Excavations in Park Street, Towcester

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SUMMARY

The Roman road from Towcester to Alchester, Dorchester and Silchester was located. Evidence for early Roman occupation, from at least cAD70, supports a military origin for the town. A significant find was a mount from an early scabbard chape. A possible public building constructed partly of stone, not fronting onto the road, dated from cAD75, and a possible extension to it in the early to mid 2nd century was associated with high quality tableware cAD150-170 (samian, glass and coarse ware vessels) from a pit. This was replaced by a smaller stone building. Later Roman finds were recovered, but not associated with any structure, though a range of timber buildings and then a cottage were built along the Roman road frontage. No Saxon or early medieval occupation was found and documentary evidence suggests a late medieval development of the Park Street frontage. In the late middle ages there were rubbish pits and drains back from the street frontage, and a boundary wall built over these provided support for a lean-to bakery. In the post medieval period clay pipes were made on or near the site probably by Joseph Kingston. Buildings on the Park Street frontage were only found for the post-medieval period.

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Department of the Environment the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit carried out a six-week rescue excavation in August and September 1976 on a site proposed for redevelopment in Park Street, Towcester. It is situated in the middle of the town, west of Watling Street, but well within the inferred line of the defences (FIG 1 A). It fronts onto Park Street, originally the medieval road from the town to Brackley and Oxford. The site thus provided a good opportunity to try and recover for the first time from a reasonable area in the centre of the town a stratigraphic sequence which might throw light on the town's origins and give new information on its late Roman and more particularly Saxon history, as well as its medieval and later development. It was already known from other observations that about 2m of deposits might be expected, and the initial trial trench confirmed that this was the case here, though its apparent quality (Section II, FIG 2) proved somewhat misleading.

The following brief summary of the archaeology and history of the town is derived from various secondary sources, notably a draft report on excavations on the western defences of the town by J Alexander, and Baker's *History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*. A more comprehensive survey should await the publication of other reports on excavations in the area.

Towcester is situated at the junction of two Roman roads, Watling Street running roughly north west to south east, and one to Alchester and Dorchester running south both of which are thought to have had military origins. The town is low-lying between the river Tove and one of its small tributaries to the south, whose crossings it controls. Its origin has been suggested as an early Roman military post (Frere in Rodwell and Rowley 1975, 5) but this has not been proved. 1st and 2nd century occupation material was found by J Alexander on the Grammar School site in 1954-6 and good quality 2nd century Roman finds have been recovered elsewhere in the town.

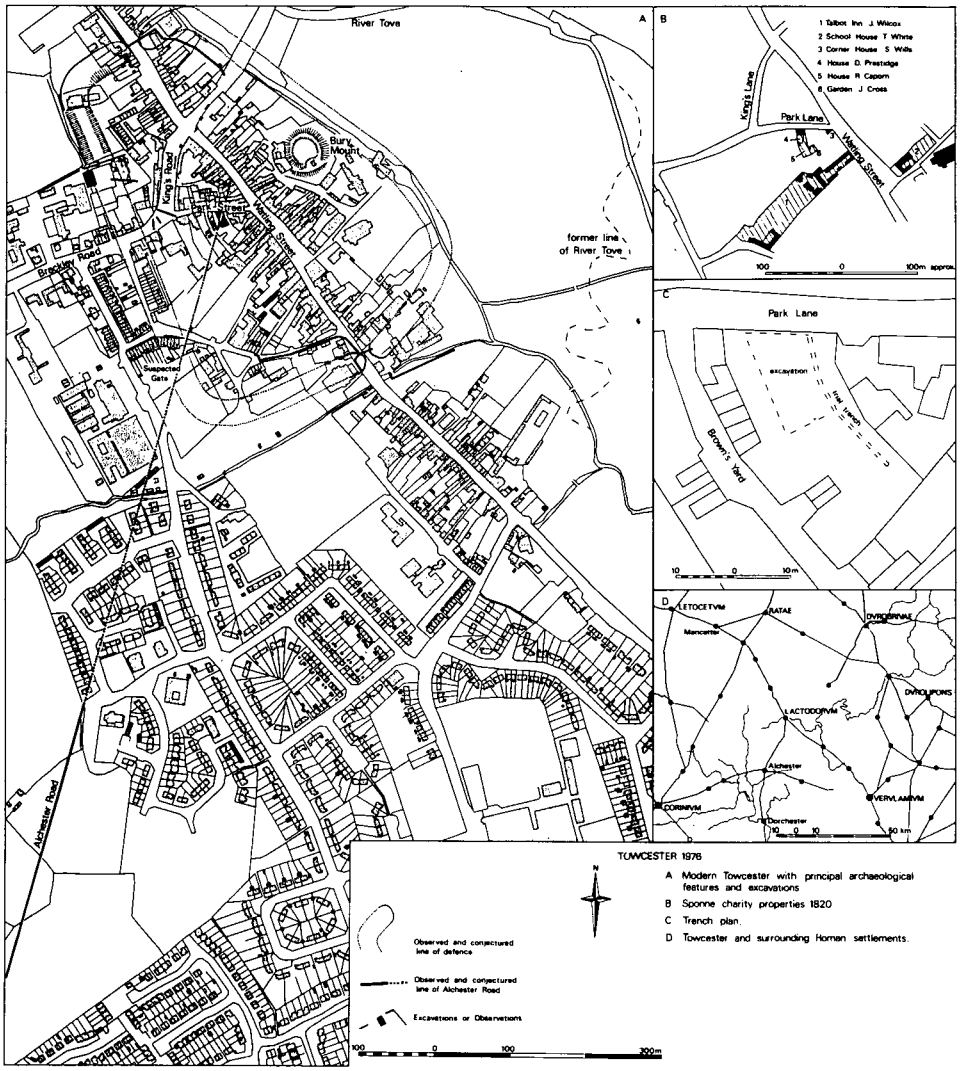

Fig. 1 Park Street, Towcester: location plans

It was defended in the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries, and occupation continuing to the 5th century was recorded by Dr Alexander. Outside the town 2nd to 4th century buildings and workshops have been excavated by Mr Mynard and Mr A E Brown south of the town on the Alchester road. Three cemeteries are mentioned by Dr Alexander north west and south of the town, all with an apparent date range of the 1st to 3rd or 4th centuries.

Nothing is known of the town in the 5th to 9th centuries, but in the 10th century it was fortified as a burgh on the Danelaw frontier by Edward the Elder. It is recorded that he 'occupied' the town rather than capturing it and the Anglo Saxon Chronicle also mentions that the 921 fortifications were of stone. These defences were observed by salvage work (Mrs Charmian Woodfield, pers comm). Very few traces of early medieval occupation have been found, but Bury Mount is probably an unrecorded post-conquest motte.

The town's commercial and social revival

must have begun before the late 13th century when there were disputes about encroachments on the market and assize privileges of Northampton. The development of an annual fair and weekly market in the 14th century are further evidence of the economic growth of the town. Further fairs were granted in the 16th and 17th centuries (Baker 1841, 314-321).

Towcester's position on Watling Street has always made it important, and in the middle ages its position on the Northampton–Oxford–Southampton trading route must have contributed to its commercial prosperity, though this must always have been limited by its proximity to Northampton. Its 18th and 19th centuries' prosperity probably relied on road traffic, perhaps evident in the number of coaching inns in the town.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost I am extremely grateful to the owner of the site, Mr Alibone, for allowing the excavation to take place and for depositing the finds in Northampton Museum. I would also like to thank Alan Hannan, the Northamptonshire County Archaeologist, for much of the organisation of the excavation, and Northamptonshire County Council for the loan of a site caravan. John Williams of Northampton Development Corporation assisted in our accommodation by arranging the lease of one of the Development Corporation's Archaeological hostels to house some of the volunteers.

I would like to thank Mr B C Hastings and the South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society for their help. One of the Society's members, Mr Peter Waddell kindly provided a print from a photograph of the Park Street frontage at the beginning of this century which he had discovered (reproduced here as PL6).

The hard work of the full time volunteers enabled the excavation to be completed on time, and I would particularly like to thank Bruce Cramond and Rob Bell, the supervisors, and Elizabeth Pepper, a very efficient Finds Assistant.

I am grateful to the various specialists listed on the title page for their reports, and to Sarah Watkins of the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University and Diana Friendship-Taylor of Northampton Museum for cleaning many of the finds beforehand. I would like to thank Mr P I King and the staff of the Northamptonshire County Record Office for their guidance and courtesy. Another important contribution has been made by Wendy Page who prepared the drawings with the help of Michael Burrell, Frances Rankine and the author. I am also grateful to Sarah Richardson for typing the report and to Tony Brown and others for their comments during the excavation and for reading and commenting on the report. I am especially grateful to Professor Sheppard Frere for discussing the interpretation of the Roman phases.

Thanks are due to Brian Davison and Tony Fleming of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Alan Hannan of Northamptonshire County Council and Tom Hassall and the Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee for their support and their co-operation which enabled the excavation to take place. The work was financed by the Department of the Environment, who also provided a large grant towards its publication.

THE EXCAVATION

METHODS AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

Initially a 27m long trial trench was dug by machine to natural along as much as possible of the eastern side of the site to assess the stratigraphy. The back of the site, which sloped up from the front, was covered by about 1 to 1.5m of overburden, much of it demolition material from the last houses on the street frontage. It was also clear that at least where the trench ran there was greater disturbance caused by modern pits at the back of the site. Near the front the depth of stratification was 1.8m and in the trial trench it appeared relatively undisturbed (Section II, FIG2). Time and resources did not permit total excavation, and it was decided to clear as much as possible of the front of the site (FIG1c). The section already provided by the trial trench was used as one side of the excavation to provide a guide to the stratigraphy. The southern limit was set where the overburden was reaching its maximum depth.

The modern rubble and soil overlying the site (L1), the fill of a modern pipe trench (F13), and part of a modern pit (F4) were removed by machine. The machine was also mistakenly allowed to dig into a number of archaeological deposits, including part of some road surfaces (L10, L105, L105/1), part of Pits 2 and 46, and some layers down to L84 in the south east corner

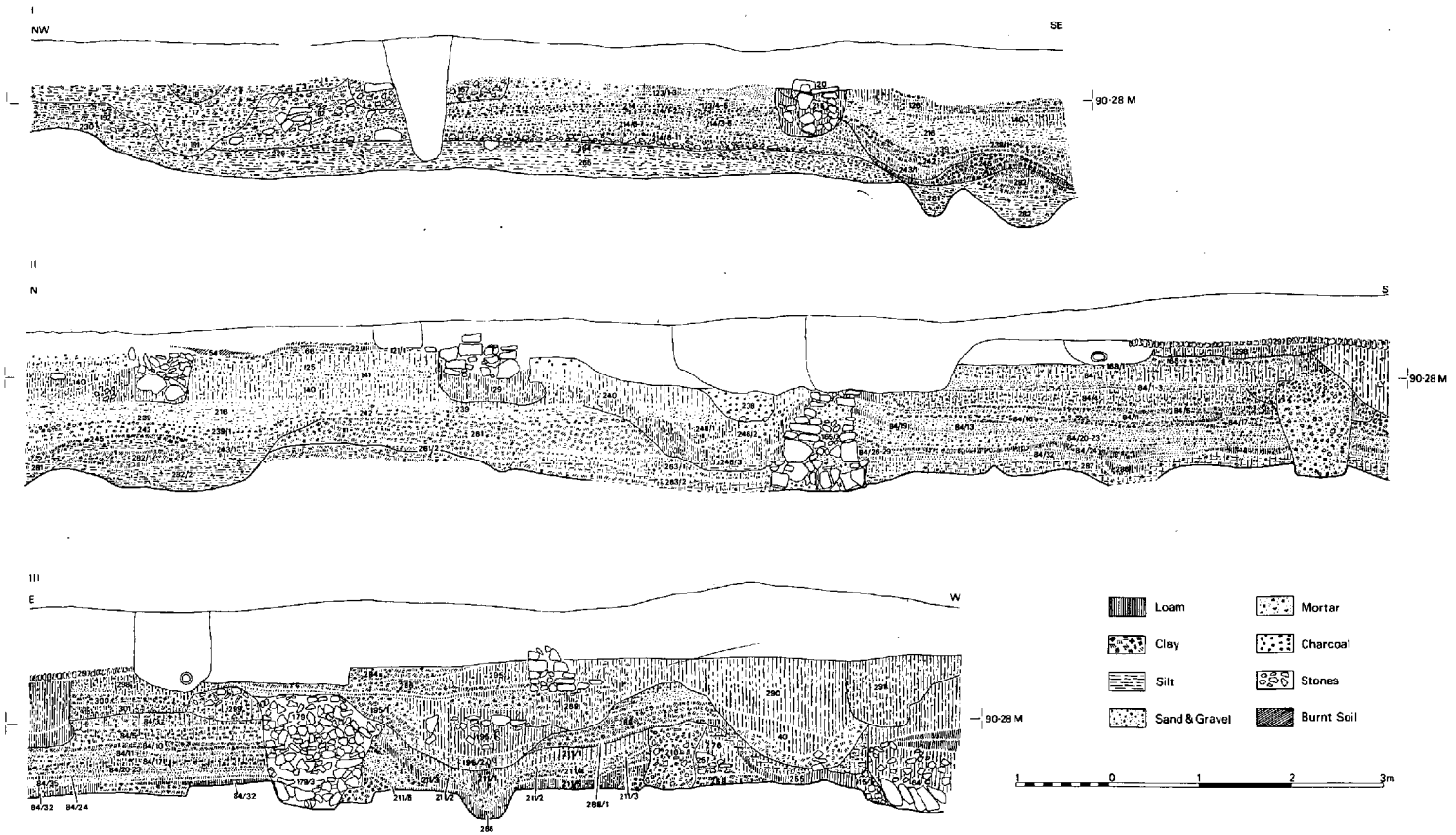

Fig. 2 Park Street, Towcester: main sections

of the site, but no important information seems to have been lost by this. The rest of the excavation was done by hand, taking the whole site down steadily, though not strictly phase by phase. The phasing was established retrospectively using a flow diagram of the stratigraphy and the dating evidence.

With one or two exceptions only the main sections were drawn (FIG 2). Their positions are shown on the phase plans. Levels were recorded for the more important features. The numbering system is a simple running sequence with suffix numbers for layers within features. All the original material is to be deposited with Northamptonshire County Council; microfiche copies will be available from the National Monuments Record, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1.

The report gives the description and interpretation of the site phase by phase, with a section of more general conclusions and discussion after the finds and other specialist reports.

PHASE 1; early to mid 1st century

The first traces of human occupation consisted of shallow scoops in the natural clay (F263, F284, F286), each 200-300mm deep and containing grey silty clay and charcoal. At the bottom of F263 there was a layer of reddish brown silty loam. Possibly belonging to this phase, preceded stratigraphically only by natural soil, were the edge of a feature (F275) filled with blue grey silty clay (possibly natural) cut by F266 (Phase 2), and a layer of charcoal (L261/1) overlaid by L261 (Phase 4a). Pottery from F263, F284 and F286 suggests a date in the 1st century AD, but the number of datable sherds was small, and they span a fairly wide time-scale (see p 84). The phase must be early to mid 1st century because of the dating of Phases 3/4a.

The reason for these scoops and their purpose are obscure, but there is no reason to associate them with any form of permanent settlement on the site.

PHASE 2 (FIG 3); mid 1st century

Very few features survive from this phase, and they cannot be shown definitely to be later than Phase 1. A steep sided, flat bottomed slot running north south (F266) had two pairs of stakeholes in the bottom (F273 and F274) and a row of three larger ones, clearly formed by split poles, on each side (F267-F272). Parallel to this, 0.8m to the west was a 0.5m wide band of mottled yellow and grey silty clay (F211/6) with two pairs of post holes in it (F248 and F249), one of them apparently set in a rectangular patch of yellow clay (L248/1). No dating evidence was recovered from these features.

The slot was probably a timber lined drain, and the larger stakes either side would have supported some wooden superstructure, possibly for a latrine or simply a floor; the layers above (L211/5-211/1, Section III, FIG 2) collapsed when the timber rotted. The band of clay and postholes might be the remains of a wall built of upright posts with an infilling of cob or clay lump (Frere 1972, 6-9). These features were immediately inside the robbed west wall of a stone building of the next phase (Building 2) but they cannot be associated with it if the interpretation of F211/6 etc as a wall is correct, and these features were in any case sealed by the collapsed layers which probably belonged to Building 2. (See p 44 and Section III).

There must therefore have been an earlier timber building (Building 1). From the dating of Phases 1 and 3-4 it probably belongs to the mid 1st century (see p 44). The exact position, plan and function of the buildings are not clear from these slight traces.

PHASE 3 (FIG 3); third quarter of 1st century

The timber structures of Phase 2 (Building 1) were replaced by a new stone building (Building 2) of which one 3m length of wall and one corner survived within the excavation (F165/3 and F251). Its west wall was marked by a robber trench reused as a drain (F210). Its extent to the east is not known, but to the south a possible robber trench or wall was observed in the trial trench about 10m from the north wall. The north west corner formed an obtuse angle rather than being square (the angle is that of a regular pentagon). The foundations incorporated possible strengthening points at the north west corner and in Section II. The footings of F165/3 consisted of a course of reasonably large pitched stones overlying rubble, above which the stones were fairly consistent in size and laid in regular courses well mortared together. The wall was only 0.4m wide and the core was filled with small stones and tile fragments (PL 1).

The stones on the north (external) face of the wall were weathered, and the mortar had been washed from between them to a depth of *c*30mm. On the inside the mortar was flush with the stones

and there was a long sequence of mortar, clay or gravel floors. The lowest of these layers must belong to this phase, but since the building clearly lasted until the end of phase 4 all the layers will be dealt with there. The interpretation of the building is also best left until its relationship with other features has been described (see p 44).

PHASE 4 (FIGS 3 and 4); last quarter of 1st to first quarter of 2nd century

The division between Phases 3 and 4 is tenuous. It was originally made because the dumping of spoil (L261 and 259) against the north wall of Building 2, possibly from the construction of a road running north east to south west, seemed to imply that the road post-dated the construction of Building 2. The stratigraphy is not easy to interpret, however, and there is no single straightforward explanation of the sequence, though it has been divided into Phases 4a and 4b on the basis of a slight rearrangement of ditches during the phase.

Beneath the metalled surfaces of the road in phase 4a was a build-up of fairly clean uniform silty soil with some clay and fine sand (L264 and L265) overlying the natural clay subsoil. This occurred only beneath the road. The silty layers occupied a hollow between the artificial bank formed by Layers 261 and 259 packed against Building 2 on the east and a rise in the level of the natural clay on the west (Sections I and II, FIG 2). The layers beneath the metalling cannot be explained as a pre-existing road because the surface of the natural clay beneath the silt was very level, apparently undisturbed, and with no trace of metalling, while the silt had the appearance of an undisturbed soil, humic at the top and with distinct horizons which would not occur in thick mud churned up by the passage of traffic. The profile of the natural clay in Section I perhaps suggests that the ground was excavated to create a firm level platform for the construction of the road. Such an operation might have destroyed any trace of an earlier road. The spoil dug out would have formed the bulk of the thick and extensive layer of redeposited natural yellow clay (L261 and 259) dumped against Building 2. Ditch 282 may have been part of the work. But if the silt accumulated naturally it would represent a period of delay in the construction of the metalled road, but this is unlikely because the alignment of the road (FIG 1) suggests that it was the main road south to Alchester, Dorchester and Silchester, a military route of some importance (Frere in Rodwell and Rowley 1975, 5) and it is unlikely that a long delay would have been allowed. The silty layers could be interpreted as decayed turves from a silty soil, and as such part of the construction of the road. But it is still possible that this soil does represent the old ground surface, which survived only under the road purely by coincidence, while the spoil packed against Building 2 does not have to have been produced by the original road building if the roadside ditch was a later addition.

The lowest layer of road metalling (L214/11) was a hardcore foundation of rough, largish stones (up to *c*350mm across) (Section I, FIG 2). It was overlaid by fairly soft orange gravel (L214/10) and hard packed dark brown loamy gravel (L214/9), probably the lowest actual road surface. Above this were further layers of sand and gravel, sometimes mixed with silt, which formed the basis of further surfaces, with occasional layers of hard packed laminated gritty silt, clearly caused by the constant passage of traffic (L214/8 and L214/3). Two particularly good surfaces survived, both consisting of small round cobbles (*c*40mm diameter) closely set in an even and very uniform layer over the road (L214/2 and L214). They were separated by another layer of hard greenish grey laminated gritty silt. The upper surface (L214) was exposed over the whole length of the road found in the excavation (PL 2), whereas all the lower layers were excavated only in a 2m wide section (FIG 3). L214 made a hard smooth surface which had required little patching, though distinct ruts had been impressed in it by the passage of carts.

Above the cobbles were further surfaces, but none was of such good quality. Layer 214 was again overlaid by grey-green gritty silt (L123/6 and L218) and the surface was cut by a small ?posthole filled with similar material (F217). The silt was covered by orange sand and gravel (L123/5), compacted grey to orange silt and sand (L123/4), and further layers of stone and gravel (L123/7 and L123/2) and compacted sandy gravel (L123/3 and L123/1). Above this was hard packed flinty gravel (L123 and L178). The phasing of all the layers above L214 is doubtful: their position in relation to the ditch fills (see below) suggests that they belong to this phase, and the samian from layers 214/8, 218 and 123/2 suggests that most of this sequence of road

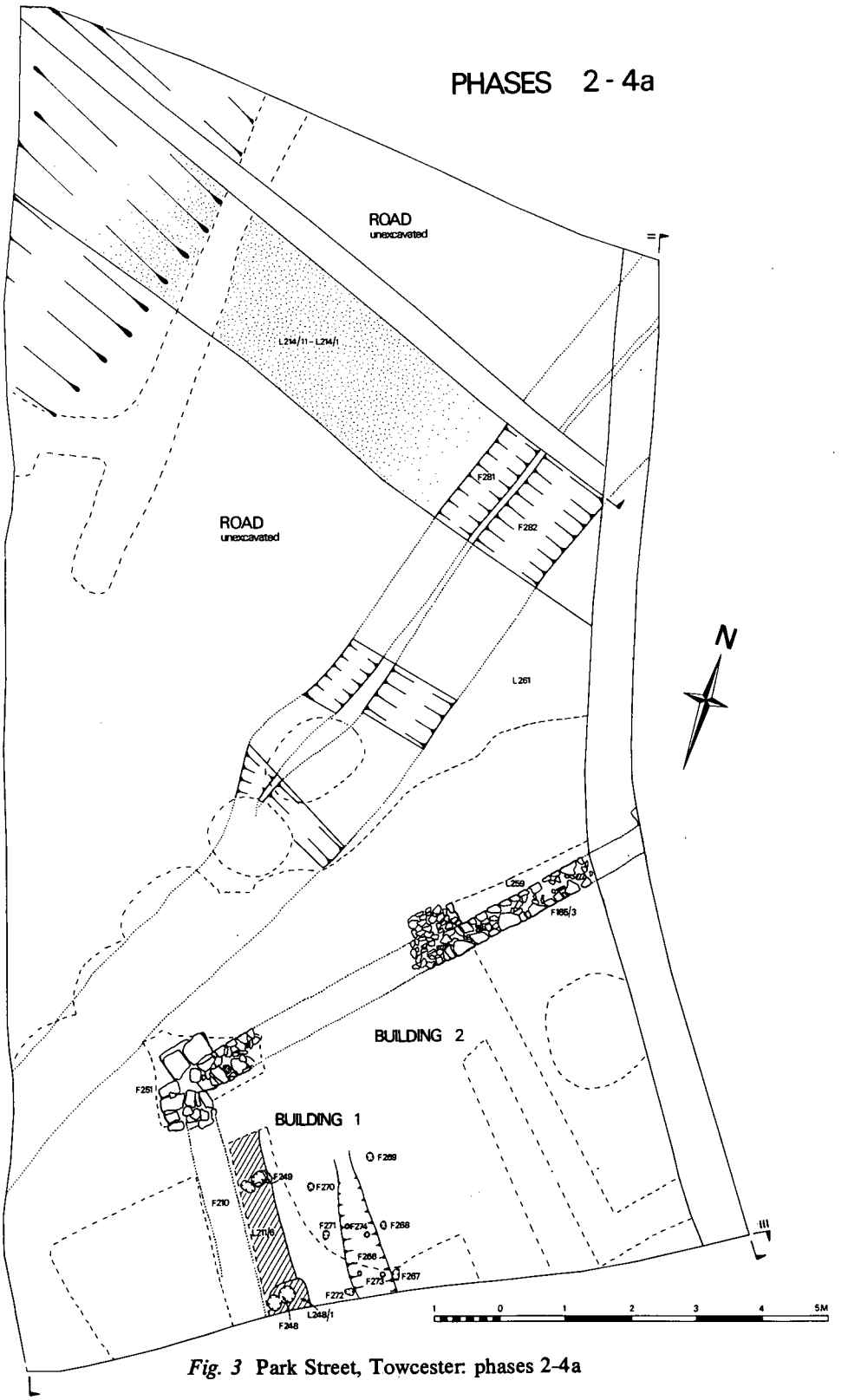

Fig. 3 Park Street, Towcester: phases 2-4a

surfaces belongs to the period from before AD85 until *c*AD140 (see p 72), which appears to conform with the sequence of ditch fills (see below). However, a late Roman minim was recovered from L123/6, the silt immediately above Layer 214, and it is doubtful whether this could have been intrusive, though a couple of later postholes cut from L123 make it possible.

The eastern roadside ditch had been redug a few times before completely filling up, and this sequence can be related more or less to some of the road resurfacing. Ditch 281 was filled with silty grey clay and from the line of the layers in Section I (FIG2) it may have been kept open until road surface 214/6 was laid down. The fairly thick compact layer of orange sandy gravel above L214/6 (L214/5-L214/3) had probably accumulated on the top of the ditch but would have been removed when it was recut. The new cut formed a sort of double ditch, and along its eastern side a row of stakes (F254) mostly *c*150mm in diameter, had been driven about 600mm into Layer 261 (PL3). They were set close together, not as a palisade but possibly as a result of replacement. From several the pointed ends of the stakes were recovered. At the southern end they cut the fill of F282, but all were sealed by the fill of the later recuts (other than F281). They were thus probably contemporary either with F281 or with the cutting of the double ditch. The latter became filled with greyish yellow clay (L245) followed by another recut, forming a steep side to the road, which silted up with dark purplish grey sticky clay-loam with charcoal flecks (L243/1) and soft greenish clay-loam (L243). This cut may have been contemporary with the upper cobbled road surface (L214). Further silting occurred with the accumulation of more purplish grey greasy clay (L242, perhaps corresponding to L123/4 on the road) by which time the ditch had become wide and shallow with an undulating bottom. The samian from F281 was dated AD65-85, that from 243/1 was *c*100-120 (see p 72). The gradual silting was followed by deliberate backfilling with stones and gravel (L239/1 and L239, possibly equivalent to L123/7) overlain by a thick layer of coarse orange sandy silt (L216 and L119/1), very similar to L123 on the road. By this stage the ditch had become little more than a fairly shallow drop of *c*400mm at the side of the road. Most of the layers were traced for about 10m from the front of the site, but further south had almost entirely been destroyed by later disturbances.

A new stage of development (Phase 4b) was marked by the digging of a new ditch (F246) parallel to the north wall of Building 2, running towards the road perhaps to turn southwards beside it. It cut through the spoil (L261 and 259) banked up against wall 165/3, removing it entirely at Section II where there was a projecting strengthening point or buttress. The new ditch was fairly wide (1.4m) and shallow (0.6m) containing sticky grey green clayey loam and charcoal flecks at the bottom (L246/3) dated AD100-120 by the samian. This was indistinguishable from the soil (L140 and L240) which accumulated in this and the next phase above the now defunct roadside ditch (Section II). L140 incorporated several layers and lenses, one of which (L126) probably covered the top-most road surface so far described (L123) and contained samian of AD100-120. Above L123 was a layer of large, worn rounded cobbles, but it is even less clear to which phase this surface belonged.

The western roadside ditch was more of an amorphous scoop with no clear sequence of recuttings. It was impossible to distinguish between the silt at the bottom of this ditch (L227) and some of the silt beneath the road (L229), but it contained Hadrianic/Antonine samian. A layer of sandy gravel and stones (L230) beneath L227 on its western side possibly resulted from preparatory work for the road or subsequent dumping in the ditch. It contained a piece of Flavian/Vespasianic samian. The remaining fill was silty clay with large stones (L192) overlying some of the upper road surfaces (L218 and L214). The ditch must thus have been kept open longer than the individual cuts on the eastern side. Its fill was cut by a new ditch which in turn silted up with orange to grey silty clay (L191 and L17), but this contained Antonine pottery suggesting it belonged to Phase 5.

The final area to be considered for this phase is the interior of Building 2 (Section II). The lowest layers (which may belong to Phase 3) were charcoally black loam (L84/32, 84/29-84/26 and 84/24) with red brown gravelly clay-loam between them (L84/33) and streaks of iron panning. Layer 84/32 was cut by a small rectangular pit (L84/31) containing brown-grey silt overlaid by grey green clay and yellow clay, all with traces of burning. This was overlaid by

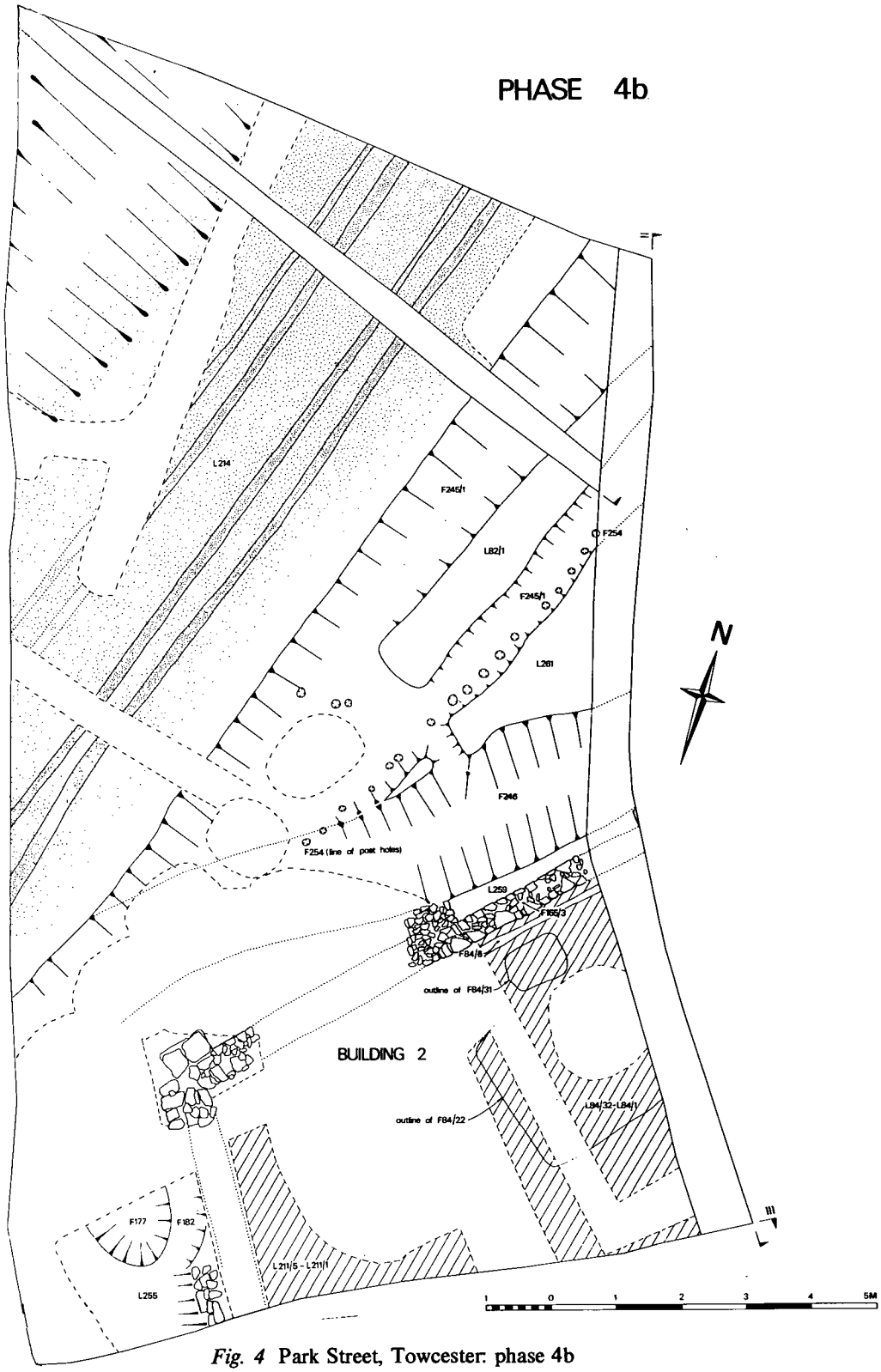

Fig. 4 Park Street, Towcester: phase 4b

L84/24 and fragmentary layers of mortar spread in thin skims, representing the first proper floor (L84/23). The mortar was cut by a much larger rectangular pit (F84/22) containing mottled orange to green-grey sticky clay flecked with charcoal. It was sealed by a further series of hard, but fragmentary, mortar skims (L84/21) and a more substantial mortar floor (L84/20). All these layers sloped up against Wall 165/3. Above this were greenish brown loam (L84/19); a thick layer of orange gravel and mortar (L84/18 and L84/13); heavy red brown clay (L84/17); a patch of indifferent cobbling (L84/14); lenses of black or grey loam (L84/15 and L84/12), and a floor consisting of rough cobbles covered by mortar (L84/16 and L84/11). This was overlaid by a thick mixed clay layer (L84/10, L84/8 and L84/5), more gravelly, loamy reddish clay (L84/4) and sandy red brown clay (L84/7). Two small slots only *c*100mm wide ran parallel to and *c*200mm inside Wall 165/3 (F84/9 and, above it, F84/6). Sealing these slots and Layer 84/7 were further sandy clay layers (L84/3 and L84/2), and a sandy layer (84/1).

None of the layers above L84/13 and L84/18 was stratigraphically related to Wall 165/3 because of a Phase 5 wall on the same line, but all the layers up to L84/1 were below the top of the foundations of the later building (see Robber Trench 83 in Section II) and many extended outside its area.

To the west later features had caused serious disturbance and the layers could not be followed through except in the south section of the excavation (Section III), and even so the layers are problematical. The deposits (L211/5 to 211/1) were similar to the lower part of the F84 sequence, but could not be matched up positively, especially as they had apparently collapsed into the earlier timber lined slot (F266). The lowest layer (F211/5) was dark brown loam, which filled Slot 266; it was overlaid by a thick patch of yellow sand and gravel east of F266 (L211/7); overlaid by purplish red-brown to grey silt (L211/8); grey clay west of F266 (L211/4); dark brown clay-loam to the east (L211/3); yellow sandy mortar (L211/2); and finally reddish clayey gravel (L211/1). The dating of the samian from 211/5 was not certain.

Possibly belonging to this phase were two small pits (F182 and F77) just outside the western end of Building 2, together with clayey and loamy layers (L258, L257 and L276) cut away by a shallow scoop, again filled with loamy soil (L255; Section II). From L258 Hadrianic/early Antonine samian was recovered. These deposits were earlier than the robbing of Building 4 (Phase 5) and being inside it are likely to belong to the earlier phase.

Dating evidence is more secure for Phases 3-4: apart from Flavian samian, 1st century brooches were found in lowest layers in Building 2 (L84/29 and 84/27), and a Julio-Claudian brooch was found in the spoil banked up against the outside of the building (L259). Ditch 243/1 produced a coin of Vespasian (AD71). The ditch alongside Building 2 produced another 1st century brooch and the pottery from L246/3, L140 and other contexts suggests an early 2nd century date for the later part of the phase. Cross-joins in the glass from Layers 84/11 and L246/3 to Pit 176 in Phase 5 (see below) suggest that the upper layers in Building 2 belong to the next phase, indicating an extension to the Building rather than its replacement as thought in the original phasing.

It is clear from the stratigraphy and samian that Building 2 was constructed some time before *c*AD85 by when Ditch 281 had apparently filled up, and this is consistent with the early brooches. Phase 2, if it represents Roman settlement, must thus be just post-conquest.

The function of Building 2 is not clear from the small portion excavated: few finds were recovered and there was little evidence of internal fittings or decoration. The two rectangular pits are difficult to explain; they were not baths, and though they might have held tanks, other interpretations are possible and they do not help to explain the nature of the building. The slots just inside Wall 165/3 may indicate some sort of panelling or wall cladding, but there was no other evidence for this. Structurally, the building seems to have been quite large and of good quality: it was probably built of stone at least to first floor level, and possibly had small buttresses or pilasters, though the evidence for these (the projecting footings) was fragmentary. These characteristics strongly suggest, at this early date, that it was a public building and the wall projections and the angle of the north west corner of the building might suggest that it was the *temenos* wall of a polygonal temple. The need for refloorings (probably due to dampness aggravated by the high ground level and drainage ditch immediately outside the north

wall) would not be inconsistent with such an interpretation, but the nature of changes exhibited by the next structural phase, after only perhaps 50 or 70 years, makes the suggestion unlikely. It is more reasonable to suppose that it was part of a *mansio* or bath house, though again there is no positive evidence for either.

The road had already been resurfaced and its eastern ditch redug by *c*AD85 (cf samian from L214/8 and F281) confirming its early origin. It was clearly kept in good repair by constant resurfacing: the upper cobbled surface (L214) had not been allowed to become cut about by traffic although the ruts show that it was used by heavily laden carts (PL2). The preservation of the road surfaces was probably assisted by keeping the roadside ditches clear, and it was not until a fairly late stage in the build-up of the road that they ceased to be cleaned out. The deliberate back-filling of the eastern ditch (L239/1 and L239) may simply be spoil shovelled aside during road repairs when there was no longer any attempt to keep the ditch clear. The new ditch dug alongside Building 2 may have become necessary when the roadside ditch no longer provided drainage, but could also have marked a property boundary. The area between this ditch and the road might be envisaged as a garden or back yard, separated from the road for a time by a fence (F254).

PHASE 5 (FIG 5); *c*AD140 –
late 2nd or early 3rd century

Phase 5 is probably a misnomer for the amalgamation of the last stages of Phases 3-4 and a genuinely separate building phase. Parts of two buildings were found: Building 4 now seems, on the basis of glass cross-joins to be an addition to Building 2; Building 3 certainly replaced Building

West of Building 2 part of another building (Building 4) was found between it and the road. Its presumed west wall (Robber Trench 15/1) did not form a frontage on the road but was at right-angles to the north wall of which part survived (F183). Apart from this corner the robber trenches were difficult to interpret. If a complete new building succeeding Building 2 were envisaged (FIG5), it would appear that the north wall robber trench (F113/1) was re-used by Drain 210 which had followed first the west wall of Building 2 and then turned east (as F210/1) on the same line as F113/1 (only just surviving at the bottom of Pit 154). Positive evidence for an eastern wall was perhaps destroyed by a straight-sided trench filled with loose rubble (F179). This had a void near the bottom (F179/2) over a small pit (F179/3) and appeared to be another form of drain or soakaway. The location of these walls was thus extremely uncertain and it seems more likely that Building 4 was only an extension to Building 2 (see below).

No floors survived in Building 4 because of later disturbances. Outside its north west corner, possibly contemporary with its construction, was a roughly square well built of large stone blocks (F176/5). Although at the bottom the stones abutted Wall 183, one stone possibly *in situ* on the course above suggested the well may have been partly keyed to the wall. The shaft was *c*1.0m square but not very deep, reaching about 1.6m below the probable contemporary ground surface. The fill (L176/6) was waterlogged mottled greenish grey gritty clay with some oyster shell and much stone, which probably fell in when the well was demolished (section, FIG6). The water level at the time of excavation (only 3 weeks after the end of the great 1976 drought) reached *c*400mm above the bottom of the well. Samian from the fill of the well provides the best date for the beginning of the phase, of *c*AD100-145.

Later in this phase the well was abandoned and robbed (probably to the original water level), and the resulting pit (F176 and F94) was used to throw away many glass and pottery vessels, mostly nearly complete, which may represent most of a set of mid 2nd century tableware (see pp 63, 73, 90 and PL 4). Cross-joins of two almost complete glass vessels from this pit with fragments from Floor layer 84/11 in Building 2 are good evidence for Building 4 and the well simply being an addition to Building 2.

Pit 176 cut an earlier one (F209) which contained Hadrianic to Antonine samian. Pit 209 was cut by another (Pit 204) of similar date, and beside Robber Trench 113/1, two further pits (F53/3 and the fragmentary F65) were cut by the robber trench (F113/1) and must originally have been dug down the side of Wall 183. This also applies to Pit 176, and the relationship is confirmed by F176 containing well dated mid 2nd century pottery whereas Robber Trenches 113/1 and 15/1 had some late Roman pottery as well as residual sherds from Pit 176. The well was thus probably demolished before the building, though

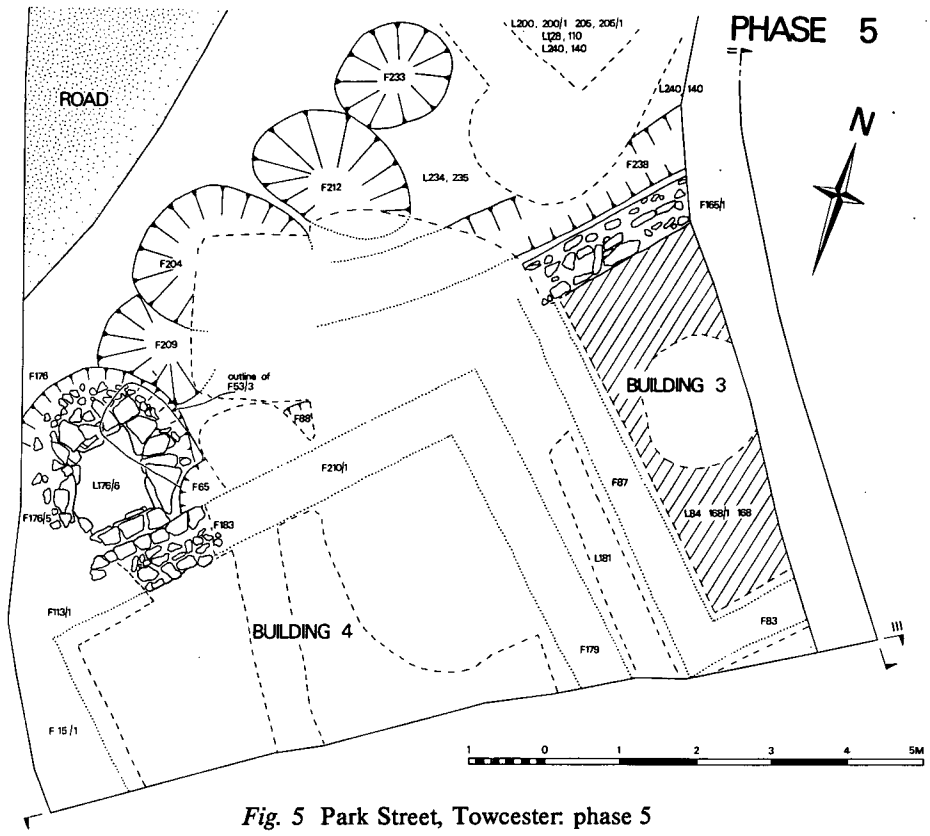

Fig. 5 Park Street, Towcester: phase 5

it is conceivable that the footings were robbed some time after the walls were pulled down. The phasing of Pit 88, is unclear.

The only trace of the demolition of Building 2 was a layer of rubble and orange mortary gravel (L246/2) on the south side of the ditch parallel to Wall 165/3, probably material which could not be re-used. The new wall of Building 3 (F165/1) was constructed on top of F165/3, but was narrower and less well built, with more irregular stones and soft pale yellow gravelly mortar. It was the only part of the building which survived *in situ,* but the robber trenches of the west and south walls (F87 and F83) showed that it was much smaller than its predecessor. Wall 165/3 was used as a foundation on the north side, and for the other walls foundations had been dug through the underlying floors of Building 2. A narrowing of the tops of the robber trenches (to about the width of F165/1) showed that there had been expanded footings extending *c*100mm on either side (Section II). The footings had been robbed out from beneath three floor layers which had respected the walls, and clearly belonged to this building. These were orange clay mixed with brown loam and some gravel (L84), overlaid by a thin skin of mortar (L168/1) and orange sandy clay (L168). Their relationship to Wall 165/1 had been destroyed by later disturbances (Section II).

The ditch just north of the building continued in use, gradually silting up with greenish brown loam (L246/1 and 236/1), very similar to L246/3. It contained early samian which must largely have been residual (cf 246/3). Layer 246/1 may have spread out to the north as part of L240, although this layer appeared stratigraphically to be a continuation of L246/3 (see above and Section II) and contained largely late 1st to early 2nd century pottery. Although L240 was thus assigned to Phase 4, it may have continued to accumulate, or was disturbed, in Phase 5, suggested by a samian stamp of AD160-200 and a Rhenish ware beaker of *c*150-250. Ditch 246/1

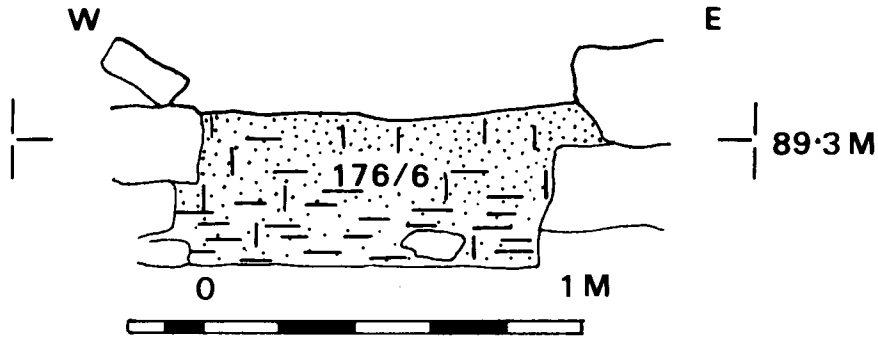

Fig. 6 Park Street, Towcester: wall 176/6 (section)

was cut by a smaller gully (F238) on the same line which became deeper towards the west where it was cut by Pit 154. It was not picked up further west. This new gully became filled with mortary brown loam and stones, which was overlaid by a further spread of mortary loam (L234 and L235). Further north considerable disturbance had been caused by later features (F129, F35 etc) but there were various layers of clayey loam mostly yellowish green or grey brown flecked with charcoal (L200, L200/1, L231) which included ashy layers (L205 and L205/1) and small amorphous pits or holes containing dark greenish grey clayey loam (F206, F207). These deposits overlay L240 and contained late 2nd century coarse wares though earlier samian. There were two later pits north of Building 2 (F212 and F233). All the pits in this area were similar in size (1.6m to 2.2m across and about 1.2m deep), and they were all close to the edge of the road, and cut the silted up ditches of Phase 4. All contained greenish yellow or grey brown crumbly clay-loam, sometimes slightly gravelly and, in F176, with much iron panning. The top of F212 was exceptional in containing black charcoally loam with a large quantity (3 sackfuls) of burnt daub; nails; and pottery which had been burnt after it was broken, presumably the débris from a fire in a timber building. Pit 212 cut the mortary layers (L234 and L235) outside Building 3, and both it and Pit 233 were later than Pit 176, though probably still 2nd century (see p 73 and 75).

Other pits possibly belonging to this phase include to the north F213, which was fairly shallow, filled with mortary charcoal flecked loam, and cut L234.

Finally there were a number of deposits probably belonging to this phase for which the stratigraphy is not entirely secure. The most definite was a layer of soft crumbly greenish yellow mortar and clay (L128 and L110) containing much late 2nd century pottery (see p 86). It sealed two small amorphous holes containing black clayey loam (F198 and F199). Superficially similar to this was L121 and L121/1, but these contained little pottery and partly overlay a layer of greenish grey brown loam (L125) which contained one medieval sherd, possibly intrusive from a post medieval layer immediately above. All these layers were north of Building 3 in an area much cut about by later disturbance. Just west of Building 3 was a layer of greenish brown loam (L181) but no dating evidence was recovered from it. Two small pits (F154/8 and F154/9) in the bottom of a large medieval pit (F154, see FIG8) contained pottery of the right period, but their location and stratigraphical position made their phasing uncertain. The western roadside ditch (F17) probably silted up in this phase since it contained Antonine samian.

"Phase 5", on the evidence of the glass, thus probably spans the end of one building phase and the whole of another. The sequence and dating within the phase remains unchanged, however, and so there has been no attempt to split up the finds into new phases.

Building 4 seems to be an extension to Building 2, and the well, which is apparently integral with its construction can be suggested as the reason: the return wall of Building 4 creates only a small, tapering room west of the main part of Building 2 which can reasonably be envisaged as a well house.

The finds from Pit 176 at first sight appear to be the tableware of one household, a fairly

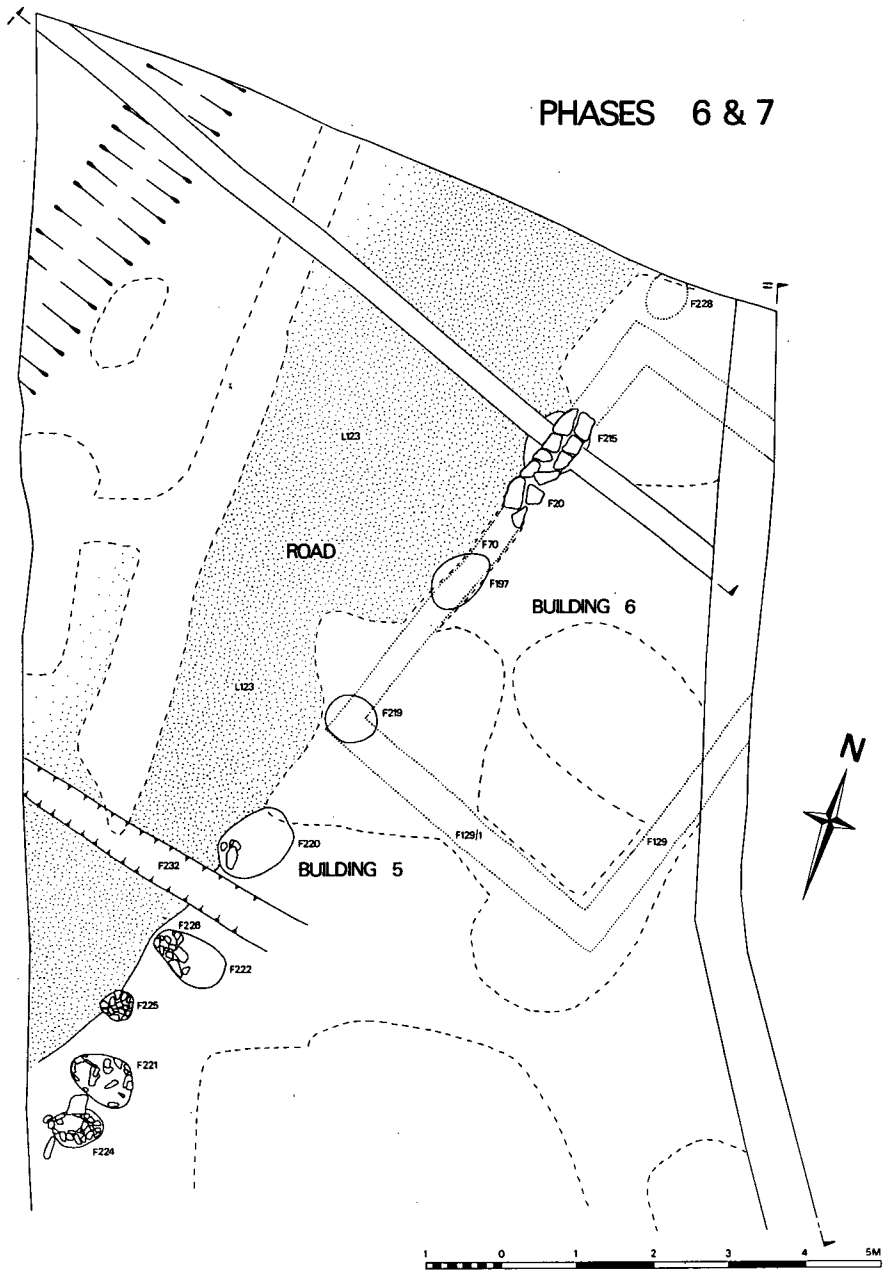

Fig. 7 Park Street, Towcester: phases 6 and 7

wealthy one judging by the very high proportion of glass and samain. The cross joins in glass vessels between this assemblage and fragments from one of the upper floors in Building 2, however, provide a direct connexion between the two. Although this may indicate that Building 2 was domestic, the early date of this stone structure still argues against it. In any case it is not impossible for a good set of tableware to have been used in a public building such as a *mansio* or other official residential building.

Building 3 certainly seems to have had stone walls because of the expanded footings evident in Robber Trenches 83 and 87. This building would appear to be smaller than Building 2, though its extent outside the trench is unknown. It may have replaced Building 2, but perhaps was a partial rebuilding and subdivision of it since the suggested extension, Building 4, was possibly not demolished till some time in the third or fourth century, apparently some while after Building 3's construction. In general, the scrappiness of the structural evidence for this phase (and the next two) make their interpretation extremely difficult: that offered is not conclusive.

The area to the north of the buildings probably remained back yards or gardens. The road must have continued in use: although no resurfacings can positively be attributed to this phase (see p 42), the pottery from the western roadside ditch (F17) indicates that it was still silting up at this period.

PHASE 6 (FIG 7); 3rd or 4th century

Buildings 4 and possibly 3 were demolished (Phase 6a) and a new timber building was erected on the street frontage (Building 5) (Phase 6b). When this change occurred is doubtful: Robber Trenches 113/1 and 15/1-2 contained 3rd to 4th century pottery which was not closely datable, and in any case this robbing might only represent the removal of the footings some time after the building above ground had been demolished.

The evidence for the new timber building was only a row of post settings along the edge of the Roman road; there were no associated features and no clearly contemporary dating evidence. Seven post settings were found (from the north F228, F215, F197, F219, F220, F222, F221). They were fairly evenly spaced at around 2.1m intervals, and were fairly uniform in size (*c*600-800mm across) with a filling of fairly loose stones and loam, surviving to a maximum depth of *c*500-600mm. One of the post settings (F222) had been cut by a smaller posthole lined with packing stones (F226), and another (F224) may also be later. The main settings were clearly foundations for posts bearing weight rather than moment and this is the main reason for interpreting them as part of a building. No other convincing evidence of the structure survived though one other small post setting (F225) could also belong to this phase. It would not be surprising if evidence of other post settings or cill beams had been destroyed by later disturbances: the surviving post settings had been protected by being so close to the road which was too hard to have been extensively disturbed. The small postholes may have been for replacement posts used to repair the building.

The width and length of the building are unknown, and there is no evidence of its usage. Possibly it was a row of shops or small tenements. Its date is also unclear, especially as there were no datable Roman features which were stratigraphically later. The suggestion that it is Roman is based largely on its apparent character rather than on any direct evidence. Only early Roman pottery was recovered from the post settings but this is likely to have been entirely residual.

PHASE 7 (FIG 8); possibly late Roman

This phase was represented by only one contemporary feature, a narrow stone footing for Building 6 (F20) of which only one course survived. It ran parallel to the road and sealed two of the post settings of Phase 6 (Section I). The plan of the southern part of the building was revealed by lengths of robber trench, partly recut as drains leading into a sump (F70, F129, F129/1, F129/2), and by a surviving piece of footing in the trial trench section (Section II). There were no associated floors or dating evidence, and the re-use of the robber trenches would have destroyed evidence of when it was demolished. Possibly it was late Roman, but only because it followed so precisely the line of Building 5; which itself was not well dated.

Another robber trench or drain (F232) possibly belongs to this phase, since it cut a Phase 5 pit (F212) but was covered at its east end by L119 which was cut elsewhere by Phase 8 features. It also cut the road (L123) at right angles, presumably preventing its continued use. Its date is not known.

Layers 119 and 160 were fairly extensive

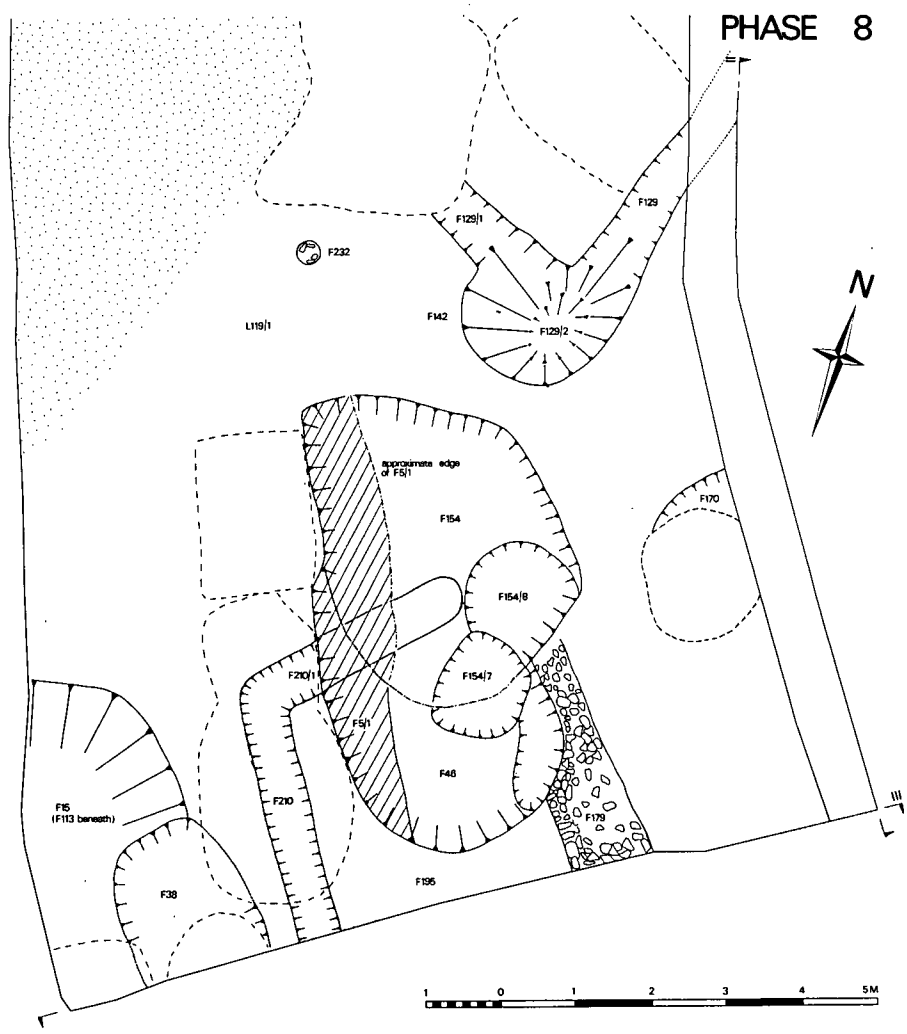

Fig. 8 Park Street, Towcester, phase 8

deposits of yellow brown gritty clay loam which in places covered the post settings of Phase 6. They had been dug into in the post medieval period and contained intrusive pottery, but elsewhere were clearly sealed by a late medieval wall F5 and cut by an earlier pit of Phase 8 (F154).

The slight footing of Building 6 probably carried a timber structure as it was rather small for a stone wall even for a relatively narrow building. The purpose of the building and its northward extent are unknown, though the small size of the part found suggests it was probably just a cottage or a shop.

PHASE 8 (FIG9); late 14th to 15th century

In the medieval period drains were created where the walls of Building 6 had been. There was a distinct fall on the eastern one (F129) running into a large sump (F129/2 and F142). These features seemed to cut the fill of the southern trench (F129/1) but this may simply indicate that the eastern drain was kept open longer. The fill of all these features was brown clayey loam with flecks of charcoal and mortar and 14th century pottery (see p 101). Possibly dating to the same period were F210 and F210/1 forming another drain following the line of the west wall of Building 2 and the projected north wall line of Building 4 (FIG5). They contained greenish grey sticky clay loam mixed with a few stones and fragments of tile. F179 may also have belonged to the beginning of this phase (see p45).

There was no good dating evidence for these features, however, and their phasing must remain doubtful.

Probably in the late 14th or 15th century two large pits (F154 and F46) were dug in the middle of the southern half of the site. They were very large and destroyed virtually everything down to natural clay, including all but the bottom of some earlier pits of unknown date (F154/7 and F154/8). The two large pits were filled with light to dark brown clayey loam sometimes with mortary or clayey lenses, stone, tile and pottery (L154/4-L154/1). A notable feature of the back-filling of these pits was a dense concentration of rubble exactly underlying a later boundary wall of the next phase (F5). The rubble filled a trench cut through the fill of F46 (though confined within the edges of the pit) but there was no clear trench cut into F154, the rubble rather being piled up against its western side. There must have been an intention to build Wall 5 when Pit 154 was being backfilled, and the relatively straight western sides of the two pits suggest that the boundary already existed. Pit 46 must have been backfilled earlier, but its fill was presumably still very soft and required the insertion of the rubble foundation for the wall. Just to the north of Pit 154, on the centre line of the later wall, an undated posthole with stone packing (F232) may be the only evidence for an earlier fence on the same line. It cut L119/1 but it is not clear whether it also cut L160. If there was a fence marking the suggested boundary, it must have been removed when Pits 154 and 46 were dug.

In the south west corner of the excavation were a few other (undated) pits possibly of this phase. Most were smaller, containing greenish yellow loam (F113), black loam (F15), various layers of orangy clay and brown mortary loam (F38) and olive green gritty clay loam (F195). F113 was cut by F115. The dating evidence for these was very problematic: all the pottery from Pit 38 for example was Roman, yet this cut Pit 15 which contained medieval pottery, except for one sherd which was late or post medieval and may have been intrusive. The phasing is based largely on the stratigraphy, but this was not always clear cut, and it is not at all certain to what phase these features belong. Another pit of uncertain phase was F170 containing mortary rubble. It was close to Well 196 (which possibly belongs to Phase 11 or 12) but the relationship between them was destroyed by a later sump (F32).

Representing the end of Phase 8 were a number of layers overlying the large pits (F154 and F46) and drain (F129, F142, etc.). Some of these deposits were sealed by Wall 5, the main structural feature of Phase 9. They were mostly compact dark brown loam flecked with greenish clay and charcoal (L124 over F129, F129/1 and F42; L174 and L173 over F154). Over Pit 154, but not sealed by Wall 5 was some mixed orange clay, stones and gravel (L180 and L147). The loamy layers at least were probably no more than the trampled top fill of the pits beneath. Possibly they suggest a slight delay before the construction of Wall 5, though the small amount of pottery recovered did not contain anything distinctively later than the late 14th/15th century.

No pits of this period were found at the front of the site where only the recut robber trenches and sump belong to this phase. Possibly the Park Street frontage was occupied by a building of which all evidence was lost. Very shallow footings or traces of a timber building might easily have been destroyed by later disturbances: even the 18th century brick buildings of Phase 12 left only very shallow fragmentary remains. The evidence for the boundary beneath Wall 5 and the presence of pits are consistent with this interpretation, being typical of medieval backyards. The existence of a drain (F129) leading back from the presumed position of a building may also be indicative. It is not clear whether the Roman road still existed as a metalled surface, but Trench 232 was filled in and covered with metalling at some stage. Possibly the area survived as a yard, or alley (see also p 55).

PHASE 9 (FIG 10); late medieval to mid 17th century

The construction of Wall 5 has been taken as a new structural phase although the boundary which it marked seems to have been established earlier. The wall was roughly built mostly of fairly large stones with occasional traces of soft sandy pale yellow mortar, and some clay packing. The few gaps between the large facing stones were filled with small ones. Except for the rubble in Pits 154 and 46 (above) it had no foundations and was built on the presumed existing ground surface. It divided the back of the site into two parts, but was traced only to the edge of the former Roman road, which it cut at an angle

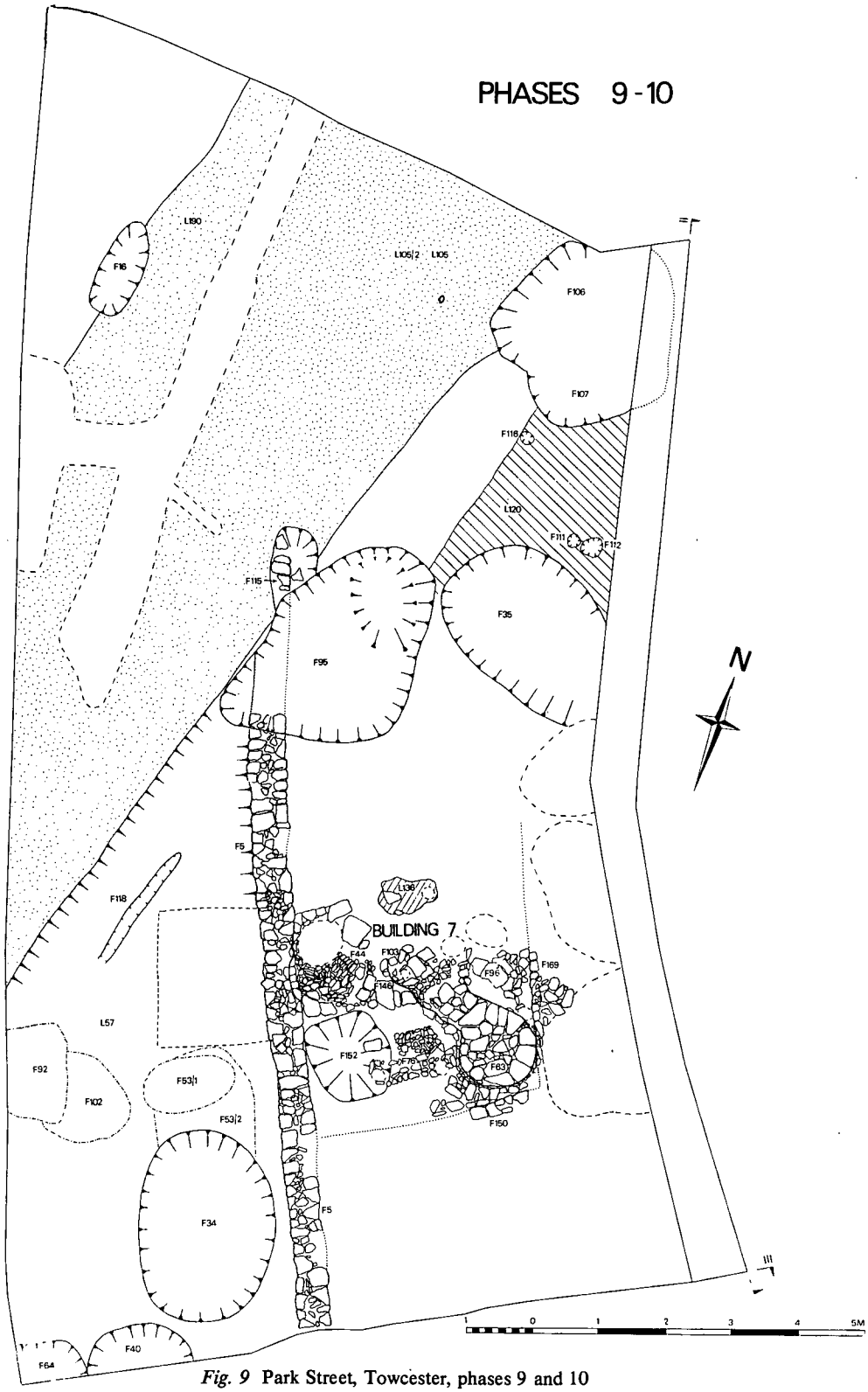

Fig. 9 Park Street, Towcester, phases 9 and 10

(F115). Again it is not clear in what form the road survived.

The other main structural features certainly of this phase were a group of hearths on the east side of Wall 5, probably in a lean-to (Building 7) built against the boundary wall (PL5). The walls of this building were suggested by two distinct lines of stones (F150 and F169) which may have carried cill beams and which marked the south and east sides of the hearth area. Close to Wall 5 was an ash pit (F152) with several layers of silvery ash and dark charcoally loam (L159, L158, L157, L47/7). These produced a group of late medieval pottery (see p 98). Overlying them was a red burnt area (F153) which was not a constructed hearth, but was associated with further charcoally layers (L143) and possibly with a more highly burnt area (F136) underlying the mouth of one of the later hearths (F44). These layers may have been associated with the initial use of a large, properly built oven (F63) in the south east corner of the building, or with other cobble-floored hearths which this cut (F96 and F76). The large oven was keyhole-shaped with a flue to the north west. Its floor was laid with fairly large flat stones overlying a layer of charcoally loam (L164). Its sides splayed out slightly and were constructed of laid stones packed with yellow clay. They survived to a height of *c*200mm. All surfaces were burnt to a dark purplish pink at the bottom and lighter pink on the walls. The burning extended to the stones of the wall supports (F150 and F169). On the floor of the oven was a layer of charcoally loam containing late medieval pottery (see Sections, FIG10).

Built into the east side of Wall 5 was another, smaller, circular hearth or oven (F44). Its floor was pitched stones and a wall of yellow clay and stones (F146) had been added to form the south and east sides of this hearth and also the west and south sides of a small subsidiary hearth (F103) on the laid stones beside the mouth of the large oven. The burnt floors of both hearths and a charcoally loam layer (L101) over F103 extended under F146 showing that this was a later modification. Layer 101 also extended between Hearths 44 and 103 and into the front of the oven (F63). Overlying it was a floor layer (L100 and L104) consisting of hard packed dirty yellow-brown clay with some stones, possibly associated with F146.

No features clearly associated with this phase were found either at the front of the site or west of Wall 5. The street frontage may still have been occupied by a building and the back premises of the neighbouring property may have been given over to gardening (or perhaps livestock) which would have left no trace because of post medieval gardening (see p 55). The ovens are most likely to have been a small bakery, perhaps belonging to a shop on the street frontage. Stratigraphically there were no deposits between the construction of Wall 5 and the appearance of features associated with the bakehouse, but possibly the ground was cleared before the bakehouse was built. The dating evidence does not make it clear whether the bakehouse was built at the same time as Wall 5, though generally the phase seems to have lasted from the late medieval period to the early 17th century.

PHASE 10 (FIG9); mid 17th century

A new phase is marked by the appearance of 17th century deposits at the front of the site. Overlying the long since silted up roadside ditches of Phase 4, was a further layer of gritty silty clay (L120), which contained much 17th century pottery. It was overlain by similar layers with gravel (L66) or patches of slightly burnt clay (L54 and L24; see FIG11), and was cut by a few possible postholes (F111, F112 and F116).

These layers were cut by three large pits, about 500 to 700mm deep, F106 at the front of the site, and F35 and F95 just north of the bakehouse of Phase 9. Pit 95 cut the line of Wall 5 whose north end must have been demolished for it. Both F106 and F95 respected the edge of the Roman road, probably because it was too hard to dig through, though it may also have marked a property boundary (see p 51). The fill of F106 contained clay and gravel and burnt ashy material at the bottom (F107) and otherwise was dark brown charcoally loam with sandy or gravelly patches and layers. Both F95 and F35 contained dark brown clayey loam with charcoal and mortar flecks. The pottery was largely Roman with a few medieval sherds and in F95 a handful of post medieval material including clay pipe fragments. F35 contained only one medieval or post medieval sherd, and very few pieces of clay pipe. The very high proportion of residual material suggests that these pits were not used for domestic rubbish, or if so that it did not include materials resistant to decay. The pits were overlain by brown loam

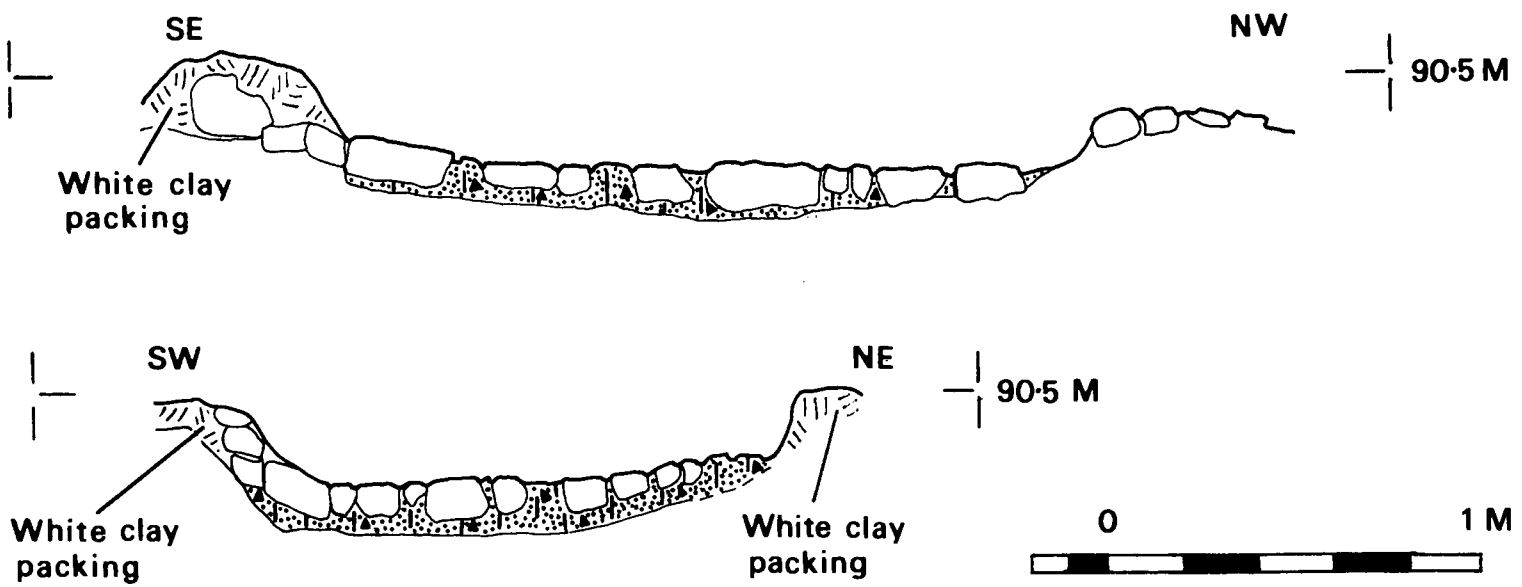

Fig. 10 Park Street, Towcester: hearth 63 (sections)

garden soil (L71), possibly no more than the disturbed upper layers of their fills, since it was not much more extensive than the pits themselves.

Perhaps belonging to this phase, though equally possible to the next two, were several other pits in other parts of the site, eg Pit 16, to the west, filled with dark brown loam; in the south west corner of the site F40 contained grey clay loam with a lining of light yellow grey green clay; F64 was beneath this containing large stones; while F290 cut Pit 40 and contained black clayey loam (Section III). F34 was an oval shaped pit filled with dark grey clayey loam, and three shallow pits of uncertain relationship (F53/1, F92 and F102) all contained black loam.

Just north of these, overlying some, was a layer of mixed brown loamy garden soil (L57). This filled an irregular gully (F118), and was bounded on the west by the road and on the east by Wall 5. On both these sides the edge of the layer was formed by cutting into layers beneath: the edge of the roadway had become steep and irregular and there was a pronounced step up in the level of L160 where it was protected by Wall 5. The area was probably used as a garden, and F118 was perhaps a bean trench or some such feature. Since the garden could have been used since the middle ages (despite occasional pit digging) Layer 57 may belong to some extent to all the last four phases.

There is a similar problem of phasing with the road surfaces, last mentioned under Phase 8 (see p 51). The last layer described, the large rounded cobbles on the west side of the road (L190; see p 42), was covered by an undatable surface of compact dark orange brown coarse sandy gravel (L105/2). This also sealed the fill of F232 (see p 49). A similar hard packed pebbly layer overlying this (L105/1) contained post medieval pottery, as did the last of the extensive surfaces, a layer of rough but compact medium sized stones (L105). L105/2 may thus be assigned to any phase between 7 and 11, and the other two to either Phase 10 or 11. Layer 190 was found only to the west side of the road and it is possible that it and perhaps other layers had been removed from the middle by levelling, perhaps for buildings. The last layers of metalling, however were too extensive for them to have been connected with building foundations: more probably they were for a fairly wide alley into a yard behind buildings on the frontage. Layers 105-105/2 appeared to be cut by the robber trench for the west wall of Building 6 (F20; FIG 8). The rest of Building 6 had clearly been demolished by Phase 8 and possibly this robbing was only of some remaining footings.

Any buildings at the front of the site must have been demolished before the pits in that area were dug. These indicate a period when the street frontage was vacant perhaps between the demolition of one building and the construction of another – a situation exactly comparable to that when the excavation took place. The pits did not contain much domestic rubbish, which is consistent with this interpretation, but their function is unclear. The burnt layers in F107 may be where bonfires were lit. The site was certainly not cleared entirely, however, because Wall 5 and Building 7 seem to have remained unchanged between Phases 9 and 11, and there is no sign that the hearths and ovens were not in continuous use. The pottery from Phases 9 and 11 suggests that Phase 10 lasted a very short period (see p 98) and it was probably merely an interlude during building operations.

PHASE 11 (FIG 12); mid to late 17th century

In the penultimate phase the pits at the front of the site and Layer 71 were overlaid by various poorly constructed walls (F9, F11, F21, F25 and F26), which were made of small rough stones hardly mortared together. Possibly associated with Wall 9 and north of it were a layer of compact pale yellow mortar (L22), perhaps a floor, and overlying it a patch of burnt clay (L23). These were cut by later walls (F7 and F6) which also destroyed their stratigraphic relationship to Wall 9. A detailed interpretation of the buildings which these walls represent is impossible, but Wall 9 at any rate must have been the footing for the rear wall of a building fronting onto Park Street (Building 9). Possibly the walls would have been timber framed above footing level.

The southernmost wall (F26) formed the north side of a new hearth (F27). The lowest layers of fine light red and grey ash (L27/5-L27/3) were close to the wall in a hollow whose southern limit was marked by three small upright stones. The upper layers (L27/2 and L27/1) extended further being confined by a kerb on the south and east (F29). The kerb overlay an ashy and charcoally layer (L99) overlying L100 (see p 53), which extended as far as the hollow in F27. It also partly filled another hearth (F28) which

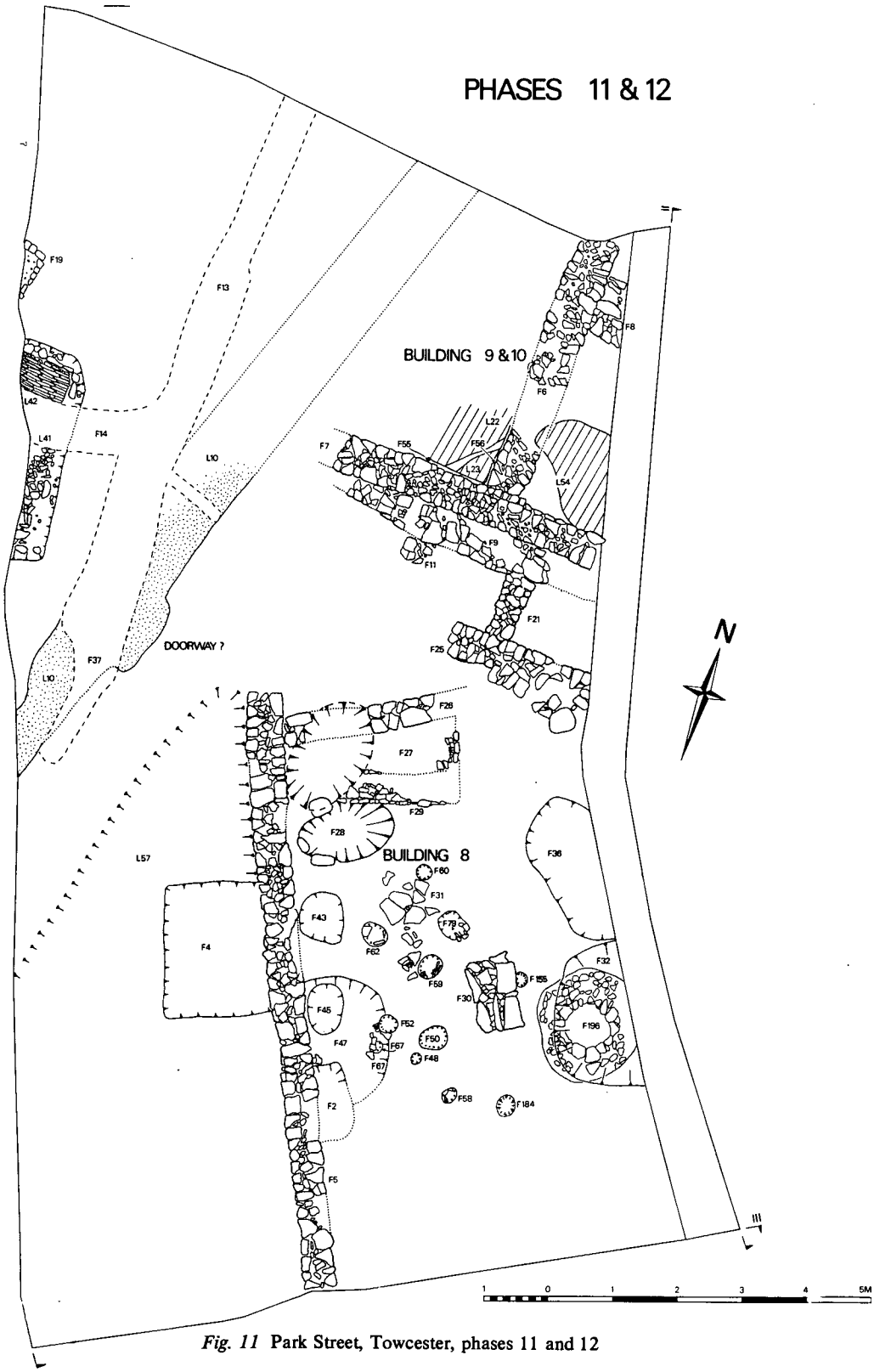

Fig. 11 Park Street, Towcester, phases 11 and 12

was merely a hollow with a few stones around it. This was levelled up with an extensive layer of clay with charcoal flecks and stones (L91) which ran into the mouth of Oven 63 and may have been contemporary with the narrowing of the flue of Hearth 44. It was packed against the kerb of Hearth 27. A layer of clay (L68) overlying the late medieval fill of Oven 63 may have been the same layer, but could have been earlier, since the medieval fill was uncontaminated by 17th century pottery. Layer 91 was mostly overlain by a layer of hard-packed yellow clay and stones (L97) which covered Hearths 44 and 103, but next to Hearth 27, Layer 91 was overlain by ash and charcoally loam, indicating that the hearth was still in use. The sequence seems to have been as follows: the large oven F63 ceased to be used in the early post medieval period but Hearths 44 and 103 may have continued in use into Phase 11. Hearths 27 and possibly 28, were new innovations of this phase, and F28 quite quickly went out of use, probably before Hearths 44 and 103 were covered up. When these were sealed by Layer 97 only the enlarged Hearth 27 could have remained in use. There is no clear cut break in the stratification in Building 7 and it must have continued in use more or less continuously in Phases 9, 10 and 11, though with various modifications. The biggest change was that some time in Phase 11 after the appearance of Wall 26 and Hearth 27, Building 7 was reconstructed (to make Building 8). A large stone footing (F30) was inserted in its south east corner (in the middle of F63) and an extensive layer of pale yellow clay (L61) was laid down over most of the area. This did not extend over Hearth 27 but a similar layer (L28/1) in the top of F28 covered its kerb (F29). Layer 61 was packed round the rectangular footing, and in one place was overlaid by the remains of stone flooring (F31). The clay layer was cut by several postholes, mostly *c*500mm deep, occasionally with packing stones, and sometimes made at considerable angles (F48, F50, F52, F58, F60, F62, F67 and possibly F184 and F155). It is not clear whether these were part of the structure of the rebuild, or internal fittings, or yet another renewal of Building 7. The stone footing seems an essential part of the building and may have had a brick or masonry pillar, or a large post resting on it to support beams presumably from Walls 5 and 26. The south and east sides of the building were possibly open. Within it, very close to Wall 5, was another hearth (F47) cutting Layer 61. It contained a sequence of burnt ash and clay layers (L47/6 to L47/1), many of which included many broken pieces of clay pipe. Beside it was a small pit (F2) containing loose dark brown charcoally loam crammed with clay pipe fragments, many of them wasters. The kiln where the pipes were made was not found, but they have been dated 1670-85 and seem to have been the work of Joseph Kingston, though this is not certain (see p 59 and 103). They provide the best dating evidence for the later part of this phase.

The footings at the front of the site form the first positive evidence of a building on the street frontage, but it is still very difficult to relate it to the back premises. Building 7/8 never quite seems to have become redundant: it perhaps continued in use as a bakehouse at the beginning of the phase, and in the late 17th century became connected with clay pipe making. The rest of the site remains problematical because of the difficulties of phasing (see above p 55). A partial exception is Well 196 which was probably made in this phase. Its construction trench probably cut through the stones associated with Hearth 63 and the slight stone footing just east of it (F169) but this is not certain because of a later stone-filled sump in the same position. Late medieval and post medieval sherds from the well's lining (L196/2) could have been residual or intrusive (the latter because of the very loose stones of the well lining and of Sump 32).

PHASE 12 (FIG 11); 18th to 20th centuries

In the final phase of construction, dating from the late 18th or early 19th centuries, new brick houses were built on the Park Street frontage (Building 10, see PL6). Shallow stone footings for the back wall (F7) and two partition walls (F6 and F8) were excavated. They were rather better built than the walls of the previous phase. Their narrow, shallow construction trenches (F55 and F56) cut Layers 22 and 23 (see p 55), but appeared to be sealed by a thin sandy gravel layer (L51), which ran up to the slight offset of Footing 7. This layer and the offset were overlaid by compact fine grey loam (L49). Footing 7 petered out over the eastern edge of the road.

A new surface of small cobbles (L10) overlay the road or yard, and was on the same alignment but much narrower. It was probably the surface

of a passage between the cottages to the east and a larger house (later the 'White Hart') to the west. There was evidence for a doorway into the garden west of Wall 5. Close to the western edge of the excavation was a small rectangular area cut into layer 17 with a pitched tile and cobbled stone floor (F42 and F41). The tiles overlaid smaller stones and the edge of the floor was marked by a single row of stones. This must have been part of the cellar of the later pub (see p 59) and was the only structural evidence for the building on that side of the site, except for part of a coal hole and possibly an area of mortary rubble (F67) cut into the earlier road surfaces (Section I).

Other features belonging to this phase include a shallow pit on the east side of the site (F36) filled with brown loam containing modern glass and china; the final backfilling of Well 196 with gravel and rubble (L196/1) and the cutting of the rubble filled sump (F32) in the top of it. The only other major features were a large rectangular clay lined pit (F4), several modern pipe trenches (F13, F14 and F37) and a sunken cement floor with a brick surround overlaid by coal dust (F19). Part of a beer tap from this feature was the only archaeological evidence for the 'White Hart'.

The whole site was overlaid by demolition rubble (L1) from this phase.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

by George Lambrick

A Survey of 1820 shows that part of the site belonged to Sponne's charity (NRO; TC101A; see FIG1B). The scale of the survey is approximately 1:2500 and can be compared directly with a modern map. Overall, it is reasonably accurate, and though the boundaries do not correlate well with the recent maps before the demolition of the houses on the site because of their orientation, their shapes match well. In particular the western boundary of tenement 5 corresponds with Wall 5, identifiable on the 1st edition 25" O.S. map. The charity's property within the excavation thus seems to have been east of Wall 5.

The documentation of the charity which was founded in 1450/1 is very good, though much less complete for this property than its others. William Sponne, Archdeacon of Norfolk and Rector of Towcester, died in 1447 and the chantry was founded with two chaplains and an estate left by Sponne vested in trustees. The income was to be used in paying the tax of a fifteenth in Towcester, repairing the Tabbard (or Talbot) Inn (which was part of the estate), repairing the streets and distributions to the poor. A small allowance of 40d per annum was made to the chaplains of the chantry. After the dissolution of the chantries in 1548 part of the estate, the Chantry House, became the grammar school. The establishment of the school created in effect a subsidiary charity with its own little estate of the Chantry House and the Park Lane houses, to which 13 acres of land at Whittlebury were added in 1721 (NRO; TC540). The estate was administered by the same trustees as the main charity, but the records have not survived (or were not made) in as much detail. The income from the Park Lane property was used to pay the schoolmaster's salary (receipts 1724-1737, NRO; TC160 and accounts NRO; TC 105).

Although the documentation of the school charity estate is not complete, some useful information can be gained in conjunction with the other records. Park Lane is first mentioned in the Sponne charity records in a grant of 1430 by Hugh and Joanna Glover to William Sponne of various pieces of land,

> 'and one acre lies at Parkelane next the land of Thomas Olyver on the east and the land of Hugh Glover on the west of which one head abutts the land of Henry Saunders and William Wryght and the other head next Brackleyway' (NRO; TC4).

This was presumably agricultural land and it is possible that the 1 perch on Park Lane on the 1820 Survey had been carved out of it. Its location is not known exactly, but Henry Saunders owned land immediately north of the Tabbard (tenement 1) though it is not known how far west it stretched (NRO; TC6 and TC16; see FIG1B). This suggests that there was agricultural land close to the centre of Towcester in the 15th century and that Park Lane may not have been developed until the end of the Middle Ages.

The smaller tenement in Park Lane is apparently first mentioned in a conveyance dated 1551/2 from Richard Haborne and William Dalby to John Farmer, Thomas Davie and seven others, trustees of the charity, of

> 'The whole of that site or capital mesuage called the chauntery house ... and one cottage or tenement ... in the tenure or

occupation of John Corryar lying and existing in pke lane in Tocestre aforesaid between the tenement of Thomas King on the west and the tenement of Robert Grendon on the east' (NRO; TC505).

Richard Haborne and William Dalby were granted the property by the King in 1550 (*Rot Pat* 3 Apr 4 Edw 6) after the dissolution of the chantries. They sold it to the feoffees of Sponne's Charity,

'Out of their love for the town of Towcester and for the education of the children thereof in learning and for other good uses' (Sponne evidences; quoted in Baker 1841, 333).

It is not clear whether the Park Lane property was part of the original charity estate and its first acquisition and earlier history are unknown, though a reasonable guess is that it was retained from some part of the original acre, the rest having been sold.

The process of transferring the charity estate to new trustees (via two laymen) is reflected in a pair of grants within a few days of each other in 1581 when the tenant was still John Corryar (NRO; TC507-8). A lease two years later for the chantry house includes in Park Lane 'one tenement or cottage with a backside' in the occupation of Amy Poole, widow (NRO; TC542).

The 17th century records are more useful archaeologically. Accounts for rent from 1662 to 1680 (NRO; TC105) can be related to the tenements on the 1820 survey through a lease of the Park Lane property to John Tompson in 1684 (NRO; TC544) which describes the property as,

'that Messuage or Tenement situate and being in Towcester aforesaid in a place there comonly called and known by the name of Park Lane and later in the severall tenures and occupacons of Joseph Kingston and Edward Cooke, and also all that Cottage or tenem't containing two rooms thereto adioyning, wherein Elizabeth Harman and Mary Colson widow doe now inhabit and dwell. And also that little garden plott or piece and p'cell of ground adioyning to the said Mesuage or Tenem't and late in the tenure or occupacon of George Waple gent his assignee or assignes together with all and singular houses, outhouses buildings yards orchards gardens backsides wares easm'ts passages comons...' (See FIG1 B).

The Kingston family is of particular interest. Joseph's father John, a merchant, had been the tenant earlier (NRO; TC543) and after his death (before 1662) it passed to his widow Margaret (NRO; TC105). During her lifetime she allowed her son Joseph and her daughter and son in law (the Cookes) to live there, but a dispute arose after her death when Joseph threatened to evict the Cookes (NRO; TC160). The dispute was settled when the trustees relet the property to John Tompson (see above), having offered it first to Kingston and then Cooke. They were persuaded to leave and in the accounts (NRO; TC105) there is a record of one of the trustees paying for their 'ejectment'. There is a record of a Joseph Kingston who was a clay pipe maker buying two cottages in Ambrose Yard (whose location is unknown) in 1675 (Moore 1980). The discovery of clay pipe wasters of the right date on the site makes it reasonable that they were made by Joseph Kingston (see p 103). The evidence that his father was a merchant, that their rent for the 'cottage' in Park Lane was not low (£1 p.a. as against 6s 8d for the other) and that Joseph could afford to buy the cottages, suggests that the family was not badly off.

The dispute in 1684 led to the property in Park Lane being leased as a whole, probably till the late 18th century. In 1724 for example it was leased to Anthony Fletcher, a blacksmith, who also had the house on the corner of Park Lane (NRO; TC548). The names of some of the tenants in the 18th and 19th centuries are known, largely from the enfeoffments of new trustees (NRO; TC510-525), but no further details about them have been discovered. In 1750 the account book (NRO; TC105) provides evidence of rebuilding at some of the Sponne properties after a disastrous fire in the town; although Park Lane is not specifically mentioned it would be consistent with the appearance of the buildings demolished prior to the excavation (PL6).

In the early 19th century there are again few helpful details in the charity records, but a Valuation for Poor Rate in 1826 (NRO; To 118) lists John North as occupier and proprietor of the White Hart public house buildings and yard. It is clear from a photograph of the pub (PL6) that it lay on the west side of the site and the tenement rented in 1820 by Daniel Prestridge (FIG1B). Another map of Towcester *c*1840 (NRO; Map 2922) does not show the Park Lane

property although it shows other Sponne charity lands.

THE FINDS

THE ROMAN COINS

by A.S. Esmonde Cleary

1 Nero, *As*, 54-69, consular date and reverse illegible.
1 Vespasian, *As*, 69-79, ? cos III (71), reverse as RIC 497 (L243/1)
1 Domitian, *As*, 87 RIC 351.
1 ?Antoninus Pius, *As*, 138-161, illegible. (F94; see Pit 176)
1 Gallienus, 260-8, RIC 164.
1 Tetricus I, 270-4, RIC 100.
1 Tetricus II, 270-4, RIC 254.
1 Carausius, 286-93.
1 Allectus, 293-6, RIC 28.
3 Radiate, 260-80; Reverses: *Salus* (1), illegible (2).
3 Barbarous radiate, 270-90, reverses: illegible (3).
1 Constantinopolis, 330-5, LRBC I 77.
1 Constans, 337-41, LRBC I 133.
1 Constantius II, 348-50, LRBC II 30.
1 House of Constantine, 350-60, minim, copy as LRBC II 25 (L123/6).
1 House of Valentinian, 364-78, as LRBC II 796.
3 1st/2nd century, illegible (1 from F231).
2 3rd/4th century illegible.

26

Of these 26 coins, 22 were redeposited in post Roman deposits and consequently are of no value for the dating of these deposits. The 4 found stratified in Roman deposits can only give *termini post quos* for those individual deposits.

Otherwise the types of coin represented and the frequencies of their occurrence are in no way remarkable for such a site in a small Romano-British town.

THE BROOCHES

by Martin Henig (FIG 12)

These are arranged in stratigraphic order; all are bronze:

1. Brooch of 'Colchester' type with pierced catch plate; it retains the spring but most of the pin is lost. L50mm (*cf* Hawkes and Hull 1947, 308f, PL LXXXIX-XC, 12-14, Type III) SF150, L84/29, Ph3/4a.
2. Brooch with moulded ornament on side wings and ridge along bow. Lower part of bow, pin, and catch plate missing. L20mm (*cf* Hawkes and Hull 1947, 310f, PL XCI, 42 and 43. Type IV; Mackreth in Hobley 1966-7 111 and FIG 19, 10) SF144, L84/27, Ph3/4a.
3. Brooch of 'Augenfibel' or 'eye' type with short humped bow and splayed foot. A band of ring decoration runs along the length of the bow. L42mm. This example seems to lack characteristic moulding between the bow and tail. It is a continental type rare in Britain, but attested on Julio-Claudian sites in Germany including Hofheim, Novaesium and Vindonissa. (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 320f, PL XCVI, 120, Type XVI; LRT 92 and FIG 26, 10 and 11; for list and discussion of type see Ettlinger 1973, 68f, type 17, PL 6,5) SF141, L259, Ph4a.
4. Brooch of 'Colchester' type with ornamental pierced catch-plate, small side-wings at head and hook to retain chord. Pin and most of spring missing. L50mm (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 308f, PL LXXXIX, 13, Type III; Waugh and Goodburn in Frere 1972, 114 and FIG 29, 3) SF139, L216, Ph4b.
5. Brooch of 'Hod Hill' type with ridge along bow and tail which tapers; only the back part of the brooch with catch plate survives. L29mm (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 313 and PL XCVII, 140, Type XVIIIA) SF84, L121/1, Ph4b or later.

The brooches comprise an interesting early group of which none need be later than the Julio-Claudian period, and together they are strong argument for occupation of the site within a few years of the conquest. Nos 4 and 5 could be residual since other dating suggests Phase 4b is late 1st or 2nd century (see p 44). The other three could be roughly contemporary stratigraphically (see p 40 and 44) and if they are not residual support an early date for Building 2, though the most distinctively early brooch, No 3, was in a layer of dumped clay and could therefore be residual. The others are more reliable, being within the 'occupation' build-up of Building 2, but are less closely datable.

OTHER SMALL FINDS

by Martin Henig with contributions by Francis Grew and G Lloyd Morgan (FIG 13)

These are arranged by phase within types of material, except that residual Roman objects are included at the end of the Roman phases.

Objects of bronze

1. Ring D23mm. Simple harness ring type (Neal 1974, 137 and FIG 60, 121-128) SF136 L243/1 Ph4a.
2. Silvered or base silver seal box with a boss on the lid and a small depression in the centre, perhaps the seating for a small knob or figurative device. After preliminary cleaning Sarah Watkins reports that the heavy encrustation of copper corrosion products indicates that if made of silver it contained a high percentage of copper (Frere 1972, 122 and FIG 34 65-6; *London in Roman Times* FIG 33 for diagram of use) SF148, L214, Ph4.

Not illustrated: Fragments of a bronze mirror. Dr G Lloyd-Morgan writes:
'Perhaps an internal fragment from some larger mirror – none of the edges here suggests a finished border. It is impossible to tell what sort of mirror it was as the finish of both sides is obscured by the heavy devastation of warty patina which has raised and distorted the surface. I would have suspected that the original mirror was made during the 1st century AD.' SF134, L205/1, Ph5.

3. Mount from a scabbard chape. Mr Francis Grew writes: 'This is an ornamental mount from the chape of a *gladius* scabbard. Such scabbards were made from two iron sheets, covered with wood or leather. These were secured at the edges by V-shaped bronze strips which ran down each side, and terminated in a knob at the tip. Up to six moulded cross-bands strengthened the scabbard and supported lateral rings for attachment to the sword belt, as well as adding to the decorative effect.

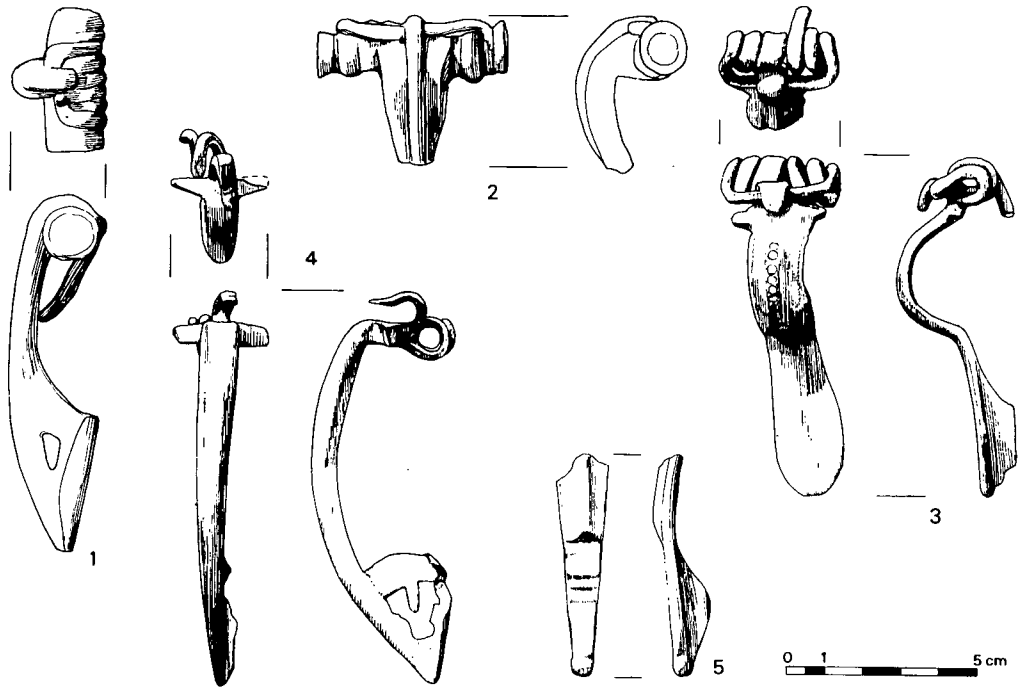

Fig. 12 Park Street, Towcester: brooches (1/1)

Ornamental plates were commonly inserted between the case and the edging angle, suggesting that it came from the chape.

A number of similar open-work mounts were recovered from Vindonissa and the Magdalensburg, and can be dated to the reign of Tiberius (von Gonzenbach 1965, 5-36). A fragment has been published from Colchester, (Hawkes and Hull 1947, PL100, 38) but this object may belong to a slightly different class of scabbards, in which the side edging, cross-bands, and ornamental plates were all manufactured in one piece. In general, mounts of this type are rarely found on sites of the Claudian period – such as Hod Hill, Risstissen of Aislingen – and doubtless had become old-fashioned at the time of the invasion of Britain. The early dating is confirmed by the relatively less acute angle in the corner of the Towcester mount, which suggests that it belonged to a sword of the 'Mainz' type (with a longish point), which was being replaced in the mid 1st century by *gladii* whose blades tapered much more sharply to a short, squat point (Ulbert 1969).

Open-work decoration was not commonly applied to Roman military equipment of the first century, but here, nearly all the motifs can be seen to derive from the classical repertoire. To reconstruct the ornament of this fragment, comparison can be made with the more complete chapes from Vindonissa and Mainz (von Gonzenbach 1965, Abb12 Nos17-18), which show a central tendril with simple spirals branching off symmetrically on either side; in the larger space at the top, the scheme is more complicated, with double spirals and leaves. The decoration on all these mounts is conspicuous for the delicacy of execution, and it is possible that they were all manufactured in the same workshop.' SF74 F138, Ph10.

4. Fitting with rounded end roughly cut with a V-shaped notch on each side. W20mm. Perhaps Roman. SF81, F5, Ph9.
5. Pin with somewhat flattened head. L80mm, SF82, F95, Ph10.
6. Thimble with punched indentations. Ht 16mm. Post medieval. (Biddle, Barfield and Millard 1959, 182 and FIG19, 13) SF63, L91, Ph11.

Object of pewter

7. Part of a disc with a flange probably part of a platter or possibly the base of a vessel. D92mm. Although much of the pewter in Roman Britain is late in date (eg Brown 1973) specimens from the Walbrook, London, are considerably earlier and were certainly deposited before the middle of the 2nd century (Guildhall Museum 1954-5, 18 PL8) SF149, L243/1, Ph4a.

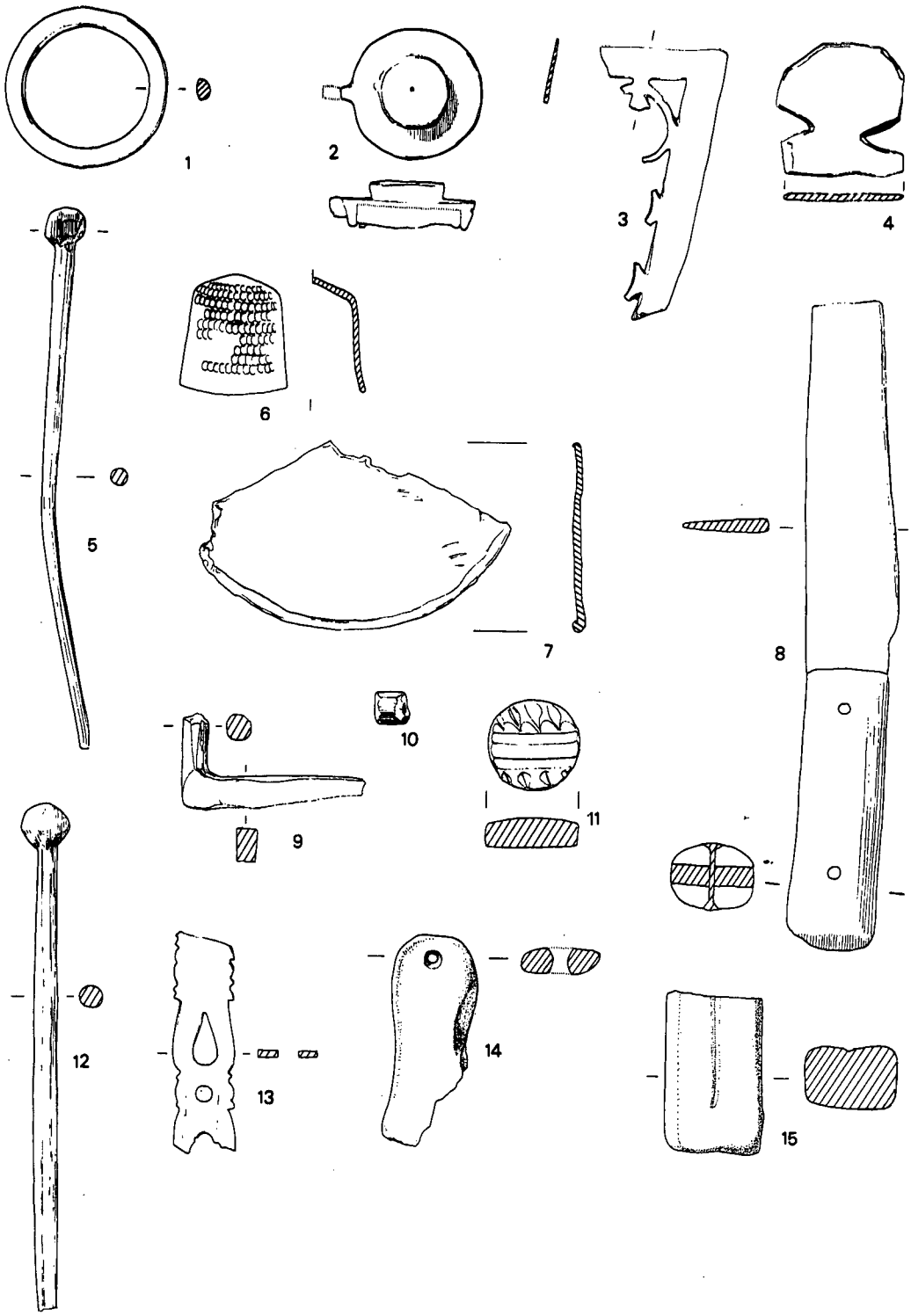

Fig. 13 Park Street, Towcester: other small finds (1-6, 11-13: 1/1; 7-9, 14-15: 1/2)

Objects of iron

8. Knife with handle of two bone plates attached by two long rivets. The tip of the blade is missing. L of handle 80mm, surviving blade 110mm (Curle 1911, 281 and PLLX, 3). SF135, L243/1, Ph4a.

Not illustrated: Bar with a bent end, covered with mortar. Possibly a wall-tie. SF110, L113/6, Ph6.
Part of a circular or D-shaped buckle. D54mm. SF97, L159, Ph9.

9. Hinge pintle. L52mm (Clarke and Carter, 1977, 296 and FIG134, 58) SF70 F108 Ph uncertain.

Not illustrated: Two pronged fork with rivetted bone handle, of 18th or 19th century type. L127mm. SF8, F36, Ph12.

Object of glass

10. Bead of blue glass of hexagonal section. Broken. D4mm. Date uncertain: if it is Roman it is residual. Guido (1978, 96f, PLIVa) states that polygonal blue beads seem to be late Roman. SF94, F142, Ph8.

Object of pottery

11. Small ?gaming counter of decorated ?Nene Valley colour-coated pottery. D13mm SF20, F2, Ph12.

Objects of bone

12. Roman hand-cut pin with ovoid head and baluster shank. Point missing L74mm (Cunliffe 1971, 148 and FIG68, 22-24). SF58, F102, Ph10.
13. Strip of decorative openwork inlay, with keyhole-like opening. Possibly Roman. L32mm (Bushe-Fox 1968, 106, PLLXI) SF11, F36, Ph12.

Not illustrated: Very plain ?knife handle. Slightly oval in section with traces of iron tang. Broken. Th22-24mm, surviving. L82mm, SF120, F154, Ph8.
Crudely worked bone (proximal metapodial of cow or red deer) broken. L136mm. SF151, F35, Ph10.

Objects of stone

14. Pendant hone of mica quartz-schist. Broken. L62mm (Clarke and Carter 1977, 317 and FIG144) SF49 L71 Ph10.
15. Small hone with groove from sharpening down centre. Broken. L45mm. SF52 Trial Trench unstratified.

Not illustrated: Flint end and side scraper L50mm, W26mm, Th6mm. Also a ?struck flint nodule from the same context. SF152, L260, Ph4a.

THE ROMAN GLASS

by Jennifer Price

PIT 176 (Phase 5)

Fragments from at least eighteen glass vessels were found in Pit 176, with cross-joins (Nos 1, 2 and 13) to earlier (Phase 4) deposits. The pit contained a variety of other contemporary rubbish, including a large quantity of samian ware dated AD155-165 (see p 73).

The assemblage provides important dating evidence for several different vessel forms in use in Roman Britain during the second and third quarters of the 2nd century AD. The evidence for the late use of several strongly coloured long-necked conical and discoid jugs which are very commonly found in late 1st and early 2nd century contexts is particularly interesting (nos 7-11, 18), as is the presence of fine colourless tableware (nos 1-3) which was mostly produced in the late 2nd and 3rd centuries.

The state of preservation of the vessels varies greatly; seven of them (nos 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16) are nearly complete or represented by substantial fragments, while little of the others has survived. This difference of preservation has also been noted in a rather similar assemblage of thirty six vessels in a pit dating from AD160-170 at Felmongers, Harlow, Essex (Price, forthcoming).

Several vessel forms are common to both the Harlow and the Towcester pit groups; these include the thin-walled colourless cylindrical cup with wheel-cut lines (no4), the conical jug (no7), which probably had an open, pushed-in base-ring, rather than a plain concave base, as at Harlow, the fragments of conical and discoid unguent bottles (nos 14-15), and the square bottle (no16), which at Harlow was very fragmentary, with a raised stamp of AF enclosed within a Q on the base. Taken together, the two assemblages greatly extend our knowledge of the range of vessel forms available in the Antonine period in Roman Britain.

A further point of interest about the Towcester assemblage is that it may represent most of a set of glassware, perhaps for a fairly wealthy family: there seem to be pairs of a range of vessels, and the associated samian clearly appears to be a set.

CATALOGUE

Colourless Vessels (FIG14)

1. 176 and 84/11. Four fragments, hemispherical bowl. Good quality, few bubbles, strain cracks. Everted rim, rounded edge cracked off and carefully ground smooth; convex-curved side, small flattened base. Single fine wheel-cut line on rim, three pairs of fine wheel-cut lines on body and edge of base, enclosing bands of small vertical oval facets in quincunx on the body, and similar facet-cut design on base. Estimated ht 51 mm; rim d 100 mm; th 2-3 mm.

2. 176 and 84/11. Twenty-nine fragments, hemispherical bowl. Good quality, few bubbles, few strain cracks. Shape as 1. Two fine wheel-cut lines on rim, single broad wheel-cut on upper body and at base edge. Usage scratches in ring on base. Ht 60 mm; rim d 110 mm; th 1-2 mm.

3. 176. Fragment, hemispherical bowl (?). Good quality, few bubbles, heavy flaking deposit outside. Part of rim and upper body, as 1. Two fine wheel-cut lines on rim. Present ht 19 mm.

Colourless hemispherical bowls with polished rims made from good quality glass usually occur in third century contexts, though Isings (1957, Form 96) has noted some examples in the 2nd century. There is a small number of rather similar vessels and fragments from Romano-British sites, some of which are decorated with line-cutting alone and others which have oval facet-cutting as well. Of these, the fragmentary hemispherical bowl from Birrens, on the Antonine Wall, with two pairs of fine wheel-cut lines on the rim and

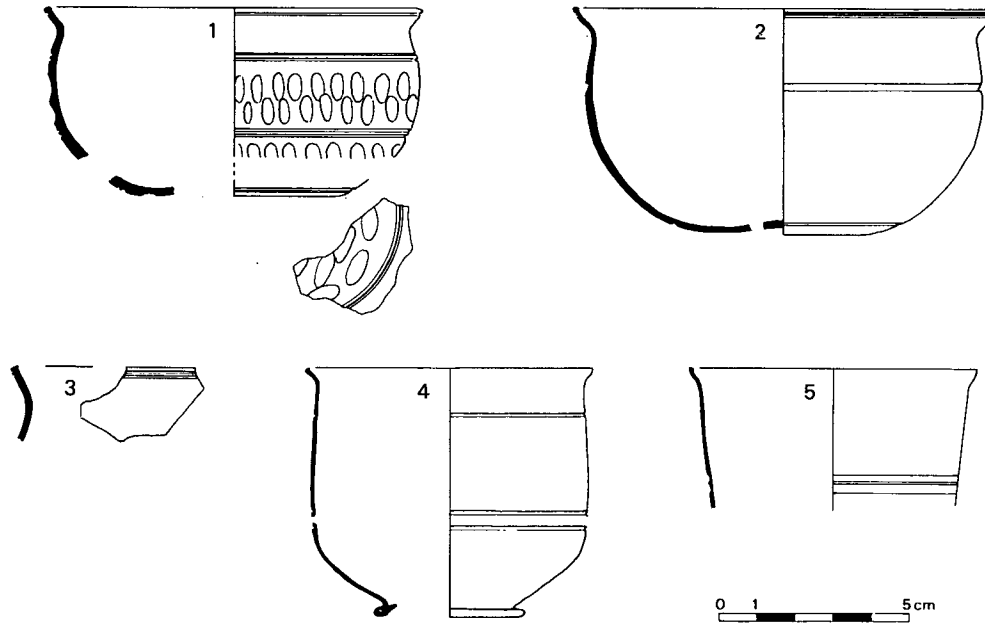

Fig. 14 Park Street, Towcester: glass from Pit 176 (1/2)

upper body and three bands of vertical oval facet-cuts in quincunx, is closest in both shape and decoration to the two bowls from Towcester (Charlesworth 1959, 44, FIG3, 5). Fragments of shallow bowls are also known; one from a mid 2nd century context at Verulamium with wheel-cut lines on the rim and upper body (Charlesworth 1972, 210, FIG78, 56), and another in a burial dating from 140-190 AD at Ospringe, Kent (Whiting *et al*, 1931, 34-5, PL XXXII, 340) with wheel-cut lines and facet cuts. There is also a small globular cup with wheel-cut lines on the body, found in a late second century cremation burial at Fordstreet, Braughing, Herts (Harden 1968b; Partridge 1977, 102, FIG43, 23, PL IXB), which has many features in common with the vessels already described and should probably be included in the group.

4. 176. Thirty-seven fragments, small cup. Some small bubbles. Everted curving rim, edge cracked-off and ground smooth, very thin walls, cylindrical upper body, lower body tapering in to small outsplayed tubular pushed-in base-ring and domed base (mostly missing). Single wheel-cut line on upper body, two wheel-cut lines at carination. Estimated ht 66 mm; rim d 74 mm; maximum th 1 mm.

5. 176. Fragment, conical beaker. Slightly greenish at breaks, few small bubbles. Curved rim, edge cracked off and ground smooth, very thin walls, straight-sided upper body tapering inwards. Two broad shallow wheel-cut lines on body. Present ht 37 mm; rim d 76 mm; maximum th 1 mm.

Both of these colourless cup forms originate in the Flavian period and continue in use until the end of the 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century. Cups similar to 4 have been found at many Romano-British sites; for instance, there is a nearly complete example in a late 1st/early 2nd century pit at Wroxeter (Bushe Fox 1916, 34, PL XXIII), and fragments, mostly from later second century deposits, come from Lincoln (Charlesworth 1960, 66, FIG9, 4), Shakenoak (Harden 1968a, 76, FIG26, 4), Fishbourne (Harden and Price 1971, 346-7, FIG140, 56A and 57) and Caerwent (Boon 1974a, 121, FIG3, 31D). In addition, a rim fragment of this type was found in the pit at Felmongers, Harlow, which dates from *c* AD 160-170 (Price forthcoming, no 11). Conical drinking vessels similar to 5 occur in some quantity at sites in the western provinces (Isings 1957, Form 34), but close parallels from Romano-British sites are harder to find. A fragmentary example made in bluish green glass was found in a Flavian pit at Richborough (Bushe Fox 1949, 159, PL LXIX), and two colourless rim fragments came from 2nd-3rd century contexts at Fishbourne (Harden and Price 1971, 437, FIG 140, 55 and 58), as did a colourless body fragment at Shakenoak (Harden 1971, 101, FIG44, 44).

6. (not illustrated) 94. Forty-five body fragments, some very small. The form of the vessel(s) is unknown, but the glass appears to be of high quality and some pieces may have been wheel-polished on the outside surfaces.

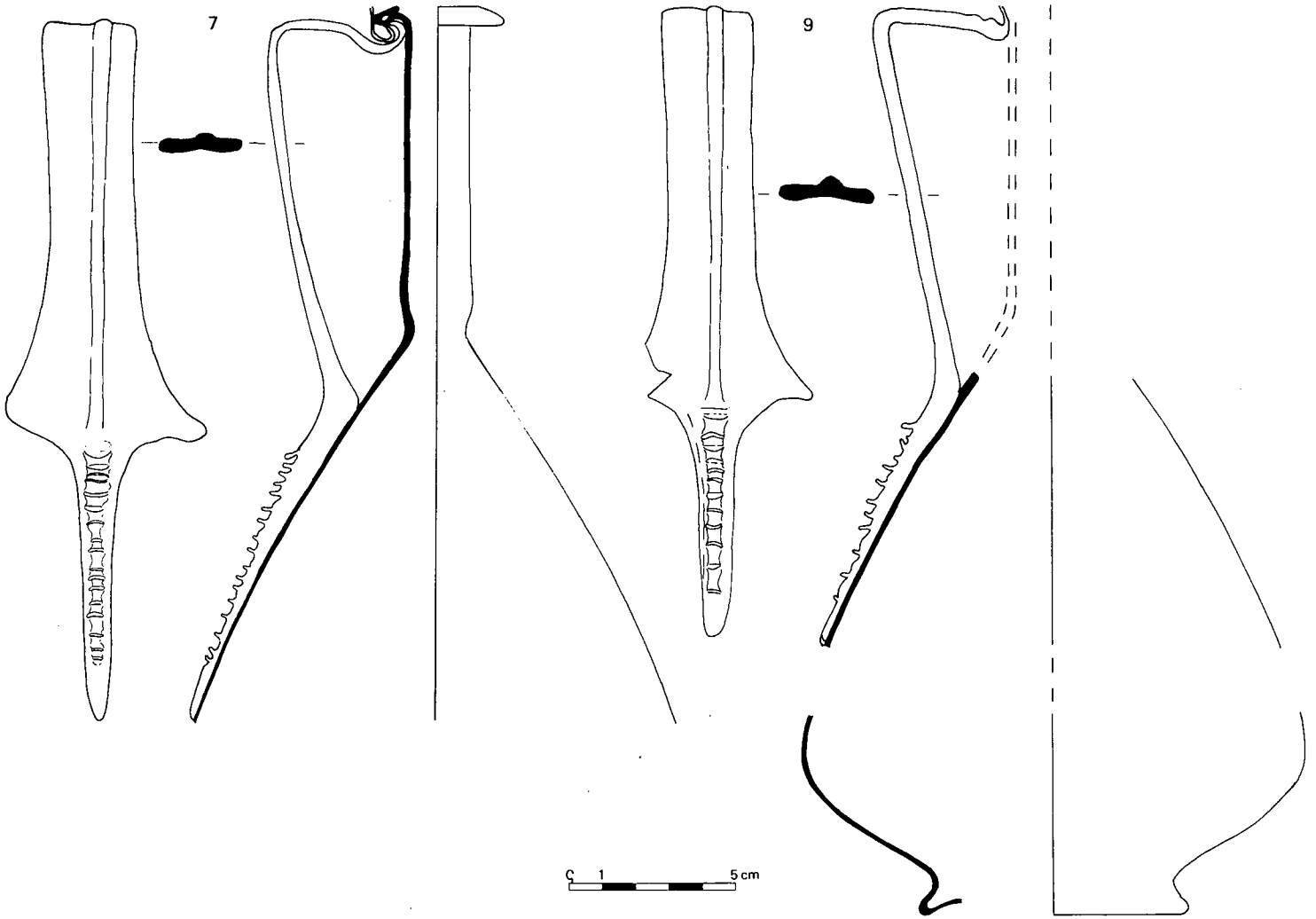

Fig. 15 Park Street, Towcester: glass from Pit 176 (1/2)

Coloured Vessels (FIGS 15 and 16)

7. 176. Fifteen fragments, conical jug. Yellowish green (olive green) body, yellowish brown (amber) handle. Bubbly, black streaks, flaking silver weathering. Horizontal folded rim, edge bent out, up and in and flattened, narrow cylindrical neck, slightly constricted at junction with straight-sided body expanding out (base missing). Angular ribbon handle with central rib in low relief, 'claw' attachment on upper body with vertical pinched trail below. Present ht 214 mm; rim d 38 mm.

N.B. The presence of a handle of different coloured glass from the body is very unusual in jugs of this type. I do not know of other examples with this feature.

8. (not illustrated) 176. Body fragment, conical jug. Yellowish green. Part of wide straight-sided body expanding out. Vertical ribs in low relief, 'optic-blown'. Dimensions of fragment 40 x 42 mm.

9. 176. Fifty fragments, conical jug. Yellowish brown. Bubbly, black streaks, flaking weathering deposits. Rim and neck missing, upper body and handle as 7, lower body NOT joining, tapering in to open pushed-in base-ring and domes base. Estimated ht 270 mm; maximum d 148 mm; base d 60 mm.

10. 176. Fourteen fragments, discoid jug(?) or jar(?). Yellowish brown. Some bubbles and black streaks, flaking weathering deposits. Slight evidence for wide neck or mouth, low convex-curved body, open pushed-in base-ring with concave base. Vertical ribs in low relief, probably 'optic-blown'. Present ht 82 mm; base d 70 mm.

11. 176. Sixteen fragments, discoid jug(?) or jar(?). Yellowish brown, colour uneven, some bubbles and black specks, flaking weathering deposits. Fragments of low convex-curved body and (not joining) lower body curving in to open pushed-in base-ring. Vertical ribs in low relief on body (probably 'optic-blown'). Present ht (base fragment) 30 mm; base d 70 mm.

N.B. 10 and 11 are very similar in fabric and form and may be from the same vessel. However, the profiles of the base-rings are quite distinct, and the vertical ribs start much nearer to the neck curve on 11 than on 10.

These conical and globular bodied jugs or jars were products of glasshouses in the lower Rhineland and northern Gaul (Isings 1957, Forms 52B, 55, 67C) which reached Roman Britain in considerable quantities (Price 1978, 74, FIG 56, 57). Very many of the finds of conical bodied jugs have come from 1st century contexts, though some are datable to the 2nd century, and this evidence led Harden (1967), in his survey of conical jugs with plain concave bases, to suggest dates of manufacture between AD 50-125 for these and for conical jugs with open pushed-in base-rings. This dating has been accepted by Charlesworth in the publication of a group of glass vessels from the latrine drain of the Commandant's House at Housesteads (1971, 36-7), and by me in a discussion of conical jugs with open pushed-in bases and globular and discoid jugs, in connection with a recent find at Enfield (Price 1977, 155-158).

However, the recent discoveries of three mid-2nd century assemblages of glassware, at Housesteads (around AD 139-142, Charlesworth 1971) at Felmongers, Harlow (around AD 160-170, Price forthcoming, no 28), and this group, each of which contains a substantial part of at least one conical jug, may indicate that production of these vessels continued to a certain extent until about AD 150. This argument is strengthened by the presence of one, or more probably two, discoid jugs (or jars) in this group, since these were produced at the same time as the conical jugs and have a very similar distribution (Price 1977, 155-58). Since no part of either handle or rim survives on 10 or 11, it is not possible to be certain that these are jugs rather than jars. Most jars are more globular in body than these vessels, as can be seen in the intact example from Colchester (Thorpe 1935, 28, PL IIIb), though squat, more discoid ones are known from Richborough (Bushe Fox 1932, 84, PL XV), and Silchester (Boon 1974b, 230, FIG 36, 5).

Bluish Green and Greenish Vessels (FIG 16)

12. 176. One hundred and sixty fragments and several hundred chips from ovoid jar (only partly reconstructed). Bubbly, dull, crystalline disintegration. Horizontal folded rim, edge bent out, up, in and flatened on top, constricted neck, convex-curving upper body. Present ht 65 mm; rim d 142 mm.

Large globular or ovoid jars with folded rims were produced in considerable quantities in the later 1st and 2nd century AD (Isings 1957, Form 67A). For the most part these survive through their use as cinerary urns, though they were certainly used as domestic containers as well. Considerable variation in the method of finishing the rims can be seen on these vessels, but examples similar to this fragment have been found in a pre-Flavian burial at Bishopsgate (Wheeler 1928, 159, FIG 65, 32) and in a late 2nd century burial group at Southfleet, Kent (Smith 1922, 103, FIG 122B).

13. (not illustrated) 176 and 246/3. Four fragments, ovoid jar. Bubbly, very little weathering. Convex-curved lower body tapering in to top of open pushed-in base-ring (missing). Present ht (largest fragment) 55 mm.

This kind of lower body and base occurs on several early Roman vessels commonly found at sites in Britain, such as jars and jugs (Isings 1957, Forms 13, 15, 52B-C, 55B, 63, 65, 67C).

14. (not illustrated) 176. Six fragments, unguent bottle. Dull, slightly distorted by heat. Part of lower neck and wide low conical body. Present ht (largest fragment) 27 mm; neck d 24 mm; maximum d approx 80 mm.

15. (not illustrated) 176. Fragment, unguent bottle. Very bubbly. Part of low discoid reservoir. Present ht 13 mm; maximum d 50 mm.

Tall bluish green and greenish colourless unguent bottles with wide low conical or discoid bodies are found in 2nd and early 3rd century contexts in the western provinces (Isings 1957, Form 82B2). They occur quite frequently at Romano-British sites, as at Shakenoak (Harden 1971, 98, FIG 43, 31), and Ewer St, Southwark (Smith 1922, 104, FIG 123A), and sometimes have inscriptions impressed on their bases. Fragments of several of these vessels, two with inscribed bases, were found in the pit at Felmongers, Harlow (Price forthcoming, nos 24-27).

16. 176. Square bottle, some base and body fragments missing. Bubbly, dull, outside surface 'grainy'. Horizontal folded rim, flattened on top, square sectioned body, concave base with four raised angle pieces at corners and the raised letters SAI across the middle. Broad angular ribbon handle

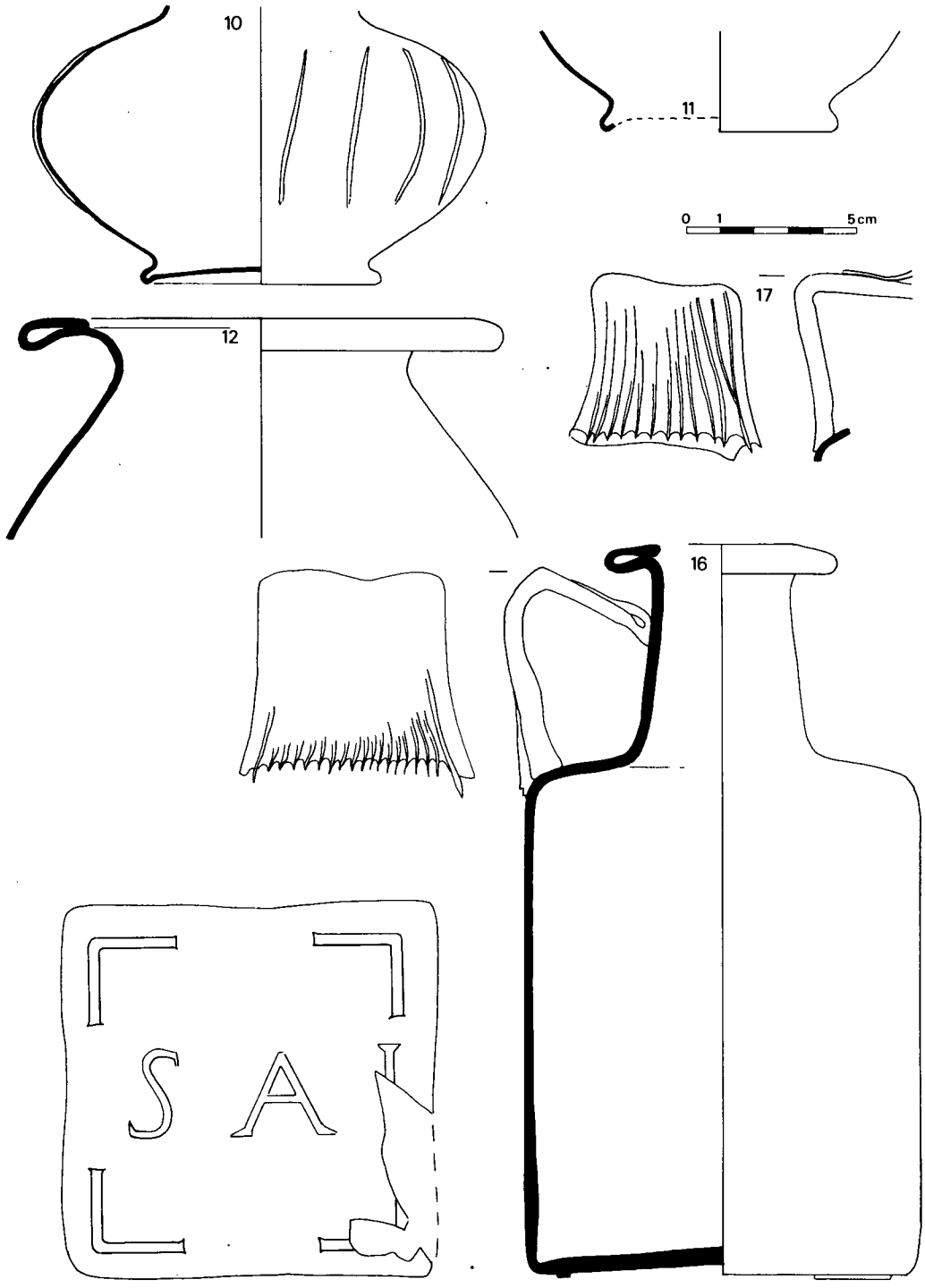

Fig. 16 Park Street, Towcester: glass from Pit 176 (1/2)

with multiple reeding combed onto the shoulder. Ht 216 mm; rim d 68 mm; w of base 110 x 111 mm.

Square bottles are extremely common on Romano-British sites in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Production began in the 2nd quarter of the 1st century and may have ended late in the 2nd century (Charlesworth 1966), though many fragments of these vessels also occur in the 3rd century. Most of the bottles are mould-blown and these almost always have raised designs on the base, which may be either concentric circles, complex geometric patterns, initials, or occasionally a personal name. A bottle found at Alcester, Warwicks, in 1965, in a pit dating from AD 130-150, had the same base design as this example (*J Roman Stud* 57, 1967, 207, no 24) but there do not seem to be other examples of the stamp.

17. 176, 195/1. Two joining fragments, handle of bottle. Flaking weathering deposit. Broad angular ribbon handle with multiple reeding combed onto curved shoulder. Present ht 57 mm; maximum w 54 mm.

It is very probable that this handle comes from a bottle similar to 16 above, though cylindrical bottles also had similar handles (Isings 1957, Form 51).

18. (not illustrated) 176. Small fragment, handle of jug. Dull. Part of angular ribbon handle with central ridge, perhaps from vessel similar to 7 and 9 above. Dimensions 9 x 17 mm.

OTHER CONTEXTS (FIG17)

Sixty-six pieces were found, of which only two were matt/glossy window glass. Twenty-four were from cylindrical and prismatic bottles. Five pieces have been illustrated and described.

1. 113/1 (3rd-4th century context). Two rim fragments, bowl, colourless. Dull, strain cracks. Everted rim, edge rounded and slightly thicker than concave side tapering inwards. Cast, both surfaces wheel-polished. Present ht 18 mm; rim d 140 mm.

2. 113/1 (3rd-4th century context). Small fragment of foot, plate or bowl, colourless. Dull. Slightly everted foot, edge rounded and slightly thicker. Cast, both surfaces wheel-polished. Present ht 9 mm; base d 76 mm.

The similarity of the finish of the rim and foot suggest that the two fragments come from the same vessel. Bowls of this kind have been found at several sites in northern Gaul and were made in the later 2nd century AD (Isings 1957, Form 80), but have not been recognised before on Romano-British sites.

3. 154/4 (medieval level). Rim fragment, cup or beaker, colourless. Flaking weathering deposit. Curved everted rim, edge cracked off and ground. Upper body expanding out. One wheel-cut below rim. Present ht 14 mm; rim d 60 mm.

This fragment comes from a later 2nd century drinking vessel, but too little survives to establish its form; cups with similar rims are known from many Romano-British sites at this time, including Verulamium (Charlesworth 1972, 206F, FIG77), Ditchley (Harden 1936, 64, FIG12, 2) and Felmongers, Harlow (Price forthcoming, nos 7-14).

4. 154/3 (medieval level). Fragment, handle of jug, bluish green. Bubbly, flaking silver weathering. Part of angular handle with rounded ridges at each edge. Present ht 61 mm; w 19mm.

It is difficult to identify the jug form since handles of this type were used throughout the Roman period. A somewhat similar handle fragment from a 2nd century vessel is known from Caerwent (Boon 1974a, 121, FIG1, 9).

5. 35/1 (post medieval level). Complete plano-convex disc, bluish green. Dull, little evidence of use. Ht 5.5 mm; maximum d 10 mm.

These objects were probably used both as counters and as gaming pieces. They are found in considerable quantities at 1st and 2nd century sites in Roman Britain, and also occur in later contexts. They were made by dropping a small blob of viscous glass onto a flat surface. The bluish green examples may have been produced in many places by reusing fragments of broken vessel glass.

THE ROMAN POTTERY

by Robin Symonds, Hedley Pengelly and K. F. Hartley
with contributions by B. R. Hartley and Dr Grace Simpson

INTRODUCTION

Approximately 7675 Romano-British sherds were recorded from the site. Phases 2 and 3 were devoid of pottery; Phase 1 contained pottery of the 1st century AD; Phases 4 and 5 of the 1st and 2nd centuries; Phase 6 3rd or 4th century and some earlier material; and the medieval and post medieval Phases 8 to 12 contained a whole range of residual Roman pottery (see also p 98-101).

The contents of the report are as follows:

1) A report on the samian by H Pengelly, with Dr Grace Simpson and B R Hartley.
2) A report on the mortaria, by K F Hartley.
3) A report on the amphorae, by R P Symonds, with advice from Dr D P S Peacock.
4) A report on the coarse ware and other fine ware by R P Symonds consisting of a description of the fabrics, forms, decorations and colour, the pottery catalogue Phase 1 and Phases 4-7, and a discussion of the pottery from the later, disturbed phases.
5) General conclusions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to the many who have aided the progress of the report. I would especially like to thank the various members of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, who have been patient; Dr Grace Simpson, for her counsel as well as her conributions to the samian report; Mr David Brown of the Ashmolean Museum; Dr David Williams and Dr D P S Peacock, for their advice on the black-burnished wares and the amphorae, respectively; Mrs Anne Anderson, for advice on the roughcast wares; and Richard Hunter, for providing a model for this report in his report on the site at Thorplands, near Northampton (Hunter 1977).

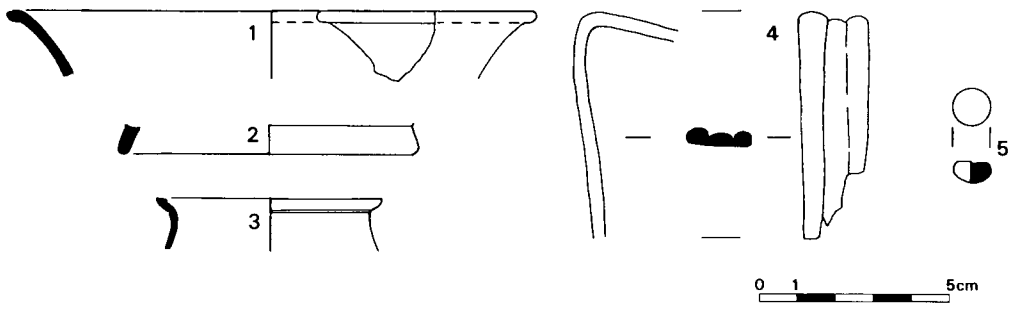

Fig. 17 Park Street, Towcester: glass from other contexts (1/2)

THE SAMIAN

by Hedley Pengelly
with contributions from Dr Grace Simpson FSA
and Mr B R Hartley FSA (FIGS18 and 19)

I am most grateful to Mr B R Hartley, FSA, for helping me over several hurdles, and to both him and Miss Brenda Dickinson, for supplying the notes on the potters' stamps. The die numbers, comprising an Arabic numeral to define the reading of the stamp, followed by a lower-case letter to indicate the precise die, are theirs, to appear in a new catalogue of potters' stamps on samian ware being compiled at the University of Leeds. Their system of 'footnote' numbers, used throughout this report, may be explained as follows:

1 – Stamps from the same die are attested at the pottery or potteries in question.

2 – Other stamps of the same potter, but not that particular one, are known from there.

3 – Assigned to this pottery or potteries on distribution and, or, fabric.

Dr Grace Simpson has commented on some unusual pieces (notably the metallic slip vase No **W29**) which were found during work on the coarse wares by Mr Symonds.

The samian ware, which includes a useful assemblage of stamped vessels from Pit 176, ranges in date from the mid 1st century AD to the end of the 2nd century. In the 1st century virtually all of it came from the South Gaulish kilns centering on La Graufesenque, and accounting for about 35% of the assemblage as a whole. The only exception is the presence of a little material from the early Lezoux potteries (F212, No **199** and F246, No **269**) which exported on a small scale to south and west England and to Wales under Nero and Vespasian (*c* 50-75).

In the early 2nd century, overlapping with the end of import from La Graufesenque, *c* 110, and the start of large-scale export from Lezoux, *c* 120, the main suppliers were the potteries at Les Martres-de-Veyre, highly active *c* 100-130, after which they rapidly went into decline, ceasing manufacture by 160 or very soon after. A product of this later phase is the form 37 (L234, **249**) in the style of Cettus. Overall, some 4-5% of the samian is from this source.

From the first half of Hadrian's reign Lezoux became the main source of supply as usually in Britain, and accounting for about 56% of the total examined. The presence of three vessels from Phase 4 (L218, **229a**; L243/1, **265a**; and 141, **113**) and another, unstratified, (Trial Trench U/S, **26**) in the micaceous pre-export fabric suggests that some material from Lezoux was reaching the site under Trajan.

Small quantities of East Gaulish ware probably began arriving under Hadrian and continued in a steady trickle until late in the 2nd century. Such wares amount to about 4-5% of the total of material found, about average for British sites in general.

Apart from the medieval and post-medieval deposits much of the other samian is clearly residual except for Pit 176 and Well 176/6.

The sherds were numbered consecutively in order of feature number, except for Well 176/6 and Pit 176 which were numbered W23-28 and W1-22 respectively. In some cases single numbers were given to groups of sherds. This numbering has been preserved in the catalogue. The catalogue is arranged as follows:

I. Details of pottery of particular intrinsic interest from all phases, but excluding Pit 176 which has been dealt with in detail as a group in the main catalogue. Illustrated pieces are noted as such.

II. A catalogue of all other samian from Phases 4-6 arranged by phase, dealing with individual features in the order in which they are described in the main text (p 72-76). Illustrated pieces are noted as such. Certain items from Pit 176 are described in detail.

III. Potters' stamps from the medieval and post-medieval deposits (Phases 8-12).

IV. A breakdown of the assemblage as a whole with quantification of forms and wares.

A fully detailed catalogue is stored with the site archive and is available on request (see p 39).

CATALOGUE OF THE SAMIAN

I

Phase 4

L218

229a. *Dr Grace Simpson writes:* "Rim fragment from a Dr 35 without *en barbotine* decoration, see O and P, PLLIII. The fabric is micaceous Lezoux ware with a thin slip on a pale buff-coloured clay. Early 2nd century."

L243/1

265a. *Dr Grace Simpson writes:* "Dr 37. An exceptionally thick (0.9 cm) tiny sherd, and also unusual because the outer half is micaceous pink-brown, while the inner half is a pale-buff, like **229a.** Evidently extra clay from a different source at Lezoux was added while the bowl was being moulded. The slip is poor and thin and has mainly disappeared, and also the fabric is very like Lezoux bowls of the 1st century AD, but the decoration belongs to the early 2nd century. This bowl was probably made in a mould brought to Lezoux from Les Martres-de-Veyre.

The curved border indicates that the ram's horn was in a basal wreath most like Rogers G370. The borders are very fine (*ibid*, A1), with a rosette at the junction of which seven petals survive, therefore it probably had about eleven petals (*ibid*, C229 or 230), when complete. The style is close to the 'Donnaucus group' (especially Potter X-13), or 'Ioenalis' (Potter X-11), or Sollemnis. *c* 100-120, (FIG18, 3).

L246/3

211. Five pieces of a large dish, SG, with a deep, corniced rim, and a rouletted base and rectangular footring basically like form 18R. Not paralleled, but Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic (FIG18, 5). Other pieces from F129/1, F212 and F154/9.

F141

113a *Dr Grace Simpson writes:* "The grey-coloured body and dull black surfaces indicate that this small sherd is not intentionally black samian, but was accidentally burnt in a fire at Towcester. The form was one of the small cups made by Libertus, recently studied by Colette Bémont, see 'Moules de Goblets ornés de la Gaule Centrale au Musée des Antiquités Nationales', XXXIII[e] *Supplément à Gallia* (1977), and her PLXIV, PM199, shows both figure types in the same mould. 0. 731 is the small male figure holding up a mask with his left hand, and Oswald had no instance of this as an original type by Libertus. The other figure is either Bémont, p 73, no 23, or p 75, no 43. *c* 100-120 (FIG18, 8).

Phase 5

F204

178. Form 37, SG. The main interest of this bowl is the ovolo which seems to fit precisely against rubbings of the large rosetted ovolo used by the Flavian potter Frontinus (cf Hermet 1934, PL85). but here its use is clearly (and uncommonly) later. The slightly unusual decoration is best likened to some work in the Bregenz Cellar deposit of *c* 90-110 (cf Jacobs 1912), and to Hermet's *'de la decadence'* series of bowls (Hermet, *op cit* PLS86-88). *c* 85-110 (FIG19, 13). Other pieces from F94, L129/1, F221, F226 and F228.

L234

248. Form 37, CG, in the style of Drusus i of Les Martres-de-Veyre. This piece is very close to a Vechten bowl, both in concept and manner of the moulding, and despite the subtle differences at this point, may well be from a bowl made in the same mould (cf *Acta Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum*, XI/XII (1969-70), 58, Afb 6, 77). *c* 100-120 (FIG18, 10).

246. Form 37, CG, in the style of Acaunissa of Lezoux, with ovolo (Rogers B22), rosettes (*ibid*, C30 and 249), pointed leaf (*ibid*, J137), bud (*ibid*, G248), bird (0.2278), man (D.102, 0.157) and pigmy (D.442, from a broken die). The medallion is uncommon for Acaunissa, and the leaves on trailing stems (not in Rogers?) seem not to be known on signed bowls. A further sherd, from L234, adds a large rosette (*ibid*, C243). *c* 125-145 (FIG19, 15). Most of this vessel was found in F212 (**204**).

Phases 8-12

Trial Trench U/S

26. Part of an enclosed jar, probably form 67 or the like, with micaceous fabric and patchy light orange-to reddish slip, partially worn away on the inside. The oblique borders and masks point to the Libertus-Butrio circle. The masks (D.692 and 318) are both known for Butrio, though the latter also occurs on a stamped bowl of Libertus at Lezoux. This jar, together with F218, **229a**, L243/1, **265a** and F141, **113a** above, are welcome additions to the British record of 2nd century pre-export Lezoux ware (FIG19, 16).

F195/1

173. Form 37, CG, by one of the Paternus ii Group of Lezoux, conceivably Laxtucissa. This bowl, with divided panel, large medallions, Hercules (D.450, 0.757) and dancer (D.373, 0.344) is like a Birrens bowl signed by Quintilianus (cf Robertson 1975, FIG52, 6) with whom Laxtucissa was closely associated in his early days. However, this bowl, which also has a lion (close to 0.1403a), is later and could conceivably be construed as a 'stylistic

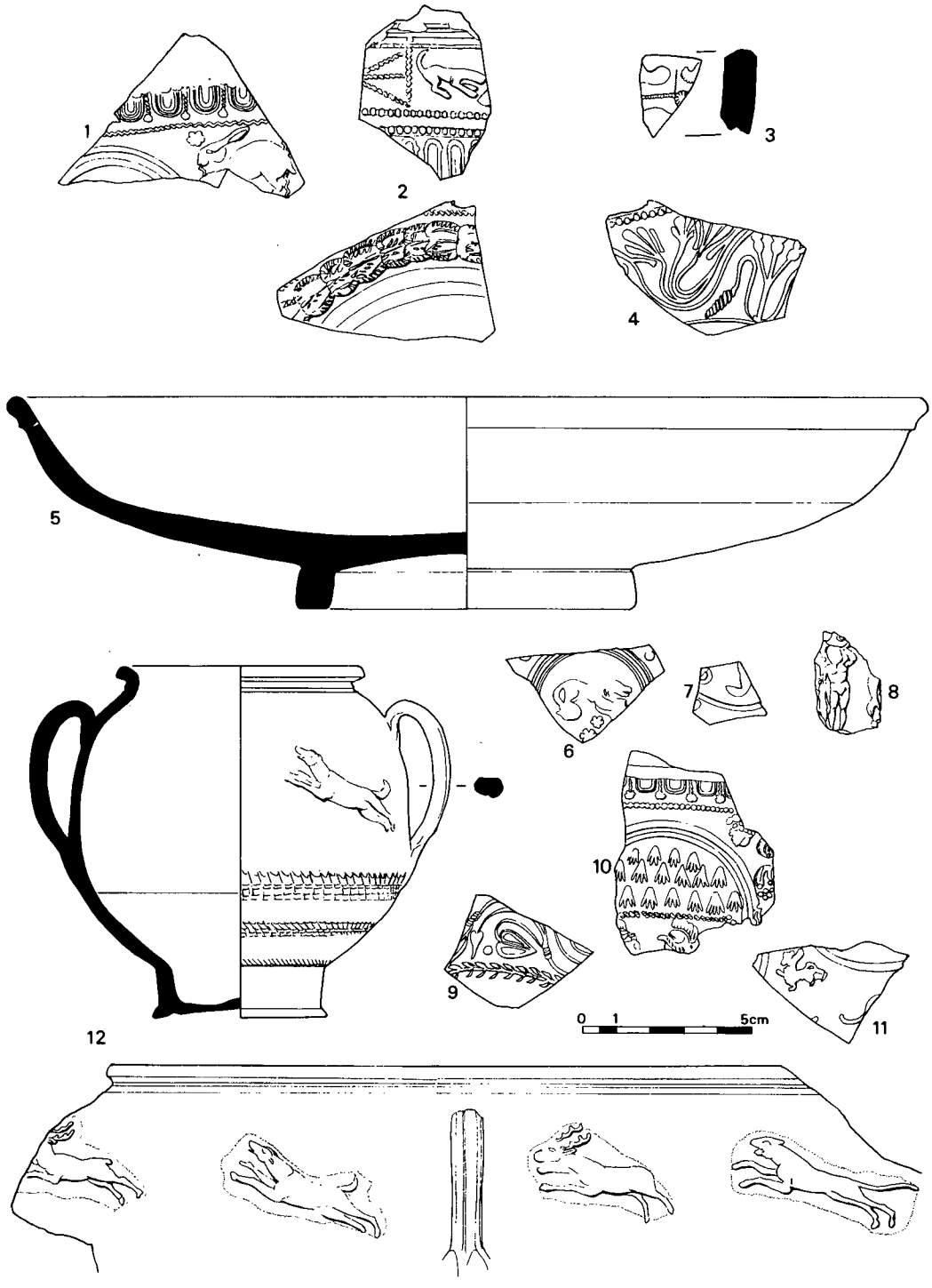

Fig. 18 **Park Street, Towcester: samian ware (1/2)**

bridge' between Quintilianus and the later potters of the Paternus ii circle, such as Paternus himself, and Censorinus, working mainly after 160. The fluting below the decoration, is more indicative of Antonine date than earlier. *c* 145-175 (FIG 19, 17).

II

Phase 4

L214/8

223. Form 29, SG, prob Fla, pre-85; **224.** Form 29, SG, Fla, pre-85.

L218

226. Form 37, CG, prob Les Martres, Style of X-9, Late-Tra or Had (FIG 18, 1); **227.** Form 33, CG, Had; **228.** Form 33, prob EG and Had or early Ant; **229.** Form 37, CG or EG, prob Had or Ant; **229a.** (See p 70).

L123/2

108. Form 37R, EG, (0 and P, PL LXXV), prob Had or early Ant, same as F232, **239**; **109.** Form 27, CG, prob Had or early Ant.

L281

285. Form 29, SG, *c* 65-85 (FIG 18, 2).

L245

268. Form Curle II, SG, Fla.

L243/1

265. Various sherds, mainly Fla: Form 15/17 or 18, SG, OF[retr (?), Fla; Form 29, SG, *c* 70-80; Form 29, SG, burnt, *c* 70-85; Form 15/17, SG, pre-85, Form 18 or 18/31, SG, Fla or Fla-Tra; Form 27, SG, (2); Form 33 or 33a, SG; **265a** (see p 70).

L242

264. Form 29, SG, *c* 65-80.

L246/3

272. Form 30, SG, Ner; **273.** SG, Apronius, 2a, Form 27g: OFAPRO La Graufesenque[2] *c* 65-80; **274.** Form 37, SG, *c* 75-90; **275.** Form 37, SG, *c* 75-95; **276.** Form 37, SG, Fla-Tra; **277.** Form 37, SG, Fla-tra; **211.** (See p 70). **278.** Form 15/17 or 18 (2), 27, 18R, 33 or 33a (2), Curle 11, SG; **279.** Form 37, CG, Les Martres. Style of Potter of the Rosette. *c* 100-120.

L172

167. Form 15/17 or 18. SG, Calvus i (prob), OFC[Fla.

L162

164. Form 18, SG, Fla.

L126

110. Form 15/17R or 18R, SG, Censor i, 2a, [OFCEN]S la Graufesenque[2] *c* 65-85. **111.** Form 37, SG, *c* 75-90. (FIG 18, 6). **112.** Form 37, SG, *c* 75-90. (FIG 18, 7); **113.** Form 15/17R or 18R, SG, prob Ner-Fla; Form 18, SG, Ves.

F141

128. Footring, burnt, 1st or 2nd cent; **113a** (See p 70).

L230

238. Frag, SG, Ves.

L227

236. Form 18/31R-31R, CG, Had-Ant or Ant.

L192

170. Form 27 or 35?, CG, Tra or Had; **171.** Frag, EG, Had or Ant; **172.** Form 31, CG, Ant.

L84/32

76a. Form 15/17 or 18, SG, Fla.

L84/22

76. Form 37, SG, *c* 75-90. (FIG 18, 9).

L84/13

75. Form 27, SG, Fla.

L84/5

73. Form 37, CG, Les Martres. Style of Igocatus. *c* 100-120.

L84/7

74. Form 29, SG, Fla, pre-85.

L84/1

72. Form 18/31, CG, prob Had.

L211/5

197. Footring, SG, prob Ner; **198.** Form Curle 11, overfired, SG or, more likely, Les Martres and early 2nd cent.

L258

282. Form 15/17R or 18R, SG, prob Ner or Ves; **283.** Form Curle 11, CG, Had. Considerable wear to broken edge of flange suggests possible use as a polisher or rubber; **284.** Form Curle 23, CG, prob Had or early Ant.

L256

281. Form 27, SG, prob Fla.

L252

280. Various sherds. Form 18, SG, Fla; Form Curle 15, SG, burnt, Fla-Tra; Frag of SG, dish or bowl with high, thick footring and very thin base, form uncertain. Prob Fla-Tra.

L208

192. Form 18R, SG, pre-Fla or Fla.

L241

263. Form 18R, SG, prob Ner or Ner-Fla.

L240

256. Form 15/17R or 18R, SG Part of stamp: [or] Prob illit, Ner or Fla; **257.** Various sherds: Forms 15/17 or 18, SG, 18, SG (2, Ner and Fla-Tra); Form 27, SG, prob Fla; Form 36, SG, (2, one poss Ner); **258.** Form 37, SG, *c* 75-100. **259.** Form 37 with lead rivets, *c* 85-105, other pieces from L234. **260.** Form 37, SG, *c* 85-105; **261.** Various sherds: Form 36, CG, Had or Ant; Form 33, CG, prob Ant; **262.** Form 33, CG, Iustus ii, 2a, [IV]STIMA Lezoux[1] *c* 160-200.

Phase 5

F183

169. Form 18, SG, Fla.

F209

193. Form 27, CG, Tra or Had; **194.** Form 18/3 or 31R, CG, Had-Ant or Ant.

F176/6

W23. Form 27, CG, Les Martres or Lezoux, prob Tra-Had; **W24.** Form 37, CG, Had; **W25.** Form 27, CG, prob Had or Had-Ant; **W26.** Form 27, CG, Had or early Ant; **W27.** Form 37, CG, small example, Attianus ii, 3a below the decoration: [ATTIA]N.0 retr. Lezoux[2], freestyle bowl with horseman (D.158), bear (D.820), dog (D.934) and snake-on-rock (D.960 bis), typical work of Attianus, see S & S, PL86 *c* 125-145; **W28.** Form 42, var, prob mid 2nd cent.

F176 Twenty-two items of samian and one metallic slip vase, with one exception all Central Gaulish, including an assemblage of seventeen different vessels all more or less complete (in fragments), fifteen stamped.

Stamped vessels

W1. Form 31, Aelianus, 21: AELIANI·M Les Martres[2] and, just possibly, Lezoux – on fabric evidence, *c* 110-140; **W2** and **W3.** Form 33 Buccula, 2a: BVCCVLA· Les Martres[3], (2) *c* 130-165. **W4.** Form 27, graffito CAN externally on upper wall, Canaus ii, 2a, CANAI Lezoux[2], *c* 130-150; **W5.** Cinnamus ii, 5b, Form 37: CIN[NA]MI retr. Lezoux[1], the most common of Cinnamus's mould-stamps, used in the period *c* 150-180, ovolo (Rogers B143), leaves (*ibid*, H51, 99, 101), rosette (not in Rogers?), bird (D.1038), for similar work, see S and S, PL162, and especially 61; **W6.** Form 31, Coccillus, 2a: COCCILLIM Banassac[2], Lezoux[2], Vichy (Terre Franche)[2], the sequence of this potter's migrations is not clear, but since Banassac ware is rare in Britain, this dish is likely to come from Lezoux or, less probably, Vichy. *c* 150-180; **W7.** Form 31, Cracuna i, 2a: CRACVNA.F Lezoux[1]. *c* 130-155; **W8.** Form 33, Dagodubnus ii, la; DAGODV NVSF Rheinzabern[1], *c* 150-200; **W9.** Form 18/31, Ericus, lb: ERICI.M Lezoux[3], prob *c* 145-165; **W10.** Form 27, Gongius, 2a: GONGI.M Lezoux[3], *c* 140-170; **W11.** Form 33, Illiomaris ii, la: ILLIOMARI NLezoux[1], *c* 140-170; **W12** and **W13.** Form 18/31R (with lead rivets) and Form 31, Muxtullus, 1b: MVXTVLLIM Lezoux[1], *c* 140-160; **W14.** Form 18/31R, Secundus v, 1b: SEC NDI Lezoux[2], *c* 145-175. **W15.** Form 31, Suobnus, 2a: SVOBNI.M Les Martres[1], *c* 130-155.

Mr B R Hartley comments: "The above stamped vessels from Pit 176, with the possible exception of W8, suggest that it had been dug and filled soon after the middle of the 2nd century."

Of the fifteen stamps noted, all were in use before 160, the majority well before, including one from Trajanic times, though here the date is clearly towards the latter part of the range. There are no purely Hadrianic stamps, though four were in use from *c* 130, others from the beginning of the Antonine period. It is noteworthy that whilst only one 18/31 is present compared to five 31s, the latter tend to be of the shallow, early kind rather than the generally more fully developed form of mid-to late Antonine times. Of the fifteen individual footrings, four appear to be well worn and, with the exception of the Dagodubnus cup, most are on vessels that could have been in use as early as 140 or soon after. By taking into account estimates of the varying degrees of wear to the fifteen footrings and coupling them with the date-ranges of the corresponding stamps, it seems clear that the pots as a whole were deposited in the decade 155-165.

Unstamped vessels

W16. Form 42; **W17.** Form Curle 15; **W18.** Form 18/31; **W19.** Form 31, of the shallow kind outlined above; **W20.** Form 18/31R similar to **W12**; **W21.** Form 37 rim; **W22.** Form 79 (eroded), mid-to late Antonine.

W29. An Appliqué Metallic Slip Vase from Central Gaul *by Dr Grace Simpson*

An almost complete example (in fragments) of the variant form Déchelette 74. The two appliqué stags are the same as those on an incomplete vase found in the Roman theatre at Verulamium (Simpson 1957, 41, no 31, FIG2, 31; originally published in Kenyon, 1934, 213-60, FIG10, 7, where it was likened to Castor ware). the Verulamium vase was in a deposit dated to the end of the 2nd century.

These two vases were probably made by the same potter at Lezoux. The Towcester example supplies the complete decorative scheme of four different appliqué animals, a hunting scene on each side of the vessel of a dog chasing a stag. The larger stag is like the moulded type D.873 = 0.1777, used by Illixo, except that the antlers are like 0.1822N,

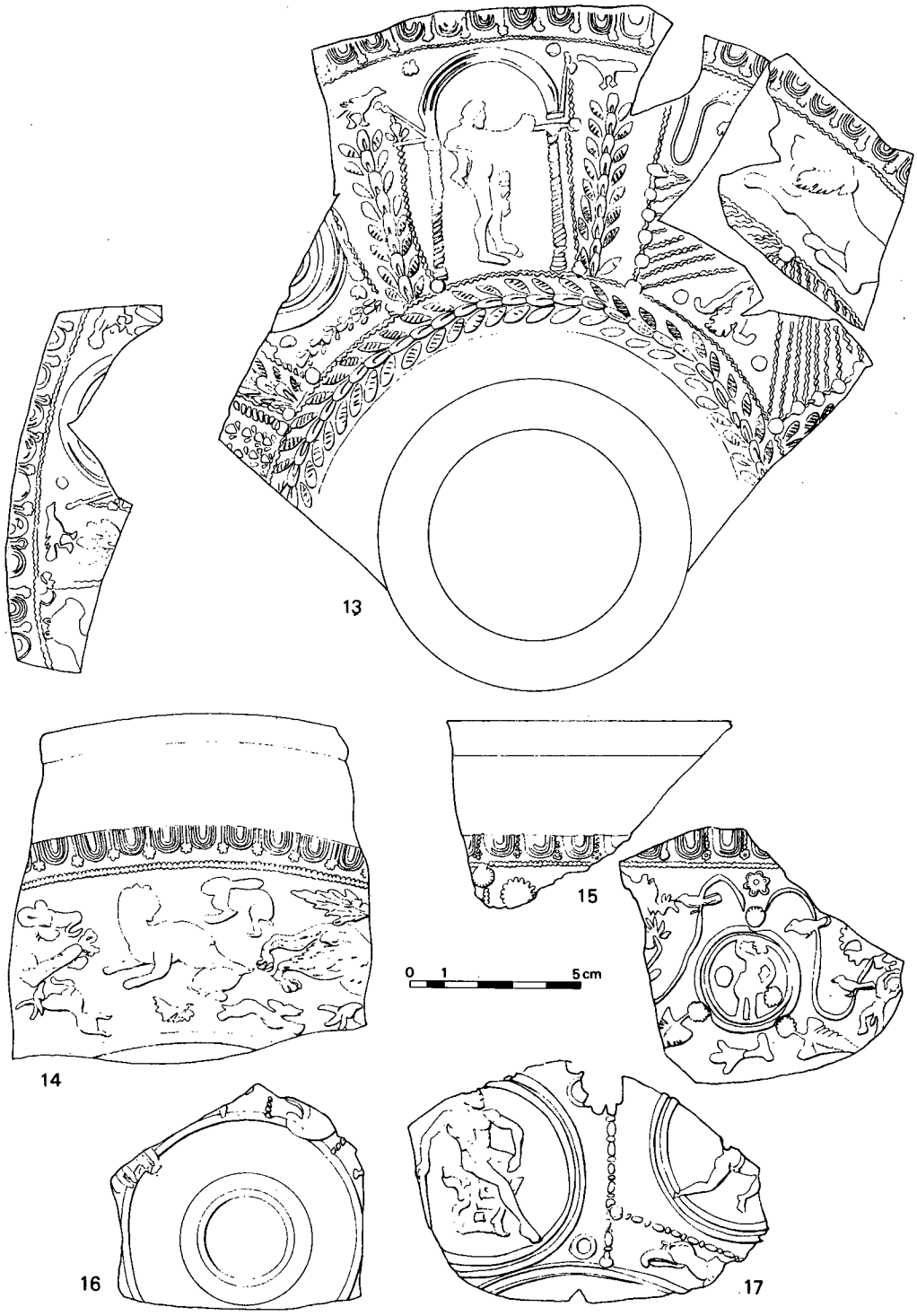

Fig. 19 **Park Street, Towcester: samian ware (1/2)**

used by Paternus ii. The smaller stag is like the moulded type 0.1784 on the styles of Butrio and Paternus ii. The larger dog is like the moulded type D.927 = 0.1983, used by Illixo, and the smaller dog with a curly tail is larger than the moulded type D.934, and is the same size as 0.1979 (as found at Rheinzabern) but that is a copy of a Lezoux original figure type.

The turned-out rim, rilled neck, globular body and high foot are very like the vase found at Exeter (Simpson 1973, 47, no 29, FIG1, 29), except that on the Towcester vessel there is no groove just above the foot, and the two zones of coarse rouletting are more widely spaced. One of the two handles survives. The exterior slip is a matt bronze-brown colour with small red patches due to erratic firing, and red on parts of the appliqué animals. The top of the rim is also partly red, but the interior is bronze-brown. The body is a light brown with a red core, and the wall is only 2 mm. thick at the widest girth where the animals were applied (as 'Wedgwood' figures are applied nowadays) without affecting the interior rilling. The exterior base is red and sparkles with mica as in typical Lezoux fabric, and a circular groove is filled with the brown slip. Period of production: Hadrianic to early Antonine (FIG 18, 12).

F94 (top of F176)

82. Form 37, CG, with unusual freestyle design. The ovolo (Rogers B24) was used by Docilis and, as Mr Hartley informs me, appears on a series of bowls with connections with his work and Casuris's, including the curved leaf (*ibid*, H167). The bear (D.808), panther (D.804, from a broken die), deer (D.847), hare (D.950A) and dog (not identified with either D or 0) are all attested for Casurius and, or, Do(u)eccus, the latter also using the narrow leaf (Rogers H101). The solution to the origin of these bowls appears to be at Lezoux and in the work of an anonymous potter connected with the Docilis – Casurius – Do(u)eccus tradition. A date *c* 140-165 seems likely. The small, neat footring on this bowl agrees well with a relatively early date in the range. Other pieces from F4 and L57.

F204

177. Form 18, SG, Fla; **178.** (See p 70); **179.** Forms 18/31 and 18/31R, CG, Had-Ant; **180.** Form 31, EG, Ant; **181.** Form 33, CG, Ant.

F204/2

182. Forms 18 and 27, SG, Fla or Fla-Tra; **183.** Form 67, SG, prob Fla; **184.** Form 37, SG, *c* 90-110; **185.** Form 18/31R, CG Had-Ant; **186.** Form 27, CG, Ant, pre-160; **187.** Form 35, CG, Had or Ant.

F53/3

58. Various sherds: Form 33, CG, Had or Ant; Form 31, CG, Ant, after 160.

F88

77. Form 27, CG, Ant, pre-160.

F246/1

271. Forms 33a and Curle 11, SG, Fla.

F246

269. Form 36, CG, prob 1st cent. Lezoux ware, *c*50-75; **270.** Form 37, SG, late Fla or Tra.

F236/1

251. Form 29, SG, Ner/early Fla; **252.** Form 18R, SG, prob Fla; **253.** Form 37, CG, Les Martres, style of Drusus i, *c* 100-120, other pieces from F95 and L1; **254.** Form Curle 11, CG, Tra or Had; **255.** Forms 35 and 36, CG, Had or Ant; **138.** Form 27, CG, Donnaucus, 5a: DONNAV.F Les Martres[1] *c* 100-120, part also from F154.

L234

244. Form 27g, SG, Ner, **245.** Form Curle 15, SG, 1st cent, Ner?; **246.** (See p 70). **247.** Form 37, SG, *c* 90-110; **248.** (See p 70); **249.** Form 37, CG, Les Martres. Style of Cettus. Early Ant. (FIG 18, 11).

L200

175. Form 18, SG, prob Ner-Fla or Fla; **176.** Form 18/31, SG, prob Fla.

L205

188. Form 18R, SG, prob Ner-Fla; **189.** Various sherds: Form 67, SG, prob Fla; Forms 15/17 or 18 (3), 27 (2), 33 or 33a, Curle 11, SG mainly Fla in date; **190.** Form 37, SG, *c* 75-95.

L205/1

191. Frag, SG, Fla?

F212

199. Form 33a, CG, 1st cent Lezoux ware, *c* 50-75; **200.** Form 18R, SG, prob Ner or early Fla; **201.** Various sherds: Forms 15/17 or 18, 18, 18R, SG, all prob Fla, though the latter could just be Ner; **202.** Form 27, SG, Fla-Tra; **203.** Form 27, slightly burnt, CG, Had; **204.** (See p 70); **205.** Various sherds: Form 18/31 CG (Les Martres); Form 27, CG, Had or early Ant; Form 18/31R, CG, Had-Ant; Form 33, CG, (2), Ant; **206.** Form Curle 15, heavily burnt. The form was made at SG in the 1st cent, but is chiefly characteristic of the 2nd, other pieces from F218; **207.** Form 38, burnt, but prob CG, and late Ant, other pieces from F142, F154 and L160; **208.** Forms 31 (2, one after 160), 44, CG, Ant.

L212/1

209. Form 18/31, CG, prob Tra or Had; **210.** Form 33, CG, Had or Ant.

L212/2

212. Form 27, SG, prob Fla; **213.** Various sherds: Form 27, CG, Abalanis, 3b: BALANIS retr. Lezoux[2], *c* 125-150; Forms 27 and 18/31R, CG, Had-Ant.

L212/3

214. Form Ritterling 1, SG, prob Claud-Ner; **216.** Form 37, SG, *c* 80-100; **217.** Forms 15/17 or 18 and 18, SG, Fla, and prob late 1st cent.

L212/7

219. Form 18, SG, Fla; **220.** Form 27, CG, Had or early Ant.

F233

240. Various sherds: Form 18, SG, Fla; Form 27, SG, (3, one poss Ner-Fla); **241.** Form 18/31, heavily burnt; **242.** Form 33, CG, prob late Ant; **243.** Form 38, CG, Sextus v, 8a, SEXTVSF Lezoux[2], *c* 160-200, part from F95.

F213

221. Form 18/31 or 31, CG, prob Had or early Ant; **222.** Form 37, CG, Had or Ant.

L128

114. Form 36, SG, prob Fla; **115.** Form 15/17 or 18, CG prob Les Martres, Tra or early Had; **117.** Form 33, EG, Ant; **118.** Form 31, CG, Ant; **119.** Form 31, EG, prob late Ant.

F17

17. Form 37, CG, prob Had; **18.** Form 37, CG, Ant; **19.** Frag, prob EG, late Had or Ant; **20.** Form 33, CG, Ant; **21.** Form Curle 23, CG or EG, prob Ant; **22.** Form 38, EG, prob Rheinzabern, Ant.

F244

226. Form 18, SG, Fla; **267.** Form Curle 21, CG, late Ant.

Phase 6

F113/1

98. Form 37, CG, prob *c* 130-150; **99.** Form 33 (2), CG, Had or Ant, pre-160.

F113/2

100. Form 18/31R, CG, Had or Had-Ant.

F113/5

101. Form 27, CG, prob Had-Ant.

15/2

16. Form 15/17, SG, pre or early Fla.

F215

225. Form 33, CG, prob Had-Ant.

F219

230. Form 35/36, SG, slightly burnt, prob 1st cent.

F220

231. Form 38, CG, Ant.

F223

233. Form 31, CG, Ant; **234.** Footring, poss Les Martres, first half 2nd cent.

III

Phases 8-12 (Stamps)

Trial Trench U/S

25. Form 33a, CG, Silvinus iii, 6b: SILVIИVS Lezoux[1]. Prob *c* 125-140.

F2/1

4. Form 18/31R or 31R with rivet hole, CG, Pugnus ii, 2a: PVGMIM Lezoux[1]. *c* 140-170.

F35

35. Form 18/31, CG, Paullus iv, 3f: PAVLL[I.M] Lezoux[1]. *c* 140-170.

F95

91. Form 31, CG, Carussa, 2a: CARVSSAF Lezoux[2]. *c* 150-180.

F92

79. Form 79 or 79R, CG, Advocisus, 2a: ADVOCISI.[0] Lezoux[1]. *c* 160-190.

IV

By adding up the approximate total of each recognizeable form according to source of supply, (in round figures some 360 different vessels) the assemblage of samian ware as a whole breaks down as follows:

SG Form 27g/27 (22); 37 (20); 18 (15); 15/17 or 18 (14); 29 (12); 18R (8); 33a/33 (6); 15/17R or 18R (5); Curle 11 (5); 36 (4); 67 etc. (3); 18 or 18/31 (3); 15/17 (2); Curle 15 (2); 30 (1); 35/36 (1); Ritterling 1 (1).

CG a) *Lezoux, 1st cent:* Form 33a (1). b) *Lezoux, 2nd cent pre-export:* Form 37 (1); 67 etc. (1); 35 (1); plus small moulded cup (1). c) *Lezoux, main export period c 120-200:* Form 33 (29); 37 (27); 31 (25); 27 (22); 18/31R (12); 18/31 (11); 31R (10); 18/31R or 31R (6); Curle 11 (6); 79 or 79R (6); 38 (5); 18/31-31 (4); 18/31R-31R (3); 35 (3); Curle 15 or 23 (3); 33a (2); Curle 21 (2); 42 (2); 30 (1); 30/37 (1); 46 (1); 44 (1); 79/80 (1); 79 or Tg (1); plus enclosed jars (4). Appliqué metallic-slip ware, form 74, var (1). d) *Les Martres-de-Veyre:* form 37 (7); 27 (2); 33/33a (2); 31 (2); 30 or 37 (1); 15/17 or 18 (1); 27 or 35 (1).

CG or EG Form 37 (2); 31 (2); Curle 23 (1); plus enclosed jar (1).

EG a) *Chémery Faulquemont:* Form 27g (1). b) *La Madeleine or Blickweiler* (prob): Form 37, rim (1). c) *Rheinzabern:* Form 33 (1); 38 (1)?. d) *not attributed to a particular centre:* Form 33 or 33a (5); 31 (2); 18/31 (1); 37R (1); 32 (? 1); Curle 21 (1); plus enclosed jar (1).

Samian ware not assignable to a particular source due to burning: Form 18/31 (1); Curle 11 (1); Curle 15 (1).

THE MORTARIA

by K F Hartley (FIG20)

FABRICS

Fabric 1: Brockley Hill, Bricket Wood, Radlett, Verulamium, Herts/Mddx. A greyish cream fabric sometimes with a pink core, more rarely a black core. The fabric is made noticeably granular by the addition of a large amount of grit, mainly quartz, to the clay, and it often appears laminated. The trituration grit consists of flint, quartz and red-brown material. The fabric is occasionally brown but the texture and grit remain the same.

Fabric 2: Upper Nene valley as represented at Towcester. A greyish cream fabric, sometimes with grey core. This fabric contains some quartz, red-brown and possibly flint tempering but the amount varies a lot and it is always less than would normally be expected in a Brockley Hill fabric. Nevertheless, it can be difficult to distinguish by eye from Fabric 1. Trituration grit as Fabric 1.

Fabric 2A: Upper Nene valley as represented at Towcester. A slightly sandy cream fabric, sometimes with salmon pink core; a little quartz and red-brown tempering but much less than Fabrics 1 and 2a, and it is fairly smooth to the touch: flint, quartz and red-brown trituration grit.

Fabric 3: Cowley, Headington, Sandford etc, Oxford. *c* AD 110-400+. Slightly sandy, off-white fabric with cream to buff slip and pink and brownish quartz trituration grit.

Fabric 4A: Dorchester, Cowley, Sandford, etc, Oxford. AD 240-400+. A fine, orange-brown fabric sometimes with grey core; white slip; trituration grit as Fabric 3.

Fabric 4B: Dorchester, Cowley, Sandford, Baldon, etc, Oxford. AD 240-400+. As 4A but with a red-brown samian-like slip.

Phase 4

Unillustrated: A flange fragment in Fabric 2. Upper Nene valley. *c* AD 125-160 (F192).

Unillustrated: A flange fragment in Fabric 2. Upper Nene valley. *c* AD 100-140 (F258).

1. Four joining pieces making up about a third of the rim of a very well-made mortarium in Fabric 2; made in the upper Nene valley *c* AD 80-120 (F246/3).

Unillustrated: A flange fragment probably in Fabric 1, made *c* AD 80-120 (F246/3).

Unillustrated: BS. Probably Fabric 1 (F246/3).

Unillustrated: Three joining flange fragments in Fabric 1 or 2 with the extreme corner of a potter's stamp, which is too fragmentary for identification. *c* AD 90-130 (F240 and F236/1).

Unillustrated: Two joining fragments from the flange of a mortarium in Fabric 1, made in the Brockley Hill region *c* AD 70-110 (F240 and F234).

Unillustrated: BS. Fabric 3. Oxford. AD 100-400+ (F240 and F234).

Phase 5

2. A flange fragment in Fabric 1. The incomplete potter's stamp (]IVS) is from one of the two dies of Bruccius who worked at Brockley Hill, Mddx, where thirteen stamps of his have been found. Thirty-eight of his mortaria are now known from other sites in England and Wales. There is no site-dating evidence for his work but his rim-profiles would best fit a date *c* AD 80-120 and there is some evidence to indicate that the die used was his earlier one with a final date of *c* AD 115 (L128 and F109/1).

3. A mortarium probably in Fabric 1. This can be paralleled in the work of Driccius of Brockley Hill and Radlett (Castle 1973, 83, FIG7, MS9), and at Verulamium (Frere 1972, no 752). *c* AD 135-165 (F234 and 213).

Unillustrated: A large portion from a worn mortarium in what appears to be Fabric 2 but the rim-profile is typical of mortaria made in the Brockley Hill region AD 75-115, and this may be an unusually fine-textured version of Fabric 1. This mortarium would have been stamped (see comments on 129/1). Residual (F238).

Unillustrated: A spout fragment in pink fabric with orange-brown slip; it has been burnt or overfired to the point of vitrification. Upper Nene valley. Indeterminate (F244).

Unillustrated: A flange fragment from a mortarium in Fabric 1, with some vitrification; made in the Brockley Hill region *c* AD 65-100 (F246).

4. A worn mortarium in fairly fine-textured cream fabric with pink core and some fine tempering and a little flint and quartz trituration grit. Mortaria of this form are widely but thinly distributed in Britain. The date of manufacture is not yet certain but certainly fell within the period AD 80-140. Probably imported (F246).

5. Ten fragments making up almost half of the rim of a wall-sided mortarium in Fabric 3; there is some superficial burning. No close parallel is known but it is of the same general type as M14 (Young 1977) which Young dates AD 180-240. However, if the form is judged in conjunction with mortaria made in other potteries manufacture *c* AD 160/170-240 would be a more fitting date (F212 and L160).

Unillustrated: BS. in Fabric 1 (F212).

6. Diameter 270mm. Three joining fragments making up almost a quarter of a mortarium in Fabric 2A. The potter's stamp which is incompletely impressed reads]VNICO, with reversed N; no other stamp of this potter is known. The fabric leaves no doubt that this mortarium was made in Northamptonshire. Although a few potters working in this region, like Vediacus, marketed mortaria widely, a number are known by only a single stamp indicating that as far as mortaria were concerned they were strictly local potters working on a small scale. The rim-profile would fit a date within the period AD 110-160 (F212/3).

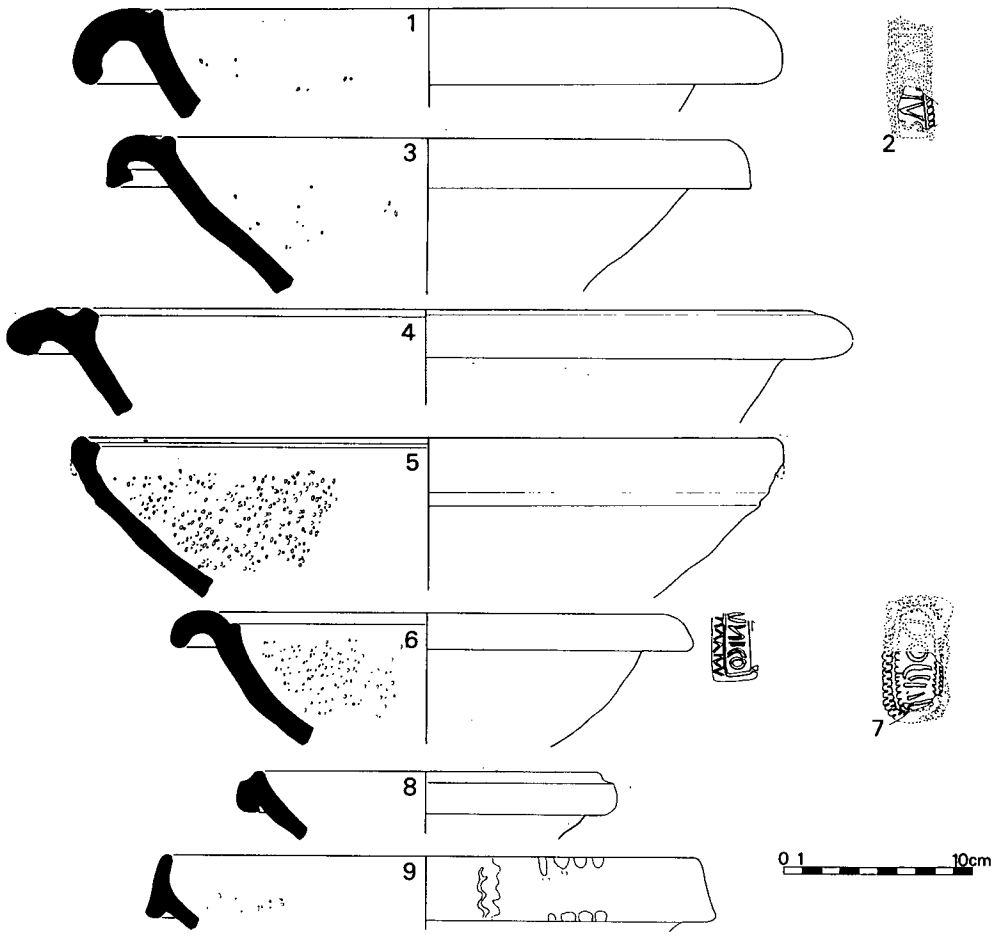

Fig. 20 Park Street, Towcester: mortaria (1/4)

Phase 6

Unillustrated: Three joining fragments in Fabric 2, from a mortarium probably made in the upper Nene valley *c* AD 110-160 (F113/1).

Unillustrated: A mortarium in Fabric 3, made at potteries in the vicinity of Oxford (Young 1977, M22.1) AD 240-400+ (F113/1).

Phases 8-12 (Residual)

7. A flange fragment, probably in Fabric 1. The potter's stamp (DCCN) is from the most commonly used of the six dies of Doccas who had a workshop at Brockley Hill, Mddx (Castle 1972, 79, FIG6, M1-2). He is one of the two potters known to have moved from Brockley Hill to the midlands, probably to Hartshill, Warwickshire, in the early 2nd century. There is no site-dating evidence for his work but rim-profile and the link with the midlands point with reasonable certainty to a date within the period AD 85-125. His work at Brockley Hill belonged to the earlier part of his life and probably did not continue beyond *c* AD 110. The details in this stamp are very sharp and it was almost certainly made when the die was comparatively new; the mortarium would be similar to no 238, and the stamp could in fact be from this vessel (F129/1).
8. A mortarium or bowl of unusual form, probably in Fabric 2. Not datable (F64).
9. A wall-sided mortarium in fine textured, creamy white fabric, made in the Mancetter-Hartshill potteries in

Warwickshire probably in the 4th century. The wall is decorated with motifs in red-brown paint (L71).

Unillustrated: Many other residual pieces including Fabric 1 (Brockley Hill), Fabric 3 (Young 1977, Forms M17, M18 and M22), Fabric 4A, Fabric 4B (Young 1977, Form C100) and sherds from Mancetter-Hartshill and the Lower Nene (Castor/Stibbington). A full catalogue of this material is in the site archive.

AMPHORAE

by R P Symonds
with advice from Dr D P S Peacock

In Phases 4-7 there were 228 sherds of amhorae, representing probably not more than 25 vessels. Two of these were of Dressel form 30, from southern Gaul (cf Callender 1965, PL11b), and one vessel was of Camulodunum form 186, from Cadiz, in southern Spain (cf Hawkes and Hull 1947). The rest were of Dressel form 20, from the Cordoba-Seville region of Spain (see F128-109/1, no 68; cf Frere 1972, no 19). All of these date from the early-to-mid-2nd century AD. In the later residual phases, about 9 vessels were represented, two of Dressel form 30, and the rest of Dressel form 20.

THE COARSE WARE AND OTHER FINE WARES

by Robin Symonds (FIGS21-29)

PHASES 4-7

TABLE 1: THE POTTERY FABRICS AND FORMS

The Fabrics		*% of total (4789 sherds)*
TS	terra sigillata	9.8
A	amphorae	4.8
M	mortaria	0.9
BB1	black-burnished ware	2.5
RC	plain and colour-coated roughcast wares	2.4
F	fine wares	3.0
G1	grey wares	29.8
G2	'off-colour' grey wares	7.8
B	brown wares	3.6
OPW	orange, pink, and white wares	30.2
C-G	calcite-gritted wares	1.8
H	heavy, lumpy wares	3.2
Misc	miscellaneous	0.1

The Forms			*% of total (4789 sherds)*
B1 B2	poppyhead other	beakers (B)	5.2
D1 D2 D3 D4	grooved rim bead rim plain wide rim other	dishes & bowls (D)	4.1
F1 F2 F3 F4	1-handled 2-handled handleless ?handle	flagons (F)	9.5
J1 J2 J3	narrow-necked grooved rim other	jars (J)	8.6
SJ	storage jars (SJ)		1.8
C L 0	cups lids other	other items (0)	0.8
U	unknown (U)		54.5

In compiling these percentages, and those in Table 3, TS, A, and M have been counted as forms as well as fabrics.

DESCRIPTIONS OF FABRICS are as follows:

TS terra sigillata: see report above by Hedley Pengelly, with Dr Grace Simpson and B R Hartley.

A amphorae: see report above by R P Symonds with advice from Dr D P S Peacock.

M mortaria: see report above by K F Hartley.

BB1 black-burnished ware. All the vessels listed under this heading have been visually confirmed by Dr D F Williams as BB1 (cf Williams 1977, for a full description of the fabric type). BB1 is present in the form of dishes, bowls, jars, and a few (rare) lids, which fall generally into the middle of the 2nd century AD, with the exception of a few grooved-rim bowls (see F212, unill 1) which are later, according to the parallels in Gillam 1970. Dr Williams suggested that the Wareham-Poole Harbour area of Dorset was a likely source for this material.

RC plain and colour-coated (c/c from here on) roughcast wares. The plain vessels are of a single homogeneous buff-brown fabric, which is hard and sandy and contains small grains of quartz. This fabric appears to have a unique set of forms, which are cups, beakers and bowls (Nos 137-9, and 154-5). Moreover, it occurs exclusively in Phase 5, especially in the two large pits, F176 and F212, with the exception of two vessels in Phase 6 (no 189 and unill 4). Although the vessels in this fabric are paralleled at other sites along or near Watling Street, its fineness of fabric and distinctive forms and date range make it stand out as an unusual ware.

The c/c vessels are largely beakers, and occur only in small quantities throughout Phases 4-10. These are probably from the industries in the lower Nene Valley and at Colchester (pers comm Mrs Anne Anderson).

F fine wares. A mixed category, including c/c wares, both native and imported, painted wares, and a tazza. Where known, probable sources and dates are noted in the catalogue.

G1, G2, B, OPW grey wares, 'off-colour' grey wares, brown wares, and orange, pink, and white wares. If all these vessels are spread out on a table, a spectrum can be arranged with the grey, reduced, wares (G1) and the white, oxidized, wares (OPW) at the poles, and the 'off-colour', or semi-reduced/semi-oxidized, wares (G2), and the brown wares(B), in between. Without benefit of petrological analysis, it is not possible to state how many individual fabrics are involved, or whether or not

the grey and white wares are in fact of the same fabric having undergone different degrees of reduction/oxidation. It can be shown, however, that even if the same clay source is being used for the whole range of grey-white wares, the forms, and therefore the functions of the vessels, are not ubiquitous but rather can be related to the variation in fabric colour (see FIG21 and explanation). As shown in FIG21, the forms are generally beakers, flagons and jars, with beakers and jars dominant in grey wares, and flagons dominant in orange, pink, and white wares. These appear to be largely local products, although a small number of London wares (no 43) are present, as well as a somewhat larger group probably from Ecton (nos 84-86, and 99).

C-G calcite-gritted wares. These jars and storage jars are apparently part of a pre-Roman tradition. Nos 1-4 in Phase 1 all clearly belong to the 1st century AD, but it is difficult to determine to what extent those in the later phases are the result of disturbance or a continuation of the pre-Roman tradition. In the stratified phases they are present in substantial numbers only in Phase 4, but they were also found, in even larger numbers, in the later, disturbed phases (see Table 5).

H 'heavy, lumpy' wares. These may be no more than very coarse grey wares, but their almost exclusive (though hardly surprising) use as storage jars warrants their distinction from the rest.

OX Oxford colour-coated wares. Only present in the later, disturbed phases (see discussion below, and Table 5).

NV Lower Nene Valley colour-coated fine wares. Only present in the later, disturbed phases (see discussion below, and Table 5).

FORMS

The variation in forms present is considerable even within a particular phase. The forms represented in the catalogue have been selected to show the range of this variation, although in places variants falling in between given forms have been omitted, as the time-span of the stratified sequences and the limitations of space do not warrant a wholly comprehensive type-series. Where possible close parallels have been used to obviate the need for illustration. It is interesting to note, however, that one of the most consistent groups of parallels with a source at some distance is that of the flagons with Oxford wares of the 2nd century AD (cf Young 1977, Types W2, W3, W5, W6, W7, and W8). Although there are other flagons which are probably not Oxford products, notably the screw top flagons, this does suggest that in many cases the grey and white wares are quite separate fabrics.

THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FABRICS AND FORMS

FIG21 demonstrates graphically the relationships between fabrics and forms in the pottery enumerated in the following catalogue of Phases 4-7. These relationships are obvious when the vessels and vessel fragments are spread out on a table, but are cumbersome to describe without a model or table. The lengths of the horizontal sides represent the percentages of vessels of the various *fabrics* in which a given *form* may occur; the lengths of the vertical sides represent the percentages of vessels of the various *forms* in which a given *fabric* may occur. Thus a large square indicates that a particular fabric and form are highly compatible: for example, most jars (J – 63.5%) are grey wares (G1), and most grey wares (G1 – 62.0%) are jars. Thin rectangles indicate that, for example, a high proportion of beakers (B – 47.6%) are grey wares, but a smaller proportion of grey wares (G1 – 15.5%) are beakers; or conversely, only a small proportion of beakers occur in roughcast brown ware (RC – 26.2%), but they are the predominant form (68.8%) in that fabric.

The percentages used to construct the model were derived from analysis of all of the diagnostic rims in Phases 4-7, since these represented most of the cases where both fabric and form can be determined, and it seemed preferable to use actual vessel numbers rather than figures which might be distorted by breakage characteristics of the various fabrics and forms.

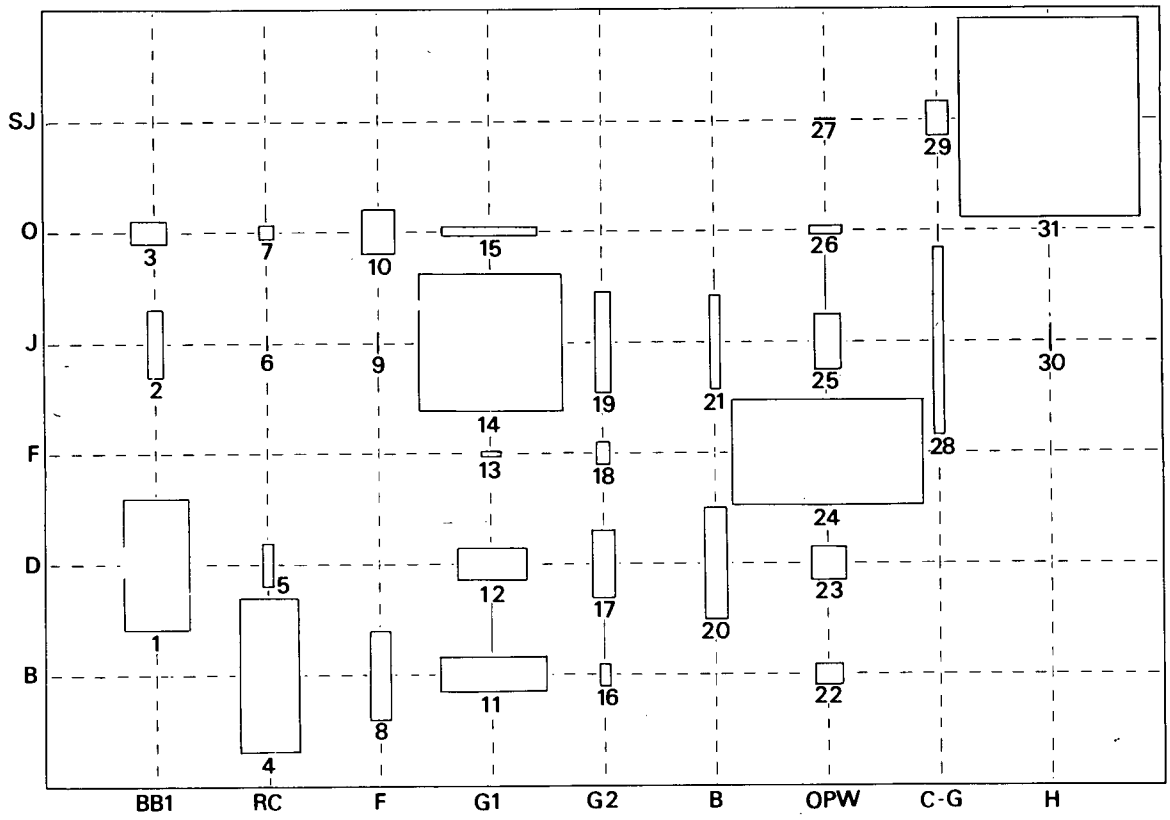

Fig. 21

TABLE 2
The percentages proportionate to the fabric (vertical) and form (horizontal) axes

Rectangle No.	*Fabric Axis: %*	*Form Axis: %*	*Rectangle No.*	*Fabric Axis: %*	*Form Axis: %*
1	28.8	58.6	17	10.2	30.0
2	7.1	31.0	18	5.9	10.0
3	21.4	10.3	19	7.1	45.0
4	26.2	68.8	20	10.2	50.0
5	5.1	18.8	21	4.0	41.7
6	0.8	6.3	22	11.9	8.2
7	7.1	6.3	23	15.3	14.8
8	9.5	40.0	24	85.3	47.5
9	0.8	10.0	25	11.9	24.5
10	14.3	20.0	26	14.3	3.3
11	47.6	15.5	27	10.0	1.6
12	30.5	14.0	28	4.0	83.3
13	8.8	2.3	29	10.0	16.6
14	63.5	62.0	30	0.8	11.1
15	42.9	4.7	31	80.0	88.8
16	4.8	10.0			

TABLE 3: PERCENTAGES OF SHERDS OF FABRIC AND FORM TYPES IN PHASES 4-6b, AND IN SUBSTANTIAL LAYERS WITHIN THESE PHASES

	Fabrics:													Forms:							
PHASES & LAYERS:	TS %	M %	A %	BB1 %	RC %	F %	G1 %	G2 %	B %	OPW %	C-G %	H %	Misc. %	B %	D %	F %	J %	SJ %	O %	U %	Total sherds:
Phase 4																					
126	3.9		16.2			2.2	39.1	14.0	0.5	19.6	1.7	2.8			0.6		6.7	1.7	2.2	68.7	179
208	3.3						66.7	6.7	1.7	20.0		1.7			1.7		6.7		1.7	86.7	60
240	22.6	1.1	1.1	1.7		15.8	26.6	6.2	6.8	15.8	2.3			16.4	2.3	0.6	7.3		0.6	48.0	177
243/1	6.0					1.2	44.6	13.1		16.7	16.1	2.4		0.6	2.4	7.7	8.9	8.9	0.6	64.9	168
246/3	8.0	2.0	6.4				33.8	8.4	4.7	30.8	0.7	5.4		1.7	0.3	8.7	7.4	1.0		64.5	299
Remainder	7.7	0.4	4.4	2.2		1.1	36.5	13.8	9.2	18.7	3.5	2.2	0.2	6.2	4.0	0.9	6.6	1.3	0.7	67.9	455
Total	8.8	0.7	5.2	1.0		2.9	37.3	11.2	5.2	20.9	3.9	2.7	0.1	4.7	2.2	3.3	7.2	2.0	0.7	65.1	1338
Phase 5																					
128-109/1	1.9	0.3	1.6		1.1	1.3	18.9	0.8		72.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	3.5	42.1	9.9		0.3	40.3	375
200-205	9.4		1.3			3.8	48.1	6.9	2.5	11.3	3.8	13.1		0.6	3.8		8.1		1.3	75.6	160
204-204/2	13.9		5.9				27.3	3.7	8.0	40.1		1.1		4.8		8.0	8.6		0.5	58.3	187
233	5.7	2.3	11.4	13.6		4.0	24.4	17.0	1.1	19.3	0.6	0.6		1.7	24.4	15.3	1.1			38.1	176
234	8.3	1.7	0.6	7.2	0.6	0.6	35.9	7.7	2.8	28.7		6.1		0.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	1.1	0.6	69.6	181
236/1	7.5	1.7	0.8	0.8		0.8	32.5	17.5	2.5	26.7	7.5	1.7		1.7	10.0	0.8	3.3	1.7		72.5	120
246	1.7	1.7	6.6				25.6	10.7		50.4	1.7	1.7		9.1			1.7			79.3	121
176	32.8		0.6	3.6	4.6	7.1	30.7	1.1	4.6	14.0		1.0		7.1	9.8	2.1	23.4	0.6	3.4	20.3	522
212	6.2	2.0	5.5	1.4	10.5	3.2	24.0	8.1	1.6	34.5	1.2	1.7		11.4	1.4	12.0	4.6	0.1	0.7	55.9	692
Remainder	5.6	0.6	12.4	2.5	0.4	2.1	32.5	5.4	3.9	32.1	0.6	1.9		4.8	2.7	9.5	6.8		0.2	57.3	483
Total	10.8	1.0	5.0	2.6	3.4	2.9	28.5	6.2	2.8	33.5	1.0	2.2	0.1	5.5	5.3	11.6	9.0	0.3	1.0	50.6	3017
Phase 6a																					
113/1	1.8	3.7		16.0	7.4	4.3	18.4	6.7	8.0	6.1	0.6	27.0		6.7	2.5		23.3	27.6	0.6	33.7	163
Remainder	9.1					10.9	34.5	9.1	3.6	25.5		7.3		1.8			5.5	3.6		80.0	55
Total	3.7	2.8		11.9	5.5	6.0	22.5	7.3	6.9	11.0	0.5	22.0		5.5	1.8		18.8	21.6	0.5	45.4	218
Phase 6b																					
8.8		3.7	0.5		2.3	8.8	8.8	10.2	2.8	61.1	0.5	1.4		2.8	1.9	28.2	0.9	1.4		52.3	216
OVERALL TOTAL	9.8	0.9	4.8	2.5	2.4	3.0	29.8	7.8	3.6	30.2	1.8	3.2	0.1	5.2	4.1	9.5	8.6	1.8	0.8	54.5	4789

COLOUR

A Munsell Soil Color Chart was used to encode the colours of the exteriors, cores, and interiors of all of the vessels represented in the catalogue which follows. Since the Munsell numerical codes are difficult to use without the chart, a summary was compiled of all of the Munsell codes used for the Park Street pottery, and a single new number was adopted for each corresponding Munsell name. The new numbers, the Munsell names, and their Munsell numerical codes are set out in the table below.

All Munsell codes in Table 4 are *YR* unless otherwise noted.

TABLE 4: MUNSELL COLOURS USED IN DESCRIPTION OF POTTERY

No	*Munsell name*	*Munsell numerical codes*			
1	dark reddish grey	10R/4/1	5/4/2		
2	weak red	10R/4/3			
3	red	10R/4/8	10R/5/8	2.5/5/6	2.5/5/8
4	reddish grey	5/5/2			
5	light red	2.5/6/6	2.5/6/8		
6	black	2.5/N2.5	7.5/N2	10/2/1	
7	dark reddish brown	5/2.5/2			
8	very dark grey	5/3/1	7.5/N3	10/3/1	
9	dark grey	2.5/N4	5/4/1	7.5/N4	10/4/1
10	reddish brown	2.5/4/4	2.5/5/4	5/5/3	5/5/4
11	grey	2.5/N5	2.5/N6	5/5/1	7.5/N5
		10/5/1	2.5Y/N5		
12	light reddish brown	2.5/6/4	5/6/3	5/6/4	
13	yellowish red	5/5/8			
14	grey/light grey	5/6/1	7.5/N6	10/6/1	
15	pinkish grey	5/6/2	7.5/6/2	7.5/7/2	
16	reddish yellow	5/6/6	5/6/8	5/7/6	5/7/8
		7.5/7/6	7.5/7/8	7.5/8/6	
17	light grey	7.5/N7	10/7/1	10/7/2	2.5Y/7/2
18	pink	5/7/4	5/8/3	5/8/4	7.5/7/4
		7.5/8/4			
19	white	5/8/1	7.5/N8	10/8/1	10/8/2
		2.5Y/8/2			
20	pinkish white	5/8/2	7.5/8/2		
21	dark brown/brown	7.5/4/2			
22	brown	7.5/5/2	7.5/5/4	10/5/3	
23	light brown	7.5/6/4			
24	dark greyish brown	10/4/2			
25	greyish brown	10/5/2			
26	light brownish grey	10/6/2			
27	pale brown	10/6/3			
28	light yellowish brown	10/6/4			
29	brownish yellow	10/6/6			
30	very pale brown	10/7/3	10/7/4	10/8/3	10/8/4
31	yellow	10/7/6	10/8/6		
32	pale yellow	2.5Y/8/4			
33	dark bluish grey	5B/4/1			
34	bluish grey	5B/5/1			

DECORATION

In the preparation of this report, a fairly complex code was devised to record decorations, as well as fabrics and forms. This was not deemed sufficiently useful to be included in the following catalogue, but will join the archive. The decorations include few anomalies: the most notable is the decorated handle, no 106.

POTTERY CATALOGUE, PHASES 1 AND 4-6b (FIGS22-29)

The illustrated pottery is arranged in order of Fabric (Table 1) phase by phase. Two important groups (F176 and F212) belonging to Phase 5 have been illustrated as separate entities at the end of the Phase 5 material.

PHASES 8-12

Given the residual nature of the Roman pottery from the later phases, it was considered too poorly stratified to warrant illustration. As there were no nearly whole vessels, it seems likely that these layers were badly churned up. The pottery of these phases appeared to be a mixture of 2nd century material, which was associated with that of the earlier phases, and 3rd and 4th century material. The earlier pottery was represented by BB1, grey wares, orange, pink and white wares, and calcite-gritted wares, but except in the case of BB1, where there was an increasing incidence of grooved-rim bowls (cf Gillam 1970, no 226 – AD 220-270), it was difficult to determine which vessels were residual and which represented continuing traditions. The fine wares were more clearly later in date, being largely a mixture of Oxford and Nene Valley colour coated wares. Typical Oxford wares were colour-coated bowls (cf Young 1977, Type C51 – AD 240-400+) and flagons (cf Young 1977, Type C8 – AD 240-400+). Typical Nene Valley products were a Castor box (cf Gillam 1970, nos 341 and 342 – AD 150-220) and colour-coated indented beakers with scale decorations (cf Hartley 1960).

A type-series of stratified 3rd and 4th century wares found elsewhere in Towcester will appear in the forthcoming report on the St Lawrence road site by A E Brown. The overall percentages of different fabrics for the later phases is given in Table 5.

TABLE 5: PERCENTAGES OF FABRICS IN PHASES 8-12

TS	M	A	BB1	RC	F	OX	NV	G1	G2	B	OPW	C-G	H	Total sherds
7.7	1.1	4.1	4.4	0.6	6.0	3.0	3.3	25.6	10.0	2.6	18.7	4.4	8.7	2868

POTTERY CATALOGUE, PHASES 1 and 4-6b (FIGS22-29)

The illustrated pottery is arranged in order of Fabric (Table 2) phase by phase. Two important groups (F176 and F212) belonging to Phase 5 have been illustrated as separate entities at the end of the Phase 5 material.

NUMBER	FEATURE/ LAYER	FABRIC	FORM	EXT	CORE	INT	
Phase 1							
1	263	G1	J3	6	6/16	16	Burnished.
2	286	G2	J3	8	11/23	23	Hard buff fabric with black exterior and grey core. Cf Friendship-Taylor 1974, FIG10, no 26 (mid-1st century AD).
3	263	C-G	J2	6/16	11	16	Cf Watson 1949, FIG11, no 11 (first half of 1st century AD).
4	284	C-G	J3	7/13	9	12	Cf Friendship-Taylor 1974, FIG10, no 3 (mid-1st century AD), and Knight 1967, FIG9, no 5 (Flavian).
Phase 4							
Unillus.	211/5, 258	BB1	D4	6	8	6	Cf Gillam 1970, no 308 (AD 130-180); denser lattice.
Unillus.	84/17, 234	BB1	J3	9	17	8	Cf Gillam 1970, no 125 (AD 125-180)
5	240	BB1	L	8	9	8	
6	141, 149	RC	B2	1	20	16/10	Roughcast buff fabric with brown c/c; cornice rim. Cf Frere 1972, no 783 (AD 150-155/160).
7	240	F	B2	6	16	16/8	Rhenish ware beaker: cf Greene 1978, 18-9. Although this vessel could date as early as AD 150, it is nonetheless late for the phase, considering the stratigraphic position of L240. (See p 46).
8	84/5	F	U	19/10	17	30	Pinkish-buff fabric with grey core; red-painted decoration: similar to Woods 1970, FIG39, no 278 (Bannaventa, first half of 1st century AD).
9	126, 200, 202, 205	F	U	15/10	15	15	Pinkish-buff fabric; red-painted decoration. Cf Woods 1970, FIG39, no 278 (Bannaventa, first half of 1st century AD).
10	126, 200	F	U	22/20	22	22	Brown fabric with brown c/c; white painted decoration: similar to Kenyon 1948, FIG38, no 29 (Trajanic).
11	246/3	G1	B1	14	14	14	
12	240	G1	B1	9	14	11	Similar to Gillam 1970, no 97 (AD 80-130).
13	208, 205	G1	B1	14	14	11	
14	243/1	G1	B1	16/14	17	27	Very thin orange slip.
15	243/1	G1	B1	8	11	12	Heavily sooted.
16	246/3	G1	B1	11	17	14	
17	240	G1	B1	11/14	14	14	
18	162	G1	B2	14	14	14	Very coarse.
19	208	G1	D1	11	14	14	
20	240	G1	D2	8	22	8	
21	259	G1	D2	11	29	11	
22	192	G1	D3	11	17	11	Similar to Kenyon 1948, FIG23, no 1 (AD 125-220).
23	141	G1	D4	11	17	11	
24	240	G1	D4	8/10	9/10	8	
25	240	G1	J1	14	19	17	Similar to Frere 1972, no 250 (AD 75-105), and no 581 (AD 130-150).
26	192	G1	J1	9	9	9	
27	246/3	G1	J2	8	17	8	
28	208	G1	J2	11	14	14	
29	218	G1	J2	14	19/14	11	
30	126	G1	J2	8	11	11/25	
31	240	G1	J2	11	19	11	
32	258	G1	J2	18	17	11	
33	243/1	G1	J3	14	9/17	14	
34	172	G1	J3	9	17	9	
35	84/22	G1	J3	9	11	18	
36	246/3	G1	J3	11	17	11	
37	246/3, 200	G1	J3	34	17	34	
38	126, 149	G1	L	11	22	11	
39	200, 200, 234	G1	L	11	17	9	
40	171	G1	L	14	19/17	11	Knife marks just above rim.

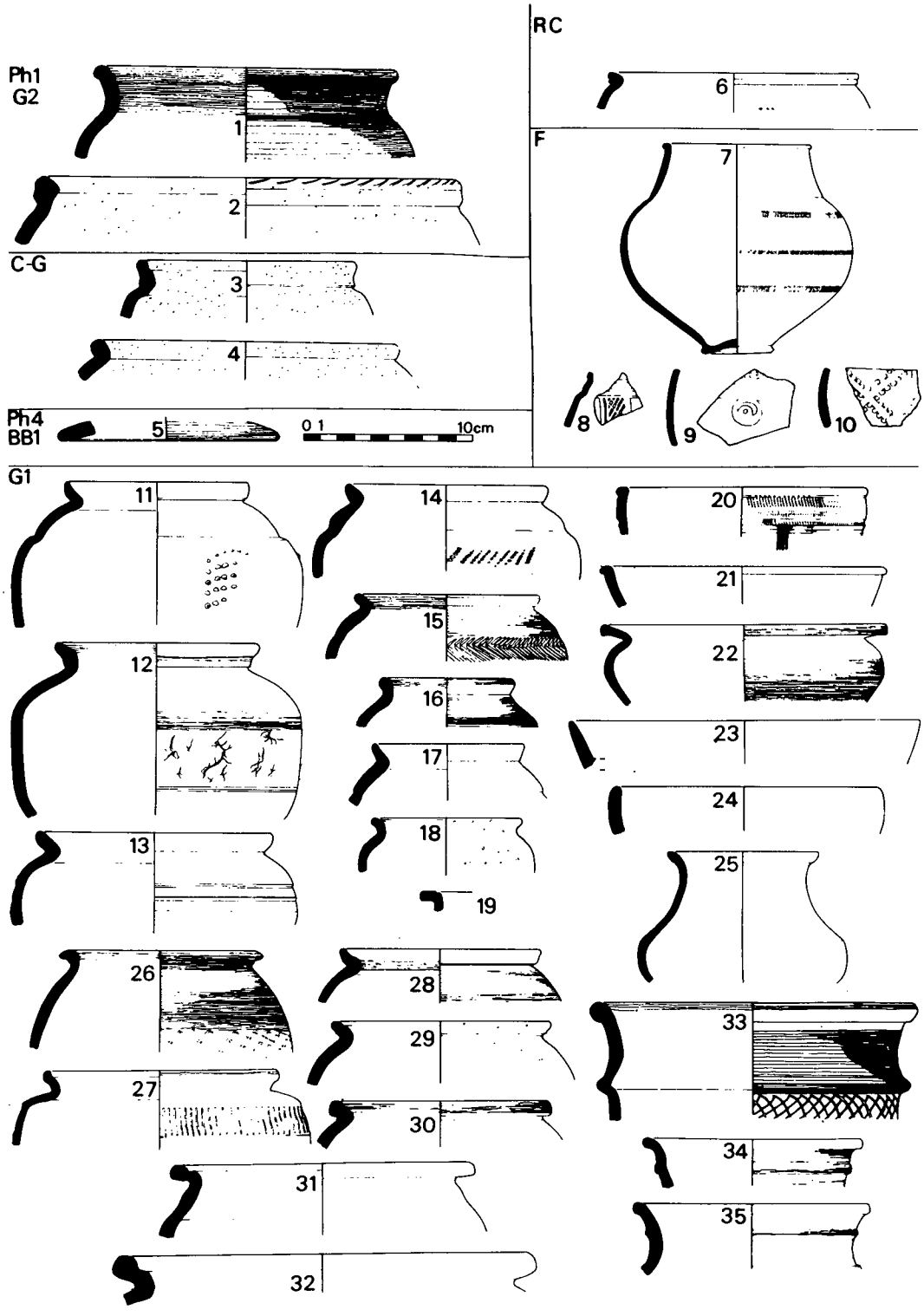

Fig. 22 Park Street, Towcester: pottery from phase 1, nos 1-4; from phase 4, nos 5-35 (1/4)

NUMBER	FEATURE/ LAYER	FABRIC	FORM	EXT	CORE	INT	
41	243/1	G1	L	9	9	9	
42	84/5	G1	U	17	17	14	Pedestal base.
43	208, 205, 233	G1	U	8	22	15	London ware: cf Marsh 1978, Type 44 (early 2nd century AD).
44	84/9, 84/11	G2	J1	14	23	23	Fine brown fabric with polished grey exterior. Cf Friendship-Taylor 1974, FIG 14, no 134 (Antonine, AD 150), and Woods 1970, FIG 23, no 162 (Hadrianic-Antonine).
45	123/2	G2	D1	20/11	18/11	18/17	Buff-grey fabric with grey core; thin cream slip; underfired; sooted. Cf Woods 1970, FIG 15, no 86 (Hadrianic or Antonine).
46	243/1	G2	D1	30	18/9	18	Buff fabric with intermittent grey core; unevenly fired; sooted. Similar to Woods 1970, FIG 14, no 77 (3rd century AD).
47	246/3, 259	G2	D2	10	9	12	Coarse thin red-orange fabric with thick grey core.
48	240	G2	D4	23	11	23	Thin buff fabric with grey core. Similar to Woods 1970, FIG 14, no 80 (Trajanic or Hadrianic).
49	126	G2	J2	9	9/12	12	Buff fabric with grey exterior.
50	171, 172 216	G2	J2	1	11	22	Very sandy grey fabric with red-brown exterior and interior.
51	218	G2	J2	16	11	16	Thin orange fabric with thick grey core.
52	259	G2	J2	8	29	16	Buff fabric with grey exterior.
53	218	B	D4	23	16	18	Coarse.
54	208	B	D4	4	17	12	
55	227	B	J2	23	16	23	Coarse.
56	84/27, 123/1	OPW	B2	18	18	18	Very soft buff-orange fabric with very worn streaky orange slip.
57	126	OPW	D2	16	5/14	5	Orange fabric with thin buff core; sooted.
58	243/1	OPW	J2	16	30	16	Orange fabric with buff core; sooted.
59	126, 125 141	OPW	J3	16	17	18	Orange fabric; sooted.
Unillustrated	246/3	OPW	F1	18/14	20/17	20	White-orange fabric with grey stain. Cf Young 1977, Type W2.3 (AD 100-240).
Unillustrated	240	OPW	F4	16	18	18	Buff-orange fabric. Cf Young 1977, Type W3.2 (AD 100-240).
60	246/3	OPW	0	15	15	15	White fabric with splotchy pink slip. Part of a triple-spouted lamp or candle-holder.
61	282/2, 243/1	C-G	J2	9/28	28	23	Coarse fabric as Phase 1, nos 3 and 4; sooted.
Unillustrated	84/24	C-G	J2	9/10	23	12	Coarse fabric as Phase 1, nos 3 and 4. See F263, no 3, and Watson 1949, FIG 11, no 11 (first half of 1st century AD).
62	240	C-G	J2	28	28	12	
63	261	C-G	J3	3	9	5	
64	243/1	C-G	J4	11/18	9	16	Coarse fabric as Phase 1, nos 3 and 4; sooted.
65	162, 163	H	J4	12	9	14/8	
66	246/3	H	J4	12	9	18	
67	144	H	J4	16	11	12	
Phase 5							
68	128, 109/1	Amphora		30	30	18	See discussion above.
Unillustrated	234	BB1	D3	8	8	8	Cf Gillam 1970, no 308 (AD 130-180)
Unillustrated	233	BB1	D4	9	9	9	Cf Gillam 1970, no 316 (AD 125-160)
Unillustrated	204, 204/2	BB1	J3	11/16	14	9	Cf Gillam 1970, no 118 (AD 125-160)
Unillustrated	234	BB1	J3	33	33	33	Cf Gillam 1970, no 120 (AD 125-160)
Unillustrated	246	BB1	J3	8	9	9	Cf Gillam 1970, no 125 (AD 125-180)
69	234	BB1	J3	9	9	9/14	
70	202	BB1	L	6	9	6	
71	183	RC	B2	9	13	1	Fine orange fabric with thin grey core; cornice rim Cf Frere 1972, no 783 (AD 150-155/160).
72	88	RC	B2	8	16	8	Fine orange fabric with black c/c; roughcast; cornice rim.

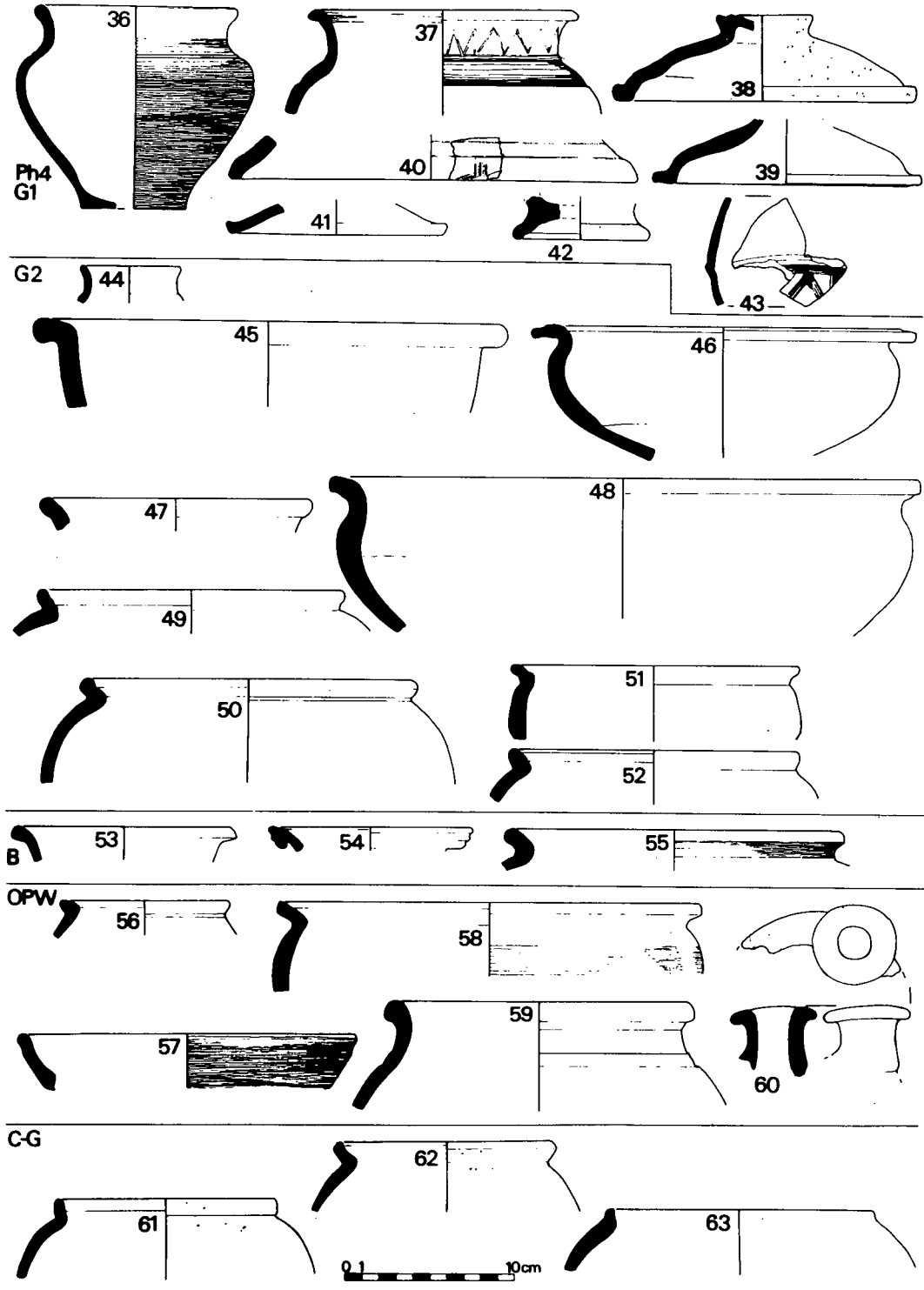

Fig. 23 Park Street, Towcester: pottery from phase 4, nos 36-64 (1/4)

NUMBER	FEATURE/ LAYER	FABRIC	FORM	EXT	CORE	INT	
73	236/1	RC	B2	9	19	24	Indented beaker in white fabric with uneven green-black c/c; roughcast. Similar form to Gillam 1970, no 76 (AD 140-200).
Unillustrated	128, 109/1	RC	B2	23	16	30	See F176, no 137.
74	209	G1	B1	11/14	14	14	Similar to Kenyon 1948, FIG 40, no 24 (AD 110-120).
75	246	G1	B1	11	11	14	Sooted.
76	154/8	G1	B1	14	17	11	
77	246	G1	B1	9	14	11	
78	108	G1	B2	11	14	14	
79	154/9	G1	D1	11	17	14	
80	136/1	G1	D1	9	30	30	Heavily sooted.
81	205	G1	D4	8	9	8	Imitation BB1: grey fabric with thin red layers and polished black surface. The form is an imitation of a Rhenish ware cup from Central Gaul: cf Greene 1978, FIG 2.3, no 7 (AD 150-250).
82	204, 204/2	G1	D4	11	14	11	
83	17	G1	D4	14	14	14	Partial burnishing on rim.
84	233	G1	D4	8	14	9	Imitation BB1, probably from Ecton: cf Johnston 1969, FIG 7, no 46 (early Antonine).
85	236/1	G1	D4	8	30	8	Imitation BB1, possibly from Ecton; bands of burnishing on exterior and interior. Cf Friendship-Taylor 1974, FIG 11, no 39 (possibly residual), and Bunch and Corder 1954, FIG 2, no 3 (mid-1st century AD).
86	154/8	G1	D4	8	8	8	Bands of burnishing on exterior and interior. Similar to no 85.
87	236/1	G1	D4	6	8	NM	Cf Woods 1970, FIG 12, no 63 (Antonine or earlier).
88	17	G1	F4	17	14	27	
89	236/1	G1	J2	9	9	30	Sooted.
90	154/8	G1	J2	8	23	9	Very sandy fabric.
91	209	G1	J2	14	14	14	
92	234	G1	J2	11	14	14	Unevenly fired; sooted.
93	236/1	G1	J2	9	9	15	Sooted.
94	213	G1	J2	6	6/22	22	Heavily sooted.
95	128, 109/1	G1	J3	11	17	9	
96	234	G1	J3	11	11	11	
97	246	G1	J3	6	9	6	
98	234	G1	J3	11	11	11	Knife-slash ?decoration.
Unillustrated	213	G1	J3	9	17	8	See F212, no 169; cf Johnston 1969, FIG 7, no 49 (early Antonine).
99	234	G1	J3	11/9	14	9	Wheel-turned imitation BB1, probably from the upper Nene Valley. Cf Corder 1950, Type 4 (Antonine or later), and Woods 1967, FIG 5, no 32 (AD 130-160).
100	176/6	G1	J3	8	11	11	Imitation BB1.
101	204, 204/2	G1	C	11	14	14	Polished grey ware.
102	200, 205	G1	L	8	11	8	Imitation BB1, similar fabric to no 84.
103	233	G2	B2	16/10	11	16	Miniature beaker in orange fabric with grey core.
104	234	G2	D4	23	11	18	Buff fabric with grey core; mica dusted.
Unillustrated	233	G2	F1	19	8	17/11	Buff fabric with grey core. See F212, no 173; cf Young 1977, Type W2.3.
105	154/9	G2	J2	30	17	30	Buff fabric with core.
106	165/1	G2	U	16	9	16	Orange exterior with thick grey core.
107	234	B	D4	18	23	18	
108	234	B	J3	30	11	30	
109	128, 109/1	B	J3	30	16	30	
110	234	OPW	B2	10	16	12	Orange fabric.
111	209	OPW	D4	18	18	18	
112	233, 234	OPW	D4	18	10	18	Red-orange fabric with buff core; mica-dusted; sooted.
113	128, 109/1	OPW	D4	30	18	19	White fabric with pink core.

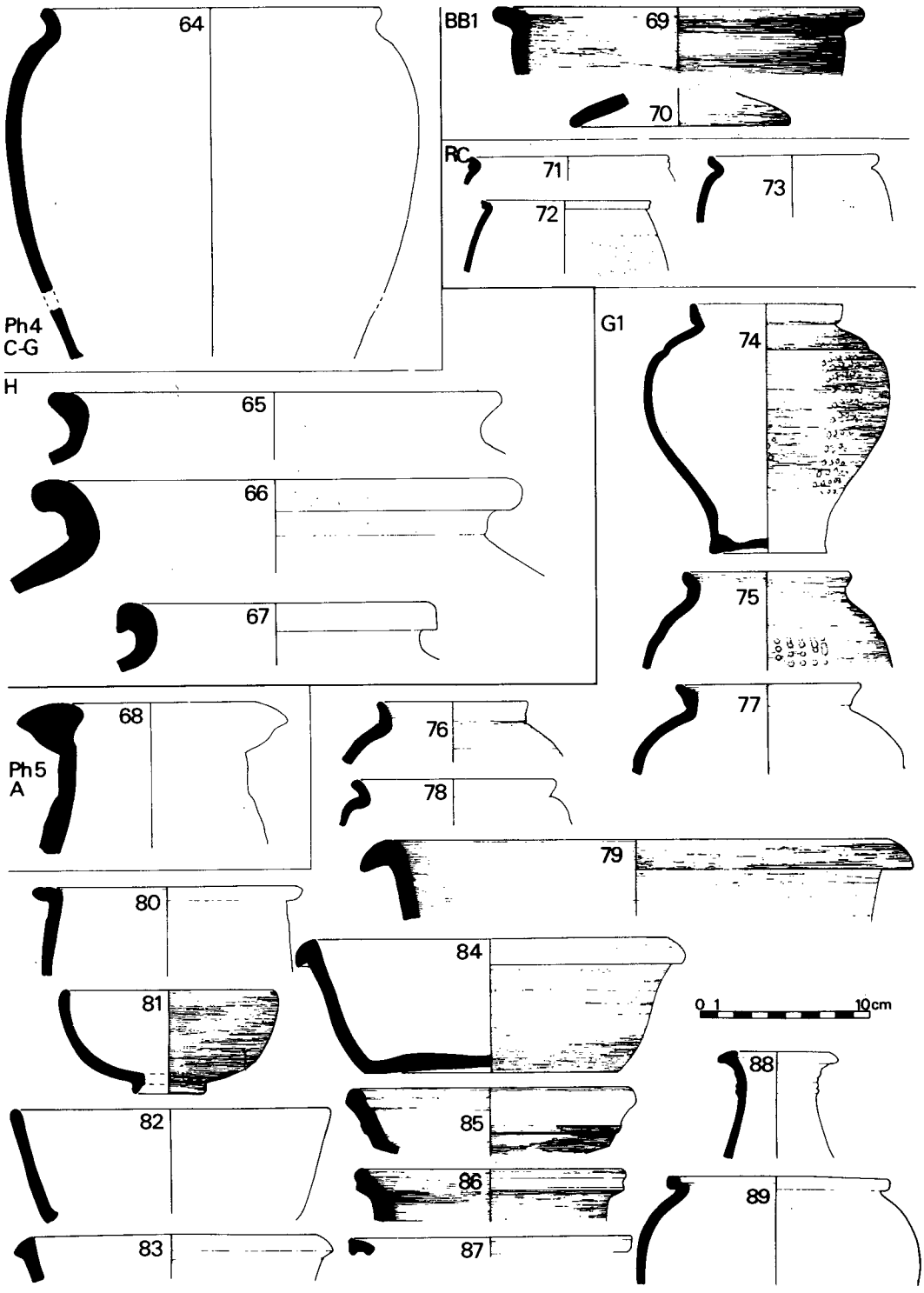

Fig. 24 Park Street, Towcester: pottery from phase 4, nos 64-67; from phase 5, nos 68-69 (1/4)

NUMBER	FEATURE/ LAYER	FABRIC	FORM	EXT	CORE	INT	
114	233	OPW	D4	18	14	30/16	Orange-buff fabric with grey core.
115	128, 109/1	OPW	F1	18/31	19	19/15	Pink fabric.
116	128, 109/1	OPW	F1	30/31	30	11/30	White fabric. Stained inside and outside, apparently with a grey liquid.
Unillustrated	128, 109/1	OPW	F1	19	19	11/19	White fabric. Stained inside and outside, apparently with a grey liquid. Cf Young 1977, Type W2 (AD 100-240).
117	233	OPW	F1	30	18	18	Pink fabric. Similar to Young 1977, Type W8.3 (AD 100-240).
118	204, 204/2	OPW	F1	30	16	10	Orange fabric with grey core; white slip.
Unillustrated	128, 109/1	OPW	F1	30	19	19	White fabric. Cf Young 1977, Type W2.1 (AD 100-240).
Unillustrated	176/6	OPW	F1	30	17	19	White fabric. Cf Young 1977, Type W3 (AD 100-240).
119	204, 204/2	OPW	F1	30/14	19	30	Buff-orange fabric.
120	128, 108, 109/1	OPW	F2	30	18	30/16	Pink fabric. Similar to Frere 1972, no 578 (AD 130-150).
121	234	OPW	F2	16	18	16	White fabric with orange-pink slip.
122	236/1	OPW	F4	30	19	19	White fabric with red slip decoration around base of neck. Similar to Young 1977, Type W7 (AD 150-240).
123	128, 109/1	OPW	J1	9	16	14	Fine orange fabric with burnished brown c/c. Cf Woods 1970, FIG22, no 147 (Hadrianic or Antonine).
124	299	OPW	J1	16	16	16	Orange fabric; bands of burnishing on exterior.
125	209, 212/3	OPW	J2	18	9/18	18	Coarse pink fabric.
126	204, 204/2	OPW	J2	30	30	19	White fabric; sooted.
127	233	OPW	J3	10	16	10	Red-orange fabric; slightly sooted.
128	233	OPW	J3	30	19	30	White fabric.
129	204, 204/2	OPW	J3	19/9	19	19/9	White fabric; unevenly fired.
130	88, 154/8	OPW	J3	16	19	19/16	White fabric; burnished.
131	236/1	OPW	J4	19	15	16	Coarse orange fabric.
132	128, 109/1	OPW	L	20	20	18/9	Pink fabric; sooted.
Unillustrated	200, 205	C-G	J2	28/8	15	23	Heavily sooted. See F240, no 62.
133	234	H	J2	26	11	28/9	
134	234	H	J4	23	11	11	
Feature 176							
Unillustrated	176	BB1	D2	9	17	8	Cf Gillam 1970, no 318 (AD 160-200).
Unillustrated	176	BB1	D3	17/8	11	17	Cf Gillam 1970, no 308 (AD 130-180).
135	176	BB1	J3	8	17	9	
136	176	BB1	C	8	11	9	Cf Gillam 1970, no 66 (AD 180-250).
137	176	RC	B2	23	5	23	Roughcast brown fabric; burnished under rim. Cf Woods 1970, FIG23, no 157 (Antonine), and Frere 1972, no 781 (AD 150-160).
138	176	RC	B3	15	15	15	Roughcast brown fabric; burnished under rim. Cf Woods 1970, FIG13, no 67 (Antonine).
139	176	RC	C	15	18	23	Roughcast brown fabric; burnished under rim.
140	176, 176/6	F	B2	9	10	9	Fine orange fabric with black c/c; very thin.
141	176	G1	B1	14	17	14	
142	94	G1	D4	11	17	11	Imitation BB1. Similar to Woods 1970, FIG9, no 18 (late 3rd or first half of 4th century AD).
143	176	G1	J1	8	17	8	Imitation BB1. Similar to Woods 1970, FIG22, no 142 (first half of 4th century AD).
144	176	G1	J2	8	9	8	Heavily pitted; sooted.
145	176	G1	J3	11	14	14	
146	176	G1	J3	11	9	9	This vessel has 4 holes through it, three through the sides and one through the bottom. The vessel was apparently broken during the attempt to bore a fourth hole in the side.
147	176	G1	J3	11	19	14	Heavily pitted.
148	176	B	D3	15	18	15	
149	176	B	D3	25	14	26	
150	176	B	J3	10	5	10	Burnished lattice, and under rim.
151	176, 15, 236/1	OPW	D4	18	5	16	Orange fabric; burnished lattice.

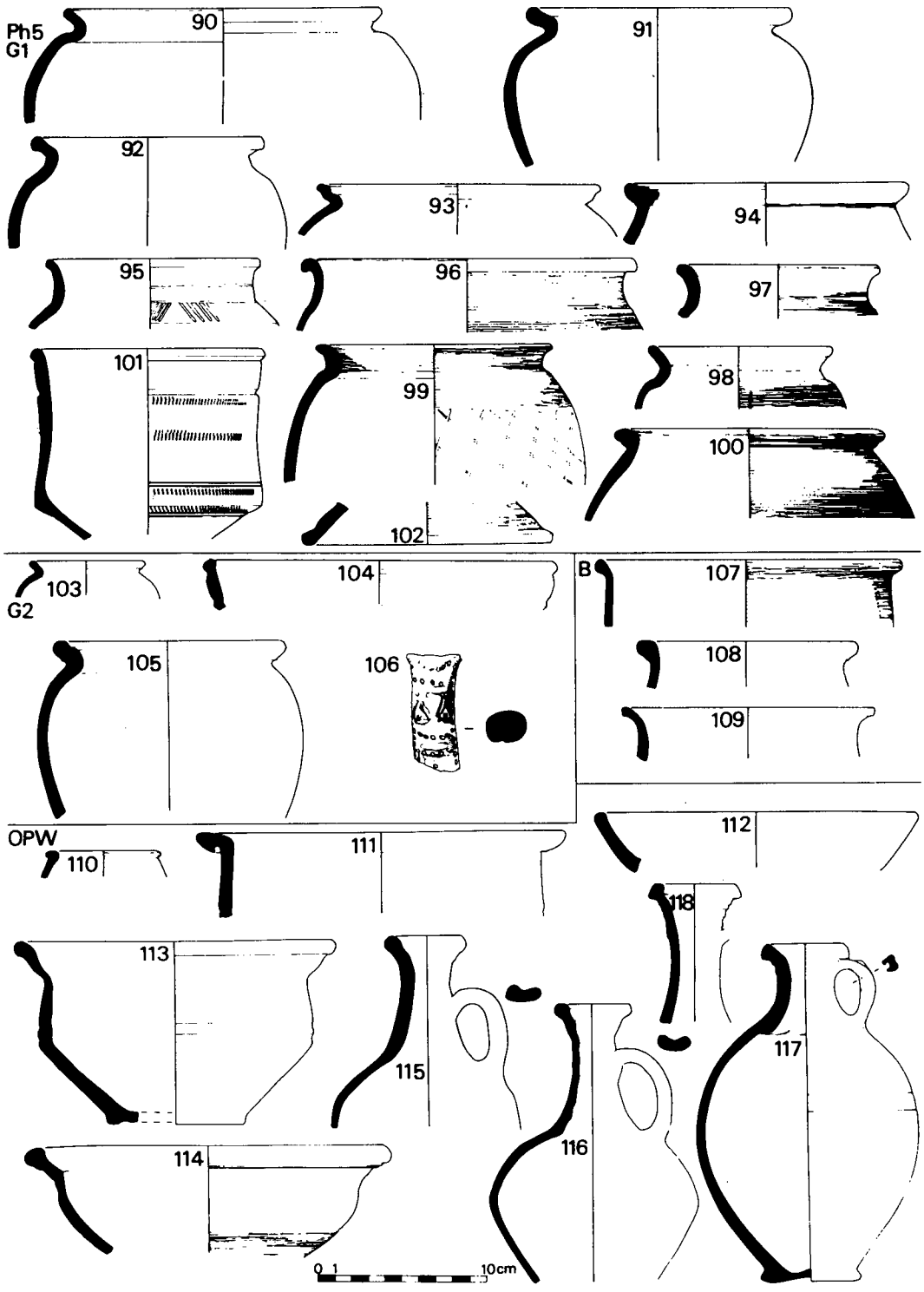

Fig. 25 Park Street, Towcester: pottery from phase 5, nos 90-118 (1/4)

NUMBER	FEATURE/ LAYER	FABRIC	FORM	EXT	CORE	INT	
Feature 212							
Unillustrated	212	BB1	D1	11	11	11	Cf Gillam 1970, no 226 (AD 220-270).
Unillustrated	212	BB1	D3	14/6	14	8/3	Cf Gillam 1970, no 306 (AD 125-160); more spread-out lattice.
152	212	BB1	J3	8	14	8	Similar to Woods 1970, FIG22, no 141 (Antonine).
153	212	RC	B2	18/14	11	11	Roughcast brown fabric; burnished under rim. Cf Woods 1970, FIG23, no 159 (Antonine). Some sherds of this vessel were burned after the vessel was broken.
154	212	RC	B2	16	30	18	Roughcast brown fabric; burnished under rim. Cf Woods 1970, FIG23, no 158 (Antonine). Some sherds of this vessel were burned after the vessel was broken.
Unillustrated	212	RC	D3	14	11	26	See no 138, and Woods 1970, FIG13, no 67 (Antonine).
155	212/2, 212/3	F	B2	22	23	22	Miniature beaker in buff fabric with brown-cream slip.
156	212	F	B2	12/19	20	5	Fine white with red-orange slip.
157	212/1	F	J3	10/19	11	30	Pinkish-buff fabric with purple-red paint in horizontal bands. Similar to Woods 1970, FIG39, no 283 (Hadrianic or earlier).
158	212	G1	B1	11	9	9	
159	212/2	G1	D2	11	11	11	Incised decoration, as if made with a compass.
160	212	G1	F4	9	11	11	Form as Young 1977, Type W3. (AD 100-240).
161	212	G1	F4	14	16	30	Form as Young 1977, Type W3. (AD 100-240).
162	212	G1	J2	16	11	16	
163	212, 212/1	G1	J2	9/17	17	17	Sooted.
164	212	G1	J2	26	26	30	
165	212	G1	J2	11	15	15	
166	212	G1	J3	11/16	16	11	Slightly burnished.
167	212	G1	J3	6	9	6	Slightly burnished.
168	212	G1	J3	14	14	17	
169	212	G1	J3	11	14	8	Form as Woods 1970, FIG17, nos 102-104 (Hadrianic or Antonine).
170	212	G1	J3	9	9	8	
171	212	G1	J3	14	14	11	
172	212	G1	J3	9	9	9	
173	212/1	G2	F1	30	14/29	14	White fabric with grey core. Similar to Young 1977, Type W2.3.
174	212	B	D4	23/2	30/11	23	Band of red slip below rim.
175	212	B	J3	25	16	21/23	
176	212	OPW	D1	9/16	16	16	Orange fabric; sooted. Similar to Woods 1970, FIG13 no 73 (late 2nd or first half of 3rd century AD).
177	212	OPW	D4	16	5	16	Orange fabric.
178	212, 212/1, 226	OPW	D4	18/5	5	18	Orange fabric.
Unillustrated	212	OPW	F1	30	16	30	Orange fabric with white slip. Form as Young 1977, Type W3.3. (AD 100-240).
179	212	OPW	F1	30	19	19	White fabric. Cf Young 1977, Type W5 (AD 100-240). Some sherds of this vessel were burned after the vessel was broken.
180	212	OPW	F1	30/25	30	30/9	White fabric. Cf Young 1977, Type W6 (AD 150-240). Some sherds of this vessel were burned after the vessel was broken.
181	212	OPW	F2	30	18/19	18	Orange fabric with buff core; sooted inside.
182	212	OPW	F3	14	19	18	Orange fabric, with grey stain.
183	212	OPW	J1	18	10	18	Orange fabric.
184	212	OPW	J2	18	18	18	Pink fabric.
185	212	OPW	J3	16	19	30	White fabric.
186	212	OPW	J3	30	30	30	Coarse white fabric.
187	212	H	J4	14	14	14	

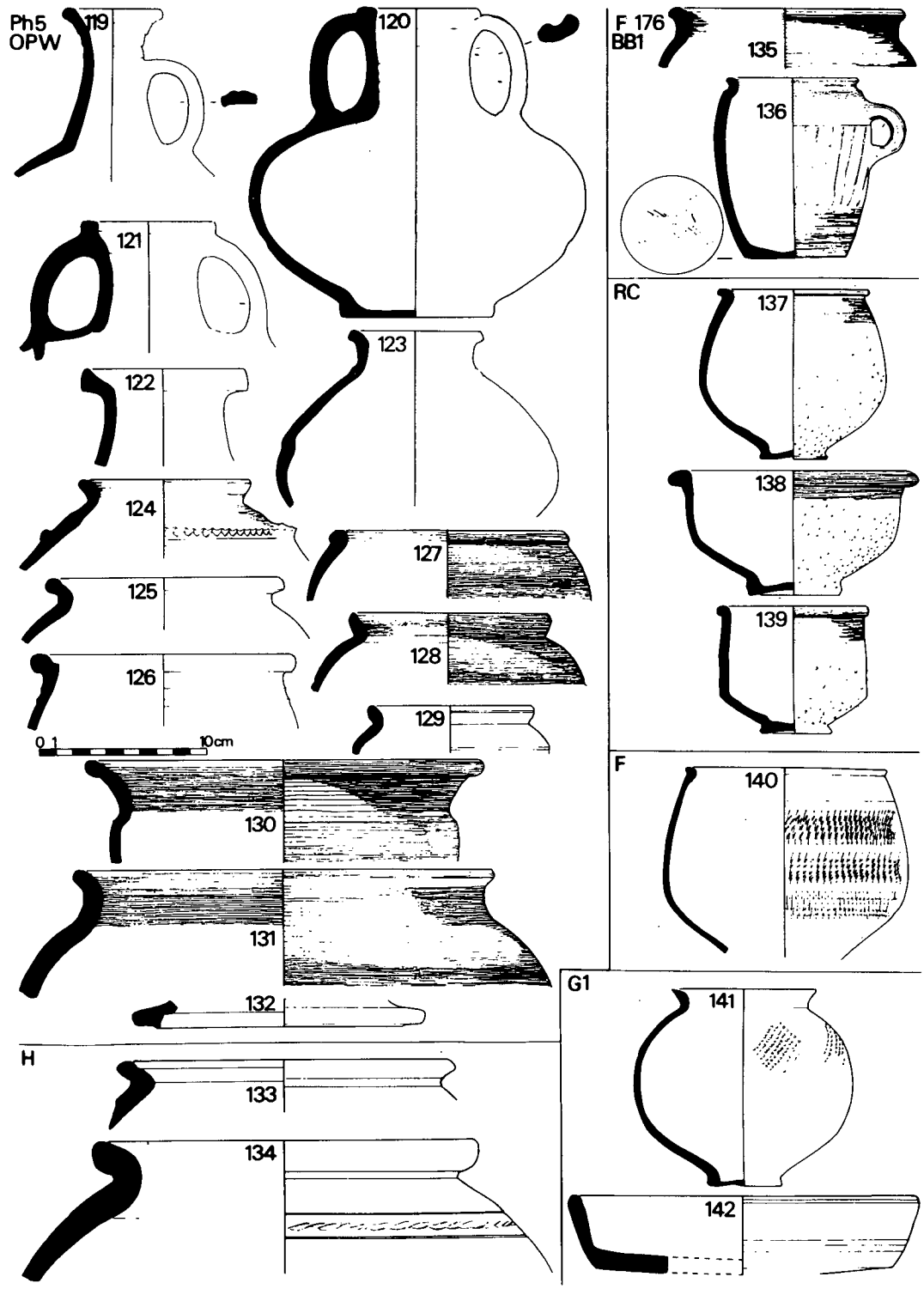

Fig. 26 Park Street, Towcester: pottery from phase 5, nos 119-134; from F176, nos 135-142 (1/4)

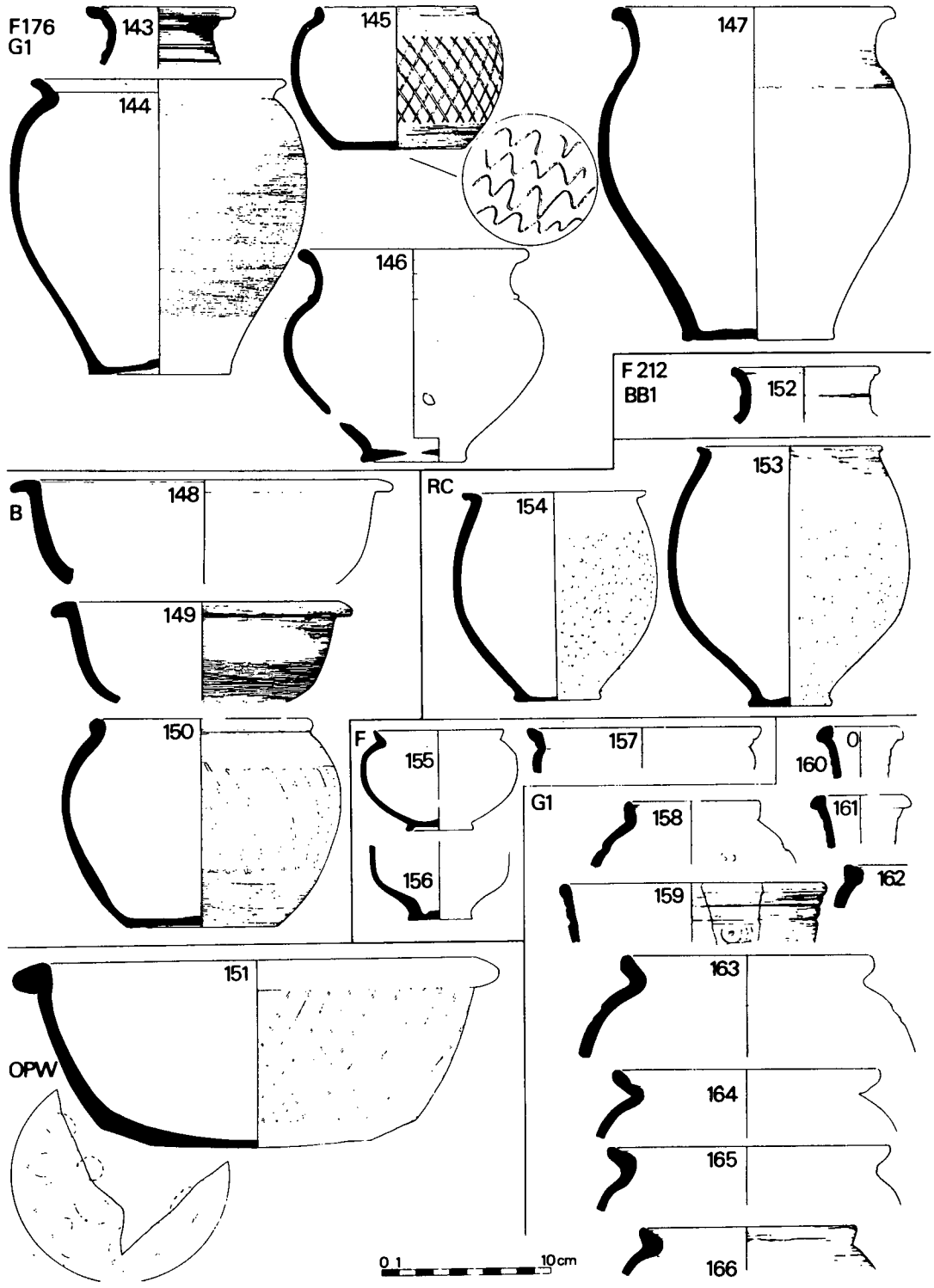

Fig. 27 Park Street, Towcester: pottery from F176, nos 143-151; from F212, nos 152-166 (1/4)

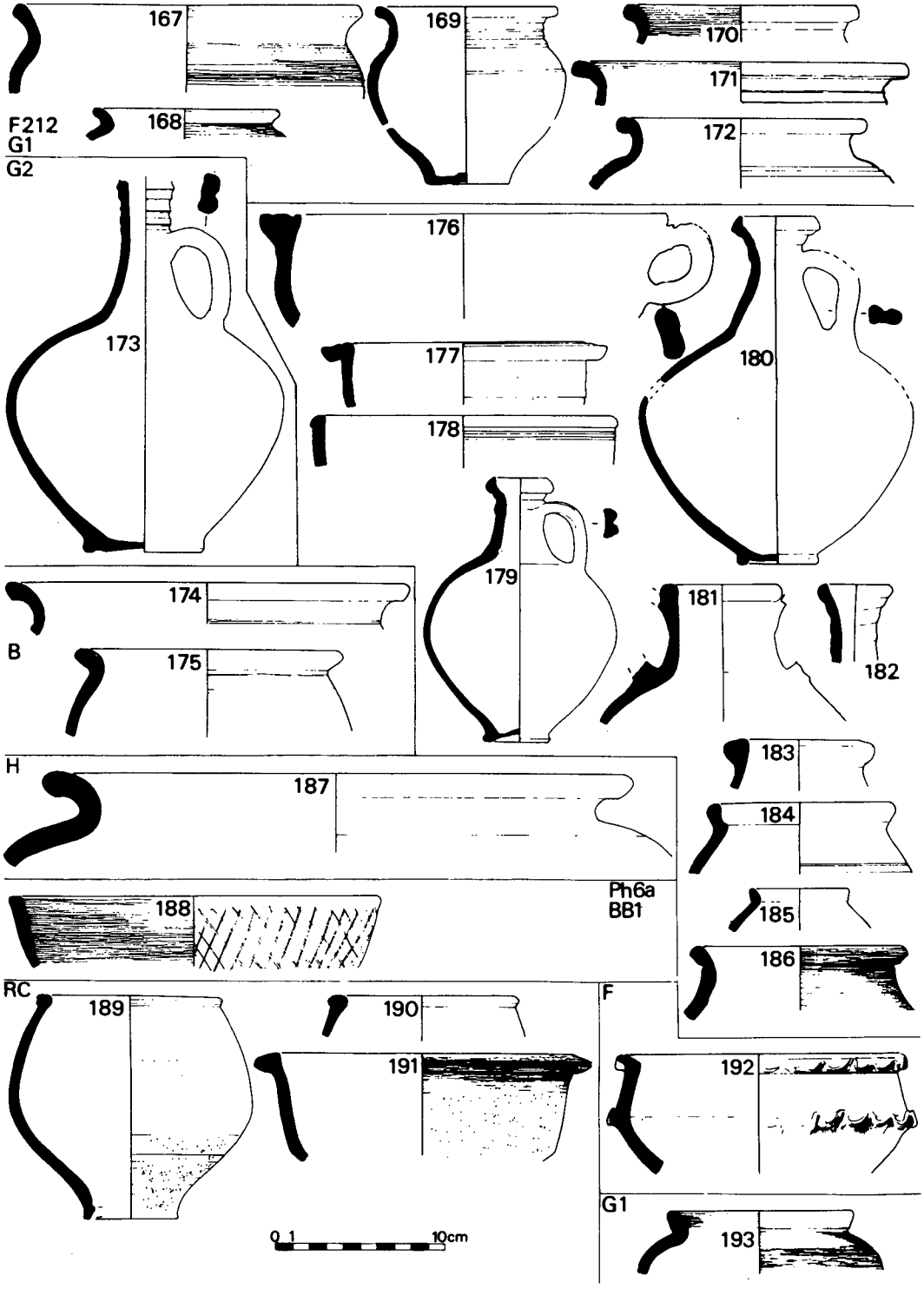

Fig. 28 Park Street, Towcester: pottery from F212, nos 167-187; from phase 6, nos 188-193 (1/4)

NUMBER	FEATURE/ LAYER	FABRIC	FORM	EXT	CORE	INT	
Phase 6a							
188	113/1	BB1	D2	9	11	9	Similar to Gillam 1970, no 327 (AD 130-180), but lacking chamfer.
Unillustrated	113/1	BB1	D4	6	9	8	Cf Gillam 1970, no 318 (AD 160-200).
Unillustrated	113/1	BB1	J3	9/17	9/17	9	Cf Gillam 1970, no 125 (AD 125-180).
Unillustrated	113/1	BB1	J3	9	11	9	Cf Gillam 1970, no 132 (AD 140-220).
Unillustrated	113/1	RC	B2	23	18	16	Roughcast brown-orange fabric, burnished under rim. See no 137.
189	113/1	RC	B2	10	16	12	Roughcast brown fabric; burnished under rim. Similar to nos 137, 153 and 154, but with cornice rim and grooves around the base.
190	113/1	RC	B2	10	10	4	Orange fabric with brown c/c.
191	113/1	RC	D3	11	16	15	Roughcast orange fabric with brown c/c. Form as no 138, and Woods 1970, FIG13, no 67 (Antonine).
192	113/1	F	Tazza	22	19	9	Buff fabric with brown c/c. Cf Frere 1972, no 924 (AD 150-155/160).
193	113/4	G1	B1	14	14	11	
194	113/1	G1	B1	11	17	14	Similar to Woods 1967, FIG5, no 29 (AD 130-160).
Unillustrated	113/1	G1	J3	8	9/23	8	See F176/6, no 100.
195	113/1	G1	J3	9	17	9	See F212, no 170.
196	113/1	G1	J3	24	25	9	Burnished.
197	113/1	G1	J3	14	19	14	
198	113/4	G1	J3	11	11	11	
Unillustrated	113/1	G2	J2	10	9	10	Coarse brown fabric with grey core. See no 45, and Woods 1970, FIG15, no 86 (Hadrianic or Antonine).
Unillustrated	113/1	B	J3	30	30	30	See F212, no 175.
199	113/1	H	J4	15	14/16	21	
200	113/6	H	J4	16/28	14	31	
Phase 6b							
201	228	G1	D3	17/33	11	17/11	Light grey fabric with thin cream slip. Cf Gillam 1970, no 306 (AD 125-160). This may be BB1, but the colour and slip are unusual.
Unillustrated	221	G1	J2	11	14	14	See F218, no 29.
202	223	OPW	B2	16	12	15	Buff-orange fabric; burnished; sooted.
203	247	OPW	F1	32	19	30	White fabric; blue paint, or stain, around neck. Cf Young 1977, Type W3 (AD 100-240).
204	224	OPW	J3	20	20	20	White fabric.
205	220	OPW	J3	16	5	16	Orange fabric. Miniature beaker.

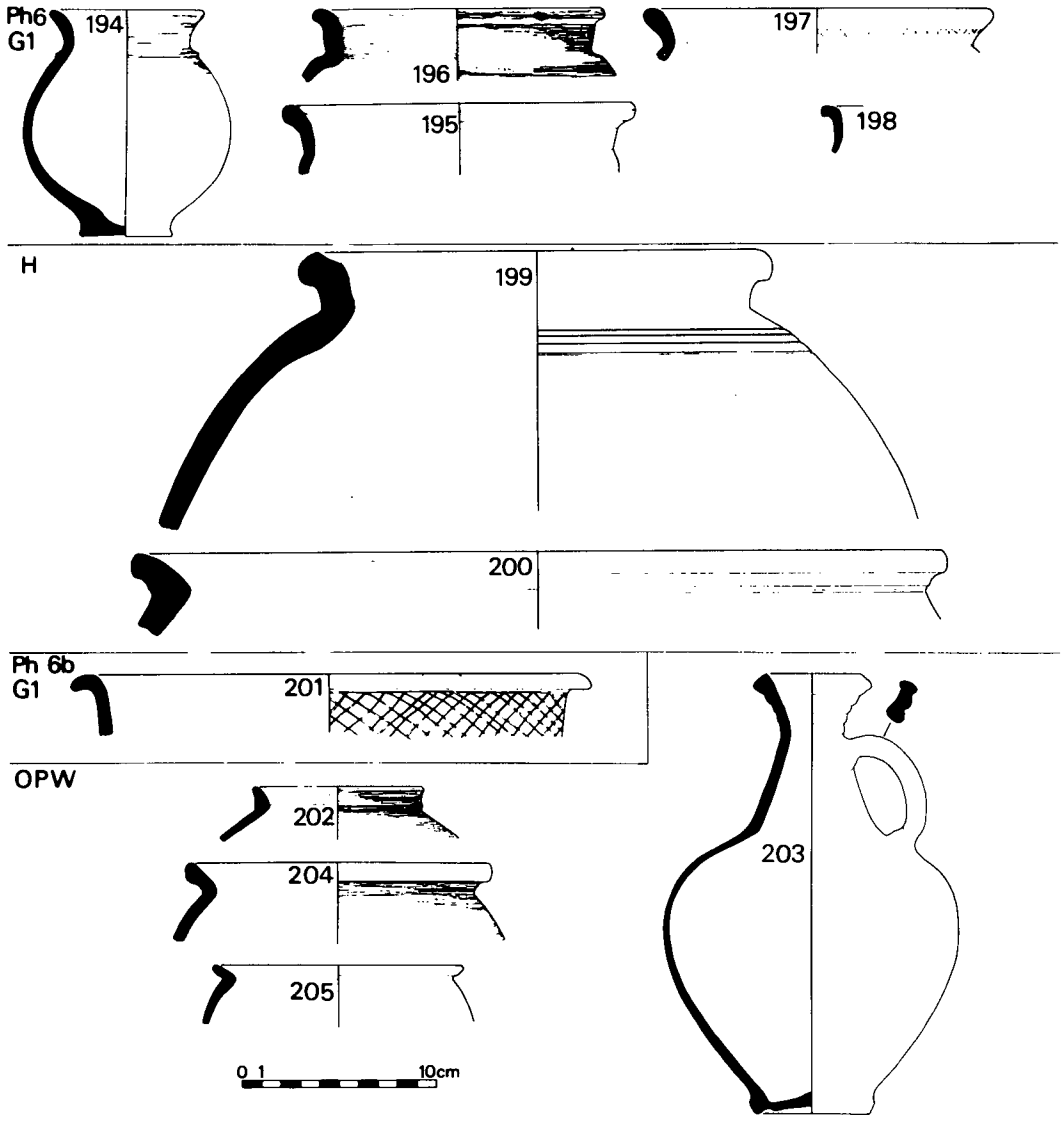

Fig. 29 Park Street, Towcester: pottery from phase 6, nos 194-200; from phase 7, nos 201-203 (1/4)

CONCLUSION

The pottery from Park Street reflects the position of Towcester near the centre of the Roman network of roads in Britain, and the town must be therefore regarded as both a market town with fluctuating demands, and a crossroads and stopping place, sensitive to changes in the supply of goods from several sources. For example, the general sequence of growing prosperity followed by an apparent decline at the end of the 2nd century AD and early in the 3rd century AD, seems to parallel the growth and decline of the Oxford production centres during the same period (cf Young 1977, 232-236). But the economic fortunes of that industry can be linked with similar, widespread economic trends throughout the northern end of the empire (cf Young 1977, 235, and Fulford 1975, 108-9), which may have affected the users of 'traded wares' and their suppliers in relatively equal measures.

At Towcester these trends are clearly represented. In Phase 1, the pottery is crude and not indicative of Romanized settlement, though it need not be pre-Conquest in date. In Phase 4, grey wares, probably from local sources, are predominant, although Romanization is evident in the forms and the refinement of the fabrics. The proportion of 'traded wares' rises to such an extent in Phase 5 that in the large pits they constitute about half of the pottery, including samian from Gaul, amphorae from southern Gaul and Spain, mortaria from Mancetter, Brockley Hill and Oxford, fine roughcast ware from an unknown source, black-burnished ware from Dorset, and flagons from Oxford. The number of flagons suggests the presence of a public house in the area or would be consistent with the existence of a *mansio* (See p 49). The pottery and glassware from Pit 176 is of particularly high quality and may represent a substantial part of the tableware from one wealthy household. Several vessels in F212 (nos 153-4 and 179-180) indicate that there was a fire before the pottery found its way into the pit.

The later phases seem to indicate that the flagons diminish in number by the early 3rd century AD, and are replaced by colour-coated wares, also from Oxford and from the Nene Valley, which may be the result of changes either at the pottery sources or in the demands at Towcester, or, most likely, both. It is difficult to use Table 5 to show any changes in the standard of living, because of the doubtful value of disturbed material.

THE MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY

by George Lambrick and Maureen Mellor

3860 sherds of pottery were recovered from the deposits assigned to Phases 8-12, and a further 220 were unattributable to particular Phases. 76% of the pottery was residual (69% being Roman). This very high proportion of residual material makes most groups suspect, and the medieval and post medieval pottery has therefore only been classified into broad types. The results are given in Table 6. The identification of local wares was made by reference to samples kindly supplied by M R McCarthy from the Northampton Development Corporation's excavations, and we are also grateful to Mary Gryspeerdt for her comments. Reference was also made to published reports (Jope 1950, Steane *et al* 1967-71, Mayes 1968, Mynard 1970 and 1971, Hall 1972, Mynard and Cain 1974, Hall 1974, Mynard 1974, McCarthy 1974).

THE DATING OF PHASES 8-12 (FIGS30 and 31)

Secure dating of the medieval and post medieval phases is difficult because very few features did not contain a large proportion of residual pottery (see below for further discussion of this problem). There is an additional problem that the dating of some of the more distinctive types is by no means fixed.

Phase 8

There were no groups without a high proportion of Roman pottery so there is the possibility that most of the medieval pottery is also residual. The most characteristic forms present were undercut cooking pot rims (Nos 9-11) in Potterspury type wares dated by Mynard (1974, 25) to the late 13th or early 14th centuries, and slashed handles (Nos 1, 7 and 8) also 13th to 14th centuries. There were few of the flanged bowl rims (No 13) or more rounded, internally hollow cooking pot rims (No 12) which Mynard considers more characteristically 14th century. McCarthy (1977, 198) however suggests that Potterspury types were probably not common in Northampton until the late 14th century; it is not much further away from the kilns than Towcester, so there was probably little chronological difference in the influx of Potterspury wares to the two towns. There are other reasons to favour a later date for the phase. The sagging jug base with thumb impressions (No 2, from Pit 154 early in the phase) has a fairly good parallel which Mynard considers 14th or 15th century (Mynard 1970, FIG1 No 3). There were also several sherds of Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire pottery which were glazed, but without the plastic decoration characteristic of the late 13th or early 14th century which is apparent in Oxford (Durham 1977, Phase 9). Furthermore the stratigraphy suggests that there was not a very long break between Phase 8 and Phase 9 which seems to be late 15th to 16th or early 17th century. On the whole Phase 8 is thus best regarded as 14th or 15th century, though perhaps with residual pottery from a slightly earlier period along with the 83% Roman material.

Phase 9

There was one deposit (F69) stratigraphically from the middle of the phase, which contained no obviously residual material, but much of a Tudor Green money box or small jug (No 14) which could not itself be residual. Unfortunately the dating of Tudor Green wares is also a matter of debate (J G Hurst and S Moorhouse pers comm; Holling 1977), though the consensus at present would place this form in the 16th century, probably its second half, or possibly early in the 17th century. All the other deposits contained residual material and provide less reliable dating evidence. An ash pit (F152) associated with the early part of the phase contained late medieval Potterspury wares, but no certainly post medieval sherds. Two layers belonging to the end of the phase (L100 and L101) produced a sherd of Tudor Green and one of Cistercian type ware. No certain 17th century or later pottery was found. The phase thus seems to continue from the end of Phase 8 probably in the 15th century into the 16th century or the beginning of the 17th century.

Phase 10

With the exception of L105/1, which produced one sherd of red earthenware, all the deposits produced much

TABLE 6: POTTERY FROM MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL PHASES

	Phase 8		Phase 9		Phase 10		Phase 11		Phase 12		
Total sherds	988		79		1552		451		727		
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Roman	800	81	30	38	1140	73	321	71	296	41	
Medieval	111	11	32	40	159	10	26	6	43	6	
Post Medieval	0	0	14	18	56	4	74	16	115	16	
Modern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	251	34	
Uncertain	77	8	3	4	197	13	30	7	22	3	
Pottery types[x] (No. Sherds)	M		M	PM	M	PM	M	PM	M	PM	MOD
Stamford									2		
Potterspury	68		29	4	82	1	4		5		
Olney Hyde	3				2						
Lyveden					1						
Oxon/Bucks	8				4		5	15			
Tudor Green				2				1			
Cistercian Ware				1		7		14		1	
Stoneware						1		2		2	
Tin Glaze						1		1		2	
Red Earthenware						29		10		19	
White Earthenware						1		1		11	2
Buff Earthenware										3	
Yellow Slip Ware						1					1
Scratch-Blue Ware										3	
Porcelain										1	
Miscellaneous	27		3	7	70	17	17	28	62*	73*	248*

M = Medieval
PM = Post medieval
MOD = Modern

[x] See text for further comments

* the contents of 3 features F4, F32 and F36 consisting largely of modern china were not examined in detail.

residual material. Some produced only Roman pottery, and although these were not very securely associated with the phase, others which were (eg Pit 95) also produced well over 90% residual material. The phase was not obviously later than Phase 9 stratigraphically but a good group of post medieval pottery from L120 early in the phase included tin glaze and red and white earthenware which did not occur in Phase 9. Tin glazed ointment pots such as No 25 are considered to belong to the first half of the 17th century (Moorhouse 1970, 73; Hume 1977, 203-10 general type 2) and the production of red earthenware at Potterspury, the probable source for these wares, seems to have begun in the mid 17th century (Mayes 1968, 80).

The one sherd of yellow Staffordshire slipware covers a later date range. The pottery and stratigraphy of the next phase suggests that there was no real gap between Phases 9 and 11 and Phase 10 was thus probably of short duration, perhaps in the middle of the 17th century. The one sherd of slipware and relatively late clay pipe stems from F35 may indicate later disturbance of the top of this feature (See p 103).

Phase 11

There were again no significant groups without residual pottery in this phase. The bulk of the residual material was in a layer of garden soil (L71) but even so most groups had about 50% residual sherds. The higher proportion of Cistercian type wares and the absence of red earthenware in the area of the hearths (L99, L91, F27, F28 etc) until the end of the phase (L47/2) is surprising, as it suggests if anything an earlier date than Phase 10, although the stratigraphy is reasonably clear (Hearth 27 respects Wall 26 which overlies Phase 10 features (see FIGS9 and 11). It is likely that the two phases were virtually contemporary (ie that Phase 10 was very short and occurred while the hearth area continued in unbroken use from Phase 9). Even so it is surprising that no red earthenware was found except at the end of the phase; possibly the difference is one of usage of the site, or perhaps more pottery in Phase 11 was residual than is immediately apparent (see below). With such small groups so contaminated by residual material, it is impossible to be more conclusive. The absence of porcelain, transfer printed white earthenwares or other distinctive late 18th or 19th century forms suggests

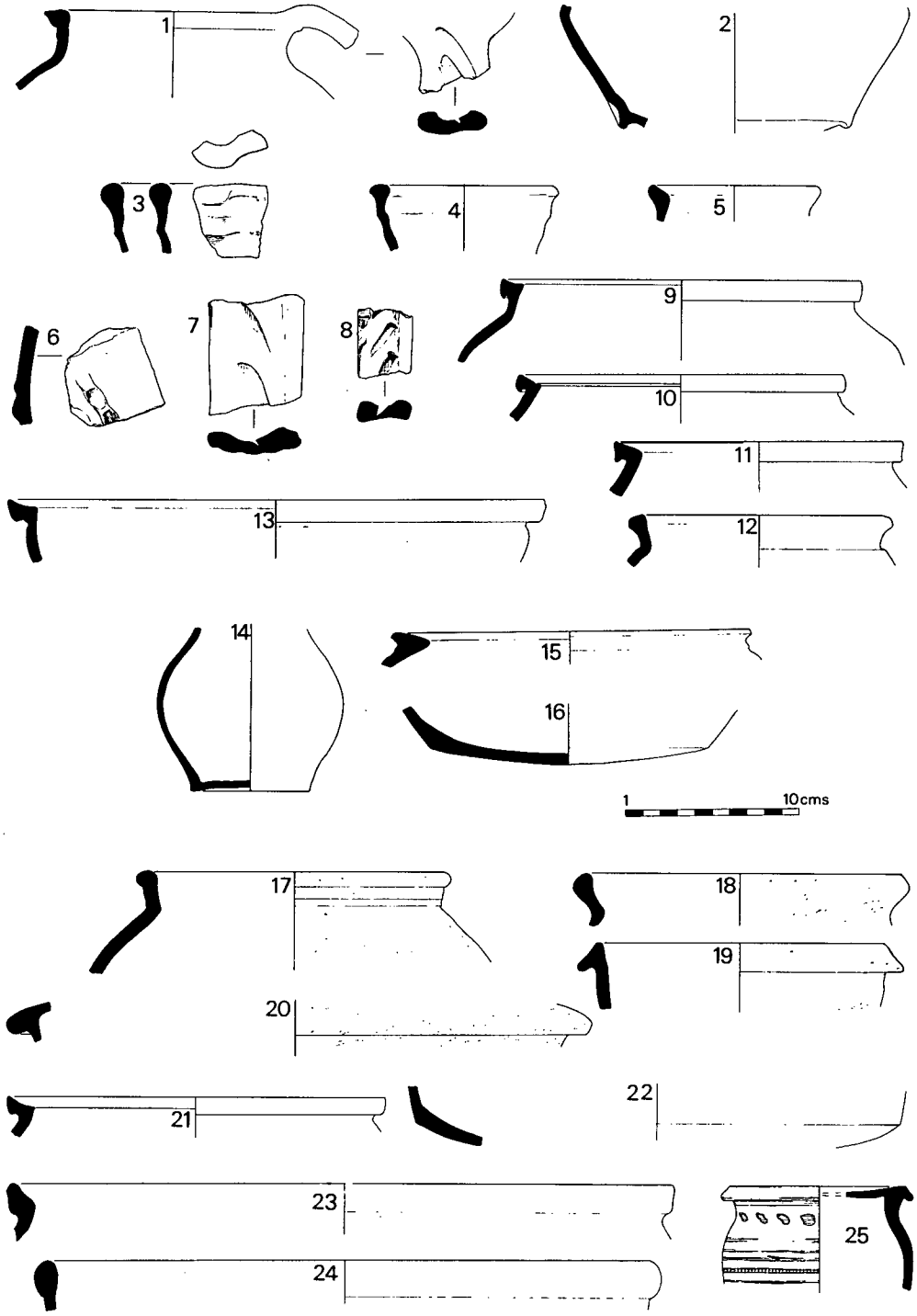

Fig. 30 Park Street, Towcester: medieval and post medieval pottery (1/4)

that the phase was 17th or 18th century, but the best dating was provided by the clay pipes from F47 and F2/1, dated to *c* 1670-85. As far as the pottery is concerned the problem of residual material persists: Layer 61, sealing the 17th century hearths contained pieces of Tudor Green, Cistercian types and Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire pottery comparable with a late 15th to 16th century group found recently in Oxford (Durham and Mellor 1977).

Phase 12

From the latest phase (the last 200 years) some apparently more consistent groups were recovered such as from F43 and F45 (linked by a cross join), which contained a piece of porcelain and one of blue transfer printed white earthenware, of late 18th or 19th century date. They also contained large pieces of red earthenware pots (Nos 32 and 33). Pit 36 produced a large group of 19th century pottery including white earthenwares with transfer printing, yellow and cream earthenwares with thick yellow glaze, porcelain (some with copper lustre decoration) and coarser red earthenwares. The late 18th century scratch-blue ware bowl from F2 is the most noteworthy item from the phase (No 31).

THE SOURCES OF THE POTTERY

The quantity of the different types of pottery present is shown in Table 6. Taking all the medieval pottery together, about 41% was of uncertain origin. This high figure must partly be due to the relatively superficial level of recording, but it is also possible that there were other local sources of pottery which are not known. Potterspury wares made up another 52%, Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire wares 5%, Olney Hyde 2% and Stamford and Lyveden about 0.5% each. The high proportion of Potterspury wares is not surprising considering the proximity of the kilns only about 6 miles south east of Towcester. The amount of Oxfordshire/ Buckinghamshire pottery is proportionately small. Distance would obviously be a vital factor in determining the extent of their relative distributions, and by contrast in Oxford the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire wares at their height represent well over 50% while Potterspury ware is normally absent (Durham 1977, Phases 9 and 10).

In the post medieval period nationally distributed types become evident, while the identifiable local sources continue to be important. Again, though, there was a high proportion of uncertain origin (31%). Potterspury medieval type wares with late or post medieval characteristics make up 2%, but the red earthenware for which the most likely source is Potterspury, makes this up to 31%. Cistercian type wares are 12%, Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire 8%, white earthenware 7% and Tudor Green 3%. The highly decorated Potterspury slipware (Mayes 1968, FIGS27, 28 and 30) was not recovered from the site.

RESIDUAL MATERIAL

The problem of such high proportions of residual material has been noted elsewhere; such as in Abingdon (R Wilson, *Oxoniensia* forthcoming) but has seldom been commented upon. At Towcester there were certainly some features such as Pits 35 and 95 in Phase 10 which contained 97-98% residual material and others which were possibly 100% residual. Pit 35 for example contained 185 Roman sherds, 68 medieval and 9 post medieval. If there were not good stratigraphic relationships and if the 9 post medieval sherds were not present or not readily identifiable, the reasonably good group of medieval pottery would normally be taken as indicating the date (in this case late 13th or 14th century). It is quite easy to see how these proportions could occur if very little contemporary material was being deposited in such a pit: the soil used for backfilling could have come from a hole (perhaps the pit itself) half cut through undisturbed Roman levels and half through a medieval pit containing a homogeneous group of datable medieval pottery but also perhaps 50% residual Roman material. This clearly illustrates a danger in dealing with any partly residual group of pottery – it is not enough to assume that a good group later than the rest of the residual material represents the date of backfilling. Clearly the stratigraphy is vitally important. The problem also affects the interpretation of the function of such pits. It is interesting that residuality does not seem to be a serious problem in the bone samples where differences in the proportions of different species present and the size of bones between the Roman and medieval phases are quite clear. The problem is further discussed on p 116.

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED SHERDS

(FIGS30-31)

Phase 8

Potterspury type

1. Jug rim and strap handle. F154
2. ? jug base with thumbed pod (Mynard 1970, FIG1, No 3) F154
3. Jug rim with pinched spout F154

4,5. Jug rims. F129, F5/1

6. Body sherd with applied strip F129/1

7,8. Strap handles with slashed decoration (for 8 cf Mynard in Hurst and Hurst 1969, FIG59, No 118) F129

9-11. Cooking pots with undercut rims (Mynard 1970, cp type a) F5/1, F154

12. Cooking pot with rounded, internally hollow rim (Mynard 1970 cp type d) F5/1
13. Bowl with flanged rim (Mynard 1971, bowl type f) F5/1

Phase 9

Tudor Green type

14. Money box or small jug (Briers 1970, 24, Type 11 or 2) F69

Miscellaneous, possibly Lyveden type

15. Cooking pot rim (Steane 1967, FIG5 d) L100

Potterspury type

16. Base, traces of thin green glaze internally and externally. F69

Phase 10

Lyveden type

17. Cooking pot rim (Bryant and Steane 1969, FIG10, i) F3

Olney Hyde/Harrold type

18,19. Cooking pot rims. F3

Miscellaneous Shelly type

20. Cooking pot 'hammer head' rim. F64

Potterspury type

21. Cooking pot rim (Mynard 1970, cp type c ?) F35
22. Cooking pot base. F35

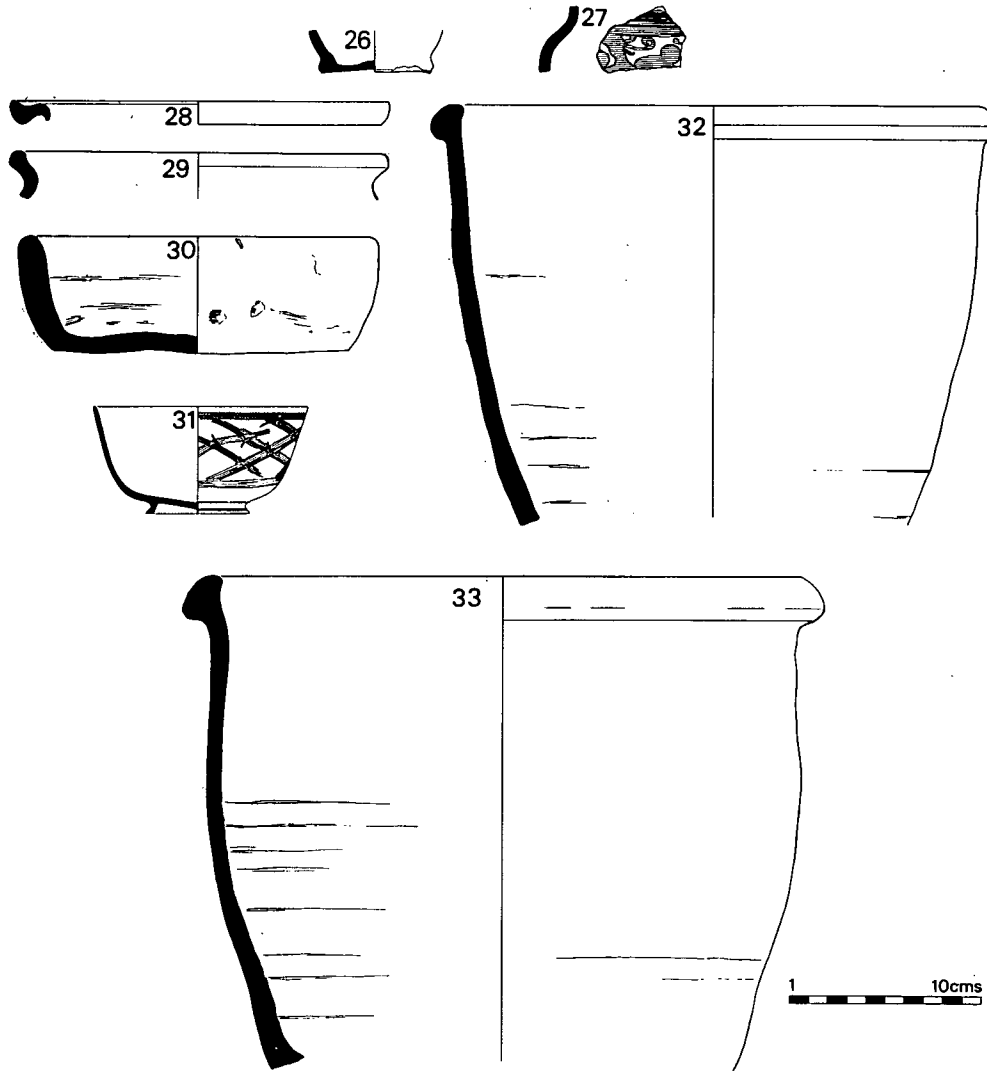

Fig. 31 Park Street, Towcester: medieval and post medieval pottery (1/4)

23. Large cooking pot rim (Mynard 1970, cp type c?) F34
24. Bowl rim (Mynard 1970, bowl type a)

Tinglaze

25. Ointment pot base with chamfered flange, painted decoration in blue except one mauve stripe (Hume 1977 FIG67 type 2 for general form; Moorhouse 1970, FIG19, Nos 226-232 but without flange) L120

Phase 11

Cistercian type

26. Cup base. F27

Tinglaze

27. Body sherd with dark blue floral decoration. L91

Phase 12

Stamford type

28. Cooking pot or bowl with flanged rim. F73
29. Cooking pot with rounded, internally hollow rim. F39

Potterspury type

30. Small hand formed dish, lumpy and coarsly made, some knife trimming externally, small patches of thin green glaze internally. L1

Scratch-blue ware

31. Bowl with blue painted scratched and rouletted decoration. (Hume 1977, 117) F2/1

Red earthenware

32,33. Two large vessels with internal dark olive green glaze with orange patches, badly blistered and flaking (for 32 cf Rodwell 1976, FIG14, No 68) F43 and F45

THE CLAY PIPES

by W R G Moore (FIG32)

The clay pipe fragments are divided into four groups (a) an important late 17th century kiln group (b) a number of small 18th/19th century groups (c) two 19th century groups and (d) several minor finds.

The late 17th century kiln group. A quantity of pipe fragments found in the two features 2 and 2/1, and 47 clearly represent the waste material from a kiln, as shown by the presence of cracked, distorted and discoloured pieces. The general classification of bowls found (FIG32, 1-8) is as follows (Oswald 1975, 37-41):

TABLE 7

Bowl type	G6	G7	G9	G17	G18
Approximate date	1660-80	1660-80	1680-1710	1640-70	1660-80
Examples from 2 and 2/1	37	31	15	32	14
Examples from 47	3	4	–	4	–

One bowl from this group has a maker's mark (FIG32, 8).

As a considerable number of plain stem fragments was available with perhaps a small date range, it was decided to carry out a stem bore dating test using the standard method (Walker 1967; Oswald 1975, 92-5). All measurable stems from Features 2 and 47 were examined:

TABLE 8

Stem bores (64ths inch)	8	7	6	5
Examples from 2 and 2/1	112	585	647	4
Examples from 47	17	105	100	–

The calculated central dates using either the Binford formula or the Hanson formula ($Y = 1869.31 - 28.88X$) are identical: Feature 2 and 2/1 1679; Feature 47 1678.

It can be concluded therefore that, accepting the evidence of bowl typology and stem bore dating, the pipe kiln was active at some time during the period *c* 1670-85. From the documentary evidence it is likely that they were manufactured by Joseph Kingston (see p 59). The scratch-blue ware bowl from F2/1 (see above) suggests the clay pipes from this were deposited long after they were made.

Small 18th/19th century groups. Seven small groups containing up to 50 fragments, mainly stems, were found in Features 35, 39, 42, 43, 45, 71 and 109. They can be dated 18th/19th century, as narrow stem bores (5/64 inch or less) are present usually accompanied by fragments of earlier date, 17th/earlier 18th century, with wide stem bores (7/64 inch or more).

Two 19th century groups. Two deposits, from Features 19/2 and 36 are clearly of 19th century date. The pipes from 19/2 consist of 79 plain stems with narrow bores and 18 bowl fragments, of which 7 have spurs carrying makers' marks (FIG32, 9-11). The whole deposit dates from *c* 1825-70.

A second group, from Feature 36, dates from *c* 1825-50, although it contains earlier rubbish survivals. It consists of 61 narrow bore stems, 7 wide bore stems, a later 17th century bowl and several marked pieces – spurs and a stem fragment (FIG32, 12, 13). Three marked spurs are of local manufacture (Moore, 1980): a spur marked I/F, Northamptonshire type (Np) 18, probably from Wellingborough pre-1824; a spur marked I/T, Np19, probably from Wellingborough *c* 1762-97; and a bowl with spur marked F/S, Np28, made at Northampton 1826-50.

Minor finds. Totals of less than 5 fragments, probably of 17th century date were recovered from a number of deposits – Features 5/1 (probably intrusive from F2), 7, 32, 40, 49, 59, 120, 131 and160. Whether or not these are rubbish survivals in later features cannot be stated.

Illustrated pipes (FIG32). Numbers preceded by a letter refer to Oswald's types (Oswald 1975). The provenance of each figured pipe is given in brackets. Nos 1-5 illustrate types present in quantity and probably manufactured at this site.

1. Rather narrow bowl with pronounced circular foot. A distinctive style perhaps owing something to Bristol or Broseley. G6 *c* 1660-80. (2)
2. Bowl with fairly straight sides. G7, *c* 1660-80. (2)
3. A slightly larger version of no 1. G9, *c* 1680-1710. (2)
4. Bowl with spur. G17, *c* 1640-80. (2)
5. Larger bowl with spur. G18, *c* 1660-80. (2)
6. Bowl with flat base. The more usual style elsewhere but only three examples here. G6, *c* 1660-80. (2)
7. Bowl with a hard, gritty fabric, probably non-local. G7, *c* 1660-80. (2)
8. Polished bowl with incuse maker's mark ID beneath the base. From southern England or Bristol. S5, *c* 1660-80, (2)
9. Bowl with crude oak-leaf design at the front, small initials J/C in relief on the spur. Perhaps made by James Chick (1), Northampton, 1837-74, but other makers possible. (19/2)
10. Large, plain bowl with initials J/H in relief on the spur. Four examples found. Probably made by John Holt *c* 1850-70 at Nuneaton or Coventry. (19/2)
11. Large bowl with oak-leaf design at the front and the heart-in-hand symbol of the Oddfellows on either side. Spur marked T/J in relief. Maker unknown. *c* 1825-70. (19/2)
12. Large, square spur with initials I/W in relief. Maker unknown. *c* 1780-1820. (36)
13. Stem fragment with part of an oval mark with CHESTER in relief beneath the Cheshire Arms. From Chester, *c* 1700-50. (36)

Acknowledgements. I am grateful to Adrian Oswald and Roy Gault for help with identifying the non-local pipes and to the staff of Northamptonshire Record Office for assistance with documentary sources.

HUMAN BONE

by Mary Harman

One human infant femoral diaphysis was recovered from L245 (Phase 4a).

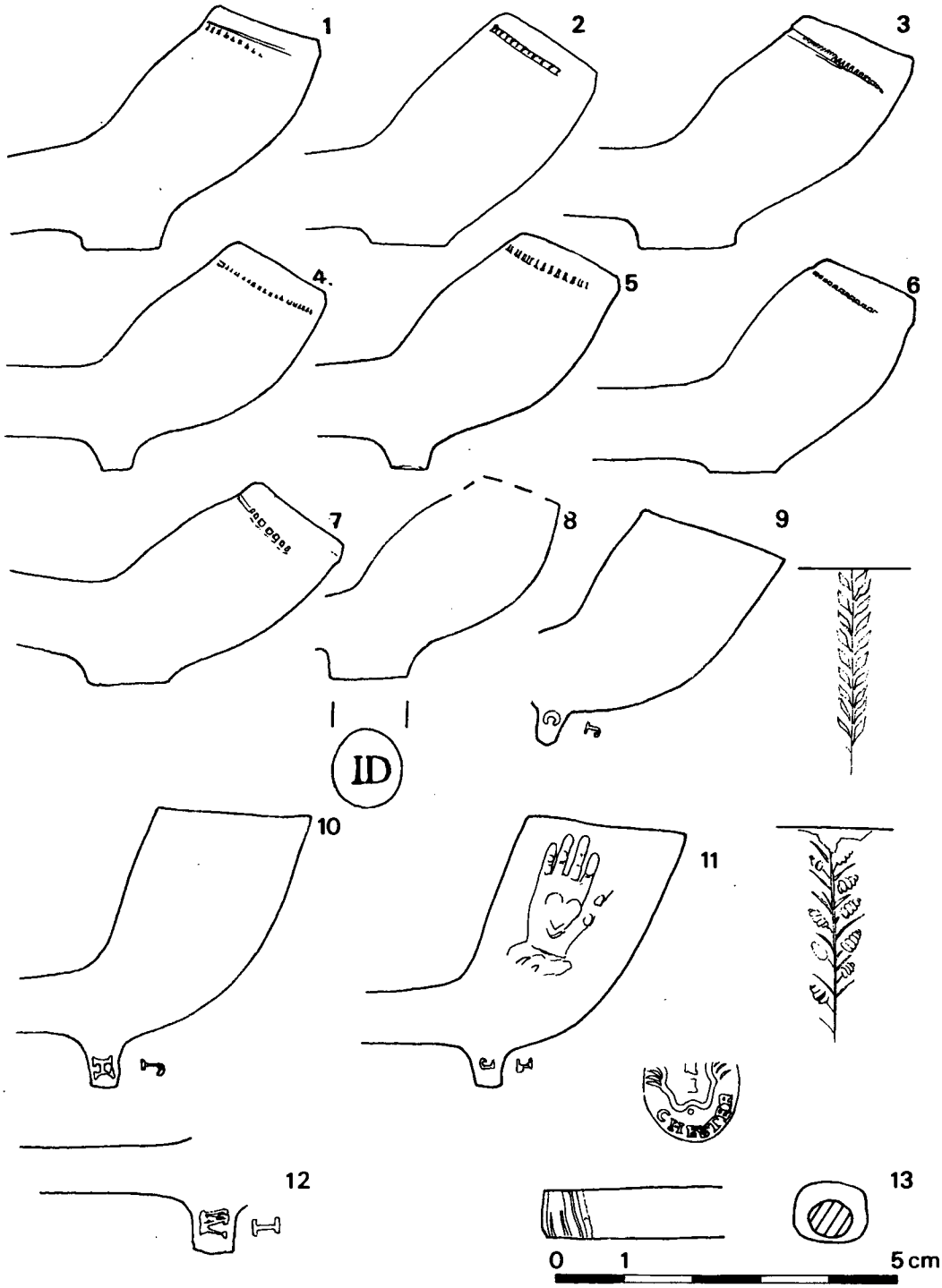

Fig. 32 Park Street, Towcester: clay pipes (1/1)

THE ANIMAL BONES
by Sebastion Payne

ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL

Table 9 lists the identified bones for each phase of the Roman and medieval levels. (The later material, from Phase 10 onward, has been more summarily treated: see below). For the counts given in Tables 9, 10 and 11, rib and vertebra fragments, long-bone shafts and skull fragments have been ignored: only teeth (when at least half the tooth is present), mandibles and maxillae containing one or more teeth, and parts of the appendicular skeleton with at least some articular or fusion surface have been counted.

While samples are not very large, there seems to be a change in the relative abundance of sheep and cattle from the Roman samples, in which the number of sheep and cow bones is roughly the same, to the Phase 8 sample (13th-14th centuries), in which there are twice as many cow bones as sheep bones.

In Tables 10 (Roman – taken as Phases 0-6) and 11 (medieval – taken as Phases 8 and 9), counts are given for the different parts of the skeleton in each species. As a further guide to the relative representation of the different parts of the skeleton, a simple minimum number of individuals approximation ('MINDEX') is given, which allows for differences in fragmentation, and for the different frequency of different parts in the skeleton. This approximation is arrived at for proximal metapodia, for instance, by counting the number of complete and nearly complete specimens, adding half the number of half-complete specimens and then dividing this total by the number of proximal metapodia in the skeleton (4, for instance, in sheep, but 16 in pig). Fragments with less than half the articulation are ignored for this purpose. (Thus on occasion small fragments produce a MINDEX figure of (0) in Tables 10 and 11.) In the case of bones in which unfused shafts and epiphyses are found, these are counted separately in the same way, and the higher count is added to the count for fused articulations before dividing by the frequency of the bone concerned in the skeleton. This undoubtedly tends to give a count lower than would be arrived at by detailed matching, but is simpler, and gives a reasonable basis for internal comparison. Minimum number of individuals figures are generally rather unreal figures anyway, as the actual number of individuals represented is, in most circumstances, undoubtedly considerably higher: the purpose of these figures here is simply to provide some basis for comparing the relative representation of the different parts of the skeleton. Further details are available in the site archive (see p 39).

With the possible exception of an oddly stained and possibly burnt sheep first phalanx (F212, Phase 5), none of the bones showed any sign of burning.

Sheep

While only a minority of the bones listed as 'sheep' could in fact positively be identified as sheep rather than as 'sheep/goat', nothing was seen to suggest the presence of goat: if present, it must have been relatively scarce. Two hornless sheep frontals were found in the Roman levels (F240, Phase 4 and F212, Phase 5), both with a small boss in place of the horncore; there was also one sheep horncore from the Roman levels (F258, Phase 4). Postcranial measurements show that the sheep were fairly small (Table 12); there is some suggestion of a size increase from the earlier to the later levels, but larger samples are needed to confirm this suggestion. The age-distribution of the mandibles (Table 13) indicates that most animals were killed between 6 months and 3 years: meat production was clearly an important element in the sheep husbandry. Detailed study of small scale wear stages suggests that killing of the younger sheep may have been seasonal, and that winter killing (if spring births can be assumed) may have been avoided. This might suggest a shortage of feedstuff in winter, and autumn killing – but a much larger sample of mandibles is needed to test this adequately.

TABLE 9
Number of identified specimens by phase

Date	Phase	Sheep *Ovis + cf Ovis*	Cattle *Bos + cf Bos*	Pig *Sus*	Horse *Equus*	Dog *Canis*	Cat *Felis*	Hare *Lepus*	Fish *Pisces*
C1 AD	0	1	1	·	·	·	·	·	·
C1-C2 AD	4	102	97	25	6	6	·	·	·
C2 AD	5	65	52	27	1	15	·	2	+
?C3-C4 AD	6	8	12	4	·	1	·	2	·
C13-C14 AD	8	52	100	23	5	8	(36)	·	·
C15-C16 AD	9	2	2	2	·	2	·	·	+
	Mixed/ Uncertain	10	24	5	1	3	·	·	·
	Total	240	288	86	13	35	(36)	4	+

Counts for cat are bracketed as all the bones are from a single skeleton.

TABLE 10
ROMAN (PHASES 0-6)

	Mx	Mx teeth					Md	Md teeth					Sc	Hu		Ra		Ul	Pe	Fe		Ti		Fi		Ast	Calc	NC	Mp		Ph 1	Ph 2	Ph 3
		I/i	C/c	m	P	M		I/i	C/c	m	P	M		p	d	p	d	p		p	d	p	d	p	d				p	d			
Sheep																																	
Ovis + cf Ovis	8	–	–	·	1	6	31	–1–		·	·	6	4	3	3	11	12	2	8	4	1	8	16	–	·	1	1	·	57	28	2	·	·
(Teeth in jaws)		(–)	(–)	(11)	(5)	(9)		(·)		(39)	(28)	(59)																					
MINDEX				–3–		3		–1–		–12–		11	2	1	2	4	6	1	2	2	(0)	4	8		0	1	1	0	13	7	1	0	0
Cattle																																	
Bos + cf Bos	4	–	–	·	3	1	25	–2–		1	1	18	31	1	3	8	5	3	6	3	6	3	5	–	·	1	1	2	19	4	4	2	3
(Teeth in jaws)		(–)	(–)	(·)	(5)	(12)		–(1)–		(8)	(15)	(51)																					
MINDEX				–2–		3		–1–		–5–		12	11	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	(0)	1		0	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1
Pig																																	
Sus	3	·	·	·	·	·	15	3	3	·	·	1	·	·	4	1	1	3	4	2	·	1	2	·	1	·	·	·	10	7	·	·	1
(Teeth in jaws)		(1)	(·)	(1)	(·)	(2)		(9)	(9)	(4)	(15)	(19)																					
MINDEX		1	0	–1–		1		2	6	–3–		4	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Horse																																	
Equus	·	·	·	·	–5–		·	·	·	·	–1–		·	·	1	·	·	·	·	1	.	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
(Teeth in jaws)		(·)	(·)	(·)	–(·)–			(·)	(·)	(·)	–(·)–																						
MINDEX		0	0	0	–1–			0	0	0	–1–		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dog																																	
Canis + cf Canis	1	·	·	·	·	·	1	·	·	·	·	·	1	2	2	·	·	1	1	·	·	4	3	·	2	·	·	·	10	11	·	·	·
(Teeth in jaws)		(·)	(1)	(·)	(1)	(1)		(·)	(·)	(·)	(1)	(2)																					
MINDEX		0	1	–1–		1		0	0	–1–		1	1	1	1	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Hare																																	
Lepus	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	1	1	·	·	2	1	·	–	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
(Teeth in jaws)		(·)	(–)	(·)	(·)	(·)		(·)	(–)	(·)	(·)	(·)																					
MINDEX		0	0	–0–		0		0	0	–0–		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Abbreviations here and Table 11, Mx = Maxilla, Md = mandible, i/I = incisor, C/c = canine, m = milk molar, numbered 1-3 (= dP2-4 of other authors). P = premolar, M = molar, Sc = scapula, Fi = fibula, Ast = astragalus, Calc = calcaneum, NC = naviculocuboid, Mp = metapodial, Ph = phalanx; p = proximal, d = distal. Totals will not be the same as in Table 9 because a single specimen may here be counted in more than one column: e.g. a complete metapodial counts both as proximal and distal.

TABLE 11
MEDIEVAL (PHASES 8-9)

	Mx	Mx teeth					Md	Md teeth					Sc	Hu		Ra		Ul	Pe	Fe		Ti		Fi		Ast	Calc	NC	Mp		Ph 1	Ph 2	Ph 3
		I/i	C/c	m	P	M		I/i	C/c	m	P	M		p	d	p	d	p		p	d	p	d	p	d				p	d			
Sheep																																	
Ovis + cf Ovis	2	–	–	·	·	5	6	–·–		·	·	3	1	1	1	3	4	1	1	3	1	3	5	–	·	·	3	·	9	7	1	·	·
(Teeth in jaws)		(–)	(–)	(2)	(2)	(3)		–(1)–		(4)	(10)	(12)																					
MINDEX				–1–		2		–1–		–3–		3	1	1	1	1	2	1	(0)	1	1	1	2		0	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0
Cattle																																	
Bos + cf Bos	1	–	–	1	3	11	7	–1–		·	·	6	8	1	3	5	2	2	8	2	2	·	2	–	·	3	5	2	10	9	5	3	5
(Teeth in jaws)		(–)	(–)	(·)	(3)	(·)		–(1)–		(2)	(7)	(7)																					
MINDEX				–2–		2		–1–		–2–		3	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1		0	2	2	1	3	3	1	1	1
Pig																																	
Sus	1	1	1	·	·	·	2	3	2	·	·	1	·	·	2	2	1	3	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	2	2	3	·	1
(Teeth in jaws)		(·)	(·)	(2)	(·)	(1)		(·)	(·)	(·)	(·)	(3)																					
MINDEX		1	1	–1–		1		1	2	–0–		1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Horse																																	
Equus	·	·	·	·	–1–		1	·	·	·	–1–		·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	2	1	·	·	·
(Teeth in jaws)		(·)	(·)	(·)	–(·)–			(·)	(·)	(·)	–(4)–																						
MINDEX		0	0	0	–1–			0	0	0	–1–		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Dog																																	
Canis + cf Canis	·	·	·	·	·	·	2	·	·	·	·	·	·	1	1	·	·	2	1	·	1	2	1	·	·	·	·	·	1	1	·	·	·
(Teeth in jaws)		(·)	(·)	(·)	(·)	(·)		(·)	(1)	(·)	(2)	(·)																					
MINDEX		0	0	–0–		0		0	1	–1–		0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cat																																	
Felis	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	·	1	1	1	·	12	12	7	·	·
(Teeth in jaws)		(·)	(·)	(·)	(·)	(·)		(·)	(·)	(·)	(·)	(·)																					
MINDEX		0	0	–0–		0		0	0	–0–		0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0

Abbreviations, etc as in Table 10.

A number of the sheep bones show butchery marks, generally produced by some fairly heavy implement such as a heavy knife or a cleaver. As Tables 10 and 11 show, the different parts of the skeleton are unequally represented: mandibles, metapodia, and, to a smaller extent, tibiae and radii, are much commoner than the rest of the skeleton. Some of the features of this pattern are readily explained partly by differential preservation, and partly by butchery practices: it seems likely that these bones are mainly primary butchery debris, of the sort that would be produced by butchers' shops selling the bulk of their meat 'on the bone': the scarcity of scapulae and distal humeri in particular, both of which normally survive well, is hard to explain in any other way. But the scarcity of carpals (none were found) and tarsals (only a few astragali and calcanea were found), which lie between the distal radius and tibia and the metapodia, is hard to explain except by suggesting that they may have been missed during excavation, as they are relatively small, but very solid, and tend to survive well. A similar explanation presumably accounts for the scarcity of incisors, and perhaps for the scarcity of maxillary teeth: maxillae break up more easily than mandibles, and single sheep/goat teeth are usually poorly represented in unsieved samples (Payne 1975).

Only one specimen showed any marked pathology: a mandible (F243/1, Phase 4) of a relatively old animal had the remains of an infection in the region of P_4 and M_1 probably caused by food-packing following excessive wear. In a sample of 17 mandibles in which the anterior part of the adult premolar row was preserved, none showed any sign of failure to erupt or pre-mortem loss of P_2.

Cattle

Several horncores were found both in the Roman and in the medieval samples, none of which presents features of any unusual interest. Post-cranial measurements show that size was fairly variable – samples are otherwise too small to show very much (Table 14).

The mandibles are rather more broken than those of the sheep, and present more problems in analysis. Following the same methods as for sheep, effective sample size is reduced by the elimination of all mandibles without a countable m_3 or P_4 (in order to avoid double-counting different parts of the same mandible); results are given in Table 15).

As this shows, the cattle tended to be killed rather older than the sheep: only one mandible has an unworn M_3, and is thus probably younger than around thirty months. As so many of the animals were rather older, the wear-stage distribution of all M_3s is of some value (Table 16), and shows that a relatively high proportion of cattle were killed fairly late on, though the absence of information about wear in cattle molars in relation to age makes it impossible as yet to provide any actual estimate of age. This might suggest, at least tentatively, that secondary products – milk, and use as draught animals – were of considerable importance.

As with the sheep bones, butchery marks are fairly common, generally produced by a heavy cutting edge. Ribs are often chopped clean across, and a number of the scapulae have had part or parts of the margin of the glenoid chopped off, presumably during defleshing with a cleaver or with a very heavy knife. As Tables 10 and 11 show, cattle mandibles, scapulae and metapodia are very much more abundant than other parts of the skeleton. Once again, this suggests that these samples are largely primary butchery debris, and that scapulae were fleshed out by the butchers and discarded as valueless; meat would otherwise have been sold on the bone – perhaps chopped across to reduce the size of the individual pieces – or off the bone, in which case the other long-bones would have been sold for marrow or for stock.

A few of the post-cranial bones show minor pathologies, and one mandible (F15, Phase 8) has a shed P_2 and closed alveolus. Of more interest are five M_3s with very reduced posterior cusps: four from Phase 4 and one from Phase 5. This condition has been noted from other English sites (*eg* Jackson 1948; Grant 1975), but seems unusually frequent in the Towcester material (5 cases in 24 M_3s from the Roman phases); it is presumably an inherited character, and may prove to be of interest in breed studies.

Pigs

None of the pig bones seems large enough to suggest the presence of wild boar. The measurements (Table 17) indicate domestic pigs of medium size. One mandible is of a fairly young animal; the remainder are of late immatures and young adults, ranging from early wear stages of M_2 (Grant 1975 FIG222 stage a) to early wear stages of M_3 (Grant stage b/c). While the sample is really too small to base anything on, this is the sensible age range within which to kill pigs for maximum economic meat yield. As Tables 10 and 11 show, mandibles are commoner than any other part of the skeleton. This is usual in archaeological samples: pig mandibles seem to preserve rather better than most other parts of the pig skeleton (particularly in immatures); and would also fit with the suggestion that the bulk of the sample is primary butchery debris.

Horses

Only a few horse bones and teeth were found. The morphology of the teeth is characteristic of horse rather than of mule or donkey: in the upper cheek teeth the protocone is relatively long and asymmetrical, and in the lower cheek teeth the concavity between the metaconid and the metastylid is widely U-shaped. A metatarsal (F154/3, Phase 8:) indicates a fairly lightly-built animal, of about 13 hands (GL 255.0; SD 26.5). No butchery marks were seen on the horse bones.

Dogs

Dog bones were quite frequent, and indicate a wide range of size, as Table 18 shows. The smallest humerus (F234, Phase 5) is notably small, and relatively slenderly built. Harcourt (1974) comments on the appearance of small lap dogs in Romano-British bone samples; using his calculations, this humerus, which is a little smaller than any reported by Harcourt, indicates a dog with a shoulder height of about 23½ cm. None of the dog bones have any butchery marks; several are pathological. One or two of the other animal bones appear to have been chewed by dogs – particularly clear are some marks on a sheep metatarsal.

Cat

Only one cat was found – most of a skeleton, in a medieval context (F142, Phase 8). As this skeleton lay in a baulk between two later pits, the absence of its head is unsurprising – it was presumably truncated by one or other pit. Otherwise the skeleton is essentially complete, ribs, vertebrae and all, with the exception of the caudal vertebrae and second and third phalanges, which may well have been missed during excavation as they are small. Lengths of the principal long-bones are shown in Table 19.

TABLE 12

Ovis and *cf Ovis:* Measurements

		Phase 4 (Roman)	Phase 5 (Roman)	Phase 8 (Medieval)
Scapula:	GLP	33.2		
Humerus:	BT	22.7, 24.7, 26.0		
Radius:	Bp	25.6+, 26.4, 28.1, 29.3	23.8, (30.3)	31.2
	Bd			27.5+, 27.4, 27.5
Metacarpus:	GL	106.6, 110.6, 114.2, 115.0, 115.1, 116.5, 122.8+, 126.9	121.9, 132.1+	
	SD	11.4 11.5 10.7 12.4 11.5 11.8 12.2 12.8	11.6 14.5	
	Bd	20.4 21.7 21.0 23.5 21.9 22.8 24.6	22.1	
Femur:	Tc	19.1+		
Tibia:	Bd	23.5, 23.6, 23.7	23.7, 24.7, 25.5, 26.2+	25.0, 25.9, 27.4, 27.5
Astragalus:	GLl		29.8	
Calcaneum:	GL		56.4	63.2+
Metatarsus:	GL	115.7+, 118.8, 137.1	138.6+	
	SD	9.8 9.0 10.6	11.0	
	Bd	20.1 19.9 20.9 20.8 24.8		22.4, 24.3, 25.2
Phalanx 1:	GLpe	32.4	31.9	34.6

Definitions follow von den Driesch 1976; note that radius Bp has been taken at right angles to the sagittal ridge and groove, and that tibia Bd has been taken with the graduated beam of the callipers in contact antero-medially and antero-laterally: in each case a strict maximum would usually be taken diagonally, which seems less useful. Damaged specimens have only been measured if the resulting measurement is thought to be within ± 2% of the true value: ( ) = within 2%, + = chipped/eroded, up to 2% to be added, – = concreted or with open split, up to 2% to be deducted. Vertical links join measurements taken on the same specimen.

TABLE 13

Ovis and *cf Ovis:* Age-distribution of mandibles (after Payne 1973)

Stage	Suggested age	Description	Phase 4 (Roman)	Phases 5-6 (Roman)	Phase 8 (Medieval)	All Roman + Medieval (total)
A	0-2 mths.	$m0_3$ unworn				
B	2-6 mths.	m_3 in wear; M_1 unworn	2			2
C	6-12 mths.	M_1 in wear; M_2 unworn	3	4		7
D	12-24 mths.	M_2 in wear; M_3 unworn	3 + ?1	1 + ?1	2	6 + ?2
E	2-3 yrs.	M_3 in wear; post. cusp unworn	2 + ?1	2	1 + ?1	5 + ?2
F	3-4 yrs.	M_3 post. cusp in wear	1	1 + ?1	1	3 + ?1
G	4-6 yrs.	M_3 both infundibula isolated	3			3
H	6-8 yrs.	M_2 ant. infundibulum going	2			2
I	8-10 yrs.	M_3 ant. infundibulum going			1	1

TABLE 14

Bos: Measurements

		Phases 4-6b (Roman)	Phase 8 (Medieval)	Mixed Roman/ Medieval
Scapula:	GLP	68.3		
Humerus:	Bd	63.0		
Radius:	Bp	95.2	67.9	
	Bd	85.2, (60.0)	67.5+	
Metacarpus:	GL		176.5, 185.3	
	SD		26.8 34.1	
	Bd	57.4	50.0+ 63.2	58.8
Femur:	Tc	40.0, 38.9		
Tibia:	Bd	50.8		
Astragalus:	GLl	63.1	57.1, 62.5, 68.1	
Metatarsus:	GL			
	SD			
	Bd	46.9+		65.4
Phalanx I:	GLpe	49.0+, 53.1, 53.2	51.7, 56.9, 57.5, 58.7	60.9
Phalanx II:	GLpe	33.5, 38.1	32.4+, 37.9, 44.0	35.6

Conventions, definitions etc as in Table 12.

TABLE 15

Bos: Age-distribution of mandibles (M_3 stages after Grant 1975)

Description of stage	Phases 4-5 (Roman)	Phase 8 (Medieval)	Mixed Roman/ Medieval	Total
M_1 unworn				
M_1 in wear, M_2 unworn				
M_2 in wear, M_3 unworn	1			1
M_3 in wear, post. cusp unworn (Grant b-d)	2 + ?2	?1		2 + ?3
M_3 post. cusp in wear (Grant e-f)	1		1	2
M_3 infundibula isolated (Grant g-h)	2			2
M_3 bovine pillar in wear (Grant j)	1	1 ?1		2 ?1
M_3 bovine pillar joined (Grant k-m)	1			1

TABLE 16

Bos: Age-distribution of all M_3s (stages after Grant 1975)

Stage	Phases 4-6b (Roman)	Phases 8-9 (Medieval)	Mixed Roman/Medieval	Total
Grant a	2			2
Grant b-d	4	1		5
Grant e-f	5		1	6
Grant g-h	5	3		8
Grant j	3	1		4
Grant k-m	6			6

TABLE 17

Sus: Measurements

		Phases 4-6 (Roman)	Phase 8 (Medieval)	Mixed Roman/Medieval
Humerus:	BT	31.5, 31.5	28.3	
Radius:	Bp	26.0	31.2	
Metacarpus:	GL		77.6	
Pelvis:	LA	34.0, 30.6		30.0
Phalanx I:	GLpe		41.0	
Phalanx II:	GLpe			25.5

Conventions, definitions etc as in Table 12.

TABLE 18

Canis and *cf Canis:* Measurements

		Phases 4-5 (Roman)	Phases 8-9 (Medieval)	Mixed Roman and Medieval
Mandible:	LM_1	20.9		
Scapula:	GLP	24.7 (Path.)		
Humerus:	GL	76.0		
	SD	7.0		
	Bd	17.6, 26.5	29.9+ (Path.)	
Metacarpus:	II GL	46.0		
	III GL	58.9		
	IV GL	51.6, 58.3		
	V GL		45.1	
Femur:	GL			(87.8)
	SD			7.3
Tibia:	GL	146.4, 147.0, 122.8+		
	SD	10.3 10.5 11.8 (prob. pair)		
Metatarsus:	II GL	37.6		
	III GL	42.6		
	V GL	43.0, 53.5		

Conventions, definitions etc as in Table 12.

TABLE 19

Felis: Measurements

Humerus:	GL	84.1, 83.6
Radius:	GL	80.4, 80.7
Ulna:	GL	94.1
Femur:	GL	91.0
Tibia:	GL	95.3, 95.3

Conventions, definitions etc as in Table 12.

Hare

A small number of hare bones were found in the Roman sample. Measurements are given in Table 20. One of the hare bones has a cut-mark. While they cannot definitely be identified to species, they are most probably of the common brown hare, now called *Lepus capensis* (=, more familiarly *L.europaeus*).

Rodents

A few bones in the Roman sample had been gnawed by rodents.

Birds

The bird bones are the subject of a separate report by Mrs Anne Eastham (see below).

Fishes

Mr Alwyne Wheeler, of the British Museum (Natural History), has kindly examined the few fish bones. A group of spines and a ceratohyal from the Roman levels could not be more closely identified; from the medieval sample came a salmonid vertebra – likely to be trout on the basis of size and locality.

Later phases

The bone samples from the later deposits (Phases 10-12) were not examined in detail; they were sorted through rapidly in case anything unexpected emerged. The only specimens of interest were a few deer bones – both fallow deer (*Dama dama*) and red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) are represented – several rabbit bones, and a cod vertebra (kindly identified by Mr Alwyne Wheeler).

SUMMARY

The following animals were represented in the Roman and medieval bone sample from Towcester:

Sheep	*Ovis*	abundant
Cattle	*Bos*	abundant
Pig	*Sus*	fairly common
Horse	*Equus*	scarce
Dog	*Canis*	fairly common
Cat	*Felis*	medieval only: one skeleton
Hare	*Lepus sp.*	Roman only: scarce
Birds		fairly common: see below for detailed report
Fish		indet. from Roman levels; single vertebra *(Salmo ?trutta)* from medieval levels.

TABLE 20

Lepus: Measurements

		Phases 5-6 (Roman)
Ulna:	DPA	12.0
Pelvis:	LAR	(11.7)
Tibia:	GL	143.4
	Bd	16.5

Conventions, definitions etc as in Table 12.

Sheep and cattle bones are about equally common in the Roman sample; and cattle are about twice as abundant as sheep in the medieval sample; some correction must however be made for bias in unsieved samples, and sheep were probably relatively commoner and cattle less common than the figures (Table 9) indicate in both phases. Despite the presence of large quantities of Roman pottery – as much as 83% in Phase 8 (see p 98) – in the medieval pits, the proportion of residual bone seems to be considerably less, as is suggested both by the difference in the relative abundance of sheep and cattle bones (which does not seem to be explained by differences in recovery bias as Tables 10 and 11 indicate), and by the indication of differences in sheep measurements (Table 12). This is discussed further on p 116. The bulk of the sample seems to be butchers' shop debris and town dump accumulation (*eg* dead dogs, cats etc) rather than simple household rubbish. Kill-off data suggest that the sheep were, at least in the Roman period, probably kept primarily for meat production, but that secondary products were more important for the cattle. Hunting seems to have been unimportant in both periods.

THE BIRD BONES

by Anne Eastham

The bird bones from all phases are very limited both as regards variety of species and numbers (Table 21). The size of the sample is very small and it is not possible in consequence to make any useful comparisons with other Roman and medieval settlements of corresponding dates or to reach any particular conclusions.

As might be anticipated check lists for each occupation phase on the site show that at all periods food birds, goose, duck and in particular domestic fowl are by far the most common. Apart from them the only birds are kestrel, plover, raven, jay and starling.

The kestrel would at all times have been a useful predator catching mice and beetles as they fed on on the town rubbish pits. The golden plover is a little unusual. Its breeding area is from the Midlands northwards and it would not be common in summer in the Towcester area. However, in winter it is quite often seen feeding in mixed flocks with the lapwing, *Vanellus*, on farming land all over Britain. It is pleasing to find a specimen here in the 2nd century AD.

In the Roman period the raven was a regular inhabitant of both civil and military communities. It would seem they were frequently kept as pets and they are equally found in

TABLE 21

Bird Bones: number of identified specimens by phase

Species		Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 8	Phase 9	Phases 10-12	Uncert.
Anser sp.	Goose	1			3	6	5	
Anser sp. (fabalis)	cf Bean Goose		1					
Anas platyrhyncos	Mallard	1	1	2	3		4	
Falco tinnunculus	Kestrel		1				5	
Pluvialis apricaria	Golden Plover		1					
Gallus gallus	Domestic Fowl	12	20	5	11	2	25	4
Corvus corax	Raven	3	1			1	2	
Garrulus glandarius	Jay		5					
Sturnus vulgaris	Starling						1	
Unidentified			4		4		3	
Totals		17	34	7	21	9	45	4

army barracks such as Porchester Castle and in villas like Fishbourne and Rockbourne. Two ulnae of raven appear in the later phases here but they are quite distinctly patinated, a rusty brown, which is unlike the colouration of the other bones in the more recent levels, and it is likely that they were disturbed in post Roman times.

Another member of the crow family, the jay, is of some minor interest in that its normal habitat would suggest woodland quite close to the 2nd century Roman town.

Of the domesticated species, geese, duck and chicken, little can be said on the present sample. The ducks were probably entirely domesticated. During Roman times the geese were not a large variety. They approximate in size to the wild bean goose. There is some indication that the medieval bones were a little larger, about the size of Grey Lag, which is similar in size to the modern farmyard goose. In the later phases the few goose bones are again relatively reduced in size.

Nor is it possible to present any really acceptable pattern for fowl breeding. There was some fluctuation in the size of *Gallus* humeri through the Roman, medieval and later phases, but on the basis of eight bones it would be invidious to argue any clear pattern or suggest that medieval chickens at Towcester were smaller than Roman or 18th century chickens. Such a conclusion would be useless.

GENERAL INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

PHASE 1 (p 39) 1st century AD

The earliest evidence of occupation is poorly dated and is too scanty to provide any clear indication of the use of the site.

PHASE 2 (p 39) mid-1st century AD

The suggested timber/clay building and drain or possible latrine (Building 1) form the only possible structural evidence for early military activity (Frere in Rodwell and Rowley 1975, FIG 1), but since the remains were so scanty and produced no associated dating evidence or diagnostic finds, such an interpretation cannot be directly supported. There are possible parallels for such features among the early shops at Verulamium Insula XIV (Frere 1972, 6-10). The dating of Phases 3-4, however, does suggest that this phase was only just post conquest, and there is strong circumstantial evidence for a military settlement at Towcester (see below).

PHASES 3-4 (p 39) *c* AD 75-140

The construction of Building 2 and the metalled road provide more useful, though still rather enigmatic evidence of the town's development, and allow more constructive speculation as to its origin. The road is on the same alignment as the road excavated by Mr Brown south of the town (FIG 1) and its line between the two sites passes through a suspected gate in the later defences near the south west corner of the town (FIG 1; Mrs C Woodfield pers comm.). It seems clear that this was the Alchester road as Mr Brown has suggested, heading at an angle for a junction with Watling Street close to what became the centre of the town. It is likely that the intersection of these two early military routes was the main reason for the siting of the town (Frere in Rodwell and Rowley 1975, 5) and the growth of the town might then be envisaged as following the standard pattern of developing

from an extra-mural *vicus*, though the location of a fort is unknown. The careful maintenance of the road evidenced at Park Street was also noted by Mr Brown at St Lawrence Road (A E Brown pers comm).

Building 2 was notable in not having a frontage on the Alchester road (perhaps because it followed the line of Building 1) and also in being quite large and constructed of stone, which in this area at this relatively early date (*c* 75 AD) makes it most unlikely that it was a simple domestic or commercial building (Frere 1967, 246-7). It is more probable that it was a public building, most likely a *mansio* (Rodwell and Rowley 1975, 112, 170, 196-8) or a bath house. If it had a street frontage it would have been on Watling Street unless there was a road just south of the site, but the absence of any frontage is no objection to its being some such building.

The area just north of Building 2 may have been associated with the building, but perhaps was part of a separate property running back from Watling Street: it had a fence along the edge of the roadside ditch, and the ditch later dug along the north side of Building 2 may have marked a boundary as well as providing drainage. There was no trace of metalling and it was probably simply a yard area.

All this would be consistent with a theory that Towcester developed from an extra-mural *vicus*, but it must be emphasised that no positive evidence for an earlier fort has been found. The Park Street excavation does add some useful circumstantial evidence, however, with the early brooches and Samian associated with what appears to be a public building and a well-maintained road, and particularly the very early scabbard mount (see p 60 and 72).

PHASE 5 (p 45-9) *c* AD 140 to late 2nd/early 3rd century

Building 4 seems to have been an addition to Building 2, but Building 3 actually reused part of its walls and also appears to have been of more domestic dimensions, and if this was a house replacing a public building it suggests a fairly drastic reorganisation.

Although Building 3 was not necessarily a direct replacement of Building 2, and anyway the continuity of the building line might only be a reflection of what land had become available for redevelopment, this persistence is still of some interest, because the continued absence of a frontage on the west seems to imply that the main access to the buildings might still have been from Watling Street or any supposed lane to the south.

Whatever the details, the orientation of Building 4 and the existence of the pits and 'garden' soil north of it, are clear indications that there was still no development along the Alchester road here, but merely an encroachment of back yards right up to the edge of the road, over the earlier fence line and roadside ditch. The absence of development along this road need not imply that there was no expansion in this period, or that it was restricted only to the main thoroughfare of Watling Street; such development might have been limited by the constraints of the existing land divisions.

If the new stone building 3 was domestic it would indicate a fair degree of prosperity, and the finds from Pit 176 appear to be from some wealthy establishment. The general quality of the finds is characteristic of this period in Towcester (Mrs C Woodfield pers comm). The burnt material from Pit 212, however, shows that timber construction was still being used in buildings, and might suggest that the later pits north of the two stone buildings were not directly associated with them, but rather with properties running back from Watling Street, again perhaps bounded by the slight ditch alongside Building 3. The high proportion of flagons from the pits and 'garden soil' in this area might indicate the existence of an inn, while the bone analysis for the Roman phases (principally 4 and 5) has revealed a slight preponderance of primary butchery debris, perhaps suggesting the presence of a butcher's shop, but alternatively of some catering establishment, such as an inn. Obviously both of these would be consistent with the *mansio* interpretation, but it must be emphasised that there is no definite link between the buildings and the relevant deposits.

The general picture of continuing or growing prosperity in the mid to late 2nd century is fairly clear, and reflects the general pattern in small towns at about this period (Frere 1967, 249).

PHASES 6-7 (p 49-50) 3rd or 4th century and later

Evidence for the use of the site for the next 1200 years is extremely tenuous, consisting only of partial structural remains of two buildings with no associated dated deposits. Nevertheless the appearance of buildings along the street frontage probably in the late Roman period is interesting. Firstly the change in the building lines suggests a rearrangement of land divisions, and possibly the subdivision of properties if in Phases 3 to 5 the blocks had stretched back from Watling Street; secondly the construction of timber rather than stone buildings seems a retrograde development for the area. The blocking of the Roman road is another interesting feature but unfortunately is undated and therefore sheds little light on the site's history.

The absence generally of much late Roman, Saxon or early medieval material requires explanation. A reasonable amount of residual late Roman pottery was found in later features, and though no Saxon material was found, a few sherds of early medieval pottery were discovered – again in later contexts. There is good documentary evidence for the Saxon burgh, while Bury Mount, the motte east of Watling Street, is visible evidence of an early medieval presence. Remains of all three periods have been found in or near the town (see forthcoming reports by A E Brown and J Alexander). One explanation for the absence of stratified remains in the middle of the town is that any surface deposits may have been levelled off during the Saxon period and early middle ages and the spoil used elsewhere – again one might look to the defences of the Burgh and Castle Mound for part of the answer. Even so the absence of deeper features seems somewhat surprising, and together with the absence generally of much late Roman material from the centre of the town might hint at something of a decline, which would make an interesting contrast with the suburban sites.

The town's insignificance up to the time of Edward the Elder's Burgh may be reflected by his merely occupying it rather than having to capture it. Its reoccupation, in contrast to the disappearance of Alchester to the south, reflects its position on the boundary of the Danelaw and perhaps its original superior strategic siting. Its real revival however is clearly signified by its acquiring market rights in the early 14th century (see p 37). It is at about this period that the archaeological evidence resumes in the Park Street sequence.

One unfortunate consequence of the archaeological gap is that there is no evidence of how or when the Roman road fell out of use and the medieval one to Brackley became the main route south.

PHASES 8-12

The last five phases of the site's history, from the 14th century to the present day, can best be dealt with in one section of discussion. The layout of the site seems to have been fairly stable: the boundary marked by Wall 5 in Phases 9 to 12 had also existed in Phase 8, and there could have been buildings on the Park Street frontage from the 14th century although the documents suggest that some of Park Street was bounded by agricultural land (see p 58). The Roman road may also have remained in use as a yard or alley throughout the period, though by Phase 12 at least it was only represented by a narrow passage. The survival of its line, almost from the town's earliest existence, is interesting, and surprising considering the enormous archaeological gap between Phases 7 and 8. Perhaps it was its physical resilience that was responsible rather than its survival merely as a topographical feature.

There is nothing particularly unusual otherwise in the features encountered in the later phases – the pits and outbuildings back from the street frontage in Phases 8, 9 and 11 are typical of medieval/post medieval towns and the pits close to the Park Street frontage in Phase 10 probably represent only a short period between the demolition of old buildings and the construction of new ones (see p 55). The continued existence of the boundary wall and the bakehouse (Building 7) during presumed rebuildings on the street frontage (in Phase 10 and between Phases 11 and 12) reflects a pattern generally observable in Towcester (and presumably innumerable other towns): many of the 18th century or later buildings which make up today's street frontages have older wings and outbuildings at the back, not visible from the street, which survived the fashionable improvements.

One of the most notable aspects of the later phases was the high proportion of residual pottery, especially in the pits. The effects of this on the dating evidence are discussed in the pottery report (p 101). It also affects the interpretation of such features. Part of the explanation is probably that the pits were used principally for disposing of organic rubbish with little contemporary pottery. Soil would presumably be shovelled in to prevent the contents getting too odious, and in this way a large quantity of residual material would be incorporated. There is evidence from the bone samples that a much smaller proportion of the bones were residual; presumably some residual bones were added with the pottery when the pits were backfilled and therefore it is all the more surprising that the differences between the Roman and medieval samples should be as clear as they are (p 112). This seems to support the idea that the pits were used largely for organic rubbish, of which only the bones would be recovered. A possible explanation of this use of the pits is that they were not used for domestic rubbish but rather for specialist refuse, such as butcher's shop debris, or general 'town dump' material which had little domestic pottery. The bone evidence gives some indication of being butcher's waste, but it must be remembered that this was much more marked in the Roman period, and in the medieval samples the trend is too slight to be sure that it is not just the effect of any Roman material that was incorporated with the backfill.

The discovery of a clay pipe workshop and the identification of the maker is of intrinsic interest, though it is unfortunate that more complete structures were not found.

The excavation did not achieve all that was hoped, but nevertheless provided useful information about the origins of the town. It was valuable in helping to define what questions can be answered by any further work in the area even if the specific problems remaining from this excavation, such as the exact nature of the Phase 2 to 5 buildings and the details of the Phase 11 clay pipe workshop, cannot be answered. A number of unexpected discoveries such as the Alchester road and the finds from Pit 176 were valuable additions to what had been anticipated.

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Excavations in Park Street, Towcester

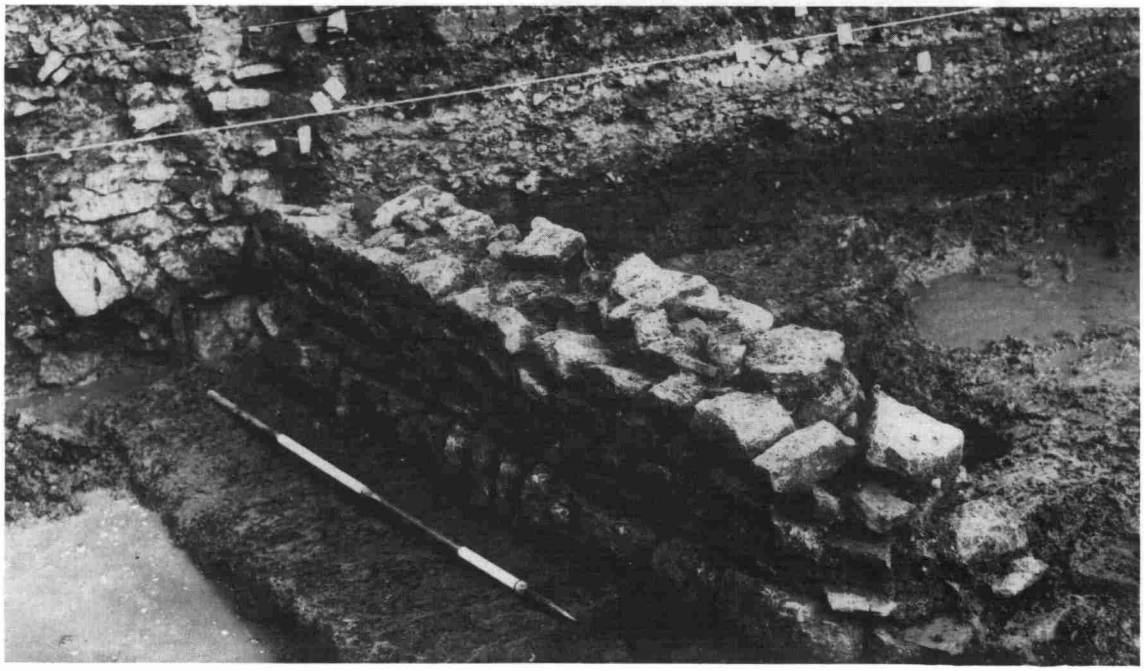

Plate 1 Park Street, Towcester; building 2: Wall 165/3 from the north-west.

Plate 2 Park Street, Towcester; the roman road from the south (Layer 214).

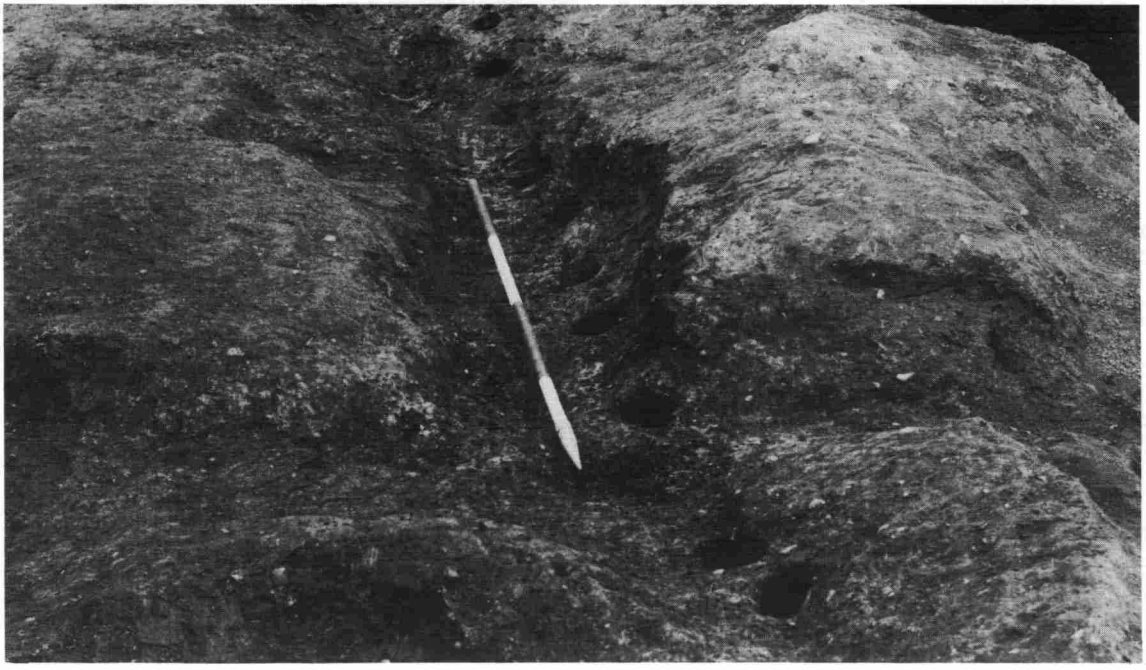

Plate 3 Park Street, Towcester; fence line F254 along the edge of the eastern roadside ditch.

Plate 4 Park Street, Towcester; some of the pottery in Pit 176.

Plate 5 Park Street, Towcester; building 7 from the south showing hearths 63, 44, 28 and 27 (Wall 5 is on the left).

Plate 6 Park Street, Towcester; the frontage at the turn of the century.