

THE MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT AT POPHAM, EXCAVATIONS 1975 AND 1983

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ABSTRACT

A large part of the shrunken medieval village of Popham was destroyed by construction of the M3 Motorway in 1983. In 1975, the earthworks that were to be destroyed were surveyed and the exploration of two adjacent crofts revealed buildings of thirteenth and fourteenth century date. In 1983 a 'controlled watching brief' immediately prior to the road construction recorded three other possible buildings. Grass tempered Anglo-Saxon pottery was discovered in 1975.

INTRODUCTION

The construction in 1983 of the M3 Motorway in central Hampshire from Popham to Bar End, Winchester (Biddle & Emery 1973), led to a programme of survey and excavation at the medieval village of Popham. In 1975, this work was directed by P J Fasham for the M3 Archaeological Rescue Committee, and in 1983 by P J Fasham and R Whinney for the Trust for Wessex Archaeology and Winchester District Council respectively. Both excavations were funded by the Directorate of Ancient Monuments of the Department of the Environment with the benefit in 1983 of an additional grant from Hampshire County Council.

The long tradition of field archaeology in Hampshire has been mainly concerned with prehistory, especially hill forts. Medieval archaeology has largely been undertaken in the large towns of Southampton and Winchester, and at the Saxon Shore fort at Porchester. Rural medieval excavations have been carried out at the medieval sites of New Milton (Hurst & Hurst 1967) and Wickham Glebe (Whinney forthcoming). At the Saxon villages of Cowdrey's Down, Basingstoke (Millet 1983)

and Chalton (Addyman & Leigh 1973) observations of construction work have been maintained since the end of the main programme of fieldwork and excavation.

Recent work on castles in Hampshire has included that at Basing House and Odiham Castle (D Allen *prs comm*) and a twelfth century castle at Bentley (Stamper 1984). Considerable work has been done on churches and includes recent small scale excavations of St Matthew's Church at Otterbourne (Youngs *et al* 1984, 220) and investigation of the fire damaged church of St Peters at Yateley (Hinton & Oake 1983).

Recent studies of medieval villages have concentrated on the documentary aspects and on earthwork surveys (Meiron-Jones 1969; Collins & Oliver 1971; Sanderson 1971). The only concerted programme of excavation has been at Facombe/Netherton (Cherry 1977, 251-2) although S Moorhouse did investigate a platform at Oakley (Cherry 1972, 201; and Moorhouse *pers comm*). It is against this background that the work at Popham should be considered. The extensive destruction of the earthwork remains at Popham necessitated an archaeological response. Initial proposals included the total excavation of the threatened area but, following discussions with the Medieval Village Research Group and the Department of the Environment, a smaller response was arranged. The first stage was the survey of the earthworks in the threatened area and the second stage was the excavation of two partially destroyed crofts. The results of that excavation meant that there was little justification in the total excavation, or, indeed in keyhole excavation, of further parts of the



Fig 1. Popham Location Plan.

site. Further work would have been very expensive.

The clay-with-flints subsoil was too acid for the preservation of environmental remains in the form of seeds, pollen or molluscs. Only a few animal bones survived and they were fragmentary. There was, therefore, natural destruction of a key part of the archaeological record. There is no great wealth of documentary evidence. The site could not have been excavated within a comprehensive problem-orientated framework designed to shed light on village mobility, settlement development and reconstruction of the medieval environment and economic base. Therefore, no further detailed work was proposed or undertaken.

In 1983, with the construction of the M3 Motorway, an approach had to be devised for Stage 3 of the programme to determine the date and location of further features. Experience gained elsewhere on the motorway during 1983 made it quite obvious that a watching brief undertaken during the contractors earth-moving programme would not reveal any comprehensible results. The nature and speed of mechanical earth-moving was so destructive that it would have been impossible to have made any form of record. The destruction was

total. It would not have been possible to emulate, for example, Jones's recording of the village at Wawne in Yorkshire (Hurst 1962-3, 343-345) where the earthworks were well defined and some buildings were revealed as black rectangles in the soil. In order to attempt to locate further features, the topsoil was removed by a hylac under archaeological supervision and an area of 2176m² was uncovered. Features identified were planned at 1:100 and any visible finds were collected from the trenches. Only a few days were available for this work between the erection of the motorway fences and the bulldozing of the site and this approach seemed more likely to produce results within the available resources than any other form of observation. It can be called a controlled watching brief and was preferable to making no attempt to enlarge the recorded archaeology of Popham.

SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

Popham lies on one of the east-west ridges of the chalk lands of central Hampshire, about half-way between Winchester and Basingstoke (Fig 1). The village lies on clay-with-flints over Upper Chalk at a height of over 152m (500ft). As elsewhere in the Hampshire chalklands the immediate neighbourhood of Popham has been extensively occupied from prehistoric times onwards. The prehistoric occupation of the area is immaterial to this report except to say that no structural evidence was found even though flint artefacts were recovered (see archive). The Roman settlement pattern may have been a considerable influence on the later settlement. The Roman road from Winchester to Silchester probably passed to the east of the medieval settlement; certainly no evidence was recorded during the excavations to indicate that it was on the site of the medieval village. However, a Roman track did run through Popham and eventually its line became the main street of the village passing the Manor House. Fieldwork has revealed a substantial Roman site with stone footings in College Wood to the south-east of Popham

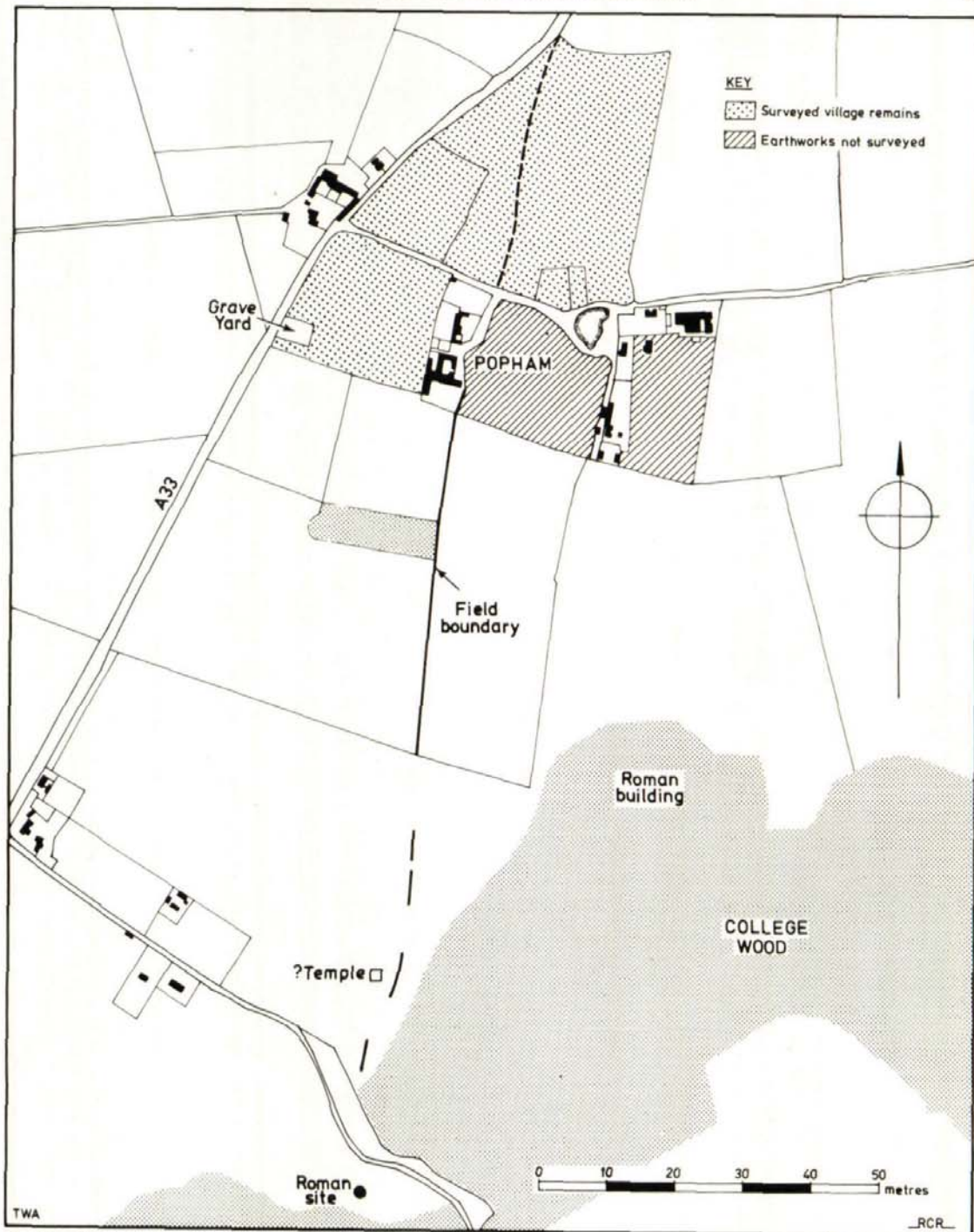


Fig 2. Popham: Its local context before construction of the access road in 1970 and the M3 Motorway in 1983.

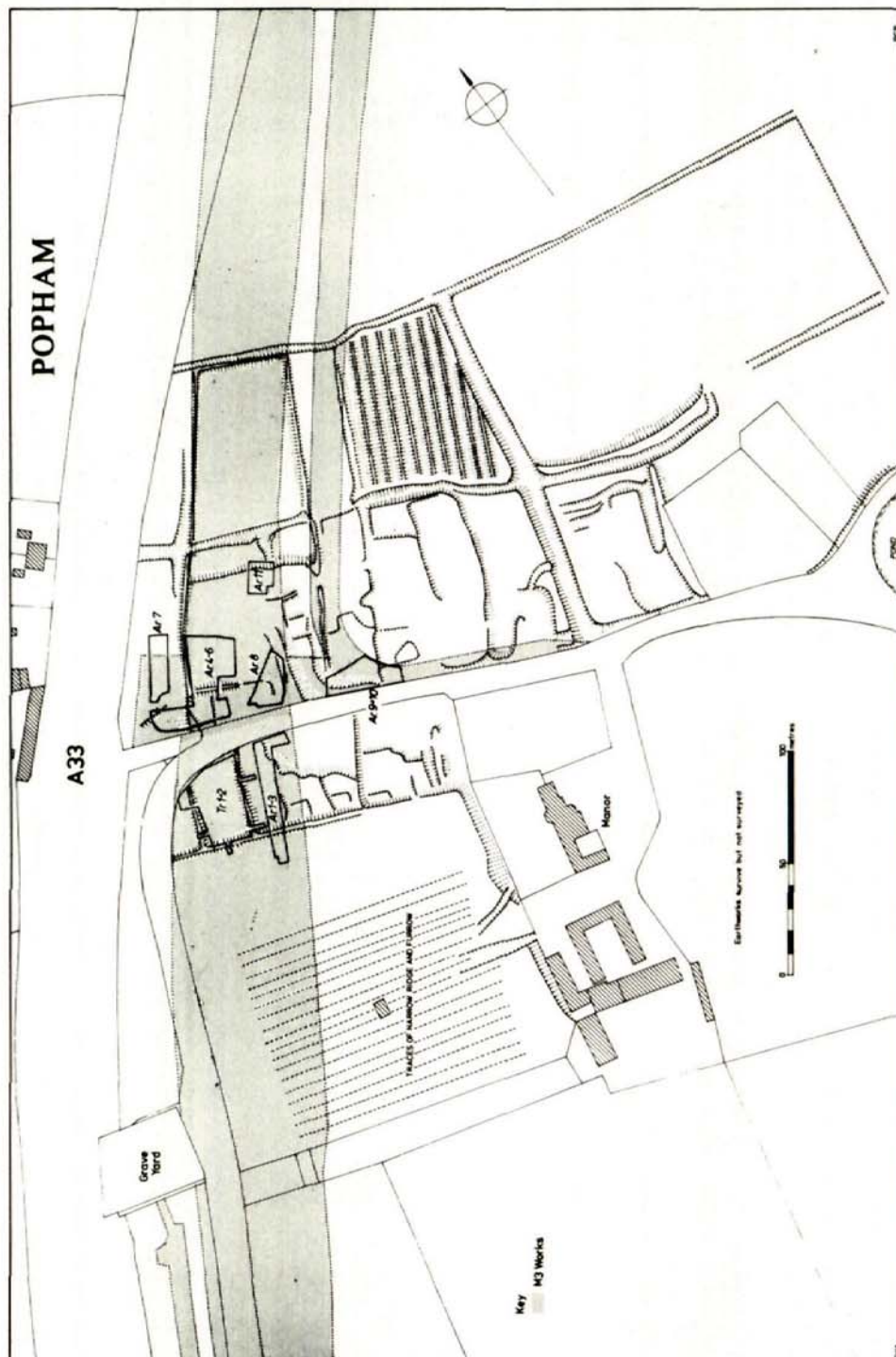


Fig 3. Popham: Survey of part of the earthworks showing the excavations of 1975 and the investigation of 1983.

and almost due south is the site of what can only be described as a Roman temple (Fig 2). The later main village street is aligned on that temple and hedgerows and crop marks show a continuation of the line through the temple. A track skirts to the east of the temple and continues to another major Roman (and possibly Iron Age) settlement in Rownest Wood. There would seem to be little doubt that this track, which has been identified for a length of 1200m is of Roman origin and may even be earlier. There is no obvious Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area and prior to the excavation the closest finds of Anglo-Saxon material had been at East Stratton (Fasham 1981). A late Roman bronze buckle plate of reputed Germanic type is recorded as having been discovered at the probable temple.

The only previous archaeological work on the site was carried out by Stephen Moorhouse in 1970 who happened to be driving past when a new access road from the A33 to Popham was constructed. He observed the footings of a building, part of a chalk floor, and recovered, amongst other finds, a fragment of tripod pitcher from the site (Moorhouse 1971, 171). Unfortunately, when Moorhouse returned the next evening, the new road had been cut to shape. From the description it would seem that the building was part of the structure excavated in 1975, although the tripod pitcher would seem to be a little earlier than the other ceramics from the site.

THE VILLAGE REMAINS

The earthworks covered an area of 14ha of

which 8 were surveyed. The remaining earthworks are between the Manor House and the pond and east of the cottages to the south-east of the pond (Fig 2). The earthworks behind the cottages are the cottage boundaries running to a perimeter bank at the back of the properties. The earthworks east of the Manor House were not surveyed as they were not threatened by destruction of any form.

The main village street runs north-south on the presumed Roman alignment (Fig 3). It ran in front of the Manor House and the chapel. A secondary road ran at right angles and in the south-west quadrant a series of apparently fairly regular crofts were arranged at the back of the Manor House; some had been subsequently quarried. To the north of the secondary road a regular arrangement of rectangular enclosures variously defined by banks or ditches seem to be superimposed on an earlier system.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND by N J Cahill

Historical evidence survives from the tenth century onwards. Published accounts have concentrated in two areas: the history of the Popham family (Round 1903, 59) and the descent of the manor (VCH Hants III, 1908). Some confusion has arisen in the past over the various Hampshire Pophams: Binstead Popham, Farrington Popham, Popham Dummer and the manor and parish of Popham. There is, thus, less surviving information on the latter than might appear at first sight.

Population and Value

<i>Date</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Value</i>
1086	an unknown fourth part of 25	an unknown fourth part of £19
1327	18	£1.6.10
1334	—	£1.13.0
1428	more than 10	—
1485	—	10 marks (£3.6.8)
1524	15	£4.5.0
1545	13	—
1675	12	—
1685	12	—

These figures and values show that the always small population was at its greatest recorded extent in the early part of the fourteenth century. The greatest monetary value recorded is in 1485. The poll tax returns of 1377–81, potentially a valuable source for desertion, have not been seen. In addition to the recorded lay population which may have included the Popham family, for example in the lay subsidy of 1524, a chaplain is known to have been present.

Lordship and Economy

Tenth-century charters refer to Herwes/Hyrpes hamme, which is thought to indicate pasture in an area at the north-eastern tip of the manor later known as Oxdown. At this early date Popham appears to have been a small part of the manor of Micheldever, but is listed separately at Domesday, as a dependent manor which had been appropriated by Hugh de Port. The link with Micheldever, a major estate of Hyde Abbey, before 1110 the New Minster, remained throughout the middle ages. The abbey's interests in Popham included exploitation of woodland (thirteenth century); feudal dues from the Popham family (1360); tithes and the chapel. Links with the Popham family were even more close during the abbacy of Robert de Popham in the period c 1281–92.

Woodland and pasture were clearly important, with references to assarting in the twelfth century. Agreements with Hyde Abbey in the thirteenth century refer to cattle and pasture in Woodmancott Wood (then called La Hyrst) c 1200 and in 1294. Thirteenth century references to Bulleskesway in the eastern part of the parish, are taken to refer again to pasture. Also in 1294 coppicing rights of the abbey were defined.

From the fourteenth century we hear of a grant of free warren in 1305 and of pasture rights, disputed with a Northington man, in 1309. The transfer of 1 messuage, 4 carucates of land, 200 acres of pasture, 20 acres of woodland and 100s of rent from William de la Bere to Robert de Popham in 1317 gives a

helpful overview of the constituent parts of the manor at that date, emphasising the extent of the pasture by the early fourteenth century. It may have been that the manor was at the height of its significance and wealth in the early fourteenth century, but without evidence of the effects of the great famine of 1315–22 on the manor, it is difficult to be sure.

The Pophams had enjoyed the benefits of royal office in the twelfth century but fell from grace in 1170. They had held significant ecclesiastical offices in the thirteenth such as the abbacy of Hyde (see above) and the incumbency of Alton. Robert de Popham was county sheriff by 1340, representing some recovery of the family fortunes. The consolidation of lands in 1317 may be an indication of this recovery of fortunes. The manor was conveniently located on the major routes to the west, and the grant of free warren (1305) may arguably reflect a market development, as happened in association with other Hampshire grants as at Emsworth (1239), Botley (1267) and Wickham (1268). The significance of a reference, unique in Hampshire, to Popham as a villa in the Feudal Aid of 1346 may be a further element in a picture of pre-Black Death prosperity, or an indication of the county sheriff's burgeoning self-esteem.

Of the buildings of the manor little can be said. Perhaps manorial buildings were there in 1086. A chapel existed by 1300, and survived until 1875. A chaplain's house existed at least from 1308 until the sixteenth century, but its location is unknown. A plea to the vicar of Micheldever to maintain his house and to serve the chapel of Popham survives from 1393/4. An unlocated messuage, transferred to Robert de Popham in 1317, completes the evidence of structures.

The fifteenth century evidence points at least to stability and perhaps to economic growth later in the century (see Population and Value above). The evidence does not support Beresford's classic elements of desertion, which should show weakening and failure of population in the fifteenth century after the onslaught of the Black Death (1348) and subsequent plagues. We cannot say what

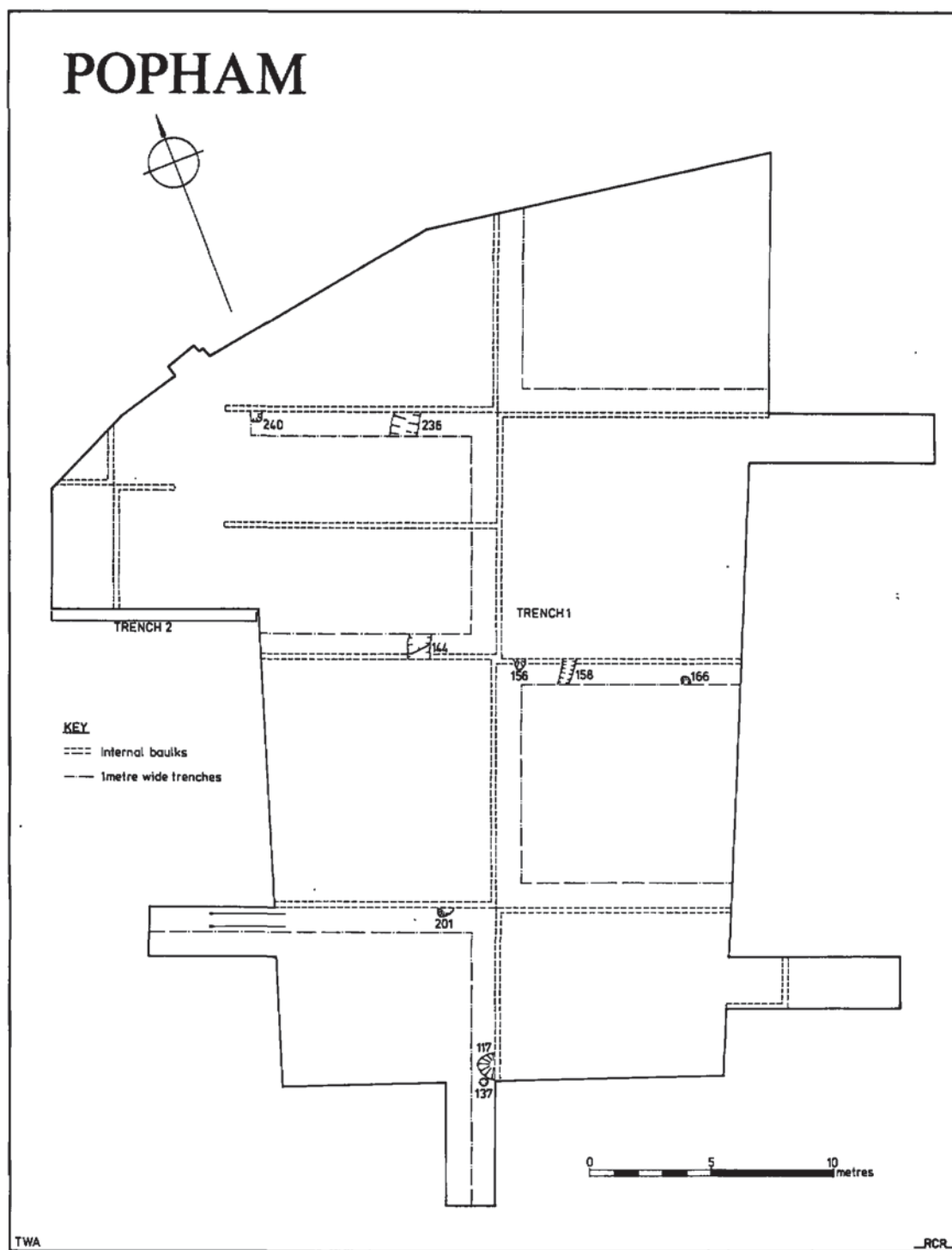


Fig 4. Popham: Plan showing the extent of the 1975 excavations and features cut into natural.

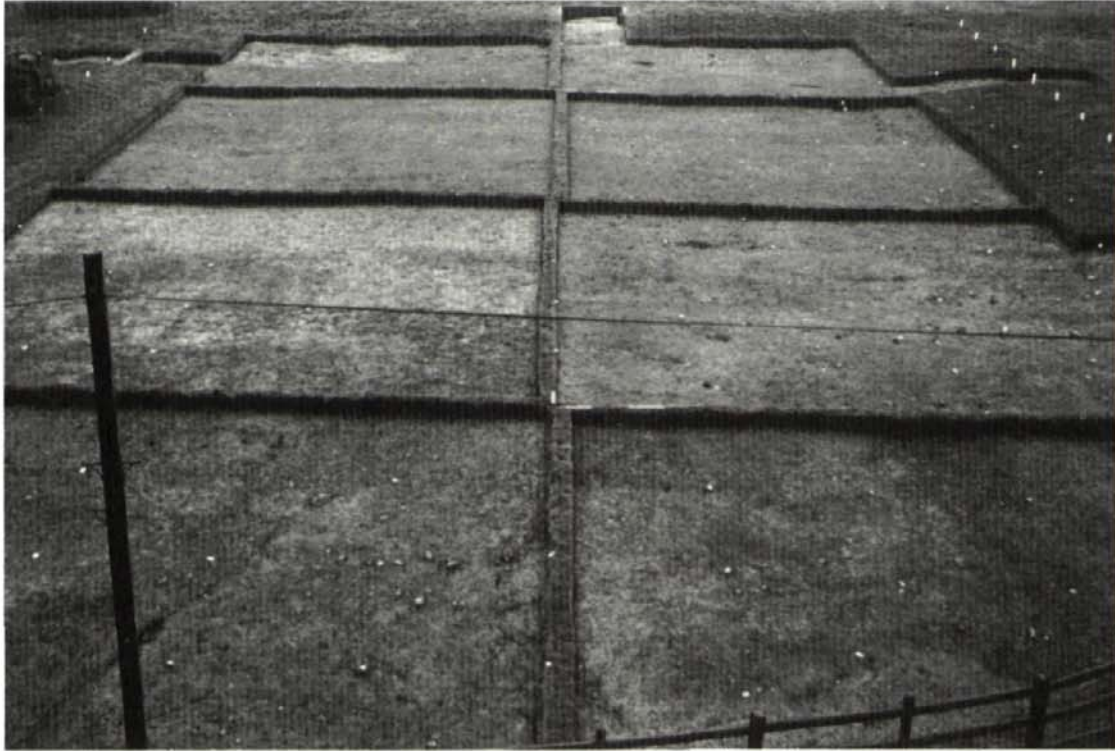


Fig 5. Popham: General view of the 1975 excavations from the north.

happened in the second half of the fourteenth century.

Nineteenth century field names, Malthouse Field, Ham Meadow, Kitchens Meadow, Brick Kilns, Broad Gardens Meadow, South Gate Meadow, together with the intervening population figures up to 1700, suggest a manorial complex perhaps akin to that which had existed on the site since Domesday.

THE 1975 EXCAVATION

The excavation was designed to investigate the best-preserved crofts in the south-west quarter of the village. The crofts closest to the manor house had been damaged by quarrying and only the two furthest away from the manor had not been so damaged. Unfortunately, they had been affected by the construction of a new access road to the village in 1970. Trench 1 was located on the least damaged of these

crofts and the northern part of the adjoining croft on the west side was investigated as Trench 2.

Trench 1 was dug first with small internal baulks extended as trenches through the banks delimiting the croft (Figs 4 & 5). The whole interior of the croft was dug completely by hand. Metal objects were recorded three-dimensionally and given unique numbers. Pottery was collected in 2m by 2m square units with a view to examining spatial variations within different contexts. The natural was Clay-with-Flints over-lying chalk and it was impossible to determine precisely the boundary between archaeological deposits and natural as various chemical processes had produced a uniform and homogeneous deposit underneath the topsoil. Consequently, one metre wide trenches along the small internal baulks were dug below the perceived base of the archaeological deposits. Various features

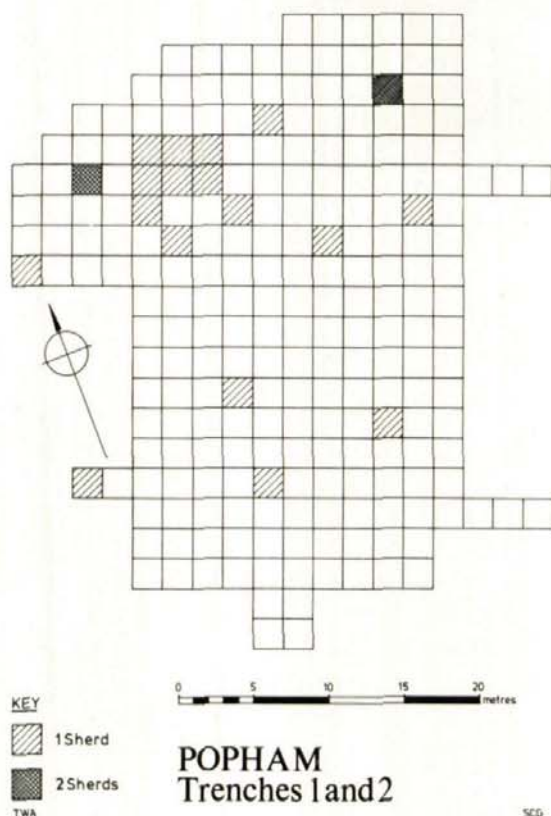


Fig 6. Popham: The distribution of Anglo-Saxon organic-tempered pottery from the 1975 excavation.

of uncertain origin were thus discovered and are shown in Fig 4; most of them seem to have been of natural origin.

The excavation of Trench 1 revealed the east wall of a building with flint footings; the west part of this building lay under the spoil-heap and in order to explore this structure Trench 1 was backfilled and Trench 2 opened.

CHRONOLOGIES

Most of the site had probably been used as a yard or garden area and consequently there seems to have been a degree of vertical mixing of artefacts. The acidic nature of the soils and post-depositional pedological processes may account for a lack of stratigraphy over much of the site. It is possible to indicate a stratigraphic

sequence relating to the main structural episodes. Roman, Saxon, early and later medieval pottery were present. The two sherds of Roman pottery were residual. The 27 organic tempered sherds of early-middle Anglo-Saxon pottery were also residual and not related to structural episodes. The recording system enabled 21 of these sherds to be plotted within 2m squares and a concentration of this material can be seen at the north of the excavation around co-ordinates 54:228. Although there were no related features this cluster of sherds may indicate the remains of a feature not prone to identification in the clayey subsoil. The majority of the early medieval ceramics of late 11th-early 12th century date tend to occur in structural episodes 1 and 2 but sherds are present as residual material in contexts allocated to the later structural episodes. The majority of the pottery from the site is later medieval of 13th and 14th century date. This is present in varying proportions in all of the structural episodes. The lack of detailed and secure stratigraphic relations associated with the vertical mixing of artefacts within the deposits make it impossible to offer a precise chronology for the structural episodes.

The four structural episodes can be summarised as follows:

Structural Episode 1 – Small pits and post-holes sealed by elements of structural episode 2.

Structural Episode 2 – The first element of building with flint foundations.

Structural Episode 3 – Rebuilding of structure with flint footings.

Structural Episode 4 – All features and deposits later than those of episode 3.

Structural Episodes 1–3 are probably dated best to the fourteenth century as can many of the features of Structural Episode 4. Unfortunately, no features can be associated solely with any pottery earlier than the fourteenth century although elements of Structural Episode 1 may be earlier than the thirteenth

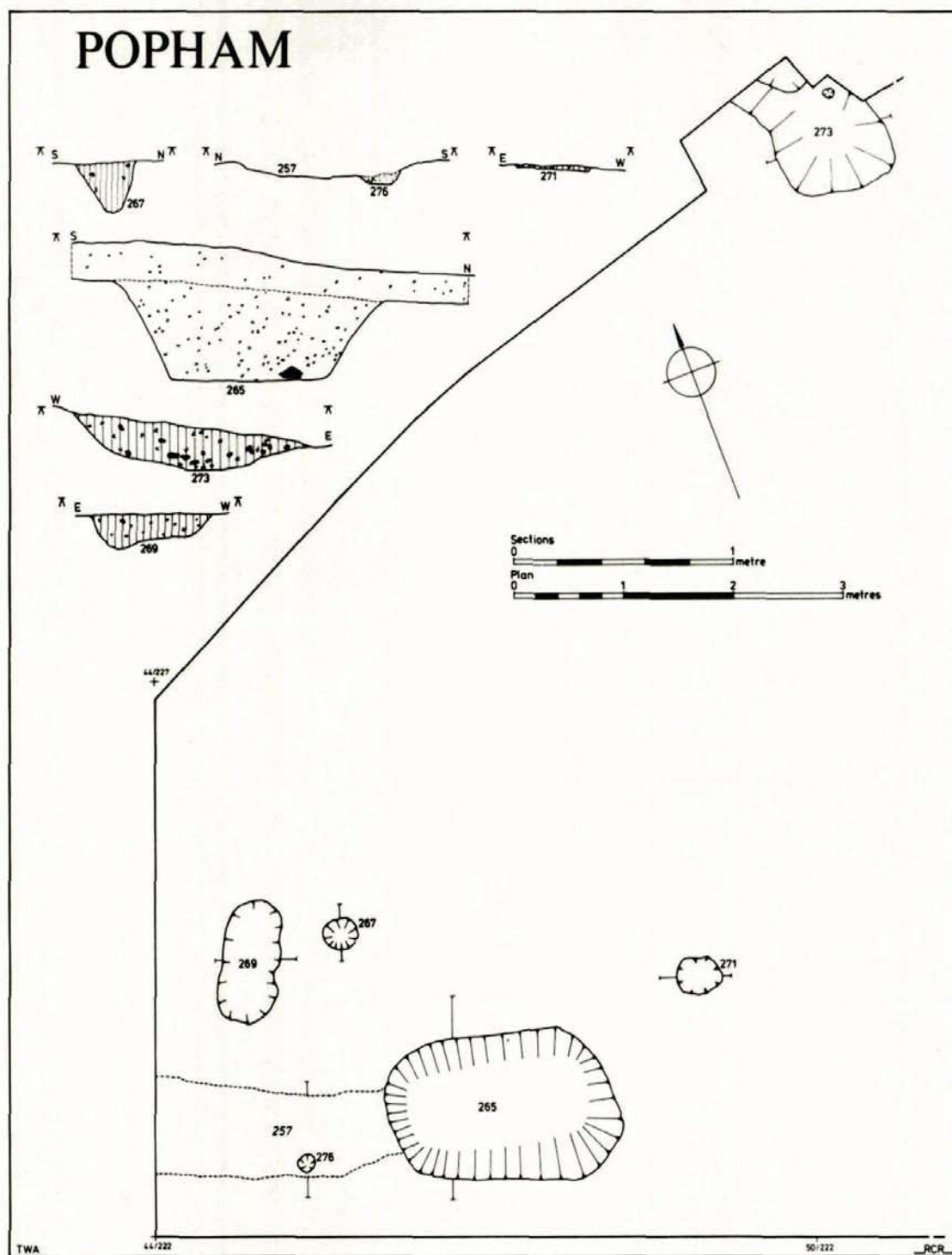


Fig 7. Popham: Features belonging to Structural Episode 1 and probably dating to the twelfth century AD.

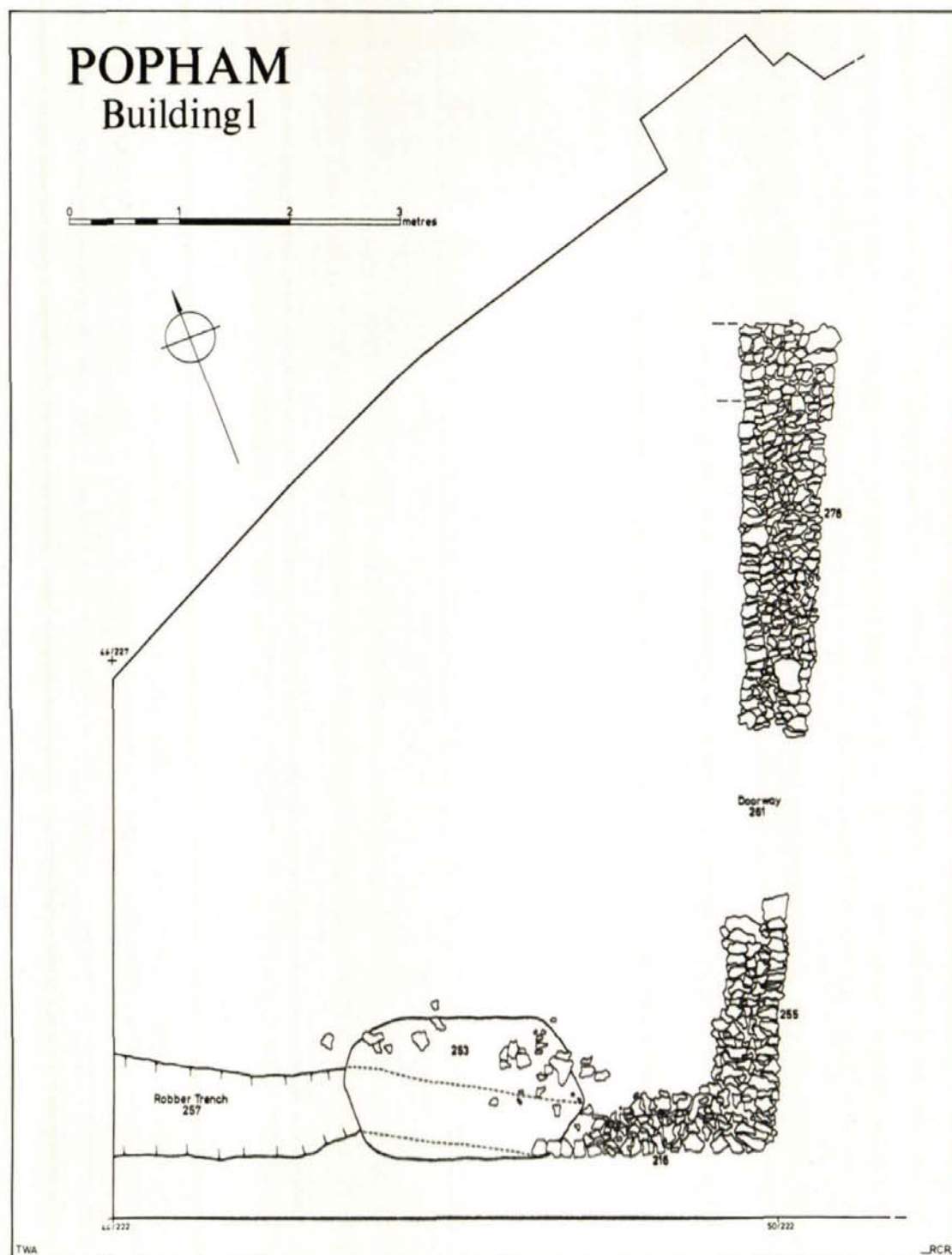


Fig 8. Popham: Plan of Building 1 as excavated in 1975. Probably fourteenth century in date.

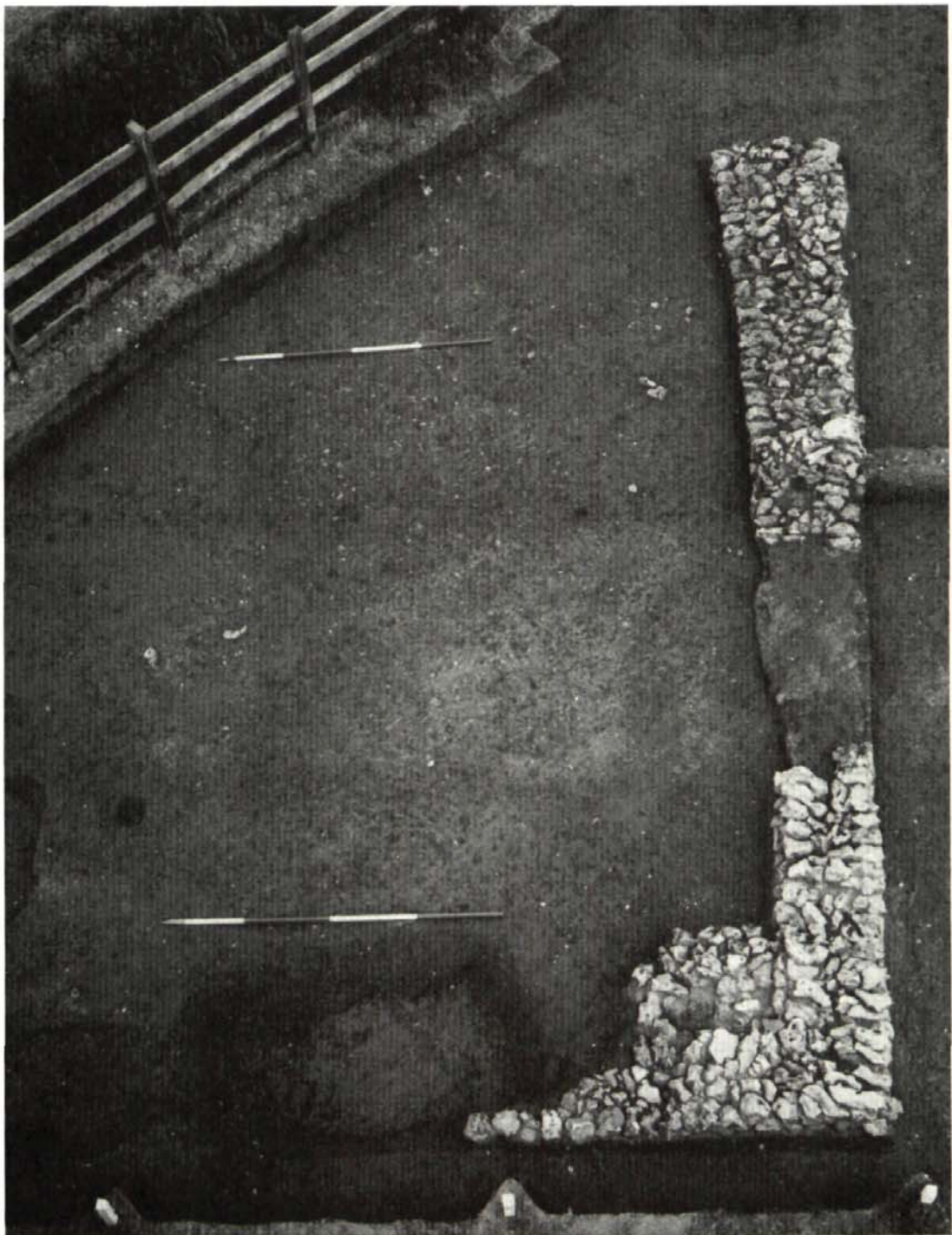


Fig 9. Popham: General view of the remains of Building 1 as excavated in 1975. Some of the pits belonging to the earlier Structural Episode 1 are visible. View from the south. Scale 2m.

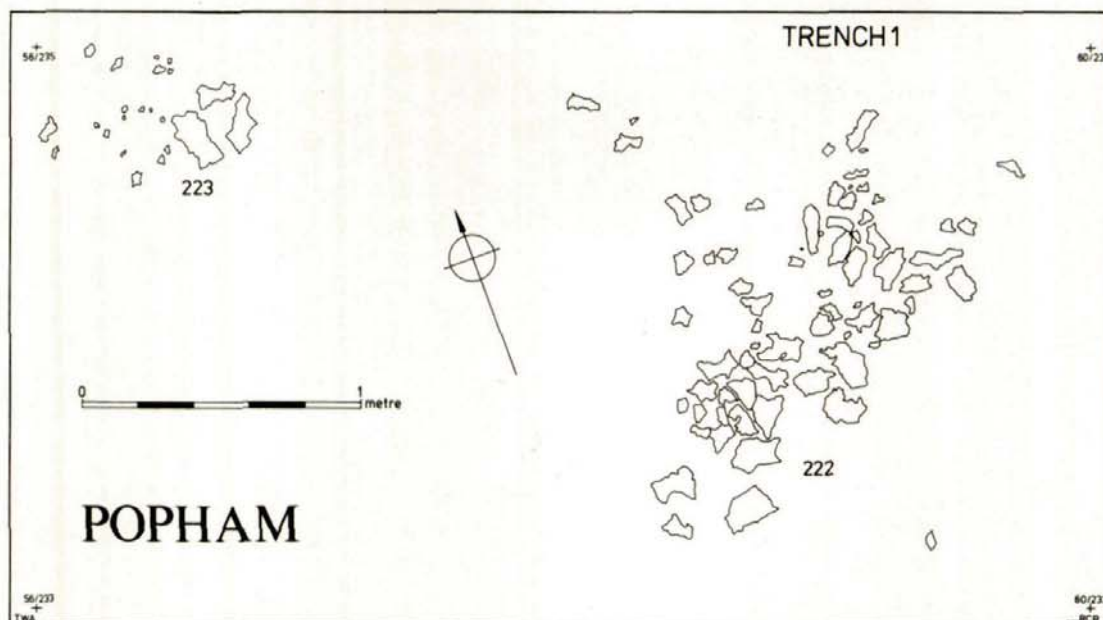


Fig 10. Popham: Plan of features 222 and 223.

century. Apart from the croft boundaries features will be described under their structural episode groupings.

The Croft Boundaries (Fig 17)

It is impossible to date the construction of the croft boundaries although it seems reasonable to assume they belong to the period when the village was extended. The homogeneous nature of all the soils made it impossible to determine any form of stratigraphic relationship between the boundaries and any of the structures.

The south boundary, F108, was about 3m wide and stood 0.36m above the interior of the croft but only 0.1m above the outside surface (Fig 18). This may indicate erosion of the interior by animals or indeed humans. There was no ditch. The west boundary, F109, of the croft ran into the south-east corner of flint-footed Buildings 1 and 3. The break of slope it represented had a fall of about 0.5m over 5m. The interior again was lower than the exterior. The east side of the croft was defined by F110, a very low mound perhaps rising no more than

0.08m in a width of 2.6m across the natural slope of the land. The croft boundaries, although clearly visible as earthworks were of much less apparent substance when excavated.

Structural Episode 1 (Fig 7)

Apart from the features shown in Fig 4 which were discovered during the excavation of the 1m wide trenches along the baulks, six features seemed to pre-date the buildings of Structural Episode 2 (Fig 7). They comprise post-holes 267 and 276 and pits 265, 269 and 273 and scoop 271. The features occur in such a small area that their archaeological significance cannot be fully understood.

Structural Episode 2

Two structures were discovered at the front, north of the croft. the remainder of the croft developed as a yard.

Building 1 (Figs 8 & 9)

The principal element of this episode is the



Fig 11. Popham: A view of feature 222 from the south. Scale 2m.

construction of Building 1 towards the front of the croft but apparently parallel to the village street. The east wall and part of the south wall survived. The north wall had been demolished to make way for a subsequent building (Structural Episode 3) and all traces of foundation or robber trenches were worn away by subsequent floors. The west wall of the building lay outside the field and presumably was the structure recorded by Moorhouse during the 1970 road works. A short length of the south wall, F216, survived but the line of that wall was recorded by the shallow feature F257, presumably a foundation or a robber trench for the wall. Feature 257 was 0.8m wide but only 0.04m deep. Wall 216 was 0.5m wide, survived to a height of 0.2m and had been constructed, dry stone, of flint nodules in the region of 0.1 – 0.2m dimensions. The east wall with a 1.7m wide doorway (F261) was 0.6 – 0.85m wide and was 7m long. South of the door it was recorded

as F255 and north of the door as F278. It was built of regularly laid flint nodules of 0.1 – 0.2m length. Under the north end of F278 was a layer of small flint gravel, 260, which is regarded as foundation material. The north end of the east wall was located but there appears to have been no bonding of the flints into the north wall as there is so clearly at the south-east corner of the building between the east and the south walls (see Fig 15). Presumably the north wall had butted onto the east wall although its precise location cannot be determined because of subsequent wear. In the south-east corner was a small patch of flint cobbles, 252.

Building 2(?)

A much less substantial structure lay to the north-east of Building 1. It is not certain whether it should be regarded as a building or

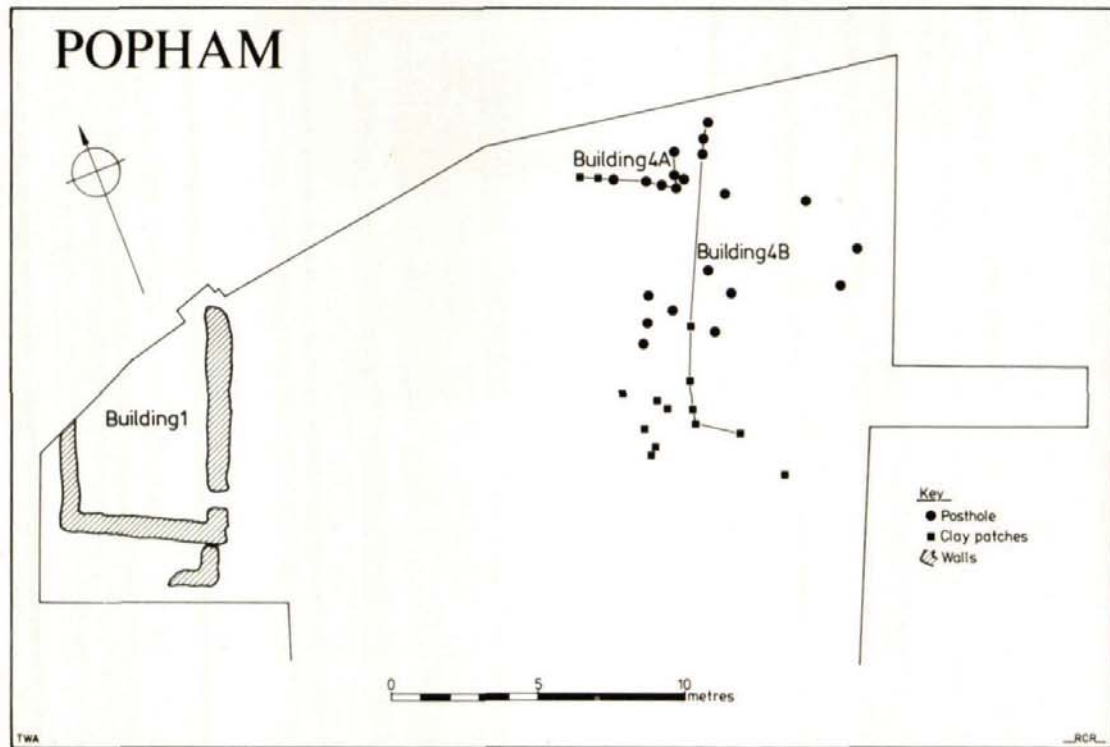


Fig 12. Popham: A general plan of features and structures relating to Structural Episode 3.

just a chance jumble of stones. It was interpreted in the field as a structure.

The structure (Figs 10 & 11) consisted of two arrangements of stones which may be badly disturbed remnants of walls. Feature 222 was 1.8m long and up to 1.5m wide with a reasonably straight south-east side. The other arrangement, F223, was of three flints around the small post-hole F247. The post-hole was 0.17m deep and 0.10 – 0.12m diameter. The two elements may be related and if so might form a structure. The rest of the croft in this episode was an open area, probably a yard. There was no specific cobbling or surface and the whole area seemed to have been churned up by contemporary activities.

Structural Episode 3 (Fig 12)

The most striking part of Structural Episode 3 is the rebuilding of Building 1 with its axis turned through 90° so that it was gable-end on

to the street. The new structure, Building 3 (Figs 13, 14, 15) was 4.4m wide internally and at least 7.2m long, its north end lay outside the field and had been destroyed in the road building of 1970. In places under the south wall, F218, and the west wall, F219, were deposits of small flint gravel which may have been foundation material. There was a doorway in the east wall. The door F233 was about 0.5m wide and located in the door of Building 1. A semi-circular deposit of flints, F243, outside the door was probably the remains of a path. As the section in Fig 16 shows the floor of this building was greatly eroded with no floor levels surviving. Sealed beneath the tumble from Wall 5 on the floor inside the house were a knife blade (Fig 25, no 25), two metal fragments and an iron strip.

Building 4A & B (Fig 17)

On the east side of the excavation 21 post-

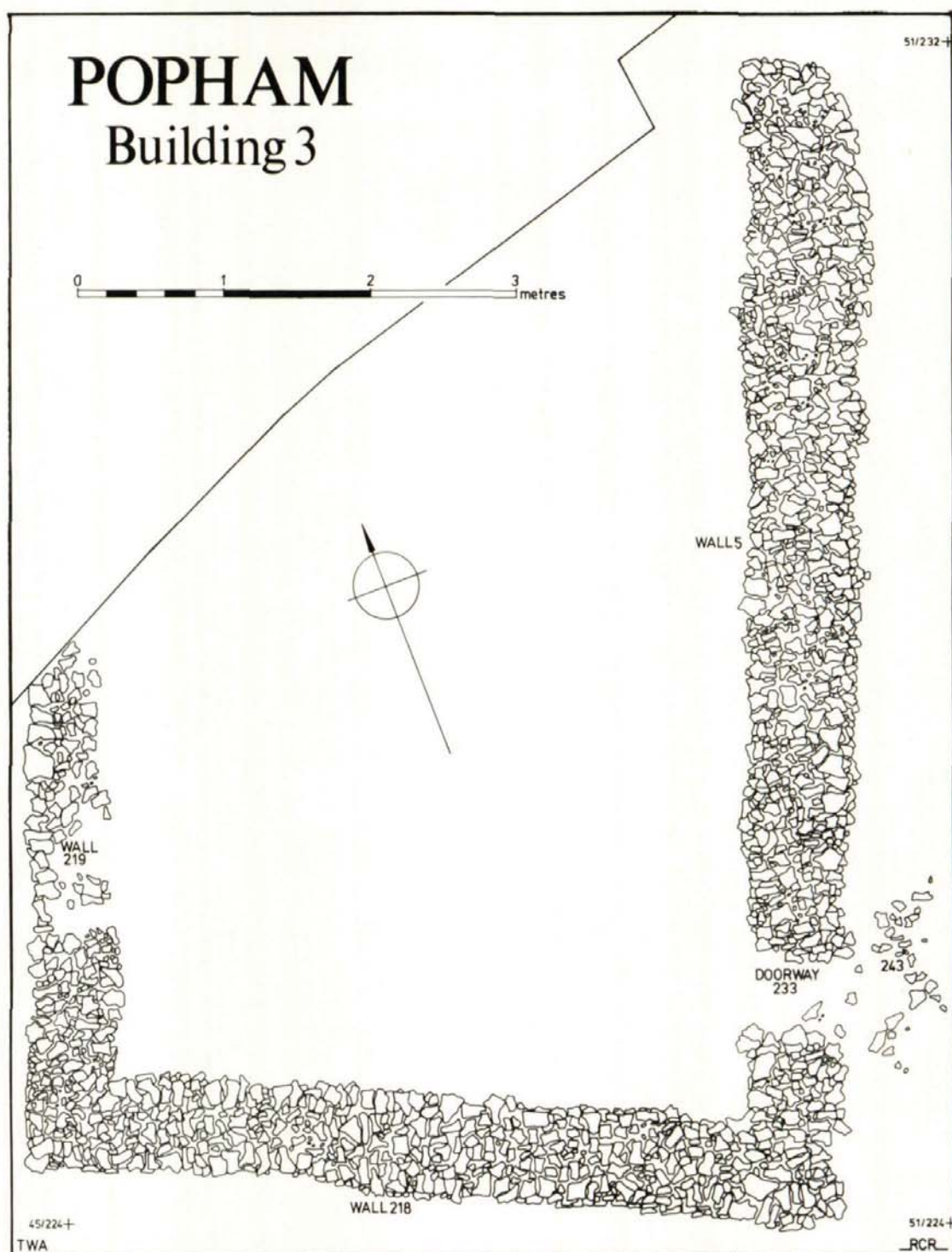


Fig 13. Popham: Detail plan of Building 3 of fourteenth century date.

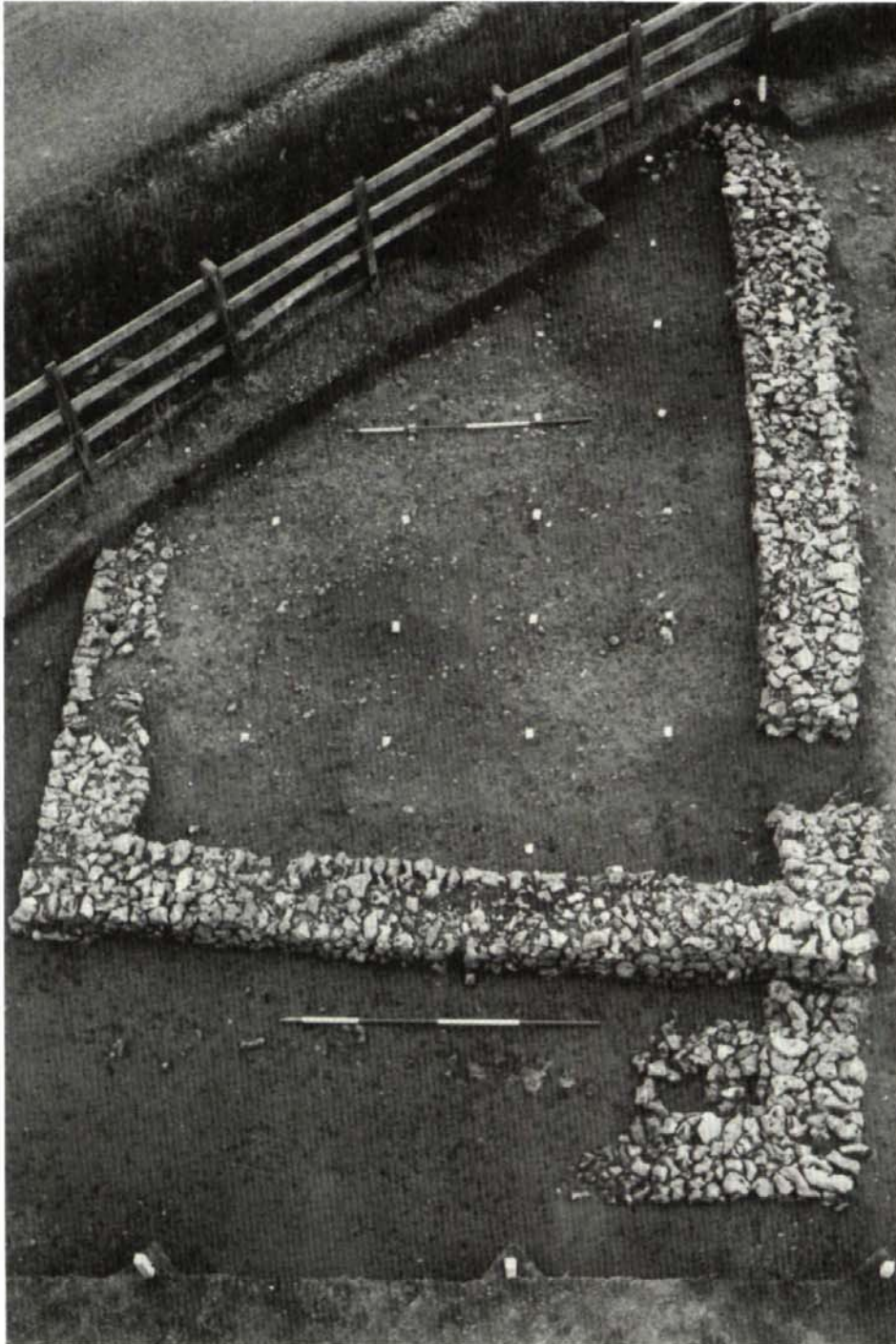


Fig 14. Popham: View of Building 3 from south. Scale 2m.



Fig 15. Popham: Detail view showing Building 3 overlying Building 1 at the south-east corner of each building. Scales are 0.5m and 0.2m.

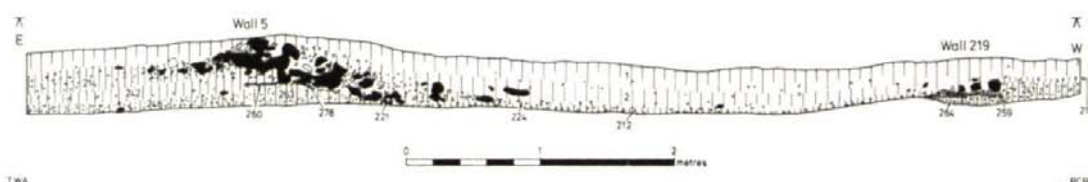


Fig 16. Popham: Section across the interior of Building 2.

holes and at least 11 clay patches or pads were excavated. Several buildings may be represented by these features and although there are no obvious plans two possibilities can be suggested.

Building 4A might have included post-holes 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127 and 128 and the two clay patches west of 122. Its north and west sides lying outside the edge of the site.

Building 4B may have included posts 128,

125, 161, 164, 129, 130 and various other post-holes with some of the clay patches if these were pads for posts. Neither structure is convincing in its own right. However, the distribution of certain classes of finds, especially pottery (Fig 30) and tile (Fig 31), do suggest that buildings may have stood approximately where indicated. The yard area continued in use with no evidence of surfaces.

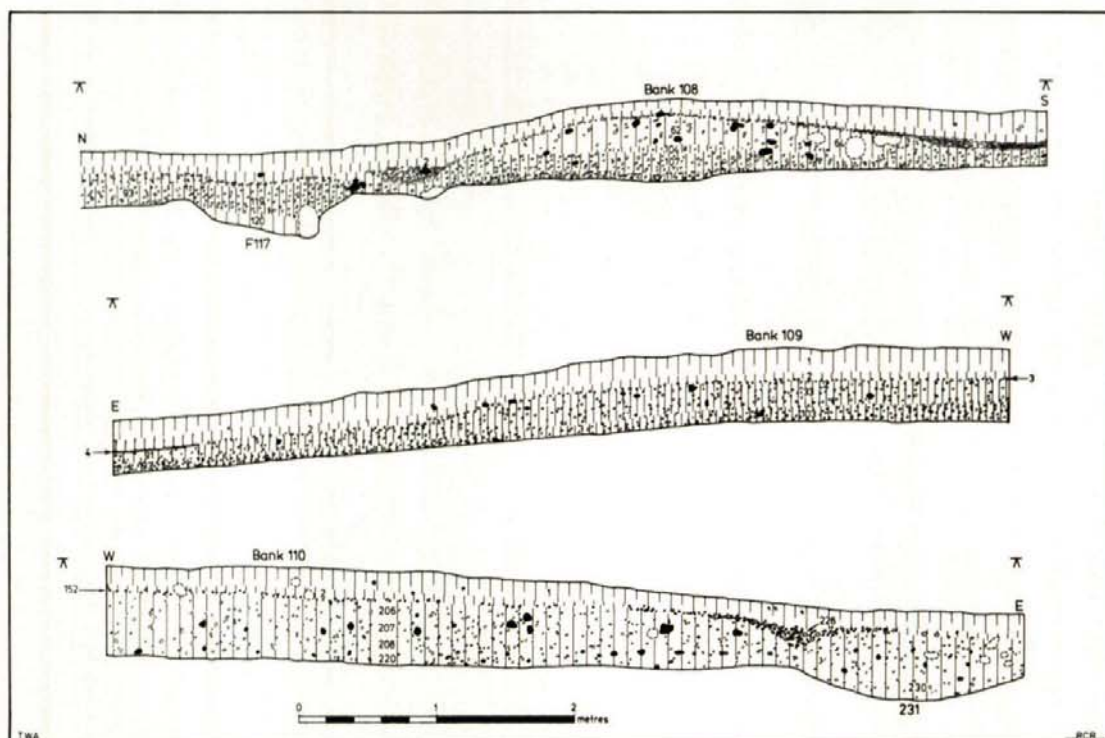


Fig 17. Popham: Sections of the south, west and east boundaries of the croft excavated as Trench 1 in 1975.

Structural Episode 4

Two new structures were apparent in this phase. There was no direct stratigraphic relationship between these features and the flint foundations of Building 3. It is possible that Building 3 was still in use in this phase.

Building 5

A rectangular post-built structure measuring 8m by 5m aligned east-west on the east side of Building 3 (Figs 19 & 20). The post-holes form irregular sides with a possible entrance on the north side. If Building 3 was still standing, this new timber structure would perhaps best be interpreted as a byre or a barn. A short fence was erected towards the back (south) of the yard area in this episode.

Dr Fisher's phosphate survey reveals concentration of high phosphates immediately inside the door and to the east of the building.

Comparative Phosphate Test on Building 5 by P F Fisher

It was suggested that on the area excavated there was a building outlined by post impressions in layer 4. While the layer in which Building 5 had been erected was being removed samples were taken for phosphate analysis in the relevant area on a 2m grid. The aims were:

- i) to see if any anomalies were revealed in the area of the building indicating more or less intense occupation than in the surrounding area:
- ii) to see if it might be worthwhile extending the use of such surveys in future seasons at Popham.

The chalk in this area is capped by clay-with-flints to a depth of about 3.5m which has produced an acid clay soil. Whereas a basic soil fixes the phosphates, generally an acid soil will not. However, an acid clay soil will minimise leaching. Any leaching that may have taken place would probably be fairly uniform due to the evenness of the modern topsoil

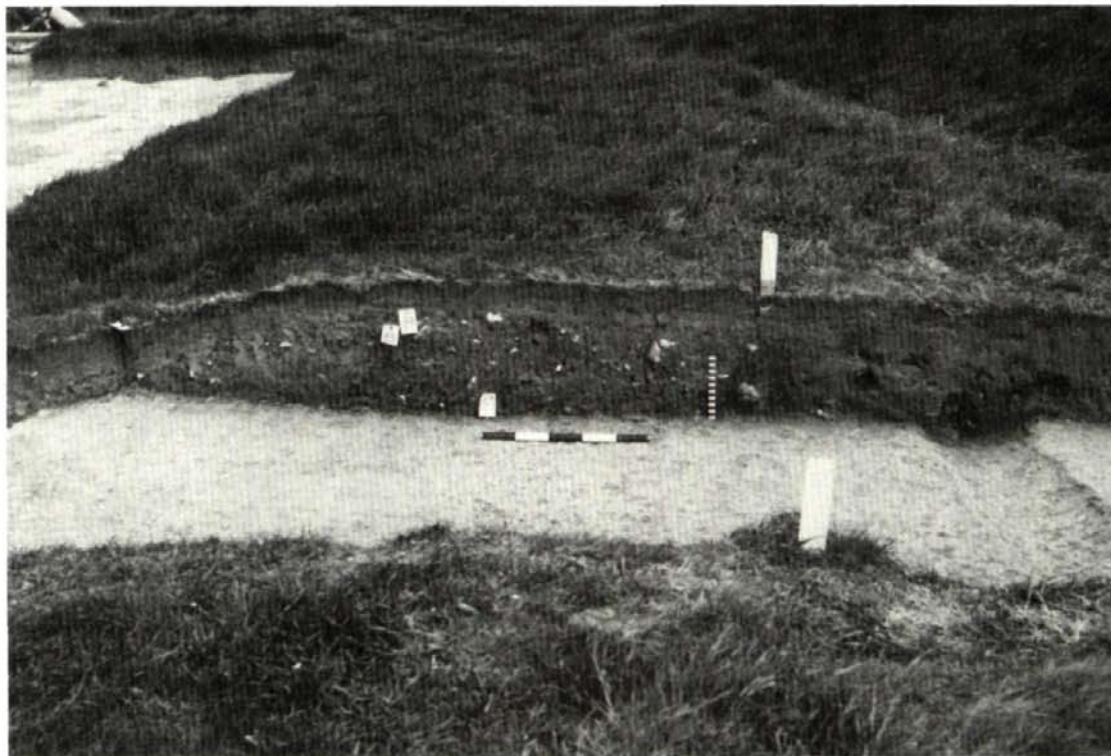


Fig 18. Popham: View of the southern boundary excavated in 1975. The lack of soil differentiation through the profile can be seen. View from west. Scales 0.5m and 0.2m.

and of layer 4, the layer associated with Building 5.

Each sample was analysed colorimetrically as described by Cornwall (1958) and Shackley (1975), except that half quantities were used owing to the size of apparatus available (i.e. 0.5g soil, 10cm³ 3N H₂SO₄, etc). Potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate was used to make up standard solutions for the calibration line (details in archive). The calibrated results from the samples were plotted so as to produce a 'contour' plan of phosphate concentrations on which the outline of the building was also plotted (Fig 19). From this it seems to be possible to confirm the building by anomalous phosphate concentrations within the outline. Unfortunately, this cannot be completely verified owing to the confined area on which the analysis was carried out and the large grid used. The 'background' concentration of phosphorus for the layer seems to be about 20ppm. However, inside the building the concentration varies from less than 10ppm to over 40ppm. The obvious reason for this difference would be that there was more intense

occupation at one end (higher phosphorus concentration) whilst the other was a store room or hay stack or something of this nature. A longhouse type of building would even fit the discrepancy, but not the dimensions of the building.

From this then it is possible to say that within the limited area covered the phosphate analysis seems to have produced some useful results, and it is almost certainly worthwhile making use of this technique on a larger scale, but smaller grid, to try to confirm buildings on site which are of a more ephemeral nature in future seasons.

THE 1983 INVESTIGATION

The watching brief during the construction of the M3 in 1983 graphically demonstrated that if the archaeological recording of the village remains had been left until the earthmoving contractor moved in then it would have been

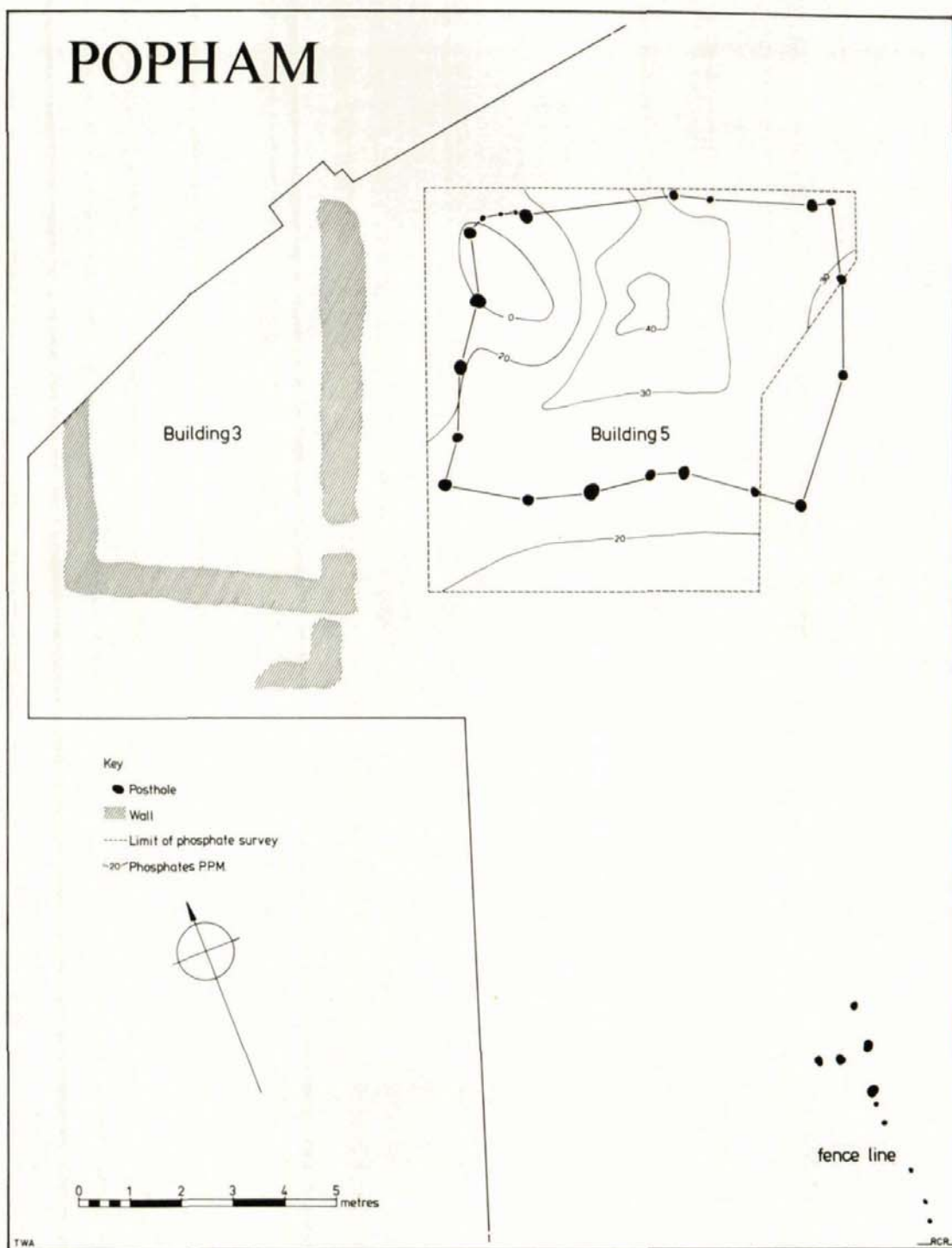


Fig 19. Popham: Plan of Building 5 in relation to Building 3. Levels of phosphate measurements are shown in contours of 10ppm.



Fig 20. Popham: Building 5 from the east. Scale 2m.

impossible to make any worthwhile observations.

It was decided, therefore, to strip the topsoil using a Hymac over several different areas. This was a solution to the problem of how, in only a few days, to obtain the maximum amount of additional information about the village. It was generally felt that the most important additional information would be about the date and location of further buildings. Eleven areas were cleared. Eight of the trenches were located where buildings might be anticipated. The other three, Areas 1-3, investigated the areas immediately adjoining the 1974 trenches. About 2200 sq m were examined in a few days using this approach.

Post-holes were found in Areas 1-6. They were planned but not sectioned. Generally no obvious patterns were revealed except for a possible linear arrangement in Area 4 which may have continued west into Area 5 (Fig 21)

and part of a possible rectangular arrangement in Area 6. Three ditches were recorded in plan only. One running north-south at the junction of Areas 4 and 5 and one east-west ditch in Area 6. Both these ditches seem to reflect surface earthworks. The third ditch ran across Area 7 and was not a reflection of a surface feature.

The flint footings of walls were found in four locations but on only one occasion was a building plan present. Only the outline of the walls was planned.

In Area 8 a length of wall about 0.7m wide ran for about 8m in an east-west direction. A wall at right angles and running north was recorded for 1m. An irregular scatter of flint nodules, measuring 3m by 3m, lay 4.5m to 7.5m north of the flint wall. These fragments may indicate a building aligned east-west with an internal division and in the order of 6m wide and at least 8m long.

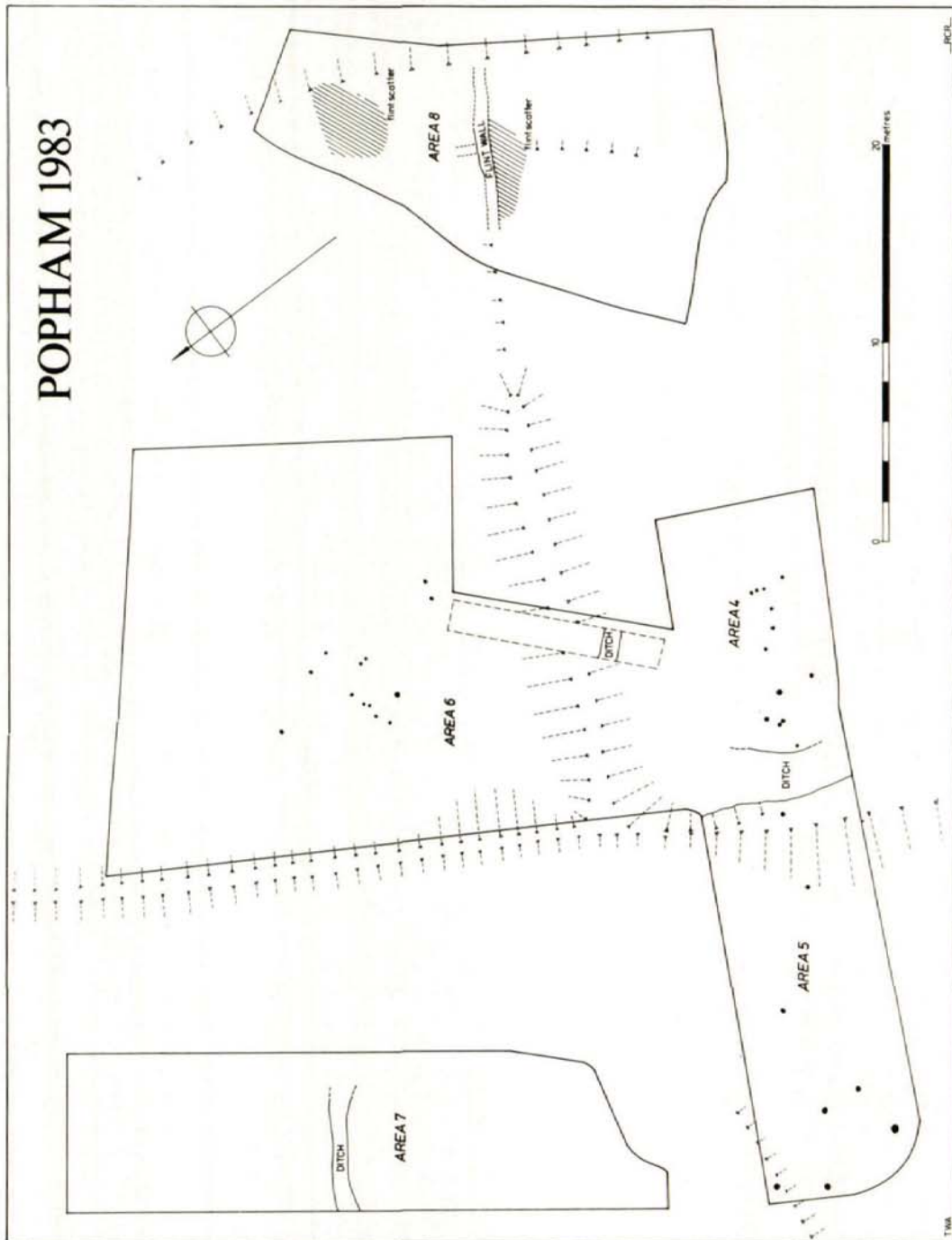


Fig 21. Popham: Plan of features observed in 1983 in areas 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

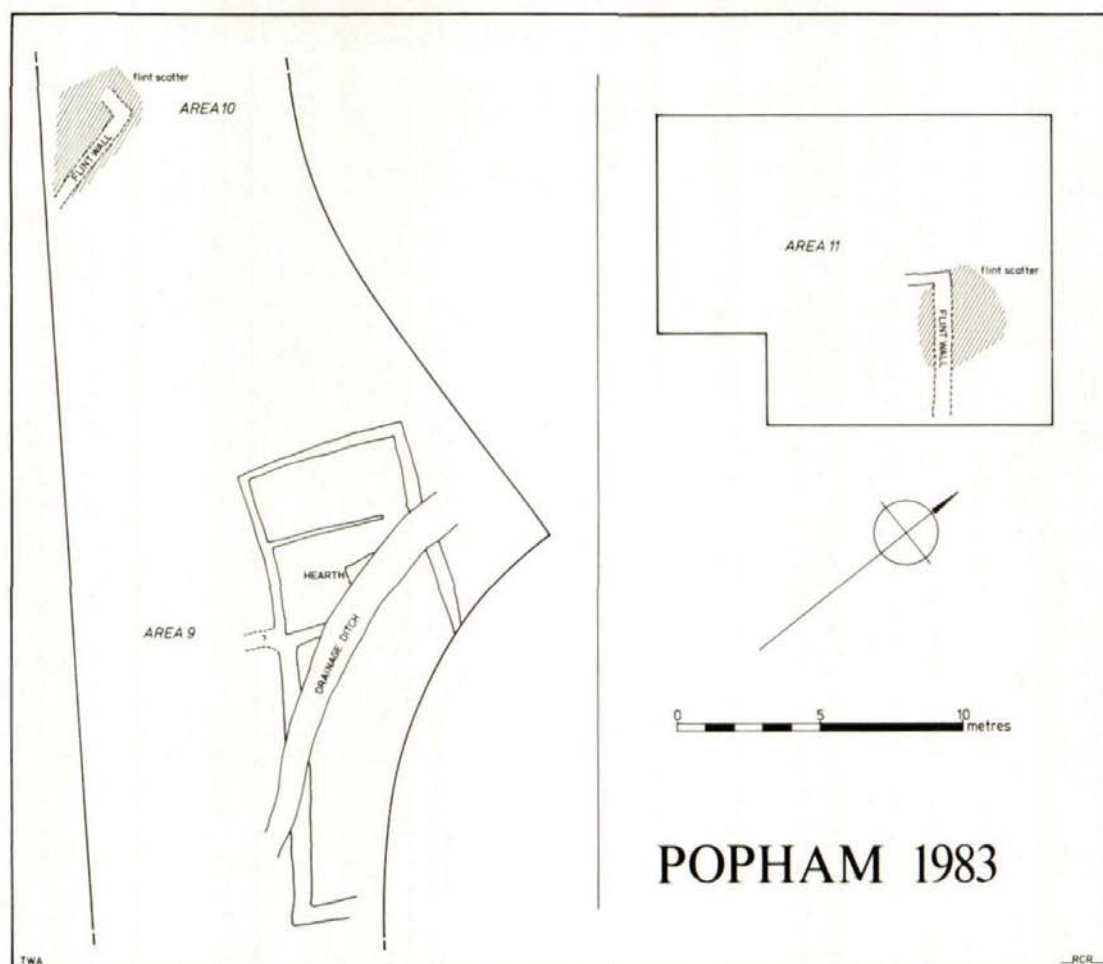


Fig 22. Popham: Plan of buildings in areas 9, 10 and 11 observed in 1983.

In Area 10 two buildings were identified (Fig 22). To the east were the corner and two stretches of flint footings extending for 4m and 0.5m of a building set at an angle of about 20° to the line of the subsidiary village street. This may suggest that these remains pre-date the street. A second building in Area 10 provided the best plan. It was aligned east-west and was parallel to the subsidiary village street. The north-east sector was damaged by a drainage trench and also lay partly outside the motorway easement. The building measured 15m by 5m and had at least three rooms (Fig 23). The west room was 2.2m wide with a door on the

north into the middle room which was 3m wide and contained a rectangular hearth measuring 1.1m by at least 0.6m. The hearth was made of roof tile laid on edge. The east room formed the remaining 9m of the building. It may have been subdivided but the surviving remains could not demonstrate the former existence of a subdivision one way or the other. An exterior wall extending south for 1m was recorded at the junction of the middle and the east rooms.

In Area 11 a length of 4.5m of wall was aligned east-west. At its east end there was a corner and a wall extended south for 1m. The south heading wall was 0.4m wide and may

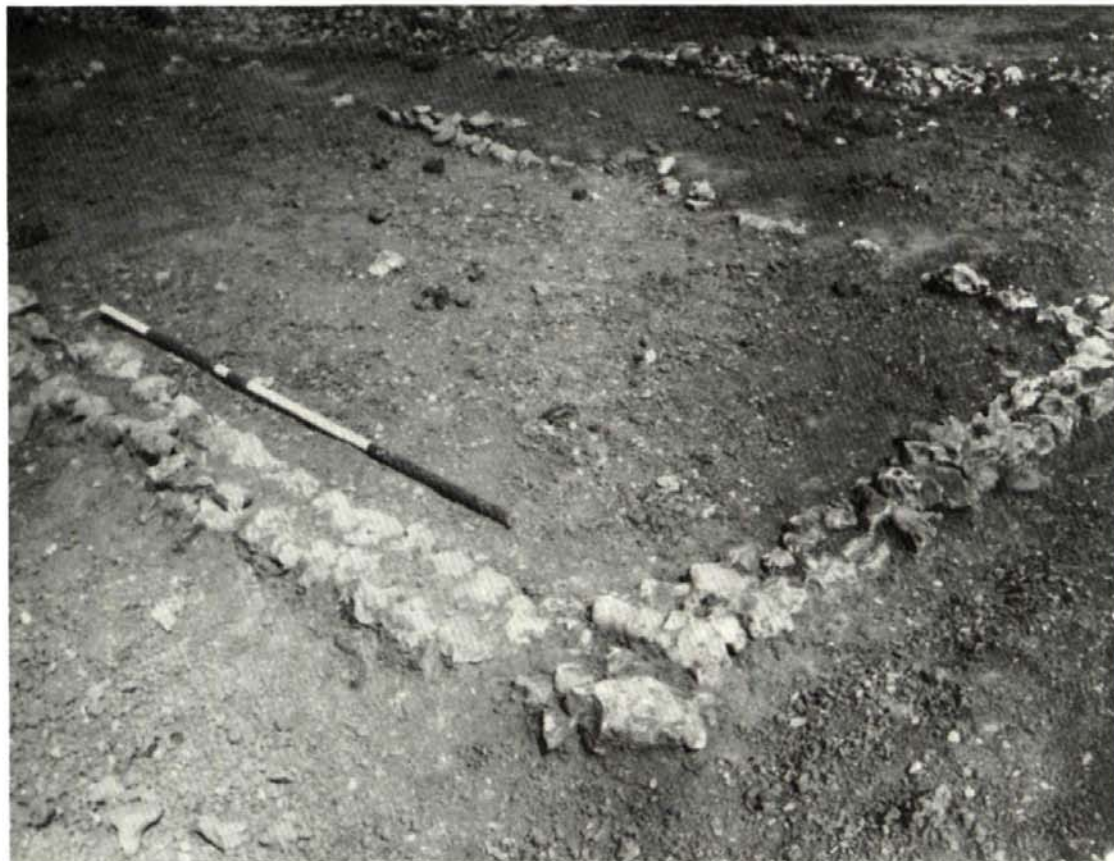


Fig 23. Popham: View of building in Area 9 from west. Scale 2m.

have been an internal wall against the 0.6m wide east-west wall.

The watching brief style of recording provided the locations of the foundations of four probable buildings. Only one was found to be parallel with or at right angles to the main alignment of village street and earthworks. That one building may have been quite early in the sequence, although all the pottery from the watching brief is of 14th century date and similar to the material excavated in 1975.

THE FINDS

There were no finds of animal or human bones due to the acidic nature of the underlying

clay-with-flints. This finds report deals only with the material from the 1975 excavation. There were no finds other than pottery from the 1983 investigation and the report on that material forms part of the archive.

The Metalwork by David Farwell (Figs 24 & 25)

Structural Episode 1 contained no metal objects at all, and Structural Episode 2 contained 26 nails, a chisel tip and 36 other unidentified iron objects; a single piece of copper alloy with attached textile also came from Structural Episode 2. Even where morphological or technological confirmation of broad period range might be expected (e.g. keys, buckles, etc.), poor state of preservation has generally made this impossible. From a

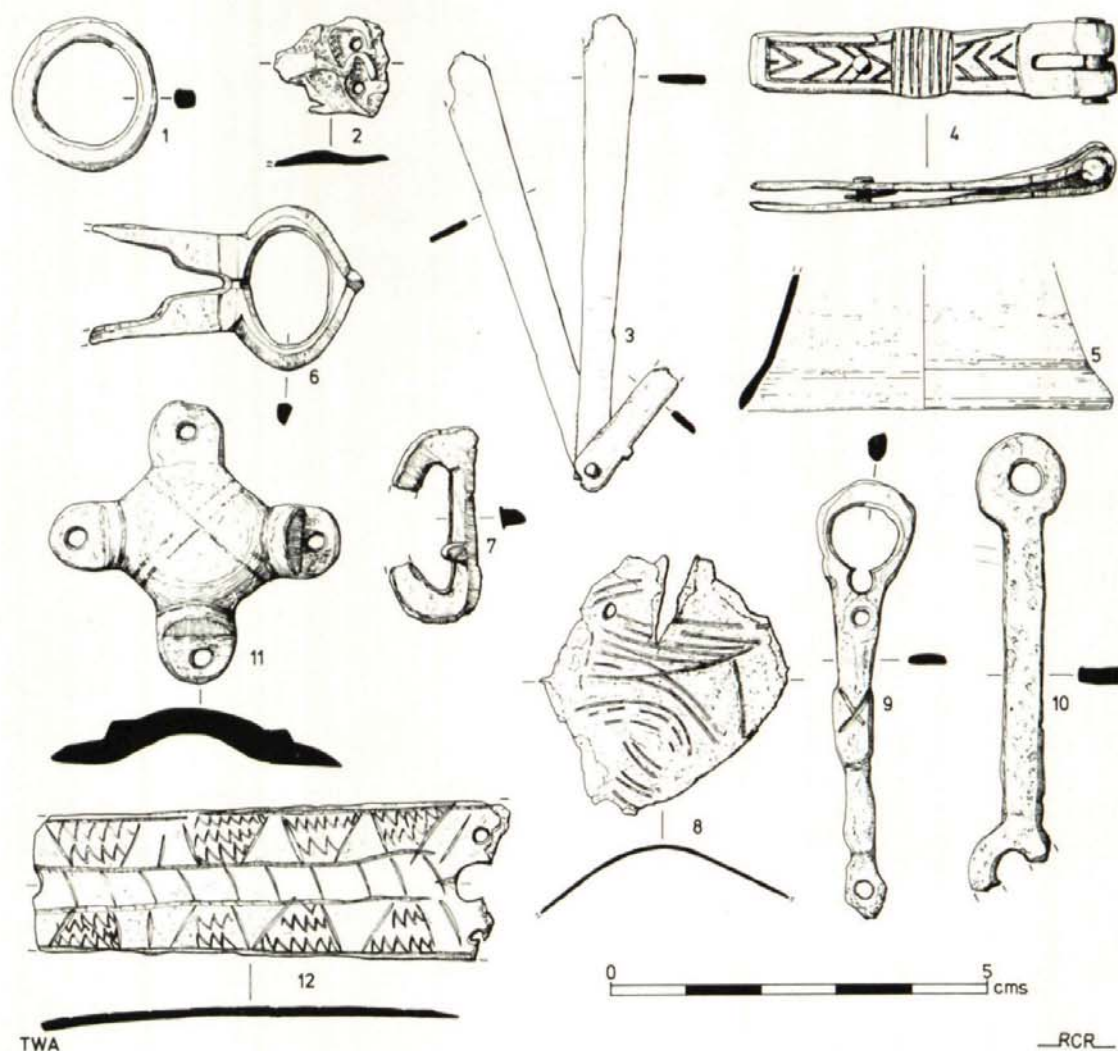


Fig 24. Popham: Copper alloy objects. Scale 1/1.

total of 1768 iron objects 759 are identifiable as nails, 55 identifiable as other objects and 954 are fragmentary or otherwise unidentifiable.

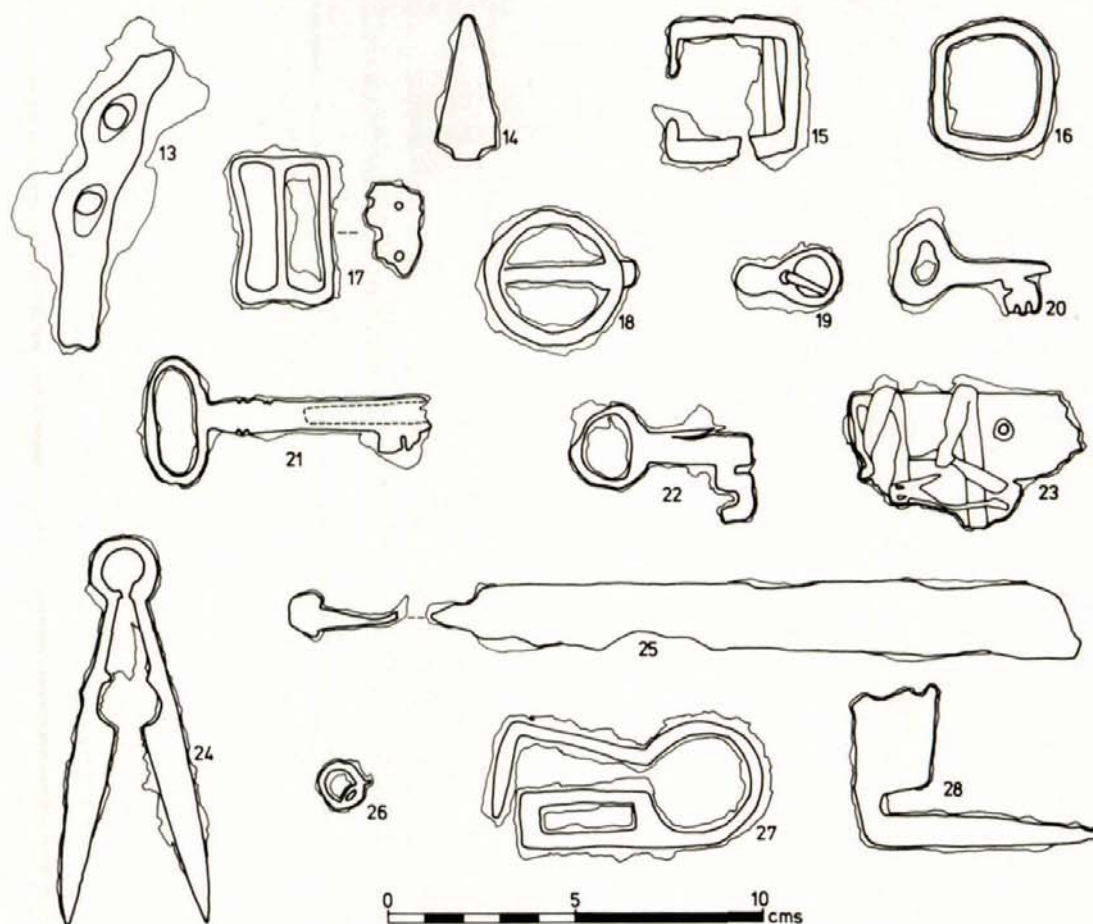
Records relating to X-rays, identification, phasing and conservation for all ironwork, the 40 copper alloy and 7 lead objects are held in the archive. Some of the better preserved and more readily identifiable objects are illustrated.

Catalogue of Illustrated Material

Copper Alloy

Fig 24, 1-12

1. Ring. Rough finish with almost rectangular section. The narrow internal diameter and thickness of metal suggests a cloth holding rather than a finger-ring. Diameter 20mm. Small Find 366, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.



TWA

—RCR—

Fig 25. Popham: Iron objects from x-rays. Scale 1/2.

2. Clasp with gold leaf. Incomplete catch end with two perforations. The plating shows traces of a decorative foliage pattern. Width 13mm; maximum length 15mm; thickness 1.5mm. Small Find 355, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
3. Manicule. Three metal strips, one broken, with a single rivet at their narrow, grip, end. Some traces of soldering at grip end. Far ends rounded. Width 4mm–7mm; maximum length 61mm; thickness 1mm. Small Find 1350, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
4. Strap plate. Copper alloy strip doubled

about pin, encloses fragment of second strip, held by a single rivet. Decorated with niello inlay in chevron pattern. Width 10mm; length 49mm; pin 11mm in length. Small Find 424, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.

5. Bell. Fragment of rim of small simple bell, probably high tin bronze. Length 40mm; height 20mm; thickness at rim 1mm. Small Find 1466, Context 68, Structural Episode 4.
6. Buckle. Oval buckle with strap attachments, prong missing. Faint decorative tooling. Flat underside and roughly trian-

- gular section. Maximum length 36mm; width 22mm. Small Find 1845, Context 91, Structural Episode 3.
7. Buckle. Broken D-shaped buckle with short integral pin. Roughly finished. Width 25mm; maximum length 12mm; thickness 3mm. Small Find 29, Context 1, U/S.
 8. Mount. Silver plated, perforated and bent fragment, plating scored decoratively. 37mm x 30mm; thickness 0.2mm. Small Find 1658, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
 9. Mount or handle. Gold plated handle of utensil, incomplete with three perforations, one large and complex. Maximum width at end 13mm; shaft width variable c 4mm; maximum length 58mm; thickness 1mm-2mm. Small Find 2098, Context 152, Structural Episode 3.
 10. Mount or handle. Shaft with one complete perforated end and one broken; traces of hammering visible on one side; rectangular section. Width of end 12mm; width of shaft 5mm; maximum length 61mm; thickness 2mm. Small Find 1972, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
 11. Mount originally white metal plated, ?silver. Bossed, convex, with four perforated flanges; faint diagonal cross impression on boss. Boss diameter 20mm; flange length 9mm; maximum thickness 5mm. Small Find 2108, Context 91, Structural Episode 3.
 12. Mount. Flat rectangular, with decorative engraving zig-zags within trapezoids; perforated with evidence for soldering on underside; incomplete. Width 21mm; maximum length 63mm; thickness 1mm. Small Find 1509, Context 112, Structural Episode 4.
 14. Arrowhead. Flat triangular shaped iron point with slight shoulders at tang end. Maximum width 15mm; length 38mm; thickness 1mm. Small Find 2166, Context 93, Structural Episode 2.
 15. Buckle. Broken, single sided, almost square, prong missing, flattened section. Width 38mm; length 34mm. Small Find 42, Context 1, U/S.
 16. Buckle. Single sided, crude D shape, round in section, prong missing. Width 37mm; length 33mm; thickness 4mm. Small Find 86, Context 2, U/S.
 17. Buckle. Double sided; prong missing; with small fragment of plate. Maximum width 39mm; maximum length 26mm. Small Find 433, Context 2, U/S.
 18. Buckle. Circular and single sided; prong still attached. External diameter at prong 37mm. Small Find 1457, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
 19. Buckle. Curved ring with flat flange extruded from one side. Remains of prong attached. Possible shoe buckle. Ring width 15mm; maximum length 28mm; thickness 4mm. Small Find 2250, Context 241, Structural Episode 2.
 20. Key. Solid shank extending beyond the head of the bit, oval bow. Length 42mm; maximum external diameter of bow 23mm. Small Find 1569, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
 21. Key. Hollow shank, wards damaged, oval bow. Length 75mm; maximum external diameter of bow 34mm. Small Find 1622, Context 113/68, Structural Episode 4.
 22. Key. Solid shank, round in section with a D shaped bow. Length 49mm; maximum external diameter of bow 22mm. Small Find 2056, Context 1, U/S.
 23. Lock. Shell of barrel padlock, with reinforcing bands of iron and copper plating on both sides. Crushed and corroded. Length 60mm; width 40mm. Small Find 1195, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
 24. Shears. Complete including bow, blades steeply shouldered and end in points. Maximum width of blades 10mm; width of shears at blades, maximum 40mm;
 13. Horseshoe. Badly corroded and flaking fragment with wavy edge around two perforations. Width 15mm; maximum length 82mm; thickness 8mm. Small Find 1719, Context 93, Structural Episode 2.

Iron

Fig 25, 13-28

- minimum 10mm; length 100mm; maximum external diameter of bow 18mm. Small Find 1334, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
25. Knife. Single edged with narrow broken tang positioned along mid line of blade. Maximum blade width 20mm; maximum blade length 161mm; blade back 3mm thick; tang end expands from 2mm to 12mm thick. Small Find 2217, Context 221, Structural Episode 3.
 26. Buckle. Simple construction, badly corroded, with pin attached. Maximum external diameter 14mm; thickness 2mm. Small Find 1918, Context 91, Structural Episode 3.
 27. Strike-a-light. Bar of iron with one arm worked into right angle, the other into a closed rectangle which fits within the compass of the right angle arm. Maximum external diameter of bar 32mm; maximum length 75mm; thickness 8mm. Small Find 81, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.
 28. Candleholder. Iron spike with open ended holder at right angles. Spike length 6mm; holder external diameter 22mm; holder surviving height 42mm. Small Find 226, Context 4, Structural Episode 3.

Textile by Elizabeth Crowfoot

One fragment of textile, length 13mm width 9mm, was preserved by contact with a fragment of copper alloy? stud (Small Find 2043, not illustrated): ?flax; warps, weft probably Z-spun; 4-hole tablet-weave; 12 twists preserved; both edges broken away; weft count 8 on 5mm c 16 per cm; twisted in chevrons (tablets threaded alternately left and right); no pattern or colour change visible; probably part of a belt or strap.

Tablet-weave is the favourite band technique from Anglo-Saxon to late medieval times, used for belts, straps, seal-tags and ties for documents, and decorative braids sewn to garments and vestments. Different varieties of pattern can be produced by the way the tablets

are threaded and turned, by the use of different colours in the warp, and by the addition of brocading or embroidery. The bands are extremely strong and durable, particularly those in the basic 4-hole techniques used here.

Finds published from medieval sites include belt fragments from Felixstowe, Suffolk (Crowfoot 1951), Bramble Bottom, Sussex (13th century) (Crowfoot 1954), Northampton (Crowfoot 1979), Northolt Manor, Middlesex (Crowfoot 1961) and Oxford (14th Century) (Crowfoot 1977); and seal-tags bands from Scotland (12th-14th Century) (Renshall 1965).

The Pottery by J W Hawkes

Fabric

Only a very small proportion of the 21,660 sherds of pottery could be identified to source, these distinctions being incorporated in Table 1. Identifications could often only be made where rim type or decorative motifs were available to supplement fabric analysis. Small sherds of Surrey Ware were particularly difficult to recognise amongst Groups 3 and 4 fabrics and are almost certainly substantially under-represented.

The remainder of the medieval pottery was divided into 22 fabrics (see archive), which for the purpose of this report have been amalgamated into 9 groups (Table 1). The average sherd weight of less than 7g has limited the reliability of the fabric identification. Sorting was based on visible inclusions checked by 10x magnifier but not subject to characterisation by petrological analysis. Within the predominantly flinty fabrics nearly all the larger sherds from any fabric group contained iron-oxide inclusions and the larger sandy sherds contained grog or clay pellets. Clearly such distinctions could not be rigorously applied to small sherds and, therefore, the basis of the fabric classification is mainly textural, with size and density of the commonest inclusions being considered more reliable than their presence or absence. The nature of the pottery was such that any classification would inevitably understate the variation in fabric;

*Table 1. Medieval Pottery***A Numbers of sherds**

Group	Description	Fabrics (See archive)	STRUCTURAL EPISODES					TOTAL
			1	2	3	4	U/S	
1	Sparse fine sands	114, 125, 130	—	46	271	501	132	950
2	Sparse med sands	112, 120, 122	—	176	5180	34	298	5688
3	Moderate med sands	108, 111, 116	—	154	799	14	160	1127
4	Common/abundant Med/coarse sands	101, 102, 118, 119, 126	4	563	4231	246	1842	6886
SUB-TOTAL			4	939	10481	795	2432	14651
—	Surrey white wares		—	3	49	14	41	107
—	South Oxfordshire wares		—	1	2	—	1	4
—	Laverstock & Laverstock-type wares		—	2	7	—	2	1
SUB-TOTAL			—	6	58	14	44	122
5	Sparse flint	104	2	62	34	1	9	108
6	Common/moderate flint	103, 105, 107, 127	21	420	1636	34	403	2514
7	Abundant flint	100	10	46	79	6	53	194
8	Abundant flint & chalk voids	106	3	638	2615	34	672	21660
9	Sparse flint & chalk voids	117	—	3	79	1	26	109
SUB-TOTAL			36	1169	4443	76	1163	6887
TOTAL			40	2114	14982	885	3639	21660

B Weight in Grams

Group	Description	Fabrics (See archive)	STRUCTURAL EPISODES					TOTAL
			1	2	3	4	U/S	
1	Sparse fine sands	114, 125, 130	—	480	1867	3276	635	6258
2	Sparse med. sands	112, 120, 122	—	1126	26793	162	2121	30202
3	Moderate med. sands	108, 111, 116	—	962	6255	72	744	8033
4	Common/abundant med/coarse sands	101, 102, 118, 119, 126	16	3243	22443	2142	15807	43651
SUB-TOTAL			16	5811	57358	5652	19307	88144
—	Surrey white wares		—	40	451	148	295	934
—	South Oxfordshire wares		—	56	56	—	89	201
—	Laverstock & Laverstock type wares		—	26	50	—	15	91
SUB-TOTAL			—	122	557	148	399	1226
5	Sparse flint	104	24	569	357	4	89	1043
6	Common/moderate flint	103, 105, 107, 127	149	3918	12199	188	3048	19502
7	Abundant flint	100	158	380	753	32	365	1688
8	Abundant flint & chalk voids	106	41	4834	15732	229	3745	24581
9	Sparse flint & chalk voids	117	—	52	641	8	134	935
SUB-TOTAL			372	9753	29682	461	7381	47649
TOTAL			388	15686	87597	6261	27087	137019

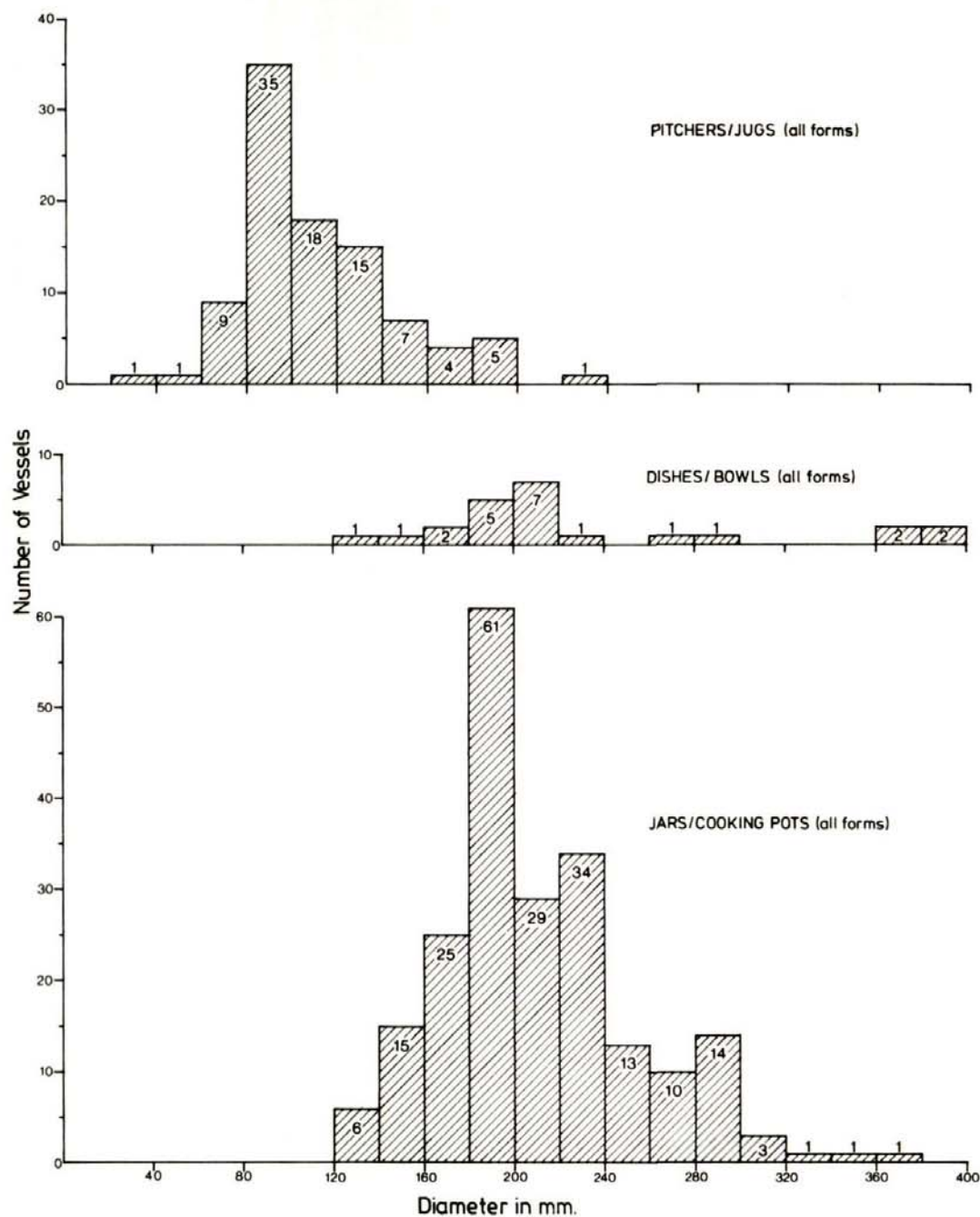
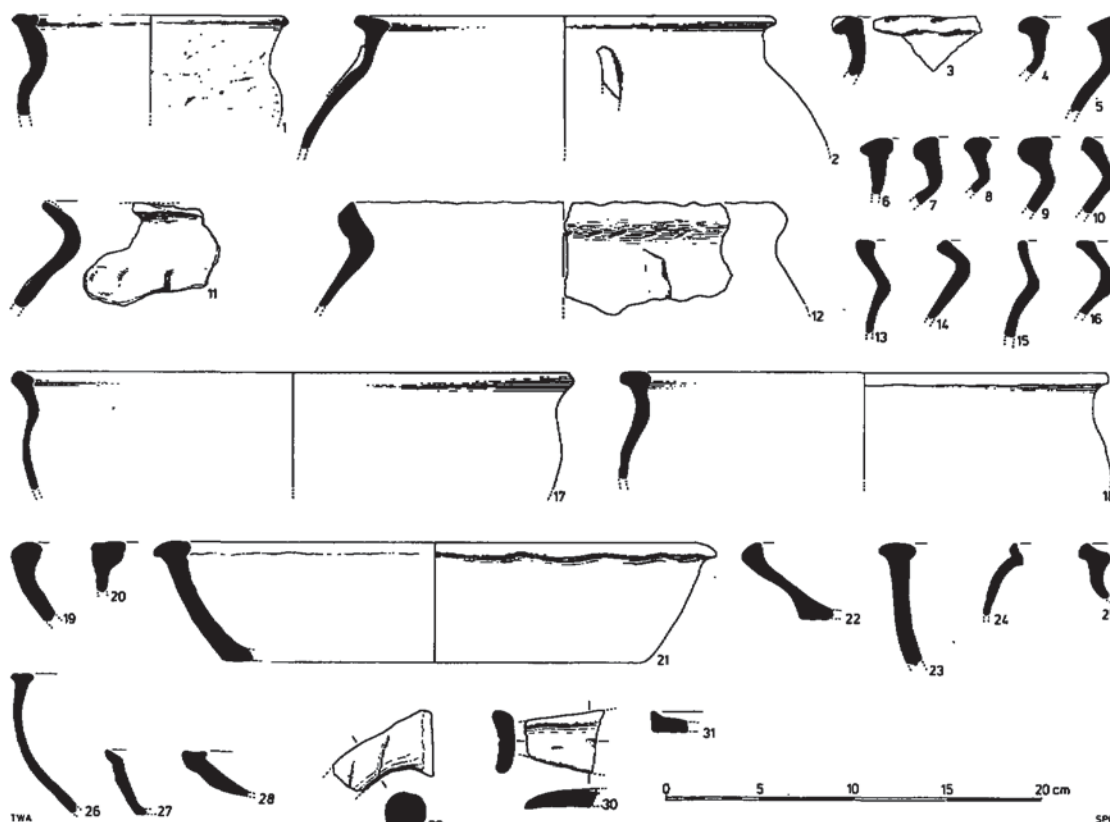


Fig 26. Popham: Medieval pottery. Diagram showing numbers of pitchers/jugs and dishes/bowls and diameters of jars/cooking pots.

Fig 27. Popham: Medieval pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

the latitude at Popham was particularly large and each fabric covers a wide textural range. Few of the unidentified finer wares can be closely paralleled at nearby urban centres such as Winchester or Newbury and they, therefore, are regarded as local to this site; of the coarser wares, Groups 8 and 9 find parallels in West Berkshire (further discussed below) although the possibility of a more local source cannot be excluded.

Only very limited quantities of post-medieval and later pottery were recovered, the majority comprising transfer-printed earthenwares of the late eighteenth century onwards. Pottery post-dating c 1500 is not considered in this report, details in archive. Inspection of the pottery from the 1983 observation revealed no previously unrepresented

fabrics or forms; figures have not been adjusted in this report, supplementary details are held in archive.

Vessel Form

The definition and quantification of vessel types was also hindered by the degree of fragmentation. Three major classes could be defined from pot profiles, bowls, jars/cooking pots and jugs/pitchers. The criteria for placement in one of these classes could be satisfied by only a small number of vessels (cf Fig 26); from a total of 4,759 rims only 407 could be assigned to type, and a diameter discerned for 334. As would be expected, a high proportion of the smaller sizes were identifiable and assigned to the jugs and pitcher class. The largest sizes (above 30cm diameter) were also often

Table 2. Popham Medieval Pottery Principal Vessel Forms by Fabric Group

FABRIC GROUP	1	2	3	4	Surrey	Laverstock	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Necked jars/cooking pots	—	20	7	74	—	—	7	42	3	61	3	217
Neckless jars/cooking pots	—	3	2	9	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	21
Straight-sided bowls/pans/dishes	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	7
Curved bowls/pans/dishes	—	3	2	11	—	—	—	5	—	4	1	26
Jugs/pitchers – General	7	51	42	25	4	4	—	1	—	—	2	136
Jugs – Anthropomorphic	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
? Costrel	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
? Aquamanile	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	7	78	57	122	4	4	7	55	4	70	6	414

recognisable as bowls and as the storage jar element of the 'cooking-pot' class. Rims with diameters between 12 and 24cm proved the most unresponsive to classification, with examples of any of the three classes being possible.

Cooking Pots/Storage Jars (Fig 27, 1–18)

Only vessels with evidence of a neck or obvious shoulder were accepted into this class. Two principal types were identified. There were at least 217 necked and shouldered forms with upright or semi-upright expanded rims (1–10) and at least 21 wide-mouthed neckless types with everted plain or finely moulded rims often recessed presumably to accommodate lids (11–16). Other undefined types must also be represented by some of the smaller rim sherds, although only slack-shouldered jars (17 & 18) were found with any remaining vessel profile.

The class of neckless vessels were more often found in sandy fabrics (Table 2) and may be confused with the class of pitcher represented by Fig 28, 51–52, although these latter examples are finer and exhibit a very sparse splashed glaze on their interior surface. Nevertheless, the possibility remains that other, coarser 'jars' were also handled vessels in the form of pitchers or, conceivably, cauldrons.

No distinction could be made between cooking-pots and storage jars, although the larger examples (diameter exceeding 30cm) were less frequently sooted and might, therefore, be presumed to represent storage types. The very limited range of decoration is illustrated (tabulations of decoration types are in archive).

Bowls/Pans/Dishes (Fig 27, 19–31)

This class includes only vessels with complete or near complete profiles. Two principal types were represented: 7 examples of flat-bottomed straight-sided vessels, usually closely related to jars or cooking pots in fabric and rim form (e.g. 19–23), and 26 examples of finer curved bowl forms (e.g. 24–28). The requirement for near-complete profiles will have resulted in a considerable underestimation of the numbers of both these types. The class must also have included certain specialised vessels such as fish dishes (probable examples include 27 & 28) and skillets and pipkins for which the only firm evidence was two handles (29 & 30). A single ceramic platter (or possibly a lid?) is also represented (31).

Jugs/Pitchers and Cisterns (Figs 28 & 29)

The ease of identification of pitchers and particularly jugs in fine fabrics with relatively small rim diameters should have ensured that this class was comparatively over-represented. Although intuitively the largest vessels in this group should have been pitchers or cisterns this distinction was not easy to apply, and there was no evidence for any break in vessel size between these classes (Fig 26). There were a minimum of 136 jugs/pitchers, plus fragments from at least 4 different anthropomorphic jugs. Other fragments include 6 tripod pitcher feet (e.g. Fig 28, 53), 111 thumbled bases (e.g. 54–55) and 4 cistern bung-holes (e.g. 56). Of the 72 handles (e.g. 39–52) 28 were rod and 44 were of strap type, including a distinctive group displaying the West Sussex trait of stabbing through the entire thickness



Fig 28. Popham: Medieval pottery. Scale 1/4.

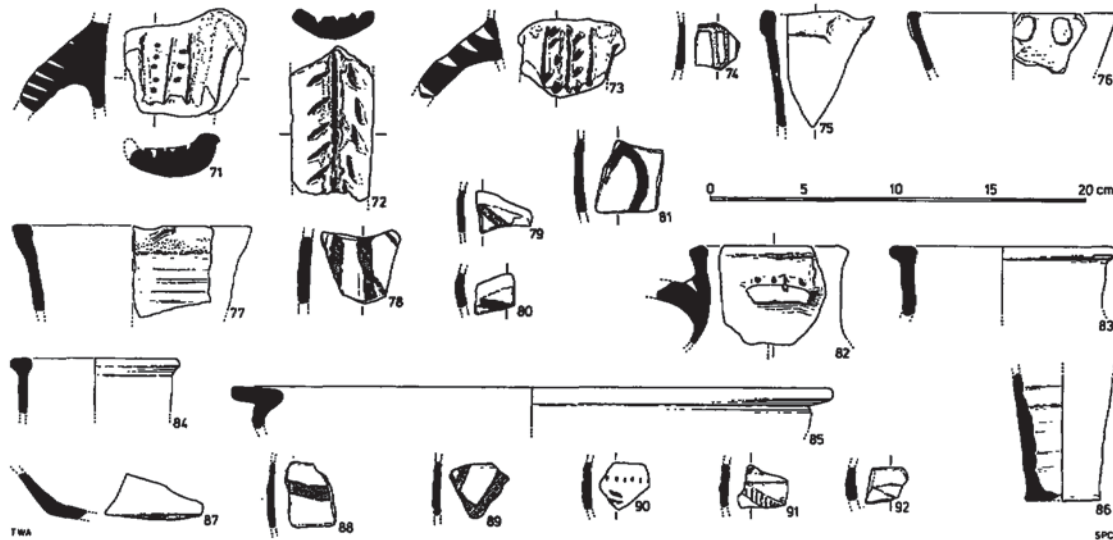


Fig 29. Popham: Medieval pottery. Scale 1/4.

of the handle (e.g. 44–46). All of the examples occurred solely in local fabrics and cannot be regarded as imports to the area (K J Barton, pers comm).

The local jugs and pitchers were particularly conservative in their decoration. Although moulded and applied decoration occurred on rims and necks (e.g. 35–38; see also tabulations in archive) slip decorated examples such as Fig 28, 34 were exceptional, and the technique was apparently alien to the local tradition. Other slip decorated vessels are not local and include examples parallel in style and fabric from sites in South Oxfordshire/West Berkshire (Fig 29, 71–74), Laverstock (75–81) and the Surrey-Hampshire border (82–92). Such identifiable traded wares were extremely rare, forming by weight less than 2% of the sandy ware assemblage, although some pottery from Winchester may also be represented but not identified within the rather featureless finer sandy fabric groups.

Chronology and Affinities

Limited quantities of pre- or early medieval pottery were recovered, all from contexts containing medieval or later wares:

Roman: There were two Roman sherds from the

site; one has the pedestal base of a colour-coated greyware New Forest beaker from layer 93, grid square 56/232, the other the rim of an Oxford ware mortarium of indeterminate type.

Saxon: A total of 27 (113g) organic tempered sherd were found (fabrics 115/124), chiefly from layers 4, 91 and 93 (for distributions see Fig 6). Considering no features of mid-Saxon date were recovered, this figure is of some significance when compared with extensively excavated mid-Saxon rural settlement sites in Hampshire: Cowdery's Down produced little pottery (Millett, pers comm and 1984) and Chalton produced 948 (6200g) sherds of grass tempered pottery from an excavation of almost 2ha (T Champion, pers comm).

Medieval: The stratigraphy on the site is not secure; although the structural episode may represent broad trends much intermixing is evident. A discernable increase in the proportion of glazed sherds from Structural Episode 2 (10%) to Structural Episode 3 (20%) and a move towards finer fabric (Table 1) cannot be matched by any discernable typological progression. The presence of late 11th–12th century pottery is suggested by the presence of thin-walled cooking pots, in-curved 'Saxo-

Norman' type rims (19 and 20) and girth-grooved tripod pitchers (32) covered with a thin, watery yellow-green glaze. Although there is a tendency for these early elements to occur in Structural Episode 2 contexts rather than Structural Episode 3 or 4 extensive vertical disturbance has resulted in the stratigraphic sequence being rendered unreliable for dating purposes. Intrusions of obviously later medieval material in Structural Episodes 1 and 2 may suggest mixing on a larger scale. Fabric alone has proved an insufficient guide to date and source and other undiagnostic body sherds belonging to this early period may be unrecognised. The absence or scarcity in Structural Episode 1 of finer sand-tempered wares or chalk tempered coarse wares (discussed further below) might suggest a pre-13th century date for this episode. The absence of scratch mark wares and the scarcity of sherds from highly decorated jugs suggest little 13th century material to be present, whilst the smaller upright jugs and Surrey wares suggest a post-1320 date for the bulk of the assemblage. Influences are particularly apparent from the West Sussex area, which contributes a number of attributes of the Popham assemblage although none are on genuine West Sussex vessels. Applied thumbled strips on straight-sided bowls or large jars in flint tempered fabrics (Fig 27, 11) and strap handles pierced through are notable features of the West Sussex potteries (Barton 1979).

There are, however, also a number of characteristics not shared with West Sussex such as pellets, festoons, underglaze slip and small bowls with inturned rims (e.g. Fig 27, 19-20). Other distinctive forms may also be represented but unrecognised within the fragmentary material. These forms, fabrics and decorative styles may derive from a localised east Hampshire industry quite distinct from the Hampshire-Surrey border wares tradition. Fabrics comparable to the sand-tempered wares (in particular Group 1) are known from kiln material at Wickham (Thompson, pers comm), and the coarser (Group 5) end of the range is known from Winchester (broadly

comparable to Fabrics PF and DK), although it is not clear whether the Popham material derives from the same sources. There is in any case a large proportion of the pottery which cannot be paralleled at the nearby urban centres.

Only two classes of pottery can be suggested as having a source not immediately local. Hampshire-Surrey border white wares were represented by small jugs decorated with vestigial red slip, scraffito underglaze slip or applied red clay strips, decorative techniques not typical of the range produced from known kiln sites (Holling, pers comm). Other vessels represented were largely small jugs with plain rims and wide strap handles. Bung-hole cisterns and other red-painted wares were virtually absent suggesting little 15th century material to be present.

The majority of the coarse-wares probably derived from a different source. Fabric 106 is common in Newbury (fabric B in Vince forthcoming; Hawkes in Lobb & Richards in prep) and Oxford (fabrics AJ and AQ in Durham 1977), its known distribution concentrating on the West Berkshire Kennet Valley (Vince 1981 and forthcoming). Popham is peripheral to this distribution even though the fabric accounts for over 50% by weight of the 'cooking-pot' fabrics and comprises some 18% of the total assemblage. The vessel types and the limited range of decoration at Popham can all be paralleled at Newbury, where the available evidence suggests this fabric to be substantially 14th century, and probably no longer in production beyond the early years of the 15th century.

Distribution

Details of the distribution of pottery within specific contexts and context-types are held in archive. The distribution of pottery within the yard surfaces is included here because of its significance to the interpretation of activity on the site.

The collection of finds in the yard area within a 2m grid has enabled an analysis to be made on the distribution of the pottery. Difficulties encountered in recognising the bound-

aries between superimposed layers suggest post-depositional disturbances to the vertical stratigraphy, and this was confirmed by the presence in the same layers of both Saxon and post-medieval pottery. Intrusive material was observed in Structural Episodes 3 and 4, only the early phases pre-dating the construction of Building 3 being apparently uncontaminated. Although extensive these intrusions were limited in scale, the small amount (87 sherds weighing 396g) of post-medieval pottery suggesting no significant domestic occupation from the 15th century onwards. The survival of the croft earthworks on three sides of the site indicates only limited lateral disturbance, however, and the presence of marked horizontal patterning of artefacts suggests that post-medieval horticultural digging or trampling by cattle rather than ploughing was responsible for the intermixing. Consequently, although formal phasing has not been pursued in compiling the distribution plans, the results should reflect activity on the site within a period of some seventy years as obvious non-14th century material has been excluded. No account has been taken of volume sampled, as the composite axial sections across the site demonstrate a uniform thickness of deposit except through the boundaries, nor are any allowances made for incomplete squares at the edge of the site – the plans are based on the uncorrected weight of pottery as excavated from each grid square.

The distribution of all pottery (Fig 30) shows the greatest density occurring at the north of the site in the vicinity of the buildings; the greater unit volume of the grid squares on the earthwork banks to the south provides false concentrations. Plotting the distribution of individual fabrics or fabric groups (archive) failed to produce any consistent patterning chiefly because the weights involved for most groups was so low, and the distributions within individual layers was hampered by the fact that many layers occupy only a small area of the yard surface. The most useful basis for analysis was found to be the distribution of the predominantly flinty (Fig 30B) and the predominantly sandy (Fig 30A) fabrics. Their

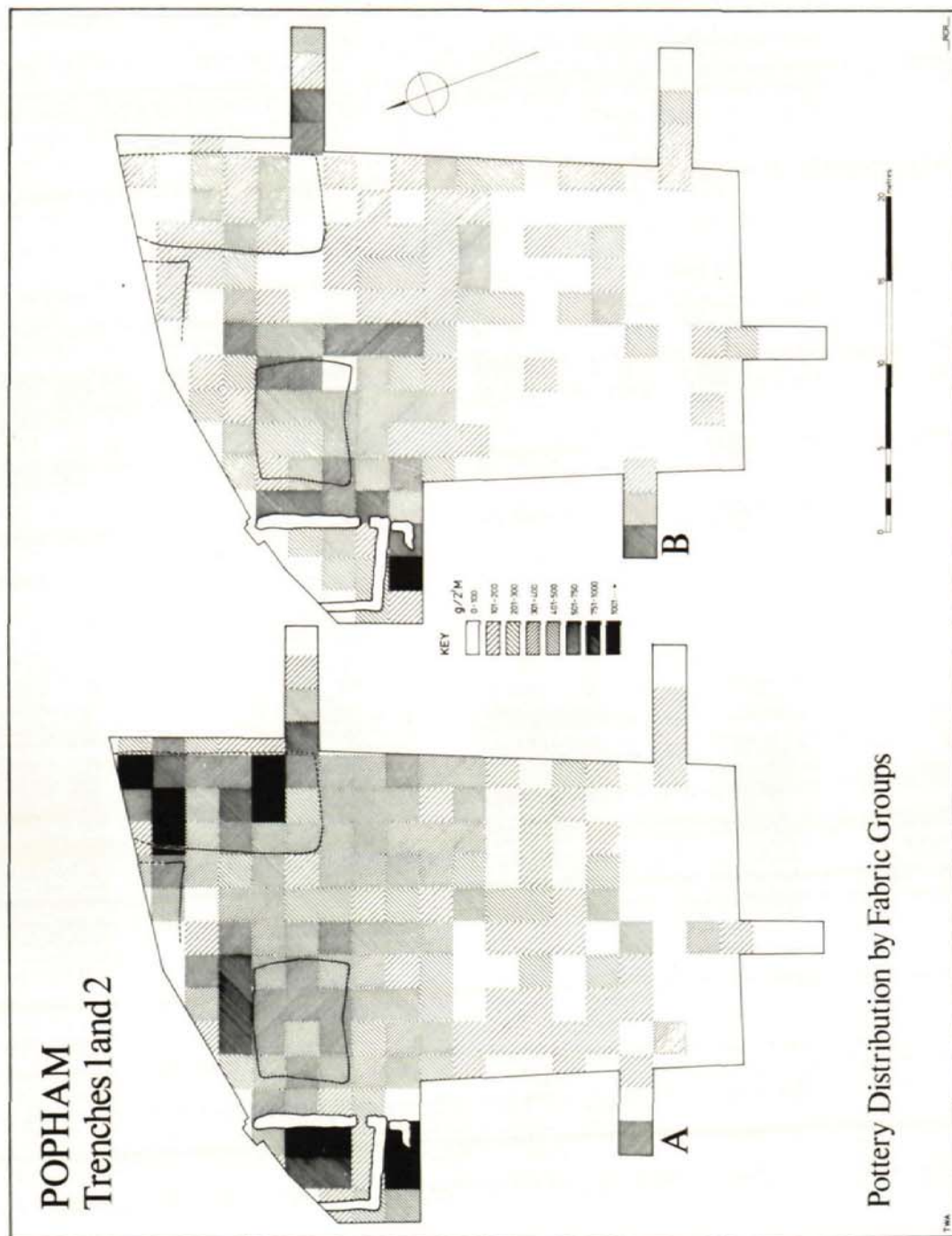
distributions are essentially complementary; the bulk of the flint fabric sherds are to be found outside the buildings, whereas the sandy fabrics are concentrated within them, particularly Buildings 1 and 4A and 4B.

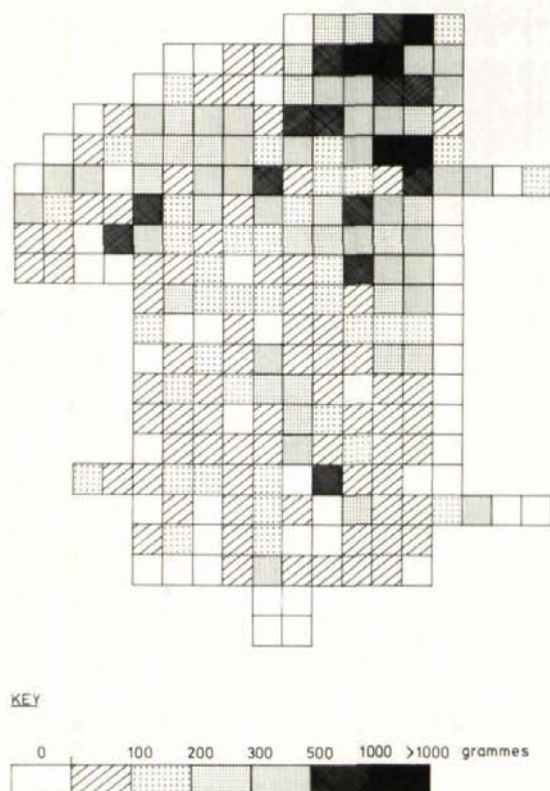
The flinty fabrics largely represent storage or culinary utensils which, when broken, would have been swept out with perishable kitchen refuse, whereas the larger part of the sandy fabrics should represent 'clean' table wares where removal from the house would have been less imperative.

The small proportion of sherds assignable to type makes it difficult to interpret this distribution in terms of vessel form, but Table 2 suggests the correlation between fabric and functional form is valid; a large proportion of jugs and pitchers do occur within Building 4A and 4B.

Tile by J W Hawkes

A total of 2,649 fragments weighing 74.45kg were recovered from the excavation. In addition there were 4 fragments of glazed tile (35g), 21 fragments of unglazed brick (725g) and 8 fragments of glazed brick (234g), all from the ploughsoil. Where the form could be recognised the material was of flat peg-tile type, with 46 examples of peg-holes ranging between 9 and 18mm diameter. The fragmentary nature of the material made it impossible to measure other dimensions, although thickness varied between 8 and 30mm and there was much variation apparent in the fabric from smooth and sandy to coarse with flint and pebble inclusions. The spatial distribution of the tile by weight (Fig 31) shows a clear concentration in the north-east corner of the site, and it seems likely, therefore, that the bulk of the material derives from the internal collapse of the roof of Building 4 or 4A. Although there is insufficient tiling to cover the entire roof, it is possible that substantial quantities lie outside the excavated area, or that complete tiles were removed from the site. Limited areas of tiling on an otherwise thatched roof (cf Hurst 1971, 100) may provide an alternative explanation.





KEY

0 100 200 300 500 1000 >1000 grammes

TWA

SCG

Fig 31. Popham: Distribution of tile by weight.

Miscellaneous Finds

Justine Bayley of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory reports that there were five samples of smithing slag. One was in the topsoil but the other four were all in contexts related to structural episode 3. Two of the pieces were fragments of smithing hearth bottoms of 90mm and 100mm diameter respectively. Eleven fragments of vitrified clay were removed. Justine Bayley writes that some were iron rich, some had a glossy surface and one was a piece of hearth lining, vitrified on one side only from contact with a fire. There were also several finds of mortar, plaster and about twenty fragments of glass. On the advice of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, the 267 fragments of charcoal were not identified. They

had been recovered scattered in most contexts and in most of the structural episodes. None of the fragmentary stone objects are illustrated. Apart from flint the following stone types were discovered; ferruginous sandstone, upper greensand, limestone from Somerset, mica schist (one whetstone fragment), a fragment of a Niedermendig basalt mortar, two whetstone fragments in red sandstone. Details and identification by Dr F W Anderson are in the archive.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Elements of the village may have had a very long history; indeed the main north-south village street is probably at least of Roman date in origin. It was perhaps surprising that so few Roman or prehistoric artefacts were discovered during the excavation when it is considered that Iron Age and Roman sites virtually surround the area of the medieval village. The absence of these early settlements within the area excavated may be a function of the local geology. The prehistoric and Roman settlements tend to occur on chalk, whereas the medieval village, or at least the excavated part of the village, is situated on a rather large area of clay-with-flints. This apparently simple solution may be the most reasonable, although there are plenty of Iron Age and Roman sites known to be sited on clay-with-flints within five miles of Popham.

The presence of concentrations of Anglo-Saxon grass tempered pottery is of interest, even though the sherds cannot be related to contemporary archaeological features. They are obviously strong indications of a presence, maybe even a settlement, on the site dating from sometime between the 5th and the 8th centuries AD.

Structural Episode 1 with its series of post-holes and pits in Trench 2 may be of late 11th or 12th century date but it must be stressed again that there is no pottery of that date directly associated with archaeological features. The portion of the village that was excavated seems to flourish in the 14th

century. The majority of the pottery seems to be later than 1320 but to have stopped being produced by the early years of the 15th century. This can be best demonstrated from the excavations of 1975. The material from 1983 is not at variance with a *floruit* in the 14th century. Most of the stone footings for buildings that were identified in 1983 were more or less aligned with the main east-west village street although one structure in Area 10 was at a 20° angle to the street.

In considering the amount of street frontage that was examined there were traces of very few buildings close to the street; it is possible of course that the buildings were mainly of post-hole structure and would have proved difficult to identify and record in 1983 even though quite a large number of post-holes were recorded. Presumably the building was timber-framed.

If structures had stood on clay pads similar to those in the suggested buildings 4A and 4B it was impossible to identify them under the conditions of the 1983 watching brief.

Notwithstanding these difficulties the buildings that were identified were not numerous, they were scattered around the village and do not suggest periods of intense occupation and repeated rebuilding as might be expected from the results of other excavations of medieval villages. The rebuilding and re-orientation of Building 3 on the site of Building 1 is the only recorded example at Popham of continuous use of a building plot. This contrasts with the local site at Oakley Park (Cherry 1972). The continued use of crofts with changing structures has long been recognised as a common aspect of medieval village settlement from the clay-land villages of the Midlands such as Goltho and Barton Blount (Beresford 1975) to Wharham Percy in the Yorkshire Wolds (Hurst 1984; Andrews & Milne 1979). The excavation of part of the village at Wythemail showed a deliberate re-orientation of a building (Hurst & Hurst 1969). The complex nature of medieval settlement archaeology has again recently been very clearly demonstrated by the programme of excavations at Raunds in Northamptonshire where occupation remains

from the 7th century to the 15th century have included houses, manor houses and a church (Cadman 1983 and for further references). This rather scattered and, perhaps, irregular village layout as revealed by the excavations at Popham contrasts with the apparent regularity of the earthworks.

On the south side of the secondary village street in the area to the east of Trenches 1 and 2 there are suggestions from Buildings 4A and 4B that timber structures had once stood alongside the road. Traces of post-holes in Area A of the 1983 programme indicate that there may have been buildings fronting the south side of the street. Unfortunately the extreme east area available for investigation had quite obviously been quarried away.

In the north-west quarter of the village the earthworks again are of regular appearance. The recorded archaeology is however at some variance with that pattern and it seems as if some of the earthworks related to a different, possible later, period of activity which did not necessarily involve the erection of buildings. Some of the boundaries may be post-village paddocks rather than enclosures related to the medieval village remains.

Two other medieval sites have been excavated within a few miles of Popham. Stephen Moorhouse excavated a terraced platform in Oakley Park, Deane. Underneath the platform was a twelfth century timber building while the platform itself contained two superimposed barn-like structures of mid-13th to mid-14th century date. Moorhouse tentatively identified the site with the manor of Hall Place which, before 1346, passed into the manor of Deane.

The second excavation, under the direction of the writer, started in 1984 and was still in progress at the time of writing. It is the site of the medieval village of Hatch which has been investigated by the Trust for Wessex Archaeology as part of the Brighton Hill South Heritage Project, on the southern outskirts of Basingstoke. The ceramic evidence from the limited excavation concurs with the documentary records and shows a village in decline in the first part of the 14th century. In brief, the documented record for the site shows that

300 acres in the village were left untilled in 1341 and by 1380 there was no population to pay the tithe for the church. This decline has started six or seven years before the plague affects the Basingstoke area.

We thus have three rural settlements whose fortunes in the fourteenth century are very different. Hatch declines for reasons which are not at present very clear while at Oakley the settlement is probably amalgamated into a larger estate. Popham reflects a very different situation in the fourteenth century. The ceramic evidence indicates a main period of activity in the fourteenth century, from about 1320–1380. Popham thrived albeit briefly, while Hatch and Oakley failed and disappeared. The fortunes of the Popham family revived in the fourteenth century, and Robert de Popham was sheriff of Hampshire in 1340. Nick Cahill has suggested there may have been a deliberate move by the Pophams to increase their local and national standing in different spheres. Such a move may have led to the deliberate expansion of the village, certainly the archaeological evidence indicates that the fourteenth century was an important time in the history of the village. The apparent prosperity seems to have continued into the end of the century and there is no clear indication of why the village was reduced in size. It is of course possible that the nucleus of the village shifted in the fifteenth century to an area east of the manor house where cottages still stand. Village mobility rather than desertion may have led to the abandonment of that part of the medieval village at Popham which 600 years later was destroyed by the construction of the M3 motorway.

THE ARCHIVE

In addition to field note books, plans and sections,

the archive consists of sections dealing with the various specialisms referred to in the text, and includes computer print out. The finds and the archive are deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Service, Accession Number A 1980 41. A microfiche copy has been placed with the National Monuments Record.

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Supervision in 1975 was by George Smith, Chris Butler, Abigail Borrow, Sally Fasham and Tye Brisbane and in 1983 by Duncan Walters and Nick Cahill. The post-excavation work was primarily done by Varian Denham, Jane Ross, Christopher Catling, Peter and Judith Bates and lastly by John Hawkes. David Farwell compiled the catalogue of metal objects. Andrew Lawson has commented on the text.

Mr Collin Bowen was instrumental in arranging access to the site and his help and advice are warmly acknowledged.

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