

THE FINDS

In this section and in the full reports on microfiche the finds are referred to by a catalogue number, with a separate sequence for each specialist report. Information regarding provenance is given in the following sequence: catalogue number; small find number (SF or WS); feature number (F); phase; stratigraphic group.

The Pottery (Figs. 15-22)

The pottery from Chalgrove Moated Manor offered the first opportunity to study stratified material from a site to the south-east of Oxford, which dated from the late 12th - late 15th centuries. A few continental imports were present during the latter part of the 13th and early 14th centuries.

The aims of this study of c. 4,000 sherds of pottery were:-

- A. To provide relative dating sequences for the structural phases on the site.
- B. To study the vessel forms to establish whether the differences suggested different uses of individual rooms.
- C. To provide an indicator as to the social status of the inhabitants.
- D. To establish if any long distance trading contacts were evident.
- E. To ascertain which production centres were serving the manor.
- F. To compare the range of pottery from a rural site with pottery from stratified urban tenements (79-80 St. Aldates and The Hamel in Oxford).

In the catalogue (M) the sherds are arranged by fabric type within broad fabric groups:

- Group IA - shelly limestone
- Group IB - oolitic and other limestone
- Group II - flint
- Group III- sand

Figure 15 shows the relative quantities of the various fabric types in each phase, whilst Figure 16 represents in schematic form the stratified groups from which the pottery was recovered.

Some chronological trends could be observed within the ceramic assemblage. The pottery from the pre-moat settlement dating from the late 12th to early 13th century indicates that two major coarse ware industries were supplying the site at this period, represented by GP II Fabric 20 and GP III Fabric 41. The repertoire of both industries included cooking pots, bowls and shallow dishes, but the coil-made flint and chalk tempered vessels of Fabric 20 occurred in larger forms than the wheel-thrown sandy vessels of Fabric 41, and this may account for the small but steady demand throughout the history of the site for the flint and chalk tempered wares. Pitchers were also made in Fabric 41 and were often decorated with white slip and a thin lead glaze. These pitchers were gradually superseded in Phase 2 by finer sandy jugs (GPIII, Fabric 46), often highly decorated. This finer sandy ware occurred in a wider range of products such as bottles and the occasional kitchen ware including skillets. The sandy ware used for cooking pots and other domestic vessels (GPIII, Fabric 41) continued in use until the demolition of the site as did the finer sandy ware

specialising in jugs (GPIII, Fabric 46). There was little evidence of the poorly executed jugs as found at this period on tenement sites in Oxford.⁴⁵⁹ Certainly the quality of workmanship of the decoration had deteriorated but the jugs were still well executed. (NB Plain or partially glazed jars, pitchers and bung-hole jars were amongst the demolition rubble; these jars and pitchers appear to have superseded the traditional medieval jugs in Oxford, and their occurrence at Chalgrove suggests that the traditional jug industry declined c. 1450-1485).

Tudor-type tablewares (GPIII, Fabrics 54 and 59) including cups, small jugs and lobed dishes occurred fairly consistently from Phases 3-4 (Group 11) until the demolition of the site. No other site in Oxfordshire has yielded such a quantity of fine tablewares. The majority of these tablewares were Tudor green probably from the West Surrey kilns, but local types were also present. Other regional imports from West Surrey also occurred (GPIII, Fabric 43 and 47). These regional imports accounted for the slightly wider variety of fabrics and forms in the final phase of occupation of the site (Phase 4).

Continental imports from Rouen and Saintonge in France occurred in Phases 2 and 3; although parallels are known in Oxford, vessels from France are rare and their presence on the site must imply that the inhabitants had some standing in the community. It has been suggested that the Saintonge jugs imported to this country were 'seconds' but were used as a gimmick to sell wine from the Bourdeaux region.⁴⁶⁰ Certainly the Chalgrove examples bear kiln scars and might be regarded as 'seconds'.

Although the majority of the products were from local kiln sites, the occurrence of continental imports and the fine tablewares suggests a succession of well-to-do and well connected inhabitants at the site.

Several kiln sites are known in the region, one at Brill/Boarstall in Buckinghamshire,⁴⁶¹ another at Henley;⁴⁶² both were known to have been operating by the mid 13th and late 13th century respectively. Another documentary record refers to kilns within the Manor of Bensington;⁴⁶³ this could possibly refer to the Henley kilns but it may point to yet another production centre. By the mid 15th century a potter was also working in Nettlebed, some six miles north-west of Henley.⁴⁶⁴

The moated site at Chalgrove is situated almost equidistant between Brill and Henley. However, there is little evidence to suggest that much pottery was coming from either Henley or Nettlebed. The major sandy ware (GPIII, Fabric 41) belongs to the same tradition that supplied Abingdon, Wallingford and Reading, which differs from the tradition which supplied Oxford.

The kilns for this ware were probably to the west of Reading and may have been transported up river to markets at Wallingford and Abingdon. The flint and chalk tempered wares (GPII, Fabric 20) were marketed over a much wider area and probably originates beyond Newbury. These wares were also found at Tetsworth to the north-west of Chalgrove, but the site was abandoned in the mid 13th century. The fine sandy ware as typified by jugs originate from the Brill/Boarstall kilns directly to the north of the Chalgrove. The local Tudor types, in a fabric very similar to the

Brill/Boarstall fabrics, may also originate from there, although none has been recovered yet from the kiln sites according to information supplied by Mike Farley. The regional imports from Surrey may also have been marketed along the same route as the sandy wares via Reading and then up river; alternatively they may have come overland from Henley. Two other fabric types and their products may originate to the south-east of Chalgrove (GPIII Fabric 60 and 63), but the percentage of these fabrics on the site was relatively insignificant.

Sherds associated with the buildings were very fragmentary and only the demolition levels yielded much information concerning the vessel forms. The buildings were obviously cleaned regularly and even the garderobe produced little material. No rubbish pits were recovered.

The comparison of vessel forms between individual rooms was hindered by the small number of vessels recovered from many of the buildings. The dump levels associated with Phase 2/1 (Group 3) showed the expected range of domestic wares and jugs for the second half of the 13th century, suggesting that the site had been occupied for some time. The dump level associated with the Pentice area also produced a substantial quantity of pottery, with a preference for jugs and tablewares.

The first phase of use of the Buttery and Pantry (Group 7, Building A9) yielded jugs and bowls. The final phase of use of the Buttery and Pantry (Group 10, Building A9) also produced mainly kitchen wares associated with cooking and the preparation of food while the final phase of Building A/10 yielded mainly tablewares.

Comparisons between the rural site of Chalgrove and the urban sites in Oxford was difficult, since few of the farm buildings yielded much pottery. But in general it would appear that more domestic vessels associated with cooking were evident at Chalgrove during the 14th and 15th centuries than in Oxford and that bottles were more common at Chalgrove. The demolition levels did produce a number of bowls with flanged or undercut rims from the Brill/Boarstall kilns which can be paralleled with the deserted medieval village at Seacourt and the Hamel, Oxford. However the Brill/Boarstall domestic wares were generally less popular in Oxford than in the later levels at Chalgrove and Seacourt, suggesting perhaps that they were better suited to activities concerned with small-holdings and farm.

Note on the pottery

Following the discovery of a kiln site at Soundess Field, Nettlebed (Oxon),⁴⁶⁵ the interpretation of pottery from Hardings Field may be subject to revision.

The Coins and Jettons by M. Archibald

A total of 10 coins and 11 jettons were recovered from the excavation. These ranged in date from the mid 13th century to the mid 15th century.

The coins included one find unusual from an English excavation, a double mite (7) of Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy (1384-1405). There was also a penny (20) of Alexander III, King of Scots (1249-86). The jettons included both English and French examples.

Objects of Copper Alloy (Figs. 23-29) by A.R. Goodall

The most interesting of the copper alloy objects is a Limoges enamelled figure of a saint (1), probably from a shrine. It is closely comparable with one from St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, 466 and probably dates from the 12th or 13th centuries. Two gilt strips (2 and 3) may be the base fittings from ornamental harness mounts. There are two annular brooches (5 and 6) and the buckles (8-11) are of medieval type. Two strap-ends (15 and 16) date from the Anglo-Saxon period and have poorly defined zoomorphic terminals. No. 19 is a broken strap-end hook with an engraved animal's head on its plate. The decorated handle from a Roman spoon (48) is a residual find. No. 50 is probably a distorted scabbard mount.

Objects of Pewter and Lead (Figs 30-32) by A.R. Goodall

The pewter objects include two small buckles (1 and 2) and a spoon (4) with the handles of three others. Nos. 10-14 are rolls of thick lead sheet which were probably used as weights. There are a number of pieces of window came including No. 22, which would have framed small rectangular panes of glass (see 'The Window Lead' by B. Knight, Fiche M).

Iron Objects (Figs 33-42) by I.H. Goodall, spurs and spur buckles by B. Ellis

The range of objects covers tools, knives, shears and scissors as well as items of building, furniture and household ironwork, buckles, horse equipment and arrowheads. Significant objects include tools 1-8, most of which are associated with woodworking and leatherworking. Knives 11 and 12 have inlaid decoration on their blades; several others have cutlers' marks, and 22-23 have simply-decorated handle ends. Nos. 43-46 are the most complete of the hinges, and 47 and 50 are types of strap terminal. Nos. 74-78 are pieces of casket binding, and hasps 82-84 may be from chests or doors. Lock furniture includes padlock keys 88-89, locks 90-91, and several keys of which only 93, 97 and 101 are stratified. Nos. 103-105 are socketed candleholders. Buckles from dress and harness include 115, 117, 123-4 and 127-33, the latter a spur buckle. No. 135 is a jews harp. Horseshoes comprise the bulk of the horse equipment; most are late medieval and 141 and 143 are typical. 157 is from a bridle bit, 160-61 are spurs, and 163-4, 166-7 are representative arrowheads.

The Slags by C. Salter

A total of 23 samples were taken from the site the majority of which were recovered from Phase 5. No slag was found in Phase 1 and very little in Phases 2 or 3. The slags were divided into the following five groups:-

- A. Iron-working slags.
- B. Furnace lining material.
- C. Copper-based Alloys.
- D. Natural materials.
- E. Other objects.

There was good evidence of a blacksmith at work in the vicinity of the site. However, the amount of slag recovered would not represent a long period of working, perhaps a few weeks of continuous work or a longer period of intermittent work.

The copper working was probably confined to the melting down of scrap metal. There was also evidence for possible glass working, in the form of a crucible, which was probably used to melt glass.

Objects of Antler, Bone and Ivory (Fig. 43) by R. White

A total of eight objects of antler, bone and ivory were recovered. These included an ivory double-sided comb (1), two gaming pieces, one of ivory (4), the other of antler (5), a bone die (6) and an iron knife with a broken carved bone handle (8).

The Vessel Glass (Fig. 44) from information supplied by Jeremy Haslam

The vessel glass falls into two types: pale green glass, probably indigenous, and glass from imported vessels, mostly of southern European, and probably Italian, manufacture. The two identifiable vessel types of English glass are the large flask (2), and the urine inspection vessel (6 and 15), both of which are known to occur in later medieval groups in London.⁴⁶⁷ Fragments from seven different imported vessels have been identified, representing a group dating to the latest occupation phase and subsequent destruction of the manor. For most of these pieces the vessel type cannot be ascertained, though they include a kuttrolf (19) of blue glass.

The Stone Objects

The Mortar Fragments (Fig. 45) by P. Carstairs

Five mortar fragments were found during the excavation, three of which were in late 14th - early 15th century contexts, the rest unstratified. These represented a maximum of four mortars, all of which were made from local stones, either Corallian limestone or forest marble.⁴⁶⁸

The Hones and Querns (Fig. 46) by P. Page

Five hones were recovered, of which one was intact but worn (2). With the exception of a quartzite hone they were all made from quartz mica schist. Hones were recovered from all phases except Phase 3. The two quern fragments were of Niedermendig Lava (quern 1) and millstone grit (quern 2), and were recovered from Phases 5 and 4/2 respectively.

The Flints by C. Halpin

A total of seven struck flints were recovered, only one of which (SF323) exhibited secondary working. They were all of indeterminate date.

Clay Tobacco Pipes by M. Mellor

A total of 74 **85** pieces of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the topsoil stripping of the site, some of which had become mixed with the demolition debris

from the manor. With the exception of two fragments of bowl all the pieces were fragments of pipe-stem. One piece had the mark of pipemaker Francis Parker, made at Wallingford in 1757.⁴⁶⁹

The Building Materials

Medieval Floor Tiles (Fig. 47) by S. Robinson

A total of 228 floor tile fragments were found during the excavation, of which 172 came from stratified contexts. Two different fabric types were recorded, and this together with the designs on the decorated tiles suggested a production centre in the south-east of Oxfordshire.

The majority of the plain floor tiles had been reused in tile-on-edge hearths. The decorated tiles, which were of the unkeyed stamped variety and of post-1350 date, had been used in two rooms, the pentice (A/13) and the chapel (A/11), and each had used mutually exclusive tile designs.

All of the designs on the decorated tiles had been recorded by Haberley,⁴⁷⁰ with the exception of the three (Fig. 47) used in the chapel which were previously unknown.

Clay Roof Tiles by S. Robinson

A very large quantity of clay roof tile was recovered from the excavation. To facilitate the investigation of this material only one stratigraphic string, representing contexts from the earliest to the latest occupation of the site, was recorded in detail. Four different fabric types were recognised, all of which have previously been described. One of the fabric types (IIIc) suggests that those tiles were being manufactured in the south-east of Oxfordshire, possibly at Nettlebed.⁴⁷¹

The majority of the tile fragments were flat roofing tiles with peg holes. However plain ridge tiles and corner or hip tiles were also noted. The latter confirmed the presence of hipped roofs.

Stone slates by P. Page and J. Garlinge

A total of 21 complete stone slates and 56 fragments were recovered from contexts in all phases except Phase 1. The material the slates were manufactured from represented a maximum of three different quarry sources. One source was unidentifiable, but the other two were forest marble and Stonesfield slate.⁴⁷² The majority of the slate was found adjacent to the manor house on its northern side.

The Architectural Stone (Figs. 48-49) by J. Blair

In this report illustrated examples only are referred to by their catalogue number; other pieces are as numbered on site, e.g. WS10 etc.. A total of 35 freestone fragments were examined. Of these, four showed no diagnostic features (WS 10, 27, 50, 51), and a further 14 had plain dressed or chamfered faces (WS 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 35, 36, 37, 45). The remaining 17 are discussed below:

Voussoirs From Romanesque Doorway (Nos. 1-5; Figs. 48 & 49)

Five voussoirs from a doorway arch (calculated width of opening c. 120 cm.). Bands of chevron on the main face and soffit meet at the arris to form lozenges, each of which contains a small carved fleuron. This pattern of chevron ornament (Borg's 'Type 4'),⁴⁷³ was popular in Oxfordshire during the second half of the 12th century. (WS 2, 3, 4, 5, 9: F27, Phase 4/2).

1. WS2, F27, Phase 4/2, Group 19
2. WS3, " " "
3. WS4, " " "
4. WS5, " " "
5. WS9, " " "

Voussoirs From Gothic Doorway (Nos. 6-8; Fig. 49)

Three voussoirs, probably from a doorway (calculated radius of curve c. 60 cm.). Arris roll with two side fillets flanked by hollows; probably 14th century. All were unstratified; catalogue numbers are the same as site numbers here.

Column-drum Fragments (Nos. 9-12; not illustrated)

Four pieces from the outer casing of a plain circular pier or piers (calculated diameter c. 61 cm.); thickness of casing 10 cm.

9. WS38, F962/1, Phase 3/1
10. WS39, " "
11. WS40, " "
12. WS49, F983/1, Phase 2

Miscellaneous Moulding Fragments (not illustrated)

13. Straight 12 cm. length of scroll moulding, ?material. Found between garderobe and moat. WS47, F1073/1.

14. Indeterminate fragment of hollow moulding. WS1, u/s.

15- Three short lengths of roll-moulding, apparently from

17. a profile similar to Nos. 6-8 but about two-thirds of the size.

15. WS13, F26, Phase 5
16. WS14, " "
17. WS19, unstratified

The Brick (Fig. 50) by J. Steane

One complete brick and five fragments were recovered from the demolition debris (Phase 5) of the manor house. These were unusual in that they were a yellow buff colour and some had mouldings. They were totally unlike other bricks from known medieval contexts in the area, although moulded brick is found in Belgium from as early as the 13th century.⁴⁷⁴ Their soft, crumbly surface would have made them unsuitable for external use. It is suggested they may have been used to provide a

decorative edging to a fireplace or hearth, and they are thought to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

The Window Glass (Fig. 44) by J. Kerr

The total amount of window glass recovered was very small, no more than 30 square centimetres in area, of which less than 1/8 was painted. Generally, the glass was very poorly durable, although not fire-damaged, and burial had caused deterioration. Some fragments were obviously corroded before burial, indicating that they were in the windows for some time. There is no coloured glass, except for some green pot metal glass, which suggests removal of the glass when the site was demolished.

The 13th-century glass tends to have geometric designs; from the 14th to the 15th century, there are architectural designs, with an interesting fragment showing angels' wings (7). In the 15th century, we see mainly plain quarry glazing, with one notable mid-15th-century design (8). These are rare survivals in a sample which is largely undecorated, or has simple patterns.

The Window Lead by B. Knight

Most of the window lead consists of small decayed twisted fragments from demolition layers, and therefore does not convey much information about the chronology of the glazing of the house.

The Plaster, Mortar and Daub by S. Smithson

Over 283 fragments of plaster were found, of which three were painted (red, no design), two pieces from A/1 (the hall), and one from A/11 (the later chapel). Faced plaster was found in structures A/1, A/3, A/4, A/9, A/10, A/11, A/14, F and H, indicating that those rooms may have been plastered. In situ plaster was found on walls in A/9 and A/10. Three mortar floors were discovered. Those in A/13 and A/11 and A/7 had floor tiles associated with them, whilst the floor in A/1 had no tiles. Three fragments of daub were also found, confined to Phases 1 and 2. →