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CONTENTS	Page
Excavations on the Medieval Waterfront at Bridge Parade, Bristol, 1998. <i>Simon Cox</i>	1
Abbot's Leigh - a 1st/2nd Century Romano-British site. <i>Keith S Gardner</i>	27
Medieval and Post-medieval structures at the Victoria Methodist Church, High Street, Keynsham. <i>Clifford Bateman and Dawn Enright</i>	33
Radford-juxta-Leigh. <i>Keith S Gardner</i>	45
Two medieval buildings in Woollard, Publow, North-East Somerset. <i>Barbara Bowes</i>	47
The Wansdyke Diktat: A Discussion Paper. <i>Keith S Gardner</i>	57
Work of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust in Avon, 1993-1998: from sites to landscapes. <i>Edited by Martin Locock</i>	67
Review of Archaeology 1998. <i>Edited by Bruce Williams</i>	71

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EXCAVATIONS ON THE MEDIEVAL WATERFRONT AT BRIDGE PARADE, BRISTOL, 1999

by Simon Cox

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological mitigation work was commissioned by Knightstone Housing Association on the site of a new building offering sheltered accommodation for young unemployed people. Known as the Bristol Foyer, this building was to be located immediately adjacent to the south east corner of Bristol Bridge at NGR ST 59040 72890 in the parish of St. Thomas (Fig.1). The site was bounded to the north by the Floating Harbour, west by Bridge Parade, east by Courages Brewery and south by Bath Street and the remnants of former Tucker Street. The purpose of the mitigation work was to record the surface archaeology so that the piled foundations of the Foyer Building could be designed to minimize damage to significant archaeological structures. There was no scope for the examination of archaeological features and deposits to determine the date and nature of the structures revealed. The work was undertaken between 7th September and 30th October 1998 by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services. Thanks are extended to Quattro Design, Ove Arup and Partners, Rod Burchill, Julie Jones, Bob Jones and Bruce Williams the Project Manager. The site staff were Patrick Watson (Finds and recording supervisor), David Mullins, Andrew King, John Turner, Raymond Ducker, Andrea Cox, Pippa Gilbert, John Boon, Ally Kennen, Reg Jackson and to the numerous volunteers. The historical background was contributed by John Bryant and Kieran Costello. The illustrations were produced by Davina Ware.

METHODOLOGY

A requirement to retain excavated material on site, combined with the small size of the site led to a decision to carry out the archaeological work in three phases. This sequence allowed the entire area of the site to be recorded while satisfying the need for storage of the spoil. To expose the archaeology, the tarmacadam and concrete surfaces and the material overlying it were removed by mechanical excavator. The archaeological features were cleaned by hand, recorded and levelled relative to Ordnance Survey datum. With the exception of the removal of likely obstructions to piling (see below), there was no further archaeological excavation.

During the fieldwork regular review meetings were held to discuss the proposed locations of the piles on which the new building would be founded. Each pile was positioned relative to the archaeological features, and where pile disturbance was likely to impinge upon structural archaeological features, the piles were either moved to an

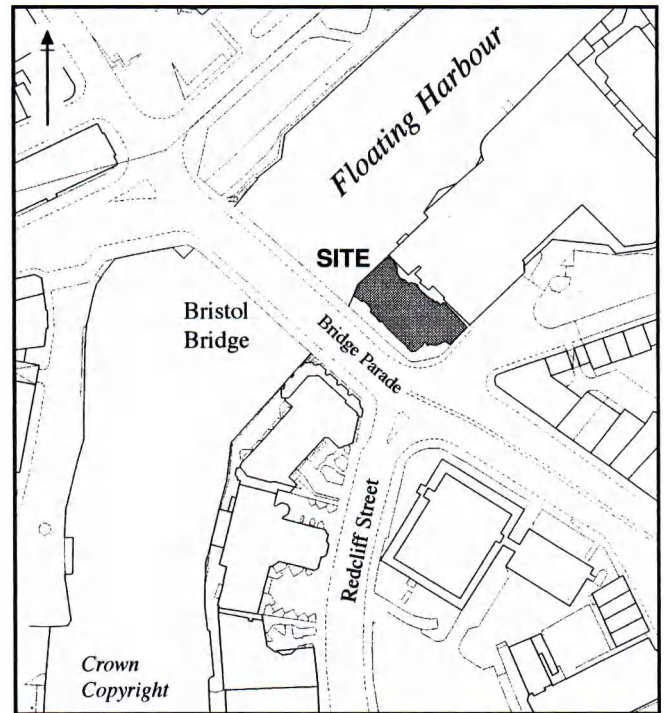


Fig.1 Site location plan

alternative position or the archaeology was recorded and removed.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Figs.2-6)

Few archaeological sites in the region can be regarded with equal or greater importance than that of the original river crossing that gave its name to the Saxon settlement of Brycg Stowe (Bristol), a town whose port was second only to that of London during the medieval period. The site lies immediately to the south east of the current triple-arched crossing built in the 1760's and widened in the 19th century. Prior to this there was a bridge of four arches more or less on the same alignment, erected immediately after the diversion of the Frome channel in 1247. The identification of the site of the original Saxon crossing place remains one of the most important questions in Bristol archaeology. This bridge is first mentioned in a charter of Henry II, c1164-70 (Harding 1930,4), although obviously it must have been as old as the name Brigstow - the place by the bridge. Discussion in recent years has focused on a possible crossing between Hawkins Lane (the continuation of Temple Street) and Dolphin Street (Good 1991, 29). Currently, however, it is believed the crossing may have lain



Fig.2 Speed's plan of Bristol, 1610

closer to the present site. A detailed documentary study of the interrelationships between properties of Redcliff Street and Tucker Street indicates a probable crossing at or near this point (Dr. R. Leech, *pers com*).

Whilst the original settlement of Bristol grew up on the northern banks of the Avon in the Saxon period, development was also occurring on the southern side of the river from the 12th century in the suburb of Redcliffe, which was to eventually rival Bristol in size and importance. The two had combined by the 13th century to form the focus of the present city. The present site lay entirely within the parish of St. Thomas, probably established not long after the martyrdom of Thomas à Beckett in 1170. Although it enjoyed certain parochial rights and was regarded as a parish church, St. Thomas was a chapelry of Bedminster until 1852 (Kirby 1970, 176).

Tucker Street as a thoroughfare is presumably contemporary with the first Bristol Bridge. Fulling or tucking was one of the processes in cloth making, and required treading or beating for the purpose of cleansing and thickening it. Fuller's earth, a hydrous silicate of alumina, was used in the cleansing. An undated grant from the reign of Henry III (Braikenridge Collection, 7) mentions land with buildings in Touker Street (in Vico Fullonum). The area was a centre for tucking or fulling by the 13th century at least. Due to the water supply requirements, this was more likely to have taken place on the northern side of the street. Associated industries are recorded in the street later, including dyeing and soapmaking in the 16th and 17th centuries. Some of these operations were based within the present area. There is a possibility that the upper or northern leg of Tucker Street (see Fig.5) was originally on the wharf, also that it may have functioned as part of a quay, in the manner that Broad Quay did after the River Frome was diverted from St. Stephens through St. Augustine's Marsh in 1240.

The Great Red Book of Bristol contains a record, dated

1285, in which Thomas de Berkeley is noted as Tenant in Capite of a part of Fuller's Street (Veale 1931, 164). One of the St. John's deeds, dated 1295 (no. 559) refers to 'the street of the Fullers' - the property involved may be the plot immediately east of Scarlet or Westbury Lane, which was the only plot in Tucker Street held by St. John's Parish in later times. A further entry in the Great Red Book (18th April 1331) refers to two tenements and their appurtenances 'in Vico Fullonum', formerly held by Henry Vynypenny (Veale 1937, 189). Other 14th-century records mention messuages, tenements, halls and shops in what is by now usually called Tucker Street. Seven messuages together 'in Toukerstret' belonged to the Carthusian Priory at Witham in 1382 (Veale *ibid.*, 196). Four halls 'in Fuller's Street' in 1387, granted to the priory at Witham by Alan Wryngton (Veale 1933, 211), probably occupied the same area as the later plot of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral (see Blee, AB2/A12). An entry in the Little Red Book refers to the Ordinances for the Drapers, made 44 Edward III: every draper was to put his cloths on sale every Saturday in 'Touker Street', the place assigned for that purpose, and nowhere else, on pain of a penalty (Bickley 1900, 54).

Cartographic representations of Tucker Street from Speed (1610) onwards depict a Z-shape (see Fig.2). Speed cannot be relied upon, but the development along the north bank of the Avon is more advanced than that of the quayside to the south and east of the bridge. The properties that form the site are in place by this time, with empty quayside behind, suggesting the river frontage being used as a wharfage area throughout the Tudor period.

In his will of 30 March 1405, John Canynges left a considerable amount of property, amongst which were four shops, two halls, and a hall with shop, plus other, unspecified property all in 'Toukerstret' (Wadley 1886, 77). A later will, that of Thomas Yonge in 1426, refers to two conjoining properties where rents and services were due from John Brewere and John Forde, dyer (Wadley, 115). Tuckers still dwelt in the street in the 15th century, as is

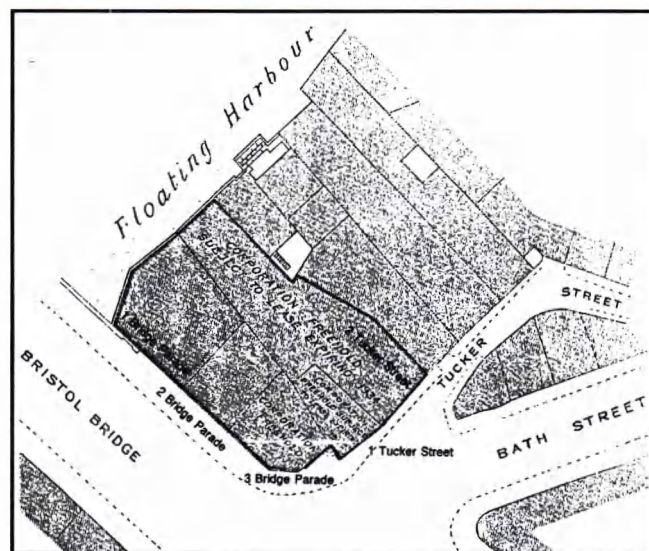
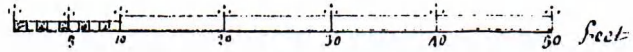
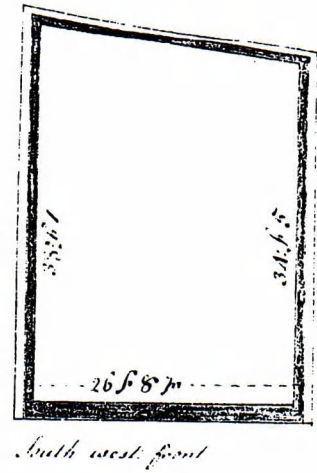
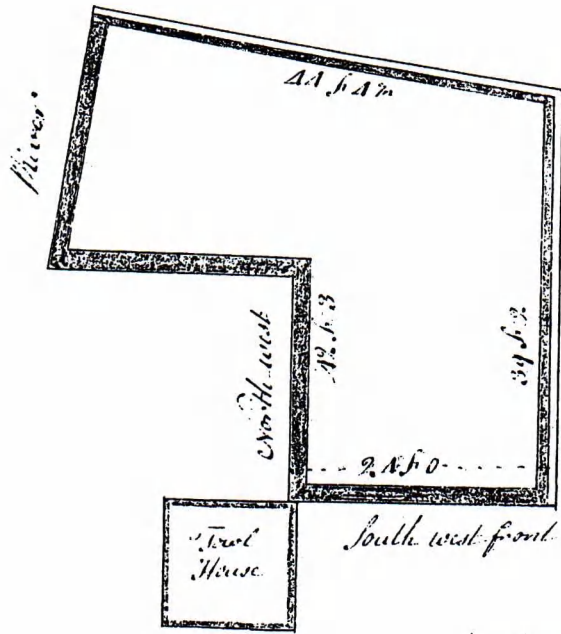
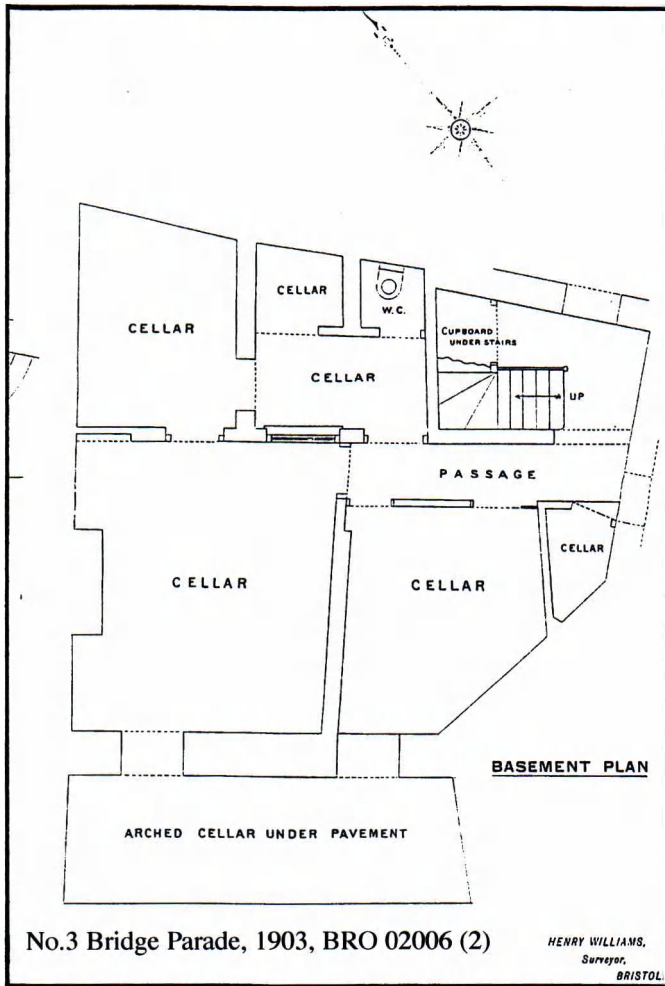


Fig.3 The properties on the site in the early 20th century

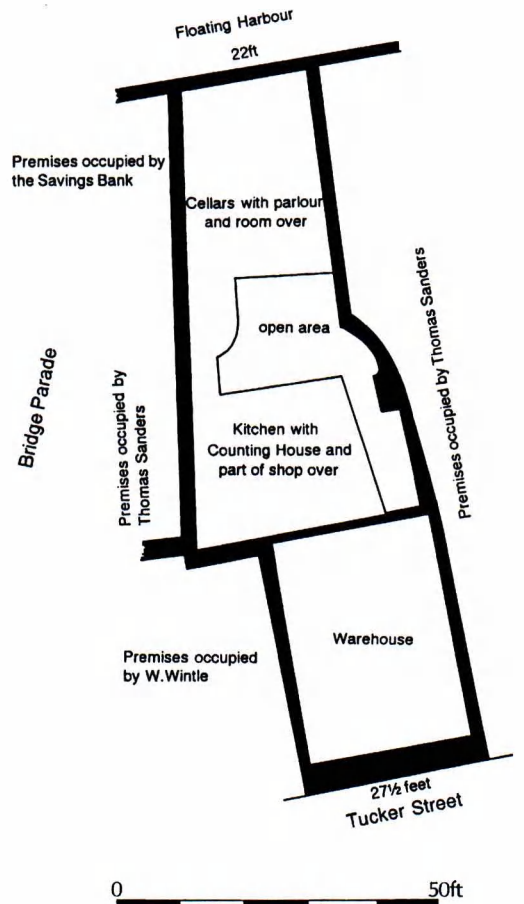


No.1 Bridge Parade, 1770, BRO 07900 (2)

No.2 Bridge Parade, 1770, BRO 10260 (2)



No.3 Bridge Parade, 1903, BRO 02006 (2)



No.2 Tucker Street, Undated, BRO 04479?3?117a (ii)

Fig.4 Plans of individual tenements, held in the Bristol Record Office

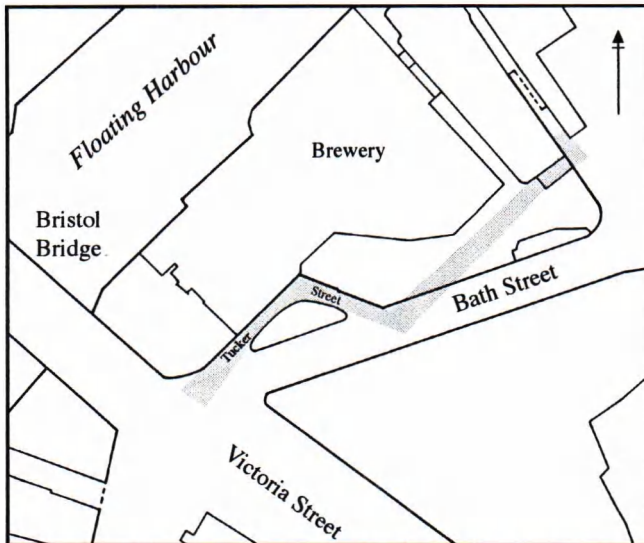


Fig.5 Tucker Street, superimposed on a 1966 plan

illustrated by references in various documents (Wadley, 129 & 131, etc.).

Towards the close of the century more general references start to appear. William Worcestre, c1480, noted that 'Touker-strete' was 360 paces in length with a width at the end of Bristol Bridge of 14 paces (Dallaway 1834, 31, 49). Adams Chronicle records that the street was newly paved in 1490 (Fox 1910, 77). In the audits the payments of rents for the premises in Tucker Street are listed under the heading of Lord Lisle's Lands. The City was granted Lord Lisle's Lands and Temple Fee by letters Patent on 9 July 1544 (BRO 01232).

The Great Red Book contains reference to a bargain and sale of February, 1543, involving a messuage or tenement and garden, fronting 'Toker Street' and extending backwards to the Haven (Veale 1953, 115).

Surviving deeds for St. Thomas lands include one for November, 1636, mentioning a messuage and dyehouse next to the dwelling house in Tucker Street of Matthew Warren, decd. (Feoffment 4). It is not now possible to identify this location. An inventory taken in 1616 records the contents of a dyehouse, also in Tucker Street, late of Hugh Watkins, deceased, but then occupied by Edward Jackson, dyer (BRO Inventories, 1617/66). The section dealing with the 'diehouse' includes 'one doble doare to the slippe' and reference to a well.

Tax assessments and rate books for St. Thomas parish survive from the late-17th century onwards, although many of the earlier examples are not sub-divided by street name. The Land Tax returns for 1699 and 1700, which are so divided, record Sir Thomas Day's Sopehouse (sic) at a location approximately corresponding with the south-western edge of the present site. It is not known if the soaphouse had any connection with Thomas Hancock, soapmaker, mentioned in a quitclaim of 1649 as being tenant of a tenement on the north side of Tucker street, extending back to the 'River of Avon' (BRO 6608(6)). This was probably

No.2 Tucker Street, which was being leased by a Leonard Hancock, soapboiler in 1657 (see below).

The churchwardens' records for St. Thomas refer to 'the manner and form for the building of the corner house at the Bridge end' between Joseph Rosser, carpenter who was to take down the old corner messuage and replace with two messuages (BRO: P/St T/Ch 3/14 and 15). This was on 12th February 1712. More houses at the south end of the Bridge were demolished in 1716 (P/St T/Ch 13/24). There are other references to rebuilding houses at this time (CH 13/17 and 23). The rental of town lands (BRO 04117) lists a house at the end of the Bridge belonging to William Jenkins, grocer.

During the rebuilding of the bridge in the 1760's the old piers were examined to see if they could support the new superstructure. Workmen reported the finding of a 'sell' of oak approximately one foot square and 40 feet long, with two uprights approximately nine inches square and eight to nine feet high morticed into the 'sell' in the middle of the 'Redcliffe pier' on the south bank of the river. It was believed to be the remains of the wooden bridge, walled up within the stone piers of the medieval bridge (Barrett 1789, 77). The Georgian bridge relieved congestion on the river crossing, only to transfer the problem elsewhere. The Main route to Bath still lay via Temple Street and gate, to which reasonable access could only be gained by way of Tucker Street. Blackamore's plan (CM M1671) shows the end of the street closest the bridge to have been just 10 feet (3.05m) wide, with the opposite end not much better at 14 feet (4.25m). In addition, in 1760 John Wood the Younger had stated that 'the Houses in Tucker-Street (I mean on the north side of it) are extremely bad and ruinous' (Wood 1760, 8).

As well as clearing away property, the Bridge trustees decided to cut a new thoroughfare between the southern end of the recently completed bridge and Temple Cross, at the northern end of Temple Street. Thomas Paty, Bristol's foremost architect, who had completed the design of the new Bridge after the departure of James Bridges, was handed the task. The terrace of houses at Nos. 3-17 Bath Street, designed by Thomas Paty (1712-1789), was built c1796 under the supervision of his son, William, who had joined the business in 1777. The Paty family was renowned locally, in particular for the ubiquitous articulated stone voussoirs that are so characteristic of Georgian domestic windows in Bristol. Pre-war photographs show Paty style buildings fronting Bridge Parade (Plate 6).

Of the properties on the site these had become established by the mid-18th century as 1, 2 and 3 Bridge Parade from the end of the Bridge to Tucker Street, 1 and 2 Tucker Street along the southern boundary (Figs.3, 4). No.1 Bridge Parade was sold by the Bridge Trustees to Robert Gay, builder and Daniel Hague on 2 May 1770. The northern and southern boundary walls of No.2 Bridge Parade were revealed during the 1996 evaluation of the site (Tavener 1996), whilst a basement plan of No.3 survives from an auction of 1903 (Fig.4).

No.1 Tucker Street was first leased to Christopher Wroxham on 16th June 1726, and subsequently to a variety

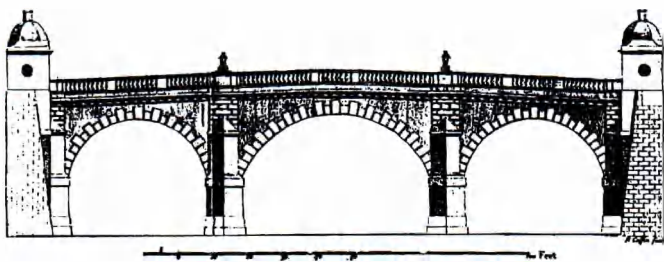
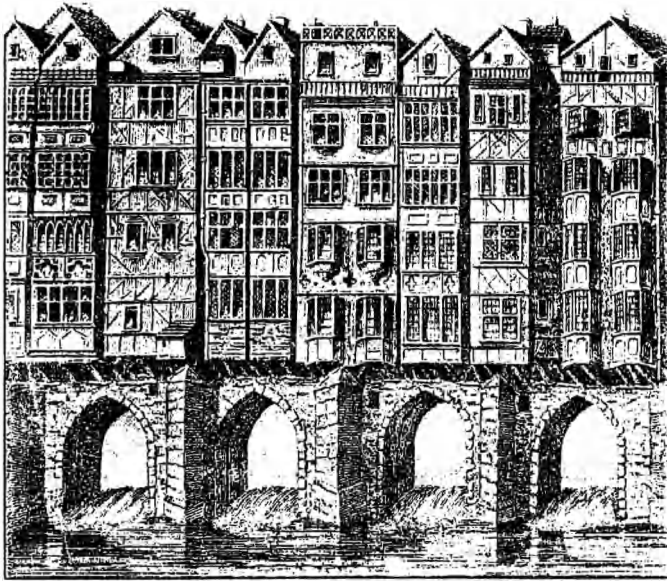


Fig.6 Illustrations of Bristol Bridge - the medieval bridge and the 1760's structure

of merchants such as butchers, apothecaries, cordwainers, upholsterers, haberdashers and linen drapers. No.2 Tucker Street was described in the city rental (BRO 09082(2) folio 835) as a house and warehouse. The first lease on this folio was to Thomas Sanders, seedsman, from 22nd May 1790. A plan in one of the City's rental plan books (BRO 04479/3/117a(ii)) clearly indicates a cellar fronting the Floating Harbour (Fig.4). The earliest leases referred to in the bargain books from 1634 to 1646 (BRO 04335 (2), folio 126) relate to one James Dyer. It was later leased by a soapboiler, Leonard Hancock on 22nd September 1657 (BRO 0433 folio 39), whose lease described the property as 'all that one messuage or tenement now enjoyed as two'.

Other industries active during the post-medieval period included brewing, distilling and sugar-refining. Numerous premises on both sides of Tucker Street were in use as warehouses, lofts and cellars by the 18th century.

Engravings from the late 18th/early 19th century record transshipment from river vessels to the adjacent brewery. Other businesses are likely to have moved raw materials or finished products similarly, so that evidence for quays or wharfs may be found at any point on the present or earlier

waterfronts. In view of the survival of such features on the downstream side of Bristol Bridge, there is every possibility of timber structures surviving on the present site, particularly within the permanently waterlogged ground expected from about 6m AOD downwards.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Bristol Bridge is the one Scheduled Ancient Monument in the vicinity of the site. It is also included in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, where it is listed Grade II. The remaining part of the terrace on the south side of Bath Street is given the same grade.

Bristol's Urban Archaeological Database (BUAD) notes the discovery of finds of Bronze Age date at the southern end of the bridge (BUAD 50). A palstave was found at 'Bristol Bridge, Bath Street' in 1874 (Pritchard 1904, 329). Possibly at the same time, a fragment of a sword blade was also found (Pritchard). Also described are a palstave and an axe, 'found many years since during operations connected with the widening of Bristol Bridge', although it cannot now be certain at which end they were found.

An excavation at the north end of Bristol Bridge in 1975 (Price 1979) revealed the possible remains of a pier and walling of the 1247 bridge in association with another wall, possibly part of the medieval quay. Combined with an original elevation of the 1760's rebuild (Fig.6), showing the piers of the 1247 bridge in relation to the new one, a tentative argument was put forward for the location of the new bridge on the line of the previous one.

Medieval waterfront sites have been excavated at various locations downstream of Bristol Bridge, and these all exhibited evidence of successive phases of medieval and later reclamation, including the construction of stone or timber revetments. Archaeological excavation close to the south-western corner of Bristol Bridge took place in 1981 (Williams 1982), when part of the medieval waterfront was examined (NGR ST 5901 7286). Detailed investigation was mostly possible only for a distance of up to 11m from the present harbour wall. Timber revetments survived to a height of approximately 6m AOD. Archaeological deposits were recorded as deep as 2.90m AOD. Observation during subsequent building works revealed the presence of probable 12th-century structures further back from the present waterfront, including a stone quay wall and timber platforms or jetties - the wall lay about 17m from the medieval line of Redcliff Street. Numerous leather items were recovered, including shoes, belts and scabbards, plus rich environmental samples.

Excavations further south along Redcliff Street (Jones 1991) have revealed more of the successive reclamations that were carried out in the medieval period. It is clear that the majority of the area between Redcliff Street and the harbour is in fact reclaimed land. The same may also be true for the present site. A number of stone-built slipways have been identified between Redcliff Street and the harbour, as also have many keyhole-shaped hearths, the latter possibly associated with dyeing. Both types of feature are likely to

occur upstream of the Bridge.

A desktop archaeological study and evaluation on Courage's brewery site (BUAD 449) were carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services in 1994 (Bryant 1994 and Jackson 1995, respectively). Structural features included a medieval stone-quay and medieval boundary walls. Pottery ranging in date from late-Saxon to post-medieval was recovered, as were a wide variety of bone, food, and clothing artefacts of the medieval period. Palaeoenvironmental evidence was substantial, and the site proved to be of equal archaeological significance to those already excavated downstream of Bristol Bridge.

An archaeological desktop study and subsequent evaluation of the Bridge Parade site (Costello & Tavener: BaRAS Reports BA/E277a & b) were carried out in 1996, and the results thereof are included within this report.

SUMMARY OF CHRONOLOGY

The limited nature of the fieldwork did not permit a full understanding of the stratigraphy of the site. The chronology of the site presented here is a construct aimed at providing a framework within which to discuss the archaeological evidence. While it is hoped that it is broadly accurate in its presentation of the pattern of development on the site, the chronology is contingent; it covers only the evidence recorded during the fieldwork. The earliest phase identified was undoubtedly preceded by numerous complex periods of activity unseen during the investigation.

The phasing is derived from a small sample of pottery recovered during the cleaning and limited excavation of features and from relationships apparent in plan or from sections. The pottery was not always well stratified and the dating given is not therefore secure. The chronology of the site was divided into seven phases spread over four periods. More precise discrimination of phases was only attempted for Period I, the high medieval period, where the evidence of different stages of activity was much clearer.

Period I was divided into four phases related to the usage and subsequent reclamation of successive waterfront installations, such as quays, docks and slipways. Evidence for Periods II-III was less substantial, probably as a result of truncation of the stratification by Period IV features. Period IV itself encompassed the building of the tenements of the 1790's through to the clearance of the site following a 1940 bombing raid.

Period I:	Medieval
Phase 1	Mid-late 12th-century water frontage
Phase 2	Late 12th-mid 13th-century land reclamation/slipway
Phase 3	Mid-late 13th-century quay or slipway
Phase 4	Late 13th-early 14th-century land reclamation/tenement building
Period II:	Late medieval demolition/development of tenements
Period III:	Post-medieval redevelopment
Period IV:	Early modern redevelopment

THE EXCAVATION

Period I: Medieval (Figs.7-10, 13-15)

Phase 1: Mid-late 12th century

The removal of an 18th-century water tank revealed traces of masonry of a possible wall (1560) (Plate 1) and decaying timber (1561). Feature (1560) initially appeared to represent an east west running wall, possibly an earlier river front wall, the top of which was at a level of 6.02m AOD. Further investigation revealed that this was only a single course of stonework, which dipped to the north, beneath a light blue alluvial clay (1562). Although the stonework continued beneath the northern section, there was a clearly defined southern edge. Masonry (1560) could be interpreted as the demolition of an early river front wall, pushed over into the river bank during an early phase of land reclamation. The southern edge of (1560) was abutted by a series of large wooden planks (1561), possibly associated with a jetty or walkway belonging to this phase of the river frontage. Partial removal of this during the investigation of (1560) revealed part of a possible timber tie-back running south (Plate 1), almost at a right-angle to the river front. Pottery sealing the timbers within context (1561) suggested a date of around 1150 to 1170. Organic and alluvial layers to the south west (1306, 1307, 1393) produced pottery of a very similar date range, consistent with (1560) representing one of a succession of river frontages prior to the construction of the first stone bridge in 1247.

To the south of this traces of a north south running wall (1495) were visible at the base of a modern drain cut. This was sealed by a layer containing early 12th-century pottery. Traces of a possible wooden fence were also visible in a section through cut (1563), the fill of which also produced 12th-century pottery. An undated wall (1321), set well back from the river frontage on the east side of wall (1034), lay at a right angle to the Phase 2 slipway wall (1033). Although badly truncated by later occupation the front edge of this wall was clearly defined, extending eastward beneath a cellar adjacent to the Courage Brewery Keg Store. The wall was 570mm wide and was visible for a length of 4.8m, with a top level of 6.9m AOD. This was sealed by a soft red/brown clayey sand (1320), which was in turn sealed by a similar layer of medieval landfill (1256) extending over much of the eastern half of the trench. Wall (1321) was abutted to the north by an area of large smooth pennant slabs (1447), bedded on a layer of coarse yellow sand (1331). Removal of the slabs and the underlying make up exposed a possible pit fill (1330) of green/brown organic clay, with frequent black organic inclusions, which extended beneath the trench section. The pennant slabs (1447) appeared to represent a floor surface contemporary with a later drain (1427) cutting wall (1321) at a right angle, and abutting the western edge of (1447). This suggests that the floor surface may have belonged to a later tenement re-using wall (1321), although finds from the drain fill (1448) were of 12th-century date. Wall (1321) was cut by a later oven (1275),

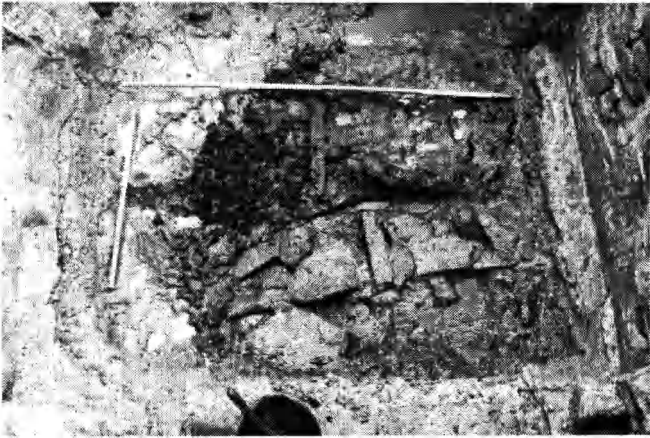


Plate 1 Wall (1560) during removal of (1561), looking south

and may have formed the footings of a later right-angled return of tenement wall (1034). A stub of return wall survived on a line similar to that of (1321), keyed into wall (1034), and cut to the east by oven (1275).

Phase 2: Late 12th-mid 13th century

A substantial medieval pennant sandstone wall (1033), bonded with red sand, and with a clay and rubble core, was exposed at the north end of the site near the Floating Harbour (Plates 2, 3). This lay just to the west of the later boundary wall (1034) between the tenements of Tucker Street to the east and Bridge Parade to the west. The wall (1033) was revealed in section, running north-north west to south-south east, after the removal of a late 18th-century water tank (1069) in the north east corner of the former No. 1 Bridge Parade. Following the removal of the water tank's floor surface, and northern and southern walls, the wall (1033) was found to continue beneath the water tank to the north, where it rose up again. It had been cut by a modern pit, which had truncated the relationship between (1033) and the present harbour wall (1144). It seemed likely that the wall originally continued right up to (1144), if not beyond. This would suggest that the line of the harbour wall has been retained, or even moved landwards, since the medieval period.

Significantly, wall (1033) was battered substantially from west to east, continuing beneath the base of the section. Organic deposits (1067) sloped up against the east facing batter of the wall, indicating that this may have been a slip or dock piercing the original medieval waterfront. These deposits probably formed through a combination of river action and the tipping of both domestic and industrial refuse. The latter was a common problem, and documentary sources from the medieval period onwards refer to constant, unsuccessful, attempts by the City Council to prevent the clogging of docks and slips (Jones 1991). During the cleaning of wall (1033) it was necessary to remove a spit of deposit (1067), to enable the drainage of water overlying the wall. It was decided that this would be taken as a sample for palaeoenvironmental analysis (see below). Finds from the

fill of the slipway were generally dated to around the mid 13th century, although there were signs of contamination with a couple of later (15th-century) sherds, probably re-deposited during the construction of the water tank (1069).

The slip wall (1033) which stood to at least 1m high, was 1.05m in width at the top and at least 2m wide at the base, with a fairly flush and tidy face on the western side. A borehole during a geotechnical investigation in 1996 (Ove Arup & Partners 1996) struck a wall on the projected line of (1033), some 3-4m to the south of the section exposed by the removal of (1069). This was found to be 4m in depth, extending downwards from 6.78m to just over 2.5m AOD. This overlay a soft black organic silty clay 1m deep. Unfortunately investigations to the east of the slip wall stopped at the top of further organic fills (1243/1336), similar to (1067), at around 6.3m AOD. Organic artefacts, including a possible timber post or pile to the north, were ostensibly well-preserved within these deposits. There may have been several metres of organic deposits overlying the base of the slipway, and although the eastern wall of the slip was not located, this may well have lain outside the eastern trench edge. Probing of deposits (1243/1336) revealed that they were at least 1m deep, extending down to a level of



Plate 2 Wall (1033) looking south, with drain (1063) top left

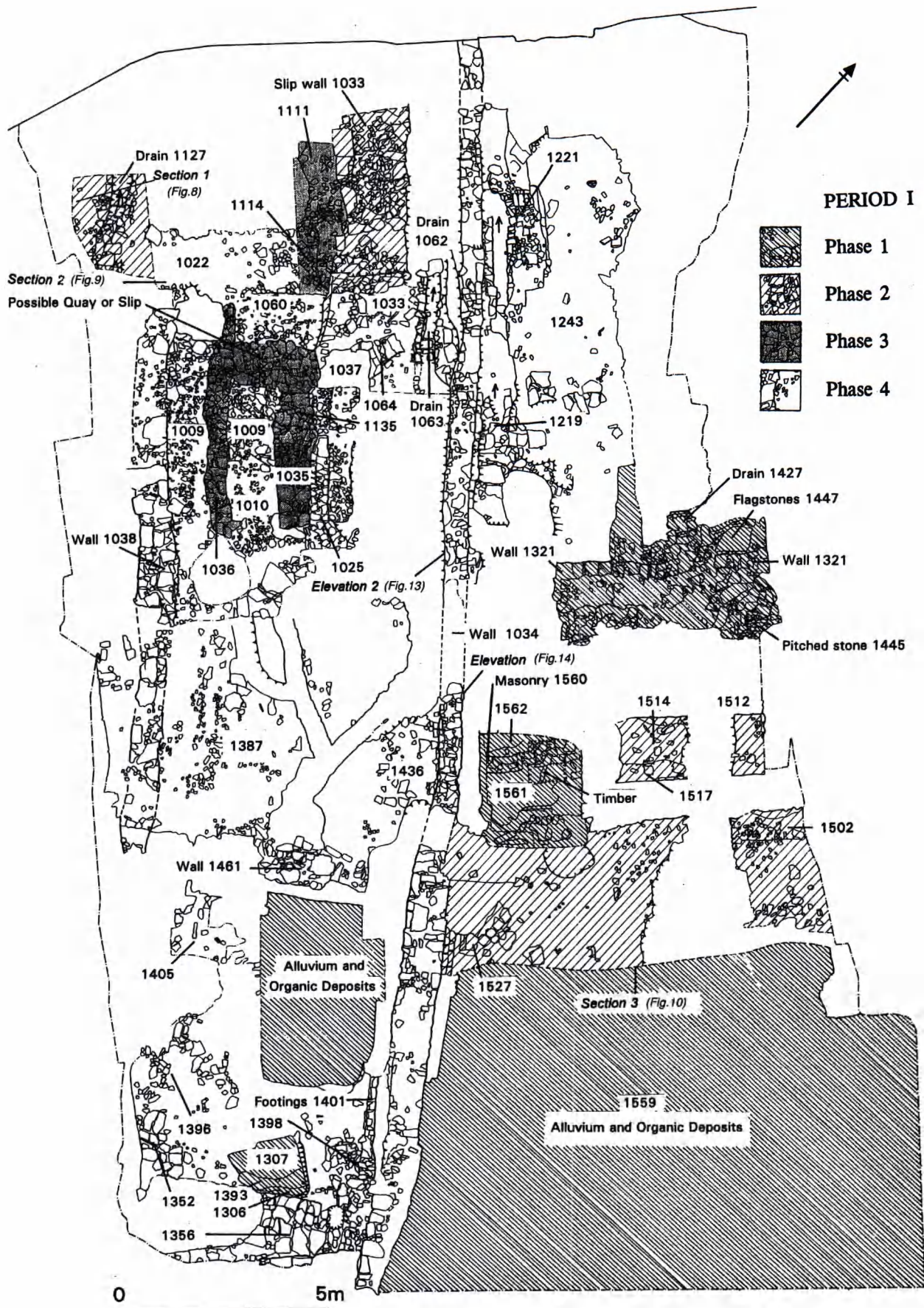


Fig.7 Period I, Phases 1-4

c5.3m AOD, with masonry surviving beneath the extreme south end of (1336). The base of (1033) lay at around 2.8m AOD according to the borehole results, suggesting that the base of the slipway may have lain a further metre or more down, at between 3-4m AOD.

Probably contemporary with the slipway was a drain (1127) in the north western corner of the site. This ran down at a right angle to the waterfront, roughly parallel with the slipway. Constructed with slabs of grey pennant sandstone bonded with a red sandy clay, the drain had been cut through a layer of light-brown silty clay (1136) with very occasional fragments of charcoal and mortar. This was overlain by a slightly gravelly black organic silt (1137) which also abutted drain (1127). The fill (1128) of the drain produced a single sherd of 13th-century pottery.

Phase 3: Mid-late 13th century

Following the construction of slipway (1033) a further phase of construction took place to the west. At the base of the removed water tank (1069) a layer of pennant sandstone rubble (1114) in a matrix of red/brown sand abutted the west face of (1033). This may have formed the footings for, or possible demolition of, a quay or slip. Further evidence for such installations lay immediately to the south where two parallel walls (1035/1036) were exposed running down towards the river, with a substantial cross wall at the north end (1037) (Plate 3). Wall (1035) terminated a short distance to the south of wall (1037), where it abutted the stub of a wall running east-west (1135). The relationship between (1135) and slip wall (1033) was unclear, although it may have formed a later buttress to that wall. Wall (1037) lay immediately to the north of (1135), and probably also abutted (1033). At its western extent (1037) abutted wall (1036), which continued to the north. Unfortunately, post-medieval drains and cellars had removed the rest of the feature north of this point, although the section indicated a deliberate phase of landfill tipped both eastward from wall (1036), and westward from slip wall (1033). Deposits were also tipped to the north from the top of wall (1037). This implies that the area to the north of (1037), between (1036) and (1033), was probably open at the same time as slip (1033).

Unfortunately, post-medieval truncation together with the limited nature of the fieldwork made it impossible to determine the exact function of these structures. Excavation immediately to the north of (1037) may have revealed further structures associated with a quay or slip, although this appeared to be set much further back than the front edge of slip (1033). This could be explained as a series of steps leading down from the north edge of wall (1037), alongside the east face of wall (1036) and down to the river frontage, as seen in the evaluation at Courage Brewery immediately to the east (Jackson 1995). Projection of a similar set of steps as seen at Courage's would lead to a jetty on the conjectured river frontage at around 5.1m AOD, an effective draught for unloading at high tide. Alternatively, slip (1033) probably provided access to a loading point below 3m AOD.

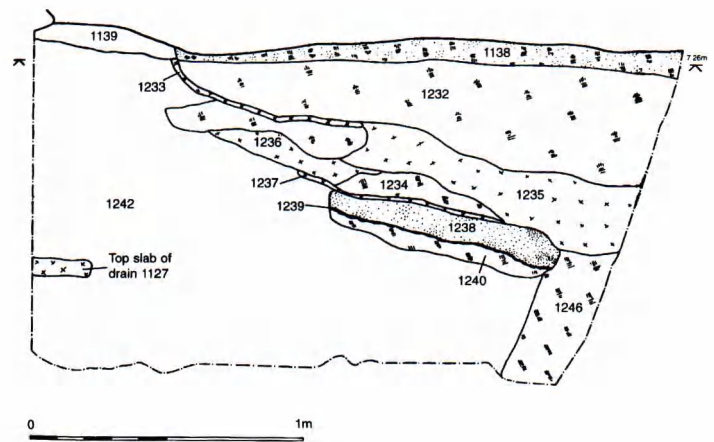


Fig. 8 East-facing section (1), showing tip layers

A pennant rubble and red sandy spread (1009), probably from the demolition of (1035/1036/1036), covered the area behind wall (1037). This was preserved in situ, precluding any further investigation of the relationship between these features. In the evaluation a sherd of 12th-century pottery was recovered from a layer of clay sealed by (1009) and overlying (1035), although it was felt that this was not in its primary context. Demolition layer (1009) was sealed by a dark red sandy clay (1010), containing occasional charcoal and pennant fragments, to the south and by a deposit of white lime mortar (1013) to the west. No dating evidence was produced for either layer.

During the 1996 evaluation a wall (70) was revealed during the excavation of a recent cut (13), beneath an area of stone paving (1356). Paving (1356) may form part of the floor surface of the Phase 4 tenement, although this was not proved, and it seems more than likely wall (70) belongs to Phase 3 or earlier.

Phase 4: Late 13th-early 14th century

The majority of archaeological deposits exposed following the removal of the overburden related to a phase of tenement building that followed on from the infilling of slip (1033). A major boundary wall (1034) (Figs. 13, 14) ran the length of the site, from the existing harbour wall at the north back to the Tucker Street boundary. Constructed from red and grey pennant sandstone, bonded in a red sandy mortar, this survived within the Georgian buildings as the tenement boundary between Tucker Street to the east and Bridge Parade to the west. The wall, and its associated drains (1062, 1063, 1219), had been constructed above the fill (1067/1007/1116) of slip (1033). A parallel wall (1038) to the west represented the western boundary of what may have been a building or buildings fronting onto the 1247 bridge. To the south, a heavily truncated wall core (1461) running east west may have formed the southern boundary of this tenement. Unfortunately, the nature of the truncation by an 18th-century water tank meant that the edges of the

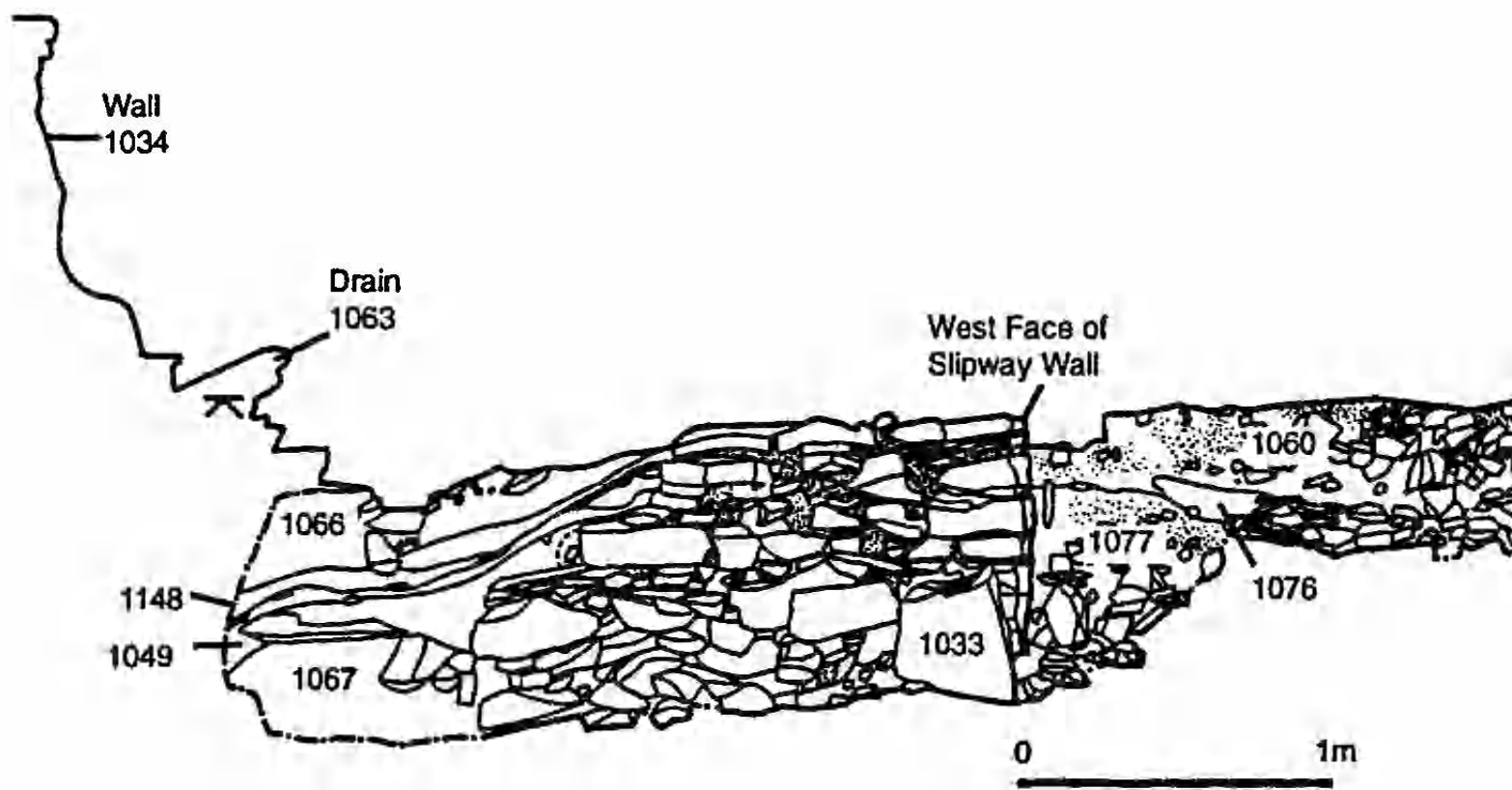


Fig.9 North-facing section (2), through slipway (1033)

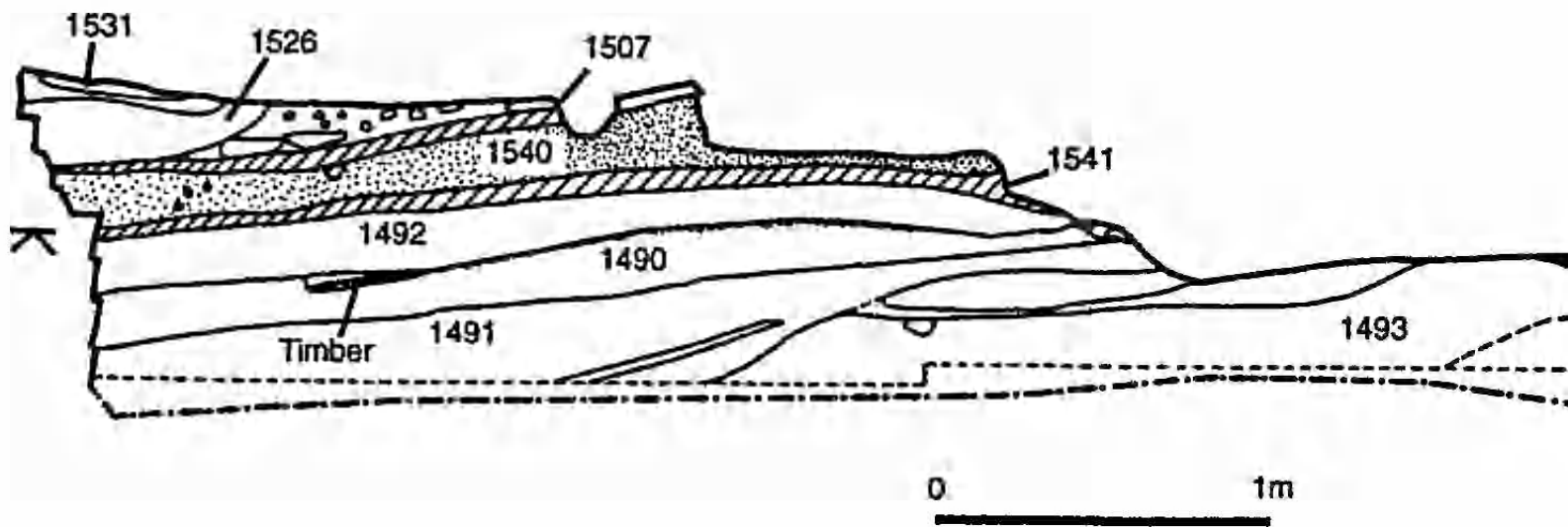
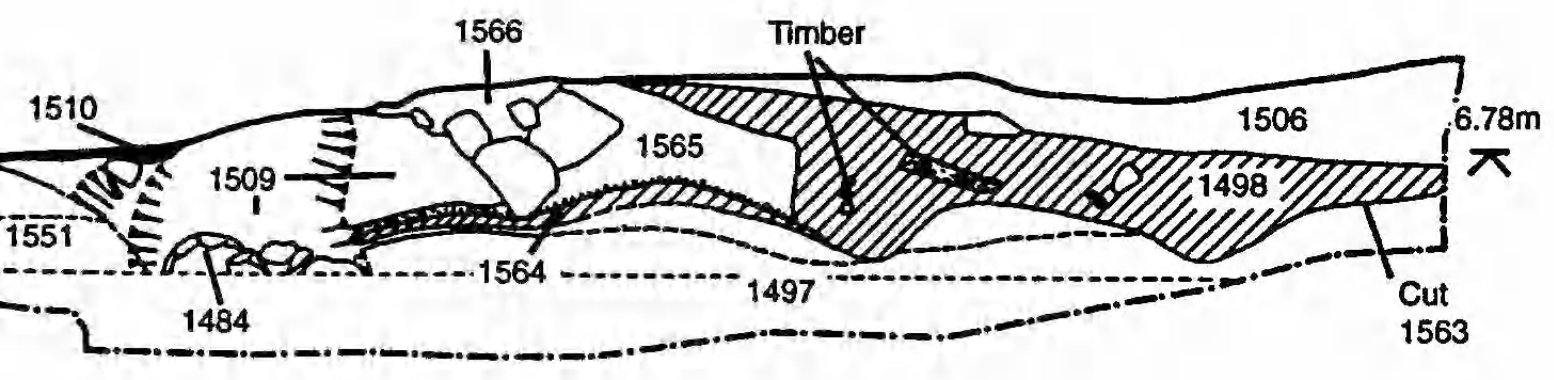
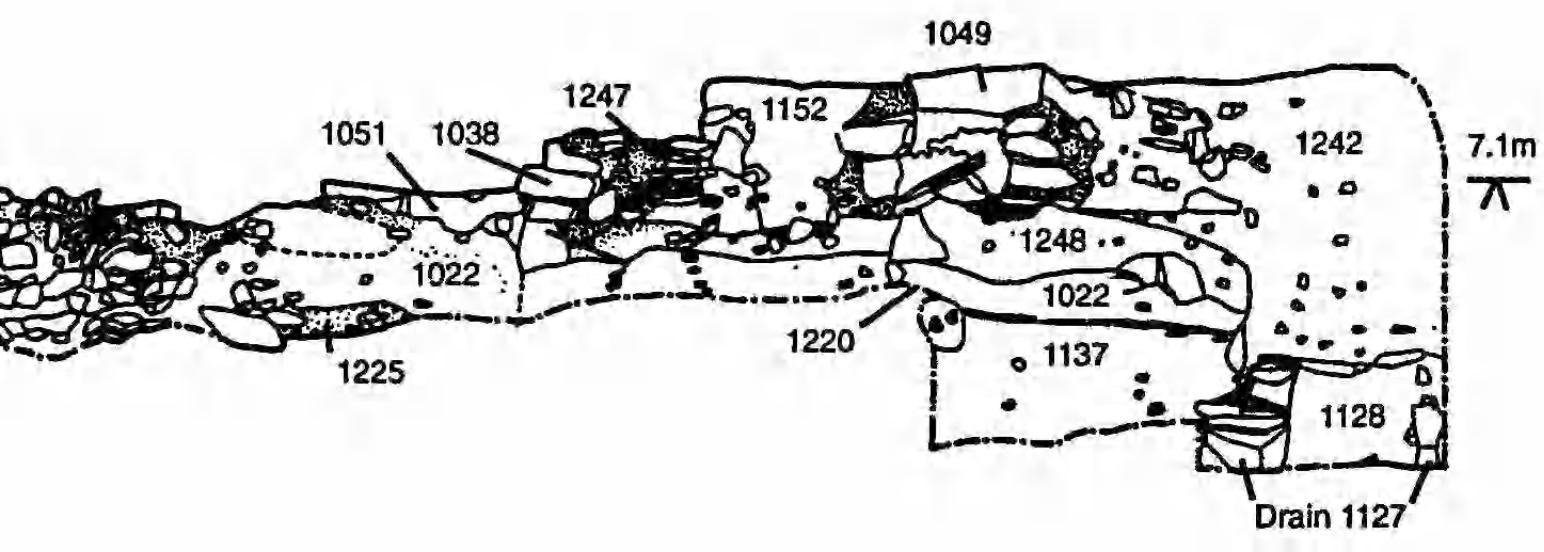


Fig.10 South-facing section (3), through organic layers



wall were subsumed within that of the later construction. This had the effect of appearing to form a right-angled return for walls (1034) and (1038). However, the substantial rubble and clay construction of (1461) threw up the possibility that this might be the continuation of slip (1033) in section. The projected line of (1033) certainly coincided with the location of (1461). To the north of this, on the east side of (1034) a protruding stub of wall running eastward was the only indication of internal division within this tenement.

The tenement wall (1034) was flanked to the east and west by parallel drains (1219) and (1063) respectively. To the north, truncated by the construction of water tank (1069), the top of drain (1063) was crossed by an east west running drain (1062). The base slab of this formed the top slab of (1063). Drain (1063) had been constructed above a spread of rubble (1066), which was immediately overlying the upper fill of slip (1033). The rubble (1066) tipped from west to east, and appeared to have come from the demolition of wall (1033), the top of which had apparently been pushed over following the infilling of the slip.

Drain (1219), on the east side of (1034), was abutted to the east by a rubble deposit (1221). This seemed too random to be a floor surface, although it may well have formed a make up layer for the floor surface of the associated building. This would give the building a floor surface between 6.8m AOD and the later lime mortar floor level (1055) of 7.3m AOD encountered to the west of (1034). A similar layer (1074) was sealed by a deposit (1071) containing early 14th-century pottery. Drain (1219) continued to the south, where it was truncated by a later, circular masonry structure (1269). Here the drain was exposed in section, showing a construction cut through a level of red/brown sand make-up (1270), which contained a decorated green-glazed spout of 14th-century date. This was sealed by a layer (1256) of soft red/brown sand which also abutted the drain, and contained late 13th-mid 14th-century pottery.

A further drain (1025) lay almost midway between, and parallel with, walls (1034) and (1038). This was sealed by a layer of sand which produced finds of mid to late 13th-century date. Included within this layer was a sherd from a very large type of Ham Green Pitcher vessel dating to the first quarter of the 12th century. The northern end of (1025) had been robbed, leaving a deposit of rubble (1125) in a matrix of dark brown silt and charcoal. To the east (1025) was abutted by a layer of demolition rubble (1024) which partially covered the original floor level of red/brown sandy clay and mortar (1120) within this part of the tenement. Above this lay a hard white lime mortar floor surface (1055), belonging to Period III. Drain (1025) appeared to define an internal division within the tenement west of (1034), possibly having been incorporated within a partition wall, and also sealed the Phase 3 wall (1035).

The footings (1401) of wall (1034) were exposed at the south end of the excavation area. These were of red and grey sandstone, bonded in a red/brown sandy clay, up to 300mm wide. A number of fragmented areas of stone paving (1356,



Plate 3 View from the roof of No.1 Redcliff Street showing waterfront installations of Period I, Phases 2-3 to the left, walls of Period I, Phase 4 tenement and Peiod IV drains to the right

1396, 1352, 1398) were exposed to the west of (1401). These may be the original floor surface of the part of the tenement south of wall (1461), and generally lay at around 7m AOD. These surfaces, generally of red pennant sandstone, exhibited signs of burning which had fragmented the stonework. The stone had degraded to a pink/orange sand indicating intense heat.

Period II: Late medieval (Fig.11)

The floor surfaces (1396, 1352, 1398) were shown in the evaluation to be overlain by a trampled layer of ash which, together with the burnt stonework, indicates that this southern part of the tenement was severely damaged by fire. The layer of ash may represent charcoal from the burning of roof timbers. Finds from this layer indicate a late 13th/early 14th-century date for the final occupancy of the building. Finds from a layer of grey/brown alluvial silty clay, sealing the burning and demolition layers, indicated that the southern part of the building was demolished sometime between 1300-1350.

To the north, wall (1038) was sealed by a layer of trampled red sand and small stone, which had probably

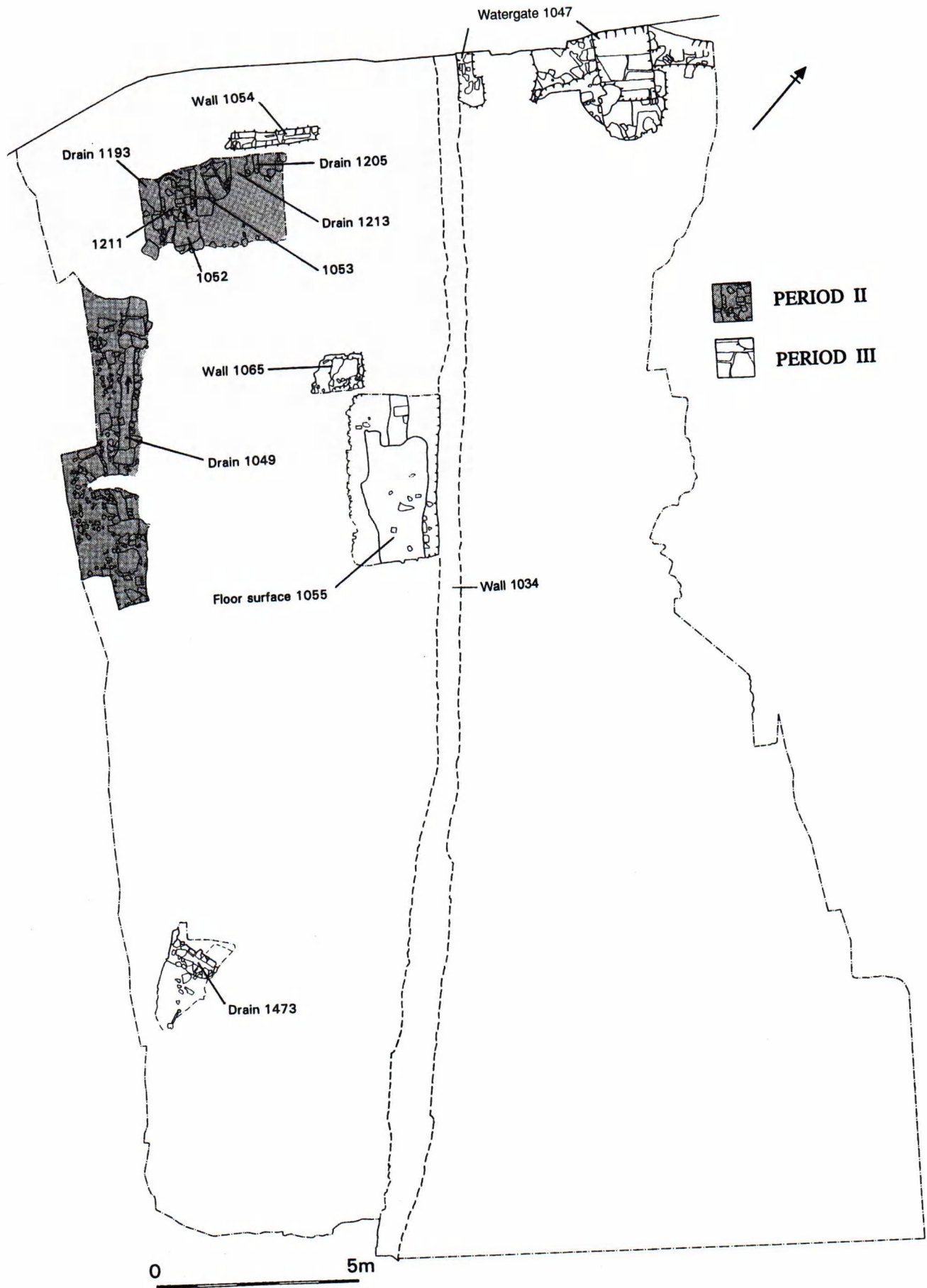


Fig.11 Periods II-III

resulted from the demolition of this part of the building. Finds from the demolition material suggested a 15th-century date. However, finds from a pit cutting wall (1038) produced 16th-century artefacts, and this was apparently sealed by the same demolition levels. A drain (1049) running alongside the west face of (1038) was also sealed by the demolition layer. This drain was clearly later in date, having been partially cut into (1038), and was bonded with a distinctive buff mortar. A number of drains to the north (1052, 1053, 1193, 1205) were set in a similar mortar and may have been contemporary with (1049), although this could not be proved.

Period III: Post-medieval (Fig.11)

A number of features clearly post-dated the Period II demolition of the tenement and pre-dated the construction of the late 18th-century terrace. Very little dating evidence was found for these features, and their association with this phase is based purely on mortar types and scant stratigraphical information. A drain (1473) of stone construction with flat roof and base slabs emerged from the western trench edge, cutting layers of made up ground sealing the Period II demolition. This ran east-west, and was bonded with a distinctive mixture of pink sandy mortar, speckled with fragments of white lime. This was almost identical to the mortar on walls (1065, 1054 and 1047) to the north. This type of mortar is characteristic of 17th-century buildings in Bristol.

Wall footing (1054) ran east-west across the northern part of the excavation, to the west of wall (1034). This had been constructed above a 200mm deep buried soil horizon (107), sealing layers of landfill above Phase 3 wall (1037). This was of particularly crude construction, possibly even redeposited, and had been truncated to the east and west by later cellaring. The pink mortar was similar to that used in the construction of a watergate (1047) to the east. Watergate (1047) was a rectangular structure with steps leading down to a blocked exit through the existing harbour wall. The brick blocking of this exit was clearly visible from the opposite side of the Floating Harbour. The eastern and western walls of the watergate were substantially thick, and were clearly integral with the present river frontage (1144). To the west, the lower courses of the existing harbour wall appeared to be bonded with the same type of mortar. This is consistent with the retention of this line of the river frontage, from the 14th century at least, through to the present day.

A small stub of pink mortared wall (1065) survived midway between walls (1034) and (1038). This appeared likely to have run east-west, therefore forming a later partition within the Period I Phase 4 tenement. It was constructed on the line of wall (1037), although clearly sealing layers of make up similar to those encountered beneath wall (1054). The southern edge of the wall also coincided with the northern limit of the mortar floor surface (1055). This was indicative of the northern part of the tenement surviving long after the Period II destruction suffered by the southern division. From the survival of wall



Plate 4 *Period IV keyhole-shaped oven, looking east*

(1034) within the later development, it seems likely that this tenement survived in some form until the construction of the new bridge in the 1760's. At this time the slums either side of the bridge were being cleared in preparation for the new project.

Period IV: Early Modern (Fig.12) (Plates 3, 5)

The final phase of occupation, prior to the bombing of the site during WWII, was a terrace of Georgian town houses and shops built in the late 18th century following on from the construction of the new bridge. These were demolished, and reduced to the level of the cellar floors, following the severe damage sustained during an air raid in 1940. Photographic evidence clearly indicates these were of the renowned 'Paty' style, and detailed documentary evidence exists for the layout of these buildings (see above; Fig.4).

Wall (1034) was clearly still in place, as the boundary between the buildings of Bridge Parade to the west and Tucker Street to the east, until the demolition of these buildings. To the west of (1034) the cellars and property boundaries between Nos.1-3 Bridge Parade were recorded in detail during the evaluation (Tavener 1996). Where appropriate walls and water tanks associated with these buildings were then removed during the excavation to expose earlier phases of archaeological activity.

To the east of (1034) the northern boundary wall of No.1 Tucker Street (1485) was revealed, forming the southern boundary wall of a water tank and cellar belonging to No.2. A complex series of drains and a keyhole-shaped oven (1275) (Plate 4) lay to the north of these, within the limits of No.2 Tucker Street. The eastern boundary of No.2 lay outside the eastern edge of the trench, probably beneath the western wall of the Courage Brewery building.

A major curving drain (1006) ran north west along the eastern side of the excavation, cutting a major landfill layer (1071) abutting the Period III watergate (1047). This was constructed with large grey pennant base and cap stones, with brick side walls. This ran alongside a stone junction chamber (1043), sloping northwards down to the harbour wall (1144) where it emptied into a vertical chute. The chute shared an opening onto the Floating Harbour at river level

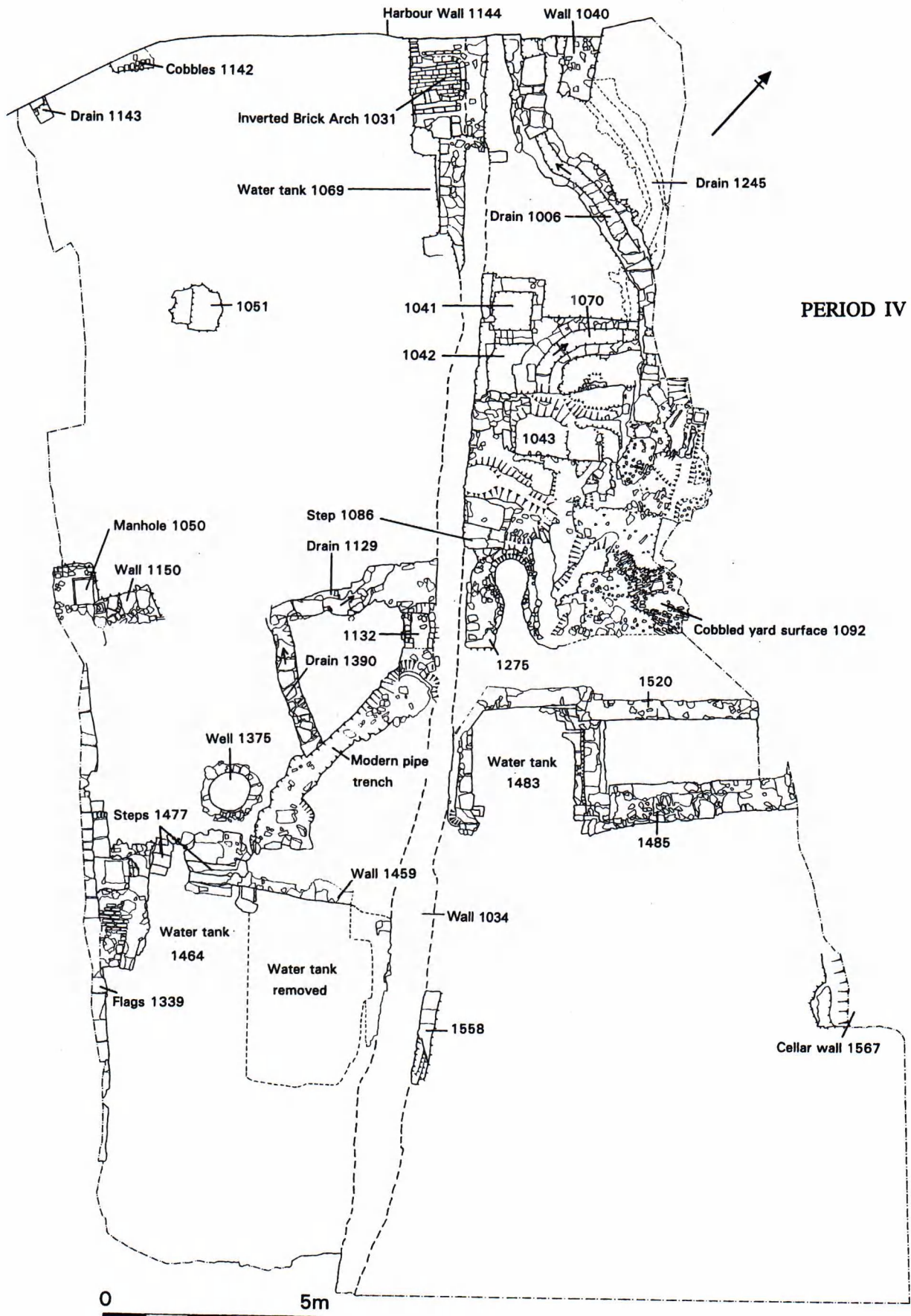


Fig.12 Period IV



Plate 5 Period IV features in the foreground, wall (1034) running through the centre of the photograph and Period I, Phases 2-3 features beyond, viewed from Courage Brewery

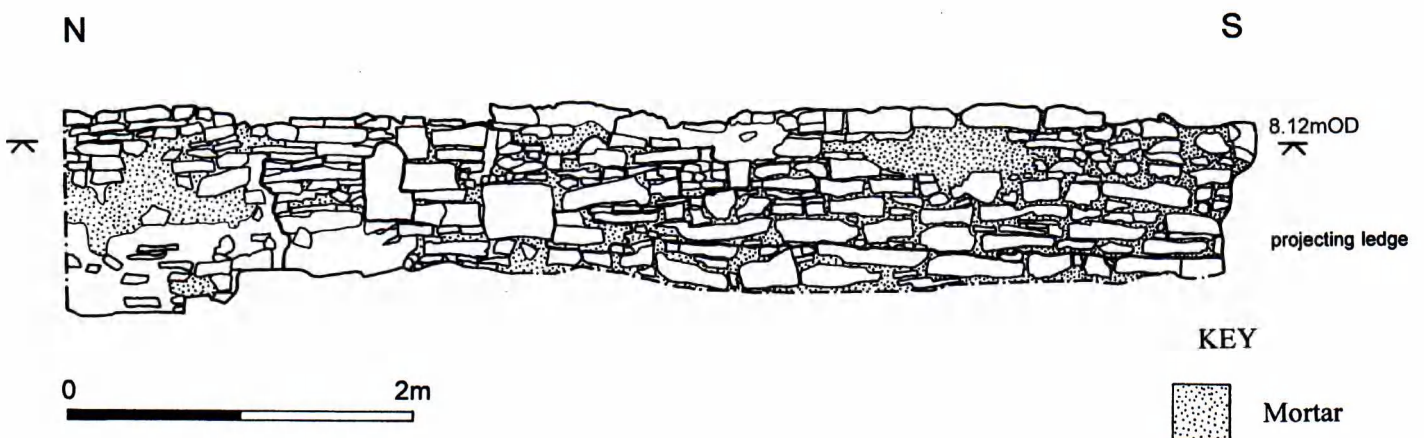


Fig.13 Elevation 2, wall (1034) from the west

with a lower drain (1245), which lay beneath fill (1071), cutting alluvium (1243). Stone chamber (1043) provided an inlet for a drain from the south, and an outlet for a drain (1070) which curved north east beneath drain (1006) and above (1245). The function of (1043) was not clear as this was removed during excavation down to the earlier deposits.

Chamber (1043) lay directly to the north of the keyhole-shaped oven (1275), which had clearly been rebuilt in roughly the same configuration at least three times. Two square brick built rooms to the north (1041/1042), cut by drain (1070), may also have served a domestic purpose. A circular groove had been worn into the floor surface of (1042), probably through some form of repetitive action.

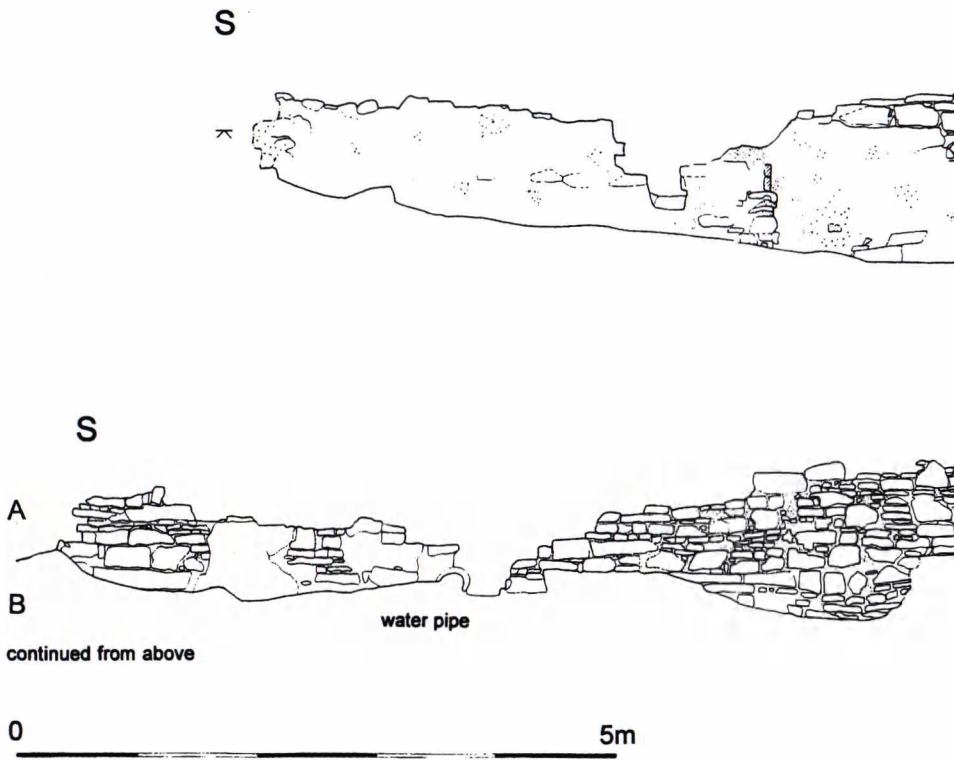


Fig.14 Elevation 1, wall (1034) from the east

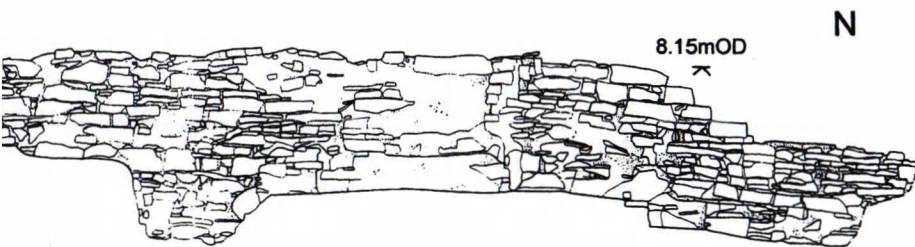
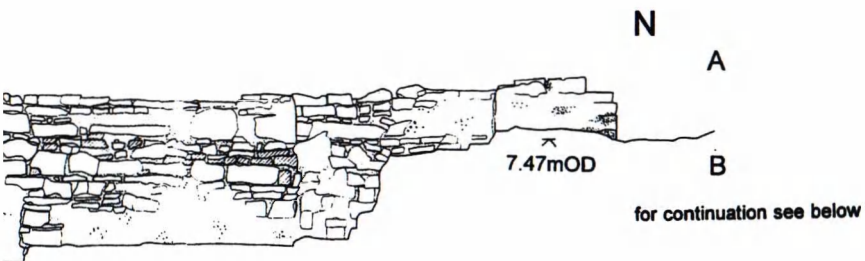
KEY



Brick



Mortar



South of chamber (1043) modern drainage works had truncated much of the archaeology down to medieval layers. Removal of these drains revealed a cellar at a right-angle to the Courage Brewery building, with the west wall of that building as its boundary. The west wall of the cellar appeared to have been rebuilt upon a medieval wall running parallel with (1034), possibly the boundary of another Period I Phase 4 tenement. Further south wall (1520) formed the northern boundary of a cellar with wall (1485). The west wall of this (1483), formed the eastern limit of a water tank adjacent to (1034) in the south western corner of No.2 Tucker Street.

Three cellars and two water tanks, with walls running parallel to the Courage brewery building, were removed revealing alluvial levels as low as 5.56m AOD. The limit of the eastern cellar was formed by the wall of the brewery building. The cellar was lined with slate shelving along both eastern and western walls, on which bottles of wine and a corking machine were left during the Second World War. The depth of cellaring had effectively removed all later medieval masonry structures in the south east corner of the site, and although areas of organic deposits and preserved timber were exposed the trench had to be backfilled for reasons of practicality and safety. The potential for the preservation beneath these levels of structures and artefacts of an organic nature was clearly good, given the waterlogged nature of the deposits encountered.

DISCUSSION

The limited evidence for Period I Phase 1 suggests that the 12th-century shoreline was set well back from both the later medieval and present day waterfront. Phase 2 wall (1033) was certainly part of a major waterfront installation, either a dock or slipway, indicating that substantial land reclamation had already occurred by the mid-13th century, probably in association with the construction of the 1247 bridge. Plant macrofossil remains from the fill of the slipway provide useful information regarding the different habitats around the town, as well as evidence of the nearby fulling and dyeing industry. They also indicate that this area was subject to the common problem of the tipping of rubbish, with evidence of rotting organic matter within the sediments. The nature of these deposits was similar to that seen beneath the Courage Brewery site, with sediments of a mixed nature being reworked by tidal action and relaid over the slipway.

It is assumed that the 1247 bridge was on the same alignment as the present crossing, although wall (1033) was clearly diverging from this line. This may have implications for the pattern of property development on the bridge, or even the alignment of the bridge itself. The nature of (1033) requires further investigation: the substantial batter of this wall suggests the possibility of a deep dock or slip. Assuming it is contemporary with the 1247 bridge, this raises various questions regarding the type of vessel plying this part of the Avon, and whether masted vessels could pass beneath the bridge. If larger vessels were plying the Avon on this side of the bridge, were they providing a major trading

link with Bath?

Although the Period I Phase 3 structures clearly pre-dated the Phase 4 tenements, it was not clear whether they were contemporary with the Phase 2 structures. Interpretation of a quay or slip at this point is based largely on a similar structure found beneath Courage's Brewery, and the fact that these features failed to fall into a recognisable tenement pattern. A photograph taken from St. Nicholas Church around the turn of the 20th century appears to illustrate a covered slipway beneath what is now the Keg Store of the Courage Brewery (Plate 6). Together with the archaeological evidence from the present site, and the evaluation at Courage's, this suggests a number of slips lining the waterfront along the south side of the river, east of Bristol Bridge.

Another major phase of land reclamation then followed in the late-13th to early-14th century, pushing the waterfront out to the present harbour wall. It could be that elements of the present wall may be medieval, although the upper levels had clearly been rebuilt more recently. Alternatively, the line of the waterfront may even have been moved back slightly since this phase, as was the case at Penner Wharf on the south side of the Bridge (Williams forthcoming).

The tenements of Period I Phase IV formed the main body of archaeological evidence, although often crucial relationships had been removed by later development. Wall (1034) clearly defined the boundary between properties of Tucker Street and the later Bridge Parade (probably part of Tucker Street originally). This appeared to survive from the late 13th/early 14th century through to the destruction of the Period IV tenements in 1940. No.2 Tucker Street, of which wall (1034) formed the western boundary, clearly survived as a soaphouse into the mid-17th century according to documentary sources (see above). However, the Period IV rebuilding had removed any trace of such activity.

Period II involved the demolition of the southern part of the western tenement, south of wall (1461), possibly following a fierce fire. The development of the northern part of the tenement in this period is less clear cut, although wall (1038) may have been demolished and the property widened at this time.

The remains of Period III were fragmentary, making interpretation of the development of this period more difficult. Watergate (1047) and the lower sections of the harbour wall (1144) appeared to be contemporary with the 17th-century waterfront. Walls (1065) and (1054), which were poorly founded, possibly represented internal divisions within a property bounding the west side of wall (1034). These may relate to the building work recorded between 1712-1716 on the corner house at the Bridge end (see above).

The development in Period IV of a new terrace of houses along Bridge Parade, following the construction of a new bridge in the 1760's, occupied the site from the 1790's through to 1940. The boundary walls and cellars of Nos.1-3 Bridge Parade are well documented, and were recorded in detail during the evaluation and excavation. The properties

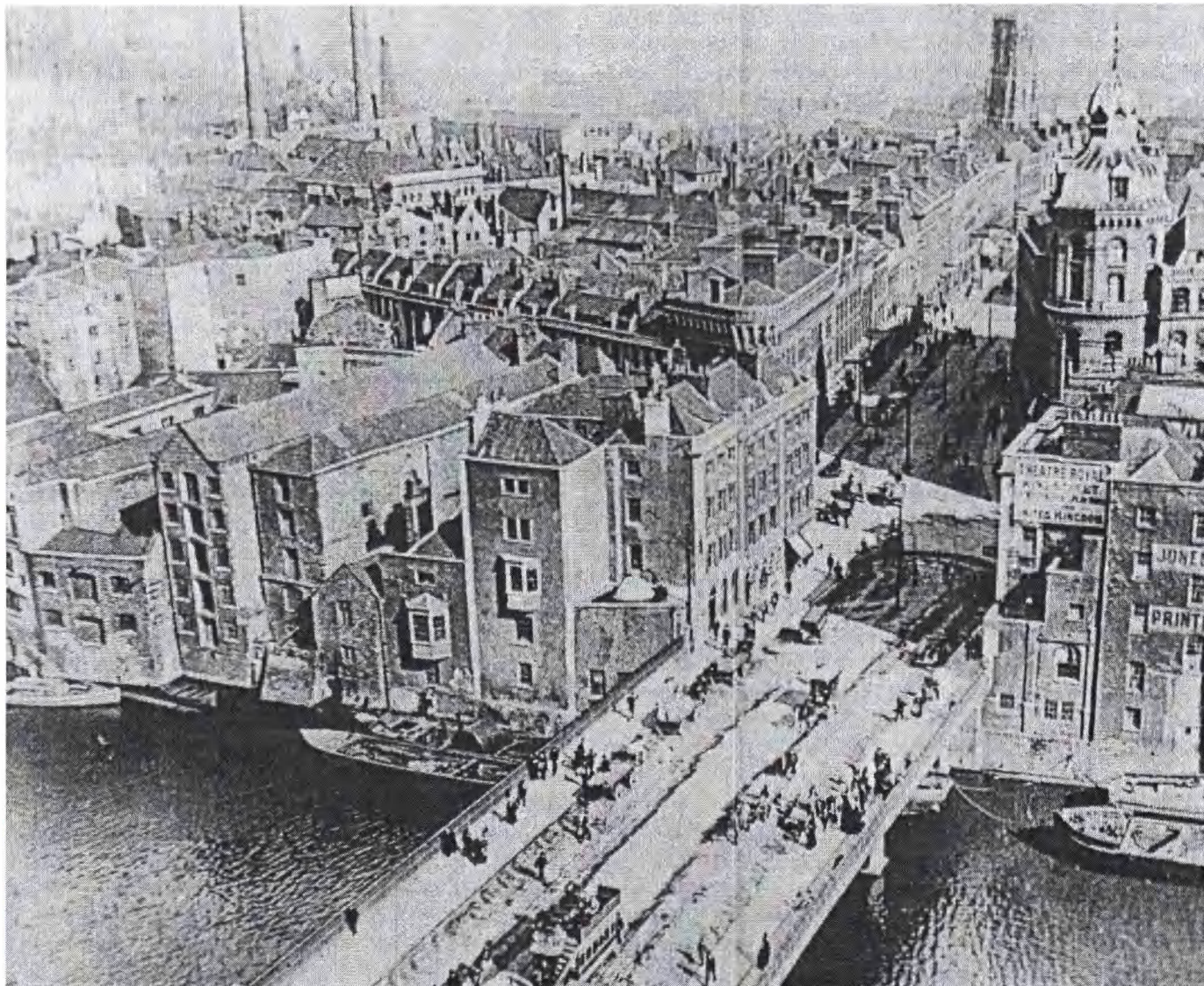


Plate 6 View of the site from St.Nicholas Church around the turn of the 20th century, showing the covered slipway beneath the keg store of the Courage Brewery

fronted on to Bridge Parade, with their party walls at right angles to the boundary wall (1034), thus rotating the orientation of the original Period I Phase 4 tenement through 90 degrees. To the east of wall (1034) the cellars of Nos.1-2 Tucker Street were recorded during the excavation, and may slightly pre-date the Bridge Parade houses. These produced possible evidence for baking on the premises in the form of a keyhole-shaped oven (1275), and perhaps the two rectangular brick structures (1041/2).

SPECIALIST REPORTS

THE POTTERY

by Rod Burchill

Introduction

The pottery recovered during archaeological work at Bridge Parade was generally fragmentary with only limited

evidence of abrasion suggesting it mostly represented primary deposition. The sherds exhibited little evidence for use but were able to provide a chronology for the excavated features.

After excluding unstratified material the pottery assemblage consisted of 399 sherds weighing 9.965kg. Ceramic rooftile, all 14th century, accounted for 5% (21 sherds) of the assemblage.

The pottery was visually examined for fabric and form, a x10 mag lens being used where necessary. To assist with dating, the material was compared with the Bristol Pottery Type Series (BPT) (Ponsford 1998; Burchill forthcoming). Full details of the pottery types present will be found in the site archive.

The unstratified material was scanned to identify any rare or intrinsically interesting sherds but was not otherwise recorded.

The Assemblage

Period 1, Phase 1 (Mid-Late 12th century)

A group of 64 sherds dominated by cookpot/storage jar types (78%). Products of the Ham Green kilns near Bristol accounted for 48% of the pottery from this phase and included cookpot/jars in both the standard BPT32 and coarser BPT114 fabrics. Five sherds in the early jug fabric BPT26 probably represented 3 vessels and is dated c.1120-1170 (Ponsford 1991). The next most common material was a calcareous flint tempered fabric, BPT46, probably originating in west Wiltshire (Burchill 1996) which accounted for some 25% of the group.

The earliest pottery from the site, sherds of BPT115 and BPT10, was recovered from organic deposit (1493). This material dates from c1080AD and BPT 10 had almost certainly ceased production by the early 12th century.

Period 1, Phase 2 (Late 12th-mid 13th century)

A small group of 34 sherds mostly products of the Ham Green kilns. These include the later BPT27 'B' jugs which start around 1170AD and continue into the 13th century, although none of the present examples are likely to be later than 1225AD. Context 1033 contained a single sherd from a jug attributed to Ponsford's Ham Green intermediate group (Ponsford 1991) which dates to the third quarter of the 12th century.

Bristol/Redcliffe wares, BPT118, all of probable mid 13th-century date, a sherd of 15th century-Malvernian ware BPT197 and two of the later Redcliffe fabric BPT118L, were recovered from organic deposit (1067); however, this context was thought to have been contaminated by the insertion of later features and later pottery from here might be intrusive.

Period 1, Phase 3 (Mid-late 13th century)

This group of 19 sherds, mostly early Bristol/Redcliffe wares (BPT118), saw the first appearance of pottery from southwest France (BPT156). Produced in the area around Saints in the Gironde, this material, which dates between c1250 and 1400AD, was extensively imported into Bristol during the late 13th and early 14th century (Burchill forthcoming). However, the absence of pottery of a specifically post-1300 date would suggest that the group is dated to the second half of the 13th century. It also included a small number of Ham Green wares, all residual in these contexts.

Period 1, Phase 4 (Late 13th-early 14th century)

This group is dominated by products of the Bristol/Redcliffe kilns (54%), mostly BPT118. Also included are Redcliffe cookpots BPT85, a vessel in a soft pink-fired Redcliffe fabric BPT123 and another in the rose-quartz gritted fabric BPT254. The latter has been attributed to the Redcliffe kilns (Ponsford 1998); however, BPT254 is very different from the other Redcliffe fabrics and another local source is possible. The group also included southwest French wares, both BPT156 and the slightly earlier quartz gritted BPT157.

The presence of a single vessel in the wheel-thrown limestone tempered fabric from northwest Wiltshire (BPT84), a type not thought to predate 1300, suggests that an early 14th-century date might be appropriate for the infilling of robber-trench (1024).

Period 2 (Late medieval)

This period comprised of eight sherds from just two contexts and saw the first appearance on the site of products of the Malvern Chase kilns (BPT197). These wares, very common in late medieval Bristol are thought to arrive in the town around 1400 or soon after (Ponsford 1988). Recovered from context 1191 was a single sherd of Tudor Brown; this red fired fabric with pale-brown glaze (BPT275) cannot at present be sourced but is known to date to the 16th century.

Period 3 (Post-medieval)

This period was dominated by 16th-century Malvern wares and cups in the Cistercian or Tudor Brown tradition including both BPT275 and BPT266 - black glazed ware from Falfield, South Gloucestershire. From context 1001 came part of a Spanish tin-glaze vessel of uncertain form. Traces of blue colouring in the glaze suggests it may be a type known as Yalal Blue (BPT333B), a Sevillian ware named after the site where it was first recorded. As a rule Spanish fine wares were probably not imported into Bristol as trade items but as souvenirs (Ponsford and Burchill 1995).

Context 1140 contained Metropolitan Slipware (BPT109) and part of a Donyatt dish (BPT268), of late 17th-century date.

Period 4 (Early modern)

The pottery was typical of that found throughout the town during the 18th and 19th centuries. The group included the products of the Bristol and Staffordshire industries together with vessels from North Devon and a single one from the Westerwald in the Rhineland. Residual medieval wares were present in small numbers.

Conclusions

The pottery from this site is typical of that found throughout the town and consists mostly of the products of the local pottery industry.

During the medieval period the site was dominated by the Ham Green and Bristol/Redcliffe industries and, whilst imported vessels were present, they were relatively few in number.

Very little pottery was recovered from the immediate post-medieval period and that from the 18th and 19th century consisted almost entirely of wares from Bristol, Staffordshire and North Devon.

The limited nature of the archaeological work meant the pottery represented a small sample of the site's ceramic potential and was not particularly diagnostic of the sites' use although it did provide a chronology for the excavated features.

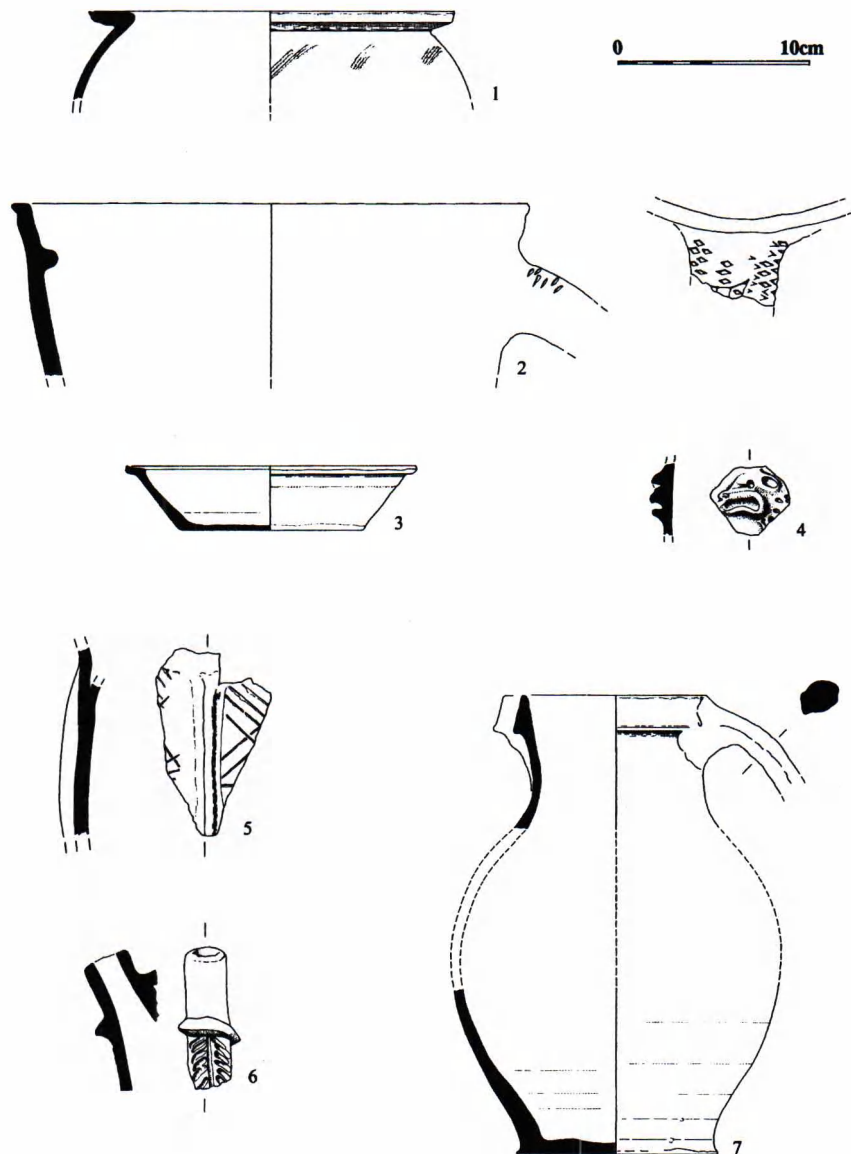


Fig.15 Pottery illustrations

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED MATERIAL
(Fig.15)

1. Wheel-thrown jar with strongly everted almost flanged rim and multiple fine comb decoration to body. Weathered, thin yellow-green glaze over rim. Northwest Wiltshire BPT84. Early 14th century. Context 1024
Period I, Phase 4
2. Rim and handle fragment of a large jug or pitcher. The plain upright rim has an internal ledge, possibly a lid-seating. The thick handle is decorated with diamond rouletting. External green glaze. Ham Green BPT26. Probably early to mid 12th century. Context 1026
Period I, Phase 4
The exact form of this vessel is not known; however, Ponsford (1991 fig.1a.1) illustrates a tripod pitcher of similar rim form with a tubular spout but lacking the internal ledge, in a Southeast Wiltshire fabric (BPT18c). It is possible the Bridge Parade vessel is of a similar form.
3. Profile of a shallow dish with flanged rim and simple base. Internal copper-stained green glaze. Bristol/Redcliffe BPT118. 14th century. Context 1060
Period I, Phase 4
4. Grotesque face-mask. Thick external green glaze. The crudely formed mask appears to be anthropomorphic in form. Bristol/Redcliffe BPT118. Late 13th century. Context 1060
Period I, Phase 4

5. Decorated sherd. Thick central ridge with crossed slash decoration to the sides. Olive green external glaze. Fabric is similar to Bristol rooftile fabric BRF1. Possibly part of a louvre. ?14th century.
Context 1122
Period I, Phase 4
6. Part of a tubular spout with support ring. Slashed decoration below support. Good iron-flecked green glaze. Possibly from an aquamanile. Bristol/Redcliffe BPT118. 14th century.
Context 1270
Period I, Phase 4
7. Rim, handle and base of a jug. Red-fired gravel tempered fabric with internal clear lead glaze. North Devon BPT112. 18th century.
Context 1101
Period 4

ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS - Plant macrofossils

by Julie Jones

Introduction

A single sample was obtained from a late-13th/early-14th century waterfront deposit (context 1067:Period I Phase 2). The sample (1067) was a highly organic silt with some gritty inclusions from the fill of a dock or slipway. The organic material within the silts did not appear to be in definable bands but had the appearance of being sorted and relayed, presumably by tidal action. It was hoped that the organic remains in the silt would provide local environmental and economic evidence and suggest whether this material was dumped from this site or whether it had been washed in from elsewhere.

Methodology

The sample, which was 22.5kg/20 litres was wet sieved to a minimum mesh size of 250 microns for the float and 500 microns for the residue. It was then scanned under a low powered binocular microscope and a scale of abundance was recorded for the plant macrofossil and other remains noted. Most of the plant remains were preserved by waterlogging but there were also a few charred grains and charcoal, as well as two mineralised seeds. The results are recorded in Table 1 and have been placed into habitat groups. All remains refer to fruits and seeds unless stated otherwise (e.g. pods, bracts). Nomenclature and habitat information follows Stace (1991). Other remains including animal and fish bone, snails, egg shell and beetle remains, including many fly puparia are also recorded in Table 1.

Results

Table 1 illustrates the abundance of plant remains recovered from many different habitat groups. Some of these will have been growing locally and reflect the natural environment around the medieval town. However many more are likely

to have been brought into the town for consumption, domestic use or other economic purposes.

The largest group of plants are those of disturbed ground and many will have been growing in the vicinity of the site. These include plants such as common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) which today is an important component of waste places, farmyards and roadsides where there is periodic soil disturbance, while stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) now commonly occurs as part of a farmyard community. These plants could have grown with many of the more typical ruderal species found in the sample, which are commonly associated with human habitation, such as elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). These occur in nutrient rich ground around settlements where continual trampling would have provided bare ground for weeds to flourish. However many of these same ruderal species which may have been growing locally, also occur on arable land. Other plants like corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), stinking chamomile and corn buttercup (*Ranunculus arvensis*) are typical cornfield weeds. The only evidence of cereals themselves is from several charred wheat grains plus a single unidentifiable grain. Evidence from sites in Bristol, as well as other medieval towns, suggests that cereals were brought into the town for human consumption in a processed form. In most cases it is the grain alone which is recovered rather than with its accompanying chaff, straw and weeds which would be expected if processing was being carried out more locally. The presence of arable weeds in this sample may therefore suggest that the straw remains were being brought into the town perhaps for animal feed or bedding. The range of grassland plants present, including selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*), yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) and golden chervil (*Chaerophyllum aureum*), could also point to the presence of hay which would have been similarly utilised.

Much of the wood present in the deposit, in the form of small waterlogged fragments as well as wood charcoal, must have been brought into the town for a wide variety of purposes. Although the wood and charcoal have not been identified there is evidence from other macrofossils for the presence of birch (*Betula* sp), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), sloe (*Prunus spinosa*), as well as elder and bramble (*Rubus* sect *Glandulosus*). While much of this may have been used for firewood, hazel, sloe and blackberry may represent fruits and nuts gathered for culinary use. The group of plants identified as *Brassica/Sinapis* belong to the cabbage family and includes numerous cultivars including mustard, kales and cauliflower. Some of distinctive fruits of wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) were also found. McLean (1981) suggests that wild radishes would have been gathered and eaten from the wild, rather than growing them and they would have been used for hotting up pottages and sauces. Some of the bone recovered, especially the fish, and the egg shell is also likely to represent food remains. Other food plants include wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), grape (*Vitis vinifera*) and fig (*Ficus carica*). The importation of goods

WOODLAND/HEDGEROW/SCRUB		
Wood fragments		v.freq
Leaf fragments		occ
Leaf abscission pads		occ
Moss		v.freq
<i>Betula</i> sp	Birch	occ
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	v.freq
<i>Dipsacus</i> sp *	Teasel	occ
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> L. *	Wild Strawberry	occ
<i>Lapsana communis</i> *	Nipplewort	occ
<i>Malus c.f. domestica</i> Borkh. *	Apple	rare
<i>Picris echioides</i> *	Bristly Oxtongue	occ
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn/Sloe	occ
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i> *	Hairy Buttercup	rare
<i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> *	Bramble	freq
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> *	Elder	occ
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *	Smooth Sow-thistle	occ
<i>Urtica dioica</i> *	Common nettle	occ
DISTURBED GROUND INCLUDING ARABLE		
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>	Fool's Parsley	occ
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i> L. *	Parsley-piert	rare
<i>Arctium</i> spp	Burdock	occ
<i>Atriplex</i> spp *	Orache	v.freq
<i>Brassica/Sinapis</i> spp *	Mustard/Rape/Cole etc	freq
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen	freq
<i>Cirsium/Carduus</i> spp *	Thistle	freq - frags only
<i>Dipsacus</i> sp *	Teasel	occ
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> L.	Sun Spurge	rare
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	Black Bindweed	occ
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane	rare
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	occ
<i>Lapsana communis</i> *	Nipplewort	occ
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank	occ
<i>Picris echioides</i> L. *	Bristly Oxtongue	occ
<i>Picris hieracioides</i> L.	Hawkweed Oxtongue	occ
<i>Plantago major</i> *	Greater Plantain	occ
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> *	Knotgrass	freq
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> *	Selfheal	freq
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i> Crantz *	Hairy Buttercup	rare
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> ssp <i>raphanistrum</i> (pods + frags) *	Wild Radish	occ
<i>Reseda luteola</i> *	Weld	abund
<i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> *	Bramble	freq
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L. *	Sheep's Sorrel	occ
<i>Rumex</i> spp *	Dock	freq
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> *	Elder	occ
<i>Silene vulgaris</i> Garcke	Bladder Champion	freq
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Black Nightshade	occ
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L. *	Smooth Sow-thistle	occ
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	freq
<i>Torilis arvensis</i> (Hudson)Link	Spreading Hedge-parsley	occ
<i>Urtica dioica</i> *	Common nettle	occ

Table 1 Plant macrofossil remains from Context (1067)

CORNFIELDS		
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corncockle	freq - frags only
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Chamomile	abund
<i>Centaurea</i> sp	Knapweed	rare
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	freq
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i> L.	Corn Buttercup	rare
GRASSLAND		
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i> L. *	Parsley-piert	rare
<i>Chaerophyllum aureum</i> L.	Golden Chervil	occ
<i>Cirsium/Carduus</i> spp *	Thistle	freq - frags only
Fabaceae indet (calyx, flower and pod cap)	Pea Family - clover/vetch etc	freq
<i>Leontodon</i> sp	Hawkbit	freq
<i>Linum catharticum</i> L.	Fairy Flax	occ
<i>Plantago major</i> *	Greater Plantain	occ
Poaceae indet	Grass	v.freq
<i>Potentilla erecta</i> *	Tormentil	occ
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> *	Selfheal	freq
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	Buttercup	v.freq
<i>Reseda luteola</i> *	Weld	abund
<i>Rumex</i> spp *	Dock	freq
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	rare
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L. *	Sheep's Sorrel	occ
WET PLACES		
<i>Alisma</i> spp	Water-plantain	rare
<i>Carex</i> spp	Sedge	v.freq
<i>Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis</i>	Spike Rush	freq
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> (L.)Maxim	Meadowsweet	rare
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i> L.	Marsh Pennywort	rare
<i>Juncus</i> spp	Rush	abund
<i>Potamogeton</i> spp	Pondweed	rare
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L.	Lesser Spearwort	rare
HEATH/MOOR		
<i>Potentilla erecta</i> *	Tormentil	occ
SALT MARSH/COASTAL		
<i>Atriplex</i> spp *	Orache	v.freq
<i>Suaeda maritima</i> (L.)Dumort	Annual Sea-blite	occ
<i>Triglochin maritimum</i> L.	Sea Arrowgrass	rare
CULTIVATED/OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE		
<i>Brassica/Sinapis</i> spp *	Mustard/Rape/Cole etc	freq
<i>Dipsacus sativus</i> (L.)Honck (bracts)	Fuller's Teasel	rare
<i>Dipsacus</i> sp * (fruits)	Teasel	occ
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	occ
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> L. *	Wild Strawberry	occ
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> L. (pod frags)	Woad	occ
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	Flax	occ
<i>Malus</i> c.f. <i>domestica</i> Borkh. *	Apple	rare
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> ssp <i>raphanistrum</i> (pods + frags) *	Wild Radish	occ
<i>Reseda luteola</i> *	Weld	abund
<i>Rubia tinctorum</i> L. (root frags)	Madder	freq
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Grape	occ

Table 1 (continued)

MINERALISED PLANT REMAINS		
<i>Centaurea</i> sp	Knapweed	rare
<i>Cirsium/Carduus</i> sp	Thistle	rare
CARBONISED PLANT REMAINS		
<i>Triticum</i> sp (grain)	Wheat	occ
Cereal indet		rare
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (nut frags)	Hazel	rare
Charcoal fragments		abund
OTHER REMAINS		
Moss		v.freq
Beetle fragments		abund
Fly puparia		v.freq
Molluscs/operculum		freq
Animal bone		freq
Fish bone		freq
Fish scale		occ
Egg shell		freq
<p>Scale of abundance: rare. Vegetative material occurring only once or 1 seed occasional. Vegetative material occurring only a few times or 2-5 seed frequent. Vegetative material occurring regularly or 5-20 seeds very frequent. Vegetative material occurring in every portion of the sample examined or 20+ seeds abundant. Vegetative material occurring in field of view all the time or 40+ seeds</p> <p>* = plants which appear in more than one group.</p>		

Table 1 (continued) Plant macrofossil remains from Context (1067)

such as these is shown by documentary records; customs on ships entering the port of Bristol in 1461 included 'each frail of figs and raisins, 1/2d' (Cronne 1946).

Evidence of other plants of economic importance which were recovered include remains of fuller's teasel and a number of dye plants. A single distinctive receptacular bract of fuller's teasel (*Dipsacus sativus*) was found with a number of teasel fruits although it could not be certain whether these represented fuller's teasel or the wild teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) based on the criteria described by Hall (1992). Fuller's teasel is important in cloth manufacture. The stiff bracts tease the fibre ends from the cloth to raise a nap or pile on wool cloth. Fuller's teasel fruits were found from waterfront deposits at an adjacent site at Courage's Brewery. It is well known from both documentary and street name evidence (such as Tucker Street, meaning fuller) that this area of the medieval city was occupied by fullers and dyers. Evidence of dye plants was recovered in the form of small root fragments of madder (*Rubia tinctorum*), pod fragments of woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) and abundant seeds of weld/dyer's rocket (*Reseda luteola*). Weld seeds were also found at Courage's Brewery (Jackson 1995) and at Dundas Wharf (Jones and Watson 1987), also along the Redcliffe waterfront. Here a dump of dyeing waste was identified with remains of madder, weld and dyer's greenweed with evidence from fibres also suggesting the presence of woad.

Weld could have been gathered locally, all parts of this plant being used to give a pure lemon-yellow dye. Both madder, the roots of which contain a red dye and woad which gave a blue dye, would have been imported into Bristol. Medieval customs accounts show that madder was imported from Holland and Flanders, probably in a processed form, the Dutch being leading madder growers and highly skilled refiners. Woad is frequently mentioned in 13th-century records in Bristol, being the second major import from France after wine (Bickley 1900).

A final group of plants are those associated with wet places, many of which could have originated from areas of low lying ground around the town. Although Bristol is some 10km from the mouth of the River Avon it was still affected by the tide throughout the medieval period. Diatom analysis at Dundas Wharf confirmed that the Avon at this point, approximately 160 metres downstream from Bristol Bridge, was estuarine in origin (Jones & Watson 1987) with a predominantly marine fauna and it was suggested that the freshwater flow was restricted to the centre of the channel. Two plants more typical of saltmarsh, annual sea-blite (*Suaeda maritima*) and sea arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritimum*) were found in the silts at Bridge Parade, as well as a few occurrences of similar saltmarsh species at both Dundas Wharf and Welsh Back (Blockley forthcoming), the latter site on the opposite bank of the river. These are likely

to have been washed in on the tide or may have arrived in dung from animals grazed on areas of saltmarsh further downstream. Documentary sources show that flooding was a major problem in the low lying areas of marsh such as existed along Welsh Back, excavated by BaRAS in 1995 (Blockley *op cit*). A similar suite of wetland plants to those recovered at Welsh Back were found at Bridge Parade and are likely to have grown in 'The Marsh', or similar low-lying areas. While these areas may have been flooded in winter, this was most likely from freshwater flooding from the Avon and Frome and during the summer months this land would have provided suitable grazing land. Plants such as rushes, the seeds of which are abundant here, may have been gathered from such places for domestic purposes. Rush gathering is mentioned in an ordinance dated 1451 '*Item that alle that bring risshes (rushes) to towne to make the market in Wynchestrere at a place thereto ordeyned and in non other place in peyne of forfeiture of the same*' (Veale 1933, 135).

Conclusion

The plant macrofossil remains have shown the range of different habitats which existed around the medieval town, some reflecting the natural environment including areas of low lying marsh or bare ground such as existed in backyards, or alleyways. Other habitats represented such as cornfields and grassland would have been exploited for domestic and economic purposes. There is also evidence of plants which were used for industrial purposes, notably the cloth industry with evidence of fulling and dyeing which involved the importation of raw materials such as madder and woad into Bristol. Rubbish accumulation and disposal in medieval towns is known to have been a serious problem and despite ordinances attempting to control this, much rubbish clearly found its way into the river. Several shells of *Phytia myosotis* (Mouse-ear-shelled snail) were noted. These snails live among rotting rubbish near high water which is also likely to have attracted the abundance of insects and fly puparia in the sample.

The site at Bridge Parade lies on the south bank of the River Avon, in the Redcliffe area of Bristol. It is close to a number of other waterfront excavations carried out in Redcliffe Street from 1981 to 1985. These sites all revealed substantial organic and silt deposits which provided a wealth of palaeoenvironmental evidence. Much of the waterfront sediment at Dundas Wharf consisted of thick bands of organic material which were interpreted as in-situ dumps of waste from occupation on the site. These were intercalated with fairly clean silts deposited by the river, which, it was estimated in as little as 100-150 years caused a build up of over 2-2.5 metres of sediment and a gradual encroachment onto the course of the river. The sample examined from Bridge Parade was, in contrast, a silt with a high organic content, similar in nature to those recovered at the adjoining Courage Brewery site with the appearance of sediment of a mixed nature which had probably been reworked by the action of the tide and relayed in the area of the slipway/dock from where it was recovered. It is

therefore of a different nature to much of the organic material from Dundas Wharf where only a relatively small clay matrix was present. However, it seems likely from the plant material present in the sample from Bridge Parade, which came from a wide range of different habitat groups, that much of this would have been deposited from nearby but was reworked by tidal action with a limited amount of additional material brought in by the tide. It is also likely that thicker bands of organic material, which seem to be characteristic of these waterfront deposits would have been encountered if further excavation had occurred.

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ABBOT'S LEIGH - A 1ST/2ND CENTURY ROMANO-BRITISH SITE

by Keith S Gardner

ABSTRACT

A straight bank alignment was sectioned as a possible Roman road and only RB material found associated with it. An adjacent rectangular area enclosed by a stone bank contained rough 'cobble' foundations and a floor. On the floor was pottery of 2nd century AD whilst beneath it was a mixture of native wares and RB fabrics of the 1st century AD. Evidence of a more substantial structure nearby was noted.

INTRODUCTION

Following the initial excavations at GATCOMBE in 1954 (NGR ST 538 738) by members of the Clevedon & District Archaeological Society, field work was concentrated in 1957 on the hypothetical problem of a road system linking what was obviously a substantial walled Roman period settlement with other local conurbations.

North of Gatcombe there were traces of a linear bank, (Plate 1) possibly an early trackway ascending the hill straight through thick woodland, passing a number of features which are regarded as native farm structures of the period (Gardner in Branigan 1977 fig.31). It was considered feasible that this might have been intended as a link-road with Sea Mills (ABONE) (Bennett 1985).

The 18th century historian Barrett gave support to this theory (Barrett 1789) : '.. the old roads from the camps on Leigh Down may still be traced through an orchard at the village of Leigh and through Leigh Wood down to the River Avon at Sea Mills, on the banks of which was the Roman summer station, occupying the heights on both sides of the Avon down to Sea Mills, from whence the whole with great propriety was called ABONAE..' [Note 1]

A study of Air Ministry cover (CPE/UK/2472- 3003) (Plate 2) revealed a straight dark line crossing the Leigh

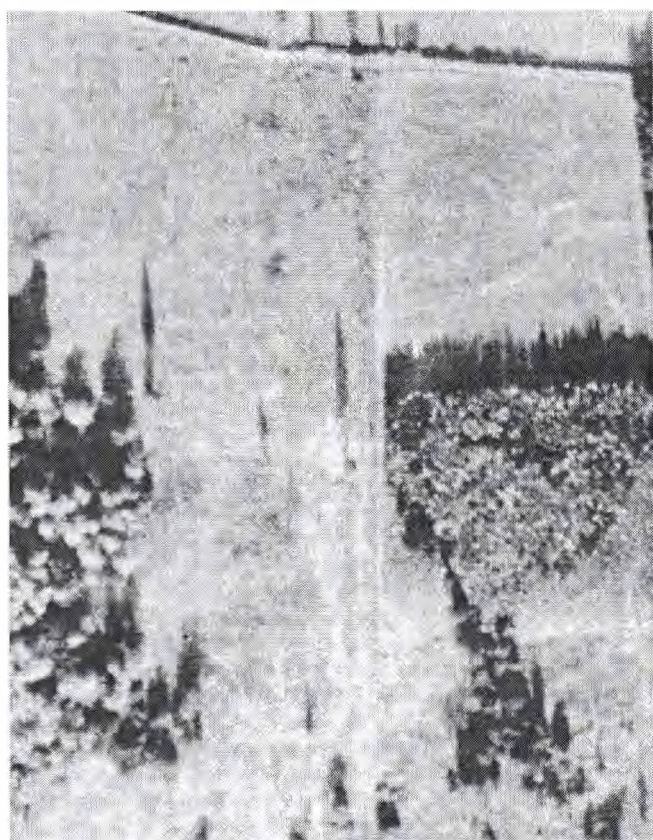


Plate 1 Straight track 500m north of Gatcombe crossing relict (native RB landscape?). Air Ministry APCPE/UK?1869 - 4th Dec '46: 3076



Plate 2 Straight dark line 200m due north of Leigh Court, running north-east to Abone (1,000m) and south-west to 'Avonview' site (1,000m). AP CPE/UK/2472 - 9th March '48:3003

Court estate from the direction of Sea Mills, crossing the A.369 road and continuing across country in the direction of Redford Wood above Failand Farm, at which point it would intersect with the line of the suspected track from Gatcombe.

On checking the line in the field north west of 'Avonview' (now 'Staddlestones' in Sandy Lane, Abbot's Leigh) it was noticed that both the house and garden were situated in a rectangular enclosure. The kitchen garden contained a large stone clearance heap which included broken quern stones and pennant flagstones and roof tiles. The vegetable beds produced sherds of RB pottery. With the co-operation of the owner, the late Lt Col H A Brown, two areas were investigated.

Site 1. The ? Road Figs.1 and 2

A section across the suspected road line as seen on aerial photo reference CPE/UK/2472 9th March 1948 sheets 3001 & 4001 (Plates 2 & 3).

Trenches 1 yard (0.91m) in width totalling 13 yards (11.88m) in length were dug across the low stone bank. The bank consisted of a mixture of stone types on, but different than, the underlying limestone pan and bed rock. The cutting extended into a possible stone clearance mound which sealed in a low earth bank on the top of which was a sherd of RB ware and several flakes of flint. The possibility of the earth bank being a 'kerb' to a rough laid track remains.

Site 2. The Enclosure Figs.1 and 3

Two parallel stone banks were observed within the enclosure. Trench 3 was cut diagonally across them.

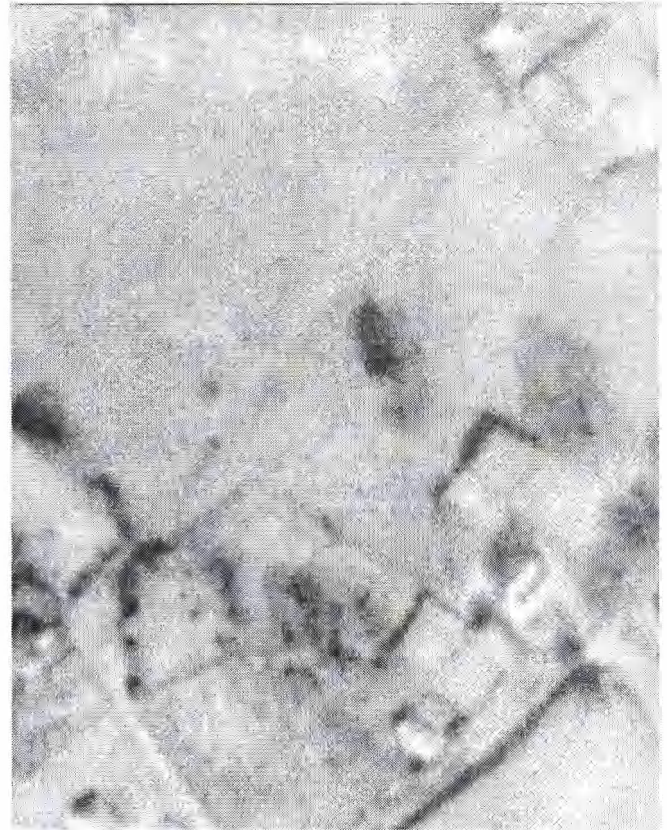


Plate 3 The site at 'Avonview' showing continuation of line and Romano-British earthwork enclosure. AP CPE/UK/2472 - 9th March '48:4001

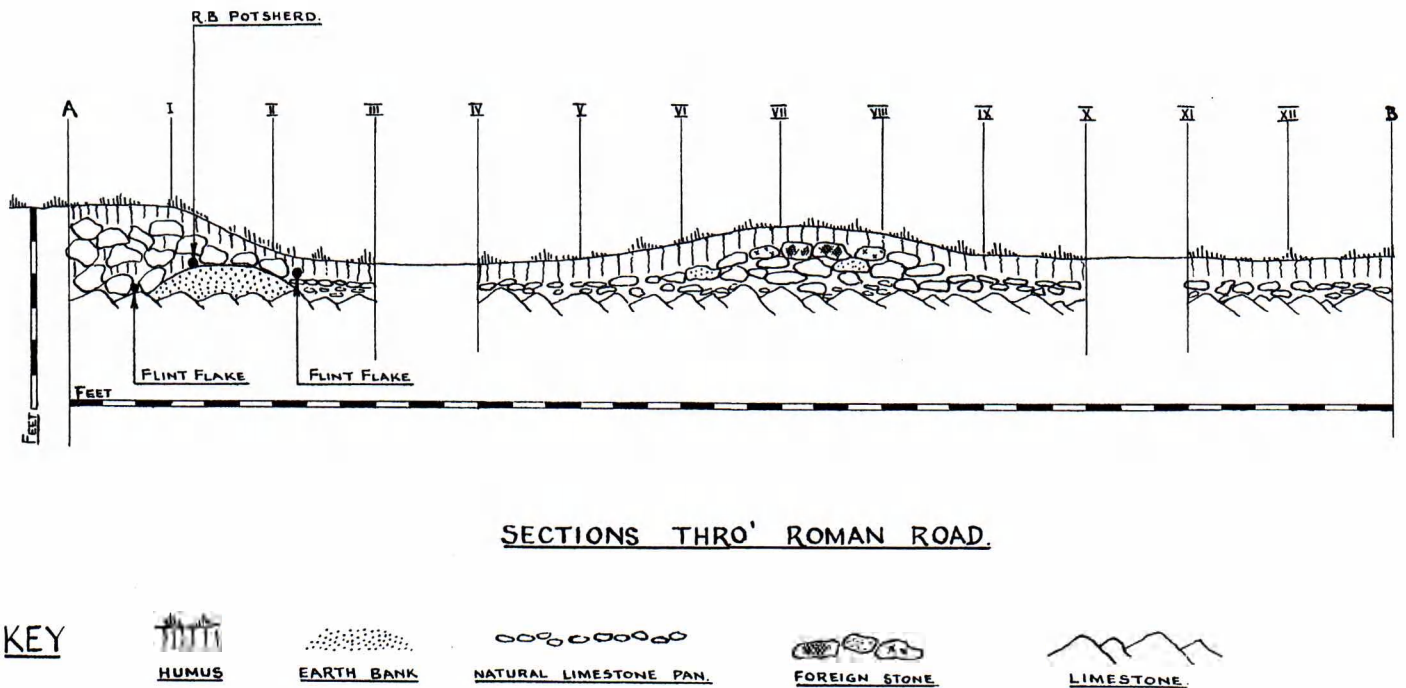


Fig.2 Site 1 - section through the Roman road

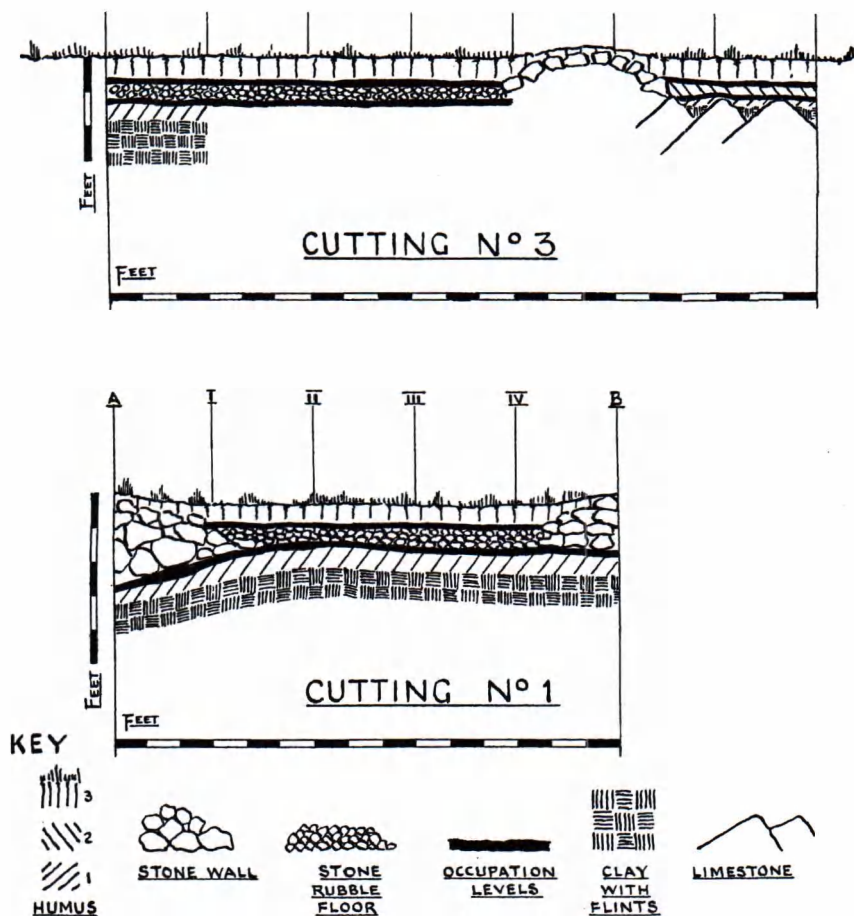


Fig.3 Site 2 - Sections through Cuttings 1 and 3

The 'walling' consisted of rough, untrimmed pieces of limestone 'cobble' and incorporated within this material were pottery sherds, presumably scraped up from the surface material of an earlier occupation. In between the walls was a 'floor' of similar stone rubble on the top of which was an occupation level. The floor was contemporary with the walling.

Beneath this floor and running beneath and beyond the walling was an earlier occupation level containing 1st century pottery, mixed with early 2nd century RB fabrics.

THE EXCAVATED CONTEXTS

Site 2. Cuttings 1 & 3 Layer 1. This layer represents the last period of occupation and consists of turf and humus resting on the hard packed stone floor level. Pottery late/early 3rd century

Site 2. Cuttings 1 & 3 Layer 2. This layer is the actual floor material which seems to have consisted of scraped-up stones packed hard into a cobble surface. The sherds were presumably scraped up with the floor material. 2nd century

Site 2. Cutting 1, Layer 3. This layer was the original surface beneath the cobble floor. Late 1st/early 2nd century

Site 2. Wall Material - The Stone Bank. A quantity of pottery was found in the stone bank and was presumably also scraped up from the earlier level. 3rd century

Site 2. Outside Wall - Outside the Stone Bank. The soil outside the wall foundation was pure humus, ie no laid cobble floor; pottery was again found at two distinctly different depths. That from the lower was associated with a hearth in the bed rock.

The Pottery

Significant rims and sherds were numbered AL** and entered into the archive log.

A small assemblage of 51 sherds of pottery were identified by the excavators as being "significant". The sherds were numbered AL1 to AL51 but not otherwise identified. The material was subsequently examined (1999) by Rod Burchill who compiled the following note. A description of the individual sherds can be found in the site

archive.

Sherds AL1 to AL15, recovered from the garden, were all unstratified. The group included Congresbury type greyware, black-burnished ware copies (AL1, 2 and 4) and a single sherd of unsourced Samian. As a group they date to the 3rd or early 4th century.

Site 2

The pottery from Cutting 1 and 3, Layer 1 consisted of eleven sherds, AL6 to AL16. As a group they can be dated to the late 2nd or early 3rd century.

Pottery from Layer 2 (Cutting 1 and 3 - a floor), AL17 - AL23, comprised sherds of BB1 and native wares of probable early to mid 2nd century date along with three sherds of very late Iron Age (1st Century AD) pottery.

From Layer 3 (Cutting 1) came twelve sherds (AL24-AL36) all of late 1st century or very early 2nd century date.

Found associated with the stone bank were five sherds (AL37-AL41). As a group they were dated to the 3rd century.

Pottery was recovered from two layers on the outside of the earth bank. From Layer 1 came a single sherd of sandy greyware of probable 2nd century date (AL42). Associated with a hearth (Layer 2) were nine sherds ranging in date from the late 1st to the late 3rd century (AL43-AL51).

Conclusions (Fig.4)

The original purpose was to check the dark line showing on the Aerial Photograph running south west from the banks of the Avon opposite Sea Mills. The Abbot's Leigh site was on a continuation of that line, and whilst a road was not necessarily proven (or disproven) on Site 1 itself, the presence of early RB pottery is, to say the least, coincidental. It should be noted that the line is a continuation of that road which runs parallel to the Severn from Gloucester, and would if extended continue towards Combwich on the Parrett (Bennett 1985 fig.1).

Although the cuttings revealed only insubstantial constructions, other evidence (such as nailed pennant roofing tiles from the present gardens) suggest the presence of a more substantial building nearby. The relevance of the site lies in the prospect of tracing the transition from a native

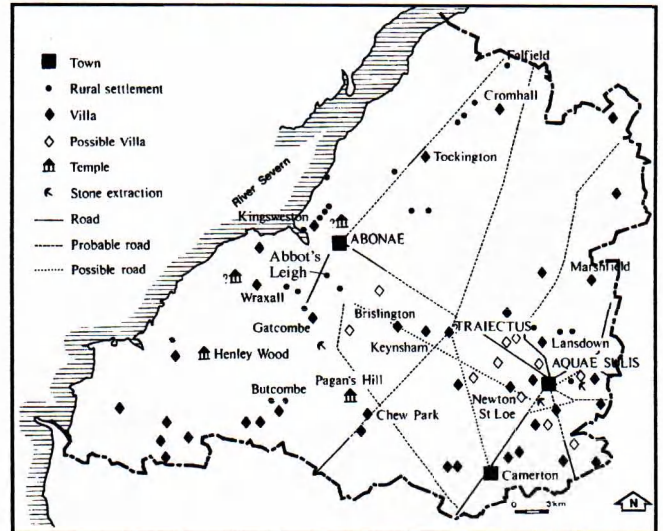


Fig.4 Location of Abbot's Leigh (after Aston & Iles, *Archaeology of Avon*)

(Dobunnic ?) site to a Romanized structure so close to a presumed early military establishment as Abonae.

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Note 1

Bennett (1985, 1) Claims that : 'Sea Mills (was) Abonae and was first identified as such by the Revd. Samuel Seyer' (Seyer 1821, 155). It is apparent that the credit should go to Barrett, who seemed well aware of the fact and was probably Seyer's source. The claim that Abonae extended south of the river is one that does not appear to have previously been considered.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL STRUCTURES AT THE VICTORIA METHODIST CHURCH, HIGH STREET, KEYNSHAM.

EXCAVATIONS IN 1997

by Clifford Bateman and Dawn Enright

with contributions by Marek Lewcun, Mark Maltby, and Alan Vince

SUMMARY

The remnants of a medieval building and associated tenement boundary wall were identified during excavations along the High Street, Keynsham. The building was established in the late 12th to early 13th century, and continued in use into and throughout the post-medieval period.

Flooring, comprising clay surfaces superseded by sandstone flags, was recorded from within the building; whilst a series of stone-lined drains was identified to the rear of the property. The building was demolished to make way for the construction of the Methodist Church, which opened in 1887.

INTRODUCTION

In November 1997 Cotswold Archaeological Trust was commissioned by Wainscot Associates, on behalf of the Trustees of the Victoria Methodist Church, to undertake archaeological recording in advance of construction work at the Victoria Methodist Church, Keynsham (Fig.1). The site lies at the corner of High Street and Charlton Road at approximately 26m OD (ST 6539 6868). The underlying solid geology consists of Blue and White Lias Clay of the Lower Jurassic period, with limestone beds throughout.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Little previous research has been undertaken in and around the town of Keynsham, although the fact that the area has long been the focus of settlement is undoubted. A number of Roman buildings have been identified along the banks of the River Avon including a rich and substantial villa from Keynsham itself (Russell 1985). Recent excavations undertaken 100m north-east of the Methodist Church, adjacent to The Park, revealed Saxo-Norman ditches, a medieval pit and ditch, and the foundations of a 14th-century stone building (Yorkston 1996).

It has been suggested that the remnants of the Roman villa estate may have been the focus of the Saxon foundation of the town in the 9th century (Russell 1985, 8). The town itself was certainly important: the Saxon church was a Minster and a large Augustinian Abbey was founded here in 1167. The granting of a market and fair in 1303 by Edward I indicates the increasing prosperity and development of

Keynsham within the medieval period.

The history of the development site can also be traced through the later medieval and post-medieval periods, both through documentary and cartographic sources. Much of this work has been undertaken by local historian Barbara Lowe, and the following account owes much to material kindly supplied by her.

The site was originally owned by Keynsham Abbey (Methodist Documents in Circuit Safe), and comprised the eastern part of a tenement plot which fronted the High Street and extended westward to the north-eastern boundary of the Abbot's deer-park (KSLHS 1996). The plot was purchased in 1613 by Ann Whitmore as part of the Manor of Keynsham, and by 1656 is recorded as the Angel Inn (Whitmore Estate Papers, Herefordshire), but by 1767 had become a 'Gentleman's residence'.

The Tithe Apportionment map of 1840 shows the site occupied by a number of buildings, fronting both the High Street and Charlton Street (formerly known as Dane's Street), and comprising a house, carpenter's shop and outbuildings. A photograph dated to c1870 shows the property's High Street frontage aligned with, and adjacent to, the still extant building to the south.

The house and associated outbuildings were sold to the Church trustees in 1870 (Methodist Documents in Circuit Safe), and were demolished in advance of the construction of the present Victoria Methodist Church, which opened on 20th May 1887. The Church was set back 8m from the High Street.

In general, the development of the town and Abbey precinct in the earlier medieval period is poorly understood, but the establishment of the very straight High Street, and regular tenement blocks perpendicular to this road have led to suggestions of a planned rather than piecemeal development (Leech 1975, 38).

As the Trustees of the church were intending to extend the present late 19th-century building towards the street frontage, there was an opportunity to investigate for the presence of the Saxon settlement, as well as obtaining dating evidence for the planning of the medieval town.

METHODOLOGIES

In view of the archaeological potential of the site, a staged mitigation strategy was proposed as a condition of planning

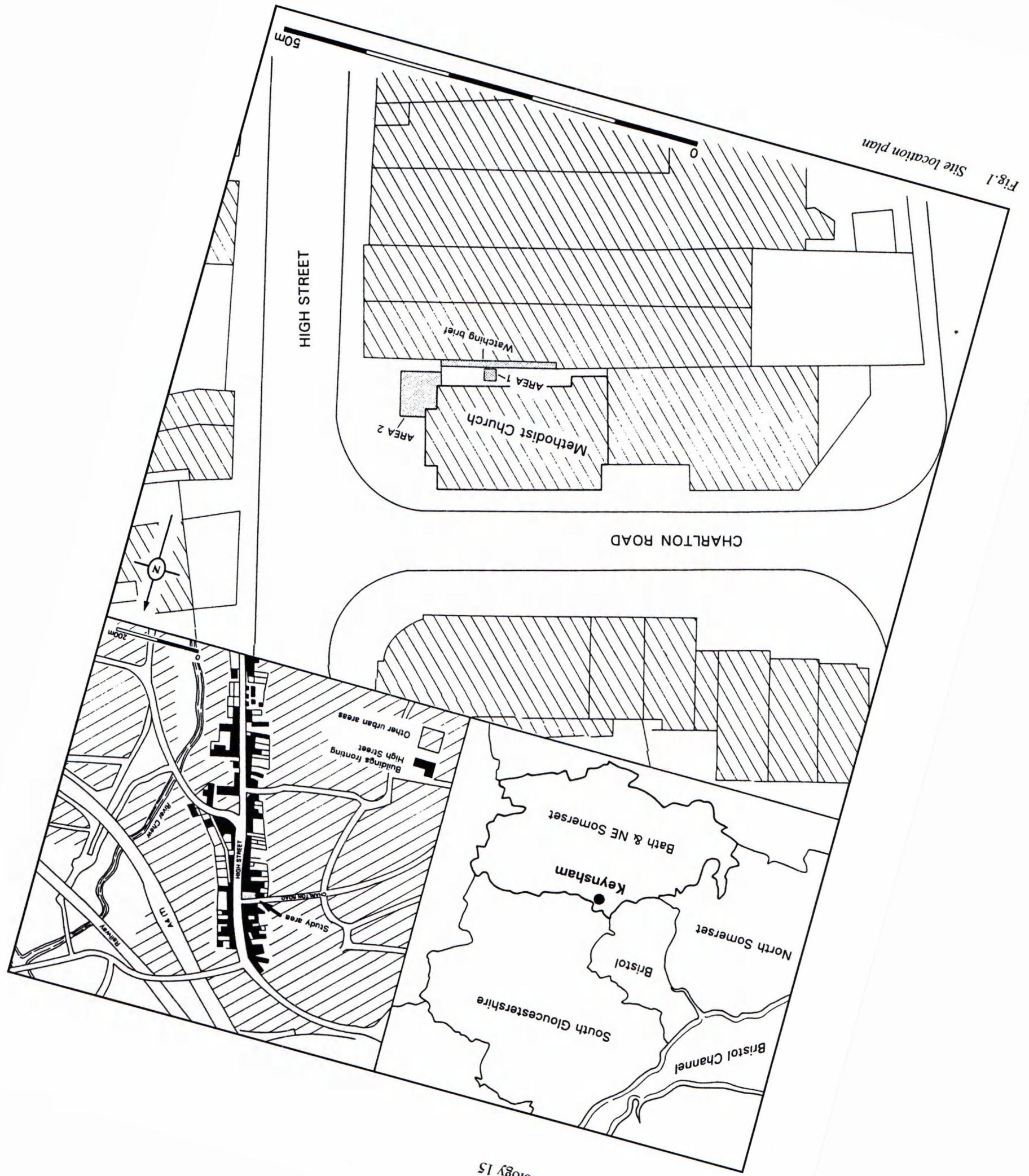


Fig.1 Site location plan

approval. At the end of each stage a review meeting was held with Mr R. Sydes, Archaeological Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council, to assess the nature and extent of further archaeological recording. For the purpose of the mitigation strategy the site was divided into two separate areas where differing phases of work occurred (see Fig.1).

Area 1

In the area of a proposed creche, to the south of the church, an evaluation test-pit measuring 1.5m by 1.5m was hand excavated to the top of archaeological levels which were cleaned and planned subject to review. Thereafter it was agreed that a watching brief should be undertaken during the subsequent groundworks for a proposed footing trench.

Area 2

On the site of a proposed counselling room, sited along the church frontage, modern paving and overburden within the footprint of the proposed extension were removed by hand to the top of the archaeological levels whereupon full excavation was required of an area measuring approximately 22m². All archaeological deposits encountered were fully excavated by hand to the natural substrate.

The site archive has been deposited with the Roman Baths Museum, Bath, under accession number 1998.11.

RESULTS

Three main phases and seven sub-phases of activity were identified based on stratigraphic and spatial relationships, and a consideration of the available dating evidence. They are:

Period 1: Medieval	Phase 1a Late 12th to early 13th century. Phase 1b Mid 13th to early 16th century
Period 2: Post-medieval	Phase 2a Mid 16th to mid 17th century. Phase 2b Late 18th century. Phase 2c Early to mid 19th century.
Period 3: 1870 to present	Phase 3a Late 19th century. Phase 3b 20th century.

Period 1: Medieval (Figs.2, 5 and 6)

Phase 1a - Late 12th to early 13th century

Area 2

The natural substrate was identified at 25.51m OD, 0.3m below existing ground level. A subrectangular pit/tank (124) measuring at least 2.19m in length by 1.60m wide and aligned parallel to the existing street frontage, cut into the natural deposits to a depth of 0.19m. On excavation it was shown to be flat bottomed with steeply sloping sides. It contained a red-brown gritty clay (125), representing an episode of deliberate backfilling, from which sherds of late 12th to early 13th-century pottery were retrieved. Although the

construction date and function of the pit/tank remains undetermined, it appears to have been deliberately backfilled in an attempt to create a level ground surface to allow for the construction of a stone building.

A single course of wall (102), broadly orientated north to south and aligned parallel with the street frontage, was identified immediately west of pit/tank (124). The wall, which was 0.8m wide, was constructed of unbonded, dressed sandstone, equally faced on both sides, with a rubble core. No evidence for a footing trench was revealed; instead the wall was constructed upon clay deposit (154) from which late 12th to early 13th-century pottery was recovered. No internal features or layers, such as flooring, nor any use of the building was identified.

Area 1

Within the test pit excavated to the south of the church, some 18m west of the High Street, the remnant of an east to west aligned wall (019) was identified (Fig.3). The wall was 0.35m wide and comprised a single surviving course of limestone blocks sitting on top of the natural clay. It remains undated but given its orientation perpendicular to the High Street, may represent the contemporary boundary to the medieval building and its associated tenement plot.

Although a watching brief was maintained in this area during the excavation of a footing trench for the proposed creche no further archaeological deposits were encountered.

Phase 1b - Mid 13th to early 16th century

No evidence of late medieval features were identified. However the small assemblage of 14th to 15th-century Bristol pottery, albeit retrieved from residual contexts, is suggestive of the continued occupation of the property throughout this period.

Period 2: Post-medieval (Figs.3 and 5)

Phase 2a - Mid 16th to mid 17th century

By the mid 16th century a threshold had been constructed through earlier wall (102). The surface of the threshold was constructed of vertically pitched limestone (153) bedded into a clay and mortar matrix (119). Pottery retrieved from (119) included German and Belgian imports such as Frechen and Raeren stonewares. Although this surface is dated to the early post-medieval period, the stonework of the wall respects and forms this entrance, which may indicate that an entrance in this position was part of the original design of the building. The pitched surface perhaps relates to conversion and renovation works when the building changed use from private accommodation to a public house.

Within Area 2 a small pit, (015), approximately 0.6m in diameter and containing a fragment of clay tobacco pipe dated to 1620-1670, and residual 14th to 15th-century pottery, may also be assigned to this period (Fig.7).

Phase 2b - Late 18th century

During the late 18th century a series of drains was inserted across the site. The drains were dry-stone in construction

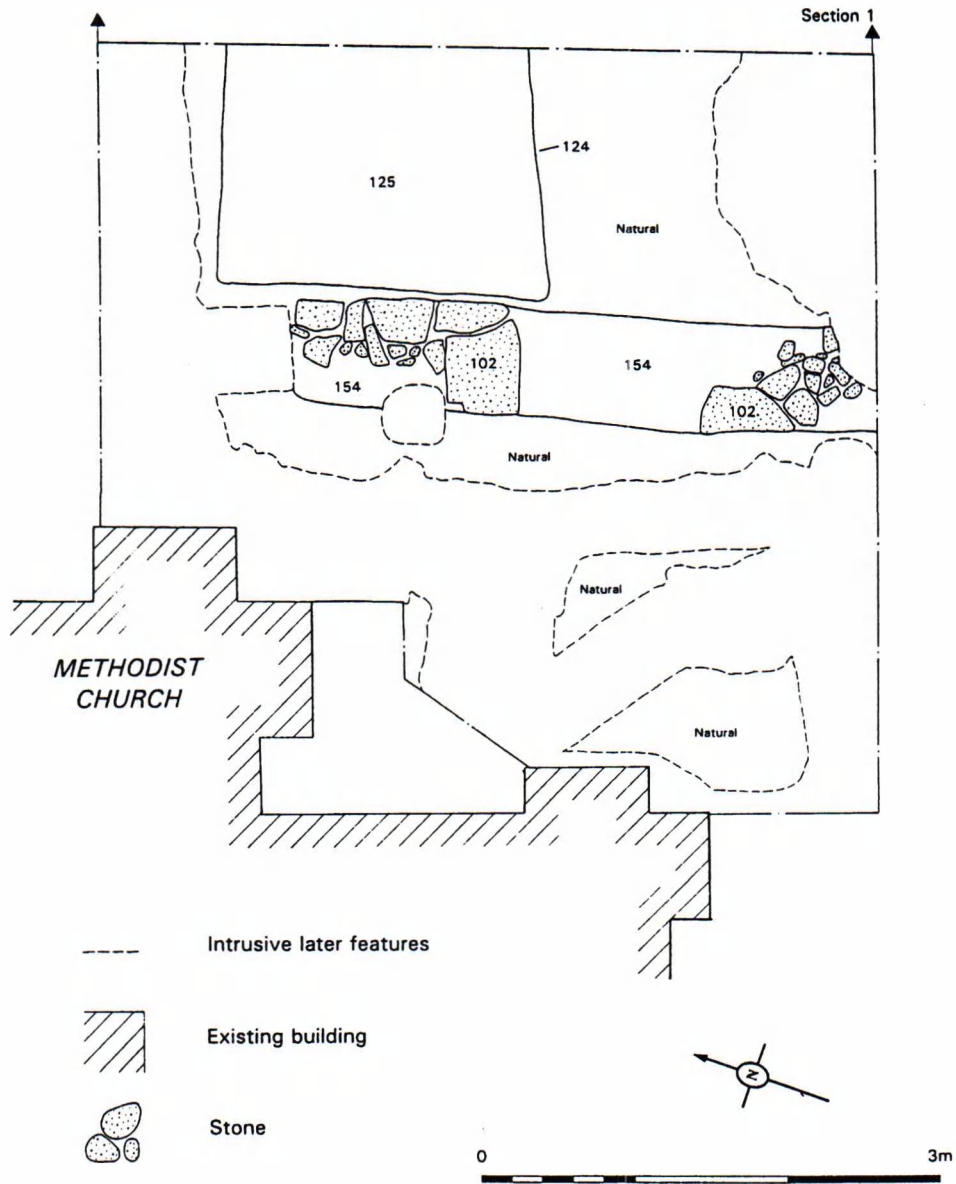


Fig.2 Medieval features

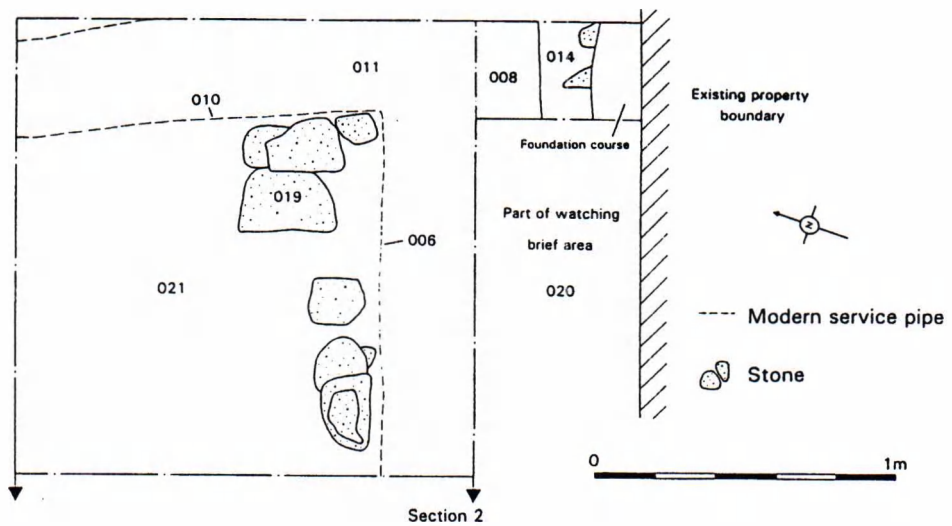


Fig.3 Post-medieval features

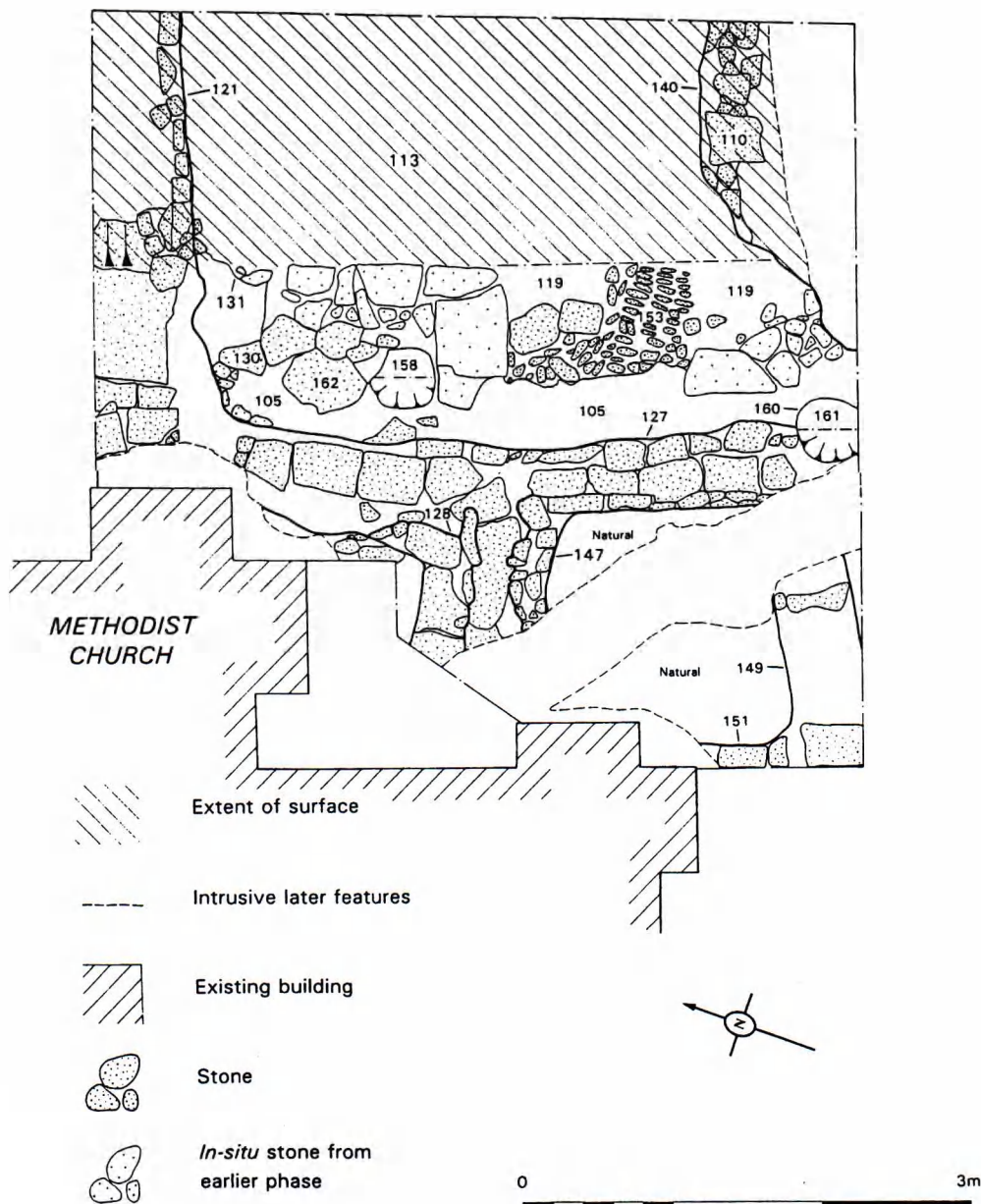


Fig.4 Features dating from 1870 to the present day

and consisted of coursed, roughly dressed limestone and sandstone masonry capped by limestone slabs.

Drain (147), which measured 0.91m wide and 0.23m deep, was located to the rear of the building. Drains (121) and (140), both measuring 0.85m wide by 0.53m deep, formed east to west arteries through the building; presumably allowing drainage from the rear of the property to drains along the High Street. Sherds of residual medieval pottery and 18th-century clay tobacco pipe were retrieved from deposits (129) and (142), which sealed the stone capping of drains (121) and (140) respectively (Fig.6).

To enable the insertion of drain (121) part of wall (102) was demolished. Rebuilding of the wall entailed placing a large limestone block to bridge the newly-constructed drain on which a replacement wall (130), incorporating smaller sandstone blocks and half bricks, was constructed. Pottery

retrieved from wall (130) suggests a construction date in the 18th century. The internal floor surface (113) of red-brown compacted clay was also repaired. A half-penny, dated to the reign of King George III, was recovered from this layer giving a terminus post quem of 1770 for the repair work.

The repaired surface subsequently was sealed by successive clay and mortar surfaces (110), (111) and (112), culminating in a flagged sandstone floor (109). No dating evidence was retrieved from these layers.

These works may have been part of a modernisation programme connected with the conversion of the building from a public house back to a 'Gentleman's residence'.

Phase 2c - Early to mid 19th century

Stone-lined drain (147), to the west of the wall (102) was replaced with a similarly constructed, though smaller gauge

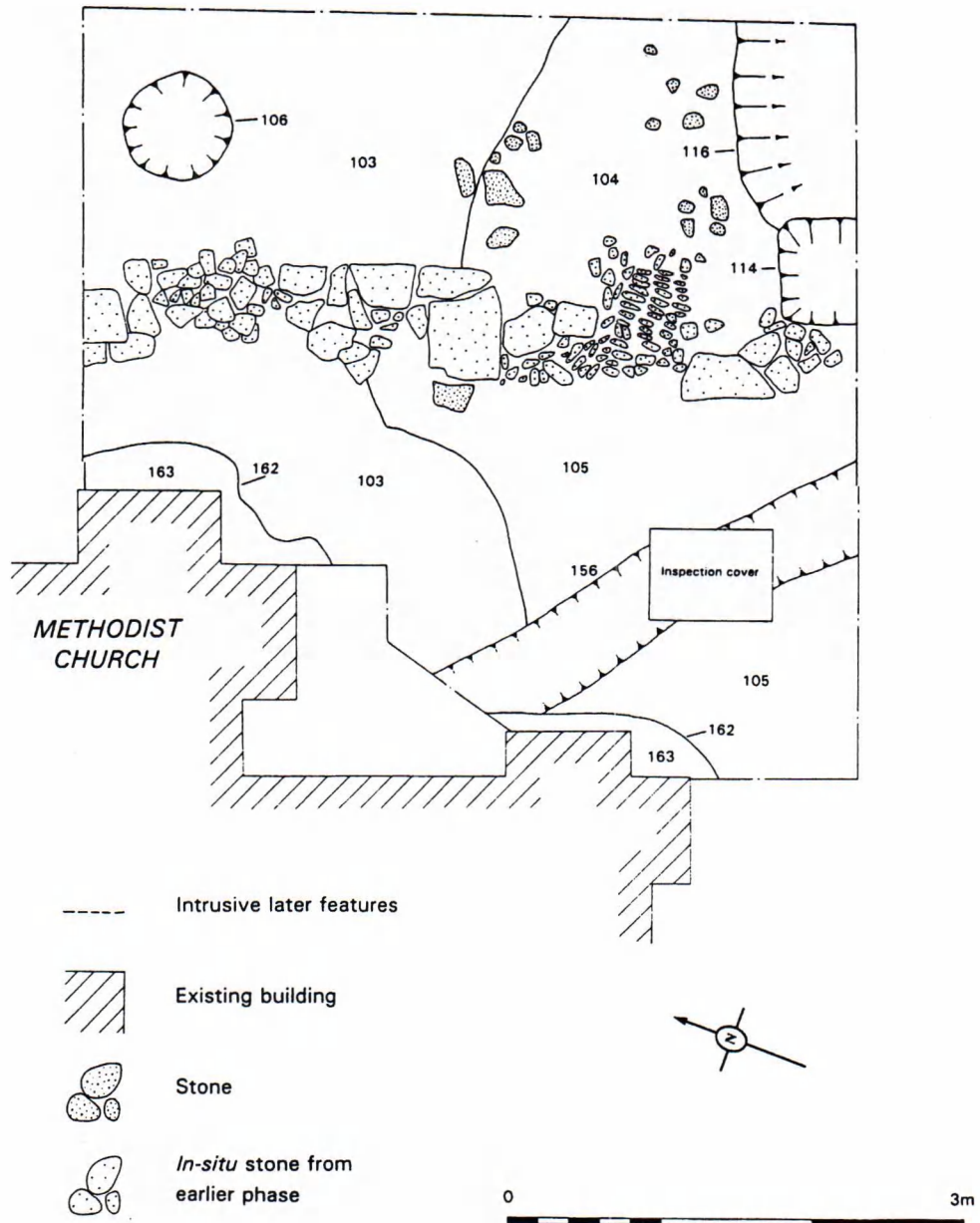


Fig.5 Intrusive features

drain (128), measuring 0.49m wide, and built within the original drainage run. Three further drains, (127), (149) and (151), of similar dimensions were also identified to the west of the wall, and may be interpreted as being broadly contemporary. No artefactual material was retrieved from any of the narrow gauge drains.

Period 3: 1870 to present (Figs.4 & 5)

Phase 3a - Late 19th century

Late 19th-century activity is dominated by demolition associated with the razing of the medieval building and construction debris such as mortar rich deposits (103), (104)

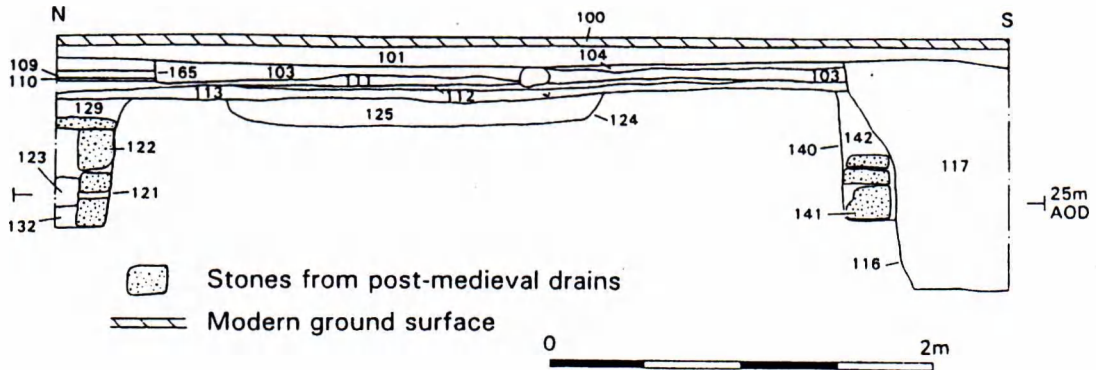
and (105). Two residual sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the fill of circular pit (106), which cut through layer (103).

The existing church footings were identified, although not excavated within foundation trench (162).

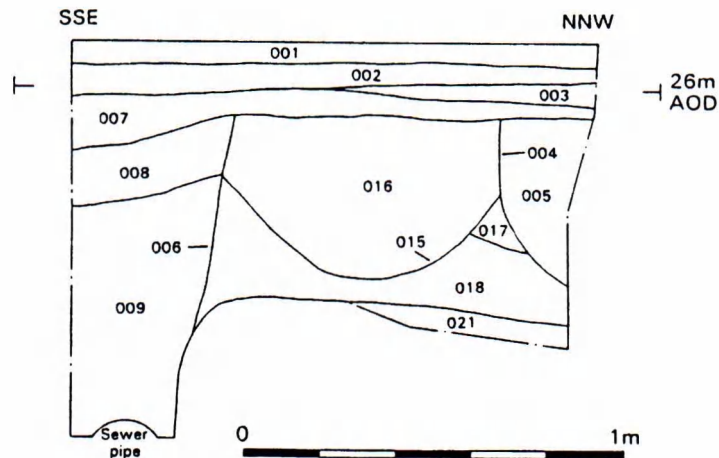
Phase 3b - 20th century

Modern service trenches (006), (010), (116) and (156) appear to be restricted to the southern extent of the development site, but have cut through some archaeological deposits, most notably wall (019) to the south of the Church. Sub-square/rectangular pit (114) post-dates the backfilling of service trench (116).

SECTION 1



SECTION 2



Figs.6 and 7 Section drawings

THE FINDS**The Pottery**

by A.Vince

One hundred sherds of medieval and later pottery, weighing 1250g, were recovered from the excavation. Twenty-two different wares were identified, of which six were of medieval date, the remainder being of post-medieval or early modern origin.

Medieval Pottery

Two contexts produced stratified medieval pottery (Table 1). The pottery from pit/tank (124) (125), is a small but coherent assemblage of later 12th or early 13th-century date. That from context (154), the wall bedding, is an even smaller assemblage. Two of the sherds are of identical type to those from context (125) whilst the third, a copper-glazed micaceous red earthenware could be of similar date, although it is not of a recognisable ware (MISC MGW). The coarseware from these contexts is of west Wiltshire

manufacture and mainly falls into the very fine, micaceous variety typical of late 12th/early 13th-century production (and found at Cheddar Palace, for example, in association with Ham Green ware, Rahtz 1979, Cheddar J).

Sherds of later medieval Bristol wares found in post-medieval deposits are the only evidence for the later medieval occupation of the site (Table 2). The lack of applied strips and the presence of internal glaze probably indicates a late 14th/15th-century date for these sherds.

Although a very small collection, this pottery illustrates nicely the position of Keynsham and its medieval trading pattern: in the late 12th/13th-century it relied on sources to the east for cooking wares (and probably for the unsourced vessel from context (154)), but still obtained glazed wares via Bristol. The presence of two northern French imports (Rouen and North French Monochrome) in this small collection is worth noting, since although these wares are common on coastal sites in the Bristol Channel (such as Chepstow, Vince 1991) and at Bristol itself, they have not been found at Bath and this is their first reported occurrence

Context	Cname	Full Name	Form	Sherds	Description	Date range
125	BATH A	Bath fabric A	CP	2	Sooted	1000-1350
125	BATH A	Bath fabric A	CP	3	Sooted; very micaceous	1000-1350
125	NFM	N.French Monochrome	JUG	1	Internal & external copper glaze; undecorated.	1150-1350
125	ROUEN	Rouen-type ware	JUG	2	Bridge spout, vertical brown strips; lead glazed	1150-1350
154	BATH A	Bath fabric A	CP	2	Sooted	1000-1350
154	MISC MGW	Un sourced	JUG	1	Copper glazed undecorated fine micaceous jug; CF "Crockerton" low fired	1150-1550

Table 1 Medieval pottery from stratified contexts

Context	Cname	Full name	Form	Sherds	Description	Date range
016	BR	Bristol Redcliffe Ware	BOWL	1		1250-1500
108	BR		JUG	1		1250-1500
117	BR		JUG	1	Internal & external glaze	1250-1500
117	BR		RIDGE	1		1250-1500
129	BR		JUG	1	Internal & external glaze	1250-1500
136	BR		JUG	1		1250-1500
142	BR		JUG	1	Bridge spout	1250-1500
155	RAER	Raeren st'ware	DJ	1		1450-1600

Table 2 Medieval pottery from residual contexts

at Keynsham. By the late medieval period, however, Bristol was supplying both kitchen ware (the bowl) and serving vessels. The growth of the local market for Bristol wares, in comparison with the distribution of the early Ham Green ware, has been noted elsewhere in Bristol's hinterland, for example at Acton Court (Vince forthcoming).

Post-Medieval Pottery

The site produced a larger quantity of post-medieval pottery, which spans the entire period, from the mid 16th century to the mid 18th century. There are, unfortunately, no obvious contemporary assemblages without either earlier or later sherds present and the most promising collection of early to mid 18th-century pottery, from contexts (103) and (105), was recovered from a deposit associated with the construction of the church in 1887.

Nevertheless, the main trading links of Keynsham during this period can be reconstructed. In the earliest period represented, probably the mid-late 16th century, the site was supplied with coarsewares from the Malvern Chase potteries (Vince 1977). The type present here (B5) appears to have been first produced during the 1530s and is found in Dissolution period deposits but is probably not present in the later 15th to early 16th centuries (which are therefore a blank as far as this site is concerned). In addition to these coarsewares, there were black-glazed cups, perhaps from rural kilns in south Gloucestershire (such as that whose waste was found at Falfield during construction of the M5 motorway), stoneware drinking jugs from Raeren and Frechen, and an unglazed Saintonge ware *pégau* with a bucket handle (Hurst 1974). None of the South Somerset wares found look as though they are so early and it is probable that at this period Bristol still supplied most of

Keynsham's needs for ceramics.

There is only one sherd that is definitely of 17th-century date, a tin-glazed bowl with a lead-glazed exterior from context 132. However, it is quite likely that much of the South Somerset ware from the site is of similar date, although it could equally be later, especially since almost all the remaining post-medieval wares can be dated to the early to mid 18th-century. These include a quantity of slipware vessels, probably of Bristol manufacture (but possibly from Staffordshire); North Devon wares, stoneware from London and Staffordshire and refined red earthenware, also probably from Staffordshire. The precise origin of the South Somerset wares is uncertain, as is the route by which they travelled to the site. They may include Donyatt vessels, traded to Bristol by boat, or Wanstrow wares, carried overland from the Frome area. The 18th-century assemblage is similar in character to those found in Bath, but with a higher quantity of slipware and non-local wares.

Given the small size of the post-medieval pottery assemblage and its wide date range it is not possible to say more, although it is probable that the quantity of imported vessels of mid/late 16th-century date and the absence of 18th-century imports, such as Westerwald stoneware and Chinese porcelain (both common finds in the area), indicates a decline in status of the site.

Early Modern Pottery

Four sherds of 19th-century date were found: a pearlware plate with blue feathered edge from context (142); transfer-printed chamber pot sherds from contexts (142) and (103) and a transfer-printed plate sherd from context (105). These say little about the use of the site.

Context	Cname	Full name	Form	Sherds	Description	Date range
005	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	BOWL	2	Slip trailed	1550-1900
009	B5	Late Malvern Chase glazed ware	JUG	1	Handle Scar	1530-1640
009	FREC	Frechen stoneware	DJ	1		1530-1680
103	SAIU	Saintonge unglazed ware	PEGAU	1	Rim with trace of bucket handle	1250-1550
103	LONS	London Stoneware	TANK	1		1670-1800
103	NDGT	N. Devon gravel-tempered	BOWL	1		1600-1900
103	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	BOWL	1		1550-1900
103	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	BOWL	1	Slip trailed	1550-1900
103	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	PIP	1	Handle	1550-1900
103	STCO	Staffordshire combed press-moulded ware	DISH	1	Wide brown slip trailing	1650-1800
103	STSL	Staffordshire/ Bristol slipware	POSS	1	Base	1680-1800
103	STSL	Staffordshire/ Bristol slipware	POSS	2	Combed slip exterior	1680-1800
103	STSL	Staffordshire/ Bristol slipware	POSS	8	Combed slip on exterior	1680-1800
103	SWSG	Staffordshire White salt-glazed stoneware	TANK	1		1700-1770
103	TGW	Tin-glazed ware	BOWL	3	Dainty footring, thin blue lines around body, plain rim	1640-1770
103	TGW	Tin-glazed ware	PLATE	5	18th C type, no footring, only blue decoration	1640-1770
105	LONS	London Stoneware	TANK	1		1670-1800
105	NDFW	N. Devon Fineware	JUG	1		1650-1900
105	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	JAR	1		1550-1900
105	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	JUG	1	Pulled spout, white slipped exterior under clear glaze, ribbed neck	1550-1900
105	STMO	Staffordshire/ Bristol mottled-glazed	POSS	1		1690-1800
105	STSL	Staffordshire/ Bristol slipware	POSS	2		1680-1800
105	TGW	Tin-glazed ware	BOWL	1	18th C	1640-1770
105	TGW	Tin-glazed ware	CHP	1		1640-1770
105	TGW	Tin-glazed ware	PLATE	2	18th C	1640-1770
119	B5	Late Malvern Chase glazed ware	JUG	4		1530-1640
119	CSTN	Cistercian ware	CUP	1		1500-1650
119	FREC	Frechen Stoneware		2		1530-1680
119	RAER	Raeren Stoneware	DJ	1		1450-1600
119	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	JAR	1	White slip trailed, luted handle stub	1550-1900
130	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	JAR	1		1550-1900
130	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	JUG	1		1550-1900
132	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	PIP	3	Sooted with ?food deposit inside	1550-1900
132	TGW	Tin-glazed ware	BOWL	1	Light blue and orange lines around lip, light green and yellow circle, lead backed.	1640-1770
136	B5	Late Malvern Chase glazed ware	JAR	1		1530-1640
142	B5	Late Malvern Chase glazed ware	JUG	1		1530-1640
142	CSTN	Cistercian Ware	CUP	1		1500-1650
142	FREC	Frechen Stoneware	DJ	4	Medallion and oak leaf sprigs, closely paralleled at 3, Northgate St., Gloucester (GCM 69/1973)	1530-1680
142	NDGT	N. Devon gravel-tempered	JAR	2		1600-1900
142	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	BOWL	3		1550-1900
142	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	JAR	4		1550-1900
142	SSOM	S. Somerset (Donyatt) ware	JUG	2		1550-1900
142	TGW	Tin-glazed ware	CHP	1		1640-1770

Table 3 Post-medieval pottery

The Animal Bone

by Mark Maltby

A small collection of 73 animal bone fragments was retrieved during the excavation, of which 52% were identifiable to species. Table 4 lists the numbers of bone fragments by context and species identification. Full details for each bone are recorded in the site archive.

Context	Cow	S/G	Pig	Cat	Rab	Fowl	Fish	ULM	USM	Total
103	1	1								2
117						1			2	3
119		1		1				1	4	7
123	4	3	3				1	5	4	20
132						2				2
136	2	1						2	5	10
139	1	1	1					1		4
154		2	7		1	2	2	2	9	25
Total	8	9	11	1	1	5	3	11	24	73

Key: Cow=cattle; S/G =sheep/goat; Rab=rabbit; Fowl=domestic fowl; ULM= unidentified large mammal; USM=unidentified sheep-sized mammal.

Table 4 Animal bone type by context

The largest sample was recorded from context (154), the bedding horizon for the late 12th to 13th-century wall (102).

The sample is too small for quantitative analysis, although a few observations can be made. The preservation of the bones is good, with several bones being particularly well preserved, having a shiny, ivoried appearance and a hard surface. Only one of the bones bore evidence of surface erosion. This suggests that any further excavations within this general area are likely to produce well-preserved faunal assemblages.

At least 12 bones bore evidence of gnawing. This is typical of refuse assemblages where bones were accessible to dogs prior to final deposition.

The assemblage consisted mainly of bones of domestic species. Pig was the most commonly identified species, closely followed by sheep/goat and cattle. However, it is worth noting that no cattle were identified from medieval deposit (154). Twelve bones bore evidence of butchery marks. Most observations were made on the vertebrae. Several had been split down the mid-line of the vertebrae when the carcass was split into two equal sides. A pig astragalus from deposit (154) had been split axially.

Ageing data were recorded on 27 bones and teeth. The observations indicated the presence of both young calves and adult cattle; immature and adult sheep/goat; immature pigs; adult domestic fowl; an immature cat and an adult rabbit.

Metrical data were recorded on three bones retrieved from medieval context (154). A carpometacarpus and tibiotarsus from domestic fowl were measured at 33.8mm and 108mm respectively, indicating they were from quite small birds, perhaps females. A sheep humerus possessed a

greatest distal breadth of 27mm and a distal articular breadth of 25.1mm, indicating it belongs to a fairly small animal.

Clay Tobacco pipes

by Marek Lewcun

The excavation yielded a total of forty-one clay tobacco pipe fragments. The majority are relatively small pieces of stem, and consequently cannot be accurately dated. Three bowl fragments without makers marks are present, each of sufficient size to provide a reasonably accurate date. There is one complete bowl, dating to the early 17th century, the heel of which is stamped with a small rosette motif; similar examples have been recovered from the Bristol area, its most likely place of manufacture.

Context	Date range	Quantity	Description
009	1620-1670	1	Stem
016	1620-1670	1	Stem, crudely formed
103	1620-1640	1	Bowl, heel stamped with rosette motif
103	1630-1660	1	Stem
103	1630-1700	3	Stems
103	1700-1800	3	Stems
103	1720-1750	1	Bowl portion and associated stem
105	1700-1840	2	Stems
117	1620-1670	1	Stem
122	1600-1650	1	Stem
123	1600-1650	1	Stem
123	1620-1670	2	Stems
123	1660-1690	2	Bowl portions and associated stems
123	1700-1850	1	Stem
129	1760-1900	1	Bowl portion with associated stem
130	1640-1700	1	Stem
130	1690-1800	1	Stem
139	1630-1700	3	Stems
139	1690-1750	4	Stems
139	1700-1800	5	Stems
139	1700-1900	5	Stems

Table 5 Clay tobacco pipe by context

DISCUSSION**Medieval**

It is of note that no Romano-British or Saxon activity was identified at the site. However, the small size of the excavation precludes any wide ranging interpretation of the focus of Keynsham's earlier foundation.

More can be said for Keynsham's development within the medieval period. The earliest activity identified in the main excavation was a pit/tank, the construction date and function of which is unknown. It was backfilled in the late 12th/early 13th-century, probably in an attempt to prepare the ground for the construction of the stone building, aligned parallel to the High Street suggesting the existence of the road by this date. A wall, lying perpendicular to the street frontage, and probably marking a tenement boundary was identified in a test pit to the rear of the main excavation.

This increased activity on the site during the later 12th/early 13th century immediately post-dates the foundation of the abbey in the 1160's, perhaps suggesting that the abbey may have been responsible for the formalising of the layout of the town. The construction of the building in stone also would suggest a building of some status and a degree of available wealth.

Planned towns of this sort appear to be a phenomenon of 12th and 13th-century England, resulting from a resurgence of religious fervour capitalising on monastic reform. On an economic level Platt suggests such foundations indicate a degree of commercial optimism (Platt 1978). Keynsham, situated directly on the road between Bristol and Bath, was an ideal location for establishing a new religious house which could influence and determine the development of the town.

Post-medieval

The building appears to have continued in use throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Post-medieval activity is dominated by the construction of drainage culverts, which necessitated repairs to the existing medieval rear wall of the property and to the internal floors. This activity is dated, on the evidence of the George III half-penny retrieved from clay surfacing (113), to post 1770. Such a date correlates closely with conversion of the building from the Angel Inn to a 'Gentleman's residence' c1765, and may reflect modifications to the building and its associated rear yard. Furthermore, photographic evidence of the property c1870 indicates the building's frontage had been remodelled from a presumably medieval to a Georgian facade. The stuccoed classical facade, complete with roof parapet, sash windows and moulded porch pediment is typical of mid to late 18th-century gentrification of existing buildings, and may again be associated with the building's conversion from public to private house.

Acknowledgements

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RADFORD-juxta-LEIGH

by Keith S Gardner

ABSTRACT

Recent documentary research in support of a Landscape Archaeology project has pointed to the existence of a 'lost' medieval settlement, west of Abbots Leigh, with documentary evidence for a 12th-century mill probably of horizontal wheel type.

INTRODUCTION

Recent research into the sequence of the draining of Somerset's North Marsh, required (and still requires) the dating of the artificial cut known as the Land Yeo, which passes from Watercress Farm Wraxall, via Tickenham to the sea at Clevedon, powering several mills en route (Gardner 1998).

In reviewing the accounts of the Augustinian Abbey at Bristol, Sabin (1938, 94 fn.2) refers to one monastic mill as being 'probably on the Yeo near Wraxall'. This has caused a degree of confusion as there are indeed a number of ancient mills on the Yeo near Wraxall.

However the Obedientary account references in AD 1491/92 are specifically to a mill at Radford, later qualified by the locational 'juxta Leigh' in the AD 1511/12 accounts (Sabin 1938, 254).

MILLS ON THE YEO

Of the several mills powered by this Yeo the one at Middleton (Tickenham) has been referred to as the 'monastic mill' (Forrest 1975, 30 fn). The Abbey of St. Augustine was founded in the mid 12th century by Robert FitzHarding and was endowed with the living of Tickenham. By AD1230 Roger FitzHarding had granted 2s. from the tithes of his mill there for a light in the Church (Walker 1998, f.93). The question of whether this was the mill at Middleton is under consideration; if so the present Land Yeo course at that point would be 13th century or earlier.

However there appears to be no later reference to Middleton mill in the Obedientary or Manorial accounts of the 15th/16th centuries, and perhaps more significantly there are relict water channels adjacent to Tickenham Court and Church which suggest the possible presence of a mill there at some early time (Gardner 1998, 20).

The Domesday mills listed, presumably on the Barrow Brook/Land Yeo are 1 at Backwell, 1 at Barrow (Gurney) and 2 in Wraxall, (which at that time included Nailsea and Flax Bourton). Other mills appear in the historical record from the 13th and 14th centuries.

In the Cartulary of St. Augustine's Abbey, Bristol,

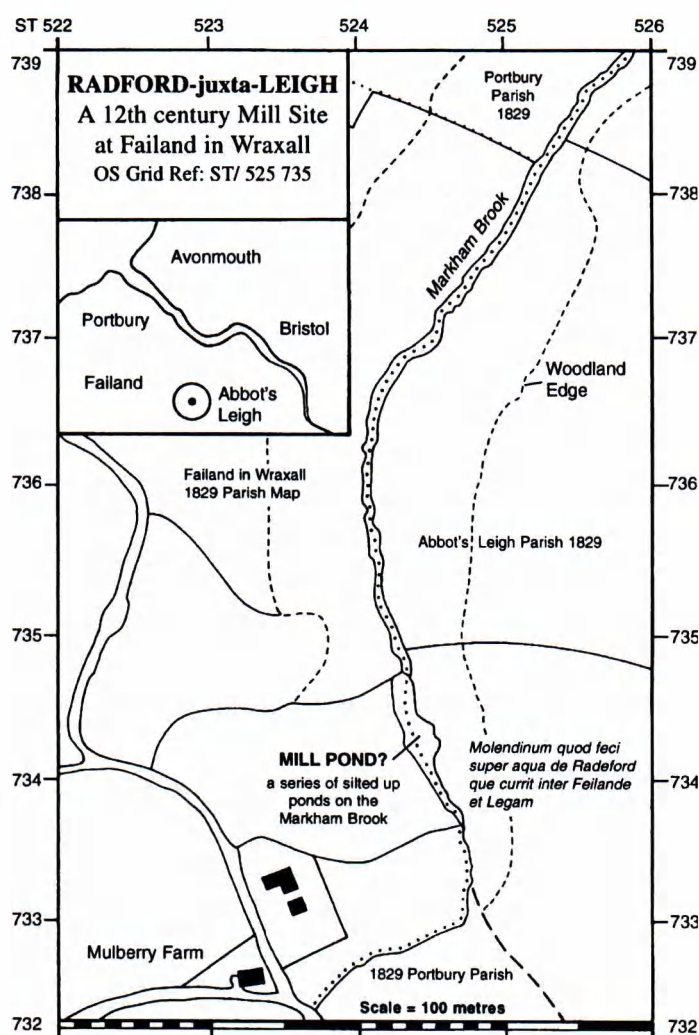


Fig.1 Location plan

(Walker 1998 ff 23, 296/7/8 & Add. Doc. 19) we find several late 12th century Charters wherein benefits are confirmed to the Abbey of St. Augustine from land held by Richard de Radford including the 'molindum quod feci super aquam de Radeford que currit inter Feilande et Legam'. Part of the deal was that the Lord of Wraxall should receive, quite literally, 'peppercorn rent' in the sum of 11lb of cumin in perpetuity, still accounted for in 1511/12; a mill at Radford was still part of the assets at the Dissolution (Sabin 1960, 17).

RADFORD

The only area of Wraxall still bearing the name Redford (sic), is the wooded hill immediately to the north of Failand Farm, looking north west over Mulberry Farm. Now Failand is still an outlying part of the parish of Wraxall, and its interface with (Abbot's) Leigh is quite short and quite specific. It is 600 metres off the well named Markham Brook (OE Mearc Ham Broc = the Boundary Farm Brook); it appears as such on the earliest maps and survived the parochial boundary adjustments of the 19th century.

One hundred metres north east of Mulberry Farm the Markham Brook develops into an overgrown morass of ponds and low weirs, bounded by the Park Wall. Possibly at some time a series of fishponds, it could also well serve a horizontal water mill! (NGR ST 525 735). There is very little 'fall' at this point and one would find it difficult to operate a vertically wheeled mill; elsewhere upstream there is a steeper incline but this is not on 'the water that runs between Failand and Leigh'.

Whilst vertical wheels come to mind when one thinks of a water-mill, horizontally mounted mills are quite feasible when the water supply is shallow and with little fall; flow is increased by narrowing the channel. They are common in medieval Ireland, (there is a working reconstruction at Ferrycarrig, Co.Wexford), the Scottish islands and the Mediterranean countries with the classic English site being at Tamworth (Rahtz and Meeson 1992).

Note:

In my preliminary note published in the Journal of the Nailsea & District Local History Society ('Pennant' No 14, 5) I referred to two folios as 108 and 108v, the original folio numbers in the Liber Rubus. The difference has arisen as Canon Walker was kind enough to give me sight of his work in progress before completion.

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TWO MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS IN WOOLLARD, PUBLOW, NORTH-EAST SOMERSET.

by Barbara Bowes

INTRODUCTION

Woollard is a hamlet built around the bridge over the River Chew which divides the Parish of Compton Dando to the east and the Parish of Publow to the west, 6 miles south-east of Bristol (Fig.1).

These two medieval buildings, one known as Old Bell Farmhouse, hereafter called the Priest's House, and the other, now divided into two dwellings, New Bridge House and Chew Cottage, hereafter called the Chapel, have long been a focus of interest. The Chapel was surveyed in 1986 by Cdr E H Williams (see below) who wrote 'the original function of this most unusual building is obscure, a chapel is the most likely'. The Priest's House facing it across the road was not available until July 1998 for a survey which was then undertaken by the Somerset Vernacular Building Research Group and revealed an interesting house of the mid-15th century (see below for survey). In spite of a great deal of research undertaken into the history of this area no documentary evidence for these buildings has been found, until they appear in the Survey and Map of the Popham Estates dated 1776 (SRO DD/PO/71). A painting by W W Wheatley entitled 'The Priest's House, Woollard. The chapel is opposite' and dated 1865 is held in the Special Collection in the library of the University of Bristol. A copy of this painting appears on the front cover of this Journal.

The Priest's House stands on the north side and the Chapel on the south side of the approaches to the bridge. This bridge replaces one destroyed in the 1968 floods, which was dated to the 16th century (Jervoise 1930). Previously there was a ford at this point. This would have been an important crossing as it carried the only road which runs the length of the Chew Valley and is also crossed by a road running north-south. The southern leg of the cross is now only a rough lane recently designated a Byway Open To All Traffic, but did carry a large amount of local traffic in the past.

THE PRIEST'S HOUSE (OLD BELL FARMHOUSE)

by J & J Penoyre

Plan and Section (Fig.2)

A two-and-a-half storey two-room central entry house, facing south, with a small hall or parlour (A) to the left, larger service and kitchen (B) to the right. A stair turret at the back of the passage and back premises are built into rising ground. These comprise a rear entrance (D), a vaulted cellar and an added lean-to (C). The farmyard and buildings lie

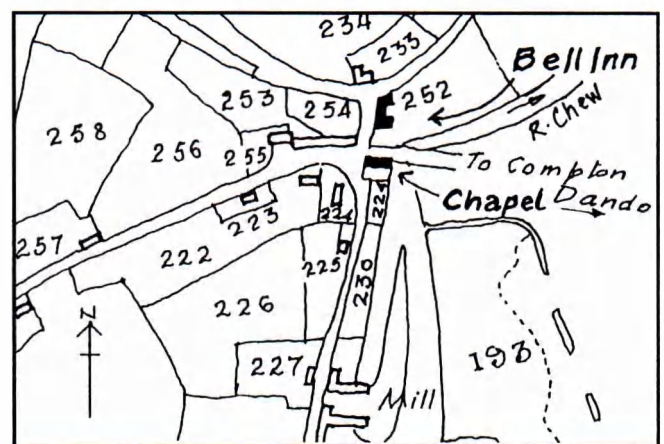
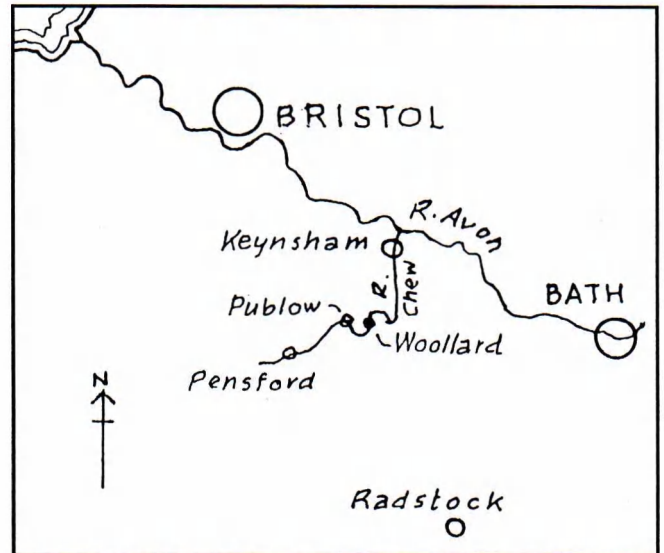


Fig.1 (Top) Site location plan NGR ST 632 645
(Bottom) Extract from Tythe Map, 1839

behind the house at a higher level (c1.5m) with the main barn roof extending over the staircase which formerly gave access to the attics.

Exterior (Fig.3)

Walls: White lias rubble stone, coursed and squared. A conspicuous joint at the south-east corner indicates that the front wall has been rebuilt. Masonry on the east gable is rough and shows that the roof has been raised.

Doorway: (Fig.3a). The entrance door has a high 4-centred

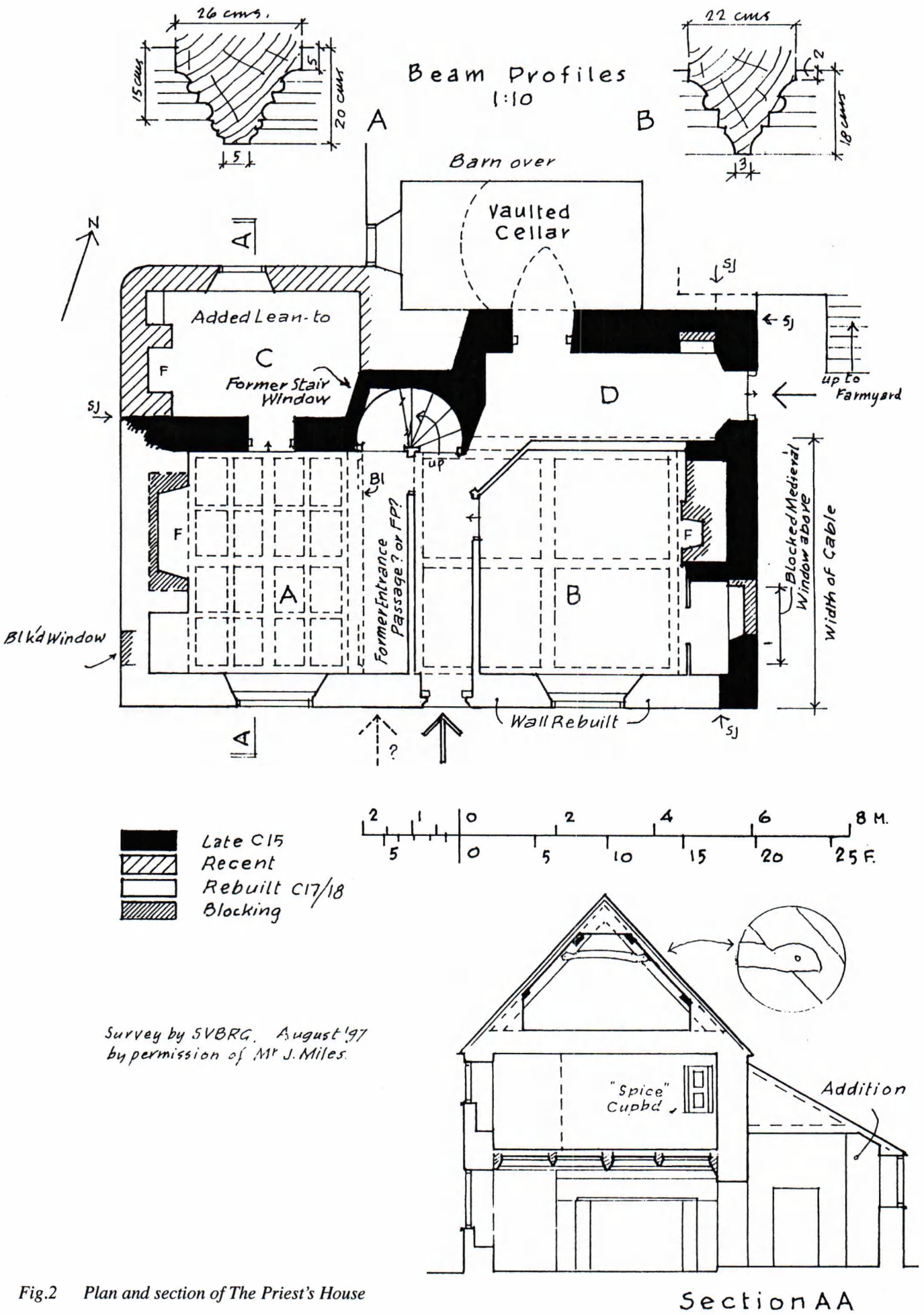
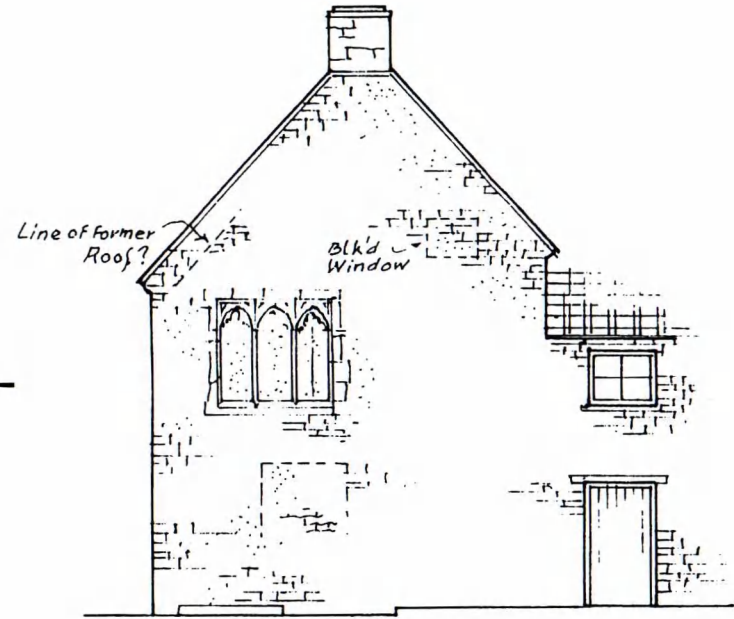


Fig.2 Plan and section of The Priest's House

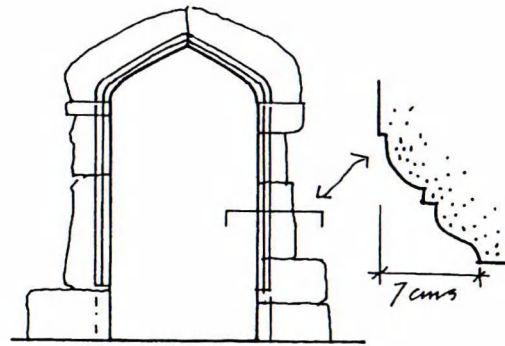
Section AA



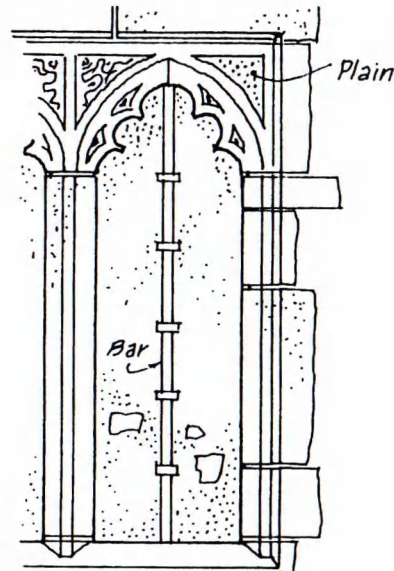
South Elevation



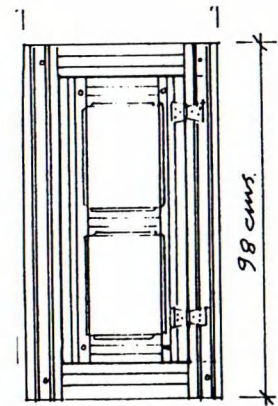
East Elevation



3a Front Doorway
1:50



3b Cinquefoil Window
1:20



3c "Spice" Cupboard

Fig.3 Elevations and details of The Priest's House

arch in stone. The arch and jambs have narrow shallow mouldings, ogee step ovolo. There is a late segmental timber hood above.

Windows: Timber casements under ovolo moulded timber lintels. At first floor level on the east elevation there is a 3-light blocked stone-mullioned window with arched heads and cinquefoil cusping, but no dripstone. One central iron bar survives. The spandrels are intricately carved, indicating a late-15th or early-16th century date (Figs.3 & 3b). A small late dormer lights the attic.

Interior

Beams: Room A. This has a fine 16-panel framed ceiling with 15th-century mouldings (Fig.2a).

Beams: Room B. This has a 4-panelled framed ceiling, more simply moulded (Fig.2b). A late beam B1 was probably inserted when a wall or partition was removed (Fig.2).

Stairs: A timber newel staircase leads to the first floor, and winding stairs lead to the attics.

Fireplaces: There are two gable fireplaces. The fireplace in Room A has a flat timber bressumer, plain chamfered. The fireplace in Room B is blocked with a modern replacement.

Fittings: A panelled wall cupboard in the west chamber (over Room A) has moulded panels and butterfly hinges (Fig.3c).

INTERPRETATION

Perhaps this could have been a Priest's House serving a chapel. There is no evidence for a third room other than the small service room D. Surviving examples of 15th-century two-room plans are a rarity but they do more often occur in ecclesiastical dwellings. Margaret Wood in *The English Medieval House* (Wood 1956) shows several plans of such houses.

There are two recognisable 15th-century features in the house:

- a) The opulent framed ceiling in Room A, and possibly the plainer one in Room B as well (Figs.2a & 2b).
- b) The 3-light cinquefoil window. The unusual carved spandrels, each one of a different floral pattern, have the appearance of later rather than earlier 15th-century work. The window is set in the east gable wall which is of rougher masonry than the rest of the house and is original; although the window lacks a hood mould it is probably in its original position.

In addition it is probable that the newel stair is sited in the remains of a 15th-century turret, now partly lost in the later rear premises.

The stone entrance doorway is less certainly of the 15th century as the mouldings include an ovolo and may be a 16th-century substitute.

It seems that the 15th-century plan was much as it is

today; two rooms with a central entry. It is difficult to establish the use of the two rooms. Either the space between the two framed ceilings was formerly an entrance passage and Room A was a parlour with a gable fireplace, or the space was filled with a fireplace backing on to the present entrance passage, in which case Room A would be a small Hall, the gable fireplace being substituted when the walls were rebuilt.

On balance I believe the former to be more likely, with Room A the parlour and Room B the hall where the cooking was done. In either case straight joints in the masonry indicate that Room D was in the original build; it would have been a service area. Room C is a late addition and the vaulted cellar, having no dateable features, could be original or introduced later to support the floor of the farmyard and barn at the higher level. At this stage, with the entrance between the two framed ceilings, the stair would have wound in the reverse direction.

The principal chamber was evidently over the Hall (Room B) lit by the 3-light window and probably heated by a gable fireplace in the hall stack, now blocked.

Late 17th or 18th Century - A Major Conversion

The front and west walls were rebuilt with new windows, the entrance was moved and a new entrance passage was created to make a larger Parlour A and a smaller Hall B, which then became a kitchen. The direction of the stair was reversed and perhaps the cellar was introduced. The parlour fireplace was rebuilt with the west wall, the roof was raised to improve the bedroom accommodation and the medieval east window was blocked in favour of the new front windows.

THE CHAPEL

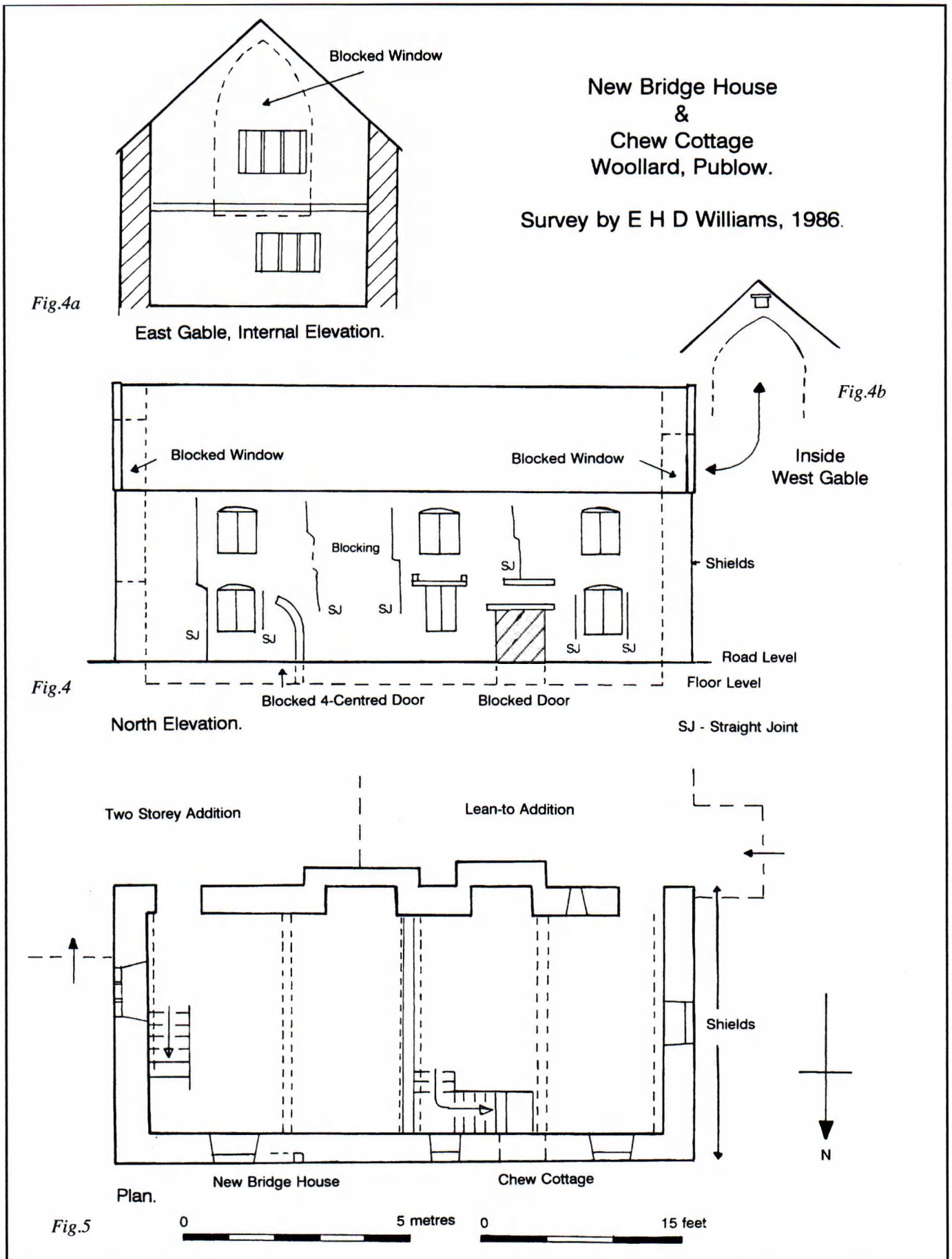
(NEW BRIDGE HOUSE & CHEW COTTAGE)

by E H D Williams, 1986

Exterior (Fig.4)

The core of these two cottages is a rectangular stone building of two storeys. The walls are of squared coursed rubble, except for patches of blocking in small rubble. The east gable is rendered. The roof is tiled and coped on a modern structure.

Except in the east gable the windows are probably 18th century under stone arches other than one at the centre of the front elevation on the ground floor which is under a wooden lintel; at both ends of the lintel are the exposed ends of beams set in the wall; straight joints show that these windows have replaced wider ones. Also on the front elevation of Chew Cottage is a blocked door under a wooden lintel, 45cm above which is a second lintel. At the front of New Bridge House is one side of a blocked 4-centred doorway. In the front wall are a number of straight joints as shown on the elevation, of which two of the upper ones have small rubble blocking between them. In the east gable are 2/3-light stone-framed windows. On the ground floor mullions have reserved chamfers (c1600). On the



Figs.4 and 5 The exterior and plan of New Bridge House and Chew Cottage

upper floor mullions are hollow chamfered with both external and internal fillets. The upper floor window is set within a 3.81m high blocked/2-centred window 2.29m wide, visible internally (Fig.4a).

At both corners of the west gable at a height of 2.43m are shields within trefoil frames which originally extended right across the gable. They are carved proud on large stones, the course above them having a moulded lower edge. The centre ones have been erased (Fig.6).

Doors to both cottages are modern, that to Chew Cottage in the gable under a small porch, that to New Bridge House in the addition which extends beyond the east gable.

Interior (Fig.5)

Ignoring the addition, New Bridge House has one room with late stairs at the gable. On the back wall is a lateral fireplace which has a replacement wooden lintel, and stone sides with a narrow chamfer and half pyramid stops. A ceiling beam has a moderate chamfer, stops lost. Another ceiling beam has a moderate chamfer and half pyramid stops. The inside of the reserved chamfer windows shows signs of being painted. The floor is 44cm below the present road level. The partition between the cottages is under a modern beam. Large rectangular joists are laid flat.

Chew Cottage has a plain chamfered half beam (no stops) at the west gable, and a similar beam at the dividing wall from New Bridge House; at mid-length is a hollow-chamfered beam with half pyramid stops. The stairs are modern. The rebuilt fireplace has a re-used wooden lintel; the stack is somewhat deeper, and externally appears earlier than that of New Bridge House.

The roof is rebuilt. Visible internally on the west gable is the top of a blocked 2-centred window, although there is no blocking visible externally. The exact size could not be measured but it appears to be of the same width as the window in the east gable, but not as high; its extent below the first floor ceiling is now obscured. So far as could be felt (not seen) the opening has an ogee on the inside edge and a wide deep hollow beyond. High in the gable over the window is a small square blocked opening under a wooden lintel (Fig.4b). To the rear is a lean-to addition, and a modern porch at the west end.

Pending research, the original function of this most unusual building is obscure; a chapel seems the most likely. The east gable window shows that it was originally single storeyed, open to the roof; the central ground floor ceiling beam in Chew Cottage implies the upper floor was inserted not later than the early 16th century.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE CHAPEL

by J Russell, 1999

Interior

Since the survey by Cdr Williams, alterations within the west gable wall have led to the internal unblocking of the top of the medieval window revealing a considerable area of

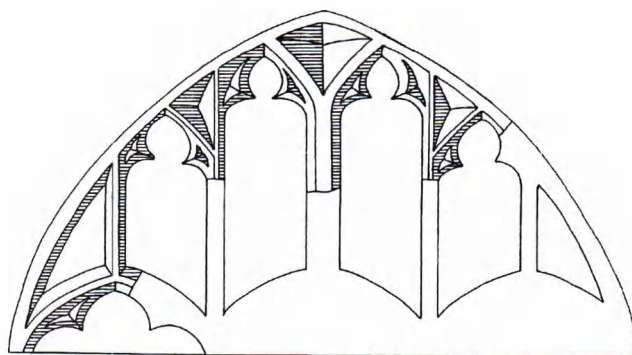


Fig.6 Detail of window tracery in the west elevation of Chew Cottage (James Russell, 1999)

surviving tracery. The accompanying drawing (Fig.6) has been prepared from a photograph. The window tracery is of a standardised Perpendicular design (Pevsner Type iv; Pevsner 1958, 46) consisting of 3-lights subdivided into 6-lights in the head of the arch; the heads of the lights have trefoil cusping.

Exterior

Since the original survey a large amount of vegetation has been removed from the west gable and in January 1999 a photographic study was undertaken by the writer. Based on this a partial reconstruction of the medieval facade has been prepared (Fig.7). The chapel walls were originally faced in regularly coursed and squared blocks of white lias; oolitic limestone (freestone) being used for the quoins and other details. A substantial area of the original wall surface survives in the lower southern half of the west elevation. Much of the rest of the west wall was refaced, around 1800, with roughly-coursed lias rubble. At the same time windows with segmental-headed arches were inserted at ground and first-floor level, along with a small square window (unblocked since Cdr Williams survey) in the gable. The ground floor window replaces the original main entrance to the chapel. The retention of a core of medieval stonework behind this refacing is indicated by the survival within the zone of new masonry of elements of the freestone surround of the medieval window; these comprise on the south a single block of the hood mould and on the north three blocks defining the lower corner of the window. Also incorporated in the refacing, within the area of the medieval window is a single block of freestone approx 15cm square, carved in high relief with a Romanesque key motif (Fig.7b). Parts of a frieze with similar mouldings have been excavated from the 12th-century Chapter House of Keynsham Abbey, (Lowe et al 1987, 122-3) and it is likely that the Woollard fragment represents a post-Dissolution import from this source.

As already noted by Cdr Williams the principal decorative feature of the Chapel facade is the remarkable frieze of shields in trefoil surrounds, crisply and elegantly executed in high relief, which originally ran across its entire width, passing beneath the base of the window (Fig.7a).

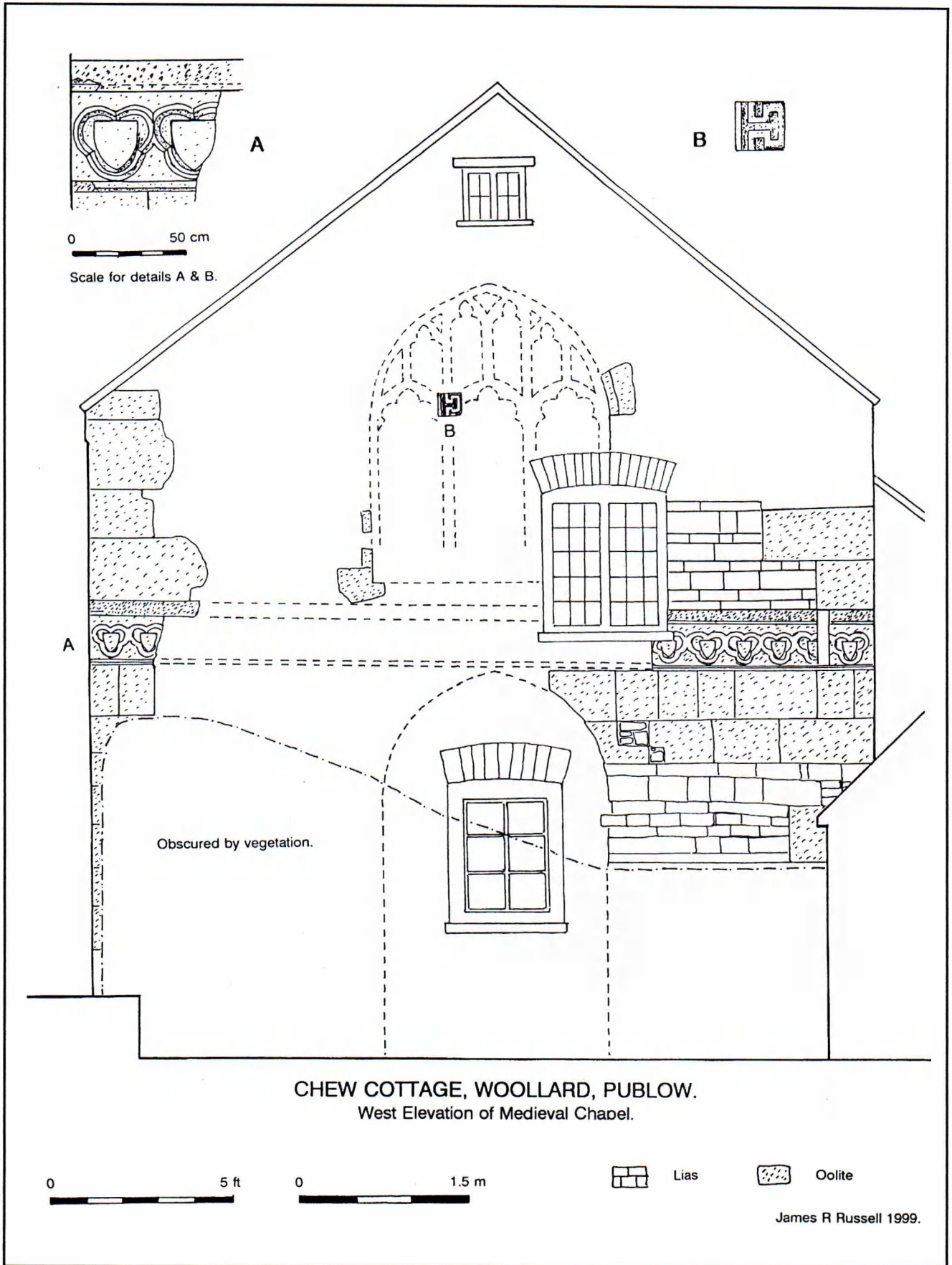


Fig.7 West elevation of Chew Cottage

This high quality trefoil frieze is difficult to parallel, at least locally, although quatrefoil panels containing shields are a staple feature of Perpendicular decorative schemes. Immediately below the southern side of the frieze are two courses of large freestone blocks; these are cut away in a curve at their northern sides to allow for the surround of the otherwise vanished central doorway.

Historical Context

It is remarkable that these buildings have not attracted the attention of any of the antiquaries who have travelled in the area until W Wheatley, and we do not know what evidence, if any, that he had for the title of his painting. In view of this lack of documentation it may be useful to look at the historical context in which this Chapel and the Priest's House were built.

The medieval history of Publow and Woollard is defined by that of Keynsham Abbey. They lay within the Hundred of Keynsham and were part of the demesne lands of the Royal Manor of Keynsham (Prosser 1995, 141). The Abbey was founded in 1167 by William, Earl of Gloucester, at the request of his dying son Robert. William's father, also Robert, was a natural son of Henry I. The abbey was a daughter house of the Abbey of Bristol which was a foundation of the Victorine Order, a reformed branch of the Augustinians. In its foundation Charter of 1167 Earl William endowed the Abbey with the Manor and Hundred of Keynsham (transcription in Dugdale's *Monasticum vi.i.*, Weaver 1907). An *Inspeximus* of 1318 confirms the much earlier appropriation of the parish church of Keynsham, together with its five dependent chapels of which Publow was one, to the Abbey of Keynsham (*Cartulary of Bath Abbey*, Weaver 1907). Isabella, the heiress to the Honour of Gloucester married John, later to become King. He sold the Manors of Publow and Woollard to the family of St Lo but the advowson of the Church and its glebelands was the subject of lawsuits over several generations until it was resolved in favour of the Abbot (*Calendar Feet of Fines* 1259).

Much research has been undertaken into the properties and estate management of the Abbey. The Victorines like the Cistercians exploited and managed their estates and commercial enterprises very successfully (Prosser 1995, 176-201) and in the Chew Valley between Publow Church and Woollard, a distance of about a mile, there is a complex medieval industrial landscape. Woollard itself has two mills and a tannery. In the absence of either the *Cartulary* of the Abbey or a *Glebe Terrier* for Publow it is impossible to establish the extent of the land which the Abbey retained and which were manorial holdings and what leasing or management agreements there were between Manor and Abbey.

In the 15th century when the Chapel and Priest's House were built the Hungerford family were holding the manors, and it is in the Hungerford and Chokke family records that a tantalising clue to the possible origin and dedication of the Chapel appears. In 1469 Frideswide Hungerford demised

and quitclaimed her Manors of Publow and Woollard to Sir Richard Chokke of Long Ashton, Lord Chief Justice of England (*Calendar of Close Rolls* 1468). Sir Richard died in 1483 and his son John in 1488. Both their wills are similar in that they left generous bequests of torches to the churches on their manors. In addition John left three bequests of money; 10/- each to the churches of Penceford and Publow and a bequest of 6/8d to the Chapel of Our Lade of Chew (*Somt Med Wills*, Weaver 1906). It is tempting to speculate that this may be the Chapel in Woollard, and also to consider that it may have been a private foundation of the Hungerford family. A parallel may be found near South Cadbury where a hitherto unknown chapel on a former Hungerford manor has been found hidden in a private dwelling. This was also on a crossroads (Dr R Dunning ed. *Victoria County History [Somerset]* pers comm). Another indication that this chapel might not have been part of the Abbey estate is that detailed accounts for the estate of Publow Church and provisions for the Clerk were made at the time of the Dissolution (*Ministers and Receivers accounts* 1540, PRO 391.SC6.microfiche SRO). The Chapel would most likely have been served by the canons of Keynsham Abbey; Richard Chokke must have had some connection with the Abbey as he left money in his will to the Abbot, the Prior and the chanons (sic) to say Messes for his soul in the Abbey of Keynsham (*Somt Med Wills*, Weaver 1906).

As mentioned in the introduction the first documentary evidence for these houses is in the Map and Survey of the Popham Estate in 1776 (SRO PO/DD/73). The Chapel appears on the map but is not listed suggesting that it was not part of the estate. The Priest's House now known as Bell Farm is described as Tanyard and in a further survey of 1806 appears as House, Stable and Tann Office suggesting that administrative and possibly a finishing process was carried out there as the Tannery itself is on the other side of the river and in the Parish of Compton Dando. The Chapel is still unlisted. By 1839 the Tithe Map Apportionment (SRO DD/rt 112) lists the Chapel as Cottage and Garden but Bell Farm has become the Bell Inn. In a Rent Roll of the Pophams dated 1906 (held privately) it appears as a Beer House. It does not appear in the Sale Catalogues of the Popham Estates of 1911 or 1917 so it could have been sold earlier. No record has yet been found, nor has any record of any transaction of the Chapel been found. The family of the present owner leased Bell Inn from George's Brewery from 1921 until 1966 and ran it as an Off Licence. When they bought it they did not renew the licence, but they continued serving soft drinks and selling sweets, which the inn sign over the door still advertises, and which obligation the owner still occasionally fulfils. The Chapel is still two dwellings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to members of the Somerset Vernacular Building Research Group for allowing me to use their records of Surveys, including that of the late Cdr E H D

Williams, and to Mr James Russell who produced a reconstruction of the west elevation. I am particularly grateful to Dr Lee Prosser who allowed me free access to his Ph D Thesis. I would also like to thank Dr Robert Dunning for his advice and help, and Dr Betty for his encouragement together with Ms Hannah Lowery, Archivist of the Special Collection, University Library, Bristol for allowing me to use the picture which appears on the front cover, and for her help in arranging the photography. I would also like to thank those who allowed their houses to be surveyed. These homes are not open to the public.

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 SRO Somerset Record Office
 SRS Somerset Record Society

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THE WANSDYKE DIKTAT? - A DISCUSSION PAPER

by Keith S Gardner

ABSTRACT

An antiquarian opinion was that WANSDYKE extended west of Dundry Hill and crossed the Ashton Vale. This view was sanctified by Major in 1929 but the view proposed by Fox & Fox in 1960 currently obtains, ie that Major's fieldwork was ill-based and unreliable, that there is neither need nor evidence for the dyke to cross the Vale, and that Maes Knoll is the western terminal, the dyke having fulfilled its role by blocking the Fosse Way.

This paper revives the problem in the light of a subsequent postulation that a polity based on Cadbury Congresbury and/or Gatcombe, may have been responsible

for the construction of the dyke in North Somerset, and considers the possible need to effectively control access from the north-east along the Ashton Vale to these two high status sites. Specific claims made by earlier field workers of evidence for a continuation of the dyke west of Dundry are again considered, and authoritative statements regarding the relationship between Wansdyke and its incorporated Hill-forts are re-examined in the light of apparently flawed observations in support of the current claim. The possibility of there being extant, maybe unfinished, and albeit even irrelevant linear earthworks between Dundry and the Avon Gorge is noted.

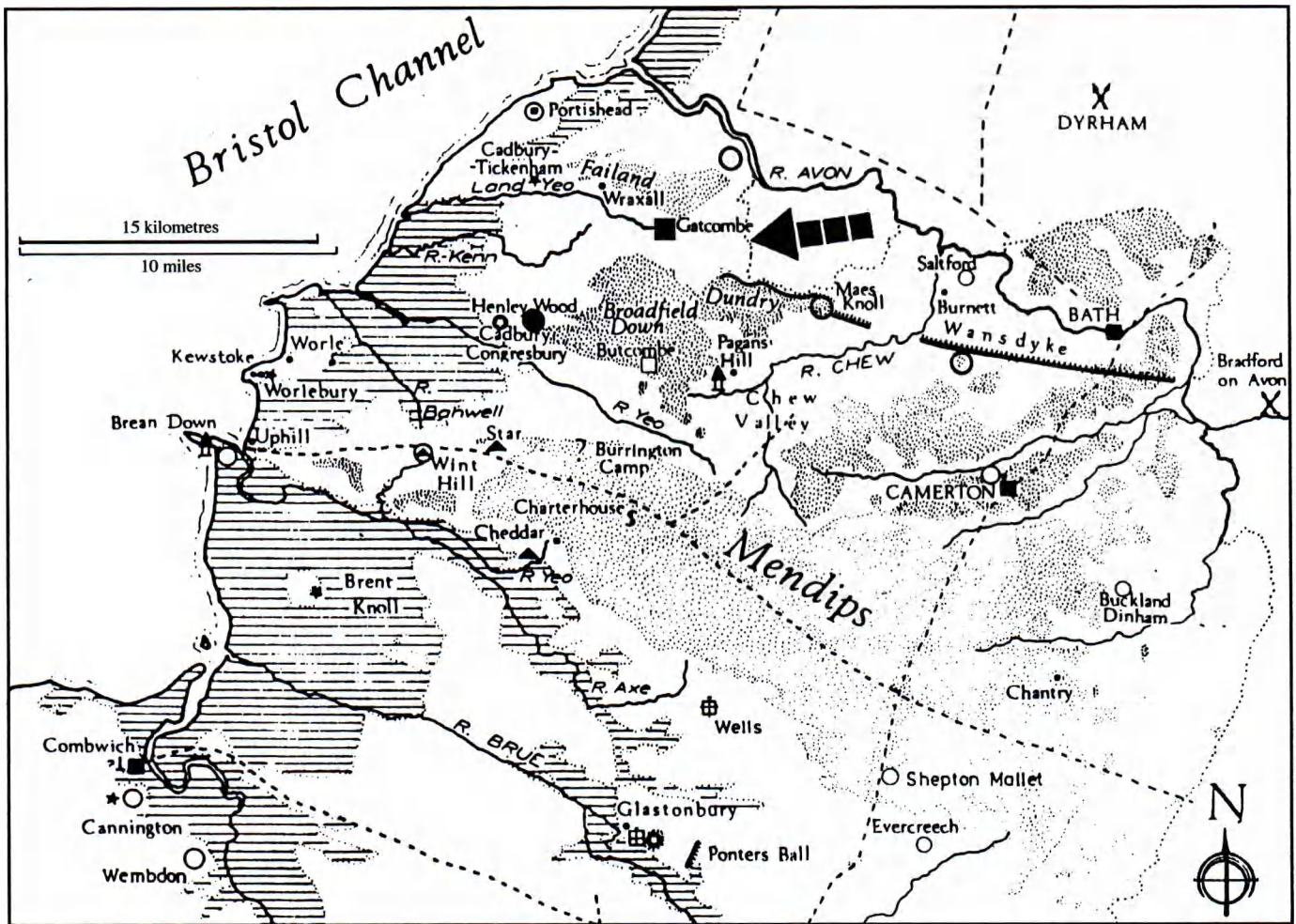


Fig.1 North Somerset - Cadcong to Bath (after P A Rahtz; Cadrex 1992)

INTRODUCTION

In the late 18th century the Antiquarian vicar of Long Ashton, the Rev John Collinson (1791 Vol.3, 140), stated that Wansdyke extended west from Dundry to cross the pre-enclosure Highridge Common, and thence via Yanley in the Ashton Vale, to terminate at Portishead. According to Rutter (1829, 326-7) even at that time there was some dispute regarding the validity of any claim that it continued west of Maes Knoll, but as he pointed out, the fact that Collinson lived in Long Ashton 'gave him an advantage in

personal examination'. Rutter's contemporary, the Rev John Skinner, tended to the view that Wansdyke extended from Yanley to Stokeleigh but was unable to confirm his suspicions in the field.

Albany Major (1929), whilst recording many field features accurately, was somewhat over-enthusiastic in his interpretation of some of them being vestiges, and indeed 'branches' of Wansdyke west of Dundry, to the extent that the very idea is now popularly regarded as a figment of his imagination.

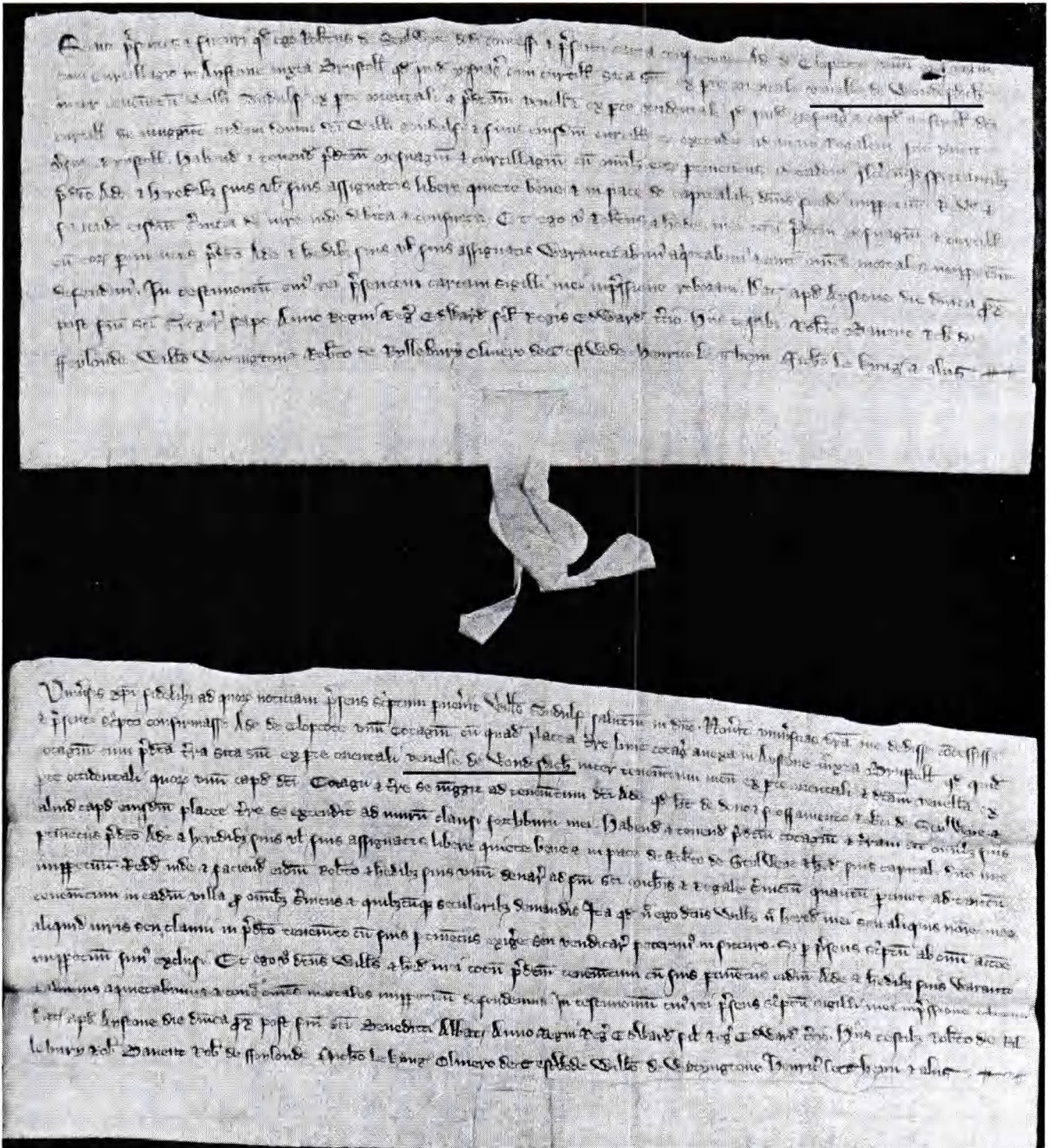


Plate 1 The two Long Ashton Land Deeds of AD1310 referring to the 'Venelle de Wondesdich' (underlined)

O.G.S.Crawford (1953, 252) accordingly dismissed Major's work *in toto*, and stated that 'the western terminus is at the hill-fort of Maes Knoll'. This was used as a basis by Fox & Fox (1960, 1) to claim that 'The Somerset portion ends at.....Maes Knoll' and in a footnote (p.1) 'There is no evidence for its continuation to the Severn estuary'.

Unfortunately neither Crawford nor Fox have dismissed in detail any of the claimed evidence regarding a crossing of the Ashton Vale, discussed in the earlier publications, but have peremptorily rejected the whole suggestion out of hand. The received wisdom amounts today to a diktat; - no respectable researcher looks for Wansdyke west of Maes Knoll.

This may well of course be the case, but there are various pieces of 'evidence' brought up by Collinson and Major which at least deserve to be examined, and reasons given for their dismissal, particularly as two high status Late/Sub-Roman sites are now known to exist in the 'unprotected' Ashton Vale (Fig.1).

THE EVIDENCE ?

The first problem is to explain away the two medieval land deeds which specifically refer to Wansdyke Lane as a place name in Long Ashton, Collinson, whose Rectory lay at the very gates of the Ashton Estate, had access not only to the relevant countryside, but to the papers of the Smyth family, among which he claimed was a land-deed, dated March 1310, referring to property on the east side of Wansditch Lane in Long Ashton. Now this need not necessarily imply that the Wansdyke was on this actual spot but it is a long way from the eastern approach to Maes Knoll (if that is its nearest point) for a 14th-century lane to carry its name. A passing comment by Skinner suggests 'Wansley Street' as a local place name survival in the early 19th century (Appendix 1).

The second matter is to account for what appears to be a massive earthwork which does descend west Dundry in the direction of the Peart and Highridge Common, across which Collinson claimed the dyke ran. Collinson (1791), having written of its course being 'directed hither from the ancient fortification at Mays-Knoll', (Vol III, 140) continues '...Descending the hill it crosses Highridge Common, where its tract is still visible'. If this was in fact the case, if a man-made dyke does descend the hill towards Highridge Common then there is surely a case to pursue. In addition there are remains of several other apparently unfinished stretches of linear earthworks which should merit re-examination, if only to prove their irrelevancy.

THE LAND DEEDS

Ref: BRO-AC/D 1/15 & 16 (Plate 1)

Since 1791 the deed remained lost and unidentified among the massive archive collection. Until the 1960's the Ashton Court papers were held at the Estate Office in Long Ashton and in spite of searches made by the writer in the 1960's, it seemed beyond the scope of the administration there to be able to find a document filed 650 years before.

Fortunately the whole collection came, with the house

and estate, into the hands of the Bristol Corporation and hence the Bristol Record Office, where eventually the document referred to by Collinson (AC/D.1/16) came to light and with it a second and similar deed (AC/D.1/15).

In the 1970's the two documents were photographed; and Frances Neale produced translations and comment and produced a schematic plan of the relationship of the properties to each other and to the lane system approaching the highway to Bristol (Appendix I, Fig.2). What was there in the landscape of the Ashton Vale that still merited the appellation 'Wansditch' 750/800 years after its assumed construction? If Wansdyke extended west of Maes Knoll, to leave such a place-name where is it? Was it, as claimed by Collinson, the deeply sunken lane of Yanley; the meeting of which at right angles to the Bristol highway fits the schematic plan prepared by Francis Neale?

FEATURES IN THE LANDSCAPE

There are in addition a number of enigmatic sections of what can only be described as linear, and apparently uncompleted earthworks, which might possibly have been part of an attempt to span the Ashton Vale and control passage along local Roman period roads to Gatcombe and Cadbury-Congresbury.

Lower Grove Farm, Dundry NGR ST 5559 6742 to 5552 6725 (Plates 2 & 3)

Hidden among the confusion of humps and bumps and tortuous descriptions in Major's (1924) works, was a linear bank which he says 'plunges straight down the shoulder of the hill along a footpath approached by a short flight of steps. The descending bank of the dyke is exceptionally big, but consists partly of a natural ridge of rock'. He credits the discovery to a Col. Prowse of Clifton who 'read a paper on it to a local society'. Major was apparently shown the feature by Prowse.

The oolitic limestone is notoriously prone to slippage, but the 'banks' on Cotswold and on Dundry are usually parallel with slope of the scarp. This feature runs at right angles to the slope. It appears to be an earth and stone bank, up to 3m in height and at least as wide across the top and comparable in size with the dyke's descent from the NW corner of Stantonbury. It runs down the hill for 170m from below the north western 'point' of the scarp, the 'corner' of Dundry Down. It may be based on a natural feature but it is there and it has to be satisfactorily explained.

Lower Court Farm, Yanley NGR ST 548 704

Excavations here by Leech & Pearson (1986, 12-35), in advance of housing development, exposed a settlement of medieval date. Associated with this was a linear feature described as 'a hollow-way or silted up boundary ditch', which ran north up the hill towards the main A 370 road. Now this may not be the missing Venelle de Wondesditch, but in view of its date and location some consideration should surely have hitherto been given to a possible association with the Land Deeds. Collinson (1791) was adamant that the deeply sunken Yanley Lane was associated



Plates 2 & 3 Views of The West Dundry Earthwork

with Wansdyke and Skinner (1830) who singularly failed to satisfy himself that any vestige remained in the field which he could ascribe to Wansdyke nevertheless observed that local people referred to the lane as Wansley Street! (Appendix 1).

Stokeleigh Hill Fort NGR ST 560 734

Barrett (1789, 19) actually refers to 'a praetentura or fence' running from Stokeleigh and Burwalls forts, over Leigh Down, (without associating it with Wansdyke), while Seyer (1821, 60) was the first to include what would appear to be part of such a work in his plan of the forts. This outwork, apparently unfinished, and still quite obvious, approaching Stokeleigh from the west, turns north-east and runs parallel to the ramparts to their termination on the rock edge. The ditch, where it parallels the ramparts is to the north. Skinner notes 'a distinct agger [having] much the appearance of Wansdyke'. Haldane (1966, 33-37 & 1975, 29-32) whilst accepting the work as unfinished does not satisfactorily explain its intended purpose or date. Perhaps significantly he does associate a late RB period of occupation with the events leading to the construction of Gatcombe's defensive wall (Note 2).

Summerhouse Plantation, Ashton Court NGR ST 556 722

If the dyke was planned to connect Dundry with Stokeleigh/Burwalls then one might expect to find some semblance of it in Ashton Park. Here an earlier field system is well preserved across its ostensible path, and no trace of a linear work can be seen. To the south however there is a linear rock cut ditch, classified as a 'Camp' on early OS 25" maps and subsequently re-classified as a quarry. Other quarries exist in the park but none are linear in this fashion. It is 340m in length and at its western end the ditch is paralleled by a substantial stone bank to the south. Is it possible that this was another work gangs' unfinished section, subsequently exploited for its accessible stone content?

THE FRONTIER FORTS

Observations by Fox & Fox with regard to the actual relationship between the Dyke and both Maes Knoll and Stantonbury have not escaped criticism, with Rahtz & Barton (1962), Tratman (1963) and Burrow (1981) having re-appraised the work.

Stantonbury NGR ST 672 638

As a schoolboy the writer was well acquainted with Stantonbury hill-fort; its sides were densely wooded and the top, although not wooded, was a wilderness of brambles and nettles - a difficult ground for the Fox's to view. In 1972 however the crop of trees on the north-west corner of the hill was felled, revealing for the first time in decades the impressive sight of the fort's ramparts and junction with the Dyke. The writer obtained permission from the Duchy of Cornwall to take advantage of this fact to carry out a new survey of the monuments. The interior had been taken in hand in the mid 1950's and a small team from Cadrex were able to examine the complex. It was apparent that statements made by Fox & Fox (1960) were at variance with what lay before us.

On p32 Fox & Fox state 'Stantonbury is a univallate Iron Age hill-fort enclosing some 30 acres'. It is in fact multi-vallate and the OS 1:1250 Map (ST 6763) indicates a total enclosure of about 8 acres. At first sight it appears to be one unit divided by a cross-dyke, first recorded by Major (1924, footnote p55), somewhat like Cadcong. On closer examination it appears that the western half is primary and the eastern part, secondary, possibly in part contemporary with Wansdyke, the inner bank of which forms one side of the eastern entranceway.

Again on p30, approaching the NW corner of the fort up the Dyke Fox & Fox claim 'Bank and ditch die out as the summit is reached and can be seen ending in an open patch of ground below the former Iron Age defences (Plate viii b)'. The Dyke in fact runs right up to the corner of the ramparts, and for the last 50m or so is accompanied by an outer dyke, a feature repeated at the eastern junction and illustrated by Major (1926, 56). Along the north side of the hill-fort, and outside the main rampart there is a terrace



Plate 4 *The Wansdyke at the North West corner of Stantonbury Hillfort*

which appears to connect the two stretches of outer dyke. Fox & Fox (p32) suggest that this feature might post-date the hill-fort, and Burrow (p84) accepts the possibility and again the much maligned Major includes it in his plan (p54).

Maes Knoll NGR ST 600 660

Dealing with Maes Knoll, we again find the Fox & Fox report at variance with more recent observations. Describing the beginning (or end) of the Dyke below the north-east corner of the hill-fort Fox & Fox (p27-28) make it quite clear that Wansdyke 'does not touch the Iron Age defences at any point. At Stantonbury the frontier earthwork ceases in a similar way'. Rahtz & Barton (1963, p9-10) and Tratman (1963, p.14) both disagreed with this and saw the Dyke continue along the northern rampart to its flourishing finish in Maes Knoll Tump. Burrow's resurvey in 1974 (p81 & plan D p193) suggests that the Dyke runs up to and finishes at the East side of the fort. Ironically Major's (p41) observations seemed closer to Rahtz, Tratman and Burrow than to the 1960 view.

The inclusion of even two hill-forts in this stretch of such a dyke, is unusual if not unique qv Burrow (1981, 80). If Wansdyke was to protect the Cadcong/Camerton territory (Whitlock 1988, 3) or was part of a 'grand plan' imposed by

a hypothetical HQ at Cadcong as postulated by Cadrex (1992, 250-251), it would make good sense to include the dramatically situated complex of Avon hill-forts, as indeed would a continued barrier across the Ashton Vale. Burrow (1981, 154) makes the point that the work as it stands 'effectively blocks the most ready access to the larger part of Somerset east of the Parrett'; it would be even more effective with the Ashton access to Cadcong blocked.

We thus have two hill-forts - Maes Knoll and Stantonbury - where the Dyke, contrary to previous reports, actually runs up into the earlier ramparts. We also have an unfinished linear bank associated in a similar way with Stokeleigh.

THE PURPOSE?

Fox & Fox (p45), postulate that: 'The purpose of West Wansdyke was to control traffic and incursions from the Cotswolds and Lower Avon valley, proceeding south-west principally by the Fossway Roman road. The construction of a well-sited straightly aligned cross-ridge dyke to bar this road at Odd Down was probably primary'. Again (p36): 'The military importance of West Wansdyke is determined by its power of protection of the south-west from incursions from the Avon valley and the Cotswolds beyond.' Building

on this theory, with which we have no argument, they continue (p37): 'West Wansdyke does not continue west of Maes Knoll, although there was an obvious defensive line for it on the forward slope of Dundry Hill. The reason is not difficult to see; the Cotswold escarpment has been outflanked and the danger of an incursion from the north overcome. Finally they accept that (p45): 'The alignment of much of West Wansdyke is militarily weak, lacking visual control of the Avon valley. It indicates that the builders were not wholly free to choose their position... Historically West Wansdyke is likely to be a West-Saxon construction, by King Cyneigils on a line imposed by Penda of Mercia after AD628'.

The suggestion of a para-military barrier across the Fosseway is attractive; most recently Underwood (1999) has illustrated the Saxon Dyke system, showing on the smallest scale map of England and Wales, the blocking of the Icknield Way, the Ridgeway and the Fosse Way. Seen from afar this may well seem sufficient, but seen from North Somerset, from behind the dyke, even if 'the Cotswold escarpment has been outflanked' is it strategically acceptable that 'the danger of an incursion from the north has been overcome'? If this was the only route to be barred, why was it necessary to extend it to Maes Knoll? Is not the answer to block Margary's Route 540, a postulated Roman road running south-west to Mendip via the Chew Valley? *qv* Aston & Iles (1986, 52).

If we accept that, then what about the Ashton Vale, the access route to Cadcong from the Avon and south Gloucestershire - *Tratman* (1962 plate 13) postulates a complex of Roman roads passing over the west of Dundry including one directed at Yanley and Gatcombe via Highridge. *Branigan* (1977 fig.34) shows a 'possible' road approaching Gatcombe from Long Ashton. The enigmatic bank above Highridge is directed across the Ashton Vale straight for the Stokeleigh/Burwalls hill forts, and it's line would effectively control any route from the Bristol area.

In a personal communication on the matter of closing the Ashton Vale, in 1962 *Lady Fox* responded 'I'm afraid we did regard the Avon Gorge as a barrier, lacking local knowledge, and so did not pursue our fieldwork to the coast - there is also the tide to be considered with the river crossing, running up to Saltford originally'. Against this argument of a tidal barrier is the fact that there was actually a well documented ford below the Clifton hill forts, partially demolished as an obstacle to shipping, as early as AD1480, and totally blown up in 1883/4. This was noted as being 'of a breadth still sufficient for a carriage', in 1821 *qv* *Seyer* (1821, 61) and was navigable for several hours either side of low tide; see also *Rutter* (1829, p273) and *Dobson* (1931, 224).

Other writers have commented on the poor choice of line, particularly when viewed from the work itself. However if one stands on the presumed site of the Saxon victory in AD577, Dyrham hill fort, (a most commanding promontory with sweeping 180 degree views north and south along the Cotswold escarpment) the first southern

horizon one sees emerging from behind Lansdown is Wansdyke ascending the east side of Stantonbury. The line to Maes Knoll, along the natural scarp edge of Dundry and across to Stokeleigh on the Avon Gorge is clearly evident as a topographical feature. The whole southern half of the bowl of the middle Avon is seen in perspective, clearly enclosed by the arc formed by the low range of hills, backed by Mendip, and breached in the west by the unprotected (?) Ashton Gap.

MAES KNOLL - BATH Recent Research (Note 3)

Ten sections cut across the Wansdyke by Avon Archaeological Unit on behalf of English Heritage between Maes Knoll and Combe Down have shown a great continuity in design and construction techniques, and have produced Roman period pottery from the body of the dyke, favouring a sub-Roman date for its construction. The work has strengthened the opinion that the dyke was 'designed to form a major physical obstacle whose principal role was to operate as an effective, defensible, military boundary'.

A further view is that the use of the dyke was short lived, and the work of a two phase construction but to a common design and technique. Unity in design of course need not extend to construction nor imply one work force. There is evidence elsewhere to suggest that linear earthworks were not constructed from one end to the other but by separate work-gangs in different areas, arguably based on the hill-forts, *qv* *Fox, O'Neil & Grimes* (1946, 4).

The work here is now thought to have been carried out, not in a single effort, but over a number of years. The line was established by a shallow ditch and completed some time later. This implies that there was no great urgency; that perhaps a perceived threat did not materialise. This in turn supports our own speculation that an unfinished Dundry - Avon Gorge stretch could well have sporadic part finished sections, exhibiting different stages of completion, sections which were still associated with the name Wansdyke in the 14th century.

Broad gaps may also be planned or be due to destruction. A series of long gaps occupied by natural barriers - rivers and ravines - reduces the length of Wat's Dyke from 38 to 22 miles *qv* *Fox et al* (1946, 2-4). At Stantonbury the once apparent evidence of the descent of Wansdyke across the fields to the Bath - Weston road has long been ploughed away.

A SUB-ROMAN POLITY?

Currently popular alternative possibilities to the *Fox's* choice of a 7th-century Saxon/Mercian boundary are that the date may relate either to the period before the Battle of Badon, (c.AD485 +/-) or to that following the Saxon capture of Gloucestershire and Bath in AD577. This is perhaps more valid now in view of our more recently acquired knowledge of the pre-Saxon occupation of the high status settlement at Cadbury-Congresbury, and the defended Roman establishment at Gatcombe. The latter site is regarded by *Cadrex* (1992, 228) as a plausible place of

origin for the population of sub-Roman Cadbury (qv. Note 1). North Somerset appears not to have been subjugated for almost a further 80 years after Dyrham and, in view of increasing discussion on a 5th century origin for many linear earthworks - Snyder (1998, 232), the suggestion that Wansdyke was the northern frontier of a sub-Roman polity, based on Cadbury and other major hill-forts, is attractive. qv Cadrex (1992, 250/1)

Now the argument that it was a negotiated post-Dyrham treaty boundary, implies that the victorious Saxons, having, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, captured Gloucester, Cirencester and Bath and having killed their three 'kings', were happy to allow the British south of the Avon to construct a barrier to their progress into Somerset which would hold them up for some 80 years or so. On balance logic would seem to favour the construction of a pre-Badon military frontier, in preparation for the impending advance of Saxon armies and perhaps unfinished by the time of a British victory and then regarded as no longer necessary. This would seem to fit the available evidence; strategically the whole plan would have best served by linking the heights above the Avon from Bathampton to Stokeleigh, incorporating the hill forts of Maes Knoll and Stantonbury.

SUMMARY

Whatever the course or extent of West Wansdyke, some of the comments on its topographical location still stand. Whether it defends or defines an area, that area is to its south; its line could have been at the dictation of more powerful interests to its north, the victors in AD577 being possible contenders, but this would not seem compatible with Saxon strategy. An alternative 'High Arthurian' event, pre AD500, sees Wansdyke sitting as a boundary between the Britons of Gloucestershire, (who were to fall in AD577) and those of Somerset who survived perhaps until the AD650's. If it relates say, to the northern frontier of a latter-day Dumnonia would it not sit practically as a 'fall-back' military defence with the river being the natural boundary? This would then place the defendable heights above Bath and the Stokeleigh/Burwalls complex on the actual frontier, with southern access via the otherwise indefensible 'bowl' of the middle Avon effectively blocked (qv Appendix 2).

Having said all this one has to accept that there is little currently to support the Ashton Vale hypothesis other than the Land deeds, the various enigmatic earthworks and a now plausible *raison d'être*. Circumstantial though these may be can we really be confident that Maes Knoll was the planned western termination of Wansdyke ?

We cannot go so far as to say we have a proven case but the discussion should not be allowed to stultify in the face of a demonstrably flawed diktat - are we not still justified in asking three simple questions?

i) If the 14th-century documents do not refer to a feature in the Ashton Vale associated there almost 700 years ago with the tradition of a section of Wansdyke, what do they refer to?

ii) If the linear bank descending Dundry in the direction of Highridge Common, the Ashton Vale and Stokeleigh is not part of Wansdyke what is its date and purpose?

iii) If the incomplete linear works, particularly those approaching Stokeleigh are not part of Wansdyke what are they?

There may well be three simple answers, none of them relevant to a western extension of Wansdyke, but it is surely a lapse of professional discipline not to ask the questions.

CONCLUSIONS

The Diktat is based on two premises:

i) that there is no strategic reason for the work to extend west of Maes Knoll and ii) that there is no evidence in the field of it's so doing.

It is suggested that with the now acknowledged high-status sites of Gatcombe and Cadcong in the extended Ashton Vale there would have been a strategic need for such an extension in the 5th/6th century.

It is further suggested that, unless and until clear explanations to the contrary are forthcoming, the additional existence of the Land Deeds and of other enigmatic ditches and banks, in particular, the west Dundry earthwork, make the diktat unsafe.

Note 1

We have postulated (Cadrex, 228) that Gatcombe may have been the place of origin of the population of Cadbury Congresbury. The possibility is strengthened by the earliest references to Gatcombe as Gadecumbe in the Exchequer Lay Subsidies in AD 1327 and Cadecumbe, in Kirby's Quest, 1285; qv SRS (1889).

Note 2

Haldane's (1966, 37 [2]) 'rectangular enclosure', located on the inner side of the outer bank, bears a superficial resemblance, in plan to Structure VII, at Cadcong qv Cadrex (p202).

Note 3

Thanks are due to Avon Archaeological Unit for kindly discussing their results in advance of publication, and to Frances Neale who found and interpreted the Long Ashton Land Deeds.

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APPENDIX 1: Yanleigh, Long Ashton.

Collinson 1797

'...(Wansdyke) forms by its vallum a deep narrow lane overhung with wood and briars leading to Yanley Street in the parish of Long Ashton. From Yanleigh it traverses the meadows to a lane anciently denominated from it Wondesdich Lane as appears from a deed dated at Ashton 3 Ed II...' (AD.1310)

Skinner 1830

'...I looked down upon Yanley Lane from a wall which bounds the road and perceived it ranged nearly into a straight line with High Ridge hill and Dundry tower. If this lane had been the course of the Wansdyke, ...which the name seems to imply, for some of the people called it Wansley Street, it would have ascended the height near where I stood to make my sketch and there seemed to be a corresponding lane ascending the hill and pointing to the heights above'.

Frances Neale translated the medieval land deeds, of which the following is a synopsis, and produced the schematic plan of the location herewith.

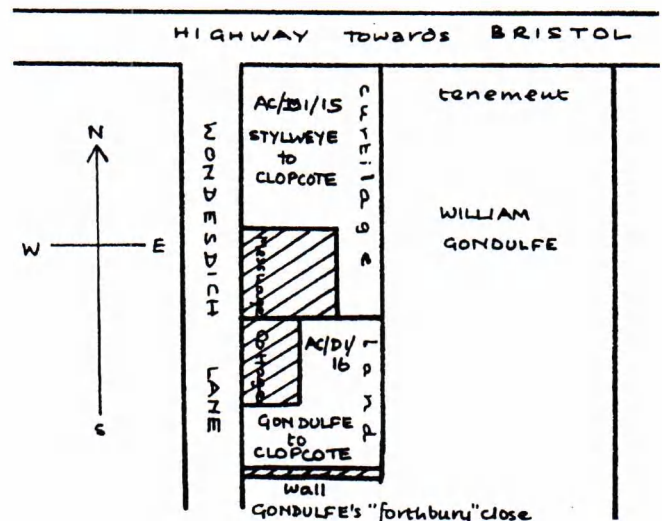


Fig.2 Yanleigh - Schematic Plan. The layout of Wondesdich Lane and the A.370 as described in the Land Deeds (Frances Neale)

British Record Office AC/D 1/15 1310 March 14

Grant by Robert de Stylweye to Adam de Clopcote of a messuage and curtilage in Aystone near Bristol, situated on the east of the 'Wondesdich' lane ('venelle de Wondesdich') between the tenement of William Gondulfe on the east and the said lane on the west; which messuage and the south head of the curtilage adjoin a house of William Gondulfe; and the end of the curtilage stretches to the highway leading to Bristol. For the customary services.

British Record Office AC/D 1/16 1310 March 28

Grant by William Gondulfe to Adam de Clopcote of a cottage and a plot of land annexed at Aystone near Bristol, situated on the east side of 'Wondesdich' lane, between Williams tenement on the east and the said lane on the west, of which one head of the cottage and land adjoins the tenement which Adam holds of the gift of Robert Stylweye; and the other head stretches to the wall of William's close. To hold of Robert Stylweye, Williams chief Lord for 1d. per annum and Royal service as appropriate.

The evidence of these 2 deeds therefore produces the following schematic plan of two adjoining plots, lying end to end, north/south on the east side of Wondesdich Lane where it joins the main Bristol road. The lane must clearly run up to the south side of the A370. A number of lanes still hold this position, arguably the oldest being Yanley Lane, part of which was postulated by Collinson to be the ditch of Wansdyke.

APPENDIX 2: Cadcong & Wansdyke - a Speculative Model.

By AD43 the south western tidewater peninsula, from Dorset to Gloucester, was divided between three tribes, the

Durotriges of Dorset and south east Somerset, the Dumnonii of Devon, Cornwall and part of west Somerset and the Dobunni of Gloucestershire and north Somerset.

According to Seutonius, Vespasian with his II Legion Augusta, conquered two of these tribes 'with extreme prejudice'. One was presumably the Durotriges to judge by the evidence of a massacre at their great oppidum of Maiden Castle, while the other could well have been the Southern Dobunni, who are major candidates for a similar sort of catastrophe at Worlebury. The Northern Dobunni are thought to have come separately to terms with Aulus Plautius, and thus avoided any recriminations.

This apparent division of the Dobunni is reflected in the subsequent Civil Administration as the Imperial authority created a new Canton (of the Belgae) which included north Somerset and was administered from as far away as Winchester. The subservient Gloucestershire Dobunni were allowed their own local civitas at Cirencester (Corinium Dobunorum), thus perpetuating the division between the two sections of the tribe.

On the collapse of Roman Government in Britannia the country appears to have fragmented into petty kingdoms, among which Vortigern would appear to have been some form of High King, employing Saxon mercenaries who typically rebelled and fought their former employers. Against this background Arthur is said by Nennius to 'have fought with the Kings of the Britons but was himself Dux Bellorum'. The famous victory of the Britons over the Saxons at Mons Badonicus (cAD485) may well have been at a hill (fort?) near Bath, possibly at Bathampton a few kilometers from the east end of the West Wansdyke. Some cooperative effort by 'the Kings of the Britons' was obviously achieved, a cooperation which could well have seen the construction of Wansdyke.

What relationship these kingdoms had to the old Tribal structure is unclear but according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for AD577 the battle of Dyrham saw the death of three 'kings' and the capture of their three cities of Glo'ster, Cirencester and Bath - the rump of the Dobunni? By AD584 the Saxon's westward advance appears to have been checked on what was for ever to be their frontier with the Cymru - the River Wye.

What prevented them in AD577 swinging south into Somerset having taken Bath? Not surely a 'gentleman's agreement' allowing the construction of an agreed barrier? Is it not more likely that the present area of North Somerset, behind a pre-existing Wansdyke, was so powerful a polity as to deter them from even trying? It is suggested by Morris (1973 p307) that the one local pre-Roman tribe to have survived intact enough for Gildas to have mentioned it by name, the Dumnonii, had formed alliances with the neighbouring 'Welsh' - that is the Britons around the Bristol Channel. This alliance would seem to have been defeated cAD614 in a battle near Axminster and, according to Gwent traditions their peace was broken in the same year. Even so it is not until AD658 that 'Cenwalh fought at Peonna against the Welsh and drove them in flight as far as the Parrett'.

Cad Cong was contemporary with all this - or at least with Badon and with Dyrham. It's decline could be attributed archaeologically to the early 7th century - a result of the Saxon defeat of the Dumnonii in AD614? Do we see in Cad Cong a llys, the court of a local 'Welsh' king, backed by a western alliance; do we see in the adjoining temple at Henley Wood a ghost of Hen Llys, the 'Old Court', and do we see in Wansdyke the northern frontier of a latter day Dumnonia?

WORK OF THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST IN AVON, 1993-1998: FROM SITES TO LANDSCAPES by Martin Locock

INTRODUCTION

GGAT's involvement in work on the English side of the Severn dates back to the evaluation of the Second Severn Crossing route in 1992. Since then it has had a continuing role in three major developments on the alluvial deposits of the North Avon Levels. Because this type of development is implemented over a long period, the archaeological interventions are often sporadic and limited in extent; in this paper the opportunity is taken to present the significant results of the work. Full reports on each element have been submitted to the relevant Sites and Monuments Record.

ICI SEVERNSIDE, *Severn Beach* ST 5535 8360. A series of projects were undertaken for ICI Estates as part of the mitigation for the development of Phase 1 of the Western Approach, Severnside, Industrial Park, and also preliminary work in connection with the proposed Phase 2 (all work by GGAT except where noted; individual projects were undertaken by Martin Lawler, Andrew Marvell, Sarah Robinson, David Williams, and Adam Yates). The site lies off the A403 Aust-Avonmouth road, between the Seabank power station, and the M49 motorway. A desk-based assessment of the Phase 1 area had been carried out by Wessex Archaeology in 1995, identifying six sites affected by the development.

The development area comprises a extensive area of ridge-and-furrow earthworks, surrounding the funnel-shaped common of Dyer's Common, around which are clustered three extant farms and two earthwork sites.

Oxhouse ASMR 2996. At the northeast end of Dyer's Common, a group of earthworks were noted. The site was surveyed and evaluated in 1996, and found to be a 19th-century structure, comprising a store room, sleeping quarters and a livestock shelter. As these results, and the placename, suggest, it seems likely that the site was involved in the management of cattle, perhaps as a collecting centre prior to transport to market.

Edsleigh Farm ASMR 5334. The earthworks in the vicinity of the modern farm were surveyed; an aerial photograph shows an earthwork feature to the northeast, but this has been obscured by a modern concrete surface.

Creed's Farm ASMR 5406. The earthworks in the vicinity were surveyed; an evaluation was undertaken in 1998 by Wessex Archaeology.

Dyer's Farmhouse ASMR 6514. This farm, at the southwest corner of the common, was surveyed in 1997 by Hill Bield Associates, prior to dismantling. The building was originally a longhouse; 16th-century beams and joists survived in the passage. It was remodelled or rebuilt in the late 17th and late 19th centuries.

Cropmark ASMR 6718. A circular cropmark, c20m in diameter, was noted on aerial photographs. Field survey showed it to post-date the ridge-and-furrow in the field, and is considered likely to be of World War Two date.

Ableton Lane ASMR 9256. A building is shown on the 1830 map in the coastal meadow of Appledraw Mead. Survey of the earthworks in 1996 concluded that it was a hay-barn or byre, rather than a cottage.

Auger survey and test pits. As part of the archaeological works in advance of the construction of the Second Severn Crossing, an extensive auger survey was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. One of the main aims of the survey was to check for the presence of the Iron Age/Roman palaeosol associated with occupation sites in the area. The survey include a transect across the ICI Phase 1 site, and in one location the palaeosol was noted.

Further auger survey has been undertaken by GGAT on the footprints of the new buildings; this identified a palaeochannel fill, and also roundwood on the peat surface. Trenching undertaken to examine these features concluded that the roundwood was not the result of human activity. The palaeochannel was traced for a distance of 120m, forming a 10m-wide gap in the peat bed. The upper part of the peat was formed under reed marsh conditions, and the channel is thought to date from 3000-2000 BC. No indication of human activity was found.

Watching brief. A watching brief was undertaken to observe the cutting of two new rhines in order to permit the recording of any features exposed. Two infilled ditches, cut from close to the present ground level, were noted; although they contained two sherds of unglazed medieval pottery this is considered to be residual. In addition, an undulating blue-grey clay was found, 0.4m-0.8m below present ground level, which produced a sherd of post-medieval pottery.

Phase 2/M49 junction. A desk-based study of the proposed extension of the site to the south was carried out in 1997,

alongside a study of the proposed M49 junction for Landmark Environmental Consultants. The principal interests identified were three sub-rounded enclosures, possibly examples of Rippon's 'infields', areas of primary reclamation (1996, 42; 1997, 172), which appear to pre-date the present field layout. The proximity to the farm and former settlement of Elmington, and a scatter of Saxon placenames, suggests that this area may have been one of early exploitation.

Conclusion

The investigations undertaken on the site have gone some way to providing a clear model of the development of the landscape. Following an extended period of peat-growth in the earlier prehistoric period, a shift to reed marsh and subsequent estuarine flooding reflects the effect of rising sea levels. The area would appear to have been subject to tidal action for some time, with limited evidence for stabilisation. The present ground level may have been reached in the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

Although previously the implicit model for the development of the landscape was for a medieval settlement arranged around Dyer's Common, with open fields reflected by the surrounding ridge-and-furrow, the fieldwork has suggested an alternative. With the possible exception of Dyer's Farm, which had a 16th century or possibly earlier origin, the farms and features, and the funnel-shaped common itself, appear to be of solely post-medieval date. It is therefore proposed that the ridge-and-furrow dates to the enclosure of the surrounding land, as part of the general division of the landscape in the 17th century, and that the morphology of the present landscape derives from stock management practices of the relatively recent past. The documentary evidence for landholding by the families of Vimpeny and Dyer suggests that the naming of the features was of this period.

AVONMOUTH, Rockingham Farm ST 528 808. This site lies southeast of the A403 Aust-Avonmouth road, straddling the Lawrence Weston Road; the northeast boundary is the Salt Rhine. The development was granted planning permission in 1993; the initial phase of development was carried out by Western Properties Ltd and AMEC Developments Ltd. In 1997, Burford Group PLC bought the site, and further work has taken place as the development has proceeded (individual projects undertaken by Martin Lawler, Martin Locock, Richard Roberts, and Adam Yates). A summary has been published (Locock 1997), and a full report has been accepted for publication in TBGAS (Locock and Lawler forthcoming). The archaeological interests of the site have two components: the buried sequence of alluvium and organic deposits, and earthworks on the present ground surface.

The presence of a gleyed horizon within the upper alluvium at levels of 4.5m-5.2m OD, associated with a thin lens of organic material, was initially interpreted as a stabilised Roman ground surface. In one area, two separate

horizons were noted, 0.1m apart. Radiocarbon dating of these horizons produced the surprising result that the organic material was of Late Bronze Age date (Beta 118378, 3060 +/- 70 BP, two sigma 1398-1132 cal BC; Beta 118379, 2830 +/- 70 BP, two sigma 1158-812 cal BC). Thus the late prehistoric, Roman and medieval build-up of deposits at this location was limited to 1m depth. A range of palaeoenvironmental analyses were undertaken, demonstrating the perimarine/saltmarsh nature of the environment.

The earthwork sites comprise a series of moated enclosures lining the bank of the Salt Rhine. The best-developed (ASMR 5215, Rockingham Farm 2) has two large platforms, with two additional annexes, defined by broad ditches. Evaluation and excavation has established that most platforms were devoid of features, and occupation was restricted to the north platform, on the bank of the rhine. The pottery suggests a construction date of about 1300; there was continuous occupation until the early 19th century, when Rockingham Farm (ASMR 9233) was built. The finds are not in general indicative of high status, although a late medieval bronze finger ring was found. Plant macrofossil evidence included charred seeds of bread wheat, barley and oat, with weeds of arable fields. The presence of the latter presumably implies that primary grain processing was taking place on site, and thus that the farmstead had access to arable land.

To the east lay four further moated enclosures, much smaller and simpler than ASMR 5215 (ASMR 5216 - ASMR 5218, Cold Harbour and Old House Ground). Evaluation of ASMR 5217 recovered artefacts of 16th-17th century date, with a firm cut-off in the early 18th century. These sites seem to reflect a stage in the settlement of the Levels in this area between medieval common and late post-medieval enclosed farms when small scattered sites encroached onto the edges of the common, presumably in response to both shortage of land elsewhere and a relaxation of control of the commons.

Cabot Park ST 535 800. Burford Group PLC purchased extensive lands in Avonmouth in addition to Rockingham (initially developed as the Severngate distribution park), and in 1997 submitted a proposal for Cabot Park Phase 2 (Phase 1 being the Rockingham area), from the M49 in the southeast, Lawrence Weston Road in the southwest, Phase 1 to the northwest and the railway line to the northeast. The development area extends to 60 hectares. GGAT has undertaken an initial desk-based study, evaluations, and subsequent excavations on the site; more work will take place as the development proceeds (individual projects undertaken by Martin Lawler, Martin Locock, Richard Roberts, Sarah Robinson, Steve Sell, and Adam Yates; palaeoenvironmental analysis by University of Wales, Lampeter). The desk-based study identified seven known sites within the development area; each has since been evaluated. In addition, a major programme of field evaluation of the buried deposits within the building

footprints has been carried out, based on detailed modelling of the palaeotopography using borehole and geotechnical test pit data.

Madam Farm ASMR 9235. Although the SMR entry postulates a medieval origin for this farm, excavation suggested a first phase of construction in the late 17th century. The building eventually evolved into a T-shaped structure with a complex of outbuildings to the north; it was demolished in 1997.

Man Croft. A small earthwork noted on aerial photographs was destroyed by Avonmouth Sewage Works to Seabank Power Station pipeline; a watching brief by BaRAS found no visible remains in the trench sections.

Moorend Farm ASMR 9242. Moorend Farm occupies a large rectangular ditched platform on the north bank of the Salt Rhine. Unusually, the platform is occupied by two separate farms, on either side of a driveway; the farms can be traced back as separate holdings into the 17th century, and may be the result of partible inheritance. The presence of numerous modern building footings restricted areas of evaluation, but the recovery of large quantities of medieval pottery, including North Avon Gritty ware, suggests an origin in the 11th century, well before the moated site at Rockingham.

Old House ASMR 7097. A small enclosure on the south side of the Salt Rhine contained a cottage in the late 18th century, and occupation continued until recently. Evaluation found no indication of earlier activity, although documentary evidence implies that the house may have been built by 1684.

Packgate Farm ASMR 6710, 9241. Packgate Farm also occupies a large ditched enclosure north of the Salt Rhine; in this case, however, occupation appears to have commenced in the late 17th century; no earlier material was found.

Poplar Farm ASMR 9009. Poplar Farm was built between 1772 and 1830; it has been demolished. Established on a new site, it was part of the last phase of enclosure and the creation of farms in the old large fields.

Yeomans. This site lies in the corner of a large field on the south side of the Salt Rhine. The platform is very well-developed, rising to 7m OD (higher than the Moorend or Rockingham platforms). The site was not occupied in the post-medieval period, and the pottery suggests the site lasted from the 11th to 13th centuries. It might be suggested that it was a pioneer settlement later abandoned in favour of the Rockingham Farm moated site, further along the Salt Rhine.

Deeper deposits

Although there are no peat deposits within the site boundary,

a watching brief on the Seabank effluent pipeline carried out by BaRAS in 1997 identified an organic clay layer at 4.5m OD, radiocarbon dated to the Neolithic. This layer has since been demonstrated to extend over much of the area, and detailed analysis was carried out as part of the GGAT evaluation in 1998. The deposit differs from the gleyed surface found at Rockingham, and appears to be a soil forming in a spell of dry conditions prior to re-flooding. Soil micromorphology has identified the process of soil ripening, weathering of the exposed surface, with vegetation becoming established. The presence of wood charcoal fragments is notable; pollen evidence suggests stands of alder and hazel nearby. No direct evidence of human activity has been noted from this deposit, which we have referred to as the 'BaRAS' layer.

Late Bronze Age sites

At 5.2m-5.5m OD, an extensive gleyed soil was found, similar to that at Rockingham, although the organic component was rarely present. Associated with the layer were found three areas of activity, named Little Googs, Kites Corner and Stinkums after the fields in which they lie. Each comprises an area of charcoal, burnt stone, pottery and animal bone, 5m-8m in diameter. Examination of the pottery and radiocarbon dating has confirmed the Late Bronze Age date for these features. There are a number of interesting aspects of these features: the absence of structural evidence (a maximum of two post-holes), the high density of finds, and the presence of stone of mixed types. The palaeoenvironmental evidence places these sites just inland of the contemporary high-tide, and wood for fuel and the stone must have been brought to this location deliberately. Although seasonal camps on coastal pasture are one possibility, the specific location suggests craft activity, perhaps including pottery making, leatherworking and saltmaking. Similar sites have been found on the Welsh foreshore, at Chapeltump II, Cold Harbour, and Rumney Great Wharf. Further details have been published in the interim report in Archaeology in the Severn Estuary (Locock et al. 1998).

The present landscape

The examination of the farms and earthwork sites has established a chronology for the development of the present landscape comprising three principal stages: initial reclamation and 'pioneer' moated platforms along the banks of the Salt Rhine in the 11th century; the construction of additional farmhouses in the 17th-18th century, and a final phase of reorganisation in the 19th century. The relationship of the farms to the surrounding land can be suggested. In the medieval period, the common meadow of Great Madam was used by the inhabitants of Lawrence Weston; piecemeal enclosure in the early post-medieval period presumably ran in tandem with the proliferation of settlement sites. The relationship of the ridge-and-furrow earthworks to the farms is unfortunately equivocal, but it appears that its distribution is restricted to enclosed land. In the absence of any reason to postulate medieval open fields in this area, it is therefore

concluded that the ridge-and-furrow was created following enclosure as part of a programme of draining improvement in the post-medieval period.

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REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY 1998

Edited by Bruce Williams

Abbreviations

BARAS -	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services
BAT -	Bath Archaeological Trust
BRSMG-	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
CAT -	Cotswold Archaeological Trust
CMAG -	Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery
NSMS -	North Somerset Museums Service

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.

BATH AND NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

BATH

33-35 Westgate Street (*ex Bath Chronicle Offices*), ST 649 648. The final phase of work here was an extended watching brief following on from evaluations in 1997 (see report in BAA 14). The bulk of the site was unaffected by foundation work, but two areas were excavated prior to large service trenches being dug. In one area a rare complete stratigraphic sequence was recorded from the pre-Roman levels found in the evaluation trenches right through the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods to a point in the early 17th century.

Peter Davenport, BAT

Circus Mews, ST 747 654. Area excavation prior to development was undertaken in a two phased programme of work. The western area that had served as a car park immediately prior to the investigation produced evidence of the original medieval - post-medieval field surface, which was overlain by make-up and imported soil and gravel hogging to form the Georgian garden of No.12, Circus dating to the 1760s. The garden had a simple layout of rectangular beds divided by gravelled paths. This was succeeded by the mews buildings, constructed about 1850. In the northern corner remnants of a building identified in documents and maps of the nineteenth century as a public house and brewery were recovered, but most of the building had been destroyed by a direct bomb hit during the Second World War in April 1942, which left a large bomb crater 4m deep.

The second phase of excavation investigated the eastern area, which had been occupied by post-war industrial

warehouses and offices, which were demolished immediately prior to work. The earliest features were plough marks and cultivation slots in the buried soil associated with agricultural activity relating to the fields, which occupied the area prior to development in the 1760s. Environmental analysis of the buried soil indicated it to be under pasture at the time of burial. The mews buildings originally belonging to nos 13 and 14 the Circus were exposed with evidence of the Georgian phases of construction identified in the more easterly one, as well as changes and additions that occurred during the Victorian period. The mews were stone built arranged around a central paved courtyard and much of the ground floor accommodation could be identified as stables. Early photographs show parts of the mews as two storeyed, the upper floors being for hay lofts, domestic or office use. Occupation of the central mews building came to an end with the bombing of 1942, which had also destroyed much of this building, but the continued use of the eastern mews property into the 1950s was identified.

Cynthia Poole, BAT

Spa Restoration Scheme, ST 749 646. Work started on phase one in October 1998 and continued into February 1999. Pre-Roman soils were found over all the site, containing mesolithic flint tools and flakes. The deposits were alluvial flood silts with a possibly truncated soil formation. Early Roman features included a large first century ditch and drain, a street and spreads of gravel and silts with burning and building material scattered between. These possibly represent maintenance activities related to the Baths and Temple which seem to be the only large buildings in the centre of Bath at this time.

In Antonine times a very large public building with hypocausts was laid out over the early ditch and street pattern. This was not well preserved but a nearly complete plan of one wing and part of another can be put together. The building shared the Baths alignment.

Medieval remains were limited to pit bases cut into the Roman, and a tiny survival of medieval stratified deposits between later cellar walls. 19th- and 20th-century construction had badly truncated layers of all periods but especially the medieval. However, some traces of a post-Roman timber building were found over the demolition levels of the Roman building.

These late Georgian structures are in fact the ground

floor and substructures of Decimus Burton's Tepid Bath of 1830. While we knew, from building plans of the time, broadly what to expect, we were nonetheless surprised and intrigued by the discovery of an extensive hypocaust heating system under a corridor and courtyard adjacent to the private baths. Unlike its Roman models, it was heated by hot spa water running through it rather than air.

Cynthia Poole, BAT

Southgate Shopping Centre, ST 750 645. A revised desktop assessment of the archaeological impact of the redesigned proposals for this large scheme in the centre of Bath was undertaken. As a result two trenches were dug in addition to the seven already excavated in 1997. The first of these trenches was located in the pedestrianised part of Philip Street, between the shopping centre and the Ham Gardens multi-storey carpark. It produced some important results, notably a series of waterlogged deposits, 4.5-5.5m below present pavement level, sealed by a horizon which was closely datable to the mid-17th century. The provisional interpretation is that they formed part of the mill-pond associated with the medieval Isabelle's Mill or the Abbey fish-ponds, granted in the 1270s, and possibly abandoned after the Dissolution. However, it is possible that they may originally have been part of a navigable early-medieval water channel leading from the city wall to the River Avon. The second trial trench was excavated in early 1999.

Robert Bell, BAT

Site of Oldfield Boys School, ST 746 643. In the late spring and summer the majority of the school buildings were demolished whilst phase 2 of the project began and required a watching brief. Demolition of a large Victorian retaining wall allowed a 40 metre long section of the north wing of the Roman villa to be recorded.

Having already dug 11 trenches in 1997, it was agreed that two more trenches be dug in an attempt to define the southern and western sides of the villa building. Thus phase 3 commenced in mid September. In both these trenches excavation work was kept to an absolute minimum given the limited objectives. Once a massive spread of demolition material was identified in Trench 13 it was felt appropriate to enlarge the trench in an attempt to identify the limits of the spread, but once again excavation was limited to the material sealing the rubble. Trench 12 revealed more robbed walls and mortar floors of the villa. Work continues in 1999.

Mark Beaton, BAT

Hot Bath Investigation Trenches, ST 750 646. Eight trenches were excavated at the Hot Bath with the intention of identifying the various original floor levels within the layout of John Wood's building of 1776. It is intended to reinstate these levels as part of the Bath Spa Scheme. Six earlier builder's trenches were cleaned and recorded, while two new trenches were excavated.

The trenches were successful in demonstrating the floor levels in the central pool and the surrounding rooms. John

Wood's floors originally stepped down in three stages, confirming the impression gained from the architect's published engravings of 1777. The floor did not survive throughout, but evidence of its level was present. Unexpected was the survival of the decorative encaustic tiled floor probably dating from Major Davis's work in the 1880s and 90s which in most areas had been laid almost directly on top of Wood's own floor. Even more unexpected was conclusive evidence that a large proportion of the wall surrounding the octagonal bath had been raised and rebuilt by Decimus Burton in 1830, leaving all that remained of Decimus Burton's original walls hidden below a new waterline.

Marek Lewcun, BAT

Aldridge's Auction Rooms, 130-132, Walcot Street, ST 751 655. Limited trial trenching in 1991 and a desktop assessment earlier this year has led to a further and larger scale evaluation in November/December, and a RCHME level two building record of the 1899 school building that was converted to auction room use after 1964.

The new trial trench was designed to further characterise the extent depth and quality of the Roman deposits known here, with a view to formulating a further programme should the new build proposed along the frontage adversely affect the buried archaeology. The deposits matched in depth and complexity those at Hat and Feather a little to the north, showing deep occupation deposits and substantial Roman masonry buildings terraced into the slope. Post-Roman deposits are restricted to the remains of the 18th- and 19th-century occupation here, and a deep cultivation soil, with finds from the 17th and 18th century, as well as Roman, mixed throughout.

Peter Davenport, BAT

The Old Police Station, Orange Grove, ST 751 648. The Trust was commissioned to record the archaeological deposits revealed by the excavation of three geotechnical test pits excavated in the basement of the Old Police Station and Magistrates Court, in advance of the groundworks associated with the conversion of this building to restaurant use.

No significant archaeological deposits were recorded. In one of the test pits a thin loam containing some probable human bone was present, however in the other two pits the concrete cellar floor was bedded upon natural alluvium. All archaeological deposits were destroyed during the excavation of the cellars for this building in 1868, the same as in parts of the adjacent Empire Hotel inside the city wall.

Derek Cater, BAT

Bath Pollution Prevention Scheme - Phase 1B, ST 755 659. Following the completion of the watching brief on the main course of the Wessex Water pipeline from the Batheaston Bypass to Kensington Meadows (phase 1A), this phase comprised the continuation of the line into the bus depot on the London Road and the excavation of a large and very

deep storage chamber. The area is close to a known Roman cemetery alongside the Fosse Way/London Road but nothing of this had been seen in the earlier phase of works. Despite evidence of Roman burial and occupation much closer to the works this year no major discoveries were made.

No structures were recorded in the storage chamber but the contemporary Roman horizon, was probably represented by a thin scatter of pennant roof tile fragments at 6.2m below the surface, much deeper than expected and forcing a reappraisal of the local topography during the Roman period. Much of this depth, but not all, was the result of post 1945 dumping and levelling, partly for flood control purposes.

Marek Lewcun, BAT

Abbey Chambers, ST 751647. In the town centre alterations to the drainage in the cellars of Abbey Chambers a few metres east of the Baths required a watching brief, but the excavations were too shallow to require further work.

Marek Lewcun, BAT

Halifax plc, Southgate Street, ST 7505 6460. The trench for the construction of a new lift at these premises, at the bottom of the east side of Southgate Street had already been excavated by contractors before any archaeological attendance. Fortunately only 19th- or 20th-century levels were destroyed, but nevertheless the original 18th-century floors had been exposed at some depth and were recorded prior to being encased in concrete.

Marek Lewcun, BAT

Bellott's Hospital, Beau Street, ST 749 646. A trial trench in the garden behind the hospital revealed the survival of a 17th-century, or perhaps earlier, rubble-built wall incorporated as part of the main party wall between Bellot's and the Lamb and Lion public house. It is probably the rear wall of Bellot's Hospital of 1609 but may have originated as a division between tenements fronting Bilberry Lane to the east.

Below ground, in a cellar towards the north west corner of the hospital, a builder's test pit in advance of a larger hole to receive a new lift revealed the robbed footings of a substantial Roman wall running north-south and associated stratigraphy, with higher levels occupied by medieval pits. The wall is on the same alignment as those uncovered on the Beau Street excavations immediately to the north west, in 1988/89 and 1998/9, and both sites are slightly askew to the range of buildings discovered nearby by Irvine between 1864 and 1867. Reduction of cellar floor levels and the insertion of services revealed largely intact stratified archaeological deposits of Roman and probably sub-Roman date with some medieval pits.

Marek Lewcun, BAT

Hermitage Road, Lansdown, ST 745 661. The Trust was alerted to the discovery of a Roman stone coffin during

house construction in the grounds of No. 8 Hermitage Road. Several days spent at the site revealed the presence of five more skeletons, each providing evidence of having been buried in wooden coffins. Two of these and that in the stone coffin, were directly in the line of further foundation trenches, and were excavated prior to removal from the site. Each had been buried with hob-nailed sandals or boots, the outlines of which were all well-preserved. There was evidence that some of the nails at heels and toes had been linked by a thin metal plate. The form of burial suggests a later Roman date. The remaining three burials were not at risk and were left in-situ and their locations recorded.

The six burials were laid out in three rows and there may have been additional interments immediately to the east, just outside the new foundation trenches. There seemed to be no other interments within the area of the new house, however, and so the density of burials in the cemetery as a whole was probably dispersed. Two of the three individuals share non-metrical traits which suggests a family relationship. The site is adjacent to the site of the 19th-century Hermitage House School, formerly St Catherine's Hermitage, where three burials were found in 1808. Other burials in the cemetery lie to the west, further along Hermitage Road and in the grounds of Sion Hill College and nearby properties. All are oriented north-south. The burials at this new site have filled a gap between the others dispersed on Sion Hill, and its identity as a cemetery of perhaps some size has been reinforced. The little combe on the site of the Hermitage probably represents the eastern boundary of the cemetery.

The cemetery as now understood is of some importance. Containing, as it does, an Iron Age settlement or site of some kind, and centred on the holy spring of St Winifred, it may well have been laid out around a shrine or similar sacred site linked to the spring.

Marek Lewcun/Robert Bell, BAT

Historical streetscape survey. As part of a thorough review of Bath's traffic management and associated environmental improvements, the Trust were commissioned in late 1998 to carry out documentary research into the history and development of street surfacing, layout and related arrangements.

Mark Beaton, BAT

The Tramsheds, Beehive Yard, Walcot Street, ST 750 653. A desk top assessment of these buildings, originally constructed in 1903 as depot, powerhouse and workshops for the Bath Electric Tramways, was carried out.

It was considered that any ancient archaeology was too deeply buried to be threatened to a large degree by the development proposals, but that limited trial trenching might be appropriate. The significance of the Tramsheds, and of the adjacent early 20th-century foundry was also considered, with a recommendation that this be further studied. This aspect of the work was taken forward by Structural Perspectives of Halifax.

Andrew Crutchley, BAT

Westgate Inn, ST 748 647. An assessment had identified the likely extent of Georgian and later fabric in this building. Planning permission was granted for conversion with a condition of a watching brief on the building and any below ground works. The Trust were commissioned by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries to carry this out.

The work revealed the expected extra detail on the Georgian wing of the building, and enabled a full drawn record to be carried out. A surprise, however, was the amount of Georgian fabric surviving in the Edwardian wing, which had been added in 1903. While some had been recognised during the assessment phase at basement and ground floor level, it became apparent during conversion work that parts of the rear wall of the 1903 block was Georgian up to and including the second floor, and that the southern wing of this extension was a near complete but gutted Georgian house. In addition, limited excavation for drainage trenches was observed and this revealed a well-laid and hard mortar floor associated with robbed walls of Roman date. The floor was covered in a dark earth on which the stone slabs of the cellar rested.

The pub has now re-opened under the name of the Rat and Parrot.

Peter Davenport, BAT

Weston Island, ST 7276 6482. A desktop study was undertaken on Weston Island, together with a small area on the Lower Bristol Road. Historically part of Weston Parish, the Island was created by the cutting of the canal in 1727. Domesday Book listed two water mills in Weston, and there were later medieval records. By the 18th century there were mills at either end of the island, the upper a brass mill, the lower a woollen mill. The upper mill later became a logwood mill while the lower mill was considerably extended. Both water mills were removed in the 1960s, with the large woollen mill building at the lower site later destroyed by fire.

John Bryant, BaRAS

CHEW MAGNA

The Preaching Cross, St Andrews Church, ST 5776 6268. An Archaeological Survey and Watching Brief was conducted on the medieval Preaching Cross (Scheduled Ancient Monument 109) located in the graveyard of St. Andrews Church, Chew Magna during its conservation. This showed that the cross is in its original location. The watching brief during the reduced excavation around the base of the cross revealed the remains of a seventh bottom step overlaying a chamfered plinth base. All the finds recovered were post-medieval in date.

Jayne Pilkington, BaRAS

HIGH LITTLETON

Hallatrow, ST 635 571. Following assessment in 1996, development of land at Manor Farm and Manor Cottages required a programme of field investigation including a detailed contour survey of the earthworks at the rear of the

site and a full record of the buildings (of 18th-20th-century date) which would be affected by the redevelopment.

Trial trenching in February-March led to a larger scale excavation in August and September. This revealed a sequence of three rebuilds of a building of some architectural pretension, with a probable adjoining walled enclosure. The earliest building, of probable 12th-century date, measured approximately 7m x 3.5m and had limestone rubble foundations. The second- and third-phase buildings were each larger by little more than a single wall's width. The building was thus never larger than approximately 10m x 6.5m. Internal floor surfaces survived poorly, though a marl earth floor laid upon a bedding of limestone blocks, and periodically renewed, probably served throughout. In the final phase a porch was added, and window mullions of sizeable cross section, hood mouldings of medieval type, pennant roofing slates and many glazed ridge tiles indicate that this was a high-status building.

The ceramics from the later phases of excavation have yet to be analysed, but a late 13th-century rebuild seems certain with little evidence of significant post-14th-century activity.

Little is known of medieval Hallatrow. The location of the buildings of the manor of Hallatrow is unknown and the village never acquired a church or individual parish status. These remains are thus of great significance for the elucidation of Hallatrow's medieval origins.

Derek Cater, BAT

HINTON CHARTERHOUSE

Tuggys Barn, ST 765 589. During the last week of June and the first week of July the Trust was commissioned by the Hinton Farm Estate to monitor topsoil stripping prior to the construction of a new farm track, some 120 metres long by 5 metres, across Shepherd's Mead, Hinton Charterhouse.

In 1820 the Rev. John Skinner, rector of Camerton and antiquary, observed lynchets and small lines of inclosure after ploughing in Shepherd's Mead. He subsequently mounted an excavation and recovered building stone, much Romano-British pottery and some Roman coins. Unfortunately Skinner failed to accurately locate his observations and excavations.

Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society systematically fieldwalked Shepherd's Mead. However, only a thin and even scatter of Romano-British material was recovered, though a significant concentration of medieval pottery sherds and glazed roof tile indicated the presence of a high-status medieval site at the western end of Shepherd's Mead, which necessitated an amendment to the proposed route of the track. In fact, topsoil stripping revealed only three features of certain medieval date (two pits and a rubble spread). However, extensive and well-preserved remains of a minimum of three phases of high status Romano-British occupation were uncovered.

The earliest activity was indicated by two parallel ditches, one of which was subsequently recut, and both of which silted up naturally. These were clearly associated with

buildings, the burnt and collapsed limestone blocks and pennant roofing slates of which were recorded. A copper alloy coin of Valentinian I (one of five coins recovered from this layer) gave a terminus post quem of AD364-78 for the second phase of building activity. The walls of this phase were also substantial masonry which appeared to be part of an apsidal building with hypocausts. This originally had a suspended floor and a well-preserved arched flue was recorded. In phase three, a second wall, of herring bone construction and running at an approximate right angle to the first, butted the apsidal building.

Derek Cater, BAT

KEYNSHAM

High Street, ST 6539 6868. A small excavation on the frontage of the Victoria Methodist Church in the High Street (full report this volume) provided a rare opportunity to test for the presence of any deposits related to the Saxon town, and also to date the development of the planned medieval town. In the event no evidence for Saxon occupation was encountered, although the remnants of a medieval building and associated tenement boundary wall were identified. The building appeared to have been established in the late 12th-early 13th-century, and to have continued in use through the post-medieval period. A clay floor overlaid by sandstone flags was found within the building and a series of stone-lined drains to the rear of the property.

Documentary and cartographic evidence shows that the site was originally owned by the Augustinian Abbey of Keynsham before forming the eastern part of a tenement block which fronted the High Street and extended westwards to the north-east boundary of the Abbot's deer-park. Both the building and tenement wall are aligned on the existing High Street. The dating evidence recovered from the excavation suggests that this part of the medieval town was laid out shortly after the founding of the abbey in the mid-12th-century, much earlier than previously thought.

Clifford Bateman & Dawn Enright, CAT

PENSFORD

Sheila's Cottage, (1998.28) ST 6209 6349. An evaluation of the garden area of Sheila's Cottage, Pensford revealed that the site probably lay beyond the area of medieval activity in the village. No significant archaeological features were identified.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

RADSTOCK

The Fosse Way near Clandown, ST 683 554. This year National Archaeology days were the 25 and 26 of July. Following last year's interesting results on the Fosse Way between Combe Hay and Dunkerton, it was decided to revisit the site of a 19th-century excavation on the road between Clandown and Radstock, 6 miles south west of Bath. Nineteenth-century excavations here suggested a deliberate 'agger' which had not been demonstrated last year.

At least 14 layers below the present metalled surface were found. A sequence of worn cobbled surfaces, with wheel ruts, several of which were sealed by coarse silts, clearly demonstrated that the agger was generated over a prolonged period of time. Dating these layers proved impossible however. Only the uppermost metalled surface and the layers that partially sealed it produced any useful dating evidence, all pointing towards activity and deposition from the 18th century to the present. Several if not most of the layers below the uppermost metalling must be Roman but precisely how many can only be guessed at.

One further point worthy of note is that layer 21, a buried soil, indicated that little preparation of the ground took place before the primary road surface was laid down. The upper surface of the large blocks which formed the lowest structural layer was worn, indicating that they constituted a surface rather than hard-core, set into the contemporary topsoil. A roadside ditch was located on the west side of the road.

Mark Beaton, BAT

WELLOW

Home Farm, White Ox Mead, ST 771 583. The small barn and stable, now part of Home Farm but originally a separate farm, was the subject of standing building recording before conversion to a house. The current building is a purpose built later 19th-century structure, with signs of a major rebuild in this century. The present conversion is drastic and will leave little original fabric in place. However, the building was rapidly becoming derelict to the extent of collapse. The record was made (in early October) to preserve details of a vanishing class of rural building.

A watching brief on the earthmoving and drain digging consequent on the conversion was also carried out by Richard Broomhead. As the barn stands amid the earthworks of a shrunken settlement, presumably of medieval date, it was not surprising that evidence of 12th- and 13th-century settlement was forthcoming, and of a 17th-century predecessor to the present building. No Roman remains were found, despite a possible reference to finds by Skinner in the 1820s.

Peter Davenport, BAT

BRISTOL

BEDMINSTER

Albion Dry Dock, (CMAG 1998.0028). ST 5774 7236. An archaeological photographic survey was conducted in the dry dock or 'Graving Dock' built in 1820 located to the east of the Albion dockyard and south-west of HMS Great Britain. The survey was required to record the coping stones along the east and west sides of the dock, before they were covered in concrete during renovations.

Jayne Pilkington, BaRAS

The Old British School Site, British Road, (CMAG.1998.0066) ST 581814 713319. A desktop

assessment of the site of the Old British School suggested the possibility of archaeological remains surviving on the site dating to the early settlement of Bedminster in the late Saxon period. A subsequent archaeological evaluation of the site revealed that the construction of the school building in 1846 had largely removed any surviving archaeology. No evidence for Saxon occupation was identified.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

BISHOPSWORTH

Land at Bridgwater Road, Bedminster Down, (CMAG 1998.0042) ST 5700 6995. A desktop study of land at Bridgwater Road, Bedminster Down, Bristol, the proposed site for a residential gypsy camp, showed that Bedminster Down had been occupied since at least the Romano-British period, and that the field containing the site had been on the same boundaries since at least 1730 and possibly since its original enclosure.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Filwood Playing Fields, Hengrove Way, (BRSMG 42/1996) ST 5913 6900. A watching brief was carried out on Filwood Park, Hengrove Way, Bristol during groundworks associated with the construction of an access road for the proposed Filwood Business Park. This revealed one of the 19th-century buildings of Filwood Farm that was demolished in the 20th century. The work also uncovered the base of a Romano-British gully that was probably associated with the occupation excavated by R Williams in 1982 (BAA II, 12-20) and truncated by the landscaping for Filwood Park in the 1980's. No evidence of Romano-British occupation was recovered at the eastern end of the park where there was a potential for survival below redeposited clay from the landscaping of the park.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

BRISLINGTON

Stockwood Road/Bath Road, (CMAG 1998/0027) ST 6260 7020. A watching brief during building work at the junction of Bath Road and Stockwood Road revealed nothing of archaeological interest. A fragment of a headstone dedicated 'In Memory of Francis Ker Fox MD, of Brislington House, died January 7 1883 aged 78 years' was found in the area of a disused Quaker Burial ground dating from the 18th century.

Jayne Pilkington, BaRAS

CASTLE PRECINCTS

Castle Park Arena, (CMAG.1998.0013) ST 5935 7315. An archaeological evaluation prior to planning permission for a tethered hot air balloon at the eastern end of Castle Park was carried out in February 1998. The evaluation involved the excavation of test pits in the tethering positions around the arena and in the centre of the area where the proposed winch house was to be located. This revealed considerable disturbance in the area of the arena caused by drainage, demolition of the former buildings and landscaping for the

park. However, a substantial wall was uncovered measuring 0.7m wide and aligned approximately north-south in a test pit towards the north west boundary bank of the arena. This wall was revealed at a depth of 0.5 - 0.8m below the surface and was constructed of pennant sandstone blocks and reddish brown mortar, although there was evidence of rebuilds in grey mortar and bricks. No dating evidence was recovered for this wall but it was speculated that the structure could date to the late medieval period, based on the construction materials.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

CLIFTON

Rodney Lodge, Clifton Down Road, (BRSMG 31/1998) ST 5710 7324. A desktop assessment was carried out on the property known as Rodney Lodge. A map of 1736, surveyed by Jacob de Wilstar showed the site situated in a field, known from other sources as Holly Lands. Rodney Lodge itself was built c1750 by Abraham Isaac Elton and the plot occupied exactly the same measurement then as today.

Roger Leech, BaRAS

Rodney Lodge, Clifton Down Road, (BRSMG 31/1998) ST 5710 7324. Following a desktop assessment an evaluation was carried out in the garden to the rear of the property. This involved the excavation of five 1 metre square trial pits. The only deposits recorded were a series of 19th century buried garden soils and redeposited natural stony clays as well as a thin layer of pale yellow gravel which probably formed a path in the 19th century garden. Beneath these was sealed a layer of red silty clay which produced sherds of 18th-century pottery, pieces of clay pipe, brick, roof slate and lead for roofing, guttering, etc which almost certainly relate to the construction of the 18th-century house.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

St. Vincent Rocks Hotel, Sion Hill, Clifton, (CMAG 1998.0033) ST 5666 7299. A desktop study on the St. Vincent Rocks Hotel, No.1 Sion Hill, showed that prior to the development of the area in the closing years of the 18th century the site had been used for agricultural purposes. It had been suggested that the houses at the southern end of the terrace, including No.1 were built to provide high quality lodgings for visitors to the nearby New Hot Well; however, the study has shown that the spring did not come into use until some time after the houses were built. Whilst retaining the character of their late 18th and mid 19th century origins the buildings comprising the hotel have been much altered internally.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Site Al Harbourside, Graham's Timber Yard, Gas Ferry Lane, (CMAG.1998.0012) ST 57832 72537. An archaeological desktop assessment of Graham's Timber Yard was undertaken as part of the broad scheme of archaeological assessments prior to the redevelopment of the Harbourside/Canon's Marsh area of Bristol. The

assessment revealed that two major industrial sites of 17th-18th century date are likely to survive fairly intact on the site; a glasshouse and the Limekiln Dock. The glass kiln is shown on a plan dated 1693 and the earliest reference to the Limekiln Dock is 1710, although it is possible that this refers to the conversion of an existing mud-dock. The study also suggests that dockside buildings associated with the dry dock and the glasshouse are likely to survive beneath the surface.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

HENBURY

25-35 Woodleaze, Sea Mills, (CMAG 1998.0048) ST 54815 76610. A desktop study on land formerly occupied by garages to the rear of 25-35 Woodleaze, Sea Mills, Bristol, found no evidence for archaeological features; however, the north bank of the River Avon has clearly been occupied since the Neolithic period, the gravel terraces having produced evidence of Neolithic, Mesolithic and Bronze Age occupation. Moreover, the area came under Roman influence from an early date with occupation, probably initially military, dating from the mid 1st century. Cartographic evidence indicates that the site remained open and undeveloped until at least the 1950's.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Ridingleaze Social Services Building, Lawrence Weston, (CMAG.1998.0006) ST 5439 7828. An archaeological desktop assessment of Ridingleaze Social Services Building, Lawrence Weston suggested that there was a high potential for the survival of Romano-British remains. This was inferred from the concentration of previous finds of Romano-British date in the Lawrence Weston area, especially along Long Cross immediately to the south of the site.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

Kingsweston House, Lawrence Weston, (CMAG 1998.0003) ST 54190 77492. A watching brief was carried out during the installation of a CCTV and alarm system at Kingsweston House. This revealed walls likely to have formed part of the original Tudor mansion, and evidence that the 18th-century house re-used these for its footings. The use of brick in these walls may be one of the earliest examples in the Bristol area.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

HORFIELD

Monks Park School Playing Fields, (CMAG.1998.0001) ST 59500 78150. An archaeological field evaluation was carried out on the playing fields of Monks Park School, Horfield in light of planning proposals for all weather sports pitches, a new sports hall and a potential residential development. Prior to the fieldwork a desktop study and geophysical survey had highlighted areas of archaeological potential. Anecdotal evidence suggested the possibility of a hypocaust on the site that had been revealed in the 1960's

during groundworks for the present sports pitches. Twelve trenches were excavated, the majority producing little in the way of archaeologically significant material, except for residual Romano-British pottery and possible prehistoric flints.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

ST AUGUSTINES

U-Shed, Canons Marsh, (BRSMG 19/1996) ST 5851 7256. A watching brief was carried out during the groundwork phase of the redevelopment of the site formerly occupied by the U-Shed (Bristol Exhibition Centre) built in 1924. The assessment found only limited archaeological evidence. The only deposits recorded were a layer of 19th/early 20th-century made-ground probably relating to the demolition of the c1890 transit shed in the early 1920's and layers of late 19th-century redeposited natural clay and backfill forming the infill in the c1742 Tomb's Dock.

The only feature recorded was the remains of a wooden post which probably belonged to the c1890 transit shed.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

Canons Marsh, (CMAG 1997.002) ST 5838 7246. A watching brief was carried out during groundworks on three construction sites in Canons Marsh between January and August 1998. The three sites were at 'New World Square' 'underground carpark, 'Science World, a former GWR transit shed, and 'Wildscreen World', a former leadworks.

The groundworks at 'New World Square' comprised three distinct phases, all of which required monitoring. The first was the mechanical excavation, to a depth of approximately 1.5 metres, of the area of the proposed carpark. This revealed the foundations of several 19th-century industrial buildings, a brick well and a large brick-roofed barrel-vaulted culvert with ancillary feeder drains. This lay on the line of an earlier, probably medieval, drainage rhyne. The second phase was the construction of 138 piled foundations across the site. The piling rigs brought up spoil as they drilled through the made-ground and geology. Amongst the sludge recorded from pile 59 was a piece of mature alder wood recovered from a depth of 11.20 metres below ground level (3.20 metres below OD). The wood was at the base of the alluvium above the river gravels at the bottom of an old river channel. A sample was taken for radiocarbon dating and produced a date of 5770 +/- 80BP or approximately 3,700 BC, the late Mesolithic period. The third and final phase of the monitored groundworks involved the excavations beneath the reinforced concrete roof of the underground carpark. However these failed to reveal any deposits or features of significance.

The archaeological monitoring conducted during groundworks of 'Science World' recorded remains of the former Anchor Lane and 19th-century buildings adjoining it. Most importantly, the lower courses of a stone boundary wall on the north side of the lane were bonded with a mortar typical of the 13th or 14th centuries, indicating it could be part of the medieval structure BaRAS found during

excavation work in 1996. This is probably the medieval riverfront wall (see below, Canons Road).

The monitoring work undertaken at the old leadworks, the future 'Wildscreen World', recorded structures and deposits associated with its industrial origins, including a large re-used granite mill wheel. In addition, during groundworks at the east end of the building near Canons Road, part of the walls of the 18th-century Tomb's Dock were observed.

Tim Longman, BaRAS

Canon's Road, Canon's Marsh, (CMAG 1997.0048) ST 59500 72550. A watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the redirection of services underlying Canon's Road, prior to the regeneration of Harbourside. This revealed the return of a 13th- or 14th-century river front wall, located during previous BaRAS excavations beneath U-Shed, as well as traces of the 18th-century Tomb's Dry Dock and its ancillary buildings. The watching brief confirmed that Anchor Lane had been relocated to the north of its original line.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

South Building Site, Canons Marsh, (CMAG 1997.0003) ST 58445 72512. Two trenches were excavated on the site of the proposed South Building, as part of the Harbourside redevelopment scheme. The objectives of the evaluation were to try and locate remains of the medieval riverside wall as found at Canons Road adjacent to the V-shed, and a nearby substantial 18th-century building recorded on Roque's map of 1742. The first trench, which was opened adjacent to the former GWR goods shed, mainly recorded evidence of a 19th-century commercial/industrial building and an associated cobbled yard surface. These structural remains either formed part of a rope factory or a marble and slate works which, according to the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of this area, enclosed a timber yard. There were no traces of the large 18th-century building recorded by Roque, but a buried soil horizon located beneath the cobbled surface was interpreted, on the basis of ceramic evidence, as the remains of a contemporary formal garden or square predating the timber yard. A large stone conduit, orientated east-west, appeared to represent a drain associated with the Canons Marsh Ropewalk (also depicted by Roque). This feature was still in use a century or so later, when it was serviced by a small brick drain associated with the construction of the 19th-century building.

The second, smaller trench, which was located in Canons Road, was opened to a maximum depth of 1.20m. It did not produce any structural evidence of the medieval riverside wall previously recorded beneath the U-shed, but did contain the truncated remains of a later 18th-century wall. This was interpreted as part of the exterior of the George Hotel, which was demolished earlier this century when Canons Road was realigned to the west. The remainder of the trench was filled with modern demolition rubble and landfill material.

Adrian Parry, BaRAS

The Former Mecca Entertainments Centre, Frogmore Street, ST 58355 72963. A desktop study on land in Frogmore Street, the site of the former Bristol Entertainments Centre showed that the area had been occupied from the 13th century. Development took place from at least the 13th century on Frogmore Street; however, land on the north side of the street, which included the site, was used as pasture and was known as Culver Close. By the mid-17th century The Close was being used as gardens and orchards. From about 1773 the gardens were gradually developed for housing with both Culver Street and Wells Street being built around that date. Whilst Wells Street appears to have been entirely residential most of the study area's properties became increasingly commercial by the mid-19th century but retained their medieval or early post-medieval boundaries.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

The Former Mecca Entertainments Centre, Frogmore Street, (CMAG.1998.0045) ST 58355 72963. An archaeological evaluation prior to the former site's redevelopment into student accommodation was undertaken in August 1998. This involved the excavation of a single trench on the street frontage of the present Frogmore Street in an attempt to examine any surviving archaeology relating to the rear of properties that fronted on to the original medieval Frogmore Street. The trench revealed that 1.3-1.7m of rubble and make-up overlies clay that may relate to back garden deposits of the former Frogmore Street properties. In the centre of the trench a north-south aligned dry-stone wall may have been a property boundary. No dating evidence for the wall was recovered but as it is not shown on the first edition OS map of 1881 it could conceivably be medieval or late medieval in date.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

Protheroes Warehouse, Hobb's Lane/Denmark Street, (CMAG.1998.0022) ST 5845 7289. A photographic survey of the building's interior was carried out prior to conservation and alteration work. A documentary study had shown that the present warehouse was constructed in the early 19th century, being used as a wine warehouse by John Harvey and Sons and, recently, by Avery's of Bristol. The building is 5 storey, Grade II listed, and of Pennant sandstone construction. Each floor is divided by Pennant sandstone relieving arches that provide support for the floor above. The basement consists of nine interconnected, and much altered, vaulted cellars. The warehouse had been altered during its history with a central lift shaft being added and the removal of several relieving arches, being replaced by RSJs and metal columns. The most significant architectural feature of the warehouse may be the spiral staircase on the south-east side of the building which is enclosed within a semi-circular stairwell that stops short of the ground floor. The stairs themselves are carved out of sandstone and are moulded to the rear of each block to produce a smooth surface to the spiral.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

Lex Peugeot Garage, Anchor Road/st Georges Road, ST 35804 17260. An archaeological desktop study of the former Lex Peugeot site, St. Georges Road showed it to have been part of Browns Gardens during the first half of the 18th century. The Gardens were created out of agricultural land, formerly part of the estate of St. Augustines Abbey (now Bristol Cathedral), sometime before 1742. The site remained as open space throughout much of the 18th century; however, by 1867 the site was fully developed with a mixture of commercial and domestic properties and became fully commercial about 1940. Two of the buildings known to have occupied part of the site in the 18th and 19th century might have 17th-century origins. At some time in its history, possibly with its development as a car showroom, the site was deeply terraced into the hill. This reduced the level over much of the site to that of Anchor Road, a drop of several metres.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

ST JAMES

Marlborough Street Bus Station, ST 5888 7354. An archaeological desktop study on the site of Marlborough Street Bus Station indicated that areas of high archaeological potential remain beneath the present buildings. The Bus Station occupies an area immediately north of the priory church of St. James and was shown to overlie the conventual buildings of the medieval priory founded c1129. Within the priory precincts were a number of 17th-century houses and two sugar houses dating from the 17th and early 18th century.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Union Street/Fiennes Court, Broadmead, ST 5900 7321. As part of a multi-stage archaeological study on a site on the west side of Broadmead, BaRAS undertook the archaeological monitoring of geotechnical pits at Union Street/Fiennes Court.

None of the trial pits were conclusive in identifying the presence of surviving archaeological features. The evidence suggested that the east side of Fiennes Court is probably extensively cellared. Trial pit 1 indicated that undisturbed archaeological deposits might survive in non-cellared areas.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Church of St John the Baptist, The Crypt, Nelson Street, (CMAG.1998.0002) ST 58758 73171. An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted on the Crypt (or Lower Church) of the Grade 1 Listed Church of St. John the Baptist, one of four such Churches in Bristol built on the line of the early inner town wall and over a gate to the town. The Watching Brief was conducted during conservation works which involved the removal of plaster from all the walls, the removal of four memorial wall tablets, dismantling three Chest tombs, and lifting the perimeter floor slabs.

It was revealed during the removal of the plaster that very little of the original medieval wall plaster survived.

Small areas of medieval plaster, painted with red pigment, were exposed during the course of the Watching Brief; the rest of the plaster appeared to be 19th and 20th century in date.

The ground reduction below the perimeter floor slabs revealed in the western end of the Crypt, 13 medieval in situ floor tiles 100mm below the present ground level. Four of them were lead glazed and incised with decorative patterns. One of the ledger stones was lifted in the western end of the Crypt exposing a deep burial vault which had been re-lined with modern imperial-sized red bricks. Disarticulated human remains were visible in the bottom of the vault together with fragments of coffin furniture.

Jayne Pilkington, BaRAS

ST JAMES WITHOUT

45 Kingsdown Parade, Redland, (BRSMG 89/1994), ST 5866 7385. An archaeological watching brief was conducted, but no archaeology was found.

Jayne Pilkington, BaRAS

ST MICHAEL

The former Seahorse Public House, Upper Maudlin Street, (BRSMG 83/1996) ST 5859 7333. An evaluation was carried out close to the site of the medieval nunnery of St Mary Magdalene. Two trenches were excavated, one inside the 18th/19th century former pub with the second in a patio garden to the rear of the building. No trace of the nunnery buildings was found; the first trench beneath the modern concrete floor revealing only a 19th century very stony red soil sealing the natural ground surface. The deposits recorded in the second trench comprised a series of buried garden soils. Beneath these was a very stony red soil which sealed the natural Mercia Mudstone. This produced several sherds of 15th- and 16th-century pottery, suggesting at least partial survival of archaeological remains on the site. A watching brief was constructed during development but nothing of archaeological significance was exposed.

Tim Longman and Jayne Pilkington, BaRAS

Upper/Lower Church Lane, (CMAG.1998.0011), ST 5449 7323. An archaeological desktop assessment of land adjoining Upper and Lower Church Lane identified the position of summer houses of lodge-like proportions, now demolished, but probably constructed in the early post-medieval period. These lodges would probably have been the second, out-of-town, home of some of the wealthiest Bristol merchants. The study also suggested the potential for medieval structures existing on the site, being in close proximity to the 12th-century church of St. Michael on the Mount Without.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

ST PAUL

Quakers' Friars, Bristol, ST 5929 7331

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on contractors groundworks associated with the refurbishment of the area

known as Quakers' Friars, Broadmead. The building is currently occupied by the Bristol Registry Office and public car parking occupies the site of a former Dominican Friary founded c.1227 and mid-18th century Friends (Quaker) Meeting House.

The watching brief recorded a fragment of medieval wall, possibly part of the Lesser Cloister and a spread of red-pink mortar of probable late-medieval date. A number of walls associated with the 18th-century Meeting House were also recorded. It was clear that medieval deposits survive to depth and have suffered little disturbance from modern developments. Beyond the immediate vicinity of the Meeting House recent developments appear to have removed much of the evidence for post-medieval occupation.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

SS PHILIP & JACOB WITHOUT

St. Matthias' Park, Old Market, ST 59590 73380. A watching brief during the excavation for a new sewer across a children's play area at the corner of St Matthias' Park and Wellington Road revealed a ditch or rhyne and the back walls of buildings fronting on to the south side of New Street. The ditch, aligned east-west, lay at c4.8-5m below the modern ground surface and was cutting clean grey alluvium. It had been filled with a fine black soot. The ditch was shown on Rocque's map as bordering the north side of Captain Parson's field, and is on the exact alignment of the City boundary. The walls of buildings off New Street were not observed, but lay in the location of a new manhole for the sewer on the eastern side of the play area.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

48-54 West Street, St. Phillips, (ST 5996373257)

A desktop study showed the site was developed by the third-quarter of the 17th century. Evidence that buildings on the site were replaced c.1693 suggests that they may have been of some antiquity by that date. Certainly buildings of probable 15th-century date are known to have occupied nos 34-36 to the west of the site.

It is likely that the late 17th century buildings were replaced in the 19th century. Throughout the 19th century the site had a retail function with associated domestic accommodation. The present buildings were constructed in 1955.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

ST STEPHEN

Broad Quay, (CMAG 1997.0040) ST 58610 72715; 58629 72720; 58650 72701. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the construction of a new sewer and associated inspection chambers. Broad Quay is an archaeologically sensitive area lying between the modern Floating Harbour and the southwestern edge of the medieval town. The archaeological monitoring recorded two features: a brick built culvert - a branch off the 19th century Milne's Culvert used to redirect flood water from the River Frome,

and a deposit of stone rubble - mostly Brandon Hill Grit. This deposit, at least 2m deep, was similar to the material supporting the footings of the nearby medieval town wall (Marsh Wall).

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

Queen's Square, (CMAG.1998.0068) ST 58772 72561. A bid for HLF funding to restore Queen Square back to its 18th century formal layout led to an evaluation to locate two of the gravel paths known to have crossed the Square, to determine their constituent make-up and the survival of border edging, if any. The position of the trench was also chosen so that a bowling green shown on Millerd's maps of the 1670's, could be investigated. The evaluation revealed that one of the original paths had been removed by the construction of an air raid shelter in 1938 while the other had largely been removed by the construction of the present tarmacadam path. Surviving elements of the 18th century path were identified and investigated revealing that they were possibly constructed of gravel obtained from the River Avon near Saltford. The investigation revealed that over 2.5m of industrial ash and cinders had been deposited on the area at the end of the 17th century prior to the construction of Queen Square. The origin of this material is hoped to be established by future work. A sondage excavated at one end of the trench revealed alluvium at a level of 7.15m OD, approximately 3m below the present ground surface. No evidence for the 17th century bowling green was identified.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

ST THOMAS

Foyer Project, Bridge Parade, (CMAG 1998.0054) ST 59040 72890. Archaeological mitigation work was commissioned on the site of a new building offering sheltered accommodation for young unemployed people. Known as the Bristol Foyer, this building was to be located immediately adjacent to the south east corner of Bristol Bridge at NGR ST 59040 72890 in the parish of St. Thomas. The site was bounded to the north by the Floating Harbour, west by Bridge Parade, east by Courage's Brewery and south by Bath Street and the remnants of what was formerly Tucker Street. The purpose of the mitigation work was to record the surface archaeology so that the piled foundations of the Foyer Building could be designed to minimize damage to significant archaeological structures. There was no scope for the examination of archaeological features and deposits to determine the date and nature of the features revealed. The excavations produced evidence of waterfront activity dating back to the 12th century, and subsequent phases of land reclamation and tenement construction through to the late 18th century. Rich organic deposits were revealed amongst the earliest layers, but no environmental sampling strategy was employed owing to the nature of the mitigation work. A single sample taken from the fill of a mid 13th-century slipway revealed evidence for the dumping of domestic refuse, and for the presence of a nearby textile industry also indicated by

documentary records. Excavation revealed that by the mid 14th century the waterfront had been extended to the line of the present day harbour wall, if not beyond it, and that tenements had been constructed right up to it. These tenements underwent small-scale repairs and rebuilding, but had deteriorated by the time of the construction of the new Bridge in the 1760's. The properties were purchased by the Bridge Trustees and cleared during the construction of the new Bridge. A new terrace of 'Paty' style houses was constructed by the 1790's, turning the orientation of the properties through 90 degrees to create Bridge Parade. These were subsequently destroyed during a 1940's bombing raid, and the site reduced to the level of their cellars to form a car park.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

TEMPLE

Geotechnical Pits, Temple Quay, (BRSMG 92/1996) ST 59600 72600. As part of the infrastructure works for the Temple Quay development site, a watching brief was conducted during the excavation of 42 geotechnical trial pits. Six of the trial pits revealed features of archaeological interest, all of them post-medieval in date. These included 19th-century cellars a possible kiln structure of the same date, and a timber waterfront revetment dating from the 18th/19th century. Most of the geotechnical pits exposed layers of dumped demolition, industrial and kiln debris, demonstrating the massive landfill operation that has taken place on the Temple Quay site during the last two hundred years.

Jayne Pilkington, BaRAS

The Harbour Wall, Temple Back, (BRSMG.1996.093) ST 5960 7275. A rectified photographic survey and interpretive report of the harbour wall at Temple Quay, Bristol. The interpretive report identified various 19th century properties fronting Temple Back and suggested that the present harbour wall is unlikely to pre-date the construction of the Floating Harbour in 1804.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

Former Electricity Substation, Temple Quay, (BRSMG 1996/093) ST 59585 72640. An evaluation was carried out on the line of the Portwall, to the north of the Watergate revealed in an earlier evaluation at Temple Quay (BaRAS Report 453/1997). This revealed a further unbroken 10 metre stretch of the 13th-century wall beneath the concrete slab of the former electricity substation. This survived to a standing height of nearly 3m including the footings, and contained three casemates, - vaulted chambers built into the thickness of the wall with embrasures for archers. Further embrasures had been revealed during the watching brief on the adjacent Bristol & West plot. These were located at regular 2m intervals, possibly alternating with a higher tier of embrasures, and provided the Portwall with a formidable defensive capability. The width and height of the embrasures suggested they were designed either for

crossbow or short bow usage. The design of the Portwall was therefore sophisticated for its time, coming some 40 years before the English castles in Wales.

The distribution of grants of murage in the early-mid 13th-century show a strong emphasis on the fortification of towns in Wales and the Welsh borders between 1220-1250. In light of the clearly defensive role of the Portwall the threat of Welsh (and perhaps French) invasion seem the most likely motive for its construction. Although trade was attracted to these suburbs as a result of the new sense of security, defence was the prime consideration in the construction of the Portwall. The advanced nature of its fortifications stood the Portwall in good stead for the English Civil War 400 years later, when it survived both Royalist and Parliamentary siege.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

WHITCHURCH

Filwood Playing Fields, Knowle West, (CMAG 1997.0012) ST 59000 69000. An excavation prior to the development of affordable housing on the site revealed structural remains of a late 3rd/early 4th-century Romano-British farmstead. Although only a small area was excavated a large quantity of stonework was revealed. This was interpreted as the corner of a demolished building with flag floor surface, bordered by a double ditch with a stone path between. This produced the fragmented remains of a unique small stone sarcophagus, with a carved recess for a hand hold. This could only have fitted the smallest of new-born or aborted foetuses, and along with fragments of box flue tile might suggest a high status domicile nearby. However, generally the evidence points to a small group of enclosed farmsteads, together with the sites at Filwood Park and Inns Court forming a village aligned on a north-west to south-east axis.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

South Bristol Business Park, Hengrove Way, Knowle West, (CMAG 1998.0077) ST 5926 6922 Archaeological monitoring of contractors' groundwork on the site of a new bus garage found no archaeological features from before the 19th century. The site, a former playing field, lay immediately adjacent to an area of Romano-British occupation excavated in 1982 and close to other known Romano-British sites.

Fragments of lias limestone with traces of a hard grey mortar found in the northeast corner of the site probably represented the remains of a 19th century boundary wall.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

NORTH SOMERSET

LOXTON

Oakes Farm, (NSMS1998.453) ST 3750 5650. An archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new farmhouse at Oakes Farm, Loxton revealed possible evidence for small-scale quarry activity of Romano-British date. This evidence was in the form of small pits cut into the

limestone bedrock, an associated scatter of Romano-British pottery and the field in which the site lay being called Quarland. However, the material lay at a depth that would not be disturbed by the proposed development and so no further archaeological work was carried out.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

NAILSEA

Heath Colliery, Southfield Road, (NSMS 1998.0013) ST 47650 71100. An evaluation was carried out on the site of the former Heath Pit coal mine prior to residential redevelopment. This site was worked for approximately ten years from 1867-1876. The coal seams were less favourable than those of the original Heath, or Engine Pit which successfully supplied the Nailsea Glassworks with coal from 1786. The evaluation found evidence of the engine house, spoil heap and an ancillary building.

Simon Cox, BaRAS

WRINGTON

A38 Re-alignment, Bristol Airport, (NSMS 1998.577) ST 5130 6530. An evaluation of the proposed route of the A38 re-alignment at Bristol Airport consisted of two 100m long and 1.8m wide trenches located close to two known flint scatters recorded on the North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record. The trenches revealed that the area to the west of the present A38 has been extensively ploughed during the post-medieval period removing any evidence of possible prehistoric occupation. Worked flint fragments were recovered from the topsoil in both trenches but this was mixed with 19th- and 20th-century material.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

WINTERBOURNE

Posthouse Forte Hotel, Filton Road, (CMAG 1998.0050) ST 6298 7855. A geophysical survey and historical assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed three-storey bedroom extension to the eastern side of the hotel. A search of documentary and cartographic sources revealed that there has been a house on the site of the hotel since at least the 17th century. Various called Oxlease and Conifers, the property also included a small amount of agricultural land given over mainly to pasture and horticulture. The only structures recorded directly within the proposed development footprint are a couple of ancillary farm buildings, which were demolished prior to the construction of the hotel. The site is of particular interest as the potential location for a formal garden attached to nearby Stoke Park. A tower providing views of the Park is built on to one side of the main house which still occupies part of the hotel grounds. Various garden features, including a tree-lined avenue and a ha-ha can still be seen today, and the style of the gated entrance to the house is certainly that of Thomas Wright, the landscape architect who designed nearby Stoke Park in the 18th century. No further evidence

of the Thomas Wright connection was uncovered during the desktop assessment, so the character of the garden and its relevance to the proposed development footprint is still unclear. The geophysical survey did reveal a number of rectilinear anomalies on the site of the proposed extension, but it is not known whether these are related to the construction of the garden or to the hotel. Other geophysical anomalies were interpreted as being residual debris from the construction of the hotel. The unevenness of the ground around this part of the hotel appeared to support this interpretation. An aerial photograph of the site shows a vegetation mark arcing north-eastwards away from the eastern wing of the hotel. This feature, which may be archaeological in origin, appears to clip the northern boundary of the proposed development footprint.

Adrian Parry, BaRAS

MANGOTSFIELD

Land at Emerson's Green Proposed School Site, (CMAG.1998.0029) ST 6690 7651. An archaeological evaluation of the proposed school site at Emerson's Green, Mangotsfield was undertaken. The northern area of the site was, until recently, occupied by buildings associated with Church Farm and is known to have 11th/12th-century origins. The site is a grassed field with a small rectangular, walled and overgrown area on the western side that was possibly once an orchard. Despite the close proximity to known Romano-British and medieval occupation no archaeological features were revealed by the excavation of trenches in the field. Trenches within the overgrown orchard revealed a trackway and the footings of a structure - both associated with 17th- and 18th-century pottery sherds including Wanstrow and Nether Stowey wares. The structure was interpreted as the remains of a small cottage that is shown on the first edition OS plan of 1881.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

SEVERN BEACH

The Former Seawall Caravan Site, (CMAG 1997.0032) ST 5395 8465. A watching brief carried out on a new housing development found no archaeological deposits were present.

Andrew King, BaRAS

THORNBURY

Morton Way, ST 6544 8976. A desktop study on agricultural land centred on Hacket Farm on the south-east side of Thornbury showed that the study area lies adjacent to the line of the former Roman road, albeit on falling land to the west of the ridge, and at the centre of a number of known sites of medieval settlement. Since the 19th century the site has been the subject of mixed farming with most fields having been ploughed at some time. The historical evidence suggests that there was little occupation of the site beyond the buildings associated with Hacket Farm.

Rod Burchill, BaRAS

WICKWAR

28 High Street, (CMAG.1998.0030) ST 7235 8750. A watching brief carried out to the rear of numbers 24-38 High Street, Wickwar, during groundworks for housing revealed that the site had been levelled in the recent past. The only deposits and features identified were 19th- and 20th-century in date, although undated linear east-west features, possibly lynchets, may relate to earlier cultivation on the site.

Pete Insole, BaRAS

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