

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LVIII

JANUARY 1965 TO DECEMBER 1965

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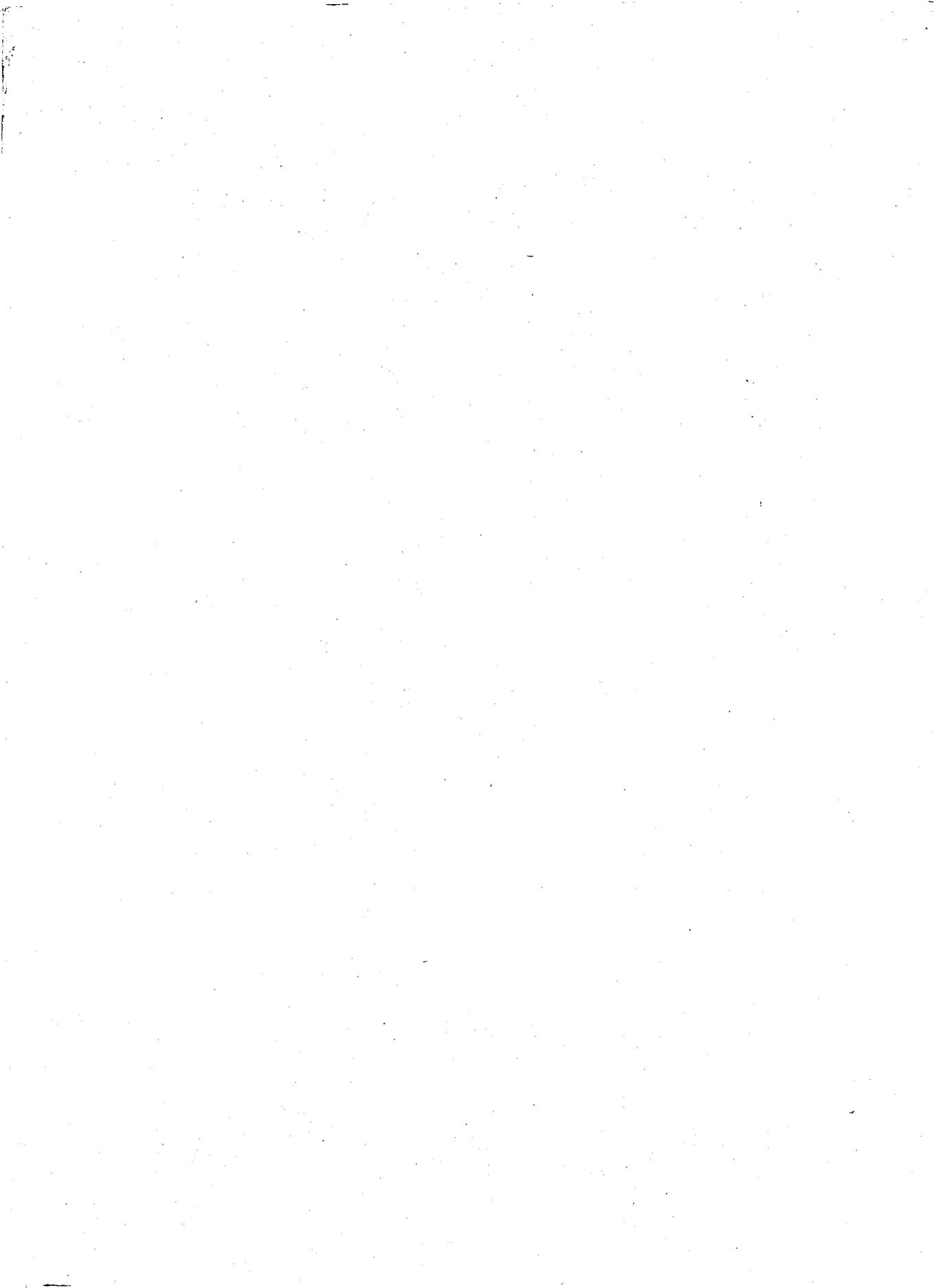
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# CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS AND HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1963

Adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 9 March 1964.

**MEMBERSHIP.** The Society gained sixteen new members during the year but lost six members by death and twenty-six members and two associates by resignation. Thirteen members and one associate are suspended for non-payment of subscription. There are now 280 members and fourteen associates. There are also twenty-nine subscribing institutions.

**MEETINGS.** There were four council meetings and eight ordinary meetings at which the following communications were made:

- I. D. MARGARY, M.A., F.S.A. *Tracing Roman Roads.* 28 January.  
J. S. WACHER, M.A., F.S.A. *Roman Excavations at Cirencester.* 11 February.  
*Symposium of Local Archaeological Research.* 11 March.  
BARRY CUNLIFFE, B.A. *The Roman Settlement at Fishbourne, Sussex.* 22 April.  
J. ALEXANDER, M.A., PH.D. *The Deserted Village-Sites of Clopton and Childerley.* 13 May.  
PROF. J. G. D. CLARK, SC.D., F.B.A., F.S.A. *The Antiquity of the Archer's Bow.* 21 October.  
GRACE SIMPSON, D.PHIL., F.S.A. *Britons and the Roman Army in Wales in the Second Century A.D.* 4 November.  
ERNESTO LA ORDEN. Minister-Counsellor in charge of Cultural Relations, Spanish Embassy. *Are the Choir-stalls of King's College Chapel, Spanish?* 2 December.

The average attendance at these meetings was sixty-two.

There was a visit to Peterhouse on 11 March. The thanks of the Society are due to the Master and Fellows, and especially to Prof. J. G. D. Clark who gave an account of the college history. The College kindly entertained the party to tea.

**EXCURSIONS.** There were two excursions. On 9 May a party of eighty-two visited Castle Acre Priory and also Raynham Hall, by kind permission of the Marquess Townshend. On 25 July fifty-seven members went to Peakirk Church and the Waterfowl Gardens. In the afternoon a memorable visit was paid to Milton Hall and the Society is particularly indebted to Earl and Countess Fitzwilliam for personally showing the party round.

**PUBLICATIONS.** Volume LV of the Proceedings has been published. Volumes LVI and LVII will be published as a double number in 1964.

**SUBSCRIPTION.** At the Annual General Meeting on 11 March it was decided to raise the annual subscription to £2 and to offer Associate Membership to individuals under 21 years of age.

**MEETINGS.** In response to requests from members it was decided to try to arrange some meetings at 8.30 instead of 5.0 p.m. and also some week-end or short evening excursions.

**REPRESENTATIVES.** Dr B. Hope-Taylor was elected as the Society's representative on the Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology. The Secretary was re-elected to the Museum Committee. Lady Briscoe or Mr Tebbutt and the Secretary were re-elected representatives on the Council for British Archaeology and Mr Tebbutt was re-elected as the representative to Group 7.



## ALDWICK, BARLEY: RECENT WORK AT THE IRON AGE SITE

M. D. CRA'STER

SINCE the first report was published in these *Proceedings*,<sup>1</sup> some further work has been done on this site, and on the material excavated from it. Samples of charcoal found in the pits during the 1959 and 1961 excavations have been identified by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (see Appendix III). All are of species still common in the area.

### THE 1961 SITE

In the spring of 1961 the area immediately south-west of that surveyed in 1959 with the proton-magnetometer was cleared of topsoil by bulldozer (Fig. 1). There were revealed two groups of pits, separated by a small, shallow runnel (Fig. 2).

Pits 133-41 were similar in character to those excavated in 1959, circular with flat bottoms; they contained the same mixture of fills, ranging from chalk to black, ashy earth, with broken pots and discarded food bones (Fig. 3). In Pit 134 substantial sherds of two pots were found neatly stacked inside each other, as if carried out in a pile by the Iron Age housewife after the smash, and placed in the half-filled rubbish pit.

Pits 142-49 were rather more irregular in shape and one or two had not been properly flattened out at the bottom. Whether these were ever in fact used for corn storage it is impossible to tell, but they contained the usual mixture of rubbish. Pit 144 had a layer of black ash near the bottom, just above the pile of loose chalk which formed its bottom layer; the remarkable thing was that the top of the chalk layer contained a cow's jawbone firmly embedded in its upper surface. Where this bone had come in contact with the layer of ash above, it had been quite severely burnt. Thus the ash must either have been burnt *in situ*, or at least have been extremely hot when put into the pit. This case is comparable with that of Pit 67, in the 1959 site, which also contained a layer of ash, apparently burnt in the pit.<sup>2</sup>

The whole of the western half of the cleared space was occupied by a large area of brown earth, paler and harder than that in the pits; this stretched further westwards, but there was not time to discover its full extent. Five trenches were dug across this area (Fig. 4), and it turned out to be a 'working hollow', as described by Dr Bersu at Little Woodbury,<sup>3</sup> with intersecting pits and hollows cutting each other

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1961), pp. 22-46.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 31.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* VI (1940).

at different levels. The fill was very homogeneous and it was almost impossible to tell which parts of the hollow had come first in the sequence. A second working hollow, exactly similar in character, but much smaller, was found near the runnel at the south-east corner of the excavation area (Pit 150).

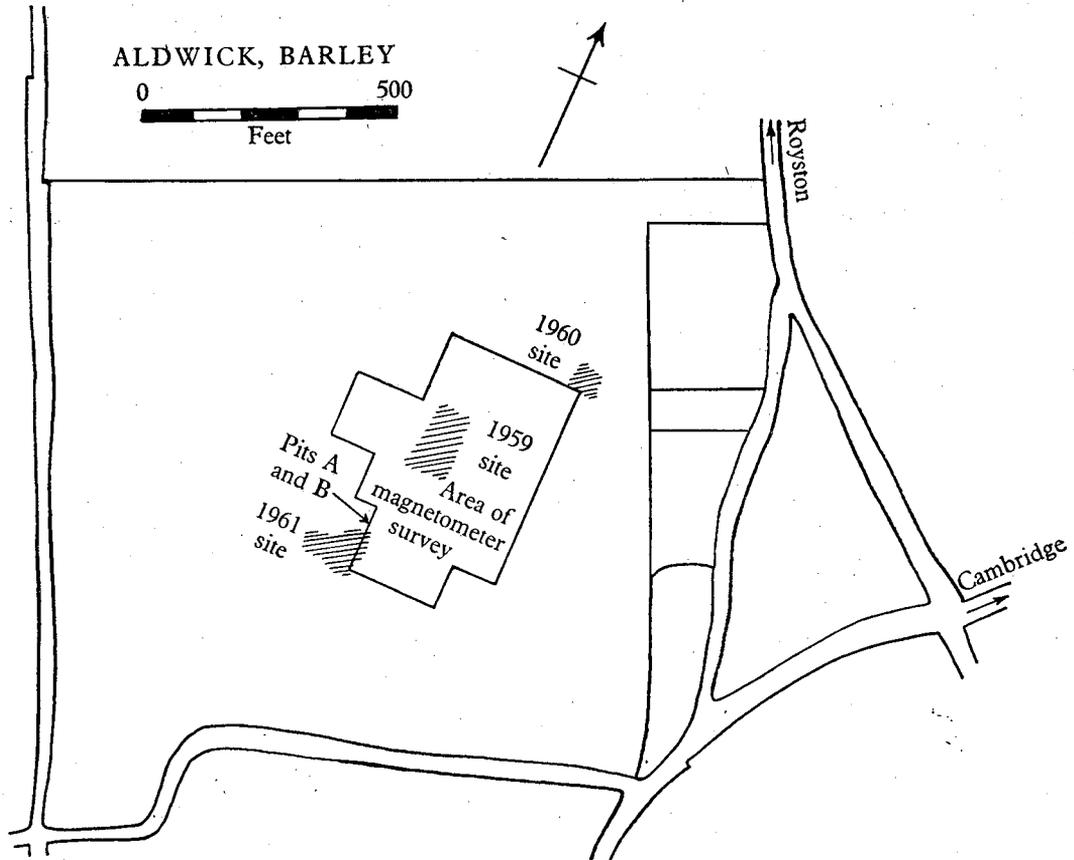


Fig. 1.

Near the northern edge of the big working hollow, only 1 ft. below the stripped surface, the skeletons of two children, aged about 7 and 9, were found (*a* and *b* on plan, Fig. 2). The bones were not all there, and parts of the skeletons had been extensively burnt, but apparently not *in situ* (see Appendix I). They were not in any sort of grave, but just formed part of the fill of the working hollow at this point. This, and their incompleteness, makes them comparable to some of the human skeletons found in the pits at Wandlebury.<sup>1</sup>

An attempt was made, with the help of the Department of Quaternary Research at Cambridge, to take pollen samples from the pit fillings, in the hope that it would

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S. L* (1957), p. 14.

be possible to work out at what time of year the pits were open, when they were filled with earth and rubbish, and how long this took. Unfortunately, the presence of lime in large quantities had destroyed all remaining pollen. A considerable

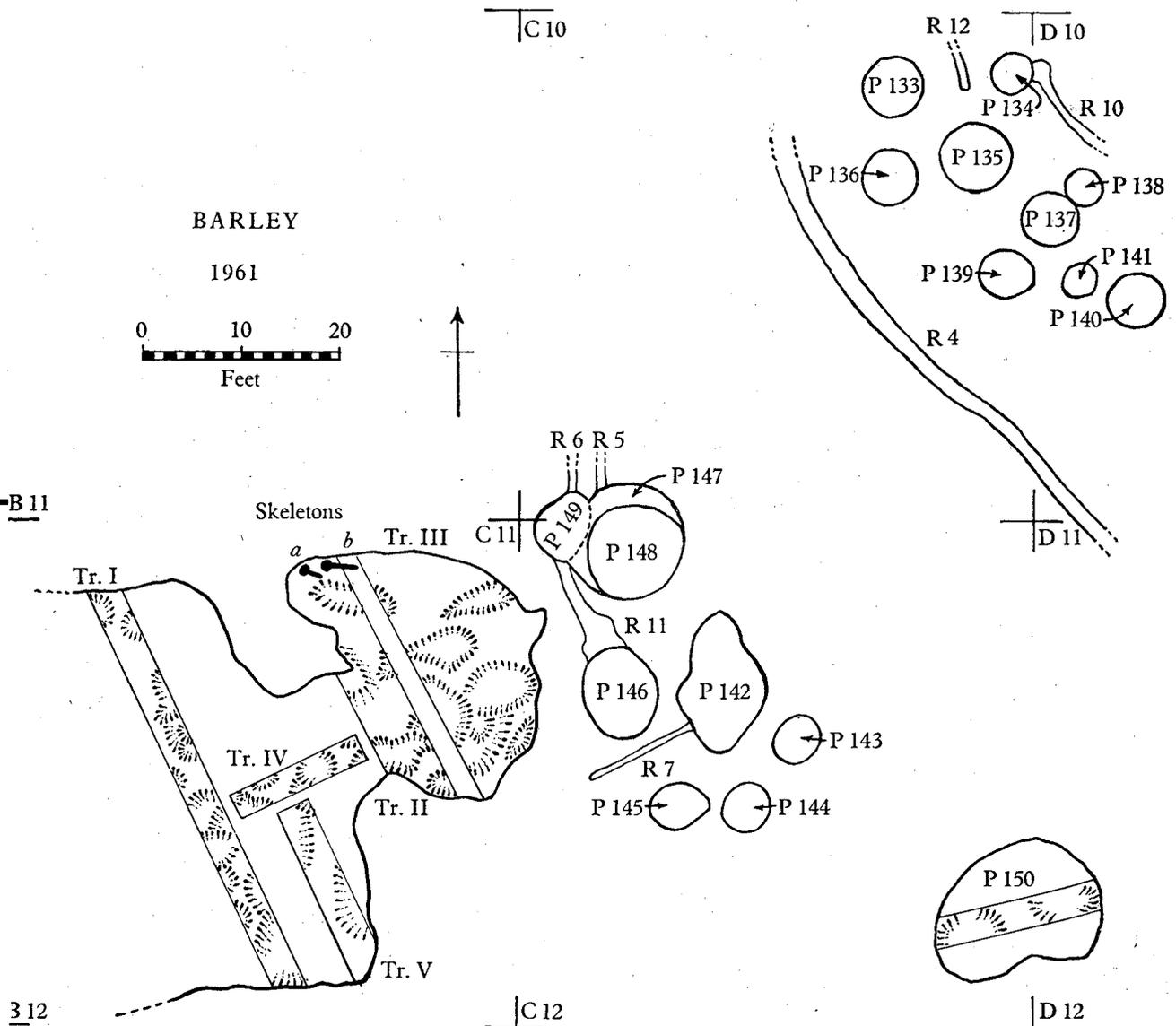


Fig. 2.

quantity of weed seeds were found, however, which might have fulfilled a similar purpose; but since nearly all were those of common weeds of cultivation, which seed continuously throughout the summer, it is doubtful whether they will be of much

use (see Appendix II). A careful watch was kept for any signs of wattle or basket linings to the pits, but none could be seen.

The pottery found during this excavation was exactly similar in style and content to that found in the 1959 and 1960 excavations.<sup>1</sup> It was studied with care for any indication of alterations which might have been caused by a gradual movement of

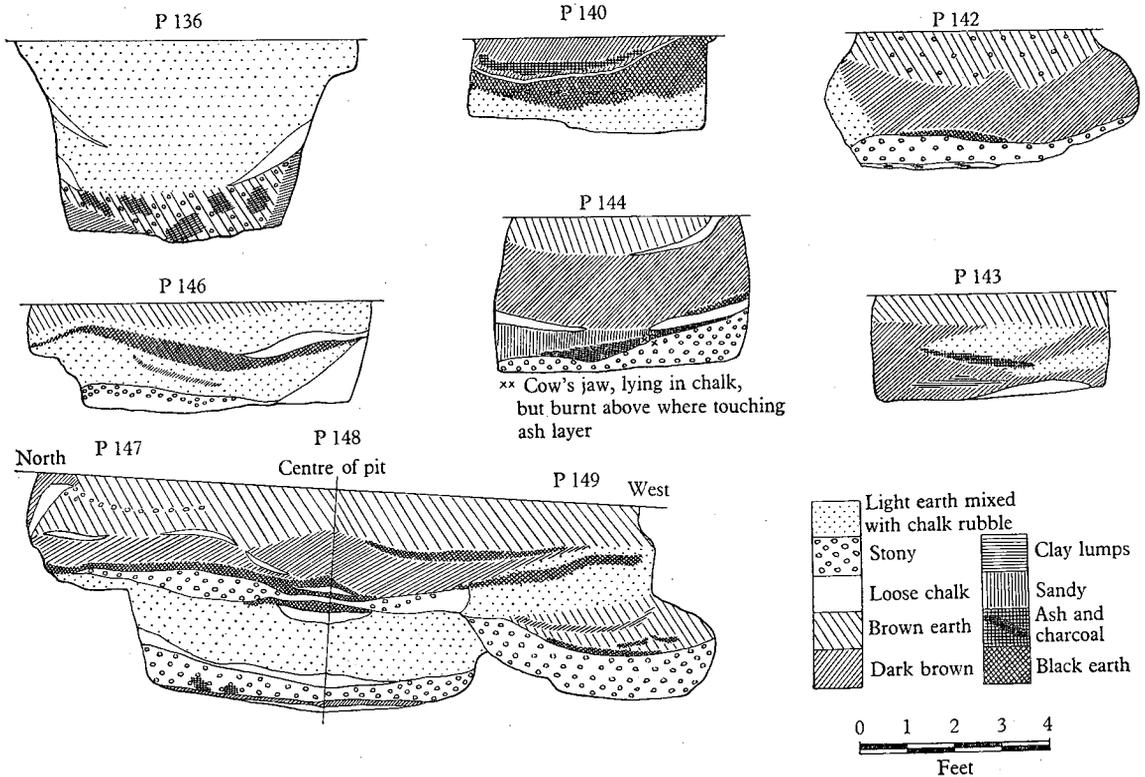


Fig. 3.

inhabitants from one part of the settlement to another during the period of its occupation, but there was nothing to be found. The pottery from all three seasons' work was also checked for grain impressions, and several were discovered. These included emmer wheat, spelt (perhaps), barley (probably of the six-row form), and oats (both *Avena sativa* and the wild *Avena fatua*). A more detailed note on these has been written by Mrs J. Renfrew, comparing them with grain impressions from the Wandlebury pottery (see Appendix IV).

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1961), pp. 36-45.

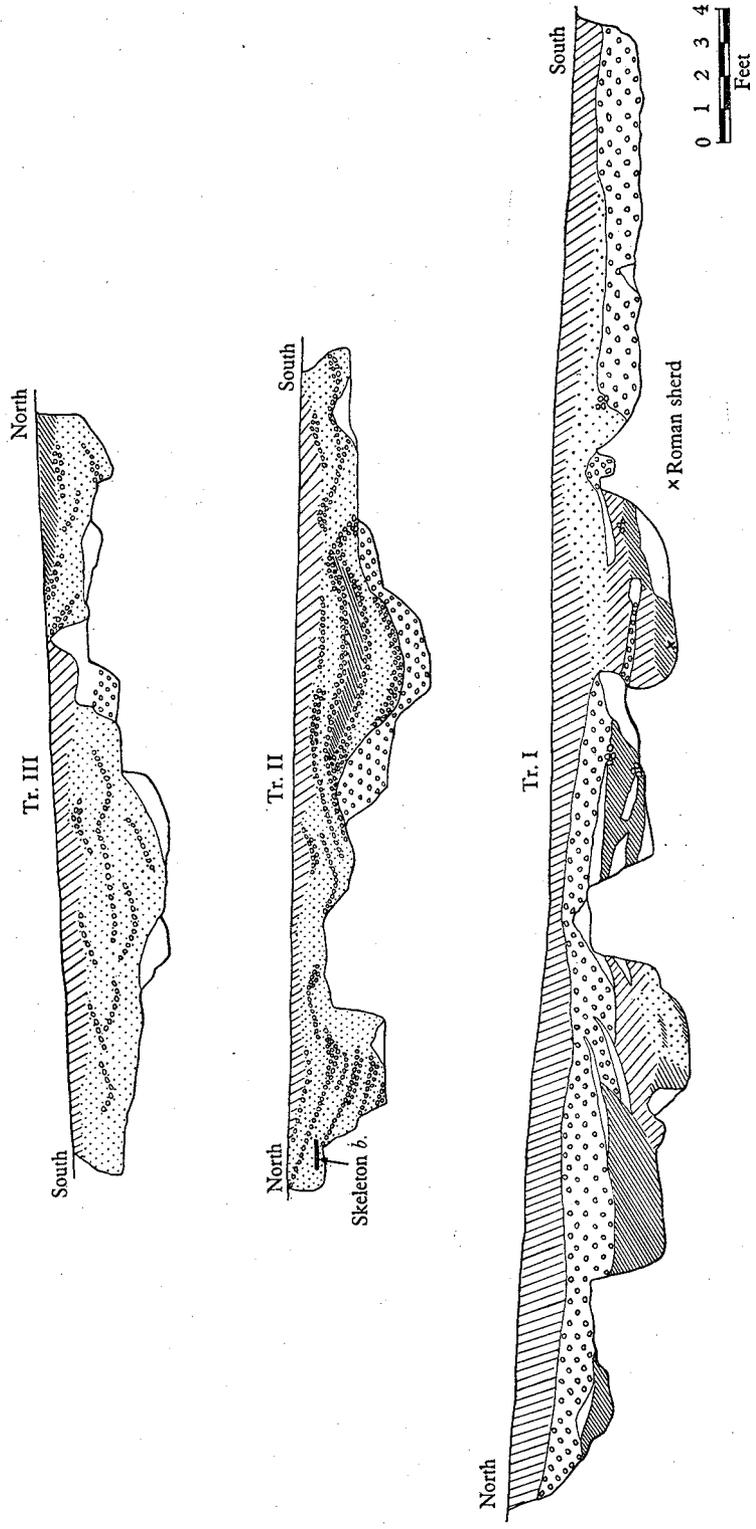
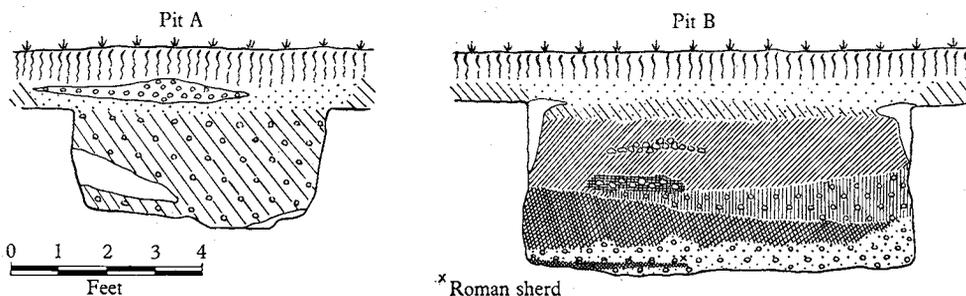


Fig. 4.

## PIT B

In 1962 two large pits were located, on the edge of the original magnetometer survey area (A and B on Fig. 1). Pit A was large, irregular, and filled with virtually sterile chalk (Fig. 5). Pit B was 8 ft. across, 5 ft. deep and of regular shape (Pl. VI). It was excavated in quadrants, layer by layer, and the finds from each layer kept separate; this was in order to check that the pits had really been filled artificially and rapidly, within the space of a few months or, more probably, weeks. It also provided an opportunity for excavating two pits from modern surface level, without prior stripping of the topsoil.



\* Roman sherd

Fig. 5.

Nothing was found to suggest that the layers were not formed by deliberate tipping of rubbish, and the lie of the surface of several showed that they had not been left exposed long enough to settle in their natural angle of rest. Additional confirmation of the rapidity with which Pit B was filled came from two sherds which fitted neatly together, found, one in the top layer of fill, the other in the black layer near the bottom of the pit.

Further work is being done, both on the site and in connection with the detailed study of the animal bones, which it is hoped to publish soon.<sup>1</sup> It only remains for me to thank once again all those who have helped me, and in particular Mr Wilkerson, for his continued interest and co-operation.

## APPENDIX I

## HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS

C. B. DENSTON

*Duckworth Laboratory of Physical Anthropology*

## BARLEY, TRENCH II

(a) Bones represented (Eu. I. 3. 224):

Pelvis, femur, humerus, radius, ulna, fibula, clavicle, ribs, vertebrae and cranium (fragmentary).

<sup>1</sup> For a preliminary note on the animal bones, see 'Sheep in the Iron Age: a Method of Study', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* xxx (1964), pp. 423-6.

The cranial fragments number about 22, all of parietal and frontal bones; 16 show signs of burning.

The only complete post-cranial bones are a few vertebrae, the others being only shafts and fragments.

Six of the long bones show signs of burning:

- right humerus shaft, completely burnt;
- left humerus shaft, slightly burnt at the distal end;
- left ulna shaft, burnt at the proximal end;
- left radius shaft, slightly burnt at the (incomplete) proximal end;
- right femur shaft, slightly burnt at the proximal end;
- right fibula shaft, burnt at the proximal end.

Four long bone fragments, six fragments of ribs, and the body of the first vertebra of the sacrum also showed slight traces of burning.

The sex of the skeleton is unidentifiable, but the age would seem to be approximately 8 to 9 years.

With these remains was found another right humerus shaft, which showed a small area of burning in the middle of the shaft. This bone probably belongs to skeleton *b* (Eu. 1. 3. 223).

(*b*) Bones represented (Eu. 1. 3. 223):

A nearly complete skull, pelvis, vertebrae, ribs, scapula and clavicle, and one epiphysis of a femur head.

Sex: unidentifiable. Age: 7 to 8 years.

The skull had been broken during excavation, but is now restored; it is complete, except for the left zygomatic bone and a few very small fragments of the vault.

The first upper deciduous molar tooth of the right side of the maxilla has a large carie on the distal surface of the crown; all the other teeth are sound. The two permanent upper incisors and the four lower incisors, which are in process of erupting, show slight to medium evidence of enamel hypoplasia.

The post-cranial bones are rather fragmentary, with no obvious signs of disease or injury.

## APPENDIX II

### WEED SEEDS

C. A. LAMBERT

*Department of Quaternary Research, School of Botany*

The macroscopic remains listed below were sieved from the infilling of Iron Age storage pits at Aldwick, Barley, dug out of the chalk. The samples come from both the 1959 and the 1961 excavation sites, and were as far as possible segregated from any modern topsoil.

In Pit 147 the samples were taken from 4 ft. 6 in. below the present surface. On the other hand, several seeds were carbonized, and must therefore date from the original filling of the pits.

The fruits and seeds are of interest, since *Hyoscyamus niger* and *Lithospermum arvense* have not hitherto been recorded from pre-Roman deposits; it would therefore be useful to know to which part of the Iron Age this site belongs.

*Lithospermum arvense* is a characteristic plant of arable fields on chalk; *Fumaria officinalis* is common on cultivated ground on lighter soils, especially in East Anglia. With the exception of *Prunus padus*, the other plants represented here are generally associated with cultivation.

All these plants would be fruiting during the summer months, especially during the late summer and early autumn.

Ditch 1	<i>Atriplex hastata</i>	—	Common Orach
	<i>A. cf. patula</i>	—	
Pit 29 }	<i>Atriplex cf. patula</i>	11 seeds	—
Pit 30 }	<i>Fumaria cf. officinalis</i>	3 seeds	Fumitory
	<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	26 nutlets	Corn Gromwell
	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	9 fruits	Knotgrass
	<i>Prunus padus</i>	1 fruit stone	Bird cherry
	Fragments of <i>cf. Triticum</i> and <i>Hordeum</i> grains (common); also other cereal grains or wild grass caryopses; all carbonized.		
Pit 67	<i>Atriplex hastata</i> or <i>patula</i>	4 seeds	—
(ash	<i>Chenopodium cf. album</i>	1 seed	Fat-hen
layer)	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	1 seed	—
	<i>Galium</i> spp.	2 fruits	Bedstraw
	<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	Abundant nutlets	—
	<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>	1 fruit	Persicaria
	<i>P. cf. aviculare</i>	9 fruits	—
	<i>Rumex</i> sp.	1 nutlet	Dock or Sorrel
	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	1 fruit	Field Madder
	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	2 seeds	Speedwell
	Cerealia and Gramineae	16 grains and caryopses	
Pit 133	<i>Atriplex cf. patula</i>	1 seed	—
	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	4 seeds	—
	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	2 seeds	—
Pit 134	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	4 seeds	—
Pit 137	<i>Atriplex hastata</i> or <i>patula</i>	3 seeds	—
	<i>Prunus cf. padus</i>	1 fruit stone (fragmentary)	
Pit 147	<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>	1 fruit	Fool's Parsley
	<i>Atriplex cf. patula</i>	1 seed	—
	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Over 50 seeds (1 germinated)	
	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	1 seed	—
Pit 148	<i>Atriplex hastata</i> or <i>patula</i>	2 seeds	—
	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	8 seeds	—
	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	1 seed	—
	Cerealia	1 grain	—
Pit 149	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	—	Henbane, carbonized
	<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	—	—
	<i>Papaver cf. rhoeas</i>	—	Field Poppy, carbonized
	<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	—	Hedge Parsley, carbonized
	Cerealia and Gramineae		

In addition to the seeds, small fragments of charcoal, *Mollusca* and the *Diptera* pupae were found. Amongst the *Mollusca* were 9 shells of *Caecilianella acicula*, the agate snail, which burrows into graves or anywhere that decaying meat or bones are accessible. In view of the large quantity of discarded food bones in the filling of the pits at Barley, their presence is not surprising.

APPENDIX III  
CHARCOAL SAMPLES

*Report by members of the staff of the Jodrell Laboratory,  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*

Some of the material from the pits of the Iron age settlement, Aldwick, Barley, Herts., has been identified as nearly as possible, and the findings are set out below.

The samples examined were taken at random from amongst those submitted; furthermore, they represent between one third and a half of those sent. In the circumstances, it seems that the material examined represents a sound statistical sample of the whole.

The material sent consisted of all recognizable pieces of charcoal, found in pits from the 1959, 1960 and 1961 excavation sites. The charcoal samples identified came from the following pits in the 1959 site: 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 35, 36, 39, 41, 49, 67, 68, 71, 87, and from Pit 149 in the 1961 site.

The number of different kinds of charcoal is quite small, and they are all derived from species which are presumably still quite common in the area.

<i>Prunus</i> sp. (various)	{ (Sloe) (Gean)	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	25
		<i>Prunus avium</i>	27
			29
		<i>Prunus avium</i>	31
			35
			36
			39
			41
			49
			68
			71
			87
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	(Oak)		23
			27
			29
			39
			68
			87
			149
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	(Ash)		27
			29
			36
			39
			67
			71
<i>Crataegus</i> sp.	(Hawthorn)		27
			35
<i>Malus</i> (? <i>sylvestris</i> )	(Crab apple)		29
			35
<i>Ulex</i> sp.	(Gorse)		35
			49
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	(Common Buckthorn)		71
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	(Elder)		25

APPENDIX IV  
GRAIN IMPRESSIONS FROM THE IRON AGE SITES  
OF WANDLEBURY AND BARLEY

JANE RENFREW

Aldwick, Barley, Hertfordshire:<sup>1</sup>

During a recent examination of sherds from this settlement site, excavated in 1959-62, the following grain impressions were discovered.

*Wheat.* Four impressions; two of the dorsal view, one of the ventral view, and one of the lateral view, this last being enclosed in strongly nerved glumes.

*Barley.* Three impressions of hulled barley—a dorsal, a ventral, and a lateral view; all are of average size for the species.

*Oats.* Three impressions; one is possibly of *Avena fatua* (Wild Oat)—a ventral view. The other two are both of lateral views of naked grains, possibly of *Avena sativa*.

Wandlebury, Cambridgeshire:<sup>2</sup>

Sherds excavated in 1956 from the settlement inside the hill-fort were examined, and a few grain impressions were found.

*Wheat.* One impression, showing a distinct ventral crease and rounded dorsal side.

*Barley.* One impression of the dorsal view of hulled barley, of medium size.

*Oats.* Three impressions of oats, probably all *Avena sativa*. One shows the remains of the lemma on the dorsal side and the wide ventral crease, at the base of which are the remains of a rachilla. The other two are impressions of naked grains, one of the ventral view, the other viewed from the side.

The following measurements were obtained from the impressions:

		Length (mm.)	Breadth (mm.)	Thickness (mm.)
Wheat	(Aldwick)	4.95	2.25	—
		—	—	2.7
		6.3	2.7	—
Barley	(Wandlebury)	5.4	3.15	—
		5.58	2.48	—
		6.75	3.33	—
Barley	(Aldwick)	6.3	2.7	—
		7.2	2.34	—
		7.65	2.7	—
Oats	(Wandlebury)	7.65	2.7	—
		5.58	2.25	—
		6.48	—	1.98
Oats	(Aldwick)	4.95	—	1.8
		5.4	1.8	—
		5.85	2.34	—
		5.58	—	2.25
		—	—	—

The wheat represented seems to be mainly Emmer, but it is noticeably smaller than the dimensions given by Dr Hans Helback for the Neolithic impressions from Windmill Hill.<sup>3</sup> The glumed

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S. L* (1957), pp. 1-28.

<sup>3</sup> Hans Helback, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* XVIII (1952), p. 203.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* LIV (1961), pp. 22-46.

impression from Aldwick, Barley, might, on account of the strongly nerved glume, be attributed to spelt, although the diagnostic S-shaped glume apex is missing.<sup>1</sup> The barley in this collection is all hulled, and is probably of the six-row form, although there are not enough ventral views to be sure of this. The lengths fall roughly into the measurements Helbaek gives for the Late Bronze Age hulled barley,<sup>2</sup> although some are a little shorter; the breadths correspond very closely. Oats first appear in Britain in the Early Iron Age,<sup>3</sup> and it is difficult to know from these few impressions whether it was cultivated as a separate crop, or grown together with Emmer. It is thought to have originated as a weed in wheat fields, and later to have been deliberately cultivated on account of its preference for cool, damp climates. The presence of a possible grain of the wild *Avena fatua* might suggest it was grown together with Emmer.

<sup>1</sup> Jessen and Helbaek, *Cereals in Great Britain* (Copenhagen, 1944), p. 38.

<sup>2</sup> Helbaek, *Proc. Prehist. Soc. loc. cit.* p. 206.

<sup>3</sup> Jessen and Helbaek, *op. cit.* p. 48.

# THE ROMAN POTTERY FROM COLDHAM CLAMP AND ITS AFFINITIES

TIMOTHY POTTER

## INTRODUCTION

IN January 1960 the writer's brother was searching the Coldham<sup>1</sup> area for Romano-British remains. Discussion with labourers on the C.W.S. Farm<sup>2</sup> revealed that the building of a potato clamp had brought to light a considerable quantity of Romano-British pottery,<sup>3</sup> some of which was collected. Unfortunately, the clamp had destroyed a large part of the site, but a small area beside the clamp had survived. Ploughing had disturbed this area to a depth of 15 in. below the surface, but the layers beneath were intact. They rested on silt with a clay subsoil (Fig. 1).

Excavation at Easter 1960<sup>4</sup> revealed three main periods of occupation. The earliest period comprised the digging of a ditch which encircled a silt mound. The top of the mound was mostly ploughed off, although traces of crumbling brick presumably marked the former presence of some structure. The ditch was subsequently filled by a clayey deposit possibly deriving from the structure on the mound. Period II was separated from the earlier layer by a consistent stratum of ash. This possibly represents the burning of vegetation that had grown over the ditch filling and mound. The Period II layer appeared to be material derived from a structure south of the ditch, attested by large pieces of brick. The latest layer, which contained a great deal of charcoal, was partially disturbed by modern ploughing. The dating of all these periods is discussed in connection with the pottery.

The material finds consisted of pottery, one small insignificant fragment of green glass, several pieces of quernstone, and a considerable number of bones of domestic animals. No metal objects were found.

The value of the Coldham site lies in the pottery recovered. The sherds excavated form the first stratified series to come from this part of the Fens, and give a basis for study of Fenland coarse wares of the first and second centuries A.D. The main purpose of this report, therefore, is to consider the Coldham sherds in detail, and draw comparisons with finds from other sites. The results are considered in the conclusion to this paper.

<sup>1</sup> A small village about five miles to the north of March, Isle of Ely.

<sup>2</sup> The writer would like to thank the manager and workers on this farm for their invaluable co-operation.

<sup>3</sup> Nat. Grid: TL/448027; 4402N in Royal Geographical Society Research Memoir Classification of Fenland Sites. O.D.: 6½ ft.

<sup>4</sup> The excavation was carried out with the help of boys from March Grammar School Archaeological Society.

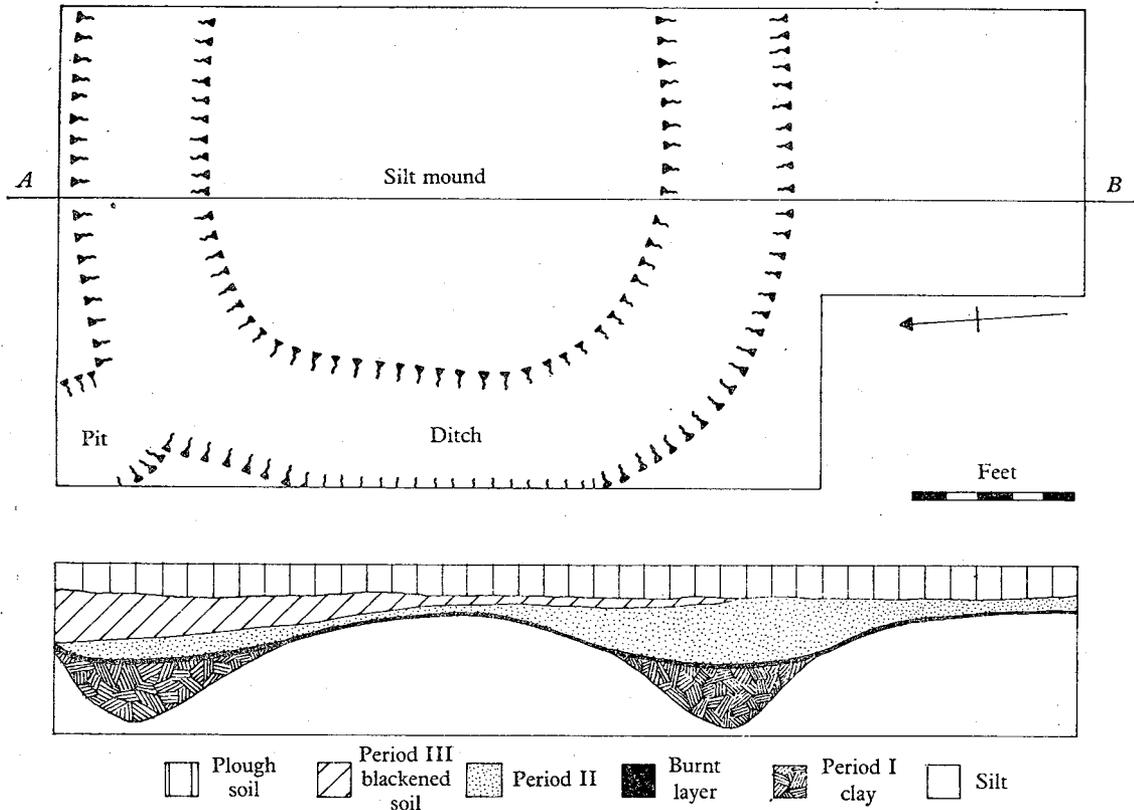


Fig. 1. Plan and section of Coldham Clamp, 1960.

#### THE COLDHAM POTTERY

##### (a) *Samian ware*

The comparative rarity of Samian sherds from the site indicates its poverty. A parallel situation was observed at Needham in Norfolk, where Samian practically vanished in levels dated to after the Icenian Revolt of A.D. 60/61—presumably as a result of the devastation of East Anglia by Suetonius—and did not become common until the mid-second century. Unfortunately, the valuable dating evidence that would arise from the discovery of Samian in this context is therefore lost.

Five of the twelve pots recovered may be assigned to the first century, however, which must place the initial occupation to between *c.* A.D. 65–75.

##### (b) *Colour-coated and painted wares*

Colour-coated wares, probably from the kilns in the Nene Valley, appear in Period II, although examples are rare. In Period III, however, these wares become fairly common. Rough-cast colour-coated ware is very scarce throughout, and bowls with painted flanges only appear in the last phase.

Generally, it would seem that late in Period II (the late second century) wares from the Nene Valley factories<sup>1</sup> began to compete with the burnished grey wares. By Period III the burnished wares were in a minority to colour-coated wares, and it would seem probable, from the quantity and the types of the pottery, that occupation on this site lasted to the early or middle third century.

(c) *Coarse wares*

1. *Flagons*: The mica-dusted pinched-neck type from Period I is the only stratified example (Fig. 2, C11).

2. *Mortaria*: The rim sherd from Period II stamped GARM (anus?) is, according to Mrs Hartley, probably East Anglian in origin (Fig. 3, C5). The iron-gritted types in buff fabric made in the Nene Valley appear with the colour-coated wares.<sup>2</sup> Generally, *mortaria* are rare.

3. Bowls, jars and dishes:

*Period I*

The fabric is usually hard, with a grey core, and frequently a burnished surface. Many sherds show a tendency to flake. Fairly angular, carinated jars (e.g. Fig. 2, C4, C118) appear, often decorated on the shoulder with lattice and oblique-stroke motifs. A bowl (Fig. 2, C129), with a bulge instead of a carination, is also found. The jar form, in which the body is defined from the neck by a groove or raised band (e.g. Fig. 2, C133, C134), is common. Rilling is found on the bodies of many of the vessels.

*Dating*

The first-century Samian, and the close similarity of many of the types to Claudian and early Flavian vessels from East Anglia, suggests a date of *c.* A.D. 65–75 for the beginning of this period. The period probably ended about A.D. 120, although this is by no means certain.

*Period II*

The fabric of vessels from Period II is harder than in Period I, less inclined to flake, and more frequently burnished. The carinated jars and bowls are less angular than the earlier types, although decoration is more common. Rilling is infrequent. In one case (Fig. 4, C165) the carination appears to have been absorbed into the body, a characteristic of Nene Valley types.<sup>3</sup> Dishes include the straight-sided form with pronounced rim (e.g. Fig. 3, C8), and the imitation Gallo-Belgic dish (e.g. Fig. 3, C6). Reeded-rim carinated bowls (Fig. 3, C9) in buff fabric appear, and the tall narrow-necked jar (Fig. 4, C3).

<sup>1</sup> At the *Jewry Wall* site, they started A.D. 170–180 (p. 120).

<sup>2</sup> *Hartley*, fig. 3, no. 10 and p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Standen*, fig. 1, nos. 3–4.

*Dating*

The date of the beginning of this period is uncertain, although the prevalence of types analogous to those produced at the Caistor kilns, *c.* A.D. 110–40, might suggest a date in the region of A.D. 120–30. The terminal date can be put at about A.D. 200, from the small proportion of Castor colour-coated ware, which was first produced about A.D. 160.<sup>1</sup>

*Period III*

Coarse grey wares show a marked decline in Period III, although examples like C2 and C19 (Fig. 5) suggest the carination of previous periods. Dishes have the chamfer that marks the Nene Valley products,<sup>2</sup> and highly polished, delicate bowls like C195 (Fig. 5) attest an increase in material living standards.

*Dating*

The absence of an adequate type-series of pottery for the third century A.D. makes dating of the end of occupation on this site difficult. However, an early or middle third-century date would not be improbable, because of the proportion of second-century types in the Period III stratum.

NOTE: No coins were found with which to confirm the pottery dating.

4. *Gritted ware* (Fig. 6)

Storage jars and bowls, generally with a curved, shallow profile, are common from about A.D. 100. Some examples are hand-made. Gritted ware forms about 30 per cent of the pottery found. The fabric is (a) soft, red, studded with shells and white grit; (b) rather harder, buff with red core; also (c) brown, fairly hard, gritted. There seems to be little chronological significance in the variations of form and fabric.

## SAMIAN WARE

There was no Samian from the levels of Period I; all the material listed here is from the second and third levels.<sup>3</sup>

1. CS 1, 2, 3, 4. Four burnt fragments from the same form 37. The ovolo has been sheared off in finishing the rim, and only part of a festoon and some tendrils survive. For what it is worth, the style is reminiscent of ACAVNISSA. Probably Hadrianic or early Antonine.

2. CS 5, 6, 7, 7a, 7b. Five fragments from the same South Gaulish form 27, with fabric and glaze typical of the Neronian to early Vespasianic period.

3. CS 8. Form 18, South Gaulish. Rivet hole. Flavian–Trajanic.

4. CS 9, 10, 11. Three fragments from the same form 18/31, Central Gaulish. Hadrian–Antonine.

5. CS 12. Form 31, Central Gaulish. Antonine, probably later than A.D. 150.

<sup>1</sup> *J.R.S.* LII, p. 169.

<sup>2</sup> *Hartley*, p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> I am indebted to Mr B. R. Hartley for reporting on the Samian.

*Table showing the chronological relationship between pottery of probable East Anglian origin and other wares at Coldham*

Samian	Period	East Anglian wares					Total	Approx. proportion* (%)
		Carinated			Other forms			
		Decorated	Undecorated	Weak		Sharp		
First century:	I c. A.D. 65-75	6	3	5	3	5	14	70
					One uncertain			
First-second century:	II c. A.D. 120-30	7	4	8	3	7	18	60
Second century:	III Early or mid third century	1	—	2	—	1	4	20

\* Approximate percentage of all wares found, including those sherds not illustrated.

6. CS 13. Form 18 R, South Gaulish. Flavian–Trajanic.
7. CS 14. Form 18 (R?), South Gaulish, riveted. Flavian.
8. CS 15. Form 18, South Gaulish. Neronian or early Flavian.
9. CS 16. Form 18/31 or 31, Central Gaulish. Probably early Antonine.
10. CXS 1. Form 18/31, Central Gaulish. Hadrian–Antonine.
11. CXS 2. Form 29, South Gaulish. Part of the lower zone with straight gadroons, probably over a scroll. The style of decoration was a long-lived one (cf. Knorr, 1919,<sup>1</sup> Taf. 17A—CALVVS; *ibid.* Taf. 33—GALICANVS), but the fabric of this piece, especially its brilliant gloss, suggests manufacture c. A.D. 55–75.
12. CXS 3. Form 18, South Gaulish, with stamp AI (not identified). Probably early Flavian.

## COLDHAM POTTERY—COARSE WARE: PERIOD I (Fig. 2)

C129. Wide-mouthed jar with grey core, and black burnished surface. Well-everted rim; a cordon, demarcated by grooves, on the shoulder.

Ancestral type: probably *Camulodunum*, 218 Ca (1). See also *Needham*, 40 (a more debased type than Coldham) c. A.D. 100.

C134. Medium-mouthed jar in light grey fabric; hard black exterior. Rim is sharply everted and the shoulder is deeply scored with horizontal lines. Cf. C133 below.

Similar form to *Claudian Needham*, 39 (not fully decorated). *Caistor Kilns*, Class A. Later example than Coldham: *Arbury Rd*, 27 (c. A.D. 130–60).

C103. Wide-mouthed jar in a hard grey fabric, with a patchy burnt exterior, marked with faint rilling. Unpronounced form.

Similar to C134. Same parallels and *Needham*, 54 (A.D. 100–40).

C133. A form of more pronounced shape than C103; the rim is separated from the body by two grooves. Hard, grey fabric, with light grey core. Shallow rilling on the body.

Similar to C134 and C103; same parallels.

C17. Medium-mouthed jar in a hard, dark grey fabric. Undecorated shoulder.

Cf. *Runcton Holme*, 19.

C118. Carinated jar with grey-brown core, and light grey exterior. Exterior immediately below rim and decoration are burnished. The body below the carination is rilled.

C66. Medium-mouthed jar in grey fabric. Incised, oblique decoration on the shoulder.

C11. Pinched-neck flagon in a light buff-brown fabric with reddish core and mica-dusted surface.

*Camulodunum*, 157–9.

C4. Carinated jar in a grey, burnished fabric, with light grey-buff core. Burnished lattice decoration on the shoulder.

As C118, although fabric and decoration differ. Exact parallel from *Norwood*, NB2 (Fig. 8).

C14. A strainer bowl, virtually complete as far as the shoulder. Found intact, though in a very flaky and fragile condition, in the bottom of the ditch. Dark grey fabric, with light grey-buff core. The base is pierced all over.

Basic shape *Camulodunum*, 212, and *Claudian Needham*, 31.

C12. Fragment of a cheese press; hard black fabric with grey core. The interior has a crude lattice pattern, deeply incised.

*Camulodunum*, 199.

C13. A small dish, nearly complete, in soft light-grey, slightly gritty fabric.

*Needham*, 5 (A.D. 60–80).

<sup>1</sup> R. Knorr, *Töpfe und Fabriken verzierter Terra-Sigillata des ersten Jahrhunderts* (1919).

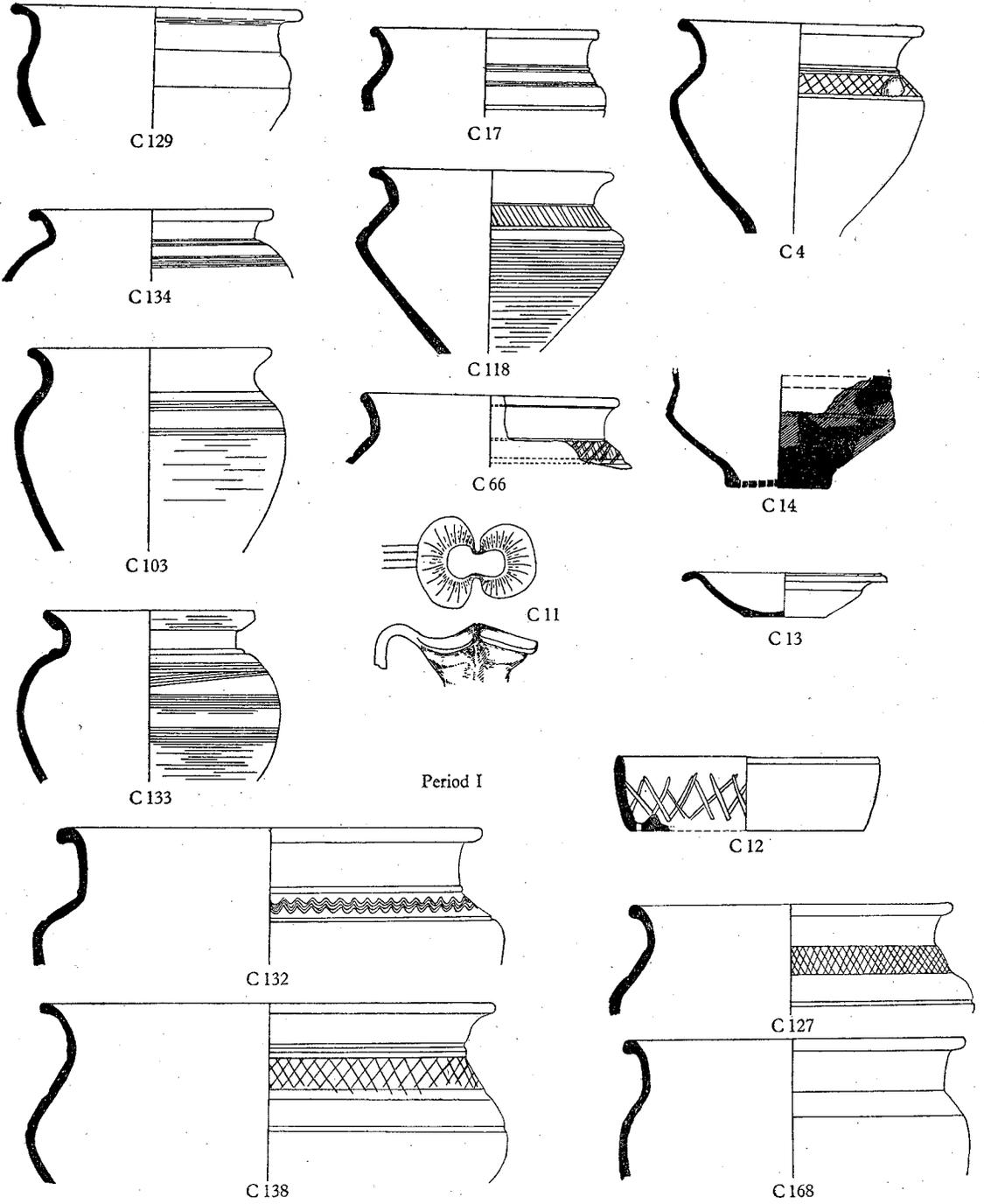


Fig. 2. Coldham: Coarse ware. Period I. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

C132. A large carinated jar in hard grey fabric. The exterior is burnished, and the shoulder decorated with incised wavy lines.

C138. A wide-mouthed jar in hard light-grey fabric. Burnished lattice pattern on the shoulder. *Caistor Kilns*, Group G; *Needham*, 38; *Runcton Holme*, 19, 20; *Arbury Rd*, 20A.

C127. Wide-mouthed jar in burnished grey fabric with grey-buff core. Burnished lattice pattern on the shoulder.

As C138.

C168. Wide-mouthed jar in gritty buff fabric (almost white).

*Needham*, 59.

#### COLDHAM POTTERY—COARSE WARE: PERIOD II (Figs. 3, 4)

C90. Large medium-mouthed jar in buff fabric, and decorated with a series of incised vertical lines, very roughly drawn, starting immediately below the neck (Fig. 3).

For the decoration cf. *Needham*, 71.

C5. *Mortarium* in hard red-brown fabric, with orange core. There is no grit. The rim is stamped GARM (ANVS?) with MARCV, retrograde, below in semi-cursive letters. I am indebted to Mrs B. R. Hartley for examining the sherd; she reports that this stamp is previously unknown, although she suspects it to be that of an East Anglian potter (Fig. 3).

*Caistor*, R15 (A.D. 120-50).

C6. Imitation Gallo-Belgic dish in smooth grey fabric, with an external burnish. Fairly pronounced foot moulding. Internal decoration (not illustrated) comprising brown burnished radial lines at intervals of about half an inch on the basal interior (Fig. 3).

*Needham*, 4 (A.D. 80-120).

C94a. Medium-mouthed jar in grey fabric, with an external burnish. The shoulder is decorated with burnished wavy oblique lines, and demarcated by grooves. The carination is fairly weak, and there is a girth groove just below the shoulder (Fig. 3).

*Needham*, 38; *Caistor*, S12 (A.D. 100-30).

C23. Wide-mouthed jar in grey fabric, with external burnish. The shoulder is decorated with regular burnished oblique strokes (Fig. 3).

As C94a.

C34. Wide-mouthed jar in a smooth grey fabric. No decoration (Fig. 3).

*Caistor Kilns*, C1.

C8. Straight-sided dish with flat rim in dark grey fabric, burnished on the exterior. This is a deep type, with slightly angled sides. There is no chamfer (Fig. 3).

C9. A reeded-rim carinated bowl, in a hard light-brown gritty fabric, with a grey core (Fig. 3).

*Caistor*, Group V.

C166. A reeded-rim carinated bowl, in a gritty cream fabric, with a reddish core. There is a groove just above the carination (Fig. 3).

As C9.

CX7. A nearly complete jar, most of which was discovered on the surface, but some sherds were recovered in a stratified context. Hard grey unburnished fabric, with light-grey core. The shoulder is decorated with incised oblique lines, and there is rilling on the body (Fig. 3).

Cf. C118.

C48. A wide-mouthed carinated jar, in grey fabric, with grey-brown core. The shoulder is undecorated and the rim ingrooved (Fig. 4).

C18. Wide-mouthed jar in smooth light-grey fabric. The shoulder is undecorated and marked with a cordon at the junction with the neck (Fig. 4). Cf. C168 on Fig. 2.

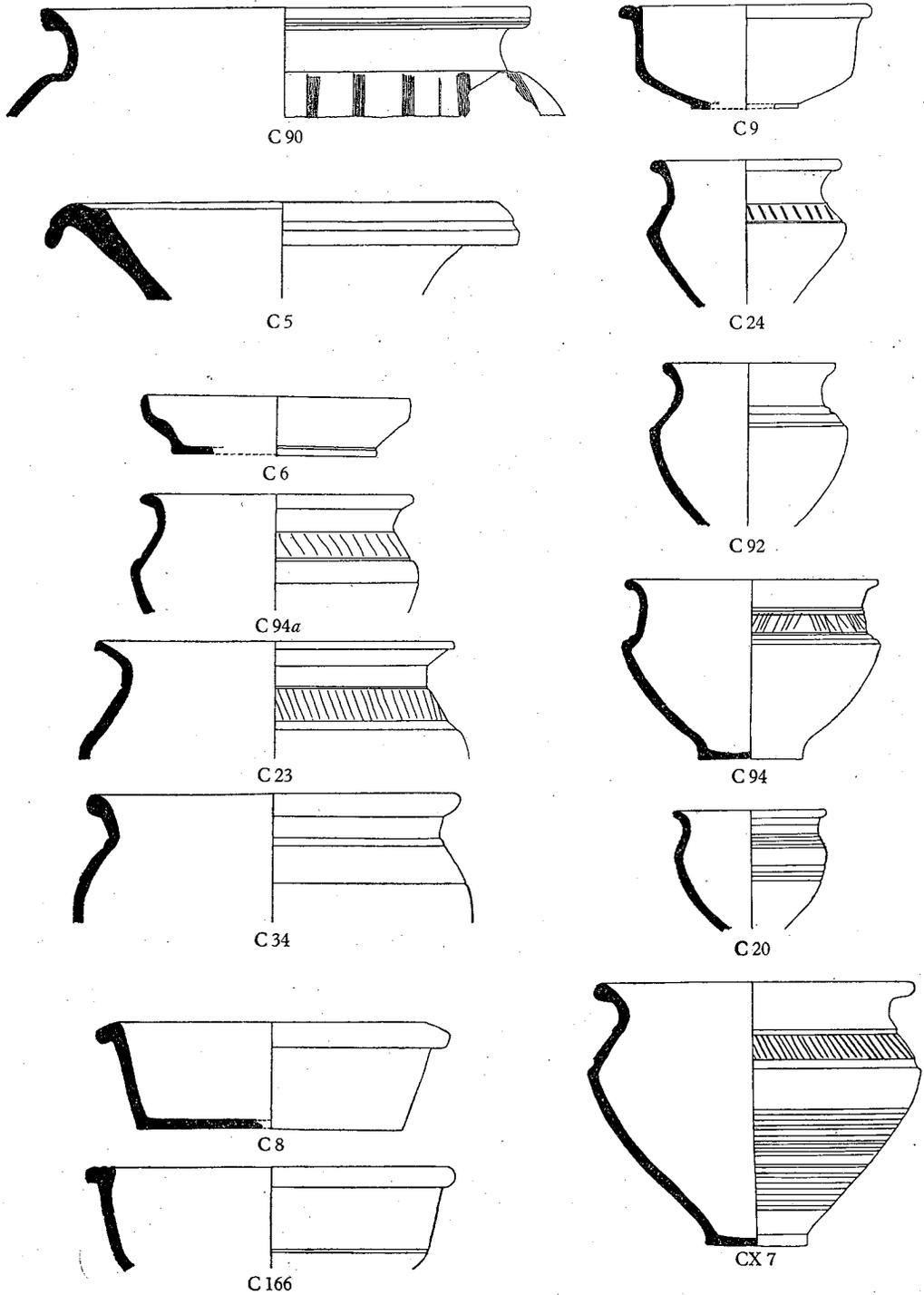


Fig. 3. Coldham: Coarse ware. Period II. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

C24. A small carinated jar in a burnished grey-brown fabric. The shoulder is decorated with oblique, burnished strokes (Fig. 3).

C92. Carinated jar in soft grey fabric, partially burnished externally. Small black grit on the internal surface. Undecorated (Fig. 3).

C94. Nearly complete, carinated jar, in brown burnished fabric, with grey core. The shoulder is decorated with oblique burnished lines, with double cordons above and below the decoration (Fig. 3).

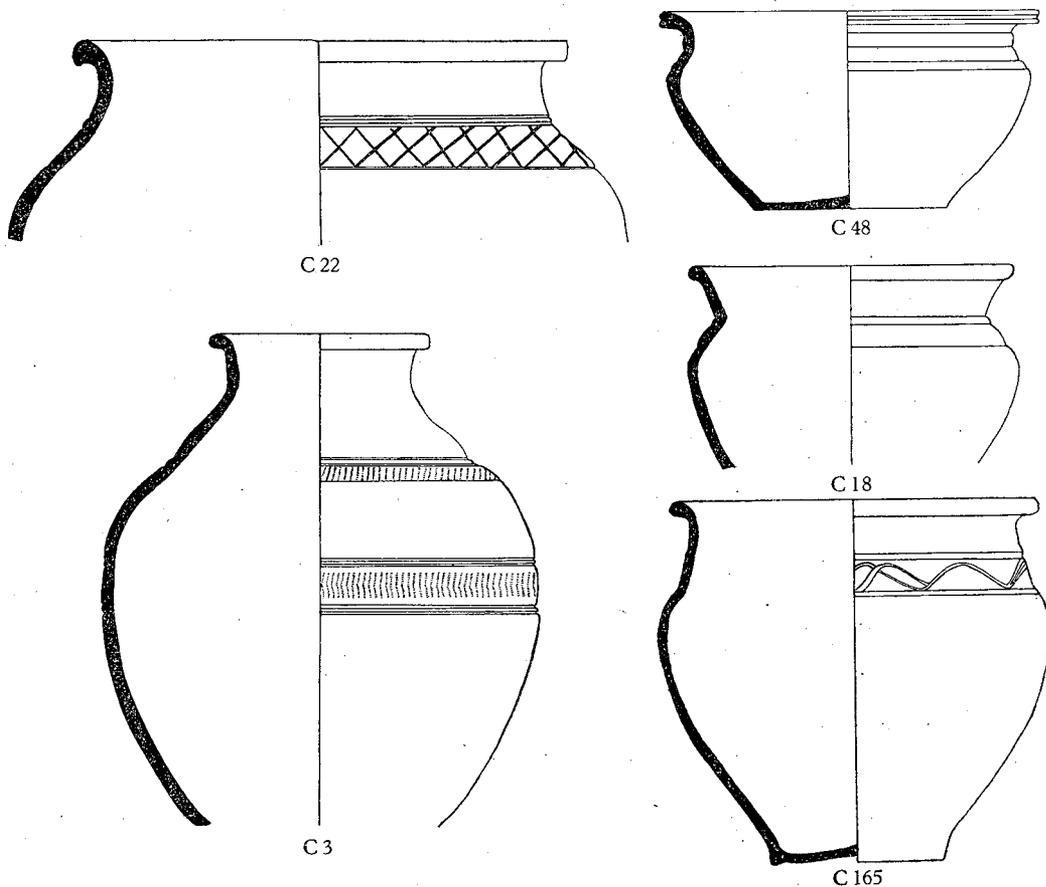


Fig. 4. Coldham: Coarse ware. Period II. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

C20. Small jar in hard black fabric, with brown core. There are two bands of rilling on the body (Fig. 3).

Very small version of *Caistor Kilns*, Group G, no. 6.

C22. Large jar in hard burnished grey fabric, with light grey core. Burnished lattice pattern on the shoulder (Fig. 4).

*Caistor*, S12; *Needham*, 52.

C3. Large narrow-necked jar in hard grey fabric, with a metallic burnish. Light grey core. There are two bands of decoration, comprising stabbed dots in diagonal lines (upper band) and chevrons (lower band) (Fig. 4).

*Caistor Kilns*, Group K, no. 4.

C165. Jar in hard burnished, light-grey fabric, with grey-white core. Burnished wavy decoration on the shoulder (Fig. 4).

Cf. *Wisbech Museum*, nos. 1 and 8. Both form and decoration are characteristic of Nene Valley products.

C1. Castor box lid,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  in. in width and  $2\frac{3}{8}$  in. in height, in white fabric, with an orange colour-coat. The 'wall' is completely covered with stabbed decoration, and the area between the 'handle' and the wall has two bands of rouletted decoration. (Not illustrated.)

*Hartley*, fig. 4, no. 18.

#### COLDHAM POTTERY—COARSE WARE: PERIOD III (Fig. 5)

C197. The rim, base and various body sherds (probably from the same vessel) of a small jar, with a red core and a mica-dusted, hard buff surface. Everted rim and foot stand base. The body is decorated with raised circular knobs.

Charleston: *Roman Pottery* (1955), fig. 85 (third quarter of first century A.D.). *Caistor*, T3 (first and early second centuries A.D.).

This jar is presumably residual.

C195. Small bowl in a buff fabric, with a smooth lustrous exterior. There are three ribs on the body, between which are rows of rouletted decoration.

C196. Dish with smooth burnished exterior and white core. Judging from the fabric, probably a Nene Valley product.

C206. Small jar in reddish fabric, with a red colour-coat.

C205. Jar in white fabric, with orange colour-coat. Ingrooved rim.

C207. Beaker with grey core, a light grey-brown interior and lustrous dark-brown exterior. There is a band of rilling on the external surface.

C201. Rough-cast beaker in bright orange fabric.

*Caistor*, T2 (A.D. 110-60).

C202. Fragment of flange of bowl or dish. Red-buff core and cream exterior. The design is painted in orange.

*Jewry Wall*, fig. 22.

C200. Dish in white fabric, with orange colour-coat.

CX74. Dish in gritty buff-brown fabric.

C204. Flange of bowl or dish, with reddish core and smooth, cream exterior. Yellow-brown slip on top of flange. The hatched line is painted pale orange, and the black lines pale brown.

As C202.

C26. Jar in white fabric, with purple-grey slip or colour-coat. The shoulder is decorated with incised oblique lines.

*Standen*, fig. 1, nos. 3, 4.

C7. Straight-sided dish with triangular rim, in smooth grey fabric. Chamfer on the base.

The chamfer and fabric suggest this is probably a Nene Valley product—*Hartley*, p. 25, no. 5.

C28. Small carinated bowl in grey fabric, burnished externally.

CX31. Jar with everted rim. Brick-coloured core, and grey exterior, burnished in bands. Incised vertical decoration.

C98. Butt beaker in coarse buff fabric, with grey core. Incised decoration. This must be a rubbish survival.

*Camulodunum*, 113.

C19. Jar in light grey fabric. The shoulder is decorated with groups of incised vertical lines.

C33. Jar with everted rim. Groove on shoulder, above which is a band of lattice decoration, too faint to illustrate.

C164. Dish, imitation Samian form 18, in hard grey fabric, with light grey core. The rim and interior are burnished.

C2. Jar in coarse light grey fabric. Burnished oblique strokes on the shoulder.

CX1. Bowl, imitation Samian form 37, with grey core, and highly polished black exterior. The decoration comprises incised concentric half-circles and combed decoration.

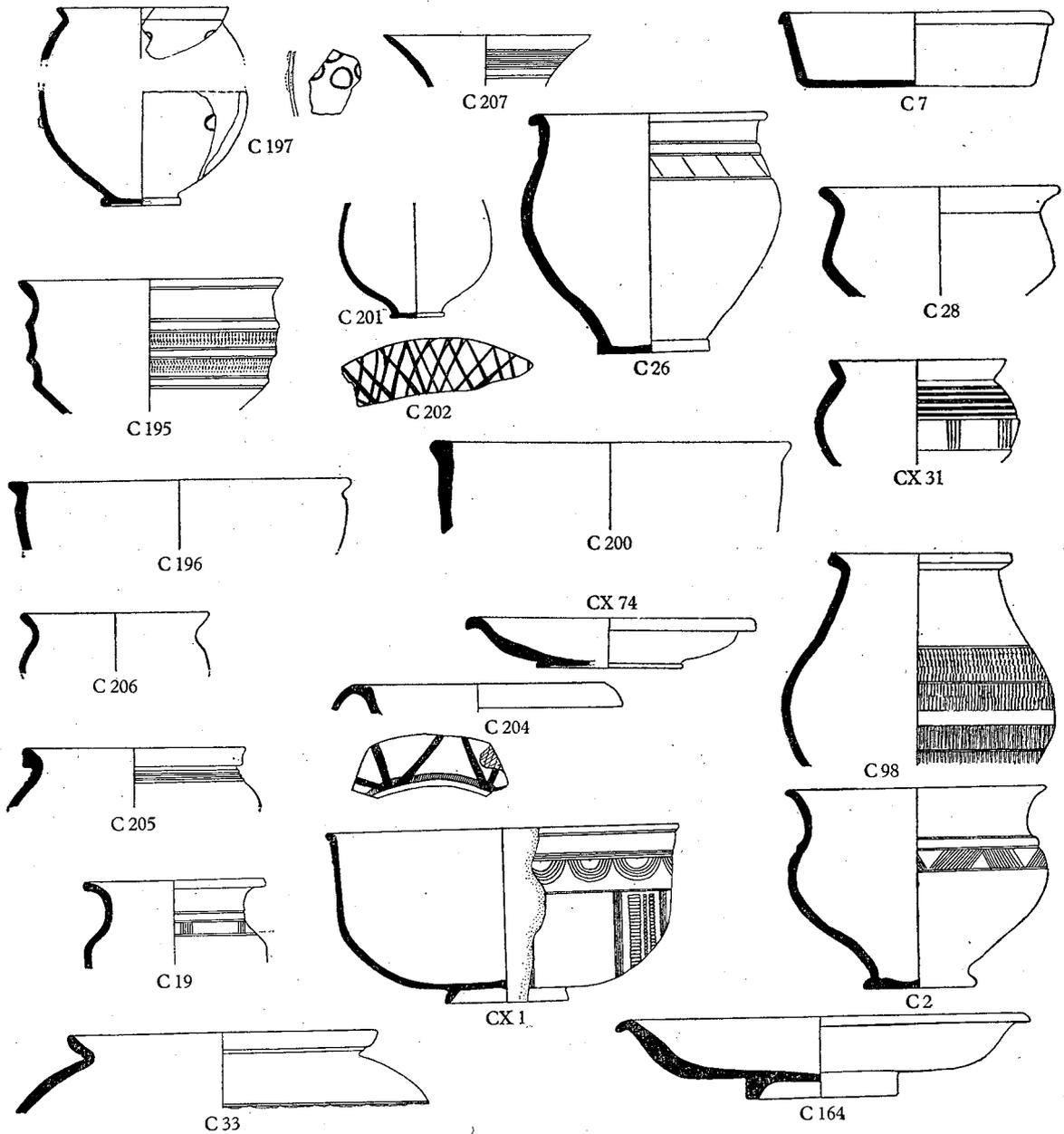


Fig. 5. Coldham: Coarse ware. Period III. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

*Needham*, 62 (A.D. c. 100); so-called London Ware (*B.M. Guide to Roman Britain* (1958), fig. 17, no. 21); *West Stowe*, fig. 10, nos. 1a, b; C. Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923), p. 268 (late second/early or middle third century).

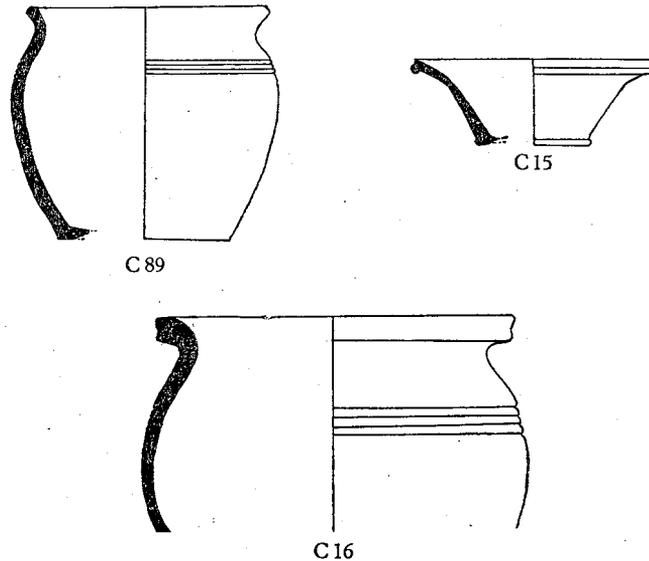


Fig. 6. Coldham: Grittred ware. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### COLDHAM POTTERY—TYPE ORIGINS

The native pottery at Coldham would seem to have close affinities with the Swarling-Aylesford La Tène III family.<sup>1</sup> As Hawkes and Hull have shown at Colchester, the types characteristic of that period were developed into standard, early Romano-British forms.

#### *East Anglia*

*Camulodunum*. These standard forms first appear at Camulodunum in Period IV (A.D. 49–61), and comprise, in the main, beakers, platters, dishes, bowls and jars, in hard-fired fabric, with a well-levigated paste, baked to a uniform clear grey. The forms of particular relevance to the Coldham pottery are the cups and bowls of La Tène type, especially *Camulodunum* forms 212, 214, 216 and 218.

212. Usual native form of carinated bowl with an angular constriction, marked by a single cordon.

214. Standard form, similar to 212, but not constricted, and with two small cordons.

216. Sharp carination of 214, 'but the constriction comes close under the rim, marked by one or two cordons with a slight bulge between'.

218. Very common. Deep carinated bowl, with bulge between cordons on the shoulder.

<sup>1</sup> J. P. Bushe-Fox, 'Excavations of the Late Celtic Urnfield at Swarling, Kent', *Rep. Res. Ctee Soc. Ant.* no. v (1925).

*Needham.* The site at Needham, Norfolk, was reinhabited after the Boudiccan revolt of A.D. 60/61, and reached its zenith soon after the middle of the second century. It probably came to an end at the beginning of the third century. The pottery has many affinities with that from Coldham, and many of the Caistor types are found at Needham. For example, both 38 and 39 are jars with a weak carination, the shoulder decorated with a lattice pattern; the fabric is also inclined to flake, a common feature of the Coldham pottery.

The pottery from the Claudian ditch at Needham also shows a Romanization of types similar to that at Colchester. Pottery finds here included Samian and Gallo-Belgic imports from the Continent, Belgic wares traded from the Colchester region, and, chiefly, Icenian pottery inspired by these non-local products. Types like 14, 28, 31 and 41 reflect the carinated, cordoned, burnished types at Colchester—and Coldham—and 39 is similar to Coldham's C133, C134 and C103 (Fig. 2).

*Needham 14.* 'Grey bowl romanized in appearance, though softly baked; sharp carination; two pronounced cordons, bounding a faintly burnished chevron.'

*Needham 28.* 'Bowl of fine dull dark brown paste, wide shallow grooves at base of neck and above carination.'

*Needham 31.* 'Bowl or beaker in rough dark grey clay, coarsely smoothed above pronounced carination.'

*Needham 41.* 'Carinated bowl of grey-brown ware, roughly burnished... burnished trellis... flaky red interior.'

*Needham 39.* 'Storage jar; coarse grey-brown ware, interior surface almost flaked away.'

*Caistor.* The kilns at Caistor, which Atkinson deduced were in production from c. A.D. 110-40,<sup>1</sup> manufactured pottery very similar to that found in Coldham's Period II. Atkinson's groups F and G include 'the most characteristic type of vessel found in Kiln III and Kiln II-III stokehole'. These pots have a sharp angle—usually marked by a girth groove—at the widest part of the body, a cordon at the junction of the neck and body, and an out-turned rim with a thickened lip. Fabrics and decoration motifs similar to those at Coldham are found on the Caistor pots; for example, compare G1 and G2 with CX7 (Fig. 3).

G1. 'Coarse, black clay; foot slightly moulded; polished horizontal bands on lower part of body, irregular polished lattice on shoulder; broad rounded cordon.'

*Other sites.* Other East Anglian sites, such as the villages at Brettenham<sup>2</sup> and Runcton Holme and the villa at Gayton Thorpe,<sup>3</sup> have produced on excavation pottery similar to the sherds described. The 200-acre site at Hockwold-cum-Wilton,<sup>4</sup> Norfolk, where excavations have established occupation throughout most of the second century, has also produced an interesting sequence of pottery.

<sup>1</sup> *Caistor Kilns*, p. 33.

<sup>2</sup> R. R. Clarke, 'The Roman Villages at Brettenham and Needham and the Contemporary Road System', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxvi (1937), pp. 123-63.

<sup>3</sup> D. Atkinson, 'The Roman Villa of Gayton Thorpe', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxiii (1928), pp. 166-209.

<sup>4</sup> 'Roman Britain in 1961', *J.R.S.* LII (1962), p. 176.

*Summary of sites in the March/Wisbech area (see p. 28)*

Site	Nat. grid	State	Pottery	Date	Samian	Remarks
Honey Hill	TL/435894	Ploughed excavation, F. M. Walker, <i>J.R.S.</i> (1924)	'Many potsherds... characteristic of coarse Romano-British wares corresponding to the transition from the La Tène period'	Late first-fourth century	S	Probably East Anglian wares
Sparrow Hall	TL/480941	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Second-fourth century	S *	*
Stonebridge Farm (a)	TL/463939	Grass	?	?	?	Ditches *
Stonebridge Farm (b)	TL/462942	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Second-fourth century	S	<i>P.P.S.E.A.</i> VII, 425
Stoney Golden Lion Inn, Stoney	TL/457942 TL/460934	Ploughed Ploughed	Hut ditch on this site contained early second-early third century pottery. Only about 5% of sherds similar to E.A. wares. Mainly early colour-coated and rough-cast sherds	Early second-early third century	S	Excavation 1960
Fincham Farm	TL/465927	Ploughed	?	?	S	Coin of Antoninus Pius
Hardings Drain (a)	TL/453934	Ploughed	E.A. wares found	Second-fourth century	S †	
Hardings Drain (b)	TL/457934	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Second-fourth century	S *	*
Stoney Grange (a)	TL/451936	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Late first-fourth century	S *	*
Stoney Grange (b)	TL/451944	Grass	?	?	?	Ditches ?
Stoney Camp	TL/448931	Ploughed	No. E.A. wares	c. A.D. 50	S	—
Earls Fen Farm	TL/458951	Ploughed	?	?	S	?
Manor House	TL/413908	Ploughed	No E.A. wares; third-fourth century	Third-fourth century	—	—
Stoney Grange (c)	TL/448946	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares.	Second-fourth century	S *	*
Millhill	TL/414937	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Second-fourth century	S *	*
Middle Level Yards, March	TL/421968	Built on	Site mostly destroyed	?	S	A. K. Astbury, <i>The Black Fens</i> (1958), p. 165

Grandford	TL/393998	Grass and ploughed	Excavation has produced stratified sequence from A.D. 65-75 to 400. Identical sequence to Coldham	A.D. 65/75-400	S †
Westry Farm	TL/403989	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Second to early or middle third century	S *
Norwood	TL/418995	Ploughed	Considerable amount of E.A. wares	Late first-fourth century	S †
Flaggrass	TL/433983	Ploughed	E.A. wares well represented	Late first-fourth century	S †
Rodham Farm	TL/458982	Ploughed	None	Third-fourth century	— Proc. C.A.S. XLIII, II
Frank's Farm	TL/453996	Ploughed	?	Second century (?)	S ?
Graysmoor	TL/413007	Ploughed	?	Second-fourth century	S ?
Whitehouse Farm	TL/444008	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Second-fourth century	S *
Livermere	TL/449001	Ploughed	?	century ?	? ?
Stags Holt	TL/438001	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Late first-fourth century	S *
Rutlands	TL/431009	Ploughed	?	Second century (?)	S ?
Whitemill Drain	TL/451011	Ploughed	?	Second to ?	? ?
North Rutlands	TL/429016	Ploughed	?	Second century (?)	? ?
Coldham Field	TL/434016	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	?	? *
Coldham Bank	TL/448018	Ploughed	Many E.A. types in Wisbech Museum. Considerable proportion of E.A. wares	Late first or early second-fourth century	S † †
Coldham Clamp	TL/448027	Ploughed	Type site	A.D. 65/75—early or mid third century	S †
Waldersea	TL/451034	Ploughed	Small proportion of E.A. wares	Second-fourth century	S *

? Nothing known. \* Small proportion of East Anglian wares (0-5%). † Moderate proportion of East Anglian wares (5-10%).

† Considerable quantities of East Anglian wares (over 10%). E.A. = East Anglian.

NOTE: The information is from surface finds, unless otherwise indicated. Only the general range of data is given.

From the parallels quoted above, it seems clear that the Coldham series belongs to an East Anglian tradition, strongly represented on Norfolk sites. We may now attempt to estimate the incidence in the Fens of the typical carinated cordoned wares found at Coldham. They are referred to below as *East Anglian* wares. Any definite conclusions regarding the incidence of East Anglian wares in this area are limited by the cursory nature of present knowledge. The work of locating sites is still incomplete, and for most only surface finds are available. However, the table (pp. 26-7) attempts to summarize the evidence afforded by sites in the vicinity of March and Wisbech.

NORWOOD, MARCH—COARSE WARE (Fig. 7)

The Romano-British site at Norwood, March (Nat. Grid: TL/995418; Royal Geographical Research Memoir Classification: 4199S) has been systematically explored for surface finds. A dyke cutting, which runs across the site, was cleaned out in 1959, and subsequent weathering revealed the group of pottery illustrated. The sherds lay in a heap on top of a layer of rubble, and seem to form a roughly contemporaneous group.

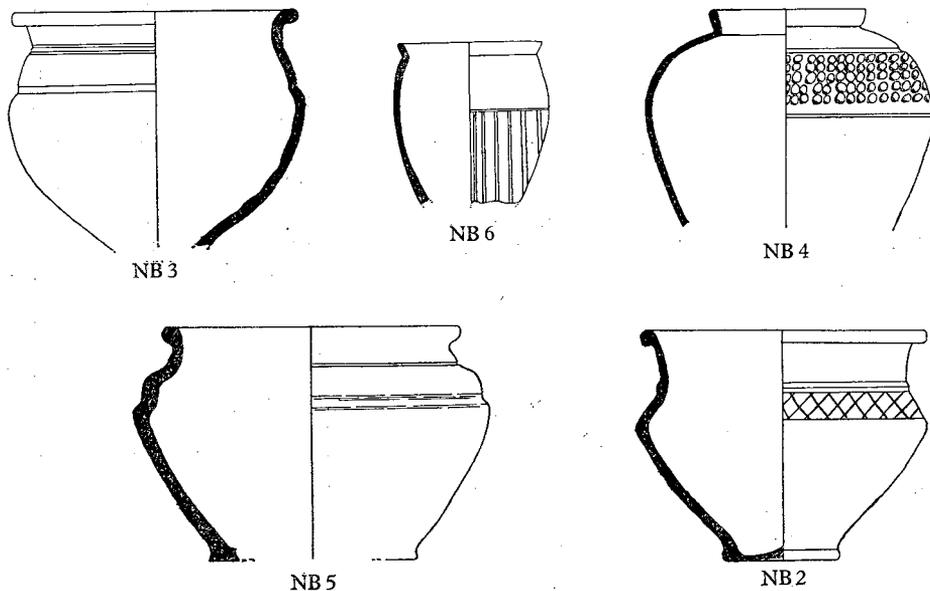


Fig. 7. Norwood: Coarse ware. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

NB2. Carinated jar in black fabric, externally burnished. Reddish core. Burnished lattice pattern on the shoulder.

Coldham nos. C4 (Fig. 2) and CX7 (Fig. 3).

NB3. Jar in black fabric, with burnished exterior. Undecorated.

NB4. Jar with everted rim and globular body, in brown-black fabric, with burnished surface. Reddish core. Horizontal band of decoration, demarcated by grooves, comprising rows of rather elongated depressions, puckered up at one end.

*Caistor*, T3 (c. A.D. 70-110) undecorated; *Needham*, 29; J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Wroxeter*, vol. II (1913), p. 50 (c. A.D. 80-150).

NB5. Jar in a thick, heavy, coarse black fabric, with black core and burnished surface. Weakly carinated. Bulge on the shoulder, demarcated by grooves. Undecorated.

NB6. Beaker with everted rim, in polished light grey fabric. Vertical burnished lines on the lower half of the body.

*Arbury Rd*, 10; *Needham*, 34-5.

From the association of colour-coated sherds with this group, a date towards the end of the second century would seem to be applicable to the sherds.

#### STONEA CAMP (Fig. 8)

This fortified 'camp' is situated on the south-west edge of the island of Stonea, about 10 ft. above sea level. The earthworks cover an area of approximately 2½ acres. The site is important in that Samian of the Claudian period has been found on the surface and thus forms the earliest group of Roman pottery known from this part of the Fens.

#### *Samian*

SCS1. Form 29, South Gaulish. Lower zone with intersecting arcades. The style is used only by pre-Flavian potters, such as ALBINVS, AMANDVS, CADMVS, INGENVVS (Knorr, 1919 *s.v.*). c. A.D. 40-55.

SCS2. Form 24/25, South Gaulish. Pre-Flavian.

SCS3. Form 18 R, South Gaulish (still with kiln grit). Pre-Flavian.

SCS4. Form 18, South Gaulish. Pre-Flavian.

56.268 (Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology). Form 24/25. Dated as Neronian.

#### *Coarse wares*

The pottery is generally made with a poor-quality clay, on a slow wheel. There are two main classes of fabric: (i) grey core and orange-brown fabric; (ii) a blackish surface, with grey core. Neither fabric is particularly hard, and the first is by far the commoner.

Rim: the jar with the rolled-over rim is very common, the thickness of rim varying considerably.

Base: there are examples of both the foot-ring and the flat base.

Decoration: many sherds are scored, either in rows or all over. One sherd (S6) is decorated with a deeply incised wavy pattern, with horizontal lines.

S1 and 2. Wide-mouthed jars.

S3. Open-mouthed jar.

S4. Jar with unpronounced rim.

S5. Coarse sherd, possibly hand-made, decorated with combing.

S6. Heavy jar, in orange fabric. Incised wavy decoration.

S7 and 8. Foot-stand and flat bases.

The association of Claudian Samian with the sherds, and the discovery in the last century of about 35 Icenian coins at Stonea,<sup>1</sup> suggest a date of *c.* A.D. 50 for most of these sherds. The absence of features normal in the East Anglian series is notable.

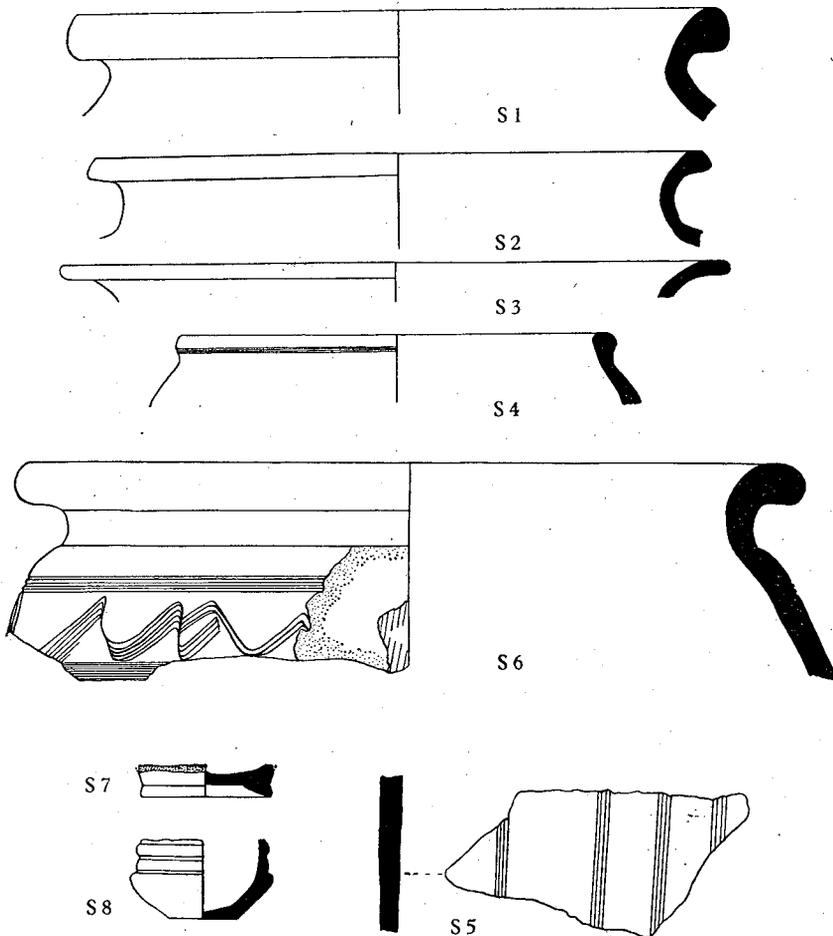


Fig. 8. Stonea Camp: Coarse ware. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

#### WISBECH MUSEUM: POTTERY (Fig. 9)

The drawings, made at the Museum by kind permission of the Curator, Mr W. L. Hanchant, illustrate some examples of Romano-British coarse wares. Colour-coated wares are not considered, as they are not relevant to this paper.

#### *Samian*

A précis of Mr B. R. Hartley's unpublished report, kept at the Museum, is reproduced here, since his remarks have an important bearing on the dating of the coarse wares.

<sup>1</sup> Evans, *Coins of the Ancient Britons* (1890), p. 586.

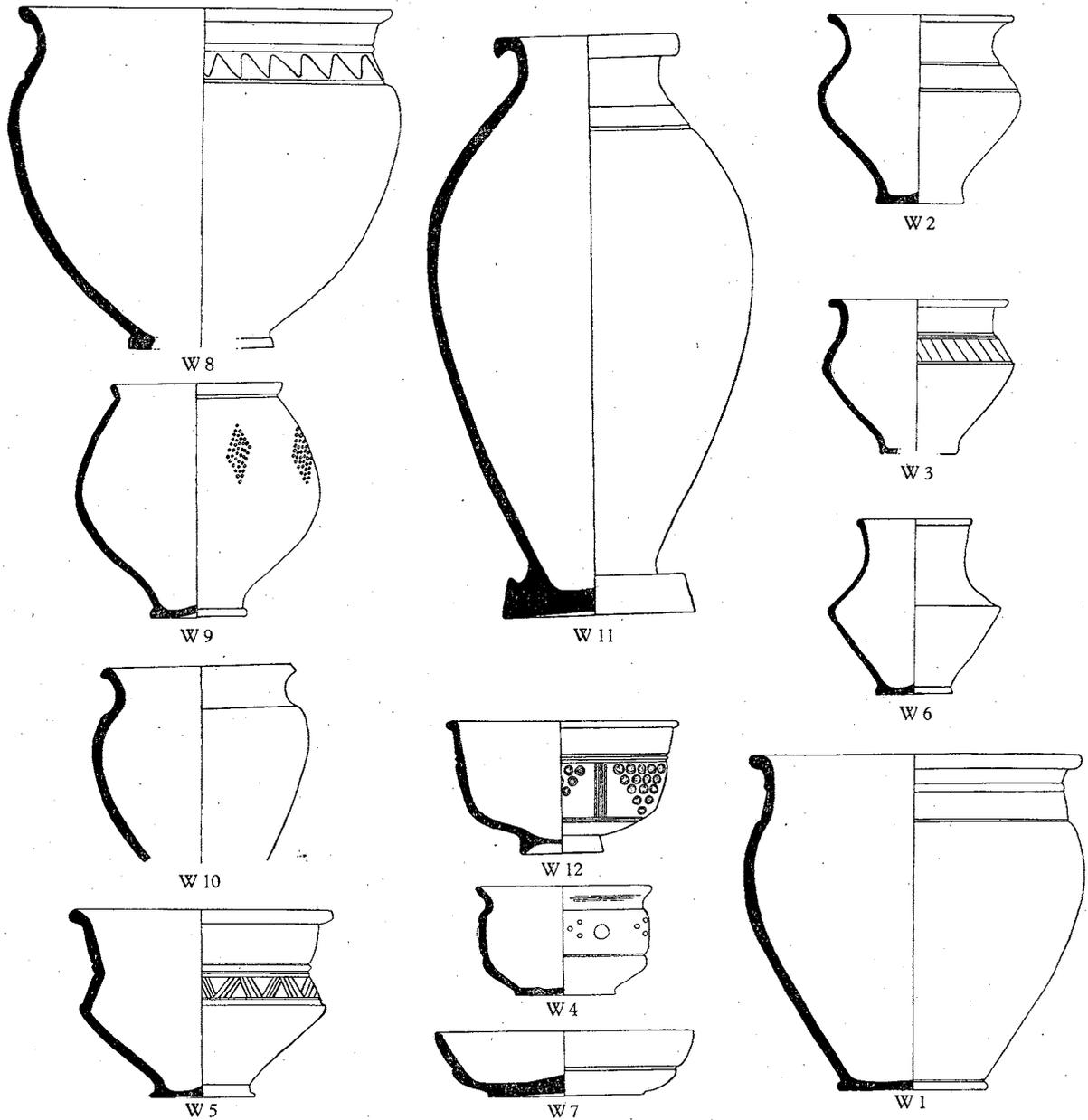


Fig. 9. Wisbech Museum: Coarse ware. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Fragments of forty-five decorated Samian vessels are included in the museum collection. Of these, seven are of South Gaulish manufacture (La Graufesenque, Montans or Banassac wares) and first century date, two are East Gaulish bowls made at Rheinzabern and the rest are all Central Gaulish—mainly Lezoux, though one or two pieces are from Les Martes de Vègre.

It is unfortunate that the provenance of many pieces, including the only Claudian fragment (D8), is unknown.

The known distribution is as follows:

Coldham Hall: many Hadrianic and Antonine pieces.

Laddus Drove, Elm: two Antonine pieces only.

Stags Holt: one Flavian/Trajanic, several second-century fragments.

Flaggrass, March: three Hadrianic and Antonine pieces.

Needham Lodge: one Hadrianic–Antonine piece.

Throckenholt: one Antonine fragment.

The potters' stamp list confirms the picture given above, the only difference being the presence of one late Flavian bowl at Coldham Hall (by CRVCVRO, whose wares sometimes survive in second-century deposits).

Judging by the evidence afforded by Samian ware, then, it appears that occupation of Fenland sites began in the Flavian period, probably in Vespasian's reign, and that new sites were being founded in the early and middle second century.

Coldham Hall: some Flavian occupation with a more intense settlement in the Hadrian/Antonine period.

Stags Holt: Flavian and second-century site.

Laddus Drove: Samian exclusively Antonine.

Flaggrass, March: Hadrianic–Antonine pieces only.

Dixon's Field, Coldham: Antonine only.

### *Coarse wares*

The collection of coarse wares include several early or even pre-Flavian pots (e.g. W7, W11. The carinated jar, derived from *Camulodunum*, 212, is abundantly represented, and there is a notable collection of sherds of this type from Eldernell,<sup>1</sup> near Whittlesey. A very common form is illustrated by W1, exactly paralleled by Coldham 165. This type, which is probably a Nene Valley product, has a shoulder, often undecorated, marked by cordons and grooves. Finally, mention should be made of the hoard of unused, colour-coated bowls and dishes found in 1920 at Gorefield. An example of Belgic 'terra nigra' (*Camulodunum*, 108 A b, c) was included among these pots.

W1. Jar with white core and hard grey exterior.

Cf. Coldham 165 (Fig. 4).

W2. Jar in grey-brown fabric with grey core. 'From west of King Edward's Farm, on the land of Mr S. T. Grout (5. 3. 53).'

W3. Small carinated jar, in brown burnished fabric. The shoulder is decorated with burnished oblique lines. Found at Laddus Hill (1935).

W4. Small bowl in polished orange ware, with decoration of raised and insunk circles. Provenance unknown (and possibly, therefore, not Fenland).

Fox dates this bowl to the La Tène IV period (note in Museum), but see J. N. L. Myres, 'Romano-Saxon Pottery' in *Dark Age Britain* (1956), fig. 4, no. 1.

W5. Carinated jar, in smooth black fabric, with reddish-grey core. The shoulder is decorated with incised oblique lines. Found at Eldernell, Whittlesey.

W6. Carinated beaker, in a polished, slightly gritty, black fabric, with a red core. Found at Eldernell, Whittlesey.

<sup>1</sup> E. M. Beloe, 'On the Great Fen Road', *Proc. C.A.S.* VII, no. 32 (1889), pl. xxix.

A fairly common type, although not represented at Coldham. Cf. *Camulodunum*, 120 A (general Claudian to early Flavian type); but see *Needham*, 28 (Antonine); *Caistor*, T5; J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, vol. III, *Rep. Res. Ctee Soc. Ant.* no. x (1932), p. 288 (A.D. 80–120).

W7. Gallo-Belgic dish in coarse dark-grey fabric. Found at 'Bishops Land near Turf Fen Crossing'.

W8. Jar in smooth grey fabric with buff-grey core. The shoulder is decorated with a wavy line. From Coldham (1946).

W9. Jar with an everted rim, and barbotine dot decoration in diamond groups. Hard polished black fabric, with reddish core. Found at Eldernell, Whittlesey.<sup>1</sup>

Cf. M. R. Hull, *Roman Colchester* (1958), no. 122 (A.D. 150–350).

W10. Small jar in a dark, grey/black coarse fabric, with rilling on the body. Found at 'Bishops Land, Turf Fen Crossing'.

Cf. Coldham 103 (Fig. 2).

W11. Pedestal urn, in a grey-buff fabric, with red core. A Romanized La Tène form. Found 'ten feet below the surface of Walderssea Fen' (1845).

Fox dates this pot to the first century A.D. (note in Museum). Cf. *Camulodunum*, 206.

W12. Bowl, imitation Samian form 37, in lustrous black fabric, with grey core. Decoration comprises groups of impressed circles, divided by combing. Found at Eldernell, Whittlesey.<sup>2</sup>

## CONCLUSIONS

### *Origins of Fenland settlement*

The origin and nature of the early Roman settlement in the Fens is obscure. Godwin<sup>3</sup> has demonstrated that the Fens were probably uninhabitable during the early Iron Age, but—probably owing to a marine regression<sup>4</sup>—became suitable for occupation in the early Roman period. This is reflected in the archaeological record. The discovery of Icenian coin hoards at March<sup>5</sup> and Stonea,<sup>6</sup> and individual coins from near Wisbech St Mary<sup>7</sup> and Wisbech<sup>8</sup> (minted A.D. 43), forms the only conclusive evidence of pre-Flavian occupation<sup>9</sup> in the Fens, although some of the pottery in Wisbech Museum may be pre-Flavian in date. The group of pottery from Stonea Camp, which probably dates to c. A.D. 50, displays no particular affinities, and the black burnished fabrics (e.g. Coldham, no. C3) are notably absent.

### *The Early Iron Age background*

1. *East Anglia*. The excavation of sites like Runcton Holme and Needham have defined the nature of the Icenian culture at the time of the Claudian conquest.<sup>10</sup> The pottery at such sites<sup>11</sup> generally includes Samian and Gallo-Belgic wares, imported

<sup>1</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>3</sup> Godwin and Clifford, 'Studies in the Post-Glacial History of British Vegetation', *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. B*, no. 562, vol. 229 (1938), pp. 323–406 and *ibid.* no. 570, vol. 230 (1940), pp. 239–303.

<sup>4</sup> Fairbridge, 'Eustatic Changes in Sea Level', *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth*, IV (1961).

<sup>5</sup> *Num. Chron.* 1 (1839), p. 73.

<sup>6</sup> Evans, *Coins of the Ancient Britons* (1890), p. 586.

<sup>7</sup> Evans, *ibid.* p. 410, pl. XIV, no. 10.

<sup>8</sup> Wisbech Museum.

<sup>9</sup> Excluding periods earlier than the Iron Age.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. R. R. Clarke, 'The Iron Age in Norfolk and Suffolk', *Arch. J.* xcvi (1940), p. 55.

<sup>11</sup> This refers primarily to sites in Norfolk.

from the Continent; Belgic pottery from the Colchester region; and Icenian products, modelled on or inspired by these non-local types.

2. *East Midlands.* The influence of the East Midlands on the Fens would seem to have been negated by the 'barrier' of the peat fens. However, pottery with East Anglian affinities has been recovered from the Nene Valley.<sup>1</sup>

### *The historical background*

The Boudiccan revolt of A.D. 60/61 was followed by the savagely repressive measures of Suetonius, which are reflected in the archaeological record. At Needham, for example, decorated Samian, quite common before A.D. 60, virtually disappeared until Hadrianic times. Several authorities<sup>2</sup> have suggested that at this time an influx of East Anglian peasants into the Fens took place, being forced by the Romans to drain and then farm the land. The archaeological evidence would not seem to support this theory, however:

(i) It seems certain that the canal network was not all laid down at the same time. The Car Dyke<sup>3</sup> may have been dug about A.D. 50-60, but, as Fowler has pointed out,<sup>4</sup> must have been primarily for transport, and certainly not for drainage. The Lynn Ouse was—to judge from Fowler's pottery<sup>5</sup>—cut in the second century.<sup>6</sup> Also, an early date does not look likely for such canals as the Elm Leam and March Nene.

(ii) The Samian<sup>7</sup> and coin evidence<sup>8</sup> point to a Flavian date for the start of a number of Fenland sites. This date is confirmed by the Coldham excavations.

On this evidence, there seems little justification for the theory that the Fens were organized as an Imperial Estate in the second half of the first century A.D. Indeed, it seems probable that many of the so-called drainage canals were in fact dug for transport purposes, and that the preliminary occupation of the Fens was the result of a gradual expansion of population.

### *Affinities of the Coldham site*

A discussion of the pottery parallels will have made clear the similarity of the form and fabric of the Coldham sherds with pottery from Norfolk. Also, the absence of metal objects and the paucity of Samian at Coldham reflect the poverty of sites like Needham after A.D. 60. Therefore, it does not seem extreme to suggest that the settlement at Coldham was founded by East Anglian peasants. They drew their

<sup>1</sup> E.g. Charleston, *Roman Pottery* (1955), pl. 48.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. Prof. Sir Ian Richmond, *Roman Britain* (1955), p. 121; R. R. Clarke, *East Anglia* (1960), ch. 7.

<sup>3</sup> J. G. D. Clark, 'Report on Excavations in the Cambridgeshire Car Dyke, 1947', *Ant. J.* xxix (1949), pp. 145-63.

<sup>4</sup> G. Fowler, 'Fenland Waterways, Past and Present, Part I', *Proc. C.A.S.* xxxiii (1932).

<sup>5</sup> G. Fowler, 'Fenland Waterways, Past and Present, Part II', *Proc. C.A.S.* xxxiv (1933-4), pp. 18-25, and appendix 2.

<sup>6</sup> A. K. Astbury, *The Black Fens* (1957), p. 147.

<sup>7</sup> Cited in connection with Wisbech Museum.

<sup>8</sup> Besides the Icenian coins, the earliest recorded coins are those of Vespasian (four recorded from March-  
Stonea-Manea area).

pottery from traditional series fairly rigidly during most of the second century A.D., and the presence of probable Caistor kiln forms points to the maintenance of trading contacts with Norfolk (probably by means of the *Durobrivae*-Caistor 'Fen' Causeway). However, the growth of the Nene Valley kilns about A.D. 160-80 was soon reflected in the Coldham pottery record, by the diminishing quantity of East Anglian wares.

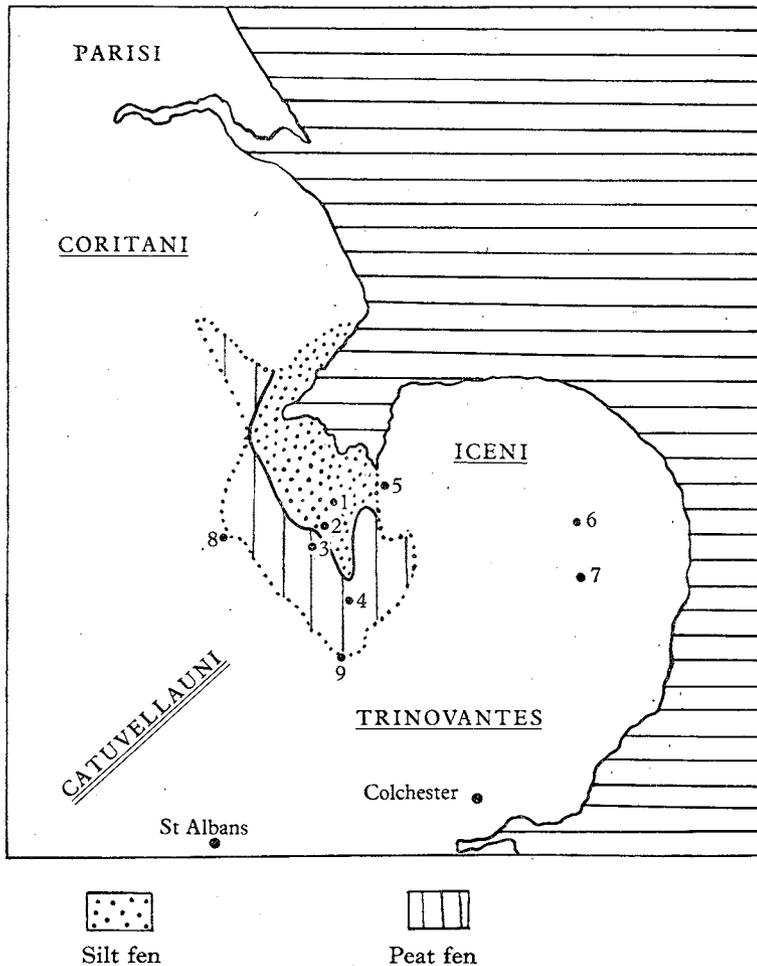


Fig. 10. Map showing the relation of the Fens to tribal divisions. Belgic tribe, CATUVELLAUNI; other tribes minting coins, CORITANI. 1. Wisbech; 2. Coldham; 3. March; 4. Ely; 5. Runcton Holme; 6. Caistor; 7. Needham; 8. Peterborough; 9. Cambridge. Scale: approx. 1 in. to 25 miles.

#### *Distribution of East Anglian wares in the Fens*

The virtual absence of Fenland archaeological excavations makes observations on the distribution of East Anglian wares difficult. However, the evidence detailed in this report indicates that a small number of Icenian settlements were founded during

the Flavian period. The pottery evidence (*Wisbech Museum*, p. 18) suggests that further settlements began during the Hadrianic period,<sup>1</sup> and as Dr Salway has pointed out<sup>2</sup> 'this was roughly contemporary with the reorganization of the defences of Britain, which included the construction of Hadrian's Wall, and is signalled in the Fens by the appearance of "straight-line feature"—canals, roads, droves and associated settlements'. The area of origin of these Hadrianic settlers is unknown, but it may well be that this marked increase in settlement was connected with the organization of an Imperial Estate. The East Anglian wares from Norwood and in Wisbech Museum cannot be closely dated. It is possible, however, that these sherds may represent either other settlements of East Anglian peasants, or settlers influenced by them.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs S. J. Hallam, 'Villages in Roman Britain', *Ant. J.* XLIV, Part I (1964), p. 28.

<sup>2</sup> *The Times*, 1 February 1963.

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S. E. West, 'Romano-British Pottery Kilns on West Stowe Heath', *Proc. Suff. Inst. of Arch.* xxvi (1955), 35-53.

*Wisbech Museum*

Sherds drawn and numbered by the writer, illustrated elsewhere.

## LATE SAXON SETTLEMENTS IN THE ST NEOTS AREA

P. V. ADDYMAN

### I. THE SAXON SETTLEMENT AND NORMAN CASTLE AT EATON SOCON, BEDFORDSHIRE

Commercial developments on the Ouse terrace gravels in the St Neots area have in recent years revealed a number of Late Saxon settlements. Information recovered by their excavation prior to destruction, together with that from a series of research excavations by T. C. Lethbridge and C. F. Tebbutt over the past 30 years,<sup>1</sup> provides an unusually full conspectus of the local settlement pattern and material culture in the period. In this and papers to follow in subsequent *Proceedings* the results of the recent excavations at Eaton Socon, Little Paxton and St Neots are described, and in a final paper the specialist reports for all the sites will be given, together with an attempted assessment of the contemporary environment, economy and material culture.

#### SUMMARY

Emergency excavations adjacent to Castle Hills, Eaton Socon, in 1962 revealed a rectangular timber building about 38 ft. by about 18 ft. with a subsidiary structure or earlier phase, and its associated ditches. The house had gone out of use by the twelfth century, and a ditch and sump were in use on the site. Associated with the stone hearth of a second contemporary building found under the outer bank of the castle were developed St Neots wares of early twelfth-century type, demonstrating that the bank was Norman. The bank itself was probably revetted with posts, and the associated flat-bottomed ditch was probably partly plank-lined.

#### INTRODUCTION

The Late Saxon settlement at Eaton Socon is to the east of the present village (Fig. 2), between the church and Castle Hills on the banks of the Ouse, and lies on gravels of the First-Second (undifferentiated) Terrace. The Great North Road,<sup>2</sup> the spine of the modern village, runs along the edge of the Terrace to the west.

The First-Second Terrace,<sup>3</sup> here fairly well developed, is separated from the Ouse by a thin wedge of alluvium (Fig. 1). Alluvial deposits also occur in the Duloe Brook

<sup>1</sup> St Neots: *Proc. C.A.S.* xxxiii (1933), pp. 137-51. Great Paxton: *Proc. C.A.S.* xxxv (1935), pp. 97-105. Southoe: *Proc. C.A.S.* (1938), pp. 158-63. Eaton Socon: *Proc. C.A.S.* xlv (1952), pp. 48-60. Eynesbury: *Proc. C.A.S.* liv (1961), pp. 85-9. Buckden: *Proc. C.A.S.* lv (1962), pp. 13-15.

<sup>2</sup> As it ran in 1962; a by-pass to Eaton Socon is imminent.

<sup>3</sup> Geological data kindly provided by R. J. Wyatt, Geological Survey and Museum.

valley up as far as Duloe Bridge, and then westwards to Duloe Butts. Erratics derived from the Lower Greensand, and up to 5 ft. in size, are noted around Eaton Mills. The gravels are usually about 10 ft. thick—some 8 ft. were found in the excavation—overlying the Oxford Clay. To the west of a line approximately following the Great North Road, Oxford Clay is overlain by Boulder Clay, here a stony clay with much (and occasionally hard) chalk. Some way south there is an area of Third Terrace gravel on Oxford Clay between the First-Second Terrace and the Boulder Clay.

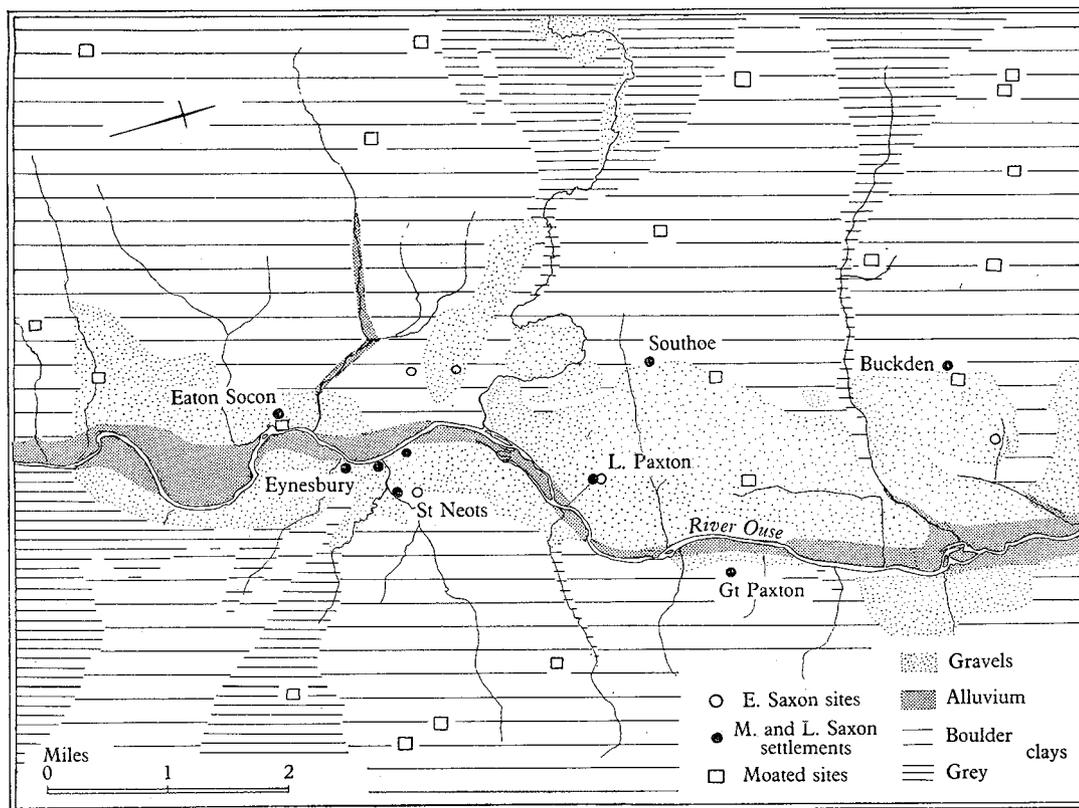


Fig. 1. The St Neots area: geological map showing the distribution of early, middle, late Saxon, and moated sites in relation to the clay and gravel. (Based on the Ordnance Survey 2½ in. map and the 1 in. geological survey (N.S.) by permission of the Directors General.)

The gravels consist largely of chalk pebbles and fragments of flint and ironstone. All of these could have been utilized, for building and smelting respectively. Both the Boulder Clay and Oxford Clay deposits could have provided material for pottery and wattle-and-daub construction.

Eaton Socon is first mentioned in the Domesday Book, as *Etone*, though its importance before this date can be inferred; it had been the head manor of the Bedfordshire thegn *Wulfmar* or *Ulmar* under the Confessor; and in 1086 the manor

comprised 20 hides, including 2 mills, 100 eels, woodland for 400 swine, and 2 acres of vineyard. Ulmar's Bedfordshire lands became known as the Barony of Eaton under Eudo 'Dapifer' the Domesday holder, and its distinctive epithet *Socon*, though not generally adopted until the seventeenth century, appears to stem from its status as a soke or liberty in the thirteenth.<sup>1</sup> The name itself is a common one meaning *tun* or farm by the river, an adequate description in its early days perhaps, though no longer appropriate in Late Saxon times, when the settlement was far more extensive. On Eudo 'Dapifer's' death in 1120 Eaton escheated to the crown

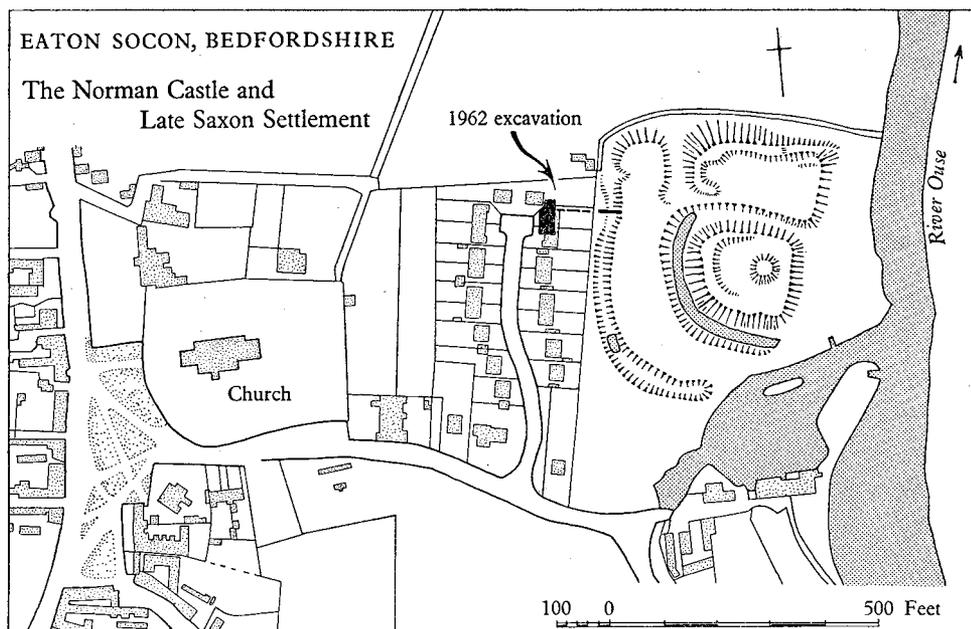


Fig. 2. Eaton Socon: Castle Hills, the excavation site, and the modern village.

and was eventually granted<sup>2</sup> to one of the house of Beauchamp, under whom most probably the castle was built. Lethbridge has suggested<sup>3</sup> that, in view of the connection by marriage or obligation of the first Hugh de Beauchamp with Geoffrey de Mandeville, the castle may be a product of the war between de Mandeville and Stephen, and thus date before 1144.

Castle Hills at Eaton Socon have been well described several times, and partly excavated on at least two previous occasions, most recently by T. C. Lethbridge and C. F. Tebbutt in 1949.<sup>4</sup> The southern of the two inner wards contained timber buildings with clay footings and plaster facings. The objects therefrom are now known to be characteristically twelfth century in date, as is the pottery (discussed here in Appendix I). Occupation was apparently short and the site was abandoned

<sup>1</sup> E. Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Place-names* (Oxford, 1936), p. 151.

<sup>2</sup> Details in *B.H.R.S.* II, pp. 61 ff.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* XLV (1952), p. 50.

<sup>4</sup> *V.C.H. Bedfordshire*, I, pp. 297-300, and *Proc. C.A.S.* XLV (1952), pp. 48-60.

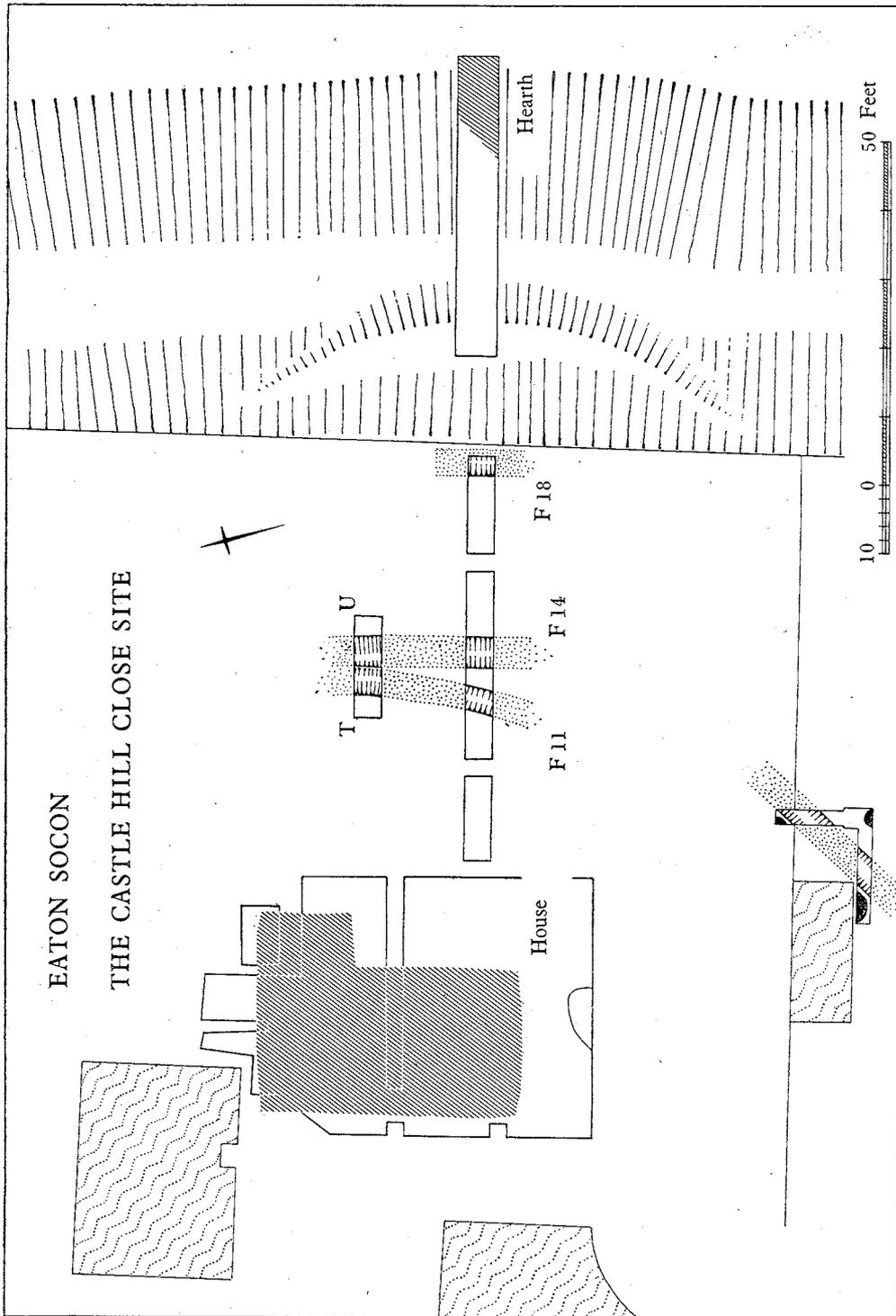


Fig. 3. Eaton Socon: general plan of the 1962 excavation.

until the construction of a mound, probably a windmill tump, in the Late Middle Ages. The northern ward was apparently contemporary with the southern, but was constructed on the site of an extensive and long-lived Late Saxon cemetery, covered by a debris layer of stones, some mortared, including Collyweston slates and part of a pilaster strip; perhaps, the excavators suggested, the rubble from a Late Saxon church. The need for a telling military reason to explain the desecration of a church and the despoliation of a graveyard led them to suppose that the outer bank and ditch of the castle complex was a pre-existing earthwork utilized as an outer defence when the two inner wards were constructed. Such an earthwork might be pre-conquest in date and, boldly perhaps, they suggested that this was the unidentified Danish fortress Tempsford of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. It seemed in 1962 at least possible that the bank and ditch were the defences of a Late Saxon thegn's residence, comparable to, though larger than, the ringwork under excavation at Sulgrave, Northants.<sup>1</sup> J. F. Dyer recently included it in a category of D-shaped earthworks in Bedfordshire perhaps attributable to the Danes.<sup>2</sup>

An opportunity to settle the question arose in 1962 when building operations in the field adjacent to Castle Hills to the west revealed extensive traces of a Late Saxon settlement. A rectangular timber house was partly excavated by C. F. Tebbutt, F.S.A., and completed by the Ministry of Public Building and Works. Mr Tebbutt's results are, with his generous permission, incorporated here. At the same time a small research excavation was carried out on the adjacent part of the outer bank and ditch with funds from this Society and the Queen's University of Belfast. The bank was shown to date from the twelfth century.

No Late Saxon finds other than those from the Castle area are recorded from Eaton Socon. The present site is, however, one of a series on the gravel terraces along both banks of the Middle Ouse (Fig. 1) and had a perhaps comparable or even more flourishing neighbour in the settlement less than a mile away in the Eynesbury and St Neots area, to be described in a later report.

During 1961 and early 1962 numerous ditches, pits, floors and areas of burnt daub were noted by Mr Tebbutt during the construction of a new road and housing estate, *Castle Hill Close*, in former allotments immediately west of Castle Hills. An amount of Late Saxon pottery was recovered. Foundation trenches for No. 12, *Castle Hill Close* revealed in 1962 a concentration of burnt daub, and an excavation revealed that this was the burnt debris *in situ* of a large timber building, of which a part was revealed. The remainder of the building was investigated at Mr Tebbutt's suggestion by the Ministry of Public Building and Works. His trenches were incorporated in a 15 ft. grid system, and trenches were dug to the east of the house on one of the grid lines to explore the area behind the house, and to establish its stratigraphical relationship with the outer defences of the castle. The section was extended into the castle area as a research excavation, and a 6 ft. wide trench across the bank and ditch was dug. In the area between house and castle two converging ditches were located and trenches were dug to confirm the course of these.

<sup>1</sup> *Med. Arch.* VI-VII (1962-3), p. 333.

<sup>2</sup> *Beds. Mag.* VIII, no. 62 (1962), p. 238.

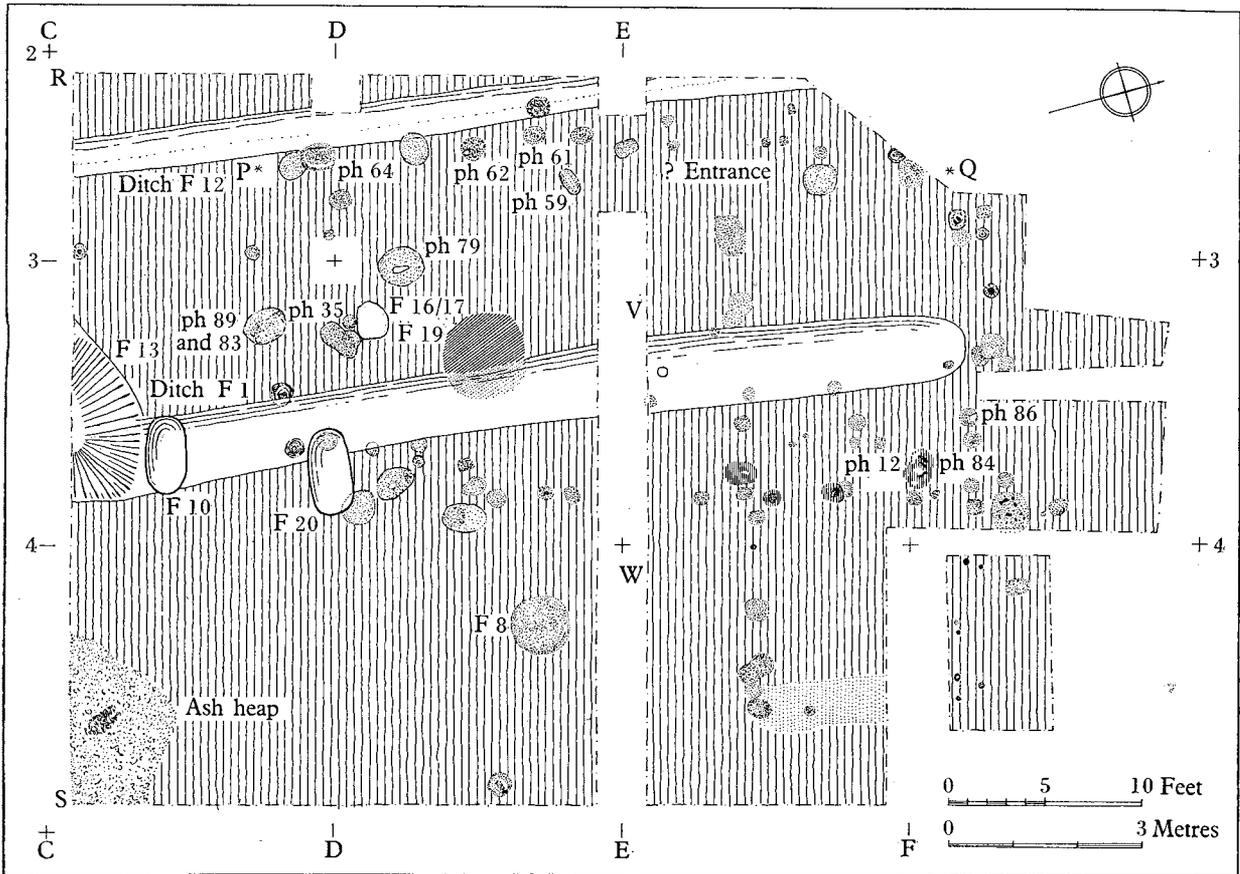


Fig. 4. Eaton Socon: plan of the main buildings excavated in 1962 (pp. 43-8 and Pl. I).

#### THE EXCAVATION

##### (a) *The Late Saxon house*

In the house area the topsoil varied from 6 to 9 in. On its removal eleventh- and twelfth-century features were immediately revealed (Fig. 7, A). The only subsequent activity had apparently been a single ploughing, the parallel furrows from which had scored the top of the earlier features and layers.

Two parallel ditches, Feature 1 (F1) and Feature 12 (F12), running north-south, cut through the remains of the house. F12, about 2 ft. wide, flat bottomed, and with an even brown soil filling, contained a bronze buckle of thirteenth-century type (Fig. 11, no. 19). F1, about 5 ft. wide, of shallow U-shaped profile, was filled with an upper layer of yellow clay (Fig. 5) and a lower layer of even brown silty soil containing charcoal specks. It contained twelfth-century pottery. F1 was cut through by two shallow oval holes F10 and F20, of which the former contained twelfth-century pottery. Beneath F1 at the south end of the area examined was a 5 ft. deep pit F13, with very dark, even earthy layers near the bottom and layers containing

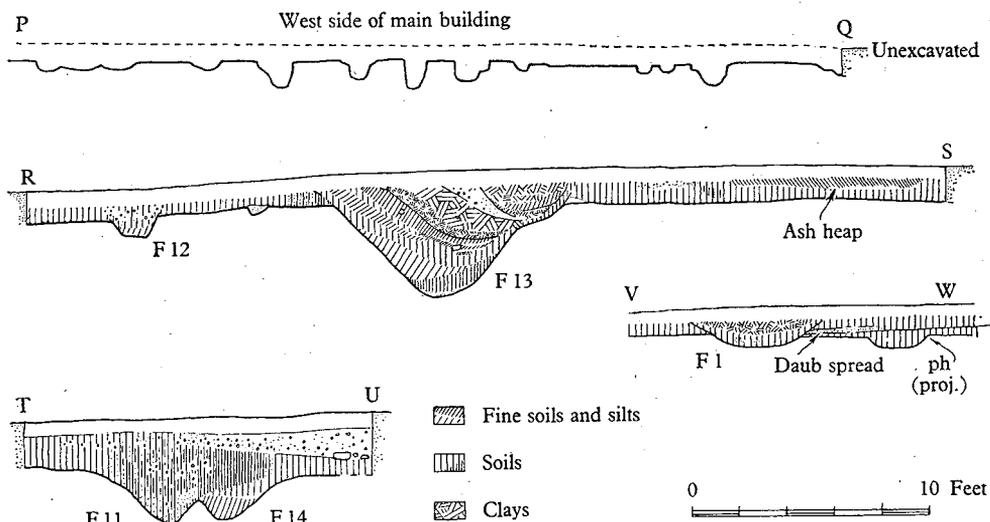


Fig. 5. Eaton Socon: sections through the west wall of the main house (P-Q), and through F1, F11, F12, F13 and F14.

clay, gravel, or a mixture of the two, nearer the top (Fig. 5). The distinction between the fillings of F13 and F1 was not clear and their relationship was confused by the intrusion of F10. Nevertheless it appeared that F1, which sloped gently from the north, probably drained into the pit, and both were levelled up with clay after a

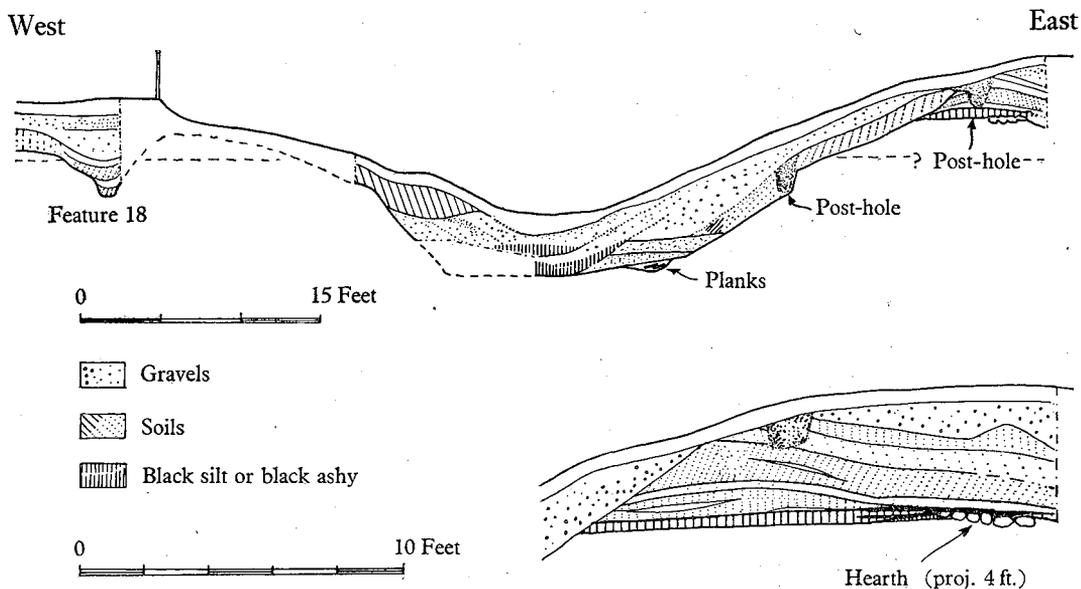


Fig. 6. Eaton Socon: section through the outer bank and moat of the castle: the upper (north side) is a composite section showing the main features; the lower (south side) shows the relationship of the buried hearth (projected) to the overlying bank. See Pl. II d.

certain amount of silting had taken place. The small amount of pottery from the upper layers of F13 was consistent with a twelfth-century date, and the specks of charcoal and daub in the lower layers may have arrived there after the destruction of the house. It is possible, however, that the pit was first dug when the house was still in use.

After the removal of the features later than the house, a layer—not present in all areas—of fairly friable clayey material, apparently mostly burnt, was found. It ranged in colour from red and pink to yellow and cream, often found closely in conjunction, giving the impression that it was not a homogeneous mass burnt *in situ*, but tumbled debris. It was particularly thick, and burnt deep red, near the north end of the house, and the ground beneath it here was heavily scorched. Several of the adjacent post-holes contained charred post-cores. If the burnt clay represents the burnt collapsed walls of the house, as seems possible, the fire may have reached its hottest in the north-east corner. Fragments of the daub contained wattle impressions, and others bore the impressions of squared beams or posts. It is studied in detail on p. 62; although several types were found, most can be regarded as debris of wattle and daub walls on a post framework. The main distribution of the material (Fig. 7, B) seems to indicate the direction of collapse of the walls. Small fragments and thin layers of it occurred, however, in the top of a thick layer of even brown-grey silty material present in areas outside the house, and presumably had become spread after destruction. The layer itself was interpreted as a general rubbish layer and soil level which had accumulated during the occupation of the house. The pottery it contained, all fragmentary, has been taken to represent the main period of occupation (e.g. grid D4, layer 2). Fragments of 'daub' were also found in a small circular pit F8, to the east of the house, which was thus open at the time of destruction; the purpose of this small pit, of which the upper filling was fine dark humic soil, is obscure. A bone comb (Fig. 11, no. 22) was found in it.

The 'daub', and where this was not present a layer of dark even grey-brown soil, were removed, revealing yellowish-grey, fine almost silty material into which were cut the post-holes of a timber building complex. A number of post-holes, particularly at the north-east corner, contained black charred cores of posts, while many others contained in their fillings fragments of 'daub'. These post-holes (Fig. 7, C) presumably held posts at the time of destruction of the building and can be taken to represent its final form. In addition other post-holes were found, sometimes partly cut away by those containing daub or post-cores, of which the filling was predominantly grey or grey-brown soil. These (Fig. 7, D) may have fallen out of use, and have been refilled, before the building was destroyed. Some of them also appeared to cut others.

Most of the post-holes were 6-9 in. deep and of flat-bottomed, or in some cases U-shaped profile. Some in the west side wall of the building complex had deeper holes in the bottom on their inner side (Fig. 4, post-holes 61 and 62). Post-hole 89, the deepest at 1 ft. 3 in., was placed approximately in the centre of the south end wall of the building. Its fellow in the north end wall, though apparently replaced three

times, was neither so substantial nor so deep. The main profiles and the filling of each post-hole were recorded on index cards which are deposited, together with other excavation records, with the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

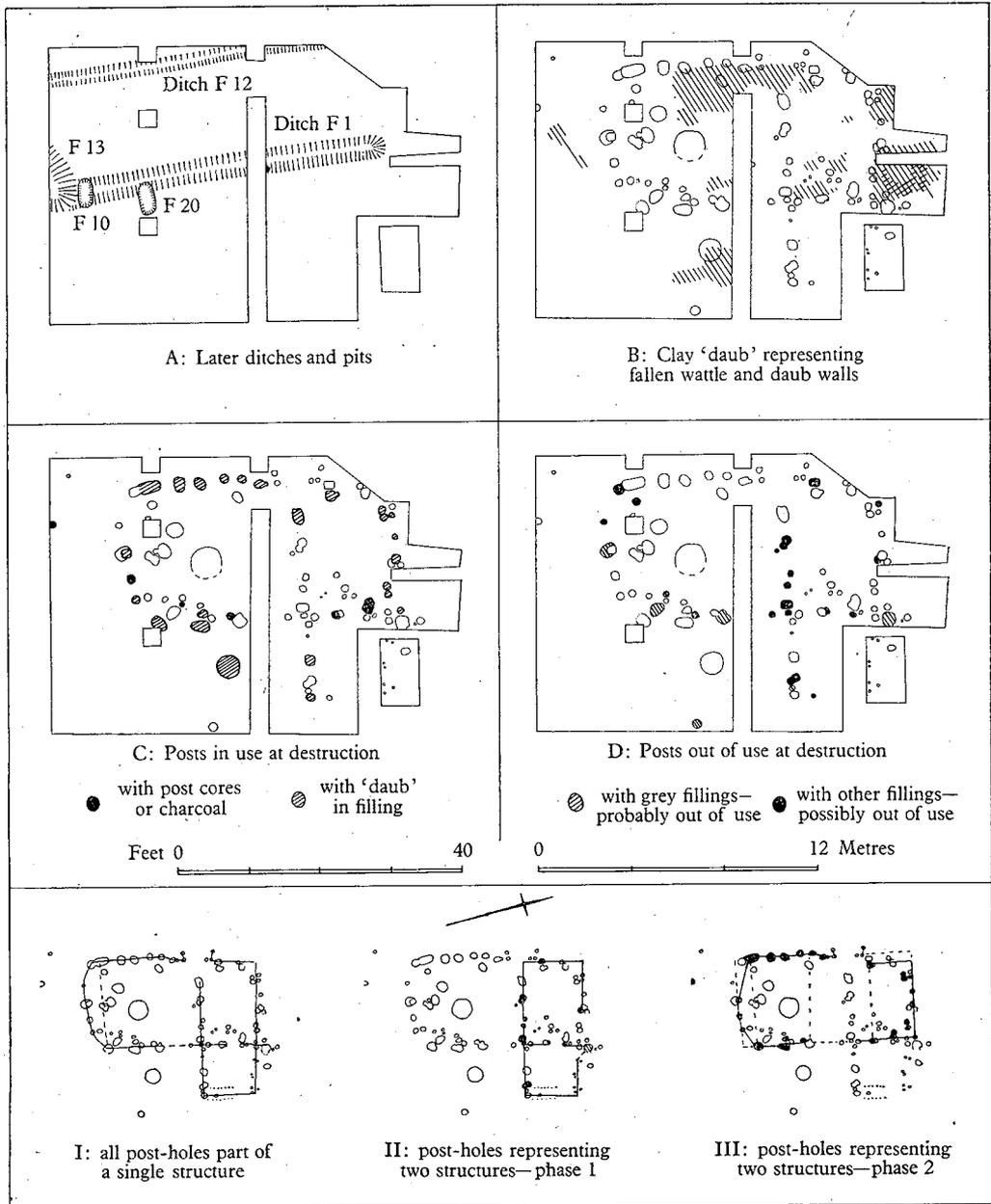


Fig. 7. Eaton Socon: the main structures. A: Features later than the building. B: Daub spread. C: Post-holes in use at the time of destruction. D: Post-holes out of use at time of destruction. I: Interpretation I (p. 50). II and III: Interpretation II (p. 50). See Pl. II a-c.

The post-holes formed quite clear if not very regular alignments. The main structure was a rectangular building approximately 38 ft. by 18 ft., running north-south. It was divided internally in the proportion 1:2 by a row of posts which, however, extended some 12 ft. east of the building. A row of small stake-holes some 3-4 in. across and deep extended similarly from the north end wall; the east end of the two rows was joined by a shallow and very slight depression containing a few specks of daub in its slightly darker filling. Most though not demonstrably all the post-holes in the transverse rows had the grey-brown soily filling elsewhere supposed to be indicative that the posts had gone out of use before destruction. It is thus clearly possible that they represent an earlier structure which the main building succeeds and partly overlaps. This is unlikely on the one hand because the east wall of the 'later' building is an integral part of the 'earlier'; and on the other because the stake-holes clearly stop at the 'later building'. Possible interpretations assuming both premisses are discussed below (p. 50).

The only internal features of the building apart from the partition were two hollows near the south end, F19 and post-hole 79. The former was filled with black soil and charcoal fragments. The soil around was not, however, burnt and the feature cannot itself be a hearth; sherds of sandy and gritty pottery in its filling suggest it may even be later than the house. There was no other trace of a hearth, and, if the structure was a domestic one, heating may perhaps have been by brazier, the contemporary use of which—in military circles at least—is demonstrated by the Bayeux tapestry.<sup>1</sup> It is possible that the scorched areas near the north wall represent the true hearths of the house, and cooking may even have been done in a separate building, as apparently in the thirteenth-century timber building at Seacourt, Berks.<sup>2</sup> The position of the doorway is not clear; it may be represented by the 4 ft. 6 in. gap flanked by small post-holes in the west wall, or it may have been centrally placed in the east side. It does not, at any rate, seem likely to have been in the ends.

South-east of the house was an area of dark grey soil (C4, layers 2 and 3) containing white ash lenses and much small charcoal; it is presumably the remains of an ash heap either from fires connected with the house, or from some other nearby domestic source. The exploratory trenches between the house and castle revealed no further timber structures. The dark rubbish-bearing layer around the house thinned and gave way to the underlying yellow-grey silty material. In the top of this were found in places (layers 6 and 7 in each locality except D7-D12) an amount of apparently hand-made 'St Neots ware', together with wheel-thrown St Neots ware, and one or two sherds of hand-made pots in other wares, suggesting the proximity of an earlier Saxon settlement site. Two ditches F11 and F14 were found between 40 and 50 ft. from the house (Fig. 3). They appeared to converge, but a trench cut over their intersection failed to show conclusively which was the later because their fillings were so nearly identical. In both, the upper filling was fine crumbly and fairly humic grey-brown soil, giving way gradually in the lower part to yellowish-grey silty material.

<sup>1</sup> Sir F. M. Stenton, *The Bayeux Tapestry* (London, 1957), pl. 48.

<sup>2</sup> *Oxon.* XXVI-XXVII (1961-2), p. 100.

Consideration of all the sections available suggested that F11, the nearer, was probably the later; it had some fragments of 'daub' in its filling, and thus may have been open when the house was destroyed. A ditch which may perhaps link with F14 was found in builders' trenches some way to the south. A further ditch, F18, was found apparently running parallel to the outer ditch of the castle, along its outer lip. It was some 6 ft. deep, and steep-sided and narrow near its base; the lower filling was of even silty soil, yellowish-grey near the base, darker near the top; the upper part of the ditch was, however, filled with gravelly material, of which there was a compact level layer near the top. Pottery from the lower part of the ditch was predominantly St Neots ware (Fig. 13, VII). That from the gravelly layers was mostly the hard sandy pottery which by the thirteenth century (Fig. 13, VIII and IX) had largely replaced St Neots ware in the area. The ditch thus, after a period of silting in Norman times, seems to have been filled up intentionally, perhaps (see below, p. 49) with material derived from a cleaning of the castle ditch. Its purpose is not clear. It may have been a palisade trench, but there were no indications of posts in the limited section examined. It might if so interpreted represent an early defence or boundary along the line of the later castle ditch.

#### (b) *The Castle ditch*

At the point it was examined the castle ditch had cut through occupation levels associated with a former building. What remained of the building, including a well-built hearth of cobbles and chalk set in clay, had been buried by the bank. Pottery in the ashes around the hearth and in the occupation levels suggested that the building went out of use in the early twelfth century. The hearth was removed for magnetic dating (Appendix II). With the limited resources available for the research excavation it proved impossible to investigate the building further, but presumably it and others await investigation in the outer bailey of the castle, where happily no threat is likely.

The castle bank consisted of layers of yellowish-grey sandy material in its lower portions, with occasional lenses of charcoaly or darker material. The upper parts were of brown sandy clay and, near the present top, gravelly soil. The lower layers were thought to be topsoil scraped from the surface in the area of the ditch, and therefore including material from the occupation levels of the former house. The upper part of the bank was presumably derived from deepening of the ditch, and it was perhaps capped with a considerable amount of gravel, of which only a small amount remains. The bottom parts of two possible post-holes were noticed at the present crest of the bank, suggesting that the bank may have been topped with a palisade of posts spaced at about 6 ft. intervals. A similar post-hole was noted about half-way down the side of the ditch, and planked lining was found *in situ* in the bottom of the ditch (Fig. 12). It is therefore possible that the bank and ditch sides were faced with planks retained by posts. This would almost be a necessity in the ditch since the present water table is high, and the gravel most unstable below.

The ditch had been dug through the natural gravel, here about 8 ft. thick, to clay,

perhaps Boulder Clay, below a whitish-blue clay with small chalk pieces. The bottom was fairly flat. At its junction with the sides a notch had been cut to take planks, perhaps the sole remainders of the formerly more extensive plank lining suggested above. Parts of a collapsed post, probably a retainer for the lining, were also found. The filling of the ditch (Fig. 6) consisted of gravel, gravelly soil, and black silty material in organic material. The two basal layers—of gravelly soil, and gravel concreted with 'iron pan'—had more or less level tops, indicating they had been laid down in water (as would have been inevitable). They had been partly cut away and a rich even black soil with much organic material had accumulated in the 're-cut'. Over this, interleaved with a second black soil level, was a thick layer of gravelly soil, predominantly on the east side, and largely having come from that direction. This covered a post-hole cut into the gravel side about half-way up the east slope; and also the dark soil above natural gravel higher up the slope, and the sand in the same position lower down. This thick gravelly layer presumably represents the bulk of the bank, which must have collapsed into the ditch after the timber and plank revetments had decayed. It clearly happened some time after the recutting of the ditch, as is shown by the amount of organic mud therein. The process must have continued for some time. The ditch appeared before excavation to have a slight platform half-way up its west side in this area; it was shown to consist of a layer up to 2 ft. thick of brown soil lying above the main gravel filling, and is presumably to be explained as soil dumped in relatively recent times, perhaps from small-scale gravel quarrying which according to local informants has taken place in most adjacent fields.

#### INTERPRETATION

The finds, while indicating the close proximity of a settlement from at least the ninth century, suggest a *floruit* in the eleventh century for the main structures; these, together with that under the castle bank, seem to have gone out of use by the mid-twelfth century. The size of the former and the well-built hearth of the latter indicate that both were relatively important structures, and it is reasonable to regard both as domestic buildings of the Late Saxon village of Eaton, the church of which was previously located in the castle area. Finds during the recent housing development indicate that the settlement spread at least 200 ft. west of the excavated area, and also to the south, though there the finds grew less frequent. The early village might thus be thought to have had an axis extending west from a point near the ? church. It is not impossible that the present lane running east-west some 200 ft. north of the modern churchyard (Fig. 2) perpetuates the line of the early street, and traces of its former continuation can perhaps be recognized in the uneven ground north of the excavation site (unsurveyed). The thegn's residence, which can legitimately be inferred from Eaton's position as Ulmar's chief manor, was presumably near the church.<sup>1</sup> There seems little doubt that excavation of the outer bailey of the

<sup>1</sup> Such an association has been demonstrated at Sulgrave, Northants, where a thegn's house and ring-work have recently been excavated.

castle would reveal, if not the thegn's house, at least much more of the Late Saxon village. The excavation of a village with so early a desertion date is a current archaeological need.<sup>1</sup>

The post-hole complex found in the 1962 excavation is capable of several interpretations. The choice between them is made difficult by the lack of stratification within the building (it was apparently kept scrupulously clean) and by an unfortunate ambiguity in the relationship of post-holes at key points. It is also complicated by the recutting of post-holes, sometimes more than once, and it is impossible to say which sets were in use at any one time.

In Interpretation I (Fig. 7, I) all posts (apart from the recut ones) are considered broadly contemporary. They thus form an L-shaped three-roomed structure with an entrance, represented by a 4 ft. 6 in. gap in the west wall flanked by smaller post-holes, opening on to a partition wall between two rooms, giving access to both. In the probable absence of trussing such an arrangement is possible. Access to the third room would probably be gained through a gap in the partition. Under Interpretation I the building is best regarded as a main two-cell north-south block with a less substantial annexe to the east. The annexe might have been a low structure with single-pitched roof, as its north wall, represented by a line of stake-holes, can hardly have been more than a light withy screen. The presence of such a building would account for the lack of daub in the area (Fig. 7, B); the main block appears to have collapsed eastwards, the west wall falling in and the east wall falling out, except at the north end, where it would have been held up by such an annexe, accounting for the accumulation of daub at the north end.<sup>2</sup>

In Interpretation II the differences in the post-hole fillings (Fig. 7 C and D) are used to separate two possible building phases (Fig. 7, II and III). The earlier is a two-cell east-west building some 29 ft. by 13 ft. The later is the main block of Interpretation I without the internal cross-division, a building about 36 ft. by 18 ft. The earlier building is somewhat implausible as part of its north wall consists of stake-holes alone. A third interpretation sees the whole complex as part of a long range of buildings stretching north under ground unavailable for excavation in 1962. These possibilities emphasize the need for stripping of large areas in investigation of sites of this sort.

The ambiguous ground plan makes reconstruction of the structure or structures unprofitable, but some points are clear. The pairing of posts, haphazard if present at all, suggests that trussing can only have been rudimentary. The irregular alignment of the wall posts denies the use of wall-plates. (Sill-beams, in contemporary use at St Neots a mile away, did not occur in the area examined.) The impressions of squared timbers, and timber joints, in the burnt daub (p. 63) suggests that some carpentered wall-framing was used, the evidence being fairly clear that the round post-holes held squared posts above ground, disproving the adage. Square posts with

<sup>1</sup> Stated in C.B.A., *A Survey and Policy for Field Research*, Part II, forthcoming.

<sup>2</sup> A similar building in which the daub walls had collapsed and remained undisturbed was found on Gørding Heath, Jutland (Early Iron Age), *Kuml* (1951), pp. 40-64.

round bases below ground level were preserved in the tenth-century building at the Husterknupp, Westphalia,<sup>1</sup> and must have been a common feature. The apparently rudimentarily framed walls at Eaton Socon were clad with wattle and daub, the wattles being consistently between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick.

Since the plan of the Eaton Socon building cannot be established, analogies for it are impossible to suggest. One feature deserves comment: both end walls of the main block have major posts, renewed two or three times, near their mid-point. If these are to be incorporated in the wall line, the end walls must have been rounded (Fig. 7, I and III). Rounded corners in north European long houses of the Early, Roman and Post-Roman Iron Ages are an aspect of their withy hurdle construction,<sup>2</sup> but it is doubtful whether this explanation holds here in the absence of stake-holes and the presence of carpentry techniques. A curved ended building is recorded at Hemingford Abbots, 10 miles away, in the thirteenth century<sup>3</sup> but to have attracted mention this must probably have been more specifically apsidal. Three unexcavated stone buildings in Westmoreland with a flat three-sided apse at one end are thought to be medieval or earlier; one, at Cow Green, Crosby Ravensworth, is 39 ft. by 20 ft., and thus resembles the Eaton Socon building in proportions.<sup>4</sup> An explanation of the feature in both areas will probably come with further excavation in the locality.

While the Eaton Socon building with its wattle and daub-clad post walls has no close analogies in the contemporary settlements excavated locally at Buckden, Little Paxton and St Neots, this does not mean they do not exist. Evidence from St Neots (Part III of these reports) demonstrates that different types of building occur in different areas of the village, perhaps reflecting social or functional distinctions, and indeed parts of post-built structures do occur at St Neots. The distinction may also be a chronological one; the Eaton building with its renewed posts and accompanying scatter of ninth- or tenth-century pottery may be an archaic survival into the eleventh, much as fifteenth-century buildings survive locally today.<sup>5</sup>

The burnt daub suggests that the building was destroyed by fire, perhaps under prevailing wind conditions since the house appears to have collapsed eastwards. The debris remained *in situ* except where disturbed by later features. The few finds within the building and amongst the debris are of little help in dating the destruction, for they themselves have broad date ranges. It could have taken place any time after the appearance in the area of pottery in sandy/gritty fabrics, but before these had come to predominate over St Neots ware. The range thus indicated, according to current opinion on the dating of these ceramic changes, is *c.* 1050–1150. Possible historical occasions for destructions within this period are the Fenland campaign of

<sup>1</sup> A. Herrnbrod, *Der Husterknupp* (Köln, 1958), p. 36, Abb. 19, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Examples are numerous: Holland—Ezinge, *Jaarverslag xiv-xv van der Vereniging voor Terpenonderzoek*, e.g. pl. 24. (Early Iron Age); Germany—Federseen Wierde and Tofting, *Neue Ausgrabungen in Deutschland* (Berlin, 1958), pp. 215–42 (Early Iron Age and Dark Ages); Denmark—Gørding Heath, *Kuml* (1951), p. 42, fig. 1 (Early Iron Age).

<sup>3</sup> Ramsey Cartulary (ed. W. H. Hart and P. A. Lyons, 1886, vol. II, p. 243).

<sup>4</sup> R.C.H.M. *Westmoreland* (H.M.S.O. 1936), p. xlvi.

<sup>5</sup> One such building near Eaton Socon church was demolished during the excavation; it is hoped to publish accounts of this and other such buildings in the parish in *Beds. Arch. J.*

William I, and the anarchy. While the former might be more appropriate to the main building, pottery from below the castle bank suggests that the anarchy might well be the date of destruction there, and almost certainly provides at least a latest possible date for the structures beneath it.

The economy of the Eaton settlement will be discussed together with the data in the final paper of this series; lava querns, game and stock bones indicate that it was a mixed agricultural one. This limited excavation produced no indication of major industrial activities.

#### THE POTTERY

The pottery from the excavation, all very fragmentary, comprises no more than 1700 sherds ranging in date from the ninth to the twelfth centuries. There are no specific groups which can be regarded as closed finds, or restricted to a particular period. Various layers did, however, produce assemblages differing widely in their components, illustrating the progressive uses of hand-made wares, wheel-turned St Neots wares, and sandy or gritty wares. Fig. 13, showing a selection of these assemblages, demonstrates graphically the changing fabric frequencies. In addition a summary of the forms represented is given; the number of recognizable pots is too small, however, and the assemblages are insufficiently discrete, for distribution diagrams of form frequency and pot size to be prepared, as has recently usefully been done for the Logic Lane, Oxford, St Neots ware groups.<sup>1</sup> Sherds have been illustrated either for their individual interest, for their importance as dating evidence for parts of the excavation, or as groups, albeit only loosely associated, from single layers or features.

The histograms, showing incidence of fabrics by weight in the selected assemblages, are intended only as simple statements of the contents of layers, the material being incapable of statistical treatment as the amounts are so small. The histograms are open to hazards of massive misrepresentation; if for instance Thetford ware had been represented in Fig. 13, I, by a complete storage jar rather than by one sherd then the relative proportions of other fabrics would have sunk to almost unrepresentable amounts. In the groups represented, however, except perhaps in XI, something approaching a random sample is suggested by the smallness and heterogeneity of the sherds; few joined and few were demonstrably of the same pot. The sequence they present is consistent with the local and general development of pottery as known from other sites,<sup>2</sup> and also with the stratigraphy. The percentages presumably include not only pottery current when the deposit was forming, but rubbish survivals from earlier times, a particular hazard when the fragments are so small.

<sup>1</sup> *Oxon.* xxvi/xxvii (1961-2), p. 56 and fig. 8.

<sup>2</sup> A detailed assessment of the time range, type incidence, and fabric incidence of all the St Neots area sites will be attempted in the final report. The following sites, mainly on the edge of the St Neots ware province, have produced usefully comparable pottery series on which the dating of the present material largely depends: Northolt, Middlesex: *Med. Arch.* v (1961), pp. 254-70. Oxford, (a) pits under the Castle mound (pre-1071), *Oxon.* xvii/xviii (1952-3), pp. 77-111; (b) Clarendon Hotel (some deposits pre-1140/80), *Oxon.* xxiii (1958), pp. 1-83; (c) Logic Lane (eleventh- and twelfth-century groups), *Oxon.* xxvi/xxviii (1961-2), pp. 38-69. Other evidence is presented in Hurst's 'Saxo-Norman Pottery in East Anglia' in *Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1956), pp. 43-70.

Three groups from the weathered top of the natural (Fig. 13, I, II and III, from D4, C3 and C4 respectively) represent the earliest material from the site, and include proportions of hand-made wares in both gritty and shell-filled fabrics. Each has a preponderance of wheel-thrown wares of the St Neots type (shell-filled pink to grey fabrics ranging from soft and soapy to fairly hard and harsh). One sherd of Thetford ware was found in D4 (I), but there were no sandy or gritty wares of later eleventh- or twelfth-century type in these deposits. Dr Hope-Taylor has shown that hand-made wares can survive in currency into the eleventh century in the south of England,<sup>1</sup> but these groups must be considerably earlier since there are many local assemblages presumably antedating 1050 which contain nothing but quantities of wheel-thrown St Neots ware.

Three stratified deposits in D7 (Fig. 13, IV, V and VI, layers 4, 3 and 2 respectively) also all contain a preponderance of wheel-thrown St Neots-type wares, the lowest (IV) to the exclusion of all others. In V both hand-made and sandy/gritty fabrics occur in small proportions, the former possibly as rubbish survivals, the latter possibly brought down by rabbits (the intense activity of which on the site in former times renders any unusual associations open to question). In the upper layer the proportions of St Neots and gritty fabrics are almost equal. A second sequence of three layers, from the successive filling layers of a ditch in D8 (Fig. 13, VII, VIII and IX, layers 7, 6 and 5 respectively) show a similar sequence, the earliest having St Neots fabrics exclusively, the second having equal proportions of St Neots and sandy/gritty fabrics, and the third much as the second.

Assemblages from features subsequent to the post-hole structures have in general a preponderance of sandy/gritty fabrics, and are represented by that from F1, a ditch cutting through the house area (Fig. 13, X). The small proportion of hand-made sherds presumably represent rubbish survivals, perhaps having weathered from the sides of the ditch. The assemblages associated with the hearth beneath the outer bank of the castle contained a number of sherds of a St Neots ware cooking pot which form a large proportion of the St Neots ware shown in Fig. 13, XI, probably distorting the histogram, since other features suggested the deposit had formed towards the end of the currency of St Neots ware. The overlying bank produced an assemblage, very small in size, in which the sandy/gritty wares are slightly in preponderance (Fig. 13, XII), in common with the latest layers of the two stratified sequences and the features later than the main building.

The forms represented in the Eaton Socon assemblages cover a wide range and include, for the first time from the main St Neots ware province, the hand-made precursors of St Neots ware, as well as a series from its long main period and from the period of its decline and replacement by later medieval forms. There are two main types among the hand-made pottery. A few sherds came from small cooking pots up to 6 in. in rim diameter with upright or slightly everted rims usually thinned at the very top (Fig. 8, nos. 1-5); all are in hard sandy or slightly gritty grey to black fabric. The remainder came from thicker-walled cooking pots with rim diameters

<sup>1</sup> *Med. Arch.* II (1958), pp. 183-5 and III (1959), p. 23.

from 5 to 8 in., with everted rims either squared off and quite unmoulded (Fig. 8, nos. 6-9) or slightly rounded (10, 11). All are finished off with a final wipe under the rim and several have traces of wiping within and without. The construction method where visible is, at least at neck level, by the application of rings of clay smoothed down the outside (8) or inside (10 and 11). In fabric they resemble St Neots ware, with crushed shell inclusions, pink to grey colour and a medium hard, but only slightly soapy feel. The first type is common in many Saxon deposits prior to the introduction of mass-production techniques, though it may well survive until the ninth century at least.<sup>1</sup> The second type is less well recognized but is related to the pot used to support the ninth-century date given to the original assemblage from St Neots.<sup>2</sup> It may well provide the immediate precursors of wheel-thrown St Neots ware cooking pots which, typologically, could be derived from it (e.g. Fig. 8, nos. 12 and 13). It occurred together with small wheel-thrown cooking pots, as did the first type, and there is no reason to suppose that the types were not concurrent. If a ninth-century date for the introduction of true (wheel-thrown) St Neots ware is acceptable these deposits presumably date to that century. The hand-made wares seem not to have survived long, for there are numerous local deposits which contained the wheel-thrown wares exclusively, and which themselves presumably antedate the introduction of sandy/gritty wares from about 1050.<sup>3</sup>

The St Neots ware from Eaton Socon includes most of the main types defined by Hurst.<sup>4</sup> Fig. 8, nos. 12, 14, 17, 33, 34 and 35, all come from early levels and tend to support Hurst's suggestion that in the early stages St Neots ware cooking pots were usually small. Larger cooking pots (e.g. Fig. 8, nos. 25-8) usually occurred in deposits seen to be late either by their stratigraphic position, or by the incidence of sandy/gritty fabrics. Rims with hollow mouldings did not occur in the early deposits, and a number with pronounced round mouldings (26-8) came from the later deposits. The latest St Neots ware, sometimes with admixture of sand to the fabric, was as in that from Northolt,<sup>5</sup> rough and debased (Fig. 8, nos. 26 and 27).

Deep and shallow bowls occurred; the lower levels produced Fig. 9, no. 38, very thick and heavy, but also 37, 39 and 44, the latter having a slightly developed inturned rim. Deep bowls with pronounced inturned rims (e.g. Fig. 9, nos. 41, 42, 43) came only from later deposits, and here as elsewhere belong to the maturity of the St Neots ware series. No. 42, with true finger impressions around the rim, comes from a deposit with much sandy/gritty ware, and is an outlying example of the common eleventh-century Cambridge type.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> E.g. Sutton Courtenay, *Archaeologia*, LXXIII, pp. 176-9; Whitby, *Archaeologia*, LXXXIX, p. 77; Maxey, *Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), p. 54 and fig. 13, nos. 20-22.

<sup>2</sup> *Med. Arch.* III (1959), p. 19.

<sup>3</sup> The local changeover to sandy/gritty wares is still not known in detail; it is well under way by 1070 in Oxford, and the process is given dates 1050-1150 at Northolt. The Great Paxton evidence (*Proc. C.A.S.* XXXV (1935), pp. 102-3, and XLIX (1955), p. 51, n. 2) suggests it was starting in the St Neots area about the time of the Conquest.

<sup>4</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1955), pp. 43-70.

<sup>5</sup> *Med. Arch.* V (1961), p. 263.

<sup>6</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1955), p. 61, fig. 6.

The sandy/gritty wares vary greatly and only a few sherds have been illustrated (Fig. 9, nos. 50–60 and 63–4). Three (Fig. 8, no. 30, and Fig. 9, nos. 54 and 55), in even hard harsh sandy fabric, are from large cooking pots with simple everted rims. Two came from the castle bank and may be twelfth century, but no. 30 came from E3, layer 7, one of the earliest deposits; it must presumably be an intrusion due to rabbits. No. 57 is an example of Hurst's 'early medieval wares',<sup>1</sup> and nos. 59 and 60, in hard light grey ware, are members of the widespread 'developed early medieval ware' group. They come from the main part of the moat silting, which is thus seen to have been in progress in the later twelfth century and perhaps into the thirteenth. The complete absence of thirteenth-century cooking pots or glazed wares both in this location and in general suggests that at least the outer bailey of the castle, and the village site, were not occupied at this period.

Saxon and Saxo-Norman imported wares were conspicuous by their infrequency. Nine small sherds of Stamford ware were found (none illustrated), mostly from the later deposits. Thetford ware was represented by three small sherds, and one base (Fig. 8, no. 36) may be of Ipswich ware.

#### A i. HAND-MADE GRITTY OR SANDY FABRICS (Fig. 8, nos. 1–5)

1. Small cooking pot in hard grey fabric with small sparkling sandy grits. F3, layer 5.
2. Small cooking pot in hard light grey fabric with sparkling sand content and a few grits. F3, layer 7 (weathered natural).
3. Small cooking pot in hard grey to black fabric with sparkling sand content. E6–7, topsoil.
4. Small everted rimmed cooking pot in hard sandy grey fabric. F3, layer 6 (floor of house).
5. Small cooking pot in hard dark grey or pink-grey fabric with sparkling sand content. F3, layer 6 (floor of house).

#### A ii. HAND-MADE SHELL-FILLED WARES (Fig. 8, nos. 6–11 and 32)

6. Cooking pot with squared-off everted rim having a very slight hollow moulding within; the exterior has vertical wiping on the body and a final horizontal wipe under the rim. The medium hard but slightly soapy fabric includes much crushed shell visible on both surfaces. Tebbutt excavation: 'silt layer over and around house'.
7. Cooking pot, akin to 6, but with horizontal wiping outside, where few shell inclusions are visible. E2–3, layer 1 (topsoil and unstratified).
8. Cooking pot akin to 6 and 7 but smaller; pinkish; final wipe under rim. Tebbutt excavation: 'floor level of house'.
9. Cooking pot akin to 8, with horizontal wiping and final wipe under rim; shells obscured outside, perhaps by wet finishing. D4, layer 4.
10. Cooking pot with everted and slightly rounded rim, vertical wiping and final finger wipe under rim; interior very rough. C3, layer 6 (weathered natural).
11. Cooking pot with thick shoulder and thinner everted rim, slightly rounded; pink to black fabric somewhat more soapy than 6–10. C2–D2, topsoil.
32. Base of ?cooking pot; bottom thick, sides thinner; made with basal pad and coil applied round it. Pink surfaces and grey core; many shell inclusions. D4, layer 2.

<sup>1</sup> *Med. Arch.* v (1961), p. 259, and *Med. Arch.* III (1959), pp. 44–8.

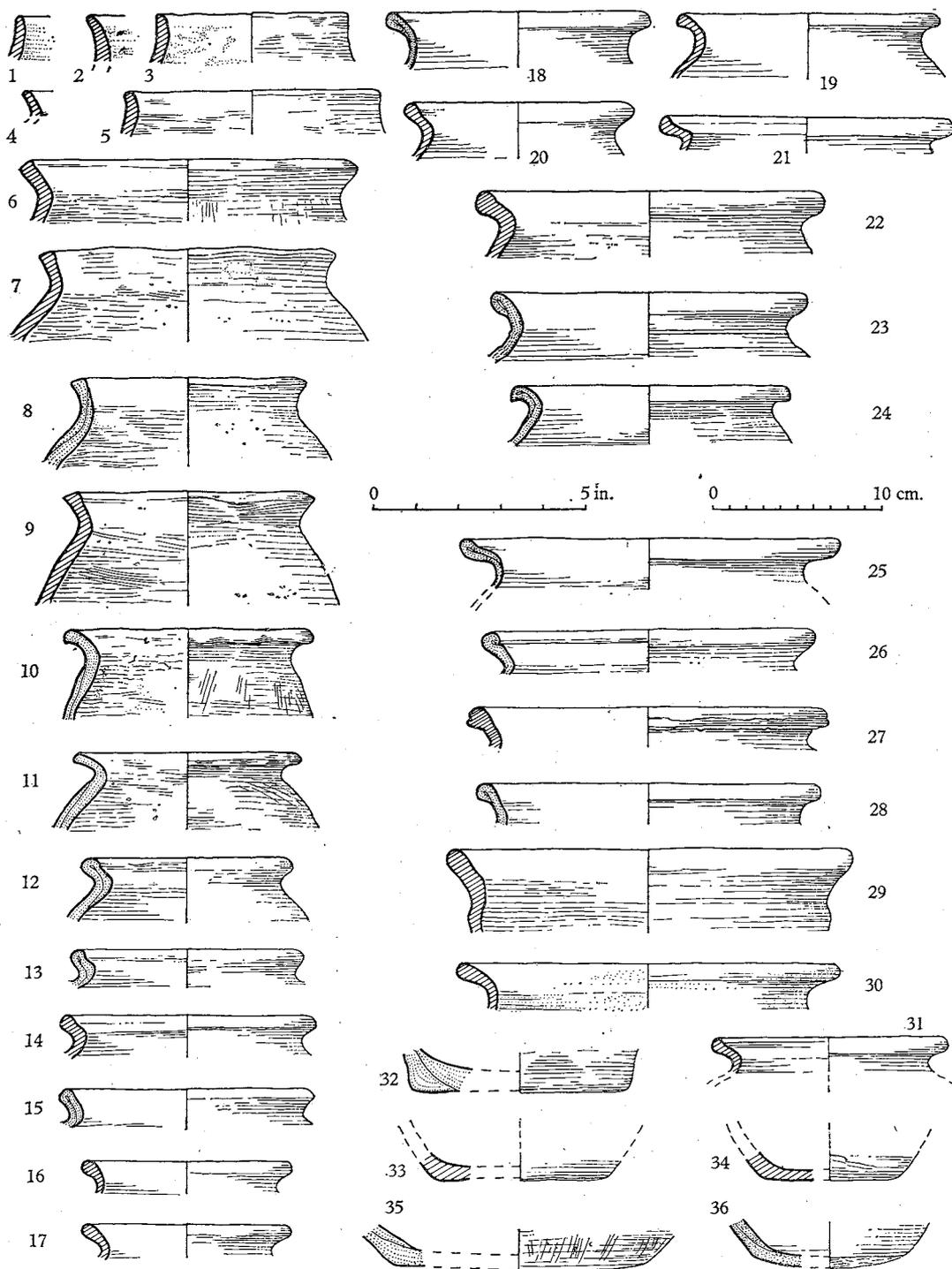


Fig. 8. Eaton Socon: cooking pottery. Nos. 1-11 are hand-made (1-5 gritty; 6-11 St Neots fabrics); nos. 12-29 are wheel-thrown (St Neots fabrics). Scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

B. WHEEL-THROWN SHELL-FILLED WARES OF ST NEOTS TYPE (Fig. 8, nos. 12-29, 31, 33-5; Fig. 9, nos. 37-49, 56, 62 and 65)

The St Neots ware from Eaton Socon is apparently harder and less soapy than the 'norm',<sup>1</sup> though it compares closely with the original group from the type site. It ranges in colour from a warm black through shades of grey to pink. The deep purplish tones of Cambridge and Oxford are rare, and the majority is light pinkish grey. The fabric is only described where it differs from the site norm.

*Cooking pots*

12. Small cooking pot with rounded everted rim. C<sub>4</sub>, layer 5 (rabbit-disturbed material derived from ash heap).

13. Small cooking pot with thick slightly moulded rim; thick soot deposit. C<sub>4</sub>, layer 2 (ash heap).

14. Small cooking pot akin to 12 and 13, but with slight ridge on outside of rim found on many pots of the type. D<sub>4</sub>, layer 6 (weathered natural).

15. Small cooking pot with everted rim, similar to 14. C<sub>4</sub>, layer 2 (ash heap).

16. Very small cooking pot with rounded everted rim and horizontal striations within suggesting it was thrown on a fairly fast wheel. C<sub>4</sub>, layer 2 (ash heap).

17. Very small cooking pot with rounded everted rim; very light pink. D<sub>4</sub>, layer 6 (weathered natural).

18. Small cooking pot with rounded everted rim formed by folding clay over and luting externally. D<sub>4</sub>, feature 8, pit containing daub, bone comb (Fig. 11, no. 22) and battered tenth- or eleventh-century copper alloy strap-end (Fig. 11, no. 17), and thus tenth century or after.

19. Small cooking pot with everted rim and slightly thickened neck. Tebbutt excavation: 'floor level of house'.

20. Small cooking pot with everted rim with interior hollow moulding; fairly hard salmon pink fabric with sand in addition to shell inclusions. D<sub>12</sub>, layer 18 (base of castle bank).

21. Medium cooking pot with everted rim formed by folding clay over and luting inside (cp. 18); slight interior hollow moulding. D<sub>12</sub>, hearth beneath bank.

22. Medium cooking pot with everted rim having rounded exterior and hollow interior moulding. Salmon pink rather smooth surfaces. Tebbutt excavation: 'silt layer over and around house'.

23. Medium cooking pot with everted rim, rounded exterior moulding and throwing grooves. C<sub>3</sub>, layer 4 (top of feature 13, later than house.)

24. Cooking pot with strongly everted rim with sharp exterior moulding. D<sub>3</sub>, feature 1 (later than house).

25. Large cooking pot with everted rim having hollow interior moulding; purplish pink fabric. D<sub>7</sub>, layer 3 (Fig. 13, V).

26. Medium cooking pot with everted rim having round moulding formed by folding clay inwards but not smoothing it; a carelessly made version of, e.g., 22. The fabric contains sandy grits as well as shells. D<sub>12</sub>, from castle bank.

27. Medium cooking pot with everted rim much ridged and rough externally; careless finish (cf. 26). D<sub>12</sub>, castle bank. 26 and 27 are presumably late in the St Neots ware series.

28. Medium cooking pot in soft salmon pink fabric; the form, presumably a late one, is imitated by the clumsy 27. D<sub>4</sub>, feature 1 (ditch later than house).

<sup>1</sup> The definition given in *Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1955), p. 44, relates more to developed St Neots ware, and describes accurately, e.g., much of the Oxford material. The inclusions in 'St Neots' and allied fabrics have recently been studied: *Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), pp. 50-1.

29. Large ?cooking pot or bowl; rim slightly everted with slight hollow moulding and horizontal throwing striations. Tebbutt excavation: 'silt layer over and around house'.
31. Small cooking pot with everted rim having marked hollow interior moulding; akin to 25 but smaller. D7, layer 4 (Fig. 13, IV), a layer containing St Neots ware exclusively.
33. Cooking pot base with rough outer surface but probably wheel-thrown; dark grey inside, pink outside; F4, layer 6 (weathered natural).
34. Cooking pot base in thin hard sandy fabric with a few white inclusions. D4, layer 6 (weathered natural).
35. Base of ?cooking pot; marked diagonal external wiping. D4, layer 6 (weathered natural).

*Bowls and dishes in St Neots ware* (Fig. 9, nos. 37-49)

37. ?bowl with plain slightly thickened upright rim. D4, layer 6 (weathered natural).
38. ?bowl with very thick upright rim slightly thickened at top. The fragment is small and the diameter shown here may be too large. E2, layer 7 (weathered natural).
39. Bowl; a small fragment akin in profile though not in sitting angle to 37 and 38. Part of an applied pad, together with a lift in the rim-line, suggests there may have been a suspension lug. D4, layer 6 (weathered natural).
40. Bowl with inturned rim having curled-over moulding. Tebbutt excavation: 'silt layer over and around house'. The deep bowl is a common form in developed St Neots ware assemblages, e.g. here 41-3.
41. Bowl with inturned rim formed by folding clay in, then out, and luting on the outside. E6-7, topsoil; a similar bowl with much less drawn out inturn from F3, layer 7 (weathered natural) may represent an earlier form.
42. Bowl with inturned rim with true finger impressions (and nail-marks). A mature type in the inturned-rim bowl series. D6, layer 2.
43. Bowl, perhaps a shallow bowl, with slightly inturned rim allied to the previous series. Tebbutt excavation: 'floor level of house'.
44. Bowl, perhaps shallow bowl, slightly inturned rim. C4, layer 6 (weathered natural). This and 37-9, from early layers, probably stand at the head of the bowl series from the site.
45. ?shallow bowl with widely splayed sides though similar profile to 44. D4, layer 4 (soil layer earlier than feature 8 which contained the objects Fig. 11, nos. 17 and 22).
46. ?shallow bowl having widely splayed sides and slight internal bevel. Tebbutt excavation: 'silt layer over and around house'.
47. Shallow bowl with inturned rim. Tebbutt excavation: 'floor level of house'.
48. Small bowl similar to 47 except in size. E3-4, topsoil.
49. Bowl, probably fairly large, with upright sides, and thickened rounded rim undercut externally; terra-cotta red fabric. E4, topsoil. This was the only sherd of a widespread local twelfth-century class.<sup>1</sup>

*Other vessels* (Fig. 9, nos. 56 62, 65)

56. Base of large cooking pot with calcareous inclusions, not necessarily all shells; developed St Neots ware. C3, feature 10 (pit later than house and ditch, feature 1).
62. Small jug; part of rim and handle springing; the handle has incised lattice decoration; fabric dull red with grey core and some small white inclusions, not necessarily all shells. Twelfth century? D3, feature 1 (ditch cutting through house, Fig. 13, X).

<sup>1</sup> Examples are published from Eynesbury, *Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1961), p. 87 and Felmersham, *Antiq. J.* XXXI (1951), p. 48, nos. 10-14.

65. Sherd of large vessel with applied diagonal finger-moulded band (cf. technique of 64); fabric fairly smooth, light pink with grey core and numerous shell inclusions. D<sub>4</sub>, topsoil. Developed St Neots ware.

C. SANDY OR GRITTY WARES (Fig. 8, no. 30; Fig. 9, nos. 50-5, 57-61)

30. Cooking pot with everted slightly rounded rim in sandy harsh fabric akin to that of nos. 54 and 55. E<sub>3</sub>, layer 7 (weathered natural). This was the only sherd of wheel-thrown sandy/gritty fabric from the weathered natural, and since closely analogous sherds are probably twelfth century in date it may have been brought down by rabbits.

50. Small bowl with simple incurving rim; hard brownish fabric with sparkling sand content. No clear signs of wheel-throwing. D<sub>9-11</sub>, layer 3 (upper filling of castle moat). The vessel might be part of a crucible (cf. 51, in different fabric) or, as a stray sherd in this context, Middle Saxon finer hand-made ware.

51. Crucible; small vessel with incurving rim in hard light grey fabric with incrustations on outer and inner surfaces. Several Saxo-Norman examples have been found in Oxford.<sup>1</sup> D<sub>8</sub>, layer 5 (Fig. 13, IX), a deposit containing a slight majority of sandy/gritty wares, perhaps twelfth century.

52. Cooking pot with everted rim comparable in profile to degenerate examples in St Neots ware nos. 27 and 28; roughly finished sandy pink to brown fabric. D<sub>3</sub>, feature 1 (ditch cutting through house).

53. Large cooking pot with everted rim having external bevel and slight hollow moulding within; hard pink to brown sandy fabric with grey core and occasional white inclusions. D<sub>3</sub>, feature 1 (ditch cutting through house).

54. Large cooking pot with apparently everted simple squared-off rim; fine hard harsh sandy fabric predominantly grey with brown tones. D<sub>12</sub>, castle bank.

55. Large cooking pot with everted rim; fabric and findspot as for 54.

57. Medium cooking pot with simple everted rounded rim in hard but not harsh sandy fabric with very occasional white inclusions; brick red within, fumed grey at the mouth and grey with red-brown tones externally. E<sub>6-7</sub>, layer 4, fill of ditch, feature 11. The form recalls some in St Neots ware from other sites, but the fabric places it with Hurst's 'early medieval wares', which, together with the associated pottery (e.g. 58) indicates its twelfth-century date.

58. Cooking pot with upright neck and slightly out-thrown rim with slight internal and external bevels; hard sandy but not too harsh red fabric. D<sub>6</sub>, feature 11 (ditch, apparently the same as that in E<sub>6-7</sub>).

59. Cooking pot with everted rim having internal and external bevel; hard light grey fabric with little sand. Finer in character than other sandy wares, though related to them (e.g. 58), and possibly later (twelfth/thirteenth century?). D<sub>9-11</sub>, layer 4 (main filling of castle moat).

60. Cooking pot with everted rim having finger mouldings along top; hard harsh sandy fabric, medium grey within, light grey without. Twelfth-thirteenth century; D<sub>9-11</sub>, layer 4 (main part of filling of castle moat).

61. ? jug; sherd of vessel with flaring rim, here thought to be part of a necked jug. The rim is undercut externally and bevelled internally; decoration of wavy lines made with flexible 'comb', e.g. bristles, internally and externally. The fabric, hard, fairly smooth with little sand, dull red surfaces and grey core, seems out of place in the findspot D<sub>3</sub>, feature 1 (ditch cutting through house), where the sandy/gritty wares are otherwise of eleventh- to early twelfth-century character.

<sup>1</sup> *Oxon.* xvii/xviii (1952-3), pp. 96-7; they are here dated pre-1070, but occur also in later deposits.

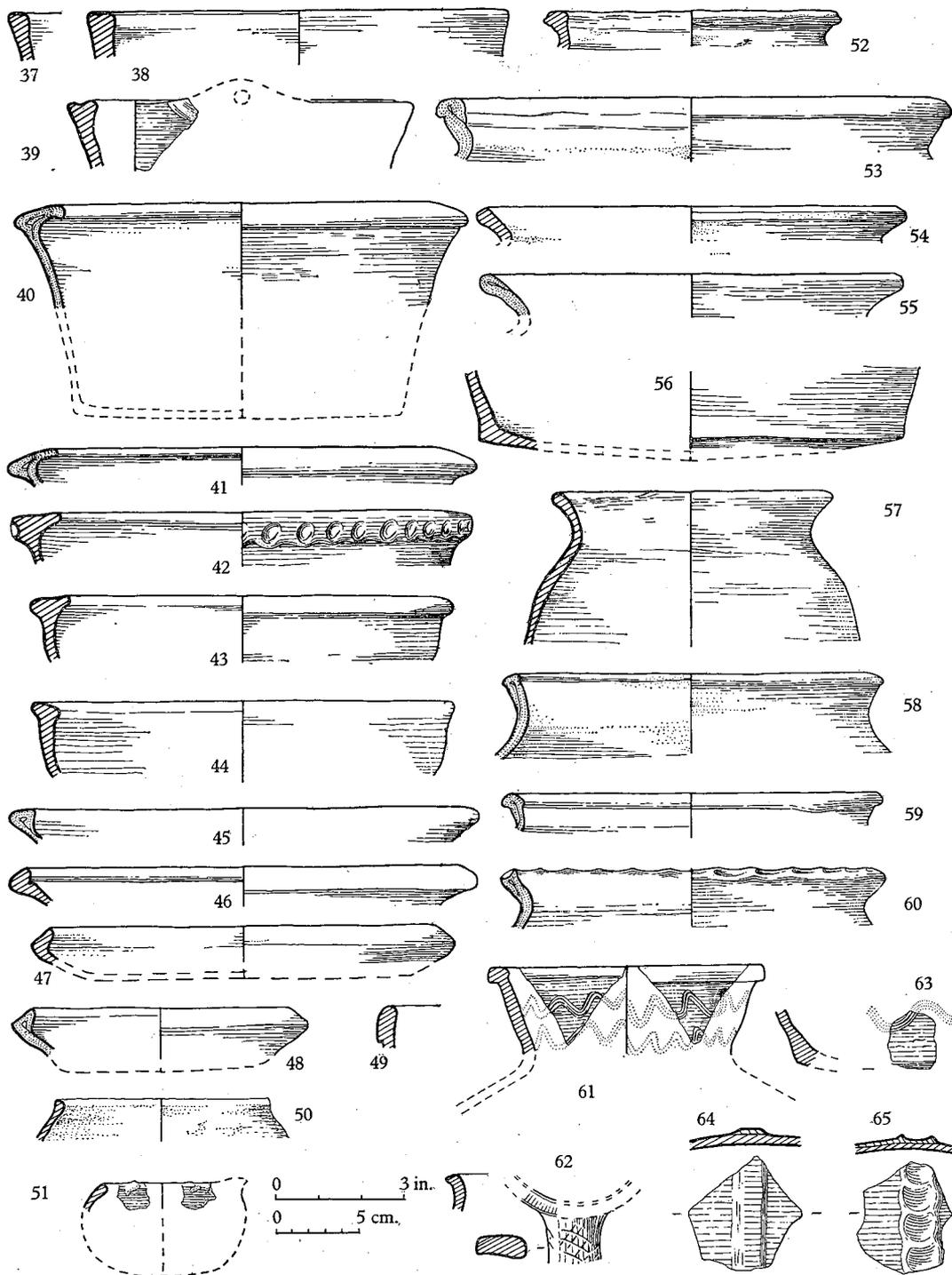


Fig. 9. Eaton Socon: bowls and dishes in St Neots fabrics (37-49); cooking pots in sandy fabrics (52-60); and miscellaneous sherds. Scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

## D. IMPORTS (Fig. 8, no. 36; Fig. 9, no. 64)

Nine small sherds of Stamford ware and two possibly of Thetford ware are not illustrated.

36. Small ? cooking pot; slightly rounded base with marked basal angle, some surface dragging on the base. The pot has a slightly uneven interior finish and may have been thrown on a slow wheel. Very hard smooth fabric with medium grey outer surface, light brown layer varying from 2 mm. (sides) to 4 mm. (base), and lighter grey core. The effect may have been caused by a period of oxidizing conditions in the kiln before a short final dampening down producing a return to reducing conditions. C2-D2, topsoil. ? Ipswich type ware.

64. Sherd of large vessel with applied undecorated relief band or strip; the strip has been attached by smoothing between the index and second finger, producing a characteristic ridge on the left side. Fine hard fairly smooth grey fabric with light grey core and a 1.5 mm. light brown layer below the surface (cf. 36). Thetford ware.

## FINDS OF STONE (Fig. 11, nos. 1 and 2)

*Lava querns*

Small fragments of lava querns were found in the following locations: D4, layer 6 and C3, layer 15 (weathered natural); D3, layer 5 and Tebbutt excavation 'floor level' (deposits probably contemporary with the occupation of the house); Tebbutt excavation 'silt level' and D4, layer 2 (rubbish deposits perhaps contemporary with the house); and C2, feature 12, a fourteenth-century ditch, where the fragment may be a stray. Only one fragment, Fig. 11, no. 1, is illustrated. There is no evidence that the fragments are from anything but querns. Miss H. A. H. Macdonald reports that the lava probably comes from the Niedermendig-Mayen area of the Eifel, but specific location within this area is at present not possible petrographically.<sup>1</sup> Querns were produced in the Eifel from the Neolithic onwards. The present fragments correspond well with early medieval examples from the Rhineland<sup>2</sup> and similar fragments are a constant feature of Middle and Late Saxon artefact assemblages from Eastern England.<sup>3</sup>

*Hones*

A fragment of a fairly large rectangular-sectioned hone was found (Fig. 11, no. 2). Miss H. A. H. Macdonald, Geological Survey and Museum, reports: 'A fine-grained sandstone, possibly from the Coal Measures—nearest area about 50 miles away in the Pennines—but could have come from local gravel.' Similar hones of materials probably derived from a local gravel were found at the Middle Saxon settlement at Maxey, Northants.<sup>4</sup>

*Flint* (not illustrated)

Fifteen flints were found, comprising a core, three implements and small narrow and other waste flakes. It is possible to find flints over most of the gravel lands in the locality, but these are

<sup>1</sup> The specimens are to be included in a general investigation to be undertaken shortly to try to clarify the 'Mayen-Niedermendig' problem from a petrological standpoint. See *J. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.* xxvii (1964), p. 82.

<sup>2</sup> *Neue Ausgrabungen in Deutschland* (Berlin, 1958), pp. 268-84.

<sup>3</sup> Summarized in *Dark Age Britain* (London, 1956), p. 232. To this list should be added Middle Saxon examples from Maxey, Northants., and Late Saxon ones from Little Paxton, Eaton Socon, and further, relatively complete, querns from St Neots. These objects are virtually the only imports at all these sites, presumably being essentials in peasant communities which could not afford luxuries.

<sup>4</sup> *Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), p. 58.

recorded as possibly indicating the proximity of an industrial site. The cultural affinities of the material are not obvious; the small core, for blade-like flakes, recalls, with its high platform angles at both ends, examples from some Mesolithic assemblages,<sup>1</sup> while the simple scraper with steep retouch could be paralleled in many Mesolithic and later industries.

#### SOIL SAMPLES (Table I, p. 73 and section Fig. 5)

Soil samples were submitted to the Ancient Monuments Laboratory for information on four points. A series of five samples from the filling of feature 14, a ditch outside the main area with a filling of very fine dark soil (Fig. 5), were taken in the hopes of learning whether the filling could have been rubbish or was more likely to have been natural silting, and, further, whether from the presence of daub fragments, it might be thought that this ditch was open during or after destruction of the main house. In Table I these are samples 1-5. Secondly it was hoped that confirmation or otherwise might be possible of the interpretation of the yellow-grey silty layer found everywhere on the site under the main culture layers which contained finds in its upper parts, but merged gradually into underlying apparently natural yellow buttery material. (The layer was interpreted as the weathered top of natural, having become discoloured and mixed by treading, digging, etc., or by muddy conditions which may have pertained at times during the occupation.) Samples 6 and 7 were taken for this purpose. Thirdly samples were taken to decide whether layer 3 in D7, apparently above the ditch, feature 14, was a developed topsoil, indicating an appreciable period between the filling of F14 and the levelling up of the site with the gravel spread layer 2. Samples 8 and 9 are from this layer and from the adjacent modern topsoil respectively. Finally a sample of silt from the bottom of the castle moat, rich in organic debris, was submitted in the hopes of reconstructing the immediate micro-environment when the ditch began to fill, and to say something about its condition—e.g. whether it was waterlogged. This sample will be discussed in the final report.

Mr L. Biek, Ancient Monuments Laboratory, reports:

'In the absence of a site investigation comments can only be relatively limited and comparative. Specifically, 8 is unlikely to represent a topsoil; especially when considered with 1 and 2, the organic status would seem to reflect rather the 'humic' variation with depth and the effects of (wetter) conditions in a depression. 6 and 7 appear to be basically similar but in their present state the samples do not firmly indicate whether disturbance in 6 is artificial or natural; on the whole the latter (an A<sub>2</sub> horizon?) seems more likely.'

The table offers little evidence on the nature of the filling of feature 14, but the presence of daub is confirmed, corroborating the impression gained on the site that the ditch may have been open at the time of demolition of the house. From the evidence available the suggested interpretation of the 'weathered natural' seems less likely.

#### BURNT CLAY

All the burnt clay 'daub' fragments from the house and adjacent areas which were strong enough to lift were submitted to Mr Biek. Care was taken to present the less well fired with the better and the series is probably fairly complete. Mr Biek reports:

'Altogether 45 groups of material weighing 27 lb., nearly all containing many individual fragments and about a quarter comprising specimens of more than one type, were submitted for examination. This was carried out in the main visually, under low power magnification, supplemented in isolated cases by microscopy at about  $\times 50$ , and some microchemical tests. No X-rays

<sup>1</sup> E.g. Farnham, Surrey, *P.P.S.* v (1939), p. 85, no. 3, etc.

were taken (as e.g. for the material from Chew Valley Lake,<sup>1</sup> Maxey<sup>2</sup> and other sites) because visual comparison, both internally and with type specimens from other sites, suggested this would be unnecessary.

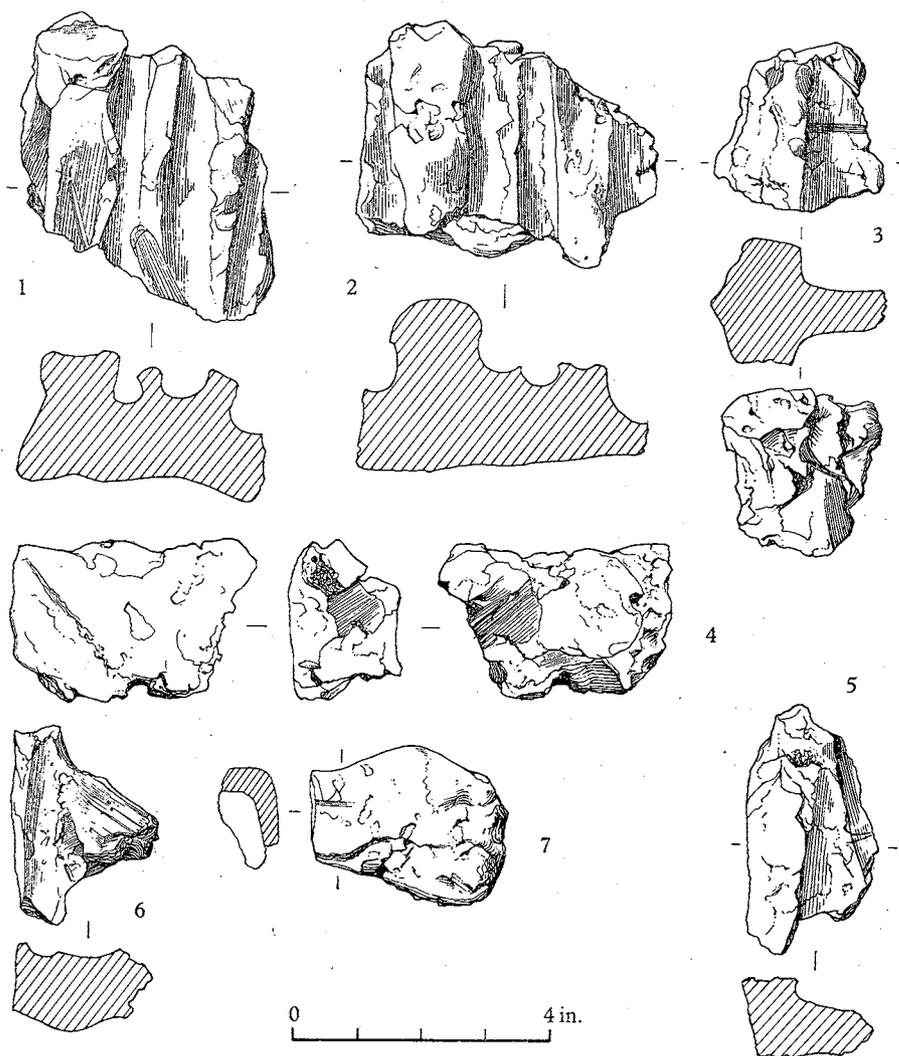


Fig. 10. Eaton Socon: burnt clay fragments, apparently burnt daub. Nos. 1-6, type A; no. 7, type E. Scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

This is by far the largest, most complete and homogeneous collection yet examined in this Laboratory. It is particularly valuable in providing both comparatively large pieces and statistically valid evidence. This makes possible a more complete technical evaluation than has hitherto been encountered. Numerous wattle impressions consistently indicate (*a*) an average diameter of  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$  in., both extremes often found side by side (Fig. 10, nos. 1 and 2 from the main daub

<sup>1</sup> Rahtz and Greenfield, *Chew Valley Lake* (H.M.S.O.), forthcoming.

<sup>2</sup> *Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), p. 65.

spread in F3) as well as smaller sizes; (b) slightly rounded right angles as if formed against "square-sectioned" beams or posts (Fig. 10, no. 3, from a deposit disturbed by rabbits in D6); (c) "sharp" right angles, both "positive" and "negative" (only one of each: Fig. 10, nos. 4 and 5, from the topsoil in the Tebbutt excavation); and (d) a possible multi-surface "junction" fragment (Fig. 10, no. 6, from feature 1, ditch cutting through the building). Such impressions invariably occur in material (type A) which constitutes over four fifths of the total. This is often variable within a single piece, ranging from pale pink, or even creamy, to buff oxidized fired clay, with grey and occasional darker reduced fired patches, and contains a variety of (mainly small) inclusions of chalk, flint, pebbles and ironstone. The material clearly provides a wholly homogeneous collection with a hard and compact texture which makes all impressions clear and reliable.

Three other types were distinguished in minor quantities: Type B, though still variable, gave a more uniform overall impression of smaller pieces and a deeper pink; appeared to contain more and whiter inclusions; showed greater evidence of cracking; and seemed less firm. No large or significant impressions were noted, though a very few pieces had small areas of one flat surface (e.g. from D4, layer 4; from the silty layer around feature 8; and from feature 16 in D3, a pit later than the ditch cutting the house). Type C, represented by only four small fragments, three from one group (D4, layer 4, silty layer around feature 8) and the other from D3, layers 5-7 (layer 5 is the daub spread), carried what appeared to be (flat) white plastered surfaces on one side, backing on to a type A base. Type D occurred in only one group (D4, layer 6, weathered natural) and was not unlike type B but almost white in colour and permeated with calcium carbonate, probably chalk.<sup>1</sup>

A fifth type of material (E), present in small quantities in five groups, may represent a different activity. It is red, sandy and largely amorphous, occurring mainly in small fragments. The only substantial piece (Fig. 10, no. 7, from D7, feature 14, ditch) suggests, however, a deliberately smoothed as well as shaped section, such as might possibly be part of a specialized hearth or even a smelting furnace. The material appears to be capable of withstanding a higher temperature than the other types though there is no clear evidence of this having been reached, or of any slagging.

Six of the post-hole fillings (nos. 12, 59, 64, 83, 84 and 86) contained material (type F) which did not appear to have been burnt at all, being greenish-brown and friable with a porous and crumbly texture, in association with seemingly lightly burnt fragments of essentially the same type. These latter were intermediate between the unburnt material and type B, suggesting that there may be a connection between them. It might appear that specialized conditions in post-holes might have produced the vesicular appearance peculiar to this type; on the other hand, in most other post-hole fillings, as e.g. in no. 35, which contained substantial pieces of true type B, one or other of all types was present in a "normal" state, and one would have to look for conditions special to the six post-holes to provide a finer explanation.<sup>2</sup>

About half the occurrences of type B are in the same groups as type A; although there is no direct evidence of transition on any single piece there is none, either, against the simultaneous presence of both types in closely adjacent areas. The smaller pieces in the post-holes are usually of type B presumably because they would have been more easily broken and dissipated, but type A also occurs. In nearly all cases, type B was found in features (apart from the post-holes, in features 1, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 16); the exceptions are D4, layers 2 and 6; and D6, layer 2, but other layers in these areas are associated with features. Conversely, type A occurs alone only once in a feature (F1), but in the same feature in the adjacent grid type B occurs alone. A common characteristic of all types, including E, is the presence of substantial amounts of (calcium)

<sup>1</sup> This, coming from the 'weathered natural', and therefore earlier than the main conflagration, may be from a different source altogether—P.V.A.

<sup>2</sup> Nos. 12, 83, 84 and 86 are close together in the north-east corner, amongst the greatest concentration of daub, and, curiously in the circumstances, near the areas of scorched soil—P.V.A.

carbonate throughout the matrix. Voids and impressions due to included organic material such as "grasses" and other plant debris were also noted throughout, but especially in types A and B.

The general picture suggested by the evidence as a whole is that type A represents outer or near-outer surfaces, more efficiently compacted and fired to a higher temperature; type B the more friable and less fired inner portions; type C, "decorated" surfaces possibly from isolated areas; type D, possibly not part of the construction, perhaps residues from "plastering"? All this material seems more likely to have originated from the Boulder Clay rather than Oxford Clay deposits, and sandy pockets in the Boulder Clay may have provided type E, though it seems probable that some deliberate preparation was (also?) involved.'

#### METAL OBJECTS

##### *Iron* (Fig. 11, nos. 3-16)

The pins 3 and 4, the latter probably incomplete, are of a type found at the Middle Saxon settlement at Maxey, Northants,<sup>1</sup> and at local Late Saxon settlements; when complete the lengths are remarkably uniform. The three knives 5-7 are again of common Saxon types,<sup>2</sup> no. 6 having the characteristic groove along the back on both sides of the blade. There are no examples of the type with angled back, nor of the Viking type with long tang, both of which have been found locally in Saxon settlements. No. 8, part of a horseshoe, is of the wavy-edged type with long oval countersunk nail holes, normally attributed to the twelfth century,<sup>3</sup> which could well be its date here; it was found in the main filling of the castle moat, near the pottery (Fig. 9, nos. 59 and 60).

Of the nails, two, 9 and 10, were of the fiddle-key type used in horseshoes of the type of no. 8, though the second example seems somewhat large. They presumably have the same date-range as the horseshoe. No. 11 may be a wood nail, and has fellows from the contemporary St Neots settlement;<sup>4</sup> the skew-headed nail 12 is of a type occurring throughout the Saxon period.<sup>5</sup> Both may have specialized uses, the former perhaps in timber construction. The two square-sectioned curved bars 13 and 14 cannot be identified, but may be parts of chain-links; they are also recurrent finds on contemporary local settlements.<sup>6</sup> The round-sectioned bar 15, though ostensibly from the weathered natural, may be a displaced surface find since by comparison with other objects it could be modern. The bow-shaped object 16 is reconstructed as a handle with perforated attachment plates at either end on the basis of an object from St Neots.

The objects were submitted to the Ancient Monuments Laboratory for routine X-ray and examination, and Mr Biek makes the following observations:

'In the surface of the corrosion products of the knife 5 (A.M. No. 620661) were traces of burnt and unburnt vegetable debris, and (presumed cold) ash, suggesting it perhaps came from a rubbish deposit.<sup>7</sup> The concavity in the edge of the knife 6 (A.M. No. 620659) may be due to wear. There is copious vegetable debris round the head of the fiddle-key nail 10 (A.M. No. 620671) but probably from burial with woody or plant residues. The nail 12 (A.M. No. 620669) with skewed head comes from an ashy environment, while 11 (A.M. No. 620665) has corrosion products containing fragments of charcoal and other 'slaggy' burnt material, but the object itself was almost certainly not burnt.'

<sup>1</sup> *Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), p. 61, nos. 15-17.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 60, with summary of other occurrences.

<sup>3</sup> *Lond. Mus. Med. Cat.* pp. 112-15.

<sup>4</sup> To be published in Part III of this series. Cf. also the Logic Lane Oxford example, *Oxon.* xxvi/xxvii (1961/2), p. 59, no. 9.

<sup>5</sup> *Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), p. 61, no. 8.

<sup>6</sup> Little Paxton; Maxey; and also Oxford (Logic Lane), *loc. cit.* (n. 4), no. 7.

<sup>7</sup> It in fact came from below burnt daub, etc., and the burnt and unburnt vegetable debris might be grass or possibly thatch—P.V.A.



with small ring-and-dots. The object is much damaged, making the pattern difficult to interpret. Mr D. M. Wilson kindly comments that 'the strap-end belongs to a small class of tenth/eleventh-century objects, with elaborate examples from London and Ixworth,<sup>1</sup> and less glorious ones from Thetford. It is typical of the late phase of Anglo-Saxon metalwork and shows what appears (from the drawing) to be a degenerate acanthus ornament.' Mr Biek reports on a technical examination in the Ancient Monuments Laboratory:

'A.M. No. 620656: Strap end. Fragment consisting of two thicknesses of plate along nearly half its length; presumed to have been forged from a strip bent double all along but united into a single thickness except for the split left at one end to take the ?strap. The metal is thicker, appears heavier and more malleable than in A.M. No. 620655 (No. 18) and may contain some lead. Small areas of fibrous residue were detected in the corrosion products around the split end, but no significant alignment was visible and no suggestion beyond "possibly vegetable", perhaps from grasses, is justified at this stage. Clearance of the space in the split produced no obviously valuable residue except for one small, coherent lump from the area of one of the two (empty) rivet holes. This would suggest, taken with the evidence on the edges of the hole itself, that the rivet might possibly have been of iron. No "leather" residues (cf. 620655) were noted.'

The object came from D4, the interface of layers 3 and 4. The upper of these layers contained daub, the lower was silty, and both dipped into the pit feature 8. The object was probably lost or discarded about the time of destruction of the house, which from other evidence seems possibly to have been during the later eleventh century. The bone comb (22) came from the same deposit.

18. Buckle plate and fragment of iron buckle: buckle plate formed from a bent-over copper alloy strip with four rivet-holes, three containing copper alloy rivets, and decorated with ring-and-dot ornament on one side, disposed in a circle incorporating two of the rivet-holes, with a larger ring-and-dot at the centre. Ring-and-dot is a popular Anglo-Saxon motif, but the object probably dates to the eleventh-early twelfth century, since buckles, as opposed to strap-ends, are rare in Late Saxon contexts. The deposit in which it was found, D6, layer 3, contains pottery which could be of this date. Mr Biek observes from X-ray examination (A.M. No. 620655) that 'part of the iron buckle remains in the fold, and that there are almost certainly deliberate cut-aways at the corners of the plate to allow firm seating of the buckle. In view of the present shape of the buckle remnant it would seem impossible for the buckle ever to have fitted without such corners, which, however, occur on one side only. Clearance and proximate microscopic examination of the material enclosed within the fold, in the space between the "two plates" of the fitting showed the presence of (a) pseudo-fibrous masses of rust-impregnated material containing sand grains; (b) unorganized fibres, probably vegetable (root?); and (c) distinct flat, black particles with curled edges such as have been noted in association with leather residues under comparable conditions.<sup>2</sup> The metal appeared to be a bright yellow alloy of copper, probably containing appreciable quantities of zinc, and possibly even a brass. The fitting was riveted unsymmetrically with two pairs of rivets, one pair through both "plates", and the other, of which one rivet is missing, only through one thickness of metal, but indicating an added thickness of the ?leather originally gripped.'

19. Buckle plate assembly: the drawings show the two components, buckle with forked end, and pair of riveted attachment plates, and their relationship when in position. The buckle part of the object is cast and filed down. The type is presumably to be referred to the 14th century.<sup>3</sup> The forked end of the buckle portion (A.M. Lab. report, A.M. No. 620658)

<sup>1</sup> *Ant. J.* XVIII (1938), pl. LXXIV.

<sup>2</sup> For determination of leather and textile residues in similar circumstances see *Oxon.* XXVI-XXVII (1961-2), pp. 168-9 (A.M. No. 8180). N.B. The Seacourt object is reminiscent of the present one in form, with similar cut-away corners on the under side, though having also a central hole for buckle prong.

<sup>3</sup> *Lond. Mus. Med. Cat.* pp. 267-8.

shows the characteristic taper section found on forked strap-ends, e.g. at Seacourt,<sup>1</sup> as well as ?solder residues, both from visual and X-ray evidence. No traces of fibrous material were seen as received.<sup>2</sup>

#### BONE OBJECTS (Fig. 11, nos. 20-2)

20. Pin with triangular perforated head (conceivably though not certainly made from a pig's fibula).<sup>3</sup> Such pins occur on domestic sites throughout the Saxon period; contemporary ones come from other St Neots area sites (to be published) and from the eleventh-century assemblage at Clifford St, York,<sup>4</sup> as well as many continental sites.

21. ?threadpicker; also a type occurring throughout the Saxon period. A contemporary example comes from Oxford.<sup>5</sup>

22. Bone comb; part of single-sided three-piece comb with a straight bow, with convex outline to the upper edge, ornamented with incised diagonal and upright lines in groups. A typical Viking single comb. Comparable examples were found in the late tenth- to eleventh-century deposit at Clifford St, York;<sup>6</sup> the type is replaced after the twelfth century by the double-edged type. Found with tenth/eleventh-century strap-end 17 in D<sub>4</sub>, feature 8.

#### WOODEN OBJECTS (Fig. 12, nos. 1-4)

Four planks or fragments of planks were recovered from the lower part of the castle moat. Fig. 12, no. 1, was found *in situ* lining the moat; it was originally longer, and contained three dowel holes. No. 4 also contained dowel holes, one large and one small and 3 had a notch, perhaps the rider of a saddle-joint. The wood has been identified as beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) in each case. The dowel rod in no. 1 is alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). (Identifications kindly made by courtesy of Sir George Taylor, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.)

#### CHARCOALS

Charcoals recovered from the site will be discussed in the final report, in relation to other fuels and natural resources available to local sites.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The investigation was initiated by Mr C. F. Tebbutt, and his generosity in placing data and finds from his excavation at my disposal are here gratefully recorded, together with thanks for help in many ways throughout the excavation and during the preparation of the report. Grateful acknowledgement is made to the bodies and individuals who assisted the work; to the Ministry of Public Building and Works, who organized at short notice and financed the main excavation, and who have contributed to the cost of publication of this report; to the Queen's University of Belfast (Archaeology Department) and to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society for

<sup>1</sup> *Oxon.* xxvi/xxvii (1961-2), p. 168, no. 5 (A.M. No. 8181).

<sup>2</sup> The object was 'cleaned' during drawing, and should have been examined in this respect beforehand—P.V.A.

<sup>3</sup> Identifications kindly attempted by Miss J. E. King, British Museum (Natural History).

<sup>4</sup> *Archaeologia*, xcvi (1959), p. 85 and fig. 14.

<sup>5</sup> *Op. cit.* (n. 4), pp. 87-90 and fig. 16.

<sup>6</sup> *Oxon.* xxiii (1958), p. 73 and fig. 24. See also *Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc.* xxviii (1953), 50.

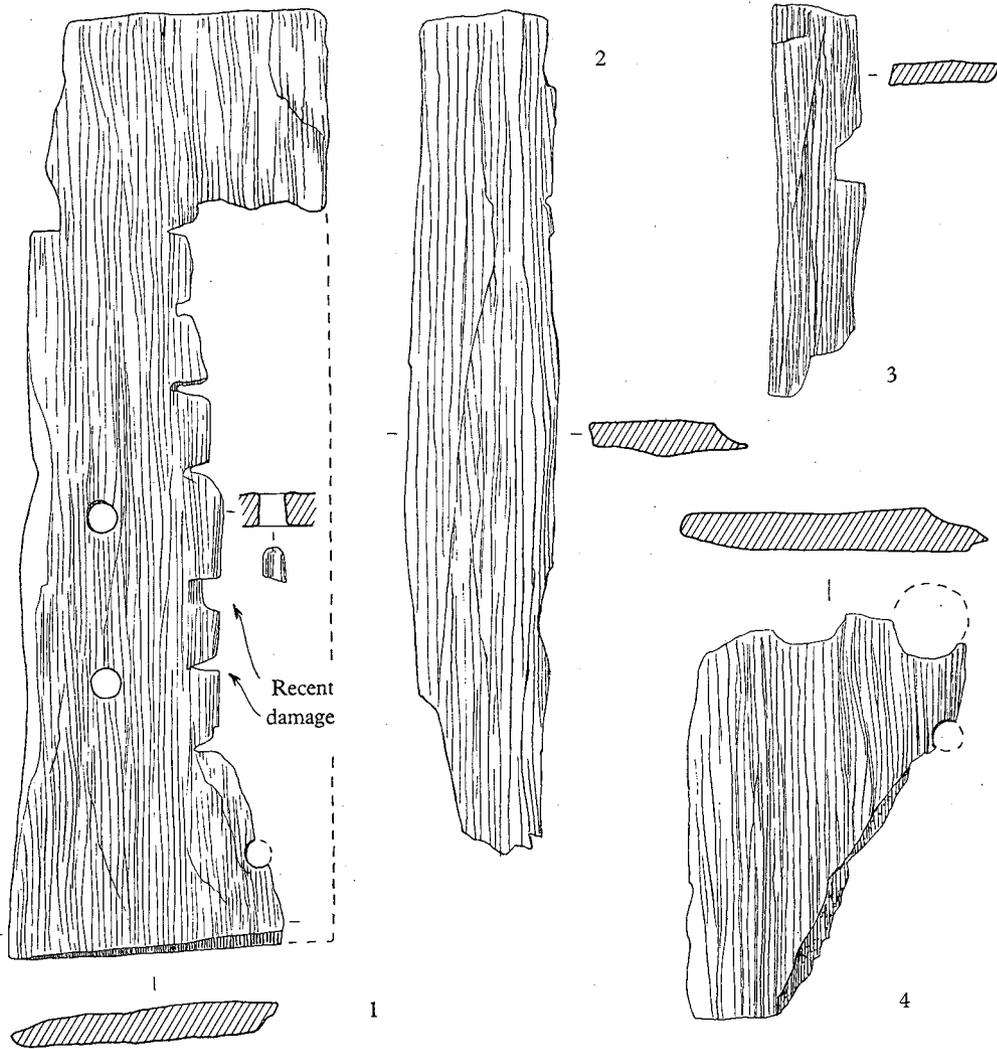


Fig. 12. Eaton Socon: wooden planks from the outer ditch of the castle (p. 48 and p. 68). All are beech. No. 1, which was extensively damaged by forking in excavation, has an alder dowel. Scale: nos. 2-4,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; no. 1,  $\frac{1}{8}$ .

financing the research excavation; and to the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Permission for excavation to take place was readily given by the builders, Messrs Robinson and Chapman, who provided every facility at some inconvenience, and by Mr D. Edwards, the owner of No. 13, Castle Hill Close. I am also indebted to Mrs A. W. McNish of Eaton Mills for permission for the research excavation to take place in the castle area.

Mr J. G. Hurst organized the excavation for the Ministry of Public Building and Works, and has helped in many ways throughout. Grateful thanks are also due to Professor E. M. Jope for his interest and advice, and for innumerable suggestions

during the preparations of the report; to Mr S. G. Rees-Jones, who acted as Assistant Director throughout the excavation; and to many volunteers who helped during both Mr Tebbutt's excavation and the Ministry's, among whom Mrs I. Aperghis, and Messrs Daines, Derrick, Gurney, Hailey, Rudd and Woodman all helped for extended periods. The small objects have been drawn by Mr D. S. Neal (except Fig. 11, no. 16); Miss H. A. H. MacDonald and Miss J. E. King and Sir George Taylor have provided specialist reports on these, and Mr L. Biek, as well as arranging for, and carrying out some of, the scientific investigations, has advised and helped throughout. To all these individuals, and many others not mentioned by name, very best thanks are due.

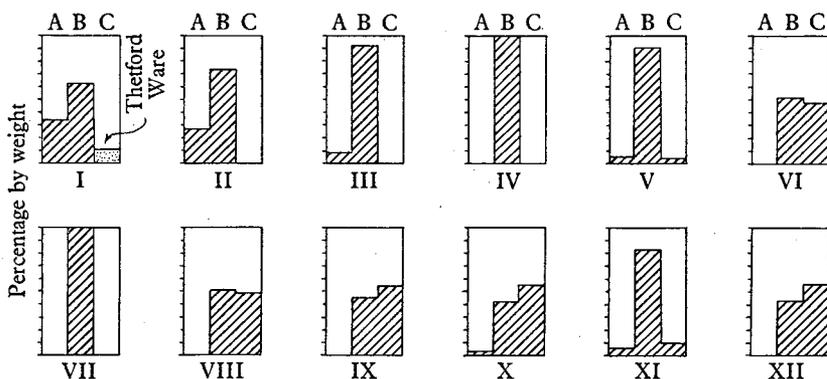


Fig. 13. Histograms showing the incidence of fabrics in various deposits of pottery at Eaton Socon. A: Hand made. B: Wheel-thrown shell-filled 'St Neots' types. C: Wheel-thrown sandy or gritty types.

## APPENDIX I

### POTTERY FROM THE 1949-50 EXCAVATION AT EATON SOCON CASTLE

The pottery recovered in 1949-50 from occupation layers in the southern ward of Castle Hills, and from the graves and destruction layer in the northern ward, is very fragmentary, and therefore was not published in detail at the time. Rims, bases and decorated sherds were, however, preserved in the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. It now seems worthwhile to illustrate (Fig. 14) and describe some of the pottery (with the kind permission and co-operation of the Museum authorities) as it extends the series obtained from the 1962 excavation. If the historical interpretation of the castle as a product of the civil war of 1140-4 is correct, the pottery from the occupation levels of the castle should date to the period around the middle of the twelfth century; though a prolonged occupation cannot be ruled out, it would not seem out of place as a group confined to this period. It is derived from five stratified layers in the southern ward (*Proc. C.A.S.* XLV (1952), p. 53, fig. 2, Ditch D (Group A, earliest); Clay Floor A (Group B); Zone E, 6 (Group C); Zone E, 5 (Group D); and Zone E, 'horizontal layer' (Group E, latest)). Of these the first four are regarded by the excavator as broadly contemporary.

In each of the five groups, as in the latest groups from the 1962 excavation, both shell-filled and sandy/gritty sherds occur in about equal proportions. Everted-rimmed cooking pots in

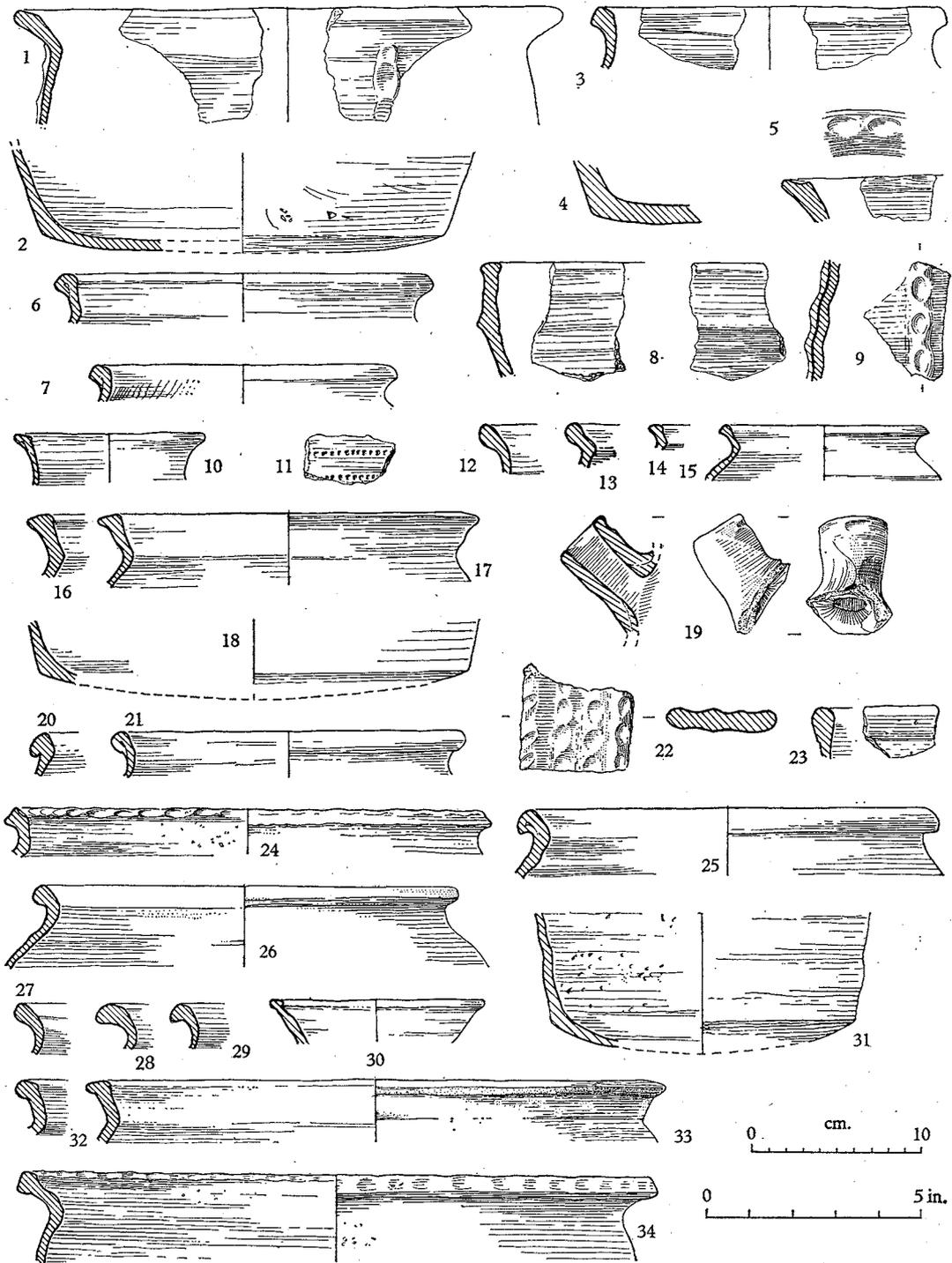


Fig. 14. Pottery from Eaton Socon castle (1949 excavations). Appendix I. 1-5, Group A; 6-10, Group B; 11-22, Group C; 23-31, Group D; 26-34, Group E. Scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

sandy/gritty fabric are a constant feature of the deposits (Fig. 14, nos. 1, 16, 17, and 32-3), the larger ones, perhaps fortuitously, coming from the upper layers. Of the shell-filled fabrics, most are fairly hard and harsh, and often bright pink, as were those of the later deposits of the 1962 site. Only Fig. 14, nos. 24 and 34, had any of the soapiness and softness of typical St Neots ware. These sherds and no. 5 interestingly showed finger moulding on the rim. This feature, absent in pottery from the earlier deposits, is perhaps in this area an indicator of twelfth-century date. Roulette decoration on jug fragments, occurring on no. 11, and on an unillustrated sherd from Group E, is a further innovation.

The upright-sided bowl, a type common in twelfth-century sites in the area (*Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1961), p. 87), is here represented by nos. 8 and 23. The tubular spout, no. 19, bears an impression apparently of a rim near its upper edge; it is perhaps from a spouted pitcher, as has been suggested by Professor Jope for an identical sherd from Oxford (*Oxon.* xvii/xviii (1952-3), p. 86, no. 36, compared by Jope to the Wedmore, Somerset, bowl, containing a hoard of c. A.D. 1042) or a bowl. The everted-rimmed cooking pot no. 1, with vertical finger-moulded applied strip, resembles in fabric and form vessels from later twelfth-century wells excavated at St Tibbs Row, Cambridge (*Proc. C.A.S.*, forthcoming), and is presumably a local type. Only one sherd was glazed, a minute fragment from Group C with a deep green glaze inside and out. It may well be intrusive.

Fig. 14, nos. 1, 2, 5, 9, 16-19, 23 and 32-4 are sandy or sandy/gritty in fabric, nos. 5, 16 and 19 being pinkish, the rest grey. The remainder are all to some extent shell-filled, and range in colour from bright pink (6, 10, 21, 30, 31) to grey (24, 34). In form nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12-15, 16-18, 20-1, 24-9, and 31-4 are cooking pots; nos. 5, 8, and 23 are bowls; nos. 10 and 31 are probably rims, no. 11 probably a body sherd, and no. 22 probably a strap-handle, all from jugs or pitchers. No. 9 may be part of a storage jar, or of a cooking pot of the type of no. 1.

## APPENDIX II

M. J. AITKEN AND G. H. WEAVER

Ten samples of red fired clay were detached from the hearth after marking on each sample its precise orientation with respect to true north and the horizontal. These were removed to the laboratory, and, after suitable storage to allow the effects of disturbance to subside, the direction of the remanent magnetization in each sample was measured. Subsequently the samples were heated to 100° C in a non-magnetic oven and allowed to cool in zero magnetic field: this procedure removes the unwanted 'viscous' component of the magnetization, leaving only the thermo-remanent magnetization which was acquired at the time of firing. The average values found for Declination (*D*) and Angle of Dip (*I*) were:

$$D = 21.7^\circ \text{ E} \quad I = 61.8^\circ$$

The individual directions spread from 15° E to 28° E in Declination and 55° to 68° in Angle of Dip. The Fisher index for the average value at the 80% level of confidence was calculated to be 1.8°. The average loss of intensity in thermal washing was 10% of the total intensity; the change in average declination was 2.9° E and there was a reduction of 0.7° in average Angle of Dip.

The directions found in individual samples were somewhat scattered, but we are confident that the true magnetic directions at the time of last firing were within two or three degrees of the values quoted. The scatter probably arises partly from the weakness of magnetization of the clay and partly from physical disturbance by trampling in antiquity subsequent to the last firing.

The magnetic result suggests that the hearth was last fired not more than half a century later than the Torksey Kiln I (M. W. Barley, report forthcoming) or the smelting hearths associated with the Stamford Co-operative Site (A. Burchard, report forthcoming). Fuller discussion will be found in the references listed below.

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TABLE I. *Soil samples*

Relative colour hue	Sample no.	Organic* matter (relative-lab.)	Field description	Laboratory description and report				Site ref. no.
				Daub	Stones	Sand	Charcoal	
Darker grey	1	Low	Very fine very black soil	.	.	.	.	F 14 (4)
Similar to 1	2	High	Even green-grey sandy silt	+	+	.	.	F 14 (6)
Black	3	.	Black (charcoal and ashes) from bottom of layer	(+)	.	.	+(?) (powdered)	F 14 (7) bottom
Grey-brown (matrix)	4	.	Similar, with daub, from top	+	+	.	+	F 14 (7) top
Yellow-brown	5	.	Yellowish grey soil with very occasional daub specks	.	.	.	.	F 14 (7)
Chocolate brown	6	.	Yellow-green silty; weathered or trodden natural?	.	+	+	Many dark, clayey streaks	D 7 (10)
Ferruginous	7	.	Bright yellow buttery clayey; assumed to be natural	.	+	+	Isolated dark root-holes? and spots similar to 6	D 7 (11)
Lighter grey	8	Medium	Fine grey-brown soil sealed by gravel layer; old topsoil?	+	.	(+)	+	D 7 (3)
Dark grey-brown	9	Very high	Modern topsoil	.	+	.	.	D 7 (1)

+ = Present.

\* From ignition test carried out by Mr E. S. Cripps as described in Biek, *Archaeology and the Microscope*, 1963, p. 223.



(a)



(b)

Eaton Socon. (a) Main building from the south on completion of excavation. The ditches F1 and F12 cut through the building.

(b) Main building from the north, showing the main post-holes within the structure.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Eaton Socon. (a) West side of the main building from the north, showing (foreground) the possible entrance. (b) Daub-spread, presumably fallen wall-cladding, inside the north-east corner of the main building. (c) Post-hole shown in cross-section, typical of those in the main buildings containing daub in their fillings. (d) Outer bank of the castle, showing hearth and floor below bank, bank layers (disturbed by rabbit-holes) and post-hole in top of bank.

# MEDIEVAL CAMBRIDGE: RECENT FINDS AND EXCAVATIONS

P. V. ADDYMAN AND MARTIN BIDDLE

THIS paper describes rescue excavations and the recording of archaeological material on building sites in the city of Cambridge in 1958-61. New information is presented on the development of late Saxon Cambridge, on the evidence for early occupation within and beyond the King's Ditch, and on the build-up in level in Cambridge in the medieval and early modern period. A remarkable series of wicker-lined pits is described, together with the pottery of the eleventh to eighteenth centuries discovered during the excavations.

## INTRODUCTION

### *Circumstances of excavation and record*

Between 1958 and 1961 much redevelopment was undertaken in the centre of Cambridge, disturbing and destroying in the digging of new and deeper basements archaeological deposits of the medieval and post-medieval town. Commercial excavation on most of the development sites (Fig. 1) was watched during this period, and, although observation could only be carried on during the University terms, when the writers were in residence, much information was recorded. In addition it was possible to excavate in advance of building on one site, the Cambridge Central Telephone Exchange (Post Office Terrace), and a trial excavation was undertaken in the threatened Lion Yard area.

We wish to thank the College authorities, the site owners and the contractors who allowed us to undertake this work; the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology for help in many ways; the Ministry of Public Building and Works for a grant towards the cost of the trial excavation in the Lion Yard area; Miss M. D. Cra'ster, Miss J. M. Palmer and Messrs L. H. Barfield, D. A. Roe and W. G. Simpson for placing their own observations of threatened sites at our disposal, and others who have helped, especially Dr G. H. S. Bushnell, Professor E. M. Jope, Mr L. Biek and Mr L. P. Morley. We are particularly grateful to those who have contributed specialist reports, which are acknowledged in the relevant parts of this paper.

### *Previous work*

Serious archaeological recording of the remains of medieval Cambridge revealed by building operations began with the work of Professor T. McKenny Hughes in the 1880's. The progress of this work has been discussed by Mr J. G. Hurst in these

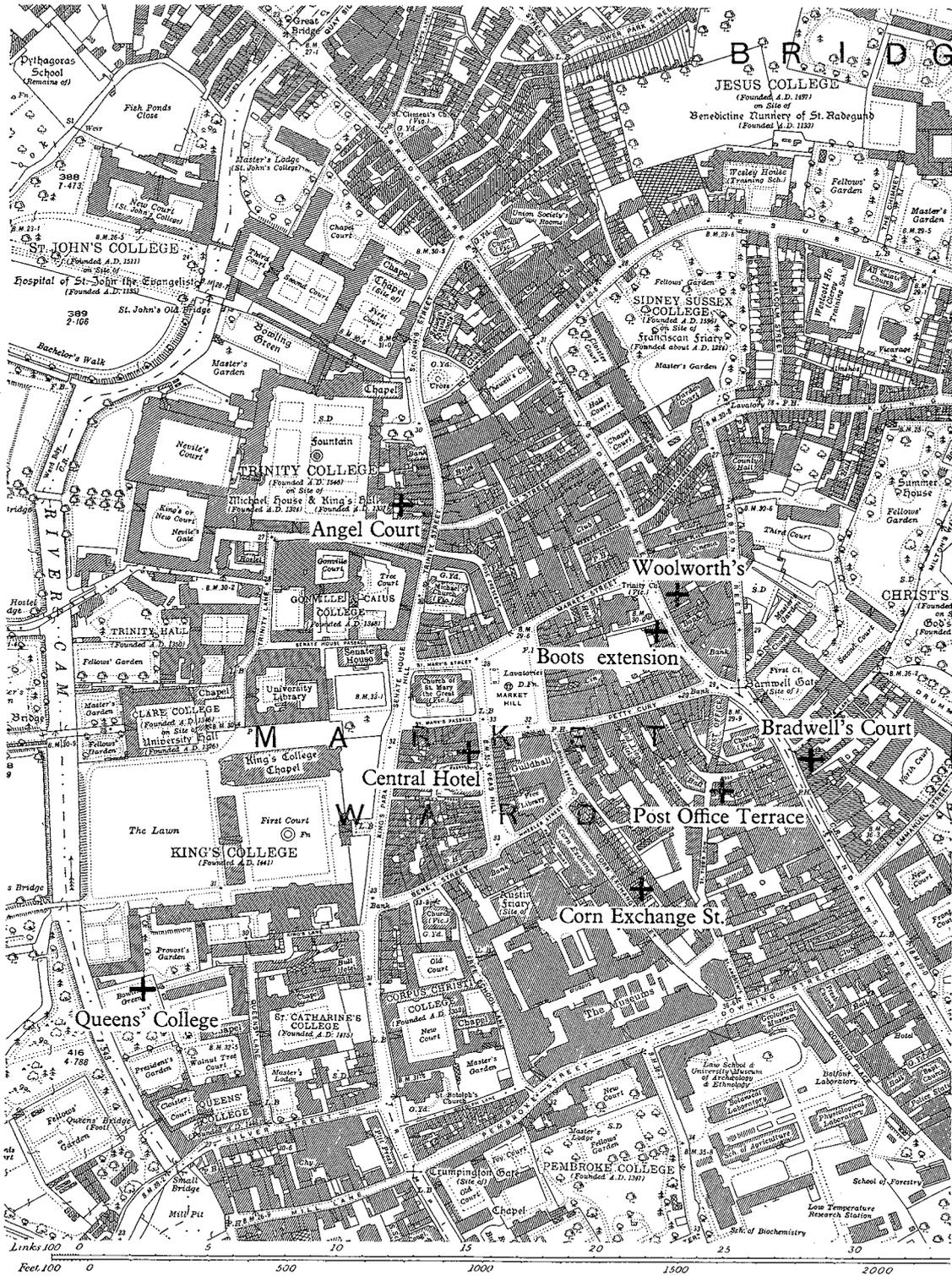


Fig. 1. Medieval sites in central Cambridge, 1958-61. (Reduced from the Ordnance Survey 25 in. plan, Cambs. XLVII. 2, by permission of the Director General.)

*Proceedings*,<sup>1</sup> where he emphasizes the small amount of recording done since Professor McKenny Hughes's work in the hey-day of late Victorian rebuilding. The work described in the present paper appears to come near the beginning of such another period of reconstruction. A large area behind the Union, between Round Church Street and Park Street, has recently been redeveloped with consequent deep excavation. In 1962-3 new public services were laid at great depth in Trumpington Street and Pembroke Street. In a few years the redevelopment of the largest single site ever to be rebuilt in the town in modern times—the Lion Yard—will destroy the archaeology of a large area within the King's Ditch. Its prior excavation on an adequate scale is imperative.

The progress of modern development in Cambridge will destroy more and more of the archaeology of the town. The constant observation and systematic recording of this work is necessary if any adequate picture of the development and topography of early medieval Cambridge is to be achieved. In very few English towns has this need been met, but the recording of medieval Oxford provides an example which Cambridge should follow.

#### PART I: EXCAVATION AND OBSERVATION

##### (1) *Angel Court, Trinity College*<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2)

During excavations for the construction of the north and east sides of Angel Court, Trinity College, in 1958, three pits were excavated and a number of unassociated finds recovered.

Pit 1, which was about 3 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. 6 in. deep, was sealed by 5 ft. 6 in. of later accumulation. The pit was of rounded profile and the filling of grey clay merged into a more silty dark fill towards the bottom. The pit contained a group of St Neots and Thetford type pottery probably datable to the later eleventh or early twelfth century (p. 110).

Pit 2 was dug into the top of the thick level of dark accumulation sealing Pit 1, and itself cut Pit 3, which though containing no datable material was dug from the same level. The filling of Pit 2 consisted of alternate layers of mortary rubble and black soil. It contained tiles, plaster and other building rubble, together with a group of pottery and other objects datable to the first half of the seventeenth century (p. 116).

The thick dark accumulation which sealed Pit 1, and into which Pit 2 was cut, appeared to contain no features and very few finds. It consisted basically of gravel mixed with dark brown loam and occasional bones and charcoal, and it was homogeneous throughout its depth of over 5 ft. This type of level has been observed elsewhere in Cambridge and is discussed below (p. 100).

The unassociated finds, collected from the contractor's spoil-heaps, seem to fall

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1956), pp. 49-50, see also p. 91 below.

<sup>2</sup> For the history of the site see *Angel Court*, a booklet prepared by Trinity on the occasion of the opening of the new court by the Queen Mother on 8 June 1960.

into three clearly defined groups, of the twelfth–thirteenth, fourteenth–fifteenth and sixteenth–eighteenth centuries respectively, which may have been derived from pits of these dates.

TRINITY COLLEGE: ANGEL COURT

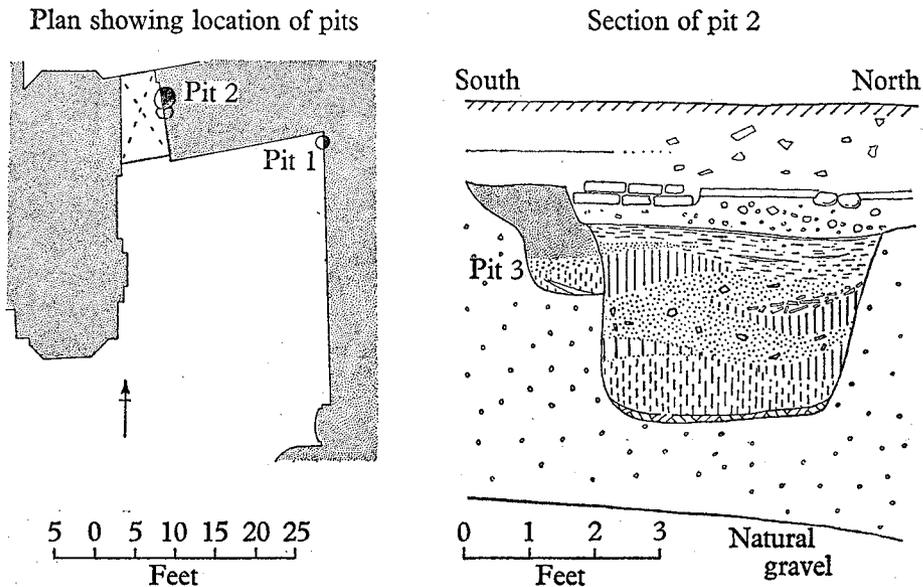


Fig. 2.

(2) *Corn Exchange Street* (Figs. 3 and 4; Pl. III)

In the summer of 1959 trial excavations were undertaken in the courtyard of nos. 14 and 15 Corn Exchange Street, to ascertain the nature of archaeological deposits likely to be destroyed in this area during the Lion Yard development scheme, which then seemed imminent. Public services and foundations limited the area available to a rectangle 10 ft. by 9 ft., which was excavated to a maximum depth of 14 ft.

Undisturbed gault lay at a depth of 10 ft. 9 in. and had been cut into by a broad shallow ditch running N.E.–S.W. across the trench (Fig. 3). The primary fill of mixed gravel and loam (Fig. 4, level 23) underlay a waterlogged layer of dark soil (level 22) containing a large amount of organic material. This included (Pl. III, B) planks, posts and wicker-work. Two of the posts had been driven into the natural gault and seemed to form part of a revetment of the south-east side of the ditch. The ditch had been filled in with a layer of clean blue clay (level 19), over 3 ft. thick, which sealed the underlying fill (Pl. III, A). The top of the clay was level, effectively obliterating the ditch.

The primary gravel fill was presumably derived from the natural gravel which here normally overlies the gault. The ditch would have been cut through the gravel and into the clay. The primary gravel fill was thus probably derived from higher up the sides of the ditch, the south-east edge of which was therefore not observed in this

narrow trench. The original width of the ditch may, however, be estimated at between 17 ft. and 20 ft. at the level of the top of the later clay filling.

The ditch is thus a major feature and it is interesting to note that it seems to run roughly parallel to the line of the King's Ditch somewhat to the south-east. The pottery from below the clay filling suggests that the ditch was open until at least the later thirteenth century.

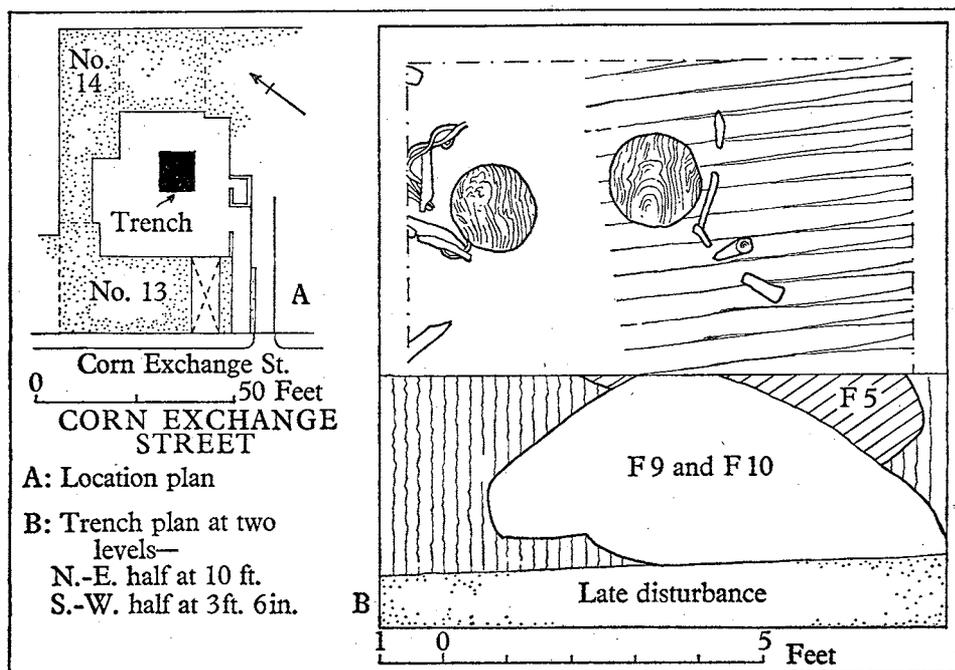


Fig. 3.

Overlying the filled-in ditch was a thick layer (level 17) of gravel and loam, increasing in fineness towards the top and covered by a layer (level 16) of fine garden soil. The pottery from the gravel and loam layer indicates a fourteenth-century date, while that from the garden soil seems to be of the sixteenth century.

Subsequently a number of pits (Pits 10, 11 and 13) were dug through the garden soil, which itself became overlain by an irregular level (15) of mixed earth, containing sixteenth-century and earlier pottery, presumably derived from the digging of these and other pits. Pits 10 and 13 contained sixteenth-century and possibly early seventeenth-century material and were themselves sealed by a white mortar layer through which a further three pits (Pits 5, 7 and 9)<sup>1</sup> and a post-hole (Feature 6) were cut. The latter, which may be as late as the eighteenth century, were in their turn sealed by a further level of garden soil, above which were two successive brick floors and other nineteenth-century features.

<sup>1</sup> In Fig. 3 the fillings of F9 and F10 are not differentiated.

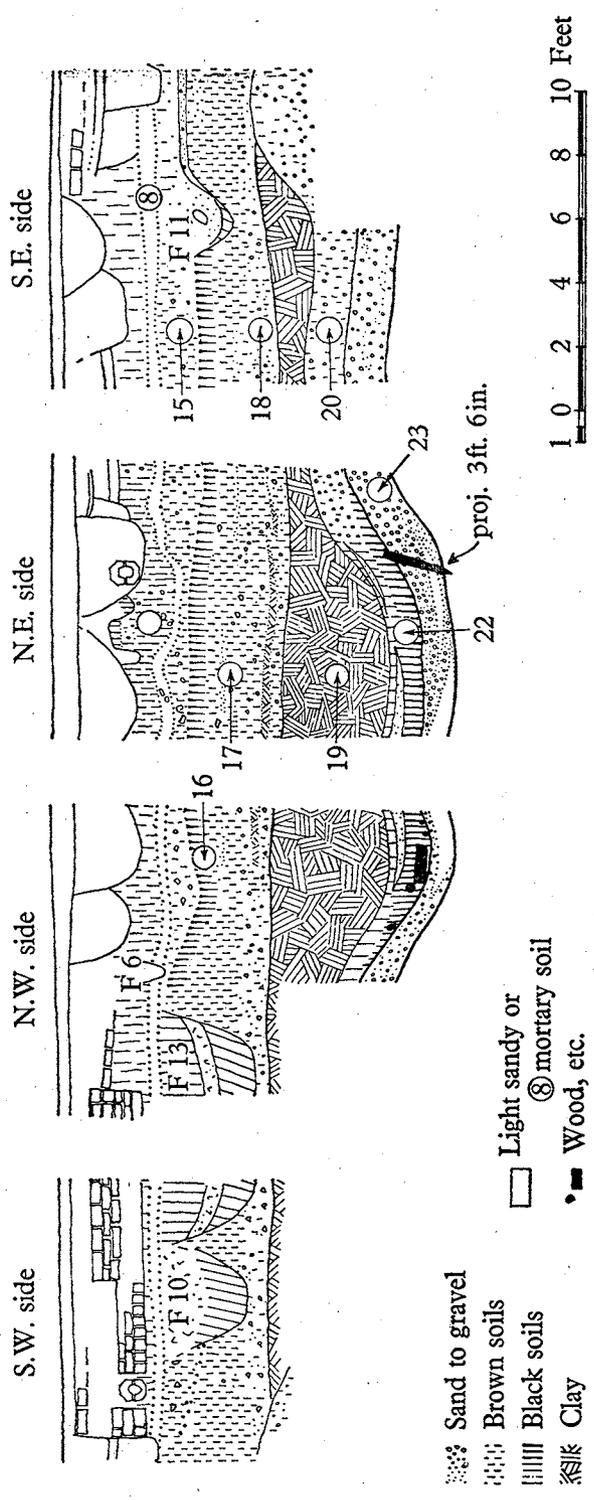


Fig. 4. Corn Exchange Street: sections.

The excavated evidence thus suggests that, since the filling of the early ditch, the area had remained open, perhaps as gardens behind the houses on Corn Exchange Street.

(3) *Bradwell's Court* (Figs. 5 and 6)

During the spring and summer of 1959 construction work was in progress on Bradwell's Court, a new shopping arcade between Christ's Lane and Emmanuel New Court. A grid of square stanchion holes was dug over much of the site, and a number of drain trenches cut into the superficial levels. From these some unstratified pottery was recovered and a few pits and other features observed. A large basement had been dug on the south-eastern part of the site before archaeological watching began, and much of the rest of the site was only very imprecisely recorded.<sup>1</sup>

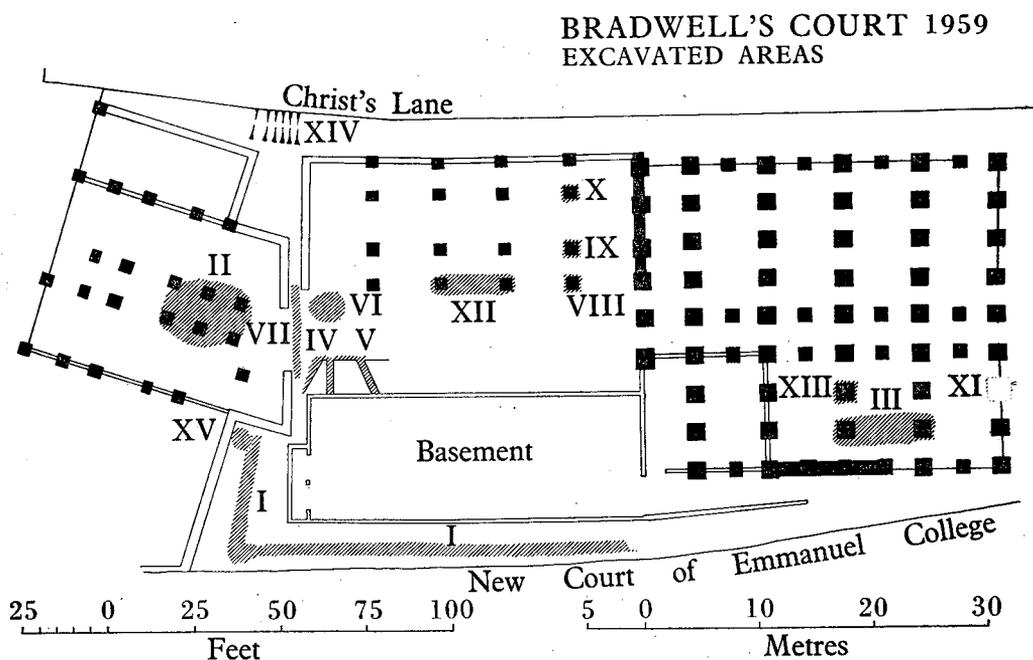


Fig. 5. The stanchion holes of the new buildings are shown in solid black, and the areas in which observations were made are hatched.

*Saxo-Norman*

A large hole (Area XIV) dug on the north side of the site against Christ's Lane revealed a broad shallow ditch about 10 ft. wide and 2 ft. 6 in. or more deep, running along the south side of Christ's Lane. It contained a few sherds of Saxo-Norman St Neots ware.

Approximately in the centre of the site a stanchion hole (Area VIII; see Fig. 6) showed a pit or ditch cut 2 ft. 9 in. into the natural gravel which here overlies the

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that three sherds of Roman pottery were found in Area X.

gault. The filling of the feature was of mixed gravel and earth which contained some Saxo-Norman pottery, including both St Neots and Thetford wares and some other sandy ware.

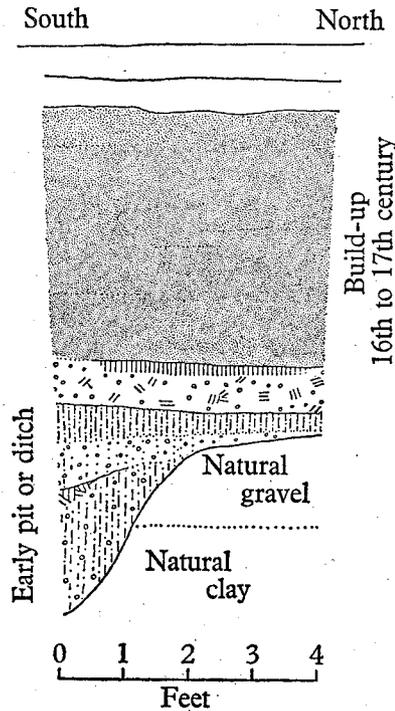


Fig. 6. Bradwell's Court: section of Area VIII.

*Thirteenth century*

In Area XII two pits were noted in two neighbouring stanchion holes. Pit 1 was circular, over 4 ft. in diameter, and had been cut from about 7 ft. below the modern surface to a total depth of 13 ft. 6 in. The pit was lined with wicker-work, some of which survived *in situ*. Similar wicker-lined pits were examined on the Post Office Terrace site (see below, p. 86), but at Bradwell's Court no construction pit was observed. The bottom of the pit was cut 4 ft. into the gault and was filled with water-logged black soil. The few sherds from the fill suggested a later thirteenth- or fourteenth-century date. There appeared to be a gully leading into this pit from the west, but this could have been an earlier feature.

Pit 2, west of Pit 1, was emptied by workmen and could not be properly examined. It contained part of a late thirteenth- or fourteenth-century pitcher of Oxford style (p. 113).

*Late medieval build-up*

In all the areas observed, a depth of up to 7 ft. of dark brown or black mixed gravel and loam covered a former soil line (Areas III, VIII (Fig. 6) and IX), earlier features or the undisturbed gravel. In Area II this build-up was sealed by a burnt level of

the second half of the seventeenth century (see below) and in Areas IV and V Pits 4 and 5 of the same period were cut into its top. The build-up itself contained pottery of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: in Area I, where the build-up was 4 ft. to 5 ft. in depth, a sherd of sixteenth-century stoneware was found 1 ft. 6 in. from its bottom, and in Area III a black tyg with straight sides and grooves was found almost on the old soil line, while a penny of Henry VI of 1427-30 was also found at some depth in this area.

These indications suggest that on the Bradwell's Court site a considerable build-up in level took place after the end of the medieval period and largely before the seventeenth century. The buildings of St Nicholas Hostel are shown on the site on Richard Lyne's plan of 1574, but by 1589 the Hostel had been demolished and its materials used for the construction of Emmanuel.<sup>1</sup> It may thus be that the build-up is in part due to the clearance of the area in the late sixteenth century. Immediately to the north a depth of only 2 ft. was noted along the St Andrew's Street frontage in 1895,<sup>2</sup> but to the south along the north edge of Downing Street, at its junction with St Andrew's Street, the ground appeared to have been raised some 5 or 6 ft. quite recently,<sup>3</sup> and to justify from the pottery in or after the seventeenth century.

#### *Seventeenth-century house and pits*

In Area II an 8 in. thick level of burnt debris and brick possibly indicated the site of a burnt-out brick house. This burnt level lay directly on top of the build-up already described, and the pottery and pipes it contained suggested a date of c. 1650-1700 for the occupation of the house.

In Area XV a circular pit (Pit 3) containing some late seventeenth-century pottery was cut into the underlying build-up.

In Areas IV and V two pits were cut into the top of the earlier build-up and sealed by tightly packed chalk rubble, part of the make-up for an eighteenth- or nineteenth-century brick building. Pit 4 had been lined with at least seven courses of brick which on the north side were underpinned by further courses of flint. This feature, which was perhaps a cess-pit, contained a group of pottery of the second half of the seventeenth century (Fig. 18). Pit 5, to the east of Pit 4, was filled with very loose rubble and contained a group of pottery similar to that from Pit 4 (Fig. 18).

#### *St Andrew's Street*

A sewer trench cut across St Andrew's Street, west of Bradwell's Court, showed an earlier road-surface of cobbles and smaller stones, with a ditch, perhaps a road-ditch, on its east side. Earlier than the road and ditch was a larger but undated cutting, perhaps also a ditch running along the side of an earlier street.

<sup>1</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M., 1959), I, p. 62a.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* XI (1903-6), p. 408.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 425.

(4) *Sidney Street* (Figs. 7 and 8)

In 1959 during the construction of an extension for Boots Chemists, immediately south of Holy Trinity Church, a large area was totally excavated by machine deep into the natural gravel, which here seemed thicker than normal. At the same time observations were also made during the construction of a southwards extension for Woolworth's on the east side of Sidney Street.

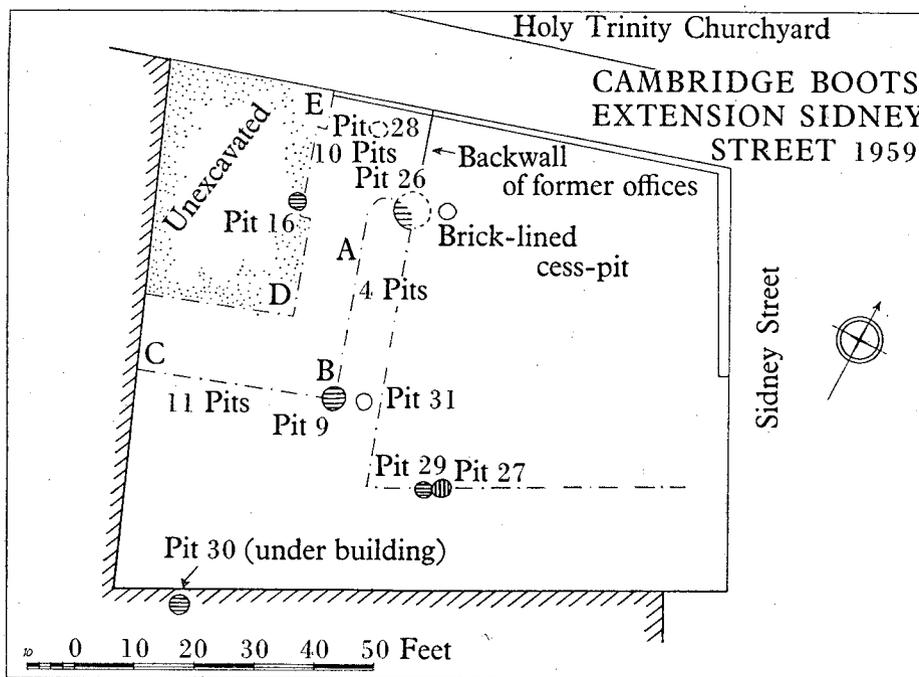


Fig. 7.

BOOTS EXTENSION

*Saxo-Norman pits*

Four pits (Pits 26, 27, 29 and 31), all circular and about 4 ft. in diameter, were found cutting into the gravel and proved on partial excavation to contain Saxo-Norman pottery (Fig. 14), animal bones and other finds. The alternating fills of gravel and black soil, together with the domestic debris, suggest that they were rubbish pits. Further finds of Saxo-Norman pottery were recovered elsewhere on the site during the contractor's excavation.

*Medieval and post-medieval build-up*

The mechanics of the medieval and post-medieval build-up in this part of Cambridge were clearly demonstrated in the extended section A-B-C (Fig. 8), observed in the contractor's excavation of the site. Of the fifteen intercutting pits, most were

undated; they were overlain by two levels of garden soil, to a total depth of 3 ft., containing post-medieval material. In section D-E (not illustrated) these upper levels were in turn cut by a late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century pit (Pit 16). The sequence of events may be tabulated as follows:

Phase 1	Pits 3, 6, 11, 14 and 15
Phase 2	Pit 1
Phase 3	Pits 2, 7 and 12
Phase 4	Pit 4
Phase 5	Pits 5, 8, 9 and 10
Phase 4 or 5	Pit 13
Phase 6	Lower garden soil
Phase 7	Upper garden soil
Phase 8	Pits 16 and 17 (section D-E)
Phase 9	Nineteenth-century features and modern concrete

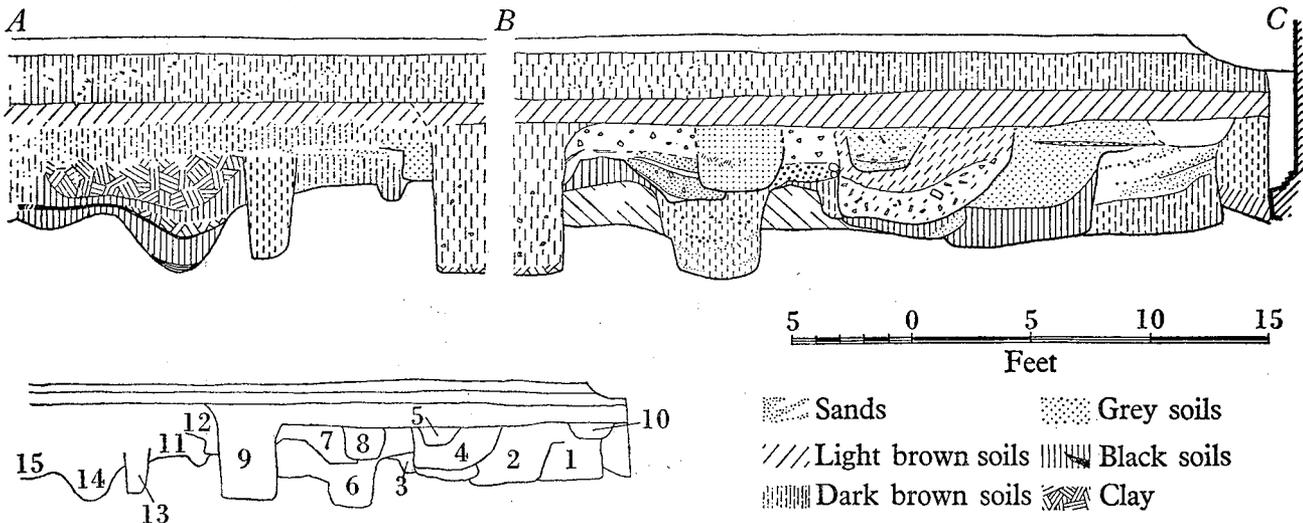


Fig. 8. Boots Extension, Sidney Street: sections A-B and B-C.

A few sherds from Pit 14 suggest a fourteenth-century date and others from Pit 9 were late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. Other than these and the late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century material (Fig. 19) from Pit 16, there was no dating material from the section. Most of the pit digging seems thus to have taken place between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, while the subsequent garden levels had already formed when Pit 16 was dug into them in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century.

This section shows that pits have been repeatedly dug and refilled with rubbish and other introduced material, and suggests that the build-up in level over the natural gravel is here due to this process: spoil from digging the pits was presumably not removed from the area, but was simply dumped around, while the pits themselves

were filled with fresh material introduced from elsewhere. The lower garden soil presumably represents cultivation of the upper part of this build-up, but the upper garden soil seems to have been introduced from outside.

#### WOOLWORTH'S EXTENSION

These extensions involved excavation in three limited areas. About 30 ft. back from the street frontage, a deep trench revealed at a depth of about 8 ft. a thick deposit of peat containing a large number of flints, some fire-crackled, and a sherd of twelfth- to thirteenth-century pottery. A layer of sand covering this peat was probably deposited in slow-flowing water, and a ditch is perhaps indicated.

In a deep trench at the rear of the site in Woolworth's pre-existing storehouse, about 30 ft. west of Hobson Street, a layer of dirty clay over 3 ft. thick was observed at a depth of 9 ft. The clay was covered with a filling, 8 ft. to 9 ft. thick, of bricks and other rubble. This trench would be approximately on the line of the ditch (Hunnybunn's Ditch) noted in earlier investigations<sup>1</sup> within the line of the King's Ditch.

#### (5) *Post Office Terrace* (Figs. 9 and 10; Pls. IV, V, A)

The sites of four nineteenth-century properties on the south side of Post Office Terrace, immediately east of the junction with St Tibb's Row, became available for excavation in 1959 in advance of the building of the new Cambridge Central Telephone Exchange. The buildings had been demolished some years previously and work was confined to the cellars. These had removed about 7 ft. of medieval and later accumulation, including in most places the upper part of the underlying gravel. A number of truncated pits, wells and gullies survived and were excavated (Fig. 9). Although not all the cellars were examined, no trace was seen of any north-south feature which might have been part of the King's Ditch which is known to pass close by the site, probably to the west on the line of St Tibb's Row.<sup>2</sup>

Several of the cellars contained a sequence of intercutting pits and other features, but these rarely contained datable material and seemed thus of little significance: their nature can be seen from the plan, Fig. 9. A few pits, however, were of interest either on account of their construction or of their contents.

Feature 2 contained a few sherds of eleventh- to twelfth-century date, but these must be residual, for the pits and gullies in the easternmost cellar, some cut by feature 2, are of the twelfth century or later. The remaining pits on the site were later, as far as can be judged from the pottery, which is described in detail below, pp. 107 ff. Features 3, 14, 18<sup>3</sup> and 24 appeared to be of late eleventh- to twelfth-century date; features 5, 19 and 28, twelfth or early thirteenth century; features 6 and 20, thirteenth century; feature 1, late thirteenth century; features 12 and 27, fourteenth to fifteenth century; and features 23 and 25 of the late fifteenth or more probably early sixteenth century.

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* VIII (1891-4), pp. 263-6.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Richard Lyne's plan of Cambridge, 1574; and John Hamond's of 1592.

<sup>3</sup> Feature 18 also contained two sherds possibly of Roman date.

Feature 1 was the only square pit observed on the site. It was set within a larger pit, feature 7, which had probably been dug to facilitate the construction of a wooden lining, decaying traces of which were noted in excavation. The upper filling consisted of alternate layers of sticky clay and brown granular material containing decayed wood; these levels, which must represent an intentional filling of the pit, sealed a layer of dark silty material.

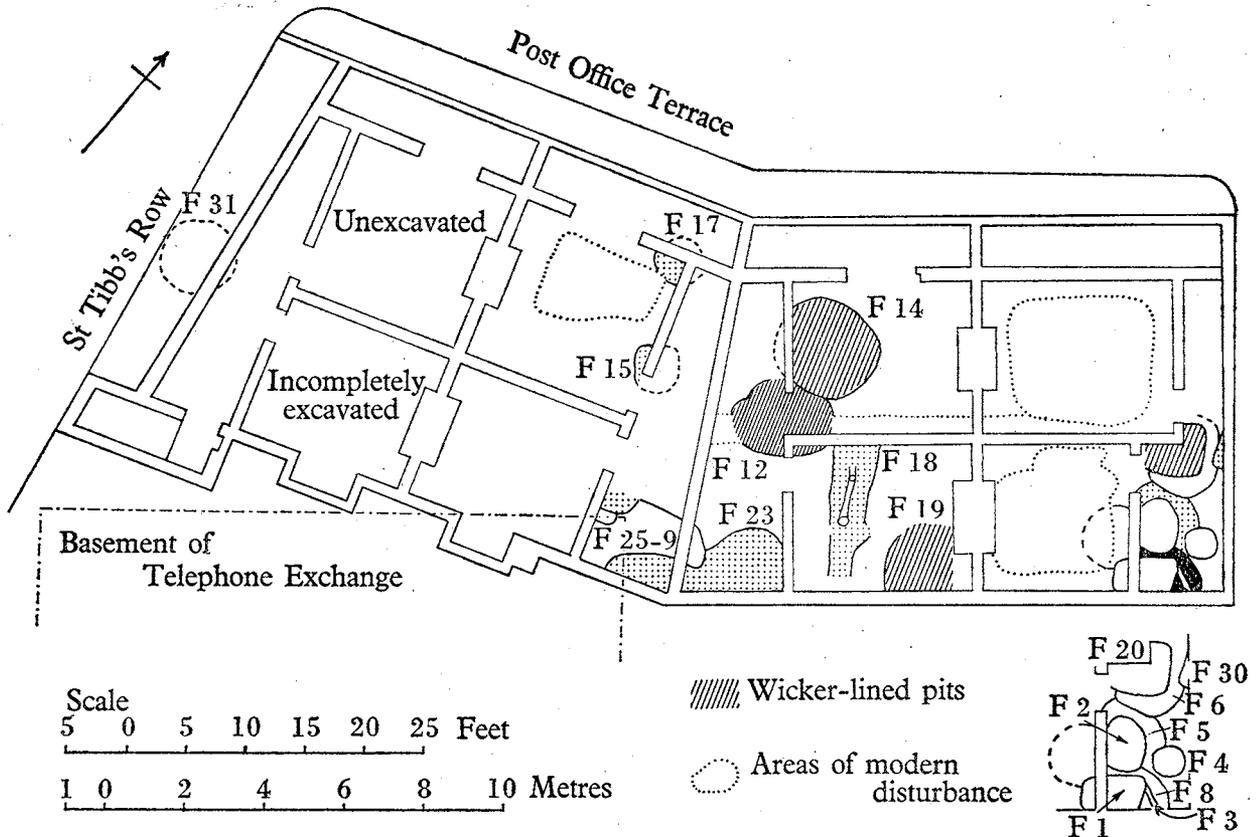


Fig. 9. Post Office Terrace, Central Telephone Exchange: plan of excavations in 1959-60.

Four other features consisted of circular funnel-shaped pits each containing a central wicker-lined shaft which had been preserved in good condition below the water-table (Fig. 10; Pls. IV, V, A). In each case the space between the wicker lining and the sides of the pit was back-filled after the lining had been inserted. In the case of feature 14 this wicker-work was reinforced by two horizontal oak planks (Pl. IV, B); and in feature 20 two re-used timbers served the same purpose. Each of these pits had been dug through the gravel to the underlying Blue Gault clay. The central shafts varied in diameter from 1 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft.

The vertical members of the wicker linings were sharpened stakes driven into the gault (Pl. IV, D). The horizontal members appeared to have been woven round the

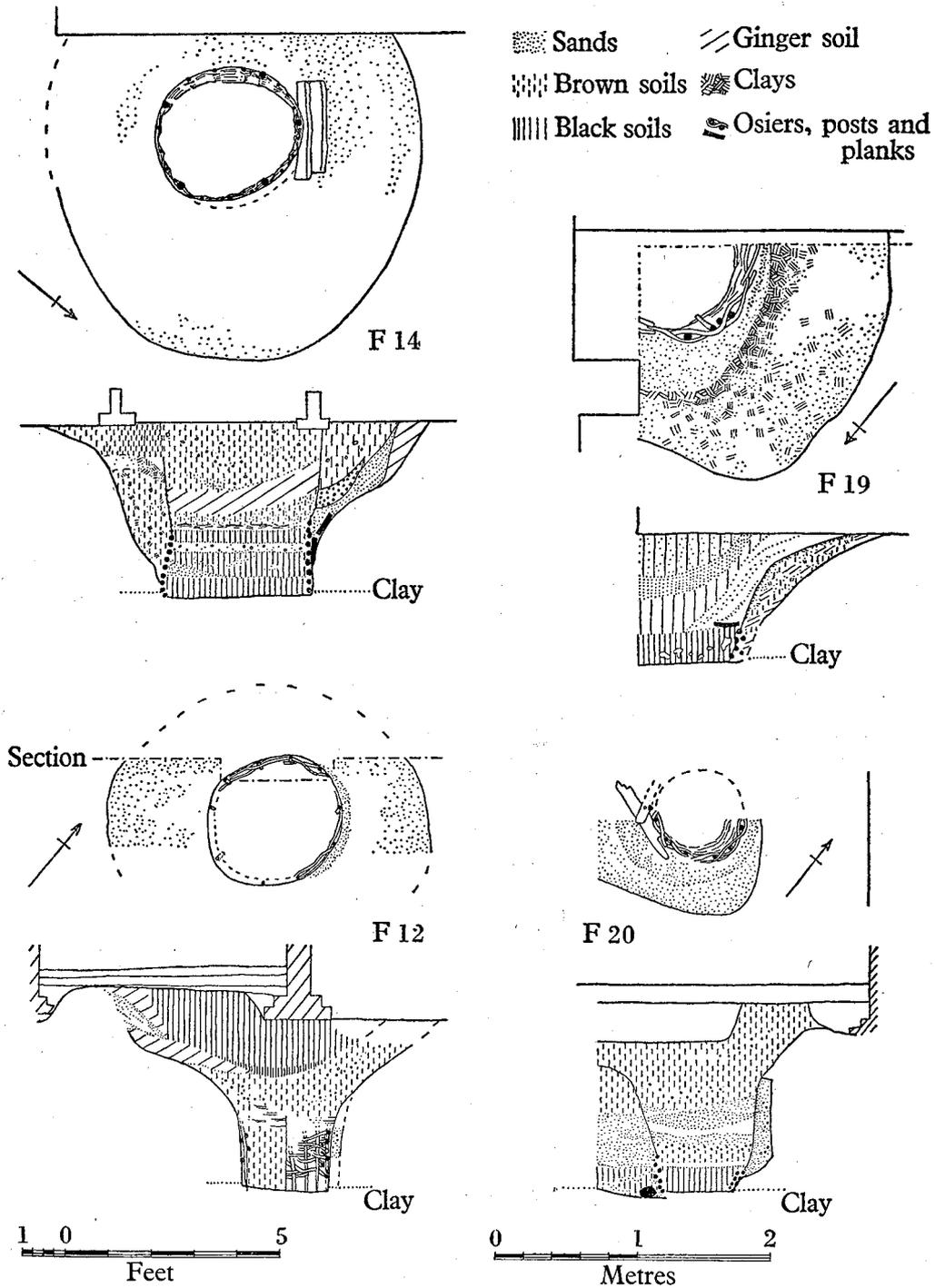


Fig. 10. Post Office Terrace: plans and sections of wicker-lined pits.

stakes *in situ*, and at least in the case of feature 14 the weaving was finely and cleanly executed (Pl. IV, A, C). Identification of the construction materials proved difficult, but both vertical and horizontal members were probably crab-apple.<sup>1</sup> In feature 19 the filling of the construction shaft had been faced with clay shown in the plan of this feature, Fig. 10.

These pits seem to date from the late eleventh–twelfth century through the fourteenth century, while a similar pit on the Bradwell's Court site appeared to be of late thirteenth–fourteenth-century date (above, p. 81).

That these pits had some special function is indicated by the care taken in their construction. The primary purpose of the wicker lining was to hold up unstable sides and preserve an open shaft, for an unlined pit dug in the gravel would soon collapse. A secondary function of the lining may have been to allow easy seepage into or out of the pit. If this is so, there seems little doubt that the structures were intended as wells, and, although an alternative interpretation as cess-pits is possible, there was no positive evidence for this. The filling of the shafts appeared to be partly domestic rubbish and partly collapse from the sides, rather than sewage. The latter interpretation would, however, seem possible for the square feature 1 with its very different and clearly intentional fill.

Wicker-lined pits are known in the British Isles from the Late Bronze Age<sup>2</sup> onwards, though they do not always have the function, as apparently here in wells, of holding back gravel sides but allowing easy percolation of water. Examples which do seem to have this function have been found from the medieval period in London,<sup>3</sup> and the type is also known on the continent.<sup>4</sup>

During the construction of the Telephone Exchange a large part of the area behind these four houses was excavated by machine down to the level of the gault: a number of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century pits were observed in the sides of the contractor's excavation.

#### (6) *Queens' College* (Fig. 11)

During the excavation in 1958–60 of trial pits and stanchion holes for the new building, burials and wall footings were recorded. Below the east end of the old wall put up by King's College in 1551,<sup>5</sup> now the north wall of the Fellows' Garden, was found a broader footing of which 20 ft. was recorded with a right-angled return to the south at its east end. This footing went down for 12 ft. below the 1551 wall.

<sup>1</sup> We are indebted to Dr A. G. Smith, Botany Department, Queen's University of Belfast, and Mr J. Dickson, Botany School, Cambridge, for these identifications and those on p. 124, below.

<sup>2</sup> Bronze Age: Ballinderry Crannog no. 2: *Proc. Roy. Irish Ac.* XLVII. C (1942), pl. v. Saxon: Sutton Courtenay: *Archaeologia*, XCII (1947), p. 81; Maxey: *Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), p. 40, fig. 10; Winchester: Cathedral Car Park, 1961.

<sup>3</sup> R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford (ed.), *Recent Archaeological Excavations in Britain* (1956), p. 119 and pls. xxii(b), xxiv(a).

<sup>4</sup> Lund, Sweden: R. Blomqvist and A. W. Mårtensson, *Thulegrävningen* 1961 (*Arch. Lundensia*, II, 1963), pp. 126–35, figs. 110, 111; A. W. Mårtensson 'Wells and their contents from the early middle ages in Lund', *Medd. från Lunds Universitets Historiska Museum* (1962–3), pp. 216–19, fig. 7.

<sup>5</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M., 1959), II, p. 178.

Further to the south were three parallel clunch footings, each 6 ft. wide and 10 ft. apart and going down 17 ft. Three or four burials were found 10 ft. south of the 1551 wall and another to the west of its southward return. A further burial was noted just to the north-west of the three parallel footings.

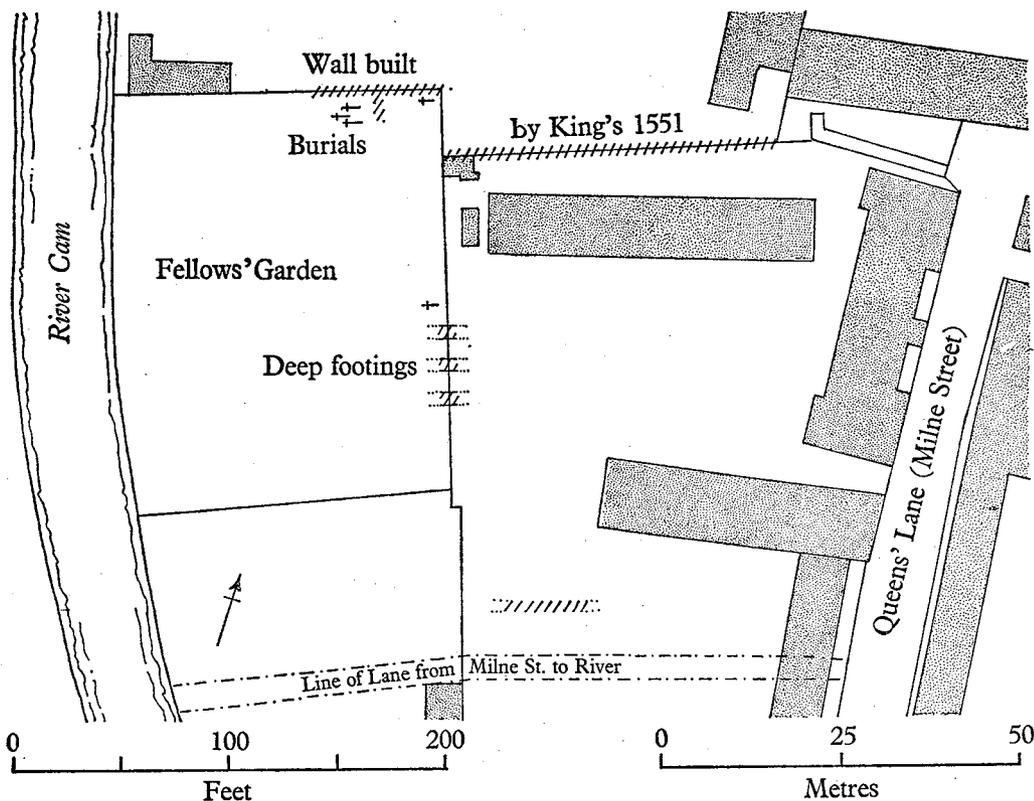


Fig. 11. Queens' College: plan of the area of the Carmelite Friary showing footings and burials found in the Fellows' Garden, 1958-60. Early walls and footings are hatched.

This area seems to have been the site of the Carmelite Friary established in *c.* 1292. The wall running east-west north of Friar's Building has been identified as the north wall of the friary church,<sup>1</sup> and the structures recorded in 1958-60 are thus likely to be part of the friary. The fragment below the King's wall of 1551 appears to have been west of the church, while the three footings to the south may have been part of the conventual buildings. The burials appear to have been west and south-west of the church.

(7) *Central Hotel*

Excavations for the basement of the new King's hostel on the site of the Central Hotel, Peas Hill, in 1961 revealed medieval walls on the line of the south-west and north-east ranges of the eighteenth-century hotel.<sup>2</sup> During demolition a sixteenth-

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.* p. 178.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 327.

or seventeenth-century timber-framed gable-end wall with combed pargetting was also observed standing to its full height on the line of the south wall of the north-east range. It is clear from this evidence that the brick front of 1727 concealed an almost complete earlier timber-framed house, quite probably on medieval foundations. Excavations along the north side of St Edward's Passage cut through four or five different gravel levels at a depth of from 3 ft. to 6 ft., presumably earlier metallings of the Passage. Elsewhere late Saxon and medieval pits were observed, but not excavated, although unstratified material, including a considerable quantity of Saxo-Norman pottery, was recovered.

## PART II: DISCUSSION

### (1) *Late Saxon Cambridge* (Figs. 12 and 13)

In 1933 Miss Helen Cam read to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society a paper that is a milestone in the study of urban archaeology in this country. Her paper, 'The Origin of the Borough of Cambridge: a Consideration of Professor Carl Stephenson's Theories',<sup>1</sup> made use, as never before, of a combination of documentary, topographical and archaeological evidence and was illustrated when published by two maps. Map 1, 'The archaeology of pre-Norman Cambridge', was essentially Sir Cyril Fox's map of the settlements and burials of the Pagan Saxon period as first published in 1923.<sup>2</sup> Map 2, 'Churches, ditches and watercourses', included, significantly,<sup>3</sup> finds of pottery made by Professor McKenny Hughes in 1891-1910 and thought to be of the Anglo-Saxon period.<sup>4</sup>

At the end of her paper Miss Cam indicated the directions which further work on the early history of Cambridge might take:

- (1) Investigation of the date at which the castle was taken out of the borough and attributed to Chesterton parish.
- (2) A search for some more exact evidence as to the dates of the foundation of the churches in cispontine (i.e. east of the Cam) Cambridge.
- (3) A re-investigation of evidence bearing on the old town ditches.
- (4) 'Above all', a closer dating of the pottery found in the ditches.

'I fear', she wrote, 'that only along the last line is there much hope of new knowledge.'

Even at the time she was writing that new knowledge was being obtained by Mr C. F. Tebbutt and Mr T. C. Lethbridge, but not until more than twenty years

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* xxxv (1933-4), pp. 33-53; reprinted in H. M. Cam, *Liberties and Communities in Medieval England* (1944).

<sup>2</sup> Cyril Fox, *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* (1923), map G.

<sup>3</sup> This is the earliest example known to the writers of a map designed to illuminate English medieval urban origins using all the available evidence, documentary, topographical and archaeological. It was followed in 1935 by the maps in R. E. M. Wheeler, *London and the Saxons*, but its possibilities were not fully exploited until the appearance in 1952 of E. M. Jope's maps of Norwich (*Norfolk Arch.* xxx (1952), p. 290, fig. 1) and Oxford (*Oxon.* xvii/xviii (1952-3), pp. 106-11, fig. 39), followed by D. M. Waterman's maps of York in 1959 (*Arch.* xcvi (1959), pp. 61-70, figs. 2-4).

<sup>4</sup> Owing to the work of Sir Cyril Fox, *P.P.S.E.A.* iv (1922-4), pp. 227-31.

after Miss Cam's paper was understanding of the Saxo-Norman pottery of East Anglia clarified by Mr J. G. Hurst in his three fundamental papers in these Proceedings.<sup>1</sup>

The other lines of inquiry suggested by Miss Cam have not been followed up, nor has there been any new research into the origins of Cambridge during the last thirty years.<sup>2</sup> In common with most other medieval English towns, though with far less excuse, the urban archaeology of Cambridge has been allowed to perish. As early as 1907 Professor McKenny Hughes pointed out the 'great importance' of recording archaeological evidence from building sites<sup>3</sup> and between 1880 and 1914 he watched about forty sites. In the forty years between then and Mr Hurst's work only about ten sites were watched and nothing about them published, except for two medieval jugs.<sup>4</sup> Mr Hurst's papers, and our map (Fig. 12), are firmly based upon McKenny Hughes's work. Without him neither of them could have been undertaken. Yet since his time, and still today, there is no organization and no systematic recording of the urban archaeology of Cambridge. Every site that is destroyed unwatched or unexcavated means that less will be known of the history of the city. Even if this pattern of neglect is true of most towns in England, there is no excuse whatever for it in Cambridge and steps should be taken at once to ensure that all future sites are watched, recorded and published.

In this situation the map (Fig. 12) attempts to present the evidence for eleventh-century Cambridge as so far known. There are many difficulties and uncertainties, in particular in the dates of churches, and in the pottery finds, which, although now certainly of the Saxo-Norman period, range in date between 850 and 1150.<sup>5</sup> To this extent the map is a palimpsest on which the activity of some 300 years has been drawn. In addition the immediate impact of the Norman Conquest on Saxon Cambridge is shown by the castle. Yet the attempt has seemed worth making: the form of the early area enclosed by the Cam and the King's and Cambridge ditches emerges; the importance of the southern settlement in relation to that north of the river is clearly demonstrated; and the extent of Saxo-Norman occupation west to the Cam and northwards even across the so-called green belt<sup>6</sup> to the Great Bridge, together with the beginnings of the suburbs outside the Trumpington and Barnwell Gates, are revealed. In the case of the suburbs there is now evidence for occupation at this period outside the line of the King's Ditch on the Bradwell's Court and Post Office Terrace sites. Until Saxo-Norman pottery can be dated more closely within the period 850-1150, and until the date of the King's Ditch is certainly established (see below, p. 93), it is not clear whether these finds represent areas of early occupation truncated by cutting a later ditch, or whether, as perhaps seems more likely, they result from later expansion beyond the line of an early ditch. Documentary evidence

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1956), pp. 43-70; L (1957), pp. 29-60; LI (1958), pp. 37-65.

<sup>2</sup> The accounts in *V.C.H. Cambridge*, III (1959), and *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), represent summaries of previous work rather than new research.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* XI (1903-6), p. 424.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* XLIX (1956), p. 49.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* LI (1958), pp. 62-3.

<sup>6</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), I, p. xlv; A. Gray, *The Dual Origin of the Town of Cambridge* (1908), pp. 1-2.

shows that the suburb outside the Barnwell Gate was in existence throughout the thirteenth century.<sup>1</sup> Archaeological evidence from the Bradwell's Court and Post Office Terrace sites now shows that there must have already been a suburb here by the late eleventh century (pp. 80, 85).

#### THE MAP OF LATE SAXON CAMBRIDGE: EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION (Fig. 12)

The map has been compiled on similar lines to those of Norwich and Oxford published by Professor E. M. Jope.<sup>2</sup> All the evidence of occupation, both archaeological and documentary, which can be precisely located, has been mapped.

#### *The physical background*

The contours have been taken from the Ordnance Survey 6 in. (50 ft. and 20 ft.) and 2½ in. (25 ft.) sheets; form lines (30 ft., 40 ft., 60 ft.) have been interpolated from the O.S. 25 in. plans (1926-7 edition). Within the area of the map the superficial geological deposits are mainly lower and intermediate terrace gravels, with the exception of the area of the Castle Hill which is a chalk and gault outcrop, and the alluvium which borders the Cam.<sup>3</sup>

The changes in the course of the Cam at Cambridge are of vital importance to an understanding of the form of the early town (see below, p. 98). The probable course shown here is that accepted by the Royal Commission and originally proposed by A. Gray, who suggested that the change to the present course took place after the erection of the mills above the Small Bridges.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Roman Cambridge*

The most recent survey of the evidence for the Roman settlement on Castle Hill, with a plan of the defences and references to earlier literature, is that given by the Royal Commission.<sup>5</sup> The Roman roads approaching the site are also described there<sup>6</sup>, and further details are taken from the Ordnance Survey *Map of Roman Britain* (3rd ed. 1956).

#### *Bridges*

The Great Bridge, which gave Cambridge its name, was in existence at least by 875, in which year the name Cambridge first occurs in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> H. P. Stokes, *Outside the Barnwell Gate* (C.A.S., 8vo. Publ. no. 47, 1915), pp. 9-14; *V.C.H. Cambs.* III, p. 110.

<sup>2</sup> See n. 3 on p. 90, above.

<sup>3</sup> H. C. Darby (ed.), *A Scientific Survey of the Cambridge District* (British Assoc. 1938), pp. 162-4; *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), I, plans on p. xlvi for the boundaries of the alluvium.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* p. xlvi, plan of 1280; A. Gray, 'On the Watercourse called Cambridge in Relation to the River Cam and Cambridge Castle', *Proc. C.A.S.* IX (1894-8), pp. 71, 74-7; A. Gray, *The Dual Origin of the Town of Cambridge* (1908), pp. 18-21, fig. between pp. 22 and 23.

<sup>5</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), I, pp. xxxvi-xxxix, 4-8, fig. p. 5.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 4-6.

<sup>7</sup> A. Gray, 'The Ford and Bridge of Cambridge', *Proc. C.A.S.* XIV (1909-10), pp. 126-39; *V.C.H. Cambridge*, III (1959), p. 2, n. 8, p. 114.

The small bridges at the south end of the town lie in St Botolph's parish, which here includes ground on both sides of the river. This is in itself remarkable, but the parish also drew tithes from the western fields and it is clear that connections across the river at this point are of early, and perhaps pre-conquest, origin. The bridges themselves are thus possibly of early date.<sup>1</sup>

### *The King's and Cambridge Ditches*

The course<sup>2</sup> of the King's Ditch has been shown on this map since the available evidence seems to indicate that it is of pre-conquest origin.<sup>3</sup> This conclusion appears to be supported if the King's Ditch is considered in relation to the Cambridge Ditch<sup>4</sup> north of the river. The latter was described in 1278 as 'vetus fossatum', but it appears to have been still navigable as far as St Giles Church during or even at the end of the thirteenth century.<sup>5</sup> The area enclosed by this ditch was, however, called Aermeswerch,<sup>6</sup> and this Saxon description suggests a Saxon origin for the ditch.<sup>7</sup> As the map shows, the Cambridge and King's Ditches are clearly related by their mutual point of junction with the Cam; and the suggested Saxon origin of the Cambridge Ditch supports, if their contemporaneity is accepted,<sup>8</sup> a pre-conquest origin for the King's Ditch.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 114, 127; A. W. Goodman, *A Little History of St Botolph's, Cambridge* (1922), pp. 12, 49-55.

<sup>2</sup> For the course of the ditch see J. W. Clark and A. Gray, *Old Plans of Cambridge* (1921); for excavations on its line see *Proc. C.A.S.* VIII (1891-94), pp. 32-55, 255-82; IX (1894-8), pp. 370-84; XIX (1914-15), pp. 16-27.

<sup>3</sup> The conclusion of *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), II, pp. 306-7.

<sup>4</sup> A. Gray, 'On the Water Course called Cambridge', *Proc. C.A.S.* IX (1894-8), pp. 61-77; *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), II, p. 307. It should be noted that the two streams shown by F. G. Walker converging on the western angle of the Cambridge Ditch (*Proc. C.A.S.* XV (1910-11), pp. 190-1) are entirely conjectural and that the course of the Cam as suggested on Figs. 12 and 13 renders them unnecessary (*pace* Miss Cam, *Proc. C.A.S.* XXXV (1933-4), p. 42, map 2). The stream discovered by Walker (*op. cit.* pp. 185-6, 189-90), running from the north corner of the Cambridge Ditch, is undatable on the evidence of his report as the finds are not fully described, but it was probably medieval and is shown in outline on Fig. 12.

<sup>5</sup> The *Liber Memorandum Ecclesie de Bernewelle* (ed. J. W. Clark, 1907), pp. 98-9, states that about Edward I's time a very aged palmer-pilgrim said that he had seen ships come almost up to the door of St Giles Church. This is not necessarily valid evidence for supposing that the Cambridge Ditch was navigable at the beginning of the thirteenth century (*City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), II, p. 307) since it probably refers to the carriage of stone for Edward I's works on the castle in 1284-98 (H.M. Colvin (ed.), *The History of the King's Works* (1963), II, p. 587). *Pace* Miss Cam (*Proc. C.A.S.* XXXV (1933-4), p. 39), W. M. Palmer was uncertain whether the *ripam de Caunt* to which this stone was brought was the main stream of the Cam, or the Cambridge watercourse (*Proc. C.A.S.* XXVI (1923-4), p. 83).

<sup>6</sup> A. Gray, *The Dual Origin of the Town of Cambridge* (1908), pp. 10, 15.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* p. 15. Gray's dating of the Cambridge Ditch to the seventh century (*ibid.*) is unsupported by any archaeological evidence and, since the ditch was still in use in the thirteenth century, seems unlikely. His ascription of the St John's Ditch to the eighth century (*ibid.* pp. 20-3) is likewise conjectural: the discovery in the ditch of human bones derived from All Saints' Churchyard shows that the ditch was still open well after the foundation of that church, which is first mentioned c. 1077-93.

<sup>8</sup> As conjectured in *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), II, p. 307. The fact that the Cambridge Ditch was also called 'le Kynges ditch' in 1592 is possibly evidence that at least as late as the sixteenth century the ditches north and south of the river were regarded as essentially the same feature.

### Gates

Although the building of gates is referred to in 1267, Miss Cam has shown<sup>1</sup> on documentary evidence that gates existed well before that date and possibly as early as the twelfth century. If the pre-conquest date of the King's Ditch is accepted, the pre-conquest origin of the gates must also be postulated.

### Mills

Three mills are shown on the map on the evidence of Domesday Book as interpreted by H. P. Stokes and Miss Cam:<sup>2</sup> the King's and Bishop's mills are thought to represent the sites of one of Picot's mills and the Abbot of Ely's mill respectively, while Newnham mill is equated with Count Alan's. The site of another of Picot's three mills has been lost without trace, but the third may have been near the Milne Lane which is recorded north of the river in St Peter's parish in the fifteenth century.<sup>3</sup>

### Castle

The evidence for the site and form of Cambridge Castle has been reviewed on several occasions;<sup>4</sup> the form of the original motte and bailey castle erected in 1068 is outlined on the map from the Ordnance Survey 25 in. plan (ed. of 1926), combined with information from the plans in the *Victoria County History* (p. 117) and Royal Commission (p. 306) volumes.

### KEY TO THE SITES AND FINDS NUMBERED ON THE MAP (Fig. 12)

#### Churches

Churches shown on the map have been included if there is documentary evidence (including conjecturally early dedications) or archaeological evidence (structural or associated early carved stonework) for a pre-conquest or at least later eleventh-century origin. References are to the most recent accounts of the churches in *V.C.H. Cambridge*, III (1959), pp. 123-32.

1. St Mary the Less: documentary evidence for probable pre-Domesday origin (p. 131), supported by fragments of late Saxon grave slabs with interlaced carving (*City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), II, pp. 280, 283; C. Fox in *Proc. C.A.S.* XXIII (1920-1), p. 21, pl. VI, 9, 10).
2. All Saints in the Jewry: first mentioned 1077-93 (p. 124).
3. St George: only known from the fact that its graveyard was given for the site of Holy Sepulchre between 1114 and 1130 (p. 124).
4. St Andrew the Great: probably the church belonging to Ely lying in the fourth Domesday ward of the Borough (p. 125), although this might be St Botolph's (*City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), I, p. xlii). The earliest stonework known from St Andrew is of the early twelfth century (*ibid.* pp. 260-1).

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* xxxv (1933-4), pp. 50-1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 46-7; XIV (1909-10), pp. 180-233.

<sup>3</sup> A. Gray, *The Dual Origin of the Town of Cambridge* (1908), p. 13.

<sup>4</sup> See now H. M. Colvin (ed.), *The History of the King's Works* (1963), II, pp. 583-8; *V.C.H. Cambridge*, III (1959), pp. 116-18; *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), II, pp. 304-6.

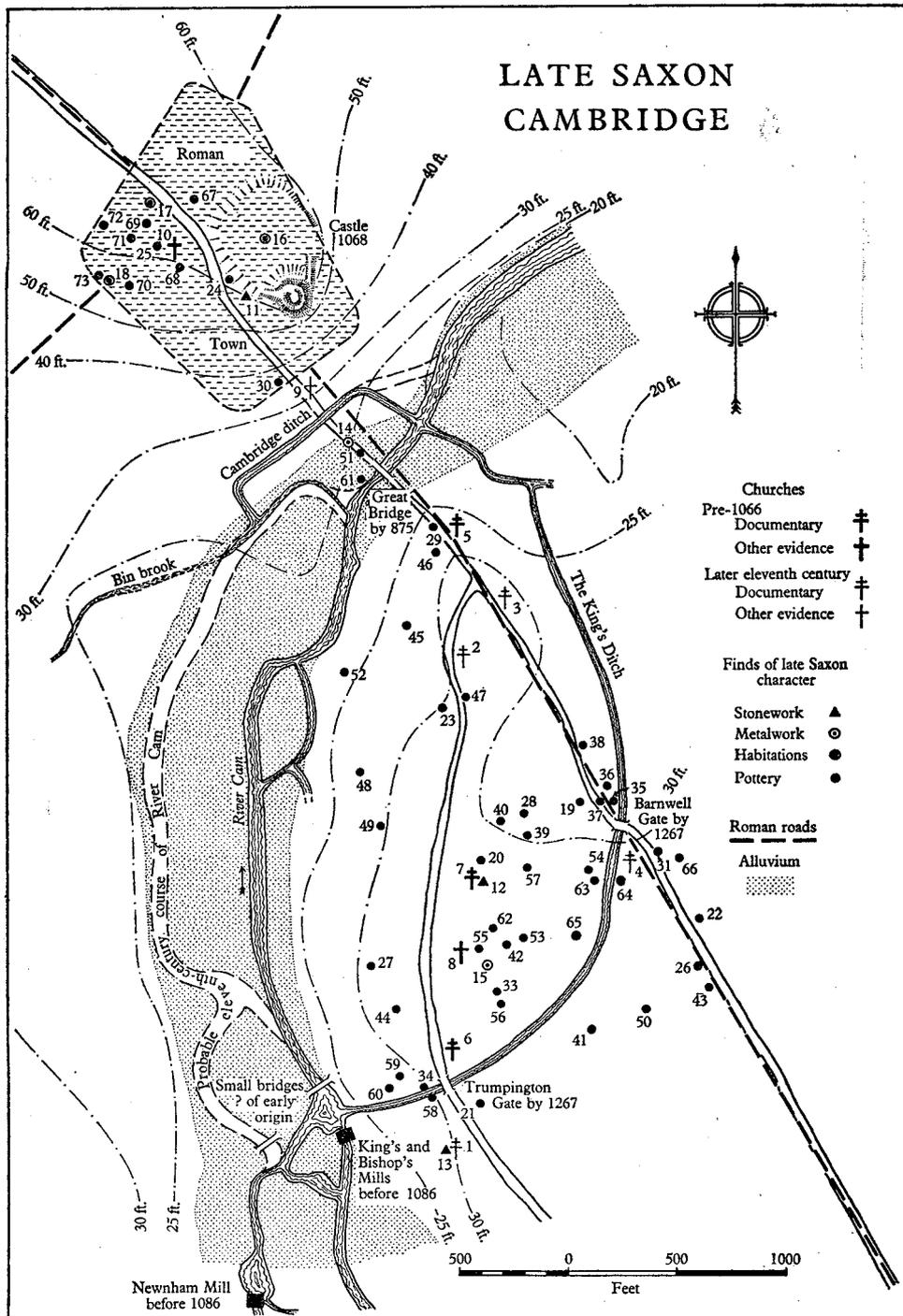


Fig. 12.

5. St Clement: a dedication suggesting Danish influence (p. 127).
6. St Botolph: a dedication conjecturally of the late tenth or early eleventh century (p. 127).
7. St Edward: the dedication suggests a Saxon origin which is supported by the discovery of a Saxon coffin slab (p. 128).
8. St Bene't: chancel, nave and west tower perhaps 'early in the second quarter of the eleventh century' (*City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), II, pp. 263-6). See also H. M. and J. Taylor, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* (1965) I, pp. 129-32.
9. St Giles: traditionally founded 1092, possibly structurally earlier (p. 129), but assigned by the Royal Commission to late eleventh century (*City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), II, p. 274). See also H. M. and J. Taylor, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* (1965), I, pp. 132-4.
10. All Saints by the Castle: either this church or another destroyed by the castle in 1068 must be of pre-conquest origin if associated with the pre-conquest carved grave-slabs and cross-head found in 1810 on the south-east side of the gatehouse (p. 123 and C. Fox in *Proc. C.A.S.* XXIII (1920-1), pp. 15-45). All Saints is placed 650 ft. north-west of the castle gate on the map on p. 117 of the *Victoria County History* volume, but Dr John Alexander's<sup>1</sup> excavations of the Phoenix Gardens site in 1962-3 have shown that this is not the case. Dr Alexander informs us that a concentration of burials was found in 1910 just north of the W.V.S. club. This seems to be the most probable site of the church and is so marked on Fig. 12, but more than 40 disturbed burials were found in two fourteenth-century pits on the Gloucester Terrace site in 1961. This latter site and the site of the 1810 discovery of the pre-conquest carvings are distant from the 1910 site 250 ft. to north-east and south-east respectively, so that the site of All Saints is not yet clearly fixed. It should be noted, however, that St Giles has been suggested as the church with which the pre-conquest cemetery below the castle bank should be associated: *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), I, p. lxvii.

#### *Pre-conquest stone carvings*

11. Cambridge Castle: grave-slabs and cross-head of c. 1000; see no. 10, above.
12. St Edward: Saxon grave-slab; see no. 7, above.
13. St Mary the Less: late Saxon grave slabs; see no. 1, above.

#### *Pre-conquest metalwork*

14. Magdalene Street: late Saxon disc brooch: University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Z. 14969.<sup>2</sup>
15. Free School Lane: penny of Æthelred II (979-1016): P. Grierson, *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles: Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge*, Part 1, Ancient British and Anglo-Saxon Coins, no. 662.<sup>3</sup>

#### *Habitation sites*

16. Cambridge Castle: 27 houses destroyed in the construction of the castle in 1068 (*V.C.H. Cambridge*, I (1939), p. 359). In 1956 a ditch 4 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep with St Neots and Thetford

<sup>1</sup> We are especially grateful to Dr Alexander for providing us with full details of the late Saxon finds from his important excavations of 1956-64 on Castle Hill: see nos. 16-18, 24-5, 67-73 below. An account of his earlier finds has appeared in the *Arch. News Letter* (March 1964), and a fuller account will shortly appear in *History Today* in advance of his final publication.

<sup>2</sup> We are grateful to Mr David Wilson for confirming that this is the only find of late Saxon metalwork known to him from Cambridge.

<sup>3</sup> See also no. 17 below. We are grateful to Mrs J. S. Martin via Mr R. H. M. Dolley for the information that there are no other Anglo-Saxon coins known to her with a detailed Cambridge provenance; and to Mr Graham Pollard for confirming that no coins with a detailed Cambridge provenance have been added to the Fitzwilliam collections since 1957.

sherds (see no. 24) was found below the bailey bank: it may be associated with the houses destroyed in 1068 (J. Alexander, 1956).

17. Phoenix Gardens (1962): pit with 2 Danish coins (905-15) and St Neots sherds: ditch of two periods with St Neots sherds (J. Alexander, 1962).

18. Storey's Paddock: debris of a burnt hut with a concentration of St Neots sherds (J. Alexander, 1958).

### *Saxo-Norman Pottery*<sup>1</sup>

In this section references to Mr J. G. Hurst's papers in these *Proceedings* (see n. 1 on p. 91, above) are given as Hurst 1956, 1957 and 1958; St Neots, Thetford and Stamford ware are shown by StN, T and S respectively.

19. Sidney Street, Boots Extension: StN, T, S; this paper, pp. 83, 107.
20. Central Hotel: T, S; this paper, p. 89.
21. Pembroke: StN; in University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.
22. St Andrew's Street, National Provincial Bank: StN; in University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.
23. Trinity, Angel Court: StN, T; this paper, pp. 76, 110.
24. Castle Street, Law Courts: StN, T; Hurst 1957, 56; J. Alexander, 1956.
25. Shelley Row North: T; J. Alexander, 1957.
26. Bird Bolt: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 54, 58; 1957, 52, 55.
27. King's Lane East: StN, T, S; Hurst 1956, 54, 62; 1957, 58; 1958, 42.
28. Market Hill (1902): StN, T; Hurst 1956, 54; 1957, 59.
29. Bridge Street: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 59; 1957, 56.
30. Castle End: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 59; 1957, 56.
31. Christ's College Library: StN, T, S; Hurst 1956, 59; 1957, 53; 1958, 42.
32. Eden Yard:<sup>2</sup> StN, S; Hurst 1956, 60; 1958, 42.
33. Free School Lane (1895): StN; Hurst 1956, 61.
34. Mill Lane North: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 61; 1957, 58.
35. Fosters Bank: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 62; 1957, 58.
36. Hunnybunn's Ditch: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 62; 1957, 52, 58.
37. Millers: StN; Hurst 1956, 62.
38. Hawkin's: StN; Hurst 1956, 62; 1957, 58.
39. Market Hill (1905): StN, T; Hurst 1956, 63; 1957, 46.
40. Market Place: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 63; 1957, 52.
41. Museum of Archaeology: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 63; 1957, 52.
42. New Schools: StN; Hurst 1956, 63.
43. 33 St Andrew's Street: StN; Hurst 1956, 63.
44. St Catherine's College: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 63; 1957, 59.
45. St John's College Kitchens: StN; Hurst 1956, 63.
46. St John's College New Court: StN, T; Hurst 1956, 63; 1957, 59.
47. 20 Trinity Street: StN; Hurst 1956, 63.
48. Trinity Hall: StN, T, S; Hurst 1956, 63; 1957, 52, 59; 1958, 42.
49. Arts School: T; Hurst 1957, 51, 55.

<sup>1</sup> Some of these sites have been difficult to locate and have involved considerable research, but detailed references to this are not given, their position on the map seeming sufficient.

<sup>2</sup> It has not been possible to locate this site: we are grateful to Mr E. Cave, City Librarian, for help in this matter.

50. Museum of Geology: T; Hurst 1957, 52.
51. Magdalene Street: T; Hurst 1957, 52.
52. Trinity College (1892): T; Hurst 1957, 52, 59.
53. Examination School: T; Hurst 1957, 56.
54. Falcon Yard (1906): T; Hurst 1957, 56.
55. Free School Lane (1907): T; Hurst 1957, 56.
56. Free School Lane (1912): T; Hurst 1957, 56.
57. Hallack and Bond: T; Hurst 1957, 56.
58. Mill Lane South: T; Hurst 1957, 58.
59. Silver Street South: T; Hurst 1957, 58.
60. University Press: T; Hurst 1957, 59.
61. Magdalene College, Benson Court: S; Hurst 1958, 42.
62. Mortlock's Bank: S; Hurst 1958, 42.
63. Falcon Yard (1897): StN; Hurst 1956, 54, 60.
64. Post Office Terrace: StN, T, S; this paper, pp. 85, 107.
65. Corn Exchange Street: StN, T; this paper, p. 77.
66. Bradwell's Court: StN, T; this paper, p. 80.
67. Gloucester Terrace: StN, T; J. Alexander, 1961.
68. Shelley Row South: Saxo-Norman; J. Alexander, 1957.
69. Phonix Gardens (1963): StN; J. Alexander, 1963.
70. Albion Row: Saxo-Norman; J. Alexander, 1964.
71. Storey's Almshouses: Saxo-Norman; J. Alexander, 1964.
72. Storey's Orchard: StN, T; J. Alexander, 1959.
73. Mount Pleasant: Saxo-Norman; J. Alexander, 1964.

#### THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF CAMBRIDGE: CONCLUSIONS (Figs. 12 and 13)

'We must look for the "late Saxon" settlement at Cambridge. . . on the right bank of the Cam.'<sup>1</sup> We may fairly claim that it is now revealed (Fig. 13, C). The King's Ditch, the old course of the Cam and the Cambridge Ditch can now be seen, on the evidence given above, p. 93, and in Fig. 12, to form a logical whole: a bridgehead<sup>2</sup> on the west bank and an area on the east bank containing the approaches to the bridge, the gravel terraces best suited for habitation, water meadows and access to the river. The relative unimportance of the settlement west of the river is clear;<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> T. C. Lethbridge in *V.C.H. Cambridge*, I (1939), p. 329.

<sup>2</sup> Until further excavation has taken place it is impossible to say whether the early ditches were intended as defensive works, or only as a customs barrier (*V.C.H. Cambridge*, III (1959), p. 3). If the King's Ditch can now be accepted as Saxon, one may wonder whether Maitland's interpretation of the old name of Pembroke Street, *Landgrythes Lane*, as marking the limits of the *burh grith*, and thus the southern boundary of the Saxon town may not be upheld, in spite of Reaney's preference for the derivation from a 'long stream' (*ibid.* for further references).

<sup>3</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), I, p. xli; *Med. Arch.* v (1961), p. 322. Dr John Alexander informs us that late Saxon pits and ditches seem to be concentrated along the Huntingdon Road/Castle Street line, with some isolated finds on the western slope of the hill. The spots to the west of Castle Street on Fig. 12 are more an indication of the extent of Dr Alexander's excavations than a true picture of the spread and density of late Saxon occupation, for he has been able to dig some 120 trenches here in the last nine years, compared with the small amount of excavation elsewhere in Cambridge. Considering the amount of excavation the evidence of late Saxon occupation is in fact relatively slight and fully in agreement with the description of 'suburb' used here.

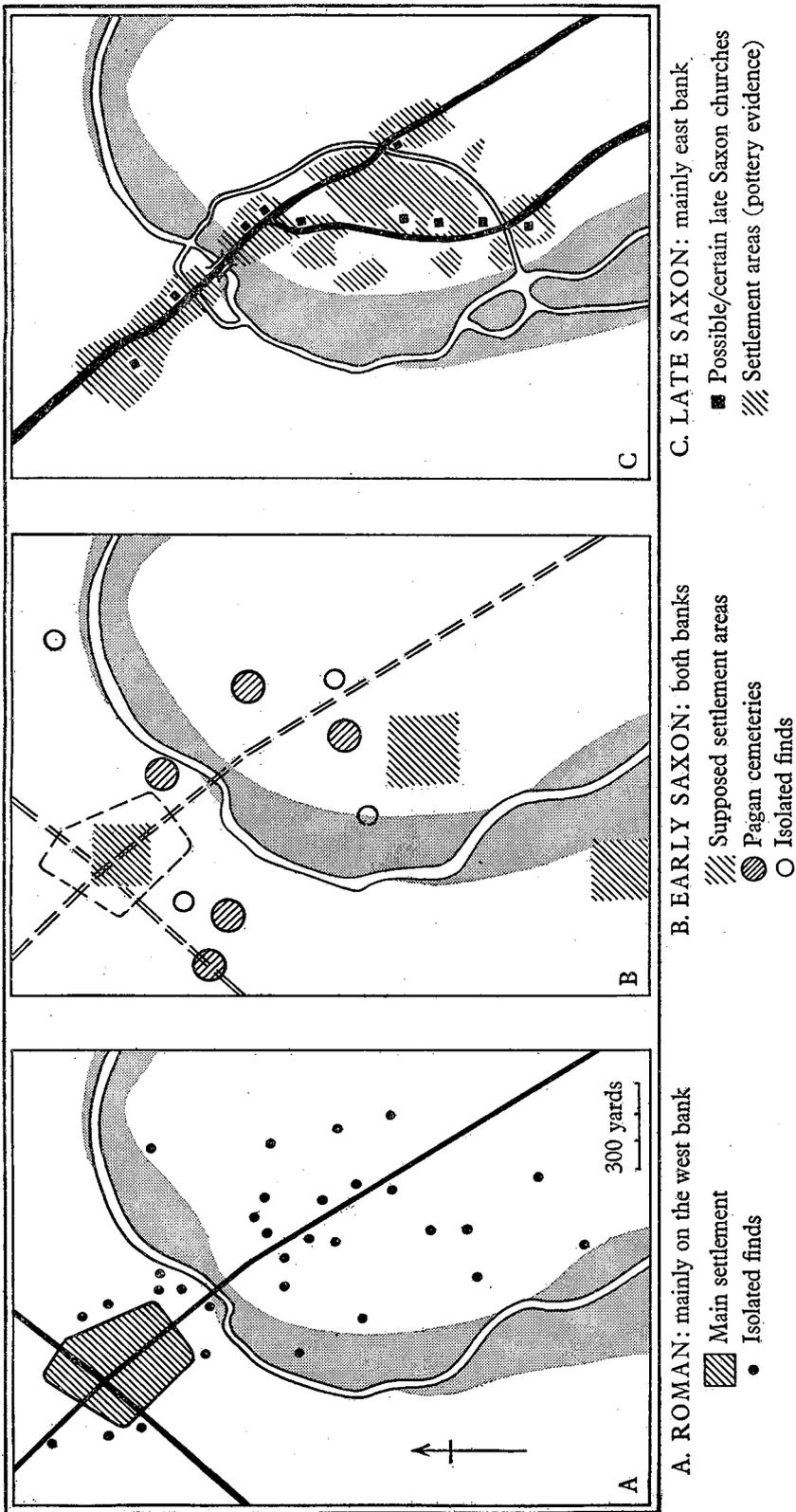


Fig. 13. The early development of Cambridge. (A: after R.C.H.M. (1959); B: after Fox (1923); C: see Fig. 12.) The Cam is shown in its suggested early course. The alluvium is stippled.

although there were at least 54 houses there in 1086, this is only about one eighth of the total number of houses then recorded in Cambridge.<sup>1</sup> By the eleventh century Cambridge west of the river was only a suburb, even if an important one, of the main town on the east bank.

We may still believe in the 'dual origin' of Cambridge, but it now appears as only a stage in a gradual shift of emphasis from the west to the east banks (Fig. 13). The defended area, the focus, of the Roman settlement was on the west bank with only scattered finds east of the river. By the end of the pagan Saxon period the dual character of the settlement of Cambridge, both west and east of the Cam, can be clearly seen in the pagan cemeteries. The period from the mid-seventh to the late ninth centuries is, however, still obscure,<sup>2</sup> but by the eleventh century the shift of emphasis to the east bank is complete. The critical moment in this process came with the laying out of ditched boundaries on the line of the King's and Cambridge Ditches, possibly after Edward the Elder's reconquest of the area in 921.<sup>3</sup> From that moment the pattern of the future development of Cambridge was assured and has persisted to the present day.

(2) *The superficial deposits under Cambridge: a consideration of the theories of Professor McKenny Hughes*

Thick deposits of brown or black gravelly loam have in the past been noted wherever excavation has taken place in Cambridge. Similar deposits were observed in 1958-61 at Angel Court, Trinity; Corn Exchange Street; Bradwell's Court; and Sidney Street, Boots Extension. At Angel Court, Trinity, and Bradwell's Court these deposits seemed to be more or less featureless, but both in Sidney Street and in Corn Exchange Street they were seen to be the result of the repeated digging and filling of pits. The levels of garden soil on both sites seem to represent pauses in this process.

Nowhere do these build-up levels seem to be earlier than the twelfth century. In Corn Exchange Street they post-date a late thirteenth-century ditch and contain in their lower part late medieval and their upper part early modern sherds. In Sidney Street the build-up proceeded from the fourteenth century to the early sixteenth century and was followed after an interval by a deliberate make-up of garden soil. At Bradwell's Court, however, sixteenth-century pottery occurred near the base of the build-up, which was completed by the first part of the seventeenth century. The late date for the build-up at Bradwell's Court suggests that there this material represents an intentional raising of the ground (above, p. 82), and the

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Cambridge*, I (1939), p. 359. Bridge ward may have lain on both sides of the Cam or to one side only, but this is uncertain and the calculation is thus approximate. Nevertheless it gives an idea of the relative magnitude of the two areas of settlement.

<sup>2</sup> The lack of finds from settlements of this and the preceding pagan period is remarkable. This is yet another reason for keeping the closest possible watch on all building sites in Cambridge.

<sup>3</sup> A parallel is provided by Æthelflæd's construction of a *burh* at Tamworth in 913: this, it now seems, can be identified in a great bank and ditch which probably enclosed the whole of the Anglo-Saxon town (F. T. Wainwright in *Approaches to History* (ed. H. P. R. Finberg, 1962), pp. 210-11) and which, incidentally, was known during the Middle Ages as the King's Ditch.

occasional horizontal levels which were observed in the otherwise featureless deposit (Fig. 6) are consistent with this suggestion.

Neither the mechanism of pit digging and filling nor deliberate dumping seem to have been responsible for the deposit at Trinity, which appeared to be quite homogeneous. The explanation of this deposit is thus at present obscure, yet it is likely to be relevant to the interpretation of the 'made ground' which, it is said,<sup>1</sup> was taken into use for the laying out of Milne Street, the church of St John Zachary, and the associated domestic quarter in the thirteenth century.

In 1906, in a classic paper 'On the Superficial Deposits under Cambridge',<sup>2</sup> Professor McKenny Hughes put forward the suggestion that 'sites were assigned to the monastic and scholastic institutions on the [western] outskirts which were only suitable for building purposes after the ground had been raised by carting immense quantities of rubbish on to it' (p. 423). The main points in his argument are (1) that there were few if any earlier houses on the sites of the western colleges (pp. 393, 399); and (2) that nevertheless large quantities of household rubbish are found whenever excavations are made in this area. On this basis he argues that the ground had been artificially raised and levelled (p. 393) and that this had been done by using the area over a period of time as a rubbish dump (pp. 395, 397). In support of this contention he offers 'proofs' (pp. 400, 414-20) in the form of his observations of 'made ground' (not further described) on the sites of Trinity Hall, King's College and Mill Lane.

The suggestion that the dumping of town rubbish was deliberately used to level up the sites for monastic and college buildings, thus accounting for the depth of disturbed ground seen in the area, has been generally accepted,<sup>3</sup> in spite of the obvious difficulties in the argument. These must now be discussed, but it must first be made clear that there are two distinct processes involved. It is well known that certain sites were levelled up as a deliberate act of construction prior to the erection of buildings: the library of Trinity College is a case in point (p. 414). Neither McKenny Hughes's paper of 1906, nor the present paper, is concerned with these deliberate acts of civil engineering,<sup>4</sup> but rather with the mechanism that has led to the existence of the thick layers of dark earth, up to 7 ft. in depth, which have been observed both on the sites of the western colleges and in most other areas of central Cambridge.

McKenny Hughes had two reasons for supposing that there had been few if any houses on the sites of the western colleges. First, their 'foundations are hardly ever found within the walls of our colleges' (p. 393); in other words, no traces of houses had been archaeologically observed. Since timber structures and robbed walls would not have been recognized as such in his time, and since actual houses need only be expected on the frontages of the medieval streets, leaving much of the area unbuilt upon, this argument does not seem to have much force. Second, on his interpretation of Willis and Clark's *Architectural History*, McKenny Hughes believed that the

<sup>1</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), I, pp. xliv-xlv.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* XI (1903-6), pp. 393-423, esp. 393-400, 414-23. The page numbers in parentheses that follow in the text are references to this article.

<sup>3</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), I, p. xlv; A. Gray, *The Town of Cambridge, a History* (1925), p. 19.

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, A. Gray, *The Dual Origin of the Town of Cambridge* (1908), p. 19.

absence of houses was confirmed by the documentary evidence (p. 399). It now appears, however, that this view was mistaken. In a recent survey of the topographical development of Cambridge,<sup>1</sup> the church of St John Zachary (first mentioned at the beginning of the thirteenth century) is seen as serving the area which had developed, perhaps in the twelfth century,<sup>2</sup> along the line of Milne Street (now represented by Queens' Lane and Trinity Hall Lane; see Figs. 1 and 11). Prior to the foundation of the various colleges the northern end of this street was occupied by a quarter of well-to-do houses that had grown up in the course of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries,<sup>3</sup> while the central and southern part was occupied by smaller properties.<sup>4</sup> The extent of the domestic occupation along Milne Street about 1280 and its subsequent piecemeal incorporation into religious and collegiate properties is clearly demonstrated in two sketch plans published by the Royal Commission.<sup>5</sup>

It thus becomes clear that the area west of High Street was never the open waste land that McKenny Hughes pictured (p. 395) and that its piecemeal development was such that no general levelling up such as he imagined can have taken place. Individual sites may have been levelled up for specific buildings as an engineering operation,<sup>6</sup> but the idea of a vast town dump<sup>7</sup> deliberately raising the level of the ground for some concerted development must be abandoned on chronological and topographical grounds. The explanation of the great depth of 'made ground' must be sought elsewhere.

It seems probable that McKenny Hughes failed to interpret correctly the nature of the 'made ground' which he saw, and that it was not the result of dumping, but rather had grown through the constant digging and filling of pits, the earth from which, spread around the site, gradually raised the level of the ground. This is exactly the process that has been demonstrated on the Boots Extension site in Sidney Street (p. 83, above; Fig. 8), and it implies that McKenny Hughes failed to observe in the sections he saw the traces of constantly recut pits. That he did so fail is not surprising, for the material into which the pits are cut, and that which fills them, is almost identical, and cuts and fills are difficult to distinguish.

In 1907 McKenny Hughes himself published<sup>8</sup> evidence which should have modified his interpretation. In that year he observed a deep section along the south side

<sup>1</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), 1, pp. xlv-xlv.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. li.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. xlix.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 1-11.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* p. xlvii. It should be noted that the alluvium of McKenny Hughes's pl. xxviii is shown as extending too far east as compared with the plans in *City of Cambridge*.

<sup>6</sup> The great depth at which footings, probably of the Carmelite Friary, were found in Queens' College in 1958-60 (p. 88, above) suggests that some deliberate building up of the ground had taken place, but examples of engineering works of this kind are well known in the middle ages, e.g. Blackfriars, Oxford (information from Mr David Sturdy), and Muchelney Abbey, Somerset.

<sup>7</sup> Even the idea of dumping rubbish systematically in one area in the Middle Ages seems to be an anachronism. London had its laystalls 'of all that filth that was to be voided out of the city' at Finsbury Fields and Moorfields, but it does not seem to be until 1666 that any general order was made to remove laystalls to places remote from dwellings (W. G. Bell, *The Great Plague in London in 1665* (rev. ed. 1951), pp. 9, 33, 146, 333). It is unlikely that the matter was much organized in Cambridge until the fifteenth century, for it was not normally until this or the following century that towns made any provision of special dumping grounds (G. T. Salusbury, *Street Life in Medieval England* (2nd ed. 1948), pp. 82, 90-3).

<sup>8</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* xii (1908), pp. 133-9.

of King's Lane and across the line of Milne Street. To either side of the street he observed 'made ground' of the usual kind, but on the line of Milne Street itself 'the gravel had not been removed. . . and none of the early medieval pottery, such as was found abundantly in the made ground on either side, occurred under the roadway. The obvious inference is that we had there the exact line of the ancient Milne Street, which. . . had coarse metal laid on it only in later times when it was necessary to keep it up to the level of the ground raised artificially on either side of it.'<sup>1</sup> His figure<sup>2</sup> shows the line of Milne Street standing up as a ridge of undisturbed gravel rising through the 'made ground' to either side. From this evidence it is clear that the constant digging of pits to either side of Milne Street had both quarried down into the gravel (only leaving it untouched where the street ran) and had at the same time gradually raised the surrounding ground in the manner observed in Sidney Street. As McKenny Hughes himself realized 'the mode of occurrence of the lower part of this soil [i.e. the made ground] indicates, not so much that it was carried from a distance to fill up depressions, as that it is gradual growth of soil in rubbish pits or middens'.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately neither he nor his successors perceived the relevance of this statement to his earlier theory.

The 'made ground' of medieval Cambridge is thus no more than the result of the intense occupation of the site during a long period.<sup>4</sup> It was not the taking into use of made ground<sup>5</sup> that led to the development of the Milne Street area, but the development of the area which made the ground.<sup>6</sup> Thus the picture of the citizens carting out their rubbish that great buildings might rise must be abandoned in favour of the more prosaic one of dense urban life and the dirt that was an appalling feature of the age.<sup>7</sup>

### PART III: THE FINDS

#### *Pottery*

(including glass vessels and clay pipes)

The pottery has been considered in associated groups as far as possible in chronological order, and is referred to by site letter, followed by feature or layer number, and the number of the sherd in the group. The site letters are:

- A. Angel Court, Trinity College.
- B. Bradwell's Court. (BH refers to the burnt house on this site.)
- C. Corn Exchange Street.
- P. Post Office Terrace.
- S. Sidney Street.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.* p. 135.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 134, fig. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 136.

<sup>4</sup> At least since the eleventh century, even in the area of the western colleges: see Fig. 12 for the distribution of Saxo-Norman finds in this area.

<sup>5</sup> *City of Cambridge* (R.C.H.M. 1959), 1, p. xlv.

<sup>6</sup> The build-up is not therefore a uniform process and will probably be found to have proceeded at different rates in different parts of the city.

<sup>7</sup> G. T. Salusbury, *Street Life in Medieval England* (2nd ed. 1948), *passim*.

*General considerations*

Both in quantity and quality the pottery recovered was disappointing when compared with that from sites in other medieval towns, for example from the Bodleian extension in Oxford (*Oxon.* IV (1939), pp. 89-146), or even from Professor McKenny Hughes's earlier sites in Cambridge. It does, however, provide for the first time a long series of pit groups, albeit small ones, which go some way to providing a representative pottery series for Cambridge between the eleventh and eighteenth centuries. In themselves the groups show nothing remarkable in the development of medieval pottery in the region, from the Saxo-Norman wares through the harder but still individual and crude wares of the twelfth century to the exuberant and competent vessels of the thirteenth and the more mechanical and stereotyped products of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, ending with the industrialized forms and fabrics of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. By accident, perhaps, the varied thirteenth-century jugs are ill-represented in this collection, but otherwise most types occur, if only in small numbers. For a more detailed picture of the medieval wares of the region a study of the fine collection in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology must be undertaken: Mr Hurst's papers on the Saxo-Norman wares have already demonstrated the wealth of the material available there.<sup>1</sup>

Until this material has been studied it is perhaps early to speculate on the relationships and resources of the pottery trade in the region, but even the present pottery hints at some of them. The occurrence of some of the types characteristic of the Oxford region in the late thirteenth century emphasizes the persistence of the cultural community along the Ouse clay vale already demonstrated for the eleventh century (D. B. Harden (ed.), *Dark Age Britain* (1956), pp. 255-6; *Trans. Brist. and Glouc. A.S.* LXXI (1952), pp. 72-4). In other cases the relationships of the Cambridge region seem to be with the Peterborough area to the north. Even in the late Saxon period, Cambridge is remarkable for the comparative rarity of Stamford ware, and there is equally little connection in the twelfth to fifteenth centuries. The Fens here seem to be a barrier rather than a unifier in this respect, despite the appropriateness of water transport to the pottery trade, and despite the trade in stone from Barnack and Rutland. It may be that the land-borne products which entered the Cambridge region via Stourbridge and St Ives fairs, already flourishing by the thirteenth century, account far more for the wide relationships exhibited by the Cambridge pottery. Much of the pottery, both in the present collection and in the museum, is characterized, however, as much by ordinariness as by anything else, giving the impression that it is the product of local kilns for local markets. These kilns have still to be found, the nearest known being as far off as King's Lynn, Thetford, Ingatestone, Brill and Stamford.

<sup>1</sup> See n. 1 on p. 91.

### *Criteria of study*

The lack of published groups and stratified sequences from the area has encouraged the inclusion here of all the small groups which might in any way be useful, and the inclusion of outstanding or representative vessels even if unstratified. The groups come from pits and wells, and in one case from a general layer. The groups are so small that rather small sherds, which could have been derived from earlier deposits, have often been included. In the case of wells with backing shafts, the groups have been amalgamated, though the sherds are marked in their various layers and can be correlated with the records deposited with the pottery in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

The dating of the pottery is difficult in view of the total absence of stratified sequences in the area, and the comparative rarity, except for the early period, of dated or associated deposits. The most important comparative groups of the eleventh century are Southoe, Great Paxton lime kilns, Little Paxton (*Proc. C.A.S.* LVIII (1965), pp. 38–73) and Eaton Socon (forthcoming); of the eleventh and twelfth, Therfield (*Journ. Brit. Arch. Ass.* 3rd ser. xxvii (1964), pp. 53–91); of the twelfth, Flambard's Manor, Barton Moats, Burwell, and the recently published Eynesbury House (*Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1961), pp. 85–9); of the thirteenth, the Cherry Hinton well (*Proc. C.A.S.* XLVI (1952), pp. 27–30); of the sixteenth, the St Neots fish-pond (publication forthcoming); and, of the seventeenth, Nonsuch (*Surrey A.C.* LVIII (1961), pp. 1–20). In general, however, recourse has had to be made to vague parallels in distant but better-studied regions rather than to close ones in local material. It may, perhaps, be possible to reconsider the conclusions when far more associated groups are obtained, as could easily be done in the present spate of building activity in Cambridge; when kiln sites are located; and when stratified and dated sequences are obtained, perhaps by selective excavation of some of the many small defended sites now being surveyed in Cambridgeshire by the staff of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments.

### *Eleventh–early twelfth centuries (Figs. 14 and 15)*

The Saxo-Norman wares of the Cambridge region, already well known from Mr. J. G. Hurst's discussion of them (see n. 1 on p. 91), were only sparsely represented among the present finds. Sherds of a multi-handled Thetford ware storage jar, decorated with rosette stamps apparently not previously recorded, were of individual interest. In addition the small groups A1, P2, S27 and S29 probably date from the late eleventh or early twelfth century, when the currency of late Saxon wares was coming to an end. They contain typical examples of St Neots ware cooking pots (P2/1, 2, S27/1 and S29/1) and of Thetford ware vessels (P2/3, S26 and S27 unpublished, S29/3, and S29 unpublished), while the upright-rimmed S27/2 and S29/2 tend towards the harder wares of the twelfth century. Two Stamford ware sherds occurred in S27 and P2. P14 is a small but important group of the late eleventh or early twelfth century, containing St Neots, Thetford and Stamford wares in association with the storage jar (P14/1) and eleventh-century Sandy wares. Of particular interest is the occurrence of two single-shelled pedestal lamps of hard grey ware in group A1 (A1/1 and 2), which otherwise contained a St Neots cooking pot, sherds of a multi-handled Thetford storage jar (not illustrated) and an

upright-sided cooking pot with a rebated rim (A1/4), which is reminiscent of the Cotswold series seen to go out of currency in the mid-twelfth century at Deddington (see below, p. 113).

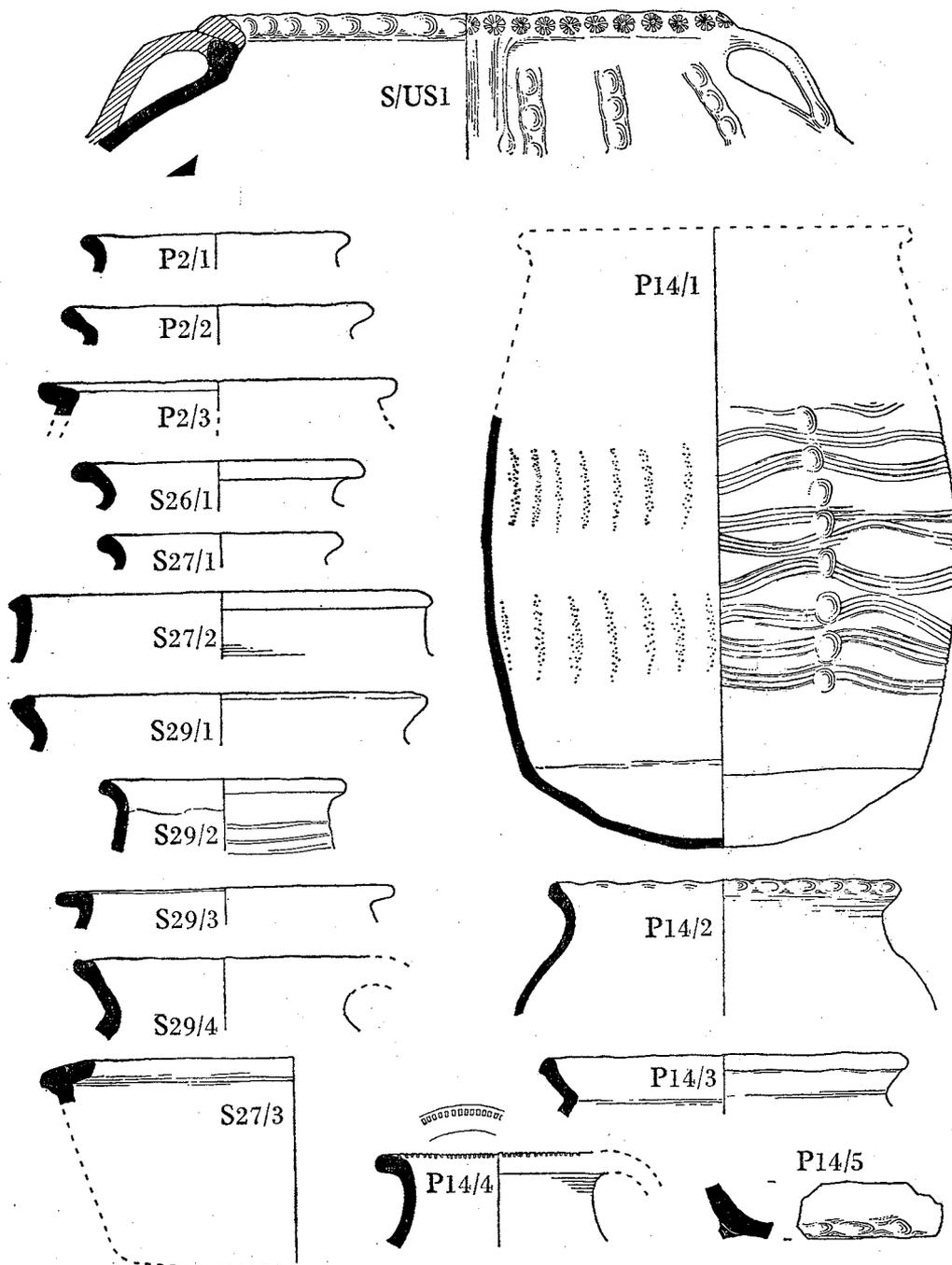


Fig. 14. Pottery of the eleventh to twelfth centuries (3).

*Sidney Street* (Fig. 14)

S/US1. Storage jar, Thetford ware, with equal-sized multiple handles, probably four. The rim of the vessel is strengthened by a thick strip added on the top of the rim, finger-pressed on the inside and applied after the handles had been made. This technique has been noted on storage vessels from Godmanchester (*Proc. C.A.S.* LI (1958), p. 32, nos. 28 and 29; *Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1961), p. 96, nos. 5 and 18). The vessel is decorated by pinched up applied vertical strips and by rosette stamps on the outside of the rim. Though such stamps have not been recorded hitherto on Thetford vessels, they occur on the Stamford ware Crowland bowl, probably of pre-1070 (*Proc. C.A.S.* LI (1958), p. 54 and pl. v). At least the upper part of the vessel appears to have been made by coiling. The type is common in Cambridge in the eleventh-early twelfth centuries (*Proc. C.A.S.* L (1956), p. 57, no. 5).

*Post Office Terrace* (Fig. 14)

P2/1. Cooking pot, St Neots ware with light pink surfaces and much shell; rolled rim.

P2/2. Cooking pot, St Neots ware, everted rim.

P2/3. Cooking pot rim in hard grey sandy ware with dark grey surface, but lighter in the core than normal Thetford ware; similar to but larger than the Thetford ware example illustrated by Hurst from Grimston (*Proc. C.A.S.* L (1956), p. 47, no. 15).

*Sidney Street* (Fig. 14)

S26/1. Cooking pot, St Neots ware, with everted rolled rim of a type best paralleled at Paxton (Hurst, *Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1955), p. 66, no. 2) and at Little Paxton (Addyman, forthcoming in *Proc. C.A.S.*). Presumably eleventh century.

S27/1. Cooking pot, St Neots ware, with everted somewhat rolled rim; a form between P2/2 and S26/1, again best paralleled in the eleventh-century Paxton assemblage.

S27/2. Cooking pot, in fairly hard gritty fabric with light grey core, darker outer surface and softer red inner surface, with many very small quartz-like grits. The form does not occur in local published groups, but a not dissimilar pot in shelly ware was found in the pre-1067 deposit under the Oxford Castle Mound (*Oxon.* xvii/xviii (1952-3), p. 102, no. 13), and a perhaps closer parallel comes from a pit shortly post-dating the Norman bank (1080-1100) of Colchester Castle (*Ant. J.* XLII (1962), p. 67). A mid-eleventh century date is possible, but the form, although not the fabric, comes closer to those of the mid-twelfth century at Therfield (*J.B.A.A.* 3rd ser. xxvii (1964), p. 77).

S27/3. Deep bowl in St Neots ware with fairly flat-topped inturned rim. This bowl, not exactly paralleled amongst those published by Hurst, occurs frequently at Little Paxton in an assemblage probably of the eleventh century.

The group S27 as a whole would seem to be of eleventh-century date. It differs markedly from group S29, described below, for which a rather later date is perhaps required since the pits are topographically very close. The hardness of the S29 sherd may even argue a date well into the twelfth century.

S29/1. Cooking pot in grey fairly hard shell-filled fabric (cf. St Neots ware) with pinkish grey surfaces; fairly sharply everted flange thickened near top.

S29/2. Cooking pot in very hard though not harsh fabric with grey core, black outer and pink inner surface and some quartz-like grits; the rolled rim, resembling some St Neots ware forms, is made by folding the rim inside the pot, where the luted join can be seen (cf. *Oxon.* xxiii (1958), p. 52). The outside is rilled.

S29/3. Cooking pot in light buffish grey ware with some small quartz-like grits; somewhat reminiscent of Thetford ware, though the rim form does not occur in Hurst's Thetford ware series.

S29/4. Jug, in hard grey fabric with light pinkish brown surfaces; the small sherd suggests an everted necked vessel with handle springing directly from the rim. A similar springing occurs on P14/4, below, a jug of the Stamford ware series, and both are perhaps of the early twelfth century.

#### *Post Office Terrace (Fig. 14)*

Group P14 contains the remarkable storage vessel P14/1, a fellow at last to that published by Jope from Felmersham. Of the other pots two at least, P14/2 and P14/4, have antecedents in the eleventh century. Most of the sherds were of St Neots and Thetford wares, which occurred in quantity in the levels of P14, together with six Stamford sherds. Three of the layers also contained sherds similar to the eleventh-century Sandy ware defined at Therfield (*J.B.A.A.* 3rd ser. xxvii (1964), pp. 70-1, fig. 20, 3-4), while only the upper level contained a sherd possibly similar in fabric to the mid-twelfth-century Therfield material. The storage jar (only 'probably' twelfth century at Felmersham) and P14/3 suggest, in conjunction with the rest of the group, a date in the later eleventh or early twelfth century.

P14/1. Storage vessel in thin hard light brown fabric, shading to greyish brown, with occasional grits up to 5 mm; the outside is weathered and somewhat flaked. The vessel has an exaggerated sagging base, though the basal angle is quite sharp. The pot, which may have been even taller than in the reconstruction (see P14/5, below), is decorated with horizontal combed wavy lines and has four vertical lines of light downward thumb impressions, a feature perhaps reminiscent of the applied finger-moulded strips of the altogether more massive storage jars of the previous century. The jar seems to have been made almost entirely by hand (the interior showing finger-smoothing marks) with occasional half rotations. Its closest parallel is the hitherto unique jar from Felmersham, Beds. (*Ant. J.* xxxi (1951), p. 49, no. 14) which is also in ware typical of the twelfth century. There are comparable sherds in the University Museum, and such vessels may prove to be a distinctive local type.

P14/2. Cooking pot in thin hard dark grey ware with some very small micaceous or quartz-like particles. The everted rim has small and rather indistinct thumb mouldings on the outside. Finger-impressed rims occur in the region probably already in the later eleventh century (Therfield: *J.B.A.A.* 3rd ser. xxvii (1964), p. 74, fig. 20, 6, 5), and the potting techniques and fabric of the sherd are identical with the eleventh-century Sandy wares of Therfield (*ibid.* pp. 70-1).

P14/3. Cooking pot with everted flanged rim in hard and fairly harsh grey fabric. The type is closely paralleled in fabric, although not in form, in the eleventh-century material at Therfield (*J.B.A.A.* 3rd ser. xxvii (1964), pp. 70-1).

P14/4. Jug in hard fabric closely related to Stamford ware, varying from grey to pinkish buff, and glazed with a light yellowish green glaze which has been badly burnt. The neck is upright, the rim flat, with the handle springing from the rim itself (cf. S29/4, above). The rim and the rectangular-notch rouletted decoration may be compared with those of a bowl from Stamford Castle (*Proc. C.A.S.* LI (1958), pp. 46-7, no. 42). The date suggested for the end of these wares is 1150.

P14/5. Sherd, either the shoulder of a storage vessel or the base of a jug, in greyish brown hard and thick fabric with an applied finger-moulded strengthening at the angle. It seems too thick to be part of P14/1, which it in many ways resembles. If, however, it is regarded as a jug base, a thirteenth-century date is necessary and, since its stratigraphical position is certain, the former is preferable.

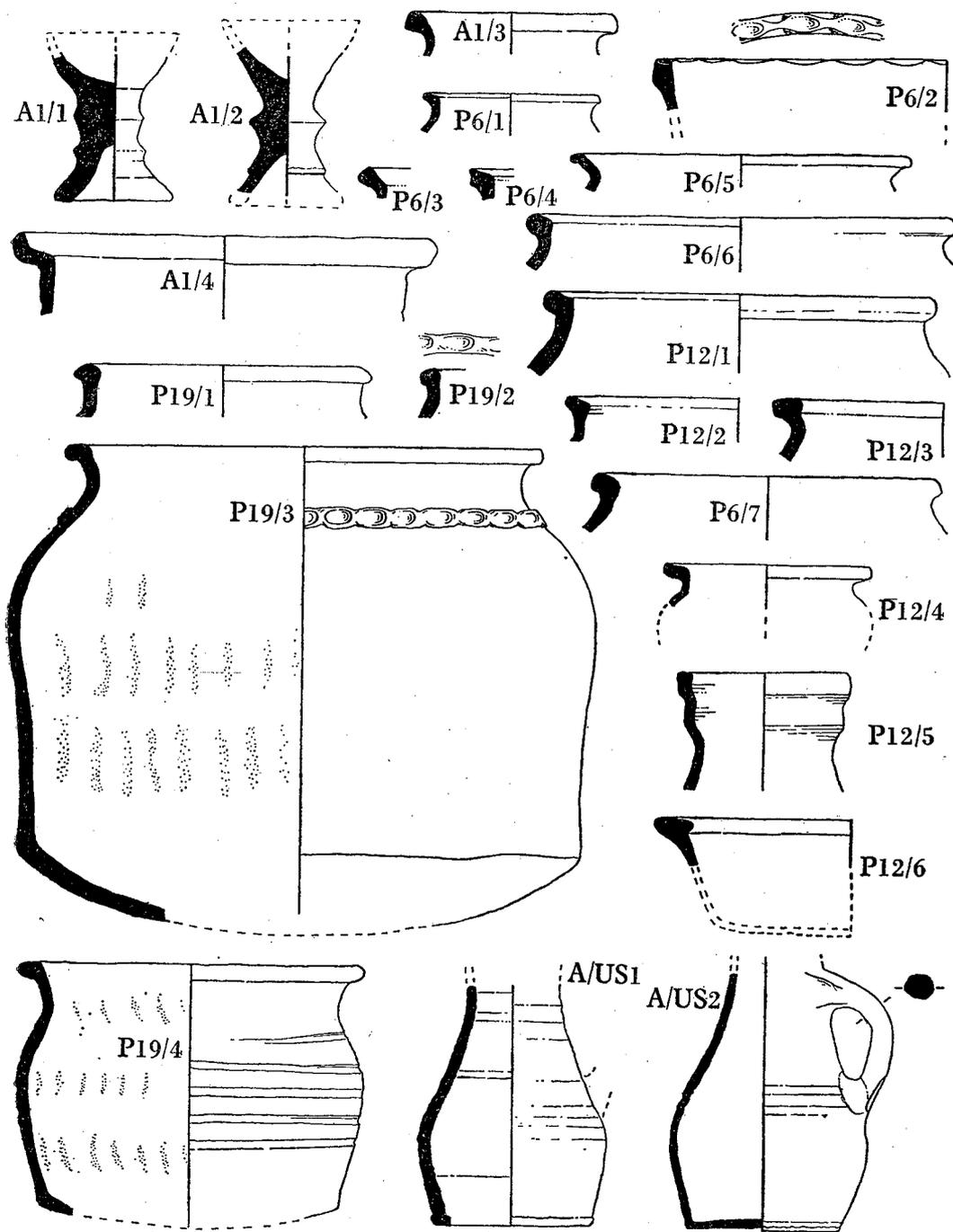


Fig. 15. Pottery of the twelfth to thirteenth centuries (4).

*Angel Court, Trinity College (Fig. 15)*

A1/1. Pedestal lamp in fine, hard, dark grey sandy ware with prominent ridges on the waist. This stage in the evolution of the medieval lamp as traced in Oxford by the Jopes and Mr S. E. Rigold is dated to the early twelfth century (*Oxon.* xv (1950), p. 58).

A1/2. Pedestal lamp, similar to A1/1, with bowl burnt from use.

A1/3. Cooking pot, St Neots ware, rolled over and thickened rim.

A1/4. Cooking pot in shell-filled fabric similar to, but not quite like St Neots ware. This is probably a late form of a type of rim beginning in the St Neots period. Prof. Jope suggests parallels in Northampton and Brixworth, the most easterly outliers of the White Castle series of upright-sided pots with flanged rims. A sherd from Cambridge (*Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1955), p. 59, no. 12) is comparable, but the closest parallels are in the St Neots ware of 1050-1100 at Therfield (*J.B.A.A.* 3rd ser. XXVII (1964), p. 73, fig. 19, 7-9).

A1/5. Thirteen sherds of Thetford ware, including three of a true multi-handled Thetford storage jar (not illustrated).

A1/6. Twenty-five sherds of St Neots ware (not illustrated). Two glazed and painted sherds ostensibly from this pit are presumed to have dropped from above during the contractor's excavation. They were of thirteenth-century Oxford type (not illustrated) and should be compared with B2/1 below, Fig. 17.

*Twelfth and thirteenth centuries (Figs. 15 and 16)**Post Office Terrace (Fig. 15)*

Group P19 contains the two cooking pots P19/3 and 4 which are similar in ware and rim form (though not size) and may perhaps have been made by the same potter at almost the same time. Although the forms of this group seem to be of thirteenth-century character, they are similar to those of the mid-twelfth century at Therfield (*J.B.A.A.* 3rd ser. XXVII (1964), pp. 74-8, fig. 21). The fabrics are also similar, though harder in the Cambridge group, the date of which probably lies in the second half of the twelfth century, or very early thirteenth century.

P19/1. Cooking pot in very hard and harsh, but even, grey ware with yellowish pink surfaces.

P19/2. Cooking pot in hard and harsh even ware with yellowish pink surfaces and thumb mouldings along the outside of the rim-top.

P19/3. Large cooking pot in hard but even greenish grey fabric with sagging base, applied finger-moulded strip on the shoulder, and flat everted rim. A typical thirteenth-century pot.

P19/4. Cooking pot in hard grey ware differing from P19/3 by the occurrence of small white (chalk?) inclusions. The base is also sagging and there are marked throwing grooves on the body.

A/US1. Small jug of brown fabric with light grey core and white grits. Throwing lines are well marked on the upper part of the body; the rim and handle are missing.

A/US2. Small jug similar to A/US1, but in grey fabric with light brown core; the base is slightly kicked, and the handle is applied squint and fixed by a lap of clay over the lower joint. The vessel is asymmetrical. Both vessels are in a fabric seen elsewhere in association with twelfth-century pottery.

*Post Office Terrace (Figs. 15 and 16)*

P6 and P12 provide groups of small sherds of thirteenth-century cooking pots, while P20/3 and 4 and the unstratified jugs A/US3 and S/US2 and 3 are the only illustratable representatives of thirteenth-century jugs in the present series. The associated sherds suggest a late thirteenth-century date for group P6 as a whole.

(Fig. 15)

P6/1. Very small cooking pot in hard pink-surfaced grey ware with small white (chalk?) inclusions.

P6/2. Bowl in fairly hard shell-filled fabric akin to St Neots ware with upright sides and thumb mouldings on the rim top. The type properly belongs to the twelfth century, of which it is a typical local form (Eynesbury: *Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1961), p. 87, fig. 3; Felmersham: *Ant. J.* XXXI (1951), p. 48, nos. 10-13). It may be a stray or a survival in this group.

P6/3 and 4. Two cooking pot rims in fairly hard grey ware with pink surfaces, somewhat eroded.

P6/5. Cooking pot rim in hard dark grey fabric.

P6/6. Cooking pot rim in hard light grey fabric with rounded white quartz-like grits.

P6/7. Cooking pot in similar fabric, though slightly harsher and without grits.

P12/1. Cooking pot in fabric similar to, though lighter than, P6/7. Two joining sherds from this came from different pits, the square wood-lined F1 and the round wicker-lined F12.

P12/2. Cooking pot rim in hard grey fabric with light brown surfaces.

P12/3. Cooking pot in hard grey fabric similar to P12/1, etc., above, but differing in form by the beading within the rim.

P12/4. Small cooking pot in dark grey fabric with light pink surfaces.

P12/5. Jug in hard harsh dark grey fabric with buff outer surface. The neck is heavily ribbed; there is no indication on the sherd of the lip or handle arrangement.

P12/6. Bowl in rather soft shell-filled fabric akin to St Neots ware with pink inner and grey outer surface. St Neots ware probably survives into the thirteenth century in this and some cooking pot forms in the Cam and Ouse valleys.

(Fig. 16)

A/US3. Jug (?) in hard fine dark grey fabric, with high cylindrical neck, inturned rim and sagging base. Insufficient remained to show if handle and lip were present.

*Sidney Street* (Fig. 16)

S/US2. Rim of jug in hard grey ware with bright red surfaces and a micaceous sparkle. The vessel has a bridge spout formed by an applied pouch which, with eyes made with the fingertip on either side, forms a simple face mask. The neck is decorated with rows of horseshoe-shaped stamps with a spot in the centre, and the vessel has an external glaze which varies patchily from dark green through light green to orange. Such jugs are common in the Cambridge collections: there are sherds of one of them in P20, and part of one occurred in the Cherry Hinton Well group (*Proc. C.A.S.* XLVI (1952), p. 30) of the late thirteenth-early fourteenth century. A complete vessel from Cambridge is illustrated by Bernard Rackham (*Medieval English Pottery* (1948), pl. 33). Sherds in similar ware and decoration technique are found in waste heaps into which the late thirteenth-century kiln at Brill, Oxon., was cut (information from Prof. Jope), but the numerous Cambridge examples can hardly have been imported from there. Mr Hurst informs us that this ware was made in the kilns around Sible Hedingham, Essex; he has named the ware 'Hedingham Ware'.

S/US3. Jug body sherd in very hard and harsh grey ware, decorated with throwing grooves between which are horizontal wavy combed lines, over all of which a stylized plant design is deeply incised. Reminiscent of wares from the Ingatestone kiln (unpublished; information from Prof. Jope).

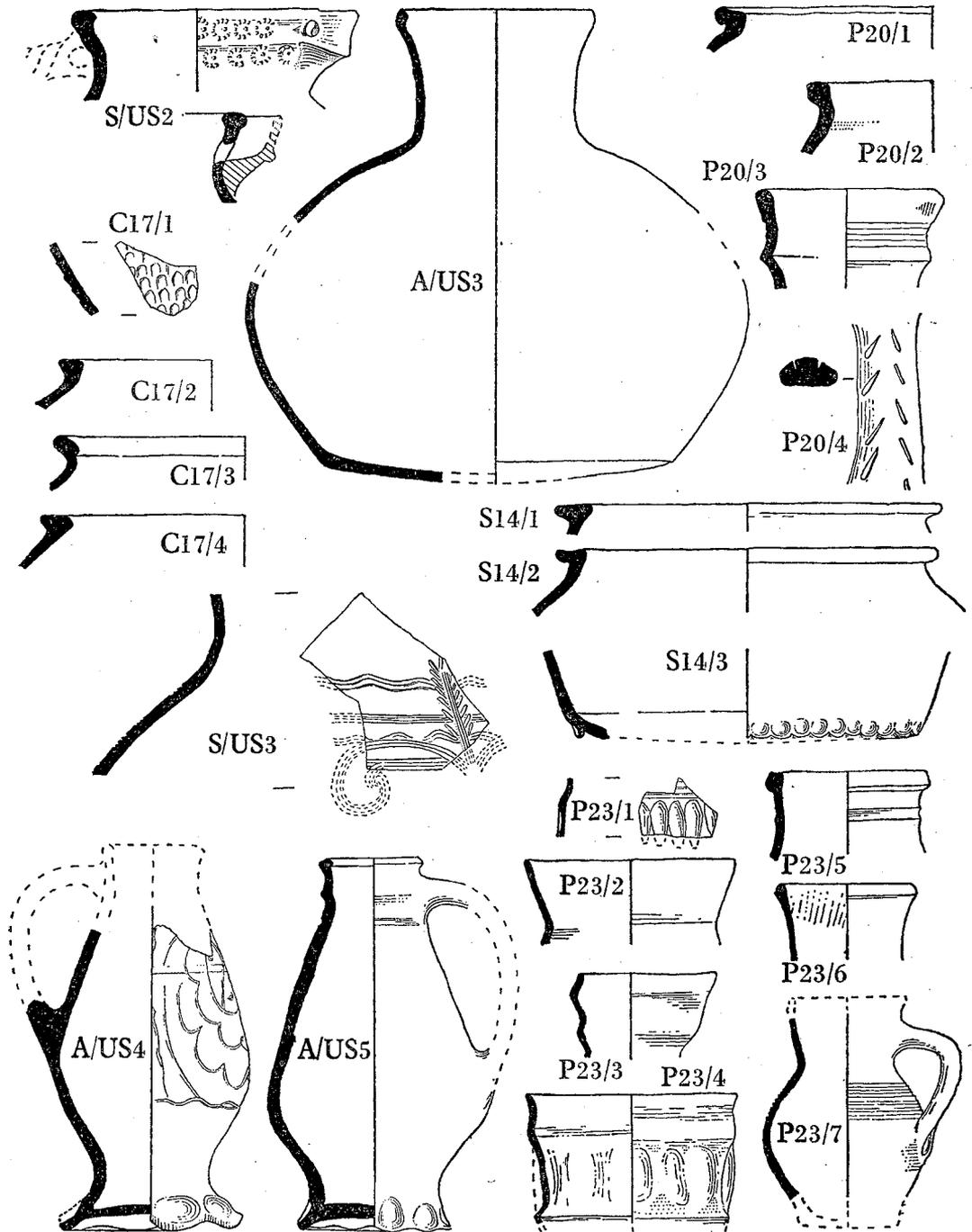


Fig. 16. Pottery of the thirteenth to early sixteenth centuries (4).

*Post Office Terrace* (Fig. 16)

P20/1. Cooking pot in hard grey fabric (cf. P12/1 etc., above).

P20/2. Cooking pot in fairly hard grey fabric with smoked outer surface and gritty feel.

P20/3. Jug rim in hard very dark grey fabric with light pink surfaces (cf. P12/4, above) and spots and splashes of dark green glaze on the exterior. The lip is slightly pulled out, but no traces of the handle remain.

P20/4. Jug handle in hard even grey fabric with deep triangular stabs.

*Late thirteenth to fourteenth centuries* (Fig. 17)

*Bradwell's Court* (Fig. 17)

B2/1. Body sherds of a pitcher of fine buff-cream ware, decorated externally with vertical and chevron stripes of applied red clay; glazed on the exterior only with a clear glaze appearing rich yellow over the buff-cream body, but with a green speckle in places, due to the presence of copper impurities in the glaze. Late thirteenth to fourteenth century. The form and decoration of this pitcher are characteristic of the three-storeyed pitchers of the Oxford Region (*Oxon.* iv (1939), pp. 124-5, 127, pl. XII, 5; B. Rackham, *Medieval English Pottery* (1948), p. 24, pl. 83). The present pitcher and another (not illustrated, see above, p. 110) from Angel Court, Trinity College, together with a possible sherd from P20, are imports from the Oxford Region (for distribution of Oxford style products see E. M. Jope, *Trans. Bristol and Gloucs. Arch. Soc.* LXXI (1952), pp. 71-6, fig. 11).

*Fourteenth and fifteenth centuries* (Fig. 16)

*Corn Exchange Street* (Fig. 16)

The group C17, coming from a series of superimposed garden levels above the early ditch, includes a number of small abraded and presumably derived sherds of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; only the four latest and best preserved sherds are illustrated, partly because they seem to be of fourteenth-century date, and such pottery is rare in Cambridge; and partly because they may have some value as a group.

C17/1. Sherd from the body of a jug (?) or other decorated vessel in hard grey fabric with pink inner surface; the outer surface, which is covered with carefully formed close-scale decoration, has a good-quality rich green glaze. Scale decoration is common on late thirteenth-century jugs and aquamaniles, but the puzzle jug in the Ashmolean indicates that it may persist late, and the high quality of this example would allow a fourteenth-century date. Though conventional views see the exuberant thirteenth-century decorative motifs disappearing with the fourteenth-century economic decline, it is apparent, at least if architecture can be taken as a parallel (E. M. Jope (ed.), *Studies in Building History* (1961), pp. 134-65), that they went on wherever they could find a market. Mr Hurst considers this sherd to be of Grimston Ware from the kilns near King's Lynn and informs us that recent work at King's Lynn by Miss Helen Parker and at Norwich by himself confirms that the ware, if not the complex decoration, continues into the late fourteenth century as recently argued by Mr S. E. Rigold (*Med. Arch.* vi-vii (1962-3), p. 101).

C17/2. Cooking pot in hard, light grey fabric with some minute dark inclusions which appear as grits on the surface. The rim form tends towards the triangular section of C17/4, below.

C17/3. Cooking pot in fairly hard well-filled pinkish grey fabric, with out-thrown rim similar to P12/3, above; the latter is in a fabric more associated with the thirteenth century.

C17/4. Cooking pot in hard, fine dark ware with triangular-sectioned rim characteristic of fourteenth-century cooking pottery in Cambridge, and found particularly in the London area from the late thirteenth century onwards.

*Sidney Street* (Fig. 16)

This group is probably comparable in date to C17, above.

S14/1. Cooking pot in hard, fine grey ware with triangular-sectioned rim.

S14/2. Cooking pot in hard, fine grey fabric, slightly browner than S14/1, with triangular-sectioned rim.

S14/3. Base, probably of a jug, in hard, fine pinkish red ware with micaceous glitter. The basal angle has small mouldings pulled down with the finger tip.

*Angel Court, Trinity College* (Fig. 16; Pl. V, B)

The important series of sgraffito-decorated vessels from Cambridge has been discussed in two papers in these *Proceedings* (*Proc. C.A.S.* XLIV (1950), pp. 48–50; XLVI (1952), pp. 21–6). The present work produced a further example, A/US4, and an undecorated example, A/US5, a type common in the region in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

A/US4. Jug in hard red fabric with heavy thumb-moulded foot and swelling body; the neck and handle are missing. The jug is decorated with a sgraffito pattern of stylized beard incised through an apron of white slip, all covered with a clear yellowish glaze, which extends on to the unslipped body of the pot. The vessel may have had a face mask (Pl. V, B).

A/US5. Jug in hard red fabric similar to the previous example, but without the sgraffito decoration. The rim has an internal bevel and the band of slip extends all round the body except under the handle. The glaze is restricted to the area of the slip.

*Early sixteenth century* (Fig. 16)*Post Office Terrace* (Fig. 16)

An interesting group of early Tudor wares, P23, includes a class of small vessels, cups and jugs, in thin red ware with a clear glaze giving a shiny orange-red finish. Particularly noticeable among them are a folded beaker (P23/4) reminiscent of Romano-British examples, and a sherd (P23/1) bearing decoration apparently with a cut-glass prototype and very like similar decoration on Roman pottery vessels (e.g. Holt, *Y Cymmrodor*, XLI (1930), fig. 76). The suggestion that these were made to the order of a renaissance don who had excavated Roman prototypes in a local Romano-British town is perhaps too ingenious. What is certainly remarkable is that the one household from which this group is presumably refuse had a preference for this type of ware when others were certainly available. In addition to the fine orange wares, which occurred in most levels of P23, several other fabrics were present, giving a cross-section of the wares of early sixteenth-century Cambridge. There was one small thin pink-bodied sherd of tin-glazed ware, without visible decoration, which is probably a Spanish import (we are grateful to Mr J. G. Hurst for examining this sherd: see *Ant. J.* XLI (1961), pp. 6–12; J. G. Hurst in B. Cunliffe, *Winchester Excavations, 1949–1960* (1961), p. 144). A few small sherds of 'Tudor-green' pottery were also present (J. G. Hurst, *ibid.* pp. 140–2). The larger vessels seemed to be mostly jugs of reddish fabric decorated with broad lines of white slip overlain by yellow or greenish olive glaze. This is a common late medieval Cambridge and East Anglian type (B. Rackham, *Medieval English Pottery* (1948), pls. 50, 53) and is now seen here in a firmly sixteenth-century setting. The broad lines of white slip were also present in a lattice pattern on the base of a thin-walled rectangular fish/meat dish which had a flaring, slightly hollowed flat handle, rather thinner than usual (*Oxon. xxiv* (1959), p. 36, fig. 16, 1). Also present were a number of hard red sherds with a 'pimply' surface appearance. This ware, which is characteristic of East Anglia, has been found in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century contexts at the More, Herts. (*Arch. J.* CXVI (1959), p. 169, fig. 12, 1, 8).

P23/1. Shoulder of vessel in thin hard red fabric with thick clear glaze on the exterior, and traces of the same within, giving a shiny orange-red surface. Decorated with horizontal rilling and cut-away lozenges resembling in effect cut glass.

P23/2. Posset cup or jug in the same fabric and with the same glaze within and without.

P23/3. Jug rim in the same fabric and with the same glaze within and without; the lip is markedly pulled out, and on it there is a splash of green glaze.

P23/4. Beaker in the same fabric and with the same glaze within and without; decorated with lobes or folds made by alternate pressure of thumb and forefinger.

P23/5. Jug rim in hard even fabric, grey within and pink without; traces of metallic greenish glaze on the outside; the lip and handle are missing.

P23/6. Jug rim in the ware of P23/1, glazed without and partly within; there are compression ripples within, the result of throwing the clay out and in again on a high-speed wheel (*Oxon.* XXIII (1958), pp. 35-6).

P23/7. Jug in the same fabric and glaze, with throwing grooves on the shoulder.

### *Second half of the sixteenth century (Fig. 17)*

C13 is the only small group perhaps attributable to this period. None of the vessels is readily datable, but the 'pimply' wares of P23 persist and C13/4 is reminiscent of some of the orange-ware vessels of P23. On the other hand the number of 'pimply' sherds unglazed, or glazed on one side only, set this group apart from the richly glazed wares of A2 of the mid-seventeenth century, and a date in the second half of the sixteenth century is suggested.

#### *Corn Exchange Street (Fig. 17)*

C13/1. Shallow open bowl, fine even paste, light grey with reddish buff surfaces. Olive-green glaze on interior only, rather patchy near the rim. Knife-trimming around the lower part of exterior and under the base.

C13/2. Flanged rim, probably of an open bowl; coarse brick-red fabric with grey core. Spots of yellow-brown glaze on top of the flange and in patches on the interior.

C13/3. Flanged rim, probably of an open bowl with moulded wall. Coarse dull brick-red ware with quartz inclusions up to 4 mm. in diameter. Spots of reddish brown glaze on the interior.

C13/4. Upright simply moulded rim probably from a jug, of coarse, but well-fired, brick-red ware, with rich yellow-brown glaze inside and out.

C13/5. Base of a pitcher of coarse reddish brown fabric with spigot-hole formed by piercing a hole through an applied clay pad and through the body of the pitcher. Spots of reddish brown glaze below the base.

C13/6. Flaring rim of glass vessel, probably of clear white metal, but badly decayed.

### *First half of the seventeenth century (Fig. 17)*

The only group datable to the middle, or second quarter, of the seventeenth century is A2, the dating of which depends on a clay pipe (A2/1) of Oswald's Type 4 *a* of *c.* 1620-50 (*Arch. News Letter*, v (1955), pp. 245-50), from the middle filling of the pit. The coarse ware is notable for the rich, deeply coloured, lustrous glazes, which are quite distinct from those seen on both earlier and later vessels (e.g. from C13 and B4 and 5). The various wares from this group give a cross-section of those available in mid-seventeenth-century Cambridge. In addition to the material illustrated the pit also contained several Siegburg and Raeren stoneware sherds, coarse ware sherds, vessel and window glass, and part of a wall-tile of pale creamy yellow fabric.

The contractor's excavations in the area produced part of a Raeren stoneware jug with figures of the Muses and inscriptions, and a Siegburg stoneware drinking mug, dated 1571, with the arms of the Duchy of Juliers, Cleves, Berg and with a figure of Judith carrying the head of Holophernes (cf. an exact parallel in the Fitzwilliam Museum, no. 2007).

*Angel Court, Trinity College (Fig. 17)*

A2/1. Clay pipe of Oswald's Type 4a of c. 1620-50.

A2/2. Rim of a stoneware jug with part of the decoration on the neck. Raeren ware, possibly part of the jug mentioned above. Found by a workman, but probably from this pit.

A2/3. Delft ware plate, creamy yellow paste, with decoration of bright blue, orange and yellow. In the illustration, blue is represented by diagonal hatching, orange by stipple and yellow by cross-hatching. The foot-ring has a hole 4 mm. in diameter, made before firing, for suspension. The bowl is typical Netherlands maiolica of the early seventeenth century.

A2/4. Rim and upper wall of a glass vessel with inward-sloping profile. This is possibly a cucurbit, the lower vessel of a two-part apparatus usually known as an alembic (a term properly applied only to the upper vessel), used for distillation. For an alembic proper and discussion see *Arch. J.* cxvi (1959), p. 179, fig. 17, 18.

A2/5. Tripod vessel, probably a pipkin (the handle is missing) with a hollowed rim and rilled body. Red ware, completely covered with thick green glaze, which appears mottled yellow where thin. The scar of a single leg is preserved on the fragments available. Part of a second vessel of this type was also present.

A2/6. Large pipkin with thick heavily moulded rim with internal seating, perhaps for a lid. The handle is hollowed and projects upwards from the body. Coarse brick-red ware completely covered internally with clear light brown glaze and externally with rich greenish brown glaze except for the handle, which is unglazed and has a buff-brown surface. Other examples of this type of vessel from Cambridge have a rosette of finger impressions on the body around the base of the handle.

A2/7. Rim and part of the handle of a bowl (or upper part of a jug) of coarse sandy red ware with clear yellow glaze inside and out.

A2/8. Small sherd of a heavily moulded rim of reddish brown ware with a grey core and clear yellow glaze. Possibly from a vessel similar to A2/6.

A2/9. Base of a jug of thick coarse red ware with clear internal glaze, appearing orange. The exterior is covered with a white crust, on the nature of which see below. The base has been bound round with an iron wire to prevent cracking, or to repair a crack that had already formed. Part of the handle is present below the crust. The crust and contents of the pot were examined by Mr L. Biek, of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, who reports as follows:

'About half of the lower part of the pot with filling *in situ* (A.M. Lab. No. 9976), together with additional "filling" from the other half (9977), was submitted to the Laboratory for examination of the contents and of a "thin cementitious incrustation" over the outside surface of the base.

'X-radiographic and close visual examinations, and ignition<sup>1</sup> and acid tests were carried out by Mr W. E. Lee. The pot filling (9976 B) seemed to consist principally of soil and rubbish, containing much comminuted coke and charcoal, and was generally high in organic matter. It was also remarkably rich in acid-soluble material, evidently calcareous in the main, and possibly associated with the downwash of chalky and/or mortar strata. A few bone fragments were isolated. The additional "filling" (9977), although generally similar, differed slightly in containing some shell fragments and coarse pottery, but also in the grading of insoluble matter, being far richer in coarse material and correspondingly lacking in the "fine sand" range, though other

<sup>1</sup> L. Biek, *Archaeology and the Microscope* (1963), p. 223.

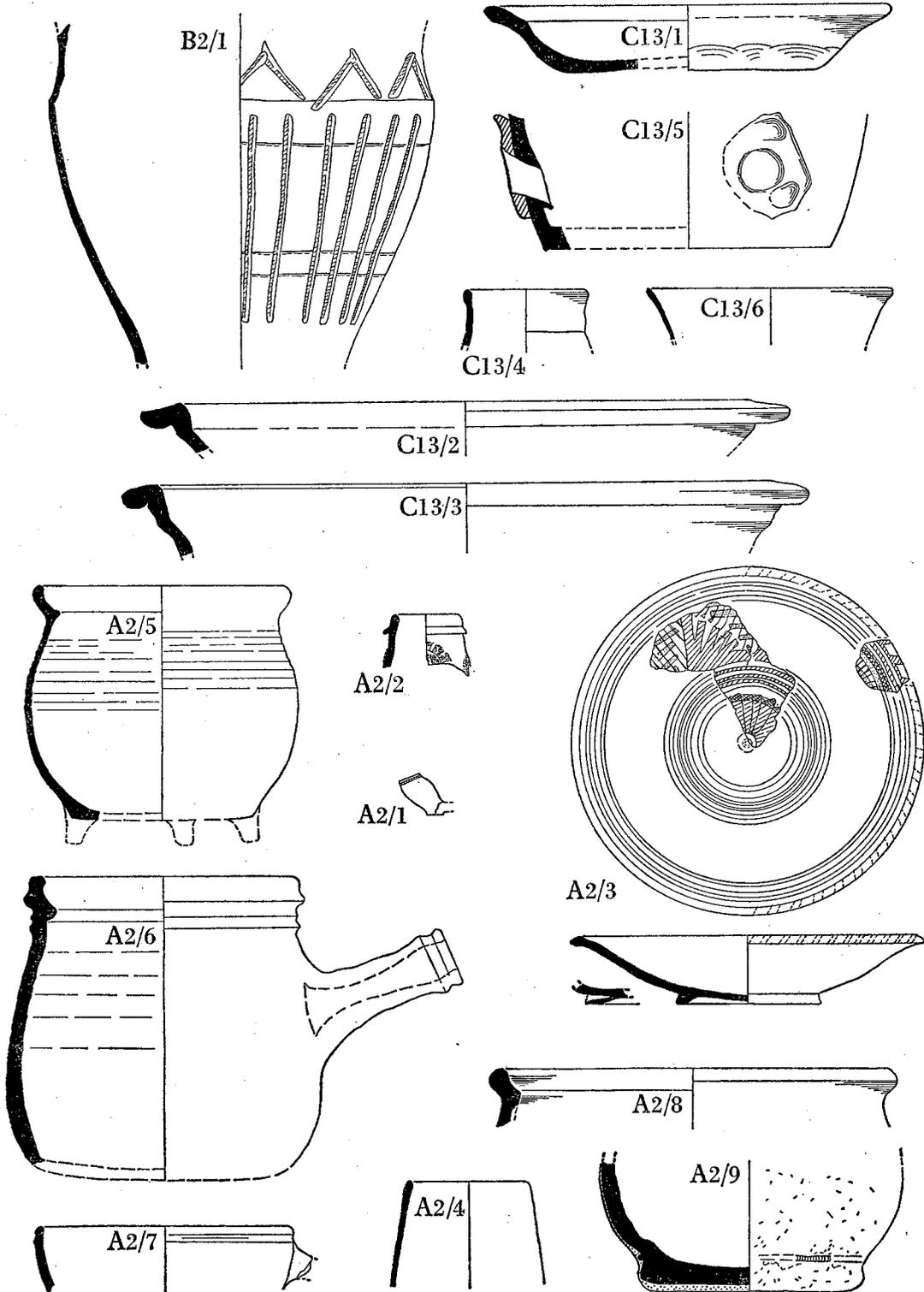


Fig. 17. Pottery of the late thirteenth to fourteenth centuries (B2/1) and late sixteenth to mid-seventeenth centuries (remainder), except C13/6 and A2/4, glass, and A2/1, clay pipe (¼).

fractions were comparable. Whilst this probably reflects a general heterogeneity in the filling, it might be taken to suggest dumped rather than washed-in material, or at most a mixture of the two.

'The most interesting aspect of the examination was provided by the pot itself. The X-radiograph had revealed a crack and a shadow, as of a band, of more radiopaque material wrapped around the waisted portion of the base. Careful examination exposed the twisted end of a thick iron wire with which an attempt had evidently been made to give mechanical strength to the cracked vessel, before daubing it over with a fine, buff-firing clay and refiring to a relatively low temperature (probably not exceeding about 600°–700° C). The voids between original pot surface and applied "slip", formed when the creamy paste was wiped over, are also clearly visible in the X-radiograph, in part overlying the base of the broken handle.'

### *Mid-seventeenth to early eighteenth centuries* (Figs. 18 and 19)

This period is represented by seven groups which fall into two assemblages probably little separated in date.

To the earlier belong four groups from Bradwell's Court: BH2 consists of material from the burnt debris of a house and is dated by two clay pipes of Oswald's Type 6*b* of *c.* 1650–80; BH3 is a group of vessels from the occupation level of the same house, and is closely related to BH2. B4 and B5 were two pits to the east of the house and probably related to it. Both contain pipes of Oswald's Type 5*b* and 6*b* of *c.* 1640–70 and *c.* 1650–80 respectively, and both have other parallels with each other and with BH2 and 3. All four groups represent material from the same house of about the same period.

To the second assemblage belong three groups, one from Bradwell's Court, the other two from Sidney Street. S16 contains a glass bottle of *c.* 1675–1710 and is related in general character and by S16/2 to group S28. The latter is in turn related to B3 by the occurrence in both of almost identical pipkins of the type of B3/1. It is difficult to be certain that this second assemblage is later in date than the four related Bradwell's Court groups. As the vessels BH2/5 and S16/3 suggest, they may overlap in date and the differences could be accounted for by the different character of the milieu in which these pots may have been used. In spite of this, the presence of a sherd of Staffordshire slipware in S16 suggests that the second assemblage could belong to the later seventeenth or eighteenth century, while the first could be given a central date of 1675.

Although it is possible to parallel the general form of these vessels over wide areas of England, in common with other pottery of this date they reveal in details of form and fabric the essentially local character of seventeenth-century coarse wares. Thus the Cambridge vessels published here show little if any relationship to the contemporary material of Norwich (*Norfolk Arch.* xxxi, i (1955), pp. 76–86; xxxiii, ii (1963), pp. 161–7), Colchester (*Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.* 3rd ser. 1, i (1961), pp. 4–8), south Hertfordshire (The More: *Arch. J.* cxvi (1959), pp. 169–73), London (material in the Guildhall Museum and from Mr H. J. M. Green's excavations at Whitehall), Surrey (Nonsuch: *Surrey A.C.* LVIII (1961), pp. 14–20), Canterbury (Professor Sheppard S. Frere's excavations), Camber (recent excavations by Messrs Biddle and Colvin), or Winchester (material in the Winchester City Museum and from recent excavations); and few if any of these regional groups show relationships one to another (*Med. Arch.* vi–vii (1962–63), p. 147 n. 79). Many more dated groups will have to be studied and published before the interrelationship and distribution of these regional groups can be established. In spite of the recent date of this material its study is important, for pottery of this kind may be the only available evidence for the date of industrial structures or minor houses as in villages (Babingley: *Norfolk Arch.* xxxii, iv (1961), pp. 332–42), while its export from England to North America, where its importance for dating may be vital, is as yet mostly unstudied (see S28/5, below).

*Bradwell's Court* (Fig. 18)

- BH2/1. Clay pipe bowl of Oswald's Type 6*b* of c. 1650-80.  
 BH2/2. Clay pipe bowl, probably of Type 6*b*.  
 BH2/3. Frechen stoneware, with part of a heraldic shield design.  
 BH2/4. Base of a glass vessel of light green metal. The form of the foot suggests a sixteenth-century date (cf. J. G. N. Renaud, *Bull. van de Kon. Ned. Oudh. Bond.* 6<sup>e</sup> serie, Jaarg. 15, 2 (1962), pp. 104-14).

BH2/5. Open bowl of reddish-orange ware with a white slip on the interior overlain with a red slip in a combed pattern. Clear yellow glaze with dark green patches all over the interior. Some white slip and a thin glaze on the exterior below the rim; cf. S16/3.

BH2/6. Flaring rim of pink-red ware decorated in a similar slip technique to no. 5 above.

BH2/7. Flanged rim of large bowl or pan; coarse buff-brown ware with dark yellow glaze on the interior.

BH2/8. Open bowl with flaring profile, the carination marked externally with a cordon decorated with finger impressions. The exact form of the upper part of this vessel is uncertain. Coarse pink-buff to cream ware, glazed dark green all over externally and rich yellow internally.

BH2/9. Jar with one surviving handle (possibly originally two) attached to the rim, which is hollowed internally. Coarse reddish brown ware, grey in places, with dark greenish brown glaze all over the exterior and streaky inside.

BH3/10. Frechen stoneware with decorated band.

BH3/11. Flanged rim of a large bowl or pan. Coarse friable pinkish red ware with large (up to 3 mm. in diameter) inclusions. Yellow-brown glaze on the upper surface of the flange, where there are two incised lines. Two sherds of this vessel occurred in BH2.

BH3/12. Deep bowl of pimply red ware with thick grey core. There are mouldings on the exterior and greenish yellow-brown glaze inside, patchy near the rim.

BH3/13. Inturned-rim bowl, knife trimming near the base externally and patchy yellow-brown glaze inside.

BH3/14. Jar rim, cf. no. 7 above; coarse pink-red ware with white flint inclusions; greenish-brown glaze all over inside and out, but patchy below the exterior of the rim.

BH3/15. Small deep bowl with moulded cordon. Pink-buff fabric with white chalky inclusions. Purple sheen in places on the exterior and rich yellow-brown glaze all over the interior.

BH2 also contained other stoneware sherds, including Frechen and 'tiger-ware', the latter possibly of English manufacture; the base of a red ware globular jug, possibly a copy of a stoneware form; fragments of two tygs and two slipware sherds comparable to (but not necessarily the same as) Metropolitan Slipware. In addition there were in this group a number of sherds of green-glazed vessels of uncertain form, but with some of the sherds pierced with rough-cut openings such as are found on stink-pots (examples from Nonsuch: *Surrey A.C.* LVIII (1961), p. 18, fig. 6, 12); a stumpy foot as from a tripod vessel also occurred in this ware, which is close to that of BH2/8.

BH3 also contained further Frechen stoneware, two sherds of green-glazed pottery similar to 'Tudor-green' and four sherds of tygs.

B4/1. Clay pipe of Oswald's Type 6*b* of c. 1650-80.

B4/2. Clay pipe of Oswald's Type 5*b* of c. 1640-70.

B4/3. Open bowl with flanged rim, beaded internally, with wavy line incised decoration on the upper surface of the rim. Coarse buff-cream fabric, with grey core and surface reddened in places. Rich dark green glaze externally all over the wall, but spotty on the exterior of the rim; olive-green glaze internally on lower parts of the vessel with clear glaze over the rim.

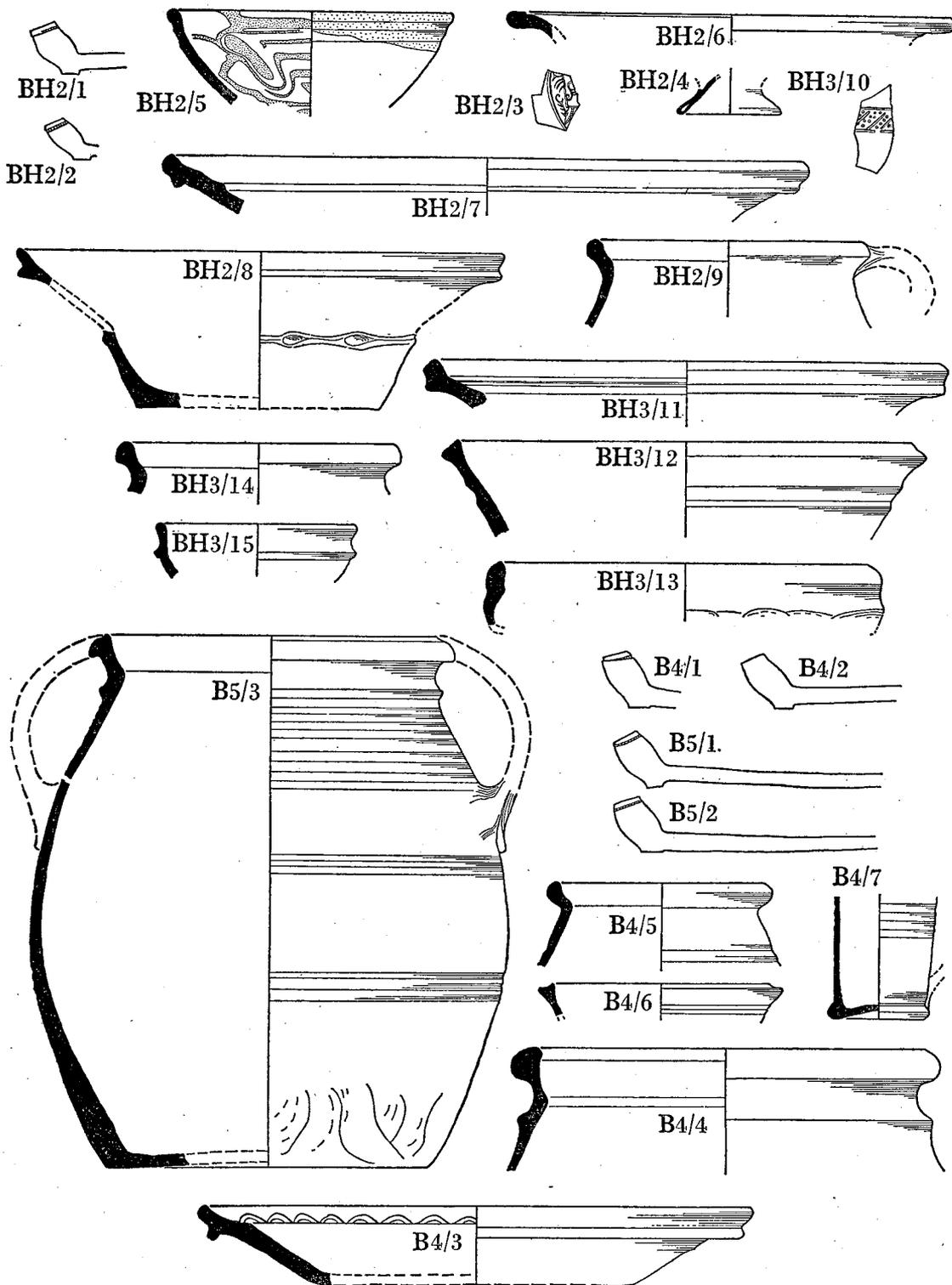


Fig. 18. Pottery and clay pipes of the second half of the seventeenth century, except BH2/4, glass (†).

B4/4. Jar with elaborately moulded rim and external cordon. Coarse pink-red ware with white inclusions and purple-grey surface inside and out. Thick olive-brown glaze externally, running streakily over the rim (i.e. the pot was fired upside down), patchy glaze on preserved portion of the interior; cf. closely with B5/3.

B4/5. Small jar with everted hollowed rim and ribbed exterior. Pink-red ware with reddish-brown glaze inside and out, patchy below the exterior of the rim, and on the interior.

B4/6. Rim of a small vessel of greyish cream ware with light green glaze externally, which appears clear yellow on top of the rim and internally.

B4/7. Base of tyg, coarse pink-red soft-fired fabric with thick black glaze all over the exterior, but patchy inside.

B4 also contained two examples of straight hollow handles similar to A2/6, but with rosettes of finger impressions around the base of the handles: this is a Cambridge type of frequent occurrence at this period. B4 also contained two sherds possibly from coarse ware copies of stoneware jugs; and two sherds decorated with a combed slip technique identical with BH2/5.

B5/1. Clay pipe bowl of Oswald's Type 6*b* of c. 1650-80.

B5/2. Clay pipe bowl of Oswald's Type 6*b* of c. 1650-80.

B5/3. Large ovoid storage jar, probably originally with two handles, the spring of one of which remains. The form, reconstructed from overlapping but non-fitting sherds, should only be regarded as approximately correct. Coarse pink-red ware with red inclusions, the surface fired dull purple and with rich honey-brown glaze all over the interior and exterior, except over the rim and around the lower part of the exterior.

B5 also contained a small jar identical with BH2/9.

(Fig. 19)

B3/1. Pipkin of medium-grain pimply dull red ware, blackened near the base. Hollowed everted rim and ridged body profile with a flat base. Everted bar-handle, folded up on top and brought to a pointed end. Occasional spots of yellow-brown glaze externally, with large patch on the inside of the base. A similar pipkin occurred in S28.

B3/2. Deep open bowl of greyish buff ware, blackened over the exterior and glazed internally with a good cover of dull yellow glaze. Simple clubbed rim, the exterior heavily ribbed, and the base slightly sagging.

B3/3. Rim, probably of an open bowl, flanged externally and glazed internally with brownish yellow glaze. Orange-buff slightly pimply fabric.

B3/4. Flanged rim support, probably from a chafing dish (cf. S28/5) originally having three supports on the rim to support a second vessel above. Coarse dull red fabric glazed all over inside and out with rich yellow-brown glaze. The upper surface of the flange is decorated with semi-circular impressions made with a sharp instrument. A complete example from Willingham Fen with a pedestal and with the rim decorated with criss-cross coarsely incised grooves is in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (53.490), where there is a second example perhaps from Trinity College (59.72. B).

*Sidney Street* (Fig. 19)

S16/1. Deep bowl with flaring sides and flanged rim. The body is pierced by (?) four circular perforations just above the base angle. Coarse pinkish orange ware with grey surfaces. Reddish brown glaze all over the interior and exterior except over the rim and on the upper part of the interior.

S16/2. Deep bowl, similar to S16/1, but with straighter sides and pierced in (?) four places through the base. The base angle has been trimmed with a knife. Coarse pinkish orange ware with

grey surfaces except for the lower part of the interior, which is reddish purple. The dark brown glaze is restricted to the interior of the base, where it is patchy. S16/1 and 2 are clearly plant-pots of the kind shown in use in Laurent de la Hyre's (1606-58) painting *Grammar* in the National Gallery.

S16/3. Shallow dish with flanged rim. Coarse pink-red ware. Streaks of white slip outside and on the rim. All over white slip inside overlain by a red slip in a wavy pattern. Another sherd, perhaps from near the base of this vessel, has a true combed pattern in this technique (cf. BH2/5). This is perhaps a local copy of Staffordshire slipwares, a sherd of which occurred in this group.

S16/4. Open bowl with flanged rim. Coarse pinkish orange ware with grey or reddish grey surface. There is no glaze on the surviving sherd.

S16/5. Flanged rim of tin-glazed vessel, the form of which is uncertain. On the rim are traces of two vertical projections, probably originally three, which may have formed a basket handle over the vessel. Light-yellow fabric from which the white tin-glaze is splitting.

S16/6. Glass wine bottle. The form of this bottle is close to I. Noël Hume's Types 4 and 6 datable to 1675-1710 (*Journal of Glass Studies*, III (1961), fig. 3).

S28/1. Open bowl with flanged rim, sagging base and knife-trimming at the base angle. Coarse buff-red ware. Patchy brown glaze over the interior, but spots only on the rim and exterior.

S28/1A. Open bowl similar to the last in form and fabric, but slightly shallower (not illustrated).

S28/1B. Open bowl similar to the last in form and fabric (not illustrated).

S28/2. Large open bowl with hooked-flange rim. Grey-brown ware with brown surfaces. Spots and patches of brown glaze, mostly on the interior.

S28/3. Deep open bowl of thick brownish grey fabric with undercut flanged rim and sagging base. Extensive knife-trimming around the lower part of the body. Sparse patchy yellow-brown glaze on the lower part of the interior only.

S28/4. Lower part of a globular jug (?), of coarse bright pink-red fabric covered externally with a thick black glaze which is present inside the base alone. The interior surface is fired dark greyish purple. The base is pierced by a circular perforation.

S28/4A. Squat pipkin with hollowed everted rim and carinated profile, the base slightly kicked. Slightly curved bar-handle, with large finger impression below. Knife-trimming around the base. Reddish-brown fabric with a patch of reddish brown glaze on the interior of the base, but elsewhere unglazed except for rare chance spots. (Not illustrated, cf. B3/1.)

S28/5. Chafing dish with everted rim on which are supports (probably originally three) for an upper vessel. Two opposed downturned horizontal loop handles. The pedestal base is formed in one part with the bowl, and the base of the bowl formed by a separate inserted clay plate. The pedestal is decorated with vertical finger impressions, and the base has been trimmed internally and externally with a knife. Coarse pink-buff fabric with a thick grey core. Olive-green glaze tinged with brown rather patchy glaze over the interior of the bowl; very sparse and patchy glaze on the upper part of the exterior and spots only on the pedestal. There are no signs of burning in the bowl or under the base.

There are two other chafing dishes from this pit. One is identical to the illustrated vessel; the other has a plain pedestal without the vertical finger impressions. One shows slight signs of burning on the interior of the bowl.

The usual lack of signs of burning is perhaps explained by the use of hot water rather than coals as the warming agent in the bowl, but the burning of spirits of wine has also been suggested (C. M. Watkins, *op. cit.* below), and this would probably leave no sign of burning. When in use with coals, these were placed in the bowl of the vessel, above which the pot being warmed was supported by the three projections on the rim: an illustration of a metal vessel of this type in use can be seen in Hogarth's painting *An Election Entertainment* (1754-7). In a different type the

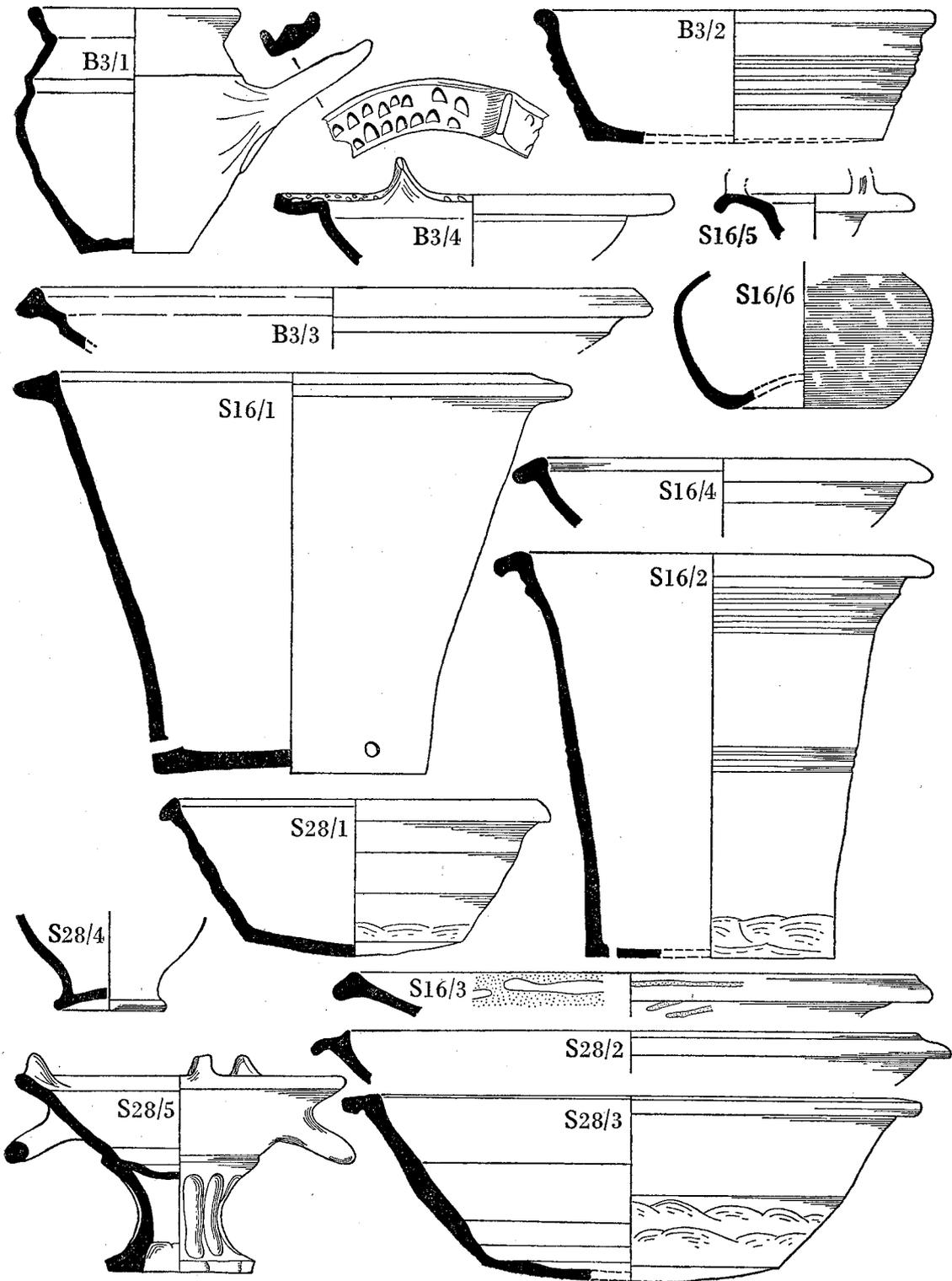


Fig. 19. Pottery of the later seventeenth to early eighteenth centuries, except S16/6, glass (4).

pedestal base is pierced by large openings and the coals were placed below the vessel, the substance to be warmed being placed directly in the bowl.

Chafing dishes are known in Holland (*Berichten van de rijksdienst voor het oudheidkundig bodemonderzoek*, IX (1959), p. 215, Abf. 16); and in the United States (C. Malcolm Watkins, *North Devon Pottery and its Export to America in the Seventeenth Century* (U.S. National Museum, Bulletin 225, 1960), p. 51, figs. 20, 31). These vessels have also been illustrated and discussed in the preliminary report on the pottery from Nonsuch (*Surrey A.C.* LVIII (1961), p. 20, fig. 7, 20), where the type occurs in deposits of 1650/65-1688.

S28 also contains the rim of a deep vessel identical to S16/2.

### Wooden objects (Pl. III and Fig. 20)

A number of waterlogged deposits produced fragments of wood, in the main disused posts, beams and planks, but including some pieces of individual interest, of which details are given below.

Pl. III, C, D. One of two similar circular blocks of oak, some 16 in. in diameter and 4 in. thick. On Pl. III, D, the cross-cut saw marks on the face of the block can be clearly seen. From Corn Exchange Street, thirteenth-century ditch.

Fig. 20, 1. Stave, *Quercus* sp. (oak), with tapered top having three holes in the surviving portion and probably originally a fourth. There is a deep horizontal groove near the base. The stave probably comes from a handled bucket, with an iron hoop around the base, and perhaps a second hoop within the rim. The reconstruction (Fig. 20, 1*a*) is entirely hypothetical, though handles and hoops from perhaps similar buckets have been found in an early sixteenth-century deposit at St Neots (*Proc. C.A.S.* forthcoming). The latitudinal curve of the stave suggests that the groove was external, perhaps the seating for a binding strip. In available parallels an internal groove forms the seating for a wooden bottom. Thus in the present case the latitudinal curve may be the result of shrinkage.

Fig. 20, 2. Peg, *Corylus* (hazel), with hook and top trimmed and end pointed. From Post Office Terrace, feature 23, early sixteenth century.

Fig. 20, 3. Lath, *Quercus* sp. (oak), having three rectangular nail holes along its axis, and corrosion products of the round head of one of the nails. From Corn Exchange Street, thirteenth-century ditch.

Fig. 20, 4. Lath, *Quercus* sp. (oak), having one rectangular nail hole and indication of the round head of the nail. From Corn Exchange Street, thirteenth-century ditch.

### Iron objects

The condition of iron was usually bad and few objects worth publishing were found.

Fig. 20, 5. Iron auger-bit; length 16 in. From Bradwell's Court, probably from Pit 4; seventeenth century.

Fig. 20, 6. Iron knife, the handle formed by bone scales secured to either side of the scale-tang by three rivets. Each bone scale is decorated with three ring-and-dot ornaments. From Post Office Terrace, feature 23; early sixteenth century.

Fig. 20, 7. Single-edged rondel-dagger with scale-tang and wooden scales secured by three iron double-headed pins or rivets. The guard and inner part of the pommel are of hollow iron, while the pommel proper appears to have been made of wood now completely replaced by iron oxides. For a discussion of the dating of these weapons see *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940), pp. 42-7; the present example is of fifteenth-century date and must have been old when thrown into feature 23 of early sixteenth-century date on the Post Office Terrace site.

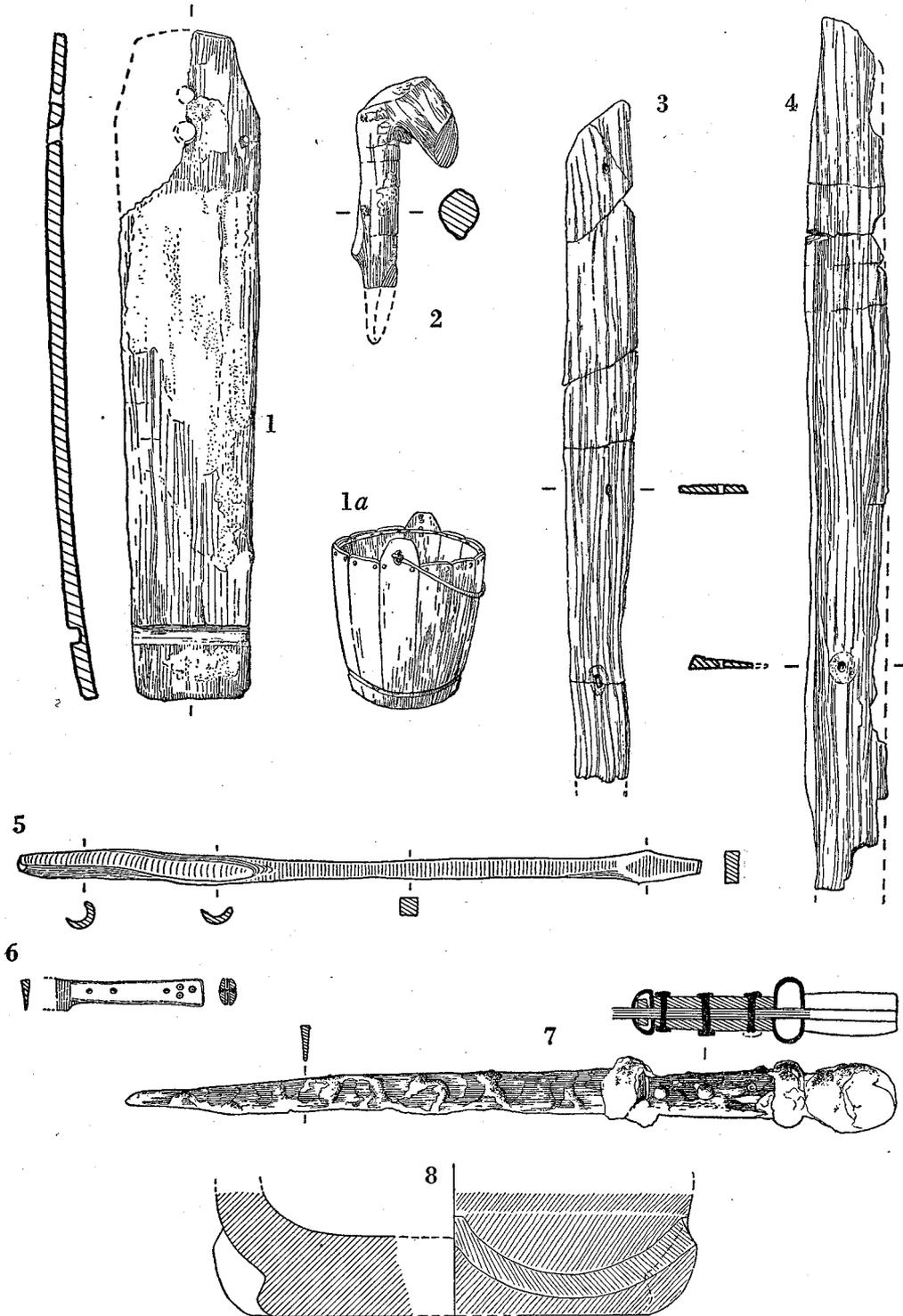


Fig. 20. Objects of wood (1-4), iron (5-7) and stone (8). (All  $\frac{1}{4}$ , except 1a, not to scale.)

The dagger, which was found in several pieces in extremely bad condition, was examined by Mr L. Biek, who reports as follows:

'Ancient Monuments Lab., No. 630015: The state of preservation is curious and clearly significant. Since little published information appears to exist on this topic it was thought important to give the description in full. The section of the blade, as seen in fracture, would seem to be little changed in shape, though completely altered in material. The rivets now show as hollow tubes, although it is probable that they were originally solid rivets: this is worth stressing as portions of armour recently examined<sup>1</sup> are thought to have had, all along, iron tubes similar in appearance and splayed at each end, through which pins of copper alloy were inserted. A microscopical spot of green (presumably copper) was seen on the central rivet head shown in the drawing. Although it had the appearance of having been formed *in situ*, the evidence is too slender for any firm deductions to be justifiable. The outlines generally, and of pommel and guard, are very much obscured by ambient soil irregularly impregnated with corrosion products.

'The "wood" of the scales appears to occupy very largely the space into which the original scales were affixed—apart from some evident loss of surface in a few places. The material is still very wood-like in grain, feel and, to some extent, softness, but is no longer completely homogeneous. The bulk is coherent, very dark chocolate brown in colour, but, although it evidently contains much hard material, some of it powders easily and areas filled with powder were noted on receipt in the Laboratory. On ignition of a microscopical sample, its shape was very largely retained, no obvious combustion was seen, and the resulting material was (under the microscope) reminiscent of a fragment of iron smelting cinder-with-slag.

'There are perhaps two features of special interest. First, the X-radiographic evidence (Pl. V, C) appears completely to contradict what can be seen with the naked eye in the area of the grip: it shows the central portion as "hollow", surrounded by a "tube" of iron-rich material, rather like the rivets but on a much larger scale. But, whilst the rivets can be seen to be hollow, the grip is (in the same sense) clearly not: all the fractures show a "solid" section of uniform texture. This would seem to indicate that, despite the retention of original shape, the metallic iron from the tang has in corroding sufficiently migrated outwards into the wood, and especially into its peripheral area, to leave virtually a mere husk of iron oxides in the place of the original wood. In effect, in their present state the wooden scales appear more radiopaque than the "iron" of the tang.

'The second noteworthy phenomenon concerns the material inside the guard which, in fracture, shows a laminated lustrous block not unlike the weathering skin on decayed medieval glass. The iridescent quality has been previously noted on crystals inside rust excrescences ("solidified bubbles"), and work is in progress on these iron oxides to elucidate their nature, but this is the first time that a full half-inch thickness of material has been observed, smaller and irregular "single crystallites" being also present here. The close visual parallel tempts one to transfer other considerations from glass to iron: could this phenomenon be seen as the result of a regular oscillation of conditions (from warm-dry to cool-wet and back) and, if seasonal, be used like tree rings to indicate age? Although there is some doubt<sup>2</sup> about the validity of *equating* the number of layers in a glass weathering skin with the number of years of burial, it seems that for some (? accidental) reason a strong correlation exists at least for the specimens published by Brill and Hood<sup>3</sup> and possibly also for the Hangleton object.<sup>4</sup> Similar periodic oscillation has been noted in caves<sup>5</sup> and mollusc shells.<sup>6</sup> It might in the present case be connected with a smoothly

<sup>1</sup> From Boston Dominican Friary.

<sup>3</sup> *Nature*, 189 (1961), pp. 12-14.

<sup>4</sup> *Sussex A.C. CI* (1963), pp. 164-5.

<sup>5</sup> *Nature*, 185 (1960), pp. 93-4.

<sup>2</sup> *Sussex A.C. CI* (1963), pp. 164-5.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 336-7.

and regularly fluctuating water table, much as suggested for the more drastic and localized variations indicated at Maxey.<sup>1</sup> The entire object, which is quite uncleanable, clearly deserves a complete examination, which it is hoped will be carried out in the near future.'

*Stone mortar*

Fig. 20, 8. Mortar of yellow broken-shell limestone or burr-stone, a softer rock of the same geological series as Purbeck marble. The four spurs give the base a square plan, while the bowl bulges out between and above the spurs. The latter terminate 2 in. above the base and do not continue upwards as ribs to merge with the lugs which will have been present at the rim. This mortar is thus a variant of Type 2 as defined by G. C. Dunning (*Med. Arch.* v (1961), pp. 279-84), although of the same date as the Northolt mortars on which his analysis was based. Post Office Terrace, feature 20; thirteenth century.

*Copper-alloy objects*

Fig. 21, 1. Thin circular disc with central boss. The flange is pierced for attachment in three places and decorated with an incised nine-pointed star. Post Office Terrace, feature 23; early sixteenth century.

Fig. 21, 2. Oblong plate with bevelled surface, pierced for attachment. Corn Exchange Street, level 17; fourteenth century.

Fig. 21, 3. Thimble, the exterior roughened with vertical incisions. Corn Exchange Street, feature 13; later sixteenth century.

Fig. 21, 4. Thin plate with slot for hook and holes for attachment: probably a book or clothes fastener. Bradwell's Court, burnt house, level 3; second half of seventeenth century.

Fig. 21, 5. Rim of flaring-mouthed vessel, possibly a bowl or skillet. Post Office Terrace, feature 23; early sixteenth century.

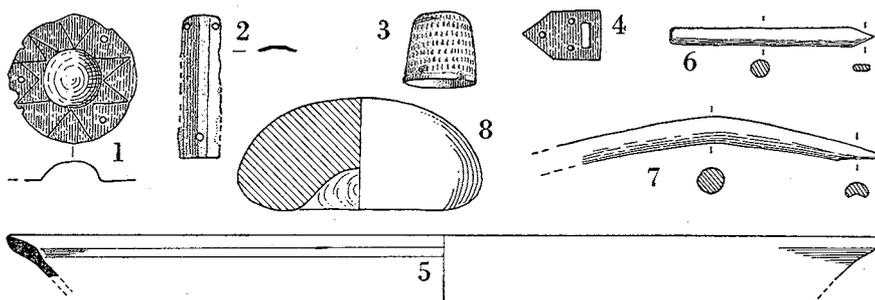


Fig. 21. Objects of copper alloy (1-5), lead (6-7) and glass (8) (4).

*Lead objects*

Fig. 21, 6. Lead rod with one end sharpened to a thin edge: probably a 'lead' pencil. Post Office Terrace, feature 20; thirteenth century.

Fig. 21, 7. Lead rod similar to, but larger than the above, the 'pointed' edge thinned and slightly hollowed to a nib-like form. Post Office Terrace, feature 6; thirteenth century.

<sup>1</sup> *Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), pp. 64-8.

*Glass linen-smoother*

Fig. 21, 8. Glass linen-smoother. These objects are a feature of early medieval deposits over much of northern Europe (York: *Arch.* xcvi (1959), p. 95, fig. 22, nos. 36 and 37; Cologne, noted by P. V. A.; Hedeby: H. Jankuhn, *Die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu* (1937-1939) (1943), III, Abb. 40; Birka: H. Arbman, *Die Gräber* (1943) p. 61, Abb. 38, 18), and are also known from later medieval deposits in England (Hangleton, Sussex, thirteenth-fourteenth century: *Sussex A.C.* CI (1963), pp. 163-5; Rievaulx, Yorks, after c. 1128: *ibid.* p. 163). Although probably used for smoothing linen their use for dressing skins has also been suggested (*ibid.* p. 164). Unstratified.

Mr L. Biek reports: 'The Cambridge linen-smoother is similar to the Hangleton objects, but completely lacks any of the weathering skin noted there and on a similar smoother from Therfield, Herts. (*J.B.A.A.* 3rd ser. xxvii (1964), pp. 81-2, fig. 23, 9). Purely from its superficial condition, however, it seems likely to have been made in much the same way and from the same types of raw material as the Hangleton objects (*op. cit.* p. 164).'

*The faunal remains*

The first section of the report which follows has been designed to show the relative quantities of the bones of the various animals present, and also the parts of the animals represented. This analysis has been divided into broad chronological groupings, each containing all the bones from levels of that date from the recent excavations. Although the report shows that the bones of sheep/goat predominate throughout, with cattle second, bird third and pig fourth, it must be remembered that in terms of carcass weight cattle certainly predominated with sheep/goat second, pig third and birds fourth.<sup>1</sup>

The second part of the report presents the measurements of the best-preserved bones species by species and period by period. It is only by the publication of such measurements, especially from large series, that it will eventually be possible to establish in detail the variations both regional and chronological present in early breeds.

*Report on the Faunal Remains*

By C. F. W. HIGHAM and E. S. HIGGS

Throughout this article, no. = number of bone fragments identified; % = percentage of fragments found; % imm. = the percentage of bones from immature animals; 1, horn cores and skull fragments; 2, mandible and maxilla; 3, teeth; 4, hyoid; 5, scapula; 6, humerus; 7, ulna/radius; 8, phalanges; 9, metapodials; 10, pelvis; 11, femur; 12, tibia; 13, vertebrae; 14, calcaneum/astragalus; 15, cuboid navicular; 16, sesamoids. The letters and numbers in brackets after each heading are the site letter, and feature or level numbers, as used in the report on the pottery (see p. 103). 816 bones were identified.

<sup>1</sup> For comparison of the figures of animals present by bone frequency on the one hand and carcass weight on the other, see Frazer and King's investigation of the fauna of Star Carr, in J. G. D. Clark, *Star Carr* (1952), Cambridge University Press. See also the results of the examination of the animal bones from Maxey (*Med. Arch.* VIII (1964), pp. 69-71).

### Summary

Sheep/goat predominate throughout, with cattle second, bird third and pig fourth. The preference was for young oxen and mature sheep/goat. The diet was supplemented by oysters, fish, fowl, venison and rabbit.

#### *The eleventh century or earlier (S26, 27)*

	No.	%	% imm.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sheep/goat	78	61.0	27.4	4	12	14	2	6	5	7	2	19	4	2	1	0
Cattle	24	19.0	50.0	3	1	1	0	5	1	2	3	2	1	2	1	2
Pig	8	6.5	60.0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0

There were also 12 bird bones, 4 of pigeon size, 1 horse metapodial and 4 bones of a canid.

#### *The twelfth century (S29; P1, 2, 3, 14, 18, 24; BVIII)*

	No.	%	% imm.	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14
Sheep/goat	59	41.3	33.3	13	3	9	3	4	4	4	16	1	0	3	3
Cattle	57	39.8	33.3	10	6	2	3	1	5	7	10	3	4	2	4
Pig	7	4.9	—	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0

Included within the 59 sheep/goat bones are 4 horn cores and 2 skull fragments definitely of goat. There were also 6 bird, 2 dog, 4 cat bones and a horse bone.

#### *The late twelfth-thirteenth centuries (P19, 28)*

	No.	%	% imm.	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15
Sheep/goat	42	32.4	22.2	6	2	4	3	3	2	4	11	2	0	2	2	1
Cattle	37	30.1	25.0	7	2	1	3	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	4	0
Pig	12	9.5	—	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0

There were also 15 cat, 1 rabbit, 1 dog and 11 bird bones. Two of the cattle were either foetal or just born.

*The thirteenth century (P20, 20a)*

There were 10 bones (37%) of sheep/goat, 11 (41%) cattle bones, 4 bird and 2 cat bones. Sheep/goat were represented by a molar, scapula, 2 radii, 2 ulnae, a tibia, two metatarsals and a humerus; cattle by 2 molars, an incisor, a scapula, 3 ribs, 3 humeri, and a vertebra fragment.

*The late thirteenth century (P6)*

There were 4 bones of sheep/goat, 2 cattle bones, 1 pig, a horse, and a bird bone. Sheep/goat were represented by a scapula, metapodial, astragalus and molar, cattle by a maxilla and jugal bone, pig by a pelvis, bird by a cranium and horse by a femur fragment.

*The thirteenth-fifteenth centuries (P12, 27; C17, 18, 21-2; S14, 19; B XII, 1 and 2)*

There were 16 bones (45.6%) sheep/goat, 10 (28.6%) cattle bones, 2 pig, 3 dog, 3 bird, and a cat bone. Sheep/goat were represented by a humerus, radius, proximal phalange, 2 tibiae, 4 metacarpals, 5 metatarsals, and 2 atlases. Cattle by a molar, horn core, scapula, middle phalange, pelvis, metacarpal, 2 mandibles and 2 metapodials. 16.7% of the sheep/goat bones were immature, and an immature calf metapodial indicated an animal less than 24/30 months old.

*The fifteenth-sixteenth centuries (P25; C7, 8; S9)*

There were 25 (55.7%) bones of sheep/goat, 11 (24.5%) cattle and 2 pig bones. Bird was represented by 5 bones, and dog by one. There was a human phalange. 20% of the sheep/goat bones and 57% of the cattle bones were immature. Sheep/goat were represented by a molar, scapula, humerus, radius, proximal phalange, pelvis, 2 orbits, 2 ulnae, 2 metacarpals, 3 tibiae, 3 metatarsals and 6 horn cores. Cattle were represented by an incisor, radius, 2 phalanges, a tibia, horn core, astragalus, 2 metacarpals, and 2 femora. Pig by a humerus and incisor.

*The early sixteenth century (P23)*

	No.	%	% imm.	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sheep/goat	38	37.3	15.0	2	1	5	3	3	2	4	8	4	4	0	0	2
Cattle	25	24.6	44.5	2	1	1	1	1	3	8	2	0	2	2	1	1
Pig	6	5.9	—	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

There were also 26 bird, 2 fish, 3 rabbit, 2 cat and 2 rat bones.

*The first half of the seventeenth century (A2; C13)*

	No.	%	% imm.	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sheep/goat	80	52.8	33.5	8	4	3	5	5	8	12	21	3	3	8	0	2	1	0
Cattle	43	28.3	64.0	3	2	4	1	1	1	5	12	0	0	1	5	3	0	4
Pig	15	9.9	—	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	4	5	0	0	1	0	0

In addition there was a bovine patella, 2 bird bones, and a fragment of a horse scapula.

*The second half of the seventeenth-early eighteenth centuries (BH2 and 3, B4, B VI; C9)*

	No.	%	% imm.	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sheep/goat	28	68.8	20.0	3	3	2	2	0	3	2	9	2	0	2
Cattle	11	26.2	71.6	0	0	1	1	3	2	2	2	0	0	0

In addition there was a fragment of pig pelvis and 2 bird bones.

*The eighteenth century (C5, 9)*

There were 4 animal bones from this period, a sheep/goat humerus, the proximal epiphysis of a tibia, a distal phalange of an ox, and a roe-deer metacarpal. There was also a human patella.

*Bone measurements*  
(The measurements are in millimetres and the dates are in centuries.)

## A. CATTLE

	11th		12th		12th/13th		13th	13th/ 15th	15th/16th		17th	17th/18th		18th
(1) <i>Horn core</i>														
Max. length				106	125	155								
Max. basal circumference	157	165	137	132	117	113								
Max. basal diameter		45	67.5	45	42	38.5	37.5	54						
Min. basal diameter		40	40	37.5	29	31								
(2) <i>Mandible</i>														
Max. length of tooth row		121	121.5											
Max. length of pre-molar row		31	31											
Max. length of molar row		81.5	78											
Max. length of third molar		32.5	27.5											
Max. breadth of third molar		13	14.5											
Max. mandible height at M. 1		36	32											
Max. mandible height at M. 3		65	48											
(3) <i>Scapula</i>														
Min. neck width		46												
(4) <i>Humerus</i>														
Min. shaft breadth		32												
Max. distal breadth			61.5		75									
(5) <i>Radius</i>														
Max. proximal breadth		61.0												
Max. distal breadth					75									
Min. shaft breadth						32								
(6) <i>Proximal phalange</i>														
Max. length	56	60							52	57	61	61	73	64
Max. breadth	25.5	30							25	28	31	33	36	29
(7) <i>Middle phalange</i>														
Max. length	41		37	33				37.5	43.5	46				
Max. breadth	28.5		27	24				25	33.5	33				
(8) <i>Distal phalange</i>														
Max. length				64					63					63
Max. breadth				39					40					40



## D. SHEEP/GOAT

	11th		12th		12th/13th		13th		13th/15th		15th/16th		17th/18th		17th/18th	
(1) <i>Mandible</i>																
Max. length of tooth row											62	64		66	72	
Max. length of pre-molar row	24		20								15	17		20	20	
Max. length of molar row											45	46		44	50.5	
(2) <i>Scapula</i>																
Min. neck width			14		17	19	15				17	18	18	21.5	16	
(3) <i>Humerus</i>																
Max. length															149	
Min. shaft breadth											13.5	13			18	
Max. proximal breadth															50	
Max. distal breadth	29				29		31				25.8	29		31	37	
(4) <i>Radius</i>																
Max. length												148	140			
Min. shaft breadth		15	17									14	15			
Max. proximal breadth	28						28	27	31			28	29			
Max. distal breadth	28	25									28	25	27			
(5) <i>Proximal phalange</i>																
Max. length	31		35	34									38	36	29	33
Max. breadth	13		11.5	13									13	12.5	14	12
(6) <i>Middle phalange</i>																
Max. length																
Max. breadth					29	13										
(7) <i>Metacarpal</i>																
Max. length																
Min. shaft width		136.5							121	123			105			113
Max. proximal width	24	21	24	21	21.5				13	13.5	16		11	12	15	
Max. distal width		27							23	27			18+	24	24	24
(8) <i>Metatarsal</i>																
Max. length																
Min. shaft breadth	11.5		11						129					124		
Max. proximal width			18.5	19.5					13					12	11	
Max. distal width									21				19.5	21	20	
(9) <i>Tibia</i>																
Min. breadth																
Max. proximal breadth																
Max. distal breadth			25		26+											

(5)-(9) continued below



## F. HORSE

<i>Humerus</i>	Max. distal breadth 73—date twelfth century
<i>Radius</i>	Max. length 327—date twelfth century
	Min. shaft breadth 33.5
	Max. proximal breadth 76
	Max. distal breadth 70

## G. DOG

<i>Tibia</i>	Max. length 235—date twelfth century
	Max. proximal breadth 42.5
	Max. distal breadth 29
	Min. shaft breadth 15

## H. ROE-DEER

<i>Metacarpal</i>	Max. length 191—date eighteenth century
	Min. shaft breadth 16.5
	Max. proximal width 30
	Max. distal width 30

*The Mollusca*

By Miss J. E. CHATFIELD

As shown in the following table, the excavations yielded a total of five species of mollusca; one terrestrial and four marine.<sup>1</sup>

Date	<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	<i>Cardium edule</i>	Sites (for key see p. 103)
Eleventh–twelfth century	—	16	23	15	—	P, S
Twelfth century	—	14	10	12	—	P
Thirteenth century	3	7	2	23	—	C, P
Fourteenth century	1	—	—	7	—	C (very small sample)
Fourteenth–fifteenth century	—	—	—	21	—	P
Fifteenth–sixteenth century	—	2	226	65	6	C, P
Seventeenth century	—	—	1	2	—	A (very small sample)

*Buccinum undatum* Linnaeus (The edible whelk)

Whelk shells were not numerous: specimens occurred on two of the sites excavated, in levels of the thirteenth century and later.

*Helix aspersa* Muller (the common garden snail)

This species is usually very common and generally scattered, especially in areas of human settlement. The shells were probably not the result of human food supplies, although this snail can be eaten.

*Mytilus edulis* Linnaeus (the common or edible mussel)

Shells of this species were generally scattered, and abundant in some places. These, like the oysters, are the remains of a meal and the shells are usually found in human rubbish.

<sup>1</sup> Full details of the shells with measurements of the *Ostrea edulis* specimens are deposited in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

*Ostrea edulis* Linnaeus (the edible or flat oyster)

Oyster shells were more abundant than shells of any other species of mollusc. Most of the shells measured about 2 in. in length (from umbone to ventral margin), but the sizes ranged from  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in.

At various times laws have been made to restrict oyster fishing to adult oyster, leaving sufficient young and spawning adults to maintain the natural population. Oysters (as spat) settle and attach by the left valve to almost any suitable object, including the shells of larger oysters. Thus regardless of laws, small oysters may be taken attached to larger ones, and many valves fused together were found, with small valves attached to larger ones.

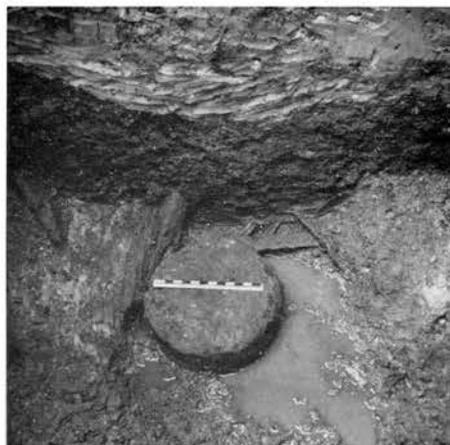
One may possibly correlate the abundance of oysters on these sites with the proximity of Cambridge to the rich natural oyster beds and areas of Whitstable and Colchester.

*Cardium edule* Linnaeus (the common cockle)

Cockles have not been so popular as oysters, and the shells occurred on one site only (Post Office Terrace) in later fifteenth- to early sixteenth-century deposits.



A



B



C



D

Corn Exchange Street. A. North-east face of the trench showing the clay filling of the early ditch and the fourteenth-sixteenth century build-up. B. Oak block and other timbers in the early ditch. C. Circular oak block from the early ditch. D. Cross-cut saw marks on the face of oak block from the early ditch.



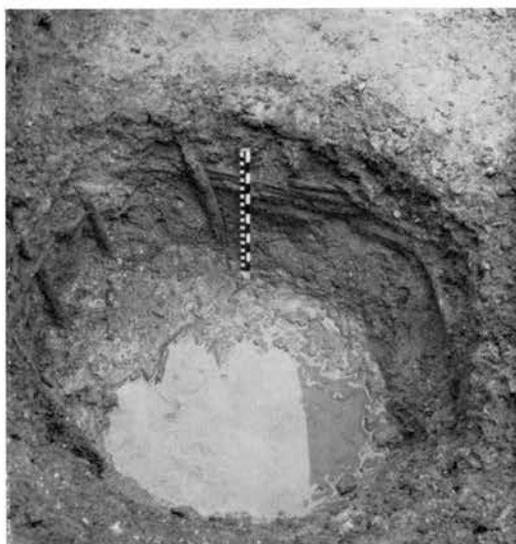
A



B

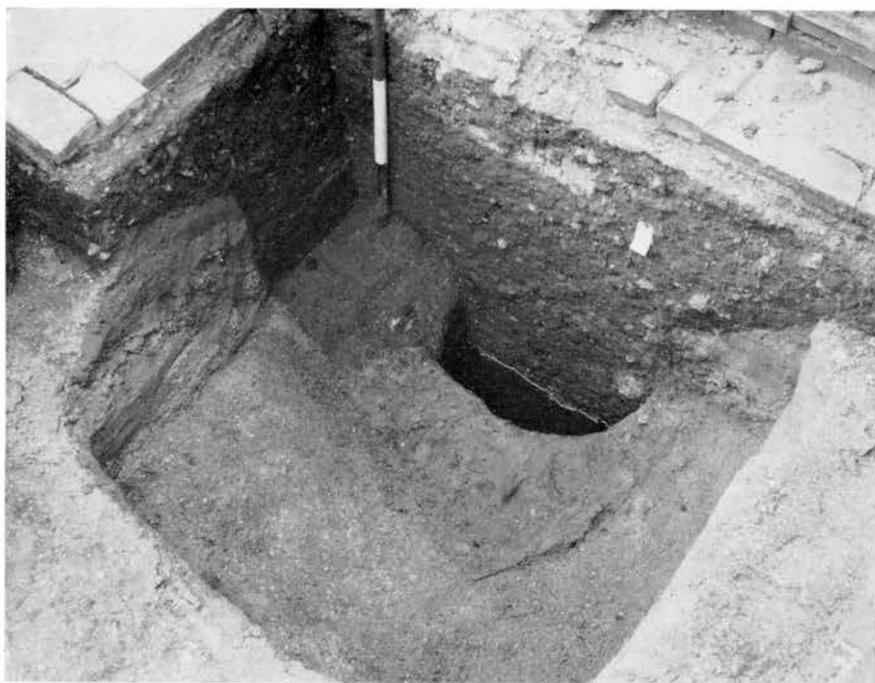


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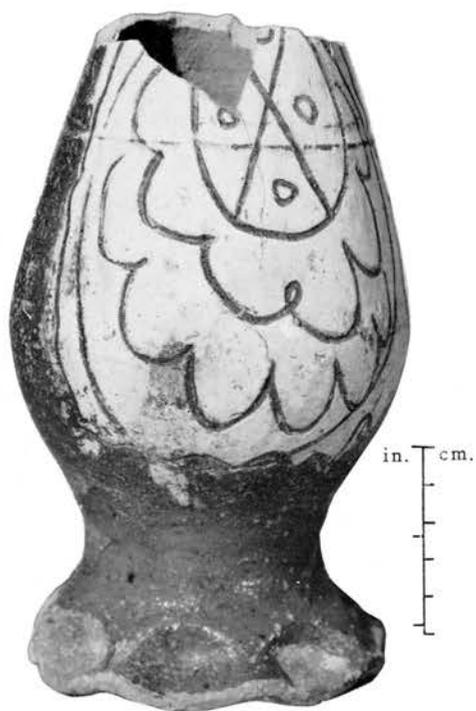


D

Post Office Terrace. A. Feature 14, wicker-lined pit. B. Feature 14, with the wicker lining partly removed showing the plank reinforcement. C. Feature 14, detail of wicker lining. D. Feature 12, showing vertical stakes.



A



B



C

A. Post Office Terrace: Feature 20, wicker-lined pit showing the construction shaft. B. Trinity College, Angel Court: sgraffito ware jug, A/US4, cf. Fig. 16. C. Post Office Terrace: X-radiograph of the hilt of the rondel-dagger from feature 23, cf. Fig. 20, 7 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ). (X-ray: *Ministry of Public Building and Works*.)

## THE TREASURE TROVE FROM HARTFORD, HUNTINGDON

P. G. M. DICKINSON, F.S.A.

ON 1 August 1964, while excavating on the line of a road diversion at Hartford, near Huntingdon, a mechanical digger uncovered a hoard of no less than 1108 English and foreign silver coins of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, some 400 of which were in almost mint condition.

The discovery was made in what had been the Vicarage garden, close to the east side of the entrance drive, about 40 ft. from the main road and some 30 in. below ground. The present writer was called immediately. It soon became clear that the coins had been deliberately hidden, rather than accidentally lost. They were enclosed in an earthenware pot with a wide mouth, on top of which a shallower one had been placed to act as cover, both having been wrapped in some sort of bag or cloth tied round with leather thongs, of which some remains were still adhering to the pots. Unfortunately the digger had smashed both pots and scattered the coins, which had to be retrieved by sieving about a ton of earth and finally going over it with a mine-detector, thus finding several coins which had been overlooked.

The English coins consisted of groats and half-groats, with a few halfpennies, covering the reigns of Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III and Henry VII; they gave a good cross-section of the kinds of coin in use at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Ten groats and one half-groat of 1503 showed the sovereign's head in profile; this issue is the first where a true likeness is employed instead of the formal full-face of 'a king', and another innovation is that the name of the mint is omitted. This particular issue is considered to mark the beginning of our modern coinage. All eleven coins were in near-mint condition (Pl. VII).

The other English coins were of the usual medieval type, showing the sovereign full-face on the obverse with an inscription round the perimeter, and on the reverse a cross with inscriptions, including the name of the mint. The proportions of different mint names in the hoard are of interest as an indication of the comparative scarcity of each. The coins are listed in Table 1.

The hoard also included 84 coins of Brabant, of which there were three types, 82 having either a large, or a small shield of arms, and two having the shield enclosed in a trefoil. There were also two small silver Portuguese coins.

Ten days after the find, an inquest was held in the Town Hall of Huntingdon; after two hours' inquiry, a verdict of Treasure Trove was given, and the hoard thus became the property of the Crown. The coins were taken to the British Museum, where they are at present being examined and classified; a full account will later be

published in the *British Numismatic Journal*. An *ex gratia* payment of the equivalent of their market value will be made to the two finders in due course.

The great size of the hoard indicates a wealthy man, and the comparatively large number of foreign coins shows that he was probably a merchant trading abroad. The fact that hardly any of the coins were clipped suggests that he was a man of business and no mere hoarder; he must have selected the best to hide away, which would account for so many being in such fine condition. As the latest coins found were minted in 1503, the hoard must have been hidden shortly after that date.

TABLE I

<i>Groats</i>		
London		430
Bristol (Type 1. BRISTOW)		5
(Type 2. BRISTOLL)		3
(Type 3. BRESTOLL)		2
		} 10
Coventry		3
Norwich		1
York		23
Waterford (Ireland)		1
Calais (France)		1
	Total	469
<i>Half-groats and halfpennies</i>		
Canterbury (Type 1. CANTOR)		451
(Type 2. CANTER)		37
		} 488
London		25
Norwich		1
York		16
Edinburgh (Scotland)		2
Dublin (Ireland)		4
Calais (France)		6
	Total	542

As a postscript, two unrelated incidents may be of interest. Three months before the find was made, Mr Agger, the digger-driver on the site, had been employed on a road improvement scheme involving the levelling of part of the writer's garden. This opportunity was taken to instruct Mr Agger as to what he should do, if he ever came across any unusual finds. Little did either think that in so short a time this would bear such fruit. Then again, a week before the discovery, the writer and one of the surveyors were discussing the possibility of any interesting finds being made during the road excavations. Had they known that they were standing at the time directly above the treasure, it might have been found sooner and in different circumstances.

## THE POTS CONTAINING THE HOARD

J. CHERRY

*Department of British and Medieval Antiquities, British Museum*

The two pots found with the coin hoard were broken into fragments. It appears that the coins were in the cooking pot, over which the bowl was placed upside down. They are both unglazed and wheel-made (Fig. 1).

The cooking pot is made of grey gritty ware fired to a light red on the exterior. It has a flat base and an inturned rim moulded for a lid seating on the exterior. An incised horizontal line, double at one point, runs round the middle of the pot. The bowl is of smooth red ware, with grooving inside. On the exterior of the rim there remain rusted traces of two iron wires which ran around the whole pot and presumably were used for suspending it, though no trace was found of an attachment for wires across the top of the bowl. The outside of the bowl is marked with irregularly spaced light staining in streaks about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide.

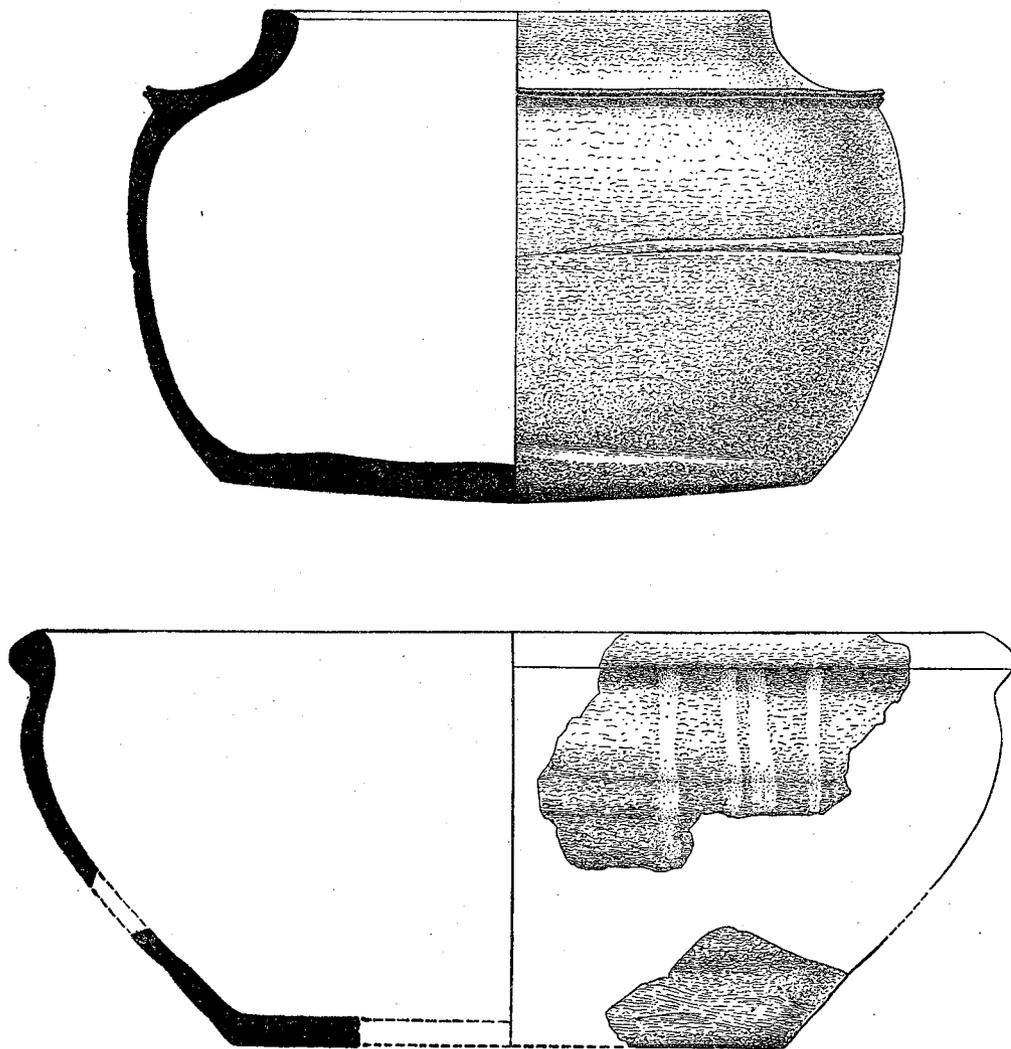
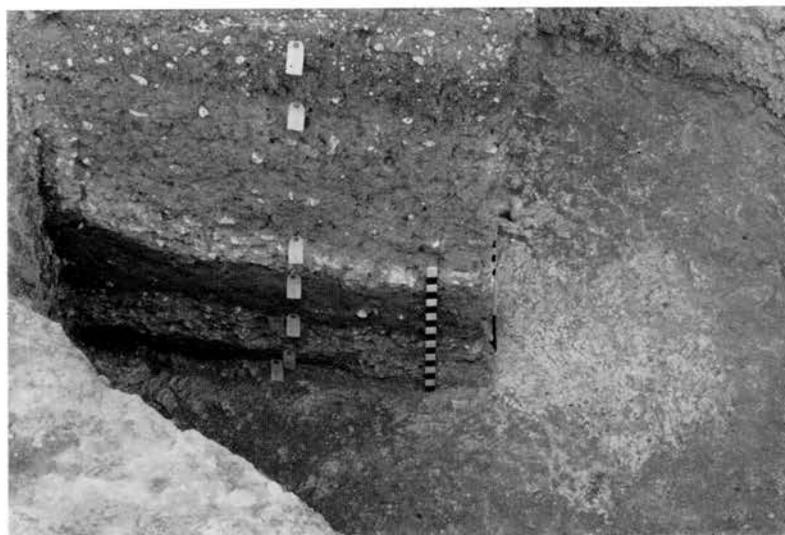


Fig. 1. The pots. Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ .



(a)



(b)

Aldwick, Barley; Pit B.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

MARY D. CRA'STER, PATRICIA HUTCHINSON  
AND C. F. TEBBUTT

### NEOLITHIC POTTERY FROM BUCKDEN, HUNTS

In November 1963 I was examining the subsoil surface at Buckden gravel pit, after about 1½ ft. of topsoil had been taken off, in preparation for gravel digging. Red-coloured pottery appeared, obtruding from what must have been the lower half only of a small, shallow pit, the remaining portion being 2 ft. across and 9 in. deep. It was filled with yellowish loam, darker than the surrounding 'hogging', but with no trace of wood ash.

The site (52/202680) is on a high-level gravel terrace near the 100 ft. contour, and was rich in remains of the Iron Age, Roman and early Saxon periods.

The pottery, which is of Peterborough-Neolithic type, consists of sherds of three different vessels; it has been placed in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge (64. 13). I am grateful to Miss Cra'ster for the drawings (Fig. 1).

C.F.T.

### NEOLITHIC AXES

#### *Dungate Farm, Balsham*

In the spring of 1963, Mr D. A. Clarke of Valley Farm, Balsham, found a flint axe about 100 yards from the Fleam Dyke (Grid ref. 563530). It is flat in section, with a slightly waisted outline, flaked, and with a finely ground cutting-edge. It was brought to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology for identification by Mr R. G. Gibbs of Caius College, but remains in Mr Clarke's possession.

#### *Isleham*

In the autumn of 1963, Mr I. A. Moore of Newmarket reported to the Museum that a flint axe had been found by Mr Webber at Burnt Fen Farm, Isleham. The implement is probably an adze, as one face appears to be slightly concave. It is flaked, with a ground cutting-edge, and is 8 in. in length. Mr Webber has since presented it to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (64. 193).

#### *Cambridge: Newmarket Road*

Mr S. L. Ruse has presented a flint axe to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (64. 177); he dug it up in his garden at 41 Stanesfield Road, between Coldham's Common and the Newmarket Road, and brought it into the Museum

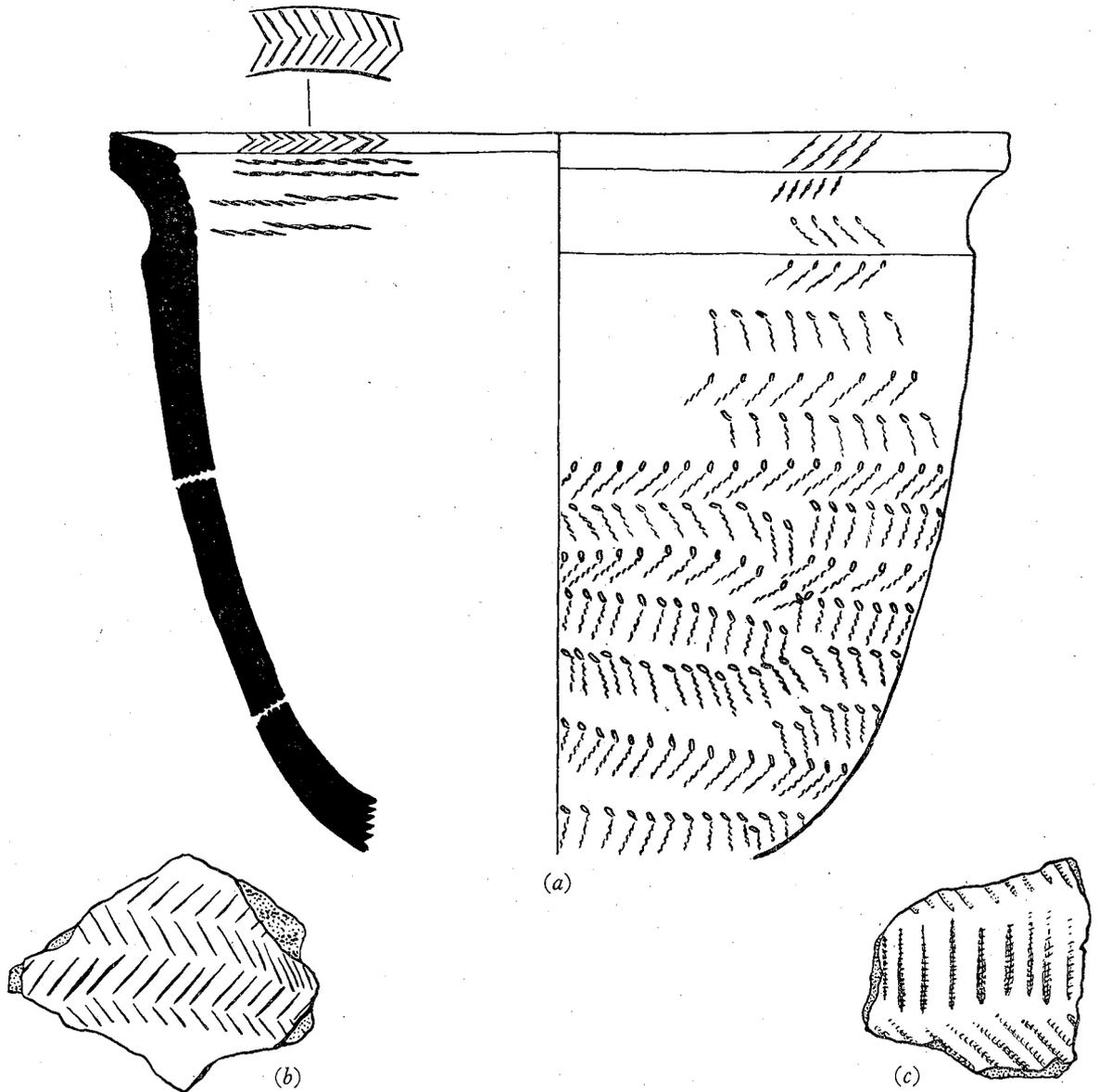


Fig. 1. Neolithic pottery from Buckden. Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ . (a) This drawing has been reconstructed from three large fragments, almost certainly from the same pot. The outer surface of the rim sherd is badly worn and broken, so that the decoration of this portion is partly conjectural. The chevrons on top of the rim are plain incisions, while the lines on the inside appear to have been made with loosely twisted cord. The decoration all over the outside of the pot is not a simple cord-impression; while the implement used seems to have had a fine thread wound round its lower part, there is a definite knob at a constant angle at the top. (b) The decoration here is composed of simple incisions, made with a very fine, smooth implement, perhaps of bone. (c) The implement used for decorating this sherd is a fine-edged object, round which a thin string has been wound.

after having read an article on local archaeology in the *Cambridge News*. It is of brown flint, straight-sided, with a flat section and almost straight cutting-edge, which has been ground; its length is 4 in.

M.D.C.

#### BRONZE AGE IMPLEMENTS

##### *Adventurers' Ground, Swaffham Prior*

In the autumn of 1963, a flat axe was found by Mr J. T. Norris in the field known as the Slates, Adventurers' Ground (Grid ref. 740750). It remains in his possession (Fig. 2).

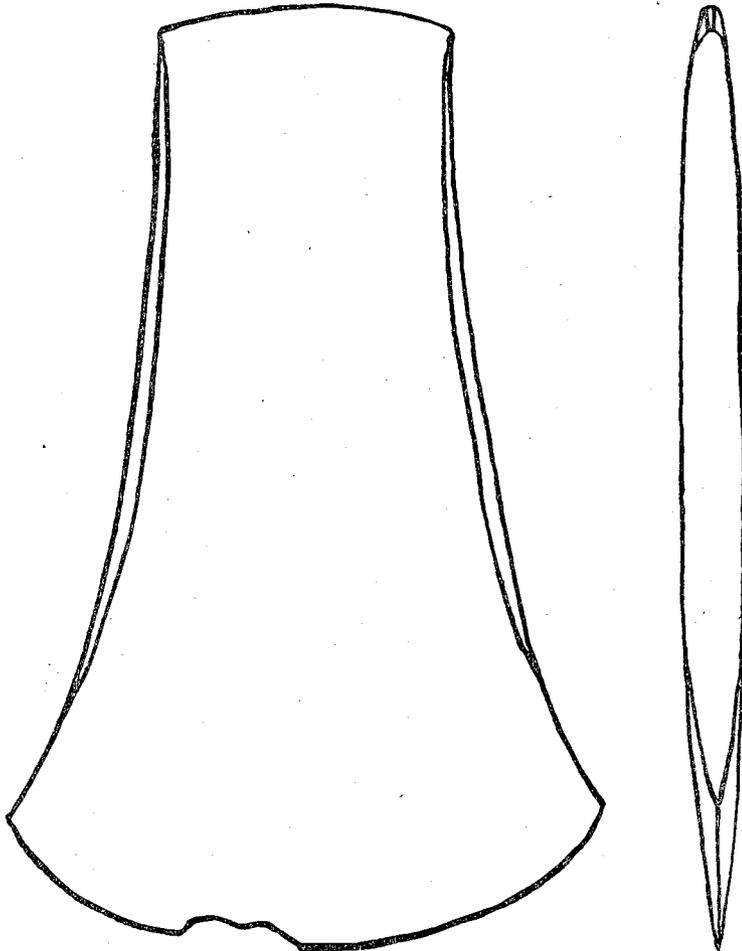


Fig. 2. Early Bronze Age axe, Swaffham Prior.

It is a narrow-butt, flat axe, belonging to the Migdale tradition.<sup>1</sup> Most moulds for this type have been found in Scotland, though the distribution of the axes themselves is widespread throughout the British Isles. They are presumed to be contemporary with the early part of the Wessex Culture.

<sup>1</sup> D. Britton, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* XXIX (1963), pp. 258-325.

*Great Wrating*

In the autumn of 1964, Mr Tulloch of Rook Tree Farm, Great Wrating, brought a bronze socketed gouge to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology for identification. It had been ploughed up a few years ago in the field immediately to the south of the village (Fig. 3).

It is slightly collared, a form represented in North-west Scottish and Irish hoards, as well as in the East Anglian ones. The type is strictly British and not earlier than c. 750 B.C.

M.D.C.

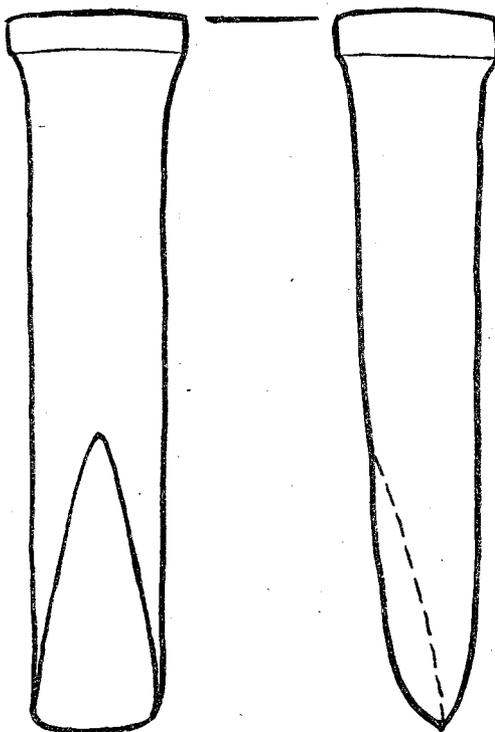


Fig. 3. Late Bronze Age gouge, Great Wrating.

## ANGLO-SAXON DISC FROM HARSTON

In February 1962, at Rowley's Hill, Harston, Cambridgeshire (Grid ref. 427497), a gilt-bronze disc was found on the surface of a field which had been ploughed the previous autumn. The disc bears a design of three lanceolate cells filled with garnets radiating from a central circular cell filled with green glass. The cell walls are cast in one with the rest of the piece and the whole design is contained within a plain rim. In one of the cells the loss of part of the garnet exposes a whitish mounting paste beneath. The interspaces are each filled by a single disjointed animal poorly executed in chip-carving (Pl. VII).

This animal ornament and the technique of manufacture suggest a date in the sixth century A.D. Both the animals and the lanceolate cells filled with garnet and glass can easily be paralleled on some of the large square-headed brooches of this date and from this area, particularly on the B8 group of Leeds,<sup>1</sup> while cast saucer brooches combining animal ornament with a central quatrefoil are known from Abingdon, Berks, and from Bishopstone, Bucks,<sup>2</sup> but a more complete parallel to this piece has not been forthcoming.

Its exact function is hard to determine, since it has no obvious means of attachment and quite certainly is structurally undamaged.

The finder, Miss Doreen Austin, has very kindly given the disc to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge (63. 298).

P.H.

#### THE CAMBRIDGE TO ELTISLEY ROAD

The A 45, running west from Cambridge to Eltisley, is almost certainly an ancient trackway connecting Cambridge with the Ouse crossing at St Neots. It is a watershed road and is continuously a parish boundary (*Arch. Camb. Region*, Fox, p. 157). It has been suggested that it might also be a Roman road, especially after the finding of Roman burials in stone coffins along its south side during the making of Bourn aerodrome (1939-45).<sup>3</sup>

Early in 1963 a pipe-line trench was cut across this road near the corner of the road leading to Bourn (52/336599), and I was able to examine a section across its whole width and extending about 30 yards to the south of it. The pipe-line was deep in solid unmoved clay and there was no metalling to be seen anywhere, except that immediately connected with the present surface.

This would seem to disprove the theory of the existence of a Roman road here, at least along the present line.

C.F.T.

#### FINDS AT DIDDINGTON RESERVOIR (GRAFHAM WATER), HUNTINGDONSHIRE

##### *Roman period*

In making the new road from Buckden to Perry, the whole course was scraped free of topsoil. At a spot about 300 yards north of Hangman's Spinney, near where the new road crosses the Southoe with Midloe and Great Staughton parish boundaries, a human skeleton (said to be headless) was found, lying east and west in a shallow grave.

Along a length of the newly cut roadside ditch on the south side could be seen in section a number of large and small ditches. They occurred up to about 100 yards east and 50 yards west of the grave site. In nearly all were found Roman potsherds, animal bones, and in one case the handle of a Roman glass vessel.

<sup>1</sup> E. T. Leeds, *A Corpus of Early Anglo-Saxon Great Square-Headed Brooches* (1949), p. 70, figs. 108-116.

<sup>2</sup> E. T. Leeds and D. B. Harden, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon, Berkshire* (1936), p. 56, fig. 31.

<sup>3</sup> One of these coffins has recently been erected outside the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge (65. 93).

Among the ditches was also seen a wide but shallow depression, filled with black ash containing a great amount of burnt clay lining material and sherds of pottery kiln wasters. This depression was excavated back to the edge of the road metal, in the hope of finding the kiln itself, but with no success. Later much more kiln material, including kiln-bars, was found in the soil from the actual road, and it was evident that the kiln had been below it.

A bronze brooch, found among the kiln material in the depression, belongs to Collingwood's Group K, of the first century A.D.<sup>1</sup> The pottery is probably first century.

This evidence would seem to show an early penetration and clearance of the woodland areas with heavy clay subsoil, away from the Ouse valley.

Besides the above finds, a sherd of decorated Samian ware was found near Diddington Wood (52/168664).

### *Medieval Period*

Redhill (52/171669). This site is on the left bank of Diddington Brook, just below Redhill Bridge where the old road (to be submerged) crossed the stream.

When the topsoil was scraped off, a considerable area of red burnt clay was exposed and, sealed within it, a layer of dense black wood ash. Mixed with the burnt clay and wood ash were numerous broken soft red bricks and plain tiles. Many were obviously kiln wasters, and some were so overburnt as to be nearly black or even glazed. The bricks were all 2-2½ in. in thickness. Amongst the black ash were several fifteenth-century potsherds, including one of the well-known type of jar with a spigot-hole just above the bottom. Although no trace of the actual kilns was found, it was obvious that they must have been close at hand.

Later, in 1964, another brick-making site was partly exposed during the cutting of the trench for the intake pipe, between Shooter's Hollow Farm and Diddington Wood, about 60 yards north of Diddington Brook (52/175666). The floors of two kilns, at least 10 ft. across, could be seen, and also a large pit filled with clay, mixed with wood ash and waste bricks.

Samples of the bricks were taken for comparison with early brick buildings in the neighbourhood. They were found to match exactly those used in the Bishop of Lincoln's palace at Buckden (late fifteenth century), Diddington church tower (early sixteenth century), Southoe church (late fifteenth to early sixteenth century), and a screen across the interior of the refectory at St Neots Priory.

The evidence seems to confirm the local origin of the bricks used in the earliest brick buildings in the area, and the derivation of the name Redhill.

I am very grateful to Mr Winder and Mr Arah, engineers to the consultant, and their assistants, who drew my attention to the sites described above, and gave me every facility and help in examining them before they were covered up or destroyed.

The finds will go to the Norris Museum, St Ives.

C.F.T.

<sup>1</sup> *The Archaeology of Roman Britain*, fig. 60.

## MEDIEVAL BRICK YARD AT SHIPPEA HILL FARM

In May 1964 Mr M. Hopkin reported that a floor of old, small bricks was being uncovered during bulldozing operations at Shippea Hill, Isle of Ely. There had been a grange there belonging to the Abbey of Ely in the Middle Ages, and remains of sixteenth-century arched doorways are still to be seen in what is now a rather derelict barn at the south-western corner of the existing farm buildings.

On closer inspection, it appeared that a large area in the upper part of the sloping field immediately south of the present farm was covered with stacked bricks and tiles; these were innocent of mortar and had evidently never been used for building. The bricks were in stacks at least 10 ft. square, laid neatly on top of each other, in places still seven or eight bricks deep; they were  $2 \times 9 \times 4$  in. in size. The tiles were ranged in long rows of up to 15 ft., stacked on edge leaning against each other; they were flat, rectangular tiles,  $11 \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  in. big, with two holes pierced near the top corners.

It is possible that an irregular, water-filled hollow, due south of the modern farm house, might have been a clay-pit; it was in order to fill this that the bulldozing had been undertaken. No sign of a kiln was seen, though there were large quantities of burnt earth over and amongst the stacked bricks. In this connection, it is perhaps interesting to note the name Burnt Ground Plantation for the former coppice, half a mile to the west on the Mile End road.

M.D.C.

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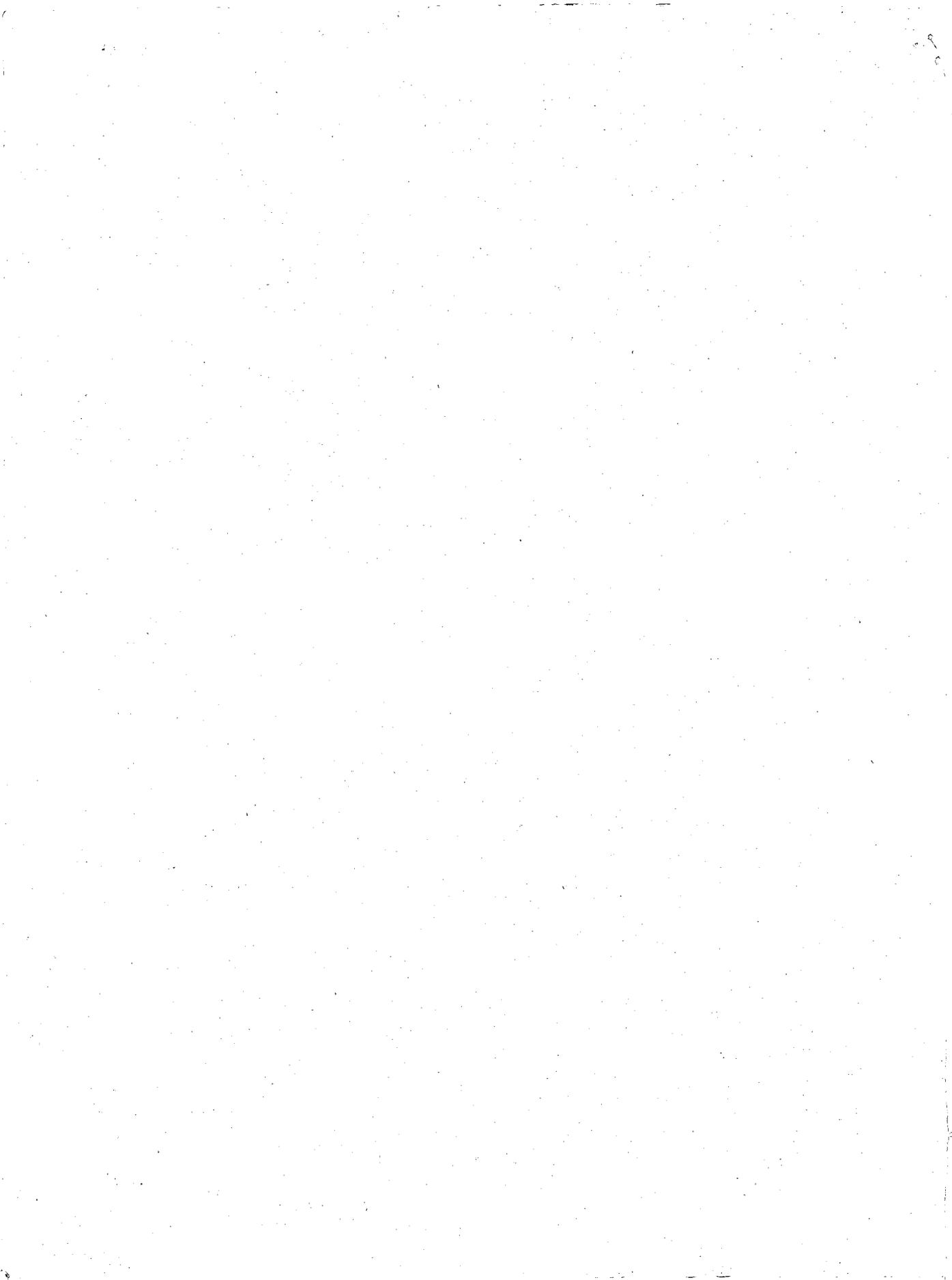
Groat of Henry VII from the Hartford hoard. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .



in.

cm.

Anglo-Saxon disc, Harston, Cambridgeshire.



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**Abbreviations.** Vol. xv, App. XV, no. 15, pl. XV, p. 15, l. 15, n. 15—for volume, appendix, number, plate, page, line and note respectively. Abbreviated titles of Journals can be found in the *World List of Scientific Publications*, 3rd ed. (1952), but any self-explanatory abbreviation may be adopted: *Ant.*, *Ant. J.*, *Arch.*, *Arch. J.*, *B.M.C.*, *J.R.S.*, *P.P.S.*, *Proc. C.A.S.* are frequently recurring examples.

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PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

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