Medieval Britain and Ireland in 1997

Compiled by MÄRIT GAIMSTER, CATHY HAITH and JOHN BRADLEY

Edited by TOM BEAUMONT JAMES

The compilers are grateful to secretaries of specialist groups and contributors who provided reports on groups, excavations and survey work. For Scotland the C.B.A. publication, Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, was also consulted.

It is essential that summaries are provided in house style. Style sheets are distributed to field units and other bodies every year, and are available direct from the compilers. Abstracting from unit annual interims is not possible. The strict deadline for contributions for 2000 is the end of May 1999.

In certain cases the National Grid Reference has been omitted to protect sites. Please notify the compilers if this information is to be withheld.

Pre-Conquest sites
Cathy Haith, Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG.

Post-Conquest sites
Märit Gaimster, 11 Clandon Street, St. Johns, London SE8 4EL.

Irish sites
John Bradley, Department of Modern History, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

SPECIALIST GROUP REPORTS

CASTLE STUDIES GROUP
Hon. Secretary: Dr. Robert A. Higham, Department of Archaeology, School of Geography and Archaeology, The University, Queen’s Building, Queen’s Drive, Exeter EX4 4QH.

The tenth annual conference and A.G.M. were held in the University of Nottingham 17–20 April 1996. Lectures were given on the castles of the East Midlands in general as well as on the history of excavations at Newark Castle from the 1950s onwards. Site visits spread over three days included twelve castle sites, including Tickhill, Conisborough, Bolsover, Wingfield, Newark, Boothby Pagnell, Bytham, Oakham, Kirby Muxloe, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Conder and Horsten.

Details of members’ activities, recent publications and other castle related matters will be found in Newsletter No. 10 (1996–97).
FINDS RESEARCH GROUP 700–1700

Hon. Secretary: Jane Cowgill, 25 Main Street, South Rauceby, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 8GQ.

The aims of the group are to promote the study of finds from sites dating principally from 700–1700, by holding meetings to discuss, view and identify finds from that period. Datasheets including current research are produced regularly.

The first meeting of the year was held on 17 March 1997 in Portsmouth at the Mary Rose Trust, on ‘Objects from the Mary Rose’. The day included talks on personal possessions and domestic utensils, and a tour of the Mary Rose exhibition. The second meeting of 1997, which included the A.G.M., was held on 27 October at Leicester University on the subject of ‘Re-use and Re-cycling of Materials’. The day included lectures on a wide range of materials including textiles, wood, pottery and metals.

Three datasheets were produced in 1997: ‘Medieval Arrowheads’ by Oliver Jessop; ‘Dice’ by Geoff Egan; and ‘Stirrup Terminals’ by David Williams.

Membership is open to all interested in finds of the period and members receive free copies of the datasheets each year. Annual subscription is £3.00 per year, (£5.00 for overseas members). Information on the group may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Katey Banks, Archaeology Section, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST1 3DE (Tel: 01782-232323, Fax: 01782-232500).

MEDIEVAL POTTERY RESEARCH GROUP

Secretary: Duncan H. Brown, c/o Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG.

The A.G.M. was held at Worcester in May as part of a three-day conference around the theme Pottery from Consumer Sites. This was an excellent meeting with some very good presentations, including the Gerald Dunning Memorial lecture, which was given by David Whitehouse. An important alteration to the Group’s constitution was accepted by the A.G.M. The quorum for general meetings is now fixed at 21 individual members.

The Group’s other regular activities were maintained as usual: ‘Medieval Ceramics’ was published and the thrice-yearly Newsletter distributed. Membership of the Group increased.

A final draft of the occasional paper ‘A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms’ was produced and publication is expected in 1998. Work on the document ‘Minimum Standards for the Recording and Publication of Medieval Pottery’ was also progressed. Further occasional papers are also planned including the work on Ipswich Ware by Paul Blinkhorn and Lyn Blackmore’s analysis of redwares in Trondheim, Norway.

It has, in short, been another busy year.

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Hon. Secretary: Stephen Coleman, Heritage and Environment Group, D.E.E.D. (Environmental Services), Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP (Tel: 01234 228072).

The Group’s spring conference in May was held at The Castle in Winchester courtesy of Hampshire County Council. A large audience enjoyed contributions on various aspects of the county’s medieval rural settlement, including general overviews from an archaeological and landscape perspective (David Hinton, Andy Russel and Bob Edwards) and from the documents (John Hare). In other countywide papers Dale Sarjeantson reviewed what we know about agriculture and diet in medieval Hampshire from the study of faunal remains and Tom James examined the impact of the Black Death on the county. Other papers focussed on the excavated archaeology of settlement in the Test Valley (Frank Green) and the problems of mapping the New Forest landscape from the evidence of Domesday Book (Karin Mew).
At the end of November the A.G.M. was followed by a seminar entitled ‘Wharram Percy Reassessed’. Led by Stuart Wrathmell discussions focused on recent reassessment of the information gathered during the 40-year programme of excavations on this deserted settlement. English Heritage has asked the Group to review and comment upon the recent work in order to assist their decisions on the future direction for both the post-excavation and, in particular, the publication programmes for the site.

The Group continues to liaise with English Heritage on the medieval settlement aspects of their Monuments Protection Programme and on their Medieval Settlement Project in the hands of Stuart Wrathmell and Professor Brian Roberts. There are still concerns for the adequate protection of dispersed settlement, especially where English Heritage are having difficulty in arguing that slight remains are significant.

Last year’s report referred to the preparation of the Group’s new policy statement. In 1997 ‘Medieval Rural Settlements — A Policy on their Research, Survey, Conservation and Excavation’ was made available as an attractive A4 booklet illustrated with colour photographs. It was distributed to a wide range of national heritage, conservation and agricultural bodies besides universities and has also been available at no charge to individuals on request. It has been generally welcomed.

As a step towards taking up some aspects of the policy statement a small working party chaired by the President, Chris Dyer, was set up late in the year to look at potential locations for a new long term research project to continue on from the landscape studies at Wharram Percy, Raunds and Shapwick.

INDEX FOR MEDIEVAL BRITAIN, 1997

I. PRE-CONQUEST
amber artefacts: 260
area survey: 69, 194, 303, 343
boats: 301
bone/antler artefacts: 12, 13, 16, 17, 130, 259, 260, 300, 334, 335, 336
boundaries, ditches, enclosures: 9, 13, 33, 40, 52, 119, 201, 211, 212, 247, 257, 259, 260, 267, 276, 281, 282, 285, 300, 330
bridges: 301
buildings: 8, 9, 13, 29, 32, 33, 46, 49, 50, 52, 76, 78, 129, 130, 150, 201, 219, 260, 273, 344
burials, cemeteries: 6, 21, 35, 43, 180, 193, 257, 267, 271, 274, 275, 336, 343
ceramics: 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 24, 26, 29, 32, 34, 35, 38, 42, 48, 49, 51, 52, 63, 69, 72, 74, 76, 79, 108, 129, 130, 134, 136, 157, 158, 165, 167, 182, 194, 199, 244, 247, 274, 335
crannog: 296, 300
drier/drying kiln: 205, 268, 273
environmental evidence: 32, 35, 165, 219, 275
farmstead: 13, 130, 273, 344
fossil, inscribed: 153
gaming piece: 6, 260, 335
glass (vessel, window): 304
hearths: 32, 212, 260, 273, 300
industrial sites:
  butchery: 153, 154, 156
  ceramic: 175, 176
  metal: 212, 260, 267, 276
II. POST-CONQUEST

agriculture: 3, 76, 113, 125, 126, 135, 178, 245
amethyst: 316
animal trap: 270
area survey: 69, 194
barns: 321
boats: 140
bone/antler artefacts: 253, 259, 266, 272, 329
booly house: 245
bridges:  137, 149, 351, 353
brothels, stews:  138
buildings, civic/public:  85, 87, 105, 195
burgage plots:  213, 290, 315, 366
burials, cemeteries:  18, 35, 80, 83, 93, 176, 204, 210, 214, 218, 244, 264, 267, 305, 318, 323, 330
cathedrals:  284, 350
cellars:  100, 103, 108, 109, 138, 142, 202, 364A, 368
cesspit, latrine, garderobe:  16, 71, 88, 89, 90, 91, 101, 107, 142, 149, 162, 236, 306, 309
churches and chapels:  37, 90, 120, 172, 175, 181, 188, 192, 198, 217, 218, 244, 264, 268, 312, 313, 323, 330, 332, 352, 354, 355, 356, 367
coins, jettons:  71, 120, 223, 310, 311, 315, 329, 347
earthworks:  50, 140, 211, 325, 349
eel trap:  144
environmental evidence:  16, 35, 77, 80, 177, 236, 293, 311, 339, 365
farmsteads:  57
field systems:  13, 27, 47, 51, 56, 70, 77, 117, 118, 147, 225, 273, 277, 349
fishpond:  59, 143
floors (tiled):  11, 105, 149, 262
gardens:  220, 233, 294, 326, 361, 366
glass (vessel, window):  48, 113, 253, 309
granary:  17
halls:  61, 149, 173, 280, 306, 310, 352
hearth, fireplaces:  149, 151, 169, 242, 259, 269, 272, 297, 329, 330
hospitals:  142, 145, 265, 327, 328
industrial sites:
  bone/antler:  242, 368
  brewing:  177
  butchery:  90, 170
  ceramic:  25, 28, 171, 179, 232, 295
  cutlery:  71
  leather:  242, 263, 293
  lime:  26, 181, 213, 218
  metal:  53, 54, 147, 164, 218, 259, 260, 265, 280, 326, 330, 359, 364, 370, 371
salt: 206
  textile, cloth: 3, 242
  unspecified: 329
  wood: 242
jet/lignite artefacts: 266, 272
kitchen: 80, 149
laver: 280
leather: 23, 236, 237, 263, 265, 289, 290, 292, 293, 311, 365
manors and moated sites: 2, 10, 58, 124, 149, 163, 168, 283, 364A
metal artefacts: 80, 166, 247, 253, 259, 267, 272, 290, 292, 315, 316, 329, 331, 338, 368
mills (water): 141
monastic sites: 11, 15, 39, 48, 55, 60, 73, 83, 127, 143, 145, 184, 186, 204, 208, 209, 210, 214, 247, 250, 262, 272, 291, 297, 298, 305, 318, 324, 337, 339, 349, 349
ovens, kilns: 20, 26, 38, 149, 151, 186, 242, 291, 295, 348
palaces, ecclesiastical: 36, 309, 348, 350
pilgrim house: 321
quarrying: 16, 20, 24, 38, 82, 338
refuse, domestic (pits, middens): 6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 23, 44, 45, 62, 68, 76, 100, 103, 114, 135, 169, 213, 247, 265, 279, 311, 334, 335
roads and streets: 5, 42, 84, 137, 151, 213, 252, 273, 327
salt: 206
stone, architectural: 48, 214, 284, 332, 341, 359, 360, 367
stone artefacts: 253, 311, 331
stone, funerary: 142, 330
stone, sculpture: 321
undercroft: 85, 187, 208, 364A
villages: 18, 45, 234
warehouses: 26
waterworks (conduits, dams, drains, ponds, tanks): 76, 80, 114, 115, 127, 132, 141, 152, 253, 254, 255, 259, 290, 291, 328, 340, 349
wells: 7, 38, 64, 89, 104, 112, 118, 199, 236, 290
window lead: 309
wooden objects: 292, 315, 365
yards, metalled surfaces: 2, 19, 121, 168, 184, 200, 224, 227, 259, 272, 291, 359
ENGLAND
AVON. Work by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services.

BRISTOL

1. At Canon’s Road, Canon’s Marsh (ST 59500 72550) an archaeological watching brief was carried out by S. Cox during service diversions along the length of Canon’s Road. The earliest feature was a medieval riverfront wall running E.-W. beneath Anchor Lane. The return of this had been previously identified during an excavation beneath the U-Shed, but had remained undated. A length of 5.5 m of the wall was exposed, the stonework and mortar being typical of medieval walls in Bristol, although it had been repaired on many occasions. As it was not possible to preserve the entire length of the wall in-situ a limited hand excavation was undertaken to reduce the wall in areas where services were to pass through. This enabled dating evidence, in the form of pottery and roof tile, to be recovered from the core of the wall, placing it in the first half of the 14th century.

2. At Knowle West, Inns Court Green (ST 5877 6020) an excavation was carried out by R. Jackson on land adjacent to the community centre and Holy Cross Church before redevelopment of the site for a new community centre and church. The excavation, covering an area of about 1,000 sq. m was located 300 m to the W. of a Romano-British settlement discovered in 1982 and adjacent to the medieval manor house of Inns Court, of which only the early 15th century stair turret survives.

The site excavated in 1997 appeared to be connected with that excavated to the E. in 1982 and together formed part of a large farming settlement, although metal slag associated with the furnace in Building 2 pointed to some industrial activity. Most of the medieval manor house of Inns Court was not available for excavation as it lay below the community centre and vicarage. The evidence for the W. range of the manor house, probably dating to the 14th century, consisted of one wall which was almost certainly the N. wall of the range. A layer of clay abutting the wall was the make-up for an internal floor. A cobbled surface and a fragment of wall to the W. of the range also dated to the 14th century.

The W. end of the N. range was excavated and found to be of a different construction to the W. range. It was probably first built in the early 15th century when Sir John Inyn, Lord Chief Justice of the King’s Bench, owned the manor house and lived there until his death in 1439. It was occupied by his family until 1529 when it passed to the Kenn family and then by marriage to the Poulett family of Hinton St George in Somerset. Thereafter it was inhabited by tenants and went into decline. An outbuilding to the W. of the W. range, which was shown on an 1827 plan of the house, was uncovered and found to date from the 17th century.

The Poulett family sold the Inns Court estate in the early 19th century to a Thomas Daniel who, in the latter part of the 19th century, demolished most of the medieval manor house and replaced it by a farmhouse. A cobbled farmyard found during the excavation to the W. and S. of the farmhouse had removed a great deal of the medieval and Roman occupation during its construction in the late 19th century. Inns Court Farm was purchased in 1897 by Thomas Flower who owned the nearby Crox Bottom Farm, before finally coming into the possession of Bristol City Council in 1939.

3. At Temple Way (ST 59450 72680) an evaluation was commissioned on the site of a proposed hotel off Temple Way. Three trenches were excavated, one of which had been extensively disturbed by 19th-century industrial building. A pit dated to the 13th century and an associated stone surface may have related to the construction of tenter racks for the drying of cloth, as previously identified during excavations at Cart Lane in 1974. The presence of tenter racks in this area is indicated on Millerd’s 1673 plan of the city. A ditch running E.-W. which produced pottery ranging from 13th–15th century in date appeared to delineate the boundary between the tenter racks and the garden areas of tenements to the S. as shown on Millerd’s and Rocque’s plans. This was supported by the evidence for a
medieval soil horizon dating from the early to mid-14th century in the evaluation trench to the S. Features cut into this horizon appeared to be the result of cultivation. The excavation was carried out by S. Cox.

BEDFORDSHIRE. Work by the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service.

4. BEDFORD, ELSTOW/HARROWDEN (TL 055 475). Evaluation by N. Shepherd and M. Philips to the N. of the Bedford Southern Bypass revealed pits and ditches of middle Saxon date cutting through a large late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement. The Saxon features are part of a more extensive site partly recorded during the construction of the Bypass.

5. BEDFORD, 2 ST CUTHBERT’S STREET (TL 052 499). Four evaluation trenches were excavated by M. Dawson close to the E. edge of the late Saxon burgh. The earliest surviving archaeological deposits were pits, dated to the 10th century. The lack of extensive structural evidence may suggest they were associated with extra-mural settlement. The evidence of later pitting suggests that the pattern of streets which developed at this time remained the framework of later settlement, despite the construction of the castle precinct during the 12th century. The effect of the destruction of the castle in the 13th century could not be judged from this evaluation except insofar as the area does not seem to have generated any significant evidence of activity until the later medieval period.

6. BEDFORD, 14-15A ST PAUL’S SQUARE (TL 049 497). This site lies within the N. burgh, possibly established by the end of the 8th century. Archaeological investigation by S. M. Steadman and M. Philips of foundation trenches during building renovation uncovered a cemetery which may predate the foundation of the town. The individual graves were aligned E.-W. and were arranged in closely set parallel rows running N.-S. The skeletons follow two slightly different alignments, the earliest are ENE.-WSW. and the later skeletons are more regular E.-W. In addition, quantities of charnel, some of which was still articulated and had clearly been incorporated into the graves of later interments, were recovered.

Dating of the cemetery remains problematic. A single sherd of early-middle Saxon pottery dating from the 6th or 7th century was found in the backfill of one of the graves. This might suggest that the cemetery dates from before the foundation of the town although the sherd may be residual in this context. The terminus ante quem provided by the material above the skeletons strongly suggests that the cemetery is of pre-Conquest date. Certainly, by the 11th to 13th centuries A.D., when some of the burials were disturbed by the digging of later pits, this area was no longer considered sacred ground. Funding is being sought for radiocarbon dating of a selection of the skeletons.

The later pits contained domestic debris ranging in date from the 10th–11th centuries to the 15th–16th centuries. A bone counter or gaming piece, carved from the jawbone of a cow and probably dating to the 11th century, was recovered.

7. BEDFORD, TOWN CENTRE (TL 049 499). In the third phase of the town centre improvements scheme work was undertaken by M. Philips, concentrating on open spaces and road corridors. Despite truncation by services etc. extensive archaeological deposits survive below 26 m to 26.5 m OD, largely beneath the level of the improvement works. Nevertheless, medieval deposits, including a stone lined well and a pit, were disturbed and recorded along the E. side of River Street.

8. CLAPHAM, CHURCH FARM (TL 034 525). Evaluation trenches undertaken by M. Luke and C. Meckseper identified Saxo-Norman and medieval settlement adjacent to the
church of St Thomas. Features included ditches, isolated postholes and a rectangular building of beam-slot construction. A 1.5 m wide cobbled path was parallel to the ditches. The pottery assemblage included St Neots-type wares (typical of the Saxo-Norman period), developed St Neots-types and locally produced sand tempered fabrics (earlier medieval) and reduced sand tempered (of the later medieval period). A small quantity of regional finewares of Brill-Boarstall type was recovered.

The settlement continued beyond the study area to the W. and S. and is clearly associated with the Saxo-Norman church and medieval manor house located to the S.

9. HARROLD, MEADWAY (SP 953 571). Evaluation by N. Shepherd ahead of housing development indicated that the E. half of the site had been disturbed by recent quarrying. Areas to the S. had been subject to localised disturbance and dumping. A central/W. area contained a concentration of pits, ditches and structural features. Although residual prehistoric and Roman material was present these were dated by pottery to the early-middle Saxon period and appear to indicate a settlement focus. Saxon settlement with an associated cemetery had already been located immediately to the N. of the study area during the 1950s. Among the structural features located during the evaluation were three rectangular scoops, possibly sunken-featured buildings, and post-holes, possibly hall-type buildings.

10. KEMPSTON RURAL (TL 013 475). Evidence for medieval settlement was located W. of the present Bury during evaluation by M. Luke and C. Meckseper. A concentration of medieval and Roman pottery located during field artefact collection coincided with geophysical anomalies. Trial trenching located ditches, pits and postholes, although no building plans or enclosures could be identified. A cobbled trackway visible on an 18th century map was located. This linked Green End, The Bury and Kempston. The pottery assemblage includes early medieval developed St Neots-types and the East Midlands reduced wares of the later medieval period. A single fragment of a medieval glazed rectilinear floor tile was recovered from field artefact collection.

The evaluation located the periphery of a medieval settlement which continued to the N. of the study area. It is probable this settlement was associated with the Kempston Brucebury manor house believed to be located in this area rather than underneath the present Bury.

11. SHEFFORD, CHICKSANDS PRIORY (TL 115 395). A watching brief was maintained under the direction of S. M. Steadman during refurbishment of the Gilbertine Priory. Archaeological remains were uncovered during the construction of a fire exit with an associated staircase in the SW. corner of the S. quadrangle, the buildings of which contain the only standing remains of the original Priory. Within these buildings it is possible to trace the arcades of the N., E. and S. cloisters that skirted the interior of the quadrangle. The excavation within the SW. corner of the quadrangle located the missing W. cloister. Although only a limited view of its line was gained, it is likely to have matched the others in form and extent and appears to comprise at least two main phases of construction.

A square stone-lined structure, possibly either a well shaft or a water collection pit, was located within the S. end of the cloister. It measured 1.3 m x 1.25 m in plan and probing suggested it was over 0.7 m deep. The juxtaposition of the well/pit and the S. end of the cloister suggests the two elements are not contemporary. On the basis of the reused material incorporated into its lining the well/pit is thought to post-date the cloister and probably relates to one of the many phases of alterations that occurred after the priory was dissolved in 1538. Medieval floor tiles were also recovered from the make-up for a corridor between the N. and S. quadrangles.

12. STOTFOLD, LAND OFF GROVELAND WAY (TL 222 362). Excavation under the direction of S. M. Steadman uncovered the heavily truncated remains of a sunken-featured
building during the excavation of a predominantly Iron Age and Roman settlement. A number of smaller sub-rectangular pits, scattered across the site, were also tentatively interpreted as sunken-featured structures. Small quantities of early-middle Saxon pottery were recovered and one of the pits contained a bone comb with multiple ring and dot decoration, which could derive from the late Iron Age or Saxon periods.

13. STRATTON, BIGGLESWADE (TL 203 439). A further 1.6 ha of the Stratton Residential Development Area were investigated under the direction of D. Shotli in advance of social housing construction. The area of excavation lay on the W. central margins of the known area of Saxon and medieval settlement remains, which cover a total area of around 18 ha. The recorded evidence was principally Saxon and Saxo-Norman in date with the subsequent medieval phases represented only by field boundaries.

The first phase of occupation appeared to date to the early 7th century. Its principal components were four widely spaced wells, a small number of pits, a sunken-featured building, and the remnants of a probable post-built structure. These appear to represent peripheral elements of an unenclosed settlement. This type of activity continued into the middle Saxon period with replacement wells being constructed. The two deepest contained wattled linings, each of which had been renewed at least once. A considerable quantity of Maxey-type ware was recovered from these features.

By the late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period the majority of the wells had been abandoned and a farmstead site, comprising a post-built dwelling, an ancillary structure, and a concentration of pits and structural cuts had been established within a landscape increasingly characterised by ditched enclosures and trackways. The latest substantive activity within the excavated area was represented by the re-location of this farmstead site 60 m to the S. The replacement dwelling was of beamslot construction. It was approximately 14.5 m long and 5.5 m wide with opposed entrances towards the centre of its long axis. The doorway, facing to the SE. was defined by substantial door posts and a possible porch structure. This entranceway led directly to one of the abandoned middle Saxon wells, which was used as a dumping ground for domestic rubbish from the building. Large quantities of butchered animal bone, over 5 kg of St Neots-type pottery and various tools and domestic objects of stone, bone and metal were recovered.

14. READING, FORNEY STREET, COMPASS YARD, BEAR WHARF (SU 7146 7307). An evaluation was carried out by A. Chadwick on behalf of The Entrepreneur Beer Supply Company Ltd. The remains of wattled structures were found, with green glazed ceramic tiles (dated to 1200-1500) leaning against them. These structures may have represented medieval riverbank consolidation known elsewhere on the Kennet. River channel deposits gave evidence of subsequent flooding.

15. READING, THE FORBURY, FORBURY HOUSE (SU 7180 7350). C. Cavanagh carried out an evaluation at Forbury House in advance of a redevelopment on the site. Nine large test pits were opened across the site, three of which contained archaeological deposits and features of a medieval date, primarily in the form of rubbish pits. These lay within the grounds of Reading Abbey and may have represented activity associated with the Abbey.

BERKSHIRE. Work by AOC Archaeology.

16. DORNEY, LAKE END ROAD (SU 929 796). An archaeological excavation was carried out by Dr J. Hunn for the Oxford Archaeological Unit, in advance of the Environment Agency’s Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme. Eleven Anglo-Saxon pits were excavated, which produced domestic refuse such as pottery and bone in
association with loom-weights and fragments of a bone comb. A sequence of medieval, 11th- to 13th-century, rectilinear enclosure ditches and a large number of associated pits was identified. Two flint-walled probable cesspits were excavated. One contained plum, grape and fig seeds, indicating that a fairly high status dwelling must have existed in the vicinity. Post-medieval activity was concentrated in the S.-W. corner of the site. This consisted of a possible chimney base and two wells, one lined with elm, which cut a late medieval quarry.

17. DORNEY, LOT’S HOLE (SU 9220 7970). An excavation in advance of the construction of the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme was carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit on behalf of the Environment Agency. An area of approximately 20625 sq. m was investigated and recorded.

Thirteen Anglo-Saxon pits were found and excavated, three of which were recut. These contained domestic refuse such as pottery and bone as well as several loom-weights, an iron knife and a piece of decorated bone. The pits were spatially distinct from the medieval activity. Two major phases of post-Conquest enclosure with associated buildings were investigated. This activity was dated to between the 11th and 13th centuries A.D. Ten buildings were identified, of both earthfast-post and beam-slot construction. One building appeared to be a grain store that had burnt down. A large number of medieval pits were excavated. Occupation of the site possibly ended in the 14th century and a rectangular enclosure system, still visible on 1808 estate maps, was established.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. Work undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit unless otherwise stated.

18. BABRAHAM, BABRAHAM HALL (TL 5108 5070). Rescue excavations were carried out by A. Hatton. Human remains were encountered together with archaeological material from pits and ditches. Pottery sherds with a date range c. 1250 to before 1400 and animal bone were recovered. This evidence may be associated with the original village location before emparkment of the land in the early 16th century.

19. BARRINGTON, CHALLIS GREEN (TL 3990 5000). An evaluation was carried out by J. Roberts. Evidence for considerable archaeological activity on the W. part of the site included building material and a cobbled yard, pits, ditches and dumped material. Most of the pottery from the site dated from c. 1250 to before 1400 and it would appear the site was under pasture from the early 16th century.

20. COTTenHAM, DENMARK ROAD (TL 452 673). An evaluation excavation was carried out by R. Heawood. In St. John’s College Field a variety of pits, ditches and gullies dating to the medieval period was revealed. An enclosure ditch and foundations of a timber building were located together with boundary ditches and evidence for quarrying and rubbish disposal. More medieval pits were revealed near the street front as well as a small oven and a possible timber structure.

21. DEEPING GATE, MARKET DEEPING BYPASS (TF 139 090). A cropmark site on the line of the new Market Deeping bypass was investigated by D. Trimble of Archaeological Project Services (Heritage Lincolnshire) on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. Remains included several inhumations of Saxon date. Grave goods including an iron spear, knives and buckles indicated the cemetery was in use in the 8th century. Several graves contained multiple burials, generally adult male and female pairings, though one such grave also held a 3–4 year old child. These perhaps represent family groupings.

22. DUXFORD, MOORFIELD ROAD (TL 479 463). In 1994 evaluation trenching by T. Sutherland on behalf of Caspian Homes Ltd, revealed several features, many of which
contained pottery sherds, including some dating to the 12th to 14th centuries. The most significant features were possible boundary ditches on the periphery of the site which have been dated to the late medieval period. It is possible that the ditches represent the formalisation of plots along the edge of a pre-existing routeway.

ELY

23. At 54 Broad Street (TL 5435 8002). An archaeological recording brief by S. Bray and J. Last revealed a domestic rubbish assemblage containing animal bone, mussel shells, a leather shoe and pottery from the period between 1100 and 1600. The deposit suggests Broad Street has contained dwellings since at least the 12th century.

24. At Chapel Street (TL 5390 8046). An evaluation by M. Hinman for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Anchor Point Builders Ltd and the NHS Executive (Anglia & Oxford), revealed two late Saxon or Saxo-Norman rubbish pits containing pottery dating from A.D. 900–1150 (St Neots ware and Thetford ware), sealed by early 14th century deposits. In addition, a later quarry pit contained a high level of residual late Saxon material.

25. At Gas Lane (TL 5419 7965). Visits to the development site of the old gasworks by B. Robinson produced quantities of medieval Ely ware. The site lies near or within the Potters Lane medieval pottery production site. No in situ features were observed.

26. At Jubilee Terrace (TL 5435 7981). A programme of excavation and observation was undertaken by N. Oakey for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Hereward Housing Association, ahead of residential development. A little residual pottery of Romano-British and late Saxon date suggested activity in the vicinity of the site during those periods. The first major phase of activity dated to the 13th century when domestic refuse was dumped to raise the ground surface in advance of the construction of a building measuring at least 25 × 10 m. Probably of timber-framed construction on rubble sill walls, the building had an uneven floor and the absence of domestic activity or daily wear suggested that it had been a warehouse located at the rear of a property fronting onto Broad Street. A thick layer of lime or chalk which sealed parts of the floor were relict materials, probably imported along the recently diverted R. Great Ouse, used for the manufacture of mortar for the construction of stone buildings probably associated with the Cathedral. Secondary use of the warehouse was indicated by a number of small hearths, ovens or kilns of unknown function and date. Running alongside it was a ditch which probably marked a property boundary. The lifetime of the building was short and after demolition the sill walls were robbed and the site remained as waste ground or gardens until the later 20th century. Post-exavcation work continues.

27. At Lisle Lane (TL 5463 8025). Evaluation and subsequent recording excavation took place in late 1995/early 1996 on the periphery of medieval Ely undertaken by N. Oakey for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Royal Mail Property Holdings. Activity on the site was concentrated between the 11th and 14th centuries. Two possible boundary ditches (backfilled in the 13th or 14th centuries) were contemporary with a series of rubbish pits. These were separated from the modern Lisle Lane frontage by an enigmatic feature, which was either a boundary ditch with a succession of dumps backfilling it, or a small-scale linear quarrying episode to extract the natural sands, clays or gravels. To the SE. a large water-filled feature was backfilled with domestic rubbish in the earlier 14th century. No remains of buildings were found on the site, which was probably located in the backyards of properties lining Lisle Lane. All the pottery from these deposits derives from
wares that are thought to have passed out of use locally before the middle of the 14th century. The cessation of activity on the site may be a result of decreasing pressure on land as a function of the general population decline in the 14th century. Later activity on the site was represented by plough furrows associated with ridge-and-furrow of 15th and 16th century date. Thereafter the site remained open ground until the later 20th century.

28. **At Potters Lane (TL 5410 7969).** An evaluation in 1995 conducted by B. Robinson for Cambridgeshire County Council, encountered a rich pottery assemblage dating to the medieval period and the medieval/post-medieval transition, as well as a possible medieval building with associated ditched enclosure and rubbish pit. The pottery represented a waste assemblage from a production site, although no kilns or features associated with the production process were definitely identified. The street’s name, first recorded in the late 13th century, and 15th century references to the tenement of a pottery, suggests that such remains can be anticipated nearby.

29. **Fordham, Hillside Meadows (TL 632 707).** An evaluation excavation by B. Robinson and S. Kenney recovered abraded Romano-British sherds alongside unabraded Saxon organic-tempered sherds. The association of middle Saxon Ipswich and late Saxon Thetford wares is intriguing. A single post-built structure was exposed but at 2 m wide this was considered too small for a dwelling. The presence of middle Saxon material within the medieval core of the village and continuity of boundary alignments provided important information on the development of the settlement.

30. **Great Shelford, 18/20 Cambridge Road (TL 461 531).** S. Bray conducted a brief evaluation excavation in which ten probably early medieval pits and six ditches were recorded. It is likely these represent the periphery of medieval activity in the area.

31. **Great Wilbraham, High Street (TL 547 572).** Limited excavation carried out by T. Denham and J. Last exposed a small multi-period site with an area of medieval activity consisting of a central pit with four surrounding post-holes.

32. **Hinxton, Hinxton Hall (TL 496 448).** Post-excavation work by S. Leith, for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of The Wellcome Trust, is ongoing following the major excavations of 1993–4. Pottery analysis has revised the dating of the site. Four sunken-featured buildings and a timber hall have been dated to the early Saxon period. Middle Saxon occupation was only definitely identified in a few pits. The late Saxon/early medieval settlement consisted of a series of timber halls, which were surrounded by a ditched enclosure by the late 11th century. Analysis of plant macrofossils revealed an abundance of charred flax seeds from a late Saxon hearth, and throughout all periods cereals, especially wheat, formed a major part of the economy. Faunal remains were surprisingly sparse indicating that bone was taken off-site for disposal or processing. Most bone was derived from domestic animals, cattle being used principally for milk production and slaughtered late in life, while sheep and pigs appear to have been raised for meat.

33. **Hinxton, Hinxton Hall, New Lake Site (TL 496 445).** In December 1994 and June 1995, two phases of recording were conducted during the excavation and landscaping of an artificial lake adjacent to the previous excavations at Hinxton Hall. The work was conducted by S. Leith for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of The Wellcome Trust. This recording work revealed two rectilinear enclosures containing an assemblage of abraded Roman pottery (dating from the 3rd to 4th centuries), a timber building of probable early Saxon date, and a series of ditches, a fence line and a chalk wall which all followed similar alignments to one another and were suggestive of a continuity in land division from the post-Roman period through to the 19th century.
34. HUNTINGDON, HARTFORD ROAD (TL 2410 7178). Evaluation carried out by A. Connor for Cambridgeshire County Council funded by the Nene Housing Society, identified three distinct phases of medieval activity including structures and a sequence of pitting possibly dating from the 11th to 14th centuries. Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman St Neots ware and later variants dominated the pottery assemblage although a key group of post-A.D. 200 sherds were also present. The results indicated the area was part of the medieval town prior to the settlement’s contraction during the 14th century.

35. HUNTINGDON, ORCHARD LANE (TL 2420 7160). English Heritage-funded excavations at this site, close to the bridging point across the R. Great Ouse and 70 m from the High Street, revealed rubbish and cesspits dating from A.D. 900-1150. Information was obtained on the diet of the Saxo-Norman population and advances were made in the production of a pottery typology for early medieval Huntingdon. Probably in the 11th century the site became a cemetery and remains of over 20 individuals were excavated. The cemetery may have formed part of the churchyard of the lost church of St Clement and burial had ceased by the 15th century. Apart from a quarrying episode in the 16th or 17th century, thereafter the property remained open or was used as a builders’ yard. The excavations were conducted by N. Oakey and S. Kenney for Cambridgeshire County Council.

36. LITTLE DOWNHAM, BISHOP’S PALACE (TL 5193 8420). An evaluation and recording brief revealed remains of buildings from the 15th century palace which have been incorporated into the present farm buildings. Three phases of activity were identified including early stone building foundations and a later brick extension or renovation together with an 18th century surface.

37. LITTLE PAXTON, ST JAMES’S CHURCH (TL 1826 27). A visual inspection of St James’s parish church together with some documentary research was carried out by B. Robinson and B. Davis to establish whether the buttresses of the S. aisle contain in situ medieval fabric. Overall patterns of post-medieval restoration were noted and surviving medieval buttresses were located on the N. wall of the nave. It was not possible to establish whether the medieval fabric of the S. aisle buttresses had been entirely reset during 19th century restoration.

38. PETERBOROUGH, THE STILL PUBLIC HOUSE (TL 1910 9880). Following on from an evaluation in April 1994, a team led by K. Welsh for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Norwich Union, conducted a full excavation from January to May 1995. The site lies between Cumbergate and Westgate, two medieval streets which were apparently established when the town was refounded in the mid-12th century. The excavation revealed some evidence of settlement prior to the 12th century with Stamford and St Neots ware (A.D. 950–1150) being present. The earliest surviving features across the site were a series of quarry pits for the extraction of the local corn brash. Evidence for domestic activity was most pronounced in the back yards of the properties fronting onto Westgate. From the 12th to 16th centuries a number of structures was revealed including ovens and wells set within well-established property boundaries. Elsewhere the site was characterised by a high degree of pitting either for quarrying or domestic rubbish disposal, continuing from the 12th to the late 17th century after which the area became orchards and gardens. The considerable quantities of pottery recovered are currently being studied in order to provide a type series for Peterborough and the surrounding area. This analysis forms part of the on-going post excavation programme by M. Hinman and P. Spoerry.
39. RAMSEY, RAMSEY ABBEY SCHOOL (TL 2925 8515). An evaluation excavation by S. Macaulay produced evidence of late Saxon and medieval occupation. A late Saxon ditch and pit were sealed beneath a medieval layer. Partially robbed foundations of two walls and a robbing trench for a third were revealed. All these were sealed by a 16th century demolition layer. A fragment of floor tile perhaps from the Abbey's own kilns was also recovered.

40. SOHAM, PRATT STREET (TL 5927 7346). During September 1995, field evaluation followed by limited excavation was undertaken at 9–13 Pratt Street by A. Hatton for Cambridgeshire County Council funded by Kanagan Developments. Late Saxon/early medieval boundary ditches were revealed, their presence here conforming to similar remains behind properties on the opposite street front. The combined evidence clearly indicates settlement outside the assumed nucleus of early medieval Soham, and suggests that Pratt Street was a significant thoroughfare.

41. SOHAM, 9–13 PRATT STREET (TL 5927 7346). An evaluation excavation by A. Hatton and J. Last revealed ditches, pits and post-holes of a late Saxon date (10th–12th centuries). Only limited recording of these features was possible.

42. SOHAM, STATION ROAD (TL 5924 7340). An evaluation excavation by R. Heawood produced late Saxon or Saxo-Norman remains of timber associated with pottery of 10th to 12th century date. A ditch parallel to Station Road showed the street line has probably been kept since the late Saxon period.

43. SOHAM, 11 WHITE HART LANE (TL 5943 7325). Documentary and small scale archaeological investigation of human remains by B. Robinson suggest an encroachment of the road into a cemetery dating from the early 7th to late 9th century, possibly associated with the Abbey of St Felix.

44. SOMERSHAM, HIGH STREET (TL 358 779). Evaluation trenches and a test pit revealed late Saxon/early medieval property boundaries and medieval rubbish pits. The work was conducted by J. Roberts for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Keith Hurst Design.

45. SPALDWICK, THRAPSTON ROAD (TL 128 729). In 1995 an evaluation and excavation were undertaken by D. Schlee for Cambridgeshire County Council, ahead of a residential development by McLean Homes (East Anglia) Ltd. Late Saxon structures were identified adjacent to Thrapston Road. Medieval remains consisting of boundary ditches and refuse deposits were also identified and these were believed to be indicative of an adjacent settlement. Interpretation of these remains suggested that the site was on the edge of the settlement in the medieval period, and that prior to the 12th century realignment of the village it had been more centrally located. These results support a hypothesis that the village morphology changed during the 12th century when the Bishop's Palace and demesne estate centre were founded. Post-excavation work continues.

46. STOW LONGA, SPALDWICK ROAD (TL 110 710). During an evaluation in January 1995, the partial remains of a house platform was recorded as an upstanding earthwork on the street frontage. Trenches placed through this platform indicated it had been built in the late medieval period. The evaluation was carried out by P. Spoerry and J. Last for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Mr Covine.

47. SUTTON, THE BROOK (TL 4415 7908). In June 1995 as part of an evaluation conducted by E. Guttman and B. Robinson for Cambridgeshire County Council,
upstanding ridge-and-furrow were recorded at this site, with ridges standing up to approximately 0.5 m high along a N.-S. alignment.

48. SAWAFFHAM BULBECK, THE ABBEY (TL 558 635). Excavations adjacent to The Abbey by J. Roberts revealed a paved surface, a substantial wall foundation and possible buttress. The wall appears to run parallel to the existing Abbey building and has a similar floor level. Stone roof tiles and painted window glass were recovered together with a small quantity of pottery dated from between 900 and 1550.

49. SAWAVSEY, SCHOOL LANE (TL 358 687). Archaeological excavation close to the centre of Swavesey by R. Heawood revealed dense Saxo-Norman and medieval occupation features including evidence for several post-built timber structures. An important stratified sequence of medieval occupation surfaces was also discovered. The pottery ranges from 10th to 14th centuries, including Thetford, St Neots, Ely, Lyvedon Stanion and Grimston wares. Many features, however, contain large sherds of both early and late date and this site may contribute to redefining the standard dates given to these pottery types.

50. SAWAVSEY, SCHOOL LANE AND BLACKHORSE LANE (TL 358 687). Evaluation excavations by P. Spoerry and S. Cooper revealed dense occupation of late Saxon to medieval date. The remains included pitting and evidence for timber structures of more than one phase. The evaluation also revealed areas of dumping to extend the area of the gravel terrace. Five phases of ditches associated with drainage of the adjacent low-lying area were noted together with a bank — a possible flood defence. Further excavation produced evidence of late Saxon and Saxo-Norman occupation, including post-holes, beam-slots, and pits. These features were located on the terrace gravels. Additional trenching revealed alluvial deposits.

51. TEVERSHAM, PEMBROKE FARM (TL 498 582). In 1995, an evaluation was conducted by S. Kemp for Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Pembroke College, on remnants of upstanding medieval ridge-and-furrow. St Neots ware and small shelly ware pottery sherds collected in the vicinity suggest the area may have been settled as early as the 10th century. Later quarrying activities had disturbed these earlier remains.

52. WILLINGHAM, HIGH STREET (TL 403 702). Work carried out by A. Connor revealed considerable occupation dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. Two areas of the site contained evidence for post-built hall-type buildings. Eight such buildings were complete and discernible in plan, a further two were seen in partial plan and other post-holes may well represent other buildings or fence lines. Phases of ditches and gullies could also be broadly assigned to this period. Post-excavation analysis is being carried out which suggests an early Saxon date for some of the pottery and the buildings. Ditches around the N. of the settlement seem to contain pottery of later Anglo-Saxon date and probably relate to properties which fronted Church Street. Only isolated features produced pottery conclusively middle Saxon in date. A small number of pits and a ditch within the development area are thought to belong to the medieval period.

53. WISBECH, MARKET MEWS (TF 4630 0969). A sequence of deeply stratified medieval and post-medieval deposits were excavated by M. Hinman. The sequence contains evidence for metal working and at least eight distinct building phases, the earliest the excavation reached has been dated provisionally to the 13th century although deposits continued to a greater depth. Floors associated with these buildings were sealed by accumulations of fine silts deposited during episodic flooding.
54. **Wittering, Bonemills Farm (TF 047 015)**. W. Wall carried out an archaeological evaluation which revealed remains of two middle Saxon iron-smelting furnaces and a third possible furnace near Bonemills Farm, Wittering. Excavation showed that two of the furnaces consisted of sub-oval pits about 2.2 m long, 0.6 m wide and 0.15 m deep. At one end the sides and bases of the pits were heavily discoloured by heat; running out from this end were thick flows of tap slag, ash and charcoal. A third feature was possibly a furnace of a different type, a circular pit 0.60 m in diameter and 0.33 m deep. This had no evidence of slag-tapping, although a large mass of iron and slag recovered from it may have been a bloom. Nothing remained of the superstructure of any of the furnaces. Several pits adjacent to the furnaces were found to contain charcoal and burnt iron stone, with evidence of burning at the pit base. These may have been used for roasting the ore before smelting. Deposits of iron stone outcropping along the pipeline route, the closest within a few metres of the site, may have been the ore source. Charcoal samples from the fills of furnaces one and three were submitted for radiocarbon dating:

- **Beta 111221** Oak (Quercus) sapwood charcoal from furnace 1:
  - $1350 \pm 80$ BP cal A.D. 575 to 875 (95%)

- **Beta 111222** Elder (Sambucus) charcoal from possible furnace 3:
  - $1230 \pm 50$ BP cal A.D. 680 to 905 and cal A.D. 920 to 950 (95%)

No metal artefact of any kind was recovered during the excavations, in spite of an intensive metal-detector survey; a traverse across the site with a magnet failed to produce any traces of hammer scale.

**Cheshire**

55. **Warrington, Warrington Friary (SJ 6068 8788)**. Part of the site of Warrington Friary has recently been redeveloped as an office block by Ashall Construction Ltd who funded archaeological work in advance of, and during, development. The site was investigated through desk-based appraisal, sample excavation and an archaeological watching brief. Prior to the investigation of the site by Gifford and Partners Ltd., a series of additional evaluations and excavations dating back to 1870 had been carried out in and around the site of the medieval Friary. *(CBA Archaeology North West 11 (1997) 131)*.

The archaeological investigations revealed a disproportionately small claustral range in relation to the large church which suggests that only a small number of Friars were in residence at the Friary. However on the basis of documentary evidence the Friary probably had a large outer courtyard with extensive ancillary houses including kitchens, barns, stables, duff houses (stores), orchards and gardens established within its walls.

**Cornwall.** Work by Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

56. **Bodway Farm (SX 295 623)**. In connection with work on a new water main between Menheniot and Coldrenick geophysical survey located a series of features W. of Bodway Farm, first recorded in 1120, suggesting a multi-period site. Two areas were investigated by D. Cole, N. Thomas and A. Reynolds on behalf of South West Water. The finds appear to confirm three chronologically distinct phases of land-use: slight post-medieval cultivation marks on alignment with the surviving field system, deeper medieval ditches — probably associated with Bodway Farm — and a series of slight ditches and other features thought to be prehistoric. The medieval ditches were dated by the discovery of a total of 112 sherds of a single large 13th/14th-century cooking pot.

57. **St Neot, Mennabroom (SX 1673 7057)**. Proposals to build an extension at the S. end of the Mennabroom farmhouse, recognised as a cross passage house, led to an excavation by N. Thomas, A. Reynolds, D. Cole and P. Herring. Uncovered granite foundations suggest the building was a longhouse in its earliest phase. A wide doorway
providing access from the cross passage into the lower room indicates that this was once a cowhouse. The earliest pottery from the site shows occupation dating from the 13th century.

**DEVON**

58. **Dartington Hall (SX 798 628).** During continuing excavations at Dartington Hall three further trenches were excavated under the direction of C. K. Currie for CKC Archaeology (Gardens Archaeology Project). These recovered evidence of structures overlying the medieval buildings of the S. Courtyard.

Other structural features on the Best Lawn suggest the Courtyard was of more than one phase, a suggestion made by evidence in previous years. It would now seem that the structure known as the ‘tower’ is the earliest building of a sequence in the SW. corner of the courtyard. A massive structure with walls over 1.5 m thick was found butting against the SE. corner of this building. It is possible that early 16th-century architectural fragments found in demolition levels nearby may be related to it, rather than to the tower as was once thought. The idea of a multi-phased courtyard would certainly help to resolve the differences between Platt (1962) and Emery (1975) in their previous attempts at analysing the remains; the former claiming an early 16th-century date for the courtyard, the latter a late 14th-century date.

**ESSEX.** Work by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit unless otherwise stated.

59. **Chelmsford, Moulsham Lodge (TL 713 055).** An archaeological evaluation by geophysical survey and trial trenching in advance of a large housing development at Moulsham Lodge, Chelmsford revealed three medieval fish ponds, which were mapped by John Walker in 1591. Work was conducted by M. Germany.

60. **Colchester, 67 Castle Road (TM 0005 2539).** Inspection by H. Brooks of Colchester Archaeological Trust of footings trenches for an extension revealed a 1.4 to 2.25 m thick deposit of late medieval or early post-medieval dumped soils containing six fragments of a Cunningham (1985) fabric 21 or 21a (Colchester Ware type) dripping dish, conventionally dated to the 15–16th century. The vessel has a green-speckled orange-glaze over a painted slip pattern (a fish?), is very large and flat with steep sides, and has at least one handle. There is sooting on the underside. There was also a hefty jug rim with slip painting on the flat-topped rim, and a single sherd, both of fabric 21/21a.

In this position, this material (presumably domestic debris) has to be associated with the Greyfriars monastery, which lies only 55 m SSE. Quite how it links in with any specific building at Grey Friars is not known, but it presumably predates 1538, when the estate was surrendered to the crown agent at the Dissolution (VCH 1994, 306).

61. **Colchester, East Street, Rose and Crown Hotel (TM 008 253).** This building was originally a timber-framed aisled hall, dating from c. 1400, in an extramural, suburban location. Substantial elements of the nave survived, together with fragments of the roof and one aisle. The W. end, probably representing the upper end, was storied. 15th-century alterations transformed the building by placing jettied cross-wings over either end of the aisled structure, 16th-century additions included a large stack at the upper end of the hall and a range with a crown-post roof. The building underwent an antiquarian restoration in the 1930s.

The survey was conducted by A. Menage of the RCHM(E).

62. **Epping, Rear of 237–255 High Street (TL 4604 0222).** Excavation by A. Garwood of four trial trenches identified material including small concentrations of medieval activity
on site. No evidence of a medieval street frontage was encountered during the evaluation, but medieval rubbish pits, dating from the 13th–14th century, were present towards the street frontage in trench A. The presence of these, and the paucity of any other medieval features on site, suggests that the main area of occupation was focused along the street frontage and did not extend into the backplots. However, post-medieval and modern disturbance may account for the absence of ephemeral features dating from this period.

63. Harlow, Land North of Gilden Way (TL 4834 1243). Four stages of archaeological field evaluation were undertaken on a proposed housing and tree planting scheme to the N. of Gilden Way in Harlow. This area was evaluated in detail as it lay directly to the S. of a Scheduled Roman villa. The evaluation conducted by R. Wardill, R. Masefield and R. P. S. Clouston consisted of geophysical survey followed by a series of trial trenching. Several features of a Saxon date were excavated within the scheduled area indicating continuation of occupation or re-use of the site in the Saxon period. The location of Saxon features or finds within earlier Roman buildings is becoming a more frequent occurrence in Essex.

64. Kelvedon, Church Street, The Gardens Bungalow (TL 8586 1847). Three trenches investigated by R. Clarke identified evidence of medieval activity. This comprised a large pit or well-shaft, and a possible linear ditch running parallel to Church Road. The location of the latter feature suggests that it may have been a roadside ditch or property marker. The ditch contained pottery dating from the 12th to 14th century. The pit/well produced slightly later (14th-century) pottery.

65. Kelvedon High Street, Star and Fleece (TL 8646 1912). Four trenches were excavated by T. Ennis on land proposed for residential development on the site of a former hotel and brewery complex. Trench 2 contained a collection of features, including medieval post-holes (producing a few sherds of 12th- to 14th-century pottery). A small amount of residual early Saxon pottery was also recovered.

66. Little Bardfield, Land Adjacent to St Katherine’s Church (TL 6555 3074). Trial trenching by A. Garwood identified some medieval activity on site. A ditch in Trench C produced pottery dating to the late 12th to early 13th century. This ditch may represent a property boundary or a field boundary. A small ditch or gully in Trench B may be of contemporary date as it lies on the same alignment.

67. Rayleigh, Mill Hall Site (TQ 8065 9092). An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by R. Wardill within the boundaries of the outer bailey of Rayleigh Castle, in the vicinity of the windmill and adjacent hall. Six test pits were excavated, four of which were found to contain archaeological deposits/features. The earliest of these deposits produced finds dated to the 13th century which suggest that the associated features are of a similar date. A large proportion of the evaluation area was found to have been cleared of soils, possibly as the result of construction during recent decades, reducing the likelihood of archaeological remains surviving.

68. Rochford to Southend Pipeline (TQ 881 875). An archaeological watching brief by C. J. Tripp identified the presence of some medieval activity in the area between Smithers Farm and Fossett's Camp (TQ 890 882). Two features were recorded and 12th- to 14th-century pottery and quantities of oyster shell were found. Taking into account the small area excavated at this point little can be suggested as to the shape and function of the features other than that they may have been rubbish pits.
Six areas with archaeological potential (A to F) were detected by fieldwalking and geophysical surveys led by M. Germany. Areas A to C were found by the field walking survey and areas D to F by the geophysical survey. Area C was defined by three sherds of early Saxon pottery. The Saxon pottery may mark the location of a 6th/7th-century settlement. Thin scatters of material including medieval pottery were also found by the field walking survey. These scatters were possibly derived from nearby settlement outside the area covered by the survey.

Excavation of thirteen trial trenches by C. Hearne of Waltham Abbey Historical Society revealed one area of medieval activity. To the immediate S. of Sheepcotes Cottages field boundary/drainage ditches and a pit of the late 12th–late 13th century were revealed. These features probably represent farming activity associated with a precursor to the present farm buildings, the earliest parts of which are known to date back to at least the 15th century.

Five late medieval/Tudor features, consisting of two post-holes, two ditched property boundaries and a large sub-rectangular cesspit, were uncovered by M. Germany during a small archaeological excavation in the back garden of this property. The cesspit and ditches contained pieces of worked bones, a small number of tools including a bone punch, and strips and scraps of copper alloy relating to the late medieval cutlery industry. Other finds from the site included a possibly French jetton, and a large assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery of the 14th to earlier 15th centuries, similar to assemblages from previous excavations in the vicinity.

Rescue excavation by P. Greenwood to the W. of the area excavated in 1995, produced a few early Saxon sherds which were found in the subsoil and on the 'surfaces' of earlier features. Post-Conquest and later evidence was sparse. This opportunity is taken to thank our funders and helpers in kind, Redland Aggregates Ltd., English Heritage, Essex County Council, the London Borough of Havering, and especially, the numerous volunteers who contributed well in excess of 3000 working days to the project during the last seven years, both on site and indoors.

A previous section cut across the linear depression in the meadows, revealed a massive timber-planked structure. Excavations, directed by P. J. Huggins for Waltham Abbey Historical Society, showed the full width of the planking was 8.3 m. The side ground beams were 30 cm square. There were originally side fences, that nearest the church was replaced by a stone wall. The structure, all of elm, is interpreted as a dock for unloading the stone for a major church-building campaign, probably of the Augustinian monastery of 1177–1242.

Evaluation by B. Turner-Flynn for Cotswold Archaeological Trust recovered two sherds of residual grass-tempered pottery of 5th to 7th-century date within the filling of a relict stream-bed or pond associated with the river Crouch.

Evaluation by B. Langton of the Cotswold Archaeological Trust sought to assess if any archaeological deposits associated with either the Late Bronze Age camp, the Saxon burgh, or the early medieval
Two trenches were excavated, both of which revealed medieval features. Trench 1 contained two ditches, one of which contained a single sherd of 12th- to 14th-century pottery. Trench 2 contained a ditch, a gully, and four pits. No dating evidence was retrieved from the gully or three of the pits. The ditch contained late 13th- to early 14th-century pottery, and a small assemblage of residual prehistoric material.

Gloucestershire

76. Bishop’s Cleeve, Stoke Road (SO 9555 2765). Excavation by B. Langton and D. Enright for Cotswold Archaeological Trust revealed a single post-built structure approximately 4 m in diameter, possibly a temporary shelter or wind-break, which produced grass-tempered pottery datable to the 5th–8th century. An unstratified 9th-century zoomorphic strap-end was also recovered.

In the medieval period ditches defined three distinct land-plots, doubtless the backlands of buildings beneath the existing properties fronting Stoke Road. The westernmost of the three was 22 m wide and contained a number of pits and postholes concentrated on the W. side of the plot. The majority of the pits appeared to have been utilised for the disposal of domestic rubbish. One pit contained a discrete dump of butchery or skinning waste.

In the central plot there was a stone-lined drain and associated cobbled surface. The drain, of L-shaped plan, was lined with broken limestone pegged roof slates, further slates forming a cover. The drain terminated at a lined circular setting. The layout of the drain suggests that it collected rain water from the roof of a structure such as a barn or shed of which little trace has survived. Towards the edge of this plot was a series of intercutting pits, two of which were waterlogged, one with the remnants of a wooden lining.

In the E. plot an irregular channel defined by crude walls, probably for drainage, cut into a natural slope. It was covered by a layer of limestone rubble, possibly laid to create a ramp to a pond or small stream adjacent to Stoke Road. To the rear of the plots was a series of possible stock enclosures and evidence for agriculture. Occupation of the backlands dates to the 12th–14th century, with a limited assemblage of 15th-century pottery in the latest horizons. After this the area was abandoned.

77. Hillesley, Hillesley Farm (ST 768 897). An archaeological excavation was conducted by T. Longman of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services on land to the rear of Hillesley Farm prior to the construction of several houses on the site. The purpose of the project was to record the nature and extent of the surviving archaeology, which had been first recorded during an earlier archaeological evaluation.

The subsequent fieldwork recorded a deposit interpreted as an early medieval plough soil. This buried soil contained pottery from the 11th century to the late 12th/early 13th century. Evidence for a track and the orientation of several fields of an ‘open field’ or ‘Midland Field’ system on the edge of the medieval village was provided by several ditches. This interpretation was supported by the results of the analysis of soil samples taken from the ditches associated with the field system. This confirmed the presence of crops of wheat, barley, oats and rye as well as legumes — indicative of a crop rotation system common in arable farming. The subsequent archaeological evidence indicated that this field system was abandoned in favour of less intensive agricultural uses by the mid-late 13th century. The arable fields were converted to crofts, paddocks for grazing sheep and orchards. Archaeological and cartographic evidence indicated that this land-use continued for over 600 years until the extension of the farmyard and farm outbuildings in the 1960s.

78. Lechlade, Sherborne House (SU 2126 9974). Excavation by C. Bateman and D. Enright for Cotswold Archaeological Trust found six early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings, a possible post-built hall, pits, and linear ditches. It would appear that only part of a much more extensive, dispersed settlement has been examined. The limited
stratigraphic evidence, coupled with the lack of well-dated comparable early Saxon pottery assemblages, hinders preliminary attempts to elucidate the chronology and length of occupation. It therefore remains unclear whether the Saxon structures belong to a small settlement which shifted over time across the gravel terrace, or a single, large settlement occupied over a relatively short period. A broad correlation, however, may be expected between the life span of the settlement and the nearby cemetery at Butler’s Field, which would suggest occupation spanning at least the 6th–7th centuries.

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

BARKING

79. BARKING, GEORGE STREET (TQ 4410 8430). Investigations were carried out by S. Farid of Pre-Construct Archaeology on behalf of Laing Homes. Roman tile fragments were present as residual material in later features. One shallow cut contained a Roman brick fragment, perhaps re-used in the medieval period. In the extreme N. of the site three phases of low-status domestic activity dating to the Saxon period were recorded, the pottery recovered dating to between c. 750 A.D. and 1050 A.D. The excavations indicated land use and occupation of the site into the medieval period. At all periods the activity on the site appears to have largely been domestic occupation by low-status households.

BROMLEY

80. CHISLEHURST, SCADBURY MANOR HOUSE (TQ 43594 7006). A. Hart, V. Satterthwaite and M. Meekums of Orpington and District Archaeological Society investigated a drainage channel and probable storage cistern, both early 13th-century cut into the Woolwich clays. They became filled with sediment, and later dumped soil, and 15th-century kitchens were built on top. The 13th-century fill includes London ware jug sherds and other pot, cattle bone, preserved seeds, the skull of an infant, and a few small iron items.

CITY OF LONDON

81. At 30–35 Botolph Lane, 29–31 Monument Street (TQ 3303 8074) an evaluation by P. Rowsome for Berkeley Homes (Essex) Ltd. recorded medieval walls and associated surfaces.

82. At 4 Bouverie Street (TQ 3136 8113) an evaluation by A. Miles for the Trustees of the Viscount Folkestone Estate revealed a series of large pits dated to the late 12th–13th centuries: they were probably for the extraction of gravel at the time of the construction of the White Friars in 1241.

83. At 10 Bouverie Street (TQ 3137 8108) an excavation by B. Barber for Scottish Provident recorded a series of alluvial deposits, dated to the later 12th century, which appear to represent the silting and infilling of a large feature, possibly the result of gravel extraction or erosion by either the Thames or an unreconstructed tributary of the River Fleet. A massive series of dumps reclaimed the marshy area and provided a platform on which the Carmelite friary complex known as Whitefriars was built in 1241. Several chalk and ragstone foundations were recorded: these may have been pier bases for the nave arcade of the second church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which was rebuilt in c. 1348–50. Five burials were excavated, at least one of which pre-dated the 14th-century rebuild.

84. At Bucklersbury at the junction of Queen Victoria Street (TQ 3260 8107) a watching brief by P. Rowsome for British Telecom found a sequence of external make-ups and rudimentary metallised surfaces associated with the establishment and maintenance of the late Saxon and medieval street of Bucklersbury.
85. At the junction of Cannon Street and Bread Street (TQ 3229 8102) a watching brief by D. Lakin for the Corporation of London revealed soil deposits, which accumulated during the late Roman and medieval periods cut by a very substantial masonry foundation constructed some time in the medieval period. It was parallel to, but set back from, the alignment of modern Bread Street. This may have formed part of the undercroft of a major building, possibly Salters’ Hall.

86. At 1–4 Carey Lane, 11–12 Foster Lane (TQ 3220 8133) an evaluation by I. Blair for the Goldsmiths’ Company revealed Roman deposits cut by medieval pits, of which the earliest dated to the 11th century. A chalk foundation was also recorded cutting into a sequence of partially slumped and scorched internal surfaces: both were medieval in date.

87. At Wardrobe Court, 53–57 Carter Lane, 1–5 Addle Hill (TQ 3189 8103) an evaluation by K. Tyler for Wardrobe Court Ltd found chalk foundations of the 14th-century King’s Wardrobe.

88. At 50 Cornhill (TQ 3297 8110) a watching brief by D. Sankey for Fuller Smith & Turner plc., revealed a late medieval or Tudor chalk cesspit.

89. At 26–38 Fenchurch Street, 1–16 Mincing La, Plantation House, Chesterfield House (TQ 3318 8087) an evaluation by N. Roycroft for British Land Corporation Ltd revealed Saxon-Norman and medieval wells, a probable cesspit and another pit.

90. At 168 Fenchurch Street (TQ 3304 8097) an evaluation by L. Dunwoodie for Barclay’s Property Holdings Ltd revealed medieval activity consisting of a series of pits (possibly for robbing Roman masonry) and part of a chalk-lined cesspit on the W. side of the site. Two linear features, recorded along the S. edge of the site, may have been the remains of an early boundary wall associated with St Dionis Backchurch. Disturbed grave deposits were found at the S. end of the site where they had probably originated from the medieval cemetery associated with St Dionis Backchurch. This disturbance may have taken place in the post-medieval period, although there is a possibility that it may have occurred at an earlier date.

91. At 2–12 Gresham Street (TQ 3228 8133) an evaluation by N. Roycroft for Standard Life Assurance Co. recorded a substantial medieval chalk and mortar wall foundation, two medieval or post-medieval pits — one probably a cesspit.

92. At Garrard House, 31–45 Gresham Street, 100 Wood Street (TQ 3229 8142) a watching brief by L. Howe for Wates City of London Properties recorded medieval and post-medieval pits and some wall foundations.

93. At 99 Gresham Street (TQ 3260 8130) J. Butler of Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out a watching brief on behalf of Greycoat plc. Three trenches revealed that modern intrusions had destroyed any archaeological deposits in the S. of the site. The N. trench contained a late Saxon deposit, probably a pit fill, which had been cut by a modern pit from which a large quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered (the latter probably deposited when the church and graveyard of St Stephen Coleman were removed from the site in 1960).

94. At High Timber Street, Broken Wharf House & Sir John Lyon House (TQ 3218 8081) an evaluation by R. Wroe-Brown for Jones, Lang, Wootton revealed parts of medieval timber revetments, chalk wall foundations and reclamation dumps above the foreshore.
95. At 15–17 King Street (TQ 3249 8128) an evaluation by L. Dunwoodie for the Banca Commerciale Italiana revealed the remains of a probable rubbish pit of Saxon or early medieval date, sealed by a surface or the base of a chalk foundation in which three stakeholes were recorded.

96. At 47–51 King William Street, 16 Fish Street Hill, Equitable House (TQ 3288 8080) an excavation and watching brief by D. Sankey for Greycoat plc revealed a number of medieval pits which held primary butchery waste and may relate to nearby butchers in Pudding Lane.

97. At 5 Laurence Pountney Hill & 154–156 Upper Thames Street, Suffolk House (TQ 3271 8077) a watching brief and excavation by A. Woodger for Argent Real Estate (Knightsbridge) Ltd revealed brick-earth floors and organic occupation levels which were probably part of a Saxo-Norman sunken building or cellar reusing the W. wall of a Roman building. The latest feature recorded was a chalk foundation, of possible 13th- or 14th-century date. Although the foundations may not have been built to strict courses they had clearly been levelled off following the deposition of each distinct build. The base of a second chalk foundation was also recorded.

98. At Party Wall between No. 1 London Wall and 1–6 Aldersgate Street (TQ 3223 8148) D. Killock conducted a watching brief on behalf of Kajima UK Development Ltd. Backfilled cuts of probably medieval date were recorded to the W. of the wall which may relate to the infilling of the external city ditch. Truncated natural brick-earth, recorded at 11.6 m OD, may indicate the area of berm between the wall and the ditch.

99. At 72, 74–82 London Wall, Winchester House (TQ 3300 8145) an excavation and watching brief by P. Askew for Morgan Grenfell & Company Ltd & Hochtief Costain revealed dark earth sealing the Roman levels, into which were cut medieval pits.

100. At 1–6 Love Lane, 59–67 Gresham Street, Barrington House (TQ 3237 8140) an evaluation by A. Woodger for Legal and General Property Ltd along the Love Lane frontage — the only area of the site where archaeological deposits survived — natural brick-earth was cut by a rubbish pit of late 11th-12th century date which also contained a single sherd dated to 1230 or later. This pit may have had a wattle lining. A further three rubbish, quarry or cesspits are undated. One of these was overlaid by a medieval chalk wall footing.

101. At Lower Thames Street, Three Quays House (TQ 3335 8035) an evaluation by I. Grainger for the Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society found a probable clay bank and revetment of 13th century date which shared the alignment of Lower Thames Street and may have originally formed the S. side of this street. A number of organic deposits were subsequently dumped to the S. of this; they would have been associated with a 13th-14th-century revetment which probably lay to the S. of the trench. The dumps were cut by the foundations and a cesspit of buildings behind the later medieval waterfront.

102. At 55 Ludgate Hill, Procession House (TQ 3259 8143) an excavation by I. Grainger for the Heron Property Corporation revealed on the E. part of the site evidence of medieval occupation in the form of cut features, in particular a large rubbish pit dated to the later 13th century, and the foundations of an interval tower or bastion for the City Wall extension of c. 1279–1284. In the W. area alluvial deposits of the River Fleet were sealed
by dumped layers dated from the late 11th–12th to early 14th centuries: these probably represent levelling and land reclamation along the E. bank of the river associated with the construction of the City Wall extension. They were succeeded by a number of medieval buildings which were modified and extended in the 16th and earlier 17th century, before being destroyed by the Great Fire.

103. At 1–3 Ludgate Square, 56–66 Carter Lane (TQ 3182 8111) a watching brief by B. Watson for Paskin Kyriakin Sands within the area of the Norman fortress known as Montfichet's Tower revealed truncated rubbish and cesspits of unknown date and a fragment of medieval cellar wall foundation.

104. At 16–17 Old Bailey, Britannia House (TQ 3173 8138) an evaluation by A. Steele for Foggo Associates found a very circular feature which may have been a Saxo-Norman well.

105. At 36 St Andrew's Hill (TQ 3186 8102) a watching brief by J. Ayre for GAD Holdings found three fragments of truncated chalk and ragstone masonry foundations cutting into earlier medieval dumping; these were part of the King's Great Wardrobe complex (constructed in 1360). A tiled floor, probably a later phase of surfacing, was sealed by fire debris. The latter is likely to represent the destruction of the Wardrobe in the Great Fire.

106. At Tower Place, Bouring Building (TQ 3335 8065) an evaluation trench by C. Pickard of Pre-Construct Archaeology, on behalf of J. and H. Marsh and McLennan, revealed London Clay at -1.67 m OD. Residual Roman pottery of the late 2nd century A.D. was recovered from a small medieval pit. A second pit, with a central post at its base, may represent activity from the earliest medieval occupation of Lower Thames Street, possibly dating to the 2nd half of the 11th century.

107. At 48 Upper Thames Street, Brooks Wharf (TQ 3222 8080) an evaluation by J. Ayre for Barratt East London found a series of medieval reclamation and levelling dumps, with chalk foundations and cesspits cut into them. A number of revetment timbers were also observed.

108. At 48 Upper Thames Street EC4, Brook’s Wharf (TQ 53221 18081) limited excavation in advance of redevelopment was carried out by G. Bruce of AOC Archaeology, on behalf of Barratt East London, within the single basement of this riverside site. Excavation areas were generally restricted to 2 m × 2 m pits positioned to remove archaeological deposits in advance of piling. The major findings were a number of medieval timber waterfront revetments, dated as 13th–14th century and concentrated approximately 30–40 m to the N. of the present river front. Evidence for development within individual properties was suggested by N.–S. revetments indicating inlets, whilst repairs to the waterfront were also found. In places layers of chalk rubble, up to 0.50 m thick, had been laid down on the foreshore immediately in front of the revetments, either as consolidation of the foreshore or possibly as barge beds.

Large scale reclamation dumps, in addition to those clearly associated with the known revetments, were seen to extend further to the N. and earlier timber revetments and are likely to have existed although none were found within the excavated areas. Parts of the reclaimed land on the riverside had been occupied by buildings with deep chalk foundations some of which were arched over possible cellars. In some cases the chalk footings clearly followed the lines of earlier revetments, indicating the fossilisation of boundaries. The recent basement had truncated the site down to a level to remove almost all other traces of occupation within these properties.
Whilst Roman and late Saxon pottery were found residually in river sands and gravels pre-dating the revetments, no structures or deposits could be securely dated to these earlier periods. This conforms with the anticipated location of earlier waterfronts being to the N. of the site.

109. At 13–21 West Smithfield, 22–29 Hosier Lane, Weddel House (TQ 3178 8159) an evaluation by R. Bluer for the Haberdashers’ Company found a chalk-lined cellar of presumed medieval date destroyed and replaced with a substantial wall of suggested 16th century date.

110. At 90–91, 100 Wood Street, St Albans Court (TQ 3230 8144) an evaluation by E. Howe for Lloyds LSB found large medieval pits and a chalk wall foundation.

EALING

111. At Southall, Elm View, Norwood Green Road (TQ 1325 7862) an evaluation by A. Steele for Northcote Housing Association/Lawson-Price Environmental found two ditches, one of mid-late 11th century and the other of mid-late 12th century, with the latter being truncated by a third ditch.

GREENWICH

112. At Creedy’s Yard, High Bridge Wharf, Eastley Street (TQ 387 781) P. Pearce and N. Cooke of Wessex Archaeology carried out investigations on behalf of Berkeley Homes (Kent) Ltd. The preliminary assessment of the excavation results indicates multi-period activity on the site from the 12th century A.D. to the present day.

Pits, post-holes and stake-holes belonged to the earliest phase of archaeological activity on the site. Small quantities of pottery dating the 12th and 13th centuries were recovered from some of these features. The most significant feature dated to this period was a large steep-sided pit associated with a possible fence/line/structure. The evidence from these features suggests relatively ‘low status’ activity on the site. A well, built of chalk, limestone and sandstone, was dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. It is thought likely to belong to a ‘high status’ building nearby.

113. At Creedy’s Yard, High Bridge Wharf, High Bridge (TQ 3876 7810) J. Bowsher carried out an evaluation on behalf of Berkeley Homes (Kent) Ltd. Natural sand was cut by stake-holes and two pits, all containing 12th–13th century pottery. They were sealed by ploughsoils and subsoils above which was constructed a substantial stone building of late medieval or early Tudor date. An associated plaster floor was sealed by demolition debris that included medieval brick, glazed floor tiles and stained window glass which indicate a building of high status.

114. At Creek Road, DLR Lewisham Extension, Cutty Sark Station (TQ 3823 7774) an excavation by M. McKenzie for Mowlem Civil Engineering revealed natural gravels and alluvial deposits cut by a cess or refuse pit of 12th–13th century date. A channel, cut into the alluvium may have been part of an attempt to drain the area, possibly at a time when there was a growing demand for new development as medieval Greenwich expanded westwards. The channel could only be broadly dated by reference to one 15th–late 18th century peg tile.

HACKNEY

115. At 2–6 Link Street, Homerton (TQ 3534 8504) an excavation by K. Tyler for the New Islington & Hackney Housing Association revealed natural gravel overlaid to the N. of the
site by brick earth. The chalk foundations of a building, as well as external pits, were recorded above; these were dated to the 11th–12th century, suggesting that the origins of Homerton are much earlier than its documented date of mid-14th century. Subsequently a building with chalk and flint foundations was constructed some time after the 13th–14th century and before the late 15th–early 16th century. To the S., and contemporary with this building, were a series of ditches and a timber sluice: these related to the management of water in the area of Hackney Brook S. of the site. They were replaced by a brick-lined reservoir constructed during the late 15th or early 16th century. During this period the land came into the ownership of Ralph Sadleir, the owner of Sutton House, a Tudor mansion still standing to the E. of the site.

HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

116. At The Distillery site, Winslow Road, Manbre Road (TQ 2337 7783) a watching brief by R. Cowie for English Heritage found several pits and a narrow gully or slot. Some of these were of late medieval and early post-medieval date.

HARROW

117. At 105–109 High Street, Edgware (TQ 1910 9164) D. Hopkinson of AOC Archaeology Ltd carried out an evaluation on behalf of David Ward Associates Ltd. Five trenches were opened, one of which revealed archaeological remains in the form of two medieval pits and a ditch, probably part of a field system or tenement boundary associated with the medieval development along the frontage of High Street, Edgware. The other four trenches revealed no archaeological remains.

HILLINGDON

118. At the Imperial College Sports Ground, Harlington (TQ 0825 7765) excavation by A. Crockett of Wessex Archaeology, on behalf of Henry Streeter (Sand and Ballast) Ltd, revealed further evidence for a long sequence of occupation and land use. A single pit of Saxon date was recorded. A medieval field system of small enclosures and wells was established to the S., with the ephemeral remains of possible ridge-and-furrow cultivation to the N. Elements of the medieval field system continued in use until the post-medieval period.

119. At the Norman Hay Site, Bath Road, Harmondsworth (TQ 0701 7708) an evaluation by S. Hoad for Kingswood Commercial Properties Ltd found a gully from which a fragment of medieval pottery was recovered. Two post-holes were associated with it. Another ditch was also revealed, containing charcoal and daub and likely to have been of Roman or Saxon origin. Three Saxon pits were identified and a loom-weight fragment recovered.

120. At Ruislip Manor Farm House, near Bury Street, Ruislip (TQ 0905 8778) a watching brief by A. Steele for L. B. Hillingdon monitored engineers’ testpits which examined the 16th–17th century farmhouse (a Listed Building) situated in the NE. corner of a motte and bailey castle (a Scheduled Ancient Monument). On the N. and E. sides of the house flint foundations were recorded above the natural clay: these may have belonged to structures associated with a 13th century abbey. On the E. side they were in close proximity to the moat of the castle and here they were fairly deep. A coin of the reign of Stephen (1135–1154) was found in deposits on the N. side of the farmhouse. The foundations were robbed in the post-medieval period and reused as foundations for the farmhouse on the NE. side of the building.

121. At High Street (rear), Uxbridge (TQ 1737 7724) an excavation by H. Knight for Royal & Sun Alliance revealed a number of post-holes and gravel surfaces cut by medieval and post-medieval pits.
122. At 159–188 Brentford High Street, Brentford (TQ 174 27735) J. Proctor of Pre-Construct Archaeology conducted an evaluation on behalf of British Waterways (Southern Ltd). Several pits were recorded at the E. end of the site containing pottery dating to 1100–1300. Significant quantities of medieval building materials were found in post-medieval contexts suggesting the presence of medieval buildings in the area, which were demolished or repaired at a later date.

123. At St Mary’s Convent, The Butts, Brentford (TQ 1762 7747) an evaluation by R. Cowie for The Poor Servants of the Mother of God revealed an iron spearhead, provisionally dated to the early Saxon period which was recovered from a feature cutting into the gravels.

ISLINGTON

124. At 129–129 Finsbury Pavement (TQ 3277 8175) an excavation by K. Pitt for Norwich Union Investment Management on this site, which lies immediately to the E. of the medieval moated manor house of Finsbury, revealed a number of late medieval and early post-medieval cut features and brick structures. The most notable being the W. arm of the moat for the manor house which had probably been backfilled in the 17th century.

125. At Collins’ Music Hall, 10–12 Islington Green (TQ 3172 8368) an evaluation by A. Miles for The Collins’ Music Hall found that the natural gravels were cut by a probable stream channel and overlaid by ploughsoil. Pottery dates from the ploughsoil — mainly mid 14th to mid 15th century, with a number of mid 12th century dates — suggest that the area was open ground from the medieval period.

126. At 387a Liverpool Road (TQ 3125 8456) a watching brief by A. Miles for the London Building Company revealed natural gravels overlaid by a soil horizon containing pottery dated to mid 11th to mid 12th century. It is most likely that this was for agriculture.

127. At Preachers’ Court, Charterhouse (TQ 3185 8202) a watching brief by C. Thomas for Sutton Hospital revealed natural gravels overlaid by early medieval dump layers or gravel extraction pit fills. They were succeeded by features and deposits relating to the Charterhouse (f.1371): a chalk wall, a possible timber drain and dump layers dating to the 14th–16th century. Above were brick walls, a possible floor and dumped layers dating to the later 16th–18th century.

128. At Earls Terrace, Kensington High Street (TQ 2496 7910) A. Douglas of Pre-Construct Archaeology, on behalf of Earls Terrace Properties Ltd, excavated four trenches with natural ‘brick-earth’ recorded at 7.45 m OD. A ploughsoil was recorded that may date to Saxon times and possibly medieval alluvial deposits in the SW. of the site suggest the presence of a water channel.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

129. At 6–16 Old Church Street (TQ 2710 7765) S. Farid of Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out investigations on behalf of FL Estates. Excavations in the S. of the site revealed floodplain gravels overlain by an alluvial silt layer from which many artefacts were recovered, including pottery sherds dating from 170 A.D. to the mid 14th century.

A few features dating to the middle Saxon period were observed in the E. of the site, and a number of post-holes, probably representing a timber structure, were tentatively linked to this phase of occupation.
A N.-S. discontinuous ditch whose alignment mirrored that of a row of post-holes from the previous phase, was dated Saxo-Norman and may indicate a continuity of function for this area of the site.

**Kingston**

130. At *East Lane and South Lane, Kingston* (TQ 1781 6889) J. Proctor and A. Hain of Pre-Construct Archaeology excavated the remains of a Saxon settlement dating to 400–700 A.D., apparently occupying a gravel island or headland. It consisted of at least one timber hall, represented by numerous stake- and post-holes, and is thought to comprise the remains of a farmstead. Among the finds were traces of antler working and an intact pottery drinking cup.

131. At *Kingston Bridge (S. side), Kingston upon Thames* (TQ 1776 6935) an evaluation by D. Saxby for the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames revealed timber revetments and the N. boundary of the property to which the revetments belonged, located on the S. side of the bridge. Ten phases were identified and some revetments were constructed from reused boat and building timbers. The earliest revetment is dendrochronologically dated to the early 14th century.

132. At *St John’s Vicarage, Church Road, Old Malden* (TQ 2120 6615) P. Andrews of Wessex Archaeology conducted an excavation on behalf of McAlpine Homes Southern Ltd. Four trenches, totalling about 1900 sq. m, were excavated in a site of about 1 ha. The earliest medieval activity has been assigned to the 11–12th century. It was represented by two pairs of substantial ditches along the N. edge of the site, which possibly defined a trackway to the rear of properties fronting Church Road. If this interpretation is correct, it would suggest that the early medieval settlement took a linear rather than nucleated form. Later medieval activity was confined almost entirely to the W. side of the site with a series of shallow ditches and gullies dated to between the 12th and 14th centuries defining small plots; at least two phases of features were represented but no contemporary buildings were identified. A vicarage is known from documentary sources to have existed in 1279, and it is possible that these plots were associated with this as yet unlocated building. The most substantial feature was a ‘watering hole’, fed by several gullies perhaps tapping a spring; this may have been used by animals rather than a source of domestic water. No medieval features later than the early 14th century were found, and pottery of the 14th–16th centuries was almost entirely absent. Whether this reflects an abandonment of the site, a shift in settlement focus, a change in rubbish disposal patterns or a combination of all three factors is unclear.

**Lambeth**

133. At *Lambeth Bridge House, Lambeth Road* (TQ 3059 7891) investigations were carried out by B. Bishop of Pre-Construct Archaeology for Jones Wootton Laing. Two archaeological trenches and ten groundwork contractor’s test pits were recorded, exposing natural alluvial gravel and sands at 2.19 m OD. Medieval pottery dated to 1270–1350 was recovered from a ditch.

**Lewisham**

134. At *The Stowage, Deptford* (TQ 376 778) investigations for Fairview New Homes plc were conducted by K. Woodridge and D. Divers of Pre-Construct Archaeology. The two main areas of excavation in this large site immediately S. of the Thames were Area A in the SW. of the site and Area D in the N. Natural gravel was observed at 3.83 m OD. A ditch containing two sherds of Saxon pottery was the only feature attributed to the Saxon period. A SE.-NW. ditch in Area A running along the lower edge of the gravel terrace
may have been medieval in origin. In Area D an elevated area of seemingly alluvial deposits running parallel to the River Thames may have represented the medieval river embankment although no structural elements of this feature were found. In the two main areas of excavation extensive post-medieval activity was recorded.

MERTON

135. At 80–82 Church Road, Mitcham (TQ 2715 6866) an excavation of the site of a proposed housing development by G. Bruce of AOC Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Beaver Housing Association Ltd recovered an early medieval pit with fragments of cooking vessels, ash and bone, suggesting activity from the 11th to mid-12th century in the area. Two other small pits were of possibly similar date yet yielded no pottery. A ploughsoil sealing these features contained pottery from the mid-12th to the mid-13th century when the land use was agricultural.

136. At 42 Tramway Path (land adjacent), Mitcham (TQ 2735 6801) an evaluation by R. Hewitt for Care Haven Ltd found natural sands and gravels cut by a pit which contained Roman material and some early to middle Saxon pottery. These latter finds are particularly significant in view of the site’s proximity to the Mitcham Anglo-Saxon cemetery, and the previous lack of evidence for settlement in this part of Mitcham.

RICHMOND

137. At Old Bridge Street, Hampton Wick, Richmond upon Thames (TQ 1757 6944) B. Bishop of Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out an evaluation on behalf of Crest Homes (Southern) Ltd. Old Bridge Street was the main thoroughfare to the former Kingston bridge documented from the late 12th century and this was indicated archaeologically by a phase of land levelling during the medieval period particularly noticeable in the trench which fronted onto Old Bridge Street. Here a large cut, interpreted as a possible hollow way formed by traffic to the bridge over hundreds of years, had been filled by a series of dumps. The earliest construction probably took place in the 14th century followed by a period of extensive building, demolition and rebuilding which was represented archaeologically by a 2 m stratigraphic sequence with re-use of walls and boundaries.

SOUTHWARK

138. At Benbow House, Bear Gardens, Bankside (TQ 3223 8051) an excavation by T. Mackinder for Chelsfield plc found that crushed chalk had been dumped above alluvium to form the foundation of buildings fronting onto Bankside during the medieval period. Remains of the buildings consisted of walls, floors, a large cellar and several pits: these are identified as the ‘stews’, owned by the Bishop of Winchester.

139. At 100–104 Bermondsey Street (TQ 3323 7971) an excavation was carried out by D. Killock of Pre-Construct Archaeology on behalf of Angel Property Trading Ltd. The site was located on the W. side of Bermondsey Street which developed as a thoroughfare from the abbey of St Saviour (founded in the late 11th century) to the centre of medieval Southwark. The earliest layers recorded were of waterlain silts and clays, interpreted as marsh deposits, the upper layers containing cultural material suggestive of settlement close to the site. During the next phase of activity the ground level was slightly raised to the E. and the quantity of domestic refuse recovered indicates occupation in close proximity to the site. The earliest building activity was along the Bermondsey High Street frontage and it comprised two ragstone (with occasional brick and sandstone) wall foundations, whilst the first use of the open areas to the W. of the site comprised a sequence of outdoor surfaces in mortar, brick and gravel (interpreted as a courtyard). No dateable artefacts were
recovered from these deposits and features and no stratigraphic link could be established between the building and the 'courtyard' development.

140. At Adlards Wharf, Bermondsey Wall West (TQ 3419 7983) investigations were carried out by D. Divers and A. Telfer of Pre-Construct Archaeology, on behalf of Albany Homes Ltd. Natural alluvial deposits were recorded in the S. of the site at 0.2 m OD. The earliest man-made feature uncovered was a chalk dump revetted with large secured timbers, interpreted as part of the medieval embankment or associated defences which are thought to be represented by the line of Bermondsey Wall West.

The site produced a sequence of waterfronts and associated land reclamation. Three presumably consecutive timber revetments were partially exposed; they probably represent the early post-medieval development of the site. Notable features recorded include a c. 15th-century clinker boat.

141. At 47–67 Hopton Street (TQ 3182 8045) V. Ridgeway, B. Bishop and G. Brown of Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out a series of evaluations and excavations on behalf of Manhattan Loft Corporation.

A pond and associated ditches truncating the alluvial deposits contained finds dating from the late medieval to early post-medieval periods. These features probably represent an historically documented tidal millpond and its associated ditches.

142. At 10–18 London Bridge Street (TQ 32790 80205) a watching brief and excavation by P. Askew for London Hotels Ltd on the site of St Thomas's Hospital (1215–1862) revealed medieval dumping, pitting, and a cellar or cesspit constructed from chalk, ragstone and flint. Two grave slabs dated 1200–1350 had been reused in the cesspit's construction: one was for an adult, the other for a child, the latter having an inscription on either side of its bevelled edges. Both slabs are believed to have come from the early medieval St Thomas's Chapel which lay on the N. side of the site, within the area covered by the standing building. The medieval dumping contained pottery spanning the 13th–15th century, including a complete jug of the 13th or late 14th century.

143. At Vinegar Yard, 33 Tanner Street (TQ 3341 7967) a watching brief by K. Heard for Weltonvale Ltd revealed a sequence of watercourses along the S. boundary of the site. The edge of one of these channels was marked by a line of elm posts, probably indicating the remains of revetting for land reclamation in the later medieval period. On its landward side there was a large, trapezoidal pond or reservoir, possibly fed by a ditch, which is provisionally interpreted as a fish pond associated with nearby Bermondsey Abbey. The pond silted up gradually in the Tudor period, being used for the disposal of waste bone and leather from the tanning industry.

TOWER HAMLETS

144. At Fergusons Wharf, Isle of Dogs (TQ 3725 7863) B. Bishop of Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out an evaluation for Lawson Price Environmental, on behalf of Fairview New Homes plc. A layer of peat was cut by medieval and post-medieval drainage channels (possibly man-made) one of which contained a possible in situ eel trap. Silting of these channels indicated frequent flooding during this period.

145. At Folgate Street and Spital Square, Spitalfields Market (TQ 3350 8197) an evaluation by C. Thomas for Spitalfields Development Group within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital revealed substantial quantities of medieval and 16th-century demolition debris.
146. At 14–16 Narrow Street, Limehouse (TQ 3603 8078) T. Carew of Pre-Construct Archaeology, on behalf of Angel Property Ltd, exposed a sand and gravel deposit which may have formed part of the medieval river defences. These deposits were sealed by a sequence of layers that sloped down S. towards the river, interpreted as dumped deposits dating to the 16th and 17th centuries.

147. At 36–38 Ruston Street (TQ 3692 8378) an evaluation and excavation was carried out by D. Kenyon of AOC Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Sibmar Construction Co. Ltd & Landmark Housing Association Ltd. A medieval field boundary containing 11th–12th century material, as well as later medieval and early post-medieval features including one with possible metal working debris were investigated. (The London Archaeologist, 1998, Vol. 8, No. 9).

WALTHAM FOREST

148. At Site A, 3 Lea Valley Road, Chingford (TQ 3755 9500) A. Daykin of Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out an excavation with watching brief on behalf of Rialto Homes plc. An EW. ditch and two pits were dated to the early medieval/medieval period.

149. At Low Hall Manor, Low Hall Lane, Walthamstow (TQ 3635 8806) an excavation by I. Blair for Avebury Consultants on the site of Low Hall manor produced a structural sequence which spanned the entire history of the moated manor house from the 14th–20th century. The earliest building was of chalk and ragstone and had a rectangular plan comprising a hall and adjoining solar with an elongated service wing at the opposing end and an external kitchen range beyond. A highly scorched surface, associated with a tile bread oven within the kitchen, produced an archaeomagnetic date range of 1410–25 for its final firing. Within the hall the principle open hearth was constructed of peg tiles set on edge, and had been resurfaced on at least three occasions. Unfortunately the dating of this feature is problematic, as it lay on a crossover of the archaeomagnetic calibration curve, but the later of the two dates, 1415–40, is more likely and corresponds broadly with the kitchen oven.

The main entrance lay at the intersection of the hall and service wing and had an external porch aligned directly on the moat bridge some 20 m away. The early bridge was composed of a square abutment constructed of regular courses of limestone ashlar blocks some levelled with peg tiles. Three offsets were present on the lower levels of its deeper front face, in the lower levels of the moat forward of which were uncovered the articulated remains of the associated wooden bridge. This structure was composed of four well-preserved mortised baseplates jointed together to form a drawbridge. It is dated by dendrochronology to 1344. Fragmentary remains of a stone gatehouse lay to one side of the bridge abutment and these were composed of a moat-side wall with associated drain and garderobe which discharged directly into the moat. The main body of the house was subsequently extended to the E. of the solar, before the addition of a second wing to the N. which gave the overall manor complex an L-shape. Although few traces of the internal floor surfaces survived an indication of the quality of the original structure was provided by a total of 56 late 14th century decorated Penn floor tiles found during the excavation, with the majority of these being recovered from the moat.

WESTMINSTER

150. At the Royal Opera House, Bow Street (TQ 3042 8098) a watching brief by D. Bowsher, R. Cowie and G. Malcolm for Royal Opera House Developments Ltd revealed archaeological deposits from the middle Saxon to the post-medieval periods. The location
of three Saxon buildings was evident from three distinct areas of brick-earth floors; one of these buildings was destroyed by fire and rebuilt three times. Associated with the floors was the remains of a wattle-and-daub wall, and two distinct areas of gravel metalling indicated a road, alley or yard areas. These deposits were covered by dark earth.

151. At Cannon Row (Staircase 7, in street) (TQ 3021 7969) an excavation by C. Thomas for London Underground Ltd revealed a stone wall probably dating to the 12th century. To the S. of this wall were three large stone ovens containing some burnt material. These also seem to date to the late 12th and 13th centuries. Two of the ovens were sealed by levelling layers and a smaller hearth was laid. Over much of the site was evidence for road surfaces associated with Cannon Row, dating to the 14th century and later.

152. At the Ventilation Shaft in Cannon Row (TQ 3020 7971) an excavation by C. Thomas for the Jubilee Line Extension found early medieval drainage ditches cut into the river deposits before being sealed by late 13th century reclamation dumps. A robber cut was found cut into these dumps, overlaid by make-up for road surfaces.

153. At 33-37 Exeter Street (TQ 3055 8084) S. Farid of Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out an excavation and watching brief on behalf of Apollo Leisure (London) Ltd. The earliest archaeological deposits uncovered dated to the middle Saxon period. These were a number of refuse pits, in roughly N. to S. alignments, containing a large amount of butchered animal bone often almost exclusively of one animal type. The pits indicate organised disposal of waste over a period of time and, although not stratigraphically related, a number of post- and stake-holes are very probably part of this phase of activity. The middle Saxon use of the site has thus been interpreted as being an industrial area without permanent occupation but associated with the middle Saxon settlement of Lundenwic centred around the Strand. An echinoid with an indecipherable Saxon inscription was recovered during these excavations.

154. At 27 Floral Street (TQ 3015 8086) an evaluation and excavation by N. Holder for West End Theatre Managers Ltd revealed two large gravel extraction pits of probable Saxon date in an area that would have lain outside the Saxon settlement of the 7th century. Much of the brick-earth had also been removed, probably around the same time. In the early 8th century an alluvial deposit was laid down, and then a succession of gravel surfaces, each one covered with silty accumulation: these are interpreted as an alley that was occasionally maintained and resurfaced. Animal butchery may have been taking place close by since the silty dumps contained animal bone characteristic of butchery waste. Two pits lay beyond this alley, possibly in a yard area immediately to the N.; one was probably mid 8th century in date. It is suggested that as Lundenwic expanded, the area of the site became built up in the 8th century.

155. At 6-7 Exchange Court, 21-24 Maiden Lane (TQ 8070 3030) an excavation was conducted by K. Wooldridge of Pre-Construct Archaeology on behalf of Delancy plc. A sequence of deposits was recorded with late post-medieval agricultural soils overlying Saxon ‘dark earth’ deposits. Beneath the ‘dark earth’ layers, Saxon occupation was observed in the form of deposits, pits, gullies and post-holes.

156. At Old Brewer’s Yard (TQ 3023 8103) an excavation and watching brief by N. Holder for the Mercers Company found that in the early Saxon period, the area of the site seems to have been used as a small-scale sand and gravel quarry. A very compact gravel surface, interpreted as a road, was then laid down in c. 8th century and pits were dug to the side of this road. The road and area to the S. were covered by a dumped layer containing domestic rubbish and butchery waste. The area appeared to be damp and it continued to be used
for pitting and dumping, probably to dispose of domestic and butchery waste from nearby occupation during the 8th and 9th centuries. After the end of the Saxon occupation of Lundenwic in the late 9th century the area seems to have been used for some sort of occasional agricultural activity and this continued with little interruption until the 17th century.

157. At the Children’s Hospital, Paddington Green (TQ 2680 8180) an evaluation by N. Holder for Wilmott Dixon Housing Ltd produced a single residual sherd of probable late Saxon pottery, the only evidence found of the historically attested late Saxon settlement of Paddington.

158. At the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin’s Place (TQ 3000 8059) investigations were carried out by J. Butler of Pre-Construct Archaeology, on behalf of Arups Geotechnics for the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery. The earliest anthropogenic evidence uncovered dates to the middle Saxon era. A probable timber slot was sealed by a layer of clayey silt probably formed by agricultural activity or during a period of abandonment. During the next phase of activity ‘brick-earth’ and gravel quarry pits were dug, the backfills of which contained many animal bones as well as domestic and building debris. In one area two compact, clean ‘brick-earth’ layers cut by 24 stakeholes had slumped into the underlying pits, the area subsequently being levelled with dumps of domestic rubbish; this was tentatively interpreted as evidence of on site occupation followed by abandonment. Sealing all deposits was a layer of ‘dark earth’, containing sherds of exclusively middle Saxon pot, provisionally interpreted as representing a period of settlement disuse or agricultural land use. Other features, probably of middle Saxon date, included an E.–W. aligned ditch and associated stakeholes possibly forming a boundary around a building with rubbish and quarry pits beyond.

159. At Somerset House, Strand (TQ 3075 8075) a watching brief by S. Chew for the Dept of National Heritage and the Commissioners for the Inland Revenue recorded part of the Saxon foreshore.

160. At 5 Excel Court, Whitcomb Street (TQ 2985 8057) A. Daykin and J. Butler of Pre-Construct Archaeology conducted a watching brief on behalf of Knight Frank. Five test pits exposed natural gravels and ‘brick-earth’ at 10.99 m OD. Three features were interpreted as being ‘brick-earth’ quarry pits of possible Saxon date; one of them contained a sherd of probably residual Roman pot.

161. At 5 Excel Court, Whitcomb Street (TQ 2981 8056) an excavation was conducted by G. Bruce of AOC Archaeology Ltd during structural alterations to the basement and courtyard. The investigations revealed a number of large pits cutting into the natural brick-earth, presumably as quarries. Very little dating evidence was recovered, but these are likely to be of middle Saxon date, due to the presence in the area of similar features of this period.

HAMPshire. Work undertaken by CKC Archaeology.

162. ALton, 37–39 High St. (SU 7173 3931). Planning permission for the renovation of 37–39 High St. Alton was granted with a condition for archaeological recording attached. Format Milton Architects Ltd, on behalf of Phillips and Sons (Alton) Ltd, commissioned C. K. Currie to undertake this work. The recording was undertaken in stages during March to June 1997.
The archaeological excavations revealed evidence for three phases of building, all possibly medieval. A stone wall found close to the street front was thought to be associated with a building recorded in 1311 as the ‘Stonehouse’. Three post-holes were found sealed beneath this wall. These, and other post-holes found nearby, were thought to be part of an earlier timber structure. One of the sealed post-holes contained a large fragment of a clay roof tile, suggesting that the earlier timber building had a roof of these materials. Clay roof tiles are generally considered to be common in Hampshire only from the 14th century onwards. A possible pre-1311 date for a tiled building suggests that the earlier building on this site was of relatively high status. This status seems to continue into the later medieval period when the building was rebuilt in stone, an unusual material for a house in a small market town.

At the back of the property a series of cesspits was found that clearly respect the property boundary between 35 and 37 High Street. The earliest of these dated from the 12th–14th centuries.

163. NEAR ALTON, CHAWTON HOUSE (SU 709 370). A watching brief was carried out on the excavation of new services and other works at Chawton House and its estate buildings. This follows on from an archaeological survey of the estate carried out in 1995 (Post-Med. Archaeol. 30 (1996), 285). A more substantial foundation of a stone wall was located about 50 m N. of the old stables. This was thought to represent an outer curtilage wall for the important medieval manor house known to exist at Chawton in the 13th century.

164. PETERSFIELD, 1–2 MARKET SQUARE (SU 7449 2330). A watching brief was carried out on restoration works to the Donkey Cart, 1–2 The Square, Petersfield. The work was commissioned by the main contractors, Delta Park, Design and Build Ltd of Denmead, Hampshire. This restoration was required following a fire at the above property earlier in 1996. The Donkey Cart is a Listed Building (Grade II*), originally built as a hearth-passage house of the early Tudor period (c. 1530).

The excavations revealed evidence for a possible timber-framed building set on a stone cill at the far N. end of the site. The remains appear to have been of 14th or early 15th century date, and were disturbed by late medieval/early post-medieval pit digging. Also found on the site was evidence for small-scale medieval industrial activity in the plot behind the Tudor building. This may have been associated with smithing. Quantities of later medieval ceramics were recovered from these areas, although there was a lack of archaeological finds and features under the Tudor structure itself.

KENT

165. WEST HYTHE, DYKE SIDE FARM (TR 122 339). M. F. Gardiner for the Queen’s University of Belfast examined an area of land adjoining the middle Saxon site discovered by Gordon Ward in 1947. The excavations form part of a larger project organized by Queen’s University and the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) to study the site known as Sandtun. The aim of the work was to determine the extent and degree of disturbance to the site, and to recover further evidence of the environment and economy of the settlement. A number of trenches were excavated to supplement those dug by CAT and others (Med. Archaeol. 38 (1994), 231) on adjoining land to the SW. Quarrying had removed some of the areas examined, but samples were taken for flotation and an extensive sieving programme recovered a large collection of shells and fish bones. Preliminary examination of the finds suggests that middle and late Saxon pottery is present with a significant number of imports from Flanders and N. France. Study of the pottery has confirmed the preliminary identification of the site as a port of trade.

CITY OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL

166. HULL; Malmo Road, Plot 105a (TA 0909 3241) trial excavations were undertaken by the Humber Archaeology Partnership on Plot 105a Malmo Road, Sutton Fields Industrial
Estate, on behalf of the Hull Economic Development Agency, Kingston-upon-Hull City Council. Seven trenches were excavated, with the aim of evaluating the archaeological potential of the area of proposed development. An earlier geophysical survey had indicated the presence of archaeological features, and excavation in the plot immediately to the S. indicated that these were likely to be of Romano-British and/or medieval date.

Medieval features were recorded over much of the W. half of the site. For the most part, they consisted of shallow ditches, slots and gullies, running predominantly N.–S., and a scatter of pits. A structural feature, which appears to have been a foundation trench for an E.–W. running timber wall or fence was also recorded in one trench; large fragments of limestone had been used as packing around the upright posts. The majority of the features contained fragments of medieval pottery, of mid 14th- to mid-15th century date, as well as animal bones and fragments of clay roof tile and brick. One pit also contained a bronze horse harness pendant.

In the NE. corner of the site, a trench was cut to investigate a geophysical anomaly which suggested the presence of a ditched enclosure there. The existence of the ditched enclosure was confirmed, but no dating evidence was recovered from the ditches where they were sampled; a medieval date is, however, provisionally proposed. The remaining trenches in the E. half of the site suggest that area is devoid of archaeological features.

**Leicestershire.** Work by Archaeological Project Services (Heritage Lincolnshire).

167. Peatling Magna, Arnesby Lane (SP 594 926). Following research that indicated the probability of medieval and later settlement remains in the area, P. Cope-Faulkner supervised an evaluation in Peatling Magna village. A limited amount of Saxo-Norman and other medieval pottery was recovered, suggesting occupation in the vicinity, though perhaps not on the site itself.

168. Stapleford, Stapleford Park Hotel (SK 814 181). Investigations were carried out at Stapleford Park Hotel, the former Stapleford Hall, built in the 1630s, probably on the site of a medieval manor. Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon remains and a deserted medieval village also exist nearby.

A medieval cobbled surface was revealed beneath a 1m thick layer of dumped materials of 18th century date which perhaps relate to a programme of landscaping documented at that time.

**Lincolnshire.** Work by Archaeological Project Services (Heritage Lincolnshire) unless stated otherwise.

169. Bicker, Red Lion Street (TF 225 375). A watching brief was carried out by G. Taylor during development near to remains of medieval and later occupation and salt making. The earliest deposit encountered was a transformed silt that contained 12th–13th century pottery and butchered cattle bone. Established on this layer was a clay-lined hearth. This had been truncated by a posthole and adjacent was a sequence of cross-cutting ditches, gullies and pits. Although these features were undated, 14th–15th century pottery was found in a stratigraphically similar pit which also contained abundant marine mollusc shells. Subsoil deposits, probably further transformed silts, sealed the medieval remains.

170. Boston, Wide Bargate (TF 331 444). An evaluation, supervised by F. Walker was carried out near the medieval centre of Boston, an area previously shown to have deeply stratified deposits of medieval and later date. Natural flood silts were the lowest deposits encountered, though they may seal earlier archaeological remains. Cutting into these silts were pits of 14th century and later date. A number of these pits were apparently associated
with livestock processing, perhaps relating to the use of Wide Bargate for sheep and cattle fairs, documented as early as 1623, though the archaeological evidence is clearly earlier than documentary references.

171. **BOURNE, SPALDING ROAD/EASTGATE (TF 104 199).** A proposed development site in an area of medieval and later pottery production was the subject of an evaluation supervised by N. Herbert. Very large quantities of 13th–14th century Bourne A/B ware pottery wasters were recovered from a pit, though no physical evidence of a kiln was revealed in the investigation. Sealing these medieval remains were alluvial layers, probably resulting from flooding of the nearby Bourne Eau watercourse.

172. **HORBLING, SANDYGATE LANE (TF 119 352).** Development adjacent to the medieval church in the centre of Horbling village was monitored by N. Herbert who recorded the terminal of a ditch of 12th century date.

**LINCOLN.** Work by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit.

173. **At 274–7 High Street, new Yates' Wine Lodge (SK 9760 7145) remains of late medieval stone structures to the rear of the High Street range were uncovered, again suggesting added halls (cf. 269 High Street, excavated 1996, *Med. Archaeol.* 41 (1997), 275). Recording was supervised by K. Wragg and funded by Yates' Wine Lodges.

174. **At 383 High Street (SK 9733 3046) groundworks in connection with development immediately to the N. of St Mary's Guildhall exposed the S. wall of a medieval stone structure considered on documentary grounds to have been the residence of Adam, the City's first mayor in c. 1210. Recording was supervised by M. Jarvis, funded by Mr Paul Grey.

175. **At the Sessions House, Lindum Road (SK 9785 7145) excavation trenches in advance of the construction of an extension adjacent to Cathedral Street revealed part of a late 10th century pottery kiln producing sandy wares, and part of the interior of a medieval church now considered to be that of St Rumbold, adjacent to Monks Road. Recording was supervised by M. Jarvis, funded by North Lincs. College.

176. **At Spring Hill (SK 9753 7163) residential development allowed an opportunity for recording of a late Saxon kiln-feature and more of the graveyard of St Peter Stanthaket, also noted in 1984. (Med. Archaeol. 29 (1985), 191).

177. **At the former St Marks Station (SK 973 708: Med. Archaeol. 40 (1995), 272) analysis of 10th century pottery vessels and plant remains suggests that ale-brewing was carried out at the site.

178. **LITTLE CARLTON, MAIN ROAD (TF 399 855).** Watching briefs were carried out by F. Walker during development of adjacent plots in the medieval core of Little Carlton. Several undated ditches, one apparently a boundary, were recorded. The boundary ditch was replaced by a limestone wall that had subsequently collapsed. Sealing these undated remains was a probable agricultural soil that contained 14th–16th century pottery.

179. **POTTERHANWORTH, BARFF ROAD (TF 057 662).** Development near to previous discoveries suggesting medieval pottery production was monitored by G. Taylor. A large stone wall of uncertain function but apparently of medieval date was revealed beneath dumped deposits of heat-affected clay. These dumped deposits also included layers of
broken, locally made Potterhanworth ware pottery of 13th–14th century date and charcoal/ash. Burnt sand and clay deposits, apparently in situ, were also recognised and an unstratified kiln stand retrieved. Several types of cooking pot, and a possible curlew, were represented in the Potterhanworth ware fabric and a number of the pieces were distorted or cracked through overfiring. The evidence clearly indicates the presence of a medieval pottery kiln on, or immediately adjacent to, the site.

180. ROXBY (SE 9115). The full excavation of two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries was carried out in advance of their destruction by erosion and rabbit infestation. The project was directed by K. Leahy and D. Williams for North Lincolnshire Museums and the work executed over four seasons.

Roxby 1 contained c. 43 graves and two cremations. All finds were indicative of a 6th century date. The graves were randomly laid out but appeared to have been set within a pre-existing field. Two of the burials were surrounded by ditches. There are some indications of zoning by age and gender.

Roxby 2 lay 10 m to the south of Roxby 1 and appears to have been set within an adjoining field. It contained c. 82 graves, the final count being dependant on the analysis of the uncertain graves. Grave goods were less common than in Roxby 1 but the cemetery included some rich graves with pattern-welded swords, gold pendants, amethysts and other items of 7th-century metal work. This was a typical 'Final Phase' cemetery with oriented burials laid in rows. In spite of the close proximity of the two cemeteries it is difficult, on present evidence, to argue for continuity.

The Roxby site is highly acidic which has led to the destruction of bone; however, the human remains are represented by pseudomorphs of the bodies. In addition to the staining left by the bodies other organic remains could be traced. Coffins and organic containers were observed and it was clear that many of the graves had contained, within their fill, the branches of trees. The preservation of textiles and wood around the metal objects was very good and grave groups were lifted as earth blocks for laboratory excavation. Finds so far include the mineralised remains of a decorated leather knife sheath and structural detail of a shield board. Conservation and post excavation analysis is on-going.

181. SOUTH SOMERCOTES, ST PETER’S CHURCH (TF 416 938). C. Moulis carried out a watching brief during renovations within St Peter’s Church, built c. 1200. A series of undated floor layers were revealed, some of them truncated by the foundation trenches for the existing 15th century nave walls. Additionally, beneath the N. and S. arcade piers, the remains of two substantial E.–W. stone walls were recorded. These may be the remains of the N. and S. walls of an earlier and smaller nave and perhaps relate to the documented alterations to the church made in the 15th century to provide more space in the nave and aisles. A possible mortar-mixing pit was also identified and unstratified fragments of 13th–14th century pottery retrieved.

182. STICKNEY, HALL LANE (TF 341 569). A watching brief was carried out during development near the medieval core of Stickney. A shallow pit or spatially limited soil deposit containing the lower half of a 14th–15th century jug was revealed. This vessel was a product of nearby Toytont All Saints. Further medieval pottery was recovered from the site, together with a single sherd of possible early Saxon date. Additionally several undated ditches, pits, a post-hole and cobble path were recorded.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

184. NEWGATE STREET, NEWCASTLE (NZ 2450 6427). An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by G. Young of AOC Archaeology on behalf of Land Securities Properties
Lad. Two trenches were excavated, one of which located a section of the precinct wall of the medieval Dominican Friary, together with an adjacent cobble surface of probable medieval date. Further excavation of the site is to take place soon.

NORFOLK. Work by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit except where specified.

185. BURNHAM MARKET, ALLOTMENT GARDENS, CREAKE ROAD (TF 8359 4185). Evaluation excavation on behalf of Hector’s Housing by A. Crowson demonstrated occupation of Roman (2nd–3rd century) and late Saxon date.

186. CARBROOKE, ST PETER AND ST PAUL VC PRIMARY SCHOOL (TF 9479 0210). Evaluation excavation by A. Crowson for Norfolk Property Services within the area of the former Preceptory of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem produced stratified evidence of 13th–16th century activity and masonry remains of walls and structures belonging to the Commandery and succeeding buildings on the site, including a bread oven. Finds included Roman and late Saxon pottery, brought into the site from elsewhere.

187. DOWNHAM MARKET, OUTBUILDING AT THE PRIORY (TF 6112 0308). The priory itself is a late 16th century building; despite the name, which is of comparatively recent date, there are no ecclesiastical connections. Whilst examining the building in advance of a planning application, E. Rose of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology was shown by the owner the basement of an attached outbuilding, apparently a former coach house dating to around 1700. One end of the semi-basement is a room which would fit a late 17th/early 18th century date, but the remainder of this level consists of a tunnel-vaulted chamber crossed by five semi-circular brick vaulting ribs. An external doorway in one wall is formed so as to fit into the vaulted ceiling and is therefore original. The only similar undercroft recorded in Norfolk seems to be that excavated at Wymondham Bridewell in 1996, of which the side walls alone remained, and which was dated by S. Heywood to around 1300. As with the Wymondham case, one must assume that this was the basement storey of a medieval merchant’s house.

188. FELMINGHAM, ST ANDREW’S CHURCH (TG 2512 2927). A watching brief by C. Philips on behalf of the PCC during excavation revealed footings of the former nave, destroyed by fire in the 18th century, and S. aisle.

GREAT YARMOUTH

189. At 73–75 Howard Street (TG 5238 0758) excavation by A. Shelley for Gee and Coe (Builders) between Rows 55 and 57 revealed 13th and 14th century floors below deposits of windblown sand and later buildings.

190. At 90 King Street (TG 5265 0694) evaluation excavation for Great Yarmouth Borough Council by A. Hutcheson, revealed a building sequence dating from the 14th century overlying estuarine and beach deposits.

191. At former Lacon’s Brewery, North Quay (TG 5220 0795) excavation, by N. Donald on behalf of Aldi Foodstores Ltd, within the medieval town on the W. (landward) flank of the shingle spit revealed stratified occupation deposits producing medieval pottery and a sequence of medieval timber buildings lining Rows 13 and 17, followed by extensive late medieval terracing of the area.

192. At St Nicholas’ Churchyard (TG 5243 0805) pipe-trenches, disturbed skeletal remains, post-medieval brick tombs, and part of a former W. transept were recorded. E. of the
church, on the line of the Town Wall, the remains of a former mural tower were also recorded. Excavation conducted by K. Forrest and J. Percival on behalf of Purcell Miller Tritton and Partners.


194. HOCKWOLD-CUM-WILTON, DECOY FARM (TL 6505 8658). Field survey and evaluation excavation by S. Percival for British Field Products Ltd on a fenland sandhill recovered prehistoric material, middle Saxon (Ipswich ware) and medieval pottery.

195. KING’S LYNN, ST GEORGE’S GUILDHALL (TF 6001 2007). Further analysis and rectified photographic survey of the building was carried out by R. Smith and D. Thompson for the National Trust.

196. KING’S LYNN, VANCOUVER CENTRE (TF 618 201). Evaluation excavation by A. Hutcheson for Ove Arup and Partners recorded evidence for medieval and later riverside development, including a timber revetment, with medieval and later deposits revealed in the area of the former Vancouver House.

LINCOLNSHIRE

197. KIRTON, HIGH STREET (TF 305 386). P. Cope-Faulkner carried out a watching brief during development in the centre of Kirton. Late Saxon and medieval remains had been revealed during an earlier evaluation at the site. Although the development disturbance did not extend to the depth of the previously discovered late Saxon remains, two pits and a pond were revealed beneath an apparent flood deposit of 15th–16th century date. Natural flood silts or the late medieval or early post-medieval date have previously been identified on this site and elsewhere in central Kirton.

NORWICH

198. At Argyle Street, St Peter’s Southgate Church (TG 2377 0775) a watching brief by A. Hutcheson for Norwich City Council carried out in the yard of the ruined church recorded part of its 15th century porch and a fragment of the S. wall of the nave.

199. At 70 King Street (TG 23400 08410) a watching brief on building works by A. Shelley for David Potter Properties on the site of the Pied Friars recorded 11th century make-up and a late medieval well. Finds included middle Saxon pottery.

200. At King Street, Cannon Wharf (TG 23438 08436) evaluation excavation by A. Shelley for Norwich City Council revealed sequences of occupation and make-up deposits dating from the 11th century, with evidence of medieval buildings and yard surfaces, probably associated with the New Common Staithe. Timber revetments and other riverside structures were found.

201. At King Street, Dragon Hall (TG 2355 0817) excavation on behalf of Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust by A. Shelley revealed clay-floored buildings, pits and post holes of late Saxon date, associated with contemporary property boundaries which continued in
use until 1935. The properties were united in the hands of the Abbot of Woburn in the 13th century, were divided, and then later re-united in the 15th century, when a cloth hall ('Dragon Hall') was built by Robert Toppes.

202. At King Street, Reads Flour Mill (TG 238 078) evaluation excavation by A. Hutcheson for Norwich City Council uncovered the remains of a late medieval cellar, with post-medieval rebuild, perpendicular to King Street and the river frontage. Earlier deposits were sealed by a thick colluvial layer.

203. At St Andrews House (TG 230 96 088) excavation on behalf of Dennis Black Associates by A. Shelley on the S. bank of the R. Wensum revealed a sequence of make-up deposits over a series of 13th century clay and chalk deposits.

204. At St Faith's Lane, former Wallace King's premises (TG 234 70 870) evaluation excavation by P. Emery for Norwich School recorded evidence for late Saxon domestic and industrial activity and structures before the site became part of the Franciscan friary. Six graves of the friary cemetery were found, besides evidence of demolition of friary buildings.

205. South Creake, Hall Farm Pumping Station (TF 85 65 360). Excavation for Anglian Water Services by A. Shelley uncovered an E.–W. road of possible Roman origin, two late Saxon corn-drying kilns and medieval features.

206. Terrington St Clement, Belmont Nurseries, 74 New Roman Bank (TF 542 211). Evaluation excavation by A. Hutcheson on behalf of Mr J. Eagle revealed a possible saltern, evidenced by burnt silt and a medieval sherd in silt deposits.

207. Thetford, Town Library CP (TL 87 08 8296). Evaluation excavation by A. Hutcheson on behalf of Mr J. Eagle revealed a possible saltern, evidenced by burnt silt and a medieval sherd in silt deposits.

208. West Acre, West Acre Priory (TF 78 15 110). Excavation within the former cloister/cellarer's block by S. Bates on behalf of H. Birkbeck recorded structural and architectural details of an undercroft.

209. West Dereham, St Mary's Abbey (TF 66 1 006). An analysis of the second major standing building by P. Aitkens on behalf of Purcell Miller Tritton and Partners shed light on its chronology and identified the main changes of function since its construction in the 15th century as (possibly) stabling within a monastic guesthouse block.

210. Wymondham, Abbey Meadow (TG 106 5 0150). Excavation of service trenches by Anglian Water Services revealed burials and remains of structures of medieval date.

Northamptonshire

211. Earls Barton, High Street, Saxon Lodge (SP 85 22 6385). An archaeological evaluation consisting of three trenches was carried out by D. Hopkinson for AOC Archaeology. This revealed part of a ditch that appears to belong to the scheduled earthwork Berry Mount. The pottery retrieved was limited and provided a late Saxon or Norman date. The ditch was truncated by medieval and post-medieval buildings.

212. Oundle, Blackpot Lane (TL 04 1 884). Investigations were undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (Heritage Lincolnshire) on the N. side of Oundle town.
centre and just within the limits of a scheduled ancient monument (Northants No. NN200), a late Saxon settlement enclosure. A programme of research indicated that the site lay just inside the line of the enclosure boundary ditch and that the late Saxon settlement was perhaps an expansion of the early and middle Saxon occupation areas.

Evaluation excavation identified a late Saxon oven or hearth made from wattle and daub on the W. side of the site. Additionally, hammerscale and slag indicated nearby iron working in the late Saxon period. Overlying these Saxon remains was a 19th century dump deposit containing much stone and above this garden soils of 18th-19th century date. The evaluation also confirmed that Victorian landscaping had removed archaeological remains from the E. part of the area.

213. TOWCESTER, RACING STABLES (SP 6958 4843). Evaluation by A. Thomas for Cotswold Archaeological Trust to the rear of burgage plots forming Watling Street encountered medieval ditches, pits, including a mortar mixing pit, and spreads of cess and domestic refuse. A road, possibly linking Watling Street and the deserted medieval settlement of Easton Neston, was also identified. This road had been laid over part of a possible marsh.

NORTHUMBERLAND

214. BERWICK UPON TWEED, LOVE LANE (NT 997 528). An evaluation was carried out on the N. side of Love Lane by Northern Archaeological Associates ahead of an application for building development. Documentary evidence suggested this may have been the site of the Chapel of Ravendale, associated with a Trinitarian monastery, although it has also been suggested it may have been a house of the Dominicans or Augustinians. Three trenches were opened: one revealed the remains of a mortared stone wall running E-W. lying just over 0.1 m below existing ground surface, and the second revealed human burials on a similar alignment at a depth of 0.6 m. The wall and the burials appear to be associated with finds dating between the 13th and 17th centuries. After work on the site was completed, an unofficial monitoring exercise came to light which had taken place in 1973 when a drain had been cut across the site: ten human skulls had been found along with a range of medieval pottery. In addition, work at an adjacent building has produced at least four fragments of sculptured stone, including window tracery. These fragments of information and the recent evaluation suggest that a medieval religious house existed in the immediate area.

215. BERWICK UPON TWEED, QUAY WALLS (NT 998 525). An evaluation was carried out by The Archaeological Practice, University of Newcastle ahead of a proposal for refurbishment works at Berwick Quay. Ten trenches were excavated revealing deep deposits of sand, dumped as ballast, in all but one trench. The bottom of the ballast deposits was not reached in the majority of trenches despite being excavated to a depth of up to 5 m below ground level. However, two trenches revealed layers of humic gravel and sand containing medieval pottery, animal bone and shell, beneath the ballast sand; these deposits represent medieval dumps.

216. HARBOTTLE, HARBOTTLE CASTLE (NT 932 048). Survey and excavation was carried out by the Department of Archaeology, University of Newcastle as part of a student training programme. The work forms part of a wider project of conservation works to the castle by Northumberland National Park. A topographic survey was made of the motte and N. half of the bailey. Limited excavation on the motte examined two infilled embrasures and Tudor gun emplacements on the N. curtain wall, rare surviving features which were being damaged and dislodged by tree roots. In addition, a ground penetrating
radar survey was carried out by Northumbrian Surveys of the motte and cross-sections of the castle defences. Future work will examine the site of old excavations for which little documentation survives.

217. Hexham, Market Place, St Mary’s Church (NY 937 641). A record was made by P. F. Ryder of the nave of the 13th century St Mary’s Church, remains of which are incorporated into properties on the S. side of the Market Place. This followed fire damage to no. 15 Market Place and was carried out ahead of restoration work. The medieval fabric seen inside the property included parts of the arches of the third and fourth bays of the N. arcade, with the pier between. Post-medieval alterations to the arcade were seen in the fabric and included paring back of the medieval fabric to maintain a vertical face to the building. The church appears to have been abandoned c. 1540 and, soon after, houses and shops were built outside the N. wall of the church.

218. West Chevington, Maiden’s Hall Opencast Coal Site (NZ 241 981). A medieval chapel was excavated by The Archaeological Practice, University of Newcastle, ahead of opencast coal extraction. The site was previously evaluated in 1991 and revealed a two-cell chapel with a porch, burials and ditches apparently defining the graveyard. Excavation showed that the W. wall of the chapel had been altered at some stage, as it incorporated stones from an earlier phase, and the porch was a later addition. There was also much information about the construction of the chapel, including a limekiln for the production of mortar, a bronze smelting hearth perhaps for the production of fittings, and several lead bowl hearths for window came and lead flashing. A stone plinth in the nave was removed revealing an earlier font buried beneath. Sixty burials were removed, mostly from the graveyard S. of the chapel, but also some from within the chapel; they have all been examined at Bradford University. The chapel and graveyard were enclosed on at least three sides by a ditch. However, this was not the Iron Age ditch seen in 1991.

Oxfordshire

219. Cassington, Worton Rectory Farm (SP 4595 1116). G. Hey for the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) evaluated a rectangular cropmark feature to the W. of the shrunken medieval village of Worton, on a site where prehistoric and Roman features were also visible. This work formed part of the English Heritage funded Yarnton-Cassington Project. Saxon pottery had been recovered from the field during fieldwalking by the Oxford University Archaeological Society in 1970 and the OAU in 1993, and evaluation in 1993 of pit-like anomalies seen from the air indicated that they were sunken-featured buildings (Med. Archaeol. 38 (1994), 245–6). The evaluation showed that the rectangular feature was a post-in-trench building 17 m x 8 m in size and aligned E.–W. No floor surface had survived. A small amount of early/middle Saxon pottery was recovered, and two samples of charred seeds have been submitted for radiocarbon dating. Another slightly smaller rectangular building was detected during magnetometer survey by the Archaeometry Branch of English Heritage, lying at right angles to the main structure, on its SE. side.

Somerset

220. Portishead, 115 High Street (ST 4678 7590). T. Longman of Bristol and Region Arch. Services carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the rear of 115 High Street, Portishead with the aim of assisting the local planning authority in considering the archaeological implications of the proposed development. Five trenches were machine-excavated across the assessment area in order to determine the presence of any archaeological remains. The evaluation revealed a thick deposit of reddish-brown clayey silt across the W. half of the site which produced a large amount of 13th/14th century pottery. This led to its interpretation as a medieval garden soil associated with a number of
adjacent medieval plots fronting the High Street which are now occupied by 17th-century cottages. The remainder of the site was heavily disturbed but had been used most recently as an orchard.

SHROPSHIRE

221. Oswestry, Coney Green (SJ 544 414). An evaluation was undertaken by Gifford and Partners Ltd on behalf of J. Sainsbury plc on land between Salop Road and Oswald Road. Three trenches were excavated to assess the survival of archaeological deposits relating to a ribbon settlement development flanking Salop Road and the former location of the medieval town defences. The evaluation revealed well preserved medieval structures, floor surfaces and deposits dating to between the 12th and 14th century and other features relating to the medieval frontage onto Salop Road. In the N. of the site the upper fill of a large ditch was recorded containing late 17th-century clay pipes. The ditch was interpreted as either the remains of the medieval ditched town defences or part of the town's defences established during the Civil War.

222. Oswestry, Mile Oak (SJ 300 278); Wat's Dyke. H. Hannaford, for the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council, undertook the excavation of a section of Wat's Dyke (Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record No. SA1001) threatened by a development at Maes-y-Clawdd on the Mile Oak Industrial Estate. An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out in 1996 and established that at this point a low, broad earthwork bank followed the course of the Dyke for 60 m along the E. side of Maesbury Road (Hannaford 1996, Shropshire CC Archaeol. Service Reports 91). The development would partially affect this feature.

Wat's Dyke is a linear earthwork which stretches intermittently for approximately 65 km from the R. Morda at Maesbrook, near Oswestry, to Basingwerk on the Dee Estuary in Flintshire. The earthwork consists of a bank with a ditch on its W. side, making full use where possible of the natural drainage and topography to present a barrier to the W. The function and even the dating of the Dyke is uncertain; it is usually held to be a boundary dyke, marking the frontier between the kingdom of Mercia and the Welsh lands to the W., and has generally been thought to date to the 8th century A.D., though perhaps predating Offa's Dyke to its W.

The excavations at Maes-y-Clawdd showed that the ditch component of the Dyke was a substantial feature, some 7.4 m wide by about 2.3 m deep. It appears to have been allowed gradually to silt up, until very recently. The fills of the ditch in the excavated area were seen to be intact on excavation. The earliest finds were recovered from the middle silts; these finds comprised a number of sherds of 3rd-century pottery. The lower ditch fills were humid on excavation, but were no longer waterlogged and charcoal and other carbonised remains were very sparse.

The bank component of the dyke had been built upon an old ground surface consisting of a buried soil and turf layer. On the surface of this layer was a small hearth probably representing the site of a small cooking fire or bonfire; it was too small to have represented clearance of scrub prior to the construction of the bank. The state of preservation of the hearth and its location immediately beneath the bank, and the slight admixing of its charcoal with the lowest layer of the bank, all suggest that it must have pre-dated the construction of the bank by only a very short space of time. The remains of the fire produced a substantial sample (6.25 kg) with a very high charcoal content, which has produced a calibrated radiocarbon date centred on A.D. 446 (i.e. between A.D. 411–561 [10 range] or A.D. 268–630 [20 range]). Bulk samples were also taken from the buried soil layer beneath the bank for possible future environmental analysis.

The bank itself was constructed from material excavated from the ditch. The bank was 10.2 m wide, and although it survived to a height of c. 0.8 m, it was presumably
originally considerably higher. The core of the bank seems to have been created from turf and topsoil removed from the line of the ditch, with the underlying natural clay and gravels placed on top and behind, to heighten and widen the structure. There was no evidence for any revetment of the bank, and a slight berm 0.7 m wide between the edge of the ditch and the turf and clay core of the bank is likely to have disappeared beneath slippage during the construction of the upper levels of the bank. There was no sign of a kerb along the E. edge of the bank, as has been noted on other excavated sections of the Dyke. A layer of cobbles and pebbles was present on the eastern slope of the bank; however this had probably derived from tipping during the bank’s construction, and was not a deliberately laid kerb. A similar formation was noted in the 1984–5 excavations on the Dyke at Pentre Wern (Cane 1996, Trans. Shrops. Archaeol. Hist. Soc. 71 (1996), 15). The deposits which made up the bank also produced a small quantity of residual Romano-British pottery.

Like Offa’s Dyke, Wat’s Dyke is considered to have been a frontier earthwork. It is generally presumed to have been earlier than Offa’s Dyke, because of its shorter length and more easterly position, and has been attributed by modern sources (Stenton 1971; Stanford 1980) to Offa’s predecessor, Athelbald (A.D. 716–57). The radiocarbon date centred on A.D. 446 from Maes-y-Clawdd suggest that Wat’s Dyke should perhaps be regarded as being contemporary with other great 5th century linear earthworks, such as the Wiltshire Wansdyke, rather than a near-precursor to Offa’s Dyke, and should be considered as an achievement of the post-Roman kingdom of the N. Cornovii rather than a work of 7th–8th century Mercia.


223. WHITCHURCH, CASTLE HILL (SJ 541 415). An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Gifford and Partners Ltd in 1993 on behalf of Shropshire County Council. The excavation confirmed the NW. to SE. alignment of a probable defensive ditch, first identified in 1992. The ditch could be a town ditch or associated with Whitchurch Castle — the location of which is unclear. Artefacts, including a silver coin of Edward I (1272–1307) confirm the origin of the ditch to the early 13th century or earlier. Full excavation of the width of the ditch was not achievable within the confines of the site. However, it is estimated that the ditch is 10–12 m in width and that it turns northwards at the E. end of the site.

224. WHITCHURCH, 30/40 HIGH STREET (SJ 544 414). Evaluations of land off Whitchurch High Street were undertaken by Gifford and Partners Ltd in July 1995 and November 1996 on behalf of Mr. M. White. In 1995 three trenches were excavated to the rear of the property revealing extensive disturbance by 19th and 20th century building activity. However, secure medieval deposits were found in the form of a truncated pit fill and a deposit of medieval to post-medieval cultivation soil. The result of this phase of the evaluation demonstrated that the Roman defences did not lie at this location, thereby suggesting they lay further N. or S.

Two additional trial trenches were excavated in 1995 inside the premises of 40 High Street revealing a series of medieval pits to the rear of the property and medieval cobbled surfaces to the front. Situated at the centre of the cobbles were the remains of a stone wall dated by ceramics to between the 12th and 14th century. A robber trench was also uncovered at the front of the building containing large ashlar blocks redeposited in the trench as backfill, however the size and quantity of the stone suggested the presence of either a substantial medieval or Roman wall.

SURREY. Work by AOC Archaeology.

225. CHERTSEY, PYRCROFT ROAD/GUILDFORD STREET (TQ 0391 6655). An evaluation was undertaken by D. Hopkinson on behalf of Countryside Properties, and revealed a
series of four early medieval ditches. These were sealed by a mid 13th to mid-14th century deposit. This led to full excavation of these ditches, which formed either agricultural property boundaries or an enclosure extending beyond the excavation. Further pottery was found to date these ditches to the mid to late 11th century. During the 14th to mid-16th centuries the axis of Guildford Street came to be developed, with a major property boundary delineating the S. extent of development. There was also evidence of land drainage ditches to alleviate the problems of low lying marshy ground to the S. of the site, thought to have been a major factor in restricting the development in this direction. Agricultural activities continued in the field(s) behind these plots. These property boundaries continued in use to the present day, and were traced in the archaeological record up to the 18th century.

226. STAINES THE CLOSE, VICARAGE ROAD (TQ 0205 7210). The excavation of six evaluation trenches by R. Entwistle on behalf of Nicholas King Homes plc produced evidence for multi-period activity. The only clearly medieval feature encountered was a major boundary ditch, running WSW.-ENE. towards the S. edge of excavation. This contained pottery dated to the mid-13th to mid-14th century, together with residual prehistoric and Romano-British material.

WARWICKSHIRE. Work undertaken by the Warwickshire Museum

227. FENNY COMPTON, HIGH STREET (SP 419 524). Observation of topsoil stripping by B. Gethin E. of the High Street was carried out on behalf of CALA Homes (Midlands) Ltd. At the N. end of the site a scatter of ironstone rubble, probably a surface, was recorded, along with 13th-15th century and some post-medieval pottery.

228. FENNY COMPTON, NORTHEND ROAD (SP 415 525). Excavation by G. C. Jones on two housing plots, on behalf of London and Oxford Homes, revealed medieval building remains. To the E. a stone-built house with a rubble yard to the rear was occupied from the later 13th century to the early 15th century. To the W. another house with a possible outbuilding was probably occupied from the 12th/13th century to the early/mid-14th century.

229. HENLEY-IN-ARDEN, 116--118 HIGH STREET (SP 150 659). An evaluation by G. C. Jones on behalf of Wainhomes (Midlands) Ltd, covering the rear parts of a number of medieval tenements within the town revealed medieval activity dating from the 13th century in the form of two pits, together with a number of post-medieval boundaries.

230. LONG ITCHINGTON, NEWFIELDS COTTAGES (SP 397 671). Geophysical survey, fieldwalking and metal detecting was carried out by E. Jones and P. Wise on the possible Anglo-Saxon palace which shows as cropmarks. An area of 1.08 ha was surveyed using a fluxgate gradiometer. The strongest anomalies indicated a series of linear features that do not suggest an identifiable pattern. A number of possible buildings, identified by relatively weak anomalies, correspond with at least two of the cropmark features including the possible Saxon long hall. Fieldwalking and metal detecting produced no finds over the cropmark, apart from a background scatter of flintwork.

231. MAXSTOKE, MAXSTOKE CASTLE (SP 224 891). Observation of building work was undertaken by N. Palmer in the W. range over one of the medieval service rooms S. of the great hall on behalf of Mr M. Featherston-Dilke. This revealed a N.-S. wall footing, parallel to the curtain wall, and at least 0.4 m of undisturbed stratigraphy, sealed by 18th
century layers which probably represented the surface left after debris from the fire of 1762 had been removed.

232. **NUNEATON, CHILVERS COTON (SP 351 908)**. Observation of water mains renewal by C. Coutts on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd revealed late 13th to 15th century pottery in the W. part of Orkney Close, just to the N. of one of the groups of medieval kilns excavated between 1967 and 1972. No kiln structures were located but most of the pottery was wasters. It consisted almost entirely of Chilvers Coton 'C' ware; there was a small amount of the 'A' ware and two 'B' ware sherds. Some sherds appeared to be Midland Purple types but could have been over-fired 'C' wares. A small range of forms was represented: jugs, cooking pots/jars and bowls.

233. **RUGBY, CHAPEL STREET/DRURY LANE (SP 502 751)**. An evaluation by G. C. Jones on behalf of Coventry and East Mercia Co-operative Society covered properties on the W. frontage of the medieval market place laid out in 1255. The trenches revealed scattered medieval and early post-medieval occupation, dating from the 13th/14th century, consisting of pits and boundary ditches. Almost all the trenches also showed considerable disturbance by activity of 18th–20th century date.

234. **RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE, DILKE ARMS, LONDON ROAD (SP 385 745)**. An evaluation in the centre of the medieval village by G. C. Jones on behalf of Stroud and Parker Ltd revealed evidence for medieval activity dating back to the 13th century, in the form of a pit and two gullies. An undated post-hole and gully may have belonged to a contemporary outbuilding. Subsequent observation of ground investigation pits across the site revealed three undated ditch/gullies.

235. **UFTON, HARBURY LANE (SP 377 617)**. Excavations were carried out by G. C. Jones on behalf of Oxford Developments Ltd in advance of a housing development. The earliest medieval occupation dated to the 12th century and consisted of a number of enclosure ditches, probably associated with a timber building c. 8–10 m long, marked by a line of post-holes. The area was rearranged, probably in the 13th century, and a house with stone footings was built at right angles to Harbury Lane, probably with an outbuilding to its S. The site remained in occupation until the early 15th century.

236. **WARWICK, CASTLE PARK (SP 2882 6420)**. Observation of the new Heathcote Flow Transfer sewer by S. Palmer, on behalf of Warwick District Council and Severn Trent Water Ltd, was followed by excavation of a group of medieval features close to the line of the old London Road. The features lay slightly to the S. of the edge of the medieval suburb of Bridge End, as shown on Speed's map of 1610, but within a cropmark complex previously of uncertain date. Two stone-lined cesspits and a waterlogged well produced a group of 13th–14th century pottery of unusually high quality. Preliminary analysis of environmental samples from the well has established that significant quantities of pollen, plant macrofossils and insects have been preserved in the waterlogged material together with a collection of animal bones. A decorated leather scabbard of 14th century date was also recovered from the well.

237. **WARWICK, KING'S HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (SP 2839 6501)**. Observation of the construction of a new assembly hall across the town defences to the NW. of the East Gate by N. Palmer on behalf of the School Governors revealed a short section of the town wall running from the East Gate, 1.4 m wide and 2.7 m high. The parapet and wall walk had been rebuilt in the 19th century, but the lower courses seemed original. In front of the wall the town ditch was c. 3.5 m deep and c. 10 m wide with a steep inner side; its outer side,
marked by the former parish boundary was shallower but had been disturbed by post-medieval cellars and foundations. A waterlogged ditch fill produced some preserved leather including the complete upper of a 14th/15th century ankle-shoe.

To the NW. the standing wall ended abruptly. It was cut by an 18th century well, but this section always seems to have ended here, the line turning out into the ditch for c. 2 m before continuing NW.-wards. No trace of original wall to the NW. survived, although its line was marked by a modern boundary. The ditch here was also narrower, 8.4 m wide by c. 3.4 m deep with steep sides and a flattish bottom. It thus seems possible that a 15 m length of substantial wall was built flanking the gate when the gate was remodelled in the early 15th century (VCH VIII, 420), but was never continued further.

238. Warwick, Town Centre (SP 285 650). Observation of a new water main by S. Palmer on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd, revealed no evidence of suggested Saxon defences at the corner of Brook Street and Market Place, but located the probable outer edge of the medieval town ditch at the junction of Market Street and Bowling Green Street.

239. Warwick, Warwick Castle (SP 284 647). Excavation and recording was carried out by N. Palmer, on behalf of Warwick Castle Ltd, in connection with repairs to Guy’s Tower and the curtain wall and wall walks to the SW. up to the Bear and Clarence Towers. Guy’s Tower was completed in the early 1390s. Examination of the masonry and documentary evidence suggests the bulk of the curtain wall and the crow’s nest were built in one or two stages in the early 15th century, possibly in 1401/2 or the 1430/40s, although remains of an earlier interval tower were incorporated in the base of the wall. Resurfacing of the wall walk revealed a number of original drains and three chimneys built into the wall, the latter suggesting that a timber framed range built against the wall was contemporary.

To the SW. the Bear and Clarence Towers were designed as part of a large rectangular tower with octagonal turrets at each corner. Begun by Richard III it was left unfinished in 1485 and partially demolished and remodelled in the 18th century. Below the existing 18th century and modern wall walk a vertical slot in the thickness of the original wall was probably a drain for projected garderobes in the uncompleted upper storeys. Repaving the roof of Guy’s Tower revealed its original stone surface, although it is likely that it was always covered with lead, as it was later. Some shallow radial sockets cut into the surface may mark a Civil War gun position. Work in connection with a lightning conductor revealed an apparently original, albeit repaired, tiled floor with worn slip-decorated tiles, in the main room of the ground floor lodging of the Tower. Repairs to the windows revealed a large amount of surviving, original medieval ironwork.

Observation of a lightning trench in Castle Park across the former castle Outer Court, the former line of Castle Street and the medieval Vineyard revealed wall foundations probably belonging to the 15th century castle stables or to its replacement built in 1667. The Vineyard area had been heavily landscaped but a quantity of 12th/13th century pottery was found.

Wiltshire

240. Latton, Settlement W. of Latton (SP 0875 9565). Evaluation by C. Bateman for Cotswold Archaeological Trust revealed early Anglo-Saxon post-holes, small pits and a large subcircular feature measuring 1.15 m in depth and containing four concentric fills. The identification of early Saxon activity on the First Terrace of the Upper Thames Valley is significant as it has been suggested that there was a retreat from this area at the end of the Roman period.
241. Malmsbury town wall, 26–30 Back Hill, Silver Street (Devizes Museum: ST 93499 87067). J. Fulkington of Bristol and Region Arch. Services conducted an archaeological watching brief on the Town wall, located in the SE. of Malmsbury. This revealed a series of stone steps keyed into the surviving town wall. It was found that the wall behind Nos. 26–30 Back Hill, Silver Street, was not the original medieval town wall, but a reconstruction built in the 18th–19th century. Only post-medieval finds were found throughout the clearance, apart from a piece of flint, Bronze Age in type/date, found in a post-medieval layer. The only probable evidence of the original wall is the discovery of possible rampart material behind the existing town wall; however there is no dating evidence to confirm this.

Yorkshire

East Riding of Yorkshire

242. Beverley, Beckside North (TA 0461 3937). Trial excavations were carried out by the Humber Archaeology Partnership on land W. of Jack Taylor Lane and N. of Beckside North. The work was undertaken on behalf of Wright Construction Ltd, in advance of development, with the aim of establishing the survival of archaeological remains on the site and evaluating their significance. Six trenches were excavated in total.

No occupation was encountered which pre-dated the Beck, an early 12th-century canalization of pre-existing streams which connected the E. part of Beverley to the R. Hull, and it appears that much of the site would have been ill-drained meadow or marsh prior to excavation of the Beck. Medieval occupation on the site commenced in the mid to late 12th century, with a number of tenement plots being established along the Beck frontage. Reclamation of areas of shallow water and marsh alongside streams on the N. and E. side of the site also took place through the dumping of large quantities of clay, increasing the area of land available for occupation; narrowing of these watercourses may also have ensured a faster flow of water for the various craft and industrial activities which took place. Evidence, in the form of waste products, was found of the following processes: leather working; tanning; wool cleaning; textile working; flax retting; wood working; and horn working. All of these activities would have required a steady source of water, so their proximity to the Beck and/or other streams is not unexpected. In addition, the Beck provided a means of importing raw materials and exporting finished products.

Foundations of a number of timber buildings were recorded, utilising a variety of materials and methods of support. Examples were found of: earthfast-post construction (post-holes with or without stone packing); post-pads (set on stone-filled foundation pits); and sill-walls (of stone, tile-wasters and brick). Hearths and ovens were also recorded, though the small area of each building sampled precludes satisfactory interpretations as to their function, though some would have been residential, and others were presumably workshops.

The medieval occupation of the site continued into the 14th or early 15th centuries, though after this there would appear to have been a break in occupation, or at least a radical change in its character. Virtually no pottery of late 15th- or 16th-century date was recovered from the site, and most areas of the site reverted to open ground.

North Yorkshire

243. Gawthorn Roman military complex (SE 7869 901). A re-examination, by G. Lee for North York Moors National Park Authority, of Richmond's original excavation report (Richmond, R.A. 'The Four Roman Camps at Gawthorn, in the North Riding of Yorkshire'. Archaeol. Journ. 89 (1932), 17–78) has revealed that features previously interpreted as 'Officers' dugouts' are sunken-featured buildings likely to indicate a significant post-Roman occupation of the complex. It is probable that elements from the surviving range of earthworks recorded within the complex are also post-Roman in date, and may possibly include upstanding Anglian archaeology.

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Co. Antrim**

**244. Armoy, St Patrick’s Church, Glebe Rd (D 009 046).** The proposed restoration of a 19th-century church within an early Christian ecclesiastical enclosure provided the opportunity for an investigation by D. Hurl on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service, DoE(NI). A trench was opened in each of the four corners of the nave. Fifty-six articulated skeletons were found; half were adults and most were supine, extended and coffined. Finds from the fill included sherds of Souterrain Ware and medieval pottery.

**Co. Down**

**245. Ballybarnes (J 468 759).** C. McSparron of ArchCor directed an assessment excavation in advance of quarrying. Worked flints and pottery ranging from medieval to modern were recovered from topsoil across the site, and features were uncovered in three areas. A concave-sectioned, stone-based pit, 1.6 m wide and 0.75 m deep, filled with charcoal and scorched stones was found within 40 m of a spring. A stone setting, three linear slots filled with charcoal soil and three post-holes, 0.1–0.26 m in diameter, might indicate a booly house. Another pit, 1.4 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep, was filled with charcoal soil and scorched stones.

**246. Inch/Ballyrenan (J 471 462).** The development of an industrial park on the site of a truncated enclosure necessitated an assessment excavation, directed by C. MacManus of Archaeological Development Services Ltd. The rath was sited on a rock outcrop and delimited by a subcircular ditch with an entrance to the NE., 3.5 m wide, and another possible entrance to the SW. The ditch was 38 m in diameter, 4.0–5.5 m wide and 0.95–1.85 m deep. Where cut into bedrock the ditch profile was rounded and stepped; where it was cut into boulder clay it was V-shaped. Sherds of souterrain ware were recovered from the ditch fill near both ‘entrances’ and in a poorly surviving occupation layer. Part of a lignite bracelet was found in a drainage channel cut through the internal bank. A rectilinear structure, defined by two lines of post-holes and measuring 9 x 5 m, was uncovered within the rath, as was a circular structure, 3.5 m in diameter, and evidence of cooking pits. Several pre-rath pits were found within the enclosure.

**247. Downpatrick, Cathedral Hill (J 483 444).** Excavations by N. Brannon for Environment and Heritage Service DoE(NI), prior to the extension of the cathedral car-park, revealed a pair of early Christian ditches enclosing the hill. The inner ditch was 2.6 m wide, at least 1.5 m deep and contained sherds of souterrain ware in its bottom fill. The outer ditch was less substantial, measuring 1.3 m in width and 0.8 m in depth; it was cut in places by a concentric medieval ditch which was 1.6 m wide and 0.6 m deep. A 13th-century socketed iron arrowhead was recovered from the topsoil overlying the ditches. The remains of medieval buildings, including the kitchen range of the Benedictine Priory, and refuse middens were uncovered in fields close to the cathedral; substantial quantities of medieval wares were recovered from both. Attempts to locate the site of the round tower, shown on an 18th-century map, proved fruitless.

**248. Drumboeth (J 199 527).** Investigations were carried out by E. Halpin of Archaeological Development Services Ltd on the site of a disturbed rath in advance of
housing development. The oval enclosure measured 35 m by 30 m. A ditch, 4 m wide and 1.6 m deep, was excavated; the upper fill consisted of original bank material but the lower fills were obscured by rising water. The bank itself had been levelled to form a spread 6 m wide and 0.2 m high. The entrance, which measured 6 m in width, was on the SW.

249. ROUGH ISLAND, RINGCREEVY TD, STRANGFORD LOUGH (J 495 689). In the course of the intertidal survey in the N. of Strangford Lough (Med. Archaeol. 41 (1997), 302) a dark layer containing medieval pottery was observed being eroded in a sea cliff above the high-water mark. A trench, measuring 4 m by 1 m, was excavated by T. McErlean for Environment and Heritage Service DoE(NI); it uncovered quantities of 13th-century glazed wares but no traces of structures.

CO. LONDONDERRY

250. COLERAINE, BISHOPSGATE (C 846 323). An archaeological assessment was carried out by A. Gahan of Archaeological Development Services Ltd in advance of the construction of a shopping mall near the site of the Dominican Friary, founded in 1244. Five trenches were opened. The truncated remains of a stone wall, associated with sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery, were uncovered. A linear feature, possibly the boundary ditch delimiting the friary precinct, was also revealed.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

CO. CORK

CORK CITY

251. At 7 Grattan St. (W 675 717). excavations were carried out by M. Hurley for Cork Corporation. The city wall was located on the W. extremity of the site. The lower levels of the wall, standing to a max. height of 1.1 m, are of late 13th/early 14th-century date. Medieval pottery was recovered from the associated layers. The wall stands on unstable marshy ground and had apparently collapsed outwards in the mid 17th century. Following the collapse, the city wall was rebuilt using the truncated remains of the medieval wall as a foundation. A pit of medieval date was excavated in the layers of organic material lying within the walls.

252. At N. Main St., Castle St., Adelaide St., Liberty St., Daunt Sq. and Paradise Pl. (W 670 720) excavations by C. Power continued in advance of work by the Cork Main Drainage Scheme (Med. Archaeol. 41 (1997), 303). Parts of the city walls, consisting of two parallel, abutting walls were found on the E. end of Castle St. The earlier wall was 2.25 m wide and 1 m high; the second wall, which was 1 m wide and 1.8 m high, was built against it in order to strengthen the defences. Adjoining these to the E. was the base of a circular tower, of 13th/14th-century date, known as the Queen's Castle; it varied in width from 1 m to 1.9 m and it was exposed to a height of 1.4 m. Sections of the medieval quay wall were evident in four locations on Castle St. In N. Main St. the remains of 13th/14th-century street surfaces were uncovered. Parts of a possible raft foundation for a wooden road were excavated and yielded 12th-century dendrochronology dates. The timbers may have originated from structures in the S. Island of the city, where earlier settlement took place, or they may represent a 12th-century suburb on the N. Island. Alongside the road lay the possible fronts of timber houses also dating to the 12th century.

253. At St Peter's Ave. (W 676 718) excavation by M. Hurley occurred in advance of development. The earliest excavated levels were of late 13th/early 14th-century date. A stone-lined drain extended E–W. from the rear of a house fronting N. Main St. Some ex situ structural timber beams were also exposed. Above this, the medieval levels consisted of
decayed organic material containing numerous dumps of oyster shells, tree roots and shallow trenches; this is interpreted as evidence for a backyard or garden. Some 800 sherds of late 13th/mid 14th-century pottery were recovered. The assemblage consisted mostly of Saintonge green glazed jugs and Cork type jugs, with smaller amounts of Saintonge unglazed polychrome, sgraffito and all-over green wares. Redcliffe jugs and a few sherds of Normandy Red Painted Ware were also present. Iberian Wares, from the later medieval period, were represented by a Merida-type bowl and costrel. Other finds were bone weaving tools and a tuning peg, whetstones, metal objects and window glass.

254. At **Philips Lane**/Grattan St. (W 669 720) excavations were carried out by M. O'Donnell on behalf of the Archaeological Services Unit, NUI-Cork, in advance of development. A total area of approximately 400 sq. m was excavated within which a 15 m stretch of the city wall was uncovered. The wall in this area had originally been built in the late 13th-/ early 14th-century and was re-built in the 17th. There was no evidence for habitation close to the city wall in the medieval period. The initial deposits at the E. end of the site were layers of organic material which contained pottery dating to the 13th/14th century. The most significant discovery was a stone-built rectangular house, 6.6 m N.–S. by 12.15 m E.–W., which was probably of 14th-century date; a large stone drain was associated with the house.

255. At **Skiddy’s Lane**/104 N. Main St. (W 670 721) excavations by M. O'Donnell were carried out in advance of development on a site at the rear of a property fronting onto N. Main St. Five levels of activity, dating from the mid-13th to the 18th century, were uncovered above the estuarine mud. The remains of six buildings were uncovered. The initial occupation deposits consisted of organic material containing 13th/14th-century imported and local pottery. Level 2 was 14th-century in date; the main features were two large stone-built drains and the remains of a stone-built house, possibly 7.6 m by 9.5 m, which may have exited onto Skiddy’s Lane. Levels 3–5 were post-medieval. The N. wall of Skiddy’s Castle, a 15th-century urban towerhouse, excavated in 1974–5, was exposed during removal of walls at the N. Main St. end of the property. The wall was recorded and left in situ.

256. At **Tuckey St.** (W 675 718) excavations by M. O'Donnell were carried out in advance of development. The site was situated almost midway between the main street and the E. wall of the medieval city, on what was a marshy island at the time it was first occupied. The earliest evidence for human activity was a stave-built timber fence or revetment, extending E.–W. across the site, which may have been part of an original property division within the city. The timbers used in the fence/revetment were felled sometime between 1115 and 1122 A.D. This is the earliest recorded activity to date in Cork City and provides definite evidence that the S. Island was a focal point for Hiberno-Norse activity in the area. The ground level of the site was raised by 1.15 m–1.3 m in the period after the fence/revetment was built when the area was flooded three times. It is not clear whether the flooding was deliberate or accidental. The timbers from makeshift platforms used after the second flooding were felled either in 1144 or 1145 A.D. Archaeological deposits, 1 m thick, lay above the thick flood levels and these dated from the mid to late 12th century to the late 13th/early 14th century. Throughout the medieval period the area continued to be divided into two properties with wattle fencing replacing the stave-built construction. The organic deposits indicate that the area was little used, probably due to its location which was set well back from the main street.
257. **BALLYMACAWARD (G 835 627).** Excavations were carried out by E. O’Brien for the National Monuments Service on a multi-period site consisting of a low, platform-type cairn approximately 25 m in diameter and 1 m in height. The cairn appears to have been built in the Bronze Age; it was re-used for burial in the Iron Age, and again in the early medieval period. The location of the cairn, on the N. bank of the R. Erne which was an important territorial boundary in the early historic period, suggests that it represents a boundary *ferta* or ancestral burial place. The medieval features consisted of ten graves, each containing the remains of an extended supine inhumation. The bodies were oriented E.-W. (heads W.) but no grave goods were present. Three of the burials were in long, slab-lined cists. The remaining graves were dug into the sand and/or puddled surface. Some had slight protection in the form of stones laid around the head. The indications are that the burials are of five probable females, one probable male and the rest are uncertain. Bones from one of the long cist burials (female) produced a high precision C-14 date (UB-4171) in the mid 5th century. Two of the other burials have produced C-14 dates (UB-4170, UB-4172) in the early and middle 7th century.

258. **CARROWNAMADDY, BURT (H 368 213).** An archaeological investigation by R. O’Boaill and P. Logue was carried out on a souterrain. Several courses of dry walling were present to a depth of 0.4 m; two *in situ* lintels and several disturbed capstones were exposed. No associated habitation structures were noted.

**CO. DUBLIN**

**DUBLIN CITY**

259. At *City Ward/10 Exchange St. Upper/1 Essex St.* (O 145 344) excavations were carried out by G. Scally in advance of development. Four phases of activity were identified. Phase 1 consisted of a build-up of gravel, silt, clay, shell and organic deposits of probable 10th/11th-century date. Part of a post and wattle fence was also uncovered. Phase 2 consisted of a sequence of up to four layers of roughly lain stone. A stone-lined drain, exposed for 6 m, was set into the uppermost of these layers; three copper-alloy pins, four bone pins, a bone toggle, and four *Rint Rakes* were recovered from this phase. Phase 3 consisted of a build-up of stone clay and gravel work-surfaces; a number of hearths and two stone-lined pits associated with metalworking were identified. Phase 4 consisted of a layer of clays, 0.8 m thick. A small assemblage of 12th/13th-century pottery was recovered from Phases 3 and 4. A section of the 13th-century medieval wall was identified. A trench excavated on the inner side of the wall established that it stood four courses high (0.86 m) and was constructed on river silts and gravels. Further excavation of the site is due to be carried out.

260. At *Essex St. W./Lwr. Exchange St.* (O 145 345) excavations were carried out by L. Simpson within the NE. sector of the Viking Age town. There were three features on the earliest level: a house, a watercourse, and the remains of an enclosure. The house consisted of the foundations of a rectangular post structure, measuring 7 m by 4 m, with a central hearth; the roof was supported by an inner, oval row of large posts. The structure does not conform to the typical Viking Age house-types of Dublin and may represent an earlier tradition. N. of this structure, the S. bank of a low-lying watercourse, presumably the original course of the R. Liffey, was exposed. The line of the watercourse was marked by a series of posts which appear to have formed part of a revetting fence. Both house and watercourse lay outside the enclosure which consisted of a curving slot-trench and a line of large post-holes; its alignment suggests that it bounded this higher area which was sited on a small ridge, immediately E. of the Liffey. When this phase of activity ceased the area was comprehensively ploughed and cultivated. Following cultivation, the industrial
hearth/ovens were constructed and the area seems to have functioned as an early Viking metal-working site. At the N. end, the watercourse was filled in and actively reclaimed preparatory to the building of several Dublin Type 1 houses. In the SE., a Dublin Type 2 house was linked to the main structure by a wattle path. At the N. end, one of the houses may have had an industrial function, evidenced by a large charcoal deposit in the central aisle. On the E. side, the area continued to be used for metalworking throughout the 11th and early 12th century; large structures with supporting corner posts were a feature at this level. Unfortunately, preservation at these upper levels was very poor and interpretation is very difficult. The latest Viking levels consisted of deep deposits of clay with numerous open-air hearths. The excavation has produced a wide variety of finds, including Viking Age bone-pins, antler combs, bone gaming pieces, amber pendants, metal dress-pins, quern stones and fragments of leather and textiles. More unusual finds include a collection of walrus Ivory pins (together with the butchered skull of a walrus), an antler handle with a runic inscription, a panel of delicate gold filigree (possibly from a kite-shaped brooch), a bone trial piece and a rib-bone/ruler marked out with the Viking 'inch'. The Anglo-Norman activity was characterised by the large-scale removal of Viking deposits, up to 3 m deep, on the S. and E. sides of the site. This activity may be associated with the reclamation of the land-block immediately to the N. site in the 1260s.

261. At 123–133 Francis St. and 1–4 Swift’s Alley (O 149 338) excavations by C. Walsh revealed a medieval structure, of 13th/14th-century date. The structure had its long axis parallel to the street, and measured over 9 m in length. Elsewhere a thick accumulation of silt and garden soil, containing few artefacts, overlay the subsoil, into which several pits and gullies had been cut. These medieval soils varied in depth from 0.7 m at Swift’s Alley to 1.7 m at the NW. boundary of the site.

262. At 2–5 Meath Market, Earl St. S. (O 141 341) an archaeological assessment was carried out by C. Walsh in advance of development on a site inside the precinct boundary of the Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr, founded in 1177. Part of an in situ medieval decorated tile pavement was found within a stone-walled structure, at least 12 m long, which would appear to be the remains of the abbey church. The development site was subsequently acquired by Dublin Corporation, in a land swap with the developer.

263. At Merchants Quay Ward 44–49 New Row S. (O 149 338) excavations by G. Scally uncovered deposits of 13th/14th-century date overlain by layers containing leather offcuts and a small quantity of leather soles. The proximity of the site to the Puddle and Coombe rivers, together with the discovery of medieval tanning pits in the vicinity, suggests that this may have been an industrial area associated with leatherworking.

264. At the Old Distillery Site, Church St. (O 149 344) excavations were carried out by R. Meenan in advance of construction. The earliest phase of activity for which evidence was recovered was a ditch cut into the underlying sand and gravel. The ditch, which was approximately 1.5 m deep and 4 m wide at the top, was oriented NNE./SSW. The base of the ditch averaged 0.45 m but was not of uniform profile along its length; it varied from square to U- to V-shaped. Six intact burials and nine more truncated or disarticulated ones were laid into the sides of the ditch. There was evidence for a smaller trench feeding into the main ditch at the W. end. The ditch was sealed by a redeposited orange clay which yielded some 13th/14th-century pottery and a quantity of animal bones. This layer was in turn overlain by a grey, silty clay which also contained medieval pottery of a similar date. Several pits and some other features were cut through from this level. It is possible that this
ditch was the enclosing ditch around St Michan's Church which, traditionally, was founded in the 1090s. However, the presence of burials in the ditch itself is most unusual.

265. At 58-59 Vicar St/Thomas St. (O 155 342) excavations were directed by J. Carroll, in advance of redevelopment, close to the site of the hospital of St John the Baptist (Fratres Cruciferi) founded c. 1185. Two properties facing onto Thomas St. were investigated but cellaring had destroyed all but a pit which survived at the N. end of no. 58. In the back­yard area of no. 59, at the S. end of the property, deep archaeological layers survived. In Cutting 1 a pit, composed of a dark brown to grey organic soil, was found defined by a row of stakes. It produced leather, animal bone, iron slag and medieval pottery. The medieval pottery is of late 12th to 13th-century date comprising Dublin coarse and fine wares. In Cutting 2 the features were divided into organic wood deposits and deposits containing dark gritty material with slag-waste and charcoal. Two pits were revealed, one of which was an ironworking furnace.

266. CLONDALKIN, GRANGE CASTLE BUSINESS PARK, KILMAHUDDRICK (O 045 312). Monitoring and excavation was carried out for S. Dublin Council by R. O'Brien in advance of road-works in the fields beside Grange Castle, a 15th-century tower house. Parts of two ditches were discovered; a 22m length of one was exposed and 30 m of the other. The finds included bone combs, a stick pin and a fragment of worked lignite, suggesting that these features pre-date the tower house.

267. RATHFARNHAM, THE OLD ORCHARD INN (O 142 288). Excavations were carried out by J. Carroll after workmen uncovered human skeletons during development work. Three phases of activity were revealed. The first phase, which was early medieval, was represented by a palisade trench, probably the remains of an enclosure. Animal bone, a penannular brooch terminal, iron knives and a pig fibula pin were found in the palisade trench suggesting occupation of a domestic nature. The presence of iron- and copper-slag indicate that metalworking was also carried out. In the second phase the area functioned as a burial place and the remains of at least 200 individuals were found. The third phase was represented by a second palisade trench and fragmentary stone walls. Sixty sherds of Leinster Cooking Ware of 12th-13th-century date were associated with these features. Other finds from this phase include an iron socketed spearhead, an iron spur and a probable harness mount.

268. TALLAGHT, ST MAELRUAN'S CHURCH (O 088 275). Excavations by C. Walsh were conducted prior to redevelopment on a section of the enclosure ditch of this early ecclesiastical site which functioned in the later middle ages as a parish church. The ditch originally measured 5 m in width, and 2.80 m in depth. A radiocarbon sample from the base of the ditch yielded a mid 6th to 8th-century date. Features excavated in the area of the bank included a grain drying kiln, probably of 10th/11th-century date, and several 13th-century pits and gullies. The area was later used as a graveyard.

269. GALWAY, 3 CROSS ST. (M 298 251). Excavations by N. O'Flanagan revealed evidence for domestic surfaces consisting of a series of re-deposited boulder clays, associated with Saintonge Ware. Hearths, postholes and ash-and-charcoal lenses were present. The silty clays in the backyard of the property contained medieval pottery and a large quantity of butchered animal bone.

270. GARRYDUFF BOG, CLONFERT (M 949 222). Excavations by N. Bermingham, on behalf of the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit, uncovered a probable pitfall trap with a
red deer skeleton \textit{in situ}. The pit, which had been badly disturbed by peat milling, measured 2 m in length, 1.15 m in width and 0.18 m in depth. It appears to have been covered with leafy branches and brushwood. A wood sample produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of A.D. 1460.

\textbf{271. High Island Monastery (L 501 572).} Excavations by G. Scally continued (\textit{Med. Archaeol.} 41 (1997) 305–6). The larger of the two upstanding beehive cells, located E. of the church, was exposed. Large numbers of stones were removed from the upper levels of the cell interior and the quantity far exceeded that which could have resulted from collapse. A paved level and a stone-lined hearth containing food remains were uncovered. On the N. side of the church the smaller cell was excavated; stone paving was located beneath the collapsed rubble. One further grave (of the eight identified in 1995) was excavated and an extended skeleton removed. The remaining graves do not appear to have functioned as such despite being marked by footstones, a head stone and a recumbent slab.

\textbf{272. Mainistir Chiarán, Inis Móir (L 810 120).} Excavations by S. Ni Ghabhláin and J. Moran, funded by the National Monuments Service on the recommendation of the National Committee for Archaeology of the Royal Irish Academy and by University Research Expeditions Program, Berkeley, were carried out to investigate the layout and organisation of a non-reformed medieval monastery. Excavation focused on a structure (Building B), which abutted the church but was roughly contemporary with it. A central hearth, occupation level and clay floor were identified. A metalled surface and paving extended S. of Building B and underlay part of an enclosing wall. Finds from the construction level of the church included a bronze dress pin, a fragment of a jet bracelet, several bone points and toggles, two bone beads and a quantity of coarse unglazed pottery. The bronze dress pin is 19 cm in length and has scroll terminals. An incised herringbone pattern runs the entire length of its shaft and head. Preliminary analysis of the animal bone indicates a higher incidence of pig bones, relative to either cow or sheep.

\textbf{Co. Kerry}

\textbf{273. Bray Head, Valentia Island (V 344 737).} Excavations by A. Hayden and G. F. Mitchell were carried out as part of an on-going research project into the early farmsteads on this part of Bray Head. The sites are located on the S. slopes of the headland and include several fields with cultivation ridges and high lynchets, two groups of house platforms, and a poorly preserved corn-drying kiln. Settlement commenced with an unenclosed farmstead in the 5th/6th century and continued into the 13th century when the area was enclosed in fields. In the later medieval period a street with houses was built on top of the medieval fields and it continued to be occupied until the 16th/17th century. Two adjacent areas were examined in the ‘farmyard’ identified by G. F. Mitchell. The larger area revealed a sequence of structures. On Level 1 a stone-revetted terrace was exposed; associated with it were post-holes and pits, and part of a small, round, stone-revetted, clay-walled house. On Level 2 the remains were found of a large round house with stone-revetted, clay walls; not all of the interior was excavated but part of its hearth was uncovered. Although the results of radiocarbon determinations are awaited, Levels 1 and 2 are likely to be of 6th/7th-century date. On Level 3 the poorly preserved remains of another small round house were present. Level 4 consisted of a large rectangular house, walled with dry-stones; it has been radiocarbon dated to the late 9th/early 11th century. Level 5 comprised earthen field fences and cultivation furrows which appear to be of 13th/14th-century date. The smaller area excavated revealed part of a rectangular, stone-walled house.
274. CAHERLEHILLAN (V 572 835). Excavations directed by J. Sheehan were carried out within an early ecclesiastical enclosure, with a ceallunach burial ground in its NE. quadrant. The oxidised subsoil contained early medieval features and two probable adult graves were located. Each grave measured 1.9 m in length and 0.5 m in width but no skeletal or artefactual remains were recovered. A separate cutting, extending outside the S. enclosure wall, produced a number of artefacts, including spindle whorl fragments, imported pottery, whetstones and corroded iron objects. An arc of post-holes and stake-holes was excavated in the NE. corner and is aligned with a similar arc nearby, suggesting the presence of a probable round house in the centre of the enclosure.

275. CAHERQUIN (Q 360 057). Excavations by I. Bennett examined burials exposed as a result of coastal erosion. An adult female skeleton was found at a depth of c. 5 m below modern ground level, in a steep, sandy cliff face. It was oriented N.-W./S.-E. with the head to the NW. A pillow stone lay under the right hand side of the skull; the other side had been eroded away but originally a stone may have been positioned there also. No grave cut was visible. The remains were examined by B. O Donnabhain, who reported that the female was between 25 and 45 years of age and suffered from severe iron-deficiency and arthritis, particularly of the back. A radiocarbon date of 598 ± 43 BP (UB-4134) was obtained from a child burial found 20 m to the E. and a date of 392 ± 41 BP (UB-4161) was produced by a charred grain sample associated with the burial activities.

276. DROMTHACKER, TRALEE (Q 154 837). This ringfort was excavated by R. Cleary on behalf of the Tralee Institute of Technology in advance of redevelopment. Significant reconstruction had taken place on the site in antiquity and the E. bank had been altered considerably. The ringfort’s external dimensions were 36 m (N.-S.) by 32 m and it had an estimated internal diameter of 33 m by 29 m. The surrounding ditch was U-shaped in profile and was c. 1.5 m deep and 2.5 m wide at the top, tapering to 0.8 m at the base. The original enclosing bank survived only on the W. side, and even there it had been severely truncated; it was constructed from gravel and boulder clay upcast from the ditch. There was evidence to suggest that sods stripped from the ditch were piled on the pre-bank surface. The ditch itself may have been backfilled deliberately. Two phases of occupation were present in the interior of the fort, with a period of abandonment indicated by regeneration of the sod layer. Phase 1 was represented by a scatter of post- and stake-holes with no discernible pattern, a paved area and a gully (perhaps a water trap to catch runoff from the adjacent bank). Phase 2 was represented by at least two circular structures with earth-fast perimeter posts. The estimated diameters of the buildings were 7.5 m and 9.5 m respectively; slightly larger than the house sizes normally recorded within ringforts. It is likely that other structures existed within the enclosure, but evidence for these had been destroyed during alterations to the ringfort. The site also produced evidence for iron smelting.

CO. KILDARE

277. BALLYMORE EUSTACE, BISHOPS LANE (N 940 096). A pre-development assessment by A. Hayden was carried out within the deserted medieval borough, close to the site of the parish church. Medieval features, deposits and finds (including 13th/14th-century pottery) occurred at depths ranging from 0.3 to 1.2 m below modern ground level. The layers survived to different degrees due to erosion on the higher slopes and deposition of soil on the lower lying areas. The features appeared to represent the remains of structures at the N. and S. ends of the site with an area containing cultivation furrows and pits in between.
CO. KILKENNY
KILKENNY CITY

278. At 10-13 St Kieran’s St. (S 504 557) four trenches were opened as part of an archaeological assessment by R. O’Boiull at the rear of properties which fronted on to the medieval Back Lane. These revealed organic layers of medieval date, over 1 m thick. Artefacts recovered included Ham Green Ware, Saintonge and locally-produced glazed pottery of 13th/14th-century date. Further work on this site has been proposed.

279. At Kilkenny Castle (S 508 557) excavations were carried out, in advance of conservation and restoration work, by B. Murtagh on behalf of the National Monuments Service. Between 1991 and 1993 twelve cuttings were opened in order to facilitate restoration work on the central (N.) wing (Old Kilkenny Rev. 45 (1993), 1101-1117). These revealed that the present 13th-century structure was built upon an earlier earthwork fortress, which appears to date from the 12th century. A second series of excavations, focused on the S. tower, commenced in 1995 and has continued since. The ground floor of this tower consists of a large circular chamber 8.4 m in diameter, surrounded by five embrasures, each for a plunging arrow-loop. The interior was excavated to a depth of 2.9 m revealing that the foundation of the N. part of the tower was built into the slope of the earthen rampart of the earlier earthwork fortress while the S. part was constructed in the ditch of this earlier fortress. The excavation further revealed that the ground chamber originally had a central, circular stone pillar. As the stone building was being constructed, the interior was systematically filled up with layers of clay and building waste, until the required ground floor level was reached; this was a trampled clay surface located 0.9 m below the modern floor level. Subsequently, two rectangular pits, partly stone-lined, were dug through the original floor in the SW. quadrant of the chamber; these were filled with organic deposits of late medieval date. Immediately N. of the tower, the W. curtain wall and part of the moat were investigated. This revealed the presence of an extensive base batter, descending over 5.5 m into the moat in the form of a stone cladding, at an angle of 57 degrees. A sallyport, which ran for 9.85 m in a SW. direction, was found beneath the wall. It consisted of two flights of stone steps which descended into the moat; between the two flights of steps was a round-headed doorway constructed of dressed sandstone masonry with diagonal tooling. At the bottom of the lower flight of steps a paved pathway was present giving access across the bottom of the moat. The entrance to the sallyport was located in the base batter.

CO. LAOIS

280. ROCK OF DUNAMASE (S 530 981). Excavations by B. Hodkinson, funded by the National Monuments Service, continued (Med. Archael. 41 (1997), 307). Work concentrated on the 12th-century hall of this Anglo-Norman castle with the objective of uncovering as much of the wall line as possible and investigating part of the solar area. The major discovery was an original doorway in the S. wall directly opposite the main door in the N. wall. Like the main door, it was later protected with a forebuilding which was smaller and less massive than that to the N. The forebuilding is poorly preserved, having been reduced to foundation level for a large part of its wall-line, and the S. wall is almost completely absent. One side of the doorway had a drawbar hole, a feature which is absent on the N. forebuilding. The added batter, revealed last year, starting at the E. side of the N. door, can now be shown to run around the E. end of the building to the S. door and from the W. edge of that door to roughly the mid-line of the W. wall, where it is believed to stop. There is as yet no trace of a batter at the NW. corner or to the W. of the N. door. The batter along the S. and W. walls has been badly defaced and on the W. side, collapsing masonry falling into the hall kicked the batter and buckled it. The S. door was blocked, probably in the 18th century, and at the same time another door was inserted further to the W. in the same wall. This second doorway was formed by breaking through an original embrasure.
and lowering its base, which necessitated smashing through the batter as well. There are some indications that this doorway was never completed because one side of the passage through the wall was neatly refaced but the other was left as a scar. Work on a small area along the inside of the W. wall, revealed the true position of an embrasure known from collapsed masonry. This embrasure, like the one in the N. wall, had a narrow stone structure in front of it, interpreted as part of a layer base. The area also revealed evidence for lead working, in the form of a small hearth, which is probably contemporary with the building of the hall. The S. half of the solar area was excavated down to subsoil. The N. limit to this area was a cross-wall added during the 18th-century attempts to refurbish the hall, and this wall can now be seen to have had side by side fireplaces facing into opposite rooms with a door between the two rooms at the W. end. Unfortunately most of the solar area had been badly disturbed at the time of the refurbishment, and the remaining areas were too small to fully understand. The lower deposits, which produced a ring-pin and the shank of a second, probably predate the castle. The significance of some short sections of burnt planking at a slightly higher level is unclear, although they might form part of the original flooring arrangement.

CO. LIMERICK

281. ASHFORT (R 550 512). Excavations by A. Gahan were carried out on a ringfort in advance of road-works. The site consisted of an enclosure with a diameter of approximately 30 m surrounded by a bank, 6 m wide and up to 1 m high in places. The bank consisted of several layers of re-deposited subsoil, most probably upcast derived from the construction of the external ditch. The ditch was roughly U-shaped and was 5.4 m in max. width. The absence of silt and organic fills suggests that the ditch may have been backfilled deliberately. A trench measuring 15 m by 1 m was excavated in the interior but no evidence for occupation was found.

282. BALLYNAQALLA (R 664 392). Excavations by R. Cleary at this oval enclosure were financed by the National Committee for Archaeology of the Royal Irish Academy. The site, which is situated on the W. edge of a former lake, now known as Red Bog, includes a trackway along the W. perimeter of the enclosure. The trackway, which has been radiocarbon dated to the 7th century, appears to continue beyond the boundary of the enclosure to the N. The enclosure itself measures approximately 140 m by 100 m and is defined on the W. side by two concentric rows of large postholes which must have held substantial posts for a timber palisade. The palisade produced radiocarbon dates in the 8th century. A number of pits, post- and stake-holes, and habitation layers indicate that the site had a domestic function. The finds include a considerable amount of flint and chert debitage, but none is diagnostic to a specific period.

283. GORTEEEN (R 495 475). Excavations by A. Gahan on a possible moated site were carried out in advance of road-works. A roughly V-shaped ditch, cut into the subsoil, was exposed; it measured 2.8 m in width and 1 m in depth; the fill contained animal bones, oyster shells and pottery of 13th/14th-century date. The remains of a possible external bank were also present.

284. LIMERICK, ST MARY’S CATHEDRAL (R 578 575). Excavations by B. Hodkinson uncovered late medieval wall foundations under both transept arches. After consultation with the National Monuments Service and full recording of the walls, a single course of stone was removed from part of each wall to facilitate the installation of a new underground heating system in the Cathedral. Thirty fragments of tile and several architectural details were the only medieval finds retrieved, all from disturbed contexts.
285. **FANNINGSTOWN (R 150 144).** An excavation was carried out on this earthwork enclosure by C. Gracie in advance of road-works. The site consisted of a sub-circular raised area with an enclosing bank. Its diameter was 22 m and its form was consistent with known ringforts in the area. Excavations revealed an infilled ditch measuring 1.2 m in depth and 3.6 m in width. No traces of settlement structures were exposed but a stony layer consisting of large pebbles yielded a copper-alloy dress pin. The pin was 80 mm long and 4 mm in diameter with a simple nail-head.

**CO. LOUTH**

**DROGHEDA TOWN**

286. **At Bachelor’s Lane (O 091 754) site 1, within the town wall, excavations were carried out by D. Murphy in advance of redevelopment.** Archaeological stratigraphy was evident almost directly below the surface where a red brick floor and rubble base rested directly above a layer of brown clay loam. The clay loam contained shell, charcoal, animal bone and sherds of 13th/14th-century local wares. No structural evidence was encountered but further excavation will be carried out.

287. **At Bachelor’s Lane (O 093 755) site 2, just outside the town wall, excavations by D. Murphy took place on the site of a proposed commercial development.** A thick layer of black soil containing shell, animal bone, charcoal and a single sherd of late medieval pottery was uncovered at 0.46 m. The layer is interpreted as part of the fill of the town ditch, which was cut into gravel some 3 m E. of the town wall.

288. **The Drogheda Main Drainage and Waste Disposal Scheme necessitated the excavation of various archaeologically sensitive sites within the town (O 088 750).** Several major sites underwent excavation by D. Murphy in 1997; these included John St., **The Mall, North Quay, Patrickswell Lane, the Haymarket** and further small sites on Bessewell Lane, Dyer St. and the Marsh Road.

289. **At Dyer St. and Bessewell Lane** a major stone wall which may have been an earlier quay wall was revealed running E.-W. at the junction of Shop St. and Dyer St. Organic deposits up to 3 m in depth were also uncovered and were found to contain medieval pottery and leather. These deposits lay over natural river silt which originally extended back to the gravel ridge at Bachelor’s Lane before medieval reclamation.

290. **At John St. substantial medieval features consisting of eight N.–S. clay-bonded walls, dating from the 13th century to the late medieval period were uncovered.** The walls were accompanied by stone built wells, drains and stone-lined pits. This area was one of the earliest Anglo-Norman settlements in the town located close to the motte at Millmount. These features are interpreted as the rear of burgage plots which originally fronted onto John St. to the N. Substantial quantities of medieval artefacts were recovered including leather, iron objects, local and imported pottery, and a circular piece of sheet gold.

291. **At The Mall excavations revealed a substantial N.–S. medieval wall close to the junction with Mayoralty St.** This may be the precinct wall of the 13th-century Franciscan Friary known to have existed in the area. A circular stone structure with a flue oriented NE. was revealed and may be the remains of a kiln. It was filled with thick layers of mortar, crushed shell and charcoal; a medieval or early post-medieval date is postulated for it. Two other N.–S. medieval walls were also exposed further to the E. Between the two walls a stepped platform overlay a series of medieval drains. These drains overlay a stone-flagged surface considered to be contemporary with the construction of the walls.
292. At North Quay a black organic deposit containing medieval English, French and Irish pottery together with leather, wooden objects and metal artefacts was found intermittently across the site and varied from 0.6 m to 1.2 m in depth. This organic material had built up over a considerable period of time and was banked against the medieval quay wall which was up to 3 m in height. This wall rested on a landfill of large stones and clay which had been dumped onto the river silts. A portion of a probable wooden revetment was uncovered under the landfill and lay on the river silt. A large oak base plate incorporating mortises for uprights was recovered and constitutes the earliest structure on the quayside.

293. At Patrickswell Lane the medieval deposits consisted of deep black organic material containing a huge quantity of leather offcuts, shoes and a finely decorated scabbard along with medieval pottery. The presence of large amounts of plant remains suggested that the area was marshland. The top of the medieval quay wall was located some 15 m in from the present river edge. Further excavation was prevented by severe flooding.

DUNDALK TOWN

294. At Caroll’s Village, Church St. (J 047 076) archaeological testing was carried out by D. Murphy in advance of proposed redevelopment. It was hoped to confirm the precise line and extent of the medieval town ditch, identified during previous testing. The ditch would appear to have been cut into the boulder clay and measured a max. of 1.2 m in depth and 7 m in width at the top. For the most part it was filled with post-medieval layers. The only definite feature of medieval date was a shallow pit cut into natural boulder clay. A small area of what may possibly represent medieval garden soil was uncovered but no features were evident within it. Substantial archaeological deposits exist, however, towards the E. of the site, just S. of Caroll’s House along Church St. A layer of brown peaty material containing the partial remains of a wattle fence or wall underlay a roughly built stone wall. Pottery, of 13th/14th-century date, was found in association with the fence. It is likely that the stratigraphy here is representative of medieval occupation along the W. side of Church St.

295. At 78 Bridge St. (J 047 079) excavations were carried out by K. Campbell on a partly destroyed medieval pottery kiln discovered on a building site within the walled area of the medieval town. Three quarters of the kiln had been removed in antiquity but part of the firing chamber and evidence for two flues suggest that it was of Type 2. The chamber was cut into pre-existing deposits to a depth of 0.3 m and was lined with 25–30 mm of clay. The W. flue extended 1.7 m from the chamber as a shallow, charcoal-lined depression. Only the outer end of the E. flue survived giving an overall length of 5.7 m for the kiln including flues. A small quantity of pottery waste, kiln-furniture and collapsed superstructure was recovered from the back-filling of the chamber and flues. The ware is wheel-thrown and sherds of glazed jugs predominate, some highly decorated. There was one shallow dish and a pipkin handle. The fabric and decoration of the pottery suggest a date for the kiln in the late 13th or early 14th century.

CO. MAYO

296. FRENCHGROVE (M 327 642). A brief investigation was carried out on this crannog by C. McDermott on behalf of the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit. The site is situated in an area of low lying peatland where, twenty years ago, a logboat was discovered in the course of land reclamation. The site consists of a low mound (measuring 20 m by 21 m) defined by palisade posts protruding through the grass and rushes. A hole, measuring 8.5 m by 4.5 m and 0.9 m in depth, had been dug in one quadrant. Eighteen large worked trunks and 5 split timbers were upcast along with large quantities of brushwood, sand, bone, artefacts and other habitation material. The presence of a large number of rotary
quern fragments and the absence of pottery indicate that the site was occupied during the early medieval period.

297. **Strade Abbey (M 258 976).** Archaeological monitoring and testing was carried out by D. Murphy at the Penal Church, ahead of the proposed re-construction of the building, within the Dominican Friary founded in 1252. A wall measuring 1.1 m in width and surviving to a depth of at least 1 m was uncovered and may represent the S. extent of the cloisteral buildings. Excavations indicated that the N. gable and W. wall of the N. transept are of late medieval date. A wall of probable 13th-century date was exposed just N. of the gable and 1.5 m W. of the medieval church. The Penal Church itself was most likely constructed in the 18th century but deposits beneath its floor were medieval in date. A pit, rough cobbling and a hearth were among the features exposed. Towards the W. end, the deposits seem to represent material dumped in the medieval period to raise floor levels.

**Co. Meath**

298. **Beamore (O 095 725).** Archaeological testing by D. Murphy was carried out in order to assess the significance of a rectangular stone structure traditionally associated with the Knights Hospitallers. The excavation uncovered the foundation of a demolished 13th/14th-century wall protruding from the NW. corner of the upstanding building. The wall, which rested directly on the natural boulder clay, measured 1 m in width, had a footing along the E. side and was probably demolished sometime during the 17th or 18th century.

299. **Kells, Cross St. (N 742 758).** Following the collision of a school bus with the plinth of the Market Cross, the 10th-century cross was removed to the National Monuments’ Depot in Trim for conservation. The separation of the cross and base permitted the inspection by H. A. King of the cross shaft’s tenon. It measures 51 cm by 34 cm with a height of 32 cm and the W. side has a significant chamfer as a result of natural spalling. The mortise in the base measures 53 cm by 42 cm at the opening and slopes inwards to an approximate depth of 25 cm. The underside of the base is roughly finished but a small rectangular recess is cut into it. The recess is well finished internally and measures 10 cm by 3 cm with a depth of 7 cm. The function of the recess is unclear but as it is under the principal face of the cross, i.e. that with the crucifixion, it may have held a small relic. There was nothing of archaeological significance on the ground under the plinth of the cross, which had been re-built in 1893.

300. **Moynagh Lough, Brittas (N 818 860).** J. Bradley reports that the excavation of this crannog site continued *(Med. Archaeol. 41 (1997), 308).* Parts of a trackway, a hearth, a semi-oval timber structure, and an alignment of posts were excavated. The trackway consisted of thirty-two oak planks placed on longitudinal runners; many of the planks had been re-used and were in a fragmentary condition. The trackway ran for a distance of 4 m in an E.-W. direction and was 0.8 m in max. width. The trackway led to a rectangular hearth, measuring 1 m by 0.9 m, which was delimited by edging stones; it was 10 cm deep and was surrounded by several ash-spills, deriving from the hearth. W. of the hearth was a semi-oval structure measuring 2.9 m by 1.9 m. The wall of the structure consisted of twenty-nine wooden posts, the majority of which were oak. The timbers were set into a gravel foundation. The finds from within the structure consisted of pins and spindle-whorls of bone, a bronze pin, and iron nails. The purpose of the structure is unclear but it may have functioned as a workshop. All of these features belonged to the initial phase of 7th-century activity on the site. Running E. from the semi-oval structure was an alignment of nine wooden posts with an average distance between them of 0.5 m; this had all of the appearance of a palisade but it is also possible that it formed part of an internal division.
such as a fence. Due to the fact that this area was heavily waterlogged throughout the summer, however, it was impossible to determine its function.

CO. OFFALY

301. CLONMACNOISE MONASTERY (N 006 306). Underwater excavations by D. Boland and A. O’Sullivan were carried out on the remains of a wooden bridge dated dendrochronologically to A.D. 804. It measured at least 120 m in length, 5 m in width and stood to an estimated height of 10–13 m. The bridge was constructed with about 25 pairs of sharpened, through-mortised, oak posts with individual base-plates of beams and planks; the upstream and downstream posts were 4–5 m apart, and each pair was spaced at 5–6 m intervals across the river. Hints of the superstructure survived in the form of occasional well-preserved vertical timbers lying on the river bed. The wood-working methods included hewing, cleaving and joinery, and the use of narrow axes, broad axes, adzes and augurs was evident. The variable quality of the wood technology suggests that the bridge was constructed by a team of unskilled labourers supervised by experienced carpenters. Finds include eight dugout boats, four iron axes and a decorated copper-alloy basin similar to the examples from Derrcen, Co. Clare.

302. CLONMACNOISE MONASTERY, NEW GRAVEYARD (N 011 308). Excavations by H. A. King continued on this early ecclesiastical site (*Med. Archaeol. 41* (1997), 309). A further small section of the metalled road found in 1995 was excavated as well as a ‘revetment’ or enclosing feature. The road, running N.–S. from the Callows to the Old Burial Ground, was c. 3 m in width and was excavated for a distance of 18.5 m, although geophysical testing has revealed that the remains extend beyond the graveyard into the Callows. The road had over 30 layers, consisting of lenses of sand, gravel and peat. Previous work indicated that it overlay the alluvial peat which formed above the Iron Age features found in other cuttings and that it had gone out of use by the end of the first millennium. The revetment ran E.–W. for a distance of 8 m and may have intersected with the road but the link was removed by the digging of a modern grave. The revetment comprised a core of tightly packed stones, internally faced with a neatly constructed wall of boulders, each averaging c. 0.8 m in length and c. 0.75 m in height, set end-to-end on a bed of marl. The revetment was at least 2 m wide but the external face was not exposed.

303. CURRAGHALASSA BOG AND CORRHIll BOG, LEMANAGHAN (N 158 258/131 280). A survey was conducted by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit on a spur of commercially developed bog beside a dryland island at Lemanaghan (*Med. Archaeol. 41* (1997), 310). The island has been the site of an ecclesiastical enclosure since the 7th century. The survey recorded over 150 wetland sites, as well as a number of artefacts. Since types included small deposits of worked wood and togthers (trackways) constructed of planks, roundwoods and brushwood. Some drain-faces had material of up to 1 m in depth which continued along the drain for up to 60 m. A plank from one of these sites was dendrochronologically dated to the early half of the 7th century. Six sites from a number of other locations in the bog were also dated to the latter half of the 6th and the first half of the 7th century. Four of these sites were constructed of split oak timbers and were possibly plank togthers. The remaining two sites were oak planks incorporated into roundwood and brushwood structures. In the absence of excavation it is very difficult to classify the wooden sites recorded. To the NW. of Curraghalassa Bog is another spur of bog called Corrhill. Over 170 sites and a number of artefacts were recorded from this bog. A split oak plank togther which ran across the bog for over 60 m was dendrochronologically dated to 626 ± 9.

CO. SLIGO

304. TRAHAUN Ó RIAIN, INISHMURRAY (G 570 540). Excavation was conducted by J. O’Sullivan on behalf of the National Monuments Service in response to advancing
coastal erosion. The monument is one of several outdoor altars associated with a monastic settlement, traditionally founded in the 6th century. In its primary phase, the monument appears to have consisted of a small stone cell, fronted by a paved area which supported an upright timber, possibly the post for a portable altar or mensal tablet. In the second phase, this paving was sealed by an upstanding altar of drystone rubble, roughly coursed to form a regular, 'square' cairn, 0.7 m high and 1.9 m in max. length. The altar itself was enclosed by a low, dry-stone wall which abutted the adjacent cell and was clearly of a secondary build; fragments of a small, green, glass vessel, possibly of Mediterranean origin, were found within the base of the wall core. A cross-inscribed slab was found in the rebuilt, modern entrance to the cell. No human skeletal remains or occupation material were found. The altar is evidently not a late medieval monument, as some have proposed, but an element of the early monastic landscape. Reconstruction of the monument on an adjacent site was completed. The cross-inscribed slab, along with others from the island, is now in the former primary school which has been renovated as a display centre.

CO. TIPPERARY

NENAGH

305. At Abbey St (R 866 790) excavations were carried out by S. Desmond prior to redevelopment in close proximity to the 13th-century Franciscan Friary. Skeletal remains, representing at least four individuals, and a number of walls were revealed. Sherds of local green glazed medieval pottery and medieval cooking ware were present. One of the walls forms the N. boundary of the graveyard and appears to be associated with the extant remains of the friary immediately to the N.

306. At Nenagh Castle (R 865 790) a small blocked-up chamber in the W. wall of the hall of this late 12th-century castle was investigated by B. Hodkinson on behalf of the National Monuments Service. This contained a flight of steps leading from the ground floor of the hall to a garderobe set on the outside of the curtain wall. One side of the garderobe chute had been misidentified as the outer face of the W. gate-tower, but the tower wall was found to the E. of the garderobe chute.

307. SHARRAGH (R 990 028). An area, measuring 7 m by 2 m, of this wooden trackway was excavated by J. Whitaker on behalf of the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit. The exposed timbers ranged from 10 cm to 26 cm in width and 0.9 m to 2.3 m in length. They were laid transversely, edge to edge, on a substructure of longitudinal brushwood runners and were held in place with pegs. The trackway has been dendrochronologically dated to A.D. 575 ± 9 (Q9516).

CO. WATERFORD

308. WATERFORD, REGINALD'S TOWER, THE MALL (S 612 124). Excavations by B. Murtagh were carried out on behalf of the National Monuments Service in advance of restoration work on this 13th-century mural tower at the NE. corner of the city defences. The circular tower has an external diameter of 13.5 m at ground floor level; the lower two storeys were constructed c. A.D. 1200, while the upper part is of late medieval date. The ground floor consists of a circular chamber, 7.15 m in internal diameter, with an entrance lobby to the W. giving access to a spiral stairwell leading to the upper floors. To the S. and E. are four embrasures with loops overlooking the area outside the city wall; the stone floors of these alcoves had been destroyed in the 18th century. Excavation revealed that, shortly after its construction, the interior of the tower was back-filled with random rubble, roughly-bonded with poured mortar and mixed with boulder clay. This formed the
foundation for the primary floor which consisted of a layer of mortar, 5 cm thick. From this surface one stepped up onto the floors of the surrounding mural alcoves. The floor level was raised later in the 13th century and again towards the end of the middle ages.

SCOTLAND

ABERDEENSHIRE

309. FETTERNEAR (NJ 723 170). The third excavation season at the summer palace of the Bishops of Aberdeen was led by P. Z. Dransart and N. Q. Bogdan. Virtually all of the modern contexts, as well as contexts contaminated by the late 19th century excavation were removed within areas A–C. In parts of Area B slight plough damage was detected. The stratigraphy of walls exposed in the 19th century excavation reveals a complicated sequence. Most of this excavation had been backfilled, apart from Area A. This was apparently left as an archaeological feature in the lawn in front of the mansion, and the evidence indicates that part of it was connected into a flower bed.

A garderobe was identified in Area A, apparently erected above an earlier structure. Its outflow, which has not yet been excavated, seems to flow into a ditch infilled with building rubble at the time the tower house was erected later in the 16th century. The ditch infill contained medieval glass and window lead. An articulated canid skeleton was found in the upper part of the fill.

Part of the infill of a ghost wall in Area B was excavated. The removal of this material indicated that archaeological deposits are at least 1.5 m deep, a remarkable depth of stratigraphy for a rural site. This ghost wall cut through organic material, and the wall was probably removed in the 14th century.

The footings of the E. wing of the mansion were identified in Area C. This ‘wing’ appears to pre-date the post-Reformation tower house. It continued in use until it was demolished in the late 18th century. Its rear wall (the easternmost wall of the wing) was removed by the later shrubbery in the NE. corner of Area C. Fortunately, the disturbance caused by developing the shrubbery in the late 18th and 19th centuries has not removed earlier medieval deposits in this corner.

Evidence from this year’s work confirms that the bishop’s palace in the 14th century was comparable in size and form with the most elaborate examples in other parts of the British Isles. Hitherto such structures may not have been identified in Scotland.

This project forms part of a larger research programme, the Scottish Episcopal Palaces Project. The work was sponsored by University of Wales, Lampeter; The Society of Antiquaries of London; The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; Aberdeen Council; Aberdeen University; the Scottish Castle Survey and Alistair Ross of EDS Ltd. The excavators wish to thank Mrs C. Whittall, Mrs C. Fyffe, Mr R. Fyffe and Mr D. Fyffe for their support, and for allowing access to the site.

ARGYLL AND BUTE

310. EILEAN MOR (NR 3883 6811). Conservation work of Building C, adjacent to the great hall was undertaken by D. H. Caldwell of the National Museums of Scotland for the Finlaggan Project. A small rectangular structure, 7.3 x 6.4 m, Building C has a ground-floor chamber and an upper storey contained in the roof space. The walls, its N. and S. gable standing almost complete, are of coursed random rubble in lime mortar and obviously of more than one phase. In its final form the building is thought to be post-medieval in date, and to have been a dwelling-house for a person of some local status — perhaps Donald MacGillespie, crown tenant or Portaneilean (Finlaggan) in the 1540s.

A watching brief while rubble was cleared around the walls revealed that the earth floor(s) of the building had been dug out in previous unrecorded excavations, leaving only a make-up of sandy, silty clay. This had had a trench partially sunk through it by the earlier diggers, and from material they had disturbed was recovered a penny imitating one of
Edward I of England, class 9b, minted in London in 1299–1301. This coin may provide a cautionary date for the construction of Building C before the end of the 14th century. In the course of cleaning the walls horizontal beam slots were found in the gables at the level of the wall heads, extending inwards from the E. for an unknown distance. Along with put-log holes in the lower gable walls these belong to the building’s medieval phase and may be evidence for an upper storey projecting out over the lower walls. Perhaps Building C was originally constructed as the solar tower for the great hall, to which it could have been connected at an upper level.

The Finlaggan Project is sponsored by the National Museums of Scotland, the Russell Trust, the Schroder Charity Trust, The Army and The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

**311. EILEAN NA COMHAIRLE (NR 3878 6802).** In 1994 limited reconnaissance work by the Scottish Trust for Underwater Archaeology demonstrated the presence of medieval midden deposits on the side of the island adjacent to Eilean Mor. In 1997 it was possible to sample these thanks to the co-operation of the Army, particularly the Edinburgh OTC, in building a dam and pumping the water out from an area of about 80 sq. m. The work forms part of The Finlaggan Project led by D. H. Caldwell at the National Museum of Scotland. The midden is sealed by gravel and iron pan. From the gravel have been recovered medieval artefacts, perhaps mostly eroded from the island edge. They include two short cross pennies of the first half of the 13th century. The midden was sampled in a number of small test-pits. It had an organic, sandy, fibrous matrix, packed with considerable quantities of animal bone, hazelnut shells and pieces of wood, including round wood, twigs and offcuts of worked timber. Sherds of pottery, leather shoes and a broken stone mortar suggest a date in the 12th/13th century.

The deposit had a maximum depth of 0.4 m before giving way to a layer of blocks and boulders, in which were two empty post-settings. Excavation to deeper levels was limited but showed that the stones sealed another organic-rich deposit, similar to the upper one, but with noticeably greater quantities of wood, especially withies, and pieces of peat. There was no apparent structure to this but the stubs of three birch stakes were encountered in situ. This woodwork, with the overlying stone layer, probably represents the remains of an artificial platform, the date of which has still to be established. An earlier artificial platform was represented by an underlying sequence of stone layer, midden and wood-rich deposit, resting on the bottom of the loch.

A thorough programme of wet sieving, flotation and taking of samples for other environmental analysis was undertaken.

**312. IONA, REILIG ODHRAIN (NM 286 244).** A minor excavation was undertaken by J. O’Sullivan, Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division, at Reilig Odhrain and the abbey gardens in advance of environmental improvements. Investigation within a gap at the N. side of the existing cemetery boundary wall revealed remains of an earlier rubble wall on a slightly different alignment. The work was sponsored by Iona Abbey Ltd.

**313. ROTHESAY, ST MARY’S CHAPEL (NS 0862 6367).** Three trenches were excavated at St Mary’s Chapel, a part-demolished 14th century building adjacent to Rothesay High Kirk, by G. Ewart and D. Stewart of Kirkdale Archaeology for Historic Scotland. Two thresholds were uncovered relating to an original ground surface within the chapel.

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

**314. ANNAN, BUTTS STREET (NY 1952 6671).** An evaluation by C. Cavanagh of AOC Archaeology, for Safeway Stores plc in the sheep market found a large 13th/14th century, N.–S. orientated, boundary ditch shown on early maps.
315. Botel Castle Bailey (Buittle Castle: NX 818 616). This ongoing excavation, staffed entirely by volunteers and a runner-up in the 1996 Pitt Rivers awards, is now in its seventh season. The work was conducted by A. Penman and E. Cochrane. Further evidence for the existence of the medieval Royal Burgh of Botel (1323-124) has been uncovered in the shape of a timber double concentric roundhouse, a rectangular timber building and numerous stake-holes delineating burgage plots. The wall footings of a stone building are currently being excavated and the trench has yielded many artefacts including mint condition coins of Edward III, a beehive thimble of the 13th/14th century and the remains of a bronze-bound wooden box.

Excavations on the defensive perimeter of the S. bailey have yielded evidence of a massive timber palisade to the S. and E. To the N. a deep fosse was constructed by quarrying through the local greywacke bedrock to form a U-shaped ditch with a stone wall to the S. and an abatis to the N. These were dismantled and tumbled into the fosse in antiquity, dated by pottery recovered from the rubble. Written evidence supports the dismantling of the castle in 1313 by Robert Bruce.

Several items from this excavation have been declared Treasure Trove (TT 45/94) and have been allocated to the Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright.

316. Ingleston Motte (NX 774 579). Severe erosion, due to rabbit burrowing, has led to an examination of the site. In 1891 the dimensions of the motte were recorded as 23 x 16 m, but in 1980 this had been reduced to 21 x 13 m. A 4 m square trench was opened on the NE. quadrant of the summit where no previous excavation had taken place, and ploughsoil was removed to a depth of 0.5 m. Sherds of yellow-green glazed pottery, iron nails and some charcoal were recovered. A quantity of amethyst was also found, the use of which remains unclear.

Extensive evidence of burning was present and it is deduced that a timber tower surmounting the motte was burnt down in antiquity. The written sources suggest that this occurred in 1185 when Roland of Galloway invaded and reoccupied his patrimony on the death of his uncle, Gilbert, murderer of his father.

The investigation was undertaken by A. Penman and E. Cochrane. The archive from this ongoing excavation is to be deposited with the Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright.

317. Sorbie Old Tower (NX 451 469). Investigation by P. Harrington of 12th century motte and 16th century tower house. A watching brief was conducted of a machine-excavated foundation and soakaway trench for an extension at the rear of Sorbie Tower cottage. The fill(s) and outer edge of the motte ditch along the E. side of the mound were exposed at a truncated level in the bottom of the main trench at the SW. end. The curving line of the outer E. edge of the ditch was recognised in the red boulder clay bottom of the trench. On the SE. side of the mound, the motte ditch is estimated to be c. 7.5 m wide at the top level.

The NW. section of the trench suggested that clay and possibly stone were used to line or construct a late phase of the E. wall of the ditch. A filled hollow, 1.7 m wide, in the outside upper edge of the ditch may have been the back side of a counter escarpment-like construction of an earlier, wider phase. This suggests there may initially have been a bank outside of the ditch on this side of the motte. It is also thought that the traditional access to the top of the motte was from the NE. side of the ditch.

Finds from the fill of the ditch included two sherds of possible 14th-century glazed earthenware. The excavation was sponsored by the Sorbie Tower Conservation Project Committee of the Clan Hannay Society.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE

318. North Berwick Abbey (NT 5459 8499). Development of the grounds of the medieval priory at North Berwick led to a programme of archaeological works. These
included a watching brief on all ground-breaking work, the excavation of six burials which fell within the footprint of development and the investigation of a partial structure to the immediate SE. of the priory. The investigations, sponsored by FASGA Ltd, were undertaken by T. Rees, J. Gooder and M. Engl of AOC Scotland Ltd.

319. RENFREW CASTLE (NS 5086 6787). Trial trenching was carried out by D. Alexander of the Centre for Field Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, at the site of the 13th–14th century castle in Renfrew. Desk-based research, geophysical survey and test-pitting suggested that the site had been greatly disturbed. Following dismantling of the castle much of the stone had been removed from the site and used in the construction of a soap works. The site was subsequently built over by Castlehill House and its extensive gardens. Demolition of this structure, its levelling and the creation of a playground led to further disturbance, while repeated development on the fringes of the site has gradually removed traces of the original castle mound and ditch.

Excavation of three trenches confirmed this disturbance and located the brick-built foundation of the large bay window (recorded on maps and photographs) at the NW. corner of Castlehill House. A trench located in the S. part of the park recovered a line of stone paving. In front of and below this were the remains of either a rubble-filled foundation trench or the rubble core of a wall, the facing stones of which had been robbed. A layer of clay to the S. of the stone paving contained sherds of 12th to 14th-century cooking vessels. It is possible that these remains represent traces of the royal castle of Renfrew.

The work was sponsored by Renfrewshire Council and the Renfrewshire Local History Forum Archaeology Section.

320. TRAPRAIN LAW (NT 582 746). T. Rees of AOC Scotland Ltd recorded and partially excavated c. 300 sq. m of fire-damaged ground to the immediate S. of the summit. The majority of the excavated area proved either to be outcropping bedrock or shallow sandy loam soils overlying bedrock. This soil contained a range of artefacts which appear to be mainly late prehistoric in origin. The remaining area contained a stretch of stone wall, perhaps an element of a late medieval structure associated with quantities of pottery of this date.

Traprain Law is owned and managed by East Lothian Council who granted permission for these works, sponsored by Historic Scotland.

321. WHITEKIRK TITHE BARN (NT 5960 8161). In advance of groundworks at and in the vicinity of the late medieval tithe barn at Whitekirk, archaeological evaluation and a watching brief was undertaken by D. Hall of the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust. The rubble remains of at least two small rectilinear buildings, associated with sherds of Colstoun ware and Scottish East Coast redware, were identified. Given the archaeological and historical background to the site, these may represent the remains of the early 15th century pilgrim houses which were established on the site by James I. Further structural remains of medieval date were identified in the SW. corner of the field, close to the churchyard.

Work inside the tithe barn revealed four fragments of grey sandstone incised with a series of compass-drawn motifs, including the Cistercian rose or marigold figure and a four-armed cross. Two of the fragments join. The pieces are interpreted as the remains of a possible gable-end stone shrine. It may be identical to a shrine at the site which was procured from Melrose in 1309, and destroyed at the Reformation.

The investigations were sponsored by Mr George Tuer, Whitekirk Mains.
FALKIRK

322. BLACKNESS CASTLE (NT 0556 8027). A narrow trench was opened by Kirkdale Archaeology within the courtyard of the castle in advance of the insertion of an electrical cable. The excavations, conducted by G. Ewart and P. Sharman, showed that a considerable depth of deposits survived in the area between the central tower and the W. curtain wall — the only material left in the whole courtyard. The investigation was sponsored by Historic Scotland.

FIFE

323. CUPAR, FORMER SITE OF ST CHRISTOPHER’S CHURCH (NO 3666 1527). A survey and assessment of the site this church was undertaken by D. Hall of the Centre for Field Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, to assess plough damage. The site is visible as a sizeable earthwork, and a contour survey was carried out. This was followed by a resistivity survey and excavation of hand-dug trial trenches to test large geophysical anomalies.

The trenching located N. and S. wall lines and the E. end of the structure. The remains of an internal flagged floor surface were located only 0.3 m below modern ground level. The geophysical and excavated evidence suggest a building c. 6 x 20 m, with either a porch or a side chapel at its SW. corner. Extended human burials were found to the S. of the building and a possible limit to the graveyard was located some 22 m to the S. The landowner has agreed to stop ploughing the site of the church and graveyard, which is in the process of being scheduled.

The investigations were sponsored by Historic Scotland.

324. ISLE OF MAY (NT 6585 9901). A brief excavation took place at the priory in the Isle of May in order to reveal the complete ground plan of the S. range, as the W. end was sealed by up to 1.9 m of post-medieval overburden. The excavations showed that the S. range had been built up against the W. range (St Ethernan’s Chapel). There was evidence for two doorways, one to the S. leading out of the priory precinct towards the kitchen midden. The other was in the E. wall perhaps connecting with the original doorway in the S. wall of the W. range.

A post-medieval oven had been constructed within the S. door of the W. range and this also sealed the walls of the S. range. The addition of the oven probably took place in the 16th century when the priory was remodelled to create a secular house. Three drystone walls were found within the overburden. As they were not exposed to their full extent it was not clear if these walls belonged to outbuildings or field boundaries.

The excavation was conducted by H. F. James of Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division. Work was sponsored by Historic Scotland and Fife Council.

325. KILMARON, FEALY DYKE (NO 3625 1665). P. Yeoman and S. Taylor of Fife Council recorded a medieval estate boundary, mentioned in a 14th-century property charter. The earthwork consists of a low grassy bank running N.–S. — approximately 4 m wide and 0.5 m high. The work was sponsored by Fife Council Planning Service Archaeology Unit.

326. ST ANDREWS, 137 MARKET STREET (NO 507 167). Further investigation of this development site, by A. Radley of FIRAT Archaeological Services, continued with a watching brief over three months of groundworks. There was evidence of iron smithing and metalworking towards the SW. corner of the site where furnace remains were clipped by the development’s foundation trenches. Large pits cut through the natural sand and clay subsoils were also present towards the S. end of the site, perhaps used for quarrying of materials associated with the metalworking.

A number of small pits that may have been post-holes suggest a structure on the W. extremity of the site, but these features were too truncated to be easily identifiable. Some further evidence suggesting property boundaries was present but only one convincing
ditch was identified. All cut features including the smithy remains are dated to the 14th century or slightly earlier. Garden soil had been imported in the 14th century and deposited over most of the site to a depth of up to 1.2 m. This indicates a change in use from habitation and small-scale industrial activity to gardens. Over 700 sherds of 14th century Scottish East Coast White Gritty pottery were recovered from the garden soil, and also some European imports. The ceramic assemblage provides a useful body of comparative material for other sites in St Andrews.

The work was sponsored by the Northern Retail Property Fund and the Carl Fisher Sibbald Partnership.

327. ST ANDREWS, ST NICHOLAS FARM (NO 518 158). Prior to a housing development, R. Toolis of the Centre for Field Archaeology, Edinburgh University, conducted an excavation at the site of the medieval leper hospital of St Nicholas. Previous investigations had established the location of the precinct of the hospital under the car park of the East Sands leisure centre, and the presence of possible extra-mural settlement further W. in the field adjacent to the sewage treatment centre (Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1994, 21).

The remains of a large structure, defined by a substantial drystone wall, 0.87 m thick, on a WSW.-ENE. alignment and including a series of stratified decomposed organic layers and cobbled surfaces, was recorded. Green-glazed pottery, dating from the 16th century, was recovered from the foundation trench of this structure, immediately adjacent to the course of the St Nicholas Burn. At a later stage another slightly less substantial wall was constructed. These structures may belong to the redevelopment of the leper hospital in the 16th/17th century.

The partial remains of a cobbled surface, on the same alignment as the medieval Crail Road, identified in previous work, was also recorded. This represents the only medieval activity apparent S. of the present sewage works. A watching brief was carried out during topsoil stripping of the entire development area. No evidence belonging to the earlier phase of the site, relating to the leper hospital, was recovered.

The investigations were sponsored by Hall & Tawse Scotland Ltd.

328. ST ANDREWS, ST NICHOLAS FARM (NO 5175 1585). The Scottish urban Archaeological Trust was commissioned to undertake an archaeological site assessment in advance of a housing development. Resistivity survey, followed by a programme of trial trenching, was carried out on the site which lies immediately to the E. of the excavation area which located part of the medieval St Nicholas Leper Hospital in 1987. The information recovered, including walls and drains, has largely complemented the results of previous archaeological work, notably a limited assessment carried out in 1993 (Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1993, 31). It remains unclear whether the remains encountered represent extra-mural settlement or part of the hospital complex. No securely stratified finds were recovered from the site, which is characterised by plough disturbance, shallow stratigraphy and isolated features.

The investigation, carried out by S. Stronach, was sponsored by Hall & Tawse Scotland Ltd.

HIGHLAND

329. DORNOCH, MEADOWS BUSINESS PARK (NH 797 895). A watching brief was commissioned by Highland Council Archaeology Service on a site to the S. of the former bishop’s palace (now Bishop’s Hotel) on the S. edge of the burgh of Dornoch. The watching brief, the first archaeological project to have been carried out in the town, involved monitoring topsoil stripping and groundworks associated with the development of a new business park. Cut into the buried sand dunes were the truncated remains of a
substantial post-medieval ditch, possibly of a defensive enclosure, numerous ditches forming enclosures and at least one building, pits and several hearth-like features, together with a large quantity of slag and burnt clay (including a tuyere), sealed below a deep deposit of medieval cultivation soil.

The watching brief and searches by a local metal detectorist yielded a varied assemblage of medieval and post-medieval artefacts. Finds of medieval date include copper-alloy objects such as a small bell, a lobate stud or boss, a strap-end and numerous other fittings. A bone pin beater fragment and several corroded iron artefacts were also recovered. Coins of James IV, James VI, Charles I and Charles II were found.

The work, sponsored by the Highland Council, was conducted by A. Cox, R. Coleman and C. Miller of the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust.

**330. TARBAT, PORTMAHOMACK (NH 915 839).** The Tarbat Discovery Programme is a field research programme designed to explore the society and economy of the northern Picts. The work, conducted by M. Carver, A. Roe and J. Garner-Lahire of York University, is currently concentrated at the site of St Colman’s Church, or Tarbat Old Church, just outside Portmahomack on Tarbat Ness, Easter Ross.

Tarbat Old Church has produced more than 20 fragments of 9th-century sculpture, including the well-known Latin inscription. In 1984, an enclosure ditch encircling the church and enclosing about 6 ha was discovered from the air, and in 1991 the primary fill of this ditch was radiocarbon dated to the 2nd–6th century A.D. A major evaluation followed from 1994–96, in which the extent and character of the settlement was estimated, primarily by ‘strip and map’ technique in which large parts of the enclosure were stripped of topsoil, mapped and reburied without damage. The result of the evaluation was to show that the site contained buildings, including a ‘bag-shaped’ building and a souterrain, and evidence for early industry. The ditch itself may have been defensive but its main function appeared to be as a water-collector. The church of St Colman, which is 17th century and later in its elevation, had signs of preceding medieval phases.

The excavation programme began in 1997 with the investigation of St Colman’s Church. No Pictish phase was securely contacted, but the first church, a simple rectangular building, probably 12th century in date, incorporated a number of fine pieces of 9th–10th century sculpture, including the ‘Boar’ stone which was a sarcophagus lid with panelled boar- and lion-like animals in high relief, and a number of simple cross slabs. The church was extended and acquired a crypt, probably in the 13th century. In the late 16th century the crypt was refashioned with a vault and a N. aisle was built. Into the vault of the crypt was built the ‘Monk’ stone, a fine 9th century piece which featured a row of standing clerics and a rampant beast. It derived from a very much larger standing slab, which probably included the inscribed stone now in the National Museum. The excavation within the church also produced a remarkable sequence of burials, beginning with cist graves, continuing with ‘pillow’ graves using head-support stones, and then burials in coffins. The state of conservation of bone and wood is good and often exceptional.

The excavation season continued with work in the Glebe Field. This sector has now been shown to contain a stratified sequence some 0.4 m deep, which should cover the whole of the Early Historic period. The medieval phase currently under investigation includes rectangular buildings, stone platforms as yet unidentified, hearths, gullies and deep pits with good assemblages of medieval pottery and metalworking debris. The animal bone is plentiful and in very good condition.

The project is sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund, York University, the Tarbat Historic Trust and the Highland Council.

**331. URQUHART CASTLE** (NH 530 286). An archaeological evaluation comprising geophysical survey and trial trenching was undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd between the moat and the A82 at Urquhart Castle. The geophysical surveys were undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS.
The resistivity survey identified a large low resistance linear anomaly running E.-W. for c. 35 m and ending abruptly 140 m W. of the castle moat. A trench was cut across the anomaly and a large medieval clay-lined ditch, 9 m wide and 2.5 m deep, was identified. Fragments of 13th–15th century pottery were found in the secondary fill, together with a number of medieval iron objects, a circular sharpening stone, a crucible fragment and burnt animal bone.

The investigation, sponsored by Historic Scotland, was conducted by C. Moloney.

332. Wardlaw Mausoleum (NH 5495 4570). An archaeological examination, sponsored by the Wardlaw Mausoleum Trust, was carried out in connection with restoration work at this important 17th/18th century building. A fine quatrefoil window exposed in the W. gable of the mausoleum is thought to be the remains of the window dedicated by Euphemia Fraser in 1641. Other fragments of dressed masonry thought to derive from the medieval church were also found. However, apart from the W. gable, no walling incontrovertibly related to the earlier church was revealed. Further work is planned.

North Lanarkshire

333. Vicinity of Harthill, Tam's Loup Quarry (NS 8747 6377). Previous evaluation undertaken in advance of the W. extension of Tam's Loup Quarry uncovered sherds of medieval green-glazed pottery, implying that the upstanding gable in the vicinity of Wellslea farm could represent the vestiges of a medieval structure (Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1996, 79–80). As North Lanarkshire suffers from a paucity of domestic archaeological evidence for this period, a more extensive excavation was recommended. A single trench of 36 sq. m revealed the foundation trench on the W. side of the gable wall which allowed the gable to be backed into the slope. In addition to the gable wall, vestiges of the two side walls containing opposing doorways were recovered. A cobbled floor surface, elevated on a grey silty sand foundation, survived in two discrete patches within the structure. An uneven hard standing was identified outside, and to the N. and S. To the E. evidence of large-scale 19th century disturbance suggests that the remainder of the structure had been destroyed. No dating evidence was recovered from construction or occupation contexts. However, the appearance of seven sherds of fine green-glazed pottery in rubble indicates a medieval or immediately post-medieval abandonment date for the structure.

The excavation, carried out by C. Swift of the Centre for Field Archaeology, Edinburgh University, was sponsored by Pioneer Aggregates UK.

Orkney Islands

The following sites were investigated by J. Barrett, Dept of Anthropology and T. Davis, Dept of Geography, both of Toronto University, and I. Simpson, Dept of Environmental Science, University of Stirling. Work was sponsored by the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Society for Medieval Archaeology, Orkney Islands Council and Glasgow University.

334. Cleat (HY 467 466). A 1 x 2 m test-pit was dug in a coastal midden at the centre of the Bay of Cleat. The site had been previously located and sampled but not dated. The exposed deposit was c. 0.6 m thick, but its horizontal extent was unclear. Finds include a flattened spherical weight of Viking Age type, steatite vessel fragments, a femur head spindle whorl and a further worked bone object. An AMS radiocarbon assay on charred barley yielded a calibrated date of A.D. 870–1280.

335. Quoygrew-Nether Trenabie (HY 443 506). A programme of renewed reconnaissance and archaeological sampling began at the site of Quoygrew, known as Nether
Trenabic in 19th century sources. A 2 x 1 m test-pit had been excavated in coastal middens in 1978. Although further eroded, these deposits now stretch 40 m along the wave-cut bank and augering revealed that they continue inland for c. 15 m. As well as taking a number of environmental samples, a 1 x 2 m test-pit was excavated to recover a sample of mammal bone and datable artefactual material. A further 2 x 5 m test trench examined a small drystone 'cellar' dug into the midden. This structure, which had a flagged floor and stone-lined drain, may represent a naust or a semi-subterranean byre.

The midden can be dated to the Viking Age by antler comb fragments and steatite vessel sherds. Other finds include bone pins, a highly corroded possible coin, a possible bone gaming piece and perforated discs made from the unfused vertebral epiphyses of a small whale. Sherds of coarse pottery from the upper strata may imply that deposition continued into the Late Norse (medieval) period. The fill of the structure dug into the midden included coarse pottery and low-grade coal which suggest a post-medieval date.

To landward, geophysical survey by L. Sharpe of Glasgow University revealed a possible rectangular structure, c. 18 x 7 m. Auger survey and soil test-pits delineated additional middens of unknown date and a relict anthropogenic topsoil over 0.9 m deep in places. The latter covers an area of around 80 x 200 m and can probably be interpreted as infield (tunmal).

Westness Cemetery (HY 376 293). An area of c. 1 ha adjacent to the previously excavated Viking period cemetery at Westness, Rousay, was subjected to geophysical survey followed by trial trenching. The objective was to investigate potential archaeological deposits recently revealed by coastal erosion, to investigate the presence/absence of further burials or features associated with the cemetery and to define the limits of the previous excavation trenches more closely.

Those deposits seen in the erosion face proved to be superficial and did not extend inland. Elsewhere, with one exception, trial trenching indicated that no substantial deposits survived outwith the previous excavation area. One trench, situated at the S. tip of the promontory upon which the site lies, uncovered parts of a human skull accompanied by a fragment of a bone comb. This was interpreted as a disturbed burial, probably of Viking date.

The investigations were sponsored by Historic Scotland and Orkney Archaeological Trust.

Perth and Kinross

337. Perth, Greyfriars Graveyard (NO 119 232). In advance of proposals to dismantle and rebuild extensive stretches of the wall around the Greyfriars burial ground R. Cachart of the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust excavated two test-pits against the E. wall. The burial ground represents the site of the monastery and grounds of the Observant Order of Greyfriars, or Franciscans, or Friars Minor, in Perth, first mentioned in records in 1496.

In one pit what were considered to be the original Greyfriars wall foundations were located, and from these the probable contemporary ground level can be extrapolated. A succession of wall foundations revealed a history of wall replacement and repair with subsequent raising of the ground levels. Dating evidence in the form of medieval pottery associated with a probable lower garden soil against the Greyfriars original wall was also retrieved. In the other pit, the lack of succession of wall foundations confirmed that this area was within the 1795 graveyard extension and outwith the original ground of the monastery.

The excavation was sponsored by Perth and Kinross Council.

338. Perth, Scott Street/Canal Street (NO 117 234). A small excavation demonstrated that the large and deep feature cut into the natural, found in 1989 (Discovery and
Excavation in Scotland 1989, 63), was not a defensive ditch but more probably a quarry pit. The backlands seem to have been largely devoid of structures until the post-medieval and modern periods, having been used as open ground or gardens. Pits, two property gullies and a stone drain were found, as well as a post-medieval stone well. No trace of the town wall or ditch was found along Canal Street.

A mixed assemblage of artefacts of medieval and post-medieval date was recovered. Two metallic finds of medieval date were found in the lower of two garden soil deposits. One is an iron clenched bolt, consisting of a nail and a rectangular or diamond-shaped rove. The second find from this deposit is a fragment from the frame of a copper-alloy buckle. Several irregularly shaped pieces of daub with numerous straw impressions were found in the fill of a quarry pit and in smaller quantities in the overlying deposits.

The excavation was carried out by D. Perry and A. Cox of the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust. Work was sponsored by the Perthshire and Servite Housing Associations.

SCOTTISH BORDERS

339. KELSO, BRIDGE STREET (NT 7282 3373). Demolition of the former Croall garage led to a programme of archaeological work in advance of house building. The site lies immediately to the S. of the W. range of the abbey and adjacent to the old ford across the R. Tweed, in use until the construction of the bridge (and Bridge Street) in the early 19th century. Work was undertaken by C. Lowe of Headland Archaeology Ltd and comprised of a watching brief during demolition and an evaluation leading to further recording. The work to date has revealed a complex of well-preserved medieval and post-medieval features. An earlier phase of broad wall foundations (possibly buildings in the abbey outer court) was largely robbed before the construction of buildings with narrower stone walls which were in turn levelled. Contemporary surfaces partially survive between the wall footings. A pottery assemblage and considerable quantities of carbonised grain were recovered.

The investigations were sponsored by M. & J. Ballantyne Ltd.

340. MELROSE ABBEY (NT 548 341). Further excavations, sponsored by Historic Scotland, were undertaken by G. Ewert and A. Dunn of Kirkdale Archaeology, following on from work on the chapter house conducted in 1996 (Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1996, 89). Three trenches were opened over the bank to the S. of the site of the chapter house, revealing a monastic roof-shed drain along the line of the former chapter house S. wall. Further evidence for the pits revealed in 1996, representing the robbing of the Period I chapter house floor, was also uncovered, confirming their relationship to the monastic rather than post-monastic use of the site. The findings have enlarged the understanding of the floor evidence in that a convincing relationship between the drain, defining the S. side of the chapter house before the extension of the church, and the 15th century N. transept was revealed.

341. NEWSTEAD (NT 563 342). Three fragments of medieval moulded architectural stone, set in the road-wall of the former Fairfax mission hall site, were recorded by W. Lonie. The fragments consist of grey sandstone showing Northumbrian style of the 9th century, pink sandstone of probably 12th century Early English style and a rectangular panel, also of pink sandstone, possibly dating from the 14th century.

SHETLAND ISLANDS

342. OLD SGATNESS/JARLSHOF ENVIRONS PROJECT (HU 389 106). Excavations of this multi-period settlement mound, carried out by S. J. Dockrill and J. M. Bond, Bradford
University, and V. E. Turner of the Shetland Amenity Trust, continued for a third season (Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1996, 94–5). The two main excavation areas were extended to examine the buildings surrounding the broch. Amongst the many finds was a cache of 25 loom-weights, some made from reused fragments of steatite vessels. Broken pieces of other vessels were also present, perhaps intended for recycling. Preliminary examination suggests that the vessels are Viking or Norse in form, but there is no evidence of an associated structure. A line sinker from last year’s excavation and spindle whorls recovered this year are also of Viking/Norse type.

The project is sponsored by Historic Scotland, the British Academy, the European Regional Development Fund (Highlands & Islands Partnership Programme), the Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland Islands Council, Bradford University, Farquhar & Jamieson and Commercial Services.

343. UNST, BELMONT (HU 56 99; HP 56 00; HP 57 00). The southernmost area of Unst was surveyed by V. E. Turner and M. Macleod of the Shetland Amenity Trust in order to provide a context for last year’s excavation at Belmont (Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1996, 95). Field systems associated with the site were mapped, together with four other potential Norse buildings and their fields. Two of the Norse sites lay amongst the crofting settlements of Mull, Easter and Wester Heogland, for which good documentary evidence survives. Two groups of boat-shaped stone settings were located and may represent Viking boat-graves, but could be of earlier date. The more obvious sites had been previously recorded but the sheer density of the sites and their inter-relationships — over 600 elements being recorded — had not been recognised. In addition, a small area around the excavated site at Soterberg was also mapped in order to identify features potentially related to this.

The work was sponsored by Historic Scotland, the Shetland Amenity Trust and the Shetland Enterprise Company.

344. UNST, SOTERBERG (HP 64 114). A multi-period farm mound at Soterberg, on the S. shore of Haroldswick, was excavated by A.-C. Larsen and S. Stummann Hansen of the Shetland Amenity Trust. This site, with substantial deposits, had previously been the object of at least one small investigation by a local person who found Iron Age pottery and a few objects from the Norse period.

The objective of the trial excavation was to establish an overview of the character, potential and chronology of the site. Well-preserved parts of a Norse house structure survived and a number of trenches were established across this. The building is interpreted as a Viking longhouse and was superimposed by the fragmentary remains of later structures. Under the presumed longhouse were fragments of Iron Age structures. None of these could be dated with any certainty. While the artefact assemblage from the Iron Age mainly consists of pottery, the Norse finds are dominated by stone objects, especially of steatite and schist. They include a number of sherds from circular and sub-rectangular vessels, loom-weights, spindle whorls, line sinkers, baking plates and whetstones.

The excavation was sponsored by the Shetland Amenity Trust, the Shetland Enterprise Company, the Sandison Trust, Copenhagen University and Glasgow University.

SOUTH AYRSHEIRE

345. AYR, LOUDOUN HALL (NS 336 221). Excavations in the forecourt of Loudoun Hall and the nearby Boat Vennal have produced evidence for major re-engineering of the quayside area, with a medieval 12th/13th century riverside rubbish tip, through the construction of Loudoun Hall in the 16th century, to a hardened and levelled urban quayside area of the 17th–18th centuries. There is also evidence for a NE. wing to the Hall and medieval building to the E. A large assemblage of medieval pottery was retrieved, containing examples of local and imported wares.
The excavations, sponsored by Armour Construction Ltd, were conducted by K. Speller of the Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division.

346. **Dundonald Castle** (NS 3636 3451). Preparation of a new visitor centre led to a watching brief by G. Ewart and D. Stewart of Kirkdale Archaeology. A cable trench, from a point at the extreme NW. end of the assumed barmkin area and through to the S. of the possible chapel site, was excavated to a depth of 3 m below the present ground surface. Nothing was revealed of the residual masonry towards the tower house end of the castle complex. However, particularly within the entrance pend, substantial rubble deposits were encountered, suggested in part by the mortar-rich character of the debris and the shelving nature of the bedrock, which may well be coincident with the entranceway.

Observations of the general topography to the W. of the tower house at or near ‘Dumpling Hill’ seem at present to indicate a form of forework associated with the 14th-century castle, and revealed traces of a terrace and a probable rectangular building. The regular character of the terrace suggests, rather than rubble spread at the base of the ruined walls, it was exclusively associated with the tower and tower house elements. This feature is therefore best viewed as a platform, possibly deriving from elements of the Period IV complex (13th century), recycled as a base for the later castle. The rectangular building was indicated by three sections of walling extending from the terrace, forming the N., S. and W. walls of a straight-sided structure. The N. wall lay on an alignment approximately opposite the assumed blocked entranceway within the tower house gate-structure.

The work was sponsored by Historic Scotland.

**South Lanarkshire**

347. **Lamington & Wandel**. A dispersed hoard of 39 Edward I and II silver pennies was found by metal detecting in a field. The hoard was disposed to Biggar Museum via Treasure Trove.

348. **Strathclyde Country Park, Hamilton Palace Grounds** (NS 725 558). R. Cachart of the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief on various areas of development covering the site of Hamilton Palace and the medieval burgh, evidence of which were found during previous excavation for the realignment of the Cadzow Burn (*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 1996, 99–100). The watching brief, close by the area of initial excavation, recorded walls and post-medieval deposits thought to relate to the palace or burgh. A late medieval kiln was found which was partially excavated and recorded. Its location, on the edge of the excavated area, enabled it to be preserved in situ. In excavations for a gas barrier several large, thick slabs were partially exposed and recorded — thought to be flooring for the palace or possibly the collegiate church. These were left in situ.

The investigations were sponsored by Hamilton Ahead.

**Stirling**

349. **Cambuskenneth Abbey** (NS 808 939). Topographical and resistivity surveys in three fields and an area within the bounds of the abbey were carried out by D. Etheridge of the Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division. Upstanding earthworks W. of the abbey ruins were recorded, and a resistivity survey was undertaken in the area to test for the presence of buried remains. At least six major anomalies were detected, each coinciding with recorded topographical features. These are interpreted as building platforms with dividing trackways, associated with rubble spreads which appear to have resulted from collapsed walling. Seemingly within the abbey precinct, these features may
represent the remains of buildings associated with the agricultural activities of the abbey, possibly including housing.

At the W. end of the field exposed walling was found, at the point where the field slopes down to the river edge. A print published in 1693 by John Sleezer shows an abbey watergate at this point, and the walling may be the remains of its foundations. Three sub-rectangular anomalies were located immediately W. of the present ruins, and it seems highly likely that they represent foundations for additional buildings associated with the abbey. Four trial trenches opened in fields S. of Hood Farm revealed the overploughed remains of three rig-and-furrow features, exposed in section, as well as a single stake-hole. No datable finds were recovered.

This research project, sponsored by Historic Scotland, was undertaken with the kind permission of the landowners, the patrons of Cowans Hospital, and Mr A. Rennie, the farmer.

350. DUNBLANE, CATHEDRAL HALL (NN 781 013). D. Hall of the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust carried out a watching brief on foundation and service works. Further traces of a courtyard outside the bishop's palace were located in a new service trench, and a new fragment of vault on a completely different alignment to those previously excavated (Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1995, 14) was discovered below the cathedral graveyard wall.

The work was sponsored by Historic Scotland, the Dunblane Kirk Session and the Central Regional Council.

351. STIRLING ANCIENT BRIDGE (NS 797 946). Search continued for the remaining stone piers belonging to the ancient bridge destroyed after the battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, two possible piers having been previously located and surveyed (Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1992, 17, Fig. 10). In 1996 a sonar survey by the British Geological Survey indicated another possible pier near the W. bank of the river, under a large sand bank. The presence of the pier was confirmed by two members of Stirling University Sub-Aqua Club, probing the sand bank with long iron rods and locating another, previously unknown. Accurate survey revealed that all four piers lie on the same straight line. The Common Seal of Stirling Burh, recorded in 1296, shows eight piers. Assuming this is correct, investigations to locate the remaining piers were undertaken by R. Page and L. Main of Stirling Council Environmental Services.

Excavations on the river banks to look for abutments or approach roads have so far been inconclusive, except that at NS 7966 9456 a group of large mortared stones were found in line with the piers in the river. These stones have no apparent connection with building 109, now demolished, nor with earlier cottages nearby indicated on a map of 1820. The stones had been somewhat diminished by a drainage pipe driven through one side, but could be part of an abutment of the bridge. Excavation on the opposite bank of the river at NS 7978 9470 revealed previously unknown drystone pitching, installed to prevent bank erosion, but now 2-3 m from the river's edge. This revetment cannot be safely removed; deeper excavation behind it will be needed to continue investigation of approaches to the ancient bridge.

Examination of Pier No. 1, standing out of the river bed clear of the sand bank, by Dr Martin of the Scottish Institute of Maritime Studies, St Andrews University, indicated that some of the masonry consists of dressed stones. The pier was partly collapsed; trapped timber that was recovered was apparently snagged driftwood, unsuitable for dating studies.

The investigations were sponsored by Historic Scotland, the Ancient Bridge Trust, Stirling Council, Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling & Trossachs Tourist Board, the Bank of Scotland, Glasgow Archaeological Society, the Gordon Fraser Trust, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and Mr G. Dixon.
352. Stirling Castle (NS 790 940). A series of excavations were undertaken by Kirkdale Archaeology as part of the ongoing refurbishments to the buildings in the Upper and Lower Squares.

W. wall of the Great Hall
Three 1 sq. m holes were opened against the W. side of the Great Hall, on top of the transe vault. Surviving patches of harling on the wall of the Great Hall provided samples for analysis.

Army kitchen
Two small rooms were investigated in the E. end of the building used as the army kitchens between the S. end of the King's Old Buildings and the NW. end of the palace. The aim was to reduce the levels in these rooms by approximately 0.8 m in order to provide an access route from the palace porch via a currently blocked doorway into the range. Up to almost 1 m of deposits seem to survive below the floor of the army kitchen range, including important information about the medieval castle. The presence of graves indicates that the shell of this building may, despite its later appearance, be that of the second chapel at the castle, possibly used for private worship by the monarchy, situated as it is between the King's Old Buildings and what is thought to be the site of the Queen's lodgings.

The Transe
An investigation was undertaken within the transe on the W. side of the Great Hall, with the intention of excavating to bedrock and recording the structure itself. It is possible that the W. transe wall was built at the same time as the Great Hall, constructed at the end of the 15th century, in order to support the lean-to roof which ran along its W. side. It may be that the lower doors and the window were visible giving an added impression of height to the Hall. No evidence was found for the method of access to the main door of the Great Hall. It is assumed that a bridge across the unroofed transe to the door is the most likely solution, although the Chapel Royal prior to the upstanding building would have blocked this access somewhat. The surface of the transe floor yielded no evidence for a staircase against the face of the Hall.

Area between the Upper and Lower Squares
A trench of 2–3 m width was initially opened along the N. face of the palace before being ultimately widened to meet the S. face of the Upper Square retaining wall and below the bridge between palace and Great Hall. The earliest features encountered were interpreted as an oven and a hearth, and were dated to the 15th century. These were overlain with a crudely metalled surface dated to the 16th century, although it was unclear whether this deposit was earlier or later than the palace building.

Monitoring of the re-excavation of a storm-drain trench
The most striking feature identified in a second trench was the massive wall base. This had been previously recorded and its line is preserved in the pattern of setts of the present courtyard surface as with the lines of early chapel walls in the Upper Square. This feature seems too solidly built to be merely a domestic structure and, if the N.–S. wall is the foundation platform for the palace, is most likely to be an integral part of the Fair Front or the earlier defences. A midden deposit was of interest because it did not appear to be specifically domestic in origin but perhaps more likely to be associated with stable or byre waste.

The excavations, sponsored by Historic Scotland, were carried out by G. Ewart, A. Radley, P. Sharman and J. Triscott.

353. Stirling, Old Bridge (NS 797 945). A watching brief was undertaken by R. Strachan of the Centre for Field Archaeology, Edinburgh University, during the cutting of cable trenches for floodlighting at the Old Bridge in Stirling. Operations were monitored in one trench on the S. side of the bridge on the E. bank and in two trenches on the N. and
S. sides of the bridge on the W. bank. A continuation of the revetting wall visible as a surface feature on the E. bank was located immediately below the turf adjacent to the bridge. This wall appears to relate to the original construction of the 15th century bridge, and was not affected by the works. No other features or deposits of archaeological significance were located, however the trenches were too shallow to penetrate the topsoil or modern levelling layers.

The work was sponsored by N. G. Bailey & Co. Ltd on behalf of The Hawthorne Boyle Partnership.

WALES. Work by Monmouth Archaeological Society unless stated otherwise.

CARDIFF

354. CARDIFF, NEWPORT ROAD, Plot adjacent to No. 4 BEILI BACH COTTAGE (ST 515 923). An archaeological evaluation by S. Clarke, required by the LPA, of excavated foundation trenches adjoined the early medieval church site of St Augustine (Celtic dedication to St Maelgul) produced a small assemblage of 12th and 13th century pottery but no structural remains were recognised.

355. CARDIFF, THE TON, ST MELLONS (ST 228 814). Archaeological mitigation work on a proposed building site adjacent to St Mellons Church on the E. outskirts of Cardiff was carried out by F. Taylor for Mr. John Lewis. A thin undisturbed layer of loam with small stones produced a small assemblage of 12th and 13th century pottery. No structural remains were recognised.

GWENT

356. CWMCARVAN, ST CATWG'S CHURCH (SO 477 075). A watching brief took place when electricity cables were put underground. Four trenches were dug in the churchyard. The earliest pottery was a sherd from a locally made jug dating to the 13th century. There was also an unusual heavily sandstone tempered ridge tile fragment probably dated to the later 13th century. This pottery is the earliest material yet found at Cwmcarvan. Work was carried out by F. Taylor for the Monmouth Diocesan Advisory Committee.

MONMOUTH

357. At Dixon Mound (SO 517 137) erosion by cattle in the outer bank of the moat of this motte revealed several sherds of medieval cooking pottery. Most of this was sand and sandstone tempered Monmouth fabric A of 12th to 14th century date. Two sherds of cooking pottery made in the Vale of Gloucester is of special interest. This oolitic limestone tempered ware (Monmouth and Hereford fabric D2) is only found W. of the Severn in early Norman towns or defended castle or ringwork sites and is considered to be a fairly certain indicator of late 11th/early 12th century occupation. The investigation was carried out by S. Wilson and S. Clarke.

358. At 3 Glendower Street (SO 5078 1269) an archaeological evaluation was carried out in gardens to the rear by S. Clarke and J. Wilson. The trial excavations produced no trace of a town wall inside the supposed line of the medieval town ditch. This would support the idea that the c. A.D. 1300 town walls were never completed on this side of the inner town, above Monnow Street. There is however walling of carboniferous limestone similar to that in the town wall at the Burgage, Dixon Gate, on this side of the town behind Lloyds Bank and along Nailer's Lane and this is supported by Speed's Map of Monmouth (1610). Although the early medieval ditch that is believed to pass close to the evaluation area was not encountered during the trial excavations it is certain to lie just off the site.
359. At Granville Street to Wyegride Street (SO 511 128 to 510 128) a SWALEC service trench for a new sub station cut into Roman, medieval and post-medieval levels. One of the main medieval features was stone flooring associated with iron working in an area mentioned as the site of forges in the 12th century. A medieval pottery assemblage was recovered, some of which came from a pit filled with broken stone roofing tiles. Work was carried out by S. Clarke, A. Leaver, J. Perriman, A. L. Sackett, M. Tuck and S. Wilson.

360. At No. 2 Monnow Street (SO 508 127) a Dwr Cymru service trench 1.5 m into street encountered mortared stonework at a depth of c. 0.4 m. This is probably part of the medieval stepped entrance into Agincourt Square. Watching brief carried out by S. Clarke.

361. At 80-82 Monnow Street (SO 5059 126) an archaeological evaluation was carried out to the rear of the premises in connection with a planning application for a proposed extension to the shop. The earliest levels were interpreted as medieval gardens to the rear of the burgages fronting Monnow Street. Ceramics from the earlier contexts were of 13th-century date and was followed by late medieval and post-medieval to modern material. The work was conducted by S. Clarke, J. Wilson and B. Milford for Shop and Store Developments.

362. At 21 St James Square (SO 510 129) a watching brief was carried out by S. Clarke and B. Milford for Baroness van Moyland during the construction of an extension to the rear of the premises. A wall of carboniferous limestone 1.88 m thick was predated by early 18th century pottery and was found to seal a large trench running at right angles to the housing line. The trench has a vertical side on the W. and was not bottomed at 1.70 m below ground level. The upper fill of the trench was predominantly burned and shattered stone roof tiles with large amounts of charcoal. The fairly substantial pottery assemblage recovered from amongst this roofing material is dated to the 13th century and includes major parts of two North Wiltshire tripod pitchers, portions of which also appear to have been burned. These features were found to be cutting late Roman levels.

363. At 12-14 St Mary Street (SO 509 128) a watching brief was held during groundworks by S. Clarke and J. Wilson for Mr Brent Watkins. Medieval pit features were recorded and a medieval pottery assemblage was recovered.

364. NEWPORT, L.G. WATER SUPPLY, COURT FARM (ST 336 934) TO IMPERIAL PARK (ST 279 846). Monmouth Archaeological Society was commissioned by Hyder Consulting/Dwr Cymru to carry out an archaeological assessment on the route of a pipeline for portable water to the new L.G. Factory. The assessment, conducted by S. Clarke and J. Wilson, was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1, Parkwood to Imperial Park. Approximately 5 km long, much of this phase follows the route of an earlier pipeline. A contractor’s test pit near the junction of a stream with a pond at ST 273 853 produced a sherd of 13th/14th cent. glazed jug and a cooking pot sherd, both in a local fabric. Iron slag and furnace fabric at ST 271 856 in estate walls and near the site of the medieval mansion at Gwern-y-Cleppa (ST 273 875) was presumed to come from the early iron works of the Tredegar Estate. Sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery west of Croes Heolydd (ST 262 859) probably arrived with manure. Phase 1 ended near Cwrt-y-Llaca.

Phase 2, Court Farm Waterworks to Parkwood. As with Phase 1 much of this pipeline followed the route of a previous one.

An alteration of the proposed route of the pipeline was agreed near Llantarnam Abbey (ST 311 929) in order to avoid a fishpond on the S. of the abbey. On the S. of the
Dowlais Brook a fragment of a medieval floor tile was found with stones dumped on the edge of a field at ST 3095 9275.

364A. ROCHET, IFTON MANOR (ST 4650 8790). Evaluation by C. Bateman for Cotswold Archaeological Trust occurred on land surrounding the manor, which is first mentioned in a Survey of Wooton in 1270. It has been assumed that a castle or fortified manor house lay on, or close to, the site of the present house. Medieval activity was concentrated around the core of the existing manor house, and comprised the remnants of a building and a number of contemporary ditches. The pottery suggests a concentration of activity from the mid-12th to 14th century. An undated subterranean structure with a corbelled sprung roof was found in close proximity to the medieval remains.

365. TRELLECH, SPRING VILLA (SO 502 053). Excavations for a septic tank with associated drainage trenches were carried out without archaeological cover. A previous watching brief at the adjoining Trellech Surgery produced medieval to post-medieval pottery and well preserved environmental material together with medieval leather footwear and fragments of a wooden bowl. Examination by F. Taylor and S. Clarke of the spoil heap at Spring Villa recovered the majority of a 13th-century jug together with other medieval pottery, some leather and a large quantity of preserved environmental material.

366. USK, THE CASTLE INN, TWYN SQUARE (SO 376 009). A watching brief was carried out by S. Clarke for Whitbread Pub Partnerships, during groundworks for an extension at the rear of the Inn. Pottery, probably dating from the late 12th to the 14th century was found in a context interpreted as a medieval garden to the rear of a burgage fronting onto Twyn Square.

367. WONASTOW, ST WONNOW'S CHURCH (SO 486 107). A watching brief was carried out by F. Taylor for the Monmouth Diocesan Advisory Committee during the removal of eroded stonework and the installation of a new W. window. Apart from two human bones found in the inside of the N. wall and human teeth recovered at a high level in the inside of the S. wall there were no other finds. Medieval foundations were recorded where they were visible below the existing building.

POWYS

368. ABERMULE, DOLFORWYN CASTLE (SO 152 950). The seventeenth season of excavations was conducted for CADW and directed by Dr L. Butler, Department of Archaeology, University of York. This concentrated on the hall or NW. room, on the NE. room and the area between these two rooms. However, after the decision had been taken not to display the hearth and quenching trough in the 'brewhouse' area of the SW. room excavation examined the earlier phase of that room showing that the hearth had been set upon an area of previous intense burning and that the trough had been cut through an extensive burnt layer which included a small bowl furnace.

In the NW. room a trench was cut to investigate the make-up levels below the cobbled and hearth area. This revealed a layer of natural red clay into which had been inserted a substantial wall running diagonally between the N. tower and the keep with a flight of at least six steps leading to the W. doorway in the N. tower. The N. curtain wall, alongside these steps, has now been more fully exposed. The steps were abandoned when the ground was made up to create the paved and cobbled floor of the NW. room and its side chambers.

The NE. room was trowelled at the latest medieval occupation level, and the bench against the N. curtain wall was further examined. No additional work was undertaken near the E. curtain wall but the two doorways and three splayed window openings in the S. wall were cleaned and shown to be intact up to the arch springers. The masonry pillar which
supported a fireplace at first-floor level was further examined as was a buttress on its SW. side. This circular pillar was robbed during the castle’s abandonment; its material used to construct two dwarf walls N. and S. of the pillar which cut off the E. end of the room. Two other footing walls were found butted against the N. curtain wall and, further W., an internal cross wall with a sandstone block as its doorway base was examined. The purpose of the room was not satisfactorily established, but the E. end had traces of a metallised floor surface while the W. end was used as a forge judging by the amount of slag and furnace bottoms. Its W. wall has not yet been located, if it still survives.

Excavation has continued along the N. edge of the E. courtyard between the revetting wall 424 and the NE. room. In the primary work the Welsh had created a terrace by cutting back the bedrock and the natural clay overlying it; they then laid down a cobbled surface. Next was constructed the S. wall of the NE. room in a foundation trench which cut through this surface and through the low N.–S. wall 589 near the Round Tower. A terrace was created by back-filling the quarry pit and a revetting wall 424 held back the upper courtyard surface from any spillage northwards.

The North Tower, together with the area between it and the N. ditch, provided the greatest interest. The back (S.) wall of the North Tower was still standing to at least 2 m high. There was a splayed window opening centrally placed in this wall, similar to that at Dinas Bran. Its base has yet to be reached. The survival of pitched stones in both the W. and E. walls provided firm evidence for the arched head of the W. doorway but more work needs to be done on the possible E. doorway. The curve of the inner face of the D-shaped tower (predicted from the 1776 drawing) has finally been revealed; work will continue there next year.

The major discovery is that between the S. wall of the North Tower and the N. end of the N. ditch is a stone-built vaulted cellar, standing at least 3 metres high from the rock base to the crown of the vault. The rock floor has not yet been reached, but the side walls show the quarried rock face topped by retaining walls. This room occupies part of the quarry cut across the N. part of the castle. Whereas the adjacent rooms (NE. and NW.) were filled with dumped material to provide floors at a higher level, the space at the back of the N. tower was utilised for a cellar and its walled forecourt; the quarry had not been back-filled by the English (indeed it may have been enlarged by them). The external limits of this vaulted room have now been established. However its relationship to the adjacent rooms and the means of access to it will have to be ascertained next year. Excavation so far indicates that the cellar was filled with soil and mortared stone late in the medieval occupation but that some some structures were still visible in the 8th century.

Apart from animal, bird and fish bone there were modest medieval finds: coarse and fine glazed pottery (including probable Spanish tin-glazed ware); oyster and mussel shell; lead used for roofing sheets and window carves; iron studs, many nails, a horseshoe and a hinge pin; a buckle, a flagon’s tripod leg and a thimble of copper alloy. One sheep’s tooth was sawn and polished in preparation for use as a bead or gaming-piece. Two catapult balls of dolerite were found in the NE. room. White plaster painted with red ‘false masonry’ lines was discarded in a small area SE. of the hall and near the doorways of the NE. room.

D. Hull undertook a geochemical survey of the town area and a micro-topographic analysis. Four possible house platforms were identified, but a small-scale excavation failed to provide any precise occupation layers. The substantial amount of pottery was a welcome surprise, as were the high readings of the phosphate samples close to the castle W. ditch. This suggests material discarded from the castle.
of the medieval town wall. The small trial excavation confirmed that the Brecon town defences did cross the site although the town wall was not found in the evaluation area. The upper fill of a ditch was sampled and the front of a rampart proved. No early medieval artefacts were recovered and no dating for the humus beneath the rampart was obtained although this feature is probably part of the original Norman defences. Sherds from locally produced jugs, probably of the 13th century, were found lying on the inner surface of the rampart but as a raft foundation was suggested for the development the lower ditch fill was not explored.

370. TRETOWER, TYLLYS FARM, NR. CRICKHOWELL (SO 186 132). An archaeological evaluation was carried out by S. Clarke and J. Wilson in the corner of the field opposite Tyllys Farm in connection with a building application. Estate maps of the 16th and 17th centuries indicate intense occupation in this field and in adjoining areas that had declined or disappeared by the time of later maps. The earliest contexts encountered during trial excavations were dated to the late 13th and 14th centuries and were probably associated with a house shown on the 1587 estate map to the N. of the proposed development area and now occupied by a modern bungalow. An interesting aspect of the small medieval pottery assemblage was that the cooking pottery was mainly of a concretionary limestone and sand tempered ware (Monmouth A4/Gloucester TF110) which is known to dominate some contexts for a short time during the late 13th century from Abergavenny and Monmouth, towards Gloucester. The ware is rare to the N. and S. and is seen to be following an ancient overland trade route marked today by the modern A40 road. There was evidence of medieval iron working but no medieval structural remains were found.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

371. GOWER, LLANELLEN (SS 514 933). Excavation resumed at Lanelen, near Llanrhidian. The project was directed by Dr J. A. Kissick, University of Wales College, Newport, with the assistance of N. Wright and other members of the Lanellen Research Group. The project was funded by the Gower Society, the Historical Metallurgy Society and the Centre for the Study of Culture, Archaeology, Religions and Biogeography (SCARAB) at the University of Wales College, Newport. Excavation followed a gradiometer survey of the site which suggested that further, possibly significant remains lay outside the area excavated between 1973 and 1985 (A. Schlesinger and C. Walls et al., 'An early church and medieval farmstead site: excavations at Lanelen, Gower', Archaeol. Journal 153 (1996), 104–147).

Sites D and E were both 15 m long and 1 m wide and were designed to test the nature of a strong, but variable, anomaly shown by the geophysical survey to be running N.–S. down the field for a distance in excess of 40 m. Site F was the open area excavation of a further geophysical anomaly which corresponded with one of series of level platforms cut into the hillside.

Site D — No features of archaeological interest were found here. Several large boulders set into undisturbed subsoil were noted just E. of the centre of the trench. Medieval and post-medieval pottery and over 0.75 kg of tap slag were recovered from the top soil.

Site E — A number of features were identified in deposits which nowhere exceeded 0.4 m in depth. Finds were limited to a few fragments of metal working waste. Despite the small size of the trench evidence for two timber structures were found. A beamslot in the E. part of the trench represents one, whilst a run of postholes set into a trench in the W. part of the site is part of the second. A low bank of stone and clay separates the two. As excavated, the bank has the appearance of the collapsed support for a post or stone. It is possible that these features relate to phase I or phase II of the activity at Lanelen and therefore date prior to 1214.

Site F — Excavations here revealed a level surface, backed by a wall (possibly constructed into two phases). The whole platform was covered with a sticky layer of
multicoloured soil which contained an almost complete, partially articulated skeleton of a pony. Under this layer was a thin band of fine charcoal, which had possibly been blown up against the wall. A trench, 5.5 m in length, 0.6 m wide and 25 to 30 cm deep had been cut into the natural clay of the surface, in places the trench had been lined with stones. This trench widened to 1.4 m at its maximum and ended in a pit dug into the centre of the platform. This pit was 0.4 m deep. The pit and trench were both filled with stones, many of those in the trench were flat and slab-like. It is thought that this may have been the site of a bloomery and its flue. However the virtual absence of slag (0.058 kg, under 5% of that recovered this year alone) and with no evidence of burning found it would appear that the bloomery had never been used.

Seven post-holes were also found in site F. Four, all of similar construction, lined the S. edge of the bank. All would have held small posts, possibly those of a fence or similar structure marking the edge of the intended working surface associated with the intended bloomery. One of the post-holes appeared to have been damaged, perhaps by deliberately removing the post by pulling from above. Two other post-holes lay to the S. of the platform, but could not be related to any surface or other structure. The final post-hole lay in the NW. corner of the site and might be part of the fence found on site E.

No date can be ascribed to principal features of site F. A relationship with either Llanelen phase I (early medieval) or phase III (c. 1240 to c. 1350) is most likely. This will be resolved in the future as sufficient material for radiocarbon dating was recovered.

The summer of 1997 also saw the final publication of the earlier excavations at Llanelen.