THE PADDOCK, RECTORY LANE, FRINGFORD, NEAR BICESTER, OXFORDSHIRE

SP 604 289

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH DESIGN

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

MARCH 1999

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1 SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out an area excavation in advance of housing development at the Paddock, Rectory Lane, Fringford, near Bicester Oxfordshire (SP 604 289) during 1997. The earliest features at the site comprised a series of boundary ditches, which produced pottery spanning the later pre-Roman Iron Age to the ?2nd century AD. No associated structures were noted.

These features were overlain by a further series of ditches of 10th/11th-century date, including a possible domestic enclosure with an associated pit and a series of postholes. These were superseded by early medieval (?12th century) ridge-and-furrow, and then, during the mid-late 13th century, this was abandoned and a series of three stone buildings constructed, with the tops of still-visible Roman and Saxo-Norman ditches capped with stone, presumably as a measure against flooding.

Two of the buildings were simple structures, the first being rectangular in plan, with a single phase of stone wall and two phases of cobbled stone floors. Very few artefacts were recovered, despite the building being completely excavated. The other structure comprised a single-phase stone floor, with no evidence for any sort of superstructure. It may have been simply a hard-stand, or could have had a simple sill-beam foundation for timber walls. Neither structure produced any evidence of a hearth, and both were probably non-domestic.

The third building, at the southern end of the site, was considerably more complex. It comprised a rectangular structure which was later modified, with an external room and an internal dividing wall being added. A number of clay floor surfaces with associated occupation debris were noted, as were several hearths, and a series of internal post-holes and gullies, which may represent an earlier timber structure. The building was surrounded by an occupation horizon which produced a large quantity of domestic pottery and a group of metal objects, suggesting that the structure probably functioned as a farrier's workshop for at least part of its life, although there was no evidence for metal having been smithed at the site.

The settlement appears to have been abandoned at some time around the end of the 14th century, and apart from sporadic stone robbing, there was little activity at the site thereafter.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out an area excavation at the Paddock, Rectory Lane, Fringford, near Bicester, Oxfordshire (SP 604 289) during 1997. The work was carried out on behalf of Brandon Gate Homes Ltd, who were developing the site for housing. The recording action was requested by Oxfordshire County Council, owing to the known presence of archaeological remains adjacent to the development area. The OAU submitted a WSI detailing how it would deal with the archaeological conditions attached to the County Brief. All archaeological recording was carried out in accordance with the OAU's standard field manual (Wilkinson 1992).

2.1 Site Location, Geology And Topography

The site, which covers an area of approximately 0.51 hectares, lies within the core of the medieval village of Fringford, located at about 107 m OD, approximately 6 km to the west of Bicester, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1).

The site is bounded to the north by Rectory Lane, and by private gardens on the other three sides. It slopes gently to the north, and appears to have been under pasture since the medieval period. The underlying geology of the site is Oxford Clay.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Work

In 1993, an excavation was carried out in Fringford at the Crosslands site (Mudd 1993). It lay immediately to the east of the Paddock site and covered an area of approximately 1700 m^2. It revealed a complex series of Romano-British and later features, with evidence of occupation from the late 2^{nd} to 4^{th} century AD, and enclosure ditches of 10^{th}-11^{th} century date. A series of low-status agrarian settlements were indicated, but the full extent of the occupation could not be ascertained as it clearly extended beyond the boundaries of the development area (*ibid.*).

Other work at Fringford Lodge, some 3.5 km to the north of Bicester centre (NGR SP 5960 2585), produced evidence of a possible Romano-British villa with a hypocaust (OAU 1994), and excavations at Fringford Manor in 1996 (OAU 1996) provided evidence of significant remains of medieval date. This site was located on the north-eastern edge of the village (SP 6068 2918) opposite St Michael's church, and revealed evidence of a medieval moated site with an associated boundary and fish pond.

2.3 Background to the Excavation

The proposed development at the Paddock comprises four detached houses with garages, parking and a new access road. The evidence from the Crosslands excavation suggested that any archaeological horizons at the Paddock site would be located at a depth which would result in their total destruction by the development. On this basis, a geophysical survey was commissioned in August 1997 by the County Archaeologist. It detected a number of anomalies concomitant with the presence of archaeological features, including a continuation of some of the linear features excavated at the

adjacent Crosslands site (*op. cit.*) and the presence of pit clusters, ditches or other features. An evaluation at the Paddock site was carried out by the OAU (Cook 1997) and revealed a series of Romano-British ditches of a similar character to those excavated at the adjoining Crosslands site, along with a ?bank and a possible floor surface of medieval date.

On the basis of the evidence collated above, an archaeological brief (no. 97/00348) was issued by Oxfordshire County Council with the aim of obtaining sufficient evidence to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and chronology of any archaeological remains within the affected area, and to preserve any remains through a full recording action, particularly those of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon or medieval date. Structures and activity areas were to be identified, and, if present, their date and duration established. In addition, finds and other evidence for the economic basis of the settlement were to be recovered so that its social and economic position in the local and regional settlement pattern could be ascertained.

2.4 Excavation Summary

The archaeological methodology followed the standard OAU procedures (Wilkinson 1992). The excavation comprised a series of machined trenches, supplemented by hand excavation of archaeological features and deposits. The machine excavation was carried out by a 7.5 ton CAT tracked 360° excavator with a 1.5 m wide toothless bucket. Six trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). Area A was initially an evaluation-style trench, which was enlarged to adjoin area B after archaeological deposits had been located. Area B, in the southern area of the site, was machine-stripped, as were areas C, D and E, with their exact dimensions dictated by the extent and nature of the exposed archaeological deposits. Areas F and G were to be evaluation-type trenches. Due to the presence of overhead power cables, area F was at first hand-dug, with a JCB excavator with an arm-height restrictor brought in to complete the task. The density of archaeological deposits resulted in area G being incorporated into the southern end of area E. All changes to the original brief were made after consultation with the County Archaeologist.

The earliest features at the site comprised a series of Iron Age and Romano-British boundary ditches, which produced pottery spanning the later pre-Roman Iron Age to the ?2nd century AD. Some of these appeared to be continuations of the features noted in the Crosslands excavation. In addition, a severely truncated cremation was noted towards the southern end of area E, and a large spread of burnt daub was present on the natural/ploughsoil interface on the eastern side of trench B, with a large fragment of quernstone occurring nearby. No associated structures were noted, although a row of large postholes, possibly part of a pit alignment, was present at the northern end of trench B.

These features were overlain by a further series of ditches of 10th/11th century date, including a possible domestic enclosure with an associated pit and a series of post holes, in the south-west corner of trench E. This phase was superseded by early medieval (?12th century) ridge-and-furrow, which was noted in all the trenches, with the gravel bank noted during the evaluation being a surviving ridge or headland. Arable activity appears to have ceased during the mid-late 13th century, when a series of three stone buildings were constructed at the site, and the tops of the Roman and

Saxo-Norman ditches were capped with stone, presumably as a measure against flooding.

Two of the three buildings, both located in trench E, were simple structures. The first of these, located in the north-west corner of the trench by the present-day street frontage, was rectangular in plan, with a single phase of stone wall and two phases of cobbled stone floors. Very few artefacts were recovered, despite the building being completely excavated. The other structure comprised a single-phase stone floor, with no evidence for any sort of superstructure. It may have been simply a hard-stand, or could have had a simple sill-beam foundation for timber walls. Neither structure produced any evidence of a hearth, and both were probably non-domestic.

The third building, at the southern end of trench A, was considerably more complex. It comprised a rectangular structure (2002), which was later modified, with an external room and an internal dividing wall being added. A number of clay floor surfaces with associated occupation debris were noted, as were several hearths, and a series of internal post holes and gullies which may represent an earlier timber structure. The building was surrounded by an occupation horizon some 0.3 m thick, which produced a large quantity of pottery and metal objects, particularly horseshoes and horseshoe nails, but also wood-working tools, buckles, a lock, a key, a heckle-tooth and an animal bell. The building probably functioned as a farrier's workshop for at least part of its life, but the complete absence of hammer scale suggests that metal was not being smithed at the site. The complex appears to have been abandoned during the 14th century, and apart from sporadic stone robbing, there was little activity at the site thereafter, which appears to have been under pasture to the present day.

3 QUANTIFICATION OF MATERIALS

3.1 Site Records

The site record comprises

RECORD TYPE	QUANTITY
Context sheets :	
Area A/B	197
Area C/D	26
Area E	170
Area F	33
Plans A4	6
Plans A1	19
Sections A4	84
Sections A1	5
Small Finds	378
Bulk Find Sheets	31
Levels Sheets	31
B&W Films	8
Colour Slide Films	9
Stratigraphic Matrices	4

3.2 Finds

MATERIAL	QUANTITY
Iron Age/R-B:	
Pottery	603 sherds (3,154 g)
Human burials	1 cremation
Glass	2 frags
Stone	1 frag
Saxo-Norman/Medieval:	
Pottery	7,883 sherds (59,225 g)
Animal bone	2,075 fragments
Iron Objects	677
Copper Alloy objects	42
Lead Objects	1
Glass	23 fragments
Worked bone objects	1
Environmental samples	46
Stone	9 objects

4 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

The following is a summary assessment of the value of the data from the excavations in terms of their potential for contributing to our understanding of the site and its regional context. The full assessment reports are contained in Appendices 1-8.

4.1 Stratigraphy and Site Phasing

A total of 116 cut features were present on the site, with a total of 426 contexts recorded. Area A/B had 7 ditches, 3 robber trenches, 8 pits, 21 post-holes and 4 plough furrows. Area C/D had six ditch cuts and two plough furrows. Area E contained 20 ditch/gully cuts, 8 pits, 22 post-holes, 2 plough furrows, 1 cremation and 2 tree holes.

The features recorded were Romano-British (possible Iron Age feature included), or Saxo-Norman to late medieval in date, according to the ceramic evidence. The relationships between these features were in the main fairly simple, although the phasing of Building A (2002) was relatively complex.

Most of the stratigraphic relationships were internal or inter-period. The majority of the Iron Age and Roman ditches were isolated from each other apart from in trench G, although they were clearly overlain or cut by Saxo-Norman and medieval features in other areas. Very few of the later features had relationships other than on the broadest level: the hard stand/floor in trench E overlay the Saxo-Norman enclosure, and the other two structures overlay plough furrows, but there were few other relationships except for internal floors and phases of rebuilding in Building A.

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery (Appendix 1)

The excavation produced 603 sherds weighing 3154 g. The assemblage appears to span the later pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) to possibly the 2nd century AD.

The potential of the Roman pottery assemblage recovered from Fringford Paddock lies in its comparison to material from adjacent sites, such as the small assemblages from Crosslands (Booth 1993) and Fringford Lodge (Booth 1994). Oxford Road, Bicester provides one contemporary comparative assemblage (Booth 1996), although this is an area with very few comparable assemblages. Further study of the assemblage could refine the chronology and enable characterisation of a rural settlement in the hinterland of the small town of Alchester.

4.2.2 Medieval Pottery (Appendix 2)

The post-Roman pottery assemblage comprised 7,883 sherds with a total weight of 59,225 g. The minimum number of vessels was 36.5. The fabrics are all types which are well known in the region (cf. Mellor 1994). Despite this, the assemblage is worthy of detailed analysis and publication, as few rural sites in the region have been excavated and published in recent years. Consequently, the assemblage has the potential to be a useful comparandum with those from small towns, such as that from the Castle Lane site at nearby Brackley (Blinkhorn in prep.), and larger urban settlements such as Northampton and Oxford. The Brackley assemblage contained a notable amount of regional and foreign imported wares, probably as a result of the town's involvement in the medieval wool-trade. Fringford, as a potential source of wool for the market, does not appear to show this pattern, and thus can provide a valuable source of information regarding the consumption of pottery in different types of settlement in the region.

4.2.3 Saxo-Norman and Medieval Metalwork (Appendix 3)

The assemblage comprised 42 copper alloy objects, 403 iron objects (including 258 nails from post-Roman context, and c 300 associated with the R-B cremation) and 1 lead object. One hundred and four of the objects (not including nails) are identifiable at this stage. Of these 3 are from Saxo-Norman contexts, 1 is from an early medieval context, 41 are from late medieval contexts and 20 are from late medieval or transitional contexts. Forty objects are from contexts with no associated pottery. Three of the nails came from contexts associated with Saxo-Norman pottery, seven from early medieval, 94 from later medieval, 48 from late medieval transitional or later groups, and 106 were unstratified or from undated contexts. The size and the identifiable contents of the iron assemblage indicate the potential for a localised, lightweight iron-working industry. The number of nails, particularly horseshoe nails and horseshoes, may point towards the site being a farriery for much of the associated structure's life. The remaining objects (such as the buckles) may represent products of an area of more diverse activity than would be associated with a general smithy. There are however no immediately obvious iron-working tools, and no evidence of hammer-scale was recovered.

Evidence for wood-working is represented by the gouge (SF 2303, ctx. 2014) and various wedges (eg. SF 2305, ctx. 2014) for splitting wood, and the numerous nails indicate the presence of wooden structures. An awl (SF 2357, ctx. 5032) indicates industries such as leather-working and the heckletooth (SF 2250, ctx. 2014) indicates

the processing of fibres prior to spinning. The bell (SF 2263, ctx. 2023) is a type associated with animals. Other tools include the various knife blades that may have been used for domestic purposes.

Objects associated with structures include the staples, nails, hooks, and fittings and other furniture is indicated by the padlock key (SF 2197), the possible lock fragments and the keys (SF 2022, SF 2197, ctx. 2016).

Personal items present are mainly copper alloy, and predominantly buckles, although larger buckles are represented in iron. The thimble (SF 2023, ctx. 2270) and pin (SF 2090, ctx. 5002) indicate sewing.

The metalwork assemblage, particularly the ironwork, is both of high quality and has the potential to considerably enhance the understanding of the economy of the site, particularly the building in area A and changes in the function of the building through time.

4.2.4 Glass (Appendix 4)

The assemblage comprised 24 fragments, of which 7 were from bottles, 11 were fragments of window glass, two were from undiagnostic vessels and one fragment was completely unidentifiable. A glass bead also occurred, which, despite being in a post-medieval context, is possibly Romano-British.

Potential is minimal. The assemblage as a whole is very fragmentary and warrants no further quantitative work. The only fragments of interest are Romano-British, both of which can be described in the final report. An illustration may be required. The current database is sufficient for archive purposes.

4.2.5 Whetstones (Appendix 5)

A total of nine whetstones occurred, all medieval, and primarily mica schist or siltstone. Nearly all of them occurred in or around building A, and are a further factor in the understanding of the economy and function of the structure. Their mineralogical type and date will be researched at publication stage, as they have the potential to enhance our understanding of market supply systems for the region during the medieval period.

4.2.6 Animal Bone (Appendix 6)

A total of 2075 fragments of bone were retrieved from the excavation. The majority had suffered attritional damage due to the acidic nature of the soil and, consequently, were very friable. As a result, approximately half had suffered post-excavational damage. Less than 5% of the bones had clear signs of butchery. This figure may be misleading because the fragmentary state and the attritional damage to the surface of the majority of bones may have erased such evidence. Only 344 bones could be identified, although the poor preservation meant that a single bone was often represented by numerous fragments, as was the case with one of the horse skulls, which was broken into 182 small pieces. The assemblage suggests that the majority of farm animals were kept until maturity, indicating that sheep were kept in the main for

their wool, and cattle for draught purposes in addition to being a source of meat.

The poor condition of the bones means that there is little to be gained from any further work.

4.2.7 Human Bone (Appendix 7)

A single cremation burial (5008) was found. It had been placed in an irregular pit (5017) and was associated with charcoal and a large number of iron nails. The pit had a maximum depth of only 0.04 m and is likely to have been truncated in the Saxon period. The entire cremation burial weighed only 88 g (+698 g unsorted residue incorporating a very small quantity of human bone) and has been identified as the partial remains of an adult individual of uncertain sex. The bone was white and well-calcined and identifiable fragments included skull vault, dentition and long-bone shaft fragments.

The cremated bone has no further potential. However, the association of the charcoal and iron nails is of significance and is suggestive of a Roman date. At least three different nail types were present, including hobnails. It is likely that the individual had been wearing hobnailed boots and was placed in a wooden coffin before being subsequently burnt on a cremation pyre. The resulting deposit was then placed in the pit (5017). Philpott refers to a concentration of cremation burials with footwear in the south-east although there are no other examples from Oxfordshire (1991, fig. 11).

4.2.8 Environmental evidence (Appendix 8)

A series of soil samples were taken for the extraction of charred plant remains. Samples were taken from hearths and layers within building A, ditches and pits, a cremation deposit and the occupation horizons around building A. The last-named was sampled in three transects in order to investigate horizontal spatial patterning within the deposit. A total of 46 flots were submitted for the assessment, of which 45 contained charred remains. The cremation fill (context 5009) produced no charred material. Six midden samples and one sample of Saxon daub contained more than 100 items. The majority of samples contained large quantities of modern roots and rootlets and small quantities of grain and pulses.

The cereal species represented are all well established in southern Britain by the late Saxon/early Norman period. The occurrence of free-threshing *Triticum* sp., hulled *Hordeum* sp., *Avena* sp. and *Secale cereale* is therefore to be expected in samples of this period. There is very little evidence of cereal processing either in the form of cereal chaff or weed seeds. The occurrence of relatively large numbers of cultivated legumes is also to be expected within samples of this date. The density of remains within the deposits is quite low and within the occupation horizon the density is not sufficient for any meaningful spatial analysis. Given the paucity of well-sampled rural medieval sites in Oxfordshire the results of the assessment are of interest and should be included in the final report. It is not thought, however, that the quantity and quality of remains are sufficient to merit further analysis.

5 RESEARCH AIMS

5.1 Excavation Aims

The original aims of the excavations at Fringford Paddock were as set out in section 2.3 of this document. However, in the light of the unexpected find of the Saxo-Norman enclosure and the medieval structures, it has been possible to expand the original aims to encompass a fuller range of archaeological evidence.

5.2 Revised Aims

Aim 1 The development of the excavated settlement

The aims of the excavation as originally set out in the Oxfordshire County Brief are still valid. In particular, Fringford is known to have been a village at the time of Domesday, but apart from the excavations listed in section 2.2, little substantial evidence of its post-Roman origins and development had been discovered prior to the present excavation. Post-excavation analysis will aim to date and characterise the development of the settlement from Saxo-Norman to late medieval times, taking account of evidence for the changing patterns of the economy of the settlement during the period, particularly the change from arable-based farming to wool production during the later medieval period. Some consideration will be given to the local and regional context of the site, although the scale of the results does not justify detailed research at this level. Discussion of the development of the settlement will be complemented by a documentary study of historic maps and the *Victoria County History*.

Aim 2 Analysis of Building A and its occupation horizon

The ?farrier's workshop in area A has the potential to provide an insight into the changing uses and organization of such a structure, with the sequence of internal features and the associated external occupation horizon being the key to its understanding. The latter was excavated in 1 m squares and 100 mm spits, with metal objects recorded three-dimensionally. The large number of well-preserved metal objects, particularly the ironwork, should provide a detailed insight into changes in the function of the structure suggested by the rebuilding phases.

Aim 3 The Iron Age and Roman activity

The evidence for Iron Age and Roman occupation complements the results of previous archaeological work in the vicinity, and a limited amount of further work is proposed in order to present a synthetic report of this material for publication.

Aim 4 Dissemination and archiving

The site archive will be microfilmed for security purposes and the master copy deposited with the RCHME National Monuments Record in Swindon. It is intended to publish the results of the excavations as an OAU Occasional Paper. On completion of the project, the full site archive will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service.

6 METHODOLOGICAL SUMMARY

6.1 Stratigraphy

The original aims of the project were simply to record the extent, nature, condition and chronology of the archaeological remains at Fringford Paddock. However, some aspects of the site, specifically the Saxo-Norman and medieval features, are important at a regional level, and the publication should acknowledge this (see section 5, above). The Roman remains would require only basic reporting.

Basic matrices have been compiled, but the largely dispersed nature of much of the site means that phasing will be largely reliant on artefact dating, particularly that of the pottery. Basic spot-dating has been carried out at assessment stage, although some minor adjustments may be necessary. It is envisaged, however, that the phasing will comprise the following chronological categories:

Phase 1: Late pre-Roman Iron Age
Phase 2: Saxon Norman (c AD 1000-1100)
Phase 3: Early Medieval (c AD1100-1200)
Phase 4: Late Medieval (c AD 1200-1400)
Phase 5: Late Medieval Transitional (15^{th}-16^{th} centuries)

The stratigraphic analysis of the site will be matched and compared between site areas, when it is possible for features to be successfully related through the written record, descriptive text and the drawing brief for illustrations. Both the relationships between features (where possible) and individual sequences within more complex groups (i.e. buildings 2002 and 5055) will be examined, and assimilated with the primary record of the evaluation excavations (Cook, 1997). *Aims 1-3, tasks 1, 2, 4.*

6.2 Artefacts

With the exception of the pottery and whetstones, (see below), only limited potential for further analysis has been identified during the course of the post-excavation assessment. It is therefore proposed to publish edited versions of the existing reports. *Aims 1-4, task 9.*

The Roman pottery was recorded by number and weight of sherds and fabric (utilizing the OAU fabric recording system) at assessment stage, and context groups were spot-dated. Further work will be carried out to refine the chronology and enable the assemblage to be placed in its regional context. *Aim 3, task 5.*

The post-Roman pottery has been subject to a similar level of analysis at assessment stage, and a full database has been compiled, with the pottery recorded by number, weight and minimum number of vessels per fabric type per context. Typological data, such as rim forms and diameters, have also been recorded. The pottery will confirm phasing and contribute to the discussion and interpretation of the site. The pottery types are all well-known in the region, and further work will enable the assemblage to be placed in its regional context. *Aims 1-2, task 7.*

6.3 Ecofacts

Basic analysis of the ecofactual remains was carried out at the assessment stage, and has indicated that little further work is necessary beyond the updating of the assessment reports (see Appendices 6 and 8). *Aims 1-2, task 9.*

6.4 Synthesis

The discursive and interpretative text will be written, based on the information provided by the stratigraphic descriptions and specialist reports. *Aims 1-4, tasks 6, 10.*

7 PUBLICATION

A synopsis is presented below; all word lengths are approximate. A list of the tasks and personnel is included.

The results of the excavations will be published as an OAU Occasional Paper.

7.1 Publication Synopsis

Excavations at the Paddock, Rectory Lane, Fringford, 1997
By Paul Blinkhorn with contributions by Christine Bloor, Paul Booth, Angela Boyle, Bethan Charles, Cecily Cropper, Tora Hylton, Ruth Pelling and Kayt Smith

List of Illustrations and tables
Summary
Acknowledgements

1. Introduction c 1500 words

- Location, geology and topography
- Historical background
- Archaeological background
- Excavation methodology
- Report structure and archive

2. The Excavations

Phase 1: Iron Age and Romano-British c 2000 words

- Description
- The site in its regional context
- The Finds
  - Pottery
  - The cremation
  - Glass
  - Coins?

Phase 2: Saxo-Norman (10th – 12th century) c 2000 words
Descriptions:
Area E: Enclosures and other features
Other trenches
The Finds

Phase 3: Early Medieval (12th – mid 13th century) c 1000 words
Descriptions:
Pre-building activity
The Finds

Phase 4: Later Medieval (mid 13th-?14th century) c 4000 words
Descriptions:
Area A/B: Building and occupation deposits
Area E: Building 1
Building 2
Other Features
Other Trenches
The Finds

Phase 5: Later Medieval-Modern (?15th-20th century) c 250 words
Description: Stone Robbing
The Finds

Post-Roman pottery c 2000 words
Quantitative and qualitative analysis
Spatial analysis
The assemblage in its regional context

Whetstones c 400 words

Ecofacts:

Animal Bone c 200 words
As assessment report

Environmental c 200 words
As assessment report

3. Discussion c 1500 words

Roman and Post-Roman Fringford in its local and regional context
Settlement and economy

4. Bibliography

5. Appendix: Context descriptions (tabulated)

Total: 15,050 words,
plus preliminaries,
appendix and
bibliography

Figures

Fig. 1. Location of Fringford, the site, and the sites of previous work

Fig. 2. Trench locations (including main features and labelling for phases)

Fig. 3. Area A/B detailed plan

Fig. 4. Area E detailed plan

Fig. 5. Sections

Fig. 6. Finds

7.2 Archiving

The archives will be ordered for security copying and are in good condition. The Fringford archive will be deposited with the Oxfordshire museum service, and will conform with the UK IC and IGMC standards.

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APPENDIX 1 ROMANO-BRITISH AND IRON AGE POTTERY

By Kayt Smith and Paul Booth

The excavation produced 603 sherds weighing 3154 g. The assemblage appears to span the later pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) to possibly the 2nd century AD. A rapid assessment and quantification (number of sherds and weight) of the assemblage was undertaken. Fabrics were recorded following the fabric recording system used by the OAU and context groups were spot-dated.

Discussion

The Roman pottery was all recovered from ditch fills, with the exception of three sherds from layer 2006 and ten sherds from a medieval furrow (4019). The majority of the material (363 sherds, 1,591 g) contained grog with organic or sand inclusions (E80, E10 and E30 in the OAU system) and is characteristic of the late Iron Age/early Roman transition period. All the E10 material was recovered from a ditch fill (2078). The balance of the fabrics and forms indicates that the bulk of the assemblage dates to the 1st and 2nd centuries, comprising jars in mainly oxidized and reduced sandy wares (O20 and R30). The only fine wares recovered were Nene Valley colour-coat, unsourced whitewares and one sherd of Samian ware.

Statement of Potential

The potential of the Roman pottery assemblage recovered from Fringford paddock lies in its comparison to material from adjacent sites, such as the small assemblages from Crosslands (Booth 1993) and Fringford Lodge (Booth 1994). Oxford Road, Bicester, provides one contemporary comparative assemblage (Booth 1996), although this is an area with very few comparable assemblages. Further study of the assemblage is required to refine the chronology and enable characterisation of a rural assemblage in the hinterland of the small town of Alchester.

APPENDIX 2 POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Paul Blinkhorn

Introduction

The post-Roman pottery assemblage comprised 7,883 sherds with a total weight of 59,225 g. The minimum number of vessels was 36.5. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds and minimum number of vessels per ware type per ceramic phase in shown in tables 1-5. The occurrence by number and weight of sherds per fabric type per context is shown in table 1 (below).

Fabric

The fabrics are all types which are well known in the region. Because of Fringford's location near the Northamptonshire/Oxfordshire border, most of the pottery is types which are encoded in the type-series of both counties. Consequently, in the data tables and the descriptions below, where appropriate, the codes from both type series are given. The Oxfordshire codes (Mellor 1994) are invariably prefixed 'OX', while those of the Northamptonshire type-series are usually a three-digit number.

The main fabric type were as follows:

Major Wares

West Oxfordshire ware (OXAC; F207)

Calcareous gravel wares, probably from several different sources, and also known as Cotswolds Oolitic ware (Mellor 1994, 44). The tradition was long-lived, and is thought to have had a currency of the late ninth to the 15th centuries (ibid.; Blinkhorn in prep. a). The vast majority of vessels are jars, although bowls do occur. 628 sherds, 5,726 g, MNV = 4.15.

East Wiltshire Ware (OXAQ)

Flint and limestone ware. Currency from the 11th to the 15th centuries. The commonest vessel forms are jars, although bowls and occasional pitchers are known. 467 sherds, 5.083 g. MNV = 1.53.

Sandy Coarsewares (F360)

A group of quartz tempered, wheel-finished wares from numerous kilns sites, including Brill/Boarstall and Banbury types (Mellor 1994). All have a similar chronology, covering the period AD 1100-1400. Mainly jars and bowls, although jugs are known. 3,220 sherds. 22.386 g, MNV = 14.19.

Shelly Coarsewares (F330)

Products of numerous known and very probably many unknown kilns located on the Jurassic limestone ridge of west Northants and east Bedfordshire. Similarity of fabrics

makes it virtually impossible to differentiate products of individual kilns. Currency broadly AD1100-1400. Commonest vessel forms are jars and wide, shallow bowls, although other types do occasionally occur. 202 sherds, 1,574 g, MNV = 0.91.

Brill/Boarstall (OXAM; F352)

A fine sandy ware, particularly noted for the production of highly decorated medieval glazed jugs, although unglazed jars and other vessels such as skillets and aquamaniles are known (Mellor 1994). Production was centred on the eponymous villages, which produced a range of wares from the 13th to the 17th centuries (Ivens 1981). 1,963 sherds, 13,723 g, MNV = 10.30.

Potterspury ware (OX68; F329)

Fine sandy ware, produced at the villages of Potterspury and Paulerspury. The kiln sites produced pottery from the mid/late 13th to the 17th centuries (Mynard 1970). Main forms jugs, jars and bowls. 1,171 sherds, 9,153g, MNV = 5.42.

Minor Wares

St. Neots ware (OXR; F100)

Shelly-limestone tempered ware. Four fabric types are known, but only the Saxo-Norman T1(2) type (Denham 1985) occurred at Fringford. This particular type is dated AD1000-1200 at Northampton (ibid.). Main forms are jars and bowls, but jugs are known. Two sherds, 9 g.

Stamford ware (F205)

Fine sandy ware, manufactured in the eponymous Lincolnshire town, and most often associated with glazed pitchers, although jars and bowls were a common part of the potter's repertoire (Kilmurry 1980). Currency broadly late 9th-late 12th centuries. Four sherds, 28 g.

Developed Stamford ware (F331)

Manufactured at a kiln excavated in the grounds of Stamford School, and dated to around AD 1200 (Kilmurry 1980, 30). Production mainly highly decorated jugs with a rich, glossy copper-green glaze. One sherd, 1 g.

Grimston ware (F328)

Hard, sandy ware, manufactured at numerous kilns near King's Lynn, Norfolk. The best-known products of the industry are highly decorated glazed jugs, which occur in small quantities on many sites in the south-east midlands. Such vessels are usually 14th century in date. Three sherds, 40 g.

Minety-type Ware (OXBB)

Limestone tempered ware, manufactured in the Cotswolds region, probably at more

than one centre (Mellor 1994). It had a currency of the 12th/13th-16th centuries, Glazed jugs are the commonest vessel form, but other types such as dripping dishes and aquamaniles are known (Blinkhorn in print a). Two sherds, 4 g.

Late Medieval Oxidized ware (F401)

This pottery has a number of sources, with known kilns including Glapthorn in Northants and Great Brickhill in Bucks. Fabric is generally very hard and grey, with weak to bright orange surfaces, sometimes with a poor quality green glaze. Full range of late medieval/transitional vessel forms. Mid-15th century. 28 sherds, 275 g.

Cistercian wares (F404)

Smooth, red fabric with few visible inclusions, and a glossy dark brown to black glaze. The ware is common throughout eastern and southern England, with numerous kiln-sites. The nearest known production centre to Fringford is Potterspury (Mayes 1968). The tradition can be given a broad date-range of c. 1475-1550 (Crossley 1990, 245). Two sherds, 13 g.

German Stonewares (F408)

Hard, dense, grey ware, often with a brown-speckled salt-glaze. Manufactured at numerous sites in the Rhineland from the 15th century onwards. Commonest form are beer-mugs, which were imported into Britain by the million during the 16th and 17th centuries (Gaimster 1997). One sherd, 15 g.

Chronology

Each ceramic group was given a seriated phase date based on fabric types present. These were as follows:

LSAX: Late Saxon c 11th C

The main pottery type in this phase, OXAC, had a currency of AD 875-15thC (above). However, as also noted, the small quantities of St. Neot's ware at the site are of a type which did not come into use until around c AD 1000. The earlier forms of St Neot's ware, which were first made in the ninth century are not present at the site, despite Fringford being located in a region where the material is plentiful on late Saxon sites, such as Northampton (Denham 1985) or Oxford (Mellor 1994). St Neot's ware was in decline in Oxford by c AD 1040 (ibid., 57), and, as the relatively large quantities of OXAC and OXAQ at Fringford suggest a closer affinity with the Oxford ceramic tradition rather than that of Northampton, it does not seem unreasonable to suggest that the late Saxon phase at Fringford began in the earlier part of the 11th century.

S/N: Saxo-Norman c L11th-E13th C

This phase saw the introduction of early medieval sand-tempered wares, such as Banbury ware and Oxford ware (Mellor 1994). Both wares appears to have been first used in the later part of the 11th century (ibid., 71 & 84).

EMED: Early Medieval c E13th – M/L13thC.

The EMED phase is defined by the introduction of glazed Brill/Boarstall ware, which is known to pre-date AD 1231 in Oxford (*ibid.*, 117).

LMED: Late Medieval c M/L13th – M15thC

This phase saw the introduction of Potterspury ware. Such pottery occurs in small quantities in mid-late 13th century contexts at Northampton and Brackley, but does not become common until the 14th century (*ibid.*, 143).

LMT: Late Medieval Transitional c M15th-16thC

The latest medieval phase sees the introduction of pottery such as Late Medieval Oxidized and Cistercian wares, although the small quantities present (above) suggest that the site was largely abandoned by that time.

Table 1: Pottery Occurrence per ceramic phase, expressed as a percentage of the MNV per phase

Ware Type	LSAX	S/N	EMED	LMED	LMT
Cotswolds Oolitic	100%	52.5	4.8	7.7	9.8
East Wiltshire		3.9	7.2	4.7	4.4
Sandy Coarsewares		41.2	59.7	42.6	30.4
Shelly Coarsewares		2.3	5.6	2.7	0
Brill/Boarstall			22.7	23.4	35.7
Potterspury				18.9	19.6
Total MNV	0.48	2.57	3.75	23.64	1.12

Further work on the pottery assemblage will be aimed at synthesising the ceramic data, with priority given to complete, unusual or diagnostic vessels/sherds. Particular attention will be paid to the ceramic from the occupation horizon associated with building A (area A/B), with the aim of identifying its date and character, based on ware chronologies and fragmentation analysis. If appropriate, spatial analysis will be carried out in an attempt to define refuse disposal patterns. A consideration will be given to the assemblage in its regional context, particularly in respect of the Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire County Ceramic type-series (Mellor 1994; Blinkhorn 1994).

Table 2: Pottery Occurrence by ware type per context, by number and weight of sherds (in g)

CONTEXT	Iron Age	RB	E MS	OXR	OXAC	OXAQ	Stamford	Sandy C	SHC	OXAM	OX68	Grimston	OXBB	Oxidized	LMT	PMED	CERAMDATE
2001		5 (23)			15 (80)	3 (64)		59 (585)	2 (15)	115 (800)	33 (288)			11 (138)			LMT
2002					19 (205)	1 (13)		25 (100)		60 (226)	30 (264)						LMED
2003		10 (63)			22 (123)	7 (109)	1 (11)	105 (629)		102 (642)	61 (488)	1 (15)		1 (2)	2 (33)		LMT
2005		11 (63)						6 (33)		8 (33)	3 (41)			1 (7)			LMT
2006		3 (14)			1 (14)	1 (19)		2 (21)									S/N
2009										4 (53)							EMED
2011								3 (10)									S\N
2012		19 (130)			7 (37)			9 (87)		1 (18)	1 (15)						LMED
2013		11 (95)			33 (269)	4 (65)	1 (2)	116 (550)	1 (15)	56 (412)	33 (463)						LMED
2014		1 (3)			66 (480)	1 (10)		56 (430)		81 (546)	60 (449)			2 (21)	1 (15)		LMT
2015		55 (682)	6 (35)		237 (1164)	400 (2678)	2 (15)	2107 (12230)	82 (782)	1312 (8125)	790 (5570)	2 (25)	2 (4)	1 (1)			LMED
2016		1 (2)			12 (40)	11 (108)		27 (160)		24 (100)	12 (114)						LMED
2019		1 (1)						6 (48)		2 (2)							LMED
2020					1 (27)					1 (23)							EMED
2021						2 (28)		15 (111)		3 (42)							EMED
2023		3 (22)			2 (13)	10 (1617)		1 (3)	60 (212)	24 (132)	6 (41)						LMED
2025		5 (16)				1 (5)											S\N?
2027		2 (2)															RB??
2029					2 (8)			11 (116)									S\N
2030		2 (37)			1 (3)			39 (733)	1 (22)	3 (24)	3 (42)						LMED
2034		2 (12)			1 (3)			3 (20)									S\N
2036		1 (5)															RB??
2037		3 (20)			2 (24)	1 (22)		11 (89)		9 (56)	3 (43)						LMED
2038		14 (74)			4 (10)												LSAX
2039		3 (18)			3 (16)												LSAX
2046								3 (5)		1 (3)	1 (2)						LMED
2054		3 (52)							1 (8)		1 (4)						LMED

CONTEXT	Iron Age	RB	EMS	OXR	OXAC	OXAQ	Stamford	Sandy C	SHC	OXAM	OX68	Grimston	OXBB	Oxidized	LMT	PMED	CERAMDATE
2055		4 (90)		1 (6)	1 (5)	4 (15)		87 (501)	13 (71)	5 (21)	3 (28)						S\N
2057					2 (4)			2 (4)		4 (186)							EMED
2060					1 (2)												LSAX?
2065								3 (9)		1 (2)	2 (3)						EMED
2067		1 (4)						1 (2)			1 (10)						LMED
2068		1 (21)						3 (89)		2 (931)							EMED
2069					1 (5)			3 (21)	1 (11)	5 (33)	2 (37)						LMED
2070		12 (112)			2 (42)												LSAX?
2077						1 (11)		2 (6)		5 (24)	5 (51)						LMED
2078	100 (553)	35 (227)															RB
2080					1 (2)			1 (7)			3 (99)						S\N
2087		2 (27)			16 (292)			3 (94)			1 (3)						S\N
2092								1 (4)									S\N
2104									1 (8)								S\N
2107		100 (710)				6 (110)		32 (336)		1 (2)							EMED
2110								2 (8)									S\N
2113								2 (30)									S\N
2118								4 (7)		2 (3)							S\N
2120								1 (7)									S\N
2121										1 (4)	1 (15)						LMED
2126					1 (1)	1 (2)		10 (51)		1 (1)	2 (46)						LMED
2135					1 (8)												LSAX?
2136				1 (3)													LSAX?
2137		1 (3)															RB
2138		1 (6)			1 (8)												LSAX?
2141								14 (161)		3 (28)							EMED
2142						1 (3)		5 (71)			4 (94)						LMED
2143		1 (1)	1 (2)		14 (58)	2 (41)		74 (500)	2 (15)	33 (298)	31 (330)						LMED
2144					1 (9)	1 (5)		2 (2)			1 (10)						LMED
2145					1 (1)			4 (8)									S\N
2150		2 (8)						1 (15)									S\N

CONTEXT	Iron Age	RB	E MS	OXR	OXAC	OXAQ	Stamford	Sandy C	SHC	OXAM	OX68	Grimston	OXBB	Oxidized	LMT	PMED	CERAMDATE
2151								3 (70)									S\N
2160		1 (5)						4 (73)									S\N
2162					2 (42)			3 (8)									LSAX?
2165								1 (7)	1 (1)								S\N
2166		1 (4)						3 (549)		1 (52)							EMED
2178								1 (5)									S\N
2186									1 (40)								S\N
2187								7 (110)	1 (8)	1 (7)							EMED
2196					2 (12)	1 (12)		22 (182)	1 (11)	9 (82)	2 (19)						LMED
3004		1 (3)															RB?
3006		2 (5)															RB??
3008		1 (3)															RB??
3017		6 (31)			2 (5)	2 (16)		5 (14)		3 (24)	2 (28)						LMED
4002		2 (26)												2 (30)			PMED
4003		3 (19)			3 (44)												LSAX?
4006		7 (16)															RB
4009		7 (72)			7 (61)			5 (95)		1 (1)							EMED
4011		14 (100)															RB
4013										1 (7)							RB
4013		114 (1267)															RB
4015		1 (3)			2 (18)												LSAX?
4019		10 (94)															RB
4021		3 (6)			1 (12)												LSAX?
4023		25 (227)															RB
4024		14 (90)															RB
4032		1 (925)															RB
5003																12 (145)	1850+
5006										1 (45)				1 (5)			LMT
5009					1 (20)												LSAX?
5011					1 (22)			1 (13)		1 (3)	1 (13)						LMED

CONTEXT	Iron Age	RB	E/MS	OXR	OXAC	OXAQ	Stamford	Sandy C	SHC	OXAM	OX68	Grimston	OXBB	Oxidized	LMT	PMED	CERAMDATE
5014					9 (101)			7 (111)									S\N
5015					1 (1)												LSAX??
5019					2 (24)												LSAX?
5021					3 (84)			3 (76)									S\N
5022								2 (3)									S\N
5026					2 (4)			10 (147)	1 (4)	1 (5)	4 (23)						LMED
5029		2 (32)			21 (224)	2 (32)		80 (894)	10 (113)	34 (264)							LMED
5030		3 (56)			6 (79)	1 (58)		9 (100)		2 (14)	8 (51)						LMED
5034						1 (3)		3 (18)									S\N
5036		3 (98)			5 (46)			18 (172)	6 (48)	21 (300)	3 (36)						LMED
5037					1 (4)			1 (1)	1 (24)					2 (11)			LMT
5042					3 (12)			2 (6)									S\N
5045					1 (5)			8 (36)									S\N
5046						1 (6)		2 (27)	1 (2)								S\N
5053					2 (21)												LSAX?
5061					5 (24)	1 (31)		4 (71)	1 (5)								S\N
5065		1 (3)						1 (30)									S\N
5068								2 (22)									S\N
5070		19 (181)			11 (119)			31 (202)	4 (88)	17 (204)	10 (94)			2 (18)			LMT
5072														3 (27)	1 (12)		LMT
5073		1 (1)			14 (603)			5 (52)									S\N
5075		1 (4)			6 (102)			1 (4)	1 (24)	3 (24)							EMED
5076					5 (37)			7 (106)		5 (20)	6 (49)						LMED
5079					1 (103)				1 (6)	1 (4)							EMED
5080					1 (11)			1 (2)	1 (1)								S\N
5083								1 (13)							2 (15)	6 (29)	1850+
5086					1 (102)			1 (15)									S\N
5090					2 (195)			2 (18)									S\N
5091					1 (9)			1 (6)									S\N
5095					3 (13)			3 (8)	1 (1)	1 (1)	3 (20)						LMED
5097					1 (1)												LSAX??

CONTEXT	Iron Age	RB	E/MS	OXR	OXAC	OXAQ	Stamford	Sandy C	SHC	OXAM	OX68	Grimston	OXBB	Oxidized	LMT	PMED	CERAMDATE
5099					1 (57)												LSAX?
5101					1 (15)												LSAX?
5103					2 (19)												LSAX??
5105					1 (9)			3 (19)									LSAX?
5116					6 (32)			25 (119)	3 (5)								S\N
5118								1 (7)									S\N
5122					3 (385)			6 (125)	1 (8)		1 (4)						S\N
5128					10 (88)			48 (894)	1 (9)								S\N
5130										1 (3)							EMED
5131					3 (6)												LSAX??
5139					2 (4)												S\N
5139								13 (59)									S\N
5143								1 (1)									S\N
5147					1 (1)			1 (3)									S\N
5149									1 (17)								S\N
5157					1 (1)												LSAX??
5173																4 (11)	1850+

APPENDIX 3 METALWORK

By Cecily Cropper

The objects were visually examined and their condition and long-term conservation requirements were assessed.

The assemblage comprised 42 copper alloy objects, 403 iron objects (plus c 300 nails from the R-B cremation; see Appendix 7) and 1 lead object. One hundred and four of the objects (not including nails) are identifiable at this stage. Of these 3 are from Saxo-Norman contexts, 1 is from an early medieval context, 41 are from late medieval contexts and 20 are from late medieval or transitional contexts. Forty objects are from contexts with no associated pottery. The preliminary identification, provenance and provisional date of the objects from each of the categories are summarised in the following tables.

Copper Alloy

SFNO	Context	Ceramic Date	Ident.
2345	unstrat.	0	Oval buckle + central bar
0	unstrat.	0	Coin
2194	unstrat.	0	Misc strip
2191	unstrat.	0	?Strap end plate
2031	2001	LMT	Strip
2034	2001	LMT	Buckle + plates
2018	2001	LMT	Strip
2047	2003	LMT	Misc
2059	2004	LMT	Object
2252	2014	LMT	Fitting
2261	2014	LMT	Buckle plate
2214	2015	LMED	Buckle and plates
2239	2015	LMED	Sheet with rivet hole
2264	2015	LMED	Strip
2311	2015	LMED	Strip
2344	2015	LMED	Coin
2346	2015	LMED	Mount
2349	2015	LMED	?Strap end
2352	2015	LMED	Strip
0	2015	LMED	?Mount
2343	2015	LMED	?Hook
2205	2016	LMED	Rivet
2196	2016	LMED	Coin
2204	2016	LMED	Strip
2202	2016	LMED	Misc
2265	2019	LMED	Strip
2260	2022	?	Buckle plate
2268	2023	LMED	?Buckle pin
2270	2023	LMED	Thimble
2279	2023	LMED	Chain links
2287	2046	LMED	?Fitting
2366	2114	?	Ring
2338	5001	?	Coin
2079	5001	?	Hook pin
2072	5001	?	Button
0	5001	?	Button

0	5001	?	Coin
0	5001	?	Coin
2090	5002	?	Pin
2062	5002	?	Buckle
2111	5006	LMT	Buckle plate
2112	5007	?	Strap end

Nineteen objects were recovered from late medieval contexts. These included a badly corroded coin, two strap ends/points (SFs 2349, 2311), a hook/pin, a flat, circular ?mount with rivet and a domed mount (SF 2346), all from context 2015 as well as a small oval buckle (SF 2214) with detached plates. A single round-headed rivet (SF 2205), a hook-like object and a second badly corroded coin came from context 2016. Context 2023 produced a pair of chain links (SF 2279), a buckle pin (SF 2268) and fragments of a thimble (SF 2270) with indentations. Most thimbles from the 14th century onwards are made of copper alloy and nearly all have characteristic indentations (Biddle and Elmhurst 1990, 804). The remaining objects comprised a small hook/pin of copper wire, six miscellaneous strips and fragments of fittings.

Eight objects found in association with late medieval or transitional pottery, including an incomplete decorated buckle plate (SF 2111) from context 5006, an ?oval buckle with plates (SF 2034) and a possible buckle plate (SF 2261) from context 2014. The ?composite plates attached to the small buckle (SF 2034) appear undecorated and can be compared to an example from Billingsgate Lorry Park, London dating from the mid- to late 14th century (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 113, fig. 73, no. 519). The buckle itself is probably oval and is similar in style and size to London examples from Billingsgate Lorry Park dating from the early 14th to the 15th century and to a buckle from Swan Lane within the same period (Egan and Pritchard, 1991, 78-9, fig. 48, nos 322-4). No parallel is yet known for the decorated plate (SF 2111). The remaining objects included a fitting, two strips, one miscellaneous fragment and an unidentified object.

Eleven items came from contexts not associated with pottery. A penannular ring (SF 2366) came from context 2114, three post-medieval/modern coins, two buttons, and a decorated object fragment (SF 2079) all came from context 5001. The ring (SF 2366) may well be a binding ring (Goodall and Margeson 1993, 74, fig. 40, nos. 449-51). The decorated fragment (SF 2079) may come from a buckle or other accessory; no parallels have been found. A pin (SF 2090) and a double buckle frame (SF 2062) from context 5002 and a strap end (SF 2112) from context 5007 were also recovered. Double buckle frames (SF 2062) are known from London from contexts dating from the 13th century but are more common in the late 14th and early 15th centuries (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 53). The pin (SF 2090) has a wound-wire head. Examples from London come from late 14th-century contexts (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 301, fig. 200) whilst in Winchester it appears that such pins were in use from the 13th century onwards (Biddle and Barclay 1990, 560-71). An undecorated strap end (SF 2112) came from context 5007 and a strap end plate (SF 2260) came from context 2022.

Four objects were unstratified: an oval shoe buckle (possibly pewter?) with a central bar, a possible buckle plate with single rivet hole, a miscellaneous strip and an early 19th-century coin.

Iron Objects

A total of 145 objects (not including nails) were recovered.

SFNO	Context	CTXDATE	IDENT
2022	unstrat.	0	?Key
2206	unstrat.	0	Object
2207	unstrat.	0	Object
0	2001	LMT	Object
0	2001	LMT	Object
2000	2001	LMT	Blade
2003	2001	LMT	Buckle
2011	2001	LMT	?Jew's harp
2019	2001	LMT	Blade
2020	2001	LMT	Strip
2025	2001	LMT	Object
2012	2002	LMED	Blade
2015	2002	LMED	Looped strip
2040	2003	LMT	?Blade
2190	2013	LMED	Object
2192	2013	LMED	Object
0	2014	LMT	Object
2195	2014	LMT	Horseshoe
2250	2014	LMT	Heckletooth
2251	2014	LMT	Fitting
2254	2014	LMT	Horseshoe
2262	2014	LMT	Misc
2303	2014	LMT	?Gouge
2304	2014	LMT	Object
2305	2014	LMT	?Wedge
2307	2014	LMT	Horseshoe
2308	2014	LMT	Object
0	2015	LMED	Object
0	2015	LMED	Object
0	2015	LMED	Horseshoe
2211	2015	LMED	Object
2213	2015	LMED	Object
2215	2015	LMED	Object
2220	2015	LMED	Disc
2224	2015	LMED	?Blade
2226	2015	LMED	?Horseshoe
2234	2015	LMED	Buckle
2237	2015	LMED	Fitting
2241	2015	LMED	Curved bar
2255	2015	LMED	Object
2266	2015	LMED	Curved strip
2267	2015	LMED	Blade
2274	2015	LMED	Object
2300	2015	LMED	Bar
2301	2015	LMED	Misc
2319	2015	LMED	Perforated sheet
2325	2015	LMED	Misc
2327	2015	LMED	Strip
2330	2015	LMED	?Blade
2333	2015	LMED	Horseshoe
2335	2015	LMED	Misc
2369	2015	LMED	?Collar

SFNO	Context	CTXDATE	IDENT
S103	2015	LMED	Nail
S111	2015	LMED	Object
S118	2015	LMED	Blade
2197	2016	LMED	Key
2199	2016	LMED	Hook
2200	2016	LMED	Strip
2253	2019	LMED	Fitting
S132	2019	LMED	Strip
2272	2020	EMED	Misc
2273	2020	EMED	Blade
2275	2020	EMED	Object
2375	2021	EMED	Object
2376	2021	EMED	Object
2256	2022	0	Fitting
2263	2023	LMED	Bell
2269	2023	LMED	Buckle + plates
2279	2023	LMED	?Chain links
0	2030	LMED	Misc
2283	2037	LMED	Object
2285	2037	LMED	Staple
2364	2110	S/N	?Blade
2367	2110	S/N	Staple
2368	2116	0	Object
2370	2126	LMED	Buckle frame
2372	2131	0	Sheet
0	3002	0	Blade
0	3002	0	Wedge
0	3002	0	Blade
0	5001	0	Perforated strip
0	5001	0	Fitting
0	5001	0	?Latch
0	5001	0	Screw
0	5001	0	Vessel fragment
0	5001	0	Object
0	5001	0	Strip
0	5001	0	Strip
0	5001	0	Angled bar
0	5001	0	Spike with bracket
0	5001	0	Slag
0	5001	0	Object
0	5001	0	Staple
0	5001	0	Sheet
2069	5001	0	Ironstone
2070	5001	0	Object
2078	5001	0	Oval buckle
2092	5001	0	Misc
2098	5001	0	Hook
2088	5002	0	Misc
2103	5003	1850–	Object
2110	5006	LMT	Object
2115	5007	0	Looped strip
2116	5007	0	Fitting
2117	5007	0	Strip
2119	5007	0	Point
2123	5007	0	Strip
2124	5007	0	Blade

SFNO	Context	CTXDATE	IDENT
2129	5007	0	Wedge
2132	5007	0	Ring
2141	5007	0	?Slag
2143	5007	0	Misc
2159	5007	0	Misc
2161	5007	0	Strip
2167	5007	0	Misc
2171	5007	0	Buckle
2174	5007	0	Strip
2174	5007	0	Eyed strip
2177	5007	0	Blade
2180	5007	0	Misc
2181	5007	0	Strip
2356	5029	LMED	Fitting
2358	5029	LMED	Hinge
2359	5029	LMED	Object
2360	5029	LMED	Buckle frame
2357	5032	0	Awl
2295	5036	LMED	Staple
2296	5036	LMED	Decorated bar
2362	5070	LMT	Fork
0	5072	LMT	Misc
2353	5086	S/N	Object
2361	5095	LMED	Object
2362	5095	LMED	Object
2363	5095	LMED	Misc
0	5128	S/N	Horseshoe
0	7002	0	Object
2218	B/8D	0	Object

Nails

A total of 258 post-Roman nails, tacks or fragments of nails were recovered.

SFNO	Context	Context Date	IDENT	COMMENTS
0	0	0	Tack	
0	0	0	Nail	
2208	0	0	Nail	
2209	0	0	Nail	
2210	0	0	Nail	
2302	0	0	Nail	
2316	0	0	Nail	
2001	2001	LMT	Nail	
2002	2001	LMT	Nail	
2014	2001	LMT	Nail	
2021	2001	LMT	Nail	
2027	2001	LMT	Nail	
2028	2001	LMT	Nail	
2029	2001	LMT	Nail	
2033	2001	LMT	Nail	
2035	2001	LMT	Nail	
2036	2001	LMT	Nail	
2037	2001	LMT	Nail	
2004	2002	LMED	Nail	Fiddler key

SFNO	Context	Context Date	IDENT	COMMENTS
2005	2002	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2006	2002	LMED	Nail	
2007	2002	LMED	Nail	
2008	2002	LMED	Nail	
2009	2002	LMED	Nail	
2010	2002	LMED	?Shank	
2038	2003	LMT	Nail	
2039	2003	LMT	Nail	
2041	2003	LMT	Nail	Horseshoe
2042	2003	LMT	Nail	Horseshoe
2043	2003	LMT	Nail	Horseshoe
2044	2003	LMT	Nail	
2045	2003	LMT	Shank	
2046	2003	LMT	Nail	
2048	2003	LMT	Nail	
2049	2003	LMT	Nail	
2051	2003	LMT	?Shank	
2053	2003	LMT	Nail	?Horseshoe
2054	2003	LMT	Nail	
2055	2003	LMT	Nail	
2056	2003	LMT	Nail	
0	2012	LMED	Nails	x2
2188	2013	LMED	Nail	
2189	2013	LMED	Nail	
2193	2013	LMED	Nail	
0	2014	LMT	Nails	x3
2182	2014	LMT	Nail	Octagonal
2184	2014	LMT	?Nail	
2185	2014	LMT	Nail	
2306	2014	LMT	Nail	
2309	2014	LMT	Nail	
0	2015	LMED	Nail	
0	2015	LMED	?Nail	
0	2015	LMED	Nail	
0	2015	LMED	Nails	x2
2212	2015	LMED	Nail	
2216	2015	LMED	Nail	
2217	2015	LMED	?Nail	
2219	2015	LMED	Nail	
2221	2015	LMED	?Nail	
2222	2015	LMED	Nail	
2223	2015	LMED	Nail	
2225	2015	LMED	Nail	
2228	2015	LMED	?Nail	
2229	2015	LMED	Nail	
2230	2015	LMED	?Nail	
2231	2015	LMED	Nail	
2232	2015	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2233	2015	LMED	Nail	
2235	2015	LMED	Nail	
2236	2015	LMED	Nail	
2238	2015	LMED	Nail	
2240	2015	LMED	Nail	?Horseshoe
2242	2015	LMED	?Nail	
2243	2015	LMED	Nail	
2244	2015	LMED	Nail	

SFNO	Context	Context Date	IDENT	COMMENTS
2245	2015	LMED	Nail	
2245	2015	LMED	Nail	
2247	2015	LMED	?Nail	?Horseshoe
2248	2015	LMED	?Nail	
2249	2015	LMED	?Nail	
2299	2015	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2312	2015	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2313	2015	LMED	Nail	?Horseshoe
2314	2015	LMED	Nail	
2315	2015	LMED	Nail	Fiddler key
2317	2015	LMED	Nail	
2318	2015	LMED	Nail	
2320	2015	LMED	Nail	Fiddler key
2321	2015	LMED	Nail	
2322	2015	LMED	Nail	
2324	2015	LMED	Nail	
2326	2015	LMED	Nail	Fiddler key
2331	2015	LMED	Nail	
2332	2015	LMED	Nail	?Horseshoe
2340	2015	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2341	2015	LMED	Nails	x2
2342	2015	LMED	Nail	
2348	2015	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2350	2015	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2351	2015	LMED	Nail	?Horseshoe
S103	2015	LMED	Nail	
S108	2015	LMED	Nail	Fiddler key
S116	2015	LMED	Nail	
S121	2015	LMED	Nails	x2
2201	2016	LMED	Nail	
2203	2016	LMED	Nail	
2258	2016	LMED	?Nail	
S123	2016	LMED	Nails	x4
2271	2020	EMED	Nail	
2274	2020	EMED	Nail	
2276	2020	EMED	Nail	
2277	2020	EMED	Nail	
2278	2020	EMED	Nail	
2377	2021	EMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2257	2022	0	Nail	
2280	2023	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2281	2023	LMED	?Nail	
2284	2037	LMED	?Nail	
2323	2057	EMED	Nail	
2336	2069	LMED	Nail	Horseshoe
2374	2113	S.N	Nail	
0	3002	0	Nail	
0	5001	0	Nail	
0	5001	0	Nails	x3
0	5001	0	Nail	?Horseshoe
2060	5001	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2063	5001	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2065	5001	0	Nail	
2066	5001	0	Nail	
2067	5001	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2073	5001	0	Nail	Horseshoe

SFNO	Context	Context Date	IDENT	COMMENTS
2074	5001	0	Nail	
2075	5001	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2076	5001	0	Nail	
2077	5001	0	Nail	
2081	5001	0	Tacks	x2
2082	5001	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2083	5001	0	Nail	
2084	5001	0	Nail	
2085	5001	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2086	5001	0	Nail	
2087	5001	0	Nail	
2089	5001	0	Nail	
2089	5001	0	Nail	
2093	5001	0	Nail	
2091	5002	0	Nail	
2094	5002	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2095	5002	0	Nail	
2096	5002	0	Nail	
2097	5002	0	Nail	
2099	5003	1850+	Nail	
2101	5003	1850+	Nail	
2107	5003	1850+	Nail	
2339	5003	1850+	Nail	?Horseshoe
2104	5004	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2105	5004	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2106	5004	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2109	5006	LMT	Nail	
0	5007	0	Nail	
0	5007	0	Nails	x2 horseshoe
0	5007	0	Nails	x5
0	5007	0	Nails	x3
2108	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2114	5007	0	Nail	
2118	5007	0	Nail	
2120	5007	0	Nail	
2121	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2122	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2125	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2126	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2127	5007	0	Nail	
2128	5007	0	Nail	
2130	5007	0	Nail	
2131	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2133	5007	0	Nail	
2135	5007	0	Nail	
2136	5007	0	Nail	
2137	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2138	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2139	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2140	5007	0	Nail	
2142	5007	0	Nail	
2144	5007	0	Nail	Fiddler key
2146	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2147	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2148	5007	0	Nail	Horseshoe
2149	5007	0	Nail	

SFNO	Context	Context Date	IDENT	COMMENTS
2151	5007	0	Nail	
2152	5007	0	Nail	
2153	5007	0	Nail	
2154	5007	0	Nail	
2155	5007	0	Nail	
2156	5007	0	Nail	
2157	5007	0	Nail	
2158	5007	0	Nail	
2162	5007	0	Nail	
2163	5007	0	Nail	
2164	5007	0	Nail	
2165	5007	0	Nail	
2166	5007	0	Nail	
2168	5007	0	Nail	
2169	5007	0	Nail	
2170	5007	0	Nail	Fiddler key
2172	5007	0	Nail	
2173	5007	0	Nail	
2175	5007	0	Nail	
2176	5007	0	Nail	
2178	5007	0	Nail	?Structural
2179	5007	0	Nail	
S?	5008	0	Nails	xc300 from cremation
2186	5023	0	Nail	
2189	5036	LMED	Nail	
2288	5036	LMED	Nail	
2290	5036	LMED	Nail	
2291	5036	LMED	Nail	
2292	5036	LMED	Nail	
2293	5036	LMED	Nail	
2294	5036	LMED	Nail	Fiddler key
2297	5036	LMED	Nail	Fiddler key
2298	5036	LMED	Nail	
2371	5116	S/N	Nail	
0	7002	0	Nail	

Objects From Contexts Associated With Saxo-Norman Pottery

These comprised four objects and three nails. These included a horseshoe (ctx. 5128), a staple (SF 2367) probably associated with a structure, a possible blade fragment (SF 2364) and a fiddle key horseshoe nail (SF 2353). The horseshoe has a rounded nail hole that is associated with earlier types of shoe (Clark 1995, 85-6). This is supported by the fiddler key nail, which is a type associated with Type 2 shoes predominantly dating from the mid-11th to the mid-12th centuries. This type however does carry on into the mid-14th century (Clark 1995, 86). Two other nails (SFs 2371 and 2374) are structural.

Objects From Contexts Associated With Early Medieval Pottery

Twelve objects came from contexts associated with early medieval pottery. These comprised seven nails, one blade, three unidentified objects (SFs 2275, 2375, 2376) and a miscellaneous fragment (SF 2272). Five nails are horseshoe nails including fiddler key types (SFs 2271, 2278). A nail with expanded head and ears (SF 2274)

found with Type 3 shoes dating from the 13th to the 15th centuries (Clark 1995, fig. 66, 87) and a nail with a square head (SF 2277) associated with Type 4 shoes dating from the mid-13th century onwards (Clark 1995, 89, fig.70) are also present. The three other nails (SFs 2276, 2323, 2377) are of uncertain function. The blade (SF 2273) is from a scale-tang knife, a type introduced in the 13th or 14th century and continuing into the 15th and 16th centuries (Goodall 1993, 128-9, fig. 94).

Objects From Contexts Associated With Late Medieval Pottery

One hundred and fifty-one objects were recovered from late medieval contexts. These included 94 nails, four horseshoes from context 2015, one (SF 2356) from context 5029, four blades (SFs 2012, 2224, 2330, S118), 1 key (SF 2197), 4 buckles (SFs 2234, 2269, 2360, 2370), as well as other pieces of structural or functional ironwork.

The physical characteristics of horseshoe (SF 2333) indicate an example of a Type 2A shoe, which date predominantly from the mid-11th to the mid-12th centuries but continued up to the mid-14th century (Clark 1995, 86).

Three blades came from context 2015 and one from context 2002. Both diagnostic blades (SF2012 and from sample 118) are whittle-tang knives common throughout the medieval period (Goodall 1993, 124-8, figs. 92-3).

The buckles are all D-shaped though varying in size and form. These are common throughout the medieval period from London sites, from the mid- 12th to the mid-15th centuries (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 89-94). Their precise functions are uncertain.

The remaining identified objects include a pinned hinge (SF 2358) possibly from a door or a large piece of furniture, a decorative bar (SF 2296), a large, functional sheet-metal bell (SF 2263) which compares to an example from Winchester dating from the 15th to 16th centuries (Luff 1990, 728-9, fig. 209, no. 2278). An object (SF 2359) from context 5029 may be a padlock key (see Rogers 1993, 1421, fig. 696, nos 5240, 5242). One occurred in an 11th- to 12th-century context, the other in a late 12th to early 14th century context.

Other objects included three staples, four strips and two fittings from doors or windows. Thirteen further objects are unidentifiable and a further six are miscellaneous fragments. The nails comprised 31 obvious horseshoe nails of types described above and 39 nails or fragments of nails not obviously associated with farriery.

Objects From Contexts Associated With Late Medieval/Transitional Pottery

Sixty-two objects came from late medieval/transitional contexts, including 44 nails. A possible Jew's Harp (SF 2011) came from context 2001. These are relatively common finds from medieval and post-medieval contexts (Lawson 1990, 724).

Three blades (SFs 2000, 2019, 2040) were recovered, two of which are scale-tang knives dating from the 13th or 14th century and continuing into the 15th and 16th centuries (Goodall 1993, 128-9, fig. 94). One buckle (SF 2003) from context 2001 is

a square with a roller plate and can be compared with an example from Swan Lane, London dating from the late 13th- to mid- 14th centuries.

A gouge (SF 2303) and a small wedge (SF 2305) associated with wood-working both came from context 2014. A double-pronged ?pitchfork (SF 2362) came from context 5070, and is similar to examples from Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (Goodall 1985, 51-2, fig. 31, no.11) and from the forge at Sandal Castle, West Yorkshire (Goodall 1983, 57-9, 242, fig. 5), though the latter is 17th century in date. A possible heckletooth fragment (SF 2250) from context 2014 indicates the possibility of spinning. These are known from pre-conquest contexts for example from Thetford, Norfolk (Goodall 1984, 79, fig.119, nos 20-1). However, the majority date from medieval contexts, such as 11th- to 13th-century deposits from Winchester (Goodall 1990, 214-6, fig. 44) and from 11th- to 17th-century deposits from Norwich (Goodall 1993, 182, fig.133, nos1423-9).

Also present were four horseshoe fragments (SFs 2195, 2251, 2254, 2307) all from context 2014. Six objects are unidentified. The remainder were nails comprising both horseshoe nails of the types discussed above and others or fragments.

Objects From Contexts Unassociated With Pottery Or Unstratified

One hundred and forty-six objects (including 106 nails) came from contexts unassociated with pottery or were unstratified. The majority of these came from contexts 5001 and especially 5007. The objects included a leatherworking awl (SF 2357) from context 5032 (Biddle and Keene 1990, 248-9, fig. 53b, no. 332,). Three blades (SFs 2123, 2124 and 2177) all from context 5007, included one whittle-tang and one scale-tang. Two buckles were recovered. A rectangular buckle (SF 2171) with a revolving bar came from context 5007. These buckles are traditionally associated with horse harness (Egan 1995, 57, figs. 42, 45, nos 29-32, 40, 47) and are known from contexts dating from the 11th to 14th centuries. The second buckle (SF 2078) from context 5001, is an oval, decorated and angled shoe buckle. The buckle can be classed as a two-piece buckle and can be dated from the mid-17th to the 19th centuries (Whitehead 1996, 94-103).

Other objects include a small ring or chain link (SF 2132), a hook (SF 2098), a fragment from a ?vessel (ctx.5001), and a curved and looped object possibly associated with horse harness.

There are six strips, one of which is perforated, nine unidentified objects and six miscellaneous fragments. A total of 106 nails were present in undated/unstratified contexts, of which at least were twelve horseshoe nails, and the rest structural nails or fragments. Four nails came from a 19th-century deposit (ctx. 5003), and included a horseshoe nail.

Lead Objects

A perforated lead strip (SF 2183) occurred in context 2014.

Bone Objects

A bone point (SF 2347) came from context 2015. The bone is unidentified.

Statement of Potential

The size and the identifiable contents of the iron assemblage indicate the potential for a localised, light-weight iron-working industry on the site. The number of nails, particularly horseshoe nails and horseshoes, may point towards the site being a farriery for much of the associated structure's life. The remaining objects (such as the buckles) may represent products of an area of more diverse activity than would be associated with a general smithy. There are, however, no immediately obvious iron-working tools, and no evidence of hammer-scale was recovered.

Evidence for wood-working is represented by the gouge (SF 2303, ctx. 2014) and various wedges (eg. SF 2305, ctx.2014) for splitting wood and the numerous nails indicate the presence of wooden structures. An awl (SF 2357, ctx.5032) indicates industries such as leather-working and the heckletooth (SF 2250, ctx.2014) indicates the processing of fibres prior to spinning. The bell (SF 2263, ctx. 2023) is a type associated with animals. Other tools include the various knife blades that may have been used for domestic purposes.

Objects associated with structures include the staples, nails, hooks, and fittings and other furniture is indicated by the padlock key (SF 2197), the possible lock fragments and the keys (SF 2022, SF 2197, ctx. 2016).

Personal items present are mainly copper alloy, and predominantly buckles, although larger buckles are represented in iron. The thimble (SF 2023, ctx. 2270) and pin (SF 2090, ctx. 5002) indicate sewing.

The bone object (SF 2347) is of uncertain species and function.

Methods

While identifiable objects could be examined in further detail (to ascertain material, type and technology), it is felt that the level of study already undertaken is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the brief. This report will be incorporated into the final publication. The metalwork may provide useful information in relation to the changing functions of the building through time and will form an important part of the discursive text. A selection of pieces will be illustrated.

APPENDIX 4 GLASS

By Cecily Cropper

The assemblage comprised 22 fragments, of which seven were from bottles, 11 were fragments of window glass, two were from undiagnostic vessels and one fragment was completely unidentifiable. A glass bead also occurred.

SFNO	CTX	CTX DATE	IDENT	GLASS DATE
2026	2001	LMT	Bottle	19th C
2030	2001	LMT	Window	PMed
2032	2001	LMT	Window	PMed
2016	2002	LMED	?Bottle	Roman
2052	2003	LMT	Window	PMed
2057	2003	LMT	Window	PMed
2058	2003	LMT	Bottle	19th C
2187	2013	LMED	Window	PMed
2064	5001	?	Bottle	19th C
0	5001	?	Vessel	18/19th C
0	5001	?	Vessel	EPMed
0	5001	?	Window	PMed
0	5001	?	Window	PMed
2061	5001	?	Bottle	L17/18th C
2102	5003	1850+	Window	PMed
2100	5003	1850+	Bottle	19th C
0	5007	?	Bottle	L18/19th C
2113	5007	?	Bead	?Roman
2134	5007	?	Undiagnostic	?Med
2150	5007	?	Window	PMed
2160	5007	?	Window	PMed

Bottle

One fragment (from context 2002) is of Roman date, possibly from a prismatic bottle. Such bottles are common in the earlier part of the Romano-British period, c 1st-3rd centuries AD. The remaining fragments are all post-medieval. One fragment (from context 5007) is from a bottle form possibly dating from as early as the late 17th century. The remaining fragments are all from 19th-century cylindrical bottles.

Vessel

Both vessel fragments are undiagnostic and of a post-medieval or modern date.

Window

Two types of window glass are evident though all is post-medieval in date. The majority has a thickness of 1.5 mm and would appear to be possibly 18th/19th century in date. The thinner glass (thickness 1 mm) may be slightly earlier as its condition is poorer.

Bead

The bead is possibly Romano-British.

Potential

Potential is minimal. The assemblage as a whole is very fragmentary and warrants no further quantitative work. The only fragments of interest are Romano-British, both of which can be noted in the final report. The bead could merit full identification, confirmation of date and comparative study; it was found, however, in a post-medieval context which limits its significance. An illustration may be required. The current database is sufficient for archive purposes.

It is estimated that 0.5 days would be sufficient to undertake the further work.

APPENDIX 5: WHETSTONES

By Paul Blinkhorn

A total of nine whetstones occurred, all medieval, and primarily mica schist or siltstone. Nearly all of them occurred in or around building A, and are a further factor in the understanding of the economy and function of the structure. They will be researched and identified petrologically and, if possible, dated.

Estimate for further work: 1 day

APPENDIX 6: ANIMAL BONE

By Bethan Charles

A total of 2075 fragments of bone were retrieved from the excavation, and rapidly assessed, as follows.

The majority had suffered attritional damage due to the acidic nature of the soil and, consequently, were very friable. Approximately half had suffered post-excavational damage as a result of this. Less than 5% of the bones had clear signs of butchery. This figure may be misleading because the fragmentary state and the attritional damage on the surface of the majority of bones may have erased such evidence.

Only 344 bones could be identified, although the poor preservation meant that a single bone was often represented by numerous fragments, such as one of the horse skulls, which was broken into 182 small pieces. The totals in the table below are for fragment numbers after reassembly.

Animal	Number of fragments ID	% fragments from total ID
Sheep	180	52.3
Cattle	67	19.48
Horse	43	12.5
Pig	31	9
Dog	16	4.7
Rabbit	1	0.3
Domestic Fowl	1	0.3
Unidentifiable Bird	5	1.5

The low number of identifiable fragments meant that all bone types were included in the fragment count, including vertebrae, ribs and teeth. From this, it is clear that sheep dominate the assemblage, although a quarter of the fragments counted were loose teeth. The only other species whose number count is greatly affected by the number of teeth is horse, of which three quarters were teeth, some of which were found in association with three fragmented mandibles and two fragmented skulls.

Due to the condition of many of the bones it was not possible to assess the age of the majority of the animals. However, all of the complete sheep and horse bones retrieved had fused epiphyses and fully developed teeth, many of which were worn. This indicates that the animals were not juveniles. Only one juvenile cattle metapodial occurred. The data may be biased by the poor preservation, as the porous bones of younger animals may not have survived. It is also probable that pigs were under-represented in the assemblage due to their similarly greater porosity, meaning that they do not survive as well as those of cattle and sheep (Grant 1975, 386).

Other mammals, and birds, were represented by individual fragments, except for 14 partial fragments of a single dog's foot.

The assemblage suggests that the majority of farm animals were kept until maturity,

indicating that sheep were kept in the main for their wool, and cattle for draught purposes in addition to being a source of meat.

The poor condition of the bones means that there is little information to be gained from any further work.

APPENDIX 7: HUMAN BONE

By Angela Boyle

Introduction and Quantification

A single cremation burial (5008) occurred. It had been placed in an irregular pit (5017) and was associated with charcoal and a large number of iron nails. The pit had a maximum depth of only 0.04 mm and it is likely to have been truncated in the Saxon period.

Methodology

Due to the poor preservation of the human bone it was decided to carry out full recording of the deposit at this stage.

Results

The entire cremation burial weighed only 88 g (+698 g unsorted residue incorporating a very small quantity of human bone) and has been identified as the partial remains of an adult individual of uncertain sex. The bone was white and well-calcined and identifiable fragments included skull vault, dentition and long bone shaft fragments.

Potential

The cremated bone has no further potential. However, the association of the charcoal and iron nails is of significance and is suggestive of a Roman date. At least three different nail types were present, including hobnails. It is likely that the individual had been wearing hobnailed boots and was placed in a wooden coffin before being subsequently burnt on a cremation pyre. The resulting deposit was then placed in the pit (5017).

A brief discussion of the cremation within the context of regional Romano-British burial practices would be of interest for more general research purposes. Philpott refers to a concentration of cremation burials with footwear in the south-east, although there are no other examples from Oxfordshire (1991, fig. 11).

Estimated Timings

Discussion of burial practice	1 day

APPENDIX 8: CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

By Ruth Pelling

Introduction

A series of soil samples were taken for the extraction of charred plant remains. Samples were taken from hearths and layers within a building, ditches and pits, a cremation deposit and from a midden. The midden was sampled in three transects in order to investigate horizontal spatial patterning within the deposit. The volume of soil sampled ranged from 8 to 48 litres. Samples were processed by the OAU using a bulk water separation machine. Flots were collected on to a 500 μm mesh. A total of 46 flots were submitted for the assessment.

Assessment Methods

Each flot submitted for assessment was examined. Flots were first put through a stack of sieves, ranging from 500 μm to 4 mm, to remove the bulk of the modern roots present in most samples and to separate the flot into manageable fractions. Each fraction was then scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification. Any charred seeds and chaff were provisionally identified and an estimate of their abundance was made. Fragments of charcoal were fractured and examined in transverse section. This is an appropriate means of identification of ring porous wood (*Quercus* sp.) although the identification of diffuse porous wood (Pomoideae) should be taken as tentative. The summary results are displayed in Table 1.

Results

Of the 46 samples submitted for assessment 45 contained charred remains. The cremation fill (context 5009) produced no charred material. Six midden samples and one sample of Saxon daub contained more than 100 items. The majority of samples contained large quantities of modern roots and rootlets and small quantities of grain and pulses.

The principle cereal represented in all phases and feature types is free-threshing *Triticum* sp. (wheat). Occasional *Triticum* sp. rachis nodes were present in the daub sample and in occasional midden samples. Grain of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) was present in the majority of samples, although in much smaller quantities than Triticum sp. Occasional *Avena* sp. (oats) were identified in samples from hearth deposits, layers within building A and the midden. Grain of *Secale cereale* was noted in the daub sample, while rachis was recognised in occasional midden samples.

Large cultivated legumes were noted in several samples, and were frequent within the midden. The better preserved legumes include a possible *Vicia faba* (broad bean) in a hearth sample and *Vicia sativa* subsp. *sativa* (fodder vetch) in occasional midden deposits.

In addition to the cultivated cereals and legumes a fragment of fruit stone of a *Prunus* sp. (plum, cherry, sloe etc.) and a single charred *Vitis vinifera* (grape) pip were recognised in midden samples. Weeds were very rare, with the majority of samples

containing less than 10 seeds. Common arable species such as *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed) were present and also ruderal species such as *Rumex* sp. (docks), *Chenopodium* sp. (fat hen, goosefoot). Occasional grasses and wild leguminous weeds were also recognised.

Charcoal was generally infrequent, although occasional fragments of *Quercus* sp. (oak) and, less frequently, Pomoideae (hawthorn, apple, pear etc.) were identified. *Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal was present in large quantities in a 12-14th century ditch sample (context 3008).

Discussion And Recommendations

The cereal species represented are all well-established in southern Britain by the late Saxon/early Norman period. The occurrence of free-threshing *Triticum* sp., hulled *Hordeum* sp., *Avena* sp. and *Secale cereale* is therefore to be expected in samples of this period. There is very little evidence of cereal processing either in the form of cereal chaff or weed seeds. The occurrence of relatively large numbers of cultivated legumes is also to be expected within samples of this date. The density of remains within the deposits is quite low and within the midden the density is not sufficient for any meaningful spatial analysis.

Given the paucity of well-sampled rural medieval sites in Oxfordshire, the results of the assessment are of interest and should be included in the final report. It is not thought, however, that the quantity and quality of remains are sufficient to merit detailed analysis. It is therefore recommended that some time be spent producing a report based on the assessment results.

Task	Staff	Days
Production of a report based on the assessment results	Specialist	1

Summary of the Scanning Results

The total quantity of each category of remains is shown for each type of feature.

Table 1

	Date	Saxon	Sax/Norm	12-14thC	11-13thC	11-13thC	12-13thC
	Feature	Daub	Ditch/Pit	Ditch	Hearth	Layer	Midden
	No. Samples	1	5	1	5	7	25
	Total Volume	25	91	5	63	140+	866
	Samples with >100 items	1	0	0	0	0	6
Triticum sp.	Free-threshing Wheat grain	++	++	+	++	++	+++
Hordeum sp.	Barley grain	+	+	+	++	++	++
Avena sp.	Oat grain	-	-	-	+	+	++
Secale cereale	Rye grain	+	-	-	-	-	+
Indet	Indet. grain	++	+	+	++	++	+++
Triticum sp.	Free-threshing wheat rachis	+	-	-	-	-	+
Hordeum/Secale sp.	Barley/Rye rachis	-	-	-	-	-	+
Secale cereale	Rye rachis	-	-	-	-	-	+
Other chaff		-	-	-	-	-	+
Vicia sativa subsp. *sativa*	Fodder Vetch	-	-	-	-	-	+
cf. *Vicia faba*	cf. Broad bean	-	-	-	+	-	-
Large Legume	Bean, Pea, Fodder Vetch etc.	+	+	-	++	++	+++
Vitis vinifera	Grape seed	-	-	-	-	-	+
Prunus sp.	Plum, sloe, cherry stone	-	-	-	-	-	+
Weed seeds		+	+	-	++	++	++
Quercus sp.	Oak charcoal	++	++	++++	+	+	++
Pomoideae	Hawthorn, apple, pear etc.	+	-	-	-	+	+

+ = present, 0-10 items; ++ = common, 11-100 items; +++ = abundant, >100 items

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