Mitre Inn, Turl Street, Oxford

Excavation and Watching Brief Report

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Mitre Inn, Turl Street, Oxford

Excavation report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Ridge and Partners on behalf of Lincoln College to undertake a programme of archaeological works during construction and refurbishment work at the Mitre Inn, Turl Street, Oxford. Targeted excavation was carried out at the site of a new porters' lodge, and a watching brief was maintained during the digging of service trenches within the Mitre and in the courtyard to the rear.

The evidence uncovered predominantly related to the medieval tenements that formerly occupied the frontage of Turl Street rather than to the Mitre Inn itself, which in its present form was built during the early 17th century. The earliest deposits were layers dated to the mid- to late 11th century, which were cut by a large pit, possibly a cellar pit, that may have been infilled by the end of the century. An overlying garden soil contained the remains of a neonate that is likely to represent an interment of 12th-century or later date. The garden soil was cut by a large stone-built 13th-century oven/hearth that was probably contained within a building, of which only a robber trench survived – the large size of the oven suggests that this may be the bakery that was mentioned in late 13th-century deeds. Traces of a later hearth/oven suggest industrial activity. A subsequent cobbled surface located immediately adjacent to the Turl Street frontage had been resurfaced on at least one occasion and was cut by the foundation of a late medieval building on the street frontage, of which no other details were revealed.

The only feature that could be attributed to the original medieval inn was a wall foundation with relieving arch that had been reused to support the rear wall of the new structure when it was rebuilt in the 1630s. The top of a vaulted cellar beneath No. 2 Turl Street was partly exposed and is likely to be of similar date but was not part of the inn at this time, having been part of a separate property until it was incorporated into the Mitre complex during the early 18th century. A stone foundation that now supports the rear wall of No. 4 Turl Street was not securely dated but may also have been part of the range of medieval buildings associated with Turl Street or could alternatively have been part of the 1630s rebuild.

Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ben Ford. The fieldwork was supervised by Adam Fellingham, who was assisted by Elizabeth Kennard, Chris Richardson and Ashley Stutt. Digitising of site plans was carried out by Steve Teague. The post-excavation analysis was managed by Andrew Simmonds. The figures were prepared by Charles Rousseaux, who also drew the sections for Figure 12 and vessels 2 and 3 for Figure 13. Steve Teague drafted the site plans for Figures 1–11, and Magdalena Wachnik photographed sherds 1 and 4 for Figure 13 and the brooch and whetstone for Figures 14 and 15. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the direction of Leigh Allen and the supervision of Geraldine Crann, processed the environmental remains under the direction of Rebecca Nicholson and the supervision of Sharon Cook, and prepared the archive under the direction of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Ridge and Partners on behalf of Lincoln College, Oxford, to undertake a programme of archaeological works at the Mitre Inn (Plate 1), one of Oxford's oldest inns, located in the historic centre of the city. This comprised controlled archaeological excavation in advance of the construction of the porters' lodge and a new *c* 3m-deep foul water drain within Turl Yard to the rear of the main buildnigs. Targeted watching briefs were also undertaken during the excavation for other services and a small number of new foundations.

1.1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken between uly 2019 and March 2020 as a condition of planning permission set by Oxford City Council (planning refs 18/00896/FUL and 18/00897/LBC). The required scope of the works was defined by a brief produced by the City Archaeologist David Radford (OCC 2018) and was carried out to specifications defined in the written scheme of investigation (OA 2018).

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015), and the *Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*, of which OA is a Registered Organisation. The archaeological works were also carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' standards and guidance for archaeological excavation and archiving (CIfA 2014a; 2014b).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The Mitre Inn is located within the historic centre of Oxford at the junction of High Street and Turl Street (Fig.1). It comprises a large complex of buildings that vary in date from the early 17th to late 20th centuries, with some earlier fabric surviving in places. The main buildings are the Mitre itself, including nos 16 and 17 High Street, which occupies the High Street frontage next to the Covered Market, and a group of properties on Turl Street (Nos 1–7) that are sublet as shops, with student accommodation on the upper floors. To the rear is an L-shaped courtyard, Turl Yard, which is accessed from Turl Street via an entrance between Nos 7 and 10, and a second courtyard, Mitre Yard, was situated between this and the Mitre building until the 20th century, when it was infilled by extensions to the rear of the main building. The Mitre Hotel (including No. 17 High Street) is a Grade II* listed building, and 16 High Street, 3 Turl Street and 6–7 Turl Street are all listed at Grade II. The location of the new porters' lodge lay at the entrance to Turl Yard and most of the other interventions lay within the Turl Yard and the buildings infilling the former Mitre Yard, except Trench 2, which was within No. 2 Turl Street.

1.2.2 The geology of the area is Summertown-Radley terrace gravels overlying Oxford Clay.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Mitre lies within an area that has been under continuous occupation since the foundation of the *burh* by the early 10th century, High Street having formed one of the

original streets. Evidence for Roman activity in central Oxford is sparse and consists of small quantity of finds from deposits of later periods, mostly from the northern defensive earthwork pertaining to the late Saxon burh (Booth 1995).

1.3.2 Turl Street is likely to have been an early thoroughfare, as is evidenced by its realignment to facilitate the construction of All Saints Church, adjacent to the east (now Lincoln College Library). The church was in existence by 1122, when it was one of eight churches and chapels that were granted to St Frideswide's Priory at its refoundation by Henry I (Dodd 2003, 204), and excavations during 1974–5 showed that prior to this the site had been occupied by domestic buildings (ibid., 233–6). Excavations at Lincoln College during 1997–2000 also revealed a sequence of occupation extending unbroken from the late Saxon period, including timber buildings and a large cellar pit (Kamash and Wilkinson 2002). Excavations during 2012–3 at Lincoln College revealed intensive activity from the 11th century, including evidence for baking and precious metalworking during the 14th and early 15th centuries (Teague and Ford 2020a, 201–38).

1.3.3 According to Salter's (1969) survey of medieval properties in Oxford, the earliest available documentary records for the area of the site date to the late 13th century and show several individual tenements along the south-west side of Turl Street (Salter's tenements NE49–22). They include a bakery (tenement NE50) that was sold by Marg. de Burncestre in 1280 and subsequently in 1309 by Joan, widow of Peter de Milton. The bakery appears to have been located around 3–4 Turl Street, though its location is otherwise uncertain. The property to the north (tenement NE51), possibly occupying the northern part of the site at approximately No. 7 Turl Street, appears to have been also owned by Joan in 1297, at which time she sold the property to Henry le Peyntor.

1.3.4 The origins of the Mitre date from *c* 1310, when Philip of Worminghale (then Mayor of Oxford) acquired two houses in High Street and several tenements in Turl Street which he turned into an inn. After the death of Worminghale, his wife married William of Bicester and the area became 'Bicester's Inn'. Little is known of Bicester's Inn, which was described in his will as a 'messuage with shops, cellars and solars'. A fine vaulted cellar survives beneath No. 2 Turl Street (not No. 3 as stated in the official listing), but this was a separate property and has been identified as belonging to St Bartholomew's hospital in the 13th century, later passing to Oriel College who sold it to Lincoln in the early 18th century (OA 2009, 4). The inn was acquired by Lincoln College as part of the benefaction of the Bishop of Lincoln, Thomas Rotherham, who in 1475 gave the college the chantry of St Anne in the nearby All Saints' Church, with its urban properties, then worth £10 a year. The chantry had been founded by Nicholas of Bicester, presumably a descendant of William. The Mitre may have taken its present name at this time, although it does not seem to be recorded before the inn sign was licensed in 1605; in any case the reference is undoubtedly to the association with the bishop or to the college arms, which depict his mitre.

1.3.5 Agas' map of Oxford in 1578 (Fig. 2) is likely to preserve the layout of Bicester's Inn and the other medieval buildings on the site, before it was rebuilt in the 1630s. It shows

two adjacent ridge-roofed ranges on the High Street frontage aligned parallel to the street with a square courtyard to the rear bounded on the west by a N–S aligned range on Turl Street, on the north by an E–W aligned range and to the east by a N–S aligned range at the north end and the east gable of another range to the south. The two ranges on the High Street frontage may represent a row of shops or former shops directly fronting the street with the adjacent range being the main part of the inn. The courtyard and the surrounding ranges may have belonged to the inn and may have included lodging chambers, stables, the kitchen and perhaps other service buildings. These buildings are adjoined to the north by another courtyard or backyard/garden space (a tree is shown) that was enclosed to the east by a continuation of the buildings on the Turl Street frontage and to the north by an E–W range, but appears more open to the west, although some of the plan is missing here. This second courtyard probably lay within the site but may have been a separate property at that time. North of this there is a section of plan missing, but there is clearly a continuation of the east range on Turl Street and another open area that may have been a further courtyard or backyard/garden which might also be within the present site.

1.3.6 During the 17th century the inn was known as a haunt of Catholic recusants. By the time of Loggan's map (1675) the city centre was much more densely occupied, and the site was no exception, having been rebuilt to the plan that survives to the current day (Fig. 3). The ranges on the High Street had by now been replaced by a three-storey range comprising a series of gables arranged end-on to the road frontage. This probably represents the gables of the existing jettied range, which has a date of 1631 inscribed on one of the oriel windows. The list of Lessees of the Mitre suggest that the new work may have been carried out by John Davis, whose lease started in 1630. Loggan shows Mitre Yard behind these buildings, accessed by an entrance through the south range. The east range on Turl Street is divided into four sections which may perhaps have been separate shop premises or may have had other functions related to the Inn. The west range appears to be one long range that was recorded later as being the stables and is shown with dormer windows or similar projections on the east side of the roof which might represent windows of attic rooms for grooms or other servants and/or access doors to a hayloft. The stables burnt down in 1726 and were rebuilt, although some medieval fabric survives in the west wall, including a foundation incorporating relieving arches (OA 2009, 16 and 21). North of this, Loggan clearly depicts the distinctive L-shaped form of Turl Yard.

1.3.7 The inn became one of Oxford's principal coaching inns during the 18th century and remained so until the coming of the railway in the mid-19th century. The stables burnt down in 1726, but with no damage to the rest of the complex, and were rebuilt in the same location, forming the western range (Spiers 1929, 80–3). The site attained its current arrangement with the construction of 6 and 7 Turl Street during the 19th century, although the western range was still occupied by stables at this time.

1.3.8 In 1926 the Mitre ceased to function as a coaching inn and became simply a hotel. In 1967 the ground floor of the hotel was taken over by the Berni Inn chain and turned into a restaurant and in 1969 the Mitre ceased to be a hotel altogether when Lincoln College took over all its other rooms to provide student accommodation. Whitbread

took over the Berni chain from Grand Metropolitan in 1990, and the ground floor of the former hotel became a Beefeater Restaurant.

1.3.9 Previous excavation of the footprint of a lift pit within the Turl Bar immediately to the north of the site revealed the top of the archaeological horizon, comprising a mortared floor surface and a series of intercutting late medieval/post-medieval pits and post-medieval walls, at 63.09m OD, *c* 0.7m below ground level (OA 2012a). Natural gravel geology was recorded at 62.27m OD. Building recording was also carried out on the Turl Bar, which dates from the 1920s but incorporates a small section of earlier timber-framed wall (OA 2012b).

1.3.10 Other significant excavations have occurred close to the site. These include investigations on the opposite side of Turl Street at the former All Saints' Church, where an important sequence of late Anglo-Saxon occupation was uncovered that pre-dated the construction of the church (Dodd 2003, 204–42). Evidence for medieval occupation and craftworking has been found at the Garden Building, Lincoln College, 50m to the east of the site (Teague and Ford 2020a).

1.4 Fieldwork methodology

1.4.1 The initial phase of investigation comprised a watching brief during the digging of ten small test pits to investigate the locations of buried services (Trenches 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 20–23). These were generally shallow interventions, dug using a mechanical excavator, and in most instances were not deep enough to expose archaeological deposits. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, in Trenches 2, 7, 10 and 11, they were not removed.

1.4.2 Trenches 1, 3, 4, and 15 were excavated for the piling mat, piles and ground beams for the new porters' lodge and formed a contiguous area that comprised the largest and deepest area of archaeological excavation, along with Trench 13, which was a service trench that deepened here to join with services from the adjacent Turl Street, but which elsewhere extended as a shallower trench through previously truncated areas of the alleyway and courtyard. Following removal of modern overburden using a mechanical excavator, the archaeological deposits were excavated by hand to formation depth.

1.4.3 Watching briefs were maintained during the excavation of service trenches within Turl Yard and the 20th-century buildings infilling the former Mitre Yard (Trenches 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19).

2 RESULTS

2.1 Presentation of results

2.1.1 The results are presented in phased and chronological order (Phases 0–5; Table 1). Excavation within the area of the new porters' lodge (Trenches 1, 3, 4, and 15) exposed a more substantial stratigraphic sequence and enabled a more detailed phasing sequence to be defined. Elsewhere, within the watching brief trenches to the south, the archaeological sequence was only partially revealed, and less dating evidence was retrieved. Within these trenches the later medieval remains cannot be dated closely and have been allocated broadly to Phase 3.

Table 1: Summary of phases

Final Phase	Trenches	Date
Phase 0	Trench 13	Natural
Phase 1	Trenches 13 and 15	Mid–late 11th century
Phase 2	Trenches 4 and 15	12th–early 13th century
Phase 3	WB Trenches 2, 6, 10, 14, 16 and 19–23	Early 13th–early 16th century
Sub-phase 3.1	Trench 13 and 15	Early–late 13th century
Sub-phase 3.2	Trenches 1, 4 and 15	14th century?
Sub-phase 3.3	Trenches 3, 4 and 15	15th–early 16th century
Phase 4	Trenches 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15	Post-medieval
Phase 5	All trenches	Modern

2.2 Phase 0: natural gravel

2.2.1 Natural gravel (1319) was only observed on the side of a deep service trench at the east end of Trench 13, located within the alleyway entrance off Turl Street. Its surface was recorded at 62.05m OD. This was overlain by a 0.20m-thick deposit of brickearth (1318) that was encountered at 62.25m OD.

2.3 Phase 1: mid to late 11th century

2.3.1 The earliest deposits, comprising Phases 1 and 2, were only reached in the main excavation for the porters' lodge (Figs 5 and 12). The earliest layer comprised loose yellow sandy gravel (1574) revealed at the base of Trench 15. The lack of brickearth above it suggested that it was probably redeposited. It was overlain by a layer of greenish brown silty sand (1567) up to 0.10m thick, possibly an occupation horizon. It contained a fresh sherd of Kennet Valley A ware dated to *c* 1050–1150; the presence also of a large and fresh sherd from a St Neots ware cooking pot (*c* 900–1100) could indicate a date prior to the 12th century. A sample taken from this deposit (Sample 7) produced charred cereal grains including free-threshing wheat and barley together with some charcoal.

2.3.2 These deposits were cut by a large pit (1332=1569) that was partially exposed at the east end of Trench 15 and also revealed in section to a depth of at least 0.60m within Trench 13. The pit measured more than 1.80m across and contained at least seven fills

(1564=1313, 1568=1314, 1570–3 and 1576=1316). Fills 1568 and 1570–2 each contained large amounts of charcoal and ash-like material. Samples 5, 6 and 8, taken from fills 1564, 1568 and 1570, each contained a range of charred grain in moderate quantities, including free-threshing wheat, oats, barley and rye, together with some charred hazelnut shells and peas. The charcoal from these samples was largely from oak but frequent beech and willow/poplar was also identified. Animal bone from the pit comprised largely sheep/goat with smaller quantities of pig, sheep and bird bone. Avian eggshell was recovered from fill 1568 and a few oyster shells from fills 1316 and 1564. The low incidence of dog gnawing of the bones suggests rapid deposition. Pottery recovered from the pit dated to *c* 1050–1150, with a date within the 11th century possible, and included a sherd of North French Beauvais-type red-painted ware (*c* 900–1100, Fig. 13.1) together with fragments from a crucible. A Norwegian Ragstone whetstone of 11th-century or later date was recovered from fill 1568 (SF 6, Fig. 14) and a fragment of Roman tile was found in fill 1316. In addition, metal finds from the pit included an iron blade fragment, a weed or pruning hook and a staple or 'timber-dog', the latter used to secure timbers together, together with two nails and a possible copper alloy catch plate. The pit was overlain by a 0.20m-thick, dark grey garden soil or levelling deposit (1565) that similarly contained pottery dating to *c* 1050–1150, with another sherd of North French Beauvais-type red-painted ware.

2.4 Phase 2: 12th to early 13th century

2.4.1 Deposits of this phase were similarly limited to the porters' lodge trenches. Phase 1 garden soil or levelling deposit 1565 was overlain by a charcoal-rich deposit (1560) that contained burnt pottery dated to *c* 1150–1250 together with an iron nail (Figs 6 and 12). This deposit may also have been observed in Trench 4 as 412. A sample taken from deposit 1560 (sample 4) contained 'concretions' from a possible hearth/oven lining together with free-threshing wheat, barley and oats. It was overlain by a further garden soil (1563) that contained pottery that dated to *c* 1050–1250 (Fig. 13.2).

2.4.2 Towards the east of Trench 15 and within Trench 4 was a further layer of garden soil (1551=1562=411), comprising a firm green-brown sandy silt up to 0.17m thick. This contained large sherds from at least two cooking pots in medieval Oxford ware (*c* 1075–1250, Fig. 13.3) together with a quantity of animal bone and a few oyster shells. Part of a neonate skeleton (411) was recovered from this deposit in Trench 4. It is likely that the remains were within a grave that had been cut into the garden soil, but no grave cut was observed.

2.5 Phase 3: early 13th to mid-16th century

2.5.1 Within the deeper sequence exposed by the excavations for the porters' lodge, it was possible to define three sub-phases of this main medieval phase, but the more limited exposure of the deposits in the watching brief trenches meant they could only be attributed broadly to this phase.

Porters' lodge: sub-phase 3.1, early to late 13th century (Trench 15; Figs 7 and 12)

2.5.2 Phase 2 garden soil 1563 was truncated by a circular stone-lined oven or hearth (1535, Structure 1; Plate 4), encountered at 63.58m OD, cutting a levelling dump of redeposited garden soil (1561) that contained pottery dated to *c* 1200–75 and a peg tile dated to the 13th to 15th centuries. The oven/hearth was not fully exposed but approximately three quarters of the structure was excavated. The structure measured 1.30m in diameter and 0.20m deep and was contained within a shallow cut (1556). It was constructed from roughly hewn limestone bonded with hard fire-baked silt (1536) and had a limestone base (1555). The outer wall of the oven/hearth had been partially robbed, though remnants of its basal course survived on the east side.

2.5.3 Overlying and infilling the oven/hearth were deposits associated with its demolition (1533 and 1534), the latter containing a sherd of pottery dated to *c* 1175–1350. This included its burnt clay superstructure, as well as evidence for the demolition of the walls as a limestone-rich demolition layer (1541). Overlying demolition layer 1541 was a 0.25m-thick garden soil (1531=1310), which was encountered at 63.68m OD. This contained a large amount of pottery dated to *c* 1225–1350 and a Roman *nummus* of Carausius (AD 286–93) that had been pierced, together with a fragment of burnt clay that had a smooth, flat, black surface, possibly derived from the oven structure. In addition, a highly decorative cast 'coronet'-type brooch was recovered from the soil (Fig. 15). Such brooches are of 13th-century date and were used to fasten garments at the neck.

2.5.4 Towards the centre of Trench 15 a possible N–S aligned flat-based robber trench (1558) was recorded cutting through Phase 2 garden soil 1551=411 at 63.50m OD. It was 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep and was filled with loose, yellowish-brown sandy silt (1559) that contained pottery dated to *c* 1225–1400, as well as tile fragments including one from a red floor/quarry tile.

Porters' lodge: sub-phase 3.2, 14th century (Trenches 1, 4 and 15; Figs 8 and 12)

2.5.5 Sub-phase 3.1 garden soil 1531 was truncated by rectangular pit 1548, which measured 0.75m x 0.50m and contained two fills. The earliest fill (1545) was a charcoal-rich silt that contained the base of a Brill/Boarstall ware baluster jug dated to *c* 1350–1450 and residual St Neots ware. The second fill (1537) comprised a dump of burnt red silt containing a large quantity of fired clay lining together with copper alloy flanged rivet with a glass setting. Much of the fired clay showed evidence for burning on one side, some of which was slightly curved, and all was likely to have derived from a single structure, probably an oven or furnace. Samples (2 and 3) from these fills contained charcoal dominated by hawthorn-type round wood. It is possible that the pit represented a rake-out pit that served an oven/furnace located outside the excavated area, perhaps a replacement for sub-phase 3.1 Structure 1, the fired clay representing its demolished remains. Within Trenches 1 and 4, from 63.75m OD, a 0.20m-thick dump of fired clay lining (110=407) was recorded that extended northwards beneath the foundations of the adjacent No. 10 Turl Street. This may have

been contemporary with pit fill 1537 and probably derived from the same demolished oven, as the fired clay was of similar character. The hawthorn-type round wood from the charcoal-rich silts suggests a specialised/industrial function for the associated oven/furnace.

2.5.6 Several shallow pits (1527, 1542, 1550 and 1552) were located to the west, post-dating garden soil 1562 and robber trench 1558. Pits 1542 and 1552 both contained quantities of animal bone suggesting they served as rubbish pits, together with small quantities of pottery dated to 1075–1250. Soil layer 1530 (Fig. 12, section 1508), possibly a pit fill or levelling layer, overlay pit 1552 but was cut by pit 1542. It contained much animal bone together with pottery dated to *c* 1175–1350, a fragment of 13th–14th roof tile and oyster shell. To the west was an accumulation of garden soil (1557) which contained pottery dated to *c* 1225–1400 and much animal bone.

2.5.7 Posthole 1549 was located adjacent to the Turl Street frontage and survived as a void, suggesting the post had completely rotted *in situ*.

Porters' lodge: sub-phase 3.3, 15th to mid-16th century (Trenches 3, 4 and 15; Figs 9 and 12)

2.5.8 A cobbled surface (1532) comprising limestone pebbles, encountered at 63.88m OD, was revealed at the east end of Trench 15 and partially overlay possible rake-out pit 5048. It was cut by a N–S aligned limestone wall foundation (1525; Plate 5) at the site limit closest to Turl Street. Only a small amount of the wall survived due to later robbing and modern truncation. The wall was at least 0.53m wide and constructed with roughly hewn/square limestone blocks bonded with a mid-brown/yellow sandy mortar.

2.5.9 Overlying cobbled surface 1532 was an occupation layer (1518) containing Brill/Boarstall ware jug fragments likely to be of late medieval data (1350–1500?) together with a fine wire pin of late medieval or later date and an iron nail. This was overlain by a second cobbled surface (1522; Plate 6), with a subsequent levelling deposit of mortar rubble (1523) overlying this. These deposits post-dated the construction of the wall. The levelling deposit supported a 0.04m-thick mortar surface (1504=413) at 63.96m OD, possibly a floor surface. Further levelling deposits followed (1506 and 1505), located along the western extent of the possible floor surface where there was obvious subsidence as denoted by shallow 'pit' 1516 (fill 1519) which was notable for containing a fallow deer metacarpal together with a worn glazed roof tile fragment of 13th or 14th century date. Deposits 1505 and 1506 contained peg tile fragments dated to the late 14th to 16th centuries along with an early ridge tile fragment and quarry tiles. Deposit 1505 also contained an iron nail. Overlying these levels was an occupation layer (1503) that contained pottery dated to *c* 1350–1550.

2.5.10 A compacted pebble and gravel surface (311=309) was revealed at the earliest levels reached in Trench 3, at a depth of 0.96m below the existing ground level. It was overlain by a garden soil (310) that contained a sherd from a Brill/Boarstall ware strip jug dating to *c* 1225–1400, possibly the same deposit recorded in Trench 15 (1538; Fig. 12, section 1508) which also contained a single sherd of similar pottery together with

an iron nail. It is not clear how the surface relates to those recorded to the north-east, though they may have been contemporary.

Turl Yard (Trenches 6, 14 and 16; Fig. 10)

2.5.11 A N–S limestone wall (1605) was the earliest feature reached in Trench 16 and was revealed at 63.42m OD. The wall, constructed with roughly hewn stone bonded with yellowish-brown clayey sand, was 0.80m wide and was exposed for a length of 2.20m. It was apparently abutted on either side by garden soils 1604 and 1608, though this relationship was not established with any certainty. No dating evidence was recovered, but the construction of the wall suggests that it is likely to be late medieval in origin. The wall was still standing for several metres when the modern brick wall to the rear of No. 2 Turl Street was built against its east side. The west face of wall 1605 was given a brick skin to form the east side of the yard (Plate 9).

2.5.12 The earliest deposit reached in Trenches 6 and 14 was encountered at 63.10m OD and comprised an organic silty sand with roofing tile fragments (1400), possibly a surface or occupation layer and likely to be medieval in date. It was overlain by a garden soil (620; Section 1400) at least 0.30m thick. This was in turn overlain on the west side (seen in section only) by a bedding layer (619) for a limestone cobbled surface (618), above which was a possible construction horizon or a further surface of orange-brown silty sand (617). This was in turn overlain by a possible demolition deposit (616). Exposed along the eastern edge of Trench 6 was a N–S aligned limestone wall (612) constructed with roughly hewn limestone blocks bonded with pale yellow sandy mortar. Two courses of stonework were exposed that overlay a possible string course or bedding layer of red roof tiles that was revealed at the base of the trench, possibly surface 1400. No relationship with the cobbled surface could be determined, though the wall was abutted by a trampled surface (611) that may have been contemporary with the surface. The wall was on the same alignment as wall 1605, located 4.5m to the south in Trench 16, and may form part of the same structure.

Mitre Yard (Trench 10; Figs 10 and 12)

2.5.13 At the base of Trench 10 the top of a stone-built relieving arch (1007) and a compacted gravel yard surface (1017) were revealed. The arch, which was partially revealed along the northern side of the trench, was formed of at least four rectangular dressed limestone blocks, aligned approximately E–W, but no overlying structure was observed. The arch is likely to have supported a wall overlying soft ground and is probably of medieval date. Its relationship with the gravel surface could not be determined but they may have been contemporary. Overlying the surface was a dump of burnt material with frequent charcoal and fired clay fragments (1016), which was in turn overlain by a garden-soil-like deposit (1006) that contained pottery dating to *c* 1075–1250 and an iron nail. Layer 1006 did not extend over the arch, and it is therefore possible that it was contemporary with the structure, perhaps filling a construction trench or robber trench, although no definite cut was observed.

2.5.14 Truncating deposit 1006 was substantial NE–SW aligned wall foundation 1008, which was exposed along the southern side of the trench, revealing its north face (Plate 8).

It survived to a height of at least seven courses of roughly squared limestone and ragstone blocks. The wall was later used as a foundation for a stone column (1018), which was subsequently repaired with brick and was presumably related to the Mitre Inn, though no evidence was found to confirm its construction date. Abutting wall 1008 was a 0.18m-thick deposit of firm yellow-brown sandy silt, possibly a levelling deposit (1005). The layer contained pottery dated to *c* 1175–1300 and a possible glazed ridge tile fragment of 13th or 14th-century date. The layers above this were of post-medieval date and are described below.

No. 2 Turl Street (Trench 2; Fig. 10)

2.5.15 Structure 202 (Plate 7), a E–W aligned limestone wall encountered at 64.32m OD, was partially exposed along the northern edge of Trench 2. Only the southern edge of the wall was exposed within the trench, extending for a length of 0.56m, but it was at least 0.20m wide. Two courses of roughly finished and squared limestone blocks were revealed, bonded by yellow sandy mortar. The east end of the wall terminated with a fully dressed and shaped corner stone which was truncated by a modern drain that cut across the north-east corner of the trench and continued underneath Turl Street. The nature of the stonework and estimated location in relation to the existing vaulted cellar (of medieval date) suggests they are probably related or of the same build.

2.6 Phase 4: post-medieval

Porters' Lodge (Trenches 3 and 15; Fig. 11)

2.6.1 Phase 5 wall 1525 appears to have been demolished and robbed. A possible robber trench (1521) contained a number of oyster shells, a clay pipe fragment dated to 1690–1720 and an iron nail. It was probably contemporary with mortar and stone rubble 1507, which overlay a post-pad (1508) that had been cut into the earlier wall. An iron nail was recovered from deposit 1507 together with two oyster shells.

2.6.2 Thick deposits of garden soil were observed in Trench 3 (307) and the west end of Trench 13 (1327–9), the former of which contained the base of an 18th-century wine bottle. A small pit (1511), located near centre of Trench 15, may also date to this phase, though no finds were recovered from it.

Turl Yard (Trenches 5, 8 and 9; Fig. 11)

2.6.3 Two undated layers (511 and 512) were revealed at 62.96m OD near the base of Trench 5, a narrow trench that extended diagonally across the yard (Plate 9). Layer 512 was a friable, pale yellow-brown sandy gravel and was overlain by layer 511, which was an orangish-brown silty sand.

2.6.4 A compact gravel yard surface (802) was revealed in Trench 8 at 63.36m OD, near the base of the trench. It was overlain by a 0.12m-thick deposit of compact orange-brown sandy silt (801), possibly a levelling/makeup deposit. No finds were retained from this trench, though a post-medieval date is likely for deposit 801.

2.6.5 In Trench 9, a garden soil (903) revealed in section at 62.98m OD was the earliest deposit reached and contained a single sherd of pottery dated to *c* 1225–1450, which

was possibly residual. This was overlain by a soft white lime (?) mortar spread (906), potentially the remains of a surface, above which was a second garden soil (902).

Mitre Yard (Trenches 10 and 11; Fig. 11)

2.6.6 Overlying Phase 3 levelling deposit 1005 in Trench 10 was a 0.25m-thick accumulation of garden soil (1004) that contained clay pipe fragments dated to 1630–55. This was overlain by firm white mortar surface 1003, which was 0.06m-thick and had a reddened surface (either burnt or stained), encountered at 0.44m below the ground level. The surface possibly relates to the existing stone column (1018) on the south side of the trench.

2.6.7 Trench 11, to the west of Trench 10, uncovered two successive layers of garden soil with no finds (1108 and 1110), though a post-medieval date is likely for the later soil at least.

2.7 Phase 5: modern

2.7.1 Modern activity consisted of modern service runs and associated manholes that significantly impacted many areas (Plate 10), as well as made ground and levelling deposits overlain by the existing surfaces. A storm or foul water drain (409) in Trench 4 was notable for containing a fragment of branded crockery from the Mitre Hotel that is decorated with part of a bishop's mitre and dates to the mid-19th century (Fig. 13.4).

3 FINDS

3.1 Medieval and later pottery *by John Cotter*

Introduction and methodology

3.1.1 The excavations produced a total of 282 sherds of pottery weighing nearly 5kg. This included 31 rim sherds. An additional 63 (mostly very small) sherds weighing 186g came from nine sieved samples. These were briefly scanned for anything significant but otherwise excluded from the main catalogue of hand-retrieved sherds. A basic catalogue of all the pottery was constructed.

3.1.2 Medieval pottery fabric codes used here are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994), and post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MOLA 2014), which can be applied to most post-medieval types in south-east England. Condition was variable, but overall quite fragmentary. The earliest phases, however, produced many large and fresh sherds and at least one complete reconstructable vessel profile. Given the small size and typical nature of the assemblage, illustration was limited to a just a few pieces of interest. These are described in more detail in the illustration catalogue below.

Summary of the assemblage

3.1.3 A breakdown of pottery quantities by site phase is presented 3below in Table 2, and a breakdown of fabric types is presented in Table 3.

Table 2: Summary of pottery by site phase

Phase	Sub-phase	Date	Sherds	Weight
1		M11–M12C	37	631
2		M12–E13C	83	1642
3		*E13–E16C*	*10*	*166*
	3.1	*E–L13C*	*54*	*815*
	3.2	*14C?*	*35*	*749*
	3.3	*15–E16C*	*16*	*154*
		Phase 3 subtotal	*115*	*1884*
4		Post-medieval/undated	11	133
5		Modern	36	688
Total			**282**	**4978**

Table 3: Summary of pottery fabrics and quantities in approximate chronological order

Fabric	Common name	Date	Sherds	Weight (g)
OXR	St Neots-type ware (SE Midlands)	900–1100	10	146
OXBS	Beauvais-type red-painted ware	900–1100	2	8
OXAC	Cotswold-type ware (from *c* 900+)	1050–1250	39	670
OXBF	Kennet Valley A ware (SW Oxon ware)	1050–1250	23	381
OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	1075–1300	105	1728
OXBK	Northamptonshire-type shelly ware	1100–1350	3	24
OXAQ	Kennet Valley B ware (East Wilts ware)	1150–1350	34	499
OXAH	Nuneaton-type ware (Warks)	1175–1250	1	8
OXAG	Ashampstead-type ware (Berks) (cooking wares from *c* 1050, decorated jugs mainly *c* 1175+)	1175–1400	8	152
OXAW	Early Brill/Boarstall ware (Bucks)	1175–1400	14	133
OXBB	Minety ware (Wilts) (from *c* 1100)	1225–1525	1	49
OXAM	Brill/Boarstall ware (Bucks)	1225–1625	26	379
CBW	Coarse border ware (Surrey/Hants)	1270–1500	1	1
OXBC	Brill Tudor green-style ware (green glaze both sides)	1350–1625	3	446
PMBL	Post-medieval black-glazed redwares (mainly local)	1580–1750	1	10
TPW	Transfer-printed whitewares (Staffs etc)	1780–1900+	8	194
REFW	Plain refined whitewares (Staffs etc)	1805–1900+	3	150
Total			**282**	**4978**

3.1.4 Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented in all phases, all fairly typical of sites in the centre of Oxford, with most of the major local and regional pottery traditions and wares represented. The bulk of the assemblage is medieval, mainly from the 11th to the 13th century. Together, Phases 1 and 2 and sub-phase 3.1, covering this period, produced 62% of all sherds from the site. Smaller amounts of 14th and 15th- to early 16th-century material were also recovered. Thereafter no pottery deposition seems to have occurred until the 19th century. Only seven pieces of clay tobacco pipe (17th and 18th century) were recovered – an unusually small amount for a site in the centre of Oxford – again highlighting the apparent lack of post-medieval activity (or at least rubbish disposal) here. A small, abraded sherd of residual Iron Age/early Roman pottery from layer 1567 is the earliest item. Another sieved sample, from fill 1545 of pit 1548, produced a residual base sherd in late Saxon Oxford shelly ware (OXB, *c* 775–1050).

The dating of Phase 1

3.1.5 The smallish Phase 1 assemblage (37 sherds) came from just eight contexts – mainly from pit 1332=1569, plus a few sherds from an occupation layer and a garden soil deposit. This mainly comprised Cotswold-type ware (OXAC) and Kennet Valley A ware (OXBF) in the form of jars/cooking pots, some with thumb-impressed decoration on the rim. Five sherds of St Neots-type ware (OXR) from the same deposits comprised

fresh body sherds from sooted cooking pots and a small but fresh piece of bowl rim. The sieved samples (from pit 1332=1569 and the occupation layer) produced other smallish sherds of St Neots-type ware including three very abraded cooking pot rims. Pit 1332=1569 also produced a sherd from a jar/pitcher in Beauvais-type red-painted ware (OXBS, *c* 900–1100) with typical painted 'comma' decoration (Fig. 13.1). This is a rare type from Oxford, known from just a few sites including a sherd from Jesus College, also in the centre of town (Cotter 2014, fig. 6.1).

3.1.6 The presence of Cotswold-type ware (OXAC) and Kennet Valley A ware (OXBF) in reasonable quantity initially suggested a spot-date within *c* 1050–1250 for the Phase 1 contexts. Although OXAC is present in Oxford in small quantities from as early as *c* 900, it only really became common after *c* 1050. At around this date it was joined by OXBF (in smaller quantities) and the two often occur together until the middle of the 13th century. At Silbury Hill in Wiltshire, however, OXBF (formerly known as Newbury A ware) was found amongst occupation debris from a short-lived fortification of the hilltop associated with a coin of *c* 1010. This indicated that the ware was probably current in the first half of the 11th century (Vince 1997, 64). A small sherd of early Ashampstead-type ware cooking pot (OXAG), from one of the sieved samples, also dates from *c* 1050 onwards. A particularly notable absence from all these contexts is medieval Oxford ware (OXY), which is abundant in Phase 2. OXY is dated from *c* 1070/75 onwards. A more considered review of the Phase 1 pottery assemblage, therefore – small though it is – suggests it probably dates to the very end of the late Saxon period (*c* 1050–75?) or perhaps even to the time of the Norman conquest.

3.1.7 A sieved sample from pit 1332=1569 also yielded two small fresh body sherds from a probable medieval crucible in a very hard, grey, vitrified sandy ware (OXAG?) with a lustrous grey-black external sheen or vitrified surface. The internal surface of one sherd shows a trace of an angle – possibly the start of a rim. The internal surface is also somewhat redder in colour, but no traces of metalworking residues were present. The sherds are probably from a small, rounded crucible of the type commonly used for melting small amounts of precious metals. It was also noted that many of the cooking pot sherds from Phase 1 appeared to be burnt or bloated from exposure to extreme heat – much more than ordinary cooking processes would cause. Whether this evidence of burning was caused by an accidental fire resulting from metalworking on or near the site or from a fire caused by other means remains a matter of speculation, but the pottery is definitely burnt. The Phase 1 material might be a continuation of the late Saxon sequence excavated at All Saints' Church just next to the Mitre Hotel (Mellor 2003).

Phase 2 and later phases

3.1.8 Phase 2 is dominated by medieval Oxford ware (OXY, *c* 1075–1300), mainly in the form of jars/cooking pots (Fig. 13.3), but includes a few sherds of yellow-glazed jugs or pitchers. OXAC and OXBF are still common. An early looking (11th-century?) OXAC cooking pot rim may perhaps be residual from Phase 1 (Fig. 13.2). An OXAC bowl rim was also noted from a sub-phase 3.1 context. A few sherds of typical Brill/Boarstall ware strip jugs (*c* 1225 onwards) are also present in sub-phase 3.1 and a probable

arm/limb from an anthropomorphic jug in early Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAW). Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ) is also fairly common in this phase and includes jars/cooking pots with thumbed strips and combed decoration.

3.1.9 Sub-phase 3.2 (14th century?) yielded more sherds of glazed OXAM jugs. The fill of pit 1548 produced a complete baluster jug base in Brill Tudor green-style ware (OXBC) with internal and external green glaze. This may be from a rare type of metal-copy jug mainly known from the 2014 Westgate excavations and known as 'Westgate-style' jugs (*c* 1350–1425/50; Cotter forthcoming). Sub-phase 3.3 (15th to mid-16th century) produced a few more OXAM and OXBC jugs sherds including an unglazed sherd possibly from a drinking jug or bottle in late OXAM or late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (OXBX, *c* 1400–1625). Phase 4 produced nothing of note.

3.1.10 Only three contexts, all of Phase 5, produced very small amounts of post-medieval pottery (nearly all 19th century). A storm drain (409) produced a small group of dish sherds in Staffordshire-type transfer-printed wares (TPW) and a handled bowl (or large teacup?) in plain refined whiteware (REFW). The transfer-printed wares included several fragments from a dish with black transfer-printed decoration including a fragment from the centre decorated with part of a bishop's mitre - probably a piece of branded crockery from the Mitre Hotel (Fig. 13.4). A rim sherd from a second dish with identical geometric border decoration is probably part of the same service of hotel vessels. The same geometric border decoration occurs on a complete dish excavated at Queen's College which bear the arms of University College in the centre. This bore a maker's mark possibly dating it to 1822–36, and traces of what appears to be same mark occur on the back of the Mitre dish (see illustration catalogue for details). A lidded TPW toothbrush/manicure dish bearing the inscription 'ANGEL HOTEL OXFORD', datable to *c* 1822–66, is known from the Ashmolean Museum (Mellor 1997, fig. 67). The Angel Hotel (closed 1866) stood on the other side of the High Street from the Mitre and a little further east. The growing number of such vessels from excavations sheds some light on the supply of branded or customised Staffordshire tablewares to colleges, hotels and other establishments in 19th-century Oxford.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery (Fig. 13)

1 **Beauvais red-painted ware body sherd** (OXBS). From shoulder of jar/pitcher with red-painted 'comma' decoration. Pale cream, hard sandy fabric. Dark red-brown paint. Max ht 44mm. Ctx 1564, fill of pit 1332=1569. Phase 1. Spot-date *c* 1050–1150?

2 **Cotswold-type ware jar/cooking pot** (OXAC). Rim dia 210mm. Tall flaring rim – possibly 11/E12C? Ctx 1563, garden soil. Phase 2. Spot-date *c* 1050–1250.

3 **Medieval Oxford ware jar/cooking pot** (OXY). Rim dia 220mm. Elongated, lightly thumbed decoration on rim. Sagging base (*c* 80% circumference surviving). Light knife-trimming all-over extending up to shoulder level. Heavily sooted ext. and under base. Limescale deposit int. Ctx 411, garden soil. Phase 2. Spot-date *c* 1075–1250.

4 **Transfer-printed whiteware dish** (TPW). Rim dia 200mm. Joining rim sherds from dish or shallow soup bowl. Broad flanged rim. A separate sherd from the centre shows

the (broken) badge/insignia of the Mitre Hotel (a bishop's mitre and crown with ribbons trailing from lower corners. Mitre and geometric border decoration in dark grey-blue to black transfer print. On the underside, centre, a trace of a small two-line impressed maker's mark – the lower line possibly '[NEW ST]ONE'. An isolated letter 'U' nearby (year/batch mark?). Border design identical to a dish from Queen's College, with the arms of University College in the centre. Underside of latter with (identical?) two-line maker's mark 'B&B/NEW STONE' - possibly for Bagley (or Baggerly) & Ball of Longton, Staffs, active 1822–36, and with isolated letter 'W' nearby (Cotter 2015, fig. 9.8). Ctx 403, drain 409. Phase 5. Spot-date *c* 1850–1880.

3.2 Clay tobacco pipes *by John Cotter*

Introduction and methodology

3.2.1 A total of seven pieces of clay pipe weighing 32g were recovered from three contexts. Given the small amount, these have not been separately catalogued but are fully described below. Pipe bowl forms are referred to the local Oxford typology (Oswald 1984) or to codes based on Atkinson and Oswald's (1969) London pipes typology with bowl types assigned to an abbreviated code (eg AO22).

Summary of the assemblage

Context 403, fill of storm drain 409 (Phase 5). Spot-date: early 18th century?

3.2.2 One piece (weight 4g). Stem fragment.

Context 1004, garden soil (Phase 4). Spot-date: c 1630–55.

3.2.3 All in fairly abraded condition. Comprising three bowls and two stems. The bowls comprise the front profile of an Oxford Type A bowl (1630–55) and two identical bowls (one complete) as Type A, but smaller, and which appear to relate more closely to London-type AO5 (*c* 1610–40). One of the two stems is of 'chunky' 17th-century type, while the other has a narrower stem bore diameter which might just be an aberrant 17th-century product, or might indicate a later date – possibly late 17th or early 18th century?

Context 1520, fill of robber trench 1521 (Phase 4). Spot-date: c 1690–1720

3.2.4 One piece (weight 4g). Broken bowl base of Oxford Type C.

Conclusions

3.2.5 The pipes are all plain and lack makers' marks. Dates range from the first half of the 17th century to the first half of the following century. The only noteworthy thing here is their small number – surprising for a historic inn/hotel, or indeed any old property along Oxford's High Street. Along with the small number of post-medieval pottery sherds recovered, this suggests that the any post-medieval rubbish pits possibly lay beyond the limits of the excavation, or were removed by later activity. Alternatively, rubbish from the site was routinely carted away during this period.

3.3 Ceramic building material *by John Cotter*

Introduction and methodology

3.3.1 The excavations produced a total of 66 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1.8kg. The CBM was briefly examined and spot-dated during the assessment stage. This was sufficient to show that the material was in a very poor and fragmentary condition and did not merit a more detailed catalogue. Most pieces were quite small and abraded and there was nothing that merited illustration. For each context the fragment count and weight were recorded, followed by an approximate spot-date. Medieval tile fabrics and CBM types from Oxford have been described in some detail in previous reports (Cotter 2006; 2008).

Summary of the assemblage

Table 4: Summary of CBM quantities by site phase

Phase	Date	No. pieces	Weight	Comments
Phase 1	M–L11C	1	2	Roman?
Phase 2	12–E13C	1	3	Intrusive 19C
Phase 3	E13–E16C	1	42	
Sub-phase 3.1	E–L13C	9	282	
Sub-phase 3.2	14C?	13	440	
Sub-phase 3.3	15–E16C	31	542	
Phase 4	Post-medieval/undated	4	200	
Phase 5	Modern	6	302	
Total		**66**	**1813**	

3.3.2 A single small scrap of reddish CBM was the only piece identified from Phase 1 (fill 1316 of pit 1332=1569). This is probably a residual/redeposited piece of Roman tile. These are occasionally found on Oxford sites, and a small piece of redeposited Iron Age/early Roman pottery was also identified from this site. The only piece identified from Phase 2 was a small scrap of 19th/20th-century stoneware drainpipe which can almost certainly be dismissed as intrusive into an otherwise securely medieval garden soil (1563).

3.3.3 The rest of the assemblage is almost entirely of medieval date (like the pottery), with just a small number of late medieval or early post-medieval pieces present. The commonest functional type is the flat roof tile. Circular nail holes on a couple of pieces show these are mostly from rectangular peg tiles, but several thicker, glazed, fragments are probably from ridge tiles. These occur in a limited range of mostly reddish sandy fabrics commonly known from Oxford sites (mostly Fabric 3B, *c* 1175–1550). A 13th to 14th century or 13th to 15th-century spot-date was assigned to most tile-bearing contexts. Two or three pieces, from later phases (3, 4 and 5), occur in the reddish-purple 'St Giles-type' fabric (*c* 1400–1650?). Three small scraps from a single tile occur in a brown limestone-tempered fabric used exclusively for early ridge tiles (Fabric 1A, *c* 1175–1350?), although these were residual in a sub-phase 3.3 levelling

deposit 1506. The same levelling deposit produced a scrap probably from the sanded base of a floor/quarry tile in a bright red sandy fabric (possibly Penn/Chiltern-type, *c* 1330–1400, or St Giles-type). Another very abraded edge fragment, from a sub-phase 3.1 context, may be from a second red floor/quarry tile, or from an early post-medieval brick (1559, fill of robber cut 1558). The scrap of 19th/20th-century stoneware drainpipe, already mentioned, is the latest piece from the site.

3.3.4 The CBM assemblage is relatively scarce compared to the pottery finds, but that may be because most of the pottery is earlier in date (ie before *c* 1200/1250). It might also, perhaps, suggest that medieval buildings here were roofed with materials other than ceramic tiles. The very low presence of post-medieval CBM is also mirrored by the composition of the pottery and clay pipe assemblages.

3.4 Fired clay *by John Cotter*

Introduction and methodology

3.4.1 A total of 140 pieces of fired clay weighing 3kg were recovered from four contexts. Most of this derives from environmental sampling of three of these contexts and most of it appears to originate from a single structure (or clay-lined feature?). Dating associations provided by other finds suggest a medieval date is very likely. Given the similarity of the assemblage and the small number of contexts involved, this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

3.4.2 A total of 140 pieces of fired clay weighing 3022g were recovered from four contexts. Most of this derives from the environmental sampling of three of these contexts and most of this appears to have originated from a single structure (oven or furnace) possibly dating to the 14th century (Phase 3.2).

Summary of the assemblage by phase

Sub-phase 3.1 (early to late 13th century)

3.4.3 Context (1531). Garden soil. Description: 1 piece (12g). A small fragment in a noticeably finer variant of the fabric seen in Phase 3.2 (see below). Probably from a separate structure. The surviving surface is flat, smooth and black – smoother and darker than the pieces below. Associated in context with 37 sherds of pottery dated to *c* 1225–1350.

Sub-phase 3.2 (14th century)

3.4.4 The fired clay from this phase (total *c* 139 pieces, 3010g) is very consistent in character and fabric and probably derived from the lining or superstructure of a single oven or furnace. The fabric, with its added crushed limestone, is unlike any other medieval or post-medieval fired clay from Oxford seen by the author. The deliberate addition of crushed limestone and the smoothed (sometimes gently concave) grey surface, which is probably fire-sooted, might suggests a specialised function, perhaps an industrial function. Carbonised wood (probably fuel) from the same contexts was dominated by hawthorn-type round wood which might also suggest a specialised/industrial function.

3.4.5 Most of the fired clay came from the two fills of pit 1548, interpreted as a rake-out pit for an oven/furnace which may have stood outside the limits of the excavation, or

which may have been destroyed. This may have been a stone-lined oven/furnace like the example found in Phase 3.1, perhaps with an inner lining of clay. The absence of withy- or wattle-impressions from any of the samples might suggest the lining was applied directly to the walls of a stone or daub structure. All pieces from this phase had a smoothed and flattened or slightly concave, grey surface – probably the outer surface – the only original surfaces to have survived; all were very rough and crumbly on the opposite side. Context 1545 formed the lower, charcoal-rich fill, while context 1537, a burnt red silt, formed the upper fill. The material from both fills is described below, and a third, separate, context (407) described after these.

3.4.6 Context 1537 (sample 2). Upper fill of rake-out pit 1548. Description: *c* 120 pieces (2588g). The largest fragment had a maximum length of 95mm and was 35mm thick. Fragments generally very crumbly, with most surviving as smallish gravel-sized pieces and crumbs. Probably all from a single structure with a flat, roughly smoothed, grey surface on a light brown clay fabric or backing containing crushed shelly limestone. Some pieces showed slight curvature of the surface which was smoothed and probably sooted/scorched. The pieces were fairly soft and crumbly, suggesting a relatively low firing temperature. Possibly a coarse render/clay lining? All samples have a coarse granular/lumpy texture. The fabric is tempered with abundant white and pale grey inclusions apparently derived from crushed shelly limestone (ragstone?). Crushed shell inclusions are in the 3–5mm size range. Common rounded cream/pale grey inclusions – probably calcined limestone or chalk. Also, fairly common organic inclusions (grass/straw). Low sand content but occasional rounded quartz grains or grits present and rare, rounded flint pebbles or grits. No associated pottery, but a single fresh piece of roof tile recovered dates to around the 13th–14th century.

3.4.7 Context 1545 (sample 3). Lower fill of rake-out pit 1548. Description: 16 pieces (170g). Smallish fragments in exactly the same fabric as in fill 1537. Associated with two sherds of pottery dated to *c* 1350–1425/50.

3.4.8 Context 407. Burnt dump deposit of fired clay lining. Description: three joining pieces (252g). Maximum length 110mm (30mm thick). Brown, limestone-tempered clay fabric as in context 1537 above and possibly from the same demolished oven/furnace. Showed a marked concave curvature on the surviving surface which was roughly smoothed and bore two possible finger impressions. Grey, and possibly sooted/scorched. Perhaps from the curved interior of a structure (perhaps from near a vent/opening).

3.5 Metalwork *by Leigh Allen*

3.5.1 A small assemblage of metal objects was recovered. The assemblage comprises four copper alloy objects and 13 iron objects, 11 of which are nails. The metalwork is in very poor condition, fragmentary and very corroded. Several of the objects appear to have either been burnt or been in contact with burnt material as they have charcoal and ash adhering to the surface. The most notable object from the excavation is a near-complete copper alloy 'coronet'-type brooch recovered from garden soil 1531 (sub-phase 3.1).

Phase 1 (mid to late 11th century)

3.5.2 All the objects recovered from Phase 1 came from the fill of large pit 1332=1569, most from fills containing charcoal and ash-like material. A very corroded blade fragment came from fill 1568; it is broad and appears to have a curved back, only the stub of the tang or socket remaining. The implement could be a weed hook or a pruning hook. A large rectangular staple or 'timber-dog' came from fill 1570; only one arm is complete, the other missing the tip. Staples such as these were used to secure timbers together. Other finds from the pit are two nails from fills 1564 and 1570, both very corroded, and a small tongue-shaped copper alloy fitting, possibly a catch plate, from fill 1572.

Phase 2 (12th to early 13th century)

3.5.3 A single nail was recovered from charcoal-rich deposit 1560.

Phase 3 (early 13th to mid-16th century)

3.5.4 A single nail was recovered from garden soil 1006 in Trench 10.

Sub-phase 3.1 (early to late 13th century)

3.5.5 A highly decorative cast 'coronet'-type brooch (Fig. 15) was recovered from garden soil 1531. The brooch is annular with a hinged pin and is decorated with six raised collets equally spaced around the frame, splaying out slightly into a crown shape. The tops of two of the collets still have dark glass settings *in situ* and the other four have traces of a residual white paste for attaching the settings. Between each collet the metal rises to a point, each point perforated by four small circular holes. Around the base, under the perforated points, six sub-triangular or petal-shaped flanges fan out from the frame. Brooches of this type date to the 13th century and were used for fastening garments at the neck of both male and female dress. Examples of the form have been found across the country. An exquisite gold coronet brooch with eight raised collets each containing a gem of alternating garnets and sapphires was recovered from Victoria Street, Manchester (Alexander and Binski 1987, 485–6, no. 651), an example of the form at its most opulent. Throughout the medieval period, copper alloy versions of gold and silver brooches were available for the less affluent. The brooch recovered from this site is identical to one from West Yorkshire recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database (SWYOR-DBE812).

Sub-phase 3.2 (14th century)

3.5.6 A very small copper alloy flanged rivet (Dia: 4mm) was recovered from the fill of rake-out pit 1537. There is a small dark glass setting in the upper face. The rivet may have adorned a belt or strap.

Sub-phase 3.3 (15th to mid-16th century)

3.5.7 A fine wire pin with a spiral wound head was recovered from occupation layer 1518. Common finds in late medieval/post-medieval contexts, they were used either for needlework or for securing light clothing. An iron nail was also recovered from this context. Two nails came from levelling layer 1505 and garden soil 1538.

Phase 4 (Post-medieval)

3.5.8 Three nails were recovered from Phase 4 contexts. Two came from the fill of possible robber trench 1521 and the third from mortar and stone dump 1507.

Catalogue of illustrated metalwork (Fig. 14)

Brooch, copper alloy, complete. Coronet type brooch with an annular frame and a hinged pin. Six collets, two with glass settings still *in situ*. Between the collets are perforated points and below are sub-triangular or petal-shaped flanges. Dia: 39mm. Ht: 14mm. Ctx 1531, garden soil. SF 4. Sub-phase 3.1.

3.6 Glass *by Anni Byard*

Introduction and methodology

3.6.1 Four sherds of glass weighing a total of 329g were recovered from two contexts in Trench 3 (Table 5). All glass exhibits iridescent weathering to the surfaces.

3.6.2 Context 307 yielded three fragments of green glass, all with weathering to their surfaces. The largest object is the base of a mallet-shaped or cylindrical bottle in a dark green potash glass. The pontil mark is visible under the high-kick, domed base, which suggests an early to mid-18th-century date. A body shard in green glass is likely to be from a similar vessel. A body shard in a pale green glass is probably also from a bottle of 18th or early 19th-century date.

Table 5: Description of glass by context

Cxt	Sherds	Wt (g)	Type	Date	Description
307	1	302	Wine bottle	18th century	Base of a potash green mallet or cylindrical wine bottle. Iridescent weathering
307	1	15	Wine bottle	18th century	Body sherd of a potash green wine bottle. Iridescent weathering
307	1	4	Wine bottle	18–19th century	Pale green bottle sherd
313	1	8	Wine bottle	18–19th century	Body sherd in mid green, iridescent weathering, wine bottle

Discussion

3.6.3 All the glass was recovered from garden soil 307 contexts and modern service trench 313. As all are wine bottles, they are likely to be related to the Mitre's long history as an inn. Such bottles are frequently found during excavations in and around Oxford.

3.7 Coins *by Anni Byard*

3.7.1 A single copper alloy coin (SF 3) was recovered from Trench 15 (context 1531). It was lightly cleaned to aid identification. The coin is worn and encrusted, rendering the reverse unintelligible, while the obverse head and much of the legend are obscured.

3.7.2 Enough can be discerned to identify the coin as a Roman nummus (AE1) of Carausius, struck during the period AD 286–93 (Reece Period 14). The obverse depicts a radiate head right and the inscription reads [IMP CARA]VSIVS [PF] AVG. The reverse is illegible.

3.7.3 The coin has been pierced from the reverse through to the obverse at 9-o'clock. This may be to highlight the reverse design, but the current condition of the coin negates further interpretation.

3.7.4 Pierced coins are not particularly uncommon in later Roman Britain and examples of pierced Roman coins have also been found in early Anglo-Saxon contexts. Their use was probably decorative and non-monetary.

3.8 Whetstone *by Ruth Shaffrey*

3.8.1 A single Norwegian Ragstone whetstone was found in Phase 1 pit 1332=1569 (fill 1568). It has been extensively used so that it is now wedge shaped (Fig. 15). Although Norwegian Rag whetstones were regularly traded across the North Sea to the east coast of England from the 9th century, there was a marked increase in their export from the 11th century (Hansen 2009, 91). This coincides with the earliest finds from Oxford, which all date to the 11th century, including this example and others (eg Allen and Durham 2003, 274; Shaffrey 2014).

Whetstone. Norwegian Rag. Extremely well-used block of Norwegian Ragstone that started with four flat faces and a rectangular or square cross-section. Two of these faces have been well used so that they are smooth and concave with one creating an overall wedge shape. L: 87mm, max B: 29mm, Th: 4–26mm. Wt 86g. Ctx 1568, fill of pit 1332=1569. SF 6. Phase 1. Mid to late 11th century.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL AND OSTEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

4.1 Animal bone *by Adrienne Powell*

Introduction and methodology

4.1.1 A small assemblage, amounting to 367 fragments, was recovered by hand retrieval from medieval contexts (Table 6). A further 65 identifiable fragments were recovered from the 10mm, 4mm and 2mm fractions of environmental samples (Table 7). The post-medieval (n=14) and modern (n=12) material has been fully recorded but is excluded from this report.

4.1.2 The assemblage has been recorded using the diagnostic zone protocol of Serjeantson (1996). Specimens were identified using the osteological collection held by Oxford Archaeology and with reference to standard texts (Boessneck 1969; Lister 1996; Zeder and Pilaar 2011). Vertebrae other than atlas, axis and sacrum were only recorded where more than half the centrum was present and only identified to size category; similarly, ribs were only recorded where the articulation was present. Bone fusion was noted, and tooth wear was recorded following Grant (1982). Measurements were taken, where possible, following von den Driesch (1976) and Davis (1992). Burning was noted as present/absent and gnaw marks were categorised as carnivore (probably dog) or rodent. Butchery marks and pathologies were noted and described where present.

4.1.3 The bone is in very good condition overall with a high proportion (58%) of identifiable specimens. There is little evidence of weathering, and surface features such as butchery marks are well preserved. Gnawing is moderately frequent (15% overall) but is characterised by scoring and light pitting rather than more severe destruction; only three specimens showed rodent gnaw marks.

Phase 1 (mid to late 11th century)

4.1.4 Most of the identifiable bone from this phase (76%) came from large pit 1332=1569. Rapid burial in this enclosed feature is likely to be responsible for the very low observed incidence of dog gnawing at 4%.

4.1.5 Sheep/goat remains are the most numerous, and all parts of the carcass are represented, with a minimum number of individuals (MNI) of two. Two ageable mandibles are present: one from a young adult of two to three years and one from an animal aged between two and six years. Both mandibles show pathology: the younger animal shows ante-mortem loss of P2 with slight thickening of the mandibular bone just along the premolar row, but no active remodelling at the time of death other than infilling of the alveolus; the older animal has heavy calculus deposits on all teeth present but especially the M1, which has also suffered marked interdental attrition due to crowding with the P4 and M2. The presence of younger animals is attested by an unworn dp2 from the pit (fill 1564) and a neonatal humerus from garden soil 1565. All other ageable epiphyses (n=11) are fused, with the time of closure in the two latest fusing elements, a distal tibia and a distal metacarpal, consistent with the mandible

ages. A male horn core basal fragment is present. Eight bones show butchery marks, with disarticulation and filleting both evidenced.

4.1.6 Pig remains comprise mainly cranial and foot bones, plus a femur and two fragments of pelvis, yielding an MNI of two. Ageing evidence for pigs consists of a mandible with the M1 in early wear, from an animal older than six months (Silver 1969), a maxilla with equivalent wear, and an incomplete male maxilla with a P4 in early wear and hence from an animal older than *c* 16 months. In addition, there is a foetal or neonatal pubis and a fused distal metacarpal from an animal older than two years.

4.1.7 The six cattle specimens are cranial fragments, apart from one fragment of scapula. Evidence for age is restricted to a mandible with the unerupted P2 visible in the crypt, hence from an animal younger than two years, and an M3 with the crown damaged but clearly in wear, indicating an animal older than two years. A second mandible specimen shows a large foramen on the lingual surface of the diastema; it is unclear whether this is a non-metric trait or a draining sinus from an infection. However, there is no other evidence of an infection on the bone surface. Three specimens show knife cuts consistent with skinning or filleting.

4.1.8 The small numbers of bird bones include domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*), goose (*Anser* sp.) and duck (Anatidae), a radius from a wader or gull, a carpometacarpus from a thrush-sized passerine and a tibiotarsus from a smaller, blue-tit-sized passerine.

4.1.9 Other species are represented by a single bone each: equid by a worn P2 with a crown height of 14.9mm, giving an estimated age of 16–17 years; a partially fused dog scapula, suggesting an animal younger than seven months; a hare (*Lepus europaeus*) or rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) distal metapodial; and a toad (*Bufo* sp.) radioulna.

Phase 2 (12th to early 13th century)

4.1.10 Sheep/goat and cattle bones occur in equal numbers in this phase. Cranial and post-cranial element distribution suggests complete carcasses are represented for sheep/goat, whilst cattle remains include mandible, upper fore-limb and lower hind-limb bones. The smaller pig sample includes both cranial and post-cranial elements. The ageing evidence is limited: a sheep/goat mandible has tooth wear indicating a two- to three-year-old and sheep/goat fusion data is consistent with that age range; cattle fusion data show the presence of animals between one and two years old and over four years; pig data include a mandible from an animal with M1 in early wear and an unfused distal tibia.

4.1.11 Butchery evidence includes marks characteristic of disarticulation (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) and filleting (pig). Most of the butchered specimens (6 out of 9) are cattle and show a pattern of chop marks through the major fore-limb joints, with knife cuts disarticulating the hock and the metapodial-phalangeal joint. A pig mandible has been split through the symphysis.

4.1.12 There are two pathological specimens present. A cattle first phalanx shows slight thinning and extension of the proximal articular surface as well as exostosis at the distal abaxial ligament insertion, characteristic of mild age-related arthrosis. A cattle

scapula shows an uneven surface in the centre of the glenoid, including shallow depressions and three areas where the sub-cortical bone is exposed. In addition, the supraglenoid tubercle is flattened cranio-laterally, barely projecting at all, and there is some periostitis around the lateral-distal margin of the tubercle and along the adjacent lateral margin of the glenoid, including an irregular depression along the rim. It is possible that the phenomena are linked, with earlier damage to the tubercle, whether due to trauma or infection, causing inflammation around the joint and disrupting the joint surface cartilage.

4.1.13 The single equid bone is a fused second phalanx.

4.1.14 The bird bone includes a male cf. domestic fowl tarsometatarsus and a goose coracoid with a series of cutmarks suggesting removal of the wing.

Phase 3 (early 13th to mid-16th century)

4.1.15 A very small amount of bone, mainly sheep/goat, and predominantly post-cranial elements, was recovered from the watching brief areas.

Sub-phase 3.1 (early to late 13th century)

4.1.16 Sheep/goat remains are the most numerous (MNI = three) and skeletal element distribution shows all areas of the carcass represented with no obvious biases. This includes a largely complete neurocranium with enough of the right horn core base present to suggest it belonged to a male, and a second male horn core base shows a transverse cut mark on the medial surface consistent with removal of the horn sheath. Other butchery marks, mainly knife cuts, suggest skinning and dismembering, including removal of the head. Two ageable mandibles, one with M3 at wear stage 'd' indicating an animal between two and three years old and the second with the M3 crown damaged but advanced wear on the M1 and M2 suggesting an elderly animal, the roots of all the molars are heavily clubbed, a condition which may be due to a chronic infection (Baker and Brothwell 1980). Two distally unfused metapodials suggest the presence of at least one younger animal, but the remaining six (fused) bones are consistent with the mandibular ages. An M3 in full wear shows caries in the cementum of both infundibula.

4.1.17 The few cattle bones include a maxilla with all teeth present (P4–M2) in advanced wear, a proximally fused ulna, indicating an animal older than four years, and a proximally unfused ulna. The single pig specimen is a distally unfused fourth metacarpal. The domestic fowl bones include two femurs and two tibiotarsi as well as an immature coracoid; cuts are present on the neck of one of the femurs and on the distal end of both tibiotarsi. The goose specimen is a furcula with a paramedial cut on the external surface followed by breaking along the line of the cut, possibly indicating the splitting of a carcass

Sub-phase 3.2 (14th century)

4.1.18 Sheep/goat remains (MNI = 3) are twice as frequent as those of cattle, but all areas of the carcass are represented for both taxa. The smaller pig sample includes both cranial

and post-cranial elements. There are no ageable toothrows for sheep/goat, but the bones include a neonatal scapula and a fused proximal femur from an animal older than three years. One female and one possibly male pelvis were present. One cattle mandible with M3 missing shows advanced wear on the remaining molars consistent with an elderly animal, and an unfused proximal femur represents an animal younger than three and a half years. Pig bones are all from immature animals. Three cat bones are present, a left and a right tibia and a fibula; the fibula is distally unfused and would have come from an animal younger than 11½ months old and the size and surface condition of the tibias suggests they are also from sub-adults. The dog specimen present is a fused distal humerus with a distal breadth of 35.3mm. The single bird bone from this phase is a distal ulna from a wader or gull.

4.1.19 Butchering evidence comprises mainly knife cuts, and includes dismembering (sheep/goat, cattle) and filleting (pig) marks.

4.1.20 Three pathological specimens are present, all cattle. The M2 in the aged mandible shows small pits in the infundibula which are probably caries. A female acetabulum shows some lipping around the ventral-lateral margin which is probably a mild age-related arthrosis. A fragment of proximal femur shaft shows an irregular raised area laterally at the muscle insertion site below the fusion line with the greater trochanter, extending towards the fusion plane and bordered anteriorly with a wide, shallow ridge extending proximally and petering out as it goes following the line of the muscle scar. This lesion could be the result of a muscle strain.

Sub-phase 3.3 (15th to mid-16th century)

4.1.21 Sheep/goat and cattle are both represented by cranial and post-cranial elements. The cattle remains include an M3 at wear stage 'e', a young adult, and a fused distal tibia from an animal older than $2^1/_2$ years. The sheep/goat include two fused scapulae and a very worn and probably shed dp3. Cutmarks on a sheep scapula and ilium are consistent with dismembering. The pig remains are all post-cranial elements and include a proximally unfused radius from an animal younger than one year and a distally unfused tibia from an animal younger than two years. The radius also shows cutmarks at the distal end typical of disarticulation. A fragment of scapula is large enough to probably be wild boar but was too incomplete to be measured. A splintered fallow deer metacarpal from fill 1519 of pit 1516 is the only definitely wild mammal in the assemblage.

4.1.22 A cat tibia, unfused at both ends, would have come from an animal younger than 11½ months (Habermehl 1975) and appears to be the same age as the specimens from sub-phase 3.2.

4.1.23 The bird bones include immature goose or goose-sized specimens as well as an immature furcula, probably domestic fowl, suggesting local breeding of both birds.

Discussion

4.1.24 The assemblage size does not allow detailed consideration of the place of the animals in the local economy. The trend for sheep/goat bone to predominate may be related to the types of context excavated: that is, in an urban environment. The larger bones of cattle may be less likely to be disposed of by discard into local pits or incorporation into garden soils but more conveniently disposed of elsewhere. It appears that sheep/goat and pig were present on site as complete carcasses but the evidence for the cattle is less clear, and it is possible that at least some bones arrived at the site as part of joints of meat rather than carcasses. The ages of the animals present tend to show the expected pattern for a consumption site. The concentration on lower hindlimb bones in the cat remains, with no other elements represented, is peculiar and, in the absence of cutmarks which might have suggested skinning, is not readily explained. The presence of birds and the species present are as expected for a medieval urban assemblage, although the absence of pigeon is noteworthy.

Table 6: Hand-retrieved bone

Taxa	**Phase**							**Total**
	1	**2**	**3**					
				3.1	**3.2**	**3.3**	**Subtotal**	
Cattle	6	15	2	5	11	4	22	43
Sheep/goat	10	10	4	15	11	4	34	54
Sheep	4	4	2	7	10		19	27
Pig	11	7	1	1	4	5	11	29
Equid	1	1						2
Dog	1				1		1	2
Domestic cat					3		3	3
Fallow deer						1	1	1
Cattle size mammal	2	2	1	5	1	1	8	12
Sheep size mammal	8	7		3	4	1	8	23
Domestic fowl		1		4		1	5	6
cf. Domestic fowl	1	1		1		1	2	4
Goose	1	1		1		1	2	4
Duck	1							1
Charadriiform					1		1	1
Goose size bird						1	1	1
Unidentified	22	34		36	32	30	98	154
Total identified	46	49	10	42	46	20	118	213
Total	**68**	**83**	10	78	78	50	**216**	**367**

Table 7: Identified bone from environmental samples

Taxa	Phase				Total
	1	2	3.2	3.3	
Cattle				1	1
Sheep/goat	17	1	1	2	21
Sheep	3				3
Pig	8				8
Hare/rabbit	1				1
Cattle size mammal	3				3
Sheep size mammal	7	2			9
Cat size mammal				1	1
Small mammal				1	1
Domestic fowl	2				2
cf. domestic fowl	2				2
Goose	1				1
Duck	1				1
Charadriiform	1				1
Passeriform	2				2
Goose size bird				2	2
Domestic fowl size bird	3			2	5
Toad	1				1
Total	**52**	**3**	**1**	**9**	**65**

4.2 Archaeobotanical remains *by Denise Druce*

Introduction

4.2.1 Ten bulk samples were processed and assessed for the presence of archaeobotanical material to inform crop and fuel use in medieval Oxford. To comply with accepted professional guidelines (English Heritage 2011), 40-litre samples, or 100% of a fill if less than this, were taken. The samples came from features revealed in Trench 15. The ten bulk samples came from several occupation layers/deposits (contexts 1503, 1560, 1567), five fills (1564, 1568, 1570, 1571, and 1572) of a large pit (1332=1569) and two fills (1537 and 1545) from a probable demolished oven/hearth or rake-out pit (1548). Between them they date from the middle 11th/12th centuries to the 15th to early 16th centuries.

4.2.2 Following the assessment, eight samples were selected for further analysis of the charred plant remains and charcoal, the results of which are also included here. The remaining two samples, not taken further, came from two pit fills: 1571 and 1572, from pit 1332=1569. These two samples contained only one or two charred plant remains and less than 25 identifiable charcoal fragments.

Methodology

4.2.3 Sample processing followed standard procedures whereby the flots were caught in a 250µm aperture sieve, and air dried. The residues of the floated samples were washed

through 4mm, 2mm, and 500µm aperture meshes and were also air dried. Dried flots and residues were scanned using a stereo microscope and any plant material, including fruits, seeds, charcoal and wood fragments was recorded. Other remains, such as bone, insects, small artefacts, ceramic building material (CBM), industrial/metal waste, and coal/heat-affected vesicular material (havm) were also noted. The presence of modern roots, earthworm eggs and modern seeds was also noted to ascertain the likelihood of any contamination. Remains were quantified on a scale where + is rare (one to five items); ++ is frequent (6 to 50 items); +++ is common (51–100 items); and ++++ is abundant (greater than 100 items).

4.2.4 Charcoal fragments over 2mm in size were initially quantified and scanned to assess preservation and wood diversity. The charcoal from the samples selected for full analysis was initially sorted into groups based on the features visible in transverse section using a Leica MZ6 binocular microscope at up to x40 magnification. Representative fragments of each group were then fractured to reveal both radial and tangential sections, which were examined under a Meiji incident-light microscope at up to x400 magnification. Identification and classification were made with reference to Hather (2000), and modern reference material.

4.2.5 During assessment it was evident that the charred cereal remains and associated seeds had limited potential for analysis due both to the quantity and quality of material. It was therefore decided to focus on the charcoal and to quantify the charred plant remains using a semi-quantitative scale.

Charred plant remains

4.2.6 Preservation of plant remains was exclusively through charring, and the results of both the charred plant remains and charcoal analysis for the selected eight samples are presented in Appendix 1. The lack of evidence for calcium phosphate replacement on seeds/fruits from pit 1332=1569 suggests very little excrement was entering the feature.

4.2.7 All eight samples subject to further analysis contained at least some cereal grains, which were particularly numerous in Phase 1 occupation layer 1567 and pit 132=1569 and Phase 2 charcoal-rich layer 1560. Further analysis confirmed the presence of the full suite of typical medieval cereal crops, including wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains possessing characteristics consistent with a probable free-threshing wheat, barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*) (Greig 1991; Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019). However, the poor state of many of the grains combined with a lack of diagnostic cereal chaff meant that further refinement of crop types, ie bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) or rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum*), or two- or many-rowed barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), was not possible. Early to mid-14th century features from the Garden Building site at nearby Lincoln College also produced the full range of medieval cereal crops, but wheat and barley dominated the assemblages (Boardman 2020a). The chaff remains at that site suggest that both bread and rivet wheat and six-row barley were being utilised.

4.2.8 Charred plant remains other than cereal grains were limited to rare/frequent hazelnut shell fragments; >4mm peas, probably common garden pea (*Pisum sativum*); and occasional seeds of the scourge of the medieval corn field, the highly toxic corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*; Moffett 2006). The lack of cereal chaff, crop weeds and other food remains suggests much of the charred plant remains from the site are fully processed cereals. There is no evidence for the cereals having been malted; therefore the material is likely to represent material that was burnt accidentally during food preparation. Indeed, many of the cereal grains are highly vacuolated, and often 'fused' with charcoal. The same cereal-rich deposits also contained charred 'lumps' reminiscent of food residues, perhaps from the inside of oven/hearths, which develop during subsequent firings. Such material was particularly notable in charcoal-rich layer 1560, which was also recorded as containing abundant cinder/slag from a possible oven/hearth lining.

4.2.9 In addition to cereals products, other kitchen waste was represented by the recovery of bone fragments (both calcined and uncalcined), fish bone and the occasional fish scale. Like the non-cereal plant remains, the consistent recovery of this material, especially from the Phase 1 and 2 features/layers, may indicate some degree of mixing, which perhaps is not surprising given the palimpsest nature of the site. Even so, the data does suggest a possible reduction in the amount of kitchen waste entering the Phase 3 demolished oven/rake out pit 1548 and occupation layer 1503.

4.2.10 Although any secondary deposition of the contents of oven/rake out pit 1548 may have affected the quantities of material entering the feature, the paucity of cereal remains and cooking waste generally does not support its interpretation as a domestic oven. Cotter (above) describes the fire-sooted fired clay with 'crushed shelly limestone' from pit 1548 as being particularly unusual, and perhaps suggestive of a specialised or industrial function such as lead casting.

Charcoal

4.2.11 The taxonomic level of identification varied according to fragment size, state of preservation, and/or observed genera/family. The separation of species within the hawthorn-type (Maloideae) group, which includes hawthorn (*Crategus monogyna*), apple (*Malus sylvestris*), common whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) is not possible. Similarly, it is not possible to distinguish the large group of willows (*Salix* sp.) native to the UK, from poplar (*Populus* sp.). Fragments of anatomically similar Blackthorn-type (*Prunus* sp.), which includes sloe/blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), wild cherry (*P. avium*), bird cherry (*P. padus*) and wild plum (*P. domestica*) were not separated. It was also not always possible to separate alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) from hazel (*Corylus avellana*) due to poor visibility of certain characteristics required for positive identification.

4.2.12 The Phase 1 and 2 features were dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal, which appears to come from both trunk and branch wood, including material from mature trees at least 25 years in age (Dufraisse *et al.* 2017). Other regularly occurring taxa in the same samples included rare to frequent fragments of hazel (and/or alder), hawthorn-type and blackthorn-type. Rare fragments of field maple (*Acer campestre*)

and possible elm (*Ulmus* sp.) were recorded in occupation layer 1567. Pit 1332=1569 contained frequent beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and willow/poplar, and rare ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Much of the hazel and hawthorn type fragments comprised small round wood.

4.2.13 Significantly little oak was recovered from both fills (1537 and 1545) of the Phase 3 demolished oven/rake out pit 1548, which was dominated by hawthorn-type roundwood, with a lesser component of blackthorn-type roundwood. The continued utilisation of both oak and hawthorn-type is suggested in occupation layer 1503, which represents the latest phase of deposit analysed (sub-phase 3.3). However, in addition, this deposit contained significantly more beech charcoal.

Discussion

4.2.14 The range of wood taxa is consistent with previous records of fuel use from medieval Oxford. Charcoal evidence from pre-college features at Lincoln, Queen's, Merton and New Colleges show a heavy reliance on oak and a range of other taxa also recorded at the Mitre Inn, including scrub/hedgerow trees such as hawthorn and blackthorn type (Boardman 2020b; Challinor 2002; 2010; Poore *et al.* 2006; Druce in prep.). Although hawthorn-type wood is commonly recovered from domestic contexts, its dominance in demolished oven/rake out pit 1548 may possibly relate to the feature's specialised function. All the hawthorn-type trees (which include hawthorn, apple, common whitebeam, rowan and wild service tree) would have provided good, long-lasting wood fuel (South Yorkshire Firewood nd). It is likely that much of the fuel wood used during this period was either hand-collected from local woodland or was supplied by local traders, as either faggots, billets or prepared charcoal.

4.2.15 The relative increase in beech in occupation layer 1503 is notable and may reflect a shift in fuel wood use seen at many other sites in Oxford. This is tentative, however, given that the evidence from the Mitre Inn is based on a single sample. Though there are exceptions, evidence from many Oxford sites, including Queen's, Merton and New Colleges, show a marked shift towards the use of beech as the primary domestic fuel by or during the 15th to early 16th centuries (Challinor 2010; Poore *et al.* 2006; Boardman 2020b; Druce in prep.) The change is likely to relate to the growth of the university, socio-economic pressures, and the establishment of long-distance trade routes, much of the beech fuel wood supplying Oxford by this time being imported from the Chilterns (ibid.).

Conclusion

4.2.16 The charred plant remains evidence from the site indicates the incorporation of a wide range of domestic kitchen waste during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities. The dominance of cereal grains, which included the full range of typical medieval crops, suggests the material probably comprises burnt cooking waste, including charred concretions from a possible hearth/oven lining in charcoal-rich layer 1560. A reduction in cereal remains in the Phase 3 features indicates a possible decrease in the amount of domestic kitchen waste entering these later features/layers. It is possible these later features were in receipt of waste from more industrial-type activities, which may

have included the moulding of metal objects. Unlike the other assemblages from the site, pit 1548 is overwhelmingly dominated by hawthorn-type wood, which may reflect a specialised activity. The relative increase in the use of beech wood in sub-phase 3.3 occupation layer 1503 may tentatively reflect the beginnings of a shift in fuel use seen at many other Oxford sites. Commonly dated to the 15th/16th centuries, this shift has been linked to the growth of the university.

4.3 Eggshell *by Rebecca Nicholson*

4.3.1 A small quantity of avian eggshell (<1g) was extracted from the coarser (>4mm) fractions of the dried residues of sample 6, from fill 1568 of Phase 1 (mid to late 11th century) pit 1332=1569. All fragments were cream to pale brown in colour.

4.3.2 Eggshell thickness was measured for five fragments with a digital micrometre to 0.01mm. The fragments measured 0.55mm, 0.6mm, 0.51mm, 0.32mm and 0.30mm, which suggests there may be two types of eggshell present. Fragments which fall within the range 0.25–0.35mm are consistent with the thickness of modern domestic fowl eggs (Keepax 1977). The thicker fragments (>0.5mm) may indicate the presence of larger eggs such as those of duck or goose, but as eggshell thickness varies between different parts of an egg, between different eggs in a clutch, and between different breeds (ibid.), this is not definitive. Further identification is not possible without scanning electron microscopy or proteomics.

4.3.3 Eggs were a popular foodstuff in medieval England and in towns they were plentiful and cheap (Wilson 1976, 127). It is likely that hens, and probably sometimes also geese and ducks, were kept in backyards.

4.4 Marine shell *by Rebecca Nicholson*

4.4.1 This report concerns an assemblage comprising 36 shells, weighing 373g, all apart from one of which were collected by hand during the excavation. A single oyster valve was extracted from the residue of a sieved soil sample. All the shells are European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.).

4.4.2 The shells from each context were visually scanned and quantified, with left and right oyster valves quantified separately. Notes were made on their general size, shape, hinge shape and overall condition, with details of epibont infestations and encrustations following Winder (2011).

Summary by phase

Phase 1 (mid to late 11th century)

4.4.3 A pair of small oyster valves in good condition and weighing 16g was recovered from pit fill 1316 (pit 1332=1569). Fitting together, both valves exhibited the same opening notch. No epibont infestations or adhering items were present. Two left valves weighing 44g in total came from fill 1564 of the same pit, one of which was recovered from the residue of soil sample 5. Both are incomplete but would have been fairly large shells. One valve has a chalky deposit internally while the other has a bright orange coloration internally, possibly due to post-depositional burial conditions.

Phase 2 (12th to early 13th century)

4.4.4 Seven oyster valves, two left and five right, weighing a total of 77g derive from garden soil deposits 1551 and 1562. The valves are in fair and poor condition and incomplete. One of the left valves from context 1551 has an adhering oyster and one valve exhibited an opening notch. One of the right valves from the same context is stained dark grey and may have been burnt.

Phase 3 (early 13th to mid-16th century)

4.4.5 Two right oyster valves weighing 20g in total were collected from pit fills 1526 (pit 1517) and soil layer 1530, both incomplete and in fair condition.

Phase 4 (post-medieval)

4.4.6 Fill 1520 (robber trench 1521) included 20 medium and small-sized oyster valves (8 left, 12 right) weighing 180g in fair and poor, chalky, condition. Three left valves have a shiny orange stain internally, similar to that observed for a shell from pit fill 1564. The largest left valve is irregular and thick with a flattened heel, large obliquely angled hinge and clear evidence of disturbed growth during life, perhaps due to deliberate relocation. Four valves have opening notches, and this is the only context where a shell had clear evidence of infestation by the polychaete worm *Polydora hoplura* Claparède.

4.4.7 Two right valves weighing 21g from dump deposit 1507 also had shiny orange patches.

Phase 5 (modern)

4.4.8 A single small, right valve (15g) in good condition came from storm drain fill 403.

Significance of the assemblage

4.4.9 Although depleted now, European flat oysters are native to British coastal waters and have been recovered from a range of sites in Oxford dating from the Saxo-Norman to early modern periods. They were formerly common in habitats from the lower shore down to about 80m depth, on sandy and muddy substrates, hard silt, rocks or gravel.

4.4.10 The assemblage from the Mitre Inn is small and therefore of limited significance beyond the fact that it demonstrates that these shellfish were consumed throughout the periods of occupation at the site. Opening notches on some shells demonstrate that the shellfish were opened while still alive, although the meat may have been cooked or pickled.

4.4.11 The polychaete *Polydora hoplura* burrows into the inside of oysters and is responsible for the formation of mudblisters. It favours warm, still, soft substrates such as those found in creeks, harbours and estuaries and inlets, and is now mainly found around the coast of south-west England (Hancock 1974, 21). It was present in 41% of left valves from Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight (Campbell 2013, 17) and its presence suggests a south coast origin for the oyster from robber trench 1521 at least.

4.5 Human bone *by Helen Webb*

4.5.1 The human bone comprised a single inhumation of a young juvenile from context 411 (Trench 4), interpreted as an earlier medieval garden soil.

Methodology

4.5.2 The inhumation was analysed and recorded in accordance with published guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004). Preservation was recorded with reference to completeness (scored as <25%, 26–50%, 51–75% or 76–100%), degree of fragmentation (scored as low (<25% fragmented), medium (25–75% fragmented) or high (>75% fragmented) and degree of surface erosion (after McKinley 2004, 16).

4.5.3 Age estimation was based on the status of epiphyseal fusion and the maximum length of complete long bones (Scheuer and Black 2000), as well as the development stage of a single tooth crown (AlQahtani 2009). No attempt was made to estimate the sex of this juvenile skeleton, in accordance with accepted practice (Brickley 2004, 23).

4.5.4 All bones were examined for evidence of pathology and trauma.

Results

4.5.5 The skeleton was estimated to be 25–50% complete, although most regions were represented. Bones present included cranial and mandible fragments, a small number of unfused vertebral bodies and arches, left rib fragments, a left humerus, fragments of both the left and right radius, metacarpals and phalanges of the hand/s (unsided), left pelvis bones (ischium and pubis), both femora, part of a fibula shaft, a metatarsal and a single foot phalanx. Although moderately fragmented, the bone surfaces were in good condition, in keeping with McKinley's grade 1 (2004, 16), meaning that they exhibited just slight, patchy surface erosion.

4.5.6 The maximum lengths of the left humerus and femur indicated an age between 38 and 40 weeks gestation (Scheuer and Black 2000). The state of epiphyseal fusion (ibid.) and development of a single tooth crown (the left maxillary first deciduous molar) (AlQahtani 2009) were in keeping with this; therefore, the skeleton was assigned to the neonate (birth to one month) age category.

4.5.7 Lesions were observed on the endocranial surface of multiple parietal bone fragments. The lesions appeared as coarse, striated/spiculed and layered new bone, radiating from the parietal eminence regions, with an almost hair-on-end appearance at the eminence region itself. Such lesions may be pathological, resulting from inflammation and/or haemorrhage of the meninges (Lewis 2004, 82), although the exact aetiology is open to debate, with trauma, primary and secondary infections of the meninges, tumours, tuberculosis, syphilis and vitamin deficiencies all possible causes (ibid., 93). That said, it can be difficult to differentiate between pathological new bone and normal, appositional growth in young skeletons because the lesions can appear similar (ibid., 94; Lewis 2007, 135–6) and this is particularly the case for new bone formation such as this within the crania of new-borns (Lewis 2018, 145). For this reason, identification of the lesions as pathology is uncertain.

Discussion

4.5.8 Burial of infants in non-cemetery contexts during the medieval period is well documented and reflects the fact that interment of unbaptised and stillborn infants

was not permitted in consecrated ground (Gilchrist and Sloane 2005, 72). Contemporary isolated neonate burials from domestic contexts have been excavated elsewhere within the city of Oxford, including two neonate skeletons discovered within different tenement plots at Magdalen College Library, where one skeleton had been buried in a pit and another within a sub-rectangular grave cut (OA 2019, 16; Teague and Ford forthcoming). These burials were situated over 25m south of a contemporary, formal cemetery. Another isolated neonate burial was discovered in a domestic context at Brewer Street (Teague and Ford 2019). This skeleton was aligned W–E within a grave cut through a possible hearth.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1.1 The Mitre Inn is located centrally within the late Saxon burh and medieval town on the north side of High Street, the principal east–west street of the town. The trenches were located some distance north of the street along the west side of Turl Street, which was probably in existence by the time All Saints' Church was enlarged westwards during the 12th or early 13th century (Dodd 2003, fig. 5.14), which encroached onto the eastern side of the street, narrowing the road at its junction with High Street. The Mitre excavations revealed potential late Saxon levels close to the western edge of Turl Street within Trenches 13 and 15. Here the earliest level recorded within the side of the service trench was a loose gravel (1574) overlain by green-stained sandy silt (1567), probably representing exterior deposits. The later deposit contained fresh sherds of pottery indicating a mid-11th century and perhaps pre-Conquest date, and if so, the gravel is likely to be late Saxon in date. It is possible the silt, given its staining, was washed off the surface of the adjacent street, whose present frontage lies only about 2m to the east. Observations along the street within a foul sewer trench in 1981 revealed early metalling suggesting that the street is of pre-Conquest origin (ibid., 234). The precise location of the original western edge of the street is unknown, though by the time pit 1332=1569 at the eastern end of Trench 15 was dug, the present frontage was established. The pit also contained pottery of a similar date, comprising mainly Cotswold-type ware (OXAC) and Kennet Valley A ware (OXBF) with a notable inclusion of a rare sherd of Beauvais-type red-painted ware, pottery current during the 10th and 11th centuries. Although the pit was not fully exposed or bottomed, its location adjacent to the street frontage is worthy of comment. Though the pit could have been used for gravel extraction and/or rubbish disposal, its location on a street frontage and near to the High Street, the principal east–west street in the late Saxon burh, lay within an area that would be expected to be built-up from an early date. The pit could have served another function, feasibly as a cellar pit used for storage. Such structures were associated with the burh or burgeoning late Saxon town, particularly during the second half of the 10th century and into the first half of the 11th. At Cornmarket, four late Saxon plots were each fronted by a small rectangular cellar pit, one of which measured *c* 2.5m square and more than 2m deep (Dodd 2003, 36 and fig. 2.6). Given that pit 1332=1569 was only partly exposed within the current works, this can only be suggested as a tentative interpretation. Other known cellar pits in the late Saxon town, such as those found at 114–19 St Aldate's (Teague *et al*. 2020, 76–8) and Queens' College (Teague and Brown 2020, 145), were rapidly filled after they ceased to be used. The pit at the Mitre also appears to have been rapidly infilled, at least to the levels excavated, as the animal bone showed little evidence for dog gnawing. The animal bone, though small in quantity, exhibits a predominance of sheep/goat and pig over cattle, indicating a diet that was typical for the 11th and 12th centuries. Indeed, the animal bone from the infilled cellar pits at Queen's College were similarly dominated by sheep/goat (Broderick 2020, 189–90), though given the small quantities recovered from the present site, deductions concerning status cannot be made. Slight indicators were found for industrial activity, comprising a crucible sherd from a vessel that had been heavily burnt and an extremely well-used whetstone,

imported from Norway during the 11th century. Although the crucible fragment had no surviving residues, it is likely to have been used for non-ferrous metalworking. The heavily used whetstone would have served to sharpen knives or other tools.

5.1.2 A charcoal-rich spread (1560) overlying the possible cellar pit, likely to be of 12th-century date, may have been an occupation deposit within a structure on the street frontage. The limited extent of the excavations did not reveal any structural elements associated with it. The charcoal was dominated by oak, wood that is particularly suitable for processes that require high temperatures in hearths or furnaces, such as metalworking. However, no other evidence was recovered from the deposit to support this, and oak charcoal was dominant in domestic contexts in Oxford prior to the 14th century. The charred plant remains were dominated by cereal grains, often fused with the charcoal, probably as a result of food preparation.

5.1.3 The neonate burial recovered from garden soil 411 in Trench 4 is likely to have been deliberately interred in a shallow grave, although the grave cut was not identified. The grave probably cut the soil and therefore dated to the 12th century or later and may have been contemporary with the building that overlay the soil layer. The remains add to the growing corpus of medieval infant burials found outside known cemeteries within Oxford and elsewhere. At Brewer Street an infant associated with a 12th-century building on the street frontage was radiocarbon dated to cal AD 1054–1262 (Teague and Ford 2019), and at Magdalen College Library one of two infants found well outside the contemporary cemetery produced a date of cal AD 1225–1393 (Teague and Ford forthcoming). Outside Oxford, recent excavations at Graven Hill near Bicester identified the remains of an infant within a soil layer associated with a 12th-century farmstead (Allen *et al*. in prep.). Clearly, burial of neonates was not confined to cemeteries, these instances perhaps representing individuals who died too young to be baptised.

5.1.4 Oven/hearth 1535 in Trench 15 was of sufficient size to suggest an industrial or commercial function rather than necessarily a domestic purpose. It was probably contained within a stone building, the rear of which may have been marked by a possible robber trench, suggesting that the building extended about 4m from the existing Turl Street frontage. The position of the oven/hearth, close to the frontage, is also noteworthy, as domestic kitchens were normally located to the rear of buildings, away from the front rooms that were often used as shops. The building lies near and potentially within a property on Turl Street described as a bakery in 1280, when it was sold by Marg. de Burncestre (Salter 1969, Tenement NE50), which corresponds with the probable 13th-century date of the pottery associated with the oven/hearth. Only the base of the structure survived, and it was not possible to establish its internal layout. Similarly, deposits that could be associated the oven/hearth did not survive. Nonetheless, the position of the structure within a room on the street frontage would support the documentary evidence that it was contained within a commercial bakery with convenient access to customers on the street. Further evidence of later ovens and hearths was found though no *in situ* structural remains occurred in the areas investigated. An extensive spread of fired clay fragments was recorded (407), as well as a rake-out pit (1548) that was probably associated with a later oven/hearth. The

fragments were consistent in character and its fabric unusually had added limestone with a sooted internal concave surface, suggesting a specialised function that required a relatively low temperature. This is supported by the abundant charcoal that was recovered from the pit, which, in contrast to the early phases, was dominated by hawthorn-type wood which burns at a lower temperature. Moreover, the deposit had a paucity of cereal grain and general foodstuffs, suggesting that the later oven/hearth remains did not come from a domestic oven and were not associated with breadmaking. The fired clay may have derived from a metalworking process that utilised low temperatures, such as working lead, the melting point of which is 327.5°C. However, it should be cautioned that no evidence for metalworking such as waste or crucibles was found from this phase, in contrast to the excavation at Lincoln College (Teague and Ford 2020a), located directly opposite the site on the east side of Turl Street, where non-ferrous metalworking activity was found together with evidence for bread-baking during the 14th and early 15th centuries. Although the evidence is admittedly very slight, it is possible that the small number of cat bones from the excavation were evidence for another trade that it attested in the vicinity – namely, glovers, who were granted a place at the market 'between All Saints' church and the tenement which was sometimes John le Goldsmyth's' in the regulations of 1318 (Page 1907), John le Goldsmyth perhaps being a relative of the Walter Aurifaber (Latin for 'goldsmith') who had been recorded on Turl Street in the 13th century (Salter 1969). A much larger assemblage of cat bones, including skulls bearing cut marks characteristic of skinning, was recovered from pits at 90–93 Broad Street, Reading, and interpreted as evidence for a fur trader or glovemaker at the property during the medieval period (Norton and Poore 2007, 24–5 and 32).

5.1.5 During the 15th century the building appears to have been remodelled or rebuilt, as there was no further evidence for subsequent ovens/hearths, perhaps reflecting a change of use to a more domestic function. Charcoal-rich deposits, implying the presence of hearths, were henceforth absent, although an occupation deposit (1503) within the building did contain some charcoal; unlike the earlier ovens, this charcoal was dominated by oak with only small quantities of hawthorn present.

5.1.6 The wall foundation with relieving arch found in Trench 10 may be the only structure found in the excavation that can be attributed to Bicester's Inn. This type of foundation is known from other 13th and 14th-century buildings in Oxford (OA 2009, 21), and at the Mitre similar arches survive in the foundation of the west wall of the former stables (ibid., 16 and 21). The 1630s rebuilding of the inn evidently reused the existing foundation in Trench 10 to support the rear wall of the new structure. The vaulted cellar beneath No. 2 Turl Street, which was partly exposed in Trench 2, is of similar date but was not part of the inn at this time, having been part of a separate property that belonged to St Bartholomew's hospital and was not acquired by Lincoln until early 18th century (OA 2009, 4).

5.1.7 The wall excavated in the porters' lodge trenches is of late medieval date and is similarly likely to be part of the range that Agas depicts on the Turl Street frontage, although it is not possible to correlate it with a specific structure due to imprecisions in the mapping. The building to which it belonged was presumably demolished before

1675, and perhaps as part of the 1630s rebuilding, since Loggan clearly shows this as the entrance to Turl Yard, with no indication of a building at this location. This is somewhat at odds with the dating evidence from the excavation, however, since a clay tobacco pipe bowl dating from 1690–1720 was recovered from the robber trench associated with the demolition of the wall. If the bowl is not intrusive, it is possible that the wall was retained for some time as part of a gated entrance into the alley not depicted by Loggan.

5.1.8 The date of the wall foundation that extended through Trenches 14 and 16 is more difficult to ascertain, although it is clearly significantly older than the current rear wall of No. 4 Turl Street, for which it was reused. A medieval date is possible, although it is not possible to correlate it with the buildings shown by Agas due to imprecisions in the mapping. Loggan shows this part of the yard as defined by the west end walls of a pair of buildings that extend back from the range on the Turl Street frontage, and the foundation may have supported these, regardless of whether it was newly constructed as part of the 1630s reorganisation of the complex or comprised reuse of a medieval footing.

6 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING

6.1 Publication

6.1.1 This report will be edited to produce a publication report for inclusion in an OA Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph along with other urban sites from Oxford.

6.2 Archiving, retention and disposal

6.2.1 The site archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service under accession number OXCMS:2019.93. The digital archive will be deposited with ADS.

6.2.1 The finds assemblage for deposition will include:

- the pottery;
- a sample of the largest or otherwise notable pieces of fired clay;
- the metalwork, including a sample of the best-preserved iron nails of each type;
- the coin;
- the whetstone;
- the animal bone;
- the soil sample flots and extracted seeds and charcoal;
- the fish bone.

6.2.2 Material that can be disposed of will comprise:

- the clay tobacco pipes;
- the ceramic building material;
- most of the fired clay;
- the rest of the nails and nail fragments, together with all miscellaneous unidentifiable iron fragments;
- the glass;
- the flint;
- the eggshell;
- the marine shell.

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APPENDIX A TABLE OF ARCHAEOBOTANICAL RESULTS

Trench		15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Sample no.		7	6	8	5	4	2	3	1
Context no.		1567	1568	1570	1564	1560	1537	1545	1503
Feature no.		-	1569	1569	1569	-	1548	1548	-
Description		Occupation layer	Pit	Pit	Pit	Charcoal layer	Oven/rake-out pit	Oven/rake-out pit	Occupation layer
Phase/sub-phase		1	1	1	1	2	3.2	3.2	3.3
Date		M11–M12C	M11–M12C	M11–M12C	M11–M12C	M12–E13C	14C	14C	15–E16C
Sample vol. (L)		38	40	16	40	14	40	10	20
Flot vol. (ml)		25	110	50	40	60	25	75	12
>4mm charcoal analysed		100%	12.5%	100%	50%	100%	50%	50%	100%
>2mm charcoal analysed		50%	12.5%	50%	50%	50%	25%	25%	100%
Notes						Abundant cinder/slag. Oven/hearth lining?	Contained fire clay	Contained fired clay	
Acer campestre	field maple	5							
Alnus glutinosa or *Corylus avellana*	alder/hazel	5r			4r	4			
Corylus avellana	hazel	3r		4r		14r			1r
Fagus sylvatica	beech		1	6	2			1	25
Fraxinus excelsior	ash		1s	2sr					1
Ilex aquifolium	holly							3	
Maloideae	hawthorn-type	11r	4	3	2	8r	57r	110r	17r
Prunus sp.	blackthorn-type	12		2	4		9r	19r	2
Quercus sp.	oak	91hsr	116h	89hsr	116hsr	74h	3		15sr
cf *Salix* sp./*Populus* sp.	willow/poplar			7	1				
cf *Ulmus* sp.	elm	1					1		2
Indeterminate		4	1	5	6	4	6	10	
Total charcoal fragments analysed		**132**	**123**	**118**	**135**	**104**	**76**	**143**	**63**

Trench		15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Sample no.		7	6	8	5	4	2	3	1
Context no.		1567	1568	1570	1564	1560	1537	1545	1503
Feature no.		-	1569	1569	1569	-	1548	1548	-
Description		Occupation layer	Pit	Pit	Pit	Charcoal layer	Oven/rake-out pit	Oven/rake-out pit	Occupation layer
Phase/sub-phase		1	1	1	1	2	3.2	3.2	3.3
Date		M11–M12C	M11–M12C	M11–M12C	M11–M12C	M12–E13C	14C	14C	15–E16C
Charred cereals		++++ includes free-threshing wheat and barley	++ includes free-threshing wheat and barley	+++ includes free-threshing wheat, barley, and rye	+++ includes free-threshing wheat and oats	+++ includes free-threshing wheat, barley, and oats	+ includes wheat	++ includes wheat	+ includes wheat and barley
Other charred seeds/fruits		++ hsf, peas, corn cockle	++ peas	++ hsf and peas	+ hsf	+ hsf	+ hsf and peas	+ corn cockle	
Vacuolated charred material (from hearth/oven lining?)		++	+++	++	+++	++++			
Bone fragments			+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	+++
Calcined bone fragments		+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++
Fish bone		++	++	+++	++			+	+
Fish scales		+		+	+		+		
Comminuted shell fragments							+++ (probably from fired clay)		+
Coal fragments		+							+
Comminuted daub fragments			++	+			+++	++	++++
Comminuted cbm		+	++						

Charcoal figures are actual counts where h = abundant heartwood, r = abundant round wood, and s = abundant sap wood. Other remains are quantified on a scale of abundance, where + = <5 items, ++ = 6–25, +++ = 26–100, and ++++ = >100 items, hsf = hazelnut shell fragments.

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