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**Upton, Glos., 1964-68**

by  P. A. Rahtz
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Upton, Gloucestershire, 1964-1968
SECOND REPORT
By PHILIP RAHTZ

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SUMMARY

This is the second report on excavations at the deserted medieval village of Upton, near Blockley, Gloucestershire. A long house of

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1 The first report was on the 1959 to 1964 seasons, hereafter referred to as Upton I. R. H. Hilton and P. A. Rahtz, "Upton, Gloucestershire, 1959-64" Transactions, 85 (1966), 70-146.
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the 13th–14th century with associated buildings has been cleared; notable features include a stair-pit to an upper room, cess-pits, and an infant burial. Below the house were traces of timber buildings and ditches of three phases, the earlier of which are probably of pre-conquest date. The west boundary of the village consisted of a stone wall preceded by timber features of pre-conquest origin. The boundary included positive and negative lynchets, the westernmost croft showing evidence of cultivation. A survey has been made of the field systems of Blockley parish, but this is not included in the present report.

INTRODUCTION

1968 was the tenth season of the investigation of Upton by the School of History, University of Birmingham. Two building complexes have now been dug, consisting of six north-south buildings lying in two groups of three, AA–AC and AD–AF. AD–AF was probably built in the mid-later 13th century, and AA–AC rather later; at least part of the AD–AF complex continued in use with AA–AC and they appear to have been part of the same holding. We now know a good deal about AA–AF but little about the area around them. Nor have we learned much about the village as a whole, except from the minor cuttings through the north and west boundary banks. It might have been more useful to have explored the village more widely before becoming involved in the complex excavation of a building area. Nevertheless the structures dug have yielded much interesting information; some of it is of validity in a wider context, such as the evidence of development from timber to stone structures, and from long-house type to separated buildings. Indeed the work has become progressively more rewarding as each season has gone by, because of the accumulation of comparative evidence, even within the framework of Upton.

The dig has been the nucleus of interest in medieval archaeology in the School of History, and a means of training students in field techniques. The development of archaeology in the syllabus has not only led to an improved understanding of the subject among staff and students, but has attracted archaeologically-minded students to the history course. This has made possible increased participation by students in the running of the dig, culminating in the excavation of 1968 being wholly directed by them.

Future work at Upton should be directed towards total excavation of the toft or house-enclosure of which buildings AA–AF were the nucleus, together with exploration of croft and other boundaries

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elsewhere. This is not envisaged in the near future, as the site is no longer available for excavation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the following for their help:
Whitehall Securities Corporation Ltd., the owners of the site, for permission to excavate; Mr A. W. Holder, the tenant, and Mr and Mrs R. Russell of Lamb’s Cottage, for their continued forbearance and interest in the work; The University of Birmingham which has financed the excavation and made grants towards the cost of publishing this report; Professor R. H. Hilton, who has been jointly responsible for the excavation with the writer; staff, graduates and undergraduates of the School of History, and other voluntary helpers, who have provided the labour force and administrative staff for the excavation; Professor F. W. Shotton of the Department of Geology for stone identifications; Mr T. F. Spence and Mr W. J. Moore of the Department of Anatomy for their report on the infant skeleton; Miss Barbara Noddle, Mr D. Bramwell and Mr Frederick Woodward for their report on the animal bones; Mr Anthony Thompson for his report on the medieval coin; Miss S. Hirst for some of the finds drawings, for compiling Tables I and II, and for help in the preparation of this report; Miss H. Berry and Miss A. B. Cox for typing this report.

SITE A

Method. The excavation method continued as before except that increasing confidence enabled us to dispense with much drawing of rubble spreads and other detailed recording. The work has generally proceeded at as rapid a pace as the peculiarly recalcitrant sub-soils would allow.

AD–AF was stripped in one large area (PLATE VI) which included the buildings themselves and a strip of ground on either side of them. The only part not dug was the south half of AF which lay in marshy ground in the bottom of the valley. Turf and topsoil were removed first, then loose rubble; subsequent stages involved the definition of floor levels, primary and secondary; the dissection of internal and external features, such as hearths, pits and drains; the removal of the floor levels and stone buildings; and the excavation of underlying levels to reveal the pre-stone-house features. These were then

2 Upton I, pp. 92-94.
excavated individually, a temporary balk being left across a complex area. (Section S1).

**Recording System.** As Upton I except: no F used for features, layers and features being numbered consecutively. Letters N, E, S, W, C, used after layer numbers to denote north, east, south, west, and central locations.

**Stratification.** 1, turf; 2, topsoil; 3, lower more clayey topsoil (E, S and W sub-divisions); 4, rubble, soil, and stones inside and outside buildings; 4B, in north-west corner of AD; 4C, in AD; 4E, east exterior, 4L, in AE, mostly air space, clayey in lower levels; 4S, in AF, much clay, upper destruction layer; 4Sa, in AF, similar, with more sherds, down to floor level (top of A10); 4W, in west exterior; 5, floor levels of AE; 5E, similar level outside east main entrance 75; 6, exterior ground levels; 7, stones round north-east corner of AD; 7F, stones inside north-east corner of AD; 8, layer similar to 4C, but more clay and compact, probably make-up in AD after blocking of stair-pit; level removed to first definable floor; 9, stones around north-west corner of AD; 10, pre-AF levels of III, clayey soil, stone, charcoal, burnt clay scraps; 10A, B, C, arbitrary sub-divisions, A and B more stony, C more gritty with green (?cess) patches; 11, as 6E, to north-east of AD; 12, lowest part of 11, on natural.

**Pre-House Features.** (FIGS. 1 and 2 plans, Sections S1 and S3, FIG. 4, and Section S2, FIG. 3).

**Period I**—Roman or later, probably pre-conquest, possibly pre-Saxon. The earliest features were a cut-away area 202–330, with an earlier ditch or edge on its east side, 203; 202–330 was subsequently cut by a ?drainage system 312–200. 200 was apparently the overflow from the large deep area 312, which continued north of the area dug. All were truncated at their south ends by the cut-away for period III.\(^3\)

The fillings of all these were lighter, and 312–200 much more stony, than those of period II and III features. This may reflect either a much greater antiquity with a corresponding decrease in humus or other organic content by leaching or worm-action; or remoteness from areas of occupation which would provide highly organic or charcoal residues. The latter reason is supported by the small amount of occupation material in their fill. 203–202–330 apparently silted up, with a fairly stone-free stiff brown clay, charcoal-flecked. 312 was much deeper; it was open long enough for snails to be found in its

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\(^3\) 200 may have been ending here; its base appeared to be rising at the point where cut.
lower fill, and for considerable falls from its sides, probably by frost action, marked by layers of redeposited natural among the softer
UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964–1968

I

● features possibly of I

II

UPTON
1964–8
Pre-House Features

III

Fig. 2. Pre-house Features (interpretation)
silt layers. 312 and 200 were very stony, especially in their upper layers, and this is taken to imply that the area around or to the north of them was not protected by a substantial soil and vegetation cover, in other words that it was being used for cultivation or occupation.

The purpose of 202-330 is uncertain; it may have been the north end of a terrace on which there was a building. 203 may have been a slot for a timber on its east side, or the edge of an earlier cut-away. 312-200 on the other hand appears to have been for drainage; 312 would be interpreted as a sump for a ditch coming from further north (with a section as in S3), overflowing into 200. It was irregularly cut and deeper than would seem necessary\(^4\) (Plate 1).

Alternative interpretations should be considered: that it was lined or used for water or other storage; that it was dug to obtain the fine sand strata which comprised the natural for the two or three feet above its base below the overlying clay and stones; that it was an unfinished well;\(^5\) or that it was scoured out of the soft material here by flood water in the ditch.

The dating of Period I is uncertain; no finds were made in 203-202-320; 3 Roman sherds were found in 312,\(^6\) and 7 in 200;\(^7\) some were unweathered and may indicate a Roman date for at least the latest features of period I; or they could be derived from the ground around the features. The only other finds were a piece of worked bone, a bronze rod (Fig. 11, CA27), and a handful of animal bones, including one or two larger cattle bones. If the features were Roman (and 312 looks rather unsystematic to be so), the small amount of Roman material would suggest that the local drainage implied by 312-200 was at some distance from any nucleus of human occupation, and was perhaps associated with agricultural activities or boundary definition. If they were not, then some post-Roman non-ceramic period is implied, between the fifth and twelfth centuries, of sub-Roman, Saxon, or less probably Norman culture; in this period the features may well indicate occupation in the vicinity; that associated with 312 perhaps east of AA-AC (see Fig. 7A). What-

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4 Its course was possibly inhibited by a large slab of hard bedrock; from the profile shown in S3 the base dipped in steps of 2 feet 6 inches, 1 foot 10 inches, and 10 inches to the deepest part at 10 feet 2 inches from the turf in this area; from this it stepped up 9 inches and 6 inches below the deepest part of 312.

5 In August 1968 water seeped in rapidly in the lowest level.

6 Two rims in soft red micaceous ware, and a body sherd in orange-brown micaceous ware.

7 Including half a coarse grey flat base, the base of a small thumb-beaker, white fabric, brown colour-coat (?Nene Valley or ?New Forest), and a flanged rim in soft gritty orange, with a grey core.
Fig. 3. Section north-south through AD-AF (S2)
ever their date, the period I features are of the greatest potential interest in elucidating the early development of the village, whether in a Roman or a later context.

Period II—12th or earlier 13th century, or possibly earlier. Features of this phase were separated from those of period III either stratigraphically or by the almost total absence of pottery, though the fillings of II were dark and highly organic. The earliest feature was a scoop 331, containing (layer 331b) charcoal, burnt stone, bone fragments, some carbonised grain, and grit. It deepened in the middle into a gulley 339, and a possible post-hole 332c; the base of 339 alone survived the cut-away for period III.

324 was a ditch draining from north-west to south-east; its filling was very similar to that of 330, but was more stony, and appeared to cut it; it seems unlikely that it was of much later date. The only find of period II was a rim (P 61) in 324, in its north-west end, and possibly intrusive.

Another feature which may be of period II (or possibly I), was the post-hole 205, cutting 8 ins. deep into the east edge and fill of 312. It yielded the only Q sherd so far found on site A, a fabric likely to be of late Saxon date. The isolated position of 205 from other period II features, and its apparent secondary position to a period I feature, makes it impossible to associate it safely with either; it may be of some phase intermediate between I and II.

The period II features appear to have been draining areas to north or north-west of them. That associated with 324 could lie outside the area dug, but that with 331 would have been the area occupied by the features attributed to period III. Some of these are stratigraphically later than II, but it is possible that the most northerly features of period III originated in II, or replaced features of II. However, the III features were on a slight terrace cut into the slope and the cut-away may have destroyed earlier features of II.

The lack of finds in II makes dating uncertain. The stratification suggests, however, that there is little or no gap between II and III. III is to be dated broadly to the 12th or earlier 13th century, or possibly earlier; it seems likely that the features of II fall within this same vague bracket.

It might appear from the sequence so far demonstrated on Site A that apart from the single Q sherd in 205, and the sherd in 324, the

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8 This layer also contained a sherd of black-glazed thin Roman (?Rhenish) beaker.
Post-Roman ceramic sequence only began sometime in period III. This would be a view based on the stratigraphic sequence; a virtually non-ceramic phase would, in the present state of knowledge, be...
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possible in a West Midland rural area as late as the 12th century. Other evidence however suggests that this view is misleading: there is more pottery of Q and of types P and R from other parts of the village, especially Trench 5 (p. 119) which is probably late Saxon.

*Period III*—12th or earlier 13th century, or possibly earlier. The features of III were in two areas, the first on a terrace over and to the north of the II features so far described, the second in a cut-away terrace to the south. The features on these terraces represent two timber buildings of incoherent plan, of which the southern is in any case incomplete.

The earliest layers of III are 331a and 333 (see S1, S2), mixed clay sealing II features; they are almost certainly derived from the cutting of one or both of the terraces, and form an edge for the cut-away of the southern terrace 340. There were sherds in these layers and at their junction with II layers (including P 62 and 63, from layers 331 a–b) showing that pottery was current at the inception of III, if not in II.

In the southern terrace there were several post-holes, depressions, and shallow cut-away edges which presumably represent timber structures; there may also have been timbers along the main cut-away edges 340–334–328. The levels associated with these features were deep—the whole of layer 10 in S2, dark gritty soil with greenish matter in the lower part, possibly dung or cess; the general impression is of an area associated with animal rather than human occupation, and one which was wet. The terrace appears to have extended more to the south-east than to the south; it may have been partly drained by 352 on the west side, a shallow (4-inch) ditch not fully explored.

The upper terrace, much dryer ground, contained features which may confidently be associated with human occupation, and which are probably indicative of a timber house, of which few traces were found. The most important were two hearths, 322 and

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9 Also 314 not on sections.

10 From north-south: 338, fill as 10, and large stones, 12 inches deep into natural; 141, 2 to 3 inches; 74, 6 inches; 144, fill as 10, 6 inches; 142, 9 inches, markedly flat based, ?vat holder; 143, 145, 9 and 2 inches; 150, depression with concentrated charcoal; 351, 5 inches.

11 The lower levels were water-logged in all but the driest phases of our excavation.

12 The excavation of its floor level was interrupted by the heavy floods of July 1968, which washed away part of it and made the remainder too plastic to examine adequately.

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Fig. 5. Buildings AD-AF, general plan

Fig. 6. Buildings AD-AF, interpretation
309. The former lay just south of the edge of the terrace, whose edge is shown on S2; this is not the full height of the north edge of the terrace as cut in III, as the terrace was extended further north in IV. Associated with the two hearths was a layer of charcoal-flecked clayey soil; this was covered with 124, a layer of charcoal, burnt red stone and clay, burnt grain and unburnt yellow clay, possibly a destruction layer; this extended over a large area thinly and merged with 10 to the south; especial concentrations (318, 319, 320, 325) as shown in FIG. 1 around the two hearths, suggested that 124 is more associated with them than with a burnt structure. Other post-holes and depressions were filled with similar material. Other features to south-east and north contained similar pottery filling but are not otherwise associated.

316 and 317 either cut through these layers or were contemporary with them, possibly holes for large timbers that remained in situ to decay and for their slots to fill with dark grey sticky soil; although stratigraphically under levels of IV, they do lie beneath drains or troughs of similar area and orientation and may be due to seepage or wash-out derived from them.

The dating of III depends on pottery evidence and on the probability of its being followed directly by the buildings of IV; this is suggested by the fact that there is no evidence of any gap in the stratification, and more convincingly that the area of the long-house AE of IV, and its annexed AF, have a direct relationship to the areas of the two terraces of III. Since the inception of IV is placed somewhere around the mid-later 13th century, III should be of this date or earlier, perhaps earlier in the 13th century; the pottery includes types which might well be of later 12th or earlier 13th century date, but some of these may well prove to be earlier than 1100, if not pre-conquest. If III does directly precede IV, it may cover a wide time-span. The pottery assemblage of IV, however, does include types not found in III, and there may therefore be a

13 322, large stone burnt black and red, covered with yellow powdery soil (stipple on plan); 309, clay patch burnt purple/blue, with yellow over as 322; stake-hole 336, 7 inches, cutting edge of 309.
14 Also called 326, not on drawings.
15 132, 7ash-pit around 322, 6 inches deep; 327, 8 inches deep, some stone? packing; 329, 9 inches, 337, 9 inches deep, packing stone to north; 313, 7 inches, burnt packing stones. 341, 6 inches, cut into 200.
16 60, 6 inches, more probably IV, 305-306, steep edged flat-based depression probably holding timbers possibly for revetment of slope (cf. 84, p. 31); dark c.f. fill; 307, 310-311 cut into edge of 312, dark brown fill 8 to 9 inches deep, might be of I; 90A, 204, 205A, depressions 4-6 inches deep, more brown clay than 10, perhaps of I? 329, 321 and 332, 7 and 10 inches deep.
17 316 on S2, 317 above top of S1, so not shown.
gap between III and IV, in spite of the similarity of areas. The only
dating that can therefore be given for III is that it originated in
the earlier 13th or 12th centuries, or possibly earlier, and may have
continued as late as the mid-later 13th century.

In spite of the unsatisfactory and incomplete nature of the
remains of III, it seems at least possible that they represent a timber
complex, which although on two levels may well have had a common
roof, and thereby be eligible for being considered as of long-house
type, with the living area on the upper terrace and the animal area
on the lower end. Evidence of cross doorways between them is how-
ever wholly lacking.

Buildings AD–AF, Period IV, mid-later 13th century in origin.
(Figs. 5 and 6, plan and interpretation; Figs. 3 and 4, sections S2
and S3).

The period IV buildings comprise a well preserved long-house
AE, from which a doorway led to an upper room AD; below it was
an annexe or yard AF, only partly excavated.

The long-house AE was terraced into the slope; at the upper
end of the terrace the natural clay and stone strata were removed
to expose a bed of hard rock which was cut into to make a roughly
level hard floor for the living area. Some, but certainly not all, of
the material dug out from the upper end was piled on the earlier
levels of the lower end to even up the slope (121, 130a and 130b
in S2). The foundations of the north wall were laid on a slight shelf
above the rock floor; the north-east and north-west corners were
set in rounded cut-aways in the natural clay. The east and west walls
of the upper end were laid in slight foundation trenches, as were the
walls of the lower end of the house; these were mostly in the soft
material of the earlier features (see S2 for south wall). In the upper
end was a large hearth 93, which seems to have been originally
sunken, on the ash of which (93a) was later laid a large stone sub-
sequently fragmented by heat. In the south-east corner were some
flat slabs, on one of which was a fluted octagonal column (Fig. 10,
no. ST 63). At a slightly lower level were two other slabs (stippled
on plan) with some upright stones to the north of them. In the
south-west corner was an oven (94), (PLATE V) of one build with the
continuous masonry of the corner; this was probably half-corbelled
originally, the back wall curving out over the burnt stone of the
floor; the rake-back ash merged with that of the hearth; the structure
as found can hardly have been used as an oven, unless it was ‘closed’
by some daub structure. It may have been more a setting for a removable oven of fired clay: or perhaps no more than a hooded fireplace.

From the upper end a doorway with a cobbled floor defined by edge slabs (i22) led through a lightly constructed wall into the cross-passage between the east and west main entrances, with a sub-floor drain (i04) leading through the east wall of the lower end onto the exterior. The south side of the cross-passage was defined by a foundation of pitched stone (i23), flush with the ground, which probably carried a timber or clay wall with doorway leading into the lower end of the house. At the east end of the cross-passage were some upright stones (i27) set flush into the floor.

The lower end of the house was divided into three areas by a complex of channels (i66), floor slabs with uprights, some very large (Plate iv). One of the side slabs (i98) was recumbent, and formed a continuous surface with paving slabs (i97) to the north. The east-west channel (i66 E and W) was continuous across the house, and originally drained out through both walls, but that through the west wall (i99) was apparently blocked at some time. The north-south channel (i66S) was of similar construction, but had no connection with the east-west channel nor any outlet. The channels were found with the broken remains of large thin flat slabs around and over them; these were at first thought to be covers for the channels but none were even roughly in situ and they were really part of the lower destruction level. If they were covers for these channels, then they were removable ones. There was possibly an earlier phase to these features. Under the north-south one was a shallow cut (i316, shown in Fig. 3), and a similar one (i20) extended to the north under the floor slabs, and under part of the south-west corner (i31) (both shaded). Much of the area between the cross-passage and channels was paved; only the larger stones are shown in Fig. 5; there was also another group of flush uprights (i28). In the south-east and south-west corners were clay floors at a slightly higher level (c. 6 inches) than the floor slabs to the north. These were reinforced by the stone slabs shown on the plan. That in the south-west corner sealed the grave of an infant, probably 3–6 months old (i26, Plate iii), (p. i23), very close to the offsets of the corner walls: a spindle-whorl may be associated with this (Fig. 11, no. 77) and also a large whelk-shell found close by (p. i24).

Comment on the infant burial. Apart from the question of whether pregnancy could be concealed in a small community such as that at
Upton, the child itself could hardly have been concealed for up to six months after birth. There must have been an interesting defiance of ecclesiastical authority, therefore, in avoiding burial in a consecrated graveyard. One can only speculate about the reasons for this. Unwillingness to pay burial and baptism fees may have been one factor. Concealment, for some reason, not from the other villagers, but from secular and church authority might have been another. Manorial records often show that villagers housed persons whom the authorities wished to expel, especially women. And the late 13th century was a period when many unwanted mouths came into the world.

The main entrances were diverse: the west one (71) consisted of tight stones whose inner edge was defined by uprights, and which led onto an exterior of substantial pitched cobbling. This probably led to open ground, water-logged nowadays but not necessarily so when the house was occupied. The east one (75) had a well-made raised threshold\(^\text{18}\) beyond which were pits and other features in the east exterior area (see below) which may have been under cover in an outshot attached to the side of the house.

The house paving was superimposed in two or three layers in places, presumably due to subsidence. Where there was no paving the floor level was defined either as a compact or worn level or one with trodden sherds, bone or charcoal.

Apart from the main entrances to the long-house there was also one in its north wall, leading into the "stair-pit"; this was found blocked, evidently when the pit was filled in; it may have been replaced by one in the north-west corner (69), where there was no proper wall, only loose stones, although the corner foundation trench was continuous—there had evidently been a wall here originally; a large door stud (FIG. 12, no. 102) was found close by.

The stair-pit (65) (PLATE VII) was cut through the stony clay to the bedrock; the floor was covered with several inches of dirty mixed clay which seems to have been an accumulation of mud. Such a pit would get very wet indeed; when the blocked doorway was removed the stones below looked like a rough drain which would take water from the pit onto the rock of the upper end of the house. In the layer

\(^{18}\) An unbonded but definite "buttress" attached to the corner parallel with the threshold; it was integrated with the surround of 77, and with this sealed pottery of later date than that in the walls, i.e. both are secondary to the construction of the house, and may be contemporary with the paving over pit 88.
PLATE I. Period I ditches and sump from south-west

PLATE II. AE from north

PLATE III. Infant burial in south-west corner of AE (spindle whorl possibly associated)

PLATE IV. AE from south-west
were three stake-holes, showing as voids (61–63). On the east side was a light foundation (57) built against the face of the pit but not bonded into the house wall (90); it extended to the floor of the pit. It was obviously a revetment for the east side which was the upslope side of the pit. The absence of a similar wall on the west side may have been compensated for by a more sloping face. At the back of the pit the dirty layer rose sharply (see S2) and under it was a darker layer, which was especially concentrated into squarish holes set into the back face at the base; these are interpreted as impressions of the feet of a ladder or step-ladder; between them was another void stake-hole (66). The ladder was probably movable as the feet impressions were only part of a longer slot (119) extending round the base i.e. they were only the impressions of the ladder in its final place. It need not have been so steep as S2 implies (even a backward slope) as the whole clay mass to the north had clearly slid (more evidence for this is cited below (footnote 21)); an angle of at least 10 degrees to the vertical is more likely.

The ladder was some three feet long, and led to the floor of AD, reinforced by stone paving (58) in the area around the ladder head. Originally, presumably before the stair-pit was in use, AD consisted of an east wall 51 (not bonded with AE) continuing north as the lower courses of 52 and extending beyond it as 55. This had a squared off end, as if it was never intended as more than a boundary wall, but 54 formed a return to the west, ending in 112 with a slight club end. There is no evidence that AD had any west wall at this stage though it was slightly terraced (see S2). It was apparently more or less open ground, bounded by an east wall and perhaps only secondarily by a north wall, with some paving (113) at the north end.19

By the time the stair-pit was in use, AD had been defined as an “upper room”; 52 was rebuilt and to it was bonded 53 and 50 (PLATE VIII). The original floor level was represented by a thin dirty layer, with a hearth (118)20 in the north-west corner; in this floor was a drain (117). The north member of this lay under the edge of 53, and from the T-junction drained south for several feet before swinging away to the west onto the slope; this was clearly designed to keep the area round the stair-pit dry.21 In its course through wall 53 the

19 115 were similar stones but at a lower level sealed by a thin layer of clay.
20 Much charcoal and burnt stone under two stones not shown on plan.
21 As found it ran up hill from the point of turn to a point under wall 50, but this is taken as evidence that the whole floor had slid southwards because of the weakness caused not only by the stair-pit but by the terrace cut for AE.
drain appeared to have been blocked under the east side of the wall. This may have been done when the floor level was raised by a thicker layer of dirty clay (58A in S2), which covered 117 and most of the paving 58.

The filling-in of the stair-pit and the blocking of the north doorway of AE may have taken place at the same time; but there was no continuity between the make-up 58A and the pit filling, which was defined in layer 8 above, interpreted as the levelling off of AD when the pit was blocked. It seems likely that AD went completely out of use in the final phase of the house, as it had no definable entrance other than that from AE.

After the disuse of AD and its levelling off, the line of its west wall and that of the whole west side of AD–AF was continued by 111; this was built over 50 and the corner 110 (not shown on plan) and extended north into the 1960–64 area, where it was cut by AC. It is interpreted as a boundary on the west side of the ground north of the AD–AF complex.

Little can be said about AF; its walls were butted on to AE, but the width of the building from east to west and the narrowness of 79 suggest that they were not load-bearing; the floor level (surface of 10 in S2) sloped away to the south, and was kept dry by a covered drain down the west side (146). The only medieval coin from the recent excavations (no. 5, c. 1223–1242, p. 110) came from this floor level close to AE. The unexcavated walls were not proved; they extended into marshy ground but could be seen as slight bumps.

Construction of Walls (other than shown in the sections). There is no reason to think that the walls of AE stood very much higher than that found, perhaps no more than a foot or so, the amount of the rubble in layer 4; there is no evidence that there had been any robbing. AD on the other hand appeared to have been levelled off (PLATE VI) and its walls lowered; perhaps part of layer 8 was the matrix of its walls. All walls were roughly coursed except the north wall of AE which was very well built (PLATE VII). The centre of each wall tended to have more rubble with better facing-stones; the foundations were usually some larger stones set up to six inches in the clay, especially on the corners. Massive ones were used on the corner 50–53. There is evidence of rebuilding as mentioned above, and also especially of the east wall of the lower end of AE. The walls were packed with clayey soil, containing some sherds and occupation dirt, scraped up or obtained from the terracing. There is evidence that the outer faces of the walls were buried; this was certainly true
of the east side of AE upper, where the "water-butt" setting 77 was
an integral part of the stones outside the wall (though later than it)
but very probably of the west of the lower end of AE also. Here, on
the south side of the west entrance, the edge of the cobbling was
defined by upright slabs, two in situ. That nearest the wall was as
high as the wall, that furthest away only an inch or two higher than
the cobbling. It is difficult to believe that these could have remained
in position unless they were lying against material piled against the
wall; such material would at the time of occupation have been wedge-
shaped in section, but was not defined as such in excavation, because
it was in substance no different from stones and soil that would
gradually accumulate outside the wall. Some such protection for
the outer faces would probably help them to remain stable, reduce
rain and frost damage, and keep them and thereby the interior
drier.

*The exterior.* That to the west of AD and AE upper was surprisingly
clean, with only an occasional sherd or bone fragment; further south
more material was found outside the lower end of AE. To the east
however, there was clearly more activity, and this is probably
because this is the side sheltered from the prevailing wind. Little
could be said of the east exterior of AD; outside the upper end
of AE there was tightly packed stones and soil and in this was a
clearly defined and constructed slightly oval hollow (77) which is
suggested to be the setting for a water-butt, perhaps fed by a roof
gutter. The stones around this merged with the west end of a small
foundation (84) extending into unexcavated ground; this may have
been merely a revetment for the slope, to stop it slipping over the
features to the south. It may be that further excavation might show
that this was part of an outshot of AE which covered the other
features in this area. These lay directly outside the raised threshold
of the eastern entrance, and consisted of a series of pits. Three were
found, two deep and one (86) shallow, and there may be more to the
east. 88 was certainly filled in before the end of the occupation
of AE, and was covered by a layer of worn slabs which formed a

\[22\] With 76A, this was later than the construction of the house, see footnote 18, p. 88.

\[23\] 88—below paving down to 24 inches below natural, dark soil, red ash, stones.
88A 24 to 30 inches light yellow clay.
88B 30 to 36 inches as 88.
88C 36 to 39 inches, light clayey soil.
88D 39 to 60 inches dark soil, charcoal, stones.
88E 60 to 72 inches (base), into water-table; some large falls of natural.
(87, as 88 but including upper part of 89 before their separate definition, about 12 inches;
even below this the sides joined, due to collapse).
continuous surface from the doorway eastwards, and probably integrated with 76A and 77 (p. 91). It may have led to pit 89, but there was so much stone over this and the surrounding area (see S3) that the paved surface may have extended further. The interleaving of dark organic and light clayey layers in these pits may be due to periodic frosting or collapse of the sides, but was probably the accumulation of organic debris being periodically deliberately sealed by the dumping of clay material. The pits are thus tentatively interpreted as cess pits, but this must not be taken as proven until scientific tests are made. An alternative interpretation would be that these pits were for some domestic industrial purposes, such as soaking or keeping damp leather, hide, flax, wood or other material. The cess-pit hypothesis would be more readily acceptable if there were many parallels in other peasant houses: so far, these pits are rare. Pit 86 is in a different category; it may have been merely the latest pit in the area, dug to replace 89 or some other pit, but not completed.

The whole area around these pits formed a large hollow which was finally mostly filled with more rubble as shown in S3, but still sufficient of a depression to fill up with a slow silt (3E) and a deep topsoil.

*Features later than the occupation.* Apart from the possibility that some of the upper rubble in the area just described was derived from elsewhere after the house was abandoned, the only other feature that could be later was a path crossing east-west across the levelled-off area of AD, shown stippled in Fig. 5 and at the base of layer 1 in S2. This appeared during the excavation to mark the lower edge of a stony spread or platform extending south from AC with whose south wall it was parallel. This does not preclude it from being contemporary with the latest phase of AE, when AD was levelled off. There is thus no reason why AE in its latest phase could not have been in use at the same time as AC. This will be discussed further, but it may be noted here that the only stratigraphical reason for believing the

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24 See S2; 4E, 78c, 78d, stone layers over; 89 mostly clayey soil, some stones; 89a dark soil; 89b lighter clayey soil with a dark streak; 89c interleaved light clay and dark soil layers with some large falls of redeposited material, causing the wider profile over the base, (88-89 unstratified material from either pit).

25 This could be done at some future date with the unexcavated part of 89 even if no further pits were found.

26 Crane Godrevy, Gwithian, Cornwall (inf. A. C. Thomas) is one of the few sites.

27 Layers in 86 called 78a, rubble and clayey soil similar to 4E, and 78b lower fill, similar but with a darker matrix. 78 and 78c, d as on S2, but including slabs outside doorway.
UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964–1968

AA–AC complex to be secondary to the AD–AF complex is that AC cut the boundary wall which extended the line of the west side of AD–AF. This in itself does not preclude the two being at one time in use together. The boundary wall pre-dated AC, after AD was abandoned: but after AC was built it may still have linked AC with AE on their west sides. (See Upton I Fig. 4, top right, where it will be seen that the boundary wall went right up to AC even though the last few feet were rebuilt). One further piece of evidence may be finally cited to suggest that AE continued in use after AC was built—that the whole of the upper levels of AE–AF were remarkably free of any midden deposit of pottery or bone fragments which might have been expected on the downslope side of AC had AE–AF been abandoned when AC was built.

Reconstruction. No internal post-holes were found in AE in a position which might suggest internal roof-supports. It would seem that, as suggested for AA–AC, the roof timbers or trusses rested directly on the walls, though no evidence was seen which might confirm this, as was seen in AA and AC. There was no evidence of the gable walls being taken up higher in stone, and the ends were presumably of timber or clay construction. The roof was of shingle, thatch, or turf, for which no evidence survived, except for the ridge, which was of glazed ceramic crests, if we may judge by the few fragments recovered—the rest may have been re-used. The terracing of AE made a nearly level roof possible. Any roof junction with that of AD would have been difficult and this was presumably independently roofed, if at all; it is unlikely that AF was roofed, but there may have been a roofed outshot to the east. Evidence has been cited to show that the exterior of the walls was not visible, at least in the later stages of the occupation, and from the outside it must have looked as though the roofs rose directly out of the ground—stone walls would only be seen on entering the doorways.

Dating and conclusions. Comparison of the pottery sealed in the walls of AD–AF with that of AA–AC, both in quantity and types, leaves no doubt that the AD–AF complex was built earlier than AA–AC; an extension wall of AD–AF was cut by AC, and AD was probably levelled off before AC was built. But there is no evidence that AE went out of use before the end of the occupation of site A. The pottery in and around AE, mainly in the east and south-west exterior levels, does not differ significantly from that associated with AA–AC, and it seems probable that AE at least, even if originating earlier than AA–AC, continued in use with it. Independent assessment
Fig. 7A. Plan of Buildings AA-AF

Fig. 7B. Profile of Buildings AA-AF
of the dating evidence for the origin of AD–AF (i.e. the sherds sealed in its walls) would suggest a 13th century date for its construction, probably after c. 1225–1250; in other words a similar date for that originally postulated for AA–AC of later than c. 1225–1250; (see Upton I, p. 107); in each case the associated coin also centred on a mid-13th century date. It seems likely that a mid-late-13th century date can be maintained for the building of AD–AF, later 13th century sherds being sparse in its walls, but that AA–AC should be dated later, by reason of the prolific later 13th century sherds in its walls, and its being later than AD–AF. We suggest therefore that AA–AC was built either later in the 13th century than was originally thought, or even in the 14th century; even if the latter there is still ample time within the 14th century for the structural sequence of AA–AC to have taken place before the suggested late 14th century abandonment of the site.

Fig. 7. We may now suggest the following structural sequence on Site A including the pre-stone phases:

Period I ditches and possibly other features, Roman or later, i.e. sub-Roman or non-ceramic Saxon.

Period II drainage features with occupation material suggesting buildings in the vicinity, perhaps destroyed by those of III or IV; 12th or earlier 13th century or earlier (see p. 82).

Period III timber buildings, living-house and ?byre, just possibly of long-house type, terraced on two levels; 12th-earlier 13th century date or earlier in origin, possibly continuing to mid or later 13th century and succeeded directly by AD–AF.

Period IV. Stone long-house AE, living end and lower working area; upper room, partly secondary (AD); yard or annexe (AF) added to lower end; mid-later 13th century.

Period V (AE and probably AF continuing in use; AD levelled). AC living-house built, to which was added a byre AB, extended and then levelled; a larger byre erected to the north (AA); this was later modified for use as a store-building; in the latest phase there was possibly a separate byre elsewhere; later 13th or 14th century.

The structural succession consists of six buildings in line extending from the bottom of the valley to half-way up the slope; they are all apparently part of one peasant holding, whose extent

28 This sequence takes no account of evidence from trench 5, which would suggest a period between I and II not represented yet on site A, except possibly by 205 (p. 82).
has yet to be determined. It seems likely that the sequence represents expansion within the holding. Two living-areas (AE and the upper end of AC) suggest two family units, perhaps successive generations; the length of time suggested above would cover several generations. It seems likely, to judge by pottery evidence that the timber building of which the edge was found west of AA–AC was of the same date as period III, i.e. that in period III there were other buildings on site A besides those found under AE–AF.

Time and generations apart, the sequence is a remarkable demonstration of changing form and function. The long-house is typical of 13th century peasant houses elsewhere; the origins of the type are uncertain, as at present there is no definite link between the well-defined Bronze Age to Migration Period examples in north-west Europe and the 12th–13th century examples excavated in Britain;29 the present example is one of the best constructed and preserved of its kind; the internal and external features and finds demonstrate the comparatively affluent status of its occupants. The lower end, demonstrably not for animals, draws attention to the very variable use to which the lower ends of such houses may be put, other than the conventional view of them as byres. Very definite evidence must be found before a byre can be postulated, such as stalls, tethering rings, or substantial manure deposits; open drains, partitions, or wide entrances can be interpreted in other ways. The alternative uses for such lower ends as that of AE may be merely associated with day-to-day domestic activity such as spinning or dairying, or may be associated with work which was an important part of the economy of the peasant holding, possibly quite independent of the animal husbandry which AF might accommodate.

The “upper room” with its stair-pit access could be interpreted as the peasant equivalent of a solar; similar extensions to the living end at a higher level were so interpreted at Hound Tor;30 but such suggestions might be very wide of the mark; the evidence from Upton suggests that the total enclosure of AD may have been a secondary development (p. 89); there is no evidence of its being in any way “luxurious”. It seems more probable that it was a store-place, and that the sheltered and warmed upper end of AE was used for sleeping—probably especially in the south-east corner. In

29 An exception is probably that of Hound Tor, where a succession of possible long-houses in turf construction may extend backwards to as early as the 10th century (Med. Arch. Medieval Britain sections in VI-X (1961-5).
any case AD as an upper room went out of use, and its access from AE was blocked. Might the enclosure of AD, its disuse and the doorway blocking be interpreted as evidence of stages of climatic deterioration?

The remains of the farmstead represented by AD–AF represent all aspects of peasant life; housing, cooking, eating, sanitary arrangements, security, technology, domestic and possibly external industry and even burial; the picture would clearly be more complete if the surrounding area of the toft enclosure could be excavated.

It is not possible to suggest that there was any relationship between the levelling of AD and the building of AC. If the interpretation of AD as the store space or building is correct, then did the need for storage of food or equipment cease? Could the use of AE–AF have been declining in an economic sense, and were any part of its activities being transferred to the new buildings. Such a transfer might be envisaged in a generation shift, the older people in AE becoming less active, and the responsibilities being assumed by the younger people in AC. This can be no more than speculation but the expansion of site A must be seen in either economic or demographic terms.

The change from long-house form to the separate living-house AC, at some time in the later 13th or 14th century represents a change in function or fashion which is beginning to be seen on several other sites.\textsuperscript{31} The functions of storehouse, byre, industrial or domestic work area, were relegated to attached buildings which underwent considerable change and development during the 14th century. In the first report these were interpreted partly as expansion and partly as the reflection of a tendency to move animals away from intimate contact with human beings, first in attached but non-connected buildings, and finally in separate buildings. In the light of subsequent experience we can no longer be so confident in interpreting any component of AA–AC as a byre. It is possible that either or both were stores at various stages of their existence. The wide original doorways of AA could for instance have been made for the passage of carts. The drains in its floor may have originally been made to keep the floor of the storehouse dry, this problem being overcome in the later phase of AA, when the doorways were narrowed, by raising the floor to a higher level. There is still the possibility of some separate building north of AA being for animals, which excavation

\textsuperscript{31} Notably Gomeldon, Med. Arch., X (1965), 214 f.
of the rest of the toft would show. But it still has to be demonstrated that any component of AA to AF was for animal use.

THE SPRING OR WELL (Trench 4)

This is just below Lamb’s Cottage; it is named “well” on the 25-in. map and there was a clearly defined hollow here at the foot of a slight scarp. To find out if it really were a well and if so of what date, a cutting (Trench 4) 27 feet square was laid out in 1965 with the hollow in its north-west corner. It was found that the whole area had been extensively disturbed in recent times (19th and 20th centuries) in order to insert pipes; Roman and medieval sherds were found in the disturbed layers; these intrusions appeared to be so extensive that the cutting was abandoned. There was however a constant, if small, flow of water from the hollow and it seems clear that the modern pipes were inserted to tap this; there is no evidence in the part dug to suggest that there had ever been a well here, but it may have been the major spring of the village, and possibly a source of the water which now makes the valley floor swampy.

THE WEST BOUNDARY
(Trenches 3 and 5, FIG. 8)

Cuttings were made in 1965–8 to examine the nature of the most westerly earthwork of the village. The northern boundary, separating well-defined crofts from the area of arable cultivation appeared to turn south along the line of this earthwork, which was thus interpreted before excavation as the western boundary separating the westernmost croft (possibly associated with house 1) from the arable area to the west: only a small part of the earthwork lay within the present village field as defined by a standing stone wall.

The western boundary extended as a fairly straight scarp from the north-west corner to a point just south of Trench 5 where it swings away to the south-west under the modern stone wall, into the present-day ploughland where its course is lost.

Trench 3 was a small cut which established that this scarp contained a stone wall similar to the north boundary. Only the west face of this was examined, together with eight feet of the ground

32 See Upton I, FIG. 3, p. 87, p. 92.
33 39A, 9c, 1K, 2T, 15 RO by fabric.
34 See Upton I, FIG. 3, p. 87, and pp. 107-110.
Fig. 8. Trench 5, Section S4 and plan
or any other boundary;³⁹ only further excavations north or south could determine this.

East of the scarp, E1 extended under a considerable tumble of rubble from the wall (F) becoming rather lighter at a point where the natural stones and clay dipped, presumably cut-away. This is interpreted as a negative lynchet.⁴⁰

Ploughing of the western croft is represented by J–K, a very stony layer lying on a broken surface of natural clay and stones; there was no evidence of a buried soil or of any plough marks. The west end of J–K became rather less stony (G) and then darker, at the junction with E1 on the line of the negative lynchet; this is probably due to humus or organic accumulation in the dip created by the down-slope turning of the furrow.

It is clear that much of the change in level that the western earthwork comprised was due to the combination of positive and negative lynches, even though these are not certainly contemporary, as will be suggested below. The stone wall appears to have been a later addition to this scarp, constructed to define its line permanently; it presumably stood proud of the scarp originally, but in a degraded state merely accentuated its profile. There was a difference between the plough soil C–D and that of J–K, the former being much finer with small stones. The accumulation of C–D was clearly derived from the slope of the field to the west ⁴¹ and may have been comprised largely of former topsoil. J–K lay in the more restricted area of the western croft where there is only a slight slope down from north-south, and from west-east. J–K is therefore likely to be composed much more of ploughed-up sub-soil rather than soil-drift.

In view of this it may seem surprising that a negative lynchet developed at all, and the exact meaning of the observed stratification is not clear. One possibility (perhaps supported by the dating evidence) is that the original ploughing which caused the negative lynchet extended well beyond the present earthworks to east and south; and that J–K accumulated subsequently after the definition of the western croft as a “closed area”.⁴² Some light could be shed on this if the next earthwork to the east were examined; layer L in S4 is probably associated with this.

³⁹Possibly 5/6, 2 inches deep into natural, was associated with this.
⁴⁰Another possibility is that here was some timber or other boundary.
⁴¹The slope is less west of trench 3, which explains the smaller accumulation there; and therefore also the better preservation of the wall at that point.
⁴²Perhaps even continuing after the wall collapse.
Dating (See Table II). The buried soil E to the west contained only Roman pottery and one ?Saxon sherd. Roman sherds were also predominant in D and C above with more medieval in C than in D. The sherd of Q fabric in E suggests a post-Roman date for the ploughing, disturbing a soil containing much Roman pottery; the Q sherd however was small and near E1 and maybe intrusive into E; so it is possible that the accumulation began in the Roman period, or in the post-Roman non-ceramic centuries, when only Roman pottery was available to be incorporated in the plough soil. In either case the different occurrence of pottery in E, D and C shows that some phase of the boundary which limited soil accumulation was of “early” date, probably pre-conquest. The post-holes were dated by sherds in their filling, probably of late Saxon date,43 those in 5/5 being large and unweathered (FIG. 13, no. P 60). Sherds sealed by the wall included a few early medieval ones (11th–13th century) and in general the proportion is similar to that in D rather than in C; this implies that C was an accumulation contemporary with the wall in the post-conquest period.

J–K (and G) contained remarkably little Roman pottery and there is a similar disparity in the topsoil A–B44 either side of the boundary; but there were many early medieval sherds, and there seems little doubt that J–K was a plough soil of 11th century or later date, even if, as discussed above, the negative lynchet is not contemporary with the plough soil. The absence of Saxon pottery need not be significant, but the small amount of Roman pottery is surprising. Not only is it so prevalent only a few yards to the west, but has been found in other areas in the upper part of the village, especially in Trench 1. There are three possible explanations, (1) that the Roman pottery west of the lynchet was mostly contained by a boundary of some kind on the wall line, existing in Roman times; if this were accepted, it would imply continuity of boundary from Roman to medieval times; (2) that the sherds to the west were all derived from areas of Roman occupation further west by post-Roman ploughing, limited by the post-Roman boundary for which the evidence has been discussed; or (3) that there was originally as great a scatter east of the boundary, but that the early ploughing of the croft area (before J and K) represented by the negative lynchet, removed it all and redeposited it further down the valley. On the whole the evidence favours (2).

43 P.Q.R. fabrics; 5E2 are sherds in 5/3; a few other sherds in soil around post-holes.

44 West of negative lynchet Roman sherds are 72% of the total (202 out of 278); east of lynchet 11% (25 out of 234).
UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964–1968

It should finally be pointed out that the thickness of plough soil would originally have been greater than C–D or J–K; A and B are largely the product of worm-action bringing up humus from lower levels, which would have been darker when in use than now.

Comment. Such evidence as trench 5 yielded is notoriously difficult to interpret, and any suggestions made above are tentative. It can at least be said, and these are significant facts: that arable cultivation began at least as early as the Saxon period; that a late Saxon boundary or timber structure of substantial construction existed here; and that the western croft area was cultivated, possibly both before and after its definition as a croft; if J–K prove, as seems likely, to be contained within the croft, then the croft was ploughed in the 11th century or later date. The Roman finds cannot be adduced as evidence of Roman occupation in this area, in view of their rarity in the croft area; in spite of the quantity of material, including coins, there is no such clear evidence here as there was in trench 1,45 which remains the only area dug which was definitely in use in Roman times.

The Finds

Summary. The same comments on the finds may be made as in Upton I (p. 111), that they suggest a comparatively high standard of living for the occupants of AD–AF, if we may judge this by the variety, quality, and sophistication of portable objects; the same conclusion could be drawn from the quality of the house construction and its interior and exterior features.

Details. The stone objects include a few flint flakes; hones for sharpening large and small tools, and part of a rotary grindstone—a remarkable find for a peasant house. Spindle whorls indicate spinning activity; one may have been buried with the infant. Corn-grinding is suggested by fragments of querns of local and Rhineland origin, but it should be pointed out that these may be Roman; one was re-used in a non-rotary way, possibly as a saddle-quern. Domestic milling or trituration of other foods was done in a hand-mortar. Leather working is suggested by one smoother. The most surprising finds were pieces of dressed oolite, an octagonal column and a lintel. It is difficult to find a use for the former, though the latter may have been set over the north entrance of AE. It cannot be certain that either piece was other than building material robbed from some superior quality building, though the find-spot of the column suggested it was in household use, perhaps as a lamp-stand or something similar.

45 Upton I, pp. 107-110.
Fig. 9. Stone objects
Fig. 9

ST. No. 55  Hone, fine-grained sandstone. (1)
56  Hone, ditto (1)
65  Quern fr., upper stone, 14 ins. diam. dark grey-blue, Millstone Grit. (4E).
67  Mortar fr., fine oolite, no obvious evidence of interior circumferential wear; vertical rib, one of two or four; faint vertical tooling on exterior. (4E, just outside east doorway 75).
69  Smoother for ? leather; ? erratic pebble; abrasion on two facets at one end. (5, near 97).
74  Quern fr., Lava (Mayen or Eifel), upper stone (122).
79  Quern fr., upper stone, Millstone Grit conglomerate, probably Roman (TR5, in posthole 5/5).

Fig. 10

61  Grindstone fragments, exterior edges circumferentially worn, but not on regular circle, pale grey fine limestone. (78, cess-pit area).
63  Column, octagonal fluted, fine oolite, not so regular as drawn, ? lamp stand (in SE. corner of upper part AE, just above floor stones).

Fig. 11

76  Spindle-whorl, fine-grained limestone. (120).
68  Spindle-whorl, fine sandstone. (71 doorway).
77  Spindle-whorl, soft fine-grained limestone. (126).
66  Spindle-whorl, fine-grained limestone. (5).
60  Spindle-whorl fr. (2).
73  Hone, schist, unfinished hole for suspension. (U/S).
70  Hone, fine-grained blue-grey limestone. (96).
57  Hone, schist. (2E).
58  Hone, schist (2E).

The only finds of fired clay were two small pieces of Roman tegula or imbrex from A8 and A78.

No evidence of metal working came from AD-AF (cf. Upton I, p. 117, ten pieces of slag in AA-AC); a single piece of slag came from TR5H.

Iron objects include tools: several knives, a large socketted ? dibber, a ? thatching needle; household fittings: a hinge hanger, a latch, a remarkable lock-plate, a door-fitting, a large door-stud, and a barrel padlock key; all these indicate the sophisticated fittings of a wooden hung door leading into AE; horseshoe fragments and a possible harness-buckle. Fishing and hunting may be indicated by a fish-hook and a fine arrow head. Nails were scarce by comparison with AA-AC.46

46 There were 26; See Upton I, p. 122 (163 examples); of the 26 examples found 4 were of class A (animal shoe), 1 of C, 2 of D, 2 of E, 5 of F, the rest unclassified.
Fig. 10. Large stones and roof crest
Upton, Gloucestershire, 1964-1968

Fig. 11. Miscellaneous finds (metal and stone)

107
Fig. 12

10. nos.

87 Socketed tool, ?dibber or similar. (4C).
130 Bill-hook. (96E, under slabs).
95 ?Thatching needle. (4W).
128, 109, 89A, 88. Knife-blades. (76, 4E, 4L, 4C).
85 ?Fish-hook. (5E).
92 Arrowhead. (4W).
121 Buckle. (4W).
100 ?Door-fitting. (7I, doorway).
84 Lock-plate. (3C, near door, see Fig. 5).
108 Latch (78D).
102 Door stud (5, near wall 70).
112 Cleat (4E).
125 Barrel padlock key, bent (125).
105 Hinge-hanger (5, south end AE, Fig. 5).
93, 122, 124, 123. Horseshoe frs. (4W, 78, 125, 77).

Copper alloy was rare (cf. 22 items in Upton I); the only objects from AD-AF were three strap-end buckles from clothing, and the rod fragment, probably Roman, of period I. A sheep-bell, late or post-
medieval, came from the spring area.

Fig. 11

CA. Nos.

24, 25, 26. Strap-end buckles (2, 3W, and 78).
27 Rod (200, period I).
23 Sheep-bell (TR4, spring area).

Other metals comprise only a lead nail, a piece of scrap, and two pot mending plugs, one Roman from TR5c, and one medieval; these are common enough on Roman sites, but rare in medieval contexts.

Fig. 11

OM. Nos.

8 Pot mending plug, sandwich either side of C fabric sherd (78D).
10 Lead nail (4S).

The only finds of worked bone were a needle or awl (Fig. 11, no. WB3) from A4W, and a piece from A312 of period I.

Organic material is represented by some hazel-nut shell fragments from A78, and burnt grain (no report available) from contexts of period II and III.

The coins as in Upton I number four, three of them Roman; the medieval half-penny from AF is of similar date to that from AC (Upton I, coin no. 1 1205-47, lost at any time up to 1279); although no firm dating can be given from single coin finds, they do support
Fig. 12. Iron objects
other evidence that the AD-AF complex was in use with AA-AC, and
the second coin supports the first as evidence of some cash element in
the economy of site A. Two Roman coins were in trench 5, and in view
of the large amount of Roman pottery to the west, there is no reason
to think they were not associated with this. But the Roman coin from
AE found in a medieval context near the hearth of AE does suggest
that the coin had been picked up in medieval times, perhaps as a
curiosity, (cf. the Roman coin, Upton I, no. 4, found sealed, perhaps
deliberately, under the threshold of AC).

Coin no. 5 (kindly identified by Anthony Thompson, Heberden Coin Room,
coinage, Class ?vii, c. 1223-42. Mint of London, moneyer uncertain. (+ – 0
N.LVND; 067 grams = 10.8 grains. (AF, base of A4S, as in S2, FIG. 3).

Coin no. 6. House of Constantine, URBS ROMA, helmeted bust L., Rev. She-
wolf feeding twins; very worn (93a, ash of primary hearth of AE).

Coin no. 7. Minimus, 9 mm. No obvious design (TR5, layer E).

Coin no. 8. Claudius II (Gothicus) (A.D. 268-270); Commemorative coin struck
posthumously; DIVO CLAUDIO rad. bust to R.
Rev. CON(SECRATIO), eagle; unworn, but struck on too small a flan. (TR5 layer J).

The Pottery

Type-fabrics; for method of study and general remarks, see
Upton I, pp. 126 ff.; a summary of the series is repeated here for
convenience, with additions and comments. The distribution by
fabric is shown in Tables I and II. The illustrated examples are chosen
for their significance as dating evidence for features as associated
groups, or for intrinsic interest. This report only describes the pottery
found, and there is little discussion on its dating wider relationship,
of which, and for some references, see Upton I. It is hoped to publish
a further report on the pottery and finds at some future date.

A White-gritted, mostly soapy.
B As A, with sparse glaze (many Selsley Common type).
C Hardy sandy.
D As C with sparse glaze.
E Pimply soapy, possibly Saxon.
F Hard coarse grey.
G Similar to A, but dark grey or black and denser and thicker, not pitted
(included in A in first report, or A-E or A-P); common at Hereford in levels
certainly pre-t289, possibly pre-t055.47
H White, sandy green glaze (Coventry area, some probably from recently
excavated kilns at Nuneaton).

47 1968 excavations by writer.
UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964-1968

Fig. 13. Pottery 60-79

III
Table I comment.

The dating evidence, especially that sealed within the walls, has already been discussed on p. 93. Further points may be made about the pottery assemblage as shown in this table:

1. The total number of sherds is remarkably similar for the AD-AF area as for AA-AC (5418 to 6408).

2. The variety and amount of pottery in the walls was much less, confirming that AD-AF were built before AA-AC.

3. The proportions of the various fabrics are remarkably similar, confirming the broad contemporaneity of the two areas in use if not in inception.

4. The differences are likely to be due mainly to fortuitous occurrence among minority groups; it may be noted however that fabric L (1% in AA to AC) is not present in AD-AF; this was evenly spread in all AA-AC layers, and might therefore be regarded as evidence of late date; its occurrence in the walls of AC show that it was current by the time AC was built, so it is odd, but probably not significant, that none was found in AD-AF.

Although it is demonstrated that there was no significant change in pottery during the whole occupation of the stone-built houses of

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48 Now that Stamford ware is seen to be substantially represented in 11th-12th century levels at Warwick (current excavations, inf. S. Taylor) its presence at Upton might be expected.
TABLE I. SITE A: AD-AF, POTTERY BY FABRIC

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UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964-1968
| Period II Feature | A | B | C | D | F | G | H | J | K | L | M | O | P | Q | RO | ST | T | U | V | W | TOTAL | P Series Illustrated |
| 324(a)           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 | 61 |
| 331a/b           | 2 |   | 1 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 62, 63 |
| 332              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| 330              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Total            | 2 |   | 1 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 9 | |

| Period III Features | A | B | C | D | F | G | H | J | K | L | M | O | P | Q | RO | ST | T | U | V | W | TOTAL | P Series Illustrated |
| 142                 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 | 69, 71, 72 |
| 305                 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 70, 75 |
| 309                 |   |   |   | 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 9 | |
| 314                 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 | |
| 325                 | 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 6 | |
| 328                 |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 73, 74 |
| 332                 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 16 | 68 |
| Total               | 10| 1 | 31| 2 | 1 | 13|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 62 | |

| Period III Layers 10 | A | B | C | D | F | G | H | J | K | L | M | O | P | Q | RO | ST | T | U | V | W | TOTAL | P Series Illustrated |
| 10A                  |   |   |   | 42| 1 |   | 17|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 62 | 64, 65, 67 |
| 10B                  |   |   |   | 12|   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 19 | 66 |
| 10C                  |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 | 66 |
| Total                | 2 |   | 54| 1 |   | 28|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 85 | |

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1969
<p>|                  | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | J | K | L | M | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | Total | P Series Illustrated |
| <strong>Period IV</strong>    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                 |
| AE Walls         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                 |
| 64               | 1 |   |   |   |   | 8?|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 9 | 77, 99          |
| 70               | 5 | 4 | 13| 1 |   | 2 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 27            |
| 71               | 7 | 3 | 40| 5 |   | 3 |   |   | I |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 60            |
| 72               | 7 |   | 21| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 30            |
| 73               | 13|   | 30| 2 |   | 3 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 51            |
| 74               | 5 |   | 8 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 14            |
| 75               | 8 |   | 11|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 13            |
| 76               | 2 | 7 | 13| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 84            |
| 90               | 5 |   | 7 | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 21            |
| 92               | 5 |   | 7 | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 14            |
| 123              |   |   | 1 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2             |
| <strong>Total</strong>        | 60| 9 | 239|14| 2 |10 | 7 | 1 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 347           |
|                  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                 |
| <strong>Period IV</strong>    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                 |
| AD Walls         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                 |
| 50               |   |   |   |   | 46| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 47            |
| 51               |   |   |   |   | 17| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 18            |
| 52               |   |   |   | 25|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 27            |
| 53               |   |   | 28 |1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 33            |
| 70/53            | 4 |   | 10 |1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 10            |
| 54               |   |   | 25 |1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 25            |
| 55               |   |   | 4  |1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 6             |
| 111              |   |   | 4  |1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 5             |
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* Sherds—at least two different pots.  
† Includes finds marked 5H.  
‡ Some marked 5E2.  
§ FIG. 13, P60.  
¶ Grey core; one orange surface, other darker red and micaceous.
UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964–1968

periods IV and V there is a definite difference between the pottery assemblage of period III and that of IV. On the pottery evidence we might therefore suggest a gap between the end of period III and the beginning of period IV.

Details of Pottery illustrated. (Figs. 13 to 15, series P 60—P 109 following on series of P 1-59 of Upton I). The fabrics of illustrated examples are individually described, but the fabric type letter is put at the end of the description.

Trench 5.

P 60, late Saxon pottery; not related to periods I—IV of site A, except for Q sherd in 205 (p. 82). Shoulder sherd dubiously joining rim sherd, dark grey white-hand-made Q (TR/3 except rim which is TR5/193, soil immediately above).

Site A.

P 61-63. Period II (P 61), and II-III transition (P 62-63), ?12th—earlier 13th century, or earlier.
61 rim sherd, dark grey white-gritted, reddish surface with black skin on exterior P (324a).
62 rim sherd, light grey slightly gritty, reddish surfaces, C (331a/b).
63 large rim sherd, dark grey white-gritted pitted, G (331a/b).

P 64-79 Period III, 12th-earlier 13th century or earlier (76-79 in walls of Period IV).
64 rim sherd, dark grey white-gritted, G (A10).
65 rim sherd, as 64, G (A10b).
66 rim sherd, harsh dark grey, white-gritted, reddish brown ext.; rim folded on inside, G (A10).
67 rim sherd, dark grey white-gritted, reddish surface, dark skin interior, P (338).
68 rim sherd, as 64, G (142).
69 rim sherd, dark grey sandy with some white grits, C plus grits (309).
71 rim sherd, hard grey brownish ext., C (305).
72 rim sherd, hard grey dark surfaces, C (305).
73 fragment handle, hard grey, yellow matt glaze, D (328).
74 rim sherd and tubular spout of tripod pitcher, grey white-gritted, lighter toward edge of fracture, darker inside surface, outside patchy dull matt green glaze, ?B, not typical (328). This would conventionally be regarded as typical of the 12th century.
75 rim sherd, hard grey, reddish surfaces, glaze spots, D (309).
76 rim sherd, dark grey white-gritted, G (75).
77 rim sherd, dark grey buff soapy white-gritted, G (73).
78 rim sherd, Selsley Common cooking pot, grey brown white-gritted green glaze on ext., rim; diagonal grooves ext., B (76).
79 rim sherd and lip-fragment of jug, c. 8 ins. diam., hard red mottled green-yellow glaze over most, J (73).
UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964–1968

P 80-95 Period IV features, mid to later 13th or 14th century, unless residual.

80 rim sherd, hard dark grey white- gritted, G (130b).
81 large joining rim and shoulder sherds and non-joining base sherds; hard coarse grey, one pierced hole in each part, F (upper parts 89b, lower A4E).
82 rim and large body sherds, hard dark grey sandy, C (88).
83 body sherd of jug with lower handle stump; reddish with coarse grits and white slip, faint roulette or comb-pressed on ext., green glaze except for strip above handle stump. W (88).
84 rim sherd, grey sandy, C (78d).
85 handle of jug, buff white- gritted, dark grey core, stab and finger decoration; traces of "fried" matt glaze, D (78c).
86 body sherd of jug; dark grey, dark green-brown glaze over stamped dot and circle decoration, J (78c).
87 rim and shoulder sherds with lip, hard dark grey, girth grooves on shoulder, thick brown glaze not extending upwards as far as neck, thickest at top, ie. pot fired upside-down, V (78c).
88 large rim sherd, pink buff white- gritted, A (78c).
89 rim and large side sherd with scrap of base of bowl, hard sandy red, patchy glaze on rim inside and near inside of base, T (78).
90 half of cooking pot, reddish sandy, some glaze inside, smoke blackened outside, D (78).
91 most of lower part of cooking pot, grey buff, white- gritted, A (78).
92 most of bowl, hard red sandy micaceous, sparse glaze inside rim, patchy green glaze inside base, D (77).
93 rim and shoulder sherd of jug with pinched-lip, hard grey, olive glaze and girth grooves below rim, V (76a).
94 rim and shoulder sherds with lip, orange white gritty, patchy green glaze ext., B (77).
95 body sherd of jug, hard dark grey, red grey int., dark green glaze ext., over ?chevron rouletted and ?circle decoration, J (77).

P 96-109. Period IV layers, mid-later 13th or 14th century, unless residual.

96 body sherd of jug, fine cream, apple-green glaze, two applied strips, one same clay other chocolate brown, glaze even and glossy, M (8).
97 rim sherd pink buff white- gritted, A (8).
98 body sherd of jug, red-grey white- gritted, combed decoration under sparse glaze, Selsley Common, B (8).
99 rim sherd dark grey-brown white- gritted, rim folded on inside, G (45).
100 shoulder sherd of jug, hard grey, pink inside, middle strip same clay, with roulette decoration, outer strips dark brown purple with roulette decoration, all over glaze green except over dark strip, J (4w).
101 sherd of jug, hard gritty pink, scroll decoration in applied dark reddish clay, all-over glaze ext., yellow-orange, dark orange-brown on strips, M (4w).
102 1/8 of bowl, fine reddish-brown, hard, glazed over lower half of interior, mottled green yellow glaze, D (4w).
103 large sherd of lower part of jug, coarse cream, non-type fabric; applied strips in dark reddish-brown clay, rouletting irregularly on strips and body and around narrow part in a band, also some irregular groove decoration, glaze mottled green and reddish, base thumb pressed from outside, Oxford style (4w).

I2I
UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964–1968

104 large rim and shoulder sherds with lip, red-buff, white-gritted greeny patchy glazed ext., Selsley Common, B (4e).
105 rim sherd, pink/buff white-gritted, sparse yellow green glaze, Selsley Common, B (4e).
106 large rim and side sherd, fine hard grey-reddish, glaze at base on interior dark green, D (4w).
107 large rim and body sherd, folded inside rim, hard coarse grey, F (4e).
108 body sherd of jug, hard dark grey, red-grey interior, rouletted bands, sparse glaze, J (2e).
109 body sherd of jug, fabric as 108, roulette decoration, KJ (1).

Roof-crests. Several pieces were found in 78, probably all of one crest, of which a reconstructed drawing is shown in FIG. 10; another similar fragment came from 4w. These are the first examples from Upton. The fabric is white-gritted, with a green glaze, similar to fabric B, and probably from the same (Cotswold) kiln area. The hole was probably for tying in the thatch string, and the groove may be one of several for keying the string. The crests are knife-cut, but not angular, consistent with a 13th-14th century date.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Infant Burial (PLATE III).

By T. F. SPENCE and W. J. MOORE

Department of Anatomy, University of Birmingham

Description of Skeleton. This skeleton of a baby is nearly complete and represents a single individual. Among the parts that are missing, the majority are of skeletal members that would be comprised, at this stage of development, principally of cartilage. Since this tissue contains no calcium salts, it disappears rapidly after submersion and any centres of ossification present are usually too small for recovery. Amongst the bones commonly observed (that is, are of sufficient size) at this age, only (i) the mastoid, tympanic and petrous parts of the right temporal bone (ii) and the larger tarsal bones are missing.

Age. None of the teeth of the deciduous dentition have erupted, indicating that the child was not more than six months old. In the left temporal bone, the tympanic ring is partially fused with the remainder of the bone. This suggests that the individual survived for at least a few months after birth. A reasonable estimate of the age of death would, therefore, seem to be between three and six months after birth. This estimate is supported by the observation that the
sumphasis menti of the mandible has become partially obliterated in its lower part.

Pathology. There is no evidence of disease in the skeleton and the cause of death cannot be ascertained. Sex. Unknown.

The Shell. Mr Frederick Woodward (Paisley Museums) writes as follows about the accompanying shell:

"The shell in question is a fragment of a trumpet shell Charonia sp. and consists of the middle portion since the spire and body whirl have both been broken off. The complete specimen probably measured about 6-7 inches. This genus is not found in British waters. In all probability this is an example of Charonia nodiferus which occurs in the Mediterranean. A larger species Charonia tritonis is very similar in shape and comes from the Pacific where it occurs in shallow bays. I have no material of both species so that I cannot make a more accurate identification.

These shells are sometimes eaten by the French, Italian, and Spanish peasants but are more usually associated with the production of trumpets hence the common name trumpet shell. The trumpet is produced by boring a hole for a mouthpiece into one of the upper whirls, this practice being common to Australian and Polynesian Islanders. When the shell is in good condition it is quite attractive and often used for ornamental purposes and this is the probable use to which it was put in this medieval village."

The Animal Bones.

By Barbara Noddle,

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D. Bramwell (bird bone) and Frederick Woodward

AD occupation levels and walls (A58, A59, A112).

cattle. lower 3rd molar worn, ober 5 y.o.
        lower pre-molar worn, ober 3 y.o.
        2 animals, one over 3 y.o., one over 5 y.o.

sheep. mandible fragments 2.
        mandible mature worn.
        1 animal over 5 y.o.

pig. mandible, 2nd molar part worn, 4th premolar erupting.
     1 animal aged about 2 years.

horse. 3rd phalanx 76 mm. across ? about 14 h.h.?
UPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1964–1968

**AE** occupation levels interior (A4L, A5, A96).

- **cattle.** upper premolar worn, over 3 y.o.
- **sheep.** fragment tibia.
  - mandibular fragment.
  - 3 femur heads.
  - humerus.
  - 3 lower molars worn.
  - 3 lower 3rd molars, 1 worn, pair unworn.
  - 2nd upper molar unworn.
  - 6 animals, 1 over 3 y.o., 1 over 3½ y.o. 1 over 5 y.o., 11 about 4 y.o., 1 about 18 mths.

Butchery note; hind limbs removed from carcase by cutting neck of femur, use of axe rather than knife?

- **horse.** incisor. Aged about 6 years.
- **dog.** maxilla. Terrier size.
- **bird.** right metacarpal (wing bone) of medium-sized goose of grey-lag type, probably domestic form.

**AD/AF** exterior levels (A4E, A4S).

- **cattle.** fragment scapula.
  - lower molar worn, over 3 y.o.
  - 2nd upper molar worn.
  - metacarpal fragment.
  - lateral incisor worn. Minimum 1 animal over 3 y.o.
  - 1 animal over 5 y.o.
- **sheep.** Mandible fragment.
  - R mandible, mature worn.
  - Tibia 2 fragments mature.
  - Femur 2 fragments mature.
  - Pelvis 2 fragments.
  - Thoracic vertebra.
  - 2 rib.
  - 3 lower molars worn.
  - two 3rd upper molars worn, one over 5 y.o.
  - two lower molars worn.
  - 2 upper premolars worn.
  - central incisor worn. Minimum 1 animal over 5 y.o.
- **horse.** upper molar worn. Minimum 1 animal over 5 y.o.

**AE** east exterior, rubble over cess-pit area (A78).

- **cattle.** 3 mandible fragments.
  - 2 upper molars worn.
  - lower molar very worn.
  - 3 temporary incisors. Minimum 2 animals, 1 under 4 y.o. 1 aged.
- **sheep.** atlas.
  - radius immature under 4 y.o.
  - mandible mature.
maxilla mature worn.  
2 lower molars. 2 animals.  
lower molar 3rd. 2 right worn. 1 left unworn. 
3 upper molars. 2 animals. 
3rd upper molar unworn. 
3 animals, 2 over 5 y.o., 1 3 1/2 y.o. approx. 

pig. mandible about 2 y.o. 

horse. scapula fragment. 
3rd phalanx. 14 hands approx.? 
2 upper temporary premolars. 1 animal under 3 1/2 y.o. 

Trench 5 layer E (probably pre-conquest or Roman, p. 102). 
cattle. radius fragment. 
upper molar worn. 
1 animal, over 3 y.o. 
sheep. radius, new born. 
2 upper molars worn. 
4th temporary lower premolar. 
2 animals, new born and under 3 y.o. 

Comment. This collection probably represents plough oxen at the end of the working life and old shearing sheep of the same status. The few young animals, other than the pigs, were probably casualties slaughtered and the only animals reared for meat were pigs. The relatively large number of loose teeth indicates that the bones were exposed to the elements and scavengers for a sufficient length of time for them to be destroyed, leaving the harder teeth only. The bones of animals in poor condition are more rapidly destroyed than the denser bones of fattened stock.