

# Excavations at St Helen's Church, Wheathampstead

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## Introduction

In the autumn of 1979 a small excavation was carried out at St Helen's church as part of a scheme of works designed to stabilise the north wall of the nave which was leaning outwards. This work involved the removal of a Victorian buttress and porch and the construction of two new buttresses and in view of the archaeological significance of the building the necessary foundation trenches were excavated archaeologically (Fig. 1).

In 1889 the Reverend Canon Davys read to the St Albans Architectural and Archaeological Society a paper on the Church of St Helen, with a plan of the church showing its various phases of development ascertained from the architectural features of the standing building but also incorporating details found below the floor of the chancel. (Davys, 1889). This paper remains a good description of the existing church and of details recorded during its Victorian restoration. (cf also V.C.H., 1908, 309 and R.C.H.M., 1910, 238). In recent years it has become clear that the archaeology of churches is a very complicated subject and that excavation beneath the floor, or the stripping of plaster from interior walls can reveal a much more complicated sequence of development than previous architectural studies have indicated. The excavations described below were situated outside the present building and therefore have added little to the structural sequence but it seems advisable here, to at least outline this sequence as it appears from the available evidence, in order that the burials and other features found can at least be related to a generalised context.

## The Earliest Church

The earliest architectural features now visible above ground are a door in the south wall of the South Transept and a window in its west wall (Fig. 1D). These features have been discussed both by Dr and Mrs Taylor (Taylor and Taylor, 1965, 653) and by Mr T.P. Smith (1973, 34). The doorway which is now blocked and crossed externally by a plinth of A.D. 1865-66 is built of limestone blocks with some flints in the so-called *Tredington fashion* in which stones forming the arch do not act as true voussoirs but are arranged so that the lowest stones are at an acute angle with the impost, and the others generally parallel, leaving a V-shaped gap at the top. According to the Taylors, 'the indications of a Pre-Conquest date are far from conclusive' but in Smith's opinion, (1973, 34) 'this method of construction is typical of Anglo-Saxon work and is good, though not infallible, evidence for an Anglo-Saxon date for this doorway'. The window in the west wall of the transept is small and round-headed and is also blocked, with no significant detail visible. The round-head does however indicate an Anglo-Saxon or Norman date. Both the South wall of the transept and the West wall which contain these early features have masonry of a different character than the East wall of the same transept and the Medieval masonry elsewhere in the church, the flints being less carefully dressed and tile being completely

absent. On his plan Canon Davys shows all the walls of the South transept as being of 'Saxon' date and also parts of the East and West Walls of the North Transept. He also shows a 'Saxon' foundation running under the northern nave arcade and an apse of the same date under the floor of the present Chancel (Fig. 1D). It is not known on what evidence these various elements of the plan were dated, although the presence of the apse beneath the Chancel floor was recorded in the early 1880s when enlargements were made to the organ (Canon Davys 1885, 31; 1888, 10; 1889, 15). Smith (1973, 136) has suggested that the East and West walls of the North transept are 'much more like the later Medieval work elsewhere in the church than the probably Anglo-Saxon work in the South transept'.

The plan and date of the earliest church known from the extant evidence is obviously of great interest in the present context because of the Mid-Late Saxon date given to the earliest of the excavated burials (see below pp. 107-8). Unfortunately the available evidence is insufficient for any secure conclusions. If the apse beneath the chancel does indeed represent the eastern termination of a Saxon Church, then the plan of this earliest church would have consisted of a cruciform plan, of nave, chancel, and exceptionally long transepts (Canon Davys, 1889, 15; R.C.H.M., 1910, 238). A reconstruction, with such long transepts, does appear unlikely and it has been suggested that it is 'more likely that the apse belongs to an early 12th century rebuild slightly to the north of the Saxon church' (Smith, 1973, 36).

The excavated burials could then relate to a Pre-Conquest church represented by the surviving evidence in the South transept but their position in relationship to the plan of such an early church remains uncertain and the date of the early features in the South transept is still a matter of debate. It is also possible that the burials relate to an earlier church of which there is now no visible evidence.

## Development of the Church Plan

Whatever the exact plan of the earliest church the general sequence from the early 13th century onwards is clear from the architectural evidence and may be summarised as follows:

In the early 13th century the present Chancel was built followed towards the end of the century by the tower. The south aisle of the nave was added in the early part of the 14th century and a little later the west end of the nave was rebuilt and the north aisle added. The north transept was rebuilt c. 1330-40, soon to be followed by the south transept. The south porch was built about the middle of the same century and the north vestry added c. 1380. The whole church was restored in 1865-66 by the architect E. Browning, and the vestry rebuilt in 1897.

## The Excavation

**Trench 1** (Fig. 1A: 2, Sections A-B, C-D)

Trench 1 was excavated around the base of an existing



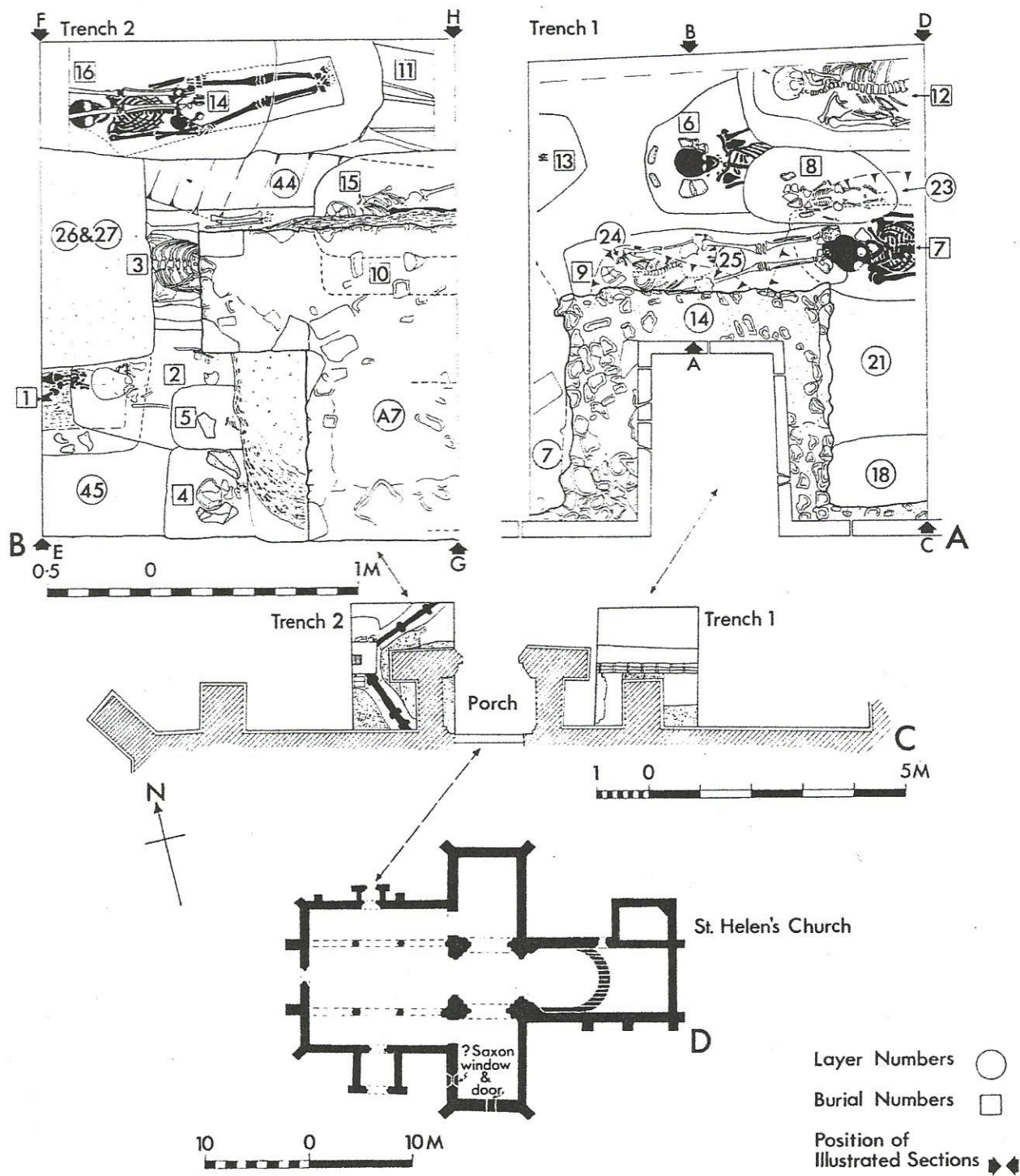


Fig. 1 A, Plan of Burials and Features in Trench 1; B, Plan of Burials and Features in Trench 2; C, Plan showing the position of Trenches 1 & 2 in Relation to the North Wall of the Nave (with recent drains and features); D, Overall Plan of Church.



buttress, built of dressed flint and Bath stone facings with a rubble core. This buttress was of Victorian date, but was shown on excavation to conform with the information on Davy's (1889) plan in that it sat eccentrically upon an earlier foundation of 14th century date, contemporary with the wall of the nave. The foundation of this earlier buttress, which was clearly of one build with the lowest level of the wall foundation, as revealed by excavation and also with the core of the standing nave wall as revealed during the contractor's work, was built of undressed flints set in a distinctive, soft, sandy orange, chalk-flecked mortar. During the construction of this early buttress a thin layer of the distinctive mortar had been spread over the contemporary ground surface, so sealing a 'buried turf' and underlying soil. This mortar spread, and hence the underlying 'buried soil' thus formed a significant chronological horizon, dating from the early part of the 14th century the date given stylistically to the windows in the nave.

**Trench 2** (Fig. 1B: 2, Section E-F: 3 Section G-H) Trench 2 was excavated around the western side of the porch to the door in the nave wall constructed in 1865-66 and built with the same materials as the buttress in Trench 1. It was not clear if a medieval porch had existed here and no secure evidence for any such structure was revealed by excavation, although a spread of chalk overlying a buried turf line (layer A13) could have been related to a former porch, removed by the later work. The area of this trench had been much disturbed, not only by the construction of the porch and other works carried out during the restoration, but also by various drains. The porch foundations were removed by the contractor so that not all of the area shown on Fig. 1B was excavated archaeologically.

### Mesolithic Occupation

The earliest activity on the site was represented by a scatter of worked flints found almost entirely within Trench 1. (59 from Trench 1 and only 3 from Trench 2.) These flints were found in the fillings of graves and other later features but were concentrated in the area of two shallow depressions or hollows in the surface of the natural clay (layers 23 and 24). Two worked flints were found in layer 23 and eight in layer 24 and it seems likely that the flints and the hollows were generally contemporary. Layer 24 was however later than the filling of a small posthole (filled with layer 25) and it seems likely that an area of Mesolithic occupation, with associated structures, had been disturbed during the building of the church and later activity. Within Trench 2, the earliest burial was cut into an area of soft brown silty clay (layer 45); this could have been part of a similar hollow or a natural feature. There were no finds. Another early feature was a small gully (layer 46); this certainly preceded Burial 3 but contained no dating evidence. It may, perhaps, have belonged to this phase.

### The Earliest Burials

In *Trench 1* three certain burials predated the formation of the buried soil (layer 16) although because of the circumstances of the excavation, the area immediately to the east of the buttress was not excavated to natural, and

here the presence of earthy clay fills below the buried soil suggests the presence of at least three more graves, one of which at least had preceded the digging of the grave for *Burial 7* (Layers 18, 21 and 22). The grave fillings of all three excavated burials were of similar character, a dark, chocolate brown, humic clay soil with some chalk flecks, almost identical with the buried soil above, with which they merged. *Burial 6*, was of a young ?female aged about 14 years; the head had been placed between four large flints (Pl. I). *Burial 7*, was of an adult, probably male, aged between 45 and 60 years; the head had been placed between three large flints (Pl. I). Of these burials, *Burial 6* appears to have been the earliest, for although much of their relationship had been removed by the insertion of *Burial 8* a small portion of a grave surviving to the east of this and pre-dating *Burial 10*, was most probably the eastern end of *Burial 6*. *Burial 8* was of a new born baby; the head had been placed between two flints (Pl. I).

*Trench 2* also contained burials with the heads resting on flints but these were *not the earliest*. The earliest was *Burial 1*, that of a young adult which had been placed within an oak coffin, of which wood survived on the base of the grave, but only the foot of the grave was excavated. This burial had been overlain in part by *Burial 2*, a child of 9-10 years old of which the skull survived but without any 'pillow stones'. *Burial 1* was also cut into by a feature of undetermined type (layer 35) which was in part sealed by layer 34, apparently the remnants of a buried soil probably to be equated with layers 16 and A16. *Burial 3* had been placed next to *Burial 2* suggesting that they both dated to the same phase of the cemetery. The burial, of which the 'torso' only was recovered, was that of a muscular adult, probably male, aged about 30 years. This burial was securely sealed by a buried turf line (layer A16) itself sealed beneath a spread of chalk (layer A13), fortuitously preserved beneath the Victorian porch foundation. The absolute level of this turfline strongly suggests that this is the surface which in Trench 1 can be shown to be contemporary with the building of the nave wall and the chalk spread is therefore likely to have resulted from the same operation, and perhaps was all that remained of a contemporary porch. This chalk could be seen to run over *Burial 2*, although the turf line was more nebulous here. *Burial 4* was that of another 9-10 year old child with the head placed on two large flints; it had been badly disturbed by Victorian and more recent disturbances but could be seen to precede *Burial 5*. This burial was that of an infant, probably a few weeks old; the bones were very fragmentary and disturbed but a large flint within the grave suggests that originally the head had rested next to this. *Burials 2-5* had grave fills of similar character to *Burials 6-8*, but *Burial 1* contained in the grave fill flecks of burnt daub and charcoal.

### Other Burials, probably early

Within Trench 2, after the foundations of the Victorian porch had been removed by the contractors, at least three graves (layers 37-39), and probably as many as five could be seen in section in the side of the trench; part of one of these, *Burial 10*, was excavated. The burial was that of a male aged over forty years. The exact stratigraphical position of these burials was not ascer-



tained but as in Trench 1, where not all the burials were excavated, at least one grave fill could be shown to pre-date the construction of the nave wall. The part excavated grave (*Burial 10*) cut the fill of the early gully (layer 46) but was in turn cut away by the later *Burial 15*.

### The Buried Soil

Within Trench 1, over *Burials 6-8*, a soil had formed (layer 16) and where this was sealed by the mortar spread from the construction of the buttress (layer 13) the top 2 cms. was much darker in colour, and although this contained some charcoal this horizon is best interpreted as a *buried turf line*. Where there were no underlying graves or features this buried soil rested directly on the surface of the natural clay. It contained fragments of animal bone, unglazed and glazed tile fragments, a small sherd of window glass and seven unglazed Medieval sherds of local 13th-14th century date and one sherd in a shelly 'St Neots type' fabric. Despite the small amount of dating evidence there is nothing here which is inconsistent with the proposition that the soil formed, in the main, after the Late Saxon period and was buried in the mid-14th century.

Within Trench 2, a buried turf line was noted sealing *Burial 3* and less clearly *Burials 2 and 5*, (layer A16) and, as has been noted above, this was covered by a spread of chalk (layer A13) which is also likely to date from the period of construction represented by the nave wall.

### Burial 9

This burial had been badly disturbed by the insertion of a recent drain (layers 3-3c) but the grave could be seen to have been cut through the buried soil (layer 16). It was therefore deposited more recently than the burials previously described and Miss Powers has noted (Appendix 1) that the bone was in fresher condition. No coffin was detected and the burial was that of a child of about 9 years old.

### The Construction of the Nave Wall and Buttress

On the assumption, which there seems no reason to doubt, that the existing windows in Early Decorated style in the nave wall are contemporary with its original building, then as has already been noted, the construction of this wall and the contemporary buttress can be dated to the earlier part of the 14th century. As we have seen, the buried soil, which was sealed by the mortar spread from this construction, contained nothing which need be later than the early years of the fourteenth century, while material from above the mortar spread (layer 12) can be dated to the 14th-15th and 16th centuries. Thus the limited amount of dating evidence is in accordance with the architectural evidence. Where the full depth of the wall foundations (layer 14) was exposed it could be seen to have been set in a trench dug some 40 cms. below the level of the contemporary ground surface and the buttress had been set at a similar level. The wall footing was constructed of undressed flints set in a sandy orange, chalk-flecked, mortar with some packed chalk and clay; the buttress foundation was built of undressed flints set in the same mortar.

During the construction of the buttress, *Burial 9* was

disturbed, the humerus of the right arm having been broken by the insertion of the foundation. The interval between the burial of the child and the building of the buttress need not have been very great as both appeared to have been dug from the same surface.

### Events Subsequent to the Construction of the Nave Wall and Buttress but prior to the Victorian Restoration

Over the mortar spread in Trench 1 (layer 13) a layer of mid brown sandy clayey soil, in places containing large lumps of mortar (layer 12) accumulated and presumably resulted from build-up against the wall of the church. This layer contained four glazed sherds of 14th-15th century date and two unglazed sherds of 16th century date. Through this layer two further graves had been dug. *Burial 12* had been contained within a wooden coffin secured with iron nails and fittings; it had contained a robust male aged over 45 years and perhaps as much as 60 years. *Burial 13* was only just present within the trench and only three foot bones were present. In Trench 2, *Burial 11* was sealed below a layer of mortar (layer A12) very similar to the mortar contained within layer 12 in Trench 1 with which it was probably contemporary. The burial was that of a male between 40 and 50 years. Cutting this mortar level were two further graves. *Burial 14* appeared to have been contained within a wooden coffin, although no metal fittings were found. The grave was unusually large for the size of the coffin and was perhaps intended for an adult although the eventual burial was that of a 12-13 year old. *Burial 15* was of an infant aged about 1 year 5 months. Of these burials, 12, 13, 14 and 15 must date from the 16th century or later. *Burial 11* could be earlier and have been deposited while layer A12 was still forming.

After these burials had taken place a further accumulation took place, (layer 8 and A8) and originally would have run up to the church wall, but had been removed by subsequent events. *Burial 16* may have cut through all, or part, of this layer but the similarity between the filling and the layer meant that it was impossible to determine the exact level from which the grave had been cut. The burial was that of a child aged between 9-11 years.

### The Victorian Restoration and Later Events

When the Church was restored in 1865-66 the lowest part of the facing of the nave wall was replaced with new dressed flint, topped with a chamfered plinth of Bath stone. This new work was placed upon a mortar foundation which projected some 45 cms. from the wall of the nave and which also formed the footing for the new buttress which was placed over the demolished remains of its medieval predecessor, and also the mortar footing upon which the porch was constructed (layers 7 and A7). To enable this work to be carried out layers 8, 12, A8 and A12, must have been removed from against the church wall. Subsequently various drains were constructed and the area against the nave wall surfaced with concrete (layers 2, A2, 3, A3, 26, 27).

### The Burials

A total of 16 certain burials were excavated and others



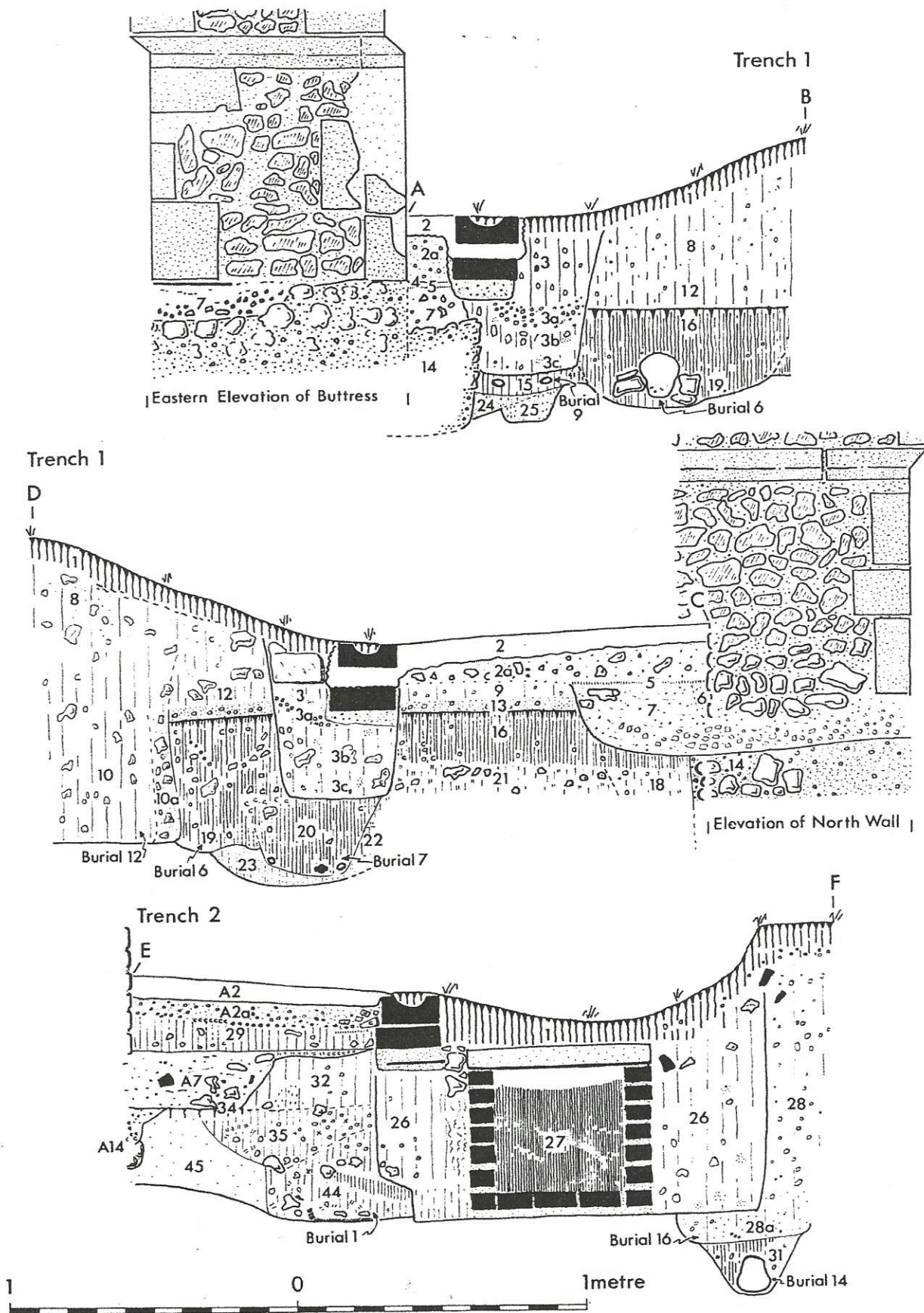


Fig. 2 Sections of Trench 1 (A-B & C-D) and Trench 2 (E-F); for positions see Fig. 1 A & B.

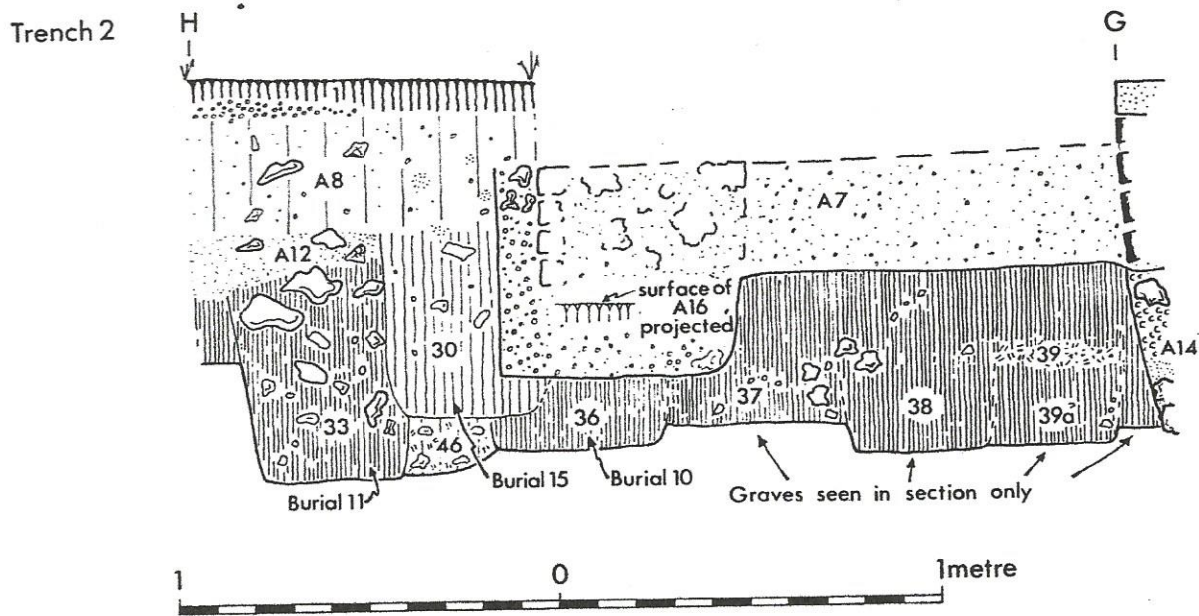


Fig. 3 Section of Trench 2 (G-H); for position see Fig. 1B.

**Layer Descriptions for Sections Illustrated on Figs. 2 and 3**

*Trench 1*

Layer

1. Turf and topsoil
2. Concrete and associated brick gutter
- 2a. Orange mortar and gravel make-up for 2
3. Brown soil and rubble
- 3a. Fragments of crushed mortar
- 3b. Brown humic clay soil with rubble
- 3c. As 3b. but with less rubble
4. White mortar
5. Dark earth
6. Loose sandy mortar
7. Yellow/buff—white mortar with much clunch rubble at base
8. Light brown silty clay soil with chalk and mortar flecks
9. Sandy brown soil with chalk flecks
10. Loose dark brown soil with some mortar flecks
- 10a. Lighter with more clay and mortar flecks
11. Not in section
12. Similar to 8 but more humic, contains a lens of mortar lumps
13. Sandy orange mortar with chalk flecks
14. Flints set in soft sandy orange mortar with chalk flecks; some packed clay and chalk
15. Dark brown humic clay soil
16. Dark brown humic clay soil—in parts the top 2 cms. is darker with some charcoal flecking
17. Not in section
18. Sandy brown clay mixed with darker soil
19. Dark brown humic clay soil with some flecks of chalk
20. As 19
21. As 18
22. Dark brown humic clay soil
23. Light brown sandy clay
24. As 23
25. Similar to 23 & 24 but darker in colour.

*Trench 2*

Layers prefixed A (e.g. A8) equate with the comparable number in Trench 1—i.e. Layer 8 in Trench 1 = A8 in Trench 2.

- A1. Turf and topsoil—some gravel in base in section G-H
- A2. Concrete and brick gutter
- A2a. Make-up for A2; orange brown mortar and gravel with some clunch fragments
- A7. Flint and mortar foundation
- A8. Mid-light brown sandy clay soil
- A12. Soft sandy-brown mortar
- A13. Not in section
- A16. Buried soil—surface projected on section G-H
26. Dark brown soil
27. Black 'sludge' filling brick drain sump
28. Light brown clay soil with lumps of mortar
- 28a. Soft light grey-brown soil
29. Mid brown clay soil with flints and some mortar
30. Dark brown clay soil with flints and some mortar
31. Loose mid-dark brown clay soil
32. Soft brown silty soil
33. Dark brown clay soil with much heavy flint
34. Weathered silty clay with some charcoal flecking
35. Mixed dark earth and clay with charcoal flecks and flecks of burnt clay
36. Dark brown clay soil
- 37-38. & 39a. —seen in section only—dark brown clay soil
39. Brown clay
- 40-43. Not in section
44. Mixed dark brown clay soil and orange clay with dark soil lens. Wood at base
45. Soft brown silty clay
46. Orange brown clay mixed with dark grey soil and flints



were represented by loose or displaced bones which could not be assigned to a definite burial. Of the 16 burials excavated 8 could be dated to a period prior to the construction of the nave wall and were sealed beneath the old ground surface and the overlying construction deposit (see p. 107). A further burial had also preceded the construction of the buttress in Trench 1 but this appeared to have been cut through the old ground surface. Of the nine burials noted above, 5 were distinguished by a distinctive burial rite, having the head packed around with large flints (*Burials 4-8*). It was not possible to ascertain if the earlier burials (nos 1-3) also had such 'flint pillows' but, this seems unlikely in the case of *Burial 2*. This distinctive burial rite has also been noted at St Albans Abbey (Biddle and Kjølbye Biddle, 1981, 22). Here a small cemetery of 16 burials preceded the later Norman Chapter house and in all cases where the head was preserved it had been laid on a 'flint pillow'. These burials had been placed in pegged wooden coffins and the only object accompanying them was a copper alloy 'garter-hook' of late Anglo-Saxon type. Locally then, the burial rite at Wheathampstead is known in Late Saxon times. The use of pillows of flint or other material has been recorded at various other places in England and does appear to be a widespread tradition usually attributable to the Mid to Late Saxon period and normally associated with burials without coffins (Rodwell and Rodwell 1981, 213).

A Mid-Late Saxon date for *Burials 1-8* is then the most likely. All the skeletal material recovered during the excavation was examined by Miss R. Powers of the British Museum (Natural History) and her detailed reports are available for consultation at the Verulamium Museum. Appendix 1 contains a synopsis of this information. It will be seen that of the 8 Mid-Late Saxon burials, 3 individuals had reached adulthood, one male being 45-60 years old at death. Two of the burials were of children aged between 9-10 years and one had suffered ill health in earlier childhood as had a young female who died at the age of 14 years; all three had been anaemic. The remaining two burials were both of babies one newly born and the other only a few weeks old at death.

This sample is too small for any detailed conclusions to be drawn, but taken at face value the figures suggest that 25% of all those born died in very early infancy, a further 37.5% did not survive beyond their early teens and only 37.5% lived to adulthood. Thus 62.5% failed to reach adulthood and those that did had little chance of a ripe old age. In childhood, anaemia caused by dietary deficiencies must have been very prevalent.

Little need be said about the later burials but the general health of these individuals differed little from earlier times; anaemic children and arthritic adults.

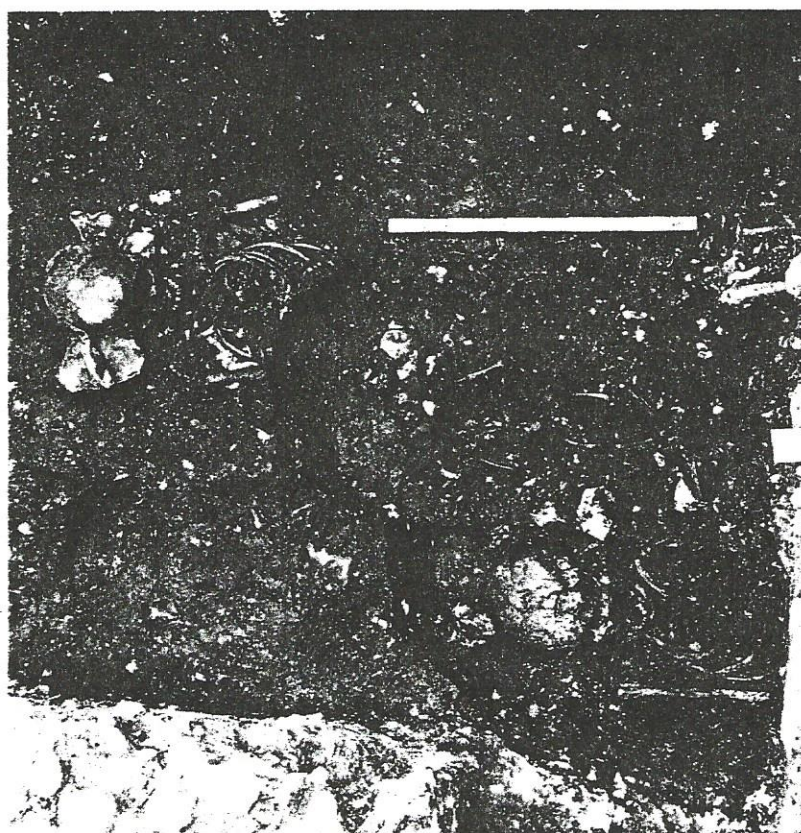


Plate I Burials 6, 7 and 8, of Mid-Late Saxon date, showing skulls resting between large flints.



# Appendix 1 Details of Burials

Mid-Late Saxon	Sex	Age at death	Brief details of skeleton, pathology and burial
1	?Female	Young Adult	(Feet only) <i>wooden coffin</i> .
2	—	Child 9-10	Some traces of osteoporosis on basioccipital and the sphenoid wings, ?malnutrition or anaemia. (Upper 1/2 of skeleton).
3	?Male	Adult ?30s	(Thorax, l. arm, r. humerus).
4	—	Child 9-10	Taurodontism on deciduous and permanent molars (Fig. 4) and zones of hyperplastic enamel on developing canine suggests illness at 5-6 and intermittent poor health thereafter. (Head and neck). <i>Flint pillow</i> . (Part of sphenoid wing and seven ribs). <i>Flint pillow</i> .
5	—	Infant.	
6	?Female	Few weeks about 14	Marked <i>cribra femoris</i> may indicate calcium deficiency or iron-deficiency anaemia. Slight grooving of enamel on incisors suggests chronic ill health between 3-4 years suddenly corrected. (Skull and upper regions to middle of humeri. Much of rest among displaced bone). <i>Flint pillow</i> .
7	?Male	Adult 45-60	Osteo-arthritis. Caries, one tooth with abscess, severe dental attrition. (Thorax and humeri down to elbows). <i>Flint pillow</i> .
8	—	Neonate	(Almost complete). <i>Flint pillow</i> .
9	—	Child about 9	<i>Cribriformis</i> (as in 6) some attrition on cusp tips of milk teeth. Upper first right milk molar had caries at both contact points with adjacent teeth. (Almost complete—bone in fresher condition than earlier burials).
?Pre-Early 14th century			
10	Male	Adult prob. over 40	Osteoarthritis. (Head of l. humerus and scraps of scapula only).
Possibly 15th-16th century			
11	Male	Adult 40-50	Great toe articulation deformed i.e. 'hammer toe'. (Tibiae and fibulae, calcanei and one great toe metatarsal. Other scattered bones).
16th century and later			
12	Male	Advanced age over 45, perhaps 60	Very severe dental attrition, unusual at this date, but no caries; healthy mouth but coarse abrasive food. Osteoarthritis. (Thorax and humeri). <i>Wooden coffin with iron fittings</i> . (Three toe bones only).
13	—	—	
14	—	12-13	Some <i>cribra femoris</i> (as in 1 & 4). Irregular line of calculus across incisors prob. reflects last illness, ?mouth breathing and so no solid foods for perhaps a fortnight. (Remarkably complete). ? <i>Wooden coffin</i> . (Left half of skull vault and of skeleton down to knee).
15	—	Infant about 1 year 5 months	
16	—	Child 9-11	<i>Cribriformis</i> (lower half only).

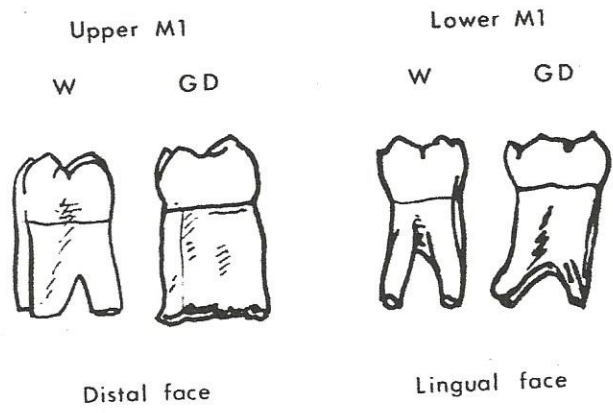


Fig. 4 Taurodont teeth from Burial 4 (W) compared with Neanderthal examples from Ghar Dalam, Malta (GD) the first ever to be described as taurodont. The Wheathampstead examples are a less severe case than those from Ghar Dalam but the condition is clearly apparent. Taurodontism is a condition which is found in molar teeth and results from the body of the tooth becoming enlarged at the expense of the roots. This condition is commonly found in Neanderthal man but a few modern European cases are known.



## Appendix 2 The Finds (Fig. 5)

### Mesolithic Flints

A total of 62 worked flints, likely to belong to this period were found; of these 59 were found in various contexts in Trench 1 and only 3 in Trench 2. 10 of these flints were found in association with the two hollows in Trench 1 (8 in layer 24 and 2 in layer 23) and a further 31 from the filling of the graves containing Burials 7 and 8 which overlay, and cut, the hollow filled with Layer 23. Of these 62 flints the majority were simple flakes or knapping chips but the following were also found:— 1 microlith; 4 blades, 1 bladelet and an end scraper. This group is too small for a detailed determination of its date but clearly belongs to the Mesolithic period.

### Illustrated examples

1. Microlith—a backed bladelet with secondary working on the distal end. (Burial 7).
2. End scraper worked on a small flake. (Burial 7).
- 3.-6. Blades. None show any retouch although No. 5 is a 'plunging' flake in that it has removed part of the edge of the striking platform of the original core. (3, Layer 16; 4-5, Burial 6; 6, Layer 16).
7. Bladelet (Burial 7).
- 8.-9. Small chips or knapping debris. (8, Burial 8; 9, Burial 6).

### Pottery

The pottery found in significant contexts has been noted in the description of the excavations. Only 2 sherds are illustrated here—

10. Rim of a cooking pot in Hertfordshire Grey Ware. (Layer 16).
11. Sherd from a vessel in a shelly 'St Neots' type fabric. (Layer 16).

### Other finds

Although a variety of materials were found in post-Medieval or Victorian contexts none were of significance in the interpretation of the site, or of intrinsic interest with the exception of those described below.

12. Fragment of Medieval floor tile. Decorated with a leaf design. Probably fourteenth or fifteenth century. The design does not appear to be recorded among the products of the Penn Kilns, Bucks.
13. Small bronze mount in repoussé work decorated with the figure of a lion. From the filling of Burial 12.

### Acknowledgements

Our attention was first drawn to the works at Wheathampstead by Mr T.M. Jeffrey, at that time Archaeological Officer in the Hertfordshire County Planning Department, and the excavations would have been impossible without the kind co-operation of the architects, Messrs Riley and Glanfield, and their contractors. The former Rector, the Reverend G. Roe, showed great interest in the work and kindly provided storage space for tools and equipment and the processing of finds. Much of the digging on site was undertaken by Mr M. Harrison and Mr R.J. Pellow also assisted; the finds were capably dealt with by Miss E. Flannery. Mrs A. Watson kindly discussed the worked flints with us and the drawings of these and the other finds are the work of Mrs C. Pollak.

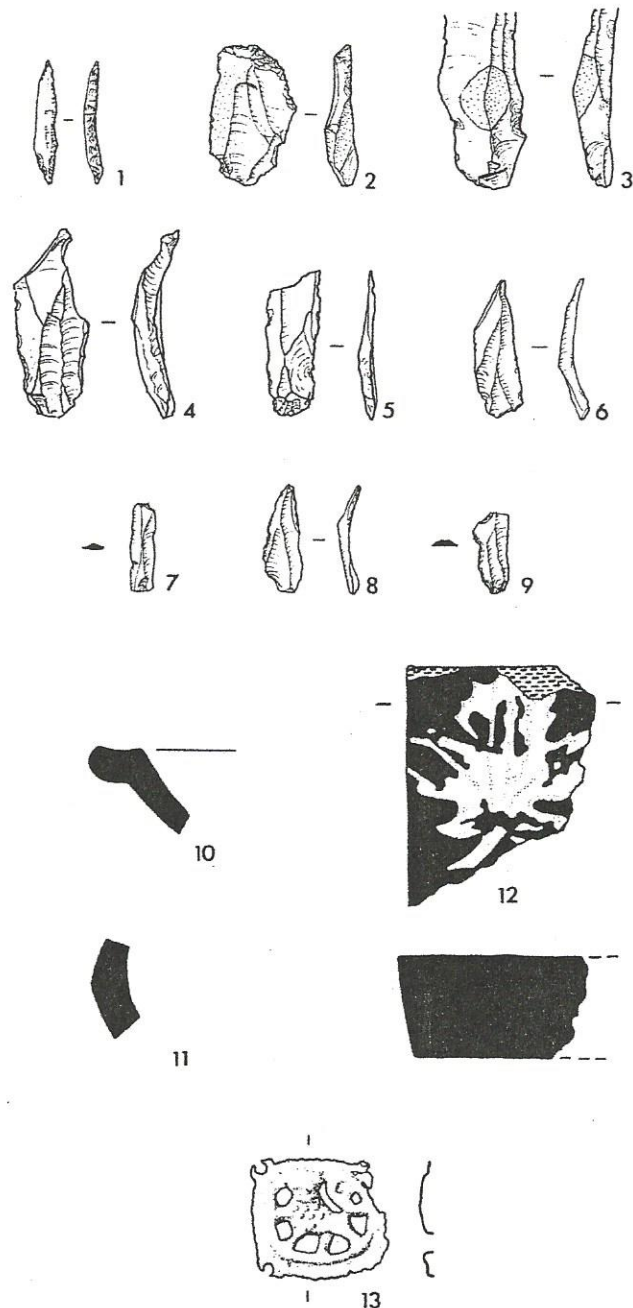


Fig. 5 Worked Flint (1-9), Pottery (10-11), Floor Tile (12) and Bronze Mount (13). Scales, 1-12, (½); 13, (1:1).



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