

Medieval Britain and Ireland in 2006

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Medieval Britain and Ireland compiled and edited by:
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The Society is most grateful to all contributors (of specialist groups, field units, museums, universities, developers and individuals) who have provided reports on groups, finds, excavations, field-surveys, and building analyses for 2006. We thank contributors for conforming to the house style; we can advise on content, but are unable to abstract from interim reports. Please note that in certain cases the National Grid Reference has been omitted to protect sites. Please notify the compilers if this information is to be withheld.

Editor's Note:

This on-line *Medieval Britain and Ireland* for 2006 is a new venture for the *Medieval Archaeology* journal. As readers will have observed, from this year's issue *Medieval Archaeology* features a selection of highlighted projects or discoveries across Britain and Ireland. These reports are extended overviews of results, finds and contexts; the selection each year will aim to cover new evidence from urban, rural, religious, Saxon, Viking or medieval contexts, and will offer scope for fuller illustrative documentation. Contributors are welcome to offer potential extended summaries (of maximum 2500 words with short supporting bibliography where appropriate; good quality b&w and/or colour plates and figures – to a maximum of five) to the editors in future issues (*deadline*: end of April each year).

It is important to stress that MB&I entries of traditional format are still required and these are now sited here as part of an accessible on-line database and directory hosted by ADS and accessible also via the Society of Medieval Archaeology's webpages. The facility will also enable contributors to submit extra images to support their texts. The searchable database will in time include also back issues and entries of MB&I. Thus the Index listed below uses the numbers to signify the full sequential county and country listings; however, those numbers in bold refer to those entries that have appeared in print in the 2007 *Medieval Archaeology* volume as Fieldwork Highlights.

We thank all contributors past, present and future for their efforts, texts and support in maintaining this invaluable source of summaries on annual fieldwork activities and discoveries. For submissions, please contact:

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Index for Medieval Britain and Ireland 2006

I. PRE-CONQUEST

amethyst: **90.**

area survey: **226.**

bone/antler artefacts: 53, **90, 130, 176**, 202–3, 206, 214, 251.

boundaries, ditches, enclosures: 196–97, 202–3, 206–7, 214.

buildings: **130**, 225, 251, 265, **266**.
 burials, cemeteries: 35, 38, **90**, **100**, 124, **128**, **130**, 202–3.
 ceramics: 18, 37, 42, **84**, **90**, **100**, **102–3**, 113, 126, **128**, **130**, 145, 159, 168, 170–71, **176**, 183, 194.
 churches: 35, **117**, 168, 185, 221.
 corn-dryer: **176**, 191, 194, 198–201, 203, 206–7.
 “dark earth”: 37, 67.
 environmental evidence: **176**, 251.
 field systems: 6, 206–7.
 fish trap: 81.
 glass (vessel, window): **90**.
 glass bead: **90**, 251.
 industrial sites
 fishing: 81, **266**.
 leather: **241**.
 metal: 30, 108, 183, 192, 197, 199, 202, 207, 212, **241**, 247, 251.
 salt: 6.
 textile: 53, **90**, 108, **128**, 159, 169, **176**, 251, **266**.
 unspecified: 118.
 leather: **211**.
 manuscript: **211**.
 metal artefacts: **84**, **90**, **100**, 124, **128**, **130**, 169, **176**, 188, 202–3, 206, 214, **241**, 247, 251.
 monastic sites: 51, 212, **241**.
 ovens, kilns: **176**, 191.
 pagan shrine: **130**.
 Pictish features: 247, 265.
 refuse, domestic (pits, middens): **90**, 190, 251.
 ringfort: 183, 188, 191–93, 206, **210**.
 scientific dating (archaeomagnetic, dendro, radiocarbon): 30, **90**, 118, **176**, 190, 192, 212.
 settlements: 6, 75, **100**, **130**, 142, 160, 169, 203, 251, 265, **266**.
 settlements, urban: 35, 53, 58, 61, 63, 91, 93, 113, 136, 159, 171
 skeletal evidence: **100**
 souterrain: 188, 191–92, 207, 247.
 stone artefacts: 53, 206, **241**, 251, **266**.
 stone, funerary (cross-slabs, grave-markers, grave-covers, head supports):
 sunken-featured buildings: 58, 75, **100**, **102**, **128**, **130**, 148, 159, 170.
 Viking-period features: 251, **266**.
 waterworks: 91, 212, **241**.

II. POST-CONQUEST

agriculture: 9, 26, 69, 75, 78–79, 129, 164, 178, 229.
 amethyst: 224.
 animal burial: 99.
 area survey: 147, **266**.
 battlefield: 246.
 bone/antler artefacts: 69, **84**, 251.
 boundaries, ditches, enclosures: 13, 27, 127, 131, 133, 159, 186.
 bridges: 11, 145
 buildings, civic/public: 107, 112
 buildings, defensive (peel towers, tower houses): 224, 244–45.
 buildings, domestic: 32–**33**, 49, 57–58, 68, 109–10, 112, 122, 129, 135, 137, 158, 169, 185, 205, 208–9, 226, 228, 251, **266**.
 buildings, interior fittings: 18, **33**, 46, 89, 228.
 burgage plot: 3, **103**, 116, 123, 132, 161, 236.
 burials, cemeteries: 3, 12, 37, 39–40, 76–77, 82, **84**, 95, 120, 174, 205, 213, 215, 230.
 castles: 36, 38, 94, 97, 101, 124, 149, 180, 182, 187, 189, 193, **210**, 240, 245, 248, 268.

- cathedrals: 35, 65, 137, 235, 243.
- cellars: **31**, 53, 57, 68, 73.
- ceramics (pottery, tiles): 1–2, 7–8, 10, 20–23, 26, **31**, 37, 42, 50, 60, 62, 64, 68, 70, **84**, 92, 95–**96**, 101, 104, 106, 114, 119, 121–23, 126–27, **130**, 134, 137–38, 141, 143, 145, 149–51, 153–54, 156–57, 159, 164, 166–69, 171–73, 175–**76**, 177–79, 181, 183–85, 187–88, 204–5, 208–9, 213, 221–22, 224, 228–29, 232–33, 238, 250, 256, 268, 270–71.
- ceramic, sculpture: 82, **96**.
- cesspit, latrine, garderobe: **210**.
- churches and chapels: 18–19, 21, 24–25, 28, 38, 40, 43, 45, 48, 54–55, 71, 82, 95, 105, 111, 114–15, **117**, 155, 157, 168, 171, 185, 215, 242.
- coins, jetons: 18, 121, 158, 192, 205, 254.
- corn-dryer: 164, 191, 194, 198, 201, 222.
- deer park: 74.
- deserted medieval village: 32, 147, 156, 272–73.
- earthworks: 92
- environmental evidence: **176**, 251.
- farmsteads: 264.
- field systems: 6, 10, 32, 75, 98, 118, 147, 163, 193, 207, 216–20, 222, 228, 249, 252–53, 259, 261–62, 267, 272.
- fishpond: 126.
- floor tile: **31**, 39, 40, 43–45, 62, 66, **96**, 121, 141, 157.
- floors (tiled): 66, 71, 89.
- gardens: 97.
- glass (vessel, window): 137, 172, **176**.
- glass bead: 251.
- graffito: **84**.
- grange: 83, 109.
- halls: **31**, 35.
- hearths, fireplaces: 3, 73, 141, 205, 208, 270.
- hospitals: 174.
- industrial sites
 - bell-casting: 21, 37, 40, **96**.
 - brewing: 29.
 - ceramic (pottery, tiles): 8, 47, 238.
 - charcoal-burning: 239.
 - distilling: 137, **176**.
 - fishing: 126, **266**.
 - lime: 98, 239.
 - metal: 8, 21, 169, **176**, 191–92, 195, 251, 271.
 - salt: 6.
 - textile, cloth: 3, 8, 181, 251, **266**.
 - unspecified: **102**.
- leather: 2, 57.
- manors and moated sites: 16, 27, 73, 108–9, 120–21, 143–44, 162–63, 165–66.
- mason's mark: 223.
- metal artefacts: 37, 69, 76, 90, 150, 169, **176**, 192, 204–5, 208, 224, 227–8, 237, 246–47, 251, 255, 257.
- mills (water): 177.
- monastic sites: 3, 12–13, 15, 29, 37, 39, **41**, 44, 62, 72, 76–77, 80, 83–**84**, 85–86, **96**, 140–41, 146, 151–52, 162, 167, 184, 204, 213, 234, 260.
- Norman features: 38, 68, **102**, 111, 114–15, 142, 168, **176**.
- ovens, kilns: **102**, 164, **176**, 191, 218, 222.
- palaces, aristocratic: 82.
- palaces, ecclesiastical: **31**, 34, 73, 87.
- palaces, royal: 71, 88–89.
- pilgrim's badge: 215.
- quarrying: 9, 14, 52, 78, 80, 138, 187.

refuse, domestic (pits, middens): 52, 64, 140, 166, 251.
 ringfort: 188, 191–92.
 roads and streets: 23, **103**, 165, 193, 208.
 scientific dating (archaeomagnetic, dendro, radiocarbon): 28, 146, 152, 158, **176**, 192.
 settlements: 6–10, 17, 22, 51, 57, 119, 131, 142, 153, 160, 175–**76**, 179, 183, 186, 205, 233, 250–51, 263, **266**, 270.
 settlements, urban: 1–5, 11, 14, 20, 35, 37, 52–53, 58–62, 64, 66–67, 93–94, **102–3**, 113, 116, 123, **130**, 134–39, 150, 154, 158–59, 171–73, 185, 231, 236, 256, 271.
 skeletal evidence: 95, 215.
 smithy: 169.
 souterrain: 188, 191–92.
 stone, architectural: 37, 44, **84**, 223, 240, 258.
 stone artefacts: 224, 251, **266**, 270.
 stone, funerary: 3, 37, **84**, 115, 171, 205, 215, 269.
 stone, sculpture: 35, 146.
 textiles: 215.
 town defences: 2, 11, 37, 56, 94, 125, 145.
 undercroft: 113.
 villages: 10, 104, 106, 165, 228, 232.
 wall-painting: **33**, 44.
 waterfronts: 3–4, 13, 66, 70, 167.
 waterworks (conduits, dams, drains, ponds, tanks): 3, 72, 83, 193, 205, 260, 271.
 wells: 11, 64, **102–3**.
 yards, *metalled surfaces*: 186, 208.

ENGLAND

AVON

BATH

1. At *13 Broad Street* (ST 7500 6510) P. Davenport of Oxford Archaeology directed a watching brief on behalf of Nicholas Magniac Associates Ltd. Removal of garden soils, following the demolition of a rear extension, revealed the existence of a yellow brown silt; this may have been an occupation deposit or the fill of a series of intercutting pits. Animal bone and one sherd of 11th/12th-century pottery were recovered. The silt was at least 0.2 m thick at the W. end but was absent at the E. end of the site. A pit was recorded, cutting the natural clay that was found at formation level here.

BRISTOL

2. At *8–11 Broad Quay* (ST 58638 72790) an archaeological evaluation, followed by excavations, was carried out by N. Adam of Cotswold Archaeology. The evaluation phase exposed part of Bristol's medieval town wall or 'marsh wall'. Evidence for intermittent medieval occupation pre-dating the marsh wall was found on an area of former marsh land in between Broad Quay and Marsh Street. The excavation phase exposed the remains of a medieval building on the Marsh Street frontage along with post-medieval surfaces and sections of Victorian cellars. Below one of these cellars was an in-filled channel parallel to the River Frome. When excavated, the channel contained medieval pottery and waterlogged leather artefacts.

3. At *Broadmead* (ST 594 734) Cotswold Archaeology and Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological mitigation works comprising evaluation, excavation, borehole survey and watching brief, on behalf of the Bristol Alliance. The mitigation works were undertaken in response to the redevelopment of the Quakers Friars area and the eastward expansion of the Broadmead shopping area across the former Bond Street and into the former Tollgate area, located between Wellington Street, Newfoundland Road and Houlton Street. The City Archaeologist and the Alliance's Archaeological

Consultant, Dr Patrick Ottaway, specified different recording strategies for each area, based upon their archaeological research potential and the impact of development. Areas within Quakers Friars were targeted for detailed excavation and recording to establish the earliest settlement, and trace the development, of the 12th-century Broadmead suburb. The 13th-century Dominican Friary, Quaker Meeting House and burial ground were also investigated.

The majority of detailed excavation in the Quakers Friars area was focused on a strip of land between the modern Broad Weir, beneath which flows the mill leat of Bristol Castle, and the former River Frome, also known as the 'Back Ditch'. Historic mapping indicated a series of probably medieval burgage plots situated between these two water courses. Excavation identified a 12th-century date for the earliest settlement, which comprised reclamation on the former bank of the Frome through the dumping of waste material, and timber building foundations which encroached onto the edge of the river channel. Timber drains and a timber trough associated with these early phases were also recorded. Dumping of waste building material and redeposited alluvium allowed the formation of a series of burgage plots with substantial stone-founded party walls by the 13th/14th centuries, many of which appear to have been maintained as boundaries until the area was cleared following WWII bomb damage. A number of contemporary and sizeable stone-built hearths suggest industrial activity, possibly cloth-dyeing, took place in the area from the medieval period. Documentary evidence suggests that, from the Late-medieval/early Post-medieval period, the Broad Weir area was a focus for 'whiteawing', the manufacture of white or un-tanned leather goods. To the north work in and around the Dominican Friary revealed further evidence for medieval dumping to raise the ground level and facilitate construction above the floodplain. Notable finds include the remains of three friars, a stone grave marker, mortar floor make-up inside the Friary church complete with tile impressions, walls of the W. range of the Greater Cloister and the W. wall of the Friary precinct.

4. At the *Broadmead Extension* (ST 5935 7330) A. Norton of Oxford Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological fieldwork in the area of Quakers Friars, Merchants Quarter, Block 7, on behalf of the Bristol Alliance. The excavation revealed late 13th-century dumped deposits, used to raise the boggy E. end of the Broadmead suburb following the establishment of the Dominican Friary to the north. Evidence for a medieval property fronting Broadweir was also recorded and possible medieval revetment walls bounding the Back Ditch, a former course of the River Frome.

5. At *Mitchell Lane, Redcliffe* (ST 5923 7257) excavation was carried out by M. Alexander of Cotswold Archaeology. A soft alluvial deposit was encountered c. 1.5 m below current ground level. Above this was a sequence of mixed alluvium and soil deposits interspersed with episodes of building activity including rows of close-set postholes, possible stone-filled foundation trenches, beam slots, drainage gullies and pits. Property boundaries delineating tenement plots were revealed across the excavated area. All of this activity, including a gradual build-up of soil seems to span the 13th to 15th centuries. The medieval deposits were sealed by c. 0.3 m of brown alluvial soil containing finds dating from the late 15th to early 17th centuries, indicating gardening and horticultural activity towards the rear of tenement buildings.

6. WESTON-SUPER-MARE, WEST WICK (ST 371 618). In advance of development, Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological work commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd., on behalf of Persimmon Homes South West. The excavation revealed extensive archaeological remains, predominantly consisting of a series of ditches; these are probably indicative of a number of phases of field systems and drainage related to a nearby settlement. A number of pits were located in the south of the area, including a possible unlined well, suggesting the focus of the settlement may have been beyond the SE. limit of the site. Most features contained dating evidence which appeared to fall broadly into two periods: the 10th–12th centuries and the 16th–19th centuries respectively. The presence of widely dispersed fired clay, similar in form to briquetage, may indicate the existence of salt production or similar small industry in the medieval period, or may be residual material from the Roman period.

BERKSHIRE. Work by Foundations Archaeology.

7. READING, 24–26 EAST STREET (SU 7186 7310). In 2005, a programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by D. Mayer on behalf of Zenith Builders Ltd. Three trenches were excavated

onto natural sands and gravels beneath modern made ground. There was extensive disturbance of the natural ground as a result of late Post-medieval and modern activity, with a single ditch feature present in each trench. The ditches in Trenches 1 and 2 were both undated, but the profile of each indicated that it was not machine excavated and was not of modern origin. The ditch feature in Trench 3 was badly disturbed but yielded sherds of medieval pottery, comparable with the Newbury C industry of the 13th–14th centuries. Following the evaluation work, a watching brief identified a number of roughly parallel ditches, some of which were of a substantial size and are likely to be defensive in nature. Potentially the ditches represent a hitherto unknown medieval defensive circuit; however, it is more likely that they reflect a series of medieval property boundaries.

8. SHINFIELD, THE MANOR (SU 7315 6825). In 2005, R. King carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation, on behalf of George Wimpey Homes (South West) Ltd., on land at the former NIRD site. Work comprised six evaluation trenches and two blocks of full excavation. Medieval activity was predominantly represented by a series of linear features in the NE. part of the excavation area. These included a substantial ditch, several smaller ditches and a probable sand/clay quarry. A gully and a number of possible postholes which contained medieval pottery may relate to Post-medieval activity within the site. The medieval assemblage consisted predominantly of Ashampstead and Newbury A-B wares. Two large medieval pits were present on the SE. boundary of the site. Although different in profile and in the nature of their fills, these features produced the largest and best preserved finds assemblages, including evidence of iron working, weaving and the firing of clay, possibly for the manufacture of tile. These pits, along with the probable quarry pit, are indicative of small-scale industrial activity rather than domestic occupation. In a medieval rural settlement, the delineation between domestic and industrial activity would not have been well-defined and it is likely that there was a limited amount of settlement in the close vicinity. No clear evidence for medieval structures was recovered with the exception of roofing tile from a number of features, although this may relate to the manufacture of tile rather than its use in buildings. No burnt material or other indicators were recovered that might suggest that these industrial processes were being carried out on site.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. Work by John Moore Heritage Services.

9. HADDENHAM, TOWNSIDE, POULTRY FARM (SP 7385 0827). G. Williams conducted an archaeological evaluation as a condition of planning permission prior to the construction of a single dwelling. The site lay on the E. side of Townside, an old road defining the W. edge of the medieval settlement. Two trenches were opened and excavated to natural, revealing that the site was heavily truncated by medieval quarry pits and ditches. Prior to 13th-century cultivation, activity on the site was represented by gullies and a possible posthole. Quarrying for wychert was also undertaken before the land reverted to agricultural/horticultural use in the late 13th/early 14th centuries.

10. LUDGERSHALL, WOOTEN END, NEAR BROOKLANDS FARM (SP 6654 1716). In 2004, D. Gilbert and J. Moore conducted an archaeological evaluation as part of a consideration of a planning application for the construction of a detached house and garaging with an access track. The site was considered to lie within the envelope of the medieval village of Ludgershall. Further to the results of the evaluation, additional archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning consent. This comprised the excavation of two trenches, one within the paddock to be developed with the new house and the other in the field to the south. This second trench extended the previous trench in the area. In addition, a watching brief was carried out on all intrusive groundworks associated with the area of the new building in 2006. A quantity of 13th- to 16th-century pottery was found in both trenches. Aerial photographs indicate ploughed-out ridge-and-furrow in the paddock; however, only slight traces were found during the watching brief. The trench in the field to the south sectioned the extant ridge-and-furrow and confirmed the earlier layout of strips located in 2004. A walk-over survey of the immediate area confirmed that multiple phases of ridge-and-furrow are present in the area.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. Work by Cambridgeshire Archaeology unless stated otherwise.

11. CAMBRIDGE, GRAND ARCADE (TL 451 893). Excavations, covering an area of nearly 1 ha, were carried out by C. Cessford of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit on behalf of the Grand Arcade Partnership. There was negligible evidence for activity earlier than the mid-11th century when the site appears to have been occupied for the first time. The site lies both inside and outside the town boundary, known as the King's Ditch. The area inside the King's Ditch had been heavily truncated in the 1970s and only the bases of features were found. Despite the truncation the absence of wells suggests that the area was largely occupied by an open space known as the 'great fairyland', which restricted activity. The King's Ditch was probably created in the 11th century, although it may be as early as the 10th or as late as the 13th, and there was evidence that it was dug in segments. It was then recut numerous times, with evidence of several phases up to the 16th century identified. The probable base of a small wooden bridge was recovered.

Outside the King's Ditch substantial elements of thirteen property plots relating to a suburb fronting onto St Andrew's Street were excavated. Almost all the medieval buildings had been removed by modern basements along the St Andrew's Street frontage, so the remains relate largely to open yard and field areas. Properties appear to have been defined by gullies between the 11th and 14th centuries, with the exception of one major ditch boundary. There were numerous wicker-lined wells, cesspits, gravel and clay quarry pits and postholes plus a range of other features, although large areas of the site were probably open and used for agriculture. From around the 14th century, barrel-lined wells become more common and there were a number of timber-lined tanks of unknown function. In the 16th century wells began to be constructed out of stone, largely reused and probably post-Dissolution, and there was increased burial of animals on site. Substantial artefactual and environmental assemblages were recovered and waterlogged conditions meant that there was good preservation of wood and leather.

12. PETERBOROUGH, OXNEY GRANGE NEAR EYE (TL 2245). This site, investigated by S. Cooper, lies on a gravel promontory just to the north of Flag Fen. Significant remains relating to the medieval monastic site of Oxney Grange include graves, pits and some very substantial ditches dating from the 13th to the 14th centuries. The graves were on an E.-W. alignment and had no grave goods, suggesting Christian burials. The ditches were presumably contemporary with the medieval moat that is still faintly visible in the fields surrounding the site and may have divided the site into different specialised areas.

13. RAMSEY, AILWYN COMMUNITY SCHOOL (TL 2948 8489 and 2958 8492). Three ditched boundaries and a few small quarry pits, some of which relate to Ramsey Abbey, were recorded by R. Mortimer. The earliest boundary marker – a wide, curving ditch – can be linked to aerial photographic and map evidence, enhancing previous plans of the Abbey precinct. The latter appears to have been ovate, measuring some 800 m N.-S. and 550 m E.-W. and enclosing an area of roughly 35 ha. There is evidence for a road or trackway circumnavigating the precinct boundary. Revised suggestions can also be made about the location of the Abbey's docking facilities and the lode that fed them.

14. SAINT IVES, THE GRANARY, NOS 30-32 WEST STREET (TL 31149 71542). The site lies on the N. fringes of the town's historic core and is located close to an excavation at the former Permanex site, where 13th/14th-century plot boundaries were uncovered. Recent work, under the direction of R. Clarke, recorded a mass of quarry pits at a depth of c. 0.7 m below ground level, indicating extensive gravel extraction during the 12th-14th centuries. No remains of frontage buildings or boundary plots were found. These may have been removed by quarrying, or the site may have been located on the immediate fringes of the planned town.

15. ST NEOTS, LAND TO THE REAR OF NOS 33-35 NEW STREET (TL 1830 6045). A large medieval ditch was recorded by D. Brown; this may have formed part of a precinct boundary relating to the town's Benedictine Priory (established c. 972-75, dissolved 1539), which lies c. 100 m to the south-west of the New Street development area.

16. SAWSTON, SAWSTON HALL (TL 4884 4912). Early post-Conquest features were recorded by R. Mortimer, which may represent field ditches or perhaps relate to the adjacent medieval manor house. A large moat ditch was found within the walled garden immediately behind the hall. This may form part of the original 12th- to 13th-century manor and was backfilled in the Late-medieval period.

17. SOHAM, LION MILLS (TL 590 729). An evaluation directed by T. Haines of Oxford Archaeology for CgMs Consulting revealed 13th- to 14th-century ditches and pits close to Clay Street at the N. edge of the site, probably relating to former street frontages.

18. WHITTLESFORD, CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST ANDREW (TL 4737 4859). Several complete and incomplete human burials were excavated by T. Fletcher; they were handed immediately to the church in preparation for reburial, with the exception of one burial which appeared to pre-date the church. A number of shallow, truncated features contained Early Anglo-Saxon pottery. Other finds included a 16th-century German jeton and a large loom- or thatch weight. Recording also took place when a previously blocked doorway on the N. side of the church was unblocked, revealing a wooden door of possible 13th-century origin.

CORNWALL

19. MINSTER CHURCH (SX 1109 9048). Recording by J. Allan of Exeter Archaeology, following damage in the Boscastle flood, provided new information about the church of this small alien priory, which was founded before 1190 and dissolved before 1407, subsequently serving as a parish church. Much of the choir of c. AD 1200 survives. Two phases of early 16th-century fabric were distinguished, the first a major rebuilding of the nave with S. arcade and S. aisle, the second a chapel flanking the S. side of the chancel. The two phases employ slightly differing forms of 'South Hams' windows. Extensive areas of undisturbed late medieval mortar floor were recorded. Publication in *Cornish Archaeol.* is forthcoming.

CUMBRIA. Work by by Greenlane Archaeology Ltd. unless stated otherwise.

20. APPLEBY-IN-WESTMORELAND, LAND ADJACENT TO SHAW'S WIEND AND BOROUGHGATE (NY 68406 20116). Evaluation was carried out in advance of a planning application to build a house on the site. The plot is situated at the S. end of the planned medieval street of Boroughgate, adjacent to the High Cross and opposite the N. gate of the castle. Remarkably, considering its location, it has seen little development, effectively being a greenfield site for the last 100 years. The evaluation revealed several well-preserved features of medieval date, ranging from the 12th to 16th centuries. These included cobbled surfaces associated with a stone-lined culvert, a large pit, and apparent rubbish deposits. Considering the small size of the evaluation, a considerable amount of medieval pottery and other material was recovered.

21. BEETHAM, CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS (SD 4961 7957). Neil Archaeological Services conducted a watching brief on behalf of the Parochial Church Council during construction of an extension to provide disabled access, abutting the c. AD 1400 N. aisle of the Grade I Listed church, and during drainage and path works. The church is believed to be on the site of a pre-Conquest chapel dedicated to St. Lioba, but no evidence of this was found during the works. Parts of the foundations of the N. aisle were revealed, overlain by an 18th-century path. Indications that the size of the churchyard was reduced, probably after the Reformation, included an *in-situ* early burial in an area which lay within the grounds of the Parsonage in 1835-72. Path works adjacent to the W. tower, believed (RCHME 1936) to date from the 12th century, revealed burnt clay and ashlar blocks in the top of an undated small bell-casting pit, or perhaps smithing hearth, which was re-buried unexcavated. A few sherds of medieval and early Post-medieval ceramic were recovered. Human remains mostly comprised disarticulated fragments, and were re-buried with minimal specialist assessment.

22. GLEASTON, MILL ROAD (SD 25790 70825). Evaluation, carried out in advance of the construction of housing, recorded a linear feature, perhaps a boundary ditch or palisade trench, of probable 14th/15th-century date, and a small pit containing daub and charred cereal remains below a buried soil horizon. A small amount of medieval pottery was also recovered, the first to be recorded in detail from the village.

23. ULVERSTON, STANLEY STREET (SD 2854 7862). An evaluation and subsequent excavation, carried out in advance of the construction of housing, recorded a metalled surface beneath a buried soil containing pottery of the 12th to 16th centuries. The excavation further examined and recorded this feature, and revealed it to be a track thought to connect a road to the north to a possible market place further south. Fragments of Northern Gritty Ware of the 12th to mid-13th centuries recovered from the make-up of the road probably indicate its approximate date of construction, while the overlying buried soil contained a possible, albeit heavily abraded, piece of imported Saintonge Ware.

DERBYSHIRE. Work by ARCUS unless stated otherwise.

24. ASHOVER, ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (SK 348 631). A watching brief by K. Baker during groundworks at the church identified structural remains relating to the church foundations, along with two human skeletons. The present building was erected between 1350 and 1419, incorporating some earlier work.

25. DENBY, CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN (SK 398 465). A watching brief by S. Baker during extension works at the church assessed the construction sequence of the W. wall of the N. aisle. A few courses of the original aisle construction (c. AD 1450) survived towards the base of the wall, but the majority of the stonework was associated with more recent rebuilding, probably during the 19th century.

26. SAWLEY-LONG EATON, RIVER TRENT LEFT BANK FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME (SK 471 315). On behalf of the Environment Agency and Black and Veatch Ltd., T. Bradley-Lovekin of Archaeological Project Services and D. Walker of Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit Archaeological carried out an evaluation in advance of proposals to improve the River Trent flood defences. These investigations extended from Sawley in Derbyshire to Colwick on the E. side of Nottingham. In the grounds of the Harrington Arms public house at Sawley, an alignment of postholes, perhaps from a fence, yielded Cistercian Ware pottery of 15th/16th-century date. Nearby, a trench examined ridge-and-furrow earthworks of probable medieval date and recovered a small amount of Late-medieval and Post-medieval pottery.

27. STAVELEY, STAVELEY HALL (SK 4338 7490). Excavations by the Staveley History Society, led by S. Baker of ARCUS, supplemented previous investigation and revealed a substantial medieval boundary ditch which traced along the S. edge of the site, perhaps curving around behind the hall. Other medieval features uncovered included a possible cesspit.

DEVON. Work by Exeter Archaeology unless stated otherwise.

28. AXMINSTER, ST MARY'S CHURCH (SY 2964 9849). J. Allan recorded the floor of the ringing chamber above the crossing tower. Dendrochronological analysis commissioned by English Heritage and carried out by M. Bridge showed that it was built in the years A.D. 1425–57, dating the upper parts of the tower to this period. Publication in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 63 (2005), 103–13.

29. BUCKLAND MONACHORUM, BUCKLAND ABBEY (SX 4869 6683). J. Allan examined the area to the north of the cloister of the Cistercian abbey, identifying a medieval range within the building now named the Cider House. Excavation in the adjacent courtyard revealed a brewhouse, built either in the Later Middle Ages or after the Reformation, and demolished c. 1770. A large drain, believed to be the great drain leading from the reredorter, was found below it. Publication is in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 64 (2006), 241–65, which includes a contribution by P. Brears discussing the operation and identification of brewhouses.

30. BURLESCOMBE, TOWN FARM (ST 0790 1701). S. Reed and O. Bayer completed a long-running programme of fieldwork and analysis of this well-preserved Late Saxon iron smelting site for Devon County Council. Three open-bowl furnaces surrounded by spreads of slag and charcoal were excavated; over two tonnes of technological waste were recovered. Radiocarbon determinations from one furnace

indicated a date range of A.D. 770–980 at 95% probability. Publication is in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 64 (2006), 71–122, which includes a study of the slag and furnace fabric by G. Juleff of Exeter University.

31. CHUDLEIGH, BISHOP'S PALACE (SX 8658 7888). Following work in previous years by Devon County Council and the RCHME, R. Parker and J. Allan of Exeter Archaeology and R. Higham of Exeter University completed a survey of the fragmentary remains of this substantial manor house of the bishops of Exeter. Situated on the fringe of modern Chudleigh, the palace lies c. 700 m south-west of the parish church with the entrance now being marked by Palace Farm. The garden of Palace Farm, which probably corresponds closely to the area formerly occupied by the palace, is roughly triangular, measuring c. 150 m N.–S. and 120 m at the wider S. end (**Fig. 1**). The site is a Scheduled Monument (No. 24838) and the surviving buildings are listed Grade II*.

The palace complex had an irregular plan, with large stone buildings loosely arranged within a walled precinct, apparently with internal courtyards. The survey included the remains of stone boundary wall, standing up to 2.9 m high, defining three sides of the enclosure. There are substantial grounds for believing that these are of medieval date, indicating that the modern site boundaries correspond to those of the palace precinct. In the W. wall, a rectangular projection may have been a W. gateway or perhaps a tower. The southwards length of this wall contains many 'putlog' holes and six 'arrow loops' were observed; these were probably spaced at regular intervals.

The principal surviving fragment of the palace buildings (Building A) consists of a pair of massive vaulted cellars, now surrounded by modern sheds and overlain at first-floor level by a 19th-century farm building (**Fig. 2**). Both cellars have pointed barrel vaults of rubble without ribs, with crowns running E.–W. The N. cellar, the full extent of which survives, was lit by a window of generous size, and with deep internal splays, low in the W. wall (**Fig. 3**). The room was accessible through a broad doorway from a ground-floor room to the north; the relieving arch voussoirs of this survive but the moulded stones have been stripped and the doorway blocked. A newel stair in a turret projecting from the NW. corner of the range also gave access to the cellar from the first floor above. From this cellar access could also be gained at the SE. corner, where a narrow vaulted passage led into a further room; this was probably vaulted, too. By contrast, the S. cellar is appreciably smaller and designed for greater security. It has only one tiny slit window in the W. wall, set as high as could be achieved in the crown of the vault. Entrance to the room is now gained through a narrow breach in the E. wall, but this shows no sign of medieval dressings. Although this is heavily patched and altered, and the existing door has been largely rebuilt, sufficient evidence survives to suggest that initially there was no ground-floor access to this cellar. Within the cellar's S. wall is a narrow opening leading into a mural passage, apparently a staircase communicating with a spiral stair in the SW. corner of the range. Within the thickness of the wall at the W. end of the cellar is a garderobe pit with two shafts, serving rooms on the upper floors of the building.

These cellars evidently formed the W. end of a very substantial range whose long axis ran E.–W. along the contour, its S. side being dug into the hillside. Almost all the walls of the central portion and E. end of the range have now been ruined below ground level, but the SE. corner is exposed, aligning with the S. wall of the cellars. If it is accepted that the corner is part of the same building as the cellars, the external dimensions of the range are c. 12.55 x at least 29.8 m. This makes the building appreciably wider than most medieval stone structures in the region. The shafts of two garderobes in the W. wall indicate the presence of two chambers above. It is difficult to see how the shafts could have served a room above the N. cellar; here the floor level is considerably lower, and there is no sign of a passage giving access from the shafts to the north. It seems most likely that the chambers stood one above the other, on the first and second floors. The shafts may thus relate to a 'tower' or stack of garderobes, indicating that this part of the building was three stories high.

Building A, with its great width, is likely to have been a hall range. It appears as one of the most remarkable pieces of medieval domestic architecture to survive in Devon. Consideration of the most probable form of the building suggests a series of cellars below a hall and chambers. Not only was the W. end occupied by the two surviving cellars; further cellars appear to have stood beside them and at the E. end of the range. The dimensions of the range, and such room arrangements as can be reconstructed, seem close to those of the hall range with undercrofts beneath surviving at the Bishop's Palace at St David's in south Wales, which was rebuilt under Bishop Thomas Bek after 1280. His alterations included a first-floor hall over a long range of cellars with transverse barrel vaults (C.A. Ralegh Radford, *The Bishop's Palace, St David's* (London 1975), 17–18).

A date for the Chudleigh hall range in the late 13th or early 14th centuries is suggested by the use of sandy yellow limestone from Salcombe Regis in the surviving structure. Salcombe stone was popular in Devon at this time, but was eclipsed by stone from the quarries at Beer from the 1320s. Further support for the date is that, outside of towns, cellars become progressively less common in large houses during the 14th century (M. Wood, *The English Mediaeval House* (London 1965), 89). Further in support is that the arrangement of plain barrel-vaulted cellars, accessible from a chamber above, also went out of fashion at this time; late 14th- and 15th-century cellars instead have ribbed vaults.

Full publication of the survey of the bishop's palace site can be found in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 64 (2006), 193–240. This includes the earlier RCHME survey, a discussion of the context of the licence to crenellate the site in 1379, and notes on inlaid floor tiles and a sherd of 14th-century Malagan lusterware. The project was supported financially by Devon County Council.

32. DARTMOOR, BLACKATON (SX 6975 7825). English Heritage's Archaeological Survey and Investigation Section carried out large-scale investigative field survey of Blackaton, one of the largest deserted medieval settlement sites known on Dartmoor. The survey identified 17 possible buildings and building platforms, several of which seem to form distinct groups or farmsteads. A variety of building types was also recorded ranging from longhouses to barns and small ancillary buildings, some with associated closes. The field evidence suggests that the site possibly grew from a single holding to a relatively substantial settlement before undergoing a period of contraction and eventual abandonment. Adjoining the settlement a complex medieval/Post-medieval agricultural landscape was identified and mapped using aerial photography; immediately surrounding the settlement, this comprises the earthwork remains of strip lynchets, through which a network of tracks lead to larger pasture fields beyond. Evidence from similar sites on Dartmoor suggests that abandonment most likely dates to the 14th century; documentary information indicates that the site had definitely been abandoned by the mid-16th century when the area is recorded as 'ye Commens of Blakadon'. A hard-copy report, number 24/2006, is available as part of English Heritage's Research Department Report Series. Details can be found by following the links Research & Conservation>Archaeology & Buildings>Landscape Detectives on the EH website: www.english-heritage.org.uk.

EXETER

33. At 2 Broadgate (SX 9178 9260) R. Parker and A. Collings of Exeter Archaeology completed building recording and documentary study. Situated at the corner of Broadgate and Cathedral Yard, the property adjoins the site of the medieval Broad Gate; demolished in 1825, this was formerly the principal entrance to Exeter Cathedral Close. The existing building is an extremely complex structure which reflects the division of the site into two tenements: one within and one without the boundary of the Close. In fact, the building originated as a group of several, originally separate, properties which were combined into a single structure in the 19th century. For generations the property has been known as 'Tinley's Café'; however, in 1995-6 it was leased to Pizza Express (Restaurants) Ltd. and extensively refurbished. During the alterations Exeter Archaeology were commissioned by the new occupiers to carry out the recording works. The alterations affected much of the building, which was in poor condition. The stripping out was comprehensive; nearly all modern surfaces and cladding were removed, except the floorboards and parts of the staircases, which were retained to allow access. The greater part of the structure was exposed, and was selectively recorded by measured drawings. A full photographic record was made in black and white, colour print and also in colour transparency. The earlier fabric was recorded as fully as was possible. The full publication of the building recording can be found in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 64 (2006), 267–342.

The limits of the Cathedral Close at Exeter were formally defined in 1286-8, though some form of enclosure of the Cathedral precincts may already have existed. The frontage to the churchyard, however, may not have been intensively developed in the medieval period. It may have consisted mainly of a boundary wall separating the churchyard from domestic yards and gardens, or the rear elevations of the High Street houses. In the medieval period the Broadgate area consisted of a large and valuable tenement, with frontages to both High Street and the churchyard. No. 2 Broadgate occupies only a small part of the original medieval tenement, the rest of which is now covered by buildings in High Street. The rear half of the existing buildings at No. 2 consists of the remains of a large Late-medieval house of high status, which was probably constructed by the Wilsford family in the early 16th century. The house was predominantly timber-framed, but backed onto a high stone rear wall containing the fireplaces, staircases

and other services (**Fig. 4**). The traditional identification of this wall as the ‘Close wall’ (DoE Listing description) is incorrect; the Close boundary actually ran on the line of the frontage of the house, roughly through the centre of the existing building. The W. part of the house was altered in the early 17th century, when the house was subdivided to form two properties. It was subsequently demolished with Broad Gate in 1825, and only the E. part of the house now retains medieval fabric.

The medieval frontage was progressively obscured from the early 17th century by the development of buildings on the S. side of the boundary of the Close, on a tenement created from part of the former churchyard (**Fig. 5**). This land was the property of the Dean and Chapter, and may have been developed on their initiative as a means of increasing their income after the losses of the Reformation. There were initially two buildings on this tenement, but these were later subdivided to form three smaller units. By the early 19th century a substantial bow-windowed house had been erected on the E. part of the S. tenement, and a two-storey gabled building with an oriel window stood at the W. corner, close to Broadgate. After the demolition of the Broad Gate in 1825, the W. part of the medieval house and the small gabled building were completely demolished and a new structure erected on the site. The front buildings were remodelled, and the various properties were then united behind a new, taller frontage to form the present building. These alterations, and many later modifications, were extremely destructive to the historic and structural integrity of the buildings. At the time of recording the buildings were close to collapse. More than half the timber structure of the original 16th-century building had been removed, including the entire first floor and all but fragments of the original façade. Many of the internal structural partitions of the late 18th- and early 19th-century buildings had also been removed in order to open up the interiors for commercial use. Despite these severe alterations, enough primary fabric remains to allow a relatively confident reconstruction of the development of the buildings and the plan and appearance of the Late-medieval house.

The 16th-century house

The 16th-century house stood three storeys high over a full cellar (**Fig. 6**). The S. wall of the house formed its main elevation, and enjoyed a prime site overlooking the churchyard and the Cathedral. This facade was elaborate, with stone walls on the ground floor and timber-framed upper floors jettied at each storey, and with roofs arranged gable-end to the street. The E. wall was also originally partly timber-framed, though apparently not jettied. The house was confined to a narrow strip of land measuring approximately 13.5 m long and 5.5 m deep, running E.–W. immediately alongside the Close boundary. The extent of the house may have been determined by existing buildings or gardens on the High Street, and on the west by the position of the Broad Gate, which formed its W. wall and lay at an angle to the building, distorting the rooms at its W. end.

Ground floor

The surviving primary fabric on the ground floor is now concentrated in the E. half of the building, especially in the N. wall and ceiling. This floor has been gutted for commercial use, and no primary partitions now survive; the N. wall and the surviving fragment of the S. wall, however, retain several early features which are instructive as to the layout of the rooms. The cellar underlies the entire area and the ground-floor structure is formed by a medieval floor-frame sealing the cellar. Two bays survive, formed by large beams running N.–S., and linked by plain, square-sectioned joists tenoned into these.

The primary build of the N. wall consists of locally quarried Heavitree breccia, well coursed, and bonded with white lime mortar. This wall is around 1 m thick and contains the services for the building, including fireplaces, garderobes and the remains of a stair turret serving both the cellar and the upper floors of the house. The westernmost 5 m of this wall is a 19th-century rebuild, dating from after the demolition of Broad Gate. At the extreme E. end of the N. wall, adjoining the door to the stair turret, is a medieval fireplace. It is small and oddly proportioned, with a high relieving arch constructed of shaped stone voussoirs. The lintel has unfortunately been removed, but it probably consisted of a flat slab of stone surmounting an opening 1 m square. The small size and awkward proportions of this fireplace were necessitated by its position in the NE. corner of the building, awkwardly close to an arched opening leading to the stair turret. The stairs formerly projected from the rear of the building in a polygonal turret which was observed in the mid 1970s by Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit after fire damage to an adjoining building. None of the stairs now survive *in situ*, and the remains of the turret were unfortunately destroyed during the redevelopment of the buildings on the High Street frontage. The turret was entered through a tall, chamfered doorway with a two-centred arch. A pair of iron pintles survive in the W. jamb of the archway, showing that the opening was originally closed by a single

wooden door. The door opened into the stair turret and was fastened from the room by a bolt, for which the socket remains in the E. jamb of the archway. The door must have opened upon a small landing, beyond which the stairs ascended and descended to the upper storeys and the cellar.

The S. wall was the house's main façade and contained large window openings, and possibly also the original entrance. The only surviving fragment of the façade consists of a stone column or pier which formerly supported a ceiling beam. This is 0.65 m thick and 0.7 m wide, and formed an upstand of masonry between a door, on the W. side, and a large window on the east. The plastered splays of both openings survive. The dimensions of the doorway are unknown, but it was large, at least 2.5 m tall, and probably had a timber door frame. The doorway does not appear to have been cut through the wall, and probably represents the original main entrance. No evidence was observed of a corresponding doorway in the N. wall, so it is unlikely that there was a through passage; there may have been an entry or vestibule, screened off from the E. rooms of the house by a timber partition. The window on the E. side of the stone pier has been largely removed, but 1.8 m of the top rail of its frame survives, ornamented with fillets and a *cyma recta* moulding. There are marks on the timber representing both the W. jamb of the frame and the central 'king mullion' which appears to have divided the window into two halves. There is a slight projection in the E. face of the stone pier, which represents the scar of the wall below the sill. The opening may thus have originally measured 2.7 x 1.7 m. The size of the opening implies a room of some prestige; however, the existing fireplace in this area is a 19th-century addition, and the position of the medieval fireplace is so far to the east that it is unlikely to have heated this room. An unheated room with a large window suggests a shop, but in this case the window appears to have been glazed, and it is more likely that the room had a domestic function.

The medieval fireplace and the stair turret door in the extreme NE. corner of the building probably served a small parlour or private apartment at the E. end of the house, separated from the unheated room by a wooden screen or partition. The screen may have run along the line of one of the main beams in the ceiling, and terminated at the E. jamb of the window in the main façade. The medieval house almost certainly had a third ground-floor room at its W. end. The function of this room is unknown due to the total rebuilding of that part of the house in 1825, as is the site of the original staircase that served this part of the house. A newel stair or framed stair may have been inserted after the house was subdivided, or alternatively, there is a possibility that the medieval house had a stair turret at both its E. and W. ends.

First floor

The first floor was originally approached by the spiral stair in the NE. corner. It contained large, prestigious rooms, probably the hall and principal chamber, and overhung the ground-floor front wall by 0.65 m. Very little now remains of these rooms, as this storey was completely gutted in the early 19th century. The primary structural supports, internal partitions and the front wall have all been removed, and the superstructure of the building is now supported entirely on early 19th-century and modern fabric. Nevertheless, fragmentary remains of a partition, of the joists and beams of the ceiling, and the evidence from the N. wall, allow a reconstruction of this floor to be attempted.

The façade of the house at first-floor level was formed by close-studded timber framing. Though none of the timbers survive, the mortices for the studs remain in the top surface of the jetty bressumer. The N. wall contains a pair of large fireplaces. These are identical in size and appearance, measuring 1.5 x 1.5 m, with large stone slabs for lintels, and relieving arches of shaped stone voussoirs. The space between each lintel and the arch above is filled with segmental stone blocks. The W. fireplace was blocked and mutilated during the demolitions in 1825, and a staircase was constructed against it when the house was rebuilt. No primary fabric now survives to the west of this point. The E. fireplace was partially blocked, but it has now been re-opened, revealing some remains of plaster adhering to its sides and back. The soot-blackening on the stonework extends beneath this plaster, and it may be assumed that the plaster is not an original feature. The plaster does not appear to have been painted or decorated with *sgraffito* work.

Between the fireplaces, incorporated into the structure of the western staircase, a single vertical stud survived of an internal partition which formerly divided the first floor into two large rooms measuring around 6 x 6 m. The partition was evidently constructed in the same manner as other partitions which survive within the house, except in that it had no integral top rail. Adjoining the E. fireplace is a small niche which is likely to have functioned as a garderobe. This niche is somewhat awkwardly accommodated between the fireplace and the stair turret. The doorway to the stair turret is a narrow, chamfered opening with a two-centred arch and straight-cut stops. There are pintles on its W.

side for a door with a single leaf. In order to accommodate the garderobe and the stair turret, the E. fireplace is sited off-centre to the room it served, close to the partition dividing the rooms. The W. fireplace is also off-centre, which may suggest that the first floor was symmetrically planned and that further services formerly existed to the west of this fireplace. This may lend support to the conjecture that a second stair turret existed at that end of the building, though all trace of this has been removed.

The E. wall of the room was rebuilt in brick in the 19th century, but one stud of its external wall survives. This wall was also constructed from close-studded timber-framing, but the structure was reinforced by a diagonal brace, part of which is preserved at the foot of the remaining stud. The head-beam of this wall also survives, now supported on the 19th-century brick. This beam is large, and ornamented with mouldings consisting of two identical but opposed ogee curves. There are some traces of decorative paintwork on the mouldings, which were formerly picked out in blue and orange. There are further beam sockets in the N. wall, and it is clear that the first floor was formerly covered by an elaborate timber ceiling consisting of intersecting moulded beams and joists. This ceiling was unfortunately removed in the early 19th century, though enough fragments remain to allow a confident reconstruction.

Second floor

The second floor is much the best-preserved part of the house. It was divided into three bays, unlike the lower floors which were divided into four. Each bay had a separate roof, forming three gables on the main façade. Because of the distorted shape of the house, the ridges of the roofs were not parallel, and the trusses splayed outwards and became asymmetrical towards the rear of the house. The second floor contained a number of chambers; a single large chamber in the central gable, and two smaller unheated chambers in the gables on either side. The primary internal partitions between the central chamber and the other rooms survive almost complete, though all the other partitions on this storey are later.

The stair turret from the first floor opened upon the minor chambers of the second floor through an arched doorway. The doorway was identical to the stair-turret doors on the lower storeys, with the exception that pintles for the door hinges remained in the jambs on both sides of the doorway. From this it is clear that there were originally double doors at the head of the stairs, possibly as a result of confined space within the turret at this level. The doors themselves survive, though not *in situ*. They had been reused above the doorway, to support the ceiling of the stair turret following the rebuilding of the turret as a cupboard. Despite some damage caused by a fire in the 1970s both the doors are in a good state of preservation. During the alterations in 1995–6 the doors were removed from the ceiling to make way for a ventilation flue, and are now stored at Exeter Museum.

The doors are constructed from two layers of planks; the external face, facing the second-floor room, having vertical planks and the internal face having horizontal planking (**Fig. 7**). The planks are secured by many large iron nails or rivets scattered in no particular pattern across the surface of the doors. These nails have been cold-forged after insertion into the door; their projecting ends have been crudely beaten flat, so that they have fused with large square ‘washers’ visible on the rear surface of the door. Both doors have been truncated by the removal of their arched tops, and all the door furniture has been removed. Faint traces of the hinges are visible on the front surface of the doors; these appear to have been plain strap hinges without finials or other ornamentation. Oddly, the lower hinge on the E. leaf is at a much higher level than the corresponding hinge on the western leaf. This does not appear to have been an alteration to the doors, since the pintle in the door jamb is also much higher. The reason for this anomaly is unclear. No evidence for latches, locks or bolts is visible; it is possible that these were located in the fire-damaged areas.

To the west of the stair turret door is a rectangular recess in the north wall. This is almost certainly a garderobe recess similar to that on the first floor. The E. wall of the building was originally timber-framed, but was replaced with a brick wall in the 19th century during the rebuilding of the neighbouring property. It is probable that the wall contained a window lighting the chamber at the head of the stairs. The partition forming the W. wall of the chamber is of close-studded construction, originally with an integral sill-beam and head-beam, and large vertical studs reinforced by a diagonal brace. The sill-beam has been entirely removed, and large sections of the head-beam have been replaced with modern timbers. The head-beam was originally 0.4 m wide, with chamfered corners. It is laid flat in order to serve as a wall plate for the roof, and the common rafters of the surviving medieval roof are seated in the head-beam with bird’s mouth joints.

Despite the damage to the head-beam and the replacement of the sill-beam, many of the vertical studs of the partition remain in place. Until the alterations in 1995–6, two panels of the partition retained

their infilling of cleft oak laths, complete with the original finish of hard white plaster and whitewash. Two of the studs have chamfers and stops, and represent a primary doorway into the main second-floor chamber in the central gable of the house. This doorway originally had an arched timber door-head, of which just over half survives. At the centre of the partition one of the vertical studs is wider than the others, and the chamfer on the head-beam finishes in a run-out stop. It is probable that a lateral partition crossed the building at this point, dividing the E. bay of the house into two chambers. Neither the SE. nor the NE. chamber was originally heated. There does not appear to have been a chimney in the SE. part of the house, and there was no evidence of a primary fireplace in the NE. chamber.

The chamber in the central bay of the building had been divided into two small rooms in the early 19th century, but was originally one large room. The roofs of this chamber and of the chambers in the W. bay of the house were destroyed when an extra storey was added to the building in the early 19th century. The scar of part of the roof is just visible in the NW. corner of the room on the N. wall. The chamber in the central bay is bounded on both its E. and W. sides by medieval partitions, which in places retain their original plaster panels. It was lit by a large window in the S. wall (which does not survive), and was heated by a fireplace in the N. wall similar to those on the first floor. The fireplace is well preserved; it has a large stone lintel with a chamfered soffit and a relieving arch of shaped stone voussoirs. No plaster or paintwork survived on the fireplace, which appears to have been 'restored' in the 20th century.

The partition on the W. side of the chamber is identical in form to that on the E. side, and much better preserved. The primary doorway communicating with the W. bay of the house has lost its door head, but is otherwise unaltered. The doorway, the thick stud and the diagonal brace correspond exactly with the positions of the same features in the eastern partition. This suggests that the W. bay of the house mirrored the layout of its E. bay, and consisted of two chambers separated by a lateral partition. This conjecture is supported by the evidence of a wall-painting on the W. side of the partition, which runs from the south wall as far as the central stud, and no further.

The wall painting in the SW. chamber was in poor condition, and has been partially removed; the remains have now been covered up. The painting was applied directly onto the timber studs and plaster panels of the partition, and was partly covered by later finishes (**Fig. 8**). The plaster panels were collapsing, and very little of the motifs on the panels could be seen clearly. No evidence of any figurative painting was visible; the painting appears to have consisted of a pattern of two stencilled motifs in a variety of colours, including red, white, light green and dark green or grey. On the studs, pairs of stencilled rosettes alternated with lozenge-shaped floral motifs, and in the panels the same lozenges appeared, ranked in vertical bands or stripes in alternating colours. The lozenge motifs were stencilled in two colours, which were reversed in neighbouring motifs, to create positive-negative effects. The original effect must have been like rather garish flock wallpaper. Apart from the colouring on the beams on the first floor, this room was the only one to retain evidence of painted decoration. The other rooms on the second floor appear to have had simple whitewashing over the plaster, and no decoration was observed on the studs. The room was obviously of high status, and may have served as a bedroom or a private solar.

The cellar

The cellar of the medieval house was entered from the stair turret in the N. wall. The doorway was identical with the stair openings on the upper floors, and does not appear to have been of lower status. The cellar appears to have covered the entire area of the medieval house and may have been divided into separate rooms or areas with specific functions. Very few architectural features are visible, and there is little evidence for its original use; it is probable that there were alternative entrances, and possibly window openings in the S. wall.

In the cellar's N. wall is a large fireplace, clad with late 19th- or early 20th-century ceramic tiles; however the interior of the chimney flue is of Heavitree breccia, and appears to be part of the primary build of the N. wall. The fireplace is probably medieval, and its large size suggests the possibility that this part of the cellar functioned as the kitchen of the medieval house. Underground or cellar kitchens are not unknown in Exeter houses of the 16th and 17th centuries, though they remained rare until the late 18th and 19th centuries. At No. 2 Broadgate the cramped site of the house may have necessitated the unusual location of the kitchen. It is possible that the room immediately above, in the demolished W. part of the house, had functioned as a dining room. This room may have been linked to the kitchen by a stair turret in the NW. corner of the cellar, corresponding with that at the other end of the house.

The façade

Both the surviving medieval partitions on the second floor terminate to the south in large wall posts, which formerly divided the front wall of the house into three bays. These posts retain evidence, in the form of mortices and peg-holes, of the structural timbers which formed the front wall of the house. The front wall has now been almost entirely removed, but enough evidence survived at the time of the recording to allow a confident reconstruction of its general appearance. The front wall was of close-studded timber-framed construction, with closely spaced minor studs alternating with plaster panels between the wall posts. One of the minor studs still remained at the time of recording, but has now been removed. Both the studs and the wall posts were tenoned into the jetty bressumer, and also into a head-beam which crossed the frontage of the building just below the eaves.

The closest surviving parallels in both date and status to the Broadgate house are probably Nos 46 and 47 High Street. These houses are believed to date from the early to mid-16th century and are entirely of close-studded timber-framed construction. No. 46 retains its original three-storey façade with coved jetties, formerly supported on carved posts forming a shallow 'loggia' in front of a recessed shop front. The timbers of the frontage are carved with spirally banded and beaded collonettes, and the corner posts feature (?)praying figures which were formerly supported on angel corbels. The second floor of this house once featured continuous ranges of small windows, with arched lights. Some of these windows still remain, though blocked, and retain some of their original glazing and ironwork. It is possible that the windows at No. 2 Broadgate were similar in character.

Two other houses with elaborate late medieval façades formerly stood nearby. 'King John's Tavern' in South Street was a four-storey house demolished in 1834. The façade was decorated with collonettes and figurative sculpture on brackets supporting the jettying storeys. There was extensive patterned framing, a rarity in Devon, and a continuous range of large, square-headed mullioned windows on the first floor, with no oriel projections. The ground-floor windows had shouldered arched heads and the door was elaborately carved with flamboyant gothic tracery. The house is known from drawings made by John Gendall and Edward Ashworth during and after its demolition. Nearby, on the north corner of The Carfax, stood another highly decorated house, demolished in the late 18th century but known from a 19th-century lithograph by G. Palmer, based upon earlier drawings. This house had a jettied frontage to both High Street and North Street, ornamented with carved panelling, crenellations, and an enormous figure of St Peter bearing the whole structure upon his head. Both these houses were probably erected in the late 15th or early 16th centuries, and their façades demonstrate the type of 'fantastic' decoration which might appear on the houses of some of the wealthiest, or most ostentatious, citizens of Exeter at that time.

34. At *15 Cathedral Close* (SX 9221 9255) fabric recording and small-scale excavation were carried out by J. Allan and M. Dyer for the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral along the boundary of this property, which was part of the garden of the Bishop's Palace until the early 14th century, when the Chancellor's house was moved here. The remains of a Late-medieval gatehouse were identified; it was preceded by a substantial boundary wall which is interpreted as the enclosure of the Bishop's Palace, for which licences to crenellate were granted in 1290 and 1322. Publication is in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 62 (2004), 181–6.

35. At *The Deanery, Cathedral Close* (SX 920 925) recording for the Diocese of Exeter was carried out by N. Goodwin and T. Gent. Seven fragmentary burials and much disarticulated human bone were found below the garden to the north of the Deanery chapel. They show that the Middle and Late Saxon burial ground around the minster church, much of which was excavated below Cathedral Green in 1971–6, extended further south than has been realised, and that parts of the lands of the Deanery (established in 1225) and College of the Vicars Choral (after 1388) are encroachments over the cemetery. Further observations were also made within the Deanery (*Medieval Archaeol.* 38 (1994), 202–3; 44 (2000), 259). The principal discoveries relate to the sequence of changes to the 13th-century ground-floor hall at the E. end. Fragments of Late-medieval figure sculpture were found incorporated in a wall of the upper room over this hall's screens passage.

36. At *Northernhay Gardens* (SX 92098 93021) a limited investigation outside Exeter Castle enclosure enabled the position of the early Norman N. gatehouse (demolished in 1773–74) to be firmly established by locating the remains of its SW. wall.

37. At *Princesshay* (centre SX 9223 9275), a major excavation was carried out by P. Pearce, P. Stead and J. Best for Land Securities Properties Ltd. prior to redevelopment. The site lies in the NE. quarter of the walled area and extends across the line of the city defences. Cutting post-Roman dark soil, numerous pits – provisionally dated between the late 10th and early 12th centuries – were found to the rear of tenements whose frontages lay outside the excavation. Finds included Late Saxon ‘Bedford Garage’ ware, made in a kiln lying just outside the excavated area. The extent of urban occupation appears to have retreated in the 12th century, and most of the site was vacant well before the precinct of the Blackfriars was laid out here in the mid-13th century. Two fragments of the friary church were excavated: the N. side of the choir, and three bays at the NW. corner of the nave and N. nave aisle. Four burials were found in the choir; a 15th-century gold ring was recovered beneath the skeleton of a woman. More than 40 burials were found in the nave, some of them lying below a floor of plain tiles. Architectural fragments and a small amount of gilded tomb sculpture were also recovered. Part of a structure interpreted as a temporary church was found to the north of the nave. A bell-casting pit, probably of late 13th- or 14th-century date, was found within the precinct, along with a considerable quantity of discarded bell mould in associated features. A major group of 15th-century pottery was recovered from a well on the edge of the precinct; 50 jugs from the deposit are now undergoing reconstruction.

Additionally, two parallel medieval defensive ditches lying 25 and 35 m outside the NE. bastion of the city wall were also investigated. Both were heavily truncated by later cellars; only a dozen 11th/12th-century sherds were recovered.

38. At *Rougemont Castle* (centre SX 9210 9296) S.R. Blaylock and P.M. Stead carried out evaluation excavations in the courtyard of the inner ward for Exeter City Council. Work consisted of 130 m of trenches designed to observe and evaluate the surviving archaeological deposits of the inner bailey of the castle. Excavation was preceded by a geophysical survey of the courtyard, by Stratascan Ltd. Trenches were excavated by machine onto the top of archaeological deposits and then examined and sampled by hand using non-intrusive means wherever possible. The results showed considerable potential for archaeological survival of up to 2 m depth in places, and confirmed impressions from recent topographical and architectural studies that much of the present topography of the Rougemont area reflects the massive scale of the earthworks of the early Norman ‘ringwork’ castle.

The principal results were concerned with three aspects of the early archaeology of this area: a pre-Conquest cemetery, represented by the discovery of eight burials, four of which were charcoal burials; the earthwork ramparts of the Norman castle, begun soon after the Conquest in 1068; and the footings of the prebendal chapel of St Mary, which is known to have been in existence by the time of Domesday Book, and which survived in modified form until 1792. The wall footings of the chapel overlay rampart layers as well as cutting several of the burials, and thus it was possible to show that the chapel itself is unlikely to have been a pre-Conquest establishment. Large areas of pitting were probably related to the quarrying of Rougemont stone (the local Permian volcanic lava) or of excavation of material for the castle ramparts.

The discovery of charcoal burials, and the demonstration that they pre-date both the castle rampart and the wall footings of the chapel, enable earlier observations of human remains during construction work in the 1770s, 1890s and 1930s to be placed in context. Previously these have been erroneously associated with the chapel or the castle gaol, which was in fact situated in the outer bailey. These burials can now be assigned to the pre-Conquest cemetery at Rougemont. The location of 19 burials from earlier observations can be established, with more coming from the 18th-century observations described by the Exeter historian Alexander Jenkins as finds of human bones “under the foundation of the chapel and several other parts of the castle”. Thus the 27 known burials, plus an unknown number of others, provide a minimum total number for the cemetery; undoubtedly many more remain unknown in unexcavated areas.

Other results included the discovery of broad medieval wall footings in a trench on the E. side of the inner bailey; these may be related to a large building (provisionally identified as a great hall) shown as a ruin on John Norden’s map of Exeter Castle of 1617.

39. IPPLEPEN PRIORY (SX 8342 6650). Following limited investigations in 1995, funding from Devon County Council enabled the completion of post-excavation work by S.J. Reed and S.D. Turton. The site contained the remains of a small alien cell of the Augustinian order. Two narrow ranges extending south from the churchyard were found; there was no evidence of a claustral layout. During the

excavation, 33 fragments of medieval floor tile were recovered along with 27 sherds of medieval pottery. In addition, two E.–W. oriented burials were recorded; the fills included one sherd of medieval pottery dating from after A.D. 1000. Publication is in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 64 (2006), 123–47.

40. KENTON CHURCH (SX 9578 8330). Excavation was carried out for the PCC by J. Allan within the W. bays of the nave and nave aisles. Walls of a long aisleless nave were found, followed by a S. aisle, succeeded in turn by the standing nave and double aisles of the 15th or early 16th centuries. Numerous burials, evidence of bell-casting, and plain Late-medieval floor tiles were recovered.

41. KERSWELL PRIORY (ST 074 064). J. Allan and G. Young completed a study of the remains of this small Cluniac priory, one of three such houses in Devon. The principal surviving part had been the S. range; used as a barn, this preserved an almost-intact medieval roof, with one surviving closed truss (**Fig. 9**). With the exception of the N. gable, however, most of its walls had been rebuilt in the 19th and 20th centuries. Prior to part-demolition in 1985, following a Dangerous Structure Notice, survey of the standing structure was carried out by J. Allan, S. Brown and D. Griffiths. At that time it was possible to study and record the woodwork quite fully and to look further at the walls, where portions of medieval fabric and various later features were identified. Resources were not available to strip the render from wall surfaces, so evidence of concealed features which might have survived was not recovered. A few days after the completion of the survey, the roof was removed; it was bought by Buckfast Abbey with the intention of re-erection there within a new building, but this plan did not materialise. The barn walls were later demolished to an average height of c. 2 m, extending towards the full height of the range at the E. end.

The survey showed the range as a five-bay structure with a central open hall flanked by single-bay rooms (**Fig. 10**). The central room occupies the position of the traditional refectory. Rather than occupying the full range, as would be expected in a larger monastic house, the room layout at Kerswell conforms closely to the most common Devon house plan of the late Middle Ages, with central hall, cross-passage and single-bay rooms at each end, but with full-height partitions rather than low screens. In a conventional monastic layout the kitchen stood at the junction of the W. range and refectory, providing food both for the monks' refectory and for the requirements of the hall of the W. range. At Kerswell, however, a plank-and-muntin screen, probably of Late-medieval date, was recorded at the E. end of the hall in the 1950s. It is possible that the screen was moved there after the Reformation or during the major remodelling of the range for agricultural use in the mid-19th century. On the other hand, the doorway through the N. wall into the position of the screens passage surviving in the 1950s was of well-built volcanic stones and may well have been medieval. If so, the passage was in this position from the first. It is also clear that the typical medieval arrangement of central door and flanking doors to kitchen and service rooms was not employed at the W. end of the hall. Instead, a single small doorway in the massive closed screen at the W. end of the hall led into the N. side of the adjacent bay – perhaps to a passage running westward to the kitchen.

The roof was of oak and consisted of six jointed-cruck trusses. At each end were simple unchamfered A-frame trusses with cranked collars. Short lengths of purlin extended from these end trusses to the walls of the building, where their ends were decayed. All the roof bays had double wind-braces, the upper braces being reversed. The roof-timbers were convincingly smoke-blackened, both in the hall and in the E. bay. The blackening extended down the timbers of the closed truss which were exposed to the hall. The position of the former infilling of the surviving closed truss on the E. side of the hall was indicated by an unsooted strip on the undersides of the principal of the truss, flanked to east and west by heavy sooting. The roof and side of the truss in the W. bay were unsooted.

A scatter of long scribed carpenters' assembly marks was recorded; their survival is incomplete, since most of the marks on the roof timbers were found on their upper faces, which were especially vulnerable to decay. The best group was on the closed truss, where it was clear that the marks indicated specific joints rather than the number of the truss. A second group of marks was found on the principal trusses. The timbers of the roof and closed truss were examined for dendrochronological study by C. Groves of the University of Sheffield in 1985. Unfortunately she found that they are all of fast-grown oak, with insufficient rings for sampling to be worthwhile.

After the Dissolution the former refectory range appears to have been converted to a standard Devon farmhouse plan. Upper floors were inserted at both ends, and it is likely that the central bays were also floored, although the evidence for this is lost. The E. end was converted into a ground-floor kitchen, with a large fireplace and oven, and with an upper room (perhaps for servants) in the roofspace. In the

mid- or late 19th century the range underwent a substantial rebuilding, providing a cattle byre on the ground floor with a barn above. The adaptation entailed such extensive interventions in the walls of the range that that few medieval features survived below the handsome roof. The present farmhouse, on the site of the church, dates from the second half of the 16th century; it is Listed Grade II*. A full publication of the Kerswell survey can be found in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 64 (2006), 149–92.

42. LUNDY, PIGS PARADISE (SS 1386 4412). Following a watching brief by S.J. Blaylock for the National Trust in 2000, in which structural evidence and over 1400 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, post-excavation analysis by J. Allan has proceeded. Two sherds of imported post-Roman amphorae, one of Peacock and Williams Class 44 (British Bii), were also identified. The bulk of the pottery dates from c. 1150–1350; wares from N. Devon, W. and S. Somerset, Ham Green, Bristol, Minety and S. Wiltshire are present. Publication is in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 63 (2005), 65–91.

43. OTTERY ST MARY, ST MARY'S CHURCH (SY 0985 9554). A watching brief was carried out by A. Passmore in the churchyard to the S. of the nave of the parish (formerly collegiate) church. The N. wall of the N. walk of the cloister was found, close to the position predicted by J.N. Dalton before 1917. Two new groups of medieval floor tiles were identified. Publication is in *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* 64 (2006), 343–7.

44. PLYMPTON PRIORY (NGR SX 537 564). Following geophysical survey, J. Valentin carried out evaluation within the precinct of this wealthy Augustinian priory. A substantial robber trench probably representing the line of the N. wall of the S. claustral range, and a footing interpreted as indicating the inner wall of a cloister alley were found. Thick Dissolution deposits included architectural fragments, floor tiles, and a large piece of wall plaster painted with a scroll bearing a text, possibly from the chapter house.

45. TAVISTOCK, BEDFORD SQUARE (SX 4816 7442). Evaluation by A. Passmore was conducted above the projected position of the N. aisle of the abbey church. Medieval floor tiles were recovered but no structural evidence was reached.

DORSET

46. THORNCOMBE, FORDE ABBEY (ST 3593 0528). P. Manning, G. Young and R. Parker of Exeter Archaeology conducted a survey of the early or mid-17th century stable block to the north-west of the cloister in advance of proposed changes of use. It retains large portions of three different reused medieval roofs, each with three different sequences of carpenter's marks; they presumably come from abbey buildings.

ESSEX

47. GREAT BARDFIELD (TL 7038 2982). A Type 2 medieval kiln was excavated by K. Orr and H. Brooks of Colchester Archaeological Trust on the route of an Anglian Water pipeline north-west of Braintree. A total of 3,927 sherds, weighing 28.22 kg, was excavated from the interior and stoke pits of the kiln. The material found in the kiln (and presumed to be its product) comprised mainly Hedingham coarseware fabric 20D and a smaller quantity of Hedingham fineware fabric 22. The coarseware vessels are mainly undecorated cooking pots, with smaller quantities of jugs and bowls. The fineware was exclusively stamped and stripped Hedingham Ware jugs, with 'crescent-in-circle' stamps. The newly-discovered Great Bardfield kiln is in the heart of the Hedingham Ware trading area, with the other two known production centres at Sible Hedingham (8.5 km to the north-north-east), and Gosfield (7.5 km to the east).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

CIRENCESTER

48. At *St John the Baptist Church* (SP 02320 02090) a watching-brief was undertaken by A. Barber of Cotswold Archaeology, on behalf of St John the Baptist Parochial Church Council, during external groundworks associated with construction of new disabled toilets. An undated, E.–W. aligned inhumation burial was partially revealed and recorded, but preserved *in situ* within a manhole trench, together with disarticulated bone noted within the surrounding gravesoil. Offset limestone foundations of the 14th-century vestry wall were also partially exposed, at a depth of 0.3 m below present ground level.

GREATER LONDON. Work by Museum of London Archaeology Service unless stated otherwise.

BARNET

49. At *36–38 High Street, High Barnet* (TQ 2473 9641) a watching brief was carried out by J. Crisp of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. for Lal Khajuria. Four 14th/15th-century walls were recorded in the south-west of the site, possibly forming the E. corner of a fairly substantial, chalk-and-stone walled medieval building revealed partly beneath the existing High Street shops.

CAMDEN

50. At *59 Frognal* (TQ 26073 85546) an evaluation and watching brief were carried out by R. Bull and I. Howell for Fitzpatrick Construction. While the evaluation revealed no evidence for medieval activity, the watching brief recovered sherds of pottery dating from 1170–1350, suggesting medieval settlement in the area.

51. At *St Giles Court, St Giles High Street* (TQ 30021 81340) excavation and evaluation by S. Anthony and R. Cowie took place on behalf of Stanhope plc. The excavation in the S. courtyard of the standing building revealed medieval intercutting ditches and pits, probably either drainage ditches lying parallel to the road or refuse pits. The ditches and pits probably represent yards/work areas located to the rear of properties fronting onto the High Street. Within the E. of two trenches excavated in the central courtyard, medieval activity was hinted at in the remains of a horse skeleton and stakeholes indicating a possible fence line.

CITY OF LONDON

52. At *6 Bolt Court* (TQ 31383 81234) a watching brief was carried out by R. Bull for Fleetwood Developments Ltd. during redevelopment of the former City Literary Institute in Bolt Court, behind Fleet Street. The investigation recorded several large pits, the bases of which cut into surrounding Hackney Terrace gravels. Pottery from the pit fills date the activity from the late 12th to the mid-14th century. The pits are interpreted as former gravel quarry workings, backfilled with domestic and construction waste and mainly cultivation soil.

53. At *Bow Bells House, Bread Street* (TQ 32330 81140) further archaeological excavations were undertaken by I. Howell and S. Davis on behalf of Bow Bells House Partnership. These took place on three crane base pits, thirty-five pile location pits and five geotechnical pits, with an additional watching brief on the drainage runs. It was previously thought there was no Anglo-Saxon activity on the site; however, several pits at the Watling Street end of the site contained characteristic Anglo-Saxon loomweights, lava quernstones and bone combs. Large chalk foundations of later medieval properties that fronted on to Bow Churchyard were on the E. side of the site. One building had extra deep foundations to compensate for the underlying soft ground caused by the backfill of early Roman quarry pits. Other medieval features include a cellar that continued in use into the Tudor period and an ashlar chalk-block well.

54. At *107 Cheapside* (TQ 32370 81220) three evaluation pits and nine archaeological boreholes were excavated by J. Taylor and S. Kennedy, on behalf of Second London Wall Project Management Ltd. A test pit located south of the existing car park ramp revealed a substantial medieval chalk

foundation on the same alignment as an earlier E.–W. aligned Roman wall. This was probably associated with the church of St Mary Magdalene; known to have been on the site by 1275, it was destroyed in the Great Fire of London. Medieval layers had finds dating from the late 10th to the mid-12th centuries. A probable medieval cess- or rubbish pit was found in a test pit to the north of the car park ramp.

55. At the *Church of St Ethelburga the Virgin, Bishopsgate* (TQ 33182 81361), a watching brief was undertaken by M. Ingram, for the St Ethelburga Centre for Reconciliation and Peace. An 8 m length of medieval ragstone wall was observed on the S. side of the site, relating to either the construction of the church in the 13th century, or rebuilding work in the 15th.

56. At the *City Wall* (TQ 32440 81620), the Photography and Geomatics Sections of MoLAS carried out a standing building recording for the Corporation of London. The surviving sections of the City Wall standing in St Alphage Garden and in the Barbican were orthographically photographed, surveyed and located on the Ordnance Survey grid. This recording forms part of an ongoing audit of the remains of the City Wall.

57. At *14–18 Gresham Street* (TQ 32352 81325) excavations were undertaken by S. Watson, on behalf of City Offices/Hermes, during and after the demolition of the buildings bounding the site. These included an open area in the car park and a series of pile-cap trenches and drainage runs. A watching brief was undertaken on smaller diameter piles. During the 12th century several buildings were constructed on the site, with gravel and chalk foundations representing ground plans of buildings that may have been constructed of timber above ground. Later medieval activity was centred around the N. side of the site with two largely intact ragstone and chalk built cellars relating to the Gresham Street frontage. These dated from the 14th century but included some reused Roman building material. The backfills contained many finds, including a leather scabbard decorated with a stamped *fleur de lys* pattern. Elsewhere, other 14th-century walls and foundations denoted the presence of cesspits and buildings in the area. These can be related back to existing properties using documentary information.

58. At *54–66 Gresham Street* (TQ 32550 81270) R. Wroe-Brown and S. Pennington carried out an excavation on behalf of Gresham Developments Ltd., following work on this site by Wessex Archaeology in 2002. On the E. side, an Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building with a timber floor was cut into the outer wall of a probable Roman temple. Other Early-medieval features included postholes and cesspits. A later massive chalk foundation ran N.–S. across the site, the only evidence for the documented medieval buildings of Hagin's house, a prominent 12th-century Jew, and later the Prince's Wardrobe.

59. At *Guildhall North Block, Basinghall Street* (TQ 32250 81380) L. Casson, on behalf of the Corporation of London, excavated two evaluation trenches on the proposed positions of two new tree pits. In one, demolition rubble sealed an E.–W. aligned medieval chalk-and ragstone wall. This survived to almost modern slab height in the E. side of the pit. The second pit revealed another length of wall on the same alignment, but the inclusion of later materials such as brick suggests that it represents a Post-medieval rebuilding of this section.

60. At *9 King Street* (TQ 32477 81240) a watching brief was carried out by J. Taylor for the Department of Planning and Transportation. The excavation of a sewer drop shaft was monitored and revealed that Roman layers were cut by two rubbish pits, containing pottery dated to A.D.1050–1150. These pits were covered by the fills of later rubbish pits containing pottery dated 1270–1350, in turn sealed by a series of later medieval make-up deposits, floors and occupation layers.

61. At *29–33 King Street* (TQ 32460 81260) A. Mackinder carried out an evaluation for EPR Architects on behalf of F&C Property Asset Management plc. A series of evaluation trenches and geotechnical test pits were excavated, revealing rubbish pits of 10th- to 13th-century date. Two chalk foundations were recorded which were probably the remains of medieval buildings.

62. At *Mariner House, Crutched Friars* (TQ 33443 80865) C. Menary carried out an evaluation on behalf of Ohio Ltd. Six test pits were excavated on the site of the former Navy Office and House of the Crutched Friars Friary. A chalk wall containing a number of Tudor bricks was recorded; this may be part

of the Friary, rebuilt after the Dissolution. Residual finds relating to the Friary included a piece of dressed limestone, ragstone and chalk nodules, and Flemish floor tiles (dated 1480–1580) displaying evidence of burning. This may be the result of a late 15th-century fire at the Friary, or another in 1575 which destroyed the adjacent Glasshouse. Medieval dump layers and pits containing pottery of 11th/12th- and 13th- to 15th-century date were also recorded.

63. At *Princes and Bartlett House, 6–12 Basinghall Street/93–95 Gresham Street* (TQ 32570 81310) an evaluation by S. Gannon, for Standard Life Investment, consisted of the excavation of nine test pits within the basements of the two properties. Two cut features containing material of Roman and Late Saxon date were overlain by substantial and probably medieval chalk foundations, which had been truncated by the modern basement slab.

64. At *St Bartholomew's Hospital* (TQ 31970 81510) four test pits were excavated during an evaluation by C. North, for Skanska Innisfree. The two pits in the centre of the site revealed only natural sand and gravels beneath modern made ground. A third, located in the north, revealed a medieval rubbish pit containing pottery from 1080–1170, cut into natural deposits. Two further rubbish pits, one containing material dated between 1270 and 1500, and a possible medieval well were recorded in the fourth test pit, which was located at the S. edge of the site.

65. At *St Paul's Cathedral, South Churchyard* (TQ 32020 81110) D. Sankey carried out a watching brief, monitoring landscaping work, on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral. An evaluation in 2005 exposed areas of the cloister and chapter house of the medieval cathedral (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 313). Parts of the medieval cloister were exposed and protected within the landscaping, which includes a partial representation of the cloister and chapter house. Areas surviving to a higher level than had previously been exposed were protected within the foundation of new walls representing the cloister.

Significant new details were added to observations made during the evaluation. These included the external threshold and the W. range which had three long panels of diagonally laid Purbeck slabs, two slabs wide towards the outside, one and a half in the centre and one slab wide to the inside. This contrasts with panels of equal thickness on the E. range (one and a half slabs wide). Comparison of stone from the cloister wall with the Museum of London's comparative collection indicated that the yellow limestone of which they were made came from Taynton near Burford, Oxon., rather than Caen. Detailed examination of the fabric of the masonry indicated reused material in the walls so their immediate source was probably buildings which stood nearby before the cloister was built. It is possible that the stone came from more than one source.

66. At *Sir John Lyon House, Gardner's Lane* (TQ 32180 80810) E. Burton carried out a watching on behalf of Siddell Gibson, following on from an evaluation in 2005. Work on the investigation of existing piling, excavation of two new lift pits and permanent works was monitored during redevelopment of the site. Evidence of well preserved, intact waterfront archaeology dating from the 12th century or earlier and up to the Late-medieval period and foreshores of an earlier derivation were revealed. Wall foundations of probable medieval tenements survive over reclamation dumps and foreshore deposits along the E. side of the site and one particularly notable area of medieval glazed flooring suggests at least one structure of potentially higher status. Timbers belonging to revetment structures were found across the site at depths of between minus 1.72m and 0.55m OD. Revetment structures dating from the 12th century or earlier still exist across the site although the level of survival is inconsistent.

67. At *Wax Chandlers Hall, 6 Gresham Street* (TQ 32250 81370) S. Turner carried out a watching brief for the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers. Monitoring of the excavation of a new lift pit revealed a 1.5 m layer of 'dark earth' overlain by medieval made ground. A 12th-century foundation constructed from chalk rubble and flint nodules was recorded.

68. At *1 Wood Street/120 Cheapside* (TQ 32329 81240), following work during 2005, excavation of pile caps and a watching brief on smaller pile caps and ground level reduction were carried out by S. Watson on behalf of Bovis Lend Lease/Land Securities. Several deep pits of Saxo-Norman date were excavated, containing pottery including imported Ardenne wares, Stamford wares and Early-medieval

sandy wares. Later medieval remains consisted of large, deep, square-cut chalk-and-ragstone foundations, probably relating to buildings along Milk Street. There was also a set of greensand steps within chalk walls, leading down to an unexcavated cellar against the E. boundary of the site.

CROYDON

69. At 2–14 *Whitgift Street* (TQ 32280 65250) excavation was conducted on behalf of Tower Homes. Previous evaluation and excavation had taken place in 1994 and 1995. At least three post-Conquest pits and an E.–W. aligned boundary wall were recorded. The spread of the features was sparse with much of the E. side of the site covered largely by a medieval ploughsoil that produced six residual late Roman coins. Other finds of note included a bone comb and a medieval iron buckle – both found within pits.

GREENWICH

70. At *Borthwick Wharf and Paynes Wharf, Bortwick Street, Deptford* (TQ 3728 7808) N. Hawkins of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out an evaluation for CgMs Consulting ahead of redevelopment. The site is bounded to the north by the River Thames, to the west by Watergate Street, to the south by Borthwick Street and to the east by other riverside buildings. Situated on the site of Henry VIII's dockyard, established in 1513, the Deptford Strand area along the river walls of the Thames was certainly populated by the 13th century and increasingly so in the later medieval period. A shipbuilding industry here is first recorded in 1418/1420 with the rebuilding and refitting of royal ships. The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of four trial trenches. On the S. side of the site, a sub-circular pit was recorded in Trench 3. The full extent of this feature was not uncovered as it continued north-east past the limit of excavation. South Hertfordshire Grey Ware was recovered from this feature, dating it to between 1170–1350. Trench 4 revealed natural gravel, overlain by subsoil, sealed by a ploughsoil. Three rubbish pits dating from 1480–1610 were sealed by 20th-century made ground and concrete.

71. At *Queen Anne Outer Court, Old Royal Naval College* (TQ 38651 78021) J. Bowsher carried out an excavation for the Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College. It revealed the E. end of the Chapel Royal of the Tudor Greenwich Palace, c. A.D. 1504. The chapel had a tiled floor and stone moulding on its walls and doorways. An integral drain was found below. To the east was an integral vestry with an additional (probable) vestry beyond.

HACKNEY

72. At the *East London Line Project, Holywell Lane* (TQ 33220 82230) S. Davis carried out an excavation for Transport for London. Two adjacent trenches were excavated on the S. side of Holywell Lane outside the area of the medieval Holywell Priory complex. A series of channels that exploited natural springs or local watercourses (possibly the Walbrook) within the locality were revealed. The channel network also fed a large pond that was sampled. Archaeological excavations are planned to continue within the priory complex, to the north of Holywell Lane, during spring 2007.

HAMMERSMITH

73. At *Fulham Palace, Bishops Avenue* (TQ 2405 7615) C. Mayo of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out a watching brief and an excavation for Mansell Construction Services Ltd on behalf of LB Hammersmith and Fulham, the Heritage Lottery Fund and in partnership with the Fulham Palace Trust, and P. Emery of Gifford's. The Grade I listed Fulham Palace, until the 20th century the seat of the Bishops of London, sits at the centre of a Scheduled Ancient Monument covering the area within its moated boundary. In many areas around the palace, sequences of plough- and horticultural soil attested to the largely undeveloped nature of the site over time. In the area of the North Lawn evidence of the medieval development of the palace was seen with a pitched-tile hearth and a chalk well, which construction backfill produced a well-preserved coin of Crispus, A.D. 323–4. Remnants of the 16th-century State Wing of the palace, with a cellar that had altered in use before the block's demolition in 1715 were also recorded. Drainage work, concentrated around the paddock area immediately to the west of the palace, revealed two substantial linear features of apparent 13th-century date. They were parallel,

aligned N.–S., and are likely to have formed part of the double-ditched enclosure of the medieval manor house that pre-dated the palace structure. Their alignment corresponds with that of similar features seen on a geophysical survey conducted in the 1980s, which identified a corner of the enclosure to the north-west of the palace.

The Tudor expansion of the palace from its medieval origins, centred around the current W. Wing, was seen in various places in the form of foundations and standing walls. Notable sections were recorded within the West Courtyard and in a section of wall at first-floor level in the current E. Wing. This represented the exterior face of the Tudor W. range before its complete enclosure in the Post-medieval period. On the E. lawn of the palace, masonry of probable Tudor date was revealed that is likely to have been part of a garden wall. In the west, in the area of the new access road to Bishop's Avenue, and in the north, within the Moat Garden, evidence of the moats' backfilling in the early 20th century was recorded with no revetting or recutting observed. Part of a lean-to currently attached to Gothick Lodge was seen to have its foundations on a footing of reused medieval stone. In two areas, the presence of decorative carvings on some pieces suggested that they derived from a church, possibly the chapel that formed one of the easternmost buildings within the medieval palace complex. Heavily truncated areas of masonry around the NE. corner of the palace could also be attributed to the early Post-medieval Housekeeper's Wing.

HARINGEY

74. At the *Tetherdown School, Fortis Green* (TQ 2815 8930) an evaluation by J. Crisp of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., for The Treehouse Trust and Haringey Council, recorded an E.–W. oriented ditch interpreted as the N. pale of the medieval deer park located in Highgate Wood. The ditch appeared to have partially silted up before being recut at a later date and to have been left open until the early 20th century when it was infilled.

HILLINGDON

75. At the *Western International Market* (TQ1075 7850) P. Boyer of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. undertook an excavation for Gifford and Partners Ltd., on behalf of Kier Property Development Ltd. Subsoil sealed Anglo-Saxon and later medieval features cutting into natural Lynch Hill Gravels and brickearth. Evidence of occupation during the Early Anglo-Saxon period was recorded in the form of a number of rectangular timber structures built towards the N. edge of the site. Further to the south a sunken-featured building was also recorded. An Iron-age 'territorial' ditch appears to have been partially recut during this period, and a further N.–E. oriented ditch was excavated to the west of the rectangular structures.

The evidence for later medieval activity was slight, being positively identified in only two features in the SW. corner of the site, a pit and a N.–S. oriented gully. A number of possible medieval ditches to the north of the gully, which formed the angle of a rectangular or square enclosure, was also revealed. However, little dateable material was recovered from the ditches. A number of other features towards the south of the site may also have been medieval, but again, a lack of dateable finds has restricted positive identification. The nature of the features suggested predominantly agricultural exploitation during the post-Conquest period. However, the activity may have been more extensive than suggested by the artefactual evidence. At the Heathrow T5 excavations it was shown that Bronze-age field system ditches had been reutilised during the medieval period. This may also have been the case on the Western International Market site, particularly for the ditches to the south of the site, which produced little dating evidence for any period.

HOUNSLOW

76. At *Syon House, Syon Park, Brentford* (TQ 1735 7666) a training excavation was undertaken by H. Sheldon, R. Cowie, R. Densem, S. McCracken and M. Miles of Birkbeck Faculty of Continuing Education, University of London. Further remains of Syon Abbey, a Bridgettine house of 1426–1539, were recorded to the east and south-east of Syon House during a second and third season of work (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 49 (2005), 370). A number of features were exposed in the NE. corner of the abbey church including the E. and N. robbed walls of the church, an internal N.–S. wall in the central aisle (on the W. side of the first bay) and E.–W. rows of robber pits marking the positions of piers of the N. arcade

and on the central axis of the church. Several more cells for individual burials were revealed in a double row of brick-built vaults against the N. wall of the church. A total of twenty-four cells have now been exposed in this area. The fragmentary remains of at least two skeletons, one of which was female, were found in the cells, as well as shroud pins and a bronze finger-ring. There were possible traces of decayed coffins, possibly of wicker. Wall foundations on the N. side of the church may represent an adjoining chapel and other buildings in the N. range of the abbey. The remains of abbey buildings were also recorded to the south of the church. These included several brick walls on stone foundations, which possibly represent the SE. corner of a cloister and adjacent rooms. There were two graves and a stone-built drain in the putative cloister walk. The drain probably ran into another a few metres to the north-east.

ISLINGTON

77. At *29½ and 30A Great Sutton Street* (TQ 3181 8215) B. Ferguson carried out an evaluation and watching brief for Bee Bee Developments following an evaluation of the site in 1999. The present evaluation was intended to determine whether the site lay within the documented Pardon Churchyard once belonging to the Carthusian monastery that reportedly used it as a Black Death burial ground. The garden features located at the S. end of site were in close proximity and ran parallel to each other; they were either associated to the Carthusian monastery or the later manor house. The partial remains of an E.-W. aligned wall constructed from chalk fragments were recorded in the SE. corner of the evaluation trench. This wall, both horizontally and vertically truncated, could either be the remains of the 'Pardon Churchyard' boundary wall, the Pardon Chapel or that of a previously unknown structure.

78. At *Lowndes House, 1-9 City Road* (TQ 22830 82140) A. Daykin carried out an excavation for W. T. Partnership on behalf of Travelodge Hotels, following a watching brief in 2005. Natural brickearth was overlain by a weathered brickearth deposit which was interpreted as a medieval agricultural soil horizon. The excavations also revealed evidence for widespread brickearth quarrying in the 15th-16th centuries.

79. At *122-128 Old Street* (TQ 32430 82360) E. Burton carried out an evaluation for Unite. A single evaluation trench revealed evidence for medieval use of the site in the form of stake- and postholes. The structures are probably representative of storage of enclosures related to the agricultural or pastoral use of the land during this period. One example showed evidence of trampled ground and appeared to form a pen or enclosure, while another showed some evidence for a roof.

80. At *Therese House, 29-30 Glasshouse Yard* (TQ 32040 82050) an excavation was carried out by A. Daykin on behalf of CgMs. Following the excavation of ten trial pits in 2005, a further twelve pile positions were excavated as well as drainage trenches. To the west of the site some medieval footings were found; these were thought to form part of cells R and S of the monastery of Charterhouse. In addition various 11th- to 13th-century quarry pits were located.

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

81. At the *River Thames foreshore, Cheyne Walk moorings* (TQ 26800 77415) a foreshore survey was carried out by N. Cohen for Chelsea Yacht and Boat Company Ltd., in response to a brief from English Heritage. The results of the first foreshore survey by MoLAS (in 2004) helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. Features recorded during the original survey of the site by the Thames Archaeological Survey (TAS) were observed, and a second area of the site was mapped. This revealed the remains of a second Middle Anglo-Saxon fish trap, which was recorded and sampled. Further auger samples were taken and a fragment of human bone was retrieved. As with the initial survey, it was concluded that the proposed redevelopment may impact directly upon archaeologically sensitive areas.

SOUTHWARK

82. At the *Church of St George the Martyr, Borough High Street* (TQ 32481 79785) a watching brief and excavation was carried out by J. Taylor and B. Watson on behalf of St George's PCC/English

Heritage. The medieval church was represented by truncated fragmentary masonry foundations, interpreted as elements of the original nave and chancel. The church was extended eastwards and a S. chapel was added to the nave, but apparently later demolished when two asymmetrical chapels/transepts were constructed. Within the pre-1733 church were c. 60 burials, while under the E. portion were another 103 burials interpreted as part of an external medieval cemetery which probably remained in use until the 17th century, despite the eastward extension. Excavation of the pier bases of a later phase of the church (possibly 1629) revealed fragments of moulded Tudor architectural terracotta believed to be reused material from the Duke of Suffolk's London residence (Brandon or Suffolk Place) on the opposite side of Borough High Street.

83. At *161 Grange Road* (TQ 33635 71924) an evaluation and excavation was carried out by A. Mackinder for Alan Camp Architects, on behalf of Circle Developments. Two evaluation trenches were excavated on the site, one of which was later extended to further examine a medieval drain/culvert. The well-built stone drain/culvert dated from the late 13th/mid-14th centuries and was probably associated with the Grange or farm estate of Bermondsey Abbey. This replaced an earlier ditch and a timber-lined drain.

84. At the *New Caledonian Market, Bermondsey Square* (TQ 3330 7936) archaeological excavations by A. Douglas of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., on behalf of Igloo Regeneration Ltd., continued, revealing medieval archaeology across the site. A designated conservation area, the site is also a Phase II Scheduled Monument with the presence of Bermondsey Abbey and the 16th-century mansion attributed by Stow to Sir Thomas Pope. In 2005, work uncovered the S. wall of the church and part of the SW. tower that flanked the W. entrance to the church (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 315-17). The abbey was founded as the Cluniac Priory of St Saviour in 1086, later to become a Benedictine Abbey before it was eventually dissolved in 1537. Several phases were evident in the remains of the S. wall, with indications that the first church may have been a small, three or four-bay structure which was later extended.

In 2006, four burials were found in the NE. corner of the site, close to the S. wall of the church. The human remains were interred in cist tombs, lined with chalk blocks and tile and were furnished with head niches (**Fig. 11**). No finds were retrieved from the burials; however, the tombs are provisionally dated to the 13th century. Work was also extended to the east into land opposite and to the north of the White Bear public house, on the E. side of Tower Bridge Road. Here, parts of the S. transept were uncovered, along with the NE. corner of the main cloister. The medieval remains had been demolished to foundation level, and they were partly overlain by the 16th-century build of Sir Thomas Pope. There was also a cellar, probably part of Pope's mansion, built up against the S. transept wall. Immediately to the west of the S. transept wall, more graves were uncovered; these appear to have been deliberately desecrated, with the human remains removed and any tomb structures destroyed. This event is likely to have happened during or immediately after the dissolution of the monastery in 1537.

Initial assessment of the pottery from the Abbey phase shows a characteristic local pattern, dominated by London-type ware up until the late 14th century influx of Surrey whitewares. Imported Late-medieval pottery is very sparsely represented by Dutch redware and German Siegburg and Langerwehe stoneware. Small finds include a bone stylus and a copper-alloy tomb letter. Among the discoveries in 2006 was also a faced stone block carved with the representations of a helm, shield and sword (**Fig. 12**; M. Gaimster, 'Medieval graffito from Bermondsey Abbey', *London Archaeol.*, Vol. 11 No. 8 (2007), 211). The shape of the shield and the conical-topped helm with its eye-slit and indications of plumage or a crest, likely to be a representation of a 'great' helm, suggests a date in the 14th or early 15th centuries for the graffito. Armorial graffiti is not unusual in medieval churches, but the original position of the stone within the abbey is not known. It was found reused in a Post-medieval wall in the S. side of the nave; this formed part of the N. wing of Pope's 16th-century mansion, a building that survived as tenements into the late 18th or early 19th centuries.

A further piece of carved stone was retrieved from the stairs leading down to the cellar of the 16th-century building. The stone carries the carving of a female face alongside a section of squared moulding (**Fig. 13**). The carving appears to be Romanesque in style and it is likely that the stone marked the springing point of an arch, or was a decorative label-stop. The arch which it decorated may have framed a doorway or window, or been incorporated into arcading. It is likely that it was one of the latter two, as the carving is relatively small-scale. The mouth of the carving has been damaged. Although it is unclear at what point this damage occurred, it is interesting to note that destruction of the mouth and/or

eyes of carvings and paintings of saints was a common tactic used by 16th-century Protestant reformers in order to destroy the power and value of 'idolatrous' images.

Before the establishment of a Cluniac priory in 1086, Bermondsey is known from documentary sources as the site of an Anglo-Saxon minster. Previous finds from this period have included loom weights, 8th-century *sceattas* and a copper-alloy hooked tag (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 316; *London Archaeol.*, Vol. 5, No. 15 (1988), 413). A further hooked tag was retrieved during the 2006 season. Initial scanning of the finds from the current project shows that Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered from the site may date from as early as the late 5th and through to the 11th centuries. The very small quantity of chaff-tempered pottery, with more substantial amounts of Ipswich-type and shell-tempered wares, however, may indicate that the focus of activity on the site lies in the period c. 775–850. Late Saxon pottery appears mainly to date from the end of the 10th to the early 11th centuries. Imported pottery at this time includes Rhenish Tiel-type greyware, German red-painted wares and glazed jugs in North French whitewares and Normandy glazed ware.

Work will continue in 2007, with a watching brief during the installation of services. In particular, investigations will focus on the W. part of the site and the area around the priory gatehouse; remnants of this are already seen to be preserved at a high level OD.

TOWER HAMLETS

85. At *Eden House, 5–13 Spital Square* (TQ 3450 1940) M. McKenzie carried out an excavation and watching brief for Royal London Assurance Management. This followed on from work in 1991 and 2000. Foundations likely to be associated with St Mary Spital comprised of large flint nodules in a matrix of rammed gravel were recorded. During the 1991, evaluation a trench along the W. area outside the basement had been excavated down to what was deemed significant deposits or structures. This trench was re-excavated in 2006 and slightly widened. The current work involved dismantling these structures and excavating any other archaeological remains above the formation level of 12 m OD. The lower levels revealed masonry walls associated with the re-founded church of St Mary Spital in the first half of the 13th century. These are related to the E. wall of the original infirmary hall of the hospital together with walls and floors of later private chapels dated to the later 14th and 15th centuries. A watching brief took place outside the N. limit of the basement and involved the re-recording of a wall seen in 1991 that is probably a 14th-century addition to the church.

86. At *13–20 Norton Folgate and 1–10 Shoreditch High Street* (TQ 33440 82030) P. Thrall carried out an evaluation for the Corporation of London. Eight evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site. Medieval walls and foundations were recorded on the N. side of the site, probably associated with the nearby Priory of St Mary Spital.

WESTMINSTER

87. At the *Palace of Westminster, Cloister Court* (TQ 30220 79510) K. Stevens carried out an evaluation for Atisreal Ltd. on behalf of the Parliamentary Works Services Committee. Four test pits were excavated. One situated north of the Oratory Chapel exposed the medieval ashlar block foundation of E. wall of the Cloister. The second was located on the N. side of the Cloister, adjacent to the first pier to the east. The majority of the pit had been obscured by modern concrete, but it revealed large, roughly-shaped greensand blocks of probable medieval date, overlying a chalk and yellow sandy mortar foundation or possibly the remains of a construction horizon associated with the building of either the Cloister or Westminster Hall. The third pit contained modern cobbles and concrete over a large amount of randomly placed brick walls and infilling of uncoursed bricks. This may have been foundations to support the former Cloister floor of tile or slabs and/or the remains of earlier kitchen buildings. The last test pit in the NW. corner of the court revealed only Post-medieval features.

88. At the *Palace of Westminster, Visitor Access Improvement Project, Cromwell Green* (TQ30175 79554) N. Holder carried out an excavation on behalf of the Parliamentary Works Services Directorate. Previous work had occurred on the site 1978 (P. Mills, 'Excavations at Cromwell Green in the Palace of Westminster', *Trans LAMAS* 31 (1980), 18–28) and 2005. In 2006, the locations of three column bases for the new visitor access ramp were archaeologically excavated, and there was a watching brief on a new service trench. The main discovery, in addition to a number of medieval pits, was the massive chalk

foundation of a large Tudor building to the west of Westminster Hall. Documentary evidence would suggest that this was the Court of Surveyors, added to the Tudor Palace of Westminster in 1542.

89. At the *Palace of Westminster, Westminster Hall* (TQ30210 79520) N. Holder carried out an excavation on behalf of the Parliamentary Works Services Directorate. The 11th-century Westminster Hall is the oldest building of the Palace of Westminster. Since the floor and stairs at the S. end of the hall have been settling and cracking for some time, the Palace authorities commissioned Gifford to investigate the problem and engineer a solution. Archaeologists from MoLAS and Gifford monitored these engineering works and excavated two trenches within the hall. The discovery of fragments of the medieval King's Table is of national significance, because this was used for coronations and other ceremonial occasions from the 13th to the 17th centuries. The discovery of twelve table fragments in 2006 (together with five others found in the 1960s) suggest that the Table was made of Purbeck marble and was built as a series of vertical 'trestles' or uprights, which would have supported a stone top. The trestles were delicately carved with a gothic arch and a round column at the front. Other discoveries include a small area of *in-situ* medieval stone floor.

90. At *St Martin-in-the-Fields Church* (TQ 30084 80524) standing building survey, excavation, and watching brief were carried out by A. Telfer and E. Burton following on from work in 2005 (*London Archaeol.*, Vol. 11 Suppl. 2 (2006), 52; works within the South Terrace of the church). The standing building survey consisted of recording and photography within the church, designed by James Gibbs and completed in 1726 after demolition of the previous church in 1721. The burial vaults were constructed in the 1830s after clearance of the cemetery surrounding the church, and occupied the majority of the remaining E. and N. churchyard. No physical evidence of the earlier church has been found and these 18th- and 19th-century works had probably removed any earlier structure. Historical evidence indicates that the medieval church was substantially rebuilt in 1543–4 and again in 1606–9; however, little is known of its layout.

To the north-west of the 1830s Nash vaults, where the stratigraphy remained relatively intact, excavation revealed an area of surviving burial ground below Post-medieval brick-built cellars. A total of twenty-nine burials were revealed in this area, twenty-three of which were adults and six sub-adults. The majority were provisionally dated to the later medieval period, none of which contained any grave goods; however, two earlier phases of burials provided more precise dating evidence. A high-status Anglo-Saxon burial was revealed, which contained a silver ring in the area of the left hand, and a blue green glass palm cup and copper-alloy hanging bowl by the feet. The burial was aligned in an off E.–W. fashion (between E.–W. and SW.–NE.). The finds are all characteristic of the 7th century. Two further glass palm cups were recorded during excavations in the Portico of the church during the 18th century; one of these is displayed at the Museum of London. In addition, a small fragment of a similar vessel was found re-deposited in a later feature during the recent excavations, hinting that further similar burials may have been disturbed in antiquity, possibly during a 13th-century treasure hunt documented at the site. The copper-alloy hanging bowl did not survive well; the main body was almost totally decayed. However, most of the ornamental fittings have survived; two basal discs show traces of red and yellow enamel and display a Celtic-style triskele motif (**Fig. 14**). There is what may be remains of silvering or tinning on the surface. Two of three escutcheons, which would have been attached to the bowl by suspension rings, also survived, with the third lost to partial truncation of the grave. The escutcheons are in the shape of a bird with folded wings, decorated with a Celtic coil design and red enamel. A trace of gilding on the surface provides a further indication of the high status of this object. The hanging bowl contained hazelnuts, a pagan symbol of rebirth.

A few metres north of this burial the backfill of an E.–W. aligned cut contained items of jewellery, again dating from the late 6th to early 7th centuries. These consisted of a gold pendant inset with a blue glass setting, two drop-shaped amethyst beads and three opaque glass beads of differing size and colour (**Fig. 15**). There were also six fragments of silver wire. All of the items were found in very close association and it is thought that together they would have formed a necklace. The pendant can be classed together with cabochon pendants of similar form, which have been dated to the second half of the 7th century and this fits well with the date of associated objects. The pair of amethyst beads may have been imported from the Mediterranean, a trade which took place in the period c. A.D. 590–650, and the glass beads are all characteristic 7th-century types. Pendants are found, usually singly, on necklaces in high-status female graves; however, there were no traces of human bone within the feature, and its full extent had been truncated, so its purpose remains unclear.

These high-status finds indicate that the site of St Martin-in-the-Fields was one of great importance during the 7th century and lend weight to earlier suggestions that an Anglo-Saxon burial ground lay on the site. At least two further burials found within this area of the site are thought to date from the Anglo-Saxon period and future dating will help to confirm total numbers for each phase.

Earlier activity on the site was confirmed during excavations in 2005, when an industrial Roman tile kiln was excavated in the S. Terrace of the church. The last firing date of A.D. 400–450 makes the kiln the latest dated Roman structure in central London. The significance of the kiln was fortified during recent excavations when a Roman limestone sarcophagus was discovered containing a male adult burial, radiocarbon dated to the 5th century A.D. (A.D. 340 to 530 cal, Beta-222516, 1640 +/- 40 BP). The sarcophagus contained no grave goods and had suffered some damage to the lid during the Victorian period, when the stone was broken and part of the skull removed during construction of a sewer (**Fig. 16**). The position of these contemporary finds, one to the north and one to the south of the present church building, may indicate the presence of a significant building on the site during the first part of the 5th century.

A vital link between the late Roman and 7th-century activities is provided by a N.–S. aligned burial. An associated pot, apparently deposited as a grave good by the head, could be dated to the late 5th/early 6th centuries. This type of jar was introduced by Anglo-Saxon immigrants from northern Germany. It was shaped by hand, and decorated with a simple linear and punched design and is the earliest near-complete Early Anglo-Saxon pot from central London. The find suggests a continued use of the St Martin-in-the-Fields site from the late Roman period onwards, a transition which is generally poorly understood in central London. A significant level of high-status activity on the site is indicated by the sarcophagus burial and contemporary tile kiln; however, the nature of any such activity remains unclear. The continued use of the site which is hinted at by the N.–S. burial is a unique find in this area of London and goes some way to explaining the later sacred use of the site in the 7th century. Although no physical remains of an Anglo-Saxon church have yet been found, it is clear that St Martin-in-the-Fields has been a site of ritual significance for longer than previously postulated.

East of the church, some Anglo-Saxon pits were recorded, as also during the concurrent watching brief which covered the N. and NE. areas of the churchyard; these contained large assemblages of animal bone and daub, although a fragment of a loom weight and part of a bone thread-picker were also recovered. Excavations on the site are ongoing and have recently revealed the remains of several phases of early buildings. Although as yet undated, these structures offer exciting possibilities for furthering our understanding of the site's early history.

HAMPSHIRE

SOUTHAMPTON

91. At the *French Quarter* (SU 419 111) R. Brown of Oxford Archaeology directed an excavation of a c. 0.5 ha site in Southampton's medieval centre for CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Linden Homes Southern Ltd., ahead of development of the site as apartment blocks. The excavation encompassed a 100-m length of the historic High Street (formerly English Street) and French Street frontages as well as much of the adjoining land which would have formed the back plots of properties. The excavation revealed Late Saxon to 12th-century structures and pits, including cisterns and latrines, preceding the 13th-century 'town planning'. Historic thoroughfares and tenement property boundaries defined by the medieval and later cellar walls had largely survived from the 13th century until 1950, when the bombed and ruinous post-war site was cleared and developed. The long-term fossilisation of property boundaries enabled the artefacts and ecofacts retrieved from nearly a thousand 13th- to 19th-century back-garden pits, cisterns and latrines to be correlated with the structural history of the buildings and Southampton's vast wealth of documentary resources.

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

92. MARDEN, MARDEN COURT FARM (SO 5131 4713). A program of archaeological monitoring and trial trenching, undertaken by Archaeological Investigations Ltd., recorded a medieval earthwork, with evidence that the site had been fortified. The proposed development lies within an area of archaeological

earthworks which, given their proximity to Marden Church, are considered to be at least medieval in date. Two trenches were excavated. Within the trench nearest the river a man-made bank of pale yellow gravel was uncovered, which utilised and increased the natural slope down to the river; cut into, and running parallel with the edge of this earthwork, was a linear ditch and two rows of postholes. Although the fill contained very little in the way of finds to help date the feature, it seems likely that the ditch is of similar date to the gravel bank due to their corresponding alignments. The trench excavated within the earthwork did not contain any archaeological features, but did produce several pieces of 13th- to 14th-century pottery, indicating that medieval activity was taking place nearby.

WORCESTER

93. At *Diglis Basin* (SO 8500 5380) and *Diglis Basin Link Road* (SO 8529 5347) an archaeological investigation, directed by A. Norton of Oxford Archaeology on behalf of Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd., revealed a possible 11th-century boundary ditch; this may have defined the limits of two properties fronting Bath Road.

KENT

CANTERBURY

94. At *St Mildred's Tannery* (TR1445 5765) S. Pratt of Canterbury Archaeological Trust, on behalf of Bellway Homes, continued the ongoing watching brief on a major residential development where work was concentrated on the W. and SW. areas of the site. A 1.475-m wide gateway in the N.–S. Roman town wall had been blocked at an unknown date. A razed or collapsed portion of the wall was rebuilt, incorporating a new, 3.1-m wide gateway (probably the 'Halistane' mentioned in documents of c. 1200), about 11-m wide, further south. About 7.6 m south of this the Roman wall and any Watergate over the intramural branch of the River Stour had been removed and replaced with a narrower re-entrant wall, perhaps with a walkway on timber posts, running back some 8.7 m from the old wall, then turning 110° and running south another 10.4 m to an abutment on the contemporary river bank. The moat was diverted or, more probably, widened to follow the new line and had a steep glacis of tightly packed demolition rubble. A tenancy agreement of c. A.D.1200, two 17th-century bird's-eye views and existing boundaries suggest there was a matching re-entrant on the S. bank. No reliable dating evidence was found for this remodelling of the defences but the most likely spurs to alterations are the Danish siege of 1101 or the poorly documented 11th- or early 12th-century replacement of the motte-and-bailey at Dane John with the stone castle near St Mildred's Church.

LANCASHIRE. Work undertaken by Neil Archaeological Services.

95. COLNE, CHURCH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW (SD 8890 4010). A watching brief was conducted on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, during internal refurbishment and associated drainage works, at the Grade I Listed, mainly 16th-century church, on a site probably occupied since the 12th century. The church was altered in 1839, 1856–7, and 1889. A rock-cut charnel house, east of the church, was built c. 1830 to replace an above-ground structure beside the 15th-century W. tower; the works revealed slight traces of the latter. Drainage works inside the tower revealed early burials, including one pre-dating the W. door threshold. Northern Gritty tradition ceramics of mid-13th- to mid-14th-century date were associated with these burials. Human osteological assessment by C. Cox of OsteoTeam, Sheffield, revealed that four articulated and thirteen disarticulated burials were present; 65% of the population were estimated to be adult, 55% subadult (0–20 years old). Given that individuals buried within the church were generally of higher status than individuals buried in the churchyard, it is slightly surprising that the dental health of these individuals was quite poor. Pathological conditions noted were restricted to the upper torso, in the form of mild to moderate osteoarthritis, and general degenerative changes in the joints and spinal column.

96. WHALLEY, WHALLEY ABBEY CONFERENCE HOUSE (SD 7312 3604). On behalf of Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance, Neil Archaeological Services undertook watching briefs – a total of 15 small

trenches – in and around the Diocesan Conference and Retreat House at Whalley Abbey between 1999 and 2004 (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 45 (2001), 292; 48 (2004), 277). Throughout 2005 an extended watching brief programme and above-ground building recording, comprising a further 34 trenches and areas, were conducted during major refurbishment of the house (**Fig. 17**). During the works, English Heritage funded a programme of dendrochronology, conducted by Dr Martin Bridge, Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, the results of which are expected shortly.

The Assheton family post-Dissolution house is thought to physically overlie, and to incorporate *in-situ* and *ex-situ* elements of, the Abbot's Lodgings of the Cistercian abbey *Locus Benedictus de Whalleye*. The Abbey, dedicated to St Mary, was founded on 4 April 1296, when twenty-four monks from Stanlaw Abbey in the Wirral, Cheshire (founded c. 1170) took possession of the Rectory House at Whalley, built by Peter de Cestria. The ruined, so-called Peter de Cestria's chapel, incorporated into the Abbot's Lodgings and now adjoining the SE. corner of the East Wing of the Conference House, could be part of this Rectory. However, the 'Deanery', a building located in the churchyard and demolished in 1866, has also been suggested as the original site. Whalley Abbey was dissolved in 1538, following the execution for treason of Abbot John Paslew. In the *Whalley Abbey Conservation Plan*, a six-phase dating scheme for the abbey and post-Dissolution remains was proposed by Lloyd Evans Prichard Ltd. (unpublished report to English Heritage and Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance, Manchester: LEP 2002). Taken together, the 1999-2006 works have the potential to considerably enhance LEP's phasing, and have provided evidence for several previously unknown structures. Pending completion of post-excavation assessment, structures have been interpreted within a simplified four-phase scheme. Phase 1: pre-14th century; Phase 2: 14th to 16th centuries; Phase 3: later 16th to late 17th centuries; Phase 4: 18th to 20th centuries.

The North-West Wing

Inside the Victorian NW. wing, works for a lift shaft in 2005 (05/Tr 3) revealed a Phase 1 bell-casting pit (**Fig. 18**). The complete 2.4-m E.-W. width was recovered, and N.-S. it measured at least 2.9 m, but extended under a Victorian fireplace and the S. elevation of the c. 1870 wing. The lowest c. 0.5 m of the pit fill, based on probing, was left *in situ*, as the lift shaft design did not require deeper excavation. The pit produced cope fragments – including part of a canon (suspension loop) – charcoal and other organic materials, ceramics, copper-alloy residues, lead fragments, and iron objects. Dr David Dungworth, at English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology, Fort Cumberland, has conducted EDXRF analysis of samples, and confirms that the copper, tin, and lead alloy, which may be either 'slaggy scum' or mould fragments from failed castings, is consistent with the casting of bells.

The pit fill was cut by a stone-built drain of Phase 2 or possibly Phase 3 date. This was then overlain by the c. 1.5-m thick outer wall of the building which, at first-floor level, was the Phase 3 c. 1560 Long Gallery Range. At this point, however, the ground floor might have reused an earlier structure, as with the Abbot's Kitchen further south. Curiously, the wall-core mortar was mixed with quantities of bird and small mammal bone, for which comparanda are sought. Fragments of medieval or early post-medieval terracotta sculpture were recovered from a secondary context overlying this wall.

Trenches and building survey in the Main House

The ground-floor dining room incorporates much Phase 2 fabric, although it is uncertain whether this is of pre- or post-Dissolution date. This includes a fine perpendicular window in the N. elevation, and probably the ceiling joists, which were sampled for dendrochronological dating. At first-floor level, the S. wall exhibited bone-and-mortar fill. Parts of a moulded external cornice, seen in a loft space, may relate to the original Phase 2 N. facade. The dining room and lobby (05/Areas 9-11) produced little pre-Phase 4 archaeological evidence during the laying of under-floor heating. In 2005, construction of a new dividing wall (05/Tr 8) revealed the S. wall of the original Phase 2 or early Phase 3 stair turret, shown on Buckler's 1817 drawing (BL Add MSS 36,368, f230). Adjacent to the exterior NE. corner of the house (05/ Tr 28), the foundation courses of the Phase 2 ashlar plinth were revealed. Further west on this elevation, the extant base of a buttress (1.3 m N.-S. x 0.7 m) is overlain by the (?)1690s external staircase.

The South Courtyard and East Wing

The 2003 and 2005 works presented opportunities to consider to what extent the S. gable of the East Wing of the Conference House includes monastic fabric. This elevation now forms the N. side of a small open yard, but windows on three storeys in the S. elevation of this yard show that it is a partly-

infilled monastic building – part of the ‘de Cestria Chapel’ and/or of the Infirmary Range. Buckler’s illustration of 1817 shows that the N. elevation of the Infirmary Range still then continued westwards to form the S. elevation of the whole of the East Wing. In 1817, the first floor of the W. elevation, overlooking the courtyard, retained timber framing. This W. half of the wing was completely rebuilt after 1817 and later (c. 1848-72) extended southwards by one bay, inside which the 2003 excavation took place (03/Tr P1).

In 2005, the external S. elevation of the E. half of the East Wing was recorded during replacement of a fire escape, as were parts of the internal cellar, ground floor, and first-floor elevations during replastering. Large blocked ground and first-floor windows, and small lights at modern ground level (**Fig. 19**), indicated former ceiling heights, probably altered in 1588. Joists were sampled for dendrochronology. In the W. half of the range, underpinning works in 2003 (03/Tr P1) revealed that the N. wall of the room had been rebuilt in brick in c. 1848-72, overlying a massively-built Phase 2 stone wall. This was seen to a length of c. 3 m, and exposed during excavation to a height of c. 1.2 m: its thickness and buried height were not determined. The wall at the NE. corner of the room was a continuation of that recorded in 2005 (on right in **Fig. 20**), dated to the 15th century by LEP 2002. This formed the E. jamb of a former doorway, 1.5 m wide, which had been blocked in Phase 2 or early Phase 3. Abutting the wall and blocking was a Phase 3 soil horizon which, along with the wall, was left *in situ*. This deposit, which produced both medieval and early post-medieval ceramics, was cut by two alignments of edge-set stones, lying c. 1.5 m and 2.8 m south of the medieval wall. These bear a resemblance to the Late-medieval ceramic edging to raised garden beds seen at St Anne’s Charterhouse, Coventry (S. Moorhouse, ‘Ceramics in the medieval garden, 100-17 in Brown, A E (ed), *Garden archaeology: papers presented to a conference at Knuston Hall, Northamptonshire, April 1988*, CBA Research Report 78 (London, 1991), 114), suggesting a formal garden in the 18th century, within the shelter of the partly demolished Infirmary Range.

In the de Cestria Chapel courtyard a trial trench in 2000 (00/Tr 1) revealed a deposit of early brick, mortar, painted and moulded plaster, and medieval floor tile, extending for 1.08 m below the courtyard flags. This sealed a mortar spread, perhaps a floor level within the Infirmary Range. The c. 50-m length of drainage run (from 05/Tr 13 in the South Courtyard to 05/Tr 16 at the E. elevation) produced evidence for sixteen walls and culverts, though most of the archaeological horizons removed were of post-medieval to recent date.

A drain-inspection chamber trench (05/Tr 13) was within c. 1.5 m of a structure of uncertain date recorded in 1936 (shown dashed on **Fig. 17**). An unexpected discovery, therefore, was a fragment of wall, orientated at an angle of c. 15 degrees both to the 1936 structure and to the two-storey stub walls on the South Courtyard face of the Abbot’s Kitchen/Long Gallery. Since no scar was apparent on the E. wall of the Kitchen/Gallery, this structure could not have extended as far west as this, and/or was part of an earlier structure on a different alignment. Small exposures of a wall at right angles to the above, and another parallel to it, giving a room width N.–S. of c. 5 m, were revealed in 05/Tr 17. A small area of mortar flooring abutted the W. side of a wall, underlying the SW. corner of the 1920s boiler house and too narrow to be an external wall; the wall was orientated at an angle of c. 40 degrees to the structure just described, but also at c. 65 degrees to the remnants of the Infirmary Wing N. wall (03/Tr P1). Another narrow wall, parallel to this, was located c. 6.5 m to the east, presumably part of the same structure. Unfortunately, a dearth of dating evidence for these structures makes their phasing uncertain, though one or other could conceivably be part of Peter de Cestria’s pre-Abbey rectory.

At the E. end of 05/Tr 17 and throughout the length of 05/Tr 18 the upper fills were present of very large feature, presumed to be the Abbey Drain. The apparent angle of the cut in relation to the trench differed slightly from that expected, based on plans from documentary sources, but this could be explained by partial collapse of the sides of the Drain. In 05/Tr 20, a robber trench for a narrow wall, and a mortared wall fragment c. 0.6 m to the north of it, could relate to the mill race for the mill c. 16 m to the east, which was demolished in c. 1810. At the NE. corner of the chapel, and probably abutting it, a massively built 0.7-m thick wall was uncovered, just below the gravel path. Two courses were exposed on the S. face, three courses - and extant wall plaster - on the N. side.

Rubble collapse from this wall overlay an early wall, which was found (surviving to a maximum of five courses further north) to extend northwards for c. 10 m. Assuming it continued southwards, this wall would approximately meet the NE. corner of the de Cestria Chapel. Its full width was only seen at the junction of 05/Tr 20 and 05/Tr 21, where it was 1.2 m thick; its structure was of heavily mortared blocky flags as facing courses, with a core of sandy loam and large flat-lying flags. This substantial structure lay parallel to, and 3.5m east of, the E. elevation of the Conference House, and may represent a

range of demolished rooms. It was cut by a substantial stone drain/sough, assigned to Phase 3, which could be traced for a distance of c. 8 m.

In 05/Tr 23, (?)Phase 2 plinth courses were recorded underlying Victorian blocking, which had been inserted when the *in situ* medieval doorway in the E. elevation was cut by a replacement entrance; the base of the medieval door jamb was not revealed by the works. Small trenches to repair a water main in 2003, adjacent to the NE. Gateway, and 'Courtyard North Range' former stables and carriage shed, provided glimpses of the stratigraphy of the cobbled N. Courtyard.

Previous archaeological works

During the 1980s and '90s the former Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (now Oxford Archaeology North) undertook a number of watching briefs and stone-by-stone building recording projects at the abbey, including parts of the Conference House and the ruinous Abbot's Kitchen/Long Gallery Range. All tiles from the Abbey for which records existed until 1991, including the *in-situ* (reburied 1984) chapter house examples, have been catalogued and assessed (J. Stopford, *Medieval floor tiles of northern England. Pattern and purpose: production between the 13th and 16th centuries* (Oxford for English Heritage, 2005), 221, 225-35, 248-50, 261-2).

LEICESTERSHIRE

97. ASHBY DE LA ZOUCHE CASTLE (SK 361 166). English Heritage carried out multi-disciplinary research into the sunken garden at Ashby de la Zouche Castle. The project began with analytical survey of the garden, conventionally dated to the second half of the 16th or early 17th centuries, which on the surface consists of earthworks and the remains of two brick-built garden buildings; coring, geophysical survey and excavations were then undertaken to examine the sub-surface remains. To date, the research demonstrates that the sunken garden was once part of a much larger formal garden, evidence for which can be seen to the west of the castle on historic maps and in the form of earthwork remains. It has also shown that deep sunken areas on the E. side of the garden are not ornamental ponds as traditionally assumed. The excavations revealed the foundations of a third brick-built garden building between these sunken areas and also more of the garden wall, which appears to have been modified for defensive purposes during the Civil War. The archaeological work has been supported by documentary research. All the evidence now points to the garden belonging to the first half of the 16th century, making it of particular importance in the study of gardens of this period. Further information on the project, and on the progress and availability of reports may be found by following the links Research & Conservation>Archaeology & Buildings>Landscape Detectives on the EH website: www.english-heritage.org.uk.

98. BARROW UPON SOAR, CATSICK HILL (SK 5740 1838). Archaeological excavation was carried out by D. McAree of Northamptonshire Archaeology on 14 ha of land off Cotes Road, on behalf of David Wilson Homes Ltd. (East Midlands) and Miller Homes Ltd. (East Midlands). There was survival of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation across the fields. The substantial part of the excavation comprised the recording of the limekilns associated with the lime quarrying and lime burning in Barrow since 1396. Eight clamp kilns up to 2 m in diameter were exposed. All survived only as subcircular areas of bright orange/red burnt or vitrified lime and clay from the base of the kilns. Archaeomagnetic analysis from the bases of three of these kilns gave the date of last firing to between A.D. 1490–1510, 1510–1540 and 1570–1600. Nine 'pye' kilns were also recorded; all were rectangular, up to 5 m long and 0.75–1 m wide. Each was located within a distinctive area of bright orange/red burnt lime and clay surface forming the base of the kiln. Archaeomagnetic analysis of samples from four of the 'pye' kilns gave dates in the ranges A.D. 1475, 1490, 1515–1535 and 1540.

99. BARROWDEN, TIPPINGS LANE (SK 9473 0012). A watching brief, by G. Taylor of Archaeological Project Services for Mr R. Jones, was undertaken in the historic village core, close to known medieval remains. A medieval pit containing numerous dog bones, probably an animal burial, was revealed. This was sealed beneath dumped deposits of probable Late-medieval or early Post-medieval date that had been laid down to create a terrace on the natural slope. Cut into these terrace deposits was an undated but probably Post-medieval pit.

100. COSSINGTON, COSSINGTON QUARRY (SK613 102). Post-excavation analysis, led by J. Thomas and funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund through English Heritage, has recently been completed on three Bronze-age round barrows excavated at Cossington, approximately 11 km north of Leicester. Two of the barrows were excavated by Leicester Archaeological Unit in 1976 and the third by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 1999. The three sites were examined ahead of gravel quarrying and together form part of a dispersed barrow cemetery that has been revealed through aerial survey at the confluence of the Rivers Soar and Wreake. The three barrows had complex histories and had evidently continued to be seen as important features in the landscape long after they were originally created. The barrow examined in 1999, in particular, was very well preserved; surviving as a low earthwork mound, this held evidence of a long history of reuse culminating in the siting of an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery in the late 6th to early 7th centuries.

The well-preserved 1999 barrow became the focus for settlement in the Iron Age when enclosures and a roundhouse were located nearby. The barrow mound was also the setting for deliberate deposits of whole or near complete pots, a practice that continued into the Romano-British period. Eventually this barrow also formed the focus of activity in the Anglo-Saxon period (**Fig. 21**). Evidence for settlement was revealed during a watching brief to the north of the barrow which revealed a sunken-featured building (SFB) in association with a scatter of pits and a ditch, all of which contained pottery. The SFB was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring c. 4 x 2.7 m wide and was fairly shallow, approximately 0.1 m deep, with a flat base. Slightly north of the features' centre a shallow depression may have been the remains of a contemporary pit. Several postholes were located around the edge of the main feature, one of which contained burnt stones and pottery. The SFB lay within the corner of a right-angled linear feature which apparently respected the structure. A series of pits and postholes lay in close proximity to the SFB and may have been contemporary. A near-complete globular vessel and a doughnut-shaped loom weight were also recovered during machining of the watching brief area in close proximity to the settlement features.

A small cemetery contemporary with the settlement had been sited on the remains of the round barrow approximately 50 m to the south (**Fig. 22**). The cemetery had been badly plough damaged and because of the sandy, acid soils no trace of human bone was recovered. Fortunately, associated metal artefacts from the cemetery had survived, suggesting the presence of at least three male burials, two probable female burials and a further three of indeterminate sex. Metal grave goods from the cemetery included iron knives, spearheads and a shield boss, as well as copper-alloy dress fittings and brooches (**Figs. 23 and 24**). Remarkably, the remains of wooden shafts (identified as field maple) had survived within the sockets of the spearheads and mineralised fabric impressions were retained on other artefacts including an example of z-spun linen attached to an annular brooch (**Fig. 24g**). A scatter of metal finds from the vicinity of the barrow suggests several other burials had been completely destroyed as a result of subsequent ploughing.

Two large, grave-shaped pits were also located on the edge of the barrow and appear to have related to the Anglo-Saxon cemetery (**Fig. 25**). The pits contained large amounts of burnt cobbles and one also held the partial remains of a large pottery bowl that appear to have been reused as a dish. It seems likely that the pits were connected in some way to the funerary rite and, given the presence of the burnt stones, may have related to food consumption at the time of burial. Interestingly, there appears to have been a disproportionate ratio of iron to copper-alloy finds from the cemetery, perhaps indicating that only two poorly furnished female graves existed. Alternatively the acid soils may have been detrimental to the copper-alloy artefacts or the site may have been metal-detected in the past.

The phenomenon of Anglo-Saxon reuse of earlier monuments is well documented throughout England although this is the first confirmed example from Leicestershire. The local context of the Cossington cemetery is one that is rich in Anglo-Saxon burials, with the Soar valley and its tributaries producing one of the highest densities of cemetery sites from Leicestershire. Full details of the Cossington excavations will be published as part of the University of Leicester, 'Leicester Archaeology Monograph' series in due course.

101. HINCKLEY, HINCKLEY CASTLE, ARGENTS MEAD (SP 4282 9385). Observation of landscaping within the public park by C. Rann of Warwickshire Museum, on behalf of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, revealed a few 12th/13th-century sherds in the area between the Castle and the Priory sites. Works within the Scheduled Area of the Castle encountered mainly 20th-century disturbance, although one layer revealed may have been either part of the bailey rampart or 18th-century landscaping.

LEICESTER

Further to the report about the ‘lost’ church and cemetery of St Peter’s on Vaughan Way (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 333-35), work continued on the adjacent sites within the Highcross Quarter retail development until October 2006. Excavations at the junction of Highcross Street (the medieval High Street) and Freeschool Lane provided the first opportunity to look at two sections of complete street frontage with associated burgage plots, beginning in the Saxo-Norman period. Significantly, this evidence sealed the collapse during the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon period of a section of wall from the Roman *macellum*, upon which a sunken-featured building was constructed. Excavations on Vine Street, to the north, showed an extensive Roman building complex in Insula V to be sealed by evidence for medieval back lanes, associated burgage plots and another of Leicester’s ‘lost’ churches - St Michael’s and its cemetery. Work detailed below (nos. 102, 103) was undertaken by ULAS (University of Leicester Archaeological Services).

102. At *Freeschool Lane/Highcross Street* (SK 5842 0465 centred) excavations were undertaken by J. Coward in the area bounded by Highcross Street to the west, Freeschool Lane to the south, St Peter’s Lane to the north and Shires Lane to the east (the last two no longer extant) (**Fig. 26**). Evaluation had identified five areas for further excavation: Areas 1, 4, 7, 10 and 20.

The post-Roman and Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon periods

Soil and granite rubble layers containing later 4th- century coins and Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery were found built up over the edge of the Roman street in Area 1. Sealing these deposits, over an area of approximately 5 x 6 m along the central part of the frontage, was a section of collapsed walling probably belonging to the E. gable end of the Roman market hall (*macellum*) which stood in Insula XVI to the west (**Fig. 27**). Taking into account the width of the road, the original height of the wall is estimated to at least 10 m. The wall consisted of coursed granite masonry, with tile levelling courses and tile arches. No exterior facing work appeared to be present, either on the external (bottom) face, nor the uppermost, implying that this masonry had already been robbed (or eroded) off the structure *in situ*, perhaps producing the scatter of granite masonry noted in the soils below. Cut into the surface of the collapsed wall was a sunken-featured building comprising a sub-rectangular cut of c. 2.6 x 2.4 m, with two axial postholes on an alignment slightly skewed to the apparent Roman and medieval streets. Unfortunately, the fills of this building appear to have derived from later layers, compressed down into the cut. A second sunken-featured building of similar dimensions, but on a different alignment, was revealed in Area 7. This had been heavily truncated by medieval and post-medieval pitting, but Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the surviving fills.

The Saxo-Norman and earlier post-Conquest periods (to c. 1250)

Two buildings of Saxo-Norman date were identified on the Area 1 frontage (**Fig. 28**). The first of these comprised part of a post-and-beamslot building to the rear of the frontage of Plot 56. Significantly, the line of its E.-W. beamslot represented the earliest establishment of a building line which would continue in use until the 20th century. The second post-and-beamslot building lay on the frontage of Plot 57 to the north, and was constructed over the soil which had built up on top of the collapsed Roman wall. The wall of this property fronting on to the street is assumed to have been truncated by the later masonry walls. A large pit immediately behind the building, to the east, is also of Saxo-Norman date and the numerous postholes, pits and surfaces in the area across both plots may represent traces of further buildings belonging to this phase. By the middle of the 13th century, the frontage along both Highcross Street and Freeschool Lane (where buildings were first being detected in Area 10), was taking a form which would have been recognisable up until the last century. Further plots had been established northwards along Highcross Street as detected in Area 20, while substantial masonry footings had replaced the beam-slot structures on the Area 1 frontage. Burgage plots were defined behind the Highcross Street frontage stretching eastwards across the entire excavated length of Area 1, with small stone-founded buildings with surviving floor layers recognised on Plot 57.

The later medieval period (c.1250-1500)

During this time, Plot 57 was occupied by five kilns (**Fig. 29**). Four of these were grouped closely together and appeared to be of one phase. They were very similar in appearance, comprising a stone-lined circular chamber, and all were set on to a cobbled base exhibiting evidence for burning. The

specific function of the kilns awaits the analysis of environmental evidence. The fifth kiln was located further back and comprised a deep, 'teardrop'-shaped pit. The roughly hewn granite stone lining was clay-bonded and had been partially robbed, while the granite-paved floor was partial burnt. The 3-m long flue led from the kiln chamber to a flight of worn steps which had been cut into the natural gravels. A narrow open yard, paved with successive cobbled surfaces, ran along the S. length of the plot, and stone-lined cesspits and wells were identified.

Plot 56 appears to have been used as an open yard, heavily disturbed by later inter-cutting rubbish pits, while the rear of Plot 58 contained a keyhole-shaped kiln, a cesspit and a well. The kiln was stone-lined and had a flagstone floor and an arched flue, serviced by a flight of steps which, again, had been cut into the natural gravels. Across the entire frontage of Area 1, wall lines exhibited continual rebuilding. In Area 4, the building refurbished during the Saxo-Norman period was robbed and replaced by a thin wedge-shaped industrial feature.

In Area 10, Building A, constructed in the 12th century, remained in use (**Fig. 30**). Room 1 contained a sub-circular industrial feature comprising two arched slots and a sequence of thick clay deposits within it. In the adjacent Room 2, an oval 'industrial' feature was cut into the floor. During the 15th century, Building B was constructed to the east, with what appears to be cobbled yard or alley separating it from Building A. Internal floors were identified and wells, pits, and domestic refuse pits were identified to the north.

103. At *Vine Street* (SK 583 048) late-Roman deposits in Insula IV, uncovered by T. Higgins, included timber structure fronting on to both streets, which do not appear to be typically Roman in character. While no structural evidence for the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon periods has been positively identified so far, the occurrence of small amounts of residual pottery dating from c. 450–850 suggests dispersed activity across the site similar to that evidenced structurally on the adjacent Vaughan Way and Freeschool Lane site. The medieval structural sequence does not begin again until the 11th century when the site was crossed by two or three lanes associated burgage plots (**Fig. 31**). The E. side of the site, in the area surrounding a probable Roman public building, became the cemetery of what appears to be the church of St Michael's, comprising over 300 burials and apparent reuse of the Roman building. Following the demolition of the church in c. 1450, the site was put over to horticultural activity until the modern construction of a brewery, chapel and housing.

Medieval lanes

Within the North East Quarter were back lanes which survive substantially intact in the present street pattern. The archaeological evidence appears to confirm the presence of at least two medieval lanes running under and along the same alignments as the modern roads of Elbow Lane and Grape Street. There is also the possibility that a third lane was found under Vine Street running south from Elbow Lane to join Grape Street. The streets initially appear as pebbled metalled surfaces replaced by a second phase of rough cobbles. The metalled surfaces are thought to have post-dated the medieval robbing of stone from the foundations of the Roman courtyard building. The majority of the walls were robbed between 1100 and 1250, which suggests that the lanes came into existence during or after that period. The metalled surfaces appear to be sealed by a garden soil which dates from between 1400 and 1650. A large medieval boundary ditch, dated between 1100 and 1250, was found to the north of Elbow Lane and was seen to respect the sharp bend in the lane and so helping to confirm its medieval origins.

Burgage plots

Medieval pits and wells were found on either side of the streets and their intensity and alignments suggest possible backyard activity associated with buildings fronting on to the lanes. On the N. side of Grape Street evidence for a large rectangular stone structure was found, comprising two courses of well-laid and keyed rectangular wall foundations and measuring 8 m long and 6 m wide (Building M2). The foundations may have supported a potential masonry building or the dwarf walls of a timber structure. The interior contained evidence of floors and tramples. Directly to the north-east of this building, a square cesspit or cellar structure (2.4 x 1.8 m) had been lined with substantial granite walls. A similar, but heavily robbed, cellar or cesspit was seen on the S. side of Grape Street next to a potential timber building (Building M1). Evidence for other structures were ephemeral in nature with only the occasional posthole and beam slot surviving. The postholes and beam slots appear to congregate in areas with a general absence of large pits, which could suggest potential building plots.

St Michael's Church and cemetery

The site of St Michael's church and cemetery, which contained 286 burials, was centred on the E. side of the excavation area and its boundaries were probably defined by the three medieval lanes of Elbow Lane to the north, Vine Street to the west and Grape Street to the south. St Michael's is thought to be pre-Conquest in origin (J.D. Martin, 'St Michael's Church and Parish, Leicester', *TLAHS* 64 (1990), 21–25), and is first documented c. 1200 (P. Courtney, 'Saxon and Medieval Leicester', *TLAHS* 73 (1998), 133). It is thought that the parish was primarily given over to gardens from at least the 14th century. The earliest burials suggest a potential date from the 1100s onwards and while the last burials may date to the closure of the church in the 15th century, some appear to post-date its demolition and robbing. Three possible burial types have been observed with a degree of certainty and comprise shroud, coffin or pillow-stone burial practices. Alongside the various types of inhumation, a number of possible charnel pits were recorded, resulting from grave clearance and reuse. Also recorded were a number of charnel-like deposits within the cuts and fills of some of articulated burials, resulting perhaps from disturbance by later burials.

The 'lost' church or chapel of St Michael's appears to have reused parts of a potential Roman public building in Insula V (Building 4). The building was constructed in the 3rd century and was clearly a substantial structure with walls up to 1.2 m in thickness and rooms up to 9 sq m. Parts of this large building are thought to have survived as a structure which were then remodelled in the medieval period, with the two S. rooms retained and the N. rooms demolished and replaced with medieval structures (Building M3). The medieval structures comprised stone-and-mud wall foundations and contained inhumations buried within them, suggestive of burial vaults. The evidence for this reuse of the Roman building can be summarised as follows. Firstly, in the period 1400–1550, the wall foundations of the public building were robbed; compared with the robbing of a neighbouring Roman town house, which predominantly took place between 1100 and 1250, this is remarkably late. The period 1400 to 1550 coincides with the proposed closure and demolition date based on documentary sources. Secondly, redeposited human remains were found within the robber trenches, which suggest that the church or chapel cemetery was present during this period of robbing. The third indicator concerns the general absence of inhumations and medieval pits excavated into surviving mortar floors within the Roman public building. Deeply excavated inhumations and pits were found directly to the north, west and south of this, and all cutting and truncating the underlying Roman deposits.

Finds and features post-dating the 15th to 16th centuries were sparse in number across the whole site. This absence of post-medieval activity supports the historical records that the town had a declining population in the 14th and 15th centuries. The decline in the population was probably the primary factor that led to the closure and demolition of St Michael's Church by the 1450s. A thick deposit of garden soil accumulated over the medieval features and suggests that this area of the town had reverted to horticultural use during the post-medieval period. Historical records state that a parcel of ground or croft called St Michael's Churchyard was sold into private hands in the late 16th century and in the late 18th century was sold to All Saints Church to be used as an extension to their graveyard.

104. OAKHAM, KNIGHT'S YARD, GAOL STREET (SK 8596 0870). T. Bradley-Lovekin of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief for Rutland Planning during development on the S. edge of the historic core of Oakham. Two medieval pits containing pottery of mid-12th-century date were revealed.

105. SAPCOTE, REAR OF METHODIST CHURCH, LEICESTER ROAD (SP 490 933). Trial trenching and observation by C. Rann of Warwickshire Museum on a site within the medieval village, on behalf of The Breson Partnership Ltd., revealed postholes and a small ditch overlaid by a rubble yard surface containing 12th/13th-century pottery. To the east, a larger boundary ditch contained 13th/14th-century pottery, as did the layer over the surface.

106. SAPCOTE, METHODIST CHURCH, LEICESTER ROAD (SP 4910 9338). Observation of groundworks for a new link building between the Church and Church Hall by C. Coutts of Warwickshire Museum, on behalf of Sapcote Methodist Church Council, revealed a large ditch, probably the continuation of a medieval boundary previously recorded on a site to the south.

LINCOLNSHIRE

BOSTON

107. At *Boston Guildhall* (TF 3286 4389) an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd., on behalf of Anderson and Glenn for Boston Borough Council. The renovation and refurbishment of Boston Guildhall required restricted interventions into below-ground deposits, for pillar bases and under-floor heating, as well as the exposure of the timber roof structure and other internal features, notably three ranges of ovens in the kitchen. A sequence of earlier floors was discovered beneath the modern ground level within the guildhall, the latest of which was dated by pottery to the mid-18th century. In addition, a number of wall footings and a stair base provided more evidence for the spatial arrangement within the building, and the original means of access from the ground to the first floor. The medieval hall appears to have been one bay shorter than its 18th-century counterpart, and included a screens passage. The nave of the chapel occupied the first three W. bays of the ground floor, while a further two narrower bays contained the chancel.

108. KIRTON WASH ROAD (TF 3090 3780). Investigations by R. Atkins and M. Muldowney of Cambridgeshire Archaeology revealed extensive Late Saxon to Post-medieval archaeological remains. The Late Saxon period was characterised by possible smithing activity and, potentially, retting. The later medieval evidence may include a moat and other ditches associated with the manor of Bozon Hall, and the E. Limit of the settlement of Kirton.

NORFOLK. Work by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology unless stated otherwise.

109. CROXTON, CROXTON FARM (TF 9839 3111). This brick farmhouse is Listed as dating to around 1600, but with a reset limestone fireplace of Late-medieval/16th-century date in what is now an external wall. Examination by E. J. Rose, prior to a planning application for extending the building, produced evidence that the present house represents a wing added against an older structure. It has brick quoins that abut onto the missing section in such a way as to indicate that the latter was of greater width than the remaining portion; the ceiling beams in the standing house indicate a plan not suited to a self-contained building. It is known that there was a manor house and possibly a monastic grange within the village, and given the presence of the high-quality fireplace, which may have been repositioned when the present house was constructed, it seems probable that it occupied this site.

110. HEMBLINGTON, GABLES FARM (TG 3426 1158). Gables Farmhouse has a Regency façade and an end bay of brick with a marriage date of 1731. However, examination by E. J. Rose revealed evidence of a central timber frame including a first-floor hall of two bays crossed by three tiebeams, formerly supported on arched braces and themselves supporting queenposts, and a subsidiary room also open to the roof. A stack had been made within the hall in the 17th century. The date of the substantial timber framing is unlikely to be later than the 15th century.

111. KETTERINGHAM, CHURCH OF ST PETER (TG 1638 0256). The nave of Ketteringham church underwent restoration in 1908 when two high-level Norman windows were uncovered in the S. wall, one of which was stated to have borne 'Norman wall-paintings'; a similar window in the N. wall, now removed, is evidenced by antiquarian prints. The base of the tower, partly formed of ironbound conglomerate, has a slit window with triangular head, suggesting work of a Saxo-Norman date preceding these nave windows. The S. wall also has the outline of a large rounded arch, and a second narrower opening cut by a Late-medieval window. What is visible of these latter features is a restoration of 1908 but they are described on the Listing as of the 12th century, and suggested by the late Alan Carter as post-medieval alterations. Examination by E. J. Rose, as part of a detailed examination of the fabric, has brought about the suggestion that these may be openings to connect the nave to a porticus chapel of Saxo-Norman date, such as may be seen at Howe in Norfolk, and would thus be contemporary with the tower base and predating the Norman nave windows.

KING'S LYNN

112. At the *Guildhall of St George* (TF 6160 2021) trial holes were dug under the supervision of E. J. Rose, in advance of an extension to the guildhall of A.D. 1410, Britain's largest guildhall of its type. The works revealed a wall footing of ferruginous sandstone (possibly ballast) of irregular width, covered by a pavement of handmade yellow bricks, itself sealed by recent deposits. It is probable that the footing represents one of the stone-built merchant's houses of medieval date between King Street and the quay, known to exist documentary sources researched by Elizabeth James. The wall will be preserved *in situ*.

113. At 21–23 *St Benedict's Street* (TG 2271 0877) a sequence of archaeological deposits up to 2 m thick was recorded by R. Clarke of Cambridgeshire Archaeology. Although no *in-situ* evidence of Late Saxon occupation was found, there were several residual sherds of Thetford and St Neots pottery. Medieval activity dates predominantly from the 13th to 14th centuries; no clear structural remains were identified although a number of pits cut into the natural chalk, the largest of which might have been a cellar. Initial levelling of the site probably occurred towards the end of this period when the pits were infilled and thick layers containing domestic rubbish were dumped. Fairly level ground appears to have been achieved by the 15th century, probably in preparation for the construction of several frontage buildings, represented by chalk and/or flint rubble foundations, some with associated floors and surfaces. Dating of the walls is not certain, although they are likely to be of the 15th or 16th centuries, and are reminiscent of similar structures excavated nearby at Pottergate. A number of probably contemporary pits and garden soils were identified to the rear, sealed beneath a c. 1.5 m deep sequence of post-medieval yard surfaces, pits and garden soils. A notable discovery is a possible 15th- or 16th-century undercroft identified in the SE. corner of the site.

114. SHOULDHAM THORPE, THE HALL, CHURCH LANE (TF 6610 0795). Proposed development close to the site of the Norman church was the subject of an evaluation, carried out by R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services for Ian J. M. Cable on behalf of Stow Estate Trust. A ditch, which yielded animal bone and a single sherd of 11th- to 13th-century pottery, was identified. Although the pottery may date the ditch, the location of the feature approximately corresponds with a boundary shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map of the area.

115. YELVERTON CHURCH OF ST MARY (TG 2922 0219). The chancel of the church is noted as possessing high-level Norman windows to the west of a change of build marking a post-12th-century extension. In 2006 the churchwarden alerted Norfolk Landscape Archaeology to the fact that falling render had revealed a circular window in the N. wall above the Norman windows; this suggests an earlier, Saxo-Norman period of work. The church also contains what has been described in the past as a 'child's coffin slab'. This was re-examined by E. J. Rose in advance of the provision of a new floor. The object is of Purbeck marble, 800 mm in length, 400 mm in width at the broader end and 300 mm at the foot. It has a raised centre surrounded by a stepped edge and bears a cross-patonce. It is of high quality and more probably marks a viscera burial.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. Work by Northamptonshire Archaeology unless stated otherwise.

116. BRACKLEY, COLLEGE PLACE AND MARKET HOUSE COURTYARD (SP 5854 3684). An evaluation, commissioned separately by The Raven Group and Mr J. M. Green, was carried out by S. Carlyle, to the rear of the frontage. The earliest feature was a medieval ditch with a possible bank, which probably predates the expansion of the planned medieval town in the late 12th/early 13th centuries. There were a number of pits, probably cesspits, which broadly date from the 13th century and are probably related to burgrave plots associated with the expansion of the new town. The ground level in College Place appears to have been raised by at least half a metre in the late 15th century.

117. BRIKWORTH, ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (SP 748 712). All Saints' is one of the best preserved Anglo-Saxon churches of medium size in England. It is significant both nationally and in a wider European context. Reputedly founded in the late 7th century, its primary fabric appears to date from the late 8th or early 9th centuries; the W. end was remodelled in the 11th; then, or subsequently, the church was reduced in size by the removal of three ranges of surrounding chambers; in the 13th/14th centuries a three-bay SE. chapel was added and the E. apse replaced by a standard Late-medieval chancel. In the

19th century some of these changes were reversed: a S. porch of c.1200 and many Late-medieval windows were removed. The result is a complex palimpsest of positive and negative evidence.

The Brixworth Archaeological Research Committee (BARC), part of whose remit was the study and elucidation of the fabric of the church, was founded in 1972. In the late 1970s, following an only partially successful photogrammetric survey, it began, under the direction of Dr David Parsons, a programme of manual recording at All Saints' Church, and the standing fabric was surveyed in a series of short seasons, which were co-ordinated with the routine maintenance and repointing of the building. By the mid-1980s a set of stone-by-stone drawings showing the exterior elevations had been produced. Recording continued into the early 1990s to include the interior of the tower and selected exposed stonework of the nave and choir interior. In the course of excavations around the church in 1981-82, carried out by the then Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit and partly funded by the Society of Antiquaries (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 27 (1983), 197-98), the opportunity was taken to check and improve the plan of the church, which had been prepared for BARC at the beginning of the project. In 1989 an EDM survey by the then Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England produced a more accurate plan and outline elevations of the church interior.

The survey of the standing fabric of the church was accompanied by a detailed inspection by a geologist, to identify each stone's petrology and geological origin. The large number of stone types identified and the very mixed nature of the fabric resulted in a complex set of data whose evaluation and interpretation was challenging. It was appreciated at an early stage that the handling of the information might be materially assisted by the digitisation and computer analysis of the coded stonework, but an investigation by a mature student with considerable computing experience concluded that with the technology then available the inputting of the data would be a lengthy process and not cost effective and that programmes were not available to analyse the data. The Committee's interim report (D.S. Sutherland and D. Parsons, 'The petrological contribution to the survey of All Saints' church, Brixworth, Northamptonshire: an interim account', *J. Br. Archaeol. Ass.*, 137 (1984), 45-64) therefore confined itself to a limited analysis of a relatively small part of the recorded fabric and had to rely on laborious hand colouring to represent the geological codes.

The rapid advances in computer technology during the last 20 years encouraged the Committee to reconsider the practicality of a computerised approach to the analysis and publication of the complete data set. It became possible to have the major elevation drawings, some measuring 1.5 m in length, scanned in the Lambeth Palace Library. The two resulting sets of drawings, one showing stone outlines and the other holding the record of the geological coding, could then be amalgamated in the manner described below.

Under the direction of Dr Diana Sutherland, the Committee's geologist, the stone-by-stone survey of all the exterior elevations which were carried out from 1976 to the 1980s identified more than 30 rock types; some of them were found to occur in certain parts of the building, not in distinct batches of just one type, but in assemblages. The distribution of stone types in the W. wall of the nave, including the part which is inside the tower, was described in the 1984 interim report; petrological analysis showed for example that the limestone blocking a primary arch could be related to the development of both tower and stair turret. The rock types in the W. wall were illustrated in a scale drawing coloured by hand. The colours chosen originally were close to those traditionally employed for geological maps; with the digitisation, these have been followed as far as possible, but because the computer programme allows almost infinite variation there has been continual consultation on the selection of colours, allowing not only for the different rocks but distinguishing also those recorded as having been burnt. As each elevation was completed, a print was made to scrutinise and mark up corrections; major features were checked against the geologically coded drawings, but the rubblestone walling can now be checked more effectively by inspecting the distribution of individual types electronically.

The original survey produced drawings of the masonry of the whole building as it stands, including the parts modified or rebuilt by the Rev C.F. Watkins (Vicar of Brixworth, 1832-73), along with the extensive ancient rubblestone walling and historic architectural features. Geological identification however focussed on covering the areas of Anglo-Saxon fabric in detail. The 19th-century work is clearly distinguished by its uniform style of masonry, and the rebuilt features mainly employed varieties of quarried Northampton Sand. In compiling the electronic record of the church fabric the Committee considered it important now to include the petrology of the 19th-century work. Certain areas had been coded, but site visits were required to check the uniformity of stone batches. On these occasions, offsets in the older masonry of the N. wall were examined and photographed in early morning light (complementing a similar set of colour slides taken in 1977), and the various igneous rocks and

exotic sandstones were re-examined around the building with their coding adjusted where necessary. Previously uncoded parts of the S. elevation were added, completing for instance the S. doorway.

The colour-coded drawings illustrate graphically the varied petrological assemblages and demonstrate the potential for analytical interpretation. Individual colours cannot readily be matched on paper or at this scale, but the picture is enhanced on screen, with the facility for enlargement. Nine separate elevations have been prepared during 2006, the latest one, the stair turret, having been completed in January 2007. To the geologist responsible for identifying the rocks and copying the codes onto reduced drawings (some of them still 2 m long) the petrology of Brixworth is exciting, both as a tool for analysing the history of the building and also in connection with the sourcing of materials, as indicated in our interim report of 1984. During 2006, several preliminary observations relating to the petrology have been drafted, using the coded drawings of the N., S. and E. elevations, in preparation for detailed analysis. The exotic assemblage comprising mainly igneous rocks, sandstone, brick and limestone, as previously described in the lower part of the W. wall, continues around the building at almost the same level, except where covered by the Verdun chapel (south) and a 19th-century plinth (north), and in the rebuilt NE. corner. The arcade piers have been modified at some time by the removal of the cross walls of the former *porticus*; the sections of cross walls, and similarly the W. wall which once extended into the narthex, contain more igneous rocks, and much less brick, than the adjacent nave walling where limestone is more common and the wall conspicuously banded with brick.

The overlying masonry is composed of varieties of Northampton Sand, with brick in the arches of the arcades. In the north wall the choir is seen to be abutted by the clerestory masonry (without any obvious change in petrology), but above a higher horizontal offset across the choir a distinct band of stone (N₅ and a ferruginous variant, N₅') is continuous over the choir and along the clerestory. These varieties are also identified in some of the arches of the arcades. Putlogs are distinctive, especially in the north wall, and several are infilled with tufa, a rock-type that is otherwise characteristic of the stair turret (10th–11th centuries), and seen in part of the apse and the lower part of the east wall at ambulatory level. The petrology of the tower is beautifully explained in relation to the adjacent stair turret: the tower, like the nave, begins with the exotic assemblage up to 4 m, but is (later) built up with the same limestone as the turret, continuing, like the turret, with batches of Northampton Sand and limestone and, in the upper levels, conspicuous tufa, the rock used internally for the staircase in the turret.

A systematic account of the building stones is in preparation, for the planned publication. The exotic igneous rocks include pink tonalite and granite, and a distinctive type of diorite known as markfieldite, all of which are native to Leicestershire; so too are dark rocks resembling Swithland Slate, and banded rocks comparable with beds of volcanic ash in Charnwood Forest. Pink, red and white sandstones are common in the Triassic rocks of the Midlands, but no outcrops occur in Northamptonshire. Jurassic limestones of many types occur in the county but none nearer than small outliers around Northampton. Brixworth overlies a wide outcrop of Northampton Sand, and local varieties contribute much of the church masonry. Ironstone was quarried here in the 19th century, and is recognised in some of the work carried out by the Rev C.F. Watkins on the N. side.

The processing of the scanned images was carried out by Ms Christina Unwin, the graphic designer and illustrator working for the Committee. The survey of the elevations of Brixworth Church produced a set of stone-by-stone line drawings which had been allocated petrological differences, often complex in terms of types and sub-types. The problem to be solved was to represent these differences in a graphic form, consistent throughout the set, in a way that would enable the data to be used interactively as a further research tool and published in printed form. The specification for use as a research tool was that the colour-coding could be selected and deselected according to type and printed out in different combinations according to requirements.

The drawings produced by the survey existed in two versions, as ink outlines only of the stones in the elevations and as outlines with alpha-numeric codes added, in some cases supplemented by hand colouring. As these had been produced at scales of 1:20 and are of large dimensions, and some were unreduced field drawings at 1:10, the first stage was to reduce them to a size suitable for on-screen digital manipulation; this was achieved by scanning and the production of digital images of both versions of the drawings at a suitable resolution (600 dpi) and with reduced dimensions consistent throughout the set (Lambeth Palace Library Reprographic Services).

When both versions of the set of drawings had been processed to the same resolution and scale, the interactive digital files could be constructed. This was carried out in Photoshop, with a view to the final products being manipulated in Photoshop Elements for research purposes, and from which suitable files could be produced for print. Initially, each outline version of an elevation, in greyscale mode, was

optimised for contrast and the white background removed, reducing the scanned drawing to black line on a transparent background. The mode was then changed to CMYK, in order to work in colour. The colour-coded version was placed as a layer below the outline and at the same scale. A third layer was then created, placed above both these existing layers, in which the agreed colour codes could be assigned; for ease of working and as an intermediary stage, this layer was allocated for all colour-coding. Referring to the alphanumeric coded layer, and working in the overlying outline layer, each stone with the same coding was selected, using the Selection Tool in Photoshop. With these selections made, and changing to the uppermost layer, the appropriate colour from the key was applied. This procedure was carried out for all petrological types and sub-types identified in the survey and for each elevation drawing. Each colour-coded illustration was allocated a colour key, edited according to its particular petrological composition.

The colour-coded digital illustrations were then prepared for interactive research. A new layer was created for each petrological type and sub-type. The appropriate colour code was selected from the complex layer and copied to a new layer. The complex layer and the alphanumeric coded layer were then deleted. The final files were saved in Photoshop's native format (PSD) in order to preserve the layers and allow them to be selected and deselected for on-screen viewing and for printing out. For the purposes of print for publication, the digital illustrations were reduced to a consistent and appropriate size throughout the set, the underlying layer of alpha-numeric codes deleted, and the colour-coded and outline layers merged. A scale and markers to indicate heights above local datum (= OS benchmark) were applied. The final files were saved as TIFFs (Tag Image File Format). The use of the layering technique is demonstrated by the accompanying diagrams. Since colour reproduction is not possible in the journal the illustrations chosen are (a) the basic record of the stone outlines and (b) the superimposed layer showing the distribution of brick, which is coded black and therefore suitable for monochrome reproduction (**Fig. 32**). For a further superimposition of the layers representing the early Anglo-Saxon limestone/igneous/sandstone assemblage see Fig. 32a).

BARC is now in a position to make detailed analyses of the survey material by interrogating the computer-held images. The two principal investigators (D.S. Sutherland and D. Parsons) have begun to draft analytical and interpretive text in preparation for the intended final publication of the survey results, and the Committee has drawn up a timetable for production of text, together with a scheme for the identification, copying and electronic storage of antiquarian and other illustrations that will help to identify the changes the church fabric underwent during the nineteenth century and later. By comparing these with the Committee's research material it will be possible to refine the interpretation of the fabric and isolate the earlier parts of the masonry from the later interventions. Further processing of the survey results currently includes the preparation of 3D illustrations from which it will be possible to develop isometric reconstruction diagrams showing the chronological development of the church fabric. Final publication will be a conventional monograph linked to an electronic database of graphic material, which it is intended to make available through ADS.

118. CORBY, PRIORS HALL (SP 928 902). Following geophysical survey that identified potential archaeological features, R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services carried out an evaluation in an area of iron smelting activity and near to Roman remains. Iron-age pits and a possible well were revealed. An iron smelting furnace, thought perhaps to be Roman in date, was identified, and other Roman features were also revealed. Small pits containing charcoal were recorded and one of these provided a calibrated radiocarbon date of A.D. 550–660 (2 σ). Remnants of medieval ridge-and-furrow were also noted.

119. STANION, 3 CORBY ROAD (SP 9142 8697). Archaeological trial excavation was carried out by A. Foard-Colby on 0.03 ha of land. The trenches revealed evidence of medieval occupation in the form of shallow pits, gullies and postholes. Pottery from the site suggests a 13th-century date for the majority of features. There was no evidence that this area had been involved with the medieval pottery manufacturing industry of Stanion.

120. SULBY, FORMER SULBY HALL (SP 6597 8167). Following the finding of a human skull, cast up from a badger sett, in a copse at Sulby that covers the site of Sulby Hall, demolished in 1948, the police forensic team visited the site and recorded and collected further human remains, which were scattered on the ground in the vicinity of a large badger sett. Scattered stone in the same area is presumably rubble from the levelled hall. The bones were submitted to A. Chapman for identification as human. It is possible that the bones derive from a chapel and cemetery contemporary with the medieval village,

situated only some 200 m to the west. There is a documented parish church at Sulby, dedicated to St Botolph, and it is recorded that the nave had fallen down long before 1451, but the location of the church is unknown.

121. THORPE WATERVILLE, THORPE CASTLE HOUSE (TL 0220 8141). A watching brief was carried out by A. Foard-Colby during the digging of a hole for a new septic tank, within the grounds of the house occupying a moated enclosure. A series of layers were observed which suggest the silting up and infilling of part of the S. arm of the moat. Artefacts recovered from the layers include a sherd of medieval pottery, a glazed medieval roof tile along with floor tile and a fragment of worked stone. A 16th-century copper-alloy jetton was recovered from the topsoil.

122. WARKTON, 5–6 PIPE LANE (SP 891 799). An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by D. Leigh on behalf of Simons Development Ltd., through Under Construction Archaeology, during the construction of a new driveway and parking bays. Walls and floor surfaces belonging to a former medieval house fronting onto the lane were revealed. The pottery assemblage indicates that occupation in this area dates back to the 12th century, and the cottage would have been occupied in the 13th and 14th centuries, before being abandoned and levelled. This particular plot has never subsequently been reoccupied.

NORTHUMBERLAND

ALNWICK

123. At *Clayport Street* (NU 1845 1323) an archaeological evaluation consisting of six trenches and two test pits was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. In the two trenches to the front and rear of The Bird and Bush public house medieval deposits were encountered. Trench one, on the Clayport Street frontage, encountered seven medieval pits between 0.25 and 0.55 m below modern ground surface. Sherds of 12th-, 13th- and 14th-century pottery were recovered from the fills of at least three of these. Trench two to the rear of the Bird and Bush uncovered five medieval pits, as well as a large possible structural feature. Sherds of 12th- to 14th-century pottery were recovered from some of the pits. The large feature, measuring 1.7 x 1.6 m in the trench, extended beyond the limits of the excavation to the north and the south. Only one piece of possible 14th-century pottery was recovered from one of the stakeholes. It is presumed that this structure is medieval in date and located within a burgage plot on Clayport Street.

124. BAMBURGH CASTLE (NU 180 349). The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) undertook a further season of excavation in and around Bamburgh Castle (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, 49 (2005), 396). Within the castle, two trenches (Trenches 1 and 3) in the West Ward were further excavated, and a third (Trench 8) opened. Trench 1 is located at the NW. end of the castle, next to a probable Early-medieval route into the fortress. A rectangular stone-founded and partly rock-cut structure, found in the 2004 season, produced a radiocarbon date of 130–340 cal A.D. Trench 3 was positioned to relocate and extend the excavation carried out by Dr B. Hope-Taylor from 1970–74. Excavation parallel to the 1970s trench has revealed the partial outlines of at least three buildings, of 12th- to 13th-century date.

Based on site drawings from the surviving Hope-Taylor archive, held by the RCAHM (Scotland), his initial trench of 1960 was re-excavated (Trench 8). A total of 3 m of stratigraphy was revealed, with evidence of occupation dating from the Romano-British period and through to the late Middle Ages. Although records of the original excavation are limited, parts of two pattern-welded sword blades were found in this trench, one of which shows an exceptionally fine six-strand structure, and both are of Early-medieval date.

At the E. end of the castle, previous seasons' excavation, as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, revealed part of a substantial stone building below the 12th-century Chapel of St Oswald. A radiocarbon date from the deposit into which this structure was cut gave 130–390 cal A.D. The radiocarbon dates and the depth of apparent Romano-British stratigraphy in Trench 8, together with residual finds from all trenches imply extensive occupation of the castle site during this period.

Excavation continued in the cemetery located within the coastal dunefield some 200 m from the castle. A total of 95 skeletons have now been excavated, giving radiocarbon dates in the 7th and 8th

centuries. The cemetery is now the subject of major post-excavation analysis, based at Durham University and funded by the AHRC, whose aims include the examination of the individuals' origins through isotope analysis.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

125. At the *Eastern side of Berwick Defences* (NU 001 533) an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd. for Northumbria Water. Seven trenches were excavated in total, one on the N. side of the Brass Bastion, two around the Batardeau of the Brass Bastion, two along the projected line of the moat from the Brass Bastion and Cowport and finally two at the Cowport. Trench 6 was located in the Elizabethan moat to the north of Cowport. It was 25 m long and aligned NE.–SW. In this trench the footings of the medieval wall, flanked by ditches, was uncovered. The remains indicate that the medieval wall was approximately 2.7 m wide at its base and had a very shallow foundation trench. The ditches on either side are over 8 m wide and over 1.8 m deep; they extended beyond the evaluation trench. The exact position of the medieval Cowport was not ascertained during the works.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

126. ATTENBOROUGH, TRENT LEFT BANK FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME (SK 520 344). Archaeological evaluation was carried out jointly by Archaeological Project Services and the Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit for Black & Veatch Ltd., on behalf of the Environment Agency. The work, directed by T. Bradley-Lovekin and D. Walker, in advance of proposals to improve the River Trent flood defences, extended from Sawley in Derbyshire to Colwick on the E. side of Nottingham. Only at Attenborough were pre-modern deposits identified: trenches were set within the scheduled area associated with a series of medieval fishponds and near to the medieval parish church; here, dumped deposits possibly associated with the creation of the fishponds were revealed, together with a very large cut feature, over 13 m long and 1 m deep. This yielded 12th-century pottery suggesting a further, though backfilled, fishpond. Several small pits, also of medieval date, were identified and a ditch containing a quantity of indeterminate Iron-age or Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was revealed.

127. BINGHAM, LONG ACRE (SK 5315 3668). Land in the medieval core of Bingham was the subject of archaeological investigations, undertaken by T. Rayner of Archaeological Project Services for Wynbrook Homes. The site appears to have been abandoned from the late Roman period until the Later Middle Ages. A 12th/13th-century pit containing pottery of this date was revealed and a ditched enclosure, perhaps for stock control, and dated to the 14th/15th centuries was identified.

128. HOLME PIERREPONT, 'SOUTH-WEST CONERY' AND 'CONERY' (SK 625 385 and 625 386). In conjunction with continuing gravel-extraction at Tarmac's Holme Pierrepont Quarry, further excavations have been undertaken by G. C. Guilbert of Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit, University of Nottingham, revealing more of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery uncovered at Lane Conery in 1999–2000 (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 46 [2002], 199–200; fuller interim in *Trans. Thorton Soc. Notts*, 105 [2001], 189–94).

Soil-stripping revealed a multi-period palimpsest of features, prehistoric to post-medieval, in a field formerly named 'South-West Conery'. These included two loose-knit groups of Anglo-Saxon graves (centred at SK 6251 3852 and 6258 3848), some evidently associated with ring-ditches of various sizes, up to 12 m in diameter externally (**Fig. 33**). Of these features, only rings J and I had been seen as cropmarks before excavation (as nos. 10 and 11 on cropmark-plot in *Trans Thorton Soc. Notts*, 106 [2002], 151). The W. group included twelve graves, while eight of the E. group were recorded and more may lie further east, beyond the limit of quarrying. In form, fill and content, with 50% holding items of corroded ironwork or plain pottery, these graves were much like those previously recorded in Lane Conery (SK 628 384). All were sited upon a gentle ridge at the S. margin of a well-drained tract, or holme, of the Trent's Floodplain Terrace, beside a slightly lower plain covered in damp alluvial clays. All told, it seems likely that these several groups of excavated graves belonged in effect to the same cemetery, distributed in varying density, perhaps in distinct clusters, along at least 360 m of the ridge. A more crowded E. part of the cemetery is represented by the Lane Conery portion, with the majority of the recorded features likely to be graves (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 46 [2002], 200, Fig. 1).

Some support for this view is provided by a single grave revealed in a 10 x 3-m trial trench opened in 1992 in the intermediate 150 m in Far Conery, at SK 6269 3845 (*Trans Thoroton Soc. Notts*, 98 [1994], 23). Here, at least one small ring-ditch, apparently with a central grave, has been photographed as a cropmark; this area is now excluded from the quarry. The adjacent floodplain curved northwards, defining the end of the ridge, within 60 m of the W. group of graves, and, since all the intervening ground was excavated without finding graves or ring-gullies, it seems safe to conclude that the W. end of the cemetery has been located, whereas its E. limit may well extend beyond Lane Conery, into the unquarried Long Conery. Henceforward, the collective name Conery Fields will be used of this linear cemetery (little more than 40 m wide in any part yet recorded), distinguishing it from graves disturbed by gravel diggers 'near Holme Pierrepont' in the 1840s (*J. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.*, 3 (1848), 297–300; 8 (1853), 183–92). It is now thought possible that the latter cemetery was situated 400–500 m south of Conery Fields, on the higher Bassingfield Terrace. Two separate cemeteries is also suggested by differences in the grave goods, with the Conery Fields assemblages less varied and dominated by iron objects, including knives and spearheads; only a few brooches, all small and annular, have been recorded.

To the north, in a field once called 'Conery' (SK 6251 3865), an apparent sunken-featured building (SFB) was recorded at 115 m from the nearest of the excavated graves. Oblong with steep sides and a flat floor of 2.5 x 2.2m at 0.7 m below the ploughsoil, it incorporated no structural features; however, the lower part contained several annular loomweights as well as potsherds not unlike some from the cemetery. Presumably this lone pit relates to an Anglo-Saxon settlement accompanying the Conery Fields cemetery, and, since it lay just 4 m from a limit of quarrying, it seems likely that a good part of the settlement has survived the modern destruction. It could have been a successor to Iron-age and Romano-British settlement, as suggested by potsherds and postholes found c. 50m north of the excavated SFB, within another trench of 1992 (*Trans Thoroton Soc. Notts*, 98 (1994), 22); perhaps it was a precursor to the settlement established, or at least named, under Scandinavian influence, appearing in *Domesday Book* as 'Holmo'. This is assumed to have lain in the vicinity of the extant Holme Pierrepont Hall, located some 600 m north of the SFB, and known to have existed by the start of the 16th century; this place became a seat of the Pierreponts in the 13th century, remaining in their ownership into modern times. Doubtless it was intensive rabbit farming on their estate that gave rise to the rash of 'conery' field names on the holme, as recorded in documents of the 18th and 19th centuries, after enclosure.

OXFORDSHIRE. Work by John Moore Heritage Services unless stated otherwise.

129. BICESTER, 19 LONDON ROAD (SP 5860 2220). Excavation by J. Moore recorded early agricultural ditches backfilled prior to the construction of a 14th- or 15th-century building. A French drain of horn cores ran parallel to and behind the building, while a second drain covered its main entrance. The building had gone out of use by the 17th century and had collapsed by the 18th. Also located were three ditches associated with agriculture or a market garden, dating from the 14th century onwards.

130. BLACK BOURTON, ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD (SP 2859 0421). D. Gilbert of John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological excavation within the area designated for the new cemetery at St. Mary's Church, where previous evaluation had uncovered traces of Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement (*Medieval Archaeol.* 47 (2003), 276–77). The present work revealed Early Anglo-Saxon religious activity in the form of two circular post-built shrines, with possibly associated domestic activity, and a Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement of sunken-featured buildings and post-built structures, with later medieval activity lasting into the 11th–12th centuries in the area. St Mary's church originally dates from the early 12th century but was remodelled in the 13th century. The settlement of Black Bourton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and would appear therefore to date from at least the later Anglo-Saxon period. The Anglo-Saxon Minster of Bampton lies only 2 miles away; the Minster is first mentioned in the 950s, by which time it housed a religious community venerating the relics of Saint Beornwald.

The site of the cemetery extension is located on the W. side of the Church of St Mary (**Fig. 34**). The work was carried out as part of a community project and involved the excavation of an area approximately 30 x 15 m. Four sunken-feature buildings were revealed together with three rectangular and two circular post-built structures. Additional features include a fence line and a sub-circular well (**Fig. 35**). In the north of the site, sunken-featured building 1 (SFB1), located by the 2002 evaluation,

was re-investigated. Oval in shape this measured 4 x 2.5 m in plan and was 0.2 m deep. The associated posthole [28] had previously been completely excavated. SFB2 was located to the south of SFB1, appearing to be of a similar form only smaller, measuring a little over 2.5 x 2 m in plan. It was shallow and flat-based with a depth of only 0.1 m, and associated with posthole [55] which appeared to be contemporary. This SFB had been truncated by a later cut for well [53]. Situated in the SW. part of the site, SFB3 was only partially exposed during excavation; it was up to 0.2 m deep. Two postholes, [97] and [98], were set on the outer edge, and around the presumed centre of the building were two further small postholes, [99] and [100]. Further to the north was the possible SFB4, an oval feature measuring 3 x 2 m and 0.18 m deep; postholes [69], [70] or [74] could be associated with this structure.

Of the rectangular post-built structures only PBS1 formed a classic rectangular hall shape. It was 7.5 m long by 3.5 m wide, perhaps about average for this type of structure. Little can be postulated about the size of structures PBS2 and PBS3; if there were additional postholes these did not survive later activity on the site. Both structures were cut by sunken-featured buildings and, in the case of PBS2, the well. Of particular interest are the two circular post-built structures, both associated with Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery. PBS4, in the north of the site, consisted of a central pit surrounded by an irregular circle of seven postholes. The main pit [79] was oval in plan and measured 2 x 1.6 m. With a depth of 0.22 m it was filled with a sandy silt loam with c. 30 % gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. In the SE. corner, PBS5 formed a second circular structure with six postholes centred on three small oval pits. Pit [19] measured 0.4 x 0.7 m, Pit [61] 0.75 x 0.3 m and Pit [62] 0.65 x 0.3 m. All three pits had a depth of 0.2 m. A small stakehole was also recorded in the interior of the structure, near to pit [61].

It is possible that the two circular structures 4 and 5 are contemporary and that they served a similar function. They have been interpreted as Early Anglo-Saxon pagan shrines (J. Blair *pers. comm.*). Generally shrines are square rather than circular; however, these are on a similar scale and it is not unknown for the enclosure to contain central pits. The nearby site of New Wintles displays an Anglo Saxon landscape from the 6th to 8th centuries (N.B. Clayton, 'New Wintles, Eynsham, Oxon.' *Oxoniensia* 38 (1973), 382–4). Within this area is a square shrine surrounded by sunken-featured buildings, some post-built structures and the occasional inhumation. This long-lived site was spread over 450 m but only a single shrine was recorded. At Black Bourton, the proximity of two potential shrines in such a small area would suggest that the site was a focus for religious activity in the Early Anglo-Saxon period. To the southwest of the proposed development an Anglo-Saxon inhumation was found; whether this was an isolated burial or part of a larger group or cemetery is not known. However, the presence of a pagan inhumation recorded may support the site's interpretation in terms of a wider religious complex.

The problems of accurately dating the majority of Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery has made it difficult to assess if religious and domestic activities were contemporary; however, by at least the 8th century it would appear that a small settlement had grown up on the site. Associated with the buildings and structures was pottery dating from the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon period, including sherds of Ipswich Ware (725–850 A.D.). Metalworking was obviously taking place in the area as the slag and debris in the fill of pit [95] shows. A pig-fibula pin was recovered from SFB3; generally regarded as objects used in weaving or basketry, or as textile implements, modified pig fibulae are common objects on Anglo-Saxon sites of all periods. A pointed bone implement was also recovered from the same building. It is a 56-mm long modified bird bone showing some signs of work at the damaged proximal end. Similar items from other Anglo-Saxon sites have variously been described as pins, awls, pegs or bodkins. An incomplete double-sided composite comb, consisting of an end segment and parts of the connecting plates with rivets, was recovered from context sunken-featured building 1 (SFB1) during the 2002 evaluation. Finally, an Anglo-Saxon gilded copper-alloy buckle with buckle plate was recovered from context [01]; it measured 41 mm long and 29 mm wide.

The pottery assemblage, analysed by Paul Blinkhorn, comprised 145 sherds with a total weight of 1205g. Following on from the possible early religious function, this suggests three distinct phases of post-Roman activity at the site. The first was in the Middle Anglo Saxon period (c. 700–850), the second in the early post-Conquest period (c. 1050–1200) and the third in the early post-medieval period (later 16th–17th centuries). The assemblage is of some significance, as it contains only the fourth group of Middle Anglo-Saxon Ipswich Ware pottery from the county of Oxfordshire. Ipswich Ware has a uniquely wide distribution among Middle Anglo-Saxon wares, having been noted as far north as north Yorkshire and as far south as Kent, with the most westerly find being Lechlade in Gloucestershire. While it is found at sites of all status, the more distant findspots from Ipswich tend to be associated with higher-status sites such as minster churches. The three previous Oxfordshire finds are a possible fair site, a farmstead and a monastery respectively. Given the rarity of the material in Oxfordshire, the size of the

assemblage and the small scale of the excavations, this suggests very strongly a site of some status in the vicinity.

The presence of a church may be of significance, as the material is often found near such structures with Middle Anglo-Saxon origins, although St Mary's is thought to be of a later medieval date. Similarly, the proximity of the site to Bampton may be a factor. Bampton is thought to have been a major Middle Anglo-Saxon minster, although there is little positive artefactual evidence to support this other than small quantities of hand-made pottery. However, if there was a minster at Bampton, there is also likely to have been some sort of trading-centre there, as this seems to have been a common pattern in Middle Anglo-Saxon England (P.W. Blinkhorn, 'Of Cabbages and Kings: Production, Trade and Consumption in Middle Saxon England', in M. Anderton (ed.) 1999, *Anglo-Saxon Trading Centres and their Hinterlands. Beyond the Emporia*, 4-23; J. Blair, 'Bampton: An Anglo-Saxon Minster', *Current Archaeology* 160, Vol XIV, No. 4 (1998), 124-130).

Activity continued in the excavation area with the well being filled in sometime after the late 11th century. A large pit was also filled in during this period, perhaps an abortive attempt to dig another well. The settlement at Black Bourton is recorded in the Domesday Book and 10th-century pottery has been recovered from the vicinity of the church. This may indicate that, in the 10th-11th centuries, the settlement was located within the area of the old Church Yard. The focus for religious activity had obviously shifted away from the excavation area, but perhaps not that far away, as the 12th-century Norman stone church was erected within 70 m. An earlier church may well have stood nearby. By the 12th century the main settlement had moved again, probably to the location of the present village. Pottery dating from the 10th to 14th centuries has been found in this area. The full publication of this site will appear in *Oxoniensia*.

131. CHISELHAMPTON, CHISELHAMPTON HOUSE (SP 5955 9906). G. Williams conducted an excavation to the construction of a lake. Over a dozen features, scattered largely on the E. side of site, evidence significant activity dated from the late 11th to early 13th centuries although no evidence was recovered for the buildings which might have accompanied this. The medieval features consisted primarily of pits and a pit group, although part of an enclosure and a length of ditch were also found.

132. EYNHAM, 46 ACRE END STREET (SP 4318 0933). J. Moore carried out an evaluation of this site prior to development. A ditch, probably an internal boundary within a burgrave plot, was dated to the 14th century. Boundary ditches at the rear of the burgrave plots were also found; one may have been deliberately backfilled in the 17th century, but another may have been earlier and of a 14th-century date.

133. LONG WITTENHAM, HIGH STREET, LAMMAS EYOT (SU 5433 9361). D. Gilbert and I. Travers conducted a watching brief during the groundwork for a new dwelling and garage on land south of Lammas Eyot. The investigation revealed several Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon boundary ditches along with evidence of Late-medieval activity.

OXFORD

134. At the *Ashmolean Museum* (SP 5114 0656) R. Tannerhill of Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation for Mace Ltd. on behalf of Oxford University Estate's Directorate. Residual, locally-produced, pottery dating from the 11th and 12th centuries was recovered from later features and perhaps attested to activity on the site from that date. The earliest *in situ* activity, however, dated from the 13th and 14th centuries, and was represented by intercutting pits associated with tenements established along the W. side of St Giles. A number of postholes cut a humic soil horizon that overlay the pits. The postholes formed no particular pattern but show that timber structures of some description occupied this area after the 15th century.

135. At *Christ Church, Blue Boar Quad* (SP 5145 0608) M. Parsons conducted a watching brief during the excavation of several geotechnical pits. Medieval pits were found cut into the top of terrace gravel deposits. A 15th- or 16th-century building was found; this had been partly dismantled and covered by material probably excavated for the cellars of the Peckwater Quad buildings.

136. At *Christ Church, Peckwater Quad* (SP 5152 0614) M. Parsons carried out an excavation in advance of the laying of concrete floors, continuing work carried out the previous year (*Medieval*

Archaeol., 50 (2006), 345). The full depth of archaeological deposits was not excavated. Several more pits dating from the Early Anglo-Saxon through to the 14th century were recorded, with the majority of the features dating from the 11th–12th centuries.

137. At *Christ Church, Tom Quad*. (SP 51470559) M. Parsons is carrying out a watching brief on trenches dug for services. These trenches in Tom Quad have revealed the remains of several medieval buildings cleared to make way for Cardinal Wolsey's College (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 345–6). On the E. side of the quad several burials were encountered in close proximity to the W. end of the Cathedral, and a further section of the E.–W. St Frideswide's Lane.

Trenching through Fell Tower has revealed a wall footing and possible pier base belonging to the unfinished building of Cardinal Wolsey's Chapel. This building was to rival King's College chapel in Cambridge. Had it been completed it would have measured over 33 m wide and over 100 m long; quite a project for its day. Recent trenching on the W. side of Peckwater Quad has revealed two well-preserved buildings fronting onto a N.–S. road, identified as St Edwards Street; one had a fireplace and a blocked doorway still *in situ*. The other building had a garderobe between two rooms, from which glass and pottery – dating from before 1350 – was recovered in large amounts. The glass consists mainly of distilling or other industrial vessels. The early date of the glass distilling vessels is significant, since no other assemblages in England have previously been dated earlier than the 15th century. The associated pottery consisted of mainly skillets and other kitchen utensils.

Trenches in Canterbury Quad have revealed the E. end of a buttressed building which is thought to be the porch entrance into the medieval hall of Canterbury College, demolished in 1783. To the north of this an E.–W. cobbled road was uncovered, which has been identified as Shitebarne Lane. Trenching to the north of Tom Quad, in the area of Blue Boar Quad, has exposed a couple of sections of yet another E.–W. aligned cobbled road (Jury Lane). Trenches were also excavated on the E. side of the Cathedral, to reveal several burials of a yet unknown medieval date. The watching brief is still ongoing.

138. At *Magdalen College School* (SP 5221 0580) a field evaluation by R. Bashford of Oxford Archaeology, on behalf of the School, uncovered a number of features which, although artefactual evidence was sparse, have been interpreted as evidence for 13th-century quarrying. Additionally, an E.–W. aligned ditch, containing 13th-century pottery, was recorded and may mark the N. extent of this activity.

139. At *St John's College* (SP 5122 0690) S. Teague of Oxford Archaeology, for MJP Architects on behalf of St John's College, carried out an evaluation to the rear of Queen Elizabeth House and 20 St Giles Oxford. Pits dating from the 13th to 15th centuries were uncovered. Large gravel quarries of probable Late-medieval/early Post-medieval date were encountered across the E. part of the site.

140. At *Westgate Car Park* (SP 5108 0594) an evaluation was carried out by R. Bashford of Oxford Archaeology for John Samuel's Archaeological Consultants, on behalf of the Westgate Partnership. Evidence for possible 11th- and 12th-century land reclamation extending southwards from the second terrace was recovered; the reclamation may have been undertaken to create a building platform for the construction of the Franciscan friary of Greyfriars in the 13th century. Robbed or partially robbed walls which presumably relate to the friary complex were identified in a number of the trenches within the multi-storey car park, and one trench contained a series of what appeared to be midden deposits, possibly representing the disposal of rubbish away from the site of occupation or domestic activity.

141. SANDFORD-ON-THAMES, MINCHERY FARM (SP 5441 0232). G. Williams conducted an evaluation of the site of the Benedictine Priory of St Nicholas at Littlemore. The evaluation revealed good structural remains of a medieval complex of buildings of some importance, as well as a quantity of 13th-century pottery. The precise function of the buildings could not be identified, although a fireplace was observed *in situ*, as well as floor tiles and other possible surfaces. Ditches were also recorded in most of the trenches, as were the edges of significant waterlogged deposits. The pottery provides a comparatively tight date-range not extending beyond the 13th century. An association with the Templars, patrons of the priory from the 1240s until their suppression in the early 14th century, provides a possible interpretation of the remains observed. There is, as yet, no hard evidence for the remains on site to be part of a Templar complex; however, if the priory under the patronage of the Templars functioned as an alien house, then it may not have figured in the *Taxatio* of 1291.

142. WANTAGE, ST MARY'S SCHOOL, NEWBURY STREET (SU 3993 8774). D. Gilbert conducted an evaluation prior to the site being sold for development. Eleven trenches, totalling 139 m in length, were excavated to reveal the underlying natural geology or significant archaeological features. Numerous, mostly undated, linear ditches and postholes, possibly associated with timber structures, were located. However, some features to the north of the site could be dated to the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon period, while others across the entire site were dated to the Late Saxon to Norman periods. To the south of the site excavated features were from the 15th century onwards. A second stage of evaluation of this site was later conducted, when two trenches, totalling 8 m in length were excavated. Archaeological features were limited to an undated posthole truncated by a later 15th- to 16th-century pit.

SHROPSHIRE

143. DETTON, DETTON HALL (SO 6673 7959). Evaluation and an earthwork survey were carried out by L. Craddock-Bennet of Archaeological Investigations Ltd. along the route of proposed development. Medieval pottery, probably of mid-13th-century date, was found within the topsoil, but no *in-situ* deposits or features were identified.

144. SHREWSBURY, THE MUSIC HALL (SJ 4907 1242). Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation and building assessment on behalf of Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council. The Music Hall occupies an area of c. 0.2 ha, and encapsulated within the complex of buildings are extensive well-preserved structural remains of Vaughan's Mansion, a medieval stone-built hall dating from c. 1300. The evaluation revealed evidence for a mortar surface and two phases of an associated wall. The wall was constructed from Tudor bricks and red sandstone blocks, and may have been associated with the medieval hall.

145. SHREWSBURY, THE OLD WELSH BRIDGE, FRANKWELL QUAY (SJ 48547 12847). An evaluation, excavation and watching brief were carried out by B. Watson of the Museum of London Archaeology Service, on behalf of Shrewsbury & Atcham District Council. When the Welsh bridge was constructed is uncertain but it was probably in existence by 1121, when a charter refers to two bridges in the town (presumably the English and Welsh). It is clear from residual 10th-century pottery, recovered from medieval overbank flood deposits on the bridge approach, that there was some Late Saxon activity here. The medieval suburb of Frankwell developed on the opposite bank of the Severn to the town of Shrewsbury, along the approach road to the Welsh Bridge. After 1160 the Hospital of St George was in existence to the north-east of the bridge; one burial interpreted as part the hospital cemetery was found here during the 2005 evaluation. The bridge was also known as St George's Bridge because of its proximity to the hospital.

During the 12th century this stretch of the Severn served as the frontier between England and Wales, so both the English and Welsh Bridges were fortified as they served as part of the town's defences. An undated sandstone trapezoidal building on the approach to the Welsh Bridge is interpreted as a gatehouse, probably associated with the 12th-century bridge. During the 12th or 13th centuries it appears that the fortifications of the N. bridge approach were replaced with a pair of square sandstone rubble bastions, presumably joined by a gatehouse which spanned the bridge roadway. The only dating for this phase of fortifications comprises sherds of 12th- or 13th-century pottery recovered from the levelling dumps post-dating the demolition of the E. bastion. The E. bastion was discovered by excavation of trenches through the floor the 19th-century cellars on the E. side of the surviving bridge arch. During this period overbank flood deposits were accumulating on the area of higher land to the east of the bridge approach road, where the presence of pits and other features suggest the existence of roadside settlement. During the 13th or 14th centuries the bastions were rebuilt on a larger scale and faced with sandstone ashlar. The new E. bastion possessed a diagonal S. end and the layout of the W. bastion is conjectural, but it is likely that it was rebuilt to match the other one. This rebuilding may be linked with the 1284 charter which records the bridge had been 'broken' and damaged by floods, so tolls were to be collected for three years to pay for its repair. As the collection of tolls was extended for a further five years it implies there a major programme of rebuilding was being carried out. The new W. and E. bastions were not quite symmetrical. Crucially, these bastions extended across the line of the present bridge arch, implying that either this arch did not exist at this period or else it was blocked.

SOMERSET

146. CLEEVE ABBEY (ST 047 407). Concluding a programme of excavation and survey conducted for English Heritage over the last decade, Exeter Archaeology undertook further building study and post-excavation analysis at the abbey. Substantial foundations below the S. transept are interpreted as parts of a church, abandoned at an early stage in the early 13th-century building programme. Burials were recorded in the S. transept and the E. and S. cloister walks. A new series of architectural records was prepared for the S. transept, the S. range, the gatehouse and parts of the E. and W. ranges. Much more of the 13th-century gatehouse is believed to survive than has been appreciated hitherto; examination of the groups of Late-medieval sculpture on its fronts showed that they have been reused from a different context. Dendrochronological study by I. Tyers for English Heritage established a felling date for the famous refectory roof between 1430 and 1459; J. and T. Harcourt also conducted a detailed survey of its carpentry. Publication in *Somerset Archaeology and Natural History* is forthcoming.

147. MENDIP HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (centred ST 457 559). English Heritage, in partnership with the Mendip Hills AONB, has recently embarked on a multi-disciplinary, landscape-based research project aimed at enhancing our understanding of the historic environment of the AONB area. As part of this project, English Heritage's Archaeological Survey and Investigation Section has begun a programme of investigative field survey recording a series of deserted medieval settlements situated along the S. escarpment of the plateau. The sites recorded to date are broadly similar in form and comprise single small enclosures – probably individual farmsteads – partly terraced into the hillside; each contains two or more buildings. Several of the enclosures also have associated field systems with tracks leading from the settlement to higher ground. A series of such sites has been recorded to the north-west of Wookey Hole, where their similarity in size and form and uniformity of distribution suggests a degree of planning in their creation. Differences between sites have also been noted, perhaps the most obvious being in the dimensions of buildings: this may indicate different building types or reflect periods of colonisation or abandonment. Fieldwork is ongoing until 2008, after which it is intended that the results of the project as a whole will be published as a thematic study.

WARWICKSHIRE. Work by Warwickshire Museum unless stated otherwise.

148. BARFORD, BARFORD BYPASS (SP 267 605). Observation of topsoil stripping by S. Palmer, on behalf of WCC Highways Design, recorded a single Early Anglo-Saxon sunken-floored building in the flood compensation area on the S. bank of the River Avon. North of the river, a line of five undated timber piles, perhaps part of a revetment to the river bank or a fish trap, were located in the N. bridge abutment.

149. KENILWORTH, KENILWORTH CASTLE (SP 279 722). Work on behalf of English Heritage included a series of observations of ground disturbance to the north of the Gatehouse, none of which recorded significant features. However, trenching to the south-west to locate a leaking water pipe cut a series of layers, the earliest containing 15th- to 17th-century pottery. Reflooring of the S. half and porch of Leicester's Stables (built c.1570) and adjacent service trenching was accompanied by a programme of recording of exposed wall foundations by B. Gethin and P. Thompson. Beneath the existing floor the remains of stone-lined drains and patches of flagstones were revealed. These were mainly those excavated between 1976 and 1984, but included some new sections of walling. Both the Stables foundations and some of drains contained reused window tracery from an ecclesiastical building, possibly Kenilworth Abbey. A few sherds of pottery dating from the 14th century were recovered.

Within the Brays there were two large pits or ditches containing sherds of 13th-century pottery. If ditches, they may have been defensive features at the S. end of the dam. Two probable foundation walls close to the remains of the sluice gate on the N. side of the Brays may represent one or more buildings, possibly timber-framed. The core of a large stone wall uncovered on the W. side of the dam could be seen to be a continuation of the line of the exposed sluice channel. Across the E. ditch of the Brays, the only levels exposed were 20th-century backfill, associated with the construction of the existing access road in the mid-1960s.

150. KENILWORTH, THE KINGS ARMS AND CASTLE HOTEL (SP 2876 7172). Immediately to the rear of the former public house, excavations by S. Carlyle of Northamptonshire Archaeology identified features dating from the 12th/13th to the late 17th centuries. The medieval features, which had distinctively cussy fills, included a small ditch, a pit, and a probable stone-lined drain that may have been associated with former dwellings on the street frontages. A fragment of a pewter spoon was recovered from the ditch and sherds of a 12th/13th-century jug with a strap handle came from the base of the pit. No archaeological remains were encountered in the central area of the car park, though the topsoil and subsoil horizons survived beneath later deposits, indicating that this area has not been truncated to any extent.
151. NUNEATON, ST MARY'S CHURCH COMMUNITY HALL, BOTTRILL STREET (SP 3561 9210). Observation of groundworks for an extension within the Scheduled Area of Nuneaton Priory, to the east of the former cloister, was carried out by C. Coutts on behalf of the St Mary's Church PCC. Two E.-W. stone wall foundations were revealed, one 1.5 m thick and associated with 15th/16th-century pottery; the second, 8 m to the north, was c. 0.7 m wide with a chamfered plinth, but only one course deep. This may have been medieval or later and was perhaps associated with a similar parallel wall located previously 2.5 m to the north. Quantities of roof and floor tiles recovered presumably represent Dissolution demolition material.
152. POLESWORTH, POLESWORTH ABBEY GATEHOUSE (SK 263 025). Building survey and research by R. and J. Meeson and N. Alcock for Polesworth PCC showed the building to form two elements. The gatehouse, to the east, was constructed in the 14th century with a three-bay sandstone ground storey containing the main archway, a vaulted pedestrian archway, a porter's lodge and a doorway to a stair leading to a mezzanine chamber and the upper floor. The timber-framed upper storey has a crown-post roof, a two-bay cell to the east, with a medieval stone fireplace and a possible garderobe compartment to the south-east, and a single cell to the west, with a possible stair (or garderobe) turret against the W. wall. The stone W. part of the building was added after the Dissolution; a date-stone of 1583 associates it with Sir Henry Goodere, who occupied a manor house by the church reputedly on the site of the Abbess' Lodging. Three bays of the building survive, with a roof structure supported by four sturdy trusses and double side purlins. The building has a short S. arm which was a storeyed porch or possibly a stair turret. Most of the original internal features have gone. Tree ring-analysis by R. Howard and A. Arnold showed two periods of felling: most of the timbers of the Gatehouse were probably felled in the later 1330s/early 1340s, while those of the annex were probably felled in 1582.
153. RUGBY, REAR OF 81 HIGH STREET, HILLMORTON (SP 534 737). Observation by R. Jones of topsoil stripping for a housing development on a site within the probable extent of the medieval settlement recorded a scatter of 13th-century pottery.
154. STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, 37 HENLEY STREET (SP 2000 5512). Observation by C. Jones, on behalf of Mrs S. Gavriel, of groundworks for a rear extension within the medieval town, recorded a possible occupation surface cut by pits dating from the 13th/14th centuries
155. TYSOE, ST MARY'S CHURCH (SP 3408 4463). Observation by I. Greig, on behalf of Tysoe PCC, of construction of a new toilet and utility area at the W. end of the nave revealed significant remains just below the floor, including a foundation interpreted as an early W. tower, replaced when the nave was extended in the mid- to late 12th century. The evidence also suggests that, contrary to the VCH account, the original N. wall of the church was on the line of the present N. wall of the nave rather than to the south of it.
156. WOLVEY, COPSTON LODGE FARM (SP 448 889). Fieldwalking east of the farm, on the probable site of the deserted medieval village of Copston Parva, was carried out by C. Evans and the Wolvey Local History Society as part of the community archaeology project *Extracting Warwickshire's Past*. Scatters of roof tile and medieval pottery dating from the 12th/early 13th and to the 15th/16th centuries were recorded; however, the bulk of the material was of a 13th-century date.
157. WOOTTON WAWEN, ST PETER'S CHURCH (SP 1529 6327). Observation by C. Rann of landscaping south-west of the church revealed further remains of an E.-W. wall found in 2004 and

apparently predating the 13th-century S. aisle. Finds recovered included a fragment of decorated floor tile, roof tiles and a sherd of 13th- to 15th-century pottery.

WEST MIDLANDS

COVENTRY

158. At *Far Gosford Street, Astleys* (SP 34207 78880) archaeological excavation by P. Mason of Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), on behalf of their client, UNITE Integrated Solutions plc (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 351). Seven broad phases of occupation and activity, dating from the 12th/13th centuries and into modern times, were identified. The earliest evidence derived from an oak post, perhaps part of a bridge that once spanned the nearby River Sherbourne. Dendrochronological dating of this timber produced a felling date of A.D. 1162–1212. The earliest archaeological remains relating to the street frontage were a cluster of stakeholes, some containing well-preserved wooden stakes, that were driven into deposits of alluvium and overlying consolidated ground. These were overlain by the remnants of the first substantial structures to be built along the frontage. They comprised a series of low clay-bonded, sandstone rubble walls which presumably acted as plinths for timber-framed houses. A cylindrical wooden receptacle containing 38 silver coins, long-cross pennies of Edward I (1272–1307) and Edward II (1307–27), was found beneath the floor level of one of these structures where it had presumably been buried for safe-keeping, never to be retrieved.

The late 13th- to 14th-century frontage appears to have been dismantled wholesale in the later part of the 14th/early 15th centuries and replaced with a second frontage. These buildings were also timber framed, standing on sandstone rubble plinths; floor surfaces and hearths survived. To the rear a number of walls were aligned at right angles to the street, defining up to five separate tenement plots. Enclosed within were further walls and cultivated ground cut by pits at the rear of the site. The buildings were probably demolished as part of the documented Civil War clearances in 1643 with the construction of a defensive ditch.

WEST SUSSEX

CHICHESTER

159. At the *Shippams Factory and Shippams Sports and Social Club, East Street* (SU 864 048), J. Taylor of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. undertook a series of watching briefs and evaluations, and an excavation for Kier Property Developments Ltd. Although the data and materials collected during the investigations are still to be fully processed and analysed, the evidence seems to indicate that this area of the Roman walled settlement was being reused during the Late Saxon period, and may have experienced some use already during the Middle Anglo Saxon period. This is reflected in numerous small finds, including bone pins and loom weights, and the presence of a small sunken-featured building in the north-west of the site. Perhaps one of the most interesting possibilities with regards to the Anglo-Saxon period is the presence of two lines of postholes dug into the uppermost fills of the Roman road side ditches in the west of the site, possibly indicating reuse of the road surface as an internal surface. However, while the postholes are no doubt post-Roman in date, there is no basis at present for assigning a Saxon date to this structure. Preliminary pottery spot dates have confirmed the presence of pottery of Middle and Late Saxon date. It is possible that the reoccupation of the site is concentrated in the north and north-east. Should this be the case the focus of reoccupation may have been dictated by the relative lack of development, and thus the relative openness of the ground in the vicinity, during the Roman period, ensuring that the area was more attractive to redevelopment in the Anglo-Saxon period.

Abundant evidence was found for the occupation of the site from the 11th through to the 14th centuries with the excavation of hundreds of pits and cesspits on the Factory site. The rows of cesspits apparently denote the rear of properties fronting East Street, locations which when compared to historic maps show the property boundaries on site to be the longest within the whole of Chichester, property boundaries whose origins feasibly date back to the late 10th/early 11th centuries. While limited structural evidence of the buildings that once stood survived *in situ*, a number of chimney pots were retrieved from

various cesspits, as was an oven associated with a property, possibly a bakery, fronting onto East Street. The notable lack of features dating from the late 15th and 16th centuries suggests a distinct drop in the population on site at this time.

WILTSHIRE

160. SWINDON, HARLSTONE HOUSE, BISHOPSTONE (SU 2473 8372). R. King of Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr L. Mankelow. A single trench was excavated within the study area, revealing a number of medieval and Anglo-Saxon features. These were predominantly within the flat area at the SE. end of the trench, where two parallel ditches and two possible pits were located. Also, a posthole was located at the NW. end of the trench. No overtly structural remains were identified, although the density of archaeology encountered in the trench indicates significant activity in the area.

161. TROWBRIDGE, HILPERTON RELIEF ROAD (ST 867 585). M. Pomeroy-Kellinger of Oxford Archaeology carried out a 'strip, map and sample' investigation, on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, at the junction of Horse Road and Wyke Road. The fieldwork revealed 19th- and 20th-century boundary ditches that may preserve the alignment of medieval burgrave plots.

YORKSHIRE

NORTH YORKSHIRE. Work by Fern Archaeology unless stated otherwise.

162. BILTON, SYNINGTHWAITE PRIORY FARM (SE 6156 8710). A magnetometry survey was carried across a 1.3 ha area of the S. half of the moated priory site, which dates from the 12th century. Features identified include an infilled section of moat and, within the moated enclosure, possible internal ditches and pits. A subsequent evaluation was undertaken by On-site Archaeology.

163. CATTERTON, CATTERTON HALL (SE 5104 4546). A geophysical survey was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd. on behalf of Wildblood MacDonald Chartered Architects, for Mr S. Metcalfe. Catterton Hall is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 30109), currently represented by a moated platform and upstanding ridge-and-furrow. Geophysics identified a number of anomalies, most particularly revealing rectilinear features on the central moated platform of the site, a house platform to the east (also represented by earthworks), and ridge-and-furrow in the surrounding area.

164. EASINGWOLD, MANOR ROAD (SE 5292 7008). An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a care home, revealing a kiln/oven feature sealed beneath a buried plough soil. Medieval pottery from the buried soil suggests that ploughing, and associated 'night-soiling', took place between the 13th and 16th centuries. The kiln or oven was a pear-shaped feature, comprising a chamber and stoking pit, and possibly a flue. It had been cut into the natural sand geology, areas of which were fire-hardened and reddened; combined with a layer of charcoal this demonstrated an *in-situ* firing episode. Evidence for postholes and stakeholes indicate a superstructure, but no daub was found to confirm that this was a typical clamp kiln. Soil had been deliberately backfilled against the stakes to hold them in place and 'side-flues' dug to assist the airflow. Possibly the feature is a 'pit' kiln (Musty Type 5a) of a type known from Staxton and Potter Brompton, both in North Yorkshire (T.C.M. Brewster, 'Yorkshire: Staxton', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 9 (1965), 218). A near-complete coarse-ware jar of the mid-11th to mid-13th century was recovered from the backfill. However, sooting on the exterior of this pot indicates that it had been used for cooking, and it was not therefore a kiln waster, on which such residues do not normally occur. Analysis by A. Vince has shown this vessel to be a probable early product of the North Yorkshire Whiteware industry. Indeed, the lack of pot wasters in the vicinity questions the interpretation of this feature as a pottery kiln.

Unfired clay found in the backfill of the chamber may be the remains of a turf cladding (clay deposits did not otherwise occur on the site), since chemical analysis showed it to be unsuitable for pottery manufacture. Environmental sampling, by Palaeoecology Research Services, demonstrated a high

cereal grain content to the backfill, as well as alder, birch and hazel wood. Possibly the grain, if spoilt, had been used as fuel, though its presence together with the cooking pot may suggest that the feature is instead an oven or grain dryer. Research is ongoing.

165. HOWGRAVE AND SUTTON WITH HOWGRAVE, HOWGRAVE HALL (SE 314 791). A. Hunt of English Heritage's Archaeological Survey and Investigation Section undertook a rapid walkover survey and map-based assessment of land adjacent to Howgrave Hall, north of Ripon, in order to provide advice to the EH Ancient Monuments Inspector for North Yorkshire. South of the Hall are the earthwork remains of a village belonging to one of two recorded medieval manors, and consisting of a holloway skirting a block of rectilinear tofts and other building platforms. The village had been deserted by the 17th century when a banqueting house and walled garden were constructed alongside the Hall; the village remains may have been incorporated in some way as a feature within this ornamental landscape.

166. LEPPINGTON, LEPPINGTON LANE (SE 7637 6108). An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for a four-bedroom dwelling. A series of boundary ditches, a pit and posthole were recorded. This comprised one parallel double ditch, aligned E.–W., which appeared to be joined by a second butt-ended double ditch running N.–S. These features and the posthole are dated by medieval pottery to the late 12th to early 13th centuries. The E.–W. aligned ditch was cut by a pit dated by its pottery to the early 13th century. All of the features had been truncated, probably by ploughing, which was represented by a buried soil containing pottery dating up to the late 13th century, and a fragment of millstone of likely medieval date.

In all some 750 sherds of medieval pot were recovered. This assemblage includes a high percentage of local Staxton-type coarseware, as well as a variety of North Yorkshire glazed wares. In addition, analysis by A. Vince has demonstrated four previously unrecorded fabrics of both local and non-local derivation. The size of the assemblage indicates a concentration of occupation and consumption in the vicinity. The most likely focus of this is the medieval manor, evidenced by earthworks 70 m north-east of the site, referred to popularly as 'Leppington Castle'. In this context the pottery, and associated faunal assemblage also recovered, is interpreted as kitchen waste from this site. Environmental samples from the ditch fills, analysed by Palaeoecology Research Services, identified cereal grains, indicating crop processing in the vicinity.

167. SELBY, 2–4 MILLGATE (SE 6154 3257). An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd. (York), on behalf of Mr Phillip Burden. Layers of made ground were identified, and dated by the presence of diagnostic fragments of Brandsby Ware and Humber Ware to the 14th century. This area possibly fell within the precinct of Selby Abbey at this date, and the material may derive from medieval riverfront activity.

168. SKIPWITH, CHURCH COTTAGE (SE 6570 3850). An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the building of an extension at the rear of the cottage, which lies immediately to the west of St Helen's Church. A substantial N.–S. aligned ditch, c. 6 m wide, was identified containing pottery of an 11th- to 14th-century date. It was excavated to a depth of over 1 m but was not bottomed. It is likely that this feature represents a boundary (*fossa*) to the church and may be associated with its Late Saxon/early Norman foundation.

169. TOWTON, OLD LONDON ROAD (SE 4850 3967). An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the foundation works for a new dormer bungalow, at the junction of Old London Road and Tadcaster Road, on the N. limit of the village. The footprint of an 11 x 5 m clay-bonded stone building was recorded, together with a post pad and a clay floor. Associated pottery indicates occupation from the 12th–15th centuries. A metal-detector survey of the site and spoilheap, by local archaeologist S. Richardson, recovered a number of items of medieval and later date, including an annular brooch pin and buckle. This building overlay a N.–S. aligned shallow ditch of uncertain date, though a lead spindle whorl of a type normally attributed an Anglo-Scandinavian date was found at its interface with the topsoil. In the second half of the 15th century the building served as a smithy, evidenced by a furnace feature cut through the floor; this contained iron-smithing slag, hammerscale and a stone spindle whorl. This activity, with its attendant smoke and sulphurous fumes, likely marks a cessation of habitation at this time and the building's use by an itinerant metalworker, an episode which it is tempting to associate with the historical horizon of the 1461 Battle of Towton.

170. WEST LUTTON, MALTON LANE (SE 9294 6917). An archaeological watching brief was conducted during groundworks for three new dwellings. The area had been extensively pitted in the Victorian period during its use as a cobbler's yard. However, earlier finds were retrieved from a 2 m wide and 0.6 m deep, rectangular flat-bottomed pit; its full form was not revealed as it continued beyond the E. limit of the site. The finds comprised a sherd of sand-tempered Anglo-Saxon pot; the flanged rim of a Roman grit-tempered bowl; fragments of daub (including possible loom weights) and a horse tibia. The pottery dates this feature between the 5th and 8th centuries, and it had been cut and partially truncated by a ditch of likely medieval date. Its form and material culture suggest this is a sunken-featured building, although no evidence for the usual internal postholes was found. Though atypical, similarly small examples, and others without evidence for postholes, are known from the Anglo-Saxon settlement sites of Mucking, Essex, and West Heslerton, North Yorkshire.

YORK. Work undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd.

171. At *All Saints', North Street* (SE 6005 5175) an archaeological excavation was undertaken within the churchyard on behalf of the Parish of All Saints. Three linear trenches were excavated in preparation for the installation of new drains. The lower parts of the N., W. and E. elevations were exposed, revealing below ground fabric, plinths and the foundation cut for the W. wall. At the E. end of the church, each of the three aisles of the medieval church was found to have a plinth at different heights, demonstrating a dramatic increase in the ground level between the 12th and 14th centuries. This was emphasised by the presence of stone wall foundations of the S. aisle, encountered 0.3 m above the plinth of the nave. In the N. elevation, a stone coffin and grave cover of medieval date were found to have been reused within the fabric of the church. A single, residual fragment of possible Torksey Ware provides an indication of earlier activity at the site.

172. At *Charlie Brown's Garage, Bootham* (SE 6005 5234) an archaeological evaluation and historic buildings assessment was undertaken on behalf of ID Planning for Bootham Row Ltd. Three 2 x 2 m trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.5 m, revealing a sequence of deposits dating from the late 14th century to the modern day, and an assessment was made of all extant structures at the site. The earliest features (Period 1) consisted of a series of rubbish pits, representing domestic activity located towards the Bootham frontage. The main phase of activity was dated to the late 14th to 15th centuries, and the material assemblages produced ceramic and butchery waste typical of this period. The evidence is assumed to relate to tofts and tenements known historically to have fronted onto Bootham at this time. Medieval brick, tile and window glass attested to the existence of structures in the vicinity. Notably, no medieval deposits were encountered in the easternmost trenches, suggesting that the ground level sloped downwards away from the frontage.

173. At *Union Terrace Car Park* (SE 6026 5204) an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of York Housing Association. The evaluation, which consisted of four 3 x 3 m evaluation trenches, encountered remains of Roman to modern date. The medieval deposits consisted of homogenous clay layers, dated by the presence of pottery to the 12th to 13th centuries, interpreted as made ground. This corresponds with the onset of activity defined by excavations immediately to the south by York Archaeological Trust in the 1970s, attributed to the establishment of a Carmelite Friary.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE. Work by ARCUS unless stated otherwise.

174. BAWTRY, BAWTRY HALL, TICKHILL ROAD (SK 6500 9295). A watching brief by R. Jackson and R. O'Neill identified three graves, each containing a single human skeleton (two adult males and one adult female). Historical evidence, and the dating of a small amount of pottery recovered, suggests that these burials were part of a graveyard attached to the medieval hospital and chapel of St Mary Magdalene, thought to have been founded by Robert Morton in 1390. The Morton family were known to have been buried at the chapel, but burial may also have extended to residents of the hospital. The chapel survived suppression and was restored in 1610 and 1839. It fell into disuse in the 1920s and was later

converted to a masonic lodge. The lodge, situated immediately west of the burials, is now a Grade II Listed building.

175. BAWTRY, BRIDGE LANE HOUSE, GAINSBOROUGH ROAD (SK 653 928). Evaluation by R. O'Neill identified significant remains relating to the periphery of medieval settlement in Bawtry. Features included a timber barrel-lined pit, four postholes, a ditch or channel with wooden stakes inserted into it, and a large pond feature. Pottery recovered from the features included Humberware and Coal Measures Ware, indicating activity from the 13th to 16th centuries. One Continental sherd was identified: a piece of a Martincamp flask.

76. LAUGHTON-EN-LE-MORTHEN (SK 518 882). Situated some 6 km to the south of Rotherham, Laughton-en-le-Morthen has pre-Conquest origins and continued to have importance in the post-Conquest period. However, it is only recently, in the winter of 2005–06, that the first archaeological excavations have taken place within the village core. This work was carried out in advance of housing development at a site formerly occupied by Rectory Farm.

Historical background

The pre-Conquest importance of Laughton is attested to by its Domesday Book entry, where *Lastone* was the centre of a large Anglo-Saxon estate, which at the time of the Conquest belonged to Earl Edwin of Mercia who had a hall there. The estate may have been based upon an earlier territorial unit implied by the place-name affix 'Morthen', which is believed to mean 'moorland assembly'; the name 'Laughton' or '*Lastone*' supposedly deriving from the Old English *lēac-tūn* meaning 'herb garden'. The site of Edwin's hall is generally assumed to have been located within the bailey of the subsequent motte-and-bailey castle constructed by Roger de Busli, who became the lord of the Honour of Tickhill after the Conquest and who maintained Laughton as an administrative centre.

This location for the pre-Conquest centre is supported by the adjacent location of what was a substantial red sandstone Late Saxon church. Although not mentioned in the Domesday survey, the church provides further indication of the pre-Conquest importance of Laughton; the standard of workmanship of its surviving fabric suggest an edifice of much higher status than is usually seen in the village churches of the period (P. F. Ryder, *Saxon Churches in South Yorkshire*, South Yorkshire County Council, County Archaeological Monograph No.2 (1982), 71). The vestiges of the Anglo-Saxon church are only preserved *in situ* in the N. porticus of the existing later 14th-century church, a spectacular perpendicular remodelling of the Magnesian Limestone Norman church that had succeeded the Late Saxon building. The splendour of the 14th-century church is thought to owe much to it falling under the jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of York and its likely construction by William of Wykeham, prebend of Laughton at York Minster from 1363, one of the great church builders of the age. Apart from the church and the earthwork remains of the motte-and-bailey castle there are no other extant medieval buildings known in Laughton. On the S. side of High Street, Old Hall Farm, which dates from 1633, is believed to have been part of the Manor House complex of the Hatfield family and to be on the site of an earlier medieval hall.

The excavations

The excavations, directed by I. Roberts and supervised by M. Rose of Archaeological Services WYAS, were situated on the N. side of High Street, just 100 m to the east of the church and castle and opposite of Old Hall Farm (**Fig. 36**). Initial trial trenching was carried out over an area of c. 0.7 ha, covering the whole of the former Rectory Farm complex, which extended back 130 m from the frontage of High Street. Ultimately, the results of the trial trenches determined that open-area excavations were confined to an area of 1500 sq m immediately behind the properties currently occupying the street frontage. Four broad phases of activity were revealed, dating from the 10th–12th centuries (Phase 1), 13th–14th centuries (Phase 2), 14th–16th centuries (Phase 3) and 17th–20th centuries (Phase 4). While the vast majority of the features found were attributed to Phase 2, a significant number of Saxo-Norman finds were also recovered. Although many of these were residual within the fills of later features, a few represented discrete areas of Phase 1 activity. Only two features are attributed to Phase 3 and most Phase 4 deposits were the products of relatively recent farming activity.

Phase 1: Saxo-Norman kiln

The Phase 1 features comprise a handful of discrete pits and postholes and a single linear gully which spatially have little coherence. One notable feature, however, most probably attributable to the

Late Saxon period is a small circular kiln of 1.4-m diameter (**Fig. 37**). This had been constructed with a clay base, set within a shallow pit, which had supported a wattle-and-daub dome, most of which remained where it had collapsed onto the base of the kiln. The wattle frame appears to have been anchored to two large posts. Initially these must have formed the jambs of the kiln's single S. entrance/flue and have been structurally critical until the dome had been fired and become self-supporting.

The wattle voids within the daub suggest that most branches were used in the round, without splitting, with diameters varying from 10–30 mm, although there are a few examples where crossing branches had been split in half. In two instances the wattle impressions have preserved imprints of leaves that had remained attached to the wattle branches. A firm identification of species has not been possible as the leaf edge profiles have not been preserved, but provisionally they are identified as being either hazel or perhaps alder. A large deposit of carbonised oat grain was recovered from the floor of the kiln.

Archaeomagnetic dating of the kiln fabric has provided a date for the last firing in the range A.D. 1050–1180, while radiocarbon dating of *corylus* charcoal from the carbonised deposit within the kiln provides a comparable date range of A.D. 980–1160 (SUERC–11428; GU–14428). Both archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon date ranges straddle the Conquest period; however, a Late Saxon rather than early Norman date may be suggested by the recovery of a burnt bone spindlewhorl from within the kiln. This has parallels in pre-Conquest examples from York.

Phase 2: Later medieval features

The features attributed to this phase, largely on the basis of pottery dating, seemingly represent the rear parts of perhaps three ditch-defined tenements of 13th/14th-century date. Many of the features are pits of unknown function or postholes that do not lend themselves to interpretation. However, in the W. and middle tenements there are a number of notable features worthy of mention.

The W. area of the site seems to have been sub-divided by gullies into a series of smaller working areas. In two of these areas the focus of activity is represented by kilns. At the S. edge of the site was a very truncated stone-lined kiln, about 1.4 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep. It had a connected stoking pit to the south-west, opposite its entrance/flue. There is no clear evidence for its purpose and archaeomagnetic dating was not possible, but *corylus* charcoal from the kiln floor has provided a radiocarbon date range of A.D. 1180–1280 (SUERC–11430; GU–14430). A second stone-built kiln at the W. edge of the site was much better preserved and stratigraphically probably later. This kiln had a key-hole plan, the circular main body of the kiln being 3 m in diameter and the single S. flue extending in length to almost 2 m (**Fig. 38**). The structure, composed of up to ten courses of undressed sandstone, was preserved to a depth of 0.8 m. Evidence of burning was only found at the neck of the flue and it seems likely that it was a structure designed to have a suspended floor for drying crops with warm air being drawn in from beneath, although there is no specific botanical evidence from the kiln content for such a use. Dating is based on pottery from the fill of the kiln. A radiocarbon determination on *corylus* charcoal from the flue has provided a date range of A.D. 410–570 (SUERC–11429; GU–14429). While this suggests the sample is residual, it offers some indication of earlier post-Roman activity in the vicinity.

Another notable feature in the SW. corner of the site is a 2 x 1 m pit lined with 2–5 courses of small Magnesian Limestone rubble within its surviving 0.35-m depth. This feature, which contained a clayey silt fill and produced 17 sherds of pottery from a single vessel, as well as animal bones and vessel and window glass, might be consistent with a truncated garderobe pit, but such a presence here is difficult to contextualise in the absence of any associated features.

The middle tenement area is notable for a rectangular array of features with a degree of symmetry that is thought to represent an E.–W. aligned timber structure. The key elements are two parallel shallow gullies, thought to be beam slots, for a structure that, based on associated postholes, was in excess of 10 m long and 6 m wide. This structure was probably not domestic and is perhaps more consistent, both in form and location, with an open-sided agricultural building.

The pottery

Although modest, the pottery assemblage from Laughton is one of the more important ones to be excavated in South Yorkshire in recent years; it has been analysed by C.G. Cumberpatch and J. Young. The presence of Late Saxon wares sets this apart from many other earlier medieval assemblages and it thus joins Sprotborough, Arksey, Doncaster and Bawtry as one of just a handful of sites in the region to have yielded pre-Conquest pottery.

The Saxon and Norman assemblage is mainly composed of Torksey-type wares, Stamford Ware and Shelly wares. Among the Torksey-type wares are three notable rim sherds: one has square rouletting

on top of the rim, a form of decoration seen on Saxon wares from the mid-9th century onwards, with the second having a small rounded clubbed rim for which no parallel has been found. The third has a sharply everted rim with a slightly dished top that may be paralleled with Torksey-type ware flanged bowls from York. Only three sherds of Stamford Ware were identified, of the early 10th to late 11th centuries.

The assemblage also included a significant group of shell-tempered wares, all of which are Lincolnshire products and mainly derived from small to medium-sized jars. Only two vessels of definite Late Saxon shell-tempered ware of 9th/10th-century date have been identified. One is identified as a Type 4 bowl with square roller-stamped decoration on the rim top. A further 51 sherds are identified as being Saxo-Norman vessels of Lincolnshire Fine-shelled Ware and constitute the largest assemblage to be recovered from outside Lincolnshire, and one of the largest outside the city of Lincoln. The ware, which primarily comprises coarse domestic vessels, was in use in Lincolnshire from the late 10th to the late 12th centuries. A number of jar and bowl rims from Laughton are chronologically significant: two date from as early as the mid-11th century while six are definitely post-Conquest and another two of a 12th-century date.

Other post-Conquest pottery includes examples of Doncaster Hallgate A1 and B wares, as well three sherds of the earlier types of Gritty wares and three unidentified types of Sandy wares. Within the Late-medieval assemblage, which includes small numbers of sherds of Humber ware, Purple Glazed ware and Cistercian ware, the most notable occurrence is the 14th- to 16th-century Coal Measure wares with a significant quantity of Coal Measure Fineware. Laughton has produced one of the best assemblages yet of this little understood ware and its significance for dating other sites in South Yorkshire is considerable.

The small finds

The metal and small finds, studied by H. E. M. Cool, includes a dozen items offering further dating evidence to support the pottery and scientific dating determinations, as well as providing some further perspective on the nature and status of Laughton in the medieval period.

Only three Late Saxon items were identified. One is a bone spindlewhorl made from a cattle femur head, found partially burnt within the Phase 1 kiln. This is a common type and the distribution of stratified examples from Coppergate in York shows a distinct diminution in their use after the 11th century, a decline not seen in stone spindlewhorls over the same period (P. Walton Rogers, *Textile production at 16–22 Coppergate*. The Archaeology of York 17/11 (York 1997), table 146). The second item, identified from x-ray, is an iron ring-headed dress pin. Although most of the published examples have been made of copper alloy, iron pins are not uncommon. The Laughton pin has a slight swelling seen on the lower parts of many copper-alloy examples and its copper-alloy wire binding (or possibly inlay) around the shank/head junction also suggests that this was not a utilitarian item. Ring-headed pins were in use in the 9th and 10th centuries and a possible iron pin similar to the Laughton example is recorded from Coppergate. The third Saxon item is a fragment of an iron horseshoe.

Twenty non-ceramic items were recovered from Phase 2 deposits, 11 of which were iron nail fragments. A copper-alloy cruciform mount or appliqué, probably of 14th- or 15th-century date, was probably used to decorate a girdle or strap. The Laughton example appears to have been sewn onto cloth rather than attached to a leather strap. In contrast, two hemispherical copper-alloy studs possibly retain evidence of lead-alloy backing, suggesting that they were intended to decorate more substantial items than clothing. Similar examples have been recovered in some numbers in London in late 12th- to late 14th-century contexts. A small iron knife with a triangular blade is a likely personal item, although the assemblage does contain one tool in the form of an iron wedge, probably used for splitting timber.

A curious find from the Phase 2 assemblage is a rim fragment made from green potash glass which has a cut-out flattened fold below the rim edge. This seems most likely to be the piece of a distilling apparatus, as cut-out folds such as these are not a normal feature of glass vessels used on the table or for medicinal purposes in this period. The same context also produced a small quantity of window glass. One fragment comes from a narrow rectangular quarry, but two other fragments, with broken rather than grozed edges, indicate that the window that the fragments came from had quarries of larger size as well. None of the fragments showed any sign of having been painted so the window was likely to have been plain. Nevertheless, the presence of window glass at this site is noteworthy as secular glazing at this period would be indicative of a high-status establishment; this is reinforced by the possible presence of equipment for distilling, above, usually the preserve of aristocratic or monastic establishments.

Environmental and industrial evidence

Only a small animal bone assemblage (822 bones) was recovered from Phase 1 and Phase 2 deposits; 75% of the bone was from Phase 2. In both phases, cattle and pig bones were predominant, although the Phase 2 deposits included also a small component of goose, fish and fallow and roe deer bones. The presence of the latter is noteworthy as hunting deer for the table was usually the preserve of the aristocracy at this time.

A wide range of carbonised plant material was retrieved, including three types of cereal, namely oat, bread wheat and hulled barley from both phases. Oats far outweighed the recovery of other types of cereal, due mainly to the large amounts recovered from the Saxon kiln, although relatively large amounts were also recovered from Phase 2 deposits. The high recovery of oats may reflect an economy concerned with the production of large amounts of fodder for animals, while the weed species present merely confirm the existence of pasture and marginal arable fields at that time. The charcoal indicates that woodland resources were exploited for fuel and construction purposes, with the likelihood that hazel was also managed by coppicing. This is interesting in the light of hazel being the most likely wood used in the construction of the Saxon kiln, as tentatively deduced from the leaf prints in the wattle voids.

A small assemblage of metal-working debris included two plano-convex slag accumulations (or hearth bottoms) from Phase 2. The use of different fuel types in each may indicate two different (though not necessarily contemporary) smithies, as smiths tended to be consistent in their fuel type.

Conclusion

The first excavation to be carried out in Laughton-en-le-Morthen has produced evidence that accords with the pre-Conquest pedigree attested by the Domesday accounts and a continued importance into the later medieval period. The presence of Late Saxon evidence from excavation, and particularly the wattle-and-daub kiln, is particularly significant in South Yorkshire and the region generally. The medieval features offer a little more scope for interpretation and are considered to reflect the rear parts of perhaps three separate tenements. The features found within them might be regarded as typical of what one would expect at the rear end of properties running back from the main street within the medieval village core. But if the features are functional and mundane, some of the artefacts recovered from them are indicative of high-status occupancy in the 13th and 14th centuries. The most obvious candidate for their source would be the former Manor House nearby, although they could equally indicate the presence of another high-status establishment on the Rectory Farm frontage during this time.

177. ROTHERHAM, SHEFFIELD ROAD, PHOENIX PARK (SK 420 919). Evaluation and mitigation excavation by S. Bell investigated remains of the former Ickles Corn Mill and mill goit. The mill was thought to be medieval in origin and part of the Roche Abbey estate, but it remained in use until the mid 20th century. The archaeological fieldwork identified the corn mill building and the course of the goit along with its later, sub-surface diversion. The exposed structures were all interpreted as being of Post-medieval date, and no structures were positively identified as being of medieval date. It is possible given the extensive use of local sandstone as building constituents, however, that building material used in the construction of the original mill have been reused in the construction of the later Ickles Mill. Only two sherds of 13th/14th-century and 15th/16th-century pottery were recovered, the bulk of material being 18th/19th-century in date.

178. THORNE, QUEEN STREET, FORMER DAIRY DEPOT (SE 695 133). A watching brief by D. Alexander demonstrated that the site may have been cultivated from at least the 14th century onwards. Buried soils predating later 19th-century development contained medieval and Late-medieval pottery including Humberware, Coal Measures Purple Ware, Shell Tempered Ware, Whiteware and Late Medieval Sandy Ware.

WEST YORKSHIRE

179. LEEDS, SCHOLLS LODGE FARM, SCHOLLS (SE 381 364). An excavation in advance of housing development was carried out by B. McCluskey and M. Lightfoot of Archaeological Services WYAS. The site lies immediately to the north-west of a 14th-century manorial site and the remains of a moat and a linear ditch can be seen as earthworks in the adjacent field. The ditch which probably represented an enclosure or boundary, terminated within the excavation area and excavation demonstrated that it was likely to have been in use between the 11th and 16th centuries. Evidence of a medieval structure,

comprising a number of large postholes and possible beam slots, were found together with associated drainage ditches and gullies. Pottery evidence suggests that this activity dated from the mid-11th to the mid-13th centuries with utilitarian ceramics of typical West Yorkshire Gritty wares being represented. The pottery suggests a hiatus in activity on the site between the late 13th and the late 15th centuries, with only some residual material from the later 15th or 16th centuries evident. The remaining pottery assemblage was predominantly of later 17th- or 18th- century wares, associated with a large Post-medieval farm.

180. PONTEFRACT CASTLE, MAIN GUARD (SE 4604 2223). An historic buildings investigation of the Main Guard and barbican at Pontefract Castle was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd. (York) on behalf of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council and Elizabeth Love, and funded by English Heritage. Despite considerable alteration in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, the Main Guard retains many features resulting from its remodelling and conversion into a debtors' prison in c. 1656. There is, however, substantial evidence to indicate that the builders of the prison used a prominent Late-medieval building as a basis for the new gaol. The earliest identified structure, of probable late 14th- or early 15th-century date, formed a range contained within the castle's barbican, and appears to have served principally as a stable and house, but perhaps had other service functions associated with the Receiver's Lodging contained within the castle's West Gatehouse. The building was subsequently extended to form a longer continuous range, perhaps in the mid-15th century, and may have accommodated workshops.

A survey of the barbican walls to the south and south-east of the Main Guard has indicated that this element of the castle was developed in the late 14th or early 15th centuries, perhaps forming part of John of Gaunt's additions to the castle. It was subsequently modified in the mid-15th century, to accommodate the extensions to the ranges contained within it. The W. defences were probably arranged as depicted on many of the siege plans, rather than as illustrated in the early 17th-century oil-painting of the castle. The siege plans indicate that the W. gatehouse was at the W. end of the barbican, with a masonry bridge and further tower beyond. The bridge probably spanned a rock-cut ditch, running along the route of Stoney Hill, while a further western tower would have been located close to the junction between Micklegate and Spink Lane.

181. WAKEFIELD, DRURY LANE (SE 3289 2075). Evaluation and mitigation excavation by N. Dransfield and H. Holderness of ARCUS revealed a number of circular clay-lined pits and remnants of truncated barrels containing Late-medieval pottery. Four large pit complexes were uncovered, each comprising at least four pits. These all followed the same pattern with a circular pit, thickly lined with clay, and a wooden barrel or barrel staves rammed into the clay. These pits appear to have been used for the dyeing of cloth. It is likely that the site had been used quite intensively in the 14th to 16th centuries as a dye spot.

182. WHITWOOD, FAIRIES' HILL (SE 3990 2495). D. Moretti and I. Roberts of Archaeological Services WYAS carried out evaluation in advance of landscaping at Whitwood Golf Club. The work focused on land immediately surrounding the Fairies' Hill earthwork mound which, up until 1993 had been Scheduled as a medieval motte, based largely on John Leland's 16th-century references to an earthwork at this location. The site was subsequently de-scheduled because it was believed to be more likely the product of mining waste from the nearby Whitwood Colliery. Trial trenching has, however, revealed the extant mound to be a legitimate earthwork, composed of at least four horizontal bands of material, presumably upcast from a surrounding ditch. Over 2 m of landscaped colliery waste prevented the detection of any associated features by geophysical survey or trial trenching. The date of the earthwork could not be ascertained.

IRELAND

CO. ANTRIM

183. BALLYCLAN (31133, 30061). In advance of development, excavation was conducted by C. McSparron of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF), Queen's University Belfast, at a ringfort at Ballyclan. Prior to excavation, geophysical survey by Dr S. Trick (CAF) had uncovered the presence of a large high-resistance anomaly in the central area of the site; topographical survey, by R. McHugh

and S. Gormely (CAF), revealed the presence of later cultivation features across the site. A 4-m wide trench was excavated across the ditch and in the S. central area of the interior of the ringfort a trench measuring 8 x 12 m was excavated. The U-shaped ditch of the ringfort was c. 2 m deep and 4 m wide. There was a considerable amount of preserved organic material at the bottom of the ditch, which was sampled extensively. In the NE. third of the trench in the interior of the site, a large quantity of stones, covering an area measuring in excess of 7 x 5 m to a depth of c. 30 cm, had been deposited directly onto subsoil at the outset of the construction. It extended out of the trench into the rest of the central area of the interior of the ringfort. The presence of two large postholes and two possible construction gullies running around this stone deposit may suggest that these stones were held in place during the construction phase, and possibly after, by a wooden structure. To the south, there was a gap between these two construction trenches, through which the quarried stone was presumably carted. The stone spilled out of this gap for a couple of metres. The stones of which this deposit was composed were interesting because they were all angular, well-sorted fragments of rock. The sorted nature of these stones, and the fact that they were deliberately broken, is suggestive of sophisticated quarrying, with broken stone presumably being sorted into different sizes, or grades, before use. This large stone deposit is presumably the high-resistance anomaly detected by the geophysical survey.

The earliest traces of occupation visible in the internal ringfort trench were some roasting pits dug into the stone deposit in the centre of the site. In the south-west of the trench there were some later occupation and structural deposits. These were situated above bank material which had slipped down into the interior of the site. There were two stone footings for light, possibly turf, walls probably making up two sides of a sub-rectangular structure. The layers on the interior of this structure were dark and rich in finds, particularly Souterrain Ware pottery. The pottery was plain and undecorated, suggesting that it dated from the 8th to the 9th centuries. This phase was stratified beneath later, albeit disturbed, occupation layers which contained cordoned Souterrain Ware, suggestive of a 10th- to 12th-century date. Unfortunately there was no evidence of structural remains found from this phase. From the topsoil at this site there was some glazed later medieval pottery, some decorated pie-crust cordoned Souterrain Ware and a few fragments of coarse pottery in the medieval everted-rim ware tradition. These are all indicative of 13th-century, or possibly later medieval, activity at Ballyclan; this, unfortunately, was destroyed by later agriculture.

CO. DERRY

184. MACOSQUIN, ST MARY'S CHURCH (22315, 34422). An evaluation excavation was conducted by C. McSparron of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF), Queen's University Belfast in advance of a proposed graveyard extension. St. Mary's Church is built upon the site of the medieval Cistercian abbey of Clarus Fons, which was probably founded in the year 1217. In advance of the proposed utilization of a field to the east of St Mary's Church as a graveyard, a geophysical survey was carried out by Dr S. Trick (CAF). This survey identified a number of geophysical anomalies which were potentially archaeological in nature. Three trenches were excavated at Macosquin: Trench 1 measured 2 x 10 m while Trench 2 and Trench 3 both measured 1 x 3 m. Trenches 2 and 3 were initially separated by a 1-m wide baulk which was later removed to make a single trench measuring 1 x 7 m. These trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies detected by the geophysical survey. Trench 1 was located to test two areas of unusually high and unusually low resistance, which were interpreted by Dr Trick as possibly being archaeological features. Trenches 2 and 3 were located to test the apparent presence of a large low- resistance anomaly, interpreted as a linear ditch, and a higher-resistance anomaly, which was interpreted as possibly being a wall.

The excavation in Trench 1 uncovered the base of nine, apparently truncated, postholes at the NW. end of the trench; medieval pottery was preset in one of these postholes. At the SE. end of the trench there was an area of stony subsoil. There were initially thought to be archaeological features in this end of the trench but they were demonstrated, upon excavation, to be natural depressions in the subsoil, which had become filled with dark, anthropogenically derived, material. At the NW. end of Trench 2/3 there was a subsoil-cutting ditch, 3.5 m wide and 0.9 m deep. Its primary fill contained fragments of Late-medieval pottery dating from the 15th to 16th centuries. The ditch was recut to accommodate an unmortared wall and was capped by topsoil.

CO. DUBLIN

DUBLIN

185. At 152–155 *Church Street* and *land south of May Lane* (31490, 23445) an archaeological excavation was undertaken by G. Dawkes of Archaeological Development Services Ltd., in advance of an extensive mixed-use redevelopment incorporating a full basement. The earliest phase comprised numerous medieval pits and gullies sealed by a brownish red buried soil layer. Cutting this buried soil layer was the N. boundary ditch for St Michan's Church. Three separate lengths of this ditch were recorded; a 40-m long E.–W. orientated double ditch immediately south of May Lane, and a 10-m long N.–S. orientated ditch approximately 30 m west and parallel to Church Street. A length of the former ditch was previously identified further north-west, on the N. side of May Lane, by R. Meenan in 1997 in an excavation at the new Bar Council Building. On that site, a minimum of ten human inhumations were excavated from within the ditch and radiocarbon dating of two of the bodies produced dates of A.D. 980–1160 and 890–1030. The N.–S. ditch appeared to be of a similar function and date, and suggests that the original church building was set further back from the road than the existing structure.

The ditch fills were sealed by dark earth deposits with finds of animal bone and medieval pottery. Dug into these dark earths were the truncated remains of two clay floors of timber-framed buildings, located approximately 20 m from Church Street. The larger floor of Building 1, a well-compacted light brown beaten-clay floor, extended at least 2 x 6 m. The W. wall of the building was represented by a low stone-sill wall for the timber superstructure. To the west was a later stone wall foundation for an abutting outbuilding and an associated stone-lined drain. The building appeared to have been disused for an extended period of time, with a layer of dark silt accumulating upon the clay floor. The building finally appeared to have burnt down with the clay floor showing signs of heat-affectation, including a visible outline of the sill beam for the N. wall. The surviving remnant of the floor of Building 2 measured just 1 x 2 m and was comprised of a compacted lime mortar floor and the partial remains of a stone-sill wall. Finds analysis has yet to be undertaken but the buildings may be generally dated from the 12th to the 15th centuries on the basis of the stratigraphic sequence. Land grant documents have been identified relating to the exact location of these buildings. They were situated in a prime location in Oxmantown, just to the rear of the street frontage on the main road from the north into Dublin. The land was held by Thomas Serjant in the 14th century, John Fychet, a dyer, in the 15th and by the Barnwall family in the 16th century (E. Purcell, 'Land use in medieval Oxmantown', in S. Duffy (ed.) *Medieval Dublin IV* (Dublin, 2002), 193–228).

186. MEAKSTOWN (313590, 240960). Excavations undertaken by M. McQuade of Margaret Gowen and Company Ltd. within the constraints of an RMP (DU014-020) zone found three phases of medieval activity, dated by ceramics to the late 12th–14th centuries. Phase 1 was represented by a curvilinear ditch that partly enclosed a metallated surface on the E. end of the site and by several smaller ditches across the site. The ditch was probably part of a circular enclosure and marked the W. edge of the metallated surface which measured 5 m wide by 6.5 m long. The ditch was 15.1 m long, between 0.8 and 2.2 m wide and up to 0.46 m deep. A smaller curvilinear ditch on the west of the site may have been part of a field boundary or animal enclosure. The other ditches were probably dug for drainage purposes.

Phase 2 was represented by a substantial N.–S. orientated ditch and several smaller ditches. The ditch cut the W. edge of the enclosure ditch and may have been a property boundary. It was 27.5 m long, between 0.7 m and 1.6 m wide, and up to 0.9 m deep. The four fills within this ditch suggest that it filled in gradually over time. There was a parallel ditch on the W. excavation area. This ditch was 14.75 m long and 0.8 to 1.2 m wide, but was just 0.31 m deep. Two soak pits, a refuse pit and a series of shallow (less than 0.4 m) field ditches also dated to Phase 2. A drain on the east of the site represented the third phase of medieval activity.

187. MURPHYSTOWN (31953, 22556). A. Johnston of Cultural Resource Development Services (CRDS) Ltd. excavated a multi-period site c. 28 m to the north-west of the Late-medieval Murphystown castle, in the vicinity of the Glencairn estate. The castle, a 15th-century tower house, is ruinous and only three walls of it survive. The area stripped extended to c. 4800sq m, and various phases of archaeological remains were exposed including medieval quarrying activity. The dating was based on artefactual evidence, with the earliest features exposed on site interpreted as medieval quarry trenches measuring 4.5 to 5 m long, 2 to 3 m wide and 0.5 to 0.6 m in depth. These trenches followed exposed seams of

underlying granite bedrock, giving an irregular linear shape in plan, and were filled with a greyish brown, silty clay that exclusively contained pottery sherds from the 13th and 14th centuries. A single tool mark was found on the granite bedrock, which may have been made by a thin circular spike or chisel-type tool.

The pottery recovered from the quarrying trenches may indicate that there was pre-tower-house activity in the area which required a source of building stone, or that old pottery was contained within soil which was used to backfill quarry trenches associated with the construction of the tower house. Granite bedrock lies close to the surface in this area, with the result that the surviving cut features, apart from the more modern quarry pits, are fairly shallow. While additional structures and agricultural enclosures may have been attached to the castle, they could not have penetrated to a great depth and any physical evidence for them is likely to have been entirely erased by quarrying, agricultural clearance and demesne landscaping in the 19th century.

188. SKERRIES, BARNAGEERAGH (32297, 26105). Excavations at Barnageeragh, the first phase of which were conducted by N. Fairburn in 2005, were completed in 2006 by E. Corcoran of Archaeological Development Services Ltd. The site was divided into eight fields where areas of activity were recorded, in addition to a series of peripheral features/groups of features.

In Field 1 there was a univallate ringfort measuring c. 30 m diameter. The ditch was a maximum of 4 m wide and 1.15 m deep, without evidence of a bank; some bone pins, animal bone and shell were recovered from the fill of this ditch. A smaller ditch, representative of an internal structure, was located to the north of the centre within the ringfort enclosure. The diameter of this smaller ditch was c. 13 m and it was 1.25 m wide and 0.13 m deep. This ditch had a 2-m wide entrance gap to the south-west. Within the ringfort there was a souterrain with its passage entrance located 2 m south of the entrance to the inner structure. It had a circular chamber measuring 3.2 m in diameter, and the passage length was c. 6 m. Along the E. side of the ringfort there was a series of ditches which seemed to define a contemporary annexe to the ringfort, and an enamelled copper-alloy brooch was recovered from the fill one of one of these features. The brooch may be given a preliminary date in the 9th or 10th centuries.

South-east of the ringfort there were two stone-lined features. One was a passage-like linear feature measuring c. 5 m long (N.–S.) by 1 m wide, which was defined by partially collapsed stone walls and which could represent the passage of an incomplete souterrain. The second feature measured c. 4.3 m long (E.–W.) by 1.3 m wide and the base was partly covered by a stone platform, possibly remains of a floor surface. Further to the south-east of the ringfort there was an enclosure with a central crouched inhumation. The diameter of the circular enclosure was c. 13 m. As yet no radiocarbon dates are available for these features.

Two smaller souterrains were located to the west of the ringfort. They both had circular chambers measuring 1.5 m in diameter. The passages of both souterrains were ramped and measured c. 7 m long and 0.6 m wide. The W. of these two souterrains had a second stone-lined linear passage exiting the chamber c. 0.5 m above the floor surface. In the same area there were a series of pits which may be connected to the use of the souterrains. A hearth with an associated burnt spread and possible stakeholes was also recorded in this area. South-west of these two souterrains there was an area with a relatively large concentration of medieval pottery. The mixture of Leinster cooking ware and Dublin Ware types suggest a date roughly in the 13th century for the pottery. The area was partly covered by a stone surface which seemed to have framed a rectangular structure. There was no evidence of the structure itself, just the rectangular shape created by the stone surface.

CO. GALWAY

189. CLAREGALWAY (13731, 23327). Following excavations undertaken by The Moore Group in advance of works associated with the restoration of Claregalway Castle, a Burke tower house of the 15th century, R. Sherlock of the National University of Ireland, Galway, undertook a limited programme of research excavation. This focused on tracing the bawn walls, turrets and gatehouse which once existed in the vicinity of the structure. The W. wall of the bawn is thought to have extended northwards from the immediate vicinity of the tower house for c. 35 m and though the foundations of much of this section probably lie under an extant later farmhouse, a 4.6-m long and 1.42-m wide section of foundations at the N. end was uncovered through excavation. At the NW. corner of the bawn, the foundations of a D-shaped corner turret, with a diameter of 3.5 m, were uncovered, while the surviving evidence for sections

of the 40.9-m long N. bawn wall was also revealed. This wall was generally 1.4 m thick, though a centrally-positioned 5.2-m long rectangular section, which projected forward of the wall face by 1.1 m, may represent the remains of an entrance gatehouse.

A section through the extra-mural ditch outside the N. bawn wall revealed it to be a broad, shallow feature measuring c. 6.5 m in width by just 1 m in depth. The E. wall of the bawn, which meets the N. wall at a simple right-angle corner, extends southwards for just 11.8 m before turning at an angle of c. 40 degrees to form the SE. bawn wall. Just 3.25 m of the SE. wall were uncovered in the excavation trench, but it clearly continues under the baulk and is thought likely to have extended for c. 45 m in order to complete the bawn circuit in the vicinity of the tower house. The blunt angle created by the junction of the E. and SE. bawn walls was protected by a second D-shaped turret, this example measuring up to 3.7 m in diameter. The excavated strata across the site were generally post-medieval layers which appear to relate to the destruction and clearance of the bawn walls and finds were limited to animal bone fragments, brick and clay tile fragments and occasional clay pipes.

190. LETTERGESH, CULFIN (0745, 2638). A shell midden at Culfin was first noted during an EIS in 2003. In 2006, the site was visited and a sample of the eroding broken dogwhelk shells (*Nucella lapillus*) was collected for radiocarbon dating. It had been speculated that the midden may be Mesolithic, but the radiocarbon result indicates that the dogwhelk horizon is early medieval and dates from A.D. 413–611 at the 2-sigma calibrated age range (1819±35 BP; UB-6967). This correlates with the recorded range of radiocarbon dates for broken dogwhelk middens from other sites in counties Galway, Mayo and Donegal (unpublished data).

A rescue excavation of the midden at Culfin was subsequently carried out by F. McCormick and E. Murray of the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University, Belfast, and M. Gibbons, Clifden, Co. Galway. The midden is exposed in an eroding section measuring approximately 1.4 m in height and a small trench (1.8 x 0.5 m) was opened directly above the section face. The broken dogwhelk horizon was contained by loose sterile sand and overlay two humic-rich horizons with inclusions of limpet and cockle shells, fire-cracked stones, occasional bone fragments and charred hazelnut shells as well as a small ash lens representing an area of *in-situ* burning. A sample of charred hazelnut shells from one of these layers was radiocarbon dated and returned a calibrated age range of cal B.C. 197-037 (2086 ±34BP; UB-7203). This provides a *terminus post quem* for the dogwhelk activity at the site and further evidence of Iron-age activity in this area; Iron-age radiocarbon dates have also been recorded from middens at Mannin Bay on the Slyne Head peninsula (F. McCormick, M. Gibbons, F. G. McCormac and J. Moore, J., 'Bronze Age to Medieval coastal shell middens near Ballyconneely, Co. Galway', *Journal of Irish Archaeol.*, 7 (1996), 77-84). During the period of the excavation, an unstratified soapstone disc was found in the vicinity of the midden and it has been deposited in the NMI (Accession number 2006:62).

191. LOUGHBOWN (182180, 228950). A bivallate ringfort, situated on the side of a hill with sweeping views across the valley to the north and east, was partially excavated by N. Bower of Eachtra Archaeological Projects in advance of road construction. Following excavations, c. 40 % of the site survives outside the road corridor. There was evidence for some prehistoric, pre-ringfort activity at the site but the main occupation at the ringfort produced radiocarbon date ranges that spanned from c. A.D. 420 to 1400. The site was characterised by an outer ditch (1.5 m wide by 0.8 m deep and 63 m in diameter) and a more substantial inner ditch (3 m wide by 1.1 m deep and 42 m in diameter). There were at least two recuts of the inner ditch and an inhumation burial was found at one inner ditch terminal. The entrance was located to the south-east, as is common in ringforts. Subsoil was removed from within the enclosed area and the spoil from this probably contributed to a bank, the remains of which were located between the inner and the outer ditches.

A souterrain was found within the enclosure. This was constructed from limestone blocks and roofed with large limestone slabs; the excavated portion measured 7.16 m long by 1.56 m wide by 1.25 m deep, with a vent running from its E. side. Geophysical survey revealed that it continued for 2 m beyond the baulk. Other internal features included three possible corn-drying kilns, where large quantities of oats and some wheat, barley and possible rye were found. Iron working took place in the east of the site, between the inner and the outer ditches, with oak identified as the main industrial fuel. Three small bowl furnaces were found and a radiocarbon date from one indicated use in the High-medieval period (date range cal A.D. 1047–1257). The excavation was part of a programme of works

commissioned by Galway County Council and funded by the National Roads Authority. The project archaeologist was J. O'Sullivan.

192. MACKNEY (183745, 229417). Mackney ringfort, excavated by F. Delaney of Eachtra Archaeological Projects, was located 5 km north-east of Aughrim and 1.5 km south-west of Ballinasloe. The enclosure measured 58 m N.–S. and 55 m E.–W. The excavation uncovered a long sequence of settlement and occupation activity, and later reuse as a place of burial and cultivation. Eight samples were sent for radiocarbon dating and these returned dates between the 8th and 17th centuries. The large enclosing ditch was approximately 5–6 m wide and ranged in depth from 1.75 to 3.1 m. One half of a Henry III silver penny and a socketed arrowhead were recovered from the upper fills of the ditch.

The entrance to the ringfort is located in the east-north-east; it is defined by a 6.6-m wide causeway running between two rounded and steep sided ditch termini. Structural elements were revealed on the inside edge of this causeway. Internal features were cut into the underlying stony sandy gravel subsoil and included the denuded remains of two possible circular houses, a lean-to structure and a possible rectangular structure. A metalworking area, including a number of bowl furnaces, was identified to the north of the entrance inside the remains of a portion of inner bank revetment wall. A series of fire pits, hearths and refuse pits were also revealed across the interior and oak was identified as the most common charcoal and fuel type at the site. Oak woodlands would have been an important resource and access to such resources could indicate that a position of high rank was held by the site occupants. A beautifully constructed, partially robbed and in-filled souterrain was discovered. The souterrain consisted of two chambers, a connecting drop creep and a set of entrance steps. The excavation of the site was part of a programme of works commissioned by Galway County Council and funded by the National Roads Authority. The project archaeologist was J. O'Sullivan.

193. NEWCASTLE (175338, 226852). This site was excavated by S. Conran for CRDS Ltd. in advance of the proposed N6 Galway-Ballinasloe road scheme. Part of a known archaeological monument (RMP No. GA087:196), which is identified as a raised irregularly-shaped platform onto which two further platforms were built at the W. side, lies within the footprint of the development. The name Newcastle is presumably derived from a castle site of unknown location within the townland, and it is plausible to suggest that the castle may have been built adjacent to or upon the site of the earthwork monument.

The excavated features at Newcastle included a small portion of a ringfort bank-and-ditch, which pre-dates the platform earthwork, and a number of other features. The ditch is circular in plan (c. 43 m diameter) and the excavated portion, which runs in an E.–W. direction, was 1.8 m wide and 1.2 m deep. The S. edge of a stone-built feature composed of six courses of stone was uncovered at the E. limit of the excavation. It may be contemporary with a metallised surface excavated 10 m to the south-west, and it pre-dates the fills of the ditch. It may be an original entrance feature, such as a causeway, associated with the ringfort.

After the ringfort ditch had silted up, metallised surfaces and stone structures were built over and within it. It is believed that these features may represent the remains of the castle at Newcastle. The ringfort ditch had been almost completely backfilled by the time the platform monument was constructed. A new metallised surface, measuring 6.5 m long and 2 m wide, was laid across the backfilled ditch and this formed an entrance to the monument. A rough stone layer, which was found to overlie the metallised surface, may be interpreted as evidence for renewal of this. Other features such as walls, stone-walled drains, furrows, field systems, hearths and pits were also excavated on the site. The orientation of a wall, two kerbs and a surface strongly suggest that they combine with the causeway to provide a significant entrance to the monument. However, as the causeway or bridge feature appears to be contemporary with the use of the ringfort ditch, it could be that the original entrance to the ringfort was maintained and expanded during the life of the later platform monument.

CO KILKENNY. Work undertaken by Valerie J. Keeley Ltd.

194. BALLYKEOGHAN (258444, 118935). This site was uncovered during archaeological work for the NRA in advance of the N9/N10 Waterford to Powerstown scheme. Three areas of excavation were opened by J. Wren in the vicinity of features uncovered in testing. One of the cuttings (Area 10) produced the remains of three drying kilns. Two of them were keyhole shaped kilns, one in the centre of the cutting and another on the NE. corner. Both were oriented E.–W. with their flues sloping upwards to

the drying chambers. Keyhole drying kilns range in date from the 10th to the 16th centuries (Hurley 1987, 96). The third kiln had a figure-of-eight shape. It measured 3.1 m long and 0.95 m deep at the furnace bowl. This kiln had two flues, one of which was in use first and was then blocked in. Figure-of-eight kilns have produced dates in the 5th to the 7th centuries (M.A. Monk and E. Kelleher 'An assessment of the archaeological evidence for Irish corn-drying kilns in the light of the results of archaeological experiments and archaeobotanical studies', *Journal of Irish Archaeol.*, XIV (2005), 77-114, 109). The Milltown kiln was particularly large and may date later than other examples of the type.

The keyhole kiln to the north-east cut into the remains of an earlier earth-cut pit. This pit was one a group of nineteen small pits uncovered in the area immediately north of the kiln. One of these pits produced a rim-sherd which has been provisionally identified as D-ware; this form of pottery dates from the 6th and early 7th centuries. The pits were surrounded, to the north south and west, by five very distinctive oval pits filled with intense deposits of charcoal and burnt clay with burnt clay bases. One of these produced an iron tool, possibly a gouge. Full interpretation and dating of these features must await the results of environmental analysis and radiocarbon dating of material from their fills.

195. BALLYKILLABOY (257879, 119825). A metalworking site was identified during excavation work by G. Laidlaw, carried out in advance of the N9/N10 road scheme. The site was located next to a seasonal lake in an area of low-lying marshy land. Several fragments of locally-made medieval pottery would indicate a date of between the late 12th and 14th centuries. An area measuring 20 x 20 m was excavated, revealing evidence of iron- and copper-working. The site appears to have been split into two main activity areas, with the W. concentration of features consisting of three furnaces and several waste pits containing large amounts of slag, copper-alloy fragments, and several as yet unidentified metal artefacts. These features were contained within two right-angled linear features that may be foundations trenches for an open-sided structure. The furnaces all showed three clearly defined phases of use, and one of the larger furnaces was cut through the top of the foundation trench. The majority of slag and vitrified clay retrieved from the site came from this area.

The higher part of the site had a concentration of three shallow pits and several stake- and postholes, surrounded by an L-shaped gully. The gully, combined with some of the large postholes in the area, may represent the remains of a structure. This in turn was surrounded by an outer gully which would have drained surface water away from the working area; this part of the site may have contained the bellows and an anvil, and was defined by a cluster of stake- and postholes and a pit with scorched soil on one edge. The anvil may have been secured to a section of tree trunk, possibly about 1 m in diameter, placed within a shallow pit. The deposits surrounding the pit contained vast amounts of hammerscale. A stone-lined pit was also located in this area. Large amounts of charcoal covered this part of the site, possibly indicating that the structure was burnt down. This may have been a deliberate act as all of the furniture appears to have been removed before the fire occurred.

196. BAYSRATH (251596, 137629 and 251622, 137647). Archaeological excavations, conducted by J. Channing, were undertaken in advance of the N9/N10 Waterford to Powerstown road realignment. The principal features excavated include an Early Christian enclosure with an associated boundary system, overlying an earlier palisaded enclosure containing circular structures. On-site excavation extended into 2007 and the post-excavation phase has yet to commence.

197. KILKEASY (253450, 129207). Archaeological excavations, conducted by J. Channing, were undertaken in advance of the N9/N10 Waterford to Powerstown road realignment. Excavations revealed a rock-cut enclosure ditch that extended outside the excavation area. The feature is reflected in the existing field pattern and has been traced with geophysical survey. Several mixed-use pits, a small metalworking area and a single possible cremation pit were identified outside the enclosure. The site is thought to date from the Iron Age or Early Christian periods and the post-excavation phase of the project is ongoing.

198. KNOCKMOYLAN (254493, 128549). Archaeological excavations, conducted by J. Channing, were undertaken in advance of the N9/N10 Waterford to Powerstown road realignment. Excavations uncovered three boundary features together with a stone-lined kiln, probably for drying grain. A medieval date is proposed based upon the morphology of the kiln. Post-excavation work is ongoing.

199. MILLTOWN (Area 2: 258587, 117595; Area 3: 258621, 117998; Area 4: 258607, 118078). These sites were uncovered during archaeological work for the NRA in advance of the N9/N10 Waterford to Powerstown scheme and in May/June 2006, a series of excavation trenches were opened by J. Wren, in the vicinity of features uncovered in testing.

In Area Two, a pit with *in-situ* burning was uncovered 9 m south-east of a burnt spread. The pit, which was roughly sub-rectangular in plan with one larger rounded end, measured 2.6 m long (NW.–SE.) and 1.8 m wide. The burning and an intense deposit of charcoal were confined to the rounded end and this seems to have been the furnace pit for some type of kiln with the narrower rectangular end acting as the drying chamber. In Area Four, the foundations of a circular building, with entrances to the north and south, were uncovered in the centre of the cutting. The building measured 5.9 m in internal diameter and its wall foundations combined two slot trenches with six large postholes. Inside the building there were six pits, including four post pits, set about a central smelting hearth. Outside the NE. entrance to the building there was a small hearth surrounded by stakeholes and the remains of a drying kiln. In Area Three, 42 m to the south, two shallow ditches divided the area into two rectangular ‘fields’. In the first field, to the east, there were thirty-five small oval pits with metalworking debris in their fills. Outside the field, to the south-east, a circular ditch, with metalworking debris, surrounded an area 7 m in diameter with a pit at its centre. These features may have formed part of an industrial structure associated with the metalworking area. In the second ‘field’ to the north-east there was a second drying kiln.

A preliminary examination of the metalworking debris suggests that the smelting activity may date from the Iron Age. Samples from the drying kilns, however, showed a predominance of barley and oat which is more suggestive of an Early-medieval date. The kilns resemble Early-medieval figure-of-eight kilns excavated at Laughanstown Co. Dublin by VJK Ltd. (M. Seaver, ‘From Mountain to Sea: Excavations at Laughanstown/Glebe’, *Archaeology Ireland*, 17 No. 4 (2004), 8-12, 10); the kiln produced calibrated dates from A.D. 530 to 650. A similar kiln excavated by Elizabeth O’Brien at Ballyman in Co. Dublin produced a date of c. A.D. 425 (M. A. Monk and E. Kelleher, ‘An assessment of the archaeological evidence for Irish corn-drying kilns in the light of the results of archaeological experiments and archaeobotanical studies’, *Journal of Irish Archaeol.*, XIV (2005), 77-114, 109). Samples from the excavations at Milltown are being sent for radiocarbon dating, which should help finalise the chronology of the excavated remains.

200. ROSSINAN (256887, 121806). A cereal-drying kiln was excavated by J. Monteith, in close proximity to a ringfort; the latter site, located c. 40 m to the west, was not investigated under the remit of this excavation. Consisting of a sub-circular bowl measuring 1.75 m long, 1.4 m wide and 0.55 m deep, the long axis of the kiln bowl was oriented N.–S., with a long narrow flue extending to the west. The bowl was stepped in profile and was lined by squared limestone boulders placed on the step of the cut. The curving flue extended downslope to the west of the bowl for c. 9 m with a maximum depth of 0.6 m, though it became very shallow at its W. terminus. The stone lining continued along the length of the flue for c. 2 m. The fire spot was identified at the W. extent of the stone lining where the flue was slightly wider. Here an area of oxidised soil was identified along the base and sides of the flue. A primary layer of dark brownish clay silt was identified along the base of the bowl, extending along the flue for several metres. Initial specialist analysis of charred material has identified at least two seed types. Two pottery sherds were also recovered. The stony backfill sealing this layer may suggest it was deliberately backfilled after use, and that some of the stone may be associated with a superstructure over the bowl.

The interpretation of this site is currently dependant on its typology. Its close physical relationship with a ringfort suggests they may be contemporary. The primary fill may represent the remnant material from the kilns final use and provisional analysis of pottery from this context suggests an Early-medieval date. Specialist analysis of this pottery and potential charcoal dating should confirm this provisional dating.

201. SCART (256788, 122394). A series of kilns were excavated by J. Monteith, in close proximity to a ringfort which was outside the remit of this excavation. A partially stone-lined kiln was excavated, consisting of an irregular ‘tear-drop’ shaped cut (measuring 5.9 m long, 0.6–2 m wide and 0.6 m deep), with a slightly curving linear flue and sub-circular ash pit. A baffle stone was identified across the kiln between the stone lined sides. The kiln was filled with successive layers of oxidised clay and charcoal along the base of the cut, sealed by a layer of large angular stones.

Three additional ‘drying-pits’ or kilns were recorded to the east (averaging 2.91 m long, 1.34 m wide and 1.08 m deep). Areas of oxidised natural were recorded at the bases of these cuts, indicating the

location of hearths, sealed by successive layers of charcoal and scorched clay. A posthole was also identified in the base of one of these features. Each pit was backfilled with large limestone boulders and would appear to have been deliberately backfilled. Two possible slot trenches were located south of one of these features. Orientated perpendicular to each other these features formed an L-shape in plan. The provisional dating of this site is currently dependant on its typology as no finds were recovered. Two different types of kiln were identified, as well as 'L-shaped' slot trenches for a possible granary or similar structure. Given its proximity to a ringfort, these features may date from between the 6th and 12th centuries. It may be assumed that the features are contemporary and associated with processing of cereal grains or ores, or charcoal production associated with the possible enclosed homesteads of the ringfort. It is hoped specialist analysis of environmental samples and potential charcoal dating can confirm this provisional chronology.

CO. LAOIS. Work carried out by ACS Ltd.

202. BUSHFIELD OR MAGHERNASKEAGH/LISMORE (228757, 185518). The site was located within the proposed M7 Portlaoise to Castletown/M8 Portlaoise to Cullahill Motorway Scheme, 4 km south-east of the village of Borris in Ossory, and 4 km west of the ruins of Aghaboe priory. It was identified on either side of a townland boundary during advanced testing in 2005, and was subsequently fully excavated by K. Wiggins on behalf of the National Roads Authority and Laois County Council. The site comprised the remains of a sub-circular ditched enclosure, lying mainly on the Bushfield side of the townland boundary. The enclosure had approximate overall dimensions of 93 m (E.–W.) by 76 m, about one-quarter of which was outside the landtake, mostly to the south.

The enclosure ditch on the Bushfield or Maghernaskeagh side of the site measured 66 m long by around 2 m and up to 1 m deep. The main features were a cemetery in the NW. quadrant of the enclosure and a number of pits containing burnt bone and charcoal. There were eighty-two extended inhumation burials in all, the majority in poor condition. The finds included a metal pin, a bone bead and the triangular tip of a blade-like object. There were numerous postholes, with no obvious structural coherence, and a series of curvilinear features, concentric with the enclosure ditch and possibly evidence for hedgerows. Excavation along the N. margin of the site, on the Lismore side of the field boundary, revealed a cluster of five bowl furnaces about 12 m north of the enclosure entrance. These produced large amounts of iron slag. The site appears to be the remains of a large enclosed habitation site containing a kindred or familial cemetery. It seems to provide further evidence for the existence of 'cemetery/settlements', dating from between c. A.D. 450 and 700, before the practice of burial in Christian ecclesiastical enclosures became fully established.

203. KILLEANY (236838 187936). This site was located within the proposed M7 Portlaoise to Castletown/M8 Portlaoise to Cullahill Motorway Scheme, 8 km west of the town of Abbeyleix and 800 m north of the ruins of Gortnaclea castle. It was identified during advanced testing in 2005, and was subsequently fully excavated by K. Wiggins on behalf of the National Roads Authority and Laois County Council.

The site comprised the remains of a roughly circular ditched enclosure established around a low hill, with an estimated overall diameter of 150 m, near the centre of which was a ditched cemetery enclosure, with an overall estimated diameter of 30 m. About two-thirds of the site was outside the landtake to the north. The outer ditch had an overall excavated length of 185 m. It was typically 3 m wide by around 1.5 m deep. There was a southeast-facing entrance, represented by a 4 m wide break in the circuit of the ditch. The remains of a single individual, a juvenile of 11–12 years of age, were found in the ditch fill on the E. side of the entrance.

Several significant features were located towards the E. edge of the site. These include a series of kilns, most likely used for cereal drying, including a large drystone-built example. Two calibrated radiocarbon dates have been obtained from one of the larger kiln, yielding dates of A.D. 660 to 810 and 840 to 860. The remains of a structure, comprising a shallow circular slot-trench with associated postholes, were located at the N. end of the series of kilns.

The inner ditch had an excavated length of about 35 m, and was up to 1 m wide by 0.5 m deep. There was a spiral, or overlapping, entrance to the south east. The E. side of the cemetery enclosure was truncated by a very large pit, which produced an iron plough share and a bronze stick-pin with ring-and-dot decoration. The excavated part of the cemetery contained the remains of seventy-one extended

inhumation burials, aligned E.–W., the individuals interred in shallow unlined graves. A young adult female was buried with a spectacular necklace composed of forty-four perforated animal-bone discs. A single bone bead was found with the remains of an infant, and a corroded iron ring with another individual. It is hoped post-excavation analysis and research, together with geophysical survey of the unexcavated extent of the site, will determine whether or not the habitation at Killeany 1 was ecclesiastical or secular in nature.

CO. MEATH. Work by Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. unless stated otherwise.

204. **BECTIVE ABBEY** (285890, 259930). An archaeological test excavation was carried out in by E. Larsson of CRDS Ltd. The archaeological complex at Bective includes an abbey and tower house within a stone-walled enclosure. The abbey was founded in 1146 as a daughter house of Mellifont, and is the second oldest Cistercian abbey in Ireland.

The archaeological testing was carried out in the field to the south-west of the abbey complex, and was connected with a proposal for a new site entrance, a car park and an access path leading to the abbey. In 2005 a geophysical survey was carried out in the area that would be affected by the proposed works and this work identified a large number of previously unknown features of archaeological potential, many of these having no relation to the visible earthworks on the site.

Two test trenches, each measuring 10 x 2 m, were excavated across two rectilinear anomalies. Test Trench A was located 67 m to the west of the abbey and revealed a ditch in the location of the anomaly. Finds from the ditch included two sherds of medieval pottery and a heavily corroded iron object, and the feature can therefore be interpreted as dating from the medieval period. Test Trench B was located 23 m south-west of the abbey and revealed several archaeological features showing phases of medieval activity. Directly under a thin layer of topsoil was a metalled surface of late post-medieval to early modern date, which extended beyond the limits of the test trench. The metalled surface sealed two pits and a possible rectilinear feature, which contained sherds of medieval pottery and corroded iron objects, and these features were interpreted as being medieval in date. The features were cut into a bank of redeposited boulder clay, which also contained a sherd of medieval pottery. A total of 117 finds were recovered during the testing programme and most are likely to be of Late-medieval date. The majority of the archaeological features contained medieval pottery sherds and a small number of corroded iron objects and can be interpreted to be Late-medieval in date and contemporary with the time the abbey was in use.

205. **BOYERSTOWN** (283581, 265803). This site is being resolved by K. Martin as part of the M3 Clonlee to Kells motorway scheme, on behalf of National Roads Authority and Meath County Council. The excavations uncovered the remains of two structures and a possible third structure with associated metalled yards and drains. The buildings had been previously levelled to the initial first and second wall course levels. They were of dry-stone construction and characterised by larger stones being placed outside an inner core of rubble and soil. The walls varied in width from 0.8–1.3 m. The majority of the stones were not dressed or worked and only three examples of punch-dressed stone were found during excavation. The largest of the structures measured 10.2 x 5.6 m. Only two walls of this building, containing a hearth at its centre, remained. Approximately 2 m south of this building the second structure was located. This measured 6 x 4.4 m and also contained a shallow hearth. There was no indication of internal partitioning in the structures although the possibility of using a wooden/wattle screen to divide the inner area must not be ruled out. All the walls were constructed directly onto the natural ground surface with no indication of foundations or slot trenches. The area in the immediate vicinity of the buildings contained a substantial amount of medieval artefacts including pottery, iron nails, belt buckles, and coins. The bulk of the assemblage in this area consisted of green-glazed pottery and coarse cooking ware. A large quantity of iron nails and rivets were also found indicating that each building may have had a timber-built upper storey.

The remainder of the site was characterised by inter-cutting linear drainage ditches which extended from the house area across the full width of the proposed landtake. The ditches varied in width from 0.2–2.5 m and in depth from 0.15–1.2 m. The drainage system consisted of smaller sharply cut feeder ditches linking into larger ditches with more gradual profiles. The majority of these ditches were contemporary with the structures and allowed water to be channelled away from the immediate area of settlement during times of heavy rain or flooding. It was observed during the excavation that at certain

stages during the occupation of the site, the drainage ditches were recut and realigned in order to deal more effectively with water management. Medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered from most of these features indicating that over time, as some of the ditches went out of use, they were reused for dumping domestic refuse.

Along the S. area of the site, in an area measuring approximately 22 x 17 m, twenty-seven hand-dug linear furrows, some of which truncated each other, were excavated. They varied in length from 4 to 17 m, in width from 0.4 to 1 m, and in depth from 0.1 to 0.35 m. They appear to be contemporary with the settlement and contained occasional finds of glazed medieval pottery.

An articulated human skeleton was recovered from one of the linear ditches running across the N. extent of the site. The skeleton was lying on the lower layer of the ditch indicating that the ditch had already been filling during the time of burial. Two earmuff stones had been placed on either side of the skull and one on the top. A large fracture on the right side of the skull may indicate the cause of death. No artefacts were found associated with the skeleton although the lower and upper ditch fills contained glazed medieval pottery dating the skeleton to within the later medieval period.

The site produced a substantial number of artefacts, totalling approximately 8,900. Those from topsoil amounted to 7,200 while stratified finds amounted to 1,700. The majority of the finds were medieval pottery; a preliminary examination has dated the majority of the pieces to the 12th–14th centuries. Most of the pottery was locally produced and a handful of imports was noted.

206. DOWDSTOWN (289684, 262547). An Early-medieval ringfort, a D-shaped enclosure and associated field systems were excavated by L. Cagney in advance of the planned M3 Clonee to north of Kells motorway. The site was identified during a geophysical survey by GSB Prospection, and advance testing was carried out by S. Linnane in 2004 with full excavation commencing in 2005.

The focal point of this site is its domestic/settlement component which is defined by a circular ringfort with a diameter of 31 m, and associated field systems which are appended to its E. side. Expansion of this enclosure is evident in a further phase, comprising a larger, heart or 'D'-shaped enclosure (60 x 40 m) which incorporates the N., W. and SW. sides of the ringfort, and which would have provided additional space for domestic use. Radiocarbon dates of A.D. 554–651 and 605–702 have been returned for the ringfort and 'D'-shaped enclosure respectively. Up to three structures were identified within the above enclosures. One of these was enclosed by the ringfort ditch, while the foundation remains of two additional structures and industrial features appeared to be contemporary with the later expansion of the site. A network of Early-medieval fields was identified to the north and east of the enclosure complex. Preliminary excavation results suggest that these were constructed in two phases, possibly reflecting those evident from the primary construction and later expansion of the enclosing elements of the site. Field 1, measuring 46.4 m long (E.–W.) by 40 m wide, was attached to the E. side of the ringfort and formed the westernmost example of at least three contiguous fields which are visible on the geophysical survey for the area. Up to 14 cereal-drying kilns, four furnaces and a number of large pits were uncovered during the excavation. The majority of the finds on the site date from between the 6th and 9th centuries. Among these were items such as bronze ringed pins, bone combs and needles, spindle whorls, rotary querns, iron knives, and shears.

207. ROESTOWN (295835, 253890). This site was located on the proposed M3 Clonee to the north of Kells motorway and represents a series of successive Early-medieval enclosures with associated field systems, beginning in the 7th and continuing into the 11th century and with limited occupation into the 13th century. It was excavated by R. O'Hara on behalf of the National Roads Authority and Meath County Council, with two main areas of activity identified. An oval-shaped enclosure with attached ancillary enclosures represents the first phase of medieval activity in Area A. E-ware has been recovered from these ditches and an associated dog burial has been radiocarbon dated to A.D. 630–710. A substantial enclosure was constructed (A.D. 650–780; AD 620–690) in the place of this enclosure. This second enclosure was in turn infilled before a similar-sized ditch was constructed. After the Anglo-Norman conquest of Meath in the late 12th century, a small ditched enclosure was constructed at the highest point of the Roestown site. The final on-site activity was particularly destructive and transformed much of the site into a terrace for ridge-and-furrow cultivation, thus removing or seriously denuding many features.

The main features of Area B consisted of a circular gully associated with a circular structure and a D-shaped enclosing ditch (70 x 50 m). Areas of habitation and industry clearly separated by a series of internal ditches were noted inside the structure. These areas contained various drying kilns and numerous

gullies, which probably reflect successive phases of buildings. Evidence for metalworking of both ferrous and non-ferrous metals was uncovered across the enclosure. A dry-stone souterrain was situated at the centre of Area B and comprised three circular chambers and three passages; most of the capstones had been removed in antiquity and much of the interior was backfilled.

208. TREVET (295858, 256608). This site was excavated by S. Rathbone, on behalf of the National Roads Authority and Meath County Council, as part of the proposed M3 Clonee to Kells motorway scheme. The site comprised a large, cobbled road surface with an adjacent drainage ditch leading up to a small, crudely built structure with a cobbled yard to the rear. Over 3,000 sherds of 13th- to 14th-century pottery were recovered from this site along with a small quantity of metal objects, including a cruciform strap end, two feet from cooking pots and a knife handle. A small but not insignificant amount of slag was also recovered. A large, N.-S., rectangular building was positioned on a large terrace cut into a slope. The W. and S. sides of the structure's platform were defined by large ditches and traces of rubble walls were found along the E., W. and N. sides of the structure, although none of these lengths survived for any great distance. None of the walls sat in foundation trenches, and no postholes were discovered, suggesting that the structure was a single-storey building with a low roof, perhaps supported by a cruck frame. The building probably resembled the traditional Irish cabin, itself part of a larger long house tradition present throughout the British Isles. A yard at the back of the structure was also identified, and two external hearths located at its S. extent. Traces of two smaller structures were also located; the first was represented by a well-built corner of walling positioned to the south-east of the main structure, and the second displayed evidence for slight foundations and may have been a shed or outhouse.

209. WILLIAMSTOWN OR BAWN (287180, 263874). This site was located within the proposed M3 Clonee to North of Kells Motorway Scheme, 3 km south of the town of Navan and 1 km west of the medieval ruins of Cannistown church. It was identified during advanced testing in 2004, and was subsequently fully excavated by K. Wiggins on behalf of the National Roads Authority and Meath County Council. The foundation trenches of a structure, provisionally dated to the medieval period, were found adjacent to a prehistoric burnt mound. The structure consisted of a slot-trench outline, rectangular in plan with rounded corners, and with external dimensions of 10.26 m (E.-W.) by 3.6 m. The interior was divided by a central N.-S. slot trench. The slot trenches were between 0.51–0.59 m wide and were mainly filled with mid- to dark grey clayey silt. A deposit of soft, dark-grey, silty clay was located externally along the N. side. The floor space was 2.4 m wide (N.-S.) by 4.75 m long (E.-W.) to the east of the central slot trench, and 3.75 m long to the west of it. During testing a body sherd of Dublin-type ware, dating from the 13th century, was found in the slot-trench fill at the E. end of the structure. The full excavation of the site revealed no other finds.

The evidence suggests that the foundation trenches would originally have contained stone footings for the walls of the house, and the internal area may have been stone floored. The dwelling appears to have been extended at some point during its occupancy, the central slot trench marking the original position of the W. wall, and not the line of an internal partition. The external deposit projecting from the N. side may relate to the chimney which served the fireplace. As there was no break in the slot-trench outline, the precise location of the doorway is not known, but it is likely to have been in the S. wall, opposite the fireplace.

CO. ROSCOMMON

210. TULSK (183410, 281080). Excavation at Tusk, directed by N. Brady for The Discovery Programme, entered its third of four proposed seasons. No additional insight was achieved of the main ringfort phase to the site in 2006 (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, 49 (2005), 429-31). Excavation has confirmed an outer fosse, or ditch, to the east of the stone tower, but it remains to be seen whether this ditch is a primary cut or was recut subsequently to accommodate works in the later medieval period.

Excavation outside the stone tower focussed on the NE. corner (**Fig. 39**). It exposed more fully the rounded corner, which is constructed above a right-angled corner plinth. The base of the external wall was not achieved due to a confined excavation area, but it was traced 1.5 m below the batter, at which point a narrow outer plinth was highlighted. Taking the distance between the lowest exposed levels and the internal levels surviving within the building, it is apparent that the foundations of the tower extend c. 3 m below the top of the present-day mound. This observation is confirmed by

geophysical survey which indicated that the footprint for the tower occupies an area that was actively cut away from the mound (**Fig. 40**).

Internally, the tower consists of a main chamber and a narrow N. chamber. The S. extent of the tower lies outside the excavated area. The main chamber is further divided into two halves, the N. one of which is flagged and retains three localized ash spreads or hearths. The S. half of the main chamber is cobbled. It aligns with a break in the W. wall of the tower, as well as with the c. 15 x 9 m wide stone building that was added outside the tower to the east. It is unclear what this alignment means but a working hypothesis is that it represents an entrance feature. The main chamber in the tower was filled with collapsed stonework that might represent a fallen vault. The N. chamber is narrow and while it would logically represent a stairwell, the floor surface is still too confused for this supposition to be clarified. The E. external wall of the tower retains a garderobe chute. The chute falls vertically to a culverted base, which is then channelled further east to empty into the external fosse. Excavation did not extend to the channel in 2006 but will do so in 2007.

At a point some time after the tower was built, a second mortared stone structure was erected. This building lies east of and against the stone tower, and measures c. 15 m long (E.–W.) by 9 m wide. It is still not clear what purpose this E. building served. It crosses the line of the ditch that surrounds the platform, and was built after the tower was erected. Whether it represents an entrance feature that provided access to the tower, or whether it is an external hall structure cannot be defined at this stage, but it is clear that the E. building and the tower were collapsed at the same time. A series of small finds from 2005, in the upper levels of the ditch, might indicate a 13th-century date, which suggests that the tower and the E. building post-date this period. However, as excavation was focussed on removing the post-fosse overburden, and only looked at the ditch layers very superficially, it would be unwise to read too much into the small finds assemblage at this point.

If the excavations in 2005 revealed a surprising level of detail from the mid-1500s and later, the work in 2006 has only made this horizon more detailed. The small rectangular building that protruded above the mound on the N. perimeter prior to excavation was more fully exposed; it is reasonably well built and extends more than 1 m in depth. The building suffered burning, as indicated by a significant charcoal deposit that retains a mixture of wood types. It is thought to represent a former roof and samples have been taken for dating purposes. Outside the stone building and to its east, excavation revealed a broadly curving low mud bank that ran directly above the internal walls of the early stone tower. It is suggested that the mud bank is the foundation to a breastwork defence that would have supported a latticed timber frame, to provide added defence to the NE. corner of the stone building.

The range of equipment and features associated with the 16th-century levels supports the contention made in 2005 that this phase represents a reoccupation of the mound at the time when Sir Richard Bingham, the Queen's Governor in Connaught, garrisoned the settlement. The stone tower was collapsed by this stage, and certain stones have been identified in reused 16th-century contexts. The range of coins recovered continues into the 1640s, and suggests that the mound was still in use during the 1641 Rebellion.

The excavation project on Tusk mound was carried out to identify the lordly residence of the O'Connor lords during the 'invisible' 13th century, where it has been difficult to see clearly settlements and structures in the non-Anglo-Norman landscape. The results to date suggest that there is real merit in the choice of excavation site, as there are already indications of the elusive century. There is however a significant overburden in terms of a later medieval tower and associated building, and indeed of the subsequent 16th century. The sum total of these features presents the site as a microcosm to the larger period under review. The range of material recovered and the scale of the features exposed present legitimate grounds for considering this to be the site of Tusk Castle, which is recorded in the annals as being built in 1406. If this is the case, then it raises questions concerning the traditional location of the castle as the stony mound behind Kelly's Pub. It is entirely possible that Tusk had more than one encastellated structure. It is equally possible that the mound in Kelly's Pub belongs to the Elizabethan period.

CO. TIPPERARY

211. FADDAN MORE (2001, 2003). In July 2006 an Early-medieval Psalter was discovered during moss peat harvesting in a bog at Faddan More, close to the border with Co. Offaly. An excavation of the find place was carried out by M. Sikora of the National Museum of Ireland, in order to ascertain the

circumstances of deposition and to establish whether any other features or finds were present. Although the manuscript had been removed from its find place, it was possible to identify the location where it had originally been deposited. Some pieces of loose leather, one of which appeared to be a strap or thong, were noticed in the ground to the north of the section in which the book had been discovered. A yellow hair-like substance was also recovered on the ground surface in the area surrounding the strap. Initial results suggest that a number of *ex-situ* pieces of fine leather north of the cavity may have been part of a leather bag which contained the book. Extensive samples of the peat were taken from the area and are currently being analysed in the National Museum's conservation laboratory. The manuscript is in fragmentary condition and it is anticipated that conservation will take a number of years (**Fig. 41**). Based on provisional examinations, the manuscript may be dated to c. AD 800. The visible text has been identified as a portion of Psalm 83 of the Gallician Psalter.

The bog at Faddan More has produced a number of other interesting finds: a leather satchel was found in the same bog in 1999 and has been dated to between the 7th and 9th centuries A.D., roughly the same period in which the manuscript would have been produced; two ancient wooden vessels were also found in the bog in recent years.

212. TOUREEN (20051, 12857). Toureen Peakaun is the monastery of Cluain Aird Mo-Becóc, which was founded in the 7th century and occasionally mentioned in the early annals and martyrologies. The ritual core of the site features several monuments in State Care, but its full extent is indicated by a c. 200 m enclosure, some of which is traceable in the surrounding field banks. T. Ó Carragáin of the Department of Archaeology, University College Cork, directed the second season of a university research and training when two trenches were opened in the field east of the church (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 358). Trench C (5 x 10 m with a 5 x 2 m extension at the south), which was begun in 2005, was reopened and a 5 x 4 m extension was added at the west. It was fully excavated in 2006. A wide linear feature evident in a resistivity survey and DTM turned out to be the original channel of the Toureen stream; this had been deliberately backfilled and diverted to the west, probably in modern times. In the Early-medieval period, a number of deposits were laid down to the north of the stream to produce a well-drained area suitable for occupation. Subsequently several deposits were dumped against the N. bank of the stream to consolidate it. An E.–W. orientated linear channel, which would have filled with water from the stream, was also dug, but was backfilled soon afterwards. Subsequently a series of pits associated with ironworking, which produced slag and furnace fragments, were dug into the upper surface of this backfilled channel. Some postholes and other structural evidence were also uncovered.

Trench D (20 x 2 m with a 1.5 x 1.5 m E. extension near the S. end) was opened to locate the enclosure at the north east of the site where resistivity survey, DTM and field walking had failed to locate it. It was discovered that, instead of a bank-and-ditch, in this area the enclosure comprised a small W.–E. oriented natural palaeochannel which fed into the Toureen Stream and, immediately inside this, a substantial palisade represented by a series of postholes. The N. 15 x 2 m of this trench, which lay outside the enclosure, produced no archaeology whatsoever, despite the fact that the area was quite well drained. In contrast, in the small area excavated within the enclosure several pits, postholes and stakeholes were uncovered, along with the N. edge of what the DTM suggests is another artificial occupation platform. Five radiocarbon dates from various contexts in Trenches C and D all produced very similar date ranges centred on the late 7th to the first half of the 8th centuries. This suggests the activity in both trenches took place during or soon after the lifetime of the founder, Beccán, who died in 689 (*Annals of Inishfallen*). This project is therefore informing us about how late 7th/8th-century insular clerics believed monasteries should be laid out and organised. Excavation will resume at Toureen in April 2007.

CO. WESTMEATH

213. MULLINGAR, OLIVER PLUNKETT STREET (243619, 252880). Excavations were conducted by E. Corcoran of Archaeological Development Services Ltd. at the site of a proposed development to the rear of a pharmacy, following the discovery of burials during pre-development archaeological test trenching. Approximately ninety E.–W. oriented burials were excavated on the site, and the affected areas of a possible enclosing ditch were also fully excavated; the S. end of the site had suffered substantial modern disturbance. The majority of the burials were in simple graves and a number of nails found indicate that they were originally buried in coffins. Medieval pottery was recovered from some of the graves as well

as from associated deposits. It is likely that the burials and other archaeological remains are associated with medieval activity at the Dominican priory, which was located to the south of the proposed development site. It is probable that the archaeological remains, including the burials, pre-date the dissolution of the priory in the 16th century.

214. ROCHFORD DEMESNE (242772, 247101). Archaeological excavations, conducted by J. Channing of Valerie J. Keeley Ltd., were undertaken in advance of the new N52 road realignment just south of Mullingar. The site, previously listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, proved to be an Early-medieval enclosure dating from the 6th century. Two concentric sub-circular ditches evidenced expansion of the site with an increased emphasis on defence, while a third ditch recorded post-medieval landscaping activity. A.M.S. dates of animal bone at the base of the two main ditches indicate a date for the inner ditch of 1350 years B.P +/- 35 and for the outer ditch of 1200 years B.P +/- 35. The site was disturbed by post-medieval quarrying and later 18th-century estate landscaping. While several pit features were excavated there was no clear structural evidence. Finds included a Dublin-type ring pin, a decorated bone comb and a swan-headed dress fastener. This last find may indicate that the site was in use prior to the 6th century. Post excavation work is ongoing.

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN CITY

215. At *East Kirk, St Nicholas* (NJ 9409 0630), following evaluation, complete excavation was commenced by A. Cameron of the City of Aberdeen Archaeological Unit. The earliest structure was the rounded apsidal E. end of a church, probably constructed in the early 12th century. The burials of twenty children were found around the exterior of the church, most buried in cists, stone coffins or with pillow stones. The apse went out of use around the mid-12th century when the church was rebuilt, following a rectangular plan. As the E. wall of this church became unstable, possibly due to its construction on the line of an earlier ditch, a replacement E. end was constructed in the late 12th century just 1m from the first. This wall is dated by the presence of pilaster buttresses, but also had other substantial buttresses. Burials within (and possibly pre-dating) this chapel included several in hollowed-out logs, three with traces of twigs laid beside the body, several with well-preserved coarse textiles and one with two scallop shells beside the head. Another scallop shell was found over the left thigh of one burial, having probably been attached to a pilgrim's scrip or satchel, and another larger example was found in a 12th-century burial soil. Numerous burials outside the 12th-century church were also excavated; these were generally very well preserved because they were enclosed under the floors of the church in the 15th century. They included a mother with an unborn child.

The current 19th-century structure was built on the footings of the 15th-century church, allowing the full plan of that church to be seen. On the S. wall, the presence of a corridor leading down into St Mary's Chapel was recorded, as well as a window in the wall to allow light into the corridor. This chapel was an early 15th-century crypt built at a lower level and still surviving today; its carved granite doorways were also uncovered during the excavation. Just above the corridor the burial of a woman had been inserted. She had suffered from severe osteomalacia, adult vitamin D deficiency, and the burial contained a cast metal badge depicting Our Lady of Pity. On the N. wall excavation uncovered a set of stairs that had allowed access to the lower crypt until they were blocked up, possibly at the Reformation. Two large sleeper walls were uncovered which showed evidence of weight-bearing pillars and floor surfaces. These showed that the 15th-century church was divided into a central area with two slightly narrower aisles to the north and south. The sleeper walls had been cut through by gravediggers to sink a number of 'family' burials, groups of up to six burials that presumably represented people from one family. Further analysis, including DNA extraction, may help to confirm this interpretation. One 'family' area with five adults and a child contained a coin of the 1590s in one of the earlier burials, and a coin of the 1690s attached to the lid of the latest burial. The burial of a 16–19 year old boy, who died from syphilis, had also been dug through the sleeper walls.

To date, 915 burials have been excavated dating from the 18th century and back to at least the 12th; radiocarbon dating should confirm the date of some of the earlier burials. The coffin wood, clothing and body tissues were very well preserved in the latest burials. One had a pile of seeds over the vertebrae, suggesting a floral arrangement. Many burials were of older adults, reflecting the fact that this

area of the church was the most expensive in which to be buried. Further work will take place over 2007 and until the development is finished. The work was sponsored by the Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting.

ABERDEENSHIRE

216. HADDO MOIRA GREIG (NJ 881 345). An area of ridge-and-furrow was recorded by the Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service, for Aberdeenshire Council, during winter aerial reconnaissance in the parkland to the east of Haddo House.

217. WHILL, ARNHALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE (NJ 826 061). A watching brief was maintained by J. C. Murray of Murray Archaeological Services, on behalf of Whill Development Co Ltd., during the soil strip for an extension to the Business and Industrial Park at Arnhall. Two areas of pre-improvement ridge-and-furrow cultivation were also recorded. Traces of twenty-seven furrows were located to the west of Mains of Fiddie; running N.–S., they were c. 8 m apart and ranged in length between 25 and 140 m. To the east of Mains of Fiddie a further four furrows were noted c. 9 m apart and running N.–S. for c. 40 to 60 m.

ANGUS

218. FRIOCKHEIM, HATTON MILL FARM (NO 617 501). In 2005, a proposed extension to sand and gravel workings resulted in the evaluation of an area of c. 17.54 ha by C. O'Connell of CfA Archaeology Ltd., on behalf of Johnston and Co Architects. Sixty-six trenches were excavated, amounting to c. 5 % (8775 sq m) of the available development area. The work identified several undated pits and a ring-ditch (previously known from cropmarks), a stone structure which may be a medieval kiln or bread oven, a curvilinear feature and a ditch. Ridge-and-furrow was present across the site, and was clearly visible on aerial photographs, representing the remains of a medieval or later farming landscape. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features.

219. GLEN LEE (NO 403 796). P. Leeming of Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service recorded remains of a deep and intricate pattern of ridge-and-furrow that extends almost the full length of Glen Lee, from the confluence of the Water of Lee and the Water of Unich to Loch Lee. At the Wern end there is a small patch of rigs to the north of Inchgrundle.

ARGYLL AND BUTE

220. DAL RIATA DUN COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT, BARNLUASGAN WALKOVER (centred NR 790 917). A total of 90 sites were recorded by the N. Knapdale Archaeological Survey, under the direction of R. Regan and S. Webb of Kilmartin House Museum, for the Forestry Commission. The survey was sponsored by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Forestry Commission and Kilmartin House Museum.

NR 78829 91753. A closely spaced row of three cairns along the edge of ridge-and-furrow.

NR 78820 91753. Ridge-and-furrow earthworks aligned NW.–SE.

NR 78672 91475. Remnants of ridge-and-furrow earthworks aligned NW.–SE.

NR 79421 91949. Ridge-and-furrow earthworks running SW.–NE.

NR 79199 91779. Ridge-and-furrow earthworks aligned N.–S along the upper terrace at the N. end of Barnluasgan ridge.

NR 79292 91910. An extensive area covered with ridge-and-furrow earthworks, following the natural contours of the terrace.

NR 79338 91666. Remnants of ridge-and-furrow earthworks aligned SW.–NE.

221. FURNACE, CRARAE GARDENS (NR 986 973). A programme of excavations, in a field immediately to the west of the early church site of Killevin, was carried out by M. Kirby of CFA Archaeology Ltd. The project, involving local volunteers, was undertaken subsequent to an archaeological evaluation carried out in 2005 (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 363-4); this uncovered at least two broad and

shallow ditches and an area of rough cobbles. Further work carried out on the larger of the two ditches identified a possible stone bank running parallel on its W. side. It is thought that this bank may have been part of the same feature identified by D. Alexander to the north of Killevin burial ground (*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (2003), 34), and might represent a bank-and-ditch surrounding the early church site. Also identified were two parallel lines of postholes, which were set at a distance of c. 3.5 m apart and are thought to represent a rectilinear structure. A large quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the two ditches. The project was sponsored by the National Trust of Scotland.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE

222. CLACKMANNAN, UPPER FORTH CROSSING, MEADOWEND FARM (NS 928 904). Excavation was carried out by E. Jones of Headland Archaeology, on behalf of Scottish Executive. In total, an area of some 4 ha was stripped and features excavated, including two medieval grain-drying kilns. These were both roughly keyhole-shaped in plan with a stone-lined bowl and flue. The bowls of the kilns were partly dug into an old stream channel, with the fire pits at the lower end. Large quantities of burnt grain were recovered from thick charcoal deposits in the bowls of both kilns, as well as 12th- to 15th-century White Gritty Ware from their fills. To the south-east of the kilns, a possible rectangular structure was recorded; its postholes contained similar pottery and it may be associated with crop-processing activities. Broad ridge-and-furrow cultivation was found across all areas of the site. Several field systems were evident from the changes in furrow alignment and at some point a larger area was taken in to cultivation once the grain-drying kilns and associated structures went out of use.

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

223. DUNDRENNAN ABBEY (NX 747 474). The inventory by M. Márkus of a large collection of carved stone at Dundrennan Abbey, begun in 2003, was continued and completed (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 48 (2004), 312-13; 49 (2005), 440-1; 50 (2006), 366-7). This work is part of the Historic Scotland *Ex-Situ* Carved and Moulded Stones Project. The collection is presently stored in various locations at the abbey. Most of the stones recorded this year were retrieved from a sheeted area to the south-east of the cloisters, but also included some that were set out in the vaulted cellars on the W side of the cloisters.

Almost all stones catalogued during 2006 were found during archaeological investigations by Kirkdale Archaeology during the early 1990s. A large number of these are vault ribs and their springers, dating from the late 12th to early 13th centuries, together with one or two related keystones. The ribs are very simply moulded with chamfers; remains of the monks' day room with its octagonal column suggest that vault ribs of this type were probably used here and in neighbouring areas. This large group of ribs can be subdivided, according to variations in the basic dimensions of width and depth, into four groups and, perhaps surprisingly for such relatively simple carved stones, they present a plethora of masons' marks.

In addition, a significant group of stones has emerged which are now believed to be part of a choir screen. These stones are large, and had previously been thought to have come from the cloisters, but when the group is examined as a whole, the screen function becomes much clearer. A large stone with decorative carving probably came from the upper section of an arched opening. The outer face is carved with four fleurs-de-lis contained within a circle. The stone has tapering sides and could therefore have occupied the spandrel of a window arch, as can be seen *in situ*, in the two (rebuilt) W. window arches of the chapter house, dated to the mid-13th century.

Another, smaller fragment also has a decorative outer face, being carved with a single four-petalled flower motif. The sides, and upper and lower faces, are roughly worked flat, though damaged, and the back surface is roughly finished. The most likely position for this fragment would be in a door or window jamb, but there is nothing resembling this remaining *in situ*, so its precise original location cannot be determined. Historic Scotland has allocated funding this year for the publication of a paper on the fragments by the author, with an anticipated publication date of 2007. This and other inventories of carved stones at Historic Scotland's properties in care are held by Historic Scotland's Collections Unit. For further information please contact at hs.collections@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

224. INGLESTON MOTTE EXCAVATION (NX 774 579). A ninth season of excavation on private land by experienced diggers and selected student volunteers, led by R. McCubbin and A. Penman, further exposed the outer defence line of this timber defensive tower site of the era of the Lords of Galloway c. A.D. 1100–1235 (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 367–8). Evidence of the destruction by fire of a timber tower on at least two occasions was apparent. Although there is not so much burning in the area of the pallisaded and towered defences encircling the summit of this site, it can be hypothesised that these were destroyed at the same time. More evidence of a paved area between the tower base and the defence line was exposed and signs of burning over this feature were observed. To date about 70 % of the encircling defences have been excavated, and on the outer side to the north, at a depth of 1.5 m below the surface, there was evidence of a furnace overlying sherds of medieval pottery. Dating evidence has been recovered for two distinct phases of occupation below the artificial levels of the summit of the motte hill, signifying the destruction and rebuilding of the defensive feature c. 1175–1235. Galena-glazed pottery, iron nails and rivet heads have been found in profusion in addition to a quantity of amethyst and items of polished quartz and granite in the shape of rounded cobbles.

Excavation of the defences and the remaining part of the timber tower will continue in 2007. The project is sponsored by the Dumfries and Galloway Council and the Stewartry Area Committee.

225. LOCKERBIE, DRYFESDALE, LAND AT BROOMHOUSES (NY 134 827). An archaeological evaluation carried out by M. Kirby of CFA Archaeology Ltd. uncovered the remains of a large timber structure measuring 19 m N.–S. by 8 m E.–W. This comprised a main rectangular structure measuring 14 x 8 m with a small annex measuring 5 x 5.8 m to the north. The annex had been built over an earlier back-filled ditch, running E.–W. across the site. The walls of the structure were defined by a series of bedding trenches, with larger postholes defining the corners and entrances. Two entranceways were identified in the main structure, one placed in the centre of the W. wall and the other placed in the centre of the E. wall. A doorway was also identified in the E. wall of the annex. Within the bedding trenches, there was evidence of post pipes, which would have held timber uprights. There were no datable finds within a secure context from this structure, but the ground plan suggests that it is of Anglian origin and probably dates from the 7th century.

EAST AYRSHIRE

226. STEWARTON, LAINSHAW HOUSE (NS 410 452). A programme of targeted archaeological investigative works was undertaken by D. Gordon of Rathmell Archaeology Ltd. in advance of proposed development by Travis Homes Ltd. The evaluation consisted of twelve trenches targeting areas of interest within the grounds of Lainshaw House. A representative sample of all of the uncovered features with archaeological potential was investigated. In addition, a programme of historic building recording was undertaken on the remains of a Late-medieval tower house within the fabric of Lainshaw House. The remaining fabric of the tower house includes most of the ground floor walls and the SE. wall face to a height of over 11 m. Various architectural features are still visible, especially two small ground floor windows and a larger third-floor window with roll moulding.

The tower house had been extensively disturbed through various building works from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Several doorways have been forced through the surviving walls, providing access to later structural additions, with those that latterly became redundant being blocked off. Three different rooflines are also evident on the remaining SE. wall face. There is little sound dating evidence for the origin of this structure, but it most probably dates from between the late 15th and the early 16th centuries. The remains of the tower house will be preserved *in situ* within the remodelled Lainshaw House.

EAST LoTHIAN

227. Aberlady (NT 45 79). A very small (22 x 10 mm) 15th-century cast silver gilt figurine of the Virgin and Child was recovered through metal detecting. The detail in relief depicts the figure of Mary wearing a full gown gathered at the waist by a belt. The gown has closely fitting cuffs and a floor-length mantle and on her head the figure wears a veil surmounted by a coronet. Comparisons with a late 15th-century drawing of Cicely, Duchess of York, dressed in an identical style, confirm the date for the piece.

The findspot is close to the site of the medieval church dedicated to St Mary at Aberlady at a time when the cult of the Virgin was at its peak. The plain back of this figurine suggests it belonged to a composite piece and may have been applied to a portable shrine, casket or other larger object. Allocated as Treasure Trove 51/05 to East Lothian Council. Report by J. Shiels, National Museums of Scotland.

228. ARCHERFIELD ESTATE (NT 406 841). E. Hindmarch of the AOC Archaeology Group undertook an archaeological evaluation, on behalf of the Renaissance Golf Club at Archerfield, in advance of a golf course development. The evaluation identified the remains of up to eight medieval buildings and associated field boundaries, part of the former medieval village of Eldbottle. At least two settlement phases, separated by layers of windblown sand, were observed. What appears to be the earliest phase was dominated by long-house style buildings, one of which contained stone furniture and had settings within the walls for a possible cruck frame. Later buildings by comparison were much larger with only the foundation courses surviving. All building phases were constructed from clay-bonded rubble stonework. Ceramic finds from the site included White Gritty Ware and Green Glazed pottery. Animal bone was also recovered, most of it from overburden, as well as a small assemblage of metalwork. The excavation was limited in its scope in order to support interpretation of the archaeological remains while preserving *in situ* the structures beneath the 16th and 17th holes of the proposed golf course.

229. DIRLETON, MANSE FIELD (NT 8423 5140). A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by C. Hatherley and J. Franklin of Headland Archaeology, for Cala Homes Ltd., prior to the redevelopment of the site. This consisted of trial trenching 5% of the application area. Two undated linear features, possibly representing field or hedge lines, were identified in two of the trenches. No further archaeological features were recovered within the evaluation. The pottery recovered from the topsoil was all White Gritty Ware dating from the 13th/14th centuries. This assemblage probably represents midden disposal from medieval Dirleton.

EAST LOTHIAN

230. DUNBAR, CASTLE PARK (NT 6785 7916). Human remains were uncovered during the excavation of two slot trenches for the replacement of lampposts. This was brought to the attention of East Lothian Council Archaeological Service and Historic Scotland, who requested the hand-sieving of the loose soil from the slot trenches in which the human remains were uncovered and a watching brief on all subsequent groundbreaking work. The watching brief, by M. Kirby of CFA Archaeology Ltd., led to the recovery of two additional fragments of bone. The area is thought to be part of a medieval graveyard.

EDINBURGH CITY

231. At *Edinburgh Old Town* (NT 255 734) a watching brief was carried out by B. Savine of Headland Archaeology Ltd., for GMJV on behalf of Scottish Water Solutions, during the renewal of mains water pipes. Work was focused on the valley to the south of the Castle and the Royal Mile and included Candlemaker Row, Cowgate, Cowgatehead, Grassmarket, Greyfriars Place, Victoria Street and West Bow Street. A series of open cut trenches and smaller interventions were excavated with a mini digger; these have provided some information on the nature and depth of archaeological deposits and structural remains. Parts of walls were encountered at the W. and E. ends of Grassmarket, as well as at the N. end of West Bow Street, all of which appear to be of a fairly typical Late-medieval form and construction. A cobbled road surface was also encountered towards the N. end of West Bow Street. A dark soft silty midden-like deposit was encountered along Cowgate; however, no dating evidence was recovered. All of these deposits and features were overlaid by up to three successive layers of made ground.

232. At the *Edinburgh Tram Scheme, Gogar* (NT 175 727–NT 153 730) a total of 71 archaeological evaluation trenches were opened by D. Sneddon of Glasgow University Research Division, within the construction corridor for the proposed Edinburgh Tram Scheme between Gogar roundabout and Edinburgh Airport. Four trenches revealed potentially significant archaeological remains. Trench 6 uncovered a metallised surface, associated with sherds of medieval pottery potentially dating from the 14th

to 15th centuries. This feature may relate to the medieval village that once occupied the area around Gogar Church. Trench 7 revealed shallow curvilinear ditches, containing sherds of White Gritty Ware pottery, potentially dating from the 12th or 13th centuries. Trench 101, further to the west, uncovered the scant remains of a possible wall foundation of unknown date, while Trench 124 uncovered several possible postholes and pits. The project was sponsored by Transport Initiative Edinburgh and Halcrow Group Ltd.

233. At *Norton House Hotel* (NT 1355 7201) the opening of two machine-excavated test trenches was monitored by D. Sneddon of Glasgow University Research Division, for Hand Picked Hotels Ltd., due to their close proximity to the remains of 12th/13th-century buildings, most likely part of a medieval fermtoun settlement. Trench 2 revealed a layer of cobbles and boulders lying directly on top of the natural clay; the stones were apparently randomly piled in a layer approximately 0.2–0.3 m deep. Three small sherds of 12th/13th-century White Gritty Ware pottery were recovered from among the stones. The purpose and derivation of this deposit remain obscure. The stone layer was seen in section to extend beyond the limits of the trench to the north and south.

234. At the *Palace of Holyroodhouse: the Big Royal Dig* (NT 26 73) documentary research, geophysical survey and excavation were carried out by Kirkdale Archaeology. Large areas of the gardens to the east, south and north of the present palace block were examined via geophysical survey. In the light of these findings and historic map evidence, a total of seven small trenches were excavated over four days. Trench 1 opened a slot across a low earth mound in the E. Garden. The mound was a garden feature constructed over two periods, the earlier ascribed to the mid-16th century. The mound was built over the levelled remains of the N. side of a building within the monastic E. Range, dating from the late 12th century. Trenches 2/3 were laid together and cut across the line of the monastic E. Range and the possible S. Range. Evidence of the conversion of monastic plan into parterre garden over two periods was found, as well as the recycling of the S. range as part of the undercroft of a hall and later part of a parterre design. Trench 4 revealed a large stone-lined drain and associated building of post 1675 garden layout. It overlay infilled monastic features. Trench 5 identified the conjunction of the S. Tower of James IV and the Chancellors Lodging of James V. Evidence was found of the destruction of the latter, possibly in the riots of 1688. In addition, a full 3D survey was completed on the outside elevations of Queen Mary's Bathhouse and the main structural phases were defined, showing its conversion from a defensive, mural tower associated with the late abbey precinct, to a small banqueting house associated with the royal formal gardens to the north and west of the Palace of late 16th century. The project was sponsored by Wildfire Television Ltd.

235. At *St Giles Cathedral* (NT 257 736) L. Scott of the AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief between during the excavation of an area in the W. wing. A 0.4-m wide sandstone wall, 2.6 m long and aligned E.–W. was observed at a depth of 0.5 m in the W. edge of the excavation. Remains of a semi-circular wall, composed of rough unbonded sandstone blocks, were observed at a depth of 0.35 m, 2.1 m east of the W. door. This overlay large, rectangular sandstone foundations in a semi-circular formation. A large pit was excavated in the SW. corner; this contained fragments of moulded masonry, occasional iron nails and a cache of charnel. Archaeological features were also observed in two trenches during external excavations on the W. side of the Cathedral. A sandstone wall was observed in the N. trench, to the east of the Cathedral. This may be the remains of a building, possibly related to the Tolbooth and perhaps contemporary with the construction of the Luckenbooths. It is also likely that this structure was demolished in 1817 during the widening of the High Street. A wall was also observed within the S. trench.

236. At *31–33 Water Street, Leith* (NT 271 764) excavation was carried out by E. Jones and G. Geddes of Headland Archaeology Ltd., on behalf of FairMuir. Evaluation of the site in 2002 had revealed that medieval deposits survived within the warehouse building. Further excavation was therefore required. The present work involved excavation of eighteen foundation pits in the present car park and three trenches inside the warehouse. In addition, the removal of the backfill of twenty-four column bases, and the excavation of two pits inside the hoist shaft within the building, were monitored and recorded.

The results of the excavation give a picture of the development of Water Street from the medieval period onwards. The earliest phase comprised backland middens, possibly relating to Quality

Street burgage plots, before the insertion of Water Street/Rotten Row. A number of small backlands buildings were then constructed, before going out of use, possibly when the streetscape was remodelled to allow for the insertion of a back lane (Water Street) in the 14th century. While there was no evidence for the early development of the Water Street frontage in the way of wooden structures, there were a number of possible medieval walls on the site, giving evidence for the development of the street frontage from the 15th century. No such structures were evident beneath the warehouse, suggesting that this part of the site may have remained undeveloped until later, or that later deposits had been truncated.

FALKIRK

237. CARRIDEN (NT 03 80). A gold annular brooch with engraved inscriptions on both sides was recovered through metal detecting. It is complete with intact pin and has the following dimensions: Dia: 26 mm, Th: 1.5 mm, Wt 2 g. The brooch has a flattened slightly sub-circular frame, and a tapering pin which is hammered flat at the tip. This brooch, in common with the Doune brooch in the National Museums of Scotland, bears an inscription in keeping with contemporary medieval notions of courtly love. A common practice in the medieval period was to melt down precious metal coinage to make into jewellery, as this was the most readily available source of bullion. Analysis of the brooch indicates a gold content of only 61 %. The brooch is likely to have been a casual loss at some point shortly after its manufacture, being in fine condition with little sign of wear. The inscription has been translated from the Anglo-Norman French by Philip Bennet and reads:

Front: + OR ME NE (mistakenly inverted for NE ME) VBLIE NI DEV = ‘don’t forget me or God’

Back: + JE SVI : ICI EN LV DE AMI = ‘I am here in place of a lover’

The inscription suggests an early 14th-century date although the form of ‘sui’ survives into the 15th century. The person commissioning the brooch and the person receiving it were likely to be speakers and readers of Anglo-Norman French and a date in the early 1300’s would be likely, after which a ‘classy’ Continental French inscription might be more likely. Allocated as Treasure Trove 2/06 to the National Museums of Scotland. Report by J. Shiels and P. Bennet.

FIFE

238. WEMYSS ESTATE (NT 320 958). An archaeological evaluation was carried out by J. Gooder of the AOC Archaeology Group undertook an AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of Savills, on an area subject to a proposed residential development within the Wemyss Estate, on the N. side of Coaltown of Wemyss. Trial trenching totalling 2,370 sq m over 4.6 ha of former farmland recorded significant medieval features relating to a pottery kiln site dating from the 13th and early 14th centuries. Nearly all the pottery (457 sherds) from this site comprised Scottish White Gritty fabric in a range of vessel forms. Fragments of kiln props and the upper kiln structure were recovered.

HIGHLAND

239. GAIRLOCH, A832 ACHNASHEEN TO KINLOCHEWE ROAD UPGRADE. PHASE 3: GLEN DOCHERTY VIEWPOINT TO KINLOCHEWE. Post-excavation analysis was carried out by S. Hickman on samples collected during the evaluation of two sites; a scoop site close to Glen Docherty Burn (NH 0577 6017) and a kiln-and-hollow site near Kinlochewe (NH 0367 6182). Magnetic susceptibility analysis revealed that burning had occurred *in situ* at the scoop site and the kiln site but not in the hollow. Radiocarbon dates obtained for the scoop site date it to the 15th–17th centuries, while dates for the hollow indicate it was in use during the 14th–15th centuries. Analysis of the archaeobotanical remains from the bases of all features revealed roundwood charcoal. The charcoal was predominantly from hazel and birch with some pine and vitrified wood. The post-excavation process has allowed conclusions to be drawn on the function and date of these features. The scoop site was used for charcoal burning which in turn would have been used in the numerous small-scale industries in this area. The kiln was used for burning lime, which would probably have been used in agriculture as a soil fixer. The hollow was used as a receptacle

for burnt lime from the kiln after it had been fired. The work was sponsored by the Highland Council, Transport, Environmental and Community Services

240. CASTLE SINCLAIR GIRNIGOE (ND 378 549). The 2006 season completed the archaeological excavation of the West Range and courtyard, carried out by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd. A programme of Public Archaeology, sponsored by the Clan Sinclair Trust, involved further excavation in the area of the West Barbican (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 377-8). Work continued in the West Range, and saw the complete excavation of rubble deposits from the room previously identified as the Porter's Lodge. The Outer Bailey courtyard was fully excavated, and the natural bedrock surface exposed. The slate bedrock naturally breaks down into gravel after continued exposure, which is likely to have provided the original ground surface. Work within the Courtyard provided new information on structural arrangements around the North and West Ranges. Evidence for pad stones provided further evidence for timber posts, which would have supported a first-floor gallery, accessed via a stone staircase, which has now been fully exposed in the N. corner of the courtyard.

The excavation of a larger area over the West Barbican by volunteers exposed a sequence of stone-built features. A drystone boundary wall of post-medieval date was encountered, running around the external edge of the dry moat. This overlay a stone slab pathway, which sloped into the dry moat itself; this feature has also been assigned a post-medieval date, and may have been installed by fishermen to provide access to the shore. The path had cut into a stone wall, running roughly N.-S., which has been interpreted as structural evidence relating to the West Barbican. Associated occupation deposits abutting the wall were defined but not excavated. Excavations at Castle Sinclair Girnigoe have produced a large quantity of architectural stone, primarily red sandstone detail from oriel windows, which has now been recorded. Post-excavation work is ongoing.

241. PORTMAHOMACK, ST COLMAN'S CHURCH (NH 914 839). Five further seasons of archaeological excavation have been undertaken at the site of St Colman's Church, under the direction of M. Carver, University of York, and C. Spall of Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 48 (2004), 1-30). The Tarbat Discovery Programme, focused on the investigation of an Early-medieval ecclesiastical centre at Portmahomack, is carried out as a partnership between Tarbat Historic Trust, Highland Council and the University of York (Department of Archaeology). The work has been sponsored by the National Museums of Scotland, Historic Scotland, Ross and Cromarty Enterprise and the University of York.

Tarbat Discovery Programme 1

The 2002 to 2004 seasons saw the completion of the S. area of excavation, specifically the investigation of a 'bag-shaped' building and associated features. A radiocarbon date from the hearth of the building returned a date in the 18th century, and a nearby structure, reported previously as a souterrain, was revealed to be a wood-lined well. Between 2003 and 2005, the investigations of the layout and character of the craft-working area to the north of the site continued. During the 2003 season, the central road was found to have been flanked by a stone-built flue and culvert, associated with a succession of large roadside ditches. To the east of the road, evidence for non-ferrous metalworking was revealed in the form of clay- and stone-built hearths, associated with an assemblage of crucibles, moulds, metal droplets and stone tools. The craft-working area is situated on a terrace adjacent to the mill dam, and evidence for a burnt wattle revetment, associated with a site-wide fire, was excavated. Stratigraphic evidence suggested that metalworking had occurred both before and after the major episode of burning across the craft-working zone.

To the west of the road, work continued in the leather-working area, and in 2005, the remains of a turf-and-timber structure with associated yard and tanning area were defined. A stone-built hearth was excavated inside the structure, and thought to relate to leatherworking. In the N. part of the craft-working zone, excavation of a rectangular feature revealed a long cist, containing the well-preserved remains of an adult male, orientated W.-E.

Tarbat Discovery Programme 2

The 2006 season concentrated on the N. zone of Sector 2, being the area closest to the churchyard of St Colman's Church. Investigation of a leather-working building (Structure 9), identified in 2005, continued and several postholes were identified and excavated as well as the final excavation and recording of the building's central hearth. A possible threshold of layered linear sandstone slabs was

identified, suggesting an entrance from the north-east. The threshold was associated with an area of metallated surface, kerbed with small Old Red Sandstone detail.

To the south of Structure 9, work continued to concentrate on the excavation of two roadside ditches and associated features. To the west, a stone baffle had been set into the terminus of the W. ditch, which had been disused by dumping of ash deposits to level the area. To the east, the earliest form of the roadside ditch was achieved and consisted of a broad shouldered ditch with a vertical-sided slot in the base filled with cobbles to aid drainage. This issued into a small stone-lined cistern set slightly to the east of the ditch, but with connecting gully. To the east a precursor of the E. drainage system was identified and will be the subject of investigation during 2007.

Further to the east of the road system two features were identified and excavated. The first, an earthen bank with boulder core was excavated and appeared to delineate an area to the west used for butchery, and a further area of possible leather-working to the east. The second, a large well-like feature, was partially excavated and appeared to be wood-lined. The feature was associated with an area of paved hard standing and was associated with a pumice rubber, a small iron knife and various skin burnishing or smoothing stones.

The project archive is currently in the care of the Department of Archaeology, University of York, the National Museums of Scotland and Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, York. All finds are reported to the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel, and all excavated material has been awarded to the National Museums of Scotland. Data Structure Reports for 2003, 2004 and 2005 have been deposited with the NMR and with Historic Scotland, and can be found online at www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/staff/sites/tarbat

242. RESOLIS, KIRKMICHAEL CHURCH (NH 705 658). Kirkmichael is a partly ruined and shortened church with possible origins in the 15th or 16th centuries. Ongoing works by G. Geddes of Headland Archaeology Ltd., for the Kirkmichael Trust, are aimed at informing a conservation strategy that will save the building from collapse. The present phase of work was concerned with interrogating the nave east gable and chancel for evidence of roofing. The chancel of Kirkmichael, possibly dating from A.D. 1500 and now an unroofed mausoleum, was almost certainly roofed during the early history of the building; evidence for this is plain in the detail of the E. gable, the side walls and internal finishes. The nave E. gable is uniformly sneck-harled with a shell-rich rough lime-based mixture, showing no evidence of an early abutting roof. The harl extends across the blocked doorway that formerly provided access between the nave and chancel. 18th-century burial monuments are set into this finish suggesting that the chancel was blocked off and unroofed around this time

243. SKEABOST ISLAND (NG 4182 4850). A topographic survey of the bishop's seat of Skeabost Island in the river Snizort was undertaken by S. Thomas. There were two elements to this survey: a total station survey of the entire island and a 1:200 scale plan of the cathedral. Interpretation of the remains of the structure of the cathedral is complicated by later burial enclosures; however, it appears to have a S. transept and there may have been structures on the exterior of the N. wall. Although there is little visible evidence for other buildings, the mounds, on which the Nicolson Aisle and the MacQueen enclosure (at the W. and E. ends of the island respectively) sit, suggest continuity of occupation. The project was sponsored by the Carnegie Trust, and the University of Glasgow's Faculty of Arts Graduate School Research Support Fund.

MIDLOTHIAN

244. CAKEMUIR CASTLE (NT 4118 5911). Cakemuir Castle is a 16th-century tower house with later additions forming an L-shaped plan. Prior to the erection of a new extension, a standing building survey of the domestic west-facing elevation, carried out by M. Cressey of CFA Archaeology Ltd. for Mr R. Douglas-Miller, recorded blocked windows and building fabric.

245. COUSLAND CASTLE (NT 377 683). An area of ground resistance survey was carried out by H. M. D. Jones over a levelled field to the west of Cousland Castle. The castle, a possible tower house, stands to the south of Cousland village some 60 m to the east of a small road that runs south to join the A68. A large stone wall runs for over 100 m north beside this road before turning through a right angle to butt on to the side of the castle; the wall effectively encloses the surveyed area. Seven 20 x 20 m squares were

surveyed and the printout showed high- and low-resistance lines adjacent to the castle, suggesting an extension or outbuildings to its west. Slight high and low resistance lines run parallel with the W. wall and, as there are socket holes in the wall, could indicate a lean-to structure. The Squares to the south showed strong high- and low-resistance amorphous shapes possibly indicating limestone bedrock. One sharply angled low resistance could be an infilled limestone extraction pit. Further survey is planned to take place in 2007. The project is sponsored by D. Connolly, the British Archaeological Jobs Resource, Cousland Historical Society and the Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society.

246. WALLYFORD SETTLEMENT EXPANSION PROJECT (NT 371 725). In 2005, C. O'Connell and S. Anderson of CFA Archaeology Ltd. carried out an evaluation for Miller Homes Ltd., in advance of development. A 7.5 % archaeological evaluation within a 50 m corridor around the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Results suggest that the area has been heavily mined for coal, with both large backfilled pits or possible mine shafts, and sandstone and brick-built structures to the east and west of the SAM, and ridge-and-furrow to the south. In 2006, a metal-detecting and fieldwalking survey was carried out over three fields south of the site of the Battle of Pinkie. All finds, including those potentially associated with the battle and any significant earlier or later artefacts were recovered. The majority of finds recovered were domestic and agricultural waste dating from the 18th–20th centuries. Two objects, however, may be Late-medieval and therefore broadly contemporaneous with the Battle of Pinkie; these were a star-shaped mount and a possible lead token.

MORAY

247. BIRNIE (NJ 210 585). Work, led by F. Hunter of the National Museums of Scotland, continued on the Iron-age and medieval site at Birnie (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 49 (2005), 449), with four trenches being opened. A trench first examined in 2000 (*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (2000), 59) was reopened to excavate what was thought to be a medieval building. This proved more complex than expected; the enlarged trench revealed a large ring-ditch house, which had been suggested by aerial photographs. This was overlain by later activity, badly damaged by ploughing, and in turn overlay a series of deep pits and slots, including a possible timber-lined souterrain. Physically within the house was a clay-built iron-smelting furnace of two phases, but no stratigraphic connection can yet be proven. More work is planned here in 2007 to resolve the sequence.

The fourth trench investigated a cobbled surface with evidence of iron-working (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 48 (2004), 327). This proved to be two consecutive stone-built iron-smelting furnaces, the latter with the collapsed clay superstructure within. There was evidence of a stake-built enclosure around it. Charcoal-rich deposits, probably connected with this, had slumped into the upper fills of a series of features, which are probably much earlier, and formed no coherent pattern; one produced a saddle quern and grinder. In the SW. corner of the trench one of a series of postholes, perhaps from a four-post structure, contained an iron projecting ring-headed pin. Further metal-detecting produced a copper-alloy projecting ring-headed pin with unusual knobbed decoration, a medieval buckle and the copper-alloy hoop of a Pictish brooch-pin of 8th/9th-century date; its form resembles the dragon-headed terminals known from the St Ninian's Isle hoard. Excavations are planned to continue in 2007.

The project is sponsored by the National Museums of Scotland, Historic Scotland, Ian Keillar, Moray Society and the Moray Field Club.

NORTH AYRSHIRE

248. BRODICK CASTLE (NS 0155 3786). The castle, partly medieval and early post-medieval, and partly a baronial country house of the 1840s and later, was the principal fortress and residence of the Earls of Arran, later Dukes of Hamilton, and Duke of Montrose in the Isle of Arran. A systematic analytical survey and record of this ninety-room structure was carried out by T. Addyman of Addyman Archaeology, in conjunction with D. Alexander, National Trust of Scotland Archaeologist. The project was sponsored by the National Trust of Scotland.

The fabric analysis confirmed an extremely complex and convoluted history and evolution. The origin of the structure was considered to be the mid- to late 13th century, perhaps c. 1260–65 as

suggested by the historical study. In contrast to the slightly earlier Lochranza Castle at the N. end of the island, which displays many of the attributes of early stone castle building of the W. seaboard, Brodick appears firmly associated with the mainland castle building tradition of the kingdom of Scotland – with details comparable to sites such as Bothwell, the secondary phase of works at Skipness, Loch Doon Castle, and others. The early castle seems to have consisted of a rectangular wall of enclosure bounded to the north and north-west at least by a rock-cut ditch. The S. and E. walls remain; the N. wall survived into the mid-19th century. The enclosure wall was pierced by a simple principal entrance to the east that was flanked on its N. side by a substantial round tower. The remains of the latter preserve a solitary fish-tail crosslet arrow loop (recorded by the RCAHMS in 1977); the N. side of this tower was depicted in 1844, just before its removal. It is likely that the lower E. part of the principal range of the castle was the site of the main accommodation and may still incorporate the remains of a principal hall over a basement level. This block was accessed at its NE. corner by the existing substantial turnpike stair.

The first major addition was a massively constructed barbican built against the enclosure wall entrance. The remains of this feature are now substantially truncated to the east. The surviving details of the barbican, including deeply chamfered arch ribs, suggest that this too is of early date, perhaps of the later 13th or 14th centuries. There was evidence recorded for extensive physical damage to this earlier castle in a number of areas, particularly to the SE. and E. exterior. Evidently as a consequence of this damage the pre-existing buildings saw major repair and the replacement of the exterior masonry skin in a number of areas; this work was associated with the provision of wide-mouthed gun loops. Much of the upper part of the castle was reconstructed at this stage, with the existing corbelled battlements, saddle and trough parapets, bartizans and crow-stepped garrets – all suggesting a mid-16th-century date. The ground floor vaults in the main block are likely to have been inserted at this stage. The substantially constructed pine roof of the principal block seems also to be of this period.

The E. end of the barbican was reduced and the structure rebuilt in the form of a gatehouse. The early round tower was reduced to two stories and its W. side and new upper levels built on a rectangular plan – a new N.–S. aligned range that extended back behind the gatehouse and incorporated an additional pend behind the original entrance. Subsequent works included the addition of the existing ‘Cromwellian battery’ to the E. end of the gatehouse. It seems that the vaulted interior of this structure may be secondary to the outer walling.

The principal block of the castle was doubled in length by an extension to the west; much of its roof structure is still remaining, but of much less substantial construction than the earlier one to the east. This work may or may not be associated with a Cromwellian occupation. The crow-stepped upper storey of the gatehouse may also have been added at this stage.

249. DALRY, SWINLEES QUARRY (NS 2848 5297). In advance of extraction, a programme of archaeological investigative works was undertaken by R. Shaw, S. Macleod and A. Gow of Rathmell Archaeology Ltd., for ASH on behalf of Barr Ltd. The intrusive evaluation comprised forty four trenches covering 10 % of the accessible ground; roughly 7 % of the total extraction area. Seventeen trenches contained evidence of furrows, these trenches encompassed three visible blocks of ridge-and-furrow. The combination of these field system features all lay within the first 100 m from the break of slope at the NE. side of the extraction area.

ORKNEY

250. BURRAY, THE BU SANDS (ND 485 970). An archaeological evaluation was conducted by J. Robertson and P. Sharman of the Orkney Archaeological Trust, on behalf of Mr W. Dass, as part of the conditions for a planning application for sand extraction. The evaluation comprised a desk-based assessment, walkover survey and an intrusive evaluation of 10 % of the proposed extraction area. The work was required because the Bu of Burray and the dune links around it are potentially historically and archaeologically sensitive: the Bu of Burray is a B-listed farmhouse built c. 1800 on the site of a 17th-century mansion; the Bu of Burray was also one of the principal bordland properties of the Earls of Orkney, indicating the potential for a high-status Norse site in the area. In 2005, human remains were recovered on the N. edge of the development area, associated with walls that appeared to be Norse or earlier in date. The intrusive evaluation revealed a concentration of walls and deposits in the N. part of the development area that are likely to have been associated with the remains. It is proposed that this area will be avoided by the development. In the SE. part of the site, a worn flagstone paving and part of a wall

was revealed at the top of a dune. Down the side of the dune, midden-derived deposits were revealed that contained some vitreous slag, burnt bone and two sherds of grass-tempered pottery that are probably Norse in date. It is proposed that this area will also be avoided by the development.

251. *BIRSAY-SKAILL Landscape Archaeology Project* (HY 236 196). This research project, concerned with building landscape context for coastal erosive areas in zones affected by significant wind-blown sand, continued under the direction of D. Griffiths of Oxford University. Previous survey in 2003, 2004 and 2005 at the Bay of Skail was concentrated on N. bay environs, focused on the mound on the N. side of the bay known as the 'Castle of Snusgar', the probable site of the 1858 Skail Viking silver hoard, and since 2005 on the neighbouring sandy mound some 60 m to the East. Gradiometry showed a dense concentration of magnetic anomalies in the Snusgar mound and neighbouring mounds. These have since been further tested with resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar through research collaboration with Orkney College Geophysics Unit, work which is continuing. The concentration of multi-period 'mound' sites around the north of the Bay can now be expanded from one to at least five foci, excluding the Broch of Verron (HY21NW22).

The continuation of the 30 x 5 m Snusgar excavation area, opened in 2005 on the SE. flank of the mound (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 379-80), revealed the full extent of the complex stratigraphic sequence of midden/wind-blown sand, which is suggested to relate to the Snusgar mound's role as a major settlement focus. These layers range in date from modern/post-medieval through the Viking period and potentially to the Iron Age. They had been deliberately laid and stabilised with stone revetting; clear evidence for ploughmarks was also noted within the sequence and these were sampled by Dr H. Lewis of UCDublin for soil micromorphological analysis. A series of OSL samples were also taken by the Oxford Research Laboratory for Archaeology. This work completed the purpose of the trench as a recording opportunity for vertical stratigraphy. As ongoing post-excavation analysis continues, the build-up of laminated midden deposits promises to reveal an informative insight into the long-term sequence of environmental adaptation within this sand-influenced landscape.

The trench on a mound 60 m to the east, begun in 2005, revealed Viking- or Norse-period middens stratified over a substantially well-preserved stone building with *in-situ* orthostatic internal divisions or 'furniture'. This had filled with windblown sand and was only partly cleared in the time available. The trench was extended in 2006, revealing coherent and well-preserved stone building walls with internal subdivisions. This set of structures resolved itself into two phases: a substantial N.-S. rectilinear set of walls overlies a partly demolished and robbed earlier building which is oriented E.-W., the lower of the two phases showing evidence for a bow-sided plan. OSL and radiocarbon dating is planned, but the stratified finds, which included a ringed pin, blue glass bead, comb fragments, steatite, a spindle whorl and metalworking slag, strongly indicated that both phases fall within the Viking-Norse periods. A hearth was found, although only partly exposed. Further concluding excavation work on this group of structures is planned for 2007.

Environmental preservation was good and a range of animal and fish bone was retrieved from both trenches, which will provide an interestingly contrasting sample; animal bone and marine shell are currently being assessed by Dr I. Mainland, Bradford University. Environmental samples were floated and processed on site and are being assessed for archaeobotanical evidence and radiocarbon potential by Dr D. Aldritt, GUARD, Glasgow. Dr R. Nicholson of Oxford Archaeology is working on the fish bones, and Dr A. Forster of Birmingham Archaeology has begun work to report on the steatite. The finds are being conserved on behalf of Historic Scotland by AOC Conservation Services, Edinburgh. The project was sponsored by Historic Scotland and Oxford University.

252. *DOUNBY, QUILCO* (HY 295 210). S. Ovenden of the Orkney College Geophysics Unit undertook a gradiometer survey over an area of just under 1 ha covering the entire proposed development area and the scheduled burnt mounds. The survey was commissioned by Bracewell Stirling Architects, on behalf of Orkney Housing Association, as part of an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development. As well as confirming the presence of burnt material within the burnt mounds, the gradiometer survey has highlighted a number of more ephemeral magnetic anomalies outside of the scheduled area that may be of archaeological significance. The survey has also highlighted areas of ridge-and-furrow ploughing. As ploughing itself does not magnetically enhance the soil, this suggests that these ploughing anomalies may be visible because they have disturbed magnetically enhanced material, possibly of archaeological origin.

253. GREEN, EDAY (HY 569 290). J. Moore of the Orkney College Geophysics Unit carried out a gradiometer survey after the landowner, Mr P. Mason, had alerted Orkney Archaeological Trust that ploughing had revealed a scatter of material of apparent archaeological interest, including worked flint and a Neolithic polished macehead. The survey highlighted ridge-and-furrow ploughing, visible as a result of disturbing magnetically enhanced material of archaeological origin. This suggests that the site continues to be actively eroded by agricultural practice.

PERTH AND KINROSS

254. KINNESSWOOD FARM (NO 171 030). Metal detecting by Mr J. Crombie, Lochgelly, recovered three medieval coins. They have been identified by N. Holmes, National Museums of Scotland, as a Late-medieval copper-alloy French double tournois (very corroded but with fleur-de-lys visible); a fragment of a James III silver groat, minted in Edinburgh 1484-9 (it was possibly illegally cut in the medieval period for use as a penny – it is a neat cut respecting two of the arms of the long cross on the reverse; it weighs 0.69 g); and a William I, ‘the Lion’, silver cut halfpenny (third coinage, 1195–c. 1205). Three letters of the reverse inscription survive, WAL, indicating the name Walter, the king’s moneyer in Perth (but who also worked with Edinburgh moneyers). The reverse design of a voided short cross with stars in the quarter angles is clearly visible. Weight 0.79g. Report by M. Hall, Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

255. ORWELL FARM (NO 14 03). Metal detecting by Mr J. Crombie, Lochgelly, recovered four items of medieval metalwork, comprising two spindle whorls, a buckle frame and a dress pin. The two lead spindle whorls are of biconical form (diam. 34 and 33mm respectively) and both are decorated with relief-cast zig-zag patterning; the slightly larger one additionally has pellets. Such whorls are typically dated to the 14th–16th centuries. The buckle frame is a fragment (34 mm long) of a single-looped 13th/14th-century copper-alloy buckle frame, decorated with three sets of three transverse incisions. The fourth item is a 14th-century copper-alloy dress pin with a solid, slightly swollen, domed head. It measures 73.9 mm in length and is bent at approximately ninety degrees, around a third of the way up the shaft from the point. The finds were declared Treasure Trove and allocated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery. Report by M. Hall, Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

PERTH

256. At the *Fair Maid’s House, North Port* (NO 118 238) an archaeological evaluation carried out in advance of an extension, by A. Curtis of CFA Archaeology Ltd., identified the remains of the original rear wall of the building. A possible medieval ditch of unknown purpose and the remains of a wall foundation that may pre-date the current property boundary were identified, and an assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery and other finds was collected.

257. WESTER GREENSIDE FARM (NO 203 173). Metal detecting by Mr J. Laing, Carnoustie, in 2005 recovered the solid cast copper-alloy loop element of a two-piece strap end or book clasp; the hinged double-sided plate element is missing. The plate would have been riveted to a leather strap end, attached to the loop via the bar that survives intact on this example. The clasp measures 38 mm (l) x 30 mm (w) x 5.7 mm (th); weight 16.46 g. Typically such clasps were used to fasten leather straps on books. The central hole in the body of the clasp was for a rivet, which would have secured the clasp to the cover of a book. Projecting at 90 degrees from the clasp is a small animal headed hook, broken. This rather delicate hook element, clearly prone to snap, may have been used for attaching cords to provide purchase during the opening and closing of the book. A date range of the 14th–16th centuries is consistent with excavated examples of such clasps. Though known from predominantly ecclesiastical sites they do occur on secular sites. The find spot of this example suggests a probable association with the nearby monastic centre of Abernethy, active between the 7th and 16th centuries. A significant corpus of Early-medieval sculpture from Abernethy testifies to its importance in the late first millennium A.D. The book clasp adds to the growing body of metalwork finds, including an 8th/9th-century gilt mount (also from Wester Greenside), a 10th- to 12th-century zoomorphic penannular ring, a possible zoomorphic stylus terminal of 12th/13th-century date and several harness pendants, recovered from the vicinity of Abernethy and contributing to

our understanding of the monastery and its immediate hinterland. The clasp was declared Treasure Trove and allocated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery. Report by M. Hall, Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

RENFREWSHIRE

258. KILBARCHAN, 27 CHURCH STREET (NS 401 631). P. Ray of the AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for a rear extension. The watching brief was required due to the location of a former chapel, dedicated to St Catherine, in the cemetery of the parish church on land immediately adjacent to the proposed development site. The foundation trenches were 1 m deep and revealed modern disturbance. A medieval/Post-medieval stone double-arched window casing was recovered. No other archaeological features or artefacts were found.

THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

259. BORDERS GAS PIPELINE REINFORCEMENT (NT 513 460). A watching brief was maintained by A. Dutton of Headland Archaeology Ltd., for J. Murphy and Sons Ltd., during the stripping of turf and topsoil along the course of a replacement gas pipeline to the west of Lauder. Several areas of previously unrecorded ridge-and-furrow cultivation were mapped.

260. DRYBURGH ABBEY (NT 591 316). Ahead of the installation of a new drainage system, D. Murray of Kirkdale Archaeology carried out excavation of an area on the N., E. and S. sides of the Chapter House, within the E. Range of the Abbey Cloister. The area was up to 5 m wide and extended up to the face of the Chapter House masonry. This initial area was intended to be extended to the south as far as the monastic ditch, a distance of 38 m. In the light of the discovery of an earlier stone-lined and capped drain running around the footprint of the Chapter House, it was decided to expose this feature, empty it and reuse it. Excavation to the south was not continued, as the recycled drain now emptied into a soakaway, located 8.8 m south of the S. wall. The base of the early drain proved to be up to 2 m below present ground level and was in a cut up to 2 m wide. It had been exposed at least once before and was cut against surfaces associated with the revision of the E. Range after the late 14th century. The drain probably represents an early attempt to keep water away from the Chapter House and is seen at present as a late monastic feature. The drain had been carefully aligned to avoid disturbing up to 15 graves but cut through fragments of, as yet undated,) clay-bonded masonry immediately east of the SE. corner of the Chapter House. The work was sponsored by Historic Scotland.

261. DUNS, BLACK HILL WIND FARM (NT 7299 5613). An archaeological watching brief was carried out by V. Clements of the AOC Archaeology Group, for Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Ltd., on the groundbreaking works within areas of archaeological interest. One area of significant ridge-and-furrow cultivation was observed during the excavation of an access track and at the location of one turbine foundation. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

262. EDDLESTON (NT 2175 4635). Walkover survey by R. D. Knox of Peebleshire Archaeological Society, sponsored by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, identified ridge-and-furrow cultivation.

263. SPROUSTON (NT 757 353). R. Heawood of Abercorn Archaeology LLP, on behalf of Tweed Homes Ltd., excavated eighteen trenches on three proposed housing sites around Sprouston village. Walls of the former steading fronting the S. side of Dean Road were recorded, and medieval pits, ditches, and a small stone-founded structure were excavated within two open areas located between Calvin Cottage and the railway.

SHETLAND

264. NORSE FARMSTEADS SURVEY. Ongoing survey of potential Norse farmsteads was carried out by L.H. Smith (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 387-89). Structures are rectangular and aligned down slope:

HP 6193 1249. Watquoy 1: 18 x 8 m overall N.–S. Mound with N.–S. dyke over centre of structure.

HP 6220 1257. Watquoy 2. 18.5 x 5.7 m internally NE.–SW. Fragmentary walls. Enclosure attached to upper end.

HP 5727 0238. Garden. 27 x 6 m overall NE.–SW. Ruined croft house built over upper east of structure on same alignment, and outbuildings built over lower end. Norse wall and upper corner visible to the west.

HP5696 0196. Snarravoe. 19 x 6 m overall NW.–SE. Poorly defined. Side room on lower E. side. Detached outbuilding 3.5 x 3.5 m overall north-east of upper end. Drains leading south-west and east from upper end. A 30-m diameter mound on top of high ground 100 m to the north could be an unrecorded broch site (HP 5695 0203).

HP 6165 0262. Loch of Sandwick. 18.5 x 5 m internally NW.–SE. Fragmentary walls. Side rooms on upper W. and lower E. sides.

HP 6169 0207. Sandwick South West. 12 x 4 m internally NE.–SW. Narrow opening at lower end with 12 m wall connected to guide animals in.

HP 5643 0310. Vigga Mounds. Four mounds within 50 x 20 m rectangle with topsoil removed; three adjoining (6 x 3.5, 7 x 4, 6.5 x 3 m), other 5 x 2.5 m. Similar mounds in the area suggest pagan graves of simple earth mounds.

265. OLD SCATNESS / JARLSHOF ENVIRONS PROJECT (HU 390 111). Excavation of the Old Scatness settlement, begun in 1995, continued under S. J. Dockrill, J. M. Bond, V. E. Turner, J. E. Cussans, D. Bashford and L. D. Brown. Work in 2006 included an extension by a further 84 sq m to the excavated area to the north-west of the broch (Structure 21). The first deposits encountered related to the croft house (Structure 3) excavated in 2003. A pathway made of angular stones set on edge butted the exterior wall of the building on the S. side and a yard wall butted the NW. corner of the structure. At the W. end of the trench, partially sealed by the yard wall and path, walling was uncovered which formed the end of a rectangular structure. Within the centre of this structure a linear drain feature, aligned E.–W. and running down slope, was excavated.

Structure 3 and its associated post-medieval deposits sealed a Pictish multi-cellular complex. Against the N. edge of the trench a small cell with corbelled walls was excavated to a depth of 0.5 m. To the east the cell joined a wall, which appeared to form the entranceway to a large circular structure. A secondary entrance was identified to the south, giving access into Structure 13. There were two further cells positioned at either side of this entrance. The W. cell appeared to be slightly corbelled; the E. cell, uncovered in 2003, had a basal course of orthostats with coursed walling built on top. This E. cell is thought to be a later addition to the complex. The two cells lead into a third (Structure 13; excavated in 1998) comprising a small oval cell with a series of aumbries built into its wall. On its W. side, the wall linking the third cell to the complex is only partially visible and it is possible that a fourth cell exists, though only further excavation will be able to answer this.

While inspecting the section edge for stability, a further corbelled cell was identified adjacent to the broch wall. It is possible that this structure is complete, or nearly so. A similar corbelled cell (Structure 24) was excavated in 2000 (*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (2000), 79-81). Structure 24 had been infilled from the open roof before being recapped and it is thought that the corbelled cell identified in the section was similarly infilled and capped. The two cells are less than 5 m apart and may at one time have been linked; however, further excavation to confirm this is unlikely for safety reasons. The project was sponsored by the Shetland Amenity Trust, the Shetland Development Trust, Shetland Islands Council and the University of Bradford.

266. VIKING UNST PROJECT: HAMAR (HP 646 093) AND BELMONT (HP 568 007). Excavation and survey was carried out by J. M. Bond of the University of Bradford, A.-C. Larsen of The Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde and V. E. Turner of the Shetland Amenity Trust. The Viking Unst Project is a collaborative venture between the Shetland Amenity Trust and the University of Copenhagen, aiming to investigate Shetland's Viking past through excavation and topographical survey, including place-name and artefact studies. A preliminary year (1996), funded by the Shetland Amenity Trust, the Shetland Enterprise Company, Historic Scotland and the University of Copenhagen, led to the identification of 30 possible Viking house sites on Unst. Three of these sites have subsequently been investigated by the

Universities of Glasgow and Copenhagen, revealing well-preserved remains and numerous Norse artefacts. Since 1998, A-C. Larsen has been carrying out survey work looking at possible Viking and Norse-period maritime remains on the island, while V. Turner has recorded the multi-period landscape around a group of Viking-age house sites and stone settings. For further information visit www.shetland-heritage.co.uk/amenitytrust/archaeology/unst

Hamar

Excavation of the site of Hamar followed on from preliminary assessment of the site. Previous work had included the excavation of a small trial trench within the upper room of this late Norse house, carried out in 1995. The aim of the 2006 excavation was to fully excavate the structure in order to provide an understanding of the use of the site, both in terms of the cultural and economic evidence recovered. The preliminary excavation of the structure revealed a sub-rectangular building divided internally into an upper and lower room, aligned roughly N.–S. downslope on a small terrace; the upper room was approximately a third of the total area of the structure (**Fig. 42**). Two small doorways were identified, linking the upper and lower rooms, and the lower room to the external area on the S. side. It is not yet clear if the structure was composed of turf and timber elements or built entirely of stone, as there were no signs of a slumped turf deposit and only a minimal spread of tumbled stone. A remnant of double-faced walling excavated on the W. wall was interpreted as part of a later addition to the structure. A fragment of a well-carved steatite vessel was found within the core of this extension wall.

This season, the excavation of the interior of the structure focussed on defining the ground plan of the building and understanding its later history and its relationship with the original ground surface. Excavation showed extensive rabbit damage around and in the walls but very little in the way of later deposits. There seems to be little soil development or slump on and around the walls and the surrounding area, and it is possible the whole site has been disturbed at some point in the past, perhaps scalped for turf. The wall dividing the upper room from the rest of the structure was shown to have been rebuilt, blocking an original doorway between the two rooms and perhaps turning this upper area into a later planticrub or enclosure. At some point and perhaps associated with this later blocking, a large roughly made entrance had been created in the E. long wall.

Excavation of the deposits enclosed within the upper room indicated some later post-medieval disturbance and located the extent of Stummann Hansen's trial trench, which was re-excavated. The bottom of this trench revealed *in-situ* ashy deposits interpreted as occupation surfaces, from which a fragment of a steatite vessel was recovered. This upper room appears to have been cut into the hill, as it is considerably lower than the bedrock surrounding the outer walls. Further excavation next season should resolve this issue. The re-excavation of this trench demonstrated that the floor surfaces survive and will therefore be extensively sampled for environmental, dating, and scientific analysis in the 2007 excavation season. A small sondage was excavated at the lower end of the building in order to investigate the depositional sequence there, which appeared largely sterile. This sondage confirmed that there were no substantial ashy or organic deposits within this end of the structure but also revealed an intriguing feature which may be natural or may be a rock-cut drain or gully; more extensive excavation next year will resolve this.

Excavation around the structure revealed little in the way of contemporary deposits, in part due to extensive rabbit burrowing but also due to extremely thin and undeveloped topsoil, perhaps partly the result of stripping activities in the past. No midden or yard deposits were located. A small trench excavated on the upslope side of the structure, and extending away from the back wall, revealed what seems to be a small drainage ditch or soakaway cut into the bedrock and following the curve of the back wall, presumably to prevent hillwash seeping through into the upper room. In contrast, the downslope areas of external wall seemed to be built directly onto the bedrock and worn areas of bedrock immediately outside the S. entrance showed that it had been exposed in the past, presumably when the building was in use. The deposits closest to the end wall seem to be a little deeper and will be investigated next season. A number of artefacts were recorded from this area, including fragments of metal and steatite. Patches of anaerobically-preserved material in cracks in the bedrock suggest that environmental remains may be recovered from these areas and more extensive sampling here and in the soakaway will take place next season. A number of test pits were investigated around the immediate area of the structure with the aim of trying to locate contemporary soils or middens. No midden has yet been located, but samples have been taken for further study.

Belmont

The settlement is located on a westward-facing slope consisting of marginal hill grazing at around 60 m OD. A small stream runs through the site. The Norse settlement is aligned downslope and is part of a multi-period complex. Excavation of the site began in 1996, when systematic field walking, survey and trial excavations at a number of sites led to a research and training excavation. The investigation led to the removal of a plantigrub covering a structure which was partly excavated and preliminarily interpreted as a two-phase Norse longhouse. In the initial excavation report, the site is referred to as Setters after the nearest place-name. The principal objective for 2006 was to delimit as far as possible the area of Norse settlement in order to determine the construction and character of the different house units, the settlement structure, the economic resource unit and the dating of the different phases of the Norse farm. The excavation area of 10 years ago was extended significantly to the north and south and a little to the west and east in an effort to delimit the Norse farm.

The Norse dwelling-house first recorded in 1996 was excavated in sections throughout the floor layer in order to locate any potential signs of the inner house construction and habitation phases. The longhouse was approximately 22 m long x 7 m wide at the broadest (centre) part of the long wall (external measurements). The walls are curved with a thickness of approximately 1 m at the house-ends and 1.5 m in the middle of the house. They are constructed with inner and outer shells of dry stones, with cores of turf and smaller stones. The house is orientated approximately E.–W. In the E. (upslope) end, a presumed elongated hearth is centrally placed in the floor and along the inner side of the walls signs of possible benches are recorded. Further evidence of the internal construction is represented by a posthole for a probable roof support. The W., lower-lying end of the house presumably served as a byre. A feature suggestive of a drain from this end runs from the inner to the external wall of the house and then downslope from the gable end. The longhouse has a least one entrance situated near the middle of the N. sidewall. The S. long wall of the longhouse appears to have been straightened in a later building phase.

Deturfing in 2006 led to the discovery of two extensions to the north of the longhouse and possibly another to the south. The northerly rectangular extensions were situated either side of the longhouse entrance. At a later stage the house was rebuilt. A shorter version of similar construction was erected partly reusing the older foundations at the W. end of the longhouse. This new house was approximately 13 x 6 m (externally) and had a fireplace constructed against the S. wall.

Several features connected with the longhouse were recorded and partly excavated during the excavation. Paved areas were documented inside the house near the entrance and, in a fragmentary nature, at the W. end. Outside the house, fragmentary paved areas were recorded mainly around the N. part of the E. gable end and along the W. part of the N. long wall. Paved areas along the S. long wall were found to the south and west. What appeared to be paved steps were uncovered outside the entrance in the middle of the N. long wall leading to the north. A stone-built drain was revealed outside and along the S. long wall. It was finely paved at its E. end and situated very close to the stream which had a bend where the drain began. The drain continued downslope along the long wall and probably also partly inside the house.

An oblong structure situated parallel and to the north of the longhouse might be connected with it. This appeared to be of presumed single stone-wall construction, with no evidence of turf. This structure was probably either an outhouse or an enclosure for animals. Two further stone walls were recorded. One was connected to the SW. gable end of the house and ran south. The other wall was better preserved and was connected to the NE. part of the E. extension north of the longhouse. This wall ran north and then west. A smaller, circular, stone structure had been incorporated on its S. side. This might have been a grain-drying building. A cup-marked area of bedrock to the NW of the longhouse was already known. Additional cup-marks were discovered this year in the same area. Meanwhile, the excavations revealed cup-marked exposures in the paved area south of the S. long wall. Another cup-marked stone was found in the NW. corner of the gable end.

Around 300 finds have been recorded during the excavations, including artefacts such as steatite, serpentine or schist lamps, spindle whorls and, net sinkers, fragments of household articles, and raw materials, both local and imported. The lay-out of the structures as well as the finds suggest possible dates for the settlement site. The earliest phase of the longhouse, with its curved walls, its size, the byre and the centrally-placed hearth, has parallels with other sites in Shetland (e.g the earliest Norse phase at Jarlshof) and the Faroe Islands, which have been dated to the 9th–10th centuries A.D. The later phase has parallels with the Norse site at Underhoull. The hearth is placed along the wall and the size of the house is smaller, features which seem characteristic for the late Norse period. This structure is currently tentatively dated to the 11th–12th centuries.

Prior to excavation, detailed survey was carried out at a number of longhouse sites within Unst. Detailed contour survey was carried out in penmap at the longhouses at Hamar (two sites), the Head of Mula, Lund and Stove. Detailed survey of house sites and associated field systems/landscape features were carried out at Belmont, Gardie, Watlie, Stove, Underhoull and Hamar. The results of these surveys have been processed in GIS. They helped inform which sites should be examined by excavation. Augering and more detailed examination of the soils in the vicinity of the sites are continuing. This will provide additional information about the economy and land use of these, potentially marginal, sites. The 2006 season was sponsored by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, the Shetland Amenity Trust, the Shetland Development Trust, the Shetland Enterprise, The Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde and the University of Copenhagen.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

267. LANARK, THE BEECHES (NS 889 429). M. Roy, of the AOC Archaeology Group, undertook a watching brief on all groundbreaking works associated with the residential development at The Beeches, on the E. outskirts of Lanark, due to the archaeological potential of the area. Topsoil stripping of a 5-ha area was observed and the remains of a Late medieval/early Post-medieval field system was recorded.

WEST LOTHIAN

268. BATHGATE, NORTH COUSTON CASTLE (NS 9558 7115). A watching brief was carried out by A. Dutton of Headland Archaeology Ltd., for Mr T. Hamilton and Sons, during the demolition of the ruined and fragmentary remains of North Couston Castle, as a condition of planning consent. The castle is thought to have been built between the 15th and 17th centuries. No previously unrecorded features were identified, but a piece of Late-medieval Redware was found in the mortar, giving a *terminus post quem* for that part of the building.

WESTERN ISLES

269. SGARASTA BHEAG CEMETERY. J. Crawford reported the following medieval grave slabs: NG 00730 92805. A 1.80 x 55 cm-slab of Calc-chlorite-albite-shist of the Iona school of carving was reported by J. Crawford. The stone, which is in good condition, is carved with a foliated cross at its head, a sword with a lobated pommel, a vine leaf plant scroll, a lion and a heraldic shield.

NG 00750 92800. A 1.1 x 50 cm-slab of hornblende-shist of probably the Orinsay school of carving. The stone is very much worn, broken at both ends and has two piercings. As it is of the same material as most of the Rodel Church carvings, it is likely to have come from there.

270. SHIANT ISLES PROJECT (NG 41 98). The Shaint Isles Project continued under the direction of P. Foster, with excavations focused on finishing the field barn and blackhouse HI 16 on Eilean an Tighe. Further features of the ?17th- to 18th-century blackhouse F221. Sections in the earlier wall F205 showed tipped ashy soils, thought to relate to the dismantling of the N. face and its rebuilding as the inner wall of blackhouse F221. Ceramics from these deposits appears to be of early 18th-century date, but their often close similarity to the S-profile jars of the medieval period leaves room for doubt.

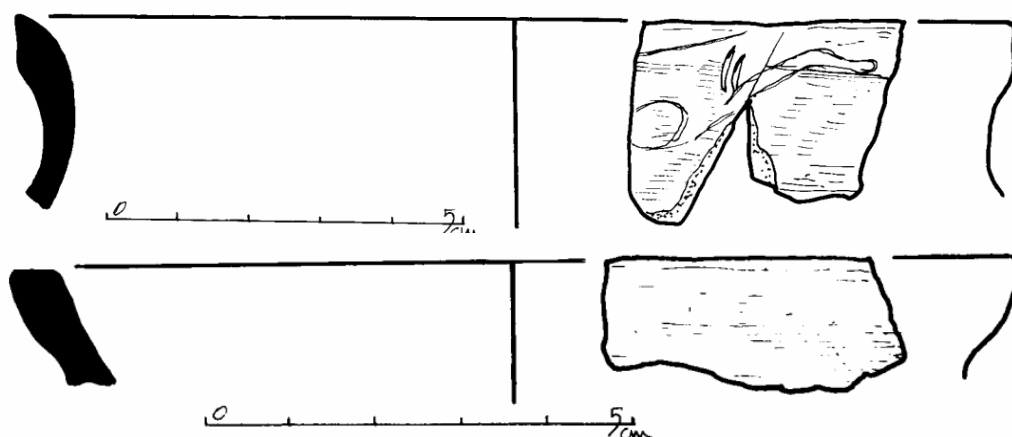
The next series of deposits under the blackhouse F221 are either a brown, generally sterile, soil (F235) or a widespread and compacted, occasionally thinly laminated soil (F236) composed mainly of peat ash impregnated clayey soils. This originated and was trampled out from a number of structured and unstructured hearths, and it appeared to have been the surface upon which some at least of the 18th-century activity took place. The ashy soils butted up to and were level with the base of the N. wall stones of the massive wall F205 and in some places swept up the sides of the base wall stones. Where the wall has been robbed away the wall line can still occasionally be traced by intermittent occurrences of the reddened ashy soil, which was not beneath the wall itself. Where the wall had been dismantled and reconstructed as the SW. corner of the 18th-century blackhouse, a similar line of burnt soil ash showed

the former line of the wall. This strongly indicates that wall F205 was contemporary with the hearths and their ash deposits.

Although there were several unstructured hearths in the area it was dominated by a hearth (F237) of usual dimensions, around 0.7 m in diameter, made of blocky stones set in a rough circle, some of which have burnt to the point of disintegration. Surrounding this hearth was a circle of intensely baked clay, approximately 2.6 m in diameter and thus disproportionate in size to the core structure of the hearth. There was no regular structure to the edge of this baked clay disk and it was penetrated by numerous rat burrows, leaving it uneven. The clay was extremely hard, indicating that high temperatures had been reached, and layering within the matrix indicates prolonged use. The disk also encompasses the small unstructured hearth (F247) and, allowing for the missing burrowed edges of the disk, two further hearths (F248 and possibly 245) would also have been included. An alignment of three small shallow post pits F253/4 and 275 are covered by the baked clay with a further posthole F253 beyond the disk to the northwest.

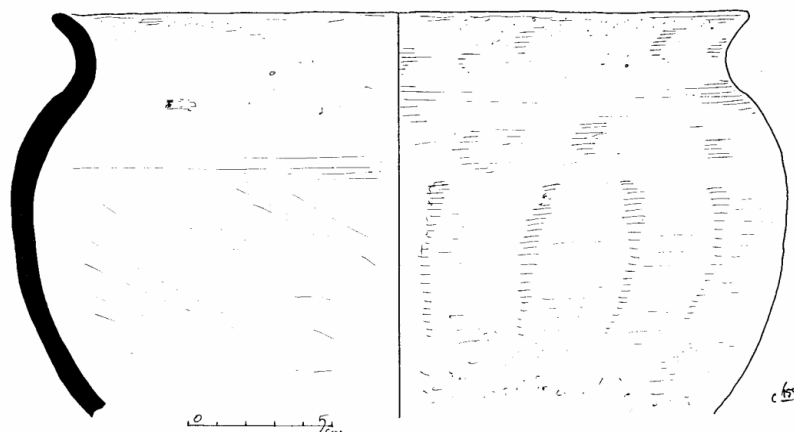
On the S. side of wall F205 in Area E the surface of a less burnt clayey soil was revealed in which several stone features were set running directly to the south from the base of the wall face. These may correspond with the hard baked surface C121 and deposit C120, which were revealed below the garden soils within the winnowing barn HI 15C. Both the surface and deposit also ran out of the excavated area in the barn into Area E. It is fairly certain that these features and deposits related to the large wall F205. The finds of steatite from deposit C121 may therefore be of importance in dating wall F205. A. Forster has reported that the steatite from HI 15 can be dated to the late Norse period, around the late 13th to early 14th centuries, and that one of the bowl fragments is of a Shetland type.

Throughout the excavations in Area F and E a small number of recognisable medieval jug/flagon rim forms and sherds in a distinctive fabric type associated with many of these rims have been found.

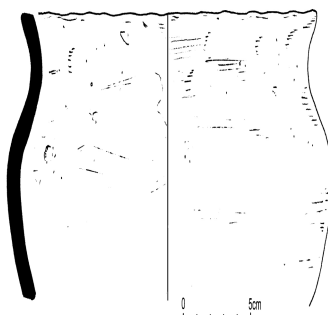


Jug/flagon rim forms from excavations within the winnowing barn, deposit C121

The dating of most of the pottery is, until a more expert analysis can be made, hampered by the abundance of globular S-shaped jars. This form, with a great profusion of minor differences, appears to be common from at least the 13th century on into the mid-18th century. One of the difficulties is being able to recognise residual medieval items in the later assemblages.

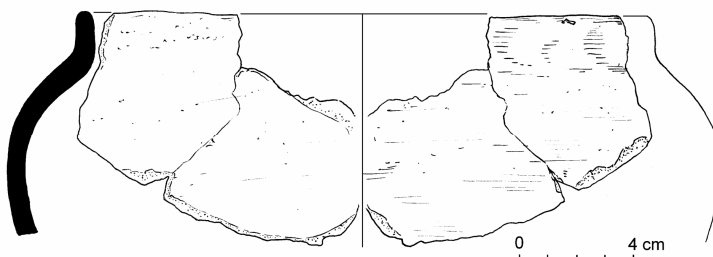


S-shaped profile of large jar from winnowing barn C121



S-shaped jar from F236

On the N. side of wall F205 the baked clay and ash deposits were removed and the lesser unstructured hearths were sectioned. One hearth (F249) was found to be a pit filled with pure red/orange peat ash. At its base was a large fragment of a globular jar.



Globular jar from pit F247

It was now possible to see that to the north of the wall a number of features were all evidence of activity associated with wall F205: the unstructured hearths F245/6/7/8 and 251; a structured hearth F237; pit F249; soils F235/6; patches of possible dumped ash; a very dark brown soil (F238) below the ashy layers; and probably postholes F253/4/5 and 275. At some time before the construction of blackhouse F221 in the 17th or 18th centuries the structured hearth F237 became the centre of a massive bonfire F237b. Wall F205 did not go deeper than these deposits and features and it is therefore highly unlikely that it formed part of a monumental construction of the late Iron Age. The deposits associated with the wall are now seen to be very thin, not the kind of deep accumulation usually associated with late Iron-age monumental buildings. However, the difference between the base of wall F205, the burnt deposits and the surface of the small hearths is so thin and the interface with the late Iron Age deposits so immediate that it is possible that the contexts could be spread over different periods. The structured hearth F237 is a formal stone setting, suggesting that it may have been an internal feature of a room on the N. side of wall F205. However, we lack evidence of a turn in the wall to form such a room.

The project is sponsored by the Hunter Archaeological Trust, the CBA Challenge Fund and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Dorothy Marshall Bequest. A full report is available on the Shiant Isles Project home web page: www.shiantisles

WALES

MONMOUTHSHIRE

271. TRELECH, THE CROFT (SO 500 054). The long-standing University of Wales Newport research excavations in Trelech continued, under the direction of M. Hamilton and R. Howell. A 2 x 7 m trench near the NE. corner of a small field, located between the Church Field West and castle bailey precinct, was opened. The purpose of the trench, subsequently extended to 2 x 9 m, was to investigate the association between a complex stone lined drainage system noted in previous excavations (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, 50 (2006), 396-9), and a N.-S. road which runs from the castle through Church Field West.

In the north of the trench, compacted stone indicated a possible wall running parallel to the road. Below this feature, the well-made stone drain was partially covered by large flat stone slabs. The W. end

of the drain, below the stone capping, splayed to a width of over a metre; 13th-century cooking pot sherds were associated. To the south-west, a small second stone drain was found running roughly parallel. At the edge of the road, a small orthostat restricted water flow creating a sump. The fall of the drain was reversed at this point, emphasising the intent to create the sump. The purpose of this feature is unclear but re-deposited slag and furnace base fragments, along with evidence from previous excavations, makes an industrial function a possible explanation for the drainage system. Well-stratified 13th-century ceramic material was found in and around the sump.

At the S. end of the trench a possible robbed-out wall was found running E.–W. When this feature was removed, a posthole with large lumps of slag associated was found. A pit, possibly a building slot, ran from the post to the S. edge of the excavation. Ceramics sealed in this feature included a green-glazed strap handle, probably 13th-century in date. The ceramic assemblage included fifty-six sherds of coarse black “cooking pot” with quartz inclusions; local manufacture is likely. A total of thirty-six sherds were identified as Monnow Valley Ware, type A5/A5B. Forty sherds of Bristol Redcliff wares, mainly 13th/14th-century in date, included a strap handle and two large “pie crust” decorated bases. Five pieces of identifiable Saintonge Ware were also recovered.

It is hoped that work will continue in the decayed medieval town of Trelech, but with the demise of archaeology at University of Wales Newport, it is unclear how subsequent fieldwork/excavation will proceed.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN. Work by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd.

272. PENARTH, COGAN HALL FARM, CAVERSHAM PARK DEVELOPMENT (ST 172 705). A watching brief close to the deserted medieval village of Cogan (SAMGm 535) recorded one minor feature, possibly a drainage ditch associated with the village’s field system.

273. ST ATHAN, RILLS VALLEY (ST 01843 68119). Survey work was undertaken on a group of upstanding earthworks, including two house platforms and several linear banks that defined a number of shallow terraces. Although cartographic sources indicate that a small structure stood on each house platform in the Post-medieval period, the earthworks themselves extended beyond and may have medieval origins, possibly associated with the adjacent Crofter’s Field deserted medieval settlement.