BRISTOL & AVON ARCHAEOLOGY

Volume 13

BRISTOL & AVON ARCHAEOLOGY 1996

CONTENTS **Page**

Cover: A reconstruction view of the building of Bristol castle keep by Chris Molan, looking west (Copyright: Bristol City Museums and Art Gallery).

Typeset by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services.
Design by Ann Linge.
Printed by Printing and Stationary, 9 Willway Street, Bedminster, Bristol.

ISSN 0263 1091

Membership and Editorial Communcations to Bristol and Avon Archaeological Society, c/o Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, Queens Road, Bristol, BS8 1RL.

A SURVEY OF QUAKER BURIAL GROUNDS IN BRISTOL AND FRENCHAY MONTHLY MEETING

by Gwynne Stock

INTRODUCTION

This paper represents part of a larger study for a Post Graduate Research Diploma (Stock, unpublished research dissertation); other aspects of which are in Stock, (in press, a), concerning Quaker burial doctrine and practice; and Stock, (in press, b), describing the watching brief during the clearance of the Quaker burial ground in the parish of Bathford (Bath & North East Somerset) ahead of the construction of the Batheaston Bypass.

There are more than 550 Quaker burial ground sites in England and Wales. However, findings have shown that although details of some of the burial grounds have been published, most have been treated as an incidental part of, or associated with, a meeting house (the Quaker equivalent of a church), rather than an item of study on their own. Until recently, little inquiry has been undertaken, other than the recording of information that is mainly historical, genealogical or anecdotal.

Quakers, a name given to members of the Religious Society of Friends (Penney 1911, 4), believe that all ground is 'God's ground' and special consecrated ground is unnecessary, thus any convenient piece of land is acceptable for burial. Quakers wanted nothing to do with the Established Church, so a variety of pieces of land, in a variety of locations, were acquired by gift or purchase, and pressed into use by the urgent need for a place of burial (MSS Portfolio 36/19, Friends House Library). In 1717 the Quaker use of gravestones was advised against (*Christian and Brotherly Advices*, 1738), until 1850, when they were permitted, provided that:

> . . . in each particular burial ground, such uniformity is preserved in respect to the materials, size, form and wording of the stones, as well as in the mode of placing them, as may effectually guard against any distinction being made in that place between the rich and the poor (Quaker Faith and Practice 1995, 15.20).

The named months were also scorned because most were of pagan origin; consequently, in 1697, Friends were advised to use numbered months - 1st. to 12th. (*Christian and Brotherly Advices*, 1738). The term *Monthly Meeting* describes a group of local or *Preparative Meetings*, which may be compared very roughly to a rural deanery and its parishes respectively. *General Meeting*, formerly called *Quarterly Meeting* encompasses several Monthly Meetings (and may be compared to a diocese); (*Britain*) *Yearly* Meeting comprises the General Meetings, and may be compared to a province - or the provinces of Canterbury and York united. (Milligan and Thomas 1983, 2).

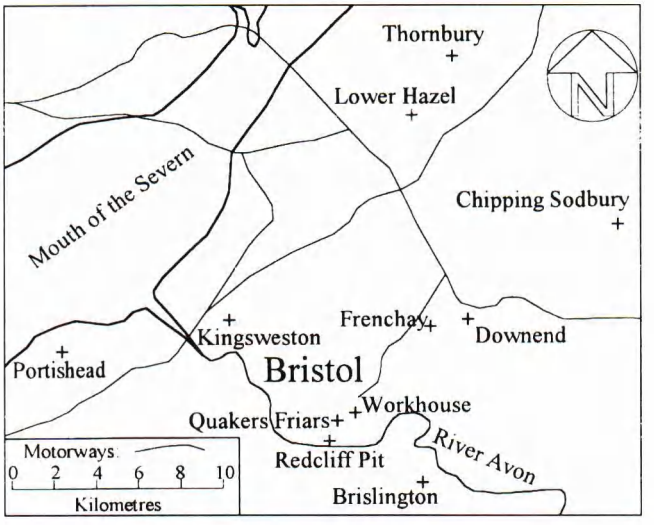


Fig.1 Location of Quaker burial grounds

Twelve burial ground sites in Bristol and Frenchay Monthly Meeting are examined here. The dates in use for burial, in some, ranged from the mid 17th century to the present; others have been exhumed and developed. All have some surviving records, while further information has been gleaned by seeking physical evidence, in order to find answers to the following questions:

- Where are the burial grounds?
- What is the origin of the individual burial ground?
- What is the visual evidence?
- Does the burial practice follow Quaker expectations?

The eleven sites identified from references in *Trusts and Trust Properties* (1870) comprise: Brislington, Chipping Sodbury, Downend, Frenchay, Kingsweston, Lower Hazel, Portishead, Quakers Friars, Redcliff Pit, Thornbury and Workhouse. Other than Downend, they were also included in *Reports on Burial Grounds* (1843). Figure 1 shows the location of the above burial grounds, and Table 1 lists their topographical characteristics.

There is reference in the Gloucestershire Quarterly Meeting Minutes 25th 6th month 1805 to a twelfth burial ground (Gloucestershire Record Office D1340 A1/M3 p227): 'proposed to sell the burying ground at Marshfield' (OS Map ST 77 SE). Reference to a Meeting at Marshfield dates from 30th 3rd month [Julian calendar: May] 1671 (Gloucestershire Record Office D1340 A1/M1), but nothing has been discovered to locate a site.

METHODOLOGY

The existence and location of each burial ground was ascertained by reference to written and printed documents, map evidence and personal communication. Permission for access and keys or the identity of key-holders, where necessary, was also obtained. Health and Safety implications were considered prior to commencement of the fieldwork, and all work was undertaken without incident.

The site of each of the eleven burial grounds was visited in early Spring 1996 and the land-use noted. Scale plans (1:250) were drawn of Frenchay, Kingsweston, Lower Hazel and Portishead. Those sites were surveyed solo, in plan only, using simple staff and tape baseline and offset techniques, with an optical square to derive right-angles, and diagonal checks for accuracy. Vertical features, where appropriate, are shown by hachures.

The other sites have been scaled from early large-scale maps (Ordnance Survey 1st or 2nd Editions; from Ashmead 1828), or from Quaker records. Fig.2 illustrates the diversity of shape, size and orientation, at a common scale and common north for direct comparison.

THE SITES

Brislington Fig.3 NGR ST 2520 7013

Brislington Quaker burial ground, formerly in North Division of Somerset Monthly Meeting, dates from *c.* 1691,

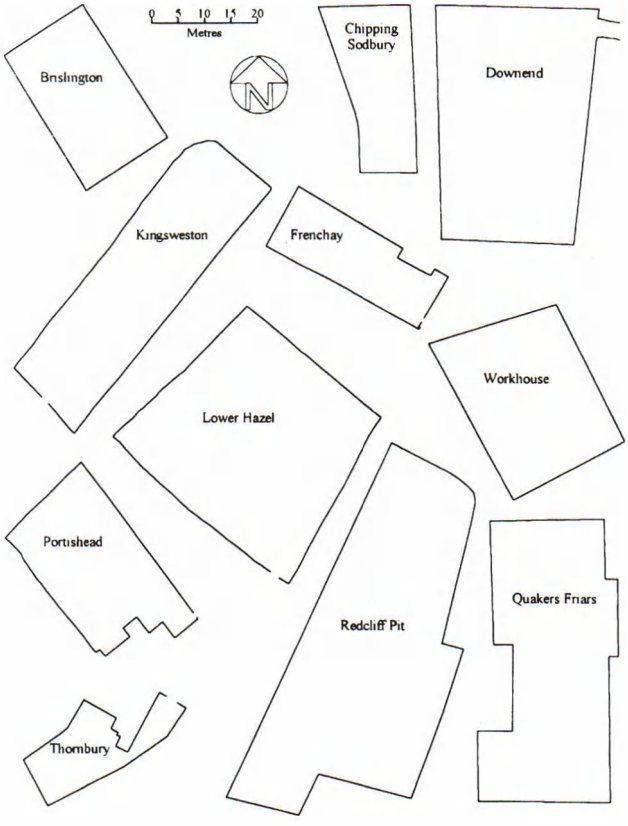


Fig.2 Plan showing all Quaker burial grounds mentioned in the text

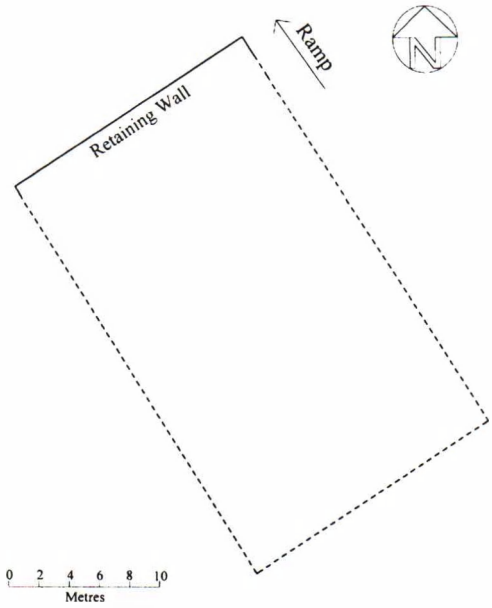


Fig.3 Brislington

and according to a Deed of 13th November 1731 there were:

> '. . . re-leases and grants for the term of 970 years [for] all that plot of Walled Ground then and for the space of forty years and upwards [that] hath been used as a burying place.' (*Trusts & Trust Properties* 1870).

The burial ground was sold in 1836 to Dr Francis Fox MD for the use of his local lunatic asylum on condition that:

> . . . it shall be kept in good order and repair as a Private Burial Ground, and that Dr Fox shall enter into a covenant to allow Burial there to Members of the Society of Friends should further occasion arise (*op cit*).

No information of further ownership changes has been sought.

The site survives with inhumations, but no visible memorial stones or boundary wall, other than a short section of retaining wall at the north west end. The ill-defined area of grass, scrub, concrete and rubbish in a largely derelict industrial estate in South Bristol is within an area subject to re-development (Planning Application No. 0488F/96/S), but is not thought to be under serious threat.

Chipping Sodbury Fig.4 NGR ST 7256 8231

Trusts and Trust Properties (1870) records the purchase date of the meeting house and burial ground as 1692, 'Down a lane on the north side of Brook Street Hill'.

A house was built on the southern end of the plot in 1976/77, and a note in the planning application file (N1566/Ap: microfiche 53651), concerns the discovery during foundation work in the south east corner of the site of 'a number of fragments of bone and a skull; also a brick-lined grave with capping stones, containing human bones'. The same note mentions 'a pile of tombstones at

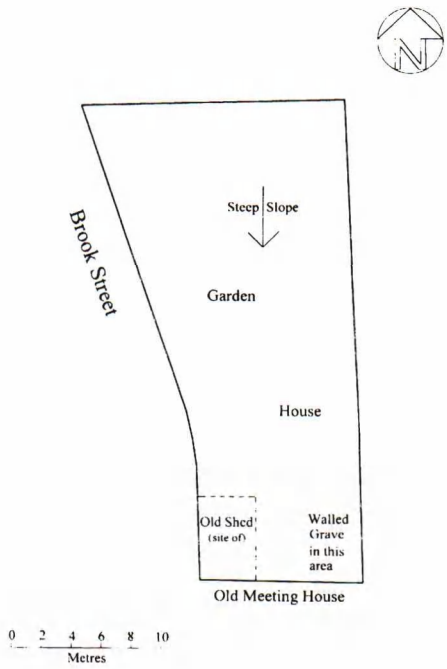


Fig.4 Chipping Sodbury

the lower [north] end of the plot', the latest date observed being 1920.

Prior to the development, there had been a shed in the south west corner and it was conjectured that this part of the plot, which is immediately to the north of the former Meeting House, could have been in use for stabling rather than for burial. The garden now contains some memorial stones, not in their original position, but no further human remains have been disturbed and they are not under threat (personal communication, Judith Morley).

Downend Fig.5 NGR ST 6514 7816
Downend Quaker burial ground dates from 1657 (*Trusts & Trust Properties* 1870), and the Reverend Arthur Emlyn Jones (1899) wrote:

> 'Another interesting relic of bygone days stands in the middle of Cleeve Hill Farm, lying between Bromley Heath and Baugh's Farm. It is a small square space walled all the way round, and now planted with fir trees. In the east wall near the entrance gate is a stone tablet with this inscription':
>
> 'FRIENDS' BURIAL GROUND. 1657. 750 interments prior to the year 1800, were registered at Cirencester. The entrance is upon a piece of pasture through roads from Bromley Heath to near Bath Farm, from the great road from Downend to Coalpit Heath'.

The text of the surviving plaque (below), now located at Moorend Farm (NGR ST 6515 7819), differs slightly from the printed transcription 1899 (above). Note also that Baugh's Farm and Bath Farm are phonetically similar and that Baugh and not Bath appears on maps.

FRIENDS' BURIAL GROUND.
1657.
750 INTERMENTS PRIOR TO THE YEAR 1800
WERE REGISTERED AT CIRENCESTER.
THE ENTRANCE IS UPON A PIECE OF COMMON
PASTURE THROUGH ROADS FROM BROMLEY
HEATH AND NEAR BATH FARM, FROM THE HIGH
ROAD BETWEEN DOWNEND AND COALPIT HEATH.

A housing development planning application in 1956 (SG 2948/Ap/Ap1. Microfiche 1 of 5), showed the burial ground as an 'open space' surrounded by building plots, and with apparent access from the road in the north east corner. Three plots, originally to the east, are shown on later Ordnance Survey maps, encroaching into the burial ground area. Two, larger houses, have since been built on the area shown as three, and presumably have gardens

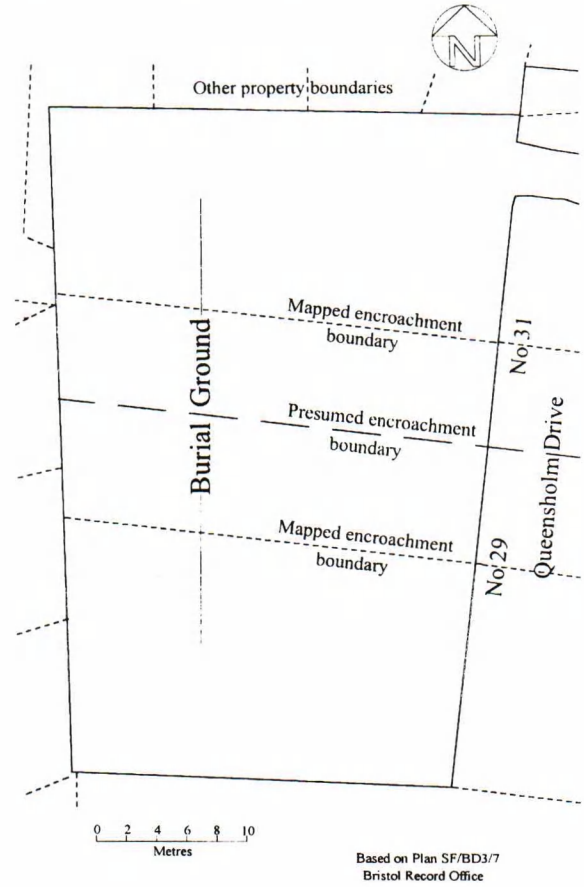


Fig.5 Downend

bisecting the burial ground. South Gloucestershire Council, Kingswood Office was unable to locate subsequent planning information. No planning conditions were found regarding human remains, and until established to the contrary, it must be assumed that the burials are *in situ*.

Frenchay Fig.6 NGR ST 6408 7799
The land use as a Meeting House and Burial Ground is

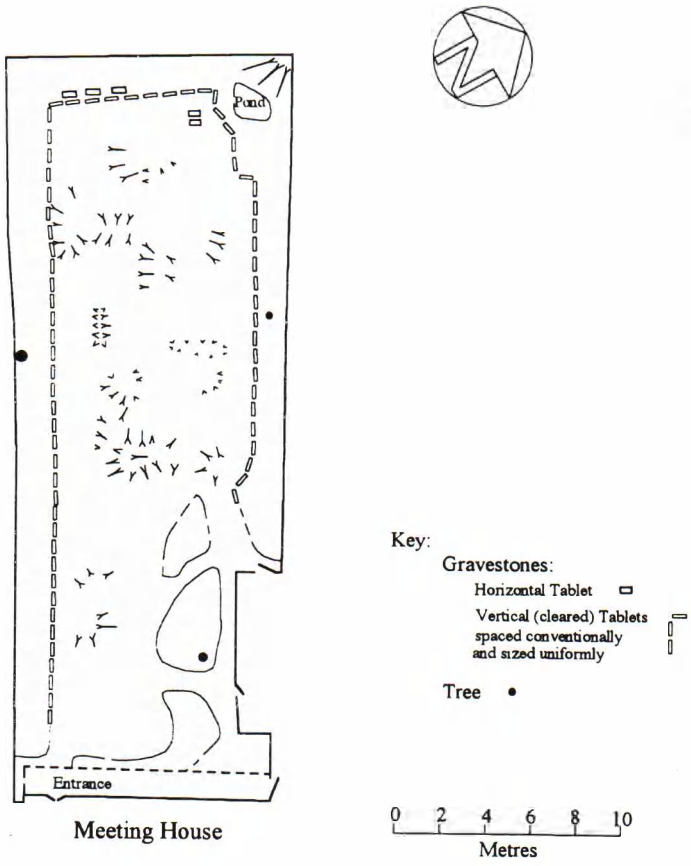


Fig.6 Frenchay

recorded in a Deed dated 15th May 1673 (*Trusts & Trust Properties* 1870). The same document describes the property thus:

> Frenchay Meeting House and Burial Ground at the north east end of Frenchay Common, in the Parish of Winterbourne, are commodious, and in good order. There are attached to these premises ample stable accommodation, a Cottage in the Graveyard, and a tenement (over one Stable), which are occupied by persons having care of the Meeting Premises.

The flat memorial tablets were re-located in 1950 (Butler 1950), and arranged vertically around a grassed area, in front of flower borders which had their origin in 1738, when it was agreed that: 'flower borders 18 inches (0.45 m) wide should be made round the graveyard and sowed with some sort of garden herbs' (Vinter 1983).

The burial ground is still in use, but restricted for inhumation and the burial of cremated remains of members of Frenchay Preparative Meeting. Mortared stone walls varying in height from 1.8 to 2.8m enclose the burial ground on three sides with access through a passage in the meeting house on the fourth side.

A plan dated 1927 (Bristol Record Office 14585 Supplementary. list, Item 56) shows a general south-west / north-east burial axis with some infill at right angles.

Kingsweston Fig.7 NGR ST 5401 7796

Kingsweston burial ground dates from 1690 (Trusts & Trust Properties 1870), and this date is repeated on an incised stone above the entrance: 'FRIENDS BURIAL GROUND 1690'. It survives as a strip of land enclosed by a Listed (Reference 26031) mortared rubble wall, with an 18th-century gateway (Stell 1986, 65). The location, on the corner of Kingsweston Lane and Broadlands Drive, is within an extensive post-World War 2 housing estate in Lawrence Weston, north Bristol.

More than eighty, flat rectangular memorial tablets, lie in attractive grass, shrub and tree surroundings, which an urban fox has also made its home. A number of stones have become covered with vegetation, and there are probably others. The burial ground is still available for interment.

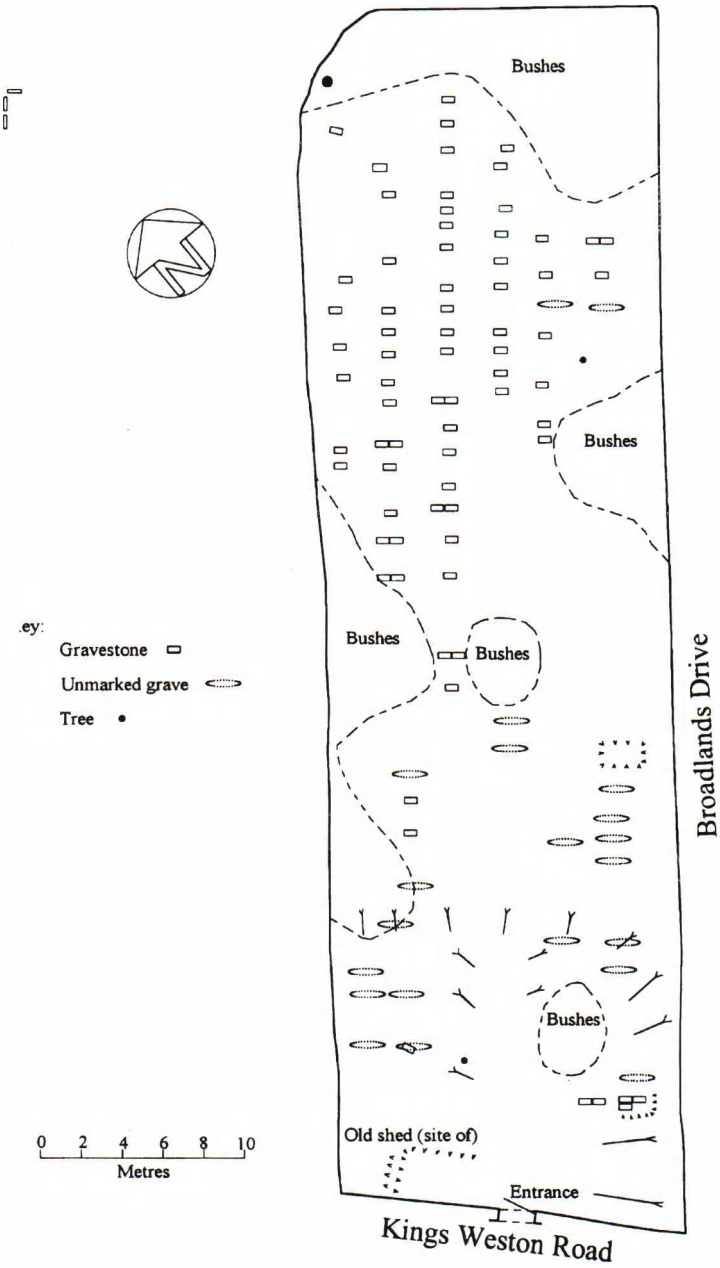


Fig.7 Kingsweston

There appear to be six rows of graves, with an axis north-west / south-east, but the head / foot axis is not apparent because the stones, where present, are aligned along the length of the grave, with the inscriptions as viewed from the entrance.

Lower Hazel Fig.8 NGR ST 6261 8746

The burial ground is mentioned in a Deed dated 1674 (Trusts & Trust Properties 1870), while a stone in the wall by the entrance shows the date 1656. Lower Hazel, in the parish of Olveston, is a very attractive and secluded rural burial ground, entered through a pair of doors near the south corner. A mortared rubble boundary wall, some of which is squared and coursed, ranges in height from 1.5 to 2.2 m.

A sundial on a stone plinth is a central feature of a grassed area surrounded by trees and shrubs. Of the fifty-seven stones found, forty-six were headstones with semicircular tops and eleven were small (0.3 m) square tablets laid horizontally.

The stump of a Wellingtonia tree (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) planted at the turn of the 20th century (tree-ring data) remains a prominent feature. A headstone with the inscription: 'Hephzibah Knight Eaton 4[th] mo[nth] 22 1871 aged 4 years' and 'Winifride Knight Eaton 9 mo 29 1871 aged 2 years 5 mo' marks the possible position of a grave encroached upon by the tree.

Three rectilinear depressions in the south east quarter, show the locations of the three coffins containing the skeletal remains of about one hundred interments exhumed from Thornbury Quaker burial ground in 1981. Lower Hazel burial ground is still in use.

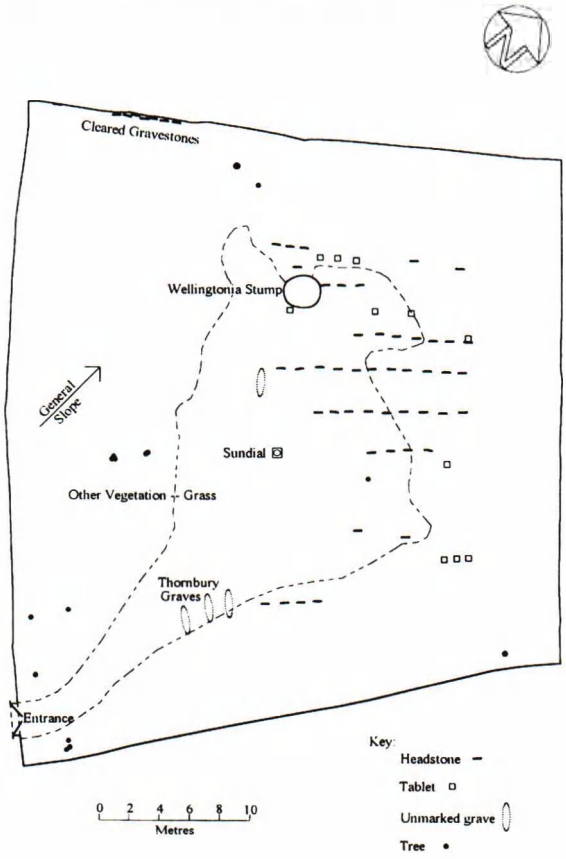


Fig.8 Lower Hazel

Portishead Fig.9 NGR ST 4655 7552

Portishead was successively within North Division of Somerset Monthly Meeting, North Somerset and Wilts Monthly Meeting, and then transferred to Bristol and Frenchay Monthly Meeting in 1893 (Wiltshire Record Office 1699/107). A Deed dated 17 April 1669 records:

> [Lands?] Adjoining the road leading from Portishead to Clevedon, were given to Friends, 1669, by WILLIAM POWELL, for the purposes of a Meeting House and Burial Ground (sic). (*Trusts & Trust Properties* 1870).

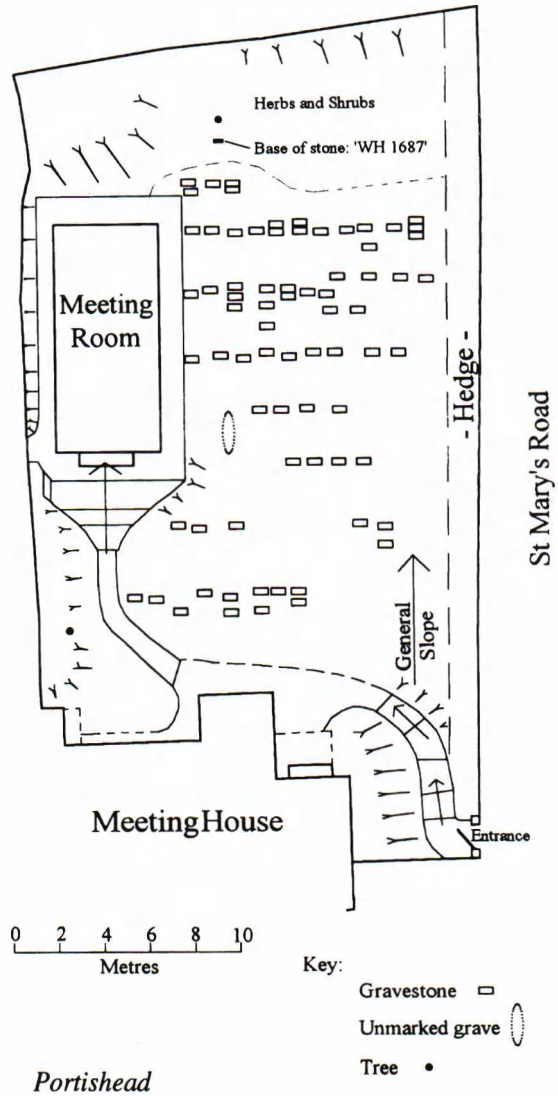


Fig.9 Portishead

Kenneth H Southall writes, without citation:

> It is recorded that in 1668 'one little meed or parcel of ground' was given to Portishead Meeting by William Prowse of Compton Bishop, at one end of which stood a house occupied by Thomas Hodds. This is the present Burial Ground, and the cottage which became the Meeting House. A copy of another deed of 1669 records [above], in rather ambiguous wording, a gift of ground by William Powell, which may have been adjacent to the Meeting House' (Southall 1974, 8-9).

The burial ground is now in the curtilage of a Listed (Reference: ST 4675 4/21) thatched meeting house, but is not specifically mentioned. A grassed area within herb and shrub borders has 73 rectangular tablets, laid horizontally. A small broken headstone inscribed: 'W H 1687' has been placed in the meeting house; the present location of its base is marked on the plan (Fig. 9). A William Hunt of Fayland [Failand?] was buried 10 8 1687 (Bristol Record Office FCSF/R1/5(a)4). A single storey, separate meeting-room, planned and built between 1972 and 1974 (Planning Application No. 2751/92537B), encroaches on part of the burial ground, and a 'ha-ha' type wall protected by an evergreen hedge forms the boundary with St Mary's Road. Cremated remains only are now interred.

Quakers Friars Fig.10 NGR ST 5930 7332
Trusts & Trust Properties (1870), in a Deed dated 7th and 8th Feb. 1669, describes a:

> 'Meeting House, Burial Ground, and Premises at the Friars' as:
> Occupying part of the site of the ancient monastery of the Black Friars (who used the present Burial Ground) situate between Rosemary Street and the Broad Weir, from each side of which there is an entrance. Were first acquired by purchase 1669.

February in 1669 was the eleventh month in the Julian calendar, and that date has presumably since been converted to the Gregorian calendar as the second month 1670 which is the date inscribed on the oval plaque below. Stell (1986, 65) dates the burial ground from 1701.

The former Meeting House was sold in 1956 (Stell 1986, 65) and became Bristol Register Office, and the burial ground was exhumed and became largely used for car parking. The human remains were reinterred in Avon View Cemetery, Bristol in grave numbers 1359 and 1448 Purple AA, 27 October 1956 (Registers held by South Bristol Crematorium).

A vertical oval plaque now states:

(*Bristol Coat of Arms*)
Society of Friends Meeting House 1747
The Quakers held

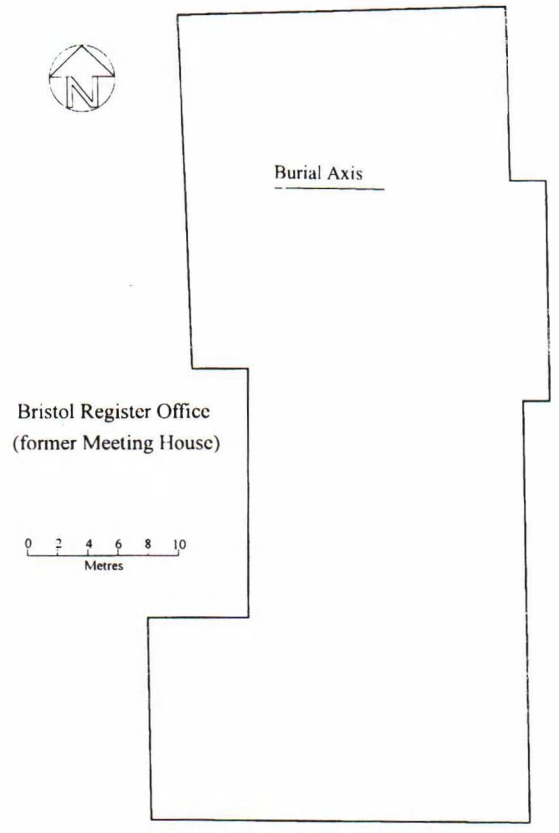


Fig.10 Quakers Friars

Meetings on this
site from
1670 - 1956

Some 500 of the gravestones have been re-used as a surface for the car parking area at Bedminster Meeting House, Wedmore Vale, Bristol. (NGR: ST 592 707).

Redcliff Pit Fig.11 NGR ST 5903 7236
Redcliff Pit was purchased freehold in 1665, and had an entrance from Jones's Lane, Redcliff St. (*Trusts & Trust Properties* 1870). Wiltshire Record Office holds a set of additions to the 1870 Trust & Trust Properties Book *c.* 1940-1, (WRO 1699/28A) with the entry:

> House adjacent Redcliff Pit burial ground 5 5 mo 1927 leased to Governors of Redcliff School as a Playing Ground. The gravestones were removed and placed behind a fence in front of the Hermit's Cell.

The site, now a public garden with paths, raised plant beds and a grassed area is identified as a former Quaker burial ground by a stone and a metal plate on the wall by the entrance. The flaking stone reads:

FRIENDS
BURIAL GROUND
1665

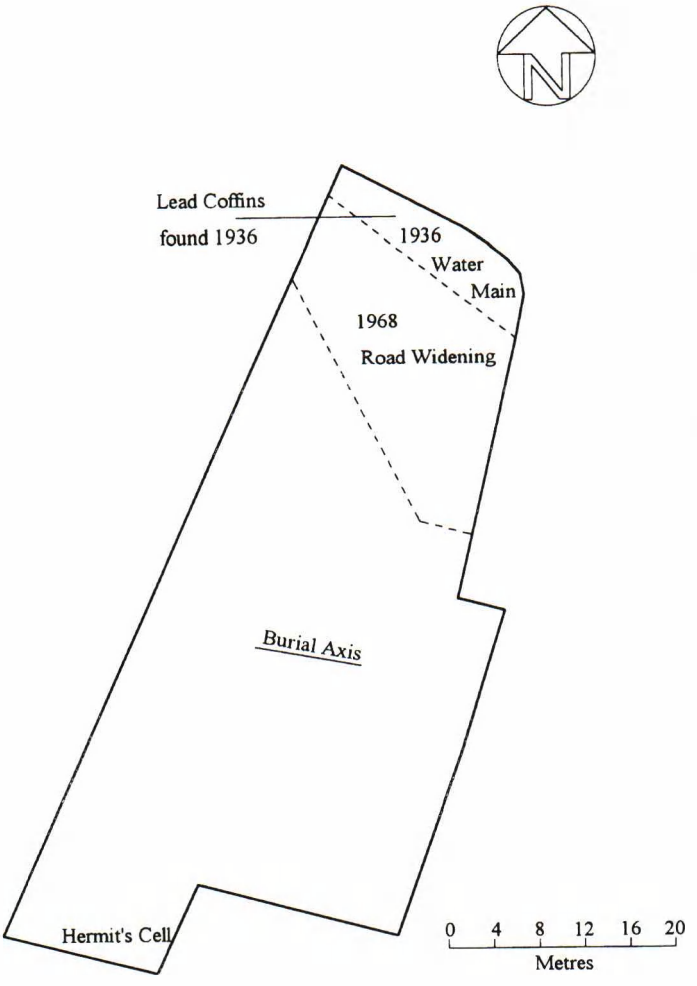


Fig.11 Redcliff Pit

and the metal plate:

THIS LAND PURCHASED IN 1665
BY QUAKERS AND USED BY THEM
AS A BURIAL GROUND
UNTIL 1923. WAS GIVEN TO THE
CITIZENS OF BRISTOL IN 1950

The human remains were exhumed and reinterred in Avon View Cemetery 14 September 1956, in grave numbers 1357-8 and 1449-50 Purple AA (Registers held by South Bristol Crematorium). A number of rectangular memorial stones are stored in 'St John the Baptist Hermitage' (SMR 1010), a small cave or grotto in the rock at the south end.

According to a pencil note in the margin of a plan of the burial ground (Bristol Record Office 40804/1), lead coffins were seen in 1936 during the laying of a large water main through the northern end of Redcliff Pit.

Thornbury Fig. 12 NGR ST 6380 9009
Meeting House and Burial Ground:

On the south east side of [Saint] John Street, in the Town of Thornbury, acquired by purchase on lease for 1000 years from 25th April 1674, and release in fee 26th and 27th April 1677, for the sum of Twelve pounds Ten shillings.
(*Trusts & Trust Properties* 1870).

The human skeletal remains were exhumed from the former 81 St John Street and re-interred in Lower Hazel burial ground in 1981, to clear the area for development. Planning Application No. N7206 (Microfiche) contains correspondence between Northavon District Council and Bristol and Frenchay Monthly Meeting. A brick, walled grave was seen during the work (personal communication, Terry Hunt). Terry Hunt was also responsible, on behalf of the former Northavon District Council, for arranging payment for the coffins. The bones were temporarily stored at the Cooper Road Depot, Thornbury, pending reinterment at Lower Hazel (personal communication, Malcolm Rayner).

The Meeting House, with no mention of the Burial Ground, is included in *An inventory of Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting-Houses in Central England* (Stell 1986, 100-1).

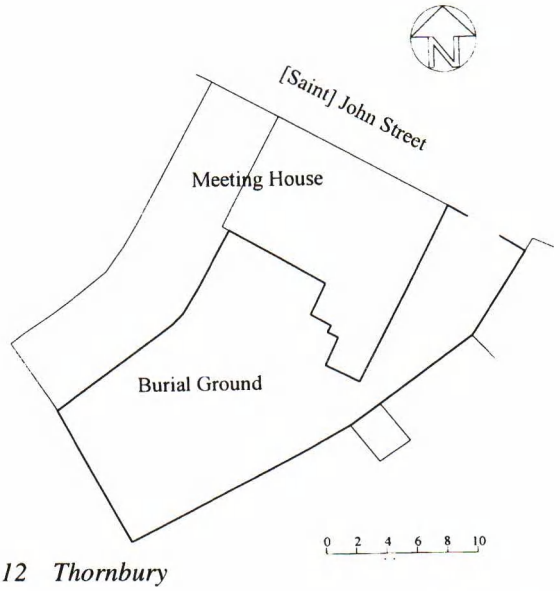


Fig.12 Thornbury

The plan (Fig.12) is based on items in the records of Bristol and Frenchay Monthly Meeting General Committee.

Workhouse Fig.13 NGR ST 5963 7343
The 'Workhouse' in this instance, was literally a place of work, established in 1696 as a positive response to a need to provide work for poor unemployed Quaker weavers, who eventually returned a profit (Lloyd 1950, 40-1).

Trusts & Trust Properties (1870) identifies a Deed dated 29th of September 1698 and gives the following information:

The Burial Ground (Workhouse) New Street, with

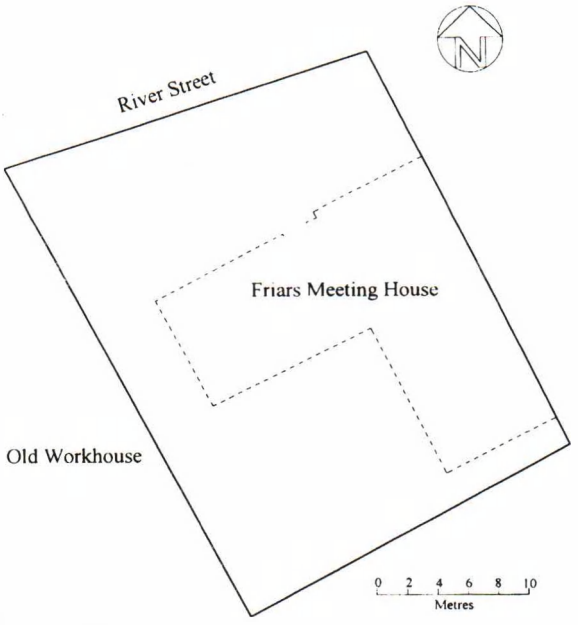


Fig.13 Workhouse

entrances from New Street and River Street in the Parish of St. Philip and Jacob, in the City of Bristol, was acquired by purchase in 1698, but has never been very extensively used. The Ground was purchased in connection with the premises formerly known as the Workhouse.

Other names used in the past include New Street, New Street Mission and River Street. The gravestones were removed in 1932, with the consent of the available relations, and arranged in the north-east corner of the yard (Wiltshire Record Office 1699/22A).

The human remains were exhumed and were reinterred in Avon View Cemetery in grave numbers 1453-4 Purple AA, 15 February 1961 (Registers held by South Bristol Crematorium). A meeting house, renamed Friars, was built over part of the former burial ground in 1970. Cast-iron numbered plates which had been used to form a grid to identify grave positions, survive on the north-west wall of the garden at the back of the meeting house.

A memorial stone facing south in Avon View Cemetery (NGR: ST 6180 7329) bears the words:

IN THIS
COMMON GRAVE ARE BURIED
THE REMAINS OF THOSE MEMBERS
OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.
(QUAKERS)
FORMERLY INTERRED IN THE
QUAKER BURIAL GROUNDS AT
NEW STREET, QUAKERS FRIARS
AND REDCLIFF PIT.
RE-INTERRED HERE IN 1956
AT THE TIME OF
THE RE-BUILDING OF THESE PARTS
OF BRISTOL.

CONCLUSION

The areas of the surviving burial grounds are substantially as recorded in 1843, and thus show that the boundaries are likely to be of at least that date. The early maps support that finding.

The axis of burial appears to depend upon an efficient use of the available space and would only by chance adhere to the 'liturgical alignment' of east to west, with head west, as is usual with the Established Church.

Gravestones, many of which are dated between the years 1717 and 1850 when stones were advised against, are simple but not entirely uniform. Inscriptions sometimes include named rather than numbered months.

Lead coffins and walled graves can often be found in Quaker burial grounds, demonstrating that not all conformed to the advocated simplicity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ashmead, G C and Plumley, J, 1828 Plan (Cartographic) of Bristol.

Bristol Record Office: 14585 Supplementary. list, Item 56. Frenchay Plan 1927.

Burial Ground	NGR	Approx. Area (Sq. M)	Approx. AOD (Metres)	SMR *Listed*	1:10000 Map	Other Maps
Brislington	362520 170130	490	53	No *No*	ST 67 SW	OS 1 & 2 Editions.
Chipping Sodbury	372568 182311	390	89	No *No*	ST 78 SW	OS 1 Ed. 1:1250. ST 7282 SE
Downend	365143 178160	1200	40	9608 *No*	ST 67 NE	OS 2 Ed. 1:2500. BRO: SF/BD3/7
Frenchay RSoF own	364084 177996	330	38	No *Winter-bourne 3/8*	ST 67 NW	Plan produced: 1:250
Kingsweston RSoF own	354010 177968	910	13	No *26031*	ST 57 NW	Plan produced: 1:250
Lower Hazel RSoF own	362615 187468	1380	60	1470 *No*	ST 68 NW	Plan produced: 1:250
Portishead RSoF own	346555 175528	470	10	6646 *ST4675 4/21*	ST 47 NE	Plan produced: 1:250
Quakers Friars	359300 173320	1610	13	952 *Bristol 492*	ST 57 SE	Ashmead 1828. BRO: SF/PL/1
Redcliff Pit	359038 172360	1820	14	2419 & 1010 *No*	ST 57 SE	Ashmead 1828. BRO: 40804
Thornbury	363800 190095	170	48	No *No*	ST 69 SW	Monthly Meeting: Records of General Cttee.
Workhouse RSoF own	359630 173438	760	15	No *No*	ST 57 SE	Ashmead 1828. Dimensions also checked

The 12-figure, one metre National Grid References represent a central location in the burial grounds.

AOD: Height Above Ordnance Datum.
BRO: Bristol Record Office.
Listed: Listed Building reference number.
SMR: Sites and Monuments Record.

Table 1 Topographical summary

Bristol Record Office: 40804/1 Plan of Redcliff Pit Burying Ground. 7 mo. 1829. Scale: 1:60.

Bristol Record Office: FCSF/R1/5(a)4 Microfiche of Bristol and Somerset Quarterly Meeting.Burial Digest.

Butler, W H, 1950 Plan Showing Exact Position of Memorial Stones in Burial Ground at Frenchay. (Scale: 1:60). Prepared for Frenchay Property Committee April 9th. 1950.

Christian and Brotherly Advices. 1738 Manuscript compilation distributed to Quarterly and Monthly Meetings.

Gloucestershire Record Office D1340 A1/M1. Quarterly Meeting Minutes.

Gloucestershire Record Office D1340 A1/M3. Quarterly Meeting Minutes.

Jones, E J, 1899 *Our Parish: Mangotsfield and Downend.* (Reprint 1978). Bath: Kingsmead Press.

Lloyd, A, 1950. *Quaker Social History 1669 - 1738.* London: Longmans, Green.

Milligan, E H, and Thomas, M J, 1983 *My Ancestors were Quakers.* 1990 reprint. London: Society of Genealogists.

Penney, N, (editor). 1911 *The Journal of George Fox.* Vol. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Planning Application. 1956. SG 2948/Ap/Ap1. Microfiche 1 of 5. Downend. [was Kingswood District Council, now held by South Gloucestershire Council 1997].

Planning Application. 1972-4. 2751/92537B. Portishead. [was Portishead Town Council, now held by North Somerset Council 1997].

Planning Application. 1977. N1566/Ap: microfiche 53651. Chipping Sodbury. [was Northavon District Council, now held by South Gloucestershire Council 1997].

Planning Application. 1996. 0488F/96/S: Proposed Development at Brislington, Bristol. [Bristol City Council].

Quaker Faith and Practice 1995: *The book of Christian discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.*

Reports on Burial Grounds 1843 MS Vol. 74. Friends House Library. Responses to a questionnaire regarding 'A bill for Improvement of Health in Towns, by removing the Interment of the Dead from their Precincts.' 6 March 1843.

Rowe, J, 1986 *Bygone Brislington..* Brislington Conservation and Amenity Society.

Southall, K H, 1974 *Our Quaker Heritage..* London: Quaker Home Service.

South Bristol Crematorium: Burial Registers for Avon View Cemetery.

Stell, C, 1986 *An inventory of Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting-Houses in Central England* (Gloucestershire fascicule). HMSO and RCHME.

Stock, G, (unpublished Post Graduate Research Diploma Dissertation). *An Evaluation of Quaker Burial Practices.* Bournemouth University.

Stock, G, (forthcoming, a) Quaker Burial: Doctrine and Practice. In Cox, M., (editor). *Grave Concerns: Death and Burial in Post Medieval England 1700 -1850.* York: Council for British Archaeology.

Stock, G, (forthcoming, b). The 18th and Early 19th Century Quaker Burial Ground at Bathford, Bath and North East Somerset. In Cox, M, (editor). *Grave Concerns: Death and Burial in Post Medieval England 1700 -1850.* York: Council for British Archaeology.

Trusts & Trust Properties vested in Bristol & Somerset Quarterly Meeting & its subordinate meetings 1870. L 097.14 BRI Friends House Library.

Vinter, D, 1983 *The Friends Meeting House, Frenchay.* Frenchay

Wiltshire Record Office, 1699/22A: Workhouse: A set of additions to the 1870 *Trusts & Trust Properties Book c.* 1940-1.

Wiltshire Record Office, 1699/28A: Redcliff Pit: A set of additions to the 1870 *Trusts & Trust Properties Book c.* 1940-1.

Wiltshire Record Office, 1699/107: Portishead - Transfer from North Somerset and Wilts Monthly Meeting to Bristol and Frenchay Monthly Meeting in 1893.

EXCAVATIONS ON THE MARSH WALL, KING STREET, BRISTOL

by Rod Burchill

INTRODUCTION

Following planning permission to redevelop the site of the former Olivetti House, King Street, Bristol, Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Alec French Partnership on behalf of their clients, Averley Wood Properties Ltd, to undertake an archaeological excavation of the site in order attempt to locate and record any surviving elements of the 13th-century town wall, known as the Marsh Wall. An archaeological desktop study of the site indicated that the wall was located towards the front of the site, adjacent to the Prince Street roundabout (Burchill 1994).

The excavation was carried out in two stages, the first in late November 1994 and the second in January and February 1995. In the first stage, under the supervision of Eric Boore, a trench 2 metres by 13 metres was cut through the basement floor of the demolished Olivetti House.

The second stage involved the excavation of the area immediately outside the footprint of the basement south of the first trench, and was carried out under the direction of the writer.

The site archive has been deposited at Bristol City Museum under the International Museum Code BRSMG 9/1995.

THE SITE

The site was formerly occupied by a 1960's office building (Olivetti House) which lay at the southern end of Marsh Street at the junction with King Street (NGR ST 5868 7272). It is now occupied by Venturers House. The site is bounded on the west by Marsh Street, south by Prince Street roundabout, east by Merchants Almshouse and north by further commercial properties (Fig.1).

The Geological Survey 1" Series describes the geology as alluvial clays of riverine origin.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A full description of the historical antecedents of the area can be found in the archaeological desktop study of the site (Burchill 1994) of which a brief summary is included here.

Throughout the medieval period this area of Bristol was marshy ground and was referred to as 'The Marsh'. The northern part of the marsh was protected by a wall, the Marsh Wall, which was built during the third quarter of the thirteenth century. The traditional historical and archaeological view placed the course of the River Frome to the south of Baldwin Street thus dividing the marsh from the town. This direction for the course of the River Frome has been challenged by Leech (1997). Based on the evidence of property boundaries and other documentary material Leech has postulated that the course of the Frome followed the line of King Street and that the Marsh Wall was constructed along its northern bank. In 1247 the River Frome was diverted to the west through what is now the city centre.

In 1493 the Society of Mariners was granted land just

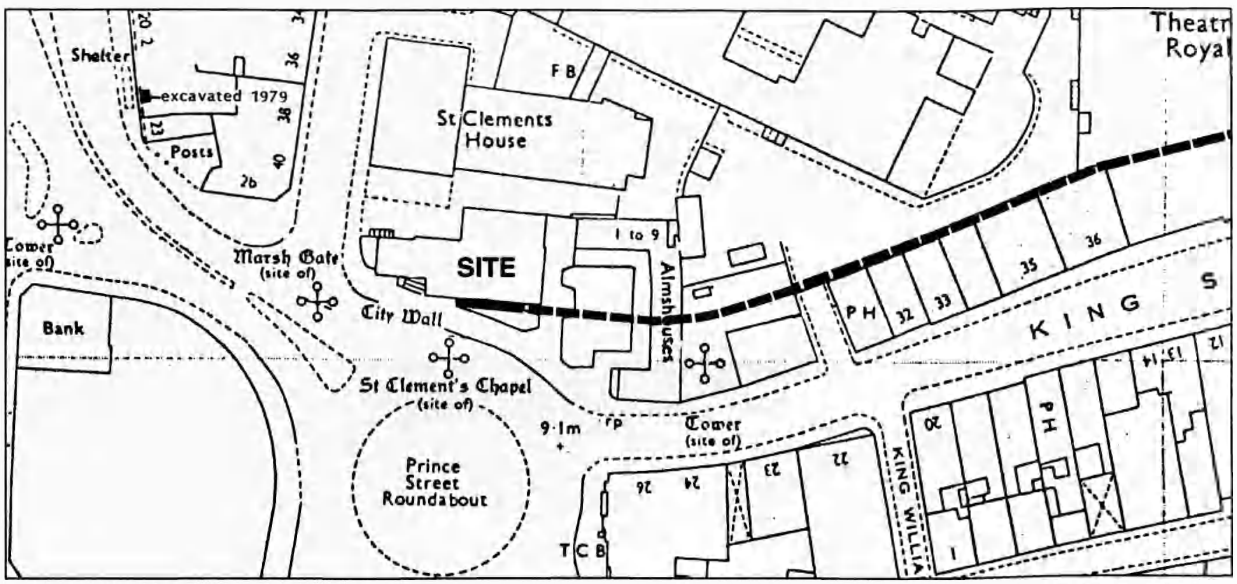


Fig.1 Site location plan

outside the Marsh Wall to build a chapel and almshouse (Latimer 1903). After the chapel was suppressed in 1548 the chapel,almshouse and adjoining land was granted to the Society of Merchant Venturers in 1552 (Latimer 1903).

Properties had encroached on to the north side of the Marsh Wall from an early period (Hoefnagle 1581) and by 1653 houses had been built against its south side (Latimer 1903).The wall ceased to function as a defensive structure soon after the end of the Civil War in 1646. The wall immediately east of the Marsh Street Gate had already disappeared by 1696 when Merchants Almshouse was rebuilt and extended northwards.

The Merchants Hall was extended in 1701, mainly northwards across the line of the Wall, with further extensions in 1719 and again in 1720.

THE EXCAVATION

Trench 1 (Fig.2)

This trench was excavated through the reinforced concrete floor of the basement and revealed pile caps and lateral concrete beams at a depth of *c.* 2m below pavement level, at 7.17m OD. Subsequent excavation below the basement floor revealed a series of undisturbed alluvial clay deposits to a depth of *c.* 4.0m. These consisted of (101) a grey/blue/brown clay for a depth of *c.* 1.25m. This overlay a deposit of pale brown clay with yellow-brown clayey stains (102) for a depth of 1.5m which sealed the blue clay alluvium at 3.18m OD. The clay deposits were clean, undisturbed and totally devoid of artefacts.

Trench 2 (Fig.2)

Trench 2 was excavated in two parts either side of a north-south wall (203). This wall and another at the east end of the trench (202) were constructed of Brandon Hill Grit and pennant sandstone bonded in a hard white, black-flecked mortar, probably parts of the 1701 extension to the Merchants Hall.

Removal of overburden and (203) revealed, at the west, a well 0.6m in diameter (215) a deposit of pale brown sand (210) which contained fragments of mollusca, animal bones and pottery, probably associated with the construction of a cellar in the Merchants Hall and east, a deposit of red sand (205) up to 50mm deep. The well, which had a stone gout drain issuing into it, was filled with modern material and terminated at a depth of 0.45m. Underlying (205) and (210) and cut by the well was the Marsh Wall (204). This was aligned east-west, extending beyond the boundaries of the excavation. A brown silty clay (206) to the south of the Marsh Wall may have been silting within a ditch, possibly the Marsh Wall Ditch.

The Marsh Wall measured 2.8m across and was constructed chiefly of Brandon Hill Grit with occasional pennant sandstone, bonded in red sandy lime-flecked

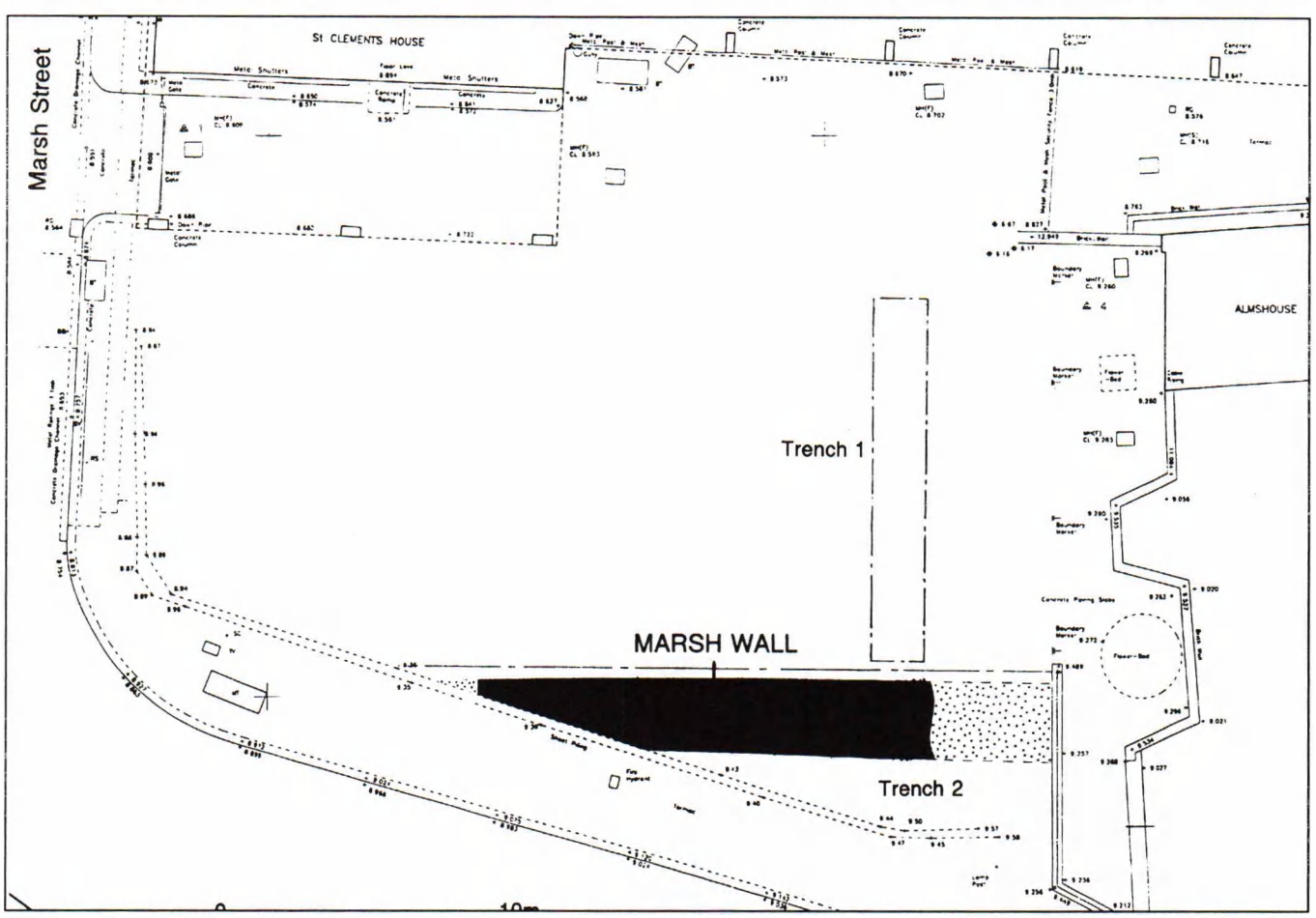


Fig.2 Trench location plan

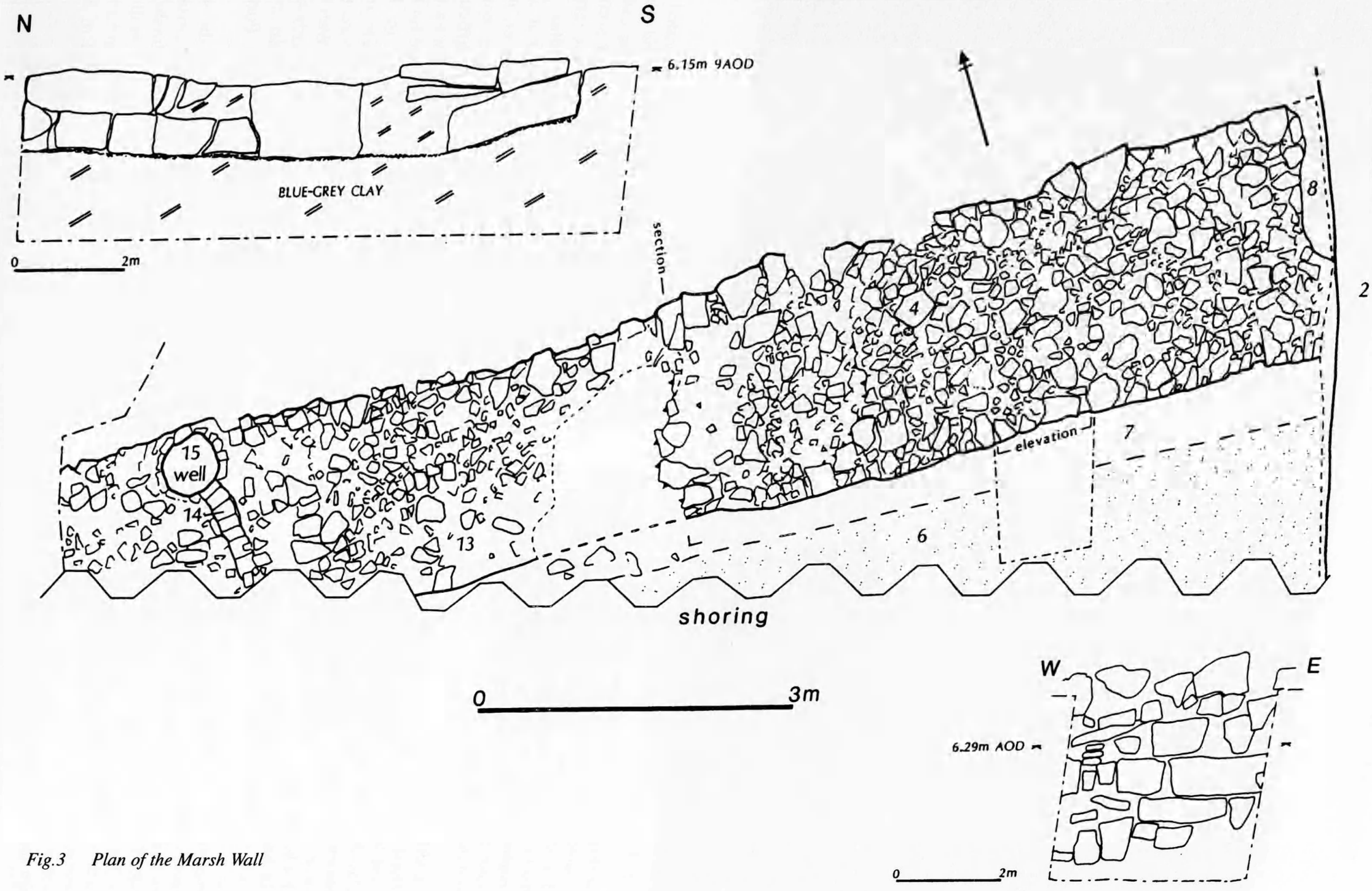


Fig.3 Plan of the Marsh Wall

Plate 1 View of the Marsh Wall. looking north

mortar (Fig.3). The wall survived to a depth of 5.77m OD (3-4 courses). This was sectioned to determine how it was founded and to retrieve samples of any timber piles for dendrochronological analysis but none was found. Observations during removal of the wall by mechanical excavator revealed that it was founded slightly deeper to the west than to the east.

DISCUSSION

The Marsh Wall was founded over a layer of red gravelly sand and large stones (Brandon Hill Grit), rubble, gravel and clay. A similar method of construction was noted for the bastion at the east end of the Marsh Wall excavated by Barton in 1960 (Barton 1964). Barton did not locate the wall but he was able to record a substantial part of a semi-circular bastion which measured *c.* 8.5m across. This too was built of Brandon Hill Grit and bonded in red sandy mortar.

Observations, by Bristol Museum staff in 1979, on a contractors trench for an extension to the Bristol and West offices on Broad Quay, to the north-west of the present site at NGR ST 5862 5745, revealed part of the town wall (Price 1991). The dimensions of the wall could not be ascertained due to the instability of the trench. However, it was similar in construction to the Marsh Wall (204). Associated with this wall was a double arched structure which gave access through the wall to the River Frome and interpreted by Price as a watergate (Price 1991).

Price also noted information provided by the contractors building the adjacent Bristol and West offices in 1970. A trench a little to the north of that excavated in 1979 revealed a section of wall founded some 4-5.0m below pavement level (3-4.0m OD). It was reported that this wall was supported on 'huge wooden piles'. Wall 204 on the other hand was less deeply founded at 5.77m OD with no evidence for wooden piles. However, it is likely that the length of wall to the northwest would have presented more demanding construction difficulties than the line taken through the marsh to the south-east.

No obvious construction trench was noted for the Marsh Wall although Barton during his work in 1960 had recorded a trench for the bastion. Elsewhere in the city salvage excavation in 1974, at 65 Baldwin Street recorded the foundations of the 12th century Town Wall but found no evidence for a construction trench although Price thought one had existed (Price 1979) whilst at Portwall Lane and Temple Quay excavation of the Portwall also revealed no trace of a foundation trench.

Only the lowest foundation courses of the wall (204) survived. Moreover, the upper courses had certainly been removed by 1696 when Merchants Almshouse was extended northwards, while stone from the wall had been incorporated into the cellar walls of the Merchants Hall in 1701. Probably as part of the 1701 rebuild of Merchants

Hall the well (215) was inserted through the wall.

The Marsh Wall extended from The Back (Welsh Back) along the north side of King Street to The Key (Quay) where it then turned north along the east bank of the Frome channel terminating in a large tower, Viell's Tower, near the western end of Baldwin street. William Wyrcestre writing *c.* 1480 described the wall on the Quay to the west of the present site as *c.* 8ft (2.4m) wide and approximately 40ft (12m) high (Dallaway 1843).

A map by Jacob Millerd in 1673 (Fig.4) shows three gates in the southern, east-west section of the wall, Marsh Gate, Back Street Gate and Marsh Street Gate immediately west of the present site. A tower is shown on the wall directly east of the site, probably beneath the extended Merchants Almshouse.

The Marsh Wall and neighbouring Portwall were protected by a ditch (Ponsford 1987). The grant of land to the Society of Mariners in 1493 refers to "part of a contiguous fosse called the Lawe Dycke" (Latimer 1903) furthermore, Hoefnagle in his plan of 1581 appears to show a ditch between St. Clements Chapel and the Marsh Wall. No certain evidence was found for this ditch although a brown silty clay (206) between the wall and the boundary of the site may represent silting within a ditch. If Leech (1997) is correct then this ditch may represent the original course of the River Frome.

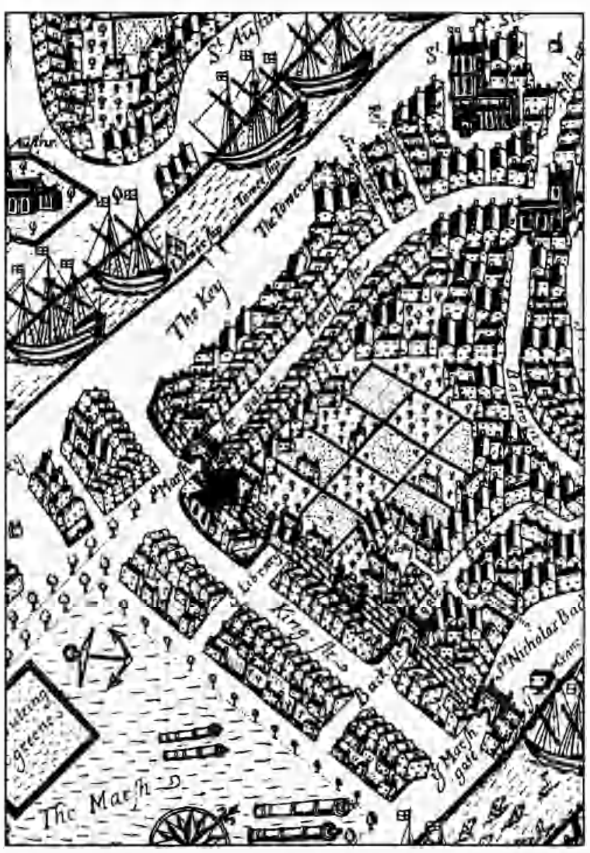


Fig.4 Millerd's map of 1673 with the site marked in black

That the Marsh Wall had a defensive function is clear. Grants of Murage made 39 Henry III (1255) and 45 Henry III (1261) refer to building a wall to provide protection for the town (Harding 1930). The town walls and gates also performed a useful economic function by controlling the entry and exit of merchants through the levying of taxes and custom dues.

The town walls were refortified during the Civil War (1642-1646). Unlike the Portwall there is no record of an assault on the Marsh Wall, its location between the rivers Avon and Frome probably making any assault impossible. It is likely that the Marsh Wall ceased to function as a town wall soon after the cessation of hostilities in 1646.

Probably development occurred on the town (north) side of the Wall soon after its construction and on the south by 1653 (Burchill 1994). The extension of Merchants Hall and the subsequent office building, however, had removed all traces of these buildings on the site.

The excavation has shown the Marsh Wall to lie a little north of its assumed line (Lobel & Carus-Wilson 1975). Excavation results and 18th-century building plans (Burchill 1994), when part of the Wall was still extant, has enabled a new line to be postulated for the Marsh Wall between the bastion on the corner of Queen Charlotte Street and King Street and Marsh Street (Fig.1).

FINDS

Only a very small number of artefacts were recovered from the site. These consisted of sherds of pottery, animal bone, clay tobacco-pipe, oyster and mussel shell and iron slag. Only the pottery, clay tobacco-pipe and iron-slag were retained, details of these may be found in archive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer would like to thank John Fjeld of Alec French Partnership and Richard Woolacott of Higgs and Hill for their cooperation during fieldwork.

BaRAS would like to thank TR Demolition for their help during the excavation of Trench 1.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barton, K, 1964 The excavation of a medieval bastion at St.Nicholas Almshouse's, King Street, Bristol. *Medieval Archaeology* 8, 184-212.

Burchill, R, 1994 *Desktop study of the Olivetti House Site, King Street, Bristol* BaRAS Report BA/C065.

Dallaway, J, 1834 Antiquities of Bristow in the Middle Centuries. Bristol.

Geological Survey of England and Wales 1" series : Bristol District.

Harding, N D, 1930 Bristol Charters 1155-1373 *Bristol Record Society*, 1.

Hoefnagle, G, 1581 Brighstowe. Cologne.

Latimer, J, 1903 *The History of the Society of Merchant Venturers. Bristol.*

Leech, R H, 1997 The Medieval Defences of Bristol revisited in L.Keen (ed) Almost The Richest City: Bristol In

The Middle Ages. *British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions* XIX.

Lobel, M D and Carus-Wilson E, 1975, Bristol in *Historic Towns Atlas* 2.

Millerd, J, 1673 An exact delineation of the famous Citie of Bristol and Suburbs thereof. Bristol.

Ponsford, M, 1987 Bristol in Aston and Iles (ed) *The Archaeology of Avon*, 145-160.

Price, R, 1979 Excavation at the Town wall, Bristol 1974 in N.Thomas (ed) *Rescue Archaeology in Bristol* : 1.

Price, R, 1991 An excavation at Broad Quay (Watergate), Bristol 1979, *Bristol & Avon Archaeology* 9, 24-28.

BRISTOL CASTLE KEEP
A re-appraisal of the evidence and report on the excavations in 1989

by G L Good

Ah! where are now
The castellated walls with bastions flank'd?
Where the palatial fabric they contained,
From whence in pomp baronial, issued forth
Gloucester's proud earls? Or, where that mighty tow'r
That struck with awe the gazing eye without,
And spoke the martial splendour of its lord?

Anon 1833

SUMMARY

In 1989 most of the surviving remains of the foundations of the early 12th-century keep of Bristol Castle were uncovered prior to consolidation for public display. This extended the plan of the structure revealed by previous excavations to uncover the foundations of the probable fifth tower of the keep suggested by the writings of William Worcester in the 15th century. Beneath the keep, the motte and bailey ditches of the earlier castle were excavated at their junction. This confirmed that their infilling was largely contemporary with the construction of the keep. This article provides a report on these findings and discusses them in relation to previous work on the castle.

INTRODUCTION

The town of Bristol grew up in Saxon times along the easily defensible ridge of Triassic sandstone between the Rivers Avon and Frome just above the point at which they joined. When the Norman castle was built, it was located on the east side of the town at a position where the two rivers came close together, so blocking off the only landward approach to the town (Fig.1).

The first castle is thought to have been founded by Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances (Allen Brown *et al* 1963, 578; Ponsford 1979, 28). He was probably responsible for the erection of a motte-and-bailey castle, and may beforehand have built a ringwork on the site as a preliminary defensive measure (Ponsford 1979, 128-31). The impressive keep which succeeded the motte and bailey is attributed to Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and was built during the first half of the 12th century (Hearne 1724, 433; Hearne 1769,92).

Although it went through several periods of neglect, throughout its history Bristol Castle played a major role as an important stronghold, until it was pulled down by Act of Parliament after the Civil War of the 17th century. After its demolition, the castle land was leased out by the Corporation and housing was erected on it.

When the area formerly occupied by the castle was cleared after the destruction resulting from air-raids during World War II, a number of small excavations were carried out between 1948 and 1951. For some time after this the area remained undeveloped, until, during the 1960s, plans were made to create a city centre park on the site. At intervals since, landscape works have been carried out as part of this process. On some of these occasions time was allowed for archaeological investigation in advance of specific projects, and M W Ponsford, the newly appointed Field Archaeologist with the City Museum, was able to undertake a series of excavations between 1968 and 1970. Unfortunately, however, in general, little heed was paid to the archaeological importance of the site, and, despite Ponsford's efforts to salvage as much information as possible, considerable damage was done to the castle remains, particularly during 1970 when major trenching work was undertaken as part of the development. Ironically the purpose of much of this work was to provide services for a proposed new civic building to house the Museum and Art Gallery, which was never erected. More recently, further unnecessary damage was done to the structure of the keep when a temporary roadway was laid and drains were inserted in 1978.

When another landscape project was proposed during the 1980s, the importance of this historic site was finally taken into account. It was decided to incorporate various parts of the castle, including the keep, as features in the overall design, and to provide descriptive panels at various positions in the park illustrating the history of the castle. As a preliminary to consolidation, the surviving stonework of the keep was exposed under archaeological conditions during the summer of 1989. Further landscaping since 1989 has resulted in more of the castle walls being uncovered, and fortunately at least some allowance was made for limited archaeological work to be carried out.

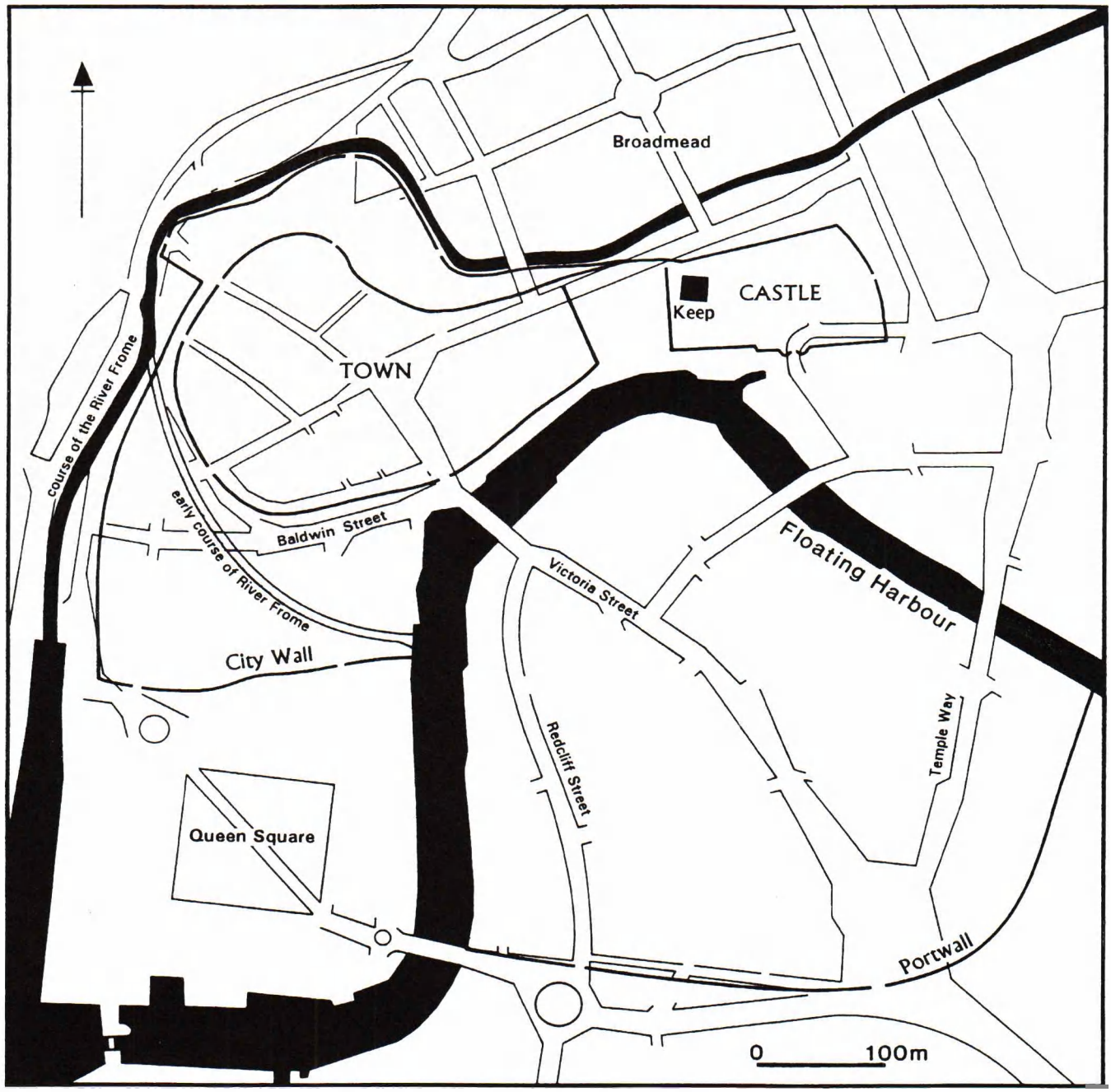


Fig.1 Plan showing the position of the castle and the medieval town walls

PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS

Observations in 1878

During preparations for the construction of new premises at Castle Green for Messrs Llewellin & James, Engineers and Coppersmiths, in 1878, parts of the remains of the foundations of the keep of Bristol Castle were uncovered. The discoveries were reported in the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society by S H Swayne (1879-80) from information supplied by the clerk of the works, R H Leaker.

The masonry exposed was in a nearly square block, described as a solid floor about 8 feet (2.44m) thick, some 10 feet (3.05m) below the roadway. The stonework was well faced towards Castle Green, but with a rough edge on the opposite side, showing that it had originally continued further towards the south.

In addition to the keep foundations, three wells were found running in a line towards the river, and 80 feet (24.4m) apart. The one nearest the keep was the only one emptied and examined in detail. It is described as 6 feet (1.83m) in diameter at the top and 38 feet (11.7m) deep, roughly cut into the sandstone rock, with uncoursed masonry lining the top. In the previous year's Transactions, the editor, Sir John MacLean, describes the well in a footnote to J F Nicholls article on Bristol Castle (Nicholls 1878-9, 188) as being 10 feet (3.05m) in diameter and 40 feet (12.2m) deep, with a smooth cylindrical bore, though

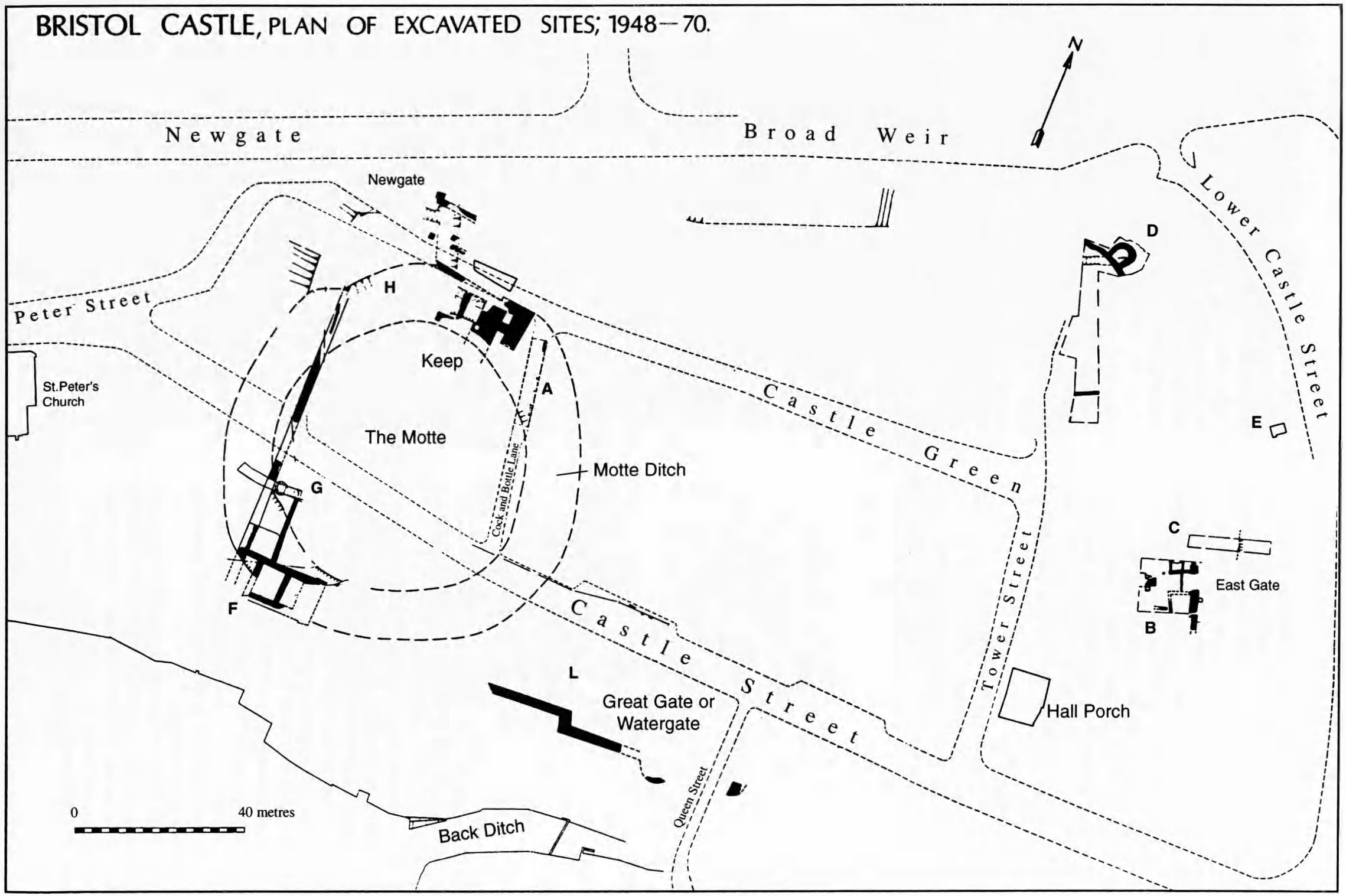


Fig.2 Plan of the castle area showing the features revealed between 1948 and 1970 (after Ponsford 1979 fig. 6)

he does not give the source of his information.

Swayne also gives a list of the successive layers of the fill of the well and reports on the finds from these. Within the top layers of fill, which are interpreted as debris from the castle's demolition in 1654, were fragments of rough and squared Caen stone. Below these it is suggested that the layers had gradually built up after the disuse of the well. Near the bottom was an almost complete human skeleton of a young person, probably between 10 and 15 years old, and arm bones from another, adult skeleton. Some of the pottery from the well, presumably that recovered from the lower levels, was dated by W Edkins to the 12th or 13th century.

The Excavation of 1948

As a result of air raids during World War II a large area near the centre of the city, including most of the site now occupied by Castle Park, was destroyed. When the debris from the destruction was cleared the opportunity was taken to carry out archaeological excavations in parts of the area. These investigations were undertaken over four seasons between 1948 and 1951.

As part of this project, during spring and summer of 1948 G L Gettins directed an excavation on the former site of Llewellyn and James' foundry, which had been almost completely destroyed by the bombing, in the angle between Castle Green and Cock and Bottle Lane (Fig.2). Part of the keep of Bristol Castle, including some of that recorded by Swayne (1879-80), was uncovered. A report on this site was included by K Marshall in his general report on the investigations as a whole (Marshall 1951).

Below the brick floor of the cellar of the foundry, a large mass of stonework was uncovered, which Marshall refers to as the 'Main Block'. This was a roughly rectangular block of masonry with an inset on the south side. Near the middle was a rectangular shaft, which was thought to be a latrine or a rubbish pit. The bottom fill, consisting of layers of domestic refuse, sloped up to the north-east corner, where a stone-lined chute was set back into the stonework above. Pottery from the refuse was dated to the 13th century. The overlying fill, of reddish and buff sandy soils, contained 14th or 15th century wares.

Built into the south-west corner of the masonry was a well, considered by Marshall to be that discovered in 1878, though Swayne's report describes the well as though it was separate from the masonry block. There is also some discrepancy in the dimensions of the well, which in 1948 was found to be 4.5 feet (1.37m) in diameter, as opposed to 6 feet (1.83m) as reported in 1878. Because Swayne did not himself directly record these measurements, Marshall decided that similarities of the general description and the date of the finds tipped the balance in favour of identifying both wells as being the same.

The 'Main Block' was built of Pennant Sandstone rubble bonded in what Marshall describes as a distinctive reddish sandy mortar, which weathered to a lighter colour when exposed, and faced with ashlar slabs also cut from Pennant. The southern edge of the block was found to be irregular, though Marshall considered that it was probably close to the south edge of the building. The north edge and the north-east corner were exposed in a trench beneath Castle Green. Only the bottom few courses survived here and these were set in a shallow, rock-cut trench, so that the wall face followed the trench edge rather than being in a straight line. About 19 feet (5.8m) west of the north-east corner the wall face was robbed out, but the trench continued for another 9 feet (2.75m) before turning south.

This block of the keep foundations crossed the line of an east-west ditch, *c.* 20-25 feet (6.1-7.6m) wide at the top, and *c.* 12.5 feet (3.8m) deep into the rock below the cellar floor. The bottom of the ditch was flat with a width between 4 and 5 feet (1.2 and 1.5m). Marshall believed this to be the ditch around an earlier motte.

Also running across the ditch, at almost exactly right angles to it and at a slight angle to the 'Main Block', was a wall *c.* 4.5 feet (1.37m) wide about 10-12 feet (3.05-3.65m) to the west. This is referred to by Marshall as the 'Cross Wall' and was thought to be part of a curtain wall associated with the earlier motte-and-bailey castle, though an alternative theory that it belonged to a forebuilding to the keep was also considered. The construction of this wall was of roughly cut blocks of sandstone bonded with a yellowish sandy mortar. Three putlog holes for scaffolding were observed in the east face of the wall.

On either side of the 'Cross Wall', the north side of the ditch was lined with stepped courses of Pennant Sandstone. Six levels of ditch fill were identified, all of which were very similar in appearance, and Marshall suggests that these represent a deliberate back-filling of the ditch. Pottery recovered from this fill was thought to be of 13th or 14th century date.

Later observations and excavations

In 1970, during the insertion of sewers, part of the outside face of the north wall of the keep was exposed. This was recorded by M W Ponsford (1979, 104-6, figs. 6 and 22, plates XI and XII) as part of a series of excavations and observations carried out by him between 1968 and 1970, prior to and during the development and landscaping of the Castle Park area (Fig.2). As had been found elsewhere the wall was built of Pennant Sandstone, bonded here with a greenish buff mortar containing coarse sand. What was thought at the time to be the inside face was also observed, showing the wall to be only 4 feet (1.2m) wide, but this has proved since not to have been the case.

Part of the wall was built into an apparently originally V-shaped ditch interpreted as the bailey ditch of an earlier castle. On its east slope the ditch profile was thought to have been cut back and stepped to receive the wall foundations.

The motte ditch of the earlier castle was observed at a number of locations, and partially excavated archaeologically on two of Ponsford's sites (Ponsford 1979, fig. 6 and passim). At Site A two main fills were removed. At the top was a generally clean, sandy material thought to

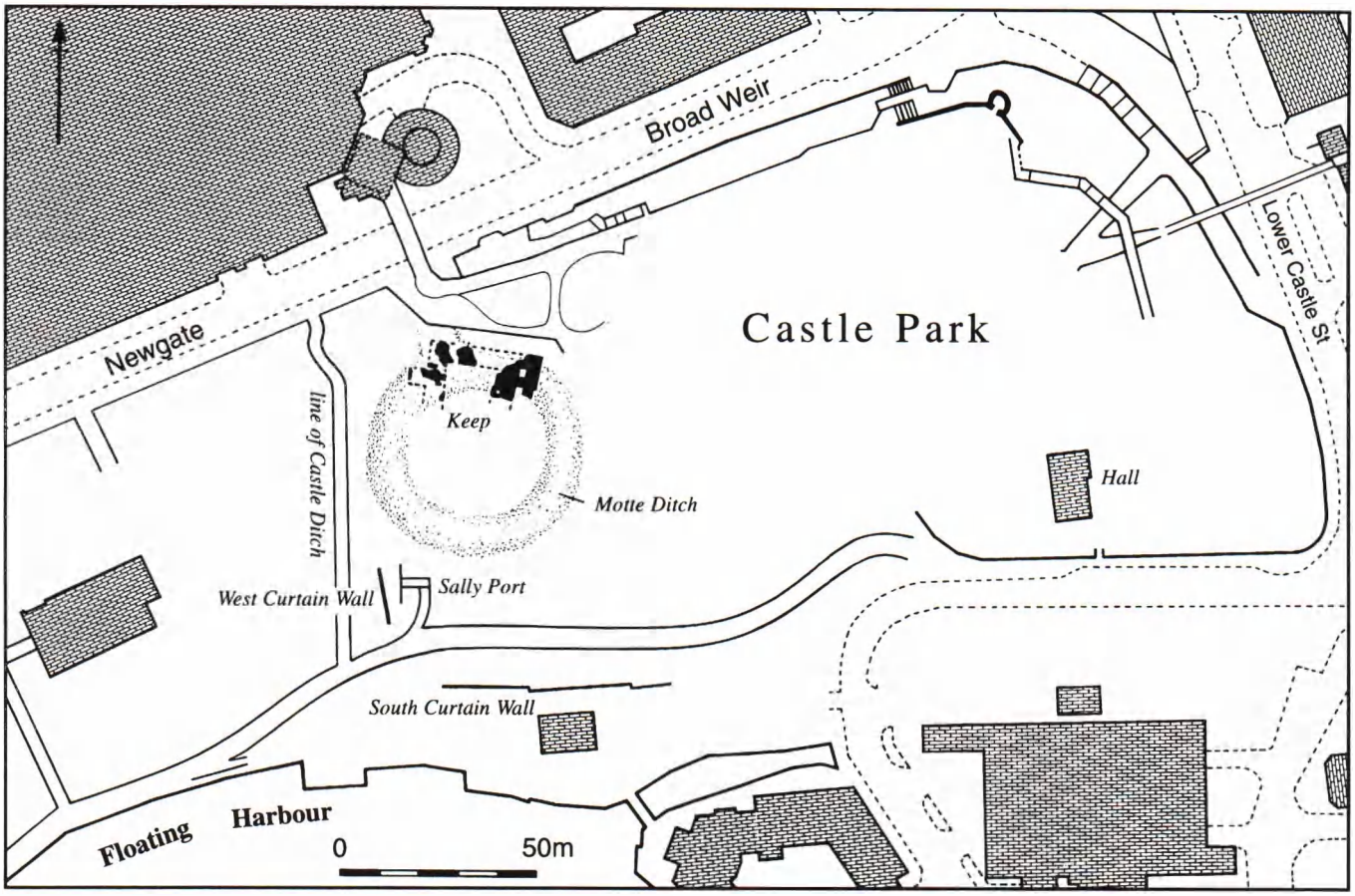


Fig.3 Plan of the Castle area showing the location of the keep and parts of the south and west curtain walls uncovered in 1992-3

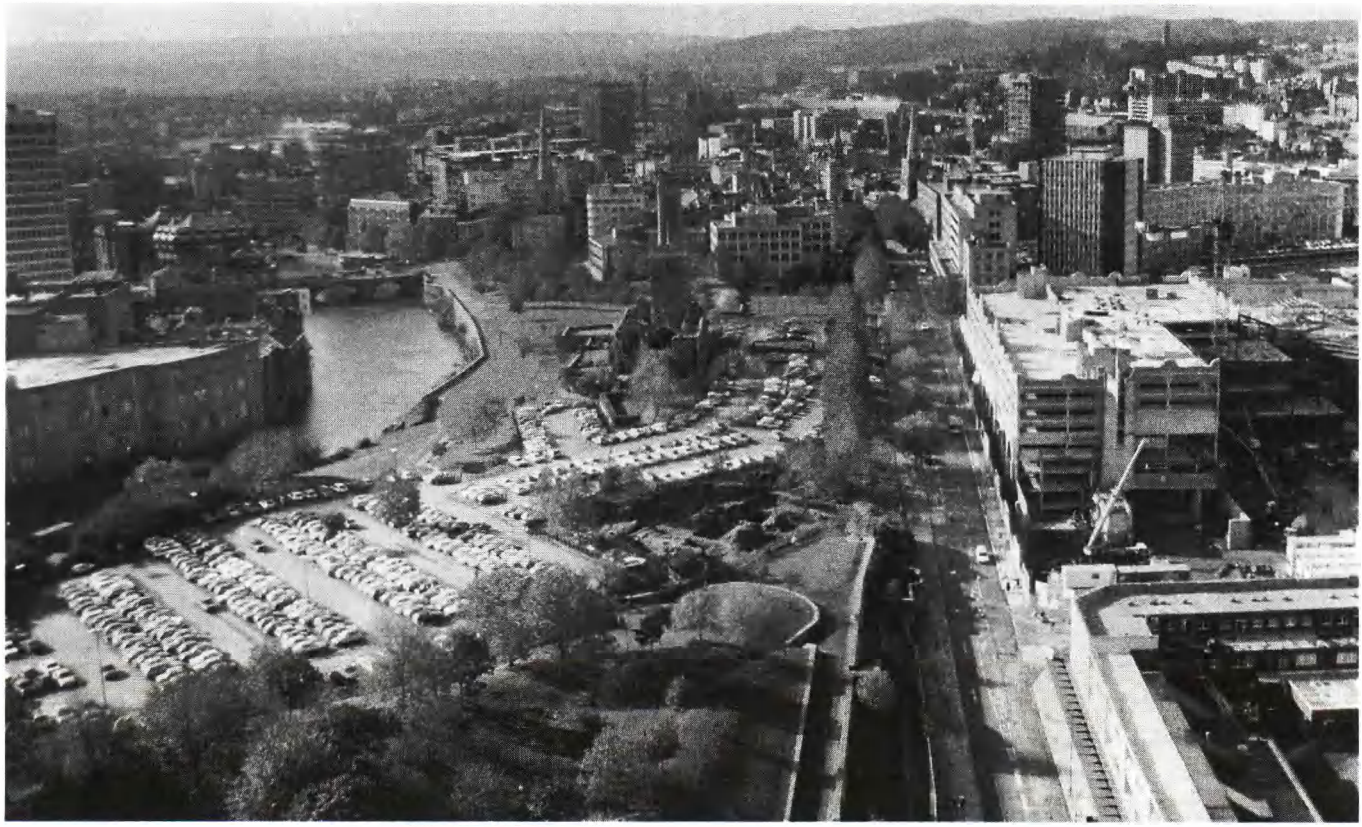


Plate 1 View over Castle Park from the east showing the excavation area in the centre of the picture

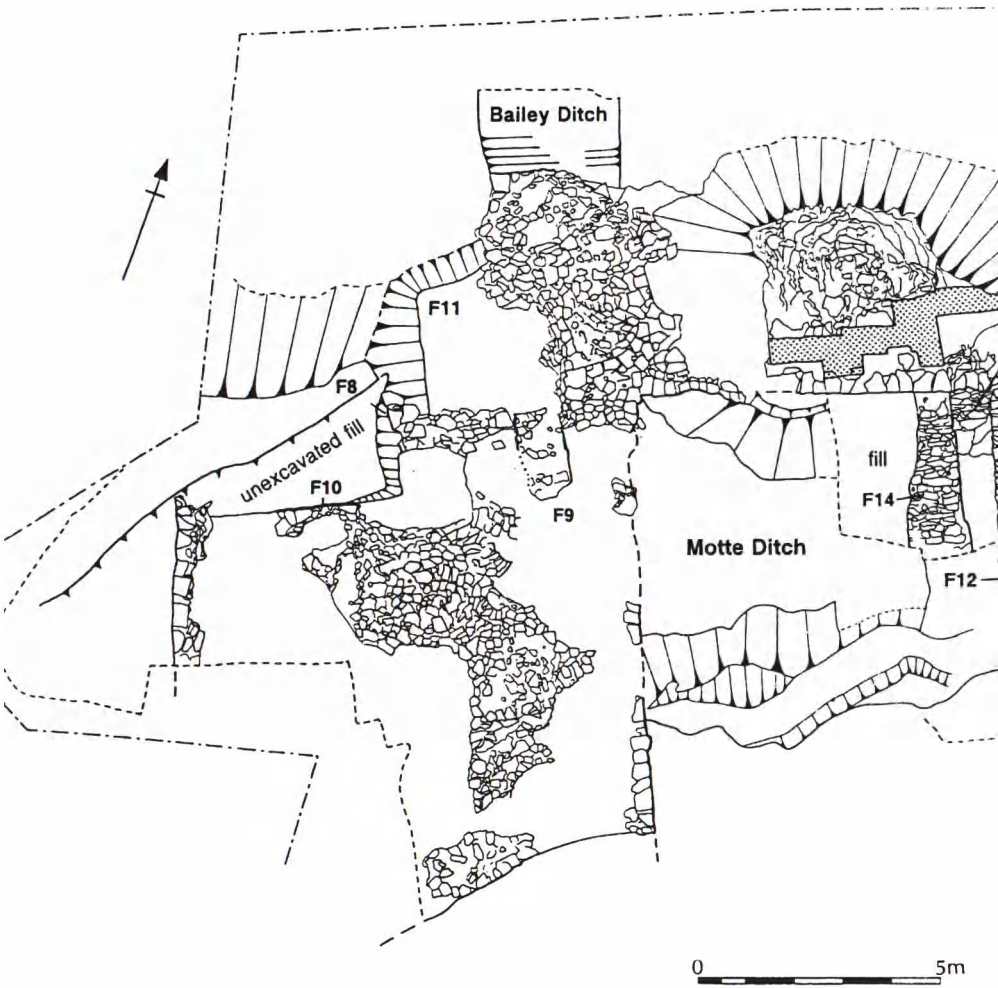


Fig.4 Plan of the 1989 excavation showing the motte and bailey ditches and the keep

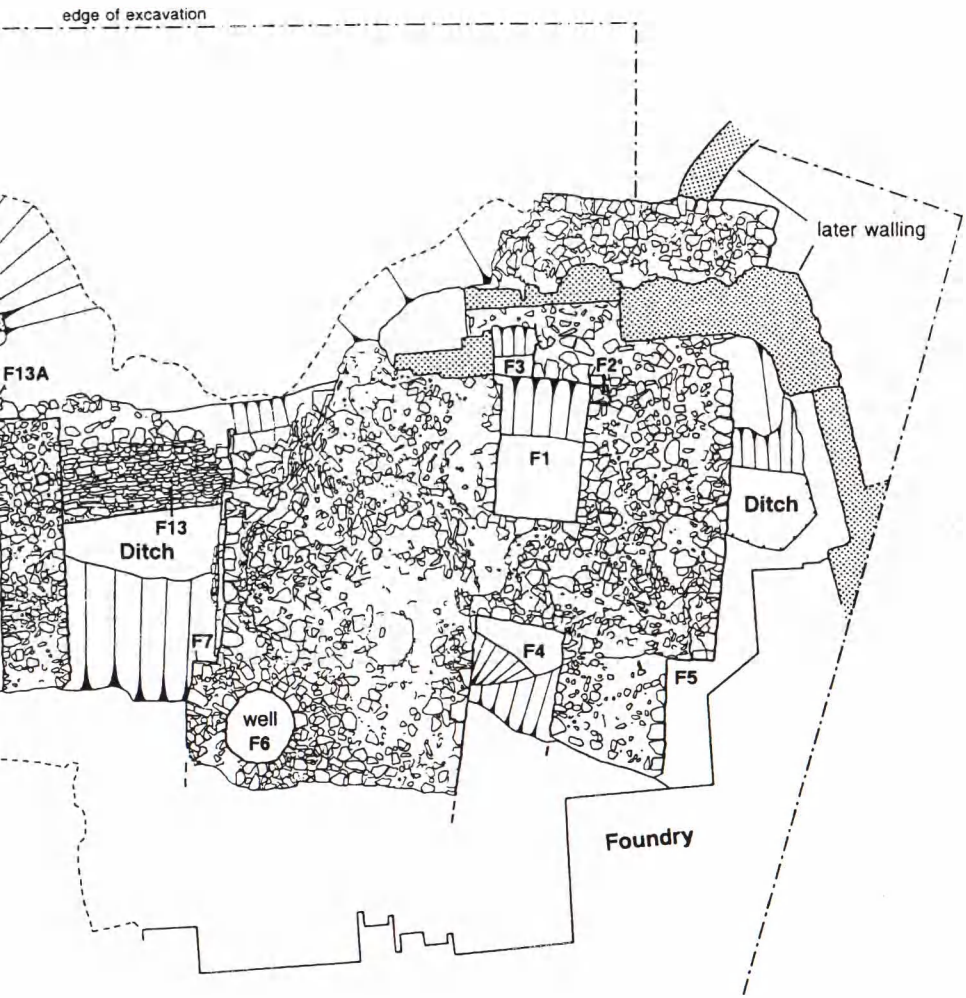

edge of excavation
later walling
F13A
F3
F2
F1
Ditch
F13
Ditch
F7
F4
F5
well
F6
Foundry

Plate 2 The north-east corner of the keep (Marshall's 'Main Block') from the east

be a deliberate backfilling of the ditch. This overlay a naturally eroded, loamy soil derived from the motte. Pottery recovered from the fill was of early 12th century date. The same findings were made at Site G where the ditch was also excavated. From the general observations of the ditch it was possible to work out that it was roughly circular with an external diameter of *c.* 83m. At some locations it was found to be just under 12m wide and over 6m deep with a narrow flat bottom.

The north-east corner of the keep was again uncovered during landscaping in 1975 and surveyed by the City Engineer's Department (Ponsford 1979, 106). Subsequent work saw the senseless destruction of the upper courses of part of this block, as well as the tops of Marshall's 'Cross Wall' and the ditch revetment, for the insertion of a temporary roadway.

THE 1989 EXCAVATION

Introduction

Between June and October 1989 excavation was carried out on the site of the castle keep under the direction of Bruce Williams of the City Museum (Plate 1 and Fig.3). The purpose of this work was to expose the stonework in readiness for consolidation and display as part of the Castle Park landscaping project. Further work on this project, undertaken during 1992-3, included the uncovering of additional stretches of the south and west curtain walls (Fig.3), though this work is not reported on here. Initial clearance of topsoil and overburden was carried out by machine down to the underlying archaeological deposits which were then dug out by hand. All finds and records relating to the excavation are deposited in the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number BRSMG: 22/1989.

Acknowledgements

The site director, Bruce Williams, was unable to write the final excavation report because of other work commitments. He would, however, like to thank the excavation team and the volunteers for their enthusiasm and their efforts throughout the project, in particular Ken Sims, Lesley Cross, John Turner, Jon Brett, Justin Barrett and Jo Gould. The stay on Castle Park was made all the more tolerable by Dave Trigger of the Parks Department, who allowed the use of his security compound for accommodation. His support is warmly acknowledged. The Stradivarian Music Centre provided Elizabethan serenades and other concerts during lunch breaks as a way of publicising the archaeological work, and their efforts are also acknowledged. Forum Television, especially Dave Parker, are also thanked for the production of two educational videos on the archaeology of the site. The manager of Castlemead kindly allowed the use of his building as a photographic tower and his assistance was appreciated. The excavation and subsequent archaeological

work on the park were financed by the Norwich Union Insurance Group as part of a grant to the City of Bristol towards the landscaping of the area.

In addition, the writer of this report would like to thank Ann Linge for preparing the drawings for publication, Roger Clark (Curator of Geology at Bristol City Museum) for helping to identify the stone, and Rod Burchill for his analysis of the pottery. In particular the writer must express his debt to Mike Ponsford, archaeologist for the Castle Park project, whose thesis on Bristol Castle for the University of Bristol has been invaluable as a source of information. All aspects of the castle's history are dealt with in the thesis, and of necessity any work on the castle must be discussed in relation to it. The discussion of the keep in this report is very much dependent on the thesis, and largely deals with a reassessment of Ponsford's interpretations in the light of the 1989 findings. His comments on the draught of this report have also been extremely valuable.

THE EXCAVATION (Fig.4)

The Keep Walls

The main walls of the keep as uncovered in 1989 were all of similar construction and bonded together. They consisted mainly of Pennant Sandstone bonded with light buff, coarse, sandy mortar, with occasional stones of Brandon Hill Grit. The north-east corner of the keep (the 'Main Block' of Gettins and Marshall) was by far the best preserved because it was built into the motte ditch, though parts of the north and west walls also survived in places.

Except where it had been disturbed during landscaping, the north-east corner was found to be much as described by Marshall, though in places later consolidation work caused some confusion. In addition more of the stonework of Marshall's 'Main Block' was exposed, particularly in the south-east corner (Plate 2).

There had clearly been considerable disturbance along the entire north side of the keep, but some recent consolidation work had been undertaken near the north-east corner, where a sloping revetment wall had been built to support what survived of the keep wall face. The face seemed to be somewhat straighter here than is suggested by Marshall (1951, 14-15), though there was a slightly offset section towards the wall corner. How much this had been affected by the consolidation was not clear. The east face of the keep wall was also displaced a little in this north-east corner from the face to the south, and this too is suggested by Marshall, though it should be pointed out here that Marshall's description and his plan are at variance in that the plan shows the displacement to be in the wrong direction. The 1989 excavation confirmed that the written description was more accurate.

Plate 3 The east side of the shaft, F1, showing the putlog holes

As found by Marshall, the north-west corner of the 'Main Block' had been completely robbed out. Unfortunately the later disturbances had also removed any trace of the foundation trench described by Marshall as continuing the line of the north face westwards to a corner where it turned to the south.

The rectangular shaft, 'shaft A', in the middle of the 'Main Block' was partially re-excavated (F1). It was 2.9m x 1.8m and was dug out to 2.75m below the level of the surviving wall. The north slope of the motte ditch was revealed in the north half. Two putlog holes were found in the east wall of the shaft (Plate 3). The angled chute mentioned by Marshall was 0.4m wide, and set into the east side of the north-east corner of the shaft (F2).

In the north-west corner was another feature (F3), shown on Marshall's plan, but not mentioned in his discussion. Here, the stonework of the corner was missing, with the natural sandstone showing in an area *c.* 1m x 0.6m. It was not clear, however, how much had been robbed out, and how much was deliberate construction. On the west side, recent walls belonging to the foundry building obscured what was happening, but about 0.55m from the expected corner of the shaft, there was an external corner in the masonry where the face of the north wall of the shaft turned to the north (Plate 4). It is possible that this marked the position of another chute similar to that in the north-east corner, but the lack of stonework made this uncertain. Perhaps more likely is that there was a means of access in this corner so that the shaft could be cleaned out.

To the south of this shaft was a similar feature (F4), excavated in 1948 as 'recess B'. This was about the same width as the shaft F1, but its walls existed only on the west, north and east sides. In the north side there were two putlog holes. The south limit of the feature as it survived was supplied by the sloping side of the motte ditch, but it was clear that the east and west walls had both continued further southwards.

Some 9.4m from the north-east corner, the east face of the keep wall was set back by about 1m (F5) before continuing southwards for another 2.5m where it ran out. The wall had obviously originally carried on to the south, but here the insertion of the brick floor of the foundry had removed any trace which had survived till then. The step in the face almost lined up with the north side of the recess F4, so it is possible that the two may be associated.

The well (F6) in the south-west corner of the 'Main

Plate 4 The north wall of the shaft, F1, showing the corner feature, F3

Block' was re-excavated to a depth of *c.* 1.8m, well into the section cut into the natural sandstone (Plate 5). The Pennant Sandstone lining at that time survived to a depth of c.0.8m, and was an integral part of the keep wall. The diameter of the well shaft was found to be 1.4-1.5m, which is in good agreement with the 1948 measurement of 4.5 feet (1.37m). Emerging from the well was an iron pipe inserted in the 19th century to supply water to the foundry.

Near the well, the south end of the west face of the 'Main Block' is set forward by 0.5m from that to the north (F7). At the north end the wall face appears to overlie the revetment on the north slope of the ditch, but nearly all of the stonework of the face was robbed out so this is not absolutely certain. To the south of the well, the stonework stopped in a fairly uneven line, showing that it had originally continued further. In places some of the stones lined up in an apparent face which could represent part of another feature within the wall, but this was not consistent and it is possible that it was purely fortuitous.

Although most of the outer face of the keep's north wall recorded by Ponsford in 1970 (Ponsford 1979, fig. 22, plates XI and XII) had been removed during subsequent landscaping, a small section was left near the west end where it had been built into the supposed bailey ditch. Fortunately the inner face had not been so greatly disturbed by this work, and a large part survived over the west half. At the inside of the north-west corner the north wall was *c.* 5.0m wide.

The west wall of the keep had been nearly totally robbed out in the 17th century but in places some of the stonework survived (Plate 6). What was thought to be the outer face of the wall proper, F8, was found only in a short stretch opposite the inside of the north-west corner. If this was the case, the wall here was *c.* 5.3m wide.

Near this inside corner a few courses of the sides of a shaft 0.8-0.9m wide were found (F9). The fill of green and black cessy soil indicated that this was the base of a garderobe. The soil in the shaft had been left in position when the wall was robbed so that a considerable amount survived in a pillar above the level of the stonework though most had collapsed into the rob. Numerous small bones were recovered from this material.

Just south of the remains of the west face, the edge of the robbing turned to the west, and here a few courses of stonework faced to the north were revealed (F10). This would appear to have been part of an adjoining structure, integral with the keep and built into the motte ditch. Although most of the masonry of this structure had been robbed out, its west face survived to a height nearly level with the top of the natural sandstone rock. Though the corner itself was missing, this west face continued northwards slightly beyond the projected line of the north (F10) face. Although the misalignment was probably due to its position within the motte ditch, it is just possible that this indicated that there were additional complexities to this part of the building. Both the west wall and the adjoining structure continued beyond the south edge of the excavation area.

The robbing of the keep walls was represented by a series of intersecting pits, between some of which there survived occasional pillars of masonry where the stonework had been left intact (Plate 7). These robbing pits

Plate 5 The well, F6, at the south-west corne of the 'Main Block'

Plate 6 The heavily robbed north-west corner of the keep, built into the motte and bailey ditches, viewed from the south-west

Plate 7 Pillar of stonework - part of the west wall of the keep left between two robbing pits (some of the fill of which has been left in place to support the stones)

were generally filled with layers of buff mortary material with stones and lumps of buff mortar, interspersed with spreads of red-brown sandy or silty soil. In places the motte ditch fill had also slumped into the robbing pits.

The Motte and Bailey Ditches

To the west of the 1948 excavation trenches another section of the motte ditch was exposed, including its junction with the bailey ditch (Plate 6). The walls of the keep and their robbing pits dug in the 17th century occupied most of the area where the ditches joined, but it was still possible to excavate some of the ditch fill between this and the earlier trenches. To the west the ditch was left unexcavated.

The ditch fill generally consisted of tips of red-brown, sometimes more orange-brown or purplish, sands and sandy silts, often with some fragments of Triassic sandstone. There were also some spreads and patches of buff mortar and layers with many Pennant Sandstone fragments. The upper layers usually sloped steeply down from east to west and from north to south, levelling off towards the centre. Near the bottom, on the other hand, the layers, all of very similar material, were generally interleaved from both the north and the south, sloping down towards the middle. Pottery recovered from all levels of the fill could be dated to the 12th century.

Tool marks were clearly visible in places on the faces of

the ditch, and a series of small holes had been cut into the side (see below Fig.5 and Plates 11 and 12). There were also three flat shelves on the south side, but it was not certain whether these were deliberately excavated features or not. The ditch bottom was flat, and seems to have been wider here than in Ponsford's trenches.

A small section of the bailey ditch was revealed running north from the motte ditch. This was almost entirely occupied by the north-west corner of the keep structure where it had not been robbed out. About 1.2m south of the north face of the keep wall, the bailey ditch widened on its west side (F11) by some 2m (at the level to which the edge of the ditch survived). Here the short stretch that remained of the assumed west face of the keep (F8) was built onto the sloping west side of this widened section of ditch.

Marshall's 'Cross Wall' (F12) ran across the motte ditch, at right angles to it, *c.* 3.5m from the inside face of the 'Main Block' or east wall of the keep (Plate 8). It was of completely different construction from all the other walls being built mainly of Brandon Hill Grit, with some Carboniferous limestone and only a very small amount of Pennant Sandstone, bonded with a pinkish buff sandy mortar. It was 1.35-1.4m wide at the top, with stepped footings at two positions on the east side and one on the west side increasing the width by a total of *c.* 0.15m. The wall was built over some 0.25-0.3m of ditch fill. Two putlog holes were observed in the west face, one of which ran right through to the east side of the wall. The bottoms of these holes were rounded and formed in mortar.

On the north side of the motte ditch was a stepped revetment of Pennant Sandstone bonded with red-brown sandy soil, F13, which had been found in 1948, and existed on both sides of the 'Cross Wall' (Plate 8). In 1989 it was not revealed anywhere other than where it had been uncovered previously by Gettins. To the east of the 'Cross Wall' the revetment abutted the wall face; however, on the opposite side, the wall overlay the stonework of the ditch revetment (F13A).

East of the 'Cross Wall' the revetment was missing from the bottom 0.8m or so of the ditch side. It was not clear whether it had originally continued to the bottom of the ditch, or whether it had been built on top of the lowest levels of ditch fill. A concrete wall had been erected after its exposure in 1948 to hold it in position. Marshall's description (1951, 21) suggests that the stonework was built hard against the very side of the ditch. At its east end the revetment was partially overlain by the inside face of the east wall of the keep.

West of the 'Cross Wall' the revetment (F13A) was not as depicted in Marshall's plan (1951, 15). Here it existed only against the top of the ditch slope immediately west of the wall, but, after *c.* 0.8m, a construction of similarly laid stonework (F14) was built on top of some of the sloping layers of the ditch fill (Plate 8). This was deeper and

Plate 8 The north wall of the keep, with the revetment, F13 and F13A, on the north slope of the ditch, the 'buttress', F14, and the 'Cross Wall', F12

Plate 9 The north face of the north wall of the keep built into the bailey ditch, as recorded by Ponsford in 1970 (ranging pole in feet)

projected much further towards the middle of the ditch. It formed a buttress-like structure built against the wall of the keep, which in turn overlay the revetment stonework. This sloping buttress was unevenly built, being much wider at the bottom (1.15m) than at the top (0.6m). A concrete wall on the east side and a brick pier at the base had been inserted to support it in 1948, and in 1989 some of the motte-ditch fill was left in on the west side to prevent its collapse here. Although Marshall does not show the revetment and buttress thus, a model of the excavation site held in Bristol City Museum (Ponsford 1979, plate 1) shows that this was actually what was found in 1948, though the west side was not exposed then.

The top few courses of both the 'Cross Wall' and the revetment had been removed since the time of the 1948 excavation for the insertion of a temporary roadway.

The Brass Foundry

The remains of a furnace and the foundations of brick walls and floors of other buildings associated with Llewellyn and James' brass foundry were exposed and recorded where they survived within the excavation area. A full discussion of this industry, however, is beyond the scope of this article.

DISCUSSION

Ponsford's excavations and observations between 1968 and 1970 have confirmed that a motte-and-bailey castle existed on the site of the present Castle Park prior to the construction of the keep. The motte ditch was recognised in a number of locations in addition to where it was found by Gettins in 1948, and excavated further in 1989. Running north from this, beneath the north-west corner of the keep, was part of another ditch identified as the bailey ditch.

The bailey ditch as found by Ponsford (1979, 104) was only slightly over 5m wide, considerably narrower than the motte ditch. However, when it was uncovered in 1989 beneath the walls of the keep, it was found to widen out in this position, just before it met the motte ditch. At the time of excavation this was interpreted as a deliberate widening of the ditch to receive the keep foundations. A more likely interpretation is that originally the bailey ditch was generally wider, and that the narrow part was only a short stretch beneath the north face and just to the north of the position of the later keep.

A narrow section such as this might have been left at the position of a bridge across the ditch, though there was no direct evidence for this. It would, however, be an entirely appropriate position for a bridge and gateway providing access to the castle from the direction of the town. A deliberately square-cut step in the east face of the ditch was thought by Ponsford (1979, 105, fig. 22, plate XI) to have been excavated for the wall of the keep, but it extended considerably beyond the north face of the wall, and it is possible that it was originally associated with the bridge construction, if there was one here, and reused when the keep was built (Plate 9).

It is not certain exactly when the motte-and-bailey castle was erected, though Ponsford suggests a date of *c.* 1080. The 1989 excavation produced no evidence of natural silting within the motte ditch fill, unlike Ponsford's 1968 site A, where there were deposits of loamy silt in the bottom of the ditch. It may be that this material was removed in the area of the keep immediately before its construction. The silt was considered by Ponsford to be erosion from the motte itself and from the berm around it (Ponsford 1979, 113). Site A was at the north end of Cock and Bottle Lane, adjacent to the 1948 and 1989 excavations, and just to the east of the keep building.

The flat bottom to the ditch was probably due to frequent cleaning out (Ponsford 1979, 84), and the small holes cut into the sides could have been steps providing a means of climbing in and out more easily during this operation (Plates 10 and 11). An alternative interpretation of these holes is that they held scaffolding poles, which, as the presence of putlog holes in some of the walls shows, were used during the keep's construction.

The upper fill at Cock and Bottle Lane, and all of the fill on Gettins's and Williams's excavations was thought by the respective excavators to represent a deliberate infilling of the ditch, though when this took place is not known exactly.

The ceramic evidence recovered from the fill of the motte ditch in 1989 covers too broad a range to be of any real use in determining the precise date of its infilling, since none of the pottery would be out of place in a late 11th or 12th century context. However, the lack of Ham Green wares throughout the fill, with the exception of a single, possibly contaminated context, could suggest that it may have taken place before *c.* 1120. This was also true of the material found by Ponsford during his excavations of the motte ditch (1979, 113, 317), though the pottery from Gettins's cuttings through the ditch was dated to later in the medieval period.

It is fairly certain that, except for the short section which was excavated in 1948, the ditch was backfilled over

Plate 10 The south slope of the motte ditch with possible step-holes cut into it

a relatively short period at the same time as the keep was being built, and that the material used for this was derived from the motte - the same material as had originally been dug out to form the ditch and used to construct the motte. This reuse of soil from the motte as infill could possibly be enough to explain the lack of Ham Green wares if this took place after *c.* 1120 when their presence might be expected. In general the layers of ditch fill had been dumped against the walls of the keep where these were built into the ditch. Spreads of buff sandy mortar and dumps of Pennant Sandstone within the fill also indicated that the keep was being built at the same time as the infilling was taking place.

The reason for the pottery from the 1948 excavation being so much later than that from the others is not certain. The fragments illustrated by Marshall (1951, fig. 3) certainly seem to be late 13th to early 14th century types (except no.1 which is late 12th century). Marshall does not make clear exactly where all of the pottery came from. Although he assigns certain fragments to specific layers within the ditch fill, he does not state whether the same layers existed on each side of the 'Cross Wall'. The illustrated section across the ditch is shown on the plan as being between the 'Cross Wall' and the 'Main Block' (Marshall 1951, 15, 17), and it is entirely possible that the infilling of this section of the ditch was carried out at a different time from the rest of the ditch. If all the pottery recovered in 1948 came from this area, this would not necessarily, therefore, conflict with the evidence from the 1989 excavation.

Ponsford postulated that the ditch beneath the keep was left open till the 14th century, and used as a rubbish pit or garderobe (1979, 316). The 1989 excavation has shown that, if this is the case, it probably applied only to the area between the 'Cross Wall' and the 'Main Block' (Plate 12). Another possible interpretation is that this section was left

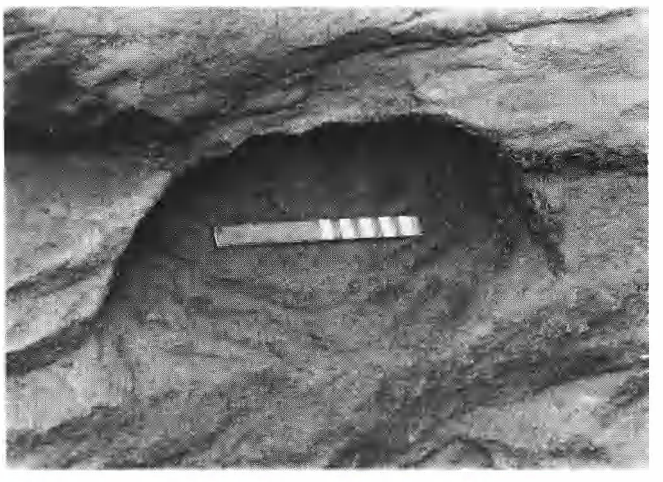


Plate 11 Close-up view of one of the step-holes shown in Fig.14

Plate 12 The 'open' area between the 'Cross Wall' F12, and the east wall of the keep, from thenorth-west. The iron bars in the bottom were inserted in 1948 as part of the support for the ditch revetment

open as a dungeon, though in a castle of the stature of Bristol this would perhaps have been unnecessary, since there would have been separate prisons in the bailey area or in the towers on the curtain walls, as well as secure rooms within the keep itself.

The purpose of the 'Cross Wall' is not known. Marshall (1951, 40) believed its most credible interpretation to be as part of a curtain wall of the bailey running across the ditch from an earlier keep on top of the motte. In his thesis Ponsford (1979, 84-5) suggested that the wall might be part of a bridge across the motte ditch, providing access to the mound and its tower, but he has since altered his opinion (Ponsford, pers comm 1993) and now agrees with Marshall's favoured interpretation.

How the revetment on the north slope of the ditch fits in with either interpretation is not clear. The construction of the revetments on either side of the 'Cross Wall' is similar, being of Pennant Sandstone bonded with red-brown sandy soil, but both relate differently to the wall and they do not line up directly with each other. To the west of the wall the revetment appears to be earlier, running underneath the face. On the other side, however, the revetment clearly abuts the wall face. This might not be a significant problem if the 'Cross Wall' were of similar construction, but it is in fact completely different, being built almost entirely of Brandon Hill Grit bonded with a pinkish buff mortar. It is difficult to reconcile these differences in construction and relationship. Two alternative interpretations are possible - either the revetments and the 'Cross Wall' are contemporary or the two parts of the revetment are not associated and were inserted at different times.

Although both Ponsford and Marshall believed the 'Cross Wall' to be contemporary with the motte and therefore to predate the keep, this is not necessarily the case, though its construction in Brandon Hill Grit might support such an argument. The use of Pennant in the revetment, however, suggests rather that it was associated with the keep (itself built of Pennant), and this too had generally been assumed to be so until the discovery in 1989 that the western part of the revetment ran beneath the 'Cross Wall'.

It would certainly be reasonable to interpret the revetment as being built deliberately as a foundation for the north wall of the keep. This assumption would, however, mean that the 'Cross Wall' was also built at the same time as the keep. In this case it is difficult to explain why it should be constructed of Brandon Hill Grit rather than of Pennant Sandstone. The fact that the 'Cross Wall' appeared to overlie ditch fill rather than being built right into the bottom of the ditch would certainly suggest that it was not built absolutely contemporaneously with the motte, though this in itself does not preclude its having been built while the motte was still extant, but after a partial silting of the motte ditch.

The most favoured interpretation would still appear, on the balance of the evidence, to be that the 'Cross Wall' is part of a radial flanking curtain to the motte, and that the two parts of the revetment are different structures. Although F13A predates the 'Cross Wall', it may still be associated with it, since it terminates at a group of larger blocks of Pennant Sandstone, recorded in 1948 in a hollow in the ditch slope directly beneath the line of the wall (Marshall 1951, 18). These could be linked with the construction of the wall. To the East, F13 may have been part of the keep foundation, or it may have been inserted to improve access to the ditch during the building of the keep.

It is not certain exactly when the keep was built, but it is generally accepted, in accordance with 16th century tradition as reported by Leland (Hearne 1769, 92), that it was erected by Robert Fitzroy, Earl of Gloucester. This is also recorded by the medieval chronicler, also named Robert of Gloucester, who describes it as the 'flower' of England's keeps (Hearne 1724, 433).

Ponsford (1979, 31) suggests a date between 1137 and 1147 based on Robert's gift of stone from the castle towards the building of St Mary's Chapel near the monastery of St James (Hearne 1769, 79; Patterson 1973, 169). It seems likely, however, that the construction of the keep took place, or at least was started, before the death of Henry I in 1135, since the turbulent years of the Anarchy which followed would have allowed little time for carrying out, or even preparing plans for, such an important and impressive project. This is especially true if it was built using stone imported from Normandy (see below), since its transportation would have been difficult in time of war. Seyer (1821, 378) quotes two MS Calendars which give a date of 1110 for the start of work on the foundation of the castle, and Millerd gives the same date for the construction of the keep in a vignette alongside his 1673 plan of Bristol. Although these sources may not be reliable, the lack of Ham Green wares in the motte ditch fill (excluding the dubious context) would appear to support them, or at least to favour a date before *c.* 1120.

The foundations of the keep were built almost entirely

of Pennant Sandstone, and this use of Pennant in the castle predates its common use as a general building stone elsewhere in Bristol. The Pennant would have been quarried in the royal forest of Kingswood, where Robert, as Lord of Bristol Castle, probably held wardship on behalf of his father, the king.

According to Leland, Caen stone was also used in its construction (Hearne 1769, 92), and City Council records mention the removal of Caen stone from the castle in 1655 (Latimer 1900, 258). This is presumed to mean oolitic limestone from Caen in Normandy, but no evidence of the presence of this stone was revealed in 1989 (*see endnote*). Although several fragments of oolitic limestone were recovered from the infill of the robbing pits, all of these appeared to be local stone, mostly from Dundry (Clark, pers comm). Neither does Marshall mention any being found in 1948, though in Swayne's report on the 1878 observations, Caen stone, both as rough stone and in squared blocks, is listed among the materials in the upper fill of the well (Swayne 1879-80, 331). It is possible that the term Caen may have been used to describe any cream-coloured limestone, including that from Dundry. If true Caen stone was used in the keep construction, it is clear that it was used only above ground level, and certainly would have been used only as wall facing because of the expense of importing it. It is odd in these circumstances, however, that no trace at all should be found among the debris used to backfill the robbing pits and excavated in 1989.

The layout of the keep is another aspect subject to various interpretations. William Worcester, writing in the 15th century, describes the keep as having four towers, one at each corner (Dallaway 1834, 148). He also states that there was a highest or main tower, being the 'myghtyest toure above all the iiii towres'. It is not clear whether Worcester is suggesting that the main tower was an additional, fifth tower, or whether one of the four was larger than the others.

In addition he gives two separate sets of measurements (Dallaway 1834, 148 and 156), one of which is based on information supplied by the porter of the castle. According to the porter, the dimensions were 60 feet (18.29m) east-west, by 45 feet (13.72m) north-south. Because these measurements were not carried out by Worcester himself they should perhaps be regarded as of dubious reliability, and indeed they seem to bear little relationship to any of the walls uncovered in 1989. Seyer (1821, 381) suggests that these are internal measurements, which, when added to the wall thicknesses (given by the same source as 25ft (7.62m) at the base), make more sense. The amended dimensions then become 110ft (35.53m) long in an east-west direction, by 95ft (28.96m) north-south. These match fairly well with those in the second description, presumably Worcester's own measurements. Here he gives the lengths of three of the sides, the east side as 36 yards (108ft/32.92m), and the west and south sides each as 30 yards (90ft/27.43m).

At foundation level the actual width, measured east-

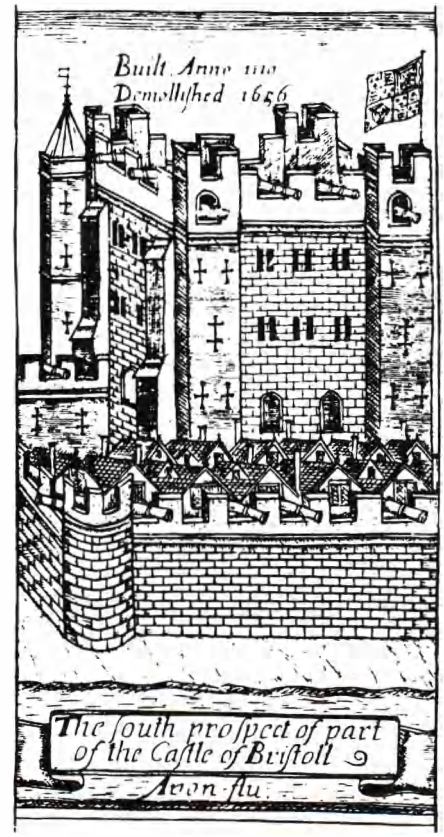


Fig.5 The vignette showing the castle keep from Millerd's map of 1673

west along the north wall, is *c.* 12.5m (*c.* 41ft) internally and either *c.* 29m or *c.* 33.5m (*c.* 95ft or *c.* 110ft) externally (see below). The failure of the internal measurements to match up with those of the foundations is perhaps less of a problem, since these could apply to a different level, probably that of the entrance, where the faces would not necessarily align directly with those at the base of the wall - but the discrepancies are still very large.

The difference in the lengths of the east and west sides is attributed by Ponsford (1979, 46) either to the presence of a forebuilding or to the position of the largest tower at the north-east or south-east corner, though he also considered other possible interpretations of Worcester's measurements (see below). The latter theory is no longer considered likely since Ponsford now believes (pers comm 1993, and see also 1979, 147) that the largest tower is a fifth tower separate from the four corner towers.

Millerd's plan of Bristol published in 1673, some time after the demolition of the keep (in 1656 according to Millerd), includes an illustration of the keep which shows the four corner towers with a fifth tower, apparently, behind (Fig.5). Seyer (1821, 383) interpreted this as being the tower of St Martin's Chapel. Ponsford (1979, 147) suggested that this may have been Worcester's fifth and 'myghtyest toure', arguing that St Martin's is probably to the south of the keep, though he also supplied an alternative proposition that it may have represented a tower at

Newgate in the background.

The evidence of the city's seals must also be taken into account. Seyer (1821, 378, Plate VII, 14) illustrates a seal from a title deed dated 1362, which appears to show the castle keep. This is the common seal of the burgesses of Bristol, engraved during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) and in use till 1569 (Williams 1984, 18, fig. 7). The seal clearly shows one of the towers of the keep, apparently that at the south-east corner, to be considerably larger than the others, though the fact that this is a representation rather than a strictly accurate depiction must also be borne in mind. Another seal illustrated by Seyer (no.5) on the same plate and identified by Williams (1984, 21, fig. 10) as the 2nd mayoral seal used from 1359, also seems to show the keep. It is described (Seyer 1821, 379-80) as having a firepan raised on the tower as a beacon, but this feature resembles very closely the other towers depicted, and can be interpreted very reasonably as an additional higher tower attached to the keep.

The evidence in the ground is also inconclusive. Only one corner was found, that to the north-east, and it was not possible to determine with absolute certainty the length of any of the sides.

It appears from the plan of the walls found in 1989 that the north-west corner of the keep might be found by extending the lines of the north face, where it crosses the bailey ditch, and the supposed west face built on the sloping side of this ditch. This cannot be guaranteed, however, since it is possible that the part of the wall which is thought to be the west face could be part of some internal feature such as those in a similar position near the north-east corner of the keep. The misalignment of the nearby north face interpreted as part of an extension to the west wall might lend support to this theory. This would then imply that the west face of the supposed extension was in fact the face of the outer wall of the main structure of the keep, and that the north-west corner lined up with this. These different positions for the north-west corner give two alternative lengths for the north wall of *c.* 29m (*c.* 95ft) or *c.* 33.5m (*c.* 110ft).

In an attempt to reconcile the two sets of dimensions given by Worcester, Ponsford (1979, 146) has discussed the possibility that Worcester confused his directions when measuring the keep for himself, and that the north side, rather than the east side as stated by Worcester, was the longest. This explanation is rather complex, and perhaps unnecessary if account is taken of the fact that Worcester's measurements can only be approximate, and that the north side may be only 29m (95ft) long in any case. Ponsford also assumed that the tower at the north-west corner lay to the west of the section of wall in the bailey ditch which he recorded himself in 1970 (Ponsford 1979, 106). On the other hand, if the alternative position of the north-west corner derived from the 1989 discoveries, giving the length of the north wall as 33.5m (110ft), is correct then Ponsford's arguments may well be valid.

The position of the entrance and associated forebuilding, if present, and of the possible fifth tower have not been completely clarified by the findings in 1989, though Ponsford's suggestion of a forebuilding alongside the east wall would still seem to be the most likely interpretation. The displacement in the outer face of the most easterly wall uncovered in 1989, and that in the north wall, shown by the turn in the edge of the foundation trench found in 1948, clearly indicate the corners of a tower at the north-east corner of the keep. The possibility of this being Worcester's largest tower, though perhaps now less likely if his is an additional tower, still cannot be totally ruled out. It is reasonable to interpret the relatively narrow easterly wall running south from this tower as part of a forebuilding to the main body of the keep, carrying an external stairway to an upper storey entrance.

At the north-west corner of the keep it is more difficult to interpret what is happening because of the two alternative possible positions for the actual corner. If the faced stonework represents internal features within the walls so that it does form a 'reflection' of the north-east corner, then it is equally possible that the forebuilding and entrance were on the west rather than the east side. Even if the faces are external walls, the extension against the west wall could still be an entrance forebuilding. It is possibly more likely, however, that the extension is a fifth tower, and may therefore have been William Worcester's 'myghtyest toure'. It is not in the same position as the extra tower illustrated by Millerd, which appears to be beyond the keep, though this could be an error of draughtsmanship.

Ponsford (1979, 147-9, fig. 43) has discussed the keep at Bristol in relation to other, similar large keeps in England of 12th century date, making use of the plans of Norman castles illustrated by Renn (1968). Of those listed by Ponsford, Cary, Dover, Kenilworth, Newcastle upon Tyne, Rising and Rochester most closely resemble that at Bristol. To his list could be added the keeps at Middleham and Walden, also illustrated by Renn (1968, 244, 343). Ponsford suggests that the keep at Dover might have been modelled on that in Bristol, but the finding in 1989 of additional integral structures against the west wall makes the overall comparison less favourable.

The castle was ordered to be demolished by Parliament in 1655 (Seyer 1823, 505), and despite the sometimes overzealous activities of the citizens, especially, it is recorded, with regard to the removal of the fine Caen stone, this work took some time (Latimer 1900, 258). The keep in particular, because of the great thickness of its walls, was slow to come down, and its demolition was not completed until 1656 (Seyer 1821, 394; Millerd 1673). Seyer suggests that the keep foundations were probably dug out 'as from a quarry' to build nearby housing, and this does indeed seem to have been the case. The 1989 excavations showed that the stone from the west wall was robbed out in a series of pits, and a number of clay-pipe bowls, mostly dated to the third quarter of the 17th century, were recovered from the infill material.

In his research into the leases of plots of land within the

castle precincts, Ponsford (1979, 76, 217) has identified a number of tenements on the site of the keep. It is clear from these leases that the land was soon built upon when the keep had been demolished. Most of the keep appears to have been beneath the property of a merchant named John Alyes. He acquired a plot 80 feet (24.4m) square in the corner between Tower Street (Castle Green) to the north and a common way, later known as Cock and Bottle Lane, to the east. This lease is dated 1660. In 1663 Thomas Harding, a carpenter, developed the adjacent, slightly smaller plot in Tower Street to the west of that of Alyes. This plot contained three tenements, one of which is known to have been leased later that year to Peter Graunt, a cook, and it is mentioned within the leases as being on the site of the Great Tower.

When the degree of robbing of different sections of the keep wall is compared there is an interesting correlation with the property boundaries defined in these early leases. Whereas the west wall of the keep was almost entirely robbed out in the 17th century, even where it was built into the motte and bailey ditches, the rest of the keep seems to have survived, at least to ground level, until the 19th century. This difference roughly coincides with the boundary between the properties of Thomas Harding and John Alyes, *c.* 80 feet (24.4m) from Cock and Bottle Lane. It is possible that, while Harding decided he could make use of the keep stonework to construct his buildings, Alyes felt that leaving it in situ would provide a solid foundation for the 'strong firm and substantial houses' he was required to build.

By 1878 the former keep site was occupied by Messrs Llewellin and James who built a new brass foundry there during that year. It was as a result of this work that the first archaeological discoveries relating to the keep, reported by Swayne (1879-80), were made. This industry remained on the site until its demolition as a result of bomb damage during 1942.

At the present time (1997), the few remains that still survive of the keep foundation are being consolidated for display as part of a landscaping project within Castle Park.

CONCLUSIONS

The excavation of the motte ditch has confirmed that, for the main part, it was filled in at the same time as the castle keep was being constructed, with only a small section beneath the keep itself being left open. A narrowing of the bailey ditch, close to its junction with the motte ditch, may indicate the location of a bridge providing access to the bailey from the direction of the town.

The plan of the layout of the keep has not been greatly clarified by the 1989 excavation, indeed the finding of an adjoining structure built into the west wall of the keep has added alternative possibilities for consideration in its reconstruction. Ponsford's interpretation of a forebuilding along the east side is still thought to be the most likely solution, with Worcester's fifth and highest tower being the structure against the west wall.

It has been found that, when the keep was demolished after the Civil War, the degree to which the stonework of the foundations was robbed out varied between the plots into which the land was divided.

Endnote

Since writing this report, a few fragments of dressed stone have come to light which had become separated from the rest of the excavated material. These have been examined by Roger Clark and identified as a fine-grained limestone which may have come from Caen. It is hoped that a full petrological analysis will determine their source with greater certainty.

THE FINDS

All reports on the finds are by G L Good, except that on the pottery which is by R Burchill.

The animal remains have not yet been examined and only the artefacts are considered in this report.

Three periods are identified in relating the finds to the stratigraphic record. These are:

Period 1 (early 12th century) - The infilling of the motte and bailey ditches and the construction of the keep.

Period 2 (Medieval - 17th century) - The occupation of the keep.

Period 3 (Mid-17th century) - The demolition of the keep and robbing of the wall foundations.

Small Finds (Fig.6)

The copper alloy and ironwork, mostly nails, has not yet been studied in detail, and is not dealt with in this report.

Catalogue

Stone

1. Half of a chalk spindle whorl decorated with turned grooves. Period 1. Context EF. SF 84.
2. Fragment of grey slate, probably from south-west England, with part of a geometric pattern, of circle arcs on a squared background, scratched into one surface. Period 3. Context AX. SF 11.

Bone

3. Bone pin with irregular cross-section. Flat, roughly semi-circular head with incised decoration of crossed lines. Slight bulge and traces of decoration at start of taper to point. Period 1. Context GQ. SF 75.
4. Flat bone strip, decorated on one side with a row of groups of concentric circles. Traces of iron rivets. Possibly a connecting plate for a comb. Period 1. Context GQ. SF 87.
5. Part, possibly of a bone whistle or flute. Roughly trimmed at unbroken end. Period 1. Context JW. SF 131.
6. Curved bone fragment, roughly pared on all sides. Period 1. Context JT. SF 128.

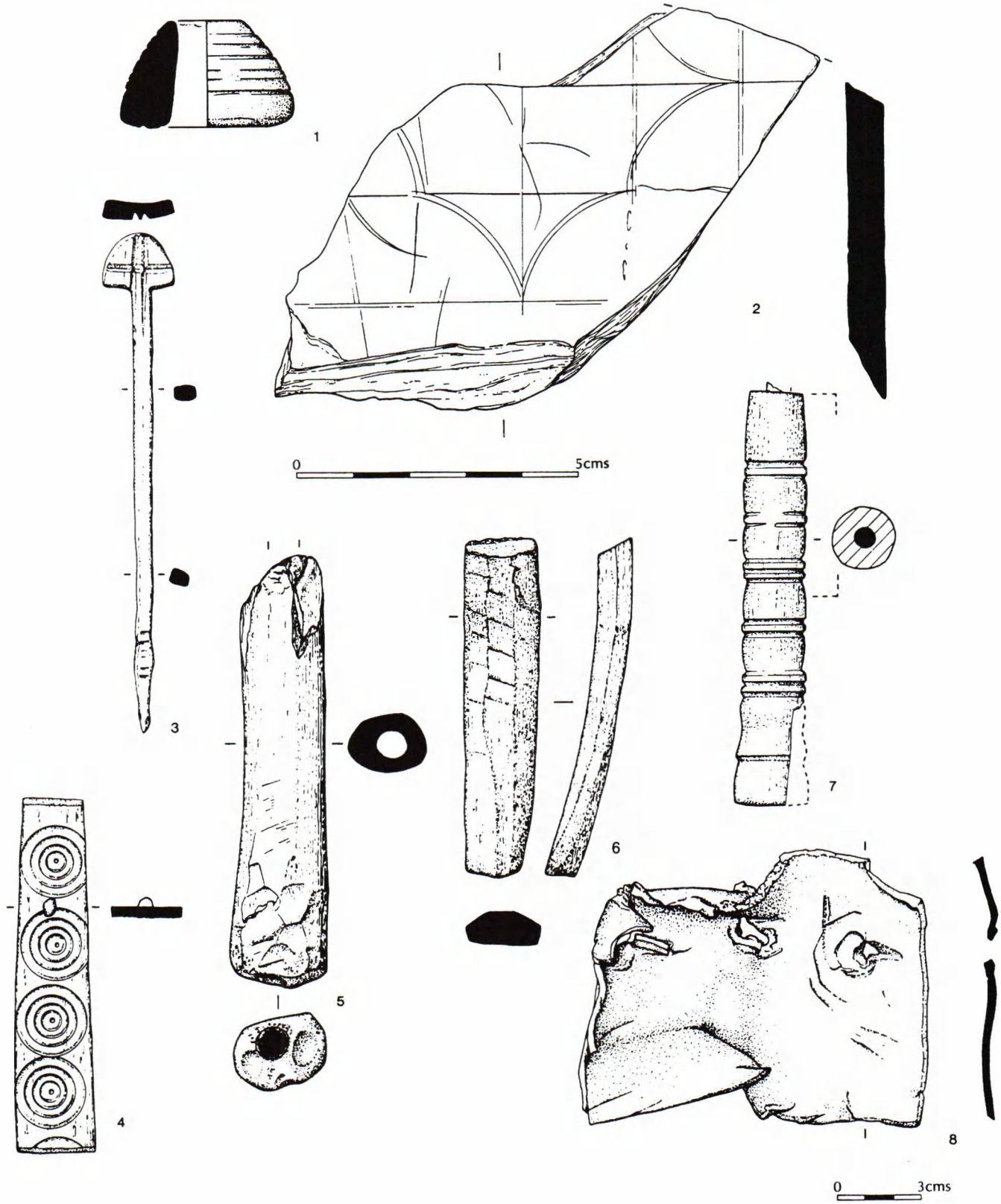


Fig.6 The small finds

7. Bone handle?, hollowed for full length. Remains of iron shaft in one end. Turned, grooved decoration. Period 3. Context JB. SF 81.

Lead

8. Sheet of lead with three nail holes. Period 3. Context DG.

The Pottery by Rod Burchill

Introduction

Only that pottery that could be directly related to the Keep was examined in detail. This consisted of 1994 sherds recovered from the infilling of the Motte Ditch, the garderobe-chute fill and the immediate post-destruction robbing. All other contexts showed severe contamination from recent disturbance and were excluded from the analysis.

The matrial was assigned to context groups as defined in the excavation report and was identified by reference to the Bristol Pottery Type Series (BPT) (Price & Ponsford 1979 a&b, Ponsford 1980 and 1988, Ponsford 1997 and Burchill forthcoming).

Group 1

This group from the fill of the Motte Ditch amounted to 1064 sherds consisting mostly of late-11th or early-12th century wares. Seventy-seven percent of this group was accounted for by just two fabrics BPT 5 [formerly BPT AA] (some 55% of the total) and BPT 10 [AC] (some 22%). The rest of the material comprised North-west Wiltshire tripod pitchers (BPT 18), South-east Wilts quartz gritted wares (BPT 17 & 18c) and the Saxo-Norman wares BPT 115 and BPT 20. Some residual late Saxon types were also present, 4 sherds of BPT 3 - a probable precursor of BPT 115 and 48 sherds of BPT 309. BPT 309 has Saxon origins but continues post-Conquest and appears to merge into BPT 10, some sherds being difficult to differentiate.

Ham Green wares were absent from this group with the exception of context GQ. Context GQ produced two sherds of BPT 26 (of Pill subtype) and a small quantity of BPT 114. These sherds must be treated with caution since context GQ was known to have been contaminated during excavation.

Of particular note in this group is the rim of a pitcher in BPT 5: a previously unrecorded form in this fabric (Fig. 7.2).

The absence of Ham Green wares, if the sherds in GQ are intrusive, would suggest a date not later than *c.* 1120 for the group. If the Ham Green sherds are not intrusive then the group must date to the second quarter of the 12th century (Ponsford 1991).

Group 2

This group, from the guarderobe chute, contained 190 sherds the majority of which were the products of the Ham Green kilns (BPT 114, BPT 26, BPT 32, BPT 27). The sherds represented only a small number of vessels: BPT 114 probably 3 pots, BPT 27 three, and the later BPT 84 just two vessels. The seven sherds of Saxo-Norman wares were residual in these contexts.

The presence of the wheel-thrown lime-gritted ware BPT 84 and the absence of BPT 118L of post-1350 date suggests a date in the early 14th century for the group.

Of note is a cookpot in what appears to be BPT 32 fabric but with an unusual rim form (Fig.8.31) and a small sherd of imported tin-glaze. The tin-glazed sherd has a buff fabric with a hard, thick, turquoise glaze: possibly Arabian in origin (J Hurst pers comm). This sherd is of some importance as tin-glaze wares of Arabic origin are very rare in Bristol.

Group 3

A large group of 740 sherds associated with the post-destruction robbing of the keep, some 50% of which were products of the Somerset kilns: principally Nether Stowey and Wanstrow wares of 17th century date. Small quantities of North Devon (BPT 112) and English tin-glaze wares of later 17th or early 18th century date (BPT99) were also noted. The group also included a large quantity of residual medieval types (about 43% of group total) and 16th century Malvern ware (BPT 197).

The imports (about 1.6% of total) were few but worthy of note is a sherd of Sevillian polychrome tin-glaze (BPT 333) and 2 sherds of Italian Montelupo with floral decoration (BPT 107).

Conclusion

The pottery from the site was typical of that found throughout the town. The Motte Ditch wares consisted of those commonly found in late 11th and early 12th century Bristol contexts whilst the material from the garderobe-chute was much as expected for the Keep's early period. The pottery associated with the 'robber trenches' consisted of wares common in the post-medieval town with the ubiquitous Somerset wares providing the bulk of the material. Somerset wares are the most common types of pottery found on Bristol sites for the years 1550 to 1700.

The imports were mostly interesting but not particularly significant; however, the tin-glazed sherd from the guarderobe chute is of some importance. The writer is not aware of any other example of a middle eastern tin-glazed vessel being recovered from a Bristol site. Few tin-glaze vessels dating from before 1400 are found in Bristol: a sherd of early 14th century date was found at Temple Street and late 14th century sherds at Westbury College, Tower Lane and St.Bartholomews Hospital - all were Spanish in origin (Ponsford and Burchill 1995). No documentary references have been found for trade between Bristol and the Arab ports at this time and if the guarderobe vessel is of middle eastern origin then it probably arrived in Bristol as a gift or personal souvenir in much the same way as the early Spanish tin-glazes (Ponsford and Burchill 1995).

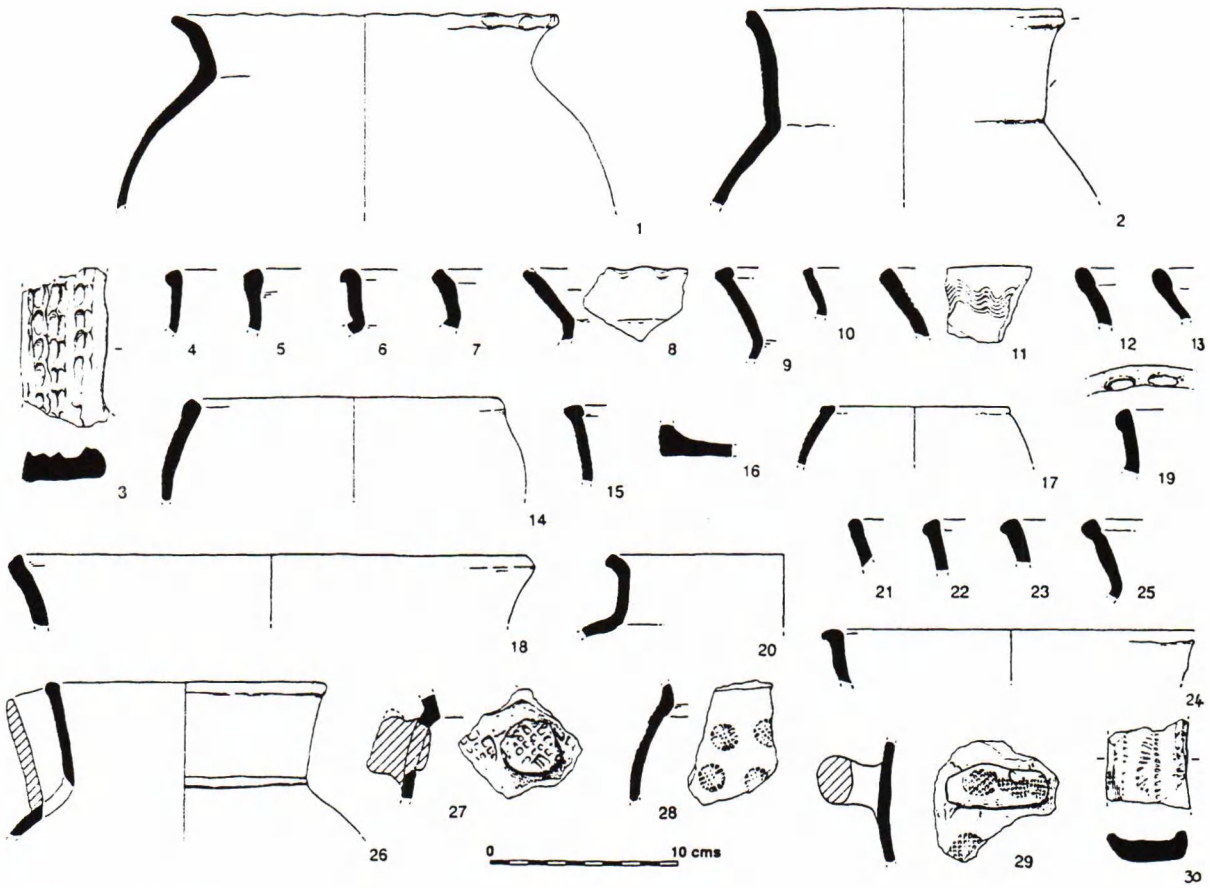


Fig.7 The pottery from group 1

The large proportion of residual material can be explained by the high level of activity on the site and reflects what occurs in the town as a whole.

Pottery Types Present

BPT1 Hard, lightweight, laminated fabric tempered with quartz, small stones and limestone. Cookpots - often burnished. 1000-1070 AD

BPT3 Hard quartz gritted fabric with moderate lime stone and sparse shell. Cookpots 1000/1070AD

BPT5 Hard well fired fabric with fine calcareous grits, quartz and rare iron ores. Cookpots and rare bowls 1080-1120AD. Formerly BPT AA (Ponsford 1997 refers to this fabric as BPT6)

BPT10 Hard grey 'soapy' fabric containg quartz and limestone with rare iron ores. Cookpots. 1080-1120. Formerly BPT AC (Ponsford 1997 refers to this fabric as BPT9)

BPT17 Hard quartz gritted fabric. Southeast Wiltshire. Cookpots. 1080-1200AD

BPT18 Hard grey oxideised fabric with abundant oolitic limestone. Northwest Wiltshire. Tripod pitchers. 1080-1200AD

BPT18C Fabric as BPT17. Southeast Wiltshire. Tripod pitchers. 1080-1200AD

BPT20 Hard sandy fabric with abundant quartz and lime stone - spalling of internal surfaces. Cookpots. 1070-1120AD

BPT26 Ham Green jugs: fabric A. 1120-1160'sAD

BPT27 Ham Green jugs: fabric B. 1170-1300AD

BPT32 Ham Green cookpot fabric. 1120-1300AD

BPT40 Southwest French jugs with metalic glaze. 1280-1320AD

BPT46 Flint tempered wares (same as Bath A). 1150-1250AD

BPT63 Similar to BPT46 but coarser. Probably earlier variant of same fabric.

BPT81 Spanish amphorae. 1500-1700AD

BPT84 Fabric similar to BPT18 but wheel thrown. 1300-1500AD

BPT93 Cups in the Cistercian tradition. 1500-1700AD

BPT99 English (mostly Bristol) tin-glazed earthen wares. 1650-1780AD

BPT96 Wanstrow (Somerset) wares: includes slip decorated wares formerly known as BPT98. 1550-1800AD

BPT107A Italian: Montilupo tin-glaze. 1575-1650AD

BPT108 North Devon Sgraffito wares. 1625-1750AD

BPT109 Metropolitan type slipware. 1650-1750AD

BPT112 North Devon kitchenwares. 1600-1800AD

BPT114 Proto-Ham Green ware. 12th century.

BPT115 Hard quartz gritted fabric with limestone and shell. Cookpots. 1070-1100AD

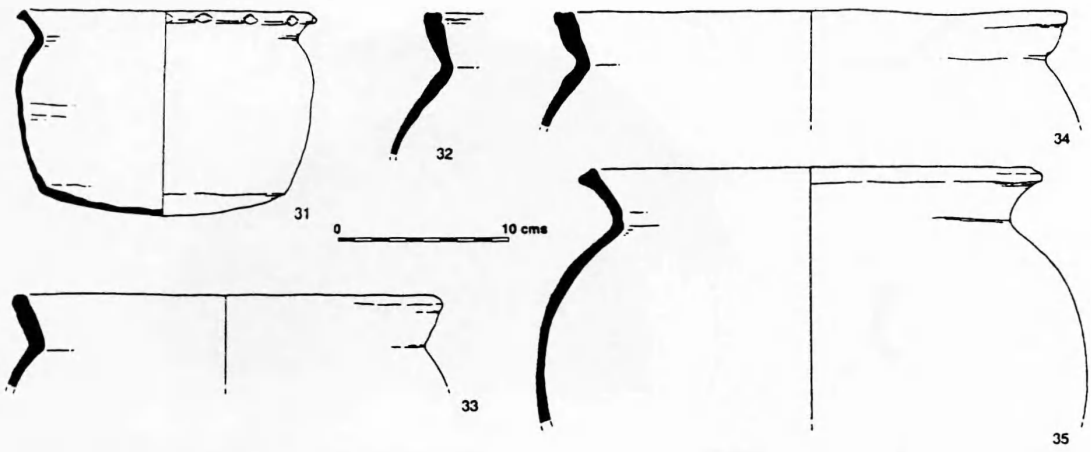


Fig.8 The pottery from group 2

BPT118 Bristol/Redcliffe wares. 1250-1350AD
BPT118L Later variant of BPT118. 1350-1500AD
BPT157 Southwest French jugs. 1250-1400AD
BPT182 Tudor Green wares. 1420-1600AD
BPT197 Malvern Chase wares. 1400-1700AD
BPT265 Bristol Lime Gritted ware. 17th century.
BPT268 Donyatt post-medieval wares. 1550-1800AD
BPT269 Donyatt Black-glazed cups. 16th century.
BPT275 Pale brown glazed Cistercian type cups. 16th century.
BPT280 Nether Stowey (Somerset) wares: includes slip decorated wares formerly known as BPT284. 1550-1750AD
BPT282 Merida type ware. 13th - 17th century.
BPT285 Somerset wares of uncertain source. 1550-1800AD
BPT300 Miscellaneous Mediterranian tin-glazes.
BPT309 Hard grey fabric with buff surfaces. Containing quartz, limestone, calcite, sandstones, chert and mudstones. Cookpots. ?950-1080AD
Fabric differs from BPT10 in its grittier feel and the presence of pinky sandstones.
BPT333 Seville tin-glaze. 16th century.

Catalogue

Group 1
(1) Cookpot rim. The rim is curved with a thumbed edge. The fabric is quartz gritted and sooted externally. South-east Wilts
BPT 17 Context GQ
(2) Tall, flaring rim of a pitcher, externally beaded with a grooved bead. Previously unknown form.
BPT 5 Context KQ
(3) Strap handle in a heavily quartz gritted fabric. Decorated with three (?)thumbed strips. South-east Wilts.
BPT 18c Context GY
(4) Rim of cookpot with external bead.
BPT 309 Context LW
(5) Cookpot rim, slightly everted, slight internal concavity.
BPT 309 Context LS
(6) Shallow cookpot rim, externally beaded with slight internal concavity.
BPT309 Context KJ
(7) Cookpot rim. Slightly everted with wide shallow indentation internally. Some surface pitting.
BPT 309 Context LL
(8) Poorly made cookpot rim with thumbed inner edge.
BPT 5 Context KJ
(9) Tall, hard fired, jar rim with internal fold.
BPT 5 Context KJ
(10) Cookpot rim. Shallow with grooved top and slight internal fold. Very thin fabric.
BPT 5 Context KJ
(11) Simple jar rim, decorated internally with 5T wavy comb.
BPT 5 Context LA
(12) Jar rim with internal fold. Heavily blackened surfaces.
BPT 5 Context LB
(13) Jar or bowl rim with internal fold. (may be part of 12)
BPT 5 Context LB
(14) Bead rim jar, blackened internally
BPT 5 Context KV
(15) Jar rim. Tall,with internal fold.
BPT 5 Context KU
(16) Flat base, sharp basal angle. Form is unclear but possibly similar to a 'West-country dish'.
BPT 5/114 Context KU
(17) Jar rim with external bevel. Externaly sooted.
BPT 5 Context EK
(18) Cookpot rim.Slight concavity below rim edge.
BPT 5 Context JV
(19) Cookpot rim. Beaded externally with deep thumb indentation on inner edge.
BPT 10 Context JP
(20) Cookpot rim. Tall, slightly curved at top. Very angular external edge.
BPT 10 Context LV.
(21) Cookpot rim with slight internal fold and (?)faint external groove.

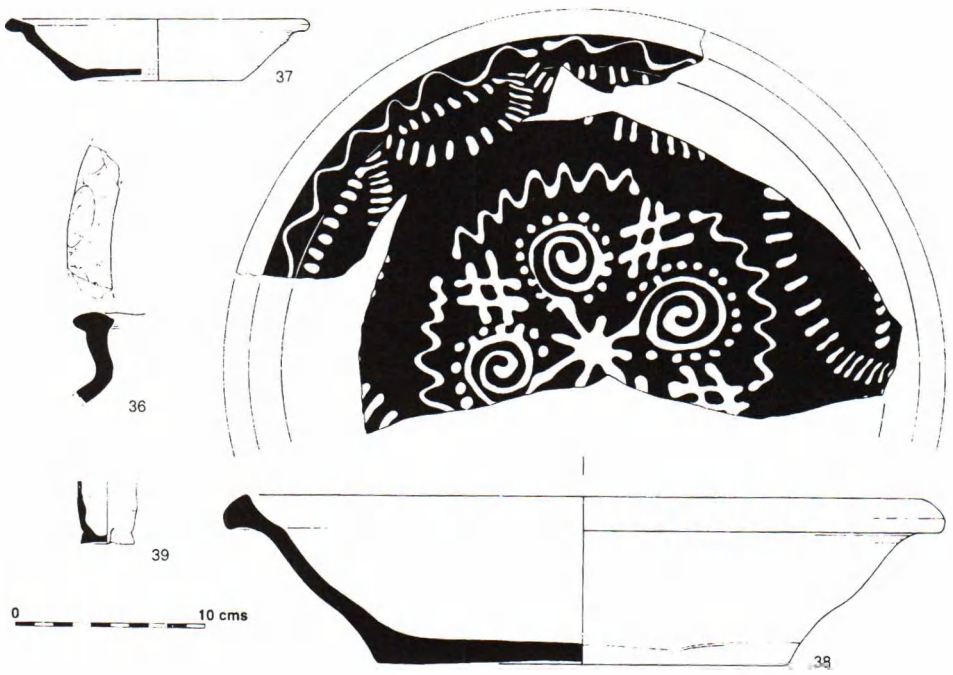


Fig.9 The pottery from group 3

BPT 10 Context LQ
(22) Externaly beaded cookpot rim.
BPT 10 Context LQ
(23) Rim of cookpot with external bead. Heavy external soot.
BPT 10 Context LQ
(24) (?)Bowl. Externally beaded.
BPT 10 Context LN
(25) Jar rim. Tall with external rounding and internal fold. Fabric is unusual for type.
BPT 5 Context LN
(26) Rim of tubular spouted pitcher. The tall, flaring rim is beaded with a cord at the neck. The vessel has a thick dark green glaze.
BPT 18 Context KZ/KY/LR
(27) Knob handle with diamond stamp decoration.Stamp also to body.
BPT 309 Context JT SF 126
(28) Decorated sherds.Decoration of circular stamp bearing cross-hatch motif. Also wavy comb.
BPT 309 Context KN/JW SF 123
(29) Lug handle. Decorated with ovoid stamp bearing diamond pattern. Stamps also occur on body.
BPT 309 Context LY SF 115
(30) Strap handle. Faint poorly applied roulleting. Green glaze.
BPT ? Context LY SF 116

Group 2
(31) Profile of cookpot with everted angular rim with thumb indented edge. The sagging base appears to have been trimmed. Unusual but probably Ham Green.
BPT 32 Context JM/JZ
(32) Rim of jar/cookpot in a very hard fired fabric. Slighly everted rim with internal groove. The rim top has a slight internal ledge.
BPT114 Context JZ
(33) Cookpot. Plain rim, very slightly everted. Very hard fired.
BPT 114 Context JZ
(34) Cookpot rim. Everted with grooved top and neck. Very hard fired.
BPT 114 Context JZ
(35) Cookpot in a coarse lime gritted fabric. The angular everted rim has glaze over the internal surfaces.
BPT 84 Context JC/JZ

Group 3
(36) Cookpot rim. Very crude large club with wide, thumbed 'frill' to external edge and concave internally. Very coarse fabric.
BPT 63 Context JG
(37) Profile of a shallow dish with patchy orange/green glaze.
BPT 280 Context CY
(38) Deep slip-decorated dish.
BPT 284 Context GM
(39) Rounded splay base of a small 'thumb' pot or candle-stick with dribbled green glaze. Exact form unclear. Wanstrow.
BPT 96 Context BZ

The clay tobacco-pipes (Figs.10-11)

Among the 214 clay-pipe fragments recovered from stratified contexts, there were 66 bowls and 4 mouthpieces.

All were in Period 3 contexts, associated with the robbing of the walls of the keep, with the exception of a single stem fragment from the Period 2 infill of a cess-pit built into the keep wall.

The mouthpieces were all plain and unglazed.

All of the bowls were datable to the 17th century and most were of types commonly found in Bristol. In most cases these could not be related to the general typology for England given by Oswald (1975, 37-41), but where this was possible the Oswald type is noted. Examples of all of the bowl shapes are illustrated in Figs.10-11. In many cases, several examples of a given type of bowl occurred in different contexts. In such instances the context of the drawn example is given in the catalogue. All of the drawn examples are from Period 3 contexts except those listed as unstratified (U/S).

There were a few bowls of fairly early type, generally dated to the first half of the 17th century. These (nos 1-4) were all small bulbous bowls at an angle to the stem, and, except for no 3, all had bases flush or nearly flush with the stem. No 3 had a stepped base and was similar to Oswald type 4, which is dated to *c.* 1600-1640. The bowls of nos 2 and 3 were fairly similar in shape, as was that of no 4 but it had a slightly everted rim. No 1 was slightly narrower and less bulbous. All of these early bowls had rouletting at or just below the rim.

Nos 5-8 were all very alike being larger versions of nos 2 and 3, and no 9 was the same shape but larger again. These were all similar to Oswald type 5 and could be dated to the middle decades of the 17th century.

Although no 10 is of a similar size to no 9, and probably of about the same date, the shape is somewhat different. The bulge of the bowl is in the middle rather than towards the top as in nos 1-9, and this gives a suggestion of the neck of the later types. This neck is more obvious in no 11, which is rather like an elongated version of no 10, and again of mid-17th century date.

Nos 12 and 13 are slightly longer again, and these types may be generally a little later in date with a range covering the third quarter of the 17th century. Of the same date are nos 15-17 which are similar in shape but more slender, and can occur without rouletting at the rim.

No 18 is the same shape as nos 15-17 but longer, and no 23 is longer again, making a very elongated, slender, but still slightly bulbous bowl. It is likely that these could cover a date range from about the middle to fairly late in the 17th century. Intermediate in size between nos 18 and 23, nos 19-21 resemble them but are a little less slender. No 25 is much the same shape as these but a lot longer, and no 28 is again fairly similar but considerably larger generally, though not quite as long as no 25.

A slightly differently shaped bowl, no 14, has the bulge towards the bottom. This is of about the same size as nos 12-13 and 15-17, and probably covers a similar date range. No 22 is a larger version of this, and no 26 larger again. Rouletting occurred below the rim of no 26 but not on the others of this shape.

An unusual variation occurs in no 24. This has the bulge angled so that the upper part of the bowl appears pushed forward. Oswald recognised this form in his earlier type series of 1955, and identified it as a shape favoured in Bristol with a date range of *c.* 1640-1670 (Oswald 1955, 145 and pl I, type 5b), though it is not included in his 1975 general typology.

In no 27 there is considerably less narrowing above the bulge of the bowl, so that there is no clear neck below the rim, though it is not as straight-sided as the bowls of the 18th century. It is fairly similar to Oswald type 7, which is dated to *c.* 1660-1680.

Several of the clay-pipes had makers' marks stamped onto their bases. With only a few exceptions all of the marks were incuse, and most bore the initials of the maker. Possible identifications of the makers' initials, taken from those listed in Jackson & Price (1974) for the appropriate period, are included in the catalogue. It is not always possible to find exact parallels for the actual stamps in Jackson & Price, but very similar marks are illustrated for most examples, usually on pipes of the same shape. On the other hand, in some instances, identical marks are to be seen on pipes of different form.

One of the makers whose pipes could be identified with certainty was Flower Hunt, whose name appeared in full on the base of no 29. He is particularly relevant in this context, since he is known to have leased a property in nearby Castle Street, where presumably he manufactured his wares (Ponsford 1979, 71). Fragments of pipes by the same maker were also recovered during the excavations of 1948 (Marshall 1951, 16).

Of interest among the stamps without initials are two very similar floriate marks in relief on pipes of two different periods (nos 2 and 13). Almost certainly these were made either by the same maker at different times, or by two makers from the same family, perhaps father and son.

The date ranges for the forms of the pipes cover a broad range overall, from the beginning to the end of the 17th century. It is possible, however, that pipes of all of the forms could have been in use at the same time if those examples of earlier pipes survived in use beyond the date normally considered as the end of their production. An alternative possibility is that some pipes were still being manufactured from moulds of early types beyond this time, so that there was more of an overlap between the periods of the different forms, as is suggested by Jackson & Price (1974, 86).

The date of deposition for all of the bowl fragments is clearly later than 1656, when the keep is supposed to have been demolished, though it is clear that a few years elapsed before building work on the site commenced under the terms of the leases granted to John Alyes and Thomas Harding in the 1660s (see above). The stones from the keep foundations are likely to have been dug out for use in the construction work, and the clay-pipes were deposited with the infill material of the robbing pits. It is reasonable

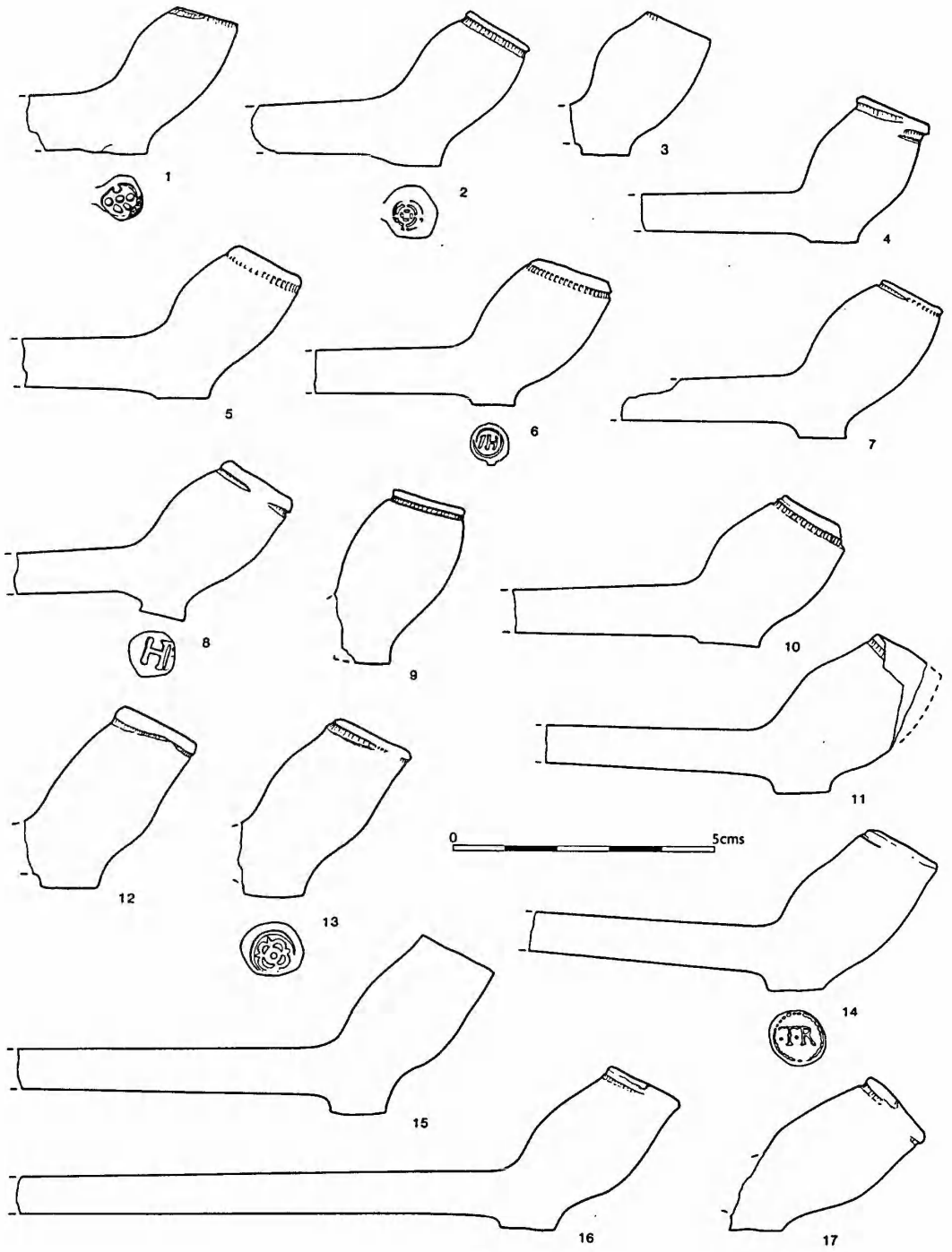


Fig.10 Clay pipe - period 3

to assume that this occurred during the decade of the 1660s, and this relatively well-defined date for the deposits makes this group fairly important in the study of Bristol clay-pipes.

Catalogue

1. Small, slightly bulbous bowl with rouletting at rim. Base flush with stem. Base stamped in relief with five large dots encircling a central dot. Stem fairly thick with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Early to mid 17th century type. Context GA.
2. Small, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Base almost flush with stem. Base stamped with floriate design in relief. Stem medium width with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Early to mid 17th century type. Context HL.
3. Small, bulbous bowl with rouletting just below rim. Similar shape to no 2 but tapering slightly more towards smaller base. Base stepped. Narrow stem with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). Early to mid 17th century type. Context HL.
4. Small, bulbous bowl with rouletting below everted rim. Base flush with stem. Stem narrow with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). Early to mid 17th century type. Context HN.
5. Fairly small, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Similar shape to no. 3 but slightly larger. Very slight step at base. Stem fairly thick with very wide bore (diam *c.* 3.5mm). Mid 17th century type - similar to Oswald type 5 (*c.* 1640-60). Context GM.
6. Fairly small, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Similar to no 5 but tapering more towards smaller base. Base stepped. Narrow stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3.2mm). Mid 17th century type - similar to Oswald type 5 (*c.* 1640-60). Incuse design on base with letters IH in a circle. Possibly John Hunt, free 1651, or John Howell, working *c.*1650 (Jackson & Price 1974, 47). Context GS.
7. Fairly small, bulbous bowl with rouletting just below rim. Similar shape to no 6 but slimmer and more elongated. Base stepped. Stem fairly narrow with very wide bore (diam *c.* 3.5mm). Mid 17th century type - similar to Oswald type 5 (*c.* 1640-60). Context CW.
8. Fairly small, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Slightly splayed at base. Base stepped and at an angle to stem. Letter H incuse on base with what appears to be part of another letter alongside at edge of base. Stem fairly narrow with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Mid 17th century type. Context AA - U/S.
9. Fairly small, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Similar to no 5 but slightly larger and more bulbous. Mid 17th century type - similar to Oswald type 5 (*c.* 1640-60). Context FW.
10. Fairly small, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Slightly splayed at base. Only very slight step at base. Stem fairly narrow with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). Mid 17th century type. Context HM.
11. Fairly small, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Narrows to a neck above central bulge. Like an elongated, narrower version of no 10. Base stepped. Narrow stem with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). Mid 17th century type. Context BB.
12. Medium-sized, slightly bulbous bowl with line below rim and slight narrowing above central bulge. Base stepped. Medium width stem with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). Third quarter of 17th century type. Context CC.
13. Medium-sized bowl, very similar in shape to no 12, with rouletting below rim. Base stepped. Base stamped with floriate design in relief, very similar to that on no 2. Medium width stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Third quarter of 17th century type. Context DM.
14. Medium-sized, bulbous bowl with plain rim. Narrows to a neck above bulge which is towards bottom of bowl. Base stepped. Narrow stem with wide bore (diams *c.* 2.8/3.2mm). Third quarter of 17th century type. Incuse design on base with initials TR in a circle of small dots. Possibly Timothy Ricketts (Risbett), free 1669 (Jackson & Price 1974, 68). Contexts DG and FS.
15. Medium-sized, fairly slender bowl with plain rim. Narrows to a slight neck above slight central bulge. Slightly splayed at base. Base stepped. Medium width stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Third quarter of 17th century type. Context CH.
16. Medium-sized, fairly slender bowl with rouletting below rim. Similarly shaped bowl to no 15, but slightly narrower neck. Slightly splayed at base. Base stepped. Narrow stem with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). Third quarter of 17th century type. Context KF.
17. Similar bowl to no 16, but at a much flatter angle to base and stem. Base stepped. Narrow stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Third quarter of 17th century type. Context CC.
18. Medium-sized, fairly slender bowl with rouletting below rim. Similarly shaped bowl to nos 15-17, but slightly longer. Splayed at base. Base stepped. Medium width stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Incuse design containing initials EL on base (cf Jackson & Price, 1974 no 163). Probably Edward Lewis I (free 1631, dead by 1652), his widow Elizabeth, or grandson Edward Lewis II (free 1678) (Jackson & Price 1974, 53). Contexts EM and GR.
19. Medium-sized bowl with plain rim. Similarly shaped bowl to no 18, but slightly larger and wider at neck. Narrow waist below central bulge. Base stepped. Medium width stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Context HX.
20. Medium-sized bowl with rouletting below rim. Similarly shaped bowl to no 19, but less narrow at waist below bulge. Base stepped. Medium width stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Context FQ.
21. Medium-sized, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Similar shape to no 20, but narrower at neck. Base stepped. Fairly narrow stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Incuse design containing

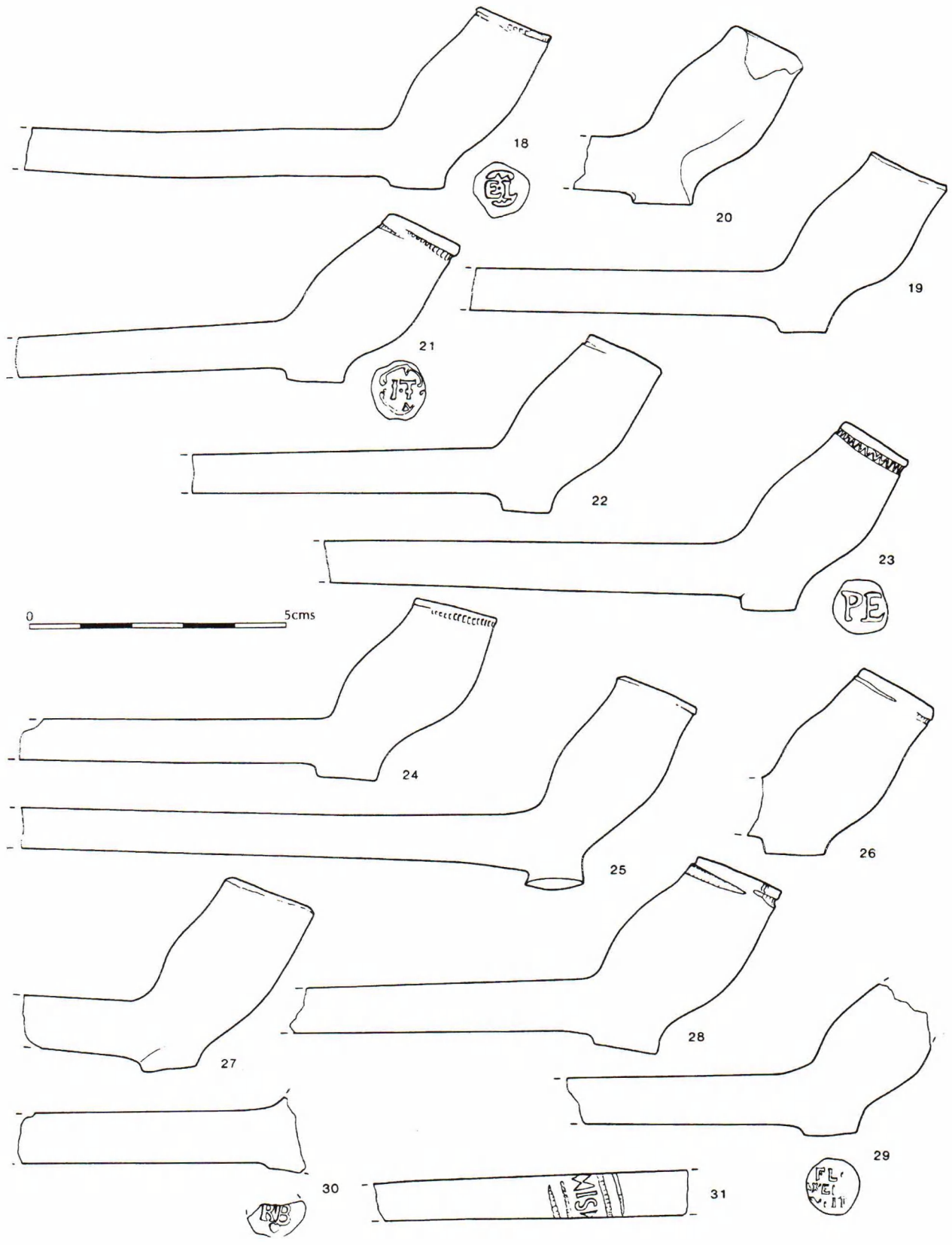


Fig.11 Clay pipe - period 3 (nos 18-30) and unstratified (no 31)

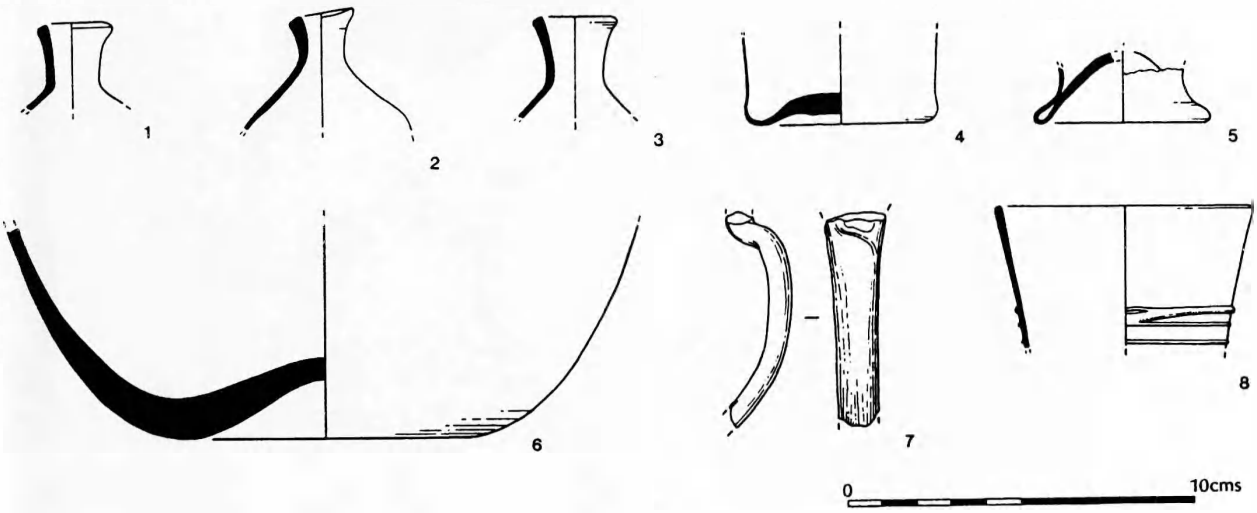


Fig. 12 The glass from period 3

initials IT on base - similar stamp to Jackson & Price (1974) no 251, but bowl shape different. Possibly John Tucker (free 1662) (Jackson & Price 1974, 73). Context CH.

22. Medium-sized, bulbous bowl with plain rim. Fairly wide neck above bulge. Bulge slightly below central position. Similar to no 14, but slightly larger. Base stepped. Medium width stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Context GS.

23. Medium to large, fairly slender bowl with zig-zag rouletting below rim. Similarly shaped to no 18, but slightly longer. Slightly splayed at base. Base stepped. Fairly thick stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Initials PE incuse on base - several similar examples in Jackson & Price (1974), particularly no 89. Probably Philip Edwards I (free 1649) or his son Philip Edwards II (free 1680) (Jackson & Price 1974, 42). Context EP.

24. Medium to large bowl with rouletting below rim. Bulge displaced so that it is higher than usual at the front of the bowl. Narrow waist below bulge. Base stepped. Narrow stem with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Context DF.

25. Large bowl with plain rim. Similar shape to no 19, but more elongated. Splayed at base. Base stepped. Stem fairly thick near bowl with wide bore (diam *c.* 3.2mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Context LE.

26. Medium to large, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Bulge below central position. Similar to no 22, but slightly larger. Base stepped. Thick stem with wide bore (diam *c* .3.2mm). Mid to late 17th century type. Context GA.

27. Medium to large bowl with plain rim. No narrowing to a neck above the middle of the bowl. Base stepped. Narrow stem with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). ?Mid to late 17th century type. Context FR.

28. Large, very wide, bulbous bowl with rouletting below rim. Base stepped. Medium stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). ?Mid to late 17th century type. Context GR.

29. Incomplete bulbous bowl with fairly narrow waist. Probably similar to no 16. Base stepped. Fairly thick stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3mm). Third quarter of 17th century type. Name FLOWER HUNT (partially faded) incuse on base (cf Jackson & Price 1974, no 113). Flower Hunt, free 1651, died 1671 or 1672 (Jackson & Price 1974, 46). Context KE.

30. Fragment of stem with part of very slightly stepped base. Thick stem with wide bore (diam *c.* 3.2mm). 17th century type. Incuse design with initials RB and a small heart on base (cf Jackson & Price 1974, nos 13-20). Probably Richard Berriman, working from at least 1619 till at least 1652 (Jackson & Price 1974, 32). Context FQ.

31. Narrow to medium-width stem fragment with medium bore (diam *c.* 2.8mm). Decorative band including the initials IS (or possibly SI) around the stem. Context AA-U/S.

The Glass (Fig. 12)

All of the stratified glass came from contexts associated with the rob of the walls of the keep and dating to the second half of the 17th century. Most fragments were body sherds from vessels in green glass, and all appeared to be of English manufacture. Of interest are several fragments from square or rectangular bottles in fairly thin glass (not illustrated) and a number of early apothecary bottles (nos 1-4). The beaker or mug (no 8) came from a disturbance caused by tree roots in the same area as the handle (no 7) and it is possible that the two fragments came from the same vessel.

Catalogue

1. Neck and rim of a small bottle in green glass with

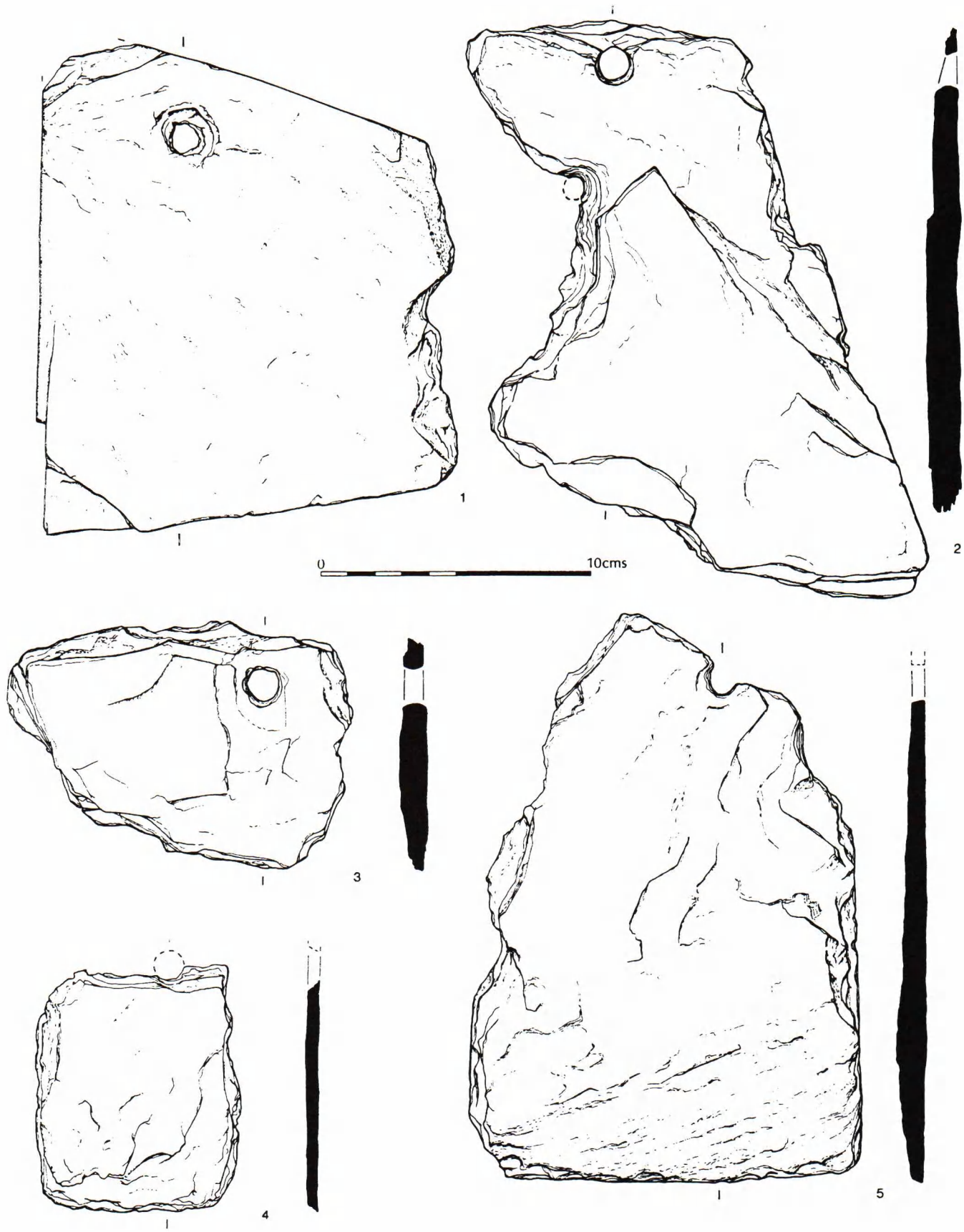


Fig.13 Stone roofing slates - period 1 (no 1) and period 3 (nos 2-5)

bubbling. Period 3. context DM.
2. Shoulder, neck and rim of small bottle in green glass with bubbling. Period 3. Context FA. (SF 33).
3. Neck and rim of small bottle in green glass with bubbling and some pale brown weathering. Probably same vessel as no 4. Period 3. Context FR.
4. Base and four body fragments of small bottle in green glass with bubbling and some pale brown weathering. Probably same vessel as no 3. Period 3. Context FR.
5. Base fragment, possibly of a flask in light green glass with irridescent weathering. Period 3. Context CX.
6. Base fragment of bottle in dark green glass with bubbling and slight weathering. Period 3. Context GM.
7. Handle in slightly greenish black glass with slight brown weathering. Possibly same vessel as no 8. Period 3. Context CE. (SF 19).
8. Rim fragment of beaker? or mug? in opaque black glass, with trailed thread, probably spiralling down the body. Possibly same vessel as handle no 7. Context AS - tree root disturbance.

The Building Stone (Fig.13) (identification by R Clark)
Several fragments of freestone were recovered from period 1 and period 3 contexts, mostly oolitic limestone from Dundry. Some had cut faces, but none was worthy of drawing.

A moderate amount of roofing slate was found, mainly in small fragments from period 3 contexts, with a small amount from period 1. A few had nail holes for attaching them to the roof, and these are illustrated here. All of the slate appeared to be from Devon or Cornwall. There was no evidence of Pennant Sandstone being used as a roofing material.

Catalogue

1. Roofing slate from south-west England. Three straight edges, two of which are cut right through. Period 1. Context GQ.
2-5. Roofing slates from south-west England. No 2 has two nail holes. Period 3. Contexts CQ, CX, DK(x2) respectively.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen Brown, R, Colvin, H M, & Taylor, A J, 1963 *The History of the King's Works.* Vols I and II. The Middle Ages.

Burchill, R, (forthcoming), The Ceramic Material in *K Blockley Excavation at Spicers Hall, Welsh Back, Bristol 1995.* BaRAS Monograph.

Dallaway, J, 1834 *Antiquities of Bristow in the Middle Ages.*

Hearne, T, 1724 *Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle,* ii

Hearne, T, 1769 *The Itinerary of John Leland the Antiquary, Vol 6.*

Jackson, R G, & Price, R H, 1974. *Bristol Clay Pipes.* Bristol City Museum: Research Monograph No 1.

Latimer, J, 1900 *The Annals of Bristol in the Seventeenth Century.*

Marshall, K, 1951 Excavations in the City of Bristol. *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc,* 70, 5-50

Millerd, I, 1673 An Exact Delineation of the Famous Citty of Bristol and Suburbs.

Nicholls, J F, 1978-9. Bristol Castle. *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc,* 3, 184-92.

Oswald, A, 1955. The Evolution and Chronology of English Clay Tobacco Pipes. *The Archaeol Newsletter,* Vol 5 no 12, 243-50.

Oswald, A, 1975. *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist.* Brit Archaeol Rep, 14.

Patterson, R B (ed), 1973 *Earldom of Gloucester Charters.*

Ponsford, M W, 1979. *Bristol Castle; Archaeology and the History of a Royal Fortress.* M Litt thesis, University of Bristol.

Ponsford, M W, 1988 Pottery in B.Williams, The Excavation of a Medieval and post-Medieval Tenemant at 94-102 Temple Street, Bristol 1975. *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* 106, 124-145.

Ponsford, M W, 1991 Dendrochronological dates from Dundas Wharf, Bristol and the dating of Ham Green and other early medieval pottery in E.Lewis (ed) *Custom and Ceramics,* essays presented to Kenneth Barton. Wickham.

Ponsford, M W, 1998 The Pottery in R Price Excavations at St.Bartholomews Hospital, Bristol 1977 *CBA Excavation Report.*

Ponsford, M W, & Burchill, R, 1995 Iberian pottery from Bristol, *c.* 1200-1600 in C. Gerrard, A, Gutierrez and A Vince (eds) *Spanish Medieval Ceramics in Spain and the British Isles.* BAR Int.Ser.610.

Price, R. and Ponsford, M,1979a. Excavations at the Town Wall, Baldwin Street, Bristol 1974, in N Thomas, (ed.), *Rescue Archaeology from Bristol 1,* Bristol Museum and Art Gallery Mongraph No. 2.

Price, R & Ponsford, M, 1979b Survey and excavation near St.Peter's Churchyard, Bristol 1972, in N Thomas, (ed), *Rescue Archaeology from Bristol 1,* 35-48 Bristol Museum and Art Gallery Monograph No.2.

Renn, D, 1968. *Norman Castles in Britain.*

Seyer, S, 1821. *Memoirs Historical and Topographical of Bristol and its Neighbourhood,* Vol I.

Seyer, S, 1823. *Memoirs Historical and Topographical of Bristol and its Neighbourhood,* Vol II.

Swayne, S H, 1879-80. On the Recent Discovery of Remains of the Foundations of the Keep of Bristol Castle, and of Three Ancient Wells Adjacent, with Notes of the Contents of One of the Wells. *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc, 4,* 329-32.

Williams, M E, 1984. *Civic Treasures of Bristol.*

SURVEY AND RE-EXCAVATION AT KINGSWESTON ROMAN VILLA

by Rod Burchill

INTRODUCTION

As part of a programme of consolidation work at Kings Weston Roman Villa, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, Bristol and Region Archaeological Services was commissioned by the City Valuers Department, Bristol City Council, to carry out detailed recording of the hypocaust system in Room XI, part of the villa's east wing. An opportunity was also taken to expose the tessellated pavement originally uncovered in 1948, in order to assess its condition and devise a strategy for its future protection.

Secondly, as part of the need to provide facilities for the disposal of storm water from the roof of a wooden shed covering the villa's west wing, a trial pit was excavated on the south side of the building in order to test for the survival of archaeology in that area.

The site archive was deposited with Bristol City Museums and Art Gallery under Accession Number 62/1995.

KINGSWESTON ROMAN VILLA

Kingsweston Roman Villa lies on the south side of Long Cross, Lawrence Weston, Bristol (Fig.1). The villa, centred on NGR ST 53395 77555, was originally excavated in 1948 (Boon 1950). Sometime in the 1950's or early 1960's the exposed walls and associated features were consolidated and the site landscaped for public display.

The villa was found during construction of the main access road, Long Cross, to the then new housing estate of Lawrence Weston. The road had removed the northern half of the building before it could be recorded; however, the southern half remained relatively intact and excavation by G Boon and J Brown (Boon 1950) revealed a series of rooms within two wings with courtyard and porticus and, beyond the west wing, a bath suite (Fig.2).

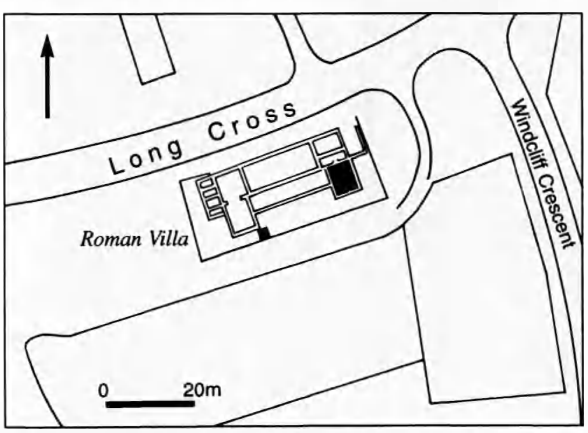


Fig.1 Location plan with Room XI and test pit indicated in black

The villa had been described by Collingwood and Richmond (1969) as a winged corridor villa of unusual type and reminiscent of examples from Roman Germany, although, Boon (1993) identified it as a winged courtyard villa.

The original excavator identified at least two phases of construction (Boon 1950).

The primary phase probably dated from *c.* 268 AD and consisted of the porticus, courtyard, and the east and west wings, each of which contained two rooms, and presumably the north range.

Sometime later a bath suite was added to the west side of the villa and the east wing altered by the insertion of a hypocaust into the south room (Room XI) (Fig.2). Room XII immediately to the north was divided to create a furnace chamber and the wall dividing Rooms XI and XII was breached for the furnace mouth.

The original floor within Room XI was removed and the flues and central chamber were excavated through the natural subsoil leaving four L-shaped baulks (Fig.3). The flues were revetted with calcareous sandstone walls and eight monolithic stone pilae were inserted within the central cavity to support the new floor. The flues were then capped with stone slabs and a new tessellated floor with a decorative central panel, surrounded by a wide border of plain pennant sandstone tessera, constructed over them.

The original excavation concluded that the primary occupation of the villa ended around 370 AD, although elements of the villa continued to be occupied after that time.

Boon (1950) recorded that the central part of the floor within Room XI had collapsed into the base of the hypocaust in antiquity. Other sections of the tessellated border remained intact on the two western baulks with a smaller area on the south-east baulk. In order to provide some degree of protection the surviving areas of pavement were covered with topsoil, either soon after excavation or during the subsequent consolidation work.

FIELDWORK

Room XI

Prior to the survey and excavation the site was cleared of weed growth and litter.

A detailed ground plan of Room XI was prepared showing all internal details and the furnace chamber to the north (Fig.3). In order to provide a record of the present

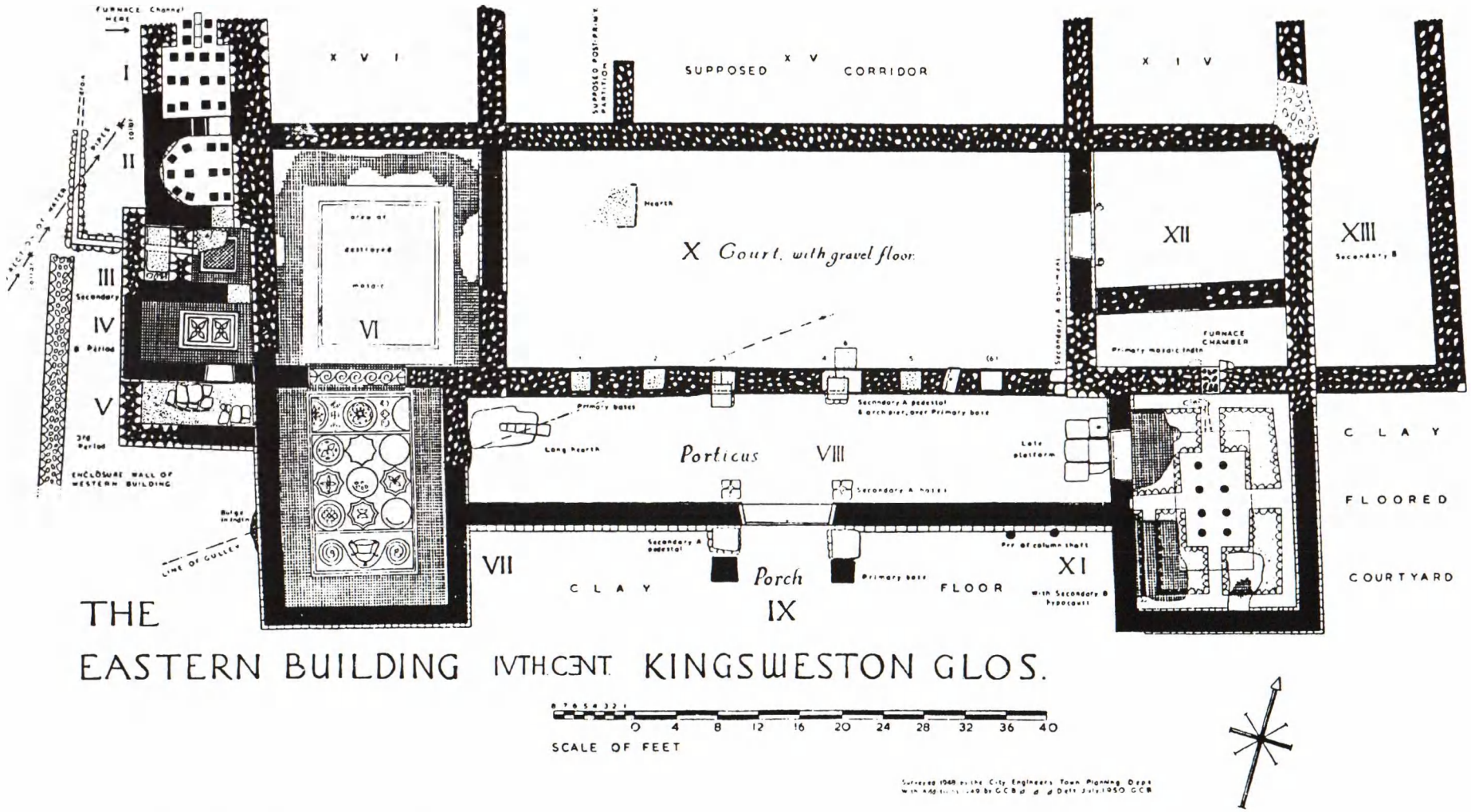


Fig.2 Copy of original plan of thevilla by G Boon

condition of the internal walls and to assist in planning the proposed consolidation work, the internal elevations of the flues were photographed and drawn at a scale of 1:10.

Each of the four baulks, created when the hypocaust system was inserted in to Room XI, were recorded in detail and where appropriate, further excavation undertaken.

Baulk B1

The northwest baulk (Fig.3). Removal of a red-brown soil (Context 1) revealed an area of plain tessellated pavement, *c.* 1 metre square (Context 2), comprised entirely of 25mm cubes of green-grey Pennant Sandstone set in a creamy white mortar (3). The surviving floor was very unstable with numerous loose tesserae at its edges. In addition the roots of thistle and dandelion had penetrated the floor surface causing further damage. It proved impossible to remove all of these roots without causing further extensive damage to the floor. After cleaning the floor was photographed and a tracing made of the tesserae at a scale of 1:1.

The remainder of the surface of B1 was cleared of weeds exposing a yellow-brown sandy soil (4), which overlay a layer of fragmented Pennant Sandstone slabs (5). These deposits were left *in situ*.

Baulk B2

Situated in the southwest corner of Room XI, B2 was similar to B1. Beneath the red-brown soil was a continuation of the tessellated pavement covering 3.75sq.m (Fig.3). Its eastern edge contained twelve 15mm cubes of White Lias Limestone which probably represented part of an inner decorative panel. The tessellated pavement here was unstable, with many loose tesserae and evidence of damage caused by perennial weeds.

After discussion with English Heritage it was agreed that the remains of the tessellated floor above Baulks B1 and B2 would be retained in-situ and a strategy devised to ensure its future protection. Further excavation was subsequently undertaken on baulks B3 and B4 in order to record the sequence of floor make-up and the condition of the internal faces of the flue revetment walls.

Baulk B3

Baulk B3 was badly weathered and only a few loose Pennant Sandstone tesserae associated with the pavement (2) were present. The removal of a thin layer of accumulated soil and surface weeds revealed a thin deposit of creamy-white mortar (38). Beneath (38) a layer of hard brown mortar containing flecks of charcoal and lime (39), 150mm in depth, overlay a shallow deposit of orange-red sand (40). The brown mortar (39) partly overlay the northern edge of the stone capping of the southern flue and may originally have continued up to the south wall of Room XI. Below (40) a layer of red-brown, sandy marl (41) formed a base for the floor make-up. On its west side (41) contained a large group of snail shells.

At the northern end of B3 there was a brown friable soil (42) containing numerous fragments of box-flue tile, fragmented Pennant Sandstone tiles or slabs, numerous coloured tesserae and a single sherd of 4th-century pottery. This material appeared to fill a hollow in the natural subsoil (43) which underlay (41) and (42).

Baulk B4

In the northeast corner of Room XI, Baulk B4 was devoid of any evidence for the tessellated floor. Covering B4, except at its southern end, was a 200mm deep deposit of yellow-brown sandy soil (44), which contained finds including loose tesserae (Pennant Sandstone), five sherds of late Romano-British pottery and a single flint flake.

At the southern end of B4 a lens of yellow-brown sandy clay, flecked with charcoal (45) contained part of the rim of a wide-mouthed jar or urn in a soft, rather corky, fabric containing quartz, grog, other opaques, and rare vegetable matter. The vessel is decorated with simple thumb-nail indentations and is probably Bronze Age.

Beneath layers (44) and (45) there was a pink to red-brown clay that became more sandy to the north (46). This appeared to be the natural subsoil.

Plate 1 Room XI after excavation

Consolidation

Following to the completion of the fieldwork the consolidation programme was undertaken in autumn 1996. The work involved consolidation including rebuilding/repointing of the hypocaust flue revetment walls, conservation of the surviving areas of tessellated pavement and their subsequent covering with a breathable membrane, topsoil and grass. A watching brief undertaken during this work recorded no additional archaeological evidence.

Trial Pit (Fig.1)

At the west end of the site, near the southern end of the wooden building which covers the west wing, a trial pit was excavated in order to test for the survival of archaeology in this area.

A pit, 1.5m by 1m was excavated to a depth of 1.5m. A

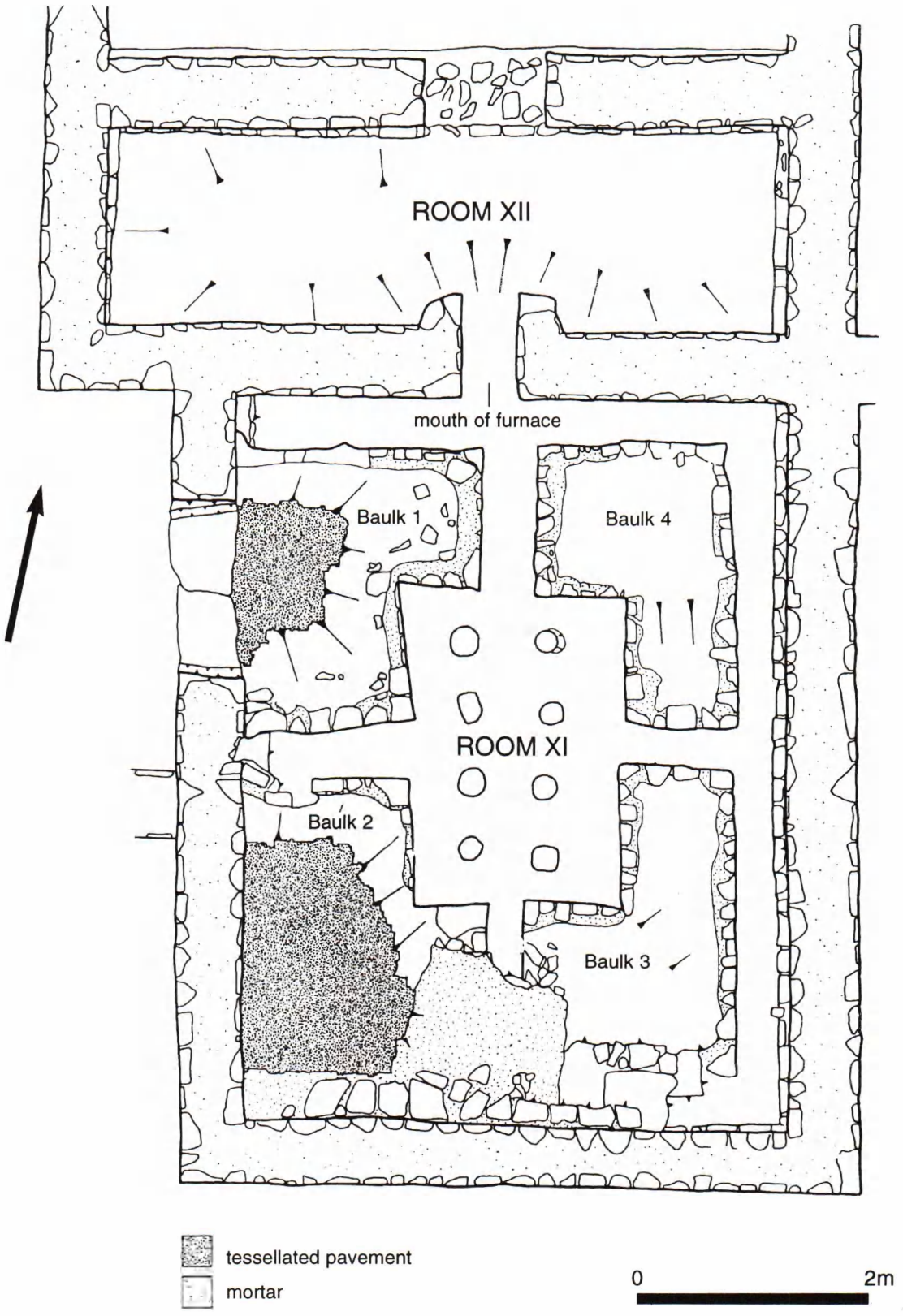


Fig.3 Ground plan of Room XI

series of redeposited soils and clays overlay the natural subsoil. No archaeological features were found.

CONCLUSIONS

When the archaeological evidence from Boon's excavation in 1948 was compared with the current fieldwork it clearly revealed that there had been considerable deterioration in the preservation of elements of the tessellated pavement in Room XI (Boon 1950).

On B2 there had been little reduction in floor area although most of the tesserae had become rather loose due to the decay of their mortar setting.

The B1 floor was much reduced in area with a considerable part of the pavement and its underlying make-up having been lost into the base of the hypocaust, mainly as the result of water and frost damage. Many tesserae were loose and detached from their mortar base.

The small area of tesserae shown in 1948 to be extant on B3 was missing, although the mortar and clay base for the pavement largely survived.

B4 had apparently lost its floor prior to excavation in 1948 since there is no mention of it in the report that followed (Boon 1950).

The excavation undertaken on Baulk B3 to record the construction sequence of the new tessellated floor, which was laid as a result of the remodelling of the villa and the insertion of the hypocaust into Room XI, revealed a simple sequence of redeposited subsoil, sand and mortar. The floor was clearly of inferior quality when compared to the complex make-up of the primary tessellated floors found in the west wing (Boon 1950).

The finds from context (42) at the north end of B3 show that the material was deposited after the collapse of the floor. It is not clear how soon after the collapse this deposition took place. The vessel found in context (45) clearly does not fit the known Iron Age and Romano-British ceramic traditions and is suggested to be of Bronze Age date.

Examination of the flue walls showed that they were in very poor condition. The walls were faced with yellow sandstone rubble re-pointed with a modern grey cement mortar when the consolidation work was undertaken

Plate 2 Tessellated pavement from Baulk B1

Plate 3 Baulk B1 after cleaning

sometime after 1948. This cement had become loose and in a number of instances detached from the wall. Much of the stone was badly eroded and several faces exhibited large cracks.

The internal construction of the walls was more random suggesting that rubble had simply been packed behind the external faces. The external faces were originally bonded in mortar, but no mortar survived.

The test pit against the west range clearly showed that the earth bank to the south is made ground and that archaeology does not survive there.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer was ably assisted by Frank Coyne and volunteer Jennie Hesford. Penny Blackmore and Sarah Kriefman, then year 11 pupils at Filton High School, completed a week of work experience on the site and their assistance and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated. Simon Cox undertook the excavation of the test pit.

The writer would like to thank Mr and Mrs L Lamoon, who, in the interest of security permitted site equipment to be stored on their premises, Andrew Davison of English Heritage and Gary Reader of Bristol City Council for their advice, and Ann Linge for preparing the published drawings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Boon, G, 1950 Excavation at King's Weston. *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* 69, pp 5-58.

Boon, G, 1993 Kingsweston Villa Revisited: The East Wing Murders and Other Burials. *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* 111, pp 77-84.

Collingwood, R, & Richmond, I, 1969 *The Archaeology of Roman Britain* pp137. New York.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT TEMPLE WAY, BRISTOL

by Simon Cox

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

An archaeological evaluation of an area of land adjacent to Temple Way, Bristol, was carried out on behalf of First Stop Hotels Ltd by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services prior to the development of a five storey hotel on the site. The archaeological evaluation was commissioned as part of the planning process with the aim of assessing in detail the datable deposits immediately overlying the alluvium, in particular the buried medieval soil horizon suggested by previous research, to determine the palaeoenvironmental potential and general environmental context of the site.

The site (Fig.1) is bounded by Temple Way to the east, Tower Street to the south, Temple Back to the north and Church Lane to the west, centred around NGR ST 59450 72680. Thanks are owed to the site staff, John Turner and Pippa Gilbert, to Rod Burchill and Julie Jones for the pottery and environmental analysis, and to Ann Linge for preparing the illustrations. The fieldwork was undertaken between the 27th October and 7th November 1997. The archive is deposited with Bristol City Museum under the accession number CMAG 1997.0055.

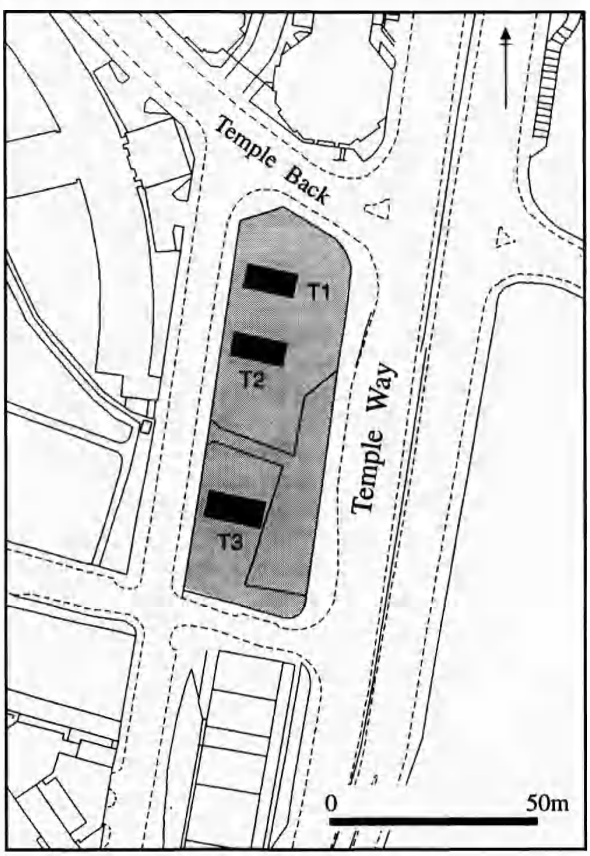


Fig.1 Site and trench location plan

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Historically the evaluation area lay within an open space occupied partly by gardens and partly by racks for the drying of cloths. In the post-medieval period the ground level was raised considerably and the area occupied by a school and terraced housing in the south, and by timber yards, warehousing, an iron foundry (in the 19th century) and the Temple Pottery to the north. An archaeological assessment study of the evaluation area by AOC (Archaeology) Ltd indicated the potential for a medieval ground surface at around 7.25m OD, with any features likely to contain waterlogged fills with good potential for artefact and ecofact preservation (Roseff 1997). Previous excavations at nearby Cart Lane in 1974 identified large medieval pits with areas of hard standing as possible post pits for the large timbers of tenter racks (Ennis *et al* 1996). These timbers were designed to support racks for stretching out and drying large areas of cloth, and needed to have such substantial foundations to support the weight and tension of the cloths.

METHODOLOGY

Three trenches were excavated using a 360 degree mechanical excavator. Owing to the depth of made ground the trenches were stepped and battered to provide a working area of approximately 10m by 2m at the base. All archaeological features were cleaned, photographed and planned at a scale of 1:20, and the most appropriate sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. All significant contexts were sampled for finds in order to establish a guide to the chronological sequence.

THE EVALUATION

Trench 1 (Fig.2)

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 was a firm grey brown silty clay containing charcoal and iron staining (104). Although generally very clean the charcoal fragments may indicate that this was not the natural alluvium, but may be associated with a flooding horizon identified in the assessment study. This has been found in recent excavations at around 6.5m OD, and was present to around 7.1m OD in trench 1. Deposit (104) was cut by a possible pit or ditch (109), the edges of which were difficult

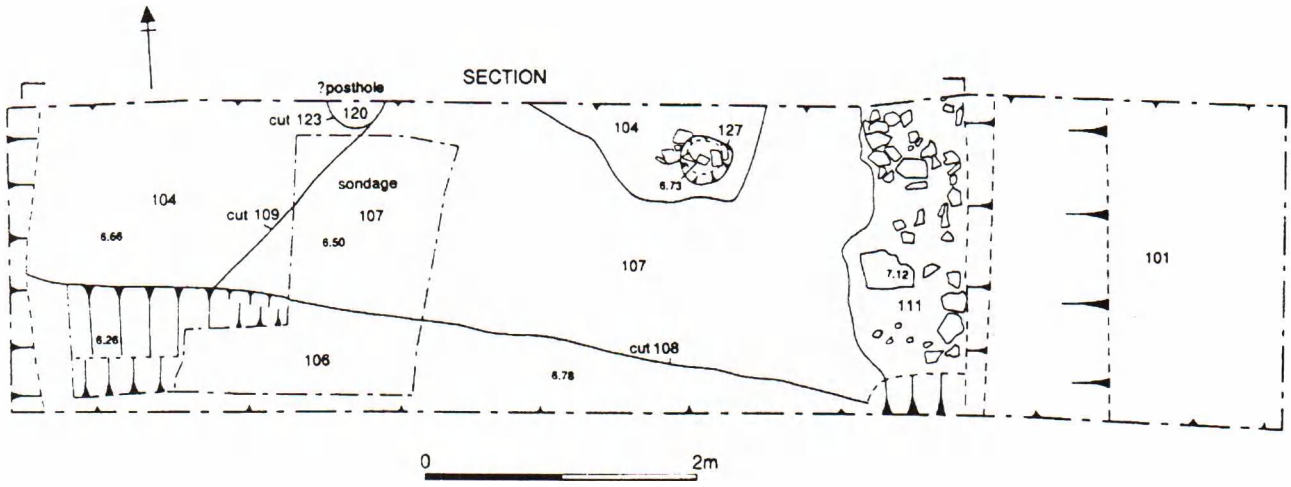


Fig.2 Plan of Trench 1

to determine during the course of the evaluation. The fill (107) consisted of a soft mid grey/brown silty clay containing charcoal fragments, iron staining, shell and bone, as well as mid 13th-century pottery. This context was sampled for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

Two postholes, (122) and (127), were cut from the top of deposit (104). Posthole (122) was revealed in section and had vertical sides with a flat base. The fill (119) consisted of a plastic brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and bone fragments. Posthole (127) was revealed as circular in plan, although the top was truncated during the course of excavation, with steep sides and a flat bottom. The fill (105) consisted of dark brown silty clay and a large quantity of random grey pennant sandstone. Finds from this fill dated to the 14th century.

Two further postholes, (123) and (124) were cut through pit (107) from about the same height as (122) and probably (127). This suggests the postholes may have been contemporary. The cut for (123) ran into the northern trench section and had truncated the western edge of cut (109). It appeared likely to be circular in plan and roughly the same size as (127). The sides were vertical although the east side was slightly tapering, and there was a sharp break of slope at the base and a flat bottom. The fill (120) of posthole (123) consisted of a plastic brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and lime fragments. Posthole (124) was revealed in section as a sloping cut with a wide top tapering down to a narrower, flat bottomed base with the eastern edge undercut. The cut had removed the eastern edge of cut (109). The posthole was filled with a plastic grey/brown silty clay (121), containing charcoal flecks, bone fragments and small limestone cobbles.

All four postholes were either sealed by, or cut from, the level of a stony surface (111). This was revealed both in plan and section as a rough cobbled surface of grey pennant sandstone bedded in a creamy white lime mortar with flecks of pink mortar. The surface (111) had been cut along the southern half of the trench by a ditch (108) running from west to east along the trench at a slight angle. The ditch was sectioned, revealing a V-shaped profile. The fill of the ditch (106) was a distinctive soft dark grey/brown silty clay containing charcoal, burnt clay, creamy lime fragments and burnt bone. This was sampled for environmental analysis and produced pottery and rooftile of 13th to 15th century date. Sealing ditch (108), was a dark humic deposit (112) containing early 18th-century pottery. This was extensive throughout trench 1 and was interpreted as a garden soil horizon.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to a level below the water table (*c.* 6.6m OD) at which point any archaeological features had been truncated by a large construction trench for a 19th-century brick built wall running north-west to south-east, and a large diameter sewer or water pipe.

Trench 3 (Fig.3)

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 3 was the natural alluvium (206), a beige plastic silty clay. This was overlain by a similar, slightly lighter beige silty clay (205), distinguishable by inclusions of charcoal flecks, shell and early to mid-14th-century pottery. The north facing section revealed a shallow feature (256), with gently sloping sides and a flat base, cutting this deposit. A deposit (204) of silty grey/brown clay with charcoal and lime flecking sealed context (205) and filled cut (256). This contained late 17th-century pottery and was extensive throughout Trench 3, sealing four possible post or stakeholes cutting (205).

A rectangular slot (242) with steep sides and a flat base was cutting (205). The fill (208) consisted of a mixed grey/brown silty clay with inclusions of charcoal and lime. Another sub-circular slot with steep sides and a flat base (241), also cut (205). The fill (207) was a mottled grey brown silty clay with fragments of oyster shells and charcoal flecks. The two slots were in close proximity and may have formed part of a timber structure.

A small circular stakehole (243) cut (205) and had steep sides with a tapering base. This may have been the base of

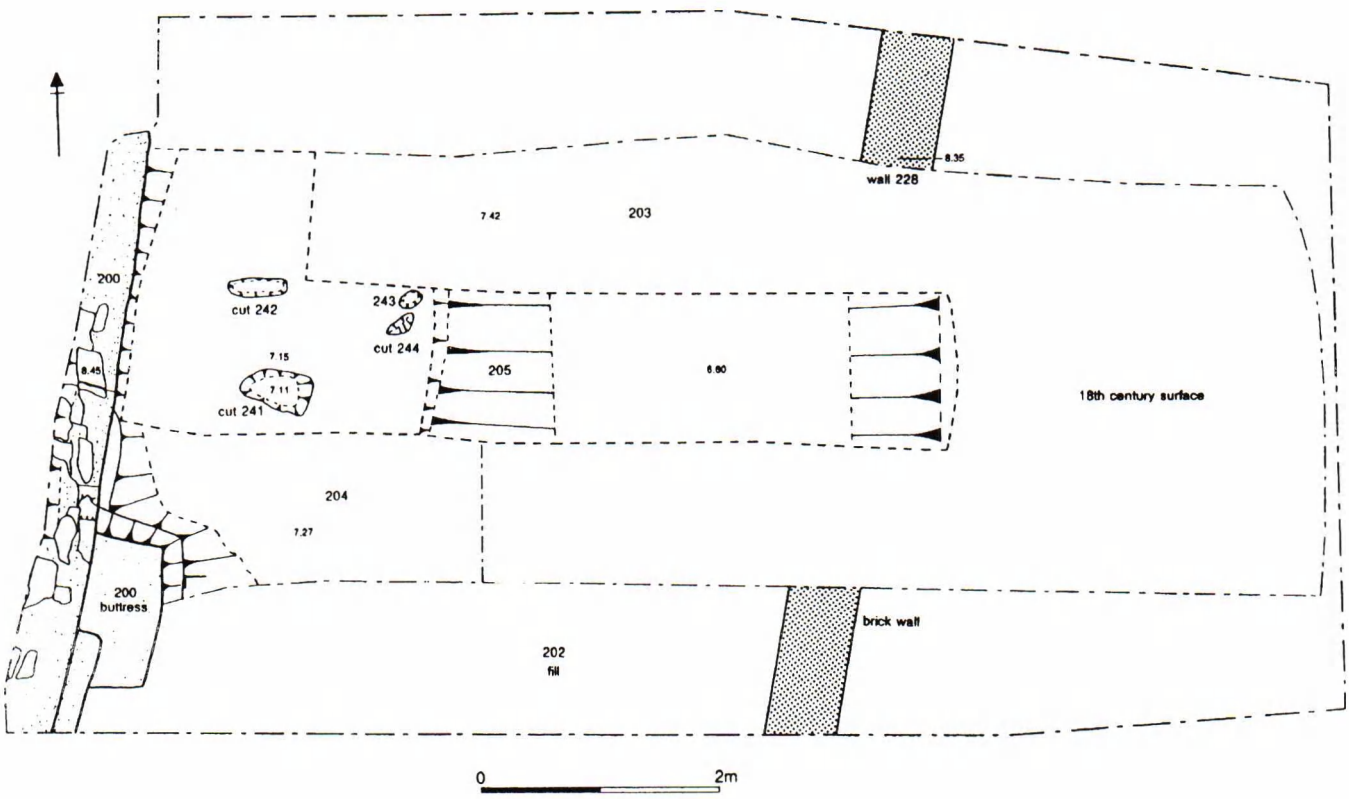


Fig.3 Plan of Trench 3

a stakehole cut from a higher level, as it contained a possible sherd of 18th-century pottery, although the cut was not visible in the top of (204) prior to its removal. The fill (209) was a mixed grey/brown silty clay with inclusions of large charcoal and lime flecks. A kidney-shaped posthole (244) was cutting (205) in close proximity to (243). This had steep V-shaped sides and the fill (240) was a dark grey/brown silty clay with large charcoal and lime flecks.

Deposit (204) was sealed by a trampled surface (203). This was a soft to friable dark grey/black mixed ash and silty clay, containing very frequent charcoal and lime fragments and shell. This was interpreted as an occupation layer possibly associated with gardening activity and was dated to the 18th century by numerous sherds of pottery. This survived to around 7.4m OD, a similar level to that of the 18th-century garden soil in Trench 1, suggesting a fairly level landscape.

At the western end of the trench a wall (200) had been constructed above (203). This ran roughly north-south with a buttress at the southern end of the trench on the eastern side of the wall. The wall was constructed using grey pennant sandstone in regular courses bonded with a grey/white mortar containing black flecks. Map evidence suggests this was the eastern wall of the school or Temple Church Mission Room built on the site around the late 18th to early 19th century.

Overlying (203) was a friable white lime deposit (234). This was sealed by two similar deposits, (210) to the east and (237) to the west. Layer (210) was a dark brown/black slightly clayey silt with large charcoal inclusions. Layer (237) was a soft dark brown/black clayey silt, also with charcoal inclusions. These two contexts may represent a garden soil laid down following the construction of the mission room.

DISCUSSION

The 13th-century pit (109) and stony surface (111) in Trench 1 may relate to the construction of tenter racks for the drying of cloth. This practice is indicated in this area on a number of early plans, and previous excavations at Cart Lane in 1974 identified similar large pits with areas of hard standing as possible post pits for large timbers. The group of postholes (122), (127), (123) and (124) could relate to later repairs, or braces, provided to the existing tenter racks. Ditch (108) ran roughly east-west and appears to represent the boundary between the area of tenter racks to the north and the garden areas to the south as shown on early plans. Layer (112) appeared to be an 18th-century garden soil laid directly above the late medieval surfaces.

In Trench 3 layer (205) appeared to be a medieval soil horizon dating to the early to mid-14th century. This may represent a 'B' horizon, with layer (204) representing an 'A' horizon which was still open in the late 17th century. Layer (204) may therefore have been the ground surface from the late medieval period through to the late 17th century. Layer (203) represents the subsequent 18th-century ground

surface and survives to a similar level to that of (112) in Trench 1, suggesting a fairly level landscape. The features cut into (205) either represent a small timber structure, or may well be the result of cultivation. Should the latter be the case this would support the cartographical evidence suggesting that ditch (108) represents the boundary between the tenter racks and the rear gardens of tenements off Tower Street. Wall (200) is the outside (eastern wall) of the Temple Church Mission Room, and dates to between the second half of the 18th century and 1828, when it is shown on Ashmead's plan. The first mention of the school is in the Matthew's Directory in 1832, when the capacity was for 200 children between 18 months and 6 years of age. Layers (210) and (237) represent a garden soil laid down following the construction of the mission room.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Burchill, R, (forthcoming) The Ceramics in *Excavations at Welsh Back, Bristol, 1995* by K Blockley (BaRAS Monograph).

Ennis, T, Rackham, J, & Richmond, A, 1996 *Archaeological Assessment Report, 76-96 Victoria Street, Bristol.*

Roseff, R. 1997 *Archaeological Assessment of First Stop Hotel, Temple Way, Bristol.* AOC (Archaeology) Limited.

Tavener, N, 1996 *Archaeological Evaluation of 76-96 Victoria Street, Bristol.* (BaRAS Report BA/D225).

The collections of the Bristol Record Office.

EXCAVATION OF A MEDIEVAL SITE AT KEYNSHAM NURSERY, THE PARK, KEYNSHAM

by Donna E Yorkston

SUMMARY

Excavation of a site adjacent to The Park, Keynsham, within the area of a former nursery (NGR ST 65466875, Figs. 1 and 2), revealed evidence of previous activity dating from the prehistoric period to the 20th century. An extended period of medieval activity dating to between the 11th and 15th centuries was represented by negative soil features, layers and the foundations of a substantial stone building. The earlier medieval activity was represented by a series of ditches of Saxo-Norman date, possibly reflecting former field or enclosure boundaries. These ditches also contained residual 10th century pottery suggested to reflect earlier, late Saxon, activity in the environs of the site. Subsequent activity during the 12th century, and possibly associated with the foundation of the Augustinian Abbey, consisted of a phase of pit and ditch digging and the deposition of associated soil layers containing some evidence of local iron and non-ferrous metalworking. No substantive evidence relating to the development of the planned later medieval town was identified. Later medieval activity dating to the 14th century was principally represented by the foundations of a substantial stone building plus associated midden deposits. Existing evidence suggests the building would have been located inside the Abbey precinct whilst finds from the midden deposits suggest it served a domestic function, possibly as a kitchen. The use of the building was relatively short lived and the walls were robbed for stone by the later medieval period. Evidence of less intensive post-medieval activity on the site included a large and well made limestone culvert dating to the 16th century. Subsequent activity appeared minimal and accorded with the use of the site as a garden or nursery since the early 19th century.

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The site (Figs.1 and 2) was excavated during October and November 1995, prior to the proposed construction of a new community centre. The excavation was designed to record the archaeology within the footprint of the proposed building where archaeological structures and deposits had been recorded during a previous evaluation exercise (Yorkston 1995).

The excavation was wholly funded by the former Wansdyke Council and now lies within the Government Unitary Authority of Bath and North-East Somerset. Thanks are due to the site staff, to the authors of the specialist reports included in this report and to Martin Evans of Wansdyke Council for his assistance in arranging the fieldwork. All archive material relating to the excavation (Avon SMR 10746) will be deposited with the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number BRSMG 59/1995. The illustrations included in the report were prepared by the writer and Lynn Hume. Ordnance Survey maps and plans are reproduced courtesy of HM Stationery Office, Licence Number AL 50606A.

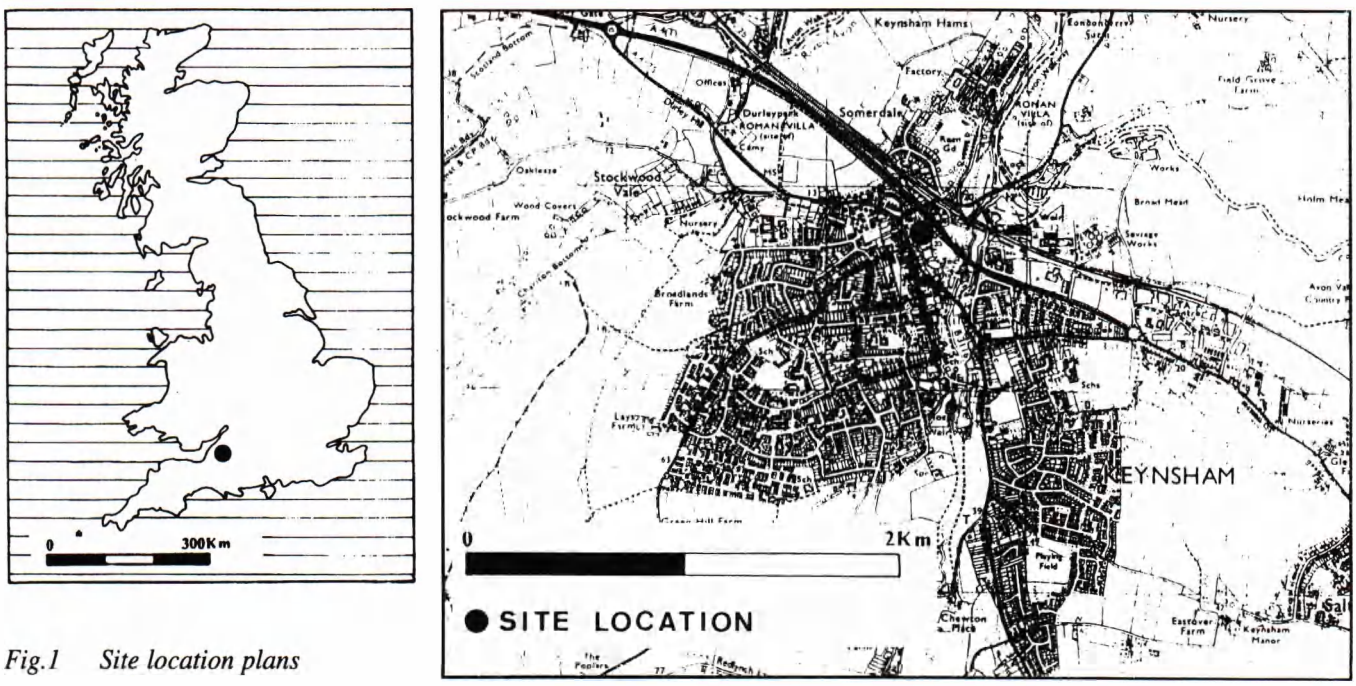


Fig.1 Site location plans

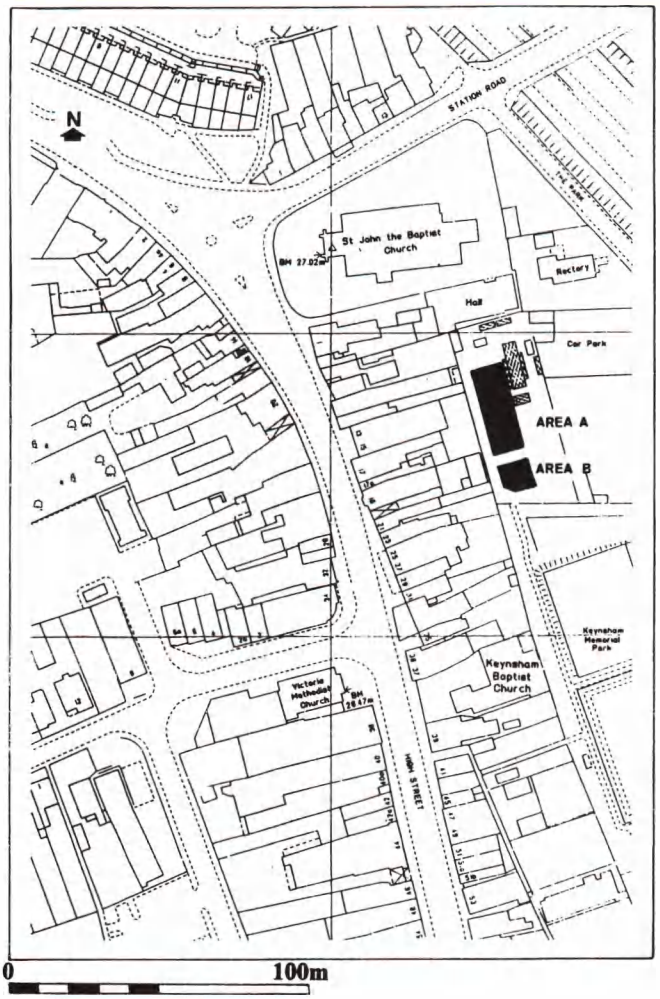


Fig.2 Trench location plan

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The excavation (Fig.2, Areas A and B) examined a total area of some 315 square metres within the site of the former Keynsham Nursery: a small walled enclosure used by Wansdyke Council until 1995 as a market garden. The site is situated immediately to the southeast of St John's parish church, and to the rear and east of Keynsham High Street: the central thoroughfare of the planned medieval town. It lies close to the suggested boundary (Leech 1975) which separated the planned medieval town from the earlier precinct of Keynsham abbey, established in the later 12th century. The exact position of the abbey precinct boundary has not been established archaeologically although the route of Back Lane, and a substantial masonry wall along the western boundary of the nursery site, are considered to follow that boundary closely (Leech *ibid*). Existing evidence therefore suggest that the nursery site would have been situated within the ecclesiastic precinct from the later 12th century to the Reformation.

The position of the site, close to St John's parish church, suggested that it may also have been located close to the focus of the late Saxon settlement whose existence is indicated by a 10th century historical reference (after Prosser 1995, 112) and an important collection of Anglo Saxon architectural masonry and finds recovered from the demolished abbey site (Lowe et al., 1987). Nonetheless, aside from the structures and finds recorded on the abbey site *(ibid)*, and a small number of more recent investigations undertaken in the town as part of development control, the excavated evidence relating to the nature and development of the late Saxon foundation or later medieval development of Keynsham is very limited.

The site would have lain within the northwestern corner of the abbey precinct, and immediately to the north of one of the probable abbey cemeteries discovered during landscaping in Keynsham Park in the 1960's (Greenfield 1960). Further human burials were therefore possible, as were remains associated with the various ancillary buildings and activities (including a tannery, smithy and almonry) indicated to have been located inside the abbey precinct and as yet unidentified. Its important central location also provided an opportunity to address some of the wider research questions relating to the medieval and earlier settlement of Keynsham. The most important concerned the need to establish whether the area of the medieval town was occupied or utilised during the Roman period, and, secondly, to determine whether the focus of the suggested late Saxon settlement lay close to St. John's Church and, if so, to date and characterise the nature of that settlement.

The excavation areas were opened by 180 degree mechanical excavator in order to remove a thick humic topsoil and overburden to a maximum depth of up to a metre. Archaeological features and deposits thus exposed were subsequently cleaned and investigated solely by hand. Standard unique numeric context records were used for recording plus a range of colour and black and white photographs, archaeological plans and section drawings. The excavation area was surveyed and related to the 1:1250 scale Ordnance Survey map of the area. All significant features and deposits were levelled to a nearby Ordnance Survey benchmark.

SUMMARY OF SITE PHASING

The excavated evidence (Figs.3 and 4) represented five historical periods and is subdivided into eleven phases of activity dating between the prehistoric and modern periods. The evidence for late prehistoric and Romano-British activity was confined to a few residual artefacts only. The principal evidence related to six phases of medieval activity on the site dated by stratified pottery groups.

The general sequence of activity on the site can be summarised as follows:

Period I:	Prehistoric (artefacts only)
Period II:	Romano-British (artefacts only)
Period III:	Medieval
Phase 1	Saxo-Norman enclosure ditches
Phase 2	12th century soil layers
Phase 3	late 12th century pits and gullies

Phase 4	late 12th - early 13th century soil layers
Phase 5	late 13th - mid 14th century stone building and associated midden deposits
Phase 6	late 14th - 15th century stone robbing and subsequent boundary ditches/soil layers
Period IV:	Post-medieval
Phase 1	early - mid 16th century stone culvert
Phase 2	16th century and later minor pit digging and soil deposits
Period V:	Modern features

THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Period I - Prehistoric

No structural evidence relating to prehistoric activity was recorded. Evidence of non-specific activity in the general area was represented by a small number of flint objects from unstratified and residual contexts. These included two struck blades and a re-used fragment of an Early Neolithic polished handaxe.

Period II - Romano-British

Evidence of Romano-British activity on, or close to the site was restricted to a small number of residual finds from unstratified and medieval contexts. No related structural evidence was identified. The finds recovered included pottery sherds, a few tessarae and two copper alloy objects: a fragment of fibula brooch and an illegible copper alloy coin.

Period III - Medieval

Six phases (Phases III.1 - III.6) of activity dating to the medieval period.

Phase III.1 - Saxo-Norman (11th century)

Figs.4a and 5(a-d); Plate 1

The earliest phase of medieval activity was represented by a sequence of ditch digging (Figs.3 and 4; 265, 800 and 801) revealed in Area A. A number of other features, including Structure 248 and Pit 252, plus two soil features [306 and 334] located in Area B, were also attributed to this phase on stratigraphic grounds.

Ditches 265 and 800 were re-cut on at least one occasion and defined a boundary which crossed Area A on a northeast-southwest alignment. A parallel feature [248], consisting of compacted clays and limestone rubble set within a shallow cut, was located *c.* 4m to the east of the ditched boundary in the south of the site. The function of feature 248 was unclear although it may have reflected the base of a further heavily eroded ditch. A subsequent change of landuse was indicated as the earlier boundary ditch [800] was filled and re-cut to form part of a right-angled enclosure ditch [801]. This enclosure ditch [801] extended southwestwards for a distance of *c.* 20m before turning to the southeast, where it truncated a number of earlier, Saxo-Norman, features [features 252 and 248]. The enclosure ditch had a deep U-shaped profile and contained a weathered and aceramic primary fill [250]. It [801] was subsequently filled with a sequence of relatively clean clay deposits containing a small number of animal teeth and a fragment of a bone comb (Fig.7i; SF no. 628), plus late 10th and early 11th centuries pottery sherds. Further sherds of coarseware cookpot and storage vessels in unidentified fabrics, but manufactured in the Saxon or Saxo-Norman tradition, were also recovered from the ditch fills (section 5.1 below).

Plate 1 Area A from the south showing 11th century ditches

Phase III.2 - 12th century

Fig.4b

Evidence for this second phase of medieval activity was limited and represented by the deposition of a layer of dark loamy soil [259/260], which sealed the earlier (Phase III.1) features located in the southeast of Area A.

Phase III.3 - Late 12th century

Figs.3, 4c and 5(a-b, d-f and h).

This third phase of medieval activity was represented by the digging and filling of two gullies [803 and 804] which converged in the north of Area A. The gullies shared a similar shallow U-shaped profile and each contained a mixed fill of redeposited clay and fragmentary limestone in a silty clay soil matrix. Finds from the gully fills were

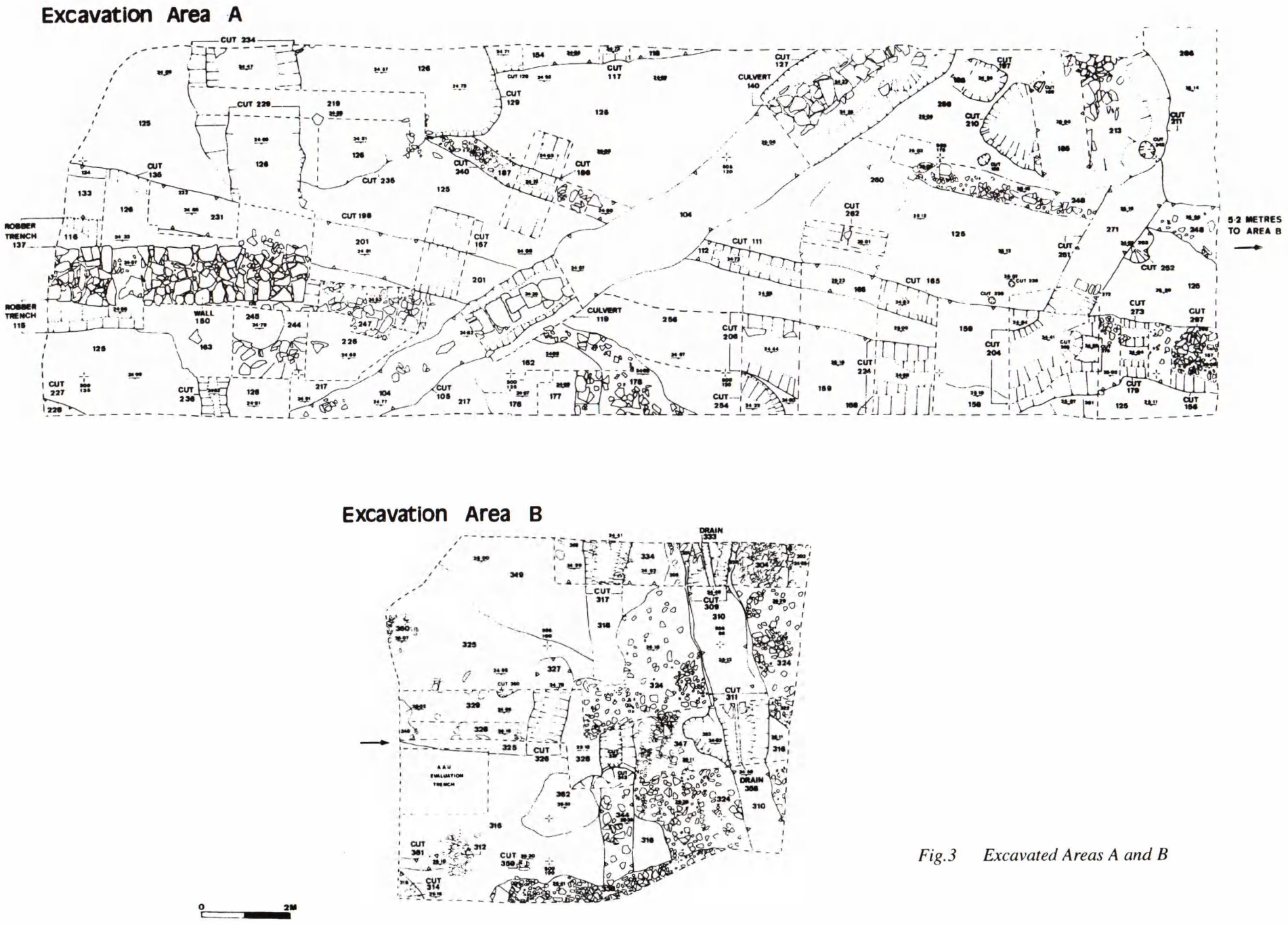


Fig.3 Excavated Areas A and B

limited but included late-12th century coarseware pottery. Two subcircular pits [210 and 197], of contemporary date, were dug inside the area defined by the gullies [803 and 804]. The sides and base of the larger pit [210] displayed evidence of in-situ burning and contained significant quantities of ash and fragmentary charcoal. The latter material included some large woody fragments possibly remnant fuel, recovered from fills 182, 183 and 208. The charcoal deposits were particularly concentrated within the middle fill (Fig.5f; 183), which consisted of a wedge-shaped deposit of virtually pure ash and charcoal.

The pit also contained a concentration of flat and irregular limestone rubble that had been tipped in at the interface between the upper and middle fills [182 and 183]. A significant proportion of the limestone rubble was scorched whilst its tipped arrangement suggested that it may have derived from a stone structure located close by. The likely presence of a structure in the vicinity of the pit [210] was further indicated by the recovery of large fragments of daub with wattle impressions from the upper pit fill [182]. Aside from quantities of coarseware pottery the upper pit fill also contained a decorated shale spindle whorl with horizontal incised line decoration (Fig.7a; SF no. 614) and a few fragments of non-ferrous slag.

The smaller of the two pits [197] was located immediately to the north of pit 210. It contained two fills [196 and 209] from which large concentrations of domestic debris were recovered. Finds included significant quantities of coarseware pottery, animal and some fish bone, a small number of oyster shells, whetstone fragments, and four fragments of worked bone, three possibly part of a comb, decorated with incised lozenge-shaped panels and ring and dot design (Fig.7d-f; SF nos. 629, 635 and 636), and the fourth (Fig.7c; SF No. 624) part of a knife handle.

The pits and gullies were contemporary with a surface of compacted and worn limestone cobbles [304] and an adjacent sandy clay soil horizon [329] which sealed the natural substratum in the south and east of Area B. Feature 303, revealed in the extreme southeastern corner of the excavation area appeared to be contemporary as it respected the southern edge of the cobbled surface which was defined by a kerb setting of rectangular limestone slabs.

Two negative soil features exposed in Area B were also included in Phase III.3 on stratigraphic grounds. They comprised a possible posthole [350] and a short section of a narrow gully [361], both of which were sealed by later (Phase III.4) soil layers.

Phase III.4 : Late 12th - early 13th centuries
Figs.3 and 4d
This phase of medieval activity was represented by the deposition of contemporary soil layers 328 and 313 in the north and east of Area B. The layers contained sparse fragmentary limestone inclusions, plus quantities of animal bone and coarseware pottery. Layer 328 was cut by a ditch [807], orientated east-west, and an adjacent linear pit [326].

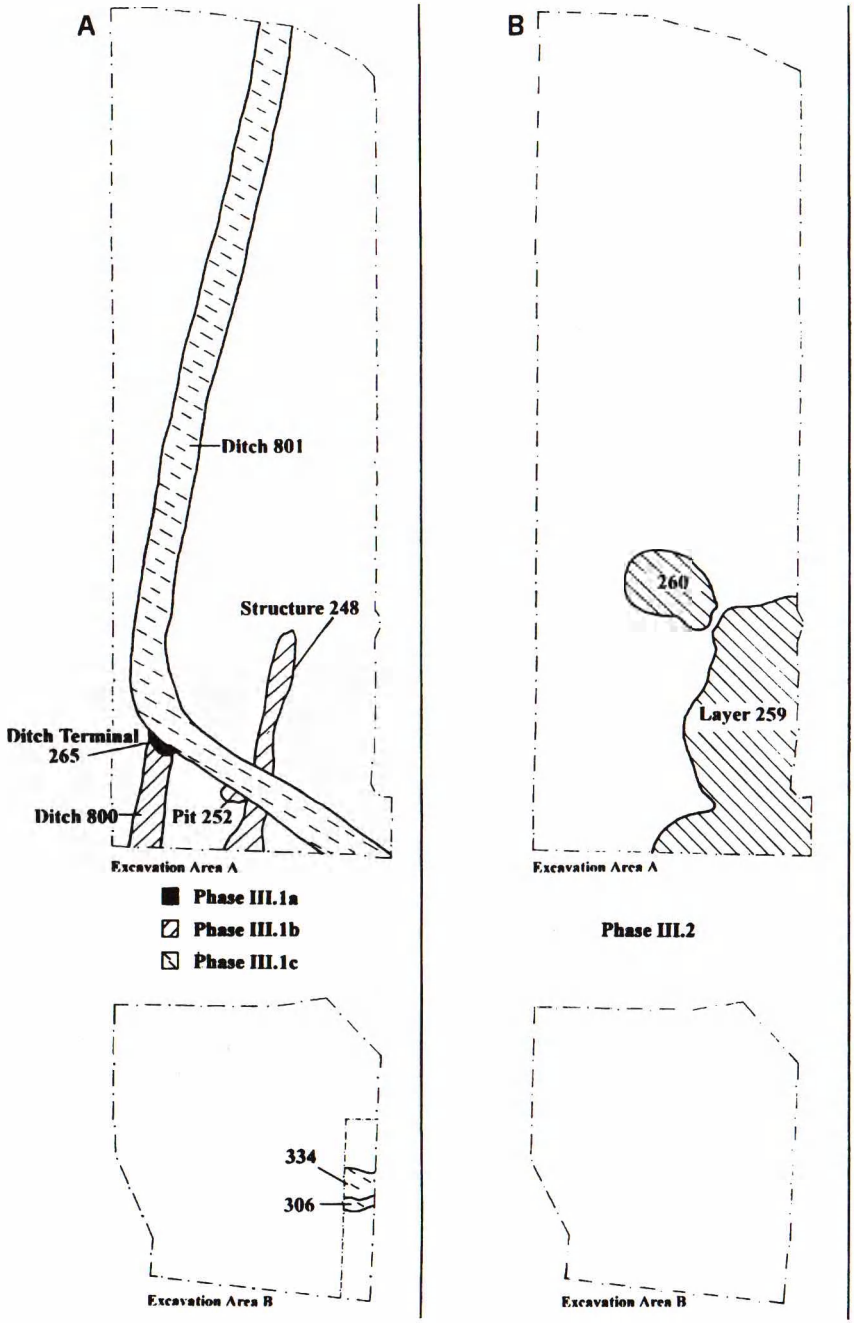
Plate 2 Building foundations, viewed from the north

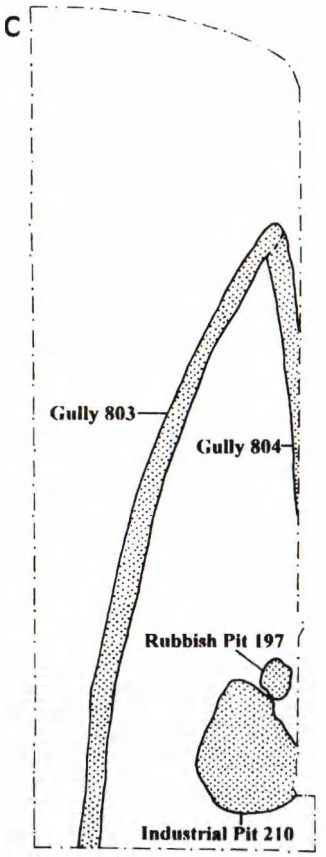
Ditch 807 was steep-sided with a narrow flat base and became rapidly shallower to the west where it ended in a rounded terminal. The terminal was partially destroyed by the digging of a later (Phase III.6) medieval gully. Pit 326 adjacent, had a broad U-shaped profile sealed by a post-medieval (Period IV) clay layer. Both the ditch [807] and pit [326] appeared to have been rapidly backfilled with mixed deposits of soil and limestone fragments and both contained early 13th century coarseware pottery and animal bone.

A number of undated features were also included in this phase on stratigraphic grounds. An irregular deposit of ash and bone [348] sealed soil layer 328 and extended beyond the northern limit of Area B. To the south, an irregular cut feature [323] cut the earlier, Phase III.3, cobbles [304]. Feature 323 and soil feature 322 were sealed by a later [Phase III.5] cobbled surface.

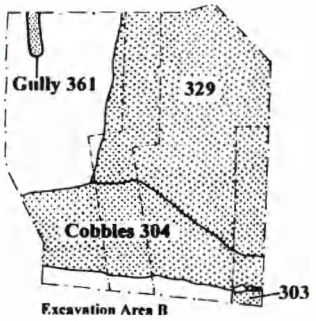
Phase III.5 : Late 13th to mid-14th century
Figs.3, 4e and 5(e and g); Plate 2
Later medieval activity in Area A was represented by the construction and use of a substantial masonry building (Plate 2; Structure 150) and by the deposition of associated midden deposits which butted the external walls to the west and south. Contemporary features included an extensive cobbled surface [324] and an associated soil layer [325],

Fig.4 Phases A-D





Phase III.3



Phase III.4a
Phase III.4b

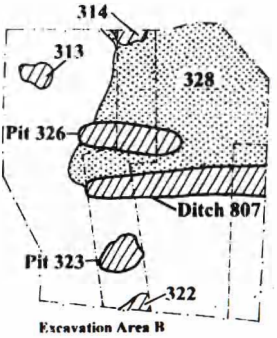
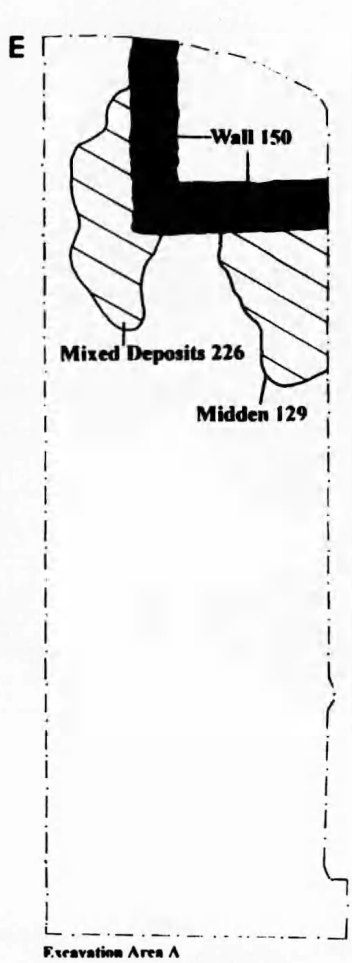
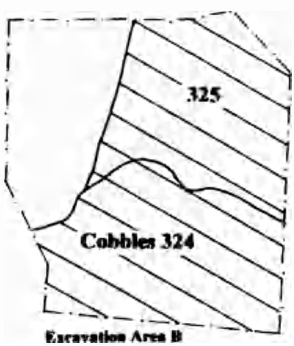
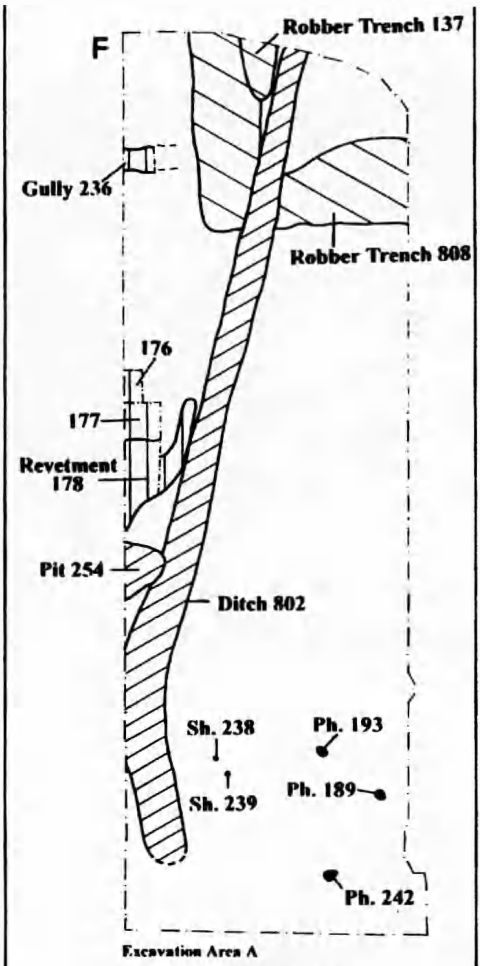


Fig.4 Phases E-H

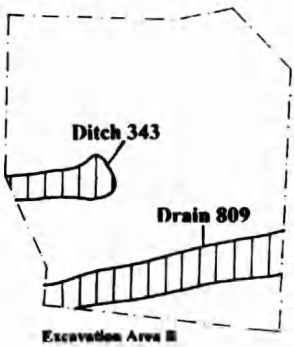


Phase III.5





Phase III.6a
Phase III.6b
Phase III.6c



G
130
159
287
Excavation Area A
Phase III.6d
Excavation Area B

H
227
Culvert 806
Pit 110
158
Excavation Area A
Phase IV.1
Phase IV.2
314
360
Ph. 359
362
338
Excavation Area B

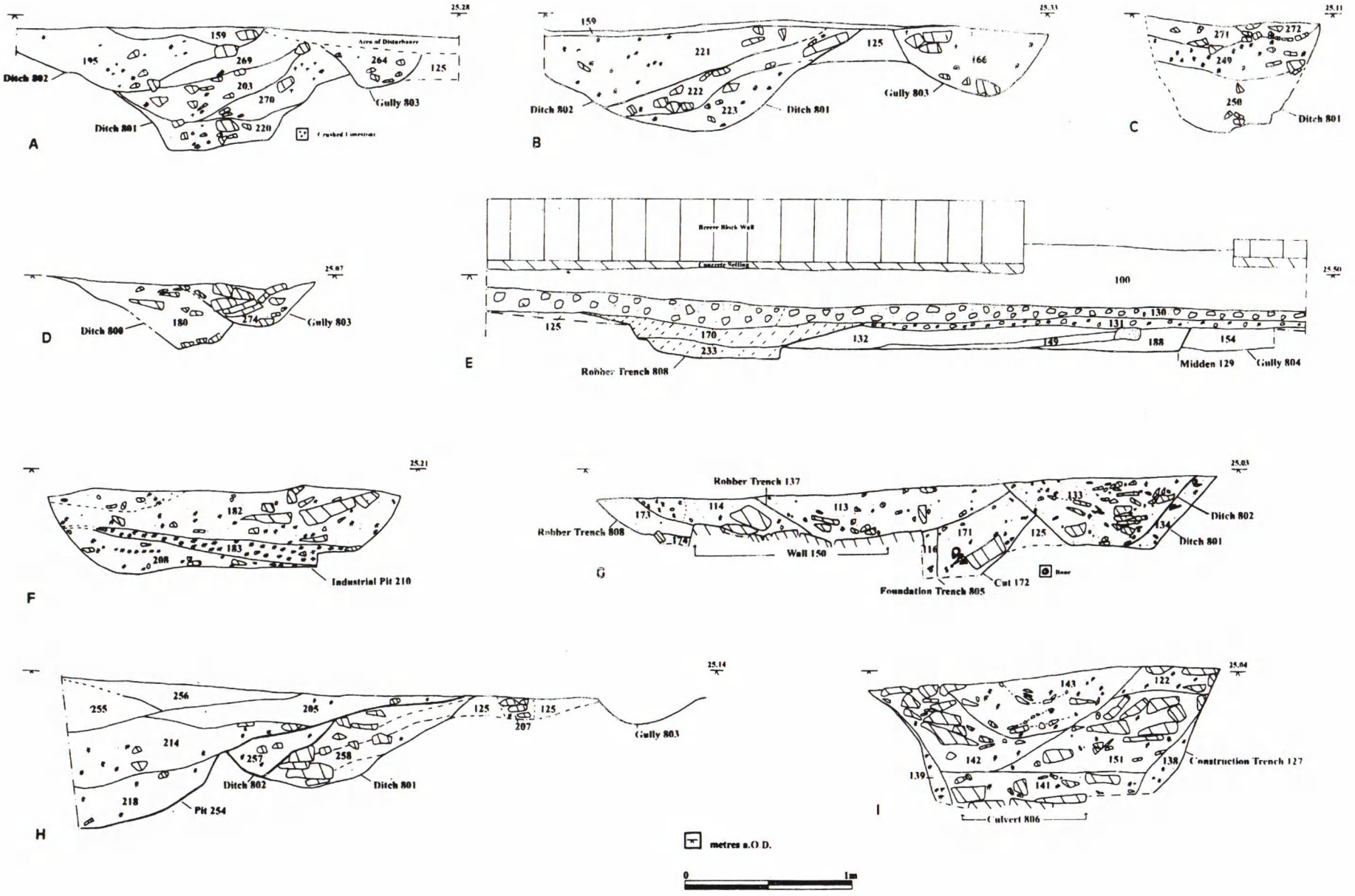


Fig.5 Section drawings A-I

located to the south in Area B.

The foundation trench [805] for the west wall of the building had a broad rectangular profile and was cut into natural clay substratum [125]. It [805] contained the limestone rubble foundations of a substantial coursed and faced drystone wall [150], a feature identified during the preceding evaluation exercise (Yorkston 1995). The wall was 1.4m wide and returned to the east to form the southwestern corner of the building. Only patchy remnants of coursed masonry survived along the line of the south wall which was largely defined by loose and irregular rubble and mixed soil, suggesting that the structure had been heavily disturbed at a later date. That disturbance may also have accounted for the complete absence of any internal floor layers or related features inside the building.

A large rubbish pit [129] was located adjacent to and outside the south wall of the building. The pit was irregular in plan, relatively shallow *(c.* 0.4m), and clearly extended beyond the excavation area. The fill of the feature consisted of a series of mixed clays and silty clay layers [fills 132; 188; 149; 153]. Finds from these deposits included abundant pottery sherds, some glazed, metal objects, including an iron key and bronze buckle (Figs.6g and h; SF nos. 609 and 611) plus quantities of carbonised material and animal bone, some of which displayed butchery marks. Analysis of the carbonised remains (Section 5.3 below) identified cereal grains of wheat, oat and barley plus carbonised wood including blackthorn and willow. Pottery from the midden deposits dated deposition, and by association, the later use of the building [150], to between the late 13th and mid-14th centuries, although the building may have been erected somewhat earlier. A further sequence of mixed deposits [226] containing similar domestic debris and redeposited natural clays butted the external face of the west wall.

Contemporary activity in Area B was represented by a surface of well worn limestone cobbles [324] which sealed a layer of dark silty loam [346] containing late 13th century pottery.

Phase III.6 : Late 14th - early 15th centuries
Figs.3, 4f, 4g and 5(a,b,e,g,h).
The masonry forming the south wall of Building 150 was robbed by the late 14th century as indicated by a wide robber trench [808] which was dug to the depth of the lowest course of the wall foundations.

The eastern arm of the robber trench had a shallow and irregular scour along its northern side, possibly resulting from disturbance or trample as the limestone was being extracted. The backfilled robber trench was subsequently cut by the southern terminal of a second, narrower, trench of unknown function [137]. Neither feature yielded definitive dating evidence as only residual pottery was recovered from their fills. Both features, however, appeared to represent episodes of later medieval stone robbing as feature 137 was cut by a later medieval boundary ditch [802].

Plate 3 The 16th century culvert from the south-east

Ditch 802 crossed Area A on a northeast-southwest alignment and closely followed the line of the earlier (Phase III.1) Saxo-Norman boundary ditch. To the north, the ditch had a moderately steep V-shaped profile which gradually became wider towards the south. Coarseware pottery of late 14th century date was recovered from the stony fill. The ditch was cut by an undated pit or ditch terminal [254] which extended beyond the western edge of the excavation area.

Evidence for late medieval activity in Area B was represented by the construction of a drainage ditch [809] orientated east-west. The ditch [809] had a rectangular profile and was cut into undisturbed clay substratum [316]. A narrow channel, edged with vertical limestone slabs, was cut into the base of the feature, the slabs set into a mixture of clean redeposited clay. The later ditch fills consisted of mixed loamy deposits [310, 320; 321; 354], which contained 15th century pottery. A parallel gully [cut 343] located *c.* 3m to the north of the drain contained only residual pottery sherds, but was also tentatively included within this phase as both features had been cut through the earlier (Phase III.5) cobbled surface [324].

Several undated features located within Area A were included in this phase on stratigraphic grounds alone. The features consisted of a short section of gully [cut 236], a limestone revetment set against a bank of redeposited clay

[Revetment 178] and associated soil deposits 176 and 177. A pair of undated stakeholes [238 and 239] and a right*f*angled arrangement of aceramic postholes [189, 193 and 242] were also included. The majority of these features were sealed by later medieval soil layers containing 15th century pottery. These latest medieval soil layers (Fig.4g; 130, 159 and 287) included a deep horizon of dark loam soil [159], and a similar deposit [287] located in the west and south of the excavation area. To the northeast, a mixed soil layer [130] contained limestone rubble, ash, animal bone and later medieval pottery.

Period IV - Post-medieval

Surprisingly few post-medieval features were recorded on the site. Two distinct phases of activity were identified.

Phase IV.1 : Early-mid 16th century

Figs.3, 4h and 5(i).

A large stone culvert [808] crossed Area A from northwest to southeast. The construction trench for the culvert was rectangular in profile and investigated in two section cuttings [105 and 127]. The culvert had a rectangular-sectioned internal channel whose sides and base were lined with flat limestone masonry bonded with lime mortar. The channel was capped with large unmortared limestone and sandstone slabs and smaller rubble and contained a veneer of silt but no substantial fill. Traces of a lime mortar lining were also preserved in patches along the internal face of the channel. Clean deposits of natural clay (Fig.5(i); 138 and 139) were set around and behind the culvert masonry whilst the upper part of the construction trench was backfilled with a series of very mixed clay and rubble deposits [fills 122, 141, 142, 143 and 151] containing quantities of ash, fragments of fired clay, sandstone roofing tiles and slates, plus oyster and whelk shells and 16th century pottery.

Evidence of later interference or repair to the culvert was indicated by the removal or disturbance of a number of the capping stones and by the apparent recutting of the construction trench at the northwestern end.

Phase IV.2 : Late 16th century and later

Fig.4h.

The culvert trench [127] was disturbed by a subcircular pit [110] at its southeastern end. Pottery from the pit fill [109] indicated a late 16th century date for the activity, possibly associated with the repair or cleaning of the culvert channel.

A number of undated soil features in both excavation areas were included in this phase on stratigraphic grounds. A ditch or linear pit [227] was partially exposed in the northeastern corner of Area A. The feature was sealed by a sequence of modern dumped deposits [101 and 102] and was cut into a late medieval soil horizon [159]. In Area B, undated features attributed to this phase included a subcircular area of redeposited clays [362] and a linear spread of limestone rubble [338], both of which partially sealed late medieval gully 343. A subcircular ring of limestone rubble [360], a single posthole [359] and a cut feature [314] which was partially exposed in the extreme northwestern corner of the excavation area were also included. In each case the function of these features was unclear.

Period V : 20th century

The latest structural evidence related to modern activity on the site. This was represented by a possible pit [356] revealed in the north facing section of Area B and by the southern corner of an archaeological evaluation trench excavated in 1995. Both features had been excavated through the modern topsoil horizon [300].

SUMMARY AND SPECIALIST FINDS REPORTS

The Pottery

by Rod Burchill

Introduction

As a result of an assessment undertaken on the pottery recovered from the Nursery site, a full analysis of the ceramic assemblage was not considered justified. The results of the assessment are described and discussed below. A ceramic chronology of contexts for the site may be found in the project archive.

In order to provide a chronology for the sites' development the pottery was examined visually to identify the fabrics present. Where necessary individual sherds were examined at x10 and x30 magnification and identified by comparison to local type series, particularly those of Bath (Vince 1979) and Bristol (Ponsford 1979 and Burchill forthcoming b).

The Assemblage

Quantification and Date Range

The assemblage consisted of 1118 sherds weighing 10.645 kg. All of the pottery recovered was fragmentary although the degree of abrasion was generally low, suggesting the material had undergone little disturbance since deposition.

The pottery ranged in date from the Roman to the modern periods. The Romano-British fabrics were entirely residual and not significant to the assemblage. The sherds were excluded from analysis along with two modern (post-1780) sherds from Context 162.

After the exclusion of the Romano-British and modern sherds a start date sometime in the late-10th or, more probably, the early-11th century was proposed for the assemblage with an end date sometime in the late 16th-century.

The level of residual material was low and mostly confined to late-13th century or later contexts.

The Fabrics

The medieval assemblage from Keynsham Nursery was generally similar to that found throughout the Avon Valley including Bath and Bristol. Whilst a number of fabrics

could not be sourced their petrology would suggest sources east of Bath, particularly in north and west Wiltshire.

Five fabric groups dominated the pottery assemblage: limestone tempered coarseware; flint tempered ware; a limestone, quartz and shell gritted fabric; Ham Green wares and Bristol/Redcliffe ware.

Ham Green fabrics were the most common material found and cookpot/storage jars by far the most common form. The assemblage included vessels in the standard cookpot (Good and Russett 1986) and coarser so-called proto-Ham Green fabric (Fig.6; 1 and 9). This latter had been thought to be a precursor of the standard fabric. However, recent work has shown it to continue being produced alongside the standard fabric until the late-12th century (Ponsford 1991). Few glazed vessels occurred in pre-1250 contexts, those that did were products of the Ham Green kilns: both A and B jugs were present, the former dating between 1120 and 1170 and the latter from the 1170's to *c.* 1225 (Ponsford *ibid*). No late 'B' forms were noted.

Of particular interest was the flared rim of a Ham Green style jug of Pill sub-type (Fig.6; 2). Pill jugs are similar to Ham Green 'A' jugs but show variations of form and fabric first recognised at kiln waster sites at Pill, to the west of the main Ham Green kiln site. Their dating is uncertain although at Buchanan's Wharf (Burchill 1987) and Dundas Wharf (Ponsford 1991, Burchill forthcoming a) they were contemporary with the standard 'A' jugs. Ponsford (1991) has suggested a start date of *c.* 1120 for this sub-type.

The flint tempered wares, although variable, were typical of those found in the Avon Valley. All fell within the general range for Bath A (Vince 1979) and Bristol 46 (Ponsford 1979, Burchill forthcoming b). These fabrics, mostly cookpot and storage jars (Figs.6; 3,12,14 and 16) but including at least one 'west country dish', are tempered with varying amounts of flint, crushed quartz and calcareous inclusions. The individual fabrics are unsourced; however, kilns around Warminster, Crockerton and Pottern in Wiltshire are considered a likely source. All the Keynsham examples can probably be dated to the 12th century, although similar fabrics are known to occur in 11th century contexts at Bath (Vince 1979) and Eckweek (Young forthcoming).

Cookpots in a limestone fossiliferous shell and quartz gritted fabric (Figs.6; 8 and 15) are presently unsourced although the inclusions might suggest a kiln site somewhere in the Avon Valley. This fabric can be paralleled at Bristol Castle (Ponsford 1979) and elsewhere in Bristol where a similar fabric BPT115 has been dated to the late-11th or early 12th century (Ponsford *ibid*). A small number of sherds in a more open fabric with fewer inclusions was similar to BPT3, a precursor of BPT115 which pre-dates the Conquest.

Pottery attributed to Bristol/Redcliffe included standard, highly decorated and late jugs, jugs in the 14th century pink fabric and in a rose-quartz gritted fabric. The standard plain green jugs first appear around 1250 or perhaps a little earlier and continue into the early 14th century. To a degree the early forms copy the Ham Green 'B' jugs in style, becoming highly decorated between *c.* 1290 and 1325 (Fig.6; 6). After 1350 the jugs become much simpler with little glaze. The rose-quartz fabric has been attributed to Redcliffe (information M Ponsford) although the inclusions could suggest a different source. In date they are similar to the normal Bristol/Redcliffe fabrics.

The assemblage included a number of different fabrics all of which were heavily tempered with limestone, either alone or with other inclusions. Included in this group are fabrics resembling Bath B and D, Gloucester TF56 and Bristol BPT309 (formerly Bath A [Vince, 1985]). Most of the fabrics are unsourced although the area east of Bath may be considered a likely source for the majority of these fabrics. Vince (*ibid*) thought his Bristol A fabric probably first appeared in the mid to late-10th century and a sherd with crude wheel stamp decoration (Fig.6; 10) may well date to this period or soon after. A date range from the late-10th to the early 12th century seems appropriate for these fabrics.

The assemblage also included examples of Tudor Green as well as black-glazed cups in the Cistercian tradition.

The Forms

The range of forms represented was very restricted. The period pre-1250 was dominated by cookpot/storage jars with only a small number of Ham Green jugs being recorded. From the end of the 13th century the dominance of the cookpot had been replaced by glazed jugs, mostly of Bristol/Redcliffe origin. No conclusions were drawn from the vessel forms present; however, a large number of the coarsewares showed evidence of sooting or heat damage.

The Illustrated Pottery

1. Cookpot rim. Tall upright rim with thumbed edge and internal groove. Ham Green coarse fabric. 12th century. SF604 Context 182
2. Flared rim with pouring lip, patchy green glaze. Wide mouth jug or pitcher. Ham Green A : Pill sub-type. 1120-1160. Context 196/209
3. Slightly everted simple rim. Cookpot in a coarse flint tempered fabric. Bath A variant. 11th/12th century. Context 163
4. Rim and upper handle eave. Olive green glaze on quartz gritted fabric. Tri-pod pitcher. South-East Wiltshire. Probably 12th century. SF619 Context 164
5. Wide indented handle with central thumbed strip decoration. Green glaze. Bristol/Redcliffe. Late-13th century. Context 131
6. Applied strip and pellet decoration in contrast slip. Bristol/Redcliffe. 1290-1325. Context 131
7. Self-coloured applied strip with tear drop decoration. Bristol/Redcliffe. Late-13th century. Context 131
8. Shallow, slightly everted, cookpot rim with small external bead. Quartz and limestone gritted fabric similar to

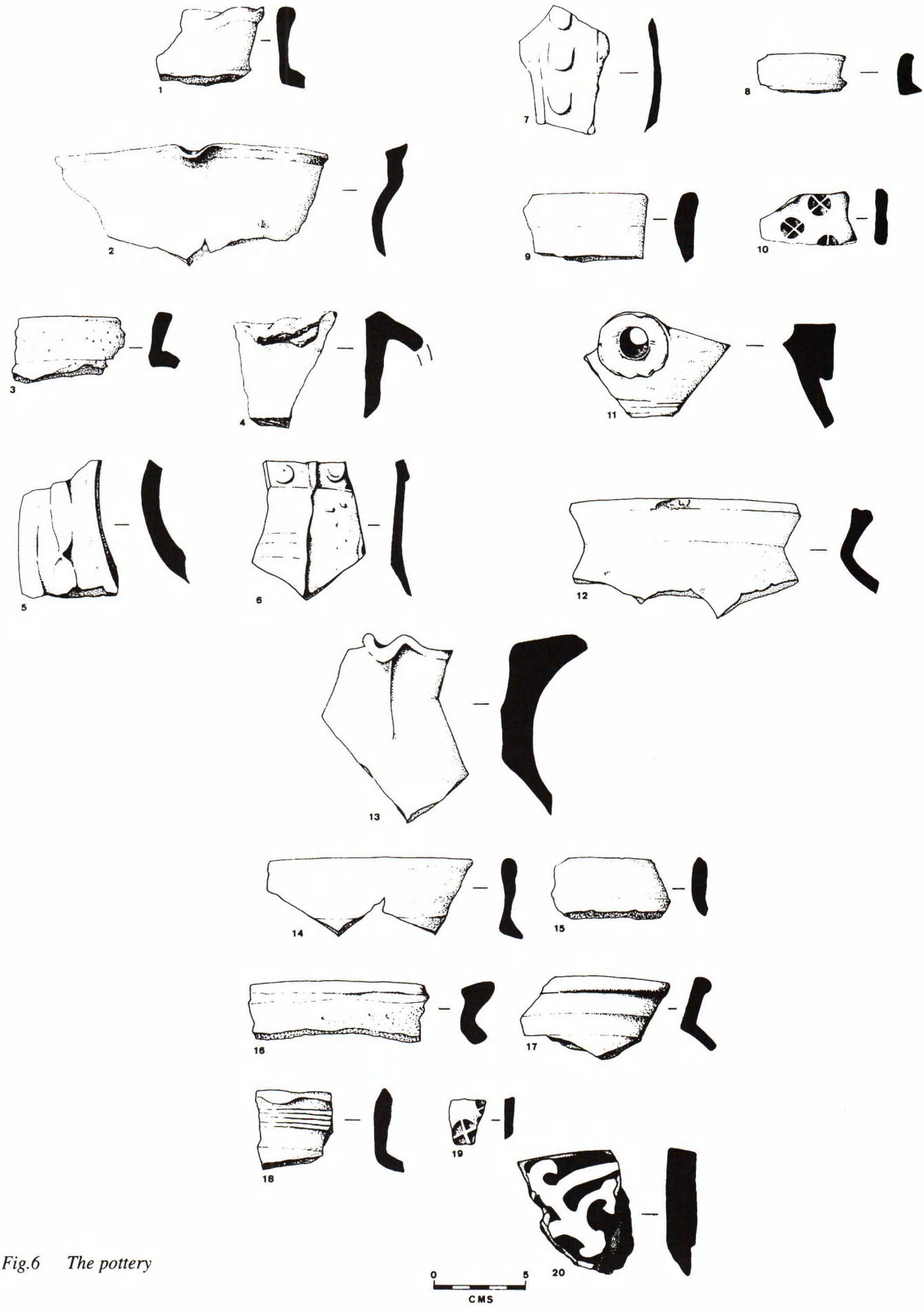


Fig.6 The pottery

BPT115. Heat damage internally and to rim top. Avon Valley source. 1080-1120. SF617 Context 157
9. Tall simple cookpot rim. Ham Green coarse fabric. Ham Green. 12th century. Context 182
10. Wheel Stamp decoration. Unsourced fabric. ?late Saxon. SF627. Context 203
11. Cistern spout with groove decoration above. Sparse patchy green glaze. Bristol/Redcliffe. 15th century. SF613 Context 104
12. Internally concave cookpot rim. External thickening to rim. Bath A variant. 1150-1250. Context 132
13. Bridge spout of a green glazed jug. Glaze is missing from face of spout. Bristol/Redcliffe. Late 13th century. Context 188
14. Simple everted rim with slight internal concavity. Micaceous fabric. Bath A variant. 12th century. Context 318
15. Slightly everted cookpot rim with central ridge and shallow groove internally. Heavily sooted externally. Quartz and limestone gritted fabric. Probably 12th century. SF654. Context 334
16. Flat-topped clubbed rim with internal concavity. faint groove on top of rim. Bath A variant. Mid--12th century. Context 209
17. Upright rim with external bead. Ham Green. 12th century. Context 209
18. Ham Green cookpot rim with thumb pinching to rim edge and internally. External five tooth comb decoration. Ham Green. 12th century. Context 209

The Animal Bone by Dr Geraldine Barber

note : Bone from unstratified contexts was not sent for specialist analysis but is included in the site archive.

Introduction

Almost 3000 fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during the excavation, of which only 25% (712) were identifiable to species. The material in general was of fair to good condition, and context types ranged from pit and ditch fills to general layers. The activity represented was dated from the late Saxon (late 10th-11th centuries) to early post medieval (late 16th century) periods. During assessment it was decided that, owing to the small number of identifiable bones available for analysis, the material would be given a selective basic analysis.

The body parts chosen for analysis were: individual teeth, mandibles, maxilla, distal humerus, proximal and distal radius, proximal ulna, first and second cervical vertebrae, proximal and distal tibia, proximal and distal femur, astragalus, calcaneum, proximal and distal metapodials, and phalanges. These were chosen as they represented different parts of the body which are frequently occuring and easily identifiable. Ribs, vertebrae (except the first and second cervical) and some parts of the skull can often be difficult to identify to species and so these were counted in the unidentifiable group. Other parts of the skeleton (e.g. patella) were identified to species separately, and are listed in Table 1. No further work was carried out on these parts unless they were from a rare species, or if they were unusual in some other way.

For each of the 80 contexts that produced bone, the following records were taken:

1. The total number of fragments present
2. The total number of identifiable fragments
3. The number identified to species, per species.
4. Evidence for butchery marks, burning or other utilisation.
5. Standard measurements where possible, according to the criteria of Driesch (1976).

The minimum number of individuals (MNI's) were calculated for each species using the formula outlined by Cornwall (1969). For this purpose it was assumed that no context contained the bones of an individual found in any other context, but in truth, this may not be so. Given the small numbers of bones identified in each context these results must be interpreted with care as food is most likely to have been brought into the area as joints rather than whole animals.

Results and Discussion

A summary of the numbers of fragments of bone analysed for each phase is given in Table 1. The most common species identified, in order, were cow, sheep/goat, pig, then dog.

Period	no. of contexts	sheep/ goat	cow	pig	horse	red deer	roe deer	dog	rabbit	hare	hen	goose	uf#	uf bird*	total
med 1	8	9 (3)	10 (5)	4 (3)									42	0	65
med 3	13	31 (10)	20 (9)	14 (5)	1			7 (2)		2 (1)			336	1	412
med 4	5	10 (3)	16 (4)	6 (2)									57	0	89
med 5	12	52 (12)	72 (13)	46 (9)			1	21 (1)	1	7 (2)	1	2	476	4	683
med 6	33	89 (20)	100 (26)	66 (19)	5 (4)	2 (1)		9 (3)	1	2 (1)	3 (2)	1	917	3	1198
post-med 1	8	24 (6)	41 (6)	20 (4)		2 (1)		1 (1)					258	0	346
post-med 2	1		5	1		1	1	1					15	0	24
total	80	215	264	157	6	5	2	39	2	11	4	3	2101	8	2817

unidentifiable fragments of mammal bone (as outlined in the text)
* unidentifiable bird bone
MNI's in brackets

Table 1 Animal bone

The Medieval phases (11th -15th centuries)
Animal bones were recovered from 5 of the 6 medieval phases, but only Phase 6 had any substantial numbers of identified fragments (278). The later medieval deposits are suggested to be contemporary with the occupation of the Augustinian abbey and, if they are directly related, suggest that the monastic settlement enjoyed a wide and varied diet. Across all sub-phases the majority of the bones identified came from cow, and these were from older adult animals. All body parts were represented suggesting that the animals were brought in whole and, as many displayed cut marks at the joints, butchered on or close to the site. An unusually large number of bones for a small sample were identified as dog, coming from at least six adult animals which may have been the remains of domestic pets. Many of the other bones studies displayed gnaw marks which would indicate that dogs were regularly present on or around the site. One of the dogs was a particularly large animal (over Alsatian size - although the bone was fragmented and no measurement could be taken).

A fragment of adult pig metatarsal showed evidence of a bony pathology. On the proximal articulation the joint surface was eburnated, with osteophyte around the edges of the joint. This would indicate a diagnosis of osteoarthritis. There is a general paucity of bones from smaller animals (e.g. rabbit and hare) and birds in all sub phases which may be the result of only a limited sieving programme on the site.

Post-Medieval (Phases 1 and 2)
The post medieval contexts produced only a small collection of 97 fragments of stratified bone from nine contexts. Given such a small sample few comments can be made. However, even in this small group of bones a relatively wide variety of species were identified including antler fragments from both red and roe deer. As with the material from the medieval phases cow is the most commonly identified animal, with all body parts represented.

Conclusions
Because so little of the bone is identifiable from each phase on the site, few conclusions can be drawn from the results. It is interesting to note a relatively wide range of mammals identified in a small sample , although small mammals and birds seem to be under-represented. The material appears to be generally rubbish remains of food preparation and consumption, with some bones from domestic pets. Cow is the most common species identified across all phases, and the relative proportions of the main animals present did not appear to significantly change over time.

Environmental Remains - Plant macro fossil analysis
by Kath Hunter

Introduction
The flots from seven samples were provided for plant macrofossil analysis. The initial processing of the samples was carried out on site using the flotation method. The flot was sieved to 250 micron and the residue to 500 micron mesh (Table 1). Samples 500 and 502 contained a relatively high quantity of carbonised material. As a result it was decided to sort 50% of each of the fractions, with the exception of the 5.6mm fraction from sample 500 which was sorted in total. The sorted and unsorted flots have been retained.

Examination of the macrofossils was carried out using a M.B.C.- 10 stereo microscope. The identification was carried out using modern reference material and texts including Jacomet (1987) and Stace (1995). The nomenclature for non cereal remains follows Stace.

Results
The degree of preservation of identifiable characteristics with the plant remains may be due to various phenomena such as differential charring or subsequent physical abrasion. The preservation of the cereal grains from 6% to *c.* 40% of the grains being identifiable to at least genus. The barley (*Hordeum sp.*) grains were less well preserved than the wheat (*Triticum sp.*). This may be accounted for by the phenomena mentioned above but could also be due to decay prior to charring. The other seeds and plant remains seemed on the whole to be better preserved. In particular the silicified remains retained more of their identifiable characteristics. In some cases the identification of the assemblage was possible to sub-species whilst in others it was only possible to genus or family. Other remains present in the flots were recorded and in some cases extracted. These included cess concretions, charcoal, bone, mollusca and egg shell (Table 2).

Pits 197 and 210 (Samples 501 and 502)
Late 12th-century
Though the assemblages from the two samples have their differences, there are significant similarities. Both samples produced relatively high amounts of cereals in particular free threshing bread wheat. The identification of possible silicified glume beaks may be evidence for the presence of glume wheat. Barley grain was recovered from both samples with possible lateral grains from 501. This may suggest the presence of a six row type. The surviving floret base attached to an oat grain from sample 501 indicates the presence of a cultivated variety Avena sativa. Evidence of further food crops may be indicated by the Horse/Celtic bean (*Vicia faba*) in 502 and degraded remains that resemble beans and peas (*Pisum sp.*) from 501. There are also similarities in the weed assemblages suggesting, in general, species of cultivated and/or disturbed habitat. In particular there is stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula L.*), a common arable weed preferring heavy base rich soils, and the field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense.*). Thorow-wax (*Bupleurum rotundifolium*) another common arable weed is only represented in sample 502. Lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) and hemlock (*Conium maculatum*),

TABLE 1. KEYNSHAM NURSERY: CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

	Date	Late 12th C		13-14th C		14-15th C		15th	
	Sample No.	501	502	500	505	503	504	550	**HABITAT**
	Context No.	209	183	188	219	214	218	319	
	Volume processed (l)	30	15-20	20	15-20	30	20	?	
GRAIN									
Triticum SP	Wheat (free-threshing)	447	479		8	93	62	2	
Triticum aestivum/spelta spp.	Bread/spelt wheat	5	22						
c.f. *Triticum* sp.				13			3		
Hordeum vulgare	Barley	15							
c.f. *Hordeum vulgare*			139		2				
Hordeum vulgare (hulled)	Hulled barley						1		
c.f.*Hordeum* sp.		7					5		
c.f. *Hordeum* sp. (lateral grains)		8							
Avena c.f. *sativa* (with floret base)	Cultivated oat	1							
Avena sp.	Oats	253	81	1				1	
c.f. *Avena* sp.			35				9		
Avena/ Poaceae	Oat/grass				4				
Cereal indet		1000+	1000+	202	24	146	272	7f	
	Total:	1736+	1756+	216	38	239	352	3	
CHAFF									
Triticum sp. (rachis frags)	Wheat	12	6	44			20		
Triticum sp. (tetraploid rachis frags)				15	1				
Triticum sp. (awn frags - silicified)			1						
Triticum/ Hordeum sp. (awn frags)	Wheat/barley	1							
c.f. *Triticum* sp. (glume beak - silicified)			2						
Avena sp. (awn frag)	Oat	p	2		2	p			
Cereal indet (internodes)		1	3	2					
WEEDS									
RANUNCULACEAE									
Ranunculus c.f. *flammula* L.	Lesser Spearwort		1						MPRw
FAGACEAE									
Quercus sp. (buds)	Oak			1					HSW
BETULACEAE									
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel	2f		4f			1		HSW
CHENOPODIACEAE									
Atriplex spp.	Orache	5					1		CDn
c.f. *Atriplex* sp.	Orache		1						CDn

Table 1 Charred plant remains

	Date	Late 12th C		13-14th C		14-15th C	15th		
	Sample No.	501	502	500	505	503	504	550	**HABITAT**
	Context No.	209	183	188	219	214	218	319	
	Volume processed (l)	30	15-20	20	15-20	30	20	?	
CARYOPHYLLACEAE									
Silene c.f. *vulgaris*	Bladder Campion		1						Dgo
Silene sp	Campion						1		
Caryophyllaceae indet		2							
POLYGONACEAE									
Rumex spp	Dock	28	8	3	1	4			
MALVACEAE									
Malva c.f. *pusilla/sylvestris* spp	Small/comm -on Mallow			1					D
SALICACEAE									
Salix spp (buds)	Willow		3						W
BRASSICACEAE									
Brassica c.f. *napa*			3						
Raphanus raphistrum L. (pod frags)	Wild Radish		1f						CD
ROSACEAE									
Prunus spinosa L.(thorns)	Blackthorn				p				HSW
Rubus caesius L.	Dewberry			1					DGS
Rubus sp		6							HSW
FABACEAE									
Trifolium c.f. *dubium* Sibth	Lesser Trefoil		1			1			C
Trifolium /Lotus spp		6					2		
c.f. *Pisum sp*	Pea	2							C
Vicia faba L.	Horse/Celtic Bean		1						C
c.f. *Vicia faba*		7	29						C
Fabaceae indet		134f	401	6	1	5			
APIACEAE									
Bupleurum rotundifolium L.	Thorow-wax		1						C
Conium maculatum L.	Hemlock		1						Bw
Apiaceae indet			1						
BORAGINACEAE									
Lithospermum arvense L. (silicified)	Field Gromwell	9	1						CDGo
LAMIACEAE									
Lamiaceae indet			1						
PLANTAGINACEAE									
Plantago lanceolata L.	Ribwort Plantain						1		G
SCROPHULARIACEAE									
Odontites/Euphrasia spp	Bartsia/ Eyebright		9			2	4		
RUBIACEAE									
Galium aparine L.	Cleavers				1		1		CHSo

Table 1 (contd)

	Date	Late 12th C		13-14th C		14-15th C		15th	
	Sample No.	501	502	500	505	503	504	550	**HABITAT**
	Context No.	209	183	188	219	214	218	319	
	Volume processed (l)	30	15-20	20	15-20	30	20	?	
ASTERACEAE									
Anthemis cotula L.	Stinking Chamomile	10	37				2		CDh
Lapsana communis L.	Nipplewort	1							DH
Asteraceae indet				1					
CYPERACEAE									
c.f. *Carex* spp	Sedge		2						GM
POACEAE									
c.f. *Festuca* spp	Fescue		4						G
Poaceae indet	Grass	16					4		G
Poaceae indet (culm nodes - silicified		17	47						
	Total	1995+	1924+	295	44	250	394	3	

HABITATS

B: Bankside. C: Cultivated/Arable. D: Disturbed. G: Grassland. H: Hedgerow. M: Marsh. P: Ponds, ditches-stagnant/slow flowing water. R: Rivers,streams. S: Scrub. W: Woodland.
h: heavy soils. n: nitrogen rich soils. o: open habitats. w: wet/damp soils.
p = present.
f = fragments.

TABLE 2: OTHER REMAINS RECOVERED.

	Sample No.	500	501	502	503	504	505	550
	Context No.	188	209	183	214	218	219	319
OTHER REMAINS								
Buds		6		1			p	
Charcoal		p	p				p	p
Cess concretions		p		p			p	
Indet. silicified plant remains			p	p				
Animal bone		p				p	p	
Fish bone		p	p				p	
Egg shell		p						
Mollusca							p	

p = present

Table 1 (contd) and Table 2 - other remains

both species that prefer a wetter environment, were recovered from sample 502.

The occurrence of silicified cereal chaff and seeds of field gromwell from both samples suggests that the material was subjected to high temperature oxidising conditions which are required to burn out all the carbon and leave only the silica skeleton (Robinson and Straker 1991). Such conditions may be found in the embers of a bonfire or oven. Robinson and Straker also suggest that it is only the parts of plants that have a high proportion of silica bodies or phytoliths which are preserved by being 'welded' together during the heating process. The seeds of field gromwell have a high silica content as well as a relatively high calcium carbonate content which means they are more readily silicified than less robust seeds.

The assemblages from these two samples suggest the disposal of some waste cereal and chaff possibly from cereal processing with weed seeds which have in part been burnt at a high temperature and then mixed with domestic refuse indicated by the cess concretions and bone. Other finds including pottery and animal bone recovered from the pit seem to support this interpretation.

Contexts 188 and 289 (Samples 500 and 505)

The samples were recovered from late-13th/early-14th century deposits suggested to represent rubbish and midden deposits located adjacent to a stone building. The nature of the plant remains would appear to support this since they

consist of a mixed deposit of some cereal grains with associated chaff. Free threshing wheat grains and rachis fragments were present in sample 505. One of the rachis fragments was of a tetraploid type (*e.g. T. turgidum/durum* rivit/macaroni wheat). Sample 500 also produced tetraploid rachis fragments. Barley was represented in 505 and oat (*Avena sp.*) was represented by awn fragments. There was one grain of oat from sample 500.

The remains of scrub or woodland species are indicated by the presence of the thorns of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa.*) and the buds of Willow (*Salix sp.*) and Oak (*Quercus sp.*) which may have been obtained from close by. Blackthorn can provide a useful material for temporary repairs to stock barriers because of its thorny nature. It may also represent clearance of an invasive scrub species from an area which had been subject to a period of reduced management. The wood from both willow and oak have numerous industrial and domestic uses, the most obvious being as fire wood. The relatively high proportion of cess and bone from these samples would seem to support the suggestion that they are general refuse deposits. A scan of the residue from sample 500 showed no mineralised remains which are often associated with cess deposits.

Contexts 214 and 218 (Samples 503 and 504) - late 14th/early-15th century

The samples were recovered from pit fills dated to the late-14th or early 15th century. As with other samples free threshing wheat is the most abundant cereal in both samples. Twenty rachis fragments from sample 504 appear to be of a free threshing type but their general abraded condition does not allow more detailed identification. Sample 504 contained evidence of barley, including one grain of a hulled type whilst there were two fragments of oat awn in 503. The weed seeds recovered from both samples are typical arable and/or disturbed ground species. The Orache (*Atriplex sp.*) from 504 is a plant which prefers nitrogen rich soils. Ribwort plantain (*Plantago lancelolata*) also found in 504 is a grassland species which is tolerant of trampling and grazing.

The presence of free threshing cereal grains and chaff (504) may be representative of cereal processing waste mixed with associated weed seeds. The presence of animal bone and pottery recovered during excavation from both contexts suggests deposits of domestic refuse.

Context 319 (Sample 550) - 15th century

The paucity of remains from the deposit means that it is not possible to draw any detailed conclusion.

Fish Bone by Alison Locker

A small assemblage of 43 fish bones was identified from 5 contexts on the site. The following species were present: Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), conger eel (*Conger conger*), herring (*Clupea harengus*), Cyprinidae, cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aegtlefinus*), hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and Triglidae.

	-------Phase 5----------				Phase 6	
Species	132	153	188	219	159	Total
Eel	0	0	1	0	0	1
Conger eel	0	0	1	1	1	3
Herring	0	0	27	0	0	27
Cyprinid	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cod	0	0	1	0	0	1
Haddock	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hake	1	1	5	0	1	8
Gurnard	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	1	1	38	1	2	43

Table 1 Fish bone analysis

All the contexts but one belong to Phase 5, late 13th to mid-14th century pit fills and midden deposits. A single sample from layer 159 belongs to Phase 6, post-dissolution deposits. These are tabulated in Table 1.

The cyprinid bone was a fragment of pharyngeal which may belong to roach (*Rutilus rutilus*) and the gurnard vertebra could not be assigned to species and is classified as Triglidae.

The assemblage is very small and there is no evidence to suggest any difference between the pre and post-dissolution deposits. The presence of a hake articular (from a specimen *of c.* 0.85m total length) in Context 153 suggests whole fish were being bought, and two hake precaudal vertebrae were from large specimens, around 1.07m total length, in phases 5 and 6. This species is found all around the British coast, excluding the southern part of the North Sea, it has a maximum size of 1.8m but is rarely found in excess of 1m today (Wheeler 1978, 171).

The largest sample, 188, was the only context to contain herring, which is perhaps surprising considering the importance of salted, smoked and pickled herring during the medieval period. The small size of the assemblage precludes attaching any significance to its absence in other contexts.

The other species are all food fishes. Conger eel heads are represented by a premaxillary from Context 155, from a specimen just over 1.1m total length. These fish live on rocky coastlines and can be caught on line or in traps.

OTHER FINDS

Metalwork

A small assemblage totalling 88 objects were recovered from medieval and post-medieval contexts. Of these, the majority (73) consisted of iron objects which included fifty*f*one nails, four fragments of horseshoe, three loops or rings and two wire strips. An iron buckle (Fig.6h; SF no. 611) and a key (Fig.7.g; SF no. 609) were also retrieved from the 14th century midden deposit. Non-ferrous objects included eight fragments of lead strip or wire and seven

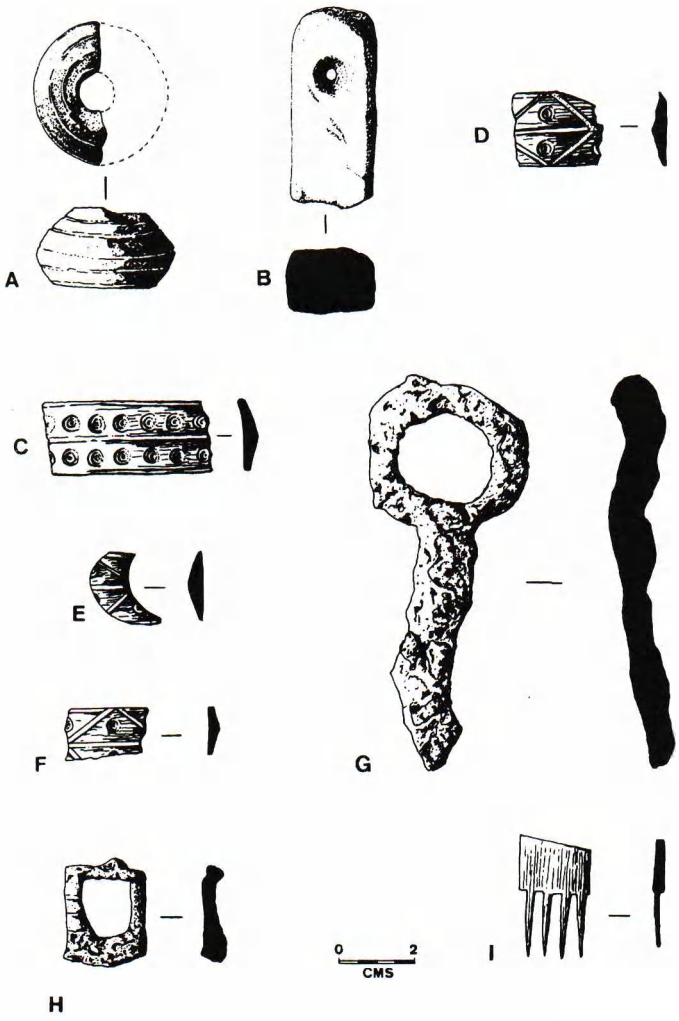


Fig.7 The small finds

copper alloy objects, including one fragment of a Roman fibula brooch (SF no. 616) and two buckle fragments (SF nos 612 and 618).

Coins

A single illegible copper alloy coin was retrieved from unstratified layer 100. A second coin (SF 602) recovered from an unstratified context (100) was examined by Dr Paul Robinson as follows:

Edward VI (1547 - 1553)
Struck counterfeit in copper alloy of a shilling, the issue uncertain.
obv [ED]WARD.VI.[D.G.ANG.FRA.] .Z.HIB [.REX] crowned bust right
rev [T] IMOR:[DO]MINI: FON [:VITE] oval shield flanked by ER
initial marks and date illegible
date : 1548 - 1551 (for the prototype)

Slag

A small quantity of slag (*c.* 3.5 kg) was retrieved from medieval and post-medieval features. The material was examined with reference to the morphological classification established by McDonnell (McDonnell 1983). Several different slag types were represented in the assemblage reflecting a variety of industrial processes. The assemblage included ferrous tap slag and dense tap slag, small quantities of copper alloy residues and quantities of a lightweight, vitreous slag type of unknown source. Several fragments of fired clay with slag adhering, possibly the remnants of a mould or furnace lining material, were retrieved from the backfill of the 15th century culvert. More significantly, small quantities of iron and copper smelting slags were retrieved from the later fill of pit 210, a feature dated to the late 12th century. However, aside from this most of the material was recovered from deposits which appeared to represent instances of deliberate and rapid backfilling. Accordingly, the source of most material may have been located some distance from the site.

Other

Very few other small finds were recovered from the site. Those of note included several worked and decorated bone fragments including a fragment of a bone knife handle (SF 624) and three fragments from a decorated bone comb (SF 629, 635 and 636), recovered from a late 12th century rubbish pit [197]. A plain fragment from an earlier bone comb (SF 628) was retrieved from a Saxo-Norman ditch fill. Other items included a decorated 12th-century spindle whorl (SF 614) and a fragment of decorated later medieval floor tile (SF 620) of similar design to others identified in the ruined Nave of the abbey church (Lowe *ibid*).

Worked Stone

Sixteen objects of worked stone (15 of sandstone and 1 of limestone) and eleven fragments of unworked slate, possible roofing material, were recovered from residual and stratified contexts, the latter dating to both the medieval and post-medieval periods. The collection included five fragments of sandstone whetstones or sharpeners, one of which was perforated (Fig.7b, SF 656) and probably worn attached to a belt; two flat whetstones (SF 625 and 632) or oilstones, one (SF 625) of Saxo-Norman date, plus four fragments of perforated sandstone roof tile, two of which were from 14th century deposits. The only other objects of note were four residual Romano-British tesserae.

Shell

A assemblage of mollusc shell, largely oyster with smaller numbers of whelk and mussel, were retrieved from thirty-four contexts across the site. The great majority of the collection occurred in 14th century or later deposits, the greatest concentration being recovered from the 14th century midden deposits located outside Building 150. Whelk shells were mostly recovered from post-medieval deposits, notably the backfill of the culvert trench.

Flint

Details of the flint assemblage are included in the project archive.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Saxo-Norman activity

The earliest sequence of ditches recorded on the site date to the mid-11th century although the presence of residual 10th century pottery sherds provide an important indication of earlier activity in the vicinity and may date their origin. No precise interpretation is possible for the function of the recut ditches although, since they predate the foundation of the abbey precinct by around a century, it is clear they represent elements, possibly agricultural or smaller enclosure boundaries, of the late Saxon settlement at Keynsham. However, the absence of any earthfast building foundations coupled with the low incidence of finds from the ditch fills suggests the focus of that settlement is unlikely to have been on or immediately adjacent to the site of St John's parish church.

The artefacts recovered from the ditch fills were largely confined to examples of plain coarseware pottery and bones of cattle, sheep and pig. No metal objects were recovered although the presence of whetstones and small quantities of ferrous slag attest to their use and possibly a cottage iron working industry. Exotic or luxury items, such as they are, are represented by a few oyster shells and a single bone comb. This small and unimpressive domestic assemblage need not, however, necessarily diminish the implied status of the early settlement as indicated by the decorated Saxon architecture from the abbey site. An equally restricted assemblage was recovered from the 11th century rural settlement at Eckweek (Young forthcoming), whose buildings included an important late Saxon timber hall. Similarly, finds from the 10th and 11th century levels at Cheddar Palace (Rahtz 1979) belie the high status of the site.

The earlier 12th Century

Activity during the earlier part of the 12th century, still prior to the foundation of the abbey precinct, appears limited and confined to the deposition of relatively clean soil layers. The explanation for this apparent inactivity remains unclear although, as is the case at rural Eckweek (Young *ibid*), it may reflect a period of diminished activity and a shrinkage of the 11th century settlement.

The later 12th century

The increased evidence of activity on the site during the later 12th century broadly coincides with the foundation of the Augustinian abbey in the 1160's. The group of pits and ditches, and the finds they contained, point to a significant increase in the general level of activity in the area. The exact function of the pit and ditch group was not clear although there is some indication that they may have served an industrial function, possibly for a kiln, oven or even a smithy. Whilst the nature of the excavated evidence suggests the site may have been peripheral to the focus of renewed activity, the presence of cereal and other plant food residues (silicified and carbonised cereals and legumes), plus cultivated and disturbed ground weed varieties, suggest a resurgence of cultivation and food processing in the vicinity. Coupled with the presence of metalworking residues and increased quantities of animal bone and domestic pottery, the remains are consistent with what might be expected at the periphery of a new and vigorous medieval ecclesiastic centre.

The later 13th century

No substantial evidence relating to earlier 13th century activity was revealed on the site. By the later part of the century a new and substantial stone building had been erected in the extreme north of the site and a large area to the south of it surfaced with a rough cobbled metalling. Whilst the overall dimensions of the building remain unknown, the size of the masonry footings, in conjunction with the associated domestic refuse, imply a building of some importance and possibly containing a kitchen.

The environmental remains present in the associated midden and rubbish dumps included a range of domestic foodstuffs including cereals, butchered cattle, sheep and pig bone plus instances of rabbit, hen and goose. The assemblage was complimented by quantities of oyster and mussel shell plus a range of deep water fish bone including cod, conger eel and hake. In combination with carbonised cereal grains, fuels represented by willow, oak and blackthorn, plus the varied assemblage of coarseware and finer pottery, the assemblage includes all the elements of a 'better-off' medieval domestic cooking and kitchen refuse assemblage.

Current understanding of the boundaries of Keynsham abbey would suggest that the building was located inside the monastic precinct and therefore constituted one of its ancillary buildings noted in documentary sources. However, the orientation of the building is clearly not congruent with the layout of the principal monastic buildings, whose broadly east-west orientation appears to be echoed in the line of modern boundary walls to the east of the nursery site. An alternative interpretation may be that the building lay within the newly established precinct of St John's parish church, which was probably built on land detached from the monastic precinct in the 13th century (Prosser 1995 147), and integral with the development of the planned medieval tenements on the east side of the High Street, whose layout the building is perpendicular to.

The reasons behind the apparently short lifespan of the building, which culminated in episodes of fairly extensive stone robbing towards the end of the century, remain unclear and are unlikely to be elucidated without further research of the building and surrounding area.

The late 14th and early 15th century

By the early 15th century a new boundary ditch was dug across the western edge of the site. Whether or not its close coincidence with an earlier, 11th century, ditch is significant remains unclear. What is clear, however, is that

activity on the site is once more limited and again appears to be peripheral, possibly because it now lay close to the rear of the established medieval tenements and along or just inside the final boundary which separated them from the later abbey precinct.

Soil and mixed deposits accumulating to the west of the ditch may reflect rubbish deposits accumulating to the rear of the medieval tenements. The material represented included, not surprisingly, abundant cereal grains and domestic pottery but also greater numbers of animal bone than previously present. The bone assemblage also contained a larger proportion of pig bones and had a slightly greater range including red deer, hare, hen, goose and rabbit plus at least four horses represented. Whether this apparently expanded domestic menu reflected the diets of the prosperous new merchants and traders of late medieval Keynsham or their monastic neighbours remains unclear.

The 16th century and later

Activity during the 16th century was confined to the construction of the large stone culvert, a project which must have involved considerable disturbance and disruption as a consequence of excavated spoil, the workmen themselves and their materials. The route of the culvert is likely, therefore, to have been chosen with some care and may again reflect the low importance of the site at that time. The dating evidence does not clarify whether the culvert is pre- or post-Dissolution although again, given the disruption it would have caused, and the area it appeared to serve (buildings or services at the northern end of the High Street), it is perhaps less likely to have been sanctioned whilst the monastic precinct still operated. If the feature was indeed constructed after the Reformation it may well have formed part of a larger period of redevelopment of areas inside the former abbey precinct which also included the construction of the Tudor mansion house of the Bridges family which is suggested to have been situated in the area of the modern Park, southeast of the nursery site.

Despite its central location, activity on the site from the later 16th century onwards appears to have been remarkably limited. Indeed, the archaeological evidence is largely confined to unstratified pottery sherds and other items of stray rubbish. By the 19th century the site is shown on Ordnance Survey plans as open ground, orchard, or gardens and continued to be used as such until the 1990's.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aston, M, 1993 *Know The Landscape: Monasteries.* B T Batsford, London.

Aston, M, and Iles, R. (eds) 1988 *The Archaeology of Avon: A Review from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages* Avon County Council Planning Department. London.

Boessneck, J, 1969 *Osteological differences between the sheep Ovis aries Linne and the goat Capra hircus Linne.* In Brothwell and Higgs (eds.) Science in Archaeology. Thames & Hudson .

Burchill, R, 1987 The pottery in R. Burchill, M. Coxah, A. Nicholson and M. Ponsford Excavations in Bristol in 1985-86. *Bristol and Avon Archaeology 6.*

Burchill, R, (forthcoming a) The Pottery in G Good, *Excavations at Dundas Wharf, Bristol 1982-83.*

Burchill, R, (forthcoming b) Ceramics in K Blockley, *Excavations at Welsh Back, Bristol, 1995.*

Collinson, J, 1791 *The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset* (Reprint 1983). Alan Sutton.

Cornwall, I, 1956 *Bones for the archaeologist.* London.

Driesch, A von den 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites.* Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Bulletin 1.

Good, G, & Russett, 1987 Common types of earthen ware found in the Bristol area. *Bristol and Avon Archaeology 6.*

Greenfield, E, 1960 Keynsham Abbey, Somerset in *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society 104* (pp 130-131).

Jacomet, S, 1987 *Prahistorische Getreidefude.* Basel.

Lowe, B, J. *et al* 1987 Keynsham Abbey: Excavations 1961-1985 in *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society 131* (pp 81-156).

McDonnel, G, 1983 Tap Slags and Hearth Bottoms. *Current Archaeology 86.*

Ponsford, M, 1979 Bristol Castle : Archaeology and the history of a Royal fortress. Unpublished M. Litt thesis. University of Bristol.

Ponsford, M, 1991 *Dendrochronological dates from Dundas Wharf, Bristol and the dating of Ham Green and other medieval pottery.* Custom & Ceramics : Essays presented to Kenneth Barton.

Prosser, L, 1997 The Keynsham Hundred: a study of the evolution of a north Somerset estate. Department of Continuing Education, Bristol. Thesis A4739a.

Rahtz, P. 1979 *The Saxon and Medieval Palaces at Cheddar.* BAR 65, Oxford.

Robinson, M, & Straker, V, 1991 *Silica skeletons of macro scopic plant remains from ash.* In New light in early farming. Edinburgh University Press.

Stace, C, 1995 *New flora of the British Isles.* Cambridge University press.

Vince, A, 1979 Medieval Pottery in B. Cunliffe (ed) *Excavations in Bath 1950-1975.*

Vince, A, 1985 Pottery in L. Watts and P. Rahtz, *Mary Le Port, Bristol - Excavations 1962-3.*

Weaver, F W 1907 Keynsham Abbey in *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society 53* (pp 15-63).

Wheeler, A, 1978 *Key to the Fishes of Northern Europe.* Warne.

Wood, E S, 1995 *Historical Britain* Harvill, London.

Yorkston, D. E. 1995 *Former Nursery Site, Keynsham, Archaeological Evaluation.* Avon Archaeological Unit Avon SMR 10509.

Young, A C (forthcoming) *Excavation of a late Saxon and Medieval rural settlement at Eckweek, Peasedown St. John.*

REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY 1995-1996

Edited by Bruce Williams

Abbreviations

AAU	Avon Archaeological Unit
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services
BRSMG	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery International Museum Code
CAT	Cotswold Archaeological Trust

The review of archaeology is arranged alphabetically by parish and covers the four unitary authorities of Bath and North-East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, formerly Avon County.

BANES

CHEW MAGNA, *Rose Cottage, Silver Street,* ST 578632. A watching brief on the construction of a garage revealed no significant archaeological deposits.

Jonathan Erskine, AAU

EAST HARPTREE, *Home Farm,* ST 56755590. An evaluation carried out within paddocks to the east and south of Home Farm discovered a single worked flint and a small quantity of unstratified ?prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery. The remains of a cottage demolished in the 19th century were found adjacent to Water Street.

Alistair Barber, CAT

KEYNSHAM, *Avon Mill,* (BRSMG 70/1996) ST 658689. As part of an on-going programme of archaeological recording and evaluation on the site of this important 18th-19th century Brassmills with possible medieval antecedents, Avon Archaeological Unit carried out a photographic survey of the mill building which has been converted into a Public House and a 19th century warehouse, which has since been demolished. Constructional groundworks were also observed and features recorded. An iron, reinforced masonry wharf was located with associated features dated to *c.* 1820, and vaulted masonry water courses noted under the mill building and wharf. (SMR 30002).

Rob Curtis, AAU

STANTON DREW, *Sports Ground Field* ST 597630. A programme of geophysical survey was carried out on a field 60m to the west of The Cove and the Stanton Drew Stone Circle complex, in advance of proposals to landscape the area for formal recreational purposes. A series of land drains was located in the lower part of the field associated with a known seasonal pond. The higher parts of the field, to the west, provided evidence of one linear and two elliptical subterranean features. Two ditches were also located nearer The Cove. No archaeological interpretation or characterisation was possible.

Andrew Young, AAU

BRISTOL

AVONMOUTH, *Severnside* ST 533797 to 536822. A desktop study was carried out before the construction of an effluent pipeline from the Bristol Wastewater Treatment Works near Kings Weston Lane to the Seabank Power Station, a distance of about 3 km.

Only one known archaeological site, Washingpool Farm, was found to lie directly on the route of the pipeline ST 53418156. The earthworks of a moated farmstead, to the east of the A403 road, probably represent the site of the original farm. It seems likely that this moated site became too restricted in area and the farm had been rebuilt by the late 18th century on open land to the west. Although the site of the later Washingpool Farm has been truncated by the A403, walls and brick paved floors survive in the field to the west of the road. Building material noted included fragments of roofing slates, bricks, roof tiles and window glass.

Parts of the historic landscape will be destroyed by the pipeline, such as areas of surviving ridge and furrow, the droveway which crosses the fields south of the Filton to Avonmouth railway line, the droveway known as Washingpool Lane and various field hedges and ditches.

A series of eleven geotechnical pits, each approximately 2m square, were excavated along the route of the pipeline. Advice was given on the location of these pits and their excavation was monitored. Evidence of human occupation was only found in one pit, that nearest Washingpool Farm, where a wall of possible 18th century date was noted associated with late 18th or 19th century pottery. A peat deposit was located and sampled in five pits at a depth of 4.2m below the present ground surface.

Reg Jackson, BaRAS

Severnside (Bristol/S. Glos). A desktop survey was carried out on four areas of land together totalling approximately 180 hectares.

Study Area 1 was bounded by the A403 road to the west, the Sevalco Works and Severn Road to the north, the M49 motorway to the east, and the embankment of the Filton to Avonmouth railway line to the south. Eighteen sites of potential archaeological interest were identified

within the area. These were: the earthworks of a medieval moated farmstead ST 53419156; a post-medieval bridge over the Stuppill Rhine at Red Splott Gout ST 53658140; the sites of two cottages dating from at least the early 19th century ST 53628138 & ST 53408128; the standing remains of West House Farm with the earthworks of a possible medieval moated farmstead adjoining ST 53408091; the site of a late 18th or early 19th century house ST 54108132; the earthworks of a medieval or early post-medieval moated farmstead adjoining ST 53408091; the site of a late 18th or early 19th century house ST 54108132; the earthworks of a medieval or early post-medieval moated farmstead ST 53778114; a standing building and the adjoining earthworks of a farmstead which dates from at least the early 19th century ST 53918098; the site of a farm house dating from at least the 17th century ST 53988060; a linear feature of unknown date and purpose ST 53758045; the site of a farm house dating from at least the 18th century ST 54258063; an area of well-preserved ridge and furrow ST 54258080; a possible Iron Age site ST 54308041; an area of Iron Age/Roman buried land surface centred on ST 53998071; the site of Elmgrove Farm which dates to the late 18th/early 19th century ST 54408080; the site of an early 18th century house ST 5448100; and the ruins of a 19th century house ST 54338112.

Study Area 2 was bounded on the north by the earthwork known as the Mere Bank, on the east by the M49 motorway, on the south by Kings Weston Lane and on the west by a field boundary. The only site of archaeological interest within this area was the Mere Bank which was probably constructed as part of the reclamation measures undertaken by the Bishops of Worcester on their Henbury estates during the late 12th or early 13th century.

Study Area 3 was a roughly triangular-shaped plot of land, bounded on the east by the A403 road, on the south by industrial and warehousing units and on the west by the Filton to Avonmouth railway line. Only one site, a World War II anti-aircraft battery ST 52428082, was identified within the area. This was heavily overgrown but it was possible to make out the octagonal concrete structures of some of the gun pits together with a rectangular reinforced concrete structure which may have been a shelter for a gun crew. A large earth mound close to the A403 road also appeared to be part of the battery complex as did outlying mounds which were covered with undergrowth.

Study Area 4 was divided into two sections by the A403 road. The southern section was bounded on the north by the A403, on the east by a railway line, on the south by the Stuppill Rhine and an industrial estate, and on the west by the Avonmouth to Severn Beach railway line beyond which was the Severn estuary. The northern section was bounded on the north by the Seabank development, on the east by an industrial area and on the south and west by the A403. A number of sites of potential archaeological interest were identified within the study area. These were: a small circular platform of unknown date and purpose ST 53288237; the site of Bank Farm which dates to the late 18th or early 19th century ST 53308212; the site of Chittening Farm which was first recorded in the 17th century ST 53148219; and the earthworks which might be the remains of a moated farmstead ST 53288178.

Reg Jackson, BaRAS

Seabank Power Station, Hallen (BRSMG 10/1997) ST 53508260. An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Severnside during the groundwork phase of the construction of a new 755 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Station. No archaeological features, other than some walls and yard surfaces associated with the 19th century Seabank Farm, were recorded during the watching brief. However, peat deposits were recorded which were of palaeoenvironmental interest dating from approximately 2290-2030 BC and 4230-3700 BC.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

132 & 33kv overhead electricity lines to Seabank Power Station, Hallen (BRSMG 40/1996) centred on ST 54368168. An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of pylons on the line of a new 132kv line and the re-laying underground of a 33kv line. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the work on the 132kv line, however, the watching brief on the 33kv line did result in a ditch containing Romano-British pottery from the 2nd century AD being recorded close to the site of an undated enclosure (SMR 2994) which has been tentatively identified as a farmstead.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

400kv electricity line from Seabank, Avonmouth to Awkley, (Bristol/S. Glos) (BRSMG 41/1996) ST 53508260 to ST 48708690. An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the construction of pylons on the route of a new 400kv line. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief but peat deposits which were of palaeoenvironmental interest were recorded.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

Electricity Sub-Station, Severn Road, Seabank ST 53558280. An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the above site. One trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.93m AOD to determine the depth and nature of the deposits in the assessment area. No archaeological features were observed, and finds included only a limited amount of 19th-20th century pottery and roof-tile fragments, all from the topsoil.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

British Gas Seabank, Chittening Warth (BRSMG 65/1995) ST 53378257. Three trenches were excavated within and close by the site of British Gas Seabank in advance of the construction of a combined cycle gas turbine power station. Of the three, two trenches (in the centre of the site, and in a

field to the south-west inside the bend of Severn Road) were devoid of archaeological features. The remaining trench, located within a grassed area by the entrance to the site, produced evidence of four main phases of activity. The earliest of these was a section of curved ditch cut into the grey alluvial clay (at 5.2m OD) and dating to the first half of the twelfth-century, from which most of one half of a large pottery vessel was recovered. This was sealed by a depth of approximately 0.9m of silty clay into which a large ditch had been cut during the fourteenth-century. Evidence for a third period of activity in the sixteenth century was recorded, including a number of placed stones which hint at the presence of a structure. The latest phase of activity dated to the eighteenth-century and lay immediately beneath the topsoil (at 6.6m OD). It included the presence of drainage ditches, a recut of the fourteenth-century ditch and the articulated burial of a dog. This latter phase is probably related to the buildings known to be occupying the site in the nineteenth-century (ASMR 9226 and ASMR 9227). See below for follow-up excavation. In addition, during observation of SWEB cable trenches dug across the grassed area further evidence of post-medieval activity was recorded, notably a stone wall which may have been a former boundary wall.

Jon Brett, BaRAS

British Gas, Seabank, Chittening Warth (BRSMG 57/1996) ST 53358259. An excavation at Seabank, situated to the north of Avonmouth on the North Avon Levels, took place during the summer of 1996. Two trenches were excavated and an auger survey of the area was undertaken to examine the underlying organic peat deposits.

Trench 1 produced no archaeological deposits but was excavated to a depth of 2.8m, 4m AOD through the alluvial silts to reveal two of the upper bands of peat of the Wentlooge Formation. The lower organic deposit, lying at 4.32m AOD was sampled for palaeoenvironmental analysis and produced a radio-carbon date of approximately 2200 BC (Calibrated two sigma date).

Trench 2 revealed six phases of archaeological deposits including five successive ditches on a south-east north-west alignment running parallel with the coastline, and features associated with the post-medieval farm of Seabank. The ditches were found to date from the 11th century to the 18th century, while the farm features, which included a large pond and refuse pits, dated to the 19th and 20th century. Deeper excavation within the trench produced evidence for a buried soil horizon at 5.3m AOD, 1.4m below the present ground surface. This deposit produced no archaeological material, although its level relative to other archaeological sites in the area suggests a Romano-British or Iron Age date.

The archaeological work at Seabank suggested a late Saxon date for the earliest period of drainage and reclamation of the saltmarsh.

Peter Insole, BaRAS

Seabank, Chittening Warth (BRSMG 34/1995) ST 53598214. Two contiguous evaluation trenches were excavated in a field adjacent to the south-east of the derelict Seabank hydrocarbon reforming plant. These revealed a series of depositions of alluvial clay but no archaeological features, though a thin band of peat was encountered at *c.* 4.35m AOD. This may be a localised formation, or may simply be a deposition of peat washed inland during an episode of flooding

Jon Brett, BaRAS

Stup Pill, (BRSMG 38/1995) ST 52828122 and ST 5355 8310. A desktop study was undertaken of the area between Mitchell's Salt Rhine and New Pill in response to a proposal to update the sea defences. Part of the proposal involved the excavation of a new wetland habitat and a field evaluation was undertaken of that area. A trench measuring c15m by 5m was excavated on either side of Stup Pill; both were located between the tidal defences and the railway line to Severn Beach.

Trench 1 (ST 5292 8197) revealed a drainage ditch of possible late medieval date at *c.* 5m OD and three separate peat layers at *c.* 3.5m, 2.7m and 2m OD. Trench 2 (ST 52958201) revealed no archaeological activity, but peat deposits were found at *c.* 4m and 2.2m OD. The highest of these would probably broadly equate to the fifth level peat (c1500-1000 BC) whilst the others would broadly equate to the fourth level peats (late 4th millennium-2900/2600 BC; dates after Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust).

Nick Tavener, BaRAS

Avonmouth Way, (BRSMG 37/1996) ST 525784. A single evaluation trench on the site of a proposed industrial extension to T Quality Limited revealed one small ditch or slot cut into the tidal alluvial clays of possible Romano-British date. A higher, probable buried topsoil deposit contained early post-medieval and Romano-British sherds. Both of these features were sealed by alluvial deposits. Environmental samples taken from the lower alluvium produced tenuous evidence of a marsh creek habitat of a low salinity fluctuation rate. The ditch fill, though, appears, from sample evidence, to have been created in shallow freshwater, and the area was later re-established as salt-marsh. Any archaeological deposits are now covered by approximately 1.5m of modern landfill. (SMR 20001).

Andrew Young, AAU

Hill Leigh Timber Yard, St Andrews Road, (BRSMG 89/1996) ST 516787. In a desktop study carried out prior to the submission of a planning application, this site was found to have been an area of agricultural land which had been developed after the construction of the Royal Edward Dock and Severn Beach Railway in the early 20th century. The site had been built up with *c.* 1.5m of landfill over alluvium and peat. The potential therefore exists of Romano-British and earlier prehistoric deposits surviving below the present buildings. (SMR 20003)

Rod Burchill, AAU

BISHOPSWORTH, *Inns Court,* ST 58776020. Eight evaluation trenches were excavated in the vicinity of the Inns Court resource centre and vicarage, while a further trench was excavated within Holy Cross church. This work was carried out as part of a planning application for a new community centre, church, shops, housing and associated landscaping. Inns Court is named after the 14th century mansion or manor house which was situated just to the north of the present church. All that remains of the manor house is a stair turret of octagonal form which is listed Grade II*. This has been incorporated into the modern vicarage which certainly occupies part of the site of the manor house, although the full extent of the house and the date of commencement of medieval occupation on the site is not known.

The evaluation demonstrated the survival of significant archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development. Modern building activity at Inns Court seemed to have caused minimal damage to the archaeology, except in the case of the 'circular' road round the resource centre and church which had removed the archaeology throughout the length of its route examined during the evaluation. Archaeological deposits were even found to survive below the concrete floor slab of the church.

There was considerable evidence of Roman occupation consisting of the stone foundations of at least one building, postholes and slots for timber buildings or structures, pits, occupation levels and a stone surface which is possibly part of a road or trackway. The finds indicated the main period of occupation was during the 2nd and 3rd centuries. The Roman site appeared to be concentrated on the area of higher ground around the vicarage and the resource centre and may extend over the level ground to the north and east. Roman deposits were also found on the sloping ground to the west and south-west. There was no evidence of Roman occupation further west under the site of the Inns of Court public house.

The medieval and post-medieval occupation associated with Inns Court lies immediately under and adjacent to the vicarage. The foundations of the possible south-west corner of the house were found to the north of the resource centre but a later wall and occupation levels in the same area indicate the survival of more extensive medieval and post-medieval structures and archaeological deposits.

Reg Jackson, BaRAS

Filwood Playing Fields, ST 59006910. Prior to determination of a planning application for housing, six trial trenches were excavated. A previous geophysical survey by Stratascan in February 1996 had revealed a number of magnetic anomalies. These were all found to be the result of landscaping when the playing fields were created in 1982. Five of the trenches revealed a buried topsoil (extant in 1982) and, in trench 6, was found a curvilinear ditch 0.6m across, containing pottery and a shale bracelet, dated between the 2nd and early 3rd century AD.

Bruce Williams, BaRAS

Hengrove Park, (BRSMG 4/1996) ST 593688. An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of comprehensive leisure facilities on the north side of Whitchurch Airport (1930s to 1950s), now a municipal playing field. This site is also adjacent to finds of Romano-British material. Apart from modern clay field drains, no items of archaeological significance were recovered. (SMR 20006)

Dan Stansbie, AAU

Hengrove Park (BRSMG 55/1995) ST 592687. A site evaluation revealed no evidence for the continuation into Hengrove Park of the Romano-British settlement that lies adjacent. This lack of evidence is due, in part, to the construction of a World War II airfield on the site. One highly abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered.

Peter Insole, BaRAS

312 Bishopsworth Road (BRSMG 94/1996) ST 5715 6920. A watching brief during development of the site found no archaeological finds or features associated with the old road which ran from Bedminster Down to Chew Magna and Midsomer Norton - believed to have been in use in the Roman period. Several 19th century sherds of pottery and roof tile were the only finds.

Georgina Finn, BaRAS

BRISLINGTON, *Fortfield Road, Hengrove* (BRSMG 66/1995) ST 60606840. An evaluation revealed no archaeological features, although a few medieval pottery sherds were recovered.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

631 Bath Road (BRSMG 53/1995) ST 61607094. Excavation for a car-turning point, within 15m of the site of the Brislington Roman Villa was observed. Four sherds of 2nd or 3rd century Romano-British pottery were recovered. Part of a stone-filled pit of indeterminate age was also revealed.

John Bryant BaRAS

CLIFTON, *26 Grove Road* (BRSMG 95/1996) ST 57537490. A watching brief during the construction of a new house found several sherds of 18th century pottery, but no Romano-British finds or features. There was no evidence for the Roman road which ran between Sea Mills and Bath.

Georgina Finn, BaRAS

Poole's Wharf, Hotwell Road (BRSMG 58/1996) ST 573724. After a desktop study by Lee Prosser and an evaluation excavation by Jonathan Erskine, a full archaeological excavation was carried out on a sample area of Poole's Wharf prior to redevelopment as mixed housing. The area was once under several occupiers in the 18th century who included William Champion, James Hilhouse

and - Farr, with others. In the 19th century Stotherts Shipbuilders occupied the area to the west of Dock Gate Lane, with Poole Brothers to the east. After many changes of name and description, the entire housing development of 1997 is named Poole's Wharf. The excavation area was selected to include both slipways and associated ship construction buildings. A large area of 19th century masonry slipway with associated pipework still in-situ was recorded, overlying an earlier masonry slipway wall. Both slips had been successively filled in with large quantities of brick and tile debris, and industrial waste, mainly from furnace and iron working contexts. The brick and tile debris was possibly produced on or close to the site prior to its use as a shipyard in the 18th century. The industrial waste was dated to the early 20th century, when shipbuilding and repair finally ceased on the site. Of the nine masonry buildings excavated, the early phase industrial building A was constructed on to the river bank alluvium and can be dated to the late 18th century. The buildings underwent many additions and alterations and the site, once riverbank, was tipped and levelled, probably after the construction of the floating harbour in 1809. A small masonry building 2 with wooden partitions on a mortar floor, probably for stabling, had its floor level raised and was then demolished for the construction of a large machinery building 3 over its remains. A small building 6, fronting Dock Gate Lane, contained domestic waste and several water management features including a possible well, was tentatively identified as Poole's Mineral Spa and Coal Wharf of 1810. Most buildings, cobbled surfaces and yard floors could be identified from the extant maps and plans of the 18th to 20th centuries. Apart from damage caused to the underlying archaeological structures by the deep concrete piling, the majority of the 18th and 19th century structures on the site probably survive, in a waterlogged state, below the present development. The area of the excavation was cleared of all masonry before construction. It is intended that a full report, including archaeological and environmental data, will be published in Post-Medieval Archaeology in 1999. (SMR 20002).

Jonathan Erskine, AAU

REDCLIFF, *Redcliff Backs* (BRSMG 47/1995) ST 59047248. Two trenches were excavated, one on either side of Redcliff Backs. The first to the rear of Freshford House revealed a pennant stone boundary wall of post-medieval date, with a nineteenth-century cellar on its north side. On the south side a stone drain ran along the trench. A smaller trench in the open grassed area recorded late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century cellaring underlain by a considerable depth of nineteenth-century made ground.

Jon Brett, BaRAS

SHIREHAMPTON, *Portway Lower Comprehensive School, Park Road* ST 53557672. A desktop study was undertaken in advance of a planning application for the development of the school site as an Aldi store and public house.

No known archaeological sites or findspots of individual artefacts occur within the area of the proposed development. However a number of archaeological finds have previously been made in the vicinity. Of particular importance were the discovery of Palaeolithic artefacts 150m to the south, 300m to the south-west, 300m and 375m to the west, and 150m to the north of the development area. These were mainly hand-axes although the latter find comprised 11 different implements. These were thought to have come from the Second Terrace gravels which lie close to, or possibly even under, the development area. Finds of 2nd century Roman pottery have been made 230m south-west of the school.

Reg Jackson, BaRAS

Kings Weston Road/Long Cross, Lawrence Weston (BRSMG 28/1995) ST 55437852. Excavations following a Desktop Study and Evaluation in 1994 were carried out in advance of redevelopment of the area for housing. The earliest occupation was represented by a substantial assemblage of worked flints dating from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age. These included arrowheads, scrapers and flint blades. Pottery of the Late Bronze Age and late Iron Age was also recorded.

The main occupation was represented by a series of quarry pits, a road and a timber structure associated with areas of cobbled yards, which dated from the first to fourth centuries AD. The remains of at least four infant burials dated to the late second to third century, were found within the quarry area. The burials were contemporary with significant finds including a worked bone knife handle, Kimmeridge shale and copper alloy armlets and several brooches of the first and second centuries. A considerable quantity of Romano-British pottery was recovered, predominantly Black Burnished and Congresbury wares. Other ceramic finds included a fragment of Samian inkpot and a body sherd of a decorated, green-glazed beaker, probably made in the Caerleon/Usk area of South Wales. A complete lower rotary quernstone of quartz conglomerate and a palette of Purbeck marble for mixing cosmetics or medicine were recovered as well as tesserae, whetstones, flue tiles and many iron objects including a stylus. Several coins were recovered which included a small hoard of six of the Antonine period. Most of the coins were dated to the late third and fourth centuries.

The quarrying on site was carried out for the extraction of the Dolomitic Conglomerate for use as mortar, road and building purposes. The quarrying and finds evidence suggested the presence of a Romano-British settlement perhaps near or within the Iron Age hill-fort at Blaise, to the south. The site reverted to agricultural use during the medieval and post-medieval periods and was subsequently landscaped for recreational use as part of the suburban redevelopment of Lawrence Weston from the 1950's onwards.

Eric Boore, BaRAS

Kingsweston Roman Villa, Lawrence Weston (BRSMG 62/1995) ST 53395 77555. Prior to consolidation of the Hypocaust in Room XI by Bristol City Council, a measured survey of the internal revetment walls was undertaken. Limited excavation of the floor areas was carried out in order to devise a strategy for the protection of the surviving areas of tessellated pavement. A small pit cutting the natural subsoil beneath the floor contained part of the rim of a Bronze Age urn.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

ST AUGUSTINE, *Canons Marsh* (BRSMG 54/1995) ST 72555823. Three trenches excavated in the Canons Marsh car park as part of the evaluation stage of the Harbourside Project found only limited archaeological evidence. Two of the trenches located drainage channels, part of the pre-reclamation marsh landscape. The third trench, adjacent to Anchor Road, revealed buildings of late-17th century or later date.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

U-Shed, Canons Marsh (BRSMG 57/1995) ST 58517256. An evaluation consisting of three trenches was carried out to locate a dry dock and slipways or 'launching places' known from map evidence to have been in use during the 18th and 19th centuries. In addition, it was intended to place a further trench between these two locations to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological remains.

The evaluation area was confined to the footprint of the existing U-Shed (Bristol Exhibition Centre) building along the western side of the Floating Harbour c300m to the south of the Neptune statue.

The earliest feature found was part of a substantial early river-front wall running south-west to north-east in Trench 2. The wall was built with random block Pennant Sandstone bonded with a distinctive bright red sandy mortar. The footings were 1.1m wide and built on to natural alluvium at *c.* 6.6m OD, and the wall above was 0.85m wide, surviving to a maximum height of 2.25m. No dating evidence was recovered, but the wall was of some antiquity when the western side was buried under landfill in the late 18th century, and may be of medieval origin, perhaps associated with the 13th century recut for the River Frome. It is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1883 edition, and appears to have been demolished soon afterwards, at the same time that the dry-dock was filled in.

Part of an 18th century dockside wall and associated substantial wooden mooring post were found cut into the natural alluvial mud in Trench 2, but the slipways were not found. Part of the southern wall of the dry-dock was exposed and recorded in Trench 3. The wall, which was constructed from dressed Pennant Sandstone was 1.6m wide and was intact to the top (8.5m OD). It was revealed to a depth of 1.1m.

Nick Tavener, BaRAS

The Former Leadworks, Canon's Marsh (BRSMG 78/1996) ST 58444572590. Three trial trenches were excavated within the Leadworks complex in advance of the Wildscreen development. Two trenches within the Leadworks revealed walls associated with late 19th-century phases of the building, which was gutted by fire in 1950. Finds from landfill deposits suggested this was the 19th-century fill of Tomb's Dock - an 18th century dry dock backfilled in 1883-4 prior to the construction of the Leadworks. A trench to the west of the main building revealed a wall and associated ditch running approximately east to west. The earliest finds from the ditch fill were 17th century North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware. The ditch had been covered with a brick culvert with a southern wall running east to west, parallel to the main wall and ditch, overlying timbers which were sloping into the ditch. It seems likely that the main wall was the original retaining wall between the land of the Dean and Chapter and Canon's Marsh. Another wall overlay the retaining wall, with a slightly angled north running return. This would appear to be the wall of the Bishop's Palace garden, as shown on Plumley and Ashmead's 1828 plan, associated finds suggesting it was constructed in the early to mid-18th century.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

ST EWEN, *35 Corn Street* (BRSMG 48/1995) ST 58757299. A watching brief was carried out during conversion to a public house. A 15th century cellar with ribbed vault and associated square window was recorded, as were parts of the late 18th century banking hall and banker's house. It is now known that the hall is about two decades earlier than previously thought, since the plasterwork is signed and dated 1791, and that the attribution to John Nash is incorrect, referring instead to another bank on the opposite side of the street.

John Bryant, BaRAS

ST GEORGE, *Lawrence Hill, Upper Easton* (BRSMG 91/1996) ST 60807343. A desk-based assessment was carried out on land at Lawrence Hill prior to the disposal and possible redevelopment of the site. The study revealed that the area had only been substantially developed since the mid-19th century. The land was largely used for market gardening until the 1860's when it became a junction of the Midland Railway and the GWR and a station and goods yard were built. Along the street frontage is a terrace of buildings, including the Earl Russell Hotel Public House, which were developed from the early 19th century.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

ST JAMES, *Upper Maudlin Street,* ST 58607338. Proposals for a new children's hospital necessitated the excavation of three trial trenches and four test pits to look for evidence for the Greyfriars Conduit and for remains of buildings associated with the nunnery of St Mary Magdalene. No trace was found for the nunnery, which

probably lies beneath the King David Hotel at the junction of St Michael's Hill and Upper Maudlin Street.

The frequent, abrupt and often considerable changes in level within the proposed development area to create level plots in the 18th century for building purposes, removed almost all earlier remains. The exception was at the front of the former Occupational Therapy Unit (No. 27 Upper Maudlin Street) where a buried medieval landfill was recorded *c.* 0.5m below modern pavement level.

Bruce Williams, BaRAS

13-16 St James Parade (BRSMG 13/1994) ST 58887345. After a year's delay, work was completed on excavation of the proposed hostel site adjacent to St James Church for English Heritage. Thirty-three burials, including infants, were recovered from what is thought to have once been part of the main churchyard prior to southwards extension of the church in the later medieval period. Some of the burials were of the head-niche variety, dating them to not later than the 12th century. A linear feature running from the south-west corner of the Norman church to the southern end of the White Hart public house may have marked the precinct boundary.

John Bryant, BaRAS

Cannon Street, St James' Priory (BRSMG 2/1995) ST 58937349. An excavation was carried out on the site of a proposed office development. The site had to be totally excavated prior to development under the terms of the planning consent. It was hoped that the excavation would uncover the east end of the church of the Benedictine priory of St James which was founded *c.* 1129 by Robert, Earl of Gloucester as a cell of Tewkesbury Abbey. The nave and tower of the church survive in use to the present day, although the remainder of the priory buildings have almost entirely disappeared. Excavations in 1989 had uncovered part of the burial ground associated with the priory.

Although only ephemeral remains of the priory church were found within the area excavated, these all appeared to date to the 12th century and comprised the chancel, north transept and a possible side chapel in the angle between the chancel and the north transept. Head-niche burials, where the grave had been cut to shape to take the head and shoulders of the burial, extended throughout the excavated area to the north and east of the church and were the earliest burials on the site. They did not underlie the church and therefore appear to be no earlier than the church. Coffin burials extending north and east of the church were later in date than the head-niche burials and the cemetery may have continued in use until the Dissolution of the priory. In all cases, where a relationship could be determined, the coffin burials cut the head-niche burials. A total of 252 burials were excavated including those from the earlier excavation on the site. The graves contained only a few finds including pewter chalices, a jet pendant decorated with a cross, and two coins folded in half.

At a later date a wall was built to block the south transept of the priory church and this may have been associated with the conversion of the nave of the church to parochial use in 1374. Two burials in the chancel contained floor tiles within their fill and appear to be 14th or 15th century in date. An east-west wall, represented by a substantial robber trench across the north end of the site, overlies/cuts the burials and must be a later priory building. The construction of a stone-lined drain running north-west to south-east to the north of the chancel also appears to be late medieval in date.

After the Dissolution of the priory in 1540 evidence was found in the excavation for the demolition of walls and the robbing of the foundations of the priory buildings including the east end of the church, the north transept and side chapel and the major east-west wall across the northern part of the site. Pits were dug, presumably for the extraction of sand, and backfilled with rubbish and parts of the priory buildings including roof and floor tiles, architectural fragments and plaster.

During the late 16th and 17th centuries the site seems to have been used as gardens or agricultural land with continued sporadic demolition and robbing of the priory buildings. Rubbish pits containing fine groups of mid-17th to mid-18th century ceramics and other finds occurred randomly across the site, and these were presumably associated with occupation outside the area of the excavation, possibly Henry Brayne's mansion to the north which is known to have re-used the priory buildings, and other properties shown on Millerd's map of Bristol in 1673. The quality of the finds from these rubbish pits certainly indicates high-status households.

Documentary sources shown that Cannon Street was not laid out until at least 1744 and St James' Parade appears to be mid- to late- 18th century in date. The foundations of the mid-18th century houses on the Cannon Street frontage were excavated as were the rear of the properties fronting St James' Parade. These were associated with water tanks, stone-lined drains, courtyard boundary walls, rubbish pits and cultivation trenches. Various minor alterations were made to the houses and the stone-lined drains throughout the late 18th and 19th centuries while the rubbish pits were cleaned out and re-used.

In the mid 19th century some of the houses on St James' Parade and Cannon Street were demolished and replaced in 1855 by the Scottish Presbyterian Church. The foundations of the church and large pits for scaffolding associated with its construction were excavated and recorded. After thedestruction of the Scottish Presbyterian Church during the blitz in 1940 a Welsh Congregational Chapel, Sunday School and Meeting House were built on part of the site.

Reg Jackson, BaRAS

ST PAUL, *Houlton Street* (BRSMG 88/1994) ST 59727363. A watching brief during excavation of contaminated land on the site (partly evaluated in 1994, BaRAS Report BA/C103) revealed about two metres depth

of made ground, containing mainly 19th century finds, but also some of the 18th, probably redeposited. Similar results were obtained elsewhere on the site when service trenches were cut.

John Bryant, BaRAS

ST PHILIP & ST JACOB, *Former Sheldon Bush and Patent Shot Works, Cheese Lane* (BRSMG 5/1996) ST 59427291. A complex of recently-vacated 19th and 20th century industrial buildings associated with the production of lead were surveyed. The site was formerly occupied by Sir Abraham Elton's or St Philip's Glasshouse, and previously by limekilns.

Jon Brett, John Bryant, BaRAS

Avon Street, (BRSMG 37/1995) ST 59867265. Excavation of three trenches on a site adjacent to the Floating Harbour, close to the 1988 excavation of the Phoenix glassworks, uncovered evidence for two phases of building on the site, one possibly the buildings depicted by Rocque's map of 1742 and a second nineteenth-century phase, including a section of a nineteenth-century brick dock, a rebuilding of Cuckold's Pill. The trenches also revealed that the ground surface had been considerably raised close to the Avon.

Jon Brett, BaRAS

ST STEPHEN, *King Street* (BRSMG 9/1995) ST 58687272. Excavation beneath the former office building of Olivetti House revealed a length of the 13th century town wall known as the Marsh Wall. The wall, measuring 2.8m across and founded on a deposit of red gravelly sand, was constructed mostly of Brandon Hill Grit and bonded in a red sandy mortar.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

TEMPLE, *Temple Meads Railway Station* ST 59657230 & 59657248. A desktop study was carried out on two sites at Temple Meads prior to possible planning consent for an office development and two-storey car park on the land. The study showed that the two sites had been developed only since the 18th and 19th centuries with the construction of a cloth factory and the Victorian railway station and goods yards.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

Temple Church, Church Lane (BRSMG 46/1995) ST 49357272. A watching brief at the northern end of the churchyard revealed several late 18th-early 19th century brick burial vaults. All had been emptied during the 1960's when the churchyard was re-landscaped.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

Temple Quay (BRSMG 35/1995) ST 59537275. Excavations on the site of the former Rings Clay Tobacco Pipe manufactory for the Bristol Development Corporation located a number of floor surfaces and roughly-built walls. A steeply sloping brick and cobbled surface may have been a slipway or access to the Floating Harbour. The circular structures depicted on the 1884 Ordnance Survey 1:500 and interpreted as kilns were not located.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Temple Back (BRSMG 45/1995) ST 59577263. A single evaluation trench was excavated to the south-east of Temple Back *c.* 100m to the south of the Floating Harbour in order to locate the medieval Portwall and the associated defensive ditch. The trench measured 30m by 10m at the surface and was 5m deep.

The Portwall was 2m wide and stood to a height of 1.5m above what appeared to be the foundation courses. It had survived to within 1m of the modern ground surface (to 9.6m OD). The northern part of the Portwall had been destroyed by a very large deep cut (to below 6m AOD) for a concrete base for a large metal upright associated with the 1926 covered goods yard and also a pile from the 1984 factory.

The defensive ditch in its later development was more than 10m wide and cut from an alluvial ground surface of 17th century date lying at around 7.6m-7.7m OD. The western edge lay 3.5m-4m to the east of the Portwall. The eastern side was not found owing to the presence of a substantial stone-built sewer, but must lie at least 14m to the east of the Portwall. The trench was excavated 1m further down into the ditch deposits (deeper excavation was not practical for reasons of safety) but no artefacts earlier than the 17th century were found. Part of a recut was observed, but no dating evidence was found for this feature. Permanent waterlogging would seem to occur below *c.* 6.2m OD.

Following abandonment in the 17th century, the ditch was allowed to silt up. A large stone-lined sewer was constructed down the east side of the ditch in the late 18th century and the area was buried under *c.* 2.5m of landfill in the early 19th century. During the landfill operation, the Portwall was truncated to its present height. The landfill included large dumps of wasters from the Redware pottery located *c.* 100m to the north-west.

Nick Tavener, BaRAS

Victoria Street (BRSMG 67/1995) ST 59357274. Excavation work carried out on part of the proposed development area in 1974 by Bristol Museum (BRSMG BT/74) showed that the medieval soil profile existed in a fairly good state of preservation *c.* 50-80m to the east of Victoria Street, and that it contained a complex stratigraphy of rubbish pits, occupation layers and structures. The 1995 evaluation was intended to locate the medieval ground surface and soil profile in the area around the 1974 excavation.

The evaluation encompassed the garden area behind 76-98 Victoria Street some 100m to the south of the 13th century Temple Church. At the time of the evaluation the area was a derelict waste land. Three evaluation trenches were excavated in the garden area and two smaller trenches were excavated by machine within the footprint of

No 98; these latter showed that the building was cellared.

The medieval ground surface was found in all three trenches excavated in the garden area. It was the top of a natural alluvial soil and was extant until buried under landfill during redevelopment of the area in the late 17th century, when the surface was raised by *c.* 2m. Part of a building dating to this redevelopment was found in the north-easternmost trench, and a complex of stone and brick drains were found just to the south. Part of an early post-medieval wall was found in Trench 9 bisected by several later drains.

Nick Tavener, BaRAS

Temple Gate, Portwall Lane East, (BRSMG 88/1996) ST 5942972413. Three trial trenches were excavated as part of an evaluation of land between the Grosvenor Hotel and George and Railway public house. A trench to the north of the hotel produced 14th century Bristol/Redcliffe ware pottery within a robber trench, indicating the possible presence of the Austin Friary in this area. A trench beneath the arches of the former Victoria Street rail bridge revealed a possible medieval pathway and traces of the Portwall ditch. Later features included a 17th century wall and drain, probably associated with the George Inn. A trench in Portwall Lane East revealed the north face of the Portwall beneath the pavement on the south side of the lane. Surfaces abutting the wall produced finds of early 13th century Bristol/Redcliffe ware pottery suggesting several phases of an intramural lane.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

Rose Street/Pipe Lane (BRSMG 92/1996) ST 5950072500. An evaluation was carried out as a follow-up to previous BaRAS evaluations prior to the redevelopment of Quay Point for office, retail and leisure usage. A length of the 13th century Portwall was revealed beneath the north end of Pipe Lane. The wall had been utilised in later cellars, and this included the blocking of an entrance to a semi-circular bastion, the exterior face of which had been exposed in the 1994 evaluation. A further evaluation trench at the southern end of Pipe Lane revealed the wall continuing along the line of the lane. This corroborated with cartographic evidence depicting Pipe Lane or 'Back Avon Walk' as an intra-mural lane.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

The Civil War Redoubt, Temple Quay, (BRSMG 92/1996) ST 5960072690. An excavation was commissioned on the site of a Civil War gun battery, known as a Redoubt, prior to the construction of the new Bristol & West headquarters. This was known to exist both from cartographic evidence and from previous evaluation and excavation work on the site of the medieval Tower Harratz. Documentary and cartographical sources from the Civil War period onwards still refer to it as Tower Harratz, although excavation revealed the Redoubt to be a 17th century construction overlying, and extending eastwards from, the demolished medieval round tower. In plan it was an elongated 'V' shape, and contained a number of blocked openings for cannon and musket loops.

The Redoubt was constructed in two phases, the first of which re-used a medieval wall running at right angles to the Portwall on the north side of Tower Harratz. This wall was previously unknown, and may well have been designed to prevent entry on to the berm between the Portwall and its external defensive ditch. South of this wall, within the first phase of the Redoubt, lay a narrow subterranean passageway with steps leading down to a blocked doorway at the eastern end. This may have related either to sluice gates on the ditch, or a sally port - both of which are referred to by documentary sources in the vicinity of Tower Harratz. The second phase of the Redoubt was an eastward extension which seems likely to have involved the culverting or the partial diversion of the Portwall Ditch.

During the course of the excavation the medieval Portwall was revealed continuing northwards from Tower Harratz down to the river. This had subsequently been repaired in the Civil War, and was re-used and extended in later industrial buildings.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

Temple Quay (BRSMG 92/1996) ST 5960072690. Further excavation work commissioned prior to the redevelopment of Quay Point revealed the continuation of the Portwall along with a further tower or bastion, indicated in cartographical sources, which also proved to be a 'Watergate'. This was similar to a structure found at Broad Quay in 1979 (R Price, BAA 1991, 24-28), with a large arched entrance adjacent to a small sally port. The sally port led into a small internal complex, with a small chamber (possibly for an archer) to the south, and an archway through the Portwall to the west. The sally port had been blocked during the Civil War, and another sally port constructed to the south.

To the immediate north of the Watergate the remnants of steps leading up to a wall-top walk were discovered on the inside of the Portwall. To the south of Tower Harratz the remains of a vaulted chamber containing an arrow loop were revealed within the Portwall, at the medieval ground level, with a view over the external defensive ditch.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

WESTBURY ON TRYM, *Southmead Baptist Church* (BRSMG 07/1996) ST 58667834. In January 1996 the commencement of groundworks for the construction of flats on the site of the Southmead Baptist Church necessitated an archaeological watching brief. This work only produced 20th century material and evidence of 20th century landscaping associated with the construction of the church in the 1930's.

Peter Insole, BaRAS

Red Maids' School, Westbury Road (BRSMG 90/1996) ST 573769. A recording exercise carried out during

construction of a new Sports Hall adjacent to the presumed line of a Roman road, produced evidence of four small pits and similar features cut into the natural substratum. No evidence of dating or function was obtained. A few sherds of Romano-British Severn Valley ware and some post-medieval redware were recovered from unstratified contexts. (SMR 20004)

Adrian Parry, AAU

NORTH SOMERSET

BANWELL, *West Street,* ST 393593. An evaluation of vacant land between the County School and Methodist Church on the south side of West Street was undertaken in 1995. This discovered a medieval pit, other possible medieval features, and the remains of a post-medieval building fronting the street. A watching brief during groundworks in 1996 revealed further features of post-medieval/early-modern date and an undated well and a drain.

Alan Thomas & Alistair Barber, CAT

CLAVERHAM, *6-8 High Street, Claverham,* ST 447662. A comprehensive photographic survey of two adjoining cottages and outbuildings, including a bakery, of possible medieval origins was carried out as part of a programme of refurbishment and redevelopment. The photographic archive showing structural details revealed after the removal of more recent rendering and storm damage is lodged within North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 8984).

Jonathan Erskine, AAU

HAM GREEN, *The Grove, Ham Green Hospital,* ST 530754. An archaeological evaluation was carried out on a site at Ham Green Hospital in advance of the submission of a planning application for residential development. A geophysical survey had previously recorded linear and sub-circular subterranean features in the vicinity of the medieval pottery manufacturing site of Ham Green. The evaluation trenches were opened on the site of The Grove, a house shown as existing on the 1836 Tithe map, still surviving in 1927. A masonry cellar with access steps was located. An adjacent boundary ditch contained, among other types, pottery of 16th to late 17th century date of local manufacture, but all medieval Ham Green Wares were very abraded and are considered residual. Some possible kiln lining material was recovered, but no other evidence of pottery manufacture. Significantly, a large proportion of the ceramics were of high quality and were imported from South West France, The Rhineland, Spain, Italy and Portugal. Local wares included Bristol stoneware and slipware and the products of North Devon and Somerset. (SMR 40,200).

Donna Yorkston, AAU

LONG ASHTON, *Ashton Court* (BRSMG 84/1995) ST 558717. A watching brief during the laying of a pipeline at Ashton Court revealed that 18th and 19th century landscaping had removed the majority of the surviving archaeology to the south of Ashton Court mansion.

Peter Insole, BaRAS

Yanley, ST 556705. A desk assessment identified an undated cropmark (SMR 9628) which may be of geological origin, and three early modern coal-mine shafts. Fieldwalking identified further evidence for the coal shafts, but no trace of any ancillary buildings.

Dawn Enright, CAT

NAILSEA, *Engine Lane,* ST 45806970. Fifteen trial trenches were excavated as part of a site evaluation. An air photograph of 1991 (NSSMR 9094) revealed cropmarks of which the central feature appeared to represent a possible prehistoric ring-ditch surrounded by a system of parallel banks or pit alignments. There was no evidence, however, for these apparent cropmarks in the ground. They may have been anomalies caused by ploughing, enhanced by the shallow depth of the natural rock. The only finds were two sherds of abraded Romano-British pottery, a sherd of 12th century pottery and a sherd of 19th century transfer-printed earthenware.

Georgina Finn, BaRAS

PORTBURY, *Old Barn* ST 49867537. A trench immediately south of Old Barn, thought to be part of the estate of the medieval Portbury Priory, found two gullies, both probably natural. The survey of a small rectangular building south of Old Barn revealed that it is medieval in date. A small arched feature in the west wall of the building may have been a laver (wash basin).

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Land adjacent to St Mary's Church, ST 505750. An evaluation revealed 1st or 2nd century ditches, a posthole and a stone wall, 110m east of where Roman occupation had been found in 1972. Overlying Roman deposits was a medieval flagged surface and stone-lined drain. The latest features found were post-medieval walls and surfaces which are probably associated with the nearby farm.

Clifford Bateman, CAT

PORTISHEAD, *Portbury Park,* ST 471761. A desktop study carried out prior to the submission of a planning application on two adjacent sites in East Portishead, the abandoned Albright and Wilson phosphorous plant, and land to the west of Moor Farm, produced evidence of the development of Portishead Dock and adjacent areas from approximately 1867 onwards. The main development occurred during World War I with the construction of petroleum refinery storage and distribution facilities, especially for the military, and later in 1952 with the construction of a phosphorous plant which was closed in

1970 apart from storage.

The fields at Moor Farm had some indication of ridge and furrow, but appear to have been used wholly for pasture in recent times. No archaeologically significant details were recorded from this area, but there is the possibility of archaeological deposits being sealed below the Holocene alluvium, as proved in similar sites north of the River Avon. (SMR 40275).

Rod Burchill, AAU

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ALMONDSBURY, *Highdene, Cribbs Causeway* (BRSMG 38/1996) ST 57208045. An archaeological desk-based assessment, prior to planning approval, of a plot of land at Highdene, Cribbs Causeway, showed that there was likely to be no significant archaeological remains on the site. Documentary research revealed that the site had always been open land and lay 1 km from the medieval ysettlement of Charlton.

Peter Insole, BaRAS

BRADLEY STOKE, *Hawkins Crescent* (BRSMG 102 & 103/1996) ST 62008726/ST 62308155. Two archaeological evaluations carried out in December 1996 prior to two adjacent housing developments at Bradley Stoke revealed no significant archaeological features or finds.

Peter Insole, BaRAS

Bradley Stoke Way (BRSMG 10/1995) ST 62908100. Trial trenching on the site of a housing development revealed post-holes, beam slots and walls of Romano-British date. Finds included Late-Iron Age and Romano-British pottery.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Great Meadow ST 62908100. Following field evaluation of the Great Meadow, limited funding was given for a watching brief during the groundwork stage of the development. This revealed that a settlement of Romano-British date was located in a zone running roughly north-south through the centre of the development area. The vast majority of the eastern and western sides of the area were fairly sterile and were probably part of the field system. Several stone-lined drains were noted. Most would appear to have been post-medieval in origin, but some were possibly contemporary with the earlier settlement; this was not proved. Four inhumations were excavated. All would appear to have been adults, and two were interned lying on their backs whilst two were buried facing downwards. One of these latter appeared to have been buried without its head. Several pits and hearths were investigated, and trial trenches were placed across two field boundary ditches. All features were cut through a relic silty clay loam topsoil c0.2m deep that lay under the modern topsoil. Four roughly circular paved areas were noted. These were very rich in artefacts and were possibly associated with structures.

A quantity of pottery dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries was recovered. No metal finds were recovered during the watching brief, but six bronze brooches and several bronze coins were handed in by metal detectorists.

Nick Tavener, BaRAS

MANGOTSFIELD, *Emersons Green, Westerleigh/Frampton Cotterell/Pucklechurch.* ST 666785. A desk assessment and evaluation was undertaken between August and September 1996, bounded by the M4 motorway, the A4174 Avon Ring Road, the Westerleigh Road (Area A) and two fields to the east of the Westerleigh Road (Area C).

The desk assessment revealed four sites - SGSMR 7131: an area of common land called Sherman's Green, Sherman's Green Farm, post-medieval in date (SGSMR 7134), the parish boundary between Frampton Cotterell and Mangotsfield, marked by a boundary stone on the 1881 OS plan but not now surviving, and SGSMR 7126 a field called Cynder Hill, recorded in the Frampton Cotterell Tythe Award (1845) possibly suggesting an area of industrial activity.

A total of sixty-three trenches were excavated but nearly all were devoid of archaeological remains. Three trenches adjacent to Sherman's Green farm house revealed 18th century sherds of pottery. The house was in a derelict state and was recorded three-dimensionally and shown to contain three phases of building and rebuilding between the 18th and the early 19th century.

Georgina Finn, BaRAS

Church Farm, Emersons Green (BRSMG 53/1996) ST 669766. After a desktop study by Jonathan Erskine a programme of archaeological evaluation, building recording and salvage excavation was carried out at Church Farm prior to the redevelopment of the site for roads and housing as part of Emersons Green Village. Three ruinous major buildings with their associated outbuildings were cleared of rubble and recorded photographically and by measured drawings. The results of the evaluation merited further excavation prior to demolition. The residential farmhouse (Building 2), appears to have its origins in an 11th century timber building, replaced by the 14th century in masonry. This house was later remodelled in the 16th-17th centuries and underwent continuous refurbishment until the 20th century. It is known to have been the residence of the Mine Manager of Mangotsfield Collieries (Church Farm Collieries) in 1881. The mine, despite its Cornish Engine closed in 1891, and the land it is assumed reverted to agriculture, possibly with the Church Farm buildings until the late 20th century. Two ditches of Romano-British date were located below the farmhouse. The barns, Buildings 1 and 3, and outhouses, probably stables appear to be of 16th to 17th century date at the earliest. Ten coins were recovered from the site ranging from a sixpence of Elizabeth I (1602), to a farthing of Victoria of 1865. (SMR 11002).

Lynn Hume and Jens Samuel, AAU

Land off Cossham Street, (Hamlet XIII), Emersons Green (BRSMG 87/1996) ST 668763. A partial geophysical survey, prior to the submission of a planning application for residential development of a disused school playing field off Cossham Street, Mangotsfield, provided evidence of rectilinear subterranean features and other anomalies. In order to characterise and date these features, two phased archaeological evaluation exercises were carried out on the site. Forth-six trenches were opened, targeted on the anomalies and their possible extensions. The features proved to be boundary ditches of two Romano-British enclosures, with a parallel ditched feature to the south, possibly a trackway. A wide distribution of miscellaneous archaeological features was located over the site, including pits, postholes, ditches and banks, with one stone coffin with the cover broken but largely complete, with a surviving skeleton. This site is immediately adjacent to a similar exercise on Hamlet XII. In the light of these evaluation results, a further programme of total excavation of the northern part of the site was commenced in June 1997. (SMR 11017).

Adrian Parry, AAU

Wick Wick Farm, Richmond Farm (Area A North), Emersons Green (BRSMG 76/1996) ST 661787/ST 667778. Thirteen evaluation trenches were opened in the areas of the two farms and archaeological observations were also made on the lines of the roads as they were stripped of topsoil. The results of the programme were almost entirely negative. Some modern horticultural building foundations were located at Wick Wick Farm and the possible medieval earthworks at Richmond Farm had been severely damaged by recent earthmoving activity. (SMR 11010).

Rob Curtis, AAU

Emersons Green, Church Farm (BRSMG 53/1996) ST 676765. In a desktop study carried out prior to the submission of a planning application, this site and its adjoining fields was found to have been the centre of the late 19th century Mangotsfield Collieries (Church Farm Collieries) including Bullers (Deep) Pit and the Land Pit. The 1881 Cornish Engine House survives as a Listed Building on the site. Many other shafts had been suck on the site from at least the 17th century. There is also evidence of a colliery tramway leading south from Bullers Pit.

Preliminary research on the Church Farm agricultural buildings indicating a much earlier date, led to the recording and excavation programme noted above. (SMR 11002)

Jonathan Erskine, AAU

Emersons Green (Hamlets VII and VIII Access Roads), ST 671768. Four evaluation trenches opened on the line of the access roads provided evidence of a small collection of late prehistoric pottery and flint artefacts from uncharacterised soil features. One group of four undated postholes in Trench 3 in Hamlet VIII probably represented a rectangular timber structure. (SMR 11042).

Lynn Hume, AAU

Emersons Green (Hamlet XII), ST 670762. An evaluation programme of twenty-eight trenches conducted prior to residential redevelopment on Hamlet XII of Emersons Green Village located extensive archaeological remains. These included ditches which were probably easterly extensions of the features excavated in Hamlet XIII, and also evidence of late Prehistoric activity of the Bronze and Iron Ages. This last comprised well preserved pottery, possibly associated with a settlement or funerary site. Preliminary pottery dating indicates a date of *c.* 1500BC with later Iron Age examples. The Romano-British features, truncated by later agriculture, include ditches, gullies, beam slots and postholes, indicating the presence of timber buildings associated with the enclosures. The pottery was mainly 2nd-4th century, with some earlier sherds. (SMR 11042).

Lynn Hume, AAU

STOKE GIFFORD, *land off Harry Stoke Road* (BRSMG 59/1996) ST 623789. Forty-two trial trenches were opened in an area of pastureland prior to the submission of a planning application. Over the area of some 6 ha., seventeen trenches produced evidence of significant archaeological deposits, artefacts or features. These included evidence of post-medieval agriculture and, more importantly, medieval settlement and agricultural features associated with the Hamlet of Harry Stoke within Stoke Gifford parish. There was also a significant amount of artefacts and features dated to the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age periods. The Early Bronze Age is represented mainly in Trench 4 by an assemblage of flint tools and debitage and decorated Beaker pottery. The structures containing the finds were slight ditches or pits which could not be further characterised in an evaluation scenario. Dr Ann Woodward describes the pottery as 'Final Neolithic 2200-2000 BC', including pieces decorated with comb and bird-bone impressions. V J Russett's analysis of the flints included five scrapers of Beaker period and an arrowhead among other identifiable tools. The earthworks, previously recorded by R Iles were investigated, but produced little evidence apart from a cobbled trackway and some ditches containing infrequent pottery of the 12th to 18th centuries. A further stone wall of the medieval period was located in Trench 1, dating probably from the 13th century or earlier, forming part of a building. (SMR 11006).

Jens Samuel, AAU

THORNBURY, *The Vicarage, Castle Street* (BRSMG 30/1995) ST 6636 9051. Three trenches were excavated on a plot adjacent to the Vicarage, Thornbury, which revealed several features. A shallow post-hole cut by a gully dating to the twelfth-century was succeeded by a number of other

pits and gullies, including a possible hearth ranging in date from the eleventh-century to the eighteenth. A scaled photographic survey was made of a rubble boundary wall fronting Castle Street, the earliest phase of which is likely to be of medieval date. In addition, surviving evidence of a formal garden layout (notably the remains of a folly) dating to the nineteenth century was noted.

Jon Brett, BaRAS

The Hatch, Castle Street, ST 63459045. An evaluation revealed eight postholes, probably of later post-medieval or modern date, and likely to represent activity associated with horticulture or agriculture.

Dawn Enright, CAT