

BRISTOL
&
AVON
ARCHAEOLOGY



Volume 11

BRISTOL & AVON ARCHAEOLOGY 11 1993

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Design by Ann Linge.

Typesetting and Printing by H. E. ILES (Central Press) LTD., Kingswood, Avon.

ISSN 0263 1091

Membership and Editorial Communications to Bristol & Avon Archaeological Society,
Bristol City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RL.

Cover: *West elevation of Church House, St. James, Bristol.*

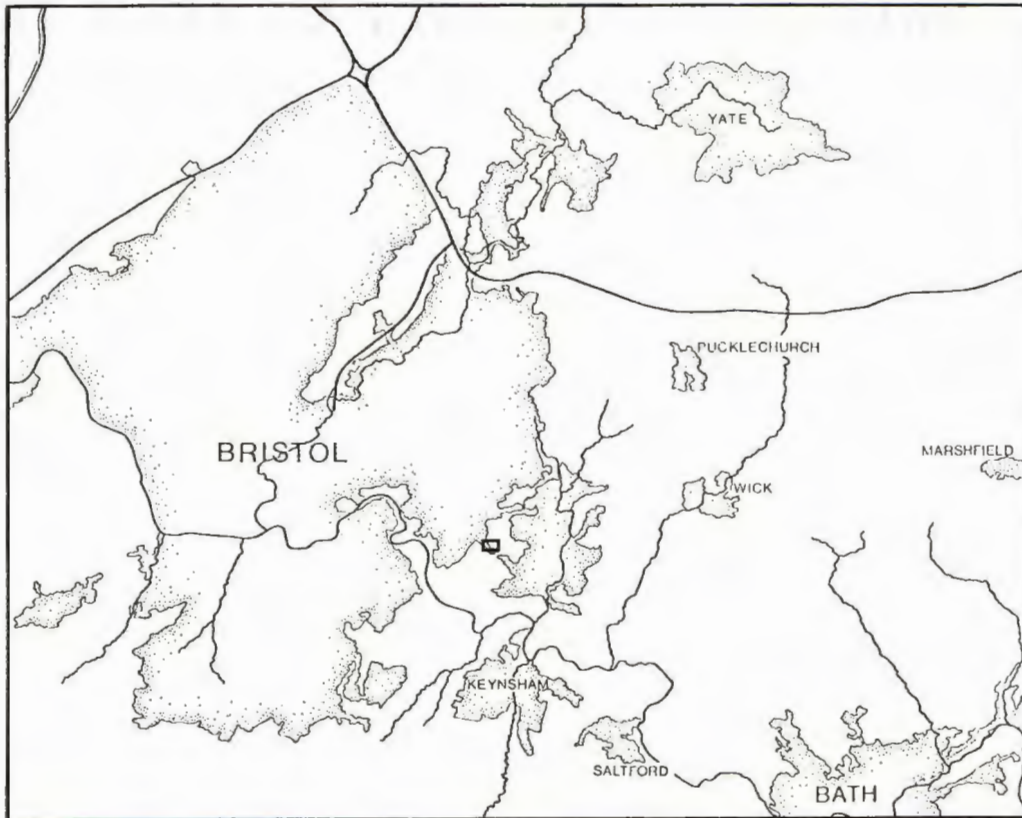


Fig. 1 Location



Fig. 2 Trench Location

A ROMANO-BRITISH, MEDIEVAL AND INDUSTRIAL SITE AT STONEHILL, HANHAM, NEAR BRISTOL

Vince Russett
(Avon County Council)

SUMMARY

After initial evaluation prior to the construction of the Avon Ring Road (Stage 4a) cutting and underpass at Stonehill, revealed the existence of Romano-British structures on the site, a full excavation during autumn and winter 1990 recorded an early fourth century phase comprising a polygonal ditch surrounding an industrial area. A flagstone-floored stone building of middle to late fourth century date, with a contemporary ditch, parallel to the modern A431, and possible cobbled track to the building were also found. An undated, but probably tenth/eleventh century, cobble floored building was poorly preserved. Later industrial features included coal mines, iron slag deposits, and evidence for the quarrying and processing of iron ore, and possibly of Pennant Sandstone. Finds were sparse, and indicate that the main building revealed was probably primarily agricultural in function. Some indication was obtained that domestic activity had taken place at the southern end of the site.

INTRODUCTION

The excavations at Stonehill, Avon, took place on the natural shoulder of land on either side of the A431 at Stonehill Farm, Stonehill, near Hanham, Avon (Figs. 1, 2).

In December 1989, an evaluation of the archaeological implications of the construction of Avon Ring Road Stage 4a (between Hicks Gate, Keynsham, and Marsham Road, Longwell Green) first drew attention to the possibility of Romano-British and medieval settlement at Stonehill (Russett 1990).

Previously existing information on the archaeology and history of the area was not extensive. A Roman coin-hoard of largely 4th century date (ASMR 1410) was known 260.0m northwest of the site, and an 18th century barn (ASMR 5412; Erskine 1991) and Stonehill farmhouse were both Listed Buildings (Fig. 2).

The proposed line of Avon Ring Road Stage 4a in the vicinity of Stonehill Farm lies in a cutting between 6.0 and 8.0m deep.

The initial evaluation at Stonehill was carried out to attempt to characterise the nature and date of the settlement of Stonehill, and to assess the survival of any Romano-British structures, such as the known Roman road, the

A431, or any roadside structures that might exist in the area of Stonehill Farm, and to examine the possibility of medieval settlement in the area, prior to its total removal in the Ring Road project works.

The excavation reported here forms part of the archaeological recording of the former hamlet of Stonehill, which has also included the recording of the standing barn at Stonehill Farm before dismantling and removal to a new site (Erskine 1991), trial excavations in the yard of Stonehill Farm (Young 1991), the excavation of a bloomery furnace and cobbled yard/ditch complex (Cornwell 1992), archaeological salvage recording of the area during construction of the Ring Road (Cross 1993), watching brief during building construction adjacent (Russett 1994) and full excavation of another part of the Romano-British site (Yorkston 1994 and Yorkston, forthcoming).

The initial trial excavations consisted of two sets of machine trenches. Approximately 50.0m of machine trenches were excavated on the south side of the A431, in the garden of a derelict standing bungalow, No 30, Stonehill to the north of the line of the Ring Road. This stood on the northern side of the entrance to Stonehill Farm at ST65047180 (Fig. 2). On the northern side of the A431 road, machine trenches totalling 235.0m, in length were excavated.

As a result of this evaluation, no further work was carried out on the southern side of the road, but on the northern site, an open area excavation of c 550.0 square metres was made, including most of the area of the initial machine evaluation trenches (Fig. 1, 2).

The full excavation was carried out by a six man team from Avon County Council over a period of nine weeks from October to December 1990, and post-excavation work from January to April 1991.

All stages of the work were entirely funded by Avon County Engineering and Highways Department, as part of the Avon Ring Road Project Stage 4a.

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation trenches were dug with a flat-edged 1.0m wide bucket, by JCB. In each case, topsoil and other

superficial deposits were removed down to the top of the latest archaeological contexts. The plans and sections of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and recorded at 1:20, except in cases where the trench revealed only topsoil or other dumped material over natural bedrock, where no further record was made. In the case of the trenches on the northern side of the road (ASMR 6417) a small amount of further excavation was then carried out by hand, to assess the potential survival of the Romano-British deposits found.

The open area excavation was first cleared of topsoil by JCB with 1.5m wide flat-edged bucket, and 2-ton dumper trucks. This topsoil was surprisingly deep (0.5-0.8m) over the whole site, probably reflecting intense recent cultivation, and some dumping of industrial materials in the recent past. All further excavation was carried out by hand.

In such a large area excavation, it was impractical to attempt to excavate the entire site, and a programme of sampling of significant deposits was adopted. After the initial work on the site, it was clear that the Romano-British stone building in particular would merit more intensive study, and a 1.0m grid was laid put over the entire excavated area of the building, and used alongside traditional stratigraphic techniques to more accurately record the distribution of all classes of finds in the vicinity of the building. A traditional 5.0m grid was used for recording in the rest of the site.

In the interpretation of the site, the limitations of rural stratigraphy should be borne in mind. In particular, the lack of direct stratigraphic relationships between the major structures of the site is unfortunate, if unsurprising. The Romano-British occupation on the site, however, appears to have been of limited duration, simplifying the interpretation to some extent.

The excavated area represented a large proportion of the known or potential archaeological deposits on the north side of the A431 threatened by the Ring Road construction.

In the account and discussions below, the status of the portion of the Roman buildings excavated is assessed as low, possibly housing for cattle and an industrial building. This has implications for the dating of the site; there is an absence of datable metalwork (one anomalously early copper alloy brooch, two extremely worn coins and a number of less easily datable other finds), and little fine pottery. Fortunately, the major coarse wares of the region are well understood and can provide a broad dating framework for the site, although this did not prove refinable by seriation or other statistical techniques. Samples of charcoal from the semi-circular ditch proved unsuitable for dendrochronological dating, since they contained too few growth rings.

The extended period of time necessary to carry out a full analysis of the pottery (both Romano-British and medieval) from this site was not available. Instead, the major contexts of the site, and those crucial to dating, have been extensively studied, and their finds characterised and dated.

In the report below, Munsell soil colours, and detailed technical and specialist reports have been omitted. These are available in the archive.

It is intended that all material from the excavations at Stonehill will eventually be deposited at the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Queens Road, Bristol. This includes the finds, and the primary archive from the site. The secondary archive, and all other documentation, will be deposited with the Avon County Sites and Monuments Record.

SITE PHASING AND STRUCTURES

The phasing of the site is relatively simple. The Romano-British occupation in the area excavated does not appear to have spanned the whole of the RB period, but the structures appear to belong to two or three sub-phases broadly lying within a time frame from the very end of the 3rd century to the end of the 4th.

The phases on the site can be roughly ascribed as follows:

- PHASE 0: Prehistoric
- PHASE 1: Romano-British (Late 3rd – late 4th century)
- PHASE 2: Medieval (10th-15th century)
- PHASE 3: Post-medieval (17th-18th century)
- PHASE 4: Modern

Phase 0: Pre-Roman

A few worked flints occurred in RB and later levels, including a small microburin of Mesolithic date, a small endscraper of probable Neolithic-early Bronze Age date and several other flakes, two possibly from core trimming. There were no features datable to this phase.

Phase 1: Roman

Phase 1a:

A shallow semi-circular (or more strictly, polygonal) gully, 10.6m in internal diameter, (103/109/312) was constructed around the uphill side of a small area approximately 35.0m from side of the present A431, the contemporary road. No associated post-holes or other structures were found. At its western end, where well-preserved under the later layers, the terminal appeared to be rounded, and no trace of a matching northern ditch beyond this point was found (Fig. 3).

At its eastern end, in the vicinity of structure B, a lining of Pennant sandstone slabs underlay a fill (108) packed with charcoal, while further to the north, close to the point at which the gully was cut by the later construction of the RB stone building, the backfill was of natural red and yellow clays (311), both contexts containing sherds of early 4th century date. None of the clay around the fill was burned or fired. The upper fill of the gully (100) also overlay the dark phase 3 layer 160, and is presumably of much later date. It appears to have sagged into the fill 293 of the gully under its own weight, being composed very largely of iron tapslag.

Context 293, the primary fill in the western side of the gully, contained the remains of three RB vessels, two of which were virtually complete when restored, and all of the

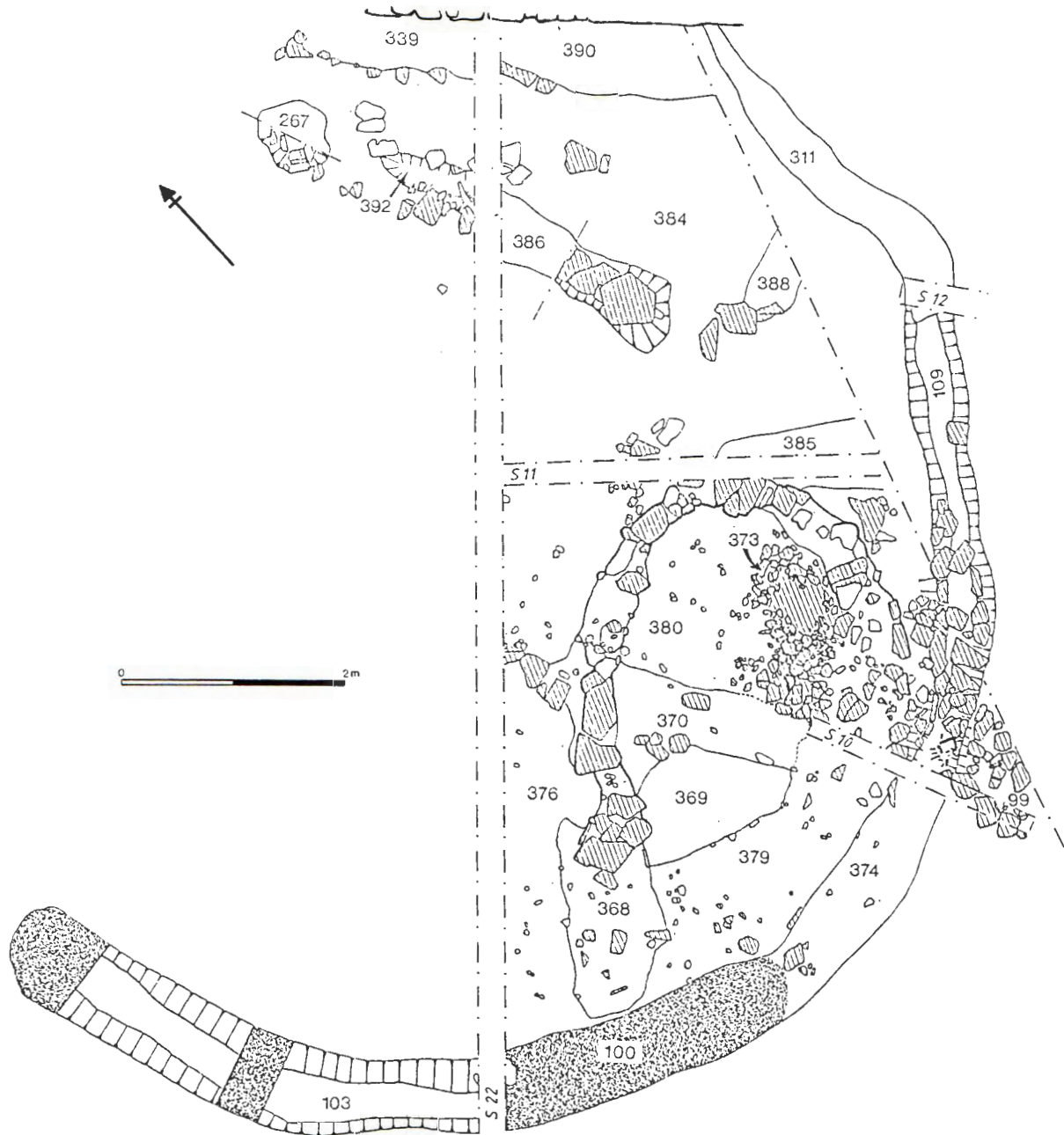


Fig. 3 Pennannular ditch and the horse-shoe shaped industrial structure.

date range *c* 300-330. There was no internal structure of Pennant Sandstone slabs in the western area, and little charcoal compared to the large quantities in the eastern section.

While the gully was still open, structure B was erected on the area drained by it. Structure B consisted of an apsidal ended feature (367/368) constructed of large irregular fragments of Pennant Sandstone and Liassic Limestone, probably the the foundation of a windbreak wall or similar, and an internal floor of small Pennant Sandstone fragments (373) subsequently very heavily burnt. It is possible that the Pennant Sandstone slab edges in gully 103/109/312 in this area were inserted during the construction of structure B. They are stratigraphically below the wall structure 367.

A further small area of laid Pennant Sandstone slabs on the far side of gully 109 from structure B (99) are contemporary with structure B, and may have formed a threshold for it.

Structure 367 may have been open at its southern end, where floor 373 ends abruptly at a line of small Liassic Limestone blocks set into the natural red clay. It lay directly on the stone lining of 109 at one point, where the layer 160 over 367, and layer 108 in the gully appeared to be identical.

Although parts of the structure, such as floor level 373, contained fragments of broken tegulae, the datable pottery in the construction trench for 367 was also very broadly of early 4th century date. The structure appears to have been

used for industrial purposes, possibly, in view of the iron tapslag found in most of the Roman layers, for iron smelting, although no evidence of furnaces such as burning of the natural clay was found, and it seems more likely that this was occurring elsewhere at Stonehill, perhaps in the vicinity of the furnace identified by Cornwell (1992). A shallow layer of heavily charcoal-flecked silty clay, 369, adjacent to the southern edge of 373, may have resulted from the clearance of the floor of the building.

Structures lying between the two Romano-British buildings A and B may date to this phase. A post-hole (399), containing a Pennant Sandstone slab post-setting with post-pipe (405) still in-situ, and the charcoal-filled linear slots 384, 387, 389, 393 were sealed by layer 160, which butted against wall 135 at the southern end of building A, and sealed the floor 373, wall foundations 367/368 and gully fills connected with structure B.

Slot 387 was lined with Pennant Sandstone slabs on its northern edge, with a flat Pennant Sandstone slab sloping gently into its south-western end, and appears to have been a soakaway or open drain, running into 393. It was filled with a dark brown charcoal-flecked silty loam, 386. The other two slots were not excavated, but contained a similar heavily charcoal flecked dark-brown silty loam fill (385 and 388) and fragments of tegula in their upper layers, and may represent similar drains dug at different times, especially 388, which from its surface, appears to also have a Pennant Sandstone slab sloping into its end, and some Pennant Sandstone lining slabs. The features cut the natural, which is not burnt or altered in any way. Unfortunately, any relationship between the two unexcavated features and the gully 109/312 was removed by evaluation trench 1, although both were recorded in this section, and were typically very shallow (less than 0.05m). The only pottery recovered from 386/382 was one sherd of a BBI jar, no more closely datable than Romano-British.

One other feature, a linear gully filled with a red mortar or mortar-like substance (400) was cut by the construction trench 321 for internal wall 292 of building A, and if this does not simply represent a stage in the construction of building A, it may also belong to phase 1. It contained no dating evidence.

Phase 1b:

At some date after the filling of gully 312, which was probably deliberate, the construction of the RB stone building A took place. An area of charcoal deposits, with some small quantities of vesicular iron tapslag (303/309/315) to the east and north of 312, was cut by the construction trench 307/319 for the southern wall of the building, and itself overlay the fill 311 of gully 312. This layer may have been the result of a builder's fire, or possibly a spread of waste from the activities in structure B.

Construction trench 307 also cut 311/312, firmly establishing the relationship between the two. Construction of building A appears to have been of one phase, although there is some slight possibility of the small area of gravel-floored room (148/140) (Room 3) at the northern end of the

site having been of a different phase. Although all the construction trenches for the walls of structure A were similar, the initial foundation fill at the northern end was different from that of the southern end of the building.

Building A was a large stone-built structure. The excavated sections of construction trench had been carefully dug, and were *c* 0.80m deep and 0.65m wide, vertical sided and flat-bottomed. They contained walls entirely constructed of local limestone, with foundation levels of large rounded Liassic Limestone at the southern end of the site (135, 136, 144, 191) up to the contemporary land surface. On this, a coursed double-faced construction of rounded Liassic Limestone set in a red mortar matrix survived up to four courses high in the area where walls 135 and 136 met at the corner of the building. At the northern end of the surviving coursing in wall 136, the stones had tipped over into the interior, although the mortar had retained the courses in their relative positions.

A feature (343) in wall 136, consisting of a gap 0.12 x 0.30m in size, may have been a timber setting, evidence for timber construction in the walls or interior of the building. Alternatively, the gap may have held a down pipe or similar, channelling water into the drain alongside the wall. The gap was almost certainly open when the roof began to collapse, as a fragment of roof tile lay at the very bottom of the feature.

Internal cross-wall 192, which was fully excavated, consisted of two surviving courses of rounded Liassic Limestone set in red mortar, overlying a thin layer of red mortar (195). This lay on a layer of redeposited natural yellow clay (410), possibly a damp-proofing course, sealing a foundation of sharp-edged hard Liassic Limestone fragments set in bright yellow clay (411), which overlay a foundation layer of large rounded Liassic Limestone rammed into the construction trench (253). The trench was of the same dimensions (*c* 0.80m deep and 0.65m wide, with straight vertical sides and flat bottom) as those of the external walls.

Internal wall 133/292 had no rubble foundation layer. At its northern end where robbed by the medieval ditch 413, the wall consisted of *c* 4 to 5 layers of coursed Liassic Limestone in a red mortar matrix, of which only two courses survived at the extreme southern end against wall 135. Wall 133 and 135 butted against one another, with no detectable sequence, and were almost certainly contemporary.

In the line of wall 292, two large cuboidal blocks of oolitic limestone *c* 0.45m square were set in the wall, possibly column or door jamb bases. These blocks were tooled all over, and may have been re-used. The southernmost block was chocked into place with a line of three small upright Pennant Sandstone slabs. The distance between the blocks was exactly 1.80m. The wall between consisted of a layer of coursed Liassic Limestone flush with the tops of the oolitic limestone blocks, set in, and lying on top of, a thick layer of red mortar. This mortar filled the construction trench between the stones, and was presumably used to level the wall between the blocks, as a threshold or similar, as it was certainly flush with the floor

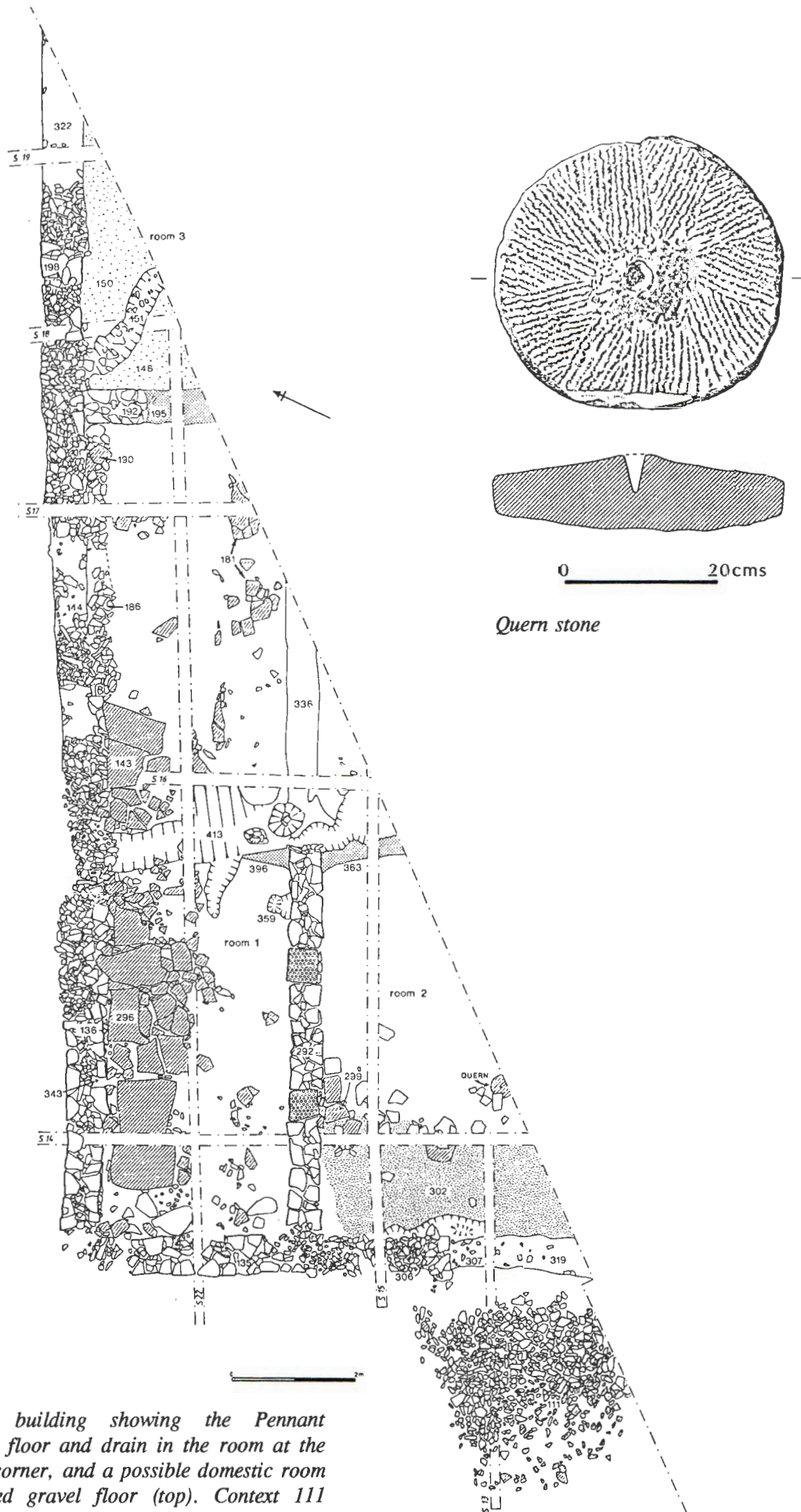


Fig. 4 The main building showing the Pennant fragmentary floor and drain in the room at the south west corner, and a possible domestic room with rammed gravel floor (top). Context 111 appears to be a cobbled track approaching the site from the south east.

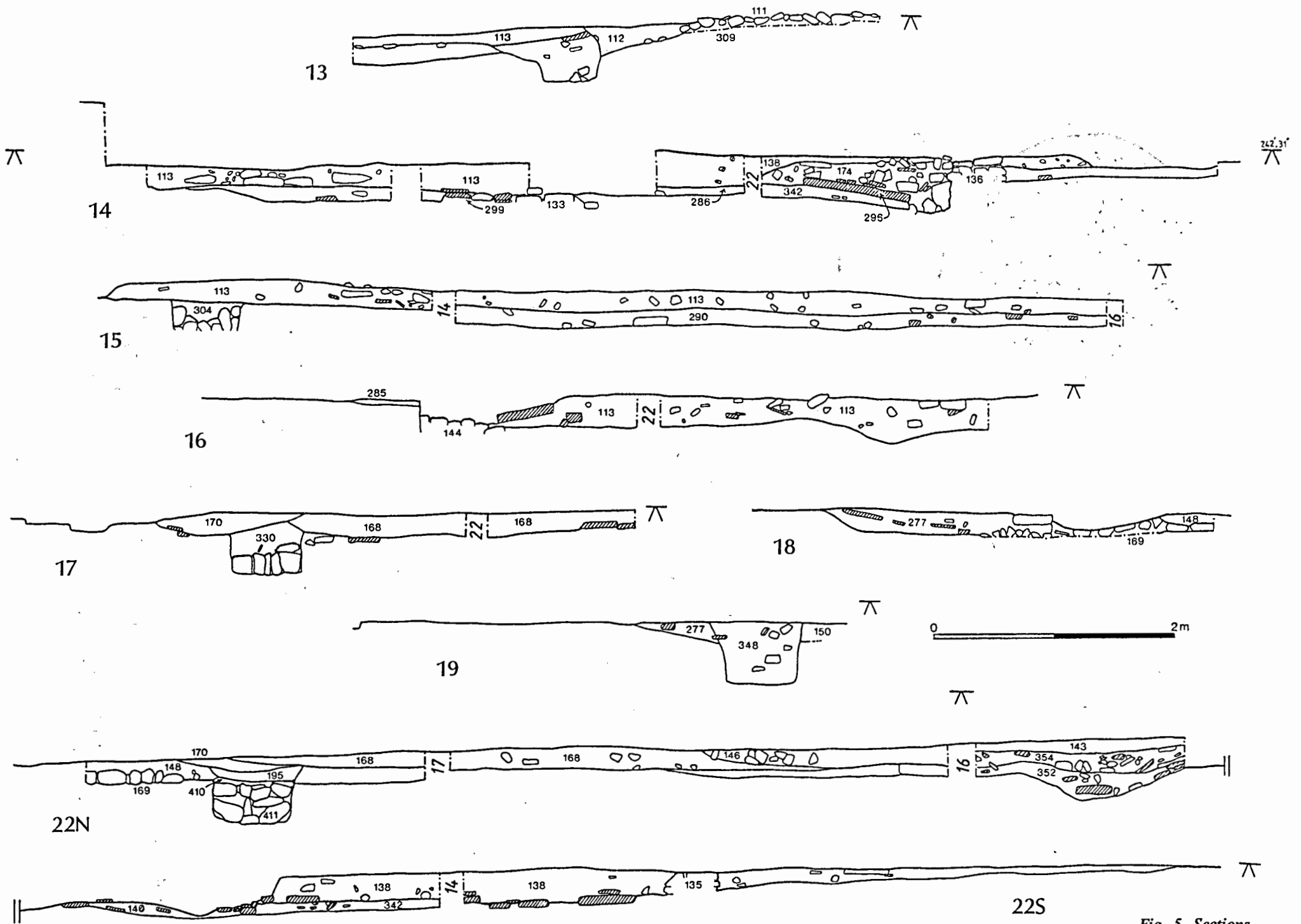


Fig. 5 Sections

level remaining in room 2. The mortar was not dissimilar to the weathered material 400, suggesting that this may also have been connected with the construction of the building.

One post hole (359) c 0.31m square was cut against wall 292, and must have been below the level of the slab floor in room 1. Its exact relationship with the floor in that room had been destroyed by medieval robbing, but it may have held structural timber, or possibly, formed a base for timber fittings within room 1.

At the northern end of the excavated building, wall 198, where not totally robbed, consisted of a two-faced coursed layer of hard hammer-dressed Liassic Limestone, set in a red mortar. This lay on top of a rammed foundation layer of hard, angular fragments of Liassic Limestone set in yellow redeposited clay.

Large parts of the external walls of the building had not survived, having been extensively robbed in the medieval period (see below).

Inside the building, the main evidence for floor arrangements at the southern end was in room 1.

The construction trench for the external wall had not been completely backfilled, but the top surface of the fill internal to the wall consisted of Pennant Sandstone slabs, laid flat, or a dense packing of rounded Liassic Limestone. Against this was laid a floor make-up level of rounded Pennant Sandstone and Liassic Limestone fragments set in a mixed clay and mortar matrix, from 0.01 to 0.10m thick (eg 341/342). In some parts of room 1, this was edged against the construction trench backfill by small Pennant Sandstone slabs set upright into the natural clay.

On top of this make-up layer was laid a floor of large Pennant Sandstone slabs, most c 0.05 to 0.08m thick, and varying up to 1.50m across. These were carefully laid, sloping slightly towards a gap between their north-western side and the wall 136, presumably for the gap to act as a drain. There is some evidence that on the south-eastern side of room 1, these slabs were level, but the area had been extensively robbed and most of the slabs and floor make-up had gone. The areas between the slabs were carefully filled with small Pennant Sandstone fragments, and may have been sealed with a different coloured clay from the local natural, as the material between the slabs had a slightly greasy texture and greyer colour than the yellow natural clay in patches, although this may have had a different origin (see below).

There is little evidence of any floor in the area labelled room 2 on the plan. Immediately adjacent to wall 292 in the area of the two oolitic limestone blocks, four slabs of Pennant Sandstone and Liassic Limestone survive (299) over a thin floor make-up of similar character to that in room 1 (347). One or two more flat slabs which may have formed part of the floor survived at the south-eastern side of the room, where a complete Pennant Sandstone lower rotary quern stone had been included in the floor make-up. Immediately beside and on the northern side of the quern, a large iron spike/stud had been driven into the natural clay. No other internal features were noted in this area.

At the northern end of the excavated area of the building, beyond wall 192 ('room 3'), the internal floor was of a

radically different nature. A level layer of crushed and rammed small river gravel (148/150) overlay a floor make-up of rounded Liassic Limestone set in a red silty clay matrix with white flecks of lime and some small flecks of charcoal (409). This context incorporated a number of struck flakes of hard Liassic Limestone (presumably resulting from the on-site hammer-dressing of the coursed stones of wall 198) and overlay the natural clay. A deposit of dark loamy soil containing a large number of immature sheeps leg-bones lay over part of 409, and was sealed by 150.

Externally, the only structure clearly related to the stone building was an area of cobbling, mostly of rounded Liassic Limestone but including some Pennant Sandstone and RB tegula fragments, at the southern end of the building (111). Where this abutted the building, it dipped down c 0.15m, to form a gully c 0.60m wide, itself filled with a later heavily slag-filled layer 112. It is unclear whether this gully was an original feature, or the result of later trenching to rob the adjacent wall. The cobble layer had been constructed over the fill of gully 312. This fill (311) was a redeposited natural red and yellow clay, with a few sherds of pottery in it. It possibly derived from the digging of the construction trenches for the wall of the RB stone building.

Very few sherds of pottery occurred in the excavation of rooms 1 and 2 of building A. None were found in the construction trenches, but one large sherd of a flanged rim of a BB1 dish of mid-4th century type was sealed in the floor make-up levels of room 1. The type of floor with its large sloping slabs and drain, the paucity of finds and the absence of recognisable domestic structures such as hearths imply that this structure was probably housing for farm animals, possibly a byre or stable, and post-hole 359 may have held timber supports for a crib/fore stall or tethering structures of wooden construction.

Room 2 (if it was an internal part of a building, and not open) was too badly robbed to assign any use, although it is conceivable that in view of the quern stone set into the natural clay under its floor, it too may have had some agricultural purpose. Certainly, there was again a paucity of RB pottery in the area.

Room 3, with its rammed gravel floor and much greater density of pottery scatter above and around it, may well have been part of the domestic range of the building. In view of the very small area of it examined, no hearths or other expected internal features of a domestic area, were found.

Phase 1c:

During the period when wall 135 of building A was still visible, and possibly while the building was still standing, a spread of dark brown loam packed with large fragments of charcoal, and containing small quantities of iron tapslag (160) developed between building A and the semi-circular ditch 103/109. This covered the remains of the structures of building B and the features between it and the stone building. A number of large fragments of tegula, some burnt, occurred in this layer.

At the northern end of the building, a shallow gully was

excavated against wall 198. Its fill (277) contained one or two fragments of Pennant Sandstone rooftile, and may post-date the RB occupation of the site. It contained pottery of the late 4th century but nothing later.

A large ditch of Romano-British date was also excavated at the south-western end of the site.

This lay parallel to the line of the present A431, but c 30m from it, on the far side of a Pennant Sandstone outcrop on the edge of the road, and may have been a contemporary roadside ditch in origin.

Two deep and wide lengths of ditch were excavated, both c 2.0m wide and 0.65-0.70m deep. Some 3.20m from the north-western edge of the excavation, the northern length of the ditch ended with a neat rounded terminal. The line of the ditch was continued by a much smaller gully, 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep for c 1.60m, and the line then continued to the limit of excavation by the second deeper ditch, also with a rounded terminal.

All three areas of ditch were open simultaneously, as the upper fills, brown humic layers 217, 223 and 220 could not be distinguished from each other, and are presumably, the same fill layer. These were firmly sealed by a layer of red stony clay 76, into which the industrial guffies 36 etc were later cut, and which dated at latest to c1300 (a large green-glazed rod handle of a jug of 13th century character in unweathered condition was pressed into its upper surface) (Good and Russett 1987).

The lower fills, which seem to have accumulated quite rapidly, contained quantities of Romano-British pottery, tile and small finds, including a jet finger ring, lead fishing weight and several whetstones.

There was no evidence in the sections seen for recutting of the ditch.

Phase 2: Post-Roman and Medieval

The building, whose floors appear to have been kept very clean during use, was abandoned at some time towards the end of the RB period. It was almost certainly abandoned, not demolished: The initial layer in the undisturbed part of the building was of Pennant Sandstone rooftiles, at least three of which had intact nails still in place in their nail holes.

Outside of the walls of the building, tegula fragments occurred all around the south-western corner (284), presumably where they had fallen during the decay of the roof.

Subsequently, a rubble layer (173, 174) accumulated over the fallen rooftiles, and this rubble was largely undisturbed in the north-western side of room 1 until the excavation. The rubble appears to have accumulated from the progressive collapse of walls 135 and 136 (and possibly 292), although the admixture of small quantities of Pennant Sandstone and Liassic Limestone rubble may indicate that some of the roof was still collapsing as the walls fell. If this was so, the collapse of the walls cannot have taken long: It is unusual for the roof timbers of a building to last for more than a decade or two once its covering begins to fall away.

There is no trace among the pottery from the site of any very late Roman or post-Roman types, so it seems likely

that the building would already have been ruined by c 400.

There is no evidence of any subsequent activity on the site until the 10th or 11th century.

This activity mainly consisted of stone-robbing. At the southern end of the building, walls 306/318, a continuation of wall 135, were heavily robbed, leaving a small patch of foundation layers in the bottom of the original construction trench. The robbing trench 307/319, was backfilled with a humic brown soil containing sherds of late 12th/early 13th century date.

Along wall 136/144, various patches of robbing activity had occurred, backfilled with a similar material to that in 307/319, although there was no dating for these episodes.

A linear gully, 413, cut directly across the building from north-west to south-east, had cut through the rubble from the collapse of the stone building, but itself was stratigraphically below the coal-mine 159. The fill of 413 contained sherds of late 12th/early 13th century pottery. The gully had cut into, but not entirely removed, wall 136 at the point where it was crossed.

Within the building, 413 removed evidence of wall 292 down to the bottom of its foundation trench, and intersected a further robbing trench of unknown date (176), which had completely robbed the wall that lay on the extension of the line 292. The backfill of 176 (175) contained much bone and was very humic, and possibly dated to the same robbing episode as the other wall robbing trenches.

A further sequence of two more robbing trenches followed at this intersection, but contained no dating material other than Roman-British pottery.

Over the rest of the site, medieval activity was mainly represented by a scatter of pottery sherds of 10th/11th-15th century date, the great majority falling at the earlier end of the age range. Despite the existence in this group of large sooted sherds of 10th/11th century cooking pot, (some rosette-stamped) there were no other contexts definitely datable to the medieval period.

The most likely structure to belong to the medieval period is structure C.

Phase 3: Post-Medieval

There is evidence of a great deal of activity on the site subsequent to the medieval stone-robbing episode, most of it industrial in nature.

A great deal of this activity, however, is only datable by analogy, as very little post-medieval material was found on the site.

At least seven features, ranging from 1.0m to 3m, across, and backfilled entirely with a uniformly black clayey coal were found on various parts of the site. These varied in their plans, and none were excavated to a depth of more than 1.0m. At least two (24 and E214) had been carefully constructed with straight-sided plans, while the others were of an irregular round plan.

These features occupied a band c 20m wide across the northern edge of the excavation, and were undoubtedly the backfilled entrances to mine-shafts, probably bell-pits, post-medieval coalmines which are very common in the Kingswood district.

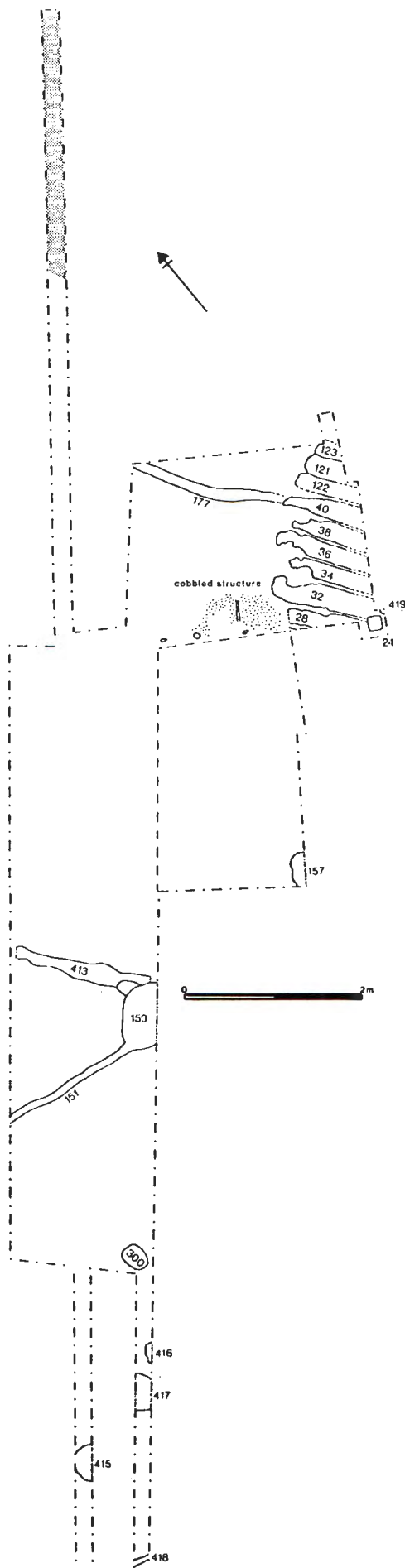


Fig. 6 Post medieval features

The mines were following a coal seam recorded in site geotechnical studies running across the northern end of the site

Only one of these pits revealed any dating evidence at all. One bell-pit (E126) was clearly sealed by a dark loamy layer E140, which contained a large unbraded sherd of a Wanstrow-type bowl of *c* 1700-1730.

None of the excavated contents of the pits produced any artefacts; the excavated gully 151, associated with bell-pit 158, produced only RB material, undoubtedly derived from the parts of the RB building disturbed by its original excavation.

A second industrial activity, the mining and processing of iron ore, was represented at or near the site.

At the southern end of the field in which the site was excavated, an outcrop of the Pennant Sandstone contained the remains of veins of very pure haematite, both botryoidal and massive. At least one vein of this material had been 0.30m thick, but much had clearly been quarried at some unknown date. The evidence for quarrying activity had itself been removed in the recent past by excavation of the area behind the current roadside wall for repointing and repair.

The evidence of the processing of iron ore at or very near the site was unequivocal. Although no structures resembling bowl furnaces or bloomeries were found intact on the site, a large quantity of iron slag occurred in the upper (post-Roman) layers of the site. The large majority of this was tap slag, although small quantities of cinder and possible furnace lining also occurred, the presence of the latter, especially in 98, 100 and 160 seeming to indicate the remains of bloomery hearths or bowl furnaces close to the site (Bachmann 1982). There was little trace of smithing scale, and the overall indication is of medieval or post-medieval mining and roasting of iron on a small scale somewhere in the vicinity of Stonehill Farm.

The most recent phase of industrial activity on the site was marked by a series of shallow, parallel linear gullies, recorded both in plan and section in the south-western part of the excavated area, although the north-western section clearly revealed that the gullies extended further to the north.

Initially, a shallow gully, 62, was dug, *c* 1.40-1.60m wide, for an unknown distance, but with its south-eastern end within the site. This was backfilled with a mixture of the natural clay, lumps of humic topsoil, shale and black coaley clay. A second gully, 58, was then cut immediately south and parallel to the first, cutting it, and leaving a small triangular section of original topsoil between the two. This was subsequently backfilled with very similar material, and the process continued almost to the south-western edge of the excavation, producing twelve such features in all.

At the southern end, a very shallow gully or ditch, 177, curved around the back of the Pennant Sandstone knoll between the site and road, and at its lower end, its fill, 70, merged with that of the fill 39 of one of the parallel gullies.

Fill 70 contained a large sherd of the shoulder of a late 17th/early 18th century wine bottle, and a sherd of early 18th century pottery, dating the gully sequence to a date *c* 1700.

Phase 4 Modern

Since the cessation of the mining and/or smelting activity at Stonehill, a thick ploughsoil had accumulated over the final industrial phases. This contained material of all dates, the latest being late Victorian.

Against the side of the present A431 road, quarrying of stone had occurred at some date, probably for the construction of the roadside wall. The relationship of this quarrying to the winning of iron ore from the veins in the Pennant Sandstone was not clear, although the two are probably separated by centuries.

Local information was that the field had been used during living memory as a pony paddock attached to the house to the north-west of the site, but since acquisition for the construction of the Ring Road had not been used, and it had become overgrown at the time of commencement of the excavation.

STRUCTURES NOT SECURELY PHASED

Close to the edge of the RB ditch, but without any direct stratigraphic link to either the ditch or any of its fills, were two lines of small flat slabs of Pennant Sandstone (85, 86), surviving for a length of *c* 1.60m, and whose faced inner edges defined a negative feature 0.16m across. Both lines of stones were only one course deep. At the north-eastern end of this feature, a small patch (89) of Pennant Sandstone slabs lay directly on the extended line of 85/86. A scatter of slightly larger slabs from this patch lay for *c* 1.0m to the west. At least one or two of these slabs were disturbed by the machining that removed the topsoil, and they may have originally lain across the top of 85/86.

Butted against 85 and 86 on either side were two layers of Pennant Sandstone cobbles, 88 and 95. These cobbles

were loosely laid, and most had been eroded by ploughing. 95 lay on top of an area of smaller cobbles, 128, that sloped gently down towards the west.

A definite edge to the cobble spreads could not be found to the south-west, where they appeared to have been eroded by ploughing of the shallower soils; to the north-east, an approximate edge to the spreads was marked by a line joining three contexts 172, 162, and 414. 172 and 414 were both single, large deeply set Liassic Limestone boulders, while 162, with a large Liassic Limestone stone at its centre, also had the remains of a circle of small Pennant Sandstone fragments around and over it.

The three contexts may be post-pads, designed to prevent structural timbers being driven into the soft clays below. They may have been originally at the bottom of pits, as the remaining single layer of Pennant Sandstone slabs in context 162 imply.

The line between the three post-pads and the drain feature was very nearly at right angles, and they are very likely to have been part of the same building (Structure C).

There was no intrinsic dating evidence; topsoil was removed from the cobbles after machining, and it appears that ploughing episodes have occasionally reached down this far. This must have occurred before the industrial activity on the site; the cobble spread 128 is stratigraphically below one of the gully fills 90, and the sheer depth of overburden left by the industrial activity (*c* 0.80-1.0m) would have protected the cobble spread from further plough damage.

The industrial gully-digging may itself have been partly responsible for the damage to the structure.

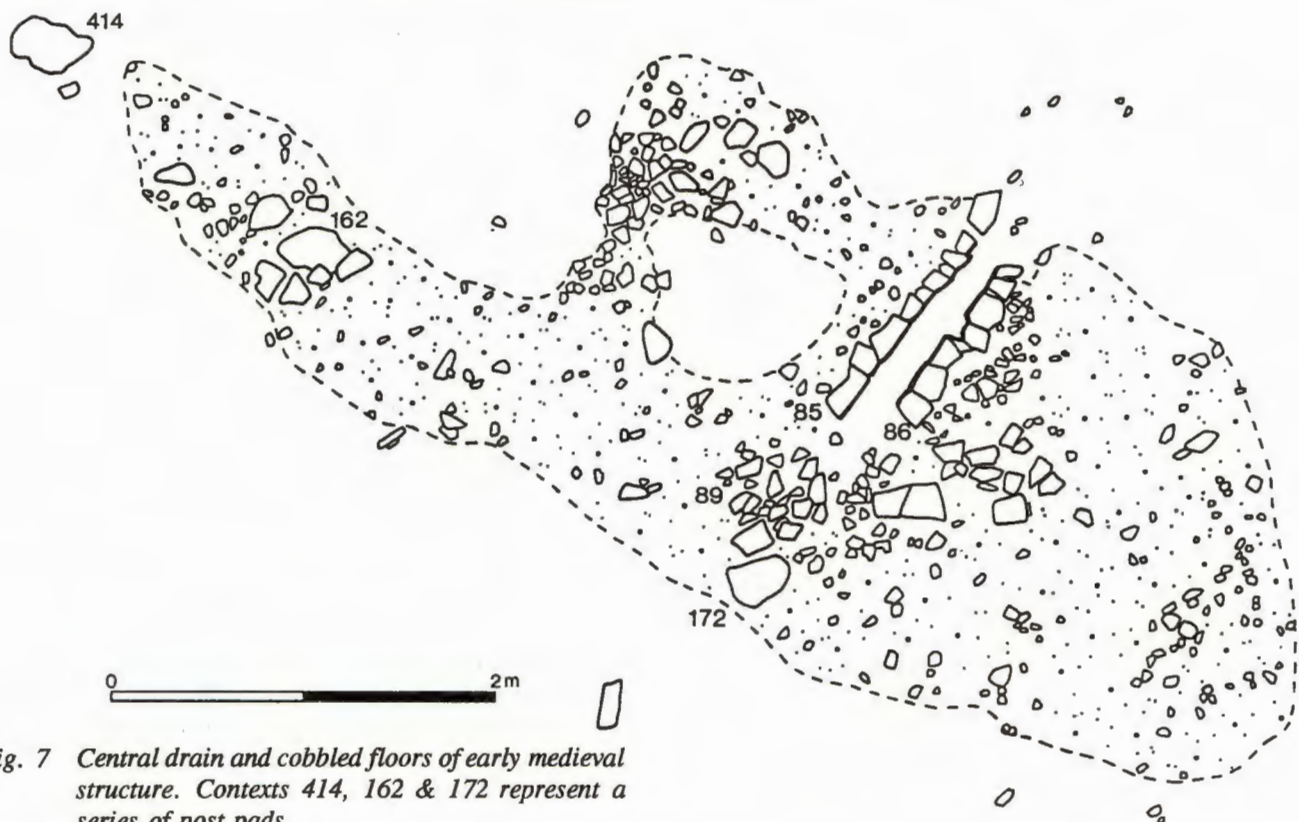


Fig. 7 Central drain and cobbled floors of early medieval structure. Contexts 414, 162 & 172 represent a series of post pads.

The minimum dimensions of a building formed by these features would have been 8.0m x 4.0m, a respectable size for a house or small barn set back from the edge of the road, and separated from it by a low knoll, an outcrop of the Pennant Sandstone.

The occurrence of large sherds of early medieval pottery in the topsoils immediately above the structure may have some bearing on its dating. The unabraded conditions of these implies that they have not travelled far in the ploughsoil, and although no sealed contexts contained medieval dating evidence, the technology of the building, with its post-pads and drain structure could well be medieval.

More specific dating of the structure by association with the medieval pottery from the site is difficult. A very early medieval fabric from the site, possibly of 11th or even 10th century date (Young, forthcoming) consisted of large unabraded sooted sherds in the main, some associated with structure C (97), some in the base of the topsoil overlying the RB buildings. It is noticeable that all the later medieval pottery is far more abraded, and more likely to be from manuring episodes.

FINDS

As explained above, no large scale pottery study of the usual type was carried out during the post-excavation phase of this project. Dating was carried out by the detailed study of pottery and other artefacts from specific contexts crucial for dating and other evidence.

Other small finds were sparse, especially coins and other metalwork, so date ranges for phases and structures in the Romano-British period on the site are less precise than might be hoped.

OBJECTS OF COPPER ALLOY

1 From the surface of context 284. A spirally twisted copper alloy wire ring or bracelet fragment, of typical RB type, wound around an iron core, which protrudes at both ends, and almost or meets, only a gap of 2.5mm existing. The whole is c 30 x 38mm, and the twist 4.5mm across. These rings are not closely datable, but were a common type of ornament from the late 3rd to the early 5th centuries. SF 1, U/S.

2 Curved fragment of copper alloy rod, with traces of faceting in several areas. This is clearly square in section in two areas, but hexagonal at the position of one end. The object is 6-7.5mm thick, and appears to be one quarter of a circular object, probably a bracelet or arm ring. Items of broadly similar type have been found locally, for example at Marshfield (Barford 1985) and Nettleton (Wedlake 1982). It is likely to be of Romano-British date, but it is not more accurately datable. SF 16. Context 140.

3 A tiny square section copper alloy strip, with tapering tip, and an expanded flat section at the other end. The strip is 1.5mm x 2mm, and has a total length 30mm. There is shallow indent all down one side of the strip. This is probably a buckle or brooch tongue, with the hinge end broken off. Undated, but from the infill of the large RB ditch. SF 52. Context 293.

4 Small section of copper alloy strip, thin at the ends and thicker in the centre, with a total length of 33mm. The strip is 6mm wide at each end, and c 2mm thick in the centre. This is probably a fragment of a longer object such as a spatula or tweezers. SF 82. Context 139.

5 A copper alloy brooch. A T-shaped bow, with short arms, flat, undecorated and tapering. On the shoulder of the bow there is a narrow upright flange. Above the T is a rectangular flange with central groove, and a looped terminal, now broken. A short rectangular section of the catchplate survives. The hinge, although complete, is badly corroded, but appears to have an iron pin core. This brooch type is a speciality of the lower Severn, similar to Hulls type 138 or 140, and Hattat type 406 (Hattat 1985), although the casting on the upper surface of the Stonehill brooch is slightly different. The pin attachment is identical. These brooches are dated by Hattat to late 1st and early 2nd century. SF 101. Context 285.

OBJECTS OF LEAD

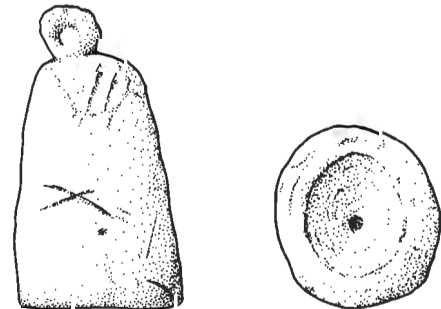


Fig. 8 Lead weight, SF 25

1 Lead weight, with an iron suspension loop c 8mm across in the centre of its domed top. The weight is cylindrical, slightly tapering upwards, 23mm across at the base and 17mm at top. Its total height (including loop) is 41mm. The base of the weight is slightly hollow with a central piercing c 1mm deep. Its total weight is exactly 100gm. This is almost exactly 4 Roman *unciae* of 25-25.5gm (Barford 1985). This weight is of an unusual shape, RB weights usually being of a biconical shape. SF 25. Context 113.

2 A cylindrical lead object, with a heavily oxidised surface. The object is 27mm long and 10-11mm in diameter, with a central round hole, and made by rolling a square section of thick sheet. The seam remaining from this construction is still visible down one side. One end of the central hole is splayed more than the other, probably as a result of wear. A fishing weight, similar to those known from Iron Age contexts at Meare, Somerset (Coles 1988) or from medieval London (Steane 1991). SF 131. Context 221.

3 Small sub-square flat sheet of lead, slightly curved, with a bulbous projection from one corner of the sheet. All thickly oxidised. The sheet is 24 x 26 x 2mm, with a projection 5 x 8 x 10mm on underside. An unusual object, perhaps a cloth seal or similar, or possibly a splash of lead used to plug a hole in a pottery object. No decoration or pattern on surfaces. SF 157. 96.

OBJECTS OF IRON

1 Section of regularly twisted iron wire, 5-5.5mm thick. The object has one slightly tapered flat-tipped end, lacking the twist for the last 25mm, and a recent fracture at the other. Total length is 85mm. This object is not from a sealed Roman context, and may be of later date. It appears to be a portion of a small decorative iron handle. SF 135. Context 138.

IRON NAILS

In total, 126 structural iron nails were recovered during the excavation almost entirely from the rubble layers above the floor of the main building. A small number of these were still in the nail holes of the stone tiles (discussed above).

One large iron flat-headed stud was also found, sealed within the floor layers of the building, with its point downwards into the natural clay: A small horseshoe-type nail was found in an unstratified position, also over the main building.

None of the iron nails was x-rayed or drawn, but a database of sizes and types is contained in the archive.

OBJECTS OF JET

1 Fragment of a small disc of jet, probably *c* 18mm across originally, although the fragment surviving is *c* 14.5mm long, and has an original thickness of 4.5mm. Probably a button or similar fastener. SF 49. Context 152.

2 Two joining fragments of a jet finger ring, lacking the setting section. The ring is exactly 30mm across, with a thickness of 4mm opposite the setting, and expanded to 7.5mm close to it. The intaglios from rings are fairly commonly found on RB sites, but it seems less common to find a jet ring of this type with the intaglio missing. The ring may have been broken to extract the intaglio. SF 64. Context 210.

OBJECTS OF BONE

The objects of bone found were largely limited to worked bone needles or pins. These had invariably lost their heads, the most valuable dating aspect (Crummy 1978). None of the pins are from securely stratified RB contexts, and some may be of medieval origin. The larger examples may be hair-pins (Greep 1985).

1 Long faceted section of a bone pin, irregularly worked. The head is missing, but the original point seems to survive. Total length 66mm, with a maximum thickness of 4.5mm. SF 30. Context 113.

2 A short section of faceted bone object, with a faceted point at one end. The stem of the object tapers away from the broadest point behind the tip. Probably a stylus point or similar. SF 124. Context 277.

3 Thin pointed sliver of bone, possibly the worn tip of a pin or needle. The fragment is only 21mm long, and a maximum of 2.7mm wide. SF 150. Context 175.

4 The long, finely faceted point of a bone pin, with a worn tip. Total length 44mm. SF 159. Context 291.

5 Tapered faceted bone object, probably the central section of a bone pin or stylus. SF 164. Context 113.

OBJECTS OF STONE

1 Hone, in a grey micaceous fine-grained sandstone. It is a bar-shaped object with a rectangular section, 110mm long. The section is up to 12 x 23mm. At one end, a deep and wide groove has been formed, while virtually all faces of the stone have been worn smooth by use. SF 56. Context 205.

2 A rectangular plinth-like object, made from a very dark grey schist/phyllite. All faces are slightly convex bevels, with a base rectangle 61 x 87mm, upper face 36 x 58mm, and a total height of 13mm. All faces show some working marks, and the base rectangle originally had worked, rounded edges. Perhaps a small statue base or similar. SF 63. Context 205.

3 A small, coarse-grained block of Pennant Sandstone. The block is an extended cubic shape, *c* 42 x 95 x 65mm, with extensive evidence of use for sharpening on five faces. Large and heavy hone, originally broken from the corner of a larger object with a dished centre, perhaps a saddle quern. SF 94. Context 160.

4 Hone, in a grey medium grained sandstone, only very slightly micaceous. The stone is square in section, with all four faces heavily worn by use to an almost triangular section at the lower end. Both ends are still rough. One face has four parallel deep cuts, and a long scratch or gouge down the centre of the face. 83mm long, and up to 30 x 40mm in section. SF 125. Context 277.

5 Flat slab of Pennant Sandstone, roughly rectangular and 150 x 237mm and *c* 30mm thick. Only one edge is worn, all others being rough as quarried. The edge in question is dished by up to 9mm in the centre, and worn very smooth. There is a degree of iron staining. This is clearly a whetstone. SF 147. Context 190.

6 Slightly elongated cubic fragment of Pennant Sandstone. Five edges are normal and rough, but one has three narrow diverging grooves, apparently deliberately made. Perhaps a fragment of a larger carved Pennant Sandstone slab? SF 154. Context 382.

7 Triangular Pennant Sandstone fragment 220mm long, with one straight edge and two others roughly straight and meeting at right angles. One face of the object has two deep gouge marks, broken by the straight edge, and a series of seven shallow round small depressions arranged in an arc inside the other two edges, and a possible trace of an eighth which has been broken away. This object has clearly been part of a larger, but what is not clear. DSF 155. Context 224.

8 Large flat fragment of Pennant Sandstone, truncated triangular in shape. The base is 260mm across, maximum length 230mm, and maximum thickness 47mm. One face has been extensively worn to a smooth slightly dished finish, while the opposing face has also been extensively smoothed. One edge has been worn smooth, and a second has been lightly worn, with deeper areas of rough stone remaining. Extensive iron staining over the smoothed edge, and small amounts on both faces. Large whetstone. SF 160. Context 222.

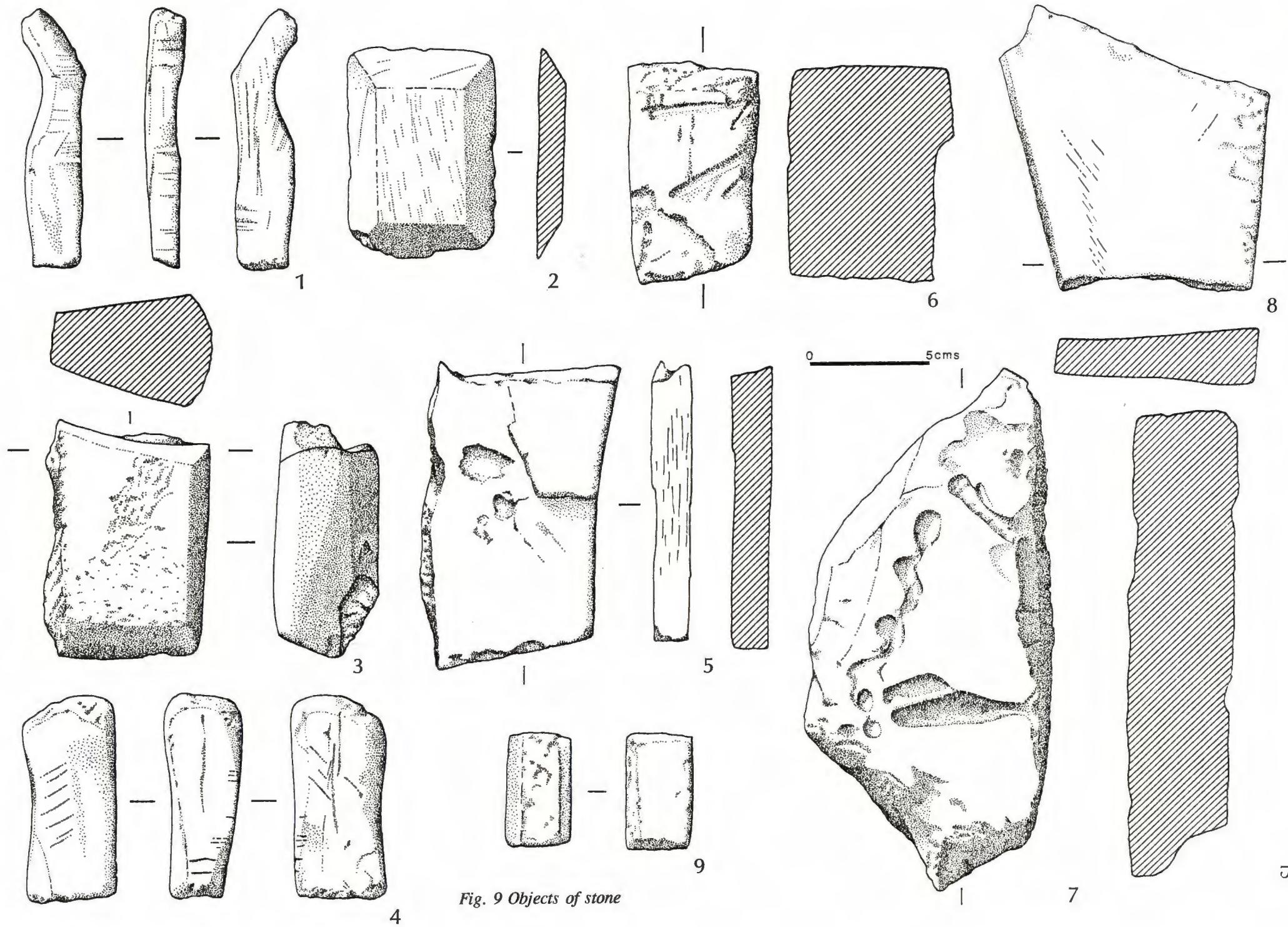


Fig. 9 Objects of stone

9 Small square section fragment of Pennant Sandstone, 26mm square, and broken at both ends, 48mm long. All four faces bear wear from honing, although one only has a very regular strip 5mm wide along both edges, with the centre much raised and with deep irregularities surviving between the polished areas. Portable hone, possibly recent. SF 163. U/S.

STONE TILES

The stone tiles excavated at Stonehill were all of Pennant Sandstone, from several different beds, distinguished by both colour and grain. They had hammer-dressed edges, and the nail holes (where recovered) were pecked from one side, and finished with a sharp blow from a pointed implement, detaching a large flat flake from the underside. Most of the holes were pecked from the upper side of the stone, although there were a few exceptions. The hammer-dressing was all (by definition) from the lower side of the tile. No flakes from dressing were recognised on the site, although this may have been due to disintegration of the stone, which is prone to weathering.

Two basic types of tiles were recognised:

- i) A hexagonal tile, hammer-dressed all round, with a nail hole usually on the central long axis of the tile at the level of the shoulders, although sometimes it was to the left of this.
- ii) A spade shaped tile, with a flat lower edge, resembling half a hexagonal tile. All sides were hammer-dressed and the nail hole central.

This group represented a minimum of 28 stone tiles, recovered during excavation by the recognition of nail holes or hammer-dressed edges.

Seventeen of the tiles were of the well-known hexagonal pattern, type 1. Only one, an atypically large tile from the RB ditch survived complete, while of the other 16, none presented a full surviving length, while seven whose width could be measured were 254-264mm across, arguing for a strong degree of standardisation in tile size. In 12 cases where nail holes survived intact (including two with the nails still in place), nine holes were pecked initially from the same side as the hammer-dressing ('below'), presumably to avoid the unsightly and water-collecting detached flake scar from the final blow appearing on the upper surface of the tile.

A second category of tile, a spade-shaped tile like a hexagonal tile broken in half across the centre, with the lower edge also hammer-dressed, was represented by a single example, and from the few reports on RB stone tiles from the area that have been published (Blockley and Day 1985, Russett 1988 for example), the presence of this type of tile in small quantities is well-established. As opposed to the hexagonal tiles, which are standard roofing material, these were presumably used as eaves-tiles to present an even drip-line, and similar examples are still used on stone-tiled buildings in the Cotswolds today. This tile was 258mm in width, falling within the standard for the hexagonal tiles.

DISCUSSION

The Romano-British site excavated was almost certainly part of a farmhouse, with the strong probability that the main room of the building uncovered was for animal housing.

The sloping nature of the floor, laid carefully on a bed of stoney mortar, and the drain between it and the exterior wall argue this, and it is very unfortunate that the higher parts of the floor have been robbed, as the existence of any tethering arrangements would have been a useful confirmation of the rooms purpose.

Further indication that the room is of a non-domestic nature is the almost complete lack of finds, with very little pottery and almost no metal finds at all.

The building is of a size that could have held sheep, cattle or horses, and in the absence of sufficient bone from the site to provide statistically, the proportion of these species consumed and discarded on the site is unknown. By comparison with known modern and medieval structures, however, the likelihood seems to be that the building was a cattle byre.

Room 2 was very badly robbed, but the existence under the contemporary RB floor of the lower stone of a rotary quern gives clear indication that processing of a grain also took place on a domestic scale.

Materials used in the construction, and during the lifetime of the building, were mostly obtained locally.

The building was mainly constructed with Pennant Sandstone (used for flagstones and tiles), and with Liassic Limestone (used for constructing walls and as rubble). Both are obtainable within 300m of the site. Ceramic tile, very common on the site, may have been produced locally. There are known finds of tile wasters from Tracey Park, Wick and Abson (ASMR 1988). River gravel, used for the floor of Room 3, was obtainable from the river Avon at Hanham, 1.5km from the site.

The great majority of the pottery found on the site was of either Black Burnished Ware (BB1), local copies of BB1, or of Congresbury Ware, with very little imported material. Only tiny amounts of Samian (all abraded and almost certainly not in use at the time the buildings were occupied) occurred, while few examples of Oxford, New Forest, or other finer wares were seen.

The siting of the building, on a gentle north-west facing slope, was almost certainly influenced by the presence of the Roman road from Bitton to Sea Mills, the so called Via Julia. This has been thought to lie on the course of the modern A431, but no Roman metalling was found in the trial excavations at Stonehill.

Assuming that the A431 has been correctly identified as a Roman road, the function of the cobbled area 111 to the south of the main RB building may have been a link lane or track connecting the site to the road.

The road would clearly have been the main avenue for movement of goods to and from the site, with access to the sea routes at Sea Mills, and possibly to transport on the river Avon at Bitton or Hanham.

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ARCHITECTURAL RECORDING AT ST. JAMES' PRIORY, BRISTOL

by John Bryant

INTRODUCTION

During repair and conversion work inside St. James' Church opportunity was taken to record various areas of the fabric which were temporarily stripped of their render (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken for Richard Winsor, consultant architect, on behalf of the Little Brothers of Nazareth. Recording was carried out during April 1993 by John Bryant and Les Good of Bristol Archaeology (now Bristol and Region Archaeological Services).

Renovation work on Church House (a Grade II listed building) later in 1993 provided an opportunity to record the entire rear elevation externally, and a limited amount internally. Previously, in 1988, the wall had been recognised as incorporating remains of the cloister from the former Priory of St. James. The work was undertaken for Stone Ecclesiastical on behalf of the Little Brothers of Nazareth.

SITE LOCATION

St. James' Church (NGR ST 5888 7346) and Church House (ST 5888 7348) are located on a raised site above the flood plain of the River Frome, 200 metres north of the central crossroads of the medieval town of Bristol (Fig. 2). They lie on the 50-foot (15-metre) contour, at the base of the hill called Kingsdown, and are founded on the red Mercian Mudstone. The city's omnibus and coach station adjoins to the north, the remaining sides being defined by the thoroughfares of Cannon Street, St. James' Parade and Whitson Street. South of the Parade lie the remnants of St. James' once-extensive churchyard.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH HOUSE

The Priory of St. James was founded by Robert, Earl of Gloucester as a cell to the larger Benedictine house of Tewkesbury Abbey. Traditionally the date of foundation has been put at 1129. It is possible that the monastic buildings were started before the church, as a document witnessed by Robert, Abbot of Winchcombe (1138-1150) refers of the Church of St. James as being about to be built (Jones, n.d., 1). The church was dedicated to "honour of God, the blessed Mary, and St. James the Apostle" (Evans 1816, 11, 178). The monastic house was certainly in

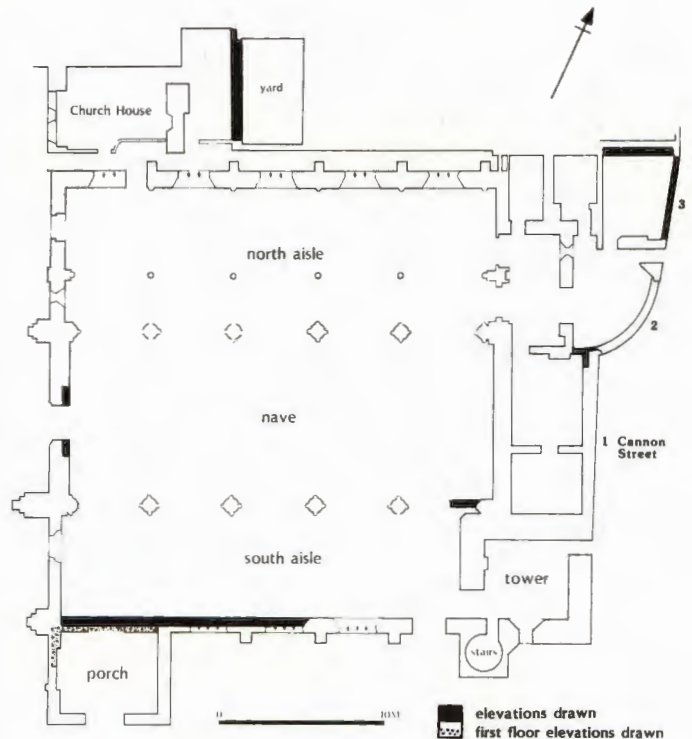


Fig. 1 Plan of St. James

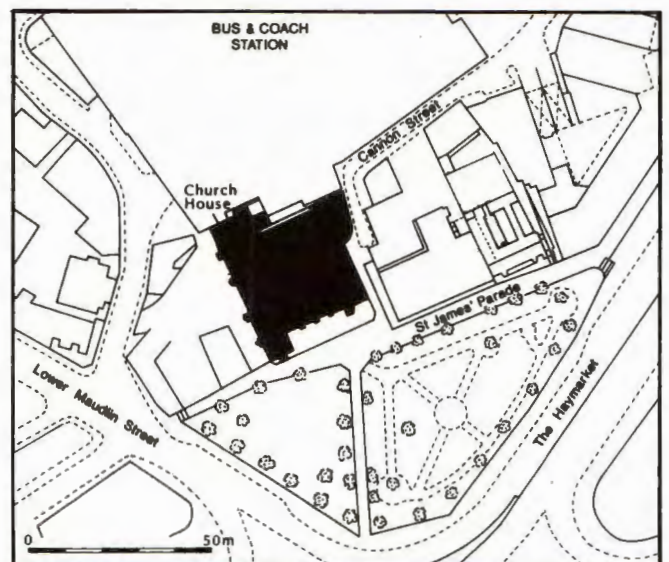


Fig. 2 Location of St. James

existence by 1143 (Dawson, 1981, 19). Robert of Gloucester (fl. 1260-1300) wrote "He [Earl Robert] reared also St. James' Priory of black monks, a little on the northern side of the town, where his body yet lyeth; for he was buried before the high altar there; that Convent belongs to the House of Tewkesbury" (translation in Seyer, 1821, I, 353-4). Leland, writing in his *Itinerary* (Hearne, 1769, 6, 79) records "Hic Robertus nothus aedificavit Prioratum S. Jacobi Bristolliae, & membrum fecit Monasterio de Theokesbyri."

Robert, variously referred to as Fitzroy, Rufus or de Caen, was the illegitimate son of King Henry I by Nesta, daughter of Rhees, Prince of South Wales, and was born c1090, at Caen in Normandy. Henry proposed for Robert to marry Mabile, heiress to the earldom of Gloucester, and in 1109 they were married. Robert was an outstanding military man, yet was also religious and a patron of learning, so that William of Malmesbury was able to dedicate his *History* to him. He was the principal supporter of his half-sister, Mathilda, against Stephen during the years of Civil War that followed the death of King Henry. Robert died at Bristol, October 31st. 1147, and was initially buried in a tomb of green marble or jasper in the centre of the choir at St. James, but later his body was removed to Tewkesbury.

Archaeological excavation in 1989 of an area 40 metres east of the present church produced evidence suggesting that religious activity on the site may in fact have commenced earlier than the traditional founding date (Jones, 1989, 3 and 5). There have been suggestions of an earlier foundation by Brictric, son of Algar, a great English thane (Barrett, 1789, 36; Seyer, I, 261). Brictric was a holder of substantial lands in the west, including the manor of Tewkesbury, at the time of the Conquest (Moore, 1982, notes). His lands passed to Queen Matilda, and upon her death in 1083, to William.

The present church was part of a larger structure totalling about 48.50 metres in length and 22 metres in width (Fig. 3). In addition there was a large chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, that stood to the south of the choir, the remains of which above ground were destroyed in 1962. St. James as it stands today represents only the nave of the original priory church. Its survival is due to having been in parochial use at the time of the Dissolution, which enabled it to escape the fate that befell the choir and chapels of SS. Anne and Mary. The nave had been in parish use since at least 1374, and was to continue performing that function until May 1984. Recently, St. James has been brought back into use as a place of worship by the Little Brothers of Nazareth.

Norman work surviving within St. James includes the arcades with their piers and the west front with its unrestored wheel window. The north aisle wall was removed in 1864 for the purposes of extending the church in that direction. The present east wall is largely Victorian, but probably includes remains of the new east wall erected at the time of the Dissolution. It marks the former boundary between the naves of the priory and parish churches (i.e. between choir and nave of the original priory church). St. James' tower was most probably erected in the late 14th

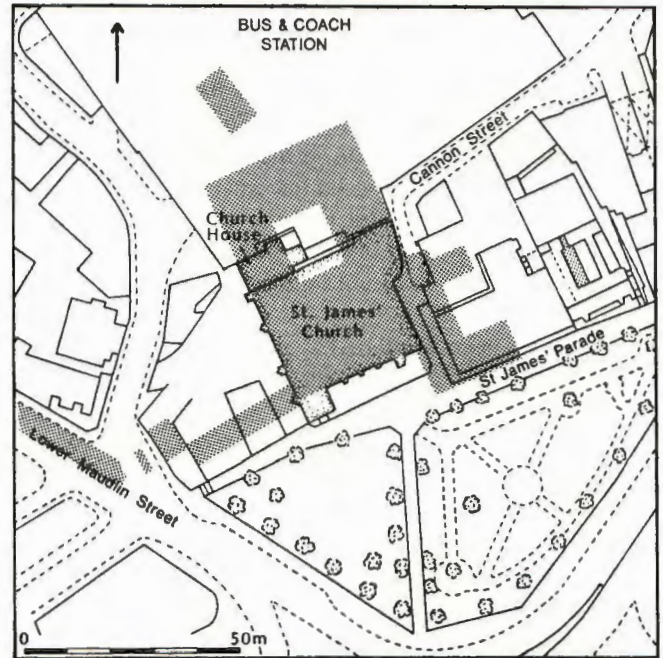


Fig. 3 St. James Priory: Possible arrangement, c 1500

century – an agreement of 1374 between the Abbot of Tewkesbury and the Prior of St. James and the parishioners granted the nave for parochial use and proposed plans for building a tower (document preserved in Bristol Record Office).

William Worcestre records the dimensions of church, chapels and graveyard in 1478-80 but fails to mention the remainder of the site (Harvey, 1969, 131 and 403). However, since the graveyard occupied all the area south of the church, the conventual buildings must have been located on the north. Conventionally, the cloister would be situated beside the nave of the church, surrounded by ranges on the remaining sides. A common arrangement would have seen the chapter house, parlour and dorter dormitory) at the east side of the cloister, with the frater or refectory in the north range. The west range would commonly contain an outer parlour and cellage on the ground floor with the prior's lodging and sometimes guest accommodation on the first floor (Coppack, 1990, 73-76).

A contract dated 1436 for making a reredos for the high altar still survives, as does another for the carving of two parclose screens (1529). Three chantries were founded in the church. John Stone established the first in 1399 or 1400. A second was founded by the provisions of the will of John Spicer, dated 1440. William Ponam was responsible for the third chantry, by his will of 1545.

Following the Dissolution the priory buildings and lands were sold to Henry Brayne, a London tailor, who converted the conventual buildings into a capital mansion. Upon his death they passed to his son Robert, who died without issue, and they therefore passed to Henry's sons-in-law, Sir Charles Somerset and George Winter, married to his daughters Eme and Ann. A deed of partition and division, dated 27th January 1579, formally apportioned the property between the two parties, with the western portion assigned to George Winter (Latimer, 1898, 118-119).

Winter's share of the "Manor place or Mansion house of St. James" is listed in some detail, and includes one or two of the former cloister ranges as well as the area to the west of the church. A "great green court", apparently the place later known as Whitson Court, is mentioned, entered by the great Gatehouse that stood adjacent to the White Hart public house until the 18th century. Comparisons of the various rooms listed in the partition document with the probable priory layout or with the present building are not possible, however.

Somerset's share is referred to as "the backer part or east side" of the "site Manor place or Mansion house of St. James". Here was listed the "little square green court that lieth in the midst of the fore part and backer" of the mansion house, a feature that is interpreted as being the former cloister garth. Both parts of the mansion house plus various lands were in the tenure and occupation of John Seymor (Seymour) Esq., husband of Goodithe, late wife of Robert Brayne.

George Winter was succeeded in turn by his son and grandson, the latter dying in 1639, leaving a son John, who appears to have disposed of the various elements of the former mansion house piecemeal. In 1665/6 Thomas Ellis purchased much of the Whitson Court complex from William Davis and John Teague of Bristol. Ellis and four associates set up a sugar house on the site. After 17 years the Pope family took over the complex, running it with a variety of partners over the years. Later there were other names associated with the sugar-refining business on the site, the last being the Dightons, who closed down in 1824.

Thomas Ellis and his wife Ann are commemorated by the two plaques currently above the front door of Church House, formerly located within the spandrels either side of the entrance doorway, as recorded by the artist T.L.S. Rowbotham in 1826 (Braikenridge Collection, M.2849). The date 1666 may refer to alterations made following their purchase of the property. Internal features possibly associated with this work include the finely decorated plaster ceilings in the present front ground floor room, also the chimney-piece in the room to the rear (later obscured by a more plain example). Ellis, of good merchant stock, was a leading figure in the early days of the Baptist community at Broadmead. He was set apart for the work of a ruling elder in 1662 (Underhill, 1847, 72). The Baptists, who were hounded continually for their beliefs, were able to meet at Whitson Court for three years, on the upper floor of Ellis' warehouse (Hayden, 1974, 34). Edward Terrill, a fellow believer and partner in the sugar house recorded "Through the good hand of the Lord to give us some rest, we again take another public meeting-place, upon the seventh day of the eighth month, 1667 at the Whitson Court, of brother Ellis, whereto he had of late removed his habitation." (Underhill, 95). Subsequently, Ellis' involvement with the sugar house decreased, and eventually he moved to London. His share in the business was sold to Terrill.

Terrill died in 1683, leaving his interest in the sugar house to his widow, Dorothy. From 1682 the concern was run by a new partnership, the last survivor of which was

Michael Pope, who established a dynasty that was to remain involved with the sugar house until 1808. The Dighton family played a part in much of the final history of the concern, before the business ceased.

It is clear that Thomas Ellis resided at Church House, and may be assumed that at least some of his successors did likewise. Certainly there was a requirement for the supervisor to live close by the sugar house, as the work demanded his constant attention. Hall (1944, 54) states that Michael Pope lived on the premises "in the same house which Anthony Wood had occupied". Alderman Pope is listed at Whitson Court in 1690, together with his wife, 6 children, 2 servant maids and apprentice (Hall, 55n). In 1696 his is the first name under Whitson Court in the assessment (Ralph & Williams, 1968, 82). Michael II (d.1739) found room to add a study to his own dwelling house at the Court during reconstruction of the works (Hall, 60). His granddaughter married Joseph Smith, whom Hall notes as being in residence at the Court for ten years. Smith is listed at Whitson Court in the 1792 directory (Reed) and 1795 (Mathews), but not in 1798 (Mathews).

George Weare Braikenridge, in his notes accompanying the 1826 drawing of Church House by T.L.S. Rowbotham, refers to the building as "now the residence of the Sexton, but once of Alderman Pope who worked the Sugar House – & last of Messrs. Dighton Dymock & Co." (Notes, G71). The Bristol street directories commence listing the sexton at Whitson Court in 1815 with William Lodge (Mathews, 1815-19). Elizabeth Davey is recorded as sexton (sic) from 1820 until well into the 1830s, latterly listed at Whitson Court House, and Rowbotham's drawing (M.2849) shows 'Davey Sexton' above the entrance of the present building. Thomas, husband of Elizabeth, was church clerk at the same time. Subsequent editions of the directories show various combinations up until the fairly recent past. In the present century the building has been known by the titles of both Church House and Court House.

The cartographic evidence for Church House is not very helpful. Miller's map shows one building north of the church and another close by to the west. Rocque (1742) and Donne (1773) simply depict a mass of development around three sides of Whitson Court. An undated 18th-century plan (Plan Books, A, 264b) depicts what was later to become the Lower Maudlin Street/Whitson Street junction in detail, with two alleys leading east and marked "To Mr Pope" and "To Mr. Roach". Sketchley's 1775 directory lists "Roach widow, hallier, 11, Whitson-court".

A small plan of c1826 accompanying Braikenridge's notes (G.67) shows Whitson Court as leading to the southern-most of two houses, incorrectly referred to as "Aldm. Whitson's". At one time it was erroneously thought that the Court was named after the famous alderman, whereas in fact the placename derives from the annual Whitson court held by the prior of St. James. Plumley and Ashmead's large-scale plan published in 1828 likewise depicts the two houses, with an alley or court leading to the present building from Lower Maudlin Lane (now Street) adjacent to the White Hart public house. The city's survey

of the 1850's again shows the buildings, as does the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan of the early 1880s. However, by the time of the 1913 revision Church House was the only survivor of the pair.

Two illustrations of Church House in the City Art Gallery's Braikenridge Collection (O'Neill, 1821 and Rowbotham, 1826b) show the building prior to its partial demolition for the northward extension of St. James in the early 1860s. The building was a two gabled structure of two and a half storeys, with an off-centre two-story porch. Most of the windows were of the mullion and transom type, but the southern ground floor room was lit by a 14th or 15th century square-headed window of three trefoiled lights. One or two sash windows lit the northern first floor room. The entrance led into the southern half of the building, immediately south of the surviving wall now marking the boundary with the church's north aisle. A cellar flap was located below the trefoil-headed window. There was a private entrance direct to the north aisle of the church (Chilcott, c1840, 144n), shown on Parlieu's 1846 plan of St. James (B.R.O. P/StJ/P1/5[a]).

SOUTH AISLE OF ST. JAMES (Fig. 4 and Plate 1)

The largest area stripped of plaster was the south wall of the south aisle, particularly the west end. Tradition states that the original south aisle was removed in 1698 (Pryce, 1861, 179; Anon, 1979), although other sources simply refer to repairs (Barrett, 387; Evans, 1824, 249). A figure of £600 for the total works is often quoted, although there are no contemporary entries in the Churchwardens' Accounts for anything approaching this amount. (Barrett does, however, state that the work took place "about the year 1698", during the incumbency of the Rev. Mr. Bayley, who had only taken up the position in 1697). William Worcestre's measurements, taken in 1480, give the width of the parish nave as 22 virgas or 40 gressus (Harvey, 403), which, when checked against similar measurements for other structures still surviving gives a width of about 66 feet (20.1 metres). Barrett (p.387) records this as the width of the church in 1788, and two plans of 1846 confirm this to be the case (B.R.O. P/StJ/P1/5[a] and EP/E/6/2/54). It is evident from these sources that the south wall was not moved outwards in 1698 as has been supposed, as is also shown by the archaeological evidence. The same conclusion was reached independently earlier this century by an unknown but clearly knowledgeable writer, who wrote: "The south aisle though largely rebuilt in the late 17th century retained its medieval but not primitive proportions except that the roof was lowered" (Anon., n.d.). It was also stated that "the reconstruction in the seventeenth century was of the roof and south wall from a height a little below the present window sill".

There is evidence that the original south aisle was narrower than at present. A line of quoin stones survives on the exterior of the west wall of the aisle, a little to the south of the present window, indicating that the aisle was of a similar width to its northern counterpart (i.e. about 8ft 4in or 2.55m wide internally). South of the quoins the wall is

predominantly in Pennant Sandstone, whereas to the north it is wholly in Brandon Hill Grit, the use of which usually indicates an earlier medieval date. The present west window is a reconstruction, dedicated on Easter Sunday, 1964 (Parish Log Book, 12). A number of fragments of the original Medieval tracery were discovered during demolition of the adjacent houses in 1962-63, when the jambs and sill were found still *in situ*. Immediately below the north end of the reconstructed window is the sill of an earlier narrow one, central to the west end of the original aisle.

The roof of the south aisle is 19th century in date and much more shallow than its predecessor, which has left a scar on the west face of the tower. The earlier roof, relating to the present aisle, appears to be no later than the construction of the tower since the ashlar stonework of the latter respects the roof line. An agreement between the Abbot of Tewkesbury and the Prior of St. James and the parishioners, dated 1374, granted the nave for parochial use, and proposed the building of a tower, and the present structure presumably dates from this time. If that is the case, then the aisle must have been extended before or during the late 14th century.

Removal of pews from against the south wall of the south aisle uncovered a metre-high strip clear of the modern rendering (not illustrated). Several small areas of red- and black-painted plaster were visible. Beneath the third window from the east end were several freestone blocks, possibly representing the south jamb of a former doorway. It was not possible to date this feature. Almost immediately above was a small pointed niche, possibly 19th century in date. Below the pier separating the third and fourth windows was a straight joint, possibly associated with another 760mm to the west. A large number of wooden pegs at 700-900mm above the floor may have secured panelling.

West of the fourth window the wall was stripped completely, revealing a rubble wall bonded in red and orangey-pink mortars. Pennant Sandstone was the predominant building material, with freestone (Oolitic Limestone) and some Brandon Hill Grit also in evidence. The wall was clearly of medieval date. At the western end was one jamb of a substantial entrance, the arch of which sprang some 3 metres above floor level. A timber lintel at slightly lower level appeared to be a later addition. Most of this entrance had been destroyed by the insertion of a doorway into the south porch, probably in 1802 (see below). If the original entrance was central to the window above, then it would have been 1.88 metres wide. One of the stones in the relieving arch above was a re-used voussoir from a Norman arch. Several more examples were visible at various places in the wall, each decorated with a roll moulding over which was a pearl within a triangle.

Above the entrance was the inside of a window embrasure, 1.57 metres wide and 1.26 metres high, with both jambs intact, but most of the sill removed. The lintel was formed of a number of mortared but otherwise unsupported stones. Jambs and sill were in freestone. The

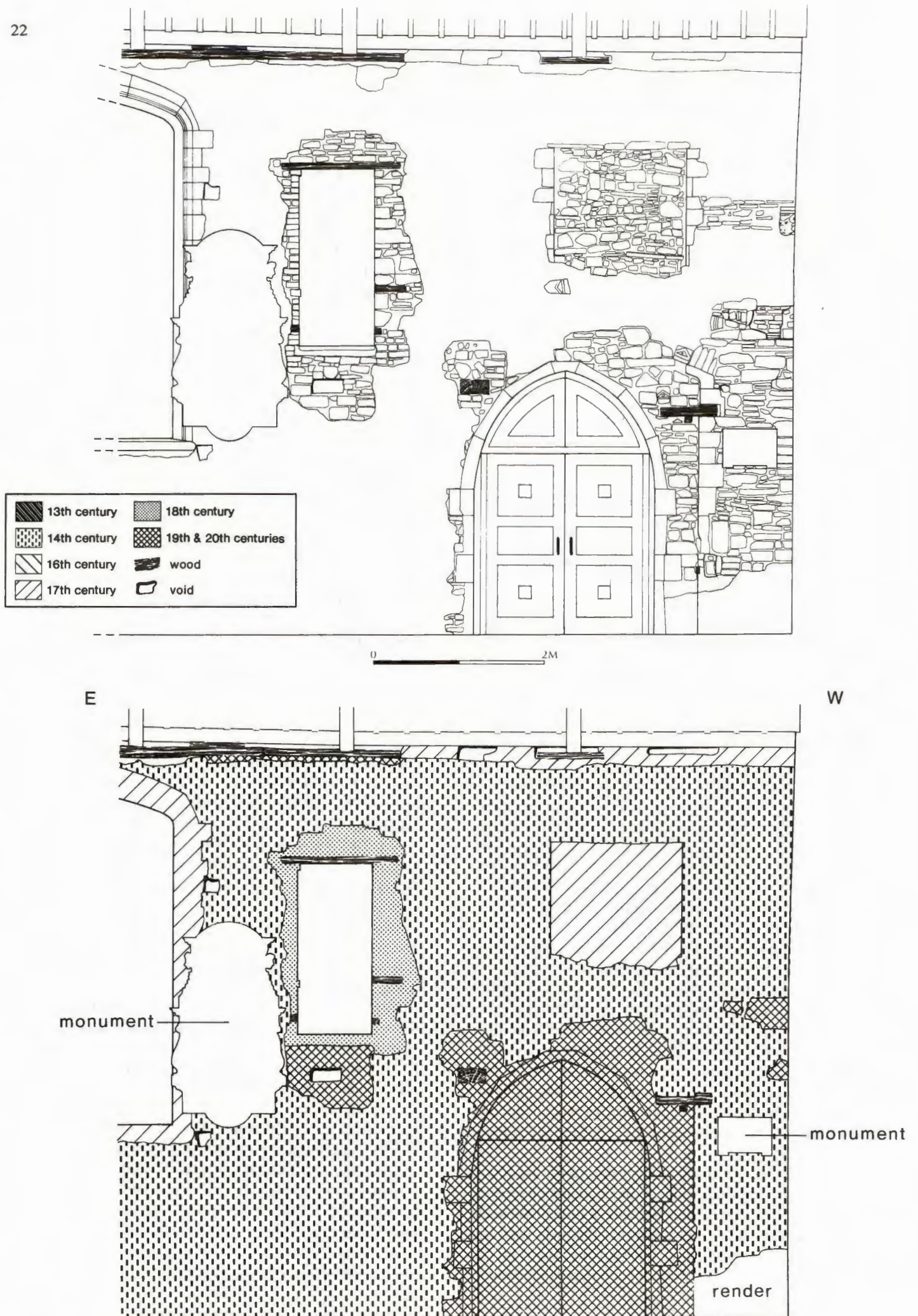


Fig. 4 South Aisle: South wall

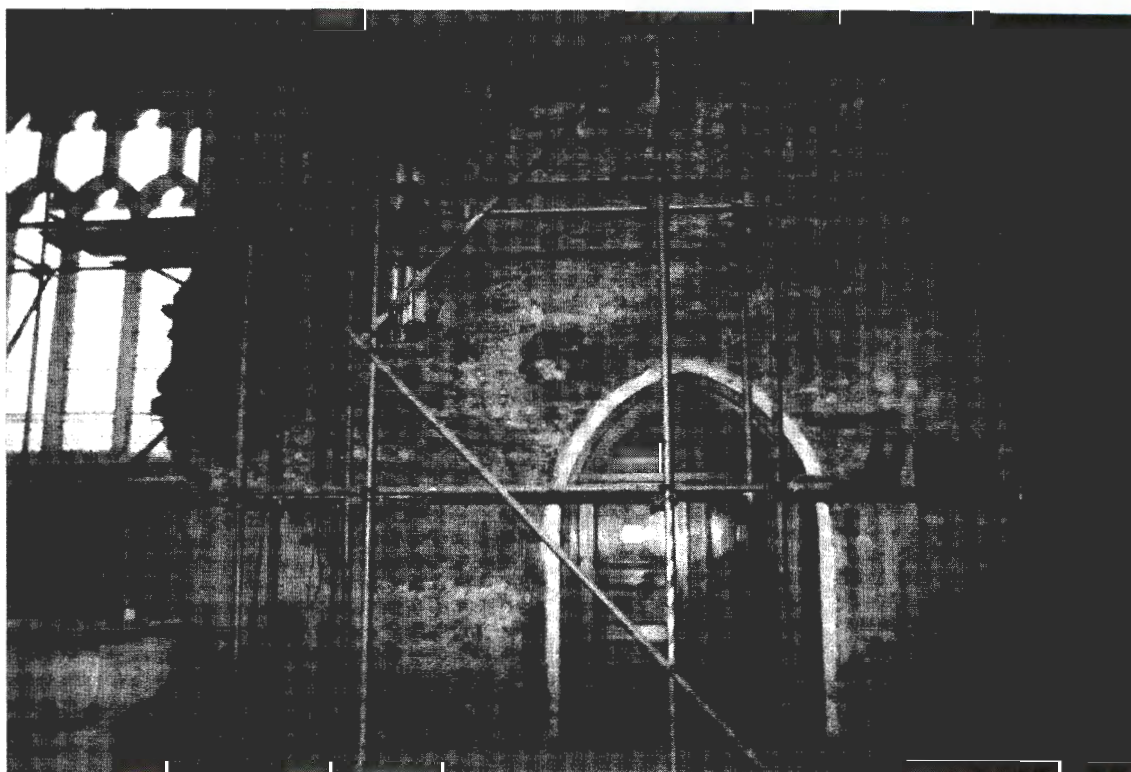


Plate 1 South Aisle: South wall

window had been blocked, presumably when the first south porch was constructed, the blocking comprising rubble bonded in a pinkish, slightly orange mortar.

Slightly over 2 metres east of the blocked window was a doorway at upper level, once giving access to the south and west galleries of the south aisle from the porch upper room (See below). It had clearly been cut through the wall, with the opening made good in a variety of materials, including brick, bonded in a pinky-orange mortar. The east jamb was composed of 60mm thick bricks while the opposite side was largely built up with freestone blocks together with the occasional timber. Since the removal of the galleries the doorway had been railed across, but otherwise remained open. A short distance below the opening was a rectangular void, 370mm wide and 180mm high, running 330mm into the wall. This had been the position of a supporting timber for the west gallery. A second timber of similar size, some 1.40 metres to the west, had been cut back flush with the wall.

St. James' Parish was a particularly populous one, and a number of measures were taken over the years in an attempt to solve the problem of overcrowding within the church. These included the partition of the parish to create that of St. Paul in 1794, and culminated in the construction of an extended north aisle in 1864. Prior to these measures being implemented, accommodation had been increased by the addition of galleries inside St. James, as the watercolour by Johnson (1828) shows. Barrett (p.387) states that Edward Colston (d.1721) gave £100 towards the creation of an organ and gallery "At the West end" – i.e. probably the west end of the nave. A faculty was obtained in 1753 for

the purposes of creating more room, including erecting a north aisle gallery, also "to continue the Organ Gallery home to the front wall of the said Church with like convenient and commodious seats and also to take down the four arches and in their stead to build new ones of convenient height and proportion and to raise the Roof contiguous to the said Arches" (B.R.O. P/StJ/ChW/6). This therefore dates the original southern end of the west gallery to 1753 or later. A church guide of 1839 states that the west gallery was rebuilt in 1824. The mortar associated with the insertion of the two large timbers in the south wall (grey in the eastern example, black in the other) suggests later work, possibly this rebuilding.

Barrett (*ibid.*) says that in about 1768 new pews and spacious galleries were erected, although he could be referring to the south gallery that is shown in Johnson's painting. The 1846 faculty (B.R.O. EP/E6/2/54) aiming to revise the seating arrangements throughout the church was accompanied by plans showing the contemporary layout, but unfortunately the appropriate plan for the west half of the building is now unfit for production and so cannot be consulted. Plans produced for the 1862 application to extend the building northwards show a west gallery only, extending slightly beyond the access doorway from the porch upper room, agreeing with the evidence found in the south wall (B.R.O. EP/E/6/2/54) There is a possibility that the westernmost large timber was inserted at that time. It is not known when the gallery was removed, but that portion against the west nave wall, described as heavy and of no interest (Anon., n.d.), was still in position in 1930 when a faculty was obtained for its removal (B.R.O.

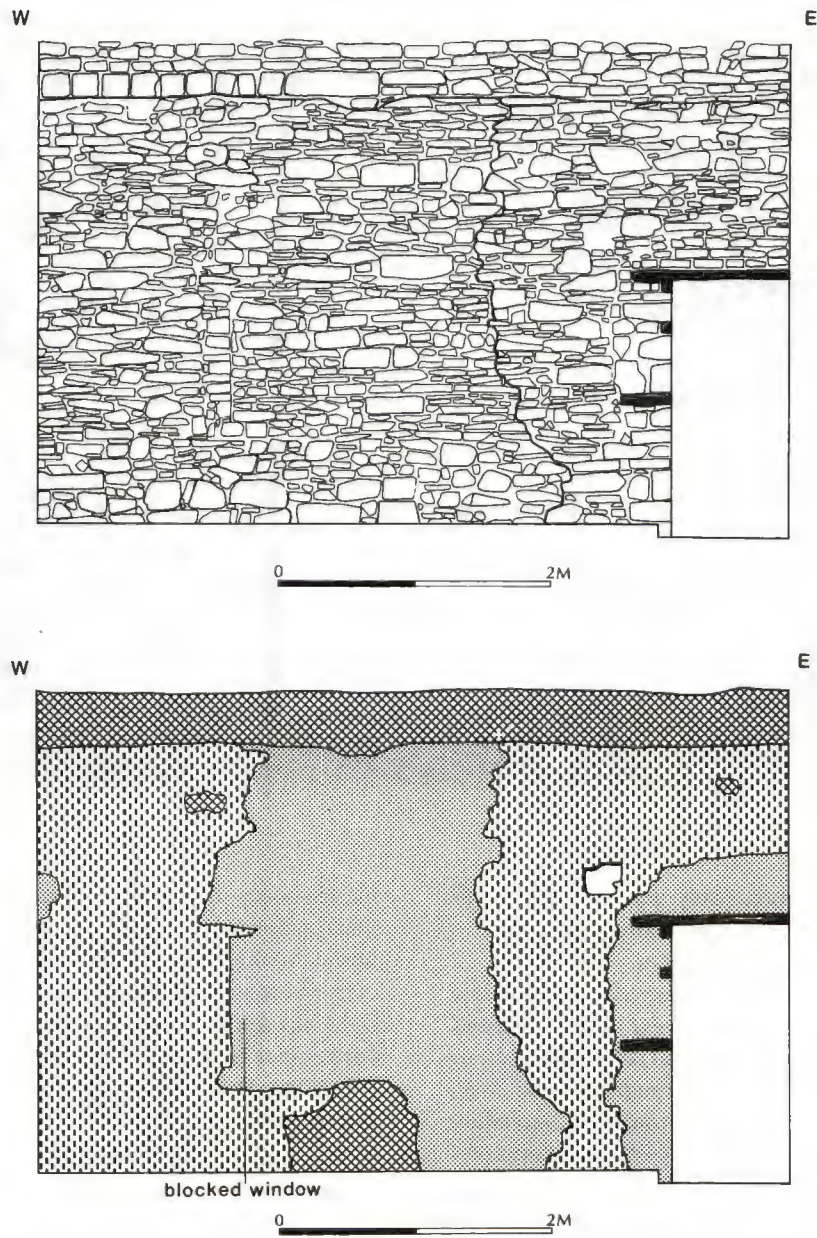


Fig. 5 South Porch: North wall of upper room



Plate 2 South Porch: North wall of upper room

P/StJ/ChW/24). The faculty is not clear about how far the gallery extended at that time.

The reference to four arches in the 1753 faculty presumably relates to the rear arches of the south aisle windows, since the nave arcades are each of five arches. Unfortunately, it was not possible to check this assumption during the survey of the wall, as the removal of plaster at upper level was limited to the area west of the windows. The presumption would mean that the south aisle roof was the one to be raised. The present set of roof corbels are well below the wall tops, with those in the corners of the aisle no longer in use. The remaining corbels support the trusses of the Victorian roof by means of wall posts.

THE SOUTH PORCH (Figs. 5 and 6; Plates 2 and 3)

Survey work was also carried out on the first floor of the two-storey south porch, located at the west end of the south wall of the church. Plaster had been removed over the whole of the north wall of this room, as well as from the north end of the west wall and associated closet or cupboard.

The present south porch was constructed in 1802-03, as testified by an agreement between the Churchwardens, and Joseph Panting, house carpenter and joiner and Richard Spencer, mason, dated 16th December 1802 (B.R.O. P/StJ/ChW/36). Plans had been drawn up by James Foster, architect, father or son (it is unclear which). Their known work of the period – mostly ecclesiastical – is in “a routine and threadbare Tudor” (Gomme, Jenner & Little, 1979, 433). The work for the new vestry room and porch, to include repairs to the middle aisle roof also, was costed at £476, after making allowance for materials salvaged from the old vestry.

Foster’s two-storey building replaced a structure of similar size, shape and function. The illustration of St. James in Barrett (opp. p.383) shows a two storey porch with a gabled, jettied upper floor supported by brackets on the south elevation. Three south-facing windows lit the the upper room, referred to elsewhere (Barrett, 387) as the vestry-room. Access to the porch was via a pair of doors in an arched entrance off-centre to the south elevation. Millerd’s map of 1673 shows a similar porch in the same position.

The north wall of the upper room was principally of Pennant Sandstone rubble laid in a pinkish-orange mortar (Fig. 5 and Plate 2). There was the outside of the window embrasure seen on the north side of the wall. On this face, however, the window opening was smaller, about 1 metre high and 1 metre wide. The latter dimension is only very approximate due to the eastern jamb having been totally removed. All the central section of the wall, including the window blocking, had been rebuilt in rubble bonded in a pale grey-buff mortar, of probable 18th-century date. Where the doorway had been cut through to the south aisle gallery the wall had been made good mainly with freestone laid in a pinkish-orange mortar, but also using some brick and likely to again be 18th-century in date. Above the doorway the wall had later been repaired with a light grey mortar, as had the bottom of the central section of wall. The top 400-450mm of the wall comprised coursed rubble laid in a dark grey mortar.

Recording of the west wall was limited to the north end only, i.e. beyond the chimney breast (Fig. 6). Here the wall was composed largely of 60mm-thick bricks and lumps of freestone in a pinkish-orange mortar similar to that used around the gallery entrance. The coursed rubble laid in dark

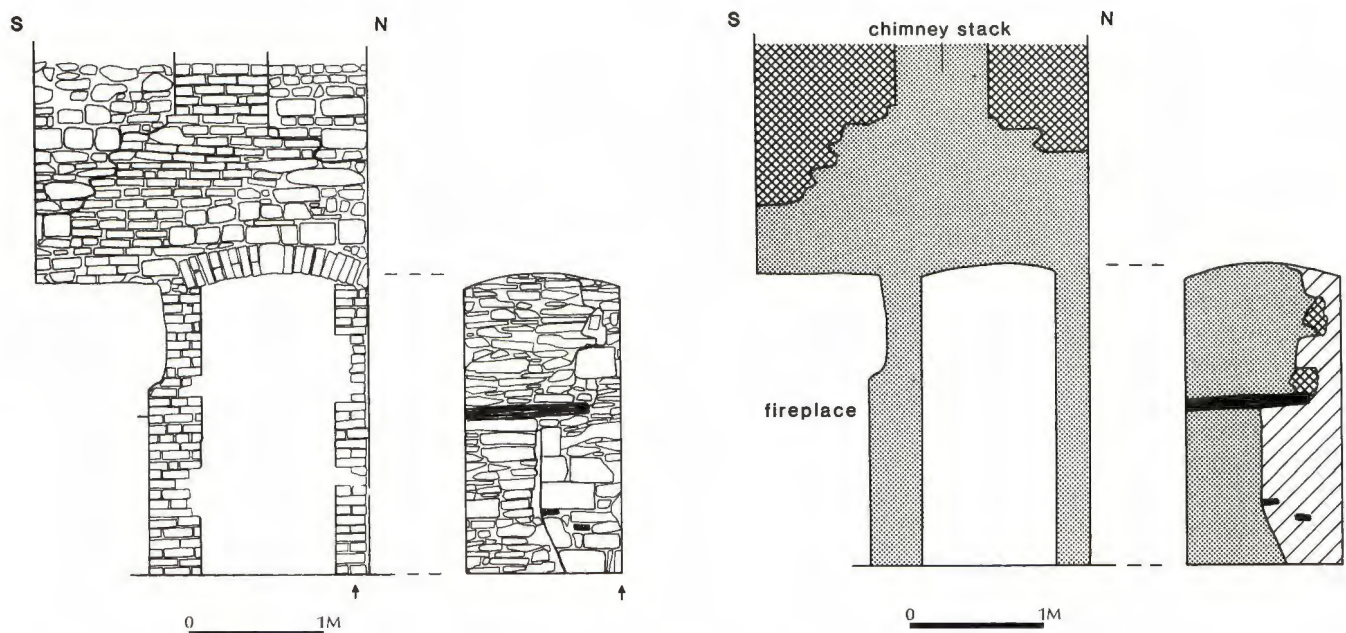


Fig. 6 South Porch: West wall of upper room



Plate 3 South Porch: West wall of upper room – Cupboard

grey mortar carried around from the top of the north wall, where the brickwork continued up from the chimney flue to form the bottom of a stack. A cupboard or closet occupied the whole area north of the chimney breast (Plate 3). At the rear of this feature was a variety of stonework in three different mortars. These included a corbelled feature of unknown function projecting from the south wall of the church. It was constructed of a combination of freestone blocks and Pennant Sandstone bonded in a lighter pink mortar.

The 1802 agreement for construction of the new porch specified that there should be two entrance doors (i.e. two pairs), each door of six panels and to be 6ft 9in high x 3ft 0in wide. It is assumed that the current arched entrance from the porch into the church, cutting the old doorway, was added at that time. The present inner doors conform to the dimensions laid down then, although they are not the dark pine originals, those having been replaced by more lightly coloured versions of a new design, c 1958 (Parish Log Book, 4).

WEST END OF NAVE

Small areas of plaster were removed from either side of the main west entrance. No features of interest were uncovered on the south side, but the opposite reveal showed signs of having been rebuilt, with grey mortar and a narrow vertical gap in evidence, the latter reaching at least 900mm from the floor.

The present outside face is clearly not of any great antiquity and may date from the extensions and alterations of 1864, or even from 1851, when various obstructions were cleared away from the west front (Latimer, 1887, 327). It is shown in a photograph of c 1870 (Winstone, 1966, Pl.71). However, there was an earlier entrance here, as recorded in the *Mirror* newspaper for 25th March 1826, which states that there had been an old entrance and that some of the old inhabitants could probably recall it. It is likely that the present southern reveal was part of this earlier doorway.

SOUTH CLERESTORY WALL

High on the south clerestory wall, immediately east of the easternmost window splay, a blocked opening was revealed. Unfortunately it was plastered over before detailed recording could take place, but the consultant architect did have it photographed and a rough drawing made. The opening, possibly the access to a roof loft, was topped with a triangular arch. No firm dating evidence was available for this feature, although its position against the tower corner suggests a date prior to construction of the latter in the late 14th century.

FORMER CANNON STREET HOUSES

Several areas of walling were recorded in the vestry rooms, formerly numbers 1, 2 and 3, Cannon Street. Number 1 lay between the east end of the church and Cannon Street, immediately north of the tower, with numbers 2 and 3 north of it again. Number 2 lay against the east wall of the old north aisle, with the third house adjacent and originally extending backward as far as Church House. Photographs (e.g. Winstone, 1981, Pl.30) show all three to have been of a probable early 19th century build. Winstone's photograph, taken on 8th April 1960, also shows that the north wall of number 3 had really belonged to the adjacent building to the north, which therefore must have been earlier. All three houses were reduced to ground floors only in July 1961 (Church Log Book, 10).

Number 1 consisted of three storeys of two principal rooms each, with a small cellar below the central staircase. Each of the other houses possessed one main room on each of three floors, but both dwellings originally extended further west, being truncated when the church was enlarged in the 1860s. Census returns and street directory entries show number 1 to have been consistently in use as a dwelling, usually occupied by two households at a time. Number 3 was in use similarly, although vacant on occasion. From 1896 the directories list the intermediate property as "Church Vestry Room", prior to which there is no entry for more than two decades. John Gordon, Greengrocer, is listed at 2 for the years 1870-74, with the 1871 Census referring to the property as "Grocers Shop". Directory entries for 1841-69 show that the Crown (later Crown and Thistle) beer house was at number 2, a fact confirmed by the contemporary Census returns.

A plan of 1744 surveyed by William Halfpenny as the result of a dispute between the Church and Job Gardner (or Gardener) labels the sites of numbers 2 and 3 as "Mr. Garners Houses" (B.R.O. P/StJ/V/38/9). The site of 1 is simply referred to as "Mr. Garners" with no indication as to its function. Cannon Street was then a cul-de-sac running



Plate 4 Cannon Street: East wall of number 1

north from the south-east corner of the tower as far as what is now the south wall of the 'bus station. Later in the 18th century the eastern leg of the street was opened up, to give the present L-shaped (Donne, 1773). The houses noted by Halfpenny must have been the predecessors of those partly demolished in 1961.

At the north end of the east wall of number 1 a strip 800-900mm wide included an angled feature, plastered and sooted, probably part of the back and north edge of a chimney flue (Plate 4). The construction was of rubble in maroon and pinkish mortars, and was later cut by the northern ground-floor window. The feature must have been post-Dissolution, since it runs over the site of the monks' choir. The most likely date is 16th or 17th century. A straight joint recorded near the west end of the south wall of number 2 is roughly in line with the inner face of the wall at number 1.

The eastern-most five metres of the north wall of number 3 were recorded in detail (Fig. 7 and Plate 5). This had at one time been the north side of the hallway, before that and the front room of the house were knocked together. Here was a wall of substantial thickness (about 900mm), consisting of a mixture of stone laid in a reddish-orange mortar, medieval in date, although not as early as the Norman period. In that location it could have formed part of the priory chapter house. Architects' drawings of the building before the reduction in

height show that, whereas the lower wall was 3 feet (900mm) in thickness, for the upper storeys it was only some 2¼ feet (685mm) across, stepped back on the northside (P/StJP1/6[f]). At the east end was an irregular opening later blocked with rubble bonded in a buff to light buff mortar. One small patch of plaster to the western reveal was visible. The opening had been at least 1.70 metres high by 1.50 metres wide. In the centre of the wall was a vertical brick blocking in a light buff mortar, varied in width but with a reasonably consistent eastern edge, possibly representing the removed northern jamb of a doorway. The opening was at least 1.80 metres in height, but may have continued below the present floor. A further, irregular, blocking to the west measured roughly 800mm in each direction. A door jamb had been inserted at the west end of the wall. The north wall remained unrecorded in the next room to the west.

Forming the east side of the property was a narrower wall, about 350mm thick, and running at an angle to the north wall and most others on the site. It consisted of rubble bonded in a pinkish buff mortar. There were two jambs or straight joints, one a metre north of the south-east corner, the second some 2.40 metres north of that again. Both areas of walling reached the full height of the room but with timber rails or lintels at about 1.30 metres above modern floor level. Insertion of the

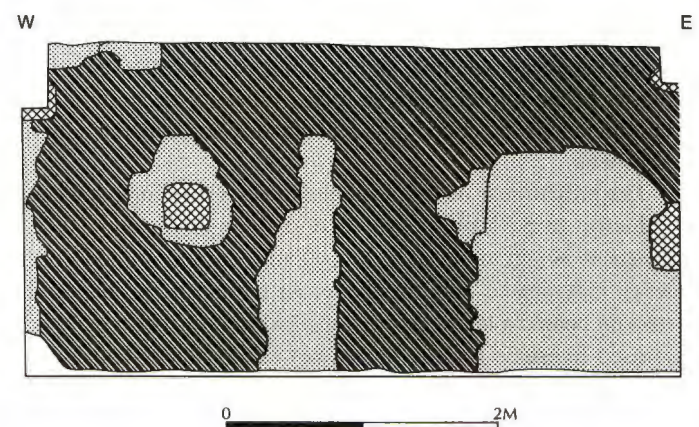
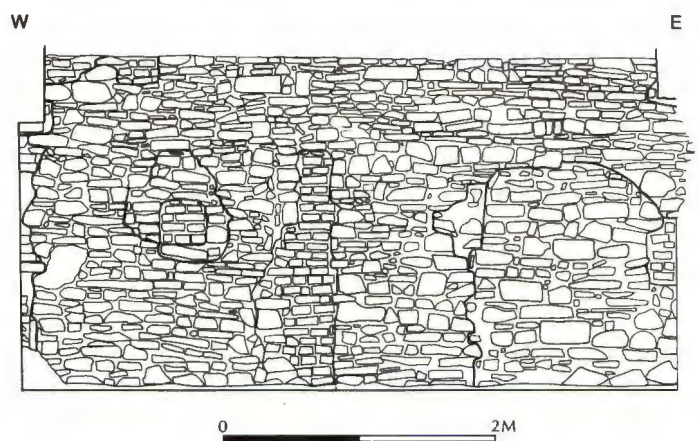


Fig. 7 Cannon Street: North wall of number 3



Plate 5 Cannon Street: North wall of number 3

window and doorway (now a second window) during construction of the house in the 19th century had necessitated various alterations, all bonded in a light grey mortar. The earlier areas of walling clearly did not relate to those in the north wall, but were presumably part of Mr. Garner's houses shown on the 1744 plan, as they appear to be of the 16th or 17th century.

CHURCH HOUSE: The Rear Elevation (Fig. 8 and Plate 6)

As surviving, Church House is a two and a half storey structure with a single gable to front and rear, and a ridge roof running southwards to St. James. The front elevation is two bays in width, with the entrance at the extreme south end, adjacent to the Victorian north aisle of the church. A hallway and staircase has been cut out of the principal ground floor room, which otherwise retains its fine plastered ceiling and much panelling. To its rear is a smaller room, beyond which is the rear elevation. The first floor is of a similar arrangement, although the front room has been sub-divided. Between church and house is a substantial timber-framed partition at first and second floor level, plastered on either side but presumed to date from the truncation of the house. At ground floor, however, there is a stone rubble wall, 530mm thick and bonded in an orangey mortar. The north wall of the Victorian aisle abuts this, and in doing so has sealed the wall plaster of the former southern room. Whereas the front of the building abuts the church, the rear stands clear, separated by a light-well.

The present rear wall of Church House is 6.80 metres wide, reducing to 5.85 metres at second floor level, and 10.65 metres in height to the apex. It is 600mm thick at ground floor level, reducing to 500mm above. At the north end the wall runs on behind a later east-west wall which consists largely of re-used freestone (oolitic limestone) ashlar blocks laid in an orangey mortar, of early post-Dissolution date. The south end of the wall was cut away, c 1864, at the time of the extension of St. James' north aisle.

Church House incorporates the last standing remains of the west claustral range of St. James' Priory. The rear elevation of the house (Fig. 8) includes part of the east side of this range

and includes two of the arches of the cloister arcade (Plate 6). These arches would have been the second and third of the western arcade, the first likely to have only been destroyed when the church was extended in the 1860s. Provisional reconstruction of the priory plan (Fig. 3) shows that the south cloister arcade was most probably only three arches in length, and so a square cloister would have ended at the north end of the third arch in this arcade. The partition document of 1579 refers to what was probably the former cloister garth as "the little square green court" (Latimer, 1898, 126), although 'square' in this instance could also mean rectangular.

As surviving, the cloister arcade consists of the majority of two segmented pointed arches. The shape of the arches, together with the single surviving fragment of open tracery and the arch mouldings (Fig. 9 and Plate 7), suggests a date in the 14th century. These must have been replacements for an earlier arcade, possibly one built in timber. Both the arches and the contemporary walling above were bonded in a buff, sometimes slightly pinkish, mortar, of a type not previously identified in the area and therefore not datable. In contrast, the west wall of the range was bonded in a red-brown mortar, similar to that used for the west wall of St. James itself.

The cloister arches consisted of moulded freestone (since cut back virtually flush with the wall) above which were relieving arches consisting of Pennant Sandstone voussoirs. During renovation of Church House a single surviving fragment of tracery was revealed in the northernmost arch. It was open (i.e. unglazed), with trefoil-headed lights, and may be dated to the Decorated period of English architecture. Between the arches had been a buttress that extended upwards for an unknown distance, but which had been removed and the wall made good, at a date not too long after the Dissolution judging by the orangey-pink mortar used. Three blocks of a probable further buttress survived, embedded in the east-west wall abutting the north end of the arcade. Their position would contradict any suggestion of a corner to the cloister here. The south range of the lesser cloister to the nearby Dominican Friary (the so-called Quakers Friars) once possessed buttresses of like dimensions, also relieving arches of a similar shape (Leighton, 1933, 182 and Fig. 13). The building still retains a roof of mid-14th century date, perhaps of the 1240's (Gomme, Jenner and Little, 28).

Unlike many cloisters, which had pentice roofs, the example at St. James had another storey above the walk. As surviving, this is exhibited in some three metres of coursed white lias limestone rubble above arcade level. The stone has suffered badly from weathering – it was apparently intended to be rendered, as is indicated by the rebate at the top of the arch. No evidence survives of any windows for the upper storey, possibly due to the destruction caused by later alterations. The Dominican Friary range previously noted was externally similar to this building, but in that case, the first floor extended the full width of the building. Here, the original width of the range was maintained, the extra storey over the cloister walk providing an additional thin, and presumably rather long, room. Walls of considerable thickness (up to a metre) remain between the front and rear rooms on each floor, and must incorporate the remnants of the original east wall of the range.



Fig. 8 Church House: Rear elevation

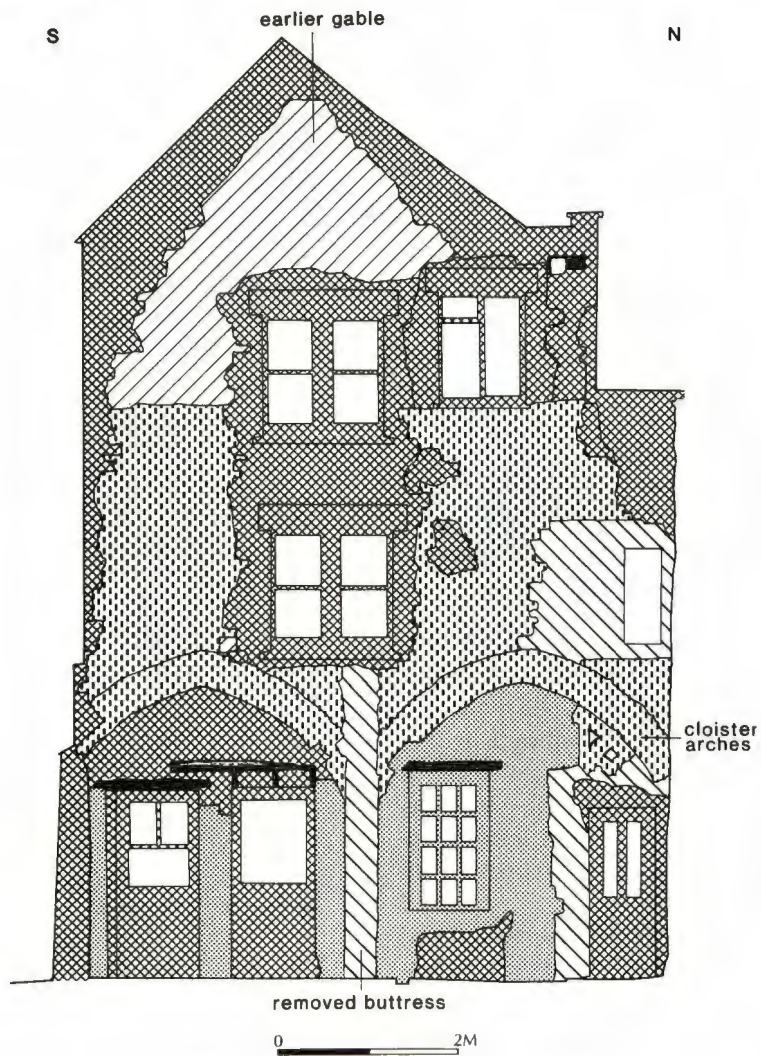




Plate 6 Church House: Remains of cloister arcades

The white lias walling has been considerably disturbed by the insertion of windows and waste pipes in the last century or so. One earlier alteration does survive, however, at the north end of what is now the first floor of Church House. Here was inserted a two-light window with a single mullion, perhaps during the early post-Dissolution years (Plate 8). It is very close to the east-west wall, yet does not necessarily pre-date it, although that wall would have reduced the effectiveness of the window. Being in a position immediately above the vousoirs of the arch means that the window could not have been in use while the arch was open. The window lies beyond the present northern extremity of the first floor of Church House, and one light is blocked while the other is fitted with a timber louvre. This last feature backs onto an open area between the building and the 'bus station, an area that is over the northernmost end of the rear ground floor of the house. One peculiarity of this building is that the rear extends further north at ground floor level than elsewhere, a fact that may reflect that this and the adjacent building to the north were once both part of the sugar house.

There is now no evidence to indicate the original height of the range, although it is likely that it did not reach much higher than the surviving courses of white lias (i.e. about 6.60m tall). Later, the wall was extended upwards by the addition of a gable, the remains of which are still visible a little below the present asymmetrical one. The gable was constructed in a variety of local stone, laid as rubble in a pinkish mortar. This mortar is similar to others of 17th century date found elsewhere in the city.

Various alterations have subsequently been made to the elevation. Substantial areas of rebuilding are apparent, largely

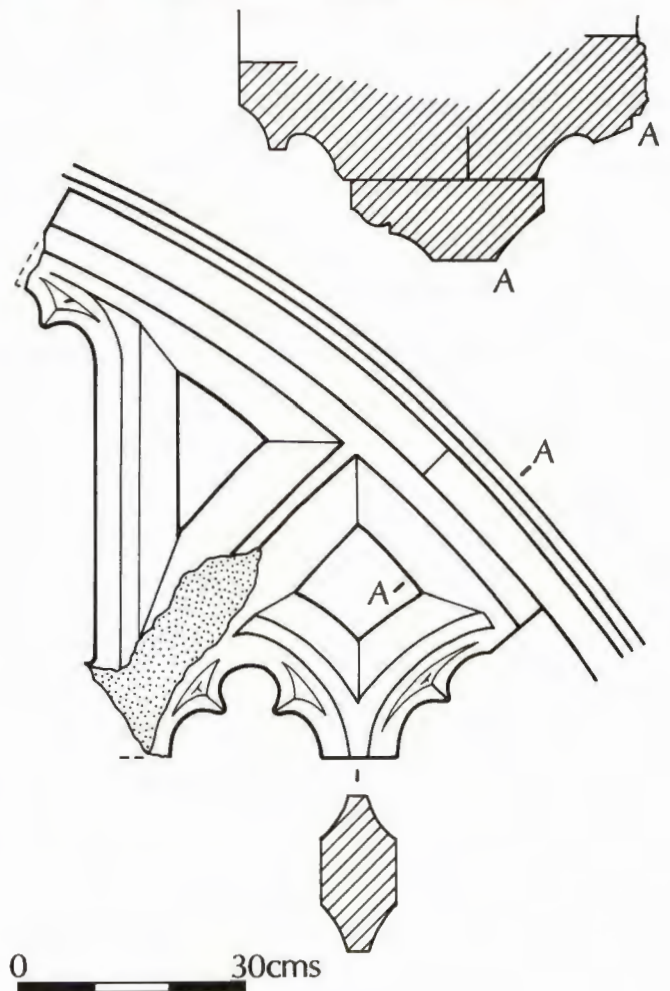


Fig. 9 Former cloister arch: Open tracery

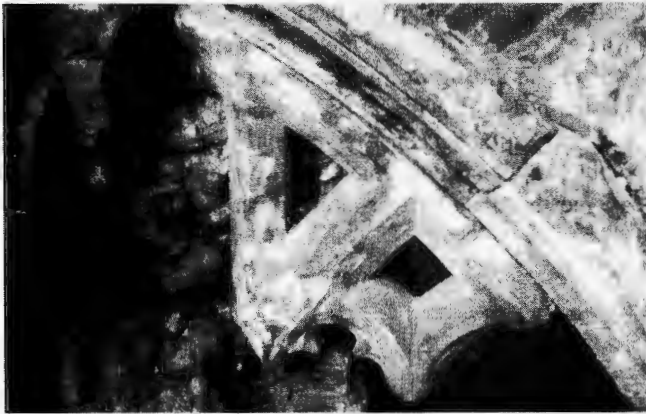


Plate 7 Former cloister arch: Open tracery



Plate 8 Church House: Mullioned window

associated with truncation of the building to north and south, but also with the insertion of windows and pipework.

Beneath the two arches of the arcade are a variety of features dating from the early post-Dissolution period up until the present century. There is no evidence that the arches were ever infilled during the time of the Priory. After the Dissolution it was apparently not convenient to leave them open. Evidence survives for a window in the northern arch, later replaced by the present sash. Later features in the northern arch include an access doorway to the yard and a timber cellar hatch. The blocking of the second arch contained one doorway giving access to the lean-to kitchen and a fixed glazed door that latterly acted in lieu of a window. It is now impossible to say if there was ever a window to match that in the northern bay. It should be noted that the south wall of the now-demolished kitchen (which also formed part of the north wall of the alley alongside the church) was partly constructed utilising re-used late medieval floor tiles probably removed from the church during the works of the 1860s (Fig. 10).

The 16th(?) century window at the north end possessed a modest squared central mullion, however, the north jamb was less plain. This included a recessed deep cavetto or hollow chamfer. Over the window were the remains of a hood-mould.



Fig. 10 Medieval floor tiles at scale of 1: 4

INTERIOR OF CHURCH HOUSE REAR ELEVATION (Fig. 11)

The interior of the Church House rear elevation was investigated at ground floor and basement level only, since the upper storeys were not stripped of their plaster. Much of the basement wall and the top part of that on the ground floor also remained obscured by rendering.

Between the two arches the inside face of a freestone pier was exposed, 170mm wide and reaching for 1.60 metres before the springing of the individual inner arches. Old plaster, possibly medieval, survived within the spandrel. The pier was sat on a Pennant Sandstone pad incorporated into a rubble wall bonded in a pinky-brown mortar. It was noted that the pier base/pad top was at a similar level to the flagstones

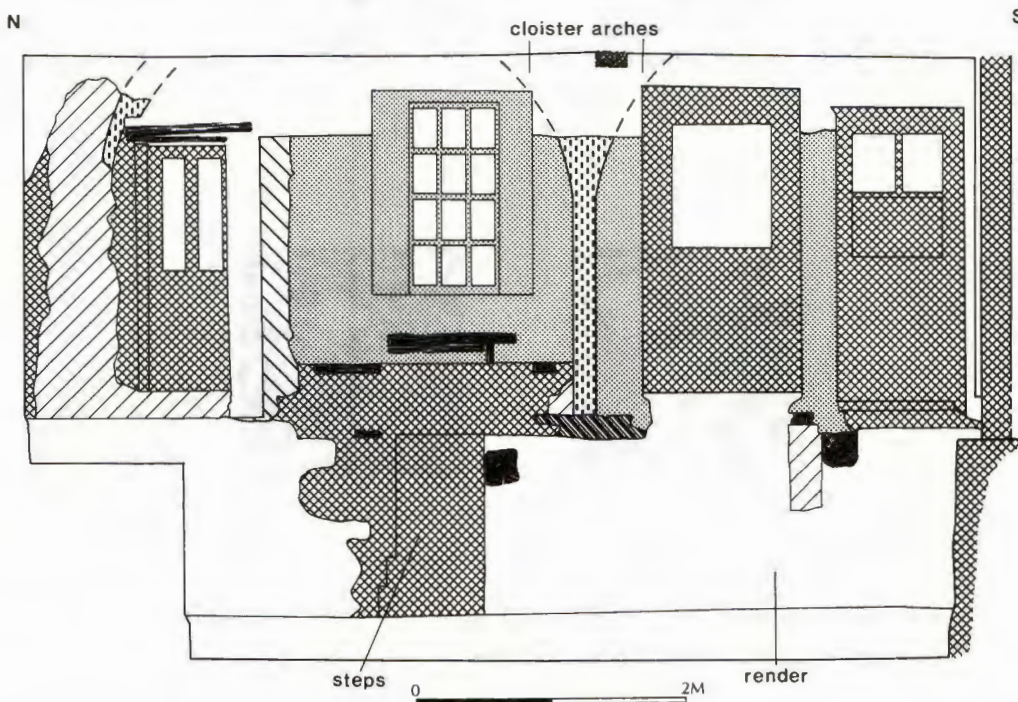
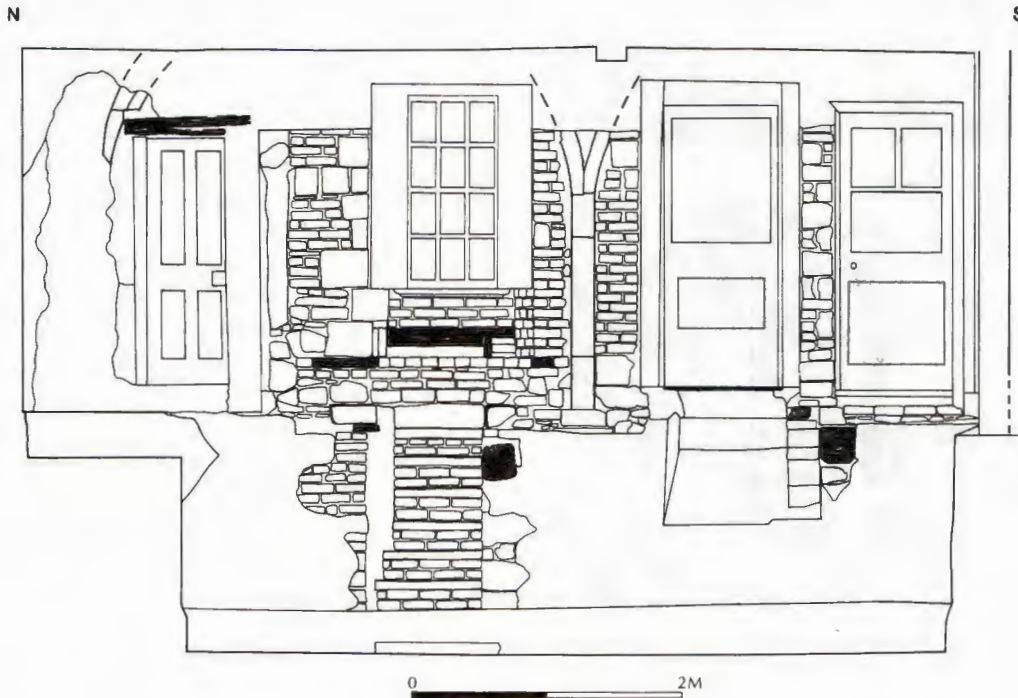


Fig. 11 Church House: Inside of rear elevation

comprising the sole-surviving flooring (at the north end of the room). Remnants of the end of the northernmost arch survived to the left of the yard doorway. However, there was no pier, and in the place where it should have been was an area of stone rubble laid in the place where it should have been was an area of stone rubble laid in an orange-pink mortar that contained much lime – possibly a 17th-century mortar. This made it impossible to determine if the arcade had turned here.

Approximately 450mm south of the yard doorway was the northern edge of a window splay, relating to the feature noted on the outside of the elevation. The splay itself was plastered, as was a narrow strip of the main wall adjacent. From this point southwards the arches were infilled, largely with 60mm thick bricks, together with a number of re-used freestone blocks and a few fragments of Pennant Sandstone. The brick sizes and whitish-grey mortars used suggest an 18th century date for much of the infilling.

Beneath the sash window was a wooden hatch at the top of brick steps leading to the cellar. The cellar was about 1.70m deep. It did not run the full length of the internal elevation, but instead stopped about 2 metres short of the north end. Below the fixed door north of the kitchen doorway was a sloping face, possibly once leading to a cellar light. Two large beams ran east-west across the cellar to support the ground floor joists. The northern beam in particular was in a poor condition, and had dropped at one end. None of the flooring above had survived.

The former cloister walk was converted to use as a domestic room after the Dissolution. As part of the extensive works carried out in 1665-6 by the new owners, Thomas and Ann Ellis, a chimney-piece was inserted in the west wall of the room. This feature was uncovered during renovation of the building in late 1993. Although cut back flush with the chimney breast at a later date, when a smaller fireplace was installed, the 17th-century feature has retained its original date plaque: –

E
TA
1666

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- (f) Drawings relating to part-demolition of No. 3 (i.e. Nos. 2 and 3), Cannon Street, n.d.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services wish to thank the Little Brothers of Nazareth and their architects for access to St. James and Church House during restoration works. They also wish to thank the staff of the Bristol Record Office.

EXCAVATION and WATCHING BRIEF at REDHOUSE FARM, BISHOPSWORTH, BRISTOL

by Rod Burchill

INTRODUCTION and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A proposal by The Gatehouse Centre Ltd. to develop land at the junction of Hareclive Road and Gatehouse Avenue, Bishopsworth, Bristol, led to the Planning Department, Bristol City Council, to request a desktop assessment of the archaeological potential of the site (Bristol and Region Archaeological Services report BA/B018). As a result of this assessment, Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) carried out limited excavation within the area to be developed and observed the developers subsequent groundworks. The purpose of the excavation and watching brief was to establish the date and layout of the farm buildings, latterly Redhouse Farm, which had existed on the site from at least the second half of the 18th century, and to look for any evidence of earlier occupation.

The desk-based study, excavation and watching brief was financed by Gatehouse Centre Ltd. We would particularly like to thank Hugh Nettlefield of Quatro Design Ltd. for his assistance. The author is grateful to colleagues John Bryant who supplied additional historical information and to Ann Linge for the publication drawings.

THE SITE

The site lies some 5km south-west of the city (NGR ST575683), in the modern suburb of Bishopsworth (Fig. 1), at an approximate height of 50m AOD. It is bounded by Hareclive Road, Gatehouse Avenue and public open space. The geology consists of Lower Lias Clays of the Jurassic Period.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies just outside the medieval settlement of Bishopsworth formerly in the county of Somerset. Bishopsworth is of Saxon origin and was one of the six tithings of Bedminster in the united Hundred of Hareclive and Bedminster.

Domesday Book has two adjacent entries for Bishopsworth fo.88b (Thorn, 1980), viz.:

'Herlwin holds Bishopsworth [Bichevrde] from the Bishop. Algar held it before 1066; it paid tax for 2 hides. Land for 2 ploughs' . . . (Etc.)

'Azelin holds Bishopsworth [Biscopewrde] from the Bishop. Edric held it before 1066; it paid tax for 1½ hides. Land for 2 ploughs' . . . (Etc.)

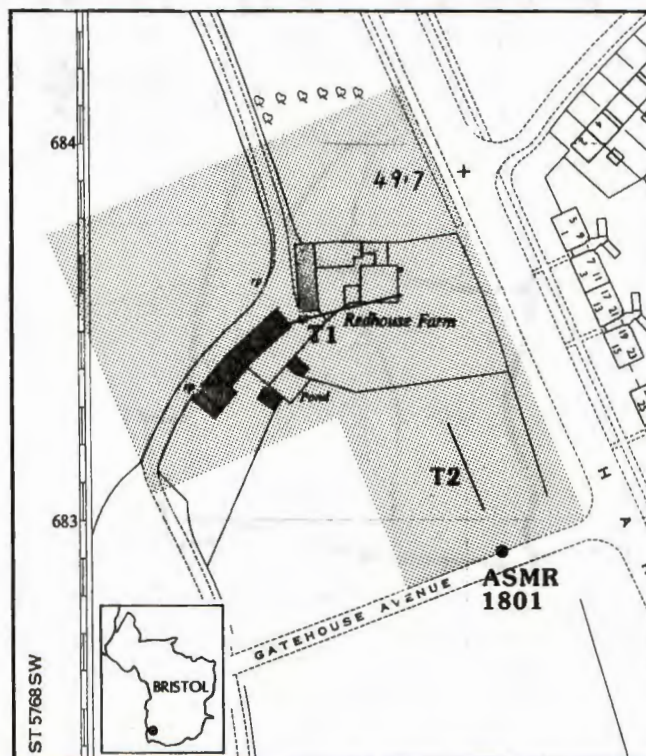


Fig. 1 Site Location

It is not clear which entry refers to the area of the present site. The Bishop in both cases was Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances.

During the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) William Arthur of Clapton-in-Gordano held one knight's fees in Clapton and Bishopsworth of the Earl of Gloucester (Collinson, III, 177). One Thomas Arthur being lord of the manor of Bishopsworth in 1312 (Collinson, II, 284). The lands continued in this line until the death of John Arthur without issue in 1558. The estate descended to his closest heirs Thomas Cross and Henry Mansewer and was purchased from them by Hugh Smyth of Long Ashton (12 Elizabeth [1569/1570]). The lands remained in the Smyth family until the dispersal of the Smyth estates more than 300 years later.

The earliest reference to a building on the site is in a document entitled 'Survey of the Manor of Bedminster' (BRO AC/M11/35). The plan is undated and anonymous

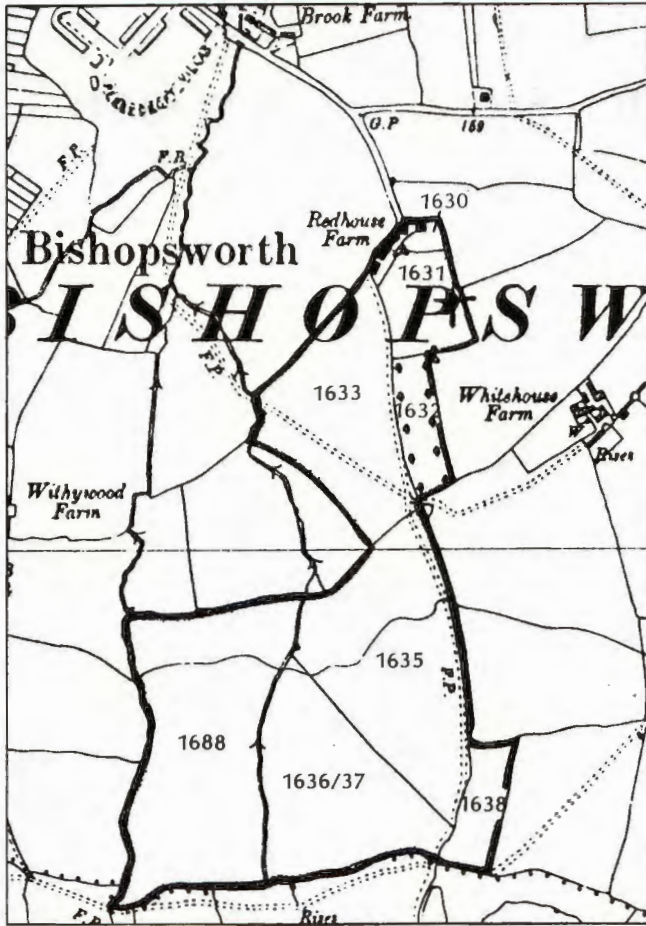


Fig. 2 Tithe Map evidence superimposed upon Ordnance Survey 1:10560 1930 edition

but a note in the catalogue of Smyth papers suggests the document probably dates to around 1780 or slightly earlier. The plan shows a house, garden and Home Paddock – known as “Bedberry’s” – on the site. The property is in the freehold of Lord Poulett and is occupied by one Mr. Gee.

A map of 1817 by Col. Mudge of the Ordnance Survey (map in collection of Bristol Museum) recorded a farm on the site. The map refers to the farm as “Bedberry’s Farm”. The buildings and orchard are indicated but no fields are shown.

A Plan of the Parish of Bedminster dated 1827 (BRO AC/PL/107/2) shows the property to be of similar layout to that on the 1817 map with the fields on similar boundaries to the later 1841 tithe map.

The 1841 Bedminster Tithe Map (BRO EP/A/32/7) and its accompanying apportionment records the farm as Redhouse Farm. The map shows the farm as a number of buildings and a yard (parcel 1630), the “Home Ground” (1631), the “Orchard” (1632) and five fields: “Eight Acres” (1633), “Ten Acres” (1635). “Nine Acres” – separated in the apportionment but with no obvious boundary (1636/1637), “Twelve Acres” (1618) and “Lady Grove” (1638). At the time of the apportionment the land was in the ownership of Henry Daniel MD and occupied by James Bird, the holding being a little over 44 acres.

Examination of the Ordnance Survey maps for 1885, 1930 and 1954 show the site still occupied by Redhouse Farm. The footprint of the buildings being consistent with Mudge’s map of 1817 and the 1841 tithe map. By 1966 the site is shown devoid of buildings.

THE EXCAVATION

METHODOLOGY

Excavation of the site was limited to two trenches. Trench 1, 33m in length and Trench 2 somewhat shorter at 24m; both trenches were 1.2m wide.

The trenches were excavated by hand having first been stripped of grass, topsoil and associated demolition rubble by JCB 180 degree mechanical excavator.

TRENCH 1 (Figs. 3, 4 and 5)

Trench T1 was excavated in an approximate east-west direction across what was believed to be the site of Redhouse Farm. The removal of the topsoil with some of its associated demolition material revealed a number of archaeological features.

At the eastern end of the trench a wall W1 (context 2) was exposed running north-south, constructed of lias limestone and bonded in a white mortar containing abundant lime, ash and charcoal the wall measured 0.6m in width. Removal of the wall revealed it to have been founded on a bed of fractured limestone some 1.6m below current ground level.

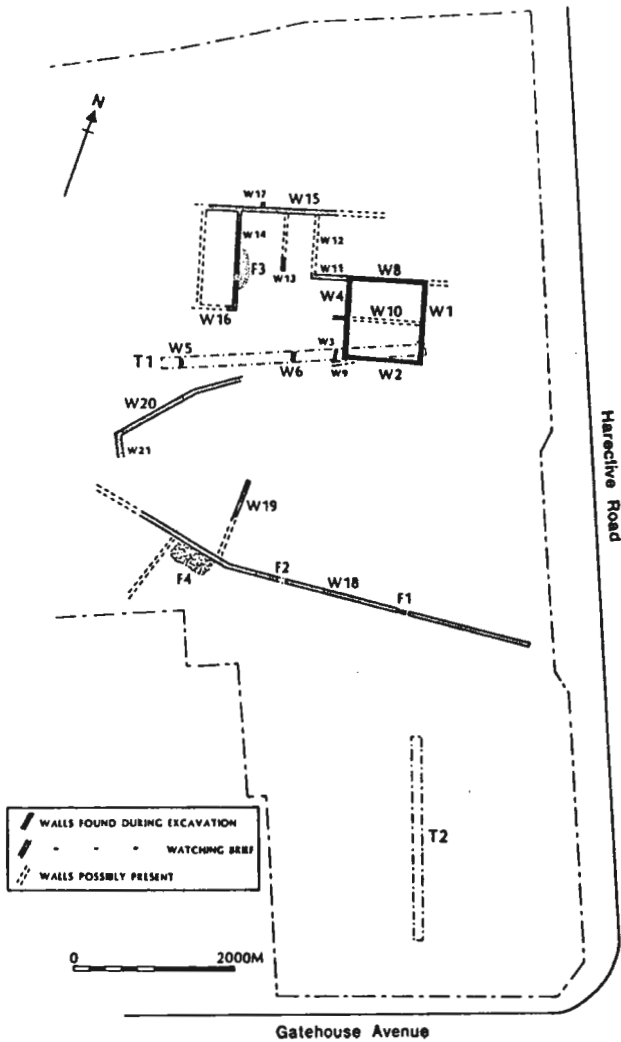
Trench T1 was extended to the north by 0.5m in the area of wall 1. This fully exposed a short stub of faced wall extending west from W1. This wall, W1A, survived to only three courses and was founded directly on to the top of the natural clay at around 0.45m below ground level.

Abutting wall 1 was a layer of stiff blue grey clay (23) c 0.1m deep which appeared to have been packed tightly against W1. Below this clay a thin layer of mortar or crushed limestone overlay the natural lias clay for some 0.5m to the west of W1.

A second wall, W2, was recorded 7.5m to the west of W1. This wall (4) emerged from the south section and ran westward for around 3m before turning to the north, becoming wall W4. Wall W2 is of similar construction to wall W1 but is considerably shallower being founded some 0.5m below current ground level. Wall W4 (8), the northward continuation of W2, forms a square corner with W2 and is of similar dimensions.

Excavation of the area between W1 and W2/4 revealed a second lens of blue grey clay (29). This overlay the natural clay. A second, thin spread of mortar was noted between 1.2 and 1.6m west of W1. A small area of red sand (24) overlay the natural immediately east of W2/4.

About 1m to the west of W2/4 and separated from it by a layer of demolition rubble was another wall, W3, constructed of the local lias limestone and surviving to two courses. The wall, (5) 0.5m wide and on a similar alignment to W4, was bonded in a pink-brown mortar containing ash and abundant lime, (?) grog and some (?) vegetable matter. Wall, W3 was of somewhat poorer construction than W2/4.



To the west of W3 a clay layer (9) containing mortar and ash sloped westward to a line of stones (10). Beyond (10) a layer of crushed coal (?mine waste) (15) continued almost to the end of T1 being absent only from the final 4-5m of the trench. Removal of (15) revealed an area of decayed stone cobbles (11). This area of cobbles itself continued westward, meeting another area of stones (12) some 5m to the west of W3. Context (12) consisted of a layer of scattered stones running north-east across the trench. Although only surviving to a single course, further courses were noted in the section suggesting that this was another wall, (W6).

Beyond (12) another layer of decayed cobbling was exposed (13). This consisted of stone rubble packed into a clay matrix. The surface was much decayed and appeared to be the same as (11). Layer 13 continued westward to Wall W5. Removal of (13) revealed yet another cobbled surface (17), here, the limestone rubble had been laid in a matrix of (?dry) mortar. Beneath (17) was the natural clay.

At the western end of the trench another wall W5 was located. This wall (20), solidly built, c 0.42m wide, and bonded in a very hard pale grey mortar terminated in a faced edge. A layer of tightly packed small stones (22) overlay the crushed coal (15) to the east of W5. This was yet another yard surface and this had probably covered the whole area of cobbling perhaps being destroyed during demolition work. Between W5 and the stone surface (22) lay a line of Pennant Sandstone slabs (19). These continued around the faced end of W5. To the west of wall W5 was a modern concrete floor with drainage channels.

The stones (10) were removed to reveal a shallow drain D1, 0.27m wide by a 0.25m deep, cut into the natural clay.

Fig. 3 Wall and trench location

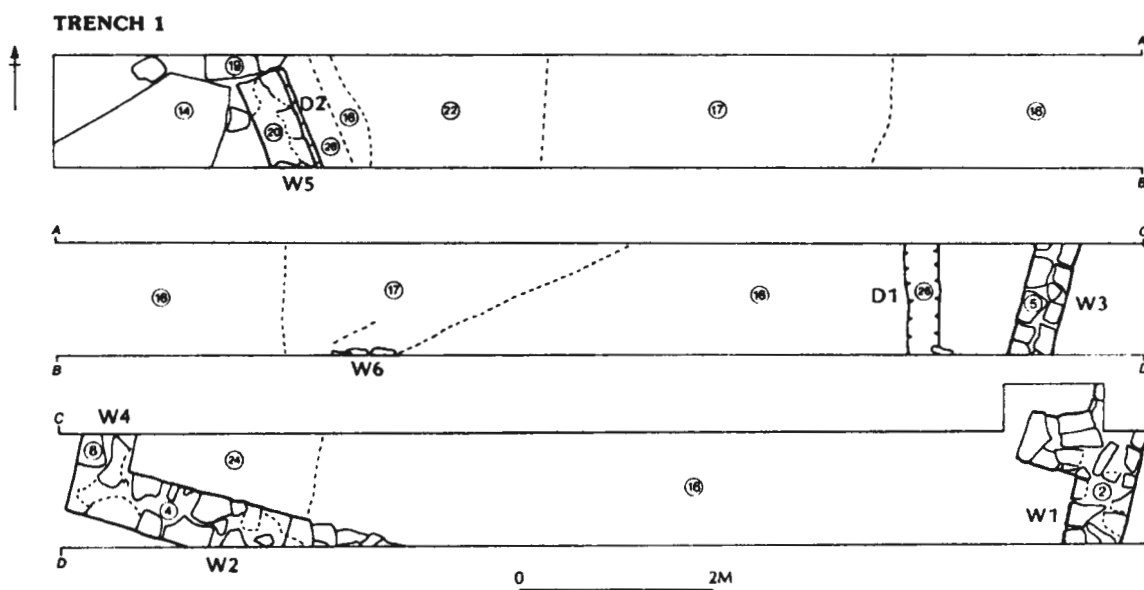


Fig. 4 Plan Trench 1

The sides of the drain were lined with thin slates and Pennant stone. The drain was filled with a humic material containing fragments of lias limestone and 19th century pottery.

Removal of the slabs (19) exposed a second drain, D2. Only the cut of this drain survived, but fragments of ceramic drain pipe suggested it had been lined at some stage. Wall W5 had well defined footings extending beyond the line of the wall. The area of modern flooring (14) was removed by machine but no other features were noted.

Prior to backfilling, T1 was extended by machine to ascertain the continuation and extent of walls 1, 2 and 4. Excavated only to the top of surviving masonry, W4 was found to continue northward for around 10m before turning east to link with wall 1.

TRENCH 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench T2 was excavated in an approximate north-south direction in the area adjacent to Gatehouse Avenue. Removal of the grass and topsoil revealed the natural clay. No archaeological features were noted although a small quantity of unstratified pottery dating from the medieval to modern period was recovered.

DISCUSSION

Trench T1 revealed a number of features, all associated with Redhouse Farm, most of which form a ground plan which corresponds to the Tithe Map and Ordnance Survey evidence.

Walls W1, W2 and W4 form part of the east, south and west walls of a building, B1, approximately 10m square. The levelling of the site after demolition appears to have removed the internal features of the building. Wall 1A probably represents an internal partition with a doorway cut near its east end. However, it is possible that it was used to buttress wall W1. The two spreads of crushed limestone and the area of red sand may represent floor layers within the building. All the three walls (W1, W2 and W4) are of similar dimensions and the mortar used in their construction suggest they were built at the same time. The only anomaly, W1, the east wall of the building, was constructed to a much greater depth than the others being founded on a bed of fractured limestone at around 1.6m below modern ground surface. The reason for the greater depth of foundation is not clear, but ground water was encountered at around 1m depth and this method of construction may have been a simple way of overcoming the unstable ground conditions.

The dating evidence for the building is very limited – a sherd of tin-glazed wall tile from within the upper courses of W1 and a sherd of combed yellow slipware from wall W4 suggests an 18th century date for its construction. This date is supported by the mortar used in its construction which can be paralleled with mortar from the core of a wall of known 18th century construction at Goldney House, Bristol (BaRAS Report BA/B019). The evidence from the Tythe map suggests building B1 was being used as a farm house in 1841.

The yard surface to the west of wall 3 was relaid at least twice. The ceramic evidence suggests that the original surface of stone cobbles laid in (?dry) mortar matrix was probably laid around the time of the construction of building B1 or soon afterwards. Sometime later, probably in the early 19th century, the yard surface was relaid by covering the original yard with a layer of clay and then compacting stone rubble into the surface. This second phase of yard was later replaced by a layer of crushed coal (?coal mine waste) which was spread over the, by now, decayed stone surface. Into this was tightly packed a layer of small rounded and sub-rounded stones. This surface remained in use until the demolition of the farm in the 1950s.

The relationship between the shallow wall W3, immediately to the west of B1, and the rest of the features in T1 is unclear. The mortar used in the wall's construction, pink-brown in colour, could suggest a date in the 17th century. Its function is less clear however, but it may simply have served as a boundary wall.

Almost immediately west of wall W3 was a drain D1, which presumably drained the range of buildings to the north of B1. Evidence from the fill of the drain suggests it went out of use sometime in the 19th century.

At the western end of the cobbled yard, wall W5 represents a second building, B2, probably one of a series of outbuildings depicted on the Tithe map. The wall is well built and is possibly of later construction than B1. Within B2, a modern concrete floor, complete with drainage channels had been laid. The faced end to W5 probably represents an opening through this wall forming a doorway between yard and building. This was possibly a cattle shed or dairy.

Adjacent to wall W5 on its eastern side the drain, D2, had been lined with a ceramic drain pipe probably at the same time as the final re-surfacing of the yard, the line of paving slabs giving access to the drain.

THE WATCHING BRIEF

Observation of the developer's ground works was undertaken during late December 1993. The works involved removing all grass and topsoil and reducing the level of the site by 0.1 to 0.5m. Foundation trenches were cut from this level. Heavy rain, snow and frost created difficult ground conditions which proved far from ideal for the observation and recording of features. However, a number of additional walls and associated features were recorded. (Fig. 3).

A number of walls (W11, W12, W13, W14, W15, W16 and W17) were located north of Building B1. Constructed of the local Lias limestone and bonded with a similar mortar to wall W1 they averaged 0.45m in width. The walls appear to form a range of buildings adjoining the north side of B1.

Cut through W14, 3.5m north of its juncture with W16, is an opening 1.16m wide (F3) interpreted as a doorway. F3 is abutted on its eastern side by a stone (?) step and an area of Pennant flagstones.

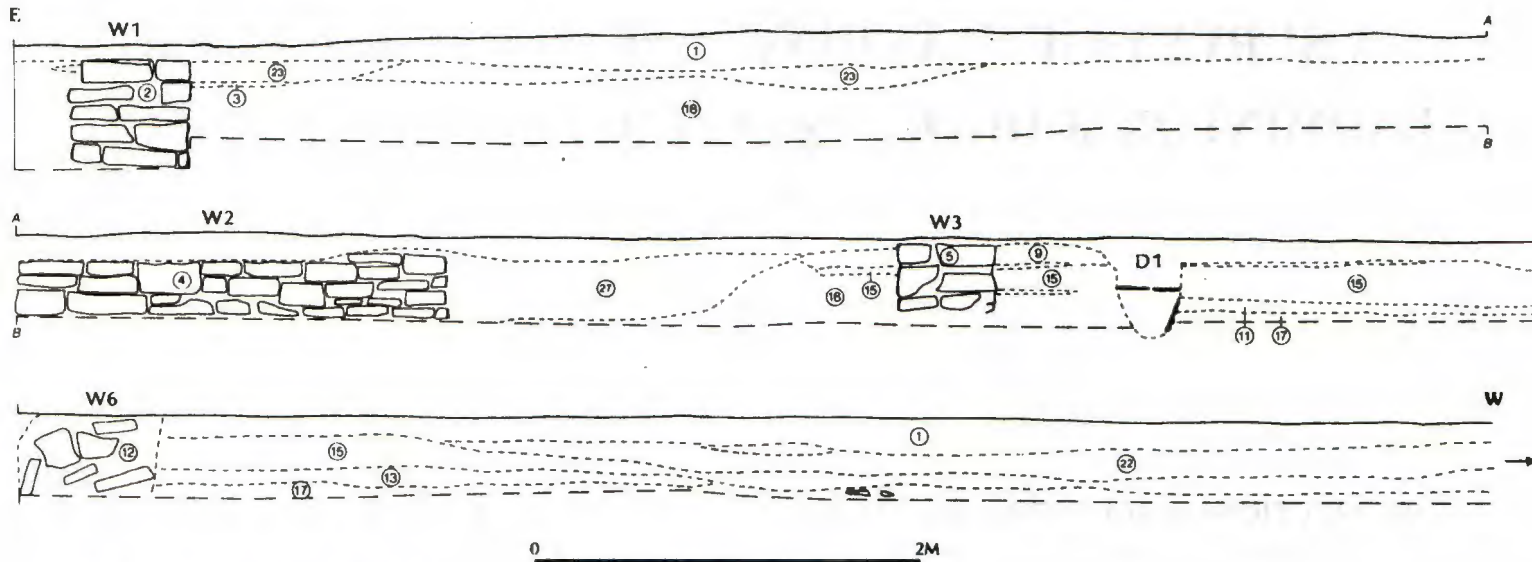


Fig. 5 South section Trench 1

Within building B1 a line of disturbed stone may represent the base of an internal wall (W10).

To the south a long well defined wall probably represents a boundary wall shown on the plans of the Ordnance Survey. The wall, W18, runs approximately east-west for 39m before turning north-west. A faced edge at the easternmost end of W18 probably represents an opening through the wall suggesting that W18 continued further to the east. A blocked opening through W18 (F1) was recorded 15.44m from the eastern end. The opening, 1.15m wide, was blocked by an infill of pitched lias limestone slabs. To the west of F1, another opening (F2), 0.95m wide, was blocked with the natural lias clay.

Another wall (W19) probably abutts W18 on its northern side. Only a short length of this wall was defined but a line of disturbed rubble continued to W18. Immediately west of this on the south side of W18 an area of stone slabs (F4) was noted. It was not clear how extensive this feature had been. Adjacent to F4 on its west side another line of disturbed stone rubble possibly represents a wall running south from W18.

Immediately north of W18 another set of walls (W20 and W21) forms what may have been a boundary wall. The relationship between W21 and W18 is not clear although they may have been connected. However, W20 which forms a corner with W21 runs north-east towards building B1, possibly connecting with wall W9 and thus to B1. Walls W18-W21, averaging 0.45m in width, were constructed of the local lias limestone and bonded in similar mortar to wall W1 (building B1)

A short length of wall (W7) running west from W4, 5m north of the south-west corner of B1 probably represents the northern wall of a small building or enclosure attached to the west side of building B1.

Other, less well defined, areas of stone rubble were observed but ground conditions made it unclear if the rubble represented further walls or was merely demolition rubble associated with the clearance of the site in the 1950s.

FINDS

A small number of finds, principally pottery, were recovered during excavation. The presence of animal bone, oyster shell, glass and clay tobacco pipe was noted but none were retained for further analysis.

The pottery was not examined in detail. Being scanned to identify types and spot dated to provide a general date for features.

All pottery types from Trench 1 were of 18th century or later date. The ceramic material from Trench 2 dated from the late 13th century. Details of the pottery and its contexts may be found in archive.

No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

CONCLUSIONS

The available evidence would suggest that Redhouse Farm was of 18th century origin although a (?) boundary wall may have been of 17th century date. The farm, its buildings and fields, appeared to have changed little since at least 1817. No evidence for earlier occupation of the site was recorded, although, whilst limited in scope the presence of pottery dating from the medieval period in Trench 2 suggests the land had been farmed at least from that period.

The site archive has been deposited at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number: BRSMG 32/1993.

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A SURVEY OF STANDING GARDEN FEATURES at BADMINTON SCHOOL, WESTBURY-ON-TRYM, BRISTOL

by Rod Burchill

INTRODUCTION and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Following planning permission for the building of a new art block at Badminton School, formerly part of the estate of Cote House, Westbury-on-Trym, a small scale excavation and a survey of standing garden features, believed to date from the 18th century were carried out. This work was undertaken by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS).

The aim of the excavation was to record any pre-garden archaeological features. The standing garden remains are particularly important and includes a section of curved wall, and part of a late-18th century horticultural heating system. The importance of the garden features are further enhanced by a connection with John Wedgwood (son of the potter Josiah) who resided at Cote House and was a founder of the Royal Horticultural Society. Wedgwood experimented with using a heated greenhouse for the growing of exotic fruits and plants.

The following report contains a discussion of the standing garden features. Details of the excavation may be found in archive: Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery accession number BRSMG 6/1993.

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services would like to thank the Governors of Badminton School who financed the project, Mr. E.R. Goodwin, school bursar, Mr. Michael Axford, architect and Kate Hoare of Bristol City Planning Department for granting access to her research on the Badminton School gardens. Finally, special thanks must go to Mr. David Rundle, Head Gardener at Badminton School, for his help, co-operation and interest during the fieldwork.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Badminton School lies about 2 miles north of the city on the edge of Durdham Down in the suburb of Westbury-on-Trym (ST 5718 7655). The school grounds were formerly part of the estate of Cote House.

Cote House was built in the latter half of the 17th century by John Elbridge (*d* 1739). The house passed through several hands before being acquired by John Webb around 1779. After Webb's death the Wedgwood family acquired the property, John Wedgwood being in occupation until 1804/5. The house passed into the hands of the Protheroe family sometime prior to 1812.

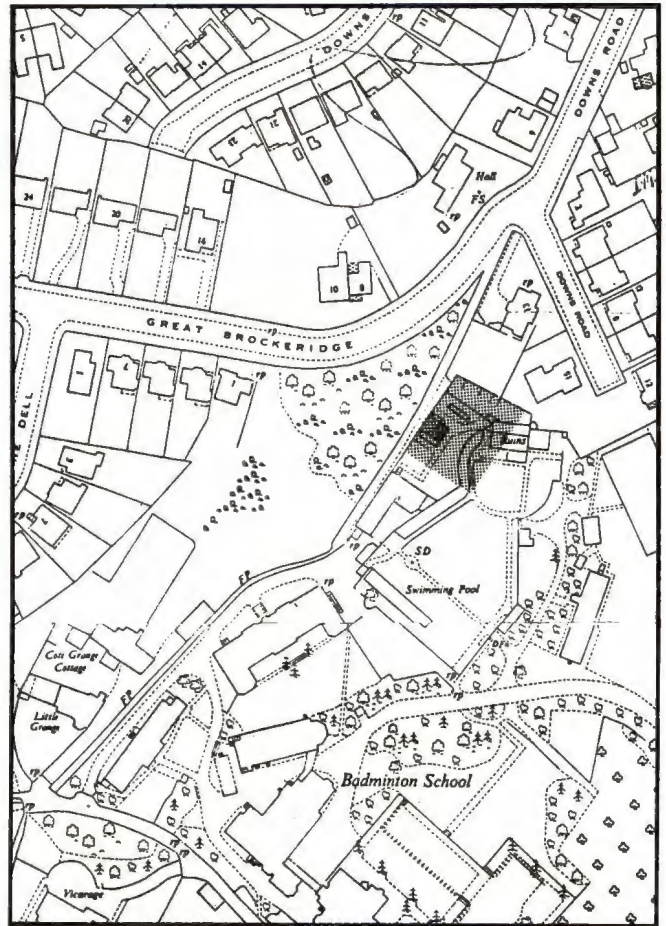


Fig. 1 Site Location

THE STANDING GARDEN FEATURES

THE GARDEN WALLS

The main feature, a section of curved wall (W1) measures about 35m in length (Fig. 2). It follows rising ground and varies in height from 3.5m to 4m. The wall is constructed of limestone, faced on its southern aspect with a fine red brick (Figs. 3 and 4). Originally bonded in a pinky grey-white mortar containing frequent white and dark flecks, it has been repointed several times in recent years. The wall is supported on its north side by a buttress which appears to be contemporary with it. The brick face of the wall displays some damage from the insertion of nails to support wires

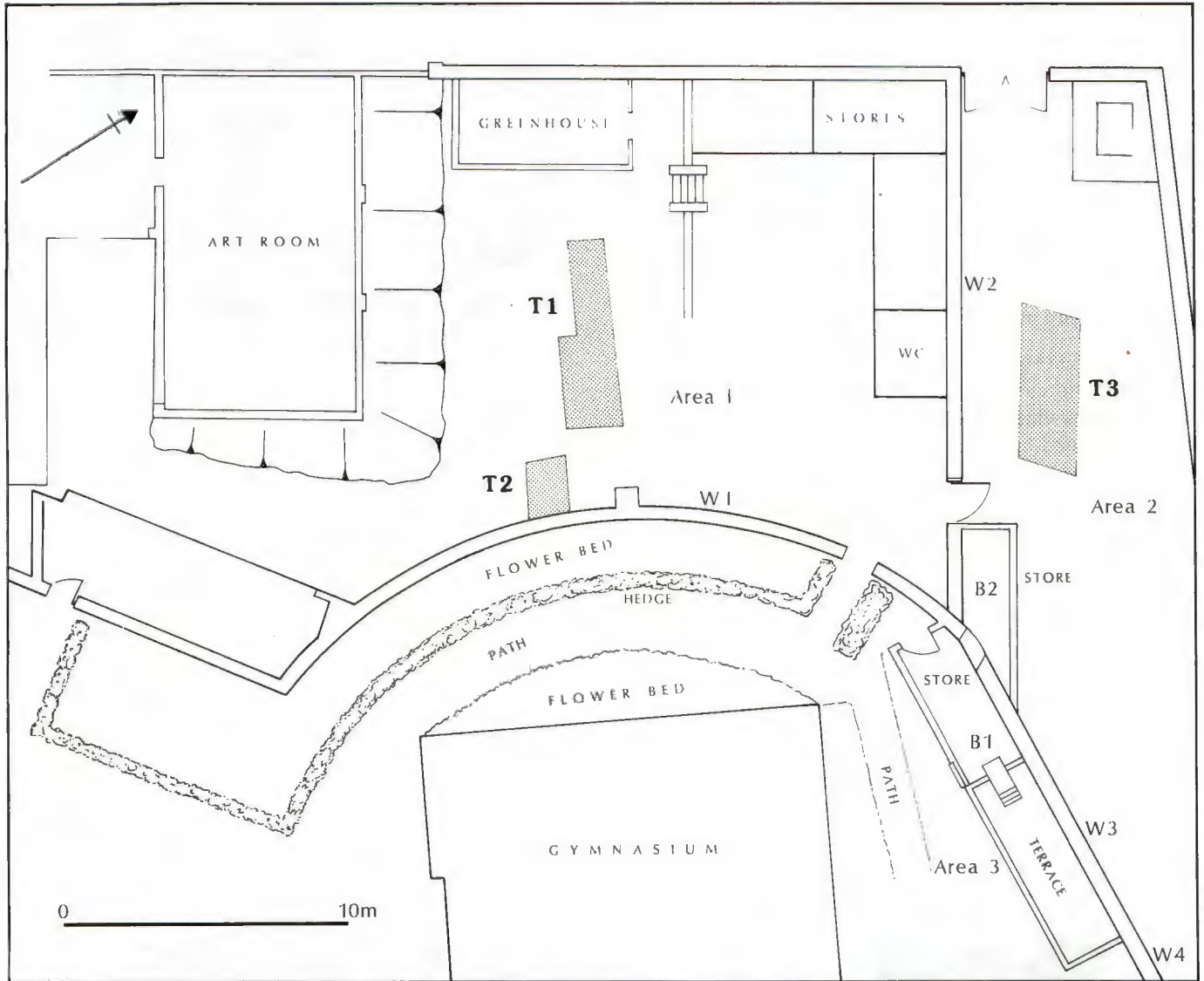


Fig. 2 Location of trenches and standing features



Fig. 3 Stone face of Wall 1



Fig. 4 Brick face of Wall 1

for the training of fruit trees. These nails were replaced by triangular metal stantions which are still *in situ*. Cutting through the wall is a much later brick lined arch.

Abutting Wall 1 is another wall of similar proportions (W2) (Fig 2). This runs approximately east-west and is similar in construction to W1 except that it lacks the brick face of W1. On the south side of W2, at its east end is a brick blocking (Fig. 5). The blocking shows as an alcove on the north side of W2. Adjacent to this is a brick lined hearth, above which is a further area of blocking, in limestone. The hearth and both blocked features are bonded in the same hard mortar.

THE HEARTH (Fig. 5)

The hearth is cut into and beneath wall W2, with an opening 0.9m wide and 0.58m high. The floor of the hearth was not located but must be at least 0.5m below present ground surface. The hearth vents not through a conventional chimney but through a void at the back of the structure and out under the wall and floor. The west side of the hearth is curved outward, but the reason for this is unclear. The hearth shows considerable burning and sooting.

THE GARDEN BUILDINGS (Fig. 2)

Two buildings adjoin Walls W1 and W2 – a rectangular stone built structure (B1) to the east of W1 and a small brick built room behind the hearth, in Wall 2.

Constructed onto the junction of Walls W1 and W2 is a rectangular stone building about 12.5m in length and 3m wide. Although rebuilt several times, the southern wall W4 retains its original line, height and much of its original masonry construction (Fig. 6). The upper courses of the



Fig. 6 Building B1: Wall 4

north wall (W3) have been rebuilt and a new brick wall constructed on the outside of the original east wall (W5) perhaps because walls W3 and W5 were in bad repair. A new doorway was subsequently cut into the west end of B1 and the west end was later faced in brick (Fig. 7). Towards the west end of the building was added a pitched tiled roof whilst the eastern half of the building remained open. No evidence was found for the original roof covering. Within the covered western end of B1 new brick internal walls were built. The junction between W1 and W2 has a doorway through it which leads into a small room (B2). Building B2 was probably originally of stone construction, larger than the present structure, and was later rebuilt in brick. A doorway in W4 was also rebuilt in brick, but retains its earlier stone riser and slate tread.



Fig. 5 Blocking and hearth in Wall 2



Fig. 7 Details of west end of Building B1

THE FLUE

Within building B1, at its eastern end, is the remains of a brick built flue (Fig. 8). Measuring about 0.2m wide internally, the flue appears to have followed the line of W4 at ground level before turning north along Wall W5. Half way along W5 the flue rises and turns sharply to the east (Fig. 9). There is no evidence for the flue's continuation due to the (?)collapse of the original east wall. On the north wall, W3, there is some indication of a second flue about 1.5m above ground level. Extensive remodelling of the west end of B1 has removed all trace of any western extension of the flue system.

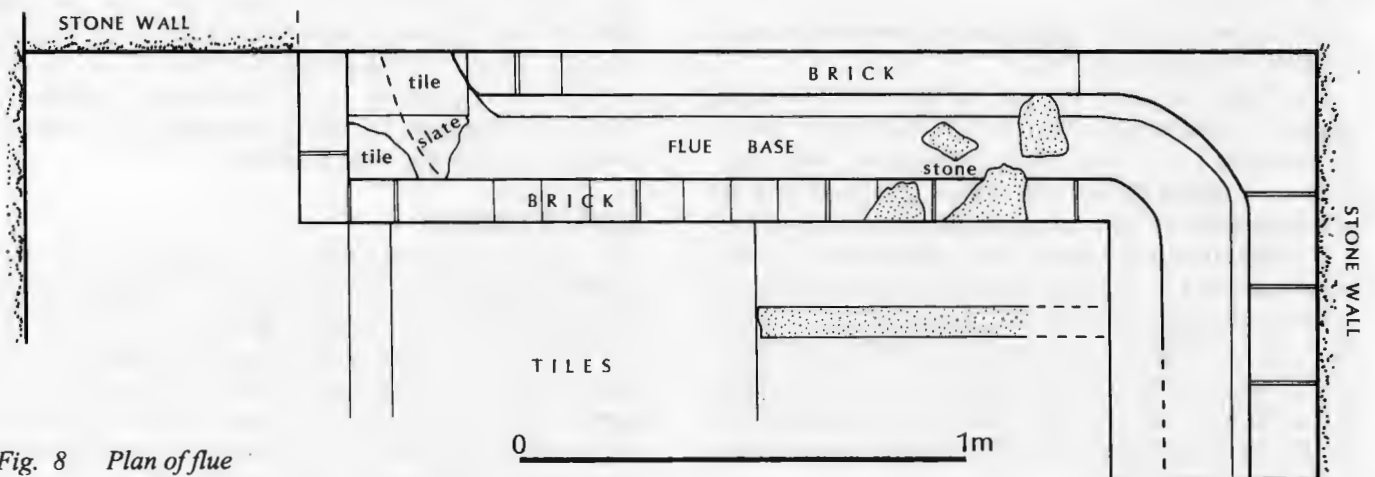


Fig. 8 Plan of flue



Fig. 9 Flue: Building B1

DISCUSSION

Examination of 19th century maps of the area clearly show a large “keyhole-shaped” walled garden aligned north to south in the grounds of Cote House. The 1881 Ordnance Survey further records a greenhouse at the northern end of this walled garden. The original key-hole shaped garden was about 88m in length by 49m wide at its south end and was defined by wall (W1). This curved round to form an incomplete circle approximately 31m across at its northern end. This “keyhole” form of garden is very unusual. Most record examples of walled gardens are rectangular with their long axis aligned east/west. The Cote House garden however, was aligned north/south so that over the course of the day, its divergent long sides exposed the maximum amount of wall to the sun. The construction of the wall using cheap local stone to reduce the amount of expensive brick is not unusual.

The east/west wall W2 appears to be contemporary with the “keyhole” garden wall (W1).

The stone building B1 can be interpreted as the greenhouse as shown on the 1881 OS map cutting across the northern side of the “keyhole shaped” wall. The structure is typical of late 18th century greenhouses, with high stone walls roofed in glass. On the structural evidence it is difficult to conclude if the construction of the greenhouse (B1) is contemporary with the walled garden. However, its alignment to the walled garden suggests that it may be a later addition. The door in wall W4 was clearly the original entrance to the greenhouse. There was a small shed or building enclosing the hearth on the south side of W2. This was connected to B2 and to the greenhouse B1 by the blocked door in W2.

It is not clear if the hearth is contemporary with W2 (rebuilt when the doorway [D4] was blocked) or if it is a later insertion. It is contemporary with the flue in B1 with which it was undoubtedly associated. Moreover, the mortar used in the construction of the flue suggests that this was built at the same time or soon after the greenhouse. Campbell (1992) has described how such a heating system worked – warm air would have been ducted from a deep-set hearth along flues at ground level before rising and ducting back at about chest height towards the hearth,

finally venting externally. The warm-air system at Badminton School appears to have worked in a similar way.

There is no direct documentary evidence for the construction of the features described above. However, it is recorded that John Wedgwood built a “hothouse” whilst residing at Cote House, and the greenhouse described above is almost certainly Wedgwood’s (Campbell, 1992). The history of the walled garden at Cote House is less clear, although it is claimed that Wedgwood built a wall for fruit (Campbell, 1992). The mortar used in the construction of the walled garden however, suggests an earlier date than Wedgwood’s 1797. A plan of the estate made at the time of John Webb’s death or soon after does not record the walled garden, which would seem to suggest that the features described above are the work of John Wedgwood. William Forsyth, head gardener to King George III, obviously thought highly of the garden as he visited Cote on several occasions (Campbell, 1992). Unfortunately, the correspondence between Wedgwood and Forsyth has been lost.

CONCLUSIONS

The limited excavation found no evidence for pre-18th century use of the site. However, the garden features, whilst only a small part of the original garden, are of considerable importance. The section of brick-faced limestone wall is all that survives of a very unusual “keyhole-shaped” walled garden. The association of the greenhouse with John Wedgwood, who is likely to have been responsible for its design and construction, demonstrates that the walled garden and associated features are of major importance in the study of garden history.

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ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRISTOL 1993

45

(Ed.) Bruce Williams

This report summarizes the work of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) from January to December 1993.

BRISTOL. College Green, Deanery Road (ST 5833 7272)

A watching brief was carried out on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral and the Planning Department of Bristol City Council during the pedestrianisation and enhancement of the south side of College Green.

A small area of 19th century cobble stones and deposits of crushed Oolite were found near the north porch of the Cathedral. Both features were probably associated with the construction of the Cathedral nave and west front, which began in 1868 and was completed in 1888. The Deanery Road area had been extensively disturbed by the insertion of a large water main.

The burial ground for St. Augustine's Abbey and probably the remains of a Saxo-Norman chapel dedicated to St. Jordan, in College Green, were destroyed in the 1950s, with the lowering of the Green in conjunction with the construction of the Council House. Triassic Sandstone and the natural Mercian Mudstone were located at a depth of 0.30-0.40m below present-day ground level. A few sherds of 18th and 19th century pottery and clay tobacco pipe stems were found along with fragments of disarticulated human bone. These were replaced, as near as possible, to where they were found.

Eric Boore

COLLEGE GREEN and Cathedral (ST 5839 7272 and ST 5840 7272)

A watching brief was carried out in March 1993 on behalf of the Planning Department of Bristol City during the excavation of 13 pits for tree-planting at the east end of College Green and near the Eastern Lady Chapel of the Cathedral. There was no surviving evidence for earlier occupation pre-dating the levelling of College Green in the 1950s. The natural Mercian Mudstone and Quartzite Sandstone were revealed at varying depths of between 0.40 and 1.20m. This was sealed by a mixed rubble and late mortar deposit below the turf level. This subsoil represents the levelling of the Green in the 1950s after the construction of the Council House. Features which cut deeper into the natural are probably the remains of the original trees which had previously stood on College Green.

The pits south of the Cathedral Eastern Lady Chapel

were similar to those further north and confirmed the stratigraphical relationship revealed to the east of the Chapel in 1988 (TBGAS 1989, 107, 245-248) or (cf. *Medieval Archaeol.*, XXXIII, 1989, 166-167) or (BAA 1988, 7, 34).

Eric Boore

CATHEDRAL, Minster House (ST 5831 7267)

A watching brief on the site of the Minster House excavations (TBGAS 1993, 111-) or (cf. *Post-Med. Archaeol.* 27, 1993, -) or (BAA 1992, 10, 42-50), revealed no further occupation. The dimensions of a 19th century septic tank which had been partially uncovered, were recorded. It measured 2.10 x 1.60m.

Eric Boore

CATHEDRAL West Front (ST 5830 7269)

The installation of drains and the laying of a temporary surface between the Cathedral west front and the Abbey Gatehouse, revealed part of a stone-built cellar. It was found c 6.50m to the west of the Cathedral west porch and measured 5.60 x 4.60m. It probably represents the remains of the building which adjoined the Precentor's House which was formerly adjacent to the Gatehouse and the restored Norman archway.

The building is shown in 19th century illustrations and plans with two north facing buttresses (E.W. Godwin 1863, *Archaeol. Journal* XX, 38-63, Pl. 1). It was originally part of the Minster House group of buildings, if not earlier in date, which were begun by Abbot John Newland (1481-1515). The building was demolished at the same time as Minster House between 1884 and 1885, prior to the completion of the Cathedral west front in 1888. A few sherds of residual medieval pottery and an undecorated medieval floor tile were found. Site records and finds to Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery (Accession number BRSMG 17/1992).

Eric Boore

CATHEDRAL, Norman Gateway (ST 5828 7269)

A pipe-trench was excavated through the restored Norman archway adjacent to the Abbey Gatehouse by the Bristol Water Company. This revealed a layer of cobble stones at a

depth of 0.20m below the present-day Pennant Sandstone flagstones. The deposit below the cobbles was a make-up layer of red, clayey soil, grey mortar and Pennant Sandstone which continued for a depth of c 1.0-1.20m. This was a disturbed deposit overlying earlier water, gas and sewer pipes.

Eric Boore

CASTLE PARK (ST 5920 7317)

During July 1993, an excavation was undertaken in Castle Park on the site proposed for a new toilet block, immediately west of the remains of the keep of Bristol Castle, previously excavated in 1989. A small part of the motte ditch of the original motte and bailey castle, which pre-dated the keep, was re-exposed. The excavation confirmed that all archaeological levels on the toilet block site had been destroyed during landscaping works in 1970. Some 90m south of this (ST 5921 7308) a short length of the south curtain wall, previously exposed in 1992, was uncovered again so that it would be recorded and consolidated for display to the public.

Les Good

REDCLIFFE WAY (ST 5924 7242 and ST 5931 7241)

During trenching to assess the archaeological implications of the re-routing of Redcliffe Way, part of the Portwall, the 13th century town wall which enclosed Temple Fee and part of Redcliffe within Bristol's defences, was uncovered in Portwall Lane. In another trench some 70m to the east, a post-medieval wall was revealed on the same alignment. This may have been a repair to the Portwall carried out during the Civil War. In the same trench, a brick floor and walls were also uncovered, possibly belonging to a building associated with the Phoenix Glass Works which operated between 1785 and 1852.

Les Good

HOLLYBUSH LANE, Stoke Bishop (ST 567 757)

Observation of ground works at the site of a new hall of residence at Hollybush Lane, Bristol, was carried out on behalf of Bristol University. Stripping of topsoil and extensive earth moving, revealed no features of archaeological interest.

It is possible that previous landscaping of the site may have taken place associated with the building of other accommodation blocks and the creation of sports facilities.

Rod Burchill

ROYAL FORT ROAD (ST 5836 7342)

During ground works for an extension of Bristol Childrens' Hospital, developers exposed a drain of probably 18th century date.

The drain, of stone construction, ran north - south before turning south-east. At this point, it was located in a 1m-wide tunnel in the natural rock. It was approximately 25cms square in section, constructed of random-sized stone capped with Pennant Sandstone slabs, 0.50m square by 50mm deep. Softish, pale to mid-grey mortar containing much lime, charcoal and coal ash, was used in its construction.

Examination of a sample of the drain fill produced no finds or dating evidence.

Rod Burchill

REDHOUSE FARM, Bishopsworth (ST 575 683)

Limited excavation and watching brief carried out on land adjacent to Hareclive Road, Bishopsworth, for the Gatehouse Centre Ltd., recovered the partial ground plan of Redhouse Farm (late 18th century Bedberry's Farm), known to have existed on the site until the 1950s. All the walls



REDCLIFFE WAY: The Portwall from the south.

were considered to be of 18th century date, although one, a boundary(?) wall, may date to the late 17th century. No evidence for earlier occupation of the site was found. Accession number BRSMG 32/1993.

Rod Burchill

BADMINTON SCHOOL, Westbury-on-Trym
(ST 5718 7655)

The excavation of three small trenches in an area of the school grounds (formerly part of Cote House), to be developed as a new art block, found no evidence for land use prior to the creation of the gardens in the 18th century. Accession number BRSMG 6.1993.

A survey of a group of standing garden walls and associated buildings confirmed them to be part of a rare 'keyhole'-shaped walled garden and late 18th century heated greenhouse. Both features are attributed to John Wedgewood, a founder of the Royal Horticultural Society, who had lived at Cote House and experimented with the growing of exotic fruits.

Rod Burchill

MACHIN ROAD, Henbury (ST 571 790)

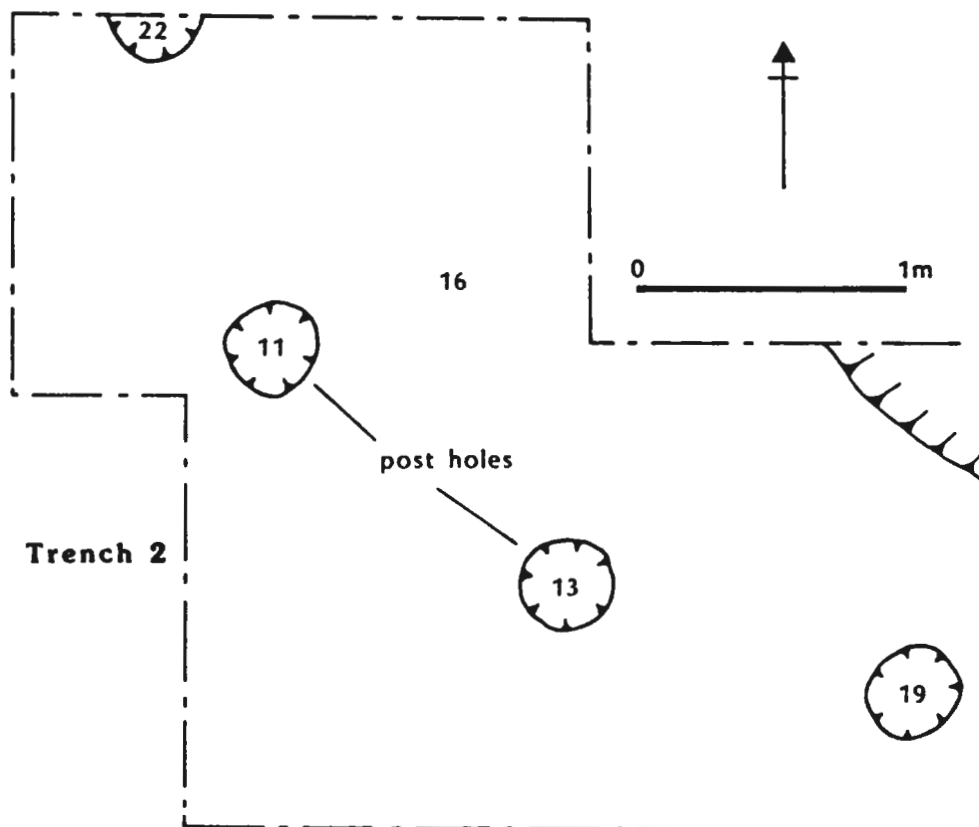
An evaluation of land at Machin Road, Henbury, for Orbit Housing Association, found no evidence for occupation or use of the site, other than as pasture. A ditch found in Trench 2 probably represents a known field boundary between Furlongs and Wyck Mead. Accession number BRSMG 4/1993.

Rod Burchill

BARROW HILL CRESCENT, Shirehampton
(ST 5247 7720)

Trial trenching between Barrow Hill Crescent and St. Mary's Road, Shirehampton, for the Guinness Housing Association, revealed a series of post-holes interpreted as part of a roundhouse of prehistoric date - probably the Middle Bronze Age. Accession number BRSMG 13/1993.

Rod Burchill



BARROW HILL CRESCENT: Trench 2 showing arc of post-holes

BRISTOL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, Tyndall's Park, Clifton
(ST 7335 5805)

A watching brief during development within the grounds of Bristol Grammar School, found no evidence for the Ha-Ha which is known to have run through the site, one of three incorporated into the Tyndall Estates by Thomas Tyndall, during the late 18th century.

A large backfilled pit in the south-west quadrant of the site, was probably the result of quarrying for building stone in the 1870s for the construction of Bristol Grammar School.

Rod Burchill

GOLDNEY HALL, Clifton (ST 5736 7279)

A watching brief was carried out during extension work to Goldney Hall (Bristol University) on land, formerly part of the grounds of Goldney House. No archaeological features were revealed. An examination of masonry walls removed during the development confirmed that they were 18th century in date.

Rod Burchill

STAPLE HILL ROAD, Fishponds (ST 6382 7595)

An evaluation of land to the rear of 26 Staple Hill Road revealed a deep layer of sandy loam, confirming that the land had been restricted to agricultural use prior to the building of houses in the mid-19th century.

Rod Burchill

43 BROAD STREET, City (ST 5881 7313)

Walls to the rear of this 14th century and later house, including the party wall with No. 44, were recorded during demolition work as part of the conversion from café to offices. They were partly medieval in date, possibly the remains of a detached kitchen block. The main building had been recorded by Messrs. Bryant and Leech in 1979, with further work in 1992.

John Bryant

GRUMWELL CLOSE, Shirehampton (ST 5331 7708)

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on a site at the east end of Grumwell Close, involving the excavation of three trenches. No features earlier than 19th century in date were found, although residual medieval pottery sherds and possible Palaeolithic worked flints were recovered.

John Bryant

ST. JAMES CHURCH (ST 5888 7346)

During repair and conversion work inside the former Benedictine priory church, opportunity was taken to record various areas temporarily stripped of their render. The south wall of the south aisle was shown to be of 14th century date at the west end, despite accounts of a total rebuild at the end of the 17th century. One jamb of an original entrance survived, with, above, a square window embrasure, later blocked. There was evidence of a former west gallery. In a room to the rear of the church, the south face of a substantial medieval wall was recorded, possibly once part of the priory's Chapter House.

John Bryant

ST. JAMES CHURCH (ST S887 7344)

Prior to construction adjacent to the west end of the church, an archaeological evaluation was carried out. Three trenches were excavated, each at right angles to St. James Parade, also a trial hole against the rear of the White Hart public house. A further trench was dug by labourers, under archaeological supervision. Foundations of several medieval buildings were identified, along with housing of the 17th and 18th centuries. One of the later dwellings had re-used the earlier walls in its cellar. Until the Dissolution, the site lay within the precinct of the Benedictine priory - itself a cell of Tewkesbury Abbey - and the medieval walls may be the remains of service buildings. It is believed that the existing White Hart public house on the west of the site, is the dwelling house mentioned as adjoining the great Gatehouse in 1579.

John Bryant

CHURCH HOUSE, St. James (ST 5888 7348)

During renovation of the building, opportunity was taken to record the rear elevation and other areas. Church House incorporates remains of the west claustral range of St. James Priory, founded in c.1129. The rear elevation includes two arches of the west cloister walk, which was rebuilt in the 14th century with a first floor above. One arch was found to contain a surviving fragment of the original open tracery. The medieval wall now survives to a height of about 6.50m, above which is a 17th century extension including a gable. Extensive work on the house was commissioned in 1665-6 by Thomas Ellis, a ruling elder of the early Baptist church at nearby Broadmead, and included a recently-rediscovered chimney-piece, complete with initials and date, 1666, as was also carried above the front entrance.

John Bryant

AVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT 1993/1994

by Andrew Young

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS 1993-1994

PREHISTORIC

DURNFORD QUARRY (Avon SMR 7811) NGR ST 536 714
(Lesley Cross)

An extensive programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken of grassland immediately to the north of Durnford Quarry, Long Ashton; in an area adjacent to previously recorded prehistoric agricultural features. The work was designed to provide a representative sample of the site as a whole and specifically to assess a series of broad terraces which ran across the site. Sections excavated through the terraces recorded linear deposits of limestone rubble which appeared to represent the remains of eroded lynchets. The features were interpreted to be of prehistoric date on the basis of a small number of later Bronze Age pottery sherds which were recovered from the rubble and adjacent soil layers.

BROOKWAY, Bradley Stoke (Avon SMR 9496) NGR ST 612 822 (Lynn Hume MA) BRSMG 39/1993

An evaluation programme was undertaken of a grassland site off Brookway, Bradley Stoke, in advance of proposed development. Extensive trenching revealed patchy negative soil features, including gullies and postholes. The features were interpreted, on the basis of their similarity with features recorded at nearby Savages Wood (Avon SMR 7442), to represent further evidence of prehistoric activity in the area.

THE MOUNT, Portbury (Avon SMR 9186) NGR ST 504 709
(Adrian Parry MA)

An evaluation was undertaken of grassland on the southeastern side of the 'Mount' in advance of pipeline construction. The evaluation was designed to assess for the presence a series of faint linear earthworks, potentially of prehistoric origin, which were visible adjacent to the construction corridor of the pipeline. No evidence was recorded to indicate that the linear earthworks extended into the evaluation area although a small number of undated soil features, including a ditch and postholes, were recorded at depth.

WHITEHOUSE LANE, Wraxall (Avon SMR 9502) NGR ST 483 729 (Adrian Parry MA)

An evaluation was undertaken of grassland off Whitehouse Lane

adjacent to the site of a previously recorded Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure (Avon SMR 583) and in the area of a series of rectangular enclosures (Avon SMR 568) identified from aerial photographs. The evaluation did not record any further substantial evidence of late prehistoric or Roman activity on the site although a small number of pottery sherds of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date were recovered from subsoil layers.

GORDANO SCHOOL, Portishead (Avon SMR 9486)
NGR ST 4652 7528 (Jens Samuel BA)

Evaluation by trial excavation was undertaken in advance of proposed development. The evaluation recorded a series of patchy soil features of indeterminate date. A small assemblage of flint flakes and a few possible tools were recovered from the features.

ROMANO-BRITISH

SOMERDALE, Keynsham (Avon SMR 9471) NGR ST 6542 6942 (Lynn Hume MA) BRSMG 30/1993

An evaluation was undertaken of land at Keynsham Hams, Keynsham. A stratified and well preserved sequence of features and deposits reflecting Romano-British occupation and activity on the site between the late 1st to 4th centuries was recorded. Substantial quantities of pottery and animal bone, and smaller numbers of metal objects, were recovered associated with stone foundations, postholes, ditches, occupation layers and a metal trackway.

CHURCH ROAD, Bridgegate (Avon SMR 9581)
NGR ST 675 733 (Lynn Hume MA)

Land off Church Road was evaluated by trial excavation in advance of proposed development. Existing evidence indicated that the route of a Roman road crossed the site. The remains of a substantial stone trackway, formed of consolidated sandstone rubble and stones, was revealed crossing the northwestern corner of the site. Insufficient dating evidence was recovered to determine with certainty if the trackway represented the remains of the Roman road.

ALDERMOOR WAY, Hanham (Avon SMR 9671)
NGR 652 718

(Donna Yorkston MA) BRSMG 2/1994

Land off Alder Moor Way was evaluated by trial excavation in advance of proposed development. Extensive trenching revealed soil features, including ditches and pits, which contained 3rd to 4th century Romano-British pottery in a discreet area of the site.

ALDERMOOR WAY, Hanham (Avon SMR 9671)

NGR ST 652 718 (Donna Yorkston MA and Philip Piper)
BRSMG 8/1994

On the basis of evaluation results (Avon SMR 9607) a large area was investigated and recorded by area excavation prior to development. The excavation revealed a sequence of Romano-British occupation on the site dating between the 2nd and 4th centuries. Evidence included wall foundations, ditches, postholes and burials in association with a range of artefacts including samian and coarseware pottery, animal bone, metalwork and large quantities of ironworking residues.

RUST BRIDGE, Kenn (Avon SMR 9509) NGR ST 412 688
(Lynn Hume MA)

Land adjacent to Rust Bridge was evaluated by trial excavation in advance of proposed development. Extensive trenching revealed a buried Romano-British land surface across the site located at a depth of *c* 0.6m below the modern ground surface. Ditches were also recorded at a similar depth which appeared to represent contemporary Romano-British agricultural activity.

MEDIEVAL

TEMPLE STREET, Keynsham (Avon SMR 9500) NGR ST 6545 6838 (Adrian Parry MA)

Land to the rear of Nos. 20-32 Temple Street was evaluated by trial excavation in advance of proposed development. The evaluation recorded well preserved medieval walls and associated occupation layers containing later medieval pottery and animal bone. The medieval remains were sealed beneath post medieval garden deposits.

BACK LANE, Keynsham (Avon SMR 9452)
NGR ST 655 687

(James Mumford)

Land at the northern end of Back Lane was evaluated by trial excavation in advance of proposed development. The site was situated in the area of the former boundary of the medieval abbey precinct. A sequence of stone walls and archaeological layers were recorded in the northern half of the site which appeared to reflect a series of tenement boundaries and buildings on the site dating between the late medieval period and the 19th century.

ALDERMOOR WAY, Hanham (Avon SMR 9671)
NGR ST 652 718

(Donna Yorkston MA) BRSMG 8/1994

During excavations features associated with medieval activity on the site were recorded including pennant sandstone spreads of unknown function and ditches. Early medieval stamp decorated pottery and later medieval pottery was recovered from

the features.

STONE-EDGE BATCH, Nailsea (Avon SMR 3600)

NGR ST 46457175 (Adrian Parry MA)

In advance of a pipeline construction programme an evaluation by trial excavation was undertaken in an area containing earthworks and grass lush-marks. The site appeared to represent evidence of shrunken medieval settlement in the hamlet. The evaluation identified a sequence of soil and rubble layers containing later medieval pottery and artefacts but no contemporary medieval structural features were recorded. Evidence of post medieval activity on the site was confined to remnants of a slabbed floor and pottery from the 17th to 19th centuries.

MOAT FARM, Wraxall (Avon SMR 9503) NGR ST 489 727
(Adrian Parry MA)

Earthworks to the southeast of Moat Cottages, which were located immediately adjacent to the corridor of a pipeline construction, were surveyed. The area within the proposed corridor of the pipeline was evaluated by trial excavation. The evaluation did not record any evidence of activity predating the post medieval period.

WAPLEY, Northavon (Avon SMR 9574) BRSMC 40/1993
(Donna Yorkston MA)

Earthworks of possible medieval origin were evaluated by trial excavation in advance of proposed development. Evaluation confirmed the presence of two holloways although no finds were recovered to date their construction or use accurately.

POST MEDIEVAL

AVON MILL, Keynsham (Avon SMR 9625) NGR ST 658 689
(Adrian Parry MA) BRSMG 6/1994

An evaluation was undertaken on the site of the former Avon Brassworks complex (Avon SMR 2243 and 5827) off Avon Mill Lane. The complex produced brass wire, plate and vessels from the early eighteenth century and represents an industrial site of international importance. Evaluation trenching revealed that extensive and well preserved structures relating to both the original brassworks complex and its subsequent development are preserved over the majority of the site. Walls and pillars exposed during the evaluation were preserved below ground to a height of up to 3m. Elsewhere on the site a section of the brasswork's terraced quayside which fronted the former course of the River Avon was also recorded.

WARMLEY HOUSE, Warmley (Avon SMR 9666) NGR ST6694 7284 (Adrian Parry MA) BRSMG 7/1994

An evaluation was undertaken of a small site at Warmley House in advance of proposed development. The evaluation was situated within the area of the former Champion Brassworks (Avon SMR 1433) which operated on the site from 1746 until the early nineteenth century. Trial excavation further exposed and recorded a wall associated with the original brassworks which contained blocked arches and beam slots. The remains of a later brick structure and floor which butted the wall were also recorded.

AVON RING ROAD (STAGE 2) - Shortwood to Warmley (Avon SMR 9210) James Mumford and Philip Piper
Further to a desk based assessment a series of sites of archaeological importance or potential identified within the route of the proposed Avon Ring Road from Shortwood to Warmley were surveyed and/or evaluated by trial excavation .

- i) 'THE GHOST BRIDGE', Mangotsfield
(Avon SMR 3409)
NGR ST 6665 7485

A full drawn and photographic survey was undertaken of the bridge, constructed in the late 1820's, which formerly served to carry a footpath over the Dramway (Avon SMR 5901).

- ii) SISTON COMMON, Siston (Avon SMR 6377)
ST 6657 7444 NGR ST 6657 7444

Earthworks in the area of a former coal shaft were evaluated by trial excavation. Trenching revealed an area containing stone drains, ditches and deposits of industrial waste although no buildings directly associated with a pithead were recorded.

- iii) POMPHREY FARM, Mangotsfield (Avon SMR 6409) NGR ST 6704 7604

The site of the former Pomphrey Farm, referred to on the 1843 Tithe Map for Mangotsfield, was evaluated by extensive trial excavation. Subsequent area excavation fully recorded the remains of the farmhouse and ancillary structures. No evidence was recovered to suggest the origins of the farm were any earlier than the late 18th century.

- iv) FIELD HOUSE FARM, Warmley (Avon SMR 6456)
NGR ST 6663 7396

The site of the former Field House Farm, whose date of origin was unknown, was evaluated by trial excavation. Walls, floors and ancillary structures associated with the farm were recorded. No evidence was recorded to suggest the origins of the farm were any earlier than the early nineteenth century.

- v) Land adjacent to the HUNTERS INN, Siston
(Avon SMR 6461) NGR ST 6631 7470

The site of former cottages, evident on the 1964 Ordnance Survey map of the area, was evaluated by trial excavation. No evidence relating to the former cottages was recorded during the evaluation which revealed only a deep sequence of modern made-ground.

- vi) Land off STANLEY ROAD, Siston
(Avon SMR 6463) NGR ST 6665 7412

The site of former buildings, indicated on the 1839 Tithe Map of the area was evaluated by trial excavation. The area investigated lay at a depth of c.5m below the embankment of the former Midland Railway Line. Evaluation revealed soil horizons reflecting the buried former landscape but did not record any evidence of the former buildings on the site.

- vii) Land adjacent to CARSONS RD BRIDGE, Siston
(Avon SMR 6469)

Trial excavation was undertaken to determine if archaeological deposits, associated with a building depicted on the 1839 Tithe Map of the area, were preserved on the site. The evaluation recorded the remains of post medieval walls and deposits which appeared to continue beneath the existing embankment for Carsons Road Bridge. A complex of stone lined postholes of post medieval date were also recorded on the site.

- viii) DRAMWAY BRIDGE at Carsons Road, Siston
(Avon SMR 9215) NGR ST 6676 6502

A full drawn and photographic survey was undertaken of the bridge which was constructed in 1832 to carry Carsons Road over the Dramway (Avon SMR 5901).

OTHER WORK

- MOORHOUSE LANE, Hallen (Avon SMR 9006)
NGR ST 548 499

Land off Moorhouse Lane was evaluated by trial excavation in advance of proposed development. Evaluation revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits which sealed a buried land surface. No evidence was recovered to date the formation of the buried land surface.

- ASHFIELD FARM, Alveston (Avon SMR 8157)
NGR ST 639 861

Extensive evaluation by trial excavation recorded a single rock-cut ditch of indeterminate date.

- SMOKE LANE, Avonmouth (Avon SMR 9451)
NGR ST 523 806

Land off Smoke Lane was evaluated by trial excavation in advance of proposed development. The site was located adjacent to the existing route of the Mere Bank Rhine whose original line may have crossed the site. The remains of a ditch and bank, probably a rhine, were recorded at the northern end of the site. The dating of the feature was inconclusive as material recovered from the primary ditch fill was of recent origin.

- HARRY STOKE Medieval Settlement (Avon SMR 1334)

With the support of English Heritage the post excavation stages of assessment and analysis were completed. The excavation report is now scheduled for publication in the 1995 issue of Bristol and Avon Archaeology.