

EXCAVATIONS AT 'MATFORD', BRADLEY STOKE WAY, BRADLEY STOKE, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 2001

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INTRODUCTION

A proposal was submitted to develop land (c.8.82 hectares) to the east of Bradley Stoke Way, Bradley Stoke (Fig.1) as a school and residential housing. The numerous archaeological investigations in the vicinity suggested the need for an archaeological evaluation. Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) carried out an evaluation programme of fifty-seven trenches during November 2000 (Parry 2001).

Archaeological features from different periods were fairly widely distributed about the site. A small concentration of linear features, tree throws and pits or post-holes were identified in the south-central part of the development area. The latter features were initially identified as early to mid Bronze Age. A probable pond (pers. comm. Adrian Parry) with mostly 3rd century AD Severn Valley wares and sherds dated initially to the same part of the Bronze Age was recorded in the southeastern part of the site. A few features with metalworking waste from the Iron Age or later were located in the eastern and northeastern area of the site. A minor shallow feature with similarly identified Bronze Age pottery was excavated in the southwestern extremity of the evaluation site. An undated series of rectilinear gullies or ditches were investigated in the central and northern areas of the site. Numerous land drains, tree throws and other non-archaeological disturbances of the substrata were recorded scattered across the site.

As a condition of planning permission five large area excavations (A-E, Fig.1) were located to target the *foci* of archaeological potential. BaRAS carried out these area excavations during the spring and summer of 2001. Reg Jackson supervised for the first six weeks. The writer supervised excavation and recording for the remaining fourteen weeks. Bruce Williams was project manager and Ann Linge provided the illustrations.

The area excavations lie on a large parcel of land named 'Matford' in AD1725 (Historical Background). To distinguish the site in question from the numerous excavations carried out in Bradley Stoke the place-name 'Matford' has been adopted for convenience sake.

The site archive will be held at the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number BRSMG 2001/38.

The chronological sequence of activity or occupation at the site was as follows:

Periods I-II: Late Mesolithic /Early Neolithic to Bronze Age

Period III: Iron Age; possibly exclusively late Iron Age, 3rd century BC – 1st century AD.

Period IV: Romano-British; 1st – 2nd/3rd centuries AD

Period Va: Medieval; Saxo-Norman, AD1000 – 1120

Period Vb: Medieval; 12th – mid- 13th centuries

- including three possible structural phases (?one in Vc):

Phase I – ?House C with Parallel Gullies

?Phase II – ?Bake-house or kitchen Addition F to C, possibly with rectilinear Ditch and Gully systems

Period Vc: Medieval; mid 13th – mid- 14th century

- including 2 activity or structural phases:

Phase 1 – House A with ?Enclosure Ditch and Ancillary Building B. Blocking of ?House C door (i.e. Phase III) ?and change of use of building.

Phase 1a – Pennant Floor of House A

Phase 1b – Pitched Lias Floor of House A

Phase 2a – Masonry Addition D to House A

Phase 2b – Masonry Addition D to House A

THE SITE (Fig. 1)

The site is centred on NGR ST 625817 and located immediately east of Bradley Stoke Way. It is bounded to the north by the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre and to the south by Webbs Wood and beyond; Stoke Brook. To the east made up ground and the M4 motorway lie beyond the site boundary.

The northern and eastern areas of the site are relatively flat at 57m-58m above OD. The remaining terrain falls away to the south and west from 56m to 50m above OD. At the southwest extremity the land rises again towards Bradley Stoke Way. Scrub and grass covered much of the site with large patches of dense saplings. A number of ponds and herb-rich grassland were not disturbed by excavations for ecological reasons.

The solid geology of the site consists of mainly Triassic White and Blue Lias limestone with interbedded clays – allocated context number 6004. Littoral facies (mainly clay) occurred along a shallow valley (Bristol district map 1967). A large outcrop of greyish white Rhaetian marl (pers. comm. Paul Stevenson) was located in the north central part of Area E. This was designated as substratum 6485.

The stratigraphic sequence in the five areas excavated usually comprised a thin layer of topsoil and occasionally a patchy subsoil horizon, with substrata occurring at a depth of less than 0.35m. Overlying deposits tended to be thicker in the western part of Area E in a shallow valley. In this area an extensive layer of hardcore, partly overlying archaeological deposits and substrata, was also mechanically and manually removed. During Period VI, mechanical disturbance to archaeological deposits had occurred in Area E, though this was uneven. The complex nature of some masonry structures (occasionally poorly preserved) and associated deposits in Area E necessitated five weeks manual clearance in the main area of medieval occupation. Numerous depressions in the substratum, either naturally occurring or formed as a result of tree growth were recorded in Areas A to D and the eastern parts of Area E. A number of environmental samples were taken from Romano-British and medieval deposits. Considerable vandalism and metal detectorist pilfering occurred at the site, highlighting the problems of security on suburban and rural sites. A metal detector was used during the excavation to retrieve certain objects in Area E.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2)

The site is located near the northern extremity of Stoke Gifford parish, formerly in Gloucestershire. A history of this parish can be summarised as follows: At the time of Domesday *Osbern Gifard* held the *manerium* of *Stoche* (Gifford) along with three other manors in Gloucestershire, of which Brimpsfield in Rapsgate Hundred was his residence and castle (Atkyns 1712, 690; Rudder 1779, 698). Three of these manors including Stoke Gifford in *Letberg* (Ledbury) Hundred and Brimpsfield were formerly held by *Dunne* from *comes Heraldo* (that is; King Harold, AD 1066) or in T.R.E. (*tempore regis Edwardi*; AD1042-66). *Dunne/Dons* may have been the same Englishman who still held Bitton manor at Domesday. Stoke Gifford had five hides, four ploughs in lordship, eight villagers, a priest with eight ploughs and four slaves. It was valued T.R.E at £6 and at Domesday £8 (Moore 1982, 50-50.4, 78.13). A hide was as much land as could be ploughed by an eight-ox team in one year. That is, between 60 and 180 acres depending on land quality (Richardson 1986, 10). A hide in northern Stoke Gifford was, due to its heavy soil, more likely to be closer to the smaller figure. In the late 11th / early 12th century Worcester cartulary known as ‘Hemming’s Cartulary’, manuscript B records Osbern Giffard’s 5 hides at *Stoke* in *Bernitreu* (Brentry) Hundred (*op.cit.* WoB 15nn). This was because the overlordship was in dispute between the crown and the Bishops of Worcester (*ibid*, note 3,1).

Stoke Gifford continued in the hands of the Giffard family until John Giffard was captured at the battle of Boroughbridge, attainted and then executed at Gloucester for treason in AD1322 . The manor was held of the honour of Gloucester (Atkyns 1712, 690, Rudder 1779, Russell 1989, 31). All Giffard's lands were granted to John Maltravers in AD1327 '...for murdering King Edward II..... [Maltravers] was convicted of high misdemeanours ...' and his estate was seized (Atkyns 1712, 299). Stoke Gifford was granted to Maurice de Berkeley with other lands, after John Giffard's third wife Margaret died in AD1337/38 (*ibid*, 690, 701). Apart from a period of four years the manor remained in Berkeley hands till 1770 when it passed to Elizabeth Berkeley duchess dowager of Beaufort (Rudder 1779, 699). The Beaufort estate of Stoke Gifford was sold by lots in 1915, at which time the area of the site was part of Bailey's Farm (Bailey's Court) – (BRO 9492 (61) S). As most of Stoke Gifford paid tithes to the Beaufort Estate, the Tithe Map of 1842 does not include the area of the site, however it does record that the parish consisted of c.2065 acres. This was divided between 1524 acres of meadow and pasture (some of which was rough), 485 acres arable and 56 acres of woodland. It is notable that the 1842 arable acreage could be considered comparable to the five hides of Domesday when, as postulated above, a Stoke Gifford hide was likely to be less than 100 acres.

Robert Atkyns (1712, 691) also records that the parish contained three hamlets; *Great-Stoke*, *Little-Stoke* and *Harris-Stoke*. These hamlets are termed 'manors' on an estate map of AD1725 by J. Vaston. The Vaston map records all the field-names of the parish. The area of the site is centred in a block of no less than twenty-two fields that are named *Matford* (Fig. 2). These fields are distinguished by qualifiers such as 'Upper Matford', 'Hither Matford.' or 'Matford Ground' etc. The field-name *Matford* is from Old English *maeth* (with the 'th' as in 'the'), Modern English dialect *math*, that is 'mowing' and *ford*, 'ford' (Smith 1964 IV, 153, 126). These fields form a quite cohesive block of approximately 153.7 acres (OS 1950s Maps). To the east a bridge over Bradley Brook in the adjoining parish is still called 'Matford Bridge' but would seem to locate another 'Matford'.

An 1843 map survey of the parish was carried out for the Duke of Beaufort. No schedule accompanied this map in the Gloucester Record Office. Apart from the Vaston map no other direct references to the area of the site could be located at the Bristol or Gloucester record offices. According to Sawyer (1968; and Grundy 1935-6) no Anglo-Saxon charters survive for the parish of Stoke (Gifford). The Stoke Gifford hamlets were not separately listed in the AD1327 lay Subsidy Roll (Prosser 1996, 26): it only lists taxpayers by name not location (Franklin 1993).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES IN THE VICINITY (Fig. 3)

Due largely to the huge amount of development in Bradley Stoke; a considerable number of chance finds or archaeological sites have been identified, partly excavated or fully excavated in the vicinity of the site. Much of the post – Palaeolithic period is represented in an area of a little over 1km from the centre of the site. The distribution of sites must be partly as a result of piecemeal investigation in advance of development rather than genuine historical distribution. A chronology for the area can be divided into the following periods of activity and settlement:

Mesolithic and Neolithic – minimal archaeological evidence

Bronze Age – settlement and burial evidence

Iron Age – mostly later Iron Age

Romano – British – settlement and agricultural evidence

Late Saxon – minimal archaeological evidence

Medieval – largely documentary evidence

Post-medieval – farms

The following only represents a brief summary of the significance of these sites:

Mesolithic and Neolithic: A few stone artefacts (an A1 type core, a petit tranchet derivative arrowhead and a polished axe fragment) from Tesco, Savages Wood (SGSMR 7442; Erskine 1994/5, 22-3).

Bronze Age: Two genuine settlement *foci* appear to have existed at Tesco, Savages Wood and the Webbs Farm/Great Meadow area. Early Bronze Age rim-sherds from a pit from Tesco, Savages Wood (SGSMR 7442; Erskine 1991, 11). Also; Early – Middle Bronze Age pottery and flint debitage associated with sub-rectangular, possibly daubed houses. A probable mortuary structure with an inverted urn cremation, and a ?porched round-house dating to the later Bronze Age from the same site, with several hundred loosely associated post-holes, some pits and a few gullies (*op.cit.*, 21, 18). Features from the same period at the adjacent Leisure Centre (SGSMR10574), though not closely dated. Some Bronze Age activity either extended to the northwest, to Patchway Common (SGSMR 8615; Parry pers.comm.) and possibly Brookway Centre (SGSMR 9000; Samuel 1992, 17) or occurred intermittently in this direction. Bronze Age post-holes, pits, gullies and an occupation layer at Webbs Farm (SGSMR 8273; Parry 1992, 39, 20). Possible Bronze Age pottery and contemporary flint scatter at Great Meadow, Bradley Stoke (SGSMR 7441; Erskine & Kidd 1993, 26).

Iron Age: Ditches dated by Kidd to the late or ultimate Iron Age (c.100 BC-AD75; *ibid*, 26-7) at Great Meadow. Iron Age activity extended to the northeast; mid and late-Iron Age residual pottery was retrieved (SGSMR 12775; Burchill in Tavener 1997, 18-9).

Romano-British: Two or three *foci* of quite significant settlement have been revealed by evaluation or piecemeal investigation. Occupation debris and a possible stone Romano-British building (SGSMR 12844) just north of Savages Wood Road and 250m to the south; two cist burials associated with pottery (SGSMR 8768; *ibid*); both sites are thought to be of the 2nd to 4th centuries. A pit at Tesco, Savages Wood (SGSMR 7442; Erskine 1991, 11) might indicate a spread of activity to the northeast.

An extensive settlement, though not necessarily all contemporary, seems to spread possibly from Webbs Farm eastwards to Webbs Wood Road and south to Baileys Court. Residual pottery was found at Webbs Farm (SGSMR 8273). Occupation layers, pottery, roof-tiles and brooches dated at the time to AD50-75 (Erskine 1993, 27,42) were recorded at Great Meadow (SGSMR 7441), as were two extended inhumations. Postholes, pits, a stone wall and a probable rectilinear beam slot were associated with 1st to 3rd century pottery (SGSMR 12775; Burchill 1995, 6-10, Tavener 1997, 14-20) between Bradley Stoke Way and Webbs Wood Road. Inhumations are also recorded in the same area (SGSMR 7676 & 8629) which had been much disturbed by metal detectorists. This settlement, or part of a settlement may have been delimited by a ditch excavated to the southwest of this area (SGSMR 10830). However to the southwest at Baileys Court two substantial stone buildings, walled yards or paddocks and an infant inhumation were associated with artefacts of the 1st to mid- 4th century (SGSMR 8127, Russell 1989, 53-4). This settlement may lie within one or more enclosures (SGSMR 40461)

Late Saxon: Three pottery sherds of BPT 309 were recovered from topsoil or subsoil (SGSMR 7432; Erskine 1991, 50). These were consistent with a date between AD950-1080 (pers.comm Rod Burchill) and were recovered just to the south of the site of the present article.

Medieval: At the same location (SGSMR 7432) 12th-13th and 13th-14th- century pottery was retrieved from the same type of contexts (*op.cit.* 12, 50, *ibid*). Some ?14th- century pottery was recovered during the excavation at Webbs Farm (ASMR 8273), and the farm itself may have medieval origins (SGSMR 3592). To the northwest of the site at Patchway a farm is documented at Patchway or Manor Farm in AD1491 as part of St. Augustines demesne as was another to the west at a location called ‘Coleheies’ (SGSMR 5390, 5388).

Post-medieval: Three other messuages or tenements documented in AD1536 existed nearby Patchway Farm and another near ‘Coleheies’ called Pound/Pond Farm had medieval origins (SGSMR 5289, 5391, 5392, 5387; *ibid*). Seventeenth or early eighteenth century farms existed

at Webbs (formerly Woodhouse) Farm and Baileys Court (formerly Baileys Farm) – (SGSMR 3592, SGSMR 8132, OS 1inch 1830; Vaston 1725).

THE 2001 EXCAVATIONS

Following an agreement with the County Archaeological Officer a limited programme of excavation was undertaken for Areas A, B and D. It was determined that most deposits in these areas were non-archaeological.

Undatable Features and Deposits

Numerous tree throws, geological undulations and a possible former pond (feature 6162/6160) were investigated in Areas A to D. No artefacts were recovered from the following non-archaeological features or deposits:

Area A (Fig 4)

Deposit 6047 Feature 6132
Feature 6125 Deposit 6167
Feature 6126 Feature 6166
Deposit 6127 Feature 6166
Feature 6168

Area B (Fig. 1)

A number of deposits were investigated but none were excavated to base in this area as it was determined that they were very similar to the numerous non-archaeological deposits excavated in Areas A and C.

Area C (Fig. 5)

Deposits 6006, 6007, 6013, 6016, 6019, 6025, 6029, 6032, 6035, 6039, 6041, 6066, 6074, 6081, 6083, 6084, 6086, 6089, 6106, 6108, 6117 (see Bone Report), 6157 (see Bone Report), 6159 (see Bone Report), 6163

Area D (Fig. 6)

Deposit 6872

Area E

Deposits 6224, 6255, 6274, 6276, 6278, 6284

Artefacts were recovered from the following deposits within probable geological or arboreal features:

Area A

Romano-British 6150: 2nd/3rd century pottery
Medieval 6129: N/D, ?medieval
6136 (patch of subsoil): Cut silver long cross halfpenny AD1247-50 (coin report), two slag fragments (see Assessment of Metallurgical Waste)
6140: 12th- century pottery

Undated 6153: Iron nail

Area B 6139: N/D, ?medieval

Area C (Fig.5)

Pre-Iron Age 6060: flint tablet (see Lithic Report)
6115: broken flint blade (see Lithic Report)

Iron Age 6033: 3rd-1st- century BC
6055: 3rd-1st- century BC

Romano-British 6001: 2nd/3rd- century pottery
6022/6037: 3rd- (possibly 2nd- century pottery)
6052: not closely datable
6062: not closely datable
6069: not closely datable, copper alloy ?stud (SF 1; see Copper Alloy Objects)

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|------------------------|--|
| | 6076: 2nd- century pottery , animal bone |
| | 6079: prob. 2nd- century pottery |
| | 6088: 2nd/early 3rd- century pottery |
| | 6115: prob. 2nd/3rd- century pottery |
| | 6119: 2nd/ 3rd- century pottery |
| | 6150: 2nd/ 3rd- century pottery |
| | 6259: prob. 3rd- century |
| | 6271: not closely datable |
| Medieval | 6023: late 13th- century pottery |
| | 6060: late 13th- century pottery |
| | 6260: mid – late 12th- century pottery |
| Post-medieval | 6069: clay pipe stem |
| Undated | 6069: sheep/goat bones |
| | 6103: iron ?blade |
| Area D (Fig 6) | |
| Medieval | 6706: mid- 14th- century pottery |
| Area E (Fig. 9) | |
| Romano-British | 6281: prob. RB |
| Medieval | 6788: ?12th- century , animal bone |
| No date | 6222: pottery |
| | 6227: pottery |

Periods I-II: Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to Bronze Age

The earliest activity recognised at Matford, datable to either the late Mesolithic or early Neolithic was only represented by an unstratified flint flake and the proximal end of a flint blade recovered from the fill (deposit 6048/6068) of a Romano-British pit in Area C (see Period Vb and Lithic Report).

In addition a residual chert knife of the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age was recovered from a medieval rubbish pit (6667) in Area E (Fig. 25.1). A flint core rejuvenation tablet and a few other waste flakes were recorded either as substratum-surface distributed finds, residual from later deposits or unstratified. These were all undiagnostic and could have been struck at any date within the Neolithic or Bronze Age (Lithic Report).

Period III: Iron Age

The small amount of Iron Age ceramic evidence found during the excavation at Matford has been mostly characterised by Lisa Brown as not closely datable *or* late Iron Age; 3rd-1st-century BC. Her re-assessment of the prehistoric pottery from the 2000 evaluation excavation has shown that all this pottery should also be characterised in the same way. Its significance is aired under 'Discussion and Conclusions: Iron Age'. The material from the 2001 excavation was either recovered from non-archaeological features (see above), was residual, or in a few cases may have come from Iron Age features. Possible Iron Age features were confined to Area C.

Area C (Fig.5)

A broad gully or ditch (cut 6096/6172/6215) located in the northern part (Fig. 5) of the area was oriented N-S and was tentatively traced for approximately 15m, cut into substratum 6004. Three similar fills (successively 6097-99) were deposited in the northern part of this feature (at cut 6096). The profile of the latest fills (deposit 6098-99) could indicate that the former was the fill of a narrower re-cut gully; this was not conclusively established. Similarly cut 6096 had an unclear relationship with Romano-British feature 6094 (Fig 7) though the latter feature may have cut 6096. No finds were recovered from fills 6097-99. To the south at cut 6172/6215 the ditch broadened and deepened somewhat but appeared to maintain a consistent profile (Fig 7). Four deposits had filled the ditch in this area (successively 6173/6216, 6217,

6174 and 6175), the earliest of which was a combination of silting and possibly backfilling as its western component (6216) had a high Lias slab content. A few fragments of cattle and sheep/goat bone and tiny fragments of 3rd – 1st century BC pottery were recovered from this primary fill. As the ceramics could easily be considered residual in an undated ditch-fill they should be used only very tentatively to date ditch 6096/6172/6215.

The three later ditch-fills from 6172/6215 were fairly similar silty clays, with some charcoal content. Again a narrower re-cut gully could be postulated when the profiles of fills 6217 and 6174 are considered though a conclusion as proposed above for 6098-99 has been adopted. A Romano-British gully cut the ditch at cut 6172/6215.

It is just possible that the cut feature, partly sectioned further to the south at 6158 was a continuation of ditch 6096/6172/6215; it displayed a rather similar profile to those cuts. However in the intervening area no convincing ditch-fill was traced on the surface of the substratum to link these cuts, though smaller later features disturbed part of that area. Two fills were excavated from cut 6158 (deposits 6157 and 6155). Primary fill 6157 was a yellowish orange silty clay whereas latest fill 6155 was a darker brown hue. Tiny fragments of 3rd-1st century pottery were found in the latter deposit and cattle bone in the former. Feature 6158 cut two deposits (fills 6161 & 6159) from an earlier undated feature, cut 6162/6160, which may not have been natural in origin. No finds were recovered from the primary fill (deposit 6161) of 6162/6160; this fill was of a near identical character to the abovementioned 6157 and was overlain by a blueish grey silty clay (6159). Non-locally occurring Pennant sandstone was noted from the primary fill, while sheep or goat bone was retrieved from the secondary fill. The extent or function of 6162/6160 was not established though it was possibly a large pit. The latter had also cut a minor undated feature which appeared to be non-archaeological (cut 6164).

An irregular pit or scoop (cut 6044) was located to the south east of cut 6158. Of variable depth (to 0.40m) with an irregular base, cut 6044 was fully excavated. This pit was filled by a blueish grey silty clay with frequent Pennant sandstone fragments (deposit 6043). Cattle and sheep or goat bone and two probable Iron Age sherds were retrieved from this deposit. It is only the relatively high concentration of non-local stone which distinguishes this feature from the majority of non-archaeological features in Area C.

Period IV: Romano-British

The Romano-British evidence, discovered during the mitigation programme at Matford was probably confined to only the first and second centuries AD – mostly the latter century (Romano-British and Medieval Pottery). An infilled pond with mostly third century material was however recorded during the 2000 evaluation excavation. Material evidence fell into three categories; that retrieved from non-archaeological features (mostly Area C), residual material from later features (mostly Area E) and Romano-British negative features (mostly Area C with one in Area E). Small ditches, gullies and pits were almost the only types of feature recognised. A likely function has not been ventured for the majority of the pits. Some of the latter contained only a few Romano-British sherds and it is possible that they should be allocated to the group of arboreal or geological features.

Area A (Fig.4)

A broad sub-circular silty deposit (6047) contained by a shallow scoop was recorded in the central part of this area. It is only the number of pottery sherds (18) and the presence of cattle bones that distinguishes this deposit from the numerous non-archaeological deposits in this area.

Area C (Fig. 5)

Three small ditches were recorded extending along the western side of this area. From the north these were 6094, 6112/6051/6261/6288 and 6264/6291/ possibly 6031). They probably represented boundary/drainage features. Cut feature 6031 was either part of ditch 6112/6051/6261 or, more likely ditch 6264/6291, though this was not conclusively established. One section across ditch 6094 revealed that it had a very gradually sloping eastern side, a

narrow base and a steeper western side. It may have cut possible Iron Age ditch 6096/6172 and was filled with a brown silty clay (deposit 6095/6020 – Fig. 7) from which residual Iron Age pottery was also recovered (see Iron Age Pottery). Ditch 6094 was only definitely traced for 4.2m, though it is possible that gully 6170 could have been a continuation of this ditch (see below).

To the southwest, ditch 6112/6051/6261/6288 was traced for c.16.6m, was of a rather sinuous plan and survived to extremely variable depths. The northern terminal was excavated at 6112. Finds were only retrieved at cut 6261. In that area the ditch profile displayed a rather broad flat or concave base up to 0.55m deep and was filled by a yellowish brown, archaeologically sterile, primary silt (6262). Pottery sherds were retrieved from secondary fill 6263. Immediately to the east, small ditch 6264/6291 had a flatter profile with a narrower base cut into substratum 6004 and a similar pair of fills (successively 6265 and 6266). Twenty-two pottery sherds and animal bone were retrieved from secondary fill 6266. At 6264 this small ditch was cut by probable modern disturbance 6267 (Fig.7). The southern terminal of either the latter ditch or ditch 6112/6051/6261/6288 was traced at cut 6031. Here the ditch was shallower and had three fills; a patchy primary silt (6083), a secondary deposit; 6046/6078 and a tertiary; 6030. Pottery and animal bone were recovered from the latter two fills.

In the extreme south-east of Area C part of a shallow rectilinear gully with a terminal was revealed (gully 6009/6019). A brown silty clay (deposit 6018/6010) was excavated from this irregular-based feature. A few sherds of pottery and relatively numerous Pennant sandstone fragments were noted from this gully fill. Not enough of this rather ephemeral feature was revealed to suggest a function for it.

A discrete gully or the continuation of small ditch 6094 was excavated at cut 6170. This feature had cut possible Iron Age ditch 6172 and contained a dark brown fill (6171) with rare charcoal (Fig. 7). The full extent of this feature was not established.

A narrow irregular shallow curved gully (6065) was located in the west-central part of the site. The full extent of this feature was not traced as it had been cut by Romano-British pit 6093 (see below). No function could be postulated for this minor feature.

Five (mostly gentle sided) pits no deeper than 0.50m were excavated in this area (6049, 6056, 6057, 6093 & 6116). Their fills (6048/6068, 6054, 6058, 6092 & 6115 respectively) were for the most part characterised as greyish brown silty clays with rare charcoal flecking. Only pit fills 6054, 6058 and 6092 distinguished themselves with above average sherd counts or the presence of animal bone - cattle and sheep/goat from the former.

Period Va: Saxo-Norman; 11th – first quarter of the 12th century (Fig.8)

Identifiable Saxo-Norman features were confined to Area E and were mostly characterised by artefactual evidence from non-archaeological deposits or non-structural features such as pits or gullies, though a group of three or more post-holes at the extremity of one area suggest a not inconsiderable structure. At present it is not possible to refine the dating of much of the pottery from this site period. A minority of features (pits 6523 and 6736) however might be considered pre-Conquest. Some of the Saxo-Norman wares technically have a date range of AD950-1080, though on this site it is more likely that their dates fall in the 11th century (Roman and Medieval Pottery).

Area E (Fig. 8, Plates 1 & 2)

The Saxo-Norman archaeology revealed in Area E can be divided into three types of negative features cut into substrata 6004 and 6485; (1) possible lime extraction and other pits (2) short narrow gullies, and (3) post-holes. The majority of these features were located in the eastern part of this area. No definite function could be assigned to some of the first two types of feature.

Type (1): Feature 6736 was a circular scoop with a greyish brown silty clay fill (deposit 6737). A few sherds dating between AD1000-1070 were recovered from this feature.

Two shallow pits of comparable size (cuts 6740 and 6783) were excavated near the eastern end of Area E. Two grey or dark brown fills (deposits 6748 and 6741/6749) with relatively high sherd counts and a few animal bones were excavated from the former pit. Pit 6783, though of a similar gentle-sided morphology to pit 6740, was perhaps less likely to have been backfilled than the latter pit. A silty pit fill (deposit 6784), which lightened towards the base, was excavated from pit 6783 and sherds of pottery dated AD1070-1120 were recovered. Pit 6740 was cut by period Vb pit 6765.

A group of twelve or thirteen possible lime extraction pits (cuts 6523, 6543, 6728, 6602, 6608, 6516, 6619, 6676, 6680, 6746 (fill 6747/6679, Plate 1), 6659 (fill 6660), 6665 (fill 6666) and 6661 (fill 6662) were cut into substratum 6485 or near to that outcrop during Period Va. Two or more fills were excavated from the majority of these pits (though 6516 contained only a single backfill; 6515); the earliest of which were greyish white primary silts without finds. Quantities of Saxo-Norman or possible Saxo-Norman pottery and animal bone were recovered from the overlying dark greyish brown, occasionally charcoal-rich, deposits backfilled into these pits. A very similar or identical deposit (6656) overlaid and spread beyond the extremities of these pits. Pit 6676 cut the edge of Saxo-Norman 'gully' 6770. Pit 6665 appeared to cut pit 6746. Pottery predating AD1080 was retrieved from the fill of pit 6523.

Further to the south a near circular pit (cut 6776) was only preserved to a depth of 0.21m, but contained two fills. The earliest, laying in the base and the sides (pit-fill 6778) was a silty clay with a heavy concentration of charcoal and ash. The overlying fill, 6777, also had a high charcoal content and a single sherd of later 11th- century pottery. Soil samples were taken from both pit fills. Dating must remain conjectural with this feature.

Saxo-Norman pottery was retrieved from the quite silty fill of oval pit or scoop 6783 (fill 6784). This feature might have represented a cess-pit.

Type (2): A short gully-like feature (6750/6770) also contained fills with Saxo-Norman pottery. It varied between 0.23m to 0.30m deep and was filled with greyish brown or greyish white silty clay fills (6751, 6752 and 6771) from which animal bone was also recovered. This gully-like feature was cut into substratum 6485.

Further to the north east a broader gentle-sided gully (6781/6744) contained a similar fill to the latter feature. Numerous late 11th- or 12th- century sherds were recovered from the fill (deposit 6782/6745).

Type (3): Three closely located postholes (6761, 6816 and 6818) of similar dimensions were located in the north east corner of the area. Between 0.26 and 0.30m deep with fairly steep sides, they were filled with very similar deposits; a greyish yellow silty basal fill, overlain by a black or dark grey clay with rare charcoal flecks. Some sections revealed the secondary fills had the morphology of weathering cones (Plate 2). A further posthole to the east (cut 6768) with a slightly lighter fill, had been adversely disturbed by heavy plant though may have belonged to this group (though the recovered pottery may place this feature in Period Vb). Few stones from the four postholes could be characterised as post-packing though some had weathering cones. Pottery from the posthole trio dated broadly to the late 11th/12th centuries but could possibly be confined to AD1070-1120. It is unfortunate that these post settings were discovered late in the excavation as they could have represented part of a larger group extending beyond the excavation north baulk. They almost certainly formed part of a structure. Two further oval deposits (6881-2) to the southeast and in line with this group had latest deposits similar to that of posthole 6768, though they were only test investigated. These deposits (6881 and 6882) might also have been posthole fills.

Summary for Periods Vb and Vc

Topsoil stripping of the largest area excavation (Area E), closest to Bradley Stoke Way unexpectedly exposed the foundations of a complex of masonry structures with associated deposits and a complex of ditches and gullies further to the east (Fig. 9). Manual exposure and excavation revealed that three structures were certainly roofed buildings; Buildings A, B and C

– two of which may be dwelling houses, one of which (Building C) had a possible bake-house/kitchen extension (Structure F) while a further one or two appeared to be unroofed structures (Structures D and E). These buildings were arranged in a sub-rectangular configuration disposed around an open space on the slopes of a small valley. Associated and contemporary deposits, layers and surfaces with an array of artefacts and domestic debris inferred that the set of masonry structures represented a farm complex of some status with a site history likely to predate the 13th century and extending into the first half of the 14th. Some time during the later period the complex was abandoned. Quite extensive robbery of building stone appears to have occurred.

Period Vb: Medieval; c.AD1120 to the mid- 13th century (Figs.9 & 23)

Due to the presence of Period Va evidence described above, the origins of the settlement at Matford should almost certainly be sought in the 11th century, though potential structural evidence was only marginally exposed. Numerous features including a ditch and gully system and probably a masonry building in two phases in Area E can be attributed to Period Vb which extended to the first or second quarter of the 13th century. A single feature was identified in Area A.

Area A

In the central area of Area A (Fig. 4) a large fairly shallow sub-rectangular scoop or pit (cut 6138) was cut into substratum 6004. The feature was half sectioned and a small east-west linear depression was noted in its base. A brownish grey silty clay (deposit 6139) was excavated from scoop 6138 from which a few sherds of possible 12th- century pottery and slag fragments (the latter not recovered) were recorded.

Area E (Figs. 9 & 10, Plates 3 & 4)

Building C; Phase I, ?AD1120/1140 - 1200

This building was totally exposed but had been recently mechanically disturbed and almost all of the overlying layers removed. It was oriented E-W and long-ways up the western valley slope at right angles to Building A (Plate 3). In the first building phase shallow often ill-defined construction trenches had been let into yellow or red silty substrata 6715, 6507, 6852, 6443, grey green clay (substratum 6004) or stream alluvium 6205/6713 in the base of the valley. Some stressed quoins survived at wall corners, otherwise, wall construction was very similar to Building A (see Period Vc). Only a fragment of the southern elevation (wall 6322) had been preserved (1.4m long) but it did survive to about six courses. This wall had been truncated by field drain 6203 and probably by recent mechanical disturbance.

The eastern gable (wall 6208) was preserved to six courses and had been constructed in a foundation trench (cut 6206) the same width as the wall (0.95m). A section was excavated to the east of this wall through a series of deposits of which the latest were hillwash layers 6859 and 6687 (Fig. 21). The latter overlaid a layer of Lias rubble in a greyish brown matrix (6210/6505) representing collapse from wall 6208. This in turn overlaid Lias cobbling (6211) consisting of pebbles and small blocks from which pottery of AD1120-60 was recovered. This cobbling seems to have represented a path or 'extended ford' which was in evidence further to the south (6212 and 6615), running along the base of the valley. Cobbling 6615 was exposed in a sondage excavated to the west of Building A (see Period Vc; Associated Features). Cobbling 6211 abutted wall 6208 and overlaid a silty hillwash (layer 6507), into which the previously mentioned foundation trench (cut 6206/6514) had been cut. The underlying deposits are described under Palaeochannels.

The north elevation (wall 6198/6320/6221) had been stepped to allow for the valley incline and had been constructed in a broad, shallow construction trench or terrace (cut 6431/6324/6317), extending to the north. Primary silting (deposit 6432), and two rubble layers (6399 and 6398 successively) were excavated from or overlying construction trench 6431. A few medieval sherds (which were unlikely to be 13th century or later) were recovered from layer 6399. A 1.1m gap (doorway 6857) gave access to the north. A sherd of possible 12th

century pottery was recovered from the top of the fill (6316) of wall construction cut 6431 in the interior of the building. Slight vestiges of a levelled linear construction platform (cut 6324) cut through red silt 6443, 2.1m west of door 6857, indicated that a western gable had existed (wall 6858). Phase I of this building therefore had an original length of 9.8m externally, giving a length-width ratio of c.1.81:1, based on a rectangular shape.

Recent disturbance had removed the material evidence for wall 6858, though the morphology of a surviving area of slab flooring (masonry 6199) appeared also to support the wall's former existence. Floor 6199 consisted of two courses of fairly thick Lias slabs within a brown clay matrix (context 6219). A pottery sherd of AD1120/1140-1200 was retrieved from deposit 6219. Large fragments of this floor and a similar possible pathway (masonry 6859) were recorded in doorway 6857 and to the north, (Plate 4) in the base of shallow terrace/trench 6431. Just to the north of construction cut 6431, a possible post-hole base (cut 6433) was sealed by rubble layer 6398 and might also have been associated with doorway 6857, though no dating evidence was retrieved from its fill (deposit 6434).

A section to the north of the north east corner of the building (walls 6198 and 6208) showed that a pitched Lias and Pennant revetment (masonry 6698) had been constructed 1.3m to the north, set into alluvium 6207. This revetment was constructed in the base of the valley, presumably to direct intermittent stream flow away from the corner of Building C. Revetment 6698 was overlain by gritty blue silty clay with organic flecking (layer 6699), a layer of rubble (6642) deriving from wall 6198 and yellowish brown alluvium (6641) from which residual Romano-British pottery was recovered. The corner of the building had however been damaged by intermittent stream flow.

A Red silt (6852/6444) was recorded within the eastern, down-slope part of Building C. A small amount of pottery of AD1140-1200 was recovered from this silt. Apart from Floor 6199 only vestiges of internal building deposits survived. A small shallow deposit of yellowish brown silt (6196) overlay red silt 6852. In the region of twenty pottery sherds dating between AD1120-1200 were recovered from deposit 6196. As mentioned above, wall 6322 was the only fragmentary evidence for the south elevation of Building C. No westward extending construction cut, or potential post piers were in evidence to complete the ground plan of this building. The small amount of dating evidence obtained from Building C suggests a construction date between AD1120/1140–1200 but the evidence is not conclusive, due to the lack of overlying stratigraphy. The construction date of Structure F, its western extension, is even more problematical for the same reason and the total lack of artefacts from the vicinity of the structure.

Building C; Phase II (Structure F) (Fig.10, Plates 5 & 6)

In Phase II a large extension was added upslope (Structure F) and to the west of Building C. (Fig. 10) Approximately half of this extension had also been removed by recent disturbance. Two walls (6321 and 6200) survived to indicate that the north elevation of Building C had been extended by c.4.3m externally and the extension was the same width as Phase II. The west gable of Phase II (wall 6200) was preserved to five or six courses and constructed with stressed quoins, brown silty clay bonding and a slight exterior battering. Internally there was enough evidence preserved to indicate that the southern half of wall 6200 began to arch towards the centre of the extension (Plate 5). The opposite was true for the northern part of the wall where a structure; masonry 6319, identified as a possible flue (pers. comms. Vanessa Straker, David Haigh), was tied into the wall (Plate 6). Here the construction cut for wall 6200 had been excavated deeper, and the wall survived to about twelve thin even courses. Charcoal flecked redeposited natural clay (deposit 6701), 0.16m thick was excavated from the base of the structure (Sample 74). Overlying, a charcoal rich greyish brown sandy clay 0.22m thick (deposit 6700) was removed and sampled (Sample 13). A thin layer of rubble in a brown silty clay (6318) overlaid the latter deposit. No artefacts were recovered from these deposits.

Wall 6321 returned eastwards and abutted wall 6221, though it was set in a much shallower construction trench and therefore only preserved to two or three courses. Recent disturbance had removed half its width.

If the identification as a flue for masonry 6319 is correct, then one possible implication that follows is that Building C functioned as a dwelling in phase I and II. This is implied if Structure F can be thought of as a bake-house or kitchen, with the remains of an oven in the form of masonry 6319. Alternative uses for Building C are of course possible (see Discussion and Conclusions; Medieval Settlement). Phase III is detailed in Period Vc.

Ditch and Gully Systems (Figs. 9, 11, 12, 13 & 14)

Two closely situated parallel gullies had been dug into substratum 6004, near the northern boundary of Area E. These gullies were roughly on the same axis as Building C. Both termini of gully 6625/6541 were traced but those of 6548/6612 were not, though both features were found to measure 9m or more. Neither gully was preserved to more than 0.20m deep and all sections revealed flattened 'v' shaped profiles or a flat base. Fairly thick yellowish green silting was excavated from the base of most gully sections though no finds were retrieved from these deposits. However the south terminus of 6625 was much shallower than the rest of the sections investigated and four sherds of 12th century pottery were retrieved from the terminal fill (6624). Shallow secondary fills (c.0.10m) had accumulated over the base silting deposits at cuts 6541 and 6612; deposits 6540/6626 and 6613 respectively: 12th century pottery and animal bone were recovered from both. A thicker hill-wash 6617/6547/6609 sealed gully and fill 6548 and 6623. Saxo-Norman and 12th century ceramics, and a residual Romano-British pottery sherd were recovered from this layer. These gullies may be contemporary with Phase I of Building C.

A reasonably substantial right-angled ditch (6477/6491/6483) was cut into substrata 6004 and 6485 twelve metres or more to the east and up slope of Building A (Fig. 13). This ditch was in rough alignment to that building, though its southern part curved to the southwest towards the slope of the 'wooded dell'. It appeared to be a major drainage/boundary feature possibly excavated in the later 12th or earlier 13th centuries. Three sections and two shallower sondages were excavated across this ditch to confirm its course and investigate deposits and profile. The most northern section at cut 6483 revealed a 1.3m wide ditch preserved to 0.40m deep with a primary silt (6502) overlaid by secondary and tertiary fills (6501 and 6484), the latter of which also sealed the ditch in this area. Immediately to the east of the ditch, substratum 6485 had been disturbed to a depth of 0.15m (deposit 6873) by what might have been stock activity. No finds were retrieved from any of the foregoing deposits but in the other two full ditch sections to the south, dating evidence and animal bone were obtained from later fills. At cuts 6477 and 6491 very similar profiles and sequences of deposition as at 6483 were observed in this ditch (Fig. 13, Plate 7): A thin yellowish grey primary silt 6500/6504 laid in the base and partly up the sides, this was followed by further minor silting events either along the east (deposit 6499) or west (deposit 6877) sides of the ditch. At cut 6477 a thick, brown-mottled yellowish grey silty clay with medium to large Lias slabs (fill 6482) overlay silting events 6500 and 6499. Ditch fill 6482 may have accumulated mostly by back-filling, whereas at cut 6491 the major ditch fill (deposit 6490) was similar to fill 6501, mentioned above; a greyish brown clay which possibly accumulated through both silting and backfilling. Ditch fill 6482 was overlain by deposit 6476 a thin greyish brown clay. Three sherds of mid-late 13th century pottery were recovered from fill 6482. Fifteen sherds of 12th century pot were recovered from ditch fill 6490 at cut 6491, and a few from a partial section to the east; deposit 6691-2. To the northwest of 6477 a vertical-sided flat-based posthole (cut 6874) 0.30m deep, was located close to the ditch (Plate 8). No dating evidence was retrieved from posthole 6874. However a grey silty clay (6880) overlain by light brown silty clay (with packing stones - fill 6876), not unlike ditch-fill 6482/6692, were excavated from this feature. This similarity may be evidence, though tenuous, that the backfilling of the ditch in this area occurred just before or contemporaneously to the

digging and packing of posthole 6874. This would divide both these events from the first phase of activity (ditch digging) into a second phase of activity.

A rectilinear gully and ditch system set at right angles to, and up-slope of, Building A appeared to lead to and was generally contemporary with curvilinear ditch 6477/6491/6483. It consisted of two parallel gullies 6758/6798 and 6824/6831 c.5m apart and extending eastward from the curvilinear ditch. The gullies were joined by a north-south ditch or gully (cut 6791/6827) which extended northwards and west beyond them. Another gully (6794/6822) extended north from gully 6824/6831 for more than 12m. These features had quite steep sides and variable base profiles; in four of the sections excavated heavily oxidised primary silts were recorded (Fig. 14). As with the curvilinear ditch no finds were recovered from this initial silting but they were in evidence in the overlying darker secondary fill. A few residual sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the sections at cuts 6758, 6827 and 6831 and conjoined sherds from a vessel of AD1070-1120 were retrieved at 6798 (gully fill 6759). Late 12th/early 13th century pottery was recovered from gully fill 6825 at cut 6824; 12th century sherds from ditch fill 6789 and gully fills 6757 (cut 6758), 6795 and 6810 (cut 6794). Slag weighing 850g was also recovered from fill 6825 (Assessment of Metallurgical Waste). The system cut an undated amorphous feature (6828). Of slightly different character; feature 6658 was a shallow, fairly broad elongated lozenge shape with two fills. The primary fill (deposit 6727/6726) was a mottled light grey silty clay, with a few Lias pebbles, from which nine sherds of 12th century pottery and a bone fragment were recovered. A grey/brown mottled fill (6655) with 12th century pottery and animal bone overlaid 6727. It is possible this feature represented the terminus of a gully, very roughly parallel to gully 6794, and continued to the south as very shallow deposits 6726 (12th century pottery) and 6672/6807 (12th and mid-late 13th century pottery) to eventually join with gully 6824.

These ditch and gully systems might have been contemporary with Phase 2 (Structure F) of Building C, however, this must remain conjectural due to the lack of dating evidence from this structure. Both these ditch/gully systems are likely to have gone out of use by the mid – late 13th century. Their alignment however, apparently influenced post-medieval field boundaries (see Period VI).

One very shallow feature probably datable to this period was a longer linear gully base noted in two discontinuous lengths; features 6833 and 6724. Probable gully base 6833 was only preserved to a depth of 0.06m though in places it was nearly 0.30m wide and extended for more than 7m. A greyish brown silty clay (6834) was excavated from a small section, from which a sherd of possible 12th century pottery was recovered. A further, slightly more substantial length (cut 6724) and gully junction was excavated to the northwest. This gully extended beyond the extent of excavation and a further length was partly exposed extending at right angles in a southwest direction. Six sherds of 12th century pottery and a few animal bone fragments were recovered from the brownish yellow fill (6725) excavated from this gully junction.

Period Vb Associated Features (Figs. 8, 14 & 15)

Many of the associated features of Period Vb were pits dug with obscure functions.

Pits

A small steep sided lozenge-shaped ?rubbish pit (cut 6479) had been cut into substratum 6004 just to the east of Building A terrace cut 6328 (Fig.17). Primary (deposit 6475) and secondary fills (deposit 6478) were greyish brown or brown silty clay; mid or late 12th century pottery was recovered from the primary fill.

A shallow sub-circular scoop (6738) located in the northern part of Area A was filled with a brownish yellow deposit (6739) with a single sherd of pottery of this period.

A very large (in plan) though relatively shallow (c0.40m) pit (cut 6667) with gently sloping sides was investigated in the east-central part of Area E. A thin greyish white primary silt (6832) with charcoal and 12th century sherds was partly excavated from the base of pit 6667 (Fig.14). Three or more dark or black silty clay fills, all with varying charcoal content, were encountered when two unconnected sections were excavated. Fill 6815 overlaid primary

silt 6832. A large charcoal lens within the latter deposit was allocated context 6812; a considerable number of 12th or late 12th – early 13th century pottery sherds and a few animal bones were recovered from these contexts. In addition a largely intact though unfinished limestone mortar (SF 132, Fig.25.2) was also retrieved from pit fill 6815. This deposit was overlain by a pair of less thick fills; deposits 6668/6813 and 6796. Residual Romano-British and 12th century pottery were recovered from these and a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age chert ?knife (SF 133) was retrieved from 6813 (Lithic Report, Fig. 25.1). Certainly the later uses for this pit was for rubbish disposal.

Near pit 6667, an oval shallow scoop (6673) was cut into the substratum. 12th century pottery was recovered from it's fill (deposit 6674).

A large shallow lozenge shaped oval pit (6765) with gently sloping sides was cut into substratum 6004 east of feature 6658. Four fills, preserved as tip lines of various thickness, had been deposited in the pit; successively 6764, 6753, 6763 and 6754. These fills varied in colour from yellow and greyish yellow to grey. Saxo-Norman and broadly 12th century pottery was retrieved from the earliest fill (6764): the rest of the fills were backfilled also probably in the 12th century. This pit cut Saxo-Norman pit 6740.

In the eastern extremity of Area E a large, 0.50m deep pit (cut 6230), with a possible shallow channel-like projection to the south was cut into substratum 6004 where a pair of Lias limestone bedding planes met. Two fills were deposited (successively 6241 & 6229) in this pit. Fill 6241 was a near black clay with orange sandy clay inclusions. Eight or nine sherds of 12th century pottery were retrieved from the overlying fill 6229; a yellowish grey silty clay with charcoal. No obvious function could be proposed for this feature though it might have represented a cess-pit .

A group of five apparently associated fairly deep oval or slightly curved elongated pits (cuts 6804/6820, 6774, 6792, 6779 and 6766) were located near the north east extremity of Area E. All were filled with similar silty or very silty clay from which 12th century pottery (saving 6779) was retrieved. These pits might have represented cess-pits, though almost no bone was retrieved from their fills.

Small Postholes (Fig. 8)

Two shallow truncated uncertain posthole bases (cuts 6649 & 6682) with near vertical sides, were cut into substratum 6004 to the west of feature 6658. Small fragments of 12th century and undateable pottery were recovered from their fills. A more substantial possible posthole base (cut 6652) was located in the east central part of Area E. The northeast sides were vertical, it's base flat, it was preserved to 0.14m deep and sherds of 12th century pottery were recovered from the secondary fill of this feature (deposit 6653). Cut 6652 did not seem particularly associated with other features unless it could be related to the two above mentioned possible postholes 6682, 6649 and two shallow depressions 6729, 6799, all of similar diameter and admittedly Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from the primary fill (deposit 6654). Taken together the small postholes might have indicated part of an insubstantial fence line though it is obvious that large evidence gaps are missing for this postulated structure.

Small Gullies (Fig. 8)

Six short, curved and narrow gullies were located in the north east part of Area E. Gully 6519 could have just conceivably been dug as a small construction slot for a short length of fence, as much of it's base was relatively flat and it's sides were relatively steep. This however must remain conjecture in the absence of conclusive evidence; two other gullies in this area were less like construction slots. Late 11th or 12th century pottery and an intrusive roof tile fragment were retrieved from the grey silty fill (deposit 6517) of this feature. A seemingly unconnected narrower curved gully (cut 6647) was located north east of 6519. The northern sides of 6647 however, were near vertical suggesting a possible slot function. Four sherds of 12th century pottery were recovered from the silty fill (deposit 6648) of 6647. Gully 6735 had a 'u' shaped profile, was only 0.11m deep and had been cut by a post-medieval field drain. Two sherds of 12th century pottery were recovered from deposit 6733, the fill of this gully. It had

been cut into what appeared to be a silted-up linear depression (Feature 6637/6644, fills 6638/6734/6645). A few Saxo-Norman and 12th century pottery sherds were recovered from the fills of this feature. An undated curved gully (cut 6755) somewhat similar to gullies 6519, 6647 and gully 6735 was located further to the east. To the south another 12th century curved gully was located near pit 6667.

Period Vc: Medieval; Area E; mid 13th – mid 14th centuries (Figs.9 & 23, Plate 9)

Phase 1a; Building A, The second half of the 13th century (Figs. 16, 17 & 18, Plate 9)

This phase consisted of the main construction phase of Buildings A and presumably B. Nearly all of Building A was exposed. It's external length – width ratio was 2:1 and it was oriented NW-SE. For Building A, a terrace was cut into the east side of the valley to accommodate the construction of the east elevation (wall 6186). The eastern part of the terrace (cut 6437/6453/6328/6416/6298/6295/6332) broadened towards the south from 0.80m to 2.15m, presumably to act as a drain for run off from the hillside and from the building itself. This feature extended beyond the bounds of excavation but is likely to have drained towards the presently wooded dell which leads towards Stoke Brook. The morphology of this terrace could be described as more in the form of a very broad construction trench (Plate 9) in that its western side (6295/6453) was excavated as a short steep declivity to lock the lower masonry courses of wall 6186 into the hill side (Fig 16). Wall 6186 had three constructional components (context numbered separately) founded on the base of the terrace cut: A core of redeposited greenish blue silty clay with occasional Lias rubble (6400), overlying this a brown clay matrix with laid rubble (6294) and lastly faced Lias (and rarely Pennant) flagstones and blocks in regular courses (6186), base-battered to the east (the exterior) and vertical to the west (the interior), bonded with the same type of brown clay. Wall 6186 survived to nine even courses and was intermittently founded on a blueish green clay leveling deposit (6430). The other elevations of Building A, though less well preserved (walls 6187, 6287 and 6302), and those of Buildings B and C were constructed in a very similar fashion, often laid in simple, shallow foundation trenches or linear 'platforms' on the valley slopes. It is quite possible the partial discontinuity of walls 6187, 6287 and 6302 indicates post-collapse/demolition *and* robbery as there did not appear to be sufficient collapsed masonry (from a single story building, for example) *in situ* down-slope of these walls.

Building A was divided by an internal brown-clay-bonded wall (masonry 6194) constructed on the surface of substratum 6004. The interface between walls 6194 and 6187 did not survive but it is possible the former may not have been tied into the latter. In the absence of conflicting evidence wall 6194 was however allocated to Phase 1a also. It divided Building A into two unequal rooms (1 & 2) at ground level (Fig 17).

Very little of the interior of Building A had been terraced to produce a flat foundation for flooring (Figs. 16 & 18), rather the upcast (deposit 6195/6193/6419) from it's drain/wall construction-terrace described above, was spread over the surface of substratum 6004 to level the topography. This levelling deposit must have been revetted by the western elevation (wall 6187) of Building A, though subsequent to abandonment, collapse/possible demolition and probable robbery, erosion had reduced layer 6195/6193/6419 (and wall 6187) to the morphology of the underlying topography. Late 13th century pottery, ceramic roof tile and a burnt bone fragment were recovered from layer 6419, the northern part of the leveling deposit in Room 2. Some late 13th and early 14th century pottery and ceramic roof tile were recovered from levelling layer 6195 or the surface of this deposit. A thin, patchy clay layer with charcoal lenses and Lias slabs (6450) overlay levelling deposit 6195 in the southeastern corner of the building. The former represented the remains of bedding for a Pennant sandstone floor (masonry 6192). A sherd of likely 13th century ceramic roof tile was recovered from layer 6450. Floor 6192 abutted wall 6287; the southern gable of the building, but was very fragmentary and only partly *in situ* in the southeastern, up-slope part of Room 1. Slightly to the north, Pennant sandstone flooring (6711) had been laid at a level 0.06m higher than the small amount floor 6192 that

remained *in situ* in Room 1. Again flooring only survived fragmentarily, but a thick underlying Lias slab-step (6702) at the southern extremity of floor 6711 delimited the levels between these two floor surfaces. This step coincided with the terminal of wall 6194 where a gap or doorway joining the rooms had existed. Only displaced fragments of Pennant flooring (masonry 6420) survived in the northern part of the building. Special Find 118 a casket key (Fig. 25.3) likely to be of the 14th century (see Iron Objects) was recovered from the brown soil matrix associated with floor 6420.

A structure-like row of upright thin Lias slabs (6710) extended diagonally across Room 2. Despite appearances, when excavated it was found to be part of a geological bedding plain. Overlying 6710 a simple sub-rectangular arrangement of thin Pennant slabs (masonry 6455) had been set within levelling deposit 6193. Early 14th century pottery was recovered overlying masonry 6455. This Pennant arrangement represented a mostly preserved hearth-curb. Within this curb a heat-affected clay (deposit 6280) with charcoal lenses extending beyond it to the east, was recorded. Pottery dating from the late 13th century, carbonised bone and a nail were recovered from the surface of, or from hearth deposit 6280. Later 13th century pottery was recovered from a thin brownish grey matrix with a few Pennant and Lias fragments (collapse layer 6454) overlying hearth deposit 6280.

A pit of unknown use (cut 6703), much disturbed by land drain 6401, had been cut into the substratum in the east central part of Building A. It was not possible to confirm whether the pit, pre-dated, was contemporary with or cut the floor of Phase 1a, due to the very fragmentary nature of the latter. Late 13th century pottery was recovered from the brown silty clay fill (deposit 6688) excavated from this pit.

No incontrovertible evidence for a door was recorded for Building A.

Thin Lias cobbling (masonry 6614) west of Building A in the base of the valley overlying substratum 6004 (Fig 18) may well be datable to this sub-phase due to the relatively numerous mid/late 13th century sherds recovered from it (see below Deposits west and east of Building A).

Phase 1b; Building A, *The first half of the 14th century* (Fig. 18, Plate 10)

In Phase 1b Pennant Floor 6192 was replaced by a pitched stone floor consisting of Lias limestone slabs and a few re-used Pennant slabs in a brown silty clay matrix (6256/6421). A residual pottery sherd of AD950-1080 was recovered from the matrix of floor 6256. Pitched floor 6421 respected and was slightly raised from hearth 6455/6280. Again this floor was best preserved in the eastern up-slope parts of this building. Little or no definite stone flooring was recorded between wall 6194 and the hearth of Building A, though a slightly unusual structure (masonry 6684) had been added to the northeastern corner of wall 6194. Upright Pennant and Lias slabs had been set within layer 6193 and into substratum 6004. These may have represented packing or supports for a short wooden screen. A few Lias blocks formed a face along the top of the Pennant sandstone component of structure 6684, implying that the former had abutted some type of vertical structure such as suggested (Plate 10). Brown silty clay with animal bone (deposit 6685) was excavated from the interstices of structure 6684.

A fragmentary rectilinear structure (masonry 6689), consisting of a single row of Pennant sandstone slabs was set within levelling deposit 6193 and pitfill 6688 (Plate 10). The structure was not quite at right angles to Building A. No flooring was preserved within masonry structure 6689. Though almost fully excavated, no convincing function could be deduced from the existing remains of this small structure though it seems appropriate to allocate it to this phase of Building A.

Late 13th to mid 14th pottery and a few residual 12th century pottery sherds, iron carpentry nails, pig, cattle, bird and sheep/goat bones were recovered from several similar or identical rubble collapse layers within the building or overlying the walls, some with moderate charcoal flecking; 6285, 6428, 6447, 6686, 6189, 6191 and 6415. A considerable number of early to mid 14th and some late 13th century pottery sherds, ceramic roof tile, nine iron carpentry nails, part of a horseshoe of AD1300-1350 (SF 5, Fig. 25.7), cattle, sheep/goat and pig

bones were recovered from the overlying or immediately adjacent topsoil or subsoil base 6247/6185/6152/6188. The majority of the pottery recovered and the spout from a 14th century copper alloy ewer (SF8, Fig. 25.4) overlaid Room 1 and the extreme south of Room 2 (context 6152).

Deposits to the west and east of Building A. (Figs. 16 & 18)

Several layers were sectioned to the west of, and down slope of Building A (6550/6549, 6495, 6496, 6497, 6551, 6552 and 6189). Apart from layer 6495, which consisted largely of Pennant roof tiles and layer 6496 which was mostly hillwashed clay these layers had varying percentages of collapsed Lias masonry and a small amount of charcoal. A few mid and mid-late 13th century pottery sherds were recovered from the earliest collapse layer 6550/6549 and a few sherds from the first half of the 14th came from the tile collapse 6495. Sections sited to investigate Building A's terrace cut (6437/6543/6328/6416/6298/6295/6332; Fig. 16) showed that silty layers of hillwash (deposits 6311, 6417, 6327, 6300, 6425, 6423, 6394, 6395, 6340, 6452, 6439, 6445, 6448, 6449, 6480, 6856) were interleaved with collapse or demolition deposits; 6446, 6447, 6718, 6323, 6422, 6424, 6333, 6334. Mid / late 13th-century, early to mid 14th-century pottery with numerous ceramic ridge tiles (unlikely to be earlier than the mid-13th century), some of which doubled as louvers, 500g of slag and Pennant sandstone roof tiles were recovered from some of these hillwash layers. (see Roman and Medieval Pottery and Ceramic Tile).

Phase 1; Associated Features and Building B (Figs. 9, 18 & 23)

A substantial ditch (cut 6315/6213), generally associated with Phase 1 extended northwest from the eastern corner of the northern gable (wall 6302) of Building A (fig. 9). Sections across the undisturbed, northern part of the ditch revealed a fairly broad shallow (0.25m deep) profile narrowing and turning to the west before a shallow terminal. Small Pennant slabs and brownish grey clay (fill 6214) had been backfilled into the terminal. Pottery sherds dated between AD1280 to 1340 were recovered from a basal fill of this ditch (deposit 6314), excavated near the northern extremity of Structure D (See Phase 2 below). Though very little depth was preserved to the west, this ditch appeared to be traceable as an opposed and parallel curvilinear discontinuous feature (cut 6488) to the west, which was not as long as eastern ditch 6213/6315. Together they composed what appeared to be an enclosure with an entrance formed by the northern terminals.

Thin hillwashes 6458 and 6305/6640 overlaid much of ditch 6315/6213. A few 12th century pottery sherds were recovered from hillwashes 6458 and 6640.

It is possible that a thin Lias cobbled layer (6614) originally functioned as an extended ford/path in the floor of the valley (Fig. 18), and should be allocated to Phase 1a (see above). This deposit overlaid stream alluvium or hillwash 6554 to the west of Building A and a Pennant sharpening stone or saddle quern (SF192) was recovered from its matrix. Very similar cobbling (6861) was in evidence further to the south between Buildings A and B and may have been a continuation of 6614.

Building B (Fig. 19, Plate 11)

More than three quarters of this building was exposed (Plate 11). It is possible Building B can be generally allocated to Phase 1 of Period Vc. It was built on the same axis and at right-angles to Building A on the opposite side of the valley with a length – width ratio of 1.57:1. The walls were of near identical construction to those of Building A, save that an intramural doorway c.1.25m wide (masonry 6546) gave access through the northwest elevation (wall 6464) (Fig. 19). Walls 6464, 6463 and 6462 and were preserved to six, seven or eight regular courses. A length-ways section through the partly robbed and collapsed pitched Lias floor (masonry 6442/6451) revealed that no floor levelling of substrata had been attempted. Floor 6451/6442 had been laid directly on two underlying silty layers closely resembling substrata; 6474 and 6493 (Fig.19). Though otherwise homogeneous and sterile, 12th century pottery was recovered from 6474 and pottery dated to AD1140 to 1200 was recovered from 6493. Floor 6451/6442

was set within a brown silty clay matrix, from which a single sherd of presumably residual 12th century pottery was recovered.

Lias rubble cobbling (masonry 6855) had been laid immediately north of this building and led along wall 6464 towards the wooded dell. This had been somewhat horizontally truncated by modern disturbance but it consisted of a lower component of small-medium Lias fragments sometimes overlain by larger Lias and Pennant slabs a few centimetres thick. A fairly well preserved pitched stone surface (masonry 6466) was laid externally to wall 6462. Lias slabs had been set upright on a horizontal bed of the same stone-slab type. No artefacts were recovered from the brown silty clay matrix that the upright slabs of surface 6466 were set in.

Two silty layers (6392 & 6393) had accumulated in the eastern interior of the building overlying floor 6442/6451. The earliest deposit (6392) had a small amount of collapsed masonry from wall 6462 but in general terms comparatively little collapsed masonry was in evidence in and around Building B, perhaps inferring extensive stone robbery. A few sherds of medieval pottery which were tentatively datable to the 11th century, a tap slag fragment and an iron nail were recovered from the interior silty layers. A single earlier medieval sherd and modern pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil base (6286) overlying the silty layers or the walls of the building. A 14th century oxshoe (SF 100, Fig. 25.5) was recovered from the surface of pitched stone surface 6466.

To the northwest of the building a partly preserved dry-stone Lias-built drain 6330 underlay silt 6331. No definite capstones were in evidence and the drain walls only survived to two courses. A shallow gully (6336) had been cut into the underlying silt between the remains of the opposing drain walls. Drain 6330 could not be closely dated or phased but it would not be unreasonable to assume general contemporaneity with other medieval masonry.

Phase 2; Structure D (Building A) (Fig. 17)

During Phase 2 at Building A an extension was added to the north gable of the building. This was designated Structure D as it was less than certain that it represented a roofed room or rooms. No convincing floor layers (or definite roof tiles from the structure) were recorded. In addition, though disturbed by heavy plant, Structure D appeared to be in more than one phase or sub-phase. Uneven preservation and the lack of vertical stratification necessitates only a partial thesis for this structure. Bonding material for the three main wall components; 6461, 6526/6555 and 6719/6720 was often difficult to define, with the recording of colours and consistency of potential bonding much influenced by overlying and surrounding deposits. The following descriptions are therefore only tentatively allocated to Phases 2a and 2b, Structure D.

Phase 2a; Structure D (Building A) (Figs. 16 & 17, Plate 12)

The major walls of this structure were of similar construction to those of Building A, saving that little Pennant sandstone was noted in the coursing or cores.

Two parallel walls (6555/6526 & 6461) extended north from wall 6302 (Building A's north gable), though only physical evidence that wall fragment 6526 abutted the latter wall existed (Figs. 9 & 17). They appeared to extend the east and west walls of Building A. The full southern extent of wall 6461 appeared not to be preserved. However from an investigation of the space between the latter and gable 6302, a gap or doorway of c.0.9 – 1m could possibly have intervened. Only a shallow construction platform (cut 6627) let into substratum 6004 was discernible in section for the latter wall (Fig. 16, Section 162) though in one section (no. 94) this was preserved as a platform broader than the wall. Though the remains of wall 6461 had been distorted by erosion it appeared to be significantly wider (c.1m) than eastern wall 6555/6526 (c.0.7m). The other differences between these walls, though significant, did not seem on balance to preclude them being of the same phase - however a possible, perhaps less likely alternative, is aired in Discussion and Conclusions; Medieval Settlement; Phasing and Interpretation below. The remains of wall 6461 consisted in the main of small to medium slabs and rubble possibly bonded with brown silty clay, surviving up to four thin courses, though some larger slabs were in evidence on the external (western) face. The potential doorway in this wall has already been referred to; the wall apparently terminated before the end of the structure. As mentioned a

fragment of wall 6526 survived abutting Building A. The construction platform for this wall (cut 6557/6411; let into substratum 6004 and cutting the eastern edge of Ditch 6315) was fairly well defined when Structure D was sectioned (Fig. 16, Section 94). Wall 6526 was laid on a levelling deposit of yellowish green silty clay (deposit 6408/6527) and had partly collapsed to both east and west. Further to the north (Fig. 16, Section 162) the wall had been almost completely robbed though a remnant levelling deposit remained (deposit 6408). To the north the wall was better preserved, designated context 6555 and was contemporary with a short western return (wall 6307) with an in-turn (Fig. 17). The corner of these walls had been damaged by post-medieval field drains 6401 and 6864 but there was ample evidence preserved to indicate a contemporary intermured Lias – built inlet (masonry 6866) through wall 6555, led to what may have been a water collection tank. This feature was formed by the in-turn of wall 6307 and southern Lias wall (masonry 6709) tied with wall 6555 (Fig. 22). Inlet 6866 led from a cut interpreted as shallow terracing 6410/6524 (However see Discussion and Conclusions; Medieval Settlement; Phasing and Interpretation) to the east of wall 6555/6526. The potential tank had no stone base but was constructed on the base of a flat cut (6867) – (Plate 12) which almost certainly sufficed for wall 6307 as well. Construction cut 6867 cut Phase 1 ditch 6315. Two deposits were excavated from cut 6867 within the tank: a greenish brown gritty clay with charcoal (layer 6697 – the earliest), overlying the latter was a mottled reddish brown sandy silt with charcoal (deposit 6696) from which chicken bone, mollusc shell and 14th century pottery was recovered. Unfortunately most of the deposits in this possible tank were excavated before inlet 6866 was revealed or it's eastern wall (6709) indicated the nature of this feature. In consequence only a minimum environmental sample was recovered from near inlet 6866 (deposit 6712).

Phase 2b Structure D (Building A) (Figs. 16, 17 & 22, Plates 12 & 13)

An overflow drain (masonry 6531/6847) extended down-slope from ?tank 6709 and across the interior of Structure D. It was structurally separate from the tank and consisted of a few courses of Lias slabs on the northern side, it was poorly preserved in it's western down-slope extent (6847), and had a slab Lias/Pennant base. The partly preserved southern side comprised of upright Lias slabs set into substratum 6004. The northern Lias coursing abutted the in-turn of wall 6307 with a partly constructed parallel face. A thin deposit of brown silty clay (6532) was preserved overlying the up-slope base slabs of this drain. Two sherds, not-closely datable, of medieval pottery were recovered from deposit 6532. As mentioned overflow drain 6531 led westward. It crossed but appeared to be contemporary with the very disturbed remains of wall 6719 (Fig. 17, Plate 13). Some parts of the eastern and western faces of this wall were ill-defined while others were preserved to two or four courses. Possible vestiges of brown to reddish brown bonding survived. Similarly the construction cut for wall 6719 was only tenuously defined with the wall apparently filling much of the cut. Rubble 6616 overlaid wall 6719. Wall 6719 abutted wall 6461 to the east. A return; masonry 6720, extending eastward was contemporary, though narrower (0.6m) than wall 6719 and survived as one to three courses with little bonding in evidence. A recess with no evidence for a stone base, but otherwise defined by upright Pennant slabs (masonry 6868) was located in wall 6720 at it's junction with wall 6719. Wall 6720 extended fragmentarily eastwards towards wall 6307 but was not on line with it and may only have been superficially tied with that wall. Some Lias slabs of wall 6720 and the north coursing of overflow drain 6531 overlapped but it was unclear if this indicated one was tied to the other. A disturbed and fragmentary masonry projection extended for a short distance north of the corner of walls 6719/6720. A possible length of shallow wall construction platform (cut 6871) was excavated 2.85m to the north of and on line with the latter masonry projection. Though fragmentary, taken together these features may indicate the presence of an almost completely removed wall. Alternatively the masonry projection might be the remains of a buttress; the northwest corner of Structure D was built on a fairly steep part of the valley slope in this area.

A pitched Lias path (6853/6621) was partly preserved extending exterior to walls 6719 and 6461. Exterior to the latter wall, Section 94 showed that a partly eroded terrace (cut 6869) cut into substratum 6004, provided a platform for pitched path 6621 (Fig. 16). The latter had been set into the same substratum. This path can be generally assigned to Phase 2 and was partly preserved extending south (path 6218) along the exterior of wall 6187, the west elevation of Building A. Path 6621 was successively overlain by a mottled green/grey hillwash (layer 6620) from which two sherds of 12th century pottery were recovered, then rubble 6471 (see below).

No convincing evidence for stone or clay flooring or yard deposits were preserved within Structure D.

The deposits in the interior of Structure D and overlying its walls comprised rubble/angular gravel spreads silting or hillwash. Sections were excavated through hillwash 6313/6498 (overlying substratum 6004) in the interior of Structure D, and through wall lines. Rare charcoal (in both contexts) and a single pottery sherd of AD1170-1225 was noted from hillwash 6498. Greyish brown silty clay 6406/6470 had accumulated in terracing 6410/6524. A residual sherd of late 11th century pottery and numerous later 13th century pottery sherds were recorded from the former contexts. In the northerly section (No. 94) a layer of rubble and mottled grey/reddish brown silty clay (deposit 6407) was apparently backfilled into ditch 6315, robbed wall construction cut 6411 and spread down slope to the west overlying hillwash 6498 (Fig. 16). In section 162 a similar rubble layer (6525) overlaid collapsed wall 6526 and hillwash 6313. A few sherds of not-closely-datable medieval pottery and other pottery dated mid - late 13th century were recovered from layers 6407 and 6525 respectively. Gravel and rubble in a brown gritty clay matrix (6534) overlaid walls 6555 and 6307, ?tank 6534 and hillwash 6498. Similar layers overlaid wall 6719 and path 6853 (rubble 6472), and wall 6461 and path 6621 (rubble 6471/6529). A small amount of late 12th -mid 13th century pottery, and late 13th or early 14th century pottery was recorded from layers 6472 and 6471/6529. A horseshoe (SF 109, Fig. 25.6) of the 14th century and a Pennant whetstone (SF193) were recovered just to the north of Structure D. A mixed layer of topsoil, subsoil and very recent hardcore (6304) overlaid the aforementioned layers. Late 13th century pottery, cattle and sheep/goat bone were recovered from this layer.

As with Building A several layers were sectioned to the west of Structure D (Fig. 16, Section 162), in the valley bottom. Alluvium 6607/6630 overlaid substratum 6631; the former with charcoal, mid-late 13th century pottery and sheep/goat bone noted. Overlying this a thin gravel/rubble layer (6629) was an uncertain candidate as a continuation of path 6614 detailed in Phase 1 (Associated Features above). Iron nails were recovered from this deposit. A hillwash with wall rubble (layer 6639/6606) overlaid the latter, succeeded by another layer of collapsed wall rubble (6529- see above). Mid-late 13th century pottery was recovered from layer 6606. A blue sandy silt (deposit 6628) with no artefacts overlaid rubble 6529 and hillwash 6639. A similar deposit (6226), was located between Structure D and cobbling 6212/6862. An almost complete Pennant roof tile (SF 120) was recovered unstratified from the west end of Section 162.

Phase 2c; Structure D (Building A) (Figs. 17 & 22)

A possible shallow drain-gully (cut 6870) may have been recut into the fill (6470/6406) of terrace cut 6410 and extended slightly north of Structure D. Feature 6870 was filled with a greyish blue clay with frequent medium sized fragments of Pennant sandstone, from which later 13th century pottery, pig and cattle bones and a residual sherd of 11th century pottery were recovered. None of the Pennant slabs could be definitely identified as roof tile.

Phase 2 Structure E (Figs. 9 & 23)

Three metres to the north of Structure D a very patchy sub-rectangular arrangement of Lias slabs and small rubble (masonry 6456/6460) suggested that a drystone structure, probably an unroofed pen of dimensions c.6 x 3.2m had been constructed on a similar axis as Building A and D. This structure only survived to one or possibly two courses and much of it was only preserved as a rubble spread to the west. Later 13th century pottery sherds were recovered from

a brown silty clay accumulated along the eastern wall (possible masonry 6456). Structure D was built on the surface of a layer of brown silty clay with charcoal (deposit 6458) from which 12th century pottery was recovered. This deposit was a hillwash and it sealed Phase 1 ditch 6315 and a yellow green hillwash 6498. A sherd of pottery dating to AD1170 to 1225 was retrieved from the latter deposit.

Building C; Change of Use (Fig. 10)

With Phase III of Building C an alteration of building status appears to have occurred. This is because a rather crude Lias rubble and silty clay deposit (masonry 6220) blocked door 6857. Blocking 6220 seemed too uncharacteristic to allocate it to the preceding phase (Building C Phase II) when compared with the well laid masonry of that phase. In consequence it was allocated to Phase III and seems likely to have been in-filled at a time when Building C had lost its original function. This is likely to have been during Period Vc when Building A, the (new?) dwelling house was constructed, perhaps later on in the period.

Phase 1 and 2 Associated Features (Fig.12)

An extensive though thin greyish brown layer (6672/6807) from which mid-late 13th and residual 12th century pottery was recovered was located a distance to the east of Building A. It overlaid substratum 6004.

A shallow linear gully (cut 6809/6254) in the southeastern part of Area E which had been disturbed by metal detectorist pilfering was undated but had been dug parallel to the 12th or early 13th century rectilinear ditch/gully system. If the latter system was out of use by the mid 13th century (see above) it is possible though unproveable that it had been dug as a replacement for that system in either Phase 1 or 2 Period Vc (however see Period VI).

Period VI; Post-medieval and Modern (Figs. 9 & 23)

Post-medieval and modern activity was confined to numerous field drains crossing all of the excavated areas, a pair of gate post-holes which disturbed part of Building B and considerable though relatively shallow disturbance by heavy plant in other parts of Area E. Many of the field drains were in alignment with the boundaries of the field Area E was located in (Figs. 2 & 9). The drains and the southern boundary of this field were in alignment with Buildings A and B of the medieval settlement and the rectilinear ditch and gully system. This strongly suggests that some of the field boundaries on the AD1725 map and later maps derive from the medieval period at the latest. A large swathe of topsoil and subsoil, had been removed extending from the western part of the area, extending eastwards and then south out of Area E. Numerous masonry and other archaeological deposits were partly or marginally disturbed. Plastic matting and then rubble or large gravel hardcore had been laid down as a haulage road for large vehicles. Most of this material could be removed mechanically during the early parts of the excavation.

A shallow linear gully (cut 6809) extended east west across the southeast corner of Area E. No dating evidence was recovered from the gully fill, though a metal object had been removed by an unauthorised metal detectorist. It is possible this quite extensive feature should be allocated to the post-Medieval period (however see above) as two somewhat similar gullies set at right angles to each other were recorded in Area A. Plaster and slag were retrieved from the fill of one of these gullies (fill 6134).

One of the tracks shown on the AD1725 map (Fig. 2) of Stoke Gifford appeared to reproduce the line of cobbled path 6855/6492, which ran along the north side of Building B. This was not evident during excavation as overlying stratigraphy had been recently removed and modern hard-core had been laid down over the cobbling.

Palaeochannels (Fig. 21)

As mentioned under Period Vb; Building C; Phase I, the construction trench for wall 6208 (cut 6206) cut hillwash 6507 an extensive layer in the valley bottom. Four earlier deposits were recorded in the sondage, the earliest of which was layer 6511 a mottled greyish blue

sterile clay. The latter was overlain by layer 6510, a sterile grey clay mottled with orange. 6510 was overlain in turn by greyish green silty clay hillwash (deposit 6509). A stream had worn a bed (cut 6860) into the latter two deposits. Alluvium 6508 silted stream 6860 and was a brownish orange silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. A similar, probably later, stream bed (cut 6716) was revealed in a sondage adjoining wall 6322 of Building C. It cut layer 6507/6715 and was filled with sterile alluvium 6714 overlain by alluvium 6713/6205 from which 12th century pottery and animal bone were recovered. Alluvium 6713/6205 may have been the same as deposit 6207, noted within the interior of Building C. Pottery sherds of AD1150-1200 were retrieved from the later deposit. Environmental samples were taken from alluvium 6714 (No.20) and from hillwash layers / alluvium 6607 and 6714 encountered to the west of Structure D and House A.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Late Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic to Bronze Age; Periods I-II

The lack of deposits (and ceramics) from these periods and the few largely residual lithic artefacts probably indicates that only scattered subsistence or agricultural activity was occurring over the five areas investigated. The Matford evidence does however add to the known distribution spread of Bronze Age and occasionally earlier sites stretching from possibly as far northwest as the Brookway centre to Webb's Farm/Great Meadow. The Matford evidence lies between the two settlement *foci* at Tesco, Savages Wood and Webb's Farm.

Iron Age; Period III (Figs. 5 & 7)

In comparison to the sparse late or mid to late Iron Age evidence less than 1km away from the site at Great Meadow, northeast of Baileys Court Farm (Archaeological and Historical Background) the evidence from Matford also does not directly indicate a focus of settlement at the latter site. A few Iron Age ditches and residual ceramic evidence were revealed at Great Meadow. The 2000 evaluation excavation at Matford (BRSMG 2000/40; Parry 2001) identified prehistoric pottery (originally thought to be Bronze Age) from a single shallow pit (or less likely a posthole), of a residual nature in Romano-British dump layers from a redundant pond and from a geological feature. The re-assessment of this pottery shows that it should be dated in a similar fashion as the Iron Age ceramic evidence recovered during the 2001 Excavation (see Iron Age Pottery). Taken with the tentative late Iron Age ditch or gully, pit and residual sherds from Areas A and E of the Matford 2001 Excavation this evidence in total reflects probable agricultural activity in the form of field system fragments on either side of Stoke Brook, perhaps with a likely settlement somewhere in the vicinity. The locally significant focus of Romano-British settlement at Baileys Court Farm was not comprehensively excavated and remains unpublished. That a late Iron Age precursor, perhaps directly related to the Matford and Great Meadow agricultural evidence, should be sought at Baileys Court Farm remains at present a likely, though unprovable and not exclusive possibility. This postulated settlement does not need to have been exclusively nucleated or enclosed and scattered elements may be sought closer to the suggested late Iron Age field system fragment at Matford.

Whether this fragment represents part of a boundary/drainage ditch from a large field or smaller plot cannot be postulated nor is it really possible to draw parallels with similar sites due to the scarcity of the evidence.

Only cattle or sheep/goat bones were retrieved from Iron Age deposits at Matford.

Romano-British: Period IV; 1st-3rd centuries AD (Figs. 5 & 7)

Much as in Period III most of the Romano-British features recorded in Area C comprised boundary or drainage ditches associated with agricultural practices. Most of the domestic debris (pottery, a spindle weight and animal bone) however, was retrieved from pit fills 6054, 6058 and 6092 and the 3rd century in-filled pond excavated during the 2000

Evaluation, located to the east. This evidence is likely to indicate some sort of settlement remains exist in the vicinity. However no Romano-British structural remains were recorded by either program. Cattle, horse and sheep/goat bones were recovered. The latter were likely to have been slaughtered between 18 and 24 months of age (Assessment of Faunal Remains). The features recorded at Matford were broadly contemporary with the settlement remains discovered at Great Meadow, c.0.5km to the southeast (Archaeological and Historical Sites in the Vicinity). Taken with the other Roman-British sites in the area, the Matford evidence indicates little more than settlement (probably scattered) and agricultural practices spread from the *focus* near Savages Wood Road south eastwards through 'Matford' to the *foci* at Bailey's Court and Great Meadow. As mentioned this distribution owes more to the pattern of modern development and archaeological recording than historical settlement. The distinct lack of Samian pottery at 'Matford' must indicate low status rural activity (see The Romano-British Pottery below).

Medieval Settlement: Period Va; 11th – first quarter of the 12th century (Fig. 23)

Period Va activity almost certainly began in the first three quarters of the 11th century. The evidence however was confined to residual pottery and pits 6523 and 6736. Due to its grouping with the cluster of early post-Conquest pits cut into lime rich substratum 6485 the former pit was probably dug for the extraction of that mineral also. If the lime extracted was not for use in pre-tanning hide treatment (Cherry 1991, 296) then it may have been used for lime washing of, for instance, byres.

The rest of the cut features in this period were post-Conquest. Apart from the lime extraction pits the evidence was comprised of short gullies, other pits and a few substantial post-holes. It is possible that with a relatively high sherd-count for this period (57) pit 6740 was used for rubbish disposal. The relatively silty nature of the pitfill 6784 might indicate that it was from a cess pit (cut 6783). If the three or four substantial post-holes (6761, 6816, 6818 and 6768) from this period were part of a building; and this is by no means clear, then it is also possible that gully 6781 with the same date range AD1070-1120 might represent drainage for that building. The proximity of the probable rubbish pit to the south tenuously supports the thesis that the gully and postholes represents genuine settlement evidence. If the density of features from this period represents settlement, as it appears to, then it would conform to a pattern of settlement suggested by excavations at four sites in the vicinity of Bristol which also have occupation continuing to the 14th century or later; Lower Court Farm, Long Ashton (Leech & Pearson 1986), Elm Farm, Charlton (Burchill & Coxah *et al* 1989), Harry Stoke, Stoke Gifford (Young 1996), Moat Farm, Pucklechurch (Samuel 2002) and Eckweek, Peasdown St.John (Young & Kidd 1989). The archaeological evidence from these sites however is of variable strength; residually occurring pottery at Elm Farm, Moat Farm and Harry Stoke (the latter however may be referred to in Domesday with a reference to King Harold's reign – Prosser 1996, 24); a Saxo-Norman enclosure bank and ditches are known from Lower Court Farm and a timber building at Eckweek has been dated 11th to 12th centuries. No structural evidence was recorded at the first three sites. That evidence could of course lie beyond the excavations.

Cattle and sheep/goat bones and pig dentition were retrieved from Saxo-Norman deposits. The two former varieties were represented by bones probably from meat cuts (Assessment of Faunal Remains).

Medieval Settlement: Period Vb; 12th – mid-13th century (Fig. 23)

The problems of interpretation with this period are obvious. There clearly were numerous agricultural and ambiguous features from this period disposed in the eastern half of Area E. However given that stratified 12th century evidence was obtained from two buildings; C and B, one (Building B) for which a 13th century construction date is claimed (see below), is it safe to allocate a 12th century construction date to the other? That this might be valid could

be supported, firstly by the likely function of Structure F; as a bake-house or kitchen. Charred bread wheat, rye and legumes were recovered from one of the flue-fills (see The Charred Plant Remains) which strengthens the structures' identification. Structure F however, has its own problems. As an addition to Building C, it can only be relatively dated and most of the evidence for an oven structure is absent, along with substantial evidence for fire remains. If it was a bake-house or kitchen it could be argued that it belonged to a phase of Period Vc, not Vb and that such a potentially dangerous building was purposely built at some remove from the definite dwelling; Building A, for obvious reasons. These particular problems cannot be resolved with the existing evidence. However taken with the supportive agricultural evidence for ditch and gully systems it might be valid to suggest that Building C was constructed during the period AD1120/1140-1200 even if it was not a dwelling. The surviving remains certainly displayed an even rectilinear construction. Without the addition of Structure F the building measured c.8.3 x c.3.6m; slightly less than the Period 2 hall less its addition (9 x 4.5m) at Wintringham Moat (Hunts.) of c.AD1200 (Grenville 1997, 96, Fig. 4.6). Building C was not quite in alignment with Buildings A and B and it almost certainly had a change of use and status with the blocking of the existing door, perhaps in period Vc. Building C was at right angles to parallel gullies 6541 and 6548/6612. None of the 12th century pottery recovered from these gullies precludes a contemporary date with that proposed for Building C, Phase I.

The narrow curvilinear ditch (cut 6477/6491/6483) appeared to have an enclosure/boundary *and* drainage function and was broadly contemporary with the rectilinear ditch and gully system. These seem to have been mid/late 12th or early 13th century features which were out of use by the mid 13th century. The rectilinear and curvilinear system enclosed plots, which may have been for penning animals, though obvious fence lines were not in evidence. If this was true for the rectilinear system, then the disposition of the short curved gullies may be significant. They may have been part of a corralling or droveway system and could on that basis be thought to have been construction slots.

Narrow gully base 6333/6724 was likely to be out of phase with the latter system. Pits 6667 and 6765 may have been dug as rubbish pits. It is possible that six relatively large pits in the east of Area E (6765, 6804/6820, 6774, 6792, 6779 and 6766) were cess-pits. This thesis might however lead to a conclusion that (some) 12th century occupation was in the vicinity. Certainly these pits were close to the proposed Saxo-Norman structure.

Medieval Settlement: Period Vc, later 13th – mid 14th century (Fig. 23)

With the construction of one or two masonry buildings in probably the latter half of the 13th century, it becomes somewhat easier to discuss the nature of the medieval settlement discovered flanking Bradley Stoke Way, though by no means can all questions be answered. The first phase of construction and occupation in this sub-period appeared to comprise Buildings A and B; that is a dwelling and a fairly substantial ancillary building of uncertain use. Building A was a somewhat typical medieval rural house (see parallels below in The Interpretation of Site-status), probably essentially of one storey constructed of coursed Lias slabs, quite possibly extending to the rafters. The latter assumption seems valid due to the wall-width (1m) and the availability of local building-stone. This house had a Pennant sandstone roof, at least in one phase, while the same could not be said for the ancillary building, for which there was no evidence for stone tiles, though wall-width again suggested that the latter was not 'half-timbered'. The internal arrangements of Building A conformed to a layout not untypical in the high middle ages; two rooms or bays of ratio 1/3 : 2/3 in area with a hearth in the larger room not far from the dividing wall or screen. The glazed and louvered ridge tiles suggest a fairly substantial hall-type roof line. No entrances were in evidence, though this or these would have been much more likely in the long elevations (*ibid*, 75, Fig. 3.3 caption). The smaller room could have been for service or sleeping depending on how one interprets the status of the farm complex.

The Interpretation of Site-status

Using data from a corpus of 75 manorial halls provided by Wood (1965, 62-6), Grenville (*op.cit.*, 107-8) suggests that in the 13th to 15th centuries shorter hall lengths (i.e. 6.09 – 12.19m) predominate. The ‘hall’ or hearth room at Matford A measured 7.5 x 5m internally that is a ratio of c.3:2, also common in the 13th and 14th centuries (*ibid*). Building A internal dimensions (overall 12 x 5m) also compare favourably with examples of manorial status, but also to those of lesser status. The second phase of hall building (without lean-to additions) at the small manor of Harry Stoke (Building 5) of the 13th, or possibly 12th centuries measured only 9.35 x 4.62m (Young 1996, 32-3, Fig. 6a). The first phase hall (Building 1) of the 12th century, though truncated by a dove cote almost certainly measured in the region of 11.5 – 8.5 x 4.25m internally. Both buildings had evidence for hearths and Building 1 had an internal drain but neither had stone-built dividing walls. Til House, Clifton, (Notts.) a timber house of AD 1319/20 of 8.3 x 4.15m internally, has been interpreted as “...built by a yeoman farmer who aspired to lesser-gentry status...” (*op.cit.*, 130). The Period 2 hall and ?sleeping quarters at the moated house at Wintringham, (Cambs.) of c.AD1300, was 13 x 9m internally, though this discounts the service rooms and bake house which with the other rooms make a ‘classic’ tripartite hall plan (*ibid*, 97, Fig 4.6) with screens passage. The extent or nature of the proposed (perhaps partly timber) Giffard manorial complex at Great Stoke, Stoke Gifford, with 13th-early 14th century occupation was not established by the excavation but a subsequent ?14th century bayed masonry building of uncertain status measured only 9 x 6m externally (Russell 1986, 36). As an aside it could have been that the Giffard manor was located closer to the parish church which had a priest as early as Domesday (see Historical Background) at the site of the ‘Berkeley’ Manor, though the existence of two manors at Wharram Percy (Beresford & Hurst 1990, 47) warns that a more complex situation may have existed at Stoke Gifford. There is potential evidence at Harry Stoke itself that the manor was divided (Samuel & Young 1996, paragraph 6.4.4.). The mid- 12th century wooden manor hall (and dias) at Ellington (Hunts.) measured 11.5 x 5.5m and had a kitchen extension of 7 x 5m (Platt 1978, Fig. 31).

In comparison to these examples it is clear that the farm at Matford could feasibly fall into either the manorial or sub-manorial category. However there are factors which seem to mitigate against the first category. The first is the distinct lack of obvious manorial documentary references. As has been alluded to in Historical Background, apart from the possibly significant place-name evidence of the early 18th century no references earlier than this are likely to exist. Neither is there, unlike at Harry Stoke, obvious morphological attributes such as a dovecote or numerous auxiliary buildings (such as buttery, pantry or kitchen) or some sort of significant enclosure such as a moat wall or palisade signifying high status. Granted something of this nature could lie or could have lain beyond the excavation, and indeed it would not be surprising if the excavation did not reveal the total of ancillary buildings at Matford; the Period ?Vb Phase II bake-house/kitchen could, after all be argued to mitigate in favour of manorial status. No documentary evidence was found to suggest that the site was a monastic grange or church estate. In the absence of clear high-status evidence it would perhaps be prudent to suggest that the Period Vc farm was the residence of a relatively well-off tenant of the manor of Stoke Gifford. The latter assertion does not account for the existence of Building C in the 12th century, if the dating for this building has been correctly interpreted. If the date of Building C is genuinely of the 12th century; and the available evidence suggests that this is so, then it would be much harder to conceive that the farm was occupied by *villani*, *bordari* or *cotari* (villeins or smallholders) during this century, given the construction style of Building C. Sub-manorial farms of greater than peasant status (cadet branches of seignorial families, freemen and merchants) occur during and after the 13th century and can be moated (Le Patourel 1978, 22, table II). Of significance to sub-Periods Va-b at Matford is that at the time of Domesday as much as 20 per cent of land was held by *liberi homines* and sokemen. They formed a considerable part of the population; 14 per cent of countrymen and probably

enjoyed considerably less binding tenurial constraints and obligations than those which bound the *villanus* or *cotarius* to his lord (Miller & Hatcher 1978, 22). A soke or berewick, an outlying part of the lord's demesne was '...land held more or less freely by peasant tenants subject to the jurisdiction of the lord of the manor and owing him dues which, if only because of the distances separating them from the manorial centre, must often have been payable in cash or kind rather than service.' (*ibid*, 21). The term *berewica* is known from Domesday Gloucestershire (Moore 1982, 1,15, Technical Terms). It is possible Period Va-c Matford functioned as a soke or berewick to Stoke Gifford manor and was occupied by *liberi homines* or *sokemanni*; terms still in use (amongst others used for peasants) in the later 13th century (*op.cit.* 111-2). This may be one reason why no early documentary evidence for the site has been encountered, though it may be speculated that the coherent block of fields of c.154 acres named Matford in AD1725 (Historical Background) might form the core of this proposed manorial outlier. Certainly in area it could have constituted one Domesday hide of ploughland. Two types of high-status artefactual evidence could however argue that during the later 13th or earlier 14th century the farm might have had a cadet branch of a seignorial family as tenant. This suggestion might be provoked by the presence at House A of louvered ceramic hall-type roof tiles and a spout from a copper alloy ewer (SF 8, Fig. 25.4), commonly used for hand-washing at a high table (pers. comm. Rod Burchill). Indeed the layout of House A, possibly with space enough for a table between the hearth and dividing wall in Room 2 seems to conform (along with an adjoining chamber/service room) to the idealized plan of a later medieval hall (Grenville 1997, 90, Fig. 4.1). On the other hand it could be argued that a well-off freeman tenant could merely have been acquiring the trappings of the upper classes. Table wares such as elaborately decorated jugs are included in the pottery assemblage after AD1250 and a high proportion of the pottery recovered from Room 1 and the south of Room 2, House A was identified as such. Without further documentary or material evidence, the status question must remain not fully resolved. Labeling the site as a possible berewick/soke at present, seems sensible.

Economy

It is clear from the variety of evidence preserved at 'Matford' that mixed farming was practiced at the farm.

Direct material evidence for agriculture other than stock rearing at Matford was provided by the medieval iron ox-shoe (SF 100, Fig. 25.5) found near Building B and the possible saddle quern fragment from the matrix of mid/late 13th century path 6614 to the west of House A. The analysis of charred plant remains from 63 sieved samples, indicated that the farm at Matford produced very similar macrofossil assemblages to those obtained from the broadly contemporary farm at Eckweek in the same county, though actual remains were only preserved in a few samples. Bread wheat, rye and possibly barley were cultivated along with legumes; the latter of which were partly used as flour supplements, helped to fix nitrogen in the soil and were a valuable source of protein for countrymen and stock alike. The unfinished late 12th / early 13th century mortar (SF 132, Fig. 25.2) could have originally been intended for processing small quantities of legumes as well as other foods. It is probable that pest-resistant rivet wheat was also grown and could have been used for biscuit-making and thatching. The recovery of native charred hedgerow remains (even as a tiny minority of preserved remains) indicates, that as to be expected, wild flora had been an important supplement to the farm's economy (see The Charred Plant Remains).

The Assessment of Faunal Remains indicates the ubiquitous nature of cattle and sheep/goat at Matford for slaughter; pigs had been culled before adulthood. The horse and single chicken bones help to broaden the recognition of stock types present at the site.

The small amount of bloomery furnace hearth-waste from gully fill 6825 and House A is indicative of small scale agricultural smithing during Periods Vb and Vc.

Phasing and Interpretation of Structures (Fig. 10, 17, 19 & 23)

The possible interpretations for Building C and Structure F have already been aired under Medieval Settlement Period Vb.

As mentioned House A had two sub-phases of flooring, the later pitched Lias floor phase (1b) might be datable to as late as the first half of the 14th century if it was not constructed in the preceding century. In the absence of conclusive dating, the pitched Lias floor of Building B could be used to argue that this building was erected later than Phase 1a House A, as this building's pitched floor was a replacement for the Pennant floor of Phase 1a. However the pitched floor of Building B may have been a product of cost/availability of materials or function of the building. The latter was unlikely to have been to do with food production due to the lack of a hearth coupled with the lack of pottery sherds. The possibilities for function therefore unfortunately must range from agricultural - the nearby ox-shoe providing a tenuous link, though the lack of an internal drain is noteworthy, to domestic – perhaps in the form of a chamber/solar detached from House A; the building was as well built as House A, though no evidence for a stone-tile roof was recovered. The concentration of pottery in Room 1 and the south of Room 2 in House A suggests that Room 1 may have been used at some stage for food preparation. Potential table wares also concentrated in the same areas and a few fragments of possible oven lining were recovered from the terrace-cut up-cast (6195) in Room 1. These factors do not preclude a possible earlier function as a chamber.

If it is not possible to be sure about the intricacies of Phase 1, it is very likely that the complex of buildings formed a contemporary group around what may have been a large yard in the small valley head. Much of the southern and western part of the site was beyond the area of excavation so it was not possible to be sure that this yard was partly enclosed or indeed that other structures may have existed to the west or south.

In Phase 2 at Building A a somewhat complicated structure (Structure D) possibly in two sub phases (a & b) was built on to the north gable of that building. It is less likely that Structure D was at any time roofed with Pennant sandstone tiles, though numerous small fragments were recovered from a possible re-cut of the terrace for this structure; gully 6870. No floors were found within it. There is a possibility that a floor had existed at a higher level and had been removed by erosion and modern disturbance (which was particularly severe in this area). Also the structure could have had a thatched roof. As mentioned there are problems with understanding the surviving remains of Structure D, and in interpreting its function. If in contrast to what has been proposed the west elevation (wall 6461) and the east elevation (wall 6555/6526) should not be considered in-phase due to different wall widths, a possible precursor to the later might be in evidence in the flat linear cut hitherto interpreted as a terrace cut; cut 6410. If this was a robbed-out wall platform terraced into the hillside then it could at some stage be wide enough to accommodate a wall of the same width as the west elevation of Structure D; approximately 1m. This question could not be satisfactorily resolved with the surviving evidence and here it may be prudent to adopt the more convenient solution and accept that the aforementioned walls were in phase. It seems difficult to conclude that walls 6719 (the continuation of wall 6461) and 6720 (the western part of the north elevation) were not built later than walls 6307/6555/6526 and 6461 as 6720 was not on-line with 6307 but it does not help to resolve the plan of this structure. Similarly a function for the 'tank' formed by masonry 6307, 6709 and the associated overflow drain 6531 is not easy to envisage. If Structure D functioned as a pen for say, valuable animals, is it unlikely that water flowing through the inlet in wall 6555 from the terrace-cut would be considered suitable for their consumption, perhaps this is the writer's imposition of modern standards on another epoch? The Pennant recess in 6720 is similarly inexplicable without evidence for a stone base surviving, otherwise a small feeding trough here might be postulated. In complete contrast to these suggestions it might be tempting to see Structure D, because of its location, as part of a classic domestic arrangement encountered at many manorial sites (as at Wintringham and Ellington mentioned above) of hall, chamber/solar, screens passage, kitchen, buttery and

pantry; with the structure perhaps forming the role of the latter two rooms. However, the collection of ‘muddy water’ in the stone ‘tank’ in the interior of the structure raises questions in this regard.

Abandonment of the Medieval Settlement

The reasons for the abandonment of the farm are unlikely to be answered by the archaeological record. Blaming this event on the visitations of the plague, whether the Black Death in AD1348-9 or the plagues of AD1361-2 (*mortalite des enfants*) or AD1369 may be taking the most obvious solution but may be partly valid. The most reliable English chronicler of the plague Henry Knighton claimed that ‘...virtually the whole town [of Bristol] was wiped out.’ (Platt 1996, 5) during the first visitation of the plague. However, though an exaggeration, there is an estimate (admittedly this was proposed as long ago as 1938) that in nearby Bristol the total death-rate was between 35 and 40% (McKisack 1959, 331-2). If an estimate in this region is a valid assumption, then the implications for nearby parishes like Stoke Gifford are obvious. Equally the abandonment (even demolition may not be too severe a term) at the site could be related to the social changes and rural disturbances occurring throughout the country during the middle and latter part of the 14th century (*ibid*, 329-339). These events were tied-up with various types of agricultural recession after the end of Edward II’s reign in AD1327 (*ibid*): these undoubtedly had their effect as did the famine of AD1315-18 when 10-15 per cent of peasantry in some villages perished (Dyer 1989, 140). Additionally during the greatest period of social unrest in the decades around the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries there appears to be strong evidence in many places of elaboration and enhancement of existing moated and associated fortifications which cannot be explained by the worsening of climate (causing ‘drainage’ moat digging for instance – Platt 1978, 113-4). Michael Aston asserts that no documentary evidence indicates that the Black Death permanently damaged settlements (excepting Earnshill) in the west of England but emphasizes that many places seem to disappear or needed to be resettled after the middle of the 14th century, citing Orchardleigh, South Cadbury and Witcombe in Somerset, Sezincote, Norton and Upper and Middle Ditchford in Gloucestershire (Aston 1989, 114). Indeed from an estimated peak of 4.5 – 6 million around AD1300, one authority suggests that the English population fell to 2.5 – 3 million by AD1377, reached a medieval low of 2 – 2.5 million around AD1450 and did not recover until about AD1650 (Hatcher 1977, 68-9, 70 Figs. 1 & 2). The various disasters of the 14th century lead to economic change, which themselves brought changes in methods of land exploitation. These might result in desertion but are one stage on from depopulation by plague (pers.comm. Peter Webster). They may have been the causes for the abandonment and disappearance of the farm at ‘Matford’.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Finds

Lithic Artefacts

David Mullin

A total of 10 flint objects were found during excavations at this site. The assemblage is primarily waste flakes, but an unusual chert knife is also present.

Special Find No/Context

Description

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| u/s | Tertiary flake of light brown flint. |
| u/s Area E | Secondary flake of grey flint. Narrow blade scars on dorsal surface. |
| SF79 | Broken tertiary flake of light grey gravel flint |
| SF133, deposit 6813 | Possible knife. Tertiary flake of red chert. Retouched along both lateral margins on both ventral and dorsal surfaces. Small notch on one lateral margin also appears to have been retouched. |
| 6048 | Proximal end of narrow blade of patinated light brown flint. |
| 6060 | Core rejuvenation tablet of dark grey flint. |
| 6115 | Broken blade of patinated black flint. |

- 6198/6208 Broken tertiary flake of translucent brown flint.
 6451 Broken tertiary flake of translucent light brown flint.
 6780 Broken tertiary flake of translucent light brown flint.

Discussion:

The small number of flint objects found during the excavations at Bradley Stoke Way make discussion of their significance and meaning impossible. The majority of the material consists of undiagnostic waste flakes which could be of any date within the Neolithic/Bronze Age. The narrow blade facets on the unstratified flake from Area E and the narrow blade from context 6048, Area C could, however be of Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date. The core rejuvenation tablet is likewise undiagnostic, but the possible knife is probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. This object is manufactured on a flake of chert, similar to that from the Blackdown Hills found during recent excavations by the author (Lewis & Mullin 2000). The knife is unusual both in its raw material and in that it has a retouched notch on one side, possibly for attachment to a haft (Fig. 25.1).

Suitable knapping flint does not occur naturally in the Bristol region, although some poor quality gravel flint does occur in local river and gravel deposits. More extensive deposits of flint occur in the Wiltshire chalk, c.40km east of Bristol and flint of knapping quality occurs in the Vale of Moreton, Gloucestershire (Saville 1990: 154). All of the flint found during archaeological work therefore represents deliberate importation. Although the flint assemblage is relatively uninformative, it does attest to the activity of prehistoric peoples in the Bradley Stoke area.

The Pottery

The Matford, Bradley Stoke pottery can be divided into three groups: Iron Age material, Romano-British, and medieval including a group of early medieval wares that appear specific to modern South Gloucestershire.

The assemblage was very fragmentary and generally in poor condition with most sherds showing extensive weathering and spalling of their surfaces.

Iron Age Pottery

Lisa Brown

The archaeological intervention at Matford, Bradley Stoke during 2000 and 2001 produced a total of 59 sherds weighing 270 gm which can be assigned to the Iron Age. The evaluation excavation produced 34 prehistoric sherds weighing 147gm and the mitigation excavation produced 25 sherds weighing 123 gm. The condition of the assemblage is best described as poor and fragmentary, with all sherds exhibiting signs of weathering and abrasion and the mean sherd weight of the group amounting to only 4.7 gm. Approximately half of the sherds had lost their outer surfaces. Very few sherds were reliably stratified within identifiable archaeological deposits and some of the Iron Age material is residual within later features.

Fabrics:

Predominantly sand-tempered

A1 Medium grade translucent quartz sand with silver mica flecks. Very hard fired. Mid-grey interior with brown inner and outer surfaces. Handmade vessels. No special finish. May be Iron Age. Body sherds only.

A2 Fine grade quartz sand with additional rare, small flecks of calcareous material. Body sherds only.

A3 Very fine grade, slightly micaceous sand-tempered ware with no other visible inclusions. Body sherds only.

A4 Very finely sanded, compact micaceous clay with additional sparse, ill-assorted rounded quartz grains up to 1mm and rare, weathered calcareous fragments. Body sherds only.

A5 Black Burnished Ware I (BBI south-east Dorset type). May be pre-conquest Durotrigian type. Body sherds only.

Predominantly calcite-tempered

C1 Soft, smooth, soapy clay with moderate to common inclusions of angular white calcite pieces up to 2 mm and some rounded argillaceous pieces of similar size. In some examples much of the temper is dissolved out, leaving angular vesicles. Resembles Peacock Group 3 calcite-tempered 'Glastonbury Ware' (Peacock 1969).

C2 Fine to medium quartz sand with moderate density of angular white calcite pieces up to 2mm. Similar to C1 but sandy texture. Body sherds only.

Predominantly shell-tempered

S1 Soft, smooth, soapy clay with moderate to common inclusions of platy shell fragments. Shell leached out in some examples, producing vesicular effect. Resembles Peacock Group 4 shell-tempered 'Glastonbury Ware' (Peacock 1969).

S2 Very finely sanded clay with common inclusions of very finely crushed fossil shell, probably occurring as a natural component in Jurassic clay. All examples have grey core and light orange surfaces. Body sherds only.

Predominantly grog-tempered

G1 Smooth, soapy clay with rounded, pink argillaceous pieces which may be grog. Grey core, light orange surfaces. One abraded fragment only (Fig. 24.2).

Forms:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Bowl 1 | Small globular bowl with short, out-turned rim. |
| Jar 1 | Bead-rim, ovoid jar (Fig. 24.1). |
| Jar 2 | Necked jar. |
| Base 1 | Simple, flat base. |

Discussion

The majority of sherds are small body wall fragments which can not be assigned a vessel type. None of the type A fabrics (sand-tempered wares) can be linked to forms and their classification as prehistoric is based on general appearance of fabric and treatment. On this basis, Types A1 – A4 are better placed in the Iron Age than any earlier period. Fabric A5 is Wareham – Poole Harbour Ware (Williams 1977) used in the manufacture of Durotrigian ware and, later, Roman Black Burnished Ware I. It is not possible to be certain whether the four sherds from context 6518 are Iron Age or Roman, but their general appearance would suggest a pre-conquest date.

The raw materials of the calcite and shell-tempered wares would have been easily obtainable within the broad region of Bradley Stoke. Of the two calcite-tempered wares, only C1 is represented by identifiable vessel types (Fig. 24.1) but C2 is distinguished from C1 only by its slightly sandier texture and both fabrics can be accommodated within Peacock's description of 'Glastonbury Group 3 calcite-tempered ware' with a source in the Mendip region (Peacock 1969). Shell-tempered ware S1 coincides with his 'Glastonbury Group 4', with a source in Jurassic clay beds. Three vessels recovered from this site - two globular bowls and a bead rim jar - represent an late Iron Age ceramic tradition known variously as South-Western Decorated Ware (formerly Glastonbury Ware) or Glastonbury – Blaise Castle Hill style (Cunliffe 1991, 81-85) dated from the third to first centuries BC. Fabric S2 is quite distinct from S1, incorporating very finely crushed fossil shell within a fine sandy clay. It is impossible to say whether it is contemporary with S1 since it cannot be linked to a vessel type. The position of the two sherds in the fill of a natural hollow (6068) which also produced Saxo-Norman pot may suggest it is early mediaeval.

Catalogue

| cxt | form | fabric | count | wt | surface / dec | comments | dating |
|---------------|--------|--------|-------|----|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| BRSMG 2000/40 | | | | | | | |
| 2001 | - | A1 | 2 | 11 | A | handmade | prob. IA |
| 2205 | Bowl 1 | S1 | 6 | 38 | B | Peacock group 4 | 3rd-1st BC |
| 2205 | Base 1 | S1 | 1 | 4 | B | Peacock group 4 | 3rd-1st BC |
| 2205 | - | S1 | 8 | 44 | B | Peacock group 4 | 3rd-1st BC |
| 2205 | - | C1 | 12 | 23 | B | Peacock group 3 | 3rd-1st BC |
| 2205 | Bowl 1 | C1 | 2 | 20 | B / S-T Curve | Peacock group 3 | 3rd-1st BC |
| 5402 | - | A1 | 3 | 7 | A | | prob. IA |
| BRSMG 2001/38 | | | | | | | |
| 6020 | | C2 | 6 | 10 | S | | 3rd-1st BC |
| 6020 | - | A2 | 1 | 4 | B | | prob. IA |
| 6033 | - | C2 | 2 | 3 | - | | 3rd-1st BC |
| 6043 | - | A3 | 2 | 8 | - | | prob. IA |
| 6055 | - | C1 | 1 | 11 | B | | 3rd-1st BC |
| 6068 | - | S2 | 2 | 9 | - | | IA? or ?Saxo-Norm. |
| 6095 | Jar 1 | C1 | 2 | 53 | B | | 3rd-1st BC |
| 6095 | | G1 | 1 | 4 | - | | late.1st BC-RB |
| 6155 | | C1 | 1 | 2 | B | tiny, leached frags | 3rd-1st BC |
| 6173 | | S1 | 2 | 3 | B | tiny frags | 3rd-1st BC |
| 6518 | | A5 | 4 | 13 | S | BB1 | LIA or ?RB |
| 6522 | | A4 | 1 | 3 | - | prehistoric? | prob. IA |

Romano-British and Medieval Pottery

Rod Burchill

Introduction

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight; the paucity of rims making an estimate of vessel equivalents impossible. The fabrics were visually examined, using a hand lens (x10) and, where necessary, a binocular microscope (x30)). In order to assist identification and dating of the pottery the fabric types were compared to various local type series: Bristol (BPT) (Ponsford 1998); Charlton Elm Farm (CEFT) (Burchill 1989); Seabank (SBT) (Burchill 1997), Inns Court (ICTF) (Burchill forthcoming a) and Gloucester (Ireland 1983).

The Roman and Medieval assemblage consisted of 1,988 sherds weighing 14.775kg of which 164 sherds (8.2%) were unstratified. Romano-British material accounted for 13% (239 sherds) of this assemblage and 4 sherds (0.2%) were modern. Thirty-eight sherds (2%) were in previously undefined fabrics which were not associated with other material and could not be assigned to either the Roman or post-Roman periods with certainty, although most were probably early medieval.

The Medieval pottery included a number of previously unrecorded fabrics so a site specific type series was constructed for both the Roman and post-Roman pottery, each fabric being assigned a number prefixed with the code BST (Bradley Stoke Type).

The Romano-British Pottery

The Romano-British assemblage, 239 sherds, consisted of locally common wares mostly dating to the 2nd or possibly the early 3rd century, the lack of form indicators making closer dating difficult.

Three fabric groups dominated; Severn Valley wares (46%), grog tempered oxidised wares (40%) and sandy greywares (7%).

There was little evidence to enable vessel forms to be identified; however, the Severn Valley wares appear to be mostly bowls or jars of 2nd century date, although a third century

date might be possible for some sherds (Webster 1976). Similarly, few forms could be identified for the grog tempered wares. The grey wares were all jars.

The identified vessels included a straight sided bowl of probable 2nd century date (BST58) which came from context 6058 (Fig. 24.4) and a bead rim jar of Belgic form (fabric BST69) from context 6056 (Fig. 24.6).

Recovered from context 6266 was a sherd of a jar in BST60. This grog tempered grey ware is similar to a fabric found at Chew Valley Lake (Rahtz & Greenfield 1977), Marshfield (Ward 1985) and Bagendon (Clifford 1961). A jar in the same fabric found at Inns Court (fabric ICTF69) (Burchill forthcoming) may have been used to contain a cremation or votive offering. All were dated mid 1st to early 2nd century. It may be the same as Oare Fabric 1 (Swann 1975).

Black burnished ware, normally common from the second century onwards was noticeable only by its complete absence from the assemblage. There was a single sherd of 2nd century Samian pottery, probably from Central Gaul from context 6079 (pers. comm. Peter Webster). The general lack of Samian pottery suggests low status rural activity (*ibid*).

The Medieval Pottery

The commonest type of pottery found at Matford, Bradley Stoke was the Ham Green jar in the standard fabric (BST14), which accounted for some 17.2% of the post-Roman assemblage. These standard jars are dated between c.1140 and 1300 depending on form (Burchill 1995, Ponsford 1991). The assemblage also included a small number of jars in the coarse Ham Green fabric (BST30) production of which is thought to start earlier in the 12th century and appears to have ceased by c.1200 (Burchill 1996).

The next most common type (13.5%) was a group of variable flint tempered fabrics all of which have been described as BST20. Although the inclusions vary all are typical of the products attributed to the west Wiltshire pottery industry: most probably being produced in the area around Warminster (Burchill 1996). These flint-tempered wares are common throughout the Avon valley occurring in large numbers in Bath (Fabric A) (Vince 1979) and Eckweek (Young forthcoming), where it occurs from the 11th century onwards, and Bristol (BPT46) where it is considered not to occur before the 12th century (Ponsford 1998).

Other locally common coarse wares present in the assemblage included BST27, a type - BPT309 (formerly Bristol A) - that was very common at Mary-le-Port (Vince 1985) and found in abundance during excavations at Peter Street, Bristol in 1975 (Burchill pers observ). Vince considered this type to date from as early as 950 terminating c.1080. BST22 and BST29 are quartz and shell gritted wares that can be paralleled at a number of sites in the Avon valley including Bristol where similar fabrics BPT115 and 20 have been dated to the late 11th and 12th century (Burchill 1996). North-west Wiltshire limestone gritted wares (BST1) were present in both hand built and wheel-thrown forms dating between c.1080 and 1300 depending on type.

Glazed wares accounted for 19.6% of the assemblage, mostly later 13th century products of the Bristol kilns (BST2 and 10), which represented 78% of the glazed vessels. Twelfth century Ham Green jugs were relatively few in number accounting only for 3.8% of the assemblage. Also noted was a single sherd of a glazed quartz gritted jug of probable South Gloucestershire origin (BST57) and five 13th or early 14th century sherds from the Donyatt, South Somerset kilns (BST35).

As at a number of other sites on the north Bristol fringe, the excavations at Matford, Bradley Stoke produced a group of quartz-gritted jars, many of which had not previously been recorded. These quartz gritted fabrics can be divided into two groups: quartz and iron ores - 19 identified fabrics: BST 6, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 31, 32, 38, 42, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 70, and quartz with iron ores and limestone - 13 fabrics: BST4, 7, 12, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 39, 45, 53 and 55. Some of these types can be paralleled at Charlton Elm Farm (Burchill 1989), Harry Stoke (Burchill 1996) and Seabank (Burchill 1997). The dating of these quartz gritted wares remains problematical, some can be dated stylistically whilst the rest remain undated except when

found in association with other dated wares. Most, however, appear to belong to the later 11th and 12th centuries.

Except for four sherds of 19th century material recovered from the topsoil none of the pottery is likely to date to after c.1350.

Discussion

The Romano-British pottery appeared to be mainly 2nd century in date, although, it is possible that at least two vessels, a Belgic style jar and a jar in fabric 60 might belong in the late 1st century. The absence of black burnished ware which is so common on west country sites from the mid 2nd century onwards and other later Romano-British wares would suggest that Romano-British activity had probably ceased by c.150 AD or soon after.

The lack of table wares in the assemblage suggests it represents domestic activity possibly associated with food preparation and storage.

The ceramic evidence suggests that post-Roman occupation of the site started sometime in the early 11th century with the site having been abandoned by c.1350.

Prior to 1250, coarse wares dominated the pottery assemblage with the jar being by far the most common form. Few glazed vessels occurred in pre-1250 contexts, those that did were products of the Ham Green kilns: mostly A-type jugs dating between 1120 and 1170 the assemblage also included a small number of B-type jug which were produced between 1170 and c.1225 (Ponsford 1991). No late B jugs were noted. After 1250 glazed wares mostly jugs became much more common. Dominated by Bristol made jugs the post 1250 assemblage also included examples of jugs from Donyatt in south Somerset and a jug in a quartz gritted fabric possibly originating in the Thornbury area of South Gloucestershire where it is very common (Ponsford 1998).

The unsourced group of 11th and 12th century quartz gritted coarse wares are an enigma. They belong to a general grouping of fabrics first noted in 1986 for which the writer coined the name North Avon Gritty ware (Burchill 1989b). Although now being recognised on a number of sites, their distribution still appears to be restricted to the south-west corner of South Gloucestershire. A number of these gritty fabrics are generically similar to the quartz gritted glazed ware BST 57 (BPT121): Ponsford (1998) has suggested that BPT121 probably originates in the Thornbury area and it is possible that the quartz gritted coarse wares are also being produced in that area. However, Ponsford's hypothesis as to the source of Bristol Type 121 (BS57) is based on his observations of the quantities of this fabric to be found in the Thornbury area and no kiln site as yet been found. A second group of similar fabrics have in addition to the quartz and iron ore, various quantities of limestone. These wares although quite coarse may in fact be more closely related to the Bath D (Vince 1979) group of fabrics with a source to the east or north of Bath.

Context Dating

6000: modern

6001: 2nd/3rd cent

6007: 2nd cent

6010: 2nd cent

6012: 2nd/early 3rd cent

6018: 2nd/3rd cent

6023: late 13th cent

6030: 2nd/3rd cent

6035: 2nd cent

6037: 3rd (possibly 2nd)

6046: 2nd/3rd

6047: 2nd/early 3rd

6048: Probably 2nd

6052: RB

6054: 2nd cent

6056: 2nd cent

6058: Probably 2nd cent

6060: late 13th

6062: RB

6064: N/D ?RB

6068: 2nd cent

6069: RB

6076: 2nd cent

6078: 2nd/early 3rd cent

6079: Probably 2nd cent

6088: 2nd/early 3rd cent

6092: 2nd/early 3rd cent

6095: 2nd cent
6115: RB (prob 2nd or 3rd)
6119: 2nd/3rd cent
6129: N/D
6139: N/D (prob med)
6140: 1120-1170
6150: 2nd/3rd cent
6152: 1300-1350
6171: 2nd/early 3rd
6185: late 13th
6188: late 13th
6189: late 13th/early 14th
6195: late 13th
6196: 1120-1200
6207: 1150-1200
6208: 12th cent
6211: 1120-1160
6219: 1120/1140-1200
6222: N/D
6226: N/D (med)
6227: N/D
6229: 12th cent
6231: early 14th
6247: 1300-1350
6248: RB
6250: early 14th
6256: 950-1080 – form suggests
11th cent)
6257: 1300-1350
6259: RB prob 3rd cent
6260: mid – late 12th cent
6263: 2nd/3rd cent
6266: 2nd/3rd cent
6268: 2nd/3rd cent
6271: RB
6279: mid/late 13th cent
6280: late 13th cent
6281: N/D prob RB
6286: Modern
6285: N/D
6300: mid/late 13th cent
6303: N/D prob pre-conquest
6304: late 13th cent.
6305: med
6306: mid-late 12th
6308: 12th cent
6309: mid-late 12th cent
6310: mid-late 12th cent
6314: 1280-1330s
6316: N/D
6323: 12th cent
6327: mid/late 13th cent
6329: mid/late 13th cent
6330: N/D
6333: mid/late 13th
6334: 12th cent
6337: 12th cent
6341: 1280-1330s
6392: N/D – possibly 1000-1070
6393: N/D – prob 11th cent
6394: mid/late 13th cent
6399: Med
6406: late 11th cent
6407: med
6409: N/D ? med
6415: late 13th cent
6419: late 13th cent
6423: 1170-1225
6426: 13th cent
6428: N/D (med)
6429: late 13th cent
6438: 1300-1350
6439: 1300-1350
6441: N/D
6444: 1140-1200
6448: early 14th cent
6449: 1300-1350
6451: 12th cent
6452: 1300-1350
6454: later 13th
6455: early 14th
6456: later 13th cent
6457: 12th possibly late 11th cent
6458: 12th cent
6467: later 13th cent
6469: 1150-1200
6470: later 13th cent
6471: 1150-1250
6472: 1150-1250
6473: later 13th cent
6474: 12th cent
6475: mid/late 12th cent
6478: N/D med
6480: 1280-1330s
6482: mid -late 13th cent
6486: mid-late 13th cent
6489: ? 12th cent
6490: 12th cent
6493: 1140-1200
6495: 1300-1350
6497: 12th cent
6498: 1170-1225
6503: 1140-1200
6512: N/D (late 11th/12th)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6515: med | 6669: 12th cent |
| 6518: 2nd cent | 6672: 12th cent |
| 6517: late 11th/12th cent | 6674: 12th cent |
| 6520: ? 12th cent | 6675: 12th cent |
| 6522: 950-1080 | 6677: 1000-1070 |
| 6525: mid-late 13th cent | 6679: 1070-1120 |
| 6528: N/D – med | 6683: N/D |
| 6529: late 13th/early 14th cent | 6686: mid 14th cent |
| 6532: N/D – med | 6688: late 13th cent |
| 6535: mid-late 13th cent | 6691: 1120-1170s |
| 6536: ? 12th cent | 6692: 12th cent |
| 6537: late 11th/12th cent | 6696: 14th cent |
| 6538: 12th cent | 6702: mid 14th |
| 6540: 12th cent | 6706: N/D |
| 6544: late 11th/early 12th cent | 6708: 13th cent |
| 6547: N/D – RB | 6711: N/D |
| 6549: mid-late 13th cent | 6713: 12th cent |
| 6550: mid 13th cent | 6718: late 13th |
| 6554: 1070-1120 | 6725: 12th cent |
| 6558: 1080-1120 | 6727: 12th cent |
| 6559: mid-late 12th cent | 6726: 12th cent |
| 6601: ? RB | 6772: 12th cent |
| 6606: mid-late 13th cent | 6733: 12th cent |
| 6607: mid-late 13th cent | 6734: N/D |
| 6609: 12th cent | 6737: 1000-1070 |
| 6610: 12th cent | 6739: 12th cent |
| 6613: 12th cent | 6741: late 11th/early 12th cent |
| 6614: mid/late 13th cent | 6745: 1070-1120 |
| 6615: 12th cent | 6747: 1070-1120 |
| 6616: 12th cent | 6748: 1080-1120 |
| 6617: 1070-1120 | 6749: late 11th/12th cent |
| 6620: 1120-1170 | 6751: 950-1080 |
| 6624: 12th cent | 6752: late 11th/12th cent |
| 6626: 12th cent | 6754: N/D |
| 6632: med – prob 12th cent | 6757: 1120 –1170s |
| 6638: 1080-1120 | 6759: 1070-1120 |
| 6639: late 13th cent | 6760: 1080-1120 |
| 6640: med – prob 12th. | 6762: 1170-1120 |
| 6641: RB | 6763: 12th cent |
| 6643: mid-late 13th cent | 6764: N/D |
| 6645: 12th cent | 6767: 12th cent |
| 6648: 12th cent | 6769: 12th cent |
| 6650: ? 12th cent | 6771: late 11th/12th cent |
| 6653: 12th cent | 6772: ? 12th cent |
| 6654: 1080-1120 | 6773: N/D |
| 6655: 12th cent | 6775: 12th cent |
| 6656: 12th cent | 6777: 1070-1100 |
| 6660: late 11th- mid 12th cent | 6782: ? 12th cent |
| 6662: late 11th- mid 12th | 6784: 1070-1120 |
| 6664: 2nd/3rd cent | 6788: ? 12th cent |
| 6666: med | 6789: 12th cent |
| 6668: 12th cent | 6793: 12th cent |

6795: 12th cent
6796: 12th cent
6805: 12th cent
6807: mid – late 13th cent
6810: 12th cent
6812: 12th cent
6813: 1170-1225
6814: 12th cent
6815: 1170-1225

6817: late 11th/12th cent
6819: late 11th/12th cent
6821: N/D
6823: 12th cent
6825: late 12th/early 13th cent
6828: 12th cent
6830: 12th cent
6832: 12th cent
6834: N/D

Pottery Fabric Type Series

The pottery was assigned to a site specific type series. To assist the dating of the material the pottery types were compared to other local type series, in particular Bristol (Ponsford 1998); Charlton Elm Farm (Burchill 1989 and Seabank (Burchill 1997)

BST1 Oolitic limestone tempered wares – Minety Type. Hand built 1080-1300; wheel thrown AD1300-1500.

BST2 Bristol/Redcliffe wares. AD1250-1500 depending on style.

BST3 Hard, smooth grey brown fabric with brown external surface. Poorly sorted inclusions of fossiliferous limestone.

BST4 Hard, gritty, black fabric with brown surfaces. Abundant quartz, moderate iron ores and limestone. Hackly break and some pitting of surface. Similar to CEFT 28.

ST5 Hard, sandy grey fabric, brown externally and patchy orange on internal surfaces. Abundant quartz, rare dark grits possibly fine coloured quartz. RB

BST6 Hard, gritty, grey black fabric with black external surface. Common sub-rounded quartz, rare iron ores.

BST7 Hard, smooth, black fabric with heavily pitted surfaces. Poorly mixed common fossiliferous limestone, rare quartz and iron ore. Similar to CEFT 46.

BST8 Smooth pale grey fabric with pitted buff surfaces. Abundant limestone, rare iron ores. Same as SBT20. AD1000-1070

BST9 Hard black fabric with red brown surfaces; sandy feel to internal surface. Abundant quartz, rare iron ores. Rather chaotic fabric.

BST10 Hard buff fabric with abundant fine quartz, sparse to moderate red iron ores and sparse black grits. Same as BPT363. 13th/14th century.

BST11 Hard, smooth grey fabric with abundant limestone and rare iron ores.

BST12 Black fabric with pitted brown surfaces. Common sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz, sparse limestone, rare iron ore and shell. Similar to CEFT23. Similar to BPT3 which is AD1000-1070 in Bristol.

BST13 Hard, gritty grey fabric with orange brown surfaces. Abundant medium quartz, common red iron ores, common non-calcareous white grits possibly dolomite, rare flint or chert.

BST14 Hard red sandy fabric containing abundant quartz. Ham Green jar fabric. Same as BPT32. AD1140-1300 according to form.

BST15 Gritty grey fabric with orange brown surfaces. Abundant medium quartz, common red iron ores, sparse quartzite. Similar to CEFT 33 but type sherd lacks the limestone of that type.

BST16 Hard slightly sandy brick-red fabric. Abundant quartz and iron ores; rare white stones.

BST17 Ham Green A jugs. As BPT26. AD1120-1170s

BST18 Sandy dark grey fabric with buff surfaces. Abundant quartz, rare iron ores.

BST19 Grey fabric with grey brown surfaces. Common quartz, moderate iron ores, rare quartzite.

BST20 Quartz and flint tempered wares similar to BPT46. West Wiltshire. 11th to 13th century according to fabric and form.

BST21 Ham Green B jugs. As BPT27. AD1170s-1300 by form.

BST22 Hard grey fabric sometimes oxidised with abundant quartz and varying amounts of limestone and shell. Same as BPT115. AD1070-1100.

BPT23 Smooth, hard buff fabric, orange buff externally. Common limestone, moderate quartz and iron ores. Pitted surfaces.

BST24 Smooth grey fabric with brown pitted surfaces. Common limestone, moderate iron ore and shell, rare quartz. Similar to CEFT 23

BST25 Sandy, buff grey fabric with buff surfaces. Common quartz, moderate grey limestone, sparse iron ores, rare to sparse shell. Some surface pitting. Same as CEFT28.

BST26 Hard well fired dark coloured fabric with common quartz, rare iron ores and fine calcareous grits. Same as BPT5. AD1080-1120.

BST27 Hard grey fabric with buff to brown surfaces. Varying amounts of quartz, limestone, calcite, sandstone, chert and mudstones. Similar to BPT309. AD?950-1080.

BST28 Sandy grey fabric with grey black core. Abundant quartz, sparse to moderate fine limestone, rare dark grey grog. Moderate fine iron ores visible at x30mag. Romano-British.

BST29 Hard sandy grey fabric with orange brown surfaces. Abundant quartz and varying amounts of limestone. Internal surfaces often decayed. Similar to BPT20. AD1070-1120.

BST30 Hard gritty grey fabric often with oxidised surfaces. Abundant rounded quartz and sparse limestone. Ham Green. 12th century.

BST31 Gritty grey fabric, buff brown externally. Abundant rounded quartz, rare iron ores.

BST32 Hard sandy black fabric with abundant quartz and rare iron ores. Laminar fabric with wiped external surface.

BST33 Hard grey fabric, orange internal and brown external surfaces. Sparse quartz, moderate iron ores and limestone. Pitting on external surface.

BST34 Slightly sandy, hard grey fabric with buff internal and orange buff external surface. Abundant limestone, rare quartz and iron ore. Some pitting of surfaces. Possibly similar to CEFT26.

BST35 Donyatt medieval wares.

BST36 Smooth brown fabric with abundant quartz and rare limestone.

BST37 Sandy grey ware. Romano British.

BST38 Hard brown fabric with pitting of surfaces. Common quartz. Common red iron ores visible on surfaces only.

BST39 Sandy grey black fabric with buff/brown surfaces. Abundant quartz, rare limestone and rare iron ore particularly on surface.

BST40 Hard gritty black or grey buff fabric with very abundant quartz. As BPT17. South-east Wiltshire. AD1080-1200.

BST41 Moderately hard orange fabric with grey core and Micaceous surfaces. Common red grog. Romano-British

BST42 Hard, sandy grey black fabric with orange brown surfaces. Abundant quartz, rare iron ores and non-calcareous yellow grains.

BST43 Hard black fabric with pink buff surfaces dusted with mica. Rare quartz and iron ore. Romano-British

BST44 Slightly sandy black fabric with buff surfaces. Common quartz and rare iron ores.

BST45 Grey brown fabric with brown internal and buff external surfaces. Abundant sub-rounded quartz, rare iron ore and shell.

BST46 Moderately hard brown fabric with very fine quartz and yellow grits visible at x30mag.

BST47 Hard gritty grey brown fabric with brown surfaces. Abundant quartz and rare iron ores.

BST48 Corky buff brown fabric heavily pitted throughout. Rare quartz and iron ore. The fabric is non-calcareous.

BST49 Gritty grey brown fabric with orange brown surfaces. Abundant quartz, common iron ores.

BST50 Smooth red brown laminar fabric with buff brown external surface. Abundant quartz and quartzite, rare iron ore.

BPT51 Colour coated ware. Romano-British

BPT52 Very gritty hard dark grey fabric with orange buff surfaces. Abundant quartz, rare iron ores.

BPT53 Sandy black fabric with buff brown external surface. Abundant fine quartz, rare decayed limestone and rare iron ore. Similar to CEFT27.

BPT54 Glazed version of BST40.

BST55 Gritty grey brown fabric with buff external surface. Common limestone, sparse calcite, rare quartz and iron ore.

BST56 Soft orange fabric with rare buff grog. Common very fine quartz visible at x30mag. Romano-British.

BST57 Hard gritty grey fabric with abundant quartz. Patchy green glaze. Same as BPT121. AD1300-1350

BST58 Slightly sandy brown to grey black fabric with mica dusted surface. Abundant very fine quartz. Romano-British (Fig. 24.4).

BST59 Hard smooth black fabric, grey buff externally. Abundant calcite. Romano-British.

BST60 Smooth, moderately hard, thick dark grey fabric with pale grey surfaces. Pale and dark grey grog. Romano-British. Similar to ICTF69.

BST61 Dark grey black fabric. No visible inclusions but fine quartz matrix at x30mag. Romano-British. Same as SBT17 (Severn Valley) 2nd/3rd century.

BST62 Soft grey fabric with micaceous buff surfaces. Sparse buff grog and rare iron ores. Same as SBT51. 2nd/3rd century (Fig. 24.5).

BST63 Hard grey brown fabric with brown surfaces. Abundant quartz.

BST64 Samian ware.

BST65 Hard buff fabric becoming orange buff towards surfaces. Decayed orange external surface – possibly a colour coat. Common rounded quartz. Romano-British.

BST66 Sandy pale grey fabric with darker grey surfaces. Common fine to medium quartz. Romano-British

BST67 AS BST5

BST68 Soft slightly micaceous orange fabric. Common orange and buff grog, rare quartz. Romano-British

BST69 Black fabric with grey surfaces. Moderate black inclusions probably iron ores. Romano-British (Fig. 24.6).

BST70 Thick grey buff fabric with black surfaces. Abundant quartz, common iron ores. Chaotic poorly mixed fabric.

BST71 Hard slightly sandy grey fabric with no visible inclusions. Matrix contains very fine quartz. Romano-British

BST72 Brown micaceous fabric no visible conclusions. Romano-British.

BST73 Sandy grey fabric with brown surfaces. Abundant fine quartz, sparse iron ores. Surface sparkle probably crushed quartz. Romano-British. Similar to SBT14. 2nd/3rd century.

BST74 Slightly sandy dark brown fabric. Abundant very fine quartz (Fig. 24.3).

BST75 Black fabric with grey internal and orange brown external surfaces. Abundant quartz, moderate iron ore. Moderate/common non-calcareous white grains on external surface. Same as SBT46.

BST76 Thin hard buff fabric. Moderate to common quartz, rare iron ores.

BST77 Thick hard grey fabric with orange brown surfaces. Sparse grey inclusions -? Clay pellets, rare quartz and iron ores. Similar to SBT47.

BST78 Thick red brown fabric with brown surfaces. Common quartz, moderate red metallic iron ore, rare non-calcareous white grits.

Illustrated Pottery (Fig. 24)

Iron Age

1 Bead rim ovoid jar. Resembles Glastonbury Ware (Peacock 1969).
3rd/1st century BC

Fabric C1

Context 6095

2 Rim of a small shouldered jar. Probably very late Iron Age

Context 6095

Romano-British

3 Everted rim jar with a faint groove at the shoulder. Unsourced but probably
2nd century.

BST74

Context 6054

4 Straight sided bowl. Sandy grey black fabric with mica dusted surfaces.
2nd century

- BST58 Context 6058
- 5 Jar in a micaceous grog tempered fabric similar to SBT51. 2nd/3rd century AD.
BST62 Context 6263
- 6 Small jar heavily sooted externally. Unsourced.
BST69 Context 6056
- Medieval**
- 7 Everted rim with a thick external bead. The fabric is similar to CEFT23 and also to BPT3 which is dated AD1000 to 1070 in Bristol.
BST12 Context 6392
- 8 Everted squared rim in a similar fabric to BPT309 which has been dated as early as *c.*950 (Vince 1985) but is most common in the 11th century. It does not seem to extend much beyond *c.*1080
BST27 Context 6474
- 9 Slightly everted rim of a jar.
BST27 Context 6813
- 10 Everted rim with external bead.
BST27 Context 6559
- 11 The exact form is uncertain but possibly a small dish. The fabric is similar to CEFT23 (Burchill 1986) which was considered to be pre-Conquest.
- 12 Strongly everted rim interned rim. A West Wiltshire product similar to BPT 46 and Bath A. Usually 12th century in the Bristol area the coarseness of the fabric might suggest that the sherds origins lie earlier possibly in the late 11th or early 12th century.
BST20 Context 6759
- 13 Everted rim of a globular jar. Same as CEFT28. Probably 12th century, however, CEFT28 occurred in a possible late 11th century context at Charlton.
BST25 Context 6559
- 14 Jar. The quartz gritted fabric is generally similar to CEFT33 (Burchill 1986) but it lacks the limestone found in that type. 12th century.
BST15 Context 6713
- 15 Rim of a pitcher in a gritty grey fabric with unglazed orange brown surfaces. Probably 12th century.
BST15 Context 6334
- 16 Rim of a jar with both internal and external bevel. The upper surface has been flattened possibly with the thumb. 12th century
BST39 Context6713
- 17 Everted externally thickened rim. Probably 12th century.
BST15 Context 6474
- 18 Internally bevelled rim with thumbbed along external edge. Probably 12th century

| | | |
|-------|---|--------------|
| BST15 | | Context 6474 |
| 19 | Jar with internally bevelled rim decorated with thumb indentations along the outer edge. Probably 12th century. | |
| BST15 | | Context 6478 |
| 20 | Clubbed rim of a wide mouth jar. 1170-1225 | |
| BST20 | | Context |
| 21 | Simple rim with shallow thumb or finger impressions along external edge. Ham Green – same as BPT32. Late 12th century. | |
| BST14 | | Context 6825 |
| 22 | Rounded thumb pinched rim decorated externally with faint wavy comb. Late 12th century. | |
| BST14 | | Context 6825 |
| 23 | Simple rounded thumb rim decorated externally with a comb. Late 12th century. | |
| BST14 | | Context 6825 |
| 24 | Part of a vessel of unknown form sooted on one face. Associated with late 13th century pottery. | |
| BST42 | | Context 6643 |
| 25 | Everted simple rounded rim. Heat damage to rim. Probably late 13th century. | |
| BST39 | | Context 6607 |
| 26 | Strongly everted almost right-angle rim of squared type but with a protruding edge. Not sourced but associated with late 13th/early 14th century pottery. Possibly similar to CEFT26. | |
| BST34 | | Context 6480 |
| 27 | Lower profile of a small globular jug with splayed base. Decorated with a wide toothed comb. Decayed external green glaze. Bristol/Redcliffe as BPT118. AD1280-1330. | |
| BST2 | | Context 6490 |
| 28 | Strongly everted rim of a large jar. Wheel thrown Minety type ware. AD1300-1500 | |
| BST1 | | Context 6490 |
| 29 | Pitcher or jug handle. Appears to be unglazed suggesting a later vessel. North-west Wiltshire. | |
| BST1 | | Context 6423 |
| 30 | Everted rim and upper profile of a jar. There is a cord around the girth with diagonal comb to the shoulder. Faint traces of a green glaze. Unsourced. | |
| BST23 | | Context 6528 |

Context 6195

late 13th century

Stone Objects

Rod Burchill

1) Shaped sandstone block. Probably intended as a whetstone but broken before use.

Context 6286 SF191 Modern

2) Fragment of pennant sandstone. One edge surface and one flat surface are very smooth suggesting the it has been used as a whetstone.

Context 6308 SF193 12th century

3) Mortar. Jurassic limestone. External dimensions 215mm x 71mm deep with chamfered basal angle. The bowl has a maximum internal diameter of 160mm tapering to c.113mm at the base of the bowl. The bowl is c.47mm deep. The object appears very rough and is possibly unfinished. (Fig. 25.2)

Context 6815 SF132 AD1170-1225

4) Block of pennant sandstone with smoothed face. Probably used as a sharpening stone but may be part of a saddle quern. Possibly heat damaged.

Context 6614 SF192 mid/late 13th cent

Small fragments of pennant sandstone were recovered from seven contexts, none exhibited a specific function.

Copper Alloy Objects

Rod Burchill

1) Form discernable by x-radiograph. The object consists of a spike or pin with a crown of raised quill-like structures in the manner of flower petals. Length of pin 7mm; diameter of head 11mm.

Possibly part of a stud for a belt or apron (see Crummy 1983).

Context 6069 SF1 Romano-British

2) Base of a tubular spout from a "Plain" ewer or "laver". A hole on the underside of the spout is secondary. Cast in Bronze. (Fig. 25.4)

This form is most common in Britain where it is current throughout most of the 14th century. Plain ewers have a pear-shaped, undecorated body with no lid. Legs are triangular in section ending in plain feet. They have a plain strap handle. The spout is hexagonal in section, and is curved with a strut joining it to the neck (See Lewis 1987)

Context 6152 SF8 AD1300-1350

Lead Object

Rod Burchill

1) Lead ball. Diameter 2mm.

Context 6397 SF116 No pottery

The Coin

Rosie Clarke (BaRAS)

1) Cut silver long cross halfpenny - class IIIc (without sceptre). Mint either Exeter, Hereford or Lincoln. AD1247-50

Context 6136 SF3

Iron Objects

Rod Burchill

1) Incomplete horse shoe with five rectangular nail holes. Unusually, the nail holes are equally spaced around the margin including the toe. Clark (1986) has suggested that such shoes represent a foreign introduction in the late 14th century. (Fig. 25.6)

Unstratified SF109 Probably 14th cent

2) Key with kidney shaped bow and complex bit with one of the clefts forming an enclosed aperture. This type is paralleled in London in a 14th century context (Egan 1998, 312). In discussing the London example Egan questions the function of the enclosed aperture as there is no evidence among medieval locks for the later technological developments, which do use such features. Bit 26mm x 17mm. (Fig. 25.3)

Context 6420 SF118 Probably 14th cent

3) Link from a chain. Length 55mm.

Context 6578 SF172 Medieval

4) Link from a chain. Dimensions 76mm x 48mm.

Context 6189 SF119 late13th/early14th Century

5) Fragment of a horse shoe: one nail *in situ*, no caulkin. (Fig. 25.7)

Context 6152 SF5 AD1300-1350

6) Pierced disc possibly a washer. Overall diameter 20mm; central hole 7mm.

Context 6247 SF146 AD1300-1350

7) Fragment of a large hook.

Context 6449 SF122 AD1300-1350

8) Fragment of angled thin sheet – possibly from a casket.

Context 6152 SF12 AD1300-1350

9) Four fragments of thin strip or plate.

Context 6188 SF10 late 13th cent.

10) Two fragments of thin strip or plate.

Context 6256 SF184 Late 11th cent.

11) Staple with rectangular section. Overall dimensions 65mm x 37mm.

Context 6301 SF114 No pottery

12) Incomplete ox-shoe. Four rectangular nail holes were visible on the x-radiograph. (Fig. 25.5)

Unstratified SF100 Medieval

13) Fragments of a possible knife blade. Insufficient survives to identify type.

Context 6103 SF2 No Pottery

14) Fragment of folded sheet metal with at least one rivet hole.

Context 6188 SF11 Late 13th cent

Nails

A total of 75 complete or part complete nails were recovered from the excavation. Two were recovered from Romano-British contexts, 50 from medieval contexts and 16 were found in contexts with no other dating material. A further 7 nails were modern.

A full list of the nails can be found in archive.

Assessment of Metallurgical Waste Material

Peter Insole (BaRAS)

Seven contexts produced metallurgical waste, all ferrous in nature and deriving from small-scale iron working activity, the majority probably from smithing, although two fragments of tap slag may indicate the presence of a bloomery furnace in the vicinity.

The total quantity amounted to 1800g suggesting that iron working was not the primary function of the site. Much of this waste material derived from context 6825 and consisted of fragments of a hearth bottom.

SF59 fragment possibly from a smithing hearth

6018 25g, amorphous iron slag, possibly smithing hearth bottom fragment.

6134 350g, three fragments of tap slag from a bloomery furnace

6136 25g, two fragments; a possible tap slag fragment and an amorphous ferrous fragment.

6137 Small amorphous ferrous fragment.

6334 fragment of cinder

6392 25g, tap slag fragment, dense with slight flow lines on upper surface.

6426 25g, amorphous ferrous fragment.

6480 500g, dense fragment of ferrous metallurgical waste, with limited flow patterns and fuel casts on underside and slightly concave top. Possible furnace layer of Lias fused to side.

Possible hearth bottom, the dense nature, flow patterns and Lias fusing may suggest that this is a furnace hearth bottom.

6706 undiagnostic

6825 850g, multiple fragments, although limited fracture. Fuel fragments and casts on underside, concave top and fused Lias on many fragments.

As with 6480, this material may be a bloomery furnace hearth bottom.

The evidence from this assemblage is limited suggesting that metalworking was only an occasional activity on the site. Although the material from contexts 6480 and 6825 suggests the presence of a bloomery furnace, the general lack of tap slag contradicts this supposition; the fragments could merely be representative of usual agricultural smithing from any period since the iron age.

Assessment of the Faunal Remains

L. Higbee

Quantity and Provenance of Material

The total quantity of animal bone recovered from the site is 231 fragments the majority of this material is from medieval contexts that range in date from the 12th-14th century (table 1). For the purpose of this assessment material recovered from alluvium, top/sub-soil and unstratified contexts have been quantified in tables 1 and 2 below but will not form part of the discussion.

Table 1. Quantity and provenance of faunal remains.

| <i>Phase</i> | <i>Bulk Finds (frag. count)</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Iron Age | 13 |
| Romano-British | 19 |
| Saxo-Norman | 34 |
| Medieval | 123 |
| Alluvium | 2 |
| Top/Sub-soil | 13 |
| Unstratified | 27 |
| TOTAL | 231 |

Range and Variety of Material

Approximately 49% of the assemblage can be identified to species, a further 13% can be assigned to general size categories (i.e. "cattle-sized") and the remaining 38% is undiagnostic splinters of bone greater than 2cm. In common with most animal bone assemblages from British Archaeological sites the Bradley Stoke assemblage is dominated by domestic species (table 2.). Cattle, sheep/goat and pig account for 90% of the total number of identified specimens (or NISP). Other species identified include horse and chicken.

Table 2. Number of identified specimens per species (NISP) by phase.

| <i>Species</i> | <i>IA</i> | <i>RB</i> | <i>Saxo-N</i> | <i>Med</i> | <i>Alluv</i> | <i>Top/Sub soil</i> | <i>US</i> |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Cattle | 5 | 8 | 7 | 19 | - | 2 | 6 |
| Sheep/ Goat | 5 | 4 | 3 | 24 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Pig | - | - | 3 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Horse | - | 1 | - | 6 | - | - | 1 |
| Chicken | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| Bird indet | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Cattle- sized | - | - | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Sheep- sized | - | 2 | 1 | 10 | - | - | 4 |
| Unidentifiable | 3 | 5 | 18 | 49 | - | 2 | 7 |
| TOTAL | 13 | 19 | 34 | 123 | 2 | 13 | 27 |

Iron Age

Thirteen bone fragments were recovered from 6 separate contexts of Iron Age date. The diagnostic fraction includes cattle and sheep/goat bones and loose teeth are common. In addition one cattle metatarsal and first phalanx and one sheep/goat metacarpal were also identified.

Romano-British

Five separate contexts of Romano-British date yielded between 1-5 bone fragments each. The diagnostic fraction includes cattle, sheep/goat and horse and once again loose teeth are common. Age estimates based on sheep/goat teeth indicate that this species was culled around 18-24 months of age.

Saxo-Norman

Nineteen separate contexts of Saxo-Norman date produced between 1-2 bone fragments each. Only bones from the three common domestic species have been identified. Pig is represented exclusively by loose teeth whilst cattle and sheep/goat are represented by bones taken to represent meat cuts (i.e. bones from the fore and hind limb).

Medieval

The (high) medieval assemblage represents the largest and most varied recovered from the site. A total of 52 contexts yielded between 1-13 bone fragments each. Sheep/goat and cattle bones are common and the range of carcass parts represented is more varied than previous phases. Pig bones are also fairly common and represented almost exclusively by loose teeth and a single ulna fragments. Wear stages recorded for individual pig teeth indicate that all were culled whilst immature or subadult. This is fairly typical of a species reared exclusively for its meat and fat.

Horse and chicken were also identified from the medieval assemblage. Horse is represented by an astragalus from a 12th century context and a metapodial and loose teeth from 14th century contexts. Several bones from a single chicken leg were recovered from context (6534) which dates to the 14th century.

General Summary

The medieval assemblage is the largest stratified collection of bones from the site. The assemblages from all phases are characterised by domestic species exploited for food with the exception of horse.

Condition of Material

The preservation of bone is variable between phases in general terms bone recovered from later contexts (i.e. Saxo-Norman, medieval and topsoil) is poorly preserved. A number of fragments were recorded as abraded and/or exfoliated from these phases. There is an obvious bias towards the survival of harder calcified (tooth enamel) in all phases. This suggests that a significant quantity of information has been lost due to unfavourable conditions in the burial environment. Canid gnaw marks which can obliterate surface detail and reduce the number of diagnostic specimens were recorded on only 3 bones in the medieval assemblage.

Means of Collecting the Data

The entire assemblage was assessed by rapid scanning and the following information recorded; species, anatomical element, age related features, completeness for morphometric analysis (quantified in table 3 below), as well as more general observations on butchery, taphonomy and pathology. This information was entered into a database for dissemination and is available in the site archive. For a full description of the methods considered in the assessment of this assemblage see Davis (1992).

Statement of Potential for Further Analysis

The assemblage has limited potential for further analysis due to the small number of specimens recovered from each phase and the low number of fragments suitable for more detailed study (see table 3 below). Bone fragments from some phases have suffered some degree of abrasion and exfoliation in the burial environment and there is an obvious bias towards the survival of more robust anatomical elements and calcified tissue types. Taking all this into consideration no further work is recommended on the assemblage.

Table 3. Quantity of zoo-archaeologically significant bones expressed as number of fragments.

| <i>Phase</i> | <i>Mensural data</i> | <i>Ageing data</i> |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Iron Age | - | 1 |
| Romano-British | - | 3 |
| Saxo-Norman | 1 | - |
| Medieval | 13 | 18 |
| Total | 13 | 22 |

The Charred Plant Remains

Wendy J. Carruthers

Introduction

During the excavation soil samples were taken from a range of deposits for the recovery of environmental remains. The samples were processed by BaRAS staff using standard methods of floatation. A 250 micron mesh was used to recover the float and a 1mm mesh was used to retain the residue. The dried flots from 63 of these samples were sent to the author to be assessed for charred plant remains.

Methods

The flots were rapidly scanned under a low power binocular microscope in order to assess the quantity and quality of charred plant remains that had been recovered. The

state of preservation of the remains and the range of taxa present determine how much potential the assemblages have to provide information about the environment and economy of the site. The 63 flots came from a range of Medieval features, including pits, ditches, post-holes, floor layers and alluvium.

Results

Prior to excavation, the vegetation on the site had been grass, scrub and dense saplings, and the topsoil was thin, so contamination with modern, uncharred material and disturbance of the archaeological deposits were considerable. The flots were found to contain large quantities of modern roots, tubers and silt. Some samples also contained frequent uncharred, modern seeds. However, unless deposits of different dates occurred in close proximity or were intercutting, contamination of the charred plant assemblages should not be a problem.

Disturbance by roots may have caused charred remains to move short distances, but this would primarily be vertical movement. Modern charred remains, such as are the result of stubble burning, are usually easy to spot, because the state of preservation is so much better than archaeobotanical remains. No material of this nature was observed in the charred assemblages.

Table 3 presents the results of the assessment. Because so few samples produced charred plant remains, and the assemblages were so small, it was considered more cost effective to fully analyse the few productive samples at this stage in the program, rather than produce a separate report at a later date. Table 4 lists the plant taxa that were recovered from the seven most productive samples. The flots from these samples were fully sorted after they had been scanned. Table 5 summarises the data by listing the number of samples in which each taxon occurred. Nomenclature and much of the habitat information follows Stace (1991).

Small quantities of molluscs and charcoal fragments were present in the flots, but these were not considered to have any potential for further analysis.

Some Notes on Identification

The charred plant remains were not very well preserved, having suffered some erosion. Root action and the effect of weather on the shallow soils are probably to blame.

The wheat grains were mostly typical of bread-type free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*-type), being broad and rounded in profile. However, a few had fairly humped-back dorsal surfaces, a feature that is typical of tetraploid wheats. It is likely that these were rivet-type wheat grains (*Triticum turgidum*-type), but unfortunately identification using grain morphology is not reliable (Jacomet, 1987). Since no identifiable chaff fragments were recovered (well-preserved rachis fragments are required for identification to species level), it is uncertain whether or not both types of wheat were being grown at Matford. This is discussed further below. Because of the uncertainties in identification, the wheat grains have been recorded as 'free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp.)', a category that includes both bread-type and rivet-type wheats.

Very few other cereals were recovered, and in the case of oats it was uncertain whether the oats were weeds or a cultivated crop, as no floret bases were preserved.

The preservation of the hilum and large size (3.6mm) of the *Vicia sativa* seed in sample 13 suggested that it was cultivated vetch, *V. sativa* ssp. *sativa*. However, there is some overlap in seed size with wild common vetch, and more seeds would need to be recovered to be sure that it was being grown as a crop.

Discussion

The small quantities of cereals, legumes and weed seeds recovered from these samples are probably derived from burnt domestic rubbish that had been distributed around the site as background waste. No large concentrations of charred remains were recovered to indicate the burning of a stored crop, fodder or crop processing waste.

The two largest concentrations of remains (both below 5 fragments per litre, see Table 4) were from the flue of an oven in a bake-house in structure F (sample 13), and from terrace cut 6324 (sample 68). These assemblages both primarily consisted of bread-type wheat (*Triticum* sp.), although rye (*Secale cereale*) was fairly frequent in sample 68. Interestingly, peas (cf. *Pisum sativum*) and beans (*Vicia faba* var. *minor*) were relatively frequent in the flue sample, suggesting that legumes were being dried prior to being ground into flour. Pea and bean flours were often mixed with cereal flour to make bread and other dishes in the medieval period (Tannahill, 1973).

Bread-type wheat was the most important cereal grown in England from the Saxon period onward, apart from where soils were too poor for this demanding crop. It is the preferred grain for making bread, as its high gluten content makes a well-risen loaf. However, evidence for the cultivation of rivet-type wheat is increasingly being found on medieval sites, particularly from southern England (Moffett, 1991b). Rivet wheat is used for making biscuits, and its long straw is useful for thatching. It is also more resistant to pests and diseases, so there are advantages to growing both types of free-threshing wheat where the soils are sufficiently fertile. Although the presence of rivet wheat has not been confirmed at Matford, the variations in grain morphology suggests that it probably had been grown on this site.

Legumes are generally considered to be under-represented in charred plant assemblages, so the fairly frequent records of peas, beans and unidentifiable legume fragments suggests that they were an important element of the medieval diet. This is frequently the case on rural medieval sites, as they were a valuable source of protein and could be used for both human and animal consumption. The nitrogen-fixing abilities of this family of plants also means that they could help to restore soil fertility if included in a crop rotation system. Only one possible cultivated vetch seed was recovered from this site (*Vicia sativa* cf. ssp. *sativa*; sample 13), so the evidence for this fodder crop is slight.

Small-seeded weed vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) were the most common weeds represented. These can grow in a variety of grassy and disturbed habitats, so the seeds may not all have been growing as arable weeds. Waste hay, fodder and bedding could also have been burnt and distributed around the site. The presence of other types of waste in the assemblages is confirmed by the presence of charcoal, hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*), a rose seed (*Rosa* sp.), a bramble seed (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) and a fragment of sloe, cherry or plum stone (*Prunus* sp.). The recovery of these fruit and nut remains illustrates the range of native hedgerow foods that were being exploited. These remains are usually under-represented in charred plant assemblages, so the recovery of such a variety of taxa from otherwise poor samples indicates that wild foods had been important to the occupants of this site. This is frequently the case on rural sites, in contrast with the wide range of imported luxury goods that is found on urban sites at this time.

Other arable weeds present give some indication of the range of soils cultivated, i.e. stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), a weed of heavy, damp soils, and cf. throw-wax (cf. *Bupleurum rotundifolium*), a weed of calcareous soils. These taxa are common in many medieval assemblages. They were probably charred as contaminants of the grain, or perhaps as crop processing waste that had been used as fodder. All of the arable weed seeds were small, and these would have been sieved out of the crop during processing.

The deserted 9th to 14th century medieval farmstead at Eckweek, S. Gloucs., c.15 miles south-west of Bristol produced very similar charred plant assemblages to those from Matford (Carruthers, 1995). Both bread-type and rivet-type wheat were cultivated, along with smaller quantities of barley, rye, possibly oats, cultivated vetches, peas and beans. As at Matford, native hedgerow foods were important in the diet and very few remains of imported foods were found. Similar ranges of crop plants and hedgerow foods

have also been recovered from rural medieval sites at Burton Dassett, Warwickshire (Moffett, 1991a), Dean Court Farm, Oxon (Moffett, 1995) and Round Wood, Stansted, Essex (Murphy, 1990).

In conclusion, the samples from Matford produced small charred plant macrofossil assemblages that were typical of rural medieval sites in southern England. No further work is recommended for these particular samples. However, if in the future excavations are undertaken in the area, it would be worthwhile taking more samples in the hope that information can be added to these findings. Because rural medieval sites often produce poorly preserved, sparse assemblages, there is still a lot to learn about rural medieval environment and economy.

Table 4
Assessment of the Charred Plant Remains
NFP = no further potential

| Sample | Con text | Feature & description | | Flot volume & description | Plant remains | potential |
|--------|----------|---|---------|---|---|-------------------------|
| 2 | 6241 | ?12 th C ?cess-pit primary fill | | 100ml, lot roots & silt, rare charcoal | nil | Not waterlogged NFP |
| 3 | 6117 | Tree bowl fill | 40 | 50ml, lot roots, v. rare charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 4 | 6266 | RB (2 nd /3 rd C) 2ndry ditch fill | 30 | 50ml, lot roots, silt, occ. molluscs, v. rare charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 5 | 6263 | RB (2 nd /3 rd C) 2ndry ditch fill | 30 | 100ml, lot roots, occ. mollusc, silt, v. rare charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 6 | 6290 | RB 2ndry ditch fill | 30 | 40ml, lot roots, v. rare charcoal, modern sedge nutlets | nil | NFP |
| 7 | 6293 | RB 2ndry ditch fill | 30 | 60ml, lot roots, silt, occ. mollusc, v. rare charcoal, modern Polygonum sp. | nil | NFP |
| 8 | 6422 | 13 th C terrace cut fill, Bldg. A | 25 | 12ml, some roots, silt, occ. small charcoal flecks | nil | NFP |
| 9 | 6426 | 13 th C (mid-late?) charcoal u.l. ?floor 6420, Bldg A | 1 | 35ml, roots, a few large frags charcoal | | NFP |
| 10 | 6618 | ?12 th C charcoal pit 6619 fill | 12 0 | 200ml, several large charcoal. FULLY SORTED | See Table 2 | NFP except charcoal ID? |
| 11 | 6559 | Mid-late 12 th C Curved gully fill | 1 | 25ml, roots, some small charcoal | Indeterminate cereal grain – 1 Chenopodiaceae embryo (fat hen etc.) - 1 | NFP |
| 12 | 6632 | Prob. 12 th C Charcoal pit fill | 25 | 100ml, lot roots, several large charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat grain) – 2 Pisum/Vicia (pea/bean) – 1 Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (vetch/tare seed) - 1 | NFP |
| 13 | 6700 | 12 th C or later flue 6319 of ?bake oven, bldg. C | 30 | 150ml, lots roots, several large charcoal. FULLY SORTED | See Table 2 | NFP |
| 14 | 6522 | 11 th C lime extraction pit fill | 30 | 50ml, lot roots, rare large charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) – 4 Cf. Vicia faba (cf. Celtic bean frags) - 12 | NFP |
| 15 | 6542 | Prob. 11 th C fill u.l. 6522 | 50 | 10ml, some roots, rare small charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat grain) – 2 | NFP |
| 16 | 6537 | Late 11 th /12 th C lime extraction pit 6602 fill | 30 | 150ml, lot roots, rare charcoal. FULLY SORTED | See Table 2 | NFP |
| 17 | 6711 | ?Later 13 th C ?floor matrix, bldg A | 23 | 100ml, lot roots, rare large charcoal | Indeterminate cereal – 1 Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (vetch/tare) - 1 | NFP |
| 18 | 6280 | Late 13 th C Hearth, bldg A | 25 | 100ml, lot roots, rare charcoal | Cf. Avena sp. (cf. oat grain) – 1 Carex sp. (sedge nutlet) - 1 | NFP |

| Sample | Cont ext | Feature & description | Sample size (litres) | Flot volume & description | Plant remains | potential |
|--------|----------|---|----------------------|---|--|---------------------|
| 19 | 6712 | 14 th C stone tank fill, interior structure D | 3 | 10ml, small flot & roots, occ. large charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat rachis) - 1 | NFP |
| 20 | 6714 | Alluvium | 30 | 25ml, small flot & roots, rare charcoal | Cf. Bromus sect. Bromus (chess frag.) - 1 | NFP |
| 21 | 6452 | AD1300-50 Terr. cut fill, bldg A | 50 | 50ml, lot roots, rare large charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 22 | 6718 | AD1300-50 Terr. cut fill, bldg A | 45 | 100ml, lot roots, rare charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 23 | 6812 | 12 th C Rubbish pit fill, primary | 25 | 100ml, lot roots, occ. Large charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat grain) - 8 Indeterminate cereal - 8 Pisum sativum (pea) - 1 Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (vetch/tare) - 1 Pisum/Vicia (large legume frags) - 11 | NFP |
| 24 | 6813 | AD1170-1225 Rubbish pit fill o.l. 6812 | 25 | 400ml, lot roots, rare charcoal. 50% scanned. | Secale cereale/Triticum sp. (rye/wheat grain) - 1 Prunus sp. (sloe, cherry, plum stone frag.) - 1 Corylus avellana (hazelnut shell frag) - 1 | NFP |
| 26 | 6777 | 11 th C latest pit fill of lime extraction pit | 25 | 300ml, lot roots, some large charcoal, frequent small char. | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) - 3 Avena sp. (oat grain) - 2 Pisum sativum (pea) - 1 | NFP Charcoal ID? |
| 27 | 6778 | ?AD1070-1100 Charcoal base pit fill | 30 | 450ml, lot charcoal, some large, lot twisted. | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat grain) - 2 Arrhenatherum elatius var. bulbosum (onion couch tuber) - 1 | NFP Charcoal ID? |
| 28 | 6815 | AD1170-1225 Rubbish pit 6667 fill | 30 | 100ml, lot roots. FULLY SORTED | See Table 2 | NFP |
| 29 | 6214 | AD1280-1340 Ditch fill | 45 | 100ml, lot roots, modern tubers, silt, +/- no charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 32 | 6448 | Early 14 th C Construct. Cut fill, bldg A/D | 45 | 20ml, some roots, rare charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 34 | 6455 | Early 14 th C hearth matrix, bldg A | 2 | 14ml, lot roots | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat grain) - 2 Indeterminate cereal - 1 | NFP |
| 35 | 6450 | Later 13 th C Floor bedding layer | 25 | 120ml, lot silt, occ large charcoal frag | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat grain) - 1 Pisum/Vicia faba (pea/bean) - 2 | NFP |
| 37 | 6192 | Later 13 th C Floor matrix, bldg A | 25 | 64ml, lot roots, some large, rare charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 38 | 6821 | ?12 th C curved gully fill | 40 | 60ml, lot fine roots, v. little charcoal | Indeterminate cereal - 1 | NFP |
| 39 | 6521 | ?later 13 th C ?Floor bedding | 50 | 100ml, lot roots, occ. Large charcoal, modern Polygonum sp. | nil | NFP |
| 40 | 6825 | La. 12 th /ea 13 th C Gully fill | 45 | 300ml, lot roots & silt, occ. small charcoal | Indeterminate cereal - 1 Pisum/Vicia sp. (Large legume frag.) - 2 | NFP |
| 42 | 6421 | Earlier 14 th C floor matrix | 40 | 500ml, lot silt, occ. Small charcoal, occ. Large root, frequent modern seeds (Polygonum | nil | NFP |

| | | | | | | |
|----|------|--|----|---|-----|-----|
| | | | | sp.) | | |
| 43 | 6554 | ??AD1070-1120 Alluvium, | 40 | 75ml, lot silt, occ. roots, occ. small charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 45 | 6606 | m-1 3 th C structure D tumble | 50 | 300ml, lot silt including large lumps, v. little charcoal | nil | NFP |

| Sample | Con text | Feature & description | Sample size (litres) | Flot volume & description | Plant remains | potential |
|--------|----------|--|----------------------|--|---|-----------|
| 46 | 6469 | AD1150-1200 ?gully fill | 45 | 100ml, lot silt, some roots, occ small charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat grain) – 2 Hordeum sativum (barley grain) – 1 Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (small-seeded weed vetch) - 1 | NFP |
| 47 | 6607 | ??m-1 13 th C Alluvium | 40 | 10ml, roots, rare charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 48 | 6420 | Later 13 th C Floor matrix | 2 | 10ml, roots | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) - 1 | NFP |
| 50 | 6498 | Earlier 14 th C ?yard layer | 50 | 100ml, lot silt & roots, occ. small charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 52 | 6767 | 12 th C ?pit / ?gully fill | 50 | 200ml, lot roots, lot modern Polygonum aviculare | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) – 3 Avena sp. (oat grain) - 2 Indeterminate cereal grain - 2 | NFP |
| 53 | 6793 | 12 th C Gully fill | 45 | 200ml, lot roots, occ. small charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) – 1 Triticum sp. (wheat grain, cf. rivet-type) – 1 Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (small-seeded weed vetch) - 1 | NFP |
| 54 | 6745 | AD1070-1120 Gully fill | 45 | 250ml, lot roots, some large with tubers. Several small charcoal. FULLY SORTED | See Table 2 | NFP |
| 55 | 6817 | Late 11 th /12 th C post-hole fill | 25 | 250ml, lot roots, some with tubers, occ. large charcoal | Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (small seeded weed vetch) – 1 Corylus avellana (hazelnut shell) - 1 | NFP |
| 56 | 6762 | AD 1070-1120 post-hole fill | 25 | 250ml, lot roots as above, silt, occ. small charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) – 1 Indeterminate cereal - 1 | NFP |
| 57 | 6819 | La. 11 th /12 th C post-hole fill | 40 | 300ml, lot roots as above, occ. small charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) – 8 Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (small seeded weed vetch) – 1 Corylus avellana (hazelnut shell) - 1 | NFP |
| 58 | 6517 -8 | La. 11 th /12 th C curved gully fill | 20 | 300ml, lot roots as above, rare small charcoal | Indeterminate cereal frag. - 1 | NFP |
| 59 | 6655 | 12 th C latest scoop fill | 20 | 150ml, lot roots & silt, trace of small charcoal | Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (small seeded weed vetch) - 1 | NFP |
| 60 | 6451 | Later 13 th C Floor matrix, bldg B | 50 | 50ml, several roots, orange silt, rare large charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 61 | 6493 | AD1140-1200 silt u.l. floor, bldg B | 50 | 200ml some large roots, lot silt, rare charcoal | Triticum sp. (wheat grain) - 1 | NFP |
| 62 | 6474 | 12 th C Silt u.l. floor, bldg B | 2 | 10ml, small flot, roots, | nil | NFP |

| | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|--|----------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| | | | | rare charcoal | | |
| 63 | 6852 | Silt, interior bldg C | 25 | 100ml, occ. roots, lot silt | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) - 1 | NFP |
| 64 | 6613 | 12 th C Primary ditch fill | 20 | 100ml, lot roots & silt, occ. small charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) - 1 | NFP |
| 65 | 6490 / 6504 | 12 th C Primary & secondary ditch fill | 30 | 40ml, lot roots, rare small charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 66 | 6759 | ?La. 12 th /ea. 13 th C Ditch/gully fill | 30 | 100ml, lot roots, several small & large charcoal | Triticum sp. (free-threshing wheat) – 3 Triticum/Secale cereale (wheat/rye grain) – 1 Indeterminate cereal – 3 Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (small seeded weed vetch) – 1 Corylus avellana (hazelnut shell frag.) - 1 | NFP Charcoal ID? |
| 67 | 6830 | ?La. 12 th /ea. 13 th C Ditch/gully fill | 25 | 100ml, lot fine roots, +/- no charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 68 | 6325 / 6326 | ?12 th C Terrace cut fills, bldg C | 30 | 50ml lot roots, occ. Large charcoal. FULLY SORT. | See Table 2 | NFP |
| 69 | 6219 | ?12 th C Floor matrix, bldg C | 45 | 100ml, roots, some large charcoal. FULLY SORT. | See Table 2 | NFP |
| Sample | Cont ext | Feature & description | Sample size (litres) | Flot volume & description | Plant remains | potential |
| 70 | 6540 | 12 th C secondary ditch fill | 25 | 150ml, lot roots & silt, rare small charcoal | Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (small seeded weed vetch) - 1 | NFP |
| 72 | 6848 | ?12 th C primary ditch fill | 45 | 300ml, lot roots & silt, rare charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 73 | 6688 | La. 13 th C ?pit fill, bldg A | 22 | 5ml small rooty flot, occ. Small charcoal | nil | NFP |
| 74 | 6701 | 12 th C or later redep. Clay in ?flue, bldg C | 15 | 100ml, lot roots, occ. Large charcoal, modern Polygonum sp. | nil | NFP |

Table 5 : Charred Plant Remains from the fully sorted samples

| Taxa sample | habitats | 10 | 13 | 16 | 28 | 54 | 68 | 69 |
|---|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Context | | 6618 | 6700 | 6537 | 6815 | 6745 | 6325/6 | 6219 |
| Feature | | P6619 | F6319 | P6602 | P6667 | G6744 | TC6324 | Floor L |
| <i>Triticum</i> sp. (free-threshing wheat) | | 1 | 59 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 61 | 7 |
| cf. <i>Secale cereale</i> (cf. Rye grain) | | | 3 | | 1 | | 12 | |
| <i>Triticum/Secale cereale</i> (wheat/rye grain) | | | | 1 | | | 12 | 1 |
| <i>Avena</i> sp. (oat grain) | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Indeterminate cereal | | 3 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 3 |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (hazelnut shell frag.) | HSW | | | | | 2 | | |
| <i>Brassica/Sinapis</i> sp. (charlock, mustard etc. seed) | C* | | | | | | | 1 |
| <i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> (bramble) | HSW | | 1 | | | | | |
| <i>Rosa</i> sp. (rose achene) | HSW | | 1 | | | | | |
| cf. <i>Vicia faba</i> var <i>minor</i> (cf. Horse bean) | * | | 4 | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Vicia sativa</i> cf. ssp. <i>Sativa</i> (cf. Cultivated vetch) | *GH | | 1 | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. (small seeded weed vetch) | CGH | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Vicia faba/Pisum sativum</i> (bean/pea frag.) | * | | 54 | | | | | 7 |
| cf. <i>Pisum sativum</i> L. (cf. pea) | * | | 3 | | | | | |
| Indeterminate legume frag. | *CGH | | | | | | 4 | 9 |
| <i>Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp. (clover/trefoil seed) | CDG | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Cf. <i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i> (cf. Thorow-wax) | Cc | | | | | | | 1 |
| <i>Odontites verna/Euphrasia</i> sp. (red bartsia/eyebright) | CD | | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L. (stinking mayweed) | CDdh | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| <i>Carex</i> sp. (sedge nutlet) | GMPd | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| <i>Bromus</i> sect. <i>Bromus</i> (chess caryopsis) | ADG | | 6 | | | | 4 | |
| <i>Bromus/Avena</i> (brome oat caryopsis) | *ADG | | | | | | 4 | 1 |
| Poaceae caryopsis (grass seed) | CDG | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 7 | 145 | 15 | 6 | 11 | 114 | 37 |
| Sample volume (litres): | | 120 | 50 | 30 | 30 | 45 | 30 | 45 |
| Fragments per litre: | | <0.1 | 2.9 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 3.8 | 0.8 |

Key: * = crop plant; A = arable; C = cultivated; D = disturbed; G = grassland; H = hedgerows; M = marsh; P = ponds, ditches; S = scrub; W = woods
c = calcareous soils; d = damp soils; h = heavy soils

Feature types: P = pit; F = flue; G = gully; TC = terrace cut

Table 6 : Summarised list – number of samples in which each taxon was found

| Taxa | habitats | Number of samples |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Cereals | | |
| <i>Triticum</i> sp. (free-threshing bread-type wheat) | | 26 |
| <i>Triticum</i> sp. (wheat grain) | | 2 |
| <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. emend. (hulled barley grain) | | 1 |
| cf. <i>Secale cereale</i> (cf. Rye grain) | | 3 |
| <i>Triticum/Secale cereale</i> (wheat/rye grain) | | 4 |
| <i>Avena</i> sp. (oat grain) | | 4 |
| Indeterminate cereal | | 20 |
| Other | | |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (hazelnut shell frag.) | HSW | 5 |
| <i>Brassica/Sinapis</i> sp. (charlock, mustard etc. seed) | C* | 1 |
| <i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> (bramble) | HSW | 1 |
| sp. (rose achene) | HSW | 1 |
| <i>Prunus</i> sp. (sloe/cherry/plum stone frag.) | | 1 |
| cf. <i>Vicia faba</i> var <i>minor</i> (cf. horse bean) | * | 3 |
| <i>Vicia sativa</i> cf. ssp. <i>Sativa</i> (cf. cultivated vetch) | *GH | 1 |
| <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. (small seeded weed vetch) | CGH | 15 |
| <i>Vicia faba/Pisum sativum</i> (bean/pea frag.) | * | 6 |
| cf. <i>Pisum sativum</i> L. (cf. pea) | * | 3 |
| Indeterminate legume frag. | *CGH | 2 |
| <i>Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp. (clover/trefoil seed) | CDG | 3 |
| cf. <i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i> (cf. thorow-wax) | Cc | 1 |
| <i>Odontites verna/Euphrasia</i> sp. (red bartsia/eyebright) | CD | 2 |
| <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L. (stinking mayweed) | CDdh | 2 |
| <i>Carex</i> sp. (sedge nutlet) | GMPd | 3 |
| <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> var. <i>bulbosum</i> (onion couch tuber) | DG | 1 |
| <i>Bromus</i> sect. <i>Bromus</i> (chess caryopsis) | ADG | 2 |
| <i>Bromus/Avena</i> (brome oat caryopsis) | *ADG | 2 |
| Poaceae caryopsis (grass seed) | CDG | 2 |
| Total number of samples: | | 63 |

Key: * = crop plant; A = arable; C = cultivated; D = disturbed; G = grassland; H = hedgerows; M = marsh; P = ponds, ditches; S = scrub; W = woods
c = calcareous soils; d = damp soils; h = heavy soils

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