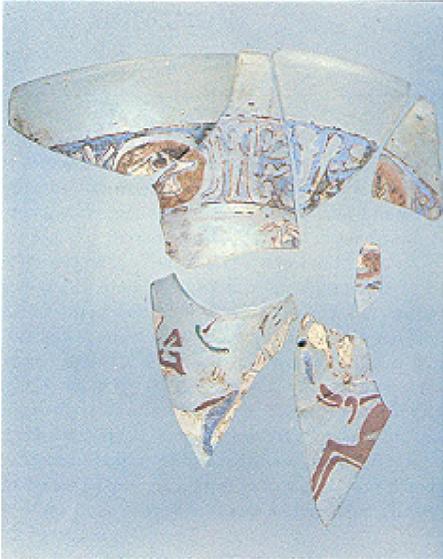


The medieval town of Abingdon (1066 to 1538)

Throughout medieval times, the market town of Abingdon was dominated by Abingdon Abbey. The abbey controlled the town's affairs very tightly. The townspeople began to resent this, and there were riots against the abbey in 1327.

Many excavations have been carried out in the historic centre of Abingdon. Numerous medieval rubbish pits, the foundations of some buildings, and much pottery and other objects have been found.

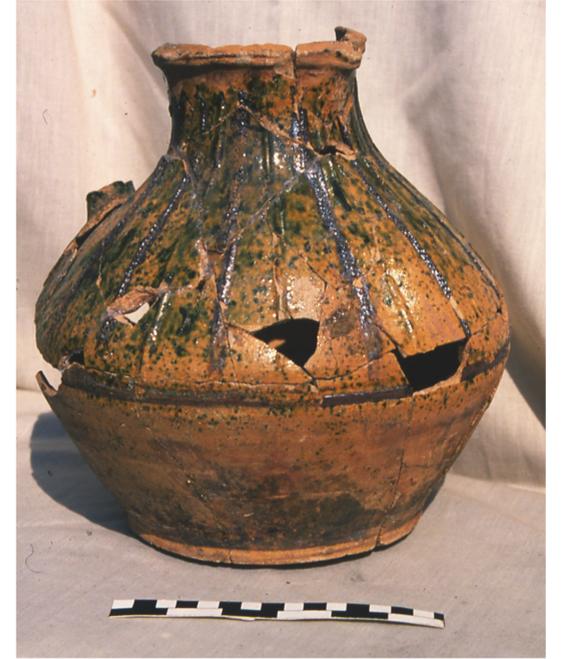
Some important medieval discoveries have been made by AAAHS.



The 13th century Islamic glass from Lombard Street. This is on display in the museum.



The old house in Lombard Street where the Islamic glass was found, during demolition in 1982. Part of the house was medieval. Some of it was preserved in the new building.



This colourfully-glazed medieval pottery jug was found on an AAAHS excavation in Winsmore Lane, off Ock Street, in 1988.



AAAHS excavation in Lombard Street in 1982, near to where the Islamic glass was found.

The Lombard Street Islamic glass

Abingdon's most exotic medieval find came from an AAAHS excavation in the cellar of an old house in Lombard Street, in 1982. The house was being demolished for redevelopment.

Fragments of an Islamic glass beaker, probably made in Egypt in the 13th century, were found in a rubbish pit. How and why this glass made its way to Abingdon is a mystery. However, it shows that medieval Abingdon had wide international connections, probably because of the important abbey.

The glass is on display in the Museum.



This finely worked stone object is thought to be the top of a medieval chimney. Found in an AAAHS excavation in East St Helen Street.



The River Stert flows in a culvert down Stert Street, and underneath the medieval St Nicholas' Church. Some of the culvert's arches probably date back to the 12th century. AAAHS members explored and photographed this hidden river in 2013.
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A number of medieval timber-framed houses survive in Abingdon. Tree-ring dating has shown that this one, 26 East St Helen Street, was built in 1426-27.



In the medieval period, information from archaeology is supplemented by what historical documents can tell us. This is part of 'Amyce's Survey' of Abingdon, made after the dissolution of Abingdon Abbey.