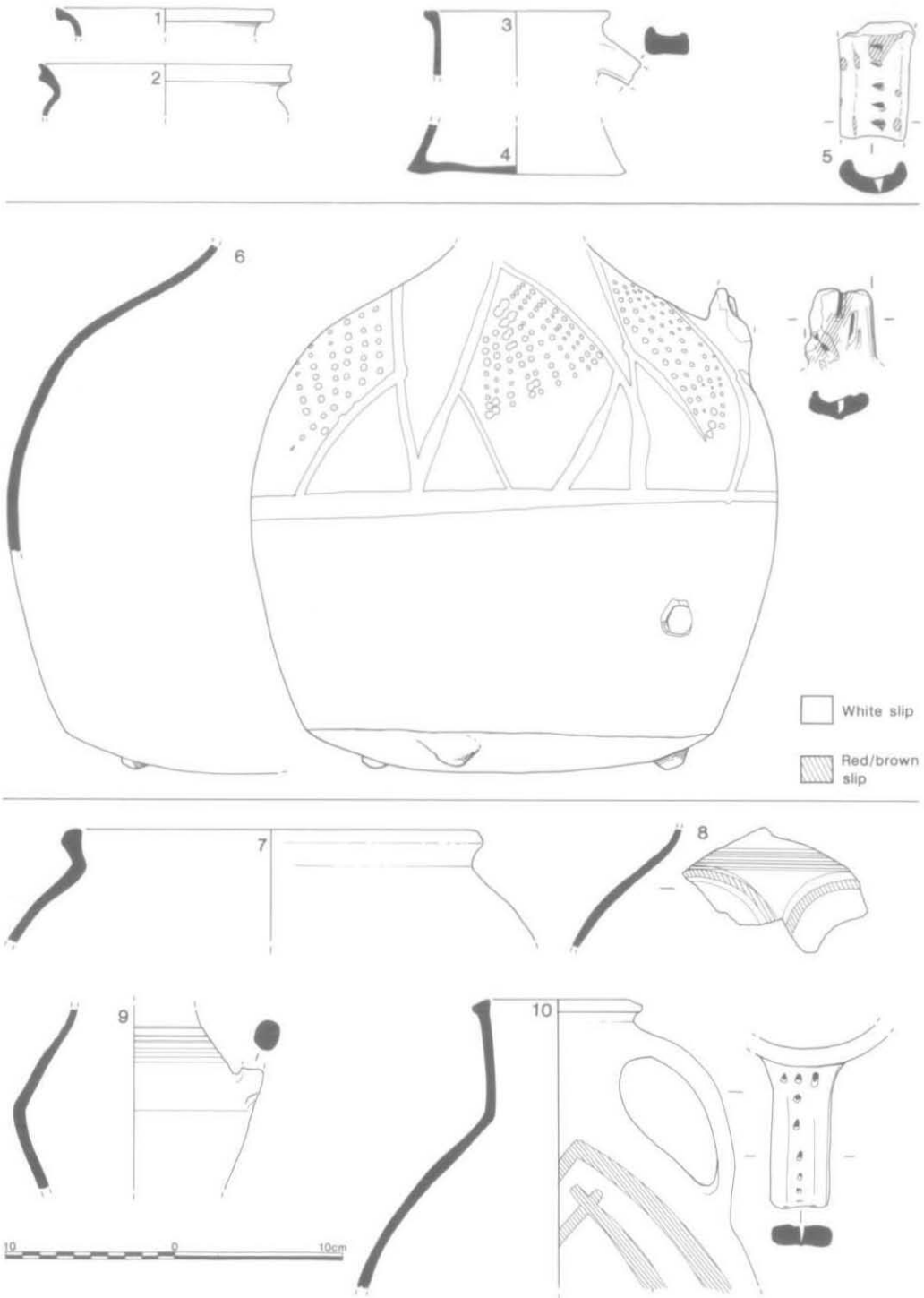

Fig. 74. Pottery from Site B. 1–5 Phase 1; 6 Phase 2; 7–10 Phase 3.

1. P571/0/2	*AW*	5. P574/0/1	*AG*	8. P622/0/3	*AM*
2. P571/0/3	*AW*	6. P535/0/1	*AG*	9. P622/0/2	*AM*
3. P571/0/1	*AM/AW*	7. P622/0/1	*AQ*	10. P546/1/C/3	*AM*
4. P571/0/4	*AM/AW*				

probably from a baluster type jug (Fig. 74.4) and from another source an abraded strap handle from a pitcher (Fig. 74.5) with white slip and stabbed decoration.

This assemblage probably dates to the mid-13th century, and is contemporary with Period 2 at Seacourt.[35] One context (571) may date to the later 13th century.

Phase 2

411 sherds were associated with the early phases of Building VI.

The domestic vessels were monopolised by Fabric *AQ* (Group II), other fabrics being present only occasionally (*BF* (Group II), *AC* (Group IB) and *AW* (Group III)).

Tablewares were dominated by Fabric *AM*, a Brill/Boarstall type, with Fabrics *AW* and *AG* in the minority. Some tablewares (Fabric *AM* and *AW*) were highly decorated with plastic decoration under the glaze. A large tripod pitcher (Fig. 74.6) with white slip decoration and patchily glazed with green was recovered.[36] It had been mended with a lead plug.

Some of the Brill/Boarstall tablewares in Fabrics *AM* and *AW* had plastic decoration under the glaze, suggesting a mid to late 13th-century date, while assemblages from other contexts without these types appeared to date to the late 13th century.

Phase 3

There were 387 sherds from this phase. Only 20 sherds were associated with Building IV W (Contexts: 525, 527, 529 and 610). 81 sherds were possibly associated with Building VI. The pottery from this building was almost exclusively Fabric *AQ* (Group II) or Fabric *AM* (Group III) with small amounts of Fabric *AW* (Group III). Some intrusive red earthenware dating to the 16th/17th century was recovered from 538. One sherd of the harder fired Brill/Boarstall type (Fabric *BX* (Group III)) was found in context 563. The pottery from this building is consistent with a later 14th-century date.

The bulk of the pottery was recovered from levels outside the buildings. Fabric *AQ*, used mainly for coil-made domestic vessels such as Fig. 74.7 from East Wiltshire, and Fabric *AM*, used for jugs and pitchers, were still the most popular fabric types. The tablewares included a highly decorated but abraded jug (Fig. 74.8) and another (Fig. 74.10) with red slip decoration and a strap handle with stabbed decoration, partially glazed green, both of which are probably residual. A biconical jug (Fig. 74.9) glazed on the upper part only with mottled green glaze, a strap handle with slashed decoration (Fig. 75.1) and another jug (Fig. 75.2) with a yellow glaze are probably contemporary. Fabric *BX* was also present and included strap handles (Fig. 75.4) and jars (Fig. 75.3) typical of the late medieval period. Some regional imports were also present, including Fabric *BG* forms, one of which had a flanged rim (Fig. 75.5), from Surrey and a Minety type (Group IB) from N. Wiltshire.

Phase 4

Some 739 sherds were found associated with this phase. 367 sherds come from the south end of the site (contexts: 510, 501/2, 532, 905 and 919), and contained predominantly Fabric *AQ* (Group II) and Fabric *AM* (Group III). Small amounts of Fabrics *BG* (Group III – a Surrey type) and *BX* (Group III) were present, suggesting a late medieval date. Some intrusive 19th-century white earthenware and creamware was also noted.

The central room of Building IV W contained 28 sherds. Fabrics *BG* and *BX* were present, suggesting a late medieval date.

52 sherds were associated with Building IV E; a similar range of fabric types as seen in the other part of this building was present. A Surrey-type jar (Fig. 75.6) decorated with mottled green glaze on the outside and with bifid rim suitable for supporting a lid was recovered. A rod handle from a jug (Fig. 75.7 Group III) from a source not recognised locally is also illustrated. Two coins were present, one of mid 14th-century date and another dated *c.* A.D. 1426: the pottery complements the latter date.

Building VI contained some 70 medieval sherds. These included late medieval pottery with a similar fabric type range to Building IV, and a flanged bowl with spots of green glaze under the external flange, possibly from S.E. Oxfordshire, is illustrated (Fig. 75.8).

The yard levels to the north of the buildings produced 220 sherds. The same range of fabric types were present with the addition of a sherd from Minety in Wiltshire (Fabric *BB*, Group IB).

[35] Biddle, 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), 158–63.

[36] For a similar feature see R.L.S. Bruce-Mitford, 'Bodleian Extension', *Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), Fig. 23 G, 98.

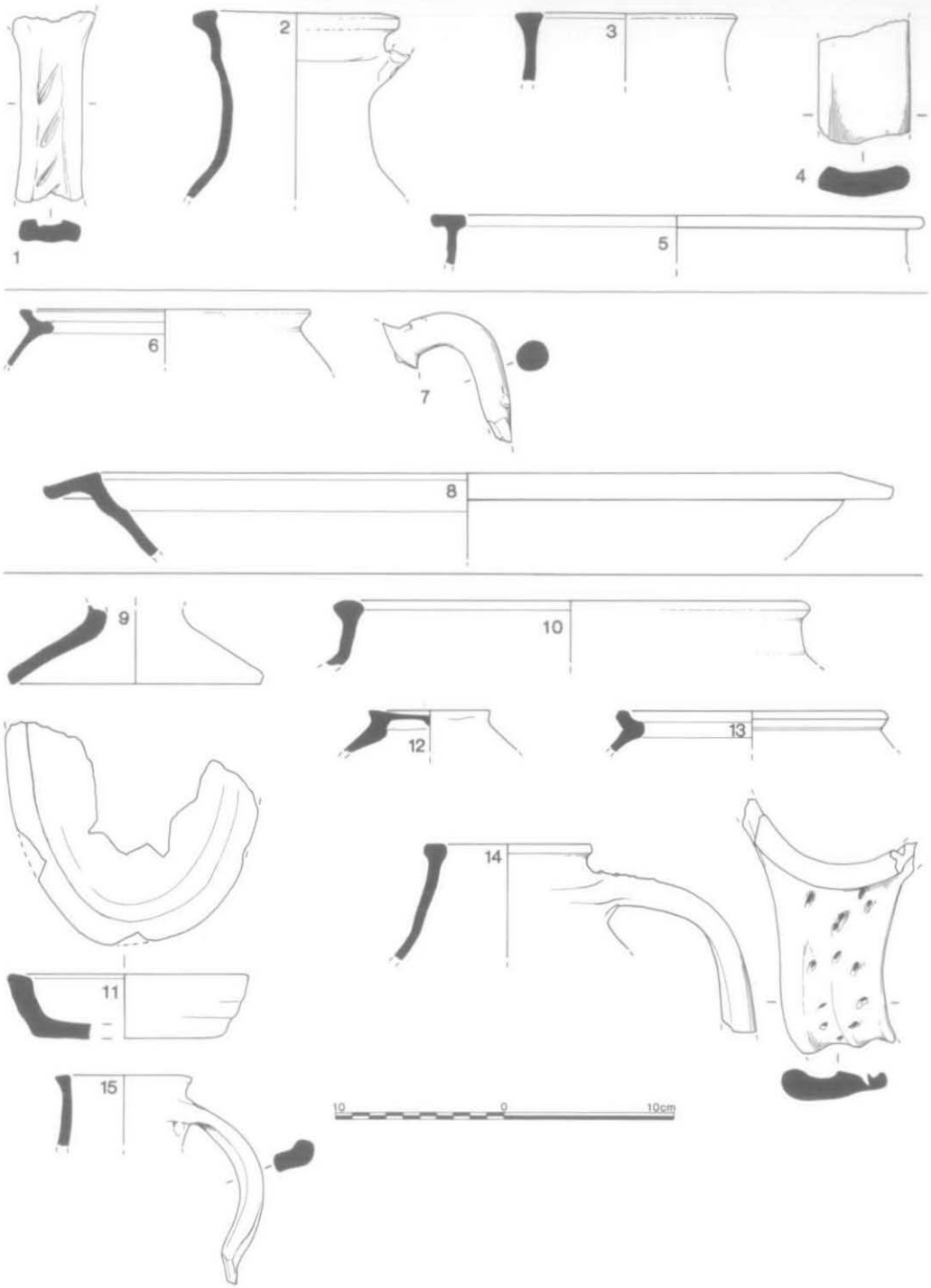

Fig. 75. Pottery from Site B. 1–5 Phase 3; 6–8 Phase 4; 9–15 Phase 5.

1. P546/1/2/	*AM*	6. P931/0/1	*BG*	11. P506/0/2	*ZZ*
2. P546/1/1	*AM*	7. P929/0/1	*ZZ*	12. P506/2/1	*AW*
3. P548/0/2	*BX*	8. P517/1/1	*CU*	13. P506/2/2	*ZZ*
4. P548/0/1	*BX*	9. P511/2/1	*BX*	14. P909/0/1	*AM*
5. P545/1/1	*BG*	10. P504/2/1	*AQ*	15. P502/0/1	*BX*

Phase 5

706 sherds were recovered, 147 from the destruction levels of Building IV (IV W 30 sherds, IV C 65 sherds and IV E 35 sherds). Only 24 sherds were from Building V, the remaining sherds being outside the buildings.

From Building IV W and IV C came sherds in Fabric *AQ* (Group II) though noticeably fewer than in earlier phases, Fabrics *AM* and *BX* (Group III) now being the most popular fabric types. Surrey and S.E. Oxfordshire types (Fabrics *BG* and *CU*, Group III) continued to be present. A form not noted in earlier phases was a lid (Fig. 75.9 *BX*). Building IV E included Fabrics *BX* and *BG*.

Building V included Brill/Boarstall types *AP* and *BX* as well as Surrey types.

The levels outside the buildings showed the Brill type Fabric *BX* and the Surrey type Fabric *BG* to be dominant types but Fabric *AQ* still persisted (Fig. 75.10). Another lid (Fig. 75.12 Group III) from S.E. Oxon. was similar to lids recovered from Seacourt and the Hamel in Oxford.[37] Other forms included a jar with bifid rim (Fig. 75.13 from an unknown source Group III), a jug with a rectangular-sectioned handle (Fig. 75.15) and a rare and unusual chunky condiment dish (Fig. 75.11) glazed internally with mottled orange glaze. A wide strap handle, with stabbed decoration and partially glazed green, possibly from a jar (Fig. 75.14), was also recovered and originated from the Brill workshops. The dating of this phase is probably the second half of the 15th century.

Building XIV

Context 950 contained 2 sherds (Fabric *BX* and *BG*) suggesting a late medieval date for this building.

Phase 6 Post-abandonment

Some 485 medieval sherds and 28 sherds dating to the 19th century were recovered. The majority of the medieval pottery were 16th-century Brill types (Fabric *AM* and *BX*), and some Surrey types (Fabric *BG*).

Site C

Site C was a toft situated between the early grange and the Site B enclosure W. of the N.–S. track from Wytham to Cumnor.

It comprised a one-roomed stone cottage Building VIII with a yard to the W. flanked on the N. and S. by wide drainage ditches, built over the E. edge of a former arable field. The yard contained a bread oven, a hearth, a trough and a probable malting kiln. The S. ditch was later infilled and cobbled over.

Some 3,617 medieval sherds were recovered from this area. Unlike other areas (A, B and D) no post-medieval sherds were noted.

The pottery from Phase 1, the field boundary ditch and the ridge-and-furrow pre-dating the occupation, was probably of the very late 13th and early 14th century.

In Phase 2 Building VIII was constructed. It contained only 55 sherds, but may date to the second quarter of the 14th century. Most of the pottery came from the ditches around the building; these contained pottery of a similar date but some mid to late 13th-century highly decorated jugs were also present. These may have been cherished over a longer period, though this hypothesis is not favoured by the present author. In the archaeological description the features belonging to the toft are divided into two phases, 2 and 3, but these are considered together here.

There were only 2 sherds from the demolition levels of Building VIII (Phase 4), but there was much pottery in the post-abandonment levels in the yard outside. The pottery from Phase 4 was very similar to Phases 2 and 3; and most of it is probably residual. There were no later medieval pottery sources or styles, suggesting a date not later than the third quarter of the 14th century.

Site C would appear to have been in use for a comparatively short span of time (three generations at most). In comparison with Sites A and B, there is very little residual pottery in Phases 1–3.

The pottery assemblage comprised cooking pots, storage jars, skillets (frying pans), shallow dishes, a wide variety of bowls, bottles and decorated jugs including two anthropomorphic types with the French inspired 'parrot' beak spouts[38] suggesting a moderately well-to-do rural household.

[37] Biddle, 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), Fig. 27.5; Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer, 'The Hamel' *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), Fig. 18.20, 172 (illustrated upside down).

[38] Two other examples have been found on an Oxford site, Mellor, 'Late Saxon, Medieval and later pottery' in Durham 'Thames Crossing', *Oxoniensia*, xlix, 68–71.

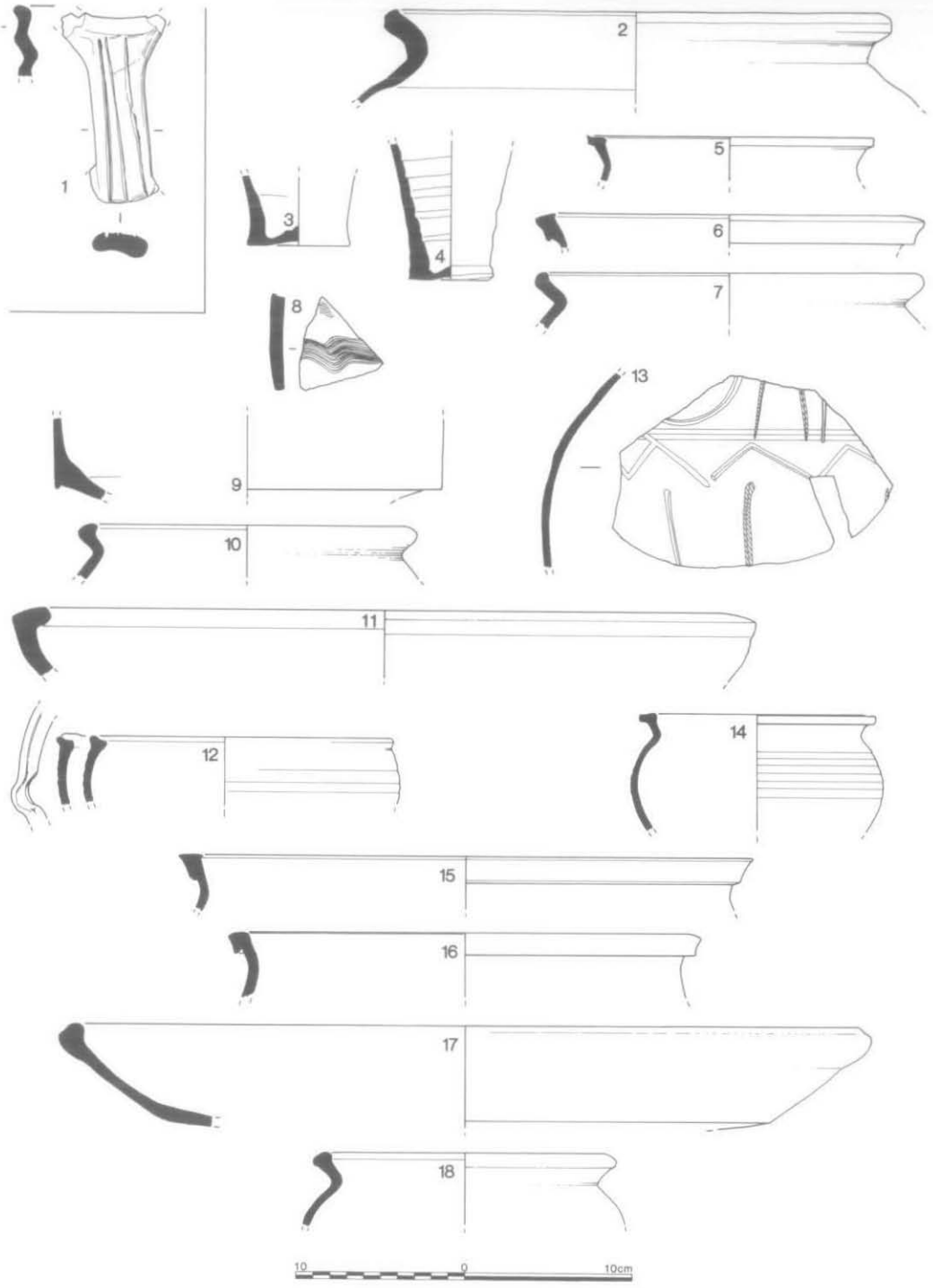

Fig. 76. Pottery from Site C. 1 Phase 1; 2–18 Phase 2: 2–11 Ditch 1, 12–18 Ditch 2.

1. P719/C/2	*BG*	7. P792/0/5	*AQ*	13. P716/1/1	*AM*
2. P792/0/1	*BB*	8. P792/0/6	*AQ*	14. P733/3/1	*AW*
3. P792/0/2	*AM*	9. P792/0/7	*AQ*	15. P718/2/1	*AW*
4. P792/0/3	*AM*	10. P793/1/1	*AQ*	16. P718/2/2	*AW*
5. P792/0/8	*AW*	11. P793/1/2	*AQ*	17. P718/2/2	*AQ*
6. P792/0/4	*AW*	12. P716/0/1	*AM*	18. P718/2/3	*AQ*

This 14th-century pottery assemblage makes a useful comparison with contemporary urban assemblages, where residual sherds are always present. In contrast with urban assemblages in Oxford, Site C appears to have a higher ratio of bowls to other vessels and the range of bowl sizes is very marked and may imply some specialised rural activity.

Phase 1

73 medieval sherds were associated with the pre-building phase. They can be further sub-divided; the ridge-and-furrow produced 39 sherds, the field boundary ditch (811) only 7 sherds, and the remaining sherds were unassociated.

The dominant domestic vessels were made in Fabric *AQ* (Group II) and Fabric *AW* (Group III) and the tablewares were made in the vicinity of Brill/Boarstall (Fabric *AM*, Group III). Fabric *AG* (Group III) was also present in small quantities. A lone Surrey type jug, with incised decoration and green glaze (Fabric *BG*, Group III) was also recovered (Fig. 76.1).

The absence of highly decorated pottery and the dominance of two major ceramic sources (Fabric *AQ*, Group II and Fabrics *AM* and *AW*, Group III) suggest a very late 13th or early 14th-century date.

Phases 2 and 3

Phases 2 and 3 was dominated by two ditches containing 974 and 452 medieval sherds respectively (Ditch 703, 715, 716, 718, 733 and Ditch 791, 792, 793, 796, 797, 813). Only 55 sherds were recovered from Building VIII. The remaining medieval sherds were not associated with specific structures.

Ditch 792 etc. included cooking pots or storage jars in Fabric *AQ* with distinctive rims (Figs. 76.7 and 76.10), a base with deposit of calcium carbonate ('kettle fur') internally (Fig. 76.9) suggesting that water has been heated, shallow dishes (e.g. Fig. 76.11) and a sherd (Fig. 76.8) decorated with combing, which may have been part of a pottery cistern.[39]

Bowls/jars, bottles and jugs were made in Fabrics *AM* and *AW* (Group III). A wider range of bowls/jars was evident on this part of the site, they included some with undercut rims (e.g. Fig. 76.6) and some types with squared rims (e.g. Fig. 76.5); two types of bottle were present, a well made slender type, partially glazed light green (Fig. 76.4) and a stouter example (Fig. 76.3).

The only regional imports present were a very few sherds from Minety in N. Wiltshire which included a possible storage jar (Fig. 76.2 *BB* Group IB) with spots of green glaze on the upper part of the rim.

Ditch 703 etc. contained similar pottery to the fill of Ditch 792 including cooking pots (Fig. 76.18) and shallow dishes (Fig. 76.17) from the same source.

Many bowls from the Brill/Boarstall workshops were recovered (Fabrics *AM* and *AW*), some of which may be associated with the storage of products associated with the 'malting kiln'. These included pinch-spouted bowls (Fig. 76.12) with partial green glaze externally and some distinctive rilling; some with undercut rims (Fig. 77.8) and larger pots (Figs. 76.15 and 76.16), which may have been used for brewing or purposes other than food preparation such as washing clothes or even 'bath tubs'. Also illustrated are a cooking pot with external rilling on the shoulder (Fig. 77.9), a base of bowl or cooking pot with sooting externally (Fig. 77.10) and a smaller pot also with sooting externally (Fig. 76.14). A partially hollowed skillet handle (frying pan) (Fig. 77.3) was also recovered.

A few jugs were also present, including two highly decorated examples: one the belly of a 'triple-decker' (see Form Terminology above) with applied red and white strips and mottled green glaze (Fig. 76.13), the other with applied white spiral strips and a red applied strip and mottled green glaze (Fig. 77.4). This latter could be from a 'triple-decker' or a stout baluster type. These two vessels may date to the mid to late 13th century, while other jugs present are possibly slightly later in date – very late 13th to early 14th century. These are a jug with applied white and red strips and another partially glazed mottled green (Fig. 77.6), an undecorated splayed base (Fig. 77.7), a jug with a wide strap handle with oblique knife-cut and distinctive thumbed and stabbed decoration and splashes of green glaze (Fig. 77.2), and a much abraded jug with dark green glaze (Fig. 77.1). Another Minety vessel (Fig. 77.5 *BB*) was also present with patchy glaze on top of the rim.

From the unassociated levels another skillet handle is illustrated (Fig. 77.11) slashed on the underside of the handle to achieve even firing, and also a large bowl with squared undercut rim (Fig. 77.12). An unexpected find was a jug with 'parrot beak' spout (Fig. 77.13) with applied 'hands' supporting the spout and decorated with mottled green glaze. Such anthropomorphic jugs are not common even amongst urban assemblages.

[39] D. Hinton, 'A Medieval Cistern from Churchill', *Oxoniensia*, xxxiii (1968), Fig. 17.1, 66–7.

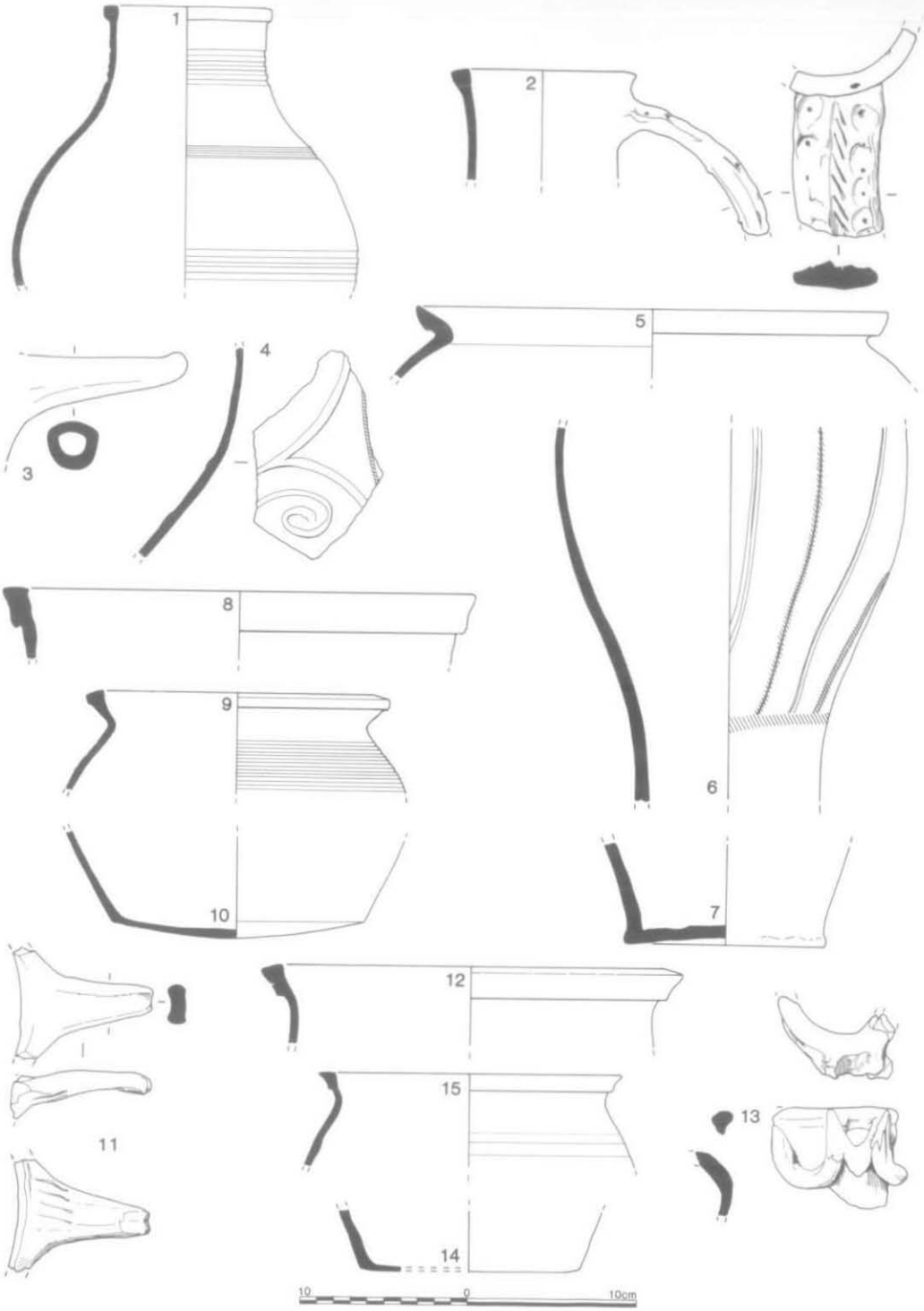

Fig. 77. Pottery from Site C. 1–15 Phase 3: 1–10 Ditch 2.

1. P718/2/4	*AM*	6. P703/4/2	*AM*	11. P768/1/1	*AM*
2. P718/2/5	*AM*	7. P703/4/3/	*AM*	12. P761/3/1	*AW*
3. P718/1/1	*AW*	8. P703/0/1	*AW*	13. P755/0/1	*AM*
4. P703/4/1	*AM*	9. P703/3/1	*AW*	14. P748/2/1	*AW*
5. P703/4/1	*BB*	10. P703/3/2	*AW*	15. P748/2/2	*AW*

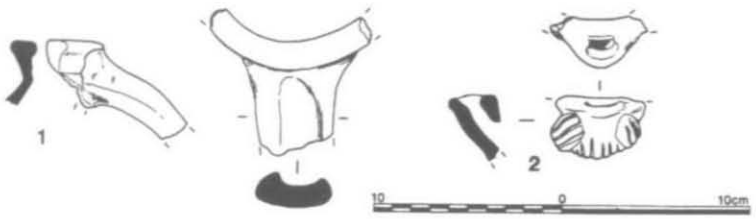

Fig. 78. Pottery from Site C. 1–2 Phase 4.

1. P704/0/1 *BK* 2. P731/0/1 *AM*

This occupation produced many more bowls from the Brill/Boarstall workshops than urban contexts of a similar date. Some of the bowls had traces of sooting externally, suggesting that they had been used over a fire. The assemblage would suggest something more than purely domestic activity and the presence of the 'parrot beak' jug shows that this is not typical of rubbish from a peasant dwelling, and the wide variety of bowls may hint at some more specialised rural activity such as brewing (see Discussion below).

Many of the jugs had little or no underglaze decoration and were glazed with clear or mottled green glazes; the bright mottled green glazes were absent. This trend was noted in early 15th-century levels at the Hamel.[40]

Building VIII was dominated by Fabrics *AQ* (Group II) and *AM* (Group III) and probably dates to the early 14th century.

Phase 4

There were some 1,516 medieval sherds from levels outside Building VIII; only 2 sherds were recovered from context 772 inside. One of these two sherds was from a small bowl with base which had been distorted due to secondary burning. This cross-joined with 722 and was probably part of a pot found in oven 748 (Figs. 77.14 and 77.15), which was then scattered throughout the site (722, 748/2, 772 and 781). The general layers also contained residual pot from early Phase 2 (701), and a strap handle from a jug (Fig. 78.1 Fabric *BK*, Group IA), a regional import from the N.E., was probably also residual.

Another parrot beak jug (Fig. 78.2) with applied 'hands' supporting the spout and decorated with slashes and dark green glaze was also recovered. These jugs were not paralleled elsewhere on the site but two examples are known from Oxford sites and one from Temple Farm kiln at Brill.[41] Dating of these three would also seem to be 14th century, the assemblage being very similar to Phase 2. There was nothing to indicate a late 14th-century date or a 15th-century date.

Site D and surrounding area: the later grange enclosure

This is a moated enclosure in the valley bottom immediately E. of the N.–S. track from Wytham to Cumnor. The surviving 17th-century farmhouse incorporates a two-storey 14th-century chamber block, Building X, and the farmhouse exactly overlies a medieval stone hall, Building XI, N. of which an attached square kitchen, Building IX, was excavated. A further stone building lay to the N.E., Building XII, adjacent to the E. ditch of the moated enclosure. Within the enclosure a circular dovecote (Building XIII) was also found, and a further medieval stone building outside on the E., Building XV. Apart from the kitchen only the dovecote was extensively excavated, the other buildings and the moat being only trenched.

1,158 medieval sherds and 180 post-medieval sherds were recovered. This is the largest concentration of post-medieval pottery from Dean Court Farm.

[40] Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer, 'The Hamel', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), 176.

[41] M. Mellor, 'A synthesis of Middle and Late Saxon, Medieval and Early Post-Medieval Pottery in the Oxford Region' (this volume).

The construction of the kitchen produced very little pottery, but this probably dated to the early 14th century.

Phase 1 contained pottery of the mid and mid to late 14th century, while Phase 2 included late medieval pottery dating to the late 14th and the first half of the 15th century or even later. Phase 3 continued into the 16th century and possibly into the early 17th century. Pottery of the 17th to 19th century was found in the post-abandonment layers.

Building XII contained very few sherds. This building may have begun either in the second half of the 13th century or the first half of the 14th century. There was no 15th, 16th or 17th-century pottery, but its rebuilding and later use was associated with 18th and 19th-century sherds.

Small assemblages from narrow trenches in the Hall block (Building XI) show activity in the later 14th and 15th centuries, and again between the 17th and 19th centuries.

There was only one sherd from Building X, relating to the construction of the present farmhouse; this dates to the later 16th century. A cobbled surface outside which directly overlay the foundation trench of the building contained pottery of 14th-century date, with pottery and clay pipe stems of the 17th to 19th centuries later on. Trenches 26 and 27 contained one possible 14th-century sherd only in the earliest levels, and some 18th to 19th-century pottery.

The earliest levels in the dovecote date to *c.* 1300; the subsequent phases (2 and 3) contain too few and undiagnostic sherds for dating.

Trench 16 N. of the farmhouse contained three sherds suggesting a late medieval date, not before the 15th century.

The moat and boundary wall were probably in use in the 14th century (Phase 1). Soils overlying the moat (Phase 2) produced only two sherds, not earlier than the 16th century.

Building XV, Phase 1, is probably contemporary with the use of the moat in the 14th century, and continued in use into the 15th century. There was some activity in the 17th to 19th centuries.

On Site D, the pottery from the Kitchen Phase 2 produced clear evidence that the vessels had been either employed for heating water or cooking. The majority of tablewares, as in Oxford, were supplied from the Brill/Boarstall workshops, to the east of Oxford.

Kitchen (Building IX) (Trenches 13, 14 and 17)

Phase 1

The earliest pottery in the kitchen consists of those contexts which were part of the original E.–W. drain crossing the kitchen. This phase contained only 16 sherds of Fabrics *AQ* (Group II), *AM* and *BX* (Group III). The one sherd of Fabric *BX* dating to the late 15th to early 16th century is probably intrusive. An atypical thin rod handle with slashed decoration and pale mottled green glaze (Fig. 79.1 *AM*) from the Brill/Boarstall kiln is illustrated.

The remainder of the pottery from this phase comes from the early use of the N. half of the kitchen and the latest fills of the E.–W. drain before its infilling. Contexts in this phase produced some 300 sherds. The domestic wares were mainly supplied by two distinct sources, Fabric *AQ* (Group II) and Fabric *AG* (Group III). These included both coil-made cooking vessels or storage jars and probable wheel-made vessels. The former included Figs. 79.2, 79.3 and 79.4 with classic rim forms and bases with carbon externally e.g. Fig. 79.5. The probable wheel-made vessels are: a jug base with carbon externally and a thick deposit of limescale on the interior of the jug and thumb-pressed decoration around the base to stabilize the pot (Fig. 79.7) and small cooking pots (e.g. Fig. 79.6). The only vessel associated with cooking from the Brill/Boarstall workshops (Fabric *AM*) was a baking dish, with a carbon deposit on its external surface and partial yellow glaze internally (Fig. 79.8).

The majority of vessels from this source were tablewares: a small jug glazed on the upper part with mottled green glaze (Fig. 79.9); larger pitchers (e.g. Fig. 79.10 with mottled green glaze on the bottom of base, suggesting it was fired upside down in the kiln and glaze from another pot had 'dripped' onto the base); a possible stout baluster type glazed light green internally and decorated externally with roulette decoration and a partial mottled green glaze (Fig. 79.11); and a rim and strap handle, partially glazed yellow with slashed decoration on the handle (Fig. 79.12). A large bottle (Fig. 79.14) and a jug with applied thumb-pressed strip and thin partial mottled green glaze (Fig. 79.13), which cross-joins with fragments from contexts 459 and 403/2 in Phase 3, were also recovered. This last can be paralleled with one from Oxford[42] but the poor glaze and partial glazing suggest a date in the second half of the 14th century.

[42] Haldon and Mellor, 'Late Saxon and medieval pottery' in Durham, 'St. Aldates', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), 129, Fig. 22.27, (83 P22/0/2 *AM* late 13th/14th century).

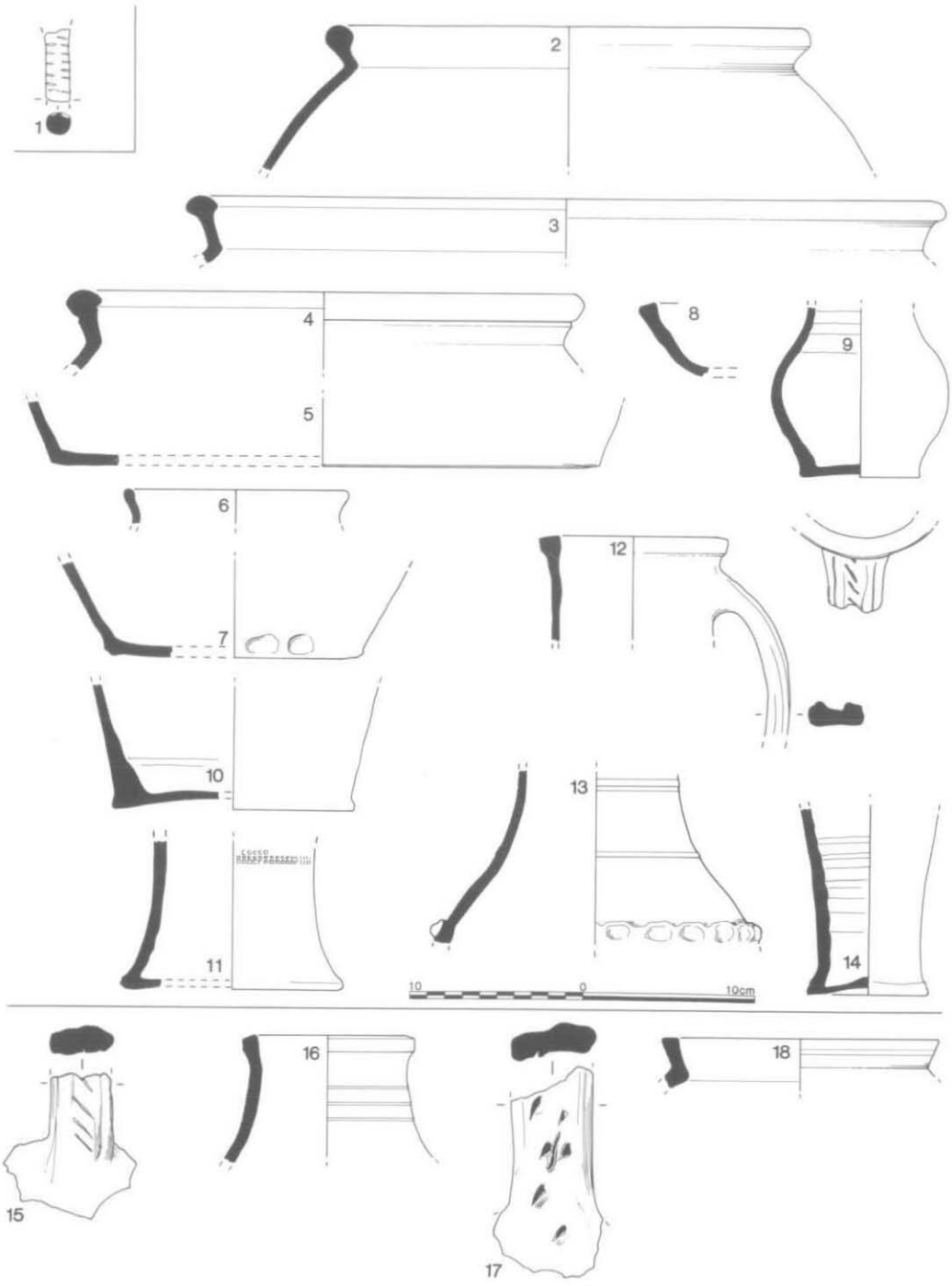

Fig. 79. Pottery from Site D, Building IX (the Kitchen). 1–14 Phase 1; 15–18 Phase 2.

1. P1538/0/1	*AM*	7. P411/4/1	*AG*	13. P1508/0/1	*BX*
2. P1509/0	*AQ*	8. P1529/0/2	*AM*	14. P1508/0/2	*BX*
3. P1529/0/1	*AQ*	9. P489/0/1	*AM*	15. P460/0/1	*AP*
4. P411/3/1	*AQ*	10. P1537/0/1	*AM*	16. P461/0/1	*BX*
5. P411/5/	*AQ*	11. P1537/0/2	*AM*	17. P491/0/1	*BX*
6. P411/4/2	*AG*	12. P411/4/3	*AM*	18. P401/0/1	*BX*

Phase 2

There were 92 sherds from this phase, which comprises those contexts relating to the use of the kitchen area after the cobbling over of the E.–W. drain and the insertion of the stone tanks. The pottery sources were similar to those of the previous phase, but the cooking vessels (Fabric *AQ*, Group II) were much less evident and vessels in Fabric *AG* (Group III) were totally absent.

The tablewares from the Brill/Boarstall workshops still included some slightly overfired jugs (Fig. 79.15), some typical of the late medieval jug industry (Fig. 79.16) with less pronounced rims, horizontal grooves on the neck and only partially glazed with mottled green. These jugs were now joined by plain jars (Fig. 79.18) and wide strap handles, possibly also from jars (for instance Fig. 79.17).

Surrey types were now present (Fabric *BG*, Group III) and another type with iron-free clay (Fabric *CU*, Group III) which may originate from S.E. Oxfordshire.[43]

Phase 3

Some 357 medieval sherds and 27 post-medieval sherds were associated with the latest occupation levels and destruction layers (Phase 3) and the post-abandonment levels (Phase 4).

Domestic wares represented by Fabrics *AQ* (Group II) and *AG* (Group III) were still present, but may well be residual, particularly fabric *AG*, which was not present in phase 2.

Brill/Boarstall types (Fabrics *AM*, *AP* and *BX*, Group III) were still dominant, but Fabric *BX* was more popular than Fabric *AM*. Surrey types (Fabric *BG*, Group III) were more frequent than in the previous phase as was Fabric *CU* (Group III), a possible S.E. Oxfordshire type. Minety wares (Fabric *BB*, Group IB) from north-east Wiltshire were also present.

The vessels from the vicinity of the Brill/Boarstall workshops included jars (Fig. 80.5 and Fig. 80.6), the latter with knife trimming around the base, jars with bifid rims (Fig. 80.4), bottles such as Fig. 80.3 poorly finished with splash of pale mottled green glaze and a small jug (Fig. 80.7) glazed internally and externally orange. One jug (Fig. 80.2), which is glazed dark green externally and mottled green internally, parallels Tudor types from Harding's Field, Chalgrove, Oxon. and the Hamel in Oxford.[44] Also from this source was a jug base with overfired mottled green glaze internally, with fragments of red firing clay adhering to the base, possibly from a kiln prop or saggar. There was also the rim of a small jug (Fig. 80.1) with decayed or overfired mottled green glaze, inside and outside. This jug had a vertical 'hairline' fracture running from the rim down which the glaze had run, and was therefore imperfect when purchased. A rectangular-sectioned handle in a fabric not previously recognised is illustrated (Fig. 80.13 Group III).

Surrey types included pitchers with thumbed bases, possibly with bungholes (Fig. 80.8), a jug rim (Fig. 80.11) and cooking pot/storage jar rims (e.g. Fig. 80.9). From S.E. Oxfordshire came a tripod foot (Fig. 80.10), blackened with soot externally and glazed yellow internally. A wide strap handle (Fig. 80.12) with stab marks and partial orange glaze typical of the late medieval period was found in this phase. It has been suggested that this fabric type (*AG* Group III) is residual in the phase, but the style of handle suggests a late medieval date. It is possible that this ceramic tradition continued into the late medieval period in S. Oxfordshire but that its products were not marketed in Oxford much after the mid 13th century, because of the monopoly held by the Brill/Boarstall workshops.

Phase 4

The post-medieval pottery included earthenwares: Fig. 80.18 and Fig. 80.16 which had green glaze internally and was reduced to give a grey surface externally. Cistercian types were present including a rim with a metallic purplish glaze on both surfaces (Fig. 80.14) and a rod handle with dark matt green glaze (Fig. 80.15). English tinglaze earthenware, Surrey whiteware and Rhenish stonewares were also represented; the base of a Frechen type drinking mug or jug with mottled brown glaze dating to the 17th century (Fig. 80.17) is illustrated.

A few red earthenwares and English stonewares dating to the 19th century were also recovered.

Outside Kitchen Trench 17 (southeast)

This contained 15 medieval sherds and 8 post-medieval sherds. Only 2 medieval sherds (Fabric *AM*, Group III) were recovered from Phase 2. Phase 3 included 12 sherds, a bottle (Fabric *AW*, Group II), jugs in Fabrics *AM* and

[43] A similar type was found in Site B Phase 5, dated to the second half of the 15th century.

[44] C. Trem and P. Page in P. Page with S. Smithson and H.D. Baker, *Excavations at the site of the medieval moated manor at Hardings Field, Chalgrove, Oxon.* (forthcoming); Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer, 'The Hamel', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), HIII, Fig. 18.

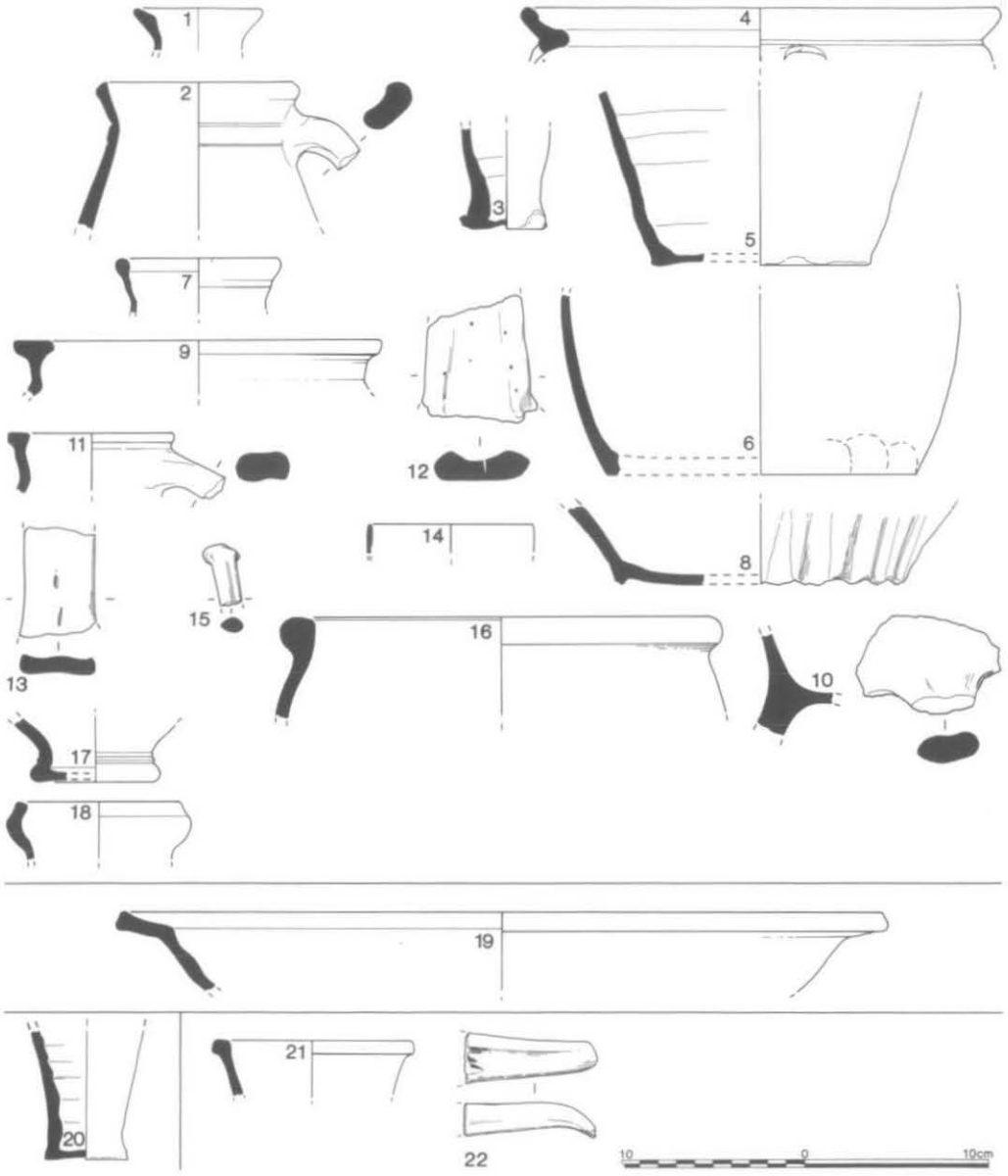

Fig. 80. Pottery from Site D. 1–18 Building IX (the Kitchen) Phase 3; 19 Outside Building IX (the Kitchen); 20–22 Building XII.

1. P432/0/1	*AM*	9. P475/0/1	*BG*	16. P414/0/2	*REW*
2. P412/0/1	*BX*	10. P464/0/1	*CU*	17. P414/0/1	*RST*
3. P427/0/1	*AM*	11. P412/0/5	*BG*	18. P412/0/7	*REW*
4. P464/0/2	*BX*	12. P403/2/1	*AG*	19. P1205/0/1	*CU*
5. P403/2/2	*BX*	13. P427/0/2	*ZZ*	20. P1578/0/1	*AM*
6. P412/0/6	*BX*	14. P412/0/3	*REW*	21. P1553/0/1	*AW*
7. P412/0/4	*BX*	15. P412/0/2	*REW*	22. P1558/0/1	*AM*
8. P480/0/1	*BG*				

AP (Group III), one with internal deposits of calcium carbonate 'kettle fur', and a deep-sided bowl (Fig. 80.19) possibly made in S.E. Oxfordshire. Phase 3 possibly dates to the 15th century. Phase 4 produced post-medieval pottery including local red earthenwares and whitewares from Surrey.

Building XII Trenches 18–21 and 23

76 medieval sherds were associated with this building.

Phase 1, the pre-building levels, produced 8 sherds, all in Fabric *AM* (Group III), and vessels included a bottle with a drip of pale green glaze (Fig. 80.20). A date in the second half of the 13th century is possible but the early 14th century is more probable.

Phase 2, the construction of the building, contained 29 sherds. These included domestic vessels (Fabric *AQ*, Group II) and tablewares Fig. 80.21, partially glazed with mottled green and a fragment of a baking dish (Fabric *AM*), a skillet (frying pan) handle Fig. 80.22, with a patch of light green glaze. These sherds probably date to the 14th century.

Phase 3 contained only 7 sherds with a similar range of fabrics to Phase 2.

Building XII S.E. corner (Trench 22)

36 medieval sherds and 44 post-medieval sherds were recovered from this area.

Phase 1, the levels pre-dating the building, contained 16 sherds, with domestic vessels represented by Fabric *AQ* (Group II) and tablewares made in Fabric *AW* (Group III).

Phase 2, the construction of Building XII, contained 1 context (1260) with 14th-century pottery (Fabric *AQ*, Group II and Fabric *AM*, Group III).

Phase 3, the rebuilding of Building XII, contained only one medieval sherd (context 1254): this came from Minety in N.E. Wiltshire (Fabric *BB*, Group IB) and may date to the 14th century. The remaining sherds (16) were 18th-century red earthenware including Brill slipwares, Surrey whitewares and English stonewares (context 1262) and a 19th-century red earthenware puncheon (context 1250).

Phase 4, the demolition of Building XII, was a mixed assemblage including medieval sherds (Fabric *AG*, Group III), 16th-century Brill/Boarstall wares (Fabric *BX*, Group III) including a bunghole pitcher, and late 17th, 18th and 19th-century wares.

Building XI: The Hall (Trenches 1, 2 and 5–12)

13 medieval sherds and 23 post-medieval sherds were recovered from the chamber or Hall.

In Phase 1 Trenches 1–2 and 5–6 (called Building XIA) produced 7 sherds from contexts 1014 and 1919 (Fabrics *AQ* Group II, *AM*, *AW* and *BG* Group III), possibly dating to the 14th and 15th centuries. Phase 2 contained 19 sherds dating to the 17th and 19th centuries (1002 and 1028).

From Trenches 7–12 (called Building XIB) came 7 medieval sherds and 4 post-medieval sherds. The layer abutting both wall 1109 and 1113 in Trench 9 contained one sherd (context 1115) of possible late 12th to 13th-century date. The sequence of floor levels in Trench 7 contained only 6 sherds, late 15th to early 16th-century types (Fabric *BX*, Group III) and Fabric *AG* (Group III) which may be residual. No pottery was recovered from Phase 2 but Phase 3 yielded a black glazed red earthenware of mid 17th-century date (context 1104) and red earthenware of late 17th/early 18th-century date (context 1100).

Building X (Trenches 3 and 4)

Only one sherd was found, associated with the construction of the farmhouse (context 1051). This was a fragment of a Rhenish stoneware drinking vessel from Raeren, of a type found in contexts in Oxford dating from the late 16th to the mid 17th century.[45]

[45] M. Mellor and S. Oakley, 'A summary of key assemblages', in T.G. Hassall, C.E. Halpin and M. Mellor, 'Excavations in St. Ebbe's, Oxford, 1976–1976: Part II: Post-medieval domestic tenements and the Post-Dissolution site of the Greyfriars', *Oxoniensia*, xlix (1984), Fig. 15, 185–7, MI C1–G3.

Outside Building X (Trenches 28, 26, 27 and 35)

In the area outside Building X, 2 Early Saxon sherds, 2 medieval sherds and 15 post-medieval sherds were recovered.

One Early Saxon plain bodysherd came from context 1402 in Trench 35, the other was residual in context 1276. Both can be dated between the 5th and 7th centuries.

The medieval sherds came from the make-up overlying the foundation trench from the S wall 1281 (Fabric *AM*, Group III) and from the cobbling 1586 (Fabric *AQ*, Group II) which overlay it. The post-medieval sherds were 17th-century types including a red earthenware tyg, with black glaze, 18th and 19th-century red earthenwares and mass-produced wares probably from the Staffordshire factories.

Dovecote (Trenches 30 and 32)

Only 18 medieval sherds and 1 post-medieval sherd were recovered.

Phase 1

Phase 1, the deposit on the first limestone floor, included sherds of domestic wares and tablewares (Fabric *AQ*, Group II and Fabrics *AM*, *AP*, *AW* and *BX*, Group III). A 14th-century date may be attributed to this small assemblage.

Phase 2

Phase 2 contained only 2 sherds of a jug (Fabric *AM*, Group III). Phase 3, the demolition of the dovecote and the yard surface overlying it, contained only 1 medieval sherd, (Fabric *AM*, Group III) and a piece of 19th-century drain.

The Ponds (Trench 16)

Only 4 medieval and 1 post-medieval sherds were recovered from the pond in Trench 16.

3 sherds of Fabric *BX* (Group III) dated to the 15th century (context 1291), while context 1290 contained 1 medieval sherd (Fabric *AM*, Group III) and a sherd of red earthenware dating to the 17th to 19th centuries.

The Moat and Boundary Wall (Trenches 40–42)

41 medieval sherds were recovered. The earliest levels contained Fabrics *AQ*, Group II) and included a shallow dish Fig. 81.1. Fabrics *AG* and *AM* (Group III) were also present and vessels included a small bowl or cooking pot (Fig. 81.2) and a bottle (Fig. 81.3) with minute holes in the base, so that it would never have held liquid! This phase probably dates to the 14th century. The levels above the infilling of the moat (contexts 1368 and 1352) contained 17th and 16th-century pottery respectively (a fragment of Rhenish stoneware and Fabric *BX*, Group III). None of the sherds had suffered water abrasion.

Building XV (Trenches 43 and 44)

182 medieval sherds and 22 post-medieval sherds were recovered.

107 sherds were associated with Phase 1 and the fabric types represented (Fabrics *AQ* (Group II), *AG*, *AM*, *AP* and *AW* (Group III)) are typical of the 14th century. The wares were largely domestic vessels, and included cooking pots from two different sources (Figs. 81.4 and 81.5 Fabric *AQ* and Fig. 81.6 Fabric *AW*), and a tubular handle from a ?frying pan, with sooting externally (Fig. 81.7 Fabric *AG*). This type of hollow tubular handle cannot be paralleled locally, but it is known in S. Oxfordshire, formerly Berkshire, and at Newbury in W. Berkshire.[46]

Phase 2 contained residual pottery along with red earthenwares, which may date from the 17th to 19th centuries.

[46] S.D. Ford, 'Excavations Newbury Town Centre 1971–74' Part III, *Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club*, xii No. 6, 42–53, Fig. 1.5 and Fig. 2.6; R. Dixon, I. Gardiner and T.J. Weare, 'The Finds', in T.J. Weare,'Excavations at Wallingford', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), Fig. 8.29, 211–5.

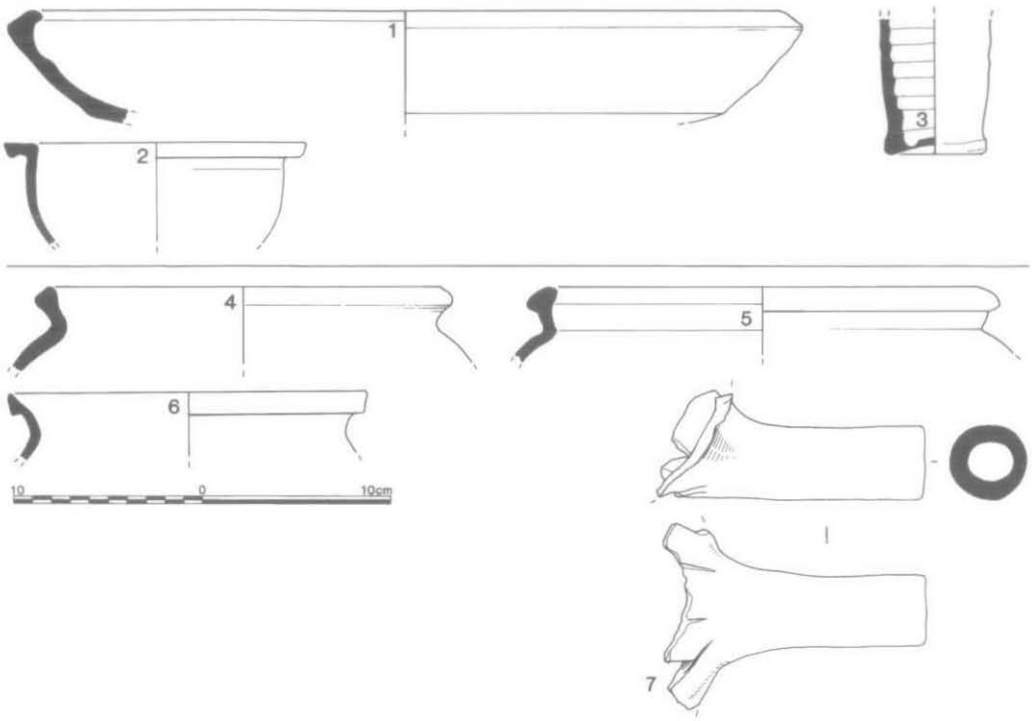

Fig. 81. Pottery from Site D. 1–3 The Moat (Building XVI); 4–7 Building XV.

1. P1366/0/1	*AQ*	4. P1317/2/1	*AQ*	6. P1317/2/2	*AW*
2. P1366/0/1	*AG*	5. P1330/2/1	*AQ*	7. P1310/0/1	*AG*
3. P1357/4/1	*AM*				

Site E

Site E was a farmstead which survived into the 20th century, and was still visible as an earthwork complex with two ruined buildings prior to the construction of the Cumnor bypass. The pottery from this site came from two small trenches, one of which revealed a stone wall of late 13th or early 14th-century date. This material was recorded soon after excavation in 1975, but was subsequently lost.

A total of 61 sherds was recovered from eighteen contexts. The pottery included most of the fabrics (*BF, BW, AC, AG, AQ, Y, AM*) that were present on Site A, ranging in date from the later 12th to the early 14th century. Also present were fragments of a baluster jug which could date as late as the 15th century, but this was the only material of the high medieval period. There were also one or two sherds of post-medieval date.

Concluding discussion

The well-tried fabric type sequence as established on two sites in Oxford was used to aid the relative dating within the site.[47] A diagram summarising the overall chronological development of the site in terms of ceramic representation is given below (Fig. 82).

[47] Haldon and Mellor, 'Late Saxon and medieval pottery' in Durham, 'St. Aldates', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), 111–139; Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer, 'The Hamel', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), 16–182, Fiche 1 EO6.

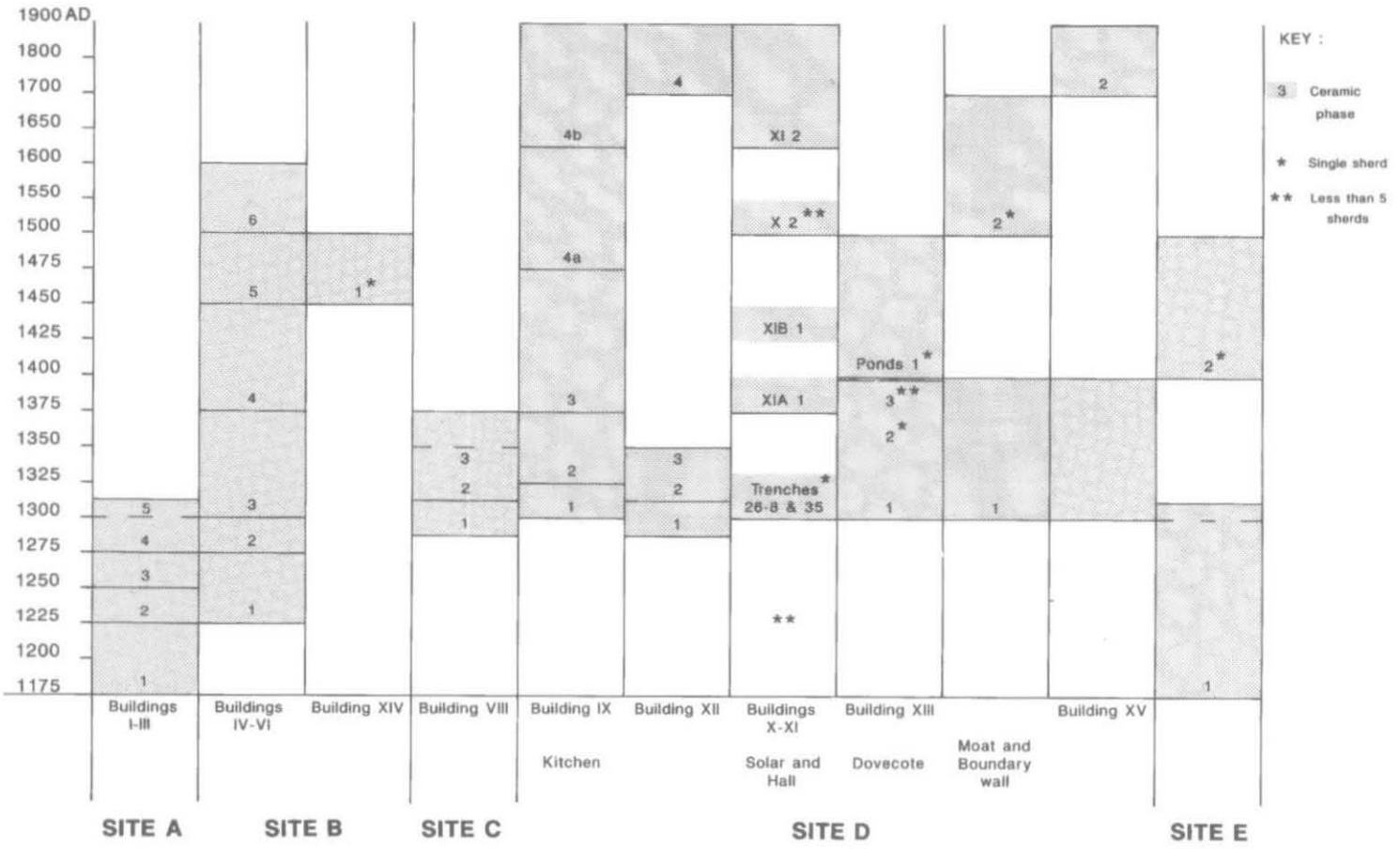

Fig. 82. Chronological chart showing the phasing of the excavated sites based on the medieval and post-medieval pottery.

The major ceramic traditions at Dean Court Farm suggest that from its inception (Site A, the early grange) the inhabitants preferred to buy their pottery from the same sources which supplied Abingdon and presumably their landlords Abingdon Abbey. Some domestic vessels came from a pottery source (Fabric *AG*, Group III) which supplied Abingdon and much of W. Berkshire[48] during the medieval period. Oxford Medieval Ware (Fabric *Y*, Group III), which is the major ceramic tradition in Oxford during the second half of the 12th and first quarter of the 13th century, is present at the early grange but not in the quantities associated with Oxford sites. This trend can also be seen at nearby Seacourt in the levels associated with timber buildings (Period I) but the presence of Fabric *AG* is not so marked as at Dean Court Farm.

The appearance of Surrey types in the 13th century on Site A can only be paralleled on one contemporary site in Oxford,[49] again suggesting that this site maintained more southerly connections. A few sherds from Minety, North Wiltshire were also recovered. Whether these represent containers for some product marketed to the site or merely empty vessels for use on the site is not clear, but they were also present at Seacourt, as were Surrey types in the later levels (see below).

This preference remained throughout the 'life' of the site (see also Sites B & D). The two sources which supplied the majority of the cooking vessels to the later grange kitchen (Fabric *AQ* Group II and Fabric *AG* Group III) were both situated to the south-west and south of the site. The latter source supplied urban tenements in Oxford with 'painted' tablewares (see Site B, Fig. 74.6) in the first half of the 13th century but domestic wares were far less common. By the second half of the 13th century this source of pottery is rare on Oxford sites. However, it is the major fabric in Reading during the 13th and early 14th centuries[50] and is also dominant in Abingdon during the 12th and 13th centuries and more recently has been recognised in 14th-century contexts in Abingdon.[51] It would seem that the later grange still had closer links with markets in the south rather than Oxford for its domestic coarsewares in the 14th century.

The southerly trend is however less noticeable overall from the second half of the 13th century onwards, when Fabric *AQ* (Group II) from a source in east Wiltshire and pottery from the Brill/Boarstall workshops (Fabric *AM* and *AW*, Group III) began to gain ascendancy in the market. In the 14th century the majority of tablewares, as in Oxford, were supplied from the Brill/Boarstall workshops to the east of Oxford.

In the case of Dean Court the link with Abingdon Market rather than with Oxford may be attributable to the direct control of the site by Abingdon Abbey, at least until the later 14th century. This trend is, however, also evident at Seacourt, the deserted medieval village just to the east of Dean Court, and could reflect solidarity with Berkshire rather than Oxfordshire or simply consumer preference. A study of the pottery from Kennington Manor,[52] situated midway between Oxford and Abingdon but on the W. (Berkshire) bank of the Thames, shows that Oxford was nevertheless the preferred market, while at the manor at Hardings Field, Chalgrove, in South Oxfordshire the pottery showed unexpectedly strong links to Abingdon Market.[53]

The early and later granges (Sites A and Sites B–D respectively) were in the main chronologically distinct, so that comparison of the pottery from each was not considered likely to be informative. Within the lifetime of Site A too little of Site B Phase 1 was excavated to allow comparison with Site A. For the later grange substantial areas of Sites B and C were excavated, but the grange centre itself

[48] A.G. Vince, 'St. Bartholomew Street, Newbury' (typescript with the Newbury Museum); S. Moorhouse, 'The pottery', in C.F. Slade, 'Excavations at Reading Abbey', *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, lxvi (1971–72), Fig.12.14–17, 97–9.

[49] Mellor in 'Hollybush Row and St. Thomas' (forthcoming).

[50] Moorhouse 'The pottery', in Slade, 'Excavations at Reading Abbey', *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, lxvi (1971–72), 97–9; A.G. Vince, P.J. Fasham and J.W. Hawkes, 'Excavations at Reading Abbey 1979 and 1981', *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, lxxi (1981–82), Fig. 11.3, 51.

[51] Vineyard Redevelopment Area 1, Abingdon. See T.G. Allen, 'Abingdon: Vineyard Development', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xix (1989), 44–47 for an interim account of the excavations.

[52] J.N.L. Myres collection from his garden.

[53] Trem and Page in Page and others, *Hardings Field, Chalgrove* (forthcoming).

(Site D) was not extensively investigated, so that comparison of these sites with the later grange centre was not possible.

Recent work in Oxford now makes it likely that the earlier phases on Site A, Phases 1 and 2, contained residual material of 12th-century date (Fabrics *AC*, *BF*, and *Y*), perhaps from a domestic focus outside the excavated area. The medieval pottery from two excavations in different parts of Oxford,[54] both of which were first occupied in the first quarter of the 13th century, does not include these fabrics, strongly suggesting that by this date they were no longer being produced and that sherds of these fabrics in contemporary assemblages from previously excavated Oxford sites are residual. This discovery has implications for the dating of other local sites; most significantly, the beginning of period II at Seacourt should be dated somewhat earlier than suggested in the report, starting in the second quarter of the 13th century.

There are some problems in dating Phases 4 and 5 of Site A, the early grange. The bulk of the evidence points to the second half of the 13th century and occupation may not have continued into the 14th century. The pottery is in general very similar to that in the preceding Phase 3, perhaps suggesting that the chronological difference between Phases 3 and 4 was slight, or that much of the pottery from Phase 4 contexts was residual, and occupation in Phase 4 was at a much reduced level. One or two vessels from the Brill workshops, however, still suggest a limited presence in the early 14th century.

The dating of the final phase of Site C is also unclear. The general character of the assemblage from this phase is very similar to that from Phase 2, dated to the early 14th century, but the level of analysis did not allow detailed consideration of all chronological traits. The parrot-beak vessels have parallels in both 13th and later 14th-century assemblages in Oxfordshire, so that the possibility of occupation continuing into the later 14th century remains open. The weight of evidence, however, still points towards a relatively brief period of occupation in the first half of the 14th century.

The large amount of pottery in the interior of the early grange (relative to the quantities associated with urban tenements in Oxford) may suggest that the debris was encouraged to accumulate to help raise the floor levels in order to counter problems of damp associated with the high water table.

The high number of shallow dishes/pans and bowls on Site A can be paralleled with another rural site of similar date at Copt Hay, Tetsworth (11 miles east of Oxford).[55] The number of shallow dishes/pans at these two sites far exceeds those in use in the town[56] and must be indicative of some specialist rural function. These dishes/pans may well reflect some rural activity to do with animal husbandry; dishes or 'patellae' are known from Manorial Accounts to be associated with the dairy as were pots for butter.[57]

The sooting on some dishes indicates that their contents were warmed on occasions, possibly cream to speed up butter-making. The danger of milk going sour must have been a continuous problem, and since the bacteria in soured milk inevitably impregnated the 'pores' of its pottery container, a high turnover of these vessels is expected.

Tetsworth had bowls exclusively in Fabric *BK* (Group IA, Calcite B), for which compare Figs. 69.1, 72.1 and 73.1 at Dean Court; this fabric may have been favoured because it was recognised to have properties which enhanced the end-product, such as an ability to withstand the perpetual heating and cooling processes associated with the making of butter, but more important would be ability to withstand the build up of certain bacteria which resulted in spoiled milk. The source of this fabric is probably to the N.E. of Oxfordshire.

In the 14th century the number of bowls on Site C was also felt to exceed the number expected on an urban site,[58] and, as with the shallow dishes, some of these bowls showed evidence of sooting

[54] Mellor, 'Pottery', in Durham, 'Hospital of St. John', *Oxoniensia*, lvi (1991), 51; and idem in 'Hollybush Row and St. Thomas' (forthcoming).

[55] M. Robinson, 'Excavations at Copt Hay, Tetsworth, Oxon', *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii (1973), 85–6, Fig. 21.96–21.100.

[56] Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer, 'The Hamel', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), 161.

[57] Le Patourel and Dyer, pers. comm.

[58] Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer, 'The Hamel', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), Fig. 14.2–5, Fig. 16.1–4.

externally. Such bowls may have been used for malt containers needed in brewing while others without sooting deposits may have been used for dairy produce, such as butter (compare Site A).

Cheese was more prominent in monastic diets than in secular households.[59] No ceramic strainers were recovered, but these are not common and strainers may have been made of some other material, such as cloth. Other types of pottery vessel may have been used for activities relating to animal husbandry: pottery jugs, for instance, were used on occasions for carrying ewe's milk.[60]

The presence of highly decorated jugs including triple-decker jugs suggests that some of the inhabitants were moderately well-to-do and enjoyed colourful jugs on their table for ale or even wine as did some of the inhabitants of neighbouring Seacourt. The ceramic evidence suggests that no appreciable differences existed in the standard of living of this rural community in relation to an urban one.

The mending of a vessel with a lead plug, as seen on Fig. 74.6 from Site B, can only be paralleled locally with two other pots, one at Cogges Priory near Witney and the other from The Knapp, Lewknor,[61] but scattered examples are known throughout England. A big pitcher such as this may have been prized for its capacity to hold a large volume of liquid or merely because such a vessel represented a substantial investment for a labourer/cottager.[62] The Brill/Boarstall workshops were only producing one vessel type capable of holding a similar volume of liquid – nearly 17.5 litres or 4 gallons.[63]

On Site C the tablewares are unusual in one other respect. Although jugs and pitchers were not as common as the dishes/pans, they included highly decorated triple deckers and two parrot beak anthropomorphic jugs from the Brill/Boarstall workshops imitating French imports, which are not common amongst the urban assemblage.[64] When related to the one-roomed cottage excavated on this site the quality of the tablewares is surprising. Could the owner have been a brewer? Brewing would require wooden vats, tubs, barrels and a lead vat for heating the wort, but ale was stored in pottery cisterns and served and drunk in jugs, possibly supplied by the consumers. Such an activity might well have been supported by the lord of the manor,[65] in this case Abingdon Abbey, and might have served not only the local community but also a wider market, which could account for the jugs and pitchers from Surrey and N. Wiltshire as well as the more decorated vessels from Buckinghamshire.

3.3 MEDIEVAL TILE, by DEBORAH DUNCAN

522 fragments of roof tile were recovered, the majority of which come from the kitchen area (Site D). The occurrence and numbers of tile throughout the site is summarised in Table 1. A wide range of tiles was identified, including peg-tiles and ridge-tiles with thumbed hand-made spurs, cut spurs from the application of a secondary clay strip and some with no spurs at all (Fig. 83). The tile has been divided into five separate fabric types, which are described in detail below.

Tile Fabric 1 All Sites

Hard and rough to the touch, with a hackly fracture, containing abundant ill-sorted clear sub-rounded quartz grains (up to 0.5 mm.). Grey/orange surfaces and grey or pale orange core, with a green glaze.

[59] Dyer, *Standards of living in the later Middle Ages*, 63.

[60] Luttrell Psalter: British Library MS. Add. 42130, fol. 163v.

[61] J. Blair and J.M. Steane, 'Investigations at Cogges, Oxfordshire, 1989–81. The Priory and Parish Church', *Oxoniensia*, xlvii (1982), Fig. 26.30, 116; SMR number 5857 (medieval pottery, located 1957): I am grateful to the County Sites and Monuments Record for this information.

[62] C. Dyer, pers. comm.

[63] Mellor 'Late Saxon, Medieval and Later Pottery', in Durham, 'Thames Crossing', *Oxoniensia*, xlix (1984), 71.

[64] Ibid.

[65] Dyer, *Standards of living in the later Middle Ages*, 172–3, 197.

TABLE 1. MEDIEVAL TILES

Fabric	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D		Totals
				Kitchen	Other	
1	4	14	8	101	16	143
2	2	17	2	127	1	149
3	4		7	49	4	64
4	7	10		23	3	43
5	3	4	1	66	13	87
Totals	20	45	18	366	37	486

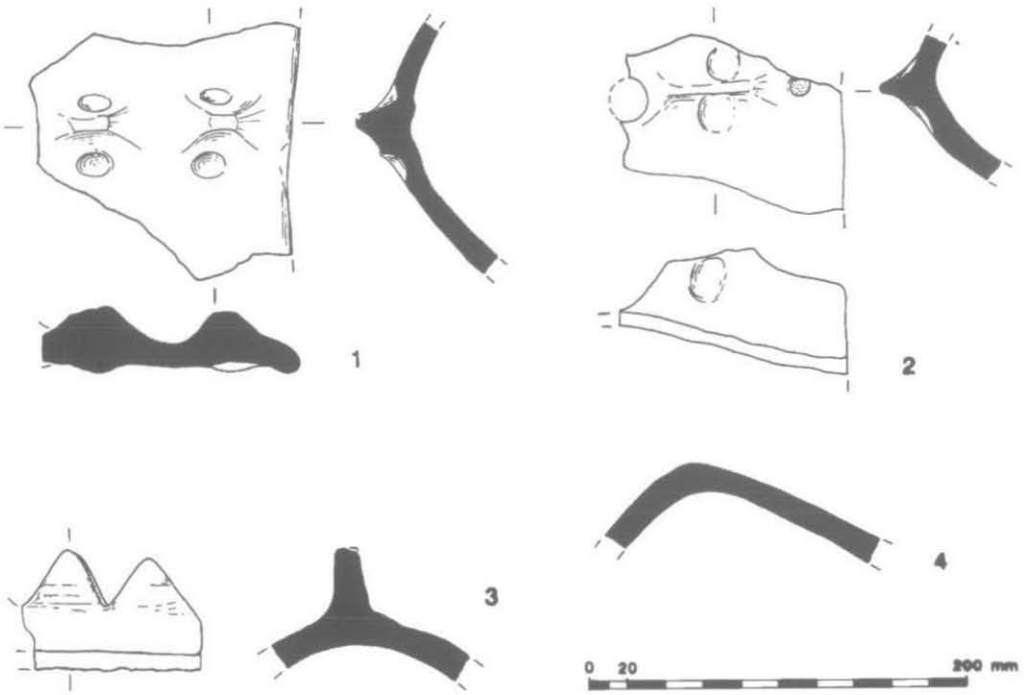

Fig. 83. Ridge tiles. 1: 403, Tile Fabric 2; 2: 432, Tile Fabric 2; 3: 427, Tile Fabric 2; 4: 403/2, Tile Fabric 3.

148 fragments were recovered, 75% of which are from large flat tiles which were cemented in place (minimum measurements: 232 mm. long × 168 mm. wide, with an average thickness of 11 mm.), the remainder being ridge tiles. Most of these have hand-made spurs or are without spurs, only a few fragments having cut spurs. All tiles of this fabric have well preserved glaze in varying shades of green.

Tile Fabric 2 All Sites

Soft and smooth to the touch with a hackly fracture, containing common well-sorted rounded ooliths (up to 0.25 mm.) and ill-sorted angular calcite and shell fragments (up to 1 mm.). The clay is highly micaceous, and organic material may also be present. Cream to dark grey surfaces and core, and occasionally a thin flaky light green glaze.

172 fragments were recorded, from both plain flat and peg-tiles (average thickness 12 mm.). 44 fragments were from ridge tiles with hand-made or cut spurs (see Fig. 83.1–3). Tiles of this fabric are rarely glazed; those that are have a very poor light green glaze which abrades very easily. Tiles of this form and fabric have been recovered in large numbers from Mount House, Witney,[66] Seacourt,[67] and Oxford,[68] where they also have a similar poor-quality glaze but do not have ridge tiles of the cut spur variety.

Fabric 3 Sites A, C, and D

Hard and rough to the touch with a hackly fracture, containing abundant ill-sorted sub-rounded clear quartz grains (up to 0.5 mm.) and sparse ill-sorted sub-rounded black ferrous grains (up to 0.25 mm.). Surfaces and core orange-red, glazed brownish red and brownish green.

66 fragments were recovered, mainly of plain flat tiles (average thickness 11 mm.), the rest being peg-hole type with only a few ridge tiles. The latter have cut spurs or are without spurs (Fig. 83.4). Nearly all the fragments have brown/red or brown/green glaze.

Fabric 3 corresponds to Fabric III B of the Oxford Pottery Type Series.[69] Tiles of this fabric confirm a link between Dean Court Farm and Abingdon, reinforcing the results from the pottery analysis (see Maureen Mellor, The Pottery above).

Tile Fabric 4 Sites A, B, and D

Hard but smooth to the touch with a hackly fracture, containing common ill-sorted sub-angular clear quartz grains (up to 0.25 mm.), sparse ill-sorted angular flint chips (up to 1.5 mm.) and sparse ill-sorted sub-angular $CaCO_3$ (chalk) grains. Surfaces orange-red, core red or orange-red. Clay highly micaceous.

112 fragments were recovered, all being plain flat tiles and peg-hole types with cut edges and an average thickness of 13 mm.

Tile Fabric 5 Sites A, B, and C

Soft and smooth to the touch with a smooth break, containing common well-sorted sub-rounded clear quartz grains. Surfaces pale orange and core orange/grey.

Only 24 fragments were recovered. These tiles are all unglazed and crudely made flat tiles with an average thickness of 13 mm.

Brick

Three small pieces of brick were recovered from Site D (Building XV), one of which corresponds to Tile Fabric 4.

Discussion

The presence of cut spur ridge tiles of Fabric 2 is interesting in that ridge tiles of this fabric from other local sites are not manufactured in this way. Almost all of these tiles came from Site D, and more

[66] D. Duncan, 'The Tile', in Durham, 'Witney, Mount House' (draft report at O.A.U.).

[67] Biddle, 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), 187–9 and Fig. 33.

[68] E.M. Jope, 'The development of pottery ridge tiles in the Oxford region', *Oxoniensia*, xvi (1951), 86–8 and Fig. 21 Nos. 1–4.

[69] Haldon and Mellor, 'Late Saxon and medieval pottery' in Durham, 'St. Aldates', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), Table 1, 112–121.

specifically from the destruction levels overlying the kitchen, which contained 75% of all the tiles from Dean Court Farm. It seems probable that the kitchen itself, or less likely the hall immediately adjacent, was roofed with ceramic tiles. The numbers of tiles from the other sites does not suggest that buildings were roofed with tile, and the fragments from Sites B and C could have been imported secondarily as rubble. It is not clear how the tile fragments on Site A, which is earlier than Site D, were used, but small areas of tile were often used in thatched roofs to reduce the risk of fire around smoke-holes.[70]

3.4 CLAY PIPES, by DEBORAH DUNCAN

One bowl and 25 stems were recovered from the site.

Description

Only one clay pipe stem was noted in Site A. It was found in a post-abandonment layer (207/2) in association with medieval and post-medieval 19th-century earthenware.

13 clay pipe stems and 1 bowl were recovered from Site B. 3 stems in Phase 4 Building V were associated with medieval pottery and 19th-century white earthenware. These stems are probably contemporary with the 19th-century pottery, but are intrusive in this phase. Phase 5 contained 5 stems. One stem base had moulded foliage decoration typical of the 19th century, and is intrusive. 5 stems and 1 bowl were associated with 19th-century pottery in Phase 6.

Site C produced only one stem associated with medieval pottery in Phase 3 (713).

On Site D the kitchen area contained 1 clay pipe stem in association with mid 17th-century and later pottery (414, Phase 4). Building XV produced 2 clay pipe stems in association with 17th to 19th-century earthenware (Phase 2 1300, 1301). The area outside Building X contained 1 stem associated with 16th and 17th-century pottery and 3 stems associated with 18th/19th-century pottery in Phase 2 (1276/2). Building XII contained 2 clay pipe stems and an Oxford type B bowl;[71] these were found together with 18th-century Brill slipware.

3.5 GLASS, by TIM ALLEN

Summary

Only 57 fragments of glass (counting as one a large shattered pane from context 1002) were recovered from the excavations, and all of these are post-medieval in date. They comprise 17 fragments of flat glass probably from window panes and 40 fragments of vessel glass.

Description

The flat glass is predominantly colourless and only 2–3 mm. thick, dating in most cases probably to the 20th century, but includes one green fragment from context 404 which may be as early as the 17th century and three greenish-tinted examples (including that from 1002) from the 18th or early 19th century.[72]

[70] J. Steane, *The Archaeology of Medieval England and Wales* (1985), 198.

[71] A. Oswald, 'Clay Pipes', in T.G. Hassall, C.E. Halpin and M. Mellor, 'Excavations in St. Ebbe's, Oxford, 1976–1976: Part II: Post-medieval domestic tenements and the Post-Dissolution site of the Greyfriars', *Oxoniensia*, xlix (1984), 251–3.

[72] The terminology and dating used in this report are based upon J. Haslam, 'Glass', in ibid. 232–46.

With the exception of a small phial in colourless glass from Site A Phase 5 (context 201), all of the vessel glass is extremely fragmentary. The majority of the fragments come from dark green wine bottles, and all but one of the rims are mould-blown examples of the 19th or 20th century. One earlier hand-blown example with vertical impressions around the string rim is present, but this was unstratified. 'Onion' or 'mallet' types are also represented by base fragments, as are smaller thinner-walled flasks.

Parts of two small phials with everted flat-topped rims are present, both hand-blown in colourless glass. These must date from the latter half of the 18th century or later. The base of a third, square, phial of colourless metal is mould-blown and of recent date. All three fragments are from post-medieval contexts.

Single fragments of glass were found in five medieval or early post-medieval contexts. Two vessel fragments came from Site A: a colourless body fragment from cobbling 261 within Building I and a brown fragment from destruction layer 239 outside Buildings I and II. Three colourless window fragments were recovered, one from 504/2 cobbling adjacent to Building V on Site B and two from Site D, one from 473, the fill of drain 469 in Building IX and one from layer 404 just outside. All of these fragments must be regarded as intrusive.

3.6 SMALL FINDS, by LEIGH ALLEN

Introduction

A total of 339 small finds were recovered from the excavations at Dean Court Farm. They include finds of copper alloy, iron, lead, antler and bone, stone, and leather. The pottery, tiles, clay pipes and glass have been discussed above (Sections 3.1–3.5), the worked flint and the carved stone architectural fragments found near the site are discussed below (Sections 3.7–3.8). The coins are discussed first and then the other objects have been catalogued according to material. The copper alloy and iron objects are discussed under the following headings: personal ornaments, vessels, weaponry, keys and locks, horse and riding equipment, knives and shears, agricultural implements, tools, and furniture and fittings. Since there were only a few lead, antler and bone, stone and leather objects, they are not sub-divided.

For personal ornaments terminology and parallels follow G. Egan and F. Pritchard, *Medieval dress accessories* (Museum of London, 1991); for vessels, weaponry, and horse and riding equipment M. Biddle, *Object and economy in Medieval Winchester* (1990); and for knives and shears J. Cowgill, M. de Neergaard and N. Griffiths, *Knives and scabbards* (Museum of London 1987). Where a parallel has not been found in the relevant publication then a reference to a published parallel in J.B. Ward-Perkins, *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940) is given using the abbreviation *LMMC*.

The catalogue entries start with the catalogue number and a description. This is followed by the field small find number (SF), the site and location within the site, the context number in brackets, and the phase. For the dating of the Phases in each site see Fig. 82 above. When an object is illustrated this is noted at the end of the entry.

Coins (Cat. Nos. 1–5)

Five coins were found in the excavations. They have been identified by Cathy King and Nick Mayhew. Their contexts are discussed in Section 2.

1 Coin, copper alloy. Obverse: Sestertius of Antoninus Pius, reverse: illegible. Mint: Rome.
SF:401, Site D Bldg XI (1116) Phase 2

2 Coin, silver. Penny, Edward II. Mint: London.
SF:249, Site B Bldg IV E (911/2) Phase 5

3 Coin, silver. Penny, Henry VI. Mint: Calais.
SF:235, Site B Bldg IV E (911/2) Phase 5

4 Coin, copper alloy. Forgery of a shilling of George III or George IV.
SF:222, unstratified

5 Coin, copper alloy. Unidentifiable.
SF:501, Site D Bldg XV (1310) Phase 1

Copper alloy objects (Cat. Nos. 6–42)

Personal ornaments (Figs. 84–86, Cat. Nos. 6–24, 30 and 31)

There were two brooches amongst the personal ornaments recovered from the site, neither of which was contemporary with the main occupation. One was a Polden Hill type Roman brooch (Fig. 84 Cat. No. 6), A.D. 50–70, identified by Dr M. Henig, and the other is a trefoil brooch (Fig. 84 Cat. No. 7), 9th to 10th-century, described below by Arthur MacGregor.

Polden Hill type Roman brooch

The brooch (Fig. 84 Cat. No. 6) is in good condition although the pin is missing. It is a hinged example of the type, which is relatively rare.[73] The top of the head is flat with a very sharp downturn, the curved bow terminates in a collared foot knop. The narrow tapering bow is in one continuous curve, decorated with simple, lengthwise incised lines and narrow appendages. The wings are simple and the flanges finely grooved. The distribution of this type is confined to Southern England. Roman pottery was found on the site, but both this and the brooch most probably originate from a settlement N. of Site A, further up the slope, which has been detected by fieldwalking.

Trefoil brooch, by Arthur MacGregor

The piece (Fig. 84 Cat. No. 7) is fragmentary and seems to be miscast; it was never completed. The outline of one lobe is preserved almost entire, rounded at the end and with a raised rim around the edge. On the back is a conical stud in the centre and a second smaller stud towards the end of the most complete lobe; these represent blanks for the hinge and catch respectively, which have never been wrought into their final form.

The cast ornament on the obverse is ill-defined but appears to consist of linear geometric patterns only, radiating from a central boss, with no animal or interlace elements.

The brooch type is Scandinavian in origin. The ornament, the low quality of the casting and, of course, the fact that the brooch is unfinished, all point to local manufacture. A fragmentary clay mould found in York for casting trefoil brooches[74] provides physical evidence for the production of these brooches in England, while the blending of the Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian art styles in the decoration of some examples[75] may carry similar implications.

An increasing number of locally produced Viking Age ornaments are known from Anglo-Saxon England, to which this example forms a significant addition.

Other personal ornaments (Figs. 84–86, Cat. Nos. 8–24, 30 and 31)

The personal ornaments include all the rings (8–9), buckles (10–13, 15–17 and ?34) and belt/strap fittings (14 and 18–21) as well as the rivets (22–3), ferrules (24) and the pendant mount (30). The buckle frames are mostly of the standard oval form (10–11); double frames (12) became more common in the late 14th and early 15th century. The ogival frame with the pin bar or Jew's harp type buckle (13) is contemporary with the knopped strap ends with ogival perforations dating to the 13th and 14th centuries.

The strap ends from Dean Court Farm all date to the 14th century, the composite type with engraved lines and zigzag decoration being a common form. Strap ends with forked spacers were introduced in the late 13th century but are mostly considered to be 14th-century; examples with flat lozenge knops have been found in London in well-stratified 14th-century contexts. The hinged strap end with cast loop (20) dates from the late 14th century to the early 15th. It has been suggested that these were used in pairs joined by a chain, and were worn as a dress accessory, but another interpretation is that they were a form of book fastener.[76] The arched pendant mount (30) would have been attached to a girdle by a bar mount to suspend a purse or knife. Similar examples are represented as early as the mid 13th century on French sculpture.

[73] R. Hattatt, *Brooches of Antiquity. A third selection of brooches from the author's collection* (1987), 96–100, Fig. 34, Nos. 898 and 905.

[74] A. MacGregor, 'Industry and Commerce in Anglo-Scandinavian York', in R.A. Hall (ed.), *Viking Age York and the north* (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 27, 1978), 42, Fig. 24 No. 8.

[75] J. Graham-Campbell, *Viking Artefacts. A select Catalogue* (British Museum Publications, 1980), 128–9, Nos. 437–8 and Pl. 283.

[76] G. Egan and F. Pritchard, *Dress accessories* c. *1150* – c. *1450* (Medieval finds from excavations in London: 3, 1991), 219–24, Figs. 139 and 140.1198.

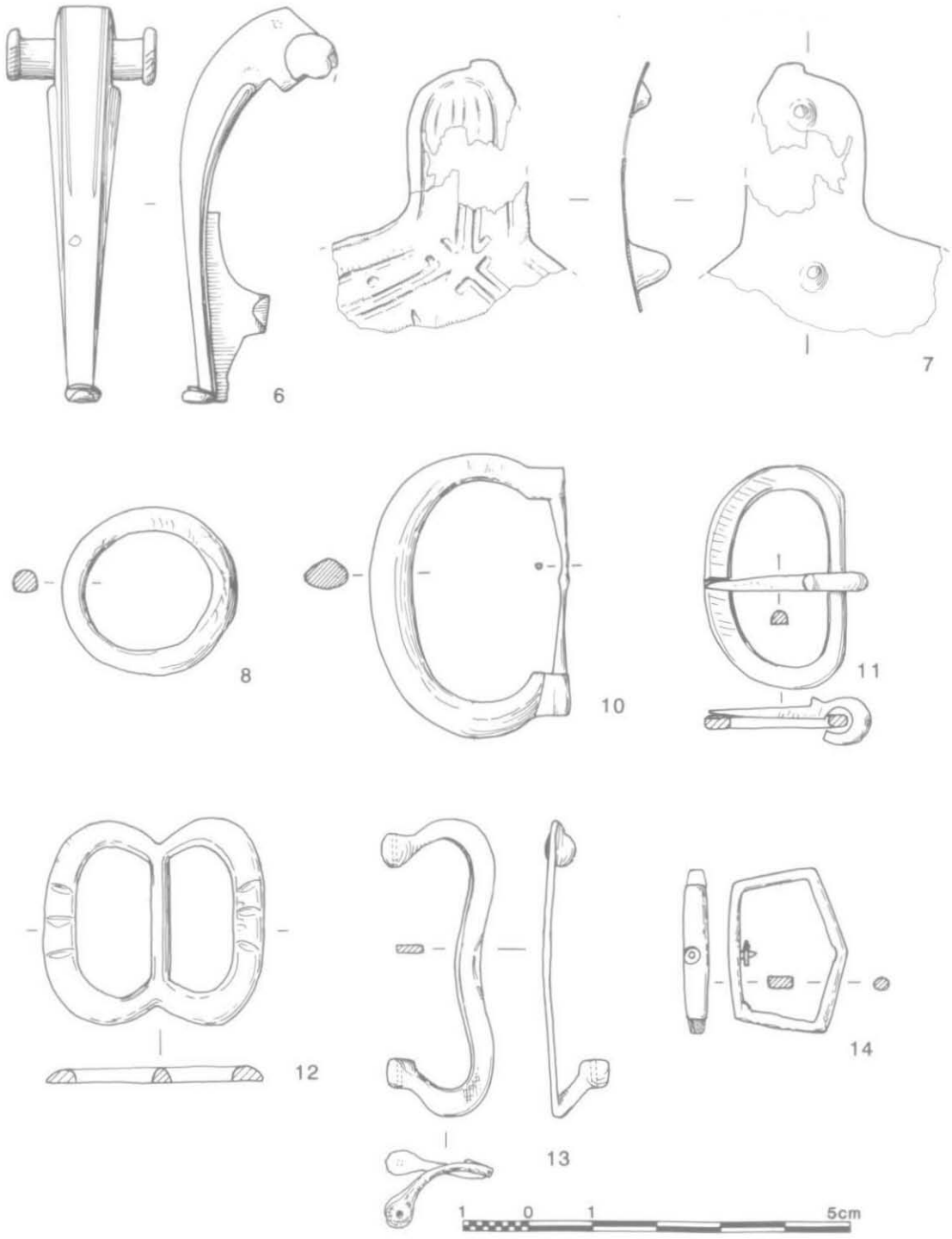

Fig. 84. Copper alloy objects. 6 Roman brooch, 7 Trefoil brooch, 8–14 Buckles.

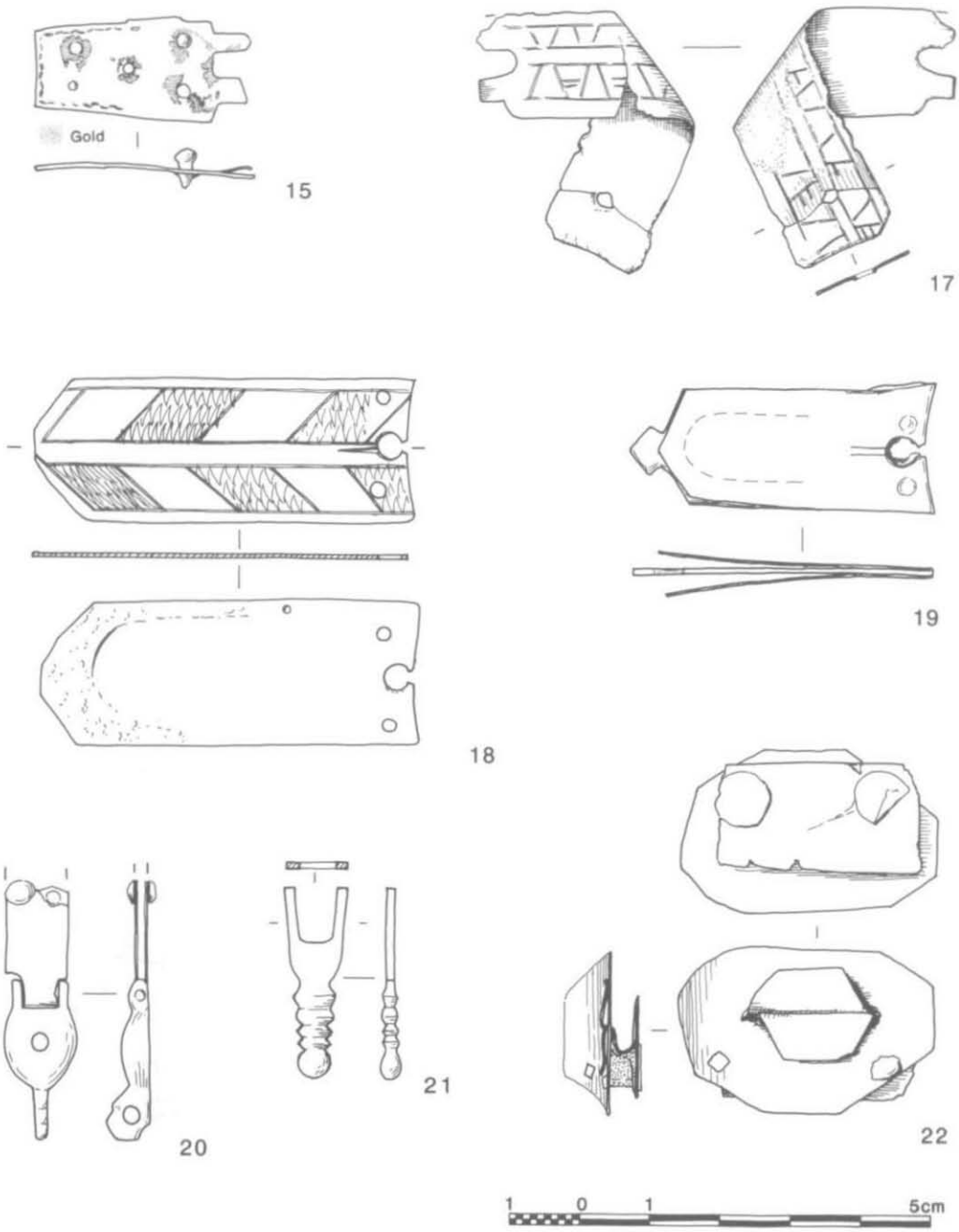

Fig. 85 Copper alloy objects. 15–17 Buckle plates, 18–21 Strap ends, 22 Rivet.

There are two copper alloy rivets (22–3) among the personal ornaments which could have been used to decorate or patch a belt or strap; alternatively they could have been used to mend vessels.[77]

Vessel fragments (Fig. 86, Cat. Nos. 25–27)

The vessel fragments are all from cast copper alloy vessels and correspond to group D at Winchester,[78] where they all come from domestic sites from contexts of the 14th century or later. Cast metal vessel fragments are rarely found as in most cases the broken fragments were melted down and reused.

Tools (Fig. 86, Cat. Nos. 28–29)

Two thimbles were recovered. Both examples are post-medieval.

Miscellaneous (Fig. 86, Cat. Nos. 32–42)

The remaining copper alloy objects included bindings (32–33), a decorated fragment (34), a smooth disc (35), strips (36–37) and unidentifiable fragments (38–42).

6 Brooch, copper alloy. Polden Hill type Roman fibula, A.D. 50–70. Hinged example. L. 58 mm.
SF:240, Site B Early occupation (534/2) Phase 2
Illustrated

7 Brooch, copper alloy. Trefoil brooch, 9th–10th century. L. 37 mm.
SF:141, Site A Ditch (1736/2) Phase 2
Illustrated

8 Ring, copper alloy. Simple circular ring, sub-circular in section. Diam. 27 mm.
SF:4, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
Illustrated

9 Ring, copper alloy. One third of a simple circular ring, sub-rectangular in section. Diam. 26 mm.
SF:210, Site B outside Bldg IV E (905) Phase 4

10 Buckle frame, copper alloy. Oval frame with off-set narrow bar, pin missing. L. 44 mm.
SF:5, Site B Topsoil (501/5) Phase 4
Illustrated

11 Buckle frame, copper alloy. Simple oval frame with pin. L. 34 mm.
SF:263, Site B Bldg IV W (618) Phase 4
Illustrated

12 Buckle frame, copper alloy. Double oval frame, 3 incised notches on each side of frame,pin missing. L. 34 mm.
SF:201, Site B outside Bldg IV E (902/1) Phase 5
Illustrated

13 Buckle frame, copper alloy. Ogival frame, expanded terminals folded around a pin bar, bar missing. (*LMMC*, Pl. LXXVI, Nos. 1 and 2). L. 46 mm.
SF:319, Site D Kitchen (432) Phase 4
Illustrated

14 Strap loop, copper alloy. Five sided arched frame with internal rivet. L. 26 mm.
SF:265, Site B Bldg IV E (929) Phase 4
Illustrated

15 Buckle plate, copper alloy. Folded, rectangular and recessed for the buckle frame, with a slot for the pin. Broken off at fold, five rivets and a single line of punched notches around the edge. Gilding around rivets. L. 30 mm.
SF:6, Site A Bldg I (212) Phase 2
Illustrated

16 Buckle plate, copper alloy. Folded rectangular and recessed for the buckle frame. L. 32 mm.
SF:153, Site C Pre-Bldg VIII (745/1) Phase 1

[77] D.C Mynard and R.J. Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford, 1974–80* (Buckinghamshire Archaeological Monograph Series 3, 1992), 164–5.

[78] M. Biddle, 'Copper Alloy vessels and cast fragments', in M. Biddle, *Objects and Economy in Medieval Winchester* (1990), ii, 950–56 and Fig. 293.

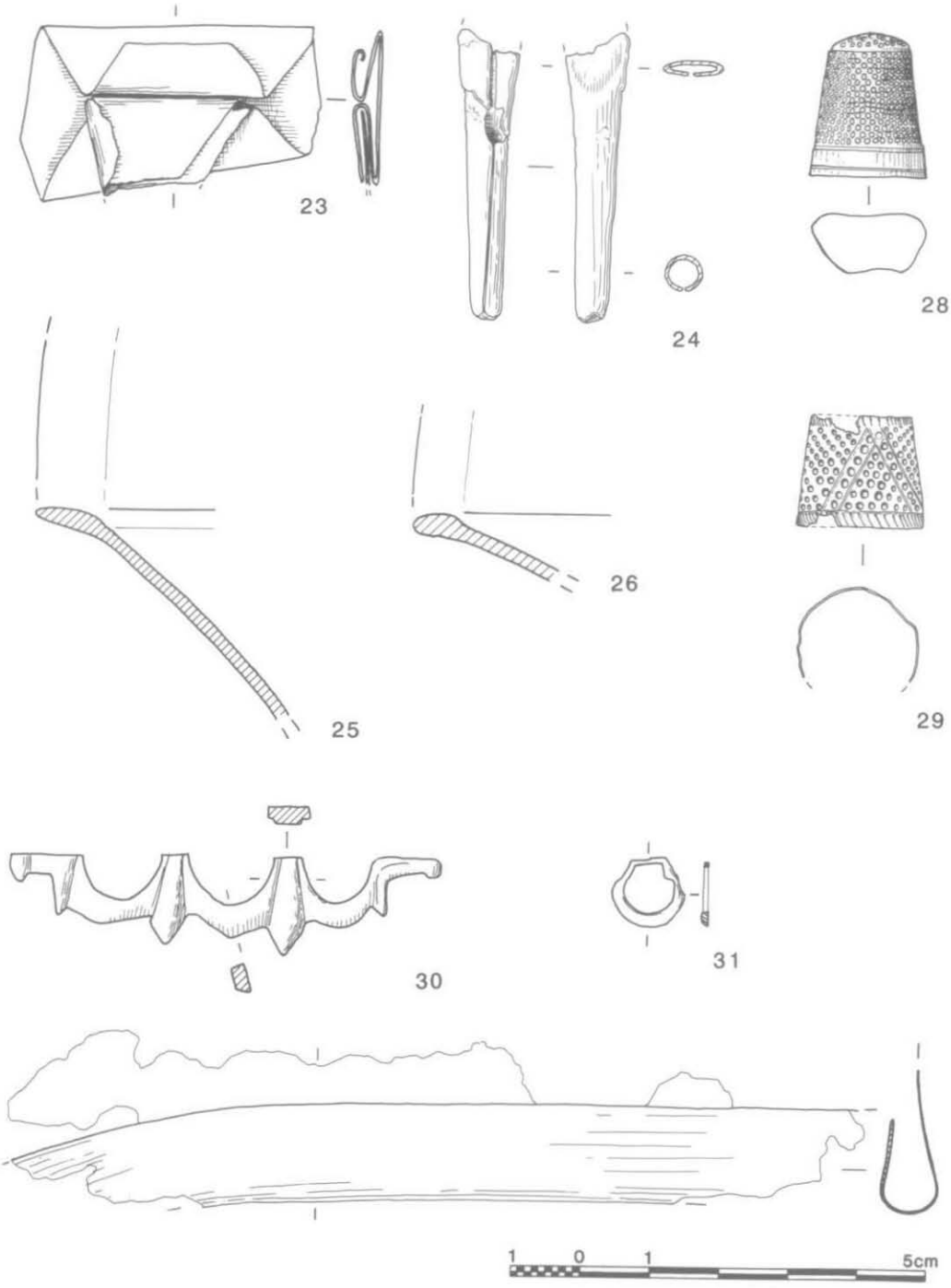

Fig. 86. Copper alloy objects. 23 Rivet, 24 Ferrule, 25–26 Vessel rims, 28–29 Thimbles, 20 Pendant mount, 31 Pendant loop, 32 Binding.

17 Buckle plate, copper alloy. Folded, rectangular and recessed for buckle frame, with a slot for the pin. Broken at the fold, decorated with incised lines and a single rivet hole. L. 53 mm.
SF:121, Site C Yard (724/1) Phase 3
Illustrated

18 Strap end, copper alloy. Front plate from a composite strap end, circular aperture with groove and two rivet holes. Decorated with angled bands of engraved zigzags. The knop is missing. L. 53 mm.
SF:23, Site B outside Bldg VI (521/2) Phase 4
Illustrated

19 Strap end, copper alloy. Composite strap end with forked spacer. Circular aperture with a groove and two rivets. Flat lozenge shaped knop. L. 43 mm.
SF:221, Site B Yard (547) Phase 4
Illustrated

20 Strap end, copper alloy. Hinged plate and loop with two rivets. The loop is flat with two notches on the terminal. L. 37 mm.
SF:219, Site B Yard (548) Phase 3
Illustrated

21 Strap end, copper alloy. Forked spacer from a composite strap end. Knop has a spherical terminal with four collars. L. 28 mm.
SF:151, Site C Ditch (703) Phase 2
Illustrated

22 Rivet, paper clip, copper alloy. Folded sheet secured by two rivets. L. 31 mm.
SF:19, Site B outside Bldg IV W (503) Phase 5
Illustrated

23 Rivet, paper clip, copper alloy. Folded sheet. L. 44 mm.
SF:307, Site D Kitchen (412) Phase 4
Illustrated

24 Ferrule, copper alloy. Plain folded sheet, tapering to a plain flat terminal, other end is cut and pinched with a single perforation. L. 41 mm.
SF:31, Site A Bldg I (273/2) Phase 3
Illustrated

25 Vessel rim, copper alloy. Cast, probably from a shallow vessel such as a bowl. Original diameter *c.* 320 mm. L. 46 mm.
SF:255, Site B outside Bldg IV E (909) Phase 5
Illustrated

26 Vessel rim, copper alloy. Cast, probably from a shallow vessel such as a bowl. Original diameter *c.* 220 mm. L. 26 mm.
SF:510, Site B outside Bldg IV E (909) Phase 5
Illustrated

27 Vessel rim, copper alloy. Cast, probably from a shallow vessel such as a bowl. Original diameter indeterminable. L. 8 mm.
SF:60, Site B outside Bldg IV W (510/2) Phase 4

28 Thimble, copper alloy. Overall indentations with a plain recessed band on the shoulder and a 4 mm. rim with one broad and one narrow recessed band. Diam. 15 mm.
SF:109, Site C Post-Yard (701) Phase 4
Illustrated

29 Thimble, copper alloy. Open ended tailor's thimble, a circular band with the sides tapering. Incised lines at the top and bottom enclose a panel decorated with hand punched indentations and zigzags. Diam. 18 mm.
SF:502, Site D Bldg XV (1307) Phase 2
Illustrated

30 Pendant mount, copper alloy. Arched pendant mount. Three arches, a collar on each expanded end, where the bar mount would have been attached to suspend it from the girdle. L. 62 mm.
SF:105, Site C Post-Yard (701) Phase 4
Illustrated

31 Pendant loop, copper alloy. Pendant loop from a bar mount. L. 11 mm.
SF:104, Site C Post-Yard (701) Phase 4
Illustrated

32 Binding, copper alloy. Plain sheet cut and folded. L. 123 mm.
SF:241, Site B Bldg IV E (911/3) Phase 5
Illustrated

33 Binding, copper alloy. Plain sheet cut and folded. L. 47 mm.
SF:1, Site A Topsoil (200) Phase 5

34 Object, copper alloy. Curved and decorated fragment possibly from a buckle frame. L. 32 mm.
SF:205, Site B outside Bldg IV E (904/1) Phase 5
35 Object, copper alloy. Disk, smooth on both sides possibly a token or a gaming counter. Diam. 27 mm.
SF:508, Site D Bldg XV (1349) Phase 1
36 Strip, copper alloy. Perforated. L. 27 mm.
SF:22, Site B Bldg IV E (524) Phase 4
37 Strip, copper alloy. Perforated. L. 39 mm.
SF:103, Site C Post-Yard (701) Phase 4
38–42 Unidentifiable fragments of copper alloy. 3 from Site B and 2 from Site C.

Iron objects (Figs. 87–93, Cat. Nos. 43–317)

Personal ornaments (Fig. 87, Cat. Nos. 43–54)

The personal ornaments include buckles with simple annular frames (43–5), all three of which have diameters around 14 mm. Buckles such as these served various purposes: many were used on shoes, but others found in graves near the pelvis of the skeleton must have been used to secure hose. The larger D-shaped buckles (47–9) could have been used either as a dress accessory or to secure harness; D-shaped buckles are by far the most common design in the medieval period and date from the 11th century onwards.

The iron purse frame (54) dates from the late 15th century. Such frames consisted of a rod-like bar either side of a central boss which would have had a suspension loop attached. The fabric of the purse would have been sewn to perforated flanges on the ends of the metal rods.

Weaponry (Fig. 87, Cat. Nos. 55–61 and 319)

The iron weaponry consists of 7 socketed arrowheads (55–61). Both the barbed-and-tanged and the lozenge-shaped arrowheads would have been suitable for both military and hunting purposes.

Keys and locks (Fig. 87, Cat. Nos. 62–65)

The mounted lock plate (65) is of a type not found before the 11th century, operated by a revolving key, the key turned within the lock passing any ward or collar before lifting a tumbler and throwing the bolt. This lock would have been used from one side only and would have been operated by a key with an asymmetrical shaped bit. Locks intended to be used from both sides do not come into use until the later medieval period. All the keys (62–4) were designed to be used in mounted locks and all correspond to type 6 from Winchester,[79] although Cat. No. 62 has fewer wards cut. They are all of common design and date from the 11th to the 14th centuries.

Horse and riding equipment (Fig. 88, Cat. Nos. 66–84)

The horse gear consists of 19 horseshoes. These have been divided into two groups. Type A (67–72) has lozenge-shaped holes, a lobate profile, thick, narrow webs and strong calkins. Type B (73–84) has countersunk rectangular holes, a plain outline and wider webs. Type A at Winchester dated from the 11th century onwards and Type B was predominant in the 14th century.

Knives and Shears (Fig. 88–9, Cat. Nos. 85–111)

The knives are divided into three categories, those with whittle tangs (85–100), those with scale tangs (102–108) and miscellaneous blade and tang fragments (109–10). Whittle tang knives were in use throughout the medieval period whereas scale tangs do not appear before the 13th century. The whittle tang knives have been classified according to blade type and four individual types have been distinguished. The scale tang knives are less varied in form; all have straight backs which run continuously along both blade and tang. Four examples (102 and 105–07) have applied copper alloy shoulder plates or end caps and two (106–07) have cutler's marks on the blade.

[79] I.H.Goodall, 'Locks and Keys', in ibid. 1028–30 and Fig. 327.

Cat. No. 101 is possibly a folding blade or pocket knife, in which the blade is held in a sprung handle. The pocket knife is the precursor of the modern pen knife and was a post-medieval development.

Cat. No. 111 is a pair of shears with a prominent looped bow and plain blade tops. This form was introduced in the early 10th century but changed little thereafter. This relatively small pair would probably have been better suited to use in needlework or lighter domestic or craft work rather than as an agricultural implement.

Agricultural implements (Figs. 89–91, Cat. Nos. 112–115, 119 and 120)

This category includes a pruning hook (112), a cleaver (113), two sickles (114–15), a spade iron (119) and an ox-goad (120). Tools such as these have proved to be simple but efficient in their design and have changed little over time, in the case of the sickles not since the 10th century. Another cleaver from the kitchen drain is now lost.

Other tools (Fig. 90, Cat. Nos. 116–118)

This category includes an auger bit (116), an awl (117) and a punch (118) which could have been used in either wood or leather working.

Furniture and fittings (Figs. 91–2, Cat. Nos. 121–227)

This category includes all the internal fittings such as socketed candle holders (121–2), window latches (239, 245 and 249), hinges (124–33) and handles (134–5) as well as all the structural ironwork such as staples (136–44), spikes (145–8), nails (149–200), hooks (201–05), rods (206–13), rings (214–17), a link (218), and iron wire (219–27).

Miscellaneous (Figs. 92–3, Cat. Nos. 228–317)

The remaining iron objects are classified as miscellaneous.

43 Buckle, iron. Annular, simple frame with pin. Diam. 14 mm.
SF:273, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
Illustrated

44 Buckle, iron. Annular, simple frame with pin. Diam. 15 mm.
SF:303, Site D Kitchen (485) Phase 4
Illustrated

45 Buckle, iron. Annular, simple frame remains of pin. Diam. 14 mm.
SF:239, Site B outside Bldg IV E (909) Phase 5

46 Buckle, iron. Square, simple frame with sheet roller, pin missing. L. 35 mm.
SF:202, Site A outside Bldg I (103/1) Phase 4
Illustrated

47 Buckle, iron. D-Shaped, simple frame with pin. L. 36 mm.
SF:8, Site A Bldg I (244) Phase 5
Illustrated

48 Buckle, iron. D-shaped, simple frame with pin. L. 64 mm.
SF:28, Site A outside Bldg II (239/3) Phase 4
Illustrated

49 Buckle, iron. D-shaped, simple frame with pin. L. 78 mm.
SF:259, Site B Bldg IV E (929) Phase 4
Illustrated

50 Buckle pin, iron. Loop incomplete. L. 74 mm.
SF:85, Site A Ditch/Pit (340) Phase 2
Illustrated

51 Buckle?, iron. Junction ring used to secure straps. L. 47 mm.
SF:325, Site D Kitchen (1200) Phase 4
Illustrated

52 Belt slide, iron. Simple, double oval frame with a single suspension loop. L. 30 mm.
SF:318, Site D Kitchen (412) Phase 4
Illustrated

53 Strap end, iron. Hinged plate with buckle attachment and loop terminal. Pin missing. (*LMMC*, Pl. LXXVII, Nos. 15–16). L. 41 mm.
SF:252, Site B Bldg IV E (929) Phase 4
Illustrated

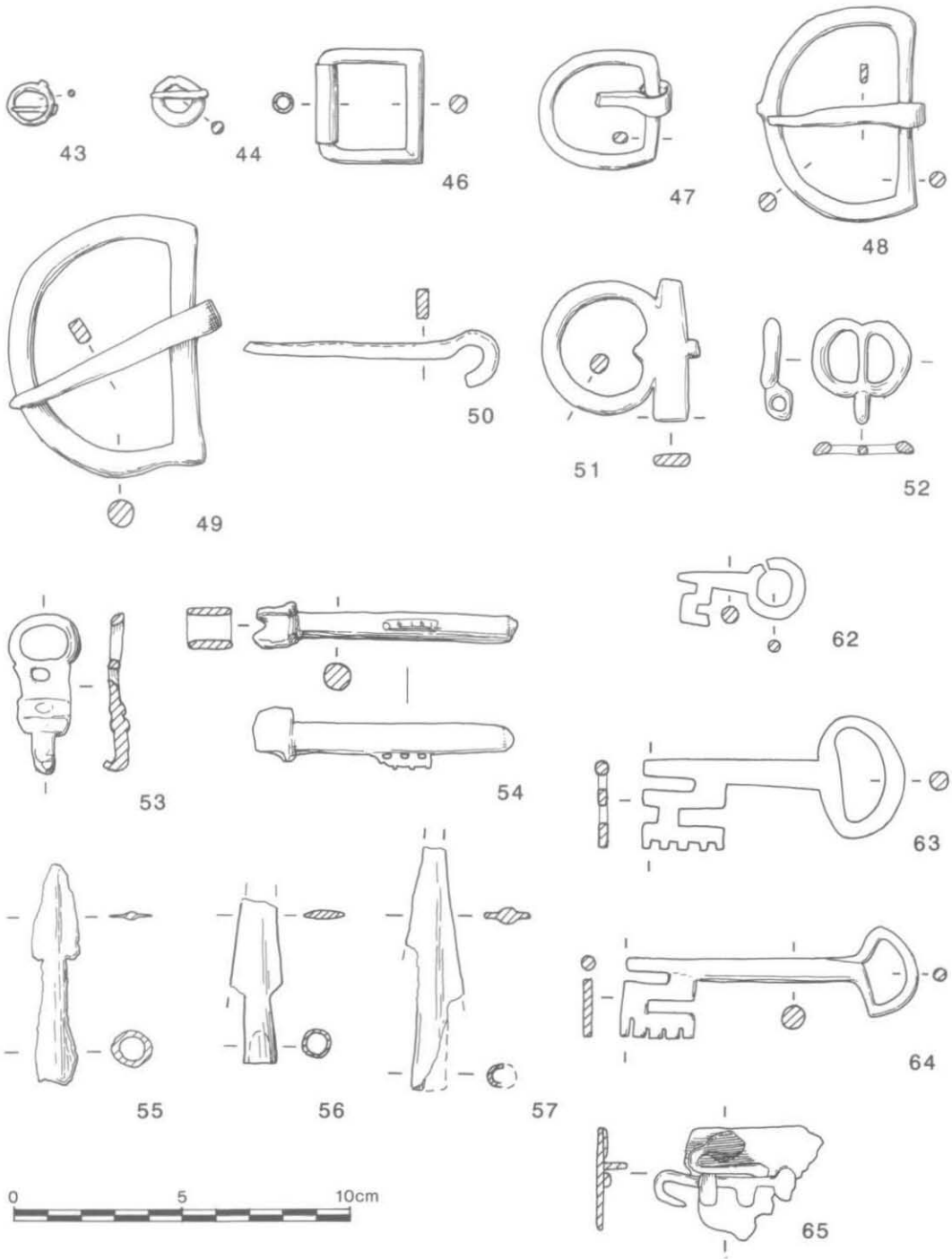

Fig. 87. Iron objects. 43–51 Buckles, 52 Belt slide, 53 Strap end, 54 Purse frame, 55–57 Arrowheads, 62–64 Keys, 65 Lock plate.

54 Purse frame, iron. One arm from a purse frame with remains of the attachment to the central boss and the flange which has three perforations for the suspension of the bag. (*LMMC*, 158–171). L. 78 mm.
SF:326, Site D outside Bldg X (1272/3) Phase 2
Illustrated

55 Arrowhead, iron. Socketed and barbed arrowhead, barbs and tip missing. L. 65 mm.
SF:21, Site B Cobbling (504) Phase 5
Illustrated

56 Arrowhead, iron. Socketed arrowhead with flat leaf shaped blade, tip missing. L. 47 mm.
SF:110, Site C Yard (701) Phase 4
Illustrated

57 Arrowhead, iron. Socketed arrowhead with flat leaf shaped blade, tip and tang missing. L. 66 mm.
SF:132, Site C Bldg VIII (781) Phase 3
Illustrated

58 Arrowhead, iron. Socketed arrowhead with flat leaf shaped blade, tip missing. L. 55 mm.
SF:230, Site B Ditch (546/B/1) Phase 3

59 Arrowhead, iron. Socketed arrowhead, blade badly damaged. L. 42 mm.
SF:62, Site A Topsoil (200) Phase 5

60 Arrowhead, iron. Socketed tang and the fragment of a blade. L. 34 mm.
SF:102, Site C Yard (701) Phase 4

61 Arrowhead, iron. Socketed tang from an arrowhead. L. 39 mm.
SF:211, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6

62 Key, iron. Ring bow, solid stem, end of the stem in line with the bit. L. 39 mm.
SF:302, Site D Kitchen (488) Phase 3
Illustrated

63 Key, iron. D-shaped bow, solid stem, end of the stem in line with the bit. L. 82 mm.
SF:316, Site D Kitchen (491) Phase 3
Illustrated

64 Key, iron. D-shaped bow, solid stem, end of the stem in line with the bit. L. 88 mm.
SF:262, Site D, unstratified
Illustrated

65 Lock plate, iron. Flat rectangular lock plate, retaining fragments of the hooked sliding bolt but little else of the original mechanism. L. 50 mm.
SF:245, Site A Bldg I (235) Phase 4
Illustrated

66 Horseshoe Type A, iron. Wavy sinuous outline with two countersunk lozenge shaped nail holes. L. 115 mm.
SF:156, Site C Post-Yard (711) Phase 4
Illustrated

67 Horseshoe fragment Type A, iron. Wavy sinuous outline with three countersunk lozenge shaped nail holes. L. 103 mm.
SF:11, Site A Bldg II (216) Phase 3

68 Horseshoe fragment Type A, iron. Wavy sinuous outline with two countersunk lozenge shaped nail holes. L. 127 mm.
SF:12, Site A Bldg II (216) Phase 3

69 Horseshoe fragment Type A, iron. Wavy sinuous outline with two countersunk lozenge shaped nail holes. L. 93 mm.
SF:13, Site A Bldg I (268) Phase 3

70 Horseshoe fragment Type A, iron. Wavy sinuous outline with three countersunk lozenge shaped nail holes. L. 102 mm.
SF:75, Site A Ditch/Pit (1736) Phase 2

71 Horseshoe fragment Type A, iron. Wavy sinuous outline with three countersunk lozenge shaped nail holes. L. 102 mm.
SF:135, Site C Yard (788) Phase 2

72 Horseshoe fragment Type A, iron. Wavy sinuous outline with three countersunk lozenge shaped nail holes, one nail remains. L. 110 mm.
SF:226, Site B Yard (548) Phase 3

73 Horseshoe Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes, three nails remain. L. 114 mm.
SF:111, Site C Yard (701) Phase 4

74 Horseshoe Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes, one nail remains. L. 113 mm.
SF:261, Site B Bldg IV W (605) Phase 5
Illustrated

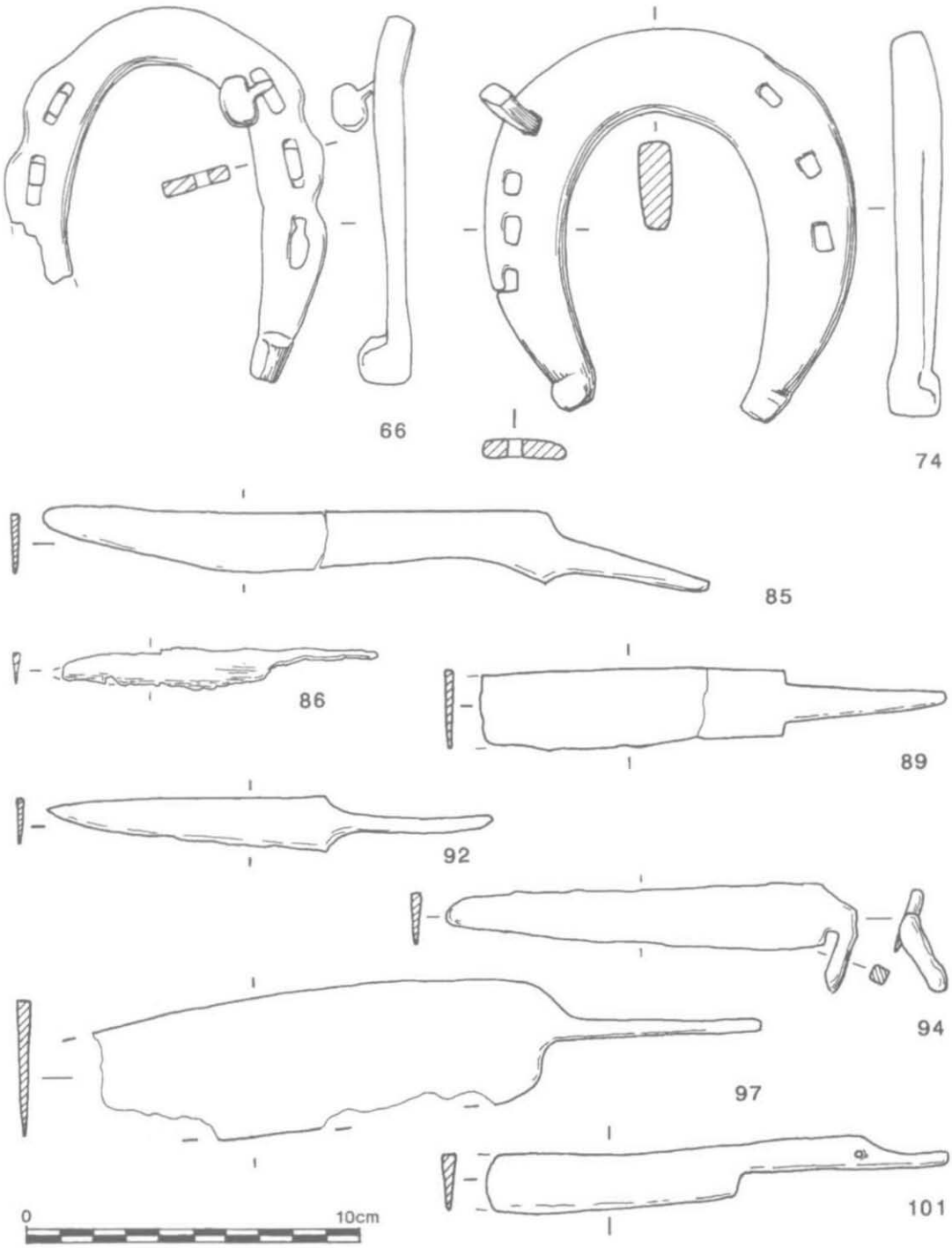

Fig. 88. Iron objects. 66–74 Horseshoes, 85–97 Whittle tang knives, 101 Folding knife.

75 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes, two nails remain. L. 84 mm.
SF:17, Site B Post-Bldg IV W (502) Phase 5
76 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 57 mm.
SF:63, Site B Bldg IV W (518) Phase 5
77 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 100 mm.
SF:77, Site A Topsoil (1700) Phase 5
78 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 42 mm.
SF:124, Site C Yard (724/4) Phase 3
79 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 32 mm.
SF:149, Site C Yard (701/2) Phase 2
80 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 62 mm.
SF:155, Site C Bldg VIII (809) Phase 2
81 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 74 mm.
SF:214, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
82 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 72 mm.
SF:253, Site B Bldg IV E (931) Phase 4
83 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 47 mm.
SF:268, Site B Bldg IV E (929) Phase 4
84 Horseshoe fragment Type B, iron. Plain outline, square nail holes. L. 112 mm.
SF:281, Site B Topsoil (901) Phase 6
85 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes at an angle from the centre of the blade, the blade back is straight, the blade is heavily sharpened. L. 199 mm.
SF:504, Site D Bldg XV (1330/1) Phase 1
Illustrated
86 Whittle tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, sloping shoulder. L. 95 mm.
SF:228, Site B Yard (550) Phase 3
Illustrated
87 Whittle tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, tip missing. L. 62 mm.
SF:130, Site C Yard (731) Phase 3
88 Whittle tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, sloping shoulders, tip missing. L. 73 mm.
SF:276, Site B Bldg IV W (572) Phase 5
89 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from the centre of the blade, straight shoulders. Tip missing. L. 140 mm.
SF:15, Site A Bldg I (241/2) Phase 2
Illustrated
90 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from point off-centre of the blade. Sloping shoulders, blade edge damaged, tip missing. L. 68 mm.
SF:16, Site A Bldg II (239) Phase 4
91 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from the centre of the blade, sloping shoulders. Tip missing. L. 118 mm.
SF:254, Site B Bldg IV E (911/3) Phase 4
92 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from the centre of the blade, leading edge curves to form point in line with the tang. L. 134 mm.
SF:36, Site A outside Bldg II (309) Phase 3
Illustrated
93 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from centre of blade, back and leading edge form a point in line with tang. Tip missing. L. 73 mm.
SF:136, Site C Cobbling (791) Phase 2
94 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from the centre of the blade, back and leading edge form a point in line with tang, tip missing. L. 143 mm.
SF:227, Site B outside Bldg IV W (528) Phase 3
Illustrated
95 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from a point off-centre of the blade, sloping shoulders, tip missing. L. 94 mm.
SF:38, Site B Bldg IV W (525) Phase 3
96 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from the centre of the blade, sloping shoulders, most of the blade is missing. L. 63 mm.
SF:7, Site A outside Bldg I (242) Phase 4
97 Whittle tang knife, iron. Tang protrudes from the centre of the blade, back and leading edge meet in line with the tang, sloping shoulders. Wide blade possibly a fish knife. L. 154 mm.
SF:322, Site D Bldg X outside (1579) Phase 2
Illustrated

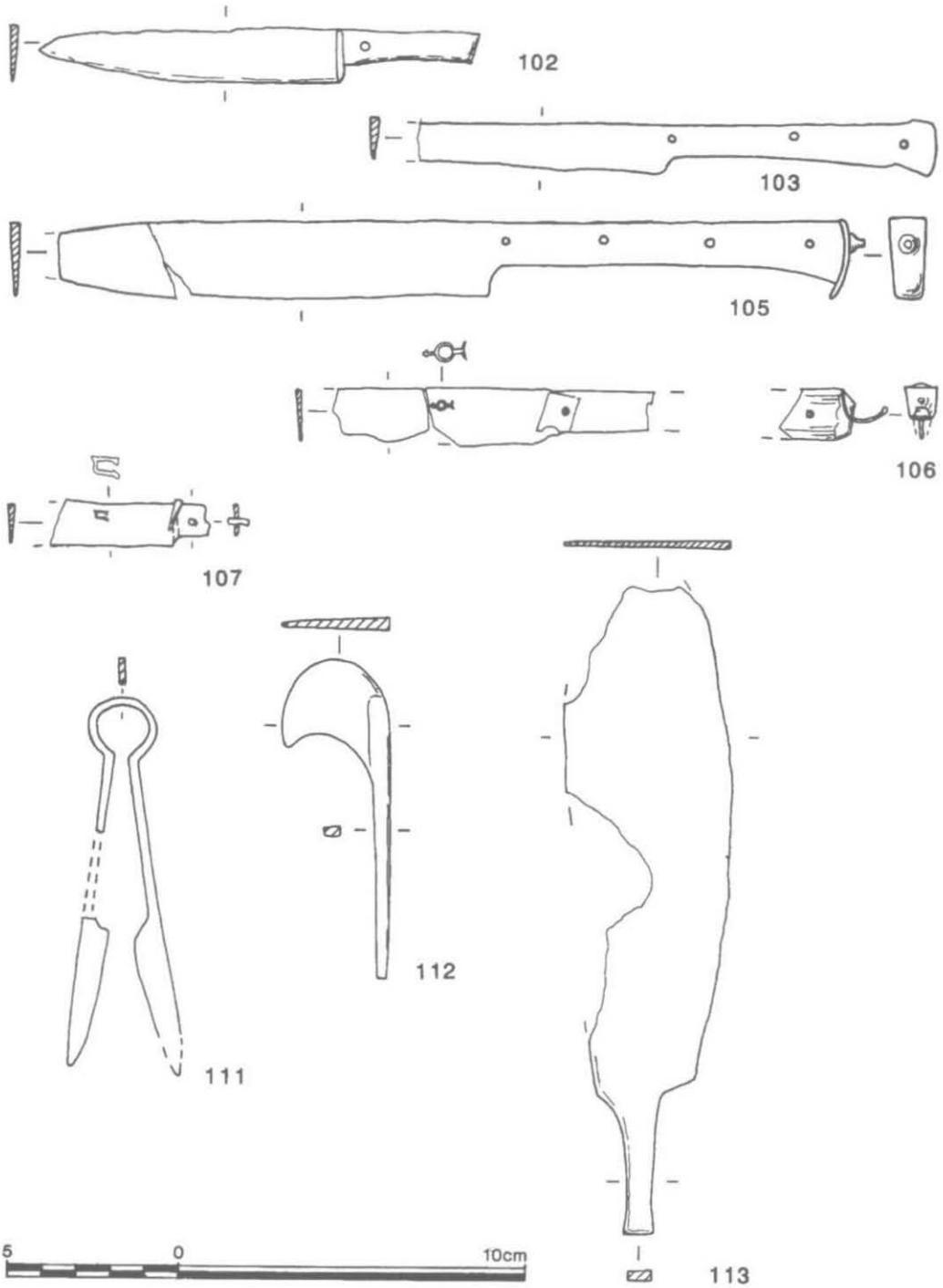

Fig. 89. Iron objects. 102–107 Scale tang knives (Cutler's marks are drawn at twice the scale), 111 Shears, 112 Pruning hook, 113 Cleaver.

98 Whittle tang knife tang, iron. L. 80 mm.
SF:264, Site B Bldg IV W (613) Phase 5
99 Whittle tang knife tang, iron. L. 57 mm.
SF:283, Site B Early Occ. (558) Phase 1
100 Whittle tang knife tang, iron. L. 61 mm.
SF:507, Site D Bldg XV (1307) Phase 2
101 Folding knife, iron. Single rivet hole at the top of the tang for the pivot which attaches the blade to the handle. L. 138 mm.
SF:509, Site D, unstratified
Illustrated
102 Scale tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, one rivet hole visible. Copper alloy shoulder plate. L. 128 mm.
SF:46, Site B outside Bldg IV W (506/2) Phase 5
Illustrated
103 Scale tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, three rivet holes visible. Tip missing. L. 150 mm.
SF:244, Site B Bldg IV E (911/3) Phase 4
Illustrated
104 Scale tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, three rivet holes visible. Tip missing. L. 117 mm.
SF:256, Site B Early occupation (577) Phase 1
105 Scale tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, four rivet holes visible. Copper alloy rectangular end cap with pointed terminal. Tip missing. L. 232 mm.
SF:20, Site B Post-Bldg IV W (502) Phase 5
Illustrated
106 Scale tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, two rivets visible. Copper alloy shoulder plate and rectangular end cap with pointed terminal. Cutler's mark on blade. L. 114 mm.
SF:18, Site B Post-Bldg IV W (502) Phase 5
Illustrated
107 Scale tang knife, iron. Straight backed blade, one rivet visible. Copper alloy shoulder plate, cutler's mark on the blade. L. 46 mm.
SF:269, Site B Bldg IV W (502) Phase 5
Illustrated
108 Scale tang knife, iron. Miscellaneous blade fragment, one rivet hole visible in tang. L. 36 mm.
SF:119, Site C Post-Yard (701) Phase 4
109 Knife fragment, iron. Miscellaneous blade fragment. L. 88 mm.
SF:53, Site B Post-Bldg IV W (502) Phase 5
110 Knife fragment, iron. Miscellaneous blade fragment. L. 33 mm.
SF:54, Site B Cobbling (504/2) Phase 5
111 Shears, iron. Simple circular bow, plain blade tops. L. 108 mm.
SF:25, Site B outside Bldg VI (521/2) Phase 4
Illustrated
112 Pruning hook, iron. Whittle tang, short curved blade intact. L. 92 mm.
SF:66, Site A Topsoil (200) Phase 5
Illustrated
113 Cleaver, iron. L. 188 mm.
SF:260, Site B Bldg IV W (572) Phase 5
Illustrated
114 Sickle, iron. Whittle tang complete, long curved blade with tip missing. L. 326 mm.
SF:247, Site B Bldg IV E (911/3) Phase 4
Illustrated
115 Sickle, iron. Whittle tang complete, long curved blade damaged and distorted. L. 282 mm.
SF:305, Site D Kitchen (412) Phase 4
Illustrated
116 Auger bit, iron. Hollowed cutting edge slightly damaged, long tang with lanceolate terminal. L. 258 mm.
SF:83, Site A outside Bldg II (1784) Phase 4
Illustrated
117 Awl, iron. Awl with lanceolate terminal, cutting edge incomplete. L. 112 mm.
SF:150, Site C Yard (701) Phase 4
Illustrated
118 Punch, iron. Triangular shaped object rectangular in section. Possibly a metalworking punch. L. 61 mm.
SF:93, Site A Bldg II (239) Phase 4
Illustrated

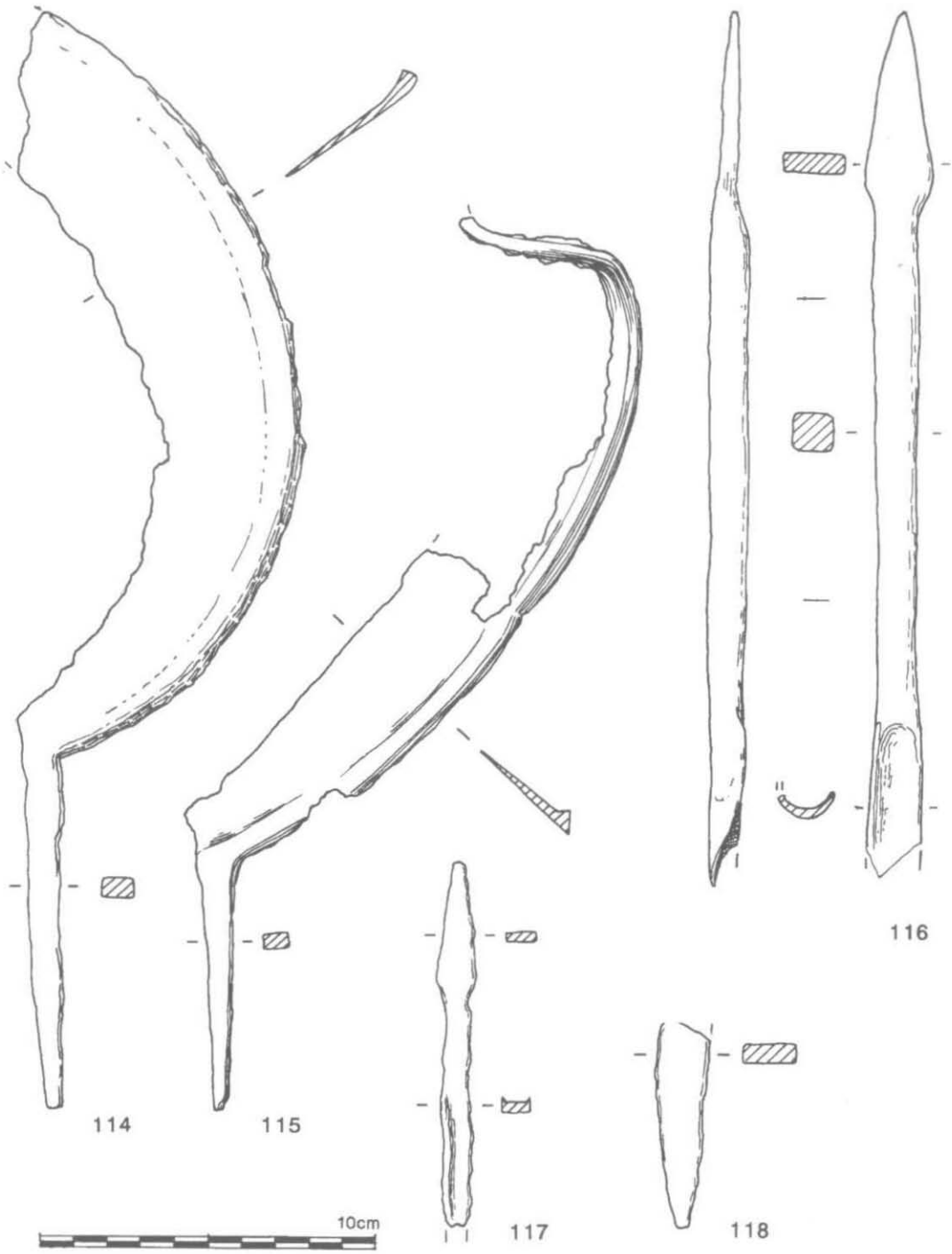

Fig. 90. Iron objects. 114–115 Sickles, 116 Auger bit, 117 Awl, 118 Punch.

119 Spade iron, iron. Fragment from a rectangular spade iron, both arms are missing. L. 87 mm.
SF:145, Site C Bldg VIII (807) Phase 2
Illustrated
120 Ox-goad, iron. Point and ring intact. L. 34 mm.
SF:27, Site C Post-Yard (701) Phase 4
Illustrated
121 Candle holder, iron. Socketed candle holder with angled stem. L. 56 mm.
SF:56, Site B Post-Bldg IV W (502) Phase 5
Illustrated
122 Candle holder, iron. Socketed candle holder with angled stem. L. 47 mm.
SF:74, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
123 Hasp, iron. Figure of eight hasp, curved in cross section. L. 127 mm.
SF:242, Site B Bldg IV E (911/3) Phase 4
Illustrated
124 Hinge, iron. Hinge pivot with tapering shank for insertion into wood or walls. L. 110 mm.
SF:133, Site C Bldg VIII (781) Phase 3
Illustrated
125 Hinge, iron. Hinge pivot with tapering shank for insertion into wood or walls. L. 72 mm.
SF:250, Site B Bldg IV E (911/2) Phase 5
126 Hinge, iron. Hinge pivot with tapering shank for insertion into wood or walls.
SF:651, Site B (501/2) Phase 5
127 Hinge, iron. Hinge pivot with tapering shank for insertion into wood or walls.
SF:653, Site A (1746/3) Phase 3
128 Hinge, iron. Decorative hinge pivot for a casket or small chest. L. 85 mm.
SF:118, Site C Yard (701) Phase 3
Illustrated
129 Hinge, iron. Fragment from a strap hinge with two perforations. L. 207 mm.
SF:324, Site D Bldg X (1056) Phase 1
Illustrated
130 Hinge, iron. Plate hinge. L. 59 mm.
SF:55, Site B Post-Bldg IV W (502) Phase 5
Illustrated
131 Hinge, iron. Plate hinge. L. 55 mm.
SF:148, Site C Bldg VIII (816/1) Phase 2
132 Hinge, iron. Plate hinge. L. 56 mm.
SF:246, Site B Post-Bldg IV (912) Phase 5
133 Hinge, iron. Plate hinge. L. 48 mm.
SF:282, Site B Bldg IV E (925) Phase 5
134 Handle, iron. L. 78 mm.
SF:142, Site C Ditch (797) Phase 2
135 Handle, iron. L. 101 mm.
SF:313, Site D Kitchen (412) Phase 4
136 Staple, iron. Double spiked loop, square in section. L. 92 mm.
SF:29, Site A Bldg II (300) Phase 3
Illustrated
137 Staple, iron. Double spiked loop, square in section. L. 87 mm.
SF:207, Site A Topsoil (207) Phase 5
Illustrated
138 Staple, iron. Double spiked loop, square in section. L. 134 mm.
SF:251, Site B outside Bldg IV W (500) Phase 6
139 Staple, iron. Square in section. L. 79 mm.
SF:2, Site A Bldg I (229) Phase 5
Illustrated
140 Staple, iron. Square in section. L. 68 mm.
SF:44, Site A Bldg II (292/1) Phase 1
Illustrated
141 Staple, iron. Square in section. L. 19 mm.
SF:3, Site A Bldg I (232) Phase 4
142 Staple, iron. Square in section. L. 48 mm.
SF:67, Site A Bldg I (204/1) Phase 2
143 Staple, iron. Square in section. L. 60 mm.
SF:138, Site C Bldg VIII (802) Phase 2

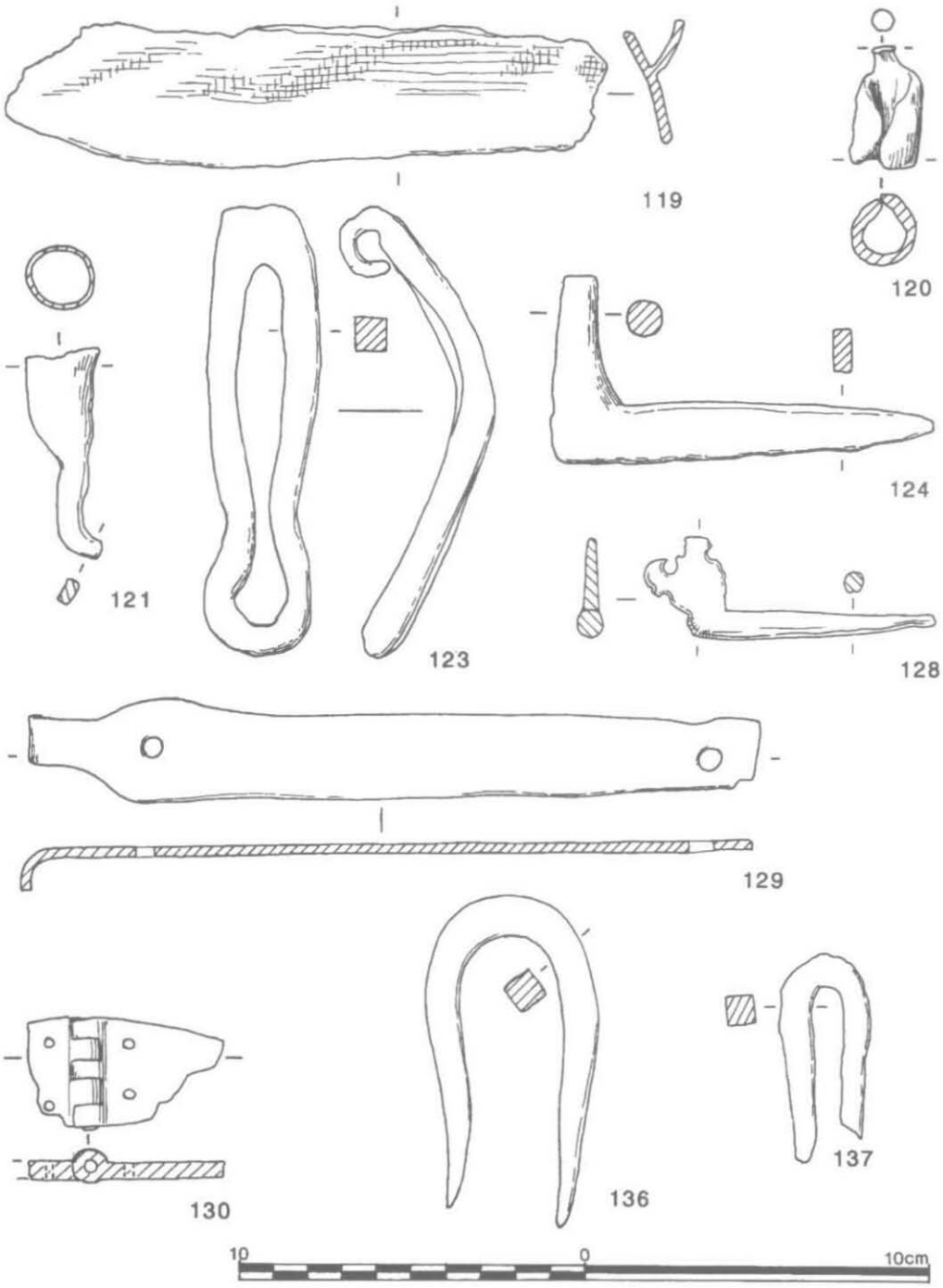

Fig. 91. Iron objects. 119 Spade iron, 120 Ox-goad, 121 Candle holder, 123 Hasp, 124–130 Hinges, 136–137 Staples.

144 Staple, iron. Square in section. L. 27 mm.
SF:309, Site D outside Kitchen (480) Phase 4
145 Spike, iron. Large circular dome headed spike. Shaft square in section. Diam. 34 mm.
SF:14, Site A Cobbling (214) Phase 4
146 Spike, iron. Large circular dome headed spike. Shaft square in section. Diam. 28 mm.
SF:89, Site A outside Bldg I (1705) Phase 4
147 Spike, iron. Large circular dome headed spike. Shaft square in section. Diam. 45 mm.
SF:131, Site B Yard (730) Phase 3
148 Spike, iron. Flat headed spike. Shaft square in section. L. 95 mm.
SF:658, Site D Kitchen (1508) Phase 1
149–200 Iron nails. 32 from Site A, 2 from Site B, 2 from Site C and 16 from Site D.
201 Hook, iron. Hook. L. 49 mm.
SF:317, Site D Kitchen (412) Phase 4
202 Hook, iron. Hooked plate with single perforation. L. 33 mm.
SF:125, Site C Post-Yard (701) Phase 4
203 Hook, iron. Hooked plate with single perforation. L. 75 mm.
SF:275, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
204 Hook, iron. L. 40 mm.
SF:122, Site C Yard (724/3) Phase 3
205 Hook, iron. Hooked spike. L. 73 mm.
SF:250, Site B Bldg IV E (911/2) Phase 5
206–213 Iron rods. 1 from Site A, 3 from Site B, 1 from Site C, and 3 from Site D.
214 Swivel ring, iron. Diam. 62 mm.
SF:272, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
Illustrated
215 Ring, iron. Circular in section. Diam. 46 mm.
SF:126, Site C Yard (725) Phase 3
216 Ring, iron. Circular in section. Diam. 34 mm.
SF:162, Site C Post-Yard (700) Phase 4
217 Ring fragment, iron. Circular in section. Diam. 26 mm.
SF:278, Site B Yard (544/2) Phase 3
218 Link, iron. L. 56 mm.
SF:505, Site D Bldg XV (1300) Phase 2
219 Retaining pin, iron. Perforation at end. L. 61 mm.
SF:9, Site A Topsoil (201) Phase 5
220 Binding, iron. L. 81 mm.
SF:506, Site D Topsoil (1300) Phase 2
221–227 Iron wire pieces. 3 from Site A, 1 from Site B, 1 from Site C, and 2 from Site D.
228 Unidentified object, iron. Perforated rod square in section, terminating in a point at either end. L. 119 mm.
SF:32, Site A Bldg I (276/2) Phase 3
Illustrated
229 Unidentified object, iron. Bar, square in section terminating in a point at one end and a square head at the other. L. 234 mm.
SF:229, Site B Yard (550) Phase 2
Illustrated
230 Unidentified object, iron. Five fragments from a metal sheet (approx. 135 mm. × 140 mm.) with deep punch marks in roughly regular rows. Impressions of organic material (probably wood) on one face. L. 140 mm.
SF:267, Site B Bldg IV E (935) Phase 4
Illustrated
231 Unidentified object, iron. Possible window grille fitting.
SF:152, Site C outside Bldg VIII (726/3) Phase 2
Illustrated
232 Unidentified object, iron. T-shaped object with square head and solid protruding shank. L. 128 mm.
SF:284, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
Illustrated
233 Unidentified object, iron. Ring-headed object with square perforation through centre, protruding solid shank terminating in round bulbous end. L. 71 mm.
SF:315, Site D Kitchen (412) Phase 4
Illustrated
234 Unidentified object, iron. Triangular-headed object with protruding shank, square in section. L. 67 mm.
SF:24, Site B outside Bldg VI (521/2) Phase 4

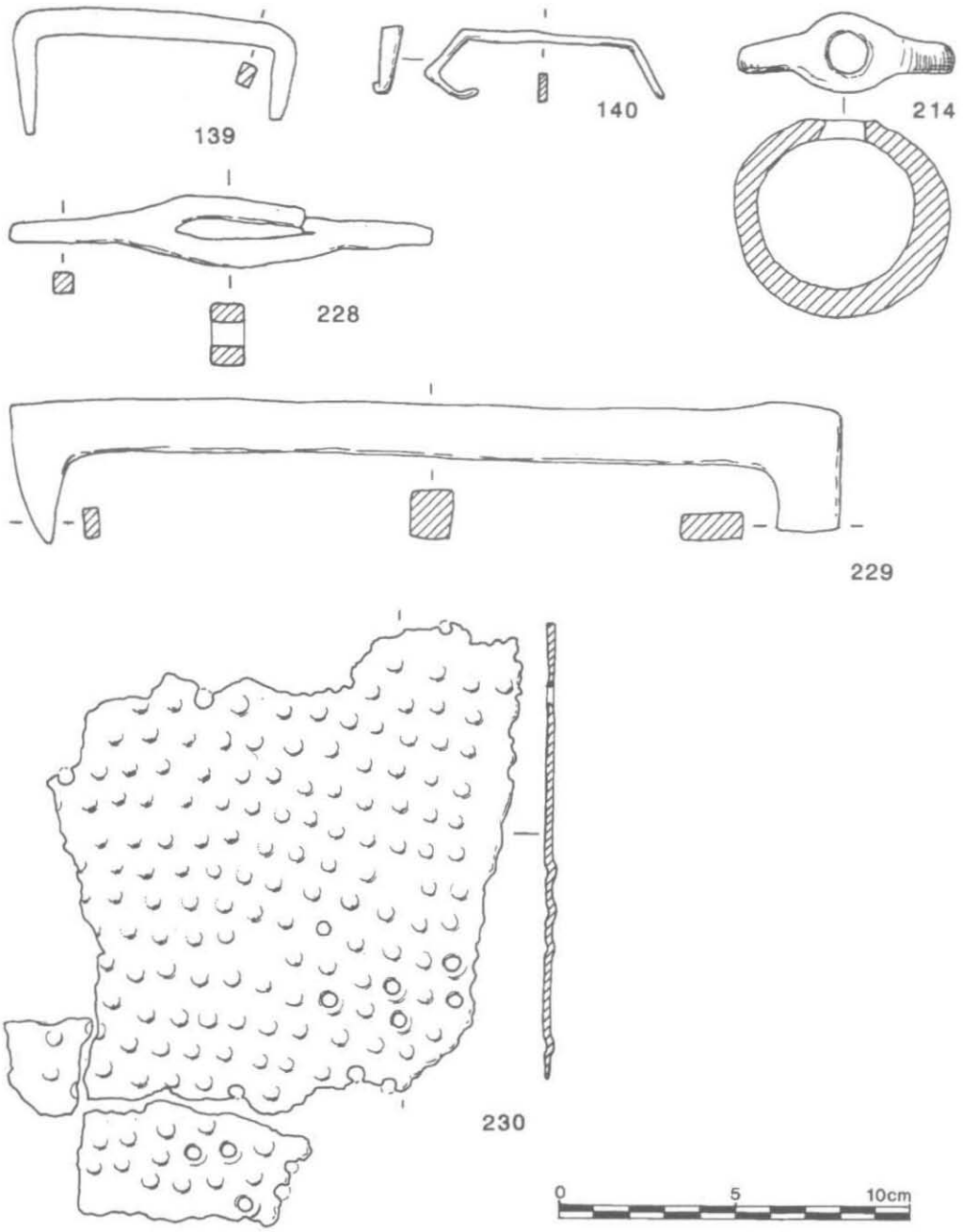

Fig. 92. Iron objects. 139–140 Staples, 214 Swivel ring, 228–229 Unidentified objects, 230 Punch decorated sheeting.

235 Unidentified object, iron. Possible window latch. L. 91 mm..
SF:503, Site D Bldg XV (1300) Phase 2
Illustrated
236 Unidentified object, iron. Escutcheoned shaped object with rivet through centre and bar attached. Possible window or door latch. L. 175 mm.
SF:285, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
Illustrated
237 Unidentified object, iron. Sub-rectangular plate with large perforation through centre (diam. 19 mm.). L. 53 mm.
SF:43, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
238 Unidentified object, iron. T-shaped object with square head and solid protruding shank. L. 73 mm.
SF:137, Site C Bldg VIII (802) Phase 2
239 Unidentified object, iron. Possible window latch. L. 118 mm.
SF:139, Site C Bldg VIII (807) Phase 2
240 Unidentified object, iron. Escutcheoned shaped object with perforation through centre. L. 79 mm.
SF:225, Site B Yard (548) Phase 3
241 Unidentified object, iron. S-shaped bar terminating in a hook at one end. L. 78 mm.
SF:248, Site B Bldg IV E (911/2) Phase 5
242 Unidentified object, iron. Triangular shaped object rectangular in section. Possibly a metalworking punch. L. 50 mm.
SF:274, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
243 Unidentified object, iron. Flat iron ring. Diam. 42 mm.
SF:306, Site D outside Kitchen W (414) Phase 4
244 Unidentified object, iron. Irregular shaped object, function unknown. L. 54 mm.
SF:308, Site D Kitchen (459) Phase 4
245 Unidentified object, iron. Escutcheoned shaped object with rivet through centre and bar attached. Possible window or door latch. L. 131 mm.
SF:310, Site D outside Kitchen W (426) Phase 4
246 Unidentified object, iron. Slightly curved solid object, square in section.
SF:648, Site A Topsoil (200) Phase 5
247 Unidentified object, iron. Triangular shaped object rectangular in section.
SF:650, Site B (500) Phase 6
248 Unidentified object, iron. Solid curved object square in section.
SF:653, Site A (1746/3) Phase 3
249 Unidentified object, iron. Possible terminal from a window latch.
SF:654, Site C (716/2) Phase 3
250 Unidentified object, iron. Curved plate with protruding, tapering shank circular in section.
SF:657, Site A (20) Phase 3
251 Unidentified object, iron. Triangular shaped object, rectangular in cross-section. L. 38 mm.
SF:660, Site D Bldg XV (1300) Phase 2
252–287 Iron plates and imperforate and perforated strips and bands. 7 from Site A, 23 from Site B, 3 from Site C and 3 from Site D.
288–317 Unidentifiable iron fragments. 13 from Site A, 7 from Site B, 9 from Site C and 1 from Site D.

Lead objects (Cat. Nos. 318–319)

Two lead objects were recovered.
318 Buckle, lead. Plain ring with central bar. Diam. 21 mm.
SF:203, Site B Topsoil (901) Phase 6
319 Shot, lead. Diam. 11 mm.
SF:209, Site B outside Bldg IV E (905) Phase 5

Antler and bone objects (Fig. 94, Cat. Nos. 320–323)

The antler and bone objects include a polished antler handle (320), an antler hammer (321) and two fragments of bone pins or needles (322–3). The hammer was identified by A. MacGregor and I am grateful to R. Wilson for identifying the species of the bones used.

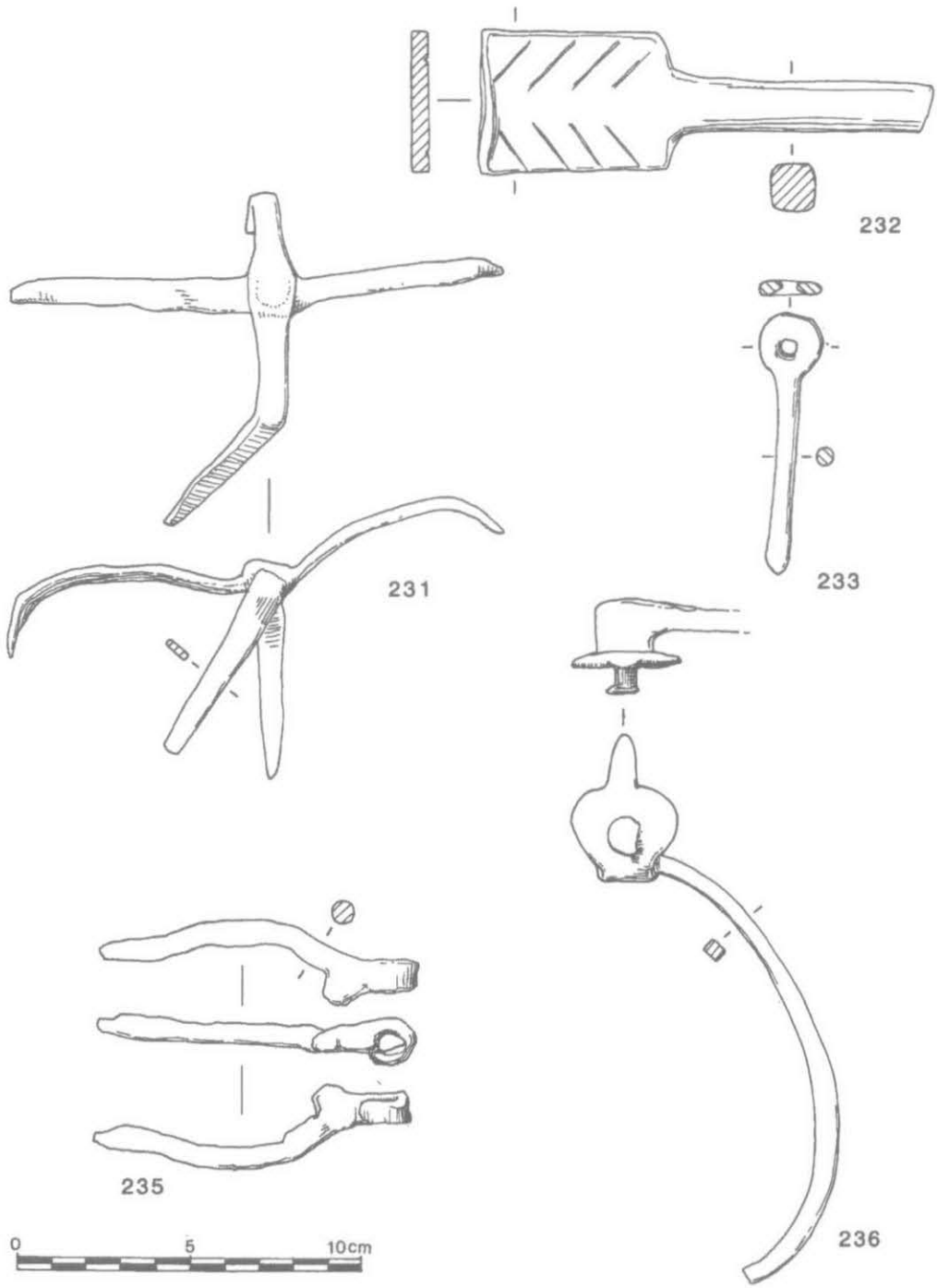

Fig. 93. Iron objects. 231–236 Unidentified objects and possible window fittings.

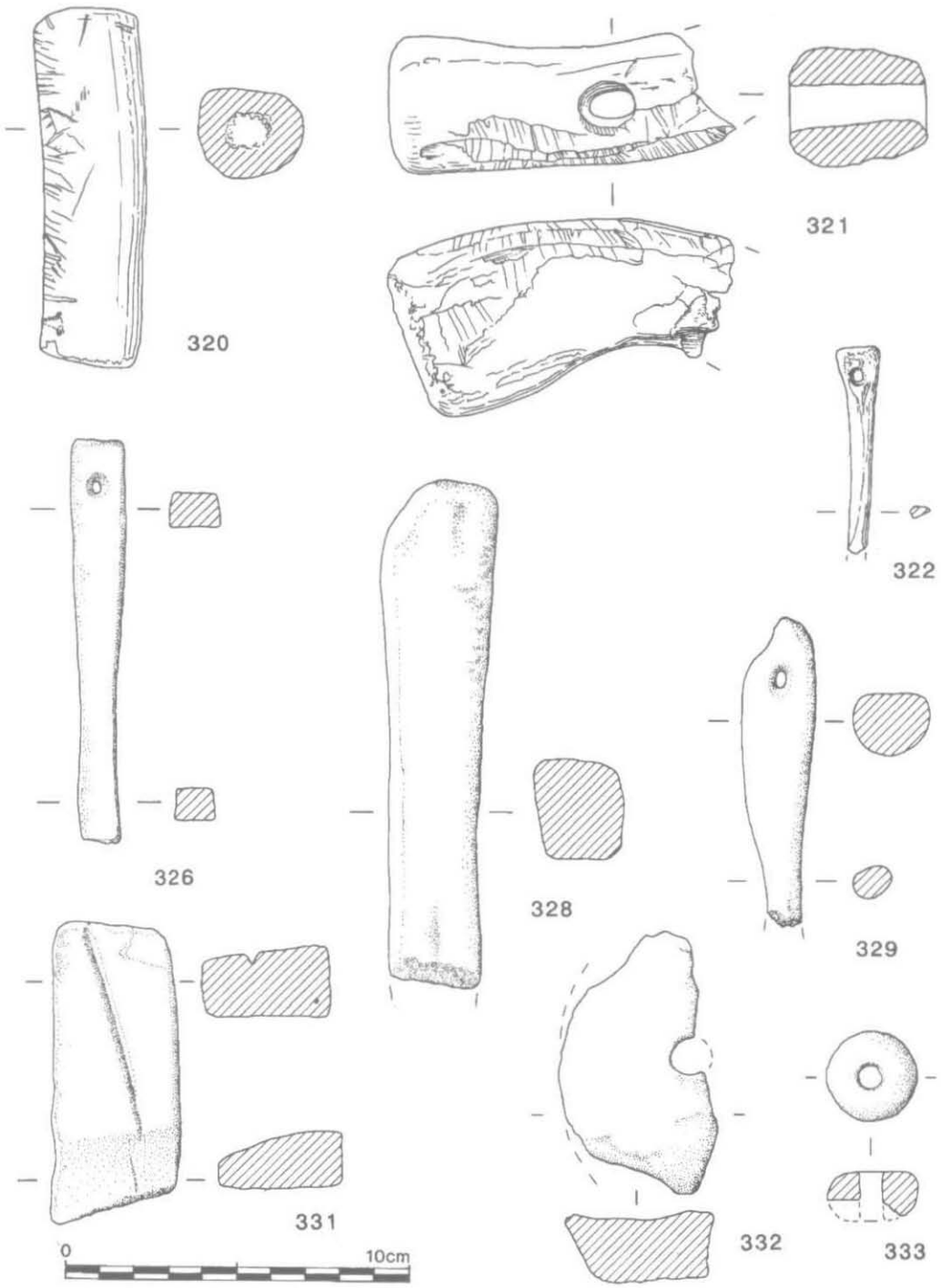

Fig. 94. Antler objects. 320 Handle, 321 Hammer. Bone object. 322 Needle. Stone objects. 326–331 Whetstones, 332 Loomweight, 333 Spindlewhorl.

The antler hammer would have had a narrow handle fitted into it, with the perforation running through the base of the severed brow tine. It has sustained damage on the face of the burr and may have been a craft tool used in sheet metal working. The hole is however very small and would seem inadequate if the implement were to be used as a hammer; it may have been more efficient used as an anvil. A similar example comes from Jarrow in Tyne and Wear and dates to the mid to late medieval period.[80]

320 Handle, antler. Hollowed out and polished segment from a roe deer antler. L. 102 mm.
SF:82, Site A Ditch (1747/2) Phase 3
Illustrated

321 Hammer, antler. Transverse perforation running through the base of the severed brow tine, into which a narrow handle would have been inserted, damage on the face of the burr. Roe deer antler. L. 99 mm.
SF:48, Site A Ditch (319/B/1) Phase 3
Illustrated

322 Needle, bone. Triangular headed needle made from a pig fibula, polished through use. L. 59 mm.
SF:117, Site C Post-Yard (700) Phase 4
Illustrated

323 Needle fragment, bone. Fragment from the shaft of a needle, trimmed from a slender bone such as a pig fibula. L. 26 mm.
SF:49, Site A outside Bldg II (239/3) Phase 4

Stone objects (Figs. 94–5, Cat. Nos. 324–338)

This category includes grinding implements comprising one fragment from a rotary quern (324) and fragments from two mortars (335–6) as well as objects associated with textile manufacture in the form of a spindlewhorl (333) and a loomweight (332). There are also 7 whetstones (325–31), a fragment from a stone trough (334), a chalk fragment (337) and a shale bangle fragment (338). The stone types have been identified by Dr Philip Powell and Fiona Rowe.

The two mortar fragments are of shelly limestone. One fragment (335) consists of the circular base only with traces of pecked tooling marks above a plain band on the outside at the bottom of the base. The second fragment (336) is a complete section from a mortar bowl with a single rib remaining running down the side from the rim to the base. There are very faint traces of vertical tooling on the outside close to the rim. At Winchester[81] similar examples are from 13th and 14th-century contexts, as a type they replace querns. Mortars from Winchester were predominantly of Purbeck marble and it appears that, due to its durability, this stone was used to the virtual exclusion of all other types up to the 15th century. Wear patterns on similar examples indicate two different types of use, either pounding or grinding. Such rigorous treatment meant that the mortars had a limited period of use, sometimes as little as five years.

The whetstones are of two types, rod (Type A) and plate (Type B). Smaller whetstones such as these manufactured from fine-grained schists tend to be used to sharpen small blades such as domestic knives and craftsmen's tools in contrast to larger coarse-grained examples, which were used for military and agricultural purposes.

324 Quern fragment, stone. Fragment from lower rotary quern stone. Grinding face is inverted and shows traces of rotary action. Original diameter 400 mm. Sand cemented silicious grit (local). L. 68 mm.
SF:154, Site C Yard (755) Phase 2

325 Whetstone Type A, stone. Fragment from a sub-rectangular rod whetstone. Micaceous sandstone (local).
SF:35, Site A Cobbling (283/2) Phase 4

326 Whetstone Type A, stone. Perforated rod whetstone, rectangular in cross-section. Micaceous sandstone (local). L. 116 mm.
SF:81, Site A Bldg III (1746/5) Phase 3
Illustrated

[80] A. MacGregor, *Bone, Antler, Ivory and Horn. The technology of skeletal material since the Roman Period* (1985), 171–2, Fig. 90 No. 1.

[81] M. Biddle and D. Smith, 'Mortars', in M. Biddle, *Objects and Economy in Medieval Winchester* (1990), ii, 890–908 and Figs 273–4.

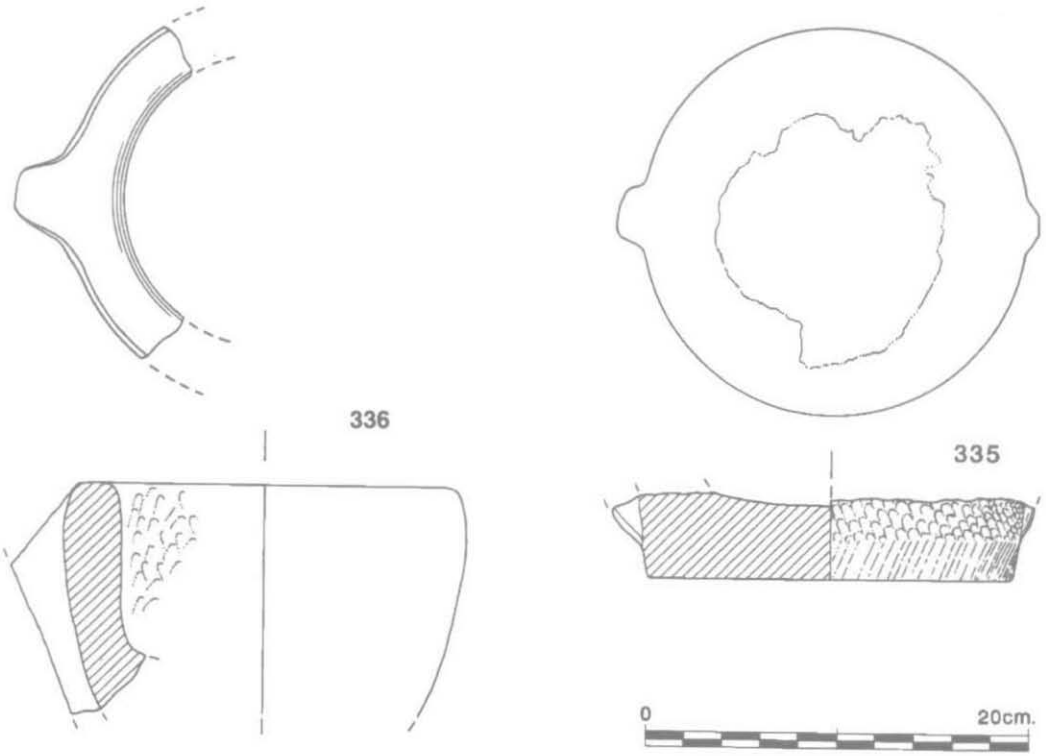

Fig. 95. Stone objects. 335–336 Mortars.

327 Whetstone Type A, stone. Fragment from sub-rectangular rod whetstone. Micaceous sandstone (local). L. 38 mm.
SF:108, Site C Ditch (703) Phase 3

328 Whetstone Type A, stone. Sub-rectangular rod whetstone. Micaceous Schist (local). L. 144 mm.
SF:134, Site C Bldg VIII (781) Phase 3
Illustrated

329 Whetstone Type A, stone. Perforated sub-rectangular rod whetstone. Micaceous schist (local). L. 91 mm.
SF:301, Site D Kitchen (470) Phase 3
Illustrated

330 Whetstone Type B, stone. Plate whetstone. Blue grey fine-grained sandstone (not local).
SF:86, unstratified

331 Whetstone Type B, stone. Plate whetstone. Groove across top face, used to sharpen points and blades. Micaceous sandstone (local). L. 86 mm.
SF:206, Site B Topsoil (500) Phase 6
Illustrated

332 Loomweight, stone. Original diameter *c.* 74 mm. Shelly limestone (local). L. 75 mm.
SF:279, Site B Yard (544/2) Phase 3
Illustrated

333 Spindlewhorl, stone. Fine-grained limestone (local). Diam. 26 mm.
SF:76, Site A Bldg I (11) Phase 5
Illustrated

334 Trough fragment, stone. Corner fragment. Shelly limestone. L. 210 mm.
SF:140, Site C outside Bldg VIII (759/6) Phase 2

335 Mortar, stone. Circular mortar base with pecked tooling marks on exterior. Shelly limestone. Diam. 195 mm.
SF:146, Site C Bldg VIII (805) Phase 2.
Illustrated

336 Mortar, stone. Section from a mortar bowl with a single external rib still remaining. Vertical tooling on exterior. Shelly limestone. L. 163 mm.
SF:321, Site D Kitchen (442) Phase 4
Illustrated
337 Unidentified fragment, chalk. Decorated with two horizontal grooves. L. 45 mm.
SF:147, Site C Bldg VIII (807) Phase 2
338 Bangle fragment, shale. (Missing).
SF:61, Site B outside Bldg IV W (523) Phase 3

Leather (Cat. No. 339)

One leather object was recovered from Site C.
339 Strip, leather. Regularly spaced perforations along each side. L. 66 mm.
SF:112, Site C Post-Yard (701) Phase 4

Discussion

The small finds from the excavations at Dean Court Farm are limited in their range and include little or no high status material; in comparison with material from the 13th to 15th-century manor at Chalgrove, Hardings Field, Oxfordshire,[82] for instance, there are few ornate pieces. The objects reflect the rural status of the settlement, including many agricultural implements and other tools as well as domestic objects and fittings. The assemblage compares well with the artifacts recovered from the nearby village at Seacourt[83] and with those from the medieval village at Lyveden, Northamptonshire,[84] excluding those additional finds relating to the extensive iron working and tile production on that site.

The small finds have also been examined as assemblages grouped by site within the settlement, although the extent of excavation work undertaken on each of Sites A to D must be borne in mind when comparing the finds. Large areas of Site A were excavated, and the finds from it are therefore probably representative of the whole site. Three buildings were uncovered, two barns and a domestic building, as well as the surrounding ditches. Site A is also the earliest of these four sites, dating to the late 12th and 13th centuries. With the exception of the trefoil brooch, which is most likely residual, the small finds, which include simple iron buckles, lobate profile horseshoes and whittle tang knives, are all consistent with this date. The tools include an auger, a punch and an antler hammer. The latter could have been associated with sheet metal working but there is no other evidence on Site A for such an activity.

Site B dated from the 13th to the 16th centuries and revealed a range of domestic and agricultural buildings dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. This site yielded the greatest number of small finds within the settlement, including the majority of the personal ornaments, horse gear and knives; given the long life of this site this is not surprising. The agricultural implements include shears, a pruning hook and a sickle. In general the finds from Sites A and B reflect their mixed domestic and agricultural nature.

Site C covered a smaller area, but this was extensively excavated, consisting of a small one-room cottage and associated yard dated by pottery to the 14th century. The small finds were consistent with the pottery dating. The yard contained a malting kiln, a hearth and a circular bread oven. Together with a number of surprisingly good quality ceramic vessels including many jugs, the presence of a malting kiln may imply that brewing and selling ale was taking place on this site. All the fragments of copper alloy

[82] P. Page with S. Smithson and H.D. Baker, *Excavations at the site of the medieval moated manor at Hardings Field, Chalgrove, Oxon.* (forthcoming).

[83] Biddle, 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961–2), 70–201.

[84] J.M. Steane and G.F. Bryant, 'Excavations at the deserted medieval settlement at Lyveden, Fourth report', *Journal of the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery*, xii (1975).

vessel came from this site, and these may have been connected with this function. Site C also produced the majority of the stone objects including the stone mortars and the fragment from the stone trough.

Site D was only partially excavated, and only two buildings, the kitchen and the dovecote, were examined in detail. When considering the status of the settlement (see general comments above) it is worth bearing in mind that neither of the principal domestic buildings on this site, the hall (Building XI) and the Solar (Building X), was extensively excavated, nor the adjacent Building XII and the surrounding external yard areas.

The finds reflect the largely domestic nature of the excavated buildings, and include a cleaver found in the kitchen drain, various locks, keys and the majority of the fixtures and fittings. There is a noticeable absence of agricultural tools, hunting equipment and horse gear. The site dates from the 14th century to the present day and the finds include the only post-medieval metal finds from Dean Court Farm, two coins.

3.7 THE FLINTWORK, by PHILIPPA BRADLEY

A small collection consisting of six unretouched flakes, one utilised blade, an irregularly flaked piece and a broken barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from the excavations. All of the flint was corticated to some degree. Where present cortex was thin, white or grey in colour and was sometimes stained brown, indicating a derived source, probably from the plateau gravel which occurs close to the site. The arrowhead was manufactured from better-quality flint, but the lack of surviving cortex on this piece precludes the identification of its source.

The collection is too small for precise dating, particularly since the material was scattered over 200 m. between Sites A, B and C. More than one period may however be represented: the arrowhead is of Bronze Age date, the utilised blade is more likely to be Neolithic or earlier, although blades do occur in Bronze Age assemblages.

3.8 CARVED STONE ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS (Fig. 96), by JULIAN MUNBY

A group of architectural fragments was recovered from the kitchen of 89 Eynsham Road opposite Dean Court Farm. They were examined to investigate the possibility that they derived from a former building on the site. The collection comprised a few substantial items from windows or arcaded openings. Three spandrels from unglazed window openings (nos. 1–3) and one from a glazed window (nos. 4–6) are probably 15th-century in date, as are fragments of casement moulding and plinth (nos. 7–9). The intersecting arcade and pier fragments with deep roll mouldings (nos. 10–12) are probably 13th-century, and one of them may be a vault rib. The bell capitals (nos. 13–14) may be early 14th-century, and one of these has an elaborate arrangement of two caps on adjacent sides of a block with a corner shaft between.

It is not impossible that the these derive from the buildings at Dean Court, where there was evidently a non-parochial chapel by the second half of the 14th century. However, the scale and elaboration of the earlier fragments suggests an origin in a higher status building, while the later parts of unglazed openings could come from a cloister.

The kitchen does not appear on Rocque's map of 1761 (Fig. 98), but since Rocque omits the existing medieval block Building X from Dean Court Farm opposite, the kitchen may have existed but similarly have been omitted. The kitchen is however also absent from the 1808 survey of Cumnor (Fig. 99), which appears to be more reliable, and it is therefore likely that this structure was not erected until after that date. Tighe's history of Cumnor states that stone was taken from Cumnor Place to build a new house at Dean Court for Mr Slatter.[85] At this time, however, Mr Slatter was already occupying the house opposite Dean Court Farm, probably that from which the architectural fragments came, and thus it appears most likely that the 'new house' was in fact an extension including the kitchen and that the stones in question came from Cumnor Place.[86]

[85] H.V. Tighe, *An historical account of Cumnor* (1821), 52.
[86] Information from John Hanson.

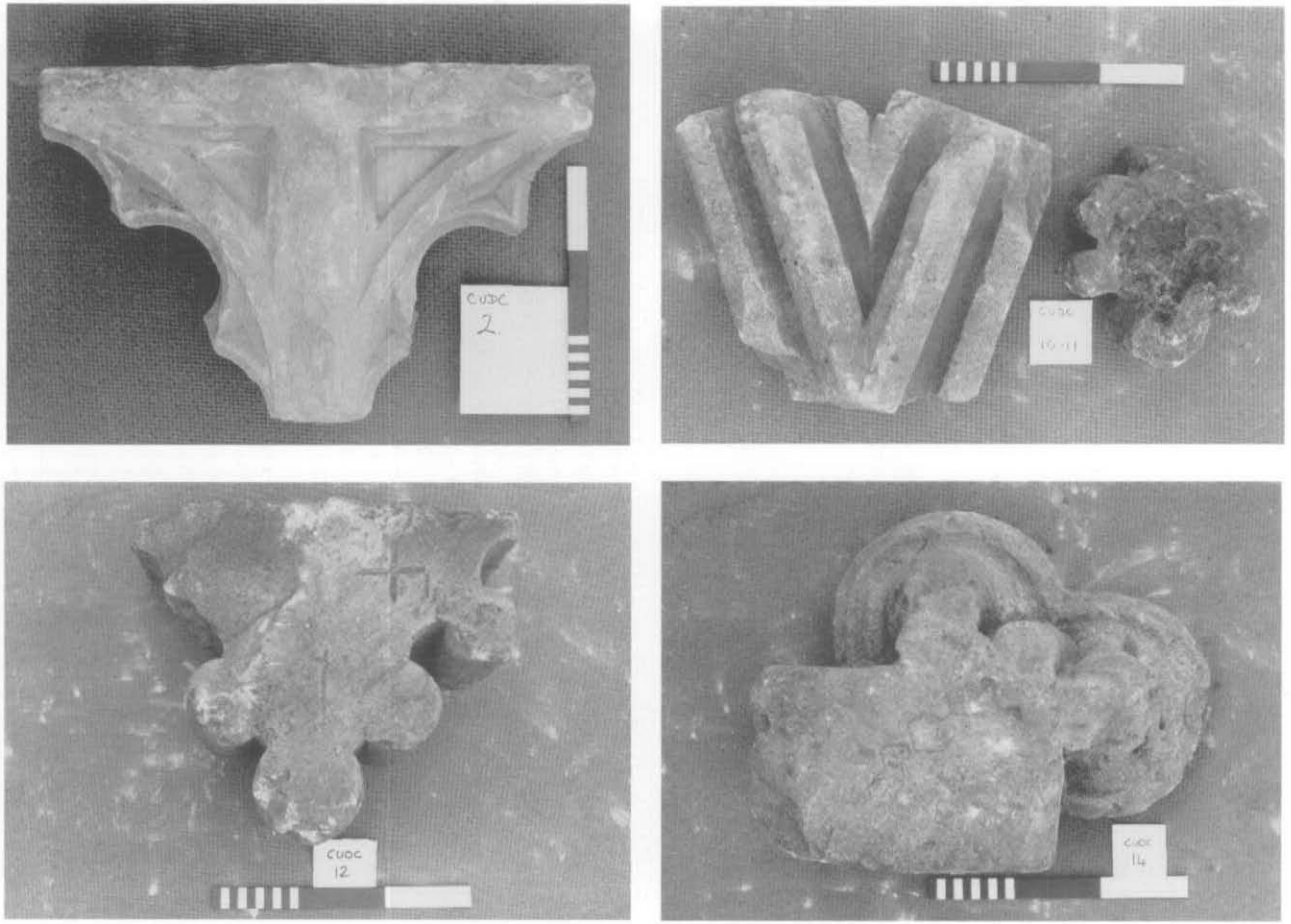

Fig. 96. Carved stone architectural fragments (Cat. Nos. 2, 10 and 11, 12 and 14).

Catalogue

1. Window spandrel from unglazed cinquefoil-headed window having a two-centred arch, with plain triangular spandrel on one side and flat recess on the other (also with outer frame).
2. Window spandrels with central mullion, of similar dimensions and character to last.
3. Window spandrel as No. 1, but with no outer frame.
4, 5 and 6. Window lintel, square-headed with external double chamfer and hollow-chamfered mullion, and glazing groove.
7. Door or window casement moulding with hollow-chamfer.
8. Chamfered fragment with fleck of red paint.
9. Plinth or cornice hollow moulding (a horizontal, not vertical member).
10. Intersecting arch mouldings with undercut hollows and frontal fillet (from a large arch since the curvature is very slight).
11. Column cluster of roll mouldings, symmetrical arrangement of two larger and four smaller rolls. Possibly from free-standing pier in centre of window.
12. Shaft with roll mouldings, partially undercut, and mason's mark (a cross); probably from wall-shaft if not part of a pier or a vault rib.
13. Bell-shaped capital with mouldings to one side, possibly from centre of window or side of door.
14. Pair of bell-shaped capitals on each side of a rectangular block, with roll-moulded shaft between them on the corner.
15. Sunken panel with chamfered surround.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

INTRODUCTION

During the excavation as wide a range of environmental evidence as possible was recovered, but no systematic policy for retrieval could be adopted, particularly on Site D. The limited scope of the report upon the fish bones, for instance, is a reflection of the lack of access for fuller excavation of the deposits on the hall floor. Even on the other sites the piecemeal excavation as opportunities arose did not allow an overall design for sampling.

Limited funding was available for analysis of the animal bones. The principal aims of this were to establish the range and proportions of species present on each site, to make comparisons between the sites and to compare the assemblage overall with urban and rural sites nearby. Sample sizes were small, and as a result of this, combined with the limited excavation of some sites (Sites D and B in particular), distributional analyses were not undertaken.

Samples for charred plant remains were taken from all likely-looking deposits. The aims were generally similar to those for the animal bones, but also addressed questions relating to specific structures such as ovens and two possible malting kilns.

A variety of waterlogged deposits were sampled, but few were well-preserved enough to be informative. Useful information on the moat and ponds was obtained from mollusc samples, and the unusual occurrence of tufa in ditches on Site A was also investigated.

ANIMAL BONES, by GILLIAN JONES

Introduction

Groups of bones were studied from all four sites. They are summarised on Table 2. The late 12th- to 13th-century groups were from the early grange (Site A) and from early layers at Site B (plus a very few bones from the earliest layers at Site D). The 14th- to 16th-century groups were from the farmstead at Site B, the cottage and related features of Site C; and from the kitchen, other

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF ANIMAL BONES FROM DIFFERENT SITES BELONGING TO DIFFERENT PERIODS

Date:	*late 12th to 13th century*			*14th to 16th century*								*post-1620*	
Site:	*A*		*B*	*B*		*C*		*D*		*B+C+D*		*D*	
	BN	*%*	*BN*	*BN*	*%*	*BN*	*%*	*BN*	*%*	*BN*	*%*	*BN*	*%*
Cattle	187	33%	4	99	24%	57	36%	74	59%	230	33%	177	47%
Sheep (goat)	278	49%	1	209	51%	72	44%	15	12%	296	43%	128	34%
Pig	43	8%		74	18%	18	11%	17	14%	109	16%	52	14%
Horse	38	7%		7	2%	5	3%	3	2%	15	2%	7	2%
Other mammals		1%			1%		3%		4%		2%		1%
Fallow deer						2				2			
Dog	1			1		1		1		3		1	
Cat	2			1		1				2			
Mole	1s		8+10s										
Pygmy shrew			1s										
Rabbit												1	
Hare				2		1		2		5			
Hare\Rabbit												1	
Cf. Field vole			1s										
Water vole				1						1			
House mouse	2+18s		4s										
Black rat	1												
Bird		4%			3%		4%		10%		4%		3%
Fowl	15			5		1		4		10		6	
Goose	6			7		4		7		18		2	
Duck												3	
Rock/Stock dove	1					2		2		4		1	
Frog/Toad	29+105s												
Total identified	574		13	406		164		125		695		379	
Total bone	1092		15	721		305		285		1311		593	

BN – number of identified bones; s – sieved; sieved bone and frog/toad bones (169 bones) not included in totals. Total identified bone 1661, total bone recovered 3011.

buildings and the moat comprising the later grange at Site D. These groups are mostly of 14th- and early 15th-century date with little 16th-century material. The post-1620 groups were from destruction layers of the later grange and originate from the adjacent 17th- and 18th-century farmhouse.

The bones from each site and from each phase within the sites generally consisted of small numbers of bones from numerous contexts, few contexts containing large assemblages. The small sample sizes need to be borne in mind when drawing conclusions from the bones; some aspects of analysis, e.g. study of sexual dimorphism, could not be attempted because the numbers of diagnostic bones and measurements were too few. Nevertheless the assemblage overall was large enough for some useful comments to be made.

Method

The bones were first physically sorted into their appropriate archaeological context and phase. Identifications were made using reference collections belonging to the author and Oxford University Museum (small mammal and bird). Bones were recorded onto two lists, separating the more complete bones from the fragments and both are presented in Tables 3–7. On the 'zone' list were recorded: substantial pieces of skull; jaw bones with at least one tooth; plus the following bones or parts of bones when more than half complete: the proximal end, shaft or distal end of long bones, tooth, vertebra, distal scapula, acetabulum of the pelvis, calcaneum, astragalus and phalanx. Mandibles were recorded using the method of Grant for cattle and pigs, and of Payne for sheep. Measurements

were taken following von den Driesch and, for pig teeth, Payne and Bull.[87] The bones and archive are stored by the Ashmolean Museum,Oxford; a copy of the archive, including tables of the measurements, is held by the Unit and the author.

This report was written in 1988 and amended in 1993.

Site A

All the material from the early grange, Site A, was of late 12th- to 13th-century date. The site was extensively excavated, including ditches adjacent to buildings, and the bone assemblage is therefore thought to be representative of the site as a whole. About half the bones were from sheep (or goat) and about a third were from cattle (Table 3). The highest value for sheep was in the late 13th century (Phase 4), where they formed 60% of the sample. Pig bones were rather few. The sample sizes are small, but suggest a small increase in the amount of pork or bacon eaten during the 13th century. Horse bones were nearly as numerous as pig, which is unusual, and was not the case at Sites B, C or D.

There was no evidence for any of the beef eaten being from young animals. Three mandibles were from adult or elderly animals, and all epiphyses were fused except for one proximal tibia (which fuses between 3½ and 4 years in modern cattle) (Table 8). With sheep, most were, again, adult or old (stages F to I), with a few immature and one lamb (a very immature metacarpal) (Table 9). Beef, when eaten, would have been from adult animals (presumably culled plough beasts and breeding cows), and mutton from ewes and wethers kept into adulthood but with some (probably males) being slaughtered at two to three years old. There was no definite evidence for goat. Gnawing on bones (probably from dogs) was common.

Complete horse bones give height estimates of 12½ to 13 hands (see below). As usual with horse bones, they were less fragmented than the bone of the other main species. All bones and teeth indicate adults, other than a single unworn cheek tooth. One lower cheek tooth was worn to below the crown. No butchery marks were observed.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF ANIMAL BONES FROM THE EARLY GRANGE, SITE A (LATE 12TH TO 13TH CENTURY)

Phase	Cattle z	Cattle BN	Sheep (goat) z	Sheep (goat) BN	Pig z	Pig BN	Horse BN	Other mammal	Fowl	Goose	Rock/Stock dove	frog/toad	Ident	Total
1 pre-building	17	33	16	22	4	4	9	house mouse 1	1				69	122
		48%		32%		6%	13%							
2	12	20	12	25	–	1	5	mole 1s	1	1		3+1s	53	82
		38%		47%		2%	9%							
3	36	71	57	94	10	12	17	dog 1, house mouse 2+17s,	7	3		26+104s	208	408
		35%		46%		6%	8%	rat 1s						
4	24	36	53	84	7	14	3		3		1		141	252
		26%		60%		10%	2%							
5	13	27	33	53	7	12	4	cat 2	3	2			103	228
		26%		51%		4%	4%							
Total	102	187	171	278	28	43	38	(see above)	15	6	1	29+105s	518	1092
		33%		49%		8%	7%	1.2%	bird	4.2%				

z – more complete bones; BN – number of bones; s – sieved; sieved and frog/toad excluded from totals.

[87] A. Grant, 'The Use of Tooth Wear as a Guide to the Age of Domestic Ungulates', in R. Wilson, C. Grigson, and S. Payne (eds.), *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites* (BAR British Series cix, Oxford) (1982), 91–108; S. Payne, 'Kill off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale', *Anatolian Studies* xxiii (1973), 281–303; A. von den Driesch, *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites* (Peabody Museum Bulletin i, Harvard, 1976); S. Payne and G. Bull, 'Components of variation in measurements of pig bones and teeth, and the use of measurements to distinguish wild from domestic pig remains', *Archaeo-Zoologia* ii (1988), 27–66.

TABLE 4. ANIMAL BONES FOUND AT SITE B (LATE 12TH TO POST-MEDIEVAL)

Phase	Cattle z	Cattle BN	Sheep (goat) z	Sheep (goat) BN	Pig z	Pig BN	Horse	Other mammal	Fowl	Goose	Ident.	Total
1 early occupation late 12–13th century	1	4	1	1				mole 8+10s, pygmy shrew 1s, vole 1s, house mouse 4s			13	15
2 Building VI	2	4	7	11	2	5	1		1		22	30
Build up	2	6	10	12	2	2		dog 1			21	34
Total 14th century	4	10	17	23	4	7	1	dog 1	1		43	64
3 Building IV	1	1	2	3						1	5	5
Building V	1	2	0	1					1		4	11
misc.	16	21	18	19	10	13	2		1		56	119
4 Building IV	5	5	14	16	3	4	1				26	35
Building V	1	2	18	23	6	7	1	water vole 1	2		36	66
Building VI	2	4	5	5	3	5					14	18
misc.	16	23	20	29	7	10					62	120
5 Building IV	9	10	32	46	6	10		cat 1		5	72	120
Building V											0	2
misc.	12	21	26	44	13	18	2	hare 2		1	88	161
3,4,5 Total	62	89	135	186	48	67	6	cat 1, hare 2 water vole 1	4	7	363	657
15th–16th century		25%		51%		18%	2%	1%	bird 3%			
6 post-1620	p		p		p		p	fallow deer 1 (human 1)				

z – more complete bones; BN – number of bones; s – sieved; sieved excluded from totals; p – present

TABLE 5. ANIMAL BONES FOUND IN SITE C (14TH CENTURY)

Phase	Cattle z	Cattle BN	Sheep (goat) z	Sheep (goat) BN	Pig z	Pig BN	Horse	Other mammal	Fowl	Goose	Rock/ Stock dove	Ident	Total
1 pre-building	2	2		3			1					6	15
2 ditch 1	9	15	6	9	2	2	2					28	43
ditch 2	4	5	1	1								6	15
misc.	2	8	6	10	1	3	1			2		24	50
3 Building VII										1		1	3
misc.	18	29	37	52	9	13	2	fallow 2, dog 1, cat 1, hare 1	1	1	2	105	194
2 + 3 Total	33	57 35%	49	72 44%	12	18 11%	5 3%	(see above) 3%	1 bird 5%	4	2	164	305

z – more complete bones; BN – number of bones.

House mouse was present in the pre-building phase (context 1736/4), and both house mouse (*Mus musculus*) and rat (*Rattus rattus*) were found in Phase 3 (*c.* 1250). Building II is interpreted as a barn, and the finds of house mouse and rat would fit well with use as a granary. Fowl was present in all Phases, goose in most, rock/stock dove (*Columba livia/oenas*) in Phase 4 and eggshell in Phases 1, 2 and 3. Frog/toad bones were numerous from sieved drain fill 211/2, Phase 3.

Site B

The range of buildings and associated layers at Site B produced a few bones of 13th-century date, including mole (*Talpa europaea*), pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*), vole (*Microtus* cf. *agrestis* – bank vole), and house mouse from sieved samples. The mole may be intrusive.

Bones of 14th- to 16th-century date were mostly from sheep, cattle and pig (see Tables 2 and 4). They were found as scattered fragments within the buildings and associated yard. The surrounding enclosure ditch, which was probably contemporary, was not excavated.

By Phases 3 to 5 (15th to 16th century) Building VI had gone out of use, and few bones were associated with it. In Buildings IV and V sheep bones greatly outnumbered cattle – perhaps partly as a result of the smaller size of sheep bones, and hence their greater chance of inclusion in floor deposits. The miscellaneous contexts (yards, etc) showed less difference but did also produce more sheep than cattle bones. Pig bones were common, forming nearly a fifth of the 15th- to 16th- century samples. In general, all parts of the carcase were found, with the exception of horncores, which may have been removed elsewhere (Fig. 97). Remains from the skulls of cattle were relatively few, although pieces of lower jaw and loose teeth were present. Bones from the skull were commonest for sheep, and these included one from a hornless type (Phase 5, and complete enough to be identified as sheep, not goat). One bone (a femur) was tentatively identified as goat. Bones were in general scattered and unrelated, although a probable partial sheep skeleton was recovered from Building IV, Phase 5 (context 911/2, right scapula, humerus, radius, femur and tibia). The sheep sample included four very immature bones, but most were adult (Table 9); two were elderly (with the anterior infundibulum of M_3 erased). Ageable cattle bones were few. Most of the fowl and goose bones were found within the buildings.

The post-abandonment Phase 6 bone included a fallow deer astragalus and a carious human tooth.

Site C

Site C was a cottage with a yard and flanking ditches, all of 14th-century date. It was very fully excavated and there were large quantities of pottery in the ditches, much of it of high quality. The animal bone was notable mainly for its small quantity (see Table 5). It occurred as scattered fragments, for example from thin yard layers where the bone may have been broken up, but also from the ditches where, also, there were few bones. There seems to be evidence, then, that meat was not eaten often, or bones were disposed of separately from the pottery, perhaps on the fields. 'White meat' – milk, eggs and cheese – was more important in the peasant diet than meat proper.[88]

As at Site B, horncores were absent. For sheep and pig, vertebrae and scapulae were absent, and unidentified large and medium vertebral and rib fragments were much fewer than long-bone fragments, perhaps indicating lower consumption of better quality cuts.

Other species included dog, cat, hare and also fallow deer (two proximal right metacarpals) – possibly poached from Wytham, or perhaps evidence that the people at Dean Court were involved in the handling of the hunted carcase. Goose was found in more contexts than fowl. Eggshell from Phase 2 (context 764/2) was probably of fowl. One of the two rock/stock dove bones was a broken femur, filled with medullary bone and indicating a breeding bird.[89]

Site D

The bone assemblage from the later grange, Site D, is summarised on Tables 2, 6 and 7. A very few bones were from pre-1300 layers (shown on Table 6 but not Table 2). The 14th- to 16th-century groups cover the period from the construction of the later grange until its decline in the 16th century. Numbers of bones found were few but some general comments can be made. The larger quantity of bone was from destruction layers, after the demolition of the Hall and Kitchen and the building of a farmhouse in *c.* 1620.

The Kitchen was the most fully excavated part of Site D. The bones from all phases (see Table 7) were predominantly from cattle, occurring, as at the other sites, mainly as scattered fragments. In the 14th- to 16th-century groups, pig bones were as frequent, or more so, than sheep. A preference for beef and pork/bacon indicates a higher status diet than that found on Sites C and B where sheep were the commonest bones found (see Discussion). Presence of hare, fowl, goose and dove are typical of occupation deposits.

The west part of the Hall (Building XI Trenches 7–12)), the Solar (Building X) and Building XII, small parts of

[88] C. Dyer, 'English Diet in the Later Middle Ages', in T.H. Aston, P.R. Coss, C. Dyer, and J. Thirsk, *Social Relations and Ideas; Essays in Honour of R.H. Hilton* (1983), 207.

[89] J.C. Driver, 'Medullary bone as an indicator of sex in bird remains', in Wilson, Grigson and Payne, *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones* (BAR British Series cix, 1982), 251–254.

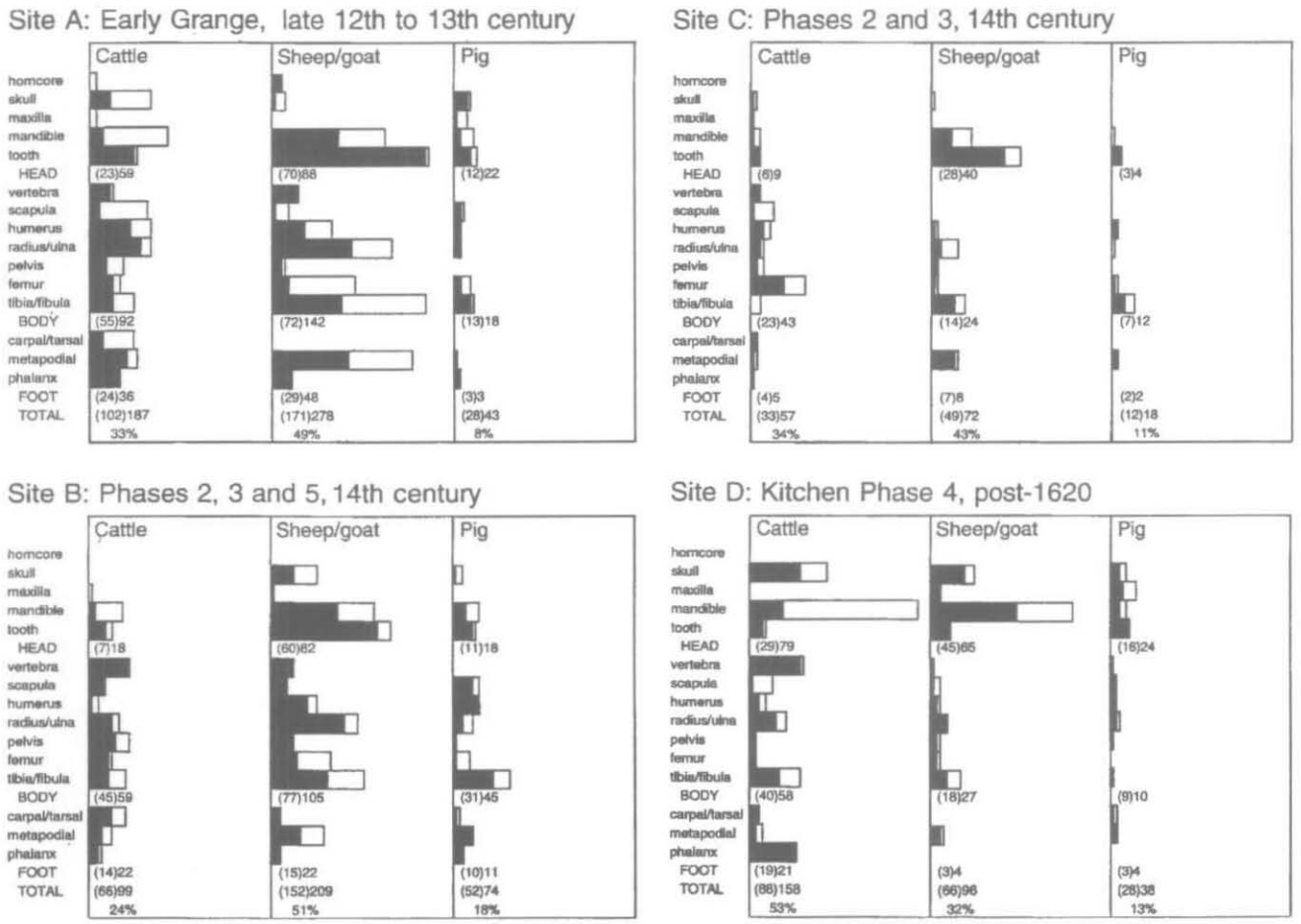

Fig. 97. Bone distribution for Sites A, B, C, and D. The solid bars represent more complete bones, the open bars additional identified bones.

TABLE 6. ANIMAL BONE FROM THE LATER GRANGE, SITE D, BY DATE

	Cattle		Sheep (goat)		Pig		Other mammal	Bird		Ident.	Total
	z	BN	z	BN	z	BN	BN	f	g		
pre-1300	4	7			3	4			1	12	24
14th–mid 15th C.	27	53	7	10	10	12	hare 2	4	5	87	204
								r/s dove 1			
14th–16th C.	11	13	5	8	3	4	horse 3	2		35	68
							cat 4	r/s dove 1			
later 15th–16th	9	21	4	5	3	5	horse 3			38	81
							dog 1	r/s dove 1			
post-1620	111	177	89	128	42	52	horse 7	6		379	593
							dog 1	duck 3			
							rabbit 1	r/s dove 1			
							h/rab. 1				
Total Site D										551	970

z – more complete bones; BN – number of bones.
f – fowl; g – goose; r/s – rock or stock; h/rab. – hare or rabbit.

TABLE 7. THE MAIN GROUPS OF ANIMAL BONES FROM THE LATER GRANGE, SITE D, BY BUILDING

	Cattle		Sheep (goat)		Pig		Other mammal	Bird		Ident.	Total
	z	BN	z	BN	z	BN	BN	f	g		
Kitchen											
pre-1300	3	6			3	4			1	11	23
14th–mid 15th	24	44	3	7	9	11	hare 2	4	5	74	170
								r/s dove 1			
later 15th–16th	5	10	1	2		1			2	16	39
								r/s dove 1			
post-1620	88	158	66	96	28	38	horse 5		2	300	447
								duck 1			
Building XI	1	3	13	19	7	7	rabbit 1	6		40	96
W. rooms post-1620							h/rab. 1	duck 2			
								r/s dove 1			
Dovecote	4	9	3	3	2	2	horse 3			18	36
post-1620							dog 1				
Boundary wall	10	10	3	3		1	horse 3			21	30
14th–16th							cat 4				
Building XV	6	9	3	4	6	6	horse 2			21	28
post-1620											
Total, these groups										501	869

z – more complete bones; BN – number of bones.
f – fowl; g – goose; r/s – rock or stock; h/rab. – hare or rabbit.

which were excavated, produced too few bones of 14th- to 16th-century date for useful comment. The floors of the E. part of the Hall (Trenches 1–2 and 5–6) contained numerous fish bones and other small bones, but very little of this was excavated, and the floors of the other buildings had been kept relatively clean. A few bones were found associated with the boundary wall adjacent to the moat; they included more cattle than sheep, more horse than pig, and four cat bones – a group more suggestive of peripheral waste than domestic occupation.[90] Apart from

[90] R. Wilson, 'Degraded bones, feature type and spatial patterning on an Iron Age occupation site in Oxfordshire, England', in N.R.I. Fieller, D.D. Gilbertson and N.G.A. Ralph (eds.), *Palaeobotanical Investigations* ii (BAR International Series ccvi, 1985), 81–93; R. Wilson, 'Animal bones and shells' in P. Page with S. Smithson and H.D. Baker, *Excavations at the medieval moated manor at Hardings Field, Chalgrove, Oxon.* (forthcoming).

TABLE 8. CATTLE: AGE STAGES OF MANDIBLES

stage:	A	B	C	D	E	5A	5B	p.d.
Late 12th–13th century						2	1	0/2
14th century		1	2					–
15th–16th century		1					1	0/1
post-1620		1		1	1	2	1	0/4

Stages: A – dp_4 unworn; B – dp_4 in wear, M_1 unworn; C – M_1, in wear, M_2 unworn; D – M_2 in wear, M_3 unworn; E – M_3 in wear, posterior cusp unworn (S. Payne, 'Kill off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale', *Anatolian Studies* 23 (1973), 281–303); 5A – M_3 in wear all cusps at wear-stage g (A. Grant, 'The Use of Tooth Wear as a Guide to the Age of Domestic Ungulates', in R. Wilson, C. Grigson, and S. Payne, *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites* (BAR British Series cix, 1982), 91–108), 5B – M_3 beyond g; p.d. – periodontal disease.

some very limited salvage the surrounding moat, which may have received most bone waste, was not excavated. This contrasts with Site C (see above); i.e. the small quantity of bone found is not relevant in discovering how much meat was eaten.

The largest group of bone from Site D was from post-destruction deposits within the medieval kitchen (Table 7 and Fig. 97). The deposits originated from the 17th-century farmhouse, the kitchen of which was immediately adjacent to the medieval one. Cattle bones continued to dominate, but sheep were more numerous than pig. As at the other sites, most parts of the skeleton were found, with, again, the exception of horncores. Bone was in a better state of preservation, with relatively more mandibles than loose teeth and a higher percentage of bone identified (67%). For the cattle, sheep and pigs, more than half the bones were from the head, suggesting that the bones derived from the preparation and not the consumption of food. Cattle mandible pieces, in particular, were much chopped, and nearly all the sheep mandibles were chopped through the diaphysis. One cattle lumbar vertebra was roughly sawn, transversely.

Building XIII, interpreted as a dovecote, was quite fully excavated. Of the few bones found, most were of post-1620 date (see Table 7) and none of them were from birds.

Building XV, to the east of Site D, included a few bones of 17th/18th-century date. Of these, a cattle lumbar vertebra was sawn through sagitally and a sheep pelvis and proximal femur were sawn, probably having formed a small joint. The sawing was fairly irregular (i.e., not band-sawn).

Data on age at death of the cattle was very limited. The post-1620 group shown on Table 8 are all from the Site D kitchen, and suggest the slaughter of some cattle as calves, but the majority as adults.

Some of the sheep from the post-1620 groups were hornless (two specimens from polled sheep and one skull frontal piece with the base of the horn core present from a sheep or goat). No definite evidence for goat was found at Site D: metapodials were all thought to be from sheep and two mandibles with deciduous teeth were sheep according to Payne's morphological differences.[91] (On the four sites a total of five such specimens were identified as sheep). The mandible stages are shown on Table 9. In the larger, post-1620 group, four mandibles had M_3 unerupted, which suggests that surplus young sheep were only infrequently available. There were no very elderly sheep (stage I).[92]

Absence of the anterior premolar occurred four times in 19 mandibles (age stages E, F, F, G); in one mandible P^2 was rotated by nearly 90°; slight periodontal disease occurred in one case where there was interdental attention at P^4/M_1 and some bone recession (all the post-1620 group). The only pathological long bone was a sheep ulna (14th to 16th century, context 1357/5) with extra growth of bone on the lateral side of the proximal joint.

As at the other sites, pig mandibles were generally at stage D (*c.* 12–18 months old) (Table 10), and wear on loose teeth confirmed this pattern. There were no piglet bones from the Phase 4 Kitchen group. Overcrowding of teeth was not observed on any of the sites except in one Site D post-1620 maxilla (P^2 rotated).

Horse bones were occasional finds at Site D. A robust and fairly large metatarsal from the 14th century (Phase 2)

[91] S. Payne, 'Morphological distinctions between the mandibular teeth of young sheep, *Ovis*, and young goats, *Capra*', *Journal of Archaeological Science* xii (1985), 139–47.

[92] The numerical value of the post-1620 jaws with complete molar rows (Grant 'Tooth Wear' Wilson, Grigson and Payne, *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones* (BAR British Series cix, 1982), 91–108) were as follows: 24, 24, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 38, 38, 40, 41, 43, 43, 43.

TABLE 9. SHEEP: AGE STAGES OF MANDIBLES

Age stages:	A	B	C	D	D/E	E	F	G	G/H	H	H/I	I	Total	p.d.
Site A, late 12th–13th C.	–	–	–	3	1	–	4	6	1	2	1	–	18	2/9
Site B, Phase 2, 14th C.	–	–	–	–		–	2	2		–		–	4	0/3
Site C, 14th C.	–	–	1	–		–	1	1		–		1	4	0/5
Site B, Phases 3–5, 15–16th C	–	–	–	–		2	3	5		1		2	13	1/11
Site D, Phase 2/3, 14–16th C	–	–	–	–		1	–	1		1		–	3	0/3
Site D, Kitchen, post-1620	–	–	–	4		3	7	8		3		–	25	1/22

Stages: A – dp_4 unworn; B – dp_4 in wear, M_1 unworn; C – M_1, in wear, M_2 unworn; D – M_2 in wear, M_3 unworn; E – M_3 in wear, posterior cusp unworn; F – M_3 in wear on all cusps, pre 'dentine continuous' stage; G – M_2, M_3 dentine continuous; H – some erasure of M_2 infundibula; I – some erasure of M_3 infundibula (S. Payne, 'Kill off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale', *Anatolian Studies* 23 (1973), 281–303).
p.d. – incidence of periodontal disease around P_4/M_1 in mandibles at stages F – I.

TABLE 10. PIG: AGE STAGES OF MANDIBLES

stage:	A	B	C	D	E
Late 12th–13th century				2	
14th century				1	
15th–16th century				3	
post-1620				2	1

Stages: A – dp_4 unworn; B – dp_4 in wear, M_1 unworn; C – M_1, in wear, M_2 unworn; D – M_2 in wear, M_3 unworn; E – M_3 in wear, posterior cusp unworn (S. Payne, 'Kill off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale', *Anatolian Studies* 23 (1973), 281–303); wear – wear visible on the enamel.

gives a height estimate of over 14½ hands. A deciduous ('milk') tooth from Phase 3 showed no root resorption and so was not a shed tooth, but from a lost foal; a metacarpal from Phase 3 bore probable skinning marks.

Remains of venison were not found at Site D. Fallow deer was present at Site C (14th-century) and Site B (Phase 6, post-1620). The species appears therefore to have been present in the area but rare or unavailable. Woodland would have been of greater importance for pigs and firewood, etc.

Bird bones consisted mostly of fowl and goose. Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), either wild mallard or domestic, was present only in Phase 4. Rock/stock dove (*Columba livia/oenas*) was represented by three bones. Given their occurrence in bone samples with few wild bird bones, and the presence of a dovecote (Building XIII), they are probably all rock dove/domestic pigeon (*Columba livia*).

Size of the Cattle, Sheep, Pigs and Horses

Measurements of bones were few. Medieval cattle measurements were all within the range of other sites of the period. Two bones of post-1620 date were large (metatarsal: breadth proximal (Bp) 52 mm., shaft diameter (SD) 29.6; third phalanx: diagonal length of sole (DLS) 84.5).

There were rather more sheep than cattle measurements. They were within the expected range for medieval sheep, e.g., five humeri 14th to 16th century, breadth of trochlea (BT) 26.1–30.5 mm., mean 28.0, and there was no evidence for larger sheep in the post-1620 period.

Pig measurements were even fewer, but the six post-1620 measurements were larger than is typical of medieval pigs,[93] viz.:– M_1/M_2 width posterior cusp (WP) 11.1/14.2 (female), 11.8/14.6 (male); M_3 width anterior cusp (WA)/Length 19.9/30.6; radius Bp 31.5, ulna depth across the processus anconaeus (DPA) 38.3, astragalus greatest length of lateral half (GLl) 45.

Five complete horse bones give the following height estimates: late 12th to 13th century, 12½, 13 and 13 hands: 1.27 m., 1.30 m. and 1.33 m.; 14th century, 14½ hands/1.49 m.; 15th to 16th century, 14 hands/1.40 m.[94]

Discussion

The bone samples from Dean Court were small but they represent an interesting example of a rural site owned by Abingdon Abbey, initially farmed directly and, by the later 14th century, let for rent.

For the medieval period, sheep bones were commoner than cattle, which is typical of village sites.[95] Sheep bones were particularly common from the early grange (Site A). Evidence from pottery at Site A – large numbers of shallow pans – suggests dairying, for which ewe's milk would have been important, with the main product being cheese. Age at death of the sheep suggests that few young sheep were slaughtered at the site. Some young may have been sold off to Oxford,[96] but it is thought that most lambs of both sexes were being kept into adulthood, the wethers primarily for the wool clip. Wool, sheep dairy products and the use of the flock in fertilising the arable land would all have been of importance. There is some evidence that the intensity of this pattern was greatest in the 14th to 16th centuries, with fewer slaughtered young and more kept to a greater age (ages stages H and I) in comparison with the 12th–13th century and post-1620 groups. A similar pattern has been found at other sites, including towns.[97]

For the 14th- to 16th-century material, sheep bones continued to be commoner than cattle at both Sites B and C, though in the Site D sample of this date, cattle bones predominated. Sample sizes were larger for Sites B and C; Site C was the most fully excavated and therefore is most reliable, and the overall percentage for the three sites combined is higher for sheep than cattle.

As expected, amongst the cattle bones those from adult cattle predominated at all periods, with no immature bones at all from the early grange, but some present in the later medieval groups. A mandible and other bones from calves were present in the post-1620 group, and a few calf bones were found in 16th-century contexts at Site B – a pattern also seen at Oxford and other sites,[98] which indicates dairying and veal production.[99]

The proportion of pig bones found was lowest in the earlier groups, which is similar to many medieval rural sites, such as Great Linford, Bucks.[100] There was evidence for an increase during the 13th century at Site A and the proportion was higher in the 14th- to 16th-century groups, particularly so at Site B (15th to 16th century).

[93] E.g. T. O'Connor, 'Animal Bones from Flaxengate, Lincoln', in *The Archaeology of Lincoln* Vol. 8.1 (Council for British Archaeology, 1982), Appendix II; G.G. Jones, 'Animal Bones from Shrewsbury Abbey' (forthcoming).

[94] Method of Kiesewalter in A. von den Driesch and J.A. Boessneck, 'Kritische anmerkungen zur Widerristhohenberechnung aus Langenmassen vor- und fruhgeschichterlicher Tierknochen', *Saugtierkundliche Mitteilungen* xxii (1974), 325–48.

[95] A. Grant, 'Animal Resources', in G. Astill and A. Grant (eds.), *The Countryside of Medieval England* (1988), Fig. 8.2.

[96] R. Wilson, 'Medieval animal bones and marine shells from Church Street and other sites in St. Ebbe's, Oxford', in T.G. Hassall, C.E. Halpin, and M. Mellor, 'Excavations in St. Ebbe's, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, liv (1989), 258–68.

[97] Grant 'Animal Resources' in *Countryside of Medieval England*, 154.

[98] Wilson, 'Medieval animal bones and marine shells' in Hassall, Halpin, and Mellor, 'St. Ebbe's', *Oxoniensia*, liv (1989), 262.

[99] J.M. Maltby, *Faunal Studies on Urban Sites: the Animal Bones from Exeter 1971–75* (University of Sheffield, 1979), 32.

[100] D.P. Burnett, 'Animal bone, Great Linford Village', in D.C. Mynard, and R.J. Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford, 1974–80* (Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, Monograph Series iii, 1992), 231–39.

The 14th- to 16th-century bones from Site D were nearly all from the kitchen, and, although not very numerous, may reflect directly those bones which were discarded there. There were four times as many cattle as sheep bones, and more pig bones than sheep. Generally, high numbers of pig bones, with other finds such as deer and game birds, indicate a high status diet, see, for example, discussion by Grant[101] and bone samples from the moated site at Chalgrove and the castle at Middleton Stoney.[102] Evidence at Dean Court is however equivocal; deer bones were rare and game birds absent, and the representation of pig was also high on Site B in the late medieval period.

The generally scattered occurrence of bones at Dean Court Farm was similar to that commented on at Great Linford,[103] and appears to be characteristic of medieval rural sites, where unlike urban tenement sites rubbish pits were not common and waste accumulated in middens outside or in ditches.

Horse bones were particularly frequent from the early grange. At this period, use of horses in the plough team was rare, and, with only one bone from an immature animal, there is little evidence for horse breeding. Perhaps the bones originate from pack horses, used in transporting produce between the Abingdon estates.

4.2 FISH REMAINS, by ANDREW K.G. JONES

Summary

The assemblage of fish bones, mainly collected by sieving deposits dated from the 13th to the 15th centuries, was dominated by remains of herring (*Clupea harengus*) (Table 11). Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) bones were also relatively common in the deposits. Other marine species present included conger eel (*Conger conger*), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*), and plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*). In addition, fragments of bones of large marine gadid fishes were present but none could be identified to species. Freshwater fishes were represented by pike (*Esox lucius*), roach (*Rutilus rutilus*), and stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*).

Species identified

The fish remains discussed in this report comprise a group of 192 bones and scales collected from archaeological deposits excavated between 1984 and 1986 (Table 11). Samples of sediment were sieved on 1 mm. meshed sieves to collect most of the remains. A few conger eel (*Conger conger*) bones were collected by hand from the excavated deposits. These bones were from a very large fish, measuring in the region of 1500 mm. total length. In addition, a small number of unidentifiable fragments were present.

The majority of the bones are from a single context – an occupation deposit from the Hall – dated to the 15th century. This layer was dominated by herring (*Clupea harengus*) vertebrae with smaller numbers of eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), pike (*Esox lucius*), roach (*Rutilus rutilus*), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*), and stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) bones. The bones recovered from earlier deposits were broadly similar in species composition, although conger eel and plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) were also represented.

Discussion

The kinds of skeletal element present and the condition of the bones suggests that the recovered remains were but a small proportion of the bones originally deposited at the site. Several of the bones were burnt and the absence of delicate elements suggests that many bones were lost from the

[101] Grant, 'Animal Resources', in *Countryside of Medieval England*, 159.

[102] Wilson, 'Animal bones and shells' in Page and others *Hardings Field Chalgrove* (forthcoming); B. Levitan, 'The vertebrate remains', in S. Rahtz and T. Rowley, *Middleton Stoney; Excavation and Survey in a North Oxfordshire Parish 1970–1982* (Oxford University Department for External Studies, 1984), 108–27.

[103] Burnett, 'Animal bone', in Mynard and Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford*, 231–39.

TABLE 11. FISH REMAINS

Context	No. and kind of bone	Identification
Site A, Early Grange (mid 13th century)		
211/2	1 vertebra	Pleuronectidae (flatfish)
Site B, Ancillary domestic area (late 13th century)		
576	1 fin ray fragment	Gadidae (large fish)
Site D, Kitchen (later 14th century)		
411/6	13 vertebrae	*Clupea harengus* (herring)
	1 maxilla	herring
	2 vertebrae	*Anguilla anguilla* (eel)
	1 vomer	eel
	1 pterygiophore	Gadidae (large fish)
	1 pelvic spine	*Gasterosteus aculaeatus* (stickleback)
	Unidentifiable fragments	
1501	3 vertebrae	herring
	1 ceratohyal	eel
	2 dentaries	eel
	1 vertebra	*Merlangius merlangus* (whiting)
	1 posttemporal	*Pleuronectes platessa* (plaice)
1512*	1 parasphenoid	*Conger conger* (conger eel)
1513*	1 vertebra	*Esox lucius* (pike)
	1 vertebra	whiting
1537*	1 articular	conger eel
	1 dentary	conger eel
Site D, Hall, occupation layer on floor (15th century)		
1014	136 vertebrae	herring
	11 vertebrae	eel
	2 cleithra	eel
	1 hyomandibular	eel
	2 scales	Cyprinidae
	1 vertebra	Cyprinidae, possibly *Rutilus rutilus* (roach)
	3 pharyngeal bones	roach
	1 dentary	?roach
	1 vertebra	pike
	1 vertebra	whiting
	1 spine	stickleback

All bones were collected by sieving except those from contexts marked with an asterisk (*).

archaeological record as bones fragmented and dissolved as a result of the action of natural agents including scavengers.

Nevertheless, it is clear that marine fishes were imported to the site from the mid 13th century onwards. The presence of head bones (dentary and articular bones of the lower jaw) of a large conger eel suggest that whole fresh fish were imported. This is at first sight surprising given the distance of the site from the coast, but there is a growing body of evidence to show that fish, both freshwater and marine, were traded considerable distances overland during the medieval period.[104] It is unlikely, however, that all the marine fish were imported fresh. Vast quantities of herring were pickled in barrels.[105]

[104] P. Heath, 'North Sea fishing in the fifteenth century: the Scarborough fleet', *Northern History*, 3 (1968), 51–69; S.F. Hockey, *Quarr Abbey and its lands 1132–1631* (Leicester University Press, 1970).

[105] W.C. Hodgson, *Herring and the herring fisheries* (1957).

The presence of bones of freshwater fishes is hardly surprising, given the presence of 'fish tanks' in the Kitchen and the proximity of the moat and ponds to the buildings. However, most of the bones of freshwater fishes were from small individuals. Two of the roach pharyngeal bones were from individuals measuring roughly 100 mm. total length, while one of the pike vertebrae was from a fish approximately 200 mm. long (not from a stickleback since they do not exceed 100 mm. total length). One pike vertebra and a roach pharyngeal bone were from animals of a size which today might be considered acceptable for human consumption.

The presence of bones of small fishes in floor deposits of the hall and the kitchen area strongly suggests that small freshwater fishes were eaten by the occupants of the site. It is, of course, possible that these remains arrived at the site in the gut-contents of large fishes such as pike.

4.3 CHARRED PLANT REMAINS, by LISA MOFFETT

Soil samples for charred plant remains were taken during excavation from various promising contexts from each of the four sites. Contexts with clearly visible charred material were sampled, such as the spreads of charred material from the kitchen at Site D. Other contexts were also sampled, but some contained only a small amount of material. The samples were processed using bucket flotation, and the collected charred material was sorted by a biotechnician. Material was identified using a binocular microscope and a comparative collection of modern material. The results are presented in Tables 12–15.

The material consisted chiefly of cereal grains with a few legumes, occasional other food plants and an assortment of mainly arable weeds. Cereal chaff remains were few, suggesting either that there was an extreme difference between the preservation of chaff remains and cereal grains, or that the cereals had already been processed, i.e. threshed and winnowed, before they became charred. The material from all the sites was broadly similar, varying chiefly in abundance of material in the samples rather than in the character of the assemblages. The change from the early to later phases of the grange was not detectable in the plant remains. For this reason all four sites will be discussed together, although the sites are listed separately in Tables 12–15.

With one exception, none of the charred material was *in situ* in the sense that it was not found in the features where it became charred. In Building IX from Site D the charred material was from the floor of a building containing 14th-century ovens and a 15th-century malting kiln. The latest charred sample from this building, however, may pre-date the use of the malting kiln. Site C had a structure which may also have been a malting kiln, but, although this was the one sample where the charred material might have been *in situ*, there was only a small amount of charred material present. Other samples represent disposal of charred material from unknown sources. Some of the material, especially from the samples with few remains, probably represents residual material that may have been reworked around the site an unknown number of times, and may not necessarily be contemporary with the features in which it was found.

Cultivated plants

Wheat

The most commonly found cereal was wheat. There were two species of wheat, a rivet or macaroni wheat (*Triticum turgidum/durum*) and a bread/club wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.). The cereal grains were in a poor state of preservation and no attempt was made to identify the wheat grains to species. There were, however, a very few rachis nodes (the nodes where the spikelets containing the grains attach to the ear). Rachises are much more diagnostic than the grains and some were well-preserved enough to identify. Using the criteria described by Hillman[106] it was possible to separate the rachis nodes of the *T. turgidum* type from those of the *T. aestivum* type.

[106] Pers. comm. and given in a paper presented to IWGP in 1983.

TABLE 12. CHARRED PLANT REMAINS FROM SITE A

Sample:	1736/4	1735/2	1735/N	211/2	1747/N
Context:	early feature	ditch	ditch	drain Building I	ditch
Soil sample size (litres):	9	9	13	31	10
Date (century):	12/13th	mid 13th	mid 13th	late 13th	late 13th
Cultivated plants					
Triticum turgidum/durum rachis nodes	–	3	–	–	–
Triticum aestivum s l rachis nodes	3	2	7	–	4
Triticum spp free-threshing rachises	1	3	6	–	–
Triticum spp free-threshing grains	73	132	359	62	144
Triticum/Secale grains	–	4	10	–	6
Secale cereale grains	1	–	–	1	–
Hordeum vulgare indet rachises	2	1	–	–	–
Hordeum vulgare hulled grains	3	2	2	1	–
Hordeum vulgare indet grains	6	11	20	5	14
Avena sp grains	5	–	3	–	6
Avena/large Gramineae grains	–	12	3	–	6
Cereal indet grains	37	151	158	37	58
Cereal/Gramineae culm nodes	4	–	–	–	1
Vicia faba var minuta	–	–	1	1	–
Vicia/Pisum	–	–	–	1	2
Lens culinaris ssp microsperma	–	–	–	–	1
Large legumes indet	–	–	2	–	1
Wild plants					
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus	3	–	–	–	–
Ranunculus flammula/reptans	1	–	1	–	–
Agrostemma githago calyx tips	–	–	–	–	1
Chenopodium murale	–	1	–	–	–
Atriplex sp	6	7	2	–	2
Medicago lupulina	–	2	–	–	1
Medicago/Melilotus/large Trifolium	–	3	7	–	8
Vicia/Lathyrus	1	4	1	1	2
Rubus fruticosus/idaeus	–	–	1	–	–
Crataegus cf monogyna	–	2	–	–	–
Scandix pecten-veneris	–	–	1	–	–
Conium maculatum	–	1	1	–	–
Polygonum convolvulus	–	–	1	–	–
Rumex sp	3	3	2	–	1
Corylus avellana fragments	–	–	1	1	–
Anagallis cf arvensis	2	–	–	–	–
Veronica hederifolia	1	–	–	–	–
Odontites verna	–	–	1	–	–
Euphrasia/Odontites	2	2	–	–	–
Plantago lanceolata type	5	–	–	–	–
Galium aparine/spurium	1	–	–	–	–
Galium sp	1	–	2	–	–
Anthemis cotula	2	9	1	–	–
Centaurea scabiosa	–	–	–	–	1
Juncus cf inflexus (capsules + seeds)	10	–	–	–	–
Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis	–	5	3	–	8
Carex cf hirta	31	–	–	–	–
Carex cf hostiana/flava group	286	–	–	–	–
Carex spp	6	1	2	–	2
Poa sp	2	–	–	–	–
Gramineae indet	18	4	5	5	2
Unidentified	5	26	3	–	1

TABLE 13. CHARRED PLANT REMAINS FROM SITE B

Sample:	571	576	545/2
Context:	pit	pit	pit
Soil sample size (litres):	10	10	10
Date (century):	mid 13th	mid 13th	late 14th
Cultivated plants			
Triticum turgidum/durum rachises	–	1	–
Triticum aestivum s l rachises	1	6	–
Triticum spp free-threshing rachises	1	–	–
Triticum spp free-threshing grains	14	241	4
Triticum sp grains	17	251	12
Triticum/Secale grains	1	7	–
Secale cereale grains	–	4	–
Hordeum vulgare hulled grains	–	4	–
Hordeum vulgare indet grains	2	18	–
Avena sp grains	–	9	–
Avena/large Gramineae	2	10	3
Cereal indet	22	307	6
Cereal/Gramineae culm nodes	1	–	–
Vicia/Pisum	1	5	–
Legume pod fragments	–	2	–
Wild plants			
Agrostemma githago calyx tips	–	1	–
Chenopodium sp	–	2	–
Medicago lupulina	–	14	–
Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium	7	128	1
Trifolium type	–	10	–
Vicia/Lathyrus	–	37	–
Scandix pecten-veneris	–	1	–
Rumex sp	1	5	–
Euphrasia/Odontites	4	62	–
Centaurea scabiosa	–	1	–
Galium sp	–	1	–
Anthemis cotula	2	17	–
Tripleurospermum inodorum	–	3	–
Compositae indet (thistle type)	–	1	–
Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis	1	2	–
Carex sp	–	1	–
Gramineae indet	3	20	–
Unidentified	2	10	–

The presence of a *T. turgidum* type wheat is worthy of note because this species was once rarely found on archaeological sites in Britain and this has, not surprisingly, led to the conclusion that the wheat itself was rare.[107] There is now a growing body of evidence to suggest that the *T. turgidum* type, rather than being rare, has been overlooked, perhaps partly due to identification difficulties and partly to the fact that there is often very little rachis material found on medieval sites.[108] Rivet wheat produces a poorer quality flour for bread-making than bread wheat but it is a highly productive wheat.[109] Possibly the rivet wheat was being grown with the intention of mixing

[107] E.g. P.J. Fowler, 'Farming in the Anglo-Saxon Landscape: an Archaeologist's Review', *Anglo-Saxon England*, ix (1981), 263–80.

[108] L. Moffett, 'The Archaeobotanical Evidence for Free-threshing Tetraploid Wheat in Britain', in *Palaeoethnobotany and Archaeology* (International Workgroup for Palaeoethnobotany, 8th Symposium at Nitra-Nov[82] Vozokany 1989, Acta Interdisciplinaria Archaeologica Tomus 7, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Nitra, 1991).

[109] J. Percival, *The Wheat Plant* (1921).

TABLE 14. CHARRED PLANT REMAINS FROM SITE C

Sample:	764/2	775/1
Context:	Layer over infilled ditch	oven fill
Soil sample size (litres):	15	10
Date (century):	14th	14th
Cultivated plants		
Triticum spp free-threshing grains	17	25
Hordeum vulgare grains	–	2
Cereal indet grains	11	9
Wild plants		
Silene sp	–	2
Medicago/Melilotus/large Trifolium	–	5
Corylus avellana fragments	1	–
Galium sp	–	2
Anthemis cotula	–	3
Gramineae indet	2	1

its flour with that of bread wheat for baking purposes. Rivet wheat was grown in Oxfordshire in the post-medieval period despite its poor quality because it was resistant to lodging (being laid flat by wind or rain) and mildew and because its long awns discouraged the birds. It was usually grown beside hedges and other places where birds were a problem, or was mixed with other wheats.[110]

Barley

Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oats both came well after wheat in abundance. There were no rachis nodes of barley, and the grains were too poorly preserved to show whether there were any of the characteristic 'twisted' lateral grains of six-row barley. It is, therefore, impossible to tell if the barley was six-row, two-row, or if both types were present. Only a few grains still retained impressions of the lemma and palea which indicated that the barley was hulled. The presence of naked barley, therefore, cannot be ruled out, although it would be rather unusual.

Oats

Cultivated oats (*Avena sativa*) cannot be separated from wild oats (Avena fatua or ludoviciana) without the diagnostic lemma bases. Only one lemma base of *A. sativa* was found in these samples, but probably most or all of the oats were cultivated. Wild oats can be a very successful crop weed, and in theory could contribute significantly to the oat grains in a sample. However, as oats were recorded regularly in the accounts of other manors belonging to Abingdon Abbey,[111] it is assumed that the oats in the sample represent a crop and not weed contaminants. Oats and barley are both traditionally spring sown crops and were often grown together as a crop called dredge. In most of the samples these two crops were present in roughly equal amounts, but this does not, of course, show that they were grown together. In the abbey accounts oats and barley are usually two separate entries.

Rye

Rye (*Secale cereale*) is the least frequently found cereal on the site as a whole, although it is the second most abundant cereal in a sample from the Site D hall (1016). The element of chance plays such a large part in the preservation of archaeobotanical material that it is usually difficult or impossible to draw reliable conclusions from the relative abundance of different cereals on a site. The relative scarcity of rye in this case, however, is reflected in the

[110] R. Plot, *Natural History of Oxfordshire* (2nd ed., 1705).
[111] R.E.G. Kirk (ed.), *Accounts of the Obedientiars of Abingdon Abbey* (Camden Soc. n.s. li, 1892).

TABLE 15. CHARRED PLANT REMAINS FROM SITE D

Sample:	411/6	1518	1513	1519	1501	1574	1016
Context:	drain	kitchen	kitchen	kitchen	kitchen	drain	hall
Size of soil sample (litres):	11	5	2	5	14	?	8
Building:	IX	IX	IX	IX	IX	XII	XII
Date (century):	early 14th	14th	14th	14th	15th	14th	15th
Cultivated plants							
Triticum turgidum/durum rachis nodes	1	1	–	–	–	3	1
Triticum cf turgidum/durum rachis nodes	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Triticum cf spelta rachises	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Triticum aestivum s l rachis nodes	1	1	2	–	–	1	–
Triticum free-threshing rachis nodes	–	1	–	–	2	–	1
Triticum free-threshing compact grains	68	143	41	–	50	20	83
Triticum free-threshing indet grains	126	225	73	–	178	46	205
Triticum/Secale grains	4	6	2	–	1	3	12
Secale cereale grains	3	7	4	–	3	2	7
Hordeum vulgare rachises	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Hordeum vulgare hulled grains	7	4	5	–	2	1	9
Hordeum vulgare indet grains	33	11	25	–	4	5	16
Avena sp	6	7	5	–	5	–	9
Avena/large Gramineae	20	10	15	–	4	8	9
Cereal indet	294	243	156	8	258	77	272
Vicia sativa ssp sativa	1	–	3	–	3	1	1
Vicia cf sativa ssp sativa	32	–	–	–	8	–	10
Vicia faba var minuta	5	2	3	–	1	1	5
Vicia/Pisum	3	5	12	–	5	14	–
Pisum sativum	2	–	5	–	–	–	1
Legume pod fragments	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vitis vinifera	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Malus sp core fragments	–	2	2	–	–	–	–
Wild plants							
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus	1	1	1	3	–	1	–
Ranunculus arvensis	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Brassica rapa/nigra	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Brassica/Sinapis	–	2	1	2	–	–	–
Sinapis arvensis	–	1	–	2	–	–	–
Cruciferae capsule fragment	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Silene cf vulgaris	1	–	–	4	–	1	1
Silene sp	–	1	3	10	11	–	–
Agrostemma githago	–	–	1	2	3	1	–
Agrostemma calyx tips	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stellaria media	–	–	2	2	1	–	–
Chenopodium sp	2	4	30	12	–	2	–
Atriplex sp	2	3	–	3	–	2	1
Chenpodiaceae indet	12	–	–	–	6	–	–
Medicago/Melilotus/large Trifolium	25	27	235	230	28	12	5
Trifolium type	9	2	4	35	19	–	–
Vicia hirsuta	1	–	–	1	2	–	–
Vicia tetrasperma	–	–	–	1	1	1	–
Lathyrus cf nissolia	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Vicia/Lathyrus	39	18	38	33	172	43	12
Crataegus/Prunus thorn	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Scandix pecten-veneris	1	3	1	–	–	–	–
Bupleurum rotundifolium	–	–	3	–	–	–	–
cf Bupleurum rotundifolium	2	1	14	12	55	–	–
Polygonum aviculare agg	–	–	8	1	1	–	–
Polygonum persicaria/lapthifolium	–	1	–	1	–	1	–
Polygonum convolvulus	–	–	1	–	–	–	–

Sample:	411/6	1518	1513	1519	1501	1574	1016
Context:	drain	kitchen	kitchen	kitchen	kitchen	drain	hall
Size of soil sample (litres):	11	5	2	5	14	?	8
Building:	IX	IX	IX	IX	IX	XII	XII
Date (century):	early 14th	14th	14th	14th	15th	14th	15th
Rumex acetosella agg	–	–	–	25	5	–	–
Rumex sp	3	6	15	23	22	7	6
Corylus avellana fragments	1	1	1	–	7	–	–
Anagallis cf arvensis	1	–	8	1	2	–	1
Lithospermum arvense	–	–	2	–	1	–	–
Hyoscyamus niger	1	–	1	2	–	–	–
Odontites verna	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Euphrasia/Odontites	2	1	4	7	8	–	–
Stachys sylvatica	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Ballota nigra	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Galeopsis angustifolia	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Plantago sp	–	–	1	3	–	–	–
Galium aparine/spurium	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
Galium sp	1	2	7	3	3	–	2
Sambucus nigra	–	–	–	1	1	1	–
Valerianella rimosa	–	1	–	1	1	–	–
Valerianella dentata	–	–	20	5	7	–	–
Anthemis cotula	2	1	214	52	150	–	1
Tripleurospermum inodorum	–	1	–	1	–	–	–
Chrysanthemum segetum	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Centaurea sp	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
cf Picris echoides	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis	–	–	6	2	–	1	1
Carex spp	–	–	4	–	2	2	–
Lolium cf temulentum	–	5	–	–	12	–	–
Poa annua	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Poa sp	–	–	1	1	–	–	–
Cynosurus cristatus	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Bromus hordeaceus/secalinus	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Phleum pratense	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Gramineae	10	4	12	6	17	1	18
Gramineae culm nodes	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tree buds	–	2	–	–	–	2	–
Pisidium sp (pea-mussel)	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Unidentified	1	7	83	7	9	2	6

surviving abbey accounts of some of the other manors, where rye is almost always represented by the smallest number of quarters accounted for of any cereal, if it is mentioned at all.[112] Rye is noteworthy by its absence from the accounts of most of the Bishop of Winchester's estates, although it does figure in the accounts from one of the Winchester estates in Berkshire.[113] Charred remains of rye were occasionally found at Winchester, however, despite the lack of documentary evidence.[114] It is quite common from medieval sites in the west midlands region and often found in abundance.[115] Although there does seem to be some regional variation in the distribution of rye that may be partly related to frequency of particular soil types, these variations have yet to be clearly defined.

[112] Ibid.

[113] J.Z. Titow, *Winchester Yields* (1972).

[114] F.J. Green, 'Medieval Plant Remains: Methods and Results of Archaeobotanic Analysis from Excavations in Southern England with Especial Reference to Winchester and Urban Settlements of the 10th–15th Centuries' (M.Phil. thesis, Southampton University, 1979).

[115] L. Moffett, 'The Archaeobotanical Evidence for Saxon and Medieval Agriculture in Central England Circa 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D.' (M.Phil. thesis, University of Birmingham, 1988).

Legumes

Legumes found include peas (*Pisum sativum*), beans (*Vicia faba* var. *minuta*) and vetch (*Vicia sativa* ssp. *sativa*), from Site D, and beans and lentil (*Lens culinaris* ssp. *microsperma*) from Site A. Most of what is identified in Tables 12–15 as Legumes indeterminate is the right size and shape for *V. sativa* and probably is cultivated vetch, but this could not be demonstrated as the hilums had not survived.

Lentil is a rather infrequent find, although lentils are known from Hyde Abbey and Wolvesey Palace in Winchester.[116] It is usually rather marginal as a crop in Britain, preferring a more Mediterranean climate, although it can do quite well in good seasons on warm soils. Lentils may have been cultivated for food, or, more prosaically, they may have been grown for fodder. Plot in 1705 recorded lentils being grown in Oxfordshire as fodder for cattle.[117] The fact that lentils were found on such high status sites in Winchester does seem to suggest they might have been used for human consumption at least sometimes, though perhaps in that case they might have been imported.

Apple

Two fragments of apple core (*Malus* sp.) were found on the kitchen floor. Although it is not possible to tell from the core if it was crab apple or cultivated apple, the context in which it was found is certainly domestic enough!

Grape

Two grape pips (*Vitis vinifera*) were found, both from Site D. One came from the hall floor and the other from the kitchen floor. Grapes were grown in the medieval period both for wine and for verjuice, the latter being widely used in cooking and also easier to produce in the British climate, as the grapes were pressed green. There was a vineyard at Abingdon Abbey, at least during the 13th and 14th centuries, which probably produced more verjuice than wine.[118] Vineyards were expensive, as they required specialist expertise to establish and maintain. If there were vines at Dean Court it is likely that there were only a few to produce verjuice for the kitchen, and they might, perhaps, have been trained up the side of the building – a not unusual practice where there were walls made of stone.[119] Of course, the grapes need not have been grown at the grange – they could also have come from the abbey or further afield.

Fennel

Two fennel seeds (*Foeniculum vulgare*) were also found on the Site D kitchen floor. Fennel is a popular culinary herb with a long history of use. Its strong flavour, resembling aniseed, was much appreciated by medieval people and, like most medieval herbs, it also had its medicinal uses.[120]

Wild plants

Most of the other species present are weeds of arable and disturbed ground, and most are probably associated with the field crops. The majority of the weeds are not confined to any particular soil type, but there are some that are more likely to be found on certain types of soils. Greater knapweed, (*Centaurea* cf. *scabiosa*), hare's ear (*Bupleurum rotundifolium*), corn buttercup (*Ranunculus arvensis*) and shepherd's needle (*Scandix pecten-veneris*) are most common on dry calcareous soils.[121] Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex actosella*) and nipplewort (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) are more likely to occur on acid soils, but they constitute a minor element in the assemblage.

There is also an indication of a flora from heavier and less well-drained soils. Stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*)

[116] Green 'Medieval Plant Remains' (M.Phil. thesis, Southampton University, 1979).
[117] Plot, *Natural History of Oxfordshire*.
[118] T. McLean, *Medieval English Gardens* (1981).
[119] Ibid.
[120] M.B. Freeman, *Herbs for the Mediaeval Household* (1943).
[121] A. Fitter, *An Atlas of the Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe* (1978).

is often associated with heavy clay soils. Spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis*) requires at least seasonal flooding.[122] Both of these plants were present fairly consistently in the samples from all of the sites.

The damp ground element is most noticeable in an early feature from Site A, 1736/4. Spikerush was curiously absent from this sample, but capsules and seeds were found of hard rush (*Juncus* cf. *inflexus*) which grows on damp, heavy, neutral to basic soils.[123] This was associated with numerous sedge nutlets (*Carex* spp.) as well as other plants of disturbed ground or grassland. The general impression from this assemblage is more one of damp pasture than arable ground, although there were still cereals present as well. Possibly this assemblage is of mixed origin, or perhaps cereals were being cultivated on rather marginal damp lowland.

A small but significant hedgerow/ruderal element is also present. On Site A this consists of blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus/idaeus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus* cf. *monogyna*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*), all of which could have been collected for food. On Site D, in addition to the ubiquitous hazel, there is elder (*Sambucus nigra*), black horehound (*Ballota nigra*) and hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*). These plants can grow in hedgerows but are not confined to them, growing freely on waste ground, especially where there are rich soils. If the fact that they became charred is due to an association with cereals, then it is more likely that they were growing at the field margins rather than in the fields themselves. Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) and ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*) could also be part of this group of plants. They are waste ground or garden weeds and suggest that the ruderal assemblage from Site D may have had its origin in the garden rather than the crop field.

Discussion

Malting?

Despite the presence of a structure identified as a malting kiln in the 15th-century phase of the Kitchen (Building IX) on Site D and of another possible malting kiln of 14th-century date on Site C, none of the cereal assemblages from these areas or indeed from anywhere else at Dean Court, show convincing signs of having been malted. Malting today is generally done with barley, but it can be done with any cereal. The grain is first soaked in water to absorb sufficient moisture to allow germination, then the water is drained off and the grain is left in a warm place, usually in small heaps, to germinate. Regular turning of the heaps of grain ensures even germination. The purpose of germinating the grain is to activate enzymes (diastase) which release the starch in the grain and convert it to sugar so that it is available to the growing plant. This sugar is needed by the yeasts which cause fermentation in brewing. When the growing shoot is between $^1/_3$ and $^1/_2$ the length of the grain, the grain is lightly roasted to kill the shoots but not the enzymes, as the diastasic activity of converting starch to sugar needs to continue during brewing. This product is the malt. After screening to remove the shoots and rootlets, and crushing or light milling to release the endosperm from the bran, it is ready for brewing.[124] Unmalted grains as well as peas, beans or other legumes can be added during brewing to increase the starch content.[125]

When the shoots are growing, they use up some of the starch in the grain, thus causing the grain to begin to shrivel. The growing shoot also leaves a furrow down the back of the grain. Despite the poor preservation of the charred material, these signs ought to have been detectable had the shoots been allowed to grow for the length of time normal in the malting process. In fact, only a very few grains in some of the samples (seventeen out of several hundred grains) showed visible signs of having germinated. There were also no coleoptiles (shoots) in any of the samples. Germinated grains were found of all four cereal genera, though barley and oats seemed to be the most frequently germinated. It is just possible that malt was being produced which had not been allowed to germinate far enough to be detectable in poorly preserved charred material. Corran, in his book on the history of brewing, cites two French historians of medieval brewing who describe the malting process in a way that seems to suggest that the grain was only just germinated before kilning.[126] If this were the case then the grain would not have had time to start to shrivel and the shoot would not be long enough to leave a furrow. One might, however, possibly still expect to find some of the short coleoptiles, as these tend to detach easily when the grain is charred.

Although there does not appear to be very convincing evidence for it from the botanical remains, it is still entirely possible that the kilns were used for malting. Care would probably be taken to protect the malt from smoke

[122] S.M. Walters, 'Eleocharis', *Journal of Ecology* 37(1) (July 1949), 192–206.
[123] A.R. Clapham, T.G. Tutin, and E.F. Warburg, *Flora of the British Isles* (2nd ed., 1962).
[124] H. Hunter, *The Barley Crop* (1952).
[125] N. Kaye, *Brewing, a Book of Reference* (1936).
[126] H.S. Corran, *A History of Brewing* (1975).

as this would affect the taste of the ale. The temperature at which the malt is roasted would also need to be fairly low since the object is to kill the growing shoot without destroying the diastase. The chances of malt becoming charred, therefore, are probably quite small. Perhaps the few definitely germinated grains in the samples are grains of malt which have been dropped or spilled in handling, though they may simply be grains which have sprouted due to a damp harvest.

Baking?

The 14th-century phase of the Building IX kitchen had a roughly round oven in one corner but the charred assemblages from the floor in this period are essentially the same as in the later phase. It is perhaps possible that most of the charred remains from the 15th-century level are in fact 14th-century in origin and are associated with the round oven rather than the malting kiln. A bread oven is an obvious structure to have in a kitchen but unfortunately evidence for baking is even more difficult to prove than brewing. As with malt, one would not expect the product, i.e. the bread, to become charred except as the result of a rare accident, and then one would not expect to find the evidence since burned loaves would hardly be left in the oven. It is difficult to find a direct connection between baking and the presence of large amounts of charred whole cereal grains. Perhaps loaves were rolled in a coating of whole grains as granary loaves often are today. Reconstructions of Saxon clay ovens have shown that it was valuable, if not essential, to use a layer of grain to prevent loaves from sticking to the shelves inside the ovens.[127]

It is also possible that straw containing some unthreshed grains was used as fuel and all that survived burning was the grain. Work by Robinson and Straker comparing the survival of silica skeletons of chaff remains with charred remains from the same deposits showed that only a small amount of the chaff material was charred, while large amounts of silica skeletons of chaff were present.[128] Some of the results of this study show a ratio between silica chaff remains and charred chaff remains of several thousand to one. Even if some of grains in these assemblages also burned completely away, these results suggest that in some cases the under-representation of chaff remains in charred assemblages may be extreme. Since silica skeletons rarely survive, the degree of under-representation is usually impossible to estimate.

Conclusion

Whatever the activity that produced the charred material, it seems to have been one that was taking place during the whole period of occupation. The general character of the assemblages from all four sites appears to be very similar, with little sign of change through time. They consist chiefly of a mix of several species of cereal grains with a few legumes, some weeds, and only a few chaff fragments. This type of assemblage is familiar from other medieval sites, sometimes in rich deposits associated with oven/kiln structures, as, for example, at Stafford,[129] and sometimes more dispersed, generally in association with occupation. Even when ovens/kilns are present, the actual activity which produced the charred material is very difficult to pinpoint, as can be seen from the above discussion. Corn drying is sometimes cited,[130] but corn drying seems a most unlikely activity to be taking place in a structure such as the kitchen from Site D, where baking and malting are more likely. It also appears from documentary evidence that, although there are many medieval references to malting kilns, there are no references to corn driers, at least in England.[131] It is quite likely, of course, that there are a number of different activities which could give rise to similar-appearing assemblages, but what those activities are has yet to be clearly demonstrated.

[127] Cane and Cane, pers. comm.

[128] M. Robinson and V. Straker, 'Silica Skeletons of Macroscopic Plant Remains from Ash', in J. Renfrew (ed.), *New Light on Early Farming* (1991), 3–13.

[129] L. Moffett, 'Charred Cereals from some Ovens/Kilns in Late Saxon Stafford and the Botanical Evidence for the Pre-Burgh Economy', in J. Rackham (ed.), *Environment and Economy in Anglo-Saxon England* (CBA Research Report 89, in press).

[130] G. Jones and A. Milles, 'Charred Plant Remains', in B. Britnell, 'A 15th Century Corn-Drying Kiln from Collfryn, Llansantffraid Deddwr, Powys', *Medieval Archaeology*, xxviii (1984), 190–93.

[131] Dyer, pers. comm.

4.4 INVERTEBRATE AND WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS, by MARK ROBINSON

The buildings of the medieval grange of Dean Court lay on Oxford Clay at the foot of Wytham Hill. There were, however, periglacial deposits of gravel mixed with the clay on the lowest parts of the site.

Samples were taken for molluscs and waterlogged plant remains from a variety of contexts on the site. Unfortunately all the samples from the numerous drains, culverts and tanks proved to be barren, but successful results were obtained from some ditches at Site A (1723, 1735) and the ponds of Site D (1240, 1260, 1357/B, 1357/5/A).

The samples

1723	Grey clay with much tufa (some with impressions of deciduous tree leaf fragments) and secondary carbonate.
1735	Dark grey clay with a few tufa fragments.
1240	Grey brown slightly organic clay.
1260	Dark grey slightly organic clay with some gravel.
1357/B	Grey brown slightly organic clay.

TABLE 16. WATERLOGGED SEEDS

Waterlogged Seeds		1240	1260	1357/B	1357/5/A
Ranunculus cf. *repens* L.	creeping buttercup	–	1	28	9
R. arvensis L.	corn crowfoot	–	–	1	–
R. sceleratus L.	celery-leaved crowfoot	–	11	–	–
Coronopus squamatus (Forsk). Asch.	swine cress	–	–	1	–
Nasturtium officinale R.Br.	watercress	1	–	–	–
Hypericum sp.	St. John's wort	–	–	–	10
Silene cf. *latifolia* Poir.	white campion	–	2	–	–
Rubus fruticosus agg.	blackberry	–	7	4	1
Potentilla anserina L.	silverweed	–	–	–	1
Prunus domestica L.	plum, bullace etc	–	–	3	1
Aethusa cynapium L.	fool's parsley	–	–	1	–
Berula erecta (Huds.) Cov.	water parsnip	–	–	1	–
Apium nodiflorum (L.). Lag.	fool's watercress	6	–	–	4
Rumex sp.	dock	–	1	–	1
Urtica dioica L.	stinging nettle	5	38	92	31
cf. *Anagallis arvensis* L.	scarlet pinpernel	1	–	–	–
Myosotis sp.	forget-me-not	1	–	–	–
Hyosyamus niger L.	henbane	–	–	1	–
Solanum dylcamara L.	woody nightshade	–	1	5	7
Mentha sp.	mint	2	–	–	–
Lycopus europaeus L.	gypsy wort	2	–	–	–
Stachys sp.	woundwort	–	–	2	1
Ballota nigra L.	black horehound	–	–	–	1
Plantago major L.	great plantain	2	–	–	–
Sambucus nigra L.	elder	–	26	39	21
Anthemis cotula L.	stinking mayweed	1	–	–	–
Lapsana communis L.	nipplewort	–	–	1	–
Sonchus asper (L.) Hill	sow thistle	2	1	–	–
Alisma sp.	water plantain	17	–	–	–
Zannichellia palustris L.	horned pondweed	3	–	–	–
Juncus bufonius gp.	toad rush	–	–	–	20
J. articulatus gp.	rush	–	–	10	10
Carex sp.	sedge	–	–	3	2
Glyceria sp.	reed grass	1	–	–	–
Gramineae indet.	grass	–	–	–	3
Total		44	88	192	123

TABLE 17. OTHER WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS

Other Waterlogged Plant Remains	1240	1260	1357/B	1357/5/A
Bryophyta (moss) fragments	+	–	–	–
deciduous leaf fragments	+	–	+	+
leaf abscission pads	–	–	2	–
Rubus sp. (blackberry etc) prickle	–	1	–	–
Salix sp. (willow) bud	1	–	9	4

TABLE 18. MOLLUSCA

Mollusca	1723	1735	1240	1260	1357/B	1357/5/A
Valvata piscinalis (Müll.)	–	–	5	–	3	–
Pomatias elegans (Müll.)	1	1	–	–	–	–
Bithynia tentaculata (L.)	–	–	1	–	–	–
Carychium sp.	3	3	–	–	2	1
Lymnaea truncatula (Müll.)	2	1	–	–	–	–
Planorbis planorbis (L.)	–	–	1	–	6	2
Anisus leucostoma (Milt.)	–	–	–	–	–	2
A. vortex (L.)	–	–	3	–	3	–
Bathyomphalus contortus (L.)	–	–	1	–	12	4
Gyraulus albus (Müll.)	–	–	1	–	–	–
Succinea or *Oxyloma* sp.	1	–	–	–	–	–
Cochlicopa sp.	–	1	–	–	2	–
Vallonia costata (Müll.)	3	–	–	–	–	–
V. pulchella (Müll.)	–	–	–	–	2	1
Vallonia sp.	1	1	–	–	–	–
Punctum pygmaeum (Drap.)	1	–	–	–	–	–
Discus rotundatus (Müll.)	5	2	–	–	–	–
Arion sp.	+	+	+	+	+	+
Vitrea sp.	2	–	–	–	–	–
Oxychilus cellarius (Müll.)	–	2	–	–	–	–
Limax or *Deroceras* sp.	2	1	–	–	–	–
Cochlodina laminata (Mont.)	1	–	–	–	–	–
Clausilia bidentata (Ström)	1	–	–	–	–	–
Trichia hispida gp.	9	–	–	–	3	–
Cepaea sp.	1	–	1	–	–	–
Sphaerium sp.	–	–	1	–	–	–
Pisidium sp.	1	–	3	2	1	2
Total	34	13	16	2	34	12

100 g. of each sample was washed over onto a 0.2 mm. sieve to recover organic remains and the residue sieved over a 0.5 mm. mesh to recover those shells which had not floated. Flots and residues were sorted, the remains identified and the results listed in Tables 16–18 which give minimum numbers of individuals or record presence. Organic remains were absent from Samples 1723 and 1735. Samples 1357/B and 1357/5A also contained Trichoptera larval cases and fragments of the beetle *Hydrobius fuscipes*.

Interpretation

The fill of Ditch 1723 contained much tufa. It had perhaps been derived from water seepage at the base of the Corallian Sand further up the hillside. The Corallian Sand is a calcareous free draining deposit which overlies the Oxford Clay. The molluscs from the ditch were mostly woodland taxa such as *Discus rotundatus*, but it is possible that they had been re-deposited along with the tufa. Indeed the plant impressions from the tufa suggest that it had

formed under woodland conditions. Ditch 1735 contained a little tufa and some woodland snails. Both ditches also had smaller open country and stagnant water molluscan elements.

Pond 1240 contained shells of the flowing water molluscs *Valvata piscinalis* and *Bithynia tentaculata* suggesting that it was connected to the local stream system. The pond also produced a small assemblage of seeds from various water plants including *Apium nodiflorum* (fool's watercress), *Alisma* sp. (water plantain) and *Zannichellia palustris* (horned pondweed). There were four seeds of terrestrial plants.

The three samples from the moat or fishpond system, 1260, 1357/B and 1357/5/A were of generally similar character. Aquatic molluscs were present in all the samples, the occurrence of *Valvata piscinalis* in 1357/B again confirming a link with the stream system. There were not so many seeds of water plants as in Pond 1240 but *Ranunculus sceleratus* (celery-leaved crowfoot) probably grew on mud at the edge. The hydrophilid beetle *Hydrobius fuscipes*, which was present in two of the samples, prefers stagnant or slowly moving water with plant detritus on the bed.

These three samples contained numerous seeds of terrestrial plants, particularly *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) and *Sambucus nigra* (elder). The other seeds were also mostly from plants of waste ground such as *Ranunculus* cf. *repens* (buttercup), *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (blackberry) and *Solanum dulcamara* (woody nightshade). Buds of *Salix* sp. (willow) were perhaps from trees overhanging the water. Seeds of annual weeds of disturbed ground were almost absent, but there was a single seed of *Ranunculus arvensis* (corn crowfoot). This plant is closely associated with arable agriculture. Samples 1357/B and 1357/5/A both contained small stones of plum or bullace (*Prunus domestica*). Plum was very probably being cultivated and its fruit eaten somewhere at the grange, but it readily escapes from cultivation and is commonly observed nowadays in the vicinity of the site.

4.5 CALCAREOUS TUFA, by ADRIAN PARKER

Deposits of a tufaceous material were found in a number of the earliest gullies on Site A. In one or two cases these formed deposits up to 0.15 m. thick (Fig. 8). A sample from context 1723, the bottom fill of gully 1724, was briefly examined, and is commented upon below. Detailed analysis of this material has not yet been carried out.

Calcareous tufa describes poorly consolidated secondary deposits of almost pure calcium carbonate, which accumulates at, or near to, fresh water springs and seepages. It is most usually associated with limestone regions. Today tufa formation in the UK occurs on a very minor scale and most sites are inactive. However, tufa formation was much more widespread earlier in the Flandrian. It has been suggested that there was a marked decline in tufa deposition from around *c.* 2500 B.P., and this has been linked both to climatic change and to human disturbance.[132]

Tufa is formed primarily by the degassing of carbonate rich waters, and follows the general equation:[133]

$$Ca^{2+} + 2\ HCO_3^- \rightarrow CaCO_3 + H_2O + CO_2$$

The degassing of CO_2 is increased by turbulence, evaporation and warming. Photosynthesis by aquatic plants can assist deposition, but there are no known examples where plant photosynthesis is primarily responsible for tufa formation.

Tufa consists primarily of calcite which is usually present as crystals, either randomly orientated in an irregular ground mass or as surface-associated laminae. The crystals are usually <10 mm. and most deposits would be classified as micrites. Most deposits appear to consist primarily of microcrystalline peloidal or clotted aggregates either formed *in situ* or detrital. Laminated crusts are common and form on foreign surfaces such as twigs and leaves.

The deposits at Dean Court appear to be detrital and paludal in nature. Such deposits are generally associated with low relief accumulations formed mainly around springs. The deposit from the site is generally unconsolidated with a rich malacofauna, and also contains herb and bryophyte cushions which have become densely encrusted.

It is possible that the tufa is much older than the features in which this sediment was found during the excavations, and has been reworked and redeposited. Dr Mark Robinson, who has examined the microflora (Section 4.4), comments that the plant species indicate a very wooded environment, which is characteristic of Early Holocene (Mesolithic) tufas. Reworking is also suggested by the fact that the deposit appears to have been

[132] A.S. Goudie, H.A. Viles and A. Pentecost, 'The late-Holocene tufa decline in Europe', *The Holocene* 3, 2 (1993), 181–6.

[133] $CaCO_3$ does not precipitate instantaneously, rather CO_2 is lost initially from the solution thus: $H^+ + HCO_3^- \rightarrow H_2CO_3\ H_2O + CO_2$ The solution will be one supersaturated with $CaCO^3$ until nucleation occurs: $Ca^{2+} + CO_3^{2-}\ CaCO_3$

recemented; this tufaceous material at Dean Court varies greatly in its mode of deposition and morphology, with recemented plant crust, small oncoidal deposits, intraclast deposits and microdetrital tufa with smaller grains dominating.

The evidence for recementation is however interesting, in that this suggests renewed active tufa deposition during the active life of the ditches in the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Tufa deposition on any scale has rarely been recorded for the medieval period. A link between increased tufa deposition and periods of warm climate has been suggested,[134] and it may be significant that the 12th and early 13th centuries are generally held to mark a climatic optimum within the medieval period.

The immediate cause of the reworking and redeposition of the tufa appears likely to have been clearance on the slopes of Wytham Hill, leading to increased run off and probably erosion of the earlier tufaceous deposits. The absence of well-established plant cover at first may have encouraged further deposition of tufa, recementing the eroded deposits.

The deposition of tufa seems to have been relatively rapid for a short period (probably less than 50 years) after which it ceased. The original tufaceous deposit may have been completely eroded, or perhaps resealed, by this time. Among the possible causes for the cessation of new tufa formation, the re-establishment of plant cover at ground level and the increased intensity of human activity are likely factors. Some researchers have linked the decline of tufa deposition to increased phosphate concentrations, which can result from human and animal sewage; increased variability in sediment and flow, which may have resulted from human activities, has also been seen as unfavourable to tufa deposition.[135]

5 THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

5.1 THE MEDIEVAL HISTORICAL EVIDENCE, by JOHN BLAIR

In 1542, Dean Court Farm was a messuage of no particular status called Hill Place (see below). But for the standing remains and the excavation, we would have no clue that this had been a major manorial complex two or three centuries earlier. In view of the scarcity of medieval references (which is puzzling given the quantity of evidence from Abingdon Abbey now available in print), it is necessary to infer the context of the site from a wider consideration of the estate and its development.

A recent study concludes that Old English *denu* 'is mostly used of long, narrow valleys with two moderately steep sides and a gentle gradient along most of their length'.[136] This description suits perfectly the long, shallow valley between the slopes of Wytham Hill and Cumnor Hill, in the bottom of which Dean Court Farm stands. In the later Anglo-Saxon period this valley formed part of a huge estate, comprising the whole of Hormer Hundred, which belonged to the monastery at Abingdon.[137] By at least the 12th century the northern half of this estate, including the 'dene', was a distinct entity run from the ecclesiastical and administrative centre at Cumnor; Cumnor parish included the townships of Wytham, Seacourt, North Hinksey, South Hinksey and Wootton, and in 1189 x 1221 the *halimot* of Cumnor witnessed a grant of land at Swinford 'in tenura de Comenor'.[138] At about the same time, revenues assigned to the abbey fabric included the tithes of 'la Dene', Cumnor, Wootton and Swinford, all once again 'in tenura de Cumenore'.[139]

[134] Goudie, Viles and Pentecost, 'Tufa decline', *The Holocene* 3, 2 (1993), 181–6.

[135] Ibid.

[136] A. Cole, 'Topography, Hydrology and Place-Names in the Chalklands of Southern England: *Cumb* and *Denu*', *Nomina*, vi (1982), 73–87.

[137] *V.C.H Berks.* iv, 391–451; F.M. Stenton, *The Early History of the Abbey of Abingdon* (1913), 48; H. Edwards, *The Charters of the Early West Saxon Kingdom* (BAR British Series cxcviii, 1988), 167–8, 191. There will be a complete reassessment of the pre-Conquest evidence for the Abingdon estate in S. Kelly, *Anglo-Saxon Charters: Abingdon* (British Academy, forthcoming).

[138] J. Blair et al., 'The Early Church at Cumnor', *Oxoniensia*, liv (1989), 57–70, at 57n; *Two Cartularies of Abingdon Abbey*, eds. C.G. Slade and G. Lambrick, i (Oxford Historical Soc. n.s. xxxii, 1990), 438–9.

[139] *Chronicon Monasterii de Abingdon*, ed. J. Stevenson, ii (Rolls Ser. 2b, 1858), 329.

By the late 12th century a community of freeholders (the 'frankelani de Cumonora' mentioned in 1175 x 85)[140] had grown up in Cumnor and its dependencies, probably stimulated by opportunities for assarting on the hill-slopes flanking the 'dene'. One family took their name from the 'dene' itself, a fact which suggests that they were locally dominant. Walter de Dena witnessed a deed in 1189 x 1221, and in 1234 x 41 Walter son of Theodulf de la Dene conveyed to the abbey a 'croft at Dene called Denecroft with the assart within that croft', lying next to land already in the Abbey's direct control, together with several other blocks of land and the services from the tenement which Robert Haweles had held of him at Dene.[141] Walter also quitclaimed the land called Wodecroft, lying under Cumnor wood, which he had formerly received from the abbey.[142] In 1287/8 the abbey acquired a further carucate of land at la Dene worth 40*s*.[143]

These transactions suggest that Abingdon was systematically building up its demesne in this part of the estate by taking tenant holdings into hand. In 1242/3 the abbot was said to hold Abingdon, Barton, Cumnor, Radley, South Hinksey, North Hinksey, Botley, Swinford, 'la Dene' and Wootton in demesne,[144] a formulation which might reflect a reorganisation of the demesne around ten local grange centres within the estate. Such an arrangement could explain the building of a manorial complex at Dean Court, and it seems distinctly possible that this happened immediately after the buying-out of Walter de la Dene, the principal local freeholder, between 1234 and 1241. A date in the 1230s for the first stone house is archaeologically plausible, as is the proposition that it may have replaced a 12th-century assart farmstead.

It is clear that by the mid 13th century the name Dene was applied to the area in general, and the scattered references to individuals thereafter are not particularly informative. Apart from Matilda de la Dene, who is mentioned in the 1234 x 1241 conveyance, Richard le Dene is witness to a document concerning Chilswell dated before 1244,[145] and John atte Dene appears in the Lay Subsidy of 1328 in the vill of Chawley.[146] Adam de Dene witnesses a collation of the vicarage at Cuddesdon in 1353.[147] A vacant tenement formerly belonging to Alice atte Dene is mentioned in 1388–9, and this may have a more direct relationship to the fortunes of the settlement after the Black Death.[148]

Other references are few and enigmatic, relating entirely to a feature for which no archaeological evidence was discovered: a lost church. The abbey treasurer's account for 1375/6 shows that 'ecclesia de la Den' et terra Sancti Johannis ibidem' had been leased to a former reeve of Cumnor for the very large yearly rent of £33 6*s*. 8*d*.[149] By 1383/4 the rent, again 'de ecclesia de la Dene', had fallen to £22 4*s*. 10*d*.[150] In 1440/1 the abbey was drawing a regular income from 'rectoria de la Dene', and the first post-dissolution account, compiled in 1538, includes tithes from the rectory of 'Dencourt'.[151] The total disappearance of so valuable a church, twice dignified with the title 'rectory', is perplexing, as is the absence of any reference in earlier episcopal or other records. Clearly it cannot have been an independent parish church, and it is never listed among the chapels of Cumnor.

Both the archaeology and the fragmentary written evidence suggest an establishment whose brief importance, from the 1230s to the later 14th century, coincided with the high farming era. In origin

[140] *Two Cartularies of Abingdon*, i, 438.

[141] Ibid. i, 439, 193.

[142] Ibid. 244.

[143] Ibid. 318 (among presentations in 1361/2 for illegal acquisitions in mortmain). A carucate is a fiscal unit roughly equivalent to a hide.

[144] *Book of Fees*, ii, 862.

[145] *Two Cartularies of Abingdon*, ii, 271.

[146] Public Record Office (London), E.179/72/6. This information is derived from J.E. Oxley, *Studies in the history of Cumnor* (privately printed).

[147] Ibid. 90.

[148] *Accounts of the Obedientiars of Abingdon Abbey*, ed. R.E.G. Kirk (Camden Soc. n.s. li, 1892), 51–6 (the Gardener's Account 1388–9).

[149] Ibid. 23–4 (Rob. Carter).

[150] Ibid. 43.

[151] Ibid. 117; ministers' accounts cited *V.C.H. Berks*. iv, 404.

an assart settlement, it was equipped with grange buildings, and evidently a church, by the managers of a great demesne estate in an era of expansion. The new circumstances after the Black Death may have made the functions of these buildings redundant, condemning them to gentle decay through the 15th and 16th centuries.

5.2 THE POST-MEDIEVAL HISTORICAL EVIDENCE, by JOHN HANSON

We can trace the tenancy and estate of Dean Court Farm from the Dissolution to the present day in some detail. The vital links in the documentary record are the name of the estate or messuage, the quitrent,[152] a 1726 survey with annotations of later tenants, and an 1808 map (Fig. 99). Later tenancies are recorded by a variety of sources.

Some of the chief early records are:

1542: a charter[153] includes in the grant of Hillend tithing to Sir John Williams a messuage called Hill Place, a croft of land called Fishers, a toft called Troyes,[154] now in the tenure of Thomas Davis.

1575: a court roll[155] records the reversion of a copyhold messuage in Hill tithing called Hill Place, a croft adjacent called Fishers and a croft and cottage called Trovie. The reversion is taken by Thomas Davis, probably a son. The quitrent for Trovie 8*s*., for the rest 28*s*.

1576: an inventory[156] has survived of the goods of John Davies.[157] His assets were valued at £43, an average sum.

1577: a court roll[158] presents the death of Thomas Davis, a copyholder of a messuage and two virgates,[159] the heriot being a red cow valued at 40*s*. 2*d*. His widow is admitted to the estate according to the custom of the manor.

c. 1635: a survey[160] includes the copyhold estate of Thomas Davie, at a quitrent of 36*s*. and a valuation of £35. Reversion to William Davie.

1664: hearth tax returns[161] show William Davis[162] paying for 5 hearths.

1717: papers of administration and an inventory[163] of the goods of William Davies of Hillend, yeoman,[164] show assets of only £10 6*s*.

[152] By the post-medieval period this had become a customary payment, which no longer bore much relation to the value of the properties, and which remained unchanged over long periods of time. It is thus a very reliable indicator that a particular property is being discussed, even when the tenant has changed.

[153] Berks R.O., D/P45/3/1.

[154] 'Troyes' is surely a corruption of 'trowe' – John and Walter 'atte trowe' ('at the tree' O.E.) paid 2*s*. 4*d*. and 4*s*. 4*d*. respectively in Botley tithing in the 1327 Lay Subsidy (Berks R.O., D/EP/7/26).

[155] Bodl. MS. Berks Rolls 14.

[156] Berks R.O., D/A1/186/44A.

[157] Cumnor parish registers indicate that John Davis died soon after the baptism of several of his children, including a son Thomas. He was probably a son of the Thomas who died the following year and whom one is tempted to associate with the Thomas Davye who in 1538 'wanders about setting men by the ears'. John's inventory listed 'the hawlle', 'the Chamber over ye hawlle', 'in the chamber behind the hawle', 'in the kitchin', 'in the Buttery' and 'barne'. The poultry comprised 'henes gease and duckes'.

[158] Bodl. MS. Berks. Rolls 14.

[159] A virgate comprised roughly 30 acres and was a 'yardland' in the 17th century.

[160] Bodl. MS. Top. Oxon. c 64.

[161] P.R.O., E 179/76/460.

[162] William Davis evidently left an assign to farm his lands for one Thomas Weller paid for the 5 hearths in 1662 and at the 1665 Visitation he was 'living at Woodstock'.

[163] Berks R.O., D/A1/187/121A.

[164] Probably William baptised at Cumnor in 1651. Widow Eunice. His inventory lists hall, buttery, hall chamber, chamber over buttery, chamber over Meal house, and workhouse (the latter containing 'a vice, grindstone and the rest of his working tools').

1726: a survey of Cumnor manor[165] includes William Davis's hold of a messuage called Hill Place, close and orchard, homestall of 6 acres, Stuball close (11 acres of arable), 20 acres of arable in the common fields, 3 acres in Cumnor Mead, closes of 15 acres pasture, totalling 55 acres and valued at £40. This was also expressed as a ½ yardland in Hillend tithing and 1½ yardlands in Botley. Later notes in the margin record transfers of the estate to Busby, then John Tubb, and Freeman.

1760: Lord Abingdon's rent book[166] shows John Tubb junior taking over as rack-renter from Richard Busby. Tubb was allowed 8*s*. for 'processioning money'.[167]

1808: map[168] confirms John Tubb on site (Fig. 99).

1809: Lord Abingdon's rent book[169] enters 'John and Wm Freeman for late Jn Tubb's Hillend'.[170]

The tenancy records suggests that over the period shown the Dean Court Farm estate held no special status or prestige in Cumnor manor. The messuage seems to have been slightly larger than others in Hillend tithing but smaller than some others in Cumnor. Its lands, with a moderate degree of enclosure, were less extensive than those of eight other estates in Cumnor. Like many other estates it passed in the 18th century from yeoman's copyhold to farmer's rack-rent.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 EXTENT AND CHRONOLOGY OF SITES A TO E

In devising the excavation strategy certain assumptions were made. Principal among these was the belief that the medieval settlement was laid out alongside an existing N.–S. track, known from later maps as Titts Lane (see Figs. 98 and 99). This lane is documented in the manorial court records of the later 16th century,[171] and is connected by a deeply worn hollow way to Site E, Busby's Farm (Fig. 68), whose origins are at least as early as the late 12th century. Although there was a track leading from this site down to the Eynsham Road in the 18th century (Fig. 98), the most prominent topographical feature was the hollow way leading W., and this is therefore likely to have been the principal, and original, access to the farm. Titts Lane is thus likely to have been a medieval route linking Dean Court to Wytham, a continuation of the track (also marked on Rocque) which linked Cumnor to Dean Court.

No excavation was undertaken across the line of this track, largely because it was known that Titts Lane had been used in the post-medieval period for a narrow-gauge railway line from Wytham Hill, connected with the working of the Chawley Brick Works.[172] This

[165] Bodl. MS. Top. Oxon. c 381.

[166] Berks R.O., D/EBdE/1.

[167] Churchwardens' notes reproduced in *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica* (Bodl. MS. Gough Berks 13) show that the tenant of 'the lord's estate' was required to pay this sum on behalf of Hillend tithing during the beating of the bounds in Rogation Week. It suggests the estate's primacy in Hillend.

[168] Bodl. MS. Maps Berks c 17/13 (43).

[169] Bodl. MS. Top. Oxon. b 205.

[170] The agreement with the Freemans excluded from the estate the cottage, house and garden 'occupied by Solomon Wilkes, woodman'. Wilkes was also the local molecatcher. His premises lay to the north of Dean Court Farm, were known then as 'Busby's', and one is tempted to identify them as Trowe's toft. The croft Fishers adjacent to Dean Court Farm is evident in the 1808 map.

[171] Bodl. MS. Berks Rolls 14 (24 Elizabeth, Court Baron).

[172] I.C. Dodsworth 'The Chawley Brick and Tile Works, Cumnor', *Oxoniensia*, xli (1976), 348–53.

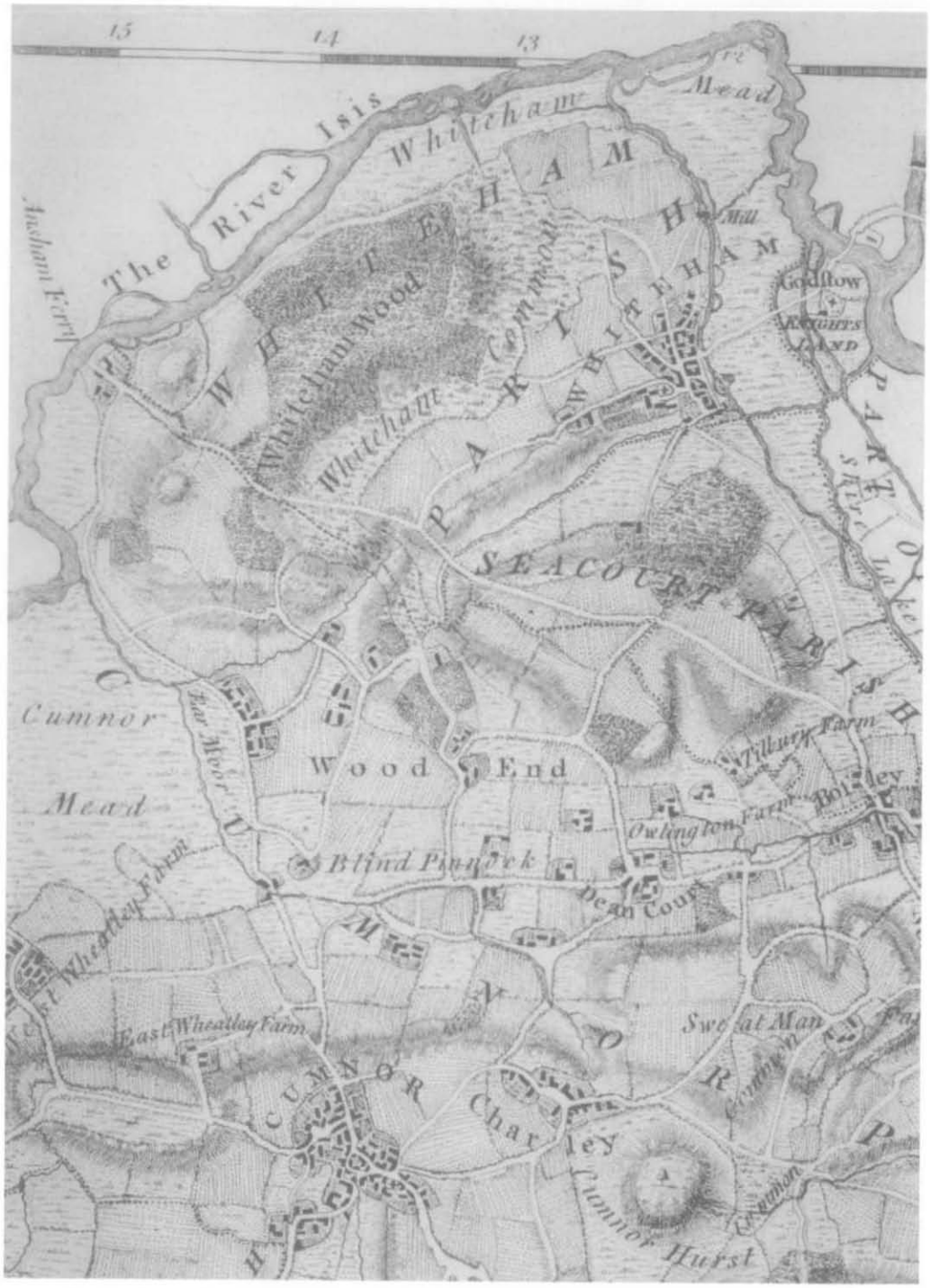

Fig. 98. Extract from Rocque's 1761 map of Berkshire (by kind permission of the Bodleian Library).

Fig. 99. Extract from the 1808 Survey of Cumnor (by kind permission of the Bodleian Library).

involved the laying of ballast all along its line, obscuring the former course and character of the lane, and it was believed that the route had been extensively scoured and made up for this. The only part of this lane observed during the development, salvage observation of a pipe-trench just S. of the former headland N. of Site D (Fig. 1), revealed only a deep deposit of gravel and some flints of post-medieval date. Nevertheless, the ditch which bounded the E. side of the arable field on Site C ran alongside this lane, and the ridge-and-furrow ran N.–S. parallel to its line, showing that a boundary, if not a lane, was in existence along this line before the 14th century. The access to Site C in the 14th century must have been on the E. side, strongly suggesting that there was a lane here.

A second lane shown on Rocque (Fig. 98), which ran E.–W. along the S. side of Sites B and D to Blind Pinnocks Green, is also believed to be medieval in origin. This lane is parallel to the alignment of the moat seen along the S. side of Site D. Whereas the current Eynsham Road, which was constructed in the early 19th century,[173] cuts through medieval buildings in the S. part of Site B, the old road lay further to the S., and was parallel to the line of late medieval buildings on Site B and to the main grange buildings on Site D. This lane passes Nobles Farm and Denman's Farm, both of which may be of medieval origin; Richard le Noble is listed under the tithing of Le Hulle in the Lay Subsidy of 1327 and John Denneman is mentioned in a deed of 1352.[174] A cottage called Nobles was certainly in existence in Hill tithing by 1540,[175] and Thomas Denman is listed as a landholder and taxpayer in 1544.[176]

Site A

The limits of the settlement at Site A were found by excavation on the S., S.W. and N.E. It is evident from air photographs that ridge-and-furrow cultivation extended almost to the excavated limit of Site A on the S. side (Fig. 2), and excavation on Site C demonstrated that this cultivation was of 13th-century date, contemporary with the occupation of Site A. To the N. excavation after topsoil stripping for the Cumnor by-pass was limited to the end of Building I, but there were no further stone buildings or large soil features visible N. or N.W. of this. Thus the settlement appears to have covered an area *c.* 40 m. from north to south.

To the W. the stone walls of the projecting wing at the S. end of Building I were observed in the churned-up surface of the by-pass after topsoil stripping, but were not recorded. No further stonework was seen W. or S.W. of this, though less obvious soil features may have been present in this area. The W. boundary of the field of ridge-and-furrow running up to the site on the S. side lies 15–20 m. W. of the excavated limits of Building I (see Fig. 1), and this may also mark the W. limit of the medieval occupation.

On the E. side geophysical survey suggested the possibility of another stone building E. or N.E. of Building III (Fig. 34). In this direction the boundary of the site is uncertain, though it is argued above that it did not extend beyond Titts Lane, some 30 m. away.

The pottery would suggest that Site A spans the period from the late 12th to the very early 14th century. While it is just possible that a focus of earlier settlement existed E. or W. of the excavated area, the absence of pottery earlier than the late 12th century from either the excavation or the salvage areas strongly suggests that the settlement was established at this date. This proposition is strengthened

[173] W.J. Hanson, *A History of Botley* (privately printed, 1992), 32.

[174] J.E. Oxley, *Studies in the history of Cumnor* (privately printed), 11–12.

[175] Ibid. 22, from a tax list dated *c.* 1544.

[176] Ibid. Appendix 1 – Transcript of a survey of Cumnor made for the Court of Augmentations by Lionel Woodward, P.R.O., SC.6/Henry VII/109, mm.25–6.

by the tufa deposited in the earliest gullies on the site, a process which it is thought may have followed closely upon the first major alterations to the drainage system, such as initial clearance of a site, and have ceased once human occupation was well-established (see Section 4.5).

The date of the earliest pottery also accords with that of the earliest documentary record of the site in *c.* 1180 A.D., though this of course only demonstrates that a farm was already in existence by this time (see Section 5.1). In the early 13th century there is also mention of recent assarting by Theodolphus de la Dene, and it is therefore suggested that this settlement was established as an assarted homestead in the latter half of the 12th century A.D.

No buildings earlier than the second quarter of the 13th century were found (unless the slight traces of narrow stone walling and the 3 postholes below Building I belong to such a building), but the pottery from the first phase features which predate the buildings indicated a domestic focus close by. The only unexcavated stone building on this site was that suggested by geophysical survey E. of Buildings II and III. Because of the number of ditches of both the late 12th and early or mid 13th century running E. from the limits of the excavation straight for the site of this fourth possible building, it is much more likely that any building in this position dates, like Building III, from late in the 13th century than that it predated the other stone buildings. It is therefore likely that the earliest domestic buildings on Site A were either of timber, as at Seacourt,[177] or, like those of 13th-century date on Site B, of clay or similar material. Where the focus of the late 12th-century occupation lay is not clear from the distribution of finds or features within the excavated area.

The abandonment of Site A is dated by the pottery to the very early 14th century. While it is conceivable that occupation continued after this date outside the excavated area, the absence of even a single feature of later date within the large area examined makes this seem unlikely. The quantity of pottery of the latest phases is in fact very small, perhaps indicating that full-scale occupation had already ceased in the late 13th century.

Site B

The negative earthwork of the enclosing ditch on the N. and W. sides of Site B, which was surrounded by E.–W. ridge-and-furrow, was assumed to represent the limits of this site for the purposes of excavation. Approximately half of the area enclosed by this in the S.E. corner of the field was stripped, but the ditch itself was only investigated in one place, and was not bottomed. The N.–S. ditches of the earliest phase, dating within the first half of the 13th century, were felt to be too close to the earthwork enclosure ditch to have been contemporary with it, so that the earthwork enclosure was not dug until the late 13th or early 14th century at the earliest. It was however clear from the excavation that, apart from boundary ditches, the 13th-century occupation did not extend beyond the excavated area on the N., nor were any features of this date observed in the ditch section to the S. that revealed Building XIV.

The earthwork boundary ditch precedes, and is contemporary with, the surrounding E.–W. ridge-and-furrow, since there was no sign of this within the enclosed area. The ridge-and-furrow is parallel to the S. boundary of the field of known medieval date around and beneath Site C, though it is not known how long this boundary remained in use, except that it had gone by the mid 18th century (see Fig. 98). The ditch is believed to date from the 14th or 15th century, since the enclosure boundary ditch on Site B runs just outside the W. end of Building IV W, which was constructed in the early 14th century and was in ruins by the beginning of the 16th century. The excavated areas suggest that the whole site was abandoned during, if not before, the 16th century.

The enclosure was still in existence in the mid 18th century, when Rocque's map was compiled (Fig. 98), and it is possible that the enclosure ditch was dug after the site was largely abandoned, perhaps reusing one building as a barn or animal shelter-shed. If it was only created at this late date, it is

[177] M. Biddle, 'The deserted medieval village of Seacourt, Berkshire', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961/1962), 71 and 96–8.

difficult to see why the ruined buildings were not properly cleared and levelled. Rocque's map appears to show a building aligned N.–S. along the E. side of this enclosure, but no trace of this was found at the E. end of the excavated area, nor any finds to suggest occupation at this late date. Possibly this 'building' results from an error when the map was drawn up, and was really a willow-lined pond, which still existed in 1984.

The site of this pond was visible as two separate land parcels on the survey of Cumnor of 1808 (Fig. 99). Titts Lane on post-medieval maps curved E. to avoid this pond, but probably formerly ran due S. along its line, and formed the E. boundary of Site B. The cobbled surface between Buildings IV and V, which probably formed the main access to the site, leads towards the position of the pond, and so the pond postdates the occupation.

On the W. a causeway leading from the enclosure into the field to the W. was visible some way S. of Building V (Fig. 1), but there were no earthwork traces of further buildings in the field outside, and nothing was indicated by the resistivity survey in this area. It is assumed that the enclosure ditch formed the limit of late medieval occupation in this direction. The extent of earlier, 13th-century, occupation to the W. was not investigated, but the negative evidence of the resistivity survey perhaps suggests that this too was not extensive.

Site C

Site C was created by encroaching upon the E. edge of the arable field S. of Site A. The limits of the toft to the N. and S. are clear, and it is argued above that Titts Lane formed a boundary only a little way to the E. It is interesting that no formal boundary existed on the W., though the series of pits on this side delineate the edge of the occupied area. This perhaps suggests that these pits were dug and refilled rapidly, as indeed the fills would indicate, reverting to cultivation thereafter. Beyond the ditch on the S. side of the toft the geophysical survey located significant anomalies that might indicate further buildings and other features alongside Titts Lane, perhaps a further encroaching toft between Sites C and B. With the exception of a linear anomaly on the very E. edge of the survey area at J (Fig. 35), these anomalies were not however as concentrated as those on Site C, and may simply represent isolated pits. J may indicate a cobbled path or road due S. of Building VIII.

The pottery from the ridge-and-furrow which extends below occupation on Site C suggests a date at the very end of the 13th century, and this encroachment is dated in the pottery report to the first quarter of the 14th century. The presence of a number of highly decorated jugs, which are usually dated to the later 13th century, in the large ditch assemblages from the site, has raised a potential problem with the chronology. These vessels may have been curated, but Mellor does not favour this hypothesis. Given the very low level of other pre-14th-century material, however, residuality seems unlikely. Possibly occupation began earlier (see Section 3.2); most of the sherds from the ridge-and-furrow came from outside the toft, and may represent contemporary cultivation alongside.

The abandonment can be securely dated to the 14th century, and the evidence favours a date around the middle of the century rather than much later. It is tempting to associate this site with the tenement of Alice atte Dene, which is mentioned in the abbey records as 'vacant' in 1388–9 (see Documentary Report above).[178]

Site D

Site D was both less extensively and less intensively investigated than Site A. The limits of the site are defined on the W. by Titts Lane and on the S. and E. by the surrounding moat and boundary wall. The northern limit is taken to be the headland at the lower end of the ridge-and-furrow E. of Titts

[178] *Accounts of the Obedientiars of Abingdon Abbey*, ed. R.E.G. Kirk (Camden Soc. n.s. li, 1892), 52.

Lane (see Fig. 2), although no trace of medieval occupation was noted N. of the Kitchen and Building XII.

The central third of this site, stretching from Titts Lane on the W. to the moat on the E. was intensively, although selectively, investigated and contained Buildings IX–XIII. To the N. no traces of any stone structure or any medieval artefacts were recovered from the new housing development and it seems likely that this area was open in the medieval period as it remained throughout post-medieval times. To the S. no trace of medieval activity was found beneath the post-medieval barn due S. of the Hall, but substantial areas of the moated enclosure were not investigated, notably in the S.E. corner beneath 106 Eynsham Road. The area S.W. of the Dovecote was similarly not investigated. It is therefore possible that other medieval buildings remain to be discovered, particularly around the southern perimeter of the site.

The construction of the earliest building investigated on Site D, Building XI, is not dated, but both Building IX and Building X which abut it appear to have been built in the very late 13th or more likely the first quarter of the 14th century. The construction of Building IX is linked stratigraphically to that of Building XII by the drain which ran between them, and the pottery from Building XII also indicates construction in the very late 13th or early 14th century. Building XII appears also to have been built at the same time that the moat was dug, and the little pottery from elsewhere in the moat also confirms its use during the 14th century.

The evidence points to one phase of construction for both the moated enclosure and the buildings within it. Only 2 sherds of earlier medieval pottery were recovered from the whole of Site D and these could easily have been derived from the neighbouring Site B, where occupation was established from the early 13th century.

It is possible that evidence of earlier occupation was in part destroyed by the digging of the moat and ponds, and in part masked by upcast from the moat and by other levelling material such as the limestone commonly found in make-up layers. It is even conceivable that this limestone could have come from earlier buildings demolished in an early 14th-century rebuilding. But the limestones found in the make-up did not include any shaped or dressed blocks or any trace of mortar. Furthermore the make-up was not ubiquitous on Site D, but occurred mainly in the areas where undisturbed subsoil or gravel was deepest, as if filling in hollows and depressions rather than raising the general ground level.

Site D lay right at the bottom of the valley, and although the construction of the moat and ponds will have increased the volume of water around this site, the high level of the water table makes it very unlikely that a sealed occupation horizon lay at any depth below the excavated 14th-century floor levels. The 13th-century occupation levels on Site B adjacent were no lower than those of the 14th century on Site D.

For these reasons, the occupation of Site D is believed to have begun at the very end of the 13th century, with a construction programme that involved both the moat and at least three domestic buildings. Such a level of investment on a virgin site strongly suggests that this site can be equated with the abbey's principal messuage at Dean Court, the grange, which was let later in the 14th century to Robert Carter for a very high rent (see Section 5.1). The later name of the site, Hill Place, also suggests that this was the most important property within the medieval tithing of 'La Hulle'.

From the limited dating recovered, Building XV to the E. of the moated enclosure was occupied in the 14th and 15th centuries. There is no evidence that this area was occupied before the construction of the grange on Site D. No further buildings were observed immediately E. or N.E. of this, but the extent of occupation on this site was not firmly established.

Site E

Site E is shown on Rocque's map of 1761 (Fig. 98), but is not easily identified as a separate holding in the 1726 survey of Cumnor.[179] This property was later called Busby's Farm, and Hanson has suggested that, since Robert Busby held Dean Court Farm in the mid 18th century, the farm later known as

[179] Bodl. MS. Top. Oxon. c 381.

Busby's still belonged to Dean Court Farm until later in that century.[180] The buildings of Busby's Farm are still described as 'Keeper's Lodge' in the 1808 survey of Cumnor (Fig. 99). The pottery from the very small-scale excavation has indicated medieval occupation on the same site from the later 12th century until at least the early 14th century. One stone wall was uncovered, which was dated to the late 13th century.[181]

The extent of the medieval occupation is not known, but on the S. it did not appear to extend S. of the by-pass, as no medieval finds or features were recovered from the Thames Water pipeline which ran along the S. boundary fence of the Cumnor by-pass. The fields immediately N. of the by-pass were walked to look for finds, but no medieval pottery or other finds were recovered, suggesting that the approximate position of the northern archaeological trench (Fig. 68) was close to the limit of occupation in this direction.

Like Site A, Site E lay on the spring line at the junction of the Corallian sand and the underlying Oxford Clay, and was probably in origin an assarted settlement of the same period. Although only a few sherds of the late medieval period were found, it is possible that this site was continuously occupied from the 12th century until abandonment in the 20th century. The absence of this property from the documentary record in the early post-medieval period suggests that it was subsidiary to Site D.

Conclusion

The date of origin of Site D coincides with the date of abandonment of Site A. In his documentary report Dr Blair has suggested that there was a grange at Dean Court by 1242, and on the basis of the excavated evidence this can only be equated with Site A. The logical corollary is that the site of the grange shifted at the end of the 13th century, and Site D replaced Site A as the grange at Dean Court.

6.2 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES OF THE GRANGE BUILDINGS

A total of fourteen buildings, some of more than one phase, were at least partly excavated across the whole site. A variety of construction materials and techniques is represented: masonry, both mortared and clay-bonded; timber-framing, both on dwarf stone walls and on stone platforms; and clay-walling.

Masonry buildings

The majority of the buildings had foundations of stone, and in most cases, quite apart from the standing Solar (Building X), something of the walls survived above foundation level to indicate the nature of their superstructure. Well-dressed mortared stonework survived in Buildings II, XI and XII, clay-bonded walling in Buildings I, IV, VIII, IX, XIII and XIV. An entirely pragmatic approach was adopted towards the use of foundations. Thus Buildings II and III on Site A were built on shallow foundations where the walls overlay undisturbed gravel, and on wider and much deeper foundations where the buildings overlay earlier ditches. The same is true of Building VIII on Site C. More substantial foundations were generally provided for the later grange buildings, though much variability is evident within and between individual buildings, e.g. Building IX and Building XII.

[180] Hanson, *History of Botley*, 28.
[181] T.G.Allen, 'Cumnor: Dean Court Farm', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xv, 94.

The width of the foundations and the walls of all of these buildings, and in some cases also the accompanying rubble spreads, suggested that these buildings were built of stone up to the top of the ground floor at the least. Buildings III and XV were not well-preserved, but in its later phase Building XV was surrounded by spreads of large rubble, and Building III had deep stone foundations at the W. end, and was so similar both in overall size and width of foundation to Building II as to suggest that, like Building II, Building III was also built of stone.

On other medieval sites, such as those in Oxford, stone sleeper walls were used not only to carry timber-framing, but also at the bottoms of walls of clay lump, cob and its variants; these walls, however, were generally of similar width to those carrying timber ground-sills, 0.3–0.5 m., and not substantially wider like the walls at Dean Court Farm.[182]

Stone was used for buildings of seigniorial status on rural sites in the 12th century in this region, for instance at the Mount House, Witney, and Middleton Stoney,[183] but was not widely adopted as a building material on rural sites until the mid 13th century. A recently published survey of surviving medieval houses in the Vale of White Horse has identified several stone halls or chambers of early 13th-century date, but only one dating before A.D. 1200.[184] All of these buildings are large and of manorial or ecclesiastical status. A later 12th-century stone building, House C, was excavated at Copt Hay, Tetsworth, Oxon., but stone was not adopted at the deserted village of Seacourt until the early to mid 13th century or at the moated manor at Hardings Field, Chalgrove, until towards the mid 13th century.[185]

This dating matches that for the appearance of stone buildings from rural excavations across the country, for instance late 12th to 13th century at the manorial complex at West Cotton, Raunds, Northants, but mid 13th century at Hound Tor, Devon and mid 13th century at Burton Dassett, Warwickshire.[186] In the urban context stone was being used a little earlier, since stone buildings are documented in the 1190s.[187] Excavations in St. Aldates, Oxford, have produced stone tenement buildings of the late 12th or early 13th century and at the Hamel, Oxford, stone buildings date from the early to mid 13th century.

Building XV in its original medieval form may have had dwarf stone walls, though the excavated evidence is not clear. The width of the walls varied, as little as 0.5 m. on the N. and S. and 0.65 m. on the E. These measurements may indicate dwarf walls with either a cob or a timber-framed superstructure. In its second, post-medieval, phase it is suggested that this was stone-walled up to eaves level, but the varying width and alignment of sections of the wall suggests that the stone walling was infilling between load-bearing structural timbers, a characteristic of cruck construction.[188] Crucks are common on the smaller medieval houses in the Vale of the White Horse from the 14th century.[189]

[182] A possible example of such a stone footing for a cob wall, dated to the early 13th century, was excavated at St. Aldates, Oxford, and was 0.5–0.6 m. wide. M. Robinson, 'Excavations at 83 St. Aldates' in B.G. Durham, 'Archaeological investigations at St. Aldates, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), 83–203.

[183] B.G. Durham, 'Witney: Mount House and Mount Mills: residence of the bishops of Winchester', *South Midlands Archaeology*, 15 (1985), 113–15; S. Rahtz and T. Rowley, *Middleton Stoney: excavation and survey in a North Oxfordshire parish 1970–1982* (Oxf. Univ. Dept. for Ext. Stud., 1984).

[184] C.R.J. Currie, 'Larger Medieval houses in the Vale of White Horse', *Oxoniensia*, lvii (1992), 81–244.

[185] M. Robinson, 'Excavations at Copt Hay, Tetsworth, Oxon.', *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii (1973), 41–115; Biddle 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961/2), 70–201; P. Page with S. Smithson and H.D. Baker, *Excavations at the site of the medieval moated manor at Hardings Field, Chalgrove, Oxon.* (forthcoming). Mellor has suggested (see Section 3.2) that the date of Period II at Seacourt should be placed in the first half of the 13th century, not in the mid 13th century. At Chalgrove a short length of stone footing of earlier date may indicate that stone buildings were present here in the late 12th/early 13th century, but the introduction of the use of stone generally remains mid 13th century.

[186] D. Windell, A. Chapman and J. Woodiwiss, *From barrows to bypass: excavations at West Cotton, Raunds, Northamptonshire 1985–1989*, Northamptonshire County Council (1990); G. Beresford, 'Three deserted medieval settlements on Dartmoor: a report on the late Marie Winter's excavations', *Medieval Archaeology*, xxiii (1979), 98–158; N. Palmer, *Burton Dassett Southend, Warwickshire: a medieval market village*, forthcoming.

[187] J. Munby, pers. comm.

[188] S. Wrathmell, 'Domestic settlement 2: medieval peasant farmsteads', in *Wharram. A study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds* (Research Project Monograph VI, York University Archaeological Publications 8, 1989).

[189] Currie, 'Larger medieval houses', *Oxoniensia*, lvii (1992), 97.

Timber-framed buildings

Timber-framed buildings are indicated on Site B both by dwarf walls only 0.35–0.4 m. wide in Building V and by a rectangular cobbled platform 5 by 2.75 m., the last phase of Building VI. In Building V the narrow stone walls were straight but were not mortared, and clearly could not have stood to any great height. The highest surviving stones, large blocks at the corners, were level with one another, and the stone wall may never have been any higher, timber sills resting upon a stone sleeper wall only 0.18 m. high. This building was of 15th-century date. Buildings with narrow stone walls assumed to have acted as plinths for timber-framing have been excavated in Oxford at both the Hamel and St. Aldates.[190] At the Hamel stone walls were common in the 13th century, timber-framing only becoming more prevalent in the later 14th century; the picture is less clear in St. Aldates, but the 14th and 15th centuries again provided the best evidence for stone plinths for timber buildings. The example from Dean Court Farm thus fits the general pattern of development in the region for this type of building construction.

Buildings represented only by cobbled floors, as is the case with Building VI, are common enough in the Roman and post-medieval periods,[191] but few examples of medieval date are known from excavations. In this period timber ground-sills were usually placed directly upon the ground, or were bedded in slots. It appears unlikely that the stone platform 517 could have been entirely internal, with the timber sills up against its edges, since the platform is abutted by further cobbling 542 on the E. side. It is of course possible that the platform was simply an area of external hard-standing raised slightly above the contemporary ground surface, without a covering structure, but its exact correspondence to the clay-walled building beneath argues otherwise.

The date assigned to the use of this structure is later 14th to mid 15th century. A few sherds of 16th- or 17th-century pottery were found upon layer 538, but these sherds were not from that part of the layer beneath the stone platform, and need not indicate a later date for this building. Occupation on Site B appears to have ended by the mid 16th century and a later date for Building VI would be entirely anomalous. This structure should be seen as an outbuilding overlying part of the earlier clay-walled structure and as such not necessarily following current building practice for larger structures.

Clay or cob-walled buildings

Beneath the stone-built phase of Building IV were a series of floor and occupation deposits bordered by bands of blue-grey clay 0.3–0.5 m. wide. The preferred interpretation of these is clay walls of a building, similar to the cob building of 12th- and early 13th-century date found in Wallingford preserved beneath a rampart of the castle. The walls of the Wallingford building were 0.45 m. wide, and survived up to 1.5 m. high.[192] Another excavated cob building was found in the first phase of the moated manor at Hardings Field, Chalgrove, dating to the late 12th or early 13th century, and the stubs of cob walls were also found at the former Halls Brewery in Oxford.[193] A

[190] N. Palmer, 'A Beaker burial and medieval tenements in The Hamel, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), 124–225; B. Durham 'Archaeological Investigations in St. Aldates, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), 83–203.

[191] For the post-medieval period see for example D.C. Mynard and R.J. Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford, 1974–80* (Buckinghamshire Archaeological Monograph Series 3, 1992), 80–2 and Fig. 30. Here Croft J: Building 23 was represented by a rectangular raft of cobbles 6.3 by 3.75 m., dated to the 17th century.

[192] The site was excavated by Robert Carr in 1972, but these excavations have not yet been published. For a photograph of the building and a brief summary see J. and S. Dewey, *The Book of Wallingford* (1977), 36 and 38. The dating of this building has since been revised, and on the basis of the pottery it is now believed to have been in use from the mid 13th century, and sealed in the 14th century (M. Mellor, pers. comm.).

[193] Page and others, *Hardings Field, Chalgrove* (forthcoming). The cob building, Building P, was without foundations, and was 7 m. wide and at least 10.5 m. long. The Halls Brewery structures were internally 3 m. wide. These structures will be published in M. Roberts, 'A tenement of Roger of Cumnor and other investigations in medieval North Osney, Oxford' in a future volume of *Oxoniensia*.

long-standing local tradition of the use of cob is evident from cob walls still standing in Dorchester-on-Thames today. A tradition of similar construction is evident in the area of Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire, where 'witchert', a mixture of mud and straw, was used in 13th- to 14th-century buildings.[194]

Some of the clay bands at Dean Court directly underlay stone walls or the edges of stone platforms, and it is just possible that these clay bands were rammed foundations for stone buildings. The clay bands were not however precisely aligned with the overlying stone walls, and the absence of construction trench edges, and the spreading of the clay deposits in places, suggests upstanding walls rather than foundations. Moreover, stone-saving foundations are not known elsewhere in this region in the medieval period, and in other areas the material used is normally gravel 'hoggin'.

Conclusions

The wide variety of constructional techniques found within the settlement may appear surprising, but a recent survey of surviving medieval buildings in the Vale of White Horse has revealed a similar diversity across the region,[195] and this conclusion is also supported by excavations (albeit limited) in the area. It is unclear whether or not this diversity is a direct corollary of the high survival of medieval buildings in this area, or reflects the varied geology and environment of the region.

6.3 THE LAYOUT AND FUNCTION OF THE BUILDINGS

The buildings can be divided into the following functional categories: domestic (Buildings I, IV, VIII, IX, X, XI, XIV and probably also XV); barns and sheds (Buildings II, III, perhaps IV W, V, VI and XII in its post-medieval phase); specialised (e.g. the dovecote Building XIII); and unknown (e.g. Building XII in its medieval phase).

Site C

At the lower end of the scale is the one-roomed cottage Building VIII in Site C (Fig. 25). This measured 4.5 by 3.0 m. internally, giving a floor area of 13.5 sq. m. There was no permanent fireplace, although initially a fire appears to have been lit in the N.E. corner; later there is some evidence to suggest an internal partition dividing a southern room 3 m. square from a smaller lobby at the N. end. The building was presumably roofed with thatch. This building belongs to the smallest of the three types of peasant houses suggested by Hurst and Beresford's classification, the peasant cot.[196] These buildings average about 5 by 3.5 m. internally, and this example is smaller than most, and smaller than any of the buildings excavated at Seacourt nearby. Allowing for the access to the yard on its N. side, Building VIII fills the space between the boundary ditches of its toft, strongly suggesting that there were no other associated buildings on this property.

[194] F.H. Parry and G.M. Knocker, 'The Mount, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire', *Records of Buckinghamshire*, xvi (1961), 131–78.

[195] Currie, 'Larger medieval houses', *Oxoniensia*, lvii (1992), 81–244.

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

Site B

The domestic buildings on Site B were Buildings IV and VI. No contemporary enclosing structure was identified around the large stone hearth 621 dated to the early 13th century (see Section 2.2 Phase 1 and Fig. 18). Most likely the hearth predated the clay-walled building and was external. It is conceivable that this hearth continued in use into Phase 2, but the clay walls of Building VI so closely surround it as to have been impractical as anything other than a fireback, yet none of these walls were at all burnt.

Building IV developed from a single stone rectangle to a range during the 14th and early 15th centuries. The room at the W. end, which was the first to be built in stone, measured 7.7 by nearly 4 m. internally, and had no made floor (Fig. 19 Phase 3). The W. wall lay adjacent to the inner lip of the surrounding enclosure ditch, though the stratigraphic relationship between these was not established. This wall was entirely robbed out. Access to this building was by a door 1.25 m. wide in the centre of the S. wall, which was marked by a stone threshold; there may have been a corresponding doorway in the N. wall, now robbed out. There were no internal features except for a small pit in the N.W. corner.

The range added onto this consisted of a large and a small room or more likely of three approximately square rooms of side 3.75 m. (Fig. 19 Phase 4); the misalignment of the walls on either side of the modern sewer suggests that they may have been added in two stages rather than all at once. The westernmost of the additional rooms contained a central hearth and at least one corner oven and was probably a kitchen. The central room had a bench at the E. end, and was divided from the E. room by a stone partition wall with a door at the N. end. The E. room had a partially flagged floor.

At the 14th-century medieval settlement at West Cotton, Raunds, the largest room in each farmstead enclosure was a clay-floored rectangle with opposed entrances in the middle of the long sides, of similar dimensions to the W. room in Building IV.[197] At West Cotton these buildings are interpreted as domestic 'halls'. In one case the 'hall' was connected to the adjoining range by an entrance at the end, but the majority were independent of these, and as at Dean Court Farm were entered from the outside. The principal stone buildings of the 13th century at Burton Dassett Southend were similar, though from the early 14th century onwards 'halls' were often incorporated within a longer range of rooms.[198]

At West Cotton the domestic buildings of farmsteads A, B and E comprised a stone range 15–16 m. long in addition to the 'hall', made up of three rooms one of which is interpreted as a kitchen. These farmsteads are closely comparable to the arrangement of buildings on Site B. By the 15th century the farms at Burton Dassett also commonly had domestic ranges *c.* 20 m. in length, made up of at least 3 rooms including a 'hall'.

While the similarities to the farmsteads at West Cotton are evident, the interpretation of the principal rooms as domestic 'halls' is not beyond question. At West Cotton it is noticeable that by this interpretation there were no large storage structures associated with 4 of the 5 farms. At Dean Court the lack of occupation deposits, and of a hearth, upon the floor of the W. room of Building IV casts doubts upon its use as a domestic building. The narrowness of the doorway precludes interpretation as a byre or barn, unless a wider entrance existed in the robbed W. end, but it is still possible that it served as a store for produce and farm equipment. At both West Cotton and Burton Dassett simple rectangles of stone, smaller than the W. room at Dean Court, also existed within some of the farms, and at Burton Dassett these are interpreted as barns. At this latter site most of the fully excavated tofts included a barn or granary.

The fact that this was the first building on Site B to be constructed in stone does not preclude an agricultural function, since barn Building II on Site A was of better quality than domestic Building I, and barns were commonly the first buildings to be constructed in stone. Nevertheless, it is possible that further agricultural buildings earlier than Building V existed S. of the cobbled access road on Site B, and that the building range N. of the road was entirely domestic in character.

[197] Windell, Chapman and Woodiwiss, *From barrows to bypass*, 34–9.

[198] N. Palmer, *Burton Dassett Southend, Warwickshire: a medieval market village* (forthcoming).

At Burton Dassett small walled annexes were found on the sides of several of the houses, similar to that on the N.W. corner of Building IV, and these were interpreted as stair-bases to an upper floor or loft.[199] There were no internal supports for an upper floor within the W. part of Building IV, but in a building of this narrow width the E. end of an upper floor need have been supported only by a principal joist.

Site A

The domestic accommodation on Site A, Building I, was altogether more sophisticated (Figs. 7 and 100). This building was constructed in the first half of the 13th century, before the general introduction of stone for rural farmsteads either locally or in England as a whole.[200] Although in its first phase the N.–S. range consisted of a house and byre, the wall at the N. end of the house was probably not sufficiently massive to have acted as a gable end-wall, and both house and byre are seen as parts of a single structure. By this interpretation Building I was laid out from the start as an L-shaped block with a N.–S. length of over 23 m. and a W. wing at least 6 m. in length. At both the N. and S. ends the foundations of the gable end walls were 1 m. thick, and the side walls were correspondingly massive and set in shallow foundation trenches for a distance of 5–6 m. at either end (Fig. 7). A buttress was built at the S.E. corner adjacent to the outfall of the drain, and the S. (and downhill end) wall was later buttressed by three further stone piers, showing that the stone walls were carried up to a considerable height.

Discounting the byre at the N. end, the internal dimensions of the N.–S. block were 15.4 by 4.5 m., giving an area of just under 70 sq. m., and the W. wing was 2.9 by at least 6 m., an area of at least 18 sq. m. The N.–S. block contained a large hearth close to the N. wall, and is interpreted as the main living room or 'hall'. It may have been divided 4.5 m. from the S. end, where a short stub of wall projected from the E. side on the line of the later partition walls. The W. wing had an open drain running along the E. wall, but contained no other internal features except for a cobbled area running down the middle of the long axis. It was entered by a door in the N. wall.

It is unclear whether the two wings were originally connected internally; the presence of a possible 'porch' in the angle between the wings perhaps suggests not, and that there was originally a door into the hall at this point. This porch is not however entirely convincing, since it does not extend over the doorway into the W. wing, and it may simply have been a lean-to. Later on a pebbled path was laid down the middle of the W. wing, and this was in line with the band of cobbling overlying the drain in the N.–S. block, perhaps suggesting a connecting door on this line.

The main N.–S. range was later altered, a room *c.* 4.5 m. square being divided off by partition walls at the S. end. This was entered by a central doorway with a threshold. This 'inner room' or chamber is apparently a common feature in the S.W. in the late 13th and early 14th centuries, and such rooms are evident at Burton Dassett at the same period.[201] The inner room was normally unheated, but at Dean Court Farm there is some evidence for the occasional use of a brazier in the latest phase of use.

A stone platform in the S.W. corner of the main living room up against the new partition wall is interpreted as the base for a wooden stair leading to an upper room entered from a platform above the doorway into the inner room. The width of this platform, plus the absence of stone in the corner of the room, makes interpretation as a bench unlikely. The presence of a permanent stair in Building I would strengthen the likelihood that this was a genuine first floor room rather than simply a loft in the

[199] Ibid.

[200] Currie, 'Larger Medieval houses', *Oxoniensia*, lvii (1992), 163–7, has recently redated the origin of the surviving wing at Charney Bassett to the early 13th century. Closer to Dean Court, the surviving west range of Hyde Farm House, Marcham, which is of similar width to Building I, is dated to the later 13th or early 14th century, ibid. 167–71. Both of these buildings are however assumed to have been constructed by the seignorial initiative of Abingdon Abbey.

[201] Palmer, *Burton Dassett Southend*.

attic. The partition walls forming the N. side of the ground floor inner room are not wide enough to suggest that they extended above a single storey in stone, if as high as that, and thus could not have represented a heightening of the S. end of the building for a second storey. The building should be envisaged as having two storeys in its original form, and was sub-divided and floored over at first-floor level at the S. end later on. The byre at the N. end may have been divided from the living room by a party wall right up to the gable, but was more likely planked over at first-floor level and open to the hall above this, the upper area being used either for storage or for sleeping.

Internal stairs are present in high-status buildings from the 12th century, but stairs, and indeed upper floors, are not found in peasant houses before the late medieval period, and are rare even then.[202] This, combined with the early date for stone construction and the large size of the accommodation, suggests that Building I did not belong to a peasant farmstead.

Whether or not there was an inner room in the original N.–S. block, the hearth was not central to the main living area, but was very much at one end. This is reminiscent of the 'hearth-passage' plan which was common towards the end of the medieval period, in which the main hearth lay up against the wall of the cross-passage at the lower end of the living area.[203] This type of plan is suggested to have been in use in Area 6 at Wharram Percy, and the origins of this type are traced back into the 14th century.[204] At Dean Court Farm the original hearth was cut through by a later wall forming a cross-passage, but the site of a probable replacement hearth was just to the S., again close to the end of the 'hall' in hearth-passage position. At this site this arrangement can be dated to the second half of the 13th century.

The wall inserted at the N. end of the 'hall' was not at right angles to the main axis of the building, but appears to represent a compromise between the alignment of Building I and barn Building II. It is possible that this represented a shortening of Building I, the infilled byre being a separate building, but the fact that the external cobbling on the E. side does not extend into the gap between this new wall and the S. wall of the byre, and that this area is floored with soil, strongly suggests that this area remained internal. The new wall is therefore interpreted as creating a cross-passage within the existing building.

The byre at the N. end was enclosed, probably at the same time, creating a plan with symmetrical rooms at the N. and S. ends with a rectangular hall and cross-passage in between. No internal features were present in the N. room. It is uncertain whether this is genuine or merely the result of poor survival; the W. and N. walls at this uphill end of the building only survived one course high. Access to this room may have been via a central doorway opposite to that into the S. room, but this lay outside the excavated area. No break in the cross-passage wall was evident, and any doorway would have been across the continuous wall foundation.

The altered plan contains the basic elements of the classic manorial layout, a hall with private rooms at one end and cross-passage at the other with service room beyond. Because of the lack of internal features it is difficult to ascribe functions to any of the rooms. There was no kitchen identified within the domestic range, either in the original layout or in the enlarged second phase. Kitchens were often separate buildings at this period, but, although a stone wall was observed returning S. from the W. wing, no substantial stone buildings are believed to have existed outside the excavation to the W. If a separate kitchen existed, it must have been of timber, but no hearths, ovens or other indications of burning were found to support this suggestion. The open drain in the W. wing might indicate a kitchen, but there was equally no evidence of hearths in this room, and it is more likely that cooking was carried out on the hearth in the main living room. This might also help explain the position of the hearth at the lower end of the living area, since its primary role was connected with food preparation rather than simply warming the living space as in a manorial hall.

[202] C. Dyer, 'English peasant buildings in the Later Middle Ages (1200–1500)', *Medieval Archaeology*, xxx (1986), 19–45.

[203] Wrathmell, 'Domestic settlement' in *Wharram* (York Univ. Archaeol. Publ. 8, 1988); J. Chapelot and R. Fossier, *The Village and House in the Middle Ages* (1985).

[204] Wrathmell, 'Domestic settlement', in *Wharram* (York Univ. Archaeol. Publ. 8, 1988), 13–14.

The small walled enclosure added to the S. side of the W. wing is of uncertain function. It was too shallow to have been a garderobe and lacked the characteristic fill. Similar enclosures were found at Great Linford in Buildings 16 and 30, but no satisfactory alternative explanations were offered.[205] This structure might have been a pigsty, but with internal dimensions of only 1.4 m. by 1.2 m. maximum was rather small even for this.

Building I is restored as a two-storey building with stone walls a full storey high, at least at the gable ends, and with stone or timber-framing above that. The walls are slighter in the middle, possibly indicating that these were only dwarf walls for a timber-framed superstructure between the gable ends at ground floor as well as first-floor level. Given however that the stone walls in this area were not supporting an upper floor, and were bolstered by more substantial walling at either end, the walls may have been of equal height throughout. A late medieval building of just this type still survives in the neighbouring village of North Hinksey.[206]

Buildings II and III were simple rectangles of very similar proportions: Building II was 19.2 by 6.2 m. wide externally, Building III was 18.5 by 7.0 m. externally (Fig. 15). Neither had subdivisions and both are interpreted as barns or other storage structures. A little of the wall of Building II survived above foundation level; this was constructed of well-dressed blocks cemented with a lime mortar, and was 0.58 m. wide. Since the buildings otherwise only survived to foundation level, there was no evidence for entrances in either building.

Three surviving medieval stone barns from estates belonging to Abingdon Abbey have been discussed by Bond: Calcott's Barn, Shippon (15th century) is 19 by 7 m., Tadmarton Manor Barn (also 15th century) is 22 by 9 m. and Northcourt Barn (possibly 13th century) is 23 m. long (width not given).[207] All measurements are external. He notes that all are small in comparison with the surviving barns of other abbeys, but the late 14th-century rectorial tithe-barn at Enstone, belonging to the Benedictine community at Winchcombe, was hardly larger, 22.6 by 7.8 m. internally.[208] The barns from Dean Court are earlier than the Shippon example, to which they are closest in size, but are of a similar order of size to all these. Another barn belonging to Abingdon Abbey at Cumnor, still known as Tithe Barn, is also partly medieval. This was a much larger barn, originally at least 25 m. long, and perhaps as much as 17 m. wide.[209]

Site D

A full picture of the domestic accommodation on the later grange was not recovered, but in the early 14th century this comprised at least three stone buildings: Building XI, Building IX, Building X, and probably also Building XII. These are described as Hall, Kitchen and 'Solar' or chamber block respectively; the function of Building XII is uncertain.

The hall was 5.2 m. wide and 17.6 m. long internally, with a corridor 1 m. wide at the W. end (Fig. 38). An inner room at the E. end 3.2 m. wide was divided off by a stone partition wall early in the use of the building, reducing the length of the main living room to just over 11 m. The main room was refloored with clay on several occasions, and the numerous burnt patches recorded in the E.–W. section across the E. half of this room suggest a shifting central hearth, probably indicating that this room was open to the roof.

The occupation deposits which accumulated upon each successive floor included much table refuse, supporting the view that this room was where most meals were eaten; at some stage a stone bench was

[205] Mynard and Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford*, 70–2 and 90–1.

[206] Hanson, *History of Botley*.

[207] C.J. Bond, 'The reconstruction of the medieval landscape; the estates of Abingdon Abbey', *Landscape History*, i (1979), 65–8.

[208] C. Platt, *The Monastic Grange in Medieval England* (1969), 204–05.

[209] E. Impey, 'The origins and development of non-conventual monastic dependencies in England and Normandy 1000–1350' (D.Phil. thesis, Univ. of Oxford, 1991), II, 49.

added running the full length of the E. wall and along part of the S. wall. The character of the floors was different in the trench towards the W. end, but the sequence was broadly similar, and the differences may simply have been due to varying wear within one room, rather than indicating another partition somewhere beneath the later farmhouse kitchen range. In contrast to the main living room there was no trace of a fire and little occupation debris upon the small part of the floor exposed in the inner room: this is characteristic of the parlours of late medieval houses.[210]

The lines of stonework found at the W. end of the main living room contemporary with the earliest excavated deposits cannot be fully understood from the limited area exposed, but they may be internal features or related to the levelling up for the construction of the buildings, like some of the stonework in Buildings IX and XII, rather than earlier walls beneath the hall.

The walls of the hall were of varying thickness, the E. gable end wall being 1 m. thick, the S. wall *c.* 0.8 m. wide and the N. wall only 0.65 m. thick. More than half of the N. wall was abutted by the kitchen, and the E. end of the S. wall by the solar, Building X. The extra thickness of the gable walls is unremarkable, and mirrors the construction of the early grange domestic building, Building I. The additional thickness of the S. wall in comparison to the N. wall may relate to the fact that this was the front of the hall and so the side carrying the principal windows; the principal facade of medieval buildings was often of greater thickness for this very reason.[211] Alternatively, the N. wall may have been of slighter build because it was to be buttressed by the kitchen and rear boundary wall; for, although the E. wall of the kitchen abutted the hall, it seems unlikely that the hall functioned for long without the kitchen.

The solar block also abutted the hall, and the evidence of the *in situ* medieval window suggests that this too was added soon after the construction of the hall, in the early 14th century. The ground-floor room may have been an undercroft. As was usually the case, it was entered from the outside by a door at the N. end of the W. wall, in the angle between the buildings. There may also have been a connecting doorway in the uninvestigated central part of the S. wall of the hall, though in view of the external entrance this is unlikely. It is not clear how access to the upper floor was obtained, whether by an external stair or via an internal stair from the hall. The drain exiting from the S. wall might indicate the storing of liquids in the undercroft; perhaps this was the buttery, which is mentioned in an inventory of 1576 and was situated below a chamber according to a second inventory of 1717 (Section 5.2).

The presence of a two-storey stone solar strongly suggests that the hall, which it abutted, was also two storeys high. There was thus probably a first floor room over the inner room at the E. end of the hall, or at least a boarded first floor loft. The arrangement of rooms, and indeed the dimensions of the hall and solar, are therefore similar to those of the early grange domestic building, Building I (Fig. 100), though it is not certain that the W. wing of Building I had two storeys.

The area occupied by the kitchen was approximately square, measuring 6.85 by 6.6 m. internally, but was divided by a central E.–W. drain into two (Figs. 48, 50 and 54). The N. part seems always to have been divided off by a stone wall which formed the N. side of the drain, enclosing a rectangular area only 2.4 m. wide. This contained ovens at the E. end and a hearth against the N. wall, and was floored with clay or mortar. By contrast the later levels of the S. half were cobbled.

While the E. wall of the kitchen ran S. to abut the hall wall, no corresponding wall was found within the trench S. of the drain on the W. side. It is possible that the E. wall S. of the drain was demolished when the drain was infilled and the stone tanks and cobbled floors were inserted; cobbling certainly extended over the W. edge of the stone pier supporting the drain arch on the S. side. The area S. of the drain may therefore have been an external yard between a rectangular kitchen and the hall.

On the other hand the pier supporting the drain capstone was only present at foundation level, and the cobbling did not continue across the line of the wall further S., which may not have been demolished until a later date. This pier was also very massively constructed if intended to support only a yard wall and in such a case it is unlikely that the external corner of the building on the E. side

[210] J.M. Steane, *The Archaeology of Medieval England and Wales* (1985), 195.
[211] J.T. Smith, 'The Buildings: a commentary', in Mynard and Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford*, 121.

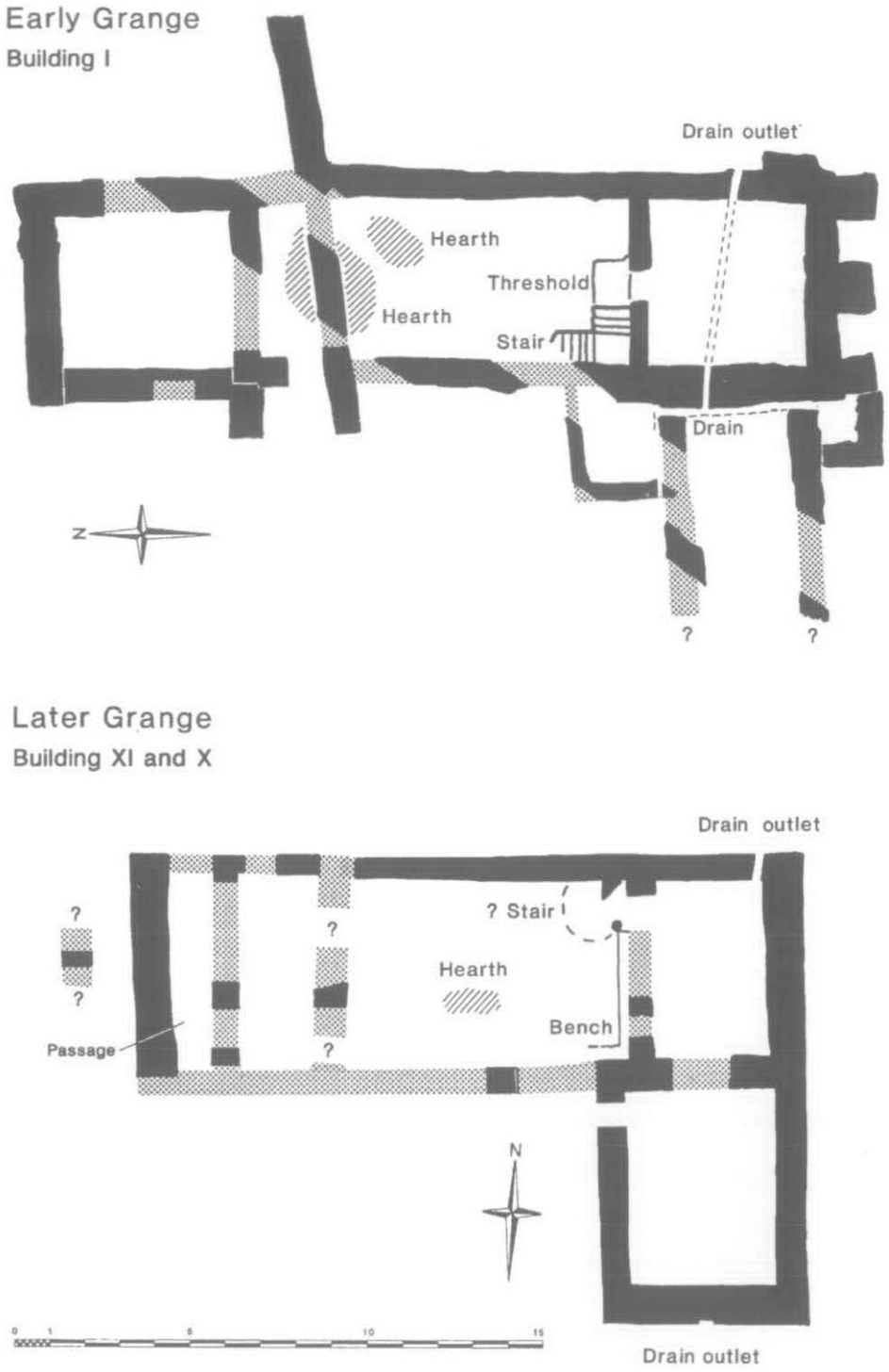

Fig. 100. Comparison of the early and the later grange domestic buildings.

would have been built to incorporate part of the capstone of the E.–W. drain, rather than putting the drain further away. The same argument applies to the E.–W. wall just N. of the drain and the stone tanks inserted in the second phase of the building. The insertion of the tanks removed at least half of the width of the E.–W. wall, and, although the N. edge of the tanks corresponded to the S. edge of the former wall, which could therefore have been rebuilt, it seems unlikely that an external wall should have been demolished to insert the tanks, which could perfectly well have been positioned further S. The dividing E.–W. wall was, therefore, only a dwarf wall and not load-bearing.

In the S. part of the kitchen areas of intense burning on the exterior of the hall wall show that there were two hearths in regular use up against this, and although some excavators have claimed that much cooking was done on hearths outside, or covered only by lean-tos as at Northolt Manor,[212] given the British climate it seems more likely that in this case the hearths were under cover. The whole kitchen area is therefore interpreted as roofed. Kitchens are often square in this period, and commonly have drains running through them.[213] There would presumably have been a lean-to pentice extending W. from the kitchen wall as far as the entrance to the hall at its W. end.

Space for preparation of food was extremely limited in the N. part of the kitchen area. In the first phase there was potentially room in the N.E. corner or at the W. end and in the last phase it is possible that the W. end was used for this purpose. In the second phase, however, neither of these was available. Because of this, it is likely that tables or other work surfaces would have been situated S. of the drain, or possibly at the lower end of the hall. It is possible that the dividing E.–W. wall just N. of the drain and later tanks functioned as a counter, especially in the later phases. One of the functions of this wall was to protect the N. part of the kitchen from water splashed from the drain or tanks, while the cobbling on the S. side suggests that this was the area in which wet operations were generally performed.

The N. part of the Kitchen was surrounded by upstanding walls on the W., N. and E. sides, and at the E. end of the S. wall. Unless, therefore, a door was set someway up one of the walls, access to this part of the Kitchen was presumably from the S.W. over the Phase 1 drain.

The E.–W. drain and later tanks could have been crossed by planks. In Phases 2 and 3 the walls of the W. tank extended above the floor levels on both the N. and the S., so that it is unlikely that access was over this tank. In the later stages it was most probably via the cobbling and open drain just E. of the larger tank, which probably had a removable plank cover.

The original drain was of very sizeable proportions, implying that there was a considerable flow of water through it. By contrast, the design of the later stone tanks, with their very shallow connecting grooves and shallow outlet drain, suggest a slow flow of little volume. Although the V-profiled channel seems rather elaborate for this, and the walls of the W. tank at least continued above the level of the adjacent floor, the volume of flow must have been governed by the capacity of the exit drain, which was small. The very shallow groove between the tanks, and the position of the exit drain right at the top of the E. tank wall, show that the tanks would have been full of water up to this level. The upstanding tank walls must therefore have been to prevent overflowing.

The shallow exit sluice would have made it impossible to clean the tanks by flushing the water out, which suggests that these tanks were not commonly used for dirty jobs such as washing carcasses. Instead a slow trickle of water to the tanks, which overflowed from W. to E., would have kept the water fresh and oxygenated, ideal for keeping fish alive, while the shallow sluice and exit drain would have prevented fish from escaping from the tanks. There is documentary evidence from the 16th century at the manor of Wookey in Somerset for the use of stone tanks to keep fish fresh for the table;[214] the Dean Court Farm tanks appear to be a very close parallel for this description, and the first excavated

[212] J.G. Hurst, 'The kitchen area of Northolt Manor', *Medieval Archaeology*, v (1961), 211–99.

[213] M. Wood, *The English Medieval House* (1965), 247–56; M. Wood, 'Domestic Architecture in the 13th century', *Archaeological Journal*, cv Supplement (1950).

[214] Devon R.O. (Exeter), Rolle papers 96M/Box 4/5 (Survey of the Manor of Wookey 1557–58). Transcript supplied by Joan Hasler, Wookey Local History Group: 'oon close yarde wythe water ronnyng throughte and walled aboute wythe 2 stone trowes for to kepe and water fyshe in yt..'.

examples of this practice. The redesigning of the kitchen in the late 14th or early 15th century to incorporate these tanks demonstrates the importance of fish in the diet of the inhabitants, and thus of the fishponds in the farming establishment.

The insertion of a square oven or malting kiln into the N. part of the building suggests that the kitchen also functioned as a bake-and-brew house. Such malting kilns are common on Northamptonshire sites such as West Cotton.[215] The charred plant remains did not provide confirmatory evidence of this (Section 4.3), but charred deposits in association with such structures rarely do. It is possible that the tanks were also used in the brewing process to soak the grain prior to malting. Alternatively, the large circular pit at the W. end of the kitchen N. of the tanks may have held a wooden tub or tank for this purpose.

This pit was clearly secondary because it cuts a deposit of charcoal up against the W. wall, but the charcoal is not a thick deposit, and the pit may have been dug very soon after the kitchen came into use. In the early stages of the kitchen's use, before the drain was replaced by the tanks, water may have been drawn from the drain and the tub used for washing in the kitchen. The uneven surface of the stone infilling of the pit perhaps indicates that this part of the building was not walked upon thereafter, and may have been covered by a replacement structure above ground level. Large quantities of stone rubble were found at the W. end of the building over the infilling of this feature, all of which may have derived from wall collapse, but some may instead have related to internal stone supports.

A hearth in the centre of the N. wall of the kitchen was a constant feature throughout the life of the building. It is possible that this became a wall fireplace when the malting kiln was inserted, the arm of the kiln abutting the fireplace doubling as one side of the chimney. On the W. no clear chimney support was seen, but again the mass of stone rubble could have derived in part from this.

Large numbers of ceramic roof tiles were found in the destruction layers of this building, perhaps suggesting that it was roofed with tile. Included amongst these were ridge tiles, which may indicate that the kitchen had a gabled roof with a N.–S. ridge rather than a single pitch continuing the slope of the roof of the Hall. The ridge tile may alternatively have come from the hall when it was demolished to make way for the farmhouse in the early 17th century. It is likely that for safety reasons the kitchen was also roofed with tiles.

Building XII was 5.75–6.0 m. wide and at least 13.5–14.0 m. long internally (Fig. 56). Wall 1585 in Trench 21 suggests that this is part of a longer N.–S. range. The cross-walls at both the N. and S. ends are not at right angles to those of the long axis of the building. At the N. end the internal angle is 97°, at the S. end 105°. Buildings with walls that are not at right angles to one another are not uncommon on medieval sites; there are timber-framed examples of 14th-century date at The Cottage, Aston Tirrold and The Priory, Steventon, and a stone example at Seacourt nearby.[216] At Burton Dassett Southend stone buildings built in the corners of plot boundaries have internal angles greater than 90 degrees, but at West Cotton there were no such obvious constraints to explain a stone parallelogram in Tenement A,[217] and there are similarly no obvious explanations for the shape of Building XII.

The middle E.–W. cross-wall was at right angles to the long axis, dividing a main room *c.* 9.5 m. long from a small S. room from 2.5 m. to perhaps 4 m. wide. The fact that the foundations of the S. room abut this E.–W. wall perhaps indicates that the building was modified and extended southwards during construction. The floor of the main room was of clay, with a covered drain running centrally down the long axis of the building. The upstanding wall surviving at the S.E. corner was of mortared ashlar, indicating that this building was of high status. Outside the W. wall a mortar surface was found; this could have been spill from the construction, but may alternatively indicate a further room or rooms linking this building to the hall building, Building XI.

The presence of a drain along the centre of the long axis does not imply a byre, since this drain was

[215] D. Windell, 'West Cotton', *South Midlands Archaeology*, xviii (1988), 51–59.

[216] Currie, 'Larger Medieval Houses', *Oxoniensia*, lvii (1992), 105 Fig. 2 and 189–190 Fig. 29; Biddle, 'Seacourt', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961/2), 109–111 Area 11 Fig. 13.

[217] Palmer, *Burton Dassett Southend* (forthcoming); Windell, Chapman and Woodiwiss *From barrows to bypass*, 36 Fig. 27.

deep and was covered, and was probably more to do with the need for cross-site drainage than the function of the building itself; similar closed drains crossed both Building I and Building II on Site A. The floor is also unsuitable for such a use. Given that this was the widest building within the later grange complex, and that it lay close to the other domestic buildings, a related function is more likely. If the halls at West Cotton are correctly interpreted, since Building XII is the widest building within the later grange complex this may possibly have functioned as a 'hall' or building for the public functions of the grange.[218] The dimensions of Building XI, here called the 'hall', do not match those of halls on other granges of Abingdon Abbey, being more similar to the attached chamber blocks, whose measurements (30 feet by 16 feet or 9.1 by 4.85 m. at Sutton Courtenay) appear to be replicated very closely on a number of granges belonging to different abbeys.[219] It is therefore possible that Building XI was not a 'hall'.

Nevertheless, the same objections to the identification of Building XII as a hall are relevant as were raised for Building IV W on Site B, in particular the absence of occupation debris upon the floor. Possibly the floor of Building XII was of stone flags and has been robbed, since numerous make-up layers were noted in the S.E. corner, but no floor surfaces. Other interpretations of the building are however equally possible. The church of St. John has not been located, and if this refers not to a church but a chapel, this could have been situated within this building. The overall orientation of the building is N.–S., but a room at one end might have been used for this purpose. Alternatively, Building XII might have been a barn or other storage structure, since no other storage buildings were found on Site D during the excavations.

The circular dovecote, Building XIII, had an external diameter of 7.9 m. maximum and originally had an internal diameter of *c.* 5 m., later reduced to 3.6 m. (Figs. 65 and 66). The walls were thus originally between 1.3 and 1.6 m. thick. The circular type of dovecote with stone walls is generally considered the most common medieval type, and it has been suggested that the more massive the walls, the earlier the dovecote.[220] The dovecote at Dean Court Farm is only dateable from the pottery broadly to the 14th century, but the walls are particularly thick, similar to the early 14th-century example at Kinwarton, Worcestershire, and the excavated pair (dated 13th to 15th century) at Bradwell Bury, Milton Keynes;[221] those at Minster Lovell and Duns Tew, Oxon., which are narrower, are also later.[222] The additional thickening at Dean Court in the later phase is probably due to rebuilding after a partial collapse without total reconstruction, not related to the general construction practice at a later medieval date.

The thickness of the walls was in part due to the fact that the 'boulins' or nest-boxes were constructed within the thickness of the walls; at Minster Lovell, Oxon., for example, these are constructed of flat limestone slabs.[223] None of these survived at Dean Court Farm, but the number of nesting holes can be estimated approximately from the surviving example at Kinwarton, which is of very similar dimensions. This had 570 nest-holes, slightly above the average of 500 given by Andrews.[224] Since many of the larger dovecotes are also the later post-medieval examples, the dovecote at Dean Court was probably towards the larger end of the range. There is some suggestion that the size of the dovecote may be linked to the status of the settlement possessing it.

[218] Windell, Chapman and Woodiwiss *From barrows to bypass*, 34–8.

[219] Platt, *Monastic Grange*, 37–9. But according to Currie 'Larger medieval houses', *Oxoniensia*, lvii (1992), 164–6, the chamber at Charney Bassett is now dated to the early 13th century, and may possibly have been over 13 m. in length in its original form.

[220] C.J. Bond, 'The Estates of Evesham Abbey: a preliminary survey of their medieval topography', *Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers*, iv (1973), 20–30; H.C. Andrews, 'Dovecotes', *Transactions of the East Hertfordshire Archaeological Society*, 3 pt. iii (1907), 297–303.

[221] Bond, 'Estates of Evesham Abbey', *Vale of Evesham Hist. Soc. Research Papers*, iv (1973), 22–6; 'Bradwell Bury, Bradwell', CBA Group 9 *Newsletter*, vi, 49–51 and Fig. 13.

[222] C.J. Bond, 'Notes on dovecotes at Manor Farm, Minster Lovell and Duns Tew Manor', Council for British Archaeology Group 9 *Newsletter*, 8 (1978), 72–5.

[223] Ibid.

[224] Andrews, 'Dovecotes' *Trans. of the E. Herts Archaeol. Soc.*, 3 pt. iii (1907), 297–303.

Dovecotes are limited to manorial and ecclesiastical sites in the medieval period; this seignorial privilege is understandable when it is realised that a pair of pigeons may consume as much as 4 bushels of grain in a year.[225] Dovecotes are documented on a number of the estates of Abingdon Abbey, although in only one other case, at Marcham, does the dovecote still survive.[226] The Treasurers' Account 1383–4 contains an account of expenditure for the materials, scaffolding and construction of a dovecote made in a tenement within the town of Abingdon, using stone brought from Cumnor, and this is also a likely source for the stone used at Dean Court.[227] This account shows that Abingdon Abbey was constructing dovecotes on a variety of types of property in the 14th century, but no dimensions are given for this structure.

Little can be said of Building XV. In its medieval phase it was of the order of 4 m. wide internally, similar to Building IV on Site B, and from the domestic material recovered was probably a peasant house of similar length and character. The post-medieval phase was considerably narrower (2.7 m), and despite the absence of cobbled flooring may have functioned as a byre.

6.4 THE MOAT AND FISHPONDS

The dating of the moat

Much of the E. side and part at least of the S. side of Site D were bounded by a flat-bottomed, water-filled ditch 5 m. or more in width, which falls within the usual definition of a moat.[228] In his essay on moated sites Taylor draws a distinction between moats and fishponds, but more recently Bond and Chambers have argued that the complementary distribution of moats and fishponds in modern Oxfordshire suggests that moats also functioned as fishponds.[229] In this case, the evidence for flowing water in the water-filled features and the provision of tanks in the kitchen area strongly suggest use as fishponds, while the position of the grange buildings and the presence of a substantial accompanying boundary or precinct wall also indicate that the water-filled ditches constituted a moat.

The limited dating evidence suggests that the moat was contemporary with the construction of Building XII in the late 13th or early 14th century, and was already silting up in the late 14th century. The date of construction of the moat thus falls into the peak period of moat construction in England.[230] It is not certain when it fell out of use, but in 1542, when Dean Court Farm was in the tenure of Thomas Davis, there was no mention of a moat, though 'a croft of land called Fishers' lay adjacent to the farm,[231] perhaps suggesting that while the moat and fishponds had already disappeared, the memory of these was still fairly fresh. The name Fishers, attached to 'a croft of land adjacent to the farm', also appears in a court roll of 1575, but not thereafter.[232]

[225] Bond, 'Estates of Evesham Abbey', *Vale of Evesham Hist. Soc. Research Papers*, iv (1973), 20–2.

[226] Idem, 'The reconstruction of the medieval landscape; the estates of Abingdon Abbey', *Landscape History*, i (1979), 59–75 and Table 1.

[227] *Accounts of the Obedientiars of Abingdon Abbey*, ed. R.E.G. Kirk (Camden Soc. n.s. li, 1892), 47.

[228] F.A. Aberg, 'Introduction', in F.A. Aberg (ed.), *'Medieval Moated Sites'*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report 17 (1978), 1–4; C.C. Taylor 'Moated sites: their definition, form, and classification', in ibid. 5–13.

[229] Taylor, 'Moated sites'; C.J. Bond and R.A. Chambers, 'Oxfordshire Fishponds', in M. Aston (ed.), *Medieval Fish, Fisheries and Fishponds in England* (BAR British Series clxxxii (ii) (1988), 353–70.

[230] H.E. Jean le Patourel, 'Documentary Evidence', in Aberg (ed.), *Medieval Moated Sites*, 21–8 and Fig. 8.

[231] Berks R.O., D/P 45/3/1.

[232] Bodl. MS. Berks. Rolls 14.

The operation of the moat and ponds

The belated recognition of the moat at the site and the consequent small scale investigation of the water-filled features means that understanding of the extent and operation of the moat and possible fishponds is limited. At its N. end the precinct wall was surrounded by water on both sides, the W. limit of the moat probably being some 10 m. further W., in line with the E. wall of Building XII, whose foundations appear to have formed the W. side of the moat at this point. The short length of wall running E.–W. across the end of the precinct wall (Fig. 61) suggests the presence of a sluice gate to control the flow of water between the broader and narrower parts of the moat. The greater width of the moat alongside Building XII is unusual, but may be explained by the dual purpose of the moat as fishpond. Just N. of Building XII the moat may have narrowed again, as immediately E. of its line only N.–S. ditches were seen, the moat or fishpond apparently lying further to the E.

As is usually the case, the moat was fed by an active stream, evident from the presence of aquatic molluscs characteristic of flowing water. The source of this stream almost certainly rose along the spring line at the junction of the Oxford and the Corallian Limestone, and probably adjacent to Site A, since the deposits of tufa in the early ditches on this site indicate a spring close by. Rocque's map of 1761 shows a stream running E. from a boundary N. of the farm down to meet the Thames at Botley (Fig. 98). This stream was not the spring which rose at Busby's Farm, as this is clearly shown on Rocque's map following a different course further to the N.E., and the most plausible interpretation of this map is that this was another stream rising close to Site A, which ran down the slope adjacent to the N.–S. Titts Lane and then turned E. towards the valley bottom down to the Thames.

It is not clear how far N. the moat on the E. side of the grange extended. Aerial photographs taken in 1984 (Fig. 2) show that the area N. of the excavated buildings on Site D was occupied by a small paddock bounded on the N. by a headland alongside a ditch, the S. edge of a former field of ridge-and-furrow. An 1808 survey of Cumnor carried out for the Earl of Abingdon marks this boundary, and between this and the farmhouse shows a small close called Homestead (Fig. 99).[233] Although elements of the open field system survived in Botley tithing until the beginning of the 19th century,[234] it is very unlikely that the ridge-and-furrow cultivation N. of the close only began in the latter half of the 18th century and that the headland was only created after Rocque's map was drawn. The stream course marked on Rocque's map can therefore be equated with the boundary on the S. side of the headland.

It is possible that this was a post-medieval alteration of the course of the stream, but it is more likely that the headland and the stream course alongside originated in the medieval period. In his recently published history of Botley John Hanson has argued that the boundary between the medieval tithings of Hill End and Botley, which ran down the Titts Lane between Sites A and E and continued up the track to Cumnor to the S., was amended in the 14th century to incorporate the new siting of the grange, and included both the farm and the close to the N.[235]

On the W. side Site D and Site B were divided by Titts Lane, which is believed to be medieval in origin, linking Cumnor to Wytham. At its S. end it curved eastwards, avoiding a small parcel of land at the S.E. corner of Site B, which was also marked on Rocque's map of

[233] Bodl. MS. Maps Berks. c17/13 (43).
[234] Hanson, *History of Botley*, 19.
[235] Ibid. 2.

1761 (Fig. 98). This parcel was until 1984 the site of a shallow pond lined with ancient pollarded willows.

N. of this pond and E. of Titts Lane no moat was found, but several possible N.–S. channels containing similar clay fill to that of the moat were observed in salvage, running S. into a large area of clay silting containing aquatic molluscs of flowing water, indicating a pond fed by a stream (Section 2.5 Site D the Ponds Trench 37). On the S.E. side this pond is bordered by a stone retaining wall. This pond is, however, not dated. A few metres E. of this was a second pond, and this is shown on the 1887 O.S. map;[236] this was also lined with stone at the S.E. corner. This second pond is not shown on earlier maps, though since streams are also not marked except on Rocque this is probably not significant. Indeed, probable pond fills were observed during rebuilding beneath the N. wall of the adjacent store and shelter shed built between 1808 and 1887 W. of the farmhouse, suggesting that this second pond was active and was larger at an earlier date in the 19th century. Several sherds of late 15th- or early 16th-century pottery were recovered from the lowest excavated fills of the pond, but these may have been redeposited.

There were thus two ponds in close proximity N.W. of the farm buildings, and a third alongside Site B less than 50 m. to the S.W. While it is possible that none of these were contemporary with one another, and that they were all dug successively in the post-medieval period, this seems inherently unlikely. There is the further question of the source of the water serving the kitchen drain and later stone tanks, which came from the N.W. corner of Building IX. Since flowing water was entering the more westerly of the ponds N.W. of the farm, there must also have been water exiting from it. It is very unlikely that this would have crossed Titts Lane towards the S. or W., so it must have exited either to the E. or S.E. If contemporary with the moat, this pond could thus have fed into the kitchen or into the southern arm of the moat, or possibly into both.

While it is just possible that the kitchen area was supplied by an unobserved channel led from the E. side of the moat, it is suggested that one at least of the ponds N.W. of the farm was of medieval origin, fed probably by the very same stream originating close to Site A, and was linked either directly or via the kitchen drain to the moat. The grange at Dean Court was thus enclosed by a combination of moat, stream and ponds, and is therefore an example of a partially moated site.

The western pond was *c.* 20 m. E.–W., the eastern one *c.* 28 m. E.–W., and while the exact N. and S. limits are not known it is unlikely that they were much larger in this dimension. Single ponds such as these are known in relation to moated sites at Barford St. Michael and Barford St. John, Oxon., and groups of ponds of the 14th century in association with a moat at Cuxham Manor, Oxon.[237] Both ponds may not have been dug at the same time, since the general pattern of fishpond development appears to be of gradual addition rather than complex systems planned *ab initio*.[238]

Two alternatives for the water system seem plausible. The stream running down from the vicinity of Site A may have turned E. along the S. side of the headland N. of the Homestead close, as it appears to have done in the 18th century, and have been connected to the E. side of the moat, enclosing the close within the moated area, and resulting in an approximately square enclosure of nearly 1 hectare in area surrounded by water (Fig. 101). Alternatively, the stream may have continued S. alongside Titts Lane and fed into the western pond,

[236] 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map 1887, Berkshire sheet VI.
[237] Bond and Chambers, 'Oxfordshire Fishponds', in Aston (ed.), *Medieval Fish, Fisheries and Fishponds*, 362–3.
[238] R.A. Chambers and M. Gray, 'The excavation of fishponds', in ibid. 122.

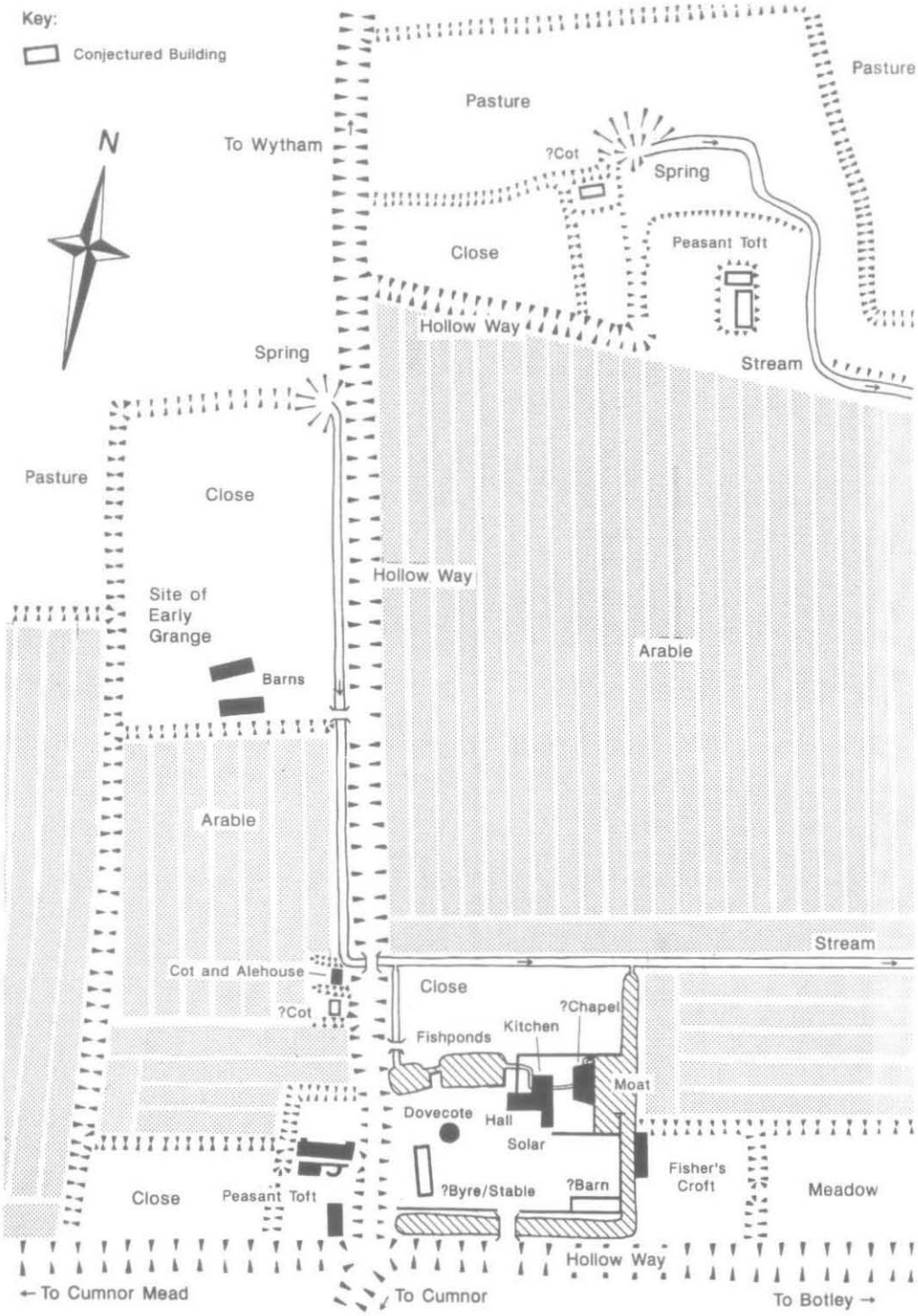

Fig. 101. Reconstruction of the later grange and surrounding sites.

which fed via the kitchen into the moat. In this case the E. arm of the moat may not have extended very much N. beyond the limits of Trench 42 (see Fig. 37), and will only have been just over half a hectare in extent.

It is possible that the stream fed both into the western pond and into the E. arm of the moat. The kitchen and Building XII certainly extended N. of the ponds and the drain linking them to the moat, and no medieval boundary between these and the close to the N. was found in the excavations, perhaps suggesting that the effective boundaries of the site should be sought N. of the close. No intermediate N. boundary for the moated enclosure was observed in drainage trenches N. of the excavation of the kitchen, though the close was not monitored closely enough during development to be certain that no return for the moat existed further N. within it.

The upcast from the moat and ponds

The construction of the moat and pond or ponds on the E. must have generated a considerable volume of spoil. At a conservative estimate, assuming that the moat only ran along part of the E. and S. sides of Site D, there would have been nearly 300 cu. m. of clay and gravel. If the moat enclosed the larger area, this would have approached 500 cu. m. The spoil from the western pond will have amounted to at least 100 cu. m., that from the deeper pond perhaps another 500 cu. m. again.

The spoil from digging a moat was commonly dumped on the enclosed area to raise the ground level.[239] Assuming that both ponds were dug in the 14th century, and the enclosed area was one hectare, this could have covered the interior to a depth of 0.11 m. If the enclosed area were only half a hectare, the depth might have been as much as 0.2 m., and if only the western pond were 14th-century, as little as 0.06–0.08 m. In the case of the western pond there is some evidence that the upcast was dumped adjacent, since a gravel bank more than 0.3 m. deep was observed on the W. side (Fig. 1), which will have served both to embank the pond and to provide a raised causeway where Titts Lane, the N.–S. track, ran alongside. More of the spoil was probably dumped behind the retaining walls at the S.E. corner, though the recording did not allow this to be verified.

Elsewhere within Site D evidence for the making-up of the ground is very variable. Over much of the site the undisturbed subsoil was an oxidised yellow or orange clay over gravel, as on Site C, but elsewhere the clay was gleyed blue-grey or grey, as beneath the post-medieval barn or Building XII. While an overall gentle gradient N. to S. can be seen from the kitchen through the solar to the moat, the ground seems to have varied locally in level, perhaps indicating the presence of former natural watercourses or ponds along the valley bottom.

Where present make-up layers are usually composed of clay with varying proportions of limestone, which cannot have derived from the digging out of the moat, and must have been brought in to the site. In the area of Building XII there is a considerable depth of make-up including gravelly layers that probably derived from the moat; the drain running through Buildings IX and XII appears to have been built free-standing in places, and the ground built up around it thereafter. Around Building X and beneath the N. half of Building IX however there is little evidence for such soils. Indirect evidence that the ground was artificially raised in part is provided by the section across the moat (Fig. 61), which demonstrates that in places the clay silting extended well above the level of natural gravel or

[239] H.E. Jean Le Patourel, 'The excavation of moated sites', in Aberg (ed.), *Medieval Moated Sites*, 37.

its undisturbed clay covering. On the S. side a layer of clay and limestones which overlay the undisturbed clay may have been such dumping. Banks flanking the moat and ponds therefore probably existed, but a blanket covering to raise the ground level is not proven.

Fish-farming

The evidence for fishponds, or at least fish-farming, at Dean Court Farm is of several kinds. First there is the name Fishers mentioned above, which, unless derived from a tenant whose family had been fishermen elsewhere, suggests fishponds of the medieval period. Secondly, the presence of tanks in the Kitchen, which date from the late 14th or early 15th century to the early 16th century, implies a regular supply of fish for the table on this site and this is confirmed by the evidence of freshwater fish bones from deposits from the kitchen drain, the kitchen floor and from the 'hall' or Building XI floor, dated respectively to the 14th century, the 14th and 15th centuries and the 15th century.

The fish bones include pike and roach, two of the freshwater species most commonly recorded in documents in Oxfordshire,[240] and also stickleback and eels (Section 4.2). These may have been bred at the site, but all of these could alternatively have been obtained by fishing in the river Thames, since Abingdon Abbey had mills, and thus presumably fishing rights, at Botley.[241] Several of the fish represented are small or juvenile specimens; this may simply indicate that the inhabitants of Dean Court Farm were unsuccessful, or at least indiscriminate fishermen, but could point to the breeding and rearing of fish on the site.

The western pond appears to have been only 0.5–0.6 m. deep, the eastern pond was deeper, at least 1.05 m. deep. Although dug into freely-draining gravel, neither the ponds nor the moat showed any sign of a lining, and must have relied upon the inflow of water from the stream, combined with the high level of the water table, to maintain them. Limited investigation of fishponds at both Thame and Kidlington in Oxfordshire revealed a similar lack of lining material, despite the porous nature of the subsoil.[242]

Ponds as shallow as the western one, fed only by ground water and spring seepage, are perfectly adequate for fish, and may have been designed specifically as stews for the short-term storage of live fish,[243] although the depth of the pond would have depended upon the species kept and the system of management.

This evidence is not conclusive, but taken together strongly suggests that the later grange was engaged in fish-farming. Abingdon Abbey was managing a very large fishpond close to the abbey itself in the early 14th century, and the use of the convent moat as a fishpond is documented from the 15th century.[244] This moat was in existence in the 14th century, and there is no reason to suppose that it did not perform the same function at this earlier date. At the neighbouring grange of Cumnor it has recently been suggested that there were two medieval fishponds within the grange enclosure.[245]

In a discussion of the estates of Abingdon Abbey Bond commented that 'none of the

[240] Bond and Chambers, 'Oxfordshire Fishponds' in Aston (ed.), *Medieval Fish, Fisheries and Fishponds*, 365–6.

[241] Hanson, *History of Botley*, 5–6.

[242] Chambers and Gray, 'Excavation of fishponds' in Aston (ed.), *Medieval Fish, Fisheries and Fishponds*, 128.

[243] Ibid. 122; C.J. Bond, 'Monastic fisheries', in ibid. 95.

[244] Bond, 'Reconstruction of the medieval landscape; the estates of Abingdon Abbey', *Landscape History*, i (1979), 69; *Accounts of the Obedientiars of Abingdon Abbey*, ed. R.E.G. Kirk (Camden Soc. n.s. li, 1892), 130.

[245] Impey, 'The origins and development of non-conventual monastic dependencies', (D.Phil. thesis, Univ. of Oxford, 1991), II, 49.

abbey's own houses appear to have been moated',[246] and suggests that Benedictine fishponds in Southern England were generally simple.[247] The evidence from Dean Court Farm, however, suggests that the moat was constructed as an integral part of the construction of the later grange, while the site was still directly under the abbey's control, and it is likely that one fishpond at least was part of the same design. The existence of the moat and fishponds at Dean Court Farm are likely to have accounted in part for the very high rent at which the grange was later leased to Robert Carter in the 1370s (see Section 5.1). The re-siting of the grange centre in the valley bottom certainly made the construction of a moat and fishponds easier, and this position was probably chosen largely for this reason.

The moated enclosure

If the moated enclosure was as suggested, the buildings lay in a band across the centre, concentrated on the E. side, following the pattern of Rigold's Type C rectangular or square moated enclosure, his most common type.[248] It may be noted in passing that the smaller Site B ditched enclosure also followed the plan suggested for Site D, with the buildings concentrated across the centre of the enclosure and towards the S., and an open area possibly used for stock to the N.

A preliminary survey of moated sites was conducted by P. Page for the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record in 1976. From this most Oxfordshire moats appear to have been single, quadrilateral enclosures in the range 0.3–0.8 hectares, and this pattern of size is also borne out by the evidence of Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire moats.[249] If the moated enclosure at Dean Court included the close N. of the buildings, this was somewhat larger than the average, which would not have been surprising when it is remembered that moats were also status symbols, covering a wide social range from manors and ecclesiastical centres down to assart homesteads of freemen.[250] The moated area may have been only 0.5 hectare, of average size.

Defence may also have played a part in the decision to surround the grange with a moat and precinct wall, since the late 13th and early 14th century was a period of considerable social unrest, as is shown by the attack on Abingdon Abbey itself by the townspeople of Abingdon in 1327.[251] In an exposed position between Abingdon and Oxford, whence students came to help the townspeople of Abingdon in 1327, Dean Court may have been seen as one of the abbey's properties most in need of protection.

6.5 THE *ECCLESIA* OF ST. JOHN

The earliest reference to a church or *ecclesia* on this site is 1375/6 (Section 5.1). The word *ecclesia* usually refers to a more substantial building than a private chapel or oratory, and the references to a rectory suggest a free-standing, endowed church. Since, however, Dean

[246] Bond, 'Reconstruction of the medieval landscape', *Landscape History*, i (1979), 63.

[247] Ibid. 69; Bond 'Monastic fishponds' in Aston (ed.), *Medieval fish, fisheries and fishponds*, 69–112.

[248] S.E. Rigold, 'Structures within English moated sites', in Aberg (ed.), *Medieval Moated Sites*, 29–36.

[249] Page and others, *Hardings Field, Chalgrove* (forthcoming); H.E. Jean Le Patourel and B.K. Roberts, 'The significance of moated sites', in Aberg (ed.), *Medieval moated sites*, 46–55, especially 48–9.

[250] B.K. Roberts, 'Moated sites in midland England', *Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society*, 80 (1965), 26–37.

[251] C. Platt, *Medieval England* (1978), 108–15.

Court remained in the parish of Cumnor throughout the medieval period it is possible that a chapel is meant. This building was not positively identified during the excavations.

No human burials were found, but this is not surprising, since it was customary for the inhabitants of outlying settlements to be buried in the main parish church. In this case that may have been Cumnor or perhaps even Abingdon Abbey itself; in the 16th century Leland wrote 'In old tymes many of the villages about Abbingdon had but chapelles of ease, and Abbingdon Abbey was their mother church, and there they buried'.[252] It was, for example, only in the early 15th century that Wytham Church obtained permission for its own burial ground.[253]

When the site acquired a church or chapel is not known. Impey has drawn attention to the number of instances in the 11th and early 12th century in which land was granted to a monastery on condition that a church was built and supervised by the monastic community, often resulting in the foundation of a monastic cell.[254] It is possible that a church was endowed at Dean Court either in 1234 x 41 or 1287/8 A.D. as a condition of the grants of land to Abingdon Abbey, but that the late date of its foundation, when the parochial system in this area was already well-established, and the subsequent decline of population at Dean Court prevented it from ever achieving parochial status. General privileges granting the erection of chapels on granges were not made to the various religious orders before the middle of the 13th century and these in no way guaranteed the supply of a chapel on every grange.[255] Unlike the Cistercians or Premonstratensians with their lay servants, the Benedictine order did not necessarily have a religious community, or even a single monk, in residence on the grange, and the need for a place of private worship may have been less compelling. At the manor of Charney Bassett, also held by Abingdon Abbey, the surviving chapel is very small, and was only built at the end of the 13th century.[256] The provision of a chapel at Dean Court would thus more likely date from the late 13th century or later and would most likely be found on or close to the later, rather than the early, grange site.

6.6 THE WORKING OF THE GRANGE

In the period of the later grange the excavations have revealed a variety of sites of differing economic and social status. Site C, with only a single building, and that very small, seems to represent the home of cottars with little or no land of their own, possibly supplementing their income by brewing and baking and selling bread and ale.[257] Site B in contrast represents a sizeable croft with an open area on the N. side probably containing a trough, which suggests the keeping of livestock. The size of the enclosed area on this site is very small, but the number of animals owned by each peasant was generally few; in the 13th century for instance even yardlanders were limited to 40 sheep, 2 oxen, a cow and two pigs.[258] The buildings are similar in character to the prosperous peasant farmsteads at West

[252] J. Leland, *Itinerary in England and Wales*, (ed. L. Toulmin Smith), vol. 1, 122.

[253] *Register de R. Hallum* (Canterbury and York Society, CXLV), 86.

[254] Impey, 'The origins and development of non-conventual monastic dependencies' (D.Phil. thesis, Univ. of Oxford, 1991).

[255] Platt, *Monastic Grange*, 25–9.

[256] Currie, 'Larger medieval houses', *Oxoniensia*, lvii (1992), 165–6 and Fig. 22.

[257] cf. C. Dyer, 'Documentary Evidence', in G. Astill and A. Grant (eds.), *The Countryside of Medieval England* (1988), 32–3.

[258] Ibid. 30–1.

Cotton, Raunds, and at Burton Dassett Southend, and probably represent a family owing services to the abbey, but cultivating a considerable area of its own. E. of the later grange Building XV was another large domestic building, but insufficient is known of this property to characterise it.

The domestic buildings of the later grange are of sub-manorial or manorial character, but insufficient of this site was excavated to indicate whether this difference was also reflected in the quality or variety of artefactual material. On the early grange the early date of the stone buildings, the size of the domestic accommodation and barns, and the arrangement of the buildings around a courtyard into a 'farmstead' all indicate the unusual status of the site. Amongst the finds the presence of a pottery double-shelled lamp in the latest occupation phase does suggest high status, as these are rarely found on rural sites, and in Winchester were associated with properties of high status.[259]

Generally the finds from all four sites represent the expected range of agricultural tools from any rural manor, closely comparable to those listed in documents of the period.[260] The animal bones appear to indicate the normal pattern of mixed farming with an emphasis on sheep and draught oxen. The high representation of horses in the early grange (Site A) bones, which G. Jones has suggested may have functioned as pack animals (see Section 4.1), is of added interest in connection with the evidence of cart ruts on the cobbling on this site, since during the 12th and 13th centuries horses took over the role of draught animals from oxen.[261] There were few horse bones from the later grange (Site D), but this is probably the result of the smaller scale and the bias of excavation.

The animal bones from the four sites reflect the difference of their status to some extent, though there are also some less explicable variations. The higher status diet suggested from the evidence of the pig bones from the later grange kitchen must be interpreted in the context of a marked increase in the proportion of pig on Site B as well. Probably of more significance in this respect is the low representation of sheep and the high proportion of cattle bones. The presence of deer on Sites B and C, but not on D, may simply reflect sampling bias, but its presence on these sites, together with arrowheads, perhaps suggests instead poaching. Arrowheads commonly appear on peasant sites, and Astill has suggested that the importance of hunting to the medieval peasant has been underestimated.[262] Some of the arrowheads are, however, from post-abandonment layers, and therefore may not be associated with the occupation.

The charred plant remains (see Section 4.3) show that a wide variety of crops were grown throughout the medieval occupation.[263] The ubiquity of plants of damp ground in the samples agrees well with the low-lying situation of the site, and the mixture of weed assemblages reflects the varying local geology, Oxford Clay on the lower slopes of the valley and calcareous soils overlying the limestone higher up. The early sample from Site A, which indicates particularly wet conditions, may reflect the state of parts of the site during initial assarting, before clearance and cultivation improved drainage.

No clear variations in the crops which might reflect status were evident between the excavated sites, but the fennel and the apple and grape pips, together with the evidence of some of the wild plants, suggests that the later grange (Site D) had a garden. It is not clear

[259] G. Astill, 'The toft and the croft', in ibid. 57.
[260] J. Langdon, 'Agricultural equipment', in ibid. 95–6.
[261] Ibid. 94.
[262] Astill, 'Toft and croft' in ibid. 57.
[263] J. Greig, 'Plant resources', in ibid. 108–127.

whether the homogeneity of the crop remains indicates a lack of status differentiation between the sites, or is a result of variable survival of charred plant assemblages, as Moffett suggests.

It was the practice on many manors for grain to be milled, and sometimes the bread baked, centrally. The occurrence of ovens on all of Sites B, C and D, and of a hand-operated quern on Site C, suggests that this was not the case at Dean Court. It is probable that brewing on Site C was licensed by the abbey; on present evidence it was the sole brewing establishment on the site in the 14th century, in contrast to the position at West Cotton.[264] The replacement of the ovens in the kitchen with a malting kiln, which is undated, may in fact have occurred in the late 14th century, soon after the abandonment of Site C.

The early grange contained two barns or storage buildings of almost identical dimensions. Both are small as monastic barns go, but compare closely with three surviving barns on Abingdon Abbey's estates.[265] Bond suggested that the small size of these barns implied either a different purpose or a different management practice to those abbeys where large barns existed. The size of barn is most likely to have related to the size of each estate, and the early grange is not thought to have controlled a particularly large area. Although it is possible that one building succeeded the other, it is felt more likely that both were in use together, and two buildings of this size represent a considerable storage potential.

No barns were positively identified on the later grange site. Building XII may have been for storage, but this building was subdivided into at least two rooms, the larger excavated part being only 10 by 5.9 m. internally. Given the increased size of the estate in the 14th century, larger barns than those on the early grange would have been expected.

It is possible that much of the produce of the grange was taken direct to Cumnor. The Tithe Barn at Cumnor was a very large barn; Thomas Baskerville of Sunningwell, writing in the 1690s, commented that the barn at Cumnor was formerly one of the four great barns in Berkshire.[266] In the case of several adjoining estates, as at Cumnor and Dean Court, it may have been more economical and more secure to gather the harvest into one large barn rather than hold it dispersed between several smaller ones. The barn at Cumnor is not dated, but the major phase of reconstruction of the domestic accommodation was in the second quarter of the 14th century, and the decision to build a very large barn, and to centralise collection of produce, may also date from this time. Even if this were so, it is unthinkable that no storage facilities existed at Dean Court itself, especially from the late 14th century when the site was leased.

A number of other buildings which have been documented on granges elsewhere are conspicuous by their absence on either the Early or Later Grange. These include an oxhouse (except in the first phase of Building I), sheep-house and stable. Pigsties may have existed at the S. end of Building I on Site A and E. of Building V on Site B, but have not been found on Site D. The animal bones show that mixed farming was practised at Dean Court, and these structures should therefore be present. It is possible that sheep were not kept under cover, or that the sheephouse or fold was somewhere out in the fields. The same is unlikely to be true of cattle or of horses, and some of the excavated buildings, for instance Building III on Site A, may alternatively have functioned as byres and/or stables.

On the later grange barns and other agricultural buildings may have been constructed entirely of timber; the 16th-century 'Monk's Map' of Abingdon appears to show a timber-

[264] Windell, Chapman and Woodiwiss, *From barrows to bypass*, 38.
[265] Bond, 'Reconstruction of the medieval landscape', *Landscape History*, i (1979), 65–8.
[266] British Library, Harleian MSS 4716 and 4762.

framed barn at Barton.[267] Alternatively they may have been 'helms' on staddle-stones; such barns are documented in the West Midlands.[268] Given the presence of stone-built barns on Site A, however, this seems unlikely. The most likely explanation is that other medieval buildings existed in the uninvestigated areas around the southern perimeter of the grange. Building XII appeared to continue S. beyond the excavated area, and may, like the contemporary enclosed site at Sadler's Wood, Lewknor, have been part of a long range of rooms.[269] The wall running approximately parallel to the boundary wall on the S. could have belonged to a medieval barn on the perimeter, similar to the arrangement of agricultural buildings at South Witham, Lincs, or the moated manor at Chalgrove, Oxon.[270] There may perhaps have been a medieval barn or animal shed S. of the dovecote, in between the E.–W. post-medieval barn and Trench 32 (Fig. 37). A N.–S. building 5–6m. wide is marked in this position on both Rocque's map of 1761 (Fig. 98) and the map made for the survey of Cumnor in 1808 (Fig. 99), but had been demolished before the 1st edition 1" O.S. map was published in 1830.

A third possibility is that agricultural buildings lay outside the moated enclosure to the S. The separation of the grange into two courtyards is certainly documented at some sites.[271] At Dean Court on the S. side of the Eynsham road and opposite the moated enclosure Rocque marked a large E.–W. building right on the road frontage, considerably longer than the Site D farmhouse block. This no longer existed by the time of the Enclosure Award of 1814.[272] While some doubts must exist as to Rocque's accuracy, since the 14th-century wing of the Dean Court farmhouse, which still stands today, is omitted from his map, the buildings to the S. and W. of this large building can be matched with those still existing in 1808 and 1814. Was this possibly a barn? This building need not, however, have been of medieval origin.

Staffing lists from two Benedictine establishments of the late 13th century show that upwards of a dozen people, including ploughmen, cowherds, shepherds, swineherds, and a maid or dairymaid, were employed. Other optional members of staff on a grange might include a maltster, a carter, a cook and a baker.[273] Platt suggests that some of these people may have lived on the grange itself, and that in other cases serfs lived on plots of land adjacent, but there is little excavated evidence.[274] Whereas some of Abingdon Abbey's estates derived from long-established manors with attached villages, the establishment of the Dean Court grange in an area of assarting appears to have followed the pattern of gradual consolidation more familiar from Cistercian establishments in the North of England, and the scatter of medieval settlement around the grange sites fits this picture.

At the time of the establishment of the first grange, possibly around 1235, there were neighbouring settlements on Site B and Site E, as well as farms such as that of Roger Blakechild in 'Hullis' (modern Hill End), which can be traced throughout the later medieval period and equated with Stimpson's Farm.[275] After the establishment of a larger and more

[267] Bond, 'Reconstruction of the medieval landscape', *Landscape History*, i (1979), 64. The map hangs in the Guildhall at Abingdon.

[268] Astill, 'Toft and croft', in Astill and Grant (eds.), *Countryside of Medieval England*, 57–8.

[269] R.A. Chambers, 'A deserted medieval farmstead at Sadler's Wood, Lewknor', *Oxoniensia*, xxxviii (1973), 151, Fig. 3.

[270] Platt, *Medieval England* (1978), 61, Fig. 39; P. Page, 'Chalgrove, Hardings Field', CBA Group 9 *Newsletter*, x (1980), 152, Fig. 39.

[271] Platt, *Monastic Grange*, 43.

[272] Berks. R.O. Q/RDc/55.

[273] Platt, *Monastic Grange*, 79–80.

[274] Ibid. 86–91.

[275] Hanson, pers.comm.

prestigious grange on Site D, occupation continued on Sites B and E, and, either contemporarily or very soon thereafter, further tofts were created E. of the moated enclosure (Building XV) and by encroachment on the arable field to the N.W., on Site C. In the late medieval period at least, Site B appears to have contained more than one dwelling (Buildings IV and XIV). Thus the grange was surrounded by a group of peasant holdings, which between them could have provided many of the grange hands listed above. In the later phases of Site A and on Site D the domestic block could certainly have accommodated further servants, and it is likely that other medieval tofts existed S. of Site D.

From a range of documentary evidence, largely of the 14th and 15th centuries, Platt argued that a grange might control anything from over 1000 acres to as little as 78 acres.[276] There are no detailed accounts of the land controlled by the grange at Dean Court; the first detailed survey of the area, that of 1726, shows that by this time Hill Place controlled 55 acres. By the Dissolution the customary rent for Dean Court Farm was only 36 shillings, lower than that of several other landholders in the adjoining Strode (Stroud) and Botley tithings.[277]

Some indication of the likely area may be provided by considering the distribution of grange centres listed in 1242/3 (see Section 5.1). Considering only those immediately surrounding La Dene, these were Cumnor, Swinford, Botley, North Hinksey and South Hinksey. To the N. of the site lay the separate manors of Seacourt and Wytham, and beyond Cumnor to the S.W. the manor of Appleton (Fig. 102). Unlike the Hinkseys, the grange units of Botley, La Dene and Swinford lie within the greater parish of Cumnor, and thus do not have easily identifiable boundaries.

A detailed examination of the medieval documents for Cumnor lies outside the scope of this report, but some rough estimate of the partition of Cumnor between these can still be made. The land controlled by Botley is restricted by the river and the parishes of Seacourt and North Hinksey on three sides, so on the W. is likely to have extended almost to the site at Dean Court, as did the post-medieval tithing boundary.[278] To the N. the boundary of La Dene is provided by the parish boundaries of Seacourt and Wytham. On the W. Strood or Stroud became a separate tithing by the 16th century, but was not recorded separately in the Lay Subsidy of 1327; it was probably included with Swinford, as the two are associated in a survey made shortly after the Dissolution.[279] The land controlled by Dean Court may simply have consisted of the medieval tithing of Hill, as its name Hill Place may suggest. This will have included Hill End, and possibly Wood End as well, but beyond this the land probably belonged to Stroud. Most uncertainty surrounds the southern boundary with Cumnor itself, but it is likely that the slopes of Cumnor Hill forming the S. side of the 'dene' mostly belonged to Cumnor itself, the centre of the parish and containing a much larger and more wealthy grange. A plausible boundary might be the road just S. of Site D, or the W. part of this leading from Cumnor Mead to Chawley not far S. of Dean Court.

This gives an area of between 600 and 750 acres, of which at least 30 acres were woodland; the woods of Hid's Copse just N. of Dean Court, Bean Wood and Cowlay's Wood adjacent to Wood End (all shown on Rocque's map, Fig. 98), were all probably medieval. From the grant of land made to the abbey by Walter de La Dene in 1234 x 41 it is clear that there was also some meadow.[280] Not all of this territory need have been in demesne, indeed

[276] Platt, *Monastic Grange*, 76–9.
[277] P.R.O., SC. 6/Henry VII/109, mm. 25–6 (Survey of Cumnor for Court of Augmentations).
[278] Hanson, *History of Botley*, 2.
[279] P.R.O., SC.6/Henry VII/109, mm. 25–6.
[280] *Two Cartularies of Abingdon Abbey*, ed. C.G. Slade and G. Lambrick, i (Oxford Historical Soc. n.s.xxxii, 1990), 193–4.

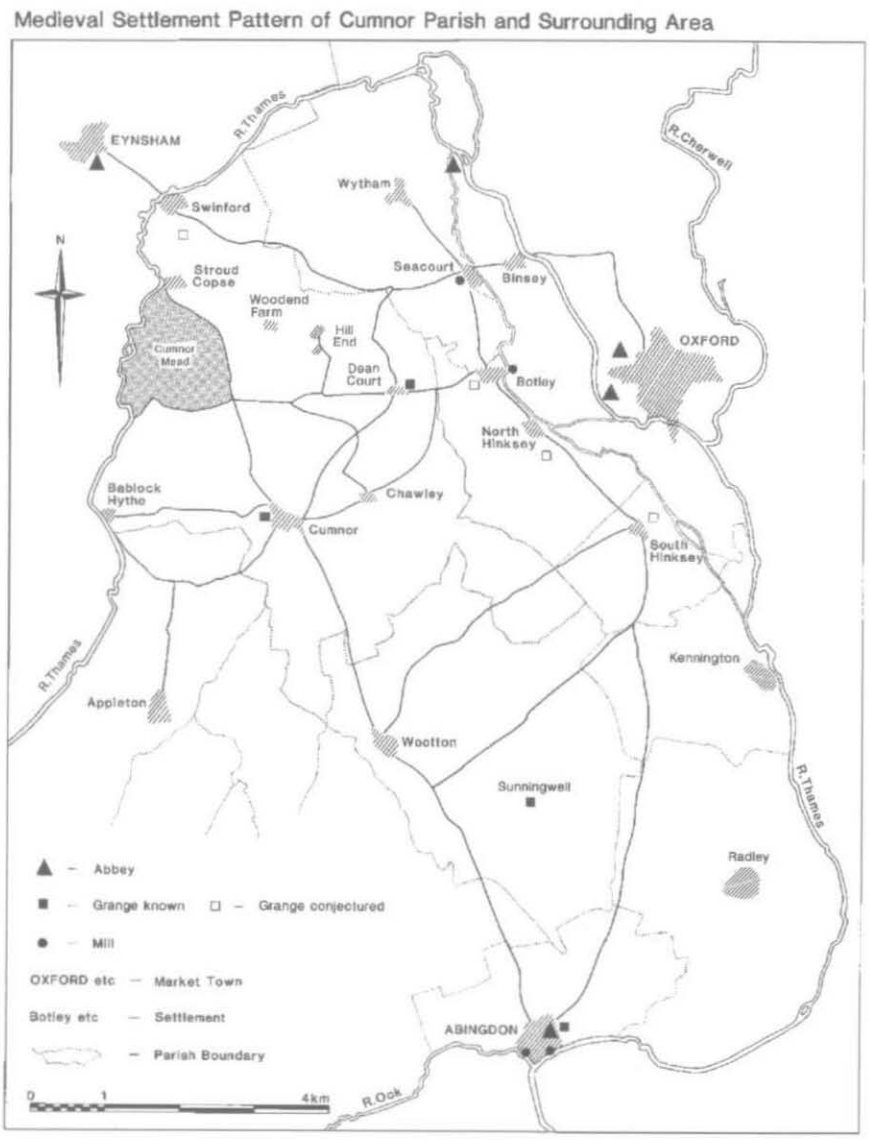

Fig. 102. Map of selected medieval sites in the Abingdon area.

since assarting is mentioned in the document just mentioned it is likely that some of this land was under the control of independent farmers. The area under the abbey's control is therefore difficult to estimate, but probably did not exceed 500 acres. Not all of this would have been managed from La Dene from the start; we know for instance that the abbey did not acquire one carucate of this until 1287/8 (see Section 5.1).[281]

[281] A carucate is a Viking term roughly equivalent to a hide, but in fiscal documents of this date cannot be precisely quantified, varying between 70 and 200 acres.

Another means of estimating the estate of the grange is provided by the rentals of 1375–6 and 1383–4, £33 6*s.* 8*d.* and £22 4*s.* 10*d.* respectively.[282] A grange account of Shellingford Newbury of 1398–9 shows that the total receipts were only just over £32, and this from 450 acres of arable.[283] The 1375–6 rent of La Dene was probably somewhat inflated, as 5 years later the rent had reduced by one third, but even the rent of £22 must represent a total income considerably greater than that.

The presence of both a dovecote and a moat/fishpond complex at Dean Court will certainly have added to the rent. Although the receipts from fish obtained from the Convent Ditch which were sold in Abingdon market were reckoned in shillings rather than pounds,[284] the bulk of the abbey's own fish will presumably have gone to feed the monks and servants of the abbey themselves and greater revenue might have accrued from the ponds at Dean Court. Receipts from the sale of eggs and doves will have been of similar value. Nevertheless in broad terms comparison with the documented income of other Abingdon Abbey properties suggests that the rents of the later 14th century at Dean Court Farm indicate a similar size establishment (400–500 acres) to that estimated from the likely boundaries of the surrounding estate centres.

The establishment of the early grange has been linked to a major grant of land at Dean Court to the abbey in 1234 x 41 (see Section 5.1). The decision to relocate the grange, upgrade the buildings and provide a moated enclosure may also have resulted from the acquisition of more land, the carucate acquired in 1287/8. Whatever the precise acreage involved, this represented a significant increase in the land held in demesne, possibly as much as 1/4th of the land under the control of the grange, and might well have necessitated a reorganisation of the existing arrangements.

The limited excavation on Site D does not allow close dating of the construction of the grange buildings, but the evidence does point to a major investment in buildings on a virgin site at the turn of the 14th century. While the scale of the excavated domestic buildings does not compare with those built at Cumnor when the grange was refurbished, probably in the 1330s,[285] and while Abingdon Abbey's expenditure on its other grange estates is not particularly well-documented, the cost of building at Dean Court must have represented unusually large sums for a single grange. The scale of the domestic accommodation would certainly suggest that it was intended to have a member of the monastic community in residence, and the provision of a chapel, which it has been argued above was probably built to accompany the later grange, would point to the same conclusion.

There are no documents that throw further light upon these events, but it is conceivable that, given its proximity to Abingdon, the later grange was originally intended to function as a 'retreat' for members of the community, but either proved too small or, after the troubles of 1327,[286] too close to Oxford, and was overtaken by the refurbishment of Cumnor in the 1330s, being leased out soon after that.

6.7 CONCLUSIONS

The excavations at Dean Court, albeit incomplete, represent one of the largest investigations of a grange complex in England. A variety of sites has been excavated, ranging from a

[282] *Accounts of the Obedientiars of Abingdon Abbey*, ed. R.E.G. Kirk (Camden Soc. n.s.li, 1892), 24, 43.

[283] Ibid. 145–8.

[284] Ibid. 18 (Gardener and Pitancer's Account 1369–1370: 3*s.*), 74 (Gardener's Account 1412–13: 20*s.* 3*d.*), 128 (Gardener's Account 1450–51: 10*s.* 7*d.*).

[285] Platt, *Monastic Grange*, 37–8 and Plate 7; Impey, 'The origins and development of non-conventual monastic dependencies' (D.Phil. thesis, Univ. of Oxford, 1991), II, 46–7.

[286] *Chronicon Monasterii de Abingdon*, ed. J. Stevenson (Rolls Ser. 2b, 1858).

peasant cot through peasant farmsteads to two successive grange centres, allowing the full range of village life at a grange to be examined. The peculiar history of the settlement has resulted in the preservation of the early grange unencumbered by later occupation, and has enabled two successive granges to be compared within a single settlement. Despite the paucity of documentary evidence, it has been possible to link the few references to the main developments of the settlement.

Medieval settlement at Dean Court largely resulted from assarting in the 12th century. The founding of the early grange resulted from the accumulation of lands thus created into the abbey's own hands, probably in the 1230s. At this time the grange estate may not have been large, certainly not in excess of 400 acres and possibly much smaller. This was run from a farm established on Site A, of which a prestigious domestic range and two large agricultural buildings, one of them a barn, the other perhaps a stable and ox-house, have been excavated. The character of the early grange bears out Platt's conclusions as to the secular nature of buildings on ecclesiastical grange sites.[287]

In the late 13th century the acquisition of a further large piece of land may have led to the resiting and upgrading of the grange, which was furnished with a larger set of domestic buildings including an elaborate kitchen, fishponds and a dovecote set within a walled and moated enclosure. This complex was also supplied with an *ecclesia* or chapel. The character of the later grange and the scale of expenditure perhaps suggests that it was intended for the residence of members of the monastic community, possibly as a 'retreat'. Shortly afterwards the neighbouring grange of Cumnor took over this role, and by the later 14th century the site was leased out.

The later grange has altered perceptions of the Benedictine attitude to ponds and moats, since Abingdon Abbey was clearly behind the construction of the complex of moat and ponds at this site. Recent work has also demonstrated a greater involvement by the abbey at Cumnor and at the Abbey itself (see above Section 6.4). In the later medieval period the emphasis on fish was maintained with the construction of a 'fish-kitchen', the first of its kind to be excavated.

For the future, important elements of the later grange establishment have not been identified with certainty, notably the church and barns, leaving significant gaps in our understanding of the site. It is likely that these lie either in the S. part of the moated enclosure or alternatively S. of the excavated site, and any opportunity for further archaeological investigation in these areas should be grasped.

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[287] Platt, *Monastic grange*, 46–8.