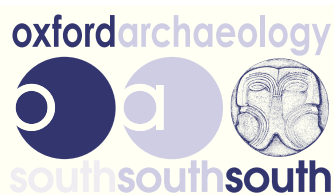


# Medieval and post-medieval activity at Kingsbury Hill House Marlborough Wiltshire



## Post Excavation Report



December 2011

**Client: Thomas Homes Ltd.**

Issue No:1

OA Job No: 5115

NGR: SU 1890 6938



**Client Name:** Thomas Homes Ltd

**Document Title:** Medieval and post-medieval activity at Kingsbury Hill House, Marlborough, Wiltshire

**Document Type:** Post-excavation report

**Issue Number:** 1

**Grid Reference:** NGR SU 1890 6938  
**Planning Reference:** K/58750/F

**OA Job Number:** JN 5115  
**Site Code:** MAKI 10  
**Invoice Code:** MAKIPX  
**Receiving Museum:** Wiltshire Heritage Museum

**Prepared by:** John Cotter  
**Position:** Project Officer  
**Date:** 16/12/11

**Checked by:** Edward Biddulph  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** 19/12/11

**Approved by:** Steve Lawrence  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** 23/12/11

**Document File Location** X:\MAKIEX\_Kingsbury\_Hill\_House\_Marlborough\002Reports\03\_MAKIPX

**Graphics File Location** \\Servergo\invoice codes i thru q\M\_codes\MAKIPX

**Illustrated by** Emily Plunkett, Conan Parsons and Magdalena Wachnik

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology**  
**© Oxford Archaeology Ltd 2011**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES  
t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



# **MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL ACTIVITY AT KINGSBURY HILL HOUSE, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE**

by JOHN COTTER

with contributions by Rebecca Nicholson and Lena Strid

## **Contents**

Summary.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	3
Location and scope of work.....	3
Fieldwork methodology.....	3
Geology and topography.....	4
Archaeological background.....	4
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION (Fig. 3).....	5
Phase 0. Unphased.....	5
Phase 1. Medieval (12th to 14th century).....	5
Phase 2. Post-medieval (17th to 18th century).....	6
Phase 3. Late post-medieval (Late 18th to 19th century).....	7
THE FINDS.....	7
Medieval and post-medieval pottery.....	7
Clay tobacco pipes.....	13
Ceramic building material.....	16
Glass.....	18
Flint.....	19
The stone mortar.....	19
Slag.....	20
Shell.....	20
Copper alloy object.....	20
Iron objects.....	20
Animal bones.....	20
DISCUSSION.....	23
CONCLUSIONS.....	25
Acknowledgements.....	26
Bibliography.....	26

## **List of figures**

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Areas of investigation
- Fig. 3 Phased plan of the site
- Fig. 4 Sections 1039 and 1011
- Fig. 5 Sections 1010 and 1012 with plan
- Fig. 6 Medieval pottery
- Fig. 7 Clay pipes
- Fig. 8 Stone mortar
- Fig. 9 Medieval Heritage Areas

## **List of tables**

- Table 1 Medieval and post-medieval pottery quantities
- Table 2 Number of identified fragments by taxon; Minimum Number of Individuals within parantheses
- Table 3 Bone preservation
- Table 4. Number of fragments by taxon and feature for the post-medieval assemblage
- Table 5. Skeletal element distribution by number of fragments for bones recovered from post medieval quarry pit 1074. Minimum Number of Individuals in parentheses

## Summary

Oxford Archaeology carried out an excavation and watching brief at Kingsbury Hill House (NGR SU 1890 6938) for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Thomas Homes Ltd. The excavation uncovered an area of medieval pits, probably domestic, and a group of postholes giving the outline of a rectangular timber building. The structure and some of the pits are aligned with Herd Street, which potentially identifies the area as a yard associated with a plot or burgage fronting the street. Pottery dated this activity to the 12th to 14th centuries. No further activity was evident until the 17th/18th century, when quarry pits were dug to extract the underlying chalk and flint. Finds collected from the features included pottery, clay pipes, animal bone and a stone mortar.

## INTRODUCTION

### *Location and scope of work*

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Thomas Homes Ltd to implement an archaeological programme of archaeological strip, map and sample and watching brief at Kingsbury Hill House, Marlborough. The development site, centred at NGR SU 1890 6938, is located north of the centre of the town of Marlborough (Fig. 1). Herd Street extends along the east side of the site. The site lies on the southern slope of a hill that forms Marlborough Common. The work was implemented in line with written schemes of investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting (Pugh 2009) and Oxford Archaeology (OA 2010).

### *Fieldwork methodology*

#### *Strip, map and sample*

The fieldwork was carried out in January and February 2010. The footprint of the development site (Fig. 2), extending across an area of 370 m<sup>2</sup>, was stripped under archaeological supervision by a bladed ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil was separately stored and visually examined for archaeological material. Areas containing features or possible features were hand-cleaned in order to produce a base plan.

All features were excavated and recorded. Discrete features were half-sectioned. Excavation targeted intersections of features in order to determine their stratigraphic relationships.

Archaeological deposits were allocated a unique context number. Plans and sections of individual excavated slots were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The locations of the individual plans and section lines were tied into the overall digital site plan using a Leica total station or GPS system. Features were also recorded by colour slide, monochrome film and digital photography.

All finds deriving from stratified deposits were retained unless they were clearly of very recent origin. Artefacts were treated in a proper manner and to the standards of the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines. No environmental samples were taken. The artefacts and sequence of deposition suggested that fills contained a high proportion of residual material from mixed sources. Any samples are unlikely to have been particularly informative about the environment of the site itself.

### ***Watching brief***

A watching brief was conducted in an area south of the strip, map and sample in June 2010 (Fig. 2). No archaeological remains were encountered. The remaining parts of the development and associated services associated lie within areas devoid of archaeology and were therefore not subject to archaeological mitigation.

### ***Geology and topography***

The solid geology of the development site is chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (Undifferentiated). This is overlain by superficial deposits of Clay-with Flints. A ground investigation of the site undertaken in 2007 identified made ground in the southernmost part of the study site. The north end of the site lies at 152m above ordnance datum (AOD), falling to approximately 145m AOD at the south end. In recent times, the site was terraced to accommodate buildings and amenities, and up to 1m of exposed chalk was visible; the land south of the excavation area, now occupied by a tennis court, has seen significant truncation and lies some 4m lower than the development site.

### ***Archaeological background***

Marlborough College's famous mound, recently dated to 2400 BC, and, at St Margaret's Mead, an Iron Age grave that contained a wooden and iron bucket (SU16NE203) suggest that Marlborough was an area of significant prehistoric activity. The Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record lists a range of Roman-period finds in the vicinity of the site. A Republican sextans was found at The Green (SU16NE207), and a sestertius of Septimius Severus was found on Herd Street (SU16NE313). Roman pottery was collected from Wye House south of the site, and the Old Bowling Green north of it (SU16NE323 and 315 respectively). A pit containing late Roman pottery recorded on London Road (SU16NE329), some 700m SE of the site, also attests to Roman-period activity in the area. More important Roman activity, however, is known 2km east of Marlborough at Mildenhall, the site of a Roman town (*Cunetio*).

Marlborough is recorded in Domesday Book, and a late Saxon origin is suggested. The focus of the Saxon settlement may have been in the area of St Mary's Church and The Green to the south of Kingsbury Hill House although very little archaeological evidence of this date has been discovered in the town (WCC 2004, 4.2, 6.10.1). The transfer of the Great Bedwyn mint to Marlborough in 1068 and the imprisonment of the Bishop of Selsey in the town in 1070 suggests the possibility of some kind of stronghold (Haslam 1976, 41), and it is perhaps unlikely that this had been developed *de novo* since 1066.

The town seems to have been promoted from the 11th/12th century in association with the royal castle, which was probably in existence by 1110 (*ibid.*). The medieval town shows clear evidence of several phases of planned development, the earliest of which comprises the block of burgage plots laid out to either side of the wide market and High Street (Fig. 9 COM 10, after WCC 2004, fig. 10). This development is currently thought to date from the 11th and 12th centuries (WCC 2004, *ibid.*). Marlborough prospered as a favoured royal castle during the 12th and 13th centuries, and the town grew into an important cloth-making centre by 1200 (Haslam 1976, 42); three fairs were granted, in 1204, 1229 (to be held 'in the place called Neweland' Gaz Markets and Fairs) and 1246. The medieval town was extended by the creation of further burgage plots, in a grid-square addition focused on St Mary's Church and The Green (Fig. 9 COMs 11 and 12, after WCC 2004, fig. 10). The extensions are currently thought to date from the 12th and 13th centuries (*ibid.*), and it is within the block immediately to the north of St Mary's Church that the site of the present development lies.

With the decline of the royal castle in the later medieval period, the centre of gravity of the



town shifted to the area around St Mary's Church. Although the demolition of St Martin's Church in the 16th century suggests that there was some retrenchment of occupation in the later medieval period (WCC 2004, 6.11.14), there is evidence that the area around the south of Kingsbury St and along Silverless St was continuously built up with two-storey timber framed houses of 16th- and 17th-century date, some of which still survive (*ibid.*, 5.9.5.1). A disastrous fire in the town in 1653 led to extensive rebuilding in the central area (*ibid.*, 4.5), but it is otherwise considered unlikely that the medieval layout of the town will have changed significantly until the 20th century (*ibid.*, 6.12.1; 7.10.5.1).

Domestic pits and a well were uncovered during an archaeological evaluation at the development site carried out in 1993 by Wessex Archaeology (WA 1993). Medieval pottery of 13th/14th-century date and post-medieval pottery of 17th-19th century date were recovered. No Saxon-period material was found, although the excavators speculated that some of the features may have been dug earlier than the date of the pottery collected from them, as little of the pottery came from basal deposits. The features were interpreted as being characteristic of domestic yards.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION (Fig. 3)

### *Phase 0. Unphased*

Four isolated features in the southern half of the site produced no finds and could not therefore be phased (Fig. 3). These comprise posthole 1207, and shallow pits 1163, 1161 and 1174. Pit 1174, however, is probably the same as pit F122 identified during the 1993 evaluation and which produced post-medieval finds. The more southerly location of the others might suggest that a medieval date is more likely.

### *Phase 1. Medieval (12th to 14th century)*

The main dating evidence here is provided by the pottery, mainly by coarse unglazed Newbury B ware (*c* 1150-1350) and much smaller amounts of glazed wares such as Newbury C ware (mainly *c* 1200-1400) and Laverstock ware (*c* 1230-1400). Although pottery is sparse in the south-western half of the site, what little was found is entirely medieval, and although most of the features here produced no pottery or ceramic building material, their arrangement and proximity to pottery-producing features suggests that these are all medieval too (Fig. 3).

The main feature in this part of the site is posthole group 1160, which is interpreted as the remains of a medieval wooden building or structure. Group 1160 consists of a line of 15 postholes of fairly similar size, running north-east from the western corner of the site before appearing to turn sharply to the north-west. The sides of the postholes varied from shallow to steep and the majority had concave bases. The smallest (1136) measured *c* 0.28m wide and the largest (1146) 1.12m wide. Posthole depths varied from 0.10m to 0.44m. All the postholes cut natural deposits and they all had single fills. The fills were generally sterile but a small worn sherd of Newbury B ware is ascribed to posthole 1132 and dates its filling to *c* 1150-1350. A flake of possibly medieval roofing tile is also ascribed to one of the larger postholes (1130). On this rather slender evidence the whole posthole group is dated as medieval. The absence of any later pottery, ceramic building material or clay pipes in this area also supports this view.

Just north-west of group 1160, and perhaps related to it, is a shallow L-shaped pit 1125, which might be a ditch terminus. This also produced a sherd of Newbury B ware. At the very south-western end or corner of the site a large circular pit (1209) also produced sherds from three vessels in Newbury B ware. A large pit located along the northern side of the site, pit 1195 (Fig. 4, section

1039), had a diameter of *c* 5m, and was cut by a smaller pit (1193). Both pits produced pottery of *c* 1150-1350, and were cut by a group of large post-medieval pits to the south-east. Further south, near or next to the southern edge of the site, circular pits 1158 and 1022 produced pottery of *c* 1230-1350. Pit 1158 produced 19 sherds of pottery. This appears to be the same large medieval pit as that identified in the 1993 evaluations (F120).

A very large but relatively shallow rectangular pit (1080) was recorded in the north-eastern corner of the site (Fig. 3; Fig. 4, section 1011). The pit was *c* 8.3m long by at least 3.5m wide; it had a depth of *c* 0.7m. The feature had two fills which contained pottery datable to *c* 1200-1350 and *c* 1150-1350 respectively, though overall the deposits are probably of the same date. A one metre deep square slot was cut through the southern part of pit 1080 to locate its southern edge. The pit was cut at its northern end by postholes 1018 and 1020, which contained pottery of *c* 1150-1350, and by a small pit (1016), from which pottery of *c* 1230-1350 was recovered. Another posthole (1179) at the northern end of pit 1080 may be associated with the pit, although it cuts the natural and has no recorded relationship with either pit 1080 or the smaller square post-medieval pit 1083 within whose limits it also appears to be contained. As it produced no finds it probably occurs below pit 1083 and possibly cuts or grazes the edge of 1080. Pit 1080 was cut by some large post-medieval pits, 1083 and 1087, which contained a significant quantity of residual medieval pottery, some of which joined pieces from 1080.

## ***Phase 2. Post-medieval (17th to 18th century)***

Features assigned to Phase 2 were mainly dated by the occurrence of local/regional post-medieval glazed red earthenwares (PMR) and much smaller quantities of other English wares and German stonewares (Fig. 3). The pottery suggests a dating of *c* 1650-1750, while most of the datable clay pipes belong to the late 17th/early 18th century. Many features also contained ceramic building material of broadly 17th/18th-century date and in a few cases possibly of 18th-century date. Pottery is not particularly abundant; the maximum number of sherds from any one feature was 22 sherds, though most contained at least a few sherds. Features ascribed to this phase consist almost entirely of circular and oval pits of varying size and mostly of uncertain or unknown function. The pits cluster towards the north-eastern end of the excavation area and may be associated with possible post-medieval occupation on the frontage of Herd Street beyond the eastern limit of the excavation. A few of the more significant features or groups of features are described below.

Feature 1065 in the north-west corner of the site is a large rectangular pit aligned north-west/south-east and therefore parallel to the Herd Street frontage to the east. It has a depth of 0.95m and a maximum surviving length of *c* 4.5m, and is at least 4.2m wide before disappearing beyond the north-eastern edge of the excavation (Fig. 5, section 1010). The pit was cut into the natural chalk. It contained ten sherds of pot (*c* 1650-1750) and a pipe bowl of *c* 1680-1703, plus a less diagnostic possibly 18th-century bowl fragment. Its shape and size mirror the larger medieval pit, 1080. At its northern end, pit 1065 was cut by a large oval pit or spread, 1074. This is at least 4m long by 2.2m wide (1.9m in section) and 0.8m deep. It contained only three sherds of pot but several marked pipes of *c* 1685-1720. It also contained, in terms of the number of fragments, the second largest quantity of ceramic building material from any feature on the site (39 pieces, 8.6kg.), backfilled from the north-western side. This was mostly of broad 17th/18th-century date but one thicker later-looking brick is probably 18th-century. The fills of the pit also contained charcoal.

A medium-sized, possibly rectangular, pit (1024) was recorded further to the south-east along the north-east edge of the excavation. It appeared in the evaluation trench, and extended beyond the edge of the excavation. The pit, possibly a cess pit, was partially backfilled by a complex sequence of thin organic (including ash) and chalk layers. A burnt PMR jug/cup base

occurred in the lowest fill. A group of three stake-holes was recorded in the base of pit 1024. These may have been associated with its original, though unknown, function. The pit was cut by pit 1042 (not shown on plan), the fill of which contained the only complete roof tile width recovered.

Two pits at the north-east end of rectangular pit 1080 contain a significant amount of residual medieval pottery as well as some post-medieval pottery. The larger pit (1087) was cut by a sub-square pit (1083), which produced a pipe of *c* 1685-1720 (Fig. 4, section 1011). Unusually the uppermost of the three fills of pit 1083 was composed entirely of densely packed stones (flint and chalk, each nodule *c* 50-80mm in diameter), which appear to form some sort of deliberate capping to the pit. A circular pit (1176), *c* 1m in diameter, at the south-west corner of pit 1080 appears from its size and position to be the same as a pit identified on the 1993 evaluation (F112). This was described as a 'circular well lined with orange-brown clay' and contained post-medieval CBM and clay pipe (WA 1993). No clay lining was noted, however, in the feature excavated in 2010, although it did produce pottery of *c* 1700-50, but as it was only 0.16m deep it seems highly unlikely that it could have been a well. Another cluster of inter-cutting or adjacent post-medieval pits (pits 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093 and 1094) occurs in the middle of the northern half of the site (Fig. 5, section 1012). The largest of these is pit 1093, which is 2.6m wide. It contained pipes of *c* 1685-1720, as did pit 1091. Pit 1090, interpreted as a possible well, is square in plan with vertical sides and was not bottomed at a depth of 1.2m. Pit 1023, which extends beyond the south-eastern edge of the excavation, is south of this pit group. This feature is notable for its relatively large pottery assemblage (22 sherds) and the largest assemblage of clay pipe from a single context or feature (38 pieces, *c* 1700-1720); it also produced much ceramic building material. A large 'bell-shaped' pit (1181), which extends into the north-western edge of the site is chiefly notable for having the largest quantity of ceramic building material from any feature on the site (95 pieces, 6.83kg.), together with some pottery and several clay pipes of *c* 1685-1720. In these respects it is similar to the large oval pit (1074) described above.

### ***Phase 3. Late post-medieval (Late 18th to 19th century)***

There are very few finds or features of this date (Fig. 3). The largest of these is a relatively small pit (1190) near the middle of the site. This produced a glass bottle of *c* 1770-1830 and pottery of *c* 1700-1800, including sherds of probable red terracotta flowerpot and a fair amount of brick rubble. The excavator identified a line of widely-spaced postholes (1002, 1004, 1006, 1008 and 1010) running parallel and close to the north-western edge of the excavation. These are all of very similar shape and appearance and are interpreted as the remains of a fairly recent fence. Posthole 1002 contained a large fragment of decayed wooden post, while posthole 1010 contained sherds of a transfer-printed saucer of *c* 1830-1900.

## **THE FINDS**

### ***Medieval and post-medieval pottery***

#### ***Introduction***

A total of 375 sherds of pottery weighing 8.862kg were recovered. The assemblage here comprises medieval wares (mainly 12th-13th century) and post-medieval wares (mainly 17th-18th centuries) and just two sherds of 19th-century pottery. Fifty-one per cent of the pottery by sherd count, or 42% by weight, is of medieval date (up to *c* 1500) with the remainder being post-medieval (49%, or 58%, respectively). The pottery is in quite a fragmentary condition with the medieval assemblage

generally occurring as smaller sherds and often showing evidence of wear. The more robust post-medieval wares tend to occur as larger fresher (and heavier) sherds and include two or three complete vessel profiles. The average sherd weight for the whole assemblage is 24g. The range of medieval fabrics and vessel forms present is exactly what one would expect from a site in Marlborough – dominated by Newbury/ Kennet Valley B ware – which has a possible production source in the Savernake Forest just to the south of Marlborough. Likewise the range of post-medieval fabrics is typical for the region.

### ***Methodology***

An initial scan of the material revealing its mixed nature and relatively poor condition suggested that a detailed catalogue was unwarranted. Following standard procedure, and with these considerations in mind, a moderately detailed catalogue of the material was implemented. The catalogue includes, per context and per pottery fabric, quantification by sherd count and weight only together with a spot-date for each context. Rather more detail was recorded, however, for the medieval wares. For these additional details such as simplified vessel form (jars, jugs etc.) were routinely recorded (quantified by rim count = 30 rims) and also rim diameter. Estimated vessel equivalents (EVE), a measure of surviving rim circumference, was not considered worth recording. Other details of note, such as decoration, glaze, evidence of use and wear and the like were recorded in a comments field. Significant post-medieval pieces were also described in some detail in the comments field where this was warranted. Full catalogue details may be consulted in the project archive. As better parallels exist elsewhere, particularly at Ludgershall Castle 20km to the south (Gerrard and King 2000), only two of the more interesting medieval items were selected for illustration.

### ***Pottery fabrics***

The relatively small number of local or regional medieval pottery fabrics were recorded using codes derived from an abbreviation of their common names. Post-medieval fabrics were recorded using the codes of the Museum of London (LAARC 2007) which can be applied to most post-medieval types in southern England. The types and quantities occurring at Kingsbury Hill House are summarised below in Table 1. This is followed below by a selective list, in roughly chronological order, describing the more significant medieval and some post-medieval fabrics in more detail.

#### *NEWB: Newbury B ware, c 1075-1350*

A range of sand-, flint-, and limestone-tempered wares. A total of 167 sherds were recovered making this easily the commonest fabric from the site (45% by sherds). The fabric is generally dark grey, or grey-brown, often (as here) with weakly oxidised surfaces/margins and with a coarse or gritty texture. It contains a range of coarse angular and sub-angular flint (up to 10mm across), algal limestone (or chalk) inclusions plus variable amounts of quartz sand and sparse coarse rounded quartz inclusions. There is a fair degree of textural variation evident in the assemblage here with some of the largest vessels having very coarse or harsh fabrics, whereas smaller vessels and jugs tend to be finer. Vessels are handmade, sometimes with wheel- or turntable-finished rims. It mainly occurs here in the form of jars/cooking pots – most of which are clearly sooted from use, plus a few wide shallow bowls and much rarer jug/pitcher rims (see below).

This is the commonest medieval coarseware found in east Wiltshire. Finds of the ware are widely distributed along the Kennet valley and eastwards through much of Berkshire as well as in neighbouring Oxfordshire and Hampshire (Mephram 2000a). It is now recognised that there were probably several sources producing very similar flint-tempered wares along the Kennet valley, including the earlier flint-tempered – Newbury A – ware (absent from this site) and the chalk-/flint-tempered – Newbury B – ware described here. These go under several different names in earlier

reports but Mephram suggests these are a 'ware tradition' and that the common name 'Kennet valley wares' should be used to describe these (Mephram 2000a, 63). Newbury B ware is also redefined as 'Kennet valley chalk-/flint-tempered ware' (ibid.). There is little doubt however that the ware from this excavation was produced locally. Previously it was thought that the main source of this ware was in the Savernake Forest of east Wiltshire, just south of Marlborough. The evidence for this is mainly documentary and rests on the placename Crokerstrop which is first recorded in 1257 in the parish of Mildenhall, and as Newbury B is the commonest medieval ware in the vicinity it is highly likely that this was the main local source of the ware (Vince 1997, 65). The ware takes its name from Newbury (Berks) where it is very common and was first defined (ibid.). Subsequently, two production sites for this type were discovered along the route of the Newbury Bypass in 1991-7 and a full and updated account of the ware and its regional implications has been published (Mephram 2000a).

Although Newbury B ware dates from *c* 1075 it does not occur in any quantity until the late 12th century. In the Newbury excavations report it was suggested that production of the ware continued as late as the late 14th or 15th century (Vince 1997, 65) and the Newbury kilns report (citing earlier reports) also suggests production up to the late 15th century (Mephram 2000a, 53, 60). However, no convincing evidence for production as late as this has emerged from other find-sites of the ware and its presence in later levels at Newbury may well be due to residuality. Production probably ceased therefore around *c* 1350 (L Mephram, pers. comm.).

The Newbury B assemblage includes 29 of the 30 medieval rim sherds present from the excavation, or 97% of the medieval assemblage. This figure, however, excludes sherds of rarer fabrics (Laverstock and Minety ware) that lack rims. The limited range of forms present is described below.

#### Jars/cooking pots

Easily the commonest form in Newbury B, comprising 22 of the 29 rims present in this ware or 76% of all vessel forms in this ware. These are of typical medieval form with a wide rounded body and relatively straight lower walls plus a sagging base and fairly developed rims on a short flaring neck. However, nothing like a complete profile survives. Rim diameters are in the 140-380mm range but most are within the 170-260mm range with *c* 200mm the commonest diameter (5 rim sherds). Rims are mostly of thickened/flat-topped form, although more developed squared/hammerhead rim forms are also common. One or two beaded rims also occur. These are all classic Newbury B-style jar rims with many published local and regional parallels, for example at Ludgershall Castle (Gerrard and King 2000) and Newbury (Mephram 2000a). None of the jar rims here bears any sort of decoration although a separate shoulder sherd from a jar bears a horizontal row of lightly impressed dimples (see also miscellaneous sherds below). The largest vessel here, with a diameter of 380mm (context 1107) has a robust hammerhead rim and may be from a storage jar or possibly even a curfew as there are possible traces of sooting on the rim. Most of the sagging base sherds present, logically, come from jars/cooking pots. These have wall thicknesses up to 13mm and many are sooted externally from use. One or two also have internal limescale-like deposits.

#### Bowls

A minimum of five examples identified (6 rims) comprising 21% of all vessel forms in this ware. Diameters are in the 320-360mm range. These are of typical wide shallow form with gently curved walls and mostly with hammerhead rims (Mephram 2000a, fig.15). One example has an inturned rim and one a big beaded rim. Two examples are sooted externally from use. None is decorated.

#### Jugs/pitchers

The single rim sherd identified represents 3% of all vessel forms in this ware. This is of beaded form, possibly wheel-turned, with a diameters of 140mm (context 1211). There are also fragments from three separate strap handles of typical crescent-shaped section (47-50mm wide) and with combed and stabbed/notched decoration down the back including on the raised edges of the handles. The combed decoration on one example is arranged in a lattice pattern and quite finely executed (Fig. 6.1). The fabric of this piece is also notably finer with only sparse-moderate grits present. One of the handles (context 1159) is attached to a body sherd with heavy internal sooting which would ordinarily suggest it comes from a curfew. However, the vessel wall is too curved and thin-walled to be from a curfew and is more likely to be from a jug, perhaps used for cooking or heating purposes. Complete jug profiles from Ludgershall Castle and elsewhere are commonly of rounded or wide-bodied form and often with highly decorated strap handles as here (Gerrard and King 2000, fig. 6.68 no.80).

#### Curfews (firecovers)

Although there are no rims present there are two body sherds, from two separate vessels, which are almost certainly from curfews. The complete form is usually a wide inverted bowl with a strap handle on top and perforations to allow air circulation (Mephams 2000a, fig. 17.55). Neither example here shows evidence of internal sooting. The first example (context 1082) is a body sherd with part of a pre-fired perforation (diameter 12mm) and possibly a handle scar. The second example (Fig. 6.2) is most likely to be from the dome of a curfew but unusual in that it has a knife-cut edge suggesting that it may originally have been of semi-circular form (a bowl form cut diametrically in half), or else it had a long vertical slot cut through the side and part of the dome. Semi-circular curfews are much rarer than circular ones and were made to fit against a wall-hearth rather than over a central hearth. The upper surface of this example has a possible radial scheme of decoration including a row of fingernail notches and a trace of a thumbed strip □these may have radiated outwards from the base of the handle □of which a possible trace survives. The two examples are from a large medieval quarry pit (1080) and a post-medieval pit cutting the latter (pit 1087).

#### Miscellaneous decorated sherds

A single body sherd bears combed decoration (context 1199) and may be from a jug. Five other sherds, including a possible sagging base, have applied thumbed strips and may be from storage jars or curfews (contexts 1081 and 1099).

#### *NEWC: Newbury C ware, c 1075-1500*

A range of mainly medium and occasionally coarse quartz-tempered fabrics (sandy wares). These mainly occur, elsewhere, in the form of glazed tripod pitchers and jugs. Newbury Group C is not a single industry but a disparate group of fabrics probably produced at several regional production centres over many centuries and it can be difficult at times to separate the similar oxidised sandy fabrics one from the other or to closely date isolated sherds (Vince 1997, 52-4; Mephams 2000a, 53). Those from Marlborough may have been locally produced.

The small and very fragmentary collection here (16 sherds), which is mainly perhaps of 13th-century date, comprises a minimum of five vessels including an unglazed thickened jug rim (context 1088), the only other medieval rim from the site not in Newbury B ware. Most of the sherds come from a single glazed jug (or jar?) base from a pit context (1082 and 1088) with a rough patchy greenish-brown glaze all over externally and with heavy external sooting suggesting use as a cooking or heating vessel. A similar shoulder sherd from a separate jug in the same context (1088) is decorated with a horizontal combed band with incised zig-zag lines above this. One other jug base is thumbed.

*MINE: Minety ware (NW Wilts), c 1120-1550*

Quartz and oolitic limestone-tempered ware often with a frosty greenish glaze. From the village of the same name in north-west Wiltshire. The two smallish sherds here are residual in post-medieval contexts. One is unglazed but from a wheel-turned jar and therefore dates after c 1250 (1078).

*LAV: Laverstock ware (Wilts), c 1230-1400*

Fine sandy cream or buff fabric. Highly decorated jugs with a green or clear glaze. Produced at the Laverstock kilns in Wiltshire. The six sherds here represent three or four jugs. One is from an unglazed pedestal-shaped base and is quite fresh (context 1017). The remaining smallish body sherds are green glazed. One has combed decoration and two have characteristic applied elongated pads.

*BORD: Border ware (Surrey/Hants), c 1550-1700*

Typical green- or yellow-glazed fine whiteware forms from the Surrey/Hampshire potteries (Pearce 1992). The small assemblage here includes a lid fragment, two bowls and a brown-glazed tankard base, although this is rather coarse and might be a Verwood product.

*PMR: Post-medieval red earthenwares, c 1550-1900*

Ubiquitous red earthenwares, usually glazed. A variety of common domestic crockery forms present. As usual, this is the commonest post-medieval pottery type present and after Newbury B ware the second commonest pottery type from the site. The 147 sherds here represent 39% of the whole assemblage. Although post-medieval redwares have a very wide date range and can be difficult to date with any accuracy, the character of the assemblage here and its dating associations (with pipes etc.) suggest a date bracket of c 1650-1750 for the bulk of the assemblage. Dishes and bowls appear to be the commonest forms present. A few jugs and jars of various sorts are also present including one or two tripod-footed pipkins with external sooting and a couple of probable chamberpot profiles with greyish limescale-like deposits internally. One or two cup/mug bases are also present. Two unglazed redware sherds are probably from flowerpots and are thus likely to be of 18th- or even 19th-century date. Most vessels are in a fine orange-red fabric which may have been relatively locally produced. Crockerton near Warminster in north Wiltshire has been suggested as a possible source for some of the post-medieval redwares from Salisbury (Mephram 2000b, 36). Some vessels are in a thinner-walled orange-pink fabric with a reduced greenish glaze which is very similar to the products of the Donyatt and Wanstrow potteries in Somerset (see also slipwares below). However these sources are probably too far away to have been supplying east Wiltshire (L Mephram pers. comm.). There were probably other sources in nearby Hampshire and Berkshire. One probable supplier was the redware pottery at Inkpen in Kintbury, west Berkshire, only 20 km east of Marlborough, and which is thought to have supplied Newbury (Berks) (Vince 1997, 65). A few vessels occur in a paler yellow-buff fabric which may be from a separate source, but probably not the Verwood-type potteries of Dorset and west Hampshire. A single redware sherd is black glazed.

A few of the dish bases are knife-scratched internally from use as tablewares. Two separate dishes also show probable evidence of repair with lead rivets, although the rivets have since been lost. One of these is a broken dish profile of curved form with a bead rim with a small perforation bored through the wall and another through the base floor (context 1112 with joining pieces in 1115). The interior of the latter is also knife-scratched. The other vessel is a bowl with a cavetto rim with two small perforations through the rim. These are of interest in that they demonstrate the owners considered it worth the effort of repairing these commonplace tablewares rather than purchasing replacements. It might also suggest that the owners were relatively poor. Another sherd from the lower wall of a jar has what appears to be faint combed lattice decoration under a clear

glaze (context 1085).

*PMR SLIP: Slip-decorated redware, c 1620-1750, and PMR SGR: Sgraffito-decorated redware, c 1650-1750*

These are basically the same fine orange-pink PMR fabric with different techniques of white slip decoration. They are probably from the same unknown source but look identical to slip-decorated tablewares from the Donyatt and Wanstrow potteries in Somerset. However, these sources are probably too distant to have been supplying east Wiltshire and a more local source – perhaps in neighbouring Berkshire or Hampshire – seems more likely (L Mephram pers. comm.). For both fabrics the collection is very fragmentary. The PMR SLIP assemblage (5 vessels) includes a dish with a flanged rim with Metropolitan-style trailed slip decoration internally (sub-vegetal/floral) under a pale brown glaze and a dish with a radial band of brushed white slip. Another probable dish base is covered all over internally with white slip under a pale green glaze. There are also rim and base sherds from two small cups or porringers. The base sherd is decorated internally with marbled white slip with green tints and the exterior is sooted from use. The PMR SGR assemblage (4 vessels) appears to comprise only dish sherds with traces of decoration incised or combed through the white slip to reveal the red fabric beneath. A radial decorative scheme is visible on one dish while the others have unintelligible, possible vegetal, designs under a clear glaze. One sherd is sooted from use.

*ENGS: Misc. English stonewares, c 1670-1900*

These have a brown salt glaze and probably date to the late 17th and 18th centuries. They may well be Bristol products. A minimum of four vessels is represented including sherds from a bottle-like form and a large flagon. Also two 18th-century cylindrical tankards with iron-dipped upper halves. One of these has a faint stamped 'WR' (William III) excise mark within an oval – a mark instituted in 1699 but which remained in use throughout much of the 18th century (context 1166).

*TGW: English tin-glazed earthenware, c 1575-1825*

Fine buff or yellowish earthenware with a white tin glaze. Often with painted decoration. Produced in London from c 1570 and Bristol from c 1650. The two sherds here comprise a footring from a small mid/late 17th-century charger-dish with stylised floral decoration in blue (context 1122) and a plain white chamberpot rim of late 17th- to 18th-century date (context 1172).

### **Summary**

Occupation of the site probably commenced in the late 12th century when locally-produced flint- and limestone-tempered Newbury B (or Kennet Valley B) ware from the nearby Savernake Forest became widely available. There may have been some occupation before this but the pottery is not diagnostic enough to tell, and the absence of the earlier local flint-tempered Newbury A ware (c 1000-1250) makes this seem unlikely. Newbury B ware remained the predominant medieval ceramic type used on the site until the demise of the industry c 1350. A handful of other regional wares occur in the same pit contexts, including jugs in Newbury C ware and highly decorated Laverstock ware from near Salisbury, and these also attest to medieval occupation up to c 1350. Apart from a very small number of decorative glazed tablewares, however, the bulk of the medieval assemblage comprised local coarsewares, mainly jars/cooking pots, a few bowls and rarer jugs and curfews. These suggest that the medieval occupants here enjoyed only a fairly basic standard of living. Thereafter there appears to have been a long hiatus in occupation up until c 1600 or perhaps even c 1650. One cause of this apparent hiatus might have been the Black Death – the dates certainly fit well enough – but other explanations may be possible.

The post-medieval assemblage is dominated by common glazed red earthenwares which,



together with other wares present, suggest a date bracket of *c* 1650-1750 for most of the post-medieval activity here, while the clay pipe assemblage suggests a peak in occupation of *c* 1680-1720. The absence of certain widely available 18th-century pottery types would seem to support this view. Yellow-glazed Verwood-type ware (*c* 1650-1900), for instance, widely replaced the use of redwares in Salisbury and much of Wiltshire during the 18th century (Mephram 2000b, 36) and this appears to be absent from the site here. Staffordshire white stoneware (*c* 1720-1780) □ another very widely available 18th-century type □ is also noticeable by its absence. Likewise the absence of any distinctive late 18th-century Staffordshire-type whitewares or creamwares suggests significant occupation had ended well before this date. The latest pieces of pottery from the site are a couple of sherds of red flowerpot associated with a glass mineral/sauce bottle of 18th- or early 19th-century date (context 1192), and two sherds from a Staffordshire whiteware saucer with blue-sponged decoration datable *c* 1830-1900 (context 1011). These latest pieces may represent casual loss or sporadic use of the site. The medieval and post-medieval pottery types recovered are typical for the region and mostly locally sourced. The small number of imported post-medieval vessels (a couple each in German Frechen and Westerwald stonewares) and only two vessels in English tin-glazed earthenware, suggests that the 17th-18th century occupants were not particularly wealthy and this is supported by the identification of two very commonplace redware dishes which they went to the trouble of repairing with lead rivets rather than buying new ones.

### ***Illustration catalogue***

Fig. 6.1. Fabric NEWB. Jug handle with combed and stabbed decoration. Context 1081.

Fig. 6.2. Fabric NEWB. Fragment from the dome of a curfew (possibly semi-circular?) with thumbled strip and notched decoration. Context 1085.

## ***Clay tobacco pipes***

### ***Introduction and methodology***

The excavation produced a total of 151 pieces of clay pipe weighing 694 g from 22 contexts. These have been catalogued following standard procedure. The catalogue records, per context, the quantity of stem, bowl and mouth fragments, the overall sherd count, weight, and comments on condition and any makers □ marks or decoration present. A few of the more significant items have been catalogued individually and are fully described in the comments. Though of modest size the assemblage includes a surprisingly high number of stamped pipes, all by local Marlborough makers.

### ***Summary of the assemblage***

In total there are 13 pieces of pipe bowl (from at least 12 individual pipes), a single piece of mouth and 137 fragments of stem. The pipes are generally in a fair but fragmentary condition and only a few pieces show significant wear. Only five bowls, however, retain a complete bowl profile and even these have damaged or chipped rims. One bowl has 77mm of stem still attached (1102) and the longest surviving piece of stem is 97mm (1167), though most are in the 30-60mm range. Many pieces have scorched blackish patches externally suggestive of burning perhaps in bonfires or domestic hearths after breakage (or in some cases before). Generally the assemblage has the appearance of domestic rubbish casually disposed of in pits and other features. No individual contexts produced very large numbers of pipe fragments. Context 1102 (pit 1023) produced the highest number (38 pieces), followed by context 1077, pit 1074 (21 pieces). A total of 19 marked pieces were identified □ all falling within the period *c* 1685-1740 and mainly within the period *c*

1685-1720. The datable pipe bowls present are entirely in agreement with this dating and the evidence of stem bore measurements and the consistent character of the assemblage is also entirely compatible with this relatively narrow date range. Apart from a very small number of worn stem fragments (with stem bores of *c* 3mm+ diam.), which arguably could be from earlier in the 17th century, the assemblage appears to be consistently of late 17th and earlier 18th-century date and therefore constitutes quite a pure sample. No pieces datable to the later 18th or the 19th century were identified.

Marlborough had an important and influential pipemaking industry from the mid 17th century until the mid 18th century. Its many pipemakers and their varieties of bowls and stamped marks have been described in detail by Atkinson (1965), and virtually all the pieces from the present excavation can be paralleled in Atkinson's report. The industry was at its height around 1700 but by the mid 18th century only a single pipemaker was left and no stamped pieces after this date are known (*ibid.*). Atkinson suggests that the decline of the local, and national, pipemaking industry at about this time was due to the increasingly popularity of snuff taking, and while the pipemaking industry elsewhere had recovered by the 19th century there is no evidence that the Marlborough industry ever did. The absence of later 18th-century pipes from the site here therefore may not be evidence that the site was unoccupied at this time. A few more details on the dating of individual Marlborough manufacturers is provided by Oswald in his gazetteer of English pipemakers (Oswald 1975, 197-8), and more recent observations on the dating and distribution of Marlborough pipes have been published by Higgins in his report on the important pipe assemblage from Abingdon (Oxon.) which includes several Marlborough pieces (Higgins 2007). Marlborough pipes had a very wide distribution in south-west and south central England. A few examples have also been identified from London (*ibid.*).

The five surviving bowl profiles here are all of 'West Country' or 'Southern England' style with a slightly flaring rim and (mostly) with a short, forward-leaning, spur (Fig. 7.1), or in one case a broad circular heel (Fig. 7.8). The rims are button-trimmed or 'bottered' (indicating a pre- *c* 1740 date) and lack milling, although a few exhibit vertical line-burnishing. The profiles find their closest match with Oswald's Southern England types dated to *c* 1690-1710 — although slimmer versions of the shape last to *c* 1750 (Oswald 1975, fig. 8.10-15). A (heeled) Marlborough bowl of this form from Abingdon, with a Thomas Hunt stamp, is dated there to *c* 1680-1710 (Higgins 2007, fig. 24.64). All but two of the twelve bowls from Kingsbury Hill House appear to be of the spurred variety and thus date after *c* 1685 when this type was introduced by Thomas Hunt (see below). A very few pipe stems from the assemblage here appear to be burnished. Measurements of stem bores are predominantly in the 2.5-3mm range with many of the stamped pieces (and bowls) commonly around 2.8mm in diameter. A few stem bores are as narrow as *c* 2mm and in a few cases as wide as 3mm (max. 3.25mm). One or two of the latter are of 'chunky' 17th-century appearance. The single mouth piece has a stem bore of 3mm (1172). The evidence of stem bore diameters thus seems to agree largely with other typological indicators in suggesting a 17th- and earlier 18th-century date for the assemblage. One unusual stem fragment exhibits a series of 'knife cuts' near the break where it appears to have been cut-down to size; it also appears to have been heavily chewed at this point by its user.

### ***Description of marked or stamped pieces***

The 19 marked pieces here represent the products of three local manufacturers whose products are described below. All but one mark occurs on the upper side of the pipe stem, a short distance behind the bowl. The exception is a earlier-style mark on the underside of a circular heel:

#### *Thomas Hunt (c 1660-1720)*

The most prolific and probably the most important of the Marlborough pipemakers. Represented

here by no fewer than 15 marked pieces – all stem stamps. There were probably two successive pipemakers of this name in the town, father and son (Higgins 2007, 168-9). The elder Thomas Hunt is believed to have moved to Marlborough around 1660 and died here in 1696. His son of the same name seem likely to have carried on the family business into the early 18th century, probably until *c* 1720. The elder Thomas produced heel bowls during the period *c* 1660-1710 with incuse stamps on the underside of the circular heels. None of these earlier products was found here. Thomas is also credited with the introduction in *c* 1685 of the spur pipe. These often had incuse marks in a variety of ornately shaped frames stamped across the stem and it is these marks, datable *c* 1685-1720, which predominate here. The lettering THO/HVNT occurs on the stems of most of the surviving pipe bowls here and several pieces of stem (Fig. 7.1, Fig. 7.2a-d, Fig. 7.3-6). Elsewhere in the town at least 25 slightly different stem stamps with this name have been documented – each with its own variation of the enclosing frame which is often roughly heart- or shield-shaped (Atkinson 1965, fig. 2.43-67). Of the 15 examples here, eight are shield-shaped with a jagged upper border of four peaks (Fig. 7.3). Four of these occur in context 1077 (Pit 1074), and two in 1102 (pit 1023). There are two examples of a similar shield with six jagged peaks (Fig. 7.4: contexts 1085 and 1102) and three examples of a bilobe frame (Fig. 7.6: contexts 1114, 1115, 1183); a single example of a heart-shaped frame (Fig. 7.5: context 1186) and a single indeterminate frame (1061). The occurrence of the two commonest types here in contexts 1077 (pit 1074) and 1102 (pit 1023) suggests that these contexts may be very close in date. It is thought, however, that more than one stamp was in use at any one time and rather more examples than are present here would be needed to make any attempt at seriation worthwhile. The bilobe stamp (Fig. 7.6) has no exact parallel in the published Marlborough typology and may be a new type, although it is related to both the heart-shaped and polylobe stamps (Atkinson 1965, fig. 2.45-6 and 65).

#### *John Greenland*

Two pipemakers of this name are known from Marlborough, one active *c* 1700-1737 (died 1737), the other, possibly a son, known from a tithe payment of 1738-9 (Oswald 1975, 198). Because of the bowl form, and association with Thomas Hunt pipes, it is assumed that the earlier of the two Johns is represented here. Two pipes pieces marked with this name occur here – one is on the broad circular heel of a bowl datable *c* 1680-1710 – one of only two heeled bowls from the excavation and the only marked one (Fig. 7.8). The other stamp, apparently identical, occurs on a stem but is less clearly executed (contexts 1166 and 1102). Marked bowls are much less common than the later marked stems (Atkinson 1965, 88, 92). The incuse lettering occurs as IOHN/GREEN/LAND (the N and D ligatured) within a circular frame (*ibid.*, fig. 2.71).

#### *Edward Mills*

A pipemaker of this name was active in the town *c* 1680-1703. In 1680 another Edward Mills/Mells was apprenticed to him but nothing else is known of the latter (Atkinson 1965, 93; Oswald 1975, 198). Two marked pieces are known from the excavation, both on stems, one of which retains part of a bowl with a short stubby spur (context 1070). The latter is more clearly executed than the other (from 1102) but both have a mixture of upper and lower case lettering, ED./Mills, within a rectangular frame with jagged or serrated edges (Fig. 7.7; Atkinson 1965, fig. 2.94). At least 7 variants of this mark are known (*ibid.*, fig. 2.89-95).

#### ***Illustration catalogue***

The stamp drawings are taken from Atkinson (1965), unless otherwise stated, but are the same as the stamps present here.

Fig. 7.1. Two spurred pipe bowls with the mark of Thomas Hunt on the stems, *c* 1685-1720. Top

(Ctx. 1122), bottom (Ctx. 1102). Scale 1:1.

Fig. 7.2a-d. Four variants of the Thomas Hunt mark found on pipe stems, c 1685-1720 (Ctxs. 1077, 1085, 1114 and 1184). Scale 2:1.

Fig. 7.3. Four-peaked shield-shaped mark of Thomas Hunt found on pipe stems, c 1685-1720 (after Atkinson 1965, fig. 2.47). Scale 1:1.

Fig. 7.4. Six-peaked shield-shaped mark of Thomas Hunt found on pipe stems, c 1685-1720 (after Atkinson 1965, fig. 2.48). Scale 1:1.

Fig. 7.5. Heart-shaped mark of Thomas Hunt found on pipe stems, c 1685-1720 (after Atkinson 1965, fig. 2.45). Scale 1:1.

Fig. 7.6. Bilobe mark of Thomas Hunt found on pipe stems, c 1685-1720 (new type?). Scale 1:1.

Fig. 7.7. Mark of Edward Mills found on pipe stems, c 1680-1703 (after Atkinson 1965, fig. 2.94). Scale 1:1.

Fig. 7.8. Pipe bowl with the mark of John Greenland on large circular heel, c 1700-1710? (active c 1700-1737). (Ctx. 1166). Scale 1:1.

## ***Ceramic building material***

### ***Introduction and methodology***

A total of 243 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 27.470kg were recovered. All of this appears to be of post-medieval date apart from one or two possible medieval pieces. The CBM was catalogued at an 'intermediate' level of detail. By this system broad predictable functional categories of CBM were recorded by fragment count per context (ie brick, roof tile and 'other') and a whole weight was recorded for each context, but not for each type. This gives a more detailed snapshot of the composition of the assemblage than a simple scan. Measurable dimensions were recorded (in the comments field) for many of the more complete pieces and an approximate spot-date was assigned to the latest material in each context. Full details may be consulted in the site archive. In the event most of the CBM was assigned a '17th/18th-century' spot-date - largely based on the homogeneous nature of the abundant roof tile fragments. As virtually every context which produced CBM also produced post-medieval pottery and clay pipe its value as dating evidence here is of fairly minor importance. The assemblage is generally in a very fragmentary condition and no complete examples of either bricks or tiles were recovered. In general the harder-fired roof tiles have survived as larger fresher pieces while the softer bricks have not fared so well. The range of functional types here is very limited and really breaks down into just two main types: roof tile and brick (in equal amounts), plus a handful of miscellaneous pieces. None of these is particularly unusual for a post-medieval site or of much more than local significance and none has been illustrated. A large pit (1181) on the north-western edge of the site produced the largest quantity of CBM from any feature (95 pieces, 6.83kg.), much of it clearly rubble. All types are considered in more detail below.

### ***Flat roof tile***

A total of 124 fragments of flat roof tiles were recorded. Also known as peg tile, these are of typical rectangular shape and relatively neat (though pre-modern) manufacture with a pair of circular nail holes at the upper end. None preserves its complete dimensions and only a single example preserves a complete measurable width (160 mm, context 1047, pit 1042). The latter is from the lower two-thirds of a tile with a variable thickness of 12-15mm. One or two other pieces are also quite large (up to c 230mm long) but most are considerably smaller than this. Tile thicknesses are within the 12-17mm range, mainly c 14-15mm. As usual the slightly flattened edges tend to be slightly thicker than the centre of the tile. Tile fabrics are generally very similar and evidently part of a range probably made from the same local clay sources. The majority occur in a very hard, smooth, relatively sand-free, pale orange-red, orange-buff or pink-brown fabric with streaks and/or lumps of cream clay (or marl) throughout the fabric – although the degree of streaking varies from tile to tile. A few tiles have a lumpy poorly mixed texture with more abundant lumps or pellets of cream-coloured and sometimes red (iron-rich) clay. One or two pieces are in a related pale buff or pale brown-firing fabric which might be earlier, or perhaps from a different source? Although superficially similar, perhaps about a third of all fragments occur in a more homogeneous, smooth, or slightly sandy textured, orange-red fabric similar to that of common red terracotta flowerpots. These are slightly softer and more porous but some examples are denser and more highly fired. They are of more regular appearance with smoother surfaces and often neatly-squared edges. A very few examples of these have sub-square rather than circular nailholes and generally they have a better-finished, more modern look than the buffer streakier tiles – although a few pieces have the occasional streak of cream clay suggesting a relationship. The redder tiles seem to occur more frequently in association with early 18th-century clay pipes and may therefore be a later development although the two types probably overlap in date and certainly commonly occur together in the same contexts. One roof tile corner (in the buffer fabric) has a ‘blind’ nailhole – not punched all the way through to the other side – a feature noted on some medieval tiles elsewhere (eg Oxford). No evidence for glazing was noted on any of the flat roof tiles recovered (but see ridge tiles below).

All the tiles described above are post-medieval and usually associated with 17th- and/or 18th-century pottery and clay pipes. Evidence for medieval tiles is very scant and rather subjective, but around half a dozen flat roof tile fragments occur in coarser fabrics which may be medieval. Most have a coarser sandier buff or orange-buff fabric than the tiles described above and seem a little cruder, and this is the main, if somewhat tenuous, evidence for a medieval date. However none of the pottery-dated medieval pit contexts on the site produced any definite evidence of contemporary roof tiles. It does seem likely, however, that a few pieces of medieval tile (including ridge tile) do occur on the site but are mostly (or exclusively?) residual in post-medieval contexts. A flake of medieval-looking sandy orange-buff tile occurs in pit or posthole 1130, which contained no pottery but forms part of the row of postholes of the medieval building (group 1160). An unusually worn tile fragment from a post-medieval context (1061) has a fine brown sandy fabric with sparse flint and is of very different appearance to the fresher post-medieval tile from the same context and therefore probably medieval, but residual.

### ***Ridge tile and miscellaneous tile***

These have been quantified with the flat roofing tile above but amount to only five sherds from four items. There are three probable (or possible) examples of ridge tiles in red-firing finely sandy fabrics similar to the post-medieval red earthenwares (PMR) from the site and not dissimilar to most of the flat roof tile fabrics. The contexts are all post-medieval but a medieval or ‘Tudor’ date might be possible for some of these pieces, which are all fairly small. The most definite example is a piece from the lower edge of ridge tile side with an expanded and flattened edge (context 1077). Another unusually thick tile edge (18mm thick) might also be a ridge (context 1076). The third

example is represented by a fairly large worn body sherd from the side of a ridge tile with traces of clear glaze externally and with a shaved or knife-trimmed internal surface (possibly Tudor; context 1088). The scarcity of ceramic ridge tiles suggests they were not commonly used on post-medieval buildings in the vicinity here, although complete examples might have been taken away for re-use elsewhere. Two joining medieval-looking sherds from a post-medieval context (1061) look at first glance to be from the wall of a jug, or some other sort of vessel, but the sandy pale orange-brown fabric is rough and tile-like with a very rough unglazed exterior and a rough yellow-brown glaze on the interior, although the wall is unusually thin (8mm) for a tile or drainpipe. It is clearly from something unusual, perhaps a gutter-tile or even a pottery louver, but is best regarded as unidentified.

### **Brick**

The 119 pieces of brick are nearly all very broken and worn, much of it amounting to little more than rubble. Nothing like a complete example was recovered although a few complete widths were measurable. The majority are in a soft orange-red fabric but many examples also have lumps and streaks of cream and red clay similar to the majority of flat roof tiles. A few examples are in a related paler brownish-buff firing clay and a few over-fired examples are a darker purplish-brown colour. All the bricks are un-frogged pre-modern types. The latest examples may be of 18th-century date but the majority look earlier than this and can loosely be described as of 'Tudor' appearance, in that they are relatively thin and evidently handmade. Most brick fragments with measurable thicknesses are in the 47-50mm range, which is quite thin and entirely consistent with a broad 16th-century dating. A few of the latter have measurable widths (95mm and 110mm). Some have vegetation impressions on the underside 'typical of handmade bricks' and a few examples have an accidental thin grey ash glaze on the sides, although this also occurs on one or two thicker bricks. Four brick ends are thicker (57-64mm thick), including two with measurable widths of 100mm and 105mm. These are neater and squarer than the 'Tudor' bricks and possibly of late 17th- or 18th-century date, but 'Tudor' brick rubble occurs in nearly every context producing CBM. Two or three bricks are scorched or burnt on top or along one side. All the brick producing contexts also produced 17th-18th century pottery and pipes except for context (1076) which produced the highest number of brick fragments (20) including a thicker probably 18th-century brick end. This context, however, is the uppermost fill of a large pit (1074) whose other fills are dated by pottery and pipes.

The apparent 'Tudor' dating of the majority of brick fragments here is something of a puzzle, as there is no other convincing evidence for occupation of the site during the 16th century. All the pottery, for instance, appears to date to the period c 1650-1750 and even if a few undiagnostic 16th- or early 17th-century sherds are perhaps present, there is little doubt that the bulk of the pottery (and pipes) is later than this. One possible explanation for this could be that local Marlborough brickmakers were slow to change and carried on making thin Tudor-style bricks well into the 17th century. Alternatively, the bricks were recycled from an earlier building in the town and only brought to the site in the 17th century. The most likely explanation, however, is that most of the bricks are just rubble brought to the site to backfill some of the quarry pits dug here in the 17th and 18th centuries, hence the poor condition of the majority of pieces.

### **Glass**

The glass assemblage comprises 16 pieces weighing 174g and appears to be entirely post-medieval. The assemblage is very fragmentary and contains very little of significance. Most pieces come from free-blown 17th/18th-century green glass wine bottles, including a couple of pulley-top rims with broad flanges and several pieces from the curved lower walls of wine bottles with 'kicked-up'

bases. Other forms include sherds from two separate clear glass phials or pharmaceutical bottles (context 1088 and 1102) with 'kicked-up' bases and pontil marks, also of 17th/18th-century date. A single sherd comes from the lower wall of something like a shallow bowl or a wine glass in a flaky clear glass fabric associated with late 17th/18th-century clay pipe stems (1167). Context 1192 produced four joining sherds from the tubular neck and moulded rim of a clear glass mineral water or sauce bottle. This has a light greenish tint and may be free-blown. Associated pottery (including flowerpot) and the vessel itself suggest a late 18th- or early 19th-century date. A small piece of flat clear window glass is probably the latest piece in the assemblage as it was associated with pottery of c 1830-1900 (context 1011).

### ***Flint***

A small assemblage of six pieces (104g) was recovered. This included some crude flake-like pieces. These were examined by specialist Mike Donnelly, who considered the assemblage to be of entirely natural origin.

### ***The stone mortar***

Two joining pieces from a stone mortar (5.149kg) were recovered from the middle fill of a large circular post-medieval pit in the north-eastern half of the site (pit 1092, context 1114, SF2). The upper two fills of the pit, which appeared to be deliberately backfilled, contained pottery and clay pipes of c 1685-1720. The mortar has a maximum rim diameter of c 420mm, a height of c 210mm and a weakly defined base pad – probably square in plan – with sides measuring c 320mm (Fig. 8.1). Away from the remains of the vertical ribs or lugs, the bowl of the vessel has a maximum thickness of c 58mm at the rim and a minimum thickness of c 32mm across the broken base. The vessel is of fairly roughly hewn, low grade, cream-coloured limestone, porous and fairly weathered. This was examined by Ruth Shaffrey, who describes it as a spar-prominent oolitic limestone containing shell fragments. It is a type of Bath stone, the nearest source of which was at Box (Wilts.), although without further analysis the source must remain uncertain. Box was exploited in the 18th century so the mortar could possibly be of this date. This agrees with the associated clay pipe dating of c 1685-1720, but it could still be of medieval date when mortars were more typically in use. This, however, would require the mortar to have been in use for several centuries (perhaps as a water trough rather than a mortar), or to be residual in its context. The dating therefore remains somewhat ambiguous.

The precise form of the original mortar is uncertain as only about 15% of the rim circumference survives plus the damaged base of a vertical rib or lug and slight traces of a second rib. The rim is slightly thickened in section with an external collar c 68-70mm deep and possibly with a slight groove on the top. The upper wall of the bowl is fairly vertical but gently rounded towards the base and appears to bulge out slightly towards the ribs. In plan the outside of the bowl may have been slightly sub-square while the inside was more circular, like some church fountains. If this were the case then the original diameter may have been smaller in places than the one measured. From the surviving pieces it seems rather more likely that the slight base pad was actually square in plan, rather than circular, with a chamfered (triangular-section) vertical rib rising from each corner of the square. Each side of the square base measured c 320mm. The larger diameter circular bowl sat closely on the square pad held at each corner by the vertical ribs. Square-based mortars are less common in the medieval period than round-based ones but they do occur. A complete example in Purbeck marble is illustrated from Poole, Dorset (Horsey 1992, fig. 90.1). This has four equidistant chamfered ribs – (as here) that widen upwards into squared lugs at the top of

the vessel. Owing to damage, however, it is not absolutely certain that the chamfered rib here is not a squared lug, but the geometry of the vessel favours the interpretation suggested above. The exterior of the vessel is roughly smoothed and rounded and the base shows evidence of use-wear. The lower half of the interior is only slightly worn but higher up there is a broad band of marked roughness on the inside of the rim which is probably the result of circular grinding action by a pestle. Similar wear has been observed on medieval mortars elsewhere.

### ***Slag***

Nine pieces of iron-working slag (670g) were recovered from four contexts. These are amorphous corroded lumps with a dense black core of vitreous dross and vesicular surfaces coated in a limey film. All the examples are weakly magnetic. Two pieces, including part of a large bubble chamber, are from a medieval context containing pottery of *c* 1150-1350. The others are from post-medieval contexts.

### ***Shell***

There are seven complete and near-complete oyster shell valves weighing 113g from five contexts. These measure between 51-76mm across. These are all from post-medieval contexts except one damaged shell from a context (1099) dated *c* 1230-1350.

### ***Copper alloy object***

A single piece of copper alloy (5g) was recovered from context 1061 (not illustrated). This appears to be part of a small curved brass fitting, possibly once circular or semi-circular, with an original diameter of *c* 60mm. It currently represents *c* 25% of a circle. The most likely interpretation is that it represents part of the casing or binding of a semi-circular lid or flap from a small container of some sort whose organic parts have since decayed. It has an L-shaped section with small rivet holes placed at regular intervals on the upper surface. The external angle is slightly bevelled and the outer surface, or rim, is decorated with fine zig-zag scratching. One end of the object terminates in a hinge perforation, which suggest it may have been semi-circular in plan. The context also contains clay pipe of *c* 1685-1720.

### ***Iron objects***

A total of 24 iron objects weighing 468g were recovered from 15 contexts. Most of these contexts contained post-medieval pottery or clay pipe, although four contexts, containing only nails, have no associated dating evidence but are probably post-medieval too. The majority of pieces here (20 fragments) represent very rusty nails. A very rusty post-medieval knife with a 'bolster' (tang) was also recovered (SF3, context 1182) and approximately half a rusty square buckle (diameter 32mm; context 1184). The assemblage also included two pieces of sheet metal.

### ***Animal bones***

*by Lena Strid and Rebecca Nicholson*



## ***Introduction***

This report encompasses animal bones from the 2010 excavations at Kingsbury Hill House, Marlborough. The entirely hand-collected assemblage derives from medieval and post-medieval pits and postholes. A full record of the assemblage, documented in a Microsoft Access 97 database, can be found in the site archive.

## ***Methodology***

The bones have been identified to species using a comparative reference collection, as well as standard osteological books and articles. Where possible, sheep and goat have been separated using criteria given in Boessneck *et al.* (1964) and Prummel and Frisch (1986). They are otherwise classified as 'sheep/goat'. For zoning, Serjeantson (1996) has been used. Ribs and vertebrae, with the exception of the atlas and axis, are classified by size: 'large mammal' representing cattle, horse and deer, 'medium mammal' representing sheep/goat, pig and large dog, and 'small mammal' representing small dog, cat and hare. Mandible zones are based on Worley (2011).

As an indication of bone condition, a grading system has been used, based on a six-point system (0-5), grade 0 equating to very well preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

For ageing, Habermehl's (1975) data on epiphyseal fusion has been used. Division into early, mid and late fusing bones follows Serjeantson (1996). Tooth wear is recorded using Grant's tooth wear stages (Grant 1982), and correlated with tooth eruption (Habermehl 1975). In order to estimate an age for the animals, the methods of Halstead (1985), Payne (1973) and O'Connor (1988) have been used for cattle, sheep/goat and pig respectively.

Sex determination is based on morphological traits on cattle and sheep/goat pelvis, pig mandibular canine teeth and fowl tarsometatarsi, using data from Schmid (1972) and Vretemark (1997). Measurements were taken according to von den Driesch (1976), using digital callipers with an accuracy of 0.01mm. Large bones have been measured using an osteometric board, with an accuracy of 1mm.

## ***The assemblage***

The assemblage consists of 656 fragments, of which 352 (53.7%) are considered to be speciable (Table 2). Most of the bones are well preserved (Table 3). Four bones from the post-medieval assemblage are burnt, but no burnt bones are present in the medieval assemblage. Traces of carnivore gnawing are evident on seven of the medieval and twenty eight of the post medieval bones, but in general, it seems likely that organic waste was disposed of rapidly in both periods.

The mammals and birds identified include cattle, sheep/goat, sheep, pig, horse, cat, domestic fowl and goose. However, horse, cat and goose are only present in the medieval assemblage. The presence of dogs in both phases is implied by the identification of gnawing marks.

### *The medieval assemblage*

The relatively small medieval assemblage is dominated by bones from the usual domesticates: sheep/goat, followed (in terms of number of identifiable fragments) by cattle and pig. Other species present included horse, cat, domestic fowl and goose. Since bones from domestic goose and its wild counterpart, the greylag goose are morphologically very similar, the goose bones could belong to either, although at these dates the consumption of domestic goose is more likely. Bones from all body parts of the major domestic taxa are present, indicating that the animals were slaughtered, butchered and eaten in a nearby settlement.

Ageing evidence is scant, based on only two sheep or goat mandibles from animals aged 2-3 years at the time of death, two juvenile sheep/goat long bones and a total of 20 bones from cattle,

sheep/goat and pig with ageable epiphyses. The epiphyseal fusion data suggests that cattle and sheep/goat were mainly slaughtered as sub-adults or adults. The sample of pig bones was too small for interpreting the slaughter pattern, although as pigs are kept solely for meat they were probably killed young.

Two sheep skulls had been sagittally split, probably to access the brain. One of these was clearly from a polled individual, the other skull was represented only by the occipital region. A sheep or goat tibia and a pelvis exhibited cleaver chop marks indicative of portioning the carcass.

The only observed pathological changes are to an adult domestic fowl femur (from pit 1080), which exhibited exostoses at the proximal joint surface (below the caput, over the trochanter major) while a pig tibia from pit 1016 had a small part of the fibula fused to shaft at distal end, although this is unlikely to have affected the health of animal significantly.

### *The post-medieval assemblage*

Cattle is by far the most numerous species in the 17th-18th century assemblage (Tables 1 and 4). The predominance of cattle is, however, inflated by a large number of cattle bones, mainly mandible and skull fragments, from quarry pit (1074).

Pit 1074 included a range of elements typically found in primary butchery waste, notably skulls and bones from the lower legs (Table 5). A minimum of nine cattle and eight sheep or goats were present. Based on toothwear stages, cattle seem to have been slaughtered as adults (n=4), subadult (n=1) and old adult/senile (n=3), although juvenile animals are indicated by the presence of a few small and porous and/or unfused limb bones; two unfused proximal metapodials provides evidence of at least one unborn calf. While no bones from this pit could be sexed as male or female, it is likely that the older animals were taken from the milk herd, while the sub-adult animal may have been a young male fattened for meat. Butchery marks were few and included cuts to a phalange, probably inflicted during skinning. Additionally, one mandible had been chopped through below the articulation probably to remove the mandible and tongue. The great majority of the sheep/goats represented in this pit were killed at 3-6 years (n=6), presumably having produced both lambs and wool for several years. A single younger animal of 1-2 years was probably slaughtered for meat. Two sheep/goat mandibles displayed an additional foramen on the buccal side below the P2 or P3, a non-metric trait also found on bones from other post-medieval features at the site, indicating that these animals belonged to a single population..

Livestock from the rest of the post-medieval assemblage are represented by bones from all body parts, indicating that slaughter, butchery and consumption took place at or near the site with the mixed refuse disposed of in the various pits. Based on the state of epiphyseal fusion, it is clear that pigs were generally slaughtered young, as is usual for an animal which produces no secondary products. While none of the remains can be definitely sexed as female, a large male canine tooth demonstrates the presence of boar. Cattle remains included bones from adult animals, but in comparison to the remains from pit 1074, a wider range of ages was indicated by both the mandibles and the long bones; several juvenile animals are indicated and again an unfused proximal metacarpal provides evidence of an unborn calf. Three cattle pelvises have been sexed as female while one is male. All of the sheep represented by mandibles were again killed at 3-4 or 4-6 years of age, when they would have produced lambs and several clips of wool. The only evidence for younger sheep/goat was a single unfused distal metacarpal, from individual of up to around 24 months old. A fragment of horncore from pit 1087 indicates that at least one of the post-medieval sheep was horned while the only sexable pelvis (from pit 1065) came from a wether. Fowl bones were mainly from adult birds, with one male identified.

Butchery marks on sheep/goat remains are limited but typical for disarticulation, portioning and filleting. Several pig bones had also been butchered, with chops and cuts evidence of

disarticulation portioning and filleting. Cattle bones are more frequently butchered and very few bones are complete. One cattle metapodial has been split longitudinally, with a *c*10mm hole punched into the anterior distal metaphysis presumably in preparation for splitting the bone for marrow extraction. Other bones provide evidence for disarticulation, filleting, portioning and, in the case of a single phalange, for skinning. Two mandibles from pit 1023 have vertical chopmarks on the buccal side of the diastema while other mandibles have been chopped on the ascending ramus or around the coronoid process and articulation, presumably as a means of removing the mandible and tongue. The only post-medieval pathology noted was a small area of exostoses (extra bone growth) at one of the ventral bodies of a large mammal vertebra. Two of the fowl limb bones exhibited knife cuts close to the joint.

## DISCUSSION

There is no evidence for human activity or occupation on the site before the late 12th or early 13th century. The earliest dating evidence is provided by abundant finds of coarse unglazed Newbury (or Kennet valley) B ware (*c* 1075-1350), which was probably produced in the Savernake Forest nearby. While production of this regional ware type can be dated from as early as the late 11th century it was not very common until the later 12th century, and this is the likely start-date for occupation here.

The results of the excavation generally corroborated the conclusions of the evaluation (WA 1993), which pointed to an area of 13th/14th century domestic pits. The distribution of pottery and other finds in the area of excavation, both medieval and post-medieval, is heavily concentrated in the north-eastern half of this long rectangular site and becomes increasingly concentrated towards the eastern end closest to the line of Herd Street. The largest archaeological features and the greatest density of inter-cutting pits are also concentrated in this half of the site. This concentration of activity is very probably related therefore to medieval and post-medieval occupation on the Herd Street frontage. If there were a tenement or dwelling here, however, it must lie just beyond the eastern limits of the site as no definite structural remains were recovered in this area apart from rare isolated postholes. A rectangular post-medieval pit (1024) disappearing under the north-eastern edge of the site was the only excavated feature to produce thin alternate layers of ash and dark silty soil typical of occupation debris, such as hearth material and organic waste, possibly deriving from a nearby dwelling. The sequence of deposition may identify the feature as a cess pit. In contrast, the south-western half of the site – furthest away from Herd Street – produced only very sparse pottery finds, but these appear to be entirely medieval in date. It is worth noting that nothing like a hearth, nor even a stone or brick wall, was found within the area of the excavation although it is also worth noting that most features were not fully excavated. This suggests, nevertheless, that occupation of the site may always have been at a fairly superficial level and did not require permanent structures.

Phase 1 (12th to 14th century) includes a row of postholes (group 1160) located in the south-western end of the site and identified as a medieval timber structure or dwelling, although the paucity of pottery and other finds in this area might suggest that it was a shed or outhouse rather than dwelling. Another notable medieval feature in the north-east of the site is a very large but relatively shallow rectangular pit (1080) which produced a fairly substantial assemblage of medieval pottery. This has been interpreted as a chalk/flint quarry later backfilled with discarded chalk nodules and domestic rubbish, although its size and precise rectangular plan might suggest it was some sort of unusual sunken-floored building, and indeed a fill within 1080 produced a perforated sherd from the dome of a curfew (firecover), and a sherd from a second possible curfew was recovered from one of the post-medieval pits (1087) cutting it; these may indicate the presence

of an undiscovered, but nearby, hearth. A similar rectangular feature due north of 1080, however, is simply interpreted as post-medieval chalk/flint quarry (pit 1065), and perhaps these very large square or rectangular features are simply evidence of a more organised and larger-scale approach to quarrying than that which produced the smaller circular pits. The largest of these circular quarry pits, however, could be up to 5m across (medieval pit 1195). The full size and shape of the two large rectangular (or square) pits could not be determined due to the limits of the excavation, yet it is fairly clear that their orientation respects the line of Herd Street to the east (one parallel to it and the other at right-angles) and at the other end of the site the long axis of the medieval structure (group 1160) is also at right-angles to Herd Street. This detectable NE/SW alignment of some of the most important rectilinear features on the site may be a reflection of a medieval land division – a long rectangular strip (*burgage* plot?) – at right-angles to Herd Street whose original boundaries lie outside the limits of the present excavation. These boundaries, defined perhaps in the post-medieval period by fences or walls, also determined the long rectangular shape of the excavation and the subsequent housing development upon it. Pottery dating to the medieval period ends around *c* 1350-1400 and the ceramic sequence does not appear to resume until *c* 1650. This suggests that there was little or no activity on the site for a period of *c* 250-300 years, or at least none that resulted in the disposal of pottery.

Post-medieval (Phase 2) activity on the site is almost entirely confined to the period *c* 1650-1750 and the clay pipe assemblage suggests that most of this occurred *c* 1680-1720. This is consistent with the 18th century dating of the wall to the garden of 9 Herd Street. The Grade II Listed wall (ID 310310) extends north to the boundary of number 12 and marks the east edge of the development site. The phase is characterised almost entirely by pit digging which produced an assortment of circular and oval pits, some of fairly large diameter, and a large rectangular pit (1065) in the northernmost corner of the site. The larger pits are, again, mostly interpreted as chalk/flint quarry pits subsequently backfilled with domestic rubbish, including bone, pottery, clay pipes and ceramic building materials (CBM). A deep straight-sided sub-square pit (1090) near the centre has tentatively been identified as a well (not bottomed). One sub-square pit (1083) near the eastern end of the site seems, unusually, to have been deliberately capped with a thick layer of stones or stone rubble. This might have been intended to seal a cess pit from a nearby dwelling and may also be evidence for some sort of post-medieval stone processing activity. The post-medieval pottery from the site is mostly of local origin and quite humble in character, an impression underlined by the fact that two very commonplace red earthenware dishes appear to have been repaired with lead rivets.

Virtually all the CBM from the site is post-medieval but is mostly in fairly poor condition, particularly the brick. Surprisingly this includes a substantial amount of ‘Tudor’ (16th-century) brick, despite the fact that no Tudor pottery or other finds of this date were identified. Rather than suggesting an otherwise undetected Tudor phase of activity on the site, a more likely interpretation is that the Tudor element derives from demolished structures elsewhere in the town and was brought to the site as rubble for backfilling pits here in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, as the associated clay pipe dating suggests. There was a disastrous fire in the town in April 1653 (WCC 2004, 7.10.4.1: the date of the fire is given by WCC as 1653, although Haslam has 1635). Haslam quotes an eye-witness account of the resulting devastation, ‘St Mary’s church, with the market house, and all the chief houses in the town on both sides of the High Street [are] burnt to dust, three hundred families at least out of doors’ (1976, 42). A large part of the town had to be reconstructed, and many buildings on the High Street that date from the late 17th and early 18th century are the result of this rebuilding (WCC 2004, 7.10.4.1). It seems likely, therefore, that the site of the present excavations may have been quarried for building materials at this time, with the large resulting pits subsequently backfilled with rubble from demolished fire-damaged buildings elsewhere. By the same admission some percentage of the post-medieval pottery, pipes and later CBM from the site may also have been dumped here from elsewhere. Later post-medieval (Phase 3) activity on the site

appears to have been very superficial.

## CONCLUSIONS

Despite the limited evidence for medieval activity at the site, the results of the present excavation are nevertheless valuable in demonstrating that this area of the town was occupied from the late 12th century until around 1350. This supports the hypothesis that the area formed part of a planned extension of the 12th and 13th centuries, as there was no evidence for occupation prior to this date. Herd Street is mentioned in medieval documents in 1438 (WCC 5.5.20), but the fact that the medieval features excavated at the present site were at right-angles to its line suggests that they belonged to a tenement established on the west frontage of the street perhaps 200 years earlier. The limited area available for excavation, however, has meant that it was not possible to define the boundaries of the tenement, or to identify its principal building, which is likely to have lain on the street frontage. The possibility that the large rectilinear medieval pit 1080 may have been some form of sunken -floored structure may be an interesting line of enquiry for future research in the town. Sunken-floored buildings of this period are not common, but examples dating from the mid 13th century have been recorded elsewhere, notably in the suburbs of Oxford and at Northampton, and it has been suggested that they could have formed ancillary buildings perhaps for storage or craft purposes (Roberts 1995; Andrews and Mephram 1997). The medieval post-built structure on the site produced almost no finds and may also have had an ancillary function, perhaps as a shed or barn.

The evidence for occupation at the site comes to an end around 1350. The population of England declined steeply at this time as a result of a series of devastating famines and plagues in the early and mid 14th century, and this is often most visible in the archaeological record in suburbs and the areas that had most recently been brought into occupation. In Marlborough the demolition of the church of St Martin in the 16th century has been noted as a possible sign of population decline in the area, although the south part of Kingsbury Street and Silverless Street may have remained quite densely occupied. Subsequently, there was no significant expansion of the occupied area of the town before the 20th century (see Introduction, above). The evidence for quarrying and the dumping of building rubble at the site of the excavations in the late 17th and early 18th century suggests that it may have been unoccupied for a considerable period. Some of the ceramic and other finds may be associated with this temporary (perhaps seasonal) activity. There was very little material of 19th-century date, and the site appears as open ground on maps dating back as far as 1886, although buildings were by then present on the plots immediately to the north and south.

The finds recovered are typical for the area and mostly fairly unremarkable. The range of medieval pottery fabrics is very similar to that encountered at other sites in the town, such as that from the site of Marlborough Castle (Mephram 2002), and the post-medieval pottery is also typical for the region. A possibly medieval stone mortar is of some interest, as is the clay pipe assemblage which produced a surprisingly high number of marked pieces, mainly the products of a single Marlborough pipemaker.

The results of the excavation add to the picture in the medieval period of marginal activity set in open ground behind *burgages* that fronted on to streets extending from the core of the market town. The pits, a possible well, and a timber structure recorded at Kingsbury Hill House match the range of archaeological features seen elsewhere. An investigation at Marlborough College at a site fronting the High Street uncovered pits □ interpreted as cess pits □ and a masonry structure, not regarded as domestic (Heaton and Moffat 2002, 105). A watching brief at New Road, some 250m south-east of Kingsbury Hill House, uncovered a pit and make-up or garden soils and an absence of significant structural remains (Society for Medieval Archaeology 2011). An evaluation on Salisbury

Road, the southern road extending out of the centre, revealed no archaeological remains (Mayer 2003). The site at Kingsbury Hill House is more unusual in its relative dense distribution of post-medieval features, although their function as quarry pits indicates that the site remained marginal to the town.

## Acknowledgements

The author is indebted to Thomas Homes Ltd for funding the archaeological fieldwork and the post-excavation programme. The author is also grateful to Greg Pugh of CgMs Consulting for his support and for ensuring that the project proceeded smoothly. The fieldwork was directed by Steve Leech and was managed by Steve Lawrence. The post-excavation project was managed by Edward Biddulph and Steve Lawrence. Support was provided by Leigh Allen (finds management), Matt Bradley (geomatics management), Rebecca Nicholson (environmental management), Nicola Scott (archives management), and Alex Smith (project monitoring). Finds were drawn or photographed by Magdalena Wachnik. The site figures were prepared by Conan Parsons and Emily Plunkett. The author would like to thank the following for their significant contribution to the project during fieldwork: Robin Bashford, Rebecca Griffin, Alex Latham, Paul Leader, Mark Littlewood, Ben McAndrew, Matthew Morgan, and Lee Sparks. The post-excavation report was edited by Edward Biddulph and Anne Dodd.

## Bibliography

Andrews, P and Mephram, L 1997 'Medieval and post-medieval extra-mural settlement on the site of the Ashmolean Museum forecourt, Beaumont Street, Oxford', *Oxoniensia* **62**, 179-223

Atkinson, D R, 1965 Clay tobacco pipes and pipemakers of Marlborough, Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine **60**, 85-95.

Birbeck, V, 2000 *Archaeological investigations on the A34 Newbury Bypass, Berkshire/Hampshire, 1991-7*, Wessex Archaeology/Highways Agency.

Boessneck, J, Müller, H-H, and Teichert, M, 1964 *Osteologische Unterscheidungsmerkmale zwischen Schaf (*Ovis aries* Linné) und Ziege (*Capra hircus* Linné)*, Kühn-Archiv **78**

Gaz Markets and Fairs, Online gazetteer of markets and fairs in England and Wales to 1516 <http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/gaz/gazweb2.html>, accessed 21.12.11

Gerrard, C and King, R, 2000 The pottery, in Ludgershall Castle, Wiltshire. A report on the excavations by Peter Addyman, 1964-1972 (P Ellis), Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Monograph Series **2**, 181-200

Grant, A, 1982 The use of toothwear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates, in *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites* (eds B Wilson, C Grigson and S Payne), BAR Brit. Ser. **109**, 91-108, Oxford

Habermehl, K-H, 1975 *Die Altersbestimmung bei Haus- und Labortieren*, 2 edn, Berlin, Hamburg.

- Halstead, P, 1985 A study of mandibular teeth from Romano-British contexts at Maxey, in Pryor 1985, 219-224
- Haslam, J, 1976 *Wiltshire towns; the archaeological potential*, Wilts Archaeol and Nat Hist Soc, Devizes
- Heaton, M and Moffat, B, 2002 A possible outer bailey ditch to Marlborough Castle: Excavations at Marlborough College pool, *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* **95**, 100-6
- Higgins, D A, 2007 Clay tobacco pipes, in Excavations at Abingdon West Central Redevelopment: Iron Age, Roman, medieval, and post-medieval activity in Abingdon (K Brady, A Smith and G Laws), *Oxoniensia* **72**, 157-176
- Kennet District Council, 2003 Marlborough Conservation Area Statement, unpublished document
- LAARC, 2007 Post 1992 Museum of London code expansions: Post-Roman pottery.  
[http://www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F0118AAF-EF24-4228-A07A-39F89E6F092E/0/post92mol\\_post\\_roman.pdf](http://www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F0118AAF-EF24-4228-A07A-39F89E6F092E/0/post92mol_post_roman.pdf)
- Mayer, D, 2003 18 Salisbury Road, Marlborough, unpublished evaluation report by Foundations Archaeology
- Mepham, L, 2000a Medieval pottery, in Birbeck, 2000, 52-66
- Mepham, L., 2000b The pottery, in Excavations at Ivy Street and Brown Street, Salisbury, 1994 (M Rawlings), *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* **93**, 29-37
- Mepham, L, 2002 Pottery, in M Heaton and B Moffat 2002, 103-5
- OA, 2010 Archaeological mitigation at Kingsbury Hill House, Marlborough, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation, unpublished document by Oxford Archaeology
- Oswald, A, 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, BAR Brit. Ser. 14, Oxford
- Pearce, J, 1992, *Post-medieval pottery in London, 1500-1700, 1: Border wares*, Museum of London
- Prummel, W, and Frisch, H-J, 1986 A guide for the distinction of species, sex and body side in bones of sheep and goat, *Journal of Archaeological Science* **13**, 567-577
- Pugh, G, 2009 Written scheme of investigation for archaeological mitigation: Kingsbury Hill House, Marlborough, Wiltshire, unpublished document by CgMs Consulting
- Roberts, M R, 1995 'Excavations at Jowett Walk, Oxford', *Oxoniensia* **60**
- Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of animal bones for prehistorians, archaeologists and quaternary geologists*, Amsterdam, London, New York

Serjeantson, D, 1996 The animal bones, in *Refuse and disposal at Area 16 east Runnymede: Runnymede Bridge research excavations, volume 2* (S Needham and T Spence), London, 194-253

Society for Medieval Archaeology, 2011 *Medieval Britain and Ireland*, Archaeology Data Service, York, doi:10.5284/1000424

Vince, A G, 1997 Excavations at Nos 143-5 Bartholomew Street, 1979, in *Excavations in Newbury, Berkshire, 1979-1990* (A G Vince, S J Lobb, J C Richards and L Mephram), Wessex Archaeology Report **13**, Salisbury, 7-85.

von den Driesch, A, 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*, Harvard University

WA, 1993 Old School Gardens, Herd Street, Marlborough: archaeological evaluation, unpublished report by Wessex Archaeology

WCC 2004 *The archaeology of Wiltshire's towns: an extensive urban survey: Marlborough*, Wiltshire County Archaeological Service

Worley, F, 2011 Mandible zones, in *Settling the Ebbsfleet valley: High Speed 1 excavations at Springhead and Northfleet, Kent. The late Iron Age, Anglo Saxon and Medieval landscape, Vol. 3: Late Iron Age to Roman human remains and environmental reports* (C Barnett, J I McKinley, E Stafford, J M Grimm and C J Stevens), unpublished animal bone archive report ), Oxford Wessex Archaeology



<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Wt</b>
NEWB	Newbury B ware	c 1075-1350	167	3386
NEWC	Newbury C ware	c 1075-1500	16	228
MINE	Minety ware (NW Wilts)	c 1120-1550	2	34
LAV	Laverstock ware (Wilts)	c 1230-1400	6	68
FREC	Frechen stoneware (Germany)	c 1525-1750	4	142
BORD	Border ware (Surrey/Hants)	c 1550-1700	4	143
PMR	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1550-1900	147	4375
TGW	English tin-glazed earthenware	c 1575-1825	2	27
WEST	Westerwald stoneware (Germany)	c 1590-1750	4	112
PMR SLIP	Slip-decorated redware	c 1620-1750	6	138
PMR SGR	Sgraffito-decorated redware	c 1650-1750	8	101
ENGS	English stonewares (misc)	c 1670-1900	5	76
STSL	Staffs-type combed slipware	c 1680-1900	2	26
TPW	Transfer-printed wares (Staffs etc)	c 1780-1900+	2	6
<b>Total</b>			<b>375</b>	<b>8862</b>

Table 1. Medieval and post-medieval pottery quantities

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Medieval</b>	<b>Post-medieval</b>
Cattle	14 (1)	199 (6)
Sheep/goat	24 (4)	66 (8)
Sheep	8	2
Pig	8 (2)	18 (3)
Horse	1 (1)	
Cat	2 (1)	
Domestic fowl	2 (1)	6 (2)
Goose	2 (1)	
Medium mammals	14	28
Large mammals	13	91
Indeterminate	12	146
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>556</b>
Weight (g)	2063	14424

Table 2. Number of identified fragments by taxon; Minimum Number of Individuals within parantheses.

	<b>N</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Medieval	100		75.0%	23.0%	2.0%		
Post-medieval	556	2.0%	71.9%	25.4%	0.7%		

Table 3. Bone preservation.

	1023	1024	1042	1065	1074	1083	1087	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1181	Total
Cattle	11	4	2	33	100	3	5	7	1		12		21	199
Sheep							2							2
Sheep/goat	4	2		9	15	3	10	1	2	2	5	1	12	66
Pig		1		5		1	1						10	18
Large mammal	3	6	1	35	14	2	3	3	1	2	6		15	91
Medium mammal	6	1		5	3	2	5	2	1		1		2	28
Domestic fowl				1			1			1	3			6
Indeterminate frags.	16			32	68		11	2	1		3		13	146
Total	40	14	3	120	200	11	38	15	6	5	30	1	73	556

Table 4. Number of fragments by taxon and feature for the post-medieval assemblage

<b>Element</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Large mammal</b>	<b>Medium mammal</b>	<b>Sheep/goat</b>	<b>Indeterminate</b>	<b>Total</b>
atlas	2					2
axis	1					1
calcaneus	1					1
femur	2					2
humerus	1					1
mandible	46 (9)			10 (8)		56
metacarpal	2			1		3
metatarsal	2			1		3
metapodial indet	1					1
pelvis	1					1
phalanx 1	2					2
phalanx 3	2					2
radius	2			2		4
rib		1	2			3
scapula	1					1
skull	25			1		26
tooth	9					9
vertebra		8				8
longbone indet.		5	1			6
indeterminate					63	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>200</b>

Table 5. Skeletal element distribution by number of fragments for bones recovered from post medieval quarry pit 1074. Minimum Number of Individuals in parentheses.



Reproduced from the Explorer 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 1998. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10000569

Figure 1: Site location

X:\MAKIE\Kingsbury\_Hill\_House\_Marborough\007\Geomatics\02 CAD\001\current\MAK10\_site\_plan\_191211.dwg(Site location)\*\*\*Emily.Plunkett\* 19 Dec 2011



0 20 m  
1:500 at A4

Figure 2: Areas of investigation.





All OS data reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. All rights reserved. Licence No. 100005569

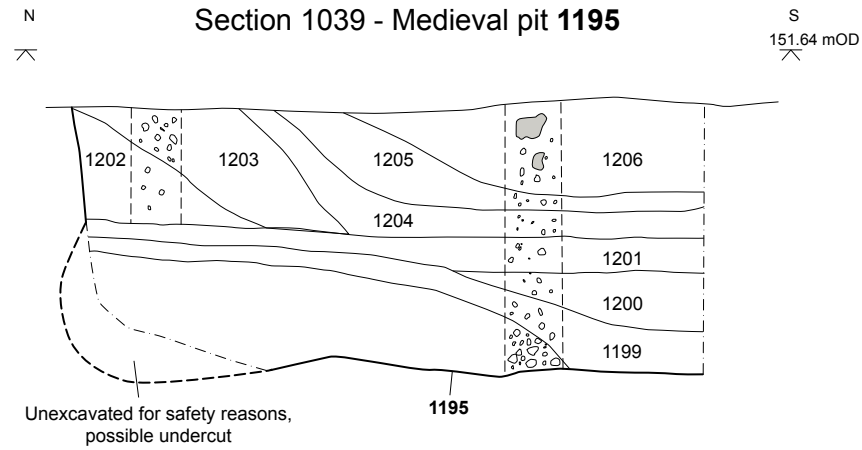
Survey Data supplied by :  
E\_Plunkett, OA South

0 10 m  
1:200 at A4

Figure 3: Phased plan of site

CHECKED BY:





### Section 1011 - Medieval chalk quarry 1080 and post-medieval pits

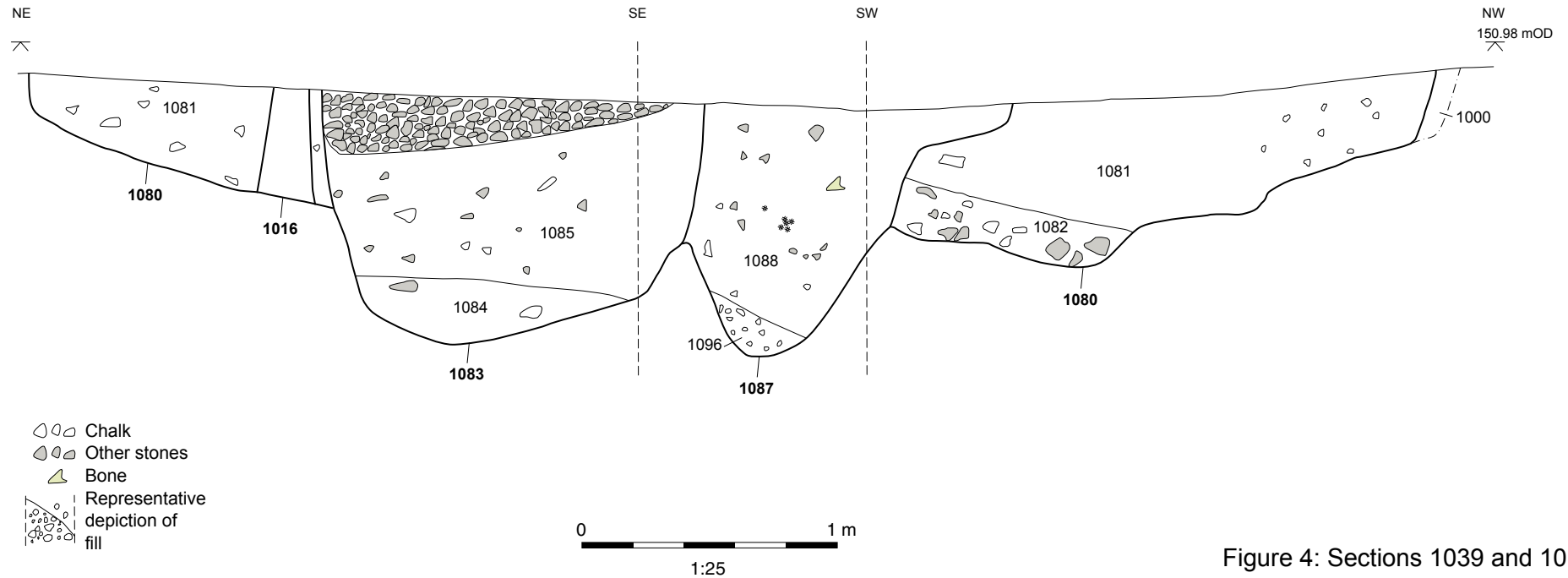


Figure 4: Sections 1039 and 1011

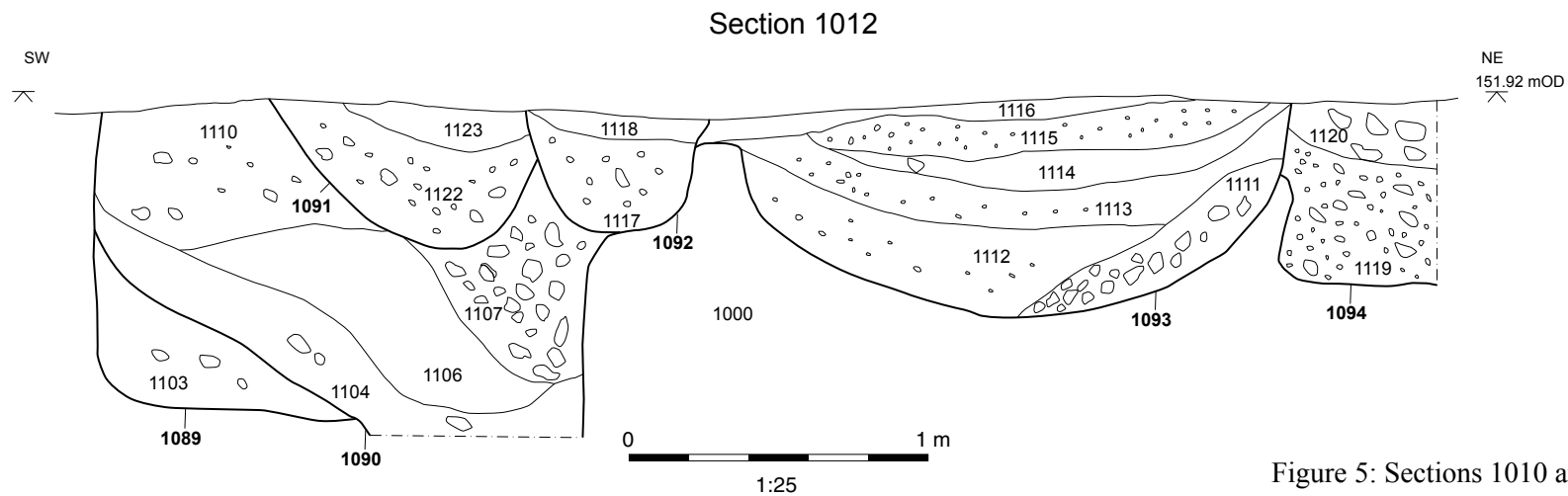
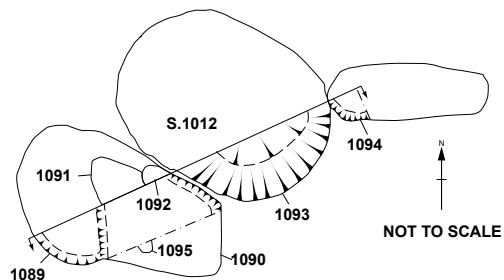
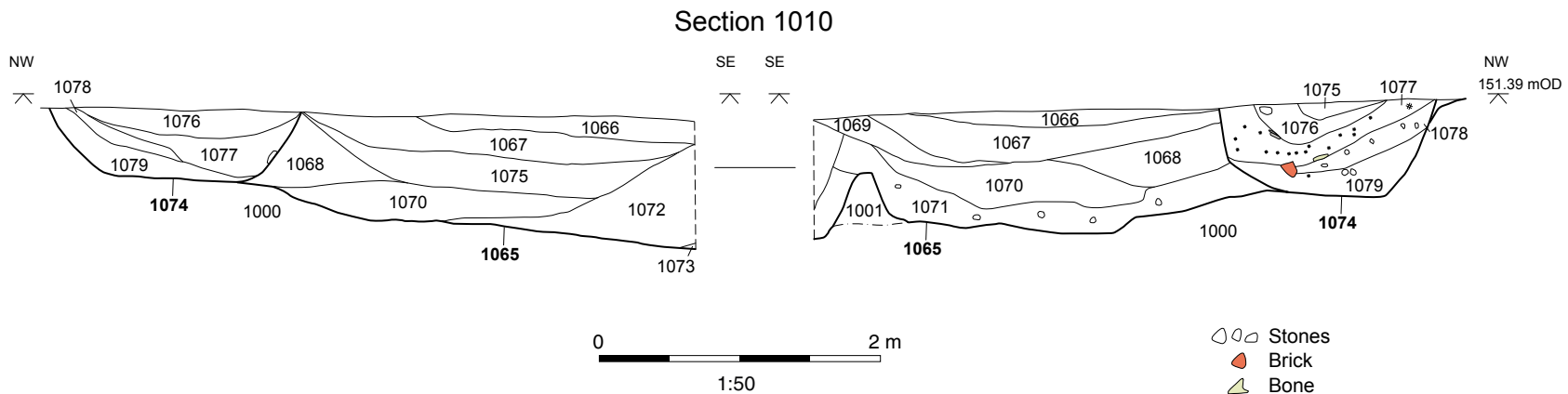


Figure 5: Sections 1010 and 1012 with plan

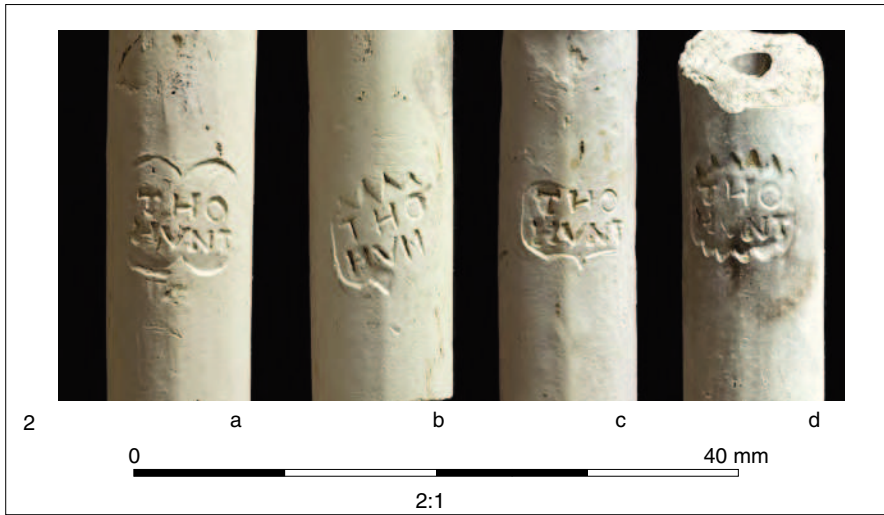


0 100 mm  
1:2

Figure 6: Medieval pottery



1



8



1:1

Figure 7: Clay pipes

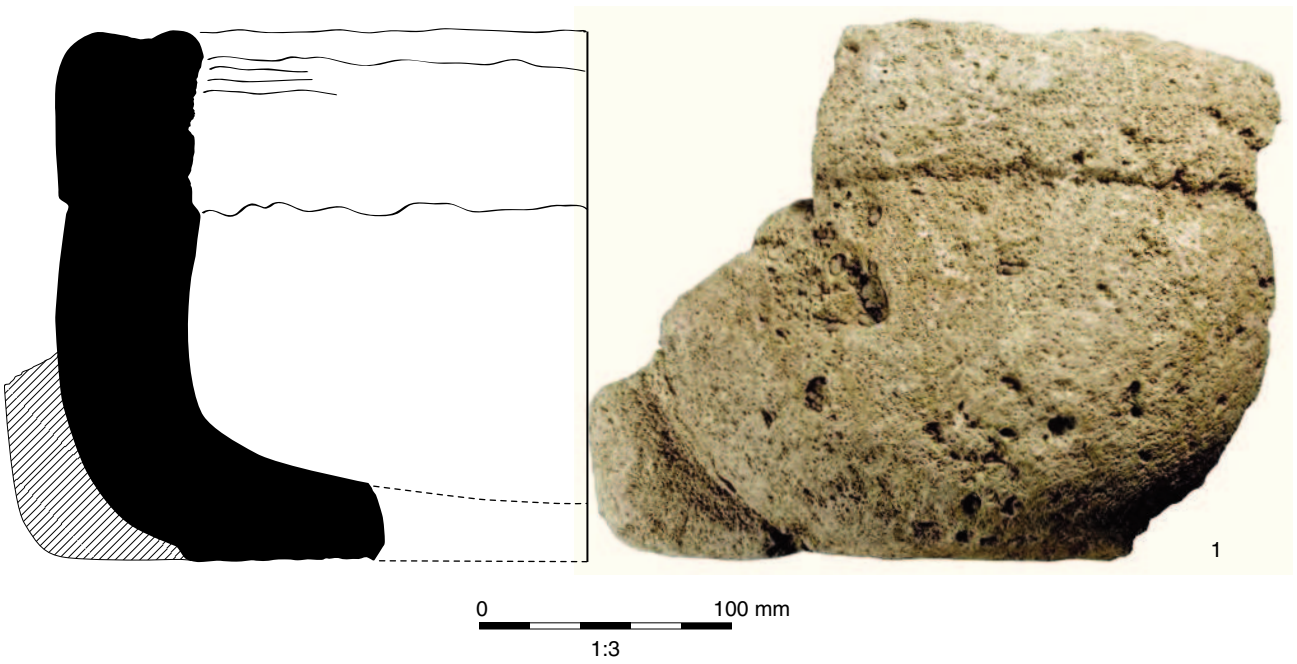


Figure 8: Stone mortar

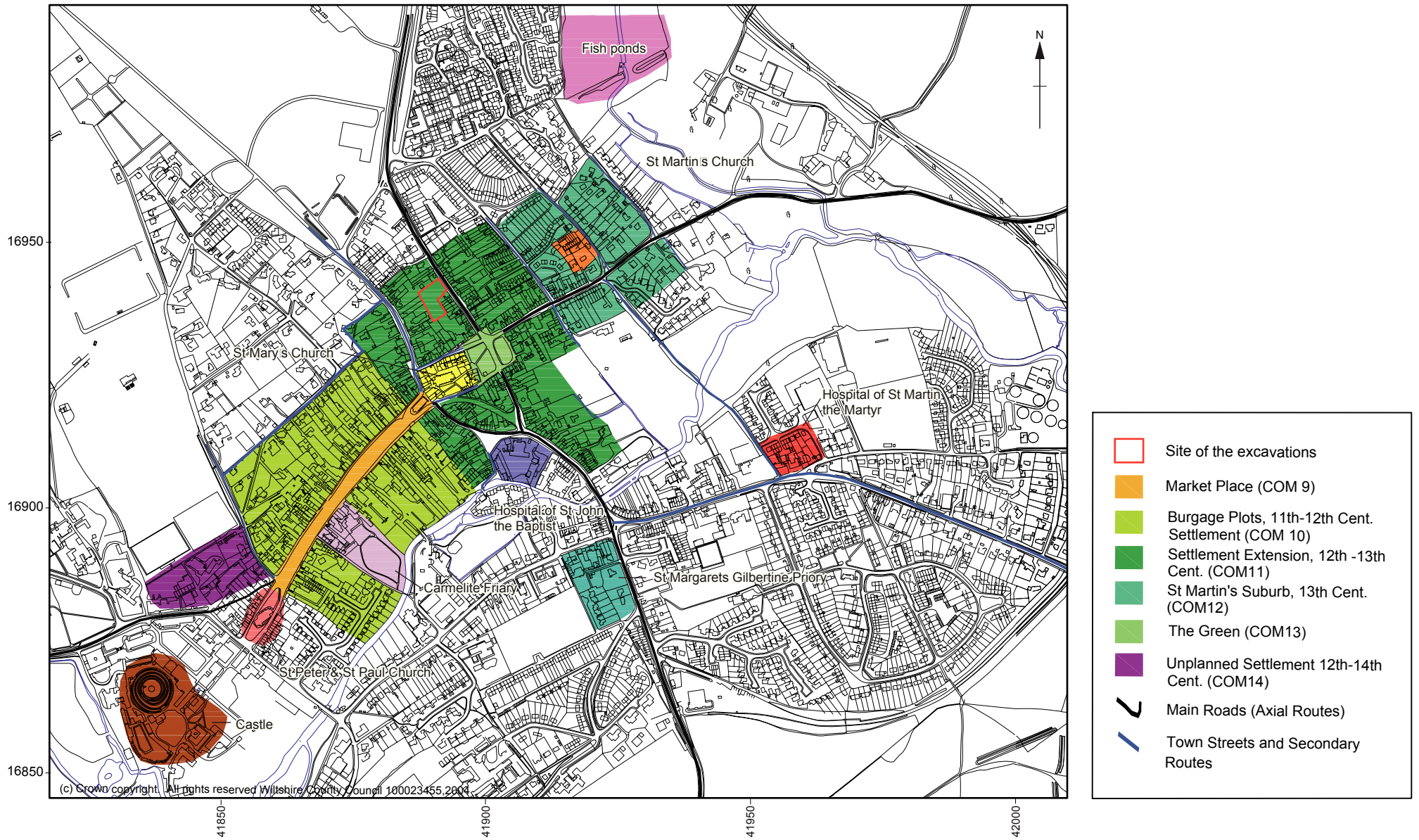


Figure 9: Medieval Heritage Areas







**Head Office/Registered Office/  
OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599  
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*