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COVER ILLUSTRATION

Temple Church vicarage in 1969, viewed from the east along Colston Place.
Photograph courtesy of RCHM

EXCAVATION AT WATER LANE, BY TEMPLE CHURCH, BRISTOL 1971

G. L. Good

*But lo! What miracle arrests the eye?
What air-poised fabric meets the wond'ring gaze
And aches the sense that scans its baseless form?
'Tis Temple Church! approach and view its walls,
Well worthy of a close, observant view,
And nearer knowledge of its state unique.
Hail! sacred relic of an iron age,
When Christian Church was militant indeed*

*On earth! Hail, wide-extended pile,
That mak'st the place within whose bounds thou'rt found
Rival of Pisa, with its leaning tower!
Temple, thy walls august and fabric rare
Attract the fix'd regard, and waft the mind
On fancy's wings, to ages dimly seen
Through thick'ning mist of years.*

Anon 1833, 33-34.

SUMMARY

An excavation in 1971 on the south side of Water Lane and just north of Temple Church (ST 593727) uncovered a small part of the remains of a building probably associated with the round church of the Knights Templar, excavated in 1960. This was replaced by a larger building during subsequent occupation of the site by the Knights Hospitaller. Two almost complete (in plan) buildings and part of a third, built during the Hospitaller occupation and standing until the mid 20th century, were investigated. These provided evidence of industrial as well as domestic activity. A late 18th-19th century limekiln was also recorded.

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In 1971 the area between Temple Church and Water Lane lay open awaiting redevelopment, and the opportunity was taken by the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery to excavate part of this area, with the kind permission of the owners, Temple Church Ecclesiastical Trustees. The excavation was carried out with financial assistance from the Department of the Environment. Thanks must also be given for the hard work put in by the diggers under the supervision of Julian Bennett. A number of people assisted with the post-excavation work and the writer is grateful to all of these, especially Trisha Fettes and Sue Giles who were particularly helpful in many aspects of this work, to Andrew Saunders for the use of his plan of the 1960 excavation and to the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments for their 1969 survey material, to Richard Gem for supplying a copy of a draft text on Temple Church which provided much of the information for that section, to Ann Linge who drew up the plans for publication, to colleagues in the City Museum, and to the authors of the specialist reports.

All material relating to the excavation is stored in

the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number BRSMG: 245/1971.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The area of Bristol known in the Middle Ages as Temple Fee lies on the south side of a bend in the original course of the River Avon, which now forms part of the Floating Harbour (Fig. 1). Before Temple Fee and the neighbouring parishes of St Thomas and Redcliffe were established, this was covered by marsh overlying the alluvial clay of the river valley, and lay within the bounds of the manor of Bedminster.

When the late Saxon town of Bristol was founded on the opposite side of the river, there was little, if any, settlement on the marsh. It was not until the Norman town began to grow in importance as a major port for the South-west that this area was built upon to any great extent. The initial development was probably along the bank of the River Avon at the west side of the marsh and this became the township of Redcliffe. Excavation has shown that the riverside settlement was well established by the middle of the 12th century and that substantial quays had been built (Good 1990/91, 29-32; Nicholson & Hillam 1987, 141).

In the early 12th century, Robert, Earl of Gloucester (1122-47) gave the eastern part of the marsh to the Knights Templar and this estate became for a time the administrative centre for the Templar lands in the South-west (Lees 1935, cxxxi-cxxxii, 58). They built a round church on the site now occupied by the ruined Temple Church, and it was to the north of this that the excavation area lay (Figs. 1 and 2).

During the 12th and 13th centuries expansion continued throughout the area as the port increased in importance, and, with the erection of the Portwall in the

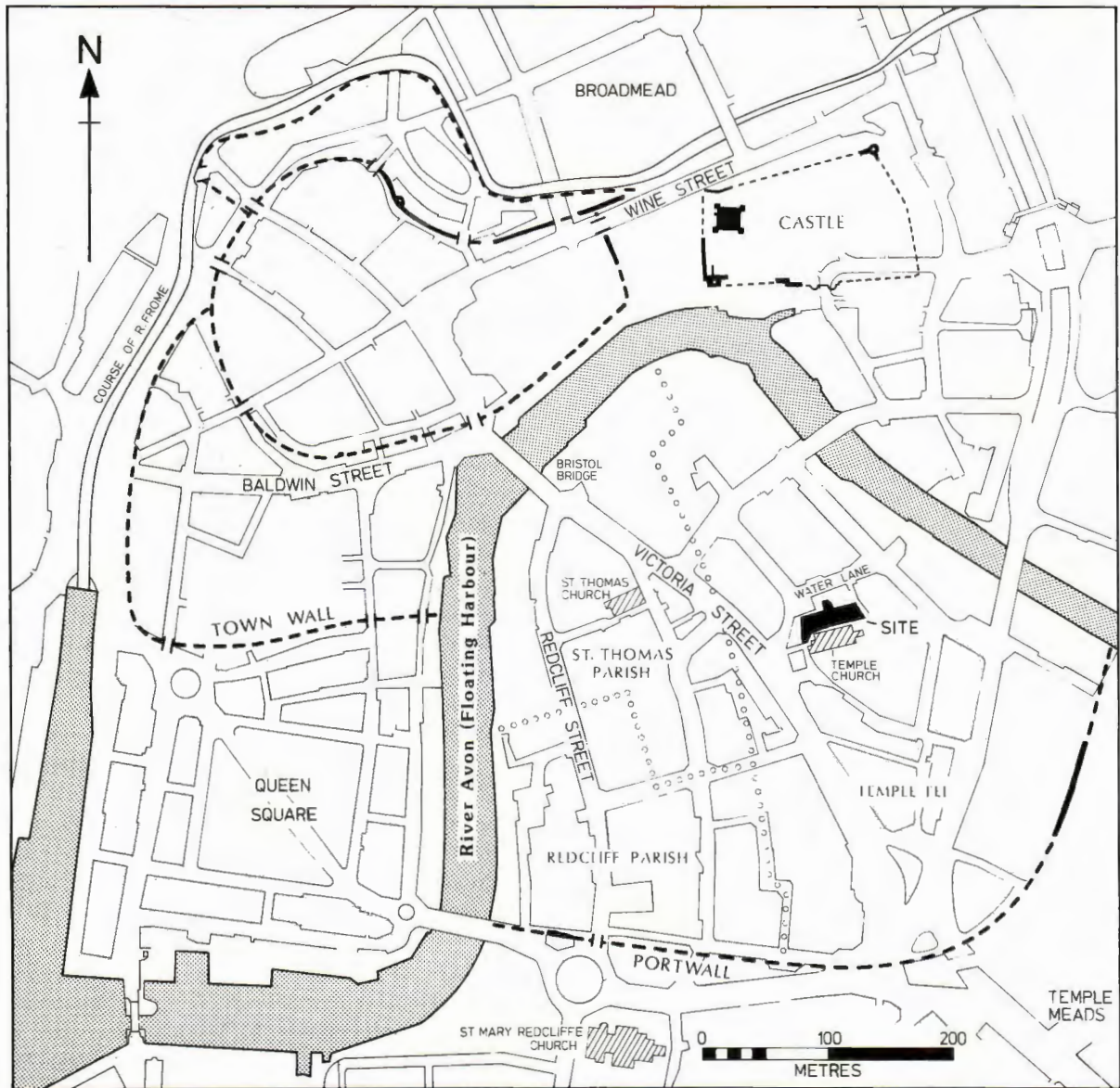


Fig. 1 Plan of central Bristol showing the position of the excavation in relation to the medieval town.

middle of the 13th century, Temple and much of Redcliffe were brought within Bristol's defences (Cronne 1946, 37-39).

When the Templars were abolished in the early 14th century, their properties eventually passed to the Knights Hospitaller (Cronne 1946, 32). It was largely because this order held ownership of most of Temple Fee that it retained a degree of independence of the rest of Bristol, even though it lay within the bounds of the town, and was officially incorporated into the County of Bristol in Edward III's charter of 1373 (Harding 1930, 120-121, 148-153).

During the 14th century there was a major expansion in the cloth trade throughout England, and by the middle of the century Bristol was England's main port for the export of cloth (Sherborne 1965, 10). Textiles became one of Bristol's most important industries, and Temple in

particular benefitted since it had already become established as the centre of the weaving and associated trades (Lobel & Carus-Wilson 1975, 10).

In 1544, soon after the Dissolution, the Hospitaller lands in Temple were purchased by the Corporation (Latham 1947, 27, 94-111). By this time, however, the area was beginning to decline in wealth, and the number of rich merchants living in the area was dwindling. This decline continued, and, by the 18th century, Temple was one of the poorest areas of the city (Lobel & Carus-Wilson 1975, 17).

Because of their proximity to the river, Temple, St Thomas and Redcliffe continued as important industrial centres, and with the construction of the Great Western Railway station at Temple Meads in 1840, this importance was further increased. During the 20th century, however, and in particular since the war, industry has declined and

the area is now occupied mainly by office blocks. The only large industry to survive is the Courage brewery alongside the river.

TEMPLE CHURCH: PREVIOUS EXCAVATION AND FABRIC OF THE BUILDING

When part of the floor of Temple Church was lowered during renovation work in 1872, foundations were uncovered which appeared to belong to an oval building 43ft x 23ft (13m x 7m), interpreted as the original 12th century church of the Knights Templar (Nicholls & Taylor 1881, 140). In 1960, soon after the ruin of the later church was taken into guardianship, A. D. Saunders of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments dug a series of trenches inside it in order to determine the layout of these early walls (Fig. 2). The plan obtained from these excavations was of a much larger church, 27.5m x 18.6m overall, in the form of a rotunda, containing a central nave encircled by an ambulatory, with an apsidal chancel, and the position of its walls is marked out within the ruin. It is difficult to reconcile the measurements given for the building discovered in 1872 with the plan proposed by Saunders, and it is clear that different parts of the foundations must have been uncovered during the different excavations. It is also clear, however, that, though the inconsistencies can be ironed out and a full picture obtained only by complete excavation, the basic plan is of a circular church of the type commonly used by the Knights Templar, which, since it was probably built before the death of Robert of Gloucester in 1147, must be one of the earliest such churches in England.

The first major alterations to the church would appear to have taken place just before 1300, when the apse was replaced by a rectangular chancel with a chapel to the north. If the dating is correct this would have been the church standing when the Templar lands were acquired by the Hospitallers in the early 14th century, and which is mentioned as a small church valued at 4 marks a year in the list of former Templar possessions included in Prior Philip de Thame's report to Grand Master Elyan de Villanova in 1338 (Larking 1857, 184). A plaque attached to the wall of the chapel in the 19th century referred to the granting of the chapel for the use of the Company of Weavers in 1299 (Pryce 1861, 301; Nicholls & Taylor 1881, 142). Though there is no original documentation to support this, the architectural evidence provided by the Geometrical tracery patterns of the windows indicates a date about this time for its construction. The earliest documentary evidence for the chapel is of a licence granted by Richard II to establish a chantry there in 1392 (Fox & Taylor 1889, 12-13; *Cal Pat Rolls* 1391-1396, 115). The chapel was dedicated to St. Katherine, the patron saint of the weavers.

The most substantial changes to the structure and layout of the church must have occurred in the second half of the 14th century, when the rotunda was demolished to make way for a great aisled nave of the hall type. This is considered to have been "the finest

unclerestoreyed nave in Bristol" (Gomme *et al* 1979, 59) with its high arcades with four-pointed arches supported on slender compound piers with quatrefoil cross-sections. The panel-traceried windows are typical of the Perpendicular period and are very similar to those of St Peter's Church which are of about the same date. The windows of St Nicholas' chapel, south of the chancel, are also Perpendicular in style, but are more elaborate than those of the nave. Considerable restoration work here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, however, makes the dating of this chapel less secure.

The most remarkable feature of Temple Church is its leaning tower, which is also Perpendicular. Construction of the tower was probably begun towards the end of the 14th century on completion of the nave, possibly at the time of a bequest by Bernard Obeleye in 1389, though it is not clear whether this was a legacy towards the fabric of the bell itself or towards the building of the tower (Wadley 1886, 26, 55). That problems in the construction work were already being encountered before the end of the century is perhaps implied in the will of Reginald Taillour of 1397 in which money is bequeathed towards renovation of the work on the tower (Wadley 1886, 54). It is obvious from the curvature of the tower's profile that sinking of the foundations into the underlying soft alluvium began at an early stage in its construction. The building work was continued, however, with allowance being made for the change of alignment relative to the vertical, though the tower was not completed to its full height at this time, as is shown by the change in degree of ornamentation some two-thirds of the way up. In contrast to the relatively simple decoration of the lower part, the top stage of the tower is richly ornamented with elaborately carved stonework. It is this upper section of the tower which is meant by William Worcestre when he describes the tower as newly built about 1460 (Dallaway 1834, 115). The softness of the alluvium beneath the tower also led to its vibrating when the bells were rung, to such an extent that eventually it separated from the main body of the church leaving a large crack between the two. Into this gap the 16th century geographer Abraham Ortelius is said to have inserted a stone the size of a goose egg and watched as it was crushed when the bells were sounded (Barrett 1789, 542-3; Pryce 1850, 116-7). Recent measurements provided by English Heritage show the top of the tower to be 5ft 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins out from the vertical on its west face.

The only other significant addition was the 18th century porch at the west end. Its segmental pediment supported on Corinthian pilasters, and with a projecting escutcheon bearing a lion carrying a cross, provided an impressive entrance to the church. Further work on the fabric of the building was confined to the restorations of the 19th and 20th centuries and the addition of a new vestry to the north-east early in the 20th century.

Unfortunately the church was a victim of the air-raids of 1940 and much of the body of the church was destroyed. The tower, however, survives intact and most

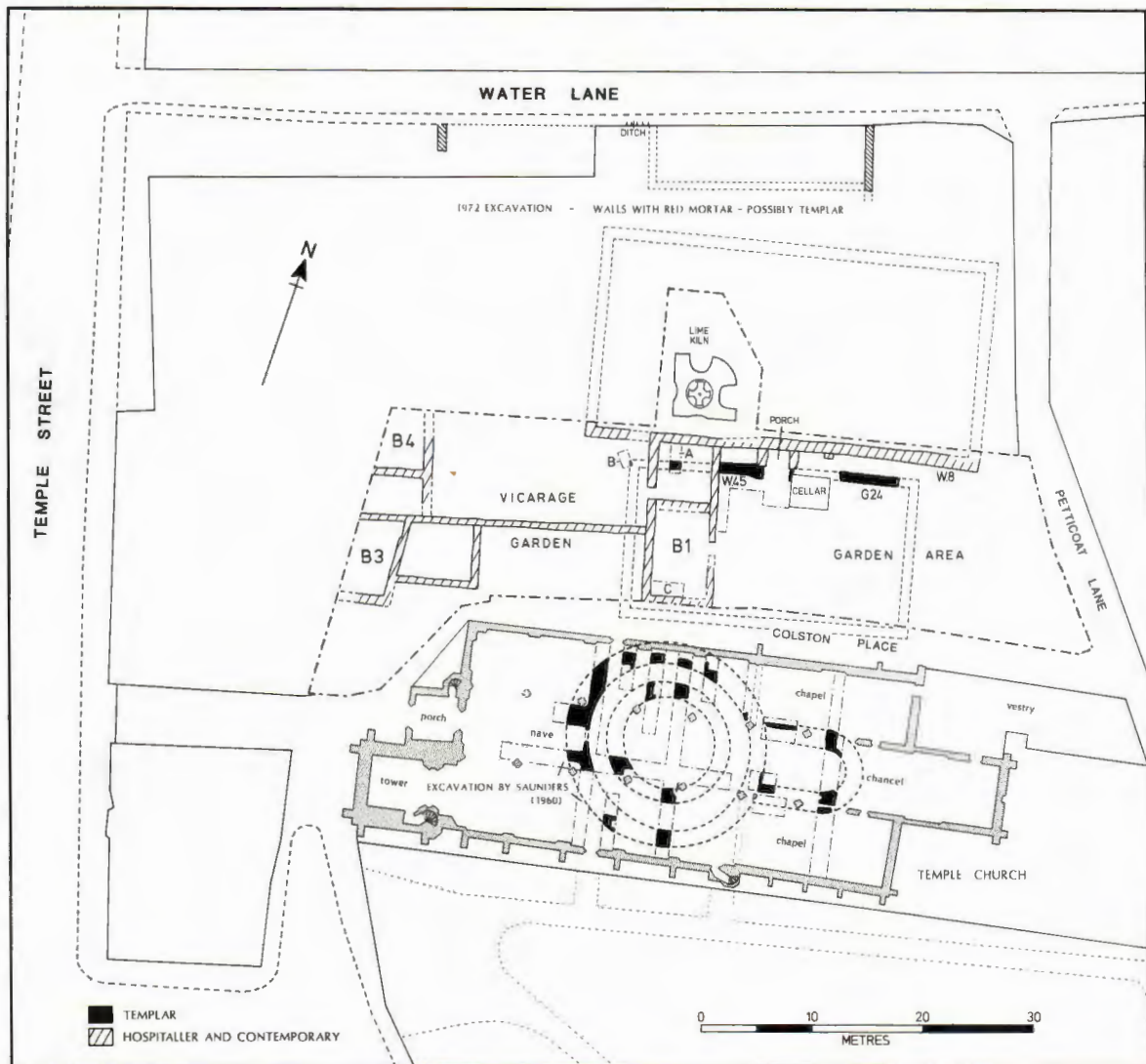


Fig. 2 Plan of the excavated area and its immediate surroundings, showing the main medieval walls and location of the 1960 trenches and 1972 observations.

of the walls still stand to their full height. The ruins were taken into guardianship in 1958 and are now in the care of English Heritage.

THE EXCAVATION

During the summer of 1971 an excavation was carried out over an area of some 1200 sq.m to the north of Temple Church (Figs 2 and 3). Initially the area was cleared of topsoil and demolition debris to an average depth of c.1m by machine, and further excavation was carried out by hand.

Because of lack of time, only levels dating to c.1300 were reached over much of the site. This meant complete excavation for most of the buildings, but unfortunately only parts of structures belonging to the Templar period of occupation could be exposed.

For ease of discussion the site has been divided into the areas of the three main buildings (B1, B3 and B4), the

area between B1 and B3/B4 (the vicarage garden), and the area to the east of B1 (the garden area) (Fig. 2). In addition to this, in the area to the north of B1, a limekiln of late 18th or early 19th century date was uncovered.

THE TEMPLAR AND HOSPITALLER PERIODS (Fig. 2).

The main building during the Templar period of occupation, possibly a hall, was represented by a trench dug to rob out the stonework of a wall (W45), running east-west c.3m from the north section. The only stonework surviving was on either side of an entrance through the wall where there were a few courses of Pennant Sandstone bonded with orange-red sandy mortar. The robbing trench was properly exposed for only a short part of its length between B1 and a brick cellar to the east, though trial cuttings were inserted elsewhere to check for its continuation. It was exposed in



Fig. 3 View of the excavation from the west, with Temple Church on the right and Temple Street in the foreground.

cutting A, and in the south-east of cutting B a strip of red sandy soil, characteristic of the robbing trench fill, probably represents its termination and return southwards. G24 to the east of the brick cellar was probably a continuation of the robbing trench, making the building at least 25m long, but the east limit was never found.

The interior of this building was not excavated below a layer of charcoal and burnt soil which contained a number of flat slabs of burnt wood, possibly roof shingles. This may, therefore, represent the collapse of the roof after a fire. The layer itself was only cleared in places. It occurred to the south of W45 throughout the area cleared to the west of the cellar, and also in trenches A and C, showing that the south wall must lie somewhere under Colston Place. Since there is likely to have been a gap of at least 2m between this wall and that of the round church, which underlies the wall of the present (ruined) church, this would make the building c.13-14m wide.

The ceramic evidence (see below) suggests that the Templar structures were demolished in the 14th century, probably when their property was taken over by the Knights Hospitaller. The hall of the Templar period was replaced by a much larger building to the north, of which only the south wall (W8) lay within the excavation area. The main entrance to this building was probably through

a porch, represented by two short stretches of walling abutting the south wall near the middle directly opposite the position of the entrance to the Templar-period hall (Fig. 4).

Against the south side of the building, 6m from the west end, a range was added, and this continued in use as a separate building after the demolition of the main Hospitaller structures in the middle of the 16th century. Fuller description of this range is given below in the discussion of B1.



Fig. 4 The porch of the Hospitaller hall from the south. Scale 2m.

Most of the south-east part of the excavated area was covered by a spread of small flat pennant slabs, slightly worn, which overlay the "natural" clay of the marsh and probably represented a courtyard. This courtyard survived throughout the Templar period and the early part of the Hospitaller period, but the area appears to have been turned over to gardening from the late 14th century.

During the excavation of service trenches alongside Water Lane in 1972 part of a ditch and stretches of red-mortared wall were defined and recorded by M. W. Ponsford. It is possible that these walls were associated with the Templar or Hospitaller occupation and that the ditch once formed the north boundary of the Templar and Hospitaller precincts.

THE GARDEN AREA (Fig. 5)

The whole of the east end of the excavated area seems to have been cultivated continuously from the end of the 14th century probably until the 19th century, and most of the southern half of this until recent times, producing an accumulation of humic soil over a metre deep. Running north-south across the garden were three linear stone

spreads. One of these, a narrow strip of pitched stones, represented a cobbled path through the garden, and another cobbled path ran at right angles to it near the north section. A line of post-holes (PH10, 12-14) seems to have been contemporary with this. The other two spreads were somewhat wider and turned to the west at their south ends. These marked the positions of walls subdividing the garden in the post-medieval period. There were two stone-lined wells (P7 and P73) near the east end of the area and a large number of shallow pits and gullies (not shown on plan), which were almost certainly horticultural, also appeared during excavation of the garden soil.

The eastern limit of the garden was marked by a shallow ditch (G18), c.85cms wide and over 35cms deep, till probably the 17th century, when gardening continued across its line. This ditch was roughly parallel to and c.2m from the east section.

Near the north section were a number of 18th-19th century rectangular, stone-lined cess-pits.

BUILDING B1

Building B1, contained by walls W1, W4, W7 and W3

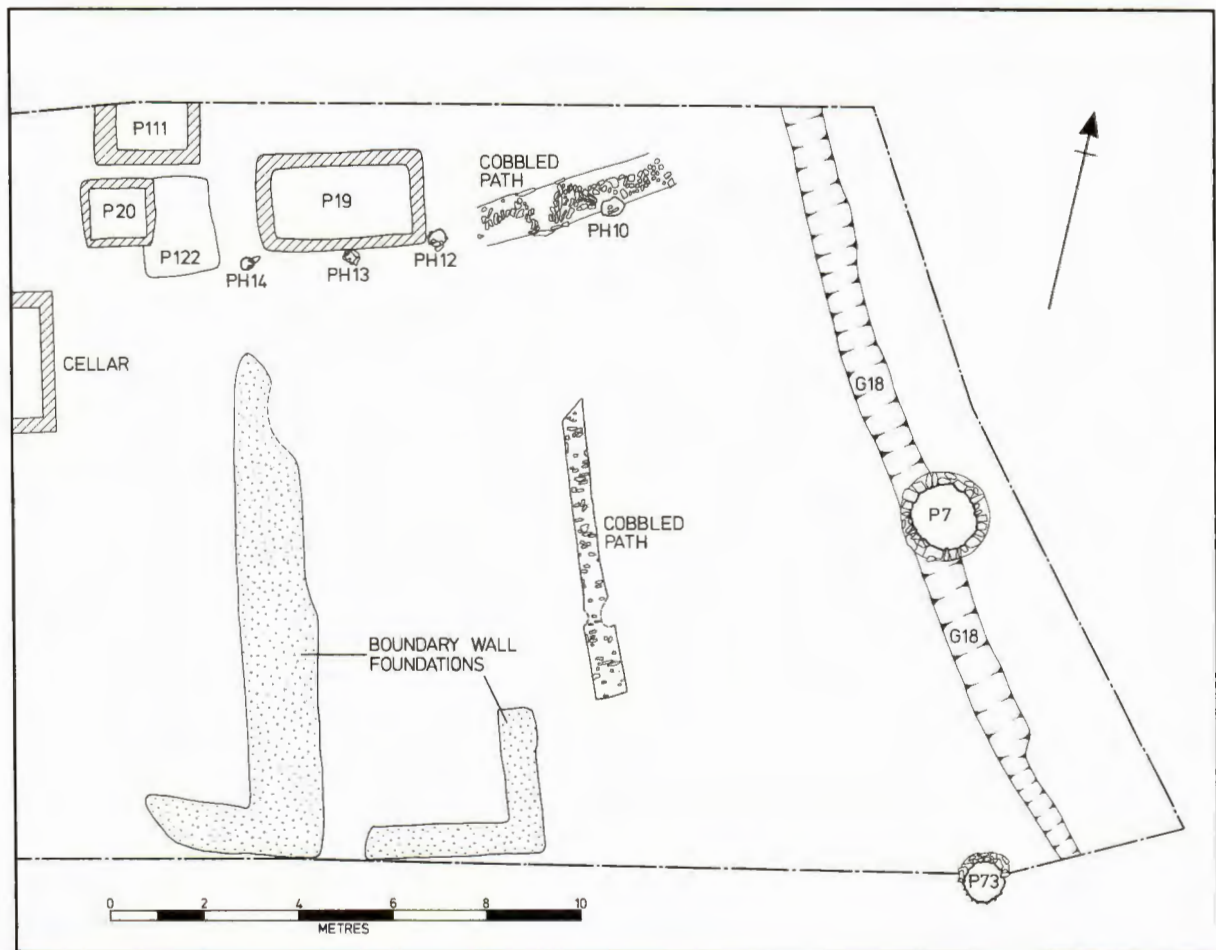


Fig. 5 Plan of the 'Garden Area' at the west end of the excavation, showing the main features.

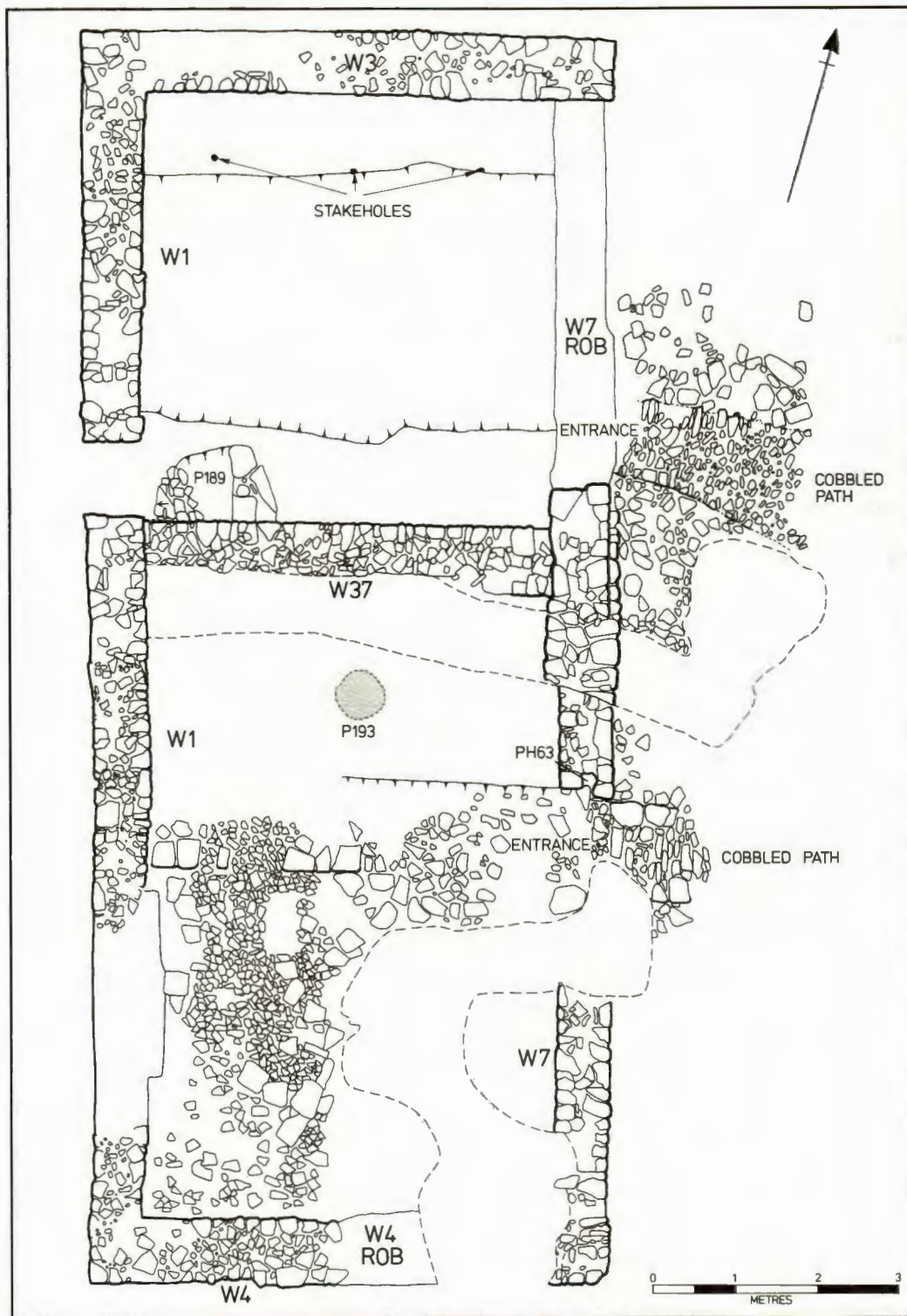


Fig. 6 Building B1 — Plan of phase I.

built mainly of Pennant Sandstone bonded with orange sandy mortar, originally formed a wing (c.14.5m x 6.3m) running south from the main Hospitaller buildings (Fig. 2). When these were demolished in the 16th century it was left as a freestanding structure. There were several structural alterations to the building during its history both during and after the Hospitaller occupation, and these are examined in the phases discussed below.

Phase I (Fig. 6)

In its earliest form, B1 was divided into two sections separated by a Pennant Sandstone wall, W37. Each had an entrance through the east wall, W7, but there was no connecting doorway between them.

The entrance to the south part was approached by a well-laid flag and cobble path which continued into and across the building, presumably in a corridor, though



Fig. 7 Building B1. Phase 1. Door jamb post-hole, PH63, at the north side of the entrance to the south room. Scale 20cms.

here only parts of it survived. A post-hole, PH63, at the north side of the entrance marked the position of the door jamb, and the rebate in the face across the wall demonstrated that the door opened inwards (Fig. 7).

Within this room, to the south of the supposed corridor, although the floor surface itself did not survive, solidly packed make-up of small Pennant slabs with some larger stones suggests that the floor may have been flagged. In the eastern part of this area the make-up appeared less densely packed, so there may have been some further subdivision of the room, but there was too much disturbance to be certain. To the north of the corridor the floor was of clay and had a roughly central patch of burning, P193, which may have marked the position of a central, perhaps raised, hearth.

The floors of the northern part of the building were not very clear, since most of the central area had been disturbed at a later date. There was, however, a band of clay c.1m wide running alongside the north wall with three void stake-holes near its south edge where it sloped steeply away. This may indicate that the area covered by the clay was partitioned off.

The doorway through W7 was at the south end of the room, and it too was approached by way of a cobbled path. Directly opposite there was an entrance through the west wall, W1, but immediately inside the room this was blocked by a mortared stone feature set in a pit, P189. The blocking could imply that the entrance through W1 was not of this period, but there was no obvious sign of refacing to suggest that it was inserted at a later date. The stonework in P189 was solidly built and clearly represented a base or support, but for what is not known.

Phase II (Figs 8 & 9)

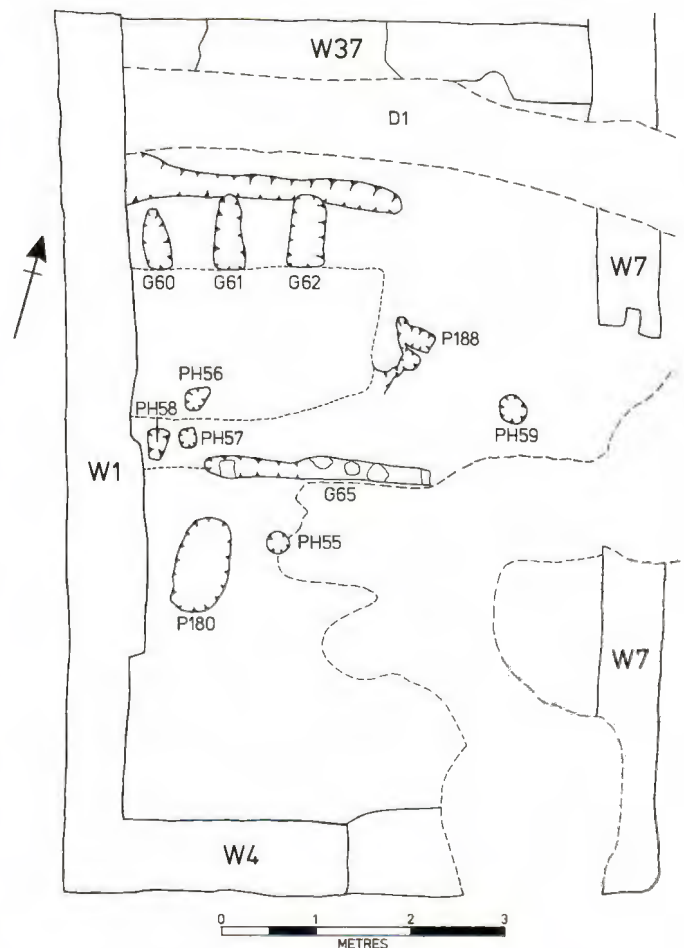
In this phase there were two stages of alterations in the south part of the building during which the north part remained much the same.

Stage 1 (Fig 8). In the first stage the south room was split into two roughly equal parts by an east-west partition, presumably of timber, supported on stones, G65.

The earliest floor in the south half was of greenish brown clay with no notable features cut into it. In the northern half was a series of clay and clay-silt bands covering most of the area, apart from a portion (c.2.1 x 1.5m) against W1, whose southern limit coincided with the south edge of the path of the preceding phase. To the north of this there were traces in the floor of apparent beam slots (G60-62), filled with the material of the overlying layer, but these were probably indentations caused by the pressure of floor joists from stage 2.

Immediately overlying these layers, throughout the room except in the north-west corner, was a series of three sandy floors and their occupation (alternate layers of red mortary sand and reddish brown clay). Cut into these floors were several small pits and post-holes, and a slot on the same line as G65 showed that the partition continued in use.

Stage 2 (Fig 9). Above the red floors were patchy traces of make-up levels of crumbled oolitic limestone and Pennant



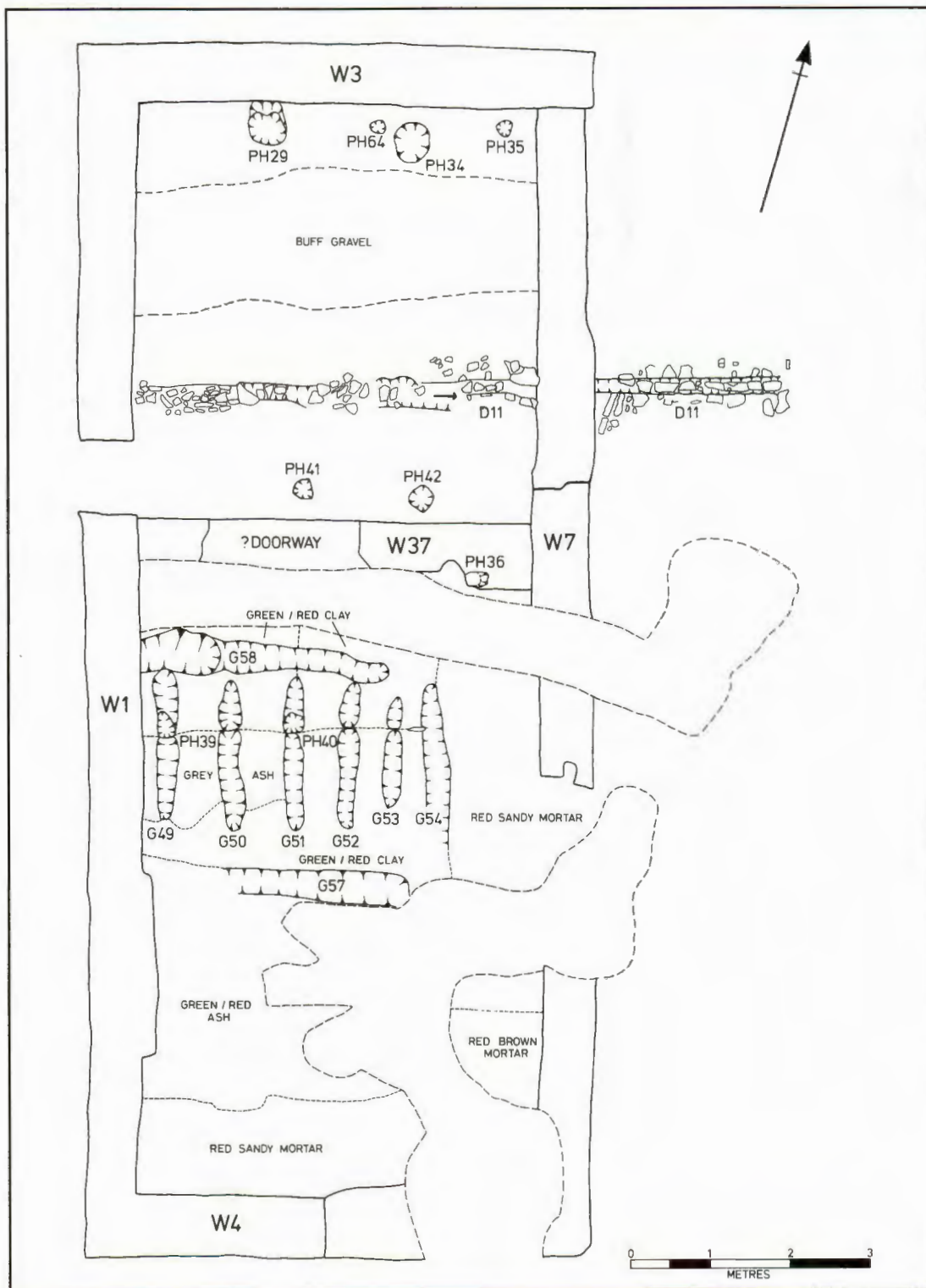


Fig. 9 Building B1 — Plan of phase II stage 2.

Sandstone chips, over which the room was split into small areas of differing floor surfaces. In the north-east and south-west corners were floors of red sandy mortar, similar to those of the preceding stage. Against W7 the area to the south of the red sandy floor consisted of reddish brown mortar. The north-west area had a series of north-south beam slots running across it (G49-54), with an east-west slot at the north edge (G58) where it was cut

by the late drain D1A. These probably held floor joists for a plank floor, and were the cause of the depressions found in the earlier layers. This area could be further subdivided into four parts, one of grey ashy soil, the other three of very similar, but clearly distinct, green and red mottled clay and clay-silts.

The presence of partitions between the wooden floors was indicated by post-holes, PH39 and PH40, in two of the

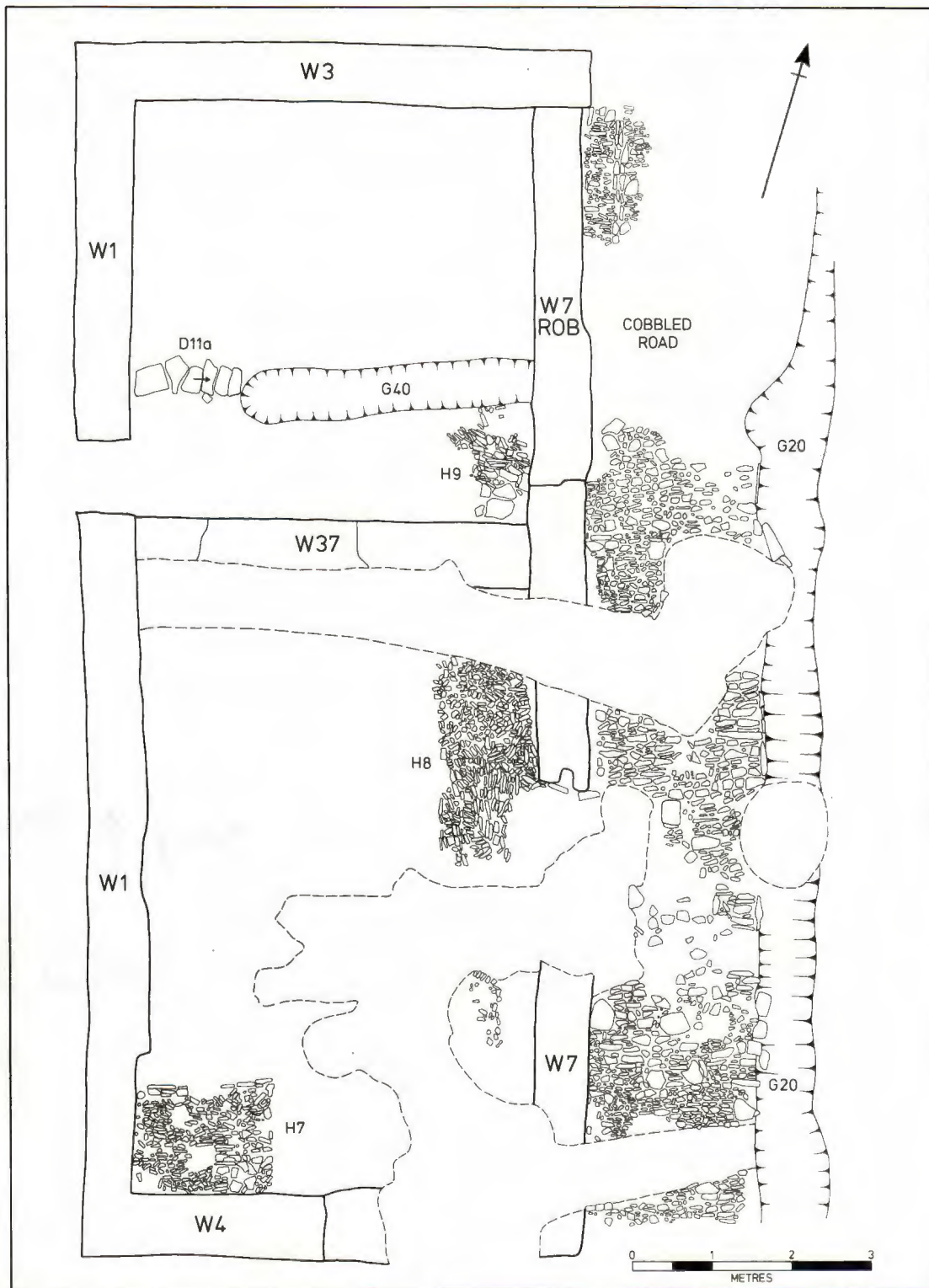


Fig. 10 Building B1 — Plan of phase III.

joist slots, and by an edged stone on the line of the partition. Slot G54 may also have held a partition separating the wooden floored area from the red sandy floor in the north-east corner. The east-west partition of the previous stage was replaced by another slightly to the north, G57.

At some time during stage 1 the wall between the north and south parts of the building (W37) was partially

demolished but it could not be determined precisely when because of the very small area left against the wall after the insertion of D1A. It was not clear how much of the wall was removed at this time. The level of surviving stonework at either end was higher than all the floor levels of phase II, but near the middle part of the wall only the north face was higher. Here the south face had been removed and the stage 2 floor level carried partially

over the wall. There was no sign of any attempt at refacing the wall at this narrower width, but the rough stonework left may simply have been plastered over. A post-hole, PH36, marked the start of the narrower section. Just to the west of the middle of the wall, it had been removed to a greater depth across its full width, and it is likely that a doorway was inserted here.

In the room to the north of W37 a band of buff gravelly soil running across the room was the only surviving floor level. Contemporary with this was a narrow drain, D11.

Close to W37 was a pair of post-holes, PH41 and PH42, and against the north wall were two more pairs separated by about the same distance. They probably acted as supports of some sort and, in the case of those against the north wall, one pair, PH29 and PH34, may have been replacements for the other pair, PH35 and PH64.

Phase III (Fig. 10)

The conversions of the next period, on the evidence of the pottery, took place in the late 16th or early 17th century. In the south room two areas of cobbling, H7 and H8, were inserted in opposite corners. The cobbles were set in ashy soil and covered by a spread of ash, though the stones themselves were not burnt. This suggests that they may have been bases for raised fireplaces. There was no evidence for any partitions subdividing the room.

In the north room, a patch of cobbles in the south-east corner, overlain by a spread of charcoally soil, probably marked the site of another fireplace, H9. D11, across the middle of the room, was partially removed and replaced by another drain, D11A, on the same alignment. The later robbing of D11A was represented by G40. No floor surfaces survived in either room.

Outside the building, to the east, the area was laid with heavy cobbles with a drainage channel, G20, along the east side giving it the appearance of a roadway.

Phase IV (Fig. 11)

During the 17th century there were considerable structural alterations to the building. The remains of the partition wall, W37, were demolished, probably along with the north part of W7. Outside the building to the east, a small shed (c.6m x 3m) was added, represented by the robbed walls W11 and W12. This contained a dump of ochreous soil.

In the south part of the building, heavy machinery was inserted, leaving traces in the large pit complex, P109, P40 and P137. The roughly centrally positioned P109 was a large pit with two deep post-holes and small linear patches of stones, probably for the support of heavy horizontal timbers. Associated with it, on the other side of W7, was a stone-sided pit, P40, which was connected to P109 by way of a hole, which probably also carried a horizontal timber, punched through the wall. P137 contained mortared stonework which presumably also formed a support for machinery.

The floor in the area was of mortared gravel and had,

depressed in it and running in a large arc around P109, a path, which showed two phases of wearing away, reconsolidation, and wearing away again. The shape of the path implies that the machinery took the form of some sort of rotary mill, probably used in the grinding of the ochre soil stored in the outside shed for pigment.

Apparently contemporary with this was the hearth (H4) set into W1 (Fig. 12), but it is difficult to see how the two could have functioned together, since the path passed so close to the hearth. The intensity of burning of the stones, however, showed that it was used a great deal.

At the south end of the room, a doorway was inserted through W4 to provide an entrance from the lane alongside the church. The previous entrance to the building through W7 now gave access to the storage shed.

The gravel floor of the area ran over the line of W37 up to the doorway through W1, but there was no trace of a partition separating off the northern part unless the post-holes near W1 (PH30 and PH31) were in some way associated with it. The northern part of W7 was robbed out during this phase to leave the whole of the north room open to the east. Unfortunately no floor level survived here and this made it difficult to be certain when a doorway was inserted in the north-west corner through W3. It is probable, however, that it was during either this or the preceding phase.

Against W3 near the north-east corner, was a pit, P156, containing a stone base.



Fig. 12 Building B1. Phase IV — Hearth, H4, from the east. Scale 20cms.

Phase V (Fig. 13)

At some time in the 18th century the industrial machinery in the south room was removed, and the room converted for domestic use. W7 was demolished, possibly to facilitate the removal of the machinery, and rebuilt (W7A). The room was then divided into two by the insertion of a light partition, represented by G16, and a small pit (P4) marked the position of one of the jambs of a connecting doorway at its east end. The walls of both of these subsidiary rooms, including the partition, were plastered.

In the small room to the south, a fireplace, H2, was set

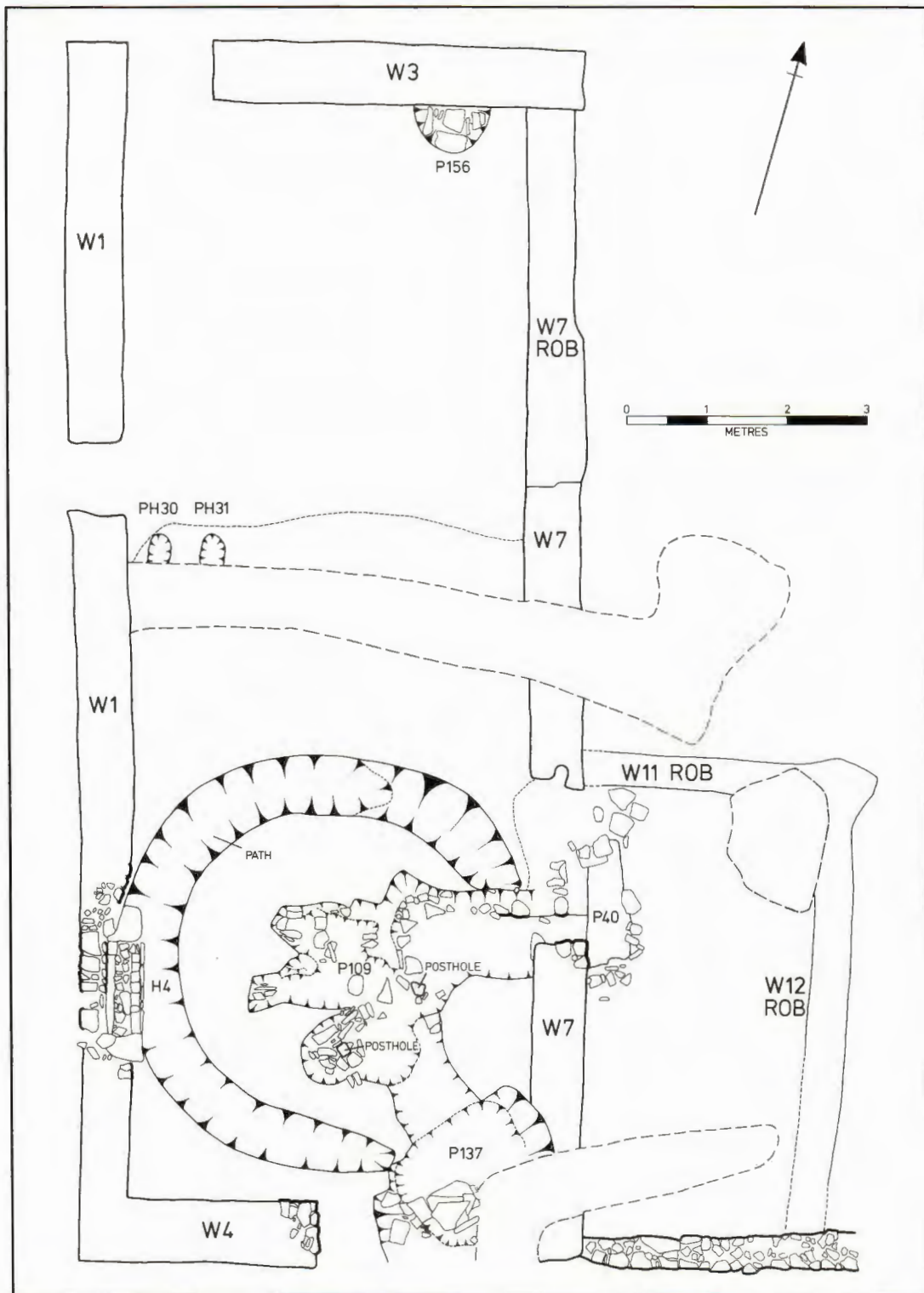


Fig. 11 Building B1 — Plan of phase IV.

into W1, and the entrance though W4 was blocked up. In that to the north was a plaster hearth, H1, against W7. This was later replaced by another fireplace, H3, built against W1. Probably at the same time the light partition was replaced by a narrow wall, W5, but this only carried half-way across the room. Immediately north of H3, another narrow wall, W6, separated these two small rooms from the area to the north.

The shed up against the building was replaced with a smaller one (c.2.80m x 1.80m), whose size could be determined from the edge of its floor of small pitched cobbles even though its walls did not survive. Access to the new shed was gained by way of a doorway through the south end of the rebuilt east wall, and it was used for the storage of coal as shown by a spread of coal dust overlying the cobbles.

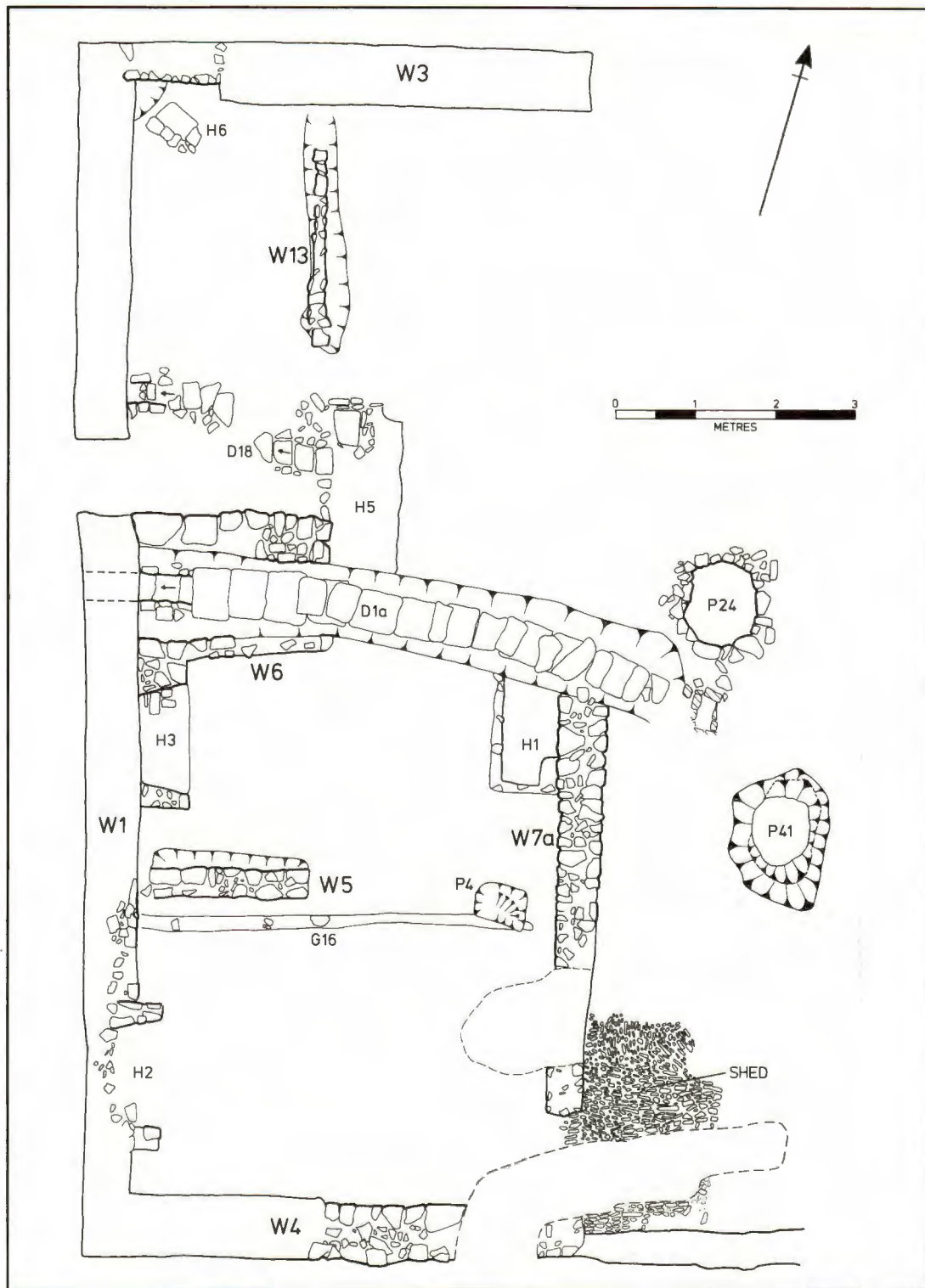


Fig. 13 Building B1 — Plan of phase V.

During this phase the north part remained open to the east, and may still have served some industrial function. The western half, however, was partitioned off by a narrow wall, W13, to create a small room, which, after the blocking of the entrance through W3, was furnished with a small hearth in the north west corner, H6. In the south-west corner of the open area was another plaster hearth, H5, and running west from the north end of this

was a small drain, D18.

Outside the building a stone-lined well was inserted, P24, and immediately south of this was the head of a fairly large drain, D1A, which ran across the building into the main drainage system to the west (see below). Close to these there was a deep nearly straight-sided pit (P41), but its purpose was not obvious.

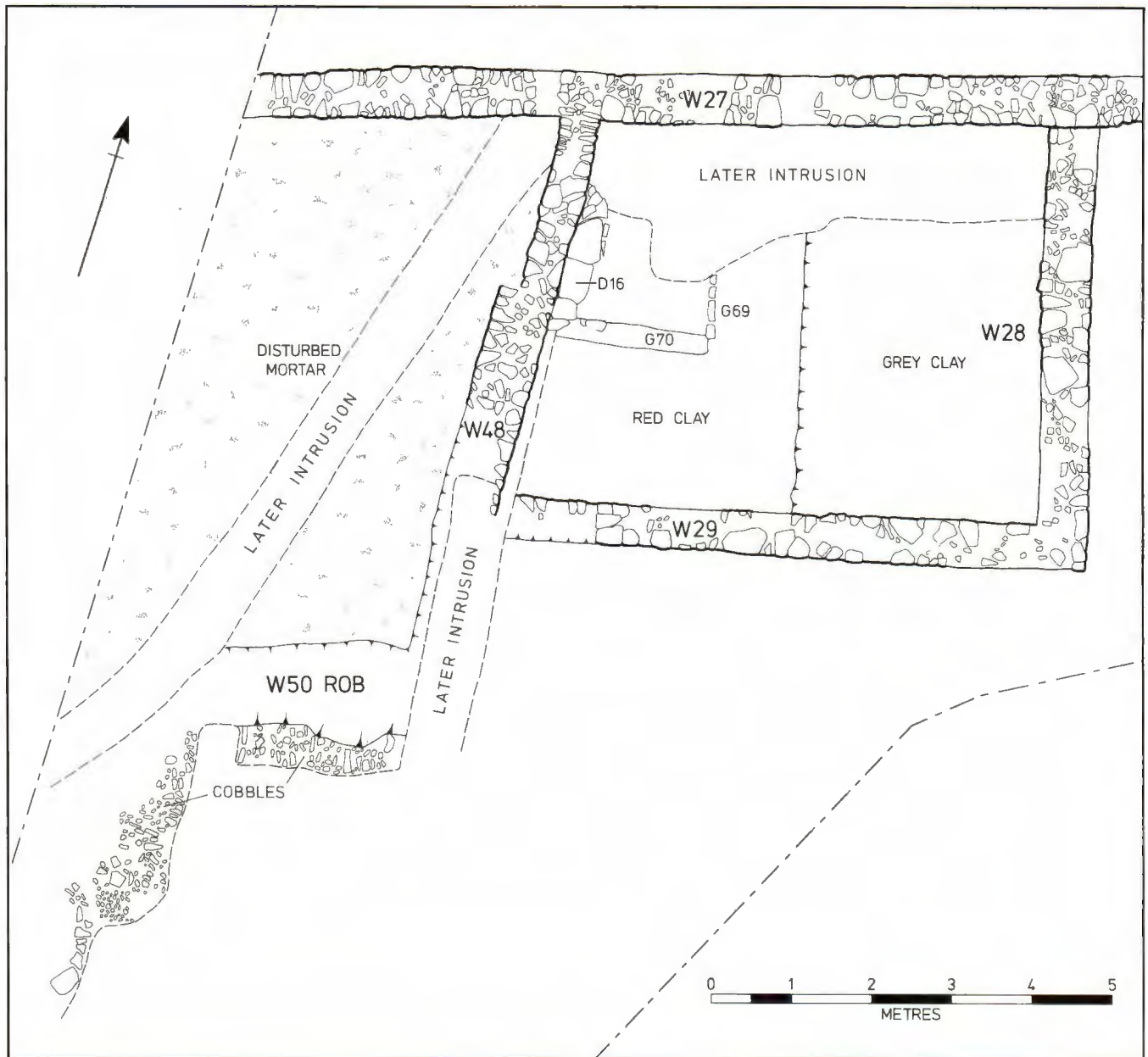


Fig. 14 Vicarage (B3) — Plan of phase I.

BUILDING B3 — THE VICARAGE

Only one other building was almost entirely excavated and this stood in the south-west corner of the site. It was built in the 14th century and served as the vicarage for Temple Church until the destruction of the church during the 1939-45 war.

Phase I (Fig. 14)

The building was roughly L-shaped, with walls of mainly Pennant Sandstone bonded with orange sandy mortar. The base of the L, measuring c.8m x c.5m, was enclosed by W27 to the north, W48 to the east, and W50 to the south, with the west wall lying just outside the excavation. W50 was completely robbed out, as was the south end of W48. On the east side of W48 there was an extension, c.7m x 6m, contained by the continuation of W27 on the

north, W28 on the east, and W29 on the south.

In the west room there were no traces of proper floor surfaces, only of disturbed mortar layers which appeared to be make-up levels. This was true in a number of successive floors in this room, and may indicate that the floors had been tiled or flagged, the succession of mortar layers representing rebedding of the tiles.

The extension on the east side was the only part of the building where any floor surfaces or features survived. The floor, of red clay with sandy mortar, ended abruptly in a north-south line, though there was no sign of a solid partition. To the east of this line, the level dropped by a few centimetres onto a layer of grey clay with small lumps of oolitic limestone, which ran back underneath the clay floor.

The north-west corner was separated from the rest by a light partition supported on stones, G69, on its east side, and a slot 20cm in width, G70, to the south. Against W48 in this corner was a short length of drain, D16, overlain by a layer of red sandy mortar and clay. A band roughly 1m wide against W27 was destroyed by the intrusion of later drains.

Outside the building to the south were the patchy remains of a cobbled yard, which had been much disturbed by later pits.

Phase II (Fig. 15)

During this phase there were considerable structural alterations to the building. W48 and W50 were

demolished, W35 replacing the south end of W48, and the main room being extended by 3.50m to W36. The internal wall was also rebuilt on almost the same alignment as before, W32.

The eastern part of the building was separated into three rooms by extending the light partition G69 southwards and adding another partition, which showed as a narrow slot G55, running east from it. It is likely that the newly extended western part of the building was also sub-divided, but no evidence for this survived.

Running diagonally across the western part of the building was a drain, D10, which passed through an arch at the north end of W32, to join a larger drain, D14. This then continued eastwards along the inside face of W27,

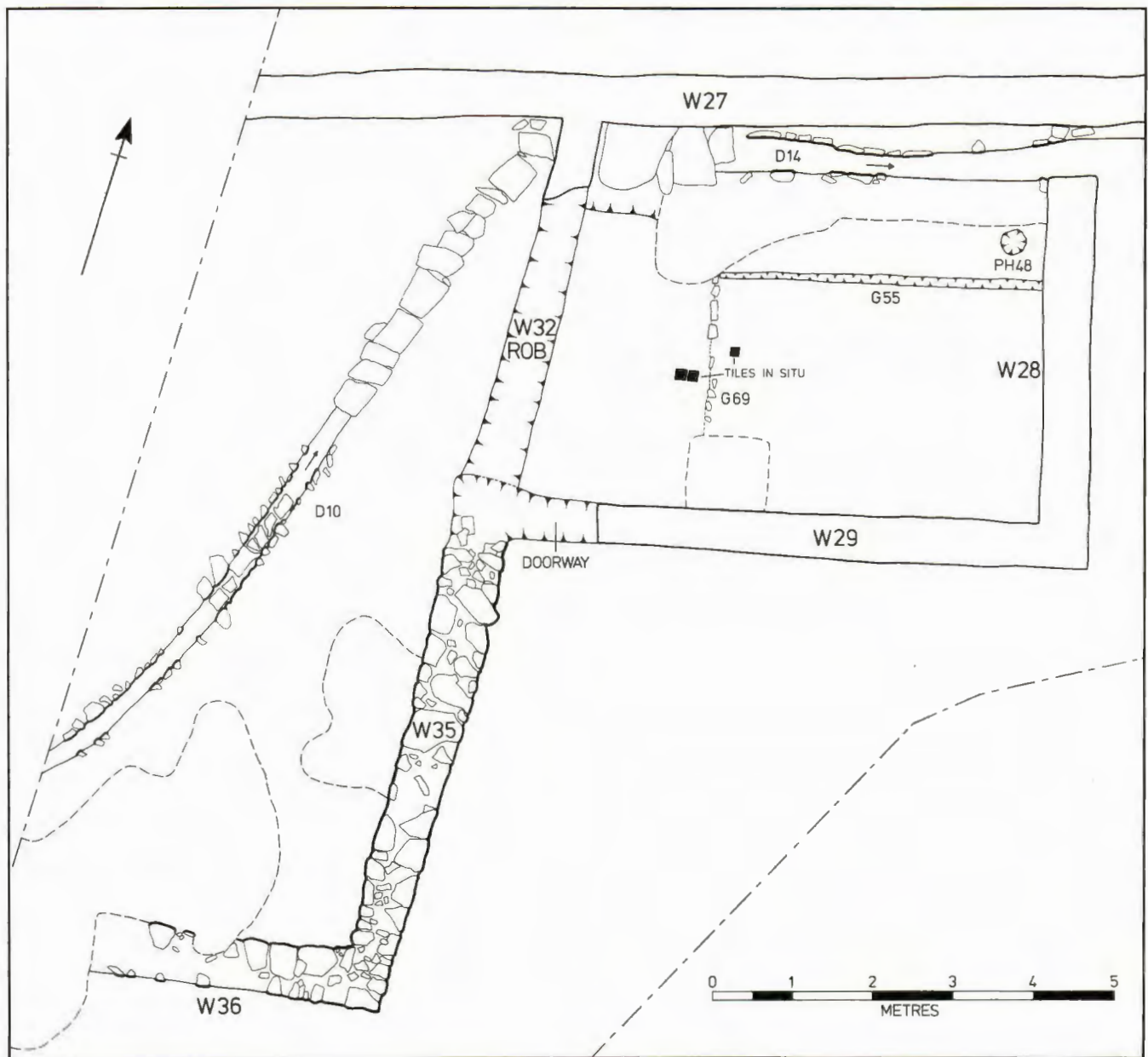


Fig. 15 Vicarage (B3) — Plan of phase II.

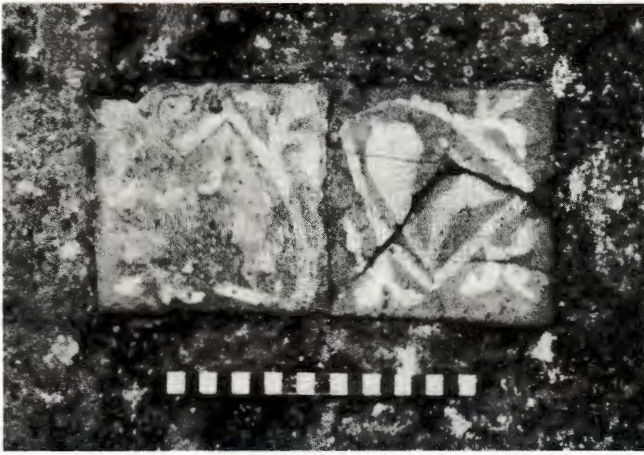


Fig. 16 Vicarage (B3). Phase II – Tiles (no. 4 in fig. 29) in situ in room to west of G69. Scale 20cms.

cutting through W28 to join the main drainage system across the vicarage garden (see below).

In all of the rooms successions of disturbed mortar floor and make-up levels showed that the floors had been relaid a number of times during this phase. The latest of these in the room to the west of G69 was of orange-pink

mortar, and set into this were two decorated floor tiles which were *in situ* (Fig. 16). These tiles (both of the same design, no. 4 in fig. 30 below) had, adhering to the bottom, traces of white mortar, as had another smaller tile (no. 23 in fig. 31 below) which was set in the yellow mortar of the floor to the east of the partition. The difference in colour between the mortar traces adhering to the tiles and the mortars in which they were set suggests that they had been removed from their original site for re-use on these floors.

At the east end of the room to the north of G55 was a fairly substantial post-hole, PH48, but this served no obvious function.

It was not clear whether the doorway at the west end of W29 was inserted at this time or during the next phase.

Phase III (Fig. 17)

In a third phase of major alterations the south end of the west part of the building was demolished and the building foreshortened to line up with the north wall of Temple Church. The new south wall did not show in the ground, but its position could be ascertained from plans executed by I. W. Turnbull in 1804-1805 (B.R.O. H1/00207), and from a survey of the standing building carried out by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments in 1969.

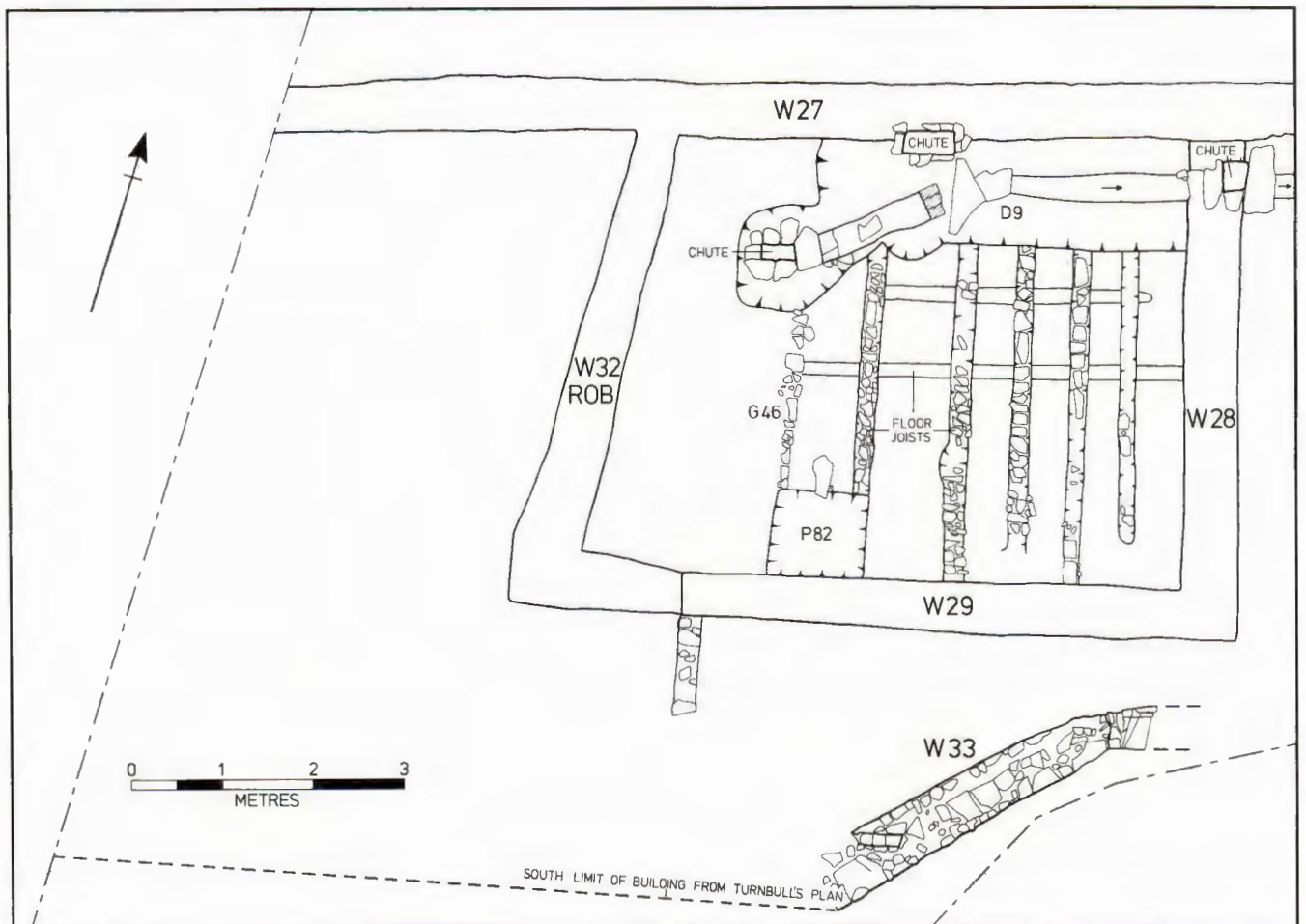


Fig. 17 Vicarage (B3) — Plan of phase III.



Fig. 18 Vicarage (B3). Phase III — East part of the building showing the foundations of the floor joists. Scales 2m.

The internal wall W32 was demolished at this time and, in the north-west corner of the building, a room was created which extended up to the partition, G46, on nearly the same alignment as G69 of the previous phase. This is also evident from Turnbull's plan and that of the Royal Commission, though none of the other partitions shown in these plans appeared in the ground.

This was the latest phase to leave any trace of floor levels, and these were only in evidence in the eastern part of the building. To the east of G46 the make-up was of orange mortarly soil, cut by a series of stone-filled slots criss-crossing the room (Fig. 18). These slots were the foundations for joists to support a wooden floor. The make-up was covered by a thin layer of white mortar, which also partially covered the slots, but the joists themselves had left their trace as charcoal-filled depressions.

To the south of W29, another small room was added with the construction of W33, and it may have been at this time that the west end of W29 was robbed out to provide a doorway through the wall. Running south from this was a short narrow wall, the remains of a partition creating a corridor alongside the small room.

At a later date, alongside W27, D14 was replaced by another drain, D9, which had three vertical chutes flowing into it, one at its west end, one against W27, and the third where it crossed W28.

THE VICARAGE GARDEN (Figs 19 and 20)

To the west of building B1, the area was open yard or garden, with some sheds and outbuildings in the medieval period. Originally it was separated into two areas by an eastward continuation (W26) of the north wall of the vicarage, B3.

To the north of W26, the area appeared to have been used as a garden for the earlier part of its history, but in the 15th century it became the site of some considerable industrial activity (Fig. 19). Initially it was separated into two parts by a narrow north-south wall, W39, and a similarly constructed wall, W38, formed the north boundary of the western part. In this area there were spreads, up to 20cm thick in total, of dumped burnt material and soil, which contained in large amount of fired clay, and were heavily flecked with the green corrosion of copper. This was almost certainly a dump from copper-alloy casting, since most of the fired clay seemed to be fragments of moulds. Though none were large enough to indicate with certainty what was being cast, it is perhaps most likely to have been bells. The different spreads within the dump probably represented successive castings.

Associated with this dumped material were a number of large oval and circular pits, between 1m and 3m across and over 70cm deep, most of which were flat-bottomed and had nearly vertical sides. Two of these were of

particular interest since they had features in the bottom. Burnt into the bottom of P102 were two shallow slots at right angles to each other and crossing in the middle of the pit. Stones in the angles between these slots could have been the remains of a walled structure. This was probably a casting pit for a bell, with the burnt slots marking the position of flues through the stonework of the support for the bell mould. P181 too was obviously functional though its actual purpose is not known. In the bottom of this pit was a circle of stake-holes some 30-40cm in from the side. Some of the other regularly shaped pits are also likely to have been for casting or some related purpose, but none had any additional features or other evidence to support this.

At the west end, the area later occupied by building B4 was only partially excavated. The earliest feature here was a narrow V-shaped drain, D17, whose sloping sides were two re-used wooden planks. The drain lay along the west edge at the bottom of a vertical-sided trench, G67, which had a series of stake-holes (shown solid in figure) along its sides. It was filled with green-flecked burnt soil and clay. It is likely that G67 continued to the south of W25 but the sealing layer was not excavated here. Cut into its fill was another series of stake-holes (open in figure) which lay roughly on the circumference of a circle or an ellipse c.2m across, though their function was unclear. They were in turn covered by another spread of burnt material, and it is likely that these features were connected with the copper-alloy working.

Also associated was a small, clay-lined pit, P191 (60cm x 45cm and c.15cm deep), which had been used for melting down lead. The area around one side of the pit

was very heavily burnt, indicating considerable use. To the north of this was a pit, P184, containing a few pitched burnt stones, the remains of a cobbled hearth.

To the east of W39, gravelly layers against the north section seemed to represent floor levels, perhaps in an outbuilding. A post-hole, PH18, at the east edge of these layers, may have helped support the side wall. Cutting these layers to the south was a large rectangular pit, P155. This was filled with grey clay, into which was set the stone lining of a well, P54. Cut into the clay was a narrow stone-built drain of two phases, D12. This was probably associated with the well, since it ran from near the well edge directly into the main drainage system (see below).

A narrow wall, W44, possibly part of an outbuilding against the boundary wall, W26, and a drain, D15, parallel to it, were cut by the well-pit, P155. Running into D15 from the north was another drain, D3.

Cut into clay which had spread over from the well construction was a shallow pit, P52 (see fig. 20), which produced a fine group of nearly complete jugs dating probably to the middle of the 15th century (nos. 96-103 in fig. 28 below).

On the disuse of W39, two similarly constructed walls at right angles to each other, W40 and W41, were built cutting across its line. These may have been part of another outbuilding associated with the copper-alloy working.

To the west, cut into the debris from the copper-alloy working, were a number of pits and post-holes of 17th century date (Fig. 20). Most of these were filled with loose stone and mortar rubble. From this time the whole of the

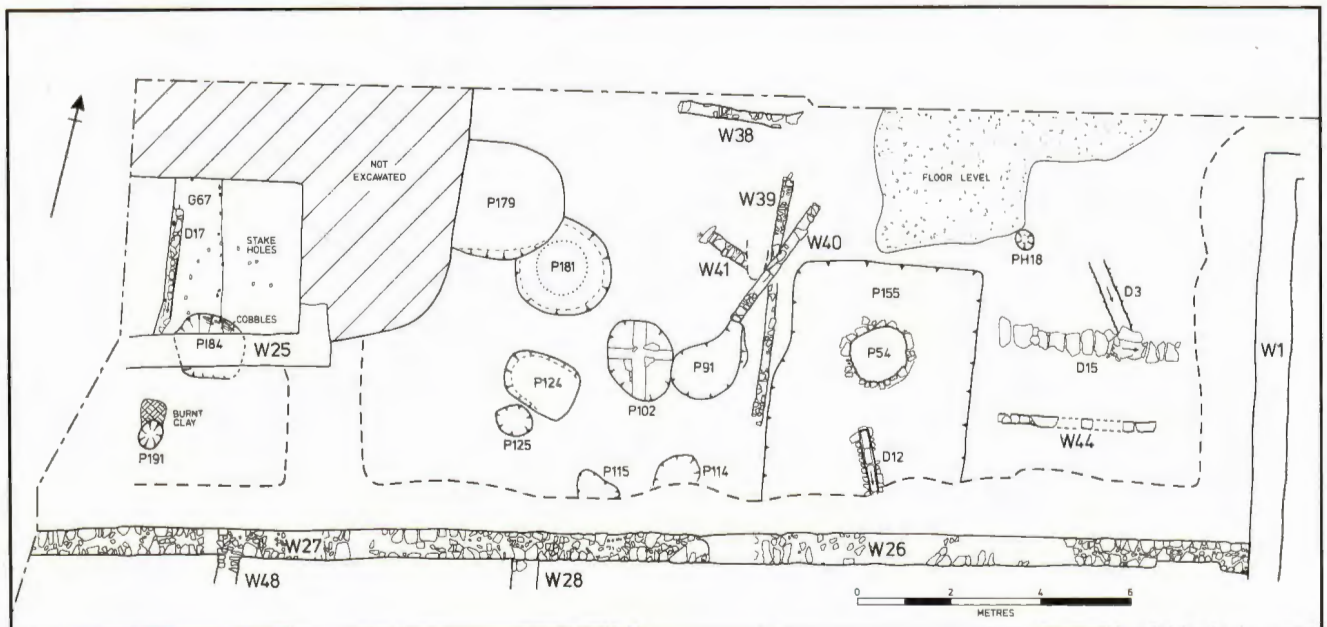


Fig. 19 Plan of the north part of the 'Vicarage Garden' area, showing the features associated with the bronze-working.

this floor was a cobbled hearth in a shallow pit, P183. This was not in use for long and was sealed by a patch of clay. The occupation layer of dark grey clayey soil over the floor also spread over this clay. Partially set into this were a number of flat stones, probably the remains of a flagged floor. Cutting this, alongside W24, was a linear pit, P165, with a few large pitched stones along its edge, and this was itself cut by P164 in the south-east corner. Overlying this level was a succession of patchy clay and mortar floor levels with occupation deposits.

To the south of W25 the floor levels associated with the building had been completely removed except for a few thin mortar spreads.

Phase II (Fig. 21)

In the late 15th or early 16th century W25 was at least partially demolished. It was not possible to say exactly when or how much of the wall was removed, since the surviving floor levels of this period were patchy, and only one covered the wall, and that only partly. The level of the surviving wall was much the same as the general level of the floors.

It is likely that the wall remained standing to the east of a slot, G37, which ran north from the wall for c.1.60m, before ending abruptly. This would have held a partition with a doorway to the north. When the floor was subsequently relaid, the partition was replaced, extending across the line of the doorway. This left its trace as the slot G35.

Cut through the floors of this period were several 17th

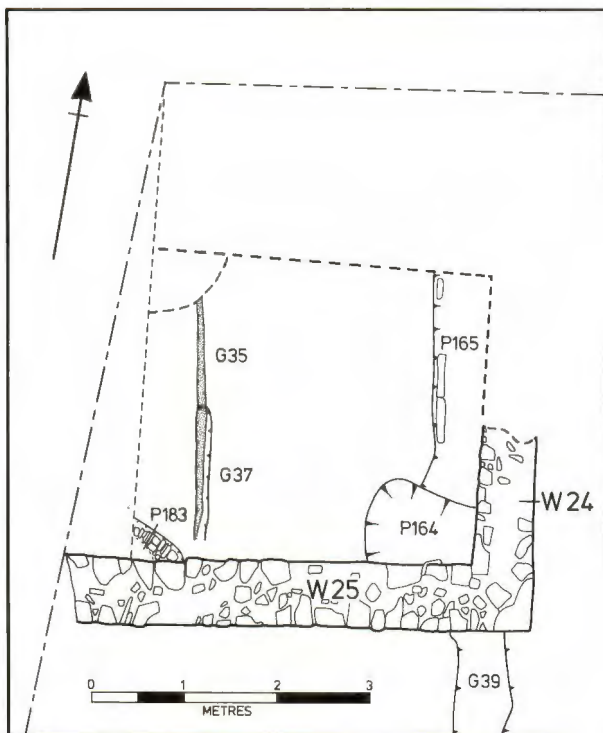


Fig. 21 Building B4 — Plan of phases I and II.

and 18th century pits, but there were no floor levels surviving with which they could be associated.

Phase III (Fig. 20)

Apart from the robbing of the south end of W24 in the late 17th century, the only other period to leave any structural traces was the late 18th – early 19th century. At this time W24 was demolished and rebuilt, another wall was built on the line of W25, and W30 built parallel to it. It was probably also then that W23 was built parallel to W24. These walls were all of Pennant Sandstone bonded with pale grey mortar.

The whole of this part of the building was floored with Pennant flags. Beneath these, between W23 and W24, was a drain, D7, which fed into the main drainage system.

THE LIMEKILN (Fig. 22)

To the north of building B1, the remains of one of a group of three limekilns shown on Ashmead's plan of Bristol drawn up in 1828 was uncovered. This was a perpetual or draw-kiln built in the late 18th or early 19th century and demolished c.1904. Only a very brief description is given here since a more comprehensive report has been provided in a previous volume (Good 1987a).

The surviving part of the kiln stood nearly 1m high and was about 5.70m square, with one corner rounded off. It was built mainly of stone bonded with white mortar, with a brick-lined furnace. Four passages led from the furnace to work areas on each side of the kiln, providing access so that the calcined lime could be drawn out. The sides of the passages and the bottom of the furnace lining were protected by cast-iron plates.

This type of kiln was extremely efficient. The overall internal shape of the furnace would have been oval, allowing the maximum internal reflection of heat. In addition, as the calcined lime was removed at the bottom, more limestone and fuel could be added to the furnace from above so that the kiln could be used continuously, with a minimum of heat loss, until as much lime was produced as was needed.

DISCUSSION

The earliest occupation of the area was in the 12th century when the Knights Templar erected their round church where the ruined Temple Church now stands. Contemporary with this were the possible hall building and courtyard which were partly cleared during the excavation. The Templar buildings were probably enclosed within a precinct boundary which may have been represented by the ditch observed in 1972.

The hall appears to have been a fairly large building, perhaps 13-14m wide and at least 25m long. It was probably built of stone, though only a few courses of the foundations survived on either side of the entrance, and it is possible that the superstructure was in timber. It would appear that it was roofed with shingles since there seemed to be the remains of several of these in the debris from a fire in the building.

After the fire, the Knights Hospitaller, who had taken over the former Templar lands in the early 14th century, demolished the hall and replaced it with a much larger building to the north, most of which lay outside the excavation area. This was also presumably a hall block with domestic apartments attached. Near its west end, a range running southwards from the main structure is likely to have housed some services, but there was no evidence as to which might be located here.

Originally this wing was in two unconnected parts separated by a stone wall, with each part being itself subdivided into rooms. In the early 15th century there were a number of internal modifications including the partial demolition of the central wall, and the insertion of a doorway through it to connect the two previously separated parts. The light partitions subdividing each part were also rearranged to create new rooms. This may imply some change in function for the wing, but again there was nothing to give a clear indication of its new use. Nor was there any evidence as to what was supported by the pairs of post-holes against the walls of the north room, but they were clearly of some relevance to its use. The possibility of this representing a loom for weaving, or some other machinery associated with the cloth trade which was so dominant in this area, must be considered, but there was no secondary evidence which might support such an interpretation.

It was probably not long after the Corporation had taken over the Hospitaller lands in 1544 that the main block of buildings was demolished leaving the wing standing as an independent structure. The first internal conversions after this, in the late 16th or early 17th century, saw the removal of all of the internal partitions except that separating the two main rooms. Three fireplaces were inserted in the corners of the rooms, and it is likely that they were for some industrial rather than domestic use. Immediately alongside the building to the east a cobbled roadway was laid, perhaps to provide a consolidated area for the loading and unloading of goods and materials.

Major structural alterations were carried out in the 17th century to convert the building to receive heavy industrial machinery. The central partition was removed and the north half of the building opened up on the east side. In the more enclosed part, a mill, probably an edge-mill, was set up to grind yellow ochre for use in paint or perhaps for mixing with limewash. The adjacent premises in Water Lane are known to have held a limekiln from at least 1598 (Good 1987a, 66; B.R.O. Aa 45[1] 00142 [10]) and the lime produced there could have been used in the preparation of a coloured wash for coating walls. The ochre is likely to have come from the Mendip Hills where both yellow and red forms were mined (Gough 1967, 239). It was stored, prior to grinding, in a shed built against the outside wall.

The rebuilding works following the removal of the industrial machinery from the south room converted this

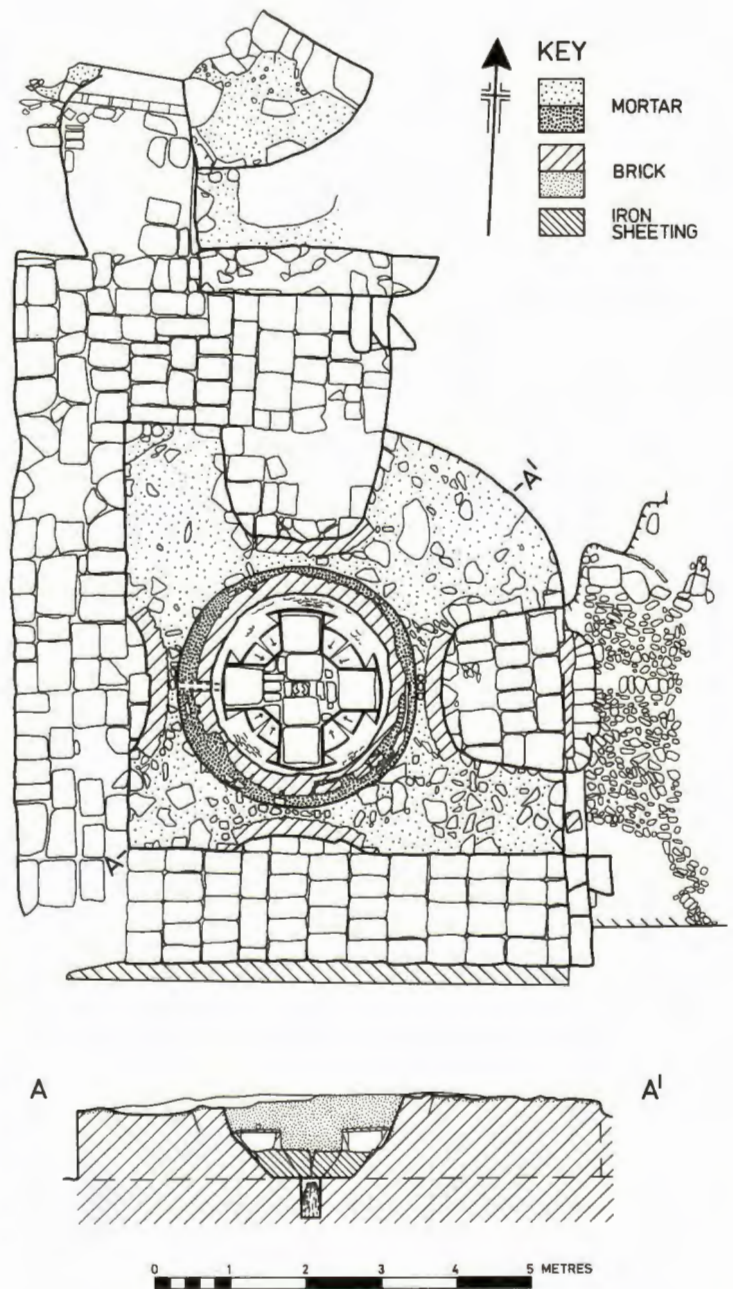


Fig. 22 Plan of limekiln, with section at A-A'.

part of the building into two smaller, probably domestic rooms. Some industrial activity appears to have continued in the north part which was again open to the east, though the western half was enclosed. What industry was being carried out is not certain, but it seems to have involved the heating of water, since the hearth (H5) and small drain (D18) were clearly associated. The nearby well to the east provided a readily available source for the water required.

At the west end of the area lay the vicarage for Temple Church, built, according to the ceramic evidence, probably about the middle of the 14th century. The first vicar of Temple Church may have been John de Derneford, who is presented to the vicarage by Edward II

in 1308 (*Cal Pat Rolls* 1307-1313, 134) — in the period immediately after the suppression of the Templars, Edward temporarily held possession of their lands before passing them on to the Hospitallers — but there is no information documented as to where he was housed until 1339. In that year the Register of Ralph of Shrewsbury, Bishop of Bath and Wells, states that accommodation for the vicar was to be supplied by the Prior, Philip de Thame, and the Hospitaller brethren in “in small houses next the gate of our dwelling house there” (Holmes 1896, 434). This is emphasised in 1342 when Bishop Ralph decrees that the Hospitallers should “provide the small houses for the vicar for his habitation, in which the vicars were wont to dwell near the said church” (Holmes 1896, 448). It is not clear exactly where the small houses referred to in the register were or how they related to the building excavated. Though it is possible that this was one of the houses mentioned, it is perhaps more likely that it was a later building constructed specifically to replace these as accommodation for the vicar.

The original building was roughly L-shaped with the base of the L probably serving as a hall. The wing running east from this was subdivided by light partitions,

possibly into private rooms, though they could have housed domestic services. The small area contained by G69 and G70 may mark the position of a staircase leading to the upper storey.

The conversions of phase II involved a considerable amount of demolition and reconstruction at the west end of the building while leaving the rest unchanged externally. The hall was lengthened, perhaps with an area being separated off as a parlour, though no evidence for this survived. The arrangement of the rooms of the east wing was changed by moving some of the internal partitions. It might be expected that these rooms would now house only services, but the presence of decorated floor tiles (albeit reused) in two of the rooms suggests that these may have remained as private rooms. This might therefore mean that there was not after all a separate parlour in the extended hall wing.

There was little archaeological evidence relating to the third phase, but it is clear from the plans executed by Turnbull and by the Royal Commission that the west end of the building was once again reduced in size. The east wing, however, remained the same in plan, though there were additions in the angle between the wings. Although the pottery evidence suggests that some of the internal modifications of this phase belonged to the 18th century, the architectural evidence recorded by the Royal Commission implies that the major reconstruction work was carried out in the 17th century. The pitch of the roof of the east wing, illustrated in the Commission’s photograph taken in 1969 (Fig.23), shows that this was probably contemporary, and therefore that the work undertaken at this time was even more extensive than was evident from the archaeology and from the plans. It can also be seen that, at first floor level, the building extended across Colston Place and the walls abutted Temple Church. The photograph also shows that part of the building was three storeys high, but the angle of the roof pitch is different here and it may be that the third storey is a later addition.

By the time Turnbull prepared his plan in 1804-5, a service range had been added to the south of the building and a small area outside this closed off as a yard, but this did not survive for archaeological investigation. The plan by Turnbull and that by the Commission in 1969 match very well, and show that there were no major alterations at ground floor level during the intervening period.

In the 15th century a large part of the area that was to become the vicarage garden was used for copper-alloy working. There were several outbuildings which were probably workshops and storage sheds for the materials used in this industry. A number of pits in the area were clearly functional, and, although a specific purpose could not always be identified, it is likely that most were associated with casting, possibly of bells. Copper-alloy casting in the late medieval period is known from other sites in the southern suburbs (Good 1989, 23, 26) and the presence of bell-founders in the area is also attested (Walters 1919, 53).



Fig. 23 Vicarage (B3) in 1969, viewed from the east along Colston Place. Note the pitches of the roofs and the extension of the first floor across the lane. Photograph courtesy of RCHM.

The dating of this activity cannot be firmly fixed — the best evidence is an approximate date for its termination supplied indirectly by the fine group of pottery jugs from the later pit, P52, which was cut through later levels. This group is dated to about the middle of the 15th century though this dating cannot be regarded as precise and the suggested end-date of 1455 from the evidence at Westbury College (see appendix to pottery report) is not absolute.

According to William Worcestre the tower of Temple Church was completed about 1460 for ringing and tolling magnificent bells (*“pro campanis magnificis pulsandis et sonandis”*) — Dallaway 1834, 115) and it is tempting to suggest that the ‘magnificent bells’ were cast here. Even though there was no conclusive evidence to imply bell-founding specifically, this must be considered to be highly probable as the casting site for them because of the convenience of the location and the closeness of the dating.

At some time in the 15th century the west end of the copper-alloy-working area had a stone building, B4, erected on it. This was the rear of a tenement fronting onto Temple Street, and it may be that originally the whole of the area used for copper-alloy working was associated with this tenement until the rest was absorbed into the vicarage garden.

Only a small part of this building was excavated and it was not possible to define what its function was relative to the rest of the site. The first phase of construction was carried out while bronze working was still in operation, and it may be that some of the features within the building were associated with this industry. When the bronze working ceased it presumably housed services for the buildings on the Temple Street frontage, and the structural alterations of phase II were contemporary with this. Although a few pits indicated some activity in the intervening period, there was no evidence of any further construction work until the major alterations and additions of c.1800 which again probably formed service accommodation.

It was probably in the 17th century that the vicarage garden was extended by knocking down the wall which had previously separated it from the working area. This was certainly a time of great horticultural activity which saw the build-up of over 30cms of humic soil in this area. Also of this date were the rubble-filled pits, which were presumably associated with the gardening, and at about the same time a small shed was erected against the north wall of the garden.

In the south part of the garden, against B1, a small stone building (B2) was erected in the 18th century. It is not certain whether this was an outbuilding housing services for the vicarage or whether it was a separate dwelling house within the vicarage grounds. Turnbull’s plan of 1804-5 shows that the room at the north end of the building was subdivided into two privies, each with twin-seating arrangements. The double seats shown were in the same positions as the two freestone troughs above the drain D1 (Fig. 24), and these troughs formed the traps of

primitive water closets, preventing the intrusion of noxious gases from the drains. They were of a type which is relatively common on excavations in Bristol. It also shows that the drainage system laid in the 17th century was used, at least from c.1800, for the disposal of soil as well as other waste water. The drains, however, had silted up by the end of the 19th century, so that the privies must have gone out of use by then.

The east end of the site was gardened from the 14th century, and most of the features from this period onwards appear to have been associated with the gardening. The ditch which formed the eastern limit of the garden until the 17th century probably acted as a drainage ditch alongside a forerunner of Petticoat Lane which ran immediately beyond the edge of the excavation. Because they were built over former marshland, most streets and lanes in the southern parishes would have needed such ditches to help keep them dry, and a similar ditch of medieval date was excavated alongside St Thomas Street and Portwall Lane in 1989 (Good 1989, 21-2).

In his plan of 1828 Ashmead shows buildings in the north part of this area, as do all of the Ordnance Survey plans until the middle of the present century. These, however, were built on shallow foundations and were completely cleared prior to excavation. Traces of two of the boundary walls of the gardens in front of these buildings did survive, represented by the two stone spreads running north-south across the area. Their position could be matched precisely with boundaries shown on the Ordnance Survey plans. The stone-lined cess-pits of 18th-19th century date were beneath the line of two of the buildings, at the rear, against the boundary with tenements fronting onto Water Lane (except for P111 which lay on the other side of this boundary), and showed that their privies were located at the backs of the houses, access being gained probably from small yards shown on the plans.

CONCLUSIONS

Excavation has confirmed that the earliest occupation in the area of Temple Church was that of the Knights Templar, whose preceptory formed one of the nuclei for settlement on the south side of the River Avon. The main secular building within the Templar precinct was a large hall, which lay just north of their round church erected in the 12th century.

When the Knights Hospitaller took over the former Templar lands in the 14th century, they replaced the hall with a larger hall block with service wings attached. They also built a house for the vicar of Temple Church, which by then served a large congregation in this prosperous suburb. The vicarage retained its use until the church was destroyed during the air raids of 1940. After the war the building was used as offices until its demolition just prior to the excavation.

Some industrial activity during the Hospitaller occupation was indicated in the form of copper-alloy casting, and this may have been the site of the casting of



Fig. 24 Vicarage garden —Privy in building B2. Stone troughs above drain D1. These served as traps beneath water closets to hold back smells from the drain.

the bells for the newly built church tower in the 15th century. When the hall of the Knights Hospitaller was demolished in the 16th-17th century, the former service wing was left standing and it too was converted for industrial use. This reflected a general trend in the area at this time as the southern suburbs declined in prosperity and increasingly became major centres of industry. Although the area around was gradually being infilled as the industrial activity expanded, there was no building at the east end of the site, which remained as open garden until c.1800 when a row of houses known as Colston Place was erected, and this gave its name to the lane alongside Temple Church.

THE FINDS

In general the reports on the artifacts have been abbreviated for publication and in some cases they have been omitted completely. Fuller reports on these and the other finds are housed in the archive.

THE POTTERY

by Rod Burchill

A large quantity of ceramic material was recovered during excavation. Only that which could be directly related to the stratigraphic sequence was examined along with material from garden pits which form cohesive groups. The bulk of the garden material and that from 19th century pits was not examined.

The material was assigned to context groups associated with the various phases of site development as defined in the site report. It was identified by comparison to the Bristol Pottery Type Series (BPT), details of which are in archive, as are tables showing the distribution of types

and a chronology of the context groups.

THE GARDEN AREA (groups 1-3)

Group 1, associated with the Templars occupation, is a small group of common medieval wares including 3 sherds of imported South-western French material. These green-glazed jugs are the most common import into medieval Bristol. Some were produced in the area around Saintes and probably exported down the Charente with wine. They are thought to start arriving some time in the mid-13th century (Ponsford 1983).

Material attributed to the Hospitaller use of the site (*group 2*) is of 14th and 15th century date. The majority of sherds are of Bristol Redcliffe type, but include wares from north-west Wiltshire, the Malvern area, and Tudor Green from Surrey/Hampshire. Malvern wares are not thought to have arrived in Bristol until around 1400 whilst Tudor Green is currently thought to be in use from about 1420 (Ponsford 1988, 125).

Group 3 represents a large range of material from the general garden layers not all of which was examined in detail. A large number of vessels have been illustrated from this group including a number of unusual forms. The native wares include a north-east Wiltshire jar with unusual cauldron handles (no. 10), a form not previously recorded from Bristol. A jar with pierced walls (no. 9) in a Malvernian fabric is probably a colander. Among the imports of note is the rim sherd of a jug with a stamped pad decoration, probably of northern French origin (no. 23). There is also a sherd of a probable Dutch tin-glaze (no. 27) and another of Italian Montelupo (no. 41).

BUILDING 1*Phase I* (groups 4-6): 14th century

The three groups associated with this phase consist of common medieval wares plus, in group 6, fragments of two jugs in a previously unrecorded off-white fabric with brownish green/yellow glaze: these are probably of Bristol origin on the grounds of fabric and style (nos. 44 and 45; BPT 258).

Phase II (groups 7-9): early 15th century

Pottery associated with this phase are mostly common medieval wares including the products of the Saintonge and another possible French import, BPT 260 (no. 46). Also present are Malvern type wares and Tudor Green. There is a single sherd of Donyatt jug. Donyatt medieval wares are not common in Bristol. A good example was found at St Thomas Street (Burchill 1989, 27) and odd sherds have occurred on other sites, but the northward distribution of these jugs appears to stop short of the town.

Phase III (groups 10-12): late 16th-early 17th centuries

These groups consist mainly of the products of the Somerset kilns, principally Nether Stowey (BPT 280 and 284) and Wanstrow (BPT 96 and 98) along with small quantities of Malvern wares and black-glazed cups. Somerset wares start to arrive in Bristol during the second half of the 16th century and are common on most sites with a post-medieval element (Good & Russett 1987, 38-40). Imports are few but include stoneware from the Rhineland, tin-glazed wares of probable Spanish origin and a sherd of Portuguese tin-glaze. Particularly noteworthy is a pitcher of Wanstrow manufacture in a rare form (no. 52), a Late Valencian 'overall lustre' lug handle (no. 50) and a dish in Werra ware (no. 49).

Phase IV (groups 13-15): 17th century

This material is similar to that in phase III but includes an 'encrusted' cup of Donyatt origin (no. 54), the base of a Montelupo dish or bowl (no. 56) and a fragment of late Saintonge Green and Brown bowl. Of major importance is the first instance of a lime-gritted redware of apparant Bristol manufacture.

Phase V (groups 16-18): 17th and 18th centuries

The general post-medieval wares from this group include Westerwald stoneware and English, probably Bristol, all-over tin-glaze.

BUILDING 3

Building 3 produced only a very small amount of pottery.

Phase I (groups 19-20) and *phase II* (groups 21-23) contained medieval wares, but included a sherd of Wanstrow in group 23. *Phase III* (groups 24) is 18th century in date.

VICARAGE GARDEN*North* (groups 25-27): late medieval

Group 25 is an exclusively medieval group of mostly common local wares but includes imports from South-

western and northern France. Group 26, the 'industrial' phase, is similar but contains 15th century types. Group 27 is a large group (924 sherds) and is mainly the contents of a series of pits. A number of these are illustrated. Of particular interest is an unusual, decorated jug in the ubiquitous micaceous ware BPT 46 (no. 80), a small tin-glazed bowl of Spanish origin (no. 95) and part of a south Netherlands flower vase (no. 93). An unusual find in pit P52 was a number of nearly complete jugs of late medieval date (see appendix).

South (groups 28)

The material from the southern part of the vicarage garden was treated as one group. The wares are all types commonly found locally. All layers contained large amounts of residual material.

BUILDING 4*Phase I* (group 29): late medieval

A small group which includes two sherds of Tudor Green.

Phase II (group 30): 16th century

This group consists mainly of common local wares, but includes part of an 'open-work' chafing dish with medallion decoration (no. 114). Chafing dishes of this type are not common. Their source is still in doubt, but may lie in central or South-west France (Good 1987b, 86).

Phase III (group 31): 18th century

A group of typical 18th century material.

DISCUSSION

The pottery from this site is typical of that found throughout the town (cf Good & Russett 1987). The Malvern and Somerset wares are now expected for late medieval and early post-medieval Bristol. Quantitatively the Malvern wares dominate the Bristol markets during the late 15th and 16th centuries. Ponsford (1988) has discussed the importance of these wares in the Bristol context and has illustrated many of the forms produced. Somerset wares replaced the Malvern wares as the dominant pottery during the late 16th and 17th centuries (Good 1987b, 36-8; Burchill 1989, 27), although not to the same degree. There is a good range of imported wares, including the usual products of medieval France along with a small quantity of post-medieval French wares and a small number of vessels from Portugal, Italy and the Netherlands. Spanish wares are present in a small number; Spanish tin-glazes occur on many sites in the town but never in large quantities and it is suspected that they arrive as 'one-off' purchases rather than as trade (Ponsford & Burchill forthcoming). Stoneware products from the Rhineland occur but are few in number. The Germanic earthenware from the area of the Werra River is, however, unusual in the West Country. No import is present in any great quantity. Details and discussion of the wares of continental Europe may be found in Hurst *et al* 1986.

The group of nearly complete vessels from P52 is unusual only in that it is rare to find any complete vessels on a site in the town and there is no evidence as to why this group was placed in one pit. It is likely that all the vessels were in use contemporaneously.

Of particular interest is the post-medieval 'lime-gritted' ware BPT 265. The site produces the first occurrence of this ware. It has now been recognised on other sites in the town, but it is uncommon. Principle forms are pancheons, bowls and pipkins. The rims are rolled back in a similar fashion to Wanstraw vessels. There would appear to be no decoration although a white under-glaze slip of indifferent quality is used. The evidence from this site suggests that the ware makes its appearance slightly later than the similar (by form) Wanstraw products. The similarity of form, whilst being less well produced, suggests to this writer that BPT 265 may be an attempt by local potters to copy what had become a very successful and popular product. As so little is known about the Bristol pottery industry in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, such conclusions must remain speculative.

The high level of residual material is typical of the town sites and is exacerbated here by the high levels of garden activity.

APPENDIX:

A group of medieval jugs from pit P52 by M W Ponsford. This fine group of late medieval vessels (fig. 28, nos. 96-103) were associated in a shallow pit. Pit groups are uncommonly found in Bristol because it appears that most waste pottery was either spread as manure in the extensive gardens, or simply thrown into the River Avon for the tide to wash down to the Severn.

The group consists of parts of eight vessels of which six are complete enough to represent as complete vessels in illustration. Of these, six are of Bristol (Redcliffe) manufacture, one is from South-west France and the last from the Minety (North Wiltshire) or related kilns. The last, by chance, provides evidence of date because a fragment of a similar vessel was found at Westbury College, four miles north of Bristol, in a yard deposit (Ponsford 1981). This was earlier than the demolition of the early college of Bishop Carpenter from c.1455. The rim and handle of the French vessel are exactly like those on a sherd from context NR at Redcliffe Hill Bristol, dated there to c.1350 (Dawson & Ponsford forthcoming). With their simple finish and indifferently applied glazes the Bristol vessels are typologically later than the Redcliffe Hill wasters (c.1320-50) whilst the date for the Minety-type jug puts the group before c.1455. Like its English counterparts the French rim-form may have had a long life in the 14th and 15th centuries: it is still not possible to distinguish between Redcliffe wares of c.1375 and c.1475.

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED SHERDS

Fig.25

Group 2

- (1) Rim of a ?curcurbit with thin patchy glaze on internal surfaces. BPT 197. Context RM.
- (2) Decoration in form of a ram's horn. Possibly from an aquamanile. BPT 231. Context PP.

Group 3

- (3) Jar or cookpot with splashes internal glaze. BPT 85. Context NG.
- (4) Bowl or small pancheon. North-west Wiltshire. BPT 84. Context MX.
- (5) Jug rim with stylized grotesque anthropomorphic heads. Overall green glaze. BPT 118. Context ZGM.
- (6) Rim of a shallow dish, slip and sgraffito decorated. Patches of copper staining on slip. BPT 276. Context DJ.
- (7) Dish rim with slip and sgraffito decoration. BPT 276. Context DJ.
- (8) Bowl rim with thin internal glaze. BPT 84. Context NJ.
- (9) Body fragment with multiple holes, probably a colander. BPT 197. Context ED.
- (10) Everted rim and handle of a jar, decorated with grooves and a patchy thin green glaze to both surfaces. Some external sooting. BPT 84. Context DJ.
- (11) (?)Profile of a small bowl. Patchy thin green glaze. BPT 84. Context HQ.
- (12) Lid seating. Patchy internal glaze and external iron wash. BPT 85 (Late). Context GM.
- (13) Rim and pouring lip of a small bowl. Green glazed internally and over lip. Probably Somerset. BPT 285. Context GM.
- (14) Profile of a poorly made lid. BPT 118 (?Late). Context DJ.
- (15) Bowl rim. Strongly everted with a wide flange and glaze over rim. BPT 84. Context DJ.
- (16) Uprturned rim: probably a lid seating. Patchy glaze both surfaces. BPT 85. Context DJ.
- (17) Jar rim, internally folded with thin patchy internal glaze. Thumbed below the rim and with grooved body. BPT 197. Context BH.
- (18) Roof finial in form of a bird. BPT 118. Context QS.
- (19) Bowl rim. BPT 84. Context DJ.
- (20) Rim and handle of a pitcher in Devon gravel-free fabric. BPT 112B. Context DJ.
- (21) Simple jug rim with a pulled spout and faint

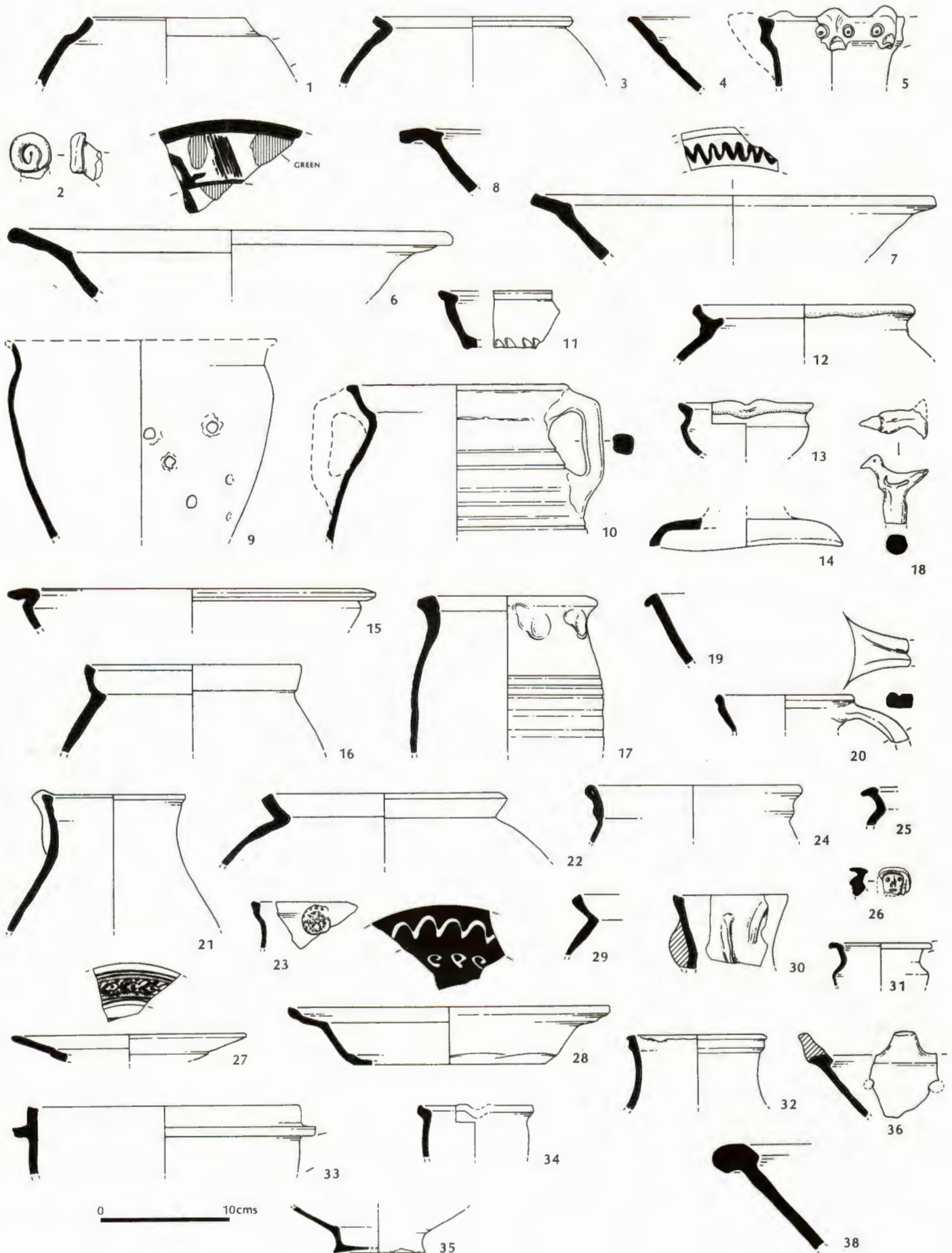


Fig. 25 Medieval and post-medieval pottery. Groups 2-3.

- grooving below. The glaze does not reach the rim. BPT 118 (Late). Context DJ.
- (22) Jar rim with a smear of glaze internally. BPT 84. Context DJ.
- (23) Jug rim with stamped decoration and patchy green glaze. French. BPT (?)239. Context RN.
- (24) Jar rim with deep internal fold. Traces of mustard yellow glaze internally and external sooting. BPT 197. Context DJ.
- (25) Everted rim with patchy internal green glaze. BPT 84. Context DJ.
- (26) Small face decoration. The face, a female, wears a ?owl. BPT 27. Context OM.
- (27) Rim of a tin-glazed plate or shallow dish, decorated in blue. Probably Dutch. BPT 344. Context NJ.
- (28) Profile of a shallow dish. Trailed slip decoration. BPT 109. Context DJ.
- (29) Jar rim. Patchy green glaze externally and over rim. BPT 84. Context DJ.
- (30) Jug rim. The body is decorated externally with thumb-pulled 'ears'. BPT 118. Context DJ.
- (31) Small jar rim. French. BPT 160. Context MF.
- (32) Jug rim. Patchy external glaze. BPT 84. Context DJ.
- (33) Curcubit fragment. BPT 84. Context NJ.
- (34) Small jar or bowl with lid seating and pouring lip. Good glaze. BPT 118. Context DJ.
- (35) Base of lobed cup. BPT 182. Context DJ.
- (36) Chafing dish rim. Flecked amber glaze. BPT 197. Context QA.
- (37) Not illustrated.
- (38) Pancheon rim. BPT 112A. Context DJ.

Fig. 26.

- (39) Slip and sgraffito decorated dish rim. BPT 284. Context DJ.
- (40) Dish. Sgraffito decoration through a green glaze. Sooted externally. BPT 280. Context HS.
- (41) Rim of Montelupo vessel, form unclear. BPT 107A. Context HS.
- (42) Pipkin base, heavily sooted externally. BPT 197. Context DJ.

Groups 4-6

- (43) Upper body and handle of a Ham Green jug with rilled body and stabbed handle. BPT 27. Context ZGU.
- (44) Jug. Thick well made collar with good green brown glaze covering the rim top and forming a well defined band internally. BPT 258. Context ZGV.
- (45) Jug, similar to 23. BPT 258. Context ZCW.

Groups 7-9

- (46) ?Jug base in a sandy white fabric. Probably French. BPT 260. Context ZBG.

Groups 10-12

- (47) Curcubit. Trace of external soot. BPT 84.

Context ZCK.

- (48) Dish with sgraffito decoration. BPT 284. Context JM.
- (49) Wide flanged rim of a dish. Decorated in pale green slip and brown lead glaze. Werra ware. BPT 341. Context JM.
- (50) Lug handle decorated in rich copper. Valencian overall lustre. BPT 83D.
- (51) Large internally glazed jar. Somerset. BPT 285. Context OK/JM.
- (52) Rim and neck of a pitcher with thick brown glaze. BPT 96. Context JM.

Groups 13-15

- (53) Cup profile. Decorated internally with trailed slip and externally with twin grooves. BPT 98. Context LP.
- (54) Rim and body fragments of quartz encrusted cup. Donyatt. BPT 269. Context NE/NZ.
- (55) Colander base. Green glazed on both surfaces. BPT 118. Context TS.
- (56) Dish or bowl base. Overall glossy tin-glaze, decorated internally in light and dark blue geometric patterns with yellow, orange and green 'blobs' and orange and purple stylized Chinese characters. Italian. BPT 107A. Context SA.
- (57) Small bowl with internal slip decoration. Donyatt. BPT 272. Context QV.
- (58) Fragment of decorative band of vine leaves with grapes. BPT 286B. Context FY.
- (59) Base of a dish. External lead glaze and internal tin-glaze with yellow, purple and blue decoration. North Netherlands. BPT 344B. Context KA.
- (60) Base profile. Surrey White ware. BPT 342. Context WX.
- (61) Rim and handle of a jar or pipkin with speckled brown internal glaze. BPT 265. Context YD.
- (62) Rim fragment. Traces of glaze and slip. BPT 265. Context NW.

Fig. 27.

- (63) Donyatt double-hole cistern. Lightly thumbed neck and grooved body. BPT 268. Context JD.
- (64) Base sherd with decayed rounded splay and internal thick brown glaze. BPT 265. Context HJ.
- (65) Large footed pipkin with speckled brown internal glaze. BPT 265. Context JH.
- (66) Fragment of rolled back rim. Probably a bowl. Good green glaze internally. BPT 265. Context HJ.
- (67) Small slip decorated bowl. Amber glaze. BPT 276. Context HJ.
- (68) Pitcher rim. Grooved externally, internal green glaze. BPT 96. Context GL.
- (69) Rim of finger-slipped bowl. Heavy external soot. BPT 285. Context KT.
- (70) Small slip-decorated bowl. BPT 276. Context EO/KT.

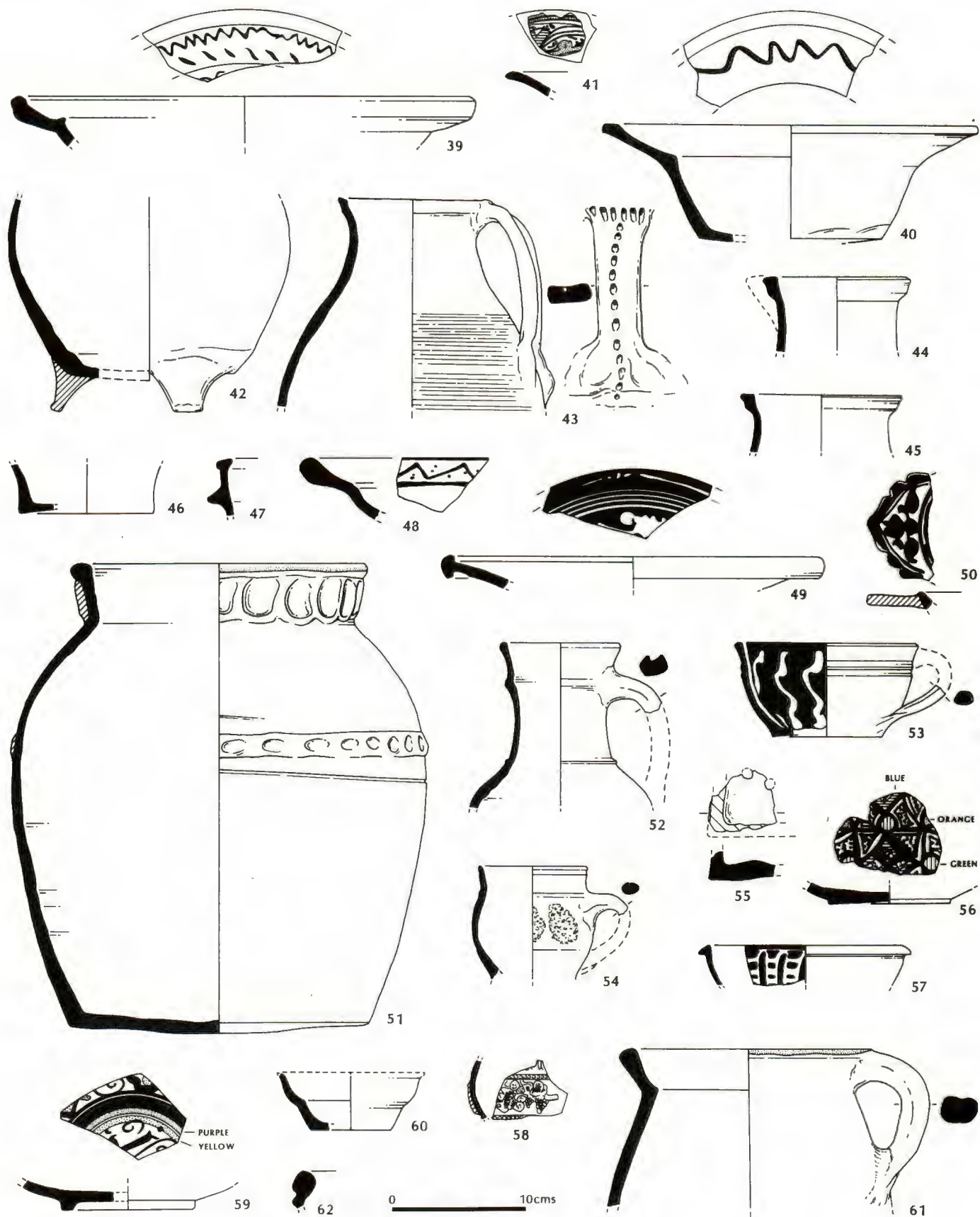


Fig. 26 Medieval and post-medieval pottery. Groups 3-15.



Fig. 27 Medieval and post-medieval pottery. Groups 15-27.

- (71) Small slip-decorated bowl with twin external grooves. BPT 98. Context LP.
- (72) Footring base of a tin-glazed vessel with blue decoration. Probably Portuguese. BPT 345. Context KT.
- (73) Rim of a deep bowl with green and brown decoration and decayed lead glaze. BPT 315A. Context JJ.

Groups 16-18

- (74) Rim of a slip-coated dish with amber glaze. BPT 265. Context HN/HW.
- (75) Bowl rim with amber internal glaze. BPT 197. Context DY.
- (76) Shallow slip-decorated dish. Pierced for hanging. Donyatt. BPT 276. Context HW.
- (77) Rounded splayed base of a black-glazed cup. BPT 269. Context EB.

Groups 25-27

- (78) Rounded splay jug base. BPT 118. Context XO.
- (79) Dish with poorly applied finger slip. BPT 98. Context FX.
- (80) Rim and handle of a jug with faint vertical combing. Unusual vessel. BPT 46. Context WB/WC.
- (81) Slip decorated bowl. Donyatt. BPT 276. Context FX.
- (82) Upper body profile of a pitcher with thin external green glaze. BPT 18. Context XM.
- (83) Jug rim with yellow green glaze. BPT 342. Context FM.
- (84) Small slip and sgraffito decorated dish with copper staining in slip. BPT 284. Context FX.
- (85) Large parrot-beak spout with thickened cord and lug below pouring lip. There appears to be a bib glaze. French. BPT 306. Context TN.
- (86) Lid fragment in a red firing clay with marbled slip externally. BPT 331. Context FM.
- (87) Jar rim with folded and pinched bucket handle. Amber glaze over a white slip. BPT 280. Context FX.
- (88) Bowl rim. BPT 112A. North Devon. Context FX.
- (89) Small bowl with rolled back rim, probably Wanstrow. BPT 96. Context FX.

Fig. 28.

- (90) Rectangular, straight-sided vessel with patchy green glaze. BPT 27. Context GV.
- (91) Rim of straight-sided bowl. The rim is upturned to form a lid seating. Thick brown glaze internally with external sooting. BPT 265. Context FM.
- (92) Lower profile of a biconical jug or cup decorated above the waist with grooves. BPT 197. Context LG/LH.
- (93) Flower vase in allover tin-glaze with blue and yellow decoration. South Netherlands. BPT 344A. Context LM.
- (94) Yellow-ware rim decorated with trailed brown slip and pellets. BPT 101A. Context HD.

- (95) Rim of a small ?bowl. The badly discoloured tin-glaze is turquoise in colour along the inner and outer rim edge. Spanish, possibly Andalusian. BPT 300. Context LM.
- (96) Jug with simple, internally bevelled rim with strap handle and thumbled neck and girth strip. Thin haphazard glaze. BPT 118L. Context FV.
- (97) Tall jug with thumbled neck band and plain strap handle. The body is decorated with wide grooves and patchy green glaze. BPT 118L. Context FV.
- (98) Plain jug with pulled spout and undecorated strap handle. The glaze does not reach the rim or base. BPT 118L. Context FV.
- (99) Lower part of a jug. BPT 118L. Context FV.
- (100) Base and lower body of squat jug decorated with a thumbled girth strip, grooves to upper body and flecked green glaze. BPT 254. Context FV.
- (101) Saintonge jug. Unglazed except for a bib of flecked green glaze. BPT 160. Context FV.
- (102) Jug with simple rim and pulled spout and undecorated strap handle. BPT 118L. Context FV.
- (103) Jug with flaring collar rim and slashed strap handle. Base lightly thumbled. Patchy thin green glaze to the upper body. To the right of the handle is a mark of crossed lines. BPT 84. Context FV.
- (104) Footed base of pipkin. Traces of internal glaze. BPT 197. Context HK.

Groups 29-31

- (105) Fragment of face spout with dark green contrast colour. BPT 118. Context FZ.
- (106) Cup in white salt-glaze stoneware with scratch blue decoration. BPT 179. Context FR.
- (107) Fragment of roof finial. Context KG.
- (108) Bowl or dish base in polychrome tin-glaze. BPT 99B. Context MB.
- (109) Bearded bridge spout with rim decoration in the form of thumbled-back pads. BPT 118. Context QR.
- (110) Footed base sherd, foot is unusual in having hole through centre. BPT 118. Context NS.
- (111) Cow horn from an aquamanile. Traces of brown and yellow glaze. BPT 120. Context NS.

Fig. 29.

- (112) Bowl rim of unusual type. BPT 46. Context NS.
- (113) Colander with green glaze over a white slip. BPT 280. Context SJ.
- (114) Open-work six-sided chafing dish. The decoration is in diamond segments with pierced leaf-shaped holes within, and a medallion bearing an eagle glazed in yellow. BPT 348. Context SK.
- (115) Louvre fragment with triangular cutouts. BPT 118. Context UA.

Groups 16-18 composite

- (116) Panel jug depicting the Three Kings adoration of Jesus. Late 16th century. Raeren. BPT 287. Context HS/HW.

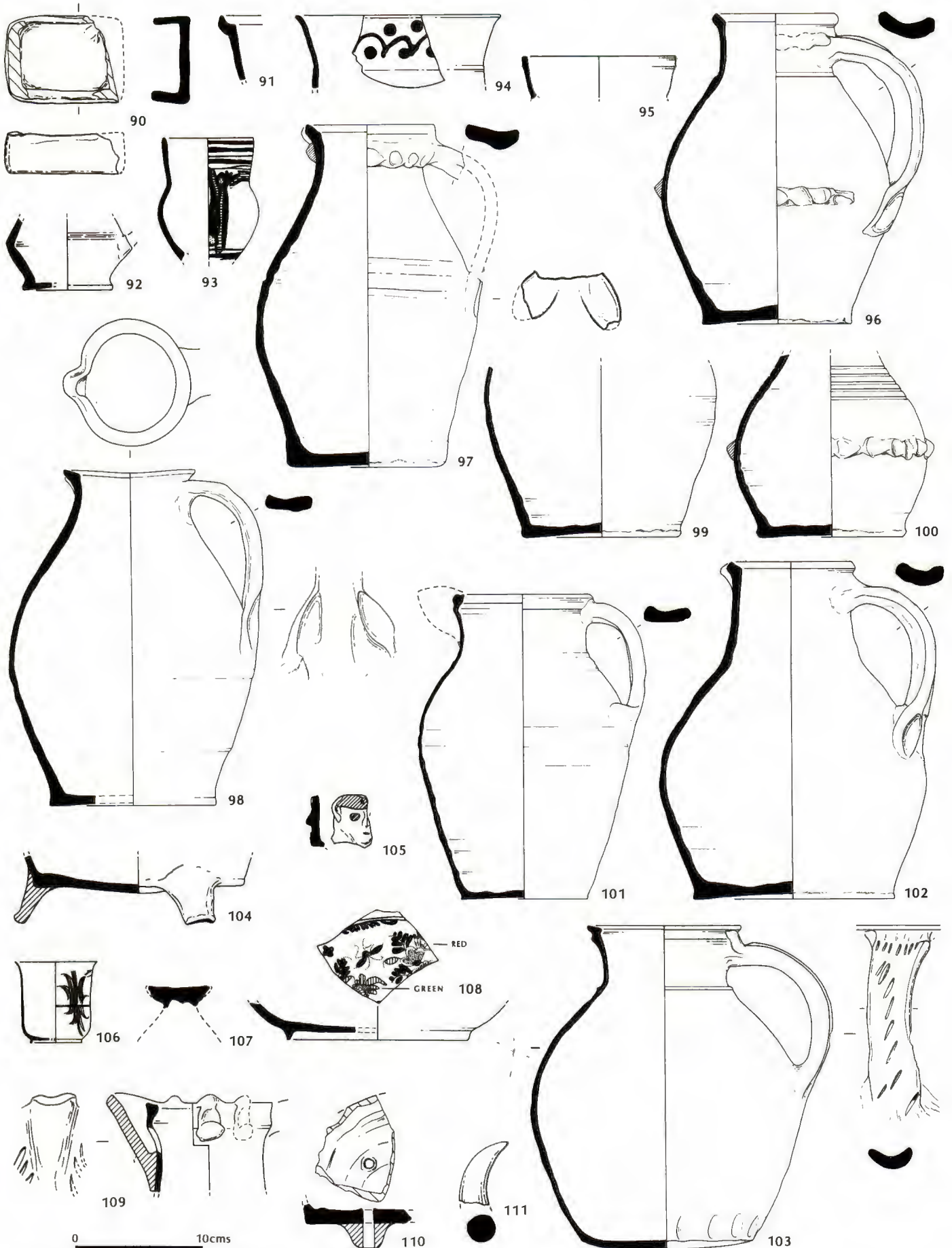


Fig. 28 Medieval and post-medieval pottery. Groups 25-31.

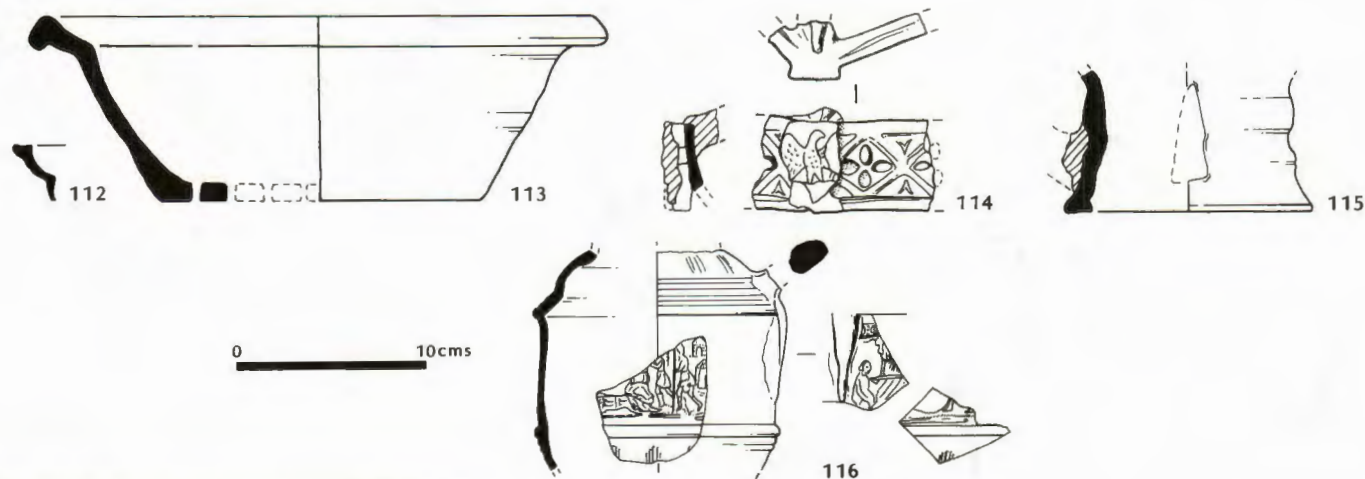


Fig. 29 Medieval and post-medieval pottery.

THE FLOOR TILES by G L Good & P L Fettes

A number of fragments of both plain and decorated floor tiles were found throughout the site, though none was in its original position. There were, however, three tiles (2 of no. 4 and 1 of no. 23) which had been re-used and were found in situ in a floor of phase II of the vicarage, B3.

The plain tiles were manufactured in squares of side c.120-130mm, and often had a white slip beneath the mottled green and amber glaze. They were generally bevelled at the sides, and most were unkeyed. Often smaller square, rectangular, or triangular tiles were made by splitting a standard sized tile. This was done by cutting the standard tile to about half its thickness when the clay was leather hard, and later, generally after firing, snapping the smaller tiles apart.

The majority of the decorated tiles were probably of 14th century date and had an inlaid decoration filled with white-firing clay. The later tiles, of 15th century date, were imprinted by applying the white clay to the decorative stamp for transference to the tile. The earlier examples were normally larger than the later ones and were usually keyed whereas the later tiles were not. The fabric of the tiles was very variable and was not generally considered to have any meaningful significance, since there were a number of examples of tiles manufactured from the same stamp occurring in completely different fabrics.

All of the designs of the decorated tiles were of fairly common types, and most of them have a number of direct parallels, i.e. tiles made from the same stamp, from several different sites in the Bristol area which are housed in the City Museum, particularly in groups from the Lord Mayor's Chapel and from the Carmelite Friary. There are also some examples of broken stamps having been joined together again for continued use, e.g. nos. 1 & 18.

CATALOGUE

The tiles are catalogued in groups according to the type of design. Unless otherwise stated the designs are inlaid and the tiles are keyed. In the drawings, where the complete tile was not found, reconstructions from fragments found

throughout the excavation have been drawn as though part of the same tile. Solid lines show continuation of the designs from tiles made from the same stamp found on different sites (examples of which are too numerous to list in this report), and dotted lines the likely continuation of a design where it is not certain. All are 14th century unless otherwise stated.

Fig. 30.

Heraldic

- (1) Shield set diagonally on the tile with foliate sprays at the top and sides. Arms of three lions passant gardant — those of England. Stamp broken.
- (2) Shield set diagonally with foliate decoration at the top and sides. Arms of a lion rampant facing sinister — probably an error.
- (3) Fragment with shield set diagonally with foliate decoration at top and sides. Arms of a lion rampant facing dexter.
- (4) Shield set diagonally with foliate decoration at top and sides. Arms of a maunche — possibly meant to be those of Hastings or de Toni, but reversed. Two complete examples found re-used in situ in one of the phase II floors of the vicarage, B3.
- (5) Shield set diagonally with pierced trefoils at the top and sides. Arms of three legs conjoined at the thigh with quatrefoils between — similar to those of the Isle of Man.
- (6) Shield set diagonally with trefoils joined to top and sides. Arms of a chevron between ten crosses — probably those of Berkeley.
- (7) Fragment showing a shield set squarely on the tile. The arms show part of a chevron over a fesse — complete arms probably a fesse between two chevrons, possibly those of Fitzwalter.
- (8) Fragment of rectangular tile containign the right half of a shield, probably bearing the arms of Fitzwalter as no. 7.

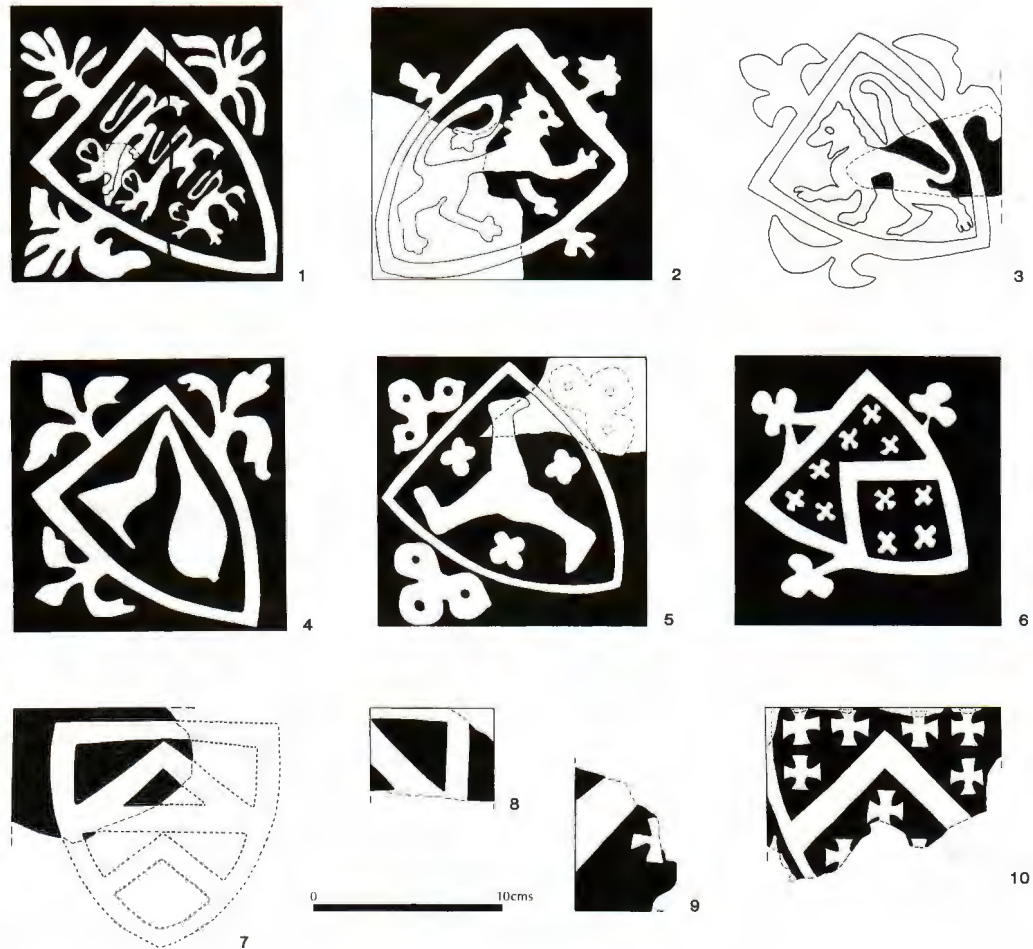


Fig. 30 Floor tiles with heraldic decoration.

- (9) Fragment showing part of a chevron and a cross, possibly part of Berkeley arms not set in a shield.
- (10) Shield set squarely on tile. Arms probably of Berkeley as in 6. Not keyed. 15th century.

Fig. 31.

Geometric

- (11) Two tiles from a sixteen-tile design consisting of a ring of twenty encircled quatrefoils between & 12) concentric circles, with fleurs-de-lis at the corners of the pattern. Within the circles is the start possibly of an interlaced circle design, but it is not certain what form of pattern the four central tiles of the design would have taken.
- (12) Tile from a four-tile pattern consisting of four concentric circles with fleurs-de-lis outside and four encircled quatrefoils inside.
- (13) Fragment showing part of a chevron and a cross, possibly part of Berkeley arms not set in a shield.
- (14) Pentagonal tile from an octagonal four-tile pattern consisting of four fleur-de-lis type designs with swans' heads as petals. These are enclosed within double arches with quatrefoils between the arches and the whole is enclosed within a pierced circular band. Made from a square tile with the corner cut off. A square tile made from the same stamp and recovered from the Lord Mayor's Chapel (BRSMG: Q1811) has a quatrefoil in an arc of a circle in the missing corner.
- (15) Fragment from a four-tile design consisting of two parallel bands, with a series of dots between, forming a rosette shape, with fleurs-de-lis radiating to the corners of the pattern. Not keyed. 15th century.
- (16) Fragment of triangular tile with two lines with leaf shapes attached radiating from one corner, and part of a floriated design between the lines. Not keyed.



Fig. 31 Floor tiles with geometric, pictorial and other decoration.

Pictorial

- (17) Tile showing a horse galloping to the left with a helmeted rider carrying a sword. A lined border runs along the edges of the tile.
- (18) Fragments from a tile with a stag running to the right with a tree cutting the body. Stamp broken in two places.
- (19) Tile showing a unicorn facing to the right, apparently fighting with another unicorn. Tree in the background.
- (20) Fragment showing possibly the hind leg of an animal facing right.

Others

- (21) Fragment of a tile showing a decorated circle enclosing a tree separating two parrot-like birds, bodies facing outwards but heads turned inwards, apparently pecking at the tree. What appears to be a seed held in the beak of the bird on the left is the result of a break in the stamp.
- (22) Tile with foliate decoration showing a branch with three leaves each consisting of three trefoils. Not keyed.
- (23) Tile showing a fleur-de-lis, with stamens, set diagonally on the tile. Complete example found re-used in situ in one of the phase II floors of the vicarage, B3. 15th century.

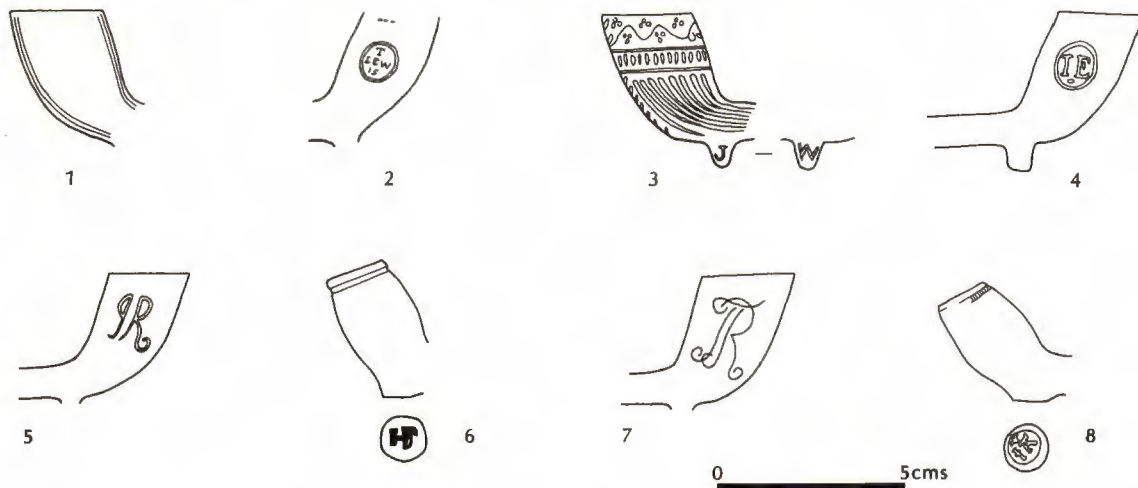


Fig. 32 The Clay tobacco-pipes.

THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPES by R & P Jackson

Although clay pipes were recovered from a number of layers, only a few of these were well stratified. For this reason only the illustrated pipes are catalogued here. A full report on the clay pipes is housed with the site archive. The information and biographical details are taken from Price, Jackson and Jackson (1979).

CATALOGUE (Fig. 32)

- (1) Early 19th century. Decorated with four lines in relief on the front and back of the bowl. Examples from layer AE.
- (2) Late 17th century. 'T LEWIS' within a circle in relief on side of bowl. Probably Thomas Lewis I who was free in 1685 and was still alive in 1695. Examples from layer AV.
- (3) Early 19th century. Initials 'JW' on either side of spur. Probably made by the White family who were working during the first half of the 19th century. Examples from layer AV.
- (4) c.1780-1820. Initials 'IE' in relief within circle on side of bowl. Probably Joseph Edwards II of Temple Street, free in 1774 and died c.1823. Examples from layers AX, CB, CG.
- (5) Early 19th century. Initials 'JR' in relief on side of bowl. Possibly made by John Ring & Co. who were working from 1803-1818. Examples from layer CB.
- (6) Mid 17th century. Initials 'HP' incuse on heel. Probably Humphrey Partridge, free 1650, 'late of Bristol' 1654. Examples from layer EP.
- (7) Late 18th/early 19th century. Initials 'JR' on side of bowl. Possibly made by John Ring & Co. Examples from layer ES.
- (8) Mid 17th century. Initials 'IA' in relief on heel. Possibly John Abbot, free 1651 and still working in 1694. Examples from layer EW.

THE METALWORK AND OTHER NON-CERAMIC ARTIFACTS

by G L Good

A large number of 'small finds' found during the excavation are not included here. These are mainly iron nails, bronze pins and ferrules, and other finds which are common and of standard forms. The catalogue also excludes unstratified material, with the exception of no. 26, and finds from contexts of 19th century or later date. Fragments which were unidentifiable and which could not be drawn clearly have also been left out.

CATALOGUE

Fig. 33

Iron Objects

- (1) Fitting consisting of a circular loop of round cross-section, with flattened ends rivetted together. BWL 71 PP. SF1448. Garden Area: Hospitaller occupation. 14th century.
- (2) Shoe of a narrow spade or similar digging tool. BWL 71 ZED. SF1220. B1: Phase III. Late 16th century.
- (3) Part of curved plate with rivet. All edges broken. BWL 71 QT. SF1530. Vicarage garden: P136. 14th century.
- (4) Door key with symmetrical bit. BWL 71 NR. SF773. Garden Area: Hospitaller occupation. 14th century.
- (5) Part of knife. BWL 71 ZFC. SF2018. B1: Phase II.1. 15th century.
- (6) Part of knife or dagger blade. BWL 71 ZEN. SF1211. B1: Phase I. 14th century.
- (7) Double-sided buckle. BWL 71 ZCJ. SF1617. B1: Phase II.2. Early 16th century.

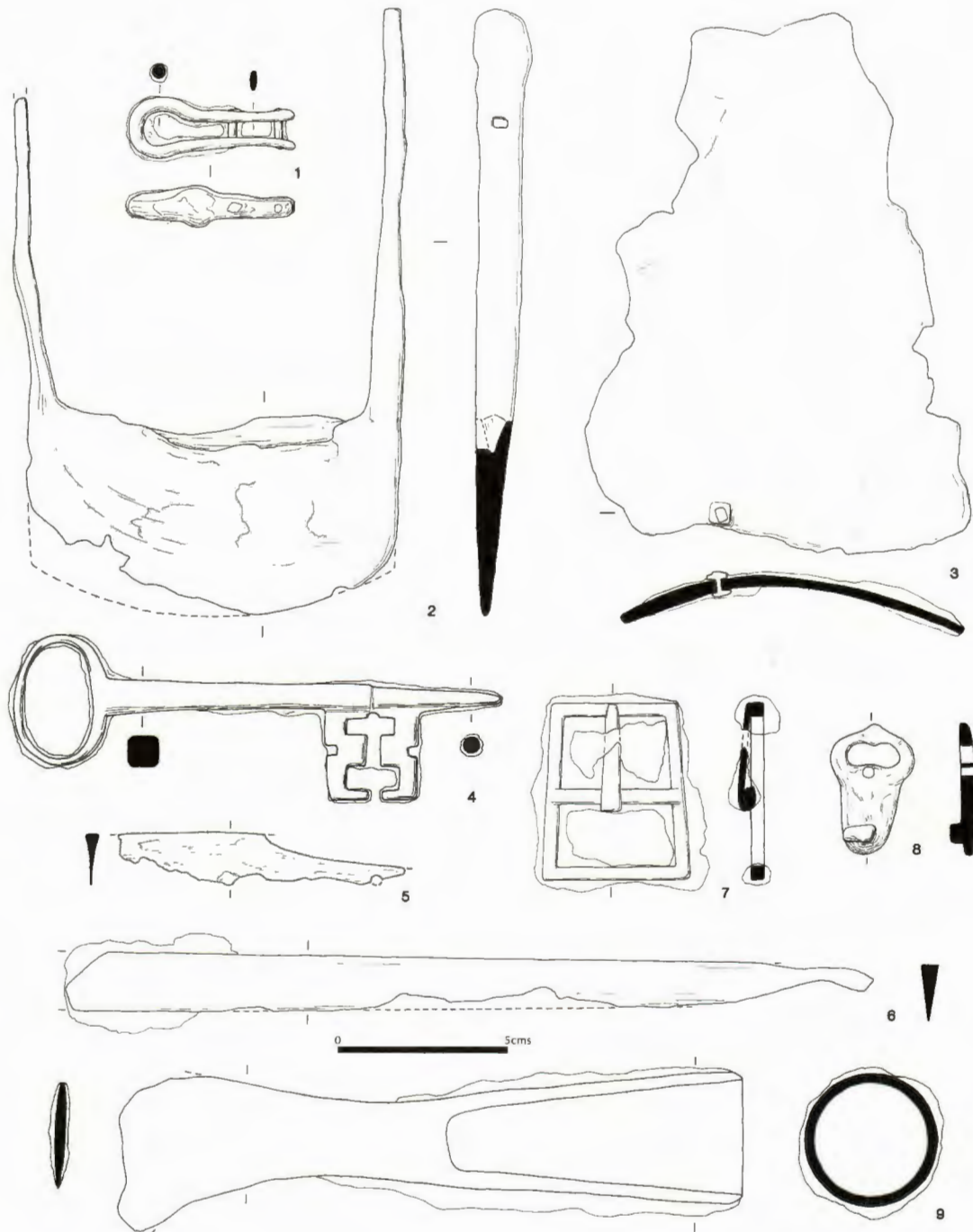


Fig. 33 Metalwork (objects of iron)

- (8) Strap-end buckle. BWL 71 ZFC. SF2016. B1: Phase II.1. 15th century.
- (9) Part of a socketted bill-hook. BWL 71 NR. SF772. Garden Area: Hospitaller occupation. 14th century.

Fig. 34

Iron/Copper-alloy Objects

- (10) Iron knife handle overlain with decorated copper-

- alloy plates. BWL 71 ZBL. SF170. B1: Phase IV. W4 rob. 17th century.
- (11) Part of iron knife blade with decorated copper-alloy band at base of grip. BWL 71 ZDT. SF2128. B1: Phase II.1. 15th century.

Copper-alloy Objects

- (12) Elaborate hook fastener made of wire looped and folded over, and bound together with thinner wire. Attached to loops at the opposite end from the

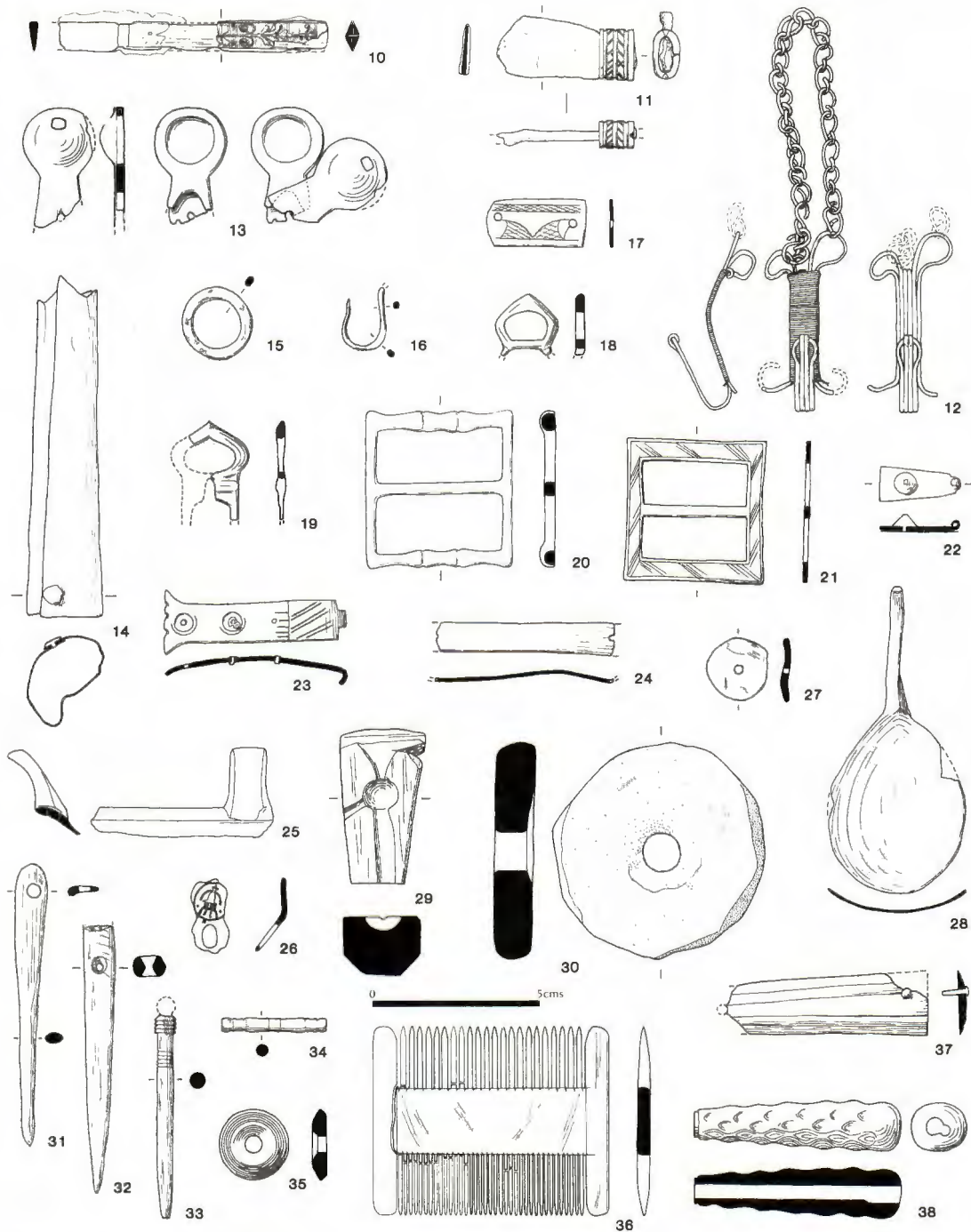


Fig. 34 Metalwork (objects of iron/bronze, bronze, lead and pewter) and artifacts of stone and bone.

hook is a chain with links of wire. BWL 71 OS. SF660. B3: Phase II? P113. 15th-16th century.

- (13) Object of uncertain purpose, consisting of a flat ring with a forked extension, broken just beyond the start of the fork. This is attached to a thin plate with the same external shape, and with a rivet hole at the broken end. On the opposite side is another thin plate, again with the same external shape, and with a rivet hole, but domed above the hole of the ring. There is also a square hole in the side of the dome, opposite the extension. This plate was loose

and came free from the rest of the object. It is not certain whether both plates were meant to be loose (i.e. the flat plate was secured only by corrosion) and to swivel about the rivet, or whether the rivet secured the three components together and attached them to some other material set in the fork of the central component. BWL 71 NR. SF775. Garden Area: Hospitaller occupation. 14th century.

- (14) Sheet of copper-alloy rolled into a tube, with the edges attached at one end by a copper-alloy rivet.

- Opposite the rivet at the same end is another rivet hole. BWL 71 WT. SF1740. Vicarage garden: Bronze-working period. 14th-15th century.
- (15) Ring. BWL 71 ED. SF459. Garden Area: G18. 17th century.
- (16) Hook, possibly for fishing. BWL 71 UN. SF910. B1: Phase IV. P156. 17th century.
- (17) Small plate with incised decoration on one side, and two rivet holes. BWL 71 NG. SF556. Garden Area: Hospitaller occupation. Late 14th century.
- (18) Strap-end buckle. BWL 71 QT. SF1532. Vicarage garden? P:136. 14th century.
- (19) Strap-end buckle. BWL 71 UZ. SF1134. B4: Phase I. 15th century.
- (20) Double-sided buckle. BWL 71 ZBR. SF1133. B3: Phase II. 15th-16th century.
- (21) Double-sided buckle decorated with incised lines. BWL 71 WP. SF1184. B1: Phase IV. 17th century.
- (22) Fitting consisting of two plates roughly in the shape of elongated triangles, held together with a conical-headed rivet. The narrow end of the upper, thicker plate is trimmed to make it still narrower and folded over into a loop or hinge. BWL 71 ZAL. SF1465. B1: Phase II.2. Early 16th century.
- (23) Book clasp with three rivets. Incised decoration around rivet holes and at hinge end. BWL 71 WY. SF1098. B1: Phase IV. 17th century.
- (24) Binding strip broken off at both ends at the position of rivet holes. BWL 71 XU. SF1702. B1: Phase IV. 17th century.
- (25) Part of rim and lug of a chafing dish. BWL 71 ED. Garden Area: G18. 17th century.

Other Metals

- (26) Lead cloth seal with privy mark. BWL 71 CK. SF96. Garden Area: Gardening Layer.
- (27) Lead disc with central hole. BWL 71 RQ. SF822. Vicarage garden: Bronze-working period. 14th-15th century.
- (28) Bowl and stem of pewter spoon. BWL 71 NR. SF770. Garden Area: Hospitaller occupation. 14th century.

Stone Objects

- (29) Part of a mould of fine-grained sandy limestone possibly for casting metal pins. BWL 71 WP. SF1734. B1: Phase IV. 17th century.
- (30) Circular disc of pennant sandstone with central hole. Probably a weight. BWL 71 ZDT. SF2134. B1: Phase II.1. 15th century.

Bone Objects

- (31) Needle. BWL 71 ED. SF456. Garden Area: G18. 17th century.
- (32) Needle. BWL 71 ZDN. SF1182. B4: Phase I. 15th century.

- (33) Ivory pin. Circular head missing. Shaft decorated with incised lines and ridges. Scorched at pointed end, actual point broken, or possibly cut off. BWL 71 ZAZ. B3: Phase II. 15th-16th century.
- (34) Cylindrical object with turned decoration. BWL 71 NE. SF1488. B3: Phase IV. 17th century.
- (35) Circular object (possibly a button) with central hole concentric ridges towards the edge. BWL 71 OA. SF2245. B1: Phase IV/V. P109 infill. 18th century.
- (36) Comb with two different sizes of teeth. BWL 71 OK. SF1160. B1: Phase III/IV. G20 infill. 17th century.
- (37) Part of knife handle with iron rivet. BWL 71 RC. SF1807. Garden Area: Hospitaller occupation. Early 15th century.
- (38) Knife handle with "dimpled" decoration. BWL 71 SA. SF888. B1: Phase IV. 17th century.

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THE MINSTER HOUSE AT BRISTOL CATHEDRAL — EXCAVATIONS IN 1992

Eric Boore

The proposal to construct an Information and Visitor Centre at Bristol Cathedral early in 1992 led to discussions between the Dean and Chapter and the Field Archaeology Unit at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The new building was linked with proposals by Bristol City Council to pedestrianise the area known as College Green which lies immediately to the north of the Cathedral and to the east of the Council House. The area, until recently, had been bisected by a busy commuter link, Deanery Road, built in the 19th century. One of the stated aims of the City was to create a 'lively pedestrian-orientated environment, an enhanced setting of principal historic buildings and a reinforced sense of place to make College Green one of the most attractive areas of the City Centre to Bristolians and visitors alike.' (Bristol City Council Planning Department – College Green Proposals, 1990).

The proposed Visitor Centre is to be built on the area between the 19th century west front of the Cathedral and the 12th century Abbey Gatehouse (ST 5831 7267). The building would reunite the Norman gateway and gatehouse with the church and precincts of St Augustine's Abbey, now the Cathedral of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. The Abbey was founded in c.1140 by Robert Fitzharding. It was surrendered in 1539 during the Dissolution, and became the Cathedral for Henry VIII's new diocese of Bristol, created in 1542.

A series of meetings took place between the Dean and Chapter, the Cathedral architects, Dr. W. Rodwell, archaeological consultant to the Cathedral, and the Archaeological Unit. This led to the decision to carry out documentary research and a field evaluation of the site.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The documentary evidence consisted of a series of 19th century illustrations including photographs, watercolours, pencil drawings and etchings, many of which are contained in the Braikenridge Collection in the Department of Fine Art in the City Museum and Art Gallery. There is a splendidly detailed plan carried out by Roland W. Paul and published in 1912 (Paul, 1912, Pl. XXXIV) (Fig. 1). The buildings, known as the Minster House, on Paul's plan, between the west end of the Cathedral and the abbey Gatehouse, are

conjectural. They were dated to the 16th century.

The paintings and photographs depict architectural features such as buttresses and windows (Winstone, 1966, 55 and 56). Neither plan or illustrations offered information on the interior of the buildings. The Braikenridge pictures, dating from 1776 to 1843, show various alterations to the buildings including the installation of a large first floor window with Perpendicular tracery, between 1821 and 1823 (Fig. 2)!

The Minster House buildings were constructed over the site of the 14th century abbey *cellarium* on the west side of the cloister. They were probably part of the rebuilding programme carried out by Abbot John Newland or Nailheart (1481-1515) and continued by Abbot Robert Elyot (1515-1526). Minster House stood until 1884 when it and other buildings were demolished prior to the completion of the Cathedral west front by J. L. Pearson in 1888, after the design by G. E. Street. The nave begun by Abbot Newland was demolished between 1539 and 1542. The Cathedral had stood without a nave until work began in 1868. The new nave was opened in 1877 and the west towers completed in 1888.

ASSESSMENT IN 1991

The evaluation which was carried out in November 1991 in the south-east corner of the site was extremely promising, revealing 14th and 15th century walls and contemporary, undisturbed occupation levels (Fig. 1). A report was submitted to the Dean and Chapter (Boore 1991, 9, 43-48). Agreement was then reached early in 1992 to carry out a formal excavation in advance of the construction of the proposed new visitor centre. The full-scale excavations, the first to occur on this historic site, took place in the 450th year after the abbey church became the Cathedral for the new diocese of Bristol in 1542. The evaluation and subsequent excavations were carried out on behalf of the Dean and Chapter with the generous financial support of Gateway Foodmarkets Ltd. through the Bristol Cathedral Trust.

The excavations, which began in April 1992 and lasted for four months, were carried out with a small enthusiastic excavation team, enhanced and supported by a steady stream of volunteers who were a

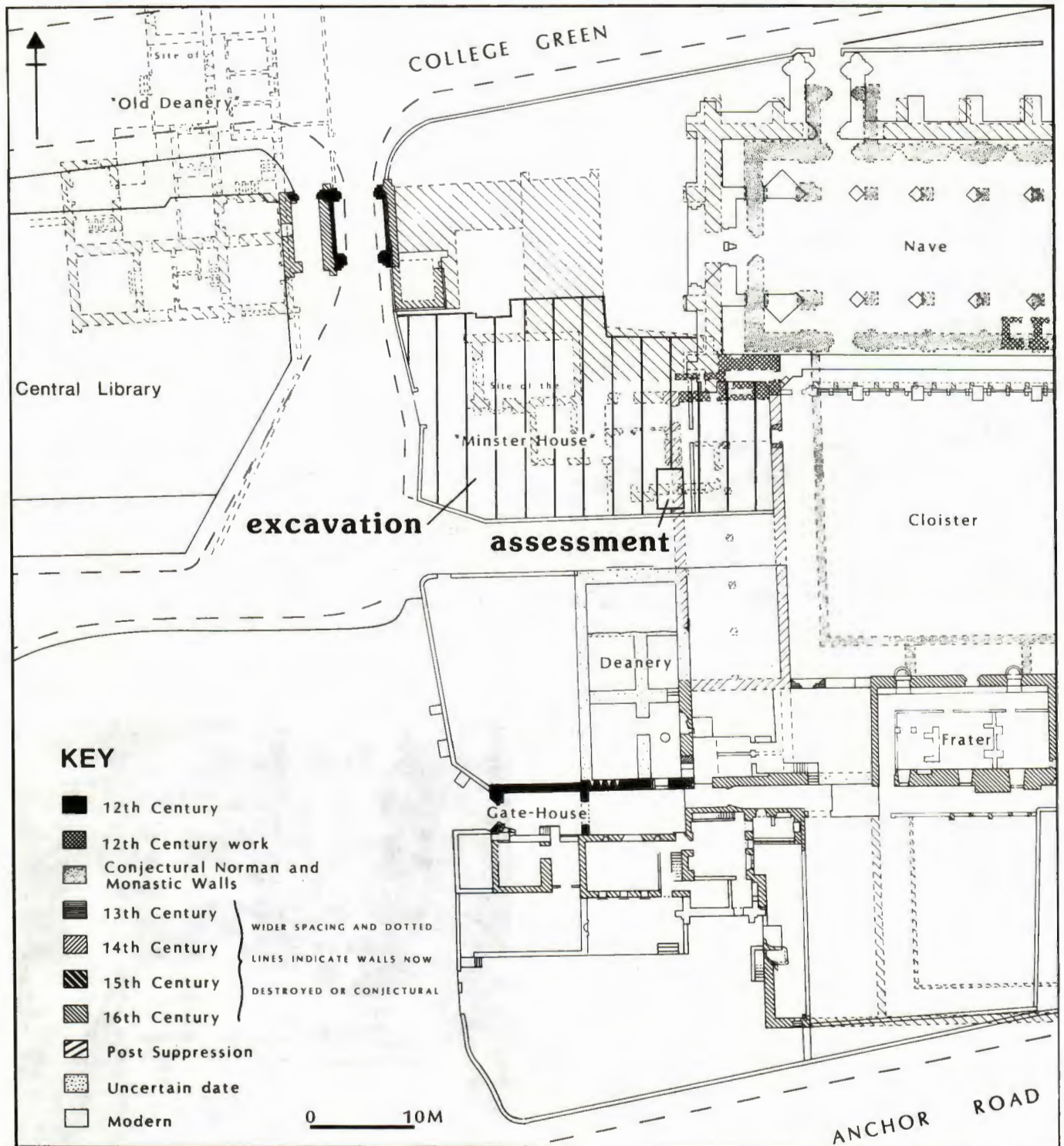


Fig. 1. Site location plan showing the assessment and excavation trench (after R. W. Paul).

considerable help. They included school children, work experience placements, students, retired, unemployed and even employed individuals working during their holidays and, with a European dimension, colleagues from Italy and France.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the excavation were to record all

evidence of earlier monastic remains. This would hopefully contribute new information about the development of the monastic precincts. It would also, by exposing those remains, allow for the foundations and services of the new building to be designed so as to cause the least amount of disturbance. The retrieval of information and finds would also contribute towards a display within the new Visitor Centre.



Fig. 2. The Minster House and the cathedral central tower from the south-west by Hugh O'Neill, 1823 (a pencil and watercolour in the Braikenridge collection, M. 1751, Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery).

EXCAVATIONS IN 1992

The upper levels of the late 19th century make-up were removed by machine and taken away in lorries. The top-soil and local stone was retained on site for later re-use. The excavated earth was removed in two rotating skips as there was no room on site for a spoil-heap. This system functioned reasonably well for most of the time. The site was surrounded by several high buildings which afforded excellent aerial viewing platforms (Fig. 3). This was particularly true of the cathedral south-west tower with a height similar to the central tower of 127' (38.70m), and with many steps (Fig. 4)!

An area of c.650 sq.m. was cleared and, in places, excavated to a depth of between 2.0m and 3.0m (ST 5830 7267) (Fig. 1). There were five main construction periods followed by a demolition and consolidation period in the late 19th, early 20th century (Figs. 5 and 6). The following sequence is provisional.

Period 1 c.12th century

In the north-east corner of the site, south of the 19th century south-west tower and west of the cloister, there was a massive, well-built length of east-west wall and robber trench. It measured 16 x 1.20m and was built of local Brandon Hill Grit. A north-south robber trench at the west end of the wall defined the west extent of the building. Other robbed features to the north of the wall suggested internal partitions. The tentative overall

dimensions of the building are c.18 x 6.0m. It is provisionally identified as a first-floor hall probably serving as the abbot's house and guest-house and located near the south-west corner of the Norman abbey nave. This building was contemporary with the original abbey founded by Robert Fitzharding in c.1140. It may have been constructed at a similar time to the still-used, magnificent Norman Chapter House on the east side of the cloister dated to c.1165, and to the restored Norman gateway further to the west.

The south wall of this building survived for over 700 years and was repeatedly re-used as a boundary wall or as foundations by subsequent structures (Godwin, 1863, 61).

Period 2 c.13th century

In the 13th century a smaller stone building c.7.50 x 6.40m, was built against the west end of the south side of the Norman hall. A silver penny of Henry III (1247-1272) was associated with this second building which is interpreted as a workshop. It may have been used for stone carving. It contained floor levels of oolite chippings and a massive whetstone was also found. A bell-casting pit was discovered 6.0m to the west of the



Fig. 3. Aerial view of Minster House excavations, looking east towards the abbey cloister and the south-west tower of the cathedral west front.

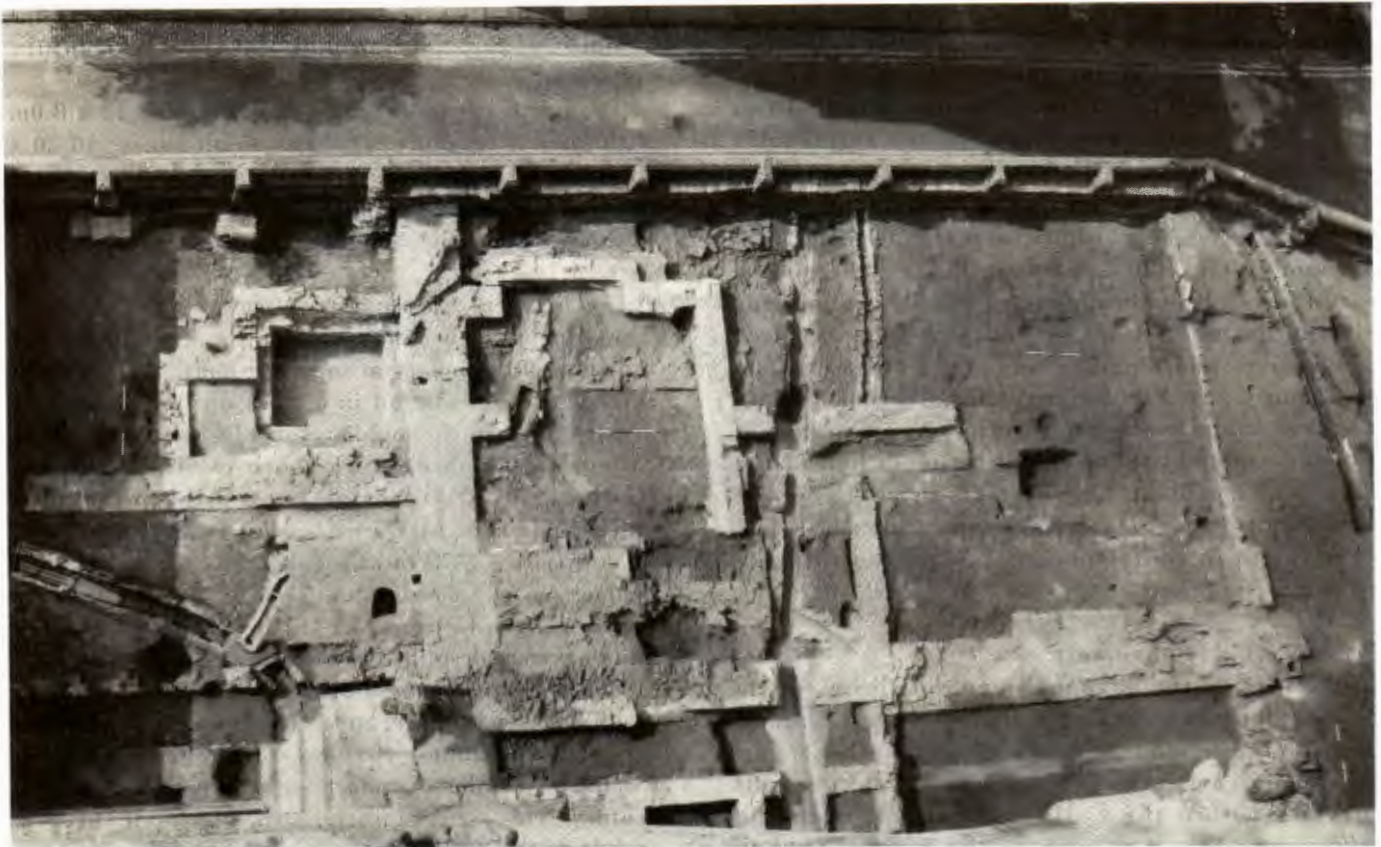


Fig. 4. Aerial view of the site showing all of the monastic and cathedral buildings which date from the 12th to the 19th century (from the south-west tower of the cathedral west front).

workshop measuring 6.60 x 2.20 x 1.16m. It contained a circular stone base at its west end, 1.30m in diameter, sub-divided into quadrants. Many fragments of bell-mould were recovered. A bell dated c.1300 still hangs in the central tower (pers comm M. Smith).

The existence of workshops in the late 13th and early 14th centuries coincides with a major rebuilding of the east end of the church undertaken by Abbot Edmund Knowle (1306-1332). It began in 1298 with the construction of the Eastern Lady Chapel and culminated with the completion of chancel and aisles of equal height and on the south side the Berkeley Chapel. The work on the chancel and aisles has been described as that of 'genius' and 'superior to any thing else built in England and indeed in Europe at the same time.' (Pevsner, 1958, 358 and 372).

Also at this time a complex system of stone drains with several reductions in level, led in a zig-zag pattern, across the south-east area of the site towards the main cloister garth. The bases of the drains were made from re-used, wasted, rectangular ceramic roof-tiles. The tiles may have been made using the local clays. A water feature which survived in the cloister in the 17th century was described as 'a fayre Conduit of Free-stone, and leads, with many Spouts which continually runs, and

waters all the Colledge, with that sweet Rockwater.' (Wickham Legg 1904, 95).

Period 3 c.14th century

Later in the 14th century the workshop was demolished and a large stone building was constructed along the west side of the cloister and against the south side of the east end of the Norman hall. Only the north half of this building was exposed which measured 11.40 x 11.0m. The south extent was destroyed by the present day road leading into the cloister, constructed in the 19th century, and the 17th century Deanery now part of the Cathedral School. The overall dimensions of this claustral west range, which represent the abbey *cellarium*, the main storehouse of the abbey, was c.30 x 11.0m The rebuilt east wall still stands and contains a much eroded moulded doorway with a corbel on its internal east face.

The west wall of the *cellarium*, discovered initially in the evaluation, measured 10.30 x 1.34m and contained 3 external buttresses. They were associated with contemporary stone-built drains. The drains contained re-used window tracery in their construction. The earlier conduit drains were carefully maintained. At the junction of the north end of the *cellarium* west wall and

the Norman hall south wall, there may have been an external stairway to the *cellarium* upper floor, possibly the new guest-house for the abbey.

The ground floor of the *cellarium* revealed two phases. The earlier was defined by two rectangular stone plinth bases placed across the central axis of the building. The south-west corner of the south plinth was built with a moulding comprising a plain chamfer with bar stop in Old Red Sandstone. Both of the plinths would have probably supported double columns for carrying the upper floor. The *cellarium* floor was made of Pennant Sandstone flagstones cut by narrow slots suggesting internal timber partitions. The north plinth base was subsequently replaced by an east-west wall which completely sub-divided the north half of the *cellarium*. The area to the west appears to have been used for gardening. Many fragments of inscribed slate were found in contemporary association with the *cellarium* (see below).

Period 4 c.15th-16th century

In this period the nave and much of the monastic quarters including the Frater along the south range of the main cloister and the Lesser Cloister further south, were under construction. The Frater or refectory still survives within the Cathedral School. Both the *cellarium* and the west extent of the Norman building were demolished. The so-called Minster House or

Prior's Lodgings range were then constructed over the remains of the Norman hall and the 14th century *cellarium*.

The north range was a 2-storey building 12 x 8.0m with later extensions east. The south range, 10.20 x 11.0m, overlay the *cellarium* and was divided into three rooms. The buildings contained a well-constructed drainage system complete with outside garderobe-toilet.

Period 5 c.17th-19th century

The Minster House may have, in part, replaced the functions of the *cellarium* and guest-house and provided further accommodation in a more up-to-date style of architecture. In the middle of the 18th century a lady called Mary Robinson was born in Minster House (Hutton, 1907, 254). She became a well-known actress and was painted by Gainsborough as 'Perdita' from Shakespeare's 'A Winter's Tale'. She was a friend of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and also, for a while, mistress to the future George IV. In the 19th century the buildings were described as Prebendal Houses.

The Minster House buildings experienced many modifications and alterations during their continuous occupation of almost 400 years. One such innovation was the installation of underfloor heating in the 18th-19th century. This system incorporated a series of channels and ducts taking heat throughout the building, perhaps in a similar manner to that described at Soho House in

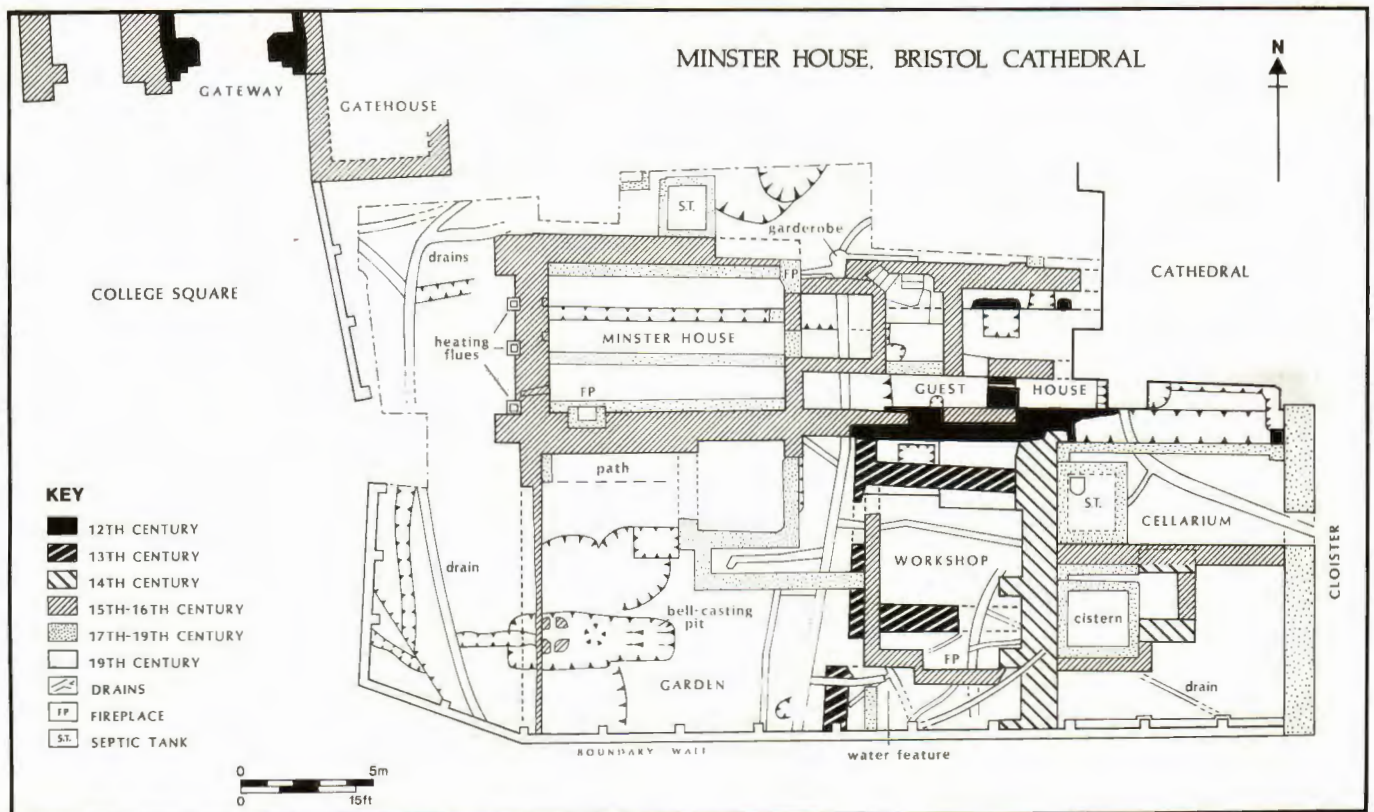


Fig. 5. Plan of walls and features of all periods.

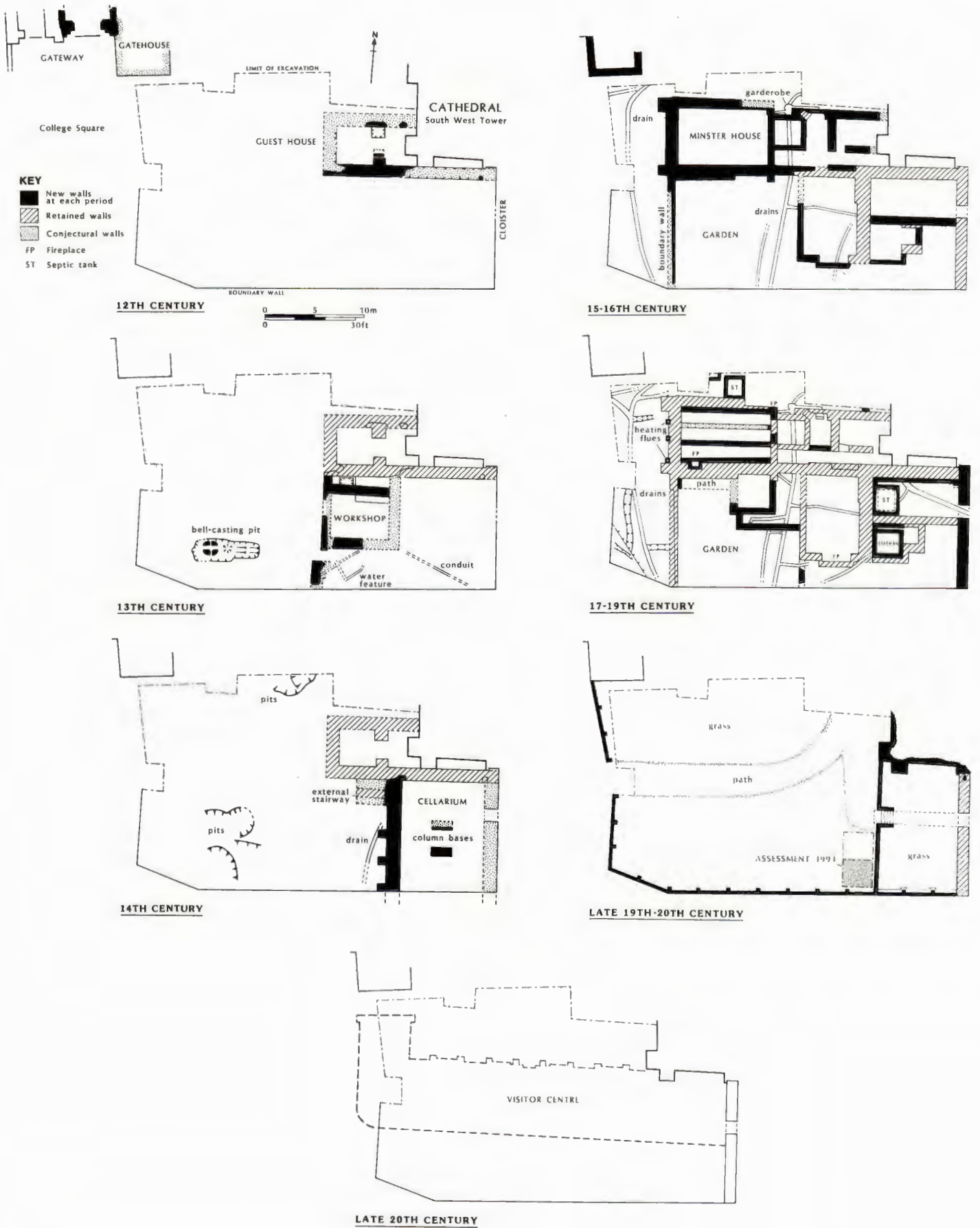


Fig. 6. Development plan of the monastic and cathedral buildings.

Handsworth near Birmingham (Morris 1992, 55, 3).

The areas to the south and west of Minster House were used as gardens. There were floral or herb borders along the south and west walls which were defined and confined by upright stone slabs set in the garden soil. Further west, beyond the garden boundary wall, there were many, north-south running, stone drains dating from the 15th century. They carried water down to the Marsh and the river Avon south of the abbey. The drains were well-maintained, some were subsequently replaced with brick construction and eventually with stoneware pipes which followed the original medieval stone courses.

In addition to the replacement of drains, installation of fire-places and various changes in use for rooms within Minster House, there were large stone structures newly built below ground. These well-constructed features were found north of Minster House and two in the area east, near the cloister. They were probably septic tanks though one to the east may have served as a water cistern. It measured 3.20 x 2.70 x 1.60m.

All of the Minster House buildings and earlier structures were demolished in 1884, much of the demolition rubble being used to level up the ground surface between the Cathedral west front and the abbey gatehouse. The area was then consolidated as an open space and given over to grass and pathways. The site was totally excavated to the level of the natural Mercian Mudstone and the underlying Quartzitic Sandstone. The bell-pit, at its east end was not fully excavated. As well as revealing an intensive sequence of building and rebuilding in an area which was a busy thoroughfare between the gatehouse and the cloister, a considerable quantity of finds were recovered.

FINDS

A large amount of animal bone and shell were found. The animal bone has suggested a high standard of diet. Oysters were common and recorded in association with mussels, cockles and whelks. A considerable quantity of medieval ceramic roof-tiles accounted for most of the finds in the *cellarium* demolition levels in the 15th century. The use of ceramic roof-tiles as opposed to the more usual locally derived, Pennant Sandstone tiles is, perhaps, a further reflection of the wealth of the abbey. Fragments of decorated medieval floor-tiles included those with the rebus of Abbot Newland or Nailheart, a pierced and bleeding heart, as decoration.

Amongst the coins were a penny of Henry III (1247-1272), jettons of the 15th and 16th century from France and the Rhineland, coins of Charles II (1660-1685) and William III (1694-1702) and a farthing of Victoria dated 1881. Architectural fragments which dated from the 12th century, consisted of window fragments and voussoirs, some bearing later graffiti. Vessel glass of the 17th-18th century and much 19th century leaded window glass were found along with many clay tobacco pipes, including a highly decorated bowl and stem made

in Gouda, Holland which depicts a figure of Emperor Frederick the Great of Prussia (1740-1786) (pers comm R. Jackson).

Pierced oyster shells may represent Pilgrim badges. A decorated worked bone, handle fragment, from a post-medieval context, contained possible niello inlay while an ivory toothbrush is inscribed 'G. JONES REGISTERED 10 SEP 1844'. There was a large quantity of bell-mould fragments and some copper-alloy waste. Pottery dated from the 12th-19th centuries. It included Ham Green and Redcliffe wares of c.12th-14th centuries. Post-medieval pottery was well-represented with a fine example of a 16th century Cologne stoneware mug or tankard, decorated with a voluptuous lady, and part of a 'Toft' type slipware plate of the 17th century. Biscuit-fired earthenware and a trivet may have come from the early 18th century tin-glazed earthenware potteries in Limekiln Lane further to the west (Jackson et al 1991, 25, 89-114).

Some of the most intriguing finds are fragments of medieval and post-medieval inscribed slate (Fig. 7). The medieval pieces were associated with the *cellarium*. One piece depicts a figure with large moustaches, perhaps the cellarer or a teacher complete with possible stylus in his right hand. The other side contained part of an alphabet and possibly the word 'Bristol'. Other pieces appeared to represent inventories of goods or stores perhaps in the *cellarium*. These tally-slates were scored with parallel horizontal lines which were then crossed with short vertical strokes divided by a circle symbol into groups of eight.

These may reflect quantities measured in stones, gallons, bushels or quarts, perhaps of produce delivered to the abbey from the monastic farms, granges and mills. Quarts of barley, wheat and oats are all mentioned in the late 15th century manorial accounts for the abbey (Sabin, 1960, 204).

One tally-slate even contains a possible sketch of a single-masted ship, perhaps a trow, lighter or cog (Fig. 8). Such a vessel may have brought the supplies to the abbey up the river Avon to the south or the river Frome on the east. Similar ships are shown plying the rivers on Hoefnagle's plan of Bristol dated 1581 and Millerd's plan of the 'cittie' of 1673.

SUMMARY

During the excavations many guided tours were given for groups of visitors including tourists, school parties, other council departments and the public in general. An Open Day on site which offered regular tours and a display of the finds, was well attended. The excavations featured in one of the Museum Summer Walks which also included the Cathedral and the Lord Mayor's Chapel. This event attracted up to 200 people. A free information leaflet was available as were site display boards which illustrated some of the documentary evidence as well as the progress of the excavation.

A film of the College Green area was made to



Fig. 7. The inscribed slate c.14th-15th century. The figure may be that of the abbey 'cellarer' or a teacher, 125mm across. A tally-slate perhaps used for recording deliveries or quantities of goods in the cellarium, 175mm across and 207mm high.

accompany a touring exhibition entitled the 'Preservation of the European Architectural Heritage' recently held in the Council House. The film which included footage of the Minster House excavations was carried out, by and under, the auspices of the Commission of the European Communities.

In conjunction with the Dean and Chapter, Dr. W.

Rodwell and the Cathedral Architects, the foundations of the Visitor's Centre are to be designed so as to follow the alignment of the Norman wall thus introducing an element of continuity and, by avoiding earlier structural remains so preserve them for the future. There will be an exhibition including finds within the new building where the results of the excavations will be displayed within the context of the development and history of the Abbey and the Cathedral.

The continuously changing and evolving character of the Abbey was shown by the excavations and its subsequent adaption to its role as the Cathedral for the diocese of Bristol. The new building will maintain a tradition which extends back for over 850 years and also go forward to meet the needs of the future. The Cathedral, continuing to act as a focus for the religious and spiritual heart of the city, complementing the secular and the civic in the new setting of College Green.

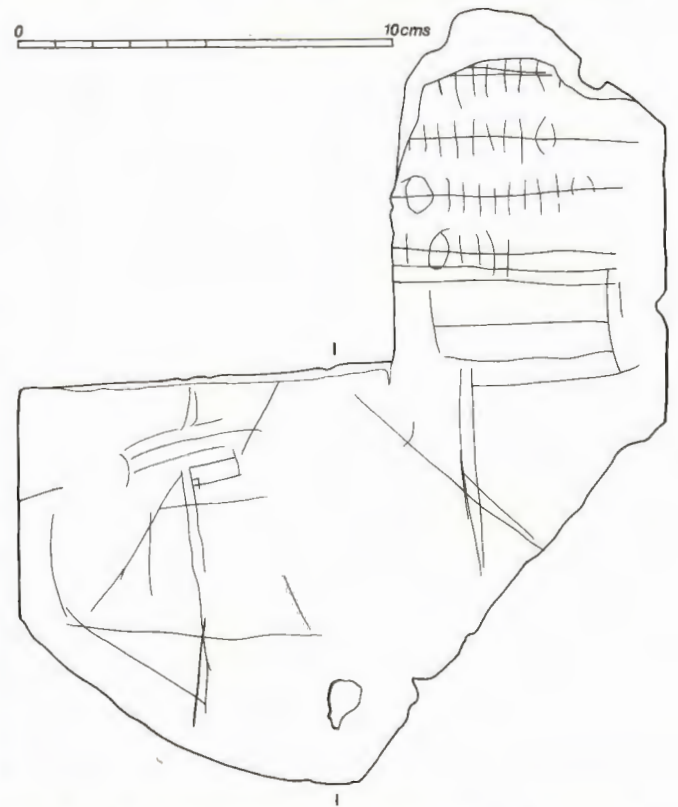


Fig. 8. The other side of the tally-slate, showing a possible sketch of a ship.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are most grateful to the Dean and Chapter for their kind permission to carry out the assessment and the excavations and for the generous financial support of Gateway Foodmarkets Ltd. through the Bristol Cathedral Trust. I am particularly grateful to the Dean, the Very Revd. Dr. W. Carr, Canon P. F. Johnson, Treasurer, and Mr. R. Hipple, Head Verger and colleagues, for their interest and enthusiasm which was also shared by the many public visitors to the

excavations; Mr. R. Jones, Head Porter at the Central Library for giving access to the library roof; to Dr. W. Rodwell for his advice and encouragement; and to the following for preliminary comments on the finds, Mr. D. P. Dawson for information on the coins, Dr. M. Smith for help with the conduit, glass and the cathedral bells, Dr. J. Bettey for documentary material, G. Barber for comments on the animal bone, R. Jackson for identification of clay tobacco pipes, C. Whittick for deciphering the inscribed slate, A. G. Smith for mollusc classification and R. Burchill for information on the pottery. Also to my colleagues in the City Museum and Art Gallery, G. L. Good and J. Bryant site supervisor and surveyor respectively, Sheena Stoddard for the prints, Fiona Macalister for conservation, Andy Cotton for the photographs, Barbara Robertson and Ann Linge for the plans and illustrations and Pip Jones for typing out the text.

The excavations and survey would not have been successfully accomplished without the combined efforts, in all weathers, of a small excavation team particularly Sarah Fletcher, Natasha Dodwell, Sandy Marcolini, Ken Sims, John Turner, John Minkin, Tim Longman, David and June Powell and the many volunteers whose work was most appreciated. All site records and finds are placed in the care of Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery: the Assessment Accession number is BRSMG 37/1991 and the Minster House Excavations Accession number is BRSMG 17/1992.

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AN ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE JEWRY IN MEDIEVAL BRISTOL

G. Pepper

Although historical sources¹ tell us that Bristol had one of the larger Jewish communities in medieval England, no really full archaeological study of Bristol Jewry has been attempted. This is perhaps surprising, given the considerable archaeological evidence recovered from the city. This short paper is an attempt to encourage such research, and is in part a summary of a dissertation prepared for the Department of Medieval Archaeology at University College, London, by the author².

THE BRISTOL JEWRY

The Anglo-Jewry were first established in 1066, immediately after the Norman Conquest. Although Jews were forbidden by Christian Law to engage in trade or industry, they were allowed to lend money for interest (usury), which Christians were not. Much of the hatred which was inflicted on the Jews in this period stems from this fact, as well as the frequent charges of ritual murder, brought by the anti-semitic populace. The comments of Pollock and Maitland sum up the situation of the Jews in English society "... the Jew can have nothing that is his own, for whatever he acquires, he acquires not for himself but for the King; for the Jews lived not for themselves but for others"³. When usury was forbidden the community was stripped of its *raison d'être*, its entire position of legality and its very being⁴. Thus in some ways the community's sad expulsion in 1290 was a predictable eventuality.

Study by Leech⁵, suggests that there were two main areas of Jewish settlement in medieval Bristol, both occurring at different periods. The first appears to have existed outside the walls, and then shifted to the Peter Street area⁶. This kind of movement is paralleled in England only at Cambridge, although Jewries situated by the town walls are well known on the continent⁷.

JEWISH SITES

There are three sites of importance in Bristol. In 1987 there was the remarkable find of a *mikveh* (a Jewish ritual bath) in Jacobs Well Road, and because the structure had survived intact behind a wall, no excavation was needed, but merely a survey⁸. The structure held the oldest Hebrew inscription known from this country. Unusually this *mikveh* is some

distance from the communal centre. Two other sites are also important to this study. Peter Street, a site of 1975 contained a stone structure which had been "demolished or perhaps burned in the 13th century"⁹. Here there was a great amount of intensive disturbance to the stratification. Among other finds here was a 12th century oolitic limestone cresset lamp, found reused in a cellar wall¹⁰. Subsequent stone robbing, cellar construction, cess-pits and other pits dug through floor levels, have severely curtailed the evidence. Excavation was conducted in nearby Mary-le-Port Street¹¹. Here the hollow way excavated in 1962-1963 displays differing poicies of rubbish disposal along its length. Both the excavations at Mary-le-Port Street and Peter Street illustrate the shift of Jewry from outside St Giles's Gate to a position very close to the castle, a position which was usual for the Jewish community, and a position noted at Thetford and Norwich¹².

JEWISH ARTEFACTS

As this paper will seek to show, there is no reason why this distinct ethnic group should not use a distinctive group of artefacts, which should be looked for when excavating local sites, especially when they are historically documented as being in a Jewish area. The apparent lack of Jewish material from the centre of city excavations in London, York and Hereford raises the question of what exactly is a Jewish artefact? Are they simply those artefacts containing Jewish inscriptions, such as the *mikveh* inscription? This paper suggests that it is possible to identify a range of artefacts, none of which is inscribed, but which when found in association with each other, might signify a Jewish presence. To test this suggestion, a number of sites were used in the city of London¹³.

In London, five artefact types were selected for the initial distribution survey:— counters, scales, lead tokens, lamps and louvres¹⁴. The first three all relate to money-lending activities, the lamps may have been of ritual significance to the Jews and the louvres represent the presence of stone houses, which we know were not infrequently owned by Jews, since they afforded more protection than timber buildings.

The distribution map showed that the majority of the

artefacts had been recovered not from occupation sites but from riverside reclamation dumps which incorporated considerable quantities of refuse now known to have been collected from middens all over the city. However once those redeposited waterfront artefacts were excluded from the calculations, a much clearer picture evolved. All the lead tokens, 73% of the scales, 65% of the loupes, 58% of the counters and 25% of the lamps had come from just four sites in the city. These are clearly statistically significant proportions. With certain provisions, such combinations of artefacts may thus be argued to represent a Jewish presence.

APPLYING THE THEORY TO BRISTOL

Applying this idea to Bristol was limited to the two sites mentioned in the text: Mary-le-Port Street and Peter Street.

PETER STREET

Here, one of the outstanding problems was the inability to associate artefacts with particular structures. Nevertheless all those artefacts described appear on the site, and in some quantity (pers comm E. Boore). This is particularly noticeable with regard to counters. More counters have been on the Peter Street site than from any other site in the city. Eight belonging to the 12th century and twelve to the 13th century and they occur in stone and slate. Having noted this is a Jewish site, we can begin to look at other interesting features, which might not otherwise have been noted. One feature is the presence of iron meat hooks. Period V provides a wealth of evidence relating to animal butchery such as whetstones, knife blades and a large quantity of animal bones bearing marks of butchery. When looking at this we have to remember that the Jewish community had to do its own butchery and koshering of meat, independent of the rest of the population. One particularly interesting feature of the finds is a copper-alloy lamp, and lamps are a feature of London Jewry sites¹⁵.

MARY-LE-PORT

Excavations meanwhile at Mary-le-Port show a similar policy of rubbish disposal. Particular interest should be focused on the discussion of faunal remains by Ms B. Noddle¹⁶ "Whatever method of analysis was employed, however, from the point of view of the consumer, there can be little doubt that the bulk of meat eaten was beef, and pig the least. In the writer's experience this has always been the case with urban material of this period, but this proportion of pig is the lowest yet found. Hence there may be some additional reason for it, such as religious dietary restrictions, support for which should be sought from the excavated artefacts". Further evidence that this might be a Jewish site is provided by the presence of two tokens and a Nuremberg style jetton¹⁷, and further by the presence of part of a set of scales, made of copper-alloy¹⁸, from the prolific dirt levels of

the hollow way. This suggestion is further supported by historical records which indicate Jewish settlement in the vicinity of Mary-le-Port.

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- (9) pers comm E. Boore.
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- (12) G Pepper, *ibid* figure 3.
- (13) Extensive use was made of the Department of Urban Archaeology's (now the Museum of London Archaeology Service) computerised archive records in the summer of 1991.
- (14) The information summarised here is published in full in the *Archaeology of the London Jewry in London Archaeology* (forthcoming).
- (15) see 14.
- (16) see 11.
- (17) *ibid* 175.
- (18) *ibid* 173.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRISTOL 1990-92

(Ed) Bruce Williams

This report summarizes the fieldwork of the Field Archaeology Section (Bristol Archaeology) of Bristol Museums and Art Gallery from January 1990 to December 1992. Our thanks for financial assistance must go principally to Bristol City Council, the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral, Mount Charlotte Thistle Hotels and the Bristol Threatened History Society.

EXCAVATIONS

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL (see interim report by E. J. Boore — this issue).

CASTLE PARK, City. (BRSMG Accs. No. 16/1992; ST 592 732)

Excavations and monitoring during re-landscaping works on this open space in the historic centre of Bristol concentrated on uncovering a 40m length of the south curtain wall (12th/13th-century) immediately inside the Barbican Gate. The wall survives to a height/depth of several metres and contains three arrow-loops or ventilators and a garderobe chute. Numerous re-builds were recorded in the wall, the most substantial probably attributable to Henry III's works in the 1220s. Built against the inside of the wall was a substantial range of stone buildings, one with fine ashlar quoins.

A 10m length of the west curtain, rear wall of the barbican gate, and north wall of the barbican were also revealed.

Outside the area of the castle, and northwest of St. Peter's Church, the remains of St. Edith's Well was discovered. Dating from the early part of the 14th century, the well served the local community, until it went out of use, for health reasons, in the 19th century.

(Bruce Williams)

CYDER HOUSE PASSAGE, Broad Street, City (BRSMG Accs. No. 13/1990)

Excavations with financial assistance from Mount Charlotte Thistle Hotels uncovered the remains of a 12th-century stone building. This was a rare opportunity to examine and investigate an early building within the walls of the Norman town and complemented a previous excavation on an adjacent plot in Tower Lane

(*Medieval Archaeol.*, XXV (1981), 205-06; E. J. Boore, *Excavations at Tower Lane, Bristol* (1984). There was evidence for major alterations to the building in 13th, 14th and 16th centuries, culminating in its conversion to a 'Cyder House' in the 18th century. Limited resources did not allow more than a cursory examination of the area around the building, but a number of pits were excavated, including a cesspit containing Saxo-Norman pottery.

(Les Good)

EVALUATIONS/WATCHING BRIEFS

24 GROVE ROAD, Redland. (BRSMG Accs No. 48/1992; ST 5757 7489).

A trench parallel with Grove Road found no evidence for archaeology prior to the construction of an 18th-century cottage. One sherd of Samian Ware was found.

(Bruce Williams)

PARKINSON ESTATE, Horfield. (BRSMG 49/1992; ST 603 780)

Extensive trenching of the area bounded by Macauley Road, Cropthorne Road and Eden Grove found no archaeological features.

(Bruce Williams)

1 ST GEORGE'S ROAD, City. (BRSMG Accs No. 7/1992); ST 5825 7288)

Trial trenching established that the site had been terraced in to the hillside behind in the 18th century. An east-west ditch, 1.2m across, may define the northern boundary of the lands of St Augustine's Abbey. Numerous sherds of 14th-century pottery probably arrived on the site in hillwash from Brandon Hill on the north.

(Bruce Williams)

GOLDEN HILL, Horfield. (BRSMG 66/92; ST 587 774)

Prior to development of this site a magnetometer survey was undertaken. This revealed several anomalies which required further investigation. A watching brief during development of the site found numerous sherds of Romano-British pottery. A field boundary and numerous field drains were recorded.

(Rod Burchill)

3-9 SMALL STREET, City. (BRSMG 5/1990; ST 587 7300)

Excavation beneath the former Head Post Office revealed a 12th-century wall, 1.2m thick, post-holes and a large cesspit near the street frontage. Also recorded were a succession of 11th to 12th-century linear features, including one which would have comprised planks set vertically in the sand with intervening gaps of c.0.3m. Against Leonard Lane a large medieval cellar, with, below, the rear of a bank which may have been the precursor of the adjacent early town wall were recorded. The lower storey of late medieval double-storey cellars was recorded on the site of the Creswicke Mansion (destroyed by fire, 1818).

(John Bryant)

38 AVON WAY, Sea Mills. (ST 5542 7606)

A watching brief carried out during construction of a house extension close to the site of Abonae failed to locate evidence of Roman occupation.

(John Bryant)

FONTHILL ROAD, Southmead. (ST 5889 7870)

Two trenches were excavated as part of a site evaluation. Several field drains were exposed, also a 20th century rubbish pit.

(John Bryant)

GREENWAY BUSH LANE, Bedminster. (ST 5747 7185)

As part of a site evaluation, two trenches were excavated, exposing remains of the gardens of the former terraced housing. A stone-lined cess-pit of earlier date was also revealed, possibly associated with a 19th century coal mine shaft (not recorded).

(John Bryant)

SOUTHWELL STREET, Kingsdown (BRSMG 3/1992; ST 5846 7367)

Excavation revealed the ditch mentioned in the 1373 charter defining the limits of the then County of Bristol. Remains of 18th to 20th century garden features were also uncovered. No evidence of the Civil War defences was found, suggesting that the line lay further to the north-west.

(John Bryant)

CHURCH LANE, St Michael's (ST 5851 7326)

A site evaluation revealed the remains of two large houses on the south side of Upper Church Lane, Llan House and Rupert House, both demolished in the 1960s. The former included walls of probably 15th century date incorporated into a larger 18th century dwelling. Rupert House is known to have been constructed c.1674, and enlarged later.

(John Bryant)

BUILDING SURVEYS

43 BROAD STREET, City. (ST 5881 7313)

The ground floor and basement of this 14th century and later house were recorded during conversion work from cafe to offices. Two medieval doorways and a window were recorded in the stone rear wall at ground-floor level. The remaining storeys had been recorded by Messrs. Bryant and Leach in 1979.

(John Bryant)

FOLLEY LANE, St Phillips's. (ST 6033 7293)

A Second World War pillbox, formerly guarding the Bristol Gas Company's gasholder, was surveyed prior to demolition.

(John Bryant)

KINGSWESTON HOUSE, Kingsweston (ST 5418 7755)

A full survey of the Banqueting House and Loggia was carried out for English Heritage. The former building was erected in the very early 18th century, and included one of the area's first and finest brick walls. A laundry was later installed in the lower storey. The Loggia was designed by Sir John Vanburgh and erected against the south wall of the earlier structure in the 1720s.

(John Bryant)

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, City. (ST 5869 7298)

Painted plasterwork and the blocked former east window were recorded in the south aisle following the dismantling of the Snygge monument during conservation work.

(John Bryant)

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, WILSON STREET, St Pauls. (ST 5961 7379)

Recording of the 1830 and 1859 former National School took place during conversion work to form flats.

(John Bryant)

AVON ARCHAEOLOGY 1992

J. G. P. Erskine & A. C. Young

This report is a summary of the work of the Avon Archaeological Unit (Avon County Council) during 1992.

PREHISTORIC

PATCHWAY COMMON, Patchway; ST 628

An evaluation in advance of proposed development recorded patchy archaeological soil features including shallow ditches which, on the basis of their similarity with features recorded at nearby Savages Wood (ASMR 7442), appeared to represent evidence of indeterminate prehistoric activity.

BRISTOL AIRPORT, Wrington; ST 507658

An evaluation excavation on the site of the proposed new passenger terminal on Northside Road located four soil features and associated flints possibly of neolithic date on the northwestern edge of the proposed development. It was recommended that prior to any further development in this previously undisturbed field the area should undergo further investigation. (ASMR 8270).

BAILEYS COURT ROAD, Bradley Stoke; ST 627807

An evaluation exercise and a salvage recording programme on the site of a residential development off Baileys Court Road located several pits, ditches and other soil features which contained Romano-British pottery and small quantities of residual prehistoric pottery comparable to that from Savages Wood (ASMR 7442). Richard Woolley (ASMR 5258).

OLDBURY ON SEVERN, No 3 Silt, Lagoon; ST 604940

An evaluation exercise in advance of the construction of a new silt lagoon to serve Oldbury Power Station identified stratified evidence of prehistoric activity on the site which was sealed and preserved beneath the alluvium and later Romano-British occupation. The prehistoric evidence appeared to be confined to distinct exposures of weathered Marl which may have represented an area of palaeochannels and islands at the margins of the estuary. The evidence consisted of flint tools and soil features and included the carbonised remains of a timber structure formed of planks (two) retained by wooden stakes. The flint tools have been tentatively dated to the late neolithic or early Bronze Age periods. Samples of carbonised material from the timber structure and other soil features have been submitted for radiocarbon dating and results are

awaited. (ASMR 8332).

WEBBS FARM, Bradley Stoke; ST 625810

In advance of development an evaluation excavation was undertaken immediately to the northeast of Webbs Farm, Bradley Stoke. The evaluation identified archaeological soil features containing flint flakes and Pennant sandstone which were investigated in detail during subsequent area excavation. A complex of soil features were recorded during the excavation which were similar in morphology to those identified at Savages Wood. Small quantities of pottery and flint recovered from the complex of pits and ?postholes appears to date the activity at the site to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. Radiocarbon dates are awaited for samples from primary deposits which contained pottery and cremated bone. It was not possible to distinguish individual structures on the site with any certainty although several phases of activity were evident. The similarities with evidence from nearby Savages Wood suggests the site may reflect prehistoric occupation. (ASMR 8273).

BROOKWAY, Bradley Stoke; ST 613826

In advance of the proposed development of a neighbourhood centre an evaluation exercise identified and recorded a series of archaeological soil features including ditches and probable pits or postholes. On the basis of their form, and small quantities of pottery and heat affected clay, the evidence appeared to represent indeterminate prehistoric activity similar in nature to that recorded in detail at nearby Savages Wood (ASMR 7442). Recommendations for further detailed work on the site were made. (ASMR 9000).

AVON RING ROAD (Stage 4A); ST 6470

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the initial stages of topsoil stripping and ground works for the construction of the Avon Ring Road (Stage 4A). At a site to the north of Abbots Road, Hanham (ST 64567087) two ditches were recorded whose fills contained carbonised material, neolithic flint tools and flint flakes. Due to the timetable of the development it was not possible to extend the investigation of the site to determine the precise function of the ditches.

Deposits containing prehistoric flint tools were also recorded in an area disturbed during the Ring Road construction to the west of Hanham Abbots (ASMR 8084; ST 645710). The range of flint implements which were recovered from sealed soil and gravel deposits and

clay layers, and their good condition, appeared to reflect prehistoric activity in the immediate area ranging between the later palaeolithic and the neolithic periods. The flint assemblage contained a significant number of forms of mesolithic character including blades and microliths. (ASMR 8069).

ROMANO-BRITISH

OLDBURY ON SEVERN, No 3 Silt Lagoon; ST 604940

An evaluation exercise in advance of the construction of a new silt lagoon to serve Oldbury Power Station identified the substantial and well preserved remains of an extensive Romano-British settlement. During a subsequent salvage programme large numbers of structural features associated with probable timber buildings and boundary ditches were recorded in association with a cemetery and a rich artefact assemblage. Analysis of the pottery indicated that the site had been occupied by the first century AD and was abandoned during the fourth century.

BROOKWAY, Bradley Stoke; ST 618820

A well preserved stone cyst grave, which contained a fragmentary human skeleton, was excavated and recorded having been partially exposed in a development trench. No dating evidence was recovered from the grave itself although it was situated in an area containing stratified evidence of Romano-British occupation and is likely to have been of similar date. An assessment of the skeleton is planned.

DISTRIBUTOR ROAD LD5, Bradley Stoke; ST 628811

Substantial evidence of Romano-British occupation was exposed during the construction of this new distributor road. No detailed archaeological investigation of the site was possible although salvage work recorded ditches, postholes, probable graves and a rich artefact assemblage including pottery, coins and large numbers of brooches. (ASMR 8629).

SHORTWOOD NORTHERN LINK, Shortwood; ST 67762

Evaluation in advance of the construction of the Shortwood Northern Link (Avon Ring Road) was targeted to investigate the route of the presumed Roman road from Bitton to Berkeley. An area excavation recorded the poorly preserved remains of a cobbled surface sealed beneath the subsoil at two locations although no ditches were evident and no firm dating evidence was recovered. (ASMR 8815)

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

SHORTWOOD NORTHERN LINK, Shortwood; ST 680761

A complex of earthworks adjacent to Shortwood Hill, including hollow ways, ridge and furrow and former quarry workings were surveyed in advance of the construction of the Ring Road carriageway. Evaluation of the features by trial excavation did not, however, provide any firm evidence to date the formation of the earthworks. (ASMR 8810).

BACK LANE, Keynsham; ST 655685

Salvage excavation in advance of proposed development recorded evidence of buildings on the site dating from the sixteenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Earlier activity on the site was indicated by the presence of fourteenth century pottery which was recovered from a rubbish pit. (ASMR 8895).

WEBBS FARM, Bradley Stoke; ST 626810

The standing remains and grounds of Webbs Farm were recorded and evaluated in advance of demolition for residential development. Seventeenth and eighteenth century pottery was recovered from soil layers sealed beneath a flagged courtyard adjacent to the farmhouse. No evidence was recovered during the evaluation to suggest the site was occupied during the medieval period. (ASMR 5200).

SHORTWOOD NORTHERN LINK, Shortwood; ST 67763

During the evaluation programme to assess sites affected by the route of the proposed Avon Ring Road a coal mine heapstead, bounded by well preserved stone walls on its northern face, was recorded in detail.

To the southeast of the heapstead, and in the area initially investigated to confirm the location of the Roman road from Bitton to Berkeley (ASMR 8815; above) a section of well preserved stone trackway and associated ditches were recorded in detail. The trackway was constructed prior to the enclosure of the area and appeared to have been associated with coalmining in the vicinity during the nineteenth century or earlier. (ASMR 5142).

VENUS STREET, Congresbury; ST 443629

During excavation in advance of proposed residential development ditches dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods were recorded. They reflected a change in the sites organisation since the Roman period and were interpreted to represent boundaries of individual landholdings and elements of a medieval droveway.

MISCELLANEOUS

DYRHAM PARK, Dyrham; ST 744758

An earthwork survey of Dyrham Park was undertaken on behalf of the National Trust to record earthworks including hollow ways, pillow mounds, lynchets and ridge and furrow in advance of the construction of new car parking.

AVON RING ROAD Westerleigh, (Stage 1Bii)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the initial stages of topsoil stripping and other ground works for this stage of the Avon Ring Road. Evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the construction corridor was confined to unstratified flints and pottery. No substantial evidence of medieval activity was recorded whereas sites reflecting post medieval activity were common. (ASMR 8815).