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(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume XCIV
for 2005



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for 2005**

Editor Alison Taylor

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Editorial

These Proceedings take us on the usual chronological tour of Cambridgeshire's past, from scant traces of Neolithic occupation at Fenstanton to the impact of 19th century entrepreneurship and 20th century planning on Cambridge's Victorian New Town. As ever, we aim to bring you the most significant results of the latest archaeological excavations, together with the Society's parallel interest in historical and landscape studies. Residents of Cambridge should feel especially well served by the painstaking work represented both in Philomena Guillebaud's reconstruction of the events and effects of enclosure of the West Fields, and Bryan and Wise's analysis of one area of post-enclosure development — as they say, a microcosm of development quite typical of Cambridge in an exceptionally dynamic age. Anthea Jones literally lets the past speak for itself, through the letters of the wife of an Ely bishop, whose domestic concerns were little affected by her husband's daunting ecclesiastical responsibilities.

Outside the normal running of an active local society, CAS has been involved in a peripheral but deeply concerned way with the heritage service (including archaeology, archives and museums) of the County Council. Regular readers will be aware of the concerns we have expressed over the years at what we have seen as a general failure to support excellent staff by providing the right resources. This spring, financial matters became significantly worse, and CAS joined a substantial body of protest which at least postponed for one year one tranche of cuts (worth £100,000). This cut will however go ahead in 2006, leaving Heritage Services to face a 30% budget reduction from £927,000 to £650,000, even though Cambridgeshire is already well below neighbouring counties in funding these services. A consultants' (Kentwood Associates) discussion paper notes among other things that one decision that has caused most damage to the Council's reputation is the abolition of the post of the County Museums Officer, and CAS knows how much John Goldsmith, a vastly effective supporter of local museums since 1975, would be missed (August 2005). They note too that proposed cuts will require far-reaching policy decisions to withdraw from non-statutory services which would have 'a major impact, both for the public directly and on the ability of those services to lever additional — and often substantial — funding from external sources'.

The consultants are particularly flattering about archaeology. 'We believe this to be an outstanding example of a County Council Archaeology Service. Its archaeology and countryside advice services are held in high regard by planners, developers, other local authorities, and regional and national organisations. The service has an enviable track record in obtaining external funding... The outreach programme — particularly work with schools — is exemplary.' The report is concerned that such work is not put at risk, and it is critical of the current short opening hours of the County Record Office, of the County's failure to provide public access to historic buildings information since 2002, and the loss (August 2005) of a valued mentor for small museums. It is also worried that, if a proposed new Historical Resource & Cultural Centre is built with PFI money, there would not be funding to staff it adequately for the hours the public would reasonably expect.

There are clearly frightening times ahead, not least for our small, mostly voluntary, museums. This is very sad at a time when there is so much public enthusiasm for the past and so many new sources that can be tapped if the right support and advice are available. CAS has already filled some gaps, for example by taking responsibility for *Conduit* and publishing 'Recent Fieldwork' without grant support, and we are hoping to reinstate some financial support for local archaeological groups. We will continue of course to co-operate with the County Council through advice, by offering joint working and by fruitful liaison with their over-worked staff. We hope this coming year will see some solutions rather than additional problems, and a better atmosphere of hope and confidence. CAS is certainly willing to give all the support it can.

Just as these *Proceedings* were going to press, we heard the sad news that Rev Prof William Frend had died, at the age of 89. His had been a long and distinguished career (or perhaps series of careers, as theologian, soldier, priest and archaeologist), and he did outstanding work on early Christianity. In his later years in Cambridgeshire he impressed and worried us in turn with his continuing excavations, which were fruitful to the last. He has already submitted the results of this work to CAS for publication, and I am guilty in not having yet edited them for publication. The next *Proceedings* (2006) will include a full obituary for William, with his excavations at Great Wilbraham and accounts of Christian artefacts from Roman Cambridgeshire.

Alison Taylor
Editor

Cambridge Castle Hill: Excavations of Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval deposits, Saxon execution site and a Medieval coinhoard

Craig Cessford with Alison Dickens

with contributions by Martin Allen and David Hall

Excavations in the Castle Hill area of Cambridge have shed new light on its Post-Roman occupation. Significant discoveries include the identification of Middle Saxon occupation including an execution cemetery, a possible Saxo-Norman minster church and a 14th century hoard of 1805 silver and 9 gold coins. Elements of the Castle and some cemeteries were also identified and a Middle Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery sequence defined. More generally ideas of the Middle Saxon to Post-Medieval development of this part of Cambridge, which have previously been largely based on documentary, topographic and cartographic sources, can now be reconsidered in light of the archaeological evidence.

Introduction

The upper town of Cambridge to the north of the river Cam has been subject to a number of recent small-scale archaeological investigations. Although individually limited in scope the cumulative impact improves our understanding of this area. Previous to this a number of antiquarian discoveries were known from the area and several late 19th and early 20th century excavations took place. In the post-war period the redevelopment led to a number of excavations, the Roman period archaeology from these has been published (Alexander and Pullinger 1999), but remains of later periods still await publication (Alexander *et al* 1994).

Recent investigations have mainly been undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) (Figure 1), including work at 19–37 Castle Street (Alexander 1996), 75–85 Castle Street (Butler 1994), the Cambridge and County Folk Museum (Cessford 2003; Dickens and Armour 2002), Chesterton Lane Corner (Mortimer and Regan 2001), Cow and Calf Public House (Anon 2003; Mortimer 2000a), 18/18a St Peter's Street (Dickens 2002), Kettle's Yard (Evans 1994), Sunnyside House (Regan 2001; Wills 2003) and 21 Magdalene Street (Dickens 1991). The nature of the archaeological investigations varied between the different sites. 75–85 Castle Street and Kettle's Yard were emergency interventions in difficult circumstances

prompted by the discovery of human remains. 19–37 Castle Street, Cow and Calf, 18/18a St Peter's Street and Sunnyside House were small scale trench and test pit based evaluations of relatively limited scope and 21 Magdalene Street was a watching brief. The two most significant sites were Chesterton Lane Corner and the Folk Museum. The Chesterton Lane Corner site was a circular shaft c.3m in diameter and up to c.4m deep, the top c.1m was removed by machine, but the rest of the sequence was excavated by hand. Following on from an earlier test pit evaluation the trench at the Folk Museum was c.4 by 2m in extent and up to c.2.5m deep, the entire sequence was excavated by hand.

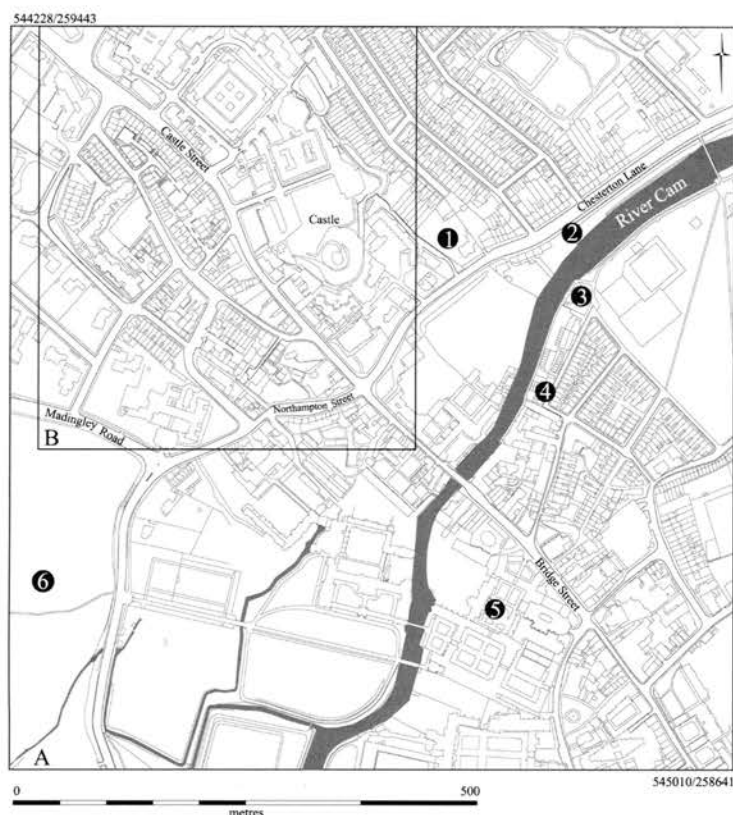
Roman material from some of these sites has been discussed previously (Evans 1999), but later periods have not yet been considered. Work by other organisations has taken place at 68 Castle Street (Crank and Murray 2001), 71 Castle Street (Heawood 1997), The Castle Inn (Roberts 1996), Keys Garage (Murray 2000; Smith 1999) and Clare College Hostel (Malim and Taylor 1992).

Given the limited nature of the investigations and issues relating to residuality the finds assemblages are generally not informative and with the exception of pottery and the coin hoard will not be considered in detail. Instead material will be noted when relevant. The Roman period will be the subject of a separate publication.

Features and material relating to Middle Saxon, Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval activity were recovered. The high degree of truncation makes comparison problematic, but the ceramic assemblages make some comparison between individual sites possible, although differences in excavation strategy compromise this somewhat (Table 1; Figure 2).

Topography

The current topography of the area can be divided into two zones; a relatively flat area with a gradual rise between the river Cam and the line of Chesterton Lane, and the incline of Castle Hill itself. In terms of



Part A

- 1 Sunnyside House
- 2 Strange's Boathouse
- 3 Spade and Becket
- 4 Thompson's Lane
- 5 St. John's College
- 6 St. John's College cricket field

Part B

CAU Sites

- 7 75-85 Castle Street
- 8 Cow and Calf
- 9 19-37 Castle Street
- 10 18/18a St. Peter's Street
- 11 Kettle's Yard
- 12 Folk Museum
- 13 Chesterton Lane Corner
- 14 21 Magdalene Street

Sites by other organisations

- 15 68 Castle Street
- 16 71 Castle Street
- 17 Castle Inn
- 18 Keys Garage
- 19 Clare College Hostel

Sites excavated prior to 1989

- 20 Mount Pleasant House
- 21 Fulbourn Manor Nursery
- 22 St. Edmund's House Garden
- 23 Storeys Orchard
- 24 Storeys Paddock
- 25 Castle End Farmhouse
- 26 Free School / Mount Pleasant
- 27 Harris's Corner
- 28 Haymarket Road
- 29 Number 10 Pound Hill
- 30 Pound Hill, United Dairies
- 31 Northampton Street
- 32 Kettle's Yard
- 33 Ridgeons Garden
- 34 Shelly Row
- 35 Comet Place
- 36 Castle Street
- 37 John's Place
- 38 Castle Row
- 39 St. Peter's Street
- 40 Shire Hall car park
- 41 Castle Court
- 42 Gloucester Terrace
- 43 Rex Cinema
- 44 Shire Hall

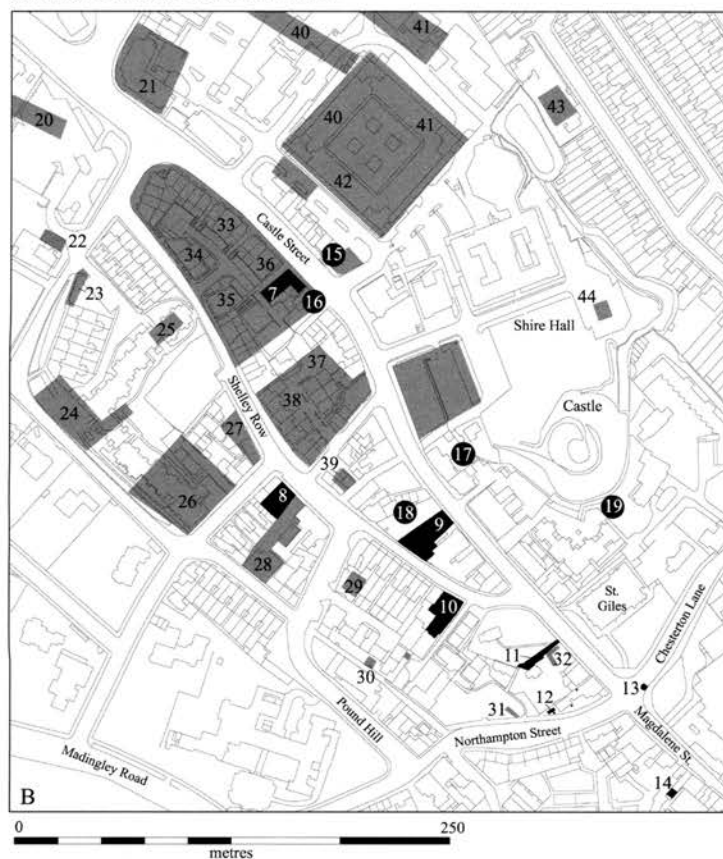


Figure 1. Site locations.

excavated sites there is a contrast between sites in the two zones (Table 2). The area between the river and Chesterton Lane has seen an almost continuous incremental increase in height since the Roman period, particularly at Chesterton Lane Corner and the Folk Museum where good stratigraphic sequences have been revealed (Figure 3). In contrast, on Castle Hill proper the ground surface has been raised much less and in some cases may have decreased. This means that in terms of past topography the contrast between the two zones would have been much greater, as the area between the river and Chesterton Lane has increased in height by 2.3 to 3.3m while Castle Hill proper has only increased by only 0.45 to 0.85m. The area between the river Cam and Chesterton Lane would have been flatter and more low lying, probably marshy and subject to flooding at least during the earlier periods, while Castle Hill would have had a much steeper incline.

Early Saxon

No Early Saxon features or definite Early Saxon objects were found. Some handmade pottery could be either Early or Middle Saxon, but is probably Middle Saxon. At some sites such as Chesterton Lane Corner there is evidence for the gradual build up of deposits over Roman remains, while at others such as the Folk Museum this did not take place.

There is limited evidence for activity on Castle Hill (Figure 4). The burial of a young man without his feet and accompanied by two large shell tempered jars at Castle Court has been dated to the late 4th or early 5th century (Alexander and Pullinger 1999, 73–74) and a 6th century brooch was found at Castle End Farmhouse. At Ridgeons Gardens a sunken sub-rectangular plank lined structure with double post holes in the corners and postholes down the central axis and an internal partition, 4.7 by 2.8m in extent and 1.18m deep was found (Alexander and Pullinger 1999 55; Alexander *et al* 1994). It contained a coin of the

Table 1. Pottery from all sites by sherd count. *Most medieval and all post-medieval deposits removed prior to archaeological presence on site at Chesterton Lane Corner.

** Earliest Roman deposits not investigated at Kettle's Yard.

Site	Roman	Middle Saxon	Saxo-Norman	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Total
Cow and Calf	3125	4	58	110	47	3344
Chesterton Lane Corner*	1028	10	687	1	0	1726
Folk Museum	659	?1	74	249	428	1411
18/18a St. Peter Street	382	5	72	118	153	730
19-37 Castle Street	594	26	20	124	48	812
75-85 Castle Street	63	?3	6	0	18	90
Kettle's Yard**	400	?2	15	1	20	438
Sunnyside House	28	0	4	103	90	225
Total	6279	45 to 51	936	706	804	8776

Table 2. Heights of general surface level at sites through time.

Site	Natural subsoil	End of Roman	End of Saxo-Norman	End of Medieval	End of Post-Medieval	20th century
75-85 Castle Street	19.85	?19.85 (0.0)	?19.85 (0.0)	20.55 (0.7)	20.55 (0.7)	20.7 (0.85)
Cow and Calf	16.0	?16.0	?16.0	?16.0	16.0 (0.0)	16.45 (0.45)
19-37 Castle Street	14.45	?14.45 (0.0)	?14.45 (0.0)	?14.45 (0.0)	14.5 (0.05)	15.0 (0.55)
18/18a St. Peter Street	12.5 <i>?truncated</i>	12.65 (?0.15)	?12.65 (?0.15)	12.95 (?0.45)	13.8 (?1.3)	14.25 (?1.75)
Kettle's Yard	11.5	?11.5 (0.0)	?11.5 (0.0)	?11.5 (0.0)	11.6 (0.1)	12.1 (0.6)
Folk Museum	7.6	8.25 (0.65)	8.55 (0.95)	9.25 (1.65)	9.6 (2.0)	10.05 (2.45)
Chesterton Lane Corner	6.0	6.85 (0.85)	7.75 (2.75)	8.6 (2.6)	9.1 (3.1)	9.3 (3.3)
Sunnyside House	10.4	?11.05 (0.65)	?11.35 (0.95)	11.65 (1.25)	12.15 (1.75)	12.7 (2.3)
21 Magdalene Street	Below 4.5	Unknown	Unknown	6.9 (2.4+)	?6.9 (2.4+)	7.4 (2.9+)
Thompsons Lane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	5.6	-

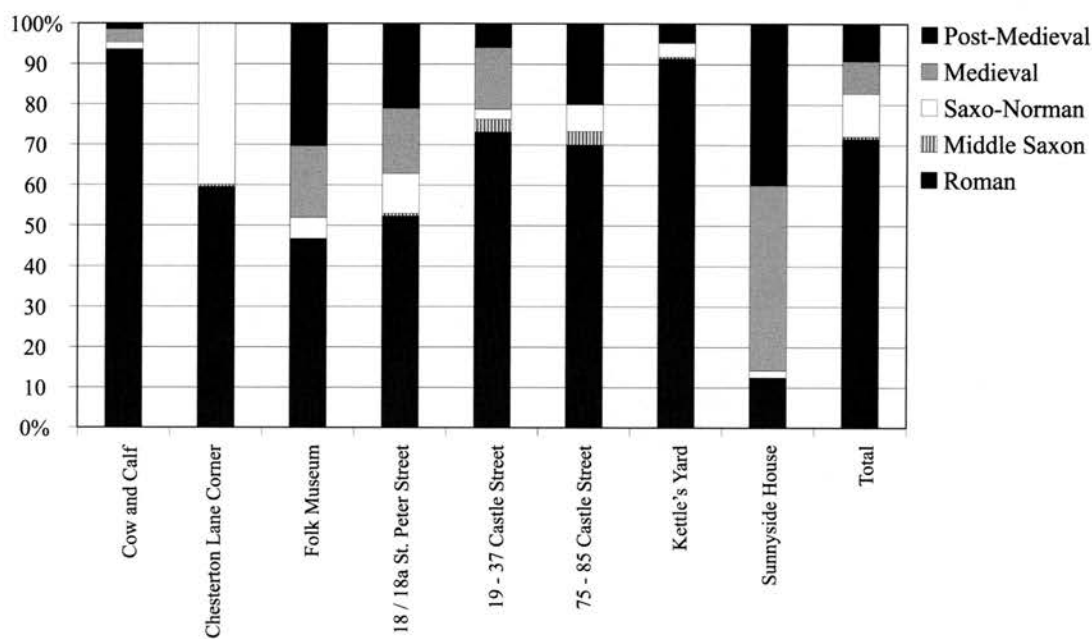


Figure 2. Pottery of all periods from all Castle Hill sites by sherd count.

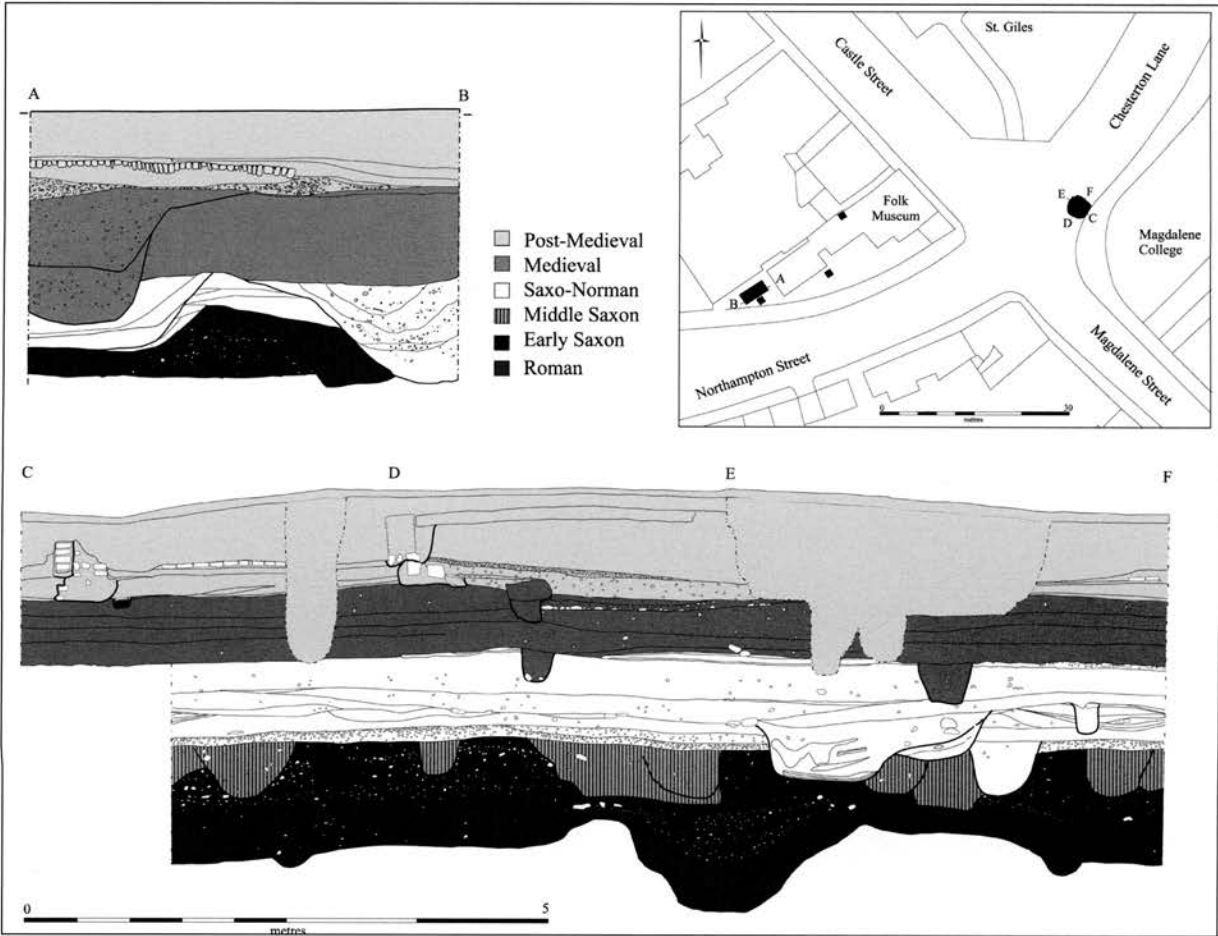
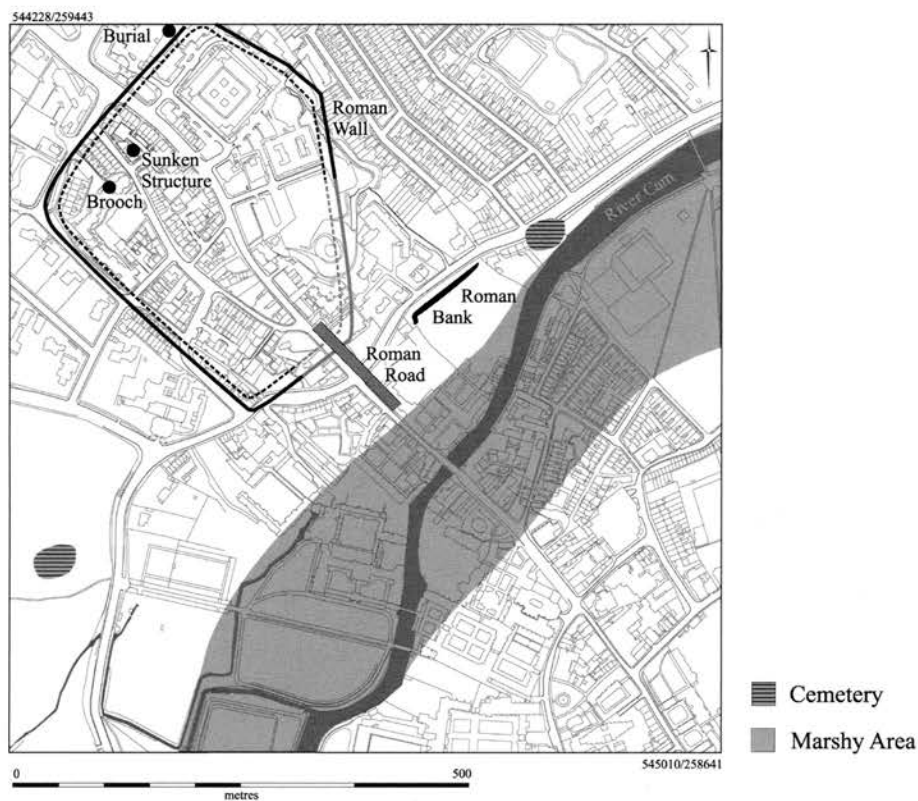
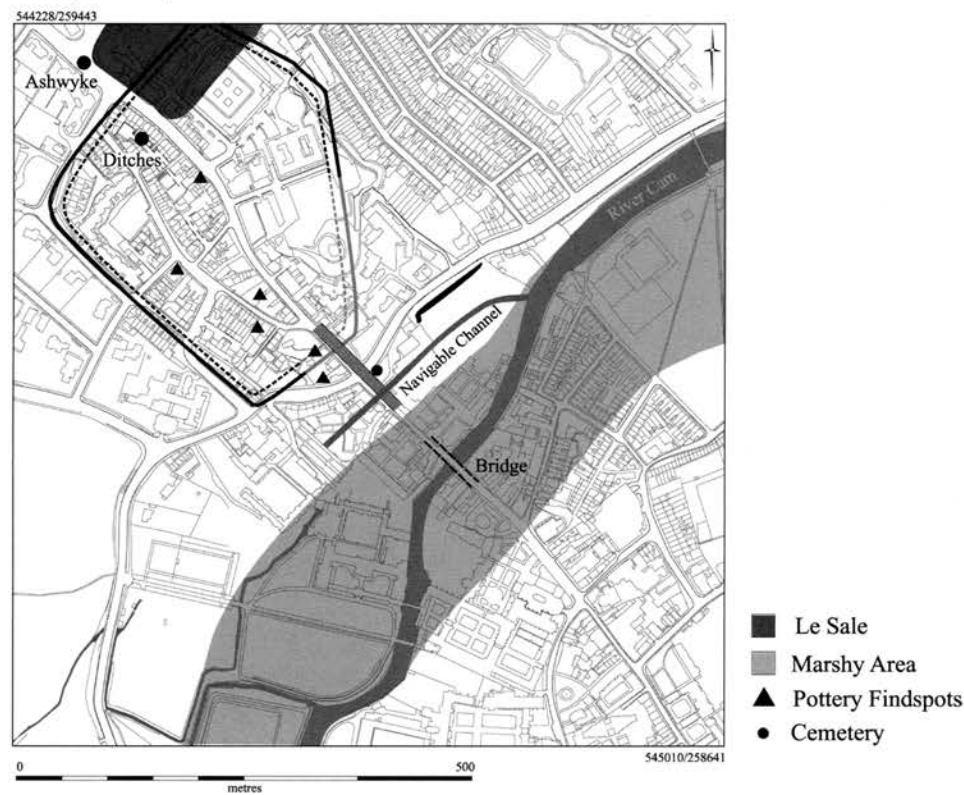


Figure 3. Overall phased sections of Chesterton Lane Corner and the Folk Museum.



Early Saxon

Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map
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Middle Saxon

Figure 4. Schematic reconstruction of the evidence for Early and Middle Saxon activity on Castle Hill.

western emperor Majorian (AD 457 to 461) (Sekulla and Thoday 1999) and possibly some Early Saxon pottery and was located over a ritual 'shaft' containing 4th century material. This feature was cut from the early Post-Roman ground surface and was sealed by 11th to 13th century features. The coin of Majorian which, although a rare find in Britain, is paralleled by the Patching hoard (White 1999) and suggests a date in the late 5th century or later for the infilling of the feature. Occasional Early Saxon grubenhaus this deep are known; alternatively it could be a Saxo-Norman sunken or semi-sunken building containing residual material or a Late Roman cellar that was not filled in for some time (Taylor 1999b, 83). One definite sherd of decorated Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was found at Ridgeons Gardens in a later ditch.

Evidence for Early Saxon activity suggests that there were a number of cemeteries in an arc to the west of Cambridge, at Newnham Croft, St John's College cricket field, Girton and Trumpington and King's Garden Hostel (Dodwell *et al* 2004; Fox 1923, 242–49; Taylor 1999a, 39–42), plus isolated burials or finds suggestive of burials further to the east (Fox 1923, 244–5). The 5th to early 7th century mixed cremation (100+ cinerary urns) and inhumation (30+ skeletons) at St John's College cricket field (Fox 1923, 242) lies southwest of Castle Hill while fragments of cinerary urns and a spearhead were dredged out of the river at Strange's Boathouse east of Castle Hill, suggesting an Early Saxon cremation cemetery (Fox 1923, 244).

At most of the sites on Castle Hill there is evidence for the accumulation of around 0.3m of soil between the latest Roman layers and the Saxo-Norman period, although in some places there is no build up and occasionally it is up to 0.8m thick. This is probably a dark earth formed through the reworking of Roman deposits (MacPhail *et al* 2003). At Chesterton Lane Corner the soil build up was 0.1 to 0.4m thick and contained mainly Roman material, including pottery and part of a 1st century Hod Hill type brooch. No Early or Middle Saxon pottery was found. The uppermost part of the soil contained a copper alloy buckle. Although related to 7th century triangular buckles, and with similarities to some later Saxo-Norman types, it is rather different and is probably Middle Saxon (Figure 13.1).

Middle Saxon

At Chesterton Lane Corner an inhumation cemetery (Figure 5) cut into the dark earth that had built up over the Roman deposits. This cemetery will be discussed in more detail in a separate publication (Cessford with Dickens in prep). Nine graves were wholly or partially revealed, there is some intercutting of graves and they lie on three different alignments. Most burials were supine, but one was prone, and cut marks and other evidence suggest that many of the individuals were subject to decapitation and/or execution. All but one of the individuals that could be

sexed was either male or probably male. Adults, sub adults and a juvenile were represented.

The only pottery associated with the burials was abraded Roman material. The lack of grave goods suggests that the burials are not Early Saxon and the presence of Thetford and St Neots ware in the immediately overlying deposits, but not in the burials, indicates that neither are they Saxo-Norman. Bayesian analysis of radiocarbon determinations from the skeletons (Buck *et al* 1999) indicates that the cemetery originates in the period 640 to 830 [95% probability] or 690 to 780 [68% probability]. If it is assumed that the cemetery immediately or almost immediately precedes the burial in the later building (see below) then it ends between 730 and 890 [95% probability] or 770 and 860 [68% probability]. If, however, there is an interval between the two phases then the cemetery ends between 720 and 880 [95% probability] or 730 and 830 [68% probability]. The cemetery could potentially have been in use for as little as twenty years and was in use for no more than 180–200 [95% probability] or 80–110 years [68% probability].

The broad historical outline of Cambridge indicates that there are three main phases: an East Anglian/Mercian settlement until 875, a Danelaw settlement of 875 to 917 and a Wessex burh from 917. Radiocarbon determinations indicates that there is a 92.2–95.6% probability that the cemetery is associated with the East Anglian/Mercian settlement.

The history of Cambridge prior to the Danelaw settlement is poorly understood in political terms. It has been argued that the Cam was the frontier between East Anglia and Mercia and it has been suggested that Offa of Mercia (ruled 757 to 796) played a pivotal role, although there is no specific evidence for this (Gray 1910, 128–29; Haslam 1984, 13; Taylor 1999a, 43). Without necessarily supporting this view it can be demonstrated through Bayesian analysis that the earliest burial in the Middle Anglo-Saxon cemetery could predate Offa [45.6–53.3% probability], fall within his reign [29.2–33.6% probability] or be later than it [13.1–17.5% probability]. The latest burial in the Middle Anglo-Saxon cemetery could predate him [26.3–38.6% probability], fall within his reign [35.1–35.5% probability] or be later than it [26.9–37.6% probability]. The results are therefore of little help.

These burials probably represent criminals executed within an organised system of Anglo-Saxon civil justice (Reynolds 1999, 105–10). 7th to 11th century law codes mention a range of capital offences and from the 10th century onwards state that executed wrongdoers were not to be buried in consecrated ground. By the end of the 10th century each administrative district or 'hundred' had its own prison, court and place of execution. About 20 known cemeteries in southern and eastern England fit the criteria of judicial execution sites.

At 18/18a St Peter's Street a shallow bowl shaped feature 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep cut into the uppermost Roman deposits contained no Roman pottery and a single sherd of Maxey type ware. Above this there was a layer of dark soil that contained four

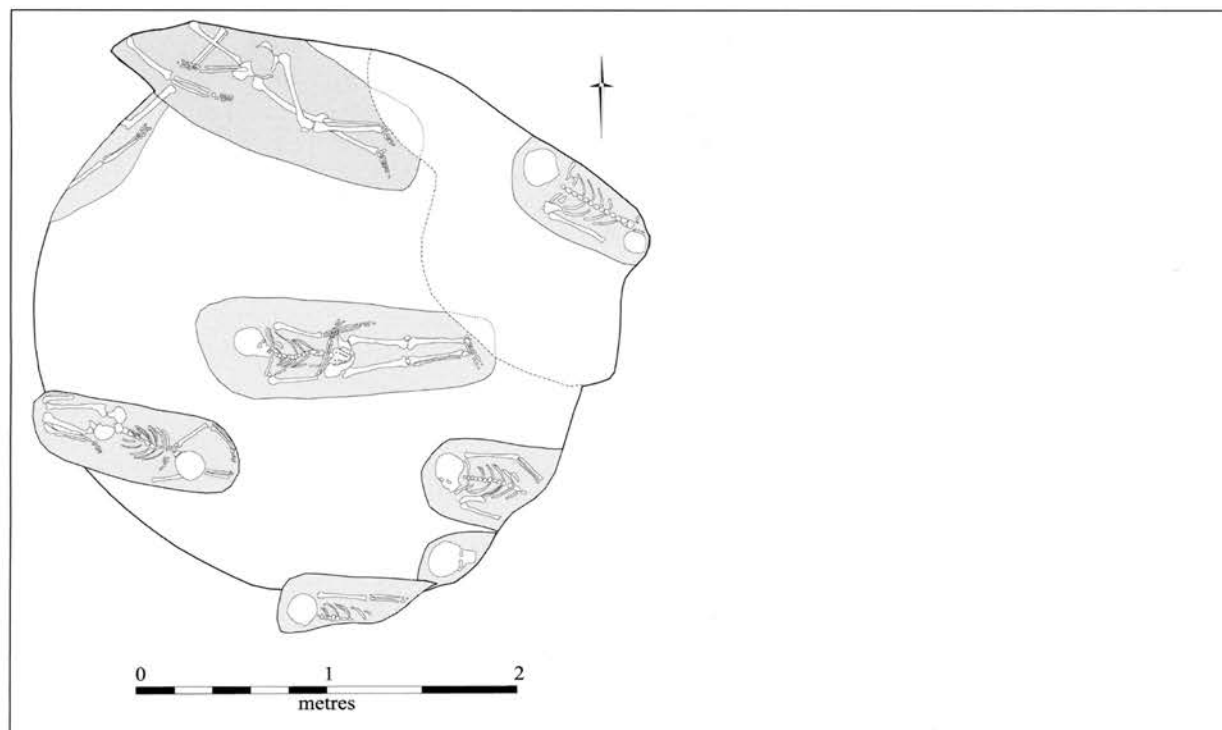


Figure 5. Middle Saxon execution cemetery at Chesterton Lane Corner.

sherds of Ipswich ware and two sherds of St Neots ware, it seems likely that at least some of this deposit built up during the Middle Saxon period.

Although no Middle Saxon features were discovered at 19–37 Castle Street the site produced the largest group of Middle Saxon pottery and had been heavily disturbed by later activity. Much of the Middle Saxon pottery was found in later features containing daub and other building debris that could derive from disturbed Middle Saxon timber buildings. The Middle Saxon material was concentrated towards the St Peter's Street end of the site.

No definite evidence of this period was discovered prior to the 1990s. This may be due to a failure to identify Middle Saxon pottery, especially if it occurred in residual contexts, plus dark earth formation processes reducing the period's archaeological visibility. Two enclosures at Ridgeons Garden must stratigraphically be Early Saxon to Saxo-Norman (Alexander *et al* 1994). Such ditches are uncommon in the Early Saxon period and they appear not to fit with the Saxo-Norman settlement pattern, so a Middle Saxon date is possible. An imitation gold solidus of Louis the Pious minted between 814 and 840 was found near Magdalene Bridge (Haigh and Blackburn 1986).

Middle Saxon Pottery

David Hall

The Middle Saxon assemblage is typical of contemporary sites, both locally and in East Anglia, with Ipswich ware the most common followed by handmade gritty sherds and Maxey type ware the least common (Table

3: Figure 6). Ipswich ware is a slow wheel-made ware, manufactured exclusively at Ipswich. It probably began to be used in Cambridgeshire between 725 and 740, continuing in use until the middle or late 9th century (Blinkhorn forthcoming). The gritty hand-made fabrics are fairly typical of such material in East Anglia, they occur during both the Early and Middle Saxon periods and assigning a more specific date is difficult. In the absence of any diagnostic early characteristics, such as decoration or thick sherds, all the handmade material is probably Middle Saxon. The exact chronology of Maxey ware is uncertain, but it is generally dated c.650 to 850 (eg Hurst 1976, 307–8). It is wet hand finished with reddish-orange to black surfaces and probably comes from Lincolnshire.

The Ipswich and Maxey type ware from Chesterton Lane Corner was associated with Saxo-Norman wares and will be discussed later (below). Although not a large assemblage the consistent recovery of Middle Saxon pottery from Castle Hill is in contrast to larger scale excavations in the core of the medieval town, which have produced either no Middle Saxon pottery or only single sherds (Addyman and Biddle 1965; Edwards and Hall 1997). At St John's College just south of the river only three sherds were found (Dickens 1996). This suggests that Castle Hill was the general focus of Middle Saxon activity; unfortunately in most cases later disturbance has completely removed all any features. There is, however, a suggestion of a focus upon St Peter's Street. No imported pottery that might indicate high status has been found, although this may simply be due to the small assemblage size.

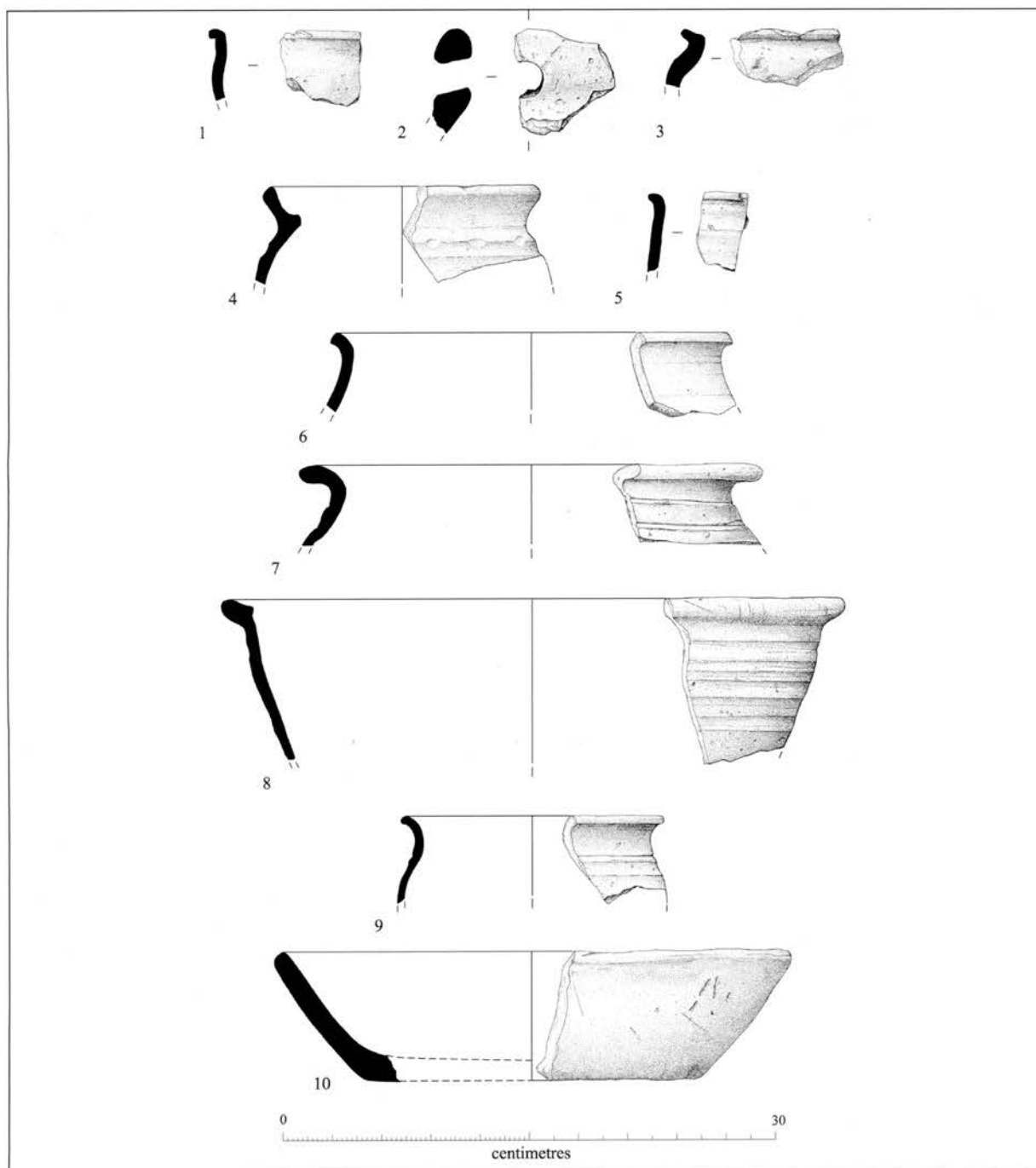


Figure 6. *Middle Saxon Pottery.*

- 6.1 Probable Maxey type ware in hard shelly fabric, burnished surfaces; small upright jar. From Folk Museum.
- 6.2 Maxey type ware with lug; hard fabric with large and small pieces of white shell; burnished surfaces. From Chesterton Lane Corner.
- 6.3 Ipswich ware jar in dark grey fabric with a few white grits. From 18/18a St Peter's Street.
- 6.4 Small Ipswich ware jar in a dark grey fabric with a hollowed rim for a lid seat. A few felspar grits. From Chesterton Lane Corner.
- 6.5 Ipswich ware small jar with upright rim in grey fabric with a few white grits. From 19-37 Castle Street.
- 6.6 Ipswich ware vessel in a dark grey rather coarse fabric with

- upright simple everted rim. From 19-37 Castle Street.
- 6.7 Ipswich ware large jar grey fabric with occasional grits. From 19-37 Castle Street.
- 6.8 Probable Ipswich ware bowl in a coarse dark fabric with pimply quartzose grits. Two slight marks on upper part of rim that may be finger nail decoration. From Cow and Calf.
- 6.9 Probable Ipswich ware, small jar in a dark fabric. From 19-37 Castle Street.
- 6.10 Handmade bowl with hard, dark fabric and brownish surfaces. Contains fine sand and a very few white grits. From 19-37 Castle Street.

Table 3. Middle Saxon pottery from all sites.

Site	Ipswich	Maxey	Handmade	Total
Cow and Calf	1	1	2	4
Chesterton Lane Corner	8	2	0	10
Folk Museum	0?	1	0?	1
18/18a St. Peter's Street	4	1	0	5
19-37 Castle Street	14	1	11	26
75-85 Castle Street	?1	0	2?	3
Kettle's Yard	0?	2	0?	2
Sunnyside House	0	0	0	0
Total	27 to 28	5 to 8	15	47 to 51

Middle Saxon Castle Hill (Figure 4)

Previous discussions of Middle Saxon Cambridge have been largely based upon a few documentary references and the later topography of the town (see Haslam 1984, endnote 2 for references to earlier discussions). In a wider context the River Cam may have been a boundary between the kingdoms of Mercia and East Anglia. Given this, Cambridge, located at the lowest and easiest crossing point of the river and on the Roman road network, would have been a key strategic location. Haslam postulated a mid 8th century Mercian burh in the Roman town plus an extramural market to the north (1984, 13–18), with the focus shifting southwards later on. This model has generally been accepted by subsequent authors (Taylor 1999a, 43–45).

Writing in the early 8th century about events around 695 Bede refers to 'a ruined little city called Grantacaestir' (IV.19) while the 9th century Life of Saint Guthlac describing early 8th century events refers to it as the castello (camp) of Gronte (XXIV), probably also a reference to the Roman settlement. By 875 the name of the settlement had changed to Grantabrycge and 'the three kings, Guthrum, Oskytel, and Anwind, went from Repton to Cambridge with a vast army, and sat there one year'. The contrasting documentary references to a ruined Roman settlement and an apparently strategically important site strongly indicate that significant occupation at Cambridge began again sometime between 695 and 875. Most authors have tended to link this to the reign of Offa of Mercia between 757 and 796 (Haslam 1984, 13; Taylor 1999a, 43), but there is no specific evidence for this. Potential elements of this settlement are a market place by the northern gate of the Roman town known as Ashwyke, a channel that was still navigable to St Giles in the 13th century, an area of land known as Le Sale that may have been a ditched enclosure occupied by the kings reeve or alderman, one or more of the churches and the bridge across the river.

There are antiquarian reports of wooden structures and stone surfaces of unknown date at either end of Magdalene Bridge that could be the remains of an earlier bridge. It appears that the terms bridge and ford could be used interchangeably during the Saxo-Norman period to refer to stone causeway like structures (Blair and Millard 1993), so there is no reason that Grantabrycge need have had a true bridge at all. If there was a bridge at Grantabrycge it is likely to

have been similar to the 8th century Mercian bridge over the river Trent (Salisbury 1995).

Unfortunately none of these topographic elements can be securely dated. The one major Middle Saxon element that has been identified is the execution cemetery at Chesterton Lane Corner. Execution cemeteries are often located upon linear earthworks and in general they afford commanding views, frequently within sight of important routes of communication by water and road. They also generally lie on either county or hundred boundaries. The Chesterton Lane Corner cemetery certainly lies on the important communication routes of the Via Devana and the river and next to a 'linear earthwork' in the form of the 4th century town wall and the earthen bank identified in Magdalene College (Walker 1911). It is also located near the meeting point of the three town fields of Cambridge; the western fields, the eastern fields and Chesterton parish. Cambridge must have had a hundred meeting place at this time, but there is no evidence as to its location (Meaney 1993, 74). The discovery of an execution cemetery strongly suggests that the hundred meeting place was close by, probably at the meeting point of the three town fields.

Saxo-Norman*Saxo-Norman Sites*

At Chesterton Lane Corner an almost perfectly flat, thick, smooth and solid gravel surface was laid sealing the cemetery (Figure 7.1). This was probably an internal floor rather than an external surface. A grave was cut through this floor, on the same alignment of some of the graves beneath it. The body was supine with the upper legs bent up and over to the right, and a later pit had removed the head. The presence of a burial within a building strongly indicates that the building was a church, potentially a minster church that is believed to have existed in this general location in Cambridge (Haslam 1984, 17). This implies that the individual was of high status. A layer of fine, gritty, green-tinged soil containing a range of material including pottery and two knife blades was dumped over the floor as a make-up layer, indicating major modifications to the building. A compacted, white clay floor surface was laid over the make-up; this survived well in places but was worn away in oth-

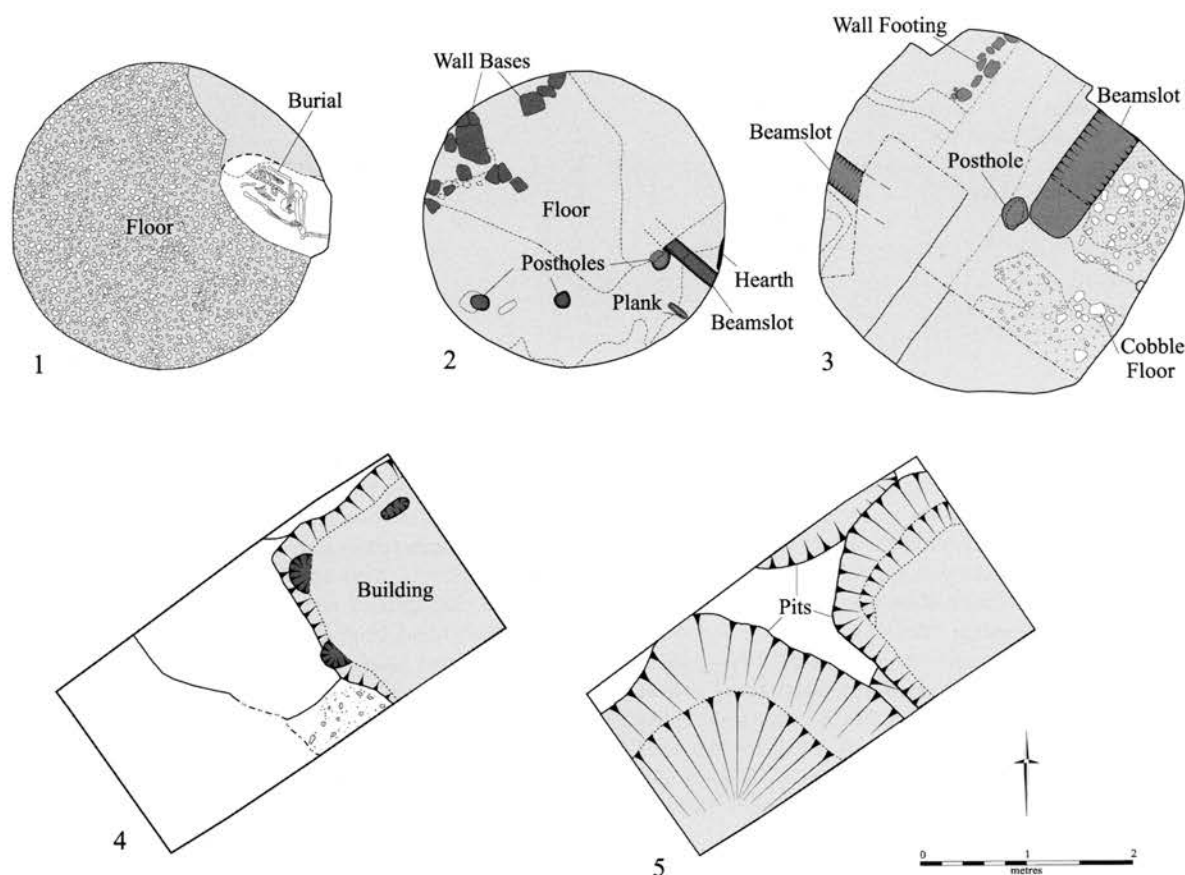


Figure 7. Saxo-Norman activity at Chesterton Lane Corner and the Folk Museum

7.1 Chesterton Lane Corner 1st phase of building with burial

7.2 Chesterton Lane Corner 2nd phase of building

7.3 Chesterton Lane Corner 3rd phase of building

7.4 Folk Museum sunken featured or cellared building

7.5 Folk Museum pits

ers (Figure 7.2). An area of the floor had been burnt possibly suggesting the presence of a hearth. A beamslot cut through these layers on a west-northwest to south-southeast alignment, this was just to the side of and following the same alignment as the earlier burial. A second small slot parallel to this contained the slight remains of a single burnt plank. Some large stones and cobbles are probably wall bases. Three small postholes cut the floor.

A large pit was cut through the building floor truncating the beamslot and the earlier grave cut, removing the head of the body. The fill of the pit consisted of a redeposited mix of the deposits it cut through and nothing extra appeared to have been added. Above the backfilled pit were two layers of dense, dark grey-green soil, containing a range of material including pottery and two knife blades, and a thin ashy charcoal wash. It seems likely that this pit was deliberately dug with the aim of removing the head of an individual who had been buried within a church some time before. The pit was dug when the building was being rebuilt, and it is likely that at this point

the building became a domestic structure. One possibility is that the individual was particularly significant and the head was removed for use as a relic (cf. Gransden 1989; Rollason 1985; 1989; Spurrell 2000). The late 10th century regulations of the thegn's guild of Cambridge refer to a relic (Whitelock 1968, 603–05). If this is the case the lack of associated literary evidence suggests a 'saint' who was never officially canonized and whose cult was short lived before being 'demoted' (Spurrell 2000). Alternatively the head could have been removed for public display as a form of post-mortem punishment as contemporary charters refer to *heafod stoccan* (head-stakes) (Reynolds 1999, 105–10). It is thus possible that the individual at Chesterton Lane Corner was initially buried in a position of honour within a church, but the head was later removed for public display, perhaps following a regime change.

Above the floor a thick layer of dark grey silty loam was deposited as make-up and levelling, either representing a new building or a substantial modification to the existing structure. This building had

floors of both patchy and worn cobbles/sand/mortar and creamy white clay (Figure 7.3). Beneath the white clay floor were thin deposits of banded dark grey silt/ash, possibly the remains of primary floor surfaces. Two beam-slots and a posthole may represent internal divisions. Above the clay floor was a compacted deposit, probably a beaten earthen floor. An east to west aligned flint and limestone rubble deposit appears to be a collapsed or disturbed wall footing. There are no other destruction deposits so it appears that most structural material, including the timbers from the beamslots, was removed. After the building was abandoned a series of well-sorted homogenous silty clay loam deposits were dumped raising the ground level by some 0.5m.

The Middle Saxon and Saxo-Norman ceramic assemblages from Chesterton Lane Corner consisted of 697 sherds of Ipswich ware (8 sherds, 1.1%), Maxey-type ware (2 sherds, 0.3%), Thetford type ware (324 sherds, 46.5%), St Neots ware (354 sherds, 50.8%) and Stamford type ware (9 sherds, 1.3%) (Table 4; Figure 8.2). The well preserved stratigraphic sequence provides a much finer grained view of the Saxo-Norman pottery sequence than has previously been possible locally.

There is no evidence for the use of pottery whilst the execution cemetery was in use, between c.730 to 810, although it is possible that this just reflects a lack of domestic activity in the immediate vicinity. No pottery was found at the 7th century King's Garden Hostel cemetery but a sizeable amount of handmade material was found at the 6th and 7th century Criminology site settlement (Dodwell *et al* 2004). Following this it appears that the final use of Ipswich and Maxey type ware and the first use of Thetford type ware overlap, analysis of the radiocarbon determinations suggest this dates to c.840 to 875. No handmade gritty pottery was found, suggesting that it had gone out of use prior to this date. Ipswich ware occurs until the middle or late 9th century in Cambridgeshire and Maxey type ware is generally dated c.650 to 850 (see above). Thetford type ware is the first Saxo-Norman ware and probably begins in the 9th century (see below). St Neots type ware appears later in the sequence, it has previously been found in Cambridge in a pit at Ridgeons Garden (Alexander *et al* 1994) associ-

ated with two silver St Edmund (895 to 918) memorial issue coins minted in the Eastern Danelaw c.905 to 915 (Haigh and Blackburn 1986). Stamford ware is apparently the last to appear in the sequence (see below).

This fine-grained stratigraphic sequence supports the impression gained from other local ceramic assemblages such as Lordship Lane Cottenham (Hall in Mortimer 2000b), Chesterton (Cessford with Dickens 2004), Ely (Cessford *et al* in prep) and Church End Cherry Hinton (Cessford with Dickens forthcoming). The Chesterton Lane Corner sequence can be divided into five ceramic phases (Table 5).

The environmental remains from Chesterton Lane Corner are not as rich as those from the Folk Museum (see below) but are broadly similar, they are grain dominated, with very little chaff, and low amounts of grass-seed and legumes. The cereals are mainly of free-threshing wheat grains with numerous wild or cultivated oat seeds and lesser quantities of barley, probably the 6-row hulled variety, and rye.

At the Folk Museum a large rectangular cut 1.8m+ by 1.6m+ in extent, with steep almost vertical sides and a flat base 0.7m deep and with a number of circular or oval cuts around its edges, appears to be a sunken featured or cellared building (Figure 7.4). Such buildings are known from a range of 9th to 12th predominantly urban contexts (Tipper 2004, 13–14). This is probably a sunken-floored outhouse, these were often ancillary structures set behind the principal buildings along the street frontage in back yard areas and it may be associated with a timber building fronting onto Castle Street.

After the building was backfilled a general layer of sandy silt was laid, forming a yard surface. Four or five pits, between 0.7 and 1.2m deep, were cut through this surface (Figure 7.5). The pits were not used for refuse disposal and some green staining suggests they were used as cesspits. Centrally placed within one pit was a pair of left and right cattle mandibles lying one over the other in an anatomically correct arrangement, from an animal that died at between 24 and 30 months old. Cut marks could represent the removal of the tongue, a substantial piece of meat, and there was extensive carnivore gnawing on the back portion of the jaw. Another pit contained an articulat-

Table 4. Middle Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery from Chesterton Lane Corner.

Phase	Ipswich	Maxey	Thetford	St. Neots	Stamford	Total
First Building	2	1	3	0	0	6
Second Building	3	1	11	1	0	16
Pit	0	0	6	4	0	10
Grey-green soil	0	0	98	70	0	168
Make-up/levelling	3	0	123	195	1	322
Third Building	0	0	28	28	4	60
Dumps	0	0	54	55	4	113
Total Count	8	2	323	353	9	695
	1.2%	0.3%	46.5%	50.8%	1.3%	
Total Weight (g)	178	78	2537	2596	104	5493
Mean Weight (g)	25.4	39.0	7.9	7.4	11.6	7.9

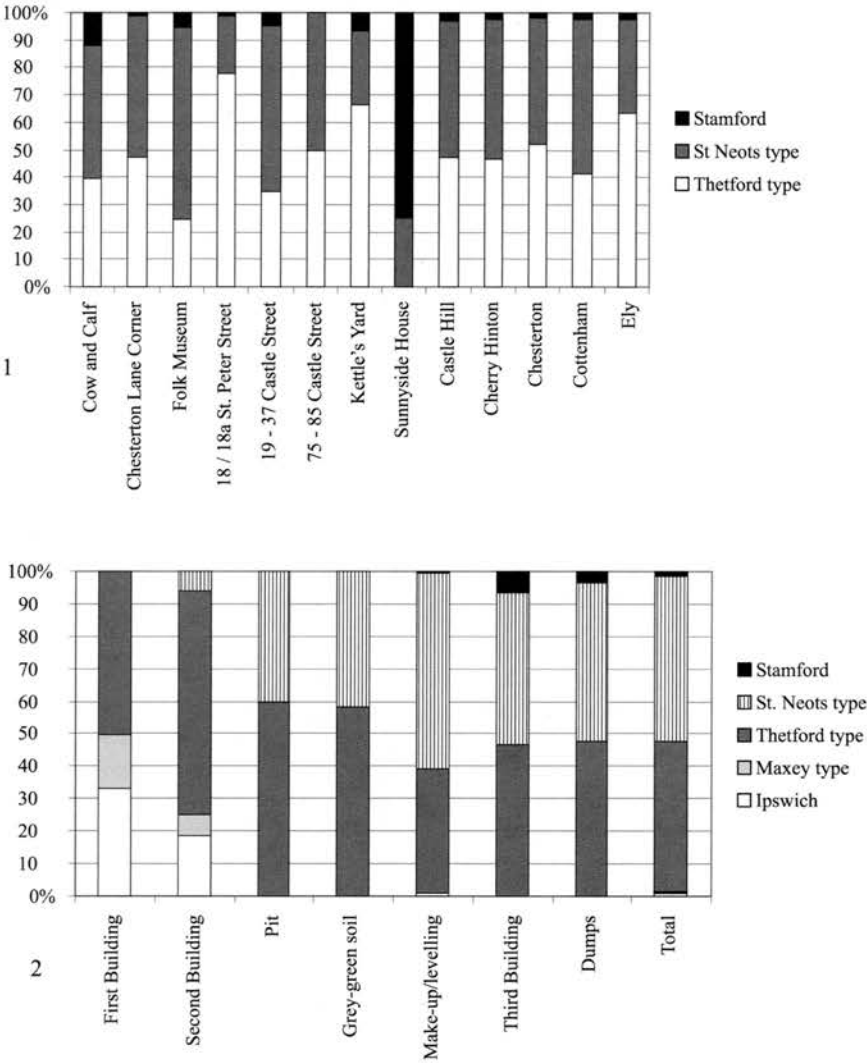


Figure 8. Saxo-Norman pottery quantification by count.
8.1 Saxo-Norman wares at all Castle Hill sites and elsewhere.
8.2 Saxo-Norman ceramic sequence at Chesterton Lane Corner.

Table 5. Ceramic phases c.500 to 1200 in and around Cambridge.

Ceramic Phase	Pottery present	Date	Phase Duration (years)
Early Saxon	Handmade material with occasional decoration.	c.500-730	c.230
Middle Saxon	Ipswich ware, Maxey type ware and handmade material.	c.730-850	c.120
Middle Saxon to Saxo-Norman transition	Ipswich ware and Maxey type ware in use, handmade material no longer in use. Thetford type ware beginning to circulate.	c.840-875	c.35
Initial Saxo-Norman	Ipswich ware and Maxey type ware still present, but going out of use. Thetford type ware dominant and St. Neots type ware beginning to circulate.	c.875 to 900	c.25
Early Saxo-Norman	Thetford and St. Neots type wares dominant.	c.900 to 950	c.50
Full Saxo-Norman	Thetford and St. Neots type wares dominant, Stamford type ware a minor component.	c.950 to 1200	c.280

ing left front lower leg of a horse. All bones from the metacarpals to the 2nd phalanx are present and the presence of vestigial metacarpal bones indicates the bones were fleshed when deposited. The yard and the pits cut through it probably relate to a property fronting onto Castle Street.

Saxo-Norman environmental samples from the Folk Museum are hugely grain rich, dominated by free threshing bread wheat with some hulled 6-row barley and a little rye and wild or cultivated oats. The small amount of chaff and relatively small amounts of weed seeds indicate that these remains are from a cleaned crop. The weed seeds indicate that the crops were grown on light soils, probably south of Cambridge. Wetland plants suggest limited interaction with the fens. Cattle and sheep/goat dominate the animal remains, with a significant amount of pig, some horse and a small amount of dog and deer. There is evidence of primary and secondary butchery.

At 18/18a St Peter's Street there is a substantial amount of Saxo-Norman pottery, but little direct evidence for activity, the only feature being a heavily truncated pit. Thetford type ware is markedly more frequent than St Neots type ware, indicating that occupation at 18/18a St Peter's Street flourished in the earlier part of the Saxo-Norman period and is probably a continuation of Middle Saxon activity.

The most substantial archaeological evidence for Saxo-Norman activity on Castle Hill is some sculpture found at the Law Courts under the castle rampart (Fox 1922, 15–16 and 19–21; RCHM(E) 1959, no.77). At least 18 separate monuments, made of over 25 stones are known and it is likely that the actual total is greater than this (Stocker and Everson pers comm.). They are a fairly homogenous collection and belong to a limited range of types; all are later than the mid 10th century and are apparently earlier than the construction of the rampart.

A number of churches north of the river may be of pre-Conquest origin including All Saints by the Castle, St Peter's and St Giles. Evidence for domestic buildings destroyed by the construction of the castle was found in the form of ditches, gullies, wells and pits at the Law Courts, Shire Hall and Castle House. Similar evidence of domestic occupation of this period was also found at Ridgeons Garden, Comet Place, Shelly Row and Storeys Orchard. Some pits at Ridgeons Garden probably date to the early 10th century, as one contained two silver St Edmund memorial issue coins minted in the Eastern Danelaw c.905 to 915 (Haigh and Blackburn 1986) and a substantial assemblage of St Neots ware. A silver penny of Eadgar (959 to 975) was also found on Castle Hill.

In the area closest to the more recent excavations no features were found at Castle Row, Harris Corner, Haymarket Road and Pound Hill Cold store. At 1–2 St Peter's Street there were postholes and a small pit with a circle of stones around it. The pit contained a 10th century pottery vessel that appeared to have been used for heating water. At Pound Hill Dairy a deep V-shaped ditch was cut through the Roman rampart,

logs were apparently placed in the base of this and it was refilled with clay. This appears to have been for drainage, as the rampart may have caused the area behind it to become waterlogged. A thick burnt layer containing Saxo-Norman pottery at Kettle's Yard has been associated with the construction of the castle (Alexander *et al* 1994), whilst this is possible it is also conceivable that this relates to the events of 1010 when a Viking army burned Cambridge. Closer to the river a Saxo-Norman disc brooch ornamented with backward looking beast was found on Magdalene Street around 1895 (CUMAA Z 14969). An Anglo-Saxon copper alloy object was supposedly found in the river during dredging in 1930, but no details are available.

Saxo-Norman Pottery

David Hall

The Saxo-Norman pottery assemblage (Table 6: Figure 8.1), is typical for sites locally, with Thetford and St Neots type wares dominating and only a small amount of Stamford ware.

Saxo-Norman Castle Hill (Figure 14)

In 866 Cambridge became part of the Danelaw. This lasted until 917 when the region submitted to Edward of Wessex and a settlement followed in 920. Previously it has been argued that the Danish occupation was focused upon an area to the south of the Roman town on both sides of the river near Magdalene Bridge (Haslam 1984, 18–20). This was believed to be in the area known as Hulmum, from the Danish Homr 'higher ground amongst the marshes', covering Holy Sepulchre and St Clements parishes with ditches linking to the earlier navigable channel near St Giles (Taylor 1999a, 44). Following the conquest of the area in 917 the focus supposedly shifted further south to the area along Trumpington Street (Haslam 1984, 20–23; Taylor 1999a, 44–50), where there are a number of churches, and Castle Hill became relatively unimportant (Addyman and Biddle 1965, 18). It has been argued that Cambridge developed slowly as an urban centre from the second half of the 9th century until the late 10th century and was an 'economically viable backwater' (Hines 1999, 136). Although the excavations on Castle Hill cannot contribute directly to a consideration of the putative Danish and Edwardian settlements to the south of the river they do indicate that there was still occupation on Castle Hill. This is clearest at Chesterton Lane Corner and the Folk Museum, but is strongly supported by the evidence of residual pottery from the other sites plus older discoveries. The suggestion that the Danish occupation was focused upon an area to the south of the Roman town on both sides of the river near Magdalene Bridge is not supported by the evidence from excavations at Thompson's Lane (Firman and Pullinger 1987) and St John's College (Dickens 1996), which indicated that the area was frequently flooded alluvial mudflats. Although there is some Saxo-Norman pottery from St John's College this is either residual or in alluvial deposits. It probably represents dumping of domestic debris, suggesting that activity was occurring not too

Table 6. Saxo-Norman pottery from all Castle Hill sites and other local sites.

Site	Thetford	St Neots	Stamford	Total
Cow and Calf	23	28	7	58
Chesterton Lane Corner	324	354	9	687
Folk Museum	18	52	4	74
18/18a St. Peter's Street	56	15	1	72
19-37 Castle Street	7	12	1	20
75-85 Castle Street	3	3	0	6
Kettle's Yard	10	4	1	15
Sunnyside House	0	1	3	4
Castle Hill Total	441	469	26	936
	47.1%	50.1%	2.8%	
Cherry Hinton	1508	1656	73	3237
	46.6%	51.2%	2.3%	
Chesterton	507	448	16	971
	52.2%	46.1%	1.6%	
Cottenham	233	317	13	563
	41.4%	56.3%	2.3%	
Ely	4707	2531	196	7434
	63.3%	34.0%	2.6%	

far away.

Medieval (Plates 2a, 2b, 3, 4))

At Chesterton Lane Corner (Figure 9.1) a cobbled surface represents the first in a series of metalled surfaces laid along Chesterton Lane, which is first mentioned as Chestertunelane in 1298 (Reaney 1943, 44). A compacted grey clay silt make up or levelling for a clunch walled structure sealing this surface is the sill beam of the northernmost wall of a building on the south side of Chesterton Lane. This deposit contained some medieval Ely ware, broadly dated to between the late 12th to 15th centuries but probably 13th or 14th century (Hall 2001). A series of thinly banded clay and ash deposits inside the wall indicate the build-up of floor layers. The road and building date to the 13th century, in the 14th century the building was demolished and a new structure built with a substantial mortared wall of uncoursed chalk and clunch blocks. Associated with this are clay floors which indicate the existence of several internal spaces.

By this stage the site had ceased to be religious in nature and all the later structures appear to be secular. One possibility is that the transition relates to the foundation of St Giles' church to the north of Chesterton Lane. The current church, which was built in the late 19th century, replaces the smaller earlier church and incorporates a late 11th century chancel arch and fragments of a late 12th century doorway from its predecessor (RCHM(E) 1959, no. 52). Traditionally sheriff Picot established St Giles around 1092 in gratitude for his wife's recovery from serious illness (Clark 1907, 38–39).

The Chesterton Lane Corner coin hoard (Plate 1)
Martin Allen

Inserted into the floors of the Chesterton Lane Corner building was a hoard of 1814 coins which will form the subject of a separate publication (Allen forthcoming) (Figure 9.1 and 10; Table 7). The hoard consists of 1805 silver pennies or sterlings, which had been placed in a small wooden box, c.0.15 by 0.10 by 0.20m with iron nails and fittings, in the early 1350s. The box was placed in a small hole cut through the clay floors against a wall of the building. Nine English gold coins of Edward III (seven nobles and two half nobles) were placed on top of these slightly later in the mid 1350s and the hole was sealed with stone and Roman brick before a 0.20m thick clay floor was laid over the area. Outside the building a new series of surfaces were laid indicating the continued build up of Chesterton Lane.

The majority of medieval coin hoards were deposited in containers, most frequently earthenware, stoneware, ceramic, bronze, copper, lead or wood. They could also be wrapped in cloth or leather. The deposition of the gold coins appears to have been timed to take advantage of the reflooring of the room, or alternatively the reflooring was undertaken to conceal the coins. This suggests, unsurprisingly, that the depositor of the hoard was the occupier of the building, possibly a tenant of the de Cambridge family (below).

The silver coins are predominantly English pennies (1611 coins, 89.3%), which are summarised using the classification of the English coinage of 1279 to 1343 (classes 1–15) defined by North (1989; 1991, 25–38, 45–6) (Table 8), excluding 38 pennies of Berwick upon Tweed minted from locally-made dies which do not usually conform to the classification of the coins from other English mints (North 1989: 79–83; 1991: 39–40). There are also 24 Edward I pennies of Ireland (1.3%) and one imitation of an Irish penny of Edward I (0.1%), 49 Scottish coins (2.7%), four ster-

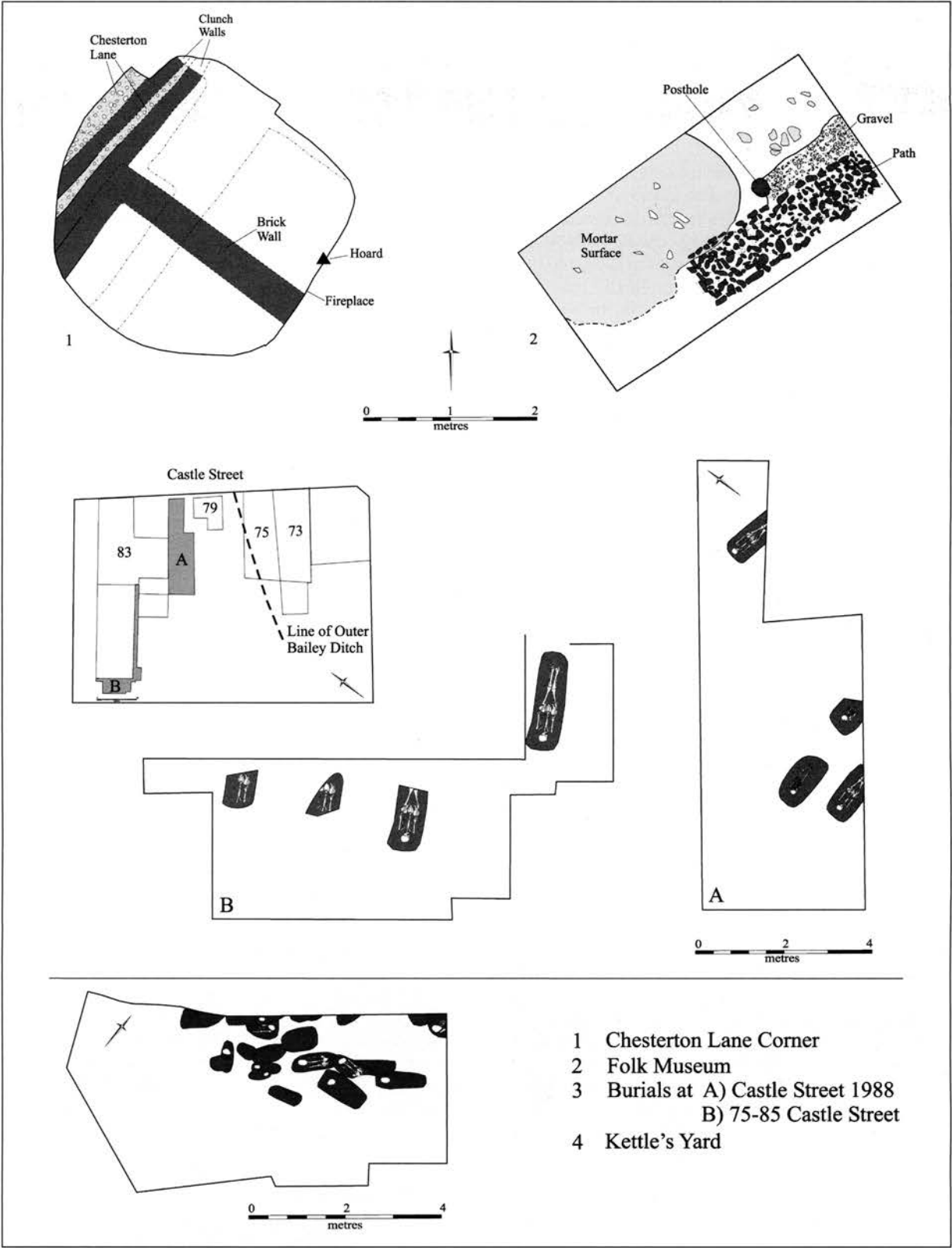


Figure 9. Medieval and Post-Medieval activity
9.1 Buildings at Chesterton Lane Corner
9.2 Garden features at the Folk Museum
9.3 Castle ditch and burials at A) Castle Street 1988
B) 75-85 Castle Street
9.4 Burials at Kettle's Yard

lings from Edward III's duchy of Aquitaine (0.2%), and 117 Continental sterlings (6.5%). All of the silver coins in the hoard would have circulated in England with a face value of one penny, and their total value was £7 10s 5d. The gold nobles (6s 8d) and half-nobles (3s 4d) were worth £2 13s 4d in all, making a final total of £10 3s 9d for the hoard.

Table 9 compares the sterlings in the hoard with those in a hoard of similar size found at Rickerby in Cumbria (Allen 2002 lists the hoards discussed in this report and publications of them). The Rickerby hoard seems to have been assembled at about the same time as the closure of the silver portion of the find from Cambridge, as 1581 English pennies in the Rickerby hoard included only 12 coins (0.8%) later than the introduction of the Pre-Treaty coinage in 1351, and the excavated hoard has only two coins belonging to the Pre-Treaty coinage. The percentages in Table 9 suggest that Irish, Scottish and Continental coins constituted no more than about one tenth of the English supply of sterlings in 1351, if it can be assumed that

the two hoards are reasonably representative of the coins in circulation and available to the owners of the hoards.

In Tables 10 and 11 and Figure 11 the English sterlings of 1279–1343 in the hoard are compared with the coins in the Rickerby find and hoards from Derby (deposited c.1350), Durham (c.1360) and Grantham (c.1375–80). The general similarities between the compositions of the hoards in the tables indicate that the coins of 1279–1343 were thoroughly mixed in circulation by the time that the hoard was deposited. The London mint was the source of about one half of the English sterlings in circulation in 1351, and the Canterbury mint was responsible for about a quarter (Figure 11.2). The ecclesiastical mints of Durham and Bury St Edmunds, which were in operation for most of the period from 1279 to 1343, can be ranked third and fourth as suppliers of sterlings in this period. The contributions of the remaining mints (which were open for short periods only) are relatively small, and one minor mint (Exeter) is completely absent from

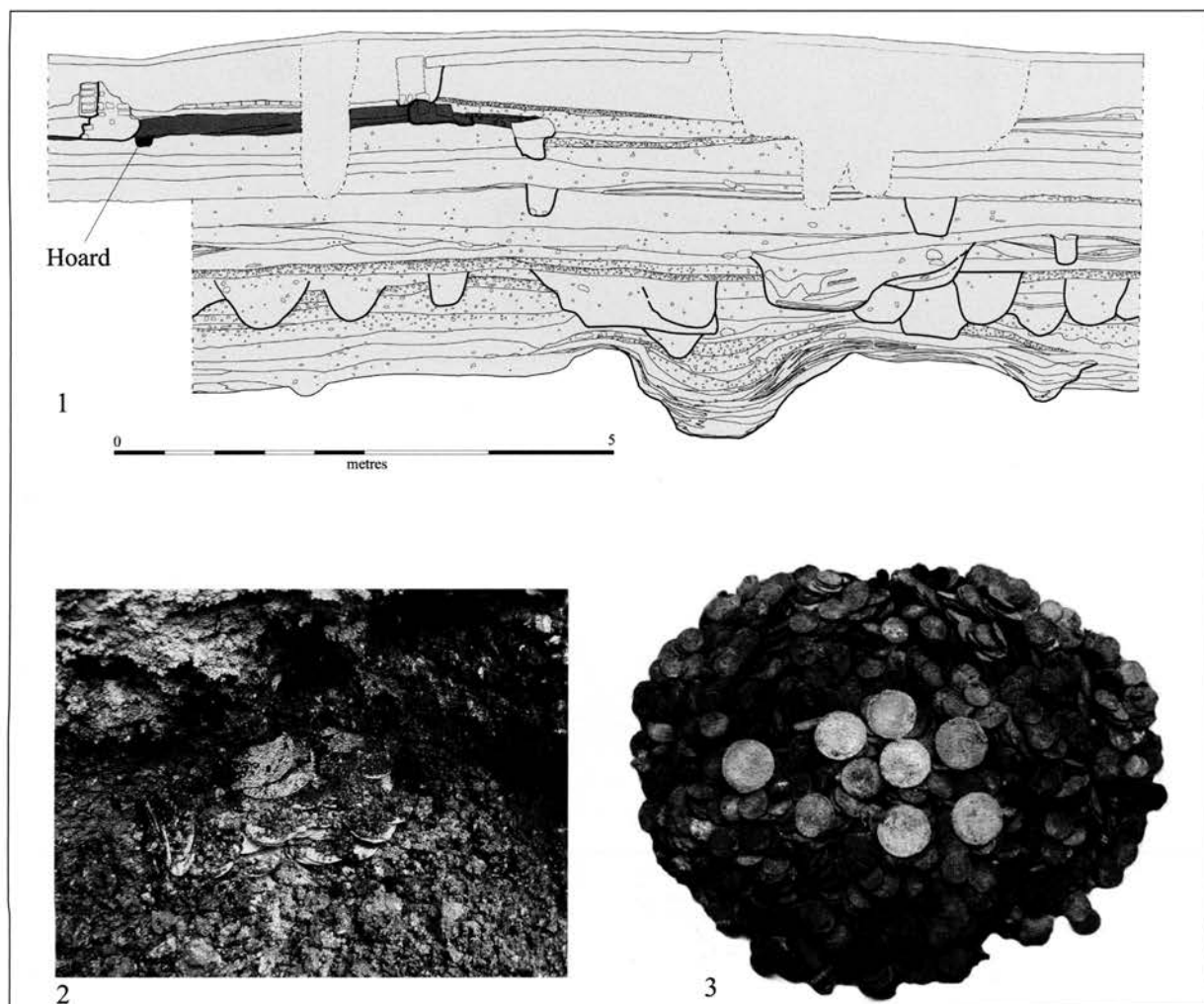


Figure 10. Hoard from Chesterton Lane Corner.

10.1 Location of hoard in section and associated floors.

10.2 Hoard in situ.

10.3 Coins from hoard in uncleaned and unconserved state.

Table 7. Hoard summary.

Category	Denomination	Mint	Total
England: Edward III	Gold noble	London	7
	Gold half-noble	London	2
England: Edward I-III	Silver sterling/penny	Berwick	38
		Bristol	47
		Bury St Edmunds	69
		Canterbury	371
		Chester	1
		Durham	129
		Kingston upon Hull	4
		Lincoln	18
		London	863
		Newcastle upon Tyne	19
		York (Archiepiscopal)	10
		York (Royal)	42
Ireland: Edward I		Dublin	16
		Waterford	8
Scotland: Alexander III		-	48
Scotland: John Baliol		-	1
Aquitaine: Edward III		-	4
Continental: Adolf VII of Berg		-	1
Continental: Edward of Bar		-	2
Continental: Ferry of Lorraine		-	1
Continental: Gaucher of Châtillon		-	24
Continental: Gui of Dampierre		-	2
Continental: Hartrad of Schönecken		-	1
Continental: John of Avesnes		-	4
Continental: John of Brabant		-	2
Continental: John the Blind of Luxemburg		-	32
Continental: Louis of Bavaria		-	1
Continental: Renaud of Gelderland		-	1
Continental: Robert of Béthune		-	5
Continental: Thomas of Bourlémont		-	1
Continental: Valéran of Ligny		-	7
Continental: William of Namur		-	2
Continental: Cathedral Chapter of Cambrai		-	1
Continental: Uncertain issuer		-	24
Total			1814

Table 8. English pennies in the hoard.

Mint	1	2-3	4-8	9	10	11-14	15	Uncertain	1344-51	Pre-Treaty	Total
Bristol	-	38	-	9	-	-	-	0	-	-	47
Bury St Edmunds	-	0	1	2	22	22	22	0	-	-	69
Canterbury	-	37	44	22	155	81	28	3	1	-	371
Chester	-	1	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	1
Durham	-	13	2	17	51	29	12	1	4	0	129
Exeter	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
Kingston	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	0	-	-	4
Lincoln	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	18
London	19	117	125	99	334	72	18	1	76	2	863
Newcastle	-	6	-	6	7	-	-	0	-	-	19
York, <i>archiepiscopal</i>	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	0	6	0	10
York, <i>royal</i>	-	34	-	8	-	-	-	0	-	0	42
Total	19	266	172	168	569	204	81	5	87	2	1573

the excavated hoard. The hoards in the tables have no English coins minted before Edward I's reform of the English coinage in 1279, apart from one example of the Short Cross coinage of 1180–1247 in the Rickerby hoard. The chronological distributions of the hoards in Table 11 are similar (Figure 11.1), with the notable exception of the figures in classes 1–4 (1279–c.1290), which might suggest that the oldest coins were selectively excluded from some of the hoards, as they were generally relatively worn and of light weight by the mid-14th century. In all of the hoards coins of classes 5–8 (c.1290–99) constitute only about 1 to 2% of the total for 1279–1343; class 9 (c.1299–1300) supplies about 10%; approximately 40% of the coins belong to class 10 (c.1300–10), and about 20% of the total is from

classes 11–15 (c.1310–1343). This chronological distribution reflects variations in mint output, combined with the effects of wastage of coins from circulation by hoarding, conversion of their silver to other uses, export, and accidental loss.

The compositions of the hoards included in Tables 10 and 11 diverge in the 'Florin' coinage of 1344–51. The excavated hoard has 87 'Florin' coinage sterlings, equivalent to only 5.9% of the 1279–1343 total, but the other hoards contain higher proportions of these coins, as shown in Table 12. These figures seem to suggest that the excavated hoard under-represents the contribution of the coins of 1344–51 to the currency in 1351. It is possible that the hoard was originally derived from money taken out of circulation before

Table 9. Origin of pennies or sterlings in hoards.

Hoard	England	Ireland	Scotland	Other	Total
Cambridge	1611 (89.3%)	24 (1.3%)	49 (2.7%)	121 (6.7%)	1805
Rickerby	1581 (93.0%)	25 (1.5%)	27 (1.6%)	67 (3.9%)	1700

Table 10. Mints of English sterlings of 1279–1343 in hoards (percentages).

Mint	Cambridge	Rickerby	Derby	Durham	Grantham
Berwick	2.5	0.5	2.2	1.8	1.4
Bristol	3.1	2.1	3	3.6	2.9
Bury St Edmunds	4.5	4.6	3.6	3.6	4.3
Canterbury	24.3	27.5	26.7	25.5	29.7
Chester	0.1	0.1	0	0	0
Durham	8.2	8.1	9	10.9	10.1
Exeter	0	0.3	0.2	0	0
Kingston upon Hull	0.3	0.2	1	0	0
Lincoln	1.2	0.9	1.4	0	0
London	51.6	52.4	44.7	50.9	48.6
Newcastle	1.2	1	1	0.6	0
York, <i>archiepiscopal</i>	0.3	0.1	0.4	0	0
York, <i>royal</i>	2.8	2.2	2.4	3	2.2
Uncertain mint	0	0.1	4.4	0	0.7
Total coins	1524	1465	501	165	138

Table 11. Classification of English pennies of 1279–1351 in hoards (percentages).

Class	Minted	Cambridge	Rickerby	Derby	Durham	Grantham
1 to 4	1279–c.1290	28.4	23.9	21.6	28.8	33.1
5 to 8	c.1290–99	2.4	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.5
9	c.1299–1300	11.3	10.9	9.8	9.8	8.8
10	c.1300–10	38.3	41.7	43.5	39.9	39
11 to 15	c.1310–1343	19.2	20.9	19	19	16.9
Uncertain class	-	0.3	1.2	4.5	1.2	0.7
Total coins 1279–1343	-	1484	1445	490	163	136

Table 12. English sterlings of 1279–1351 in hoards.

Period	Cambridge	Rickerby	Derby	Durham	Grantham
1279–1343	1524	1465	501	165	138
1344–51	87	115	77	29	33
1344–51 as percentage of 1279–1343	5.7%	7.8%	15.4%	17.6%	23.9%

1344, which was supplemented after 1344.

The latest English silver coin in the hoard is an Edward III sterling of Pre-Treaty Series C, which can be dated to 1351–c.1352 (Allen 2003, 185–86). No other silver coins in the hoard need to be dated later than c.1352. The latest gold coins are three nobles of Pre-Treaty Series E, which was minted between 1353 and 1355 or 1356 (Allen 2003, 186). The difference in the closing dates of the gold and silver parts of the hoard might seem to be slight, but there is reason to believe that they represent two sums of money assembled on different occasions, years apart. The silver coins were probably collected together soon after the introduction of the Pre-Treaty coinage in June 1351, as only two of the 1613 English sterlings in the hoard belong to the Pre-Treaty coinage. The data in Table 13 suggest that a hoard assembled after the introduction of Pre-

Treaty Series E in 1353 should have a much greater percentage of coins of Series A–D than the excavated hoard. The complete absence of groats (4d) and half groats (2d) is further evidence of the date of the silver portion of the hoard. Groats and half groats constituted a substantial proportion of the English silver currency from 1351, and only two English hoards deposited after the beginning of the Pre-Treaty coinage in 1351 are known to have had silver coins without any groats or half groats: the excavated find and the Rickerby hoard.

The gold portion of the hoard is more difficult to date with similar precision to the silver coins, as the number of gold coins is much smaller. However, the statistics in Table 14 seem to indicate that it is unlikely that a group of nine gold coins ending in Pre-Treaty Series E could have been taken out of the English cur-

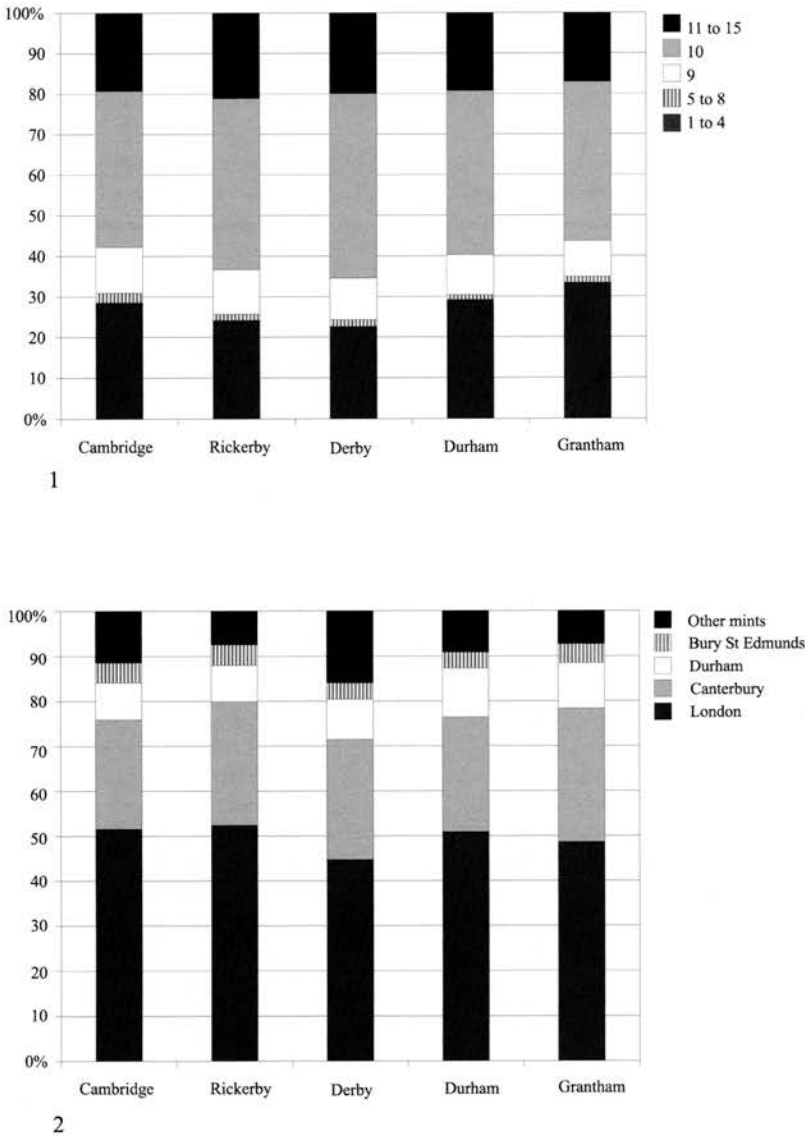


Figure 11. English sterlings of 1279–1351 in 14th century hoards
11.1 Classes, excluding uncertain examples
11.2 Main mints, excluding uncertain examples

Table 13. English sterling of 1279–1353 in hoards (percentages).

Hoard	1279–1351	Pre-Treaty Series A-D	Total
Cambridge	99.9	0.1	1613
Durham (c.1360)	92.4	7.6	210
Coventry (c.1365)	86.4	13.6	81
Grantham (c.1375–80)	94.0	6.0	182

Table 14. English gold coins of 1344–61 in hoards

Hoard	1344–51	Pre-Treaty Series B-E	Pre-Treaty Series F-G	Total
Newcastle upon Tyne (1344)	2	0	0	2
Cambridge	1	8	0	9
Beulah Hill (c.1365)	0	1	4	5
Pinchbeck (c.1380s)	0	13	25	38
Hill Deverill (c.1400)	0	0	1	1
Mansfield (c.1400)	0	0	3	3
Meopham (c.1400)	0	3	2	5

rency as late as the end of the last phase of the Pre-Treaty coinage (Series G) in 1361. It may be suggested that the excavated hoard's gold coins were probably added to the silver coins during the period of issue of Series E (1353–1355/6). The completion of the hoard may be tentatively dated to c.1355.

The hoard was assembled during the transition from an English coinage consisting of the silver sterling or penny, with its divisions the halfpenny and farthing (1/4d), to a currency dominated by the larger silver denominations of 1351 and the gold coinage introduced in 1344. The new gold coins were particularly suitable for the hoarding of relatively substantial reserves of cash, which is illustrated by the preference of the owner of the hoard for gold when the silver coins were augmented with a second sum of money. The values of 46 English hoards dated between 1344 and a reduction of the weights of English coins in 1412 are known or can be estimated: 15 in gold, 5 in gold and silver, and 26 in silver (Allen 2002, 62–68). If these hoards are ranked in approximate order of value, seven of the top ten hoards are in gold. The excavated hoard is ranked 11th, just above the upper quartile, and its value (£10 3s 9d) is more than four times the size of the median. It is a relatively large sum of money in comparison with other broadly contemporary hoards. Building craftsmen (such as carpenters and masons), who were generally paid between 3d and 6d per day in the 1350s (Farmer 1991, 471, 475–76; Phelps Brown and Hopkins 1981, 11), would have had to work for about 400 to 800 days continuously to earn the money in the hoard. The owner of the hoard was probably a one of the wealthier inhabitants of Cambridge, and may have been a merchant or someone of similar economic status.

After the deposition of the hoard occupation of the building continued throughout the medieval period with the continued build-up of floors and resurfacing of Chesterton Lane. Photographs of the standing

building occupying the Magdalene Street/Chesterton Lane corner show a half-timbered 15th/16th century façade (Figure 12). When the hoard was buried the building was probably owned by Barnwell Priory, presumably occupied by an unidentified but relatively wealthy tenant. In the 1450s the property had recently been occupied by Margery Sewale who inherited it from her father Richard. In 1472 it was occupied by William Archibalde and in 1490 and 1525 it was leased by Clare Hall (pers.comm. Rosemary Horrox).

Between the late 12th and late 16th centuries the Folk Museum area was used for gardening or horticulture, leading to the build up of 0.8m of soil. While this soil was accumulating two features were cut into it, a linear feature of some type and a large pit 2.0m+ by 1.2m+ and 1.0m deep. A pair of goat horns pointing downwards and in an anatomically correct arrangement was placed in the pit.

Finds included a silver penny of Edward I to Edward III (1300 to 1343) and a number of fragments of 13th to 15th century grisaille or 'grey glass' (Figure 13.2), painted with iron and lead oxides mixed with gum Arabic. These are probably from a single church window with a design incorporating curvilinear lines and floral elements, a similar assemblage was found at the Dominican Priory at Emmanuel College (Dickens 1998, 74–75 and fig 3). Two disarticulated adult human bones presumably come from disturbed burials in nearby cemeteries.

At 75–85 Castle Street (Figure 9.3) a c.4.0m deep southwest to northeast aligned ditch is probably the 12th to 13th century outer bailey ditch of the castle, which was later remodelled during the Civil War. There were also two associated pits, c.0.65 and 0.5m deep respectively, and five disturbed east-west orientated flexed inhumations of adults lying in a supine position, probably associated with the church of All Saints in the Castle. Four other burials, including two



Figure 12. Building standing at Chesterton Lane Corner in 1911, courtesy of the Cambridgeshire Collection, Cambridge Central Library.

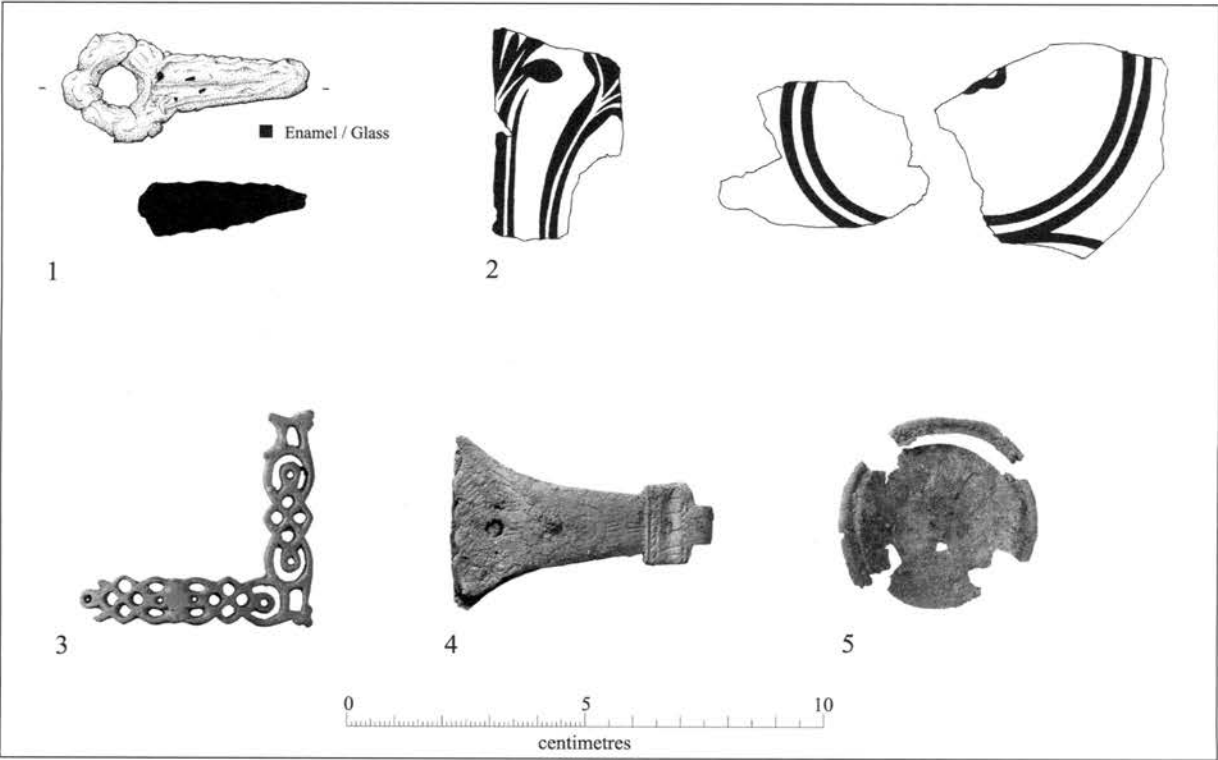


Figure 13. Post-Roman finds.

13.1 Copper alloy buckle from Chesterton Lane Corner. Round or annular frame with lip plus tapering triangular strap attachment plate, pin missing. 48mm long, maximum 22mm wide and 7 to 10mm thick. Has a central raised spine with traces of relief decoration that possibly contained either glass or enamel as tiny red, green and beige-yellow fragments survive. The reverse is plain.

- 13.2 Grisaille (grey glass) from Folk Museum
- 13.3 Copper alloy rectangular frame for double looped buckle, 16th or 17th century from Kettle’s Yard
- 13.4 Copper alloy book clasp, 15th or 16th century from Kettle’s Yard.
- 13.5 Copper alloy circular disc with gilt from Kettle’s Yard

children, were discovered nearby in 1988. The burials appear to postdate the creation of the castle ditch, the cemetery probably encroached upon this area afterwards and the ditch may have formed its boundary. It is notable that no medieval pottery was recovered, indicating that it was kept clean of contemporary domestic debris. A globular opaque orange glass bead 13mm in diameter from a burial did not appear to be a deliberately placed grave good, it cannot be closely dated and is probably residual.

At Kettle's Yard (Figure 9.4) 25 southwest to northeast aligned flexed inhumations of supine adults were found, probably associated with the cemetery of St Peter's church. A number of iron nails indicate burial within coffins and copper alloy objects apparently associated with the burials are a mixture of personal ornaments and fittings. These include a 15th or 16th century decorated copper alloy book clasp, a circular disc with gilded decoration and part of the rectangular frame for a post-medieval double looped buckle (Figure 13.3–5). Although grave goods of this period are not particularly common they do appear to occur in small numbers in a range of cemeteries. The Kettle's Yard cemetery has a much greater apparent density of burials than at 75–85 Castle Street and also has intercutting graves, indicating a prolonged period of use as a cemetery and an absence of long term above ground grave markers.

Small-scale quarry pits occur at 19–37 Castle Street (13th/14th century onwards) and the Cow and Calf (14th/15th century onwards), four disarticulated human bones representing at least two individuals from the latter site are presumably from disturbed burials in nearby cemeteries. Sunnyside House appears to have been largely used for gardening or agriculture with some quarrying (14th/15th century onwards) 18/18a St Peter's Street was also used for gardening or agriculture, the only other feature being a single pit.

At the Folk Museum the cereals are dominated by free threshing wheat, with smaller amounts of hulled barley, oats and rye. Weed species suggest they were being grown south of Cambridge on light soils, indicating continuity with the Saxo-Norman period. An important distinction is the presence of wetland plants. Although there are only a small amount of wetland plant seeds, there is much more sedge vegetal material than in earlier periods, probably due to the use of great fen sedge as fuel (Rowell 1986). This indicates greater contact with the fens to the north than in Saxo-Norman times. At Chesterton Lane Corner the cereals are mainly free-threshing wheat with numerous wild or cultivated oats and lesser quantities of barley and rye. Little cereal chaff or wild seeds are present and the material is probably from the charring of cleaned grain. Peas and smaller legumes are also present.

Medieval pottery

David Hall

Medieval pottery (Table 15) is dominated by coarsewares including 13th to 15th century wares that cannot be closely identified (39.6%) and material from Ely (22.7%) (Hall 2001). It is possible that some of the coarsewares were produced in Cambridge as a 'Potter's row' (1249) or 'Potterslane' (1341) existed on the north side of Cambridge Market Place (Bryan and Wise 2002, 84; Reaney 1943, 50). Ely ware is dated to between the late 12th to 15th centuries. In Cambridge it is likely that most of it is 13th and 14th century as Essex fabrics generally supplanted it. Grimston ware (2.6%) is higher quality than Ely ware, being intermediate between coarsewares and finewares. Most of the Grimston ware in Cambridgeshire probably dates to the 14th century when the industry was at its height (Jennings 1981, 50–60; Leah 1994).

Finewares are dominated by material from Essex (31.3%) with small quantities of material from Lyveden

Table 15. Medieval pottery from all sites.

Site	13th coarseware	14th coarseware	15th coarseware	Ely	Grimston	Essex	Lyveden	Bourne	Surrey	Herts Fineware	St Developed Neots	Scarborough	Total
Cow and Calf	35	18	15	17	4	21	1	0	0	0	1	0	110
Chesterton Lane Corner	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Folk Museum	31	0	61	38	3	106	4	6	0	0	0	0	249
St. Peter St	0	0	5	62	1	43	0	2	2	0	0	0	118
19-37 Castle St	67	0	0	37	5	8	4	0	2	1	0	0	124
75-85 Castle St	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kettle's Yard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sunnyside House	0	15	0	9	6	48	0	0	0	2	1	1	103
Total	134	33	81	164	19	226	9	8	4	3	2	1	722
(%)	18.6	4.6	11.2	22.7	2.6	31.3	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	

(Northamptonshire), Bourne (Lincolnshire), Surrey, Hertfordshire, Developed Stamford (Lincolnshire) and Scarborough (Yorkshire) wares. Essex redwares were fine quality jugs from a variety of sources, including Sible Hedingham (Cotter 2000, 75–91; Huggins 1972) and Colchester (Cunningham in Drury 1982; Cotter 2000, 107–80), Mill Green, Harlow etc. Some of the material came from Sible Hedingham, where production occurred between c.1140 to 1350, at other sites production continues into the early 16th century and it appears that some of the material post dates production at Hedingham.

Ely, Grimston, Lyveden, Bourne and Scarborough wares were imported along the river Cam via Ely, while the Essex redwares travelled by road. The Hertfordshire and Developed Stamford were probably came directly from source, while the Surrey material probably came via Essex. The material is comparable to that from central Cambridge (Edwards and Hall 1997) and nearby villages such as Chesterton (Hall in Cessford with Dickens 2004) and Cherry Hinton (Cessford, this volume). Around 35% of the pottery can be classed as finewares; a high proportion indicating a relatively wealthy area. There is, however, a wide degree of variation and it appears that the area higher up Castle Hill, where 19–37 Castle Street (12.1%) and the Cow and Calf (20.9%), are located may have been of lower status than the area along Chesterton Lane, with the Folk Museum (38.9%) and Sunnyside House (50.5%).

Medieval Castle Hill (Figure 14)

Whilst Chesterton Lane Corner was continually occupied by a domestic building the other sites produced evidence for cemeteries, the castle, gardening or agriculture and quarrying. The dominant feature of Cambridge north of the river during the medieval period was the castle (Palmer 1928; RCHM(E) 1959, no.77; Taylor 1999a, 51–59). The motte is clearly visible and the ditch has been identified archaeologically at the Law Courts, Castle Row and Castle Street with four discernible phases (Alexander *et al* 1994). Remains have also been found at Clare College Hostel, the Castle Inn and 75–85 Castle Street.

The next most important feature were the three churches. St Peter's now incorporates a 12th century doorway, and St Giles has an 11th century chancel arch. All Saints by the Castle, was identified archaeologically at Ridgeons Garden and Comet Place and its associated cemetery was found at the same sites plus Castle Street (Alexander *et al* 1994). Although All Saints by the Castle was still in existence in the 17th century its parish had been amalgamated with St Giles by 1365.

Apart from the castle and churches the main activity appears to have been agriculture and quarrying for gravel and marl, although there is some evidence for small-scale domestic occupation (Alexander *et al* 1994). Towards the river a major development was the grant in 1428 of Monks Hostel, later Buckingham College and then Magdalene College, to the Benedictine monks of Croyland Abbey and the

subsequent development of the site, although until the late 16th century much of the college continued to be gardens and ponds, with the ponds only being filled in in 1586 (Cuinch *et al* 1994; RCHM(E) 1959, no.32; Willis and Clark 1886, vol II, 351–88). The Monk's Hostel probably occupied pre-existing houses along Magdalene Street until the early 1470s, when major building work began on First Court. cursory examinations revealed possible medieval walls near the Masters Lodge (Regan 1988) and there is some archaeological evidence for buildings along the other side Magdalene Street, perhaps also dating to the 14th century (Dickens 1991). Merton Hall or the School of Pythagoras is a stone hall built on a raised undercroft that dates to c.1200 (RCHM(E) 1959, no.292).

In the 13th century the main town to the south expanded almost up to the river, with the creation of drainage channels and then buildings (Dickens 1996). Prior to this the area was alluvial mudflats that were frequently flooded, although probably used as meadows, with the river Cam being much wider than its present constrained channel. Decaying timbers that are possibly piles were found at Thompson's Lane and may be part of the medieval river revetment (Firman and Pullinger 1987, 91). Saxo-Norman to 18th century waterfront structures were supposedly discovered at the Spade and Becket (also known as the George and Dragon) public house in 1973 (SMR 04592). These have never been published in detail and it is unclear how far back the sequence really extends. It seems likely from their location that they are medieval at the earliest and that the Saxo-Norman attribution may be due to the presence of residual pottery.

There are various Medieval documentary sources that allow the relative importance of the Castle Hill area as a part of Cambridge to be estimated, generally in terms of numbers of household or taxation (Figure 15). These suggest that the area's importance was adversely affected by the Norman Conquest, as the construction of the Castle meant the number of properties declined, and its relative importance continued to decline throughout the Medieval period, before recovering somewhat in the Post-Medieval period. The one major exception to this pattern are the church valuations of 1291, with Castle Hill accounting for 37.3% of the total, this shows that the area was much more significant in some other respects such as religion. In 1279 Castle Hill had four barns out of 12 (33.3%) and six shops or booths out of 75 (8.0%), suggesting the area was important in terms of agriculture but not in terms of trade and commerce.

Post-Medieval

At Chesterton Lane Corner (Figure 9.1) occupation of the existing building continued, with the addition of a brick fireplace (late 16th century), construction of brick walls and a floor either extending the property or relating to the construction of a new building (17th century) and the addition of a brick cellar (18th century). After the dissolution of Barnwell Priory in 1539

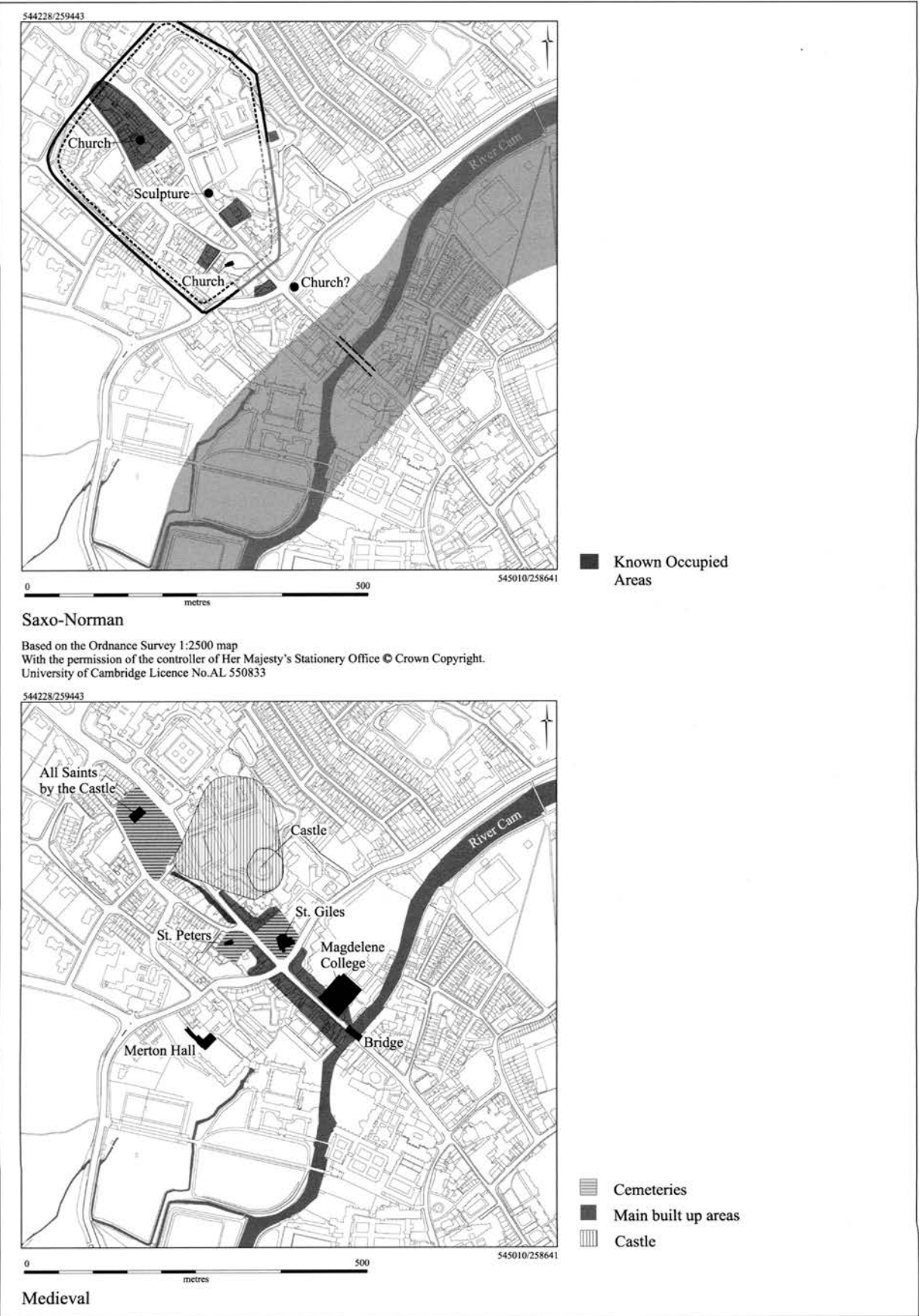


Figure 14. Schematic reconstruction of the evidence for Saxo-Norman and Medieval activity on Castle Hill.

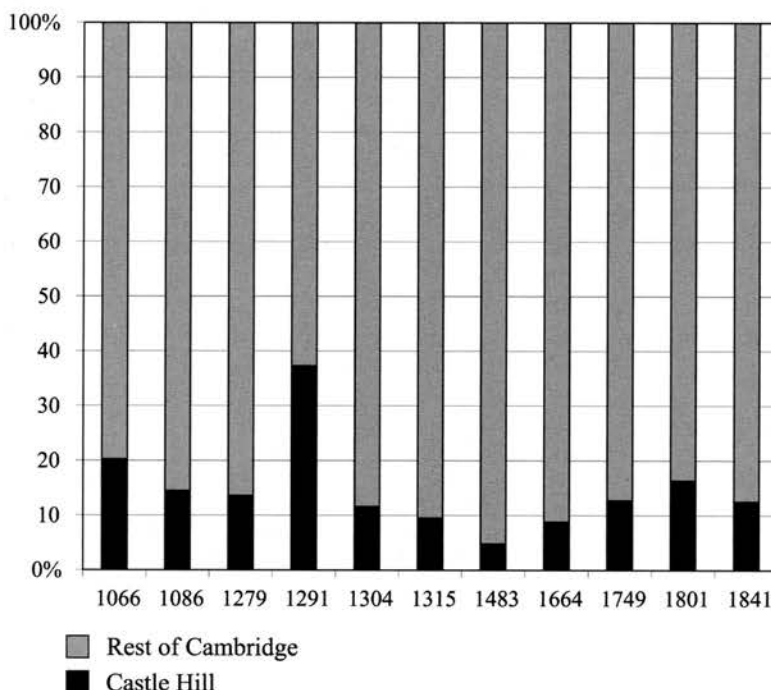


Figure 15. Importance of the Castle Hill area relative to the rest of Cambridge. 1066 and 1086 values are households, 1279 is houses, 1291 church valuation, 1304 and 1315 taxpayers, 1483 hagable rent, 1664 hearths, 1749, 1801 and 1841 houses.

the property was acquired by Richard, Roger and Robert Taverner and in 1545 Clare Hall purchased Barnwell Priory's rights in the property from William Alynson, alderman of Lincoln, in 1557 it was sold to William Chapman while Richard Broke occupied it (pers. comm. Rosemary Horrox). By the 17th century the property was a public house known as the Chequers or Three Swans and John Smith bequeathed it to Magdalene College in 1637 (Willis and Clark 1886, vol II, 357–58). Outside the building, Chesterton Lane continued to be resurfaced and around 1911 the building was compulsorily purchased by the City Council and demolished to allow road widening. Prior to this, as 1A Chesterton Lane, Albert Pointer (who hired out carriages) occupied it.

In the late 16th century the Folk Museum (Figure 9.2) area was levelled with a spread of gravel and a path constructed from reused brick and tile fragments. Beside the path some tile was dumped to improve drainage and a rough mortar surface was laid. This activity probably relates to a building depicted in 1574 by Lyne and shown by Hammond in 1592 as having buildings extending back from the street forming a courtyard. The current building fronting onto Castle Street is 16th century in origin, with 17th century additions and 18th and 19th century modifications (RCHM(E) 1959, no. 214). In the 18th century material was dumped over the path and other features and turned into a garden.

At 75–85 Castle Street a short-lived building with a fine mortar floor was built over the cemetery and there were also several pits. The building was prob-

ably demolished when the area was cleared during the Civil War, preventing it being used as cover and protection by hostile forces. The outer bailey ditch of the Castle was redug at the same time and apparently not backfilled until the late 17th or 18th century. Features postdating the Civil War include large pits, arden soil and a yard surface.

In the 16th century a number of large gravel quarry pits were dug at the Cow and Calf, as some of the pits cut the infill of others this suggests a relatively long period of gradual quarrying and infilling rather than one major episode. The 16th century pits and later contexts produced over 6kg of iron slag, over 80% of which came from a single pit, which also produced large amounts of vitrified kiln lining, ash and charcoal. Analysis demonstrated the presence of hammerscale, a residue of minute iron flakes and spheres that occurs as a result of iron smithing, in this pit but not elsewhere. The pit appears to contain dumped smithing waste and is not mixed with the soil fills of the other gravel quarries. This suggests that the smithing was taking place nearby, but not in the immediate vicinity of the pit as the adjacent gravel surfaces contained no hammerscale. In the 17th and 18th centuries' material was dumped as levelling, infilling the dips and hollows left by the quarrying. It is unclear if this was simply a convenient dumping ground for unwanted material or a deliberate act to make up the ground for structural or other purposes.

18/18a St Peter's Street seems to have been used for gardening or agriculture, while at Kettle's Yard the cemetery continued in use into the early post-medi-

eval period (above) and at Sunnyside House quarrying continued.

Post-medieval pottery

David Hall

A large percentage of the post-medieval pottery was produced in Ely (Cessford *et al* forthcoming). The main product was Glazed Red Earthenware (360 sherds, 73.5%), although it is not always to be possible to be certain where this material was produced the presence of other more distinctive wares suggests that much if not all of it comes from Ely. Babylon (78 sherds, 15.9%), Fine Off-White (32 sherds, 6.5%), Fine Off-White Bichrome (18 sherds, 3.7%) and Glazed Red Earthenware Bichrome (0.2%) wares were all definitely produced in Ely. This material dates to the mid to late 16th century and has previously been found in Cambridge at Pembroke College (Hall in Hall 2002). There was also a Gritty Red Earthenware plain bowl rim that belongs to a slightly earlier phase of production at Ely during the early 16th century. The Ely wares were mainly associated with a phase at the Folk Museum that produced 16th or 17th century jetons, including one probably of Hans Krauwinckel II (1585 to 1635), matching the dating evidence from Ely. Other material included stoneware from the Rhineland, mainly Frechen but also Raeren, Langewehe and Westerwald, plus some later English stoneware. There were also some tin glazed earthenware and Staffordshire slipwares.

Post-medieval Castle Hill

In the post-medieval period the castle went into decline, apart from brief reuse during the Civil War. Castle Hill was gradually absorbed piecemeal into the town in the 18th and 19th centuries, as it expanded from its focus south of the river although much of the area continued to be agricultural. The surviving buildings along the southwest side of Magdalene Street are generally of 16th century origin, indicating that this street was densely built up by this time. It is also at this time that the whole of the southern riverside area appears to have been fully occupied (Dickens 1996; Firman and Pullinger 1987; Roberts 2002). Various cartographic sources of the late 16th century and onwards depict Castle Hill and are broadly in agreement with the picture of the area derived from the excavations (Figure 16).

Discussion

Roman occupation of the Castle Hill is relatively well understood (Alexander and Pullinger 1999) and the most significant recent discovery was the location of the Via Devana at Chesterton Lane Corner, broadly where it had been predicted. The other evidence indicates small-scale development along the line of the road, but it is clear that the main focus was the summit of Castle Hill. There is no evidence for Early Saxon activity; a background scatter of Middle Saxon pottery hints at some form of activity and the execu-

tion cemetery at Chesterton Lane Corner represents a major discovery. The Saxo-Norman period appears to have been one of growth, associated with either the Danish occupation or the Edwardian reconquest, with buildings at the Folk Museum and Chesterton Lane Corner. In contrast the medieval period might perhaps be characterised as one of stagnation, in terms of domestic occupation at least, with activity being dominated by the castle, which had a strong inhibiting effect on nearby domestic activity, plus churches and their associated cemeteries. The major exception is the continued domestic occupation at Chesterton Lane Corner, the wealth of the occupant of the house being indicated by the coin hoard. This pattern continued into the post-medieval period, although the declining role of the castle eventually paved the way for the expansion of Cambridge north of the river.

One question is how urban Castle Hill was during various periods. Urbanism is a complicated phenomenon to define archaeologically and concepts vary in different archaeological periods. Although Roman Cambridge is usually classed as a small town the ceramic material is more rural than urban in character and little of its known archaeology supports an urban interpretation, although it does appear to have acted as a central place in certain respects. The nature of the Middle Saxon settlement remains elusive, but the execution cemetery suggests a role as a judicial centre. Such cemeteries are frequently found in rural locations that fulfilled central place roles and the cemetery itself is insufficient as evidence for an urban role. There seems to be little doubt that by the Saxo-Norman period Cambridge was a town, nonetheless it is by no means clear whether Castle Hill should be thought of as urban or suburban in character. The main focus of Saxo-Norman settlement appears to be an essentially linear arrangement along Trumpington Street indicated by the presence of churches, the churches in the Castle Hill could be seen as continuation of this linear settlement on the other side of the 'bridge'. Perhaps the key question is whether the gap between St Clements and St Giles on either side of the river and the intervening waterway and associated alluvial mudflats formed enough of a gap to render Castle Hill a separate suburban entity. This situation also applies during the medieval period (Keene 1976), when although the castle, churches and eventually Magdalene College are present the area is peripheral in terms of the dominant economic and university foci. Although Castle Hill appears to have frequently fulfilled various central place functions from the Roman period onwards it was never truly urban.

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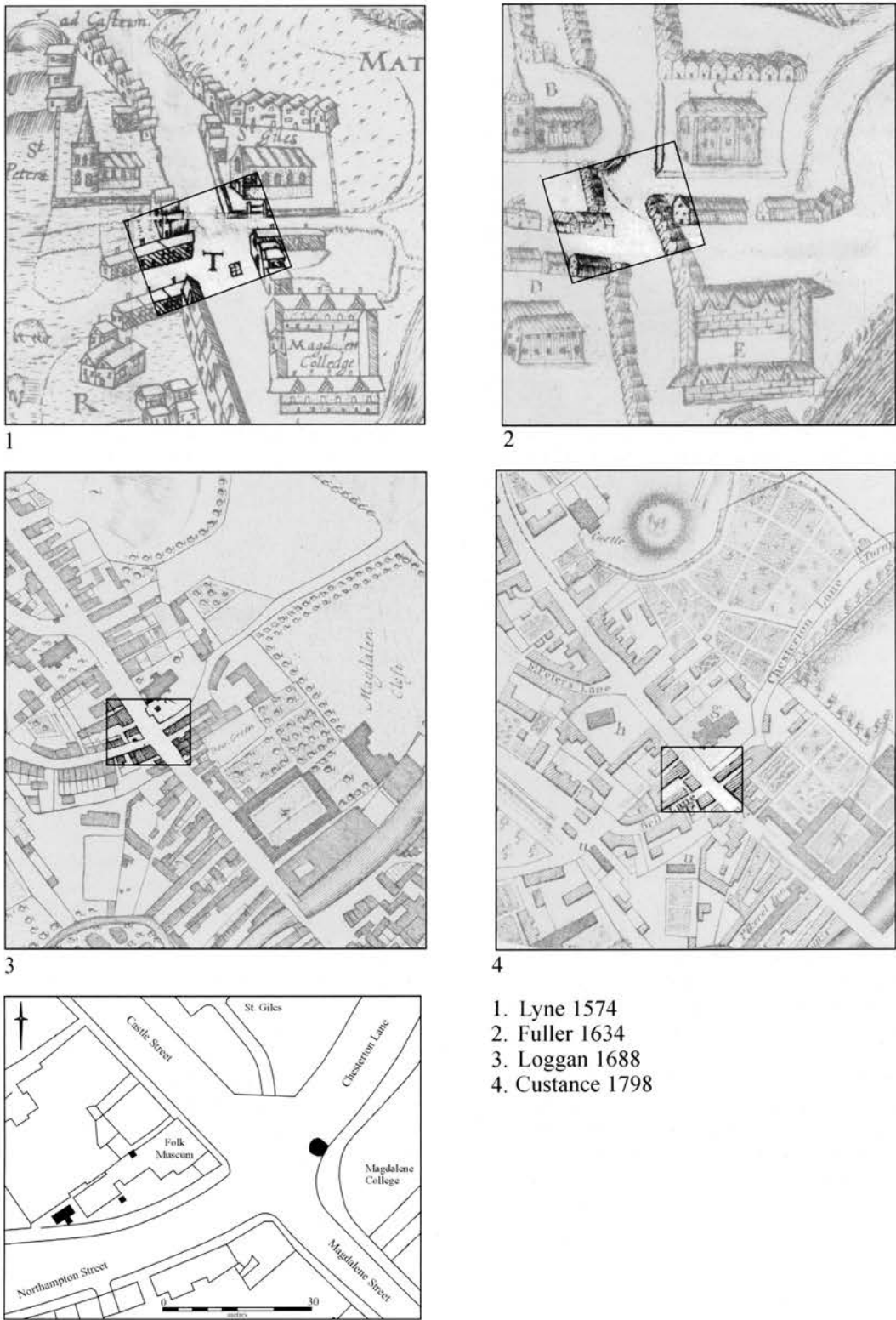


Figure 16. Early cartographic sources showing the area of Chesterton Lane Corner and the Folk Museum.

Corner for Anglia Water Plc, the Folk Museum for Cambridge and County Folk Museum and Sunnyside House for Magdalene College.

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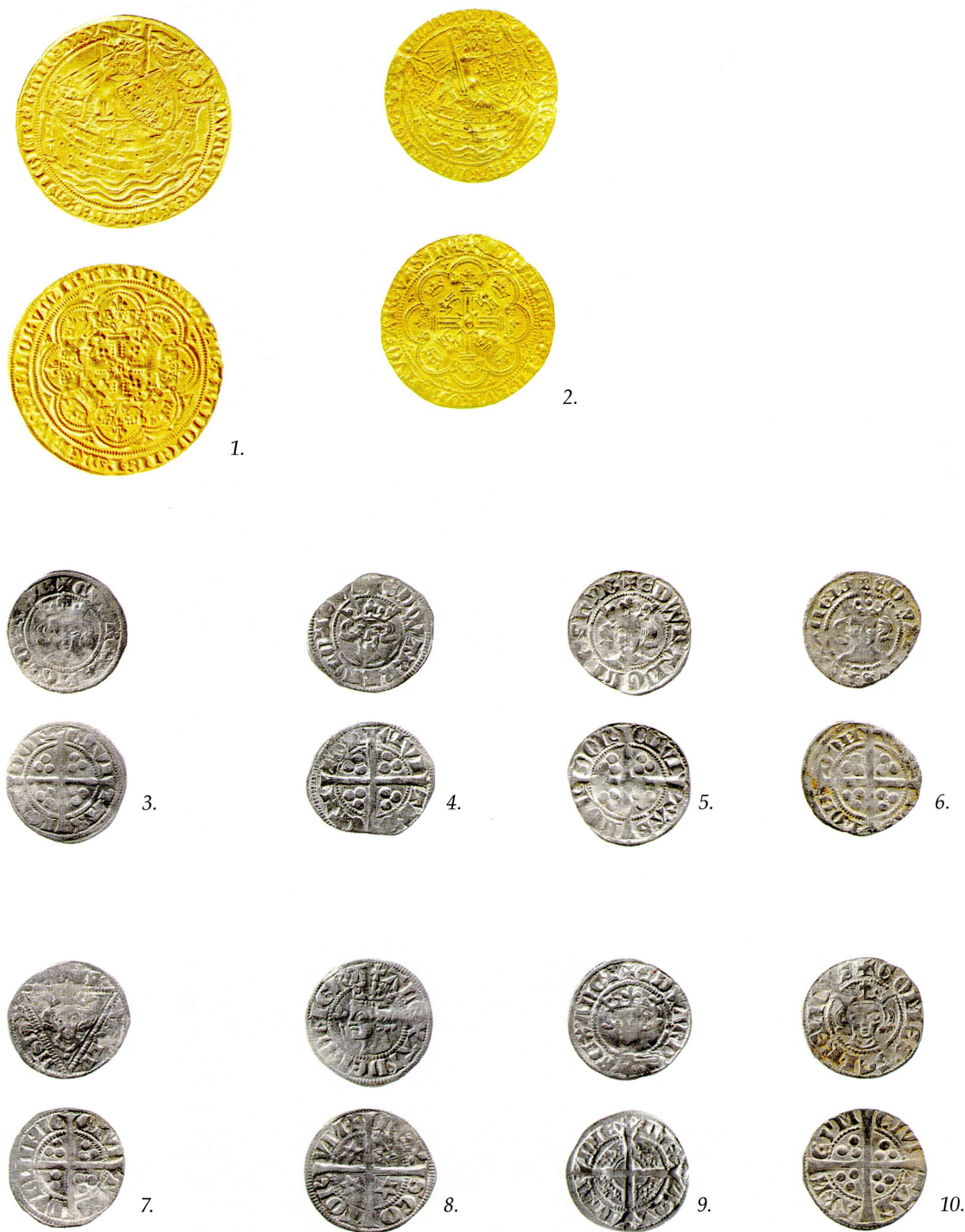


Plate 1. Coins from the hoard found at Chesterton Lane Corner. Obverse of each coin above reverse.

1st row:

1. Edward III (1327–1377), gold noble, 1353–c. 1355
2. Edward III, gold half noble, 1346–1351

2nd row:

3. Edward I (1272–1307), silver penny, 1279
4. Edward II (1307–1327), silver penny, c.1312–c.1314
5. Edward III, silver penny, 1344–1351
6. Edward III, silver penny, 1351–c.1352

3rd row:

7. Ireland, Edward I, silver penny
8. Scotland, Alexander III (1249–1286), silver sterling
9. Aquitaine, Edward III, silver sterling
10. Continental sterling, Renaud of Gelderland (1272–1326)



Plate 2a,b. A bronze pillar has been erected near the Chesterton Lane Corner site, depicting the stratified archaeological discoveries excavated here.



Plate 3. The excavation at Chesterton Lane Corner.



Plate 4. Work underway in the excavation at Chesterton Lane Corner.



Plate 5. Work in progress at Market Square, St Neots, showing some of the priory graves under excavation (viewed from the south-west).

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