Early Medieval and Later Tenements at 113-119 High Street, Oxford: Excavations in 1993-5

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SUMMARY

Excavation of one trench on the frontage and three trenches to the rear of Nos. 113 to 119 High Street revealed a long sequence of occupation. Most significant was the discovery of three 10th- to 11th-century cellars, and possibly one or two others. By the time the largest of these was constructed it appears that formal divisions existed between the properties. The following centuries saw the backlands used for the disposal of domestic rubbish and cess. In the 13th to 14th centuries stone boundary walls and adjoining cesspits were constructed, consolidating earlier property divisions. With several remodellings, the stone-built cesspits continued in use until at least the 19th century. These results constitute the most significant contribution to understanding of plot development so far undertaken in the High Street of Oxford.

INTRODUCTION

In August 1993 Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT) was commissioned by Lee and Ross Architects, on behalf of Lincoln College, to carry out an excavation and watching-brief in advance of redevelopment of properties at Nos. 113-119 High Street, Oxford. Redevelopment was to include alteration of existing buildings on the street frontage, the erection of new student accommodation to the rear, and the creation of basements beneath both the existing and new buildings. Although an area encompassing Nos. 113-119 High Street and spanning the full depth between High Street and Bear Lane was to be altered and redeveloped (Fig. 1), only a small part was to be furnished with new basements. Following advice received from Oxford Archaeological Advisory Service (OAAS), the local planning authority determined that a sample excavation comprising some 20% (123m^2.) of the total site would be a sufficient response to the development proposals. The excavation was to be undertaken within the area of potentially highest destruction, i.e. that where new basements were proposed. In addition, a watching brief was to be undertaken over the remaining area not subject to excavation. These requirements were incorporated into a legal agreement between Lincoln College and the City of Oxford, and the excavation was conducted in stages between October 1993 and March 1995. The archaeological works were monitored by OAAS on behalf of the City, and by Bournemouth University on behalf of Lincoln College. Recording of the above-ground archaeology was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) under a separate legal agreement.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The excavation followed a field-evaluation by the OAU in June 1991. This suggested that late Saxon or Norman buildings, as well as significant medieval deposits, might survive beneath modern accumulations.[1]

Although traces of prehistoric and Roman occupation are known from Oxford, the Saxon town is generally considered to have its origins in the 8th century. By AD 911 when Wessex had subsumed Mercia, Oxford had been incorporated into the scheme of *burhs*, and it is likely that the basic street grid was laid out at the same time. On the basis of earlier excavations Hassall has suggested that the High Street and Queen Street frontages were built-up from the later 10th century, and that the backlands were under development from the 11th century onwards.[2]

Lincoln College, New College, Oriel College, St. Frideswide's Priory and the city corporation have all been owners of properties within the development site. Although there is a significant body of medieval documentation for these institutions, there is much less surviving evidence that relates directly to the properties that are the subject of this report. Likewise, post-medieval documentation, mostly comprising leases, can be ambiguous with regard to the tenants and their properties. However, despite these limitations it can be determined that throughout the recorded history of the site the High Street frontage has predominantly comprised private housing, mostly fronted by shops with cellars, with the exception of the Ram Inn at Nos. 113 and 114. From the 17th century onwards taxation records indicate an expansion in the numbers of separate households. This accords with Loggan's 1675 cartographic depiction of closely packed buildings within the backlands.

While occupants of the site are listed from the 13th century onward, the records mention little more than occasional names and rents. It is not until the 16th century that occupants and trades become clearer. The following trades are known to have occupied premises at various times from the 16th century onward: at No. 115, cutler, barber, toyman, carver and gilder; at No. 116, carpenter, haberdasher, painter, and saddler; at No. 117, barbers, tailor, and coffeeman; at No. 118, goldsmiths, cook, grocer and chemist; and at No. 119, butchers, skinners and cordwainers. As can be seen from Fig. 1, the arrangement of properties and boundaries during the medieval period has remained remarkably consistent until the present day.[3]

GEOLOGY AND URBAN TOPOGRAPHY (Fig. 1)

Most of Oxford, including the High Street, sits upon a tongue of Second Terrace (Summertown-Radley) river gravels.[4] Where these have survived disturbance, they are overlain by a reddish-brown alluvially-derived clay upon which the first post-glacial archaeological activity can be found. In the area of the excavations the undisturbed upper surface of this clay lies at a height of approximately 61.88 m. OD, whilst modern ground level is approximately 63.9 m. OD. The site slopes gently downward from W. to E. along the High Street and also drops gently in height from N. to S. between the High Street and Bear

[1] Oxf. Archaeol. Unit, '113-119 High Street, Oxford. Archaeological Evaluation' (OAU unpubl. TS. Rep. 1991).

[2] T. Hassall, 'The Archaeology of Oxford City', in G. Briggs, J. Cook and T. Rowley (eds.), *The Archaeology of the Oxford Region* (1986), 120.

[3] H.E. Salter, *Survey of Oxford*, i (Oxf. Hist. Soc. xiv), 178-83; see also H.E. Salter, *Map of Medieval Oxford* (1934), maps 3 and 5 for property boundaries and ownership.

[4] Geological Survey of Gt. Br., *Witney Sheet* 236. Solid and Drift Edition 1:50,000 Ser. (1982).

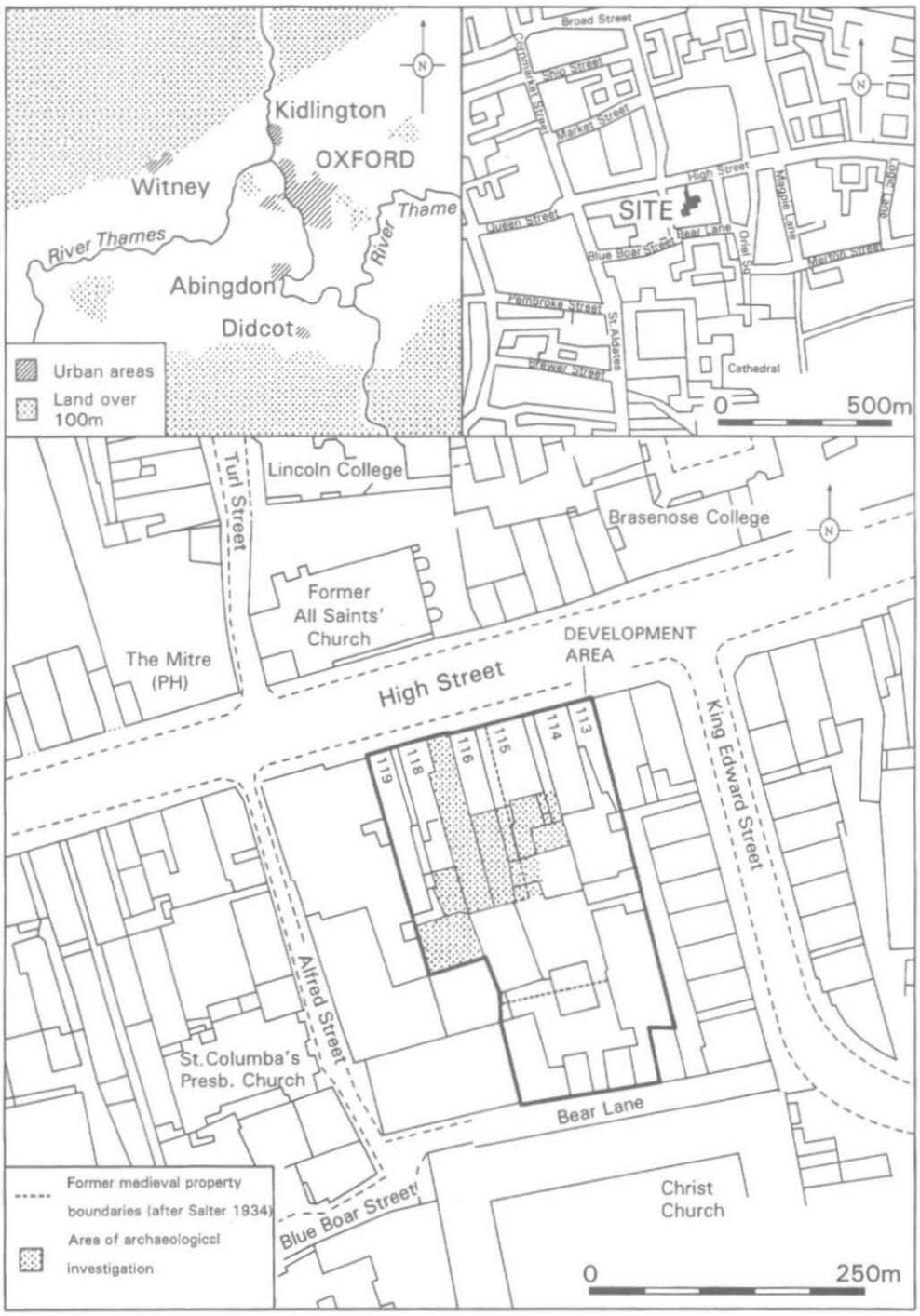

Fig. 1. Site location.

Lane. The site lies on the southern side of the High Street within a rectangular block of properties defined by the Victorian street line of King Edward Street to the E., and the medieval lines of Alfred Street to the W. and Bear Lane to the S. Properties 109 to 119 retain the outlines of medieval tenements fronting the High Street. Elsewhere in Oxford such blocks of property have been found to contain early domestic buildings in their centres, notably at Frewin Hall to the rear of Cornmarket Street.[5] Hinksey Hall and New Inn Court, off St. Aldate's, have also produced similar early domestic buildings.[6]

THE EXCAVATIONS

METHODOLOGY

The site was excavated as four non-contiguous trenches (Fig. 2); the sequence and timing of their excavation was dictated by the redevelopment programme. In no instance was it possible to view deposits in more than one trench at a time. Interpretation was further complicated by the need to excavate two trenches in halves, with (as it happened) little or no linking stratigraphy between either half.

Trench B was excavated first, in two halves. It had to be moved 2.0 m. W. from its originally intended position, thus putting it astride the modern property boundary between Nos. 116 and 117. It should therefore be noted when viewing Fig. 10, section 3, that the section line follows the lettering on 2. The N. end of the section is within No. 116, whilst the central portion between the baulks and the S. end project into No. 117. Excavation of Trench B was followed by C, A, and D; the last-mentioned was also excavated in two halves. The final depth of all trenches was determined by engineering formation levels, which varied from trench to trench, and which in Trench A was split-level. This resulted in the lower fills of some deep features remaining unexcavated.

Following demolition of 19th- and 20th-century extensions to the rear of Nos. 115 to 119, each trench was cleared of modern overburden by mechanical excavator and thereafter hand excavated.

Between phases of excavation, a watching-brief was mounted during piling operations, underpinning works, and service installation. A watching-brief was also maintained when archaeologically unexamined areas of the site were mechanically removed to basement formation level. On several occasions such works took place un-notified, undoubtedly resulting in loss of information, although the importance of these losses has been difficult to quantify.

The following report on the excavation results is arranged by period and trench. There were few clear horizons in the stratigraphy which could be correlated between trenches either during the excavation or in the post-excavation process. Accordingly the phasing proposed is heavily influenced by the dating evidence recovered and the interpretative framework presented is open to alternative interpretations.

THE STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

Note on the illustrations and conventions in the text: in the interests of clarity not all features/layers present within each period can be shown on the period plans (Figs. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8). Later features which cut through earlier deposits have also largely been omitted, with the exceptions of Figs. 3 and 6, where their scale permits more detail to be shown. Similarly, not all features/layers are numbered on plans and sections, and pit fills have been omitted for clarity. Sections 3, 4 and 5 are composites. Section arrows show the direction of view. Rectangular brackets are used to denote cut numbers in the text, and all other context types are shown within standard brackets. Features mentioned in the text but not illustrated are indicated by (n.i.).

PERIOD 1, PRE-BUILDING

A number of early features were tentatively assigned to a period, or periods, preceding the first 10th-century AD building.

No dating material was recovered from any of the features described below. The recovery from residual contexts of five struck flints, one of which is clearly of Bronze Age date (Fig. 18, 3), underlines

[5] J. Blair, 'Frewin Hall, Oxford: a Norman Mansion and a Monastic College', *Oxoniensia*, xliii (1978), 48-99.

[6] C. Halpin, 'Late Saxon Evidence and Excavation of Hinxey Hall, Queen Street, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlviii (1983), 41-69.

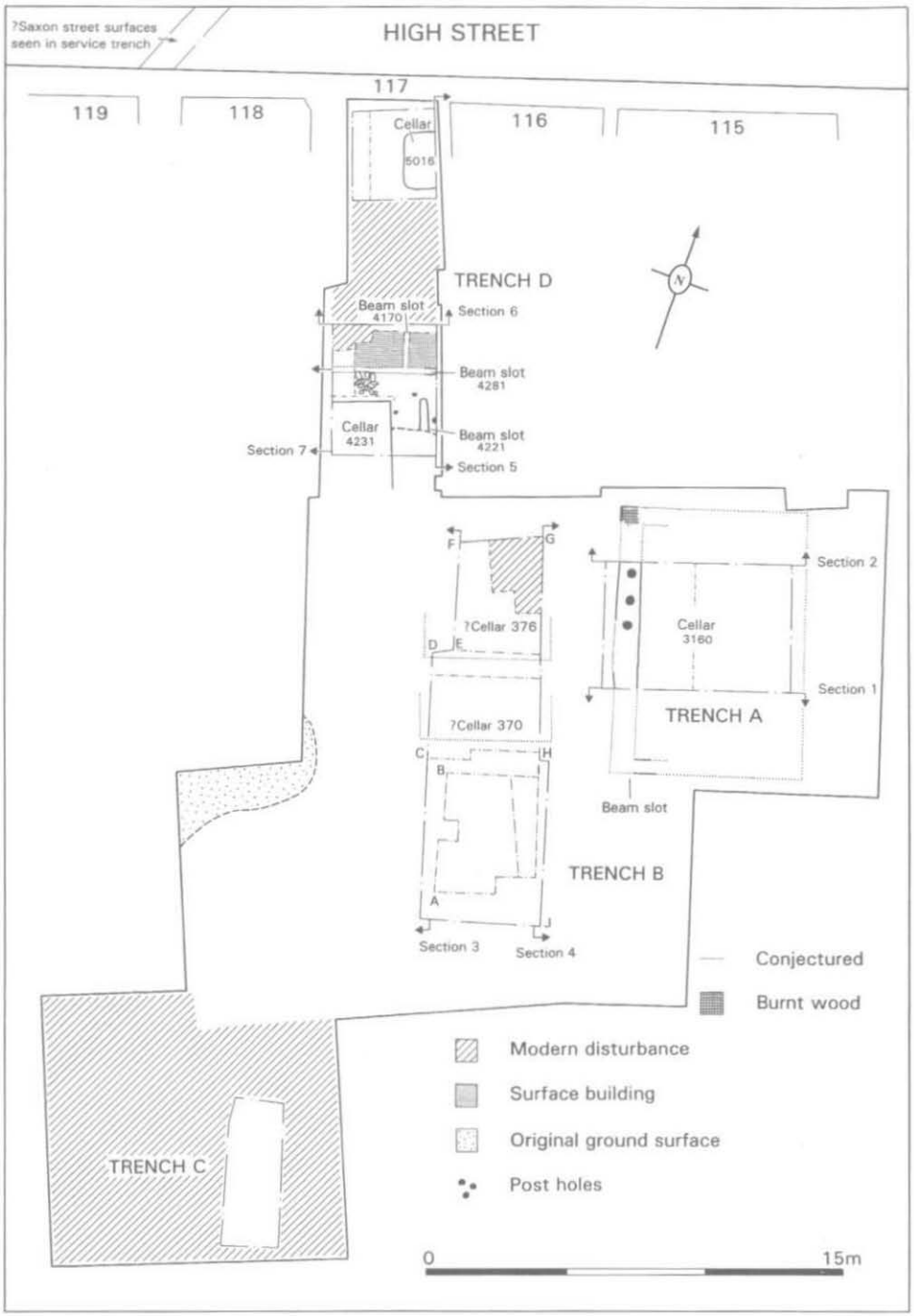

Fig. 2. Period 2 site plan (10th-11th centuries).

the possible early origins of some, or all, of these features. The survival of Bronze Age features and finds has been noted elsewhere within the City, as at The Hamel.[7] It should also be noted that four Romano-British potsherds (see Timby below) and a possible 4th-century coin (see Paddock below) were recovered from later contexts, adding a further possibility for the origin of these features.

In Trench A the earliest feature found was the truncated remains of pit [3169]. This was largely destroyed by a late 10th- or early 11th-century cellar pit [3160] and a later 11th- to 12th-century pit [3083] (Fig. 9, section 2). The earliest identifiable feature within Trench B consisted of a large steep-sided pit [345] (n.i.), filled with a deposit of red-brown sandy-clay (344), similar to the undisturbed natural clays (4040). Pit [345] had been largely removed by a later pit [262] and by a late 10th- to early 11th-century possible cellar pit [370].

In Trench D the earliest features were five shallow (0.10-0.20 m. deep) postholes (n.i.) [4241], [4243], [4245], [4247], and [4250], cut into the natural gravels. [4250], however, was sufficiently irregular that it may represent a natural feature rather than a posthole. They were not of consistent size; diameters varied from 0.10 m. to 0.20 m., and no coherent plan was discernible to suggest their original purpose.

With the exception of pit [3169] which had a loamy soil more characteristic of later period features, the other features were filled with homogeneous red clays almost indistinguishable from the original land surface (4040).

PERIOD 2, 10TH TO 11TH CENTURIES (Fig. 2)

This period is characterised by the construction of deep cellars, and evidence also exists for buildings on the street frontage. The period has been tentatively divided into two phases. It is suggested that in the initial phase a small cellar, [5016] may have belonged to a timber building on the street frontage beneath what was later to become Nos. 116 and 117. Later, this was replaced by a timber building or range of buildings extending back from the High Street, which were associated with cellar [4231] to the rear. Set well behind the street frontage at No. 115, a very large timber built cellar [3160] was discovered to have been rebuilt at least once in its lifetime. Two other possible timber built cellars, [370] and [376], were found to the rear of No. 116. The cellars all appear to have gone out of use by the mid 11th century. It is suggested that the emergence of the later phase cellars reflects the imposition of regular property boundaries which have persisted until the present day.

The height of the un-truncated original landsurface (OLS) was identified behind No. 118 during the watching brief and in Trench D (4040) at approximately 61.88 m. above Ordnance Datum. This has been used to calculate the approximate height from which cellar pits were cut, where no contemporary ground levels survived.

Possible evidence of Saxon street surfaces was detected when a service trench was excavated in the High Street.

Period 2a (Fig. 2; Fig. 11, section 5)

Trench D

Trench D was excavated within the standing building at No. 117 whilst this was being refurbished. The trench was opened in two discrete portions, at front and rear, of which only the rear preserved any depth of stratigraphy as the frontage was cellared in the 15th or 16th century. The area between the two portions of trench had been disturbed to considerable depth by the foundations of a large chimney stack.

In the rear part of Trench D the preservation of deposits was remarkably good (Fig. 11, sections 5 and 6). Areas of original landsurface (4040) survived, and were sealed by patchy deposits of clay (4270) and ash and charcoal (4271). Both appear to be slight occupation accumulations rather than floors. A single stakehole [4273] cut this layer. Both the stakehole and ash layer were sealed by a further occupation layer of gravelly-loam and charcoal (4269).

These layers represent the earliest horizontal deposits within this area of the site, although they clearly post-date the Period 1 post-holes.

[7] N. Palmer, 'A Beaker Burial and Medieval Tenements in The Hamel, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlv (1980), 124-225.

Cellar [5016]

Cellar [5016] located near the street front may have formed part an early building; perhaps similar to those known from the Clarendon Hotel site.[8] Although undated and without stratigraphic connection, the stakehole and occupation layers mentioned above may relate to the cellar.

The original dimensions of the cellar are unknown, as it had been cut in two by the later property boundary dividing Nos. 116 and 117. However, what remained was 2.0 m. in size across its N.-S. dimension by a minimum of 1.0 m. across the E.-W. dimension. It could not be examined to its full depth as this exceeded the new development formation level. However, augering established that it was flat bottomed and originally 1.90 m. deep (assuming it was constructed from the level of the OLS). Its shape in plan, vertical sides, flat bottom, and standing-height depth combine to suggest this feature was a cellar, rather than a pit. The situation of the cellar, i.e. divided in two by the later property boundary, places it in a different category to cellar [3160] in Trench A to the rear of No. 115 (and perhaps also those in Trench B if the evidence presented below has been correctly interpreted). The evidence from Trench A suggests the extant property boundaries seen today on the street-front probably came into existence in the 10th or 11th centuries, i.e. after cellar [5016] was infilled. From this premise it would be reasonable to assume [5016] either pre-dates the imposition of formal property boundaries, or relates to somewhat different boundary alignments associated with the original layout of Edward the Elder's early 10th-century town.

The only artefact recovered from the cellar was a single sherd of Late Saxon Oxford ware (OXB).

Period 2b, 10th to 11th centuries

Trench A (Fig. 2; Fig. 9, sections 1 and 2)

Trench A was confined entirely within the infill of a very large cellar pit [3160]. The pit had dimensions of approximately 7 m. E.-W. by 9 m. N.-S. Part of the western edge was located during the excavation, and the NW. and SW. corners were fleetingly seen and recorded during the watching brief. The eastern limit was indirectly identified by logging deposits disturbed during piling operations to the rear of No. 115. These observations show the E.-W. dimensions of cellar [3160] correlate closely with the dimension of the later building which now occupies No. 115. It would appear that once property boundaries at No. 115 were formalised during this period they remained unchanged thereafter.

The western edge of the cellar consisted of a near-vertical face cut through natural gravel, surviving some 0.86 m. high from the base of the cellar at 59.95 m. OD. If excavated from the OLS the cellar would have been 1.93 m. deep in its original form. It appears to have been rebuilt once during its lifetime.

Cellar [3160] – 1st phase

In its original form the cellar was post-built with gravel floors. Three postholes [3202], [3204] and [3229] were identified within the cellar pit alongside its W. edge. They were approximately 0.5 m. in diameter, but survived only to a depth of 0.2 m. as they had been truncated during a later alteration (see below). Posthole [3202] contained a stone pad at its base and [3204] produced a sherd of residual 6th- to 8th-century Saxon pottery. A possible fourth posthole [3211] containing a post-pipe was noted in Section 1 (Fig. 9). At 0.15 m. in diameter it was small compared to the others, but this dimension may be misleading if it is a result of the trench slicing obliquely across the posthole rather than through the centre. Its depth of 0.30 m. and flat-bottomed profile are comparable with the other three postholes.

It is probable that the vertically set posts would have been backed by planks or wattle panels, and perhaps also faced in a similar manner (see Trench D [4231] for a comparable example).

The cellar was initially unfloored, the natural gravel substrate sufficing at this stage. A single sherd of St. Neot's type ware was recovered from the surface of the gravel. However, over time a 40 mm. thick dark grey, ashy-clay layer (3222) was trampled across the gravel base. Subsequently, floor surfaces (3221), (3220), (3165), (3184) of gravel and/or clay were laid, some topped with a thin trampled layer of dirty clay. These surfaces and trample layers were not continuous throughout the trench, and at least in part, represented patching and repair to the floor. All the layers dipped slightly towards the centre of the trench where erosion may have been more pronounced.

[8] E.M. Jope, 'The Clarendon Hotel, Oxford. Part 1, The Site', *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958), 1-83.

At the end of this phase the floor had risen by 0.38 m. in places, and assuming headroom had correspondingly decreased, it would have been difficult to stand upright within the cellar. This may have precipitated a rebuilding, although deep subterranean wooden structures such as this are likely to have decayed relatively quickly in any case, necessitating frequent repairs or reconstruction.[9]

Cellar [3160] – 2nd phase

The post-built cellar was subsequently replaced/repaired using a different method of construction.

The final floor surface (3184) of the previous phase was cut away against the wall of the cellar to form a foundation trench [3223] some 0.76-1.0 m. wide and 0.38 m. deep, to accommodate a wooden ground-beam. The beam-slot had been cut back to meet the edge of the cellar-pit [3160], except in Section 1 (Fig. 9) where it was narrower. Uprights would have been socketed into the ground beam to support a wooden lining. Although no timbers survived within the excavation, a small amount of burnt wood, possibly planks, was seen in the NW. corner of the cellar during the watching brief. A new clay floor (3164) was laid above those of the earlier cellar, and at least in one place overlapped the ground-beam (Fig. 9, section 1). Its survival here must mean that the beam, or a section of it, was left in place to rot following disuse of the cellar. An uneven layer of thin gravelly soil (3210) subsequently built up over the floor. Floor (3164) yielded one sherd of pottery and layer (3210) produced four sherds of pottery and a fragment of grindstone. The pottery from both layers is early 10th- to mid 11th-century St. Neot's ware.

Cellar [3160] – disuse

The cellar subsequently fell into disuse, and was partly burnt as the carbonised planks described above demonstrate. Two thick dumps of red gravelly-clay (3120) and (3121) were deposited within the excavated area of the cellar pit. They were tipped from the N. and rapidly thinned out (from 1.7 m. thick in the N. to 0.4 m. in the S.) leaving a void between 0.6 m. and 1.3 m. deep where the cellar had once been (discounting any rise in the level of the contemporary ground surface). Deposit (3121) was found to infill some of the ground-beam foundation trench [3223], indicating at least some of the timber must have been in a condition worthy of salvage.

The infill layers contained a large quantity of unabraded large sherds of pottery (almost entirely St. Neot's ware) datable to the early 10th to mid 11th century, as well as large quantities of animal bone. Fragments of smithing hearth bases, linings, considerable quantities of iron slag, ash, charcoal and burnt clay were also dumped into the hole. The volume of finds within the infill layers, which seem to have been deposited in a single, or closely related episode, might suggest their original source was a nearby midden which had been shovelled into the hole left by the cellar.

The bulk infill layers were cut by a small pit [3227], which contained a semi-complete OXBR pot. A series of homogeneous gravel, clay and ash infill layers were subsequently tipped in from the E. These layers (3100), (3107-11), (3115) and (3117) (not all illus.) contained a comparable assemblage of finds to bulk fills (3120) and (3121).

It can be seen from Table 7 that Period 2 produced most of the ironworking debris from the excavations, principally from the layers described above infilling the 2nd phase cellar. However, no contemporary surface levels were found to determine the nature of the metalworking operations being performed. The size distribution of recovered hearth bottoms indicates a broad range of smithing activity was taking place. This may not necessarily be a commercial activity, one other possibility being building construction (see Salter below).

Trench B (Fig. 2; Fig. 10, sections 3 and 4)

No trace of the OLS was encountered within Trench B. Over the northern half of the trench the natural gravels had been reduced, it is suggested, by the excavation of one or more cellar pits, [370] and [376].

The presumed cellar pits extended across the width of the trench, and extended S. for a distance of approximately 7.5 m., beyond which later pits had destroyed all traces. These had also destroyed most traces of internal layers, although a few narrow columns of associated 10th- to 11th-century horizontal stratigraphy survived between pits. Fortunately, a more intact area of horizontal stratigraphy survived along the western edge of the trench at its northern end.

[9] V. Horsman, C. Milne and G. Milne, *Aspects of Saxo-Norman London: I. Building and Street Development near Billingsgate and Cheapside* (Lon. & Middx Arch. Soc. Spec. Paper, i, 1988), 109, where it is suggested such buildings had a minimum life of 5-25 years.

The presence of regular horizontal, albeit fragmentary, layers at this depth supports the interpretation that part of Trench B had been cellared rather than quarried and that these deposits represent *in-situ* surfaces and accumulations.

No edges to the postulated cellar(s) survived within the area of excavation, nor could any be traced with confidence during the watching brief. However, surviving stratigraphy might suggest that cellar [376] possessed minimum dimensions of 3.0 m. E.-W. and 4.0 m. N.-S., and cellar [370], 4.0 m. E.-W. and 3.0 m. N.-S. If this is correct, then cellar [370] would be situated across what subsequently became the property boundary between Nos. 116 and 117. Thus it may be either marginally earlier in date than [3160] in Trench A, or else the boundary between Nos. 116 and 117 was fixed later than that between Nos. 115 and 116.

Three different levels for the base of the cellar(s) were apparent in the northern part of the trench. Although it is possible these might represent a 3-way split-level floor within a single very large cellar (such unequal floors have been recorded in London cellars) this might seem less likely than the explanation offered below.[10]

Cellar [376] (Fig. 10, section 3)

The most convincing evidence for a cellar in Trench B is seen in Section 3 where it appears as a split-level cellar-pit [376] extending rearward at least 4.0 m. from the N. end of the trench.

The deepest level was some 1.82 m. below the OLS and originally floored by a sandy-clay and gravel surface (346). To the S., the shallower part of the cellar-pit (1.68 m. deep) was floored with a similar thin layer (340). Both floor levels were overlain by another sandy-clay and gravel surface (289) which raised the deeper floor to the level of the shallower, thus providing a level base.

At the junction of the original split-levels a large, flat-bottomed pit [329] had been excavated through floor (289), then relatively quickly backfilled from the S.[11]

The entire cellar was then re-floored with compact gravel and clay (288) sloping gently upward from N. to S., perhaps to provide ramped access to a rear entrance.[12] A thin, dirty, sandy-clay trample layer (287) accumulated on the floor before the final compacted gravel and sandy-clay floor (277) was laid across the cellar to re-level the base.

These resurfacings raised the floor by some 0.80 m. from its deepest level, thus decreasing the usable height within to some 1.02 m., assuming the roof had not been rebuilt to accommodate these changes. If so, lack of headroom may have caused the cellar to be abandoned.

Cellar [370]

Evidence for a second cellar is less certain but is suggested by traces of a roughly flat-bottomed feature [370] visible in the central portion of the trench either side of pit [179] (see Fig. 10, section 3).

The depth of this feature relative to the OLS was some 1.24 m. – 1.32 m. Clearly not of standing height, this may be a cellar of the type more commonly associated with so-called sunken-floored buildings.

Alternatively, the sloping floor layer (288) within cellar [376] rises at its highest point to a level roughly coincident with that of the flat-bottomed [370] to the S. Thus the latter may be an access-well to cellar [376]. Possible post-trench [240] might conceivably represent the boundary between the two. This interpretation is perhaps more likely than there being two different structures so closely sited next to each other with virtually no space between. The physical relationship between [370] and [376] was totally destroyed by later pits, but it can be determined that they stood no more than 0.90 m. apart where the base levels of both are visible either side of pit [145].

Cellar(s) disuse

The cellar(s) were subsequently abandoned. A number of broadly contemporary pits (not all illus.), [275], [273], [304], [324], [334], [336], [301] and a rectangular well shaft [302] were dug through the final floor (277) of cellar [376], and the adjacent area occupied by possible cellar [370]. Many of these were used as cess pits, some for the disposal of domestic rubbish, whilst others may have been dug to procure gravel. The vertical cut of the well-shaft was confirmed for a depth of 0.25 m. below the base of the trench but could not be explored further beyond new basement formation levels.

[10] Ibid. 63.
[11] Ibid. 64, for a similar example.
[12] Ibid. 38, for a similar example.

It is reasonable to presume that by that time whatever structure(s) originally surmounting the cellar(s) had been removed to allow access to an open pit, but the retaining walls of the cellar(s) may have remained intact to prevent collapse of the surrounding gravels into the void and provide access to the well and pits.

Following this relatively short-lived phase of activity a series of horizontal layers (216), (215), (209), (219), (208) accumulated over the infilled pits and well. These layers were notable for the higher concentrations of cattle limb-bones they contained when compared against assemblages from later periods, particularly those from pits. It is perhaps easier to view this as reflecting the ease with which the waste from very large mammals could be expediently disposed of within the large void offered by the disused cellar, rather than suggesting cattle butchers were trading on the premises. The latter possibility does have some credence however, as the layers extended throughout the cellared area in relatively compact uniform deposits, suggesting structured deposition and not simply random and expedient tipping of rubbish.

Bone assemblages from the cellars in Trenches A and B were subject to more post-depositional damage than material deposited in other pit contexts. This is not surprising, as dogs could more easily have reached these large and relatively shallow open cellar pits than the deep steep-sided pits commonly used for rubbish disposal in later periods.

Significant quantities of pottery were recovered from the cellar deposits in Trench B (mostly St. Neot's ware) including some late Saxon wares which suggests that the accumulation of the horizontal deposits and their butchery waste can be included within the mid to late 11th-century range.

At the end of this activity a depression at least 0.35 m. deep would have remained below the level of the original landsurface. As it is likely that the surrounding ground levels would have risen to some extent during this period, it is probable that the hole was deeper than this minimum dimension.

Trench D (Fig. 2; Fig. 3; Fig. 11, sections 5 and 6)

Assuming that cellar [5016] and any associated surface-laid building had been demolished and cleared by this period, the plot was thereafter briefly occupied by a building, or range of buildings, extending rearward from the High Street. This was associated with a cellar [4231] at the rear of the building(s).

Building I (Fig. 3)

Little survived of the ground-level building save for a 1.5 m. strip S. of the chimney stack within No. 117, and even this small strip did not extend across the full width of the trench. The W. side of the building had been destroyed by cut [4182] (Fig. 5), and no E. wall was seen in the excavations, this presumably having been removed when the much later masonry wall between Nos. 116 and 117 was inserted.

The rear wall of the building was marked by beam trench [4281] some 0.40 m. wide and 0.20 m. deep, laid directly upon layer (4269). It had a clay floor (4205) over which ashy occupation layer (4206) had accumulated to the top of the ground beam.

The northern extent of the building(s) could not be established due to later disturbances described above which had destroyed all stratigraphy above 61.75 m. OD.

To the S. of the building there were ?yard surfaces (4268), (4265)-(4261), comprised largely of gravel and clays. Upon the first of these a stone flagged threshold (4184) was laid between the building and cellar.

The compacted gravel hardstanding (4268) laid immediately S. of the building extended toward the rear of the trench where it was destroyed by later features. A number of discrete features were cut into this surface, including cellar pit [4231].

Cellar [4231]

Cellar [4231] extended S. beyond the limits of Trench D into an area where its edge had previously been identified during the watching brief. The minimum dimensions of the cellar were therefore 3.00 m. N.-S. by 2.00 m. E.-W., but the original dimensions remain uncertain. Where it survived beneath later cut [4182], the cellar fill could be seen to extend as far W. as the wall between Nos. 117 and 118. Whether it once extended beyond this, or whether the wall had destroyed the W. edge of the cellar, is not known. Similarly, the S. edge could not be established because of later disturbances.

Within the trench the cellar could only be excavated to a depth of 1.45 m., although augering suggested an original depth of approximately 2.00 m. (59.88 m. OD). Where noted south of the excavated area, the deepest point on the cellar floor was some 2.30 m. below gravel hardstanding (4268).

At the deepest excavated level, traces of the timber lining survived as slight soil stains (4256), indicating that there had been a double skin of planks or wattles mounted on closely-spaced stakes.

The cellar was infilled with a sandy-clay and loam (4255) containing copious amounts of charcoal and burnt clay. Pottery recovered from this fill was entirely of St. Neot's type ware, suggesting disuse in the mid- to late-11th century.

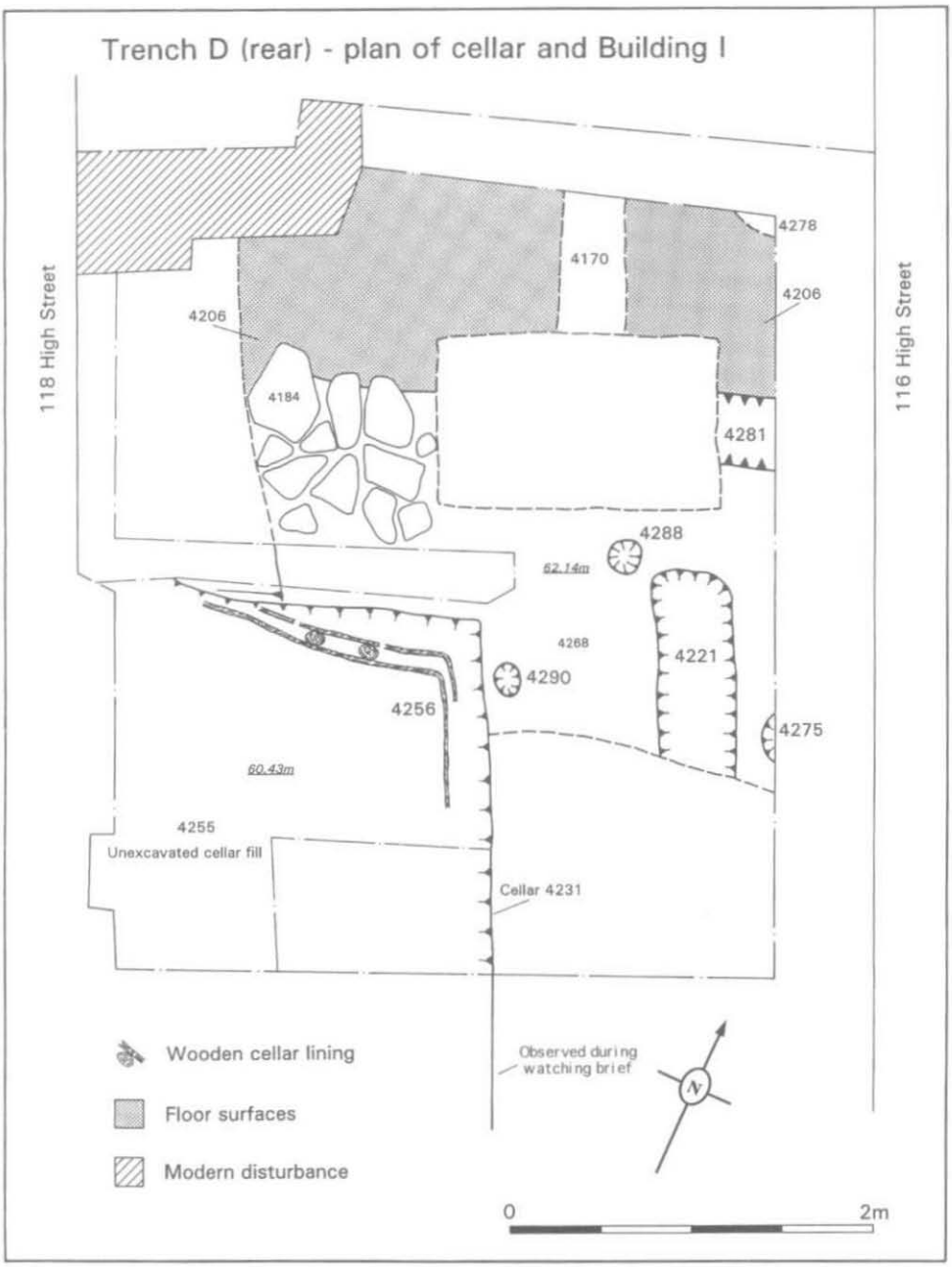

Fig. 3. Period 2b Trench D (rear) plan of cellar 4231 and Building I.

?Outbuilding

Three postholes, [4275] at 0.40 m. diameter and 0.38 m. deep, and [4288] and [4290] both 0.20 m. in diameter and depth, were cut into the hardstanding immediately E. of the cellar, along with a N.-S. aligned beam trench [4221] some 0.45 m. wide and 0.10 m. deep. So little survived of these features as to make it difficult to tell whether they were parts of a separate outbuilding, or a structure related to the cellar.

Building II

Building I was subsequently rebuilt or repaired. The timber ground beam was removed and foundation trench [4281] infilled.

A further series of floor surfaces (4204-4201) were laid over the previous floors and [4281] (Fig. 11, section 6). The rearward extent of these surfaces was similar to that of Building I, but possibly set against a much slighter ground beam (visible as a 0.20 m. wide and 0.10 m. deep depression within (4260)).

At the same time a new N.-S. groundbeam [4170] 0.28 m. wide and 0.15 m. thick was laid upon the uppermost floor of Building I. The new floor surfaces survived much better E. of groundbeam [4170], those to the W. being so worn as to expose the Building I floors beneath. The uppermost floor (4202) W. of [4170] yielded quantities of organic remains. These appeared to be derived from several different processes involving fire. Among these, the burning of oak and straw for fuel, the latter perhaps derived from old thatch or bedding, malting of drage, and cereal processing are other possibilities. The probability that a variety of utilitarian tasks were being undertaken in this room may well explain the heavy wear on the floors.

Contemporary rougher 'yard' surfaces of clay and gravel (4260) and (4257) were deposited to the rear of Building II, the latter containing a single posthole [4258] (n.i.).

Although these structures clearly remained in use long enough for one phase of rebuilding, both appear to have been demolished within a relatively short timespan. A levelling layer of silty clay (4195) was subsequently deposited within Building II and the S. part of the excavated area.

Although no dating evidence exists for any of these layers or features, they are included within this period because of the relationship of Building I with cellar [4231], and the close physical association of Building II with Building I.

Street surfaces

When a utilities trench was dug across the pavement outside No. 118, sight was briefly gained of three compacted gravel surfaces in the trench section. These overlay the red clay OLS at 61.90 m. OD for a combined thickness of 0.40 m., and may be part of the street system within the Saxon *burh*. Unfortunately no kerb survived with which to determine the position of the southern edge of the street. Previous observations of the major Saxon streets have indicated that the earliest surface comprised a primary pebble metalling, succeeded by gravel surfaces.[13] During the High Street surface water drain installation in 1981, it was observed the red clay OLS had been stripped prior to deposition of pebble metalling.[14] No trace of a pebble metalling or stripping of the OLS was observed in the utility trench outside No. 118, which suggests that the width, alignment, or construction methods of the Saxon street were varied.

Discussion of the cellars

Only cellar-pits [3160] and [4231] provided evidence of construction techniques. Cellar [3160] began life with earthfast timber uprights, at least one of which rested upon a padstone. A slot visible only in section 1 (Fig. 9) would have held a facing of horizontal timber planks or wattles retained at intervals by uprights, with the space between the facing and the cellar-pit packed with gravel and soil. The cellar walls were subsequently replaced; floor surfaces associated with the earlier phase were cut back and a shallow foundation trench excavated to contain a timber baseplate.

A cellar of comparable date with notably similar construction characteristics was discovered close by at All Saints' Church opposite Nos. 113-119, albeit the beam slot and post-holes were interpreted by the excavator as a single phase of 'post-in-slot' construction.[15] Traces of the wooden plank walls of the All

[13] B. Durham, *Oxford before the University: Four Saxon Themes* (OAU, Thames Valley Landscapes Monog., in prep).

[14] Ibid.

[15] Ibid.

Saints' cellar survived *in situ*, whereas the evidence for the facing in cellar [3160] was less conclusive, only the charred wood 'planks' noted in the watching brief offering a possibility.

Unlike cellar [3160], it did not prove possible to examine the base of cellar [4231] in Trench D, although traces of the wattle or plank facing survived as darker stains within the infill. The facing consisted of small timber posts or stakes with cladding on the inner and outer face. This type of construction, using planks, is also known from cellared-buildings at Watling Court and Cannon Street, London; Coppergate, York; and in Dublin.[16]

Cellar-pits of the types described above now appear to be a common part of the early to mid 11th-century building tradition, although they occur more rarely in the late 10th century. They are known from a number of historic towns throughout England, and in the Norse city of Dublin. There are however several building traditions and a variety of cellared structures in existence at this time. At 113-119 High Street it is quite clear from the examples cited that there are at least two distinct cellar types, which in turn most probably relate to different architectural forms at surface level. The cellar-pits represented by [4231] and [5016] at No. 117, although incomplete in their known dimensions, seem most likely to fall within a group of relatively small structures which to date have been characteristic of early medieval cellars in Oxford, such as those recorded at the Clarendon Hotel and 55 to 58 Cornmarket Street.[17] Smaller cellars also tend to be commoner amongst those excavated elsewhere, such as Milk Street, Pudding Lane, Watling Court and Fish Street Hill in London.[18] These smaller cellars were presumably contained within a more extensive surface-laid building and accessed by ladder through a trapdoor within the floor of the building, and might best be regarded as basic household storage facilities. Certainly the very slight post or stake uprights seen in cellar [4231] would be incapable of supporting a surface-built structure as well as retaining the cellar walls (see below). The length of beam trench with associated post-holes found adjacent to cellar [4231] may represent the remains of just such a surface-laid building. Unfortunately, none of the other cellars possessed evidence of a superstructure, nor have any such remains been found elsewhere in Oxford with which to draw comparison.

Larger cellared structures have recently been discussed in a different context. The most commonly held interpretation now views these as lower storeys of ground-level buildings.[19] Of the cellars discovered in the 113-119 High Street excavations, only one of those occupying the backlands seems a credible candidate for this category of building. The two possible cellars to the rear of No. 116 did not survive well and are too poorly understood to permit useful speculation. However, cellar [3160] behind No. 115 is of suitable size, construction and situation to bear comparison with other examples. Cellar [3160] represents the largest subterranean timber structure so far discovered within Oxford, but is comparable in size to some of the larger London cellars.[20] The post-holes and beam-slot foundations of the cellar appear sufficiently substantial to have been of integral construction with a structure rising beyond ground level, and are certainly comparable with the London evidence where it has been suggested posts would need to be in excess of 0.2 m. in diameter to support an upper storey.[21] If, however, the width of the cellar has been correctly ascertained, it would seem almost certain that a central line of posts must also have existed to support the large floor joists needed to span the cavity, or alternatively to support the ridge-piece of a roof. In location also, it resembles the larger London cellars which are often sited in the middle or rear of plots.[22] It is also comparable with the position of

[16] Horsman et al., op. cit. note 9, pp. 57-8; R. Hall, *The Excavations at York: the Viking Dig* (1984), 70-2; H. Murray, *Viking Buildings in Dublin* (BAR Brit. Ser. 119, 1983).

[17] Jope, op. cit. note 8; D. Sturdy and J. Munby, 'Early Domestic Sites in Oxford: Excavations in Cornmarket and Queen Street, 1959-62', *Oxoniensia*, l (1985), 47-94.

[18] Horsman et al., op. cit. note 9, p. 68.

[19] Sturdy and Munby, op. cit. note 17, p. 93; Horsman et al., op. cit. note 9, pp. 68-70; Hall, op. cit. note 16, pp. 74-6.

[20] Horsman et al., op. cit. note 9, pp. 56-61, see WAT2 and WAT3 for useful comparisons.

[21] Ibid. 56-61, 67; J. Blair, *Anglo-Saxon Oxfordshire* (1994), Fig. 94 shows a useful reconstruction of a large timber building with a cellar.

[22] Horsman et al., op. cit. note 9, p. 109.

the similarly constructed, but smaller cellar at All Saints', Oxford.[23] The function of such large cellars has been much debated, ranging from use as subterranean dwellings to commercial storage facilities.[24] In neither case has the evidence been consistent or conclusive, nor unfortunately does the excavated evidence from 113-119 High Street greatly assist in determining a satisfactory judgement.

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF PERIOD 2 CELLARS

TRENCH	A	B	D
No.	3160	376 370	5016 4231
Plan	Rectangular	376: not known 370: not known	5016: sub-rectangular 4231: rectangular
Size	9.0 m. x 7.0 m. est.	376: 3.0 m. x 4.0 m. 370: 4.0 m. x 3.0 m.	5016: 2.0 m. x 1.0 m.+ 4231: 3.0 m.+ x 2.0 m.+
Depth	Phase 1: 1.93 m. Phase 2: not known	376: 1.62-1.82 m. 370: 1.24-1.32 m.	5016: 1.9 m. 4231: 2.0-2.3 m.
Depth at abandonment	Phase 1: 1.55 m. Phase 2: 1.32 m.+?	376: 1.02 m. 370: not known	5016: not known 4231: not known
Lining	Phase 1: post built Phase 2: beam & plank	376: ?post built 370: not known	5016: not known 4231: stake and ?wattle

PERIOD 3, 12TH TO 13TH CENTURIES (Fig. 4)

This period is characterised by a great increase in frequency and extent of pit digging in the backlands of Nos. 116 to 118, and to a lesser extent within the frontage of plot No. 117. The apparent lack of pits to the rear of No. 115 may be illusory, as little of the plot was reduced to basement formation level, i.e. to a depth where pits could be identified and comprehended with confidence. However, the available evidence does hint at an eastern limit to extensive pit digging broadly corresponding with the edge of the earlier cellar [3160] in No. 115. Varying enormously in depth and diameter (*c.* 0.6-2.5 m. and 0.8-2.6 m. respectively), and endemic throughout the backland, the pits had removed over 90% of the OLS. It will be apparent from the preceding account of Period 2 that this activity seriously inhibited interpretation of earlier deposits, whilst also accentuating residuality of artefacts.

The street front buildings seen within No. 117 during the previous period seem to have been cleared and a rectangular well shaft [4213] sunk through the remains of Building II. The shaft of the well appears to have been timber lined.

Trench A (Fig. 9, sections 1 and 2)

Following digging and infilling of pit [3227], a sequence of discrete, compact sand, gravel, silt, ash and charcoal layers/surfaces (3219-16, 3117, 3115, 3111-09, 3107, 3100, 3049, 3050 not all illus.) was deposited in the depression left by cellar [3160]. Pottery suggests a 12th-century date for this event. Tip-lines associated with this tertiary infilling activity indicated that it was deposited from the E., and that a depression continued to exist for some time towards the W. edge of the cellar-pit. These layers were sufficiently distinct to suggest that they had been deposited individually rather than as part of a general infilling process. It is possible that they represent surfaces/floors that have subsided towards the W. end of the trench. If so, then it is possible the large depression left by the former cellar still had some structural function. However, no evidence was recorded of any structure during this period.

[23] Durham, op. cit. note 13.
[24] Hall, op. cit. note 16, p. 76; Horsman et al., op. cit. note 9, p. 109.

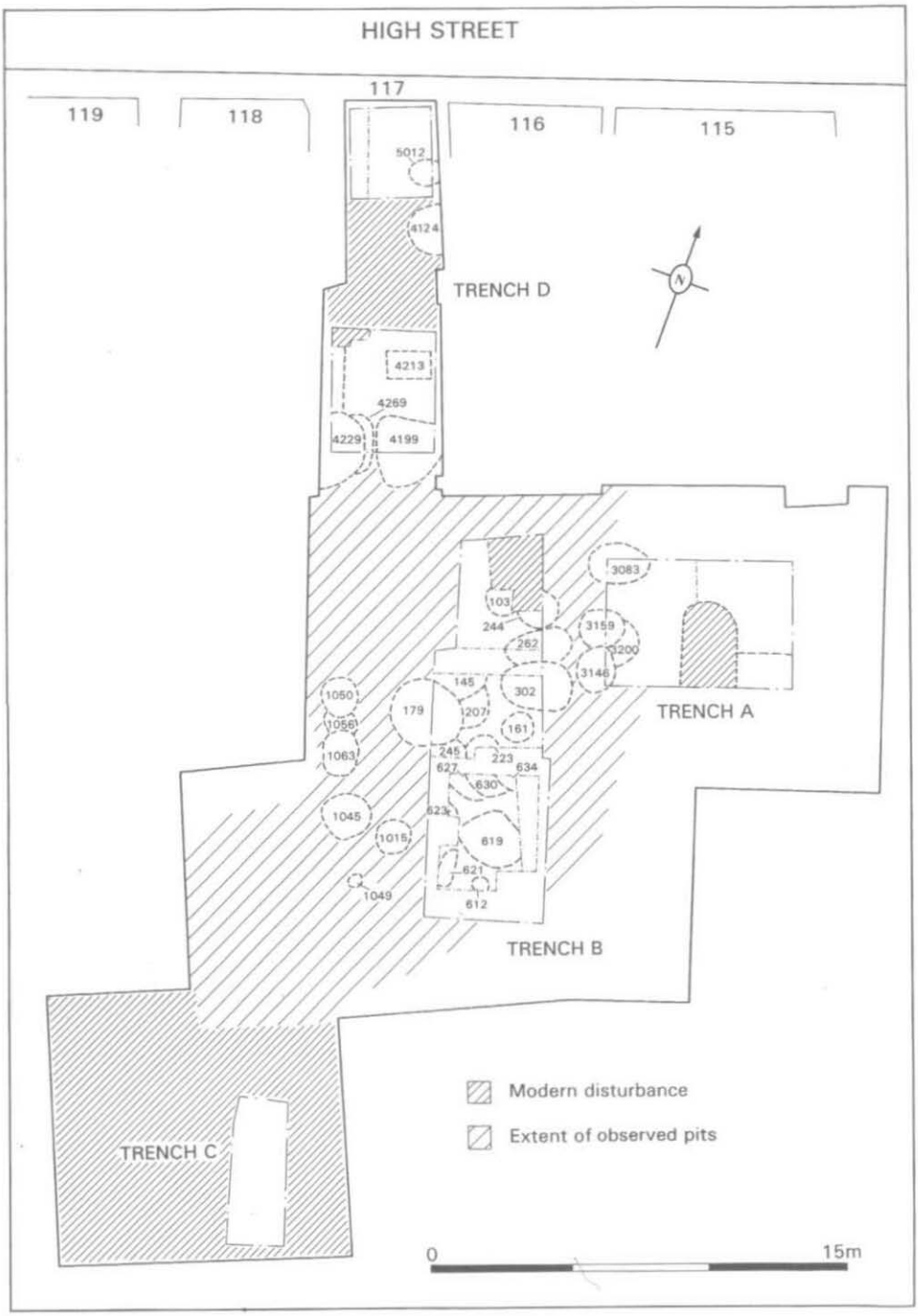

Fig. 4. Period 3 site plan (12th-13th centuries).

Several intercutting, but broadly contemporary pits [3200, 3159, 3146, 3142, 3147, 3130, 3098, 3134, 3083, 3088] (not all illus.) were thereafter dug in the area of the former cellar. Most were aceramic, but [3083], [3088] (n.i.), and [3098] produced a range of fabrics suggesting infilling in the 12th century, and in some cases clearly the latter part of the century.

Trench B (Fig. 10, sections 3 and 4)

At the N. end of the trench, the latest 11th-century layer (208) was capped by a layer of burnt gravel (203) associated with a section of E.-W. wall 0.30 m. wide and three courses high (0.32 m.), set in a shallow foundation trench [205] (n.i. on Fig. 4). This wall survived only for a short length (1.20 m.) between the W. side of the trench and a modern brick inspection chamber. Additional traces were identified to the W. of the trench during the watching brief, but it was not possible to associate it with any other features. The wall was sealed beneath a layer of sandy-clay (146) which, at 61.60 m. OD, still lay slightly below the level of the OLS indicating the cellar depression was clearly no impediment to building.

A further length of truncated wall, also in a shallow foundation trench [221] (section 4), was excavated on the same alignment as [205] towards the centre of the trench, although the two features were not contemporary. This section of wall extended only 1.1 m. into the trench from the E., before being robbed out and/or destroyed by pits. No trace of a continuation to the E. was observed during the watching brief.

Pits

The most characteristic feature of this period was the digging of numerous, frequently intercutting pits across the entire trench. Mostly, these appeared to have been cess-pits, although some were solely for the disposal of rubbish and others contained layers of domestic refuse interleaved with thicker deposits of cess. Although the primary functions appears to have been for nightsoil or rubbish disposal, others were probably excavated for storage, industrial functions, or gravel, and were subsequently infilled with whatever materials lay conveniently to hand. Many were aceramic, but those producing sizeable assemblages are summarised within Table 3.

Only one pit produced an artefact of note. Pit [243] (n.i.) contained a 12th-century pitcher packed around with clay, probably buried to concoct a medicinal remedy or possibly a cooking sauce. The contents had not survived. A silver penny of Edward I, issued in 1272 or later, came from pit [145] (section 3), along with the largest and most diverse pottery group.

A notable aspect of the faunal assemblage recovered from pits of this period, the majority of these being from Trench B, was the high incidence of sheep/goat horn cores. Nearly all belonged to males and had been sawn-off at the base near the skull. Their predominance would suggest the occupants of No. 116 were engaged in hornworking during this period.

Further layers of compacted gravel and clay continued to be deposited throughout the period, some perhaps as 'yard' surfaces, although the rather random way some of these were deposited suggests their main purpose was to assist in raising the level of the depression left by the earlier cellars. A number of these layers had slumped into the disused Period 2b well shaft [302] (section 4), lower layers shearing dramatically away from surrounding material, suggesting that the shaft had perhaps been boarded over rather than infilled. The resultant depression was subsequently levelled-out with gravel and clay.

Trench D (Fig. 12, sections 5 and 6)

There was no evidence for any buildings on the street frontage within plot No. 117 following the demolition of Period 2b Building II. A 12th-century pit [5012] containing an OXBK cooking pot and two sherds of probable Stamford (Z) ware was excavated near to the street, cutting Period 2a cellar [5016]. This pit contained 46 fragments of weathered daub (many with wattle impressions), perhaps from the demolished structures. A substantial pit [4124] was revealed beneath the foundations of the chimney stack in the middle of the trench. The upper fill (4121) produced a fragment of rotary quern of Niedermendig lava.

Well [4213]

In the rear half of Trench D a rectangular well shaft [4213] at least 3.00 m. deep was dug through the layers sealing demolished Building II. The well appeared to have been timber lined; very faint traces of soil stains on the gravels indicated the presence of decayed planks or wattle. No superstructure was apparent, although a small posthole [4278] was cut from the same horizon in the NE. corner of the trench. Another posthole [4258] was cut from the same horizon S. of the well. To the W. of the well, an area of gravel hardstanding (4208) partly overlay the Period 2a stone-flagged surface.

The well-shaft was infilled with deposits of gravelly clay. Stratigraphic evidence and pottery suggest that the infilling took place in the later 12th or 13th century.

At the very rear of the trench, three large pits were cut during this period. Of these one was of particular note; sub-angular pit [4199] was partially edged with rough stone blocks in a decayed yellow mortar. It was not clear what function this edging performed, nor what purpose the pit originally had.

Compacted gravel surfaces interleaved with layers of ash and charcoal (4178-6, 4277-6) (not all illus.) were thereafter deposited over the rear of the trench. These saw considerable wear, with the resulting hollows filled with grey-brown loams. Some localised repairs were made with patches of clay and gravel deposits (4194-1, 4172, 4167) (not all illus.).

PERIOD 4, 13TH TO 14TH CENTURIES (Fig. 5)

During this period the nature of landuse changed throughout the backland. Pits, although still being dug, were now much less numerous. For the first time evidence is directly observed rather than inferred for formal property division of the backland, with the introduction of stone boundary walls (3076) between Nos. 115 and 116, and (130) between Nos. 116 and 117. The sanitary requirements of the occupants of No. 116 were now provided for with a large stone-built cess-pit [531] constructed at the rear of the plot against the boundary wall (130). Traces of further stone structures were noted S. of this where fragments of walls (1126) and (1127) survived.

Although little changed for most of the period, the appearance of a stone building (Building III) at No. 117 necessitates a division of the period into two phases. It is possible that up until the emergence of this building the plot was unoccupied by any structure. This is suggested by the possibility that a crudely blocked below-ground arch in the wall between Nos. 117 and 118 may have been accessed by an external stairwell from No. 117. In the backland of No. 117 a cobbled surface (61) was noted along with short lengths of stone wall (89), (1013) and (1125) which may have belonged to outbuildings.

Period 4a (Fig. 5)

Trench A (Fig. 9, sections 1 and 2)

The Period 3 pits were sealed by a series of gravelly-clay layers (3051), (3054), and (3064), and by a small area of compact burnt clay (3057) onto which limestone slabs had been set, perhaps as a hearth. These levelled up the eastern part of the infilled cellar where a depression must still have existed from the previous periods. Layers (3054) (n.i.) and (3051) contained an assemblage of Brill/Boarstall type ware (OXAM/AW).

There was little evidence for later 13th-century pit digging in the area of the trench, although three 14th-century pits [3148], [3075] and [3096] (n.i.) were present. A large sub-rectangular pit [3055] was also dug within the SE. quadrant of the trench.

A N.-S. stone wall (3076) was constructed on a line parallel with the W. edge of the former cellar [3016], and roughly parallel to the later property boundary between Nos. 115 and 116. Although the foundation trench [3119] contained pottery exclusively of St. Neot's ware, this is undoubtedly residual, and wall (3076) probably dates to the later 13th-century on stratigraphic grounds. It may have been contemporary with the layers described above sealing the Period 3 pits, but the relationship was unclear as a result of later stone-robbing. The wall did not continue throughout the width of the excavation trench, terminating 1.3 m. short of the S. side. No dressed stone terminal or corner was apparent, and no continuation of this wall was identified to the S. during the watching brief, although much of this area had been removed by the building contractors, unobserved by CAT. The wall is undoubtedly a solid manifestation of an earlier property boundary between Nos. 115 and 116, reflected both in the position of Period 2b cellar [3016] and in the probable eastern limit of pit digging seen in Period 3.

Trench B (Fig. 5; Fig. 6; Fig. 10, sections 3 and 4)

A N.-S. linear boundary wall (130) was inserted between properties No. 116 and 117, representing with wall (3076) in Trench A, the first direct (as opposed to inferred) evidence for the division of the backland into separate plots. This boundary wall was 0.48 m. wide, and survived only 0.15 m. high in a shallow foundation trench [101] cut into layer (142). By the time this wall was constructed, paradoxically the northern half of the backland where the cellar(s) had been located had risen considerably in level, and was now some 0.50-0.70 m. or so above levels accumulating against the W. side of the wall within No. 117. In the SE. corner of the trench levels were approximately 0.88 m. below those in the N.

The wall was contemporary with a large, rectangular stone-lined cesspit [531] at the rear of the trench. The pit (4.20 m. long by 1.55 m. wide by 1.04 m. deep) was constructed of well-coursed clay-bonded limestone, and utilised wall (130) as its western side. Although the boundary wall and the cesspit appeared to be of integral construction, the wall must have been rebuilt at this point to provide the deeper foundation

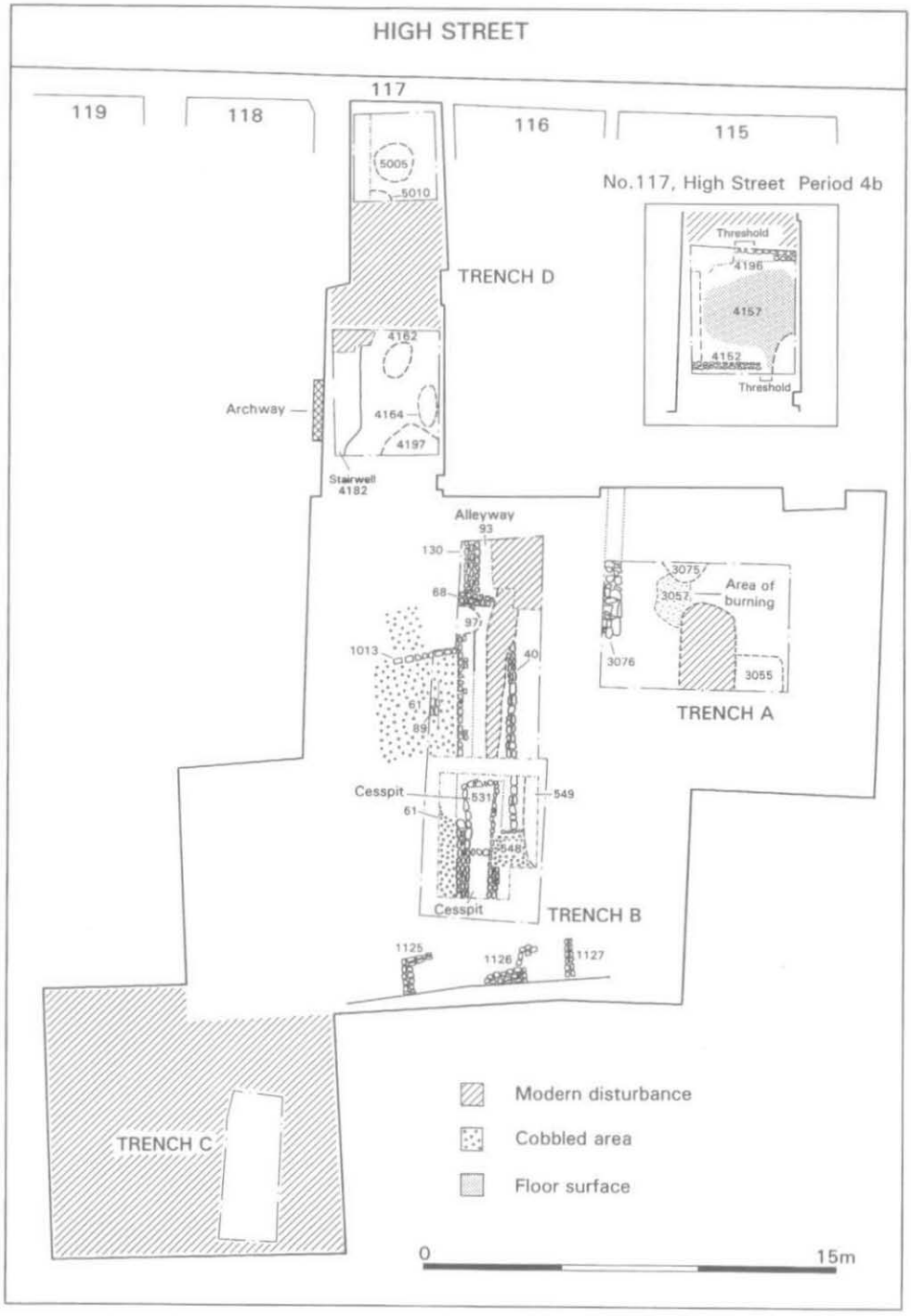

Fig. 5. Period 4a site plan (4b inset) (13th-14th centuries).

required by the cesspit. The cesspit was divided into two chambers by a cross-wall, one purpose of which may have been to prevent the long side walls from bowing-in. The siting of latrines such as these against property boundaries is known to be a common medieval practice.[25] In view of the clear evidence for shared use with the occupants of adjoining No. 117 in later periods (see below), this might also explain the dual-chamber design at this early date.

Access to the cesspit for the occupants of No. 116 was via an alleyway defined on the W. by boundary wall (130) and on the E. by a parallel wall (74) (underlying wall (40) on Figs. 5 and 6). The foundations for this wall were more substantial than (130), being some 0.48 m. deep at the southern end, although this diminished to 0.20 m. at the northern end as the wall rose upwards with the slope of the land. The alleyway was surfaced with compacted clay and gravel (93).

A large unlined cesspit [588] of uncertain diameter, but 1.8 m. deep with near vertical sides, was dug immediately adjacent to cesspit [531]. Cesspit [588] was rapidly infilled and capped with a compact layer of limestone fragments (548) with a kerb on its N. side.

A spur of E.-W. aligned wall (68), 0.45 m. wide by 0.30 m. high, was cut through boundary wall (130) near the N. end of the trench. This survived for a length of 1.30 m., whereafter it was removed by a modern pipe-trench. The wall would have blocked the alleyway, unless access was redirected from the E., but this hypothesis could not be confirmed as the pipe-trench had destroyed walls (68) and (74)/(40) at this point.

Around 1300 the organisation of the backland of No. 116 underwent a temporary re-arrangement. The alley wall (74) was slighted and partially grubbed out. The E. wall of the alleyway (40) was rebuilt above, and slightly offset to the W. of, its predecessor. This new wall survived up to eight courses high (0.55 m.) in places.

Immediately to the E. of the alleyway, a series of clay and gravel layers were deposited to raise levels a further 0.50 m. or so in the N. half of the trench. One of these (96) (n.i.). produced a large number (102 fragments) of potsherds, whilst a dark gritty-clay layer (47) within dumped deposits of ash and charcoal contained small quantities of copper-working debris. This may have originated from workings in the near vicinity, although the documentary evidence does not mention copper working as one of the trades practised by any of the tenants during this, or any other, period. Pottery recovered from this layer dated to the 14th century.

To the W. of the boundary wall (i.e. within No. 117) levels were also rising, although these did nothing to erase the height differential between the N. part of the backland and the S. The wall was abutted by a cobbled surface (61) at 62.56 m. OD near the middle of the property, dropping to 61.85 m. OD at the back. The watching brief proved this to be part of a cobbled courtyard associated with the fragmentary remains of an outbuilding. The latter was identified only by a single N.-S. segment of wall (89) within the excavation trench, although an approximately E.-W. wall (1013) might be part of the same structure.

To the S. of the trench, three short stubs of wall (1125-27) were noted during the watching brief. No stratigraphic relationships between these and Trench B survived, nor could they be dated by artefacts. Their relative levels within the overall stratigraphic sequence suggest they belong to this period. Their function is unclear, although it is possible that they were part of buildings now underlying the student accommodation block to the S. of the excavations.

Trench D (Fig. 11, sections 5 and 6; Fig. 12, section 7)

The rear half of the trench was levelled throughout with a gravelly loam (4173) containing only residual pottery, the latest pieces being of 12th-century date. Areas of subsidence over the infilled pits in the SW. corner including [4225] and [4174] were levelled with dumps of clay, mortar and limestone, before another large pit [4197] was dug. This also contained mainly 11th- to mid 12th-century residual material. Pits [4162] and [4164] contained predominantly 12th-century material with a few 13th-century sherds. Two pits, [5005] and [5010], were also dug near the street frontage at this time, supporting the premise that no building stood on the site during the later part of the 13th or early 14th century.

A compacted gravel surface (4189) was thereafter laid across the rear of the trench, sandwiched between layers of ash and charcoal (4190 and 4188). This surface was subjected to severe wear, the depressions becoming filled with a dark loamy material (4159) containing a high proportion of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM).

The partition wall between Nos. 117 and 118 was inserted at this time, although later service trenches running N.-S. along the length of the wall had truncated the stratigraphic relationships. The foundation trench [4182] was cut with a clearance of 0.45 m. from the wall at the S. end, widening thereafter to 1.00 m. where a roughly constructed arch just under 2.0 m. high and 2.2 m. wide was found (Fig. 12, Section 7). This

[25] J. Schofield and A. Vince, *Medieval Towns* (1994), 68.

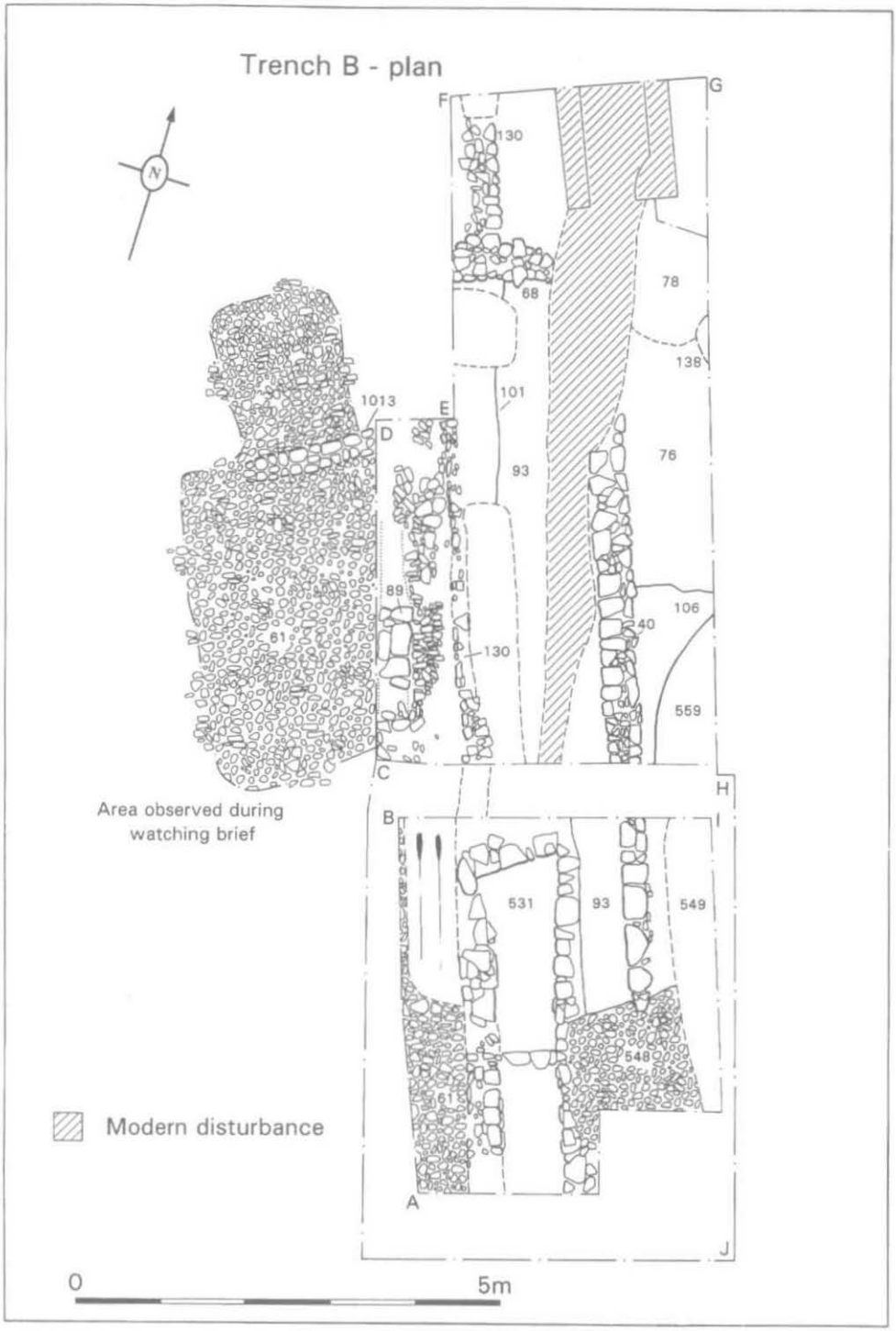

Fig. 6. Period 4a Trench B plan of stone-lined cesspits and boundaries.

had been blocked with slightly different stonework to the surrounding wall. Its function is unclear, but the widening of trench [4182] at this point might suggest this was to accommodate a flight of stairs providing external access to the cellar in No. 118. Alternatively, it may have functioned as a relieving arch. The backfill of [4182] contained pottery of 12th- to 13th-century date, which if the feature was a stairwell, seems to indicate it was not long-lived.

Period 4b (Fig. 5 inset)

The evidence presented above indicates that it is unlikely a building existed on the frontage of No. 117 in the earlier part of this period, although structures were present both at Nos. 116 and 118.

Trench D

Building III

Documentary evidence indicates that a building was present on the frontage of No. 117 by 1328.[26] The remains of part of this building may be represented by two sections of contemporary E.-W. stone wall at the N. and S. ends of the rear of the trench. The northern section of wall (4196) was the more substantial at 1.05 m. wide, and this probably represents the rear wall to a building facing onto the street. A roughly central threshold partially survived in the wall. The S. wall (4152), possibly forming part of an outbuilding, was only 0.35 m. wide. A threshold was present towards the E. end of this wall, while the W. end abutted the partition wall between Nos. 117 and 118 and overlay the now infilled possible stairwell [4182].

There was a little-worn floor of grey clay and gravel (4157) within the room defined by the two lengths of walling. This might suggest a very limited lifespan for this part of the building, although it does not preclude continued use of the building N. of wall (4196).

No dating evidence was recovered from the walls or floor. However, levelling layer (4108) (n.i.) immediately above floor (4157) included Brill/Boarstall type sherds (OXAW) and Coarse Border Ware suggesting that the layer had accumulated after the 15th century, or more likely that the Coarse Border Ware is intrusive.

PERIOD 5, 15TH TO 16TH CENTURIES (Fig. 7)

To the rear of No. 115 the badly disturbed remains of a small building (Building IV) were noted. At No. 116, the stone-built cesspit [531] was reconstructed to form a slightly wider facility [532], and a quarry-like feature [549] dug alongside. On the street frontage at No. 117, the Period 4b structure was demolished to make way for the present building. Evidence retained within the standing structure has revealed that this building contained a partially-floored open hall incorporating a smoke bay. To the rear of the building, walls (1003) and (1006) might represent an outbuilding. A stone-built well [1043] might also belong to this period. At the very rear of No. 118, evidence was recovered for numerous cess-pits including a substantial stone-built cess-pit (2043).

Trench A (Fig. 9, Sections 1 and 2)

Clay-loams (3172 and 3173) accumulated during this period and wall (3076) was robbed to its base course. The robber-trench [3037] was filled with gravel and clay containing rough blocks of limestone. Quantities of building debris, including stone and ceramic tiles, were buried in pit [3052] (n.i.), suggesting demolition or repair to a nearby standing building. Additional levelling material was subsequently deposited throughout the excavated area, sealing the robber trench and pits.

Building IV

A badly disturbed section of N.-S. wall (3183) associated with a series of thin clay and ash surfaces (3013-08) was present in the NE. quarter of the trench. This represented the remains of a small structure, although contractors' site clearance and a modern pipe-trench had removed virtually all evidence within Trench A. Several pits [3005], [3065], [3069] and [3180] were dug in the area around this building.

[26] Salter, *Survey of Oxford*, op. cit. note 3.

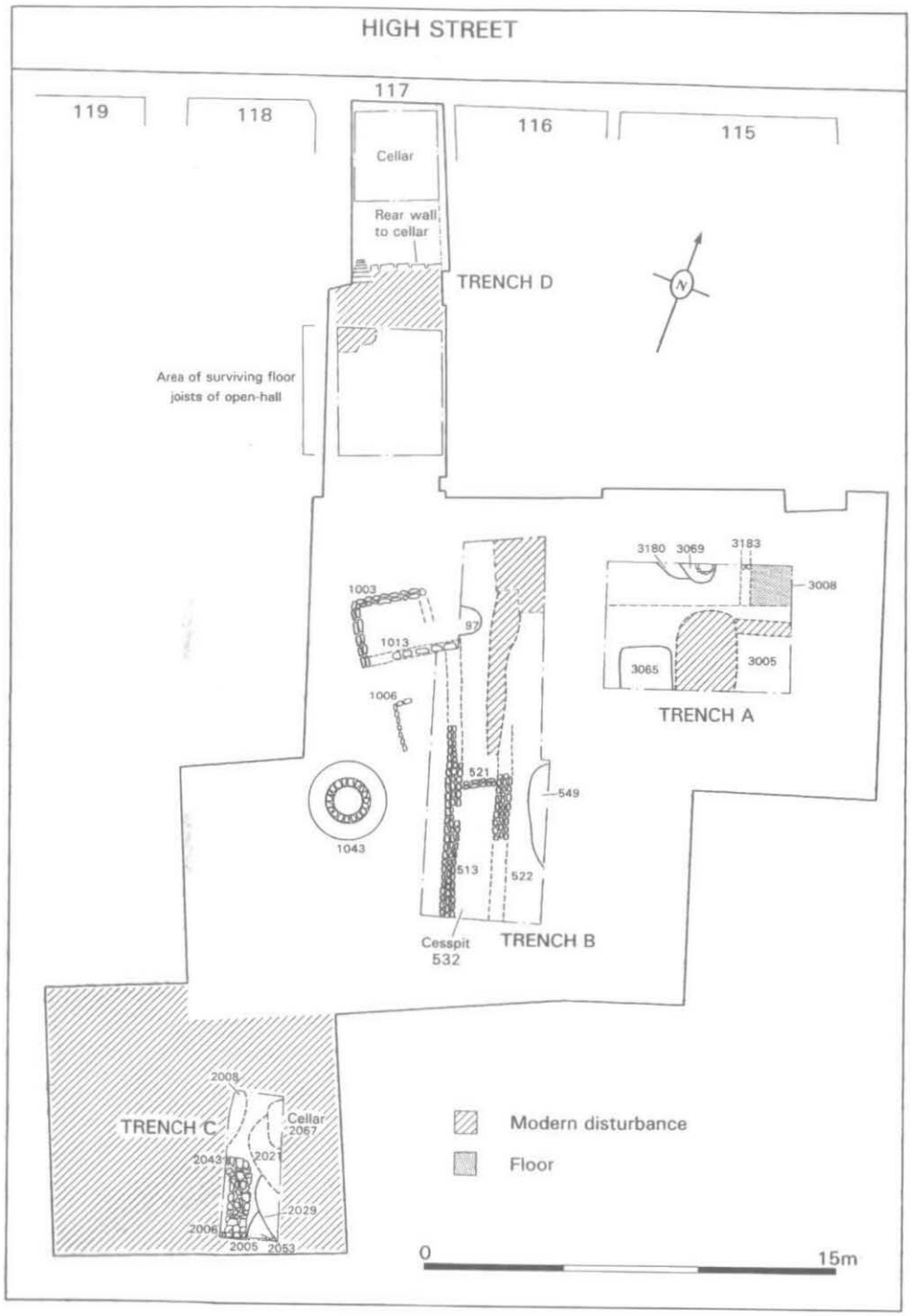

Fig. 7. Period 5 site plan (15th-16th centuries).

Trench B (Fig. 10, sections 3 and 4)

The stone-lined cesspit [531] was rebuilt during this period. The N. and E. walls (521) and (522) of the new cesspit utilised the walls of the original cesspit as foundations, wall (513), which replaced the old property boundary (130), was built 0.40 m. to the W. creating a slightly broader structure [532]. The cesspit appears to have become a single-chamber design at this period. A dark grey sandy clay surface (53) was deposited within the region of the former alleyway following demolition of wall [40].

A large feature [549] was dug immediately E. of the cesspit. Its function is unclear, but its size might suggest that it was a quarry pit. Its upper fills produced pottery suggesting it was not backfilled until the 16th century at the earliest.

Three small stone-built walls (1003), (1006) and (1013) were identified immediately W. of Trench B during the watching brief. These were so fragmentary that no interpretation of their function was possible, although they may have represented some manner of outbuilding(s). To the S. of these, a 1.0 m. diameter stone-lined well [1043] discovered during the watching brief may also date to this period.

Trench C (Fig. 7)

The first securely-dated activity in this part of the site was attributable to this period. A large stone-lined cesspit [2043] was built against a pre-existing wall (2006), probably the rear boundary of No. 118. The stone-lined cesspit, containing 16th-century pottery, was cut through a series of earlier, though undated, cesspits.

A number of unlined cesspits were also dug during this period; [2035], [2029] and [2053]. Pit [2053] contained 13th- and 14th-century pottery, whilst [2029] contained 15th- to 16th-century pottery.

Trench D (Fig. 11, Sections 5 and 6)

The Period 4b building was demolished, and clay and gravel dumps (4108), (4110), (4148-50), (4153-6) sealed both the floor (4157) and walls to level the area for the construction of the present building. These layers were sealed with a series of bulk deposits characterised as (4042), (4304) and (4303), which also appear intended to raise and level the immediate area, presumably to assist in rebuilding. Pottery recovered from these layers suggested a date in the 15th or 16th century. A possible pit [4140] (n.i.) also contained wares of 15th- to 16th-century date.

A series of reused oak floor joists survived in the ground floor ceiling in the rear half of No. 117. These indicate the building which replaced the Period 4b structure had contained a partially-floored open hall with a smoke bay. The smoke bay was later covered over with floor joists of probable 16th-century date.[27]

The cellar at the front of No. 117 may also belong to this period, although no secure dating evidence for its construction was recovered. It was originally floored with stone slabs, although these were later removed and replaced with brick towards the street frontage when the cellar was extended.

PERIOD 6, 17TH TO 18TH CENTURIES (Fig. 8)

During this period the stone cess-pit to the rear of No. 116 was partially repaired and the southern portion rebuilt. Two chambers were reinstated and separate chutes were incorporated, suggesting the southern chamber was used by No. 116 whilst No. 117 had access to the northern chamber. A stone-lined well [138] and a possible second well [502] also appeared in the backland.

Trench A

Later post-medieval activity was restricted to a small brick-lined feature [3069] (n.i.) of unknown function, which cut into the top of an earlier pit [3075]. At some point the ground was partially levelled, truncating features and layers over much of the trench prior to the deposition of layer (3001), a levelling deposit laid beneath the former outbuilding at the rear of No. 115.

[27] J. Munby, 'Recent Work on Oxfordshire Buildings. Oxford, 114-119 High Street: Lincoln College (1993-5)', *S. Midlands Archaeol.* 25 (1995), 67-8.

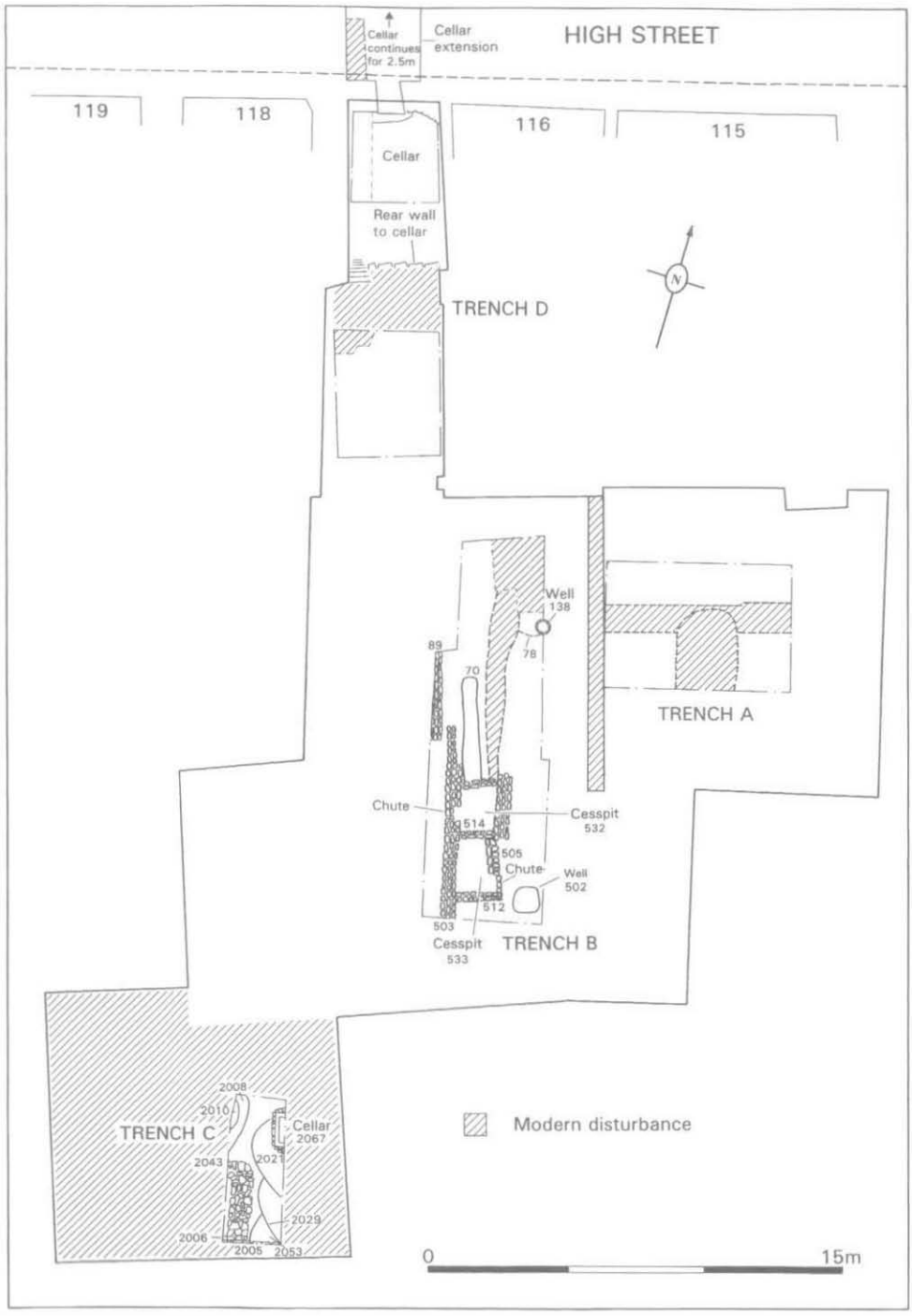

Fig. 8. Period 6 site plan (17th-18th centuries).

Trench B (Fig. 10, Sections 3 and 4)

The stone-lined cesspit [532] was repaired again during this period, though only the southern half was rebuilt as [533]. This returned it to a dual-chamber design, but now somewhat reduced in size. New E. and S. walls (505) and (512) and a dividing wall (514) were constructed; the feature otherwise retaining the walls of the older pit. Separate chutes were built for the two chambers thus defined, the chute in the northern chamber providing a facility for the occupants of No. 117.

The rebuilding of the cesspit was accompanied by the excavation of a gully [70], 3.80 m. long by 0.60 m. wide and 0.60 m. deep. This sloped downward away from the lip of the stone-lined cesspit [532], becoming flat-bottomed at its northern end. It contained the same type of green-grey cessy material found within the cesspit, which suggests it functioned as an overflow sump.

Little other activity took place in the area of Trench B during this phase, although a pit [78] and a stone-lined well shaft [138] were excavated in the NE. part of the trench. A possible sub-rectangular well [502] was also noted in the SE. corner of the trench. This was not excavated on safety grounds, as the capping fills were unstable and threatened to collapse during initial investigations.

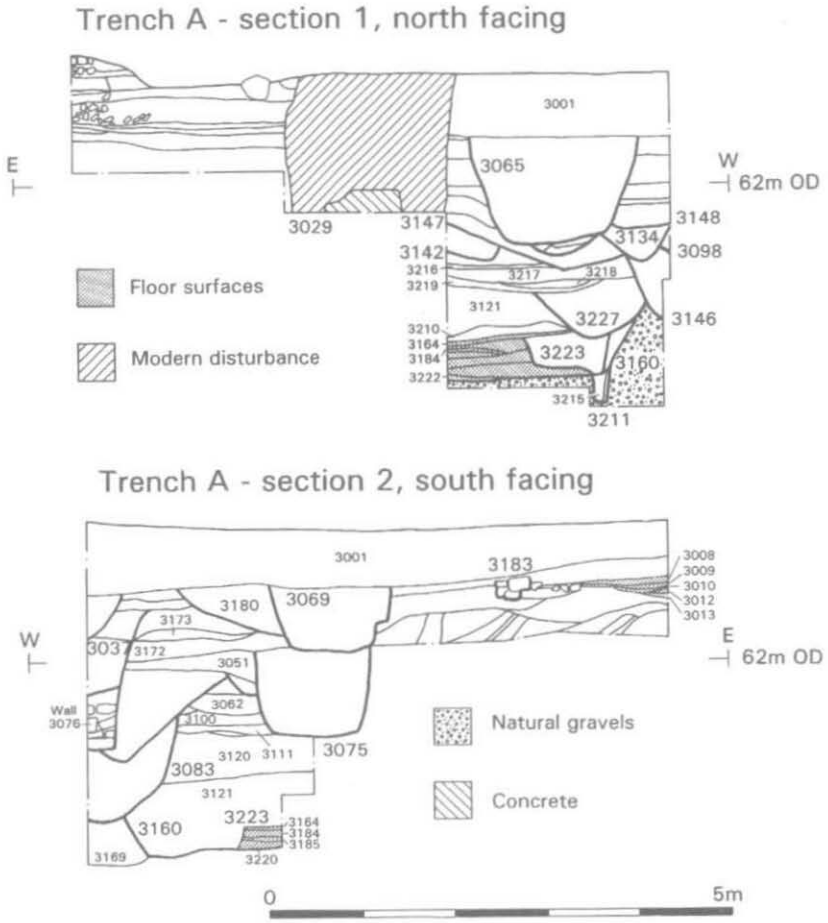

Fig. 9. Trench A sections.

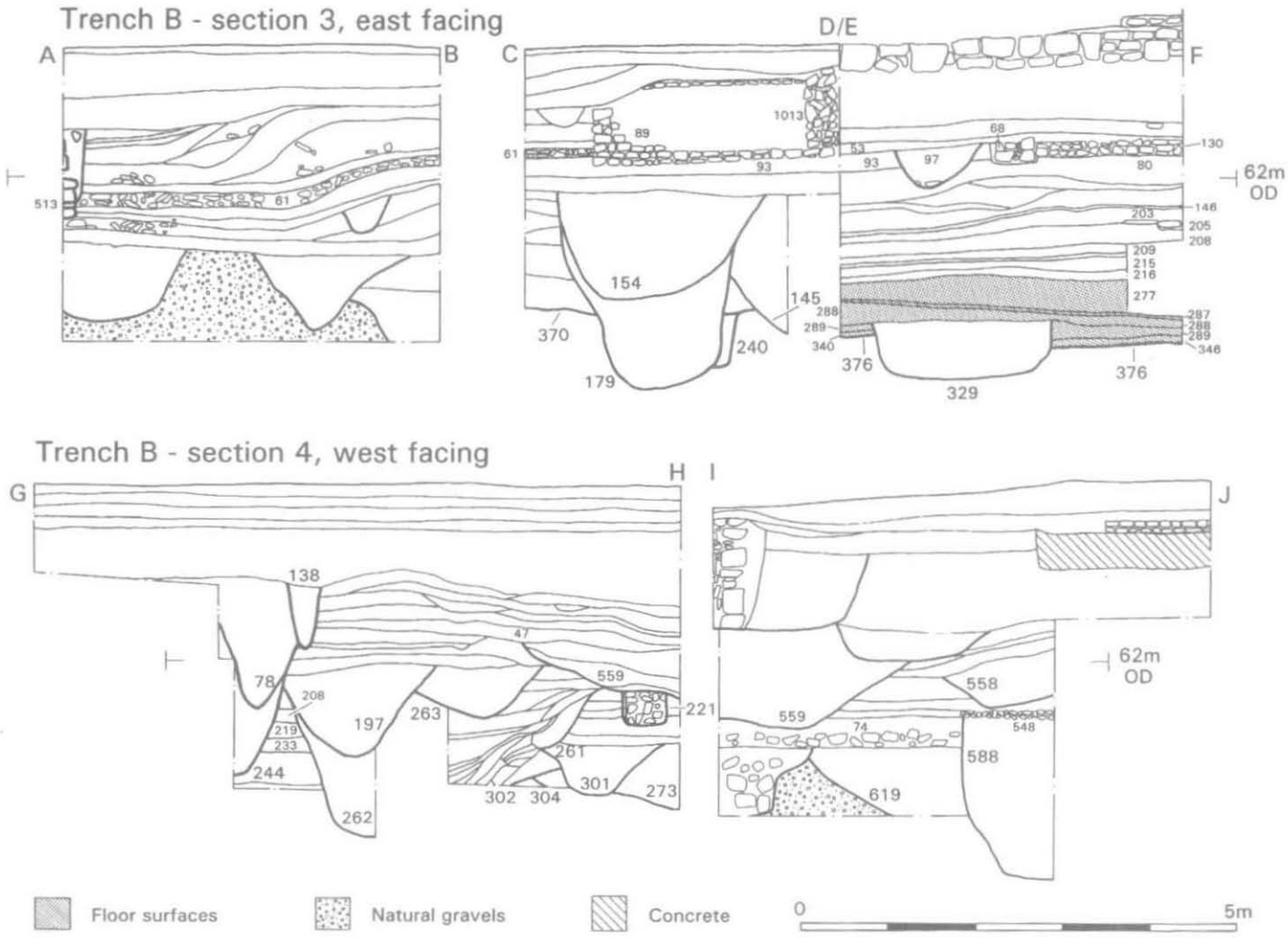

Fig. 10. Trench B sections (composite).

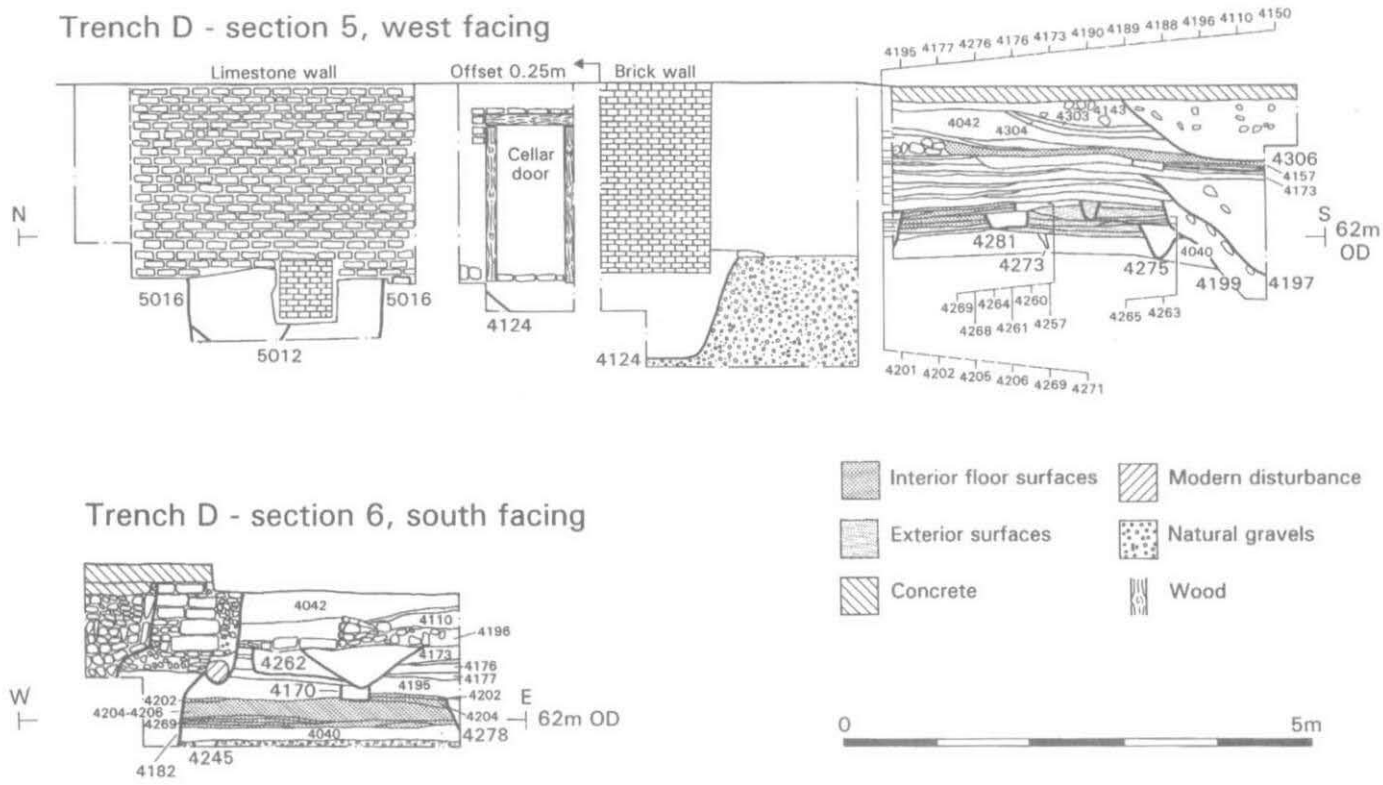

Fig. 11. Trench D sections (section 5 composite).

PERIOD 7, 19TH TO 20TH CENTURIES (n.i.)

During this period minor changes took place throughout the backlands which largely developed to the condition encountered during the current excavations.

Trench A

Later activity in this area was restricted to demolition and levelling deposits. A trench dug by the building contractors ran N.-S. through most of the excavation trench, effectively severing many of the stratigraphic relationships between the western and eastern halves of the trench.

Trench B

The stone-lined cesspit continued in use until recent times, although only the southern half, [533], appeared to function after the 18th century. The feature was frequently cleaned-out; most of the artefactual material recovered from the cess deposits within the southern half of the pit dated to the 19th to 20th centuries.

Across the rest of the trench, a conglomeration of layers grouped under (8) was deposited to a depth of 0.70 m. Stone foundations for the rear extensions behind the street frontage were built during this phase, and a brick drain/manhole [22] was constructed at the N. end of the trench with its associated N.-S. pipe-trench [42] which destroyed many medieval stratigraphic relationships.

Trench C (Fig. 8)

A stone cellar was built, and a brick entrance was subsequently added to it. This would appear to be earlier than the warehouse building which stood above it, although due to demolition damage the relationship was unclear.

A number of cesspits [2008], [2010] and [2021] were also dug within the area of this trench. Pit [2021] contained residual 13th- and 14th-century pottery alongside 19th-century pottery and tile. It is unclear whether stone-lined cesspit (2043) was still used at this time.

Trench D

Additional cellaring was built during this period. A new stone-built cellar with a brick vault extended 4.85 m. beyond the street frontage, and was entered from the existing cellar. In the rear part of the trench further levelling materials were deposited to act as make-up for later concrete floors. Pit [4306] containing quantities of stone roof-tile was cut through these levelling layers prior to the deposition of the concrete floors.

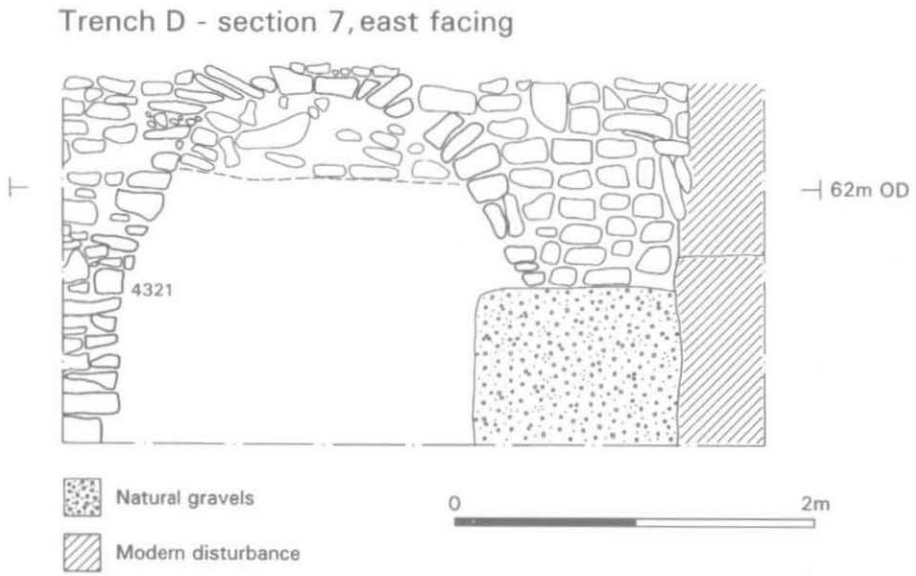

Fig. 12. Trench D section showing blocked arch.

THE FINDS

THE POTTERY by JANE TIMBY and CATHERINE UNDERWOOD-KEEVILL

Introduction

The excavations produced a total of 3879 sherds (62.35 kg.) from the pre-17th-century stratified levels (excluding watching-brief material). The assemblage includes late Saxon, early medieval and late medieval wares with a small number of redeposited Roman sherds. The importance of the group lies in the large amount of Saxo-Norman and early medieval material recovered from the stratified sequence. To date comparable material has been found on sites in The Hamel, All Saints', Logic Lane and from waterfront assemblages in St. Aldate's.[28] The aim of the pottery analysis was twofold; first to provide a dated sequence for the development of the building plots from the late Saxon period. Second, the assemblage was considered against similar groups from the town to establish whether the overall ceramic sequence substantiates the conclusions derived from other sites.

An assessment of the assemblage was originally prepared by C. Underwood-Keevill where the main components of the collection were identified. This work has formed the basis of the following report.[29]

The Analysis

The fabrics were identified with reference to the Oxford medieval fabric series, and the same coding system adopted. As the fabric types have been extensively described elsewhere, details are not repeated here.[30] A summary list of fabrics can be found in Table 2. The material was quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve) for each excavated context from the pre- 17th-century levels for trenches A, B and D.[31] A computerised database was constructed to facilitate comparison of the relative quantities of pottery details of which can be found in the site archive. In the following report, the sequence is described by the structural periods defined for each trench. The largest and most coherent assemblage (1521 sherds) was recovered from Trench A. Trench B produced 1417 sherds, but unfortunately the material showed a high degree of intermixing and redeposition. Trench D produced 842 sherds. No pottery was found associated with Period 1 features in any of the trenches.

Description

Period 2a, The late Saxon period (?late 10th century)

The earliest activity encountered was that in Trench D which was unfortunately aceramic. The first occurrence of pottery came from cellar [5016] and pit [5014] which only produced single sherds of late Saxon shell-tempered ware (OXB) and St. Neot's ware (OXR) respectively. Both sherds have a currency dating to the 10th to 11th centuries, but on such scant evidence firm dating must remain inconclusive.

[28] R. Haldon and M. Mellor, 'Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery', in B. Durham, 'Archaeological Investigations in St. Aldate's, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1977), 83-203 esp. 111-39; M. Mellor, 'Pottery', in Palmer, op. cit. note 7, pp. 160-82; M. Mellor, 'The Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery from All Saints', Oxford', in Durham, op. cit. note 13; C. Underwood-Keevill, 'Pottery from the Excavations at 56-60 St. Aldate's, 30-31 St. Aldate's and 24-26 St. Aldate's (the Police Station)', in ibid.; F. Radcliffe, 'Excavations at Logic Lane, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961-2), 38-69; M. Mellor, 'Late Saxon, Medieval and Later Pottery', in B. Durham, 'The Thames Crossing at Oxford: Archaeological Studies 1979-82', *Oxoniensia*, xlix (1984), 68-73.

[29] C. Underwood-Keevill, 'Pottery assessment for 113-119 High Street, Oxford' (unpubl. TS. prepared for Cotswold Archaeological Trust, 1995).

[30] Haldon and Mellor, op. cit. note 28; M. Mellor, 'A Synthesis of Middle and Late Saxon, Medieval and Early Post-medieval Pottery in the Oxford Region', *Oxoniensia*, lix (1994), 17-217.

[31] The assemblage from Trench C was extremely small: 78 sherds from four contexts, two of which were post-medieval. Two sherds of OXAC from the privy wall date from the 11th to 13th centuries. Cesspit fill (2033) can be dated to the 13th to 14th centuries by the presence of decorated OXAM.

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF FABRICS PRESENT

Fabric	*Name/Description*	*Date range*	*No*	*Wt*	*Eve*
Roman	Miscellaneous	2nd-4th	4	210	5
OXCM	Saxon ware (shelly-limestone)	6th-8th	1	6	0
OXCR	Saxon ware	6th-8th	2	25	0
OXB	Late Saxon Oxford ware (shell-tempered)	late 8/e9th-e11th	60	1150	76
OXAC	Early Medieval Oxford ware (calcareous gravel-tempered)	late 9th-mid 13th	408	6557	401
OXBF	Late Saxon/early Med SW Oxford ware (flint-tempered)	late 9th-mid 13th	80	1157	91
OXAE	Quartz, flint and limestone	10th-12th	32	525	11
OXR	St. Neot's type ware (shell-tempered)	e10th-mid 11th	1573	21350	3601
OXY	Late Saxon/early Med Oxford ware (sandy)	Late 11th-e13th	647	9867	662
OXAG	Late Saxon-Med Abingdon ware (quartz sand-tempered)	mid 11th-e 15th	66	1600	152
OXBR	Oolitic/limestone tempered	11th +	3	33	15
OXZ	Stamford/ Stamford types	mid 11th-12th	113	7	0
IMPORT	N France/Belgium greyware	?11th+	1	36	0
IMPORT	?Andenne glazed ware	?11-12th+	2	61	0
OX162	Late Saxon-late Med. SE Oxon ware	late 11th-e13th	14	2	0
OXBB	Minety type ware (limestone-tempered)	mid 12th-e16th	15	347	0
OXAQ	Early-Late Med East Wilts ware (flint and limestone)	e12th-e15th	115	1841	129
OXAH	?Nuneaton (quartz sand and sandstone)	late 12th-mid 13th	7	144	15
OXCT	?Cirencester (limestone tempered)	Late 12-13th	7	129	18
OXBK	Seacourt fabric 1 (shelly limestone)	late 12-14th	4	44	5
OXAM/AW	Brill/Boarstall type ware (Bucks)	late 12-15th	630	15495	463
OX68	Potterspury ware	late 13-14th	1	117	0
CBW	Coarse Border ware	13-17th	12	219	25
MISC	Various sandy other	13-17th	17	469	30
BRIL	Brill	16-18th	50	830	29
CIST	Cistercian ware	16-17th	2	17	0
ENGS	English stoneware	16th+	3	57	0
FREC	Frechen stoneware	16-17th	1	30	0
TUDG	Tudor Green	16-17th	9	56	8
TOTAL			3879	62347	5736

Period 2b, 10th to 11th centuries

The earliest post-Roman pottery found on the site was a single redeposited Saxon shell-tempered sherd, probably fabric OXCM, dating between the 6th to 8th centuries, recovered from the fill (3203) of cellar posthole [3202] in Trench A.[32] A single rim of 10th- to 11th-century St. Neot's type ware (OXR) (Fig. 13.1), was recovered from the surface of the natural gravels, either introduced by the cutting of the cellar pit [3160], or derived from the earliest use of the cellar. The latest Period 2 (2nd phase) surface of the cellar, (3164) and layer (3210), each produced single sherds of OXR, the former a rounded jar rim. Following abandonment the cellars were infilled. The lower infill deposit (3121) sealing the floors produced a substantial assemblage of 155 sherds (1640 gm.). Most of this comprises late Saxon St. Neot's ware (OXR) accompanied by single sherds of late Saxon SW. Oxfordshire ware (OXBF), and late Saxon shelly ware (OXB). The pottery is generally well-preserved with minimum abrasion. The St. Neot's type ware forms were mainly confined to rounded jars with a diameter of 140-60 mm. (Fig. 13.2-5), and a single bowl. The second bulk infill deposit (3120) produced the largest single collection of pottery from the site, amounting to 599 sherds (9170 gm.). The group is again dominated by OXR; a large number of rounded jars with rounded everted rims and flanged-rim bowls (e.g. Fig. 13. 9-13, 16-19). The rim diameters for the St. Neot's type rounded jars mainly fall into the 140-60 mm. range.[33] Of particular note is a wide strap handle and a sherd decorated with a thumb strip (Fig 13.7; 14), unusual features locally of this generally conservative ware and probably originally from a pitcher and storage jar. The only non-OXR sherds present comprise one redeposited 4th-century Roman sherd, and single sherds of miscellaneous shelly ware, late Saxon Oxford ware OXB (Fig 13.8), early medieval Oxford ware (OXAC) (Fig. 13.15), a greyware import, possibly from the Pas de Calais (OXX/OXT), and a sherd from a Potterspury ware pitcher (OX68). The latter sherd has a partial green glaze and is decorated with a narrow vertically applied thumb strip. The material containing the pottery presumably derives from an external source, and apart from the sherd of OX68 which must be intrusive, indicates an early to mid 11th-century date. A small pit [3227] cutting the infill dumps produced a late Saxon handmade jar in OXB (Fig 13.6).

Very little pottery was recovered from the early levels in Trench B. The earliest stratified pottery comprising one sherd of OXR and one sherd of late Saxon-early medieval Oxford sandy ware (OXY), came from fill (335), suggesting a date in the late 11th century at the earliest. Following the abandonment of the cellars a series of pits were dug but only one [273] yielded pottery, four sherds from a 12th-century spouted pitcher (OXY). The horizontal layers (216, 215, 209 and 208), sealing the earlier features produced 373 sherds, 5884 gm., in which St. Neot's type ware (OXR) was the dominant fabric accounting for 95% by sherd count. Also present, however, were two redeposited Roman sherds, ten sherds of OXY (416 gm.), one sherd of late Saxon-early medieval Abingdon ware (OXAG), and two sherds of Brill/Boarstall type ware (OXAM), all of which could be contemporary (i.e. 13th century), and possibly intrusive.

Period 3, 12th to 13th centuries

In Trench A a sequence of infill layers sealing the earlier deposits in cellar [3160] (3100, 3107-11, 3115, 3117, 3049 and 3050) collectively produced 245 sherds. The group is again dominated by OXR (Fig. 14.21-4), (88% by count) but an increasing diversity of other fabrics is present, in particular an even rim jar (?OXBR) (Fig. 14.20), early medieval Oxford ware (OXAC) (Fig. 14.25-6), SW. Oxfordshire ware (OXBF), E. Wiltshire ware (OXAQ), six sherds of OXAE, a small scrap of red painted Brill/Boarstall type (OXAM), and Oxford medieval sandy ware (OXY). Most of the sherds date to the 12th century, but the pieces of OXAM and OXAQ are likely to be 13th century, or later.

Most of the pits cutting into the cellar fills were aceramic, the exceptions being [3088], [3098] and [3083]. Pit [3083], cut by [3088], contained 39 sherds (603 gm.) in fabrics OXCT, OXAE, OXAQ, OXAC, OXY, OXBF and OXR several suggestive of a date after the 13th century as well as jugs and a 14th- to 15th-century dripping pan in OXAM. Pit [3088] contained 19 sherds, fabrics OXAC, OXR, OXBF, OXAQ and ?OXAH spanning the 11th to mid 13th centuries. Pit [3098] contained a good group of moderately well-preserved sherds, average weight 22 gm. compared to 15-16 gm. for the other pits. The fabrics present include OXAC, OXR, OXBF and OXY mainly in jar forms (Fig. 14.25-7), along with two imports: a Stamford type from S. Lincolnshire and an Andenne type glazed sherd both of 12th-century date.

[32] For the first site in central Oxford to yield early Saxon pottery cf. T.G. Hassall, C.E. Halpin and M. Mellor, 'Excavations in St. Ebbe's, Oxford, 1967-1976: Part 1: Late Saxon and Medieval Domestic Tenements, and the Medieval Greyfriars', *Oxoniensia*, liv (1989), 198.

[33] It has been noted elsewhere, for example Logic Lane (Radcliffe, op. cit. note 28), that the later assemblages of St. Neot's type ware show a trend towards smaller vessels.

TABLE 3. FABRICS PRESENT IN THE PERIOD 3 TRENCH B PITS BY WEIGHT/NUMBER

	FABRIC										
CONTEXT	OXB	OXAC	OXR	OXBF	OXY	OXAM	OXAQ	OXAC	OXCT	OX162	Regional Import
[161]	26/2	-	41/4	18/2	83/11	-	-	-	-	-	-
[221]	-	-	-	-	-	37/1	-	-	-	-	-
[621]	-	-	-	-	5/1	-	27/2	-	-	-	-
[627]	-	-	-	-	36/1	-	-	-	-	-	-
[630]	-	-	18/1	-	-	2/1	-	-	-	-	-
[262]	-	90/4	-	-	70/1	-	-	-	-	-	-
[619]	-	-	-	-	-	187/5	28/2	-	-	-	-
[223]	-	-	44/3	-	9/1	-	-	-	-	-	-
[145]	20/2	856/46	384/20	130/9	315/26	36/4	6/1	205/3	61/2	14/2	368/7
[179]	-	55/5	65/2	15/2	117/6	-	-	-	-	-	-
[154]	-	198/10	15/1	-	152/9	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	46/4	1199/65	567/31	253/18	787/56	262/11	61/5	34/3	61/2	14/2	368/7

In Trench B a layer of sandy clay (146/188) sealing wall (214) contained seven sherds of pottery (OXAC, OXAE and OXY) providing a 12th-century *terminus post quem* for the structure. Several of the many pits produced pottery, summarised in Table 3. Of particular note in fill (236) of pit [193] was the substantial part of a 12th-century spouted pitcher of unusual form in OXY (Fig. 14.28) which was packed around with clay. Pit [145] produced the largest and most diverse group of wares with types current between the late 11th to late 13th+ centuries. Amongst these was a handmade jar (OXAC) (Fig. 15.45) and a regionally imported handled bowl (Fig. 15.46) of late 12th- to 13th-century type. The coin of Edward I minted in 1272 or later also came from pit [145], confirming that it was being used late in the period.

In Trench D the well [4213] produced a small group of 43 sherds, dominated by Oxford medieval sandy ware (OXY) jars (Fig. 14.29-32, 34, 36) including large vessels with developed rims, along with jars in OXAC (Fig. 14.33), OXAE (Fig. 14.35), and ?OXBF (Fig. 14.37). The group suggests a date of abandonment for the well in the later 12th to 13th centuries. Pit [4225], cutting the cellar infill, produced a mixture of fabrics OXR, OXAC (Fig. 14.38-9; 15.40-1), OXAG, OXBB, OXBF, OXB, OXR and OXY (Fig. 15.42), including a glazed, combed decorated tripod pitcher and a sherd of OXY which had eight holes drilled through after firing (n.i.). A small amount of 11th- to 12th-century pottery was present in pits [4185], [4227], surface (4178), and repair (4194). Pit [5012] produced 12th-century pottery from its upper fills including a jar in fabric OXB (Fig. 15.43), which must be residual, and two sherds of Stamford ware.

Period 4, 13th to 14th centuries

Period 4a

In Trench A layers (3054) and (3051), sealing the Period 3 pits, produced a small group of pottery with Brill/Boarstall-type wares including a dripping pan and jugs/pitchers, and a Stamford ware pitcher with a bright yellow glaze (Fig. 15.44) probably current in the later 11th to 12th centuries. Two pits [3052] and [3075] dug into the surfaces, produced similar pottery including sherds of an OXAM lamp from (3053) and a 14th-century baluster jug and a parrot-beaked spout jug, both OXAM, from [3075]. The foundation trench [3119] for wall (3076) produced 95 sherds, exclusively of St. Neot's type ware which presumably represents material brought in, or disturbed from underlying levels.

In Trench B a mixed group of pottery was recovered from wall (74) mainly comprising Oxford medieval sandy ware (OXY), but with some post-medieval contamination. No ceramic finds were recovered from cesspit [531]. An assemblage of some 86 sherds, with an average sherd size of 24 gm., was recovered from (142) with vessel types dating to the 13th to 14th centuries, including glazed decorated jugs (OXAM) with some residual tripod pitchers and jars in OXY and a possible curfew (OXBB). This contrasts with the contemporary group from (96) with 102 sherds but averaging 9.5 gm. in weight suggesting different formation processes at work. Cesspit [588] produced 28 sherds, several from a highly decorated 13th-century baluster jug in OXAM (Fig. 15. 47-8). Cesspit [588] also contained part of a Brill stout bowl dating to the 16th or 17th century, with joining sherds from (589) and (548). These were intrusive, probably introduced when cesspits [532] and [533] were rebuilt in periods 5 and 6.

Pits [4225], [4174] and [4197] in Trench D produced mainly 11th- to mid 12th-century wares dominated by fabric OXAC. The sealing horizon (4173) contained nothing later than the 12th century. Pits [4164] and [4162] also contained predominantly 12th-century material although three sherds of OXAM including a glazed jug (Fig. 15.49) and a jar (OXY) (Fig. 16.50) might push them into the 13th century. The fill of the foundation cut [4182] again contained sherds of 12th- to 13th-century currency. The latest pottery associated with pits [5005] and [5010] suggest a late 13th- or early 14th-century date of abandonment.

The loam horizon (4159) filling surface (4189) in Trench D contained a greater proportion of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM).

Period 4b

Layer (4108) lying above floor surface (4157) in Trench D produced a number of Brill/Boarstall type sherds (OXAM) and a hollow-handled dish (OXAG) potentially of late 14th- to 15th-century date (Fig. 16.51).[34] Some Brill ware, including a lobed cup, and Coarse Border Ware might indicate that the room had fallen out of use some time after the 15th century, although it is more likely this material is intrusive.

Period 5, 15th to 16th centuries

Comparatively little pottery was recovered from Period 5 compared to earlier periods, and a significant proportion of this appeared to be redeposited. The only group of pottery of note from the period came from pit [3065] in Trench A which contained a large quantity of OXAM, with examples of jugs including one with slip decoration, dishes (e.g. Fig. 16.54), and jars. Also amongst the redeposited finds was a decorated sherd of OXAC (Fig. 16.52) and an OXAQ dish (Fig. 16.53).

In Trench B typical 15th- and 16th-century wares were recovered from layers (509) and (510) overlying pit [558] with examples of Tudor Green and Coarse Border Ware (CBW). Pit [549] with sherds of Tudor Green, Surrey/Hampshire border ware and Frechen stoneware was presumably not backfilled until at least the mid to late 16th century.

In Trench D typical 15th- to 16th-century wares came from cut [4140] with additional sherds of Cistercian ware and Brill pottery.

Discussion

Several sites have been archaeologically investigated over the past two decades in the locality of the High Street allowing a detailed ceramic sequence to be established from the late Saxon period.[35] The sequence for the trenches at 113-119 High Street follows several other sites in Oxford dating from the 9th to 10th centuries, with the presence of late Saxon Oxford ware (OXB) dated from the late 8th/early 9th to early 11th centuries in the earlier contexts in Trenches A and D, and as a residual element in Trench B and watching brief contexts. However, the earliest deposits in trenches A, B and D are dominated by vessels in St. Neot's-type ware (OXR), 78% by weight in Period 2, which may coincide with 10th-century late Saxon ware, and continues into the mid 11th century, by which time it was already in decline.[36] St. Neot's-type ware is particularly common in the cellar infills (3120, 3121) in Trench A, and the early pits in Trench D with sherds continuing to occur as redeposited finds in later periods. The high percentage of OXR and the low incidence of earlier handmade shelly wares strongly suggests that the early occupants of the site had a preference for St. Neot's-type ware. It has been suggested that the sudden popularity of the ware coincides with the period of Danish settlement in Oxford, but at present there is no means of confirming this possibility.[37]

At 79-80 St. Aldate's, one of the first stratified sequences to be excavated extending back into the Saxon period, the earliest (pre-occupation) phases were dominated by OXB which, by comparison, is relatively poorly represented at 113-119 High Street.[38] It is not until St. Aldate's Phases 3-4 (mid to late 10th century) that OXR appears to make a recognisable contribution to the assemblage, coinciding incidentally with the earliest evidence of occupation.[39] It is presumably at this point that 113-119 High Street joins the sequence.

[34] The handle from a similar vessel was found at Dean Court, Cumnor, cf. T. Allen et al., 'A Medieval Grange of Abingdon Abbey at Dean Court Farm, Cumnor, Oxon', *Oxoniensia*, lix (1994), Fig. 81.7.

[35] M. Mellor, 'Late Saxon Pottery from Oxfordshire: Evidence and Speculation', *Medieval Ceramics*, 4 (1980), 17-27; Mellor, op. cit. note 30, for detail on how the ceramic sequences have been dated.

[36] Mellor, op. cit. note 30, p. 57.

[37] M. Mellor, in Durham, op. cit. note 13.

[38] Haldon and Mellor, op. cit. note 28; Underwood-Keevill, op. cit. note 28.

[39] It should be noted that the total quantities of pottery from St. Aldate's phase 4 was some 370 sherds compared to the 930 sherds from 113-119 High Street, Trench A, Period 2.

Excavation at the former All Saints' Church, opposite the present site, produced evidence for an early constructional phase in the late 9th or early 10th century.[40] The ceramic sequence generally agreed with that from 79-80 St. Aldate's phases 2/3-6, where there is a perceptible change from the local, handmade, coarse shelly wares (OXB, OXC) to the wheel-thrown St. Neot's-type ware. The evidence from All Saints' augments that from 79-80 St. Aldate's where there is a clearer defined period where St. Neot's type ware dominates the assemblages. Similar groups to 113-119 High Street have been identified from pit groups under Oxford Castle associated with a coin minted AD 946-55, and at Logic Lane, both suburbs of the *burh*.[41] In both cases there is little evidence for use of the late Saxon shelly wares prior to or alongside the St. Neot's-type wares. The group of St. Neot's ware from Logic Lane was particularly unusual both in terms of the quantity of material recovered and in the variety of bowls and jars. Typologically the same range of forms is represented as at 113-119 High Street with the addition of a handled pitcher. Evidence of occupation commencing from the 10th century has also been recorded at the Trill Mill Stream excavations, where St. Neot's ware was the dominant tradition for a period (phase 4b).[42]

The difference in fabric types in different parts of Oxford may indicate different markets and possibly different social organisation and fashions in material culture. It has been suggested that different ceramic traditions may correspond with social/political divisions.[43] The production centres for St. Neot's ware fall within the Danelaw zone and may therefore be favoured by specific cultural groups within the town.[44]

Coin evidence from All Saints' suggests that OXR was in decline by the mid 11th century being accompanied by handmade jars in a variety of local fabrics, (OXAC, BR, AE and BF). A similar pattern manifests itself for 113-119 High Street where by Period 2b, OXR has declined to 63% by weight of the period assemblage and is accompanied by an increased range of other wares. As at 79-80 St. Aldate's OXAC only appears with the apparent decline of OXR. A similar trend occurs at Oxford Castle where OXAC supersedes OXR by *c.* 1070.[45] The appearance of OXAC at 113-119 High Street appears to coincide with the emergence of OXY, with examples of the latter from fairly early in the pottery sequence (3121 in trench A and 'butchery' layers in Trench B), whereas at All Saints' there appears to be an intermediate phase (IV) with OXAC before the emergence of OXY and OXAH in Phase V. Documentary evidence from The Hamel dates the appearance of OXAH here to *c.* 1290 although it does begin to appear earlier in 12th- to 13th-century contexts throughout Oxfordshire.[46] The 12th- to 13th-century deposits at 113-119 High Street are dominated by vessels of Oxford medieval ware (OXY).

Although several regional and a few continental imports are present from 113-119 High Street these are limited and do not appear quite as prolific as those found at All Saints', perhaps a reflection of the different status or chronology of the establishments. A similar collection of material was recovered from contemporary deposits at Logic Lane where a few Stamford wares and imported French sherds were noted. Amongst the earliest imports at 113-119 High Street is a greyware sherd possibly from the Pas de Calais/North France. At least two sherds of glazed Andenne type ware, one from a pit cutting the Period 2 cellar infill, are present along with at least seven sherds of Stamford ware dating to the 11th to 12th centuries. Later regional imports include sherds from the London area and other sandy wares of unknown provenance some of which may be from the Berkshire area.

The later sequences reflect those found on other sites in Oxford. The late medieval period is defined by the presence of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM), in particular jugs with speckled green glaze, applied and rouletted and painted linear decoration.

[40] Durham, op. cit. note 13.

[41] E.M. Jope, 'Late Saxon Pits under Oxford Castle Mound: Excavations in 1952', *Oxoniensia*, xvii/xviii (1952-3); coin in T.G. Hassall, 'Excavations at Oxford Castle, 1965-73,' *Oxoniensia*, xli (1976), 267; Radcliffe, op. cit. note 28.

[42] M. Mellor, 'Pottery from the Trill Mill Stream Excavations (89 St. Aldate's)', in Durham, op. cit. note 13.

[43] A.G. Vince (ed.), *Aspects of Saxo-Norman London: Finds and Environmental Evidence* (Lon. & Middx Archaeol. Spec. Paper 12, 1991).

[44] Mellor (1980), op. cit. note 35.

[45] Jope, also Hassall, op. cit. note 41.

[46] Mellor, pers. comm.

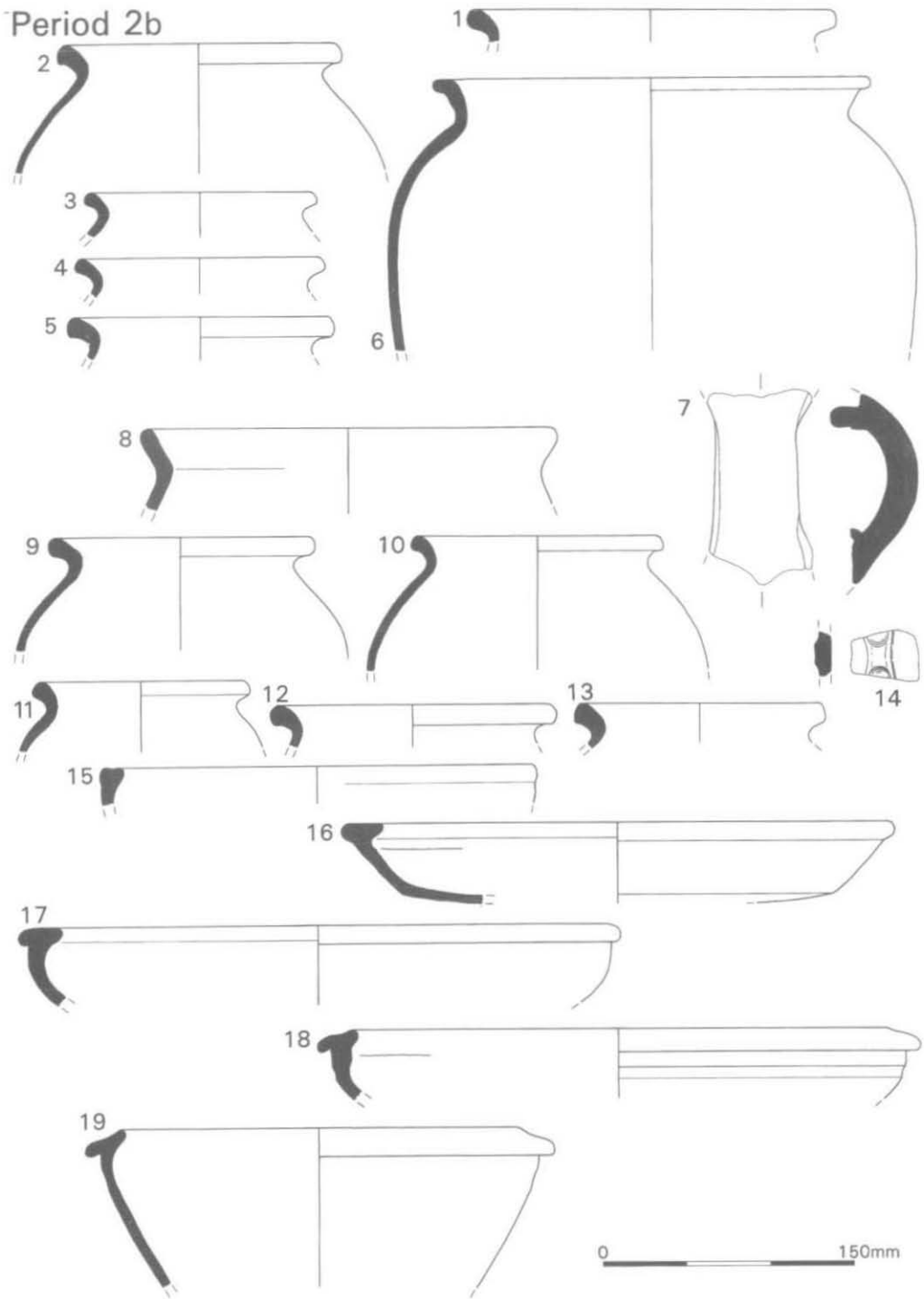

Fig. 13. Pottery vessels 1-19.

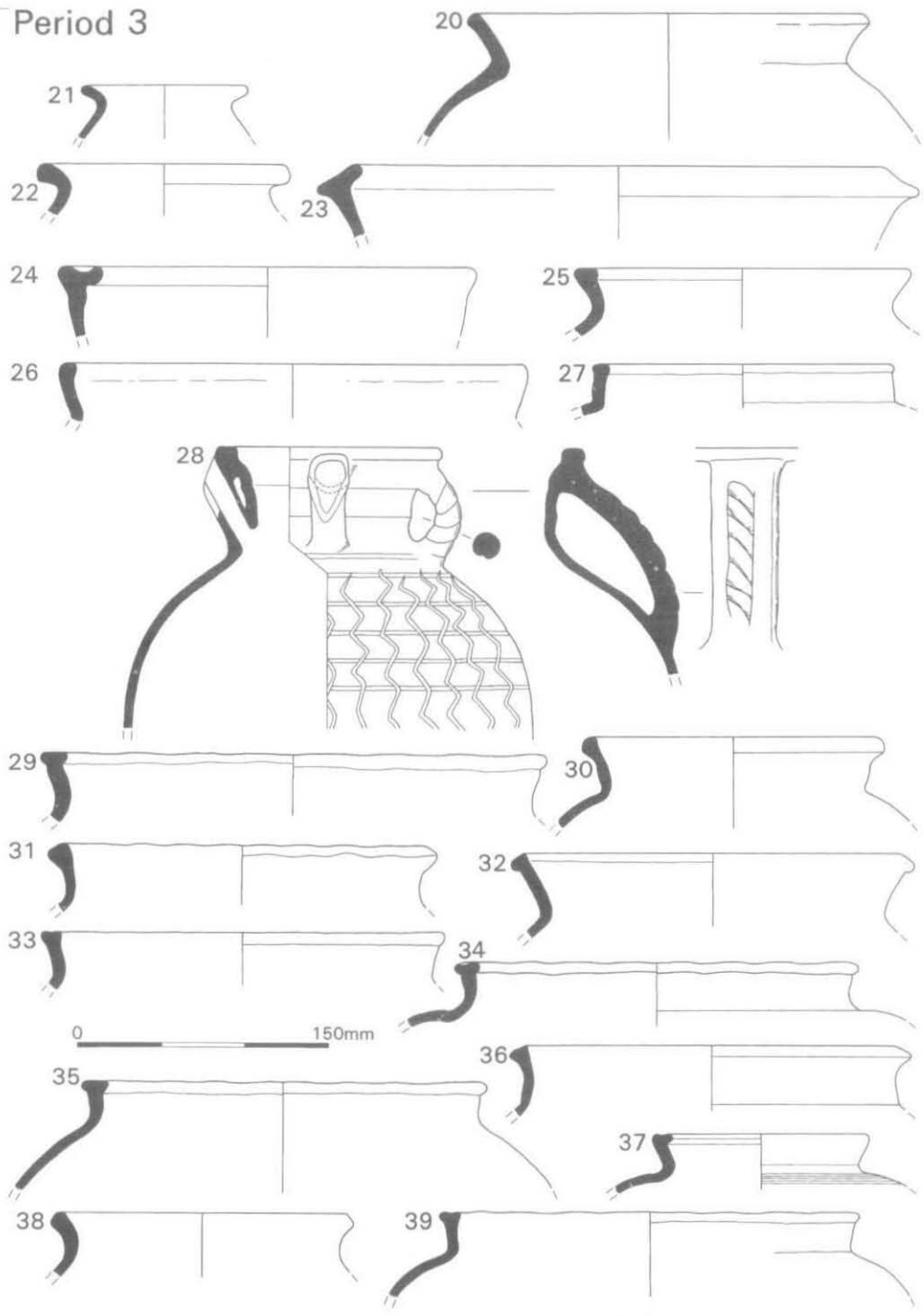

Fig. 14. Pottery vessels 20-39.

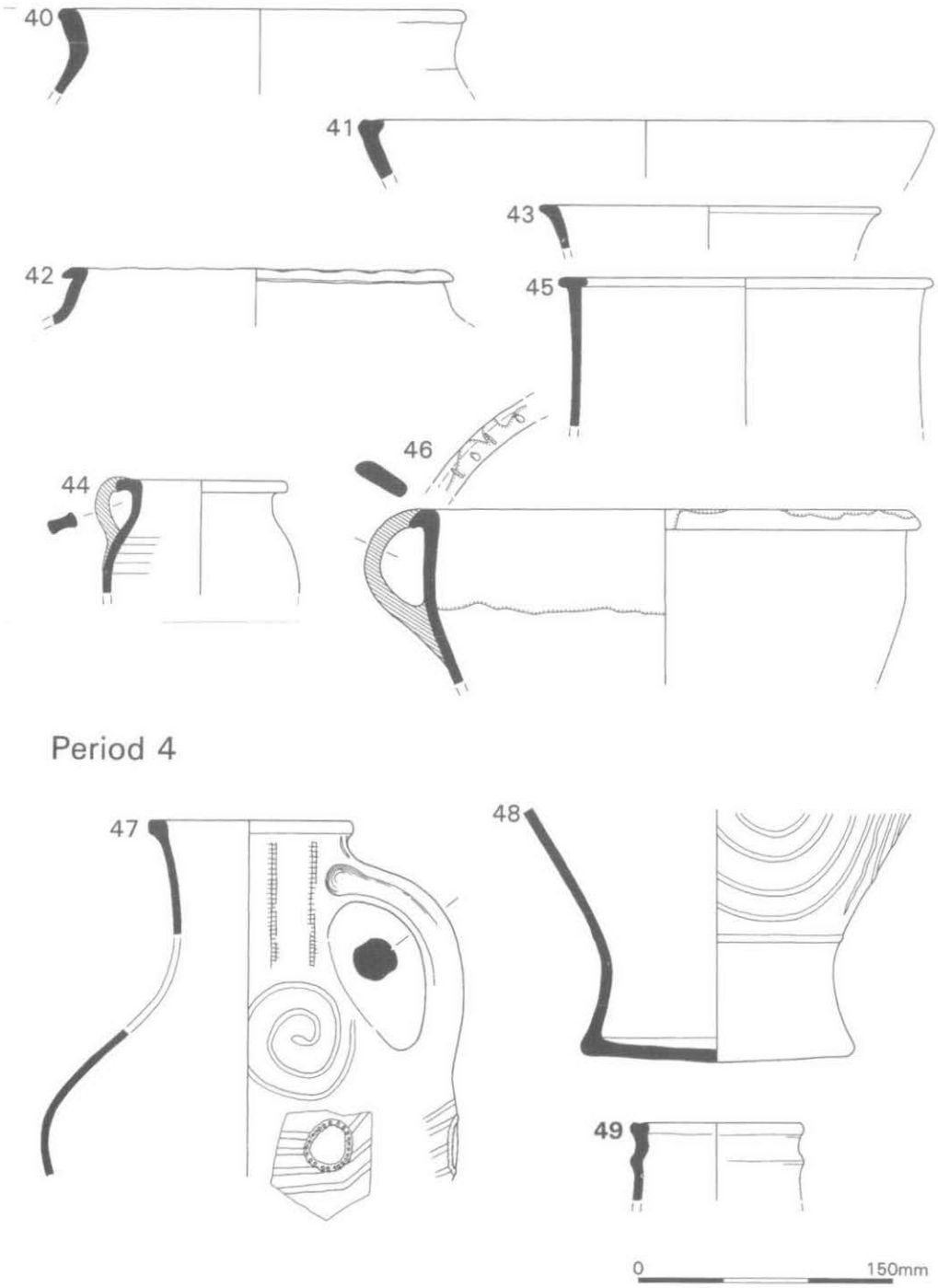

Fig. 15. Pottery vessels 40-9.

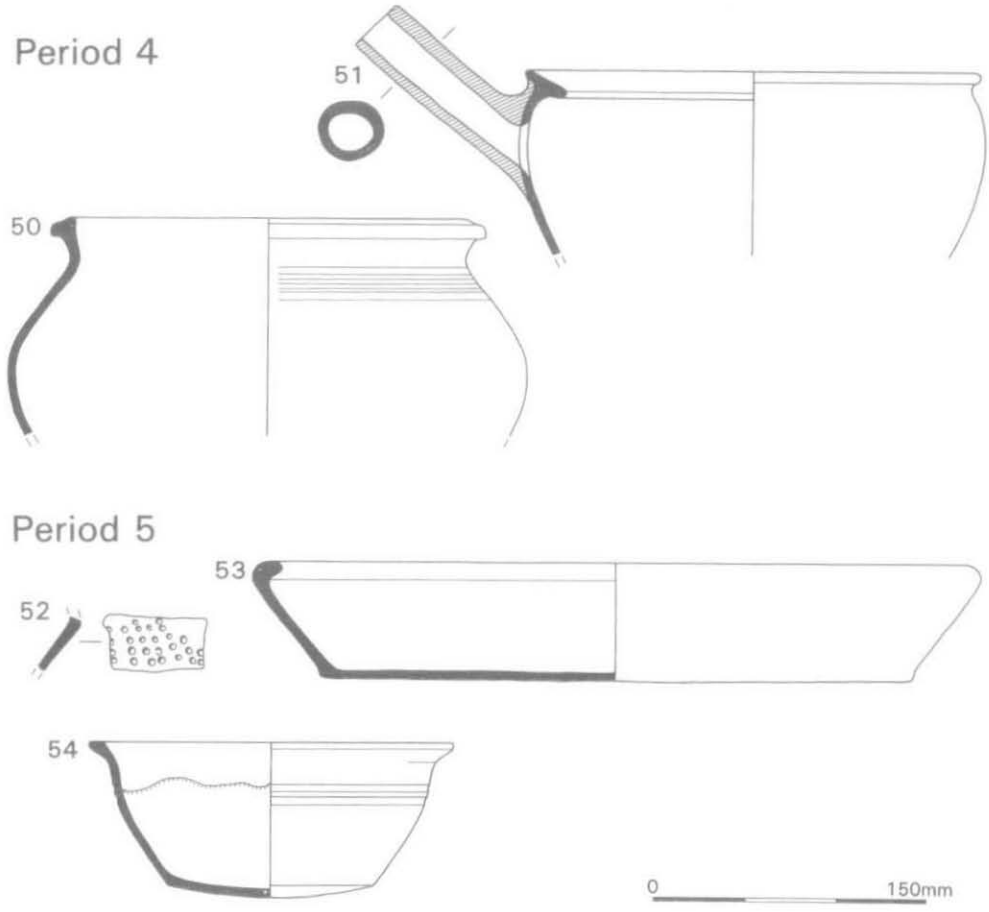

Fig. 16. Pottery vessels 50-4.

Catalogue of Illustrated Vessels

Period 2a

1 Jar, OXR. (3161), Trench A.
2-4 Jars in OXR. (3121), Trench A.
5 Handmade jar in a dense shelly limestone ware. (3121), Trench A.
6 Handmade jar in a red-brown to brown slightly micaceous fabric with sparse fragments of shell OXB. Sooted exterior. (3225) [3227], Trench A.

Period 2b

7 Strap handle from a large vessel, possibly a spouted pitcher, OXR. (3120), Trench A.
8 Simple flared rim jar, OXB. (3120), Trench A.
9-13 Jars, OXR. (3120), Trench A.
14 Bodysherd decorated with an applied thumbed strip, OXR. (3120), Trench A.
15 Vessel (?bowl) in fabric OXAC. ?11th century. (3120), Trench A.
16-19 Bowls, OXR. (3120), Trench A.

Period 3

20 Jar, ?OXBR. (3100), Trench A.
21-2 Jars OXR. (3100), Trench A.
23-4 Bowls, OXR. (3100), Trench A.
25-6 Jars OXAC. (3099), Trench A.
27 Jar in a dense shelly-limestone tempered ware. (3099), Trench A.
28 Glazed spouted pitcher with applied wavy strip decoration, OXY. The vessel has a tubular spout, two twisted loop handles and a larger strap handle. (236) [103], Trench B. A similar vessel, although without the strap handle was recovered from St. John's College dated *c.* AD 1168-80.[47] Other examples were noted at Radcliffe Square.[48]
29-32 Jars, OXY. Well fill (4214), [4213], Trench D.
33 Jar, OXAC. Well fill (4214), [4213], Trench D.
34 Jar, OXY. Well fill (4214), [4213], Trench D.
35 Jar with a thumbed rim, OXAE. Well fill (4214), [4213], Trench D.
36 Jar, OXY. Well fill (4214), [4213], Trench D.
37 Jar, ?OXBF. Well fill (4214), [4213], Trench D.
38-40 Jars, OXAC. Pit fill (4226), [4225], Trench D.
41 Bowl, OXAC. Pit fill (4226), [4225], Trench D.
42 Jar, OXY. Pit fill (4226), [4225], Trench D.
43 Jar, OXB. (5042), [5012], Trench D.
44 Stamford ware pitcher with a thick yellow internal/external glaze, OXZ. Mid 11th to 12th centuries. (3054), Trench A.
45 A handmade inturned jar, OXAC, post-conquest to early 12th century. (156), [145], Trench B.
46 Handled bowl with a slight pouring lip. The upper rim surface is decorated with slash and dot decoration. The base has been knife-trimmed. Internal brownish-green speckled glaze with external dribbles and splashes. Hard sandy fabric. Regional import, source unknown. Late 12th to 13th centuries. (143), [145]. Trench B.

Period 4

47 Highly decorated, glazed, stout baluster jug with a rod handle. The decoration includes applied spirals, vertical wavy lines, applied punched circlets, and narrow rouletted strips, OXAM. A short-lived type current in the period 1250-1275 (M. Mellor, pers. comm). (589) [588], Trench B.
48 Base from a decorated jug, possibly the same or similar vessel to no. 47, OXAM. (589) [588], Trench B.
49 Jug with a dark green glaze, OXAM. (4165), [4164], Trench D.
50 Plain jar, OXY. (4165), [4164], Trench D.
51 Hollow handled plain bowl, a fine variant of OXAG. (4108), Trench D.

Period 5

52 Bodysherd from a jar decorated with stabbed decoration, OXAC. (3066), [3065], Trench A.
53 Large dish with internal blackened residue, OXAQ. Single extant hole drilled into the edge of the base after firing. 13th to 15th centuries. (3066), [3065], Trench A.
54 Bowl with internal clear glaze, OXAM. A similar vessel was found at the Dominican Priory.[49] 13th to 15th centuries. (3066), [3065], Trench A.

RECORDED FINDS by LINDA VINER

A total of 78 recorded finds were recovered. The assemblage discussed below includes objects of copper-alloy, iron, lead, worked bone/ivory and fired clay. Coins, vessel and window glass, and worked stone are discussed separately. The finds have been recorded according to material and function, and assessed to period.

[47] Mellor, op.cit. note 30, Fig. 21.5.
[48] Ibid. pl. 4.
[49] H. Woods and G. Lambrick, 'Excavations at the Dominican Priory, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xli (1976), 131-208.

Date

The date range of the assemblage extends from medieval to post-medieval/modern, with the later material forming the bulk of the collection. Dates have been gauged by parallel with collections from excavations within Oxford and published series from London, Winchester, Southampton and Colchester. There are no intrinsically recognisable Roman or Anglo-Saxon finds within the assemblage.

Table 4 summarises the total of finds for Trenches A-D (including miscellaneous uncatalogued items, but excluding flint and stone described elsewhere).

TABLE 4. SUMMARY OF SMALL FINDS

	Coins	Cu-alloy	Iron	Ivory/bone	Lead
Trench A					
Period 2					6
Period 3					
Period 4		2			
Period 5		2			
Trenches B & C					
Period 3	1		1		
Period 4		9	5		1
Period 5		1	1		
Period 6			2		
Period 7		1	3		
Unstrat	1	6	4		
Trench D					
Period 3	1			2	
Period 4		2	1	1	
Period 5		4		2	
Period 7	2	3			
Unstrat		1			
Totals	5	31	17	5	7

There are too few finds from Trench A to allow a meaningful characterisation. Within Trenches B and C in the 13th to 14th centuries the domestic nature of the material is evident, particularly in the presence of knives, a cooking vessel and a whetstone. These levels are also dominated by copper-alloy waste which it is suggested was derived from the vicinity (see Salter below).

From the 14th century onwards in Trenches B and C the assemblage is dominated more by items of personal dress, horse accoutrements and structural fittings. In contrast, Trench D produced a few items associated with textile working and manufacture, although dress and horse equipment are still present.

Objects for personal adornment or dress are represented by two buttons from post-medieval contexts. Belt-fittings are represented by an iron buckle (Trench B u/s SF24), and a copper-alloy belt plate with one spacer-arm surviving (Fig. 17.3 Trench D (4042) SF7) from a 15th- to 16th-century context. Two copper-alloy studs could have been used as decorative elements on a belt or strap; both are from post-medieval contexts. One of these (Fig. 17.6: Trench D (4147) SF17), however, can be paralleled by surrounds for buckle-pin holes from late 14th- to early 15th-century contexts in London.[50]

A copper-alloy thimble, bone crochet hook and a stone spindlewhorl attest to the working of textiles. The spindlewhorl from Trench A (Fig. 18.2: (3100) SF5) is from an 11th- to 12th-century context. The crochet hook, from Trench D ((4042) SF3), is complete, and from its context dates to the 15th to 16th centuries. The thimble (Trench D (4147) SF23) is decorated with machine-applied indentations, typical of modern examples. Three small copper-alloy pins are of a type often described as dress-maker's pins, the earliest of which is from a 14th-century level in Trench D ((4159) SF12).

Horse accoutrements are represented by a copper-alloy spur (Fig. 17.1: Trench B (519) SF20), and a possible spur rowel (Trench A (3066) SF8), the latter heavily corroded with iron. The rumbler bell casing in copper alloy (Fig. 17.4: Trench D (4042) SF2: 15th- to 16th-century context) could have been used as a horse

[50] G. Egan and F. Pritchard, 'Dress Accessories *c.* 1150-1450', in *Medieval Finds from Excavations in London*: 3 (HMSO 1991), 162-4, 188.

trapping or on clothing. Similarly, a pin (Fig. 17.5: Trench B (068) SF17) could be from a buckle used as horse equipment or on personal dress. Parallels illustrated from sites in London suggest a date range from the 13th to 15th century.[51] Horseshoes are notable by their absence, with no recognisable horsenails present in the large collection of iron nails.

Nails constitute the largest group of finds, with 62 examples of varying sizes and lengths. The size and character of the majority of them would suggest use as structural elements in buildings. Five wall hooks attest to a similar constructional function.

Tools for domestic use are limited in range, with a notable absence of spoons. Five iron knives are scattered across the site, with two fragments present in 13th- to 14th-century contexts in Trench B. A fragment of a cast copper-alloy vessel from Trench B (Fig. 17.2: (047) SF8) is probably from a foot of a cauldron or skillet. It has a very pronounced central rib and comparable examples from Winchester are dated to the 14th to 15th centuries. One badly corroded object may be a bracket or drawer handle mounting (Trench B (501) SF30).

The residue of the collection consists of items of copper-alloy and iron for which a function cannot be ascribed. Lead was present in small quantities with only five narrow strips of thin sheet recovered from Trench A ((3044) SF5). Each strip was pierced for use as an attachment or binding.

The excavated finds are comparable in terms of function and quality with similar groups excavated within pits and backgarden plots within Oxford, and as such are typical of the general rubbish disposal and deposition within such areas. A full catalogue description of all pieces is present within the site archive.

Catalogue of illustrated pieces (Fig. 17)

1. Copper-alloy rowel spur, with iron rowel. Late 17th to early 18th centuries. Trench B (519) SF20. mid 18th century.
2. Cast copper-alloy foot from a cauldron or skillet, with pronounced central rib. Comparable examples from Winchester are dated to the 14th to 15th centuries. Trench B (047) SF8. 13th to 14th centuries.
3. Copper-alloy buckle. Survives in three pieces suggestive of an oval buckle form with an oval frame and forked spacers for composite plates.[52] Widespread type in the mid 14th to early 15th centuries. Trench D (4042) SF7. 15th to 16th centuries
4. Copper-alloy rumbler bell. One hemisphere, decorated with triangular groupings of three piercings between cross-pieces. Trench D (4042) SF2 AE. 15th to 16th centuries.
5. Copper-alloy buckle-pin. Cast with incomplete loop and ridged grip having a moulding at the base. Pointed tip. From horse equipment or personal dress. Comparable example from London suggests a date range from the 13th to 15th centuries. Trench B (068) SF17.[53] 16th century.
6. Mount. Sexfoil with central perforation. Two attachment rivets protruding from rear. A decorative mount for attachment to leather or textile on girdles or straps. The central perforation may suggest use as the surround for a buckle-pin hole. Typically late 14th to early 15th centuries. Trench D (4147) SF17. Post-medieval/modern.

VESSEL and WINDOW GLASS by LINDA VINER

A total of 148 fragments of vessel and window glass was recovered. Some 57% was recorded from Trench B, 32% from Trench D, 5% from Trench C, and 2% from Trench A, with 2% unstratified. The greatest proportion of the assemblage is post-medieval in date, with a notable collection of complete bottles for wine and mineral water recovered from Trench D.

Two fragments from Trench A came from medieval and late medieval contexts. A rim fragment, possibly from a flask or jug, with a decomposed outer surface, was recorded from context (3072), of 13th- to 14th-century date. A body sherd in brownish glass with a decomposed surface was recovered from context (3066), of 15th- to 16th-century date.

[51] Ibid. Fig. 75, 541.
[52] Ibid. 162-4.
[53] Ibid.

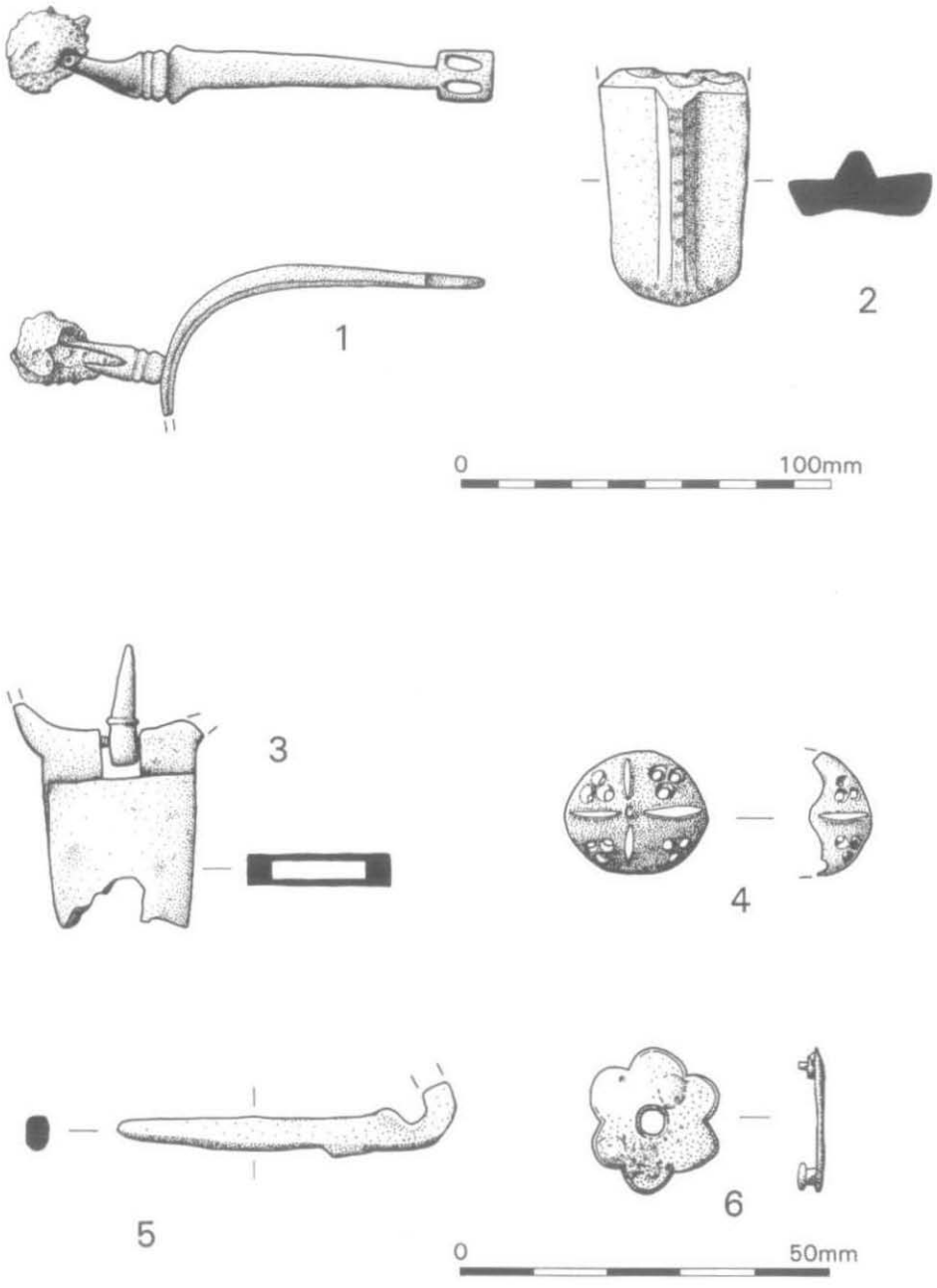

Fig. 17. Copper alloy small finds.

COINS AND TOKENS by JOHN M. PADDOCK

Six artefacts were recovered; all were in a corroded state, two very badly.

Catalogue

1. ?Roman coin. A small illegible copper alloy disc of 14 mm. diameter with a cracked flan commensurate with a die-strike. May be 4th century. Recovered from post-medieval context (1012) during the watching brief.
2. Silver halfpenny. Edward I re-coinage of AD 1272. Provides a *terminus post quem* for fill (180) from pit [145] in Trench B.

Three copper alloy trader's tokens of the second half of the 17th century were recovered, two from residual contexts; one was intrusive in an 11th-century context. A fourth mineralised copper-alloy disc may be a late 18th-century provincial token.

3. Farthing. Token. Obverse: IOHN BURROWS. IRON encircling the letters I.B. Reverse: MONGER. IN. BISTER encircling the letters I.B. D 5015 SF2.[54]
4. Farthing. Token. Obverse: WILLIAM. SOMNER. OF encircling the Grocer's Arms. Reverse: THE. DEVISES. GROCER. encircling the letters W.S. and the date 1652. D 4070 SF4.[55]
5. Farthing. Token. Obverse: IOHN. RYLAND encircling a baker's peel. Reverse: IN. OXON. 1659 encircling the letters I. A. R. D 4070 SF5.[56]
6. Mineralised copper-alloy disc 32 mm. in diameter. Illegible, may be late 18th-century provincial token. Unstratified.

STRUCK FLINT by GRAEME T. WALKER

A small flint assemblage comprised of five pieces was recovered during the excavations, three from Trench D and two from Trench B; all were residual. Only two pieces were of note, a barbed and tanged arrowhead, and a broken knife. The arrowhead is of middle Bronze Age type.

Illustrated piece (Fig. 18, 3)

3. Barbed and tanged arrowhead of Conygar Hill Type.[57] Grey mottled flint, tip, tang and LHS barb broken. Fine, predominantly unifacial flaking. D (4209) SF20.

CERAMIC AND STONE ROOF TILE by CLIFFORD BATEMAN

A total of 705 fragments of roof tile was recovered during the excavation and watching brief. The majority of tiles identified were flat ceramic peg-tiles, although a small number of limestone peg-tiles (55) and ceramic ridge tiles (26) was also recovered. The assemblage of ridge tile includes examples with hand-moulded spurs or crests, cut spurs from the application of a secondary clay strip, as well as undecorated tiles. The limestone peg-tiles had been drilled rather than punched with a slate pick. No evidence of roof furniture such as finials was recovered. The tile has been analysed both chronologically and by fabric types. The results are summarised below in Table 5.

The Fabrics

Eight separate fabric types were identified.

Tile Fabric 1: Hard and rough to the touch, contains abundant ill-sorted limestone inclusions. Surface grey/orange with yellow/green glaze; core dark grey to orange. 16 fragments were recovered, four of which were ridge tiles with hand moulded spurs or without spurs.
Tile Fabric 2: Soft and smooth to the touch, contains well-sorted limestone and calcite inclusions. Cream to dark grey surface and core. 49 fragments were recovered, three of these were ridge tiles.

[54] G.C. Williamson, *Trade Tokens Issued in the Seventeenth Century in England, Wales and Ireland by Corporations, Merchants, Tradesmen, etc.* (1967), 925 No. 37.
[55] Ibid. 1236 No. 76.
[56] Ibid. 933 No. 166.
[57] H.S. Green, *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles* (BAR Brit. Ser. 75(i), 1980).

Tile Fabric 3: Hard and rough to the touch, contains ill-sorted quartz and ferrous grains. Orange to red surface and core, with red/brown and green/brown glaze. 278 fragments were recovered, largely flat tiles, 11 fragments of ridge tile with cut spurs were present.
Tile Fabric 4: Hard and rough to the touch, contains ill-sorted quartz and chalk grains. Surface and core orange/red. 45 fragments recovered.
Tile Fabric 5: Hard and smooth to the touch. Surface orange/red; core grey/orange. 206 fragments recovered.
Tile Fabric 6: Hard and smooth to the touch, contains occasional ferrous grains. Surface orange/grey with green glaze; core grey/orange. 5 fragments recovered.
Tile Fabric 7: Hard and smooth to the touch, contains occasional quartz and ferrous grains. Surface and core pale red with cream slip. 16 fragments recovered.
Tile Fabric 8: Hard and smooth to the touch, contains ill-sorted limestone and calcite fragments. Surface and core grey/orange with green glaze. 13 fragments recovered.

TABLE 5. TILE FABRICS BY PERIOD

Fabric	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6+	Unstrat	Total	%
F1	0	4	4	1	7	16	2.25%
F2	4	21	5	15	4	49	7%
F3	3	171	22	42	40	278	39.5%
F4	0	3	1	33	8	45	6.5%
F5	6	110	46	44	0	206	29.5%
F6	0	2	0	0	3	5	1%
F7	0	6	2	1	7	16	2.25%
F8	0	11	1	0	1	13	2%
Stone	1	20	12	11	11	55	8%
Undiag	0	11	5	4	2	22	3%
Total	14	359	98	151	83	705	100%
%	2%	51%	14%	21.5%	11.5%	100%	

Tile Distribution and Chronology

Roof tile was recovered from all trenches, with the greatest quantity (53% of the total stratified assemblage) retrieved from Trench B. A common feature throughout the excavation was the predominance of roof tile recovered from 13th- to 14th-contexts (321 fragments or 45.5% of the total assemblage).

Within Trench B, the majority of 13th- to 14th-century tile was recovered from levelling horizons in contrast to Trenches A and D where similarly dated tile was recovered solely from pits. However, this apparent contrast in deposition must be seen within the broader development of the site. In Trench B the endemic pitting of the 12th to 13th centuries within the open backland had ceased by the 13th to 14th centuries, and the area was partly divided into discrete burgage plots. Within Trenches A and D pit digging was still evident throughout this period.

In general, tile was recovered in small quantities, typically one to two fragments, from a large number of 13th- to 14th-century features and may represent the *ad hoc* replacement of damaged tiles rather than the deposition of tiles from a single episode of re-roofing.

TABLE 6. TILE QUANTITIES BY TRENCH AND PERIOD

Trench	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6+	Total	%
TR A	0	133	21	0	154	24.5%
TR B	13	177	37	102	329	53%
TR C	0	0	2	14	16	2.5%
TR D	1	49	38	35	123	20%
Total	14	359	98	151	622	100%

Discussion

The roof tile assemblage dates predominantly to the later medieval period, and consists largely of local sandy fabrics.

The presence of Fabric 1 tile and hand moulded ridge tile has been previously recorded from several houses within Oxford including 41 High Street.[58] Coupled with the large quantity of roof tile retrieved from 13th- to 14th-century contexts this indicates that the medieval buildings fronting 113-119 High Street were roofed with ceramic tile possibly from the late 12th to early 13th centuries onwards.

WORKED STONE by FIONA ROE

The excavations produced eight objects of worked stone. A fragment of Niedermendig lava rotary quern comes from a 12th- to 13th-century context (4121) in Trench D. A fragment of mortar (SF36) of Purbeck Marble is unstratified. There are also four whetstones of Eidsborg schist (Norwegian Rag) from the Telemark area, one of which, SF15 from (4200) in Trench D, is complete, with a perforation at one end (Fig. 18.1). These come from 11th- to 14th-century contexts, though SF9 could be earlier, since it is from the infill of 10th- to 11th-century cellar [3160] in Trench A. The same cellar also produced a fragment of possible grindstone from floor (3120) made from Coal Measures Sandstone, showing secondary use as a point sharpener, and a spindlewhorl from infill layer (3100).

These materials have all occurred regularly on other sites in Oxford. All three identifiable stone types were recorded, for instance, at Church Street, St. Ebbes, including 20 whetstones made from schist.[59] These whetstones appear to have been more or less ubiquitous from late Saxon times onwards, and another nine were recorded from St. Aldate's.[60] They were also noted at Oxford Castle Mound and in Cornmarket, while other sites where they have occurred include the Dominican Priory, Oxford Castle, Queen Street and St. Ebbes and St. Thomas's Street.[61]

Querns made from Niedermendig lava were noted by Jope.[62] It has also occurred in Queen Street in 10th- and 11th-century contexts.[63] Other materials imported from elsewhere in England were also in use for querns and millstones, and so ones of lava are not the only type found in Oxford.

Purbeck marble has been recorded less frequently in the city. Mortars in Oxford were sometimes made from local shelly and oolitic limestone, but other Purbeck mortar fragments have been found in St. Ebbes, in Queen Street, and in St. Thomas's Street.[64] It was also used as an ornamental stone, as for instance for the 16th-century tomb of Bishop King in Christ Church Cathedral.[65] Fragments were also found at the Dominican priory.[66]

The fragment of possible grindstone is intriguing. Its presence in a context and period dominated by St. Neot's ware pottery accords with the generally accepted belief that grindstones and crank technology may not have reached England until imported from Scandinavia.

All of these materials were much used in England during the medieval period, and were recorded in quantity for example at Winchester.[67] At Oxford it would probably have been relatively easy to obtain both Niedermendig lava and Norwegian Rag, since they could have been shipped up the Thames. Purbeck marble

[58] E.M. Jope, 'The Development of Pottery Ridge Tiles in the Oxford Region', *Oxoniensia*, xvi (1951), 86-8.

[59] G. Egan, 'Stone Objects from Church Street (Site A)', in Hassall et al., op. cit. note 32, pp. 236-9.

[60] D.T. Moore, 'Hones and Querns', in Durham, op. cit. note 28 (1977), 152.

[61] Jope, op. cit. note 41, pp. 77-111; Jope, op. cit. note 8, p. 4; G. Lambrick and H. Woods, 'Excavations on the Second Site of the Dominican Priory, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xli (1976), 168-231; M. Henig, 'Stone Objects', in Hassall, op. cit. note 32 (1976), 266; M. Henig, 'Small Finds', in Sturdy and Munby, op. cit. note 17, p. 87; A. Hardy, 'Archaeological Excavations at 54-55 St. Thomas's Street, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, lxi (1996), 225-74.

[62] Jope, op. cit. note 41, p. 98; Jope, op. cit. note 8, pp. 73-4.

[63] Henig, op. cit. note 61, p. 87.

[64] Egan, op. cit. note 59, p. 236; C. Halpin, 'Late Saxon Evidence and Excavation of Hinxey Hall, Queen Street, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, xlviii (1983), 41-69; Hardy, op. cit. note 61, p. 258.

[65] J. Sherwood and N. Pevsner, *Oxfordshire. The Buildings of England* (1974), 121.

[66] Lambrick and Woods, op. cit. note 61, p. 222.

[67] M. Biddle et al., *Object and Economy in Medieval Winchester* (Winchester Studies 7 ii, 1990), 279, 292, 296.

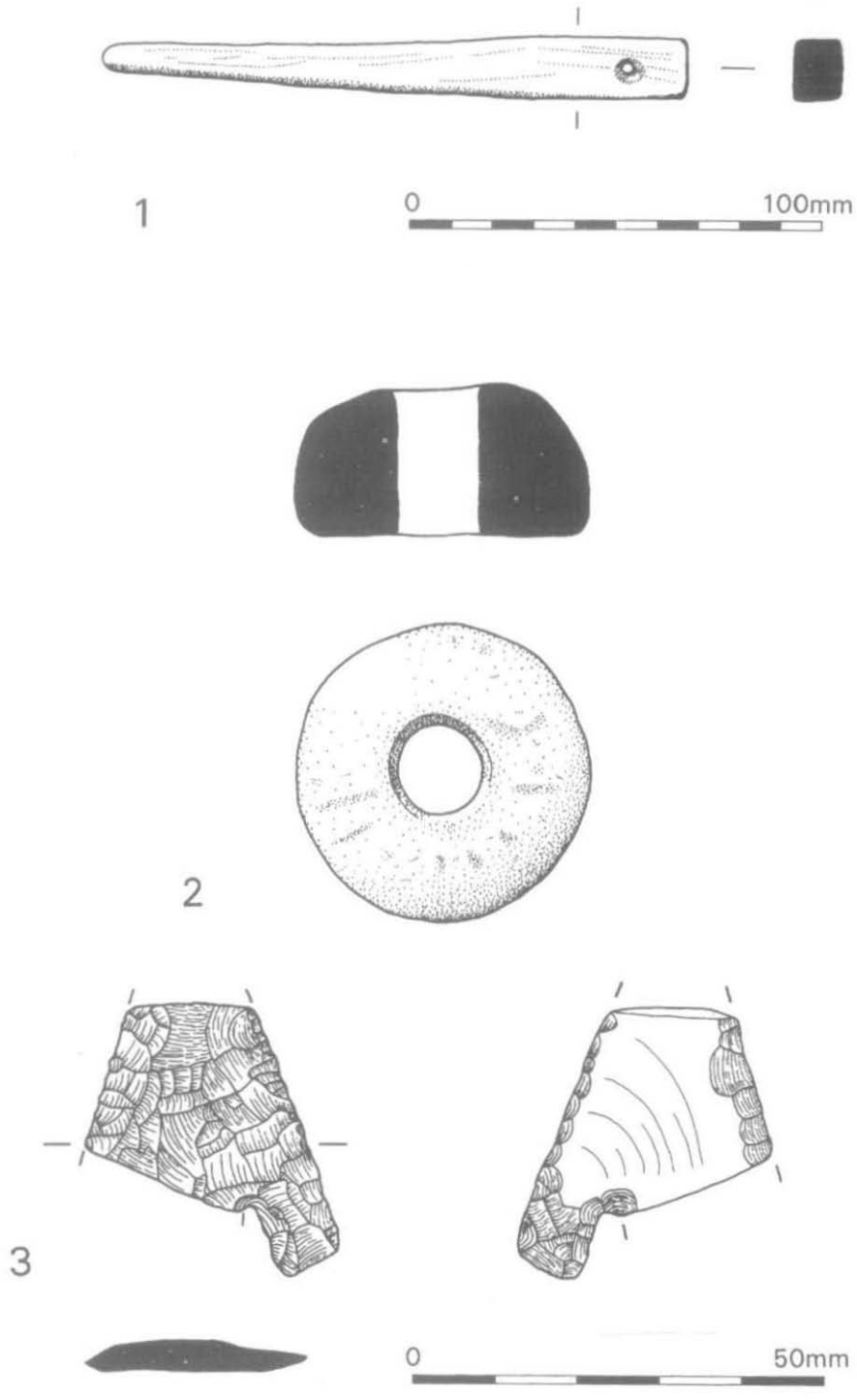

Fig. 18. Stone small finds.

was made into mortars all over southern Britain and was also an important ornamental stone.[68] It would therefore seem the cost of transportation from Dorset was no obstacle to its use. Querns, whetstones and mortars were all essential items of everyday use, and the procurement of the three materials found at the High Street site must have been a definite element of medieval trade in the town.

Illustrated pieces (Fig. 18)

1. Whetstone. Eidsborg schist. Complete with pierced end. Trench D (4200) SF15. 13th to 14th centuries.
2. Spindlewhorl. Stone. Plano-convex, evidence of burning on flat surface. Trench A (3100) SF5. 11th to 12th centuries.

DAUB AND PLASTER by GRAEME T. WALKER and NICHOLAS TURNER

A total of 57 fragments of daub were recovered. All were small (less than 100 mm. x 100 mm. x 50 mm.) and many bore traces of thin wattle impressions (approximately 15 mm. to 20 mm. diameter). The fabric was a light orange sandy-clay with occasional inclusions of small pebbles and grits, charcoal and plant materials.

All the material was air dried or sun-baked. A few fragments showed signs of burning. One large fragment from (5006) was heavily burnt. Where surfaces survived these were predominantly flat, although two pieces had traces of slightly rounded moulding and a further two pieces had bevelled edges. Generally, the surfaces appeared coarse and weathered and might best be regarded as the external facing of wattle panels on the outer wall of a building.

Of the total assemblage, fill (5013) of Period 3 pit [5012] in Trench D produced 46 fragments, a further 10 coming from fill (5006) of Period 4a pit [5005]. Both pits lay adjacent to the street frontage. One small grittier fragment came from levelling layer (4159).

Three fragments of finished lime wall-plaster were recovered from Trench B. Two pieces from Period 3 pit [161] appear to be 'snots', pushed through a fine wattle panel. A single fragment of wall plaster facing with fine wattle impressions (6 mm. dia.) was recovered from Period 3 pit [197]. A pink pigment appears to have been added to the finish coat. The pits from which the material was recovered were of 12th-century date.

METAL-WORKING DEBRIS by CHRIS SALTER

Just over 13.8 kg. of debris relating or possibly relating to metal-working was examined. The vast majority of this was the result of iron-working, with copper-working debris only contributing 0.2 kg. to the total, and the total weight of lead amounting to 0.35 kg. The distribution of slag type by Period can be seen in Table 7.

Lead

The lead was from an unstratified layer, and its form suggested that flows of molten lead might have an accidental cause such as a fire causing a lead or pewter object to melt.

Copper-alloys

The high melting point of most copper-alloys makes it very unlikely that the spills of molten copper-alloy were due to a similar accidental cause. They represent the debris from an episode of casting as is shown by the presence of fragments complete with flash, where the metal has forced its way between parts of a mould. However, there was only one possible fragment of mould or crucible recovered, and only one fragment of crucible slag. This would suggest that the debris related to working on another nearby site, but happened to be redeposited within the excavation area.

Iron

The absence of hammer-scale and other micro-slags from the collection of debris would suggest that something similar happened with the iron-working debris. Although the soil conditions do not seem to be conducive to hammer-scale preservation, some flakes were recovered from the soil adhering to two smithing

[68] G. Dunning, 'Mortars', in H. Clark and A. Carter, *Excavations at King's Lynn, 1963-70* (Soc. Med. Arch. Mono. Ser. No. 7, 1977), Fig. 146; J. Blair, 'Purbeck Marble', in J. Blair and N. Ramsay (eds.), *English Medieval Industries* (1991), 49.

hearth bottoms. Therefore, it is unlikely that the smithing working-floors, which would be made from a mixture of hammer-scale, small pieces of slag, and charcoal, would have gone unnoticed. In addition, the amount of material recovered was very small. The total number of almost complete furnace bottoms was 33 (Classes SD-3, SD-3/4, SD-4 & SD-5). Each one represents a cleaning of the smithing-hearth. As the slag builds up in the hearth as a result of the oxidisation of the iron during heating they represent a measure of the amount of blacksmithing activity. Enough slag would build up in the hearth during a single major period of fabrication activity in which large pieces of iron were welded together. Less frequent cleaning would be required if the activity was mainly simple forging as in the case of a farrier. The size distribution of these smithing hearth bottoms ranges from 50-750 gm. The distribution is centred around a mean of 200-250 gm. However, there are a number of outliers from the distribution in the heavier weight range. This would suggest the smiths concerned were carrying out a range of different types of work, rather than carrying out the type of specialist activity commonly seen in the late medieval or post-medieval periods.

One possible origin for this type of slag distribution is that it was associated with construction activity. However, it could be argued this was unlikely due to the type of the hearth used. The presence of slag flows which have run back down the tuyere tube indicate the hearth must have been either low-level or waist-level, and therefore a fairly permanent installation, rather than a ground-level hearth typically used by itinerant smiths. The evidence suggests this hearth was used at least three times.

TABLE 7. METALLURGICAL DEPOSITS BY PERIOD

Debris Class	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Unstrat.
Cu-alloy working			159.0	40.1	1.0	
Crucible debris	38.8					
Fuel					6.9	
Heated material		52.4				
Fe-smithing hearth	8756.8	2070.4				471.4
Fe-slag general	782.1	37.0	57.8			8.5
Fe-slag low density	379.2					
Pb-alloy working/ debris						348.0
Metallic Fe	119.8			40.7		
Non-metallurgical	87.3		14.1			
Vitrified clay/ hearth lining	357.5				7.8	

Summary

The slag shows that there was some secondary smithing activity in the immediate vicinity early in the history of the site. The nature of the slag showed that it is likely some substantial pieces of iron were worked. The presence of copper-alloy spills indicate there was copper-working in the vicinity of the excavations at a later period.

THE ECONOMIC AND DIETARY EVIDENCE

ANIMAL BONES by MARK MALTBY

The Sample

Initial assessment of the faunal assemblages indicated that detailed analysis should be restricted to selected well-dated contexts. Full recording was carried out on these assemblages and full details are included with the site archive. 3,089 fragments recovered by normal excavation methods were recorded and were subdivided as follows:

Period 2, 10th to 11th centuries. 22 contexts produced 847 fragments. Of these, 378 were obtained from 11 contexts from Trench A and 451 from nine contexts from Trench B. Both assemblages were derived from infill and other layers within cellars. The sample from Trench D consisted of just 18 fragments from two surface layers.

Period 3, 12th to 13th centuries. 823 fragments from 30 contexts were recorded. Apart from two surface layers from Trench D, which contributed 24 fragments, all the selected assemblages from this period were recovered from pit fills in Trenches A, B and D. Totals by trench are given in Table 8.

Period 4, 13th to 14th centuries. 30 contexts provided 1,144 fragments. 12 surface and other layers from Trench B provided 372 fragments. Most of the remaining assemblages were from pit fills, mainly from Trench D (Table 8).

Period 5, 15th to 16th centuries. Bones from only four contexts were examined totalling 275 fragments, of which 207 were from pit fill (3066).

Soil samples of 2 to 3 litres from a small number of contexts were processed and bones retained in a 2 mm. sieve were examined. Only identified bones from mammals were recorded together with bird and fish bones (Table 9).

Preservation

Observations of surface erosion, gnawing damage, burning and ivorying were recorded. The incidence of gnawed bones (10% overall) was consistent across the sampled assemblages indicating that quite a high proportion of the material was accessible to dogs prior to final burial. Scavenging will have destroyed many other bones, particularly the more fragile ones. Surface condition of the bones was generally good but 10th- to 11th-century contexts had significantly more fragments (21%) displaying slight surface erosion than later deposits (8-10%). Bones deposited in these cellars appear to have been lying closer to the ground surface for longer periods than most of the later assemblages.

Ivoried bones usually indicate good preservation and are often associated with deeper burial of the bones. Bones of smaller species, particularly birds, are more often ivoried than those of large mammals. The percentage of ivoried bones gradually increased through time on this site (6-11%). A small number (*c.* 1%) of burnt fragments were found in all periods.

Cattle

Cattle fragments were the most commonly identified and were best represented in the 10th- to 11th-century cellar deposits (51% of the identified mammal bones). They ranked second after sheep/goat in the later medieval pit deposits but were slightly better represented in the 13th- to 14th-century layers from Trench B (Table 10).

There was relatively little chronological variation in the types of cattle bone represented. Upper limb bones (humerus, radius, ulna, femur, tibia) were more common in the 10th- to 11th-century deposits (32%) than in the later medieval pits (19-26%), rising again to 32% in the small 15th- to 16th-century sample. Skull and jaw bones were consistently represented in the first three periods (2-4) (16-19%) but declined to 12% in the 15th- to 16th-century sample. A similar pattern was encountered with the ankle and foot bones which provided 25% of the cattle fragments in the earlier periods declining to 20% in the latest period. Vertebrae and ribs accounted for 15-21% of the identified assemblage and many more cattle-sized rib fragments were represented in the unidentified large mammal category.

Only 17 mandibles had evidence for toothwear. Seven belonged to adult or mature animals, seven to immature or sub-adult cattle, and three from 13th- to 14th-century deposits belonged to calves. The relatively high incidence of immature slaughter is supported by the epiphysial fusion data. Over half of the late-fusing limb bone epiphyses were unfused and belonged to cattle probably under four years old.

Measurements were taken on over 100 cattle bones. The lengths of 15 complete limb bones of 10th- to 14th-century date provided withers height estimates ranging from 106 cm. to 122 cm., with an average of 112 cm. Breadth measurements of 20 distal metapodials suggested that about 75% of the older cattle represented were females, a pattern supported by breadth measurements of other limb bones.

Butchery marks were observed on 218 (27%) of the cattle bones. There were no clear chronological changes in the frequency or nature of butchery methods. Most marks were made with a cleaver. Chops through the lateral parts of vertebrae to split the carcass roughly in half were particularly common. The spine was also commonly divided into several segments. Most chop marks on the limb bones were also associated with segmentation of the legs usually at joints. Pelves were commonly chopped through the acetabulum and through the sacro-iliac joint. Several astragali had been chopped through at the point where the hind feet had been separated from the upper limbs. Several cattle mandibles bore superficial chop marks on the posterior of the ramus made during the detachment of the skull. Knife cuts were found much less frequently and were located mainly on first phalanges and on the proximal ends of metatarsals. The former are almost certainly marks made during skinning and this may also be the case for the latter, although their location is also consistent with disarticulation marks. In a few cases there was evidence for the use of a saw in the butchering process.

TABLE 8. SPECIES REPRESENTED BY PERIOD AND TRENCH (FRAGMENTS, UNSIEVED)

	Period 2				Period 3				Period 4				
	A	B	D	T	A	B	D	T	A	B	D	T	T
Cattle	129	156	3	288	46	93	56	195	40	98	123	261	66
%	53	50		51	38	38	32	36		43	36	40	41
Sheep/Goat	69	87	2	158	49	105	73	227	30	83	131	244	61
%	28	28		28	40	43	42	42		36	39	37	38
Pig	43	59	4	106	21	39	39	99	17	48!	80	145	30
%	18	19		19	17	16	22	18		17	24	22	19
Horse	1	6		7	3	3	6	12	1	4	1	6	2
%	<1	2		1	2	1	3	2		2	<1	<1	2
Dog	1	2		3	2	7*		9		1	1	2	
%	<1	<1		<1	2	<1		<1		<1	<1	<1	
Cat					1	1	2						
%					<1	<1	<1						
Red Deer		1		1					1			1	
%		<1		<1					<1				
Fallow Deer									1		1	1	
%									<1		<1	<1	
Roe Deer		1		1									
%		<1		<1									
Rabbit									2	1	3		
%									<1	<1	<1		
Badger	1		1										
%	<1		<1										
Stoat													1
%													<1
Domestic Fowl	7	4		11	1	4	1	6	21^	6	20	47	12
Goose cf dom.	2	1	1	4	5	4	1	10	2	3	8	13	5
Duck cf dom.		1		1						2	2	4	3
Woodcock						2		2			1	1	
Teal					1			1					
Wader cf Lapwing					1			1					
Raven	1			1									
Cod						1	1			2	2		
Ling					2		2						
Salmon									1	1			
Flatfish									1	1			
Large Mammal	80	98	2	180	33	47	42	122	35	68	96	199	58
Sheep-sized Mam.	42	28	5	75	26	35	64	125	12	53	116	181	32
Unid. Mammal	1	6	1	8	2		5	7	1	3	13	17	1
Unid. Bird	1	1		2			2	2			15	15	3
Total	378	451	18	847	190	342	291	823	160	372	611	1144	275

A, B, D = Trenches; T = total fragments
! includes 8 associated bones
* includes 5 associated bones
^ includes 16 associated bones
% = percentage of identified mammal bones (excluding associated bones)

TABLE 9. SPECIES REPRESENTED IN SIEVED SAMPLES

	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Total
Cattle	3	2		5
Sheep/goat	3	7	6	16
Pig	1	2	2	5
Domestic Fowl			1	1
Eel	8	8	2	18
Herring	27	14	7	48
Pike		4		4
Cyprinid		1		1
Whiting		1		1
Unid. Bird	12	4		16
Unid. Fish	14	15	1	30
Total	68	57	20	145
Samples	6	2	1	9

Sheep/goat

Sheep/goat fragments were the most frequently identified in the 12th- to 13th-century deposits and ranked second, closely behind cattle fragments, overall in the 13th- to 14th-century and 15th- to 16th-century unsieved samples. They were comparatively poorly represented (28%) in the 10th- to 11th-century contexts. Of the 690 sheep/goat fragments diagnostic to species, 243 were identified as sheep and only four as goat, three of which were male horn cores.

Anatomical representation of sheep/goat was relatively consistent in the different periods. There was an unusually high incidence of horn cores (8%) in the 12th- to 13th-century pits, particularly in pits from Trench B (14%). Nearly all of these horn cores belonged to males and most bore saw marks near the junction with the skull. The refuse in this area at this period therefore seems to include a small amount of waste from specialist hornworking activity. The percentage of foot bones decreased to 13% in the small 15th- to 16th-century sample from 19-22% in the previous periods with a corresponding rise in the percentage of upper limb and girdle bones (48%) from previous levels (37-43%). Small bones such as phalanges and loose teeth were very poorly represented in the unsieved contexts. They were found in the sieved samples and it must be assumed that they were usually missed during normal excavation.

Ageing data were obtained from 44 mandibles. No young lambs were represented and only seven specimens belonged to mature sheep with heavy wear on their molars (probably over four years old). Most sheep represented were slaughtered in their second, third or fourth years. No clear pattern of chronological variation was observed.

Only two-horned sheep were observed (39 examples). The bias towards males evident in the 12th- to 13th-century deposits was not noted in other periods; equal numbers of males and females were represented in the 10th- to 11th-century sample, and eight female and only one male skull/horn cores were found in the 13th- to 14th-century levels.

Observations of sexual dimorphism of the pelvis indicated the presence of slightly more males than females (9-7). Withers height estimates from 36 complete limb bones averaged around 58-59 cm. in each period. No clear pattern of sexual dimorphism was observed in the breadth measurements of limb bones.

Including horn cores, butchery marks were observed on 130 (19%) of the sheep/goat bones. The pelvis and vertebrae were frequently butchered with a cleaver in the same manner as cattle. Corresponding chops were found on some femora and ribs. Knife cuts were occasionally observed on limb bones, particularly in the earlier periods. Three limb bones also had been shaved with a saw, perhaps in preparation for boneworking.

Pig

Pig accounted for about 20% of the identified mammal fragments in all periods (Table 10). Eight ribs of a piglet were found in a 13th- to 14th-century pit. No clear variation in anatomical representation was noted between the different periods. Small bones were again under-represented in the unsieved samples.

Ageing data from 17 mandibles included only two adult specimens. Nine examples came from pigs probably slaughtered for meat under 18 months old, a pattern supported by the epiphysial fusion data. The high incidence of unfused bones limited metrical analysis. Most measurements indicated that the pigs were

quite small. A large, robust metacarpal from a 13th- to 14th-century pit, could, however, have belonged to a wild boar.

Observations of butchery were made on 57 pig bones. The frequency of observations rose from 8-10% in the first two periods to 23% in the later medieval samples. Chop and knife marks on ribs were the most commonly encountered (19 cases).

Other Mammals

Only 27 horse bones were identified and they played little or no part in the human meat diet. No butchery was observed on any of their bones. No evidence for the slaughter of immature horses was found. Only 14 dog bones were identified, of which five were from a slightly pathological lower spine of an adult animal found in a 12th- to 13th-century pit. Shoulder height estimates of 41, 44 and 61 cm. were obtained from the lengths of three complete limb bones. No bones of dog or cat (2 bones) bore evidence of butchery or skinning. Rabbit was only found in three 13th- to 14th-century contexts and included a butchered pelvis.

Red, fallow and roe deer were present but very poorly represented. Roe deer was only represented in one 10th- to 11th-century deposit; fallow deer only in two later medieval contexts. A single ulna of badger and a stoat skull were also found. Two unidentified small mammal bones were found in the sieved samples.

Bird

122 bird bones were identified from unsieved contexts. These included 16 bones from an adult hen in a 13th- to 14th-century pit. Domestic fowl also provided 49% of the remaining avian bones. The lack of medullary bone in broken limb bones suggested most of the birds were not hens in lay. Metrical data suggested that the birds were of a small size typical of medieval sites. Geese, probably all domestic, accounted for 25% of the bird bones. Knife cuts were occasionally observed on both fowl and goose bones. Bones of other species were found only occasionally. These included probable domestic ducks, teal, woodcock and raven. Further sieving would probably have increased the proportion of bird bones in the assemblage.

Fish (by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer)

A total of 109 fish bones were recovered from the excavations. Hand collection produced only seven bones, from four contexts (Table 8). The remaining 102 bones were recovered from just eight sieved contexts. The bones were identified to species and anatomy using the reference collection of the author. Full details of each bone/group of bones is held in archive.

The identified remains were mostly of herring followed by eel. Bones of other taxa were few but at least seven other species were present (Tables 8 and 9). None of the herring and eel bones were recovered by hand collection. The pike, cyprinid and whiting bones were also from the sieved samples only, whereas the hand collected bones were of larger species including salmon and cod.

Crushed vertebrae of eel (two cases), pike and herring were present in four contexts. This is likely to indicate human cess as the origin for at least some of the deposits in these contexts.[69]

The two ling bones were adjoining precaudal vertebrae and had been chopped across slightly obliquely, probably during removal of the head.

The origin of the species is mixed; the pike and cyprinid (probably a small dace or chub) are exclusively freshwater, the herring, gadids (cod, ling and whiting), and flatfish are marine fish, while the eel and salmon can be caught in either environment depending on the stage of their life cycle. The eels were not of breeding size and it is likely that they were caught locally. As Oxford is some distance from the coast, the herring and gadids may have been preserved fish. The single salmon vertebra was from a large fish and could have been caught in the Thames.

[69] A.K.G. Jones, 'Some Effects of the Mammalian Digestive System on Fish Bones', in N. Desse-Berset, *2nd fish osteoarchaeology meeting. (1984) Valbonne Cedex: Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique* (Notes et Monographies Techniques 16), 61-5; A.K.G. Jones, 'Fish Bone Survival in the Digestive Systems of the Pig, Dog and Man: some Experiments', in D.C. Brinkhuizen and A.T. Clason, *Fish and Archaeology* (BAR Inter. Ser. 294, 1986), 53-61.

Discussion

This relatively small assemblage supplements previous work in Oxford, particularly from Church Street, and should be viewed in the light of this and recent comparisons of husbandry and marketing patterns in and around Oxford.[70] Species representation on the High Street site is notable for the higher percentage of cattle fragments, particularly in the 10th- to 11th-century sample compared with Church Street, where sheep/goat bones were the best represented throughout. This may reflect the proximity of butchering activities in the area of the High Street, where butchers operated during the later medieval period.[71] The 10th- to 11th-century cellars appear to have been used for deposition of more cattle butchery waste than the pits subsequently infilled here and in other parts of Oxford. Specialist activity in the area is also indicated by the hornworking waste in the 12th- to 13th-century pits. The relative representation of pigs and other mammals is similar between the two sites. On neither site were bones of wild species deposited in any numbers. Similarly, domestic fowl dominated the bird bone assemblage on both sites followed by goose and duck.

The absence of the small, but economically important, species of fish from the hand-collected material clearly shows the significance of sieving for a more balanced view of the fish assemblage. Extensive sieving may have added further small fish and birds to the species list, and also more of the larger species which were only encountered as stray finds. The species recovered have been previously recorded from sites in Oxford, together with others. A larger corpus of material is necessary to investigate the relative importance of the species, particularly the proportions of freshwater and marine fish.[72]

Mortality patterns of the major domestic species generally supported the observations from other Oxford sites, although they were too small to provide evidence for chronological change.[73] There was an almost complete absence of neonatal mortalities of all species. Immature and sub-adult sheep and cattle appear to have been selected preferentially for slaughter. Adult cattle were mainly female but males were well represented amongst the sheep remains. The bias towards adult cows may indicate that dairy herds may have been a major source for the town's meat supply.[74]

Generally, the domestic stock were similar in size to those found in the Church Street medieval deposits, but samples of measurable bones were too small to confirm the chronological trends suggested for that site.[75] No polled sheep were represented on the High Street site, although they were observed in contemporary deposits from Church Street.[76] This may be because of the small sample size.

The analysis has demonstrated that there are variations in faunal assemblages obtained from contemporary sites in medieval Oxford related to differences in disposal strategies and perhaps to the location of different industries associated with carcass processing. The High Street data can be added to the information derived from other sites in and around Oxford, from where a pattern of marketing of animal and their products is gradually beginning to emerge.

MACROSCOPIC PLANT AND INSECT REMAINS by MARK ROBINSON

Introduction

A total of nine samples from medieval floor layers, pits and occupation layers were floated onto a 0.25 mm. mesh to recover charred plant remains. Following assessment of the flots, one flot (Sample D1) from 10th- to 11th-century floor (4202) was recommended for full analysis. Organic sediments were also recovered from 13th- to 14th-century cesspit [588] (Sample B9 from context 609 and Sample B13 from context 589). It was decided to investigate them in detail.

[70] R. Wilson, 'Medieval Animal Bones and Marine Shells from Church Street', in Hassall et al., op. cit. note 32, pp. 258-68 + microfiche; R. Wilson, 'Mortality Patterns, Animal Husbandry and Marketing in and around Medieval and Post-medieval Oxford', in A.R. Hall and H.K. Kenward (eds.), *Urban-Rural Connexions: Perspectives from Environmental Archaeology* (Oxbow Monograph 47/ Symposia of Assoc. for Environmental Archaeol. 12, 1994), 103-15.

[71] Wilson, in Hassall et al., op. cit. note 32, pp. 262-3.

[72] S. Hamilton-Dyer archive report.

[73] Wilson, in Hassall et al., op. cit. note 32, pp. 264-6.

[74] Wilson, in Hall and Kenward, op. cit. note 70, pp. 110-11.

[75] Wilson, in Hassall et al., op. cit. note 32, pp. 263-4.

[76] Ibid. 264.

Methods and Results

The dried flot from Sample D1 was sorted under a binocular microscope. Well-preserved charred seeds, chaff, and charcoal were identified. The results are given in Table 10.

Sub-samples of the cesspit material B9 and B13 were washed over a stack of sieves down to 0.2 mm. They were sorted in water under a binocular microscope for waterlogged macroscopic plants and insect remains. These were identified and the results are given in Tables 11 and 12. Seed fragments of *Agrostemma githago* and *Centaurea cyanus* were only recorded when they were longer than 1 mm.

Interpretation of the Charred Plant Remains

The charred plant remains from Sample D1 appeared to have been derived from several different processes involving fire. The sample contained much *Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal which was probably the result of using oak for fuel. The sample also contained high concentrations of grain and weed seeds, with a lower concentration of chaff.

The weed seeds included some characteristic arable weeds such as *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle) and *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed). However, many were from grassland plants which rarely persist for long under conditions of cultivation, including *Ranunculus* cf. *acris* (meadow buttercup), *Filipendula ulmaria* (meadowsweet) and *Rumex conglomeratus* (sharp dock). Perhaps the weed seeds were derived from the cleaning of a crop grown on nearby ploughed-up grassland but it is also possible that the seeds were from mixed herbage which been brought to the site, perhaps as fuel for a bread oven.

Relatively little chaff was found, although chaff is more vulnerable to complete destruction by burning than either weed seeds or grain. It included rachis fragments of *Secale cereale* (rye) and *Hordeum* sp. (barley) but *Triticum* sp. (wheat) chaff was absent. Cereal ear fragments, however, were outnumbered by culm nodes of cereal straw. Their presence could suggest either the burning of waste from an early stage of crop processing or the burning of straw, old thatch or waste bedding, as fuel.

Cereal grain predominated amongst the charred plant remains other than charcoal. The most abundant were free-threshing grains of *Triticum* sp. (rivet or bread-type wheat). It is possible that these grains were amongst crop cleaning waste, but in the complete absence of any wheat chaff, the grain was perhaps from the parching of grain prior to hand milling. Most of the other identified grain was from *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and *Avena* sp. (oats). The barley certainly included hulled *Hordeum vulgare* (six-row hulled barley), but the high ratio of median to lateral grains hints that hulled *H. distichon* (two-row hulled barley) could also have been present. Only a single oat grain, on which the floret base remained attached, could be attributed to *Avena sativa* (cultivated oats) but the remainder probably belonged to this species. Some of the embryos on the barley and oat grains were enlarged and had possibly begun to germinate although they were not fully sprouted. (None of the wheat grains showed signs of germination.) These grains could have resulted from the accidental charring of drage, a mixed crop of barley and oats, which was being malted. Drage was a major medieval crop and one of its main uses was for malting. A single grain of *Secale cereale* (rye) was also identified from this sample.

The mixed origin of the charred plant remains from Sample D1 makes the interpretation of the crop related activities that occurred on the site difficult. The most likely seem to have been the parching of wheat grain to harden it prior to grinding, the malting of drage, and the burning of straw mixed with hay either as fuel for a bread oven or to dispose of waste bedding etc. However, it is also possible that the full range of cereal processing activities from threshing through to cleaning the grain also occurred on the site.

The other flots contained much less charred plant material, with wheat grain predominating. However, Sample B5, from a 12th-century occupation layer (215) in Trench B (post-cellar deposit), added *Vicia faba* (field bean) and Sample D3, from 12th-century well [4214] in Trench D, added *Pisum sativum* (pea) to the crops from the site.

Interpretation of the Waterlogged Plant and Insect Remains

The waterlogged assemblages from Sample B9 and Sample B13 were very similar in character. Both comprised human sewage and remains of flies that developed in it. The results confirmed the archaeological interpretation that the contexts (609) and (589) from which these samples had been taken were cess.

The main constituent of these samples was cereal bran from coarse wholemeal flour. The numerous fragments of seeds of *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle) and to a much lesser extent *Centaurea cyanus* (cornflower) were the result of the milling of grain contaminated with seeds of these cornfield weeds. The size, weight and aerodynamic properties of these seeds mean that they are very difficult to remove when the grain is being cleaned by winnowing and sieving. Two other weeds with seeds falling into this category, *Bupleurum rotundifolium* (thorow-wax) and *Scandix pecten-veneris* (shepherd's needle) were each represented by a single seed. There were few seeds of the sorts that are more readily removed during crop cleaning, for example Chenopodiaceae, Polygonaceae and *Anthemis cotula*, which commonly occur in assemblages of charred cereal processing waste.

TABLE 10. CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

		Number of Items	
		Trench	D
		Context	4202
		Sample	1
		Sample volume (litres)	2.5
Cereal Grain			
Triticum sp.	– free threshing short grain	rivet or bread wheat	92
Triticum sp.		wheat	42
Secale cereale L.		rye	1
Hordeum vulgare L.	– hulled lateral	six-row hulled barley	2
Hordeum sp.	– hulled median	hulled barley	11
Hordeum sp.	– hulled	hulled barley	20
Hordeum sp.		barley	5
Avena sativa L.	– grain with floret base	cultivated oats	1
Avena sp.		oats	16
Cereal indet.			75
Chaff			
Secale cereale L.	– rachis	rye	1
Hordeum sp.	– rachis	barley	1
Secale or Hordeum sp.	– rachis	rye or barley	3
Cereal-sized grass culm nodes		cereal straw	6
Weed Seeds			
Ranunculus cf. *acris* L.		meadow buttercup	1
Brassiceae indet.		cabbage, charlock etc	1
Agrostemma githago L.		corn cockle	5
Stellaria media gp.		chickweed	1
Chenopodium album L.		fat hen	6
Atriplex sp.		orache	3
Vicia or *Lathyrus* sp.		vetch, tare	3
Filipendula ulmaria (L.) Max.		meadowsweet	1
Rumex conglomeratus Mur.		sharp dock	19
Rumex sp.		dock	31
Odontites verna (Bell) D.		red bartsia	2
Mentha sp.		mint	1
Galium sp. (not aparine)		goosegrass	1
Anthemis cotula L.		stinking mayweed	11
Sonchus oleraceus L.		sowthistle	1
Juncus articulatus gp.		rush	1
Isolepis setacea (L.) R. Br.		bristle club rush	1
Carex spp.		sedge	2
Bromus S. Eubromus sp.		brome grass	7
Gramineae indet.		grass	23
weed indet.			14
Charcoal			
Quercus sp.		oak	much

TABLE 11. WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS (SEEDS UNLESS STATED)

			Number of Items	
		Trench	B	B
		Context	609	589
		Sample	9	13
		Sample weight (Kg.)	0.55	0.25
Pteridium aquilinum (L.) Kuhn.		bracken	4	3
Ranunculus cf. *acris* L.		meadow buttercup	1	-
Brassica or *Sinapis* sp.		cabbage, charlock etc	-	1
Silene sp.		campion	1	
Agrostemma githago L.	– seed frags	corn cockle	580	960
cf. *Vicia* sp.	– pod frags	bean, vetch	3	-
Rubus fruticosus agg.		blackberry	2	8
Fragaria vesca L.		wild strawberry	10	1
Prunus domestica L. cf. ssp. *Insititia* (L.) Schn.		small plum, bullace	-	4
P. avium L.		sweet cherry	-	2
Malus sylvestris Mill.		apple	1	5
Malus sylvestris Mill.	– endocarp frags	apple core	10	18
Scandix pecten-veneris L.		shepherd's needle	1	-
Foeniculum vulgare Mill.		fennel	2	2
Bupleurum rotundifolium L.		thorow-wax	-	1
Ficus carica L.		fig	27	7
Sambucus nigra L.		elder	1	-
Anthemis cotula L.		stinking mayweed	-	2
Centaurea cyanus	– seed frags	cornflower	18	11
Cereal indet.	– frags	cereal bran	much	much
Seed indet.			2	-

TABLE 12. INSECT REMAINS

		Number of Items		
		Trench	B	B
		Context	609	589
		Sample	9	13
		Sample weight (Kg.)	0.55	0.25
cf. *Quedius* sp.	adult		1	
Tipnus unicolor (P.& M.)	adult	1	-	
Thoracochaeta zosterae (Hal.)	puparia	2370	3280	
Leptocera sp. s.l.	puparia		-	6
Fannia sp.	puparia		10	1
Diptera indet.	puparia		1	2

The pit also contained other remains that had survived digestion including pips/stones of *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (blackberry), *Fragaria vesca* (wild strawberry), *Prunus domestica* cf. ssp. *insititia* (small plum or bullace), *Malus sylvestris* (apple) and *Ficus carica* (fig). A few seeds of a culinary herb, *Foeniculum vulgare* (fennel), were present. Perhaps surprisingly, the *Brassica* or *Sinapis* sp. seed from Sample B 13 was not *B. nigra* (black mustard), although it would still probably have given a hot taste.

The only plant remains from the pit which certainly had not been consumed were frond fragments of *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken). They perhaps represented flooring or bedding material.

The insect remains were dominated by fly puparia which resembled *Thoracochaeta zosterae*, the seaweed fly. The larvae of this fly are now known from seaweed along the strand line, where they can be exceedingly

common.[77] Its puparia are particularly characteristic of medieval and early post-medieval cesspit fills.[78] It seems that *T. zosterae* must have been able to feed on sewage under the conditions which usually prevailed in cesspits (or there is a closely related and yet undescribed species of *Thoracochaeta* that feeds on sewage). The few other puparia were all from flies that can feed on sewage.

Only two adult beetles were recorded, both from Sample B9, and one of them, *Tipnus unicolor*, usually occurs indoors. The paucity of beetles which fell into the pits and the lack of seeds from plants likely to have been growing on the site would suggest that the pit was inside a building.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The excavations have provided significant new information on the nature of Saxo-Norman occupation on the High Street. This has, in general, acted to confirm indications of the pattern of urban development identified by earlier excavations. Although only a small portion of contemporary ground surface survived beneath later buildings in the areas examined, this provided valuable information on buildings occupying the Saxon and later street frontage. A sighting on the probable Saxon street suggested that the position of the contemporary frontage had persisted into the later medieval period on approximately the same alignment.

Period 2, 10th to 11th centuries

It has previously been demonstrated that the frontage to the High Street was already built up during the late 10th century and that the backlands were being developed from the 11th century.[79] The excavations that form the subject of the present report suggest that the frontage (at No. 117) consisted of a surface building containing a small cellar-pit [5016], supporting the model suggested by Munby and Sturdy.[80] This cellar may have been slightly earlier than a second cellar-pit and building immediately to the rear. These buildings both appear to be ignored by the later medieval property boundaries dividing Nos. 116 and 117 and Nos. 117 and 118, and suggest that a very different set of boundaries must have been in place earlier in the period. A similar situation has been noted on the adjacent All Saints' site where a cellared building was replaced by the single-cell church perhaps sometime in the 1060s. The church, offset to one side, cuts directly through the remains of the cellared building, illustrating a comparable shift in property boundaries.[81]

To the rear of the frontage at No. 115, the area was occupied by a considerably larger cellared structure, which might arguably be referred to as a cellared hall.[82] Later pit digging, and the restricted size of the excavated sample, meant that there was no opportunity to identify traces of the superstructure. Nor could the relationship of these cellared buildings in the backlands (including the possible cellars at No. 116) to others located closer to the High Street be investigated in detail due to the limited area of street frontage available for examination.

The size and construction of the cellar (*c.* 9 m. x 7 m.) behind No. 115 could suggest it was the lower storey of a hall-like dwelling, and might therefore imply that the focus of domestic habitation was sited rearward of the contemporary street frontage. Whether buildings on the

[77] H.J. Egglishaw, 'The Life History of *Thoracochaeta zosterae* (Hal.) (Dipt., Sphaeroceridae)', *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, xcvi (1960), 124-8.

[78] R. Belshaw, 'A Note on the Recovery of *Thoracochaeta zosterae* (Haliday) (Diptera: Sphaeroceridae) from Archaeological Deposits', *Circaea*, vi (1988), 39-41.

[79] Hassall, op. cit. note 2, p. 120.

[80] Sturdy and Munby, op. cit. note 19, pp. 47-94.

[81] Durham, op. cit. note 13.

[82] Horsman et al., op. cit. note 9, p. 109.

frontage were therefore of more ancillary nature, perhaps shops rather than dwellings, is difficult to say. There was no evidence available to determine whether the cellar was free-standing or an integral part of a range stretching back from the frontage. The latter possibility has recently been suggested for the cellared building discovered opposite at All Saints', although there was only one posthole to support this argument.[83] The siting of the larger cellars in the middle or rear of the plot has also been noted in London.[84] Horsman has suggested that large cellared buildings in the London backlands should be interpreted as the storage facilities for shops of merchants or craftsmen, with living accommodation above.[85] If this is the case, they may perhaps indicate a growth in commercial activity along Oxford's High Street during the 11th century. Certainly the size of these possible Saxo-Norman cellared halls would suggest a degree of affluence and status amongst their occupants, commensurate with such a flourishing of trade. The High Street was probably one of the busier commercial areas of Oxford in the medieval period; weekly markets are certainly documented around Carfax from the 12th century and may well have an earlier origin.[86]

Unfortunately no evidence of the trades of the occupants was recovered from the primary phases of the cellar-pits. However, there are some indications of commercial activity immediately following their disuse, as considerable evidence for nearby iron-working was recovered from the infill of the Trench A cellar, and faunal evidence from Trench B suggests butchery was being carried out during the late 11th century.

Very few finds were recovered from the construction layers or floor surfaces, although a substantial pottery assemblage was recovered from the infill of each of the cellar-pits. It is likely that the construction and dismantling of the cellars and their associated structures dated to the early to mid 11th century, although an origin in the 10th century remains possible. It is certain, however, that these features were out of use by the mid 11th century, at which time they were either infilled, or the resultant void was being utilised for other purposes. Disuse by the mid 11th century is closely paralleled by the findings from the All Saints' site and might suggest that the shift away from timber cellared buildings is a common occurrence at this time.

Pottery recovered from the floors and infills of the cellar-pits consists in greater part of St. Neot's-type ware. This ware has previously been associated with Danish settlement, and may possibly be used to identify Danish enclaves within English towns. Although it is far from certain such a relationship exists here, the possibility should at least be noted.

Period 3, 12th to 13th centuries

Following demolition of the cellared buildings the greater part of the backland was turned over to pit digging, some pits being utilised for the disposal of cess and domestic rubbish. The distribution of these pits suggests that the backland largely remained open and undivided during this time, with the possible exception of No. 115.

Although some of these pits may well have been excavated to procure gravel, most appear to have been latterly used as cesspits, with the surrounding soil stained green through the anaerobic conditions thus created. Several pits appeared to have been used solely as latrines, containing a thick layer of cess capped with sealing layers of earth or clay, before later infilling. Other pits appear to have been multi-functional, containing thin layers of cess interleaved with layers of soil and domestic rubbish. A small minority of pits contained clean

[83] Blair, op. cit. note 21, Fig. 94.
[84] Horsman et al., op. cit. note 9, p. 114.
[85] Ibid. 109.
[86] *V.C.H. Oxon.* iv, 305-7.

gravelly clay fills that either indicate a deliberate infilling, or that they originally contained organic debris of which no trace remained. One pit contained a pottery vessel which was packed around with soft clay, probably for a medicinal preparation, although some food/drink recipes used a similar process. No firm trace of plank or wattle lining was identified in any of the pits, although fragments of daub were recovered from the fills of several. Only a single pit [4199] showed evidence of a stone lining.

Two wells were constructed during the period, one in the backland, the other close to the street frontage suggesting that there was no longer a building on the site of No. 117. The disuse and infilling of the cellars combined with the subsequent disappearance of the surface building on the frontage of No. 117, suggest a localised retraction of settlement in this area during the 11th to 12th centuries and/or a change in the socio-economic organisation of the area.

Period 4, 13th to 14th centuries

It is unclear whether the street frontage was completely infilled during the early part of this period. The excavation has raised the possibility that at No. 118 a newly constructed stone building may have had a cellar below, and that access to it was obtained from an external stairwell in No. 117. If so, then this, together with pit-digging on the frontage, would suggest that No. 117 was vacant for at least part of the period. However, signs of a stone building at No. 117 soon occur in the archaeological record. The slight stone walls in the rear part of Trench D are the first physical evidence for a building on the plot during this period. Although lacking artefactual dating evidence for its construction, occupancy records imply that there was a building on the site by 1328. It is therefore possible that the documentary evidence correlates with the structure seen in the archaeological record and thus provides a possible date for its emergence.

Mirroring the first stone-built activities on the street front, the backland was also partly divided with stone property boundaries between Nos. 116 and 117, probably formalising earlier less robust divisions. A section of very substantial wall between Nos. 115 and 116 probably also represented a boundary, perhaps with a fence to the south, although no evidence of the latter was recovered during the excavation.

This period also saw the construction of a stone-lined cesspit at the rear of No. 116. Access to this was via a walled alley. The latrine remained in use throughout the period, later being shared with the occupants of No. 115. The siting of privies on boundaries is a common occurrence in the medieval and later periods.[87] Clearly this makes sense where the facility was shared, although documentary evidence of neighbourly dispute over leaking privies suggests the problems these locations could entail.[88] Although it was not possible to examine the street frontage during this period, the emergence of the latrine indicates that the properties were occupied. It also suggests that in providing such an expensive privy, there was a new element of affluence amongst the inhabitants. Furthermore, a stone-lined cesspit was a fixed facility, and this suggests that the previous system of shifting cesspits was no longer acceptable in the more organised and heavily utilised backlands of this period.

It is interesting to note that the appearance of the backland from the 12th century onwards would have been very uneven. The incomplete infilling of the 11th-century cellar-pits left relatively deep voids in some areas that were not appreciably levelled out until the 16th century, behind No. 115 for example. In contrast, the cellar voids behind Nos. 116 and 117 were relatively rapidly filled, and surface levels continued to rise so that ground close to

[87] Schofield and Vince, op. cit. note 25, p. 68.

[88] H.M. Chew and W. Kellaway, 'London Assize of Nuisance 1301-1431', *London Rec. Soc.* 10 (1973).

buildings on the frontage was substantially higher than levels at the rear of the plots by the 13th to 14th centuries.

Period 5, 15th to 16th centuries

This period marks a spell of consolidation in development of the plots, and further infilling of the backlands with outbuildings and utility structures. The earliest available cartographic representation, that of Ralph Agas, shows that by 1578 the frontage was fully developed, with the backland relatively open and undivided. This latter aspect is somewhat at odds with the archaeological evidence, although it is unlikely Agas would have been much concerned by depiction of the minor structures evidently present at the time.

The most significant change within the plots took place when the 14th-century building on the frontage of No. 117 was demolished and levelled to make way for a new building sometime in the 15th century. Although no floor levels from the new building survived, sufficient of the ground-floor timber structure had survived later alterations to indicate that this had once been a partially-floored open hall with a smoke bay.[89]

In the backlands, slight evidence survived of a minor building to the rear of No. 115, and short lengths of stone walls of probable outbuildings were also noted to the rear of No. 117 alongside a well. Repair and modification of stone-built cesspits to the rear of No. 116 took place whilst the occupants of No. 118 also acquired a solidly-constructed stone-built cesspit. Despite the provision of these permanent utilities there were evidently times of need when expeditious use was made of simple earth-cut pits for the disposal of night soil.

17th to 20th centuries

Post-medieval activity largely concentrated on minor alteration of existing backland features and buildings, perhaps best exemplified on David Loggan's map of 1675, when the backland is shown to be largely given over to outbuildings. Maps of the 18th and 19th centuries show only variations on this theme. Little coherent information on these post-medieval structures was recovered during the excavations or watching brief, largely as a result of the damage to earlier deposits caused by the latest structures such as the warehouse behind Nos. 117 and 118.

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The archive has been deposited with the Ashmolean Museum under accession number 1995.46.

[89] Munby, op. cit. note 27.