

RESCUE EXCAVATION OF A MEDIEVAL HOUSE AT WHADDON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

RICHARD GRIFFITHS

with contributions from

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Introduction

The site was situated at National Grid Reference SP 806342, immediately to the north of Whaddon Parish Church, and south of Stock Lane, the main village street. The proximity to the church, in this prime position within the village, suggests that the site may be that of an early manor house.

The site was located by the author whilst carrying out routine field walking operations in the village, where he noticed that an area on the north side of the church was being prepared for housing development by Messrs. Armitt. Subsequent investigation revealed that the field was known locally as Moatfield.¹

A roadway had been cut into the field and on examination of the faces of this cutting, a series of robbed footings and robber trenches were seen, sealed beneath a layer of demolition rubble. On examination, the rubble layer was seen to contain a mixture of limestone fragments, glazed ridge tiles, medieval sherds and other building debris. The subsoil on this part of the site was a clayey gravel with pockets of blue clay.

The excavation was directed and carried out entirely by the author with the aid of local volunteers (see acknowledgements). The only financial assistance was a grant of £5 from the Wolverton & District Archaeological Society. Other help came from the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the then MPBW, who kindly seconded Stephen Moorhouse and Dennis C. Mynard to the site for several days to assist with planning.

The Excavation

Permission was granted by the builder to carry out only limited trial excavations in the area threatened. It was decided therefore, to excavate by hand a series of trial trenches across the entire site in the hope of tracing walls and other features.

As a result of this initial investigation, the presence of at least three buildings was revealed. It was then decided to strip a larger area with a mechanical excavator.² This work revealed a complex of buildings, paths, a yard and various other features. Most walls had been robbed down to the footings, only robber trenches surviving. Some walls, however, were located by the impression that their lowest courses had left on the boulder clay. In the areas where walls remained, some stood to a height of 2 feet above the original floors. The best preserved, the south wall of building 2, possibly a solar undercroft, held some wall plaster still *in situ*. Although there was no evidence of paintwork on this the numerous painted fragments found on the floor of the building confirmed that the room was decorated at a higher level.

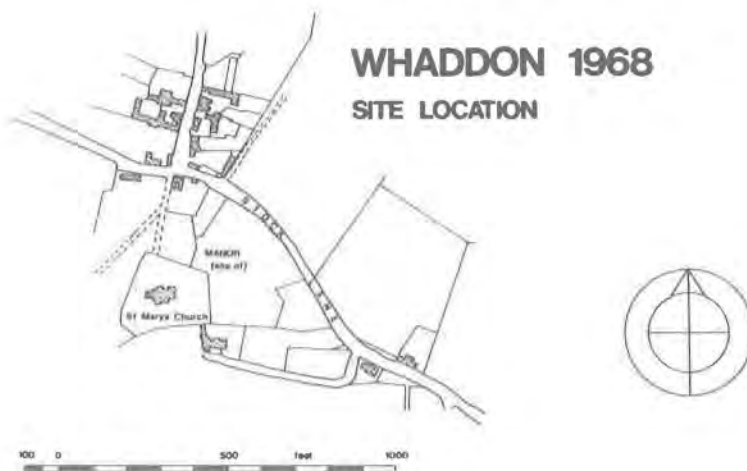
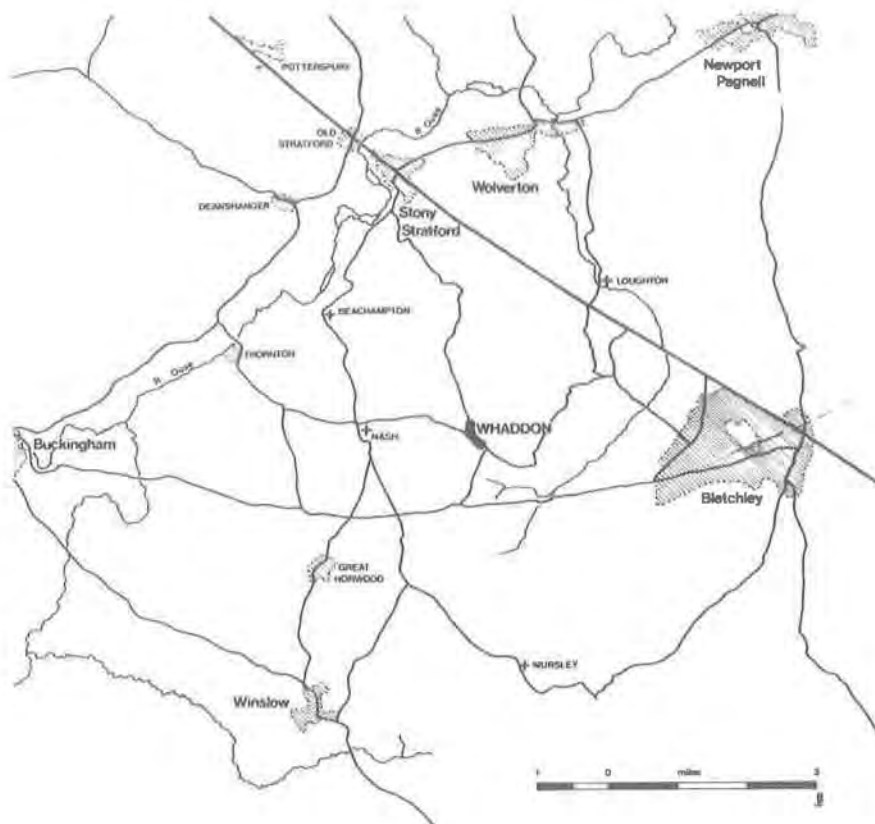


Fig. 1. Site Location.

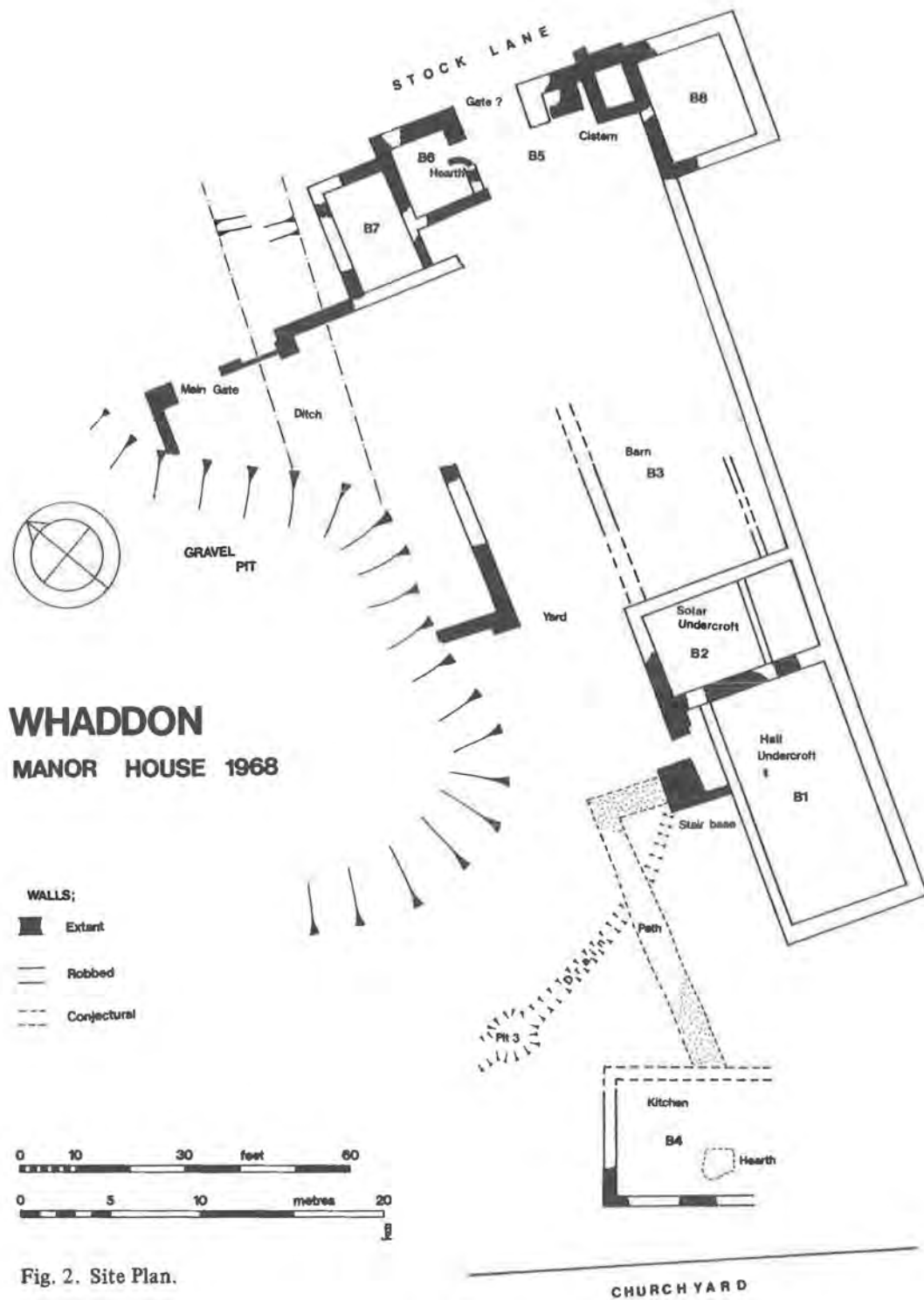


Fig. 2. Site Plan.

It was not possible, due to the building operations, to completely strip the topsoil from the site, but as each area was developed a watch was kept and this helped to build up a picture of the site's occupation. A large area on the west side of the site had been quarried for gravel in the 1920 s. Luckily, this was away from the main range of buildings and had caused little damage.

The excavation revealed a series of buildings around a yard, a hall on the east side, with the kitchen to the south and a gatehouse/workshop range to the north, forming, it is assumed, a manor complex.

The dating evidence for this complex is twelfth to late fourteenth century. The buildings were presumably dismantled soon after this since there is little evidence of later use or robbing.

Earlier occupation on or near the site is suggested by stray Roman and Saxon sherds, and also by late eleventh – early twelfth-century pottery which was found whenever floors were trowelled down into the underlying levels.

Description of the Buildings (Fig. 2)

Building 1 – The Hall

This was constructed of stone and was 22 ft, 6 ins. wide and at least 45 ft long. The north wall (which was also the south wall of the chapel) was almost 3 ft wide, as was the east wall. The west wall, however, was only 2 ft wide and the south wall had been entirely robbed away. The larger thickness of the east wall may be explained by the fact that this acted as a boundary wall for the site. The hall was situated towards the south-east corner of the site and was orientated on a north-south axis. The floor was of a hard, packed mortar. The north wall, the best preserved, stood to a height of at least 2 ft. There was no evidence of a doorway into this building, but this was hardly surprising due to the amount of robbing. Finds from the floor confirmed that the building was occupied during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. At the north end, a few fragments of painted wall plaster and painted window glass were found among the destruction debris over the floor and presumably this came from building 2, the solar block, immediately to the north.

Access to a first-floor chamber in this building was evidenced by an external stone stair base on the east side.

Building 2 – The Solar Undercroft

Situated on the north side of the hall, a stone building 27 x 16 ft, aligned east-west appears to be a solar block with undercroft. The south wall, which was also the north wall of the hall, bore wall plaster. Fragments of plaster bearing traces of red and black paint and much painted window glass came from the destruction levels of the building. A partition running north-south across the building divided off the east end. A hearth revealed by trowelling through the floor is apparently from an earlier phase of occupation.

Building 3 – The Barn

North of the chapel a building, possibly a barn, ran north towards the workshop. The east wall survived in part, but its line was mainly seen as a very clear rob trench. The east wall was also the manor boundary wall, running north from the north-east

corner of the hall. The south wall was the north wall of the solar undercroft. This barn was roughly 28 ft wide and continued north towards the gatehouse/workshop range. It was not possible to recover the complete plan, but it must have been at least 40 ft long. The floor surface was of packed rubble.

Building 4 – The Kitchen

This was situated at the south-east corner of the site and was approached by a path, possibly covered, which ran from the stair base on the west side of the hall. Only very limited excavation was possible at this point owing to the presence of quantities of materials deposited by the builder and spoil from the excavation of the roadway. The scant remains uncovered consisted of one course of walling running parallel to the church fence and another wall at right angles to this running north for a distance of 18 ft. A large area of floor surface was trowelled up which contained a hearth consisting of pitched stones, the upper surface of which was badly burned through continued use. The position of the stones suggested to the excavator that they may have been part of an oven. Some large burnt stones on the floor may have also come from this structure. The floor itself was of a hard packed mortar 6 inches thick, with particles of ironstone embedded in it. On the floor, fragments of a cooking pot (Fig. 8, 35), and bowl, (Fig. 8, 46) of fourteenth-century date and a bronze jetton of circa 1320 confirmed the date of use of this building.

Buildings 5 - 8 – The Gatehouse/Workshop Range

The northern range of buildings was parallel with and ran along the south side of Stock Lane. At the west end, a gateway 20 ft wide, with a cobbled road surface running through it was well preserved. This had been reduced at some subsequent date to an 8 ft carriageway, possibly due to the subsidence of the eastern gate pier which was constructed immediately over the fill of an earlier ditch. The total range of building was almost 85 ft in length and consisted of a central workshop (Building 5 - 6), 45 ft in length, which contained a carpenter's workshop at least, and a water cistern. This was flanked by two buildings, one on the east (Building 8), one on the west (Building 7), both of uncertain use. All these were of stone construction, covered with plain roof tiles and stone slates.

The Carpenter's Workshop

This was in the eastern part of Building 5; the evidence for its identification survives in the form of woodwork which was thrown into a cistern and which was preserved by the waterlogged condition of the fill.

This woodwork was found on top of wooden joists, part of a floor which had collapsed into the cistern. In addition to the woodwork which is published below (pp 66 & Fig. 11), numerous wood chips and shavings were found, but these were not preserved by the excavator. Other finds in the cistern were jugs of late fourteenth-century date (Fig. 8, 41-43).

The cistern was 8 ft long by 5 ft-6 ins. wide and 7 ft deep. When excavated it filled with water to a depth of 2 ft-6 ins. It was constructed of well-dressed stone blocks and was entered by wooden stairs supported on joists set into the wall. Gaps where timbers had been removed from the wall were evident and it was noted that the sides of the

cistern were worn smooth at this point by continued use of the stairway.

A number of springs were encountered by the builders. These would have supplied the cistern, keeping a continuing source of fresh water. Older inhabitants of the village recalled having obtained water from a nearby spring in Stock Lane.

Building 6 – The Smithy

This is immediately west of Building 5 and consists of a single room, 11 x 14 ft, with a hearth on the west side. The amount of metal work recovered from the floor suggests that this may have been a smithy. Between the carpenter's workshop and Building 6, the north wall was pierced by a gateway which may well have served as an access to the smithy and workshops for the manor tenants. The walls of this workshop range were better preserved than those on the rest of the site, suggesting that this range may not have been dismantled but remained in use, since it provided an essential service for the manor and village.

Building 7

Abutted to the west side of Building 6 and the northern boundary wall. This room was 12 x 20 ft. This was not discovered during the excavation but found subsequently in the course of development. Pottery of fourteenth-century date was found on its floor, which may be the date of construction, since the footing trenches were cut into thirteenth-century levels. The walls were of stone and the roof of red tiles. The floor was suggested by a fragmentary clay surface.

Building 8

Situated to the east of Building 5, this was also of stone construction and was 16 x 14 ft. The north wall was very substantial and was bonded in with the north and east walls of Building 5 and the cistern. The west wall continued south being the eastern boundary wall of the site, and the eastern wall of the chapel and the hall. The south and east walls of Building 8 were located by robber trenches only. No floor level survived with the building. The finds recovered from this building consisted of pottery of twelfth – fourteenth-century date, including Fig. 8, 37, 38 and 45, and a Nuremberg token of late sixteenth-century to early seventeenth-century date, which may confirm the date of robbing.

Yard Surfaces

For the most part, the yard surface was roughly cobbled. Numerous finds from the yards confirmed thirteenth – fourteenth centuries as the main period of occupation of the site. A few sherds of fifteenth – sixteenth-century pottery (Fig. 9, 55 and 56) suggest perhaps that the yards were still open at this time.

There were several features cut into the yard surface. One of these, a crescent-shaped pit, may have acted as a water-hole for animals, although one would imagine a sophisticated manor of this type having a stone trough. This feature was adjacent to the stair base and main entrance to the hall, to the north of which a stone 'mounting block' had been constructed against the south-west corner of the chapel.

Sealed beneath the yard was a limestone drain which ran from the foot of the staircase across the yard to the south-west, where a large pit (pit 3) may have acted as a

primary soakaway later sealed by the yard surface. This pit contained a considerable amount of late twelfth to early thirteenth-century pottery (Fig. 7, 16-27).

The Finds

Introduction by Dennis C. Mynard

Initial sorting and classification was undertaken by the excavator and the classification of nails and ridge tiles is largely based on his work. All finds have been drawn by June Burbidge, apart from the woodwork which was drawn by Paul Stamper. The identification of the various woods was carried out by Ann Miles of the Building Research Establishment Laboratory, to whom we are extremely grateful. Finds reports are by D. C. Mynard unless otherwise acknowledge in the text.

Not illustrated are two small blades and four flakes found during the course of the excavations. The small size of the flakes and the general character of the blades might suggest a Mesolithic date, but the assemblage could fit in well with material in the date range Mesolithic to Bronze Age.

Animal Remains

By Richard Griffiths

A total of 150 ounces of bone was recovered during the excavation. This figure excludes a modern cow burial found near the water cistern in Building 5. Several complete skeletons were found, e.g. the small dog in pit 3, and the dog and two cats in the upper fill (post-occupation) level of the water cistern. The cistern also contained bones of deer, pig and sheep, which may suggest a kitchen nearby.

The general rubbish deposits on site included bones of pig, sheep, deer, fowl, ox, dog and cat. Several bones showed evidence of butchering. The bones have been identified by the excavator and are retained in the Bradwell Abbey Field Centre Museum Collection for future reference.

Some thirty-six oyster shells were also found on site, mainly in Buildings 1 and 2.

Metal Objects

Bronze (Fig. 3, Ae 1 - 15)

- Ae 1. Simple ring buckle, d. 2.0 cm from Pit 3, late twelfth - early thirteenth-century.
- Ae 2. Plain ring brooch, d. 4.5 cm with pin with blunt end and projecting ridge with notched decoration near the head. Yard surface west of Buildings 1 and 2.
- Ae 3. Plain ring brooch, d. 3.8 cm with plain pin. Floor of Building 1.
- Ae 4. Rectangular belt buckle, minus pin, 5.8 cm x 4.5 cm. The sides are thickened towards each centre. Yard surface west of Buildings 1 and 2.
- Ae 5. 'D' shaped strap-end buckle, possibly from a belt. 5 cm x 2.5 cm with projecting spur at point where pin-end rested. Yard surface.
- Ae 6. Brooch or decorated button, worn and smoothed so that central motif is too worn for identification. Yard surface west of Buildings 1 and 2.
- Ae 7. Circular pendant ornament, d. 3.5 cm, with pierced tab at top, has been secured with two fine pins which have decayed and left a rust stain. The object is decorated with a leaf in repoussé with stem upwards, on a chequered background. Possibly part of horse furniture. Surface retains evidence of gilding. Floor of Building 1.

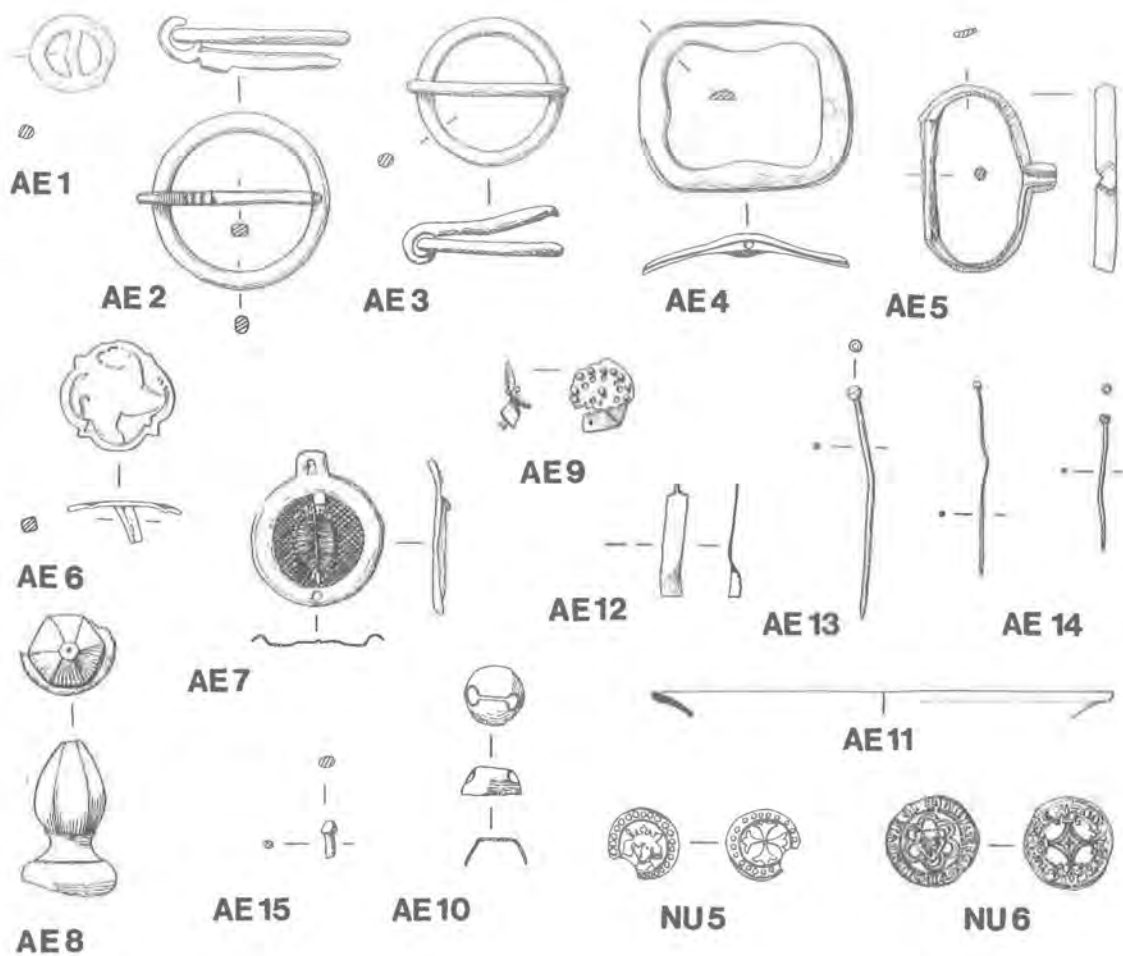


Fig. 3. Bronze and Coins ($\frac{1}{2}$ scale).

- Ae 8. Knob from lid? with hexagonal facets tapering to a point. Yard surface west of Buildings 1 and 2.
- Ae 9. Fragment of a repoussé ornament from book-binding or box fitting. Yard surface west of Buildings 1 and 2.
- Ae 10. Half of small bell, from sheep bell or harness. D. 1.5 cm. Building 1, destruction level.
- Ae 11. Rim of cauldron, d. 24.4 cm. Yard surface in blocked gateway.
- Ae 12. Fragment of bronze strip, length 3 cm, possibly from a fine strap-end. Floor of Building 2.
- Ae 13. Pin, length 6 cm, with rounded head. Destruction level of Building 8.
- Ae 14. Eighteen pins were found on the yard surfaces west of Buildings 1 and 2. They range from 3 cm to 5 cm in length. The illustrated examples are typical.
- Ae 15. Head of heavy pin? Remaining length 4 cm. Yard surface west of Buildings 1 and 2.
- Ae 16. Three tag ends. Surviving lengths 2.5 cm and 3.5 cm. Yard surface (not illustrated).
- Ae 17. Plain bronze disc, d. 3 cm. An attempt has been made to drill a hole through the centre. Building 2, (not illustrated).

Coins and Jettons by S.E. Rigold and P. Woodfield

Ten coins (Fig. 3, Nu 5 - 6) were recovered during excavation, three Roman, four medieval and three post-medieval.

(a) *Roman*

- Nu 1. A very worn AE Sestertius of Trajan, AD 98 - 117. Found on yard surface.
- Nu 2. A pierced and deliberately smoothed down coin of Constantine II as Caesar, issued circa AD 315 - 324. Reverse: ALTER and BEATA TRANQUILITAS, m.m. illeg. Found on yard surface.
- Nu 3. Constantine II, period AD 337 - 341 (LRBC I 124 - 7). Reverse: GLORIA EXERCITUS, soldiers and standard, m.m. T R S (Trier, Germany). Found in topsoil.

(b) *Medieval*

- Nu 4. A silver halfpenny of Edward III. London mint. Annulet stops on O. Lombardic M's. Edward III probably Class A. 1344 - 51 (Third Coinage) *Seaby* 975. Found in Trench 3, yard surface.
- Nu 5. AE English Sterling Jetton, d. 19 mm, pierced.
Obv. Crowned sterling head, akin to pence of late groups, especially XV. Border of pellets.
Rev. Usual short cross fleury not breaking the inner circle, but with terminals as on many late sterling jettons, with long crosses. Border of pellets. Date: c. 1320s. From floor of Building 4.
- Nu 6. AE French Jetton, presumably official, but not of normal type. Made at Royal Mint of France, d. 24 mm.
Obv. Shield with three lys only as though "French Modern" in Tressure of six arches cross 1M. Double annulet stops, old lettering (Serif of L turned forward). Roman E unbarred A. DELA: MOUR(?) OIE DU ROI (De Monnai du Roi).
Rev. Quadrilateral cross fleury with lys in voided centre, lettering No. 1. (?) / AUT / EME / TIE? armitre. Despite the shield, style and letter suggest mid rather than early fourteenth-century. There are later forms of this type. From B24. Building 1.
- Nu 7. AE Plain disc, crudely pierced, d. 20 mm, stamped with an uncertain repoussé, shaped in 7 mm depression. Plain pierced discs were used with Sterling Jettons. This may be one of them, if so, it is early fourteenth-century in date. From B21, area of Buildings 1 and 2.

(c) *Post-medieval*

- Nu 8. AE Nuremburg Jetton of HANS KRAUWINCKEL, 1586 - 1610. D. 20 mm, normal types, GOTES SEGEN MACHT REICH. Building 8, destruction or rob level.
- Nu 9. Farthing of Charles I (1625 - 49). Rose Farthing, Type II, CAROLV DG RA BRI. mm. Crescent/Crescent. Yard surface south of Buildings 6 and 7.
- Nu 10. AE Halfpenny of George III, issue of 1799. Above yard surface near gate.

Ironwork (Fig. 4, 1 - 31 and Fig. 5, 34 - 51)

The iron work from the site came largely from the destruction levels over and in the floor levels within the various buildings. Whilst the idea of a smithy in the Gatehouse range is an attractive one, there is not sufficient ironwork to confirm this. The largest number of finds come in fact from Buildings 1 and 2.

(a) *Knives and Scissors*

1. Knife blade and part of whittle tang. Length of blade 10.5 cm.
2. Knife blade and part of whittle tang. Length of blade 11.5 cm.
3. Part of knife blade and scale tang. Remaining length of blade 9.5 cm.
4. Fragment of blade? Length 13.5 cm. Floor of Building 6.
5. Meat cleaver with part of hollow metal handle guard. Remaining length of blade 11.5 cm and remaining length of handle guard 8 cm.
6. Part of small knife blade with whittle tang. Surviving length of blade 6 cm.
7. Pair of scissors with one handle broken away. The handle is curved upwards to allow the hand to move freely away from the work being cut. Similar scissors are used for clipping horses and cows.

(b) *Iron Keys and Hinges*

8. Key with rectangular shank and oval bow. The shank does not project beyond the bit and is tapered to a point. The general style suggests a 13th to 14th-century date.
9. Part of a small key, solid squared shank with 'D'-shaped bow.
10. Upper part of barrel padlock key with flattened wider end pierced for suspension. Yard surface.
11. Part of 'H' hinge. Building 2.
12. Fragment of heavy hinge strap, width 3 cm. Building 4 (not illustrated).
13. Key of 18/19-century date. Topsoil.
14. Body of barrel padlock, length 5.5 cm, d. 2 cm. Pit 3.

(c) *Iron Tools and Fittings*

15. Iron staple. Pit 3.
16. Iron bar, length 15 cm. Dimensions 1 cm x 5 mm. One end turned at right angles as if to form a hook. The opposite end has traces of a portion bent at right angles but now broken away. Appears to be structural ironwork, maybe part of a tie or a timber dog. Floor of Building 1.
17. Portion of iron bar, length 11 cm, dimensions of 6 mm x 3 mm. Floor of Building 1, (not illustrated).
18. Fragment of thin iron strip, length 8 cm. Width 2 cm x 2 mm. Concave in section. Floor of Building 1, (not illustrated).
19. Iron hook with enlarged flattened end pierced with 2 nail holes for securing, 1 nail surviving in situ, length of nail 6.5 cm. Building 2.

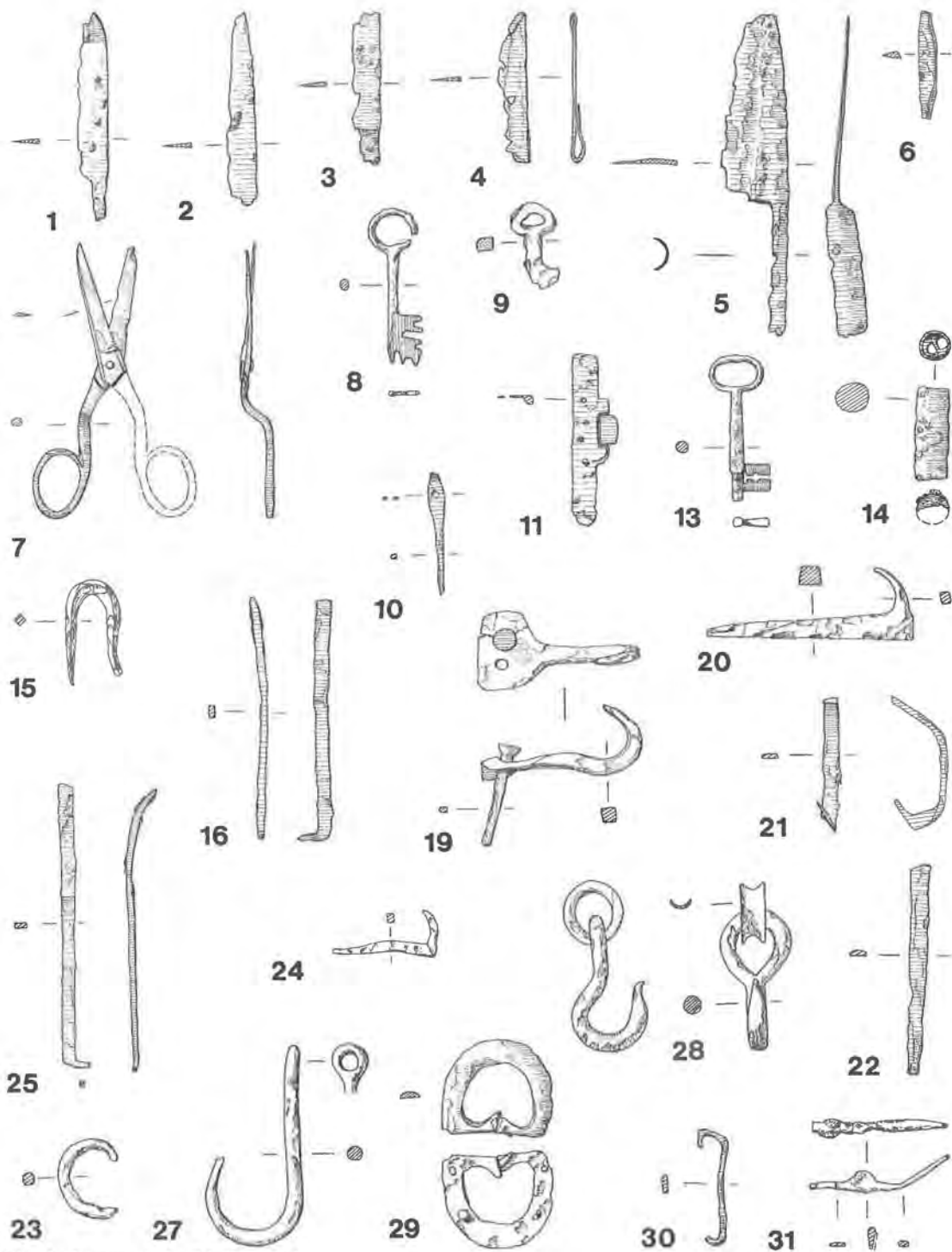


Fig. 4. Ironwork 1 - 31 ($\frac{1}{4}$ scale).

20. Heavy structural nail, length 12.5 cm, shank 1.5 cm square and tapers almost to a point at the other end. The end has a hooked projection. Building 2.
21. Iron bar now bent but length of remaining fragment approx. 10 cm and 1 cm x 3 mm in section. Again, one end is turned at right angles to the main shank as in number 16 above. Building 2.
22. Length of iron bar, possibly part of barrel padlock key, remaining length 13 cm. Dimensions 1 cm x 3 mm, tapering to almost 4 mm square section at other end. Building 2.
23. Part of swivel link from harness? Building 2.
24. Wall hook, length 6.5 cm. Building 4 (Kitchen).
25. Another length of bar, similar to numbers 16 and 21 above with end turned at right angles, length 17.5 cm, dimensions 1 cm x 3 mm. Building 6.
26. Fragment of heavy iron plate 1.2 cm thick. Building 6 (not illustrated).
27. Iron hook with pierced end for suspension. Floor surface in Building 5, near cistern.
28. Iron hook with attached ring pulley. Building 5, near cistern.
29. Iron plate from heel of shoe? Upper fill of cistern (Layer 1). This item was submitted to Miss June Swann of the Northampton Museum who kindly provided the following note:
 "There are medieval illustrations showing men with edges round their heels this shape, but I have never seen one coloured differently from the rest of the sole and have assumed it is the stitch channel. There was quite a lot of hob nailing used in the 14th and 15 centuries on soles and heels and I would not be surprised to find a heel rim — except that, officially, these are only 1-lift heel repairs and not heels as such. This rim presupposes a heel of at least two lifts, unless the nails were to wear though into the foot. (Not unknown).
30. Iron timber dog, length 7 cm. Cistern.
31. Possibly a lock bolt (broken) or part of a key. Similar keys were found at Goltho, Lincs.³
32. Fragment of iron plate, length 8.5 cm, 1.5 cm x 1 mm. Concave in section similar to number 18 above. Yard surface (not illustrated).
33. Rim fragment from iron pot. Yard surface in Gateway, north-west corner. (Not illustrated). May be intrusive and of post-medieval date.
34. Tang and end part of sickle blade. Yard/road surface in Gateway. North-west corner.
35. Fragment of part of iron ring and fixing plate from a patten. Yard surface.
36. Iron object, length 11.5 cm, tapering from roughly pointed end to 3 cm square in section then narrowing into thin strip 6 mm x 2 mm with end turned at right angles. Possibly a rake or harrow prong, formerly mounted in a wooden cross member. Occasional medieval examples are known, but most published examples are post-medieval. See one from Kettleby Thorpe, Lincs.⁴ and references quoted there. From floor of Building 3.

(d) *Arrow-heads*

37. Arrow-head with hollow end and broad flat blade. Floor of Building 2.
38. Small arrow-head, flat blade. Provenance uncertain.

(e) *Horseshoes*

39. Half of horseshoe with nail remaining. Common 14th-century type. Floor of Building 1.
40. Half of another horseshoe, similar date. Provenance uncertain.

(f) *Nails* (Fig. 5, nos. 41 - 51).

A total of 325 nails were recovered during the excavation mostly from destruction levels. The nails were classified into six main types by the excavator and their distribution over the site planned

in the hope of recovering information about roof types or general construction. However, the results did not justify the exercise. The types and their subdivisions are described below.

Type 1 – Roofing nails

- (a) Head 1.2 cm square, square body, average length 6 cm (2½ inches). Illustration 41. Found in stone slates.
- (b) Head slightly larger than before, rectangular body with chisel-pointed end, average length 7.5 cm (3 inches). Illustration 42.
- (c) Head generally rounded, rectangular body, average length 5.6 cm (2¼ inches). Illustration 43.
- (d) Thick squared head, normally 1 cm square. Rectangular body, average length 5 cm (2 inches). Found with stone slates, illustration 44.

Type 2 – Nails for Timber Construction

- (a) Heavy nails with square body and rectangular head, average length 12.5 cm (5 inches). Often found bent at right angles, suggesting use in timber. Illustration 45.
- (b) Smaller version, for floor boards, etc., average length 7.5 cm (3 inches). Illustration 46.

Type 3

- (a) Finer version, average length 6 cm (2¼ inches). Illustration 47.
- (b) Similar but more pronounced faceted head, average length, 11 cm (4¼ inches). Illustration 48.

Type 4 – Masonry nails

Chisel-shaped, no head, average length 10 cm (4 inches). Illustration 49.

Type 5

Finer nail with faceted head, average length 9 cm (3½ inches). Illustration 50.

Type 6

Small version of type 4, average length 4.5 cm (1¾ inches). Illustration 51.

In general the largest proportion of nails come from the area of Buildings 1 and 2. Other concentrations worth mention are eighteen of Type 1e from Building 6, twenty-nine of Type 2a from the cistern and twelve of the same type from the destruction level on the north side of the cistern.

Lead

Twelve pieces of window came were found with the window glass from Buildings 1 and 2 as below:

- Inside Building 2 and in north end of Building 1 – 3 fragments
- In storeroom under stairs on west side of Building 1 – 4 fragments
- Yard surface, north of path, west of Building 2 – 3 fragments
- Yard surface, south of path, west of Building 1 – 2 fragments

This distribution tends to suggest – as does that of the painted glass – a window or windows in the west wall of Buildings 1 or 2 – perhaps both.

One other fragment of window came was found in Building 6.

Silver

A.R. 1. Silver needle, length 4.5 cm. From yard surface west of Buildings 1 and 2.

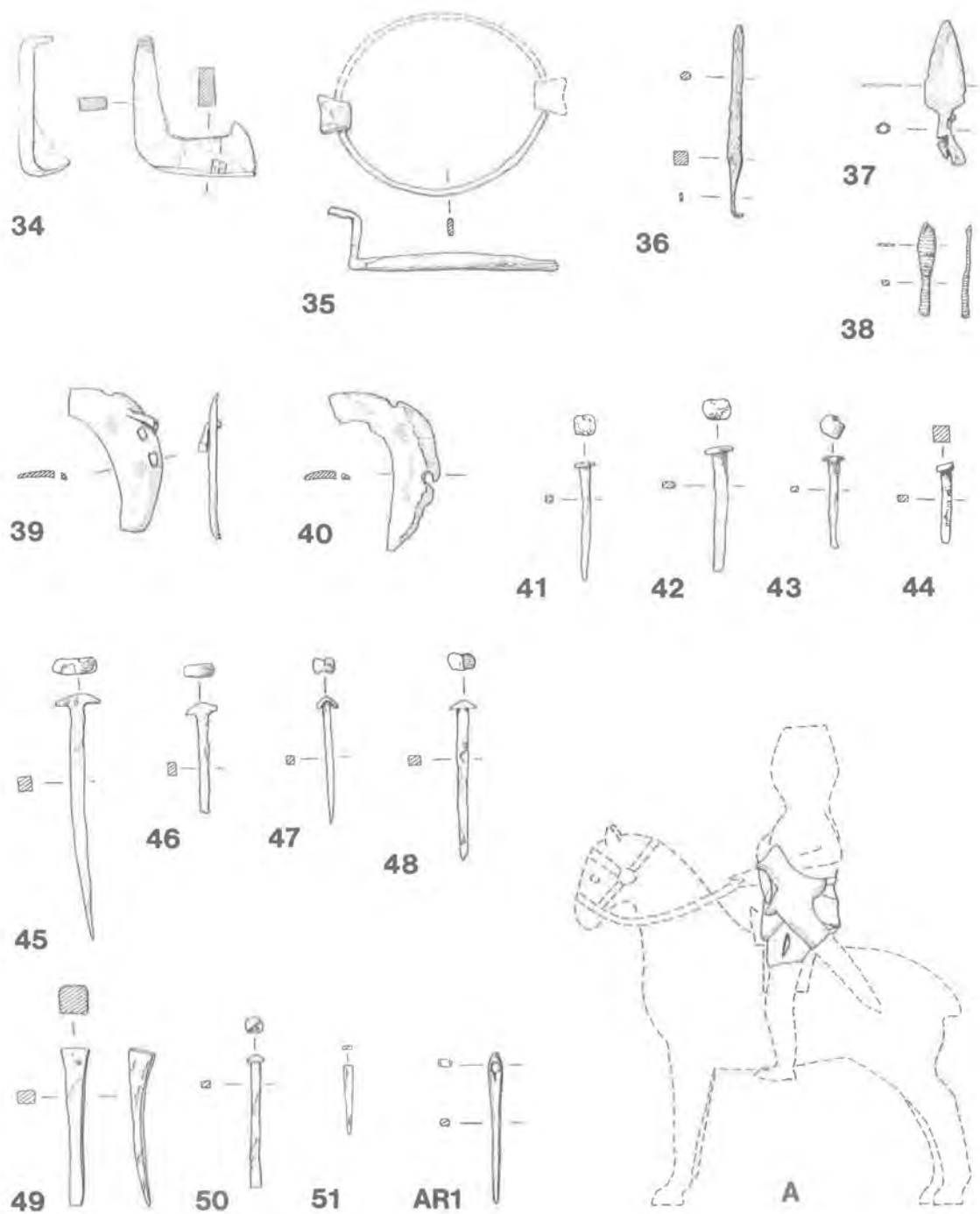


Fig. 5. Ironwork 34 - 51 and Ceramic Aquamanile ($\frac{1}{4}$ scale), Silver ARI ($\frac{1}{2}$ scale).

The Pottery

Introduction

The pottery recovered from the site suggested that the period of use of the stone manor complex was the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. The discovery of several sherds, a piece of roof tile and a few coins of Roman date, surviving as residual finds in the makeup of the yard surfaces, may suggest a Roman site nearby.

The origins of the site may lie in the 10th – 12th century since an amount of pottery of this date was recovered from beneath the floors of the stone buildings and in their primary makeup. No structures related to this early phase were located, but this was entirely due to the limited resources available to the excavator.

The date of the destruction and final dismantling of the complex is presumably in the late 14th – early 15th century, since hardly any pottery later than this was found. Most walls were robbed down into the footings but little evidence of the date of this activity was forthcoming, apart from the east end of the Gatehouse range where a small amount of pottery of 16th and 17th-century date was found, which may indicate that that range continued in use after the abandonment of the other buildings.

The pottery was sorted by visual analysis alone into the fifteen fabric types; these fifteen fabrics were then grouped together into five broad ceramic types as below:

Description of the Fabrics

Most of these fabrics have been described before and it has not been thought necessary to quote numerous references. Readers may refer to the reports on pottery from Stantonbury,⁵ Thornton⁶ and Buckingham⁷ where they will find all references quoted. A detailed study of medieval pottery in the area is in preparation as a result of the large-scale excavations in Milton Keynes.

Type 1 – Handmade Saxon

Fabric 1 Hard fired, dark grey fabric, tempered with fine quartz grits.

Fabric 2 Similar, but coarser in appearance and with surfaces ranging to lighter grey and brown. This ware contained some larger calcitic inclusions which have been completely eroded, giving a coarser appearance than Fabric 1.

Type 2 – Wheel-turned late Saxon-Early Medieval

Fabric 3 St. Neot's type – well-known fine, shell-tempered, wheel-turned, ware with grey brown to black smooth surfaces.

Type 3 – Medieval Shelly Ware

Fabric 6 This is certainly a descendant of fabric 3 and has, by the inclusion of more limestone temper and by advanced potting and firing methods, become a harder, coarser-surfaced fabric, ranging in colour from buff to pink brown with a grey core.

Type 4 – Sandy Wares

Fabric 4 Hard-fired medium to dark grey fabric, sand-tempered, with occasional fine white grits.

Fabric 5 Similar to 4, but with shiny quartz grits.

Fabric 9 Similar again to 4, but with surfaces ranging from medium grey to buff brown and generally slightly coarser in appearance.

Fabric 10 Hard-fired fabric, light grey throughout, tempered with fine quartz-like grits and occasional sparse white ones.

NOTE: These 4 fabrics of Type 4 may all be products of the same kiln, the apparent differences being created by different firing techniques and the development of the fabric over a number of years.

Type 5 – Medieval Fine Sand-tempered wares, generally glazed.

Fabric 7 Potterspury type, fine sandy ware, pink-buff surfaces, grey core with typical olive green glaze.

Fabric 8 Brill type, very similar, but a more granular texture and with surfaces tending to be more off-white.

Fabric 11 Hard-fired, buff brown fine sandy ware, with grey core, surface buff or light grey internally, and with dark olive green glaze externally. Possibly also a Brill product.

Fabric 12 Similar to 11 but with glaze both internally and externally.

Fabric 13 Hard-fired, fine sandy ware, grey core, medium brown external surfaces.

Fabric 14 Very fine smooth surfaced ware, creamy buff throughout with pinkish tones externally and olive green glaze.

Fabric 15 A hard-fired smooth medium-grey coloured fabric, almost stoneware.

These five basic types and the fabrics that constitute them are not yet precisely datable within the medieval period. However, the site adds to our knowledge of pottery of the 13th and 14th centuries in the area, for whilst it provided few pit or other closely related groups, it does provide a broad selection of wares of the period. The period of occupation may cover two centuries, and the site is not disturbed or contaminated by any later intrusive material.

The material from pit 3 is a relatively close group and provides useful information on contemporary forms.

Pottery Catalogue

The pottery is described in two chronological groups: I – from the pre-stone building period; II – Contemporary with the stone building period.

The following abbreviations are employed throughout the report: F – fabric, D – diameter, cm – centimeters, C.T. – Ceramic type.

Group I (Fig. 6, 1 - 15)

Pit 1

This pit contained 3 Roman sherds, 1 of F1, 1 of F2, 6 of F3, 6 of F4 and 3 medieval glazed sherds. It cannot be considered as a sealed deposit, but is included as it contained Saxon sherds.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Rim of cooking pot; D 11.8 cm; F1 | 2. Rim of cooking pot; D 20 cm; F2 |
| 3. Rim of cooking pot; D 20 cm; F3 | 4. Rim of intumed bowl; D 27.7 cm; F3 |

Beneath floor of Building 2

One sherd of F1

Under floor of Building 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5. Cooking pot; D 11 cm; F3 | 6. Cooking pot; D 16 cm; F3 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

In floor of Building 5

7. Cooking pot; D 18 cm; F10

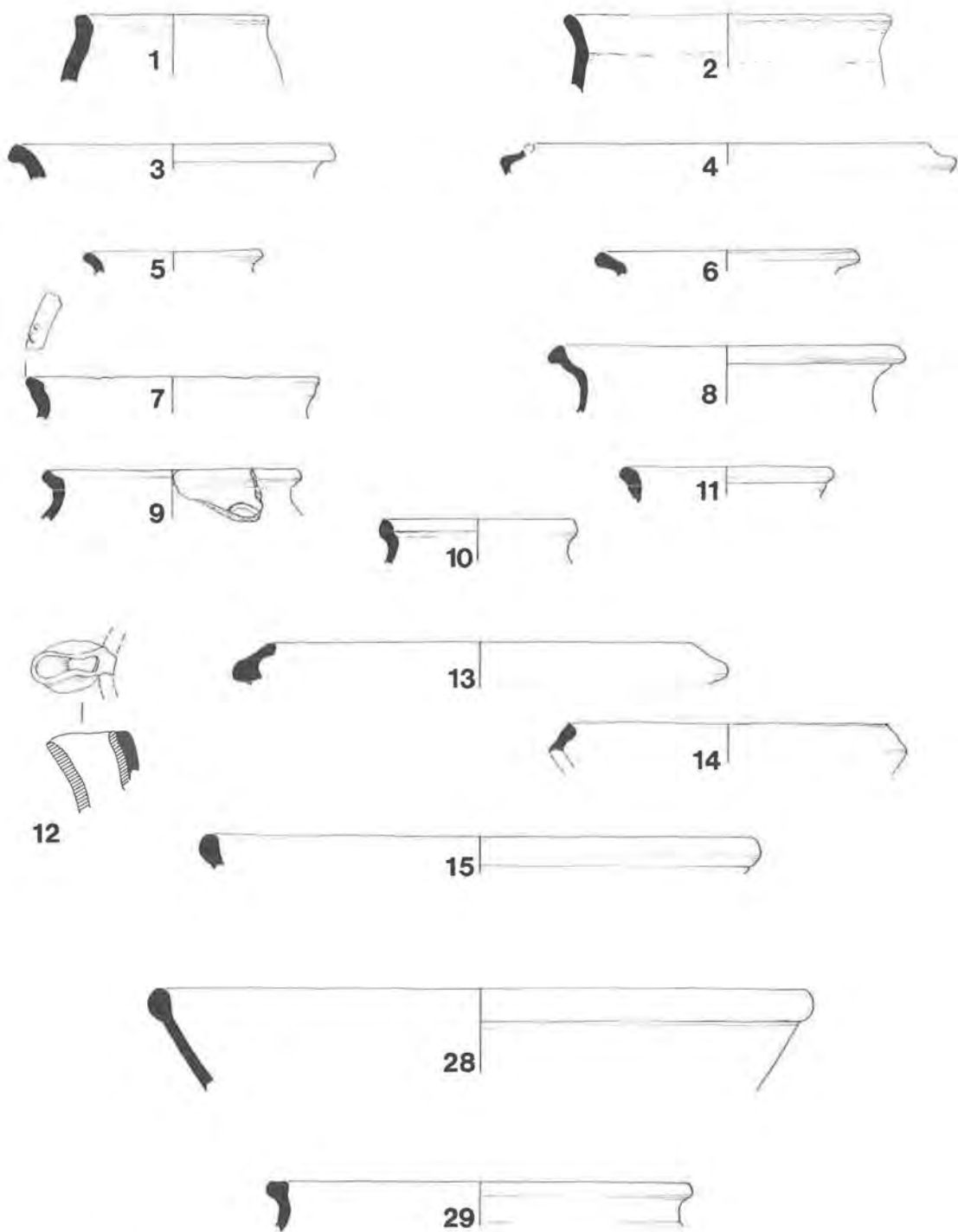


Fig. 6. Pottery 1 - 15 (Group I) and 28 - 29 (Group II). Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

In floor of Building 1

8. Cooking pot; D 21.8 cm; F4

9. Cooking pot; D 15.9 cm; F6

In floor of Building 6

10. Jug; D 12 cm; F3

Moat

11. Jug; D 13 cm; F9

12. Spouted pitcher; F4

In yard make-up

13. Inturned bowl; D 30.3 cm; F3

14. Inturned bowl; D 21.8 cm; F3

15. Bowl; D 34.3 cm; F3

Discussion of Group I Pottery

The handmade Saxon sherds nos. 1 and 2 from Pit 1 pre-date the rest of this Group I pottery by at least a century or so. The general early character of the rest of this pottery may suggest that there was occupation here in the 11th century or earlier. However, these fabrics and forms continue into the 12th century and may well be contemporary with the construction of the stone manor complex.

Group II: contemporary with the stone buildings (Fig. 6, 28 - 29, and Figs. 7 - 9)

Pit 3 - a sealed group of related material, Fig. 7, 16 - 27.

This pit contained four layers of infill and was sealed by the Yard surface.

Layer 4	Levelling up prior to laying of yard.
Layer 3	Deliberate infill.
Layer 2	Main period of use, dark silt.
Layer 1	Primary silt.

The following sherds were found in each layer:

	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7
Layer 4	—	—	—	3	1
Layer 3	5	17	—	5	—
Layer 2	1	1	6	—	—
Layer 1	—	—	—	—	—

All sherds illustrated are from layer 3, except 26, which is from layer 2.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 16. Inturned bowl; D 28.3 cm; F6 | 17. Bowl; D 48 cm; F6 |
| 18. Bowl; D 45 cm; F6 | 19. Cooking pot; D 19 cm; F4 |
| 20. Cooking pot; D 24.2 cm; F3 | 21. Cooking pot; D 19 cm; F4 |
| 22. Cooking pot; D 19 cm; F4 | 23. Cooking pot; D 16 cm; F4 |
| 24. Cooking pot, fingertip decoration;
D 22 cm; F6 | 25. Large jar with applied thumbstrip;
D 26 cm; F4 |
| 26. Large jar - base only; F4 | 27. Jug; D 12.5 cm; F6 |

The only glazed sherd from this pit came from layer 4 which was considered by the excavator to be a general levelling up prior to the laying down of the yard surface. The main filling of the pit may pre-date the yard by some years.

The presence side by side of shelly and sandy fabrics suggests a date in the 12th century, but the developed rims 22 - 25 indicate a later date, perhaps towards the early years of the 13th.

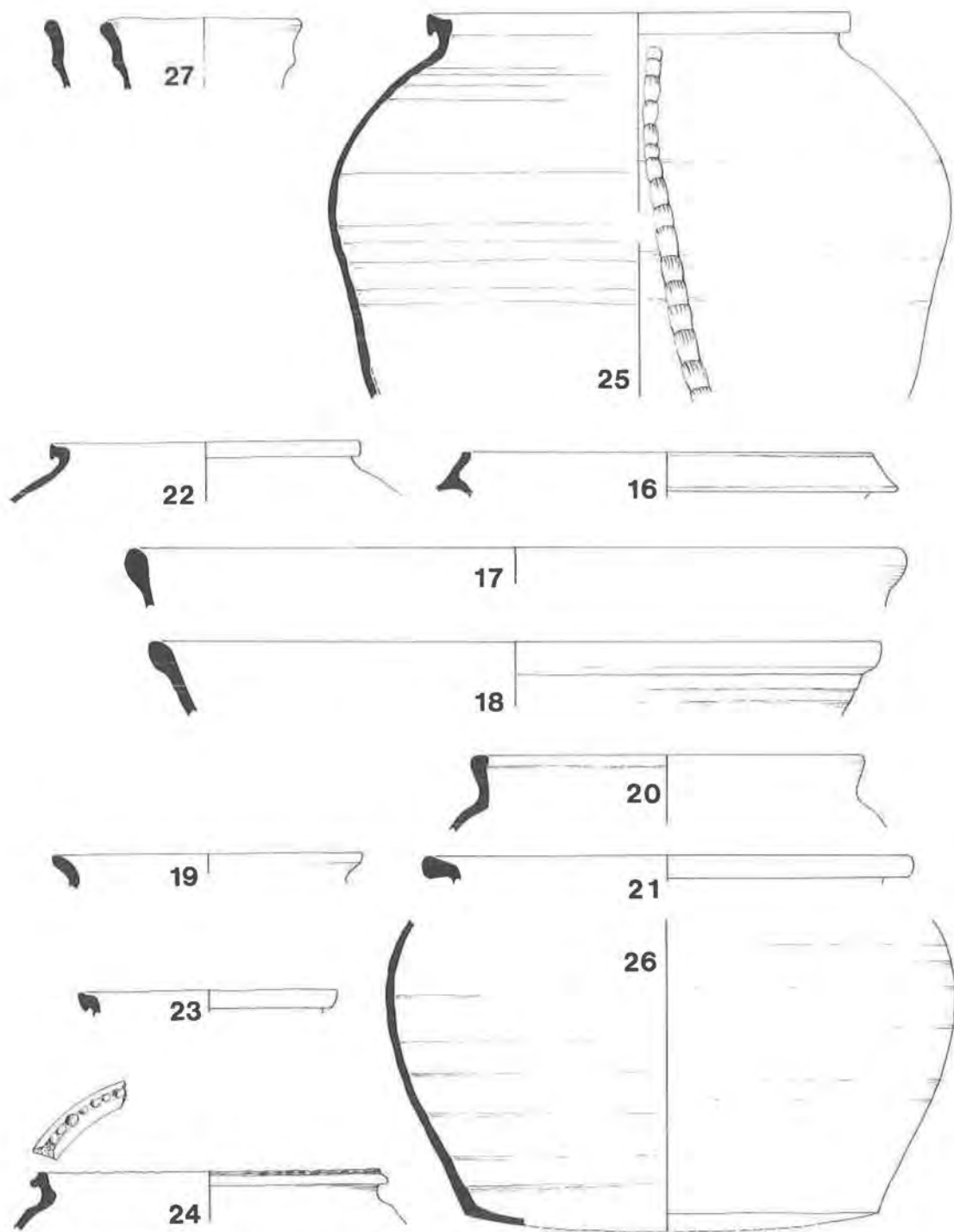


Fig. 7. Pottery 16 - 27 (Group II) scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Moat – Fig. 6, 28 and 29.

Sherds of the following fabrics were recovered:

F3	F4	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F11
4	26	4	1	4	2	1	1

28. Bowl; D 48 cm; F9

29. Cooking pot; D 26.1 cm; F10

On ceramic evidence this moat or ditch was filled in during the early years of the 13th century.

Associated with buildings – Fig. 8, 30 - 48.

Table of sherds by fabric

	F1	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F11	F14	F15
Building 1:												
Floor level	—	1	4	—	5	25	7	3	10	—	—	—
Building 2:												
Over floor	—	2	2	—	1	11	—	1	1	—	30	—
On floor	1	3	—	—	2	49	—	1	31	2	—	—
Under floor	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Building 4:												
Floor level	—	—	5	—	1	9	—	1	11	—	—	—
Building 5:	—	—	2	—	6	2	—	—	11	—	—	—
Building 6:												
Destruction level	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	1	—	—	—
On floor	—	2	16	—	2	1	—	—	14	—	—	—
In floor	1	2	1	3	2	2	—	—	1	3	—	1
Building 8:												
In cistern	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	5	—	—	—
Room east of cistern on floor	—	1	1	—	4	9	—	—	2	—	—	—
Building 10:	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(i) *Cooking pots*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 30. D 17.3 cm; F6; Building 2 on floor | 31. D 22.1 cm; F6; Building 1 on floor |
| 32. D 18 cm; F9; Building 2 on floor | 33. D 17 cm; F4; Building 5 on floor |
| 34. D 20.1 cm; F4; Building 1 on floor | 35. D 16.1 cm; F7; Building 4 on floor |
| 36. D 24 cm; F10; Building 2 over floor | |

(ii) *Jugs*

37. Rim and Rod handle; F10; Building 8 east of cistern on floor
38. Strap handle, stabbed and thumbled; F6; Building 8 east of cistern on floor
39. Simple rim; F7; Building 2 on floor
40. Body only; F14; Building 2 over floor
41. Almost whole body and slashed strap handle; F7; Building 8 in cistern
42. Stabbed strap handle; F7; Building 8 in cistern
43. Slashed strap handle; F7; Building 8 in cistern
44. Simple rim; F9; Unstratified

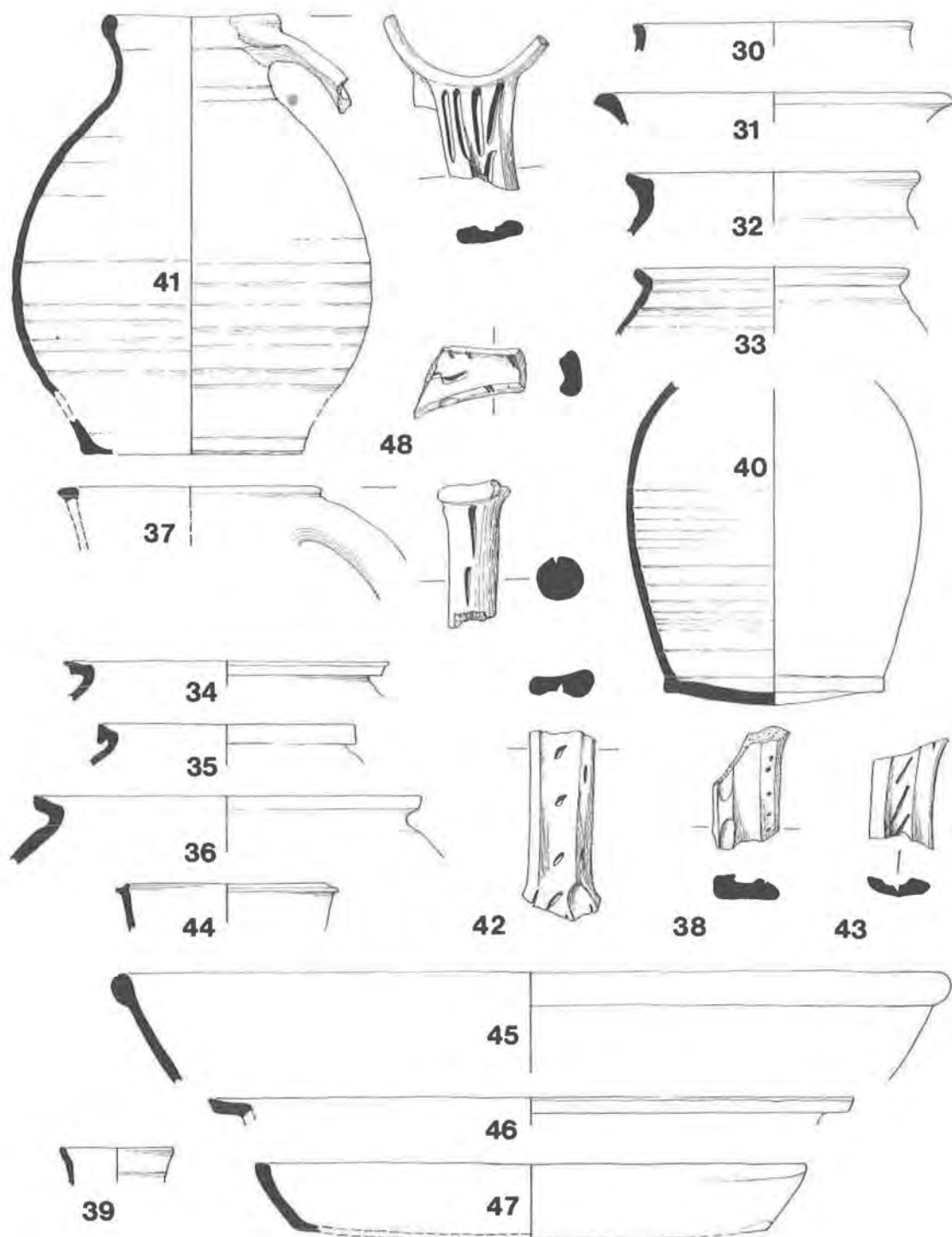


Fig. 8. Pottery 30 - 48 (Group II), scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

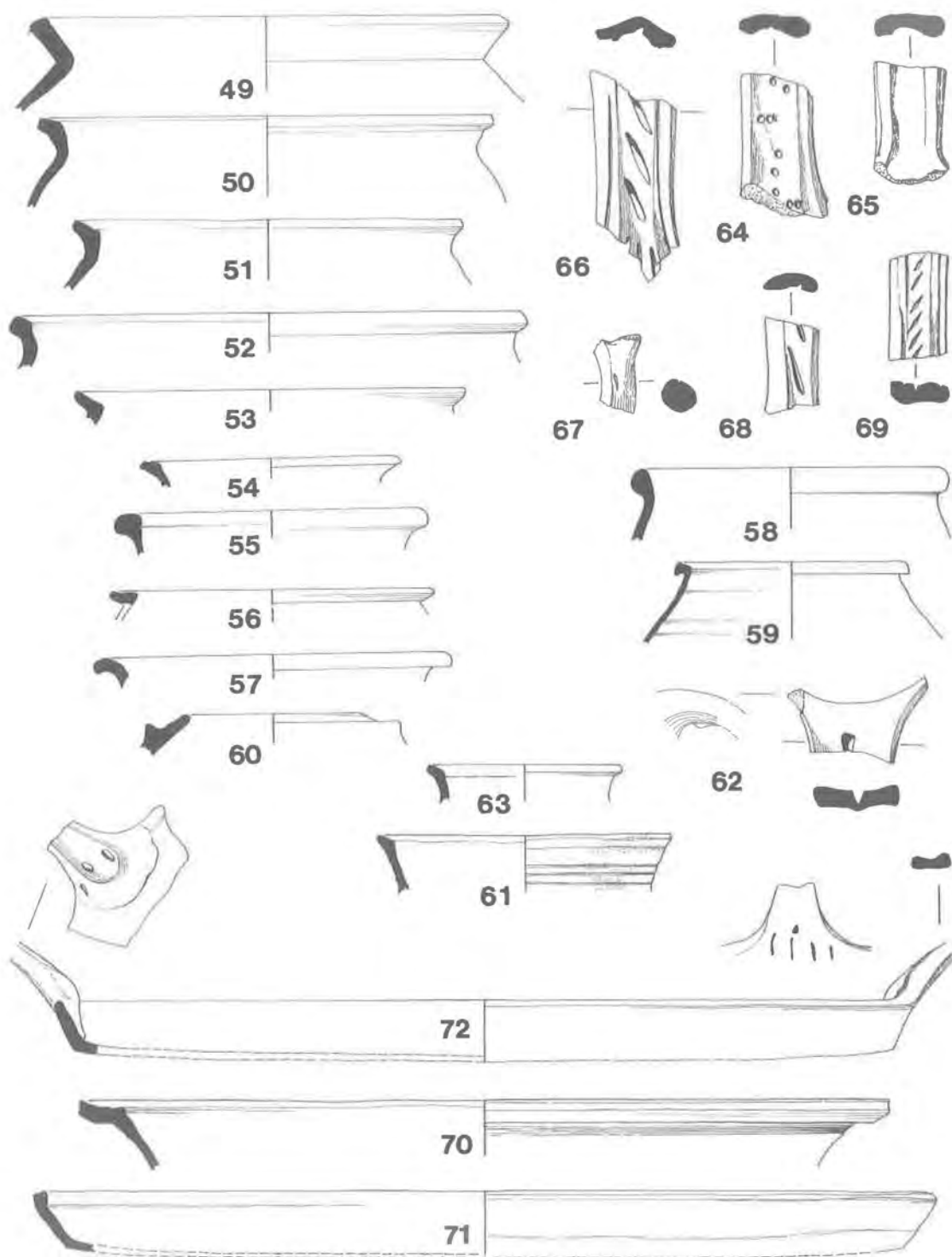


Fig. 9. Pottery 49 - 71 (Group II), scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

(iii) *Bowls*

- 45. Bead rim; D 52 cm; F6; Building 8 east of cistern on floor
- 46. Flanged rim; D 40 cm; F7; Building 4 on floor
- 47. Large pan, D 38 cm; F7; Building 2 on floor
- 48. Pan handle, slashed and thumbbed; F7; Building 2 on floor

Pottery from Yard Surfaces – Fig. 9, 49 - 71.

As larger amounts were involved, this material has been weighed.

Fabric	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F13
Grammes	10	50	10	220	510	50	10	255	3

(i) *Cooking pots*

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 49. D 29.5 cm; F10 | 50. D 28 cm; F10 |
| 51. D 24 cm; F10 | 52. D 32 cm; F10 |
| 53. D 24.1 cm; F10 | 54. D 16 cm; F10 |
| 55. D 19.3 cm; F6 | 56. D 20 cm; F4 |
| 57. D 22.1 cm; F7 | 58. D 19.6 cm; F7 |
| 59. D 14.5 cm; F7 | 60. D 15.8 cm; F7 |
| 61. D 18.2 cm; F7 | |

(ii) *Jugs*

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 62. Strap handle and rim junction; F10 | 63. Rim, D 12 cm; F10 |
| 64. Stabbed strap handle; F10 | 65. Plain strap handle; F7 |
| 66. Slashed strap handle; F7 | 67. Rod handle; F8 |
| 68. Slashed strap handle; F8 | 69. Fine slashed strap handle; F8 |

(iii) *Bowls and Pans*

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 70. Flanged bowl; D 50 cm; F7 | 71. Large pan; D 58 cm; F7 |
| 72. Large pan with handle; D 68.8 cm; F7 | |

Only one sherd of an imported ware was found on the site; this was a rilled wall-sherd of Sieburg stoneware of late fourteenth to fifteenth-century date. It was found on the yard surface north of Building 1.

(iv) *The Knight Aquamanile* (Fig. 5, A)

The middle part of a male torso, with the upper part of the legs remaining, wearing a tunic and sword belt, comes from an aquamanile in the form of a mounted knight or huntsman. The sword is worn on the left and the right hand is by the sword as if the rider is preparing to draw it. The sword is of cruciform type and the pommel is represented as a disc at right angles to the tang as on a rondel dagger. The front of the figure bears the impression of a saddle which confirms that the figure was mounted; a similar saddle can be seen on the aquamanile from Skipness Castle, Argyll. The body is hollow, the walls being on average 1 cm thick.

The fabric is a fine sand-tempered dark-grey with thin pink-buff surfaces and a mottled light olive green glaze. In appearance this fabric is identical to that of Potterspury jugs and its attribution to that source is further strengthened by the knife slash decoration on the legs, a characteristic feature of Potterspury products.⁸

Aquamaniles in the form of a knight on horseback are well known in bronze⁹ but much less so in pottery. It is not always evident that the rider was a knight, and only this Whaddon example and one other from Kings Lynn¹⁰ can be definitely attributed to this type. Other evidence of aquamaniles in the form of a horse and rider come from Stonar, Kent¹¹ and Skipness Castle, Argyll.¹² At Stonar, a

fragment of an imported French aquamanile depicts "a rider in a long coat and with a gauntleted hand holding a riding crop". The Argyll example consists of the head and forepart of a horse which clearly had a rider since it has reins and the front part of a saddle. A further aquamanile fragment in the form of a horse's head from Barrow on Humber, Lincs.¹³ may be of this type.

Roofing Materials

The evidence from the site confirms that the buildings were largely covered with stone roof slates, and to a lesser extent with plain red tiles. Green glazed crested ridge tiles were used on all the buildings and decorative finials on the main house and perhaps the gatehouse range. The fabric and glaze of the ridge tiles is mainly characteristic of the products of the Potterspury kilns, situated adjacent to the Watling Street, some six miles north-west of Whaddon, but not all may have come from this source.

Ridge Tiles (Fig. 10, 1 - 7)

There were five main types each defined by the individual characteristics of the knife-cut crests. The tiles were all sand moulded and the ridge crests appear to be applied rather than pulled up from the body of the tile.

Type 1 — Nos. 1 - 3

Knife-cut crest, evenly spaced 5.5 cm between centres, with flattened top 10 - 15 cm wide and with equal sloping sides, no. 1 or more vertical on one side, nos. 2 and 3 the strip being 25 cm at the lowest point of the cut. The surfaces are pink-buff to pale brick-red in colour with a thick grey core, and mottled olive green glaze.

Type 2 — No. 4

These have crests which are on average only 3.5 cm apart; the sides are cut almost vertical. The width of the crest strip is 5 cm at the top and 25 cm at the base of the cut.

Type 3 — Nos. 5 and 6

Here the crest strips are much narrower at the top, only 3 cm but 25 cm at the base of the cut as before. The crests are evenly spaced 5 cm apart and have fairly equal slopes as No. 5, or one slope more vertical than the other as no. 6.

Type 4 — No. 7

The crest is in the form of a rod handle with stabbed decoration. This form would have greatly facilitated the handling of the tiles. This type is uncommon in Buckinghamshire, but well known in the Midlands.¹⁴

Type 5 — No. 8

Plain ridge tiles (hip tiles?).

The distribution of the ridge tiles is shown in the following table. Tiles from yard surfaces have been allocated to the nearest building. Numbers are based on identifiable tile fragments. It is clear that all of the buildings on site had ridge tiles and the types were intermixed.

Type of Tile	Gatehouse Range	Buildings 1 & 2	Building 4/Kitchen
1	5	28	5
2	1	1	—
3	4	12	2
4	2	4	—
5	2	1	—

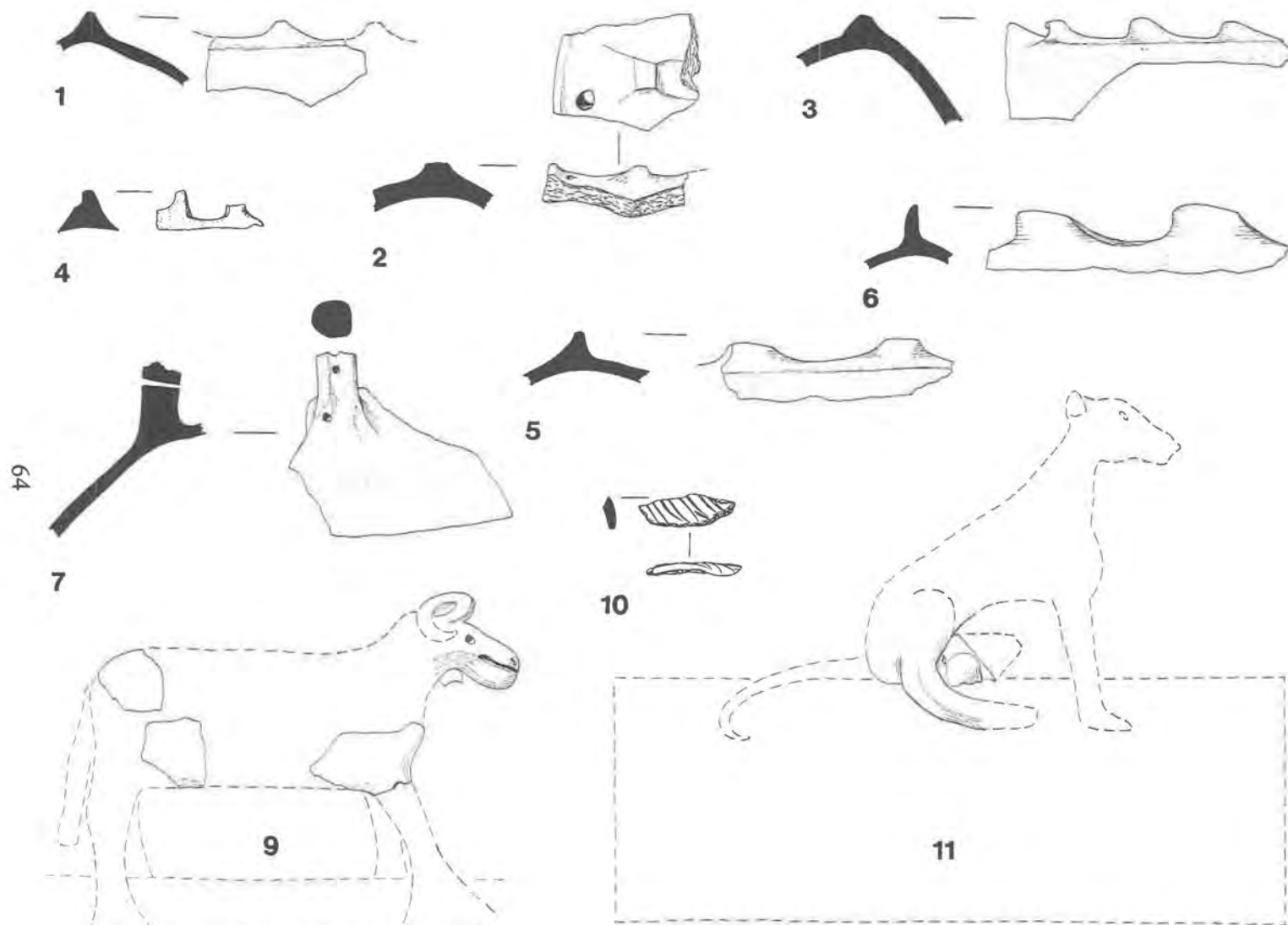


Fig. 10. Finials and Ridge tiles. (1/4 scale)

Flat Roof Tiles

A stack of at least thirty of these rectangular tiles was found stored under the stairs on the west side of the Building 1. They were 28 x 17 cm with two pierced holes 1.5 cm diameter and 7 cm apart, for suspension by wooden pegs or nails. Another fragment of this type of tile was found in Building 1.

Roof Finials (Fig. 10, 9 - 11)

Parts of three decorative finials were identified during a visit to the excavation by the late Dr. G.C. Dunning. The fabric and glaze is somewhat coarser than examples of ridge tiles from Potterspury and it may be that they are the product of another centre.

The Ram Finial - No. 9

A head and four body fragments from a ram. The head has tightly curled horns and a long full muzzle. The mouth is represented by a horizontal slash around the muzzle and the eyes are stabbed, one being pierced through. The horns were made separately and pushed onto the head and the junction smoothed over. Under the head another applied piece may have represented a bell. The four body sherds have a smooth glazed surface apart from one which is roughened and may have represented a woollen fleece. The fabric is fine sand-tempered with an occasional white calcareous grit. The colour is dark grey with a lighter margin externally and a brick-red surface. An olive-green glaze is present on all sherds but did not extend to the underside of the head or body. The head and sherds come from the area of Building 2 and three other smaller sherds found nearby may also be part of the same finial.

The Bird Finial - No. 10

This fragment is most likely from the wing of a bird, the fabric and glaze are similar to No. 11 although the glaze is richer and has a smoother surface. The sherd bears incised decoration representing feathers. This sherd was found at the north end of Building 1.

The Hunting Dog Finial - No. 11

This example shows the rear end of a dog which is sitting astride a ridge tile, with the body running along the length of it. The fabric and glaze are similar to No. 10, but the inner surface is oxidised to a pale brick-red.

The fragment represents the rear end of a dog's body with the upper part of the back legs, the body is hollow and the legs are applied as on No. 9. The sexual organs are very clearly represented and perhaps were somewhat exaggerated. Part has been broken away.

Discussion of Finds

The presence of these finial fragments at Whaddon confirm that the buildings were of some quality. The distribution of zoomorphic finials has been discussed by Dunning¹⁵ and Whaddon may be seen as a southern outlier of the midland distribution pattern that he originally suggested.¹⁶ The ceramic connection with the Midlands, suggested by the presence of ridge tiles type 5, being further confirmed by the evidence of these finials.

The Bird Finial, No. 10 is represented by a wing fragment similar to that of an unpublished example from an excavation also by Mr. Griffiths at Blakemore Castle, Whitchurch, Salop, dated to the 13th century by Dr. Dunning. Bird finials are rare in England and this is only the third example to come to my notice. In France and Holland they are more common, and the two main types were illustrated by Dunning in his paper on Dutch finials.¹⁷

The Dog Finial, (No. 11) is only the second example of this type to be reported; the first came from Worcester¹⁸ and represented a large hunting dog (greyhound) in an attacking attitude. The Whaddon example also represents a large hound but in a most restful stance. It may be that the hound represents those used for hunting by the local lord in the nearby Whaddon Chase.

The Ram Finial, (No. 9). The fragments found suggest that the ram stood lengthways along the ridge tile as do the cows in the examples in the Museum 'De Waag' in Deventer, Holland¹⁹ and the finials in situ on a roof at Ramsey, Hunts.²⁰

The Woodwork
by Paul A. Stamper

Catalogue (Fig. 11, 1 - 20)

1. Bowl, willow, c. 28.5 cm d. Now distorted, drawn as reconstructed. Possibly gouged out rather than lathe-turned.
2. Part of bowl, ash, c. 25 cm d. Smooth exterior, interior showing closely spaced turning lines.
3. Unfinished bowl, ash, c. 20.5 cm d. Interior showing pronounced regular turning lines, with some also evident on the exterior below rim. In the centre of the proud base-ring is an unremoved knob of wood from the original block from which the bowl was turned.
4. Part of bowl, ash, very similar form to 2 and conceivably part of the same vessel.
5. Part of bowl rim, ash.
6. Part of bowl rim, ash. Traces of closely-spaced turning lines on interior.
7. Fragment of shallow bowl or platter, ash.
8. Ash, c. 14 cm d. Unfinished, probably intended to be a lid.
9. Oak, c. 10 cm d. Possibly again part of a lid.
10. Barrel top, elm, c. 29 cm d. Cleft radially for cooperage.
11. Horse chestnut. Roughly worked, probably with chisel.
12. Ash, probably barrel-bung.
13. Oak. Barrel or bucket-stave, woodworm holes in exterior. Notched lid or base seating.
14. Ash. Part of roughly turned, unfinished, small shallow bowl. c. 17 cm d.
15. Fragment of chamfered plank or stave. Oak.
16. Ash. Part of the body of a finished bowl. Neither rim nor base is evidenced.
17. Ash block, roughly prepared for lathe. However, it has split down the middle along the grain of the wood and hence been discarded. The block was prepared by a 30 cm long section being cut from a large log c. 27 cm d, which then had the bark adzed off, the same tool probably being used to roughly round the two ends ready for lathing. The method is not certain, but if the resultant block was then cut in half across the grain, two bowls could then be turned from one rough-out.
18. Ash, roughly squared, the upper end chamfered to a shallow point, the lower being partly worked to a peg, but left unfinished. Function uncertain.
19. Oak. Thin bucket-stave fragment.
20. In addition to the wood illustrated a 15-cm long fragment of a horse chestnut branch, 4 cm d, with some bark remaining was found, this having cutting marks at one end.

Discussion of Finds

The Whaddon cistern group is a welcome addition to our knowledge of both the woodworking process, and the range of vessels likely to be found on a lesser seigneurial table. It seems unlikely that the wooden bowls made within the manorial complex would not be used therein. Le Patourel²¹ has discussed how atypical of the normal range of vessels in use in a medieval household archaeological assemblages may be owing to the absence of wooden, leather and metal vessels due to poor preservation or, in the case of metal vessels, later re-use. She has gone as far as to suggest that wood was probably the most commonly used material for containers in the medieval period, and gives as an example the early fifteenth-century account of the Waterton household.²²

Virtually all stages of lathe-turned bowl making are evidenced, from the roughed-out block (no. 17), via the unfinished bowl (nos. 3 and 14), to the finished products (nos. 2, 4, 5, 6).²³ These all show the fine, closely spaced turning marks produced by the lathe, these being more usually apparent on the inside. In general the exterior of the vessel has a very smooth surface. Evidently lidded vessels were also being made on the lathe, for two were found in the cistern (nos. 8 and 9), as well as platters (no. 7). The wood worker was evidently conversant with cooperage, for several staves from buckets or barrels were found (nos. 13, 15 and 19), along with part of a base (no. 10), and what is probably a

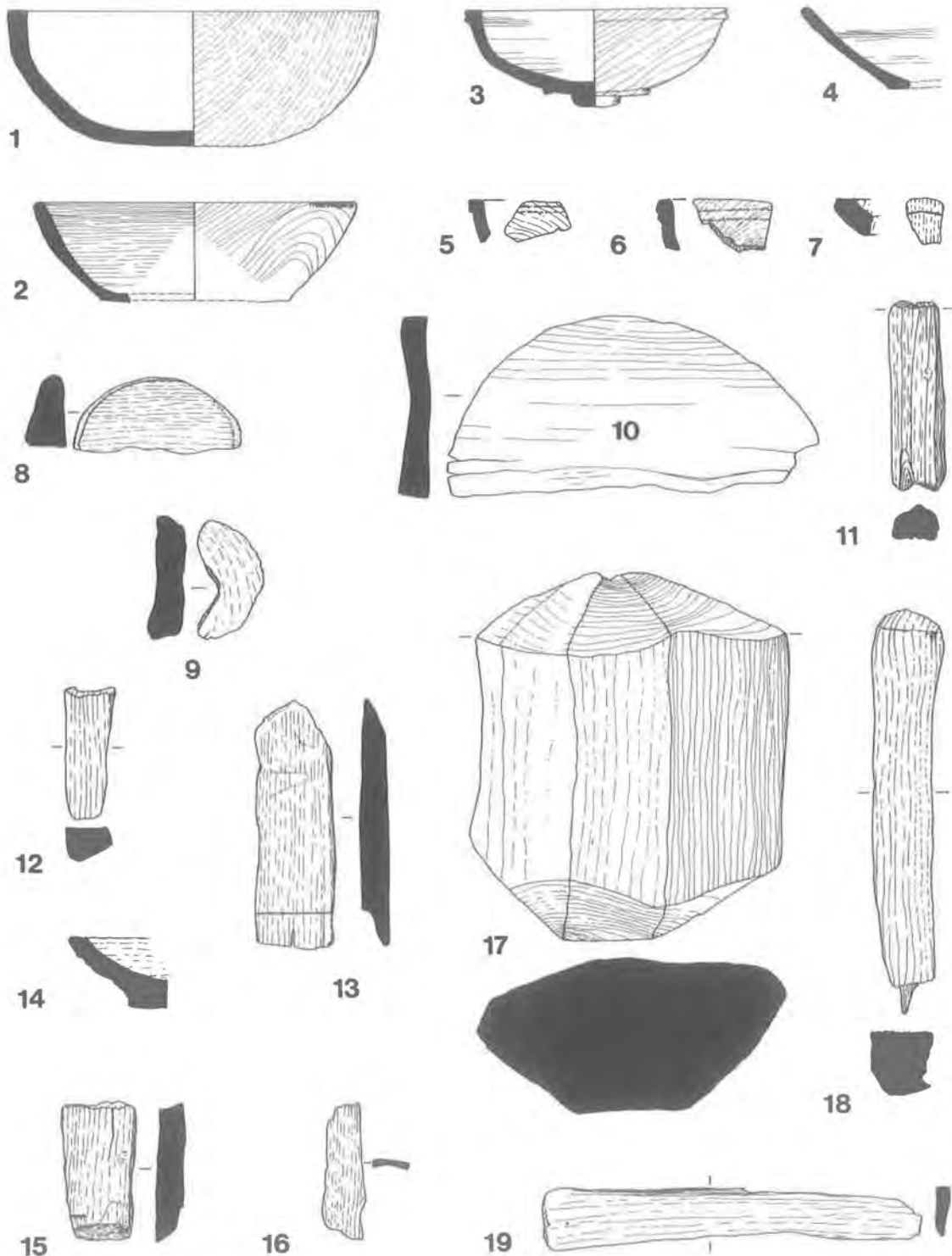


Fig. 11. Woodwork ($\frac{1}{4}$ scale).

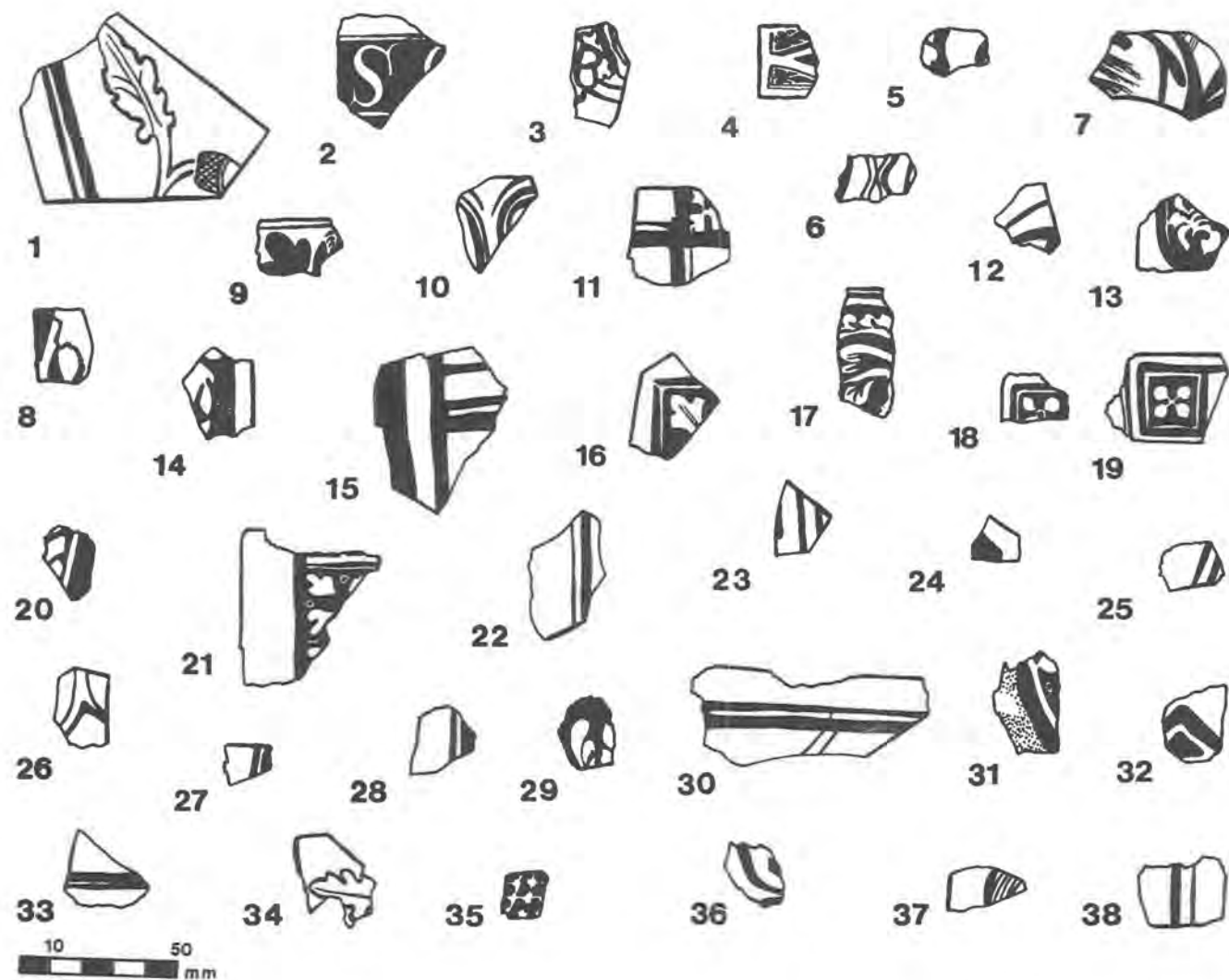


Fig. 12. Window glass.

barrel bung (no. 12). Vessels may also have been produced using a gouge (e.g. the bowl, no. 1), but the evidence is not unequivocal due to the specimen's relatively poor general state.

The pottery found in the cistern suggests a late fourteenth-century date for the deposit, and this is not contradicted by the form of the bowls. Various groups of wooden bowls have been found in the past, and whilst there is little variation in form, fabric or finish, similarities can be seen with the Southampton Cuckoo Lane A, pit 4 (late thirteenth-century)²⁴ which produced a similar range of finished woodwork to the above. Other groups are those from the Bank of England (fourteenth-century),²⁵ the Manor of the More, Herts., (1250 - 1350),²⁶ Weoley Castle, Birmingham (c. 1200 - 1230),²⁷ Pevensey Castle (early twelfth-century),²⁸ St. John's Castle, Oxford and Deddington Castle (twelfth-century),²⁹ Dublin³⁰ and York.³¹ More recently a single example from Oxford Castle, dated to the thirteenth to fifteenth-centuries has been published.³²

However, the Whaddon deposit is possibly unique in southern England in being directly a product of the manufacturing process. Only at York and Dublin has similar evidence been found, these being urban contexts, of an earlier date.³³ It seems unlikely that the Whaddon woodworker would be devoting his skills as a turner and cooper solely to supplying the household of the manor, and presumably the products were also marketed. How wide was their distribution is impossible to say; certainly wooden bowls, light and fairly robust, should have had a marketing area at least as extensive as coarse ceramic wares. This will remain a hypothetical model unless, by chance or design, more waterlogged medieval sites are excavated increasing the material available for study.

The species of wood in use³⁴ are those represented in groups elsewhere (see references), with ash being preferred for lathe-turned vessels, and oak for stave-built ones. Elsewhere, however, beech is used in lathe-turned vessels as often as ash. That it is unrepresented at Whaddon indicates a standard method of production with standard raw materials. Hence, bowl 1, of willow, and probably gouged rather than turned, may be seen as atypical of the woodworker's methods and materials.

Horse chestnut is not considered to have been introduced into Western Europe until the latter part of the sixteenth century and is not recorded in England until 1633. The two identified fragments in this Whaddon group, nos. 11 and 20, therefore cast doubt upon the interpretation of the contents of the cistern as a sealed deposit. One might accept 20 as an intrusive root fragment but 11 is worked and must surely be contemporary with the rest of the group. Either this represents an early example of horse chestnut in this country or the group represents re-use of this part of the gate-house range as a workshop in the seventeenth century.

Window Glass by Paul Woodfield

Discussion of Finds (Fig. 12, 1 - 38)

Sixty-six fragments of window glass of medieval type were recovered from the excavation. The glass came from the destruction level over the floor of Building 2 and at the north end of Building 1 and on the yard surface immediately west of these buildings. Their condition was normal for archaeological material; largely crystallised and laminated, and opaque to light, so that the original colour of the metal cannot in most cases be determined. 64 fragments were subsequently consolidated with PVA emulsion.

The glass is cast in sheets varying from 2.5 to 4.75 mm in thickness, and groased to fit the irregular patterning of the comes. Where it can be determined the basic metal is green, or blue-green, but pot-metal yellow can be detected on five pieces, half the number where the colour can be seen. One piece, no. 7, is a distinct indigo blue, and one further fragment contains an inclusion of brilliant red glass, which may well be there by accident, but indicates that red glass was available in the workshop at the time of manufacture. No piece is complete and unbroken, but no. 1 has but one break across the corner.

Of the 64 fragments, approximately 44 bear, on the inner face, line painting in iron oxide. The areas painted are indicated in black on the drawings. The patterns are generally lines and border motifs, but an oak spray, no. 1, fleur, no. 13, inscription, no. 2, and feathered forms, nos. 7, 17, and

30, can be seen. These forms, particularly the formalised leaf borders, the fleur, and the lacey plant forms, suggest a date in the late thirteenth to early fourteenth centuries. This dating is supported by the skeleton leaf, appearing at York c. 1340, and by the lack of any distinct architectural forms as would normally appear in later work. Pot-metal blue appears post 1250 and yellow before 1450, which is not inconsistent with a date in the first half of the fourteenth century.

The recovery of stained and painted glass from a secular context is of considerable interest, and may in itself explain the lack of any indication of figurative work such as is normally used for religious scenes.

Historical Evidence

by R. A. Croft

The village of Whaddon is central within the parish and situated on the side of the hill to the north of the church. The ground gently slopes away to the north and south of the main village/church focus. The site excavated was on the north side of the church in a prime position within the village.

It is fairly clear from the excavations that here is a fairly substantial group of medieval buildings. The plan is suggestive of a manorial complex and the excavator suggested that this was the site of the Giffard's manor house. After considerable documentary research it is now fairly certain that the site is not Giffard's manor, but more likely that of the earlier Whaddon Manor or a rectory/grange held by the monks of Newton Longville. Much of the following history is based upon information given in *V.C.H. Bucks*, Vol. IV., and the published Calendar series of the P.R.O.

The place-name Whaddon comes from the Old English *Hwaetaedun* meaning wheat hill.³⁵ The earliest documentary evidence for the place-name occurs in an Anglo Saxon will of 966 – 975 AD. This will of Aelfifu refers to numerous bequests of land to various religious houses . . . “and the estate at Whaddon to Christ and St. Mary at Romsey . . .”³⁶

Nothing substantial is known of Whaddon until 1086 when it is recorded in Domesday Book. The manor then belonged to Walter Giffard, and had, in Edward's time, belonged to Edward (Cilt), King Edward's Thane, who had the right to sell it. The precise relevance of the figures given in the Domesday Book to the physical appearance of the landscape in the middle of the eleventh century, has been the centre of considerable debate by archaeologists and historians in recent years.³⁷ The information given in the Domesday Book warrants an article in itself, so only broad generalisations will be made.³⁸

The figures for Whaddon are as follows:³⁹

23M Walter holds WHADDON himself. It answers for 10 hides. Land for 10 ploughs; in lordship 5 hides; 5 ploughs there. 14 villagers with 9 smallholders have 5 ploughs. 10 slaves; meadow for 10 ploughs, woodland 100 pigs. The total value is and always was £8. Young Edward, a thane of King Edward's, held this manor.”

It is clear from these figures that Whaddon was, in comparison with its surrounding parishes, fairly well populated with fourteen villeins enumerated (quite a high figure for north Bucks in general). It is worth noting that only half the area of Whaddon was held in Walter's lordship. The remaining part of Whaddon was held by the 14 villeins

and the 9 bordars. This fact may have influenced the later development of the manor where "Whaddon Manor" and "Giffard's Manor" suggest that two manors existed within Whaddon.

The distinction between these manors has proved extremely difficult to trace in the documentary record. This has resulted in inconclusive evidence as to the administrative boundaries of these manors, and this must, therefore, remain an enigma until additional documentary evidence can be used to clarify this problem. A further problem which adds to that of tracing the descent of the manors is that the manorial history of Nash is tied with that of Whaddon manor. No attempt has been made to investigate the history of Nash.

Whaddon manor was attached to the honour of Giffard until the honour escheated to the Crown in 1164 after the death of Walter Giffard, second Earl of Buckingham, son of the Domesday holder.⁴⁰ In 1191 the honour of Giffard was divided among its heirs and always afterwards held in chief. From this date, until the manor was granted in fee to Sir George Villiers in 1616, the descent of the manor is quite complex. For a full descent of Whaddon manor from 1164 to 1616 see *V.C.H.* IV, 436 - 437.

In 1240 Hugh Daubeney, the eighth earl of Arundel, was summoned to restore Whaddon to the Crown as an escheat of the Normans. It was granted in fee in 1242 to John Fitz Geoffrey, who was still holding it in 1255 - 6. It is in 1242 with the first mention of Robert Giffard and the subsequent 'Giffard's Manor' that the documentary record becomes fogged. A patent roll of 20th July 1242⁴¹ states the "appointment during pleasure of Robert Giffard to the custody of the manor of Whaddon; with mandate to the good men of Whaddon to be intendant to him. Mandate to the Sheriff of Buckingham to deliver the manor to him".

In the same year a Patent Roll of Nov, 14th⁴² describes a charter "granting to John son of Geoffrey the manor of Whaddon, which Hugh earl of Arundel surrendered to the king of the lands of Normans, to hold to him and his heirs as freely and wholly as William de Humeth held it in homages and services of free men, chaces and other liberties and free customs belonging thereto . . ."

The above references show that Whaddon Manor was still complete and held by John son of Geoffrey, but it was in the custody of Robert Giffard. This is the first mention of Robert Giffard as having any position of responsibility but the family of Giffard were settled in Whaddon early in the 13th-century. Geoffrey Giffard witnessed a charter concerning Snelshall Priory (in Whaddon Parish) at the beginning of that century, and in 1232 he conveyed a virgate of land in Nash to Emma daughter of Walter le Blund. No mention is made of Robert Giffard building a manor house, but it is reasonable to assume that as custodian of Whaddon Chase he built himself and his family some sort of 'mansion house' sometime in the middle of the thirteenth century. In 1278 - 9 Robert Giffard is returned as holding 1½ virgates by petty serjeanty paying 3d a year and rendering customary servies. He has housebote and heybote in the lord's wood and his beasts go with his Lord's to pasture. This reference states that Robert Giffard had permission to remove timber for the repair of his house, so it is reasonable to assume that his house was fairly substantial by this date to warrant royal permission for its upkeep.

It was Willis who first suggests that the yard and a half held by Robert Giffard was the land later occupied by Whaddon Hall.⁴³ "This yard and a half seems, as I may

judge, to contain the whole site of Whaddon Hall grounds before the Lord Grey got Old Lands and Old Land Meadow added to them in the time of Queen Elizabeth. On this site was built the capital messuage now called Whaddon Hall". The Victoria County History suggests, following the observations of Willis, that it is this holding which may be the origin of 'Giffard's Manor' as it was later known. The custody of the Chase⁴⁴ remained with the Giffards until the second half of the fifteenth century when an heiress carried it in marriage to Robert Pigott. As custodians of the Chase the Giffard family would have had considerable influence over the social organisation of the manor and it is quite feasible that their domestic residence was related to their social status. The history of Whaddon Manor given in sixteenth century documents seems to confirm the idea that the buildings of Whaddon Hall and Giffard's Manor were somewhere in the grounds of the park.⁴⁵

The earliest reference to a park as distinct from the Chase is in 1279 when half a hide of the demesne lands of the lord of Whaddon was said to be park. In 1330 the herbage was worth 40s annually and the park always remained part of the demesne of the Manor. The office of parker was distinct from that of custodian of the Chase and in 1382 Nicholas Knoll, the late parker and surveyor of the Chase, had rights to certain customary dues. He also had a room and stabling and provender for one horse within the manor by reason of his office.

Discussion

Early antiquarians such as Willis, Cole and Lipscomb tended to assume that the later buildings at Whaddon Hall were built on the site of the Giffard's and, later, the Pigott's manor house. If this is true, then the buildings excavated are not those of the Giffard's Manor House since they are over half a kilometre from the present manor house and grounds known as Whaddon Hall.

A survey of 1541⁴⁶ describes the following "a fair old mansion place builded of stone and brick and covered with tile, wherein is a fair old large hall and a chapel with fair parlours, lodgings, butteries, etc. . . ." all in good repair; a garden, gallery, dove house and stables are also described in this survey. Sometime after this date Arthur, fourteenth Lord Grey de Wilton,⁴⁷ thought that the situation of Whaddon was better than that of Water Hall in Bletchley Parish, and he instigated an extensive rebuilding programme at Whaddon Hall. He is supposed to have been visited here by Queen Elizabeth I.

The main difficulty arises in attempting to fit the historical evidence with the archaeological evidence. The archaeological evidence suggests that serious occupation on this site finished sometime during the late fourteenth century to the early fifteenth century. There is no evidence (as yet) which describes the site of the manor moving from one part of the village to the other. The association between Giffard's Manor, Whaddon Park and Whaddon Chase in the documentary record, surely confirms that Giffard's Manor is somewhere in the grounds of the present Whaddon Hall. If the buildings excavated are not Giffard's Manor House, then the problem arises as to who owned them and what was their function?

H.E. Salter in his introduction to the Newton Longville Charters describes the holdings of the monks of Newton Longville in Whaddon.⁴⁸ In the early years of the twelfth century Walter Giffard granted the church of Whaddon to the Priory of St. Faith at Longueville in Normandy⁴⁹ and by the middle of the century his son had granted

them land at Newton Longville for the establishment of a daughter house to which the church of Whaddon with the tithes of the demesne and of the profit of the woodland was granted.⁵⁰

During the episcopate of Bishop Hugh (1186 - 1200) the monks were granted an appropriation of the church and became owners of the rectorial glebe and great tithes, and a vicarage was appointed by Bishop Hugo Welles about 1216. The rectory is worth £10 in the taxation of 1291. The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 puts the value at £13. 3s. 9d. Further rentals given in the Newton Longville Charters have higher values, in one the rectory is valued at £13. 6s. 8d. and the rent of land at £1. 6s. 8d.; in the other the rectory is put at £20 and the rent at £2.

It is likely that Newton Longville Priory had a rectory or grange-type complex here at Whaddon where they could collect their tithes of the demesne and the wood. The excavated site just to the north of the church is an ideal location for such a building. The plan (Fig. 2) could equally well be interpreted as that of a monastic grange or a manor.⁵¹

A further suggestion as to the nature of the buildings is that they are part of the original manor complex of Whaddon, that is "Whaddon Manor" as distinct from that of the Giffards. "Giffard's Manor" was a thirteenth-century subinfeudation, its origins and function connected with the organisation and management of Whaddon Chase. It prospered within the grounds of the Chase and it is clear from early antiquarians that Giffard's Manor was the one rebuilt by numerous owners in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Little mention is made of the buildings of Whaddon Manor. It would appear that its importance declined in the village probably as a result of absentee lords during the fourteenth century.

In conclusion, it would seem fairly clear from the documentary outline given above that the excavated remains are not those of Giffard's Manor House. Without considerable further research it is not possible to determine whether the site is that of Whaddon Manor or of a rectory-type grange belonging to Newton Longville priory.

Note

The identification of the building complex revealed by these excavations presents perplexing problems. In discussion with Mr. Croft I have put forward a deviant conclusion, which he has asked me to state.

Of the ten hides that Whaddon answered for in 1086, five, comprising five ploughlands, were in a demesne manor which may confidently be identified with Nash; (*Records* XVI, 1960, 347 - 50); the other five hides were in Whaddon itself, and appear to have consisted entirely, or almost, of tenant land.

Before the Conquest, all this had been in the ownership of Edward Cilt, a thegn of King Edward who had passed into the service of King Harold. He was an important landowner in the neighbourhood, having also the great manor of Wing, and Singleborough, Newton Longville and Woolstone. In passing, it is worth noting that the owner of Great Horwood was Alward Cilt.

No mention is made in Domesday Book of a chase or park; it may well be, however, that they were laid out at the same time that a new farming unit was developed at Nash, which must have been some considerable time before the Conquest, for its assessment is that of a fully going concern. The bounds of the Chase show that whoever set it up must have had control of Singleborough and Great Horwood, which Edward Cilt's predecessor — his father perhaps — had apparently possessed. The bounds of the Chase are printed in full in *V.C.H. Bucks* iii, 438, from a survey in 1608.

Though at no time relevant to us was there a resident lord, there must always have been a hall, for the hall was the manorial estate office and court of justice; it was also the point of contact with the sheriff or any other royal servant who might come there to collect taxes, or to deliver mandates, writs or other legal process. It must therefore have always been occupied and open for business, and the grant of custody to Robert Giffard in 1242 confirmed a previous and possibly long-established set-up.

When Walter Giffard II founded Longeville Priory in Normandy, he endowed it handsomely; from his fees in Bucks he gave the tithes of most of the demesnes, and the manors and churches of Great Horwood and Newton, which became known as Newington Longeville. There the priory installed two monks to reside, for the purpose of getting in these profits and exercising the functions of lordship in the two manors. At a much later date, Walter III gave them the church of Whaddon, which brought them the rectory, the tithes of Whaddon and Nash, the offerings in the church, and the revenue of the glebe land. Out of this they had to pay a minimum wage for a vicar to do the duty.

We have two official figures for the net value of Whaddon rectory; £10 in 1291, and £13. 3. 9 in 1535, from the *Taxatio Nicholai* and *Valor Ecclesiasticus* respectively, both cited by Mr. Croft. When it is considered that the gross receipts included the tithes of ten ploughlands in Whaddon and Nash and whatever tithe could be got from the chase and park, these figures do not suggest that the glebe was at all considerable. It is unlikely that the caretaker monks ever farmed glebes: there was always a ready market in their leases. A mid-fourteenth-century rental shows their having done so, at a yearly rent of £2. (*Newington Longeville Charters*, ed. Salter, no. 149).

The workshops here revealed can only have been appropriate to a large estate. Buildings, carts, ploughs and tools could have been repaired, or even made in them. They may well have been handsome for Whaddon and Nash: for the rectory they would surely have been oversize. I cannot help thinking, therefore, that this whole complex is that of Whaddon manor-house, occupied and administered for so long by the Giffards that it came to be regarded as theirs and was called by their name. But upon what occasion and for what reason it was abandoned yet remains to be found out.

G.R.E.

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NOTES

1. Information from the builders' solicitors to the excavator.
2. Kindly provided free of charge by Mr. Aubrey Coleman of Salden.
3. I.H. Goodall in G. Beresford, "The Medieval Clay Land Village", *Med. Arch. Monograph* No. 6 London 1975 p. 83 and Fig. 39, 47 and 48.
4. I.H. Goodall in E. Russell "Excavations on the site of the Deserted Village of Kettleby Thorpe, Lincolnshire", *Journ. of Scunthorpe Museum Soc. Series 3 (Archaeology)* No. 2 (1972), 34 and Fig. 19, 35.
5. D.C. Mynard, "Rescue excavations at the Deserted Medieval Village of Stantonbury, Bucks.", *Recs. Bucks* XIX (1971), 24 - 32.
6. D.C. Mynard and R. Cain, "Rescue Excavations at Thornton, Bucks. 1974", *Milton Keynes Journal* 3, (1974).
7. R.A. Hall, "An Excavation at Hunter Street, Buckingham, 1974", *Recs. Bucks* XX part 1 (1975), vide p. 106 - 120.
8. D.C. Mynard, "Medieval Pottery of Potterspury type", *Bulletin of the Northamptonshire Federation of Arch. Soc.* 4 (1970), 49 - 55.
9. *British Museum Guide to the Medieval Antiquities*, 1924, 267.
10. H. Clarke and A. Carter, "Excavations in Kings Lynn 1963 - 1970" *Medieval Archaeol. Monograph* No. 7, pp. 209 and Fig. 92.
11. R.L.S. Bruce Mitford, "A Medieval Polychrome Pottery Aquamanile from Stonar, Kent", *Brit. Mus. Quarterly*, (1941 - 50), 80.
12. J.G. Dunbar, "A Fragment of a Medieval Aquamanile from Skipness Castle, Argyll", *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scotland*, 99 (1966 - 7), 263 - 4.
13. C.M. Wilson, "Archaeological Notes 1967", *Lincs. Hist. and Archaeol.* 3 (1968), 19 - 39, fig IV.5.
14. S.E. West, "Griff Manor House (Sudeley Castle) Warwickshire", *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, 31, (1968), 76 - 110, v. p. 87 and Fig. 5, B-E.
15. G.C. Dunning, "A Zoomorphic Roof-Finial from Churchfield near Lyveden", *Northants Mus. Journ.* 12 (1975), 103 - 5.
16. G.C. Dunning, "Pottery Roof-Finials found at Worcester and Pershore", *Trans. Worc. Arch. Soc. I.* (1965 - 7), 48 - 54.
17. G.C. Dunning, "Medieval Pottery Roof Ventilators and Finials from Aardenburg, Zeeland and Post-Medieval Finials from Deventer, Overijssel", *R.O.B.* 1968.
18. *Op. cit.* in note 14 above.
19. *Op. cit.* in note 15 above, pp. 219 and Fig. 11.
20. *Ibid.* p. 220 and Plate LXXV.
21. H.E.J. Le Patourel, "Documentary Evidence and the Medieval Pottery Industry", *Med. Arch.* XII (1968), 101 - 26; H.E.J. Le Patourel, "Pottery as Evidence for Social and Economic Change" in P. Sawyer, (ed.), *Medieval Settlement*, (London, 1976), 169 - 179.
22. *Ibid.* 1976, p. 170.
23. A thirteenth-century French manuscript illumination showing a foot-turned lathe in operation is reproduced on p. 172 of L.F. Salzman, *English Industries of the Middle Ages* (revised edition 1923, Oxford).
24. C.P.S. Platt and R. Coleman-Smith, *Excavations in Medieval Southampton*, Vol. II The Finds, (Leicester University Press, 1975), 228 - 31.
25. G.C. Dunning, "A Fourteenth-century Well at the Bank of England", *Antiq. J.* XVII (1937), 414 - 8.
26. M. Biddle, L. Barfield and A. Millard, "The Excavation of the Manor of the More, Rickmansworth, Herts", *Arch. Journ.* CXVI, (1959), 136 - 99, esp. fig. 18.
27. A. Oswald, "Excavation of a Thirteenth-century Wooden Building at Weoley Castle, Birmingham, 1960 - 61", *Med. Arch.* VI - VII, (1962 - 3), 109 - 34, esp. fig. 51.
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29. E.M. Jope, H.M. Jope and S.E. Rigold, "Pottery from a late Twelfth-century Well-filling and other Medieval Finds from St. John's College, Oxford, 1947", *Oxon.* XV, (1950), 44 - 62.
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31. A. MacGregor, "Industry and Commerce in Anglo-Scandinavian York" in R.A. Hall, (ed.), *Viking Age York and the North*, CBA Research Report No. 27 (1978), 48 - 51.
32. T.G. Hassall, "Excavations at Oxford Castle 1965 - 73", *Oxon.* XLI, (1976), 271, fig. 16.3.
33. *Op. cit.* notes 10 and 11, Salzman, *op. cit.* note 3, p. 173 suggests from the documentary evidence that Cleobury Mortimer is another possible manufacturing centre.
34. The identifications were made by the B.R.E. Laboratories, to whom I am indebted.
35. E. Ekwall, *The Oxford Dictionary of Place-names*, 4th Edition, 1970, 510.
36. D. Whitelock, *Anglo-Saxon Wills* 1930, 20 - 23.
37. S.P.J. Harvey, "Evidence for Settlement Study: Domesday Book" in P. Sawyer Ed. *Medieval Settlement - Continuity and Change*, 1976, 195 - 199.
38. The article by G.R. Elvey, "Buckinghamshire in 1086" *Recs. Bucks* XVI, 1960, 342 - 362, is an excellent study on Buckinghamshire and this article is recommended to give the background to Eleventh-century rural landscape.
39. The figures and text are taken from J. Morris, Ed. *Domesday Book, Buckinghamshire*, 1978, p. 14, 23.
40. *V.C.H. Bucks*, IV, 436.
41. *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, Henry III 1232 - 1247, p. 300.
42. *Cal. of Pat.* Henry III 1232 - 1247, p. 346.
43. British Museum Additional Manuscript 5840, p. 275.
44. The history of Whaddon Chase, a royal estate, the origins of which date from the Anglo-Saxon period, is an important source of evidence for tracing the descent of the Manor. Its economic importance both to Whaddon Manor and to the surrounding manors resulted in numerous disputes in the medieval period, a swainmote court was held as late as the reign of Henry VIII, *V.C.H. Bucks*, II, 137.
45. *V.C.H. Bucks*, IV, 438.
46. *V.C.H. Bucks*, IV, 435.
47. He died in 1593.
48. H.E. Salter, *Newington Longeville Charters*, Oxford Record Society, III, 1921, xx.
49. *V.C.H. Bucks*, III, 441.
50. *V.C.H. Bucks*, I, 395.
51. For comparison and notes on granges see: C. Platt, *The Monastic Grange in Medieval England*, 1969.

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