

MIDDLE SAXON SETTLEMENT AT THE DEANERY, CHAPEL ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON

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ABSTRACT

Excavations in 2008–9 covering almost 0.2 hectares south of Chapel Road confirmed the presence of settlement associated with Middle Saxon Hamwic, evidence for which has been recorded previously in this part of modern Southampton. Numerous pits, four wells and several possible property boundaries defined by alignments of pits represent predominantly domestic settlement. No structures were certainly identified, but the possible property boundaries were all aligned parallel with or perpendicular to the course of Chapel Road, which was probably the major east-west street within the southern part of Hamwic. The finds and environmental assemblages appear generally typical of the range of materials recovered from excavations elsewhere in Hamwic, but these provide data that allow useful comparisons regarding overall patterns of distribution and density within the settlement.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Highwood Construction to carry out archaeological fieldwork in advance of residential development on land at The Deanery (SOU 1386) and at Stricklands Motor Repairs (SOU 1511), Chapel Road, Southampton (NGR 442700 111550, Fig. 1). For the purposes of publication these two adjacent sites are described collectively in this report as ‘The Deanery Site’; all feature, context and Item numbers referred to relate to SOU 1386, except where otherwise stated.

Situated to the south-east of Southamp-

ton city centre in the parish of St Mary’s and approximately 100m to the south-east of St Mary’s Church, the site covered an area of c. 1 hectare on fairly level ground, at c. 2.5m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). It comprised an approximately rectangular plot of land immediately to the south of Chapel Road, bounded by residential development to the west and south and by a railway line to the east. The site was previously occupied by part of Southampton City College, including a gym building, an access road, and areas of car parking and landscaping with, in the western excavation area, Stricklands Motor Repairs.

Archaeological and historical background

The site lies towards the southern limit of the nationally important Middle Saxon settlement of Hamwic (Fig. 1) and formed part of ‘The Deanery’, which was a term applied to the area in the 18th century. Before this date the area was known as the Chantry (Davies 1883, 336), for the chanters attached to St Mary’s Church, and is shown as such on Speed’s map of 1611, as a walled area with range of buildings, a courtyard and gatehouse and associated fields.

Map regression, undertaken in advance of earlier redevelopment to the south and east (Wessex Archaeology 2001), reveals that the site lay in fields between c. 1600 and 1791, with barns having been built on or near its western boundary by the latter date. By 1846 trees were planted in the west while Western Terrace, comprising approximately 20 houses, backed onto the railway line to the east. Twenty years later a school fronted onto Chapel Road but the west and south of the site remained undeveloped. In 1933 Western Terrace was still extant,

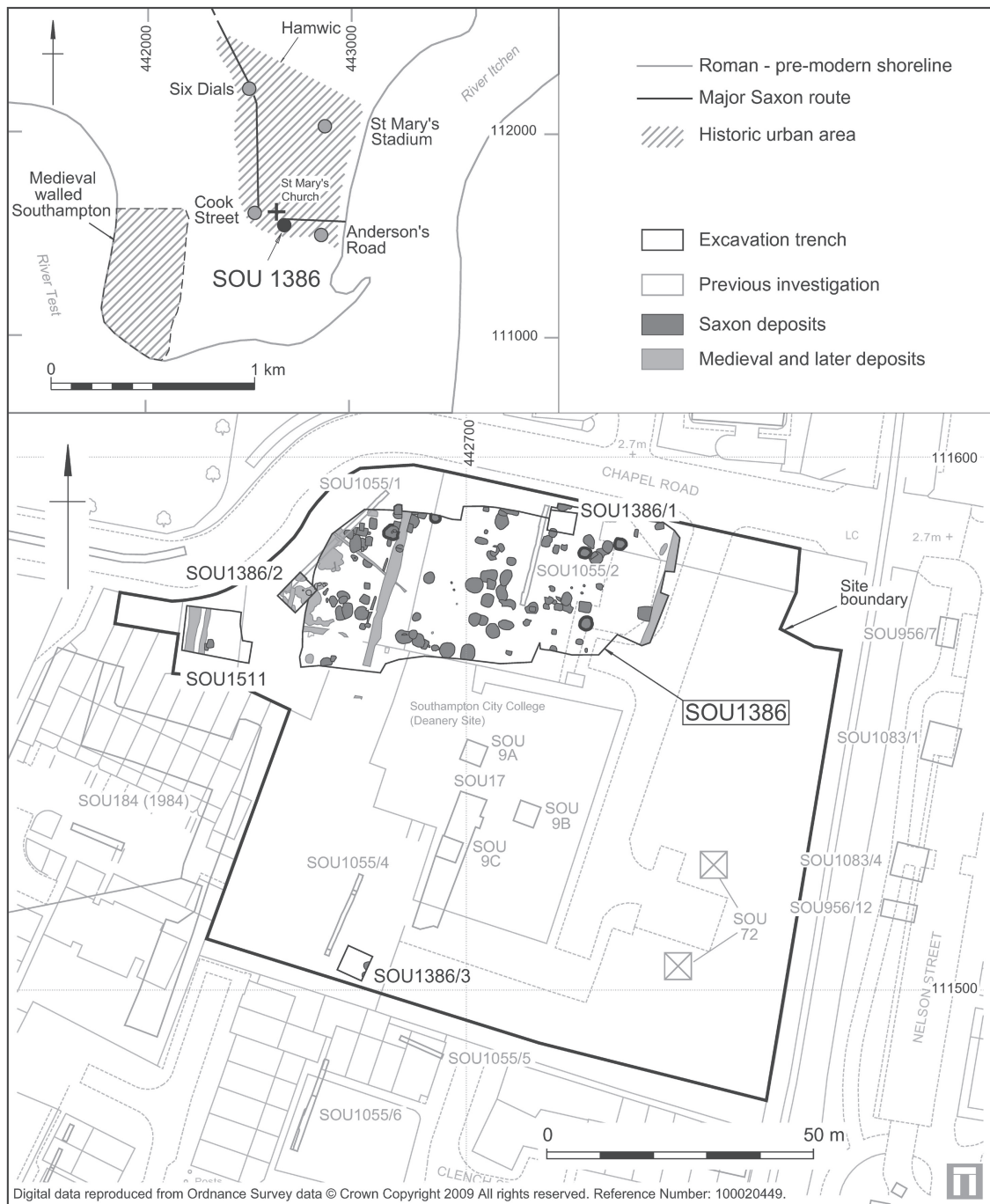


Fig. 1 Site location plan

a second school building fronted onto Chapel Road and a long, north-south aligned building had been erected, probably associated with a railway turntable to the south-east of the site. By the mid 1970s these buildings were replaced by a college gym.

Parts of the site have been subject to previous archaeological investigation (Fig. 1). In 1973 three 4m square trenches (SOU 9) were excavated in the centre of the site, with one subsequently extended to approximately 27m by 5m in 1975 (SOU 17), revealing five Middle Saxon pits (Morton 1992, 96–100).

In 2000 three evaluation trenches were excavated in the north-west, north and south of the site (SOU 1055/1, 2 and 4 – Russel & Leivers 2000), with those in the north-west and north exposing sequences of intercutting features that produced a well stratified suite of Saxon pottery.

As part of the current development a three-trench evaluation (SOU 1386/1–3) was undertaken in February 2006 in parts of the site not occupied by buildings or car parks (Wessex Archaeology 2006). Along with a Late medieval or Early Post-medieval wall footing and associated features and deposits, a small number of pit-like features of possible Saxon date were exposed.

Excavations to the west in 1984 and 1987, at SOU 184, the first site to be investigated inside the boundary of The Deanery, uncovered a relatively large number of Saxon pits, decreasing in density and apparently bounded by a ditch to the south, as well as various medieval and later remains. Excavations in 2004 to the east of the site at Anderson's Road (SOU 1240) recorded 62 pits, the majority of Middle Saxon date. The pits were most densely represented to the north-east of the site, close to Chapel Road, and were filled with general refuse deposits which included noteworthy concentrations of worked bone (Ellis & Andrews 2006). More recent work immediately to the south of the site has identified a post-built Middle Saxon building and a small number of pits, whilst excavations in 2008 immediately to the north of Chapel Road have also identified Middle Saxon buildings and a large number of pits (Alan Morton pers. comm.).

Methodology

A dual methodology (detailed excavation and watching brief) was proposed within the overall programme of archaeological mitigation (Wessex Archaeology 2008 & 2009). The development comprises four blocks of flats and approximately 25 two-storey houses with associated parking, roads and services. Foundations for two of the blocks of flats, occupying a rectangular area approximately 1800m² immediately to the south of Chapel Road (where dense archaeological remains were anticipated), were subject to detailed excavation (SOU 1386), as was the 125m² footprint of a proposed building on the former Stricklands Motor Repairs site to the west (SOU 1511), this work being undertaken in August – October 2008 and August – September 2009 respectively. Foundations for the houses and other two blocks of flats (where relatively sparse archaeological remains were anticipated) comprised trenches c. 0.5m wide and 2m deep and were the subject of a watching brief (SOU 1386), maintained between July and December 2008. Because the ground surface of the entire site was raised by c. 0.8m, there was little ground disturbance beyond the areas subject to detailed excavation or a watching brief.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Soil profile and geological deposits

All areas of the site had been heavily affected by 19th and 20th century development, with many brick wall foundations and ceramic drains present. An overburden of between 1m and 1.2m was mechanically removed prior to manual excavation, and approximately half of this comprised modern gravel make-up and tarmac.

The drift geology comprises River Terrace Gravels overlain by Brickearth (British Geological Survey, sheet 315). The natural gravel along the western and eastern edges of the site lay at approximately 1m aOD, rising to c. 1.4m aOD along the northern edge and dipping to 0.7m aOD in the centre of the site. The thickness of brickearth over the majority of the excavation area varied between 0.4m and 0.8m. However,

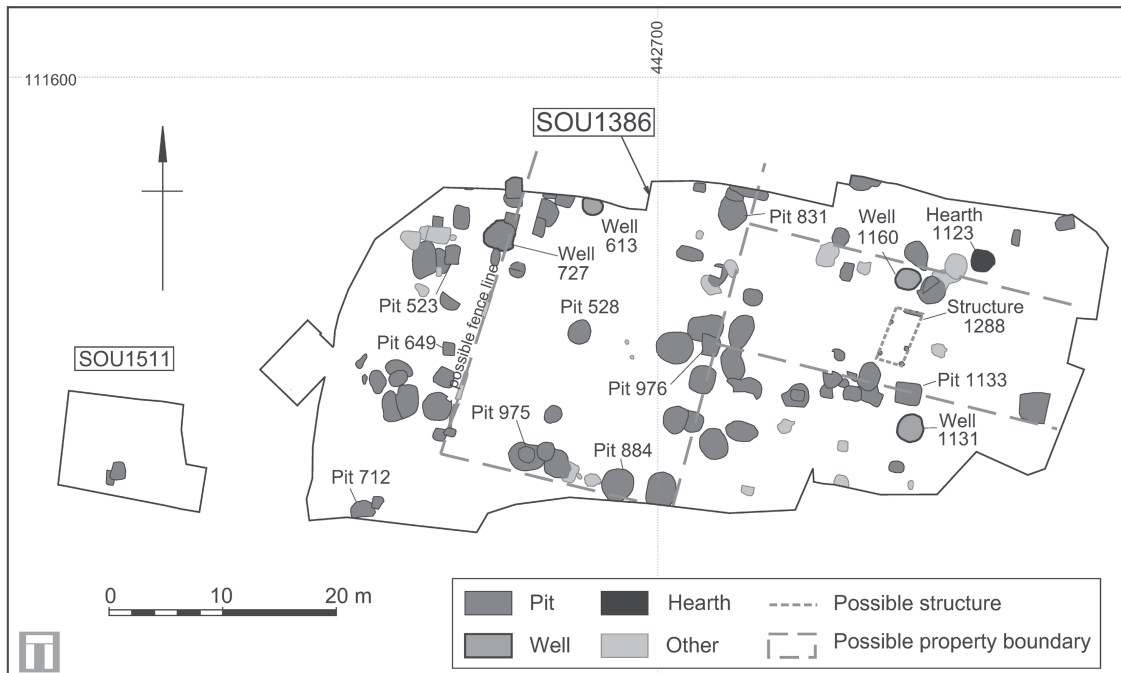


Fig. 2 Mid-Saxon features

the eastern side of the main excavation area contained only thin deposits of brickearth, with a maximum depth of 0.2m. Although no complete profile survived in this area, the presence of a few, usually shallow features, such as postholes, indicates that any truncation has probably been quite minor and that there is a natural thinning of the brickearth from west to east across the site.

A short section of what appeared to be a typical profile in the south-east of the site was recorded during the watching brief. Here a 0.3m thick brickearth deposit was present, at 1.3m aOD, overlain by a 0.35m thick dark grey silty loam with heavy iron staining – possibly the result of repeated waterlogging, perhaps a salt marsh deposit of post-medieval date, as recorded at Anderson's Road to the east (Allen 2006, 116). This was overlain by a relict topsoil approximately 0.20m thick.

Archaeological features and deposits

Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the area was represented by a small quantity

of residual struck flint and pottery. Also of probable prehistoric date was part of a rough-out for a shale armlet (Item 19), recovered from Saxon pit 649 in the west of the main excavation area. The rough-out is hand-chiselled, a technique typical of the Iron Age shale industry of south Dorset (e.g. Cox & Woodward 1987, fig. 92, 117–8).

Middle Saxon

The majority of archaeological features were of certain or probable Middle Saxon (AD 650–850) date, and comprised pits, wells, a possible hearth, postholes and numerous scoops and hollows (Fig. 2).

Pits

Pits are the most common feature found on Middle Saxon sites in Hamwic. They vary greatly in form and dimensions, but can be broadly categorised into four general types. These comprise wells, which are characterised by a deep central shaft; large, deep circular, sub-circular or oval pits; rectangular or sub-rectangular pits, usually with vertical sides;

and shallow, irregular pits, classed here as scoops and hollows, that appear to represent the *ad hoc* quarrying of the natural brickearth. Ultimately all of the pits appear to have been finally filled with a mixture of industrial and domestic debris. At the Deanery site there were four wells, 48 circular, sub-circular or oval pits, 26 rectangular or sub-rectangular pits and 23 scoops and hollows.

It seems likely that many of the pits represent the quarrying of brickearth and gravel, and that waste disposal was a secondary or incidental function (Morton 1992, 45). Large circular, sub-circular or oval pits were the most common pit type recorded, as is the case on most Hamwic sites. Some of these were of considerable size, with complex and varied sequences of fills and slumped deposits, and it has been suggested that such pits may have been filled over protracted periods, perhaps as long as 50 to 100 years (Morton 1992, 43; Andrews 1997, 176).

Many, but not all of the pits contained primary fills of concentrated cess, suggesting their use as latrines, often with lenses of ash, charcoal or woody material such as straw, wood chippings, rushes and bracken which probably represent cappings used to stifle the smell and absorb liquid. Environmental samples recovered from some of the pits contained hard mineralised concretions containing sand and it is possible that any associated structures above them may have been rendered with daub or plaster. It seems likely that whilst the majority of pits were originally small-scale brickearth and gravel quarries, often utilised as latrines as a secondary use, some may have served a storage function before being used for waste disposal.

A small number of pits, notable for the density or classes of finds recovered, are described in some detail below (Fig. 2; full records of all features are contained within the project archive). The approximate volume of material excavated from each feature was calculated and the densities of the two most numerous finds categories (animal bone and pottery) recovered from each feature expressed in weight per cubic metre; the average density across the whole site was 2,800g/m³ for animal bone and 91.8g/m³ for pottery.

The large sub-circular pit 528 appears to

be in a slightly isolated location, at least 5m from any other broadly contemporary feature. This was 2m in diameter and 1.70m deep with steep sides and a flat base, and contained a complex sequence of what appears to be cess and domestic debris interspersed with re-deposited brickearth and gravels and small quantities of possible industrial or craft debris. The earliest fills appear to represent a collapse of part of the gravel sides of the feature, suggesting that it was left open, at least for a short period, following its excavation. These fills were overlain by a series of dumps of domestic food processing waste, notably mammal and fish bone and marine shell, charcoal, and cess separated by layers of redeposited brickearth. Although some of the brickearth layers appear to be deliberate cappings, others are more likely the result of the weathering of the sides of the feature, suggesting that it filled over an extended period. The penultimate fill of this pit comprised a layer of redeposited brick-earth that may represent a surface that had slumped into the top of the pit as the lower fills degraded and compressed. The uppermost fill comprised a massive deposit of oyster shells that had slumped into the top of the feature.

The density of finds recovered from the various fills of pit 528 was notably higher than most other features investigated. The animal bone assemblage recovered from this single feature (2752 pieces / 38,120g) represents 6.3% of the total animal bone assemblage from the whole site by number and 10.9% by weight (with an animal bone density of 11,413g/m³, more than four times the average density), while the pottery recovered represents 6.1% of the total assemblage by number and 5.3% by weight (with a pottery density of 195g/m³, over twice the site average). Of the 39 sherds of pottery recovered from this feature, 24 (61.5% by number, 68% by weight) were imported wares, again, a higher proportion than seen elsewhere on the site. This pit also produced c. 61% of the marine shells recovered during the excavation, the majority deriving from a single large dump of shells. Pit 528 also produced two of the six coins found during the excavations, both sceattas of Series E dating to c. 715 – c. 735 (Items 7 and 29), a bone comb (Item 90), a pin beater (Item 85) and several metal items.

Pit 649 was a small, sub-rectangular pit in the west of the main excavation area, from which a possible Iron Age shale bracelet rough-out was recovered (see above). The pit was 1.12m long, 1.05m wide and 0.98m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The basal concentrated cess fill appears to represent its original function as a latrine; this was overlain by a deposit of marine shells (mainly oyster) that appeared to be a single, deliberate dump. The shell dump was in turn overlain by a large dump of domestic and industrial waste and cess. The penultimate fill comprised a 0.15m thick deposit of sandy clay with gravel inclusions, which probably represents part of a later surface that slumped into the top of the pit. The uppermost fill comprised slumped domestic occupation debris. The density of pottery recovered from this feature was very slightly above the site average and the animal bone density, at 23,463g/m³, is more than eight times the site average, the majority being derived from a single dump deposit.

Pit 976 was sub-rectangular, 1.80m long, 1.65m wide and 0.50m deep with steep, concave sides and a concave base, that was located in the centre of the main excavation area. The basal fill of this feature comprised a dump of domestic and industrial waste mixed with cess, and the upper fill appears to represent either a deliberate cap of redeposited brickearth and charcoal or a gradual accumulation of debris that slumped into the top of the feature as the lower fill degraded and compressed. In addition to oyster shell and a small rectangular fragment of antler, possibly a blank from comb manufacture, this pit is notable for the density of the finds recovered. All finds were recovered from the basal fill, the density of animal bone, at 18,314g/m³, more than five times the site average and the density of pottery, at 448g/m³, more than four times the site average.

The large sub-rectangular pit 1133 in the east of the main excavation area was 2.26m long, 1.98m wide and 1.19m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The earliest fill comprised a c. 0.1m thick layer of redeposited gravels, presumably derived from the weathering of the pit sides. This was overlain by deposits of concentrated cess, representing its function as a latrine. The cess deposits were covered by a

thin layer of redeposited brickearth, probably a deliberate capping. This was overlain by two deliberate dumps of domestic and industrial waste mixed with cess. These were in turn sealed below a deposit of brickearth and loam, probably the result of slumping. Pit 1133 was notable for the high densities of both animal bone and pottery that were recovered, the majority from the two dump deposits, along with a bone pin beater (Item 121), glass (Item 125) and iron slag. The pottery recovered (88 pieces/ 1,657g) represents approximately 14.5% of the entire pottery assemblage by number and by weight. The density of animal bone from the feature (5,650g/m³) is more than twice the site average whilst the density of pottery (1,441g/m³) was more than 15 times the average density, of which approximately 25% by weight was imported.

Wells

The four wells recorded (Fig. 2) were all approximately circular, with well pits between 1.8m and 2.7m in diameter, and all were cut to at least 1m below the top of the natural gravels. In two examples the former position of the lining was clear, although the lack of permanently waterlogged conditions meant that no lining survived. In the section of well 1160 were two 10mm-wide vertical voids, their shape and thickness suggesting that this was a barrel-lined well. In well 1131 evidence for the lining survived to a height of 0.7m from the base, but the voids were only 1mm to 2mm thick, and it seems that in this case the lining was probably wicker.

The wells all had horizontally bedded gravel in the backfill around the circular shafts. It was difficult to differentiate between the *in situ* and *ex situ* backfill around the well shafts above c. 0.5m from their bases, and it is likely that the upper part of the shafts and some backfill had collapsed inward. Irregular voids, seen about midway up the shafts in three of the four examples, presumably formed beneath collapsed lining.

Only in well 1131 was the initial fill of the well shaft relatively stone- and artefact-free, and this may be an example where the well went out of use because of silting rather than being abandoned while still usable. The later fills of

all the wells comprised domestic refuse and/or material slumping into the top of the shaft, with notable artefacts including an unfinished lead alloy disc brooch (Item 86, well 727) and a small octagonal flan of silver (Item 31, well 613).

Property boundaries

Property boundaries of various forms have been identified on other sites within *Hamwic*. For example, shallow, irregular gullies appeared to define such boundaries at SOU 7 and SOU 22 (Morton 1992, 84–86, 154–160), approximately 200m to the east of the Deanery, postholes marked possible fence lines at SOU 11, all of which were aligned perpendicular or parallel to Chapel Road, whilst alignments of pits and stakeholes, in conjunction with the alignments of buildings, recognised elsewhere within *Hamwic*, particularly at Six Dials (Andrews 1997, 46–48), are also considered to reflect the boundaries of properties within the Saxon town.

It is possible that two short gullies between 0.30m and 0.50m wide and up to 0.10m deep, in the west of the main excavation area at the Deanery, may represent a boundary similar to those recorded at SOU 7 and SOU 22 (Fig. 2). Although no datable material was recovered from these features, the southern gully was cut by a Middle Saxon pit. A possible line of 12 pits and shallow scoops, on a parallel alignment to the gullies and *c.* 20m to the east, may represent the eastern side of a property demarked by the gullies on its western side. A further line of ten pits and hollows could conceivably represent the southern boundary of the same property.

Two other possible alignments might also be tentatively discerned, comprising two lines of pits and wells approximately 10m apart, parallel to Chapel Road and extending west from the property described above.

It is assumed that any boundaries would reflect the alignments of the buildings and streets around them and, indeed, the suggested property boundaries at the Deanery reflect the alignment of the single possible building (1288) identified on the site and the inferred line of the Middle Saxon forerunner of Chapel Road, one of the major east-west thoroughfares in *Hamwic*.

Structures

An irregular rectangle, approximately 4.7m long and 2.6m wide, formed by a possible beamslot and four postholes on the east side of the main excavation area may represent the location of a small building (Fig. 2); no internal features were recognised. This putative structure (1288) appears to have been aligned perpendicular to Chapel Road, some 14m to the north, and was positioned between groups of pits to the north and south. The possible beam slot was 1.7m long, 0.2m wide and 0.06m deep, and the postholes sub-circular with diameters between 0.35m and 0.45m and depths between 0.06m and 0.15m. At Six Dials there were several small structures defined by postholes and/or beamslots, varying in size from 6m by 3m to 2.2m by 1.5m (Andrews 1997, 50), and similar structures have also been identified at the St Mary's Stadium site (Birbeck *et al.* 2005, 90–98) and elsewhere within *Hamwic*.

Elsewhere on the site several postholes and shallow gullies may represent parts of other structures; however, no convincing ground plans could be discerned.

A possible hearth was represented by large, shallow circular feature 1123 in the north-east of the main excavation area (Fig. 2). This was 2.1m in diameter, 0.30m deep with vertical sides and a flat base and contained several thin layers of dark grey charcoal-rich material separated by thin layers of redeposited brick-earth. Although no scorching was visible, the layers of brickearth were all of a relative uniform thickness and were perhaps repairs to a working surface. Relatively large quantities of iron smithing slag (70 pieces weighing 1364g) were recovered from an adjacent pit and hammer-scale was recovered from several environmental samples from nearby features, whilst evidence for Saxon iron working was found at SOU 17 (see Fig. 1) some 50m to the south (Morton 1992, 96 & 100). It is possible therefore, that feature 1123 may have been associated with iron smithing, although this is rather speculative.

Medieval and post-medieval

The majority of the medieval or early post-medieval features were concentrated in the west of the main excavation area and comprised a

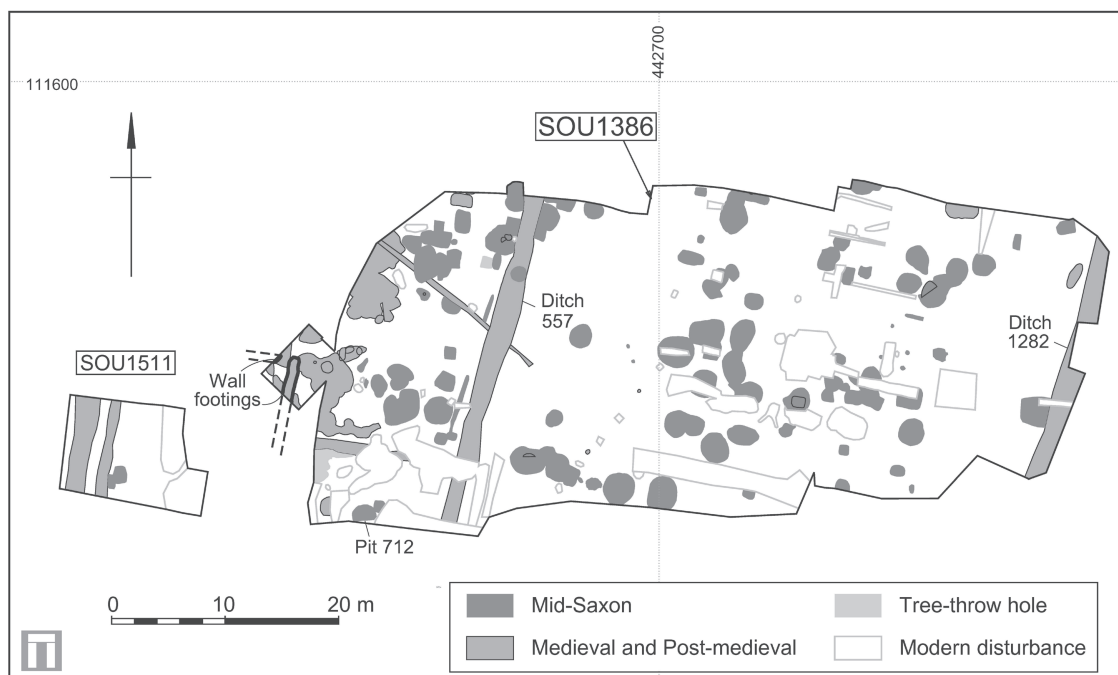


Fig. 3 Medieval and post-medieval features

cluster of large, irregular hollows in the natural brickearth, some of which cut various smaller shallow pits or scoops (Fig. 3). Most of the pits produced no dating evidence, but a fragment of medieval glazed, crested ridge tile, a decorated floor tile and several pieces of lead window cames indicate a medieval or later date.

The overlying subsoil, which was up to 0.50m thick, was cut by the construction trenches of two wall footings at 90° to each other in evaluation trench 2 (SOU 1386/2), immediately to the west of the main excavation area (Fig. 3). These footings, the junction between them removed by a later feature, comprised flint nodules, re-used worked limestone and hand-made brick fragments in a sandy clay matrix.

Four ditches aligned approximately north – south were recorded, two (557 and 1282) within the main excavation area and two in the area to the west (Fig. 3). A small assemblage of later post-medieval pottery was recovered from one of these ditches. Three maps of the late 18th or early 19th centuries show field bounda-

ries aligned perpendicular to Chapel Road in the centre of the site, and one map shows smaller subdivisions to the west, and it is likely that the excavated ditches represent these post-medieval field boundaries.

FINDS *by* Lorraine Mephram

The assemblage recovered from the site is largely of Middle Saxon date, with numerous parallels within the known range of material recovered from Hamwic. There are smaller quantities of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval material. Condition varies. Most material is in fragmentary condition, but abrasion levels are relatively low, at least on the harder-fired ceramics. Metalwork, however, is generally in poor condition, and both copper alloy and iron objects are badly corroded. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context. Overall quantities are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Finds totals by material type

<i>Material</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
Flint		
Worked Flint	29	602
Burnt Flint	205	4787
Slate	17	263
Stone	56	19,951
Building Material	3	4792
Objects	14	1245
Shale	1	60
Unworked	38	13,854
Burnt Clay	189	4097
Daub	2	58
Lining	36	1486
Ceramic Building Material	24	4078
Clay Pipe	2	7
Pottery	628	11,990
Romano-British	13	294
Saxon	608	11,397
Medieval	2	42
Post-medieval	5	257
Glass	28	524
Coins	5	—
Metalwork	93	—
Silver	1	—
Copper alloy	20	—
Lead/lead alloy	7	—
Iron	65	—
Slag	281	27,290
Animal Bone	43,779	349,722
Worked Bone	17	—
Shell	4825	59,957

Pottery

The pottery assemblage (628 sherds; 11,990g) includes material of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date, although the bulk of the assemblage is Middle Saxon. Condition is fair to good; sherds are relatively unabraded, and there are some cross-context joins. Mean sherd weight overall is 19.1g.

The assemblage has been subjected to full fabric and form analysis following the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system for pottery (Morris 1994). As far as possible, Middle Saxon fabrics have been correlated with the Southampton type series (Timby 1988), although this has not proved possible for the imported wares as the full fabric series for these is not available for consultation; they

have instead been defined by basic type, e.g. blackwares, greywares, etc. Form types have been defined and described using nationally recommended nomenclature (MPRG 1998). Table 2 breaks the pottery assemblage down by ware group, using Timby's subdivisions based on dominant inclusion type(s). Only the Middle Saxon material (610 sherds; 11,433g) is discussed here.

Fabrics and forms

Seven of Timby's nine Saxon fabric groups are represented; those that are absent here are calcite-tempered (Group VII) and igneous rock-tempered (Group VIII). Organic-tempered (Group I) and shelly wares (Group V) are each represented by only a handful of sherds; most commonly occurring are chalk-tempered (Group II), sandy (Group III) and imported wares (Group IX) (see Table 3).

Diagnostic sherds amongst the locally produced coarsewares relate almost exclusively to jar forms (46 examples), with either convex or rounded profiles. Rims are everted and plain, flattened or internally bevelled. There is also one lid in a sandy fabric (pit 649). There are no examples of decoration.

Amongst the imported wares, a group of six sherds (five from one context – pit 1133) have been identified as a possible Badorf-related ware (Fabric 201); three are rouletted but none are diagnostic of specific vessel forms.

Nine sherds could be correlated with whiteware fabrics within Hodges' classes 11 and 12 (Fabrics 127 and 128), with suggested sources respectively in the Seine Valley and Trier. Fabric 127 appears to have been particularly long-lived, with a currency from the 6th to 13th centuries (Hodges 1981, 19; Timby 1988, 92). One sherd of Fabric 127 from the Deanery came from an everted rim jar in pit 523 (Timby 1988, fig. 11, 202–3). A further ten sherds have been classified broadly as whitewares (including an everted rim jar and a flanged bowl) and could also belong to Hodges' Classes 11 or 12, although other attributions are possible.

Blackwares are the most commonly occurring imported types at the Deanery. Of the 64 sherds recorded, 31 were identified as Fabrics 130 (one sherd) and 132 (30 sherds) within Hodges' Class 14. Twenty-four sherds of

Fabric 132 came from a single context within pit 1133, and represent at least two vessels – an everted rim jar and a strap-handled spouted pitcher. A flanged bowl rim came from another feature (pit 884). A further 33 sherds have been broadly classified as blackwares, and include an everted rim jar, a flanged bowl and two spouted pitchers. The blackwares are well represented elsewhere in Hamwic; they cover a wide range of fabrics with several potential sources, including northern France and the Meuse valley (Hodges 1981, 23).

Three fabrics within Hodges' greyware Classes 13 and 15 were identified (Fabrics 129, 154, 161). Fabric 129 was the most commonly occurring (37 sherds); diagnostic sherds come from three everted rim jars and two pitcher handles (pits 827, 919 and 1232). This is a distinctive ware with potential sources in eastern Belgium or the Netherlands (Hodges 1981, 21). Fabric 154 is represented by a single sherd, from an everted rim jar (pit 876). This fabric is also distinctive, with prominent white crystalline inclusions, but is rare in Hamwic (Timby 1988, 96). The jar form found at the Deanery is relatively small (rim diameter 100mm), and slightly carinated, unlike those described by Timby as solely representative of the ware (*ibid.*). Sherds of Fabric 161 include the spout from a spouted pitcher (pit 975). A further 12 greyware sherds include no diagnostic forms.

For the oxidised wares, four sherds were identified as Fabric 183 (Hodges' Class 23). This is a rare group with a probable source in Alsace. All four sherds came from a single context, and represent a single vessel, a spouted pitcher (possible hearth 1123). Of the other nine sherds classified as oxidised, six came from the base of a jar with curvilinear combing (pit 528).

One final undiagnostic sherd belongs to Hodges' Class 31 (Fabric 193), a rare group with a possible Mayen source.

Discussion

The pottery assemblage from the Deanery is relatively small and, when the number of excavated features is examined, the distribution per feature is very low level. The stratified Middle Saxon pottery (596 sherds) derived from 66 features (63 pits/wells and three other

Table 2 Pottery totals by fabric group

<i>Fabric Group</i>	<i>Fabric Code</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>% of total (no. sherds)</i>	<i>% of total (wt.)</i>
I	2	1	22		
	3	1	24		
	11	3	101		
	sub-total group I	5	147	0.82	1.29
II	40	70	1530		
	41	34	711		
	L402	13	152		
	sub-total group II	117	2393	19.18	20.93
III	8	29	527		
	9	145	2392		
	10	24	254		
	55	20	400		
	57	20	238		
	58	2	35		
	sub-total group III	240	3846	39.34	33.64
IV	59	2	67		
	61	1	13		
	63	3	49		
	66	22	706		
	MG6	12	221		
	sub-total group IV	40	1056	6.56	9.24
V	31	3	77		
	90	1	208		
	sub-total group V	4	285	0.66	2.49
VI	24	10	285		
	54	29	401		
	65	3	45		
	sub-total group VI	42	731	6.88	6.39
IX	Badorf-type ware	6	88		
	Blackwares	71	1392		
	Greywares	56	704		
	Whitewares	15	330		
	Oxidised wares	13	405		
	Other wares	1	56		
	sub-total imported wares	162	2975	26.56	26.02
	TOTAL	610	11,433		

Table 3 Pottery fabric groups from sites and areas compared by sherd number

<i>Fabric Group</i>	<i>Deanery</i>	<i>SOU 9/17</i>	<i>S of Chapel Rd</i>	<i>SOU 33</i>	<i>Stadium</i>	<i>Six Dials</i>	<i>Hamwic</i>
Group I	1 / 1	1 / –	4 / 5	2 / 3	5 / 5	7 / 8	6 / 7
Group II	19 / 21	60 / 56	22 / 20	28 / 23	14 / 12	15 / 14	17 / 15
Group III	39 / 34	7 / 29	34 / 36	25 / 23	29 / 23	36 / 33	31 / 29
Group IV	7 / 9	25 / 5	23 / 19	24 / 25	24 / 26	27 / 26	27 / 27
Group V	1 / 2		–	–		1 / 1	
Group VI	7 / 6	3 / 8	2 / 3	3 / 7	7 / 6	2 / 2	2 / 2
Group IX	27 / 26	1 / 1	15 / 18	17 / 19	20 / 25	13 / 15	15 / 18
Assemblage size	610	494	2737	2136	6375	19,567	45,290
Source		Timby 1988	Timby 1988; Ellis and Andrews 2006	Timby 1988	Mephram 2005	Timby 1988	Timby 1988

features). The highest quantity per feature was 88 sherds (pit 1133), and only six others yielded more than 25 sherds. When this is averaged out, to give figures with which to compare with other sites, the total of 610 sherds (11,433g) against 102 features gives an average quantity of six sherds (or 112g) of pottery per feature (features were generally half-sectioned), a low figure even when examined against other peripheral sites such as Anderson's Road (eight sherds / 0.19kg per pit; features generally half-sectioned) or SOU 14 (160 sherds / 2kg per pit; features generally fully excavated).

Turning to the range of fabrics represented at the Deanery, some interesting patterns are suggested, but the figures are best considered alongside other assemblages from Hamwic (see Table 3). In terms of location, the Deanery site falls within Timby's group of sites south of Chapel Road (Timby 1988, tables 5 and 6), but lies directly to the south of Southampton site 33, to the north of Chapel Road. The sites to the south of Chapel Road were relatively unproductive of pottery; the figures given by Timby have been augmented in Table 3 by those from Anderson's Road (Ellis & Andrews 2006, tables 1 and 2). The figures for SOU 9 and SOU 17 are also given separately, as they fall within the area of the

Deanery site, but this small combined assemblage is clearly skewed.

It can be observed that the proportion of organic-tempered wares (Group I), which Timby takes as an indicator of early Middle Saxon occupation (1988, 111) is particularly low in comparison with nearby sites (the figures for SOU 9/17 are comparable but, as noted above, are probably not reliable). This is even further marked by the fact that three of the five organic-tempered sherds recovered are in Fabric 11, a sandy variant which appears to represent a transitional ware at the end of the organic-tempered tradition (*ibid.*, 112). A chronological explanation is certainly suggested here, with a much reduced early Middle Saxon presence at the Deanery, and this seems to be confirmed by the pattern of glass vessel forms recovered from the Deanery, which show an emphasis on later rounded rims, with a few tubular forms, but none with cavities (Hunter & Heyworth 1998, 8).

It is in the very low proportion of mixed grit wares (Group IV), however, that the Deanery assemblage appears most anomalous; on other sites these wares make up approximately one quarter of the total. They are generally taken as an indicator of late Mid-Saxon occupation, along with the shell-tempered and flint-tempered wares (Groups V and VI)

(Timby 1988, 117–8). This low proportion is particularly marked when compared to SOU 33, immediately to the north, and other sites to the south of Chapel Road. Within the latter group, in contrast, mixed grit wares formed an anomalously high proportion at Andersons Road (43% by number, 32% by weight; Ellis and Andrews 2006, table 2), and was thought to support the pattern of increasingly dense late occupation in the south-east of Hamwic near to the River Itchen (Morton 2005a, 125; Mephram 2006, 95); if this is accepted, then it seems that this density did not extend very far back from the waterfront, although the glass evidence, as noted above, would seem at variance here with the pottery.

The proportion of imports (Group IX) is relatively high; it is lower than that for Andersons Road (33% by number / 35% by weight), but this was thought to be at least partly influenced by the small size of the assemblage, although the general trend across Hamwic might indicate a slight bias towards the south-east (Mephram 2006, 95). When the average quantity per feature is taken into account, however, the figures are less impressive: two sherds per pit/well at the Deanery, compared with nine sherds per feature at Six Dials and 11 sherds per feature at Chapel Road East. Across Hamwic as a whole, the distribution is probably fairly even (Morton 2005a, 126–7; Brown 1997, 110).

Ceramic building material

Very little ceramic building material was recovered, and the small assemblage is mainly of medieval or later date. One piece of Romano-British brick, however, came from well 1131. There are two pieces of medieval roof tile, including part of a glazed, crested ridge tile from pit 228. Two floor tiles are also medieval; one plain tile and one decorated, both from subsoil deposits. The latter comprises a small fragment only, but the design can possibly be matched to one used at Winchester College, dated *c.* 1300 (Norton 1974, no. 8).

Burnt clay

The burnt clay includes low-fired material which could have been used in a structural

capacity, retaining some surfaces but no other distinguishing features; as well as pieces with wattle impressions (definite structural daub); and heavily burnt/vitrified fragments classified as hearth lining.

This category also includes fragments of portable objects – in this instance fragments from five loomweights (pits 504, 824, 975, 937). Where form can be discerned, these weights are bun-shaped, the type typical of the Middle Saxon period.

Stone

Two medieval architectural fragments were recovered, plus one other piece of possible building stone. One of the fragments had been re-used in a wall footing; this is in a shelly limestone, probably Purbeck marble (Item 141), and comprises approximately half of a hollow, cylindrical moulding (diameter 0.38m). The other two fragments (including Item 17) came from slumped deposits in the top of Saxon pits, one in oolitic limestone, possibly from a door or window jamb.

Portable objects largely comprise quern fragments. Three groups of fragments are from imported lava quernstones or millstones (wells 613, 1131, and unstratified). One piece of sarsen with one smooth surface may also be from a quern, although of unknown type and date (pit 604). One shaped fragment, polished through use, represents part of a hone stone, of sub-rectangular form (hearth 1123).

One shale object was recovered – part of a rough-out for an armlet (Item 19, pit 649). The roughout has an external diameter of *c.* 80mm, and is hand-chiselled, a technique typical of the Iron Age shale industry of the Purbeck area of south Dorset (e.g. Cox & Woodward 1987, fig. 92, 117–8); if this of Middle Saxon date it would be most unusual as no evidence of shale working has yet been found within Hamwic. Even if this single piece is residual within a Saxon deposit, the survival of such a piece is also most unusual.

Unworked stone made up the majority of the stone recovered from the site. These fragments are in a range of stone types including chalk, limestone and sandstone.

Glass

All of the glass recovered from the Saxon pits finds parallels amongst the range already published from Hamwic (Hunter & Heyworth 1998). Most of the fragments are pale blue glass; these include nine rim fragments, all of which appear to derive from vessels within the palm/funnel series, with a broad 8th to 9th century date range. Rim profiles are either tubular (without cavity) or rounded; there are no tubular rims with cavities, which have been placed at the beginning of the palm/funnel chronological sequence (Hunter & Heyworth 1998, 8). Where rim diameters can be estimated (five examples) they range from 90mm to 120mm. One example is from a vessel with wrythen decoration (Item 40, pit 865), but otherwise these rims are plain.

Four fragments from one context (Item 75, pit 528) are from a single vessel base, with a slight kick, probably a jar of some form, in pale blue glass. Two body fragments are decorated. One, in a strong blue colour, has applied, opaque white trails (well 1131); while a second, in semi-translucent olive-green, has marvered, opaque yellow trails (pit 884). Neither can be attributed to specific vessel form. Applied and marvered trailing in yellow and white are amongst the most common decorative techniques used for the Hamwic glass vessels. Other Middle Saxon vessel glass comprises completely undiagnostic body fragments in clear, pale blue or pale green glass.

Coins by D.M. Metcalf

Six Anglo-Saxon or Merovingian coins were recovered (all from pits or wells), comprising four sceattas, one possible denier and a fragment of a penny.

Series E. Secondary-phase porcupine, *c.* 715 – *c.* 735
Obv. Porcupine, with 4 bars beneath the spine, and (?) group of 3 small pellets.

Rev. (?) 'Mixed grill' of symbols, around central annulet.

Item 7, context 560, pit 528

Series E. Secondary-phase porcupine, *c.* 715 – *c.* 735
Obv. Porcupine, with X I I beneath spine.

Rev. T O T / I I in standard, crosses at the centre of each side in margin, L at corners.

Item 29, context 529, pit 528

Series E. secondary-phase porcupine, *c.* 715 – *c.* 735
Obv. Porcupine, with 3 bars beneath the spine, and single pellet.

Rev. (?) T O T / I I in standard, large crosslet in border.

Item 201, context 1508, pit 1512 (SOU 1511)

Series X. Wodan/monster. Insular imitation. *c.* 720 – *c.* 740

Obv. Facing head, crosslet to left

Rev. Monster right, biting tail. [Hind leg shows the lateral reversal].

Item 92, context 599, pit 595

?? Merovingian denier.

Obv. ?? Bearded bust left; scriffed initial cross, and legend.

Rev. ? Traces of large letter (?) M, with symbol beneath. Small x to left.

Item 48, context 840, pit 937

Fragment of 9th century penny

Obv. (?) R E X

Rev. (?)

Item 126, context 1172, pit 1170

Series E comprise the largest component and one might note the absence of Series H in this group, specifically type 49 which was almost certainly minted in Hamwic, though this may of course be purely by chance, in such a small sample.

In addition to the coins catalogued above, a small, flat octagonal flan (9mm x 9mm) of silver (Item 31) was found in well 613. This is not an un-struck coin flan, but raises the possibility of silver working in the vicinity.

Metalwork

Copper alloy

There is one object of Romano-British date amongst the copper alloy, a toilet implement from pit 528 (Item 5). This is a complete, long, pin-like object with a small scoop at the end opposite the point (*c.f.* Crummy 1983, no. 1940); this object has been sharply bent.

A second probable toilet implement (Item 10), from pit 604, is more likely to be Middle

Saxon. It is incomplete but comprises a narrow, strip-like shaft perforated at the surviving end and attached to a small suspension hook. It might be a nail cleaner (c.f. Hinton 1996, fig. 18, 349/80).

Three other objects are definitely or probably of Middle Saxon date. These include two pins, one with a spherical head (Item 22, pit 649; Hinton type Aa1i) and the second with a polyhedral head (Item 115, pit 1170; Hinton type Bb2i). Spherical-headed pins are the most common type found in Southampton, the polyhedral-headed examples being slightly less common (Hinton 1996, 20, 25). A corroded, circular-sectioned shank with a hooked end (Item 42, pit 824) can perhaps be compared to some enigmatic objects with spoon-like terminals (Hinton 1996, fig. 24, 4/37).

An incomplete curved object (Item 8) (bent into roughly semi-circular shape) from pit 528 circular-sectioned, flattening out to a rounded, perforated terminal, could be an early post-medieval purse-frame (c.f. Margeson 1993, fig. 24, 292). Other objects comprise miscellaneous bar, rod and sheet fragments, of unknown function.

Iron

All of the iron objects are heavily corroded, and few can be confidently identified, even after X-radiography. Some objects are clearly nails (19 examples); these objects and other structural items make up most of the ironwork. There are also at least four, and possibly seven, whittle tang knives (e.g. Items 3, 15, 18 and 133, from pits 528, 604 and 1177). One looped object appears to be a lock hasp (e.g. Egan 1998, 81–3), perhaps from a chest or casket (Item, pit 1133). A key of medieval type came from the final fill of Saxon pit 595 (Item 16), and a possible firesteel (a strip or bar with hooked end (Item 77) from 528.

Lead

An unfinished lead alloy disc brooch was found in well 727 (Item 86); it still retains the casting sprue. The design shows a bird pecking at a cross, within a circle of ring-and-dot motifs, surrounded by a hatched border (Pl. 1) No direct parallels for this design have been found, but the pecking bird motif appears on other

Middle Saxon disc brooches from Southampton (Hinton 1996, fig. 1, 31/1653). Hinton notes the similarity of the bird motifs to those used on the Series H Type 49 sceattas, minted in Southampton (e.g. Metcalf 1988, pl. 4, nos. 71–4), and this example also incorporates the ring-and-dot circle from the obverse. The find of this unfinished brooch supports Hinton's supposition that the disc brooches with bird motifs were also local products (Hinton 1996, 4–5). The object is likely to date to the Middle- to late 8th century AD.

One piece of window came was recovered from a small pit in the north-west of the site; this is probably cast and therefore either medieval or early post-medieval. The remaining lead comprises waste fragments of unknown date.

Slag

Metalworking debris, consisting of ironworking slag, was recovered in moderate quantities (a total of 27.29kg), although there were no large single deposits. Few features contained more than 1kg of slag; the largest quantity from a single feature came from well 1131 (4.70kg).

The slag appears to represent exclusively iron smithing, and includes several identifiable hearth bottoms. Hammer-scale, in the form of small flakes and rounded beads of slag, was also recovered from a number of contexts.

Worked bone and antler

Personal items

Parts from a maximum of six combs were recovered. All are of double-sided, composite form with iron rivets, a common find on Hamwic sites (Addyman & Hill 1969, fig. 31; Holdsworth 1976, fig. 21, 1–3). In three cases the tooth spacing is the same on both sides, and in two cases the spacing on the two sides is different – one has particularly large, wide-spaced teeth on both sides. The combs were recovered from pits 528 (Item 90), 604 (Item 11), 831 (two pieces, Items 69, 70) and 1151 (two pieces, Item 110, 123). Only two examples here combine both tooth plates and side plates. Two of the side plates (possibly from the same comb) carry regularly spaced, incised notches along both sides, the third example is plain.

Combs were amongst the commonest of the

objects produced in the workshops of Hamwic, as the bone- and antler-working debris suggests (Riddler with Andrews 1997, 228), and double-sided examples are far more common than single-sided (Hinton 1980). One piece of antler-working waste may be from comb manufacture (see below).

Textile-working equipment

The two pin beaters, recovered respectively from pits 528 and 1133 (Item 85, 121), are both double-ended and polished through use. The pin beater recovered from pit 528 is also decorated with incised transverse lines in six bands. These objects, also known as thread pickers, were probably used together with weaving combs on warp-weighted looms, to push the weft together. Numerous examples are known from Hamwic (e.g. Addyman & Hill 1969, fig. 29).

A plain, bun-shaped spindle whorl was recovered from pit 975 (Item 47). Spindle whorls in both bone and stone are common finds within Hamwic (no stone examples were found at the Deanery). The size and weight of the whorl would reflect the quality of the yarn to be spun – the lighter the whorl, the finer the yarn. The weight of this example would place it somewhere in the middle range, suitable for spinning wool (Øye 1988, 54).

A pig fibula pin from well 613 (Item 66) is missing the head, so it is uncertain whether this was perforated or decorated. Pins are common finds in Hamwic; some have perforated heads and some unperforated. Both types are thought to have had a function in textile-working, and perforated pins may have been used as sacking needles or for mesh knitting (Holdsworth 1976, 47, fig. 21, 8).

Miscellaneous objects

A hemispherical gaming piece with two small, bored holes in its base (but not completely perforating the object) was recovered from pit 874 (Item 91). The most likely interpretation is as a gaming piece (e.g. MacGregor 1985, fig. 71i, j; MacGregor *et al.* 1999, fig. 940, 7109), although no parallels with two basal perforations have been found.

Two objects may be parts of handles; both are made of antler tines, but are incomplete.

They came from pits 884 (Item 61) and 1073 (Item 60) respectively. The smaller of the two, which is heavily abraded, has a drilled perforation towards one end; this object does also have some resemblance to one half of an antler clamp (two perforated pieces secured by a loose rivet), of a type also seen, for example, in Anglo-Scandinavian York, and for which a function in comb-making has been suggested (MacGregor *et al.* 1999, 1996–7, fig. 953).

Bone-working debris

Two pieces of bone-working waste were found. The first, from pit 976 (Item 88), is likely to be a waste product from comb manufacture – this is a small, rectangular fragment of antler which closely matches the dimensions of the other comb toothplates recovered from the site (see above). The second from pit 865 (Item 87), is a sawn antler crown with two tines, both tine ends worn smooth as though through use, although any such use is obscure. Two further fragments may be offcuts, one from an antler and one from a long bone.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Animal bone by Jessica Grimm

Because a very large quantity of animal bone from several other sites within Hamwic has been fully analysed and shown to be similar in composition, an analysis strategy was adopted for the Deanery assemblage. The material from six pits (523, 528, 649, 712, 831 and 975) and one well (1131) randomly distributed over the site and making up 13% of all the material by fragment count was fully analysed. No assessment was made of the remaining material. A method statement and a database with full details of each bone fragment are held in the archive.

Taphonomy

The overall condition of the bones is good, with some new breaks; preservation is slightly poorer for the material from pit 712 and well 1131. None of the bones shows signs of root-etching, indicating that the bones were not in a close proximity to the surface. Low numbers

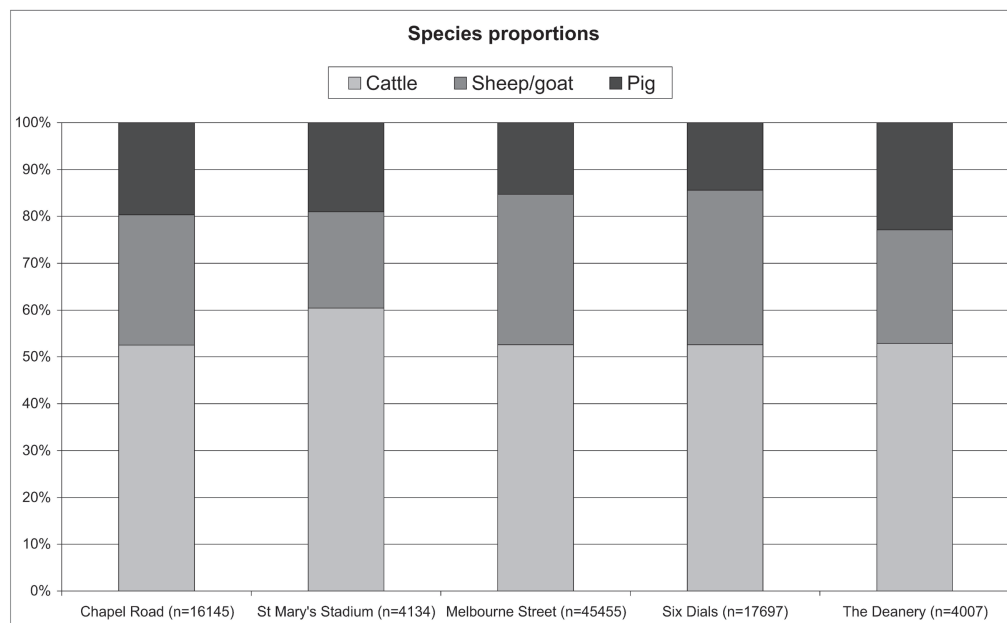


Fig. 4 Animal bone: Species proportions for selected Hamwic sites (NISP, including sieved material)

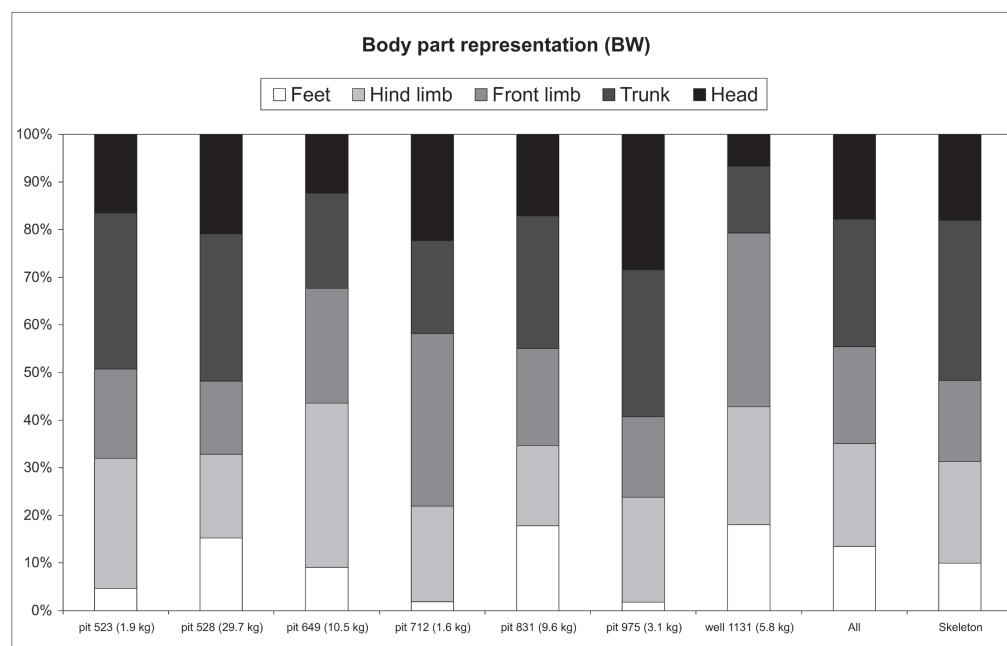


Fig. 5 Animal bone: Representation of different body parts per feature (after Benecke 2005)

of eroded bone, low proportions of loose teeth and gnawed bones, as well as frequent instances of articulating bones, indicate that waste was rapidly buried.

The average weight of the hand-collected bone fragments showed that bones from the well (1131) are most fragmented, whereas material from pit 649 is least fragmented. Apart from these two features, the material from the other pits shows comparable fragmentation. Burnt bone fragments were rare, showing that meat was cooked rather than roasted and that burning waste was uncommon. The taphonomic parameters are almost identical to those from Melbourne Street (Bourdillon & Coy 1980, 97), Six Dials (Bourdillon 1984, 19–23) and St Mary's Stadium (Hamilton-Dyer 2005, 144).

Species

As seen at all other Hamwic sites, the bulk of the bones derive from the usual domesticates (i.e. cattle, sheep/goat, pig, domestic fowl and goose), with the remains of horse, dog and cat virtually absent (Table 4). Sheep and goat were both present, however, only one fragment (horncore) was identified as goat compared to 24 definite sheep bones. Dog, cod, eel, flatfish, flounder and herring are the species only represented in the sieved material.

Analysing the proportions of species per feature shows that cattle dominate by number of fragments and weight in all features. This means that beef was the type of meat mainly eaten. Bone weight, which is correlated to meat weight, shows that pork was probably more important than lamb and mutton. The MNI also indicates that more pigs than sheep/goat were slaughtered.

Comparing cattle, sheep/goat and pig fragment count proportions between Hamwic sites shows that cattle dominate on all sites, followed by sheep/goat and pig (Fig. 4). Sheep/goat and pig proportions were similar for St Mary's Stadium and the Deanery. All other sites have clearly more sheep/goat than pig. St Mary's Stadium had a higher cattle proportion than all other sites, whereas the Deanery had the highest pig proportion. As for all other Hamwic sites, sheep dominated by far in the sheep/goat assemblage and only

a few definite goat bones were found (mainly horn cores). Domestic fowl was the main poultry species kept, although goose proportions could sometimes reach nearly 50%. The Six Dials variability study showed that cattle: sheep/goat:pig ratios are not linked to feature type (Bourdillon 1984, 34). The same study also showed that the chronologically younger assemblages contained a higher proportion of cattle, less sheep/goat and less pig (*ibid.* 93–95). The higher pig proportion at the Deanery is thus a cultural one.

Apart from the products provided by large domestic mammals, the inhabitants of Hamwic also had access to eggs and meat from domestic fowl, goose and possibly duck, although it is likely that the duck bones derive from fowling (Albarella 2005). The presence of juvenile birds indicates at least small-scale fowl husbandry inside the town, whereas geese were either imported or belonged to the background fauna.

Wild mammal species were not an important food source as the site only produced small quantities of red and roe deer post-cranial bones. Even on those sites where sieving was routinely applied (e.g. St Mary's Stadium, Six Dials and The Deanery) the bones of wild birds were seldom found. The same holds true for fish remains. Even when taking into account the lesser taphonomic resistance of these bones, wild birds and fish were nowhere near as important as the meat from domestic mammals.

The only wild birds found in the Deanery material were mallard, woodcock and buzzard. Cod, flounder and herring were the marine fish species present. Flounder is tolerant of freshwater and could have been caught in the Itchen, like eel and perch. All of the taxa have been recorded from Hamwic previously.

Husbandry strategies

Only 24 cattle jaws could be aged, but it is noteworthy that the two youngest jaws are from pit 528. However, since most material comes from pit 528 it might just be a result of sample size. The 24 jaws showed that one-third of the animals died below two years; one-third around their third year and one-third once they were well over three years of age. The epi-

Table 4 Animal bone: Species list and number of identified specimens (NISP)

<i>Species</i>	<i>Pit</i> 523	<i>Pit</i> 528	<i>Pit</i> 649	<i>Pit</i> 712	<i>Pit</i> 831	<i>Pit</i> 975	<i>Well</i> 1131
Cattle (<i>Bos Taurus</i>)	89	1098	222	47	368	97	197
Goat (<i>Capra hircus</i>)					1		
Sheep (<i>Ovis aries</i>)	2	11	4	1	4	2	
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	52	600	44	14	159	56	22
Pig (<i>Sus domesticus</i>)	35	504	61	21	203	60	33
Dog (<i>Canis familiaris</i>)			1				
Birds							
Domestic fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i> dom.)	9	61		4	12	5	
(Greylag) Goose (<i>Anser anser</i> (dom.))	1	68	2	3	8	4	
Mallard/Duck (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (dom.))					1		
Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)		5					
Woodcock (<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>)	1						
Fish							
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)		1					
Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)		14					
Flatfish (<i>Pleuronectidae</i>)		6				2	
Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)		1					
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)		13					
Perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)					1		
Salmon/Trout (<i>Salmo salar/trutta</i>)		2					
Classes							
Bird	1	10				1	
Fish		45				3	
Large mammal	15	276	56	21	128	24	665
Medium mammal	30	498	45	6	156	80	33
Micro mammal		1					
Total	235	3214	435	117	1041	334	950

physal fusion data indicates that 44% of cattle died between 12–15 months and 24–30 months of age. Another 25% died between 42 months and 42–48 months. The proportion of cattle reaching an age beyond 48–60 months is 26%. The absence of foetal bones indicates that

cattle were not kept on the site, but brought in for slaughter.

The kill-off pattern for cattle is extremely similar to that recorded by Bourdillon (1984, 54) from earlier excavations in Hamwic, and this indicates that supply was well organised. A

large proportion of animals were slaughtered when they had sufficiently grown but were not old. The number of calves (below 5–6 months) is very low (2–5%) and thus the production of secondary products had precedence over veal meat. Furthermore, the proportion of calves lies far below the modern proportion of natural casualties and thus it is clear that cattle breeding did not take place on the sites analysed. Prime meat animals and old animals were supplied to Hamwic from the surrounding countryside.

The age-at-death analysis of the sheep/goat material shows that only prime meat and elderly animals were killed. As for cattle, the younger animals were mainly found in pit 528, again possibly reflecting sample size. Foetal bones of sheep/goat were not present and this indicates an absence of animal husbandry on the site. Analysis of the epiphyseal fusion data for sheep/goat showed that a third of the animals died between 15–30 months and 36–42 months, and a further third between 36–42 months and 48–60 months. The dental eruption and wear data also show that only 13% survived to an age of more than 48–60 months.

The sheep/goat age-at-death rates based on dental eruption and wear are strikingly similar to those from earlier excavations in Hamwic. However, it has been shown that there is significant variation in sheep/goat age data (and indeed abundance and skeletal element representation) between features (Bourdillon 1984, 54, 72), and this point is relevant to the present assemblage because of the select sample. This aside, the combined data from all sites, including The Deanery, indicates a continuous kill-off pattern increasing with age. It also indicates that only a small proportion (*c.*4%) of sheep/goat were killed below the age of four months, this is far below the proportion that would normally be expected at a producer site and again shows that Hamwic was supplied from outside.

According to tooth eruption and wear, the majority of pigs died when older than two years. Analysis of the epiphyseal fusion data showed that 39% of the pigs died between 12 months and 24 months, and another 38% died between 24 months and 36–42 months. Just 7% lived beyond an age of 36–42 months. The kill-

off patterns for pig differ little between sites, with pigs killed in their second year comprising the largest group. However, a large proportion of animals were allowed to reach an age of well over two years (M3 worn) and this indicates that pig breeding was well established in the surrounding countryside. Less than 5% of the pigs died in their first 4–6 months, again well below what one would expect if natural casualties were present.

Sexing the cattle remains gave contradictory results. Based on the shape and size of the horncores, the adult cattle population was dominated by bulls and oxen. Contrary to this, the distal width of the metacarpus and the height of the acetabulum wall (Greenfield 2006) showed more females than males in the assemblage. The different outcomes are likely caused by the small size of the datasets involved. Using the height of the acetabulum wall, five of the six pelves can be identified as female and one as male. Large horn cores identified two males. Sexing the canines, ten females and six males could be identified. Although the sample is rather small, it is likely that the sex ratio among the adult pig population consumed in Hamwic was quite balanced.

Butchery

All elements of the cattle, sheep/goat and pig skeletons were present in the Deanery assemblage. Although differences exist between separate features, this is probably due to small sample size. Taken as a whole the skeletal element representation for individual species is consistent with the presence of whole carcasses. For example, the total cattle bone assemblage includes the correct proportion of bones from different areas of the body (Fig. 5). It appears, therefore, that cattle, sheep/goat and pig carcasses were processed on the site and little trade in meat cuts took place, the reverse of what has been suggested for the site at Anderson's Road a little over 100m to the east (Knight 2006, 103).

The butchery marks (*n*=169) on the cattle bones were mostly caused by a cleaver (*n*=131) and involved disarticulating and portioning the carcass. Occasional filleting with a cleaver or splitting metapodials for marrow was also seen. Horncores were sometimes chopped off

the cranium for further use in horn working. Disarticulation mainly took place in the spinal column, between spinal column and ribcage and in the pelvic region. Occasionally marks were seen indicating portioning in the elbow and knee joints as well as the removal of the feet. The further portioning of the carcass took place along the spinal column, in the ribcage and the pelvic region. Occasional portioning of the mandible and long bones' mid-shaft was also seen. Although knives were occasionally used to disarticulate the shoulder and pelvic joints, they were mainly used to fillet meat off the long bones, ribcage and to remove the tongue. Skinning marks were seen on a metatarsus.

The butchery marks (n=58) on the sheep/goat bones are mainly caused by knives (n=34). The fewer marks left by cleavers derive from portioning and disarticulating the carcass along the spinal column, ribcage, shoulder and pelvic joints. Occasionally, the cleaver was used to fillet meat off a pelvis or to sever horn cores from the cranium. Knives found a wider use including disarticulation in the shoulder and pelvis joints, filleting meat off the long bones and ribcage, and removal of the tongue. Skinning marks were seen on the skulls, and horn sheets were removed with a knife.

Butchery marks (n=43) on the pig bones showed the use of cleavers and knives in almost even numbers. Cleavers were used to disarticulate and portion the skeleton along the spinal column, the ribcage and the pelvic joint. Knives were used for filleting meat off the scapula, humerus and the ribs. Skinning marks were seen on the cranium. Pig heads were split sagittally as chop marks through the symphysis of the mandibula show.

The butchery marks seen on the material from the Deanery fit well with earlier observations from Hamwic, and the presence of all elements of the skeleton indicates that whole animals were processed at the site. Some cattle, sheep and goat horns and skulls show signs of horn removal, and makes it evident that the horns were probably transported elsewhere for horn working.

Animal health and welfare

The pathologies encountered in the cattle assemblage originate from breaks, inflamma-

tions or are stress related, the high instances of pathologically changed bones coinciding with the fact that 26% of the cattle were older than 48–60 months.

Two pathologically changed bones were seen in the sheep/goat assemblage and just one in the pig assemblage. A well-known non-metric trait in sheep is an extra foramen below the premolars on the buccal side of the mandible (Halstead & Collins 2002). Half of all mandibles (n=20) with the appropriate region displayed showed these extra foramina.

Overall, pathological conditions have rarely been seen in the Hamwic assemblages. Most pathology in cattle seems to be related to stress due to hard work (e.g. traction) and, interestingly, sheep/goat mandibles are healthy with very low incidences of inflammation and calculus (Bourdillon & Coy 1980, 92).

Marine shell by Sarah Wyles

The marine shell assemblage consists of 2057 shells (minimum number of individuals), comprising seven species, from 36 features. The assemblage was mainly retrieved by selective hand collection from Saxon pits, but around 10% of the shells were recovered during general sample processing. All the shell has been recorded by species and by context and this information is available in archive.

The predominant species was oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) forming 92% of the assemblage. This was followed by periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*) representing 7% of the shells, with the remaining 1% of the assemblage consisting of cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*), mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), whelk (*Buccinum undatum*), ?variegated scallop (*Chlamys* c.f. *varia*) and carpet shells (Veneridae). The majority were edible species and the quantity of shell indicates that the shellfish were an addition to, rather than a significant part of, the diet at Saxon Hamwic.

The generally even distribution of shells across the site is distorted by pit 528, which contained a single, substantial dump. The shells from this feature comprised 57% of the entire assemblage recovered from the site, whereas the next richest feature, pit 649, contained only 6% of the assemblage. Although more left valves were recovered overall, no signifi-

cant distribution patterns representing, for example, areas of preparation or consumption could be discerned.

The species range recovered at the site is comparable with marine shell assemblages from other sites within Hamwic, for example St Mary's Stadium (Wyles 2005), Six Dials (Winder 1985) and Melbourne Street (Winder 1980). The precise composition of the assemblage at the Deanery, however, is different to those from the other sites in Hamwic. Oyster shells are very dominant in the assemblage from the Deanery (92%), whereas they were less numerous at the other sites, representing 42% of the shells at St Mary's Stadium, around 60% of the shells at Six Dials and around 80% of the shells at Melbourne Street. This may be a result of retrieval methods or some sort of selection process.

The occasional traces of infestation observed on a number of shells were caused by the polychaetic worms, *Polydora ciliata* and *Polydora hophura*, the sea sponge *Cliona celata* and the sea mat *Polyzoa*. Similar infestation traces were recorded at Six Dials (Winder 1985) and Melbourne Street (Winder 1980).

All the species recorded at the Deanery have habitats in the middle or lower shore zones or below and are widely found on the South Coast. There are indications from the number of clumped and misshapened shells that at least a proportion of the oyster shells were collected from a natural rather than laid bed, with Weston Shore and Hamble Spit the most likely convenient source.

Mineralised and charred plant remains by Ruth Pelling

A total of 133 bulk samples were taken and processed by standard Wessex Archaeology bulk flotation methods. An initial assessment of all flots demonstrated that a large number contained mineralised plant material, while charred remains including charcoal were also present; none was waterlogged. Given the large number of samples and repetitive character of many of them, detailed analysis was restricted to 28 samples (some containing charred material only). Particular focus was given to the sequences of fills in pits, and the

full sequence was examined through three pits: 528, 824 and 884. Pits selected were those which produced particularly large quantities of remains or an interesting range of species or items.

Preservation and the range of material

Preservation by mineralisation is particularly prevalent in cess pits or wet rubbish pits in which high concentrations of calcium and phosphates are present in faecal matter and urine. At the Deanery, abundant hard, mineral concretions containing fragments of cereal bran, grain and fruit or legume testa are assumed to derive from faecal material. In addition to the faecal matter itself there were loose seeds of fruits, pulses and grains, testa and hilum fragments of pulses, possible fruit testa and occasional weed seeds.

However, not all of the mineralised material is necessarily derived from dietary waste. Significant quantities of straw or stem material, wood fragments, the remains of wild plants unlikely to be arable weeds, and the remains of numerous arthropods (particularly woodlice and millipede type fragments) are likely to have entered the deposits by different means. The non-arable wild species include a seed head of rush (*Juncus* sp.) and it is likely that some of the stem material is also of rush. Straw, rushes and other plant material are likely to have been thrown into cess pits to reduce the odour. Wood shavings and charcoal may also have been used in this way.

The nature of the pits

The preservation of material in the various deposits and the range of material present provide some indication as to the processes involved in the filling of the pits. Of interest is the fact that in those features where mineralised material was particularly abundant it remained so through the entire sequence of deposits, suggesting the pit to have continued to receive sewage-type waste throughout the period of infilling (e.g. pits 854, 884, 937, 1022, 1170 and 1243). In contrast, some pits contained more mixed waste which included re-deposited sewage and food processing waste (e.g. pits 528, 595, 665, 831 and 1513). Pits 816 and 1133 contained no mineralised material

at all and only charred plant material is represented, while pit 824 similarly produced largely charred material.

Straw, wood chippings, rushes and even bracken appear to have been added to the fills of many of the pits, although in variable concentrations through the various sequences of fills. Detailed study of a 15th century barrel latrine in Worcester (Greig 1981) demonstrated that the latrine had received regular additions of straw and stem material, in this instance sufficiently well stratified to indicate seasonality. Such material is likely to have included hay used on flooring within houses or spent thatch, as well as woodworking debris. The addition of the material would introduce the straw and stems themselves but also a range of seeds and possibly insect material.

Mineralised fragments of woodlice and millipede-type arthropods were present in a number of the deposits. These were particularly common in pit 1243, while small quantities were present in most contexts producing larger quantities of mineralised material. Mineralised fly puparia conversely were rare, present in two pits only, perhaps an indication that the cesspits were generally covered, preventing the flies from laying their eggs. It is possible that the pits were merely covered with deposits of straw which would have provided a suitable habitat for the woodlice and millipedes. A similar pattern was seen at the St Mary's Stadium site (Carruthers 2005).

In addition to the edible food remains a small number of weed or wild species are present. Some of these, particularly the sedges and rushes, may have entered the deposits with straw or other cut vegetation. Occasional seeds of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) and small nettle (*Urtica urens*) may derive from vegetation growing on the nutrient-rich ground in the vicinity of the cesspits. However, surprisingly few colonisers of midden type deposits were present. Again this was also seen at St Mary's Stadium, which Carruthers (2005, 160) suggests may be a further indicator that the pits were generally kept covered or were rapidly closed, not allowing sufficient time for weeds to colonise around the features. A small number of the wild seeds are from arable species which may have entered the deposits with faecal

material. Generally, however, weed seeds were rare, possibly indicating relatively well cleaned cereal grain.

Dietary evidence

Mineralised cesspit-type deposits are of particular value in terms of the information they provide concerning past diets. This is in contrast to charred remains which tend to be dominated by cereals and their by-products or fuel, and are the result of very different formation processes. The charred remains from the Deanery, in common with those from St Mary's Stadium, are consistently dominated by cereal remains (largely bran) as well as fruit and/or remains of legumes. Cereals clearly formed a significant component of the diet of the inhabitants of Hamwic, and would have been consumed regularly as both bread and other flour-based foods and as whole grains, forming the major carbohydrate component of the diet. The charred remains included a number of cereal grains which were identifiable to species and these demonstrate the presence of all four major cereals of the Saxon and medieval period: free-threshing wheat, barley, rye and oats. Occasional chaff of spelt or emmer wheat (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*) may, if not residual, indicate the continued cultivation of hulled wheats into the Saxon period.

The remains of whole pulses as well of fragments of the thick testa (seed coat) and hila (attachment scar) were relatively frequent in the deposits, and both beans (*Vicia faba*) and peas (*Pisum sativum*) were positively identified. At St Mary's Stadium the consistent presence of legumes was such that Carruthers suggested they were consumed on a regular basis throughout the year rather than as a seasonal food (Carruthers 2005, 161), being suitable for both drying and eating fresh. Pulses tend to be under-represented in archaeological deposits, surviving poorly in waterlogged deposits and infrequently as charred remains. The mineralised evidence is, therefore, particularly useful in demonstrating the importance of peas and beans in the Saxon diet.

The most numerous items recovered were the remains of fruits, particularly the stones of *Prunus*-type fruits (sloe/plum etc.) and apple

or pear (*Malus/Pyrus* sp.). Preservation of the *Prunus* stones was frequently poor, and none was identified to species on the basis of the mineralised remains, although the size and general shape suggests that sloe or cherry were common. One much larger stone is likely to have been from a plum/bullace/greengage type fruit (*Prunus domestica*). The abundance of sloes/plums is in contrast to St Mary's Stadium, where *Prunus* stones were not well represented by mineralised remains, although waterlogged stones of wild plum were numerous (Clapham 2005).

While a number of seeds were identified as apple, it was frequently not possible to distinguish between apple and pear on the basis of surface cell structure of the *Malus/Pyrus* seeds. The preservation of waterlogged specimens at St. Mary's Stadium, however, enabled the identification of both apple and pear/quince (Clapham 2005), and it is possible both were present at the Deanery.

A small number of fruits were represented by occasional seeds. Bramble / raspberry-type (*Rubus*) seeds were represented in two deposits only, though this is largely a product of preservation as they were present in large numbers amongst the waterlogged remains from St Mary's Stadium. The occasional elderberry seeds (*Sambucus nigra*) may also derive from fruit collected as food.

Other hedgerow species present were identified from charred plant remains and include hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

Two seeds of possible fig (*Ficus carica*) and one possible grape seed (*Vitis vinifera*) were identified. Grape was identified amongst the waterlogged remains at St Mary's Stadium (Clapham 2005) and Anderson's Road (Stephens 2006), although it is not possible to establish if it was locally cultivated.

In contrast to St Mary's Stadium there is very little evidence for spices or flavourings from the Deanery. A single seed of linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*) and one mineralised and three charred mustard/brassica-type seeds (*Brassica/Sinapis* sp.) were the only flavourings identified in the samples, though it is likely that their absence here is due to preservation rather than any dietary factors.

Comparison with other sites within Hamwic

The most comprehensive published work on botanical remains from Middle Saxon Hamwic is that from St Mary's Stadium to the north of the Deanery (Birbeck *et al.* 2005). The Stadium site was similarly characterised by large pits, from which mineralised, charred and waterlogged materials were recovered and, overall, the range of dietary evidence suggests that the majority of occupants of Middle Saxon Hamwic enjoyed a fairly standard diet.

The range of plant matter preserved by mineral replacement at St Mary's Stadium was generally very similar to that from the Deanery, with large quantities of faecal matter, cereal bran, grains, legumes and fruit remains being identified (Carruthers 2005). The significant difference between the Stadium and the Deanery was the far greater concentration of charred remains from the former site (Hunter 2005) and the presence of waterlogged conditions (Clapham 2005), the latter rarely encountered within Hamwic. These two classes of preservation have slightly extended the list of known edible foods, but more significantly demonstrate the different formation processes involved.

Elsewhere in Hamwic deposits of mineralised remains appear to show a similar pattern to that seen at St Mary's Stadium and the Deanery. At Six Dials, for example, mineralised remains were briefly discussed (Biddle 1997), with frequent legume testa, fruit seeds and the remains of rush stem listed. At Anderson's Road plant material was preserved by mineralisation, charring and waterlogged conditions (Stevens 2006) but, in common with the Deanery, charred cereal remains were relatively limited. The range of cereals is common to all sites examined within Hamwic and at Anderson's Road, as at the Deanery, the dietary evidence points to the large quantity of beans and peas consumed, while lentil is also represented, and a range of wild fruits. The treatment of the cesspits seems to have been generally similar throughout the settlement, with large quantities of straw and stem material including rushes being placed in the pits, creating habitats favourable for woodlice and millipede-type arthropods, while flies do not appear to have been a significant problem.

The absence of seeds of nitrogen-loving colonising plants of middens further suggests the pits were quickly covered.

DISCUSSION

Saxon and earlier

In common with other investigations in the vicinity, the excavation and watching brief at the Deanery have produced a very thin scatter of undiagnostic struck flint and a few sherds of Romano-British pottery. However, as anticipated, there was abundant evidence for Middle Saxon occupation of the area, in the form of pits, wells, a possible building, and probable property boundaries defined by several pit alignments.

The site lies close to the southern extent of Hamwic, with evidence from earlier excavations showing pits and structural remains, albeit at a fairly low density, continuing for a further 50m or so to the south of the site boundary, beyond which lay salt marsh. A similar distribution of features was recorded at SOU 184 immediately to the west of the site (Wessex Archaeology 2001) and at SOU 14 / 1240 100m or so to the east (Ellis & Andrews 2006, fig. 3). The pit density at the Deanery was substantially greater along the northern edge of the site adjacent to Chapel Road, a precursor to which is likely to have been an important thoroughfare in the southern part of Hamwic, extending from the site of the minster church (St Mary's) and its associated cemetery on slightly elevated ground in the west to the waterfront on the River Itchen in the east.

The only plot or property where the approximate extent could be discerned lay at 90° to Chapel Road and was 20m wide and an estimated 30m long. This is somewhat larger than the majority of properties identified at Six Dials, but is similar in size to properties recognised at St Mary's Stadium (Birbeck *et al.* 2005, 90), perhaps reflecting differing densities of occupation within Hamwic and hence pressure on land. The property appears generally devoid of features, apart from a group of intercutting pits and two wells in the north-west, a scattering of shallow pits in the

south and east, and a large circular rubbish pit (528) in the centre. It is likely, however, that if there was a principal building associated with this property then it lay along the Chapel Road frontage, beyond the limit of excavation, with Chapel Road now likely to be substantially wider than its Middle Saxon precursor. The apparently isolated location of pit 528 could suggest that this may have served as a disposal point for rubbish and cess for the property. This pit contained a relatively large assemblage of finds, the high proportion of imported pottery and possibly younger animals represented in the animal bone assemblage perhaps indicating a slightly higher social standing than is usually recognised within Hamwic. If so, then this might in some way reflect the proximity of St Mary's church, although such an interpretation is tentative and must be viewed with caution.

The single possible structure identified (1288) lay in the property immediately to the east of that discussed above, its small size suggesting an ancillary building to the rear of any structures on the Chapel Road frontage. Little more can be deduced from the meagre remains surviving of structure 1288, though it can be noted that a group of pits and a well lay to the south, and a further group of pits, a well and a possible hearth to the north, these two groups perhaps defining two east-west alignments 10m apart.

The density of pits within the main excavation area at the Deanery, at 78 pit/wells in 1910m² or 0.0414 pits per m², is notably lower than at the Six Dials site in the north-west of Hamwic (530 pits/wells in 4930m² or 0.1075 pits per m²), though it is somewhat higher than on some other sites, for example at Cook Street (Garner 1994) in the south-east where the density was 30 pits/wells in 2150m² (or 0.01395 per m²). The pit/well density at Six Dials is the highest so far found in Hamwic and the density at Cook Street amongst the lowest, whereas the density at the Deanery is comparable to that of other sites excavated in the near vicinity (Morton 2005b, 197). The density of finds appeared very varied during excavation and, consequently, the approximate volume excavated from each Middle Saxon feature at the Deanery was calculated thus enabling the

calculation of densities for individual finds categories per feature.

The finds assemblage recovered indicates that some of the Saxon features were probably filling up from the early – mid 8th century and a fragment of a Late Saxon penny, recovered from the basal fill of pit 1170, suggests a continuity of occupation until at least the 9th or early 10th century. However, the pottery assemblage, in particular the dearth of organic-tempered (Group I) and mixed grit wares (Group IV) wares indicate very limited activity in the early and late Middle Saxon periods. Furthermore, the small size of the finds assemblage suggests that although the Deanery may have been occupied throughout much of the Middle Saxon period, it is likely that this area was not as densely occupied as other sites to the north, for example Six Dials and even St Mary's Stadium.

Morton has argued that the different densities of features and finds relate to different functions of the settlement and that the especially low densities in the immediate vicinity of St Mary's Church are consistent with the whole area's dedication as a *monasterium*, large in extent but comparatively lightly occupied (Morton 1992, 50–1; Morton 2005b, 197). Until the excavations in the area clearly produce 'monastic' features or finds, the interpretation remains only an attractive possibility.

When the densities of animal bone and pottery, the two most common finds types recovered from Middle Saxon features are plotted (Figs 6a & 6b), no obvious patterning can be discerned. However, there did appear to be a correlation between features with particularly high or low densities of these two finds categories; features that produced high densities of pottery usually also contained high densities of animal bone, whereas many of the features that contained below average densities of pottery also contained a below average density of animal bone. It therefore appears that the density of finds within an individual features is dependant on the types of deposit it contains rather than its spatial location. The deposits that contained the highest densities of finds tended to be those that appeared to represent deliberate dumps of domestic and industrial waste, or deposits that had slumped

into the top of deep features as the earlier fills degraded and compressed; the lowest densities of finds were recovered from primary side collapses / redeposited brickearth, concentrated cess deposits and capping deposits.

Elements of the finds assemblage also indicate various crafts practiced in the area during the Saxon period, including textile production in the form of loom weights, pin beaters and spindle whorls; bone and antler working represented by off-cuts and unfinished objects, though the quantities of material are tiny in comparison to those from Anderson's Road (SOU 14 / SOU 1240) 100m to the east (Morton 1992, 150–2; Knight 2006, 102); and iron smithing in the form of slag and hammer-scale. In addition to these crafts, evidence for which is widespread in Hamwic, there is circumstantial evidence for lead/pewter working, in the form of an unfinished brooch, and perhaps silver working, represented by a small octagonal flan of silver. A group of seven pits in the main excavation area and a single pit in the western area contained finds relating to textile production (Fig. 6c), mostly grouped in the centre of the main area. Only five features contained evidence for bone- or antler-working, one in the western area and four in fairly close proximity to one another in the centre of the main excavation area (Fig. 6c). Iron working slag was recovered from features in all areas of the site, probably a reflection of residuality rather than an indication that this was a widespread industry.

Analysis of the animal bone assemblage from the Deanery shows many similarities with the results from previous work in Hamwic, particularly in the proportions of species present, the ages of the main domesticates and the evidence for butchery, indicating similar husbandry practices. However, a higher proportion of pig and a possible concentration of young cattle and sheep/goat in pit 528 have been noted, perhaps hinting at some social differentiation.

The mineralised plant remains in particular provide a useful addition to the botanical evidence recovered from other Hamwic sites, most notably St Mary's Stadium and, like the animal bone assemblages, they suggest a fairly similar diet for people living across the settlement. They also indicate a standard treatment

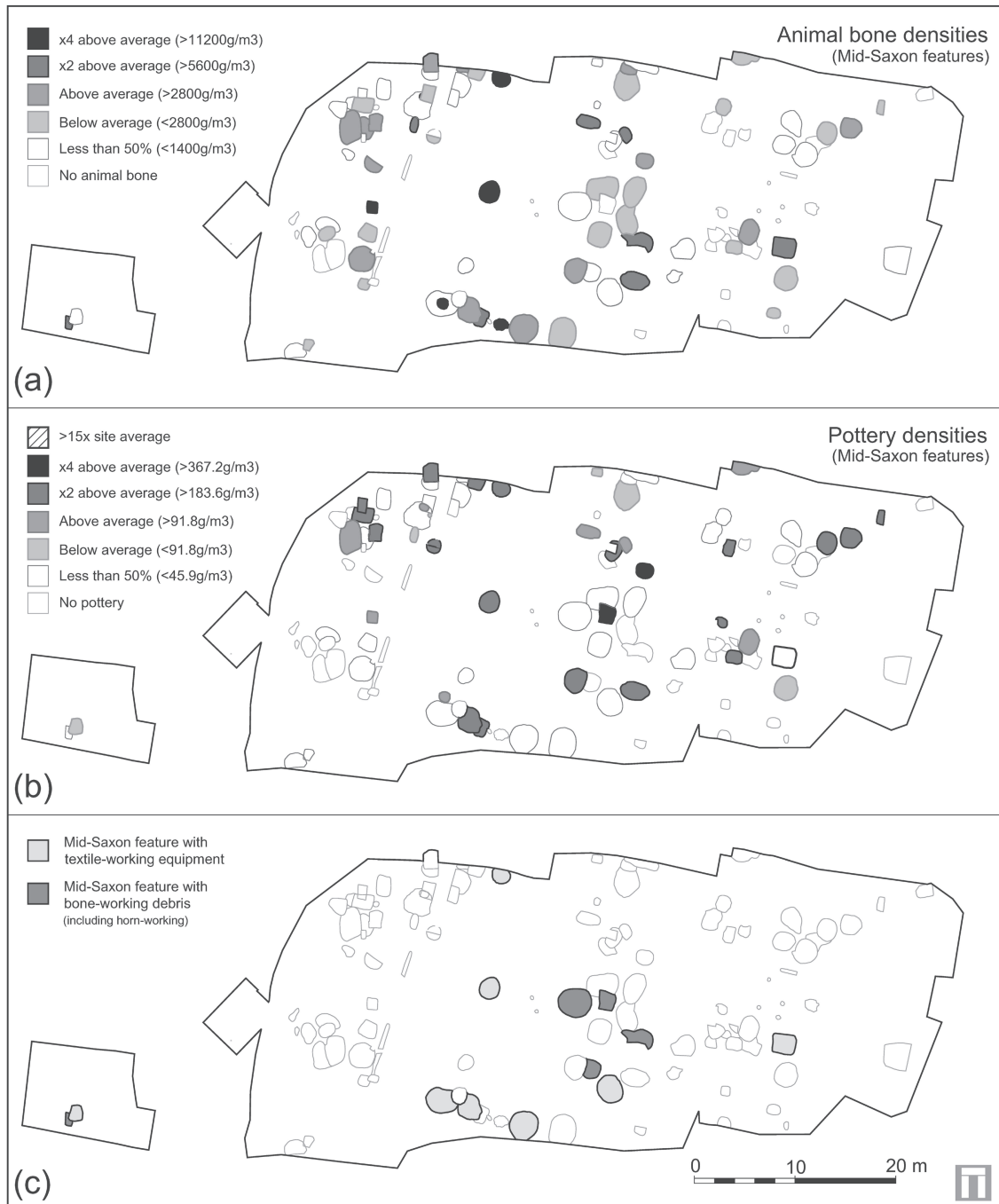


Fig. 6 Finds densities: a) animal bone; b) pottery; c) textile-/bone-working finds

of sewage, with pits being used as latrines and for the disposal of sewage, confirming the general impression of a rather dirty and unhygienic environment seen elsewhere in Hamwic (Birbeck *et al.* 2005, 201).

Medieval and later

Following the abandonment of the Deanery site, probably in the later 8th rather than the early 9th century, there is no further evidence for activity until the late medieval or early post-medieval period, though Chapel Road is likely to have continued as a thoroughfare linking the newly established Late Saxon settlement and medieval town to the west with St Mary's church and the waterfront on the River Itchen to the east.

The cluster of shallow, late medieval or early post-medieval pits in the north-west of the site seem more likely to be related to brickearth quarrying than rubbish disposal. The few finds from these pits and the re-used stonework recovered elsewhere on the site is likely to have come from the demolition of St Mary's Church in *c.* 1550 (Silvester Davies 1883, 337–8) or from one of the Chantry buildings on the south side of Chapel Road opposite the church.

A late 18th century map of the area show barns close to Chapel Road, associated with the Chantry complex, and the alignment and rather crude nature of the two wall foundations recorded seems more consistent with a supporting structure for such a barn rather than a more substantial building. Broadly contemporary with these wall foundations are the four ditches which demarcated fields or plots extending south from Chapel Road, boundaries which also appear on maps of the late 18th and early 19th century. One of these ditches is on the line of a possible fence line of Middle

Saxon date (see Fig. 1), though whether such a boundary persisted over 1000 years seems unlikely.

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Fieldwork at the Deanery was directed by Jamie Wright and at the Stricklands Motor Repairs site by Chloe Hunnisett, with the watching brief undertaken by Simon Reames and Laura Cassie. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves, Roland J C Smith and Sue Farr.

The archives, under the project codes SOU 1386 and SOU 1511, have been deposited with Southampton City Museums.

VAUGHAN BIRBECK (1957 – 2010)

Sadly, Vaughan Birbeck died before this report was published. Vaughan was one of Wessex Archaeology's most experienced archaeologists and it is appropriate that one of his final publications should relate to Southampton and, specifically, Hamwic. He made a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge of the Middle Saxon town and will be particularly remembered for his work at the Stadium site which proved a major step in understanding the origins of Hamwic.

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