# GGP2 (OX)

# **EXCAVATIONS AT GLYMPTON PARK, OXFORDSHIRE**

by

C Cropper and A Hardy

OAU

August 1997

# Excavations at Glympton Park, Oxfordshire

by C Cropper and A Hardy

with contributions by A J Barclay, P Booth, A Boyle, P Bradley, F Roe and L Whittingham

## LIST OF CONTENTS

1	Summ	ary				
2	Locati	on and g	geology			
3			archaeological background			
4		dology				
5	Archa	eologica	al description			
	5.1					
	5.2	Medieval activity				
	5.3	Post-medieval activity				
	5.4	Moder	n activity			
6	The ar	tefacts				
	6.1	The Iron Age pottery by Paul Booth				
		6.1.1	Introduction and methodology			
		6.1.2	Context and condition			
		6.1.3	Fabrics and surface treatment			
		6.1.4	Vessel forms			
		6.1.5	Illustrated vessels			
		6.1.6	Discussion			
	6.2	The stone axe fragment by Fiona Roe				
	6.3	The fired clay by AJ Barclay				
	6.4	The medieval pottery by Lucy Whitt				
		6.4.1	Discussion			
	6.5	The sn	nall finds catalogue by Angela Boyle			

# Bibliography

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Quantification (number and weight) of fired clay by context

# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench plan: Iron Age and later features
Figure 3	Plan and sections of Iron Age pits
Figure 4	Plan of medieval and later features
Figure 5	Sections 6, 17 and 35
Figure 6	Iron Age pottery

Discussions and conclusions

#### 1 Summary

In 1994 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an excavation on the site of the proposed new estate office in the grounds of Glympton Park, near Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Evidence of Iron Age activity suggestive of a nearby settlement was recovered. Plot boundary walls relating to the cleared medieval village were revealed, as were the footings of post-medieval estate buildings and a recently demolished 19th-century bungalow.

## 2 Location and geology (Fig. 1)

The site lies on the edge of a scarp (c. 106 m OD), above the River Glyme at NGR SP 424218 immediately to the north of the 12th-century church which is the only surviving building of the cleared medieval village of Glympton. The geology is limestone of the Great Oolite series, with linear lenses of sandy silt.

### 3 Historical and archaeological background

The first documentary reference to the village dates from 1050, when one 'Aegelric of Glympton' was witness to a charter (Cod. Dipl. ed. Kemble, iv, 285), and by 1086 the settlement was well established, assessed in Domesday at ten hides, and cultivated by 26 men (VCH, Oxon, i, 427). In the 17th century the village was relocated to its present position when William Wheate created a park around the Manor House. The 12th-century church remained in its original position.

The OAU carried out an archaeological evaluation of the site in 1993, and this revealed evidence for medieval buildings and possible Romano-British activity (OAU 1993). It was subsequently decided that this level of activity justified area excavation which was carried out in 1994. Further Romano-British evidence recovered during excavation comprised only a few residual sherds from medieval and post-medieval contexts. The recovery of Iron Age material was unexpected.

#### 4 Methodology

An area of approximately 500 m<sup>2</sup> was mechanically stripped of modern topsoil and overburden. All archaeological deposits were manually cleaned, recorded and at least half-sectioned. In this report the post-medieval and modern deposits and structures receive minimal consideration as their archaeological significance is low compared to that of Iron Age and medieval remains.

#### 5 Archaeological description

The overburden and topsoil had a maximum depth of 0.3 m. This fact, combined with the considerable disturbance over the eastern half of the site by post-medieval and modern building, indicated that the survival of significant stratified medieval and earlier deposits was unlikely, except in large negative features. This proved to be the case during the excavation, and has

implications for the archaeological potential of areas beyond the trench.

### 5.1 Iron Age activity (Figs 2-3)

A cluster of six small sub-circular pits were cut into a band of sandy silt which overlay the natural combrash. The pits measured on average 0.70 m in diameter and 0.40 m in depth. Four of them, 117, 119, 413 and 415, (Fig. 3), were intercutting, suggesting some continuity of activity. A further pit, 165, situated directly to the west of 119, is probably associated though the relationship between these two features is uncertain. A discrete pit, 121, also of middle Iron Age date, was situated a little further to the west of pit 119.

The fills of the pits were commonly of a dark reddish brown silty clay, with occasional inclusions of small limestone pieces. Three of the pits contained early/middle Iron Age pottery, and in the case of the discrete pit 115, a virtually complete pot was recovered (see below & Fig. 6). Approximately 850 g of fired clay was also recovered from this pit and some pieces show clear wattle marks and smoothed faces (see below).

A scatter of five postholes, 231, 233, 237, 388, 400, and a further pit, 235, were located slightly further to the west. The posthole fills were very similar to those of the pits described above, and on this basis they have been assigned an Iron Age date. Their spatial arrangement did not suggest that they were part of a structure.

## 5.2 Medieval activity (Figs 4-5)

In the eastern half of the site the shallow limestone footings of a wall, (157, 309; wall cuts 156 and 308 respectively), were revealed. These were set within a shallow trench, orientated north-south, and extended from the edge of the scarp, on the north edge of the site, for a distance of 17.5 m. To the north, (see section 6, Fig. 5), the footings were overlaid by a general post-medieval ground layer, (130), and cut into the natural subsoil and combrash (163 and 164 respectively). The unworked limestone slabs were bonded in a matrix of dark reddish brown clay (see section 35, Fig 5). The southern end of this wall appeared to join to another stone footing 185 (wall cut 188, including fill 354) and 221, of similar construction and size, extending eastwards to the edge of the site. Unfortunately the relationship between the two walls had been destroyed by later activity, but it is likely that they were contemporary in use, if not in build. No dating material was recovered from the excavated parts of the footings.

There was some indication that the wall 157 continued beyond the junction with 185 and to the southern edge of the site, but the ground at this point was so disturbed by later activity that no definite conclusion was reached.

The west edge of a possible robbed-out wall (370) was revealed at the eastern edge of the site. It appeared to return to the south. No extant floor surfaces relating to the walls were identified at any

point, suggesting that the site was levelled after the demolition prior to the construction of the post-medieval building.

In the angle formed by wall 157 and 185 was a large sub-rectangular pit, 223, which measured approximately 4.2 m in width and 0.8 m in depth. The sides were stepped to a flat bottom. The silty clay lower fills of the pit produced 12th-13th-century pottery and a modest quantity of animal bone. Two further upper fills, 224 and 225 within the eastern half of pit 223, can be seen in figure 4. Around the western half of the pit perimeter, and within top fills 319 and 320, was a substantial spread of small to medium limestone rubble, 321. This was overlain by a post-medieval/modern occupation layer, 352 (Fig. 5, section 17). Rubble spread 321 probably represents consolidation of the area after the pit had gone out of use, although it is possible that the material was used to consolidate the edge of the open pit. The rubble spread, 321, abutted the wall 185 (wall cut 188). Two inter-cutting stone-packed postholes, 279, 281, were located on the north-west side of the pit, partly truncated by post-medieval activity. These may have had a structural function relating to the pit.

A scatter of postholes was located in the western half of the site (Fig. 2), with a common fill of a dark brown silty clay. No clear structural implications could be deduced from their spatial arrangement.

A large sub-rectangular quarry pit, 123, was located between these postholes and the north-south aligned wall 157. It was cut into the exposed ridge of cornbrash which runs across the site from north-west to south-east. Late 14th-century pottery was recovered from the backfill of this feature.

### 5.3 Post-medieval activity (Fig. 4)

The limestone rubble footings of a rectangular building comprising three cells overlaid the northern half of the large medieval pit 223. The western cell appeared to be the original structure, while the central and eastern cells represented a later addition. No floor surfaces were evident within the structure, but remnants of wooden doorjambs were found embedded in the party walls. A large brick-built cistern was present within the eastern cell.

### 5.4 Modern activity

The partially exposed footings of the bungalow lay immediately south of the post-medieval structure. The exposed footings comprised a rectangular mortared limestone structure, with a brick-built extension to the west. The building evidently continued beyond the trench to the east. The south-east corner of the post-medieval building was cut by the construction of the bungalow, indicating that the two buildings were not contemporary in use.

A scatter of postholes, mostly square in plan, were revealed in the western half of the site. All had a common fill of loose, dark brown silty loam. Five of them were in a north-south alignment,

suggesting that they may have formed a garden structure of some kind. A few sherds of modern pottery and tile were retrieved from these features.

- 6 The artefacts
- 6.1 The Iron Age pottery by Paul Booth

### 6.1.1 Introduction and methodology

Some 96 sherds of Iron Age pottery, weighing 2159 g, were recovered, much of it from a single vessel. The assemblage, probably of Middle Iron Age date, was not analyzed in great detail owing to its small size, but is of some interest because of the relative scarcity of comparable material away from the Thames Valley to the south. The pottery was scanned quite briefly and characteristics of fabric (identified using a binocular microscope at x20 magnification), vessel form and decoration (where present) were noted. These details are contained in the project archive. Quantification of fabrics was by sherd count and weight. Vessel numbers were based on a count of rim sherds.

#### 6.1.2 Context and condition

The material came from the small cluster of Iron Age features, with the great majority (over 91% by weight) from a single pit fill, 114. Much of the latter was from one vessel, which accounted for c. 69% of all sherds and c. 80% of the total weight of pottery from the site. The sherds were in moderate condition; surfaces were reasonably well-preserved, to the extent that burnishing would probably have survived had it been present. The average sherd weight from groups other than 114 was almost 15 g, indicating that the pottery was not very badly broken up. Nevertheless it is clear that there was some disturbance of Iron Age features, since the group from 116 contained an intrusive medieval sherd. Conversely, however, no residual Iron Age sherds were noted in medieval contexts.

#### 6.1.3 Fabrics and surface treatment

The notation of fabrics was in terms of their two principal inclusion types (eg A - quartz sand; S - shell) with a numeric indicator of coarseness (on a scale of 1: very fine - 5: very coarse). All the sherds were in variants of a single basic fabric, in which the principal tempering agent was coarse, fossil shell (inclusion type T), presumably derived from locally available limestone. This occurred in conjunction with small rounded calcareous grits (C) or quartz sand (A), or sometimes with no other discernible inclusions (N). Sparse mica was a further component in some but not all sherds. Voids apparent in both surfaces and fractures of a few sherds were almost certainly caused by the leaching out of shell.

The approximate breakdown of fabrics by sherd count and weight was as follows:

Fabric TA5. 2 sherds, 21 g. Fabric TC5. 81 sherds, 1999 g. Fabric TN5. 10 sherds, 89 g. Fabric TN4. 3 sherds, 50 g.

Firing of all fabrics was irregular, with oxidised and unoxidised patches apparent both internally and externally on some sherds and particularly evident on vessel No. 3, of which relatively large parts survived. Surface treatment seems generally to have been confined to rudimentary wiping and smoothing. The latter was most apparent in one large sherd of fabric TN4, where noticeably more care was taken to ensure smooth surfaces and an even sherd thickness (6-7 mm) than in other fabrics, which were generally used for thicker-walled vessels. There was no clear evidence that even this sherd had been burnished, however. Roughly vertical wiping was apparent on a number of sherds. In some cases this produced an impression almost of incised lines, reminiscent and perhaps imitative of the scored decoration found further east and north (Elsdon 1992). While it is not certain that a deliberate decorative effect was being sought here, this is likely (see below).

#### 6.1.4 Vessel forms

Only four (possibly five) different vessels were represented by rim sherds. All were simple forms, three being roughly barrel-shaped with very slight definition of the base of the base of the rim and the fourth having a simple squared rim with no definition of a neck of any kind. None of these forms is particularly diagnostic of date, though all can be paralleled in Middle Iron Age assemblages in the region.

### 6.1.5 Illustrated vessels (Fig. 6)

- 1. Fabric TC5, unevenly fired but generally dark brown to black. The form, apparently almost vertical sided in the upper parts, is uncertain because insufficient of the rim survives to allow the angle to be judged with confidence. Slight indications of vertical scratching/scoring. Pit fill 114.
- 2. Fabric TC5, irregularly fired both internally and externally. Simple roughly barrel-shaped jar with upright rim and flat base. Irregular, roughly vertical scratching/scoring. Pit fill 114.
- 3. Fabric TA5, oxidised (red-brown) interior and exterior with dark grey-brown core. The quartz sand inclusions are very sparse. Simple jar form. Pit fill 114.
- 4. Fabric TA5, dark greyish-brown to black. Fairly fine despite inclusion size and more sandy than No. 3, though shell inclusions are still dominant. Simple jar form as No. 3. Pit fill 116.

#### 6.1.6 Discussion

The principal question relating to the assemblage is that of its date, upon which considerations of

fabric, form and decoration all have a bearing.

The fabric of all the sherds is broadly similar and presumably indicates a relatively local origin for the pottery, since the principal inclusions were readily derived from locally available materials. At Rollright, shelly limestone and other shelly wares, thought to be derived from local Jurassic limestone, accounted for 80% of all the Iron Age pottery (Lambrick 1988, 93). In the Upper Thames Valley to the south of Glympton shell-tempered fabrics are particularly characteristic of the Early Iron Age. This is demonstrated both amongst published material and in large unpublished assemblages such as those from Yarnton (Worton Rectory Farm) and Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt. The extent to which such fabrics continued in use in the Middle Iron Age, during which time sand-tempered fabrics became dominant, is still uncertain, however, as it is unclear whether or not Middle Iron Age occurrences of shell-tempered fabrics are residual. Such occurrences can be shown to decline steadily during the Middle Iron Age at some sites (Lambrick 1984, 165-166), though at Farmoor the distinction between shell-tempering-dominated fabrics in the Early Iron Age and other fabrics in the Middle Iron Age was more clear cut (Lambrick 1979, 37-39). Shell-tempered fabrics were effectively absent from later Middle Iron Age assemblages such as that at Watkins Farm, Northmoor (Allen 1990, 32).

North of the Thames Valley, however, two variations from this pattern can be observed. Firstly, shell-tempered fabrics differ from those within the valley in a more extensive use of fossil shell. Secondly, they appear to have continued in use well into the Middle Iron Age, though the paucity of adequately recorded assemblages in North Oxfordshire makes this difficult to judge. The evidence is most clear at Rollright, where a largely Middle Iron Age assemblage was dominated by shell and shelly-limestone fabrics (cf above, Lambrick 1988, 94-5, with discussion of further more widely-distributed sites) and to a lesser extent at Madmarston, where the published data do not allow the importance of shell-tempering in the Middle Iron Age to be assessed, though it was clearly present (eg Fowler 1961, 34). A parallel situation to that observed in Oxfordshire seems to have prevailed in Warwickshire. Here, while in the Avon Valley Middle Iron Age assemblages were again dominated by sand-tempered fabrics, the Middle as well as the Early Iron Age pottery from Nadbury Camp on the Cotswold fringe was largely shell-tempered (McArthur 1990, 14). As indicated above, the vessel forms present are not particularly diagnostic of date, but all would be acceptable in a Middle Iron Age context. The absence of characteristic shouldered pieces of Early Iron Age date, such as occurred at Chastleton (Leeds 1931, 394; Harding 1972, 151 and Plate 43), and of the angled forms which dominated some other Early Iron Age assemblages in the region (eg Long Wittenham and Allen's Pit, Dorchester, cf Harding 1972, 155-158 and Plates 50-54) may be significant. Similarly, the absence of fingertip decoration, so typical of the Early Iron Age, may also be a chronological indicator. In both cases, however, argument from negative evidence in such a small assemblage, while suggestive, cannot be conclusive. A further chronological indicator may be the presence of possible rudimentary 'scored' decoration on two of the four illustrated vessels. While not as clearly defined as in the central area of its distribution north and east of Oxfordshire it is most likely that the Glympton sherds indicate a local attempt at this technique. Parallel examples in the region come from Rollright (Lambrick 1988, 95) and Madmarston, where the technique was

more common in one group (Fowler 1961, 27 and 34) and a further possible example is known from South Parks Road, Oxford (Booth forthcoming). In its 'core' area the technique is consistently of Middle Iron Age (4th-1st century BC) date (Elsdon 1992, 89).

Together the evidence indicates a settlement site of Middle Iron Age date, using a limited repertoire of forms in a fabric tradition apparently widespread in the upland region of north Oxfordshire but which contrasted with that seen in the contemporary Upper Thames Valley. The social significance of this distinction, if any, remains to be explored.

## 6.2 The stone axe fragment by Fiona Roe

The butt end of a stone axe was found in a small pit in a Middle Iron Age context (116). The end of the axe has a pointed shape and is oval in cross section. The surface is mainly smooth with traces of small rougher areas, which may be the remnant of pecking to work the axe into shape before it was ground to a smoother finish.

Macroscopic examination under a binocular microscope showed that a fine-grained green-grey sandstone was used to make the axe. This material probably does not belong to one of the known groups of stone axe materials. Sandstone was used infrequently for making axes, and it would not have been suitable for producing a good polished surface. it is not possible to suggest a specific source for the stone, though a casually collected cobble Drift material might have been utilised.

# 6.3 The fired clay by A J Barclay

The excavation produced a total of 70 fragments of fired clay weighing 648 g. Table 1 gives a breakdown of all the fired clay by type and context. Sixty-six fragments were recovered from the Middle Iron Age contexts 114 and 116, while four probably residual fragments came from the medieval and later contexts 129, 130 and 207.

The vast majority of the fired clay can be described as structural with evidence for both surfaces and wattle impressions. Surfaces tend to be concave and indicate that the fragments derive from the wall interior. One fragment forms a concave lip. In general most of the clay was fired to a grey colour, although some fragments were oxidised reddish brown. It is suggested that much of the clay may derives from broken oven structures rather than from burnt wall daub. The structural clay and what is described as amorphous clay is manufactured from an ill-sorted clay fabric containing sparse coarse limestone, rare fossil shell and, or calcareous ooliths. One amorphous fragment from context 130 is in a distinct clay fabric with soapy texture and containing sparse coarse limestone inclusions. A similar fabric occurs at other Iron Age sites within the Thames Valley (eg. Yarnton) where it is used to manufacture loomweights and it is tentatively suggested that this fragment could derive from such an object.

Table 1 Quantification (number and weight) of fired clay type by context

Context	Structural clay	Object fragment	Amorphous clay	Total
114	57, 582 g		6, 18 g	63, 600 g
116	3, 37 g			3, 37 g
129			1, 3 g	1, 3 g
130	1, 3 g	1, 2 g		2, 5 g
207	1, 3 g			1, 3 g
Total	62, 625 g	1, 2 g	7, 21 g	70, 648 g

# 6.4 The medieval and post-medieval pottery by Lucy Whittingham

A total of 716 sherds (4.7 kg), comprising 672 medieval and 44 post-medieval sherds, were recovered during this excavation. The majority of sherds are typical of North Oxfordshire medieval pottery and will be described with reference to the fabric type series established for Oxfordshire (Mellor and Haldon 1977). Though small, worn and abraded the majority of sherds are found primarily in situ on the site.

Thirty four sherds of Saxo-Norman St Neots-type Ware (OXR), including two examples of cooking pot rims, all occur as residual material in medieval contexts. Their presence as 5% of the total assemblage is, however, indicative of 10th- to late 11th-century occupation at this site.

The medieval assemblage divides into the following eleven fabric types; 12th- to mid 14th-century Developed St Neots-type Ware/Olney Hyde Type A (OXCG), late 11th- to mid 13th-century Oxford Medieval Ware (OXY), 13th- to 15th-century Potterspury Ware (OXCZ), late 13th- to 15th-century Minety-type Ware (OXBB), late 12th- to 15th-century East Wiltshire-type Ware (OXAQ), 13th- to 15th-century Brill/Boarstall Ware (OXAM and OXAW) and a further three unprovenanced wares.

The majority of sherds in this assemblage are from cooking vessels in Fabrics OXBB (282 sherds 39%) and OXY (177 sherds 25%) and jugs in OXAM & OXAW (29 & 65 sherds 13%) which are of local provenance. A smaller number of sherds, also from cooking vessels, occur in fabrics OXCG (32 sherds 4%), OXAQ (21 sherds 3%), OXCZ (14 sherds 2%), and three unprovenanced fabrics (18 sherds 2.5%) imported from Oxfordshire's surrounding counties. The assemblage appears therefore to be predominantly of local origin and ranges in date from the late 11th to 15th centuries.

Forty four sherds of post-medieval pottery include four 16th- to 17th-century sherds (0.5%) of

Brill/Boarstall Ware (OXDG) and a Cologne/Frechen drinking jug base and forty 18th- to 19th-century sherds (5.5%) of Red Earthenware, Slipware, English Porcelain, Pearlware, Creamware and Transfer Printed Ware.

#### 6.4.1 Discussion

Forty eight contexts produced medieval pottery and thirty contain good assemblages of medieval pottery. The largest groups occur in the layer 102 (=128, 129), fill 122 of the quarry pit 123 and contexts 130, 205, 206 and 207. Very few of the contexts produced disturbed assemblages, though nine are disturbed by residual Saxo-Norman material, two by residual Romano-British material and three by intrusive post-medieval material. Four of the contexts containing medieval pottery are stratigraphically post-medieval in date.

Fourteen contexts produced post-medieval pottery, of which only five are undisturbed producing 18th- to 19th-century assemblages. Four contexts are disturbed by residual medieval pottery and two by residual Romano-British material. Three of the contexts containing post-medieval pottery are stratigraphically medieval in date.

Contexts 286 and 371 contain mixed assemblages of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval material, though stratified in a medieval sequence.

- 6.5 The small finds catalogue by Angela Boyle
- 1 Context 205 (sf 1): a single fragment of post-medieval glass. Length 27 mm.
- 2 Context 122 (sf 2): two distorted and corroded lengths of iron wire. Lengths 100-110 mm, thickness 2-5 mm. Function unknown.
- 3 *Context 122*: two fragments of slate.
- 4 Context 287 (sf 3): copper alloy fitting, condition good. Three rivets present. Length 18 mm, width 15.4 mm, thickness 1.8 mm. Possible clasp or belt fitting.
- 5 Context 286 (sf 4): complete copper-alloy pin with non-ferrous coating, wire-wound head. Length 23.9 mm.
- 6 Context 184: complete button, two central perforations, diameter 15 mm, ?mother-of-pearl.
- 7 Context 190: single fragment of clay pipe stem, length 53 mm.
- 8 Context 207: one fragment of oyster shell.
- 9 Context 216: one fragment of slate.
- 10 Context 218: single fragment of clay pipe stem, length 25 mm.
- 11 Context 222: incomplete stylus, part of shaft and pointed stem survives. Length 24 mm.
- 7 Discussion and conclusions
- 7.1 Iron Age

Middle Iron Age activity was indicated by the presence of a localised group of pits and postholes. The limited number of features uncovered does not allow for any structural interpretation. Artefactual evidence included structural daub and one possible loomweight fragment, locally produced pottery and a stone axe fragment. Although the site was clearly occupied, information for the economic basis or organisation of the settlement was not forthcoming. The small area uncovered, along with the lack of ecofactual and environmental evidence, such as animal bones and charred plant remains, prohibits a definitive interpretation of the nature of the occupation as well as the function and position of the features within the settlement.

The Iron Age features are clustered towards the north-west side of the site. Although later post-medieval and modern activity has disturbed the deposits in the eastern half of the site, the lack of residual Iron Age pottery in that area suggests that the main settlement lies to the west of the excavated area. This would place the main area of occupation beneath the walled garden of the estate.

There is evidence for considerable Iron Age activity within north Oxfordshire, into which the Glympton settlement would fit. Hingley reports on an irregular banjo-type enclosure with external features at Kiddington, south-west of Glympton. Fieldwalking over the area produced pottery of a Middle Iron Age date, clustered over the enclosure (Hingley 1982). Cropmarks immediately west of Glympton Park have been interpreted as an enclosure complex of an Iron Age date. Two other Iron Age banjo enclosures are also indicated by cropmarks north-west of Glympton in the parish of Enstone, and a further banjo-enclosure to the north-east in the parish of Steeple Barton.

Excavation over the past twenty years has produced a great deal of evidence for Iron Age settlement and economy within the Oxfordshire region and in the Upper Thames Valley as a whole and significantly with a bias towards the gravel terraces to either side of the floodplain (Cunliffe and Miles 1984). Thus any evidence of activity, particularly on the limestone uplands and within the floodplain, is important for balancing Iron Age studies within the region as well as nationally.

### 7.2 Medieval and post-medieval

The presence of Saxo-Norman St Neots-type ware provides the only material evidence for the existence of the village in the 10th- to late 11th centuries. The medieval pottery assemblage is local and ranges in date from the late 11th- to the 15th centuries. The remainder of the material assemblage was fragmentary and generally undiagnostic. Structurally, the original medieval village is indicated by the remains of three, inter-related, stone-built walls in the eastern part of the site. Although overlain and disturbed by the later post-medieval store-rooms, the 19th-century bungalow and associated service trenches, the lay-out and topographical position suggest a boundary wall, extending from the edge of the scarp and defining a plot orientated north-south. The related east-west wall to the west of the site may represent the east wall of a building. What appears to be a cess or rubbish pit, 223, was situated within the angle of the two walls, and the two postholes 279 and 281 suggest this may have been covered. The presence of this pit and the lack of any other

walls on either side corroborate the likelihood of this being a private plot at the back of a house.

Research at both the Oxfordshire Record Office and the County Council Archives Office was unable to locate any relevant tithe or enclosure maps, or documentary evidence, that gives much clue as to the exact position of the original medieval village. However, the most likely possibility is that the centre of the village lies under the walled garden to the west of the site, and that the medieval building uncovered may have stood on a naturally formed perimeter of the settlement. The asymmetrical shape of the walled garden itself may well have been based upon an original feature of the village, for example, the village green.

The function of the post-medieval building is unclear, but it is likely that it served as workshops or store-rooms for the park. The building is shown on the 1st ed. O.S. map, suggesting that its demolition took place in the late 19th century, presumably to make way for the bungalow.

The evidence recovered by this excavation would appear to indicate that both the Iron Age and medieval activity is likely to have extended close to, or within, the area of the walled garden.

#### Bibliography

Allen, T G, 1990, An Iron Age and Romano-British enclosed settlement at Watkins Farm, Northmoor, Oxon, Thames Valley Landscapes, The Windrush Valley, Vol 1, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology, Oxford

Booth, P, forthcoming, Iron Age and Roman pottery, in A Parkinson, A Barclay and P McKeague (forthcoming), The excavation of two Bronze Age barrows, Oxford, *Oxoniensia* 61, 41-64

Cunliffe, B and Miles, D 1984 Aspects of the Iron Age in central southern Britain, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology No 2

Elsdon, S M, 1992, East Midlands scored ware, Trans Leicestershire Archaeol and Hist Soc 66, 83-91

Fowler, P J, 1961, Excavations at Madmarston Camp, Swalcliffe, 1957-7, Oxoniensia 25 (for 1960), 3-48

Harding, DW, 1972, The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin, Oxford

Hingley, R 1982, Kiddington, Tomlin's Gate, CBA Group 9, Newsletter 12, 154-5

Lambrick, G, 1979, The Iron Age pottery, in G Lambrick and M Robinson, *Iron Age and Roman riverside settlements at Farmoor, Oxfordshire*, CBA Res Rep **32**, 35-46

Lambrick, G, 1984, Pitfalls and possibilities in Iron Age pottery studies - experiences in the Upper Thames Valley, in B Cunliffe and D Miles (eds), *Aspects of the Iron Age in Central Southern Britain*, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph 2, 162-177

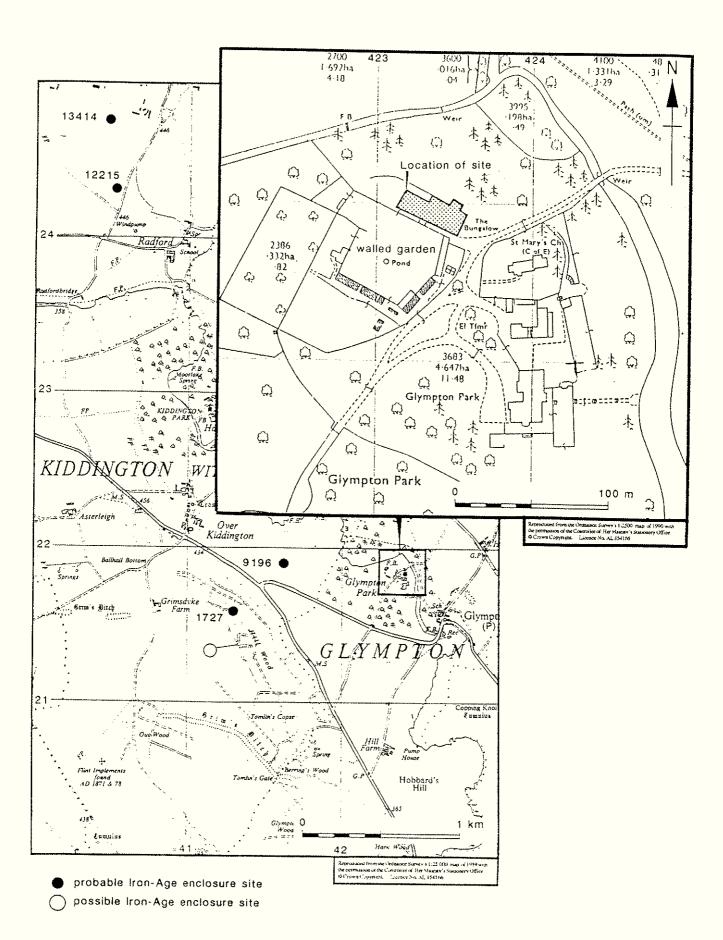
Lambrick, G, 1988, The Rollright Stones: megaliths, monuments and settlement in the prehistoric landscape, English Heritage Archaeol Rep 6

Leeds, ET, 1931, Chastleton Camp, Oxfordshire, a hillfort of the early Iron Age, Antiq J 11, 382-398

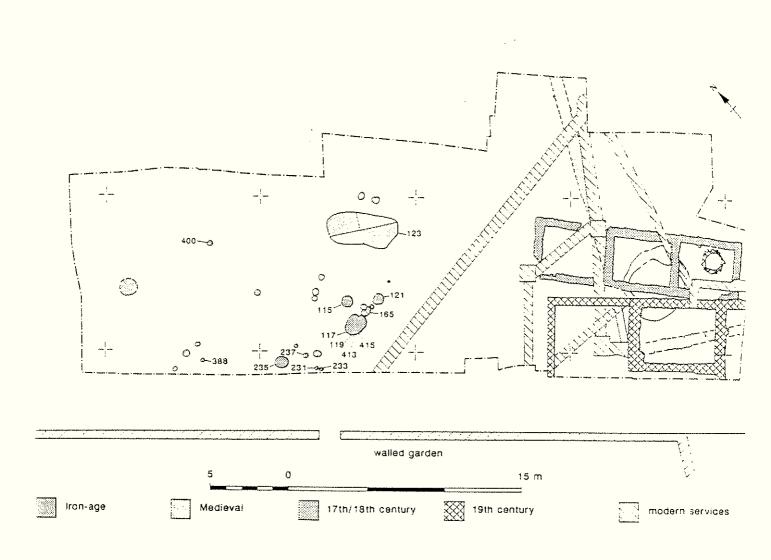
McArthur, C, 1990, Excavations at Nadbury Camp, Warwickshire, SP390482, *Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc* 95 (for 1987-8), 1-16

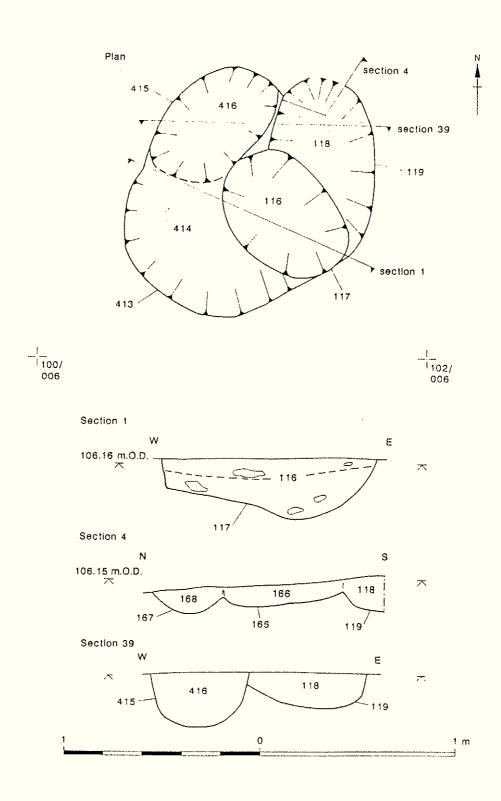
Mellor, M. and Haldon, R. 1977 "Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery" in B. Durham, "Archaeological Investigations in St. Aldate's Oxford" *Oxoniensia* XLII 111-139

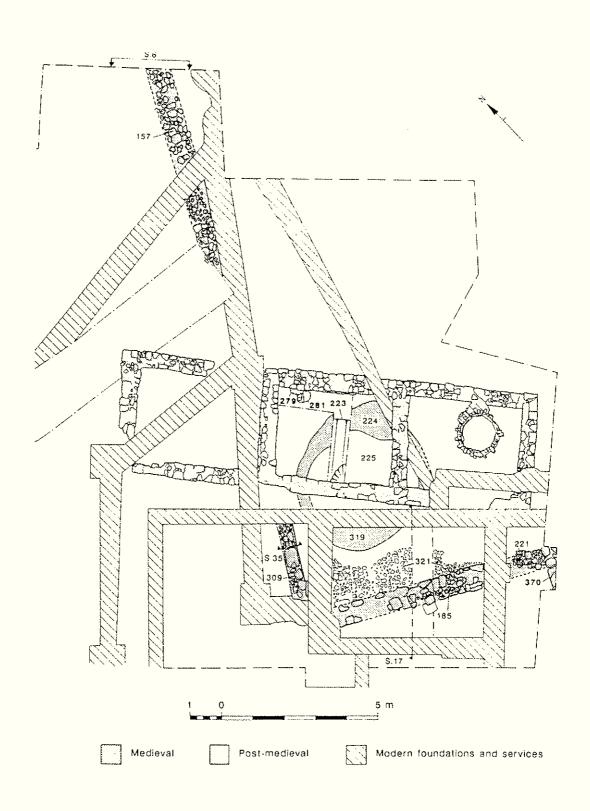
Oxford Archaeological Unit 1993 Archaeological evaluation at Glympton Park, Oxfordshire, unpublished client report



Location of site





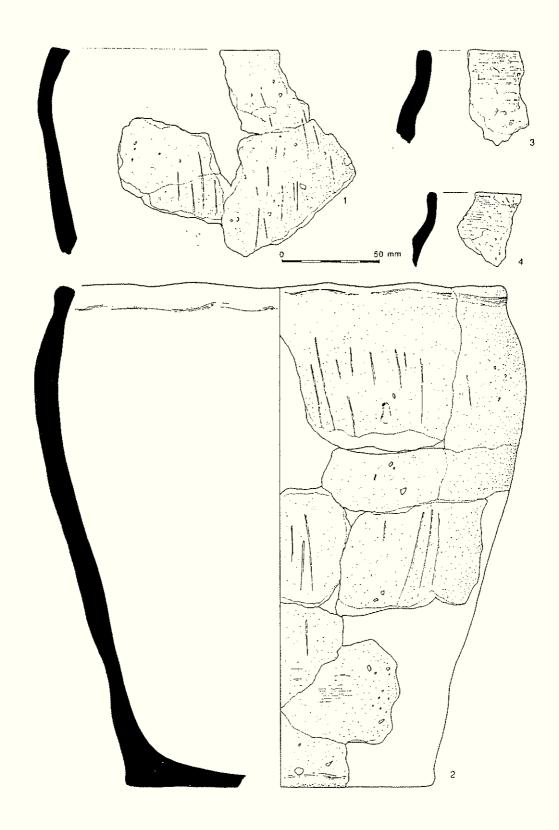


105.11 m.O.D. modern service щ 156 modern landscaping bungalow demolition layer 130 163 164 ₹ Section 6 K

Section 17

K

106.20 m.O.D.



Iron Age pottery



# **OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496 email: oau-oxford.demon.co.uk

