

THE CHRONOLOGY

In this section we aim to relate the evidence from the excavation presented above, to the dating evidence derived from the historical survey and from the pottery and other finds. The layers and features of the excavation have been divided into phases, as discussed in the preceding section, and also into groups on the basis of stratigraphic and/or horizontal divisions, in order to facilitate the discussion of pottery and finds by provenance. These groups are shown schematically in Figure 16, indicating their extent both vertically and horizontally. Those groups which cannot be tied securely to any one phase are described in the earliest phase to which they might belong.

Phase 1, pre-1255 (Fig. 6) Group 1

The earliest occupation or activity on the site is represented by structures S, P and R, all of which were constructed directly on top of the natural alluvium and pre-date the excavation of the moats. Phase 1 features were all sealed or abutted by a layer of dump (F924) believed to be derived from the construction of the moats.

Phase 1, Group 1 is believed to date from the latter part of the second quarter of the 13th century, by analogy with the date of Phase 2 (see below) which seals it. The pottery is consistent with this date, the majority of the fabrics being the coarse flinty wares of the late 12th-early 13th century.⁴⁰⁵ In particular, the embryonic presence of a Brill fabric, known to be in production by 1254, suggests the middle years of the 13th century. This initial phase, judging by the nature of the structures and the pottery evidence, does not seem to have been very long lived.

Group 2

This consisted of a single context (F692), an isolated oven situated to the west of the later Building A. As this oven was exposed after topsoil stripping, and was constructed on top of natural there was no stratigraphic dating evidence. The pottery which was associated with it suggested it was not in use after Phase 1,⁴⁰⁶ but as only nine sherds were present, this conclusion must be treated with some caution. Phase 2, 1255-6 to c. 1300

Group 3

At the end of Phase 1 the site was cleared of all buildings and their remains were buried with upcast excavated from the moats. This Group therefore includes the moats, the upcast and the stone aisled hall, Building A.

Historical evidence indicates that the owner of the manor at this period can be identified as a member of the important knightly family of Barentin. In 1255 and 1256 Drew Barentin received a grant of seven and ten timber oaks given by Henry III from the royal forest of Bernwood, which was located c. 11 miles from Chalgrove. Since Drew Barentin had no other recorded manors anywhere near Bernwood it is suggested that this material was destined for Chalgrove to be used in the construction of the aisled hall.⁴⁰⁷ The date suggested by the documentary evidence is corroborated by the pottery and a coin.

Most of the pottery belonging to this group came from the layer of dump (F924), and probably therefore contained much that was residual. However, a striking feature was the decline in the percentage of fabric 20 (late 12th-early 13th century) compared to Phase 1, and an increase in the quantity of fabric 46, which had come into production by 1254.408 Incorporated in the construction of one of the stone benches (F558) in the aisled hall was a coin of Alexander III of Scotland, which was almost certainly deposited before c. 1280.409

Group 4

The buildings of this group (N, O, Q, U) are thought to represent the farm buildings associated with Phase 2. However, they contained virtually no dating evidence, producing eight sherds in total.410 They were stratigraphically the earliest buildings in the area of the later farmyard (see Group 9). The buildings were all on the same alignment, and one of them (U) overlay material (F388) excavated from the moats.

Group 15

This consisted of just one feature, the bridge abutment (F730). There were virtually no stratigraphic relationships which might provide relative dating evidence, since although it cut through the upcast (F924) of Phase 2, any later layers sealing it had been lost. Phase 2 is therefore the earliest to which it might belong; however, its position close to a small doorway in a wall, constructed in Phase 4/2, suggests a later date.

Group 25

This group is made up primarily of Buildings D and E. The meagre dating evidence for their construction consisted of only 19 sherds which might have been associated with the early use of Building D.411 Both were cut directly into the moat upcast. The only other stratigraphic association occurs in Phase 3/2, when Building D was linked to Building A by a flint courtyard (F1086). However, the presence of ovens and a couple of mortar fragments in Building D suggest that it functioned as a kitchen/bakehouse, and since a new one (W) was constructed in Phase 3/1 it would seem likely that Building D was in use before then.

Phase 3/1, c. 1300 Group 7

In Phase 3/1 the site underwent considerable changes, and Group 7 represents the major domestic alterations that took place. These included the demolition of the eastern bay of Building A and the addition of a cross-wing with a structure on its south-east corner (rooms 4, 5, 9 and 10); the removal of the aisles within the hall and the addition of the buttresses; and the construction of a kitchen (W) and bakehouse (F) linked to Building A by a courtyard. All of these additions were connected stratigraphically.

Most of the pottery recovered came from contexts associated with these alterations to the manor-house, rather than from its subsequent use. The pottery fabrics show a continuing slight decline in the amount of fabric 20 and an increase in fabric 46, as observed for Phase 2. Otherwise, a notable element in this pottery group was the

2.89% presence of polychrome sherds from Saintonge, south-west France, a ware which generally occurs in this country in contexts of the first decade of the 14th century.

At this time the pottery reached its peak for the site in terms of decoration and glaze, a phenomenon also observed in the late 13th-century levels at the Hamel, Oxford,⁴¹² and at St. Aldates, Oxford, in the early 14th-century levels.⁴¹³

The date indicated by pottery for this group is supported by a jetton of c. 1300 found in associated debris (F156).⁴¹⁴ In 1291 Sir Drew Barentin succeeded to the manor, and a man of his standing might well be expected to have undertaken the kind of modernisation in question.⁴¹⁵ Oxfordshire was clearly his main focus of interest, and between 1322-5 he served as sheriff of Oxon and Berkshire. The evidence suggests, then, that the alterations which this group represents were made around the turn of the 14th century.

Group 9

This was made up of four buildings, B, I, J and K, together with the remains of a possible fifth structure, and a porch (A/6), on the south side of the manor. These were all grouped around the edges of a large flint and gravel courtyard (F396), which abutted them all and overlay some of the farm buildings of Phase 2,

Group 4

The amount of pottery that was recovered from this group was relatively small, 42 sherds in total. This was partly owing to the nature of the buildings, which are thought to have been agricultural, and partly to their having been only partially excavated. The pottery was not inconsistent with that from Group 7, although there were no distinctive fabrics like the Saintonge ware, nor was there any evidence for the peak in decoration and glaze noted in Group 7. However, the small sample size and the nature of the buildings may account for these facts.⁴¹⁶

Groups 7 and 9

A stratigraphic link between Groups 7 and 9 existed in the form of a courtyard (F396), which ran up to and merged with a layer of loam (F170) which was overlain by structure A/7. It seems plausible to connect the radical reshaping of the domestic accommodation with that of the associated farmyard and buildings. The reorganisation of the farm buildings around a courtyard, of which the manor-house formed one side, was a process that was becoming fashionable in the early 14th century.⁴¹⁷

Phase 3/2, c. 1310-30 Group 5

This comprised an extension, A/3, added on to the north-western end of the manor building, adjacent to the hall. The stratigraphy seems to indicate that as soon as it was built, a gap was knocked through between the new room and the hall (A/1). The debris (F646) from it contained a jetton of c. 1310-30.⁴¹⁸ There is no stratigraphic reason why this addition could not have been made in Phase 3/1, when the nearby

`bower' was constructed. However, the date of the jetton is slightly late to be consistent with the evidence from Group 7, and for this reason alone we have assigned the extension a separate sub-phase. The pottery from the group came almost entirely from a layer of dump (F1031) used to level up the interior of room A/3. There were only 39 sherds and these provided generally negative dating evidence.⁴¹⁹

The knocking-through into the new room seems to have occasioned the construction of a new hearth (F943). When this went out of use it was backfilled and a coin of Edward I was found in that material (F22). This coin was rather worn and was probably deposited c. 1320-30,⁴²⁰ suggesting that the jetton mentioned above was deposited in the earlier part of the date range 1310-30. Group 5 may therefore be about a decade later than Groups 7 and 9. Alternatively, the coin may have been deposited with the construction of the hearth, suggesting a date in the range 1320-30 for this group.

Group 6

Here we are dealing with a small number of layers which lay to the west of the manor house. They were stratigraphically later than Phase 2 and sealed by material from Phase 4. A total of nine sherds was recovered, comprising the only dating evidence.⁴²¹ Although no stratigraphic link existed between these layers and those of Group 5, the fact that Group 6 consisted mainly of demolition debris suggests that it may have been contemporary.

Phase 3/3, c. 1330-1400 Group 8

This group consists mainly of floor layers and features within the hall (A/1) which are stratigraphically later than the alterations of Group 5 and earlier than those of Group 20 (see below). Associated with these layers was the partitioning of the hall from room A/3, which sealed the gap which had been knocked through when the room had been added on to the hall in Phase 3/2. It therefore post-dates Phase 3/2 and pre-dates Phase 4/2, giving a date range of c. 1320-1400. Although a relatively large amount of pottery (99 sherds) was recovered, it proved inconclusive as far as dating was concerned.⁴²²

Between Phases 3/1 and 4/2, c. 1300-1458

This `mid-phase' or `unphased' section is made up of five stratigraphic groups, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16. Groups 11, 12 and 13 consisted of thin and fragmentary layers from different rooms, while Group 14 was a stratigraphically isolated context (F319), and Group 16 a barn (C) with no associated dating evidence. With the exception of Group 16 (which post-dates Phase 3/1 and pre-dates 4/2) it was not possible to date them any closer than the early part of Phase 3/1 and the end of Phase 4/2.

Groups 11, 12 and 13

The layers which make up Groups 11-13 comprised material, principally occupation debris, which was found in rooms A/11, 12 and 13 respectively, and was deposited after the construction of those rooms in Phase 3/1. Owing to the dearth of datable

material, it is impossible to determine what portion of the c. 150 years span of occupation is represented by the few centimetres of deposit present. This was almost certainly the result of the constant cleaning out of these rooms.

Group 11

The layers within the parlour (A/3) could be attributed to the time span between Phases 3/3 and 4/2, since all of them (F554, 596, 808, 855) post-date the insertion of the bench (F626) between the parlour and the hall (A/1). However, only 14 sherds of pottery were associated with this group,⁴²³ the majority of which were fine Tudor wares, suggesting that the deposits here represent the final phase of occupation of the room.

Group 12

This group represents the floor and occupation layers (F600, 1014, 1015, 1021, 1022, 1028, 1071) from within the undercroft (A/4). Although a relatively large number of sherds (62) were recovered they were not particularly diagnostic.⁴²⁴ Only a small percentage were of fine Tudor wares, the rest representing fabrics occurring throughout the life of the site. Scouring of the floors was particularly evident in this room, especially in its centre, with fragmentary floor layers surviving only at the edges. Some of the stratigraphy appeared to be linked with post-demolition use, but this cannot, however, be separated from the material associated with the use of this room.

Group 13

This group comes from the area below the garderobe chamber (A/5), part of which may have been used for storage. What is evident from the stratigraphy is that the large stone garderobe chamber was an addition to the cross-wing, and not part of the original building in Phase 3/1. Unfortunately the pottery sheds no light on when it was actually added.⁴²⁵ Like the chapel (A/11) it may have had a timber-framed predecessor which it totally obliterated. If this were the case it may have formed part of the final improvements of Phase 4/2. One slight stone wall (F785) remained apparently to divide the chamber, and while it may have been associated with A/5, it could equally represent all that remains of a timber phase. Some of the stratigraphy seems to relate to the post-demolition use of the building.

Group 14

Group 14 comprises a stratigraphically isolated group of pottery from F319, located to the west of Building I. The amorphous feature from which it derives may have been a midden. Although the material overlay natural alluvium and could consequently be attributed to Phase 1 or 2, the absence of fabric 20 which is so characteristic of those phases suggests a later date.⁴²⁶ A total of 42 sherds were recovered but were insufficiently diagnostic to give a closer date range.

Group 16

Building C, the 'aisled' barn, produced no finds whatsoever. It was, however, constructed on top of the courtyard (F396) associated with Group 9, providing a terminus post quem of Phase 3/1, and was abutted by Building G (see below, Group 17), which is thought to date from the late 14th century, Phase 4/2

It is perhaps surprising that Building C overlay the courtyard (F396), since it seems to form part of the range of buildings which that surface abutted. A possible explanation is that Building C was contemporary with those of Group 9, and the last to be erected, and used the flint courtyard which had already been laid as an internal surface.

Phase 4/1, c. 1370 Group 26

Phase 4/1 consists of Group 26 alone, though it is quite possible that it is contemporary with Phase 4/2. The group comprises the floor layers associated with room A/11, which is thought to have been a chapel. It was constructed on top of the demolition (F145) of a room of similar dimensions, A/7, which was also interpreted as a chapel, and which was tied stratigraphically to Group 7, Phase 3/1.

Room A/11 seems to have contained a floor of decorated tiles, since these were found in its subsequent demolition debris. They were also present in the debris on which it was built, and presumably some of them had been broken in transit and were included in the make-up for room A/11. Three fragments of decorated tile were recovered from the debris (F144) associated with Group 7, though since they are of a type not produced until the mid-14th century the fragments must be seen as intrusive.⁴²⁷

This sub-phase has been separated from the rest of Phase 4 because there is a documentary reference to Thomas Barentin II and his wife Joan being granted an episcopal licence for an oratory at Chalgrove in 1370, and this pre-dates slightly the other groups in Phase 4. It is possible that the licence in question was simply a renewal following the death of Thomas Barentin I, who may have held it for his life time.⁴²⁸ If this were the case, it could have referred originally to the timber-framed structure A/7, in which case the rebuilding of the chapel (A/11) could be attributed without difficulty to Phase 4/2 (see below). This may be the most likely explanation, since decorated tiles of the same type of manufacture and date as those from A/11 were also found in a room of Phase 4/2. However, it cannot be ruled out that the licence was granted on completion of a new building far superior to A/7, and that A/11 was the new chapel for which the licence of 1370 was granted.

Phase 4/2

Phase 4/2 is thought to date from the late 14th-early 15th century. The structural alterations it embraces, although stratigraphically separate, all appear to originate from approximately the same period. It seems reasonable to see them as the final phase of improvements to the manor. It would be pleasing therefore to be able to link them definitely with one particular member of the Barentin family. Unfortunately the change in ownership in 1400 brought about by the death of Thomas Barentin and the succession of his son Reynold, obscures such a connection.⁴²⁹

The dating of this phase relies fairly heavily on the presence of fabrics 54 and 59, the former fabric being used in the manufacture of Tudor Green pottery and the latter for

local Tudor wares. These fabrics do not appear in Oxford until the early 15th century.⁴³⁰ However, as Chalgrove is c. 12 miles nearer to the production centres of these wares than Oxford, and given that the status of the site was superior to that of any of the excavated sites in Oxford, it is not unreasonable to suggest that these fabrics could occur at Chalgrove in the later 14th century.⁴³¹

The coins and jettons from the various groups in this phase tend to corroborate this view, the earliest being of the late 14th-early 15th centuries, but deposited after the structural alterations had taken place. There is no need to push this phase chronologically back to 1370, the date suggested for Phase 4/1, particularly since, as we have seen above, the construction of the new chapel (A/11) would fit more logically with the alterations of Phase 4/2, provided that the episcopal licence refers to its predecessor A/7.

If one attributes this phase to the late 14th century, then it must be associated with Thomas Barentin. He was sheriff of Oxfordshire and Berkshire in 1378 and MP for Oxfordshire in 1387, thereafter serving frequently in both capacities. Such a man could well afford to modernise the existing manor. Alternatively, if we suppose the alterations to be the work of his son, they would almost certainly have been made by 1415 when Reynold inherited the impressive manor at Haseley Court, from which time the importance of the manor house at Chalgrove must surely have declined.

The occupation of the manor, associated with the structural alterations, seems to have come to an end by 1458. Drew Barentin III, who succeeded Reynold, was dating deeds from Little Haseley by 1451. When he died in 1453 his will left a clear implication that services in the manorial chapel should cease on the death of his widow. Although Drew's son John may have maintained a household at Chalgrove before his father's death, by 1458 he was described as 'late of Chalgrove'. John's son, John Barentin II, appears to have lived at Little Haseley both before and after coming of age. Thus it would seem that Haseley Court had totally displaced Chalgrove as the home of even the junior branch of the Barentin family by 1458 at the latest.⁴³²

The abandonment of the curia by this date appears to be reflected in the numismatic evidence, since none of the coins or jettons, even from the destruction levels, was later than the mid 15th century.⁴³³

Group 17

This group comprises two agricultural buildings, H and G, which from their relative positions and dimensions would appear to have been built as a pair, dividing the farmyard into an inner and outer court. There were also some minor alterations to Building I. However, there is some evidence that Building H might have been a replacement for a building of similar dimensions, which it overlay. It had certainly incorporated a wall (F282) associated with the earlier Group 9.

Building G abutted the western wall of Building C (see Group 16 above), and its walls directly overlay the courtyard F396 (Group 9 above). Both buildings therefore post-date Building C. Only six sherds came from Building H, and none from Building G. These were of fabrics which, after Phase 1, remained in use throughout the life of the site.⁴³⁴ The only substantial dating evidence was a jetton found on the floor of

Building H, which dates to the late 14th century.⁴³⁵ In spite of this it may be more likely that these buildings were erected at an earlier date, perhaps in the mid 14th century, because in the later 14th century there was a move away from demesne farming which was reflected in a tendency to try to divorce the domestic buildings from the agricultural.⁴³⁶ This can be seen at Chalgrove in the late 14th-early 15th century and it is perhaps unlikely that new agricultural buildings were being constructed at that date.

Group 21

This consisted of the demolition of Buildings D and E, their subsequent levelling by dumping, and the construction of a pentice (A/13) which led out into a walled garden on its western side, which also contained a structure (A/14).

Most of the pottery was recovered from the layers of dump (F573) which the pentice sealed, and much of it was probably residual. It included a small percentage (c. 5%) of local Tudor wares (Fabric 59) and an even smaller proportion (<2%) of Tudor Green wares.⁴³⁷ The earliest that either of these fabrics has been recorded in Oxford is the early 15th century,⁴³⁸ and allowing that they may have reached Chalgrove a bit earlier, a suggested date of the late 14th-early 15th century would not be unreasonable.

Decorated floor tiles, of the same manufacture as those from Group 26, provide the only other means of dating. These were of designs different to those from Group 26, and included a design very similar to one found in the muniment room at New College, Oxford, which was laid in 1385.⁴³⁹

Group 19

This comprised the construction of the new kitchen (A/12) and its associated courtyards (F519) which were constructed on top of the old kitchen (W). Dating evidence was provided by the pottery, worked stone and a coin (No. 1), although the latter two items were almost certainly redeposited. The coin was a cut half-penny of Henry III, which has a terminus ante quem of c. 1280.⁴⁴⁰ The worked stone consisted of several Norman voussoirs which, in view of their context, were clearly reused.⁴⁴¹

The pottery consisted of a diverse number of fabrics, the latest of which were fabrics 47, 54 and 59. Fabric 47 (c. 5%) is a local import from Farnham, Surrey, which was produced from the mid 14th century on, while fabrics 54 and 59 (see above) are of the late 14th-early 15th century.⁴⁴² In all, the pottery indicates a date similar to that of Group 21.

Group 18

This group consisted of deposits (F120, 140) thought to represent garden soil on either side of the porch (A/6), together with structure T and the walls (F127,187) which formed the boundaries of the garden. This group could well be contemporary with the new chapel (A/11, Group 26) if, as seems likely, that building was later than 1370. 56 sherds of pottery were recovered from the vicinity of this garden, which was in use

until at least the mid 15th century. They included a relatively high percentage of the fine table wares, fabrics 54 and 59, of the late 14th century.⁴⁴³

Also from the western garden area came a penny of Edward III, which was probably lost around the end of the 14th century and certainly before 1413.⁴⁴⁴ Taken together, the evidence points to a date similar to that of the other groups in this phase.

Group 20

This group is related to the final alterations within the great hall (A/1). These comprised the insertion of a partial first floor at the east end of the hall, together with the construction of the final hearth (F563), the associated floor and occupation layers (F594, 548, 588, 1002), and the tiled feature/drain (F865), possibly indicating the position of a timber partition.

Only 23 sherds of pottery were found in Group 20. 80 percent of these were of fabric 46, which occurs throughout the life of the site, and a mere 5% of the sherds were of the local Tudor wares.⁴⁴⁵ Fortunately two coins and two jettons were deposited in the layers which accumulated after the structural alterations. The earliest of these was an English jetton of the early 14th century. The other jetton was French of c. 1400. The two coins were a penny of Edward III, which from its condition was probably deposited in the early 15th century, and a groat of Henry VI which was probably deposited by c. 1440.⁴⁴⁶ Both the context and the coin evidence indicate that the English jetton was redeposited. The three other 'coins' show that the alterations of this group had taken place by the late 14th to early 15th century.

Group 10

This group comprised the floor layers (F41, 44, 56, 639, 733, 737, 739, 741, 743, 744, 746, 765, 815, 923) within the buttery, pantry and corridor (A/9,A/10) of the cross-wing, which were stratigraphically later than its construction, and which did not appear to be contemporary with its initial use. They have been combined, because there were no obvious structural divisions within the thin floor layers, nor could any division be made on the basis of the finds.

The pottery, which provided the only dating medium, produced both the highest percentage of sherds and the highest absolute number of sherds of fabrics 54 and 59 (with the exception of Group 11, which had a total of only 14 sherds).⁴⁴⁷

The floor layers which produced the finds were remarkably fragmentary with plenty of evidence of repair and it seems likely that, as elsewhere, the rooms were cleared out regularly and what remained was the detritus from the final years, or possibly even months of occupation, mixed in with the smaller sherds which had survived the clearing out process. Phase 5, 1458-1485

This phase represents the decline and demolition of the manor. As mentioned above the manor had been abandoned as the home of the Barentins by 1458. In 1478 part of the property was demised and the old Barentin demesne was stated to be in the hands of various farmers. In the early 1480s there was a petition by the Abbot of Abingdon who claimed to have bought from John Barentin for $\text{œ}18$, 'the tymber of certeyn

houses than sette in the towne of Chalgrave...and the tyles wych than covered the same houses'.⁴⁴⁸ The sum of $\text{æ}18$ is considerable and it is possible that the petition refers to the decaying manorial buildings. This incident is one sign of the financial problems that beset the Barentins, and a series of mortgage transactions culminated in the sale in 1485 of the old family demesne to Thomas Danvers, agent for Magdalen College. A few months later a list of rents owing to Danvers from the lands/tenements of the late John Barentin for the financial year 1485-6 states *'et de v s de firma Johannis Quatermayn' pro scita manerii ibidem cum pastura, fructibus, stagnis et aliis proficuis ibidem, hoc anno sic dimissa'*.⁴⁴⁹

Thus it would seem that the house was demolished on the completion of the transfer from Barentin to Danvers in October 1485. Hence the statement of 1485-6 that its vacant site had been *'Thus demised this year'*.⁴⁵⁰

There is some documentary evidence that not all of the buildings were demolished at this date. In 1520 John Quartermain owed 10s. rent for a former demesne close *'where the mannor stood'*, and a further 10s. for *'a barn and a culver house'*.⁴⁵¹

There was no archaeological evidence of any building being constructed on the site after Building M (see below). There seems no reason why the two structures (assuming that it was two and not one building with two functions) were not retained from the medieval curia. Building M was the latest structure stratigraphically in the farmyard, and Building C survived the demolition of Building G.

Group 22

This consisted of the small rectangular Building M and the demolition debris (F336, 414, 422, 428) of Building H upon which it was constructed. The only dating evidence for the demolition of H and the construction of M was 12 sherds of pottery, none of which was sufficiently diagnostic to help.⁴⁵² However, it seems unlikely that H was demolished during the occupancy of the manor by the Barentins. Building M could have been constructed any time after 1458 and is thought to be the culver house referred to above.

Group 23

This group comprises the layers of demolition debris and rubble which covered most of the moated platform and parts of the farmyard buildings.

Generally it was not possible to discern any *'phase'* within this debris, although in places, notably the hall, buttery and pantry, there was some evidence of decay within the rooms before the destruction of the house. This can presumably be attributed to the period after the mid 15th century.

There was a large amount of pottery associated with this phase and this gave the overall impression of a date in the late 15th century.⁴⁵³ There were some later sherds and also a number of fragments of clay pipes mixed in with this group.⁴⁵⁴ However, these were almost certainly intrusive, resulting from the mechanical stripping of the topsoil. Four coins and four jettons were stratified within this demolition debris (coins Nos. 7, 12, 13, 21, jettons Nos. 2, 6, 10, 14).⁴⁵⁵ With the exception of two

they were all dated to, or were deposited in, the first half of the 15th century. The two others were of the second quarter of the 14th century. Although the coins are of little direct help in dating this phase they do corroborate the documentary evidence that the manor was no longer lived in by the middle of the 15th century.⁴⁵⁶

Phase 6 Post-1485

Phase 6 is based largely on the documentary evidence, which tells us that a barn and pigeon house, possibly Buildings C and M, were still in use in 1600. In 1675 when Ralph Quartermain surrendered Court Hayes to the use of Thomas King no mention was made of these buildings and they had presumably been demolished.⁴⁵⁷ The site then appears to have remained under pasture up to the time of the excavation. Group 24

This group comprises the infill of the moats. The only dating evidence was provided by moats F279 and F820. Moat F279 contained a 16th-century skillet in its upper fill, while moat F820 had much demolition debris from the destruction of the buildings adjacent to it. These facts suggest that the moats went out of use and silted up fairly soon after the house was demolished. They were subsequently partially recut to act as drainage ditches for the field and are still wet, and probably served this function from the end of the 15th century. The finds, however, were recovered from the original moat cuts. The moat arms F277, 275 and the western end of F820, which are thought to follow the original course of the stream, may have been kept clear. Alternatively, the demise of the manor may have provided a convenient opportunity to straighten the course of the stream and divert it along the north side of Little South Field, thus making Hayes Court substantially larger and making better use of the meadow land on the south side of the moats. The new course of the stream had been established by 1822 when the Estate Map shows no evidence of the moats.⁴⁵⁸ Probably soon after the movement of the stream the causeway (F322) was laid over the backfilled moat (F275) near its southern tip in order to cross the soft and wet earthwork that survived into the 20th century.

Group 27

This consisted of the debris associated with the demolition of Buildings C and M, from which no material was recorded, the only evidence for the date of their destruction being the documentary material mentioned above.