



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS AT  
NEWINGTON HOUSE, NEWINGTON  
OXFORDSHIRE (1984-2007)**

**Version 2**

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*On behalf of*

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and  
John Nettleton*

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*(italicised sites found under PPG 16 conditions)*

## **SUMMARY**

*The remains of two medieval smithies within acroft were excavated under rescue conditions. The work, which commenced in December 2006 at Newington House, Newington, Oxfordshire as a watching brief, was continued in May 2007 and completed in August of that year.*

*The excavation revealed remains of a building, metalled surfaces, ditches delimiting plot-boundaries, in addition to pits and postholes. The remains of a possible ore-roasting hearth, which never came into use, were also identified. Post-excavation analysis of pits and gullies dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, associated with postholes and a trampled earthen floor, lead to the identification of an early building as a possible smithy.*

*Although the earlier smithy was only recognised during post-excavation analysis, it yielded potentially interesting deposits of slag, which may represent 'closure' or alternatively foundation deposits for the later smithy.*

*The 13<sup>th</sup>-century smithy was represented by stone footings in the form of a rectangle open on one of the long sides where there was a line of postholes. The super-structure would have been timber, stood on the stone footings, and probably roofed with ceramic roof-tile. The smithy yielded evidence for an anvil-setting, two hearths and a bosh. Sampling for hammerscale confirmed the buildings use as a smithy and potentially indicated where the smith worked.*

*With the support of the then-County Archaeologist, Paul Smith, English Heritage (EH) were contacted and Chris Welch, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, visited the site with Paddy O'Hara, also of EH. Following the site visit EH gave financial support to the excavation of the smithy identified during fieldwork. Extreme weather conditions meant that the site was subject to periods of excavation between January and August 2007, when fieldwork was completed.*

*Following the completion of fieldwork, contact was made with South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group, which had previously carried out investigations at Newington House in the early to mid 1980s. This work, which had been reported in South Midlands Archaeology at the time, was never published.*

*The archive was lent to JMHS and has been integrated as best possible to the current project providing a fuller picture of the recent work and also enabling some form of publication of SOAG's project. This work comprised an excavation and recording exercise in addition to an earthwork survey, and test-pitting at the location of the intervention carried out 20 years later by JMHS. An ancillary building to the smithy had been investigated, from the surface of which had been recovered a tuyère for a set of bellows.*

*A campaign of field-walking carried out at an adjacent field yielded evidence corroborating a 16<sup>th</sup> century map held by All Souls, Oxford.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION** (*Figure 1*)

### **1.1 Site Location and Geology**

The site was located in the grounds of Newington House, south of the parish church of St Giles, between the A329 and the River Thames; further details are given below. The underlying geology is Gault Clay with gravel terrace deposits unevenly distributed across the site. The site was located at NGR SU 608963.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

In 2006 South Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission (P06/W0891) to construct a lake within the grounds of Newington House. A watching brief condition was attached to the planning permission following advice from Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS). During stripping of the lake footprint significant medieval remains were exposed. Sample of excavation of part of these was undertaken during December 2006.

Due to the extensive archaeological remains and bad weather all work on the lake ceased on 15 December 2006. A revised strategy for the completion of the work was agreed with OCAS and English Heritage agreed to fund all further work. Costs for publication were agreed to be undertaken by the client Mr John Nettleton.

### **1.3 Project Background**

The archaeological background to the site was not well known prior to the receipt of the archive created by South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG). Reports of work had been included in various publications by SOAG (Graham-Kerr 2011), Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) (Chambers 1984, 1984a, 1984b) and South Midlands Archaeology (Chambers 1983, 1985, 1985a; Graham Kerr 1985). The detail was limited. Additionally, a watching brief carried out by OAU in 1983 at Great Holcombe found a hearth with associated 12<sup>th</sup>- to 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery sealed by a 15<sup>th</sup>-century wall (Chambers 1983, 133), indicating further medieval potential.

SOAG, led by Cynthia Graham-Kerr, carried out a programme of research at Newington between 1983 and 1986. Investigations were undertaken in Park Field, part of the grounds of Newington House, and in Great Bowling Field, east of the A329.

Observations of medieval pottery from a mocked-up well in Park Field, dug by the Sealed Knot Civil War re-enactment society in June 1983, led SOAG, in October 1983, to carry out a recording exercise on an associated palisade trench. Earthworks were noted in the evening light at Park Field at this time (SOAG archive). In early 1984 a trench, Trench II, was laid out by SOAG with the intention of investigating one such earthwork; an earthwork survey was carried out at the same time, all of which were undertaken by SOAG with the encouragement of the landowner, Christopher Maltin, between 1983 and 1986. Field-walking in Great Bowling Field was carried out in October/November 1984. Excavation continued on Trench II until



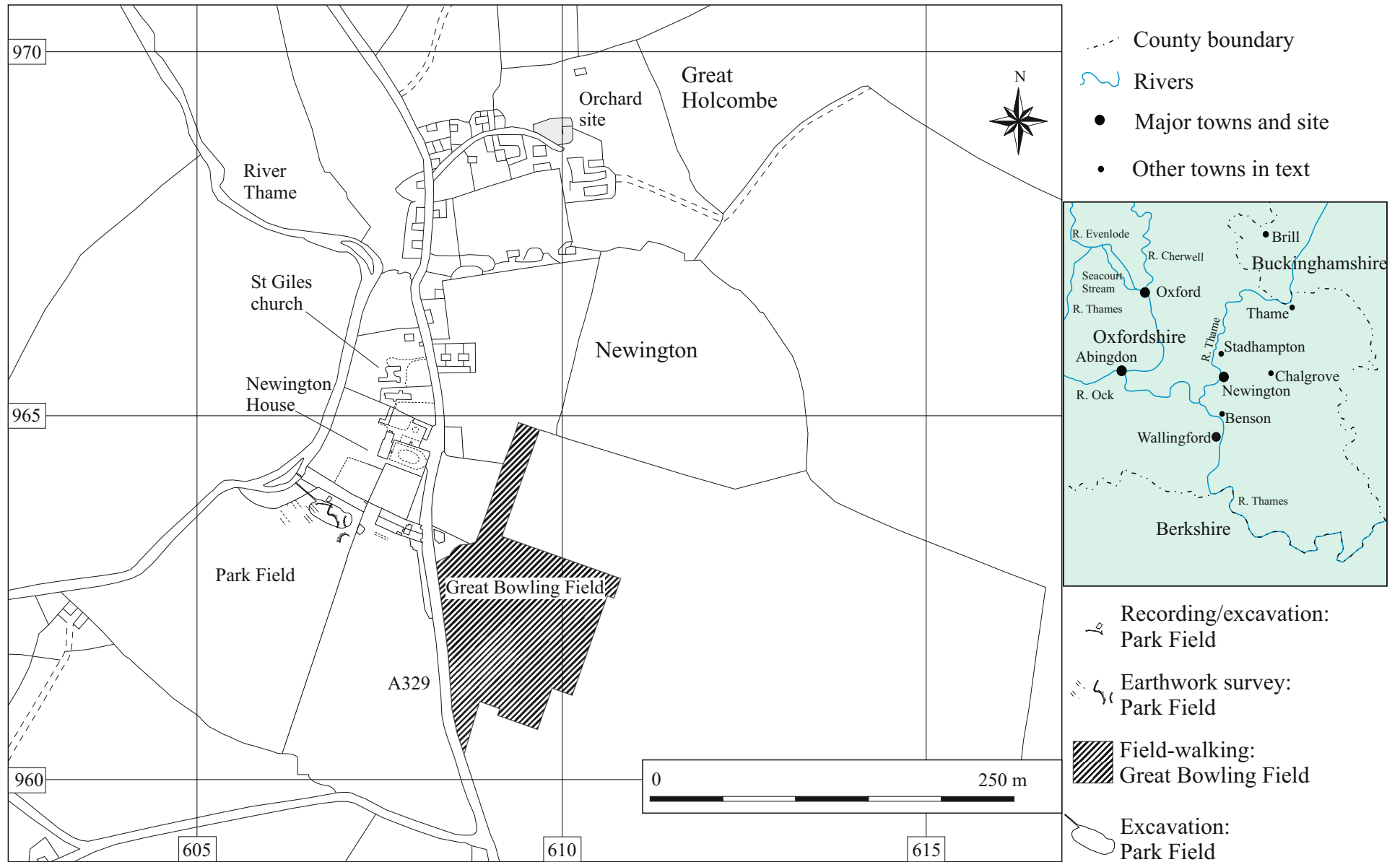


Figure 1. Site locations

September 1985. In October 1985, further 1m<sup>2</sup> test-pits were dug across Park Field; a final phase of field-walking was carried out at Great Bowling Field.

Archaeological advice was provided to SOAG by R.A. Chambers formerly of OAU, now Oxford Archaeology. The results of the programme of research were unfortunately never published, although as noted above interim reports were made in South Midlands Archaeology and the Oxford Archaeological Unit Newsletter. The location of the work carried out by SOAG was not sufficiently detailed on the county Sites & Monuments Record (SMR), nor was the site adequately dated. Consequently, when the current land-owner, John Nettleton, applied for planning permission to excavate a new lake in the grounds of Newington House in 2006, OCAS recommended a watching brief condition.

In December 2006, JMHS commenced a watching brief in the grounds of Newington House, but this work swiftly became an archaeological intervention due to the scale of remains and degree of preservation. At this point English Heritage (EH) was approached for funding within their rescue budget. With support from Paul Smith, former Oxfordshire County Archaeologist, EH agreed to support further excavation, following site visits by Chris Welch and Paddy O'Hara. Subsequently EH have kindly supported the post-excavation assessment and analysis, both of the JMHS archive, but also when it came to light, that of SOAG.

The report on the work carried out at Newington will be treated in two parts. The Park Field investigations, initially carried out by SOAG and latterly by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) will be presented together, and the Great Bowling Field field-walking will be reported separately.

## **2 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Historical Background** *by Gwilym Williams and Stephen Yeates*

(The authors would like to acknowledge SOAG's research, which formed part of the archive)

Newington Saint Giles (Gelling 1953, 132), using the suffix of its church name, or Newington Manor as it is variously referred to in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, was one of five medieval hamlets within the parish of Newington, in the hundred of Ewelme. The other hamlets comprise the chapelry of Britwell Prior, the liberty of Berrick Prior, and the tithings of Brookhampton and Great Holcombe (Lewis 1848). There are three late Anglo-Saxon charters that refer to the settlement prior to its entry in Domesday.

The etymology of Newington indicates an Old English origin, with a Norman suffix of St Giles occasionally appended. The former elements, *nīwe tūn*, mean the new tun or town (Gelling 1953, 132; Ekwall, 1960), although Reaney (1960, 116) in respect of a similar 11<sup>th</sup>-century spelling for Newington in Kent, *Niwantun*, suggests 'new farm'; Cameron (1996) suggests that it is a dative form meaning 'at the new *tun*'. This type of name is usually used for a lately established settlement (Reaney 1960, 40).

The surviving Anglo-Saxon charters are accorded varying degrees of authenticity. The first of these refers to Queen Ælfifu – or Emma – giving *Newintune*

(Newington) and *Bradēuelle* (Britwell) to Christ Church at Canterbury (Gelling 1979, no.295). The gift was free of all but the three common dues. The text of the charter raises problems with the double spelling of the queen's name, the misspelling of the place-names and the date given of AD 997. The date attributed to the text by Gelling is AD 1002 × 1052. Karen Selway-Richards (2005, 52) notes that in AD 997 Emma was only 11 years old and moreover did not marry Cnut until 1017.

The second charter (Gelling 1979, no.297) records the gift of Ælfgifu, the mother of Edward the Confessor, of the estate at Newington to Christ Church Priory at Canterbury. There is a reference in the charter to an earlier transaction concerning Newington in which Ælfric forfeited the estate to King Cnut, the lord of Ælfgifu. The land was given to the priory as *fosterland* on behalf of both the king and queen's souls and dated 1042 × 1052.

The final grant (Gelling 1979, no.301) lists the estates of *Niwantun* (Newington) and *Brutuwyllle* (Britwell Prior) as belonging to Christ Church Priory in Canterbury. The charter has been considered problematic, but the place-names are considered pre-Conquest in date.

Newington is in Oxfordshire in Domesday, in which most of the estate was located, but also had holdings of four houses rendering 6s in Wallingford, Berkshire (Williams and Martin 1992, 136). The major part of the estate was a holding of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and had been since before the Conquest. This corroborates the pre-Conquest holdings of Canterbury Priory. The estate is recorded as 15 hides, with 18 ploughs (of which 6 were in lordship), 5 slaves, 22 villagers, and 10 smallholders (of which the latter two held the remaining ploughs). Besides this there were 15 acres of meadow, 2 furlongs of pasture, and woodland 1 league × 1 league. A value of 25s is given for the stocked woodland. Robert d'Oilly and Roger d'Ivry are identified as two of the smallholders holding 1 hide each. In the time of King Edward it was worth £11, at Domesday £15.

The Berkshire section of Domesday refers to Archbishop Lanfranc of Canterbury holding 4 houses in Wallingford as part of the Newington estate, rendering 6s. Blair (1994, 157) proposes that the Canterbury holdings in Oxford, comprising seven messuages – of which four are waste – rendering 38d, are part of Newington manor. As a consequence Newington, worth £80, was the second most valuable manor in Benson hundred, after Benson itself (Williams and Martin 1992, 423, 425; Selway-Richards 2005, 51).

A further detached portion of the manor was located at Bix, where a 13<sup>th</sup>-century document (1191 × 1213) indicates that 'Peter of Bix acknowledges that a wood called Cumbesgrave belongs to Canterbury Cathedral Priory and belongs to 2 woods which he holds of the priory' which is possibly the woodland in Domesday (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/29; Selway-Richards 2005, 53). This woodland was held for 2 marks per year payable to the priory's court at Newington, and excluded the priory's own needs for fire, the mill, the weir? (*al Gord*) and making its houses. Peter could take for his own needs in firewood and for building.

Most of the Canterbury archives for Newington have not been examined in any detail. SOAG did carry out some preliminary research as part of their Newington research

project, but there is certainly more to be investigated. Other documents held include court rolls (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/29B), which can provide valuable details for social organisation, as well as documents such as grants and quitclaims (e.g. CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/33, CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/32), and a custumal (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/M/355), which gives rents and services for Newington and Britwell, as well as Merstham, Surrey (see Ketteringham 1976). The grants (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/33; CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/34) establish that the priory's holdings at Newington increased somewhat over the course of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Further detailed research would establish the extent of both holdings and how they were used to provide for the four scholars at Canterbury College, Oxford – since absorbed into Christ Church, Oxford.

The *Rotuli Hundredorum* comprises a series of tax returns of land-based revenue in the reigns of Henry III and Edward I (Illingworth and Caley 1818, 31, 761-762). The first account of 1275-6 merely lists the manor of Newington as the property of the monastic foundation of Holy Trinity, Canterbury, and the Archbishop.

A second reference to the account of 1278-9 is more detailed, acknowledging the holding of the prior and convent of Holy Trinity, Canterbury, and in which it is stated that Newington was formerly part of the Bensington or Benson royal estate. The Hundred Rolls of 1278-9 also account for both arable and pasture land. This is followed by an account for the tenants of Newington, Brookhampton, Britwell Prior, and Berrick Prior (Table 1) indicating the amount of land they rented and the dues owed on it.

<b>Manor (DB)</b>	<b>Villagers</b>	<b>Smallholders</b>	<b>Slaves</b>	<b>Hamlet (RH)</b>	<b>Tenants</b>	<b>Cotars</b>
Newington	22	10	5	Newington	19	1
Brookhampton*	1			Brookhampton	12	2
				Britwell Prior	15	1
				Berrick Prior	16	2
				Holcombe	3?	2
<b>Sub-total</b>	<i>23</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>c. 65</i>	<i>8</i>
<b>Total</b>			<b>38</b>			<b><i>c. 73</i></b>

*Table 1. Population of Newington at Domesday in 1086 and in the Hundred Rolls of 1278-9*

\*Brookhampton: Tenant-in-chief Roger d'Ivry, who also held land at Newington in 1086

The Subsidy Rolls for 1327 assess 25 people for Drayton as a whole, including Holcombe, while later records of the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century indicate only two or three tenants resident at Holcombe (Lobel 1962). There is also an account for a servant of the priory along with land holdings and cattle numbers. Holcombe, part of which was in Drayton held by the Bishop of Lincoln as part of Dorchester manor, is not included in the Newington rolls. There are Fine Rolls for Holcombe, documents recording royal income that are not available for the peculiar of Newington. Holcombe, which means 'hollow valley' (Gelling 1953, 133), reflecting the stream-valley running east-west to the River Thames, has evidenced occupation from the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries at least (Chambers 1983, 133). The grant to Peter of Bix (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/29) of the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> identifies Richard of Holcombe as one of the witnesses.

It is not easy to assess the significance of the difference in population between Domesday and the Hundred Rolls of the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, although there would appear to have been an appreciable growth in population over the two hundred years

(Table 1). The existence of Berrick Prior may well indicate the development of small satellite settlements – Postan's 'filial' villis – within the manor (Postan 1972, 127) illustrating demographic and territorial expansion; the population of Berrick Prior locates it as the second most populous vill in the manor, without any knowledge of potential servant or serf population. Britwell Prior is almost as populous. Whether this is due to the priory's careful farming of the manor or to external factors is unclear, although grants of land (see above) over the course of the 13<sup>th</sup> century certainly demonstrate territorial growth. Many of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century documents refer to people who were 'of Berrick'.

The church at Newington has been in use since the twelfth century indicated by the oldest architectural features (Sherwood and Pevsner 1974, 715-716), although may well be an older foundation. St Giles is the patron saint of smiths (Farmer 2004). The *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of 1291 refers to the church of Newington, but it is not listed amongst Oxfordshire churches in the Diocese of Lincoln; it is, rather, listed under the Buckinghamshire deanery of Risborough (Cayley 1802, 30-31), when the church of *Newuton* was valued at £26 13s 4d.

There was also a portion to the prior of Wallingford of £1, which can be seen to equate nicely with the Domesday holdings (Cayley 1802, 30-31). In 1210-12 Thomas de Berewike held  $\frac{1}{3}$  fee at Monks Risborough, in the hamlet of Owlswick, and at Newington, part of the estate given by Archbishop Sigeric to the Bishop of Dorchester, Æscwige, in AD 995 (Tanner and Nasmith 1782, XXIII; Page 1908, 256, 258-9), but which reverted to Canterbury in the following year. The manor of Monks Risborough remained part of the priory estates when Lanfranc split the priory and archiepiscopal estates. The Deanery of Risborough, including Newington, came under the jurisdiction of Canterbury and was only abolished in 1841.

Further documents held at Canterbury date from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and include letters (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/58; CCA-DCc-ChAnt/R/44) about tenants and their rights. The latter letter (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/R/44) also restates the shared relationship between Newington and Monks Risborough in the matter of heriot of a deceased tenant's son. Hugh of Berewyk was to accompany the plaintiff to Canterbury to resolve the matter.

Two fourteenth-century references from the *Charter Rolls* indicate that Newington manor continued to be held by Holy Trinity, Canterbury. In 1316 a grant, made to the priory of Holy Trinity for their land-holdings in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Devon, was part of the devotion to the blessed martyr, Thomas of Canterbury, and free warren was granted in the prior's demesne lands, including Newington and Britwell (Maxwell Lyte 1908, 314). A later grant of 1364 in the *Charter Rolls* confirms the same grant of 1316 for free warren in the demesne land including *Newenton* and *Burtewell* (Maxwell Lyte 1916, 187-8).

The *Inquisition and Assessments relating to Feudal Aids* also has an account concerning Newington for 1316 (Maxwell Lyte 1906, 171). Here Newington (*Villa de Nywenton*) included the hamlets of Holcombe, Brookhampton, Berrick and Britwell, and that this was all owned by the prior of Canterbury. While Drayton held Holcombe Grange (Lobel 1962), Holcombe itself, appears to have possibly formed part of Newington. Whether this indicates a claim being made on lands at Holcombe is unclear, at present. Nevertheless, a dispute broke out between the Bishop of

Lincoln, John Buckingham, and the prior, John Fynch concerning a piece of meadow 14 perches long in 'Heyweremed' (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/29A) the resulting agreement of 29 September 1384 confirms the presence of the mill and the weir at Newington, previously mentioned in the late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The *Nonarum Inquisitiones* (1341) refers to *Newenton* as part of the deaconate of Risborough (*Decanat de Ryseb'gh*) (Second and Tapham 1807, 137-138). There are twelve listed individuals considered eligible to pay a ninth of their income. The significance of this is not entirely clear; it may however indicate a decline from the higher population evidenced in the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 as evidence of contraction associated with desertion (Dyer 2000, 30). Research by SOAG, using data held by Medieval Village Research Group, suggests that at the time of the 1379 Poll Tax, the population of Newington was 43 persons, which may be between two thirds and half of the total population.

By the 1390s the monks of Canterbury appear to have ceased making visitations to the manor, although by this time students at Canterbury College, founded in 1362, and now part of Christ Church, Oxford, were supported by the income from Newington (Anon 1988, 1). A licence of late 1393 (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/O/141A) and agreement of early 1394 (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/O/140) charts the granting of a messuage, by the masters and scholars of Balliol College, to Canterbury College, which was guaranteed by the manor of Newington; and the partial resolution in 1394 of the unpaid debt by means of a bond. This doesn't seem to imply that the running of the manor passed to Balliol, but raises more questions than it answers. The issue of debts is also raised in a memorandum of the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, concerning John Warfield, who farmed the manor for four years (CCA-DCc-ChAnt/N/31A).

A number of medieval by-laws and manorial judgements survive for Newington for years between 1270 and 1410 (Ault 1972, nos.1, 5, 10, 14, 35, 40, 45, 48, 67, 69, 119). These by-laws and judgements are primarily concerned with infractions to entitlement to yields and use of animals on the open-field system. The account for the year 1331 is of particular interest as it mentions Andrew le Smith, of Britwell; however; whether this is indicative of a smith in each or in several of the hamlets of the parish of Newington, or that the smith lived in Britwell and carried out smithing at the manorial centre, is unclear. A note of caution must be entered: by the 14<sup>th</sup> century, as Jean Le Patourel (1968, 103) has suggested for the pottery industry, name and trade are increasingly likely to be disassociated from one another, although Jane Geddes has demonstrated that iron-workers preparing mystery plays in Beverley were identified by occupational surnames (Geddes 1984, 17). Between the late 14<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, documentary evidence is very poor.

The *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, ordered by Henry VIII in 1535, listing church revenues prior to the lesser dissolution, gives account of the church at Newington (Caley and Hunter 1810, 15, 25). The total value of the estate is calculated as £33 2s 7d. The manor is not listed with the Archdeaconry of Oxford (in the Diocese of Lincoln) but as an isolated holding of the Archbishopric of Canterbury. Other Canterbury holdings are also noted in neighbouring Buckinghamshire (Wotton and Bethery Solen) and Middlesex. Owen Oglethorpe, President of Magdalen College, Dean of Windsor and Bishop of Carlisle (1557), was rector of Newington between 1538 and 1557. He died in 1559 shortly after having incurred the wrath of Elizabeth I at her coronation by



*The Description of the lands/ belonging unto the parsonage/ of Newington in the County / of Oxon before mencioned to/ be exchanged with Mr Ogle-/ thorpe for landes of his in par/ sonage Coombe Close. wherein/ is also described diuerse other/ landes unto the same nexte ad/ ioyninge made in August in the / xxxvii<sup>th</sup> yeare of the raigne of/ oure soueraigne ladye Elizabeth by/ the grace of god of Englande/ Franncce and Irelande Queen/ defender of the faith &c./ Anno dm 1595. Robte Hovede/ doctor in diuinitye then in-/ cumbent, by Thomas Langdon./ Note the measure is after 16 foot/ dj to the perch. Scala. 20.*



Figure 2. Hovenden map (1595) with magnified detail of site vicinity and transcription of cartouche. (Thanks to the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College for kind permission to reproduce)

raising the host during mass. At the dissolution, the Canterbury estate was sold off, although ‘the newly founded Dean and Chapter of Christ Church retained the advowson’ (Selway-Richards 2005, 50).

Further brief accounts of Newington can be found in the Register of Matthew Parker (Thompson and Frere 1928, i.383, 386-389; 1928a ii.520; 1933, iii.1051, 1102). A certificate of 1561 to the Court of the Exchequer is provided for the church of Newington stating that it is a peculiar. A second certificate names the clerks under the peculiar jurisdiction of Canterbury as Clement Parrat of Newington and William Barrabye at Monks Risborough. Clement Parratt was rector between 1561 and 1572. In 1569 the will of William Leiciter of Berwick Prior states that his body was to be buried at Newington and that he left 2d to the church. A further certificate of promotions to the ecclesiastical benefices of Canterbury is given for 1572/3 where Robert Hovenden was rector at Newington in the deaconate of Risborough. There is a second reference in 1572 to him being the clerk of Newington-cum-Britwell. Robert Hovenden was warden of All Souls (1571-1614).

By the end of the sixteenth century, the manor is held by Owen Oglethorpe, grandson of Bishop Owen Oglethorpe, who appears to have been hunting recusants during the mid 1580s (Cecil Papers: August 1585). He was married to Jane Perrot, who may well have been rector Clement Parratt’s daughter. Owen inherited Newington and South Weston (the latter he sold in 1583) from his father John Oglethorpe (Lobel 1964 253-62). Robert Hovenden commissioned a map (Fig. 2). It was drawn up by Thomas Langdon in 1595 to evidence the transfer of lands at Newington between John Oglethorpe and Hovenden. The connection, evidenced by the Hovenden map, between All Souls and Newington is further demonstrated by the frequency of which rectors at Newington were also Fellows of All Souls (Anon 1988, 1). All Souls was founded by Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury (1414-43). By contrast Holcombe was linked to Trinity College, which held it after 1538.

The Hovenden map does not show the site. It does, however, show the Oglethorpe house, under Newington House, which can be presumed to be the Canterbury manorial seat acquired after the Dissolution by Owen Oglethorpe. The All Souls map also shows the location of Great Bowling Field and adjacent fields and enclosures, east of the present A428. Approximately 10 houses are shown in the hamlet, which might accord with a process of shrinkage starting in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century; Karen Selway-Richards (2005, 76-77) suggests that by the later medieval and post-medieval periods Newington may well have been focussed on Berrick Prior, rather than the *caput* manor, which would explain both the smithing at Park Field, in the grounds of Newington House, and the limited later medieval activity in the vicinity of Newington House. On Langdon’s map several enclosures are shown abutting Park Field to the east, and an open area *Newington greene* extends eastward; there are houses lining the north side of the green, which is part of Great Bowling Field today.

Walter Dunch built much of the present Newington House after 1630-35 and possibly by 1639 (Maltin n.d.). The house and manor subsequently passed to Cecil Bisshop, who married Elizabeth Dunch in 1698 (Wood and Rawlinson 1929, 15). It was sold to George White in 1776, who added an attic storey to the present house (Maltin n.d.).



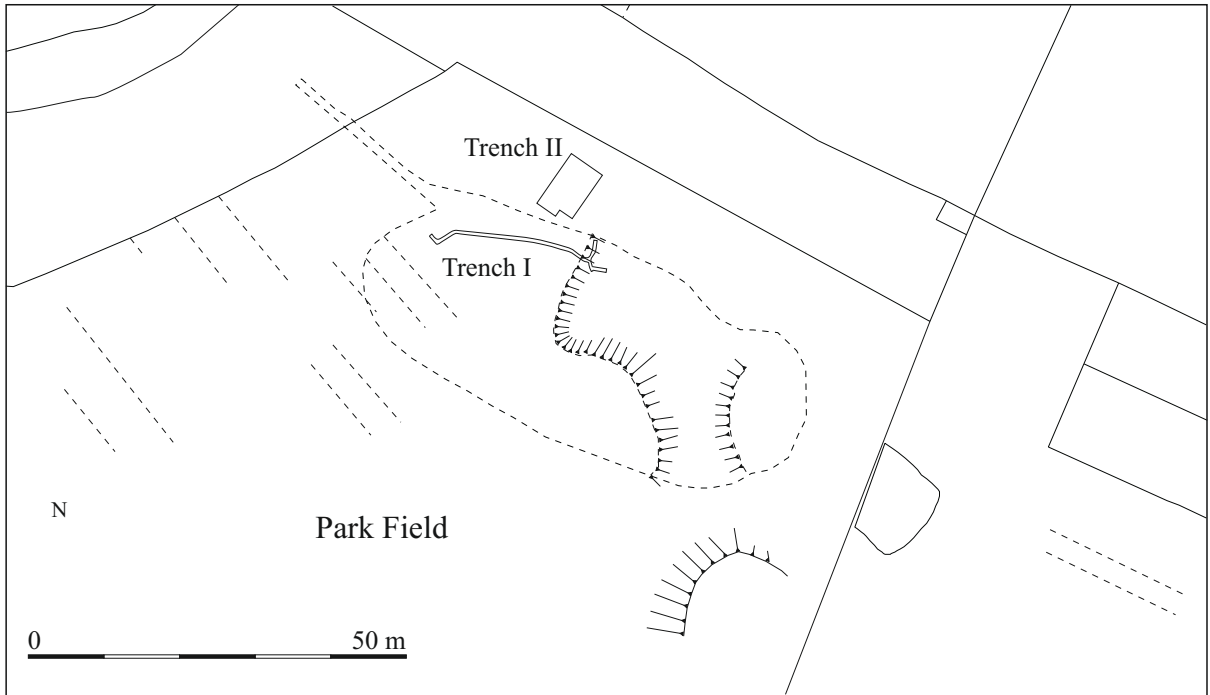


Figure 3. Location of SOAG interventions at Park Field (NENH 06 dashed line).



Figure 4. Sealed Knot trench 1984.  
(Trench PFI or NSA) ©SOAG



Figure 5. Recording of Trench PFI.  
©SOAG



Figure 6. Park Field 1984; looking across DMV  
earthworks. ©SOAG

## 2.2 Archaeological background

### 2.2.1 Introduction to work at Park Field

The site was located on an east-west plateau, at the foot of a south-north sloping hill, overlooking the Thame to the west and a drain to the north; to the south of the plateau, the north-south sloping hill dropped to the west toward the river Thame. The age of the drain to the north is unknown but existed as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century, as seen on the Hovenden map of 1595, and may be presumed to be older. SOAG carried out an earthwork survey (see below), which identified a number of features.

### 2.2.2 Background to SOAG work

In 1983 the Sealed Knot carried out a re-enactment exercise in the grounds at Newington House. During the excavation of a mocked-up well, medieval pottery was seen by members of SOAG. The subsequent excavation by the Sealed Knot of a slit trench (Figs. 3-5) provided SOAG with a section across part of Park Field. As a consequence it was decided to excavate a test trench to the north of the slit-trench (Fig. 3). The archive drawing of the section has proved very difficult to interpret, as very few features were identified in section. Some changes in soil colour were noted but were too general to locate either structures or features. The section has not been reproduced in this report.

### 2.2.3 Sealed Knot slit trench: Trench I (*Figures 1, 3, 4 & 5*)

The slit trench recorded by SOAG was excavated by the Sealed Knot re-enactment society in 1983 and located within the area of the JMHS excavation. The trench has been located 'best fit'. The SK trench did not reveal evidence for the midden area, and so must have stopped west of it. The trench appears to have been recorded as a single, south-facing, long section with finds located to the nearest metre. The recording action revealed a sequence of deposits comprising natural, subsoil and topsoil, primarily. The recording of the long section indicates that the location of cuts and possible stone footings was observed, but poorly interpreted. Moreover, as only a single face of the slit-trench was recorded, it is not possible to say whether putative cuts were ditches or pits; similarly those stones recorded in the long section could be parts of walls, post-pads or indeed within subsoil or backfill. For these reasons, the results of the long section are hard to interpret and tie into the final report. Nonetheless, the pottery is heavily weighted to the late 11<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, corresponding to the overall chronological focus of the excavation carried out by JMHS.

### 2.2.4 Trench II (*Figures 1, 3, 15 & 19*)

SOAG carried out the excavation of Trench II, measuring 7m × 5m, with a 1m × 3m extension to the south, over the course of two years, with input from R.A. Chambers, formerly of OAU. The trench, located due north of the east end of Trench I, was oriented roughly north/south. It could not be located exactly and the identified location is 'best fit'. Initially finds were recorded by grid-square, using an alphanumeric system. Under the guidance of R.A. Chambers, single context recording was subsequently used, particularly for the recording of discrete features.

The trench revealed Structure 3 comprising two postpads, two postholes, and an eaves-gully, associated with a rough limestone gravel floor. The results are detailed below.

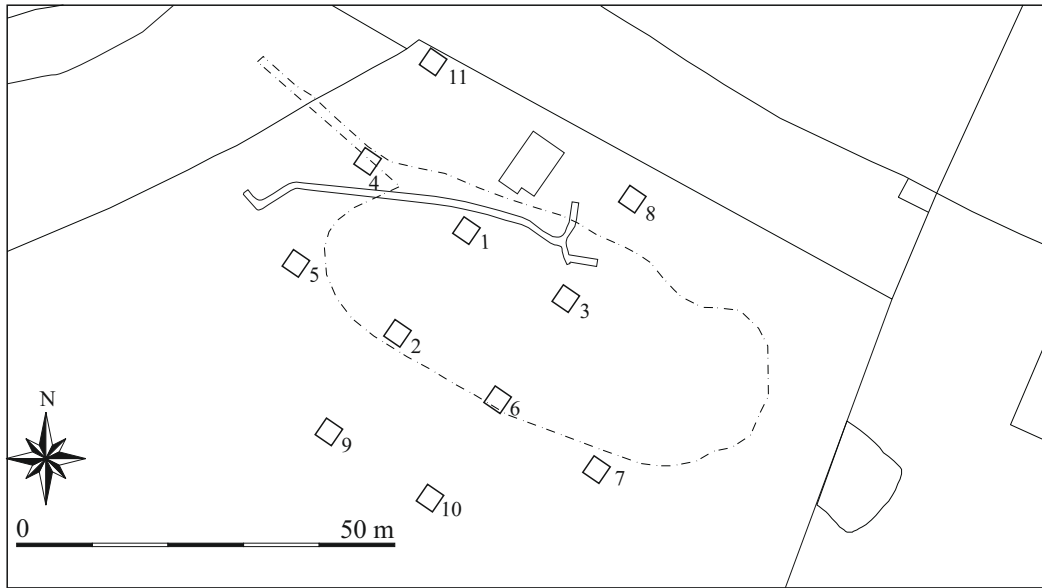


Figure 7. Location of SOAG test-pits at Park Field (NENH 06 dashed line).

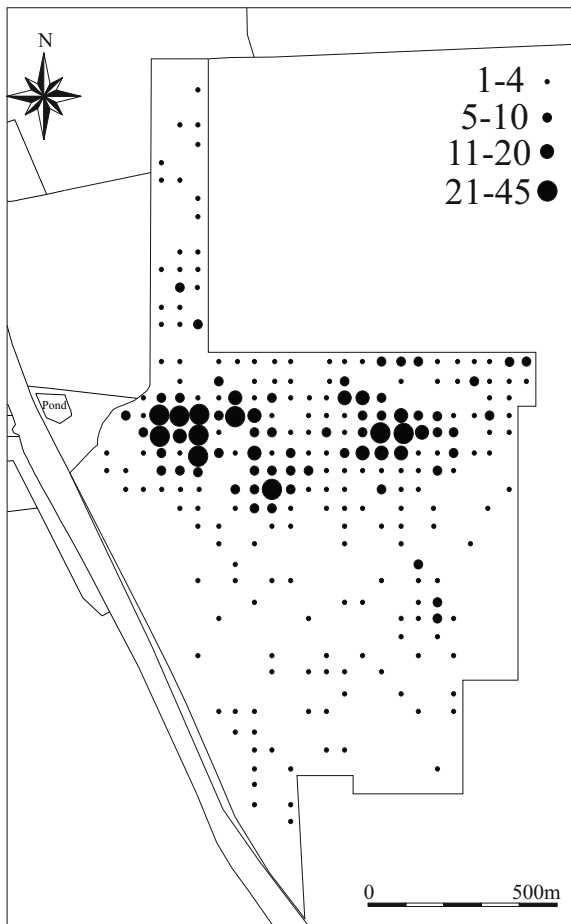


Figure 8. Pottery distribution from fieldwalking in Great Bowling Field

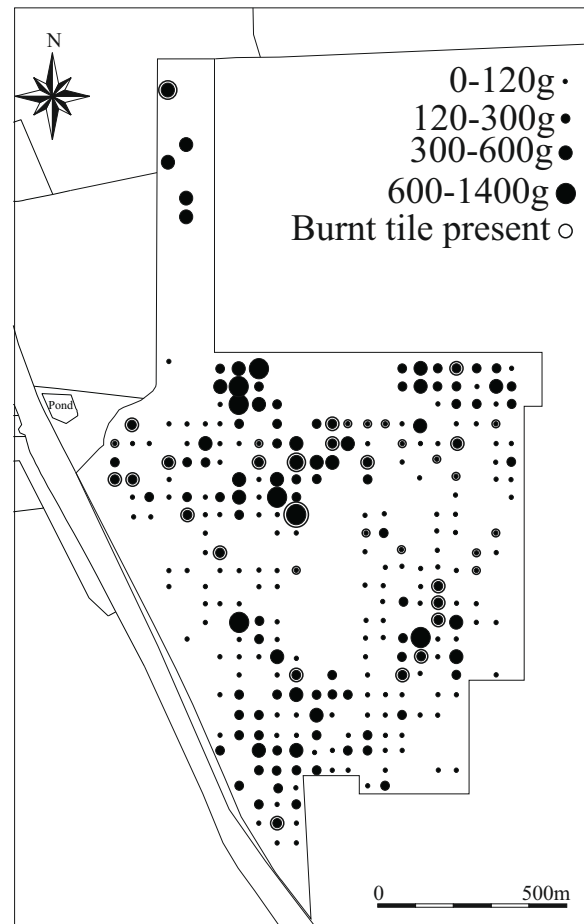


Figure 9. Tile and brick distribution from fieldwalking in Great Bowling Field

### 2.2.5 Earthwork Survey (Figures 1, 3 & 6)

At about the same time, SOAG also carried out an earthwork survey in Park Field (Figs 1, 3 & 6), which located a number of possible house platforms and what was at the time interpreted as a holloway. Since this work was undertaken, the earthworks have been levelled, and are no longer visible. The plan (Fig. 3) made by SOAG seems to correspond with the line of the channel identified during the JMHS intervention; however, the location is approximate.

The SOAG earthwork survey identified house platforms to the south and to the east of the JMHS excavation area, which subsequently disappeared between 1986 and 2006; ridge and furrow was also observed, although the location of this is not clear as none of the earthworks and undulations reported by SOAG in the 1980s (Chambers 1985, 98) were visible any longer. Plotting of some of the drawings indicates it extending over the edge of the bluff overlooking the River Thames, which clearly indicates a problem with the raw data.

### 2.2.6 Test-pitting Survey (Figure 7)

In October 1985 SOAG undertook a test-pitting survey across Park Field as the concluding part of the programme of trench excavation. A total of 11 pits were excavated. These were roughly located by reference to Trench II, which introduces a small inconclusive element to their actual location. Best fit applies here also. It did not appear that the finds were retained.

The test-pits excavated by SOAG included four pits – 1, 2, 3 and 6 – which were within the area of the JMHS excavation. These pits revealed gravelly, possible hard-standing from pit 1, pottery from pits 2, 3 and 6, with a posthole located in pit 3. The posthole cannot be associated with any features from the excavated phases.

<b>Pit</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Pit</b>	<b>Finds</b>
1	Pebbles	7	Dark clay masses of pot
2	Charcoal & Medieval pot	8	Hardcore (modern)
3	Pot & posthole	9	No finds
4	Pottery & 22 slags	10	2 pot sherds
5	Humus & clay	11	Some pot
6	1 pot sherd		

Table 2. Test pits excavated by SOAG

Test pits 4, 5 and 11 were located on the west side of the JMHS excavation area. Pits 4 and 11 evidenced pottery, and pit 4 also evidenced a significant quantity of slag. The pit 4 was located south of Structure 2 and west of the metallised surface associated with it investigated during the JMHS excavation phase. Test pit 5 revealed humus and clay.

Test pits 9, 10 and 7 were located south of the JMHS excavation area. Test pit 9 was empty, while 10 yielded two sherds of pottery. Test pit 7, which was in the vicinity of Structure 5 and the associated rubbish pits (see Phase 3a, below) yielded ‘masses of pot’, the date of which is unknown. Pit 8, north of the JMHS excavation area, revealed modern dumping and hardcore. Similar deposits of modern material, which was believed to derive from renovations in Newington House, were also observed overlying the midden area to the south of pit 8.

### **2.2.7 Archaeology at Great Bowling Field and Orchard site (Figures 1, 8 & 9)**

Fieldwalking (Fig. 1) was carried out in the field to the east of the A329 revealing spreads of brick, tile and pottery dating from prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. This part of the report is based on results from SOAG's fieldwork and analysis. The pottery was initially spot-dated by Maureen Mellor, but there is no evidence for a fuller report having been prepared; as a consequence the pottery was re-examined by Paul Blinkhorn (see below) and he has contributed comments on the medieval and post-medieval assemblages. However, the analytical work carried out on the material has not been significantly re-visited, as it was felt to extend the remit of the current project, and so remains that which SOAG prepared during the 1980s. I have built on their work to try and identify what the clusters might indicate. Accounts of SOAG's work indicate that due to a high presence of decorated floor tile, a manorial structure was believed to have formerly existed at the north end of Great Bowling Field. The quantities of floor tile received and analysed by JMHS do not lend themselves to such an interpretation. It is possible that this part of the archive is missing.

Geophysical work by Karen Selway-Richards in 2005 as part of a MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology at Oxford University Department for Continuing Education seemed to indicate the potential for there being a structure associated with one of the buildings shown on the Hovenden map of 1595 (see below), held by All Souls. Due to the limited access and technical issues with the geophysical survey equipment – a Bartington Grad601 magnetometer – the survey could not contribute extensive further information to the nature of settlement activity east of the A329 in Great Bowling Field (Selway-Richards 2005). Nevertheless, she also presented a plot of East Wiltshire Ware (OXAQ), identified by Carole Wheeler of the Ashmolean Museum, in her dissertation, which shows some clustering in Great Bowling Field. Paul Blinkhorn has not identified any of this assemblage in his assessment.

There is a small assemblage of seven sherds, weighing 32g, of flint-tempered ware of Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date in addition to Roman pottery comprising 38 sherds, weighing 175g. Comprising a small fraction of the total pottery assemblage recovered, the later prehistoric and Roman pottery does nonetheless represent a small collection providing a corresponding background dataset to that from Park Field.

The medieval pottery evidenced a similar chronological start-point during the 11<sup>th</sup> century, at the latest, and extending beyond the 15<sup>th</sup>-century date of the excavations at Park Field, Newington House (Fig. 8). The later post-medieval assemblage, which has not been plotted, includes mass-produced white wares indicating a 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. Analysis carried out by SOAG in the mid-80s indicated distinct clusters of medieval and early post-medieval pottery in Great Bowling Field. Similarly, the collection of ceramic building materials (CBM), comprising both tile and brick, evidenced clustering, probably indicative of structures, rather than a consequence of manuring practices (Fig. 9).

The field is now called Great Bowling Field, but in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century was known as 'The Hillfelde' and to the north of that lay the enclosure known as 'Newington greene'. East of the enclosure was 'The Coombe Comen to Newington and Hoakham' access to which was afforded by the lane still extant today north of 'The Lyde' which leads to Little Holcombe Farm.

Historic map evidence shows several smallish properties located on the north side of the enclosure marked 'Newington greene'. The pottery assemblage from Great Bowling Field, notwithstanding the possibility that a certain amount was introduced through manuring, indicates continuity from the early medieval through to post-medieval periods with an increasingly domestic assemblage over the early post-medieval period. That this assemblage was 'of some status' (Blinkhorn, see below) is perhaps not surprising given the dwellings shown on the 1595 map of Newington. It would be surprising that hovels be illustrated; rather these are more likely to have been yeoman homes, confirmed by the pottery assemblage from fieldwalking.

To the north of Great Bowling Field on the east side of the A329, a watching brief was undertaken by SOAG at Great Holcombe (Fig. 1). The Orchard Site is only noted briefly in the SOAG archives, and initially proved difficult to identify. The results indicated medieval activity – evidenced by Brill/Boarstall ware and South-East Oxfordshire ware – and post-medieval activity with the presence of red earthenware, slipwares and white earthenware. This site was perhaps unlikely to have been continuously occupied, although is close to the watching brief carried out by OAU in 1983 (Chambers 1983).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aims set out in the original Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (OCAS) brief were simply to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed during the construction works, with particular respect to remains associated with the known medieval occupation in the area. Following the project's adoption by English Heritage (EH), the aims and objectives were revised with particular reference to the National Research Agenda (EH 1997) and the Solent-Thames Research Framework (Munby 2010).

The receipt of the SOAG archive added further bodies of data – recording of Sealed Knot trench (Trench I), field-walking in Great Bowling Field, earthwork survey, test-pitting and archival research – in addition to the primary records from the SOAG excavation of Trench II, which initially identified the site, and generated the Sites and Monuments Record (now Historic Environment Record) entry triggering archaeological work.

The years immediately following the Norman Conquest to around 1250, and the associated settlement patterns and economic structures are still relatively poorly represented in this part of the county. The proposal for analysis (Williams 2010) addressed the raised issues as a number of questions.

- How the excavations could contribute to our knowledge of the origin and nature of nucleated villages and settlement morphology;
- What the excavations could contribute to the origins of manorial sites and the chronology of manors and their relation to village morphology;

- What the possible functions of ancillary buildings were; and whether these could contribute to our understanding of class and status;
- Whether comparison of inter- and intra-site data could generate models for future research;
- And what the finds-category data could contribute to our knowledge of medieval trade and industry.

The potential for the site to contribute to the first two research questions was perhaps ambitious and the results are perhaps less than an unequivocal success. However, this is balanced by the results from the final three questions.

The form and function of at least two of the structures are felt to be well understood. Evidence from the excavations Newington can be shown to provide additional valuable data on the processes of change in post-conquest rural settlement (EH 1997, PC6). Although our understanding of the roles of class and status have not been significantly expanded, comparison with other similar sites is possible.

Likewise, the limited timescale of this occupation and clear economic and functional specialisation yielded significant research data contributing to our understanding of rural settlement (EH 1997, T3) and the implications for medieval trade and industry. These issues are dealt with at greater length below in the discussion and conclusions

## **4 STRATEGY**

### **4.1 Research Design**

In response to South Oxfordshire District Council's request, a scheme of investigation was designed by JMHS and agreed by OCAS and the applicant. Following the appeal to English Heritage a modified *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared which reframed the research design explicitly in terms of the National Research Agenda (see Aims and Objectives). This was agreed between the four stakeholders: JMHS, OCAS, EH and the client, John Nettleton.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006).

### **4.2 Methodology**

The site excavated by JMHS was machine-stripped to the top of the archaeology, revealing stone-footings of a building, postholes, pits and ditches. These were on or cut into the natural Gault Clay, which had patches of gravels within the soil matrix. Due to extreme flooding, a drainage channel was excavated around the south perimeter of the site, which resulted in the southernmost part of the excavation area being removed early on, as was the cobbling and part of Structure 2 in the northwest corner.

Between the edge of the plateau and the drain to the north, the northern side of the site comprised an area of dark humic soil yielding pottery, slag, and bone. This area of middening, comprising a mixture of dumps of material, with pits appear to have back-filled a natural hollow, which was subsequently terraced, with a water-channel running through it southeast-northwest. The earliest deposits encountered were from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. The features and deposits were hand investigated in places, although five machine-excavated sondages were also undertaken.

Enclosures, which were laid out during the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, were superseded by a reorganisation into plots and the erection of a smithy, which was not fully investigated as it underlay the island in the proposed lake, although all visible features were half-sectioned, with a selected number of features being wholly investigated.

Following re-cutting of the plot boundary ditches and a minor re-organisation of the plots, a smithy and a further structure were constructed. Contemporary with these two buildings was a structure excavated by SOAG, which lay to the north of the JMHS excavation. Further pits and spreads date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and are broadly associated with the later smithy. These were hand-excavated, with some removal by machine, due to time constraints.

An unspecified period of abandonment followed, which was most likely characterised by the structured demolition of the later smithy. The smithy's abandonment was complete by the 15<sup>th</sup> century – the yard surfaces and some of the internal area of the smithy yielded 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The external yard surfaces are also characterised by spreads of nails and roof-tile, which undoubtedly represents the dismantling of the timber-framed super-structure of the smithy. Excavation of the 15<sup>th</sup>-century pit to the south of the Structure 4 smithy was carried out by machine and hand.

Where the work was carried out by machine, sections were subsequently drawn and dating retrieved from deposits; hand-excavated deposits were also drawn, while finds were retrieved during excavation. During machining it was clear that works in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century had disturbed some uppermost deposits, to a depth of *c.* 1m in places, on the north side of the excavation area. No disturbance associated with the Sealed Knot trench was observed during the JMHS investigations.

During the excavation, Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced.

## 5 RESULTS

All deposits were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in ( ) indicate deposits of material. The phases laid out below comprise the ceramic phases identified by Paul Blinkhorn combined with the results of the stratigraphic analysis. As a consequence there is needs be an overlap between phases as the date ranges of the diagnostic sherds are reasonably broad and although the issue of residuality is not significant, there is certainly a small amount of intrusive activity, which ought to be considered unsurprising in the context of metallised surfaces and their replacement.



**Pre-phase 1: Roman**

A small assemblage of residual Roman pottery was recovered from a wide variety of features. This would seem to indicate the nearby presence of Roman activity, although no Roman features were excavated at any of the Newington sites. The pottery has a date range from the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> to mid/late 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries.

A few residual sherds were also recovered from Trench II of the SOAG intervention.

**Phase 1: 11<sup>th</sup> century** (*Fig. 10*)

The earliest dated features were gully stubs 248, located to the south of the midden area on the western side of the excavation, and 150, which lay just to the west of the midden area. The latter feature, which contained a small piece of slag and a sherd of Cotswold-type ware in the brown and yellow mottled silty clay fill (149), was cut by the later 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>-century boundary ditch 138, as well as by modern activity.

**Phase 2: Late 11<sup>th</sup> to early 12<sup>th</sup> centuries** (*Figs 10*)

Phase 2 activity comprises a buried soil horizon, the beginning of management of the midden area and the laying out of a first phase of enclosures. On the east side of the excavation area, there are gullies and postholes rather than ditches but these are not easily interpretable.

**Early ploughsoil**

In the northwest corner of the excavation a deposit of pale grey brown silty clay (426) between 0.1m and 0.15m thick, which represents a buried soil horizon, was present in section. This deposit did not extend to the south, but represents an early cultivation layer preceding the construction of Structure 2 (see below).

**Enclosures**

To the south of the buried soil horizon (426) was the northwest/southeast oriented gully stub 396, filled with dark grey brown silty clay (397), which extended 3.5m into the excavation area; the east end was truncated by a machine-excavated drainage grip. The gully 108, filled with dark blue grey silty clay (109), may have formed part of the enclosure to the south (Enclosure 1). The enclosure had possibly undergone minor modifications within a comparatively short period of time, when two postholes – 404 and 406 – were cut just under 4m apart. These may represent part of a light building such as a barn. To the east, the ditch 106, filled with dark grey brown silty clay (107), oriented northeast/southwest, separated Enclosure 1 from the adjacent Enclosure 2.

Ditch 106 was the west side of Enclosure 2, which comprised a further three interrupted segments of ditch 168/208. The ditches 168/208 ran northwest/southeast, parallel with the north side of the site, just south of the midden area. A shallow, northwest-southeast oriented ditch 166, filled with mid grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel (165) yielding 11<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, extended beneath the island and was cut by ditch 168 of the enclosure. This may represent a first phase of the enclosure. The ditch 166 did not extend east of the island, and much of the animal bone from the ditch was not identifiable. A single fragment of spindlewhorl was recovered from the ditch (*Fig. 88.4*), which represents the only find associated with more domestic industry from the site, and is of a style which was falling out of use by the early 12<sup>th</sup> century.

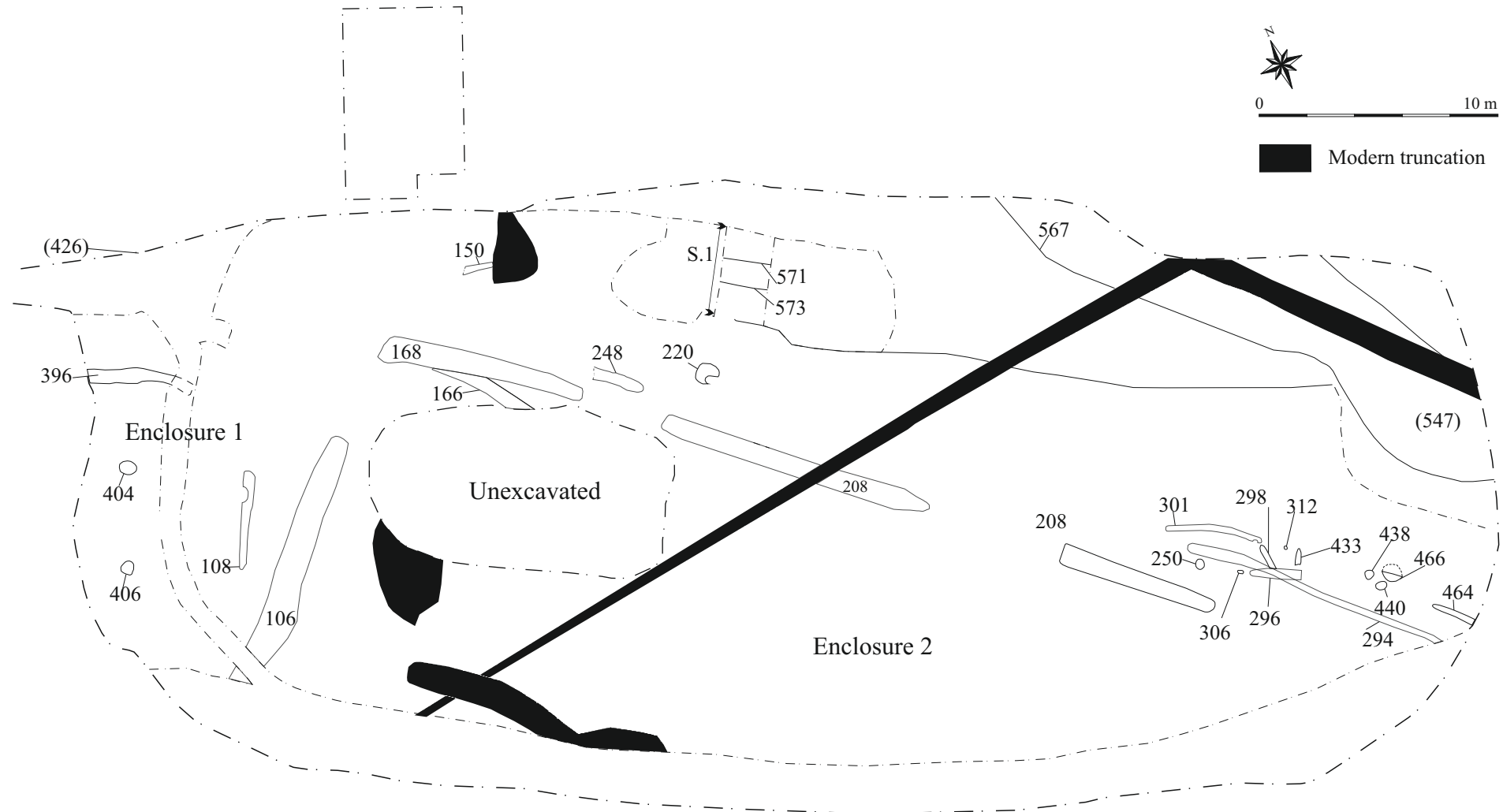


Figure 10. Phases 1 & 2: 11<sup>th</sup> to early 12<sup>th</sup> centuries

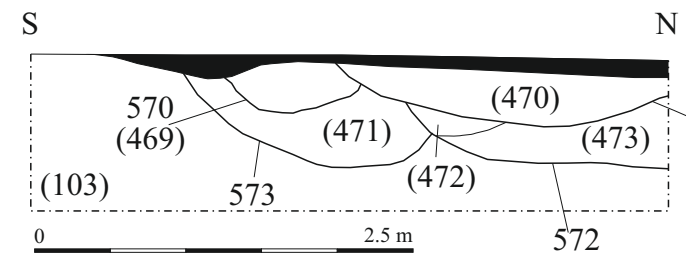


Figure 11. Phases 2: S.1 Section through midden area

The ditch 168/208, which replaced the ditch 166, was filled with pale brown grey silty clay (167)/(207), and cattle and sheep/goat dominated the animal bone assemblage, although occasional pig and even horse were present; bread wheat and fodder vetch were also recovered from the ditch-fill, as well as a small fragment of slag, an iron collar, a possible horseshoe, and several nails. Access to the enclosure was afforded through a break in the ditch in the northwest corner. The northwest/southeast ditch 168 continued to the east. No southern or eastern limit was present for Enclosure 2.

To the north of 208, on the east side of the excavation area, the pit 435, filled with dark blue grey silty clay (348), was dominated by cattle bone, although much of the bone was unidentifiable bottoms or plano-convex bottoms SHB/PCBs as well as hammerscale were recovered from the pit. The latter material in particular might indicate the cleaning of the floor of a smithing area, although 60 sherds, weighing 787g, of South East Oxfordshire ware were also recovered from the pit.

The group of features comprising gullies and postholes, which was roughly aligned northwest/southeast, comprised gullies 301, 298, and 464 and postholes 444, 312, 433, 438, and 466, and were filled with dark grey brown silty clay. These, generally, less-deeply founded features formed part of Enclosure 2, possibly controlling access between the enclosure and the edge of the palaeochannel. The posthole 312 evidenced bone from horse, cattle and sheep/goat, in addition to some cereal grain (wheat and oats), as well as vetch and dock. The small pit 444 yielded only a single piece of sheep/goat bone, but ten SHBs, weighing approximately 1.2kgs. Similarly, the posthole 220 due south of the midden area may also have functioned as part of access to the enclosure. Posthole 220, filled with dark grey brown silty clay (219), yielded a single fragment of cattle bone.

### **Midden**

The earliest deposits of the midden indicate management of the midden area already during this phase, yielding 11<sup>th</sup>-century pottery from cuts 571 and 573, in the sondage through the midden (Figs. 10 & 11). The pits were located north of the posthole 220. The pit cuts, which also included 570 and 572, comprising shallow scoops and deeper broad pits filled with brown heavy clay deposits, were not as deeply cut as the later terracing and dumping from the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and were located back from the edge of the natural slope to the northeast where the former stream channel 567 ran north by northwest/south by southeast. The two dated pits were at either end of the stratigraphic sequence indicating an intensive phase of deposition. As both dated pits evidenced slaggy material it is possible that some of this Phase 2 pitting may well have extended into the following Phase 3, although pit 435 to the southeast also evidenced evidence for smithing.

Sondages excavated to the east and west yielded later 13<sup>th</sup>-century activity, rather than late 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century remains, which may possibly indicate a later date for these pit cuts than the pottery initially indicates. The extent of later disturbance made it impossible to associate the various test pits. However, on a balance of probabilities it is accepted that the earlier activity would appear to have been concentrated on the west side of the excavation area.

### **Palaeochannel**

Although there is no direct evidence for the former palaeochannel 567 at this point, it

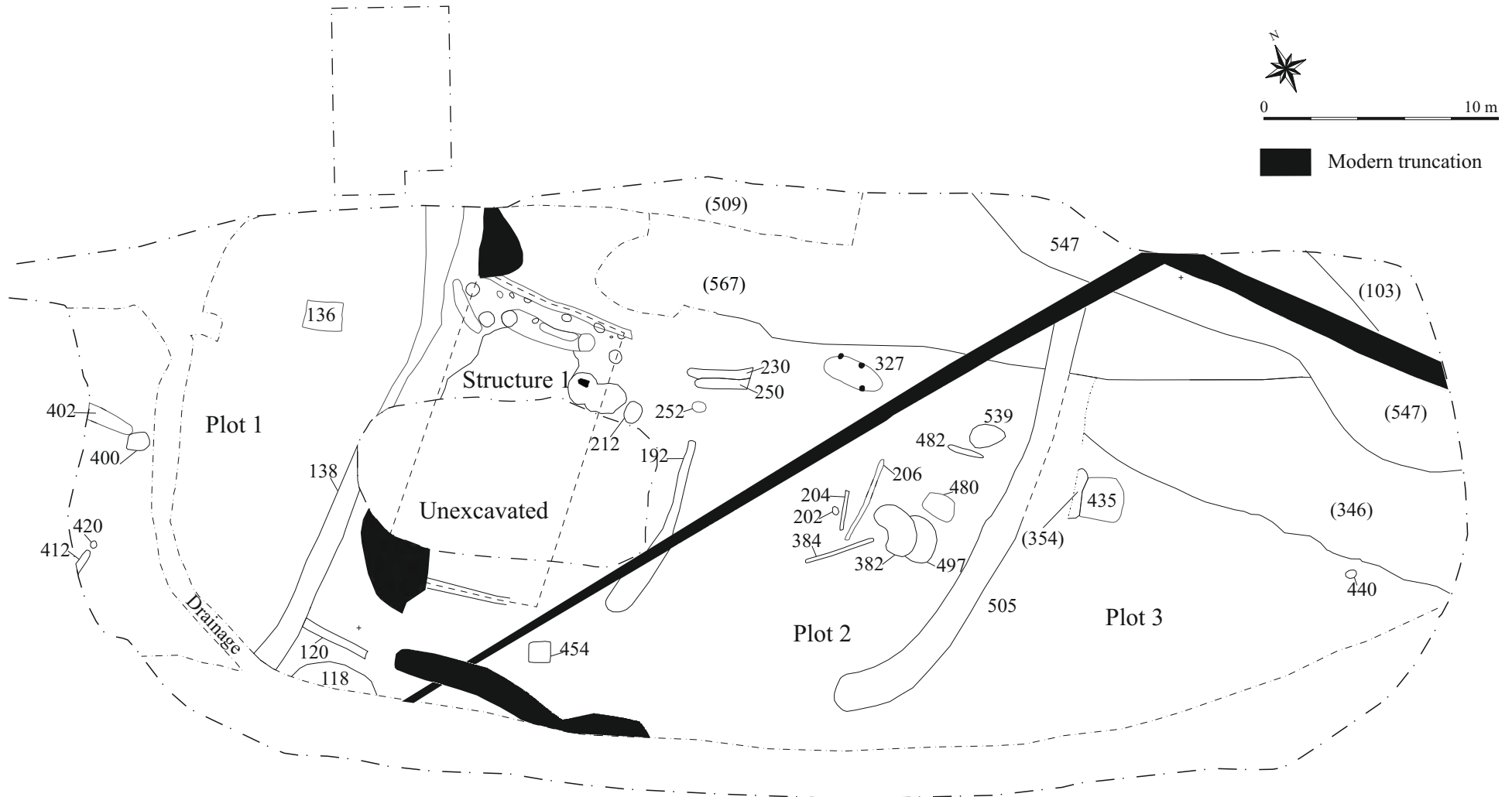


Figure 12. Phase 3: Early 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries

is clear that terracing, which was carried out in the subsequent phase, is probably indicative of attempts to manage a channel which was already silting up, possibly due to rubbish disposal from the plots. The earliest deposit associated with the palaeochannel – a blue grey clay, with no inclusions (556) – did not yield any dating. While the origin of the stream is undated, the presence of the pond to the east, as well as saturated ground would seem to point to a spring line, which does not function today as it might have in the past. If this were so, the palaeochannel is probably contemporary with the earliest phases, at least, of the medieval use of the site.

### **Phase 3: Early 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries** (*Figs 12-15*)

Phase 3 involved a reordering of the enclosures as plots; the siting of a building – Structure 1, an inferred smithy, in Plot 2; the digging of a number of rubbish pits, including a pit associated with ironworking; and the terracing of the natural slope to canalise the palaeochannel.

Plot 3 evidenced little activity except for some hardstanding and a fenceline.

#### **Plot 1**

On the west side of the site Enclosure 1 was increased in size to become Plot 1. A smaller internal enclosure represented by gullies 402 and 412 and postholes 400 and 420, extending beyond the edges of excavation was laid out within the plot; gully 402 had a single goose bone in the mid brown grey silty clay backfill (403). The postholes, which measured c. 5m apart, were probably a gate affording access to the enclosure. A single pit 136, filled with dark grey brown clay silt (135), yielded a good amount of pottery, including 19 sherds, weighing 198g of South-East Oxford ware, and a small quantity of bone, including some sheep/goat, and a small piece of slag.

#### **Plot 2**

To the east Enclosure 2 was reduced in size to become Plots 2 and 3. In Plot 2, ditch 106 was abandoned and immediately adjacent to the east ditch 138 was cut, running parallel with the former ditch 106 extending beyond both the north and south edges of excavation. Sheep/goat dominated the small assemblage from the dark blue grey silty clay with 2% gravel fill (137). Tile from fill (137) indicates a backfilling date after the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century.

To the east, ditch 505, which formed the eastern limit of the plot, was filled with dirty red brown silty clay with 2% mixed gravel and occasional charcoal flecking (504). Intrusive pottery, and a small piece of brick, yielded a date from the 13<sup>th</sup>-century onwards for backfilling of ditch 505 when it was partly sealed by metallurgy associated with the plot's later use as a smithy. A smithing hearth bottom (SHB) was recovered from the ditch. Ditch 505, which extended south from the midden area, gently curved to the south west, before terminating within the excavation area. Whether this formed an access into the plot from the adjacent plot or an external lane linking the plots, or, indeed, merely terminated was not clear due to edge of excavation.

#### **Structure 1** (*Figs. 13 & 14*)

Structure 1 was located south of the midden area and immediately east of ditch 138. It overlay and sealed the first phase of Enclosure 2. The building comprised ten postholes 178, 148, 180, 232, 234, 182, 236, 238, 170, and 210 as well as a post-

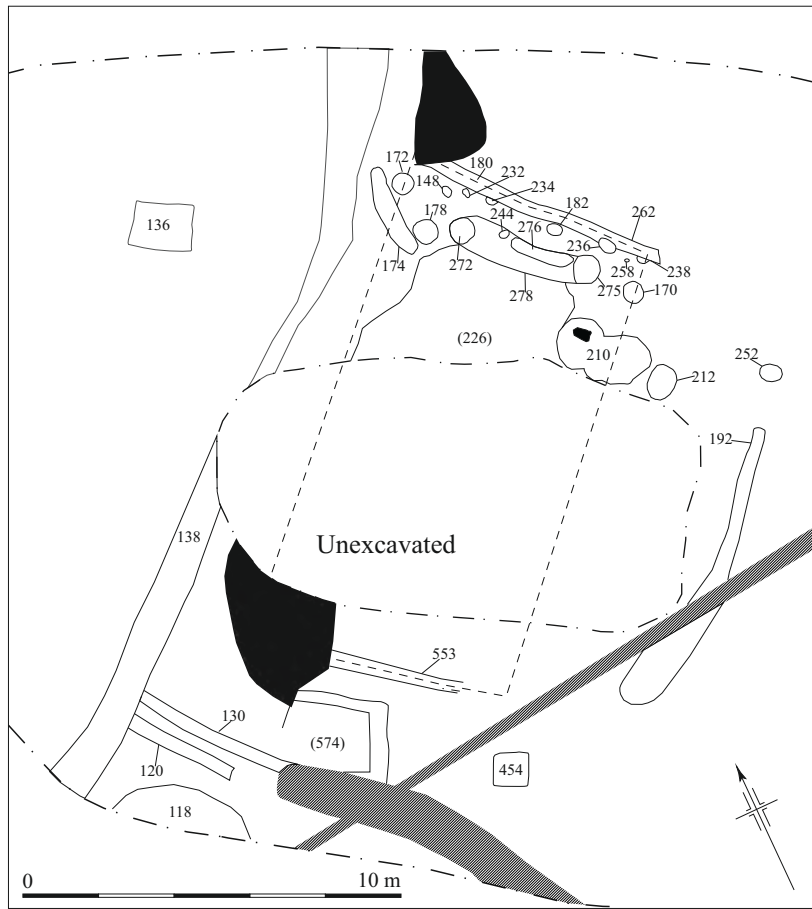


Figure 13. Structure 1



Figure 14. Structure 1, looking northwest.

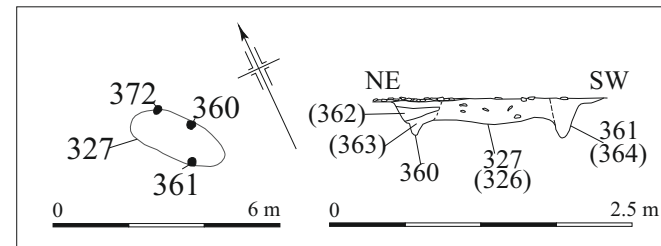


Figure 15. Pit 327; plan and section

trench 278, with a further two postholes 272 and 275 within it, and eaves gully 262 externally, forming the north gable end of a building oriented northeast-southwest, measuring *c.* 11m × 6m, internally, and facing to the east. The eaves-gully 553 formed the south gable-end of the building and was filled with grey clay silt. The fills of the postholes and post-trench extended from pale brown grey silty clay to dark brown silty clay, with small amounts of gravel and charcoal present in the fills.

Only the post trench 278 and postholes 148, 272, 275 and 234 yielded dating; the 13<sup>th</sup>-century date from 234 is probably intrusive, due to its proximity to the south edge of the midden. The post trench 278, which contained some unidentifiable medium-sized animal bone, cut a

compacted internal pale brown grey silty clay floor (175), measuring *c.* 4.3m × 2.5m, indicating at least two phases to the structure's use-life. The building extended under the unexcavated island of the lake where the undated northwest-southeast gully 553 was parallel with the north end; this was undoubtedly an eaves-gully associated with the southern gable-end. Due to modern disturbance on the south side of the island it was not possible to clarify this any further. No animal bone was associated with the structural features.

To the south of the building was the gully 130, which defined a rectangular area of clean limestone gravel (574), measuring 2.5m × 1.6m, which probably functioned as an area of hardstanding. A small amount of slag and a nail were recovered from 130, which was filled with pale grey mottled yellow silty clay with 1% gravel and 1% charcoal (125). No postholes or other structural indices were present, although the north side of the feature was heavily truncated by modern disturbance. Adjacent and to the south of 130 and (574) was a second parallel gully 120, filled with dark blue grey silty clay (119) yielding a nail; the precise function of this gully is not clear.

Although the function of this group of features is not readily apparent, it is clear that it must have functioned as part of Structure 1, presumably for carrying out tasks associated with the needs of the occupiers. The hardstanding may well have functioned as part of the work area. It is not clear whether the hardstanding was an internal or external feature associated with Structure 1, as significant truncation and poor access to the immediate area of investigation meant that it was excavated in bits early on in December 2006 with the rest being subsequently excavated in August 2007; it is possible that structural features such as postholes may well have been missed.

The northeast/southwest-oriented gully 192 was located *c.* 4.5m east of Structure 1. A significant quantity of bird bone, in addition to a range of large mammal bone – only a small quantity of identified pig amongst the assemblage – as well as charred oats and bread wheat grains were recovered from the dark, humic, clay loam (191) of the gully. No weed or other crop seeds were present. Almost 200g of assorted smithing debris – smithing slag, fuel ash slag and hammerscale – were also recovered from the gully. North of gully 192 was the posthole 252, filled with mid grey brown silty clay (251), which yielded a single sherd of Cotswold-type ware weighing 5g.

While the function of Structure 1 is not clear, due to the limited access afforded during the excavation, the wide range of food remains from just outside the building might suggest domestic rather than industrial activity, however, the presence of

hammerscale amongst the other smithing debris probably indicates that Structure 1 was instead more than likely a smithy, as hammerscale does not travel far from where it was produced. The food remains may well be no more than those of the smith.

### **Other features and smithing-related pits in Plot 2**

Similarly, the gully stubs 230 and 250 south of the midden area may also have functioned as part of the Structure 1 smithy complex, although clearly did not extend as far as pit 327. The gully 230, which was filled with light yellow brown silty clay (229), yielded five sherds of pottery, weighing 52g, a pig bone, a small piece of slag, and a nail, while gully 250, filled with mid blue grey silty clay (249), yielded 13 sherds of pottery weighing 127g.

Due south of Structure 1 the pit 118, located immediately south of the gully 120, filled with moderately compact dark brown silty clay and 5% mixed gravel (117), yielded cattle and sheep/goat bone in addition to cat, as well as some undiagnostic slag, bar iron and a nail. To the southeast was the square pit 454, filled with pale orange brown clay silt (453); no finds were recovered, but has been associated with this phase due to its proximity to the Structure 1 smithy.

South of the midden area and east of Structure 1 was an ovoid pit 327, with three stakeholes, 372, 360, and 361, cutting the edge of the pit (Fig. 15). The pit was filled with a charcoal rich silty clay (326) which yielded much slag, as well as pot, tile and animal bone, in which the common cattle, sheep/goat and pig species were represented. The charcoal was dominated by oak, although some bread wheat grain was also present. Approximately 11kgs of slag, in addition to several pieces of iron, and 4 fragments (111g) of burnt flint, were recovered from the pit comprising a mix of unidentifiable bits of slag, some fragments of hearth lining, and at least nine plano-convex smithing hearth bottoms (SHBs) – some of which had parts of the ceramic hearth lining still attached, indicating unambiguously that smithing was already being carried out at Newington. It is not clear what was the function of the small stakeholes 372, 360 and 361, which were cut into the shallow pit 327 after it had been backfilled. It is unlikely to have been a small smithing furnace, as there is no stakehole.

To the east of 327 was pit 539 filled with compacted grey sandy clay (538) with the remains of at least two vessels, the first comprising the base and non-conjoining rim of an South East Oxfordshire ware jar, which showed evidence of sooting; the second a large storage vessel with lightly incised decoration in the same fabric, which may be related to the use of Structure 1. Paul Blinkhorn, below, comments on the high prevalence of jars in contrast to the low presence of jugs on the site which may well be a consequence of its industrial function. A rouletted sherd was also recovered from this context, which yielded over 4kgs in total of South East Oxfordshire ware (Fig. 34.1-3). Smithing slag, hearth lining, possible tap slag and vitrified hearth lining were recovered from the fill of the pit, in addition to nails and a staple. Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse and fowl were all represented within the bone assemblage.

South of these pits was a cluster of features, comprising a small group of a further three pits – 480, 497 and 382 – and several narrow gullies – 482, 206, 204 and 384 – as well as posthole 202. The pit 480, filled with mid yellow brown silty clay and 10% gravel (479), contained two fragments of SHB in addition to a range of smithing slags, as well as horse, cattle and sheep/goat bone and conjoining sherds from the



shoulder and neck of a South-East Oxfordshire ware storage jar. The gullies 482 and 206 were part of a small enclosure abutting the boundary ditch 505; their relationship with the gullies 204 and 382 is not clear. The gully 482, filled with dark yellow brown to grey silty clay and 5% gravel (481), yielded fragments of SHB and other smithing slags, while 206, filled with dark brown to black humic clay silt (205) yielded three SHBs as well as vitrified slaggy material. The gully 204, filled with soft dark brown sandy clay loam with 2% charcoal and gravel (203) contained an unusually high number – 9 sherds – of residual Roman pottery, dating from after AD 250.

Of the three pits – 382, 480, and 497 – located within the small enclosure, two, 497 and 382, were dated slightly later to Paul Blinkhorn's Ceramic Phase 3 (see below). As they were sealed by the construction of the Structure 4 smithy, they have therefore been included in this phase. They may represent the final period of use of the Structure 1 smithy prior to the construction of the later Structure 4 smithy. An unusually large quantity of small bits of tile – 17 fragments weighing only 290g – was recovered from the dark grey brown silty clay (381) fill of pit 382. Interestingly, no smithing waste was recovered from any of the three pits, which may indicate a hiatus in smithing operations at a point in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The pits 497 and 382 yielded animal bone assemblages, dominated by cattle and sheep/goat although some pig was present in 382, which also yielded remains of indeterminate cereals and vetch.

### **Plot 3**

Plot 3, on the east side of the excavation area, was characterised by a sequence of shallow gullies and an associated patch of gravel hardstanding (354) overlying the earlier pit 435, as well as the midden deposit (346), which yielded a bone assemblage comprising cattle, horse, sheep/goat and pig.

The gully 294, which formed a possible northern limit to Plot 3, extended from east to west at right angles to the boundary ditch 505, cutting some of the earlier features of the fenceline of Phase 2. The gully 294, filled with dark grey brown clay silt 3% gravel and charcoal flecking (295), which was parallel with the Phase 2 features 464 and 301, cut gully 296, filled with mid yellow brown silty clay (297). A piece of industrial tile, vitrified on one side, with scored lines on the face was recovered from 296. Its function is not known, and unless intrusive is unlikely to date from before the mid to late 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The brown yellow clay and gravel hardstanding (354), which partly overlay the earlier pit 435, lay between the gullies and the ditch 505; it yielded a horse bone, and was subsequently truncated by the ditch 369. It appears to have acted as consolidation of the ground between Plot 3 and the midden area and palaeochannel to the north.

North of Plot 3, the deposit of grey brown slightly humic clay with charcoal and natural Gault Clay flecking (346), lay in a northwest/southeast band north of the gullies. It was only seen in plan during machining, and rapidly recorded. The animal bone assemblage from the deposit was dominated by cattle, horse and sheep/goat, although some pig was also present, in addition to a small amount of undiagnostic slag. The presence of Gault Clay flecks is unusual in the midden deposits, and appears to represent a layer of occupation activity into which natural has been

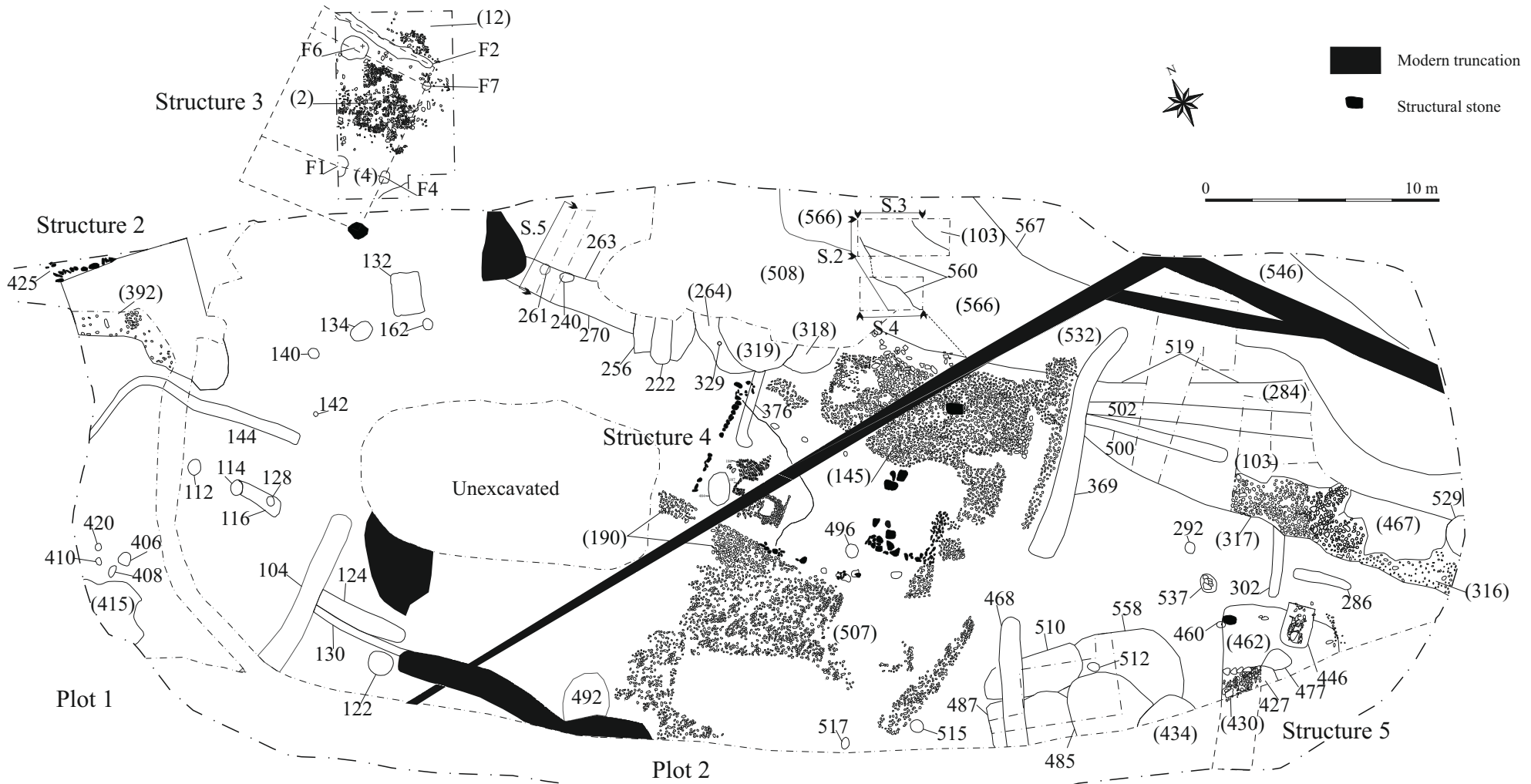
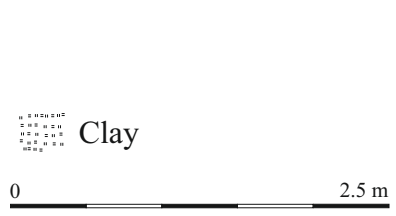


Figure 16. Phase 4: Early 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries & Phase 5: Mid 13<sup>th</sup> to late 14<sup>th</sup> centuries



Scale for all sections

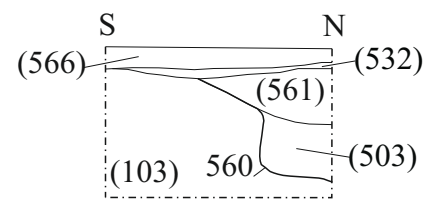


Figure 17. Section 2

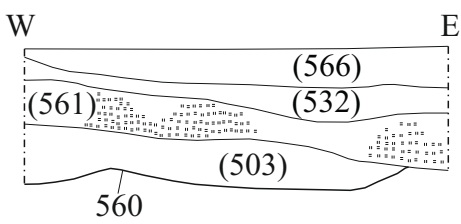


Figure 18. Section 3

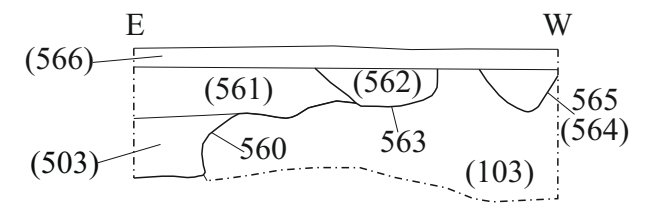


Figure 19. Section 4

churned, perhaps by cattle or other domesticates.

Further north, the palaeochannel was also revealed during machining. Pottery with a late 11<sup>th</sup>-century or later date was recovered from deposits within the cut of the palaeochannel, although the earliest revealed layer – a clay deposit (556) – seen in section did not yield any dating. The overlying deposits dated from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards (see below).

#### **Phase 4: Early 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Fig. 16)**

Phase 4 comprised the modification of the plots, reducing Plot 1 and extending Plot 2. At the same time the Structure 1 smithy was replaced by Structures 3 and 4. The precise location of Structure 3 has been inferred from the SOAG archive, but seems to make perfectly good sense as one of two or more structures, overlooking the stream, and in which smithing activities were undertaken. The precise function of Structure 3 is not clear, due to the limited size of the trench. Structure 4 was clearly a smithy with smithing hearths and an anvil setting immediately adjacent to one another and a possible bosh in close proximity; the building was undoubtedly timber-framed set upon a stone cill. In plot 3 rubbish pits, part of a building as well as part of a metalled surface were also present.

#### **Plot 1**

Plot 1 on the west side of the excavation area was reduced in size, as the northern extent of 138 was backfilled and the southern part was re-dug as ditch 104; at a right angle to the northeast/southwest oriented boundary ditch 104, the short gully 116 and associated postholes 128 and 112 defined access to the plot and associated fenceline. Horse, cattle, sheep/goat, pig, cat and bird bone were recovered from the gravelly dark brown grey silty clay (126), fill of ditch 104, in addition to a knife blade, a nail and conjoining sherds of a rim from a South East Oxfordshire ware jar.

Conjoining sherds were also recovered from the dark grey brown silty clay (115), which filled gully 116, as was a quantity of bone, dominated by horse and cattle; a small amount of slag was also present in the fill (115). Within the plot boundary was a cluster of three postholes, which did not appear to form a structure – comprising 410, 406 and 408 – adjacent to an occupation deposit of reddish brown silty clay (415); the small pit 408, filled with dark red brown silty clay (409), yielded carbonised remains of rye, oats and grass, while the occupation deposit (415) yielded a small quantity of bread wheat and a single unidentifiable large mammal bone.

The gully 144, which yielded pottery dating from after the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, may have already been open. The gully, which was filled with dark grey brown humic clay (143), markedly different from most of the deposits on site, yielded 17 sherds weighing 88g of pottery, as well as 3 fragments of tile weighing 461g; several nails were also recovered from the fill.

The Phase 4 cobbling 392 and Structure 2 were sealed by a spread of compact grey brown humic clay (424), containing 13 sherds of pottery weighing 223g, indicating that Structure 2 in the westernmost observed plot had either fallen out of use, or that other buildings, located beyond the northeast edges of excavation, had replaced Structure 2.



Figure 20. SOAG Park Field Trench II (1984). ©SOAG

**Plot 2**

As Plot 1 was reduced in size, the size of Plot 2 increased to include Structures 2, 3 and 4. There is no stratigraphic relationship between the buildings. As noted above the SOAG excavation trench, with Structure 3, has been located as best as possible and would appear to have been within Plot 2.

**SOAG Trench II Park Field: Structure 3 (Figs 15 & 20)**

The SOAG trench revealed the natural (12), which was sealed by a metallised surface (2) and a surface (4) to the south of it. The precise nature of the surface is not clear from the SOAG records, although it appears to represent a beaten earth floor. Cut into the natural and the layer (4) were the remains of a building, Structure 3, roughly oriented northwest-southeast.

Structure 3, roughly oriented northwest-southeast and possibly parallel with the Structure 4 smithy, comprised two postpads – F1 and F7 – and three negative features: two postholes, F4 and F6, and an eaves-gully, F2, all of which were associated with a rough limestone gravel floor, (2), from which was recovered a fragment of ceramic tuyère (Fig. 34.8). There is a mention in the archive of a limestone wall base, but this has proved difficult to locate; it is assumed to be on the east side of the building. Other pottery from the floor surface and feature fills indicate a 13<sup>th</sup>-century date for the activity excavated by SOAG, which accords with the dating of the nearby Structure 4 smithy. The floor layer, postholes, postpads and gully were all sealed by subsoil and topsoil (1).

During the excavation carried out by JMHS in 2006, and prior to receipt of the SOAG archive, a single stone was observed at the western end of the north side of the excavation area, which subsequently proved to fit well with the location of the SOAG trench in line with the postpads F4 and F7. It cannot be unequivocally identified as part of the structure identified and excavated by SOAG, but, nevertheless, was potentially part of Structure 3.

As the structure revealed by SOAG was not fully exposed it is not clear if it was also a smithy. No hammerscale was recovered from Structure 3 during the SOAG intervention, although a tuyère (Fig. 34.8), and smithing slag were, in addition to a metallised floor having been laid down. The evidence, while on its own might be tenuous, in the context of the adjacent contemporary smithy and the postulated 12<sup>th</sup>-century smithy, is much stronger for arguing that Structure 3 was probably part of the same complex of smithing activities being carried out at Newington over the course of the early 12<sup>th</sup> centuries into the 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Its precise function remains unclear, but was probably craft or industry related.

The quantities of pottery recovered from the SOAG Trench II – 935 sherds, weighing 4,508g – provide an interesting comparison with the more recent work at Newington – 2605 sherds, weighing 32,920g. The average sherd size was significantly smaller, which is undoubtedly related to the fact that the majority of the SOAG pottery was not recovered from sealed deposits, but rather from the topsoil and subsoil, overlying the archaeological features.

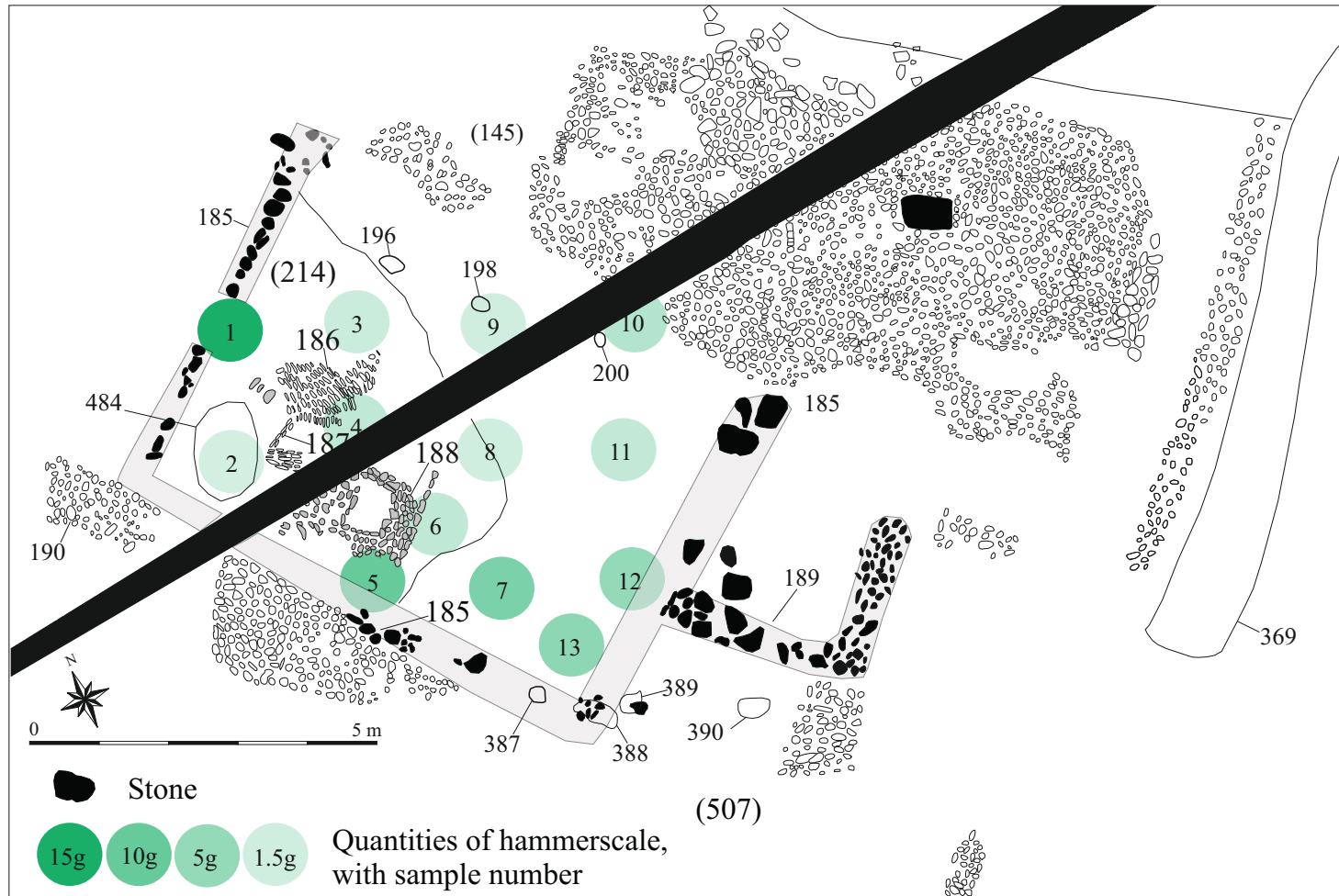


Figure 21. Structure 4 smithy with distribution of hammerscale

The recording of the trench has introduced some ambiguity into the archaeological record; 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery was apparently present in sealed medieval layers. This may, however, be a consequence of a late adoption of single context recording during the excavation of the trench. Initially the trench was excavated by grid square with each square metre assigned an alpha-numeric ID. As a consequence, less weight can be placed on the overall assemblage from the SOAG trench. Nevertheless, it provides a useful comparative dataset for dating the building identified during the earlier excavation.

## **JMHS Excavation**

### **Structure 2**

In the northwest corner of site, in the western part of the extended Plot 2 was Structure 2. The deposit of late 11<sup>th</sup>- or early 12<sup>th</sup>-century ploughsoil (426) was overlain by stone footings 425 two to three courses high, seen in section, representing Structure 2, which had been abutted by a metalled surface (392)/(218) to the south. The stone footings were seen to extend from along the section for a length of 2.5m before continuing under the section wall; considerations of health and safety precluded a full cleaning up of the section wall. The relationship between the cobbles and the footings was truncated by a grip excavated to ease flooding during the excavation, but the cobbles had been seen to extend to the stone footings during machining and are accepted to be contemporary. The function of the structure is unknown. It was sealed by a deposit of mid brown humic clay silt (424).

To the east of the ditch 104, the eastern boundary of Plot 1, a short gully stub 124, filled with pale to mid grey silty clay with 1% gravel and charcoal (123), was cut into the small annexe structure

south of Structure 1. As no relationship was established due to the conditions on site, it is possible that, as the depth of ditch 104 and 124 were the same, the two functioned together. Bone from cattle and sheep/goat were recovered from the fill (123). Within the plot, and to the north of Plot 1, were a number of postholes 142, 140, 134, 162 and at least one pit, 132, which yielded three small sherds of South-East Oxfordshire ware, weighing 9g and a single sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware, weighing 14g. None of the postholes appeared to form a structure.

### **Structure 4 (Figs 16, 21-25)**

The smithy (Fig 21) was a rectangular building measuring approximately 8.1m × 5.7m – 26' 7" × 18' 8" – (internally) facing north by northeast (Figs 21 & 22). The building was revealed as a stone cill in the form of a squared U, comprising rough stone footings 185; pottery, bone, tile, iron nails, a piece of quern reused as a whetstone, and a stone tile furthermore were recovered from the wall matrix. The southern wall was defined largely by the edge of the metalled surface (190) – comprising (183)/(184) – (Figs 21 & 23) which stopped along the fragmented line of the wall 185. Further to the south, where it was less dense it was (507). On the northeast side there were three postholes 196, 198 and 200 forming the frontage of the building. North of the three postholes was a metalled surface (145) – comprising (145), (320)-(325), (331), (334), (335), (336), (347) and (506) – (Figs 21 & 22), all of which were issued for finds localisation and are not detailed in the report.



Figure 22. Structure 4 smithy looking southwest



Figure 23. Structure 4 smithy: metallated surface 190; looking north



Figure 24. Structure 4 smithy: hearth 186; looking southwest



Figure 25. Structure 4 smithy: anvil-setting 188; looking west



There was an entrance into the structure on the northwest side, evidenced by a gap in the stone footings; the wall footings survived to two to three courses here. Where stonework survived on the southwest and southeast sides of the building, it was usually to a single course. On the southeast side of the building were the stone footings 189, representing a small lean-to or shed incorporated into the structure; metalling (145) defined the edge of the return to the north. The lean-to, which comprised a single course of stone forming an L-shape abutting the east wall of the Structure 4 smithy, measured 2.3m × 2m (internally). The red brown humic clay deposit (214), seen in the smithy itself was also present here.

The postholes indicate that the building was possibly open, or, certainly, that the north side was of lighter construction. The stone cill 185 indicates that the superstructure of the building was timber-framed, and the quantity of associated stone rubble was comparatively limited. A number of tiles found on the yard-surfaces (145) and (190) outside – associated with the demolition of the structure following abandonment (see below) – would seem to indicate that the smithy was roofed, in part, at least, with tile. A small number of stone shingles were also found in the vicinity of the building.

Within the walls, red brown slightly humic clay (214), representing an internal floor, butted the western wall and the line of the southern wall, extending across much of the southwest side of the building, and as far north as the postholes on the west side of the building.

Within the building, in the southwest corner, was the pitched tile hearth 186 (Figs 21 & 24), measuring 1.5m × 0.9m. A second pitched tile structure 187, measuring 0.5m × 0.3m, also probably a hearth, was located south of 186. It was very poorly preserved – in part due to truncation by the modern pipe-trench which extended across the line of the site – although it is not possible to assert whether it was probably by hearth 186, or whether they were coeval. Both pitched tile hearths had traces of sooting and burning. To the east of the hearths was the anvil setting 188, measuring 1.75m × 1.5m, in roughly worked limestone (Figs 21 & 25). The stone defined an area 0.6m × 0.5m roughly in the middle into which a wooden block was undoubtedly set for the anvil itself. The anvil-setting 188 yielded a piece of bar iron, a hinge fragment and part of a knife blade from the limestone surface. In the very southwest corner of the smithy was a shallow oval pit 484, measuring 0.8m × 1.1m, filled – or possibly lined – with mid yellow brown clay (483), 0.09m thick, which may well represent a bosh, from which a single pig bone was recovered.

Samples for hammerscale were taken from the surface (214), into which the hearth and anvil were set, revealing a concentration around the anvil setting and hearth, as well as a relatively high proportion from the sample taken from just within the door on the west side (Fig. 21). It is not possible to say whether this is due to sweeping or traffic through the door. Further densities were apparent from the sample immediately adjacent to the south wall, where hammerscale would have gathered during smithing, with lesser quantities to the north of the anvil-setting. East of the anvil-setting, there was a greater amount than to the north, but less than to the south. Very little hammerscale was apparent between the hearth and the anvil-setting, which is as might be expected.

The anvil-setting 188, the hearths 186 and 187, and the bosh 484 were all partially or entirely sealed by the deposit (194), which represents the both the active floor surface of the smithy and its subsequent abandonment; this latter phase is detailed below. Pottery recovered from the deposit extends into the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The metallised surface (145) was on the north and east sides of the smithy, and (190) to the south; these yielded pottery, bone and metalwork, particularly nails; although, a rowell and a chape, as well as copper alloy buckles and bits of horse-gear were also recovered from the metallised surfaces, in addition to architectural iron (mostly nails) and some unworked bar iron. Some twenty fragments of roof tile – including a worked ceramic disc, similar to those found at Bordesley Abbey (Astill 1993, 127-9), with possible industrial associations – as well as a piece of brick were retained during excavation.

A whetstone was recovered from context (506) of the metallising (145) on the east side of the smithy, in addition to the whetstone and a few pieces of ‘Stabbed Wessex’ style floor-tile recovered from the metallised surface (190) to the south of the smithy; in addition to these typically 13<sup>th</sup>- or early 14<sup>th</sup>-century tile fragments, a number of later 14<sup>th</sup>-century tile-fragments, typical of Penn production, were also retrieved from the yard-surface. This material is properly located in the Phase 6 abandonment phase, although there was certainly pottery, which spanned the 13<sup>th</sup> to early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and may well have been residual.

The metallised surface (145), which was on the north and east side of the smithy, did not extend over the former midden, the backfilling of which appears to have been largely consolidated by the time the smithy was operating, although middening and rubbish deposition continued until after the latter part of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Spreads of refuse, rather than negative features characterise the midden deposits to the north of the smithy by this time, although given the time constraints little of these were extensively sampled.

Inside the west wall of the Structure 4 smithy was the gully 376, filled dark, humic, clay loam (375) yielding pig bone in addition to carbonised bread wheat and oats as well as vetch or goosegrass. Smithing and fuel ash slags were also recovered from the fill. Although 15<sup>th</sup>-century pottery is associated with one of the excavated fills of this gully, it was clearly overlain by the internal occupation surface of the smithy (194) and the mid 13<sup>th</sup>-century deposit (319) – see below – and the later pottery, it must be concluded, is intrusive. It is unlikely to have functioned as a drainage gully between the inside of the smithy and the midden area as it was not stone-lined. It may well have been a temporary gully, but such a conclusion contributes little to the understanding of the smithy.

Due to modern disturbance and time constraints investigation was largely limited on the north side of the site to test-pits that yielded good results, but as indicated elsewhere in the report, were not always easily relatable. However, the shallow scoops 222 and 256 and spreads (264), (318) and (319) – located just to the east (see below) – were investigated by hand. The scoop 256, filled with mid red brown humic clay silt with yellow clay mottling, 5% charcoal and up to 10% gravel (255), contained some indeterminate bone. It was cut by the long pit or possible shallow ditch 222, filled with dark grey silty clay and 2% small gravel (221) and a single sherd

of Cotswolds-type ware, weighing 5g. The north edges of these features were truncated by modern activities.

Southeast of the Structure 4 smithy the small pit 515, filled with yellow brown silty clay with 5% gravel (514) yielded three sherds of pottery weighing 14g, a piece of sheep/goat and some slag. Close by was the undated pit 517, which was 0.72m × 0.36m and 0.04m deep, filled with grey brown sandy silty clay and 105 gravel, with frequent charcoal (516). Southwest of the smithy was the pit 492, partly truncated by later disturbance, and filled with black brown loam (491), which yielded six sherds of pottery weighing 54g, and cattle, sheep/goat, and pig bone in addition to a nail.

### **Plot 3** (*Fig. 16*)

The Phase 3 ditch 505 had been backfilled and metalling laid over the top by the early 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Phase 4). It would appear that Plot 3 temporarily was united with Plot 2 for the duration of Phase 4 activity, and the boundary was subsequently recut during the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to late 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, as the ditches 369 and 468 belong to the subsequent Phase 5 activity.

East of the line of the later ditches 369 and 468 were a number of pits including 529, and pit-group 558, 487 and 510, and associated posthole 512; gullies 500 and 502 which were cut into the midden deposits; as well as Structure 5 comprising the group of features comprising a floor (462), a wall stub 430, and a possible smelting hearth 447 which never came into use in addition to most, if not all, postholes 537, 460, 290, 292, and gullies 302 and 286 as part of a post-fast structure.

### **Structure 5** (*Figs 26 & 27*)

Structure 5 comprised the stone footing 430, from which bone, a large quantity of pottery, and several nails, were recovered, located on the natural gravel platform overlooking the east end of the excavation area. It measured 1.45m × 1.32m (E/W × N/S), made of limestone pieces – measuring 250mm × 240mm × 80mm – roughly squared, with smaller cobbles as packing material. The wall only stood to two courses, oriented north/south, extending beyond the edge of excavation, and appeared to be the west wall of a structure. No east wall was seen, although any such could easily have been beyond the limits of excavation.

The northern and western slopes of the platform had been covered with a dump of gravelly, grey orange clay (448), similar to (462), and which in addition to a reasonable quantity of bone, 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery and a stone roof-tile, also yielded a large sherd of Roman pottery.

To the immediate north of Structure 5 the stone construction 447, which cut through both the platform on which Structure 5 was located and the associated floor deposit of gravelly clay (462), represented an ore-roasting oven that never came into use. The cut 446 measured 1.84m × 1.25m × 0.15m; within the cut, the stone structure 447 measured 1.67m × 0.6m × 0.15m comprising pieces of limestone – measuring up to 270 mm × 150mm × 20mm – on edge. Between the stone structure 447 and cut 446 was backfilled with grey orange silty clay and small stone (449), yielding 32 sherds weighing 296g and a single cattle bone. A single flat capping stone was present at the south end, forming a top to the chamber. To the north the structure of the oven had

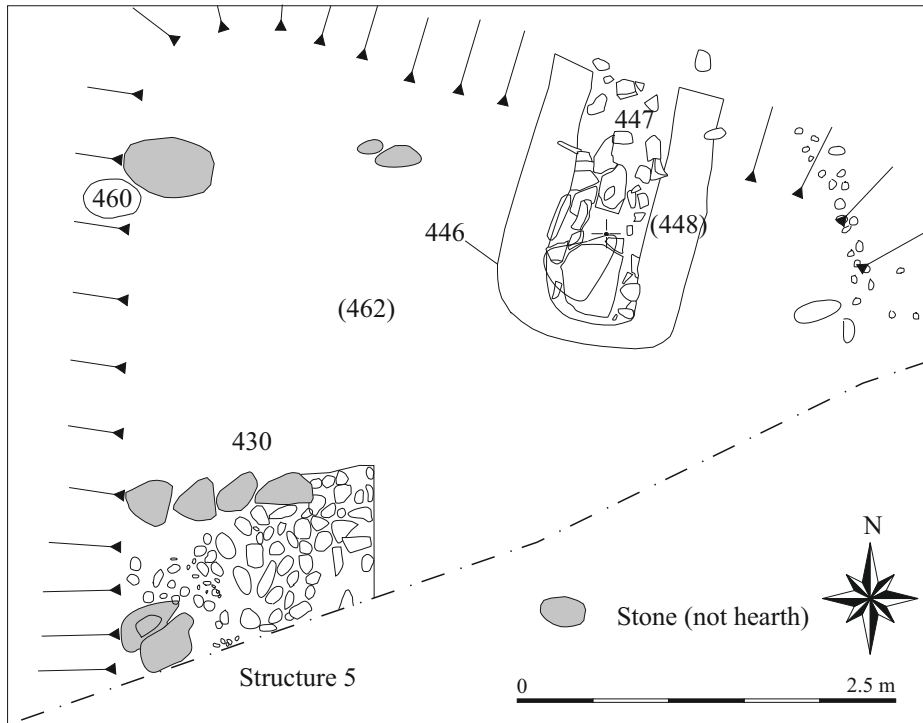


Figure 26. Structure 5 and ore-roasting hearth 447.



Figure 27. Ore-roasting hearth 447, looking south.

collapsed around the stoke hole, and the backfill was a very compacted silty clay with only occasional charcoal flecks (445).

Later ploughing had pulled out further limestone pieces from the structure, which were observed during machining. There was no evidence of the structure ever having been used. The function of this feature remains somewhat enigmatic, although suggestions such as a drain seem yet more implausible, given that it appeared to be capped at the south end, nearest to the postulated Structure 5. Furthermore, it is unclear into what it might drain, as the midden is at some distance, and was metalled at this point. The proximity of the smithy, into which access was afforded across the recently backfilled Phase 2 plot boundary ditch, seems to be an appropriate association. The presence of Potterspury Ware from features on this side of the boundary ditch seems to reinforce the postulated association.

To the north of the ore-roasting oven were the gullies 302 and 286 – which may well form either a baffle against the elements, or indeed, part of a structure within which the ore-roasting oven was to have been housed. Gully 302, filled with dark yellow brown silty clay (303) containing 6 sherds weighing 69g, is parallel with the hearth structure; gully 286, filled with yellow brown silty clay mottled blue grey with some small stone (285), containing 8 sherds weighing 727g, at right angles to it.

### **North end of Plot 3**

To the north of Plot 3 terracing, represented by cut 519, and perhaps associated with the terracing 560 (see below) to the west of the palaeochannel 567, had been deliberately backfilled. The lower fill of dark brown clay silt (518) yielded no dating, but the upper deposit of grey brown gritty silty clay (524) contained 24 mixed sherds of pottery weighing 333g, in addition to roof-tile, a horse bone and a whetstone that were recovered from the cut. The terracing was cut by a later pit(?) 523, which was only recorded on the east section (see below). North of the truncation by 523, the terracing 519 was overlain by a deposit of light grey silty clay (549), which was overlain by the mid 13<sup>th</sup>-century deposit (521).

The palaeochannel terracing 519 cut the grey brown humic clay silt with yellow clay flecking, 3% charcoal and up to 5% gravel (284) to the south, a midden deposit which yielded six mixed sherds of pottery as well as two SHBs, in addition to a small triangular fragment of floor tile, with stab-marks on the underside suggestive of an earlier rather than later date. The deposit was also present to the east as (467), which yielded a sherd of South East Oxfordshire ware and weighing 5g and two sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware, weighing 7g in addition to a horseshoe. The date for this latter deposit is mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, although as mid 13<sup>th</sup>-century metalling (317) overlay the deposit, the dating is not secure. It was overlain to the south by the roughly cobbled surface (316), yielding a single sherd of East Wiltshire ware weighing 5g and two sherds of South East Oxfordshire ware weighing 22g, and a small amount of cattle bone. The laying of metalled surfaces and use of these would appear to have introduced later pottery, although it is equally possible that this area was only metalled after the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The layer of dumping (284) was cut by the two gullies 500 and 502 (Fig. 32). The gullies 500 and 502, which defined the northern edge of the plot, were oriented roughly east/west; the former, which measured 6.2m × 1m × 0.25m was filled with dark grey brown silty clay (499) containing seven sherds of pottery weighing 61g as well as a complete SHB and cattle



Figure 28. Photograph through terracing showing Section 2. Terracing on right side of photograph; natural gravel pocket on left.



Figure 29. Area of midden activity; Structure 2 location in foreground

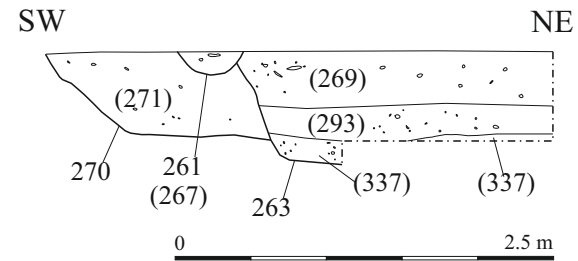


Figure 30. Section 5, through midden activity pits.

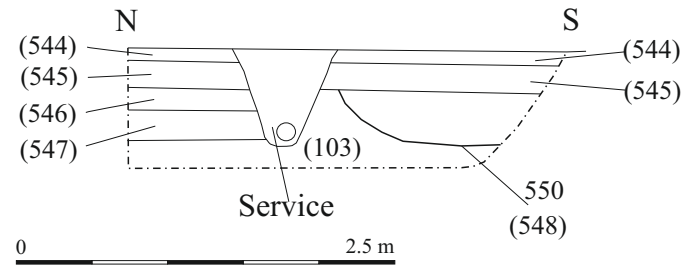


Figure 31. Section 6, through palaeochannel.

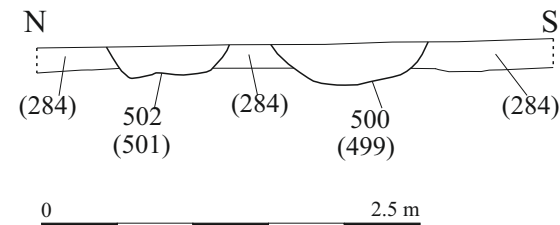


Figure 32. Section 7, through midden activity, east side of site.

and sheep/goat bone, and terminated within the area of investigation. The latter gully 502 was not seen in its entirety, but extended for >9.7m and was 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep. The gully 502 was filled grey brown silty clay (501) and yielded no finds.

The cut 529, to the east, was filled with grey brown silty clay with red and yellow mottling, charcoal flecking and 5% small stone (528), which yielded a single goose bone. It appears to have been a pit cutting the midden deposit (467), although, the possibility cannot be excluded that cut 529 was the terminal of a ditch.

To the south, and east of the later ditches 369 and 468, was a group of pits. The stratigraphically earliest was the sub-rounded pit 558, which measured *c.* 5m × >2.2m × 0.25m, and was filled with dark brown clay and some gravel (458) which appeared to contain some undoubtedly intrusive mid 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, cattle bone, fragments of SHB and some nails. Pit 558 was cut by pit 510 and pit 485. The earlier pit 510, which was ovoid and measured 4.4m × 1.8m × 0.45m, was filled with blue grey silty clay, 5% small stone, and 10% charcoal (511), containing in addition to a small copper alloy buckle, a modest assemblage of animal bone, bread wheat, rye, oats and fodder vetch.

By way of contrast 487, which cut pit 510, was filled with dark blue grey sandy silt and 5% gravel (488) yielding carbonised bread wheat as well as indeterminate cereals remains, fodder vetch, vetch, dock and grass, but contained no animal bone. The weed seeds were not a significant component of the fill of 487, but may indicate that the pit was left open some time before being completely back filled; two nails were also recovered from the pit. The later pit 485, dating from the mid 13<sup>th</sup>-century onwards, cut pit 487 (see below).

To the east of the pit group was a natural rise, comprising plateau gravels overlying the Gault Clay. Moreover, the platform itself was covered with a compacted layer of brown grey gravelly clay (462), which may be associated with an earlier structure, beyond the edges of excavation. The layer (462) yielded several nails and nail fragments as well as a possible iron handle. Cut into the surface were two pits 427 and 477. The former pit had a basal fill of dark grey brown silty clay (478), yielding two sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware weighing 19g, 0.22m thick, which was overlain by black brown and orange brown silty clay, with frequent charcoal and small stone (428) which contained four sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware weighing 51g, pegtile and brick in addition to cattle and sheep/goat bone as well as pea, fodder vetch and vetch. The pit 427 was largely sealed by the stone footing 430 of Structure 5. Cut 477, filled with orange grey clay silt and charcoal flecking (476) yielded no finds but appeared to be cut by pit 427.

### **Midden**

Midden deposits extended from the west side of the excavation area to the east (Fig. 28). The section (Fig. 29) excavated across the western part of the midden revealed a sequence of pits and spreads, into which at least two postholes, 240 and 261, were cut. Both postholes were filled with dark grey brown humic silty clay with yellow clay mottling and up to 5% gravel (245) and (267), respectively; a single sherd of medieval Oxford ware weighing 53g was recovered from posthole 240, and three sherds of pottery weighing 63g from 261.

The pits 270 and 263 were steep-sided flat-bottomed cuts. They were not well defined in plan, as modern activity had disturbed much of the upper part of the midden area while both time constraints and extreme weather conditions impacted upon cleaning and recording of the whole midden area. Both pits were filled with grey brown silty clay with yellow clay mottling (271) – in 270 – and up to 25% gravel (269) – in 263 – and yielded evidence for smithing in the form of SHBs, as well as bone assemblages including cat, dog and horse in addition to the more usual cattle, sheep/goat and pig. No tile was recovered from these deposits, in contrast to similar deposits to the east; the proximity of these pits to the Structure 1 smithy precludes them from having functioned contemporaneously.

The sondages in the central area of the midden on the north side of site revealed evidence for terracing of the slope (Figs 17-19, 28). The cut 560 was part of terracing into the southwest edge of the slope, with a steep-sided relatively flat-bottomed cut facing approximately northeast. The terracing was subsequently backfilled with grey silty clay (503), which had dumped against the cut, sloping to the northeast. It included pottery and tile – the latter indicating a date from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The layer (503) was sealed by red brown clay silt with 5% gravel (561). In places this was more clay-rich.

To the east and south, further midden deposits (264), (318), (319), and (508) all dated from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, indicating that the backfilling of this partially terraced, although possibly originally natural slope, was ongoing through the life of the smithy. The spreads in the top of the midden did not extend over the yard surface, indicating that the middening was managed and that the yard itself was kept clear of rubbish. Pottery was recovered from all these deposits, as well as some cattle and sheep/goat bone from deposits (318), (319) and (264). The dark grey brown silty clay with 5% gravel spread (318) yielded 21 sherds weighing 466g including part of a costrel (Fig 34.5) as well as a fragment of Penn tile, showing a gyronny cross (Fig. 88.6), dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Overlying the east edge of the scoop 256 was the spread of compact grey brown silty clay with mottled yellow clay (264) which contained 55 sherds of pottery weighing 756g, including part of a large jar (Fig. 34.6). These latter deposit yielded waste that was characterised by being associated more with industrial production or distribution rather than domestic consumption;

the costrel is a drinking vessel frequently associated with travellers, while the jars are usually held to be associated with industrial processes (Blinkhorn, see below). Both spreads (264) and (318) were notable for containing smithing debris ranging from fragments of SHB to waste pieces, and both (318) and (319) also contained peg-tile. The bone assemblages from the spreads were weighted heavily in favour of cattle and sheep/goat though pig was also occasionally present. The dark grey brown silty clay (508) yielded 3 sherds weighing 33g, and a fragment of horse bone.

The upper palaeochannel deposits (Fig. 31), comprising stiff pale grey silty clay with 2% mixed gravels (546) – yielding 2 sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware weighing 108g – and stiff dark grey clay silt with less than 1% mixed gravels (545) – yielding a single sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware weighing 3g – which both contained fragments of roof-



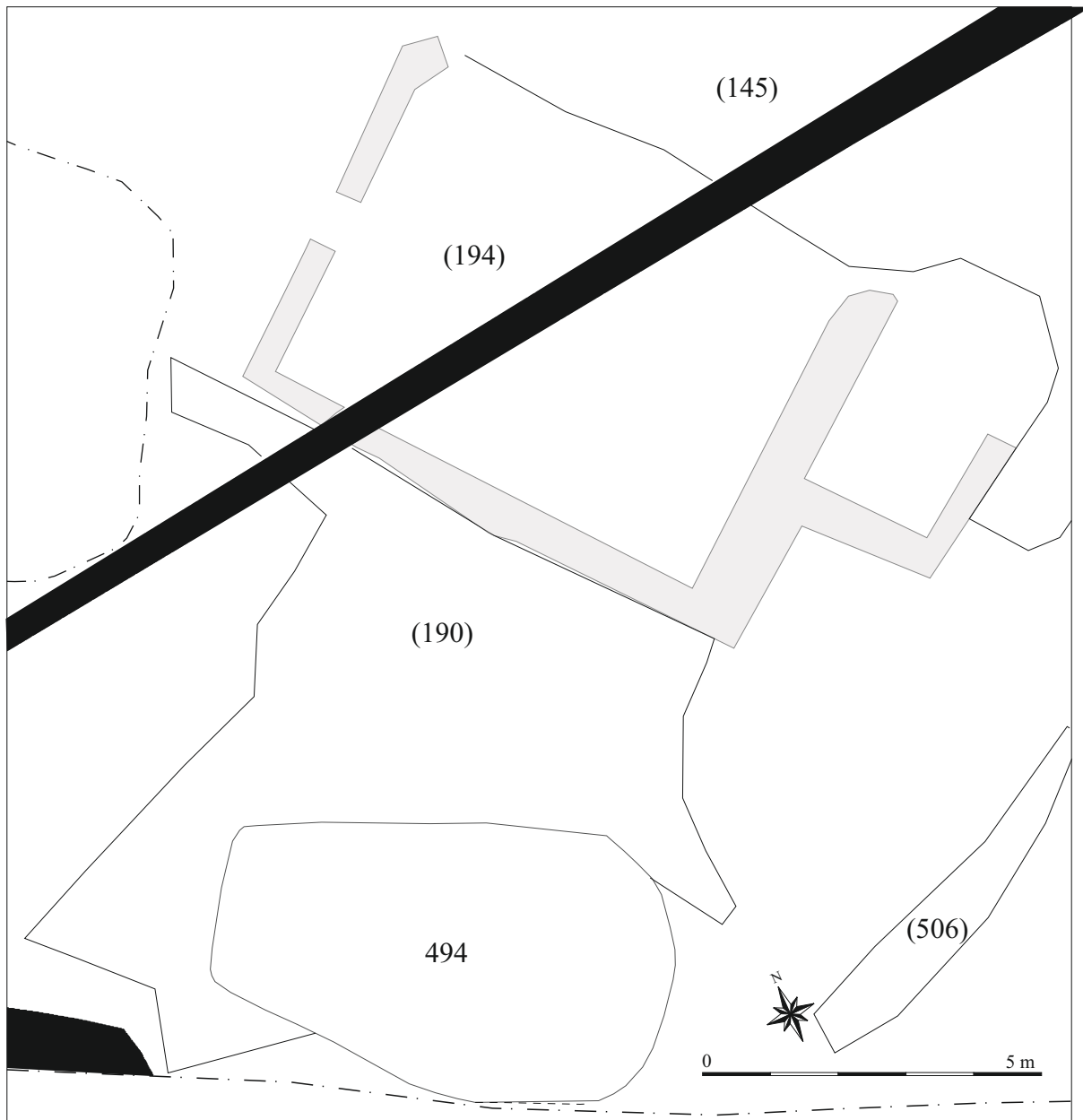


Figure 32. 15<sup>th</sup>-century pit 494, with outline of Structure 4 smithy to north.



Figure 33. Photograph of 15<sup>th</sup>-century pit 494.

tile, indicate that the palaeochannel was silting up. The latter silty layer – (545) – is perhaps best characterised as a low-energy deposit. The palaeochannel layer (545) sealed the pit 550, which was only seen in section after machining, and which measured  $>1.3\text{m} \times 0.3\text{m}$ ; its width was not recorded. The pit 550 was filled with dark brown grey silty clay with gravelly and sandy patches (548), which yielded a single large sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware, weighing 86g.

### **Phase 5: Mid 13<sup>th</sup>– late 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Fig. 16)**

#### **Plot 1**

As noted above, the gully 144 was added to the layout of Plot 1, closing off the northern part of the plot. To the north of gully 144, in the northwest corner of the excavation the deposit of clay (424), which yielded dating from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, despite an intrusive sherd of redware, sealed Structure 2. The deposit (424) also contained a nail and an iron bolt and 8 fragments of roof-tile weighing 654g.

A small pit 565 was seen in section (Fig. 19), filled with stiff yellow clay and stone (564), and sealed by midden deposit (566), which dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century (see below). No finds were recovered. To the east of 565, the pit 563, which cut the uppermost layer of the terracing, and which measured  $0.8\text{m} \times 0.25\text{m}$ ; the width of the pit was not recorded. The fill was grey brown red clay silt with 5% stone and 1% charcoal (561).

#### **Plot 2**

There do not appear to be any changes to Plot 2, nor to the Structure 4 smithy. The excavation of the ditches 369 and 468, separating Plot 2 from Plot 3 is the most significant activity at this point (see below). It can only be assumed that this implies that the Structure 4 smithy continued in use and was maintained as a building into, if not until the end of, Phase 5. This assumption informs the specialists reports, particularly the metallurgical residues within the smithy.

#### **Plot 3**

The boundary ditch 505 which had functioned during Phase 3 between Plot 2 and Plot 3, subsequently backfilled during Phase 4, was replaced by an interrupted boundary, comprising ditches 468, to the south, and 369, to the north. A horseshoe was recovered from the ditch 468. Cattle bone was recovered from within the fill of 369, which also yielded evidence for bread wheat, clover, grass and stinking mayweed. A very small quantity of slag material, including part of an SHB, nails, a hook, a horseshoe, and a punch, as well as tile, were also recovered from 369.

The pits 487 and 510 were cut by the later re-orienting of the eastern boundary ditch 468 between Plots 2 and 3 – as well as by the later rubbish pit 485. The ditches 369 and 468 re-aligned the boundary between the two plots to the east, and created an access, approximately 2.7m wide, between the two plots, c. 6.7m farther north of that from Phase 3 and Phase 4 and which may have been carried out to enable more direct access between Structures 4 and 5. Sherds of Potterspury Ware, from the iron-producing area of Northampton, were recovered from the southern extent of boundary ditch 468. It is noteworthy that the proposed ore-roasting kiln is immediately adjacent.

Pit 485 also yielded sherds of Potterspury ware, in addition to some cattle bone, carbonised cereal, including bread wheat and hulled barley, as well as fodder vetch as crop seeds in addition to a range of weed seeds, including goosegrass, vetch and black medick, perhaps indicating that the pit was open for some time before backfilling. Nails were also present in the backfill of the pit, which was partly overlain by the gravel hardstanding (434), which also yielded mid 13th-century pottery.

Within the midden area a sequence of dumping and digging of rubbish pits, through the dumped layers, was carried out over the course of the latter part of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The backfilling of the midden area was ongoing as is evidenced by the dumped deposit (521) (not illustrated), which yielded cattle and pig bone as well as tile, including a fragment of tile reworked as a disc; similar tile discs were also recovered from Bordesley Abbess (Astill 1993, 127-9), where it was remarked that none were large enough for the mouths of the pots from the site, either. Such ceramic discs may well have had an industrial function. The pit 523, which measured 0.8m × 0.45m × 0.35m, filled with dark grey brown silty clay (522) containing five sherds of East Wiltshire ware, weighing 42g, five sherds of South East Oxfordshire ware, weighing 63g, and three sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware, weighing 43g, in addition to bone, including pig. The pit 523 cut midden deposit (521).

The consolidation of the midden area is evidenced by the spread of cobbles (317), which may be in part patching of (316), before being subsequently abandoned. In addition to a key, a slotted spoon and a broken knife tip, nails and roof-tile were recovered from the surface (317). Sealing much of the midden area was a mixed deposit of Gault Clay and very gravelly red brown sandy clay with some charcoal and stones (531) through it, which was overlain by a not dissimilar layer of mid red brown sandy clay with 10% gravel and moderate charcoal (532), the two deposits were between 0.05m and 0.25m thick; the dumped material also overlay part of the metalling (316).

#### **Phase 6: 15<sup>th</sup> century** (*Figs 32 & 33*)

The excavated smithy appears to have been abandoned by the 15<sup>th</sup> century. With the exception of the large pit 494 located south of the smithy all the 15<sup>th</sup> century dating is derived from layers such as the deposit overlying the cobbled yard surfaces in Plot 2 or from the midden area. The latter groups of contexts are clearly at risk of comprising intrusive elements introduced after deposition.

The yard surface (145), north of the Structure 4 smithy, yielded over twenty nails mostly from the interface between the metalling (145) and the red brown silty clay with yellow clay streaking (194) that overlay it in places. The deposit (194) represents the occupation surface of the smithy with later material from the abandonment phase which had been trodden in. The cobbled surfaces – (145), (190) and (506) – north and south of the smithy, yielded nails, tile fragments – including a second reworked tile in the form of a pot-lid (see above) – as well as other metal objects and pottery, the latest of which dated from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Thirty-two fragments of tile were retained during excavation.

This material evidences spreads of discarded rubbish, including scrap iron, bone and pottery sherds, as well as structural remains following the abandonment of the smithy.

In addition to the bone and pottery assemblages are many of the small finds, such as the rowel, the chape, the horse bits (Figs 35.4-8), which were retrieved from these layers. It is tempting to consider that the tile-discs, found in the midden-area, and on the yard resembling those from Bordesley Abbey (Astill 1993, 127-9) are associated with iron-working, but this cannot yet be demonstrated conclusively.

The pit 494, which was located approximately 3.5m south of the Structure 4 smithy, was roughly oriented east/west. It measured 6.8m × 4.1m × 0.5m deep and was filled with black brown silty clay (493), which yielded reasonably large assemblages of pottery, including a bifid jar rim (Fig. 34.7), and animal bone, including a significant component of horse bone as well as cattle bone. This feature represents the final phase of use of the site as the smithy had already fallen into abandonment, which is evidenced by the relatively large amount of tile recovered from the fill, and complete absence of any SHB, although at least 6 nails in addition to further iron and a whetstone, were recovered from the pit. A piece of post-14<sup>th</sup> century floor tile was also recovered from the fill, which conjoins with a further two fragments recovered from the cobbled yard surface (190).

The palaeochannel was sealed by red brown silty clay (544) (Fig. 31); a fragment of malt-drying tile and an over-fired brick were recovered from (544) which was overlain by the latest phase of the midden area. This midden deposit was dark brown black humic clay silt containing 5% charcoal and stone (566) (Figs. 16-19), which yielded 10 sherds of Brill/Boarstall ware weighing 183g and some cattle bone.

The features were all sealed by pale red brown silty clay (102), which represents a subsoil, which may well have been farmed for a short period of time, as some possible ridge and furrow was recorded during the 1980s by SOAG (see earthwork survey above). The subsoil (102) was overlain in the northeast corner by a dump of mixed topsoil and rubbish (101) dating from the 1980s or later. The whole site was sealed by topsoil (101).

## **5.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results**

The reliability of results is considered to be good in the circumstances. The excavation took place over several months between December 2006 and August 2007. Poor meteorological conditions were a constant of the project, with frequent inundations of site. The excavation was monitored by Paul Smith of OCAS, with site visits carried out by Chris Welch and Paddy O'Hara of English Heritage.

## 6 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### 6.1 THE FINDS

#### **Roman Pottery** *By Paul Booth*

This report is largely the original assessment report, which recommended no further work. It is included to indicate the range of Roman pottery present during the excavation. The initial assessment assemblage consisted of 16 sherds (321g) of Roman pottery.

A further 23 sherds (358g) of Roman pottery were also identified (F1001), along with a three sherds (36g) of possible Iron Age date (F1002) by Paul Blinkhorn in the medieval assemblages from the various Newington House interventions. Eight sherds (35g) of late prehistoric pottery and 37 sherds (172g) of Roman pottery were recovered from fieldwalking carried out in 1984 in the adjacent Great Bowling Field (GB84).

This brings the late prehistoric and Roman totals to 11 sherds (71g) and 76 sherds (851g) respectively.

The pottery was scanned rapidly and recorded in summary form using codes from the Oxford Archaeology Roman pottery recording system. The pottery was in slightly variable condition. The mean sherd weight was high, and many sherds were well preserved. A few, however, were small and relatively abraded.

The following identified fabrics were present:

- S30. Central Gaulish samian ware. 3 sherds, 23g.
- F51. ?Oxford colour-coated ware. 2 sherds 51g.
- F52. ?Nene Valley colour-coated ware. 1 sherd, 3g.
- O10. Oxford fine oxidised coarse wares. 4 sherds, 107g.
- O30. Oxford medium sandy oxidised ware. 1 sherd, 7g.
- O81. Pink grogged ware. 1 sherd, 19g.
- R10. Oxford fine reduced wares. 2 sherds, 21g.
- R30. ?Oxford medium sandy reduced ware. 1 sherd, 18g.
- R50. Black-surfaced sandy reduced coarse ware. 1 sherds, 49g.

The only certainly non-local sherds were the samian ware, the possible Nene Valley colour-coated ware fragment (F52), which was in an atypical fabric, and the single sherd of pink grogged ware (O81) which, with a source at Stowe, Buckinghamshire, is a common component of assemblages in this area.

All the remaining sherds are likely to have derived from the Oxford industry kilns, but this is not absolutely certain as the coarse ware fabrics of this industry are not particularly diagnostic. Neither of the Oxford colour-coated ware sherds (F51) was certainly identified as such, the characteristic surfaces having been eroded off, and it is possible that these sherds were of the equivalent (and otherwise identical) coarse ware fabric O10.

Fabric F51, if present, would be indicative of a date after AD 240. In any case the assemblage as a whole has a 2nd-3rd century date range. The only rim sherds all

came from a single context group (203), the only one (with 9 sherds, 153 g) to contain more than a single sherd. The rims were from a samian ware form 36 dish and three jars, two in fabric O10 and one in fabric R10. None of these is closely dateable, although the R10 rim sherd is of a type which is particularly common after *c* AD 250. A mid 2<sup>nd</sup> to mid/late 3<sup>rd</sup> century date range would cover all the likely permutations of the identified group.

### **Medieval Pottery** *By Paul Blinkhorn*

In the following report, the pottery from each distinct phase of work at the site has been analysed and reported upon separately. In each case, it was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994). The pottery occurrence by fabric type is shown in each sub-report.

Ceramic Phase	Ceramic Phase	Defining wares
CP1	11 <sup>th</sup> C	OXAC
CP2	Late 11 <sup>th</sup> – early 13 <sup>th</sup> C	OX162, OXBF
CP2a	Early 12 <sup>th</sup> – early 13 <sup>th</sup> C	OXBK
CP3	Early 13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C	OXAM
CP3a	Mid 13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C	OXBG, OX68
CP4	15 <sup>th</sup> – late 15 <sup>th</sup> C	OXAM, OXBN
CP5	Late 15 <sup>th</sup> – mid 16 <sup>th</sup> C	OXCL, OXAM
CP6	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> C	OXDR
CP7	17 <sup>th</sup> C	OXREWSL
CP8	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 18 <sup>th</sup> C	OXBEW
CP9	Early – late 18 <sup>th</sup> C	OXFM
CP10	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C+	WHEW

*Table 3: Pottery Occurrence per ceramic phase*

In all cases, it was possible to give each stratified context-specific assemblage a Ceramic Phase date, based on the range of wares present, with the dating scheme as shown in Table 3.

### **Analytical Methodology**

The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rimsherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).

The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-roman Ceramics (MPRG 2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a DBase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an

electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

### **The JMHS Excavation**

The pottery assemblage comprised 2,423 sherds with a total weight of 30,747g (see Appendix 1). The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 13.79. It comprised a range of wares which indicate that the site was occupied from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, after which there was a decline in activity, with the site finally abandoned in the mid-late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The range of fabric and vessel types generally reflects the industrial nature of the site, with glazed tablewares scarce and, in the late medieval period, bifid-rim jars much more common than at other sites in the region. There is also evidence of long-distance contact with Northamptonshire, which was a major source of iron ore.

### **Fabrics**

The following fabrics were noted:

- F100: OXR: St. Neots Ware type T1(1), AD850-1100. 2 sherds, 26g, EVE = 0.  
F200: OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 72 sherds, 625g, EVE = 0.76.  
F202: OXBF: Late Saxon and Early Medieval Southwest Oxfordshire Ware, 12th – 14th century. 488 sherds, 5803g, EVE = 2.37.  
F300: OX162: South-East Oxfordshire ware, AD1075 – 14th century. 1399 sherds, 17879g, EVE = 7.61.  
F301: OXY Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 48 sherds, 287g, EVE = 0.16.  
F329: OX68: Potterspury ware, Late 13th - 17th century. 4 sherds, 11g, EVE = 0.  
F330: OXBK: Medieval Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1350. 6 sherds, 71g, EVE = 0.22.  
F352: OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 621 sherds, 7145g, EVE = 2.50.  
F356: OXBG: Surrey Whiteware. Mid 13th – mid 15th C. 10 sherds, 309g, EVE = 0.28.  
F361: OXAG: Abingdon ware, mid/late 11th – mid 14th century. 32 sherds, 393g, EVE = 0.13.  
F403: OXBN: Tudor Green Ware, late 14th century - c. 1500. 1 sherd, 1g, EVE = 0.  
F405: OXST: Rhenish Stoneware, AD1480 – 1700. 1 sherd, 9g, EVE = 0.  
F425: OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 1 sherd, 3g.

In addition, 19 sherds (346g) of Romano-British pottery were also noted (F1001), along with a single sherd (12g) of probable Iron Age date (F1002). The pottery occurrence per ceramic phase is shown in Table 4, having been adjusted with reference to the stratigraphic matrix. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region, but the presence of wares from Northamptonshire (OXBK, OX68) appears unusual for a rural settlement in this area, although they are known from Oxford and more northerly sites in the county, albeit as rare finds other than at places such as Banbury and Bicester (Mellor 1994). Given the nature of the site, and the extensive ironstone deposits in Northamptonshire, it is possible that the pottery assemblage is a reflection at least some of the ore-sources for the iron-workers at the site.

Excavations at Copt Hay, Tetsworth, some 8km to the north-east of this site in 1971 (Robinson 1974) produced a large assemblage of 30,000 sherds of post-Roman pottery, although due to the state of knowledge at that time, direct comparisons with this assemblage are somewhat difficult. The basic range of fabric types appears similar, but there were also a few sherds of pre-conquest Stamford ware, a type absent from this site.

Also present were fragments of vessels in 'M40 Ware' (ibid. Fig. 17 nos. 40 and 41), an early medieval ware typified by jars with vertical or diagonal combing on the body, and also absent from this site. It is probably a product of kilns at Camley Gardens, Maidenhead (Pike 1965). Such pottery is also very rare in Abingdon and Oxford, and suggests that Tetsworth, despite its proximity to Newington, was at least partially linked to a different pottery supply network. The site seems to have fallen from use before the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, as there are no obvious late medieval vessel forms or fabrics, with the vessel forms apparently comprising entirely jars, bowls and jugs apart from a single bottle fragment.

### Pottery Occurrence

Table 4 shows the pottery occurrence per ceramic phase. It suggests that activity began around the time of the Norman Conquest, and then continued into the 15<sup>th</sup> century, at which point there was rapid decline, and abandonment before the last quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Ceramic Phase	No	Wt	EVE	Mean Sherd Wt
CP1	5	31	0	6.2g
CP2	805	10613	4.49	13.2g
CP2a	92	933	0.80	10.1g
CP3	928	11663	5.20	12.6g
CP3a	227	1921	0.58	8.5g
CP4	234	3728	2.12	15.9g
CP5	0	0	0	0
CP6	49	927	0.60	18.9g
Total*	2340	29816g	13.79	

*Table 4: Pottery Occurrence per ceramic phase*

\*80 sherds (883g) were unstratified, and 3 sherds (48g) of Romano-British pottery occurred in contexts with no later material

Table 5 shows the pottery occurrence per phase by weight per major fabric type. Generally the pattern is what would be expected, although Brill/Boarstall wares are possibly a little

under-represented, as are glazed wares generally. Brill wares do make up around two-thirds of the latest medieval assemblage, but much of this is bifid-rim jars rather than jugs. This may be a reflection of the industrial nature of the site, with utilitarian wares perhaps having been more in demand than glazed tablewares. The vessel occurrence analysis (Table 4) supports this, and it is discussed in more detail below.

Phase	OXAC	OX162	OXAG	OXBF	OXBK	OXAM	OXBG	OXDR	Total
CP1	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
CP2	1.9%	77.4%	0.9%	18.1%	-	-	-	-	10613
CP2a	10.2%	49.4%	1.2%	37.3%	1.9%	-	-	-	933
CP3	1.9%	42.6%	1.7%	24.7%	0.4%	27.5%	-	-	11663
CP3a	2.6%	28.6%	2.4%	12.4%	0.4%	49.6%	2.3%	-	1921
CP4	1.0%	13.7%	1.2%	7.8%	0.4%	65.6%	8.4%	-	3728
CP6	0	70.1%	0	4.1%	0	21.4%	4.1%	0.3%	927

*Table 5: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by major fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the phase assemblage*

Shaded area = residual

Table 5 also shows that residuality is not particularly high during the medieval period, until the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when around 26% of the assemblage is residual. The pottery



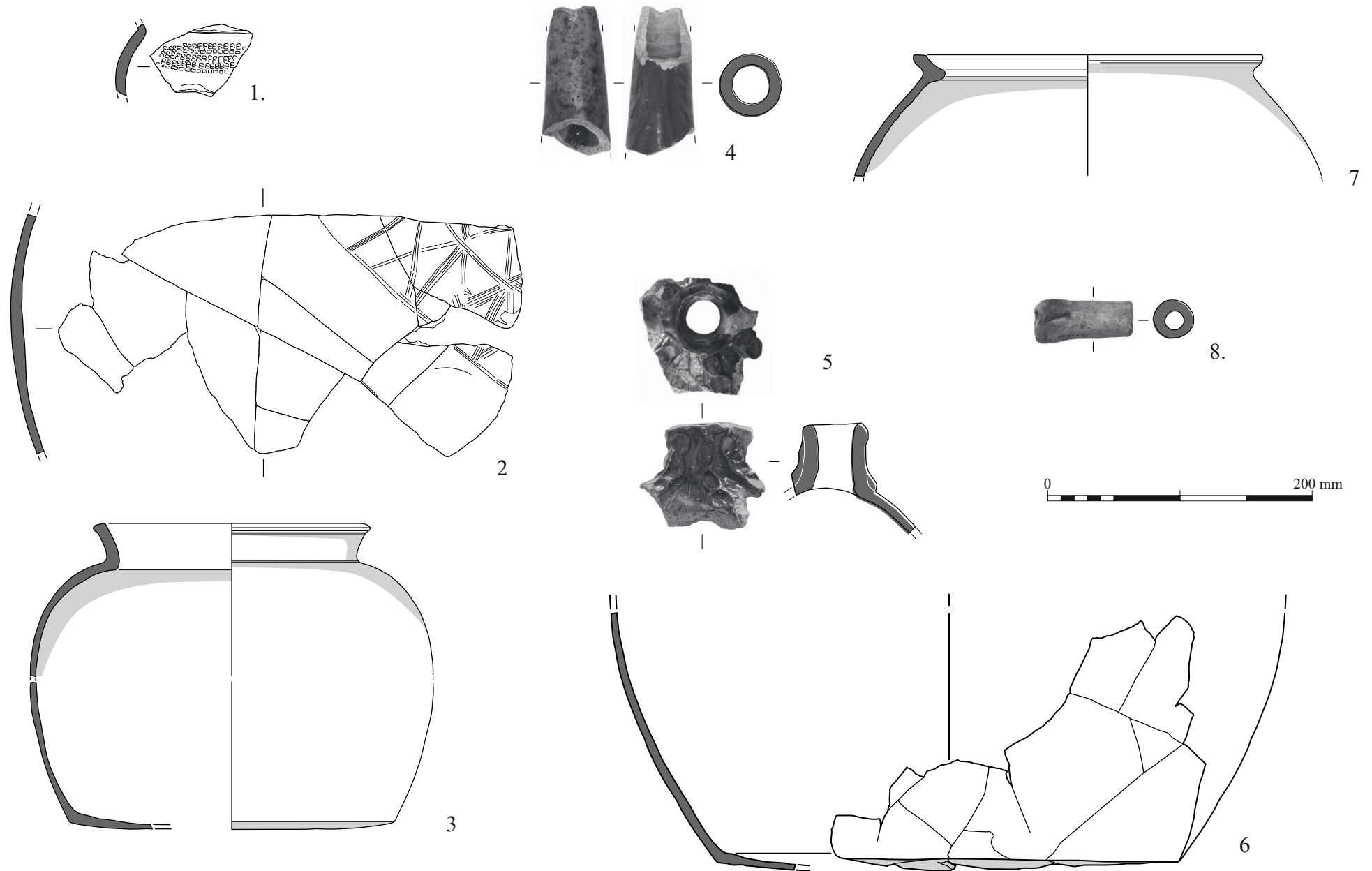


Figure 34. Selected medieval pottery

from the earliest post-medieval phase, CP6, when the site appears abandoned, is almost entirely residual, with just a single sherd of OXDR present. It seems likely that this activity is related to agriculture following the demolition of the smithy and abandonment of the site.

### Vessel Consumption

The vessel consumption is shown in Table 6, and a number of factors are immediately striking, with the most obvious being the relatively low occurrence of jugs. The general pattern, of jugs being rare in the earliest phases then increasing at the expense of jars, is what would perhaps be expected at any medieval site in the region, but the proportion of the assemblage which jugs represent never exceeds 35.3%.

By comparison, at nearby Abingdon, some 10km to the west of Newington, jugs are far more well-represented, with most of the medieval phases at the 75 Ock Street site comprising around 50% jugs, and jars consistently below 50%, apart from in the earliest phase, which is to be expected. It is of note that the site in question was a tannery from the 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and that period saw a drop-off in the consumption of jugs (Blinkhorn 2006a, Table 1.4). The Morlands Brewery site, also in Ock Street in Abingdon, seems to have functioned as a tannery from around the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, with a corresponding sharp drop in jug consumption (Blinkhorn 2006b, Table 2.4).

The late medieval assemblage is worthy of note. Drinking pottery, in the form of cups and mugs, is all but absent, with single fragments of German Stoneware and ‘Tudor Green’ vessels being more or less the only pottery of such type present, although the site was probably abandoned before such pottery became common. The jugs present may have been used for drinking; certainly, drinking straight from a jug appears to have been practiced in the medieval period, if contemporary manuscript illustrations are a guide. The horn, costrel and bottle from CP3 contexts (Figs. 34.4 and 34.5) are the only other vessels, jugs aside, associated with drink, and, other than the costrel, could have had other functions.

Phase	Jar	Bowl	Jug	Other*	Total EVE
CP2	90.2%	9.8%	0	-	4.49
CP2a	96.3%	3.7%	0	-	0.80
CP3	79.2%	6.9%	13.8%	Horn, bottle, costrel, skillet	5.20
CP3a	65.5%	17.2%	17.2%	-	0.58
CP4	58.0%	24.1%	35.3%	-	2.12
CP6	91.7%	0	8.3%	-	0.60
Total	11.10	1.07	1.62	-	13.79

*Table 6: Rimsherd occurrence per ceramic phase by vessel type, expressed as a percentage of the phase assemblage*

\*represented by non-rimsherds

Drinking pottery is generally a feature of industrial sites, and was very common at the Morland Brewery site in Abingdon during the late medieval tannery phase; nearly one-third of the rimsherds from that time at that site were mugs or cups, and the similar picture was seen at 75 Ock Street. Here, the main feature of the later medieval assemblage is the presence of what appears to be a large number of OXAM jars with bifid rims (eg. Fig. 34.7).

The 15<sup>th</sup> century (CP4) jar assemblage had a total EVE of 1.23, with bifid rims comprising 69.9% of that assemblage (EVE = 0.86). Bifid-rim jars probably had numerous uses in medieval society, but they were often associated with industrial processes, particularly distillation (McCarthy and Brooks 1988). Such vessels were not present in any great quantity at the two Abingdon sites. For example, just three were noted at the Morland Brewery, all in mid-late 16<sup>th</sup> century contexts.

Finally, there is very little pottery associated with food storage, preparation or consumption. A single skillet handle is perhaps the only vessel which could have been used in such a manner, but they also had non-culinary functions. This contrasts greatly with the pottery assemblage from nearby Chalgrove Manor (Page and Tremolet 2005), which appears broadly contemporary with this site. At Chalgrove, virtually the full range of later medieval vessel forms associated with the preparation, storage, transportation, serving and consumption of food and drink were noted, including bottles, skillets, cruets, dripping dishes, aquamaniles, cups, colanders, and cisterns.

Glazed wares appear much more common at Chalgrove, as was 'Tudor Green' ware, and imported medieval Saintonge ware, an extremely rare find in Oxfordshire, was also noted. Bifid rim jars were present in small quantities at Chalgrove, with just three mentioned in the text. This all perhaps shows that such pottery was available to the inhabitants of Newington, but was not required, and a quite different pottery consumption regime was in place, presumably related to site function, other than perhaps in the case of the Saintonge wares, which do seem to be an indicator of status in the region, and linked to the wine trade.

It would appear therefore that the pattern of vessel use at this site shows that it was primarily geared up to non-domestic activity, with tablewares such as glazed jugs under-represented, and pottery associated with food and drink generally scarce or absent. The relatively large proportion of bifid-rim jars from later medieval contexts perhaps only goes to underline this, and the assemblage is entirely in keeping with the interpretation that the primary function of the site was iron production.

### **The Assemblages**

*Ceramic phase 1: early – late 11<sup>th</sup> century. 5 sherds, 31g, EVE = 0*

The entire assemblage comprised plain bodysherds of Cotswolds-type ware, all from different contexts. It is possible that they may be later deposits which lack the defining wares, although the site stratigraphy indicates that at least some of them are probably reliably stratified, and that activity at the site began around the time of the Norman Conquest, but did not begin in earnest until after AD1075.

*Ceramic phase 2: late 11<sup>th</sup> – early 13<sup>th</sup> century. 805 sherds, 10613g, EVE = 4.49*

This phase produced one of the largest assemblages from the site. It comprises almost entirely coarseware jars and bowls, along with a small number of glazed bodysherds from jugs, in the form of OXAG. Jugs are very scarce, with no rimsherds, and just a single handle, in unglazed OXBF. Such vessels in OXBF are rare, and the handle is highly decorated. As noted above, a large number of OX162 vessels were rouletted (eg. Fig 34.1), with 21 sherds (838g, EVE = 0.69) of this type present. This

represents (by weight) around 11% of the OX162 assemblage, or 23% by EVE. No other sherds with decoration were noted. A single sherd of St. Neots ware was noted. It is of Denhams's type T1(2) type, and could easily be contemporary, as such material was current until the late 12<sup>th</sup> century (ibid. 1985).

The assemblage included a large fragment from the lower body of extremely large OX162 storage vessel with incised decoration (Fig. 34:2). The exact size of the vessel is uncertain, but the curvature of the surviving sherd suggests that it had a diameter at its widest point of somewhere in the region of 600-700mm. The same context only produced a partially complete jar in the same fabric (Fig. 34:3).

The lack of glazed wares and jugs does seem to be a matter of site function. Newington is only c 25km from Ashampstead, where the medieval kilns which are the likely source of 'Abingdon ware' (OXAG) were operating (Mephram and Heaton 1995; M. Mellor pers. comm.). In Abingdon, which is about the same distance from the production-site, such pottery made up over 31% of the pottery from the corresponding ceramic phase at 75 Ock Street (Blinkhorn 2006a, Table 1.3), and at the Moreland Brewery site, it represented nearly 25% of the assemblage of that date. It would appear from nearby sites that supply was not an issue at Newington, and therefore demand, and the industrial nature of the site, must have been the reason for the lack of glazed tablewares.

*Ceramic phase 2a: 12<sup>th</sup> – early 13<sup>th</sup> century. 805 sherds, 10613g, EVE = 4.49*

This phase is defined by a somewhat rare (in this area) fabric, OXBK, a shelly coarseware manufactured at a number of centres on the Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire border. It occurs in small quantities in Oxford, but rarely as more than a sherd or two in large assemblages. Just 17 sherds were noted here, but this is quite a large group for a site in this area of the county. For example, it did not occur at either of the Ock Street sites discussed above (Blinkhorn 2006a; 2006b). The fact it does occur here suggests very strongly that Northamptonshire may have been the source of the iron ore which was being worked on the site, as the county has extensive ironstone deposits which have been worked extensively for millennia. The presence of a few sherds of Potterspurty ware, also made in Northamptonshire and similarly rare in this area of Oxfordshire, in CP3a assemblages (below) would seem to reinforce this idea.

Otherwise, the assemblage is similar to the broadly contemporary CP2 material. It is dominated by coarseware jars and bowls, with jug rims absent, and glazed bodysherd from such vessels rare. No handles were noted. Again, around 11% (by weight) of the OX162 sherds were rouletted, with decorated sherds otherwise absent.

*Ceramic phase 3: early 13<sup>th</sup> – late 14<sup>th</sup> century. 928 sherds, 11663g, EVE = 5.20*

This is the largest ceramic phase assemblage. It is again dominated by unglazed coarsewares, although glazed wares, mainly in the form of OXAM, make up nearly 30% of the group by weight. Jugs are also present in fairly significant numbers for the first time, making up 13.8% of the rim assemblage, although, as noted above, this is quite a low proportion for sites in the county. In the corresponding ceramic phase at the Morland Brewery site in Abingdon, 32.1% of the rims were from jugs (Blinkhorn 2006b, Table 2.4). There are some unusual vessel types from this phase, not least the OXAM horn (Fig. 34.4). These vessels are very rare. Mellor (1994, Fig. 57, no. 7) noted a single example from Wytham, an antiquarian find, but otherwise

there are few parallels amongst the Brill potters' repertoire, and English medieval pottery generally. The ends of this vessel are missing, so it is impossible to say if it was a drinking vessel or musical instrument.

Another vessel worthy of comment is the fragment of a Brill costrel (Fig. 34.5). Like the horns, these are rare finds, although perhaps more common (*ibid.* 132), and tend to be late medieval. Its presence here may be of significance. They were used as water-bottles, particularly by travellers and sailors, so its presence here may be further evidence of remote contact with the site in relation to the ironworking, although it could simply have been used by someone at the site, given the hot and heavy nature of much of the work, and the lack of other types of drinking pottery.

The bottle base and skillet handle are fairly typical finds, although they never occur in large quantities, other than at sites with a very specialist function. For example, at Eynsham Abbey, large numbers were found which were probably used in the monks' communal dining area (Blinkhorn 2003), although, again, in this case, they may have been used as liquid containers.

The coarseware assemblage is very much as in previous phases, comprising mainly jars, along with a smaller number of bowls. Rouletting appears less common, with just four sherds (68g) of OX68 so treated, although two sherds were noted with incised wavy lines, a technique not noted in the earlier phases, which may have typological significance. Two sherds of OXBF were noted with similar decoration, including a large sherd from the base of a large jar (Fig. 34.6). A single sherd of OX162, a jar rim, was noted with applied strips. These are often indicative of storage vessels, and the large rim diameter of this vessel, 280mm, suggests this was such a pot. Again, such decoration was not noted in earlier phases.

*Ceramic phase 3a: mid 13<sup>th</sup> – late 14<sup>th</sup> century. 227 sherds, 1921g, EVE = 0.58*

This sub-phase is defined by the presence of Surrey Whiteware (OXBG) and Potterspurty ware (OX68). The former usually occurs in small quantities at sites in Oxford and, particularly, the south-east of the county, but the latter is usually confined to sites in the northern half of the county. It is likely that the sherds from this site represent the most southerly finds of Potterspurty ware in Oxfordshire. Mellor (1994, 141-2) noted that, in Oxfordshire '*few examples are found south of a line drawn between Deddington and Buckingham*'. This site is some 40km to the south of that line, and adds strength to the argument that the iron-workers at this site had contacts with the ore producing areas of Northamptonshire. Potterspurty ware was not noted at either of the Abingdon sites discussed above.

The quantities of Surrey Whiteware present do not appear to be significant. At the Morland Brewery site, such pottery made up over 21% of the contemporary assemblage, although it did not occur at 75 Ock St until the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. All the material from this phase is unglazed bodysherds.

Generally, this assemblage has similar characteristics to the broadly contemporary CP3 assemblage, although OXAM is more common, and makes up nearly 50% of the group, although nearly half of the Brill/Boarstall ware from this period is a group of a few large sherds from a single context, and is probably a distortion of the actual picture due to the relatively small assemblage size. The rimsherd data probably gives

a truer picture, with nearly two-thirds of the assemblage comprising coarseware jar rims, and just a single jug rim present although the assemblage size is again somewhat small. Decorated sherds were again less common. Two rouletted sherds of OX162 were the only ones noted.

*Ceramic phase 4: 15<sup>th</sup> – late 15<sup>th</sup> century. 234 sherds, 3728g, EVE = 2.12*

This represents the final phase of occupation at the site, which seems to end before c AD1470 due to the lack of Brill/Boarstall ‘Tudor Green’ and Cistercian wares. The latter was present at 75 Ock Street in Abingdon, and in particularly large quantities at the Morland Brewery site, where it comprised over 27% of the late 15<sup>th</sup> – mid 16<sup>th</sup> century assemblage, so pottery supply again does not appear to be an issue. The fact that just a single sherd of Surrey/Hampshire ‘Tudor Green (fabric OXBN) occurred at this site again appears to relate to its industrial nature. Such pottery was generally fine tablewares, and occurred in larger quantities at both the Abingdon sites.

Here, the assemblage is dominated by OXAM, which represents nearly two-thirds of the assemblage by weight, but, as noted above (in *Vessel Consumption*), a large proportion of this is bifid-rim jars (eg. Fig. 34.7), with such vessels making up 60.6% of the OXAM rim assemblage, and jugs making up just 26.7% of the same ware group.

This is very unusual, and given the association of bifid rim jars with industrial processes, serves once again to underline the nature of the site. Some of the bifid rim jars also appear rather large, suggesting that they may have been from storage vessels, or perhaps cisterns, although no bungholes were noted amongst the assemblage.

The contemporary assemblage comprises almost entirely OXAM and Surrey Whiteware, with the only other contemporary material being a single sherd of German Stoneware. Residuality is quite high, with nearly one-quarter of the assemblage consisting of redeposited medieval wares. This may be due to the site having been cleared at abandonment. None of the medieval pottery was decorated.

*Ceramic phase 6: mid 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century. 49 sherds, 927g, EVE = 0.60*

Most of the pottery from this phase is residual, with the only sherds which are likely to be contemporary being a single small sherd of Red Earthenware (OXDR). A fragment of an OXAM bifid rim is present, which, given the number present in ceramic phase CP4, is likely to be residual. The residual assemblage is largely without note, other than a somewhat unusual sherd of OX162 with a stamp impression.

### **SOAG excavation: Trench II**

The pottery assemblage comprised 935 sherds with a total weight of 4508g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 1.25. Activity at the site is generally confined to the late 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The assemblage shows the same general pattern as that from the excavations at NENH06, but also produced a possible tuyère.

The following fabrics were noted:

F200: OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 19 sherds, 177g, EVE = 0.

F202: OXBF: Late Saxon and Early Medieval Southwest Oxfordshire Ware, 12th – 14th century. 84 sherds, 333g, EVE = 0.12.

F300: OX162: South-East Oxfordshire ware, AD1075 – early 13<sup>th</sup> century. 347 sherds, 1400g, EVE = 0.37.

F330: OXBK: Medieval Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1350. 6 sherds, 22g, EVE = 0.

F352: OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 362 sherds, 2092g, EVE = 0.73.

F356: OXBG: Surrey Whiteware. Mid 13<sup>th</sup> – mid 15<sup>th</sup> C. 74 sherds, 302g, EVE = 0.03

F361: OXAG: Abingdon ware, mid/late 11<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. 35 sherds, 119g, EVE = 0.

F425: OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 1 sherds, 12g.

F1000: WHEW: Mass-produced White Earthenwares, 1795+. 2 sherds, 15g

In addition, two sherds of Bronze Age pottery (24g) and another two of Romano-British material (10g) were noted. They were all redeposited.

Ceramic Phase	No	Wt	EVE
CP1	1	15	0
CP2	47	225	0.10
CP2a	0	0	0
CP3	204	1064	0.16
CP3a	515	2293	0.42
CP4	115	645	0.47
CP13	53	266	0.20
Total	935	4508	1.35

*Table 7: Pottery Occurrence per ceramic phase*

The pottery occurrence per ceramic phase is shown in Table 7. Generally, the assemblage is rather fragmented and scattered, with a low mean sherd weight (4.8g); this is much less than one would normally expect to see from a contemporary site in the region, where a mean sherd weight of around 15g is common. The pattern of pottery occurrence and vessel consumption at this site is generally the same as that at the adjacent site, excavated by JMHS. Activity at the site was largely confined to the medieval period, mainly from the mid-late 11<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-late 15<sup>th</sup> century, after which the site was abandoned, apart from a short period of pottery deposition in 19<sup>th</sup> century (CP13).

Phase	OXAC	OX162	OXAG	OXBF	OXBK	OXAM	OXBG	WHEW	Total
CP1	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
CP2	0	89.8%	0	10.2%	0	-	-	-	225
CP3	2.5%	25.3%	3.0%	9.4%	0	58.8%	-	-	1064
CP3a	4.4%	30.0%	3.1%	6.4%	0.7%	42.2%	12.1%	-	2293
CP4	3.6%	27.4%	0.8%	5.7%	0.9%	58.3%	3.2%	-	645
CP10	3.8%	23.7%	3.8%	9.8%	0	45.9%	3.4%	5.6%	266

*Table 8: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by major fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the phase assemblage*

Table 8 shows the pottery occurrence per phase by weight per major fabric type. The fabric occurrence is generally as it was at the JMHS excavation site, with glazed wares generally less common than at sites at nearby Abingdon. Northamptonshire-type shelly wares are again present. Similarly, it is also worthy of note that OXAM jars with bifid forms appear somewhat over-represented, with six of the nineteen jar rims from the entire site assemblage (all periods) being of that type. Only two of the rimsherds from the 15<sup>th</sup> century assemblage were not from bifid-rim jars.

The assemblage is otherwise unremarkable, apart from the presence of a possible OXAM tuyère from a CP3 context (Fig. 34.8). It seems very unlikely to be a jug-spout as long tubular types are extremely rare on OXAM vessels, and it is also unglazed and generally appears too crude to be from such a vessel. It also has some scorching on the outside near the break. It is possible that it could be a fragment of a whistle, but appears too large, or a hollow skillet-handle, but such handle types are unknown on OXAM skillets, and so a tuyère seems the most likely interpretation, especially given the nature of the industrial activity at the site.

### **SOAG recording action: Trench I**

The pottery assemblage comprised 132 sherds with a total weight of 1325g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.13. The bulk of the assemblage (84 sherds, 1024g) was unstratified. The stratified pottery suggests that there was activity at the site from the late 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, but the range of fabrics amongst the unstratified material suggests that it was longer-lived, probably until the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition, 2 sherds (2g) of Romano-British pottery were also noted. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region. The pottery occurrence per ceramic phase is shown in Table 7.

The assemblage is generally unremarkable, other than showing a similar range of fabrics to the other two nearby trenches. Just two rimsherds were present, both from probably the same bowl, in fabric OX162. A single sherd of shelly ware was present, and Surrey Whiteware again well-represented.

The following fabrics were noted:

F200: OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 1 sherd, 4g, EVE = 0.

F202: OXBF: Late Saxon and Early Medieval Southwest Oxfordshire Ware, 12th – 14th century.

26 sherds, 149g, EVE = 0. F300: OX162: South-East Oxfordshire ware, AD1075 – early 13<sup>th</sup> century.

83 sherds, 814g, EVE = 0.13.

F330: OXBK: Medieval Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1350. 1 sherd, 4g, EVE = 0.

F352: OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 6 sherds, 147g, EVE = 0.

F356: OXBG: Surrey Whiteware. Mid 13<sup>th</sup> – mid 15<sup>th</sup> C. 8 sherds, 135g, EVE = 0.

F361: OXAG: Abingdon ware, mid/late 11<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. 4 sherds, 32g, EVE = 0.

F405: OXST: Rhenish Stoneware, AD1480 – 1700. 1 sherd, 27g, EVE = 0.

Ceramic Phase	No	Wt	EVE
CP1	0	0	0
CP2	21	133	0
CP3	24	163	0.13
CP4	1	3	0
U/S	84	1024	0
Total			

*Table 9: Pottery Occurrence per ceramic phase*



**SOAG Fieldwalking Survey: Great Bowling Field**

The pottery assemblage comprised 1951 sherds with a total weight of 13,383g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 2.33.

The following fabrics were noted:

- F200: OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 6 sherds, 33g, EVE = 0.  
 F202: OXBF: Late Saxon and Early Medieval Southwest Oxfordshire Ware, 12th – 14th century. 220 sherds, 1517g, EVE = 1.08.  
 F300: OX162: South-East Oxfordshire ware, AD1075 – early 13<sup>th</sup> century. 514 sherds, 2070g, EVE = 0.49.  
 F301: OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 3 sherds, 20g, EVE = 0.04.  
 F330: OXBK: Medieval Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1350. 17 sherds, 69g, EVE = 0.20.  
 F352: OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 621 sherds, 3680g, EVE = 6.28.  
 F356: OXBG: Surrey Whiteware. Mid 13<sup>th</sup> – mid 15<sup>th</sup> C. 5 sherds, 41g, EVE = 0.  
 F361: OXAG: Abingdon ware, mid/late 11<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. 15 sherds, 59g, EVE = 0.  
 F403: OXBN: Tudor Green Ware, late 14<sup>th</sup> century – c. 1500. 1 sherd, 3g, EVE = 0.  
 F404: OXCL: Cistercian ware, 1475-1700. 7 sherds, 40g, EVE = 0.  
 F405: OXST: Rhenish Stoneware, AD1480 – 1700. 14 sherds, 291g, EVE = 0.  
 F410: OXAM: Brill/Boarstall 'Tudor Green' wares, 1475-1600. 3 sherds, 8g, EVE = 0.02.  
 F412: OXRESWL: Polychrome Slipware, 17<sup>th</sup>C. 18 sherds, 178g.  
 F414: OXBW: Manganese glazed wares. C. 1690-1800. 5 sherds, 40g.  
 F425: OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 409 sherds, 4777g.  
 F430: OXFI: Chinese Porcelain, c1650+. 1 sherd, 3g.  
 F433: OXFM: Staffordshire White-glazed English Stoneware, 1730 – 1800. 2 sherds, 7g.  
 F438: OXEST: English Stoneware, late 17<sup>th</sup> century+. 1 sherd, 2g.  
 F451: OXFH: Border wares, 1550 – 1700. 11 sherds, 148g.  
 F1000: WHEW: Mass-produced White Earthenwares, 1795+. 34 sherds, 193g

In addition, 37 sherds (172g) of Romano-British pottery (fabric F1001) were also noted, along with seven sherds (32g) of flint-tempered ware of Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date (Fabric F1002).

The range of medieval and later pottery indicates that there was a similar chronology of activity at this site as at Newington House. Cistercian Ware and Tudor Green wares are present, unlike at Newington House, and indicate that there was activity throughout the medieval period. Shelly wares are present in relatively large quantities, although Surrey Whiteware is perhaps a little less well-represented.

Jugs again appear under-represented, with just 26.6% of the rim assemblage comprising such vessels, and 81.5% of the jug assemblage consisting of glazed OXAM examples. Bifid-rim jars were entirely absent, however, suggesting that there may have been a different range of activities taking place in this area in the late medieval period. However, the vessel assemblage comprises only jars, bowls and jugs, apart from a single Brill/Boarstall 'Tudor Green' mug fragment, so it is likely that the activity here was not of a domestic nature.

The post-medieval assemblage is fairly substantial and indicates that there was activity in the immediate vicinity. The range of material present includes sherds of German Stoneware with *Bartmann* masks and moulded decoration, fairly typical of the late 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century, and fragments of Border Ware and Red Earthenware of a similar date. There is also a Brill/Boarstall cauldron foot, again probably of the same date, and the Red Earthenware assemblage includes a fragment of a colander.

The assemblage appears domestic in nature, perhaps of some status, and suggests activity throughout the post-medieval period until virtually the present day.

### Miscellaneous Pottery Finds

A number of chance pottery finds are shown in Table 10 from a watching brief action by SOAG at Great Holcombe (Figure 1) and several unidentified trial holes. The precise locations of these interventions are not always certain. The trial holes are believed to be in and around the grounds of Newington House and may well be fortuitous interventions rather than part of the programme of research which SOAG was in the process of formulating.

South East Oxfordshire ware and Brill/Boarstall are, unsurprisingly, represented as are a number of other later post-medieval fabrics. The significance of the results accords with the general spread of pottery from the other recording actions.

	RB		F202		F300		F330		F352		F405		F425		F412		F414		F1000	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
Orchard Site (Centre)																			1	4
Orchard Site (Centre) (E)									2	22			6	123	2	32			1	3
Orchard Site C									1	3			17	94			1	2		
Orchard Site Spoil D													5	50					7	77
Orchard Site UNK					1	19							2	17					3	55
Gate Piers	3	30			1	44					1	6								
Trial Hole 1/10/85					1	7	1	4	2	12										
60m E of Pond			2	13	3	23			4	31										
80m w of drain clay surface													7	94						

Table 10: Pottery from Miscellaneous Find-Spots

### Illustrations

Fig. 34.1: Context 538, fabric OX162. Rouletted sherd from the shoulder of a jar; uniform grey fabric.

Fig. 34.2: Context 538, fabric OX162. Sherd from the lower body of a large storage vessel. Grey fabric with light orange-brown surfaces, lightly-incised lattice decoration on the upper part of the outer body.

Fig. 34.3: Context 538, fabric OX162. Non-joining rim and base from a jar. Grey fabric with variegated light brown and grey outer surface. Patches of sooting on lower body and base.

Fig. 34.4: Context 100, fabric OXAM. Large sherd from the body of a horn. Buff fabric with variegated yellowish-green glaze on the outer surface.

Fig. 34.5: Context 318, fabric OXAM. Rim and upper part of a costrel. The suspension lugs either side of the neck have broken off. Light grey fabric with buff outer surfaces. Glossy, copper-spotted green glaze over the outer surface.

Fig. 34.6: Context 264, fabric OXBF. Large sherd from lower body and base of a large jar. Grey fabric with light brown outer surface, faint traces of combed wavy lines on the upper part of the outer surface.

Fig. 34.7: Context 493, fabric OXAM. Bifid rim from large jar. Buff-pink fabric with buff surfaces, large pool of bright green glaze on rim and inner surface.

Fig. 34.8: Context 495, OXAM. ?Tuyère. Pale grey fabric with orange-pink surfaces. Scorched area near the broken end.

## **Metal finds** by *Gwilym Williams & Jenny Winnett* (Fig. 35; Tables 11 & 11a)

### **Introduction**

A total of 143 objects, weighing 2,774g, were recovered during the excavation carried out by JMHS (Table 11). There were also 68 objects, many of which were in a quite poor state of preservation (resulting in *c.* 168 fragments), weighing 841g excavated by SOAG during the 1980s (Table 11a). This material was assessed and a catalogue was also made. The material was examined by eye with no magnification and occasional use of X-rays where appropriate.

The JMHS material had been assigned a context number, and usually a find number, during the excavation. There was a direct correlation between find and context. The SOAG material had been assigned a grid square numeric to identify its provenance to the nearest metre. However, not all finds were thus provenanced, and a significant number were unstratified within the grid square numeric. As a consequence the SOAG finds are only dealt with cursorily, indicating their general affinity with the JMHS assemblage. The more detailed catalogues of metalwork from both JMHS and SOAG interventions precede summary Tables 11 and 11a of the rest of the metal finds.

Of the assemblage recovered by JMHS, there were 138 iron and five copper alloy objects (Table 11). The assemblage comprised a number of smaller associated artefactual groups, which are detailed below, relating to production, consumption and recycling. It is not always clear where the boundaries between the categories lie, as many of the artefacts – such as nails or tools – could be either, and the contexts of recovery, which were overwhelmingly an external metal surface around the Structure 4 smithy, could be related to use or discard and indeed the demolition of the smithy, which in the latter case therefore post-dated smithing activities.

The earlier assemblages are very small and are only generally indicative of the types of smithing activities undertaken at Newington. Indeed, for these periods, particularly Phase 2, the metallurgical residues (see Gilmour below) are undoubtedly of far greater importance and interest, only adding weight to the argument that the later assemblage represents discard and abandonment activities.

### **Description of JMHS excavation assemblage**

There was a small assemblage of smithing equipment – four smithing punches – and 10 pieces of wire or scrap iron; the iron wire was probably for nails, generally being 5-8mm diameter. Two possible awls or perhaps smithing tools were also recovered. With the exception of four bits of scrap or iron wire this material was recovered from the Structure 4 smithy or later. A piece of iron wire was recovered from the immediate vicinity of the anvil-setting 188, but much of the rest was recovered from the metal surfaces outside the smithy. Some small fragments of scrap and an awl were also recovered from the post-abandonment pit 494.

There was an assemblage of architectural ironwork (13 objects, including staples, hinges and pivots) and nails (68) from the excavation. The four nails from the 12<sup>th</sup>-century ditches 106 and 168 may well be intrusive, as the Structure 1 smithy overlies ditch 168. A single staple was recovered from the early 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pit 539, and a number of nails were recovered from the pits and gullies associated with the Structure 1 smithy. Similarly, the largest part of the nail assemblage came largely from the metallised surfaces around the Structure 4 smithy, with a couple of hinge fragments and a looped hook recovered from within the smithy. Five nails were recovered from metalling north of Structure 5.

There were only three nails recovered from two pits contemporary with the Structure 4 smithy, the rest of the nails were recovered from the external metallised surface (29 examples), four from within the smithy and four from the wall footings. All these could easily post-date or go in hand with the dismantlement of the building. By the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century of the six nails recovered the majority were from ditches. The post-abandonment pit 494 yielded a further half-dozen nails.

Of the farm-related assemblage, the sickle and the small collar were recovered from the Phase 2 enclosure ditch 208; the large collar was recovered from the Structure 4 smithy's external metallised surface whereas the tool-socket was recovered from the midden area north of the Structure 4 smithy; one of the oxshoes was recovered from metalling north of Structure 5. A second oxshoe was recovered from the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century ditch 369.

The only unequivocal example of a horseshoe was recovered from the midden north of the Structure 4 smithy; 16 horseshoe nails were also recovered. Two of these were recovered from features in the immediate vicinity of the Structure 1 smithy. The later Structure 4 smithy yielded a single example from within the building, as well as one from the wall 185, in addition to seven from the metallised north side and two from the south side of the Structure 4 smithy. A further horseshoe nail was recovered from the midden and two more from the metallised surface north of Structure 5.

There were three objects recovered from the metalling north of the Structure 4 smithy that could be described as high status equipment; two of these, a rowel (Fig. 35.5) and a sword-chape (Fig. 35.7), were iron, with traces of gilding or tinning, the third, a suspension mount (Fig. 35.4), was copper alloy. Further personal equipment included an iron buckle pin from the early 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century metallurgical pit 327, and from close by a small copper plaque was recovered from gully stub 230. In addition to a coiled wire link or fastener (Fig. 35.2), both a copper and an iron buckle came from the metalling north of the Structure 4 smithy; a copper buckle (Fig. 35.3) was also recovered from the pit 510.

A key (Fig. 35.8) and a small iron slotted spoon (Fig. 35.1) were recovered from the surface of the metalling north of Structure 5. Three reasonably well preserved knives were recovered, one from within the Structure 4 smithy; and a second from the metalling to the north outside; the third was recovered during machining to the west of the Structure 1 smithy, and has been treated as a stray find. A further four knife fragments and tangs were recovered from the metalling around the Structure 4 smithy, and a fragment of knife blade was recovered from the late pit 494.