

SAXON & MEDIEVAL WALTON, AYLESBURY: EXCAVATIONS 1973-4

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SUMMARY

The results of two seasons excavation on adjacent sites at Walton, Aylesbury, are described. Early occupation in the vicinity was indicated by Neolithic and Romano-British material but there was no structural evidence for these periods. Definite occupation commenced in the Fifth century AD and continued into the Seventh. Structures of this phase included five grubenhauser and three halls.

Small finds indicate the probability of occupation continuing in the hamlet during the Eighth and Ninth centuries. Between the Tenth and Twelfth centuries a number of boundary features indicate gradual consolidation of landholding and the emergence of a manorial regime for which there is documentary and some archaeological evidence.

The significance of the site for the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry of AD.571, referring to Aylesbury, is discussed and a suggestion that the term 'Anglo-Saxon' when applied to artifacts may cloud a complex ethnic situation.

The animal bone is studied in detail by B. Noddle. Other reports are by: G. R. Elvey, H. S. Green, C. E. King, M. Monk, P. D. C. Brown, B. Westley, A. Jones, V. I. Evison, M. Archibald, D. Bramwell, B. Spencer, and S. E. Rigold.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Even a fairly small excavation such as the two seasons at Walton depends heavily on numerous individual contributions of time and resources, far too many to name, and I hope my gratitude will be taken to extend to all those not named here but who helped make the project possible. For access to the two areas I am grateful to the Aylesbury Conservative Association, the Clerk's Department of Buckinghamshire County Council and to Central Land Investments Limited. The Department of the Environment financed much of the excavation itself and the subsequent preparation of this report. Thanks are also due to the Harding's Educational Foundation for financial assistance. The former Aylesbury Borough Council, later Aylesbury Vale District Council, assisted in several ways, as did Aylesbury College of Further Education and Agriculture, and the County's Fire Service who provided an elevating ladder at one stage.

Of individuals who have helped with Walton, two must be singled out for special thanks, William Lindsay, who deputised for much of the time and drew the plans and sections for this report, also Barbara Hurman who drew all the pottery as well as contributing substantially on site. I owe a great deal to discussion with both. Yvonne Parminter took a large part in ensuring that the finds system ran smoothly throughout and contributed one of the figures, and most of the objects and histograms were drawn by Barbara Elliott; Nigel Tuckley kindly contributed drawings of the complete combs and one or two other objects. I owe a great debt to members of the County Museum Archaeological Group, whom I cannot name individually but who well know that

without their freely given help over a long period there would be no report. I am grateful also to Richard Ivens, who supervised on site at the commencement of the work and to a number of diggers from many parts of the country.

Finally my thanks to a number of specialists in the archaeological field, whose individual contributions are acknowledged in the body of the report and in particular to Miss. B. Noddle who kindly accommodated the Walton bone within her research programme. Messrs. J. Dangerfield and R. W. Sanderson of the Petrographical Department of the Institute of Geological Services kindly reported on all the rock specimens. My thanks also to Mr. H. Hanley, County Archivist for guiding me in many matters concerning the historical background of Walton, as did Mrs. G. R. Elvey, and last but not least the staff of the County Museum who all contributed in one way or another and have lived with Walton so long; particular thanks are due to David Parish for photography and conservation, Mrs. Doreen Moy (nee Prentice) for transforming numerous illegible drafts into clear type, a burden later shouldered by Mrs. Jill Byrne.

The finds are stored at Buckinghamshire County Museum; accession number 214.76 for 1973 and 335.76 for 1974; site records likewise, reference CAS 0093 and 2163.

BACKGROUND HISTORY OF WALTON

Aylesbury was in existence by AD 571 according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, and was apparently flourishing in the later Saxon period,¹ but so far as the documentary evidence is concerned, the existence of Walton was not noted until circa AD 1090.² A suggestion has been made that Akeman Street, which runs to the east, diverted from its main alignment, and made a dog-leg through the village, but this theory is supported only by negative evidence.³ Reports of discoveries of skeletons at Walton have gone generally unremarked. These burials were unearthed on a number of separate occasions and accounts of their discovery are unfortunately not very full. One group was found in 1921, and a small knife blade was reportedly found 'near the remains of three skeletons at a depth of 2 ft. on a newly consecrated portion of Aylesbury cemetery.....'⁴ A note on a record map in the Buckinghamshire County Museum, at SP 82971341 (Fig. 1), apparently referring to a separate discovery in the same locality, read as follows:— '1930's: Anglo-Saxon spearheads (two), also two loom-weights. One spearhead in possession of Rev. C. N. White, Ellesborough and seen by Curator 13th October, 1955. It was reported to the Rev. White that pottery was also found, but he was not shown any.' This find also occurred near the modern cemetery and during its extension. Finally, a discovery in 1858 may be associated, although it has not proved possible to locate the find spot accurately. The 1858 find was made — 'just beyond the new cemetery' on land tenanted by Mr. E. Terry, and either at 'Benhill Farm' or 'on Benhill' or 'in draining a field called Benhill'.⁵ A quantity of human and other bones were reported, and pieces of one or more urns; also 'parts of the antlers of two stags, an entire stag's head, some boars' tusks....'

1. A possible late Saxon defence is discussed in "Records" XIX (1974), 429–48.

2. "Registrum Antiquissimum" I, ed. C. W. Foster, Lincoln Rec.Soc. (1930), pp 4–7.

3. The Vistores, "Roman Roads in the South East Midlands" (1964), 44.

4. Bucks County Museum 108.21, 147.21; "Records" X (1920–6), 163.

5. BCM 1859.223; "Records" II (1863), 48, 98, 101–5.

The name Benhill does not occur on the 1800 Enclosure map and has not been firmly located, but deeds of 1706⁶ mention 'one land in short Bennill', a furlong in Bedgrove Field which did lie between the Wendover and Tring roads.

It may be reasonably suggested that all these discoveries, despite the curious content of the 1858 find, came from one Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, perhaps containing both inhumations and cremations. A spear from the 1858 find (Fig. 27,11) survives and is tentatively dated to the later sixth or seventh century. Skeletal remains survive from the 1921 find and a recent study of these by Mrs. B. Westley (see on) shows the bones came from at least six adults.

NOTE ON THE HISTORY OF WALTON

G. R. ELVEY

"Place Names of Buckinghamshire" gives only two forms of this name, but there has been no difficulty in assembling another dozen earlier than 1250. Neither the form 'Waletone' nor any other trisyllabic form occurs, so that a derivation from 'Wealaton', indicative of a village where British serfs were settled, is very improbable. We are left to choose one of two more eligible interpretations. The one would assume the first syllable to have been 'Wald' or 'Weald', the settlement having been so named in relation to forest or woodland, existing there in a remarkable degree. The other would derive it from 'Wall' or 'Weall', referring to Roman walls or works still visible above ground when the name was bestowed; upon the whole, this seems the better choice, even though there is at present no positive evidence of such a building.⁷

Very little is known about the early history of Walton, but since it is not mentioned in Domesday Book it can be assumed that before the Conquest it had passed into the possession of the king, who was the lord of Aylesbury. In a plea heard before the itinerant justices at Newport Pagnell in 1278 it was found that the manor of Walton was a part of that of Aylesbury, though its tenants were not king's sokemen like the men of Aylesbury, whose litigation was confined to the manorial court.⁸

The church of Aylesbury, with its daughter-churches and a huge endowment, had at the Conquest belonged to the bishop of Dorchester, and when the see was moved to Lincoln bishop Remigius obtained from William II a charter confirming to him all his previous possessions, among which Walton was mentioned.⁹ But the estate which the bishop had there was not the manor, for that as we have seen was and remained the king's, nor apparently did it lie in the common fields of the village.¹⁰ It consisted of land held in severalty, and was probably a compact block stretching to the west of the village as far as the Hartwell boundary. The capital messuage may well have been the Grange, demolished during the present century, and its predecessors on that

6. Bucks County R.O. D/X 534/40-2. I am grateful to Mr. H. Hanley for this information.

7. Dr Margaret Gelling has been kind enough to discuss this subject with us, but the preference here expressed is purely my own.

8. P.R.O. Just. 1/1228, m.33d.

9. "Reg.Ant." (n.2.) dated in 1090.

10. No mention of prebendal land has yet been met with in medieval abutments.

site.¹¹ These lands were later separated from the main endowment and used for that of the prebend of Haydour-cum-Walton.

How there came to be an estate in Walton not part of the manor can only be a matter for speculation. The most obvious explanation is that it had been the separate and hidated demesne of the manor, lying wholly outside its common fields and meadows, and that when the rest of the village passed to the king it was split away for the benefit of the Church. The original operation by which the demesne lands in the common fields had been exchanged for land outside them might possibly have been the occasion of the tenth-century reorganisation evidence of which is noticed on p.228.

It is thus plain that Walton began as a village in its own right, an agricultural unit with its own fields, meadows and pastures, and its own organisation: so it continued into modern times. Men of note in the neighbourhood carved out little estates there. Geoffrey the Bawd, who in the early thirteenth century had a fee in Aylesbury where he plied his trade, assisted no doubt by Maud the Bawd, built up a small fee in Walton, and Maud became one of his tenants. The elegant charter that records its sale later on has come down to us; it states that he had quitclaimed it, with knife and stick in the traditional manner, in his lord's chief court - in Aylesbury where his main tenancy lay.¹² In the next century Sir John Stonor had a fee there, and later also the great Sir John Baldwin who afterwards acquired Aylesbury itself.

John Balky, the bailiff of the lord of Aylesbury in the 1460s, whose notebook has survived, was much concerned with Walton: he collected the rents there; it was his duty to look after Walton Court and the Old Court Close of about thirteen acres, where the lord had his sheepfold, into which all his tenants were obliged to fold their sheep. He had the banks dyked, and bought cut thorns to stake round the boundary.¹³ In 1486 the Old Court Close, still the sheepfold, was let, and so it was in 1569, when the rental states that it was sometimes let and sometimes kept in hand.¹⁴

By 1651 however, a radical change had taken place: by a transaction which has not yet come to light, the prebendary had acquired the manorial rights of the lord. Sir John Pakington's active support of Charles I involved heavy spending; when Parliament got the upper hand, huge penalties were exacted from his estates, and he had to make payments on account from time to time and dispose of properties to do so. It is conjectured that the manor of Walton was one of them. The effect was to restore the pattern of things to what it had been before the bishop of Dorchester came on the scene: the entire village was again in one hand.¹⁵

The existing 'Walton Court', a late Victorian building occupied by the Aylesbury Conservative Association and immediately adjacent to the 1973-74 archaeological excavations, undoubtedly stands on the site of the former manor house. A watercolour showing the immediately preceding structure is illustrated here by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Millard (Plate I). This was the structure which Sheahan¹⁶ regarded as the

11. A drawing of the Grange is reproduced in Elliott Viney and Pamela Nightingale, "Old Aylesbury" (1976), no. 54a.

12. Birmingham Central Library, Hampton, MSS 486.024.

13. Herefs and Worcs R.O. 705/380; described and commented on by E.M. Elvey in "Records" XVII (1965).321-45.

14. Hampton MSS 504.913 (1486); Herefs and Worcs R.O. 705/349 BA 5117/1 (XIV), dated in 1569.

15. Bucks. R.O. D/X 485; this is a survey of the prebendal after its confiscation. It states that in 1566 the then prebendary had let his prebendal for 90 years at a rent of £20 a year, but that its value in 1651 was £114 in excess of that figure. It is evident that the property had been much added to in the meanwhile.

16. "History and Topography of Buckinghamshire" (1862), 82.

Manor House and which on the 1800 enclosure map was held by William Rickford. At the time of enclosure Rickford held a considerable amount of land in Walton, receiving four sizeable allotments as well as holding other land and the mill. One of his allotments is described as 'allotment for manorial rights in long ditch piece', again confirming Court Farm, his principal building, as the manor house.

That there was a still earlier manor house on the same site is shown by the survey of 1651.¹⁷ 'The manor house was pulled down in the time that the town of Aylesbury adjoining was a garrison for the Parliament in the late wars, but there are two barns containing eight bays built of timber, covered part with tile and partly thatched. There is a little cottage adjoining containing two bays. All with the site and seat abutting on the street East, a common way West, and the town green South There is one close of pasture ground called Old Court Close adjoining to the Manor House or site of abutting on this highway east containing by estimation 13 acres.'

Old Court Close was still known as Court Close on the Enclosure Map of 1800 and both seasons of excavation were carried out within its bounds. The land was long-standing pasture, so it is not surprising that no medieval buildings were found here. The survey of 1651 already referred to affirms this 'there is paid yearly to the churchwardens of the parish church of Aylesbury issuing out of the close called Old Court Close; for that heretofore the said close was Lammas Ground and the said town did then enter common there.'

The topography of Walton has probably not changed a great deal since the Middle Ages. One village road has disappeared within the last two hundred years (see Fig.1), and the course of Walton Road, which originally led to Walton Mill, was altered at its northern end about 1826, at a time when the main London road (Tring Road) was extended into Aylesbury along a new stretch of turnpike road, the northern end of which became Aylesbury High Street. This resulted in Walton losing one of its two through roads.

One feature of the village which has disappeared almost completely over the years is its green. Only part now remains as the small open space around the surviving village pond, and another piece as a car park on the island formed by the 'gyratory system.' In 1651 the site of the Manor House (Walton Court) directly abutted the green, but the enclosure map of 1800 shows the green had already been diminished by a number of encroachments. A group of small cottages demolished in recent years during construction of the western arm of the 'gyratory' were apparently encroachments of this sort.

Consideration of the 1800 Enclosure map in conjunction with the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments map of old buildings¹⁸ suggests that the spatial distribution of houses in the village may have altered little over the last few hundred years at least. Almost all the older structures fronted directly on to either Walton Street or Walton Road, both of them major thoroughfares. The discovery and partial excavation in 1905 of a pit house or cellar of probable twelfth-century date which also fronted Walton Street (see Fig.1) suggests that earlier medieval occupation may have followed a similar pattern.¹⁹

Despite proximity to Aylesbury, Walton survived as a distinct village into the nineteenth century, whereas several other small medieval settlements close to the town

17. B.R.O. D/X 485.

18. "R.H.C.M. Bucks" I (1912) 28.

19. A. H. Cocks, 'A semi-underground Hut in Walton Road, Aylesbury', "Records" IX (1909), 282-96.

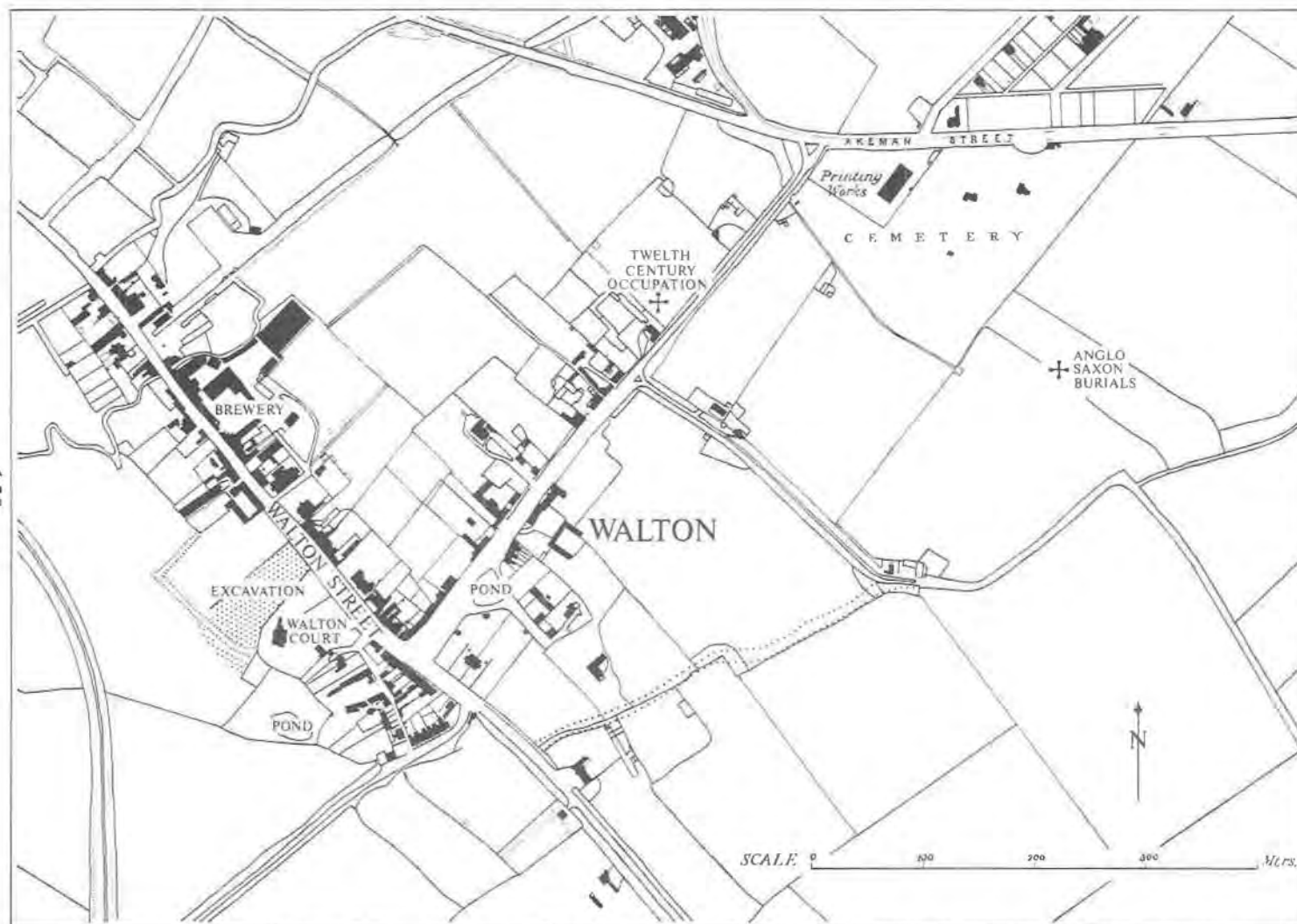


Fig. 1, Walton in 1877, based on 25" O.S. map of that date. Showing also earlier road (dotted), site of 1973-4 excavations and earthwork and of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

had migrated or been devoured by enclosure centuries earlier. The latter group includes Fleet Marston, Quarrendon and Stoke Mandeville (old village).

The success of Walton may be attributed to two factors in particular, its location on a significant junction of major routes, and its geology. The latter may be of particular importance since like Aylesbury the village is sited largely on well drained Portland limestone whereas those which failed were on the less attractive clay.

The 1973-4 excavations at Walton were to demonstrate that the site had been considered suitable for settlement long before its appearance in the documentary record of 1090.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF EXCAVATION AND METHOD

Immediately west of Walton Court Farm lay a substantial ditch, mapped by the Ordnance Survey on their large scale 1: 500 plans in 1879, and later noted by the Royal Commission as being possibly part of a 'manorial work'. Others had suggested the earthwork might be the remnant of a Civil War Defence. L-shaped, when first mapped, the NW side of the earthworks had been levelled when Aylesbury Rural District Council Office was constructed. The remaining length lay under grass on land which in 1973 was being purchased by the County Council for new Law Courts (Pl.I).

With permission of the then owners – and later the County Council, two periods of excavation were conducted in 1973 to investigate the earthwork and its interior before the planned construction took place. Shortly after this excavation had been completed, Walton Vicarage, a modern house in a large garden adjoining the site on the north, was sold for redevelopment and as the 1973 excavation had proved fruitful, the new owners of this site were approached, gave permission for an excavation, and a further season was carried out here in 1974. The two areas will be discussed together throughout.²⁰

Both sites lay mainly on Portland limestone, but as the ground fell to the west this gave way to yellow sand which was at least three metres deep; the limestone to some extent graded into the sand, there being a few metres breadth consisting of an intermediate friable sandy limestone and this interface is indicated on fig. 53. On both sites the overlying topsoil and subsoil was fairly deep and never less than 50cms., but on the Vicarage site (1974) the natural fall of the ground to the north-west had been levelled up when the Vicarage was built with the result that at the hedge line between the two sites there was about 1.20 m. of soil on the limestone. Some 400 cu. m. of soil had to be removed from this site before excavation could begin. The total area excavated during 1973 and 1974 was about 2,800 sq.m.

In both years attempts were made to define archaeological features at as high a level as possible. The site was never scraped to bedrock by machine, 5-6 protective centimetres of subsoil being left which was removed by hand. This approach had some bonuses in terms of finds, two Anglo-Saxon brooches for instance, but resolution of features above bedrock rarely proved possible in practice as the subsoil was well turned over by earthworms and feature boundaries could often not be defined much above bedrock even if their presence could be detected. It was interesting to find a marked chronological stratification by depth even where distinguishable features were

²⁰The report was substantially complete by the autumn of 1976 and no account had been taken of material published after that date. The drawings were prepared for the page size of the earlier format of "Records."

not present; medieval material for instance was rarely found in the subsoil though Saxon material was generally common at this level.

The limits of the excavation were set by the need to protect adjacent property boundaries, and on the 1974 site by a requirement not to excavate the area north-east of the former house site. On the street frontage the topography had in any event been much altered by the lowering of Walton Street²¹ and the existence of a driveway in the Vicarage front garden, the difference in height between site and road being 2.30m. The 1973 excavation did not extend outside the main earthwork.

The results of both years excavations are described here under different periods: Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon (Fifth-Seventh Centuries), Tenth Century, Eleventh Century and later. The overall plan of the excavation (Fig. 53) will be found as a pull-out at the end of the paper. Individual features are annotated D for ditch, H for house, G for gully, P for pit, F for fire/hearth, and then numbered.

PREHISTORIC PERIOD

SUMMARY

No structural evidence for the pre-Roman period was found but it was represented by stray finds recovered either from unstratified deposits or as obvious survivals in later features. The finds include two stone axes, three sherds of Neolithic date and a total of 35 struck flints.

The pottery has been examined by H. S. Green, who kindly describes it below, placing the sherds in a Late Neolithic context. All of the flint tools from the site and the majority of the cores are also illustrated. The group is too small in number and was too widely distributed over the site for any meaningful statistical interpretation, but a subjective impression based on the few scrapers is that these accord with the Durrington Walls assemblage rather than from Windmill Hill.²² Flint is not, of course, native to the site and since it was dispersed over the whole excavation this may be an argument in favour of several visitations.

Little evidence for Neolithic – Early Bronze Age occupation in the Aylesbury area had been recorded before, but recent finds of worked flints show that other sites remain to be discovered.²³

Both of the stone axe fragments from the site have been petrologically examined through the courtesy of Dr. W. A. Cummins whose comments are included below.

PREHISTORIC FINDS CATALOGUE (FIG. 2)

The Neolithic Pottery (Fig. 2, 1–2) H. S. Green

Three sherds of pottery may be classified as late Neolithic Peterborough Ware.²⁴ The pottery forms a small but coherent group and may relate to one period of occupation or may have accumulated over a much longer period of time, if the site

21. This may have taken place during construction of the 'Causeway' built by Sir John Baldwin in the 16th century, which apparently extended for three miles from the market place toward London; see Willis, "Notitia Parliamentaria" (1715), 105, and "The Itinerary of John Leland", ed. Toulmin Smith, ii. (1904) 110-13.

22. G. J. Wainwright and I. H. Longworth, "Durrington Walls" (1971), 164-9 and I. F. Smith, "Windmill Hill and Avebury" (1965).

23. Archaeological Notes, "Records" XIX (1973), 344 and XX (1975), 134.

24. I. F. Smith, 'The Decorative Art of Neolithic Ceramics in S.E. England and its Relations' (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, Univ. of London, 1956).

were revisited on some cyclic basis.²⁵ The sherds comprise one rim of developed Ebbsfleet style, a Mortlake Ware rim and a sherd which can only be classified loosely as Peterborough Ware. All three are relatively unweathered.

The fabrics of the sherds are similar and have probably been manufactured from the same clay and prepared with identical technique. The surfaces are buff with a black core. The clay contains much fine quartz sand, probably a natural inclusion. Calcined flint is the principal filler with sparse limestone fragments. The Mortlake rim contains a few haematite fragments in addition. The sherds may be described as follows:

1. Mortlake Ware rim of classic form with twisted cord decoration. (427B.74)
2. Developed Ebbsfleet Ware. Oblique twisted cord maggots on external rim bevel; vertical maggots on neck, internal decoration of twisted cord maggots in similar arrangement. Rim profile similar to Smith's E3²⁶ (431A.74)

Not illustrated is a single sherd of Peterborough Ware. Two incomplete lengths of twisted cord comprise the only decoration. (431A.74)

I am grateful to Drs. Kinnes and Longworth for discussing this pottery with me and to Jill Paterson for the illustrations.

Flint and Stone (Fig. 2, 3-6)

3. Core, single platform, black flint, unpatinated, part of cortex remaining. (804 H.74)
4. Core, single platform, dark grey flint, unpatinated. (135 A.74).
5. Core, two platforms, brownish grey flint, white patina. (134 XC.74).
6. Core, three platforms, black flint unpatinated. (203 XD.74).
7. Scraper, round ended, mottled flint, unpatinated. (301 A.D. 74)
8. Scraper, notched, mottled flint, unpatinated. (301 AP. 74)
9. Scraper, light retouch on one side, milky flint, unpatinated. (107 A.74).
10. Scraper, round, made on cortical flake, black flint, bluey/white patina. (100 H.73).
11. Blade, dark brown flint, white patina. (301 L.74).
12. Flake with retouch on one side. (639 B.74).
13. Serrated blade, very fine serrations on both edges, made on cortical flake, white patina. (124 A.74).
14. Blade, possibly punch struck, flakes detached from either end, blue black flint with white patina. (300 B.74)
15. Blade, dark grey flint, white patina. (601 L.74).
16. Blade, broken, possibly punch struck, dark grey flint, white patina. (701 AP.74).
17. Part of stone axe identified as quartzite by Dr. W.A. Cummins. (314 A.73).
18. Part of polished stone axe. Dr. W. A. Cummins reports that the axe belongs to Petrological Group XX, one of Professor Shotton's Midland Group with Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire as a likely source area. (266 A.73).

25. G. J. Wainwright, 'The Excavation of a Neolithic Settlement on Broome Heath, Ditchingham, NfK', "Proc. Prehist. Soc." XXXVIII (1972), 22.

26. Smith, "Windmill Hill", text fig. 3. p.84.

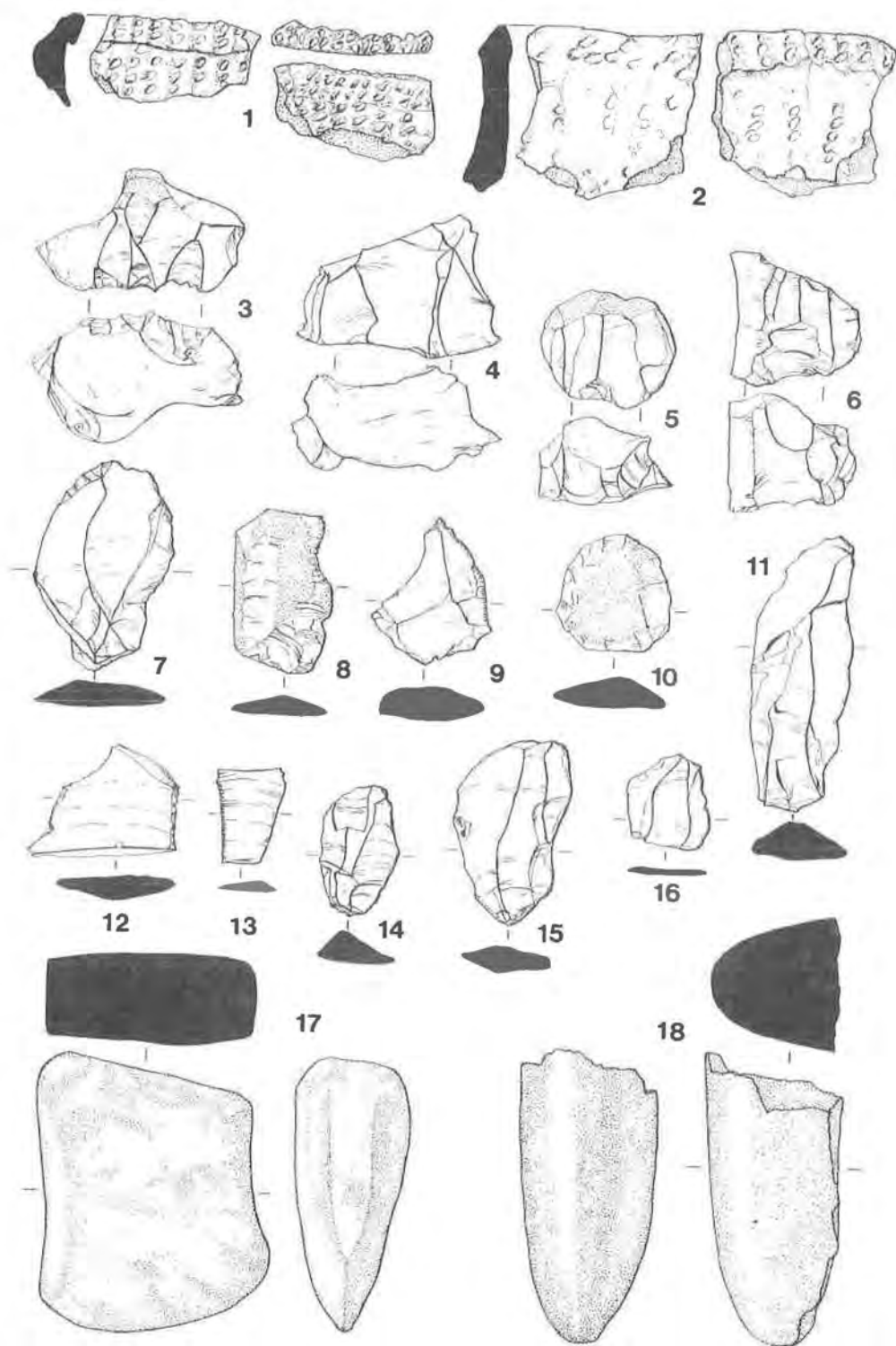


Fig. 2, Prehistoric finds (2/3)

ROMAN PERIOD

SUMMARY

Roman pottery in small quantities was recovered from all over the 1973-74 sites, along with four coins, but no single Romano-British feature was identified. A few fragmentary pieces of Roman glass were also found, but are not illustrated.

Considering the volume of earth moved during the excavation, the relative paucity of Romano-British material discovered indicates only that there was Romano-British settlement somewhere in the neighbourhood, and is the sort of residual material often presumed to be carried out accidentally from settlements during manuring of arable fields. It is insufficient in volume to suggest any possibility of direct site continuity with the Saxon occupation although it is true that some of the pottery may be late fourth to early fifth century in date. Were the pottery to have been used as pottery by the Saxon settlers, a concentration in the region of the Saxon houses could reasonably be expected, but in fact only three of the 55 rims (Fig. 3, 1-3) were actually found in the house fills. No 'Romano-Saxon' forms were found. That Roman pottery was sought by the Saxons for certain specific purposes is clear from several spindle-whorls found in Saxon contexts and made from Roman pottery and in particular Roman colour-coat pottery. The bulk of the Saxon 'counters' are made in a similar material.

Akeman Street runs less than half a mile away from the site but this probably has little significance for the small amount of material which was found; probably of greater significance is the presence of a number of small Romano-British settlements in the Aylesbury area, in whose fields Walton may have lain. Traces of such settlements indicated by discoveries of building material, pottery, coins, or burials are known at Hartwell, Bierton, Weston Turville and Aylesbury itself, to name a few in the immediate vicinity, whilst a few miles to the south lies the 'villa belt', running along the line of the Icknield Way at the foot of the Chilterns.²⁷ At least five Roman buildings are known in this part of Buckinghamshire. It is perhaps in this area that the sources of the 45 fragments of Roman roofing and flue tile found on the site can be sought, although taking into account all the pieces discovered during the excavation the whole would not have constituted more than three tegulae and one flue tile. In this connection it is interesting to note a tiny piece of Roman tile from the fill of a grubenhaus with a small piece of flint mortared to it indicative of a Chiltern source for some of the material at least.

ROMAN FINDS, CATALOGUE (fig. 3, 1-35)

Pottery

Most of the illustrable Roman rims are included here. Nos 1-3 are the only sherds actually from Saxon houses, but this as already noted has little significance. The mortaria and the bulk of the red colour-coat vessels are likely to be products of the Late Roman Oxfordshire kilns, whose market area Central Buckinghamshire certainly lay within.²⁸ Nos 28-30 are in a distinctive iron-grey fabric partially burnished. It has

27. Curiously, there is little evidence for Romano-British occupation in Aylesbury itself, but an extensive settlement lay slightly to the north on either side of Akeman Street in the Haydon Hill - Quarrendon Estate area, a short distance from the better known settlement at Fleet Marston.

28. Christopher Young, 'The Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region' in 'Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery', CBA Research Report 10 (1973), 105-15.

not been thought profitable to cite individual parallels.

Not illustrated is a samian base of Central Gaulish manufacture, Drag. 33, with an unidentifiable stamp, probably mid second-century. The sherd was kindly examined by Dr. K. T. Greene.

1. Flagon? Grey with traces of lighter colour-wash, sandy. (710 F.74)
2. Jar. Orange, soapy texture. (260 B.74)
3. Mortarium. Red colour-coat, pinky orange fabric, pink and milky grits. Unusually small diameter. (702.73).
4. Mortarium, with traces of yellow wash on top and outer rim; flange broken. Rounded quartz grits. White fabric (711C/722B.74).
5. Mortarium, with reddy brown colour-wash on white fabric (203.74)
6. Red colour-coat mortarium, red fabric, rouletting on top and side of rim. Grits are rounded and transparent, milky or brown. (729.73)
7. Mortarium, red fabric with white wash. Few rounded quartz grits remaining internally (303.73).
8. Red colour-coat mortarium. Sparse rounded quartz grits remaining. (313 A.74).
9. Red colour-coat mortarium. Imitation Drag 45. Rounded pinky quartz grits. (701.74).
10. Red colour-coat mortarium. Imitation Drag.45 (710.73).
11. Bowl. Red colour-coat, burnt, possibly imitating Drag 36. (251.74).
12. Bowl. Red colour-coat with white painted curves on rim. Broken, but probably a Drag. 38 imitation (200 B.74)
13. Bowl, red colour-coat.(200 + 73)
14. Bowl, red colour-coat, trace remaining only under rim, micaceous fabric, (009.73)
15. Bowl, red colour-coat or possibly burnish. (802 A.74).
16. Bowl. Imitation Samian. (445.73).
17. Footring. Red colour-coat. (200.74).
18. Beaker footring. Dark colour-coat on white fabric. (701.73).
19. Beaker. Dark colour-coat on white fabric. Nene Valley? (600.74).
20. Beaker. Thin, burnished externally, buff. (507.74).
21. Beaker. Cordoned beneath rim, grey fabric. (112 B.74).
22. Flanged Bowl. Burnished, buff-grey fabric. (303.73).
23. Flanged Bowl. Burnished with white slip, grey fabric. (439.74).
24. Bowl. Grey fabric. (623.74)
25. Bowl. Grey fabric. (600.74)
26. Jar. Grey fabric. (102.73)
27. Jar. Grey fabric, red core. (701 AQ.74)
28. Jar. Burnished top and interior of rim. Grey fabric. (529 A.74)
29. Jar. Burnished top and interior of rim. Grey fabric. (804.73)
30. Flagon. Burnished top of rim. Grey fabric. (904 D.74)
31. Storage Jar. Orange/buff exterior, grey core, soapy feel, diameter at mouth approx 33 cms. (999.74).
32. Storage Jar. White with grey core, containing grog?, diameter at mouth approx 32 cms. (804 B.74)

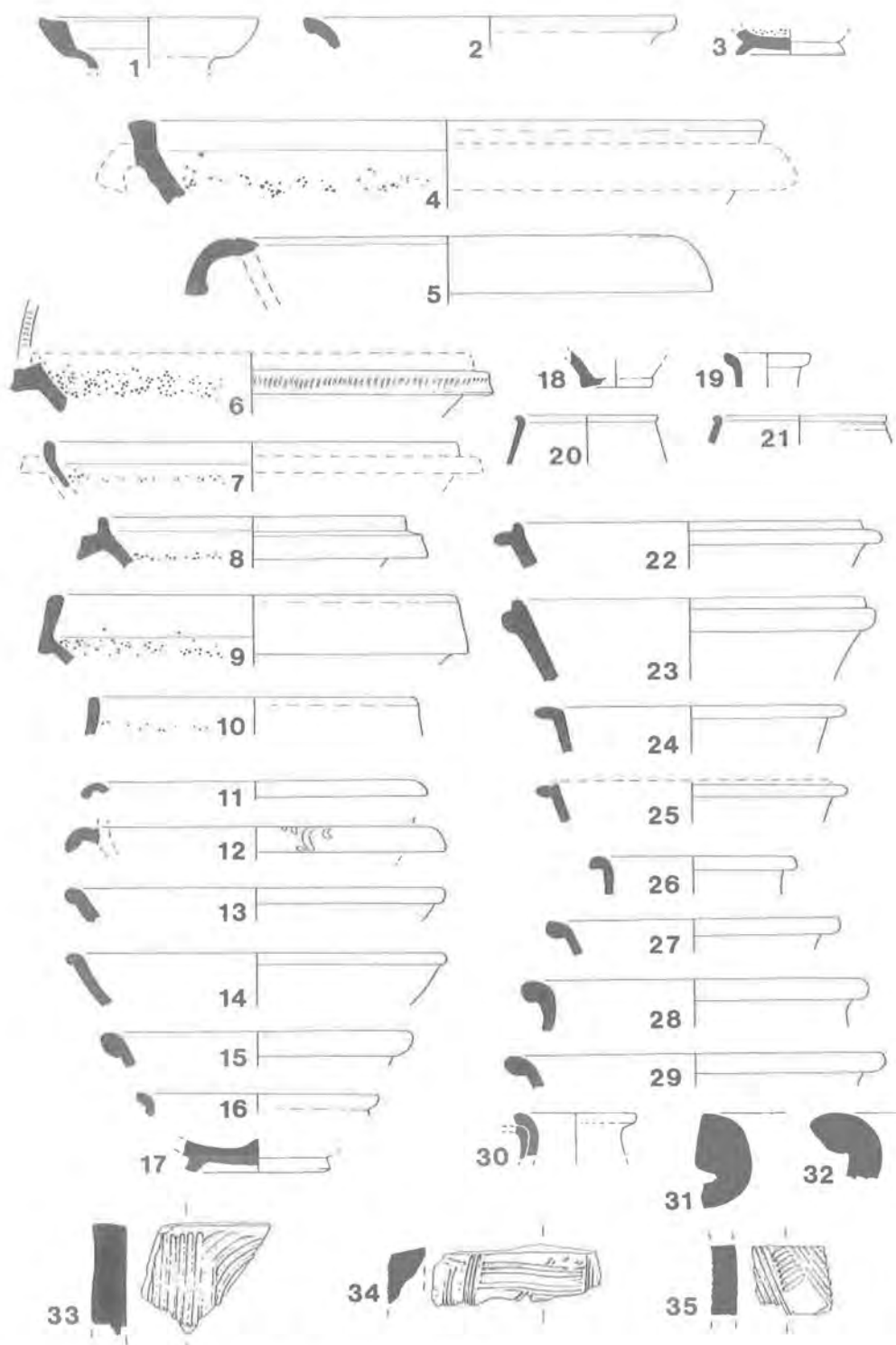


Fig. 3, Roman pottery and flue tile (33-5) (¼)

Tile:

The Roman tile from the site was all fragmentary, and almost without exception in well fired, 'bricky' fabrics. The three largest pieces amongst the fourteen recognisable flue tile fragments are illustrated here.

33. Flue tile, combed one side, sanded the other. Even red fabric. (058.73)
34. Flue tile, combed on one face, even bricky fabric, grey core. (904 M.74)
35. Flue tile, neatly combed on one face, bricky fabric. (702.73)

The Roman Coins, Dr. C. E. King, Ashmolean Museum.

These four coins are characteristic of unstratified casual finds in Britain which tend to cluster chronologically in the late third century (particularly AD. 260–285) and in the fourth century with coins from AD.330–340, 348-364 and 388 onwards being the commonest.

1. Fragment of Roman Coin, 1st-2nd Century, AD. (522A.74)
2. Obv. : IMP CONSTANTINUS AUG; Rev. : SOLI INVICTO COMITI
Mint : Lyons ^{AS} Date A.D. 316. Ric. VII. No. 54. Ae. (301 Q.74)
PLG
3. Obv : VRBS ROMA. Rev. : Wolf & Twins.
Mint : Probably Trier, TR– Date AD.330-337. Ae.? Barbarous (701 AS.74).
4. Obv. : VRBS ROMA. Rev. : Wolf & Twins.
Mint : illeg. Date AD. 330-337. Ae. (146A.74).

EARLY SAXON WALTON

INTRODUCTION

The discovery of the early Saxon occupation in the course of excavation of the nominally Medieval site at Walton was unexpected.

The features investigated, which probably date before AD.700, (Fig.4), can be summarised as follows. There were five house sites, which had sunken or partially sunken floors, and in addition three groupings of post holes which it is suggested may be the sites of halls. Other hearths of the period could indicate further houses. The remaining structures consisted of a few small gullies, and six pits. Other occupation evidence comes from the finds themselves which include simple jewellery and buckles, querns, combs, knives, animal bone, pottery and other domestic refuse.

The site is the first settlement site of the period to be investigated in the County and is far removed from the commonest location of such discoveries, namely the gravel terraces on which lay such important settlements at New Wintles in Oxfordshire, Sutton Courtenay in Oxfordshire (formerly Berkshire) and Mucking in Essex.

The Walton site is unusual on other grounds also. Firstly it is associated directly with a later hamlet whereas the majority of comparable early Saxon sites known lie today in open fields, with a handful recorded in urban contexts. This distribution combined with the widespread absence of early settlement evidence from deserted medieval excavations has led one authority to propose significant population shifts in the

Middle Saxon period.²⁹ The presence of early settlement at Walton may of course be an exception to the rule, but since excavations within existing villages are perforce normally limited in scale whereas those outside have no such restriction it may be that ease of access to sites away from existing settlement has unduly influenced the overall distributional pattern. If 'deserted' medieval villages are typical of village settlement as a whole then this point is not, of course, valid for there has been a fair amount of excavation in such villages, but there remains a reasonable possibility that they are not entirely typical³⁰ and that so far as siting is concerned many 'deserted' villages were never situated in the most desirable locations.

Secondly, the existence of an early site at Walton does emphasise the danger of any simplistic interpretation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry of AD.571 with its reference to Aylesbury.³¹

Thirdly, as the grubenhäuser are 'rock-cut', like the house at Puddlehill, Bedfordshire³² certain structural details are clearer than is commonly the case in alluvially sited examples; that the bed rock is alkali has also favoured faunal preservation.

THE DATE AND LENGTH OF SAXON OCCUPATION

The excavated part of the Walton settlement is considered on the available evidence to run from the fifth through into the seventh century. As will be seen later there is evidence of renewed activity during the Late Saxon period. The Middle Saxon period, as far as domestic sites are concerned, is everywhere notoriously difficult both to locate and to date, and although significant advances have been made through excavation of such sites as Maxey, Northants³³ and Chalton, Hampshire,³⁴ neither the pottery nor the artifacts are as fully understood as those of earlier or later periods. As will be seen a few of the Walton finds may belong to these intervening centuries, indicating that settlement continued in the vicinity if not actually on the area excavated and indeed it would be surprising if the small area excavated revealed the full span of occupation.

Much of the dating evidence available for the Walton Street settlement comes from artefacts contained in the fill of sunken-floor houses. It has been debated whether such rubbish accumulated during the occupation of this house type or after abandonment³⁵ At House 3 the evidence for direct wear on the base of the hole seems strong, in which case the rubbish could not have been present during the occupation or the floor would have been protected. Moreover in House 1 five joining sherds occurred at quite different locations in the fill and there are many joins amongst material from House 3.

29. J. G. Hurst 'The Changing Medieval Village in England', in P.J. Ucko, R. Tringham and G.W. Dimbleby, "Man. Settlement and Urbanism" (1972), 531-40. A grubenhaus and Middle-Saxon pottery are now reported by Hurst from his excavations at Wharfedale, Yorks (Lecture at Oxford, October 1976).

30. This point has been made by Rahtz in "The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England" ed. D.M. Wilson (1976), published after the text of this article was completed.

31. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in "English Historical Documents c.500-1042" ed. D. Whitelock (1955).

32. C. L. Matthews, 'Saxon Remains on Puddlehill, Dunstable.', "Beds Arch. J.", I (1962), 48-57. Further grubenhäuser noted here in "Med. Arch.", XVI (1972), 13-31.

33. P. V. Addyman 'A Dark Age Settlement at Maxey, Northants' "Med. Arch." VIII (1964) 20-73.

34. P. V. Addyman, D. Leigh and M. J. Hughes, 'Anglo-Saxon Houses at Chalton, Hants', "Med. Arch." XVI (1972), 13-31.

35. M. U. Jones 'The Cropmark Sites at Mucking' in "Recent Archaeological Excavations in Europe", ed. Bruce Mitford (1975), 155.

It is not likely then that the contained rubbish strictly dates the use of the house; but it does date the time during which the house was still a hole - perhaps after removal of the structural timbers, and the two occurrences are unlikely to be separated by so great a span of time as to invalidate general conclusions about the date of use.

The commonest find of the period from the site, apart from bone, is pottery and all of this is hand made. One sherd (Fig. 15, 6) has a faceted carination, a feature identifiable on the continent in later fourth and early fifth-century contexts, and seen in England in early cemeteries and settlements such as that at Mucking.³⁶ A number of sherds from the site have neck and body grooves, and where stamps are present they are usually small, neat and contained within these cordons. Bosses are sparse and small, apparently both vertical and horizontal, and rarely associated with stamped decoration, although the material is too fragmentary to be conclusive. Dr. Myres, who has kindly examined all the pottery illustrated here, feels its date ranges from the early fifth well into the sixth century, perhaps later, and as will be seen this is supported by other evidence.

The Walton Saxon pottery occurs in two major fabrics, a fairly fine burnished ware with small rounded grits, often pink or red, and grass-tempered wares. Small, well weathered sherds with calcareous filler also occasionally occur but their attribution to the Saxon period is uncertain and they may be pre-Roman. Stamped decoration appears only on the burnished gritted sherds.

It is interesting to note that there is a significant distributional variation between stamped and grass-tempered sherds from the Saxon houses and also between grass-tempered and other fabrics. These variations, which it is suggested may have chronological significance, are set out below, with the five grubenhäuser arranged in percentage order of grass-tempering.

House No.	G.T.%	% of Total Sherds Stamped	Total Sherds
1	5%	1%	829
2	8%	5%	381
3	37%	0.1%	657
5	62%	Nil	60
4	75%	Nil	12

This shows quite clearly that the contents of Houses 1 and 2, both conventional gable-post grubenhäuser, are very similar. Houses 4 and 5, of different character to 1 and 2, both have a high proportion of grass-tempered wares and no decorated sherds, although it must be admitted there are also fewer sherds to analyse. House 3 occupies a median position but it is more closely allied to 4 and 5.

Since grass-tempered wares appear from other contexts to outlast the stamped pottery styles familiar from cemeteries, the high proportion of grass-tempered wares and absence of stamped ware would indicate a later date for Houses 3, 4, and 5.³⁷ This hypothesis seems to be supported by the presence of pins in Houses 3 and 5, for which a late sixth/seventh century date at the earliest is suggested further on, and of the 'halls' one at least post-dates House 3.

36. J. N. L. Myres, 'The Anglo Saxon Pottery from Mucking', *"Ant.J"* XLVIII (1968), 222-8.

37. Grass-tempered wares generally are discussed in more detail by P.D.C. Brown further on.

The number of sherds which can certainly be ascribed to the period of occupation of the halls is unfortunately too few to be of any statistical value but are included here for the record.

House No	G.T.%	% of Total Sherds Stamped	Total Sherds
6	34%	Nil	35
7	No pottery	—	—
8	58%	Nil	19

Other finds from the site which assist in dating the occupation are the 'bronzes'. The earliest of the group is the small buckle with outward looking horse heads (Fig. 24, 4). This belongs to a group extensively studied by Mrs. Hawkes and which have been shown to be late Roman belt-fittings manufactured in Britain. The type was originally thought to have strong military connections, perhaps being used by the Field Army of the period, however, Mrs. Hawkes has recently suggested that a slightly wider usage perhaps by civilian officials is possible and notes also occasional occurrence of the type in female graves.³⁸ Few have been found in stratified deposits and the Walton example, unfortunately, was itself from a medieval gully. Their floruit is thought to be the second half of the fourth century A.D. Although the buckle could indicate then a late fourth-century date for the commencement of occupation at Walton, the absence of any stratified Roman material makes this unlikely and the buckle is probably best seen as a casual loss, an heirloom, or as having arrived in the fields in the same manner as the thinly spread Roman pottery. The small long brooch illustrated in Fig 24, 2 may be fifth-century, as well as a 'quoit' brooch (Fig. 24, 6), but both were from subsoil deposits. A small pendant from House 3 is likely to be late sixth to seventh century (Fig. 19, 4). A garter hook (Fig 24, 7) has a date range of seventh to tenth century and a tag and perhaps of eighth-century date (Fig 39, 1) provide a tenuous link with the identifiable ceramic group, the tenth-century St. Neot's group. There are no local comparanda to assist with the identification of a distinctive Middle Saxon ceramic even if it were present. Finally, amongst the other finds it has been suggested that changing styles in loom-weights may have chronological significance,³⁹ and the Walton examples broadly fit the early Saxon style, some approaching the 'intermediate' group.

The basic house form at Walton offers no chronological guide, since simple gable-post grubenhäuser arrive with the Anglo-Saxon settlers and are still in use in the tenth century,⁴⁰ if not later. However, although the dimensions of many excavated grubenhäuser are not yet available in published form, a search through the available literature

38. For a recent survey of the type see Sonia Chadwick Hawkes, 'A Late Roman Buckle from Tripointum', *Trans. B'ham and Warks Arch.Soc.* LXXXV (1972), 145-59; also Sonia Hawkes, 'Some recent finds of Late Roman Buckles', *Britannia* V (1974), 386-93.

39. J. G. Hurst, in 'Anglo-Saxon Pottery: a Symposium', *"Med. Arch."* III (1959), 23-5.

40. John Williams, 'Northampton', *"Current Archaeology"* 46 (Sept. 1974), 344. In Denmark two 'pit houses' at Aggersborg contained coins of 996-1002, c.f. O. Olsen, 'Viking Fortresses in Denmark' in *"Recent Arch. Excavns in Europe"* (1975). Although nineteenth-century sunken-floored houses at Athelney, Somerset, are often cited as very late examples of the general form, it is sometimes overlooked that the only available illustrations were drawn from memory fifty years after they had last been seen, c.f. H. Laver, 'Ancient Types of Hut at Athelney', *"Somerset, Arch.Soc.Proc."* LV (1909), 175-80.

suggests that houses as large as H3 are uncommon.⁴¹ It may be relevant, that judging by the content this house could be fairly late in the series. Insufficient halls are known to speak of a typology of this sort of structure, but at Walton one small post building (H7) does overlie a late grubenhaus. It has to be constantly borne in mind, judging by other Saxon settlements where grubenhäuser may number from 20 at New Wintles, Oxon. to 68 at West Stow, Suffolk and 163 at Mucking in Essex⁴² and be spread over many acres, that the area of Walton excavated is probably but a small sample of the total area occupied, and if the evidence for an eighth to ninth century presence is slender, it is more reasonable to presume that such occupation continued elsewhere in the hamlet than to postulate that such a satisfactory site was abandoned.

Of the associated cemetery, which has already been discussed, only a single spear perhaps of late sixth or seventh-century date remains of the grave goods which, had they survived, might have provided useful links with the settlement.

In conclusion, there appears to be evidence of occupation on the site from the fifth through into the seventh centuries; presumed occupation in the vicinity during the eighth and ninth, and then renewed activity in the tenth which will be examined in detail further on.

THE NATURE OF THE SAXON OCCUPATION

The structural evidence for occupation consists of the house sites themselves, with a few associated pits and small gulleys which represent a palimpsest of as much as three hundred years' activity. It may also represent a very small acreage of the total community and inference must of necessity be hedged with caution. A few general points may be made.

Houses 1 and 2, probably the earliest, were very small, almost hovels; House 3 of the same pattern and probably later was much more spacious and would have comfortably accommodated a family. The halls, such as House 6, were entirely above ground, and however built, certainly involved greater carpentry skills than the sunken structures. Halls were also more flexible structures which it would be possible to extend or adapt. In general an improved standard of living seems to be emerging.

The absence of any substantial demarcation at this period is striking and implies some flexibility in land holding patterns. Even where quite large areas of early Saxon occupation have been uncovered,⁴³ any indication that plots of land were fenced or ditched or house sites enclosed seems to be generally lacking. Although evidence for hedges can rarely be detected in the archaeological record, their presence for long periods might be expected to impose some pattern on the arrangement of structures,

41. A fairly extensive search through the available dimensions has produced samples only at the following sites:- Bourton, Thetford, West Stow and Mucking. One of the larger Mucking Houses contained a seventh-century silver pin inlaid with garnets.

42. Reference will often be made to these three sites, which are reported as follows:-

(a) Mucking: M. U. Jones, 'Cropmark Sites at Mucking, Essex, "Ant.J." XLVIII (1968), 210-30. M. U. Jones. Excavations at Mucking - a second interim report, "Ant.J." LIV (1974), 183-99. M.U.J. and W.T. Jones, 'An early Anglo-Saxon Landscape at Mucking in "Anglo-Saxon Settlement and Landscape", ed. Rowley, British Arch. Reports 6 (1974) M.U. and W.T.J., 'The Cropmark Sites at Mucking', in "Recent Arch. Excavns in Europe".
(b) West Stow: The fullest account is in S.E. West, 'The Anglo-Saxon Village of West Stow. An interim report of the excavation 1965-8', "Med. Arch.", XIII (1969), 1-20. Concluding comments are in "Med. Arch." XVII (1973), 149-50.
(c) New Wintles: S. Hawkes and M. Gray, 'Preliminary Note on the Early Anglo-Saxon Settlement at New Wintles Farm, Eynsham', "Oxonjensia" XXXIV (1969), 1-4; also M. Gray, 'The Saxon Settlement at New Wintles' in "A-S Settlement" ed. Rowley.

43. e.g. Mucking, West Stow and New Wintles (n.42). At W. Stow there was a pair of early boundary ditches.

but the plan of the small area of Walton exposed gives no such hint. One explanation of this apparent absence of boundaries is that the settlements were of a fairly open nature, perhaps with portable hurdles for livestock, minimal protection for crops and considerable freedom of choice in the siting of houses, the whole indicating minimal formal organisation.

The animal bone from the site has been examined in considerable detail by Miss Barbara Noddle under three period headings, Saxon, Saxo-Norman and Medieval, and her full report appears further on. Throughout all periods cattle and sheep dominate, closely followed by pig; with some evidence for an increase in sheep rearing with the passage of time, although Miss Noddle does emphasise the fragmentary nature of the material available for study.

The cattle seem generally to be of good size, perhaps the result of reasonable grazing. More of the Saxon cattle were killed whilst still juvenile (under one year) than in later periods. A few horses were present and the occasional goat. It is interesting to note that hunting contributed very little to the Saxon diet. Geese and fowl were fairly common, occurring in a number of early Saxon deposits, and single bones of Crane, Plover and Redwing were identified. A single beaver bone was also found. Dog and cat bones occurred in small numbers, the latter animals possibly being utilized for their skins.

As far as cultivation is concerned there is little direct information, although the presence of a small pit (P5) possibly used for storage is of interest. Mr Monk has kindly examined samples of its content for seeds and his report appears below. There is a reasonable likelihood that seeds from this pit do reflect Saxon agricultural practice although survival of seeds from earlier phases cannot be totally ruled out. A rotary quern from the same pit demonstrates on-site milling as do quern fragments from other deposits.

The seeds from P5: M. Monk

The Samples. Soil samples were taken from two groups of intersecting Saxon pits when carbonised grain was noticed during their excavation. The first of these was early to middle Saxon date and contained also a rotary quern and grass-tempered pottery. The other group, interpreted as cess pits by the excavator, were of late Saxon date and are discussed further on. The soil samples were floated by the excavator using the simple hand flotation in water technique and the 'flot' (all the material that floats in a liquid medium like water) including carbonised grain and seeds etc., caught in a 500 micron mesh.

The carbonised grain, seeds and fruit stones:

The carbonised grain from P5 consisted of *Triticum aestivo-compactum* (Bread or Club wheat), *Hordeum* sp. (Barley), *Avena* sp. (Oats) and *Avena fatua* (Wild Oats). The following measurements were obtained from the identifiable individuals.

Feature Code	Species	No's of Individuals	Measurements (mm.)			
			L	B.	T.	L/B.
632 (Upper Fill)	<u>Triticum aestivo-compactum</u>	2	4.2	3.0	2.3	1.40
			4.3	3.0	2.4	1.43
	<u>Hordeum sp.</u>	4	5.0	2.2	1.9	—
			5.2	3.1	2.3	—
	<u>Avena sp.</u>	2	6.0	2.0	1.5	—
			4.8	1.9	1.3	—
	Unidentifiable cereal grain	1	—	—	—	—
	<u>Chenopodium cf. album</u>	1	—	—	—	—
	<u>Chenopodiaceae</u>	2	—	—	—	—
	Unidentifiable weed seed	1	—	—	—	—
632 (Lower Fill)	<u>Hordeum sp</u>	2	6.0	2.3	2.2	—
	Unidentified cereal grain frags	2	—	—	—	—
	<u>Cyperaceae</u>	1	—	—	—	—
			—	—	—	—
634	<u>Triticum aestivo-compactum</u>	3	4.0	3.0	2.2	1.33
			4.0	3.0	2.3	1.33
			3.3	2.8	2.2	1.17
	Unidentifiable cereal grain frags	2	—	—	—	—
			—	—	—	—

Average measurement for pit samples:

	L	B.	T.
<u>Triticum aestivo-compactum</u>	3.96	2.96	2.28
<u>Hordeum sp.</u>	5.40	2.53	2.13
<u>Avena sp.</u>	4.75	1.60	2.05
<u>Avena c.f. fatua</u>	5.40	1.95	1.40

The ethnobotanical samples from this site are too few to justify any major statements about the plant economy. However, there is some indication from this material particularly the association of carbonised grain with the quern-stone fragments that the settlement was probably subsisting on its own efforts, growing its own cereals and processing them.

A small group of 'grass' tempered sherd with obvious seed impressions were also submitted to Mr. Monk, and his identification of these amplifies the picture:

Altogether nine impressions of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) grains and chaff and one impression of *Avena* sp. (Oat) were identified from the exterior surfaces of the early to middle Saxon 'grass/chaff' tempered pottery. It was possible to take measurements of some of the major dimensions of these impressions.

<u>Pot Sherd Code</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of Individuals Identified</u>	<u>Measurements (mm.)</u>		
			<u>L</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>T</u>
102F	c.f. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. chaff impressions (lemmas)	1	—	—	—
102C	c.f. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. chaff impression (lemmas)	1	—	—	—
210	c.f. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain impressions	4	—	—	—
	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. grain impression	1	7.5	4.0	—
601	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain lateral)	1	9.0	—	2.0
601R	<i>Avena</i> sp.	1	8.0	—	2.0
909N	<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	1	9.0	3.0	—

From this analysis this particular group of pottery may therefore have been deliberately tempered with chaff waste, from the threshing floor. Such tempering has the dual purpose of binding poor clays together and opening their structure. Pottery treated in this way is also light in weight perhaps to facilitate portability.

Walton shows a range of domestic activities typical of the Saxon period. A number of loom-weight fragments attest the presence of warp-weighted looms, and large needles and perhaps rubbers for leatherworking. That combs were manufactured on site is indicated by the presence of a small quantity of sawn antler. Some metal working was also carried out, evidenced by a crucible from House 3, probably for melting a copper alloy. A very few small pieces of slag occurred in several features and there was a small bowl-shaped piece in Pit 2, probably residue from a smithing hearth and indicating small scale ironworking on site. Direct evidence of long distance trade is provided by the hone from House 3, and of more local communications by the rotary quern from P.5 which probably originated in the Leighton Buzzard area. Finally there is the background of cultural interchange between regions which shows itself particularly clearly in the case of shared jewellery styles such as the widely distributed small, long and annular brooch types.

EARLY ANGLO-SAXON BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

It would be out of place in a report such as this to consider in detail the manner in which the excavations at Walton may affect discussion of Anglo-Saxon Buckinghamshire as a whole, but a few points may be made.

The available evidence was carefully examined some years ago by Mr. J. Head.⁴⁴ Since then, apart from the discovery of Walton, a certain amount of new information has become available including the identification of a probable cemetery at Amersham,⁴⁵ and the 're-discovery' of the Walton cemetery discussed here. Grass-tempered pottery, indicative of Saxon occupation, has been noted, although often only as single sherds, at Waddesdon, Oving and Wraysbury, Birtton and Haddenham.⁴⁶

As the Saxon occupation evidence expands, evidence for the preceding Romano-British settlement in the county does likewise and there is no doubt that the invaders, far from hewing virgin forest as is the traditional picture, were, in many areas, fitting in with an established agricultural scene or at most clearing land which had recently reverted to scrub.⁴⁷

The documentary evidence for the period is a well researched area with a restricted range of sources.⁴⁸ For the first five centuries of the Anglo-Saxon period there is but a single entry for Buckinghamshire in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the well known annal for AD 571 which states that Aylesbury along with Limbury, Bensington and Eynsham were taken by Cuthwulf after a battle with the Britons at 'Biedcanford'. On this Sir Frank Stenton commented, 'no annal in the early section of the Chronicle is more important than this, and there is none of which the interpretation is more difficult'.⁴⁹ Standing by itself the entry implies that these areas had been held by the British against all odds for more than a hundred years following the main influx of settlers. The words of Gildas and the archaeological evidence available some decades ago were sufficient, however, to cast serious doubts on too literal an interpretation. Stenton believed that the date of the annal could not be shifted by more than a generation, and that it may have therefore referred to the recovery of territory lost by the Saxons to the British after the defeat at Mount Badon — an event cautiously dated by some authorities to circa. AD 490.⁵⁰ He was prepared to accept, albeit reluctantly, a British interlude of some seventy or eighty years in the area. Alcock⁵¹ in contrast to Stenton does allow more flexibility with the date and points out the totally artificial nature of the Chronicle's chronology before the seventh century, arising as it surely must, from the attempted accommodation of an oral tradition on to the procrustean bed of Christian Easter tables. He suspects that the annal refers to an attempt by Wessex chiefs to 'assert their control over fellow Englishmen' whatever the date of the action may have been, and Miss Evison suggests it may be possible

44. J. F. Head, 'Buckinghamshire AD 450-700', "Records" XIV (1946), 301-40.

45. BCM, ref. CAS 0292/1865.

46. Waddesdon and Wraysbury, "Records" XIX (1974), 506, 511. Oving and Haddenham: "Records" XX (1975), 142, 141, Birtton: Excavation by Bucks County Museum, 1975.

47. The organic nature of settlement is discussed more fully in papers by C. Taylor and David Brown in "A-S Settlement" ed. Rowley.

48. Dr. John Morris has however considered a wider than usual range of sources for the period in "The Age of Arthur" (1971).

49. Sir F. Stenton "Anglo-Saxon England" (2nd edn 1947), 27.

50. L. Alcock, "Arthur's Britain" (1971), 55.

51. Alcock. *op. cit.*

to backdate the annal to circa AD. 505⁵² but on good archaeological grounds still finds this too late. Modern authorities seem convinced that the name Aylesbury itself incorporates a Saxon personal name.

At Walton, as has been seen there are grounds for considering some sort of 'Anglo-Saxon' presence from the fifth century until well past the annal entry and although it could never have been proven that such occupation was continuous, it does seem likely. The Walton inhabitants then with a culture "Anglo-Saxon" by customary definition, were living adjacent to a 'town', which according to the Chronicle was apparently 'British' at least at the end of the sixth century. It is tempting then to reject the annal entry completely and this may prove the most satisfactory course but before doing so it might be worth airing one aspect further.

Despite extensive debate on the survival of the British and the recent emphasis on the British 'revival' after Badon, attempts to identify artefacts of specifically 'British' manufacture in the lowland zone in the late fifth and sixth centuries have not met with much success, although 'Celtic' influence may on occasions be detected and there are a few undeniable 'imports' from western workshops. In view of the large number of excavations which have taken place in the last few years in the Anglo-Saxon areas, if such artefacts existed it is probable that they would by now have been identified. It is suggested that this apparent gap in our knowledge can be closed if it is considered that by the end of the fifth century at the latest and excluding obvious continental imports very many so called 'Anglo-Saxon' artefacts may themselves be British even if in general form they have credible continental precursors, for with or without a British revival the two groups are likely to have looked culturally identical from an archaeological point of view by that date, in lowland Britain. With the gradual breakdown of urban life and a monetary economy it may well have been extremely hard for the resultant 'British' agrarian communities to resist rapid cultural interchange. One might reasonably expect also that a number of 'Anglo-Saxon' cemeteries not necessarily just the late or poor ones may also be 'British'.

The problem may then be partly one of archaeological terminology. Because the term 'Anglo-Saxon' carries both an ethnic and chronological sense, the distinction between the two meanings is easily glossed over, but perhaps it should not be lost sight of so easily.

THE SAXON STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

The Sunken Houses – Introduction

There are five structures which had been partially sunk into the ground. The location of these and most of the other Saxon features is shown on Fig.4. Houses 1-3 were typical gable-end grubenhäuser, with single posts at either end of the hole to support the roof ridge. Two further houses, H.4 and 5, had partially sunken areas. Of these one was in form a grubenhaus (H.4) but lacked any meaningful roof support, the other had a post structure suggestive of a small hall but contained a sunken area also. With one exception, the fills of the houses were no different from any other of the Walton deposits, a crumbly porous soil with small weathered pieces of limestone. On excavation there was generally no detectable stratigraphy so the fills were excavated in quadrants and layers of a few centimetres depth. The exception was H.3,

52. Vera I. Evison, "The Fifth-Century Invasions South of the Thames" (1965), 79-87.

the largest of the grubenhäuser whose lower fill had proportionately more limestone. This limestone was too extensively spread to have arisen from weathering of the side of the hole and is interpreted as redeposition of material which had been formerly piled round the sides to form a low dump wall. This combined with apparent floor wear which is discussed in greater detail further on, leads the writer to accept the conventional model of grubenhaus construction for Walton, namely that the base of the hole also served as the occupied base of the house. A considerable challenge to the conventional interpretation of grubenhaus structure has been provided by the site of West Stow, where evidence from two houses appears to suggest that here the holes were merely sub-floor cavities.⁵³ Attractive as this interpretation is, the Walton evidence, admittedly based on excavation of a very few grubenhäuser provides no support for this view.⁵⁴ Careful search was made for any evidence of wall lines away from the edge of the hole but without success.

No interior hearths were found at Walton nor was any object found inside grubenhäuser believed to have lain in the position it occupied during the life of the house, with the possible exception of the combs and pin in H.5 which lay flat a few cms. above the base of the sunken area. Generally the rubbish inside, which always included a considerable amount of bone, is likely to have come from other houses in the vicinity, a point which has already been discussed. The post holes at the gable ends of the grubenhäuser were quite distinctive, being perfectly circular and deeply cut into the bedrock.

All of the houses were on the normal E.W. alignment implying a central southern door, although a gable-end door as indicated in the reconstruction drawing of H.3 would be structurally more convenient. The reconstruction of this large grubenhaus is included mainly to give a direct impression of the generous size of the building. A simple dump wall side has been indicated. A handful of fragments of burnt daub were found in both H1 and H3 dispersed throughout the fill; two pieces had good wattle impression and the daub may well have derived from end walls of such houses.

All features on the site which resembled post holes are shown on Fig. 53, even if only a few centimetres deep, and a terminus post quem date has been assigned to those containing finds of any sort. Thus a post hole with a single Saxon sherd only, will appear as Saxon, one without any as undatable. Obviously some of the undatable ones may in fact be Saxon and the 'Saxon' ones later since a sherd of the appropriate date may not have obligingly fallen in! In a few cases such as the solitary post hole north of G.17 which contained a complete Saxon comb (Fig. 24, 1) no such element of doubt exists.

Descriptions of all the Saxon features are given in the following pages, followed by an account of the relevant finds.

53. West Stow (n. 42)

54. Apparent evidence for floor wear has been noted also in a grubenhaus at Chalton: Addyman and Leigh, 'The Anglo-Saxon village at Chalton, Hampshire', *Med. Arch.* XVII (1973), 8-9 and pl. II; also by Mrs Jones in 'A-S Settlement', ed. Bruce-Mitford.

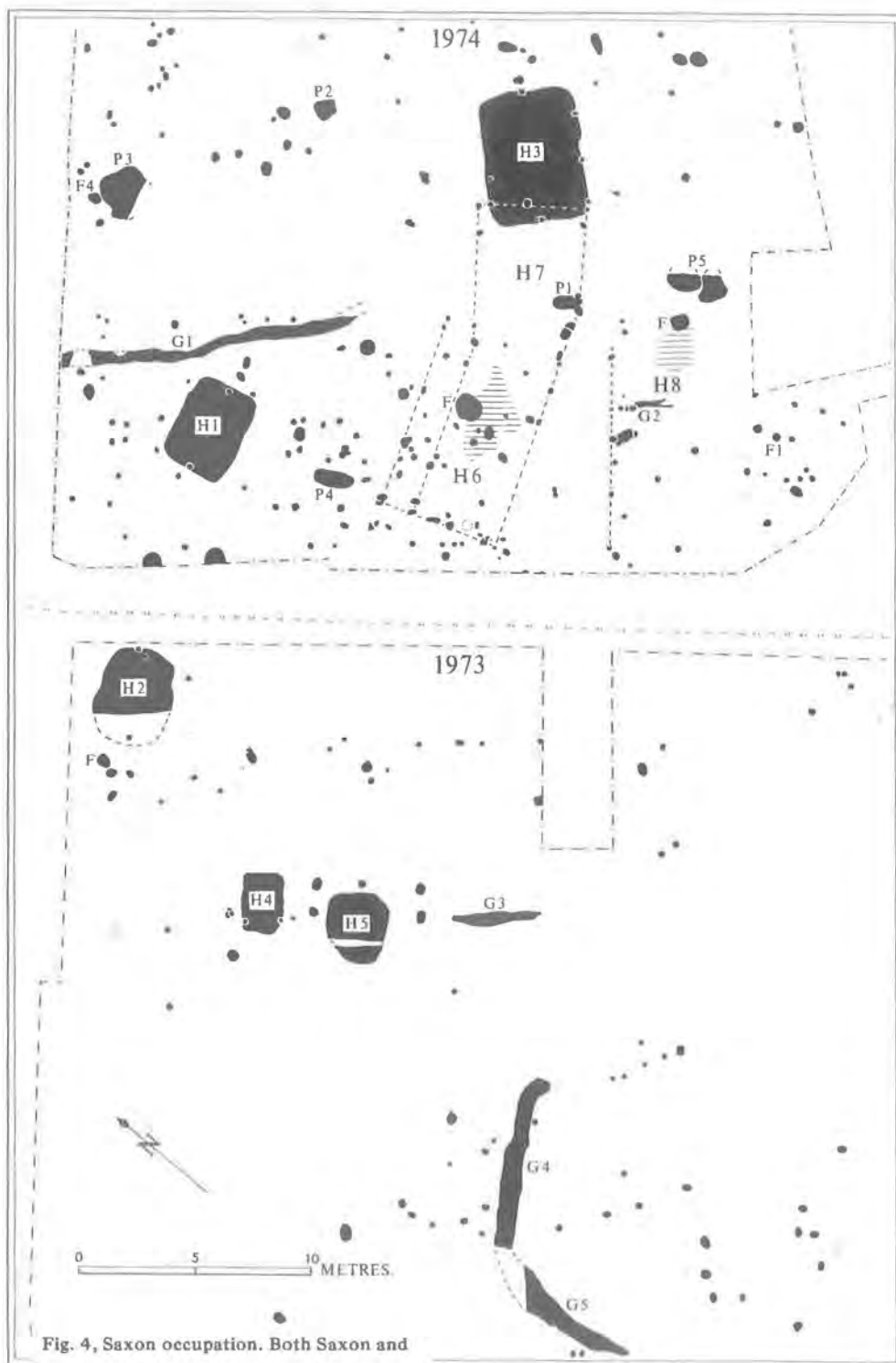


Fig. 4, Saxon occupation. Both Saxon and undated post-holes shown black. (1:300)

The Sunken Houses – Description

House 1: (Fig 5; finds Figs 13 & 14)

This house was a classic two-post or 'gable-end' grubenhaus with a single post set firmly into the sunken area at either end. The hole measured 4.0 x 2.85 m. The post holes were neatly cut into bedrock and it was probably intended that the uprights should fit snugly into the hole with little or no packing. Both post holes (measuring respectively 18cms, diameter at the east and 23 cms at the west) inclined inwards slightly at the top and this may have been a deliberate structural feature. A contour survey of the floor showed it to have been slightly irregular as was the character of the underlying limestone at this point. At both gable ends a slight 'shelf' occurred. This is probably the result of floor wear, a point discussed more fully with House 3. The fill of the house was a homogeneous humic soil with small weathered pieces of limestone. The rubbish inside included three needles and five 'counters' which may have had some utilitarian purpose (see on). Five other 'counters' were also found near the outside of the house, three near the western gable end. The pottery from the fill of the house suggests a fifth-century date for the structure, and a few decorated sherds (Fig.13, 6 and 7) are a close match for others in House 2.

House 2: (Fig 6; finds Figs 15 and 16)

Again a two-post grubenhaus, strikingly similar to House 1 in dimensions (4.0 x 2.90 m.) and possibly contemporary. This house had been partially destroyed by the eleventh-century ditch, D.1, and the fills of the two intersecting features were indistinguishable. Once the ditch was seen to be later, it was over-excavated to avoid contamination.

The post-holes which were again neatly rock-cut, measured respectively 16 cms. (east) and 22 cms (west) diameter and were inclined slightly inwards. An indentation in the wall at the eastern end probably indicates later insertion of an additional post at floor level to support the ridge at this point. The diameter of the eastern post may not have been sufficient to carry the roof load, or it may have rotted. Additional support would then be satisfactorily achieved by wedging in a second post rather than by demolishing the whole superstructure.

The profile of the house was more irregular than that of H.1. There was a slight shelf on the northern side and a slightly more limey fill against the southern wall. Immediately to the west of the house the bedrock was burnt over a small area perhaps indicating an associated hearth but unfortunately there was no dating evidence.

Pottery from the fill suggests as with H.1 a fifth-century date. Included amongst the finds are a pottery 'counter', a link with House 1 which had several, and a piece of sawn antler, probably a comb blank. From the top fill of the house came a hollow-headed bronze pin, probably of later date than the occupation (Fig 16, 7) and a tag end probably of eighth-century date (Fig 39, 1) came from a similar position. The soil on the site as a whole, as has been observed, is light with many earthworms, and allowance has to be made for some downward percolation of artifacts such as these two objects.

House 3 (Figs 7 & 8, also Finds Figs 17, 18 & 19, part Pl.II)

This house was the largest of the grubenhäuser measuring 5.88 x 4.20 m., roughly twice the floor area of the others. It again had only two posts supporting the ridge.

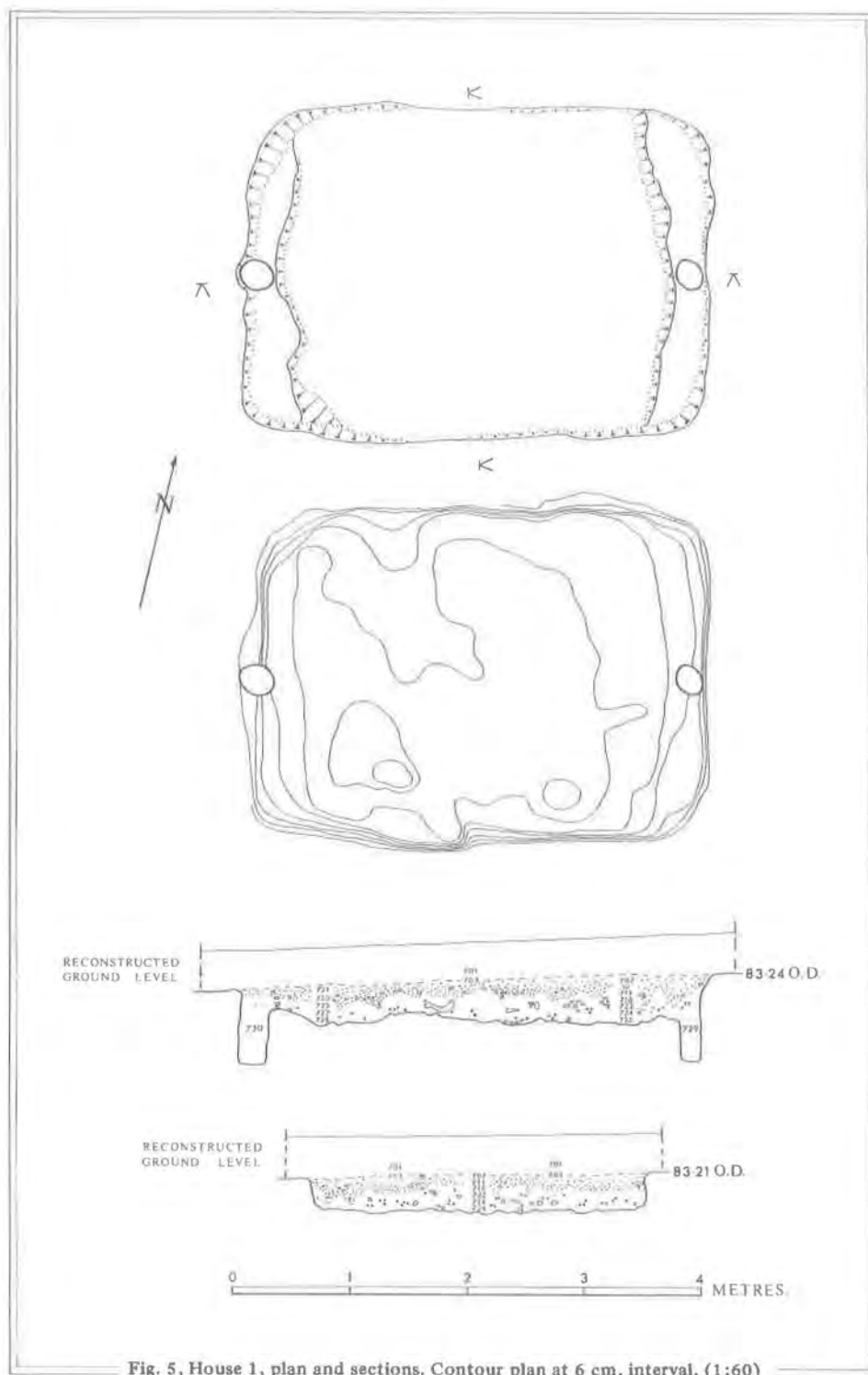


Fig. 5, House 1, plan and sections. Contour plan at 6 cm. interval. (1:60)

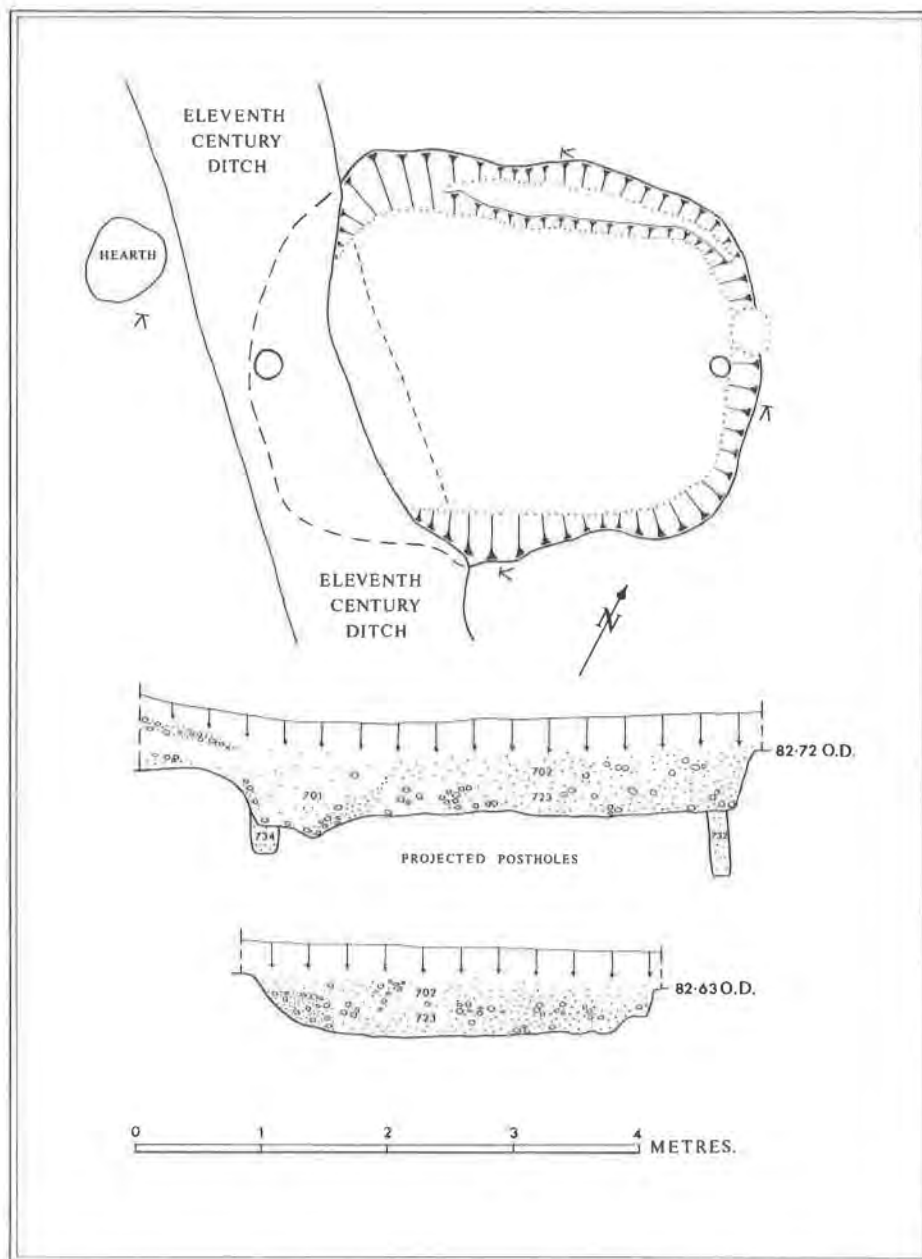


Fig. 6, House 2, plan and sections (1:60)

respectively 25 cms. (east) and 21cms. (west) in diameter. Since the roof load must have been substantially greater than in Houses 1 and 2 it is surprising that stronger and deeper posts were not found necessary. The floor of the house was very level as can be seen from the contour plan (fig. 7) and had a continuous 'shelf' around three sides. It was felt on excavation that the floor showed an evenness which could only be attributed to actual wear. The 'shelf' is interpreted as a remnant of the original floor level which had been protected from wear in the same way as a carpet receives little wear adjacent to a wall. (This phenomenon has been discussed by Musson in connection with the reconstruction of prehistoric round houses.⁵⁵) In this case it may have been the eaves which caused the area to be 'reserved'. Once wear commences it is not, of course, reversible, and erosion is directed to a confined area.

An important factor in this interpretation is considered to be the nature of the fill of this house, which was in two parts. The upper levels were the light well-worm-worked fill characteristic of the other houses, but beneath this was a layer which closely resembled the normal weathered subsoil, but which spread uniformly over the base of the house (see section). It is thought that this is likely to have been the limestone originally excavated from the hole, subsequently piled around the sides to form a dump-wall and then pushed back in when the house was finally dismantled. Were the lower layer to have been the result of weathering of the exposed side it would not be expected to have extended as far across the hole as it did or as deeply, and the initial collapse should have protected a deeper and less regular area of 'shelf'. Finds in the limey fill which rested directly on the base were very sparse and had the fill derived from weathering it might have been expected to have sealed some sort of occupation debris, which it did not - the floor being quite clean. No evidence of a support for any upper floor was found.

The reconstruction offered here (fig.8) is not particularly original but it serves to illustrate these points, also the generous size of the structure which would comfortably house a family. The depth of the hole is a compromise, since the 'original' ground surface has been much affected by a nearby eleventh-century midden, the presence of D3 and later levelling of the garden.

Objects from the fill of the house included two hipped pins for which a late sixth to seventh-century date at the earliest is suggested and a proportionately large quantity of grass-tempered pottery which may also support this date. Textile workers equipment amongst the fill included three spindle whorls, piece of loom weight and a thread picker.

House 4 : (Fig 9)

This 'house' is identified as such only because of its characteristic playing card shape. Its presence was first detected by above average amounts of Saxon pottery in subsoil levels but its limits could not be defined until near bedrock and the plan represents its appearance at this level, by which stage the depression remaining was not more than 10 cms. deep. Two opposing posts, numbers 139 and 137, respectively 10cms. and 38 cms. deep, were partially set into the hole, one on each long side, but make little structural sense in the absence of any other roof support. As it is in close proximity and on similar alignment to H5 it may well belong to the same phase of

55. C. Musson, 'House Plans and Prehistory', "Current Arch. 21" (1970) 267-75.

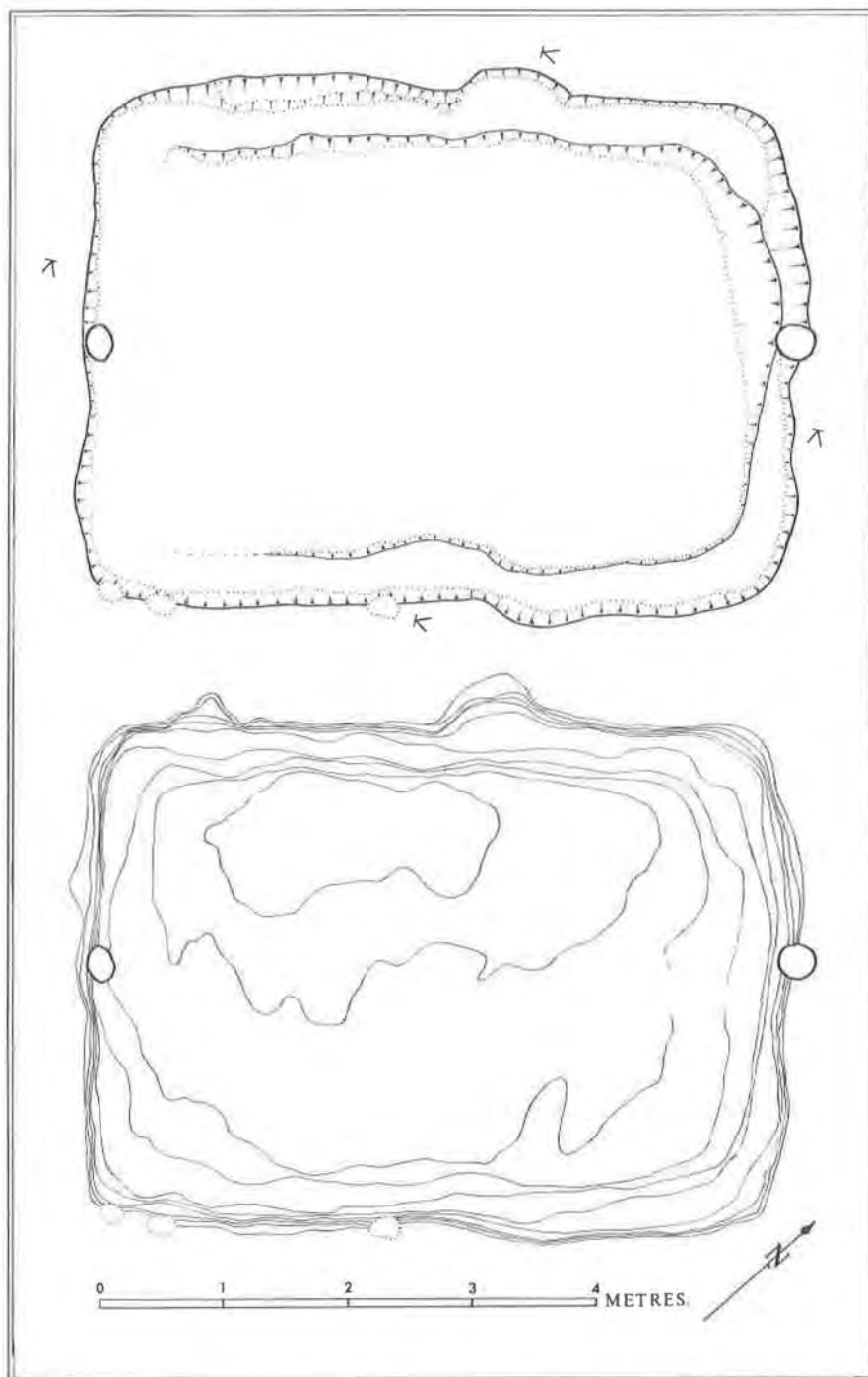


Fig. 7. House 3, plan and contour plan (6 cm. interval). (1:60)

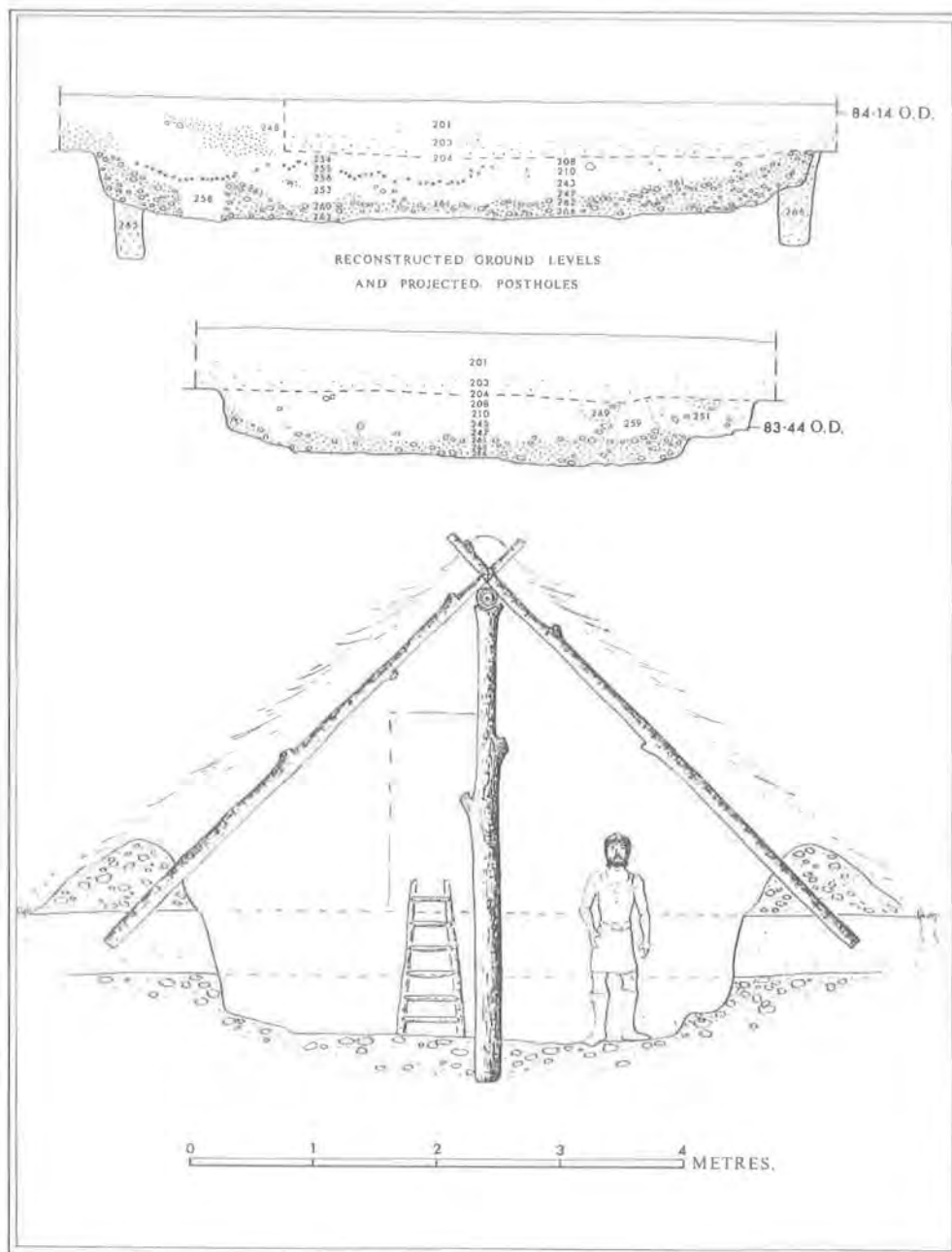


Fig. 8, House 3, sections and reconstruction, post-holes projected. (1:60)

occupation. Pottery from the house consists of unillustrable body sherds largely in grass-tempered fabric.

House 5 : (Fig. 9; finds Figs 19 and 20 Pl.II).

This house could be considered as either *grubenhaus* or hall. It was identifiable only a few centimetres above the level of bedrock and the hole was then only 16 cms. deep at its greatest depth. The ground slopes gently to the west at this point and as the base of the hole was roughly level its extent may have been greater but undetectable in subsoil. Part of its western end would then have been truncated by a Gulley (G9) and it was bisected by G10, both tenth-century features.

At the eastern end of the structure was a circular post-hole (133) of similar dimension and depth to those occurring in the other 'gable-end' type *grubenhäuser*. If there had been one at the western end, it had been destroyed by the tenth-century gulley. Four more substantial posts clearly formed wall posts but were restricted to the eastern end and did not continue across G9 (110). It is possible that these posts are of different period to the floor area since only post 134 contained Saxon material, but the coincidence seems too great and the sunken area must surely have been contained within them. This conjunction of structure and hole may give further weight to the concept of floor wear, advanced earlier as an argument for the *grubenhaus* holes actually being also the living area, since wear could certainly account for a small sunken area of this sort. That the wear is off centre could be attributed to the presence of fixtures within the house.

Lying flat a centimetre or so above the base of the sunken area and 1.6m apart lay a double-sided and a single-sided comb. A hipped pin also came from here and the three items may be contemporary with the use of the house. The pin and the fairly high proportion of grass-tempered ware suggests a late sixth to seventh-century date for the structure. Gulley 3 which runs southwards from House 5 may be associated with this house.

The Halls – Introduction

Three structures are tentatively identified as Saxon halls with walls constructed of upright wall posts. The presence of two of these was first indicated by hearths - areas of charcoal associated with denser than usual occupation debris in the subsoil. Search was then made for accompanying post-hole patterning but such groupings emerged only later when the dating of post-holes was being considered. There was little regularity or consistency in post hole depth or form; nevertheless the argument of the alignments taken in conjunction with the hearths does seem irresistible and the irregularity is likely to be due to the posts being shallowly set with a few only penetrating bedrock and basal subsoil levels.

With such slender evidence discussion of typology of these buildings has little validity, however, it should be noted that they are roughly on east-west alignments and that the dimensions of H6, approx. 11 x 5m, accords generally with other known small halls such as those at West Stow (Hall, 1, 9 x 5m; Hall 2, 11 x 5m) at Maxey (14 x (?) 5m.) and Chalton (A1: 11.40 x 6.30m, A2: 11.0 x 6.30m).⁵⁶ Dating evidence is limited. The presence of grass-tempered pottery in the interior has been noted in an earlier discussion of the chronology of the site. H6 may be directly associated with H3 as similar relationships between hall and *grubenhaus* have been

⁵⁶ W. Stow n.42; Chalton n.54; Maxey n.33.

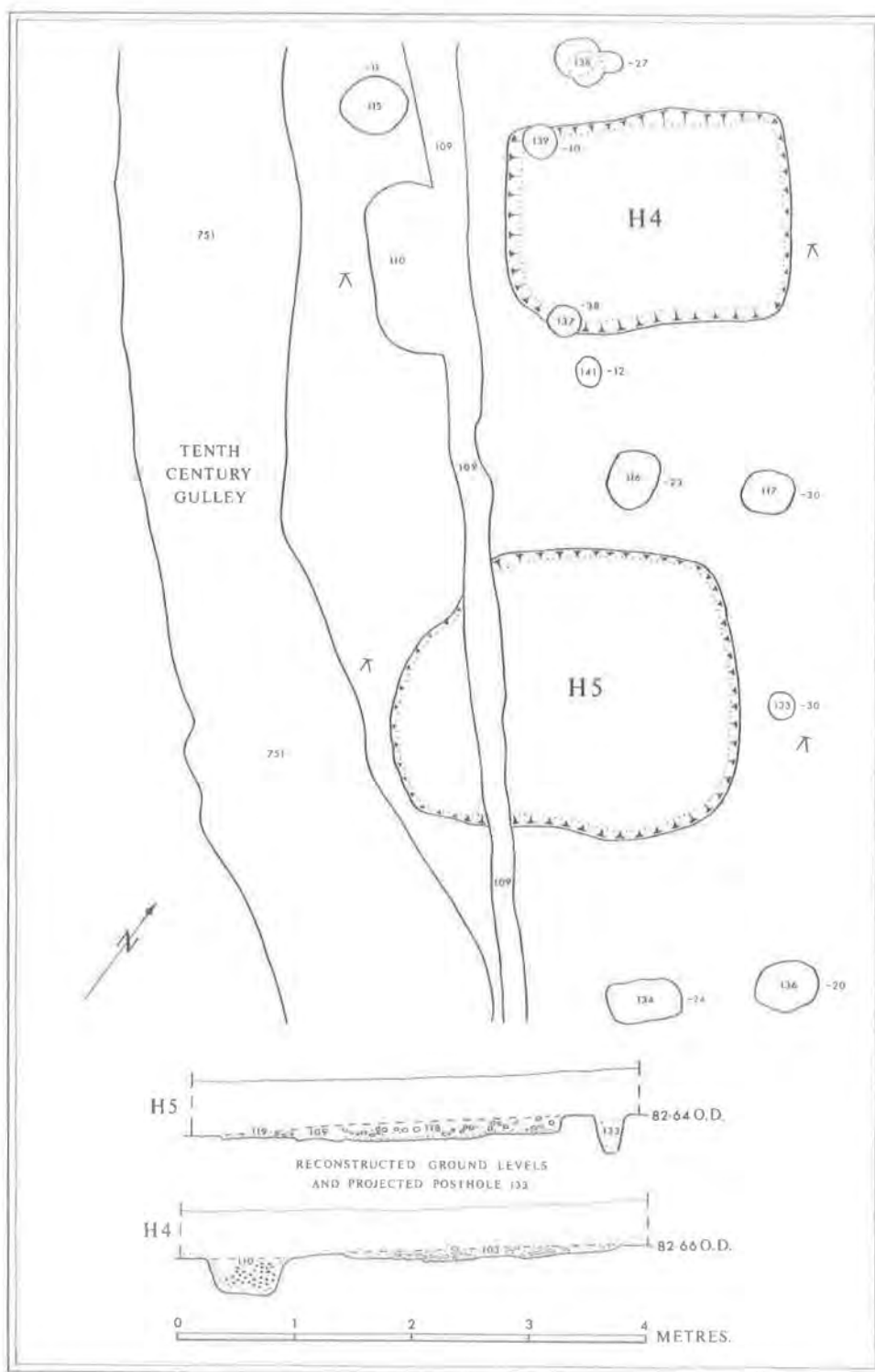


Fig. 9, Houses 4 & 5 plans and sections, post-hole depths indicated in cms. (e.g. - 20)

noted at West Stow. If this is correct then the small structure, H7, could probably be firmly pushed at least into the seventh century.

The Halls – Description

Houses 6 and 7 (Fig. 10; finds Figs. 21 and 22)

Figure 10 shows all post-holes and their depths in the area around a hearth (F) and its surrounding occupation debris (shaded) and which constitutes House 6. Three parallel alignments are apparent, linked at the western end by a further group at right angles. It is the alignments and the presence of this right angle only, in conjunction with the hearth, which permit the area to be seriously considered as a hall structure at all, since few of the posts penetrated more than 15 cms. into bedrock and there are numerous gaps. It is interesting to note that the group has a roughly east-west alignment as do the *grubenhäuser*. The hall's overall dimensions would be about 11.0 x 5.30m. although the east end may have been lost in the twelfth-century ditch. The inner east-west line could indicate an aisle or internal structure, but is not duplicated on the south. A small group of posts about a third of the way along from the western end may indicate a division. Most of the post holes themselves were undated, but five contained Saxon sherds, one, a tenth-century sherd (shown open on the plan), and one (–23 on the north wall) contained a Saxon 'counter' (fig. 22,1). Of the pottery from the occupation area within H6, 34% of the sherds are grass-tempered and only a single sherd is stamped.

At the eastern end of H6 and on a slightly different alignment lies H7. The presence of the twelfth-century ditch makes any meaningful interpretation of this structure difficult. It is unlikely to have been standing at the same time as H6, however, it quite clearly post-dates the large *grubenhäuser* H3 since one of its post-holes was recorded in the fill. None of its post-holes contain any datable material. From lower subsoil within the house came a thread picker and a piece of iron.

House 8 : (Fig. 11)

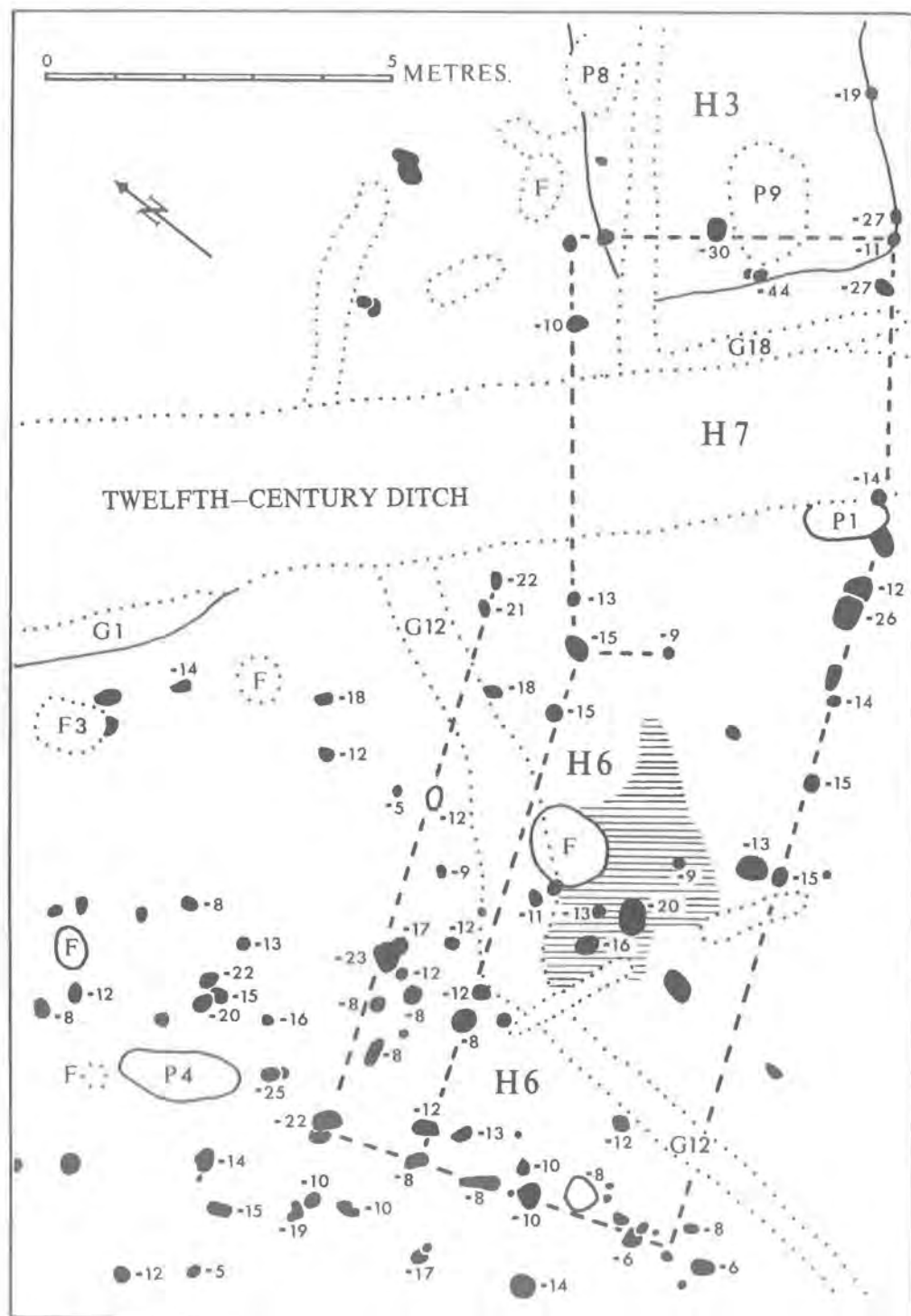
Of the group this is the least convincing structure. However, again a hearth and occupation area were identified first, and only later because of its fragmentary nature was an alignment of six posts seen. The area had been disturbed by a twelfth-century ditch, and a broad eleventh-century gully. A small Saxon gully (G2) at right angles to the post line could represent an internal division and a 'counter' came from this gully (fig 22, 5). The general orientation of H8 is similar to that of H7.

Apart from the direct evidence for Saxon houses noted so far there were also a few small burnt areas containing scraps of Saxon pottery some, at least, of which may have originally been hearths inside structures. All are shown on the end plan (Fig.53) indicated by an F. Two, F1 and F2 had illustrable Saxon pottery in them (Fig.21, 9-10); F4 is apparently related to the Saxon pit, P3, and there are four other hearths which may be Saxon.

Saxon gulleys, pits and other structures. (Fig. 12 and Finds Fig. 21-23)

Gulleys (G.1 – 5):

As far as can be judged from other Early to Middle-Saxon sites where fairly large areas have been excavated, territorial divisions of any kind, common on pre-Roman and Roman sites, played little part in the rural Saxon economy (see earlier discussion



of the nature of the occupation). Walton was no exception in this respect and only five slight gulleys containing Saxon material were identified (G1-5) and of these only G4 and G5 penetrated more than ten centimetres into bedrock; G1 may have been a palisade slot, the others had no distinctive features. Illustrable finds come from two; G1, (Fig. 22, 4) and G.2, (Fig. 22, 5).

Pits (P1-5)

Pits, like gulleys and ditches, are not particularly common on Early-Saxon sites although they appear more frequently on Middle-Saxon sites such as Maxey. Five were located at Walton. Reynolds has demonstrated that the continuous siting of a fire in one portion on a chalk bedrock is sufficient to create a hollow which may later be interpreted as a deliberately dug pit.⁵⁷ Whilst the Walton limestone may be more resistant than chalk and had fairly deep soil cover the possibility of excavation by fire should be borne in mind although charcoal was only notably present in P3. The recut pit P5, with a possible storage function is the most interesting. None of the pits had notably greater amounts of domestic rubbish than other features of this date.

P.1 A small flat-bottomed pit, 29 cms. deep which contained a small piece of rotary quern (Fig 22, 6).

P.2 Contained a curved concretion of slag, possibly from a smithing hearth (Fig. 22, 7) and the head of an iron nail.

P3 and P4 A circular recut pit with adjacent hearth cut by G6 and again containing a piece of slag with local subsoil adhering. (Pottery Fig. 21, 11-12);

P4. A small elongated pit containing some charcoal. A pierced rim lug., (Fig. 21, 13) may indicate a Middle Saxon date.

P.5 is in fact two intersecting pits which in view of their distinctive form are likely to have been dug within a short time of each other, although the northern of the pair was probably dug through the infilled southern one. The pits were exposed in the slope of a Medieval ditch (D3) during its excavation (Pl.III), and overlain by an eleventh-century gully (G16). Both pits are unusual in that they show the 'belled-out' profile typical of Iron Age grain-storage pits. This 'bell' is considered in Iron Age contexts to result from a combination of weathering and cleaning where a pit has been re-used over several seasons of winter storage and it is tempting to consider that the Walton pits were used likewise.⁵⁸ In this connection it is interesting to note that large pieces of the upper and lower stones of a rotary quern were found in the lower fill of the most southerly pit (Pl.III and Fig. 23.3). The bulk of the finds and all of the illustrable ones came from the southern most pit, the sides of which were partially burnt. Considerable amounts of fragmentary charcoal were also present in the fill. Apart from the quern the fill contained an almost complete 'beaker' in glass-tempered ware, and some ironwork (Fig. 23), all fairly untypical finds for Walton. The presence of charcoal throughout gave the fill a unitary appearance. Also from the pit, but not illustrated, are two small fragments of annular loomweight and bone comb-teeth.

Soil samples from this pit yielded a few seeds which have been considered earlier in discussion of the nature of the occupation at Walton.

57. P. J. Reynolds, 'Experimental Archaeology and the Butser Ancient Farm Project', "Rescue News" XI (1976), 7-8

58. P. J. Reynolds, 'Experimental Iron Age Storage Pits', "Proc. Prehist. Soc." XL (1974), 118-31.

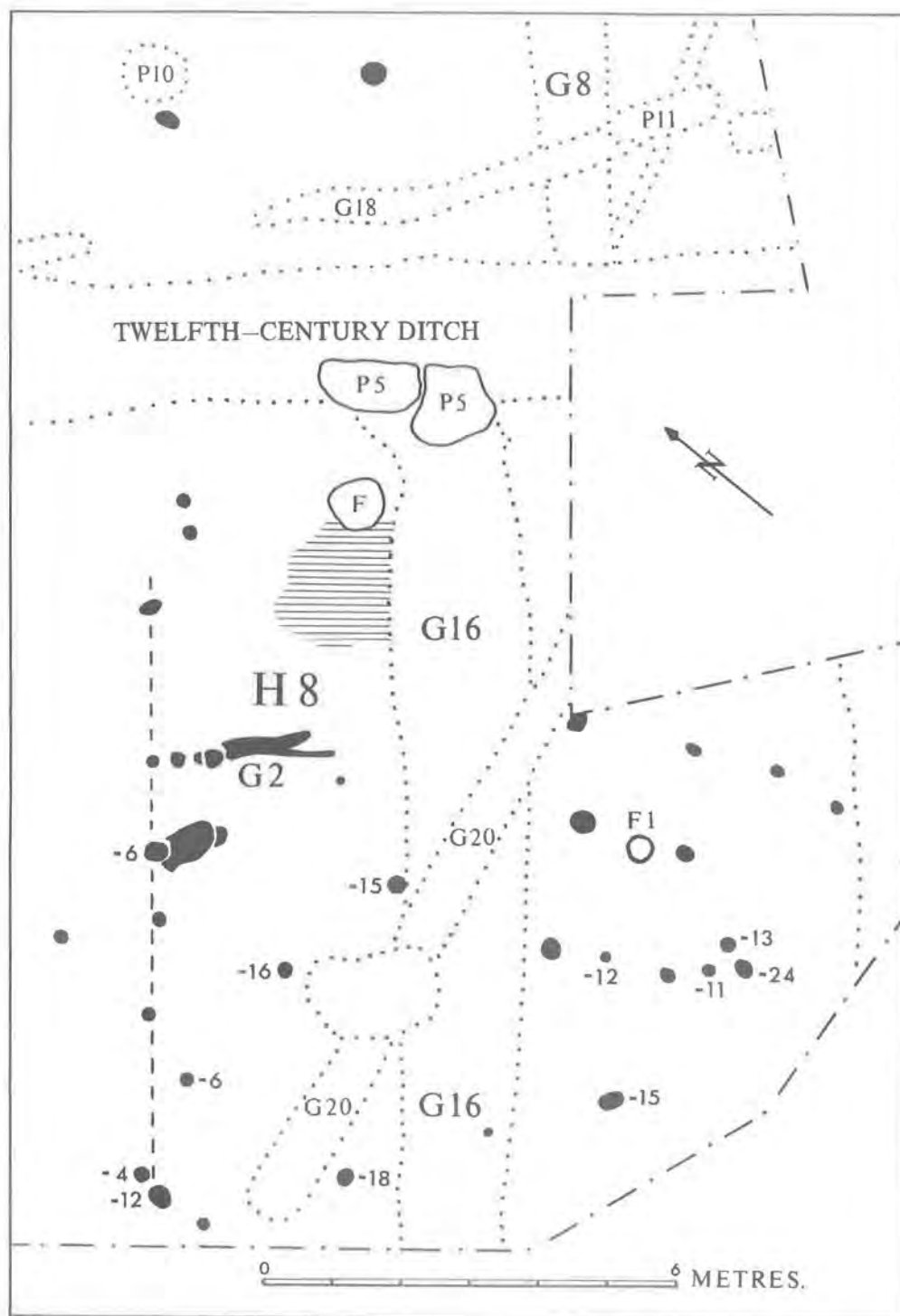


Fig. 11, House 8: plan with post hole depths and occupation debris indicated. (1:100)

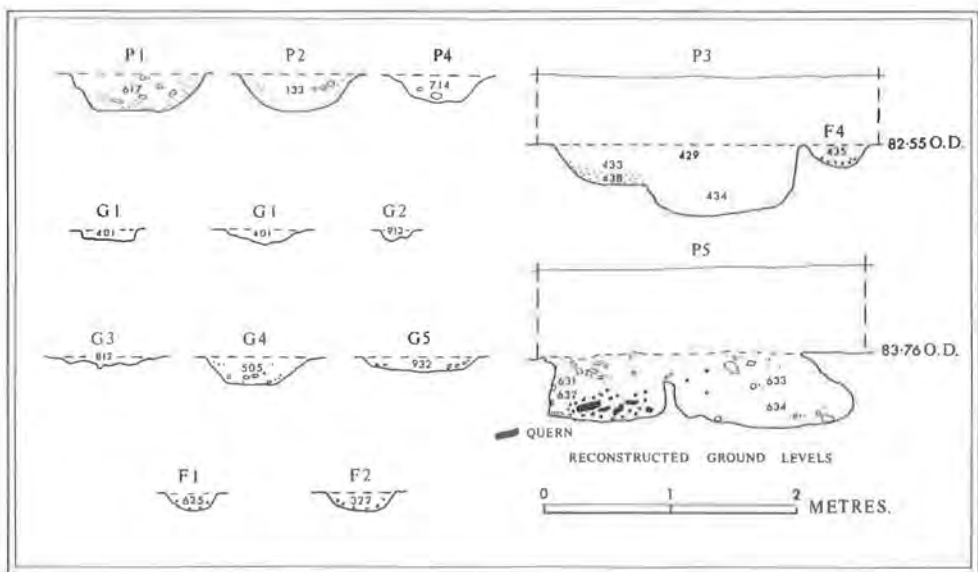


Fig. 12, Sections of Saxon pits and gullies. (1:60)

Saxon Finds : Introduction.

Illustrations of pottery and finds from any one feature have been placed as closely as possible in the text to facilitate consideration of groupings. The state of preservation of pottery, bone and bronze was generally very good but iron was not well preserved and there were no waterlogged deposits. For simplicity the terms 'pottery' and 'finds' are used in a mutually exclusive sense.

Saxon Pottery

As no pottery from Saxon domestic sites in Buckinghamshire has previously been published most of the Walton pottery of this period has been illustrated. Being hand-made the forms of the vessels are not always determinable from the small pieces which survive, but a large proportion have simple, stubby upright or everted rims. No certain evidence of ring building was seen and it remains uncertain whether this technique or thumbing was used, certainly the walls of some of the pots were often irregular enough to suggest the latter.

All of the decorated sherds are illustrated with the exception of a few having simple horizontal lines only. Stamped sherds were few and most are likely to represent individual vessels with the exception of two pieces from H1 (Fig. 13, 6 and 7) which are closely matched in H2 and either came from the same pot or were made by the same potter. It is interesting to note also that a piece illustrated on Fig. 28, 17 consists of two joined sherds found over 30m apart. The absence of stamped sherds from H3 may be chronologically significant.

A fairly high proportion of the pottery was burnished externally and the presence of burnishing is noted in the descriptions. An indication of the colour of each pot's interior and core is also given. The fabrics divide simply into those which are grass tempered (g.t. in text), and those which have fine grits. Although a few sherds containing angular limestone or flint grits do occur they are uncommon, are invariably body sherds and there is no certainty that they are Saxon. The fine grit series contains mainly fine rounded quartz grains, often with a pink tinge and presumably from local riverine deposits.

Grass-tempered wares, are, of course, very distinctive but the sherds themselves are often formless, occasionally laminating along the axis of the inclusions. Any form of decoration is rare on grass-tempered ware from Walton. David Brown who has made a particular study of this type of fabric has kindly contributed the following note; a note on a sample of seed impressions visible in the fabric appears earlier.

Some Notes on Grass-tempered Pottery, by P. D. C. Brown

The tradition of grass-tempering is an Anglo-Saxon one and not a British one as some writers, myself included, have suggested in recent years.⁵⁹ It is not found in the pottery used during the Roman period in Britain, but was being used on the continent at that time and was brought to England by Anglo-Saxon settlers in the fifth century. Published descriptions or references to it on the continent are rare, but this seems largely for want of any detailed descriptions of the humbler wares; its

⁵⁹ D. Brown, "Oxoniensia" XXXVII (1972), 79-81; B. Cunliffe in "V.C.H. Wilts", i, 466; P. Fowler, "Trans. Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc", 89 (1971), 50-2.

presence there is adequately confirmed by continental scholars in Holland, Germany and Scandinavia,⁶⁰ and more particularly by Dafydd Kyd who is involved in a major study of the continental pottery.

Within England grass-tempered fabrics have a well-defined distribution covering the southern counties but not extending far into the Midlands. The fabric is common all along the Thames Valley, and north of this its limit can be plotted from a number of scattered finds: there is a piece at Gloucester; it occurs at Hatton Rock, Warwicks; at Brixworth, Northants; and at West Stow, Suffolk, though there it represents no more than 2% of the total. At Maxey, Addyman records that it was 'notably the exception'.⁶¹ Further north it occurs exceptionally; for instance there is a grass-tempered pot at Heworth, Yorks., but these appear to be isolated examples.

As far as dating is concerned, grass-tempering does not appear common in the earliest groups of Saxon pottery in this country. Frere's early groups from Canterbury contain none, and those from Dorchester, Oxon. contain only a sherd or two;⁶² Mrs. Jones confirms that her earliest groups at Mucking contain a few or no grass-tempered sherds. These settlement-site groups are the fairest way of judging the dating, for the absence of grass-tempering in early decorated pottery may be seen as a carry over from the continent where this sort of fabric seems to be used exclusively for the humbler pots. The significance of this apparent delayed arrival of the technique into England will emerge from study of the continental pottery. Professor van Es tells me that in Holland it varies in popularity from area to area, being particularly common in the coastal area, but rare in the sandy regions such as Wijster. By the sixth century decorated pottery in this country is also grass-tempered, and in the later sixth and seventh centuries pots with grass tempering are often as common or commoner than those without it.

When did the fashion change? Professor Cunliffe found the technique had been abandoned by the latter part of the eighth century at Porchester, and this sort of dating is reinforced by the lack of any grass-tempered pottery in the earliest deposits, dated late eighth to early ninth century, in Oxford.⁶³ Evidence from the cemeteries agrees in showing no other new type of pottery being introduced during the seventh century, or before their abandonment in the eighth. The finds from Old Windsor are often cited as evidence of the use of grass-tempering in later centuries, but, as so far published, there seems to be no conflict. Hope-Taylor's statement, 'the grass-tempered pottery tradition reached its humble peak in phase IIb', (dated, apparently, to the 'beginning of the ninth century or earlier' on the basis of imported pottery of the first half of the ninth century in overlying layers), seems entirely consistent with a change in fashion and the end of grass-tempering in the eighth century.⁶⁴

On the basis of this survey it would seem that the two smaller huts at Walton, with small proportions of grass-tempering, ought to be fifth-century or fifth to sixth century and the larger with a higher proportion of grass-tempering ought to be sixth to eighth century.

60. P.C.J.A. Boeles, "Friesland tot de eelfde eeuw" (1951), 89-90. W. A. van Es, "Berichten R.O.B." 19 (1969).

61. Gloucester Museum; S. Hirst, P. Rahtz, "Trans. B'ham and Warks Arch. Soc." LXXXV (1972), 171-3; "Med. Arch." XVII (1973), 147; S.E. West, "Med. Arch." XIII (1969), 1-20; P.J. Addyman "Med. Arch." VIII (1964), 20-73.

62. S. S. Frere in "Civitas Capitals of Roman Britain" ed. J. S. Wachter; "Arch. J." CXIX. (1962) 147-9

63. B. Cunliffe, "Ant. J." L (1970), 72; B. Cunliffe, "Excavations at Porchester Castle, II, Saxon" 177, 182; T. G. Hassall, "Oxford - the city beneath your feet" (1972), 10.

64. B. Hope Taylor, summarised in "Med. Arch." II (1958) 183-5.

Apart from this straightforward dating problem, there remains the question, What was the significance of the tempering (which analysis reported earlier indicates was barley chaff)? Recently I have done some trials with a mixture of clay and horse dung, with good results. Mixing a very short, non-plastic clay with horse dung in proportions as large as half-and-half produced a mixture that was highly suitable for working by hand. It held together well in the building and shaping of the pot which the untempered clay failed to do and it could be worked to a remarkable thinness and smoothness. When fired the organic parts burned out leaving a porous fabric not unlike Anglo-Saxon grass-tempering.

It is clear to me that this tempering has the advantage of making a most unsuitable clay into a readily workable material but this seems to be a secondary effect. The primary reason, so I am assured by Humfrey Wakefield, of the Isles of Scilly pottery, is to give increased resistance to thermal shock.

So far as is known there were no proper kiln structures for firing pottery at this time and firing in bonfires or clamps would involve just that lack of control of the fire which could cause sudden temperature changes, and the breakage of untempered pots. Grass-tempering, whether with horse dung or some other substance seems to have been a particularly popular way of preventing such unnecessary breakages.

Humfrey Wakefield also comments on the secondary effect - the increase in plasticity of the clay. He writes 'We have here an old Yorkshire mason who used to build 'Lancashire boilers' and he said they always finished them off with a mixture of clay and cow dung, and it set hard and acquired a varnish-like surface'. I have yet to try this mixture!

Other Saxon Finds

The finds generally are fairly typical of domestic sites of the period with the usual complement of spinning and weaving equipment, a few iron knives and the odd brooch. The rotary querns found at Walton, however, are not commonly recorded. Bone artifacts were generally well preserved. It has been thought worthwhile describing the structure of the combs in some detail as although other authors have remarked on it, the subject deserves further attention.⁶⁵ Two of the Walton examples have been x-rayed. Double sided combs occur frequently both in graves and on domestic sites,⁶⁶ and their usage continues into the Late Saxon period although single-sided examples then became commoner.

Pottery 'counters' occur in two of the houses and are frequently made from Roman pottery. It is possible that they were reckoning counters but this seems unlikely in a domestic setting of this sort. It is more likely that they are from a board game, but as they are all roughly ground on the edge an alternative possibility is that they are by-products of a polishing process of some sort, perhaps on leather or bone.

65. Leslie Alcock, "Dinas Powys" (1963), 154-9. See also P. V. Addyman and D. H. Hill, 'Saxon Southampton a review of the evidence', "Proc. Hants Field Club" XXV (1968), 61-93.

66. Bucks examples from graves occurred at Bledlow: J. F. Head, 'The Excavation of the Cop round Barrow, Bledlow', "Records" XIII (1937), 338-9, and at Ellesborough: A. H. Cocks, 'Anglo Saxon burial at Ellesborough', "Records" IX (1909), 425 - 30.

Pottery from House 1 (Fig. 13)

1. Dec. sherd : lines of stamped crosses between grooves :; black ext : brown core : coarse pink grits (722K.74).
2. Dec. sherd : deeply stamped crosses, poor burnish ext. : black ext : dark grey core : grits (716 I.74).
3. Dec. sherd : neat impressed concentric circles between grooves, fine burnished ext. : black ext. : brown core : very fine grit (722 L.74)
4. Dec. pot : grooves and diagonal slashing, burnished : brown grey ext. : grey core : fine grit (703 A.74). Decorated in Dr. Myres slashed collar style.⁶⁷
5. Dec. sherd : stamped rosettes between grooves, thin, burnished : dark brown ext. black core : pink grits (724 E.74)
6. Dec. sherd : light grooves and impressed dots, thin : black ext. : black core : fine grit (710 D.74). Almost identical to a sherd from H2 (Fig. 15,2).⁶⁸
7. Dec. sherd : traces of boss, impressed circles (708A.74). Almost identical to a similar boss from H2 (fig 15, 8)
8. Lug : ? upright, thick, small perforation : black ext. : black core : grits (724 (724 D. 74)
9. Upright lug : single incised line : brown grey ext. : grey core : fine pinky grits (707 A.74)
10. Pot : four perforations, angle uncertain : grey ext. : grey core : grits (725 B.74). When complete these vessels are open at both ends and may have been used inverted.⁶⁹ I am grateful to Mrs. M. U. Jones for the suggestion that they were used as woolcomb warmers.
11. Lug pot : tiny perforated lug, diam. uncertain : dark grey ext. : dark grey core : pink grits (716 B.74). Small pots of this type occur both in cemeteries and on domestic sites.⁷⁰
12. Pot : perforated, angle uncertain : grey ext. : grey core : grits (722 Q.74). See 10 above.
13. Pot : two perforations below rim ; grey ext : grey core : pink grits (723 D.74). See 10 above.
14. Pot : poorly burnished : black ext : dark grey core : fine grit (709 A.74)
15. Pot : burnished in and out : black ext: dark grey/black core : pink grits and slight g.t. (711 F.74)
16. Pot : well burnished ext. and int. : brown ext. : dark brown core : pink grits (728 D.74)
17. Pot : burnished ext. and int. : black ext. : black core : pink grits (722 F/701/722/725 F all 74). Thin sectioned.
18. Pot : angle uncertain : dark brown -- black ext.: dark grey core : pink grits (716 K.74/721.74)
19. Pot : roughly burnished int. and ext. : black ext. : black core : pink grits (711 H(c). 74/711 D.74)

67. J. N. L. Myres, "Anglo Saxon Pottery and the Settlement of England" (1969), 31.

68. Dr. Myres observes that a similar decoration occurs on a pot from Rumbolds Pits, Ewelme (Ashmolean Museum 1911. 505)

69. E. T. Leeds, 'A Saxon Village at Sutton Courtenay, Berks', "Arch" LXXXVI (1927), Fig. 5.

70. Myres, "Anglo Saxon Pottery", Fig 12, and pp. 28-9; Leeds, "Arch." LXXXVI Fig.5.

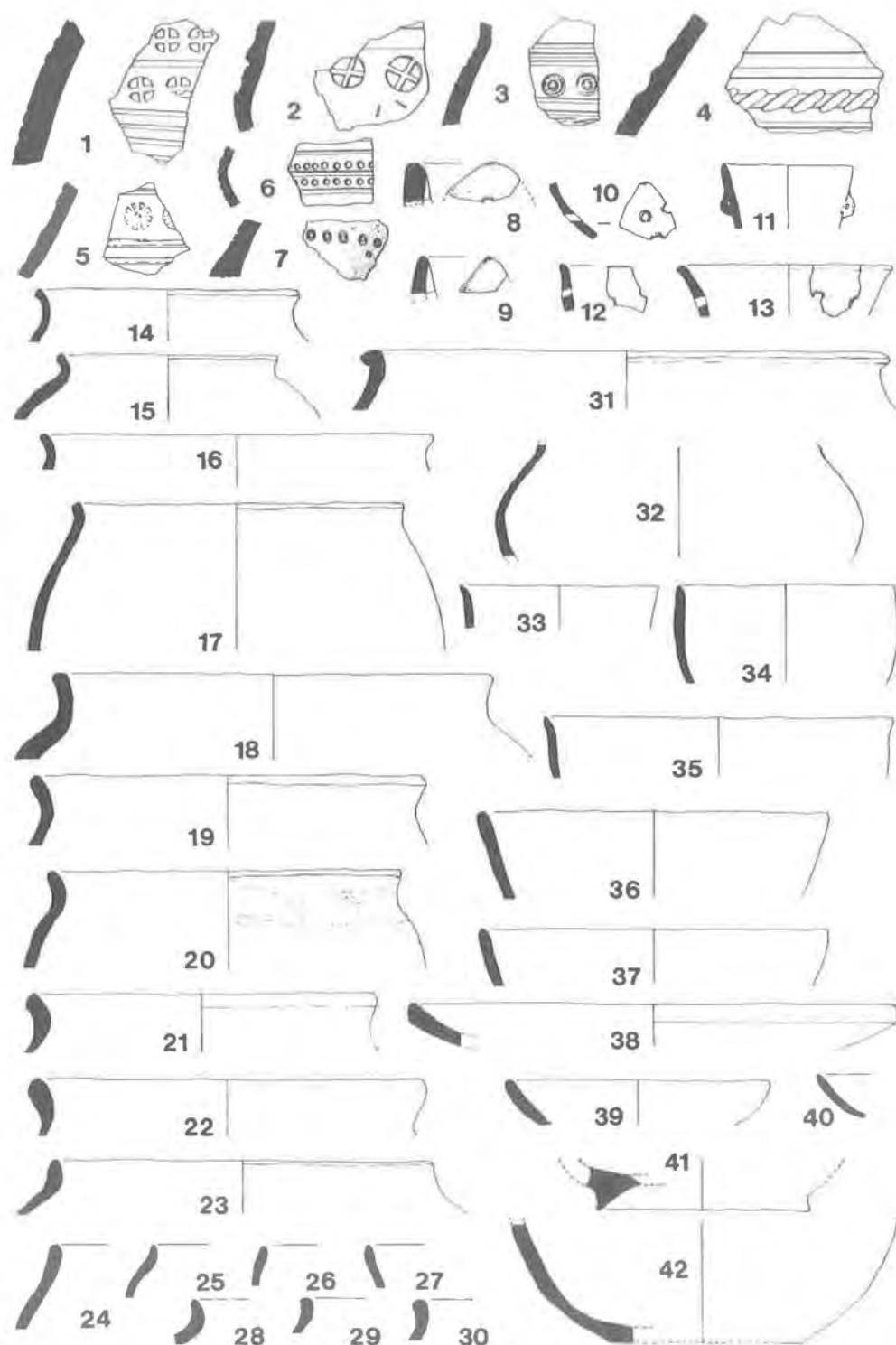


Fig. 13, Pottery from House 1: 1-7 ($\frac{1}{2}$), remainder ($\frac{1}{4}$).

20. Pot : irregular, burnished exterior and inside lip : black ext.: black core : pink grits and some g.t. (724 A.74)
21. Pot : heavy rim, very thin at base, poor burnish ext. : black ext. : black core (727 C.74)
22. Pot : thick rim : black ext. : black core : pink grits (722 E.74)
23. Pot : burnishing int. and ext. : black ext. : black core : pink grits (710 B.74)
24. Pot : burnished ext. and int. brown ext. : brown black core : pink grits (716.74)
25. Pot : burnished ext. and lip : grey-black ext. : black core : fine grits (724.74)
26. Pot : harsh surface : black ext: dark grey core : fine grits (723 H.74)
27. Pot : angle uncertain : dark grey ext: grey core : pink grits (725 D. 74)
28. Pot : profile only, diam. uncertain : dark grey ext : dark grey core : grit +? calcareous (711 G(B), 74)
29. Pot : burnished ext. and lip of int. : brown-black ext. : black core : pink grit (722 A.74)
30. Pot : burnished int. and ext. : black ext. : black core : pink grits (728 D.74)
31. Pot : burnished int. and ext. : black ext. : black core : pink grits and slight grass temper (711 A.74/716 J.74)
32. Pot : wall only, burnished ext. : dark grey-black ext. : black core : g.t. (725.74/727 and 716.74)
33. ? Bowl : angle slightly uncertain, burnished int. and ext. , thin : black-dark brown ext. : black core : pink grits (709 G.74)
34. Pot : plentiful small grits give bumpy surface : dark grey-black ext. : black core : g.t. (725 A.74)
35. ? Bowl : angle uncertain, burnished int. and ext. : black-dark brown ext. : dark grey core : fine grit (709 C.74)
36. ? Bowl : angle uncertain, burnished int. and ext. : black ext: dark grey core : pink grits + g.t. sparse (711 H(C). 74)
37. ? Bowl : angle v. uncertain, burnished int. and ext. : black ext.: black core : pinky grits (709 J.74)
38. ? Shallow dish/lid : slight finger-tip impression on inside, well burnished int. and ext. , thick : black - dark brown ext. : grey-orange core : pinky grits (709 B.74)
39. Pot : ? bowl, angle uncertain : dark grey ext. : dark grey core : fine grit (727.74)
40. ? Bowl/lid : profile only, diam. uncertain, clear signs of wiping with vegetation on inner face : black-dark brown ext. : black-dark brown core : pink grits + g.t. (709 D.74)
41. Foot ring : very finely burnished, diam. uncertain, black ext. : grey-black core : pink grits (727 A.74)
42. Base : smoothed ext. only, small flattened base : dark brown-black ext. : dark grey core : pink grits (716.74)

Finds from House 1 (Pl.IV and Fig. 14)

1. Pottery Counter. Made from sherd of fine micaceous ware, possibly Saxon. (724 C.74)
2. Pottery Counter. Made from Roman sherd, fine grey ware with traces of white wash (711 E.74)
3. Pottery counter. Made from Roman sherd, grey ware with dark grey wash. (727 D.74)

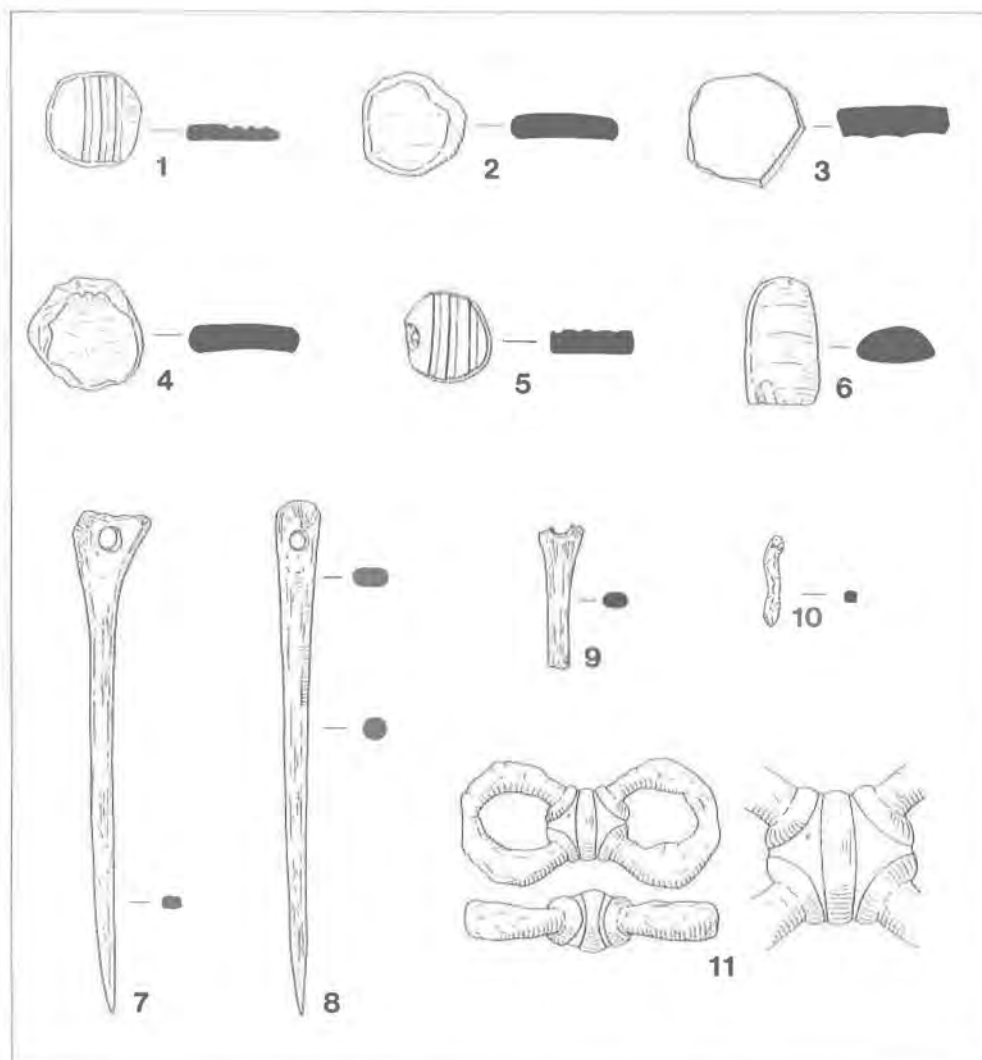


Fig. 14, Finds from House 1 : pottery, 1-5 ($\frac{2}{3}$), stone, 6 ($\frac{2}{3}$), bone, 7-9 ($\frac{2}{3}$), iron, 10 ($\frac{1}{3}$), iron/bronze, 11 ($\frac{2}{3}$ & $1\frac{1}{4}$).

4. Pottery Counter. Made from imitation samian, trace of rouletting. (709 E.74)
5. Pottery Counter. Made from Saxon stamped sherd in fine ware, stamp smaller than those normally occurring on site. (709 F.74)
6. Polished Stone . Stone not identified. (724 G.74)
7. Bone Needle . Complete, 9.7 cms. long, lower 8cms. polished. (723 E.74)
8. Bone Needle. Complete, 9.9 cms. long, polished all over. (710 C.74)
9. Bone Needle, Part, 2.7 cms. long, polished. (722 M.74)
10. Iron Nail Segment. 3.4 cms. long. (724 B.74)
11. Link of Bit. Central link of three-link horse bit. The two side loops are of iron and heavily corroded, but X-Ray shows them to have been bronze coated. The central section in solid cast bronze is decorated with simple relief bands. The girth band has in part lifted, showing it to have been set into a rebate. Length 5.2 cms. (722 G.74)

Horse gear is comparatively rare from Anglo-Saxon sites and no parallels for this piece have been found. It was tentatively considered a later Iron Age survival. However, Dr. M. G. Spratling has kindly examined the piece and writes that he is not aware of any close parallel of that date, although that does not preclude its being of such date; certainly no other Iron Age material has been identified from the site.

Pottery from House 2 (Fig. 15)

1. Dec. sherd : impressed dots between grooves : black ext : black core : fine grit (702 D. 73)
2. Dec. sherd : impressed dots between grooves, burnished ext. and int. : black ext. : black core : fine fabric (702 K.73) Almost identical to sherd from H1 (fig 13,6).
3. Dec. sherd : impressed dots between grooves : black ext. : black core : fine grits (723 C.73)
4. Dec. sherd : grooves and diagonal shoulder slashing, burnished ext. : dark-brown ext. : grey core : fine grit (702 D. 73). See Fig. 13, 4.
5. Dec. sherd : grooved : dark brown ext. : dark brown core : pink grits (702 K.73)
6. Dec. sherd : faceted carination : black ext. : black core : fine grits (723.73) Facetted carinations are regarded as an early fifth-century feature.⁷¹
7. Dec. sherd : fine grooves : dark grey/black ext. : black core : fine grit (702 D.73)
8. Rim and dec. sherd : small boss surrounded by impressed circles , with groove below rim , harsh surface : brown ext. grey core : pink grits (702 M.73) See another example from H1 (Fig 13, 7)
9. Dec. boss : boss probably vertical, with light grooves, burnished ext. : brown ext. : grey core : pink grits (723.73)
10. Dec. sherd : scored/combed : dark brown ext. : black core : pink grits (723.73)
11. Pot : dark brown/black ext. : black core : g.t. (702 B.73)
12. Pot. : burnished ext. and int. rim : black ext. : black core : pink grits (723.73)
13. Bowl? : angle uncertain, harsh surface : black ext. : dark brown core : pink grits (702.73)
14. Bowl : burnished ext. and int. : dark brown/black ext. : black core : Pink grit (702.73)

71. Dr. N. Myres in M.U. Jones, 'Crop-mark Sites at Mucking, Essex'. "Ant.J." XLV III (1968) , 222-8.

15. Bowl? : Angle uncertain, burnished int. and ext.: dark grey ext. : dark grey core : fine gritless fabric (702.73)
16. Pot : burnished ext : black ext : black core, : fine grit (723.73)
17. Pot : irregular scoring, burnished ext. and int. : dark grey ext : grey core : pink grits (723.73)
18. Pot : part burnished ext. : dark brown/black ext. : black core : pink grits (702 G. 73)
19. Pot : poor burnish : dark brown ext : dark brown core : pink grit (702.73)
20. Pot : thin, finely burnished ext. and part int. : black ext : black core : fine fabric (723.73)
21. Pot : burnished ext. and int. rim : black ext. : black core : pink grits (723.73)
22. Pot : burnished ext., black ext : black core : pink grit (702.73)
23. Pot : burnished ext. and int. : dark brown ext. : brown core (702.73)
24. Pot : angle uncertain, burnished ext. and int. : dark brown ext. : black core : g.t. (723.73)
25. Pot : angle uncertain, burnished ext. and rim top : dark brown ext : dark grey core : fine grit (723.73)
26. Pot : black ext. : black core : pink grit (723.73)
27. Pot : grey ext. : grey core : pink grits (723.73) This may be from a perforated vessel of the type illustrated in Fig. 13, 10.
28. Pot : burnished ext. and int. : dark brown ext. : black core : g.t. (723.73)
29. Pot : angle uncertain, burnished ext. and int. : dark brown ext. : brown core : pink grit (723.73)
30. Pot : burnished ext. and int. : dark brown ext. : black core : pink grit (723.73)
31. Pot : thin, fine burnish : dark brown ext. : dark brown core : pink grit (702.73) from a small finely made vessel.
32. Pot : thin, burnished ext. and int. : black ext. : dark grey core : fine grit (702.73) from a small finely made vessel.

Finds from House 2 (Fig 16)

1. Iron Penannular Ring. Minimum external diameter 6.7 cms. (723 A.73)
2. Iron Nail. Flat, slightly offset head. Length 4.8 cms. (702 H.73)
3. Pottery Counter. Made from Roman grey ware (723 D.73).
4. Bone Pendant? Polished all over . 6.2 cms. long, decorated with bands of six incised lines forming irregular diagonal crosses. Perforated at one end and trimmed internally at this point, cut and snapped at other. (702 F.73)
5. Sawn Antler. Length 6.3 cms. Possibly a blank for bone comb manufacture. (702 N.73)
6. Needle point. Polished. Length 4.3 cms. (723 B.73)
7. Bronze Pin. Hollow head slightly damaged. Length 6.2 cms. Shank protrudes into cavity of the head which is probably made in two parts.(703 B.73) A bronze pin of similar form was found at Whitby⁷² although it is not clear from the illustration whether it had a solid or hollow head. The same problem arises with a better parallel from Gilton Cemetery.⁷³ The latter was found in grave 8 near the

72. Sir Charles Peers and C.A. Raleigh Radford, 'The Saxon Monastery of Whitby', 'Arch.', LXXXIX (1943), 63.

73. The Revd Bryan Faussett "Inventorium Sepulchrale" (1856) , plate x, p.20.

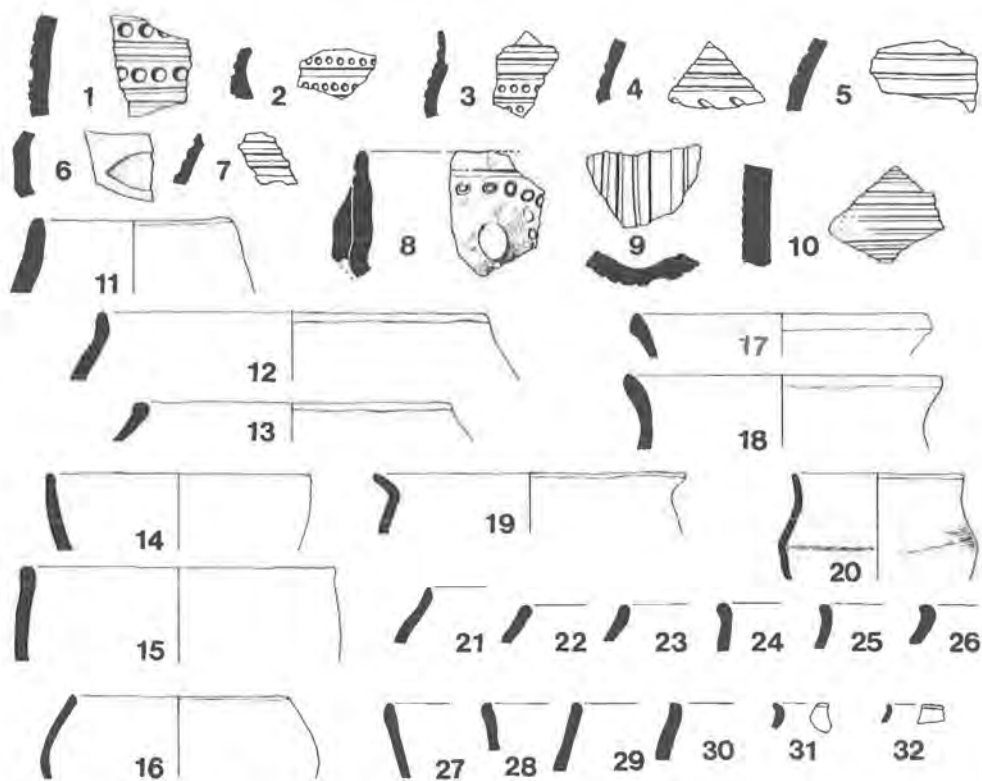


Fig. 15, Pottery from House 2: 1-10 ($\frac{1}{2}$), remainder ($\frac{1}{4}$).

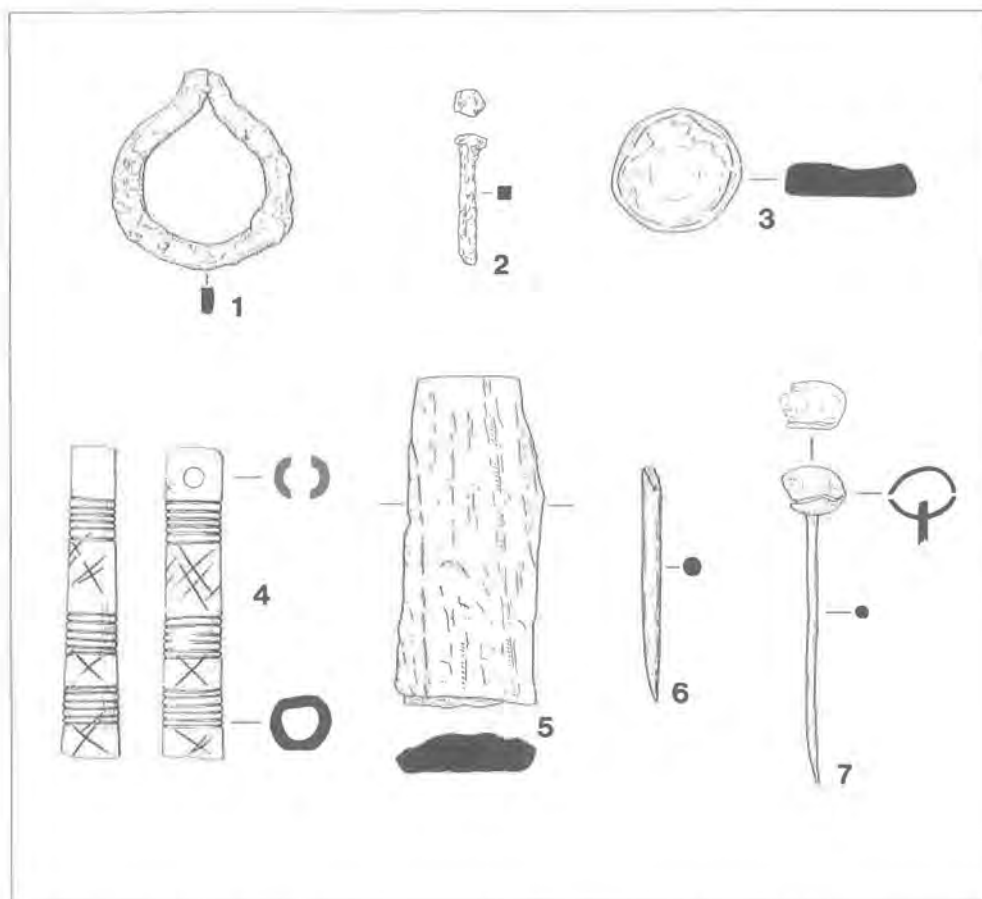


Fig. 16, Finds from House 2: iron, 1–2 (1/3), pottery, 3 (2/3), bone, 4 (2/3), antler, 5 (2/3), bone, 6 (2/3), bronze, 7 (2/3).

skull and was interpreted by Faussett as a hair pin. I am grateful to Miss V. Evison for the comment that the bronze vessel associated with the Gilton burial is likely to be seventh-century. Round headed pins of similar dimensions also occur in Mid-Saxon contexts at Hamwih⁷⁴ although it is not clear whether these are hollow headed examples. Since the pin comes from the upper fill of House 2 it may be later than the bulk of the occupation debris.

Pottery from House 3 (Fig 17)

1. Pot : diam. uncertain, burnished ext. : dark brown/black ext. : black core : pink grit (260.74)
2. Dec. sherd : corrugated, burnished ext. : brown/black ext. : grey core : fine grit (260 H.74)
3. Dec. sherd : three parallel grooves, burnished ext. : buff ext. : black core : fine grit (204 A.74)
4. Pot : irregular rim, strong vegetation wiping marks int. : dark brown/black ext. : black core : g.t. (208/208A/208B/210/256D.74)
5. Pot : very irregular wall thickness ? thumbled : dark brown/black ext. : black core : g.t. (256G/256D/256H/256I and 507.74)
6. Pot : crudely burnished : brown ext. : black core : g.t. (256 E.74)
7. Pot : angle and diam. uncertain : dark brown/black ext. : black core : g.t. (210 H.74) Impressions of *Hordeum* sp. were observed on this sherd (see earlier report)
8. Pot : dark brown/black ext. : black core : g.t. (254/254 C.74)
9. Pot : black ext. : black core : g.t. (253 E.74)
10. Pot : dark brown/black ext. : black core : g.t. (254 E.74)
11. Pot : angle and diam. uncertain, burnished ext. : dark/black ext. : black core : g.t. (256.74) Burnishing is unusual on g.t. fabrics.
12. Base : irregular thickness ?thumbled, slightly hollowed, : black ext. : black core : g.t. (253C/256.74)
13. Pot : very irregular finger impressions : black ext. : black core : g.t. (247/210.74).
14. Pot : dark brown/black ext. : black core : pink grit (210 D.74)
15. Pot : angle and diam. uncertain, poor ext. burnish : black ext. : black core : g.t. (253.74)
16. Pot : burnished ext. and int. : dark brown ext. : dark grey core : fine grit (254 I.74)
17. Pot : black ext. : black core : g.t. (254 D.74)
18. Pot : angle and diam. uncertain, poor ext. burnish : brown ext. : brown core (253.74)
19. Pot : angle uncertain : dark brown/black ext. : black core : g.t. (208 D.74)
20. Pot : brown ext. : brown core : pink grit (256.74)

Finds from House 3 (Pl.IV) and Fig. 18, 1-9 and Fig. 19, 1-7)

Fig. 18:-

1. Spindle-Whorl. Made from base of imitation samian pot, micaceous, ground to shape, diameter 5.1 cms. (260 A.74)
2. Spindle-Whorl. Made from base of red colour coat pot, ground to shape, diameter 4.7 cms. (260 F.74)

74. Addyman and Hill, 'Saxon S'Hampton', "Proc. Hants F.C." XXVI, (1969), 67-8;

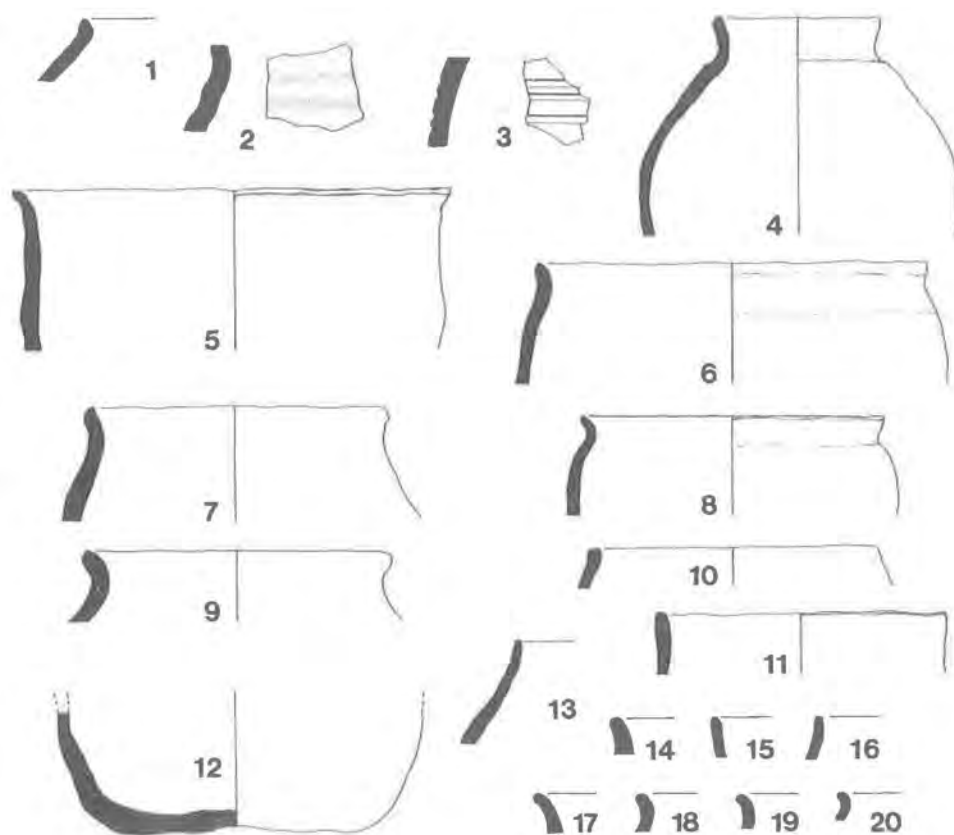


Fig. 17, Pottery from House 3 (part): 1, ($\frac{1}{4}$), 2-3, ($\frac{1}{2}$), 4-20 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

3. Spindle-Whorl. Made as a whorl in grass-tempered fabric, brown exterior, probably modelled around a rod. Diameter 4.2 cms. A similar example comes from Waterbeach, Cambs.⁷⁵ (262 B.74)
4. 'Thread Picker'. Bone, polished all over and utilised in weaving.⁷⁶ Length 13.3 cms. (263 A.74)
5. Comb Teeth. Rivet Hole on one side. (254 B.74)
6. Comb Teeth. Rivet hole on one side. (262 A.74)
7. Hipped Pin. 'Bone', tip only, polished. Length 3 cms. These pins generally small and often in bone, have been noted on continental⁷⁷ as well as Celtic 'Dark Age' sites.⁷⁸ Locally there are examples from Shakenoak, Oxon,⁷⁹ from a grubenhaus on Puddlehill, Beds.⁸⁰ and from a child's grave, Grave 5, at Little Wilbraham, Cambs.⁸¹ An example was also found at 'Whitby',⁸² and there seems general agreement that the type may not appear before the seventh century, with a few examples occurring in Late Anglo-Saxon graves.⁸³ Further research may indicate that there is a chronological distinction to be drawn between 'hipped pins' where there is a clear angular break in the shaft and those which simply have a swollen shaft such as the example illustrated in Fig. 19,11, but there are bronze examples of both types from Hamwih.⁸⁴ I am grateful to Miss V. Evison for examining this example. (243 C.74)
8. Hipped Pin. 'Bone', polished. Length 4.5 cms. The type is discussed above. (262 C.74)
9. Sawn Antler. From red deer. Sawn completely through at base, two outside tines are circumference-sawn, then snapped. (253 A.74)

Fig. 19 (1-7):-

1. Loom Weight. Segment. Slightly shelly fabric, projected diameter 12.2 cms., flattened on one side. (252 A.74)
2. Loom Weight. Segment, flattened on one side, projected diameter, 11.5 cms. (263 B.74)
3. Formed Clay. Billet of clay, roughly squeezed to shape with visible finger prints, possibly just a doodle. Maximum length 5.9 cms. (210 G.74).
4. Pendant. Silver gilt, extremely thin and fragmented. No trace of decoration. Simple ribbed suspension loop, soldered. (254 A.74) There is no close parallel for the piece but there is a larger example from a cemetery at Leighton Buzzard which also has a soldered and ribbed loop and is attributed to the seventh century.

75. T. C. Lethbridge and F. C. Tebbutt, 'Huts of the Anglo-Saxon Period.' "Proc. Cambs Ant. Soc." XXXIII (1933), Fig. 2.

76. E. Crowfoot, In "Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc." XXVIII (1952), 50.

77. Anna Roes "Bone and Antler Objects from the Frisian Terp Mounds", (Haarlem 1963), 65.

78. R. B. K. Stevenson, 'Pins and the Chronology of Brochs', "P.P.S." XXI (1955), 285.

79. A.C.C. Brodribb, A. R. Hands, D. R. Walker, "Excavations at Shakenoak Farm", Pt. III (1972), 126.

80. C. L. Matthews, 'Saxon Remains on Puddlehill, Beds.' "Beds. Arch. J.I." (1962), 53 and Pl.V

81. T. C. Lethbridge, 'Recent Excavations in Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk', "Cambs. Ant. Soc. Quarto Publications" N.S. III Fig. 38.

82. Peers and Radford, 'Whitby' (n.72).

83. E. W. Holden, 'Anglo-Saxon Burials at Crane Down, Jevington', "Sussex Arch. Coll." CVII (1969), 126 - 134.

84. Addyman and Hills, "Hants F.C." XXVI, (1969), 75.

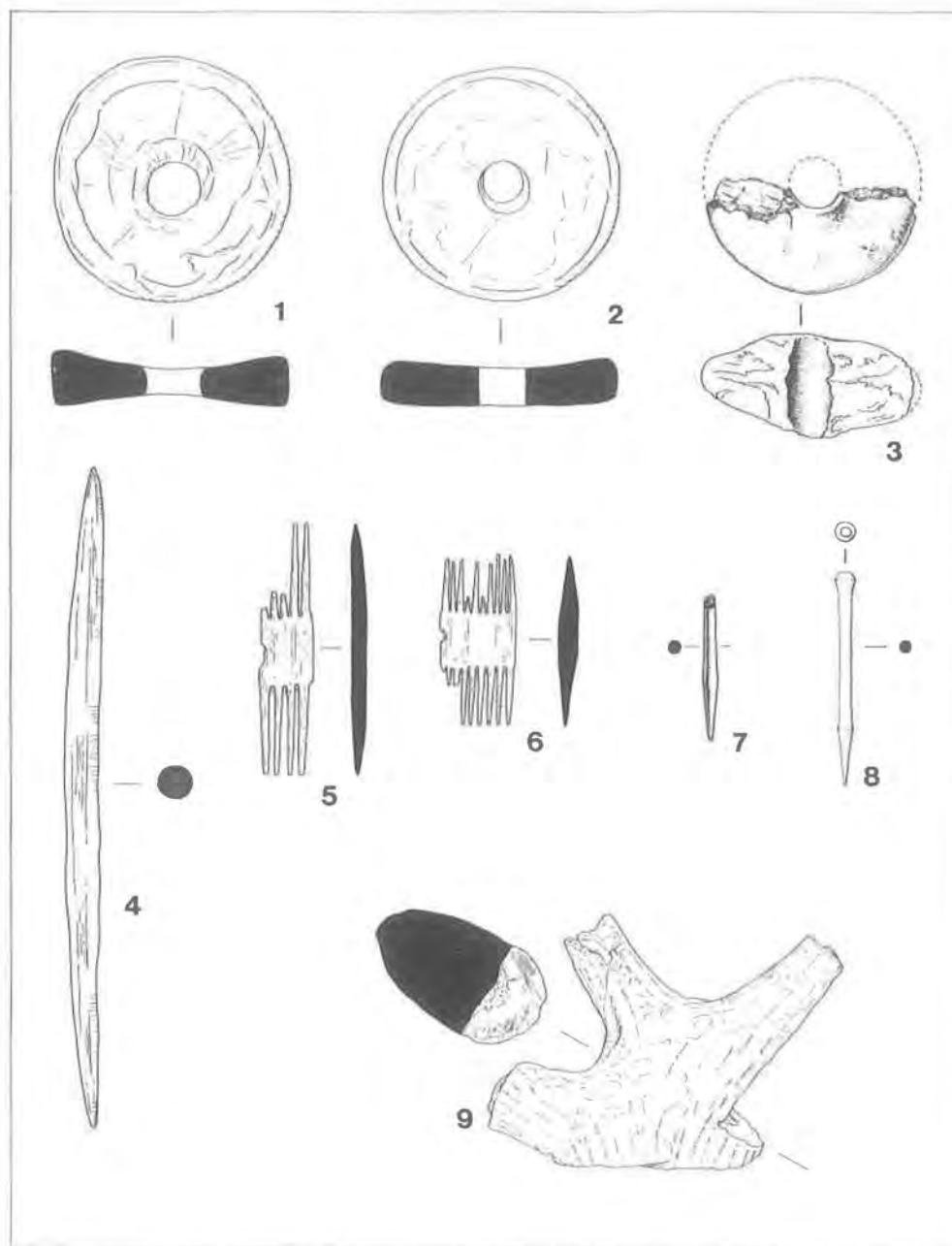


Fig. 18, Finds from House 3 (part): pottery, 1-3 (2/3), bone, 4-8 (2/3), antler, 9 (1/3).

5. Knife. Iron, tang broken. (253 D.74)
6. 'Polishing' Stone. Identified as 'Cherty Sandstone, slightly calcareous containing abundant sponge spicules which are commonly replaced by opaline silica'. (264 B.74)
7. Crucible. Clay crucible in slightly calcareous fabric with internal vitrification. Apparently with pouring lip and likely to have been for use with copper alloys. Diameter uncertain but probably 10cms or less. (260 E.74) Crucibles of this date are unusual in Lowland Britain ; one piece was found at Porchester.⁸⁵

There are no illustrable finds from House 4; the nature of the pottery from its fill appears in tabular form earlier.

Finds from House 5 : (Fig. 19, 8-11 Pottery and Pin ; Fig.20 Combs)

Fig. 19:-

8. Pot. Angle uncertain, black ext. and core; pink grits. (118.73).
9. Pot. Angle uncertain, dark brown ext. black core, g.t. : (118.73)
10. Pottery base. Slight footring, dark brown ext: black core, g.t. : (118.73)
11. Hipped Pin.(Pl.IV) Bone or possibly ivory finely polished, small 'barrels' set at right angles on head, with dot indentation on each face. Also four dots around circumference at swelling. Length 4.7 cms. (118 B.73). No parallel has been found for this pin. It is of the general class of swollen tip or hipped pins noted during discussion of the pins from H3. The head form is unusual although one hipped pin from Whitby (op.cit.) does have a head which is totally pierced in two different directions. I am grateful to Miss Evison for her comment that the pin would have no parallel in a pre-seventh-century context and she would favour a late Saxon date.

Fig. 20:

Both of thesecombslay a few centimetres above the base of the sunken area of House 5.

1. Comb (left) Double-sided, iron rivets, 19.5 cms long, broad rib polished and decorated with drilled 'ring and dot', the decoration being formed before insertion of the rivets. The presence of a diagonal cross at one end only and a halved ring at the other indicates that the rib was shortened after being decorated. The comb is made of nine separate plates, with rivets passing through each junction and an additional rivet at either end. The size of the plates which are perfectly butted, can be judged from the rivet spacing and vary between 1.4 cms. and 2.2 cms which has been confirmed by x-ray. The teeth blanks were first riveted in position as is customary⁸⁶ and the teeth then cut with a fine bladed saw circa 1mm. thick. The teeth are worn by use into a flat oval cross section with striations parallel to the rib. Although generally called 'bone' combs, it is likely that many, including this example, are in fact made of antler as the presence of sawn antler in contemporary deposits indicates (e.g. Fig. 16, 5 and Fig. 18, 9). (118 A.73)

85. B. Cunliffe , 'Excavations at Porchester Castle, Vol II' "Research Report of Soc. of Ant. " XXXIII (1976), 222.

86. National Museum of Ireland, "Viking and Medieval Dublin", Catalogue of Exhibition (Dublin 1973), pl.8.

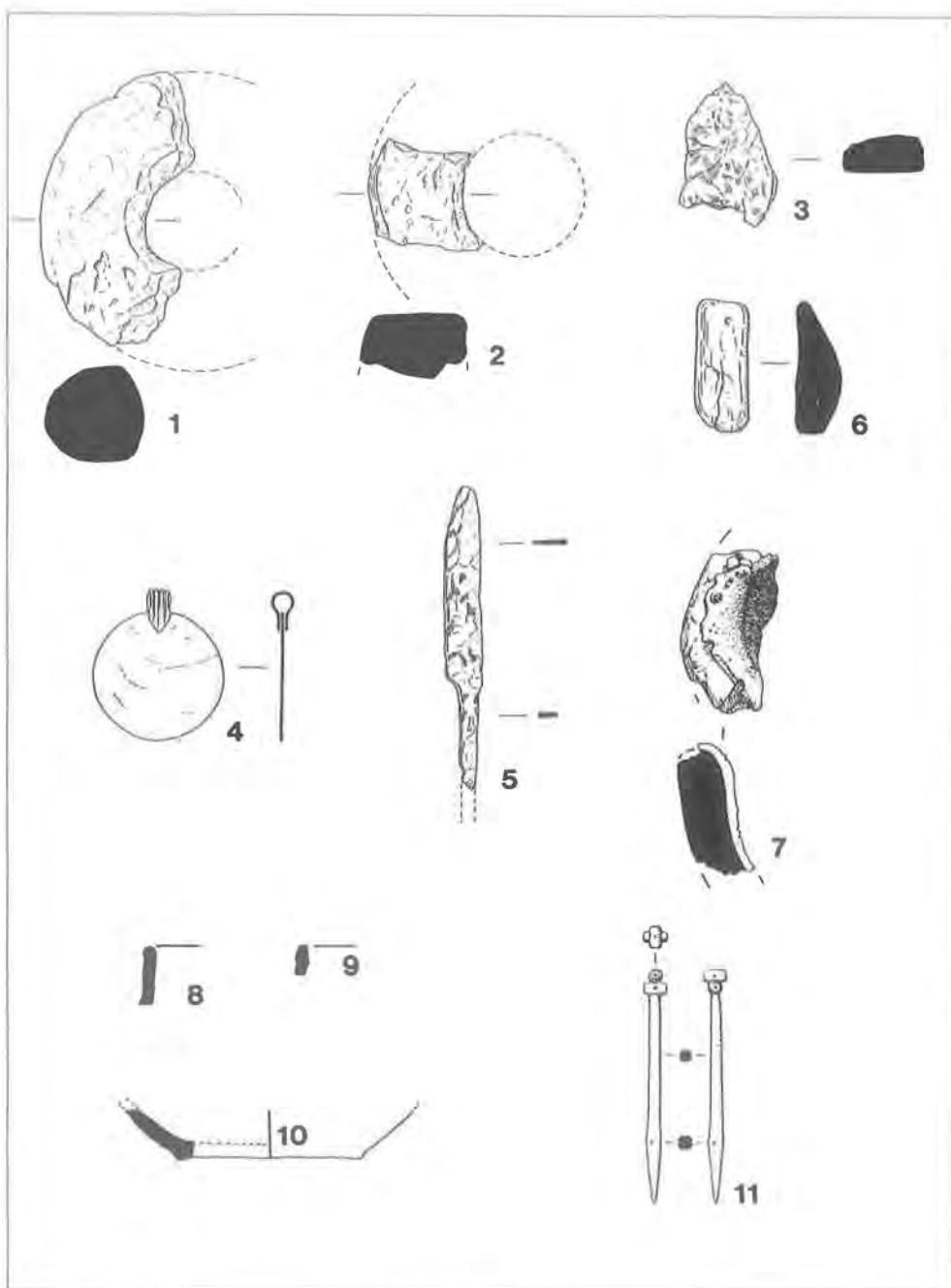


Fig. 19, Finds from House 3 (part) 1-7 and House 5 (part) 8-11: clay 1-3 (1/3), silver gilt 4 (1/1), iron 5 (1/3), stone 6 (1/3), crucible 7 (1/3), pottery 8-10 (¼), bone 11 (2/3).

2. Comb (right) single sided, iron rivets, 16.3 cms. long, plain rib, polished.
The comb is made of eleven separate plates and held together with ten rivets. As in the first example the rivets pass through the plate junctions, but in this case the final plates have rivets passing only through their centres. The teeth are more heavily worn than on the first example and heavily striated, although they may have initially been more pointed. The saw used was even finer than that used on the first comb. The terminals are of dissimilar form.
An unusual feature is the presence on the back of one plate only of the stubs of five snapped teeth. This suggests it may have been the maker's intent to produce a double-sided comb, but once the five central teeth had been cut, for some reason - probably the accidental snapping of these teeth, it was decided to cut the bulk of the remaining plates flush with the rib. The end plates were then fashioned into terminals, their slightly dissimilar appearance probably resulting from the need to fashion them whilst they were fixed in position. The horizontal cut marks along the back of the rib which severed the central plates can clearly be seen.
A feature noted on this and other complete combs found on site, is the presence of wear on the ends of the combs themselves. (119 A.73).

Pottery from House 6 (Fig. 21, 1-7) and House 8 (Fig. 21, 8):

House 6

1. Pot. Black ext., black core, g.t. (508 D.74)
2. Pot. Dark brown ext., black core, g.t. (508.74)
3. Pot. Thin walled but irregular, brown ext., brown core, angular grits (555 B (A). 74). The fabric of this pot is similar to Iron Age wares, but since the piece is so large it is unlikely to be a survival.
4. Pot. Black ext., black core, g.t. (508 A.74).
5. Pot. burnished int. and ext., dark grey/brown ext., dark grey core, g.t. fine (508 F.74). Burnishing is unusual on g.t. fabrics.
6. Pot. Dark brown ext., black core, g.t. (551.74)
7. Pot. Light buff ext., light buff core, g.t. (508 A.74)

There are no illustrable finds from House 7.

House 8.

8. Pot. Burnished int. and ext., black int., black core, g.t. (623.74).

Pottery from Hearths and Pits : F1 (Fig. 21, 9), F2 (Fig. 21, 10), P3 (Fig. 21, 11-12), P4 (Fig. 21, 13)

9. Pot. Brown ext., black core, g.t. (625 A.74)
10. Pot. Burnished int. and ext., dark brown ext., black core, fine grit and g.t. (322.74).
11. Pot. Diameter uncertain, dark brown ext. black core, g.t. (429.74)
12. Pot. Diameter uncertain, flat-topped rim, burnished int. and ext. dark brown ext., black core, fine grit (429.74) An unusually thick rim.
13. Perforated Lug. Single perforation, angle slightly uncertain, burnished ext. lug, dark grey ext. dark grey core, pink grits (714.74)

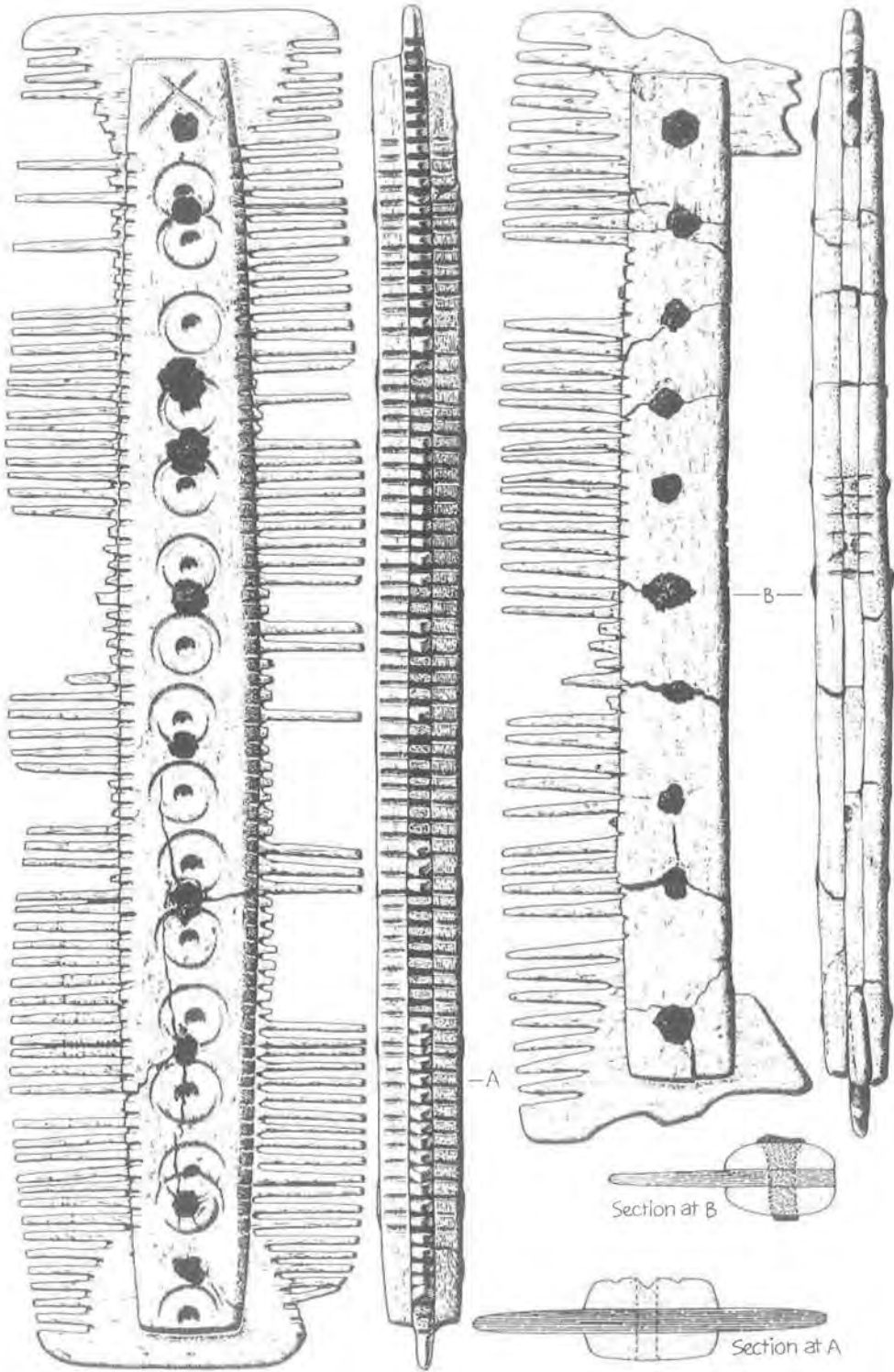


Fig. 20, Combs from House 5 (1/1).

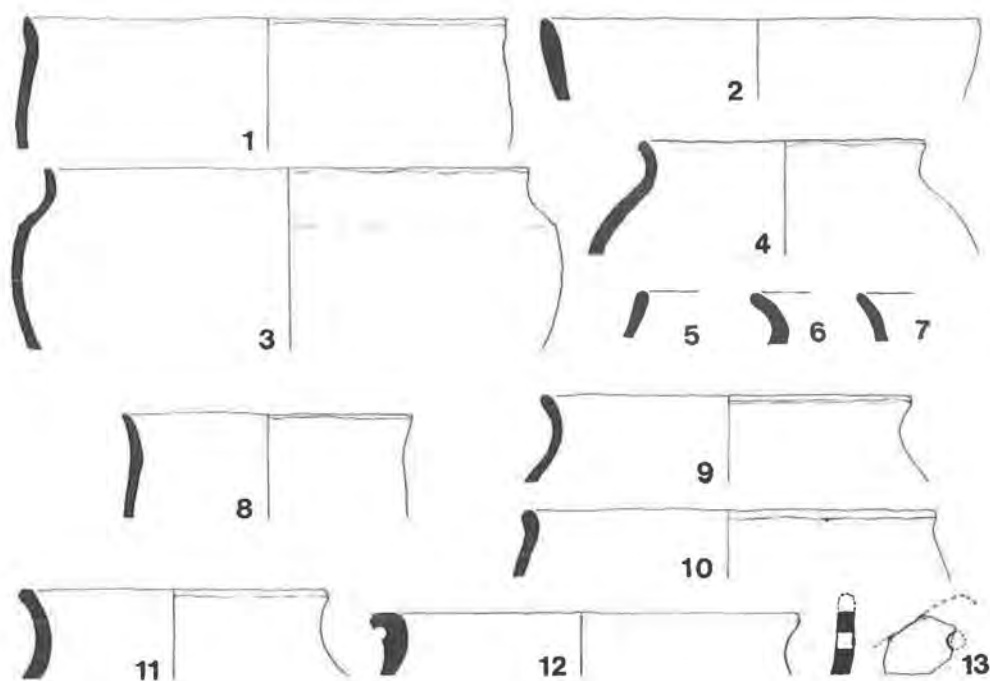


Fig. 21, Pottery from Houses 6 and 8 and Saxon Hearths and Pits (¼).

Finds from House 6 (Fig. 22. 1-3)

1. 'Counter'. Made from burnished Saxon sherd, dark brown, fine grit. From post-hole on northern wall-line of H6. (811 A.74).
2. Iron Object. Bent, perforated both ends, one end retaining rivet, ? function. 12.5 cms. (straightened). From lower subsoil within H6 (508 B.74)
3. 'Thread-Picker'. Bone, polished. Length 9.8 cms. From lower subsoil within H6. (508 E.74)

Finds from Gulley 1 (Fig. 22, 4) and Gulley 2 (Fig 22, 5)

4. Nail. Iron, flattened head, incomplete. Length 3.2 cms. (401 A.74)
5. 'Counter', On sherd of micaceous imitation Samian. (913 A.74)

Finds from Pit 1 (Fig. 22,6) and Pit 2 (Fig.22, 7)

6. Quern. Small piece of rotary quern, identified as "fossiliferous pebbly calcareous sandstone stained with iron hydroxide, comparable with the ferruginous cretaceous greensands from Bucks. and Beds". (617 C.74)
7. Slag. A curved bowl shaped piece with some typical Walton limey subsoil adhering to it. The absence of any quantity of slag of this date on site suggests it may more likely be residue from a smithing hearth than a smelting furnace.
I am grateful to Henry Cleere for advice on this point. (133 A.74)

Pottery and Finds from Pit 5 (Fig. 23)

All illustrated finds come from the lower fill of the southern pit.

1. Pot. Dark brown ext., black core, g.t. (632.74)
2. Beaker. Two-thirds complete, reddy brown ext. and core, g.t. Colour unusual for grass tempered fabrics, probably burnt. (631 A/632.74)
3. Rotary Quern. Upper and lower stones, diameter 46 cms. Found as a number of fragments, the stone is extremely friable. The 'upper' stone is the better preserved of the pair and is presumed to be the top stone since it has a slight funnel mouth. Both stones have a flat grinding surface. The rock is described as a 'fossiliferous pebbly calcareous sandstone, stained with iron hydroxide, and comparable with the ferruginous cretaceous greensands of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire'. (632 C.74)
Not illustrated is a small piece of a second quernstone in 'rough textured medium grained quartzitic sandstone'. (632 F.74)
4. Hook. Iron, bent. Length 8.7 cms. (632A (1). 74).
5. Hook-ended strip. Iron, flat strip, folded over at one end and of rod section at the other where it is slightly hooked. Length 8.1 cms. (632A (2).74).
6. Eye of hinge. Iron, door-hinge of driven-eye type, drawn from radiograph. Length 9.2 cms. (632D.74)

Unstratified Saxon material , finds and pottery: introduction

The unstratified small finds are shown as four figures; Figure 24, jewellery and items of dress : Figure 25, a double sided comb, technically not unstratified as it is from an undated post hole, with a pendant and thread-picker : Figure 26, bone and antler objects : Figure 27 loomweights and knives, with a spear from the 1858 Walton cemetery find.

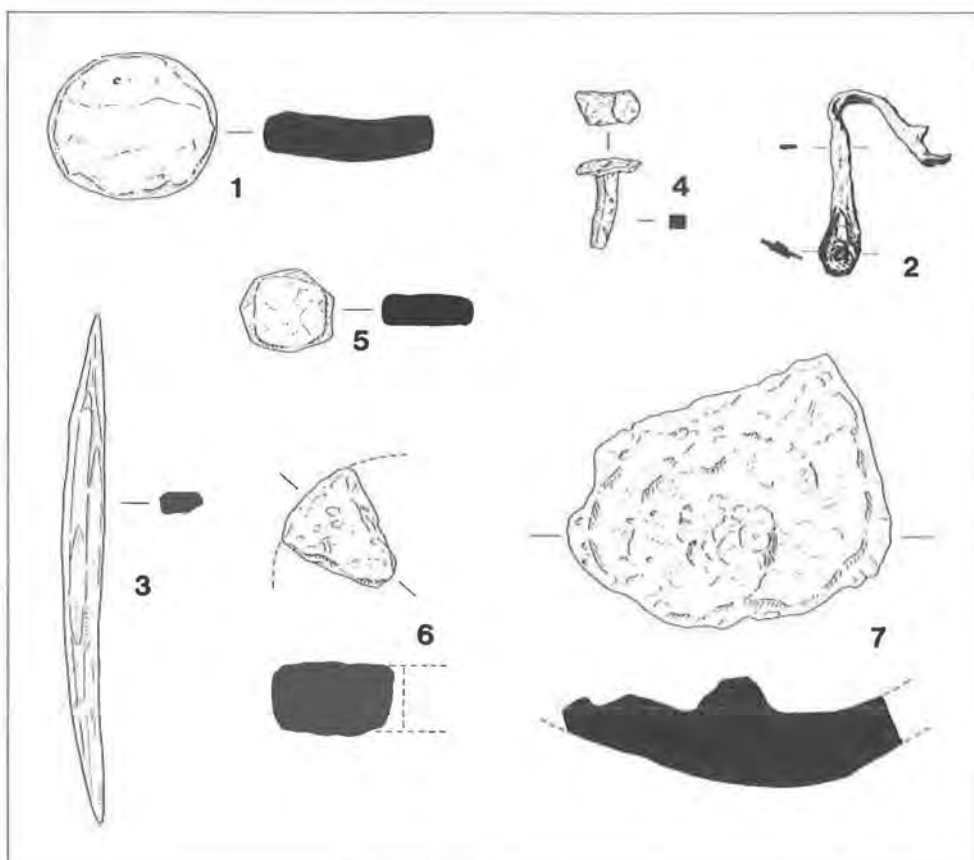


Fig. 22, Finds from House 6, G1 and G2, P1 and P2: ceramic 1 and 5 (2/3), iron 2 and 4 (1/3), bone 3 (2/3), quern (1/6), slag 7 (1/3).

The bulk of these finds came from lower subsoil deposits, much of which would have been lost had the site been stripped directly to natural; others occurred as survivals re-incorporated into later deposits, pieces of bone comb for instance occurred with Saxon pottery in the Medieval ditches. The same applies to the pottery illustrated on Figs. 28 and 29. All of the unstratified pottery which is decorated is shown and such of the plain wares as are not too fragmentary. The general date range of the material is presumed to be from the fifth century, well into the seventh.

Unstratified Saxon finds, personal (Pl. V Fig. 24):

1. Buckle : Iron, corroded in folded position, but shown open in lower two drawings. Simple oval loop with flat back. Two iron rivets originally attached it to the strap. Overall length 7.8 cms. There are faint striations on the loop such as might indicate the former presence of inlay: however, several x-rays have revealed no firm evidence. (701 AA.74)
2. Small long Brooch, (Pl. V) Bronze. Square head plain type, 6.3 cms. long, pin missing. A double border row of dots is the only decoration on the head plate, and this continues across the head of the bow. The triangular foot, which is slightly bevelled, has a single row of dots as a border except on the lower foot where there are two rows. Five horizontal scored lines separate foot from bow. The foot is decorated with seven 'horseshoe' stamps. Although part of the catch plate is present, there is no trace of the spring and its mount. The spring mount was obviously not cast as an integral piece with the brooch. During conservation small patches of tin were observed confined to the rear of the head and on one side only of the catch plate. This may indicate that the whole spring assembly was soldered on to the back of the head in this instance. From subsoil. (521 A.74)
Miss V. Evison has kindly examined this piece and suggests it could be mid-fifth century, although the type is not closely dateable. Leeds⁸⁷ mapped the distribution of this sub-type which occurs predominantly in the Midlands, Walton falling on the southern limits. Examples were found locally in the Cursley Hill, Bishopstone cemetery.⁸⁸
3. Spiral Ring. Silver, distorted, lower illustration shows the ring as it would have been. Both ends are pointed and there are two simple grooves around the circumference. (203 A.74) This is a common Saxon type.⁸⁹
4. Buckle. Bronze, small buckle with "D" loop and outlooking horses heads with 'ring and dot' eyes and stamped curves on lower neck. Overall height 2.6 cms. There is almost no trace of the opposed dolphins which are an early characteristic of the type,⁹⁰ but drilled ring and dot motif does occur in the appropriate position. Two pairs of grooves on buckle tongue, and cluster of dots at tip. All the above decoration is on one side, the other being totally plain. The type has been discussed earlier when the chronology of the site as a whole was being considered. From a medieval gulley (413 B.73).

87. E.T. Leeds, 'The distribution of Angles and Saxons archaeologically considered', "Arch." XCI (1945), 1-106 and fig. 19.

88. The Revd. C. Lowndes 'On the Discovery of Anglo-Saxon relics in Stone', "Records" V (1878), 23-5.

89. e.g. three plain examples found on one hand at Bidford-on Avon. John Humphreys et al., 'An Anglo Saxon Cemetery at Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire', "Arch" LXXIII (1922-3), 89-116.

90. Sonia Hawkes, 'Roman buckles' (n.38)

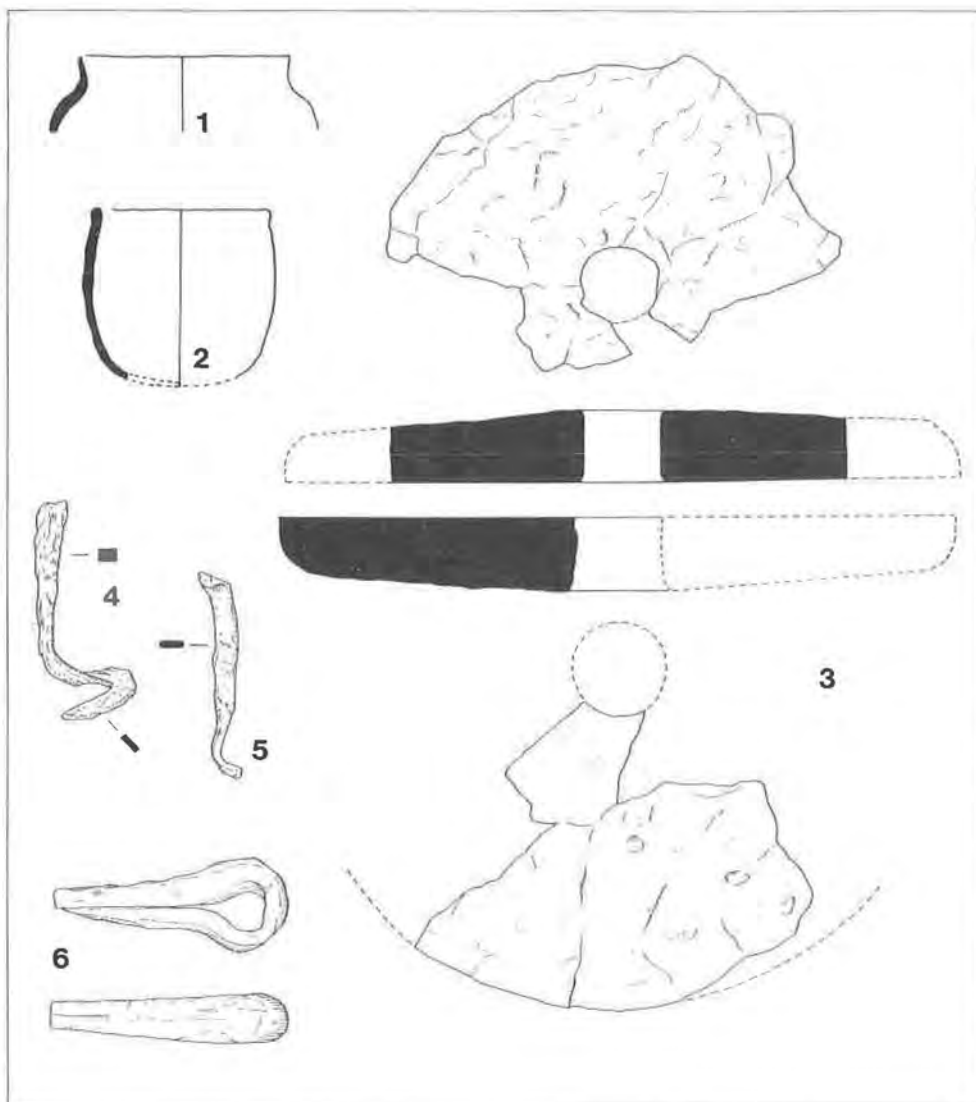


Fig. 23, Pottery and finds from Pit 5: pottery 1-2 ($\frac{1}{4}$), querns 3 ($\frac{1}{6}$), iron 4-6 ($\frac{1}{3}$).

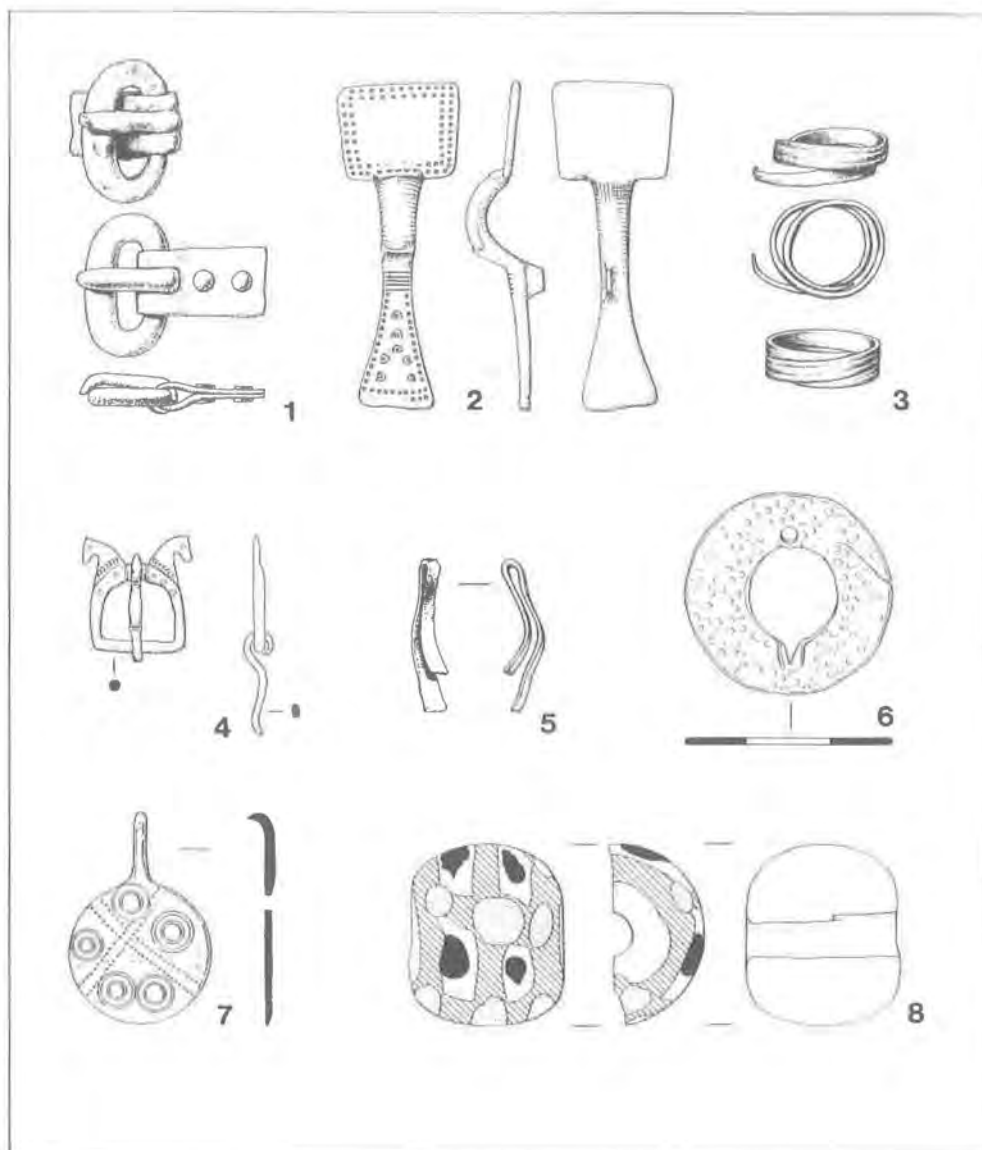


Fig. 24, Unstratified Late Roman and Saxon finds: iron buckle, shown open (2/3), bronze 2, 3-6 (2/3), silver 3, lower shows restored (2/3), bronze 7 and glass 8 ($\times 1\frac{1}{2}$),

5. Tweezers, Bronze, tip of one arm missing. 3 cms. long. Common in Saxon graves but occurring in earlier contexts also. (701 F.74)
6. 'Quoit' Brooch.(Pl.V).Annular, bronze, tinned and with multiple rings stamped all over one side.⁹¹ Pin missing, vee-notch with groove on either side to receive pin in its fastened position. Iron corrosion products at pin-hinge hole suggest pin may have been iron. Diameter 4.0 cms. Miss V. Evison has kindly examined this piece and places it in her 'quoit' brooch group,⁹² and suggests a fifth-century date. Annular brooches as a group run on into the seventh century.⁹³ (614 BA.74)
7. Garter-Hook, (Pl.V). Bronze, 1.2 cms. diameter. The hook has been partially straightened in antiquity and the tip is missing. Decorated with two pairs of diagonal lines executed with punch or graver and forming a cross. Within three of the quadrants is a single drilled ring and dot, double scribed, with a pair in the lower quadrant. The 'dots' are in fact holes which totally penetrate the thin disc. The pair in the bottom quadrant have been drilled both from obverse and reverse sides. From topsoil (000 A.73). I am grateful to Mr. P. D. C. Brown for pointing out evidence from Winchester which suggests that this class of object sometimes called 'dress hooks' are likely to be tag ends from garters.⁹⁴ The general date range for the type is seventh to tenth century.⁹⁵
8. Bead. Glass. Half only, diameter 1.6 cms. The bead is painted with a thick terracotta colour grid leaving reserved rectangles of white. At the centre of each of these rectangles is a black dot with metallic glint. Additionally lines of three yellow dots are superimposed on short axes of the terracotta grid. From Q3. (904. A.73).

Unstratified Saxon Finds : bone

Fig. 25:

1. Comb. Double-sided, 7 iron rivets, undecorated. Many teeth missing, but rib complete, length 14 cms. Slightly distorted. The comb originally had six plates and was constructed in the same manner as comb 1 (Fig. 20) with rivets through plate junctions and an additional rivet through the terminal plate. The saw cuts are as fine as those of comb 2 (Fig. 20). The teeth are again very worn with multiple striations. The end plate like the other examples shows wear. The comb was found lying flat in a small post hole. (229 A.74).
2. 'Thread-Picker'. Bone, polished all over. 11.2 cms. long. From P16 (269 A.73).
3. Pendant? Bone, polished, perforated at one end and lightly 'scooped' out from the perforation to the short edge, possibly intended for or caused by a thong. Incomplete at other end. Decorated with crossing diagonal knife cuts on one face only. 6.5 cms. long. (100 A.74).

Fig.26.

1. Comb. Single sided, part only . Three teeth plates only remain with three iron rivets driven through at the butt joints of the plates. 6 cms. long. The ribs are

91. A chemical spot test showed this not to be silver. Also revealed during the conservation process were multiple groups of fine striations running beneath the tin and preceding the tinning operation.

92. V. L. Evison, "Fifth-Century Invasions."

93. I am grateful to Mr. P. D. C. Brown for comments on the longevity of annular brooch types.

94. D. M. Wilson in M. Biddle, 'Excavations at Winchester, 1964', "Ant. J." XLV (1965), 263-4.

95. G. C. Dunning in Helen E. O'Neil, 'Whittington Court Roman Villa', "Trans. Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc." 71 (1952), 79.

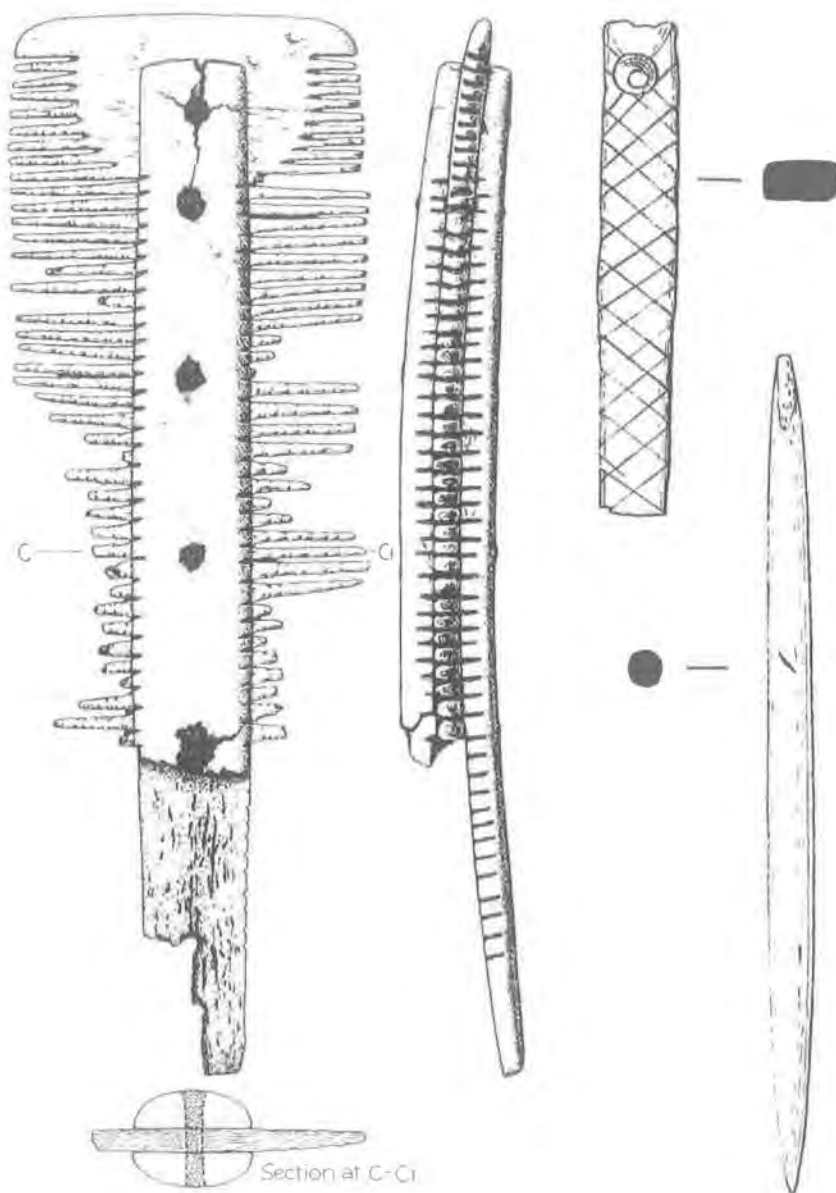


Fig. 25, Unstratified Saxon finds: bone (1/1).

broad and decorated with small drilled ring and dot ornament. The piece is unique among Walton combs, the only one other single-sided comb from the site (Fig.20, 2) has a slender rib and appears to have started life as a double-sided type (706 B/C. 73)

2. Comb. Part of end plate. 1.5 cms. long. (710 A.73)
3. Comb. Complete end plate with one rivet and snapped ribs on either side. Rib decorated with simple scored lines. Length 3 cms. (113 A.74)
4. Comb. Part of end plate, broken where perforated by rivet. Length 2.1 cms. No. 8 on this figure may be part of the same comb. (900+A.73).
5. Comb. Complete end plate, perforated through plate only. 4 cms. long. (900 + C/D. 73).
6. Comb. Rib, definitely bone, perforated by single rivet, and cut and snapped at one end. Simple cross-hatched, knife-cut decoration. 5.5 cms. long. (301 B.74)
7. Comb. End plate, broken at rivet perforation, 1.8 cms. long. (105 +B.73).
8. Comb. Teeth only, rivet mark at end of plate, 1.5 cms. long. (900 +A.73).
9. Comb; Complete plate, rivet hole at one end, length 1.5 cms. (901 D.73)
10. Comb. Incomplete plate, perforated by one rivet with stain of another. Part of both ribs survive, both decorated with drilled ring and dot ornament. Length 3.7 cms. (102 C.73).
11. Comb. Rib, rivet stains at both ends. Length 2.4 cms. (487 B.73).
12. Comb. Rib fragment, end, with diagonal hatching 1.1 cms. long. (900 +A.73)
13. Comb. Rib. Length 1.1 cms. (900 +A.73).
14. Comb. Rib? Broken at rivet. Unusual triangular cross-section. Decorated with diagonal hatching. This piece could be part of a comb case rather than a comb. Length 2.4 cms. From P.15. (405 A.73)
15. Comb. Rib, broken endways and lengthwise, one rivet hole, decorated with overlapping drilled ring and dot. Length 2.1 cms. (307 A.74).
16. Comb. Rib. Rivet holes at both ends, deeply scored double cross-hatching. 2.5 cms. long. Associated with other double-sided comb fragments. (108 A.73).
17. Antler. Tip of red-deer antler, cut then snapped. Point smooth. 10 cms. long. (930 A.73).

Unstratified Saxon finds; clay and iron, including a spear from the Walton cemetery.

Fig. 27 :

1. Loomweight, part. Theoretically the earliest loomweight of the series judging by its width/diameter ratio. None of the loomweights are grass-tempered; all are fired. (400 E.74)
2. Loomweight, part. (423 A.74)
3. Loomweight, part. (301 A.74)
4. Loomweight, part, single finger indentation in side. (303 A.74)
5. Loomweight, part, (423 B.74)
6. Loomweight, part (701 AT.74)
7. Loomweight, part. (424 A.74)
8. Iron Knife. 8.0 cms. long. This and the following knives are presumed to be Early /Middle Saxon on general form (000 F.73)
9. Iron Knife, 9.8 cms long. (000 G.73)
10. Iron Knife 11.3 cms. long. (710E.73). From beneath bank of D1?

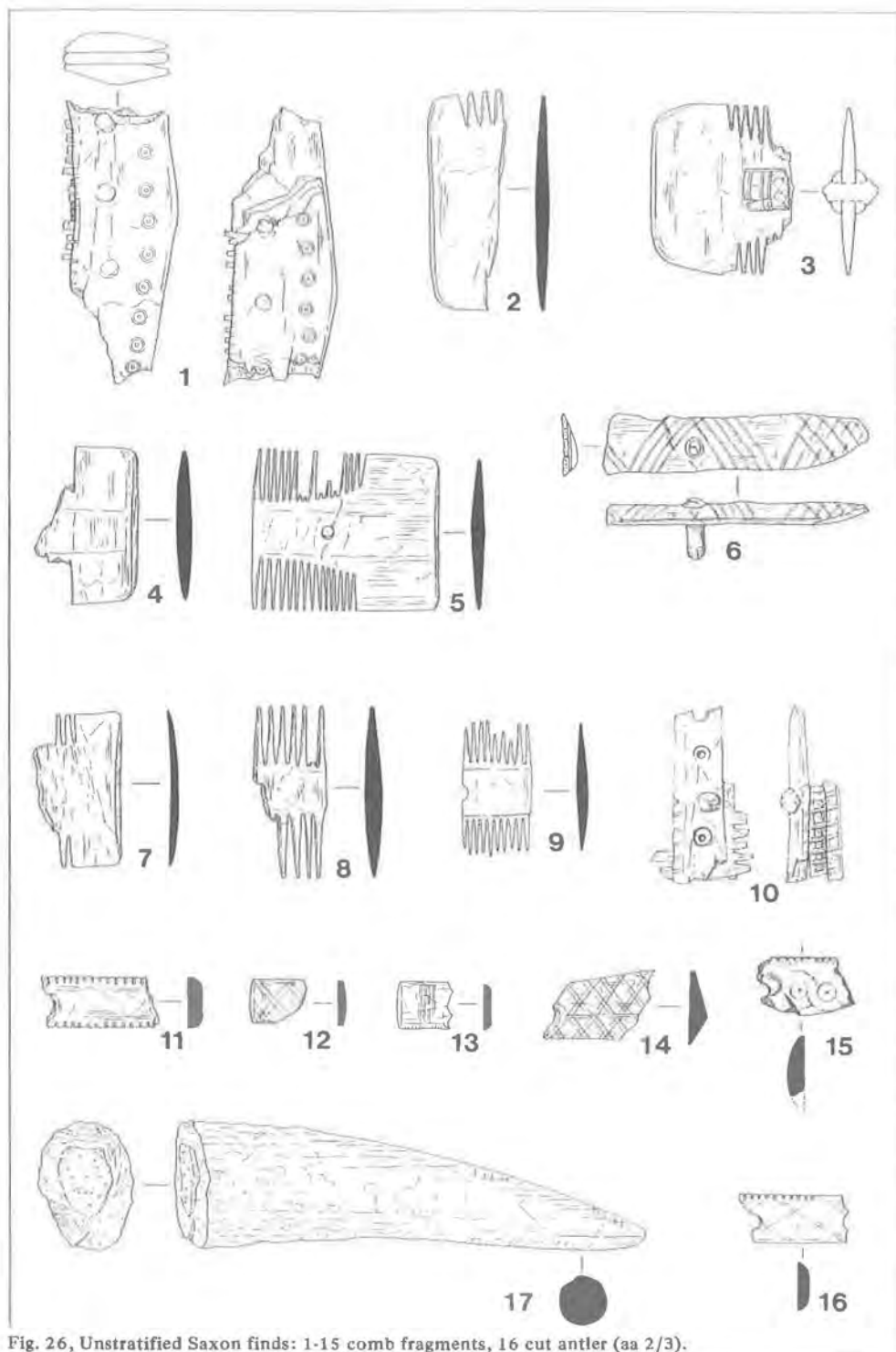


Fig. 26, Unstratified Saxon finds: 1-15 comb fragments, 16 cut antler (aa 2/3).

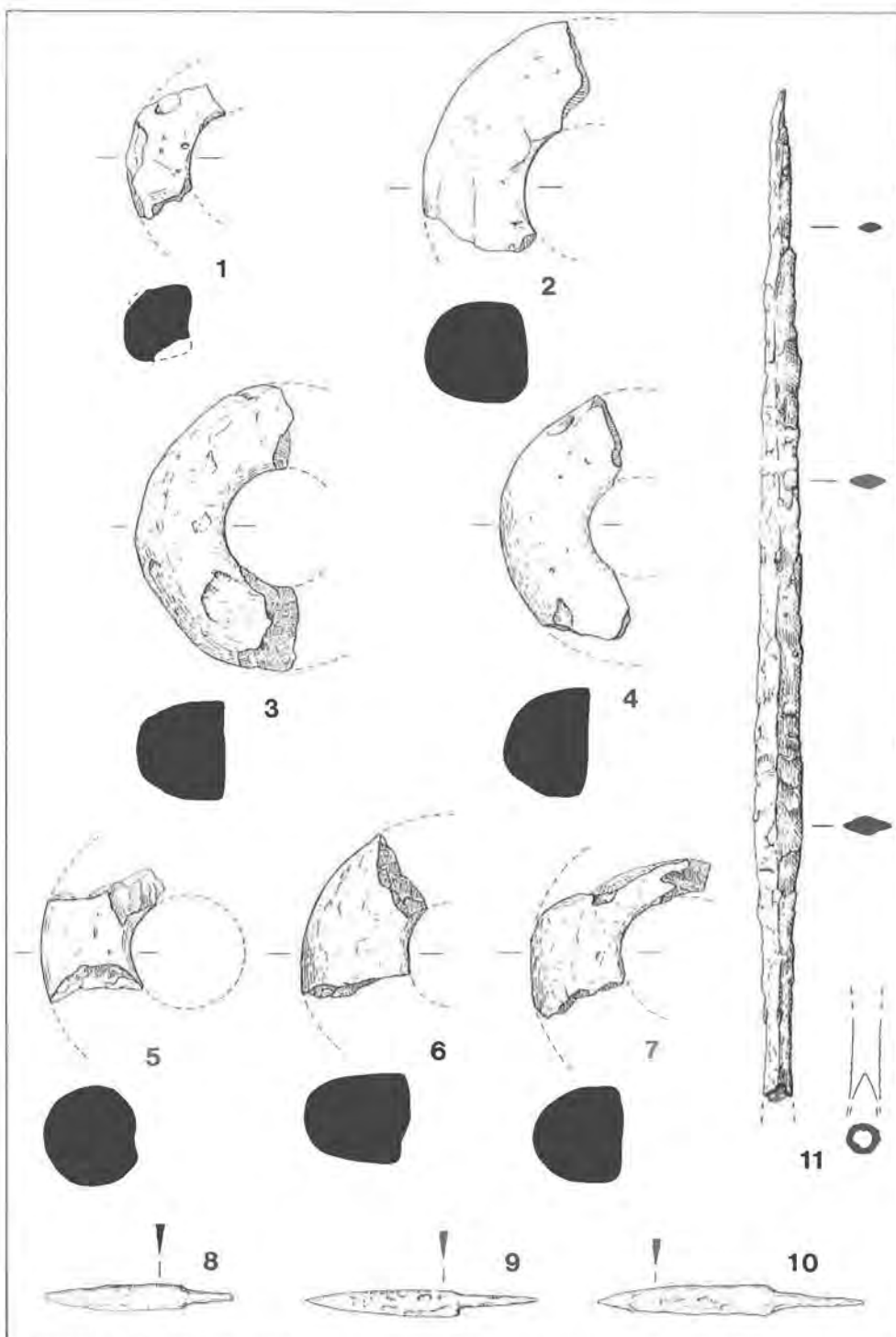


Fig. 27, Unstratified Saxon finds: 1-7 loomweights, 8-10 knives, 11 spear from 'Benhill' (Walton) cemetery (aa 1/3).

11. Iron spear; 44 cms. long with hollow socket, partially broken. This spear is from the 1858 cemetery find (B.C.M. Acc. No. $\frac{223}{60}$) Dr. M. J. Swanton who has kindly looked at the drawing comments that the spearhead probably belongs to his C4 type which seems to be later sixth or seventh century.

Unstratified Saxon pottery : (a) decorated. (Fig. 28)

1. Dec. sherd.: lightly burnished grooves containing running segmented reverse 's' in one zone and chevrons in others : dark brown ext: dark brown core : fine grit. (406 A.74) The running 's' decoration may reflect the 'Wyrn' theme noted by Dr. Myres on other vessels.⁹⁶
2. Dec. sherd : lightly burnished grooves with dots between : dark grey ext. : dark brown core : fine grit (701 AC.74)
3. Dec. sherd : grooves with rosette stamps : black ext : black core : fine grit (301 AH. 74)
4. Dec. sherd. : rosette stamps between grooves, well burnished : black ext. : black core : very fine (251 A.74)
5. Dec. sherd : fine cross stamp between grooves : brown ext. : brown core : very fine (751 G.73)
6. Dec. sherd : cross in rectangle, well burnished : black ext. : black core : fine grit. (301 C.74). I am grateful to Lady Teresa Briscoe for the comment that this stamp type is not common but is found at the South Elkington, Lackford and Girtton cemeteries.
7. Dec. sherd : cross stamp with groove : black ext : grey core : fine grit (701 G.74)
8. Dec. sherd : three impressions from same cross stamp, one of which has been more deeply impressed : black ext. : black core : fine grit (300 F.74)
9. Dec. sherd : broad grooves with lenticular impressions between, broken at a curved groove : brown ext. : grey core : fine grit (801 A.74) The curved groove may be part of a "Stehende Bogen".
10. Dec. sherd : three simple grooves : dark brown ext. : dark brown core : fine grit (301 J. 74)
11. Dec. sherd. : impressed dimples and grooves : brown ext : black core : pink grit (100 H.74).
12. Dec. sherd : rectangular stamp with diagonal hatching, also dimples : black ext.: black core fine grit (301 A1.74)
13. Dec. sherd : concentric rings with grooves : black ext. : black core : fine grit (400 G. 74)
14. Dec. sherd : scratched lattice : light brown ext. : grey core : fine grit (422 A.74)
15. Dec. sherd : two grooves on small boss : dark grey ext. : grey core : fine grit (316 A.74)
16. Dec. sherd : horned zoomorphic boss : dark brown ext. : black core : fine grit (301 U.74) 'Horned' zoomorphic bosses of this type are unusual. Miss Evison illustrates an example from Alfriston in Sussex and notes their occurrence in fifth century contexts.⁹⁷

96. Myres, "A-S Pottery", Fig. 49.

97. Evison, "Fifth-Century Invasions", 81 and fig. 16.

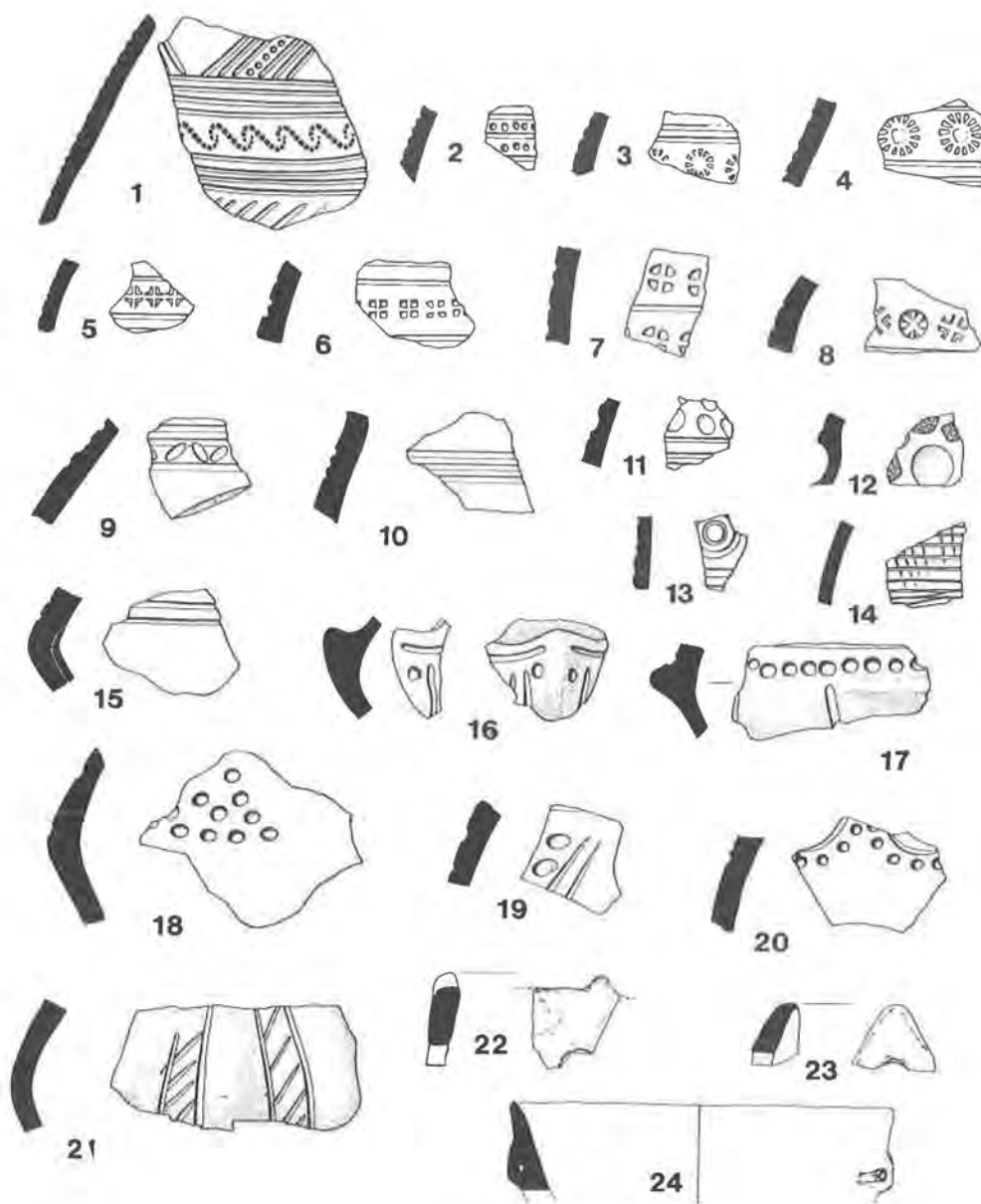


Fig. 28, Unstratified decorated Saxon pottery and lugs, 1-21 ($\frac{1}{2}$), 22-24 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

17. Dec. sherd : horizontal lug with neatly impressed dots and slight groove on upper (?) side : pinky brown ext. : grey core : fine grit with white fleck (750 B.73/613 K.74) These two sherds were found more than 30m. apart.
18. Dec. sherd : triangular grouping of shallow dimples : brown ext : dark grey core : pink grits (301 H.74)
19. Dec. sherd : lentoid impression with scored line : dark brown ext. : black core : fine grit with white flecks : uncertain if sherd is correct way up. (701 P.74)
20. Dec. sherd : neatly impressed dots beneath (?) swags, highly burnished : black ext. : black core : very fine grit (301 Z.74)
21. Dec. sherd : three vertical bosses with scored 'ladder' design : dark brown ext. : black core : fine grit (300 E.74)
22. Perforated upright lug ? : sherd perforated before firing, apparently a rim with small pinched up projection on top : dark brown ext. : black core : grit + ? g.t. (301 AF.74)
23. Perforated upright lug : burnished : dark brown ext. : grey core : fine grit : lug is applied (100 G.74) The form of this piece is unusual.
24. Perforated lug : roughly pierced with a stick : black ext. : black core : g.t. (904 K.74) For another example of this type see Fig. 13, 11.

Unstratified Saxon pottery : (b) Plain (Fig. 29)

1. Pot/cup : dark brown ext. black core : g.t. (805 A.74) Similar to Fig 23, 2.
2. ? Bowl : angle uncertain : grey ext. : grey core : flint grit (414.74)
3. Pot : burnished int. and ext. : dark grey ext. : dark grey core : fine grit (701.74).
4. Pot : burnished ext. and int. rim : dark brown ext. : black core : fine grit (117A 301.74). Two joining sherds separated by 20 m.
5. Pot : dark brown black ext. : black core : g.t. (703.73)
6. Pot : black ext : black core : g.t. (509.74)
7. Pot : dark brown ext. : black core : g.t. (701.74)
8. Pot : angle uncertain : dark brown ext. : black core : g.t. (503+.73)
9. Pot : burnished ext. : dark brown ext. : dark brown core : pink grits (100.74)
10. Pot : black ext : black core : g.t. (500.74)
11. Pot : two fine grooves : black ext. : dark grey core : fine grit (301 OH.74)
12. Pot : diam uncertain : dark brown ext : black core : g.t. (249.74)
13. Pot : well burnished ext. and int. : black ext. : black core : fine grit (301 E.74)
14. Pot : burnished ext. only : black ext. : black core : fine grit (701.73)
15. Pot : hollow neck, burnished ext., thin : dark brown ext. : black core : g.t. (613 A.74)
16. Pot : roughly burnished ext. : dark brown ext. : dark brown core : g.t. (800.74)
17. Pot : dark brown ext. : black core : g.t. (507.74)
18. Pot : dark brown ext. : black core : g.t. (806 A.74)
19. Pot : irregular, strong grass wiping : black ext. : black core : g.t. (904.74)
20. Pot : burnished ext. and int. : dark brown ext. : dark grey core : sparse g.t. (613.74)
21. Pot : hollow neck, irregular, burnished ext. : dark brown ext. : black core : g.t. (600.74)
22. ? Bowl : burnished ext. and int., diam. uncertain : black ext. : black core : fine grit (301.74)

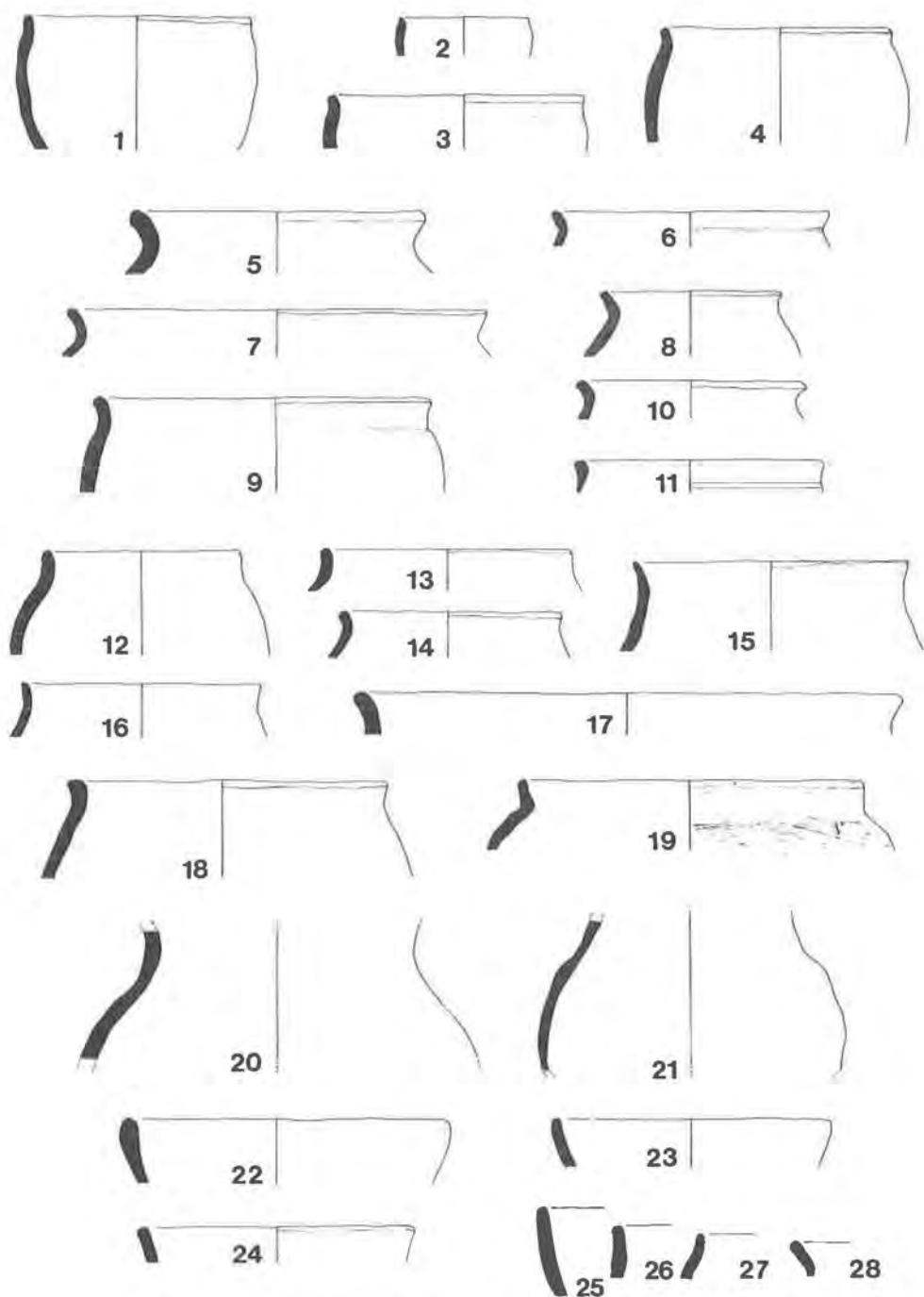


Fig. 29, Unstratified plain Saxon pottery, (¼).

23. Bowl : burnished int. and ext., angle uncertain : dark grey ext. : dark grey core : fine grit (701.74)
24. Bowl : dark brown ext. : dark brown core : fine grit (500.74)
25. Bowl : burnished ext. and int., diam. uncertain : dark brown ext. : black core : fine grit (904.74)
26. Pot : black ext. : black core : g.t. (601.74)
27. Pot : grey ext. : grey core : fine grit (804.74)
28. Pot : black ext. : black core : g.t. (507.74)

Report on the Skeletal Material from the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery. B. Westley, B.Sc., FZS.

This is an account of the skeletal remains discovered in 1921 which are presumed to form part of the settlement's cemetery.⁹⁸

This material comprises two boxes of human remains, with no trace of other animals. It is well preserved and represents a minimum of six individuals but much of the skeletons is missing. The bones are nearly all of the skull and limbs, with hardly any trace of the axial skeleton or the extremities. Nor are the limbs present in entirety and many show recent breaks, for example half of a femur with the other half absent. It is the skull evidence which shows that at least six people are present, and it is difficult to match up the skulls with limb bones that might belong to them. One skull is almost entirely complete, two more are complete except for the lower jaws and three more are fragmentary. The skulls have been reconstructed where possible but the reconstructions are not very exact in some cases, due to warping and shrinkage of the material.

The skulls:—

A. This is the only complete one. It is also the largest, and might be supposed to be male., though skulls are not easy to sex. The mastoid process is well developed, the nuchal crest quite large, as are the teeth, and the look of the brow masculine. It is better preserved than the other skulls, as is a large male pelvis that is included in the group (see below) and it seems reasonable to link these together and to consider the subject a man, mature but not old. The teeth are good though worn. Sixteen are present, the rest having dropped out post mortem. The first premolar (upper left) is deformed and the third molars (wisdom teeth) altogether absent, though one would expect to see them in a subject of this size and apparent age. Such conditions are common in both modern and ancient people, and point to a calcium deficiency. But the rest of the teeth in this subject look healthy and strong and none have been lost in life.

B. This skull is much less well preserved and there is only half of the mandible present (left.) The maxilla is lacking, also the zygomatic region and parts of the temporals. The skull has a rounded appearance and the mastoid processes are small and the general appearance suggests a female. The part of the mandible present bears its full complement of teeth, which are healthy and even and here the third molar is fully erupted. The second molar has a pit of decay but the other teeth seem very sound and the degree of molar wear suggests an age in the twenties - perhaps a young female.

98. For a discussion of the cemetery see 'Background History of Walton' earlier in this report. Bones in BCM, accession 147.21.

C. This is another large, heavy skull, less well preserved than A, with the zygomatic region and lower orbits missing. The skull size, large mastoid processes and nape musculature denote male sex. Seven upper teeth are present, the rest having dropped out post mortem (from shrinkage of flesh) and these appear, again, healthy and the degree of wear, together with the fusion of skull sutures, suggests maturity but no great age, perhaps 20-35. There seems to be some osteoporosis in the occipital region (see below) near the condyle and I do not know if this is to be accounted for by disease in life.

D. Consists only of a cranial vault and a mandible. It is not certain that these go together, and they could be two individuals but from the size and state of preservation it seems reasonable to put them together. The cranium consists of the left parietal and part of the occiput and it is adult, small and not very thick. The rather open sutures suggest a young person, possibly female. The jaw features agree with this, the chin is small and pointed but the ascending ramus is missing and the tooth surfaces fragmented. Eight teeth are present, as follows:

7	6	5	4	3	2	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Thus, the lower jaw had the full complement of 16 teeth in life. During life, the second and third molars (left) were lost and the gaps have healed over. The rest of the missing teeth were lost post mortem.

E. Is merely five large fragments of a large, thick cranium. They cannot be fitted together, but belong, I think to the same skull, possibly male, and mature. The fragments are parietal and occipital.

F. Is a large piece of cranium, occipital, but not showing the foramen magnum and with the posterior parts of the parietals. It is quite different from the other skulls in that it seems to show signs of serous disease that may have been the cause of death. The outer surface is very rough, with some pitting of the bone, while the inner surface is very much pitted, with actual perforations in the region of the occiput. The condition is osteoporosis (pitting of the bone) but I am uncertain whether this is indeed due to disease or could be from the action of soil chemicals and erosion after death. Anthropological study might settle this. The condition (osteoporosis) is described and illustrated by Brothwell,⁹⁹ and it has been suggested that the bone pitting is the result of a poor diet.

The Post-Cranial Material :—

This consists mostly of limb bones, which cannot certainly be matched to their respective skulls, although they presumably belong to the skull material. These bones certainly do not represent the whole of the bodies that match the skulls; The limbs are insufficient and there is practically no material from the axial (midline) skeleton e.g. the scapula and pelvis, and only traces of the extremities.

Amongst the material a pair of legs (minus feet) and a large pelvis seem to match well with Skull A, also possibly a pair of tibia and these are described first:-

99. D.R. Brothwell, "Digging up Bones", (British Museum of Natural History, 1963), 160, 162.

Pelvis This is the only pelvic part in the collection, except for one other small fragment. It is a normal male, complete except for the pubic symphysis, the two innominates are complete, and the sacrum.

Femora Two, complete and healthy. The linea asperae are strongly marked, denoting muscular strength, and there is no sign of arthritic concretions around the femur head or elsewhere, as is often the case with old or middle aged subjects. It would seem to be a young man, muscular and mobile.

Tibiae A pair, but incomplete. The distal parts are lacking, otherwise they resemble the femurs, with which they articulate.

Using the formula of Dupertuis and Hadden for calculating the height of an individual from the long bones,¹⁰⁰, a height of 5' 6" is arrived at for this individual, assuming the skeleton is male and working with the large pair of femora.

The remaining bones are as follows:—

Arms

- Humerii** — 4, none complete. Two have the distal ends missing, one has the proximal part lacking, and the other is a mere shaft, possibly diseased. They are from 4 different individuals.
- Ulna** — 3, from 3 different individuals.
- Radius** — 2, a pair complete, the right one bears a green stain which, it is suggested, might be from a bronze bracelet. If so, the corresponding ulna must bear the same stain, but this bone is not present.

Legs

- Femora** — 2, right and left but not a pair. Adult and normal. 1 incomplete, the proximal half missing, newly broken.
- Tibiae** — 2, a pair, complete, adult, normal and one, right, almost complete but the proximal part, the head, is missing and looks as if cleanly cut with a saw. Also 1 shaft and 1 proximal frag.
- Fibulae** — 6, fragmentary, none complete.

Other

- Clavicle** — 1, complete, with some pitting shown (see Skull F, above).
- Ribs** — 2, small fragments.
- Ilium** — 1, large fragment, ill-preserved.
- Vertebrae** — 5, cervicals, including the atlas and axis. They do not seem to articulate with the condyles of Skulls A, B or C and the remaining skulls are too fragmentary to make any connection possible.
- Digits** — 2, complete metacarpals (hand) and 1, incomplete.

Except for the anonymous Skull F, it would seem that the group is young and strong, and there is nothing, osteologically showing, to account for death, but it is, of course, the exception rather than the rule for fatal maladies, or even injuries, to show in the post-mortem bones.

100. I. W. Cornwall, "Bones for the Archaeologist" (1956), 236.

Except for the anomalous Skull F, it would seem that the group is young and strong and there is nothing, osteologically showing, to account for death, but it is, of course, the exception rather than the rule for fatal maladies, or even injuries, to show in the post-mortem bones.

TENTH AND ELEVENTH-CENTURY WALTON

SUMMARY

It has already been suggested that occupation may have continued elsewhere in the hamlet through the Middle Saxon period, but the next group of structural evidence in the excavated area is datable to the tenth century. The criteria used for dating are set out in the subsequent section.

By the tenth century it appears that Walton Street, the present main road running to the east of the site, may have already become established as a thoroughfare; Gullies 6 and 7 are looping away from it and Gullies 8, 9 and 11 lie either at right angles or parallel to it. The latter grouping in particular indicates that a house 'plot' has been set out fronting Walton Street, its rear defined at different times by a palisade and a light fence, outside of which lay an area of sand quarrying (Q1). The Walton frontage of the plot was not available for investigation but twin pits (P6) may represent domestic cess-pits. In the earlier eleventh century a fenced enclosure defined by gullies 17 and 18, and probably with two entrances at the rear, indicates a slight contraction in the area of the plot, but a house site fronting Walton Street may again be suspected.

Slightly later in the same century a major reorganisation of land-holding is suggested by construction of a substantial boundary, D1, consisting of a broad bank thrown up between two side ditches. Again parallel to Walton Street the boundary apparently continues out of the excavated area at both ends. The boldness of its construction compared with the slighter earlier efforts suggests that the initiative for land division in the area may have passed up the social scale sometime during the eleventh century.

There was some structural evidence for domestic occupation during the eleventh century, namely a hearth and three pits, but more striking was a midden containing much eleventh-century pottery, whose approximate centre is indicated by "M" on the overall plan. In default of structural evidence in the area excavated, it is probable that this dumped material originated from a major hall or house lying to the south and beneath the present Conservative Club premises. Quarrying apparently continued throughout the eleventh century, a little down the slope on the north-western side of the site where the limestone bedrock gives way to sand. Much time was initially spent attempting to unravel the stratigraphy of this area but this proved a fruitless occupation since the ground appeared to have been turned over many times. Earlier Saxon deposits had been destroyed in the process since Saxon pottery and pieces of loomweight and comb were incorporated at all levels. Quarrying appeared to have commenced in the tenth century in the area designated Q.1. Presumably the sand was for use in mortar and, if this early date is correct, it is interesting to speculate whether the minster church at Aylesbury might not have been the most likely local stone structure to receive it.

Some information is available about the economy of the settlement. Miss Noddle's study of the animal bone suggests a slight increase in the number of sheep relative to cattle. The comparatively large size of the latter seems to indicate that good pasture

was available to them. Many of the animals wore bells, as can be seen from the presence of bell-clappers in this period. Deer continued to form a small part of the diet, and wild fruits were collected. Dogs seem to have been fairly common as although their bones are not particularly plentiful, they are widely distributed. That the community could afford riding horses may be indicated by a horseshoe, horseshoe nails and a spur.

The only demonstrable long distance imports are the lava querns which are likely to have been Rhenish in origin¹⁰¹ and a few hones which may originate from the high-land zone of Britain or possibly Scandinavia¹⁰². An arrowhead of distinctively Scandinavian form was also found (Fig. 39, 6). Trade links with East Anglia are indicated by the presence of much St. Neot's type ware in the tenth-century and later deposits and it is possible that items like the lava querns entered through East Anglian ports, and possibly the dried or salted cod indicated by a bone from P7. In this connection it is interesting to note that Miss Noddle in her study of the animal aspects of Walton's farming economy notes greater similarity with material from North Elmham in East Anglia than from sites further west.

Although there is no extant documentation for Walton in the tenth-eleventh centuries, apart from a note of its existence,¹⁰³ and the adjacent town of Aylesbury is little better served, the fortunes of the two places are likely to be closely linked, as Aylesbury was both King's manor and Mint town for some of the period. The evidence suggesting that Walton Street was a thoroughfare in the tenth century has already been noted and this itself has some significance for the town, for the road leads directly into the heart of Aylesbury via the former Silver Street on to Temple and Church Street, finishing at the present parish church. Although the existing church is an early thirteenth-century structure, it may be presumed to have its origins in the Saxon minster mentioned in Domesday, and an early date for this road strengthens the case for regarding Walton Street's continuation within the town as an axial feature of the Late Saxon town, crossing the possible defence at right angles.¹⁰⁴

DATING THE LATE SAXON OCCUPATION

The chronology of the later phases of occupation of the site is based largely on ceramic evidence, but backed by one significant coin find. Ceramic dating of this kind is necessarily approximate and to enable future re-appraisal the working axioms are described below.

Tenth Century

In a few deposits "St. Neot's type" ware, shelly and of purplish tint, occurs on its own, or associated with worn Saxon sherds. Whilst the type may have been in production by the later ninth century there is no firm evidence that this was so.¹⁰⁵ It was certainly very common over much of East Anglia and the Southern Midlands during the tenth century¹⁰⁶ and on some sites of the period it is the only ceramic present.¹⁰⁷

101. M. Biddle, 'The Excavation of a Motte and Bailey Castle at Therfield, Herts', "J.B.A.A." XXVI (1963), 82-3.

102. S. E. Ellis, 'The Petrography and Provenance of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval English Hones', "Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Mineralogy" II, no. 3 (1969), 135-86.

103. See introductory discussion.

104. M. Farley, 'Aylesbury a Defended Town?', "Records" XIX (1974), 429-48.

105. J. G. Hurst, Seminar at Oxford 1973.

106. J. G. Hurst, 'Saxo-Norman Pottery in E. Anglia', "Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc." XLIX (1956), 43-70.

107. P. V. Addyman, 'Late Saxon Settlement in the St. Neots Area: II, Little Paxton', "Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc." LXII (1969), 59-93.

At Walton it is taken to indicate a tenth-century horizon where it occurs on its own without other fabrics, although it certainly continues side by side with newer forms in the first part of the eleventh. It has been suggested that cooking pots with narrow rim diameter in St. Neot's type fabric are generally indicative of an earlier date¹⁰⁸ and this would accord with the Walton examples.

Eleventh Century:

From Ditch 1 came a group of thin walled pottery, hand made with a distinctive slightly lumpy calcareous filler, quite distinct from St. Neot's type ware. From the upper fill of the same ditch and directly above the group came a silver penny likely to have been lost between A.D. 1102 – 10. (see on). Allowing for a period of sedimentation between deposition of the pottery and then of the coin and for probable downward percolation of the coin it is thought reasonable to regard the pottery types as representative of the later eleventh century. The associated metal finds seem in accordance with this dating. The dating of twelfth-century pottery is discussed further on.

Tenth–Eleventh Century features, description:–

Tenth Century Features (Sections Fig. 30)

Gulley 6 : (Pottery Fig. 32, 1–2; Finds Fig. 33, 1)

This is the earliest of a sequence of boundaries possibly related to the Walton Street frontage; like all the Walton features it had an even, fairly porous fill with a small amount of limestone. Most of the pottery from it was St. Neot's type but there was also residual Early Saxon.

Gulley 7 : (Pottery Fig. 32, 3–4), St. Neot's type Pottery, average depth circa. 0.36m.

Gulley 8 : (Finds Fig. 33, 8–9 and 5)

This gulley contained in addition to a knife and quern fragments much animal bone (see Table VI)

Gulley 9: (Pottery Fig. 32, 5–13; Finds. Fig. 33, 2 and 4)

This was probably a palisade rather than a ditch since a single large post socket was found in the base at one point, measuring 40 x 60 cms., but on the whole it was very irregular. There were signs of a recut at the northern end. Pottery from it was almost entirely of St. Neot's type. It would be reasonable to presume its course continued south via G.14 and G.15 but these are apparently of later date. A spindle-whorl came from this gulley.

Gulley 10:

This marks the line of a fence and is, in fact, a drip-line and not a true gulley. A single large post supported the fence on the west side. The gulley contained many fragments of Saxon pottery but also one St. Neot's sherd. It clearly cut H5. A section of the large post-hole (110) which contained much charcoal appears on Fig. 9. No illustrable finds.

Gulley 11 : (Pottery Fig. 32, 14)

On a similar alignment to G9 and 10 and again containing residual Saxon material but with a St. Neot's rim.

Gulley 12 : (Pottery Fig. 32, 15–17; Find Fig. 33, 6)

This gulley traverses H6 and its pottery content shows it to be later. A bell-clapper

¹⁰⁸ M. Biddle, 'Therfield' (n.101).

from the gulley is illustrated.

Gulley 13:

Only a small portion of this southernmost feature was excavated. No illustrable finds.

Pit 6 : (Pottery Fig. 32, 18)

Consisting of two intersecting pits of similar date, the southern one at least may have been a cess-pit since it contained a great deal of fine soil with a slightly greeny tinge. Mr. Monk has kindly examined a sample of seeds (see below). The more southerly of the pair had 'belled' sides showing it to have been open for some time. Further confirmation is provided by the discovery of a quantity of toad bones presumably from animals which fell in. From the deeper pit came a complete cat skeleton also some twenty bones of fowl. Not illustrated are worn fragments of 'lava' quern. A tenth-century date is suggested by a cooking pot which is of St. Neot's form, although of dissimilar fabric. It is the only pit of this period identified.

Mr. M. Monk reports on the seed samples as follows:—

Samples of the fill were taken and floated by the excavator as described earlier for P5. The following specimens were identified.

Feature Number	Species	No. of Individuals	Measurements (m.m.)	
			L.	B.
Sample H:312.D	<i>Triticum</i> sp.	1		
	Unidentified cereal grain	1		
Sample A:313.F	Unidentified fruit stone fragment	1		
Sample K:313.E	Unidentified fruit stone fragment	1		
Sample J:313.D	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> (Sloe)	1	6.2	5.0
	<i>Prunus</i> cf. <i>domestica</i> var. <i>insititia</i> (Bullace)	2	7.7	5.4
	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	1	10.4	6.3

The fruit stones and fragments from this pit were found uncarbonised. It would seem that their preservation is due to the special micro-environment conditions prevailing in this probable cess-pit. In the late Saxon period the cereal plant diet was, it would seem from the extent of the samples, being supplemented by the collection of wild fruit.

Quarry 1 : (Pottery Fig. 32, 19 and Finds Fig. 33, 3 and 7)

The nature of this quarrying has been discussed earlier. The area defined as Q1 was only partially excavated and the base was not reached. The fill consisted of bands of grubby sand with sparse limestone. There was much Saxon pottery and sparse St. Neot's type ware. A stamped sherd of tenth to twelfth-century date which came from the subsoil above the feature is illustrated, also a bucket handle from a similar position.

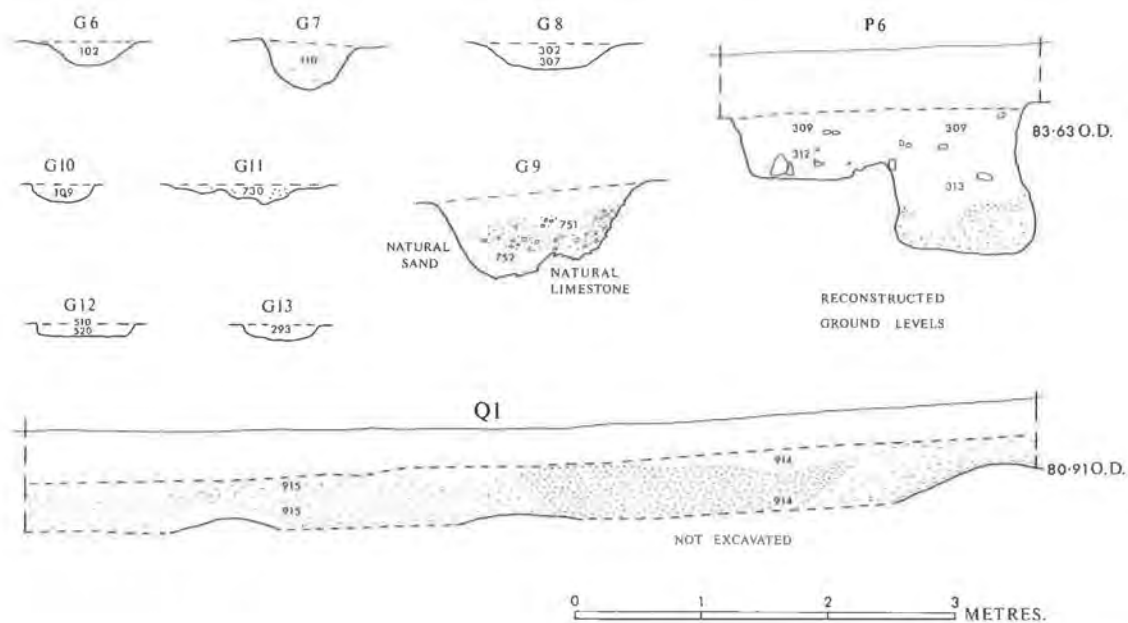


Fig. 30, Sections of Tenth-Century features. (1:60)

Eleventh-century features (Sections Fig.31)

Ditch 1 : (Pottery, Fig. 34, Finds Fig.35)

This feature could more appropriately be described as a bank, since it consists of two parallel ditches about four metres apart with earth piled between. It was visible before excavation commenced in 1973 after clearance of dense undergrowth, although its early date was then unsuspected. The bank consisted largely of typical Walton soil with a capping of small limestone. It ran for forty metres across the site and probably continued out of the site at either end. From the ditch on its western side came a coin lost circa 1102-10 (see on) and a group of metalwork including a pin, a spur, and a horseshoe. Animal bone was present in quantity and included cattle, sheep and pig, a few deer bones, fowl and minor mammals. The accompanying pottery from the ditch was distinctive and has been used as a chronological indicator (see earlier).

This feature is the earliest of a group of substantial boundaries which were to parcel up this part of Walton.

It is possible that a second large boundary, Ditch 2, was also constructed at this time but the evidence is less clear and it is discussed with twelfth-century features.

Gulleys 14 and 15 : (Pottery Fig. 36, 1-2 and 3-4)

Apparently post-dating G.9 this pair of gulleys would have become redundant after the construction of D1 and so probably preceded it, extending the line of G9 which must have been virtually infilled by then.

Gulley 16 : (Pottery Fig 36,5-10; Finds Fig. 36, 19)

Although shallow, this feature was obviously recut for the whole of its length, itself cut P5 and was in turn cut by D3, beneath whose bank it was probably then sealed. Its function is not known. Although it contained much St. Neot's ware the fill also included an eleventh-century rim.

Gulleys 17 and 18 : (Pottery G18, Fig. 36, 11-13; Finds G17, Fig.36 20)

This pair of gulleys which are roughly at right angles probably held a light fence, G17 in particular had a fairly sharp profile. Two spurs off G17 are probably supporting posts and the gaps may well be entrances. The whole appears to be a small eleventh-century fenced enclosure fronting Walton Street, within the larger area defined by D1. A house site might be anticipated at the eastern end which was not accessible. Most of the pottery from the fence slot was St. Neot's ware, but there was also eleventh-century fabrics.

Hearth 3 (F3) : Pottery Fig.36; 18)

An isolated area of burning with charcoal and large pieces of one cooking pot. No structural feature of similar date was associated.

Pit 7 : (Pottery Fig 36, 14-17)

A fairly shallow sub-rectangular pit, containing much St. Neot's type pottery and sparser eleventh-century wares. No post-holes were associated. A probable recut abuts on the south but the stratigraphy was unclear in homogenous slightly limey soil. Amongst the bone from the pit was the vertebral centrum of a cod (*gadus morhua*), identified by Andrew Jones, who comments that such fish were often preserved by drying or salting. A fourth-century Roman coin came from the fill (146 A.74).

Pit 8: Cut in the side of House 3 and 30 cms. deep, this pit contained some angular limestone lumps.

Pit 9 : Finds Fig 36,21)

Also cut into H.3, with a band of small limestone in the fill. Contained St. Neot's type sherds and an eleventh-century sherd. Functions unknown.

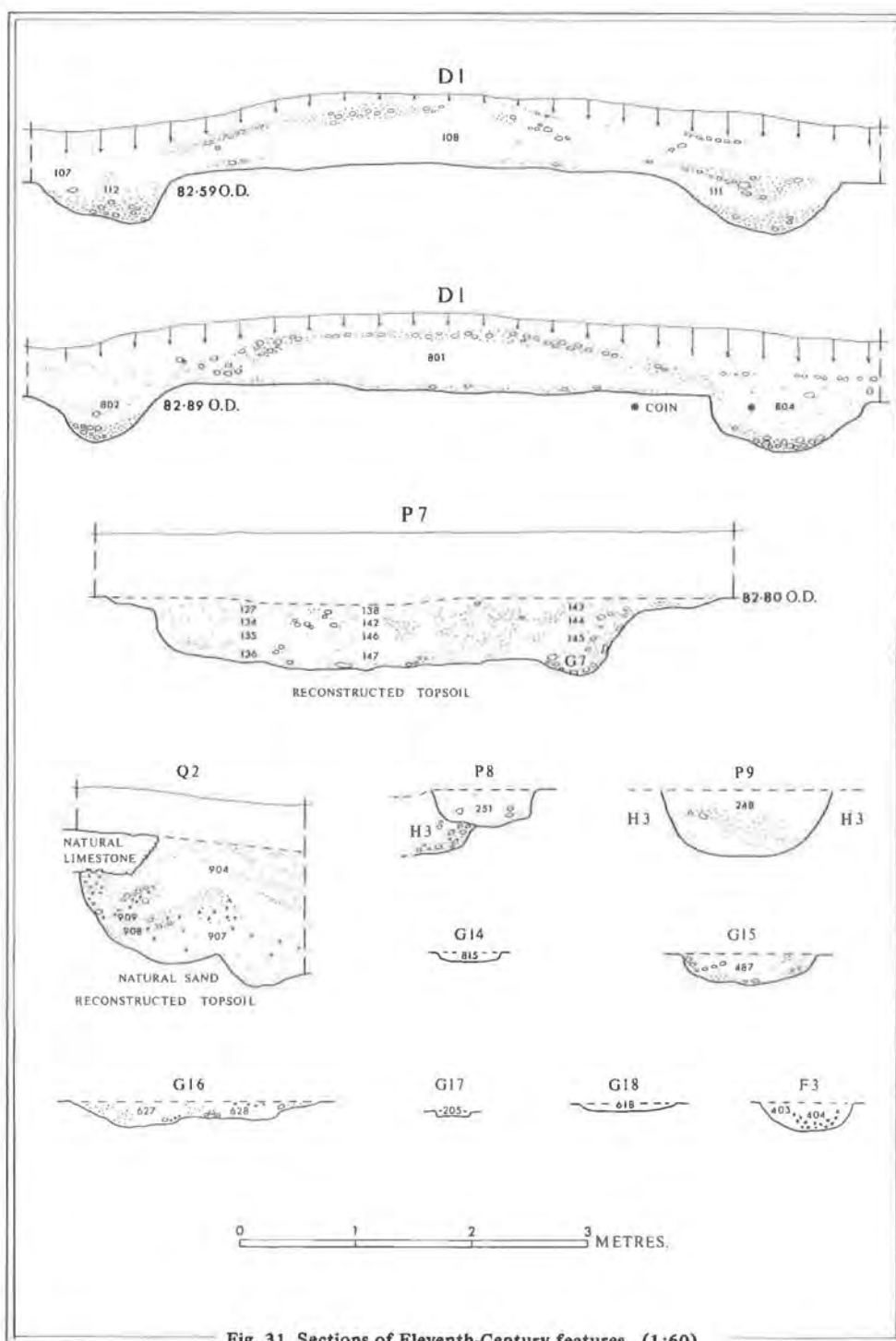


Fig. 31, Sections of Eleventh-Century features. (1:60)

Q2 : The nature of quarrying on the western side of the site has already been discussed. A partial section across Q2 exposed similar dirty sandy layers with fragmentary Saxon material including half a bead (Fig 24, 8) and small pieces of bone. However, an eleventh-century sherd came from 909 (see Fig. 31). This particular quarry pit falls near to the natural junction of sand and limestone on the site and a small collapse could be seen to have occurred.

'Midden' (M) : Pottery Fig. 38; Finds Fig. 39, 10-17)

Ditch 3, being limestone filled, was identified immediately below the turf line. To either side of it, but not in it, and extending from the southern limit of the site as far north as H3 were considerable quantities of pottery and bone. Ditch 3 had clearly cut through an extensive dump of domestic refuse which spread roughly 2m. to either side. The deposit was in no sense sealed and graded into topsoil, nor could its limits be strictly defined. The encompassing soil was in no way macroscopically distinct from the ordinary site subsoil and can be seen in the section of D3 (Fig. 41) as 505 and 507, the tail end of the deposit. A selection of the larger pieces of pottery is illustrated on Fig. 38. Nearly all are made of the calcareous fabric identified elsewhere as eleventh-century. Although neither this group of pottery nor the finds from the deposit can be regarded as sealed, they were thought worth illustrating since the group appears internally inconsistent.

It seems likely that the dump came from occupation to the south of the excavated area.

Pottery and finds from Tenth and Eleventh-Century features; catalogue:

Tenth Century: Fig. 32. Pottery (G6, 1-2: G7, 3-4: G9, 5-13: G11, 14: G12, 15-17: P6, 18: Q1, 19.)

1. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (102.74)
2. Pot : angle uncertain : brown-black ext. : dark grey core : pink grits : could be residual Early Saxon (124.74)
3. Pot : dark brown ext. : black core : grit : perhaps Mid-Late Saxon, fabric coarser than normal with earlier Saxon (112.74)
4. Bowl : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (112.74)
5. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (754.73)
6. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (751.73)
7. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (751.73)
8. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (751.73)
9. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (751.73)
10. ? Cup : fine, thin, St. Neot's rim form : dark brown ext. : ? shell and fine grit (751.73)
11. Pot : diam. uncertain, but possibly circa 27 cms. : light brown ext. : grey core : grit (724.73)
12. Bowl : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (751.73)
13. Bowl : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (751.73)
14. Bowl : St. Neot's type, lip broken : shelly fabric (730 A.73)
15. Bowl : similar to St. Neot's type but less soapy feel : light-dark brown ext. : grey core : shelly with slight grittiness (520.74)

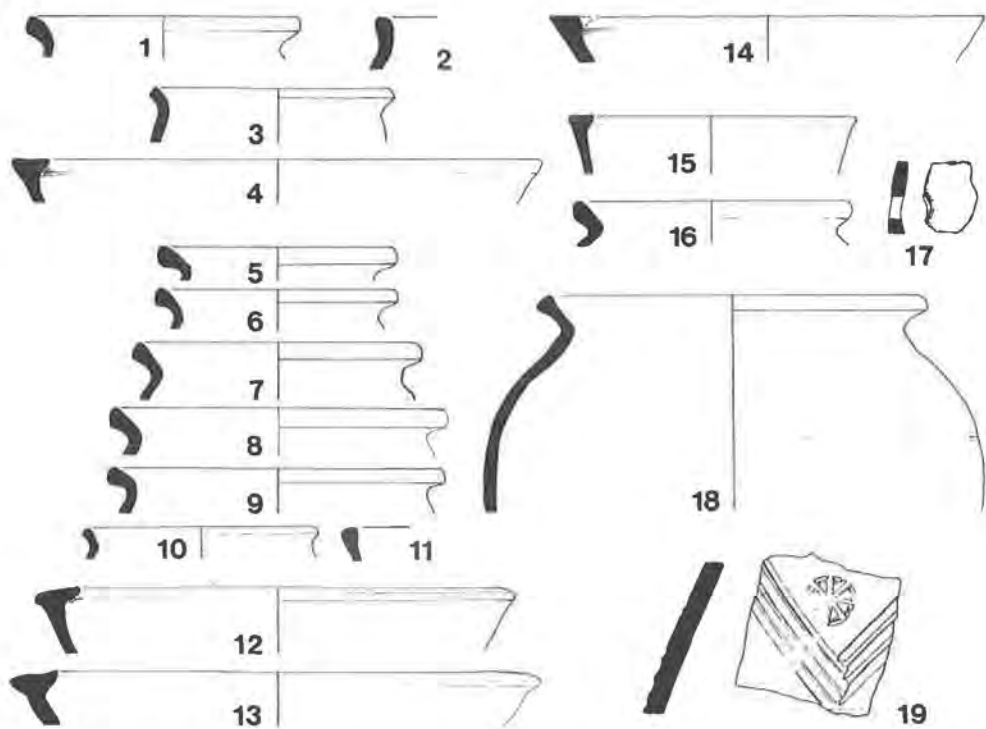


Fig. 32, Pottery from Tenth-Century features, 1-18 ($\frac{1}{4}$), 19 ($\frac{1}{2}$).

16. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric (803 A.74)
17. Perforated sherd : angle uncertain , large perforation ; uncertain whether it has a cabled rim or has simply snapped at a perforation : black ext. : black core : grass tempered : possibly an Early Saxon survival (807.B.74)
18. Pot : black ext. : black core : small rounded grits : a St. Neot's form but fabric totally different : concretion on interior (312.74)
19. Stamped sherd : large rosette stamp with combing : dark brown ext. : grey core : sandy fabric (900 + J.73) Although large stamps are not uncommon on late Saxon and eleventh-century pottery they are rarer subsequently. This example on a sandy fabric may be a late example.

Finds from various Tenth-Century features (Fig. 33)

1. Hone (?) : light coloured calcareous sandstone concave on all long faces; height 7.2 cms. (102A.74)
2. Spindle-whorl. Bone, broken, simple radial incised decoration. Very light, possibly for spinning flax. (751 E.73)
3. Small bucket handle. Iron, twisted for most of length, ending in loop folded back on itself. Diameter of bucket would have been 14 cms. (901 F.73) Whilst buckets are common in tenth-century 'Viking' deposits abroad¹⁰⁹ and occasionally occur here in similar contexts,¹¹⁰ their diameter is commonly over 25cms. and the handle loops are normally in the same plane as the handle itself. This example may be an earlier Saxon survival.¹¹¹
4. Fragment of iron plate with iron rivet (751 J.73)
5. Iron knife. Length 10.6 cms (301 K.74)
6. Bell-clapper. Iron, length 7.6 cms. (520 A.74)
7. Bell-clapper. Iron, length 7.8 cms. (915 A.73)
8. Quern. Part of rotary 'lava' quern, projected diameter 36 cms. (302 C+E. 74)
9. Quern. Part of rotary 'lava' quern, topstone with part of feed-hole. (301 P.74)

Pottery from Eleventh-Century Ditch (D1) (Fig. 34)

Dr. David Peacock has kindly examined a prepared thin section of one of the sherds with calcareous fabric, number 5 below and reports "Numerous inclusions up to 1mm across are visible. These consist largely of rounded limestone grains with occasional flint, quartz and potash felspar."

1. Bowl : grey-brown ext. : reddy brown core : pink grits: copy of a St. Neot's type (804.73)
2. Bowl : St. Neot's type : calcareous fabric (804.73)
3. Pot : grey ext. : grey core : sandy fabric (414.73)
4. Pot : light brown ext. : grey core : calcareous fabric (417.73)
5. Pot : rim possibly folded down: medium brown ext. : grey core : calcareous fabric (417 +/417 C.73)

109. Holger Arbman, "Birka, I, die Graber, (Stockholm 1940), Taf. 208-12.

110. G. Bersu and D. M. Wilson, "Three Viking Graves in the Isle of Man" Soc. for Med. Arch., Monograph I (1966), 41-2.

111. For a local Saxon example see Miranda Hyslop . 'Two Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries at Chamberlain's Barn, Leighton Buzzard, Beds', "Arch.J." CXX (1963), 161-200,

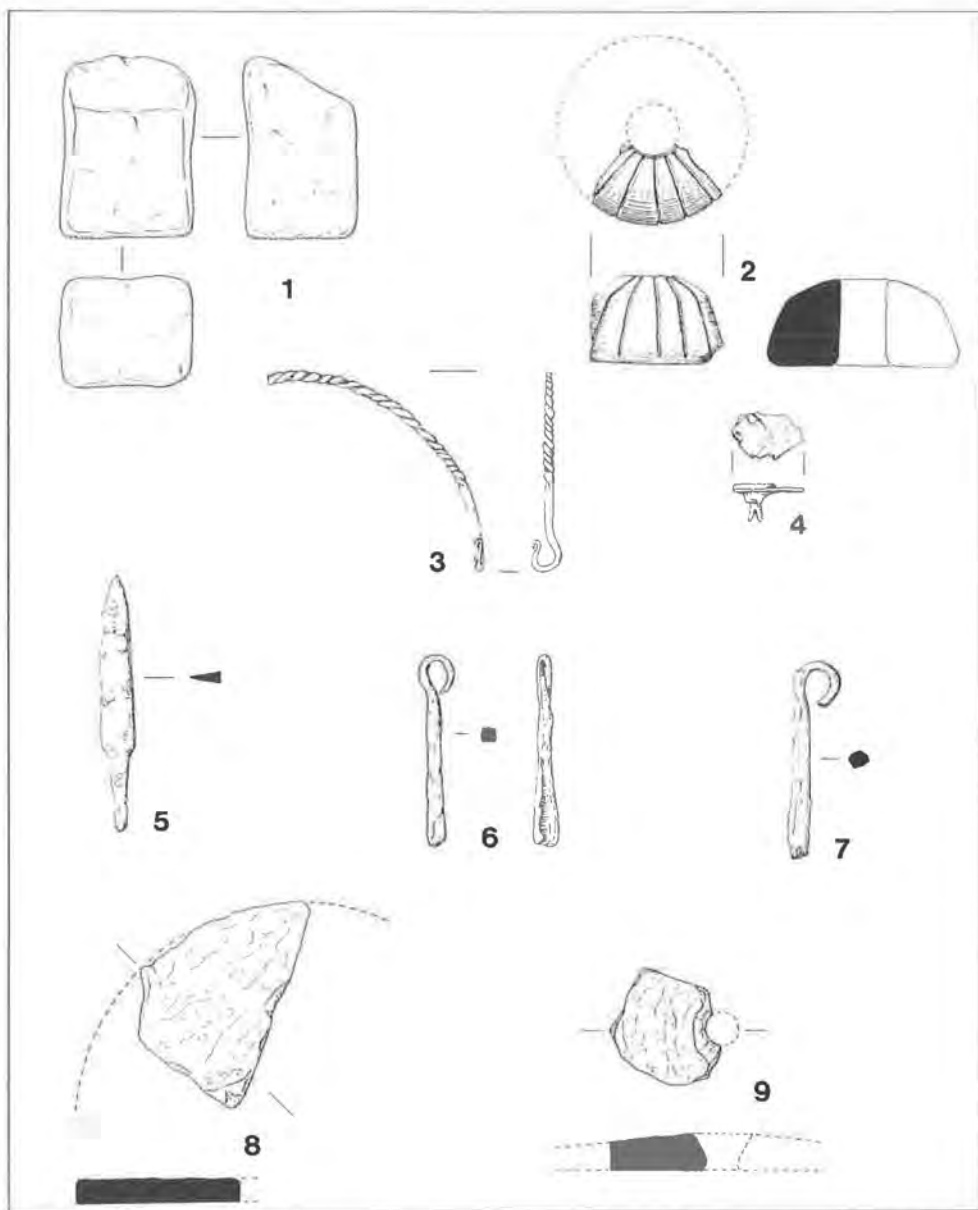


Fig. 33, Finds from Tenth-Century features, stone 1 (1/3), bone, 2 (2/3), iron 3-7 (1/3), quern 8-9 (1/6).

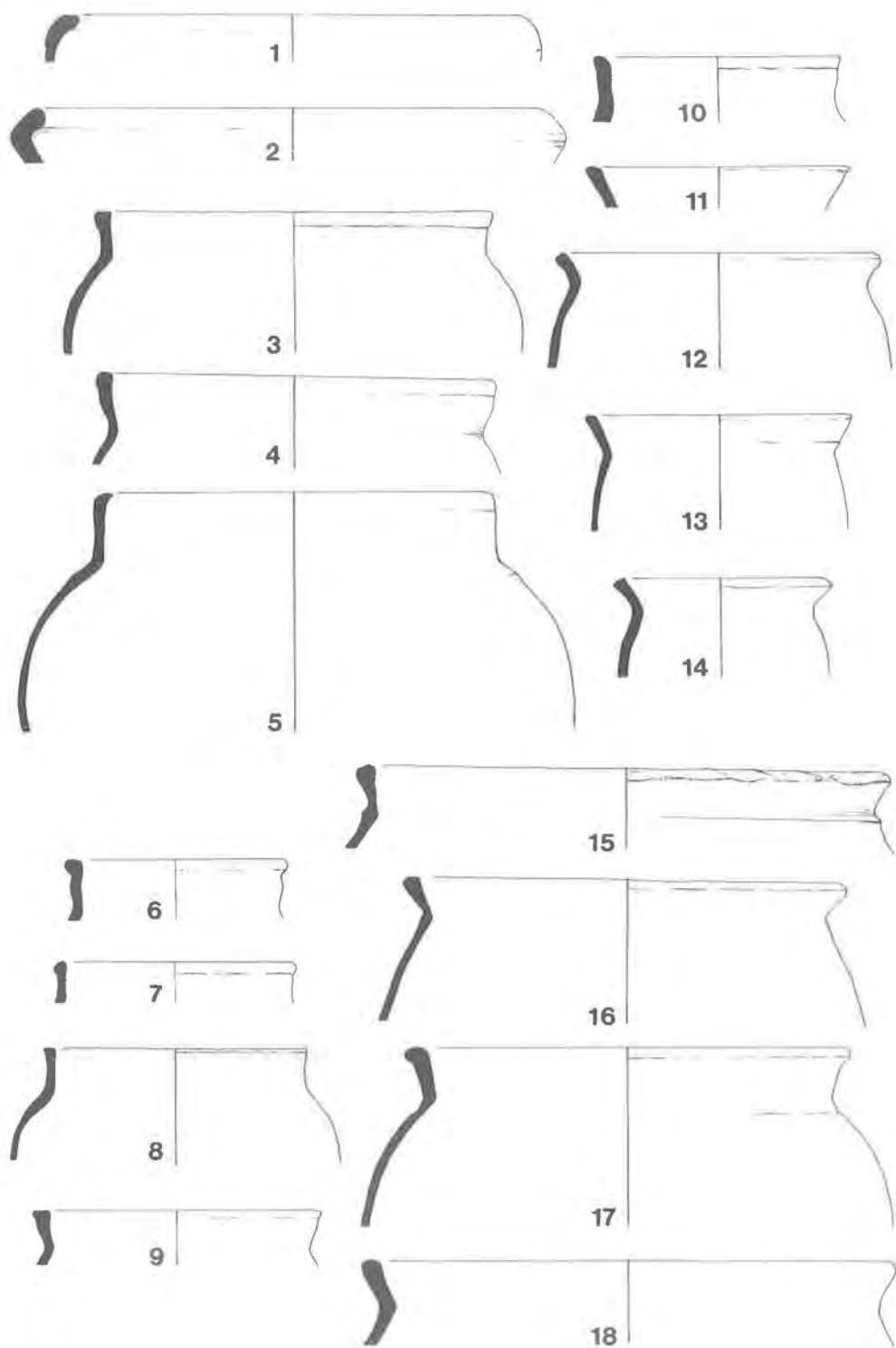


Fig. 34, Pottery from Eleventh-Century ditch, D1, (1/4).

6. Pot : grey-brown ext. : grey core : calcareous lumps (417.73)
7. Pot : reddy ext. : grey core : calcareous fabric (804.73)
8. Pot : brown-black ext. : grey brown core : lumpy, calcareous (417 C.73)
9. Pot : grey ext. : light grey core : fine sandy fabric (804.73)
10. Pot : rim possibly folded down: grey ext. : grey core : sandy fabric : fabric similar to no. 3 above (804.73)
11. Pot : reddy brown ext. : grey core : calcareous fabric (804.73)
12. Pot : rim possibly folded down : light brown ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous filler (417.73)
13. Pot : light brown ext. : grey core : calcareous, slightly leached (804 C.73)
14. Pot : light brown ext. : grey core : calcareous, some leaching (417.73)
15. Pot : light brown-grey ext. : grey core : calcareous fabric (417 C.73)
16. Pot : light brown-grey ext. grey core : calcareous fabric (804.C.73)
17. Pot : light brown-grey ext. : grey core : calcareous fabric (804 B.73)
18. Pot : light brown ext. : grey core : large calcareous lumps (804 C.73)

The coin associated with this pottery has been kindly examined by Marion Archibald, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, whose report appears below:-

Silver Penny from Ditch I (417 A.73) by Marion Archibald.

Henry I Penny, BMC type II.

Mint : Oxford, Moneyer, Aegelric. Obverse : + HENRIREI Reverse : + 1..LRICON
OXNFI. Wt. (cleaned): 1.30 gm. = 2 .1 gr.

The use of an "I" at the end of a legend as only part of the next letter or merely as a space-filler in place of the next letter, which is too wide for the space available, is quite normal.

It is particularly fortunate that this coin is in such excellent condition and that there can therefore be no doubt about the reading. Aegelric has not hitherto been recorded as a moneyer at Oxford in the Norman period (a moneyer of that name was striking at Oxford in the later Saxon period and has no direct relevance here, although there could be the chance that he was a member of the same family). There is however a coin of William II BMC type II,¹¹² which is listed as by an uncertain moneyer, — RIC. Given that no moneyer ending — RIC was then known for Oxford, the author was wise not to push the reading further, but in fact the coin reads clearly +1 — LRIC. (There is a mark above the horizontal limb of the L but it is, in my view, just the cushioning effect one sometimes finds between letters or elements of letters). There is room for two letters between I and L and what traces remain are compatible with EG so giving a reading +IEGLRIC. Although of course it is not possible to be certain of this reading, the discovery of another coin by such a moneyer struck some 10-12 years later suggests that the attribution is a likely one.

The problems in dating the issues of Henry I and the lack of hoard evidence for the middle period of his reign make it difficult to provide certain termini for the deposition of this coin. With that proviso, it is likely that this type had a short life in circulation. It was struck c. 1102-4 and it is likely to have been superseded — at the latest — with the other early Norman-style pennies of Henry I when type V was introduced probably after the "reform" of 1108. This coin is in virtually mint condition and is not likely to have been an abnormal survivor into a later period. It would therefore be

112. Ashmolean Museum, "Sylloge" 83.

reasonable to suggest — abnormal survivals apart — a bracket of c. 1102 — 1110 for the deposition of this coin.

Finds from Eleventh-Century Ditch (D1) (Fig. 35)

1. Prick spur. Iron with incised lines on shoulder, perhaps once inlay but this does not show on radiograph. Lozenge shaped point, one arm shorter than the other, with traces of two rivets, either end. (417 B.73)
2. Horseshoe. Six nail-holes, recessed for 'fiddle-key' nails. 10.1 cms. long. Calkins formed by metal being folded back on itself. (417 D.73)
3. Horseshoe Nail. Fiddle-key type, 4 cms. long (804 J.73)
4. Key. Iron, barrel padlock key, bent and tip missing; original length circa 13 cms. (804 CA.73)
5. Bell-Clapper. Iron, length 5.7 cms. (111 B.73)
6. Lead strip. Curve at one end probably fortuitous. Length 3.5 cms. (804 D.73).
7. Spindle-Whorl. Made in limestone, cheese shape, diameter 3.5 cms. (414 D.73)
8. Bronze Pin. Broken, with diagonally twisted incisions filed on head. A small cross filed on flat top. Length 2.6 cms. (703 A.73)
A similar pin was found in a late ninth to tenth-century context at North Elmham.¹¹³
9. Bronze tube. Lace end, rolled tube with tiny rivet through one end. Length 2.3 cms. (701 A.73).
10. Quern. 'Lava', diameter approx 50 cms. (804 A.73).
11. Quern. Probably lower stone, in a coarse grained crystalline limestone. (491 A.73)

Pottery and Finds from other Eleventh-Century features (Fig. 36)

(G14, 1-2 : G15, 3-4 : G16, 5-10 and 19 : G17, 20 : G18, 11-13 : F3, 18 : P7, 14-17: P9, 21)

1. Pot : combed chevron : dark grey ext. : dark grey core : fine grit . (815 A.73)
2. Pot : St. Neot's type : calcareous (815.73)
3. Pot : diameter uncertain : reddy brown ext. : grey core : sparse white lumps, calcareous (?) (487.73)
4. Bowl : St. Neot's type : calcareous . (487.73)
5. Pot : St. Neot's type : calcareous (615 B.74)
6. Pot : St. Neot's type : calcareous (905.74)
7. Pot : burnished ext. and int. : black ext. : dark grey core : fine grit : this piece is probably an earlier Saxon survival (907.74)
8. Pot : diameter uncertain : buff ext. : grey core : sparse white inclusions. (615.74)
9. Bowl : St. Neot's type : calcareous (627.74)
10. Bowl : St. Neot's type : calcareous (615 A.74)
11. Spouted bowl : small piece only : dark grey ext. : dark grey core : calcareous with some grit : similar to St. Neot's but with harsher feel (527 A.74)
12. Pot : light fingering on top of rim : brown-grey ext. : dark grey core : sandy feel, sparse white flecks. (618.74)
13. Pot : St. Neot's type : calcareous. (527.74)
14. Bowl : St. Neot's type : calcareous (146.74)

¹¹³ P. Wade-Martin, 'North Elmham, 1969', "Nfk Arch." XXXV (1973), fig. 19.

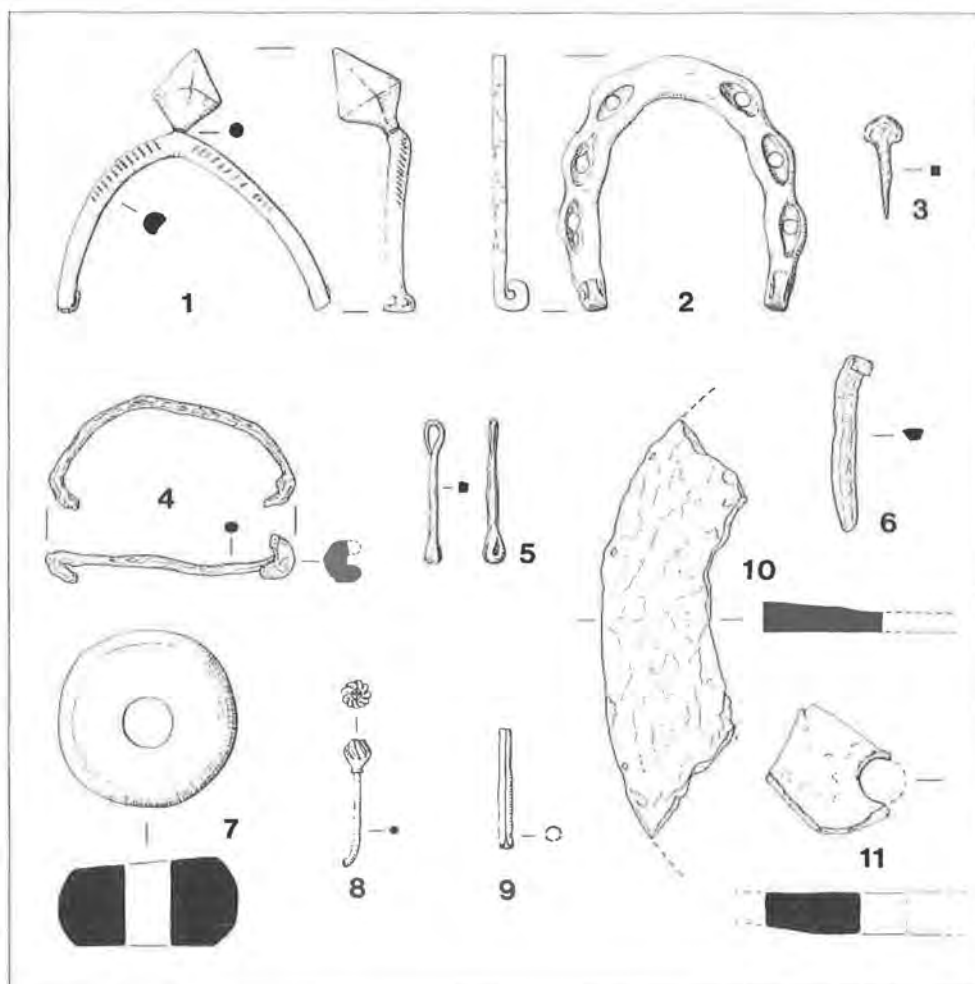


Fig. 35, Finds from Eleventh-Century ditch, D1, iron 1-5 (1/3), lead 6 (2/3), stone 7 (2/3), bronze 8-9 (2/3), quern 10-11 (1/6).

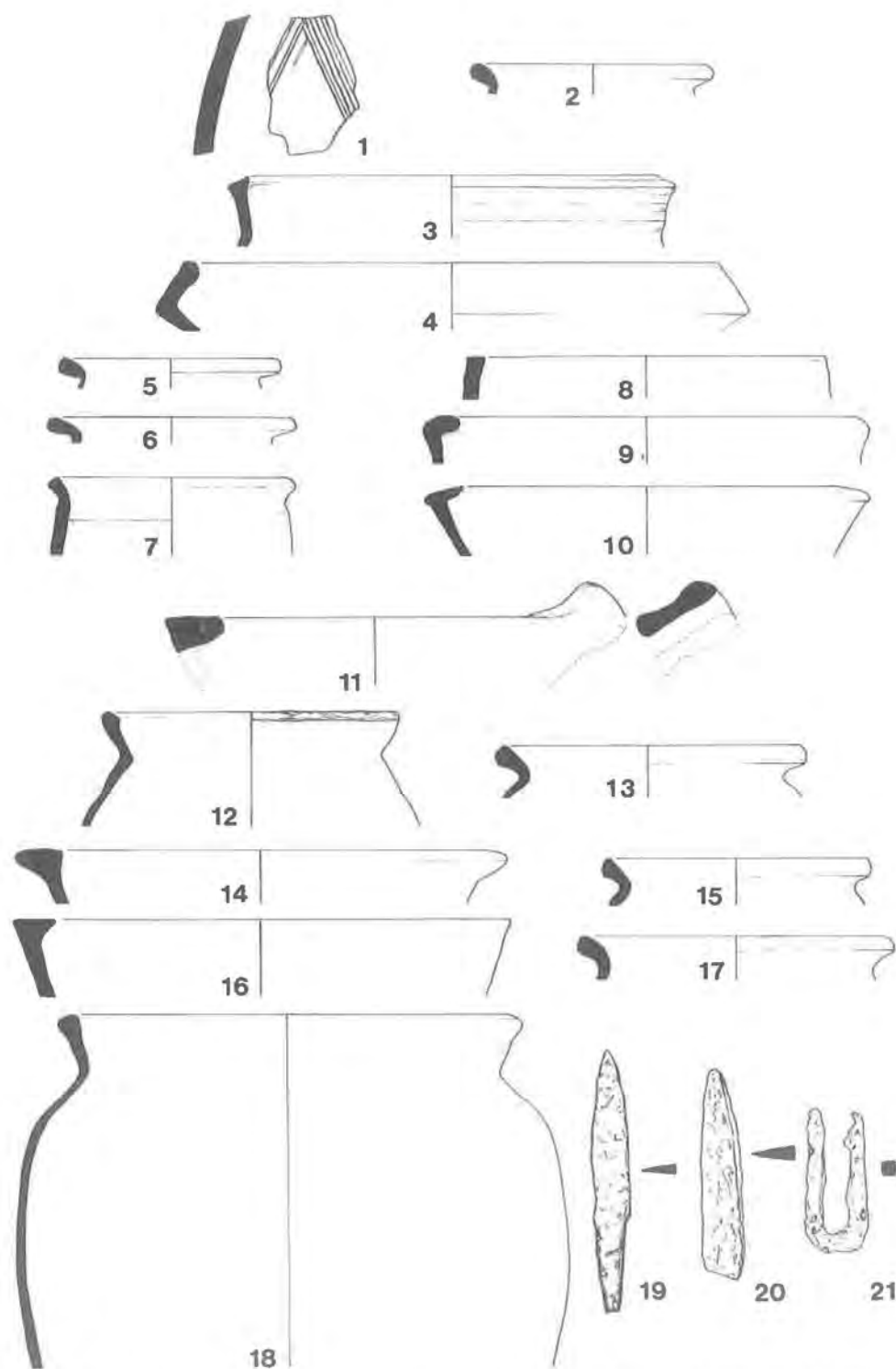


Fig. 36, Pottery and finds from Eleventh-Century features; pottery all $\frac{1}{4}$ except 1, ($\frac{1}{2}$) iron 19-21 ($\frac{1}{3}$).

15. Pot : St. Neot's type : calcareous. (146.74)
16. Bowl : St. Neot's type : calcareous. (142.74)
17. Pot : St. Neot's type : calcareous (142.74)
18. Pot : brown ext. : grey core : calcareous (404.74)
19. Iron Knife. Length 11.2 cms. (614 BB.74)
20. Iron knife. Blade only, length 9.3 cms. (205 A.74)
21. Iron staple (?). Possibly part of a barrel padlock. Length 6.2 cms. (248 B.74)

Unstratified Tenth and Eleventh-Century Pottery. (Fig. 37)

1. Dec. Sherd. : rosette stamp and combed lines : brown buff ext. : greeny grey core : sandy, sparse black inclusions : (800+A.73). Groups of lines and stamps in similar manner occur on Late Saxon pottery at Oxford.¹¹⁴
2. Dec. sherd : applied thumbed strip : St. Neot's type : calcareous. (913.73)
3. Pot : dark grey ext. : grey core : fine sandy; (200.74)
4. Pot : dark grey ext. : grey core : sandy; (600.74)
5. Pot : grey ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous. (500.74)
6. Handle : reddy brown ext. : grey core : calcareous (602 D.74)
Possibly from a spouted pitcher.
7. Pot : reddy brown ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous + grey inclusions. (414.73)
8. Pot : traces of red (?) slip : grey/dark grey ext. : grey core : coarse gritty fabric with white inclusions. (300.74)
9. Pot : reddy brown ext. : grey core : calcareous (602D.74)
10. Pot : folded down rim with thumbing on outside edge : dark grey ext. : light grey core : sparse sand. (000.73)
11. Pot : combed decoration externally, inside and on top of rim : grey ext. : grey core : sandy. (415.73)

Pottery from probable Eleventh-Century 'Midden', (Fig. 38)

1. Bowl:rectangular perforation below rim:grey ext.:light grey core:fine sandy.(507F.74)
2. Pot : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (507.74)
3. Bowl : knife trimmed at base of wall : grey ext. : grey core : calcareous. (507.74)
4. Pot : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (507.74)
5. Pot : brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (507.74)
6. Pot : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (507.74)
7. Pot : reddy brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (507.74)
8. Pot : dark grey ext. : dark grey core : sparse white flecks. (507.74)
9. Pot : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (507.74)
10. Pot : light indentations on outer edge of rim : reddy brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (505.74/600.74)

Unstratified Eighth to Eleventh-Century Finds, also, finds from the eleventh century 'Midden' with a note on an Eighth (?) century tag end by Miss Vera Evison, (fig.39).

Figure 39 illustrates objects from the midden (10–17) also objects more or less unstratified but likely to date to the Late Saxon period on typological grounds or because of loose association with other material of that date. The tag end and the Scandinavian type arrowhead are of particular interest.

¹¹⁴. E M. Jope, 'Late Saxon Pits under Oxford Castle Mound', "Oxoniensia" XVII –XVIII (1952-3), fig. 34.

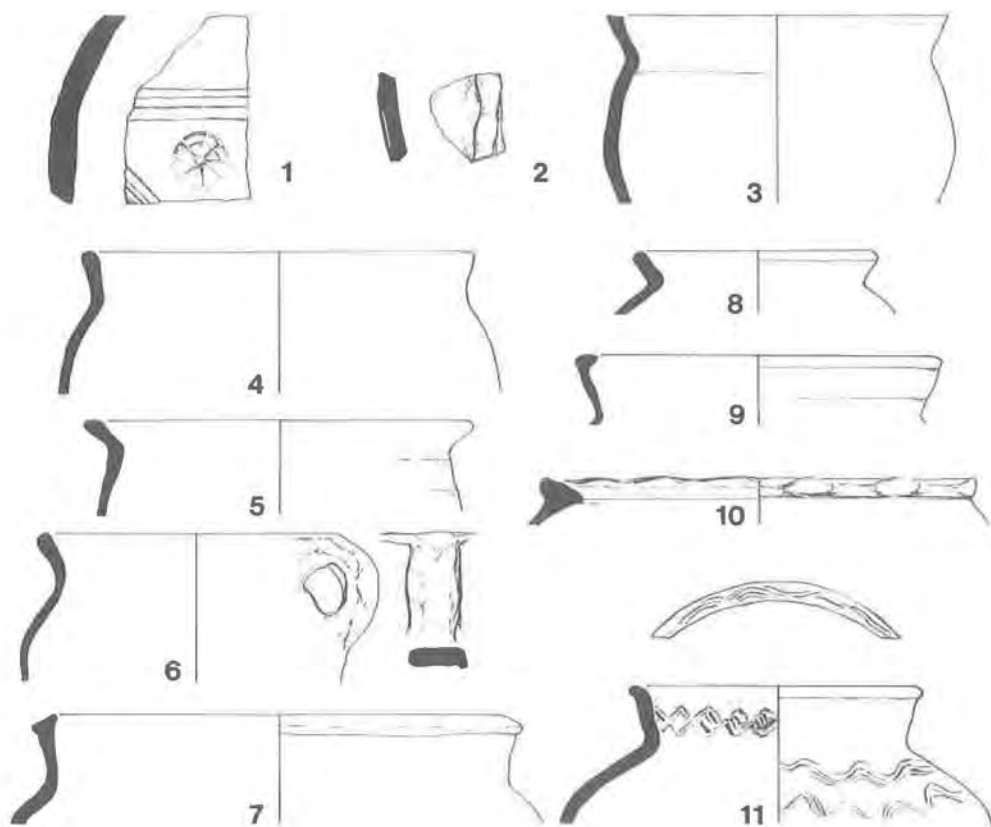


Fig. 37, Unstratified Tenth and Eleventh-Century pottery, (all $\frac{1}{4}$ except 1 at $\frac{1}{2}$).

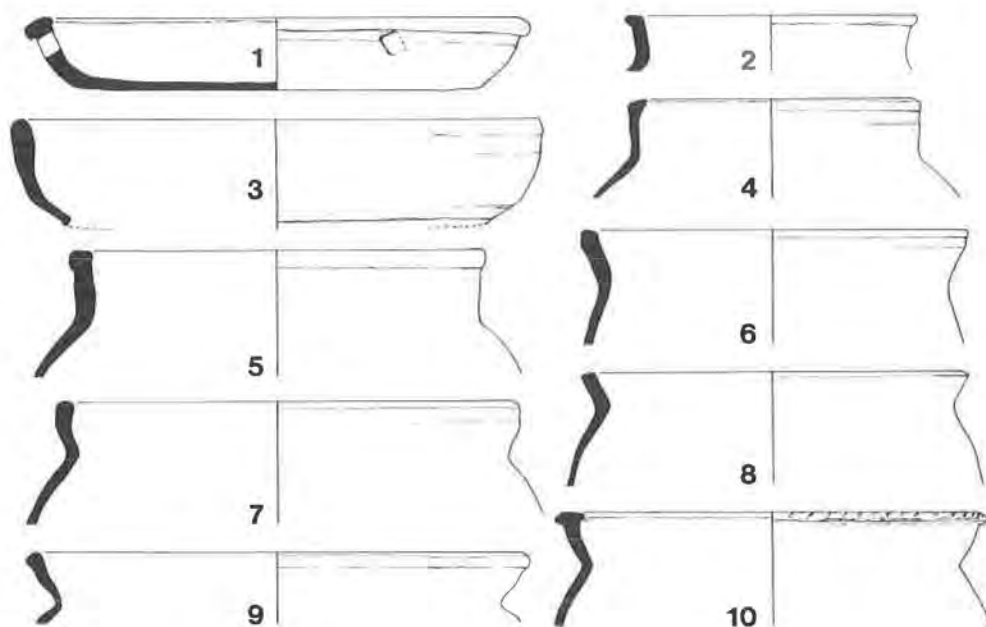


Fig. 38, Pottery from 'midden' (M1), mostly Eleventh-Century , (¼).

Fig. 39

1. Tag-End (Pl.V) Bronze with niello (?) inlay, broken, length 3.6 cms. (105+A.73)
Miss Vera I. Evison, B.A., F.S.A., comments as follows:—

"This fragment of a bronze strap-end belongs to the general ornamental type which has been found in a number of firmly dated contexts of deposition ranging from the middle of the ninth century to the beginning of the tenth century, e.g. by association with coins at Sevington, Trewhiddle, Talnotrie and Cuerdale.¹¹⁵ Although the whole series is more or less homogenous from the point of view of form, i.e. an animal-head tip, convex sides and a blunt end split to accommodate a thin strap, it does display a wide range of slight variations in form, design and techniques. This fragment is from an oval strap-end and falls in with a type that is broad and normally about 5 cm. long, with a pointed animal head at one end, two rivet holes at the split end, and a panel of ornament in the middle, either geometric or zoomorphic, e.g. from Great Wakering, Essex; Icklingham, Suffolk; Whitby, Yorks; Burford, Oxon; Sutherland and London.¹¹⁶ The animal-head terminals on these are flat or rather featureless, except for the one from Whitby,¹¹⁷ which has distinct oval ears with 'lunate openings'. This is a characteristic of the zoomorphic terminals on a number of strap-ends which have a middle panel of Trewhiddle-style ornament, the oval ears sometimes containing reserved circular shapes,¹¹⁸ and sometimes, as on the Walton strap-end, pointed shapes.¹¹⁹ On the Walton strap-end the pointed shapes are hollowed as well. As may be seen from one of the Sevington strap-ends, the form of this particular kind is often smaller, with a blunt snout to the animal terminal.¹²⁰

The design on the Walton middle panel is zoomorphic, showing the loop of the hind quarters, no doubt of a backward-glancing animal, with part of the head or a claw remaining by the broken edge. The contour of the animal is picked out in a toothed inlaid line which is now silver in colour and has swollen out of its groove, presumably the result of a chemical loss of constituents of the original niello mixture. The animal shows none of the features of a Trewhiddle animal, i.e. narrow-waisted body, double nicks, speckling, etc., but instead is much closer to the worm-like shape of the animals of the Allington Hill discs, and other animals of the late pagan period.¹²¹

This suggestion of a possible connection much earlier than the ninth century must be considered in relation to the observation,¹²² already made that the geometric design on the strap ends from Sutherland is reminiscent of the step-pattern cloisonné work of the pagan period. This is undoubtedly true, especially in relation to the cloisonné work on hemispherical buttons attached to sword scabbards or beads,¹²³ for on the Sutherland strap-ends the lines of the step-pattern follow the contour of the circle. In the eighth century these hemispherical bosses were copied in glass and enamelwork to decorate brooches and the Ardagh chalice, and these step-pattern designs en cabochon were also

115. D. M. Wilson, "Anglo-Saxon Ornamental Metalwork 700–1100" (1964), 27–9, 62–3.

116. Ibid., pl. xix, pp. 21, 23, pl. xl, pp. 117, 118; D. Hinton, "Catalogue of the Anglo-Saxon Ornamental Metalwork 700–1100" (1974), pl. 5, p. 5., pl. xviii, pp. 33, 34. R. E. M. Wheeler, "London and the Vikings" (1927), fig. 22.

117. D. M. Wilson, "Metalwork 700–1100" (1964), pl. xl, p. 117.

118. Ibid., pl. xix, p. 29.

119. Ibid., pl. xl, p. 120 and pl. xliii, p. 137.

120. Ibid., pl. xxx, p. 71; and at Postling, Kent, "Arch. Cant." LXXXII (1968), 282, fig. 1.

121. "Ant. J." XLII (1962), pl. xv.

122. Hinton, "Catalogue" (n. 116), 62.

123. "Arch." 105 (1976), pl. lxvi, a and b.

copied and translated into the two dimensions of manuscript illumination.¹²⁴ A third factor for consideration is that three simple strap-ends exist of this pointed oval form which on typological grounds might be regarded as the earliest specimens of this type. One, decorated with ring-and-dot stamps, was found at Meols, Cheshire, and it was suggested that, together with the somewhat similar dress hook also found there, it may belong to the eighth century.¹²⁵ There is a very similar strap-end also decorated with ring-and-dot stamps, but with the butt end shaped in bi-lobe fashion round the rivets, and the point decorated with transverse lines. This is recorded as being found at a pagan cemetery site at Malton, Barrington, Cambs., and from another cemetery site at Market Overton, Leics., comes another strap-end of this shape, undecorated and with butt-end straight.¹²⁶ Both of these are old finds so that their precise context is not known, but the fact that there are two in such circumstances increases the likelihood that they were grave goods and so represent a form beginning at the end of the pagan period. It is credible from a typological point of view that the earliest examples were undecorated or simply stamped, and were followed by geometric line decoration. The cabochon stud design on the Sutherland strap-ends illustrates the next step and speaks for an eighth-century date. By this time animal-head terminals and zoomorphic panels were also being introduced, as may be seen from the Walton strap-end with a kind of Style II animal ornament, which must therefore be placed before the main ninth-century group".

2. Pin. Bronze. Head a slightly flattened sphere, solid with two ridges below, two grooves on lower shank. Length 7.1 cms. (503 A.74). This pin comes from lower sub-soil above G12 and may be from its upper fill. Bronze decorated pins are fairly common on Late Saxon sites; a pin with a similar head was found at York.¹²⁷
3. Weight. Lead, with off-centre perforation. Height 1.7 cms. Weight 48.2 gms. (055 A.73) Although formerly thought to be late Saxon (viz Hamwih) the associations of this piece have been reviewed and it may be later.
4. Hone. 'Hourglass' perforation, wedge-shaped, 7.1 cms. long 'Hornfels'. A common Late Saxon/Viking form (301 R.74).
5. Hone. Broken, 'hourglass' perforation, off-centre. 'Black micaceous siltstone. This rock is of a Palaeozoic type either Silurian or possibly Carboniferous', Length 5.1 cms. (100 C.74).
6. Arrowhead. Iron, shouldered at tang. Drawn from radiograph. Length 12.1 cms. (250 + B.73). Although this type does not appear to have been reported from British sites before, it is well known on Scandinavian sites of the Viking period.¹²⁸ This example accords to Wegraus' type A2 which are found in Swedish weapon graves.

124. Ibid., fig. on p.61, no. 33; c.f. F. Henry, "Irish Art in the Early Christian Period to A.D. 800" (1965), Ardagh Chalice pls. C and D pl. 39, Book of Durrow, three in centre roundel pl.60, Lindisfarne Gospels, centre of arms of Cross. pl. 104.

125; J. D. Bu'lock, "The Celtic, Saxon and Scandinavian Settlement at Meols in Wirral", "Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancs and Cheshire", 112 (1960), 6, fig. 2, f and g.

126. Malton Farm, Barrington, Cambs (British Museum Reg. no. 76, 2-12, 42); Market Overton (Oakham Museum Leics, OS 54, G 128-9).

127. D. M. Waterman 'Late Saxon, Viking and Early Medieval Finds from York', "Arch." XCVII (1959), fig. 11, p. 9.

128. Poul Nørlund, "Trelleborg" (1948), pl. xlii - xliii. For a general discussion of Viking Period types see Erik Wegraus, "Pilspeksar under Vikingatid", "Tor" XV (Uppsala 1973), 191 - 208.

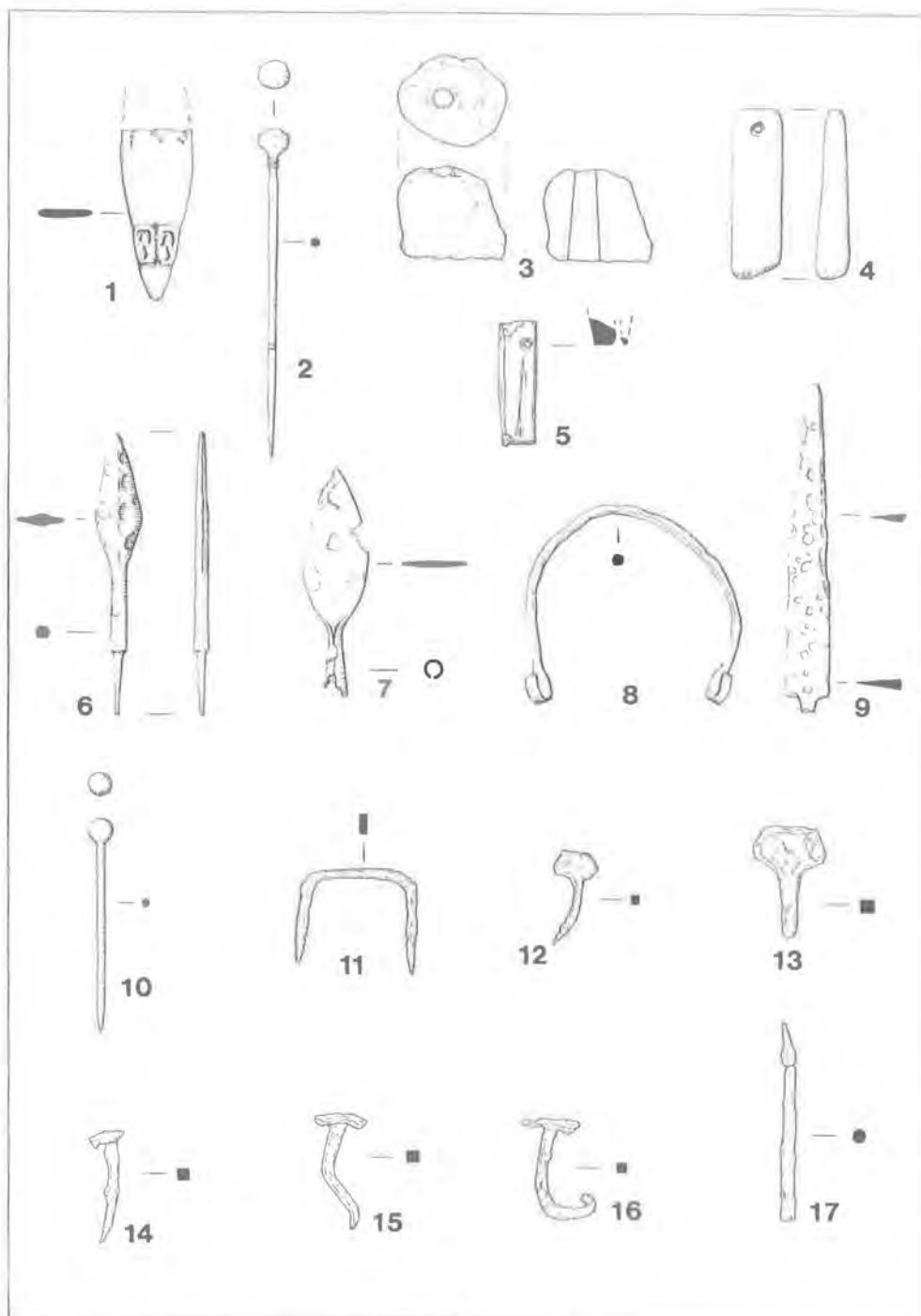


Fig. 39, Unstratified Eighth to Eleventh-Century finds, 1-9, and finds from Eleventh-Century midden, 10-17, (all 1/3 except 1-3 and 10, 2/3).

7. Arrowhead. Iron with folded socket and flat blade, length 9.8 cms. (301 AA.74) From lower subsoil. Associated pottery finds were Saxo-Norman to Twelfth-Century.
8. Bucket Handle. Iron. Plain handle of roughly square section. Loops flattened and probably formed on rod. Bent, but from bucket of approx. 12 cms. diameter; from subsoil. Possibly Early Saxon rather than Late, see Fig.33,3 for discussion. (613 C.74)
9. Knife. Iron, tang broken. Unusual, as for two-thirds of length from point the back is slightly chamfered in one direction. Length 14 cms. (102 A.73) From lower subsoil associated with Saxo-Norman to Twelfth-Century material.
10. Pin. Iron with solid round head Length 4.4 cms. (603 C.74)
11. 'Dog'. Iron, width 4.9 cms. (505 C.74)
12. Nail. Iron, 'fiddle-key' type horseshoe nail, length 3.9 cms. (straightened). (507 A.74)
13. Nail. Iron, 'fiddle key' horseshoe nail, unusually heavy, length 4.2 cms. (507 P.74)
14. Nail. Iron flat head, 4.5 cms. long. (505 A.74)
15. Nail. Iron, flat head, 4.7 cms. long. (507 P.74)
16. Nail. Iron, flat head, point hammered over after penetrating 3.4 cms. of timber. (505 D.74)
17. Spike. Iron, length 8.4 cms. (614 C.74)

TWELFTH TO THIRTEENTH-CENTURY WALTON:—

SUMMARY

During the twelfth century the major land boundaries are defined and a substantial enclosure with internal subdivisions is set out (Fig. 40). The main enclosure is to remain visible as an earthwork until the present day. It has already been suggested that the construction of D1 was the act of someone with considerable local resources; the next stage, construction of D3 and D4, can probably be seen as crystallisation of the manorial landholding which is to become apparent in the historic record. The site of the manor house itself is probably to be sought beneath the present Walton Court and all that can be inferred from the present excavation is that it probably had a tiled roof. It is hard to demonstrate manorial occupation archaeologically but it is interesting to note that doves, whose breeding was the prerogative of the Lord of the Manor, and whose bones did not occur in the eleventh-century deposits, appear now for the first time (P12 and 13).

Mrs. Elvey has discussed some aspects of Walton Court in the late Medieval period¹²⁹ and it is clear that in the fifteenth century when 'dyking of ye cort' and 'greythying of ye mote' were being carried out, a number of the ditches still had relevance, although only D4, D6 and perhaps D7 can be shown to be in use by that stage.

Walton Street lay on one side of the main enclosure defined by D4 and its north-western and south-western sides are also clear. How far the enclosure extended to the south is not certain. Although D8 does not appear a very likely candidate for the return, the close is unlikely to extend much further south since the village green which

129. Elvey, 'Aylesbury' (n.13)

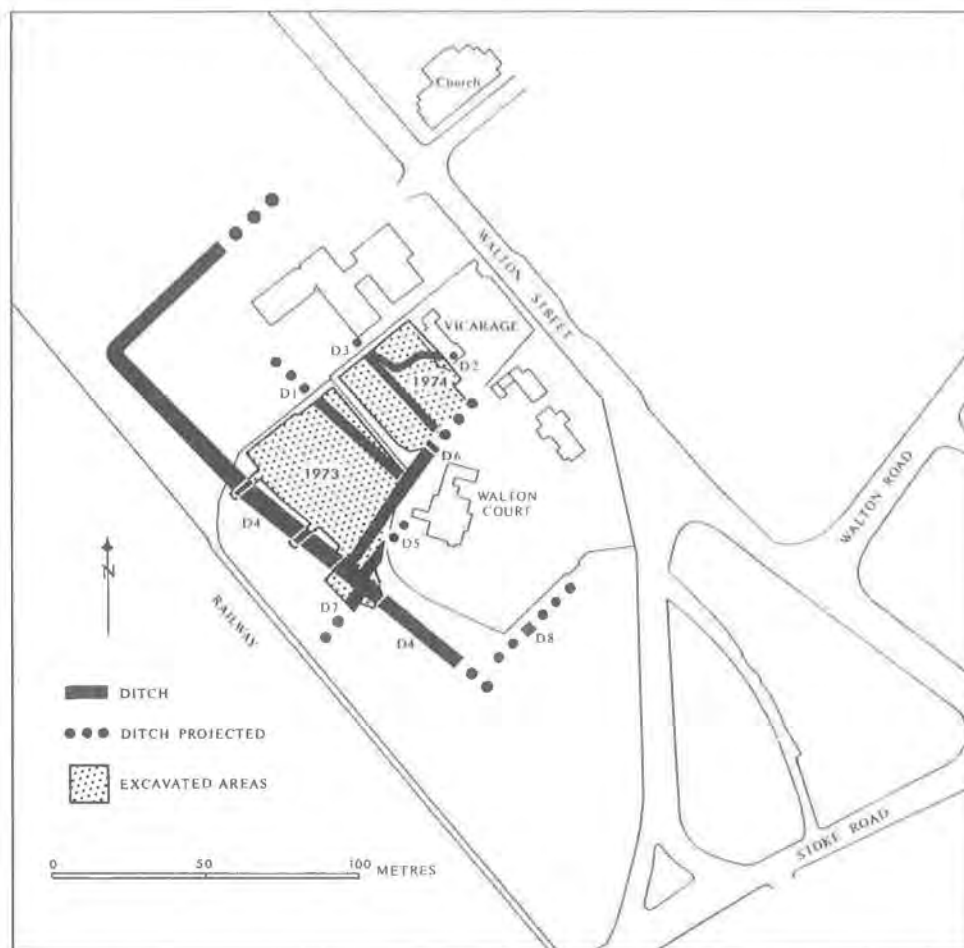


Fig. 40, Excavated area 1973-4, with sequence of Eleventh to Thirteenth-Century ditches.

it would then abut, was probably long standing common.

One striking feature of this period is the sudden decline in volume of domestic debris towards the end of the thirteenth century and this is discussed in the next section. It may reflect less extensive use of the principal house, or that domestic refuse was treated differently, perhaps being collected and used in manuring. A few other points may be selected for particular mention. Mr. Bramwell has suggested from the bone evidence that Crane may have bred locally; Miss Noddle draws attention to aspects of animal pathology as evidenced in the bones and identifies a probable plough ox. It is suggested that two pits of the period may have been used for storage.

Finally, should Walton Court ever be subject to redevelopment it would be important that the site be investigated before destruction.

DATING THE TWELFTH TO THIRTEENTH-CENTURY OCCUPATION

Twelfth Century:

The chronology of the pre-twelfth-century occupation has already been discussed. The general lack of well dated twelfth-century and later medieval comparanda within a fifteen-mile radius of the site makes dating difficult, but a group of pottery excavated from a pit at Bourbon Street, Aylesbury, and ascribed to the later twelfth century has recently been published.¹³⁰ The bulk of the pottery from that group had a black sandy exterior and a pink-purple core and the presence of this fabric has been used as a twelfth century horizon on the site. Sherds in calcareous fabric were rare in the Bourbon Street group and again at Walton it appears that calcareous wares generally were almost totally phased out during the twelfth century. The Bourbon Street pit also included a small quantity of peg-hole tile in shelly fabric of which quite a high proportion were glazed. At Walton the type was again found in association with late twelfth-century material - no tile being present in earlier deposits. During the thirteenth century the ubiquitous sandy-fabric tiles made their appearance.

Thirteenth-Fourteenth Century :

For this period there are no reliably dated local groups for comparison. It does however appear, judging by the ceramic evidence that there was a considerable diminution of activity on the site during this period.

On medieval sites in southern Britain as a whole, jugs and pitchers were fairly common by the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and a large proportion of jugs of this date are glazed. A count of all the sherds from Saxo-Norman and medieval deposits at Walton gave a total slightly in excess of 15,000 sherds but amongst these only seven pieces of jug or pitcher handle occurred, three of which were clearly eleventh-twelfth century in date and only forty three glazed sherds (counting joining sherds as one and excluding a few obvious Tudor pieces). This could be of social significance but is more likely to be of chronological importance since the site should fall within the marketing area of the Brill and Boarstall pottery industry,¹³¹ whose products were widely distributed over the Vale of Aylesbury in the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and both of which have distinctive fabrics not easy to overlook, but in fact products of these industries are rare. The few pieces which do occur are used as chronological indicators.

130. Farley, 'Aylesbury' (n.104).

131. The Boarstall industry, mainly producing jugs has recently been identified ('Records' XX (1975), 140).

TWELFTH TO THIRTEENTH CENTURY FEATURES; DESCRIPTION

The Ditches.

The main features of these centuries are a sequence of ditches which are here numbered according to their presumed chronological sequence. Figure 40 shows a simplified plan.

Ditch 2, (Sections Fig. 41; Pottery Fig. 45, 4-9; Finds Fig. 49, 3-7) and Gulley 19, (Sections Fig. 43; Pottery Fig. 45, 1-3; Finds Fig. 49, 1-2)

Gulleys 6 and 7 noted earlier indicate the early establishment of a boundary on this alignment. Ditch 2, the next in sequence, differs in character and date between its eastern and western ends. At its eastern end (Fig. 4 top left) besides being deeper, the pottery is all tenth to eleventh century in date whereas in the centre (Fig. 4, top right) and further west it is shallower and datable material is twelfth-century. This is not easy to reconcile but it is possible that the eastern end may have originated as a 'holloway' into Walton Street and only be utilised as a boundary at a later date. Gulley 19, it will be noted, continues the initial line of D2 and is therefore itself likely to precede the western end of D2, which forms a dog-leg, probably around a revised property boundary when G19 was no longer relevant.

There is a complete absence of tile fragments from these features. Finds from the gulley include two iron spikes, possibly from wool-combing heckles and which may be residual. From the upper fill of D2 came a link from a horse-bit and a carefully made bowed cross-shaped object of unknown use.

Ditch 3 : (Sections Fig. 41; Pottery Fig. 46; Finds Fig. 49, 8)

This ditch was identified at an early stage in the excavation since its southern end had been backfilled with small limestone rubble which rose just beneath the turf. It is likely that both D3 and D2 were open together at one stage since both respect each other, although D3 was backfilled later. D3 may well have superseded D1 in function being on the same alignment but clearly later.

The ditch itself was roughly V-shaped with a flat bottom. At its southern end it had been cut through an eleventh century midden deposit, ('M', see earlier also Fig. 41, centre right), with a correspondingly greater than average depth of soil at this point. When backfilling of D3 took place, it was infilled from the southern end, the limestone fill dipping north beneath the subsequent fills.

Although tenth and eleventh-century material was incorporated in the ditch fill, including a sherd probably from a Stamford-ware pitcher, a few well stratified pieces such as those illustrated in Fig. 46, 5 and 11, and a few body sherds suggest that it was infilled in the later twelfth century. From the upper fill only (501 and 502) came a few fragments of tile.

Amongst the animal bone from the ditch, Miss Noddle has been able to identify a metatarsal likely to have come from a plough ox, also a small group possibly representing tanner's waste.

Ditch 4 : (Sections Fig. 42; Pottery Fig. 47, 1-3; Finds, Fig. 49, 9-11)

This ditch visible for part of its length as an earthwork was the 'raison d'être' of the 1973 excavation, having been mapped by the Ordnance Survey and noted by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. Its overall course can be best seen on Fig. 40. The northern end including the L-shaped bend was destroyed during construction

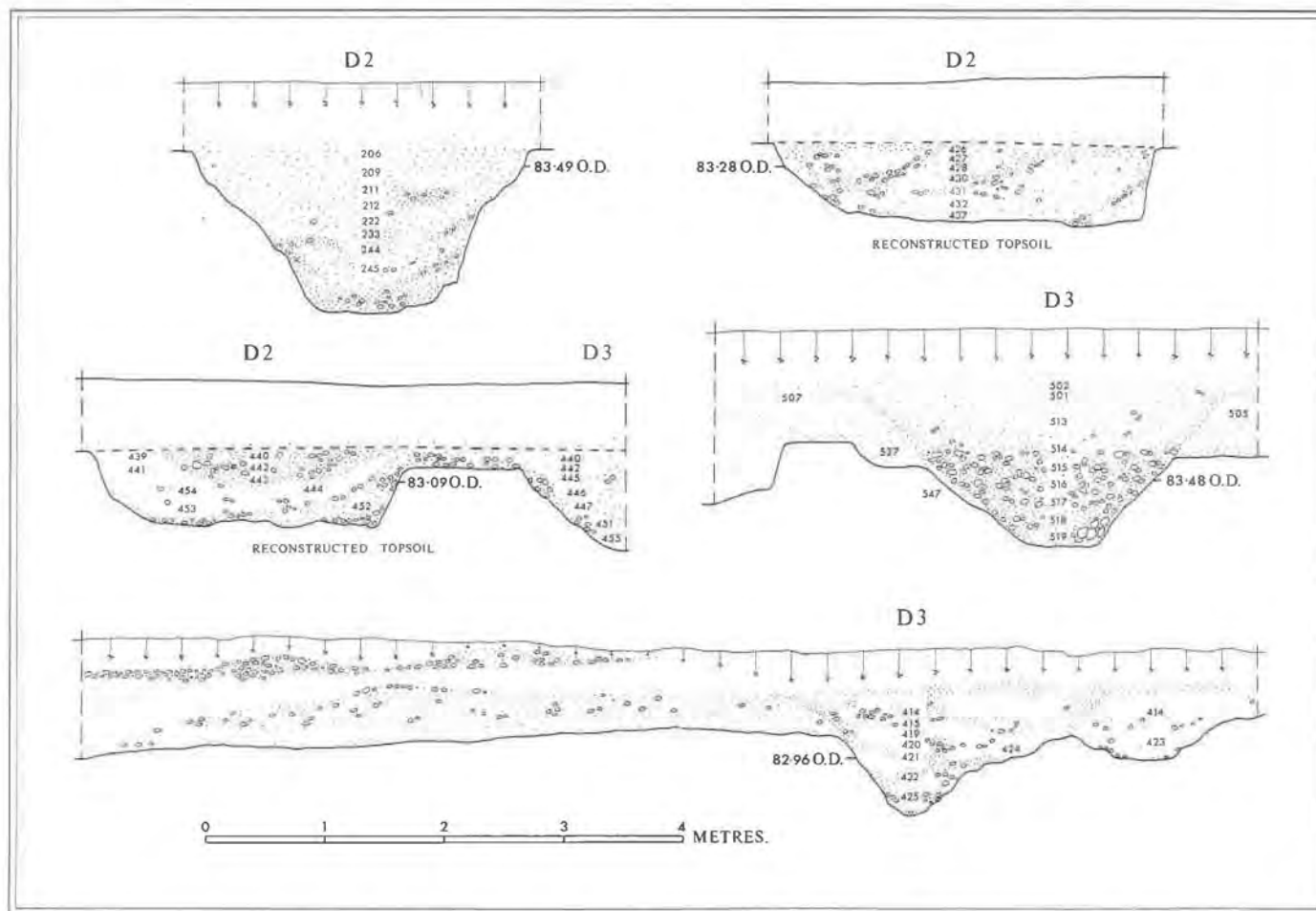


Fig. 41, Sections of Twelfth-Century ditches, D2 and D3. (1:60).

of Council Offices. Its extension south, outside the limit of the area excavated, was recorded in 1974 in a contractor's excavation during construction of a new office block.

At its southern end the ditch is V-shaped in profile and cut into limestone (Fig. 42, top left) but near P12 it breaks through the limestone into the yellow sand which partly underlies it and is still cut in pure sand as it leaves the excavated area on the north side.

In Fig. 42 (centre) the basal 0.70m of the ditch is cut into sand which grades up into sandy limestone and then is capped by firm limestone from about the 81.08 OD. mark. This change in the underlying geology considerably affects the ditch's profile and whereas, as has been noted, it is V-shaped when cut in limestone its profile becomes slack and eroded in the sand, to the extent that it may perhaps have later been utilised as a trackway for this part of its length, which may also account for its survival as an earthwork. This may be the 'common way West' referred to in the survey of c.1651 discussed under 'Background History' at the commencement of this article. Small finds from the ditch include two bell-clappers and a hone.

Although sectioned in three places, datable material from the ditch was sparse. The most secure evidence is the presence of shelly tile in the southernmost section (layer 295) for which a late twelfth-century date has been suggested earlier. The sharp profile of the ditch at this point suggests it may not have stayed open very long and the layer occurs below a recut. The pottery bunghole from the section cut adjacent to P12 and illustrated in Fig. 47, 1 is not closely datable; the sherd illustrated on Fig. 47, 2 comes from a later deposit in the same section and is likely to be a survival, and Fig. 47, 3, probably Saxo-Norman, occurs stratigraphically later than the tile noted above, so the pottery evidence is little help. The tile then is the strongest direct dating evidence, however, P12 (see on) can be shown to antedate construction of the ditch by a short time since it is sealed by sand which can only have derived from the bottom of the ditch when it was dug (Fig. 42, central section, layer 623). Since P12 on the available evidence is twelfth-century in date, the evidence of the tile noted above would appear to be confirmed.

At the intersection of D4 with D5 and D7 the ditch can be seen to be recut twice (Fig. 42, top right), but further south (Fig. 42, top left) only one recut is visible. That there was also a pond in the ditch in this area in the nineteenth century is known from a watercolour (Plate I).

Ditch 5 : (Sections, Fig. 42 and 43, Pottery, Fig. 47, 4-6)

This ditch was in use at the same time as D4 and probably represents a sub-division of the larger enclosure. As can be seen in Fig. 42 (top right) it was dug up to D4 and a line of posts then set around one edge of D4 and D5 (see main plan Fig. 53, and section Fig. 43, lower). Only a small section was excavated, but it was shown to be flat bottomed and recut on at least one occasion (Fig. 43 upper). That it once held water is suggested by a stiff greenish clay deposit at the base. Of the pottery, Fig. 47, 6 is the latest and would accord with the ditch being open in the late twelfth-thirteenth century. A considerable amount of sandy-fabric roof tile in the top fill suggests a building in close proximity in the thirteenth century or later.

Ditch 6 : (Sections Fig. 44, Pottery Fig. 47, 7-17)

Ditch 6 was sectioned in 1973 and again in 1974 by courtesy of the Aylesbury Conservative Association whose present fence-line in part occupies the same course.

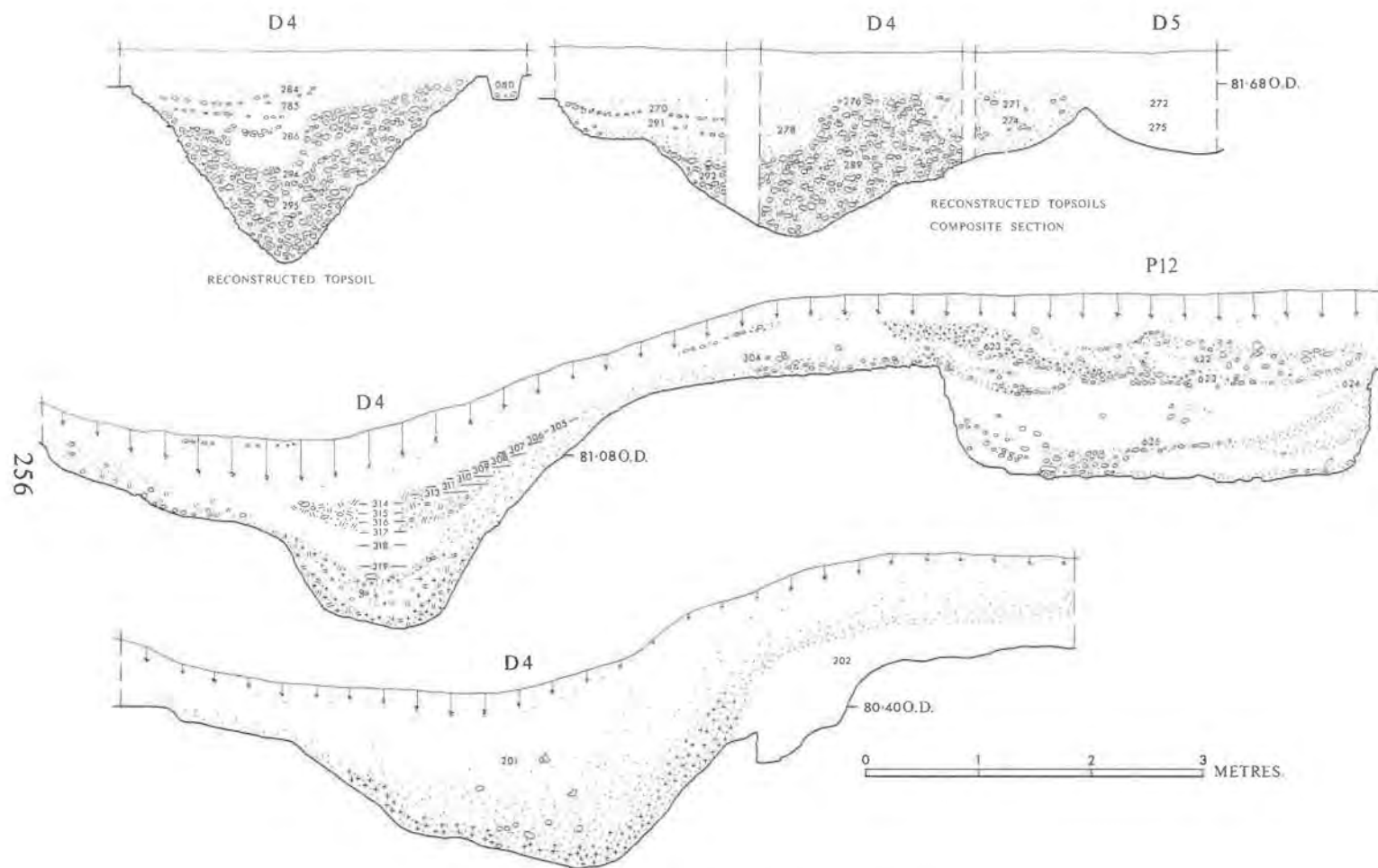


Fig. 42, Section of Twelfth-Century Ditch, D4 and pit P.12 (1:60)

V-shaped in profile and nearly two metres deep at its eastern end (Fig. 44, centre), it shallowed gradually as the land falls gently to the west and petered out against D4 which was obviously already in existence (Fig. 44 top left). Its course at the eastern end could not be examined, but probably continued on the line of the present boundary to Walton Street.

It seems unlikely that D5 and D6 should be open at the same time since, judging by the short length of D5 available, they are on roughly the same course, so D6 is likely to be a replacement. It was certainly recut at least four times (Fig. 44, centre) and the present boundary, as has been noted, coincides with part of its length. Two of the recuts 013/014 and 006/007 contain Tudor and Post-Tudor material respectively.

Present in only one section (Fig. 44, centre 018/019/025) is a small pocket containing a few pieces of late twelfth-century tile and pottery which may represent an early phase (Fig. 47, 15 and 16). Quite an amount of eleventh to twelfth-century pottery was present in the section cut at the fence line, but at this point D6 crosses the region of the Midden (M) already noted and this material is likely to be residual since tile is also present from the earliest layers. The pottery illustrated in Fig. 47, 7-14 is the latest material in this group, largely thirteenth-century. It is probable that the limestone rubble in which the material is incorporated, which also occurred in a section further west (Fig. 44, top right), was deposited deliberately, perhaps to reduce the hazard of a deep ditch when it had ceased to serve its original function. Incorporated in the rubble (492) also, were large pieces of a Brill bowl (Fig. 47, 17) probably later thirteenth-century, but of a type which may continue later.

Ditch 7 : (Section Fig. 44)

This ditch also utilises the main ditch D4 as its branching off point. Recut at least twice, its upper levels contained some post-Tudor material although this might have been introduced by rabbits, one of whose burrows still survived. None of the material is illustrable, but from the primary levels (262 and 263) came sherds of twelfth to thirteenth-century pottery with sandy fabric tile. A late thirteenth-century date is suspected but the whole might be much later.

Ditch 8 : (Section Fig. 44, for location see Fig. 40).

This ditch was observed briefly when sewer pipes were laid for a new office block to the south of the site, and it now lies beneath a minor approach-road. The fill was slightly clayey with a greeny organic (?) staining and contained a few pieces of sandy tile along with some eleventh to twelfth-century sherds. The presence of the tile is considered sufficient to indicate a date for the ditch slightly later than the sherds would on their own suggest.

The junction between this ditch and D4 is hypothetical since the area was destroyed during office construction so it is possible that D8 represented the 'return' of D4; however, if the dating of D4 is correct, then the latter is slightly later although not necessarily by many years, and it is accordingly shown on Fig. 40 as probably another sub-division of the major enclosure. A point in support of this interpretation is that D8 is slighter in nature than D4.

Gulleys: (Sections Fig. 43)

Four gulleys are dated to the twelfth-century G20, G21, G22 and G23. Most of the gulleys probably represent short-lived field boundaries; G21 and G22 the two most likely candidates share a common alignment. The soil at Walton easily absorbs copious

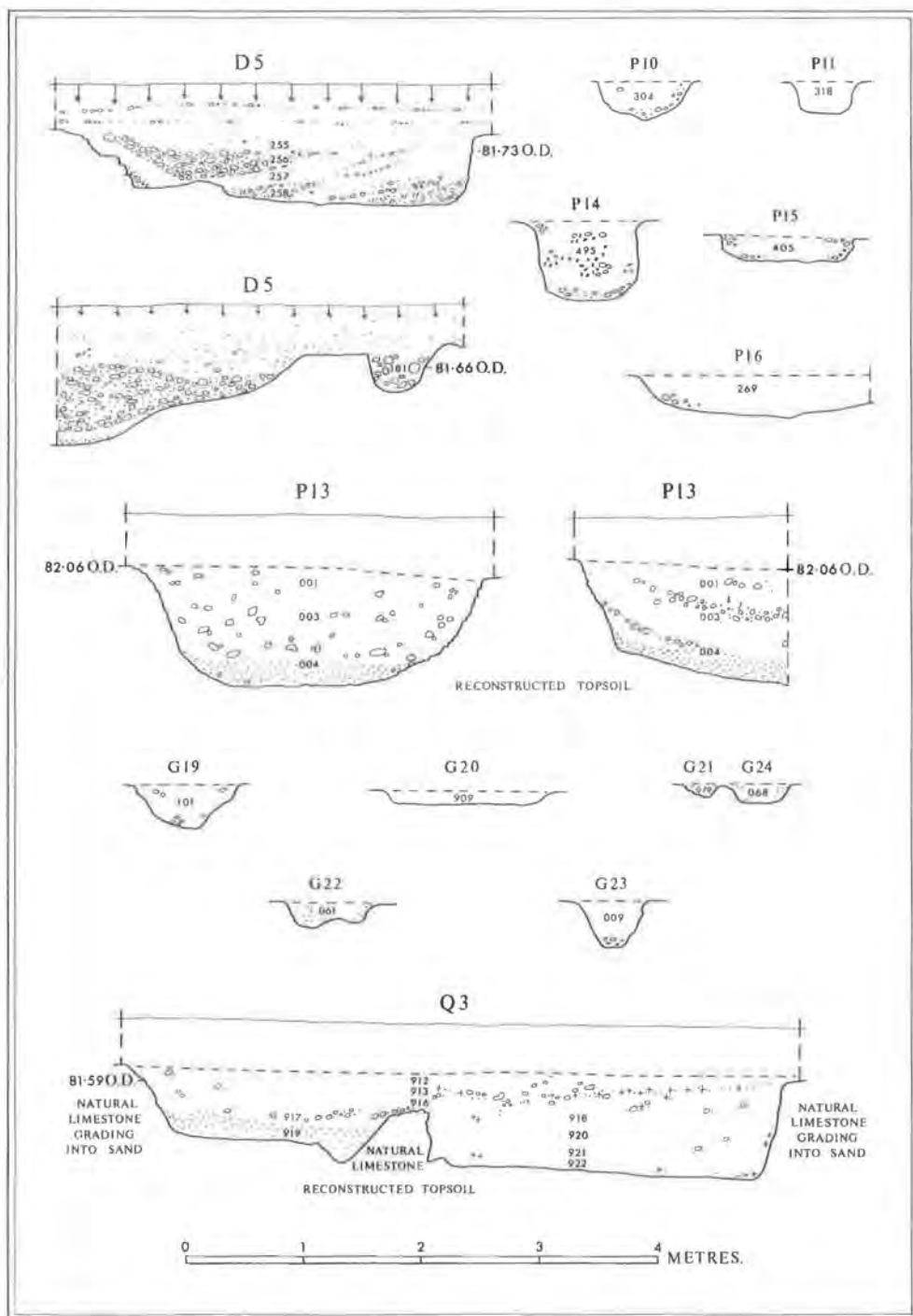


Fig. 43, Sections of Twelfth-Century ditch, D5, and Pits, P10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16. Also gulleys, G19, 20, 21, 22, 23, all Twelfth-Century and gully 24, post Tudor. (1:60).

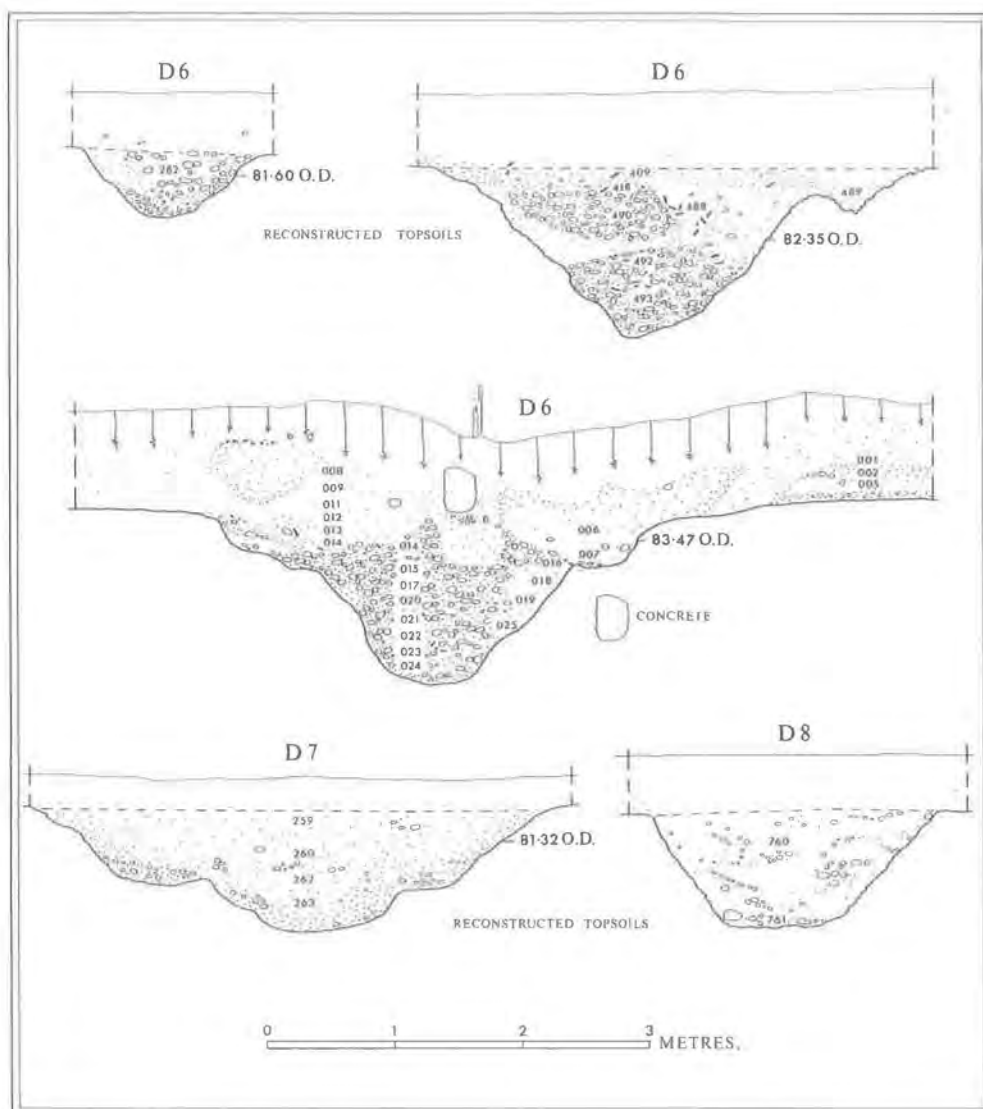


Fig. 44, Sections of Thirteenth-Century ditches, D6-8 (1:60)

rainfall so they are unlikely to be for drainage. Gulley 20 which cuts an eleventh-century gulley G16, is itself cut by a pit, which was closely datable since it contained a Valor Oil Stove and a bicycle! Gulley 23 may be contemporary with the pit P12. All are fairly insignificant in scale and their attribution to the twelfth century is based on small quantities of sherds or tile, none of which are illustrable. An iron knife from G22 is not illustrated.

The Pits : (Sections all Fig.43 except P12, Fig. 42)

Pits P10-P16 are attributed to the twelfth-century and vary from a few small ones which might have been post-pits to larger ones used perhaps for storage. In the case of the smaller pits, sections were rarely informative, showing a familiar mix of Walton loam and small weathered limestone, well worm-worked with no visible stratigraphy. P10 A small isolated pit containing a bent iron strip (Fig.49, 12).

P11 Possibly a post-setting. Falling on the line of an eleventh-century palisade and being in the vicinity of the late eleventh-century midden, P11 contains much eleventh-century material (Fig.48, 1-3) but also twelfth-century sherds and so is not likely to be associated with the palisade.

P12 Only the southern half of this substantial pit was excavated and its relation with the adjacent P13 could not be determined from plan. P12 as has already been observed was sealed by sand from the adjacent ditch (Section, Fig. 42). In plan it presented a classic bulls-eye pattern with subsiding tip lines radiating from the centre. It was 1.70 metres deep and cut into the solid limestone. On its southern edge two rock steps had been left (indicated on Fig. 53) Whilst it may be that the steps had been kept purely to enable the diggers to get out easily, it is possible that they were designed to allow regular access down to the pit which functioned as a cool store of some kind. No adjoining post-hole pattern emerged so it is not certain that it was roofed, however, weathering of the sides appeared minimal and there is a strong possibility it was. The fill gave no indication of function; there was not a particularly high proportion of animal bones, for instance such as might tend to confirm domestic use; however, interesting faunal material was recovered including bones of vole, frog and mole as well as of dog and cat.

Of particular interest are a number of dove bones on which Mr. D. Bramwell comments later. Dove bones occurred in three deposits, the two adjacent pits P12 and P13, and also Ditch 3 which may well be contemporary. Mr. Bramwell's suggestion of a dovecot in the vicinity during the twelfth century, and by implication a manorial regime, would accord with the evidence of the major associated earthworks of this date and of other phenomena such as the later eleventh-century midden. No structural trace of a dovecot of this date was found in the area investigated, but one of a later period will be discussed further on.

Also from this pit came a horseshoe, a segment of lava quern along with other fragments, and an iron knife (Fig. 49, 13-15). There was very little pottery (Fig. 48, 5-8) and this included some tenth and eleventh-century material but also twelfth-century sherds.

There was no tile at all in the lower fill of the pit, but from the upper fill, 622, the period of D4 construction, came a few late twelfth-century calcareous pieces.

P.13 This pit adjacent to P12 was neatly cut into the limestone and about 1.50m. deep. It is unlikely to have been in use at the same time as P12 but was probably nearly contemporary and a similar storage function might be considered for it. Bones from 13 doves were included in the fill, also fragments of lava quern and some

glazed tile fragments including ridge tile. The two illustrated small finds, one a hone likely to have come from Norway, are from the subsoil levels above the pit. (Pottery Fig. 48, 9-12: Finds, Fig. 49, 17-18)

- P14 A small deep elongated pit containing much fragmented charcoal (see section). Probably a post pit but with no visible pipe or packing. A few fragments of eleventh-century pottery, but scraps of tile present in the upper fill. Also contained a piece of lime plaster. No finds illustrated.
- P15 A shallow pit, possibly a post base. A few tile fragments present also a piece of decorated comb or comb case (Fig. 24, 14, illustrated amongst the Saxon material; Pottery Fig. 48, 13-14)
- P16 Although included among the pits, this feature lay partly outside the excavated area and could have been a ditch terminal. It contained much fragmented Saxon material and a thread-picker, but two pieces of late twelfth-century tile were also present. Only the thread-picker is illustrated (Fig. 25, 2)

Quarrying (Fig. 43)

Q3 The presence of haphazard quarrying, probably from the tenth century on, has already been noted and the two large irregular pits here designated Q3 are also likely to be the result of this activity. Both cut through the thin sandy surface limestone present at this point into the underlying sand. The fills included St. Neot's type ware, sparse Saxon pottery and also twelfth-century material and lava quern fragments. (Pottery Fig. 48, 15-18). Post-Medieval material was present down to layer 916 indicating late disturbance. An iron knife from these levels (Fig. 49, 16) is likely to be Medieval or earlier on typological grounds.

POTTERY AND FINDS FROM TWELFTH TO THIRTEENTH-CENTURY FEATURES: CATALOGUE

Pottery from Gulley 19 and Ditch 2 (Fig. 45)

1. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric. (101.74)
2. Pot : St. Neot's type : shelly fabric. (111.74)
3. Pot : thumbing on rim, diam. uncertain : red dy grey ext. : grey core : sandy. (123.74)
4. Lid : dark brown ext. : brown core : sparse grits : ?Late Saxon. (452.74)
5. Pot : diam. uncertain : grey brown ext. : grey core : sandy. (432.74)
6. Pot : diam. uncertain : grey brown ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous. (428.74)
7. Pot : St. Neot's type : calcareous. (206.74)
8. Dish : thumb rim : grey brown ext. : grey core : sandy. (426.74)
9. Pot : profile largely restorable : red dy brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (432 C.74)

Pottery from Ditch 3 (Fig. 46)

1. Handled rim : probably from a spouted pitcher : light yellow glaze with slight greenish tinge, flaking off but glaze apparently over rim and exterior only : wheel thrown, thin walled : white fabric with pink tinge : sparse fine pink grit. (621.74) Perhaps 'Stamford' ware although the rim form is unusual for a handled type.¹³²
2. Spouted pitcher: part of spout only, rim missing, spout separately applied : grey ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous fabric, slightly micaceous : (621.74)
Commonly a Saxo-Norman type.

132. 'Saxo-Norman Pottery in E. Anglia' "Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc." LI (1958), 37-65.

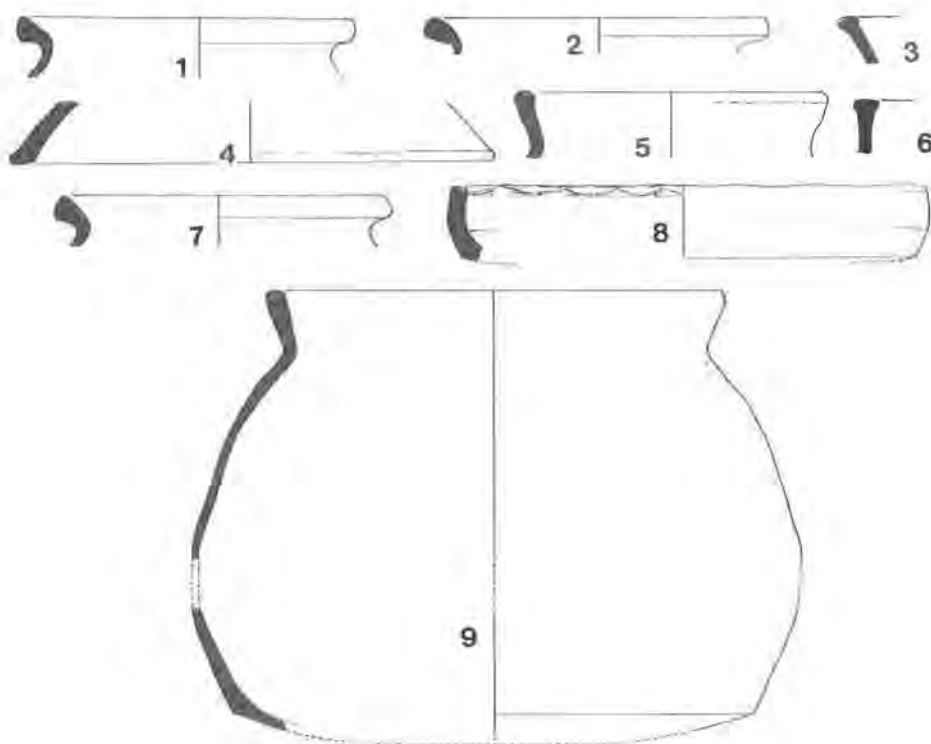


Fig 45, Pottery from G19, 1-3 and Ditch 2, 4-9, (1/4).

3. Pot : brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (621.74)
4. Pot : brown ext. : grey core : calcareous; (621.74)
5. Pot : dark grey ext. : grey brown core : calcareous. (517.74)
6. Pot : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (516.74)
7. Pot : brown ext. : grey core : calcareous (514/515.74)
8. Pot : black ext. : grey core : sparse flint grits. (513.74)
9. Pot : dark brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (616.74)
10. Pot : dark brown/black ext. : ?fine flint grits. (619.74)
11. Pot : thumbing inside rim : dark grey ext. : grey core : sandy . (442.74)

Pottery from Ditch 4 (1-3), Ditch 5 (4-6), Ditch 6 (7-17). (Fig. 47)

1. Bung-hole : slightly tapering, thumb'd around : reddy brown ext. : dark grey core : sandy. (317.73)
2. Pot : uncertain diam.: brown/buff ext. : grey core : sandy. (316.73) similar to eleventh-century forms, see Fig. 34, 5.
3. Handle : possibly from a spouted pitcher, random scored dec. with (?) 6-tooth comb : reddy brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (284.73). Likely to be Saxo-Norman.

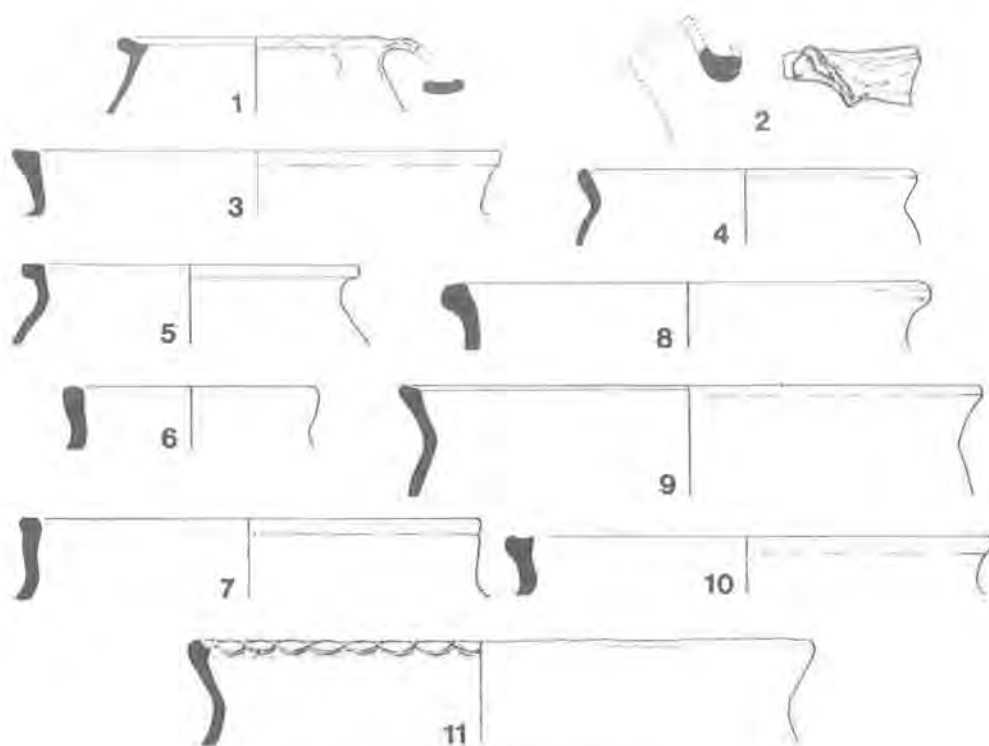


Fig. 46, Pottery from Ditch 3, (1/4).

4. Pot : uncertain diam. : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous; (258.73)
5. Pot : dark brown ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous. (257.73)
6. Pot : thumbd rim : dark grey ext. : grey core : sandy; (256.73)
7. Pot : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (022.74)
8. Pot : top of rim has a slight 'flat' possibly thumbing : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (022.74)
9. Pot : thumbd rim : dark grey ext. : light grey core : sandy ; (021.74)
10. Pot : grey brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (021.74)
11. Pot : diam. uncertain : black ext. : dark grey core : sparse sandy ; (021.74)
12. Pot : diam. uncertain : grey ext. : dark grey core : small grits . (017.74)
13. Pot : diam. uncertain, scored zig-zag on rim : grey ext. : dark grey core : small grits. (015.74).
14. Pot : dark grey ext. : grey core : sandy. (015.74)
15. Pot : light brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (025.74)

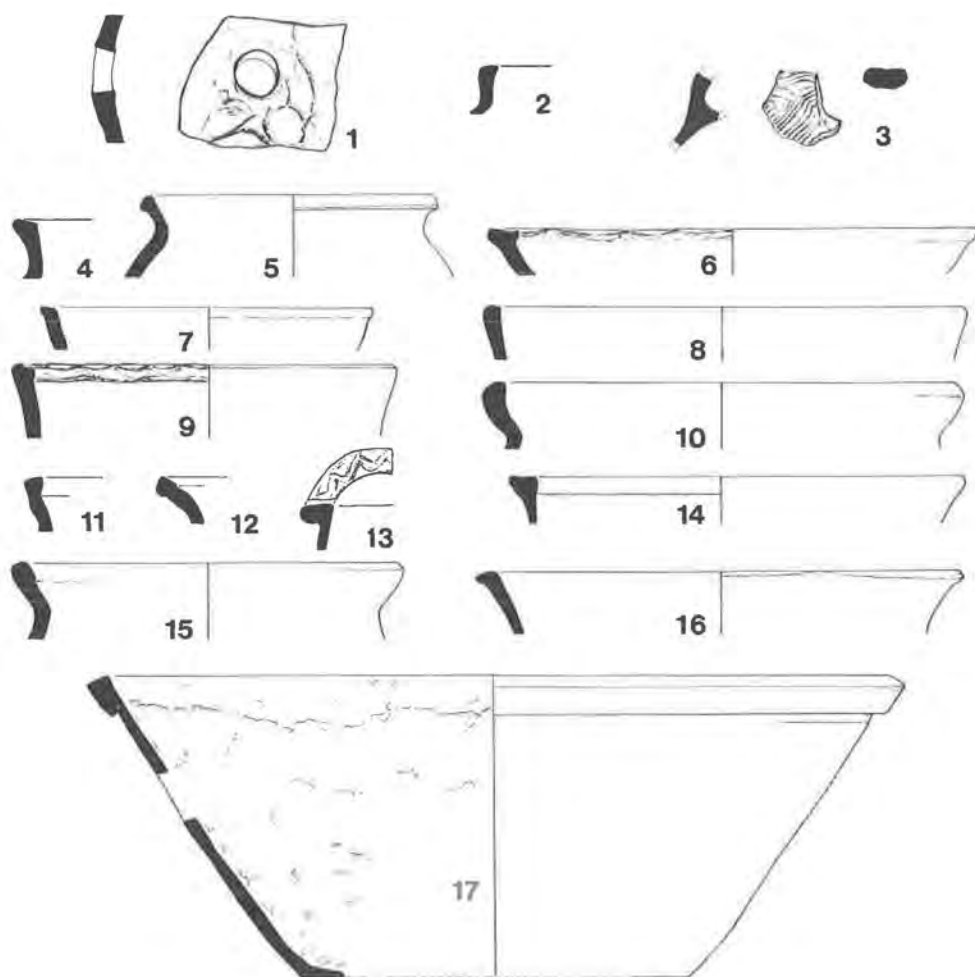


Fig. 47, Pottery from Ditch 4, 1-3: Ditch 5, 4-6: Ditch 6, 7-17, all ($\frac{1}{4}$).

16. Pot : brown grey ext. : grey core : calcareous. (019.74)
 17. Bowl : Brill type : pitted, mottled yellowy green glaze inside only to below rim, characteristic undercut rim : buff/pink ext. : grey core : fine sandy with occasional red flecks. (492.73)
- Pottery from Twelfth-Century and later Pits, Q3 and Unstratified Twelfth to Thirteenth Century Pottery (Fig.48)
- (P 11, 1-4 : P12, 5-8 : P13, 9-12.: P 15, 13-14 : Q 3, 15-18 : Unstratified 19-23)
1. Pot : brown ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous. (318.74)
 2. Pot : heavily sooted externally : black ext. : grey core ' small grits. (318.74)
Similar fabric to pottery from Bourbon Street, Aylesbury ¹³³.
 3. Pot : dark brown ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous. (318.74)
 4. Pot : probably cooking pot rim, but could be dish side : black ext. : grey core : sandy. (318.74)
 5. Pot : St. Neot's type, diam uncertain : calcareous. (624.73)
 6. Pot : diam. uncertain : grey ext. : grey core : sandy. (624.73)
 7. Dish : grey ext. : red int. : grey core : sandy. (624.73)
 8. Pot : diam. uncertain : brown ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous (?) (624.73)
 9. Pot : diam. uncertain, irregular small stabbing on top of rim : brown ext. : grey core : sandy, sparse calcareous grits. (004.73)
 10. Dish : diam. uncertain : brown ext. : brown core : sandy with pink grits. (001.73)
 11. Pot : thumbing on outside edge of rim : brown ext. : grey core : calcareous. (001.73)
 12. Pot : burnished top and side of rim : orange ext. : orange core : sandy : ?possibly a Romano-British sherd. (001.73)
 13. Pot : dark grey ext. : grey core : sparse calcareous. (405.73)
 14. Pot : brown ext. : grey core : sandy. (405.73)
 15. Pot : diam. uncertain: dark grey ext. : black core : sandy. (920.73)
 16. Pot : diam. uncertain : brown ext. : brown core : small grits. : (916.73)
 17. Pot : diam. uncertain, thumbled rim internally : black ext. : dark grey core : sandy (921.73)
 18. Pot : single thumb indent on sherd : brown ext. : grey core : sandy. (918.73)
 19. Pot : top of rim thumbled : black ext. : grey core : sandy. (414.73)
 20. Pot : inside of rim thumbled : dark brown/grey ext.:grey core : sandy (999.74)
 21. Pot : rim clearly folded over : dark grey/red ext. : grey core : sandy. (605.74)
 22. Dec. sherd : tripod pitcher sherd with thumbled applied strip and horizontal scoring. Light green glaze externally with flecks of iron : white ext. : white core : sandy. (020.74)
 23. Pot : rows of small stab-marks on top of rim : brown/red ext. : grey core : sandy: similar to 9 above in decoration. (620.73)

133. Farley, 'Aylesbury'. (n.104)

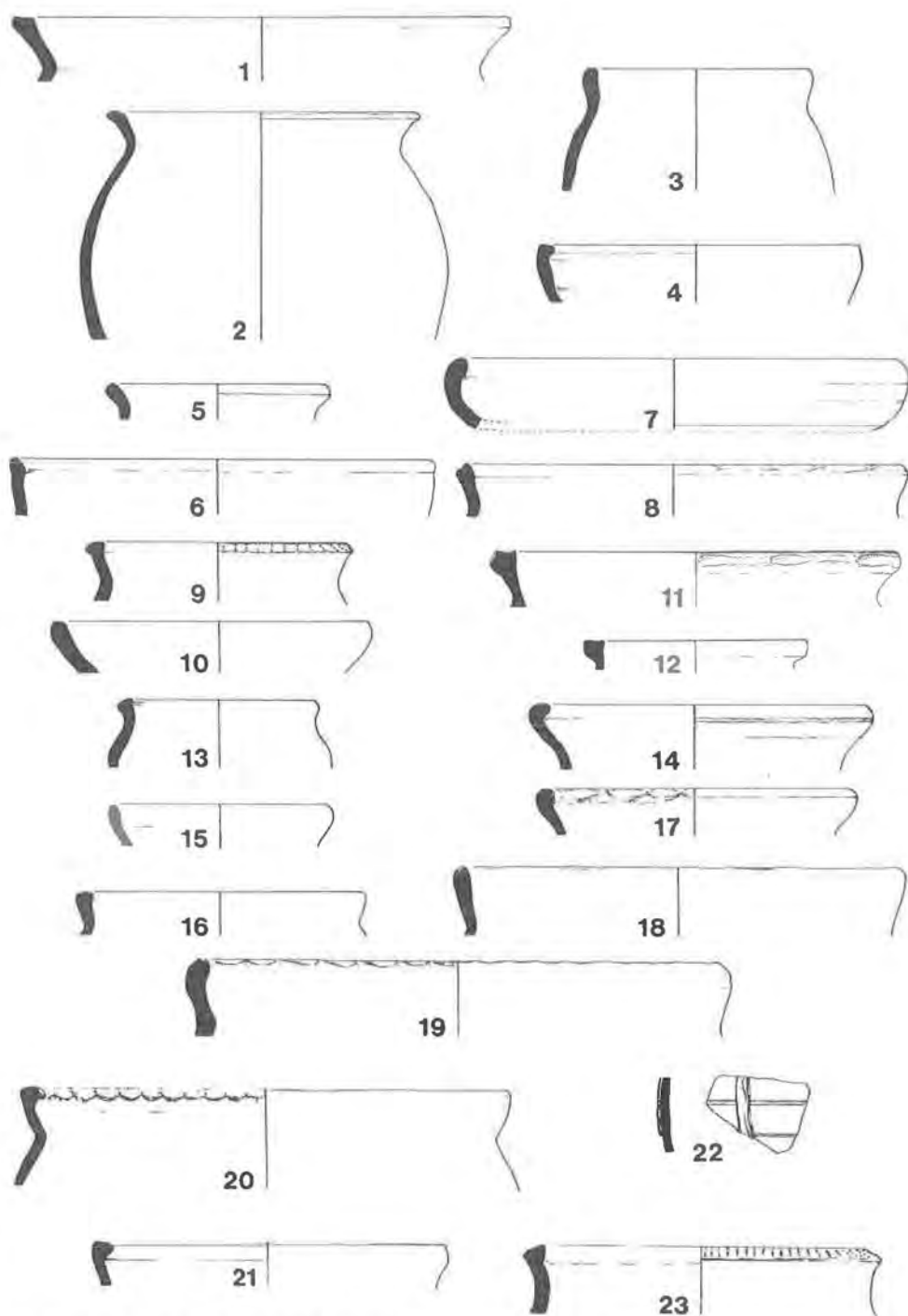


Fig. 48, Pottery from P11 (1-4): P12 (5-8): P13 (9-12): Pit 15 (13-14): Q3 (15-18): and unstratified Twelfth to Thirteenth-Century pottery (19023), (1/4).

Finds from Twelfth to Thirteenth-Century Features, with a note on a Late Medieval Pilgrim's Badge, by Mr. B. W. Spencer. D2, 3-7: D3,8: D4,9-11: G19, 1-2: P10, 12 : P12, 13-15 : P13, 17-18: Q3, 16 : Unstratified 14.

1. Spike. Iron, end 'sheared', possibly a tooth from a linen heckle, ¹³⁴ length 6.8 cms. (113. E. 74)
2. Spike. Iron, as above, length 7.2 cms. (111B. 74)
3. Spike. Iron, tapered at one end, ? tool, length 9.8 cms. (441 A.74)
4. Blade shape Iron, similar to a small knife but flat cross-section, broken, Length 7.0 cms. (428 A.74)
5. Bit. Iron, link from snaffle bit, with traces of inlay visible on radiograph on central swelling and (not shown) on end ring. End rings have concave underface. Length 8.3 cms. (426 A.74)
6. Nail. Iron, flat head, length 2.1 cms. (452 A. 74)
7. Spiked four-armed object. Iron, one spike omitted for clarity in upper drawing. Arms flattened at crossing and hole punched from inside, then rivet (?) inserted. Function unknown. ¹³⁵ Height 9.3 cms. (427 A.74)
8. Nail. Flat head. Length 4.2 cms. (622 A.74)
9. Bell-clapper. Iron. Length 6.3 cms. (274 A.73)
10. Bell-clapper. Iron. Length 8.7 cms. (291 A.73)
11. Hone. Square section. Length 5.6 cms. 'Fine-grained buff sandstone with rare flakes of muscovite mica. Possibly a carboniferous sandstone (Millstone Grit or Coal Measures) from the Pennines or the North of England'. (305 A.73)
12. Hook. Iron, flattened hook-shaped strip. Length 4.6 cms. (304 A.74)
13. Knife. Iron. It is possible that this knife is derived from earlier deposits. Length 9.1 cms. (620 A. 73)
14. Horseshoe. Iron, three complete 'fiddle-key' nails remaining, Calkins folded back, recessed nail holes. Length 9.4 cms. (624 A.73)
15. Quern. 'Lava', top stone, unusually thick, with collar around feed hole, worn underside. 6.0 cms. thick at feed hole. (624 B.73)
16. Knife. Iron, angled back. Length 12.8 cms. (913 A.73)
17. Hone. 'Quartz-muscovite schist. This can be fairly well matched with two specimens in our collection. The first is a chip from a hone (ENQ 1069) probably found at Huddersfield. The second is a schist (Econ. 2521) from Eidsberg, nr. Dalen, South Norway. The latter is from material used for hones.' Length 8.0 cms. (503 +B.73)
18. Needle. Bone, head only. Length 2.2cms. (503 +A.73)
19. Pilgrim's Badge and Pin. Width 2.6 cms. (603 A.74)

Mr. B. Spencer, Senior Keeper, Dept. of Medieval Antiquities, The Museum of London, comments as follows:-

"Incomplete leaden hat-badge, probably a pilgrim souvenir, in the form of a crown. The badge retains the clasp and most of the pin that were cast in one piece with it.

An almost identical badge comes from the river-bed near the site of St. Mary's Benedictine cathedral priory, Coventry. From this rather more complete specimen it can

¹³⁴, P. D. C. Brown in A.C.C. Brodrick, A. R. Hands and D. R. Walker, "Excavations at Shakenoak IV" (1973), 134-6.

¹³⁵, A similar object was excavated at Olivers Camp, Devizes' "Catalogue of the Antiquities in the Museum at Devizes" Pt. II (1911), 100, and pl. lix, 3.

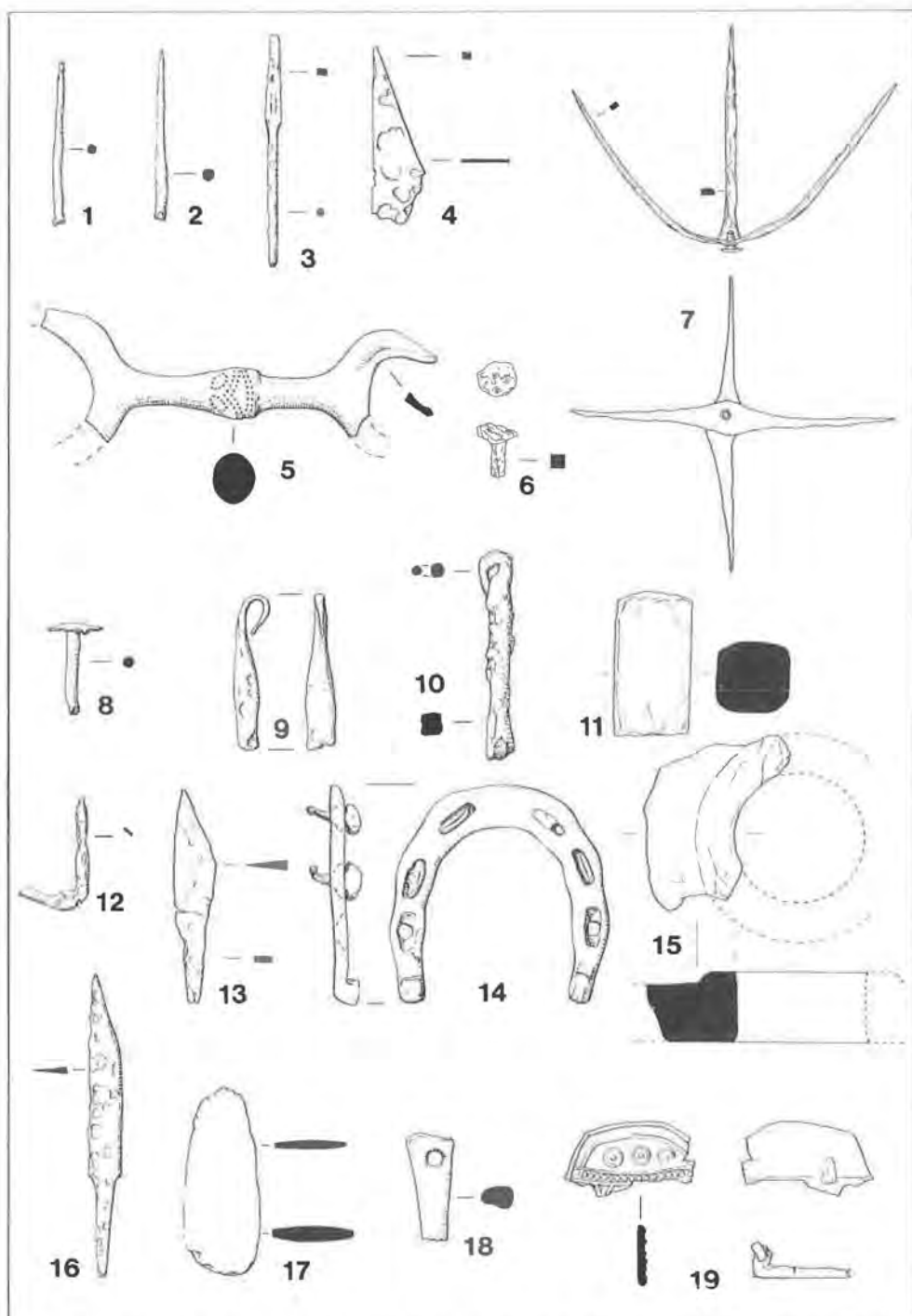


Fig. 49, Finds from Twelfth to Thirteenth-Century ditches, gulleys, pits, Q3 also unstratified Pilgrim's Badge. All 1/3 except 5, 18, 19 at 2/3 and 15 at 1/6.

be seen that the beaded band across the middle of the badge represents the jewelled fillet of the crown and that rising from the fillet would have been three large fleurons with trefoils between them. The stalk of one trefoil is all that survives on the Walton badge. The border that follows the curving lower edge of the badge is intended to represent the continuation of the fillet around the inside of the crown.

Hollow crowns are depicted, with a better sense of perspective, on a dozen other badges found at London and Kings Lynn.¹³⁶ The crown also occurs on certain ampullae which are perhaps to be connected with the pilgrimage to our Lady of Walsingham.¹³⁷ Besides being the emblem of the queen of heaven, however, the crown might also be used as the attribute of any royal saint.

If it originated in England, the Walton badge is most likely to have commemorated a pilgrimage to St. Edmund at Bury or to St. Edward the Confessor at Westminster, for they, along with Henry VI at Windsor at the end of the fifteenth century, appear to have been the only English royal saints capable of sustaining a large-scale trade in pilgrim souvenirs.

There is, however, one distinctive feature about the badges from Walton and Coventry that should be mentioned - the three dots-in-circles arranged rather prominently across the interior of the crown. These may well be purely decorative, but it is also possible that they are a cryptic allusion to the Three Kings, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, whose cult enjoyed widespread popularity in the later Middle Ages and whose magnificent jewelled shrine at Cologne was a major attraction to English pilgrims from the early thirteenth century onwards.

REPORT ON THE ANIMAL BONES FROM WALTON, AYLESBURY, BY BARBARA NODDLE

129 kg. of animal bone was presented for analysis, of which only 87 kg. was identifiable, or 67%. This is a low proportion, most sites proving to be about 80% identifiable, and is due to the fragmentation of the material. This fragmentation was fairly constant throughout and may be due to the treatment the bone received either before or after it was deposited. All ribs were included in the unidentified portion. This extreme fragmentation has two unfortunate consequences. The first is that there is a shortage of measurable bones upon which a size estimate of the animals can be based, and the other is that there is considerable difficulty in distinguishing between the bones of species of similar bone size and appearance, that is, sheep, goat, and roe deer, and cattle and red deer. It is likely that cattle and sheep have been over-estimated at the expense of the less numerous species.

The analysis of the sample has been directed towards finding differences between the three periods represented, Saxon, Saxo-Norman and Medieval. The material has been assessed in three ways to determine the frequency of species, number of identified fragments, their weight and the minimum number of individuals represented. To determine this last, it has been assumed that every archaeological layer contained the bones of different individuals; this is manifestly not so in several layers, but to assume the opposite results in a large and false reduction in the number of individuals.

Frequency of Species

The data concerning the frequency of species is set out in summary form in Table I. From the point of view of meat supply, cattle are the most important source, owing to

¹³⁶ London Museum, "Medieval Catalogue" (1954), pl. lxxi, pp. 32, 33.

¹³⁷ B. W. Spencer, 'A Scallop Shell Ampulla from Caistor', "Lincs. Hist. and Arch." l.no. 6 (1971), 59-66.

the greater weight of these animals, but from the point of view of fragments and individuals, sheep are the most numerous, and there would appear to be a rather larger proportion of sheep with the passage of time. There is no consistent trend with pig. Identified goats and deer were few, and nearly all the deer were *C. elaphus*, the red deer, only a very few coming from the roe deer. The apparent increase in horse in the Saxo-Norman period is due to the large number of bones from one individual found in G8. The proportion of bird bones increases with time, due largely to the number of dove bones from the medieval era (the bird bones were identified by Mr. D. Bramwell, whose report follows this).

Table I – Distribution of Species

Summary:

a) % by Weight

Period	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	%Identified
Saxon	61	18	14	6	64
Saxo- N	57	18	11	13	68
Medieval	63	17	13	7	70

b) % of Fragments

Period	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Goat	Horse	Deer	Other	Bird
Saxon	38	31	21	0.8	3	0.7	0.9	4.2
Saxo-N	31	37	17	0.5	3.8	0.9	5.7	3.36
Medieval	29	37	20	0.9	2.1	1.1	3.1	6.7

c) % Minimum nos. Individuals (Major Species only)

Period	Cattle	Sheep	Pig
Saxon	37	34	29
Saxo-N	33	40	27
Medieval	31	43	27

The relative proportions of the major species are typical of the Medieval era both here and in Germany.¹³⁸ Amongst British sites examined by this writer the numbers are closer to the East Anglian sites of North Elmham and Kings Lynn rather than the Western sites of Hereford and Bristol. Tables II–IV set out the number of bone fragments by period and feature.

Points of interest from individual features are as follows. In the Saxon period one grubenhaus (H1) contained the femur of a young beaver; this species is thought to have become extinct in Britain in Norman times. In the Saxo-Norman period Gulley 8 contained a large part of a horse skeleton, and Pit 6 contained a complete cat skeleton and no less than 78 toad bones. In the same period Ditch 1 contained the skeleton (except the head) of a young bovine, and in the Medieval period Ditch 3 included large parts of a dog skeleton.

The analysis by feature of the weights of bone is set out in Tables V – VII. This includes the weight of unidentified bone, enabling an estimation of fragmentation to be made.

Anatomical Analysis

The proportion of bones from different parts of the animal carcass may provide clues as to the economic activity going on in a particular area. Food waste is likely to comprise mainly the better meat joints of trunk and upper limb. Head parts and metapodial bones are likely to be retained near the slaughter point (head meat is edible, but the head, particularly the bovine one, is heavy in relation to its meat content and is liable to be fleshed in situ). Metapodial bones are a favourite raw material for bone working, and may accumulate at a hornworking site, but there was no such deposit at Walton Street. Phalanges were often removed with the hide, and so may accumulate at a tanner's. Such a site will be discussed later under the heading pathology and abnormalities.

It is very likely that medieval butchers, particularly if they engaged in retail butchery, suspended the carcass by the achilles tendon in the modern manner, leading to an accumulation of hock bones when other bones have been sold with the meat on them. These tarsal bones have been included with carpal bones in the table. Sheep carpals are very small and are liable to be absent where material has been redeposited.

Loose teeth other than incisors, which fall from the jaw bone very readily, are an indication of the wear and tear the bone has suffered following deposition. The skull is much more fragile than the mandible.

138. B. A. Noddle, 'A comparison of the animal bones from eight medieval sites in Southern Britain'. "Archaeozoological Studies", ed. A. T. Clason (N. Holland Publishing, Amsterdam 1975), 248.

Table II – Numbers of Animal Bone Fragments Identified – (a) Saxon

Feature	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Goat	Horse	Deer	Other	Fowl	Goose	Other Bird
H3	304	267	112	9	34	9	—	12	19	Crane 1
H1	160	71	68	1	4	3	Dog 1 Cat 2 Rat 2 Beaver 1	4	8	—
P5	23	43	27	1	4	—	Dog 1	1	5	—
G4	5	7	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
415.74	2	7	4	—	1	—	Frog 1	—	1	—
F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G1	4	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
P4	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
P3	13	12	10	—	—	—	Cat 2	—	2	—
H2	76	74	78	3	3	1	Dog 1 Rat 1 Frog 1	1	—	—
H5	12	7	9	—	2	—	Dog 1	2	6	Plover 1 Redwing 1
Total= 1,585	603	497	331	14	46	12	Dog 5 Cat 4 Rat 3 Frog 2 Beaver 1	20	44	3
	38%	31%	21%	0.8%	3%	0.7%	0.9%	1.2%	2.8%	0.2%

Table III – Numbers of Animal Bone Fragments Identified – (b) Saxo-Norman

Feature	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Goat	Horse	Deer	Other	Fowl	Goose	Other Bird
D1	251	174	113	5	13	8	Dog 4 Cat 6 Vole 1 Rat 1 Frog 1	16	7	Partridge 1 Plover 1 Duck 1
Q2	22	27	9	—	3	2	Fox 3	1	—	—
D2	65	62	33	—	1	4	Dog 2 Cat 2	—	3	Rook or Crow 1
G14	9	2	3	—	—	—	Cat 1	2	1	—
817.73	3	5	—	—	—	—	Dog 1	—	—	—
P14	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
G15	17	19	8	—	3	—	Dog 2	—	—	—
P15	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
P14	6	5	6	—	1	—	Dog 1	1	—	—
F3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
522.74	1	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G12	8	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q1	95	107	47	1	4	2	Dog 2 Cat 1 Frog 1	5	1	—
Q3	32	33	10	—	13	—	Dog 12	—	—	—
G8	23	44	17	—	28	—	—	—	—	—
G16	54	70	45	—	6	2	Dog 2 Cat 3	4	4	—
G6	2	14	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
413.74	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G7	18	27	15	2	—	—	Dog 2 Mole 1	1	2	—
314.74	—	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P6	49	164	36	—	12	—	Cat complete Toad 78	20	—	Duck 1
G9	60	91	38	2	2	2	Dog 8	1	—	Plover 1
P7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Total= 2,329	726	871	396	12	89	20	134	56	19	6
	31%	37%	17%	0.5%	3.8%	0.9%	5.7%	2.3%	0.8%	0.26%

Table IV – Numbers of Animal Bone Fragments Identified – (c) Medieval

Feature	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Goat	Horse	Deer	Other	Fowl	Goose	Wild Bird
D3	497	615	379	12	28	Red 21 Roe 3	Cat 6 Dog 50 Frog 2	18	15	Crane 1 Dove 3
D6	35	39	13	1	2	1	Dog 1	6	1	Duck 1 Crane 12
P13	21	28	11	—	—	—	Dog 1 Frog 2	2	1	Dove 69
D4	4	10	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
D7	10	11	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D5	12	15	3	—	5	—	Dog 1	1	1	—
P12	47	73	25	5	6	—	Dog 3 Vole 1 Cat 1 Frog 2 Mole 1	2	—	Dove 15
G19	19	36	16	—	3	—	Cat 2	1	—	Duck 1
Total= 2,179	645	827	292	20	48	Red 22 Roe 3	Cat 9 Dog 56 Frog 4 Vole 1 Mole 1	31	18	Duck 2 Crane 13 Dove 87
	30%	38%	13%	0.9%	2.2%	1.1%	3.3%	1.4%	0.8%	4.7%

Table V – Weight of Animal Bone in Kg. – (a) Saxon

Feature	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Not Identified
H3	12.3	3.92	2.27	1.9	10.4
H1	6.1	1.05	0.95	—	4.2
P5	0.68	0.54	0.58	—	1.14
G4, G1, P4, F & 415.74	0.23	0.17	0.19	—	0.7
P3	1.08	0.135	0.218	—	0.92
H2	2.06	0.705	0.975	0.54	3.48
H5	0.244	0.054	0.135	0.108	0.432
Total 37.363*	22.694	6.574	5.36	2.092	21.272
% of identified bone	61%	18%	14%	0.6%	—

64% bone identified. * (including 0.37 kg. Deer bone; 0.275 Kg. Bird bone)

Table VI – Animal Bone by Weight in Kg. – (b) Saxo-Norman

Feature	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Not Identified
G8	0.72	0.48	0.228	2.6	1.34
G16	1.54	0.87	0.655	0.315	2.49
G6, G7)					
413.74)	1.14	0.453	0.342	—	1.05
314.74)					
P6	2.42	1.19	0.54	—	—
G9	1.59	0.675	0.228	0.275	1.14
D1	8.1	1.32	1.23	0.24	4.62
Q2	0.92	0.17	0.17	0.275	0.745
D2	1.52	0.458	0.342	—	1.55
G14, G12,)					
G15, P14,)					
P15, F3,)	1.12	0.315	0.2	0.342	1.47
817.73 &)					
522.74 .)					
Q1	2.5	0.97	0.68	0.254	1.68
Q3	1.14	0.40	0.45	0.91	—
Total 40,003*	22.71	7.303	4.785	5.205	18.525
% of identified bone	57%	18%	11%	13%	

68% Bone Identified * (Including 0.275 Kg. Bird bone.)

Table VII – Animal Bone by Weight in Kg. – (c) Medieval

Feature	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Not Identified
D3	16.912	3.8	3.245	1.07	10.12
P13	0.577	0.220	0.137		0.715
D4	0.165	0.110	0.027	0.22	0.750
D7	0.220	0.082	0.027	0.275	—
D5	0.220	0.138	0.082	0.138	0.165
D6	1.128	0.358	0.247	0.110	0.577
P12	1.10	0.594	0.275	0.275	0.080
G19	0.853	0.33	0.220	0.275	0.770
Total 33.188*	20.96	5.632	4.233	2.363	13.98
% identified bone	63%	17%	13%	7%	

70% bone identified. * (Including 0.300 Kg. Bird bone.)

The results of this analysis are summarised by period in Table VIII. Skull fragments from all species are greatest in the Saxon era. Vertebrae decrease, but these bones are fragile and may have been lost after deposition. Forelimb bones are more frequent than hind-limb in most cases, but this may again be a reflection of durability; however, hindlimb bones are the most frequent in the sheep, but this is probably due to the exceptional durability of the sheep tibia. Metapodials show no consistent trend. The apparent increase in bovine phalanges in the medieval era is influenced by the possible tanners' deposit in Ditch 3. The numbers of loose teeth show no very consistent trend, but they are always high owing to the generally fragmented nature of the bone. The number of the hyoid bones (from the tongue) was higher than that found in other sites investigated by the writer. This may indicate that the head was utilised or discarded) intact without removing the tongue or may result from the quality of the excavation technique, this being a fragile bone.

Table VIII – Anatomical Analysis % of fragments from different parts of the carcass.

Animal	Skull	Mandible	Vert.	Fore limb	Hind limb	Metapod.	Phalanx	Carpal Tarsal	Loose Teeth
Cattle:									
Saxon	8.7	7.9	16	15.9	11.8	6.2	6.9	5.1	18.2
Saxo-N.	4.5	6.5	8	13.8	9.6	10	10.2	10.9	22
Medieval	4.2	4	7.2	10.4	9.9	9.7	16.3	7.8	15.9
Sheep:									
Saxon	9.2	11.4	5.7	15.3	15.5	6.6	0.8	2.8	25.5
Saxo-N.	5	6.7	4.4	14.2	15.4	10.3	6.1	5.8	32
Medieval	2.8	7.1	2.9	10.2	16	7.4	1.8	2.4	16.6
Pig:									
Saxon	18	10.2	10	12.4	11.8	7.6	6.1	4.9	19.6
Saxo-N.	10	6.3	4.3	15.7	9.6	5.6	6.3	5.3	34.6
Medieval	13.4	7.2	4.1	19.2	12.3	7.9	4.5	5.8	24.3

Age—Range of Animal

The age-range of the individual animals at death gives some indication of the agricultural system from which they derive, but it is not possible to determine what element of consumer choice was also operating. Modern butchers' animals are slaughtered primarily for their meat apart from culled breeding stock, and owing to high nutritional standards and stock selected for rapid maturation are usually killed at a young age. In former times the pattern was very different, and the younger animals are more likely to have been casualties or slaughtered because of fodder shortage. Also the hide and horns form a much greater proportion of the value (up to one third).¹³⁹

Mature animals, which could have been used as breeding stock, oxen for traction, sheep for wool etc., would have given a much greater economic return than those of young animals. However in an urban locality, demand may be sufficient to allow livestock to be produced for the meat market.

In Table IX the individual animals have been aged where possible, in groups. It is

139. G. Fleming, "Animal Plagues, their History, Nature and Prevention" (1971).

unlikely that the chronological ages represented by these stages are the same as those of modern animals, as changes in these have taken place even in the last 20 years, but in modern terms these groups are:— juvenile, under 1 year old, immature, 1-4 years, mature, older than this. Data derived from dentition and epiphyseal closure have been amalgamated.

Table IX – Ages of the Commonly Occurring Animals.

Animal/ Period	Total No. Individuals	No.Aged	Juvenile %	Immature %	Mature %
Cattle:					
Saxon	85	64	38	40	22
Saxo-N.	131	83	24	48	27
Medieval	80	49	22	49	29
Sheep:					
Saxon	77	63	31	40	29
Saxo-N.	160	112	23	32	43
Medieval	113	79	23	29	47
Pig:					
Saxon	67	47	30	42	20
Saxo-N.	105	71	23	55	22
Medieval	70	41	29	54	17

The ages of the cattle at death remain fairly constant at all periods, and the majority of them are killed young. This would seem to indicate that the size of the Walton community was sufficient to provide a market bigger than that which could be supplied by old breeding-stock and plough oxen, or that the community was sufficiently affluent to afford a better quality of meat. Amongst sheep there is a considerable change between Saxon and other periods, the proportion of mature animals rising by about one third. This would indicate that the economic function of the animals changes, probably because of improved wool quality, but sheep might have also been used for dairying. Pigs are always killed younger than other animals, and the prolificacy of the pig means that fewer breeding-stock need to be kept. Also there is no other function of the adult than as breeding-stock. There is a slight but steady trend downwards in the number of adult animals present. Again this might be due to consumer choice, or it may be the result of improved litter sizes, perhaps as a result of sty husbandry.

Size and Type of Animal

As has been stated previously, the fragmentary nature of the bones considerably reduced the number of measurements that could be made.

Cattle

Those bones or parts of bones which could be measured with any frequency are set out in Figure 50 in the form of a histogram. Noddle observed a reduction in size in some cases between the Saxon and medieval periods¹⁴⁰, but no such change can be observed here with any clarity; Saxon bones are rarely the smallest, and medieval

¹⁴⁰ B. A. Noddle, *op. cit.*

bones rarely the largest. An estimate of live weight has been made using the astragalus bone according to the method of Noddle.¹⁴¹ This shows that the animals were heavier than the majority of both Saxon and medieval beasts assessed in this way, but not as large as at the Norfolk site, North Elmham. Though size is today a function of genetic character it is more likely to have been a function of nutrition at this time, and thus the size of the animals might be a reflection of soil fertility or pasture availability.

Another pointer towards type is the shape of the horn core in those animals that carry them. However, only three adult horn cores occur, two from the Saxon period, where they are short, round in cross section and pointed. The single medieval period specimen is similar in size and shape but slightly less pointed (Plate VI). All would appear to be female. As a large number of skull fragments were found from all periods it is likely that the horn cores were removed to a workshop. At some sites the sawn off stumps are recovered in these circumstances, but there were none here, so it is possible that the cores were struck off with an axe. It is also possible, but not thought probable, that the cattle were polled.

The dimensions of complete bones, mainly cannon bones, are set out in Table X. It must be borne in mind that within the same population the sizes of bones differ considerably between males, castrate males and females.

Table X – Dimensions of Bovine Bones in mm.

Period	Bone	Length	Prox. Width	Dist. Width	Midshaft Width
Saxon:	Humerus	250	—	66	41 (taken at nutrient for)
	Radius	250	71	60	35 " " " "
	Metacarpal	176	58.5	49.5	28
	Metatarsal	215	47.5	52	29
		195	42	41.5	22
		207	42	45	24
Saxo-N:	Radius	240	—	56	34 " " " "
		252	77	66	41 " " " "
	Metacarpal	192	53	—	28
		178	66	53	32 " " " "
	Metatarsal	197	44	—	24
		207	42	45	24
Medieval:	Radius	285	82.5	65	42 " " " "
	Metacarpal	175	50	48	30
		190	54	49	25
		170	51	50	29
		170	47	46	26
		172	50	50	29
		200	—	43	22
		195	42	44	23.5
	Metatarsal	200	42	47	24
		190	44	48	24.5
		195	42	47	24

141. B.A. Noddle, 'Determination of the body weight of cattle from bone measurements' in "Domestikations Forschung und Geschichte der Haustiere", ed. J. Matolcsi (Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest, 1971), 377.

BOVINE

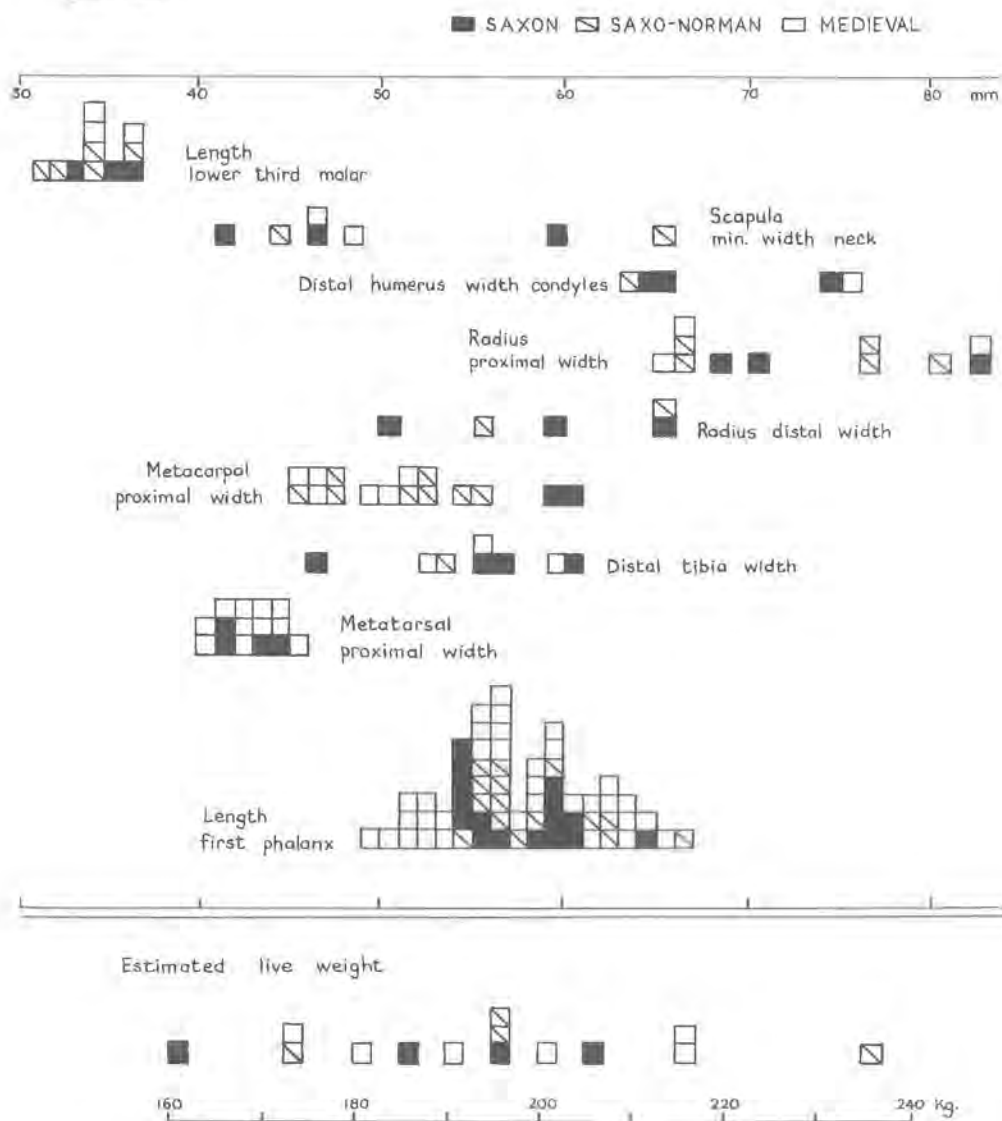


Fig. 50, Bovine bone measurements, and live weight estimation, by period.

All measurements are the maximum obtainable, except for the distal metapodials where the measurement was taken at the epiphyseal junction. The distal humerus width was taken across the condyles.

The femur showed some differences which may have a genetic origin. The nutrient foramen of cattle lies either in the supracondylar fossa or alongside it in the majority of cases. The distribution of these two positions is usually equally divided in both modern and archaeological specimens but here there was a distinct bias for one site. Out of seven specimens observed from the Saxon period only one was within the fossa. From the Saxo-Norman period ten out of thirteen specimens were within the fossa, and in the medieval period nine out of ten specimens were within the fossa. This is tentative evidence for a genetic change between the seventh century and the tenth.

Sheep

The sheep bones have been assessed in the same way as the cattle. The most commonly available dimensions are set out in Figure 51. Again there is no clear size-distinction between periods, although on average the Saxon specimens are probably slightly larger than the medieval. All are within the range of the eight medieval sites discussed by Noddle¹⁴² with the exception of North Elmham where the animals were larger. Figure 51 also illustrates the shape of the scapular neck in the form of a ratio. This ratio tends to be highest in primitive short-tailed sheep and lowest in modern mutton breeds, and it would appear that there is a slight trend towards a "meatier" form with the passage of time but the numbers are too small to be definite. However, this reinforces the evidence obtained from the age groupings as short-tailed sheep of the Soay variety have a much poorer fleece than long-tailed types.

The femur also shows some sign of change with time. Age in the nutrient foramen occurs in one of two places (sometimes both in modern crossbreds). In the case of sheep it is either on the proximal anterior shaft or the posterior distal. In the Saxon period there are four proximal and four distal specimens, in the Saxo-Norman ten proximal and five distal and in the medieval two proximal and no distal. Again the number of specimens is small and the exact reasons for the difference has not been determined, but there is evidence of variation in different present-day breeds (Noddle, not yet published).

More horn cores were obtained from sheep than from cattle, and it would appear that the sheep were horned in both sexes at all periods, as no polled frontal bones were found, but on the other hand without a horn this bone is fragile and specimens may well have been fragmented beyond recognition. The horn-core forms were variable as is frequently the case with primitive breeds. Also there is considerable sexual variation in the horn core. From the Saxon period there is a somewhat oval specimen probably from a wether coming from the top of the frontal bone, a massive ram-fragment dissociated from the skull and a curious little triangular specimen which may have been damaged in growth. From the Saxo-Norman period there was a massive ram-horncore (Plate VI) and another ram-fragment bearing a linear groove on the lateral face. This would appear to be related to present day black-faced breeds;¹⁴³ this groove was not present in the complete specimen. There was a complete calvarium from a young wether (Plate VII) with the horns tending to point upwards and backwards and oval in cross section. There were also 3 other isolated fragments similar to this. In the

142. Noddle 'Comparison' (n.138)

143. B.A. Noddle, 'The early history of Sheep', "Ark" 1 (1974), 14, (Published by Countryside Livestock Ltd. Devon).

SHEEP

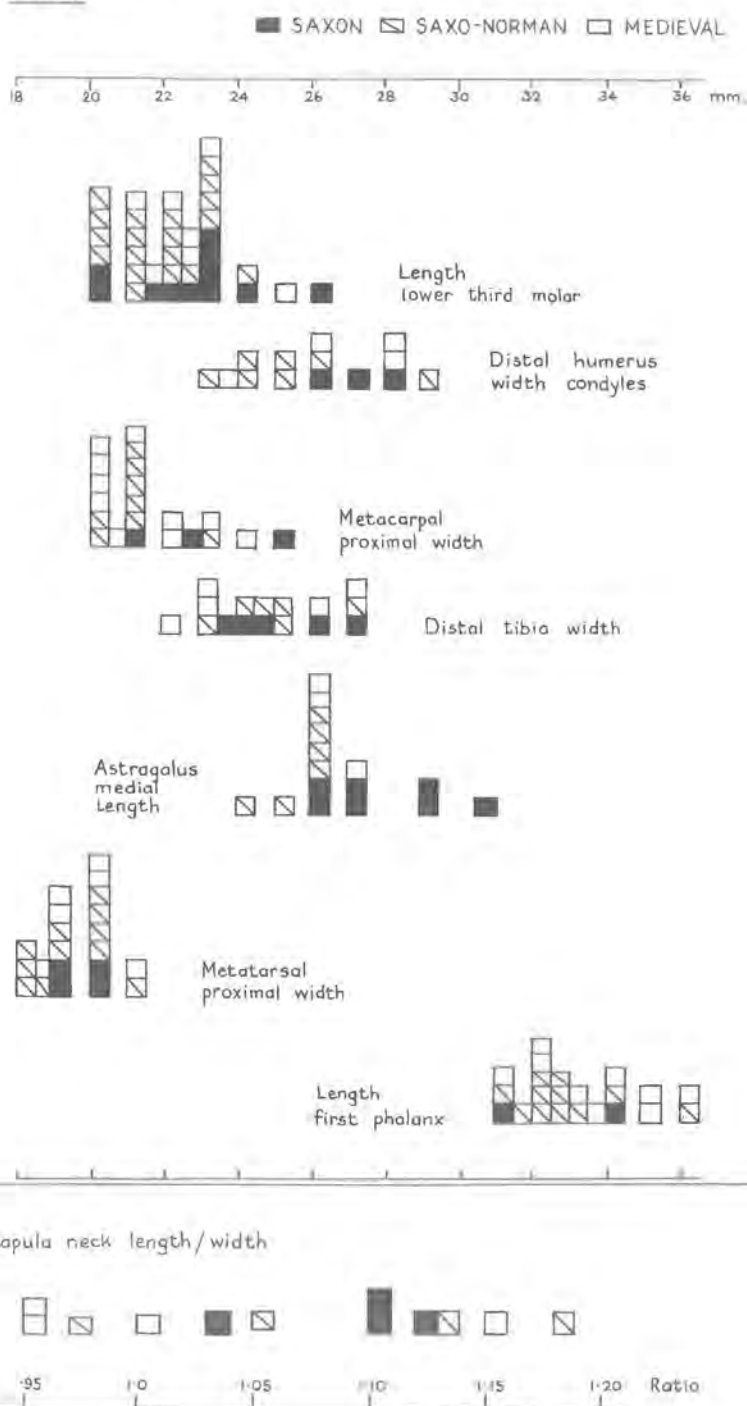


Fig. 51, Sheep bone measurements, by period.

medieval period there was a small round horn-core which might have come from a ewe. There were 2 oval specimens which appeared to be growing in a more lateral direction than the earlier specimens. Again there is tentative evidence for a change in type.

Table XI – Dimensions of complete sheep bones in mm.

Period	Bone	Length	Prox. Width	Dist. Width	Midshaft Width
Saxon	Metatarsal	120	20	23.5	12
		117	19	22	11
Saxo-N.	Metacarpal	105	20	23	13
		107	21	23	13
	Metatarsal	116	20	22	11.5
		117	19	21	10.5
		117	19	22	11.5
		120	18	23	12 (? goat)
Medieval	Radius	145	—	27	17 (taken at nutrient for)
	Metacarpal	120	23	23	14
		103	18	20	11
	Metatarsal	135	20	23	11.5
		125	18.5	22	11.5
		130	21	25	12.5
		120	20	23	12
		127	20	23	13 (? goat)

A number of coccygeal vertebrae were found in ditch D1 (Saxo-Norman). They suggested that the sheep were of the long-tailed variety, and one of them gave the impression of having been cut during life, ie. docked.

Pig

Because the majority of pigs are killed so young, it is always difficult to obtain sufficient mature bones to provide measurements. Of the bones whose dimensions appear in Fig. 52, both scapula neck and astragalus may derive from young animals and be small for this reason. The most reliable bone is the lower 3rd molar, and when it is compared with other medieval material¹⁴⁴ it is found that most of the teeth are within the medieval average, although they are, like the other species, smaller than the animals of North Elmham. The Saxon bones are again slightly larger on average than those of the other periods. Among most of the bones there is an isolated specimen much larger than the others, and this falls within the range of the modern wild boar, so that is likely to derive from this animal; there is one such specimen from the Saxon period, two from the Saxo-Norman and one from the Medieval. However, it does not seem that hunting of any sort contributed much to the diet of this settlement at any period, since deer bones are few and hare bones completely absent. Table XII sets out the dimensions of the few complete bones obtained.

144. Noddle 'Comparison'. (n.138).

Table XII — Dimensions of whole bones of pig in mm.

Period	Bone	Length	Prox. Width.	Dist. Width	Midshaft Width
Saxon	Radius	140	30	33	20
	Metatarsal	84	—	—	—
		85.5	—	—	—
Saxo-N. Medieval	Metacarpal	77	—	—	—
	Metacarpal	77	—	—	—
	Metatarsal	82	—	—	—

Horse

The proportion of horse bones was low, and in many cases only teeth were found. These suggested that the majority of animals were elderly, apart from a few temporary teeth found in the medieval period. Most of the animals seem to be sturdy ponies in size, with the exception of a larger incomplete femur from the medieval period. There were also two very small specimens, one Saxon and the other medieval, which might have been donkey.

Table XIII — Dimensions of whole bones of horse in mm.

Period	Bone	Length	Prox. Width	Dist. Width
Saxon	Radius	690	—	—
	Tibia	740	—	—
	Metacarpal	470	—	—
	1st Phalanx	84	53	41
	3rd Phalanx	—	—	79
Saxo-N.	Femur	320	—	—
	Metacarpal	220	52	43
	1st Phalanx	81	49	—
		83	53	48
		77	—	44
		75	48	—
		71	—	42
Medieval	Tibia	760	—	—
	1st Phalanx	78	52	42
	3rd Phalanx	—	—	69

Dog

The majority of dog bones came from small animals of perhaps spaniel size, but there were a few larger, say collie size. In the Saxo-Norman period and in the Medieval there were 2 groups of several bones from the same individual, suggesting a burial, although the Saxo-Norman specimen gave the impression of having been butchered. There was only one immature specimen, taken from the Medieval period, but dogs only take a year to mature.

PIG

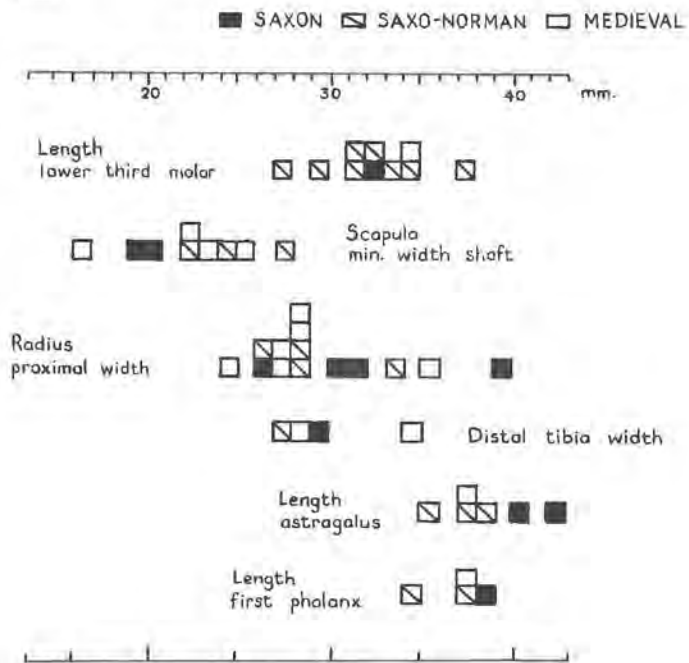


Fig. 52, Pig bone measurements, by period.

Table XIV – Dimensions of complete dog bones in mm.

Period	Bone	Length
Saxon	Humerus	160
	Lower carnassial	21.5
Saxo-N.	Metacarpal	56
	1st Phalanx	32
	Lower carnassial	23, 24
	Upper carnassial	21
Medieval	Humerus	165
	Metacarpal	67, 66, 58
	Lower carnassial	26

Cat

There were not many cat bones, but there were a few at all periods. The Saxon specimens were all immature. This might be interpreted that the animals were being killed for their skins, and there is some reliable evidence for this practice from Medieval Denmark (Hatting, personal communication). There was a large part of a skeleton in one of the Saxo-Norman pits. The mandible from this contained cramped teeth which suggests malnutrition at the growing period. The animal had also suffered damage to one foot, the metatarsal bones being fused proximally. There were also two immature specimens from the medieval period.

Table XV – Dimensions of Cat Bones in mm.

Period	Bone	Length
Saxo-N.	Humerus	92
	Radius	89
	Metacarpal	43, 43, 32, 32, 28, 28
	Femur	102
	Tibia	110
	Metatarsal	48, 48, 47, 47, 47
	Mandible	54

All these measurements were derived from the same animal. Clutton-Brock¹⁴⁵ quotes dimensions for other Saxon specimens of cat, most of which are smaller than this specimen, which was presumably male.

Pathology and Abnormalities

Few diseases cause macroscopic changes in bone, and so there is not much that can be deduced from archaeological material. Conversely, the most spectacular pathological specimens are usually the result of non-specific trauma, an infected penetrating wound, most often in the foot. There are three such specimens here. Two of them are early Saxon, from the large grubenhaus (H3), a bovine humerus shaft with a small patch of osteomyelitis and a second phalanx, also bovine with massive exostoses around the proximal joint surface, though it would appear that the joint was still capable of limited movement. The other specimen is medieval, a horse first phalanx in which there are extensive exostoses around the distal joint.

145. J. Clutton-Brock, 'The Animal Resources', in "The Archaeology of A-S England" (1976).

Another common condition is paradontal disease of the mandible, which is of unknown aetiology and results in erosion of the alveolar bone followed by secondary bone deposition, the formation of food pockets and displacement of the teeth. This condition is extremely common in present day sheep and well known from archaeological deposits. Where it occurs, a number of animals tend to be affected. At Saxon North Elmham for example, 10% of the animals were affected, some very badly. Here cases are not so serious, but they probably caused loss of condition which may result in death at lambing or be the cause of culling. One specimen occurred in the grubenhaus H3. This specimen also lacked a 2nd premolar tooth, again not an uncommon condition.¹⁴⁶ There is another example from a Saxo-Norman ditch (D1) also lacking this tooth, as is a further healthy mandible from the same location. The paradontal specimen was remarkable in that the dentition of the animal was not fully mature, and the condition usually occurs in mature or elderly sheep. There was a pair of paradontal mandibles from the medieval ditch D3 and another from G19. In all these specimens the condition was centred at the junction of the molar and premolar teeth; this is the most common form of the disease (Plate VII) paradontal disease was also observed in a bovine mandible from a Saxon house (H1) (Plate VII) the condition is much less common in cattle and I only know of one other specimen from an archaeological context, Baynards Castle in London, 16th century (Armitage, personal communication). There are, however, a number of specimens in the British Museum including several originating from the zebu type of cattle, *Bos indicus*.

Isolated cases of arthritis occurred in a pig pelvis from the grubenhaus, H1, and a bovine mandibular condyle from the large grubenhaus. Tracks of abnormally large blood vessels, which probably indicate the presence of local chronic inflammation, were found on a bovine ulna from the large grubenhaus and a pig ulna from the Saxo-Norman gulley G8.

Other dental abnormalities included a missing 2nd premolar in a bovine mandible from the large grubenhaus (H3), again a common condition, and a lower third molar lacking a posterior cusp from a medieval ditch, a condition more common amongst Roman than medieval livestock (Andrews & Noddle, not yet published). Two sheep lower third molars were found which had a small extra pillar on the lower 3rd molar; these came from the Saxo-Norman period and occurred in Ditches 1 and 2. This condition has been observed in modern sheep of large breeds.

A bovine metatarsal (Plate 0) was found in the medieval ditch D3 which had widely splayed distal condyles and an abnormally asymmetric shape. This was probably the result of heavy traction such as might be carried out by a plough ox.¹⁴⁷

The layer 602, from the medieval ditch D3, contained some very peculiar bovine foot bones. A set of metapodials, derived from the same juvenile ox, were exceedingly slight, a condition which might result from prolonged malnutrition. These bones (Plate VIII) were also eroded on one side. This may have been a post-mortem artifact, but it might also have been caused in life by hobbling with a smooth tether (the classical Irish hobble used on sheep, a piece of binder twine, causes exostoses). There were also a number of peculiar 3rd phalanges from the same location illustrated in Plate VIII. Some of these were short and stubby, a condition brought about by laminitis in modern

146. A. H. Andrews and B. A. Noddle, 'Absence of premolar Teeth from ruminant mandibles found at archaeological sites', *J. Arch. Sci.*, 2 (1975), 137.

147. A. von den Driesch, 'Die Bewertung pathologisch-anatomischer Veränderungen an vor und frühgeschichtlichen Tierknochen.' 413.

cattle, a condition brought about by overfeeding. Others were eroded to about half their normal length, but the unnatural edges were very smooth. Despite the horrific appearance of these bones, there may not have been much effect in life; an elderly female moose showing similar lesions was not even reported as being lame. It is thought that this might be tanners' waste.

The most curious specimen however, was undoubtedly a bovine thoracic vertebral spine from a Saxo-Norman gully G8. (Pl.VIII) This had a bifid tip, which is a character of the humped zebu, *Boe indicus*, though the hump may occur without it. An account of this condition is given by Epstien,¹⁴⁸ who cites a reference by Duerst that the condition has been found in a European Simmental. However, if this bone did come from a zebu it would require considerable explanation, as these cattle are found no nearer than Africa S. of the Sahara and India.

Summary

The animal bones from Walton Street are a typical medieval assemblage. Domestic animals vastly predominate, the most numerous from the point of view of weight being cattle, from the point of view of fragment numbers, sheep. Changes over the period under consideration are not large, but there are signs of change in the genetic races of animals. The age range of the cattle suggests that they were being reared for meat and hides. The age range of sheep suggests that wool production increased in importance. The study was hampered by the very fragmentary nature of the bones.

(6) Report on the Bird Bones from Walton, Aylesbury, by D. Bramwell

Table XVI — Bird Bones (Numbers of identified bones in brackets)

(a) Saxon:

Feature	Goose	Fowl	Wild Birds etc.
H5	1 (6)	2 (2)	1 Plover (1) 1 Redwing (1)
H2	—	1 (1)	—
H1	1 (8)	2 (4)	—
H3	2 (19)	2 (12)	1 Crane (1)
P5	1 (5)	1 (1)	—
415.74	1 (1)	—	—
P4	1 (3)	—	—
P3	2 (2)	—	—
Totals	9 (44)	8 (20)	1 Plover 1 Redwing 1 Crane

148. H. Epstien, "The Origin of the Domestic Animals of Africa", (Africana Publishing Corp. London 1971), Vol.I, 521.

(b)	Saxo-Norman:			
	Feature	Goose	Fowl	Wild Birds etc.
	D2	1 adult) 1 juvenile) (3)	— —	1 Rook/Crow (1)
	D1	1 (7)	1 adult) 2 pullets) (16)	1 Partridge) 1 Plover) (3) 1 Duck)
	G9	— —	1 (1)	1 Plover (1)
	Q2	— —	1 (1)	— —
	Q1	1 (1)	2 (5)	— —
	G 14	1 (1)	1 (2)	— —
	P 14	— —	1 (1)	— —
	P 15	— —	1 (1)	— —
	P 7	— —	1 chick (3)	— —
	G 7	1 (2)	1 pullet (1)	— —
	G 6	1 (1)	1 (1)	— —
	P 6	— —	2 adults) 3 pullets) (20)	1 domestic (1) duck?
	G 16	1(4)	2 (4)	— —
	Totals	7 adults) 4 juveniles) (19)	13 adults) 6 pullets) (56) 1 chick)	1 Rook/Crow) 1 Partridge) (6) 1 Plover) 1 Duck -) ? domestic

(c)	Medieval:			
	Feature	Goose	Fowl	Wild Birds etc.
	D5	1 (1)	1 (1)	—
	D6	1 (2)	4 (4)	1 Duck (1) 1 Crane (imm.) (12)
	D3	9 adult) 1 juvenile) (15)	7 adult) 2 pullets) (18) 2 chicks)	1 Goose ? wild sp.) 1 Crane) (3) 1 Dove)
	P 12	— —	1 adult) 1 chick) (2)	4 Dove (15) (2 adult 2 imm.)
	P13	1 (1)	2 (3)	13 Dove (69) (7 adult 4 imm. 2 chicks)
	G19	— —	1 (2)	1 Duck (1)
	Totals	12 adults) 1 juvenile) (19)	16 adults) 2 pullets) (30) 3 chicks)	1 Goose) (?wild sp.) 2 Cranes) 2 Ducks) (101) 18 Doves) 10 adult) 6 imm.) 2 chicks)



PLATE I (*upper*) Walton 1973; the main ditch (D4), before excavation looking north-west.
 (*lower*) Walton Court in 1867; the house in the background, the main ditch then water-filled in the foreground, and the dovecote whose footings were located during the 1973 excavations. Reproduced by kind permission of Mrs. R. E. Millard.



PLATE II (*upper*) House 3, sixth-seventh century (other features backfilled).

(*lower*) House 5, sixth-seventh century, with tenth century gulley in foreground.



PLATE III (*upper*) Saxon pits (P5) exposed in side of twelfth century ditch (D3).
 (*lower*) Detail of P5 with quern and animal bone in fill.



PLATE IV (*upper*) Needles and 'counters' from house 1 (cm. scale).

(*centre*) Spindle whorls, thread picker and hipped pin from house 3 (cm. scale).

(*lower*) Barrel headed bone pin from house 5 (cm. scale).



PLATE V (*upper*) Late Roman buckle and early Saxon brooches (cm. scale).
(*lower*) Middle - late Saxon strap-end and garter hook (cm. scale).

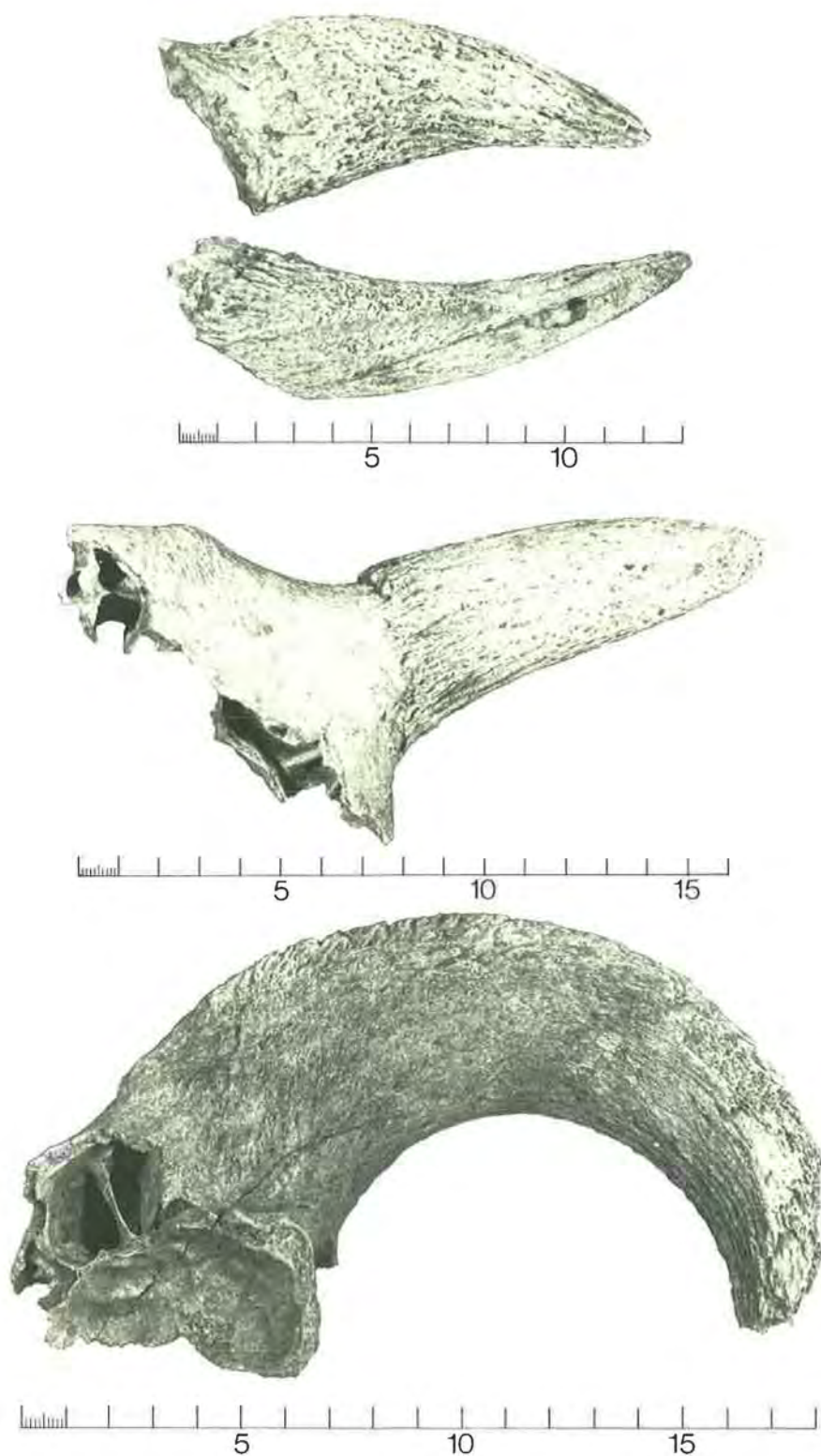


PLATE VI (*upper*) Two bovine horn cores, early Saxon (H1).
 (*centre*) Bovine horn core and frontal bone from Medieval ditch (D3).
 (*lower*) Horn core from ram, Saxo-Norman period (G16). (All cm. scale.)

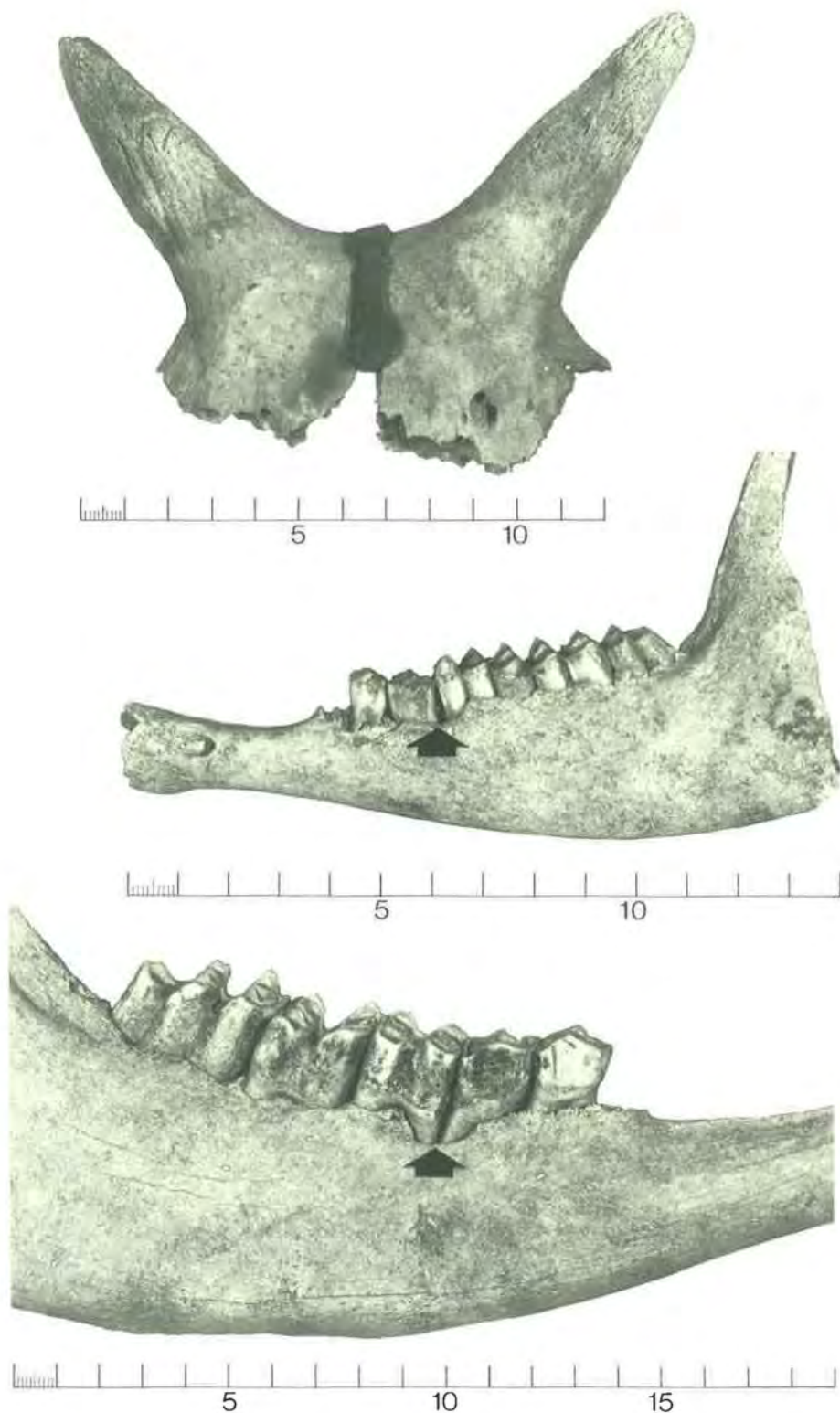


PLATE VII (*upper*) Horn cores and frontal bone from young sheep, Saxo-Norman Pit (P6). (*centre*) Mandible of sheep exhibiting mild paradontal disease originating between the premolars and molars. Medieval (D3). (*lower*) Bovine mandible showing paradontal disease, originating between premolar and molar teeth. Saxon (H1). (All cm. scale.)

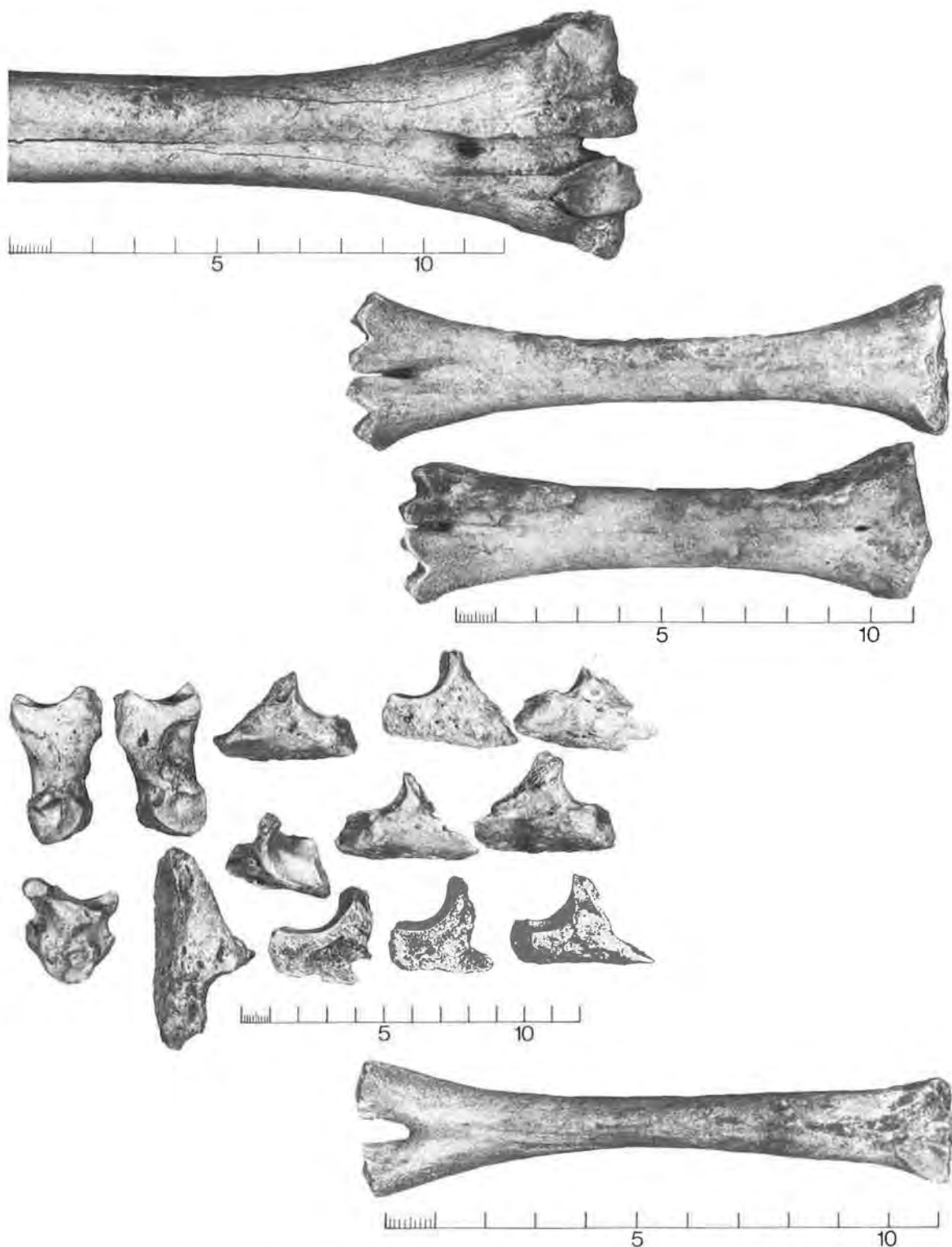


PLATE VIII (a) Distal end of bovine metatarsal exhibiting splayed end and asymmetric shape typical of a plough ox. (b) Metacarpal and metatarsal bones from juvenile bovine. Very slender shape and medial erosion of shaft. (c) Bovine phalanges. 1st and 2nd phalanges (left) show abnormal ligament attachments, the 3rd phalanx on left is normal adult. Those on the upper row show signs of laminitis and the remainder exhibit massive erosion. (d) Bifid thoracic spine from juvenile bovine. (a) – (c) Medieval from D3, (d) Saxo-Norman from G6 (cm. scales).

A problem arises over the abundant dove bones from the Medieval levels. The dimensions of the bones are consistent with the wild stock dove, *Columba oenas*, but the number of birds killed suggest that the birds may have been domestic raised in a dovecot, as was not uncommon on Medieval manors. Domestic doves at the present day are derived from the slightly larger rock dove, *Columba livia*, but there are large and small varieties among these domestic birds and there is a possibility that the Aylesbury birds are a small variety. Another point in favour of domestic birds is the number of immature birds. It is usual to eat the young birds when they reach a certain stage of fatness, just before maturing. At this stage they are known as 'squabs'. The problem would be simplified if proof of a Medieval dovecot was found at the site.

The crane remains also from a Medieval level are of interest as they belong to a bird young enough to have been a non-flier. This would seem to indicate local breeding, probably on some swampy area or fen.

LATE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL WALTON

SUMMARY

Most of the area excavated was probably under pasture from the Late Medieval period and with the exception of G24 and a dovecot there was little of archaeological significance. A spread of small limestone and roof tile was found west of the main house site during the 1973 excavation and probably represented demolition material or perhaps a hard-standing. A small ring on the same map was located on the ground and was presumed to be a post-Medieval dovecot base. This was subsequently confirmed by discovery of an illustration showing the structure standing (Plate I).

The earthworks having been shown not to be Civil War in date as local commentators believed, no other evidence of Civil War activity was forthcoming although demolition of one manor house at this time is evidenced by documentary sources.¹⁴⁹

A few small finds although unstratified are worth recording. One a pilgrim's badge of circa 1400 has been included for convenience among discussion of the earlier Medieval small finds on Fig 49; the others, a late Medieval and two Tudor jettons are described below by Mr. Rigold.

(2) *The Structures*

The Dovecot

Overlying D6 were the remains of a small circular structure with brick footings. Only a small group of bricks survived on the western side adjacent to a probable entrance but the course of the remainder was visible as a shallow dark stain. A clay pipe stem came from the footings themselves. No internal structure was apparent and there was nothing visually distinctive about the few centimetres of fill in the interior but the building was initially presumed to be a dovecot on grounds of its shape and is shown as a circle on the Enclosure Map of 1800 adjacent to Court Farm. The bricks themselves were a well fired red, and were 2 5/8" thick x 2 1/2" x 8 7/8". They were pitched and set in coarse lime mortar. Where the footing survived to full width it was 0.74 m. wide and the dovecot circa 6.70 m. in external diameter. By good fortune Mrs. Y. Parminter learnt of two illustrations of Walton Court Farm, one of 1867, the other of 1880, both showing a dovecot standing on the site; brickbuilt, but apparently incorporating timber uprights (Plate I). There was no evidence of an earlier

¹⁴⁹. See the earlier section dealing with the Background history of Walton.

dovecot on the same site so the existence of this building has no direct relevance to the evidence for a twelfth century dovecot in the neighbourhood adduced earlier.

Gulley 24

Probably a farm fence line, this slight gulley is dated by the inclusion of clay pipe stem in its fill. It also contained the late Roman buckle illustrated on Fig.24,4.

The Jettons. S. E. Rigold, M.A., F.S.A.

1. Tournai, diam. 25 mm., thick (at least 1.5 mm) and slightly scyphate fabric. This suggests that it is late in the Tournai series, but the lettering is not far off that of the thinner 'nom de Jesus' pieces of mid 15th century. Obv: 3 quatrefoils in circles and 3 lys, legend with quatrefoil i.m. and the peculiar chain-like spacers, TOV – DIS – FIEL AVROI (always faithful to the king)/ rev: cross paty with slipped quatrefoils in quarters, same i.m. and spacers, SIT NOMEN – DOMINI (benedictum) Probably last quarter of 15th century . (128A.73)
2. Nuremburg, diam. 25 mm., 'normal' types (Reichsapfel in trilobe/3 crowns and 3 lys), with a rough, but perhaps deliberate triangular 'countermark'. HANS SCHVLTES.ZV. NVR.F/GLICK.IST.WALCZ (et). VND.FL. Roman letter and thin fabric, late in Schultes's career, c. 1570 + (400+C.73)
3. Nuremburg, diam 25 mm., normal types, as above, bent. HANS KRAVWINCKEL IN NVRNB/DAS WORT GOTES BLEIBT EWICK. Perhaps before the commonest, smaller ones, c. 1580 + (800C.74).

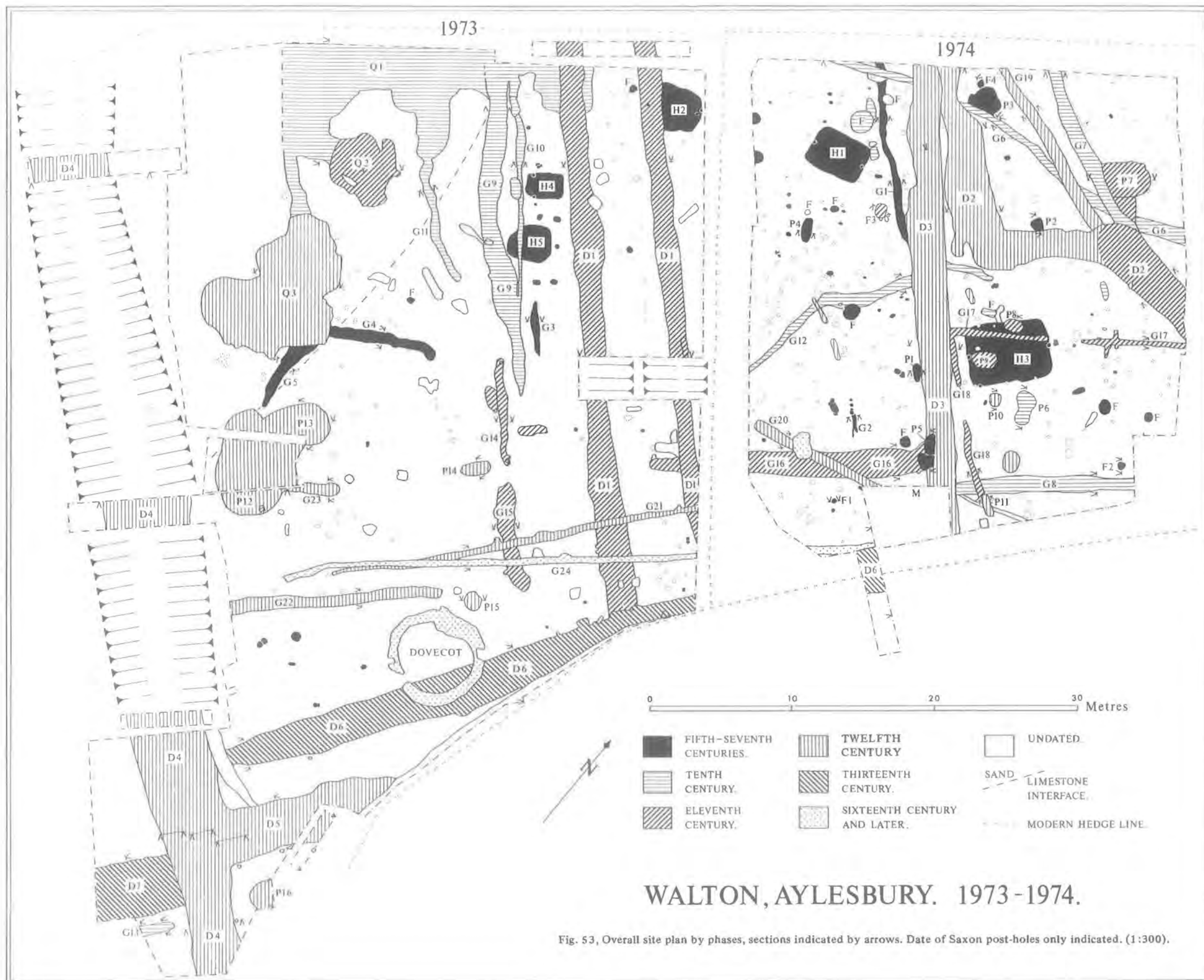


Fig. 53, Overall site plan by phases, sections indicated by arrows. Date of Saxon post-holes only indicated. (1:300).