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COVER ILLUSTRATION:
A tin-glazed, manganese and blue earthenware tile, decorated with a vase of flowers and birds and carnation-heads in the corners, c. 1730-50, made in Bristol or London (pers comm Karin Walton). From a pit-group found in the excavations at Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol (accession number BRSMG 10/1989 AE). Scale 1:1. Drawn by Ann Linge.

EXCAVATIONS AT ST. JAMES' PRIORY, BRISTOL, 1988-9

R.H. Jones
: pottery report by R. Burchill

Before redevelopment of the site for an extension to the offices of the National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Ltd., staff of the Field Archaeology section of the City of Bristol Museums and Art Gallery carried out detailed excavation to test for the existence of buildings or features associated with the 12th century Priory of St. James.

THE SITE

The church and the site of the Priory lie on a terrace of Triassic sandstone at the foot of a steep ascent to Kingsdown and Cotham to the north (Nat Grid Ref ST 58907346). The terrace overlooks the low-lying land of Broadmead to the south. The excavated site is defined by Cannon Street to the north and St. James Parade to the south, and is some 40m to the east of the present east end of St. James' Church (Fig. 1). St. James Parade is close to the northern limit of the parochial burial ground and was probably in existence as a lane from the medieval period. Until the late 18th century, however, properties here are simply referred to as in 'St. James churchyard'; St. James Parade is referred to specifically in 1793. Cannon Street is probably of 18th century origin. It is not shown on Millerd's map of 1710, but Rocque's map of 1742 shows what appears to be a short length of lane at the east end of the church.

PREVIOUS WORK: THE POTENTIAL

Little work has been carried out in the Priory area, which is undoubtedly of high archaeological potential. In 1962, prior to the construction of the present NFUM offices, members of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group undertook an excavation on the site of houses along the St. James Parade frontage (Arthur, 1962). Unfortunately, the area seems to have been largely disturbed by recent cellars and other intrusions. Two inhumations were found, but these were undated. It was not possible to uncover the structure of the supposed Lady Chapel, the former existence of which was suggested by the presence of buttresses incorporated into later buildings.

The church itself preserves important 12th century features, particularly in the west gable. The south aisle is of 17th century date and the north aisle was built in 1864. William Worcestre recorded in 1478 that the church measured 54 steps in lengths by 40 steps wide (*c.* 30m x 22m) (Harvey, 1969, 131). These measurements are remarkably close to the present dimensions of the church, without the north aisle, under which, in the course of reflooring, part of the south cloister walk was found (Dawson, 1974). The church may originally have been larger with crossing and transepts further to the east under Cannon Street, but these may have gone by Worcestre's time, perhaps when the tower was constructed. Worcestre, however, recorded that the Priory was 40 steps long (Harvey, 1969, 131). Perhaps he was referring here to the east end of the church which retained its monastic function after the western part of the church became parochial.

Investigation in Church House to the north of St. James' church by staff of the Field Archaeology section revealed traces of two infilled arches within the back (east) wall of the building. These may be part of the claustral range of the Priory, and it is likely that most of the Priory's buildings lay to the north of the church, beneath the present bus station.

To the south of the site lay the parish burial ground of St. James, part of which is now laid out as a public park. Excavation in 1954 revealed burials on the south side of the Haymarket (Mason, 1957).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Benedictine Priory of St. James was founded before 1137 by Robert, Earl of Gloucester as a cell of Tewkesbury Abbey. The western half of the church was certainly parochial by the late 14th century, and probably considerably before that, but little is known of the layout of the other buildings of the Priory.

In 1544, after the Dissolution, the buildings and grounds of the Priory were sold to one Henry Brayne, a merchant tailor of London (BRO P/St J/D/8/1), who built himself a mansion house on the site, with outbuildings, stretching from Lower Maudlin Street to the east side of St. James Barton. In 1579 the property passed to Sir Charles Somerset and George Winter, the husbands of Brayne's daughters Eme and Ann (Latimer, 1897-9). By 1637 Somerset's eastern half was in the ownership of Henry Hobson. The western half belonged to William Davis, a merchant, and John Teague in 1666, and later to Thomas Ellis, a merchant (Latimer, 1900, 350-1). By now there was a sugar house on the site and various tenements. Millerd's map (1673) shows several buildings clustered around the church with gardens to the rear.

By the time of Ashmead's map (1828), the area east and west of the church was fully built up. A terrace of houses was built along St. James Parade, probably during the second half of the 18th century. In 1855, work started on a Scottish Presbyterian church, designed by Joseph Neale, with seating for 700. It opened in 1859, with a Sunday

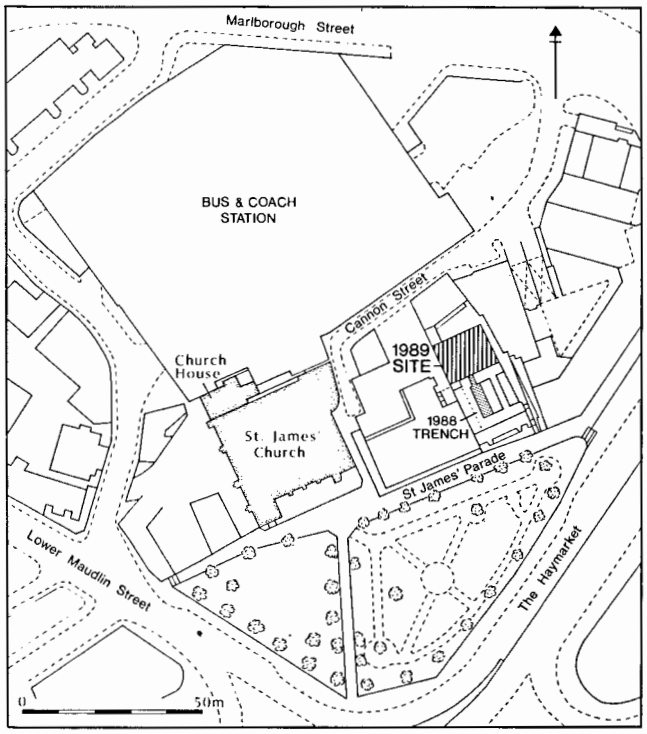

Fig. 1. Location of 1988 and 1989 excavations.

School adjacent to Cannon Street.

In 1940, the church was severely damaged during the Blitz, and the nave was subsequently demolished. The church and Sunday School were taken over by the Welsh Congregationalists and in 1953 a new church hall was built on the site of the 19th century nave. By 1988, it was clear that the members of the Welsh Congregational Church could no longer support the upkeep of the building. The site was sold to the National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Ltd. for the extension eastwards of their office premises. All the buildings on the site, with the exception of the tower of the 1855 church and a small arcade adjacent, were demolished in April 1989.

THE 1988 AND 1989 EXCAVATIONS

The results of the 1988 trial excavation have been reported briefly elsewhere (Jones, 1988). It generally demonstrated that the area was largely undisturbed by modern features and that further work in this area could be rewarding.

The main excavated area was situated within the walls of the post-war church hall (Fig. 1). A small area was also opened adjacent to Cannon Street, but an infilled 18th or 19th century cellar had removed most of the stratigraphy along the street frontage. As a result, it was decided to abandon this smaller area and concentrate effort on the larger excavation within the church hall.

Period 1

The earliest feature found on the site was a shallow (*c.* 0.5m deep) U-shaped gully in the south-west corner of the excavated area. It was aligned approximately ENE-WSW and cut directly into the natural Triassic sandstone and was filled with clean orange sand. Its width and extent are unknown, but it was probably located at the northern end of the 1988 trial excavation where the infill was reached and (probably wrongly) interpreted as the undisturbed natural subsoil. On its base and sides there was clear evidence of considerable water erosion and no evidence of silting. It may have served as a drainage channel, perhaps explaining the erosion pattern, but it is perhaps more likely that it represents a boundary ditch.

Period 2

Later than this ditch was a series of at least 11 anthropomorphic burials, cutting directly into the sandstone or into the fill of the preceding ditch (Fig. 2). Some had been cut by later features, but some of the graves were well preserved with head niches and ledges. The ledges were usually around the long sides and head of the graves but were not generally present at the foot of the graves. The purpose of such ledges is unknown, although it is possible that they may have supported lids, as has been suggested for some types of ledge graves elsewhere (Hogarth, 1973, 111). However, the lack of an opposing ledge at the foot end of many of these graves makes this suggestion difficult. The burials were not encoffined and were presumably wrapped in shrouds, although no evidence of this practice survived. The skeletal material was in a very poor state of preservation and occasionally none of the skeleton had survived. In some cases the teeth and parts of the long bones were present, although generally the bone was extremely friable and very difficult to excavate. As far as could be ascertained from the surviving skeletal remains, the bodies were laid supine in a conventional burial position.

The head-niche burials displayed a fairly random distribution pattern over most of the site, with the exception of the northern quarter where only one burial, possibly not of this type, was found, (located at the bottom of a later pit, but otherwise unexcavated, and not shown on Fig. 2). There appeared, however, to be a certain concentration of these burials in the eastern half of the site. In particular, there was a definite grouping of graves in the south-eastern area (contexts 225, 304, 306, 419, and possibly 262 and 468, all on Fig. 2). They were all on a similar alignment and may reflect some social grouping The alignment of the head-niche burials was, with only a few exceptions, fairly uniformly WSW-ESE, somewhat different from the alignment of the Priory church.

Period 3

Running north to south across the site was a line of four post pits, three of which contained traces of post voids 0.12m square (Fig. 2). Three cut into the fills of head-niche graves and it is suggested that all the head-niche graves antedate the insertion of these posts.

Probably contemporary with these post pits were two circular pits *c.* 0.9m in diameter and *c.* 0.5m deep. Their function is unknown, but they also cut head-niche graves.

The rest of the burials found on the site, with one possible exception, lay to the west of this line of posts (Fig. 2). These burials had been placed in coffins, shown by the presence of coffin nails, which, when clearly associated directly with the burials, were plotted three-dimensionally. The skeletal material within these graves was far better preserved than in the head-niche graves.

There were no discernibly discrete groupings as had been observed with the head-niche burials, but the western half of the site had been more disturbed by later intrusions. These burials were in general nearer to a west-east alignment and appeared to match the alignment of St. James'

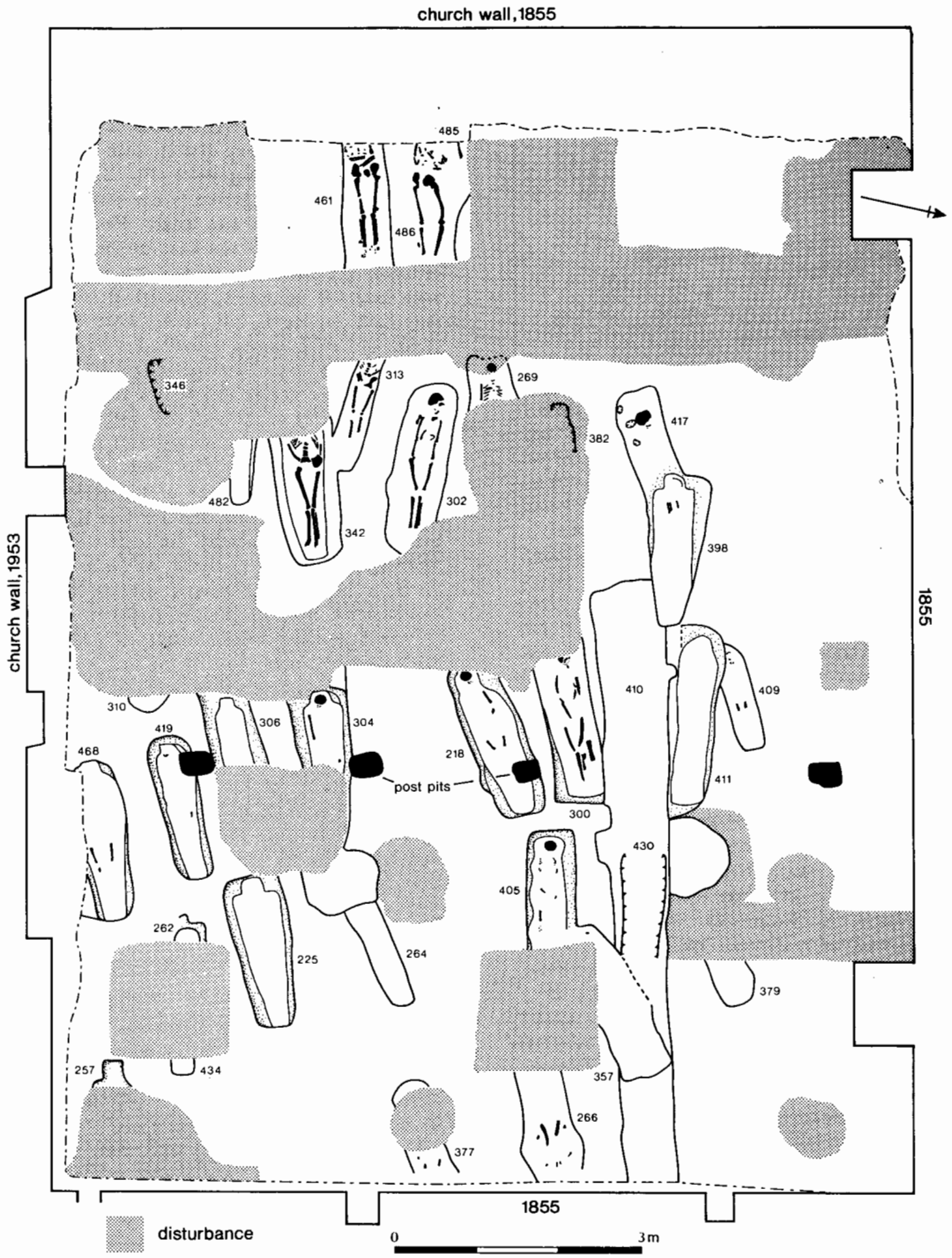

Fig. 2. Distribution of burials and later medieval features.

burial towards the Priory church would suggest that this is the case. The post pits may define the eastern limit of the Priory burial ground.

The contrasting state of preservation of the head-niche burials and the coffin burials is also noticeable. Soil pH tests carried out on the site indicated only mildly acidic conditions, although possibly enough to destroy much of the skeletal material of non-coffined burials. However, many other factors, such as the state of the body at death and localised variations in environmental conditions, may have influenced the decomposition rates of the various burials, as discussed elsewhere (Garland & Janaway, 1989). Alternatively, the head-niche graves may have been 'cleansed' of their burials, presumably at the period of the first interments associated with the Priory. Such an activity was not unknown when, for example, a new church was being built, or additions were being made to an existing one (Rodwell, 1989, 169). If this was the case, the cleansing was undertaken very carefully, preserving the internal ledges and the head-niche shape, since there was no archaeological evidence for the deliberate robbing of the graves.

The quantity, range, and types of 17th and 18th century pottery found in the complex of pits suggest that the assemblage might result from the clearance of a single or a small group of properties, rather than random dumping. This might have occurred in the second half of the 18th century when the properties documented in the mid 17th century were demolished and the area redeveloped.

There is clearly great potential for further work in this area. In particular, examination of the site of the present bus station will almost certainly produce much-needed evidence of Priory buildings. It is also necessary to test the theory of pre-Priory occupation of the site, in relation both to dated Priory structures, and to the Priory church itself. Here, despite extensive disturbance from later burial vaults (themselves of great importance), it should be possible to examine the 12th century structure and demonstrate the existence, if any, of earlier occupation on the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation could not have taken place without funding provided by the developers, the National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Ltd., and special thanks are due to them and to the architect for the site, Mike Gregory, of Angus Meek Partnership.

I would like to thank Vince Russett, who supervised the day-to-day running of the site and carried out the preliminary analysis of the stratigraphic sequence. The excavators, Sally Boylan, Ruth Cullen, Emma Jeffrey, Jeremy Mordue, Andy Thomas, and John Turner, all worked extremely hard to make the excavation worthwhile.

Permission to use the vestry rooms of St. James' church as site offices was kindly given by the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance; thanks are particularly due to Mr Stuart Rayner and Mr R. Smith, Diocesan Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

Vanessa Straker, of the Department of Geography, University of Bristol, kindly agreed to carry out the pH tests of selected soil samples. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues in the City of Bristol Museums and Art Gallery; Eric Boore, who made many useful comments regarding the interpretation of the burial sequence and suggested several lines of enquiry; Mike Ponsford, who commented on a draft of this report; and Ann Linge, who helped in the initial stages of the excavation and produced the drawings in this report.

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EXCAVATIONS IN NORTHAVON IN 1986

R. Burchill, M. Coxah, Pauline Nash,
A. Nicholson and M. Ponsford

This is the second part of a report on the work of a Manpower Services Commission Community Programme scheme based on and supervised by staff of the Department of Archaeology and History of the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The first part, which contained accounts of the Bristol sites excavated during the same scheme, appeared in *Bristol and Avon Archaeology 6* and an ample introduction was published there. The principles published then apply equally to this part. The excavations at the Glen and Springfort House, which were designed to examine the subsoil of the plateau of Carboniferous Limestone of the Downs at Bristol, were of minimal archaeological value and may be consulted in archive, together with the data from the two sites reported here. The principal authors of each report are indicated by their initials. M. Ponsford is responsible for editing this version.

EXCAVATIONS AT ELM FARM, CHARLTON, ALMONDSBURY (MC AND RB)

Trial excavations were undertaken (figure 1) on a group of earthworks on the north-west side of Fishpool Hill, south of Elm Farm and half-a-mile north-east of Brentry, Bristol in 1985-6 (NG Ref ST 5785 7980).

The earthworks had been interpreted as the remains of Charlton village which had been largely obliterated by the runways of the Brabazon project in 1948 (Iles, 1984). The aims were to establish whether the earthworks were likely to be part of the village and assess their nature and chronology. Only Elm Farm, which merits a building survey, and a few recent houses are now standing on Fishpool Hill. The field containing the earthworks is almost at the top of the hill at about 62m AOD and slopes gently towards the run-

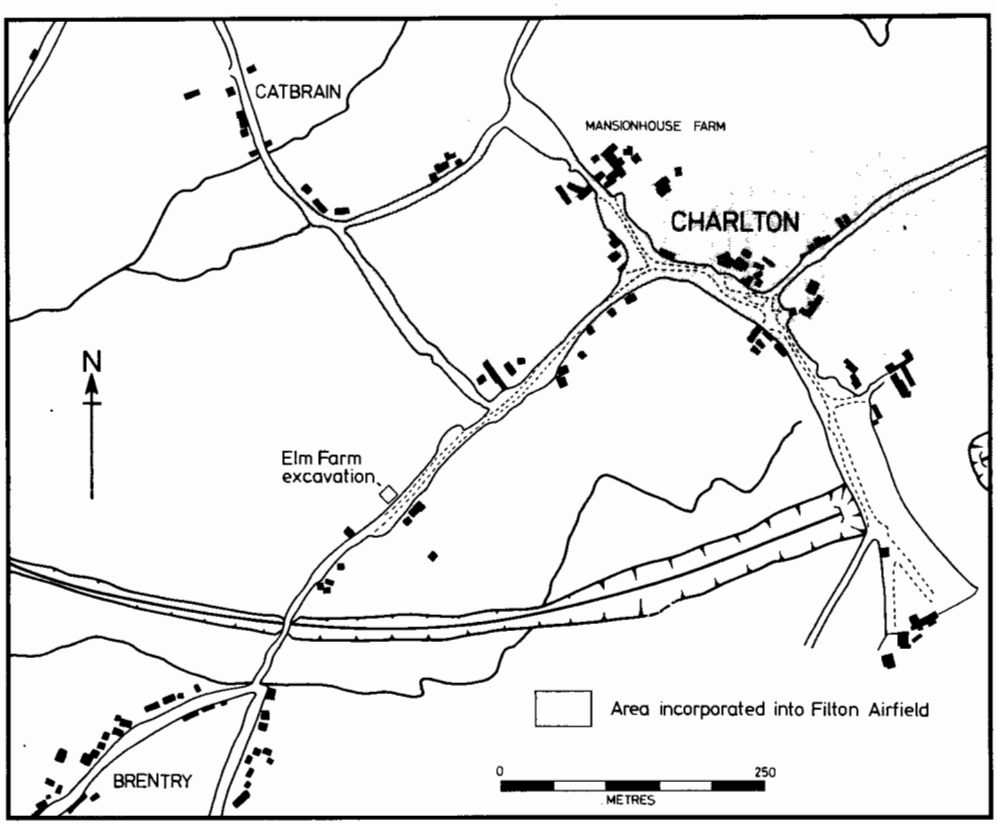

Fig. 1. Location plan of the excavation at Elm Farm, Charlton (after Iles, 1984).

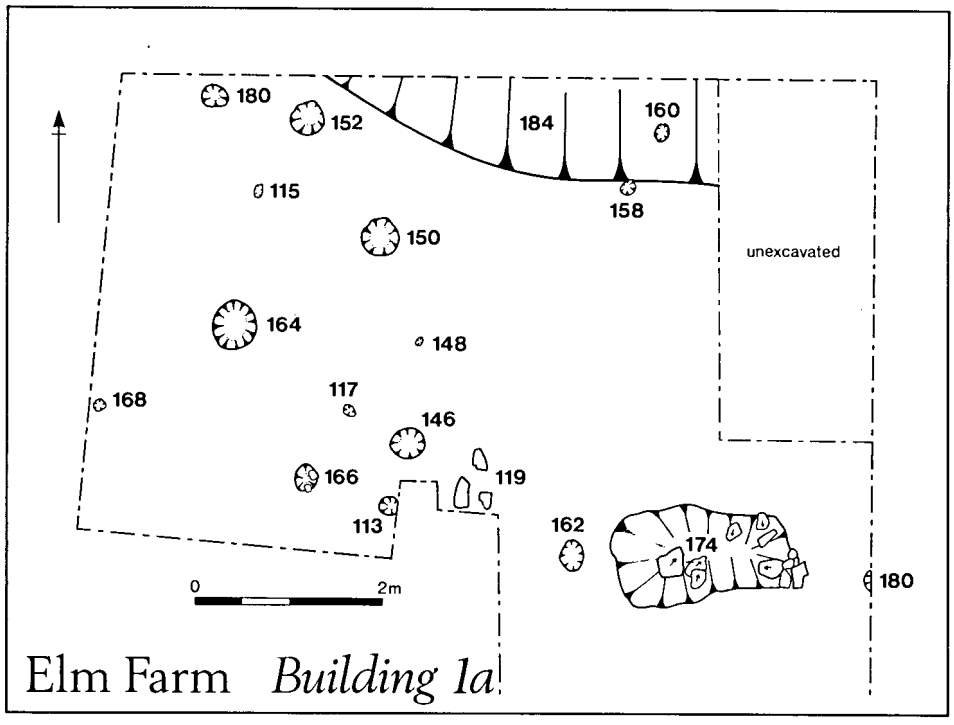

Fig. 2. Plan of 'Building 1a' at Elm Farm, Charlton.

way. The geology of the site is Rhaetic clay and shale.

HISTORY (notes by PN and MP)

The history of the village of Charlton remains obscure. The name is derived from its habitation by *ceorls* (Dyer, 1980, 34). Dyer thinks it was the principal pre-Conquest village in the large manor of Westbury, north of Bristol, an important possession of the Bishop of Worcester. Moore claims that the 50 hides in the manor mentioned in Domesday were held by 6 riding men at Charlton, Henbury and Redland (Moore, 1982, notes 3, 1n). Charlton was a tything of Henbury, a member of the parish of Westbury.

The lay subsidy roll of 1327 includes Charlton as a hamlet of Henbury. In 1463 tithes on hunting and hawking were paid to the vicar of Henbury and the rest to the Dean and Chapter of Westbury College (Powney, 1984).

Atkyns recorded three families and their estates at Charlton but Rudder did not mention the village (Atkyns, 1712, 250). The Tithe Map of 1816 shows 18 houses and associated farm buildings. In the 1940s the village, consisting of about 30 houses, and technically shrunken from its medieval context, was destroyed to make way for the new runway.

THE EXCAVATION

An area of 350^{2}m was excavated to natural rock and 156^{2}m to the top of the archaeological deposits.

Period 1

The earliest cohesive deposit (phase B) was a shallow layer of sandy clay loam in the north-east corner (contexts 111/112), interpreted as a residual soil deposit. Of the features below this material (phase A), most of which were probably natural, there was a deposit of charcoal against a natural gully (184) and a rectangular pit, 0.6m in depth (174), filled with loam and flat stones (figure 2). An east-west ditch (138) may also be of this period but no datable material was found in it and it is not included in the plan. Cutting 111/112 were two groups of postholes (phase C), each group defined by its filling. The group comprised of 113, 160, 166, 168 and 180, and with soft grey charcoal-flecked fills, did not form a coherent pattern. Contexts 146, 150, 152, 164, with reddish fills, plus the two stakeholes 117 and 148, formed a rough arc or obtuse angle. The small area excavated mitigated against the interpretation that these represent buildings but this is a likely conclusion in view of the period 2 structure which followed and overlay these features.

Period 2

Overlying the features of Period 1 was a layer of sandy clay (87) similar to 111/112 which spread in a patchy way over much of the area to become continuous on the east (phase A). A stone-founded structure, Building 1B, with an associated yard on its north (63) and south (120) were the principal features (phase B; Fig. 3). A roughly rectangular layer of cleanish red-brown sand (200) was defined and partly underlain on the east by an area of closely-packed stones with a faced outer (eastern) edge (48). The other edges were defined by an irregular stone spread (71 on the west) but the general appearance of the spreads, together with the faced east wall, suggest a timber structure consisting of sill-beams laid on a slight stone foundation. There were few finds within the structure. To the west the cobbled surface (63) contained a number of hollow features, perhaps the foundations for posts.

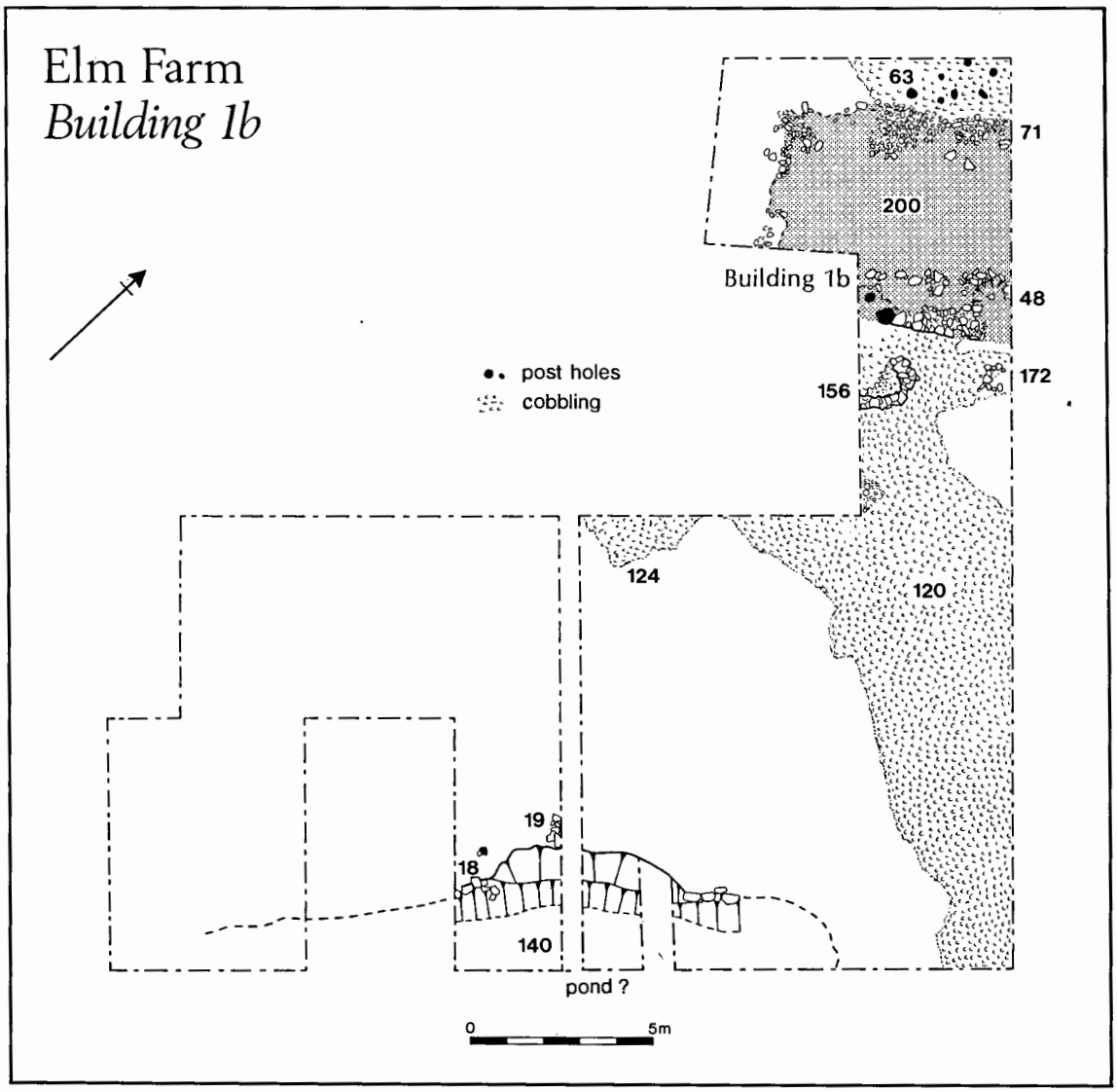

Fig. 3. Plan of Building 1b, yards and a ?pond at Elm Farm, Charlton.

To the south were two circular stone features. One (172) was 0.9m in diameter. The other (156) was more substantial with an outer edge of laid flat slabs raised above the inner surface. From its shape this may have been the base of an oven or kiln but little burnt material was found.

On the south-eastern side of the excavation was the edge and part of the bottom of a steep-sided hollow *c.* 0.8m in maximum depth and filled with clay and stones (140). The southern and western ends were not found. A few stones on the west edge of the feature suggested consolidation or repair. A most likely function is use as a pond. Below the stone covering of the yard (120) was a layer of clay which may have come from the creation of the hollow.

A layer of mixed rubble and sand overlay the features representing the building and layers of rubble were used to infill the hollow.

Period 3

A layer of soil in the top of the hollow seems to represent natural accumulation during a period of desertion of this part of the site.

Period 4

Occupation was renewed with the construction of a long rectangular farm building (Building 2) lying north-south with an associated yard to the south. The remains were nevertheless slight, consisting of a north wall (90) surviving to about two courses over most of its length, built into a shallow construction trench. Evidence for a doorway was found 12m from the north-west corner and consisted of two small square sockets 1.1m apart cut into the stonework. The south side consisted of the remains of five stone piers which presumably supported posts and formed an open side to the building. Some of the piers contained mortared stone, others were hardly distinguishable from the yard. The easternmost pier was evidently a repair as it was stratigraphically later than the rest of the building. The building probably had a roof of pantiles, remains of which were found in the demolition deposits. The yard surface was continuous with the building surface but the yard appears to have continued in use after the building had been demolished: wheel-ruts running over it were detected in the upper deposits.

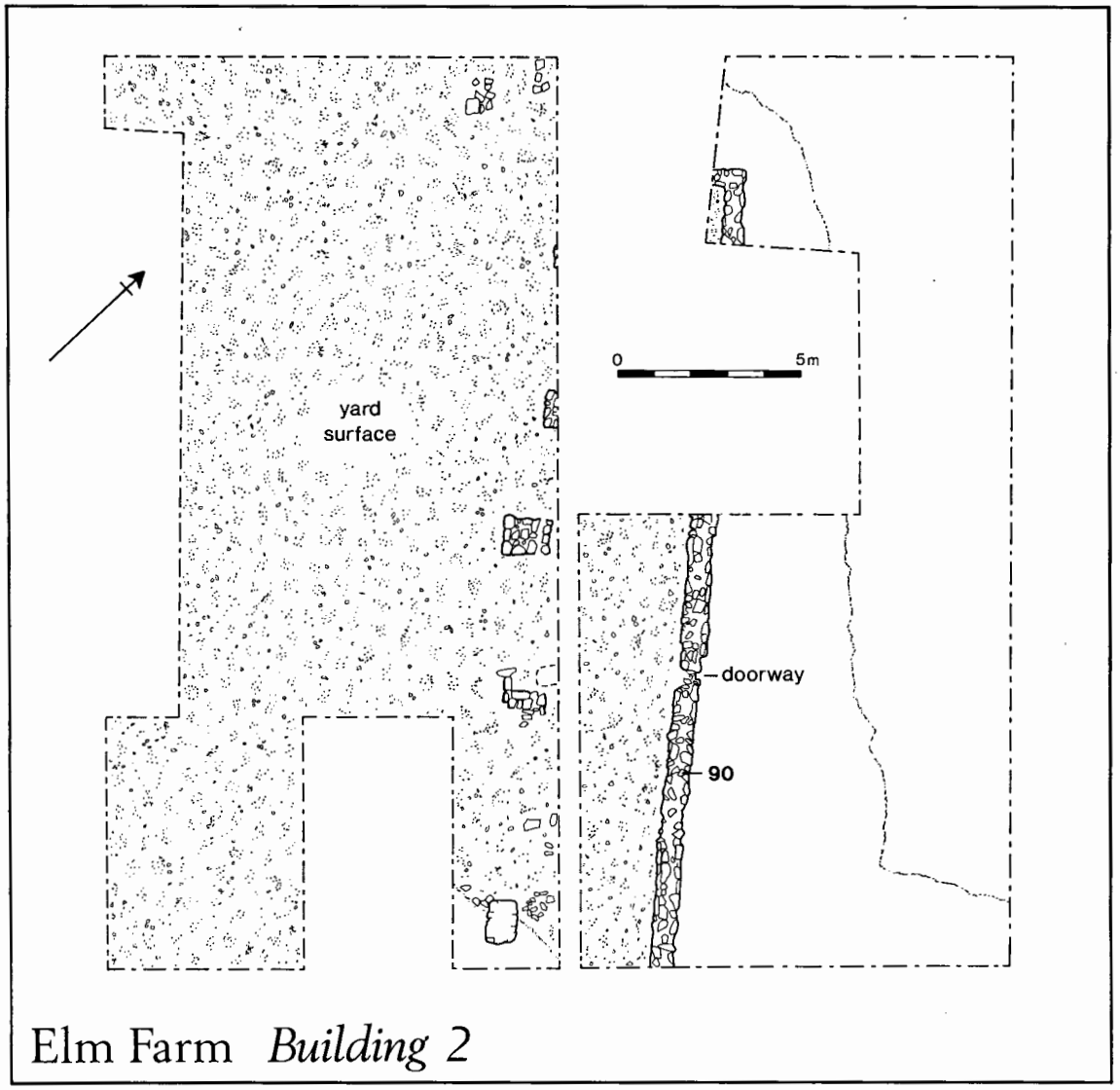

Fig. 4. Plan of Building 2, an open-sided barn, at Elm Farm, Charlton.

DISCUSSION

The first three periods of occupation were separated from the last by a long period of desertion. The first period is represented by postholes and stakeholes ('building 1A'); the second (building 1B) by a stone-founded timber building which, because of the shortage of finds and occupation material, may have been used for storage or animals. It may be significant that the area of the earlier structure, however incomprehensible, coincides with the later better-defined building. Building 1B was associated with a yard and a feature interpreted as a pond or possibly the edge of a hollow-way. The pottery suggests a bracket of twelfth to fourteenth centuries for the earlier occupation (see below).

The later occupation of Period 4 appears to date from the middle of the eighteenth century. The rectangular building appears to have been a lean-to structure with a single roof pitch formed against the continuous wall on the north and sharing its floor with the external yard.

An important aspect of the excavation is the slight nature of the archaeological deposits. In the area of the medieval structures an increase of only 0.15m in height was recorded and 0.75m over the later building. Such slight buildings would be difficult to detect in fieldwork and certainly would not create substantial earthworks. A similar phenomenon was noted at Bickley (Cleeve) where the site which contained timber buildings gave no surface indication of its presence at all (Ponsford, 1988).

The relationship of the early building(s) to the medieval village has been made more difficult to determine now that most of the village has been obliterated by the runway. A pre-war plan of Charlton does suggest that the village centre lay below the runway. The settlement would have spread radially away from this centre towards Catbrain and the Gloucester Road, Brentry and Westbury, with Filton, Almondsbury and Stoke Gifford to the south and east. The relatively early ceramic material from the site which is nearly 400m from the putative centre suggests either that the village was already quite large by the twelfth century or that there were several scattered centres or farms later nucleated. Certainly this site and any other surviving fragments would repay further excavation and help to answer that particular problem.

FINDS (RB)

POTTERY

The pottery from Elm Farm (911 sherds) falls into two distinct groups: an exclusively medieval group; and a late post-medieval to modern one. There is a clear chronological gap in the ceramic sequence with no significant material for the 15th to 17th centuries.

The medieval material may be divided into four sub groups by period, the first two of which are very similar. The dating proposed for these groups has been determined by the occurrence within them of types which are found in firmly stratified contexts in Bristol.

Note. Bristol references are to Ponsford's Bristol Pottery Type Series (BPT; Ponsford 1979; Price and Ponsford 1979). The Elm Farm types are abbreviated as CEFT and Stoke Gifford types (from the manorial site) as SGTF (Russell, forthcoming).

Period 1A

Group 1

This group of four sherds is probably of early 12th century date. All the wares are common locally. Material from contexts 173 and 175.

Period 1B

Group 2

A group of thirty sherds very similar to group 1 with a proposed 12th century date. The significant material is 2 sherds of CEFT 5 (BPT 114) dated to the mid 12th century as are 2 sherds of CEFT 11 and a sherd of CEFT 35 (BPT 46) micaceous ware. The two sherds of Ham Green cookpot (CEFT 9) are mid to late 12th century. Pre-Conquest and late 11th century pottery also appear in this group. Material from contexts 111 and 112.

Period 2A

Group 3

This group of 138 sherds is from a single layer, 87. There is a large amount of 11th to 12th century pottery along with 19 sherds of Ham Green cookpot and 17 sherds of CEFT 35. The first sherds of Redcliffe glazed wares (CEFT 14) and Minety-type ware (CEFT 13) also occur.

Period 2B

Group 4

The largest medieval group (174 sherds). Pre 13th century pottery still occurs but the bulk of the pottery is post 1200 with Ham Green cookpot and Redcliffe glazed wares predominating. Minety-type ware also occurs along with one sherd of CEFT 17 (BPT 126). The last suggests a date in the late 13th or early 14th century for the group. Material from contexts 28, 61, 62, 71, 74, 120, 123, 127, 128, 129, 132, 134, 135, 141, 188, 189.

Period 3

Group 5

A mixed group of 26 sherds with 14th century pottery from layer 47 (post wall 48) and 18th century material from layer 20 (over 18/19).

Period 4

Group 6

This group consists of the remaining material, all of which is of 18th and 19th century date. The material is typical of the period in the area.

Discussion

Elm Farm is important for producing a quantity of gritty coarsewares not previously noted in the Bristol area. The material only appears so far to have been found on the north edges of the City (pre 1974 south Gloucestershire). Similar material has now been identified at Stoke Gifford (Russell, forthcoming) and possibly at Marshfield (Russett, 1985). Some of this pottery can now be assigned to the 11th-12th century while the remainder remains undated except when in association with dated Bristol wares. The remainder of the medieval material from the site consists of locally-made products.

A type series of the medieval fabrics is described. Where material also occurs in Bristol it is listed as equivalent to the Bristol Type Series number. The post-medieval material, almost all common 18th and 19th century wares, is listed in the archive.

The Types

CEFT 1. Soft, very gritty micaceous fabric. Grey core with grey/buff external surface and pale buff stained pink internally with a surface sparkle. Abundant inclusions of quartz, common well-rounded quartzite up to 1.5mm, rare dark grits and red iron grains. Inclusions are visible on surfaces. Hand built.

CEFT 2. Sandy, softish fabric with dark grey core, grey/black externally and buff internally. Slight surface sparkle. The inclusions are not well sorted, consist of sub-rounded to well-rounded quartz, some quartzite, rare felspar(?), rare red (haematite) and black grits. Hand built.

CEFT 3. Hard sandy fabric, dark grey core, grey/buff externally, grey internally, slight sparkle, well sorted inclusions of fine rounded quartz, quartzite, rare felspar, very rare red (iron) grains and dull white particles. Internal surface shows fine pitting. Hand built.

CEFT 4. Slightly sandy, grey fabric with brown surfaces. The moderate, well sorted inclusions are quartz with rare quartzite, haematite and limestone and very rare black grains. Hand built.

CEFT 5. = BPT 114.

CEFT 6. = BPT 115B.

CEFT 7. Hard, gritty fabric with grey core and buff surfaces. The well sorted abundant quartz inclusions also cover surface of fabric. The internal surface also shows traces of decayed glaze. The type sherd is a rim with rounded outer and grooved top. Hand built.

CEFT 8. = BPT 27.

CEFT 9. = BPT 32.

CEFT 10. Fairly hard, slightly sandy fabric. Buff/pink core and surfaces. Well sorted inclusions of clear and rose quartz and sparse red (?iron) ores. Hand built.

CEFT 11. Hard, grey, micaceous fabric with well-sorted quartz, crushed flint and rare haematite. Very micaceous. Hand built. Appears to be non-calcareous equivalent to BPT 46.

CEFT 12. = BPT 18.

CEFT 13. = BPT 84.

CEFT 14. = BPT 118.

CEFT 15. Softish, gritty fabric with buff surfaces. Poorly sorted inclusions of medium to coarse quartz and quartzite, some black grits. Surface sparkle. Similar to CEFT 3. Hand built.

CEFT 16. Hard, sandy fabric, light grey with buff surfaces. Abundant, poorly sorted, sub-rounded and rounded quartz, rare flint. Obvious quartz sparkle. Hand built.

CEFT 17. = BPT 126.

CEFT 18. Hard, slightly laminated, grey fabric with abundant white and grey limestone, rare quartz and shell. Heavy

surface protrusion. Hand built. Probably pre-Conquest.
CEFT 19. = BPT 115.
CEFT 20-21. Deleted.
CEFT 22. Hard, greasy-looking, grey-black fabric with buff surfaces. Heavily tempered with white and grey limestone, rare red (iron) flecks, quartz (or quartzite). Some sherds have pitting. Similar to SGTF 8 but much less haematite. Hand built. Similar to BPT 2?
CEFT 23. Hard, slightly soapy grey/black fabric with brown surfaces. Very common inclusions of calcite, limestone, clear quartz, sparse red (iron) fragments (some quite coarse). Some pitting of surfaces. Hand built.
CEFT 24. Very rough, hard, gritty, rather laminar fabric. Grey-black with brown surfaces. Abundant light and dark quartz, quartzite, common limestone and agate(?). Inclusions also on surfaces. Hand built.
CEFT 25. Deleted.
CEFT 26. Hard, slightly soapy, heavily pitted fabric, pale grey with red/buff surfaces. Inclusions of very common limestone, sparse shell, red (iron) grains, quartz, tiny dark grey grits (dark quartz or iron compound?). Traces of external glaze. Hand built.
CEFT 27. Very hard, sandy, laminated fabric. Grey core, red/buff externally, grey internally. Abundant fine to medium quartz, sparse limestone and red (iron) ore, black grits, some sandstone. Decorated with applied strips. Hand built.
CEFT 28. Hard, gritty, heavily pitted, grey/black fabric with grey-buff surfaces. Inclusions of abundant quartz, common limestone and red (iron) ore?, rare dark grey or black grits. Hand built?
CEFT 29. Deleted.
CEFT 30. Very hard, gritty fabric, grey-black with grey-buff surfaces. Heavily tempered with abundant dark quartz, quartzite, limestone and fine dark grits, rare red (iron) grits. Hand built.
CEFT 31. Very hard, slightly sandy fabric. Grey with red/brown surfaces. Wiped on both surfaces with quite large pits. Inclusions of very common dark quartz, quartzite, common red haematite. Hand built.
CEFT 32. Very hard, sandy fabric. Grey with buff/brown surfaces. Inclusions of abundant fine quartz, common limestone and rare haematite. Hand built?
CEFT 33. Very hard, very sandy, grey fabric with buff/brown surfaces. Very abundant quartz, common coarse quartzite, small dark grits, rare limestone grains. Hand built.
CEFT 34. = BPT 309 (pre-Conquest).
CEFT 35. = BPT 46 (also similar to CEFT 11 but calcareous).
CEFT 36. Hard fabric, grey core with black external and buff internal surfaces. Very common limestone, common quartzite, quartz (light and dark), sparse red (iron) lumps. Hand built. Probably pre-Conquest.
CEFT 37. Hard, dark grey fabric. Heavily lime-tempered with limestone, calcite, rounded quartzite, quartz, rare haematite. Probably pre-Conquest. Hand built.
CEFT 38. Deleted.
CEFT 39. Deleted.
CEFT 40. Hard, slightly sandy, brown fabric with buff surfaces. Abundant fine/medium quartz, rare limestone, quartzite and red (iron) flecks. Hand built. Probably Saxo-Norman.
CEFT 41. Soft, grey fabric with buff surfaces. Heavily tempered with abundant fine limestone, sparse iron ore, dark grey and black grits, rare quartzite. Similar to CEFT 22 but inclusions much finer and has a rougher feel. Hand built.
CEFT 42. Very hard, somewhat laminated, grey fabric with buff surfaces. Very common quartz, grey limestone up to 3mm, rare haematite up to 3mm, sparse dark grits = variant of BPT 309? Hand built.
CEFT 43. Hard, pale grey fabric, light buff external and grey internal surfaces. Abundant limestone, sparse quartzite and red grits (iron). Obvious sparkle, probably powdered quartz. Hand built?
CEFT 44. Hard, grey/buff fabric with buff surfaces, well tempered with poorly sorted clear and coloured quartz, quartzite, limestone, calcite and red (iron) ore, rare black angular fragments - similar to BPT 309? Hand built.
CEFT 45. Fairly hard, 'soapy', grey fabric with buff surfaces, heavily tempered with fine limestone(?) particles, common small black specks, sparse haematite. Some resemblance to CEFT 22 and 41 but not the same. Hand built.
CEFT 46. Grey-black fabric, buff externally with chocolate brown inner surface. Heavily lime-tempered, sparse quartz and quartzite, rare haematite, surfaces heavily pitted. Hand built.
CEFT 47. Hard, gritty, grey-black fabric with chocolate/black surfaces. Abundant clear and coloured quartz, limestone particles, red and black iron products. Surfaces have fine to coarse pitting. Hand built.
CEFT 48. Hard, sandy, black fabric, pink/buff externally, chocolate brown internally. Heavily tempered with abundant quartz, limestone particles and rare haematite. Similar to BPT 115?
CEFT 49. Hard, sandy, orange fabric, evenly sorted inclusions of common quartz, rare red (iron) grits, black grits and limestone. Traces of internal glaze. Wheel-thrown.

OTHER FINDS

Small fragments of animal bone were found throughout but oyster shell was only found in association with the barn layers. Glass, clay tobacco pipe fragments, pottery and metalwork also occurred in small quantities over the cobbled floor of building 2.

Of the medieval objects, a fragmentary knife blade, part of a stone whorl, a bone disc, probable copper alloy strap-end and three fragmentary whetstones should be noted. An oddity is a fragment of Romano-British box flue-tile with incised decoration.

CATALOGUE (Fig. 5)

POTTERY

Period 1B

Group 2

1. Rim and shoulder of cookpot. Rim is simple and curved and there is a well defined internal angle at junction of neck and shoulder. CEFT 22. Context 111.
2. Rim of cookpot. Rim is slightly pointed with a slight concavity. CEFT 16. Context 112.

Period 2A

Group 3

3. Rim sherd of cookpot. Rim is curved, externally rounded with slight internal ridge. CEFT 3. Context 87.

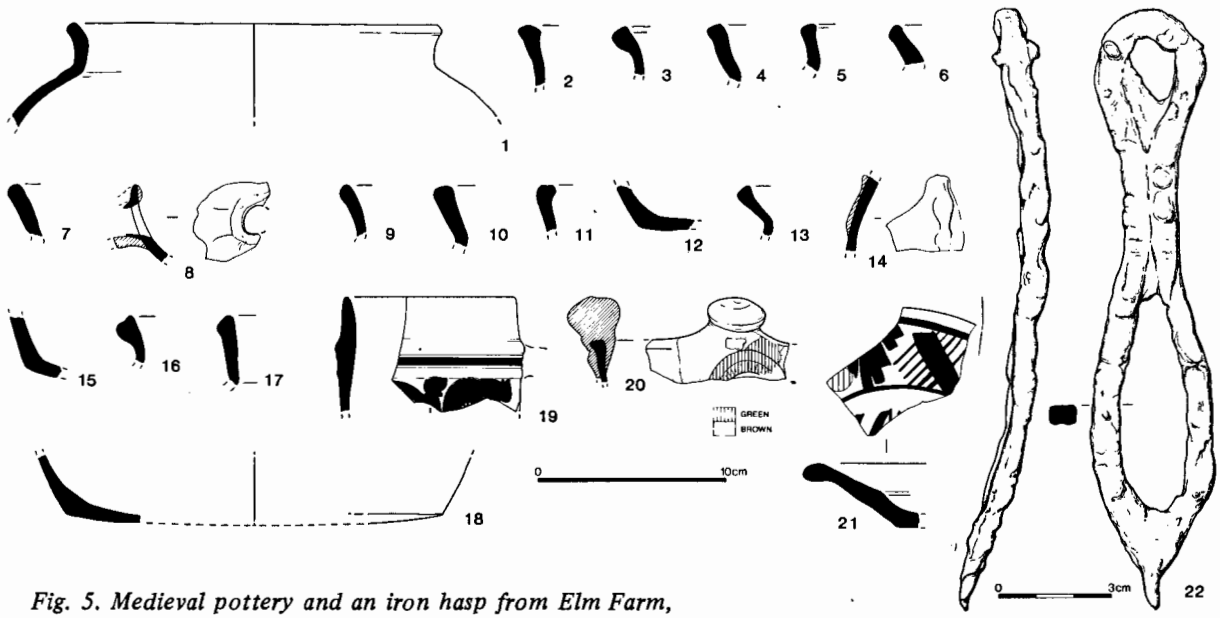

Fig. 5. Medieval pottery and an iron hasp from Elm Farm, Charlton.

4. Cookpot rim sherd. Rim has a probable eversion with slightly concave interior and external bead. CEFT 15. Context 87.
5. Rim sherd of cookpot with slight internal concavity and bead and some external sooting. CEFT 23. Context 87.
6. Everted cookpot rim with slight internal bead and external sooting. CEFT 24. Context 87.
7. Simple rounded cookpot rim, probably everted. Some external sooting. CEFT 37. Context 87.
8. Sherd of tubular spout from a spouted or socketed bowl. CEFT 40. Context 87.

Period 2B

Group 4

9. Rim sherd of cookpot. Simple rounded and curved rim. CEFT 3. Context 135.
10. Everted rim sherd, squared with possible thumb indentation on top. Sooted over rim top. CEFT 15. Context 74.
11. Inturned rim with slight groove on top. CEFT 28. Context 74.
12. Base sherd of cookpot. Angle rather rounded and base sagging. Evidence for sooting above basal angle but not on underside of base. CEFT 22. Context 22.
13. Rim of cookpot. Everted with internal concavity and very rough surfaces. CEFT 11. Context 129.
14. Body and base sherds of a cookpot with thumbed applied strip to body and clearly defined basal angle. Base possible sagging. CEFT 27. Context 188.
15. Cookpot base with well defined basal angle and sagging. CEFT 37. Context 188.
16. Curved cookpot rim, rounded externally and with grooved top. CEFT 7. Context 189.
17. Sherd of erect cookpot rim with external bevel. CEFT 34. Context 189.
18. Sagging base of cookpot, partial covering of thin yellow-green glaze internally which does not seem to rise above basal angle. External sooting. CEFT 49. Context 28.

Period 4

Group 7

19. Rim of Westerwald tankard with cord and reed decoration below rim and cobalt decoration on body. Context 34.
20. Rim and knob of chafing dish. The knob has a ?face mask below. Glaze is good but variable green with brown streaks. Probably 18th century Saintonge. Context 92.
21. Rim and base of a shallow dish or plate, slipped with elaborate sgraffito decoration and blobs of copper-stained slip. Probably Wanstrow-type ware. Context 92.

METALWORK

IRON

Period 2

22. Figure-of-eight hasp, arched side view, probably from a door or large chest (for a good parallel see Goodall 1977, figure Iron Objects 1, 12). Context 120.

EXCAVATIONS AT HARRY STOKE, STOKE GIFFORD, AVON (RB & AN)

INTRODUCTION

In July 1986 trial excavations were undertaken on an area of earthworks in the shrunken hamlet of Harry Stoke, first identified, and planned by Iles (1984; Avon SMR 1334; figure 6). The site (NGR ST 6220 7914) is due for development in the next few years and this work was directed towards assessing the archaeological potential of the site for future large-scale work. Further excavations have since been conducted by Avon County Council through a Community Programme scheme. Harry Stoke lies north of Bristol and is situated on a ridge with a stream to the east. There are further earthworks on the east side of the road. The geology is Lias clay and shales.

HISTORY (PN and MP)

At Domesday, Harry Stoke was held by Theobald from Geoffrey, Bishop of St. Lo (and Coutances) and lord of Bristol. It had been held previously by Alared from King Harold. Of the two hides only one paid tax. There was one plough in lordship, two villagers and one smallholder with one plough and six slaves. There were five acres of meadow. The settlement was run down since it was worth 40s under

Alared but now only 20s (Moore, 1982, fo.6). Harry Stoke was regarded as a part of Stoke Gifford in Henbury Hundred but the census was taken separately up to the present day (Butler, 1907). Shrinkage has taken place, mainly in this century.

Rudder records several holders of the manor in the 14th and 15th centuries (Rudder, 1779, 699). In 1625 it is described as 'one messuage or tenement with appurtenances in Stoke Harris known as Kemis House with barton and garden to the same belonging and also one close of pasture called Kemis Hayes by estimation 5 acres' (GRO D2700 K62 No.5). These are also known from estate maps of 1725 and 1843 (GRO D2700).

The estate map of 1725 shows a house and enclosed barton and surrounding it a field called Kemis Hay. The Kemis mentioned may be a member of a late medieval family, one of whom was a constable of Berkeley Castle (Maclean, 1885). In the early seventeenth century Arthur Kemys is said to be of Wickwar and Bedminster (a Berkeley possession) and might therefore have held land in Harry Stoke.

The estate maps also provide details of the contemporary field system (Fig. 7). On the opposite side of the road from Kemis Hay were two fields called Ditch Furrow and Ditch in the eighteenth century. Sandwiched between them is a field called Plowd Grounds. Behind Kemis Hay is New Plowd Ground which adjoins Old Plowd Ground. These fields lead into Whiteley Leas and Whiteley Mead in turn abutting a lane close by the church at Stoke Gifford and the field known as Park Ground. This recalls the area referred to in 1464 when 'the common watercourse at Whitelesyate under the Parke corner lies flooding by neglect of Juliana Baker' (WRO 009: IBA 2636/19292626/12). A stream in this vicinity is shown clearly on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map, well before the construction of the railway when the watercourse was probably diverted.

Kemis Hay is certainly the field in which the excavations reported here took place and the surviving earthworks reflect to some extent the field boundaries of 1725 (compare figures 6 and 7).

THE EXCAVATION

The area selected for excavation was in the south-east corner of the field north of the Paddocks (figure 6). A flat platform sloped steeply on the north and on the east, close to the hedges where it probably formed the sides of the original medieval road or hollow-way.

AREA A

Period 1

The larger excavation was in the north-east corner of the field. The earliest features on the platform were seen as groups of small stones (20, 21 and 22) with two flat stones on the northern edge (figure 8). In the north-east was a spread of clay overlying flat stones over a slope (18). On the north was a revetment (9) 0.4m high composed of unmortared Pennant slabs with a cobbled yard north of it (27). The yard was of small cobbles overlain by a surface layer of medium-sized Pennants. Pitched stones on the east side partly overlay the flat ones and may represent either a

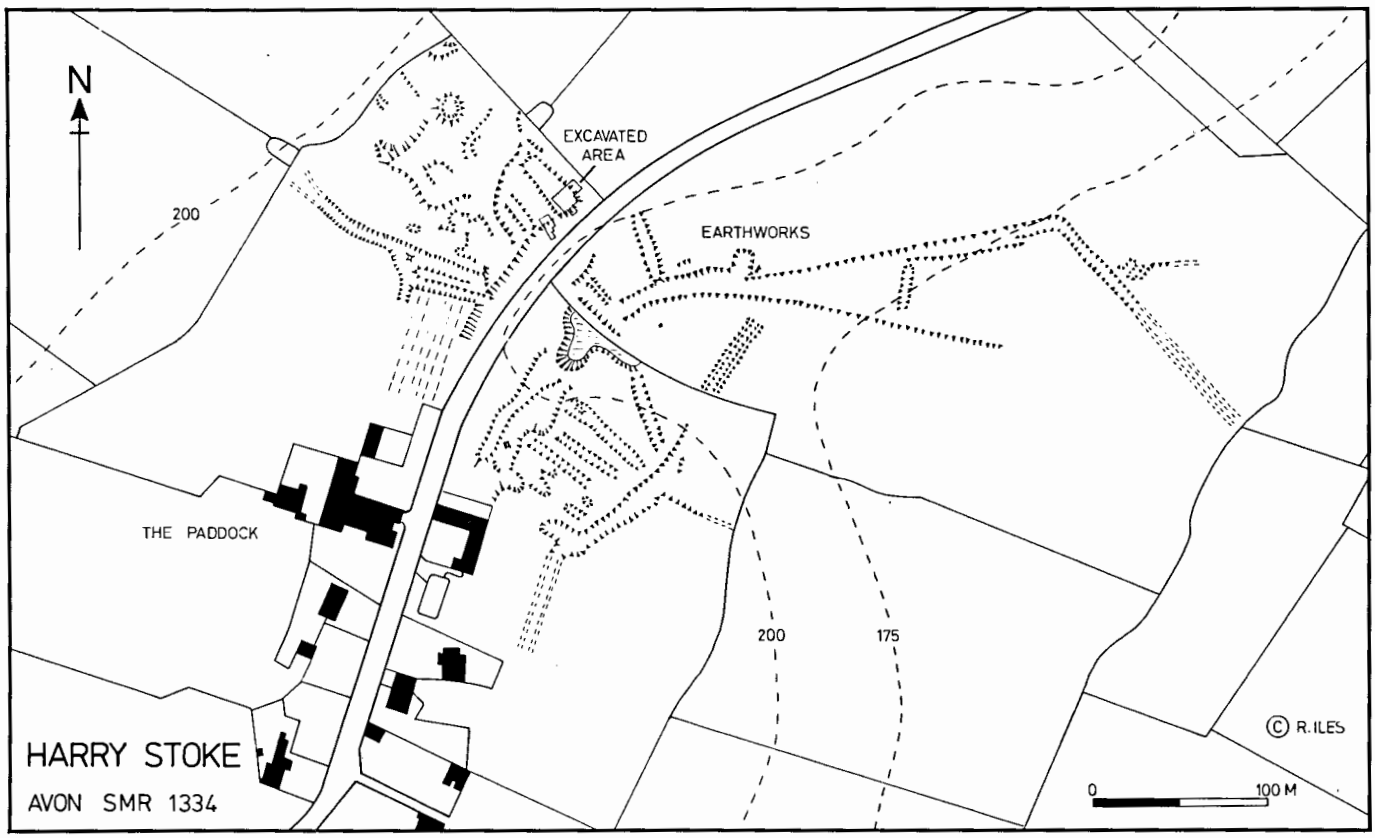

Fig. 6. Location plan of excavations at Harry Stoke, Stoke Gifford (after Iles, 1984).

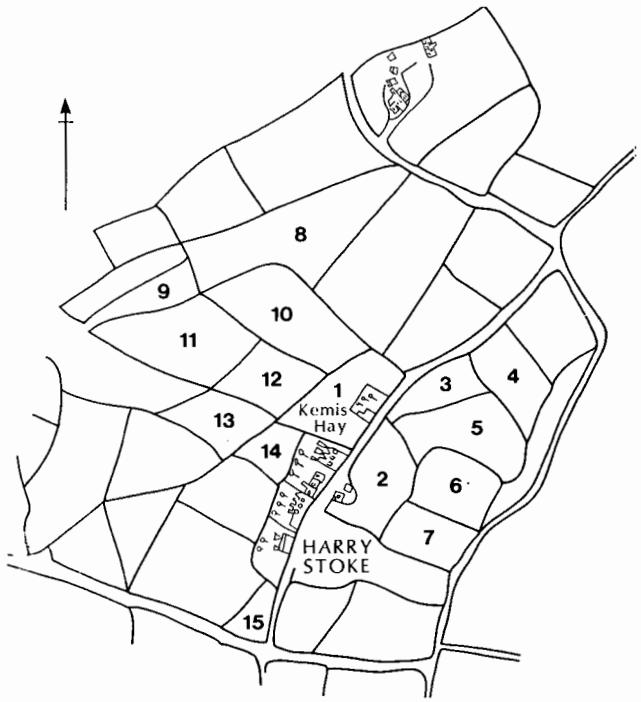

Fig. 7. Plan of Harry Stoke based on the estate plan of 1725. Field names are:- 1. Kemis Hay, 2. Homestead, 3. Crunnock, 4. Curnock, 5. Ditch Furrow, 6. Plowd Ground, 7. Ditch, 8. Whitely Mead, 9. Long Mead, 10. White Leas, 11. Lower Whitely Lea, 12. New Plowd Ground, 13. Old Plowd Ground, 14. Home Close, 15. Paddock.

repair or a foundation. South of the revetment was a further area of laid flat stones, probably a foundation for a building (26).

Period 2

The yard (27) was raised by degrees to incorporate the top course of the retaining wall (contexts 8, 10, not illustrated).

Period 3

The ultimate yard surface overlay the wall (Fig. 9). Two rough courses of stonework (11 and 12) may have been the bases for two low walls. Similar stonework was found to the south and east (15, 16 and 29). The 'walling' bounded an area of grey-brown clay (14) with browner clay to the west (117). The junction of the clays coincided with the in-turning of wall represented by context 12.

Period 4

Another layer of brown clay overlay 14 (5). Olive-coloured clay to the west (6) dipped below 5 but formed a surface with it (not illustrated).

AREA B

The area was not excavated to undisturbed natural. It was thought that the buildings found should be totally excavated when major investigation took place. The deposits were, however, removed to the olive clay overlying the bedrock on the platform (Fig. 10). One wall (45) was shown to overlie the clay while the other two (37 and 40) were cut into it. Also overlying the clay were layers of stones on either side of 37 (48 and 49). Three stone features (50, 51 and 47) were discerned in 48/49. Feature 47 was large enough to be an oven-base but there was no sign of burning. Of the others one (51) may have supported a timber while 50 may have held a stake. On the east edge of the stone spread was a stakehole defined by edge-set stones (52).

Above the stone spread was a layer of demolition and/or disturbed floor (36 and 41) in turn overlain by Pennant stone roof tiles and further rubble and loam (33, 34, 35 and 36) including an area of pitched stone slabs or rather collapsed roof (41) north of the wall 37 (none illustrated).

To the east of wall 40, demolition debris was removed to reveal a flagged surface of large flat stones (56). At this stage the wall 40 was standing to a height of 0.4m.

DISCUSSION

In Area A was a platform defined by a stone wall on the north and a less satisfactory one on the east. To the north was a well-constructed yard or possibly a roadway. Later, the access to the platform was through a gap between wall features 11 and 12 and the platform appears to have had a rim of stones possibly representing the remains of a surrounding wall. Indications of further structures are ambiguous and include lines of nails which may have been associated with demolition or decay as well as structures in situ.

In Area B well built walls and fallen roof-tiles indicate the presence of a substantial building of at least two periods, since the wall 45 was clearly later than 37/40. The stone floors and circular features suggest work-rooms, store-rooms or possibly a kitchen. When the building fell into decay or was demolished the debris was levelled up to form a further yard (36/41).

FINDS

POTTERY

Relatively little pottery was found. Sherds found in significant contexts help to summarise the chronology of the site.

Area A.

Most of the material was either Redcliffe ware (BPT 118) or of wheel-thrown or hand-built Minety type (BPT 84 or 18) with a little Ham Green ware cookpot (BPT 32) and glazed jugs (BPT 26 and 27) and south-western French imports (BPT 156/157).

Sherds were distributed as follows:-

	Context	BPT
Period 1	18	84, 118
2	10	118, 156
4	[5	18, 26, 32, 84, 118
	[6	26, 84, 118, 156

An overall late 13-14th century date is suggested by this material. It is unusual for French imports to occur outside the main ports such as Bristol but some has come from the manorial site at Stoke Gifford excavated by BAAS (Russell, forthcoming).

Area B.

Most of the 39 sherds found were of Malvernian ware (BPT 197) with a few Ham Green or south-western French imports. Twenty-five Malvernian sherds were from one or two skillets (Vince, 1977).

Context	BPT
48	197 (13 sherds)
49	27 (2 sherds), 197 (4 sherds)
41	197 (3 sherds), 156 (1 sherd)
35	197 (1 sherd)

The Malvernian ware suggests a 15th-century date both for the earliest deposits excavated and demolition.

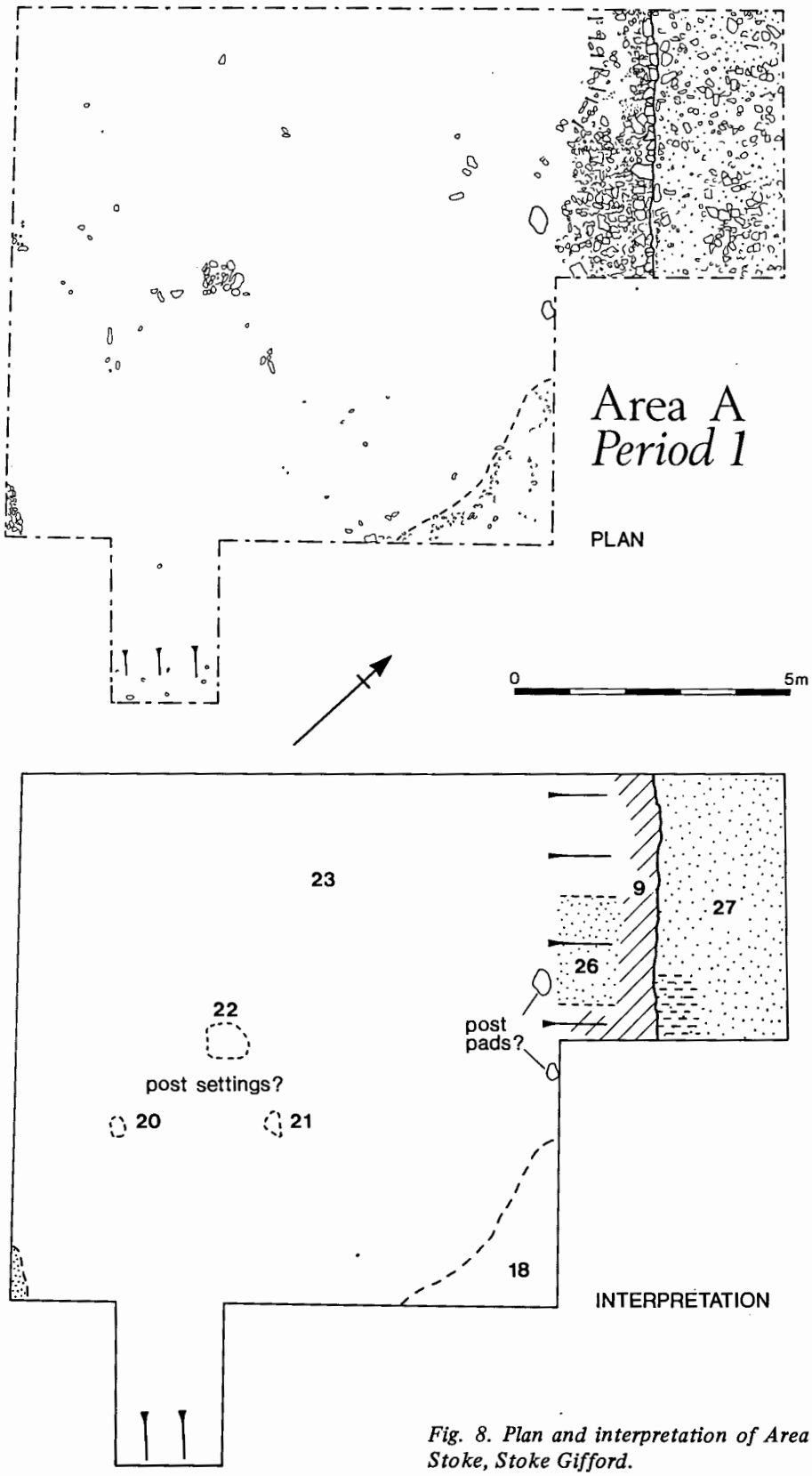

Fig. 8. Plan and interpretation of Area A, Period 1, Harry Stoke, Stoke Gifford.

ROOF FURNITURE

Both Pennant and glazed-ridge-tile fragments were found in Area B. Nearly all the latter were of Minety type. In addition there were two sherds resembling Malvernian wares and a few fragments of Redcliffe type.

OTHER FINDS

Sheep, cattle and pig are represented among the bones which largely came from Area A contexts 5, 6, 7 and 14. Oyster shell came from 14, 49 and 53. The ironwork included horseshoe fragments from contexts 14 and 41 and a knife blade from context 6 (late 13th-14th century) while there was the usual scatter of nails throughout. Other metal finds included a thin copper-alloy disc which is 31mm in diameter and has a central perforation from context 4.

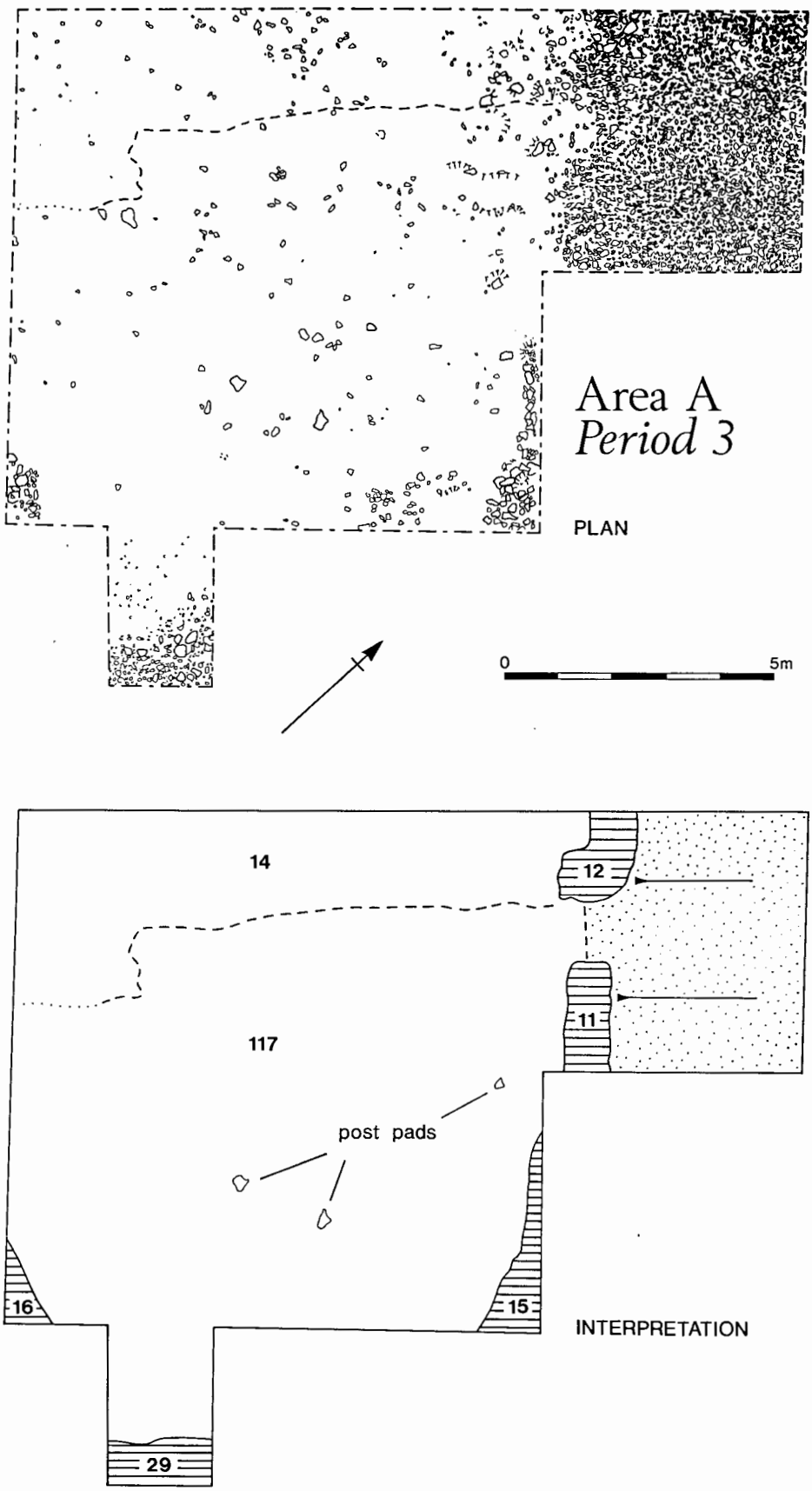

Fig. 9. Plan and interpretation of Area A, Period 3, Harry Stoke, Stoke Gifford.

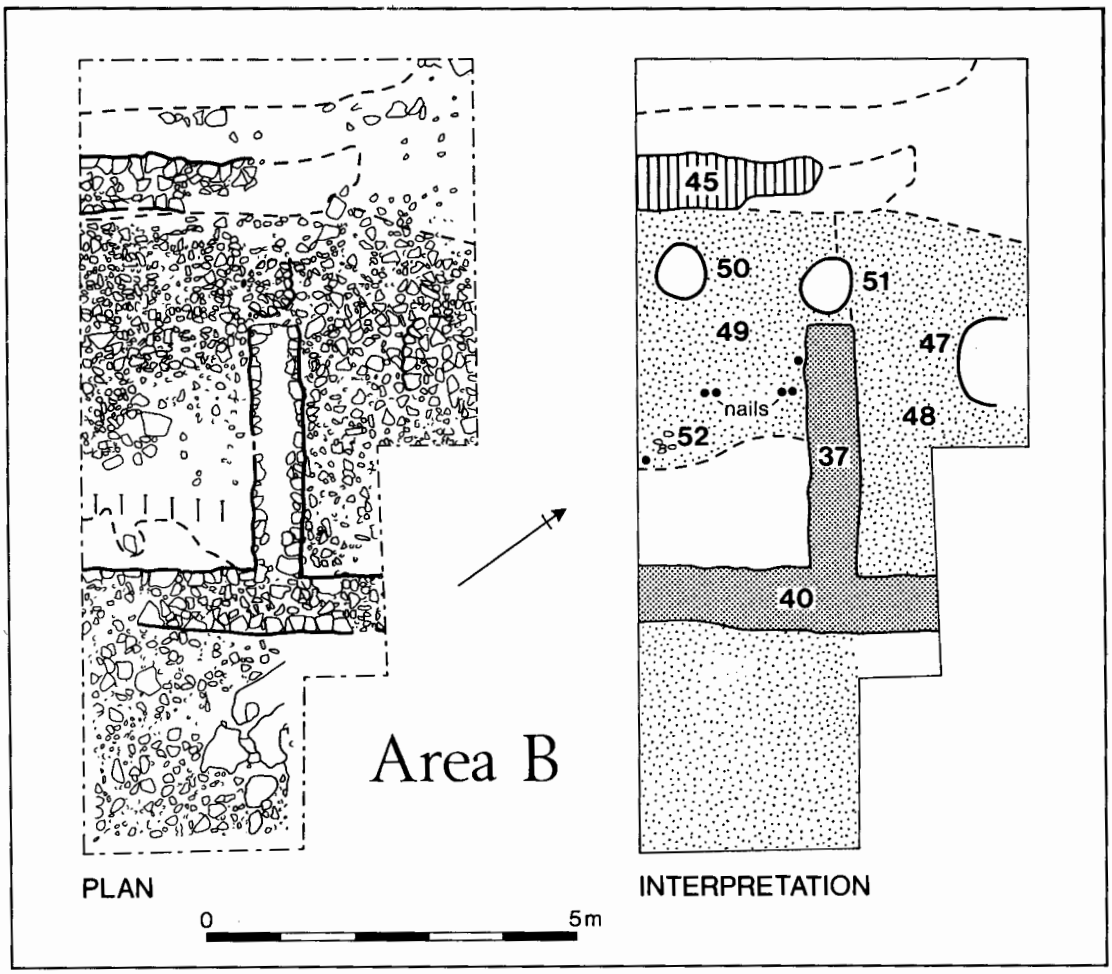

Fig. 10. Plan and interpretation of Area B, Harry Stoke, Stoke Gifford.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are pleased to thank Mrs Payne and the late Brian Payne for allowing the excavation to take place at Elm Farm and donating the finds to the City Museum; Mr Tim Pearce of Pearce Developments Ltd. for permission to excavate at Harry Stoke; Michelle Miller for work on the documentary evidence for Charlton; Mrs Brimble for access and water supply at Harry Stoke; Rob Iles for permission to use his overall site plans as the bases for figures 1 and 6; Ann Linge for finalising the drawings; Employment Initiatives for their general administration of the MSC project; and the many participants in the scheme without whose help these excavations and research would not have been possible.

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AN EXCAVATION AT THE CORNER OF ST. THOMAS STREET AND PORTWALL LANE, BRISTOL, 1989

G.L. Good

SUMMARY

Excavation has demonstrated that the building of the Portwall blocking the line of St. Thomas Street meant that the south end of the street remained undeveloped probably until the 15th century. The earliest structures, perhaps industrial, were followed by a period of gardening before further building took place in the 17th century.

INTRODUCTION

Between January and March 1989 a small excavation was carried out under the direction of the writer at the corner of St. Thomas Street and Portwall Lane (ST 72445919; Fig. 1) to investigate the earliest settlement in this area. The work was possible thanks to a generous donation from the developers, MEPC. The writer is grateful to the small team of diggers who helped on the excavation, particularly to Tom Gledhill who also did much of the planning on site. The writer would also like to thank Rod Burchill for processing the finds during the excavation as well as for writing a report on the pottery, and Ann Linge for drawing the finds and plans for this report. All of the finds and records relating to the excavation are stored in the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number BRSMG: 1/1989.

HISTORY

The site lay to the south of the River Avon, in a part of the manor of Bedminster which was mainly covered by marsh until the Middle Ages. The earliest development on this side of the river was along the river bank below Bristol Bridge. Here facilities for the loading and unloading of ships were soon established and the township of Redcliffe formed, occupying the western part of the marsh as far as the Triassic Sandstone hill, the eponymous red cliff, on which the church of St. Mary Redcliffe was built. Dendrochronological evidence from an excavation on the waterfront at Dundas Wharf (10 on Fig. 1) has shown that substantial timber structures were erected in the second quarter of the 12th century, and that by the middle of the century stone quays had been built along Redcliffe's river frontage (Nicholson & Hillam 1987, 141).

At about the same time, a second centre of development started in the east part of the marsh, where the Knights Templar established a church in lands recently given to them by Robert, Earl of Gloucester (Lees 1935, cxxxi, 58). As the Templars rented out this land, the settlement which became Temple Fee grew around the church.

Little is known of the detailed development of the area, particularly that part between the two original centres. The street pattern of three main roads running south from the region of the bridge, and connected at intervals by narrow lanes, seems to have been established early on, and settlement would gradually have spread outwards along these streets. This layout survived almost in its entirety until the third quarter of the 19th century when the insertion of Victoria Street cut across the old alignments providing a more direct link between Bristol Bridge and Temple Meads railway station. It is for this reason that a plan predating Victoria Street, that prepared by Plumley and Ashmead and published in 1833, has been used as a basis for the plan showing the location of the excavation (Fig. 1).

Around 1240 most of the area to the south of the river was enclosed within the defences of Bristol with the building of the Portwall (Cronne 1946, 38). The wall cut through the middle of Redcliffe leaving the parish church of St. Mary stranded on the outside. The only gates through the Portwall were at the ends of Redcliffe Street and Temple Street, the two main roads leading from Bristol on the south side. This left St. Thomas Street as a dead end street with nowhere to go beyond the narrow Portwall Lane which ran around the inside of the wall. The excavation area lay at the junction of these two streets, and the main objective was to compare the development in this part of the medieval suburb with that observed in excavations elsewhere in Temple and Redcliffe (Fig. 1).

THE EXCAVATION

A small trench some 13m x 4.5-5m was opened up in the corner plot between the west side of St. Thomas Street and Portwall Lane. The upper layers were removed by machine to a depth of just over a metre. These layers represented the latest construction phase on the site as well as most of a dump of industrial debris from the penultimate phase. Subsequent excavation was carried out by hand to the level of the fairly clean alluvium that was known from trial trenches dug by the developers to exist about 2m below the present ground level.

Period 1 (Figs. 2-3)

The top of the marsh clay was fairly disturbed for a depth of about 40-50cms before the relatively clean pale grey or greenish brown alluvial clay was reached at *c.*7.20m AOD. Sealed by and cut into the disturbed clay from various depths were a number of pits, many of which were regular in shape (Fig. 2). None of the pits could be dated earlier than the 14th century, and this seemed to represent the earliest period of activity on the site, though the presence

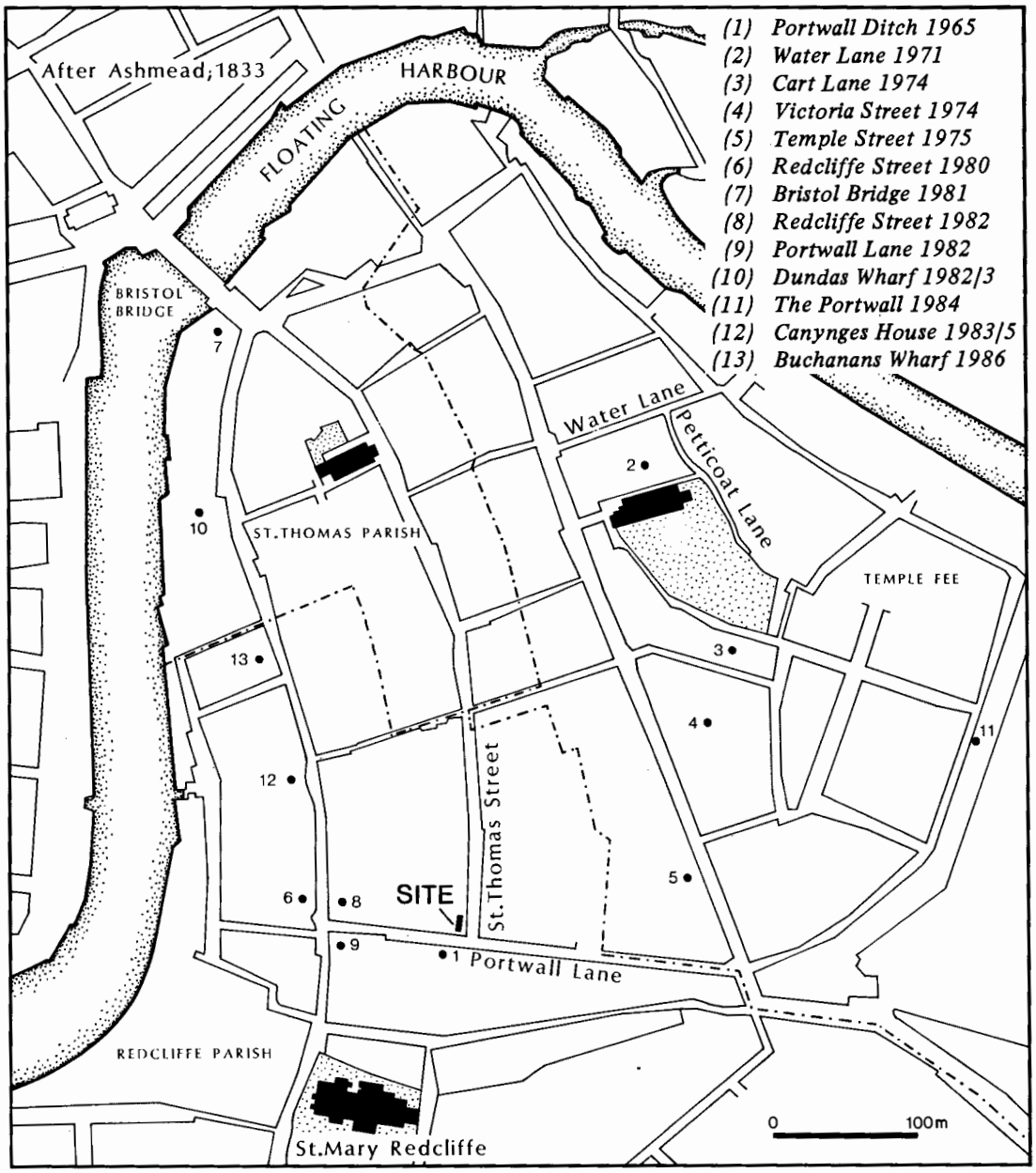

Fig. 1. The location of the St. Thomas St./Portwall Lane site and other excavations in the medieval suburb to the south of the River Avon, based on Plumley '& Ashmead's plan of 1833.

of a single sherd of Roman pottery might indicate that the area had at least been visited before then. Although it was not obvious what function these pits served, perhaps the most likely interpretation, at least of those which were more regularly shaped, is that they were dug for the extraction of clay. Most of them were sub-rectangular in shape, with fairly straight sides and flat bottoms, and were cut up to half a metre into the relatively clean alluvium.

Cut into the disturbed marsh clay at a fairly high level, and running alongside the east section of the excavation area was a shallow ditch (P67), some 25cms deep and up to 80cms wide, which curved round to the west as it approached the south section (Fig. 3). Since it was so close to and parallel with St. Thomas Street to the east and Portwall Lane to the south, it would have served as a drainage ditch running alongside the streets. Such ditches have been excavated elsewhere (e.g. alongside Petticoat Lane in Temple Fee, excavated on the site at Water Lane (2 on Fig. 1) - Good forthcoming) and would have been essential for keeping roads dry in the marshy conditions prevalent in the area to the south of the river.

Intermixed with the clay, particularly at the north end of the site, were spreads and patches of dumped refuse material containing large amounts of molluscan remains, especially mussel shells. Though it may be that this was simply dumped as rubbish, it is possible that it was deli-

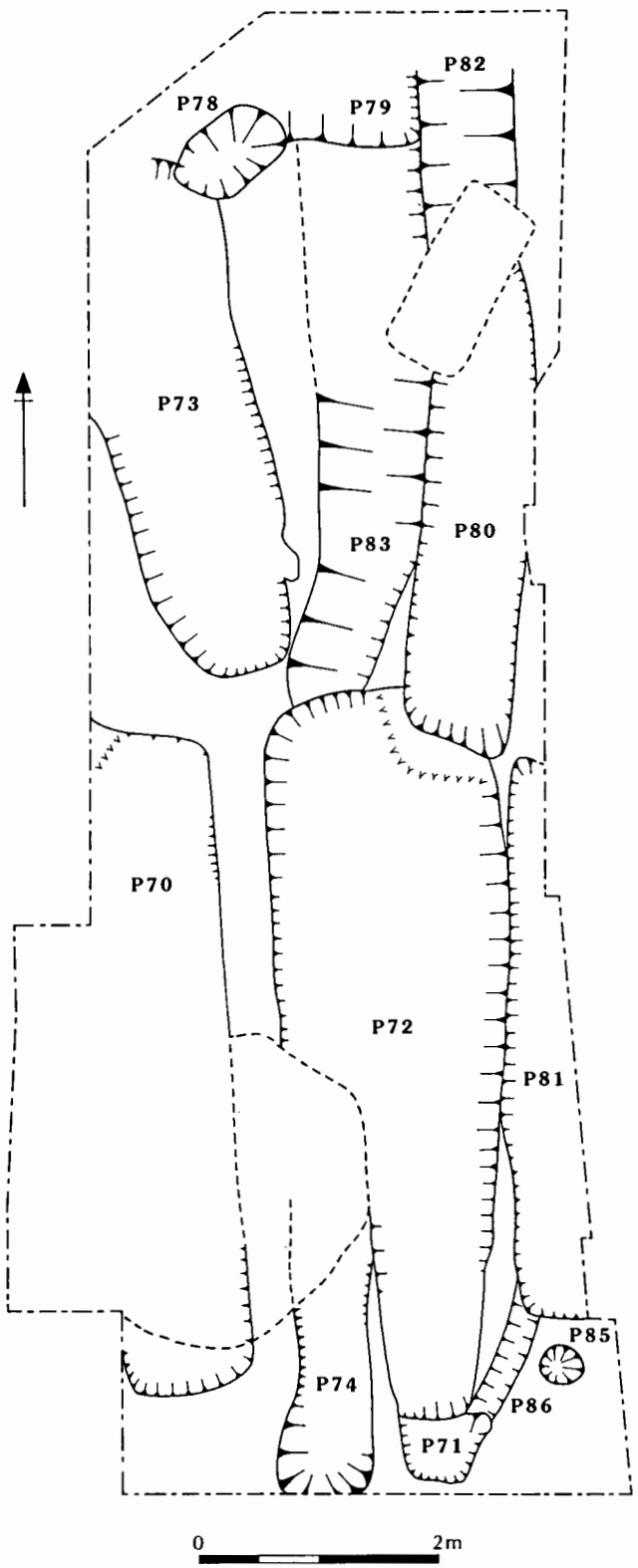

Fig. 2. Period 1. Medieval pits dug for the extraction of clay.

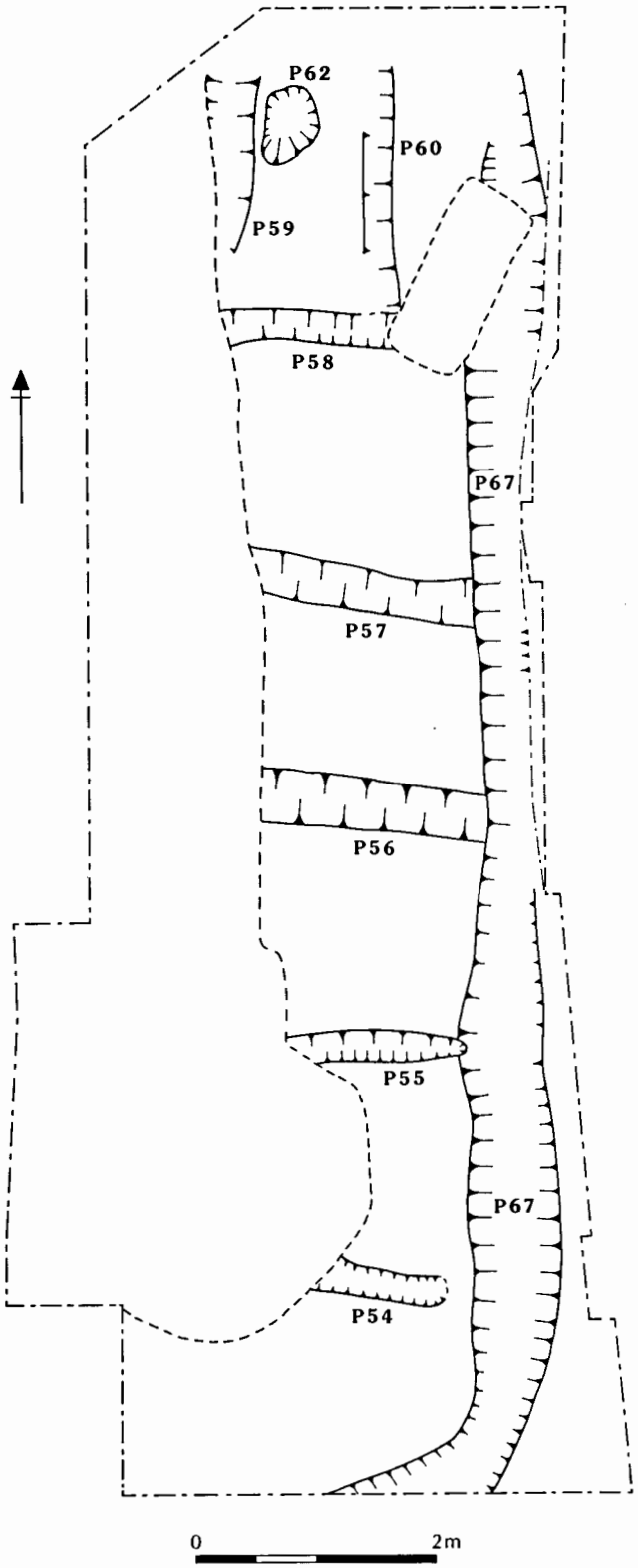

Fig. 3. Period 1. Late medieval horticultural features and drainage ditch.

berately mixed in with the clay in an attempt to improve the soil for cultivation. Cut into the top of this level was a series of very shallow (up to 10cms deep) linear slots, P54-P58, parallel to each other and some 2m apart, with others at right angles, P59 and P60 (Fig. 3). Though they may have been for drainage purposes, it is perhaps more likely that they were horticultural in nature.

Period 2 (Figs. 4-5)

During the latter part of the 14th century, or, perhaps more likely, early in the 15th century, a large building apparently used for industrial purposes was erected on the site. Because the outer walls of the building were outside the excavated area, and the western part was destroyed by later gardening, its full extent is not known. However, narrow internal walls showed that it had been partitioned into at least four rooms of which three were almost wholly within the excavated area (Figs. 4 and 5). The partition walls, one of which showed only as a rob trench (P36), were about 30 cms wide and built of Pennant Sandstone bonded with a bright orange-red sandy mortar. Plaster rendering survived on the face of the northernmost wall (W8), and this also spread across the room immediately to the south (Room I) as flooring. Similar material existed in patches on the floors of the other two rooms.

Within each of the three rooms excavated, the floors were overlain by deposits of burnt material containing large amounts of fired clay mould fragments. The moulds had been used in the casting of bronze or a similar alloy of copper, as was evidenced by flecks of green copper-corrosion compounds in the soil. This reflected the industry being carried on in the vicinity, and it may be that the structures were initially used as workshops associated with these activities.

The burnt material formed makeup deposits for floor levels of red clay in Room I, and hard-packed orange sand with fine chippings of blue slate in Room II (Fig. 5). The equivalent floor surface did not survive in Room III. These floor levels were overlain by thin occupation layers of grey, charcoal-flecked clay, which in Room II contained a considerable quantity of mussel shells. This suggests that Room II was an eating room or perhaps a food preparation area. A regularly shaped pit (P41) near the north-east corner of Room I appeared to be functional, but it was not clear what its purpose was.

Period 3 (Figs. 5-7)

The building was demolished in the mid 16th century, at which time the area reverted to horticultural use. Various events during the period of gardening had left their traces in the ground, but it was difficult to be certain which were associated or exactly when each had occurred.

Initially the gardening seems to have been restricted to the western half of the area (F3), where humic clay layers were considerably deeper and cut through the floor levels and walls of the previous building (Figs. 5 and 6). The boundary of this first garden was marked by a line of post-holes (P49, P40, P50, P45 - Fig. 6), some of which showed signs of having been removed and replaced (P28, P29 - Figs. 6 and 7). The gardening was extended beyond the line of posts probably *c.*1600, but the boundary remained as was shown by a linear gully (P24) on the same line (Fig. 7). A few pits cut into garden layers from various levels appear to have been for rubbish. One in particular (P23) contained a

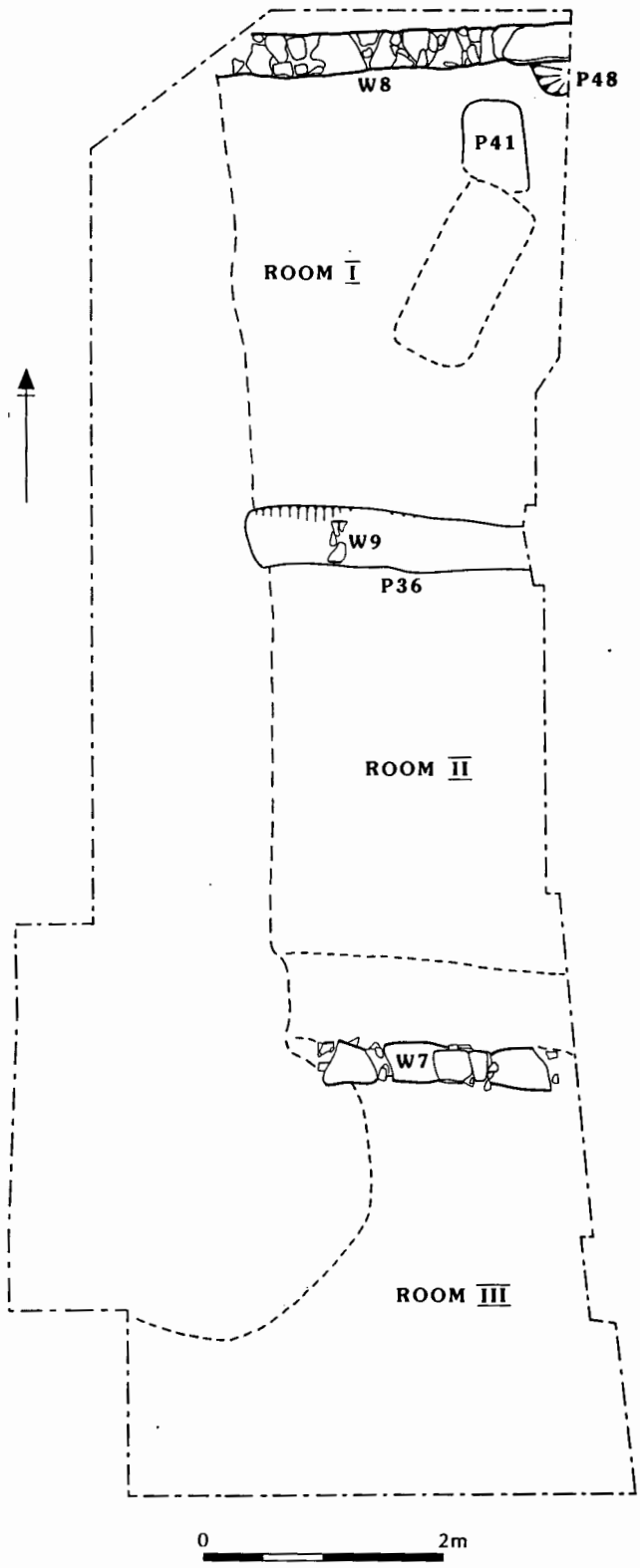

Fig. 4. Period 2. Features associated with the late medieval building.

large number of cannon-bones from young cows. These were all chopped at the distal end, i.e. where the hoof was attached. This is generally taken to be an indication of waste from the tanning trade, since skins were often delivered to the tanner with the feet still attached (Serjeantson 1989, 137).

Period 4 (Fig. 8)

During the 17th century, another building was erected, and two of its walls lay within the excavated area. These were the pink-mortar-bonded walls W1 and W6. In the corner between these two walls was a large pit (P12), which was excavated after the construction of W1, but which contained large stones on its west side underpinning W6. It was about 2m in diameter and about 80cms deep, but there was no evidence to suggest its function. The only other contemporary features were two post-holes near the north end of the site. In the late 17th century the west end of W1 was robbed out (P13) to make a doorway through the wall. Dumps of industrial waste containing large amounts of glass slag over the floor levels indicated that the building may have been associated with one of the many glass kilns operating in the vicinity at that time.

Period 5

During the 18th century this building was demolished to make way for a terrace of houses, four of which lay within the area of the excavation. Because of the limited time available and small workforce, these were not excavated by hand. The bottoms of two cesspits associated with this phase, F1 and F2 (Fig. 8), cut into the floors of the earlier building.

DISCUSSION

The earliest activity on the site has been shown to have taken place in the 14th century. Despite the early development in Redcliffe and Temple, this should not be thought surprising since it reflects the position of the site at the south end of a street cut off from further extension by the construction of the Portwall in the middle of the 13th century. Clearly the attractiveness of the area between the two main settlements as a location for housing or trading was reduced when the wall was erected, and this part of the parish of Redcliffe became an obscure backwater where no one wanted to build.

This early activity appears to have taken the form of excavating pits for the extraction of clay, but the reason for

Fig. 5. View of the excavation from the north-west showing the partition walls and floors of the period 2 building cut by post-medieval gardening features.

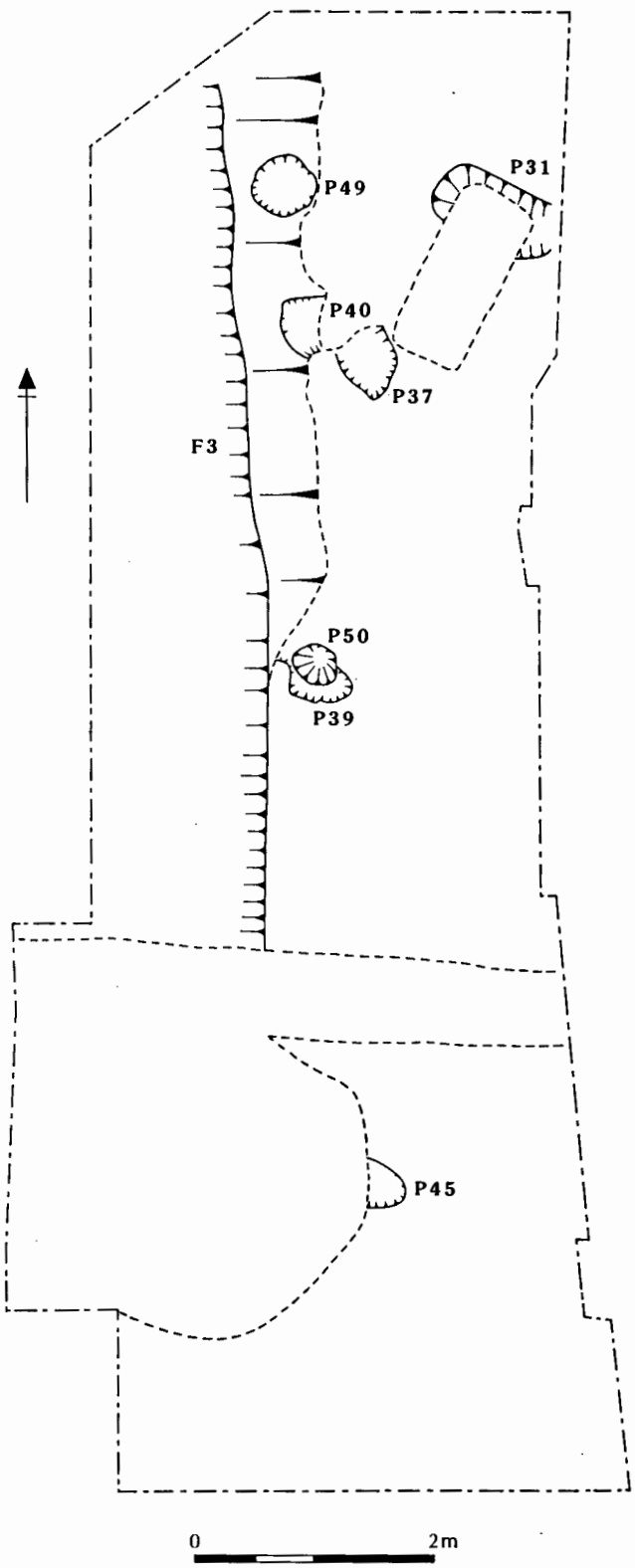

Fig. 6. Period 3. Features associated with the initial post-medieval gardening phase.

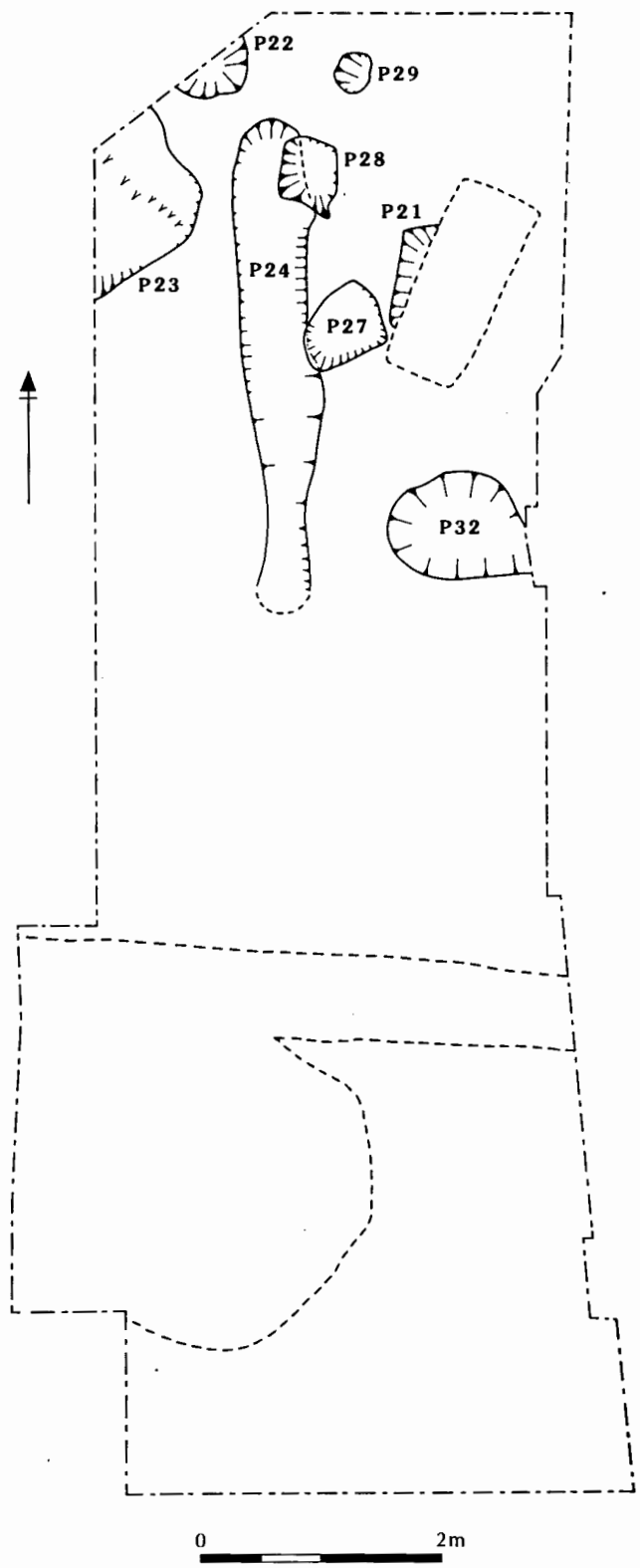

Fig. 7. Period 3. Later features of the post-medieval gardening phase.

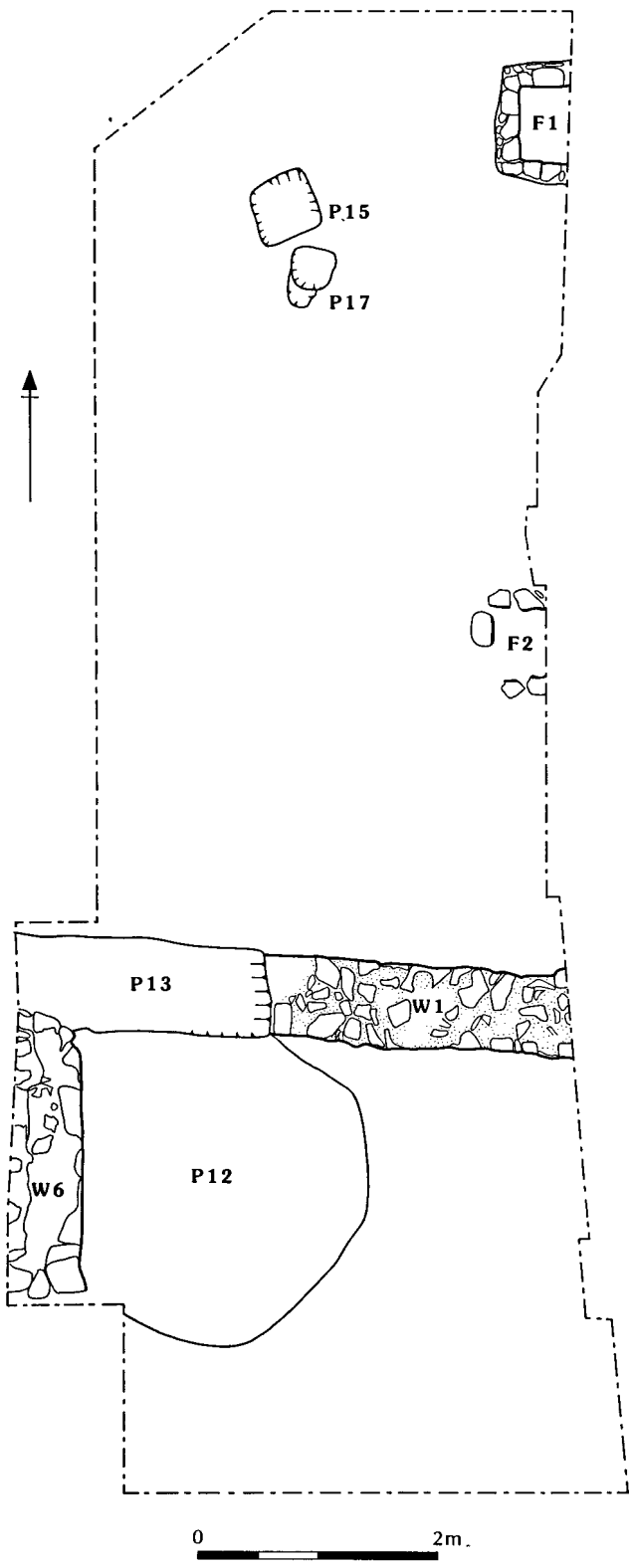

Fig. 8. Periods 4 and 5. Features associated with the 17th century industrial building and later intrusions.

digging out the clay is not clear. Clay can be used for a number of different purposes, but there was no evidence to suggest which might be relevant here. One of the most common uses was in building, either in the construction of cob walls or as a bonding agent in stone walls. It was also used as a flooring material. A possible industrial use is suggested by the proximity of a pottery production centre at Redcliffe from the middle of the 13th till the end of the 15th century (Good & Russett 1987, 37; Dawson & Ponsford forthcoming). The quality of the local alluvial clay, however, was probably not good enough for pottery manufacture, and the source of the clay for Redcliffe ware is thought to have been near Dundry Hill to the south of Bristol (Price & Ponsford 1979, 24). Perhaps the most likely industrial candidate is bronze casting, which was certainly carried out nearby in subsequent periods.

After a brief period of gardening on the site, a building, perhaps a workshop connected with bronze casting, was erected during the late 14th or early 15th century. The evidence of debris from this industry used as floor makeup, however, might simply reflect its ready availability in the locality rather than a direct link with the building itself. Although many fragments of mould were recovered from this debris, these were not complete enough for it to be possible to determine what was being manufactured. Their size and shape, however, showed that the products were large, and it may be that the material came from one of the bell-foundries known to have been established in Redcliffe in the medieval period (Walters 1919).

A further period of gardening during much of the 16th and continuing into the 17th century preceded the construction of another industrial building. This may have been associated with a predecessor of the glass kiln shown on Donne's 1773 map of Bristol set back from St. Thomas Street *c.* 100m to the north of the excavation.

The final period of construction on the site saw the erection in the 18th century of a row of terraced houses, probably with shops on the street frontage and living accommodation above.

THE POTTERY

R. Burchill

The pottery (1797 sherds) was recorded by sherd count and identified by comparison with the Bristol Type Series (BPT). The details of the type series are not described here but are available from archive. Descriptions of many of the common native wares mentioned in this report may be found in Good & Russett 1987 (G&R). For a general description of some of the imports see Hurst *et al* 1986.

The material was allocated to groups of broadly contemporary contexts associated with the various phases of site development.

Period 1

The material (250 sherds) consists mostly of wares common in Bristol during the medieval period, including as would be expected a large proportion of Redcliffe wares (BPT 118; G&R 13-15). The imported material consists of wares from south west France and includes a single sherd of polychrome (BPT 39) and several of green glazed jugs (BPT 156 and 157). The presence of BPT 118 Late i.e. post 1350 (G&R 15) and the absence of Tudor Green (BPT 182) suggests a late 14th century date for the group.

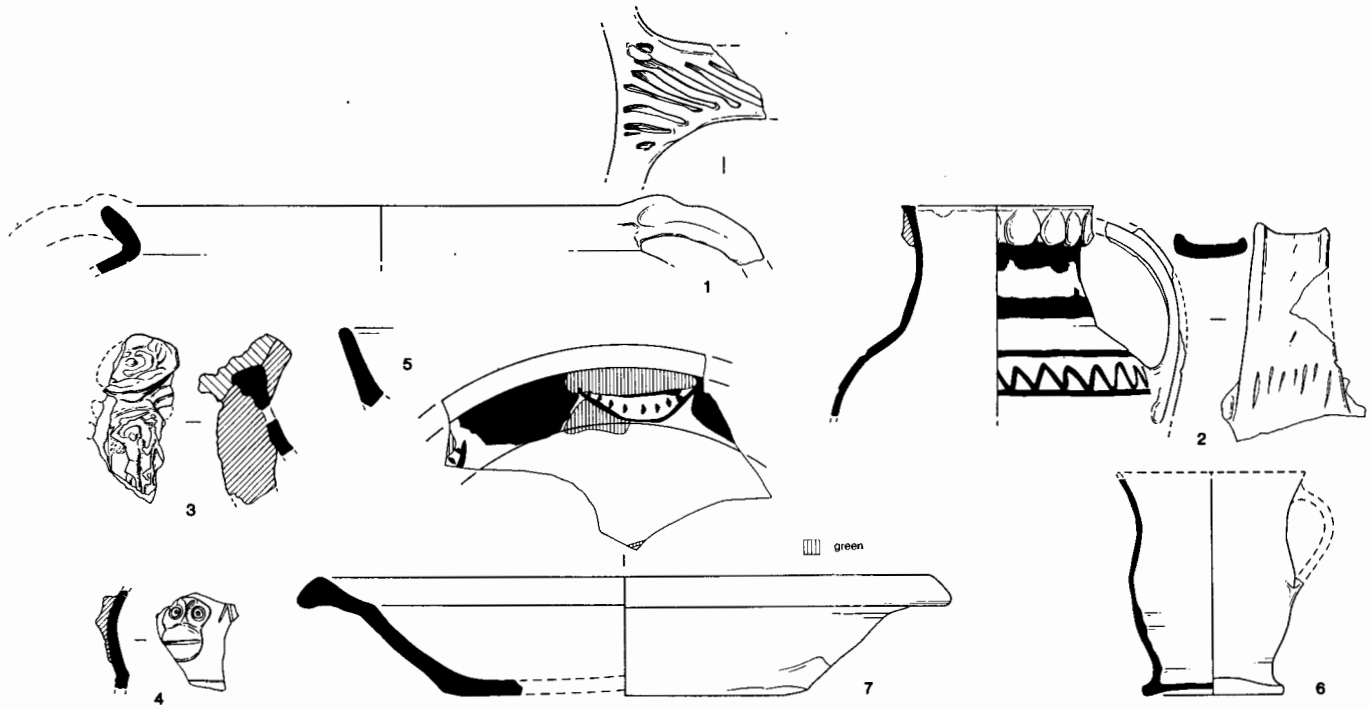

Fig. 9. Medieval and post-medieval pottery. Scale 1:4.

Period 2

The pottery in this group (118 sherds) is very similar to that in the previous group but there is considerably less Redcliffe material. The appearance of a Donyatt jug (Fig. 9 no. 2) of a probable 15th century date, a type not common in the Bristol area, should be noted.

Period 3

This group of 468 sherds is dominated by Malvern wares (G&R 16-20) which make up some 43% of the group (for a discussion on Malvern wares in Bristol see Ponsford 1988). The group sees the first appearance of Tudor Green and also Cistercian wares, particularly from Falfield (BPT 266; G&R 21-22) and the West Midlands (BPT 93). The presence of Somerset wares [Nether Stowey (BPT 280; G&R 40-54) and Wanstrow (BPT 96; G&R 23-39)] is of some significance. These were very common in the dock fills at Narrow Quay (Good 1987, 36-40) where many types were current in the late 16th century.

This group also sees the first imports from the Iberian Peninsula which includes a sherd of Isabella Polychrome (BPT 333a) and a base fragment from a Columbian Plain bowl (BPT 333c), both tin glazes from the Seville area. Also present is a fragment of internally glazed oil jar and several sherds of Merida type ware (BPT 282). Other imports include a single sherd of a Raeren drinking jug (BPT 287) and three sherds of a possible Portuguese tin glaze (BPT 345). Of particular note is a decorated pillar from an open-work chafing dish (BPT 348 - Fig. 9, no. 3) of a type described by Hurst (1974). A similar form was noted at Narrow Quay (Good 1987, fig. 41).

Period 4

This, the largest group, contains 801 sherds of pottery. The group is again dominated by Malvern wares (some 49%) but there is also a significant increase in Somerset products, particularly those from Nether Stowey. Cistercian types are still present but appear to be slightly later types.

French imports have now all but disappeared but of particular interest is a handle fragment in a Beauvais fabric, presumably from a jug, which is a very rare type for Bristol. Odd sherds of Spanish ware continue. From Seville come a small sherd each of Isabella and Yayal Blue (BPT 333b) and Columbian Plain (Fig. 9, no. 5). Also noted were two sherds from the Valencian kilns, one of Mature Lustre ware (BPT 83c) and one of the so-called Late Lustre (BPT 83d) along with various sherds of oil jar fabric (BPT 81). The quantity of Merida wares is greatly reduced. The group also contains a small quantity of German stoneware and a small sherd of what may be South Netherlands Maiolica (BPT 344a). A 17th century date would seem appropriate for the group.

Period 5

This group (160 sherds) is predominantly made up of late 17th and early 18th century material. Some Malvern and Somerset products still occur but the English tin-glazed wares (BPT 99; G&R 73-79) and yellow slipwares (BPT 100 and 101; G&R 67-72), the majority of which appear to be of local manufacture, are the most significant. A small quantity of Devon Gravel-Tempered ware (BPT 112a; G&R 56-66) and North Devon Sgraffito ware (BPT 108a; G&R 55) also occur along with two sherds of Metropolitan-type slipware (BPT 109). A sherd of Westerwald stoneware (BPT 95) is the only import. The absence of Creamware from this group would suggest a date sometime prior to 1760.

Conclusions

The analysis of the ceramic material has shown no real anomalies, the material is much as would be expected from any site in the St. Thomas/Redcliffe area. There is a scattering of 12th and 13th century pottery, indicative of occupation of the neighbouring area during this period. The products of Malvern and Somerset are now ubiquitous on

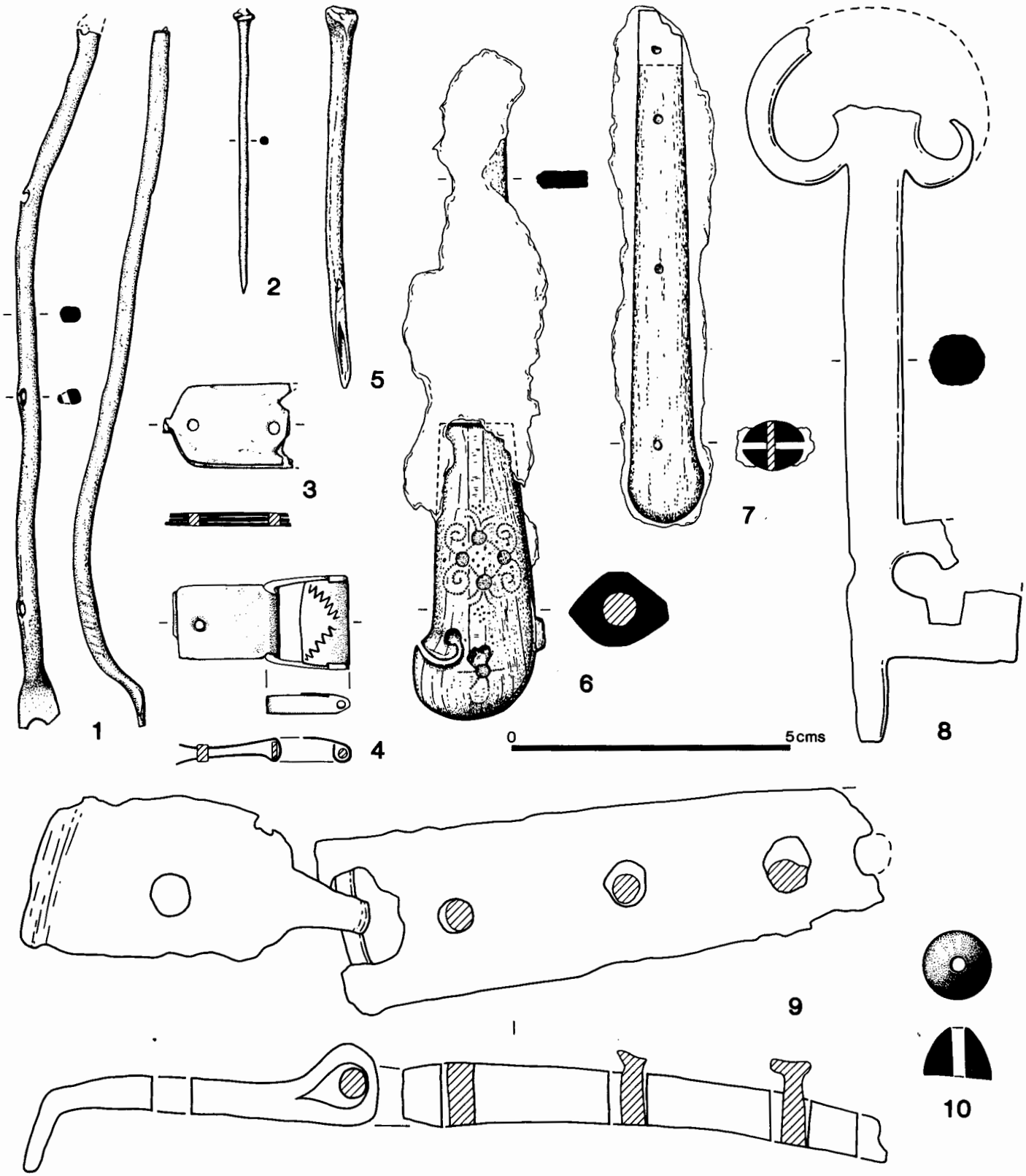

Fig. 10. Finds of metal, bone and jet. Scale 1:1.

Bristol sites of their respective periods and the local products of the late 17th and 18th centuries are typical.

The imports are of interest and show a good range for such a small site. The early French wares are also typical and are usually thought of as being associated with the medieval wine trade (Ponsford 1983). The Spanish wares, particularly the fine wares from Valencia and Seville, are appropriate for a port with strong trading links with Spain, although the number of vessels is perhaps higher than usual, whilst the Merida type wares are common throughout the town. As with most urban collections, there is a relatively high level of residual material in all groups.

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED MATERIAL

POTTERY (Fig. 9)

1. Rim and handle of a large two-handled storage jar in a grey lime-tempered fabric. A green glaze has been run over internal rim surface and the handle is slashed both for decoration and fixing. BPT 84. 1/1989 FK. Period 1.
2. Jug in a hard smooth but slightly gritty fabric. The jug has a patchy glaze on a white slip with some sgraffito decoration. There is a thumbed strip below the rim. BPT 255. 1/1989 ET, EV, EX. Period 2.
3. Decorated pillar from an openwork chafing dish. The decoration is a medallion top and (?)hunting figure side panel, the glaze is green and olive. The fabric is pale, micaceous with abundant quartz. BPT 348. 1/1989 BP. Period 3.
4. Simple, rather crude, face created from an applied pad with ring and dot and slashed work. Good green glaze. BPT 118. 1/1989 DM. Period 3.
5. Fragment of a bowl rim in a pink buff fabric. The all-over tin-glaze is rather thick with a pinky tinge. Spanish. BPT 333c. 1/1989 BQ. Period 4.
6. Cup in a hard purple-red fabric with yellow clay inclusions. The thick glaze has been poorly applied, giving a very uneven finish. Falfield BPT 266. 1/1989 DA. Period 4.
7. Dish in a dull red fabric. Decorated with a copper stained white slip and clear lead glaze with sgraffito. Nether Stowey BPT 284; G&R 41. 1/1989 AR. Period 5.

OTHER FINDS (Fig. 10)

1. Bronze bar with small holes at regular intervals. 1/1989 CW (P12). SF 18. 17th century.
2. Bronze pin with twisted wire head. 1/1989 AZ. SF 2. 17th century.
3. Bronze strap end. 1/1989 BL. SF 3. 16th/17th century.
4. Bronze buckle. 1/1989 EY (P70). SF 32. 14th century.
5. Bone pin made from the radius probably of a domestic fowl. 1/1989 CJ (P37). SF 15. 16th century.
6. Decorated bone knife-handle with iron blade. 1/1989 BC (P21). SF 4. 16th/17th century.
7. Bone knife-handle. 1/1989 BM. SF 8. 16th century.
8. Iron key. 1/1989 BL. SF 31. 16th/17th century.
9. Iron hinge. 1/1989 AK (P12). SF 30. 17th century.
10. Jet bead. 1/1989 BL. SF 5. 16th/17th century.

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF STOKE PARK, BRISTOL

by James Russell

(1) INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Stoke Park estate is situated on the northern edge of the City of Bristol, lying partly within the City boundary in the former parish of Stapleton and partly in the Northavon parish of Stoke Gifford. It occupies the picturesquely scarped and indented eastern flank of Purdown, a ridge of lias limestone and clay rising to nearly 300 ft above sea-level and commanding wide views over Bristol, Kingswood and the adjacent Frome valley.

While the scenic and recreational value of the Park has long been apparent, it is only in recent years that its historical significance has come to be fully appreciated, and in particular the importance of the work carried out there in the mid 18th century by the architect and landscape gardener Thomas Wright of Durham (1711-1786) under the patronage of Norborne Berkeley, Lord Botetourt. Wright's connection with Stoke was first recognised by Eileen Harris in the course of her pioneering research into the career of this highly individualistic designer (Harris 1971, 1979). More recently research in the archives of the Beaufort family at Badminton and Gloucester, carried out by Messrs Stewart Harding and David Lambert, as well as by the Badminton archivist Mrs Margaret Richards, has added greatly to our knowledge of Wright's activities, as well as producing much new information about the general development and management of the Stoke estate during the 18th century (Harding & Lambert 1988, Lambert & Harding 1989).

Since December 1987 this historical research has been supplemented by archaeological fieldwork carried out by the present writer with the assistance of other BAAS members. A detailed report on the first phase of this fieldwork, involving the excavation and survey of three ornamental structures in the Park, the Rotunda, the Obelisk, and the Tomb of the Horatii, has already been published (Russell 1988). Further work carried out during 1989 has included the recording of other garden buildings, a survey of earthworks in the central area of the Park (Fig. 2) and the preparation of reconstructed plans of the Park area in *c.* 1725 and 1768, using the 1st edition O.S. 1:2500 map as a base (Figs. 3, 4). The present article provides a summary of the results of this recent work. Research, both documentary and archaeological, is continuing, and it is hoped that in due course a more definitive historical account of the Stoke Park estate will be produced in which the information gleaned from archival sources will be fully integrated with the results of field survey.

In the last few years uncertainty over the future of Stoke Park has caused increasing concern to local residents and conservationists alike. This concern, coupled with growing appreciation of the Park's historical and aesthetic significance, has led in April 1989 to the establishment of the Stoke Park Restoration Trust, which aims to promote the Park's preservation and, as far as possible, recreate its mid-18th century appearance. A preliminary report detailing the Trust's proposals for preservation and restoration has recently been published (Harding 1990). BAAS is represented on the steering committee of the Trust and it is hoped that a continuing archaeological input from the Society will prove of assistance when restoration work is commenced.

The writer would like to thank the other members of BAAS - Messrs Ian Beckey, Mike Baker, Andy Buchan and John Hunt - who have assisted him in fieldwork at Stoke Park. He is also grateful to Mr Mike Stanbrook for sharing with him his extensive knowledge of the history of Stoke Gifford and to Messrs Stewart Harding and David Lambert for making the results of their original documentary research on Stoke Park so freely available to him.

(2) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (FIG. 1)

In contrast to other areas of historic parkland on the outskirts of Bristol, such as the Blaise Castle and Ashton Court estates, Stoke Park has so far produced scarcely any indication of prehistoric or Roman occupation. The only prehistoric find yet known from the area appears to be a Bronze Age flint arrowhead from Purdown, now in the Somerset County Museum (Grinsell 1969, 9). No finds of Roman material are so far reported, although a number of Roman settlements and burials are now known in the vicinity (see Fig. 1). From this negative evidence it may be inferred that, with its stiff lias clay subsoil, the Purdown ridge held few attractions for early settlers and is quite likely to have remained a marginal area of woodland and waste until well into the medieval period. Strip lynchets and other field remains indicate that by the 13th century the eastern side of the present park, where the underlying geology changes from lias clay to Triassic marl and sandstone, was being farmed by the inhabitants of Stapleton parish. By the early 15th century there is documentary evidence for a farmstead on the site of Wallscourt Farm, to the north of the present park (ST 61707801; Dahl 1934, 55, 61). It seems probable, however, that no significant settlement took place within the park area itself before the

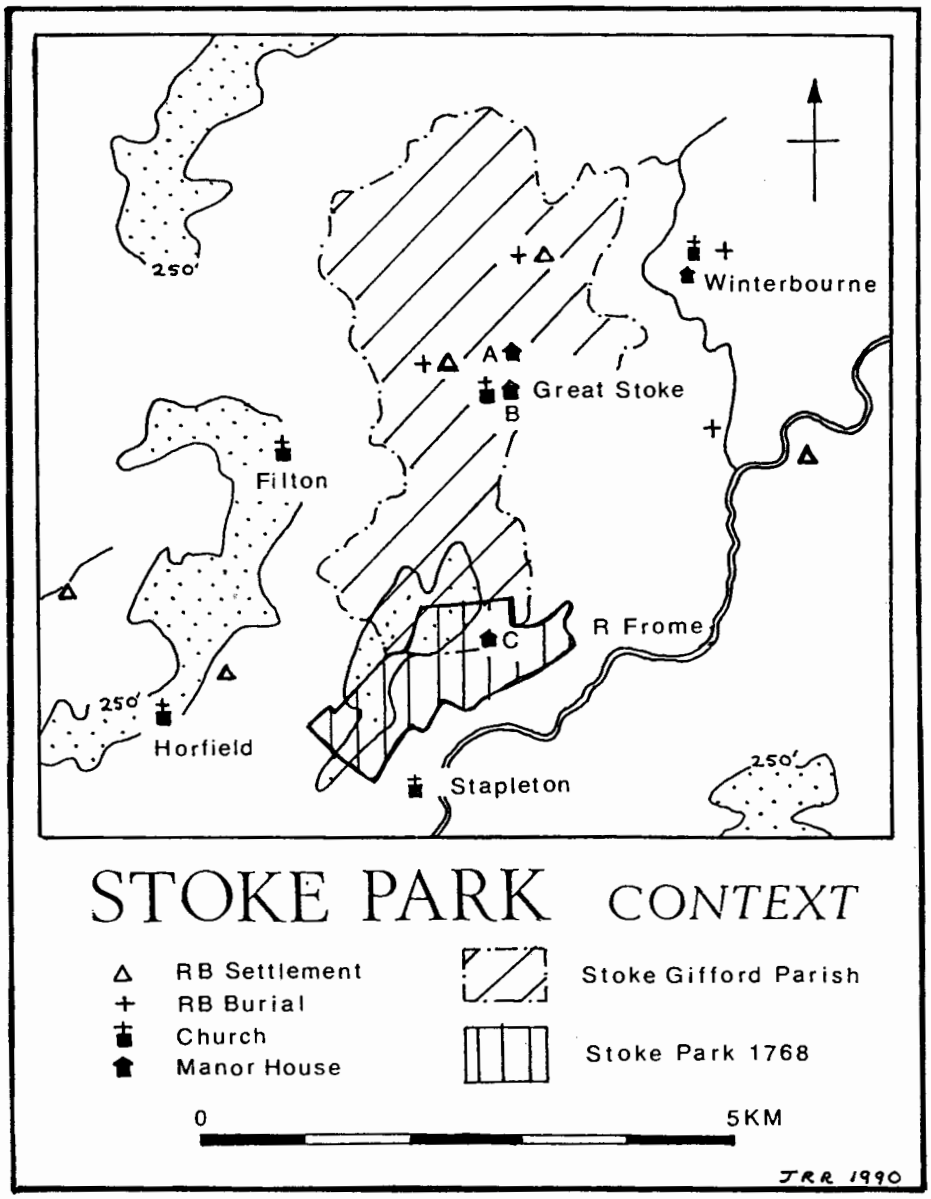

Fig. 1. Location map of the Stoke Park area.

erection of Stoke House by Sir Richard Berkeley in the late 16th century.

The Berkeley family gained possession of the manor of Stoke Gifford around 1338, following the execution for treason of John Giffard in 1322. The manor house of Stoke Gifford appears to have changed its location at least twice between the 14th and 16th centuries. The probable site of the pre-1322 Giffard manor house was identified in 1984/85 during excavations in Parsonage Field on the west side of Great Stoke village (ST 62568003; Fig. 1,A; Russell 1986, 36). Local tradition (Dahl 1934, 51) coupled with the evidence of field names, suggests that the first Berkeley manorial complex lay further south, near the present Court Farm to the east of St. Michael's Church (ST 62307970; Fig. 1,B) and was adjoined by a small park, the subject of a dispute between Sir Maurice Berkeley and the local inhabitants in the reign of Richard II (Evans 1958, 3). It was this establishment which was described by John Leland *c.* 1543 as a *"Manor Place of the Barkeleys in Ruine, and a Parke Waulle"* (Latimer 1889, 256). Finally, in the late 16th century, Sir Richard Berkeley, who succeeded to the Stoke estate in 1553, built a new mansion, the present Stoke House, on the edge of the Purdown escarpment at the southern extremity of Stoke Gifford parish (ST 62207725; Fig. 1,C; Kingsley 1989, 176-178).

There can be little doubt that the most gifted member of the Stoke Gifford branch of the Berkeley family was the last in the male line, Norborne Berkeley, Baron Botetourt (1717-1770). Succeeding to the Stoke Gifford estate in 1738, he had within a few years set about the wholesale transformation of the woods and farmland around the existing Elizabethan mansion into a landscaped park. From 1749 onwards Berkeley was assisted by Thomas Wright. Born in Byers Green, Co. Durham in 1711, Wright had initially made his reputation as a writer and teacher on mathematical and astronomical topics. Despite a humble

social background, limited formal education and a decidedly eccentric personality, Wright was able to secure the lasting friendship and support of several aristocratic patrons, including Norborne Berkeley's brother-in-law, the 4th Duke of Beaufort. Through these patrons Wright was able to develop and practice, in a semi-amateur capacity, his considerable skills as an architect and landscape designer (Harris 1971, 1979).

As an architect, Wright's work was characterised by a playful and idiosyncratic eclecticism; while capable of performing confidently in the prevailing classical style, he was also a pioneer of the gothic revival, and displayed a highly individual taste for intricate planning and the use of strongly textured "natural" materials, such as tree-roots and rough stonework. His garden layouts which, like many of his buildings, now survive only as plans and sketches, combine elaborate planning with an appreciation of picturesque informality, and occupy a transitional phase between the rigidities of the 17th and early 18th centuries and the more austere naturalism of "Capability" Brown. At Stoke, Wright was able to refine and embellish the landscaping already begun by his patron Berkeley, laying out new gardens, terraces and complex woodland walks, as well as designing a series of ornamental buildings and monuments. He also planned and supervised the complete remodelling of Stoke House, carried out in stages between 1749 and 1764.

In 1768 financial difficulties forced Berkeley to leave England to take up the post of Governor of Virginia, where he died in October 1770. He was succeeded at Stoke by his sister Elizabeth, widow of the 4th Duke of Beaufort, who carried on her brother's work of gardening and building, continuing to rely on the guidance of Thomas Wright until the latter's death in 1786. Following the death of the Dowager Duchess herself in 1799, the Stoke Gifford estate remained in the hands of the Beaufort family until its sale and subdivision in 1915. Although during this long period considerable resources were devoted to the rebuilding of farms and other improvements on the estate as a whole, few significant modifications were made to either the layout of the park or the structure of the house, which was latterly occupied almost continuously by tenants. From 1908 onwards the house and grounds were leased, and in 1915 purchased, by the Rev. H.N. Burden, who established there a "colony" for the treatment of the mentally handicapped. This institution was taken over by the National Health Service in 1948 and continues in existence as Stoke Park and Purdown Hospitals and the Burden Neurological Institute. Utilitarian hospital buildings now line the northern approach to Stoke House, although fortunately without greatly impinging on the landscaped park to the south-west. In 1940 a large anti-aircraft battery was constructed within the park boundary on the crest of the Purdown ridge (ST 61207640; Roberts 1981, 61-64, fig. 2). Since 1945 the

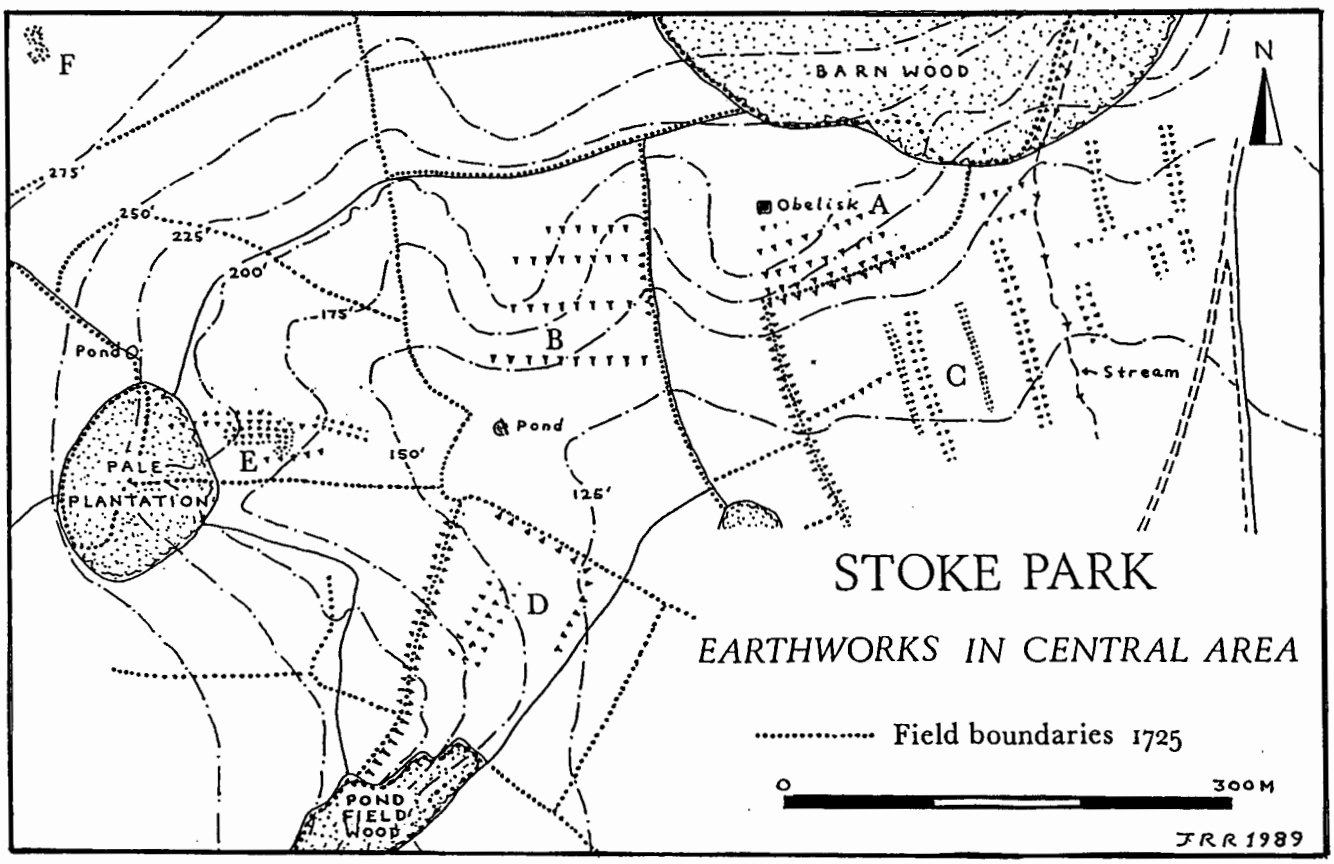

Fig. 2. Survey plan of earthworks in the central area of Stoke Park.

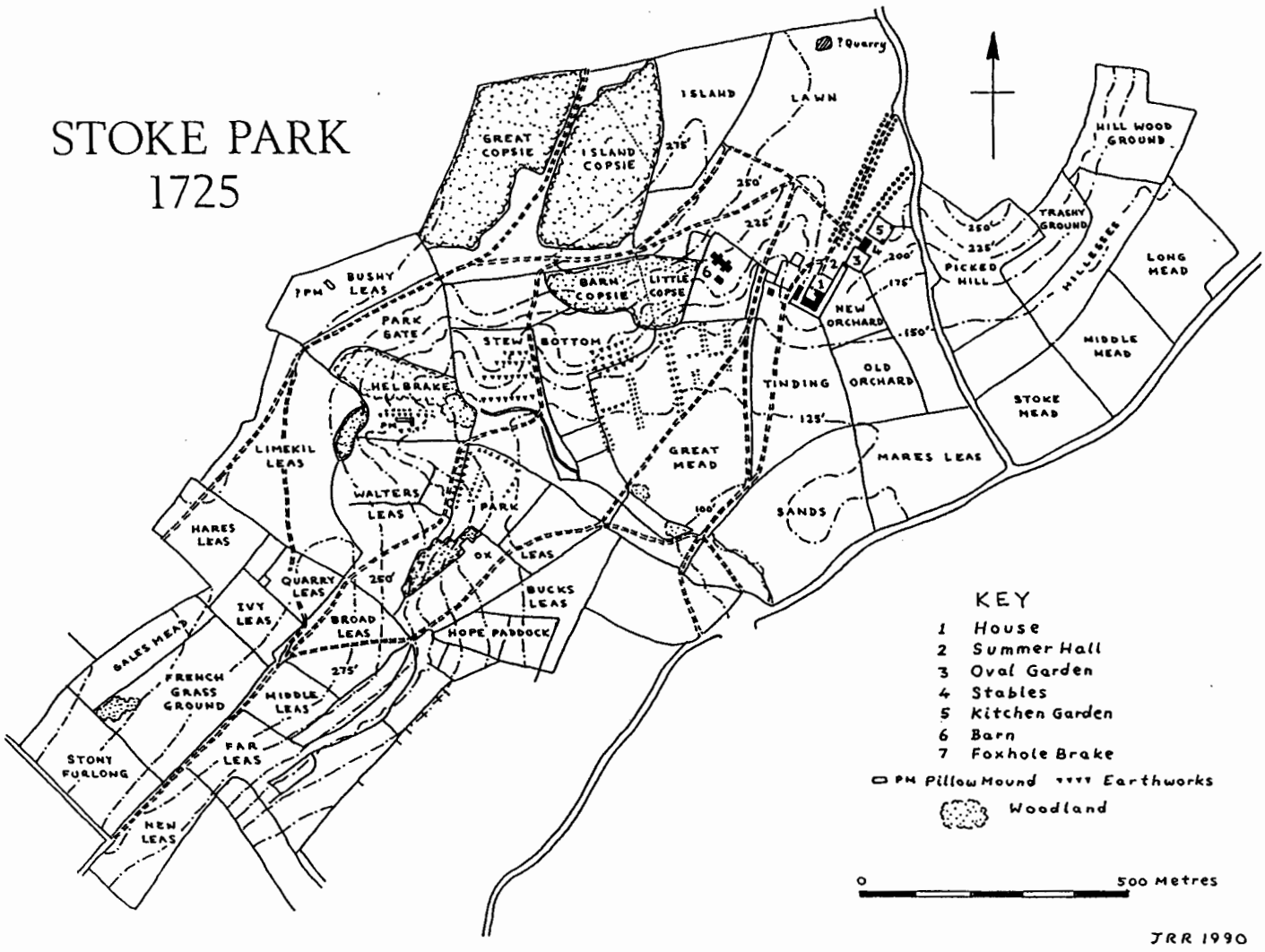

Fig. 3. Reconstructed plan of the area around Stoke House c. 1725.

Lockleaze housing estate has encroached upon the south-western corner of the park, while the M32 motorway, constructed in 1968, now runs along its eastern side.

(3) THE STOKE PARK AREA BEFORE 1738 (FIGS. 2, 3)

Comparatively little is yet known about the history of land-use and land-holding in the area now covered by Stoke Park before the park itself was laid out in the mid 18th century. The earliest surviving estate maps of the area date from around 1725; they comprise a survey of the whole of the Stoke Gifford estate made in that year by John Vascon (GRO D2700 QP 15/2) and a second, slightly later map, of superior technical quality but lacking field-names and other captions, showing the demesnes of Stoke House on a larger scale (GRO D2700 QP 15/5). Figure 3 combines the information contained in both these maps. It depicts an essentially utilitarian landscape of enclosed fields and coppiced woodland in which the only ornamental elements were the relatively modest terraced gardens immediately adjoining Stoke House and two avenues of trees converging on the mansion from the north. Barn Hill, to the west of the house, was occupied by a group of farm buildings, dominated by a massive barn some 35m long with two pairs of lateral porches (ST 62057731). To the south of this main barn was a smaller barn or farmhouse, visible in John Wootton's early 18th century view of Stoke House, now at Badminton (Harding & Lambert 1988, fig. 1). Despite the field-names "Park" and "Park Gate", there is no evidence at this date for an enclosed park with a defineable boundary.

In Figure 2 the field boundaries recorded in 1725 are superimposed on a survey of the earthworks surviving today in the central area of the present park. It will be seen that a number of banks and lynchets, for example in the area north of the present Pond Field Wood (Fig. 2,D), correspond closely with 1725 boundaries. Other earthworks, however, seem to represent features which had been abandoned by 1725. The most prominent of these are two groups of strip-lynchets, one on the slopes below the Obelisk on Star Hill (ST 61857713; Fig. 2,A) and the other further west (ST 61607710; Fig. 2,B). These terraced features are the product of ploughing along the hillside in parallel strips, probably during the earlier part of the medieval period. On the valley floor to the south of the lynchets on Star Hill are further remains of strip-fields,

probably also of medieval date, consisting of a series of parallel banks and ditches running roughly north-south (ST 61907710; Fig. 2,C); only the westernmost of this group of boundaries was still in use by 1725.

As well as relict field boundaries, Stoke Park contains the remains of several "pillow-moulds", banks thrown up to encourage colonisation by rabbits, and probably dating from soon after the construction of Stoke House in the late 16th century. One group of such mounds occupies a spur to the east of the present Pale Plantation (ST 61457703; Fig. 2,E). It consists of an east-west bank 35 metres long with a surrounding drainage ditch and a second, shorter, north-south bank, also with an enclosing ditch, abutting its eastern end. Some 300m to the north-west, on the crest of the Purdown ridge, is another probable pillow-mould, running NW-SE and approximately 20m long, with a shallow ditch enclosing its squared northern end (ST 61327728; Fig. 2,F). This feature is one of a number of earthworks on Purdown which were claimed as prehistoric by members of the University of Bristol Speleological Society in the 1940's (Crook & Tratman 1948, 48-9) and is still shown on Ordnance Survey maps as a Neolithic "long barrow". Extensive excavation by the Folk House Archaeological Club in 1954-5 (O'Neil & Grinsell 1960, 68) and by R. Iles & V. Russett in 1984/5 (Iles & White 1986, 53-55) has, however, disproved this interpretation and indicated a post-medieval date for the earthwork. The mound was in existence by 1725 and is shown as a tree-covered "Tump" on Samuel Cook's plan of 1749 (GRO D2700 QP 15/7).

The appearance of the gardens at Stoke House in the early 18th century is recorded in Kip's engraving of *c.* 1700 (Atkyns 1712, 690; Lambert & Harding 1989, fig. 1) and a vignette incorporated in the estate map of Stoke demesnes of *c.* 1725 already mentioned (GRO D2700 QP 15/5; Lambert & Harding 1989, fig. 2). As previously noted, they were on a modest scale and confined to the area immediately adjoining the house. The principal feature of this original garden layout was a stone-revetted terrace running north-eastwards from the mansion to a "summer hall" or banqueting house. The latter, now used as the chapel of Stoke Park Hospital, was built *c.* 1720 by John Symes Berkeley, to a design by Sir James Thornhill, replacing an earlier gabled and colonnaded structure depicted by Kip. The present building, five bays long, is in a restrained baroque style; its three-bay centre has fluted corinthian pilasters which originally supported a triangular pediment, now removed (Lambert & Harding 1989, 71, fig. 3). Thornhill's preliminary drawings for this structure, together with an alternative design by Nicholas Hawksmoor, are preserved in Worcester College, Oxford (Colvin 1964, Cat 71, 72, 75). Beyond this "summer hall" was a further terrace supporting a small formal garden with an oval parterre, now obliterated

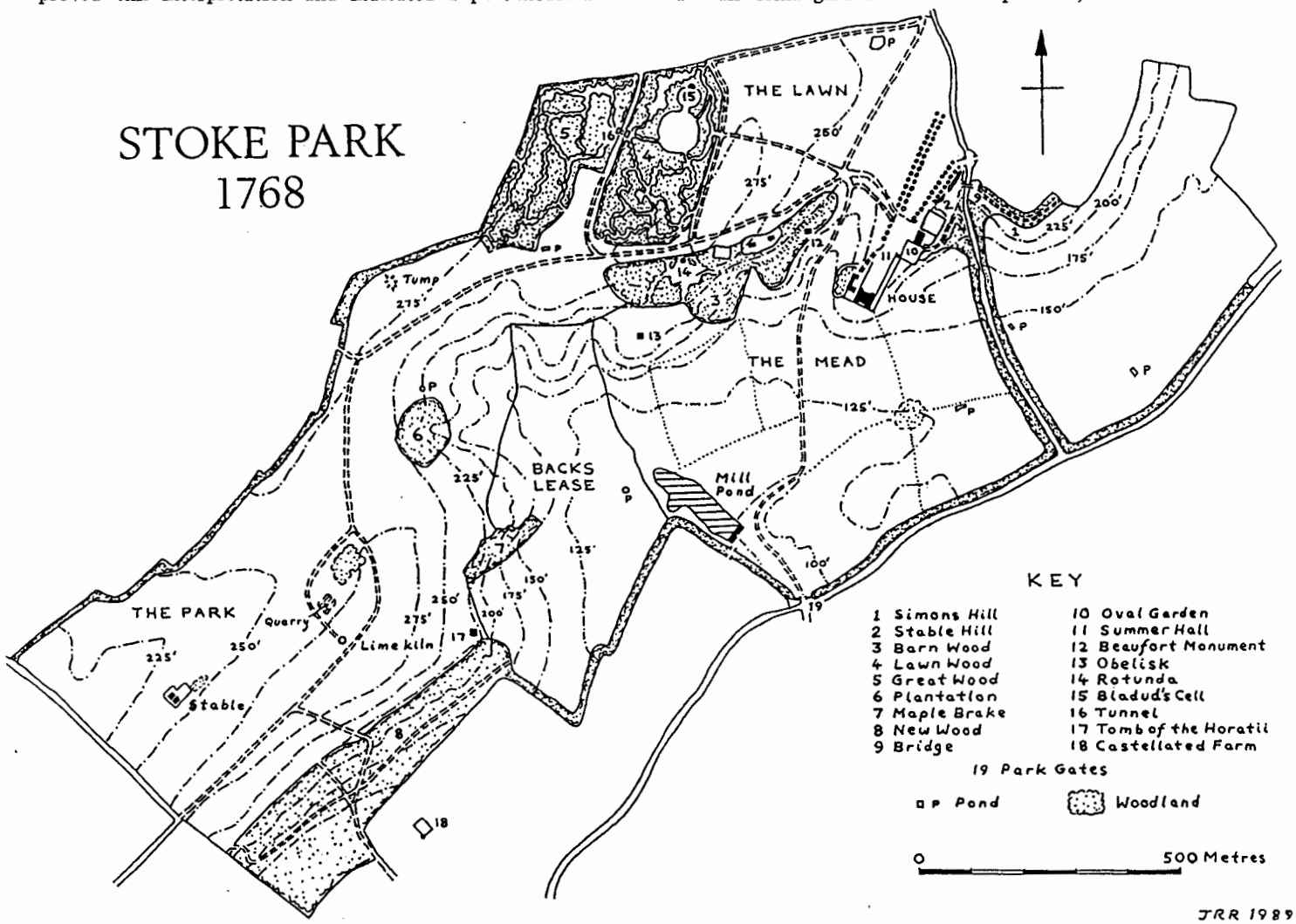

Fig. 4. Reconstructed plan of Stoke Park 1768.

by hospital buildings. To the north of this was the stable block, a plain rectangular structure of *c.* 1700, two storeys high with casement windows, which survived until its demolition *c.* 1970 as part of the hospital complex. Northwards again was a walled kitchen garden.

(4) THE CREATION OF STOKE PARK 1738-1799 (FIGS. 4-8)

Figure 4 is based largely on Jonas Blandford's 1768 survey of Stoke Park (GRO D2700 QP 15/9). Comparison with Figure 3 clearly illustrates the substantial changes wrought on the pre-existing landscape during the laying out of Stoke Park by Norborne Berkeley after 1738. Within the boundary of the new park, defined for most of its length by linear plantations or verges, nearly all earlier field divisions have been swept away, while several new plantations have been established and a variety of ornamental buildings constructed.

The creation of the park and its subsequent embellishment and maintenance is extensively documented. In addition to Blandford's finely executed 1768 survey, a cruder but still informative plan of 1749 by Samuel Cook (GRO D2700 QP 15/7; Lambert & Harding 1989, fig. 5) illustrates the early stages of emparking prior to the involvement of Thomas Wright. Wright's own plans and sketches, of which a considerable number exist in the Beaufort archives at Badminton and Gloucester, as well as in other collections, include designs for several garden buildings as well as for the layout of garden and woodland areas, the internal details of which are unfortunately omitted from Blandford's survey. As a source, however, Wright's drawings need to be used with considerable caution, since they are rarely to scale and nearly all represent proposals for forthcoming work rather than an objective record of features already in existence.

In addition to these graphic sources, the Beaufort archives, now mostly deposited in the Gloucester Record Office (GRO D2700), contain a mass of relevant written records - accounts, building vouchers, letters and memoranda - which are still in the process of being studied. Valuable information can also be gleaned from accounts of visits to Stoke by 18th century travellers, most notably a detailed description of 1764 by Bishop Pococke which, as well as demonstrating the route by which visitors were expected to view the estate, provides a terminal date for the construction of several otherwise incompletely documented garden buildings (Badminton Muniment 508.101.5(b); transcription in Lambert & Harding 1989, 81-2).

It is clear that Norborne Berkeley himself was largely responsible for the initial development of Stoke Park. His notebook (GRO D2700 QP 4/5/1) contains highly detailed records of tree planting and landscaping operations from 1743 onwards. In 1745-6 the oval Pale Plantation (ST 61407700; Fig. 4,6) was established and by 1749, the year in which Berkeley began to be assisted and advised by Thomas Wright, Cook's plan shows that the central section of the new park was already nearing its final form, with many earlier field divisions removed and long stretches of boundary verge planted.

Thomas Wright's first task at Stoke appears to have been the embellishment of the two large blocks of pre-existing coppiced woodland at the north end of the Park, Great Wood and Lawn Wood, the present Long and Hermitage Woods. A sketch plan by Wright (GRO D2700 Acc 4629 M/23; Lambert & Harding 1989, fig. 11) illustrates the intricate system of winding walks he created within each wood, linked by a tunnel (ST 61677757; Lambert & Harding 1989, fig. 13) running below the intervening roadway. Work on this tunnel is recorded in Berkeley's notebook of *c.* 1750 (GRO D2700 QP 4/5/1; Lambert & Harding 1989, 78) and again in 1757 (GRO D2700 QP 3/9/14). The tunnel itself has survived mostly intact, together with its pebble floor, although the rusticated entrance arches at either end have largely collapsed.

In the northern half of Lawn Wood, Wright's plan shows two linked circular clearings, presumably the *"Lawns with single Trees in them ... properly adorned with seats"* referred to by Pococke in 1764. At the northern end of these clearings stood the Hermitage or "Bladud's Cell" (ST 61897765), under construction in 1750 (GRO D2700 QP 3/9/7). Wright's plan for this structure, now in the Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University (Lambert & Harding 1989, fig. 12), shows it to have been trefoil shaped around a central square of posts and open to the south, with benches around the interior and a pitched stone floor (Fig. 5). The superstructure would have consisted of knarled tree-trunks and roots, packed with moss and capped by a thatched roof which, together with the pitched flooring, received regular repairs throughout the later 18th century (e.g. GRO D2700 QP 3/4/8, 3/6/6 bundle 12, 3/9/16).

While no elevation drawings for "Bladud's Cell" seem to have been preserved, a good idea of its general appearance and method of construction may be obtained from the rather more elaborate hermitage ("Urganda's Cell") surviving in the park at Badminton, which was built to Wright's design from 1747 onwards (Harris 1988, 186-188, figs. 1-3, Jones 1974, 178-180). A comparison may also be made with the "Root House" constructed between 1762 and 1778 by Thomas Farr at Blaise Castle, some 6 km to the west; this structure, now demolished but recorded in a drawing of 1789 by S.H. Grimm, seems to have had a somewhat similar layout to that of "Bladud's Cell", and may well have been directly inspired by it (Temple 1979, 49-50, plate 21). "Bladud's Cell" itself seems to have survived until at least 1880, being marked on the 1st edition O.S. 1:2500 map. Surface examination and probing of the now heavily overgrown site during 1988/89 has, however, failed to locate any obvious structural remains.

"Bladud's Cell" was the first of a series of garden buildings and monuments to be erected in Stoke Park during the 1750's and 60's. Surviving accounts and vouchers show that their construction was carried out by local firms of architect-builders, normally either the Greenways of Mangotsfield or the better-known Patys of Bristol. Their design can, however, in all cases be attributed to Thomas Wright, either from documentary evidence or on stylistic grounds. The next to be built, between December 1755 and July 1756 (GRO D2700 QP 3/6/2) was the Rotunda, an open circular temple in Barn Wood (ST 61887731). The superstructure of the Rotunda was totally removed early this century but is recorded in a photograph (Lambert & Harding 1989, fig. 9) which shows it to have consisted of ten unfluted Ionic columns supporting a shallow lead-covered dome. Excavations by BAAS in 1987-8, fully reported elsewhere (Russell 1988, 1-4, figs. 3-7) revealed the foundations and partly robbed pennant sandstone pavement of the temple, together with a system of underfloor drainage channels.

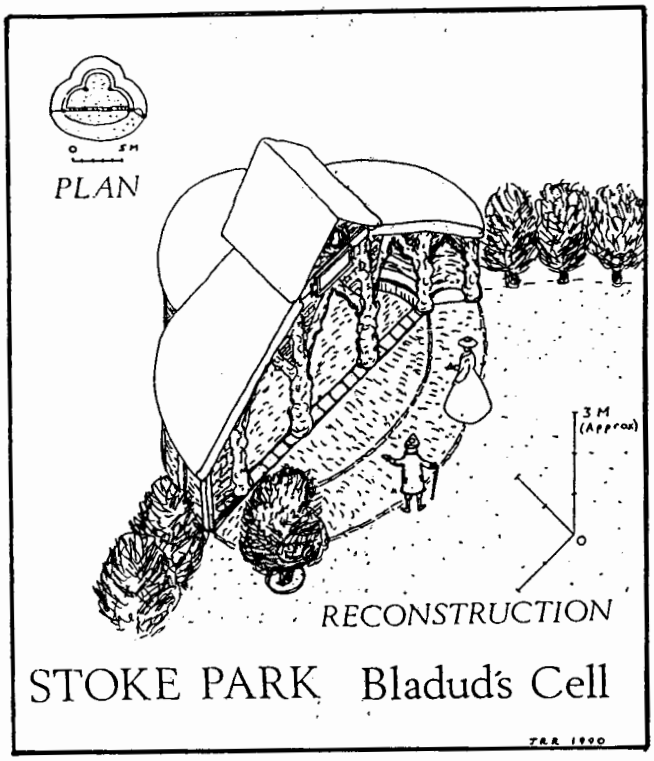

Fig. 5. Conjectural reconstruction of "Bladud's Cell" based on plan by Thomas Wright (top left).

A rough sketch by Wright in the Gloucester Record Office (Lambert & Harding 1989, 75) illustrates his proposals for paths and planting around the rotunda, including a "Saloon of Oaks" on the steep slope to the south of the structure. During the 1750's Barn Wood seems to have been extended eastwards onto Barn Hill, necessitating the removal of the pre-existing farm buildings and the creation of a new farm enclosure slightly to the north west. The only surviving feature of this later farm complex, which seems to have undergone several further phases of modification during the 19th century, are a ruined two-room cottage (ST 61987733) and a walled pond or reservoir (ST 62057736; Lambert & Harding 1989, fig. 16), both of uncertain date. From the latter a small watercourse, now largely dried up and infilled, ran southwards into the central area of the park, passing beneath the main east-west path through Barn Wood in an arched and cobble-floored culvert (ST 62027730; Lambert & Harding 1989, 78-80, figs. 14-15).

Following the premature death in 1756 of Norborne Berkeley's brother-in-law, the 4th Duke of Beaufort, a monument was erected to his memory in a low mound in the newly planted eastward extension of Barn Wood (ST 62127736; Fig. 6; Lambert & Harding 1989, 72-75, fig. 8). While the documentation for this memorial, which was in place by the time of Pococke's visit in 1764, has not yet come to light, its design can be ascribed with confidence to Thomas Wright. The monument is of a type common in the mid 18th century, consisting of a sarcophagus, bearing the inscription FRATERNI DIGNUS AMORIS (worthy of brotherly love), raised in four vermiculated blocks above a diagonally buttressed base. The handling of this conventional form is, however, decidedly idiosyncratic and bears all the hallmarks of Wright's highly personal style; the lavish use of vermiculated stonework is particularly distinctive, as is the way in which the upper "sarcophagus", with its curiously abbreviated triglyph frieze, has lost all funerary attributes and is treated purely as a piece of architecture.

During the early 1760's, while the remodelling of Stoke House was being completed (see Section 5 below), equally extensive works were being carried out in the Park and gardens. To the north-east of the house the modest 17th and early 18th century garden layout already described was substantially expanded. While the sequence of gardens thus created has today been virtually obliterated by modern buildings and road-widening, a number of Thomas Wright's sketch designs for them have survived (e.g. Harding & Lambert 1988, figs. 8-9), allowing an approximate reconstruction of their arrangement to be attempted (Fig. 7). In the garden to the north-east of the "Summer Hall" the lay-out of the pre-existing parterre was retained by Wright in a simplified oval planting of trees and bushes. Beyond the oval garden a path was laid out round the eastern sides of the stable yard and kitchen garden to reach a new area of semi-formal planting, with a central arbour, on Stable Hill. From here a battlemented bridge (ST 62427745), constructed in 1761/62 (GRO D2700 QP 3/6/6 bundle 5), and of which only the western abutment has survived recent road-widening, led the visitor across Stoke Lane onto Simons Hill. Here the garden sequence was completed by a broad, curving terrace giving wide views eastwards across the Frome Valley and south-westwards back past the house to the Park beyond.

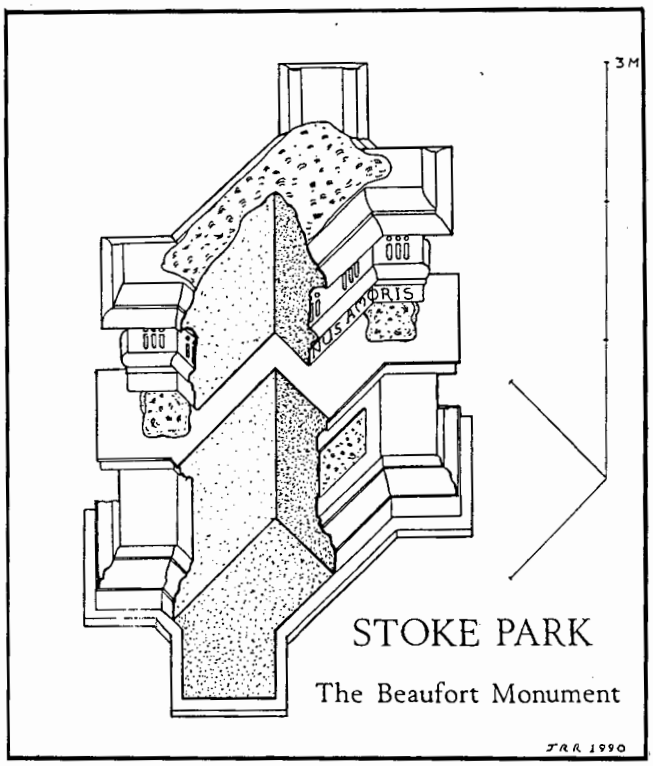

Fig. 6. Cutaway axonometric drawing of the Beaufort Monument.

Elsewhere in the Park three monumental structures - the gates at Broomhill, the Obelisk and the Tomb of the Horatii - were erected during the early 1760's. The Broomhill gateway (Fig. 4, 19; ST 62117667), under construction in August - December 1762 (GRO D2700 QP 3/6/6 bundles 9-10), consists of a central carriage entrance flanked by smaller pedestrian gates. The tall inner piers, originally topped by lanterns, have plain chamfered panelling while the outer piers have vermiculated caps, highly characteristic of Thomas Wright's style, and panels of icicle work. The flanking screen walls contain shallow niches with semi-circular heads of finely cut pennant sandstone. A small lodge, now demolished apart from its southern screen wall, was added to the east of the gate in 1777 (GRO D2700 QP 3/4/7). The original appearance of the gates themselves is not known; iron gates visible in a photograph of *c.* 1908 (Harding 1990, fig. 16) contain a central roundel with the Beaufort crest and are almost certainly of 19th century date. Mrs Margaret Richards has established that these gates were transferred around 1915 to Badminton, where they may still be seen at the southern end of the Kennel Drive (ST 80288265).

The Obelisk on Star Hill (ST 61797717) was built during 1761-2 (GRO D2700 QP 3/6/6 bundle 5) to the memory of Lady Elizabeth Somerset, daughter of the 4th Duke of Beaufort and niece of Norborne Berkeley, who was killed nearby in a riding accident on 7 May 1760. Some 16m high, with vermiculated panels around its base and crowned with a "star" or solar disc of gilded mahogany, the Obelisk survived intact until it was struck by lightning in 1940; since then it has been reduced to a stump less than 5.7m high, its core of roughly mortared lias slabs having lost most of its freestone casing (Russell 1988, 4-5, fig. 8).

In marked contrast to the conventionally designed Obelisk was the most bizarre of the garden buildings at Stoke, the "Tomb of the Horatii and Curiatii". Probably identifiable with *"the new temple in the park"* under construction in 1762 (GRO D2700 QP 3/6/6 bundle 7), it was complete by the time of Pococke's visit in 1764. Situated somewhat precariously on the rim of the Purdown escarpment near the southern end of the Park (ST 61477658), it was modelled on an ancient mausoleum at Albano near Rome, familiar with travellers on the Grand Tour, and consisted of an arched and pedimented square base supporting

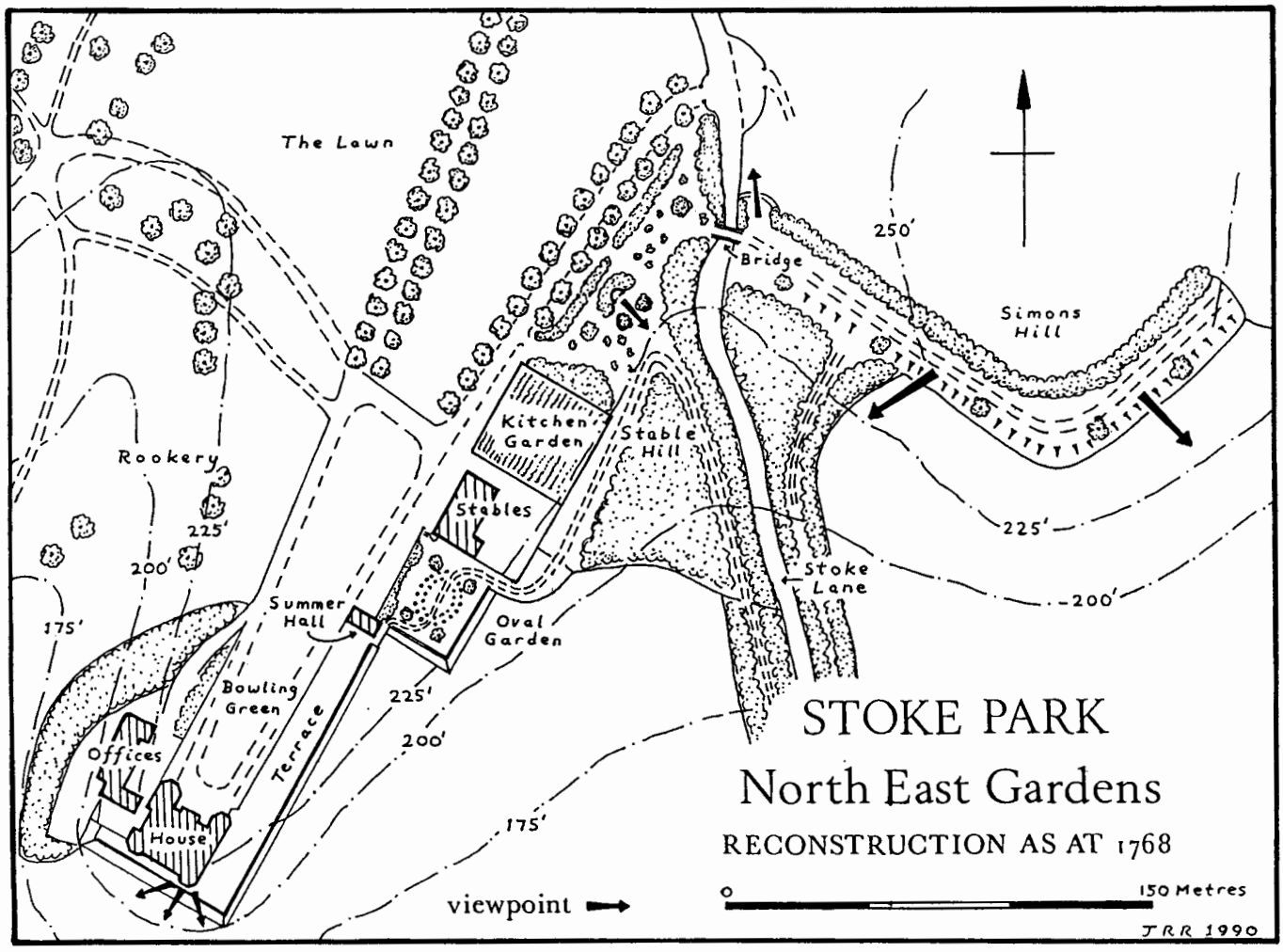

Fig. 7. Conjectural reconstruction of the gardens to the north-east of Stoke House as at 1768, based on a survey by Jonas Blandford and sketches by Thomas Wright.

an array of five large cones (Fig. 8). The only comparable English garden building appears to be the so-called "Sugar Loaves" at Werrington Park on the Devon/Cornwall border (Jones 1974, 301-2). The greater part of the "Tomb" collapsed during the 19th century, probably as a result of subsidence, and today its only visible remains are the foundations of two of the corner piers, partly concealed by a hawthorn thicket. Its appearance can, however, be reconstructed with some confidence from Pococke's description and a drawing and photograph of the east corner, which survived as an isolated fragment until it was blown up by service personnel during the Second World War (information kindly provided by Mr G. Cotterell). For a fuller discussion of this structure see Russell 1988, 5-6, figs. 10-11.

At the foot of the Purdown escarpment some 400m to the south of the "Tomb of the Horatii" stands a massively constructed circular tower with pointed windows, now incorporated in the Tower Ward of Purdown Hospital (ST 61387621; Fig. 4, 18). Early 20th century photographs and drawings (e.g. Harding 1990, fig. 12) show that the tower formerly occupied the southern corner of a group of farm buildings, with a stretch of enclosure wall, now mostly removed, containing large cross-shaped arrow slits, running north-westwards from it. Although visible from Stoke House, this structure lay outside the boundary of the Park and the Berkeley estate, in the grounds of Stapleton Grove, later Beech House. Stylistically, however, this castellated enclosure bears a remarkable similarity to the series of monumental Gothic screen walls for farm buildings which were designed by Thomas Wright for the Badminton estate and which rank among his most impressive achievements

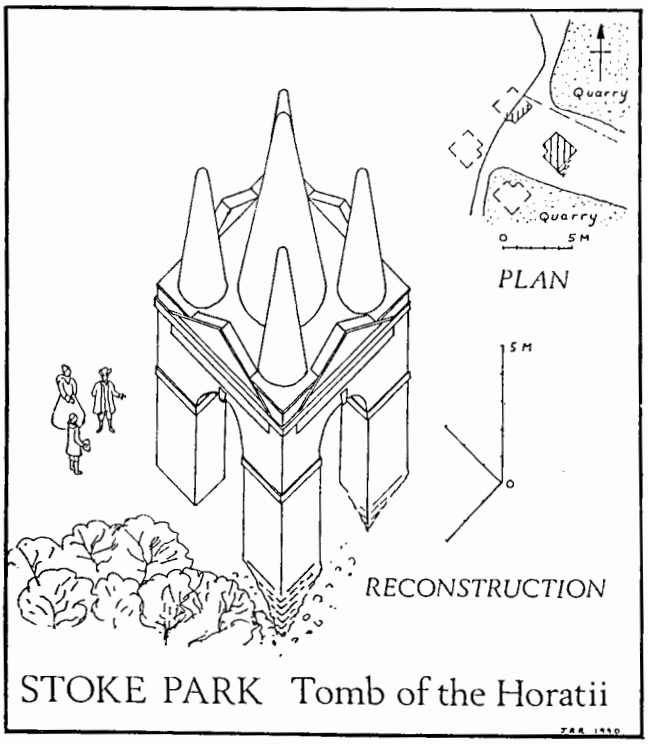

Fig. 8. Plan and reconstruction (partly conjectural) of the "Tomb of the Horatii".

(Mowl 1982). This castellated farm may be presumed to be contemporary with Stapleton Grove House, which is known to have been built in 1764 (Harding 1990, 20) for the Bristol merchant Joseph Harford. Harford was a partner of the porcelain manufacturer Richard Champion, whose brother William was a business associate of Norborne Berkeley. While supporting documentation has yet to come to light, it seems likely that Berkeley was able to provide himself with an additional, extra-mural eyecatcher by persuading Harford to employ Wright to conceal a utilitarian farm behind a Gothic facade. Stewart Harding (to whom the writer is indebted for the above information) has pointed out that Stapleton Grove formerly also possessed a thatched timber lodge very similar in style to Wright's rustic buildings at Badminton.

The last major feature to be added to Stoke Park before Norborne Berkeley's departure to Virginia in 1768 was probably the Mill Pond, later known as Duchess Pond (ST 61907685). Formed by placing a substantial masonry dam across a small stream running south-eastwards towards the Frome through the centre of the Park, the Pond seems to have been created between 1764, when an otherwise laudatory description of Stoke by the Duchess of Northumberland criticises the absence of a water feature, and 1768, when it appears on Jonas Blandford's estate plan (Harding 1990, 33). On Blandford's plan the Pond, which eventually covered 3.293 acres, is shown as having an area of only 2.5 acres, suggesting that it may have been in the process of formation at the time of his survey. The pond was infilled in 1968 during the construction of the M32 motorway, which now passes across the site of its dam.

By the time of Norborne Berkeley's death in 1770 the ornamental landscape of Stoke Park was essentially complete. During the long tenure of his sister and successor, Elizabeth, Dowager Duchess of Beaufort, accounts and other records indicate that the park and gardens were carefully maintained and that a certain amount of further building work and landscaping, albeit of a fairly modest nature, was undertaken. Thomas Wright continued to visit the Dowager Duchess regularly until his death in 1768, and his correspondence with her contains numerous proposals for new work and alterations, although it is uncertain to what extent these were carried out. As late as 1791 a new ornamental feature, an urn inscribed to the memory of Norborne Berkeley, was being installed near "Bladud's Cell" (GRO D2700 QP 3/1/6, 3/4/8). (Mrs Margaret Richards has discovered that this urn was moved after 1915 to Badminton, where it now stands in the grounds of the house close to the church).

With the death of the Duchess in 1799, however, work of this type seems to have ceased almost immediately; henceforward Stoke was to be merely a subsidiary residence of the Beaufort family, and the impetus to embellish its landscape further was lost.

(5) STOKE HOUSE (FIG. 9)

The structural history of Stoke House is a complex one and will not be completely understood until a full survey of the building has been carried out, together with a more detailed analysis of the abundant 18th century documentation. Documentary research by Messrs Harding and Lambert is continuing, while it is hoped that a detailed structural survey already begun by the Royal Commission for Historic

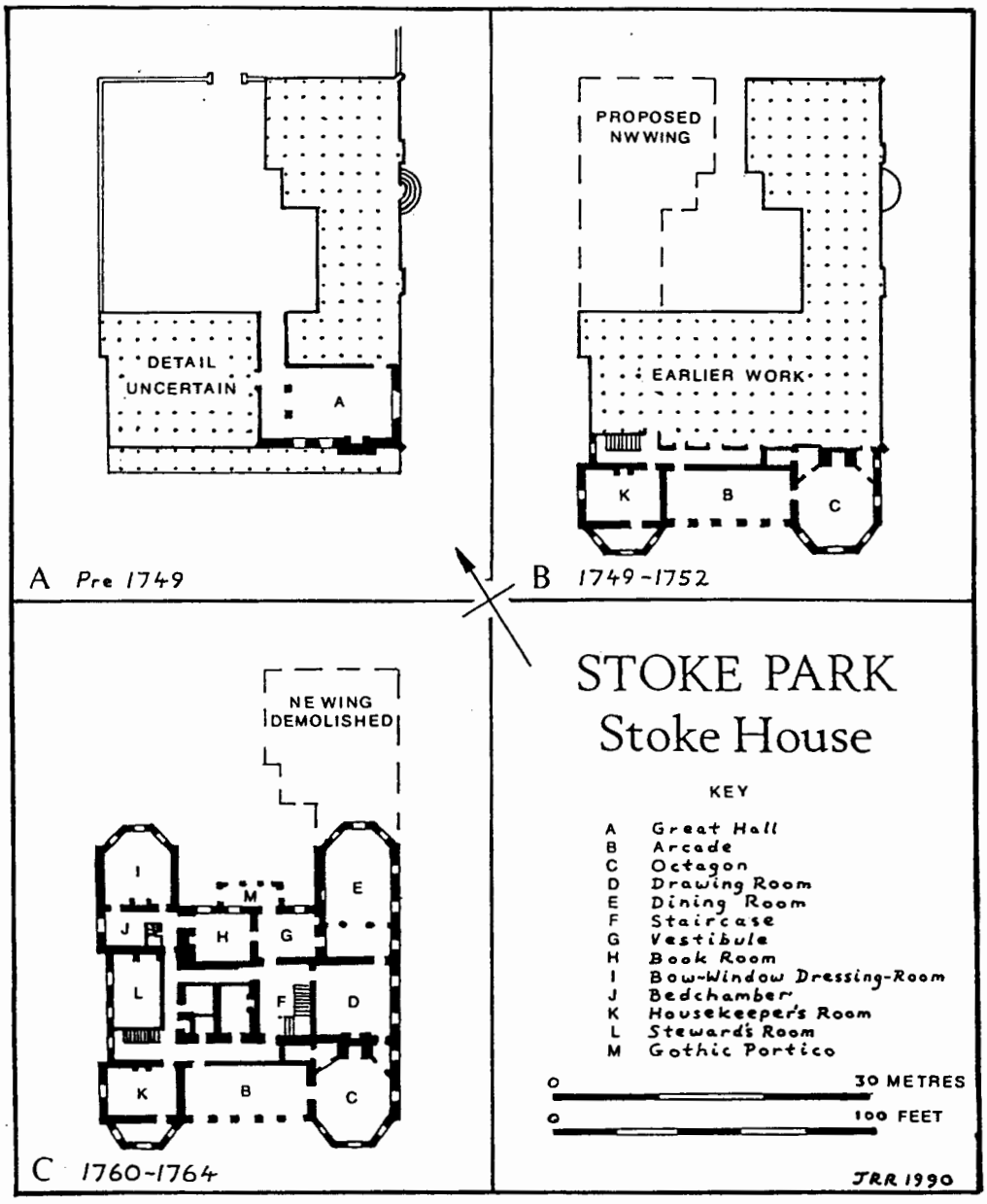

Fig. 9. Provisional development plans of Stoke House, derived (with modifications) from plans of c. 1750 by Thomas Wright (Beaufort drawings 10/1) and of c. 1800 (Beaufort drawings 10/8).

Monuments (England) will be completed in the near future. Sufficient information is, however, already available for the main stages in the building's evolution to be defined (Fig. 9).

Stoke House today appears superficially to be entirely the product of the rebuilding work carried out for Norborne Berkeley by Thomas Wright between 1749 and 1764. Considerable portions of Sir Richard Berkeley's original late 16th century fabric were, however, in fact retained by Wright in the course of his extensive, but piecemeal, reconstruction. This early house was built on the tip of a steep-sided promontory approachable only from the north-east. Its siting necessitated the construction of massive supporting terraces to the south-west and south-east whose sharply battered retaining walls remain largely unaltered, together with much of their original balustrading. Ranges of gabled service buildings, which seem to have been retained with surprisingly little modification until their demolition *c.* 1920, occupied a lower platform to the north-west.

The general appearance of the late 16th century house can be reconstructed from a number of early 18th century views, notably the Kip engraving *c.* 1700 and the estate plan vignette of *c.* 1725 already referred to in Section 2. There is in addition a sketch plan of *c.* 1750 by Thomas Wright, now at Badminton (Beaufort drawings 10/1) which purports to show the house in *"Queen Elizabeth's time"*. This, however, is clearly intended primarily to illustrate

Wright's own proposals for enlargement and refurbishment and can be shown by comparison with the available pictorial records to be highly unreliable in its placement of features such as doors, windows and fireplaces. These sources show that the Elizabethan mansion, two storeys high with extensive cellars below and gabled attics above, was roughly L-shaped with an entrance courtyard to the north-west. The earliest part of the building was probably the south-west wing, which contained service rooms to the west separated by a screens passage from the Great Hall to the east, clearly shown in Wright's otherwise untrustworthy plan. Other state rooms seem to have occupied the ground floor of the north-east wing, which on its western side had two tall stair turrets, probably also serving as prospect towers (Kingsley 1989, 177), rising above the body of the house.

Apart from minor modifications to its fenestration, Stoke House seems to have undergone few external structural changes between the late 16th century and the commencement of Thomas Wright's remodelling. This work took place in two main phases. During the first, between 1749 and 1752, extensions with canted bay windows were added at either end of the south-west front, linked by an open single-storey arcade of five bays. An elevation drawing by Wright (Beaufort drawings 10/5) suggests that the corner additions may originally have been only one storey high, although they were later heightened to three. Wright's plan shows that he initially hoped to retain the whole of the Elizabethan north-east wing and to duplicate it to the north-west, thus creating a substantially enlarged house with a completely enclosed central courtyard.

In the event a less ambitious scheme was adopted in the second and final stage of remodelling, which took place between 1760 and 1764 and was carried out, according to the surviving contract of 17 May 1760, by James Paty of Bristol *"as exprest in the plans and elevations per Mr Wright"* (GRO D2700 QP 3/6/3). The north-east wing was mostly demolished and a new north-east front created with three-storey canted bays similar to those in the south-west front flanking a small three-bay portico with elegant gothic detailing, erected in 1761 (GRO D2700 QP 3/6/6 bundle 2). The outer walls of the Elizabethan south-west wing were largely retained but completely refenestrated and heightened with crenellated parapets to disguise the original gabled rooflines.

The new exterior thus created was stylistically hybrid, classical in its symmetry and regular fenestration but rendered more picturesque by a gothic skyline of crow-steps and crenellations. This castellated appearance would have been more pronounced still if Wright had been able to fulfil his intention, illustrated in a second-floor plan (Beaufort drawings 10/3), to extend the four corner bays above the body of the building as free-standing octagonal towers. In addition to their picturesque qualities, these gothic elements helped to advertise the antiquity of the house, an aim which also seems to lie behind the distinctly "Jacobean" detailing of the arcade in the south-west front.

Internally, the new sequence of state rooms, complete by the time of Pococke's visit in 1764, occupied the ground floor on the south-east side of the house. They comprised an octagonal apartment in the south-east angle, a drawing-room and grand staircase created by the partition of the former Great Hall, and a large dining-room in the north-east angle, subdivided at its southern end by a screen of Roman doric columns supporting a richly detailed entablature. The ceilings of both dining-room and drawing-room have rococo plasterwork of the highest quality, executed by the leading Bristol plasterer of the period, Thomas Stocking. The staircase ceiling, with a circular panel containing a greek-key motif, is in a more restrained neo-classical style and may well be somewhat later in date. With the possible exception of this ceiling no major alterations seem to have been made to the structure of Stoke House since 1764, although numerous minor modifications have necessarily taken place during its use as a hospital during the present century.

ABBREVIATIONS

BAA	Bristol & Avon Archaeology
GRO	Gloucester Record Office
PUBSS	Proceedings, University of Bristol Speleological Society
TBGAS	Transactions, Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

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ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRISTOL 1989

by Michael Ponsford, Bob Jones, Bruce Williams, Eric Boore, John Bryant and Ann Linge

INTRODUCTION

A year's fieldwork is summarised in this report of the work of the Field Archaeology Section of the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The work was financed principally by the City of Bristol. We are pleased to acknowledge the contribution of National Farmers' Union Mutual Finance Society Ltd. towards the work at Cannon Street and the Special Trustees for the United Bristol Hospitals for Upper Maudlin Street. The line drawings are by Ann Linge. The abbreviation *BRSMG* is the internationally recognised code for Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, and is followed by the accession number of the relevant record or finds.

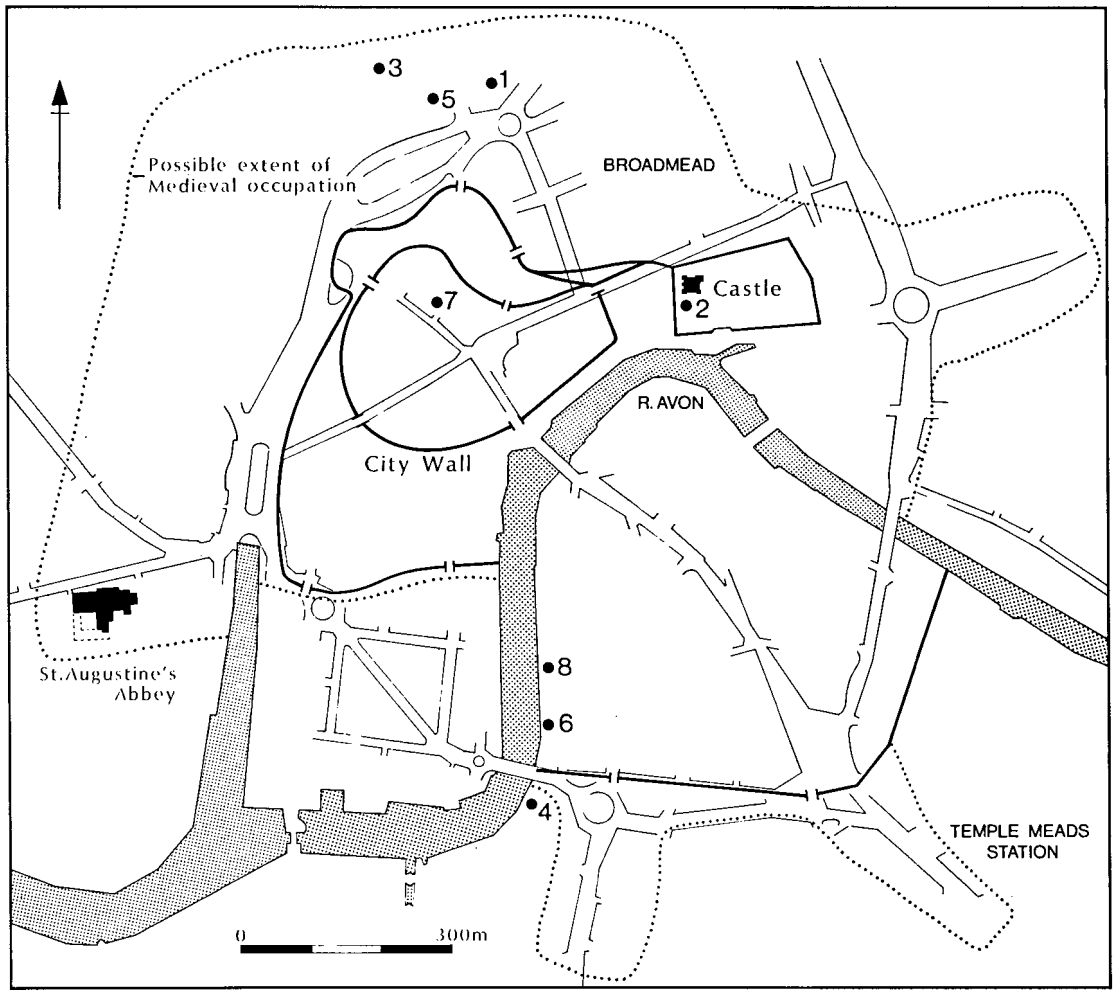

Fig. 1. Outline plan of the medieval town of Bristol, showing location of some of the sites mentioned in the text: 1 Cannon Street; 2 Castle Park; 3 Upper Maudlin Street; 4 Redcliff Wharf; 5 Lower Maudlin Street; 6 88-89 Redcliff Street; 7 Cyder House Passage; 8 117-123 Redcliff Street. The roadlines shown are modern.

A. EXCAVATIONS

Cannon Street, City (BRSMG 62/1988) (ST 5895 7348)
This is reported elsewhere in this journal.

Castle Park, City (BRSMG 22/1989) (ST 5923 7317)
A research-excavation was carried out prior to laying out the remains for public display on the site of the keep of Bristol Castle (Fig. 1, site 2). The north-east part of the keep, excavated under the auspices of the Ancient Bristol Exploration Fund in 1948 (Marshall 1951) was re-opened, allowing a re-interpretation of the remains. The stonework survived only where it had been built into the underlying motte ditch, a feature already noted in 1970 (Wilson and Moorhouse 1971, 146). Parts of the north and west walls of the keep were found as well as a buttress or tower against the west wall (Fig. 2). Within the north-west corner the bottom of a garderobe shute was excavated; finds included organic remains of coprolites and fruit-stones. On the east wall, close to the north-east corner, the foundation of an attached forebuilding, built as one with the keep, and what was probably the base of a stair (found by Marshall) were re-excavated. On the inner face of the surviving east wall was the well of the keep already emptied of its contents, including a fine group of pottery, in 1873 (Barton 1959). All the walling was intensively robbed on the demolition of the castle as a whole in about 1656, and pottery and other finds of this period were common in the robber trenches.
The corporate redevelopment of the area in the 17th century was represented by the walls of buildings which had fronted Cock and Bottle Lane (formerly Roache's Lane) to the east. In the late 19th century a brass foundry, proprietors Llewelyn and James, was built and the brick flues and furnaces were uncovered during the excavation. A provisional sequence of activity on this part of the castle-site is as follows:
1. Excavation of the motte and bailey ditches (*c.* 1080?).
2. Construction of a bridge across the motte ditch, probably of timber.
3. Construction of a stone foundation of Brandon Hill Grit *c.* 1.4m wide for a replacement bridge with ?timber superstructure (found by Marshall).
4. Revetment of north face of motte ditch on either side of the bridge.
5. Construction of the keep, probably as one build in Pennant Sandstone and a distinctive coarse buff mortar.
6. Demolition in 1656 of most of the keep excepting the remains in the motte ditch [BW]

Upper Maudlin Street, City (BRSMG 10/1989) (ST 5870 7339)
The excavation was carried out in advance of redevelopment by the Special Trustees for the Bristol United Hospitals (Fig. 1, site 3).
On a low cliff overlooking the principal central buildings of the Franciscan Friary (Ponsford 1975) the west end of a ground floor hall measuring *c.* 5.5m north-south by 8.55m was found. It had been constructed on a terrace cut into the bedrock and was founded on a slightly raised platform. The north wall continued under a standing post-medieval building while the south wall had been largely destroyed by the present-day revetment wall. The stonework was of Brandon Hill Grit, Pennant Sandstone and oolitic limestone. A fireplace of pitched Pennant and with a limestone roll-moulded surround measuring 1.54m by 0.9m was built into the west wall. The inside walls of the fireplace were covered in a cream plaster. East of the fireplace was a well-

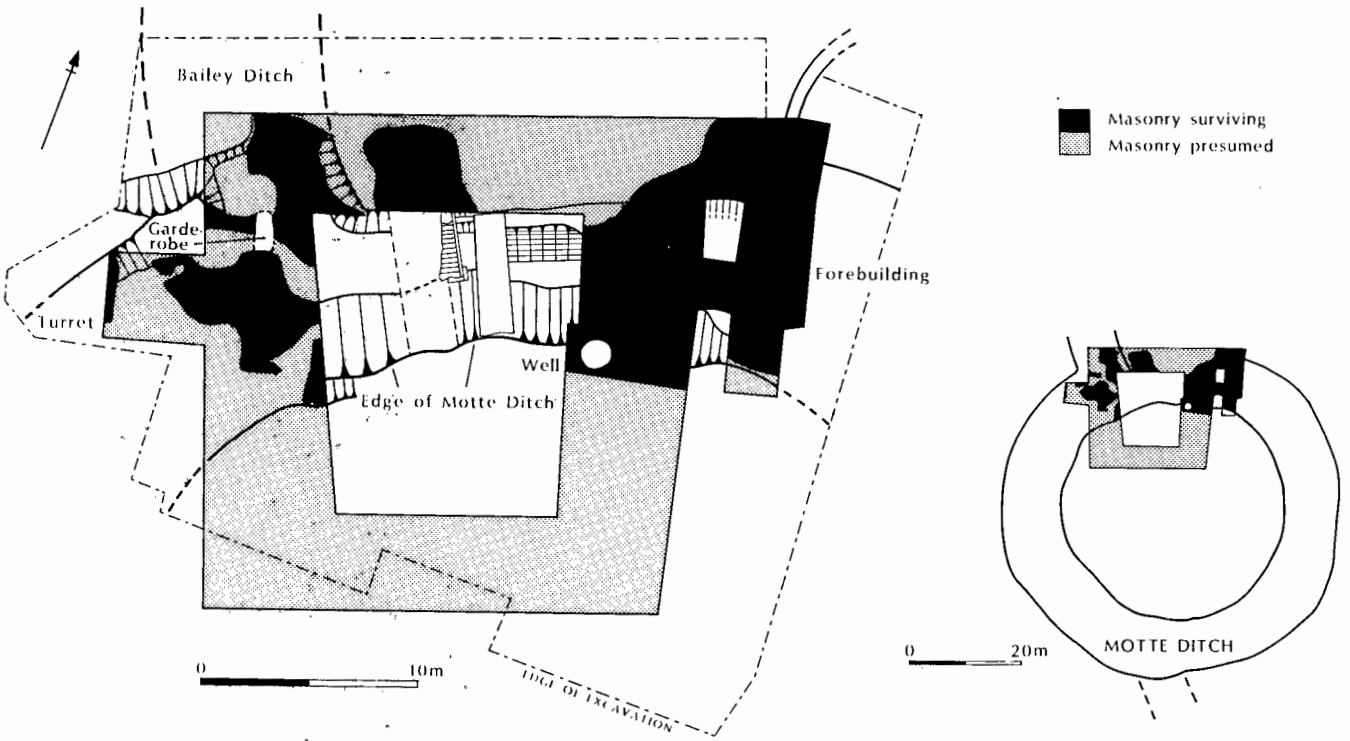

Fig. 2. Castle Park, Bristol, 1989: plans of the 12th-century keep of Bristol Castle and its relationship to the earlier motte-and-bailey ditches.

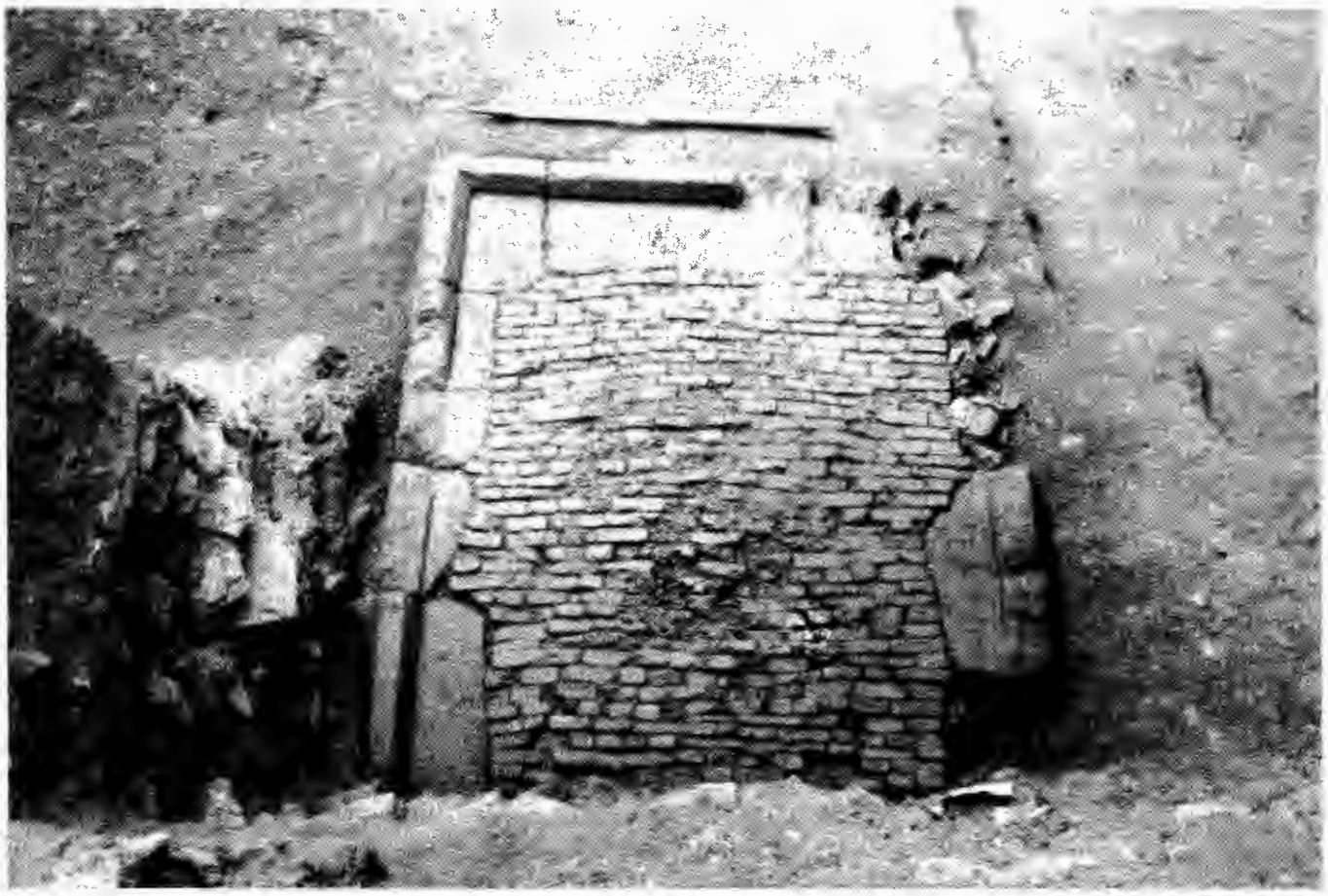

Fig. 3. Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol, 1989: open hearth composed of floor tiles and moulded freestone surround (set in the west end of the hall building). Probably 14th century.

built capped drain which terminated in a circular head and ran towards the south-east. In the west wall two sockets may have held supports for benches.

A floor foundation of crushed oolitic limestone partly overlay the drain and elsewhere there were fragments of Pennant flooring. A shallow north-south gully may have held the stone step for a dais at this west end. A silver penny of Edward I and an Anglo-Gallic jetton were found in the floor levels. The hall is provisionally interpreted as the lodgings of the 'custos' or warden and/or the guest-house of the friary.

In the 14th century the fireplace was blocked and replaced by an open hearth commencing 2.5m to the east measuring 2m by 1.5m (Fig. 3). The hearth surround was built of re-used oolitic limestone with a square-chamfered moulding, while the surface was composed of over 400 edge-set re-used plain and decorated floor tiles. Low walls were built against the north and south walls, probably to support wooden benches. During this period the room may have been a refectory.

East of the standing building, the north wall continued for 6.4m on a second terrace, but appeared to be an extension as it was of an inferior build. The overall length of the hall with this addition was now 22m. Two blocked features were noted in the north wall. The east end was divided north-south by a partition wall. To the east there was more disturbance, perhaps caused by frequent maintenance of the friars' conduit-pipe, known to have run through the area as late as the present century. A pitched-stone hearth in the east room overlay a pit and a stone drain which ran along the outside of the wall and then south, perhaps forming part of a garderobe from the earlier phase. The extension may have served as part of the service rooms for the refectory, but the relationship with the hall proper was obscured by the standing building. There is evidence to show that the building was demolished soon after being acquired by the Corporation in 1541.

The standing building, which is of about 17th century date, was built on the demolition levels of the medieval friary, and 3½ storeys in height. The building retains few datable features but the proportions, roof-pitch, a bulls-eye window and an ovolo-moulded beam with scroll stops on the first floor together confirm its date. There was also a cellar. To the west, a depth of redeposited natural soil over the demolition rubble was turned into gardens measuring 8m by 6m, and a number of postholes, pits and a linear spread of mortar were recorded. Subsequently, about 12 features composed of squares, rectangles and circles, the most complete rectangle measuring 0.9m by 0.8m, were defined by cattle cannon-bones to form borders formally

arranged on the north, west and south sides; they may have functioned as a herb garden. A large pit 2.4m by 2.3m by 1.2m in depth had a drain running into it, and may have been a cistern, pond or fountain. In the 18th century the garden became less formal, and it was also disturbed by 19th-century drains.

The demolition rubble contained many medieval Pennant Sandstone and ceramic crested ridge-tiles and a louvre. To the west end of the hall a quantity of medieval stained window glass and leaden cames was found. Other medieval finds included slates inscribed with graffiti and doodles, and there was also the bill of a wild duck; a considerable amount of Romano-British coarse pottery, of 2nd - 4th century date, had probably been re-deposited by hill-wash from the known site on the hill immediately to the north (Frere *et al.*, 1976, 410). Large quantities of post-medieval material were recovered including two 16th-century, tin-glazed tiles from Seville, three 17th-century apothecary unguent bottles and part of an ale glass with flammiform frill decoration, dated to *c.* 1700. Pipes of local manufacturers Robert Tippett, Henry Hoare and George Ebbery were common. Noteworthy among the ceramics is a white Staffordshire salt-glazed cornucopia or wall-vase, while much of the well-preserved pottery was typical of other 18th-century assemblages from the area [EB].

Redcliff Wharf (BRSMG 7/1989) (ST 5898 7230)

Exploratory trenching was carried out in advance of a major excavation (Fig. 1, site 4). A cutting 10m by 2m was excavated about 60m from the Floating Harbour, revealing a stone and brick-built wall and adjacent brick floor. The floor was coated in a green and blue translucent glaze. The foundation is almost certainly part of a glasshouse which was first recorded in about 1710, and appears to have closed down *c.* 1802 (Witt *et al.*, 1984, 35-36). The main excavation will commence when funding becomes available [BW].

B. WATCHING BRIEFS

Lower Maudlin Street, City (BRSMG 10/1989) (ST 5883 7342)

The possible boundary wall between the Franciscan Friary and St. James' Priory was recorded in a pipe-trench *c.* 6m east of Deep Street (Fig. 1, site 5).

The wall, which was aligned on Lower Maudlin Street and built mainly of Brandon Hill Grit, was noted at a depth of 1.5m from road-surface level [EB].

88-89 Redcliff Street, City (ST 5906 7253)

A watching brief was maintained on the site south of Canynges House, excavated in 1983-5 (Youngs, Clark and Barry 1984, 206-7; Youngs, Clark and Barry 1985, 161-2; Youngs, Clark and Barry 1986, 119-20) (Fig. 1, site 6). The remains of the west side of an arch, over 3m high and probably medieval, were found in the north wall of 94 Redcliff Street. Excavation suggested that this was a blind arch. During demolition a complex sequence of door and window openings was noted, one of which may have been for a stair. During machine excavation more of the 13th-century river wall, found in 1984, was uncovered. The bottom of the wall was *c.* 7.5m below ground level and founded on substantial elm piles. [RJ]

C. SURVEY OF BUILDINGS

Cyder House Passage, Broad Street (ST 5886 7314)

The standing remains of a medieval house were recorded prior to demolition. Although extensively damaged by fire in 1859, large parts had survived, and had been incorporated into later structures (Fig. 1, site 7). Initial recording of the building was carried out by R. Leech in the 1980s [JB].

Brewhouse, Kingsweston House (ST 5423 7752)

The building was cleared of rubble and the ground plan recorded in detail for Bristol Buildings Preservation Trust (for an account of the building's context see Williams 1989) [JB].

117-123 Redcliff Street, City (ST 5902 7269)

Standing medieval and later tenement boundary-walls were recorded before and during demolition of warehouses (Fig. 1, site 8). Blank arcading, fireplaces, windows and doorways were noted. The arcading was similar to examples found elsewhere in the street (see 87-89 Redcliff Street above). [JB].

St. Mathews, Kingsdown (ST 5876 7407)

This Rickman church of 1833 was photographed internally before alteration [JB].

Former Head Post Office, Small Street (ST 5875 7304)

The extensive Victorian and early 20th century buildings were recorded prior to demolition. An earlier warehouse, incorporated into the complex, was also recorded. A previously unnoticed parish boundary-mark was noted [JB].

D. DISCUSSION

The last year has been a busy one in which three major excavations and several watching briefs and building surveys have been conducted. The section has returned to several sites where large-scale excavations had already been done, and staff have been able to add to or reinterpret the original discoveries. This was particularly the case with the excavation of the castle keep.

The keep was excavated in 1948 under the auspices of the Ancient Bristol Exploration Fund, but the excavators at the time were unsure what they had found - urban archaeology was an infant discipline. It was useful therefore to be able to look at the evidence again and to add fresh information. An important conclusion was reached on the dating of the keep, based on ceramic evidence. Since the dendrochronological dating of timbers at Dundas Wharf (Nicholson and Hillam 1987), much of the pottery previously regarded as mid-13th century is now assignable to the mid-12th century (something already suspected but not hitherto proved). The keep is commonly thought to date 1137-47, based on a documentary reference to the gift of a tithe of stone from Bristol Castle (interpreted by many as the keep) to St. Mary's chapel in St. James's Priory, Bristol (Patterson 1973, charter 200). The pottery in the motte ditch, however, filled in when the foundations of the keep were being laid consists of earlier types not represented in the Dundas Wharf group of the 1140s onwards; it seems likely, therefore, that the keep was begun not long after Robert Fitzroy took possession of the Honour of Gloucester in 1120/21. It also seems likely that the tithe of stone for the chapel would have come from the castle's masons' yard rather than being taken out of the stone already allocated to a particular building.

At Upper Maudlin Street the discovery of the hall building was something of a surprise, since it is clearly part of the friary, but not necessarily part of the formal claustral arrangement. Friaries are notorious for their non-conformity of plan, but so far Greyfriars had shown little

peculiarity. The possibility that other extra-claustral buildings survive in the north in the area of the friars' garden can be tested again when the upper part of the proposed development site is excavated. The main purpose of the second phase of excavation will be, however, to examine the Romano-British site which is the only farmstead known in the central area of the city.

An excavation at Cannon Street showed the potential of the St. James' Priory site wherever remains are undamaged by modern development. Most of the priory is now under the bus-station; but should it be re-developed, there should be an opportunity to learn more about this important house, which was a cell of Tewkesbury.

In Redcliff Street most of the known medieval tenement buildings have unfortunately now been demolished for redevelopment, but at least it was possible to record them. The surviving example, however, which is the north boundary of 97 Redcliff Street, has been carefully looked after throughout the planning process.

In pursuit of further information about glass manufacture in Bristol, the site of Redcliff Wharf may contain the earliest evidence for this industry in the city. It is planned to carry out a large-scale excavation there when the right developer comes along to develop the site. There is also a considerable potential there for more waterfront archaeology, since the site probably forms the end of the Redcliff waterfront or quays [MP].

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AVON ARCHAEOLOGY 1989

R. Iles

This annual review of archaeological work in Avon is based on material sent into Avon Sites and Monuments Record. There has been a large amount of excavation in Bath and Bristol, especially the latter where three major excavations were undertaken. There is also a growing amount of evaluation now carried out prior to development. However, at the same time, there appears to be less fieldwork than in previous years.

There was no review for 1988 but some work done in that year is recorded here. If work was completed in 1988, the report will say that, otherwise all the reports below are for work done in 1989. As before, fuller reports on much of this material are held in Avon Sites and Monuments Record or the local museums. Reports of the work in Bristol appear elsewhere in this volume.

PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

BATH, Claverton Down Hospital, ST778629
Trial excavations and contour survey by V. Russett for Avon County Council. Earthworks previously noted on the site were shown to be continuations of a supposed prehistoric field system recorded to the north. A small number of Roman sherds were found, although none dated the lynchets.

BITTON, Barrow Hill, ST67796954
This barrow is situated on low-lying ground to the south-west of the church. It has been inundated by a badger-sett; R.G.J. Williams has collected some 15 flint flakes (two retouched) from the spoil. Finds to be deposited in Bristol Museum.

HANHAM ABBOTS, 159 Hanham Road
A Dobunnic gold stater coin found in rear garden and now in Bristol Museum (Acc. No. 21/1990) (G. Boyle).

WELLOW, Stoney Littleton Long Barrow, ST73515720
Following partial collapse of this Guardianship Monument, a detailed survey has been carried out prior to its being reconsolidated.

WINSCOMBE, Queens Mead Court, ST5954340
See Roman section.

ROMAN

BATH, Beau Street Baths, ST74986467
An area of shallow Roman stratification was found under the 1920's pool by Bath Archaeological Trust. A deep ditch containing a stone drain was dated to the mid 1st century. Evidence of probably contemporary buildings was found in its upper fills as demolition material. Stone buildings, probably domestic, were built over the ditch before 150 AD on a completely different alignment. (P. Davenport).

BATH, Nelson Place, Walcot, ST 75226563
Sample excavation by Bath Archaeological Trust of area with extensive Roman occupation with stratigraphy up to 2m, although damaged by cellars. This site with evidence from *c.* 50-130 AD with gullies and pits in first phase followed by industrial/domestic activity, at least two phases of substantial masonry structures in latest periods. The site was also notable for the quality and quantity of finds. (P. Davenport).

BATH, Roman Baths, ST75036471
A small trench dug for lightning conductor near the portico of the outer temple precinct revealed original ground surface and other features. (P. Davenport).

BATH, Claverton Down Hospital, ST778629
See prehistoric section.

KEYNSHAM, Somerdale, ST656692
A watching brief on geotechnical investigations here was carried out by V. Russett for Avon County Council. Although the site lay within 150m of a major Roman building, no Roman finds were revealed.

WINSCOMBE, Queensmead Court, ST57954340
Trial excavations in 1988 by V. Russett near the site of possible Roman inhumations revealed area disturbed by house in *c.* 1900. Further excavations closer to the reported burials revealed two rock-cut pits, about 200 sherds of Roman pottery and 8 sherds of late Iron Age.

MEDIEVAL AND LATER

KEYNSHAM, Keynsham Abbey, ST65556884
Continued excavation of possible Day Room by Folk House Archaeological Society. Footings of north wall continue easterly revealing another buttress-like support. The wall itself was robbed in antiquity. (B. Lowe).

PEASEDOWN ST. JOHN, ECKWEEK, ST711576 Fig. 1
Well preserved earthworks around Eckweek House Farm were recognised by Aston during general aerial survey of the region in 1984. These were identified as the Domesday settlement of "Ecewiche" which consisted of two manors totalling a mere 2.5 virgates and 8 acres of arable with a population of one villager, one smallholder and a slave. An initial earthwork survey of the site was carried out by C.J. Bond, A. Kidd and R. Iles.

In 1988 the site was earmarked for housing development and the Eckweek project was set up by Avon County Council in order to excavate the settlement. Earthwork and geophysical survey revealed two, or possibly three, stone-built farmsteads in the fields to the north of Eckweek

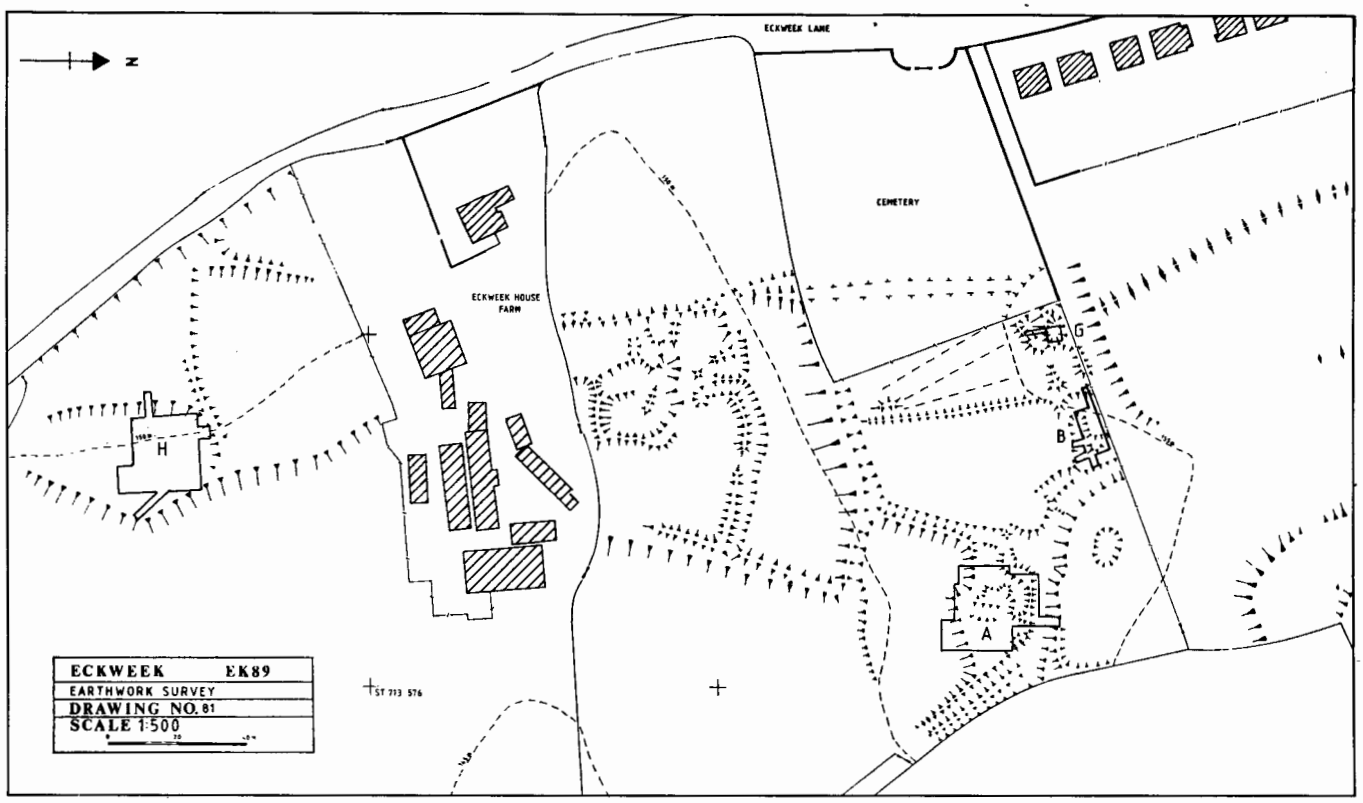

Fig. 1. Location of Earthworks at Eckweek House Farm.

House Farm and also a complex of pits and ditches associated with a broad platform on its southern side. Excavation of area A revealed an early fifteenth century stone farmhouse of through passage plan with intact ovens, hearth, drain and internal partition. Material remains were numerous, comprising ceramic jugs, dripping dishes and an elaborately decorated cistern along with domestic and structural metalwork. Associated with this farmhouse was a byre, kilnhouse, hayrick and yard.

The farmhouse had replaced an earlier, fragmentary, stone structure which had itself replaced a timber building of eleventh to twelfth century date. Excavations to the south of the modern farm (area H) also revealed pits and postholes belonging to late Saxon timber structures.

The foundation of the medieval hamlet is currently dated to the late tenth or early eleventh centuries with no evidence of Dark Age or Roman occupation. Prehistoric activity is evidenced by a Neolithic/Bronze Age flint scatter and a 2m deep Iron Age ditch at the southernmost end of area H. (A. Young and A. Kidd).

PUCKLECHURCH/MANGOTSFIELD/WESTERLEIGH/WINTERBOURNE, ST6678

A preliminary survey of Emersons Green Science Park area was carried out by V. Russett for Avon County Council. The survey, covering 2.3 sq.km., revealed 30 new sites and new information on the 3 already noted in the SMR. The newly recorded sites were largely of post-Roman date including 4 probable medieval farm sites, early mining earthworks and a potential pre-medieval estate at Wickwick Farm, Downend.

THORNBURY, Thornbury Castle, ST6342590685

A watching brief, in 1988, on a new gas pipe trench through the Privy Garden revealed yet another early 16th century tiled floor similar to the one found a few years ago and some 25m to the south. It had not been thought that there were buildings in the area of this garden. (R. Iles).

TORMARTON, Cavendish Close, ST77047854

During levelling for new buildings a small amount of medieval and post medieval pottery was found by G. Stock.

A CROUCHED INHUMATION AT TICKENHAM, AVON

C.F. Anderson, J.M.M. Dagnall and E.M. Marriott

A single crouched burial of probable Early Bronze Age date is reported.

INTRODUCTION

In May 1988 in the garden of Diamond Cottage, Hill Lane, Tickenham, Avon, (ST 43507205) (Fig. 1), the broken ends of what appeared to be human bones were exposed when the householder was digging into the vertical bank behind his cottage preparatory to the construction of a coal store. At the request of the owner a small excavation was mounted by the Clevedon and District Archaeological Society in conjunction with Woodspring Museum to establish whether this was a human burial.

THE SITE

The site is on a south-facing slope of Court Hill, part of the carboniferous limestone Failand ridge which runs south west from the Avon Gorge to Clevedon. It rises to a maximum height in this area of approximately 119m.

The garden is steeply sloping, mainly given over to lawn which had been laid along with some *c.* 0.15m of imported topsoil by the present owner some years previously. The vertical bank from which the bones protruded was a result of cutting into the hillside by a mechanical digger some years previously. It is likely that further relevant material was removed at that time.

THE EXCAVATION

A trench 1.24 x 0.7m was manually excavated from the top of the bank above the bones. The turf and imported topsoil (1) were removed by spade, below this was a layer (2) of lighter brown/orange homogenous sandy soil containing fragments of yellow ochre, iron, post-medieval pottery and clay pipe. Layer 3 was a similar matrix but also contained small, 50mm fragments of limestone. The top of the skull was in this layer. The skeleton was surrounded by a matrix of brown/orange soil with smaller, < 5mm fragments of limestone (4). All the soil in this layer was sieved. The grave pit (5) was a shallow saucer-shaped pit cut into the natural limestone bedrock (6). The grave may have been truncated by the mechanical digger.

The body had been laid on its left side in a tightly crouched position with the hands placed under the left side of the jaw. The head was orientated north, the body

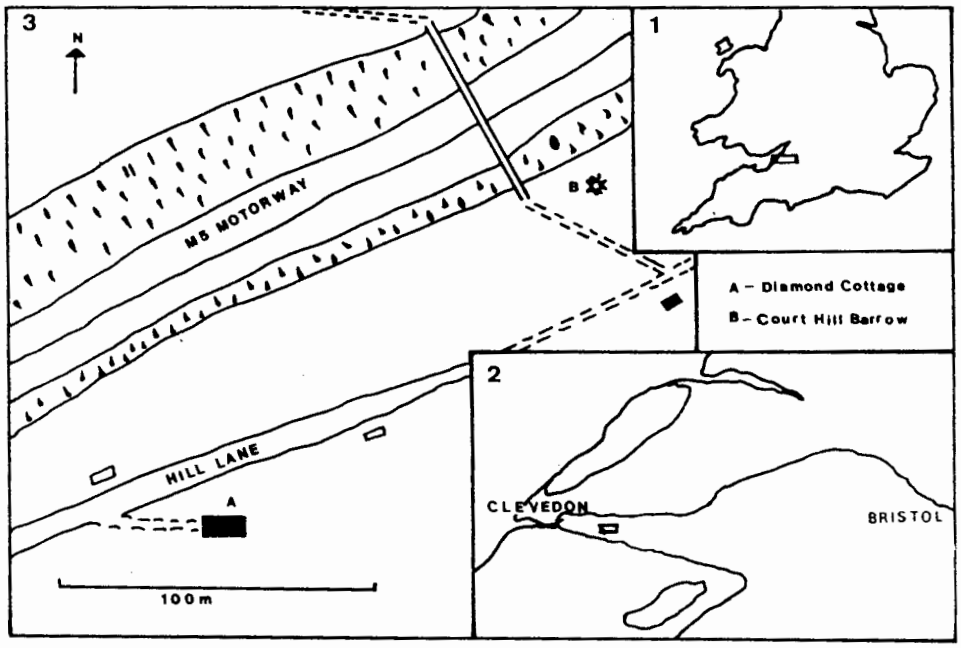

Fig. 1. Location of burial at Diamond Cottage, Tickenham.

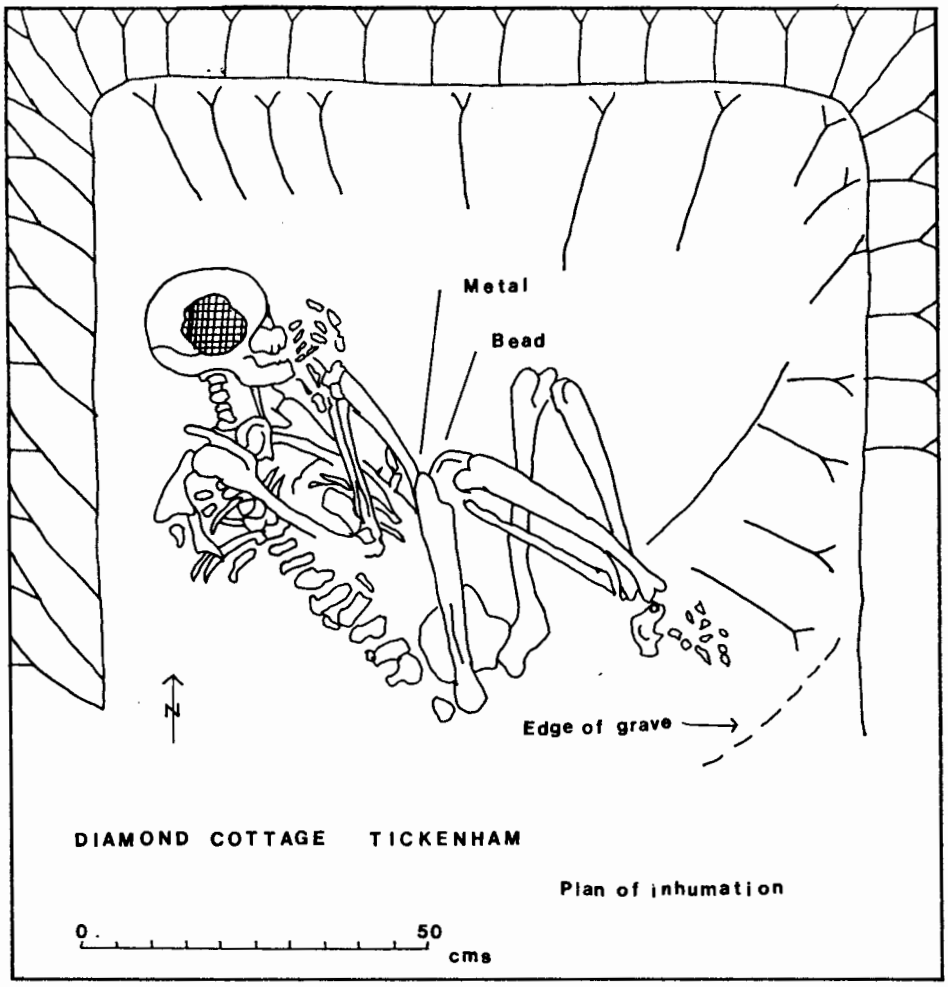

Fig. 2. Plan of inhumation at Diamond Cottage, Tickenham.

facing east (Fig. 2). The associated grave goods were a tiny bead, possibly of shale, and a minute droplet of what may be copper alloy, both of which were found by the right knee.

The excavation was extended a further 1.35m to the east in order to try and ascertain whether a barrow had covered the burial. The same sequence of layers 1 and 2 was observed again, this time called 7 and 8. A modern burial of a dog was found in layer 8 which was cut by the trench for an electric power cable. At the eastern end of the extension the bedrock dipped steeply with (8) extending to a depth of at least 1.85m, at which point the excavation was called to a halt.

THE INHUMATION

A preliminary examination indicated that the person buried was an adult male with some evidence for arthritis in the spine.

FINDS

1. A tiny bead which appears to be of shale, 3.9mm x 2.2mm. Found by the right knee.
2. A minute globule of copper alloy, 3mm x 3mm. Found by the right knee.

DISCUSSION

Apart from the shallow cut in the bedrock (5), little evidence for a grave was found, although the excavation may not have been large enough to have found all of its edge. The small fragments of limestone in (3) and (4) seemed to have been introduced and they may well have formed part of the grave fill. No evidence for a barrow was observed.

The site is about 150m from a round barrow at Court Hill which was excavated in 1969. There the primary burial was an unaccompanied crouched inhumation of an adult male which was suggested to be of Earlier Bronze Age date (Green 1972/73). As Grinsell notes, the radiocarbon date of 1375 + 100 B.C. (I-5735) obtained from the human bones is late for an inhumation burial (Grinsell 1987, 37). The tightly crouched inhumation of the Diamond Cottage burial is typical of the Earlier Bronze Age and it may be suspected that it is also of this date (*c.* 2150-1450 B.C.; Burgess 1980, 62).

This is supported by the discovery of what may be a shale bead with the burial. Shale or jet beads are found occasionally in Earlier Bronze Age Beaker burials (Clarke 1970, 439-46), including a find from Charmy Down, Avon (*ibid* 1970, 444, 472, Fig. 883; Darvill 1987, 23, Fig.

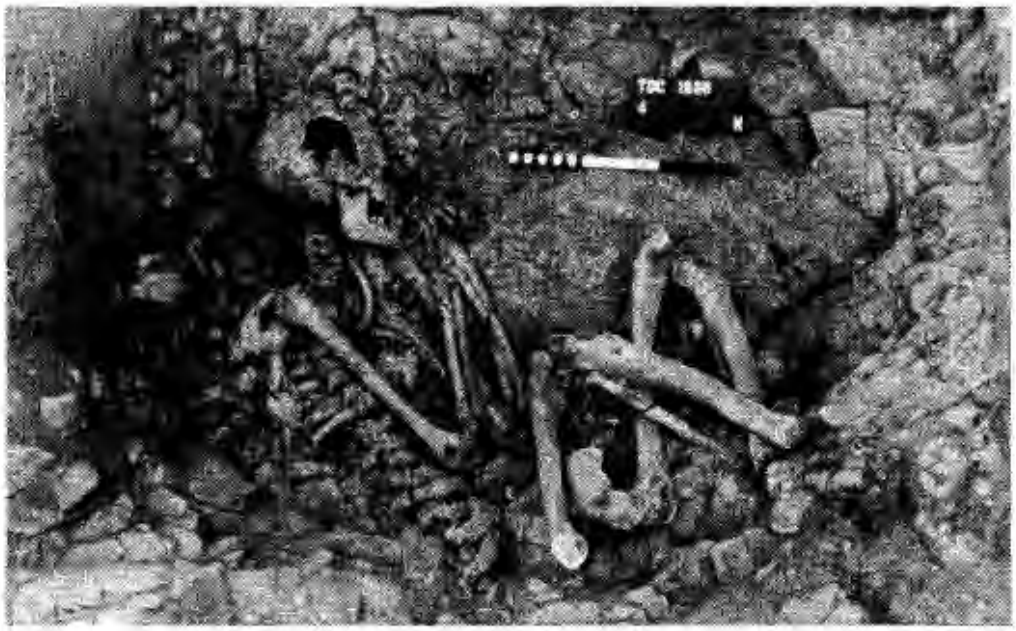

Fig. 3. Fully excavated skeleton in shallow grave pit in bedrock.

2.9A). The closest parallels for the Tickenham bead are those from a recently discovered well-furnished burial at Chilbolton, Hampshire and from the Upton Pyne barrow, Devon. These beads are very small. Fifty-five beads were found in the Chilbolton burial where they were widely scattered and it is possible that they decorated a costume or were from a necklace (Russell pers. comm.). There were also about fifty beads in the Upton Payne burial which appear to be graded in size and are stated by Thurnum to have formed a necklace (1871, 516, Fig. 210; Kinnes 1985). If there were more beads associated with the Tickenham burial, they may have been lost in the original cutting of the slope by the mechanical digger or it may be that there originally was only one bead. The Beaker burials with lignite or jet beads from Beggars Haven, Sussex and Thirsk, West Yorkshire were in female burials (Clarke 1970, 449) but the Chilbolton burial was male, as the Tickenham one appears to be also.

In the absence of analyses, it is not possible to say anything about the globule of copper alloy.

Beaker flat graves are known in Avon but, if the burial was covered by a barrow, it may have been covered by hillwash or destroyed by cultivation or landscaping. The Court Hill barrow was less than 10m in diameter. It is possible that the Tickenham burial is broadly contemporary with that at Court Hill and that they formed part of a cemetery. A disc barrow has been suggested at Walton Common Down *c.* 1.5km away (Phillips 1931, 34-42) but Grinsell regards this as unlikely (1972, 121). Even so, barrows are not uncommon on the uplands of Avon and Somerset (Grinsell 1972; 1980; 1987, 33, Fig. 3.11; Ellison 1982, 43-5, Fig. 6.3). Although the Failand ridge is not particularly high, the surrounding land is very low-lying and barrows on or near the crest of the ridge would have been prominent from the south.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Mr & Mrs K. Willicombe for inviting us to undertake the excavation and for their hospitality, and other members of the Society for their help. Mr P.H. Roberts examined the skeleton and A. Russell supplied information about the Chilbolton burial in advance of its publication. Most especially we are indebted to Victoria Pirie (then of Woodspring Museum) and Andrew Fitzpatrick for their never failing help throughout the excavation and for their advice and assistance with this report. The finds and archive are lodged at Woodspring Museum, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 1PR.

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SMEATHAM'S BATCH: A MENDIP BARROW, SPOIL HEAP OR BOUNDARY CAIRN

Robert G.J. Williams

INTRODUCTION

On the brow of the northern escarpment of the Mendip Hills 200m NNW of the Wells Way Inn, NGR ST 54525617 (at *c.* 227m above OD, on Dolomitic Conglomerate), is a circular mound, 12m in diameter and 0.5m high, which is crossed by the boundary wall between the parishes of Compton Martin and West Harptree (pre-1974 Somerset, now the County of Avon) (Fig. 1)

It was briefly noted, but not identified as a barrow, by Rahtz and Greenfield (1977, p.156) during an examination of the course of the Stratford Lane Roman road which is reputed to be on the same alignment as the parish boundary. They observed that this low mound, at the western end of a prominent field-bank, marked a slight turn in the boundary wall and that it had been the site of an Ordnance Survey trigonometrical point (a temporary survey station which had actually been located on the centre of the mound 2m east of the wall). This position on a 'false crest' commanding a wide view of the Chew valley is a typical barrow site; on the Cotswolds it was noted by Darvill and Grinsell (1990, p.49) that there was a marked tendency for such sitings for both long and round barrows. The mound is not recorded in the lists of Somerset barrows compiled by Leslie Grinsell (1971 and 1988) which includes a number of doubtful sites where it has been impossible to distinguish between prehistoric barrows and industrial spoil-heaps; on Mendip usually from lead mining. Excavation of the mound would be unjustifiable and the following is an attempt to determine its origin by other means.

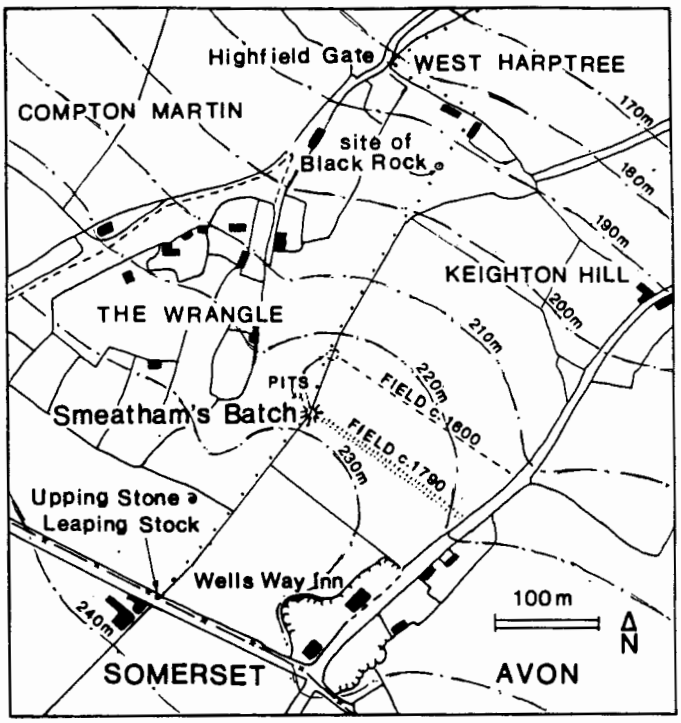

Fig. 1. Compton Martin-West Harptree parish boundary and Smeatham's Batch.

USE AS A BOUNDARY POINT

Grinsell (1971, pp.63-68 and 1988, p.19) gives many examples of barrows being used as boundary points in Saxon, medieval and later estate and parish perambulations but he includes a cautionary note of 'new-made barrows' documented in A.D. 1352 as marking the boundary of an estate in the Wookey area of Mendip. No Saxon or medieval records seem to have survived for the boundaries of Compton Martin or West Harptree but Frances Neale (1976, pp. 79-80) argues convincingly for origins dating back into the late Saxon period.

The mound is not marked on a *c.* 1600 map (Somerset Record Office (hereafter SRO) DD/X/NW) which shows the boundary of Compton Martin following the western edge of early enclosures at 'Knyghton' (Keighton Hill) in West Harptree. This map is possibly the 'plan of A.D. 1638' with bounds said to be in agreement with those of a perambulation of Compton Martin hill-commons, 26 May 1720 (Huntington Library, San Marino, U.S.A. ST, Brydges manorial papers, Box 5). This starts at 'Black Rock' near Highfield Gate and continues "– from thence did go up to the Southwest corner of Smeatham's Ground and so to the Batch by the Pit and from thence to the Leaping Stock–". A 'Smetham Batch' is recorded here in a perambulation of the Liberty and Royalty of East Harptree, 10 June 1768 (SRO, DD/WG 14, 36/37) which covers the hill areas of several parishes. This point is drawn as a mound called 'Smytham Batch' on a sketch plan showing the Compton Martin hill-bounds, 1638 to 1777 (Huntington, ST map 105). The same boundary is shown on a scale map by T. Jeffery, *c.* 1777 (Huntington, ST map 106) and, although not drawn as a mound, 'Smytham Batch' is accurately located as a point on the then open common about 60m south of the 'West Harptree old enclosures'. These would have included 'Smeatham's Ground' which was extended by the West Harptree Enclosure Act 1790 as far as the now

abandoned field-bank which joins the mound (SRO, enclosure map and award. Q/RDe, 31). The position of the mound is marked as 'Smeathams Corner' on the Compton Martin enclosure map, 1791 (SRO. Q/RDe, 71), which also shows 'Upping Stone' at the point where the parish boundary joins the Cheddar Road. A boundary stone still exists here next to a stone stile at NGR ST 54385600, and this is no doubt the site of the 'Leaping Stock' of the 1720 perambulation.

PLACE NAME EVIDENCE

An association with lead mining is hinted as on Mendip in 1584 'smetham' (Gough, 1967, pp.147-150) and elsewhere in the 18/19th centuries 'smytham' (Oxford English Dictionary) are early forms of 'smitham'; the finest particles obtained in the reduction of lead ore. However, the nearest lead-mining activity is over 1km south of the mound on the Harptree ridge. The continuance of 'Smeatham's Ground' as a field name from at least 1720 to 1791 suggests that it had been owned by a person with the surname Smeatham, well known in Somerset in the 17-19th centuries (SRO, Dr Campbell's Index) and, although rare, still in use today.

There are many meanings to the word 'batch' and, on Mendip, Grinsell (1971, p.71) thought that, in relation to the Beacon Batch group of barrows on Blackdown, it meant a piece of ground upon which barrows are situated. Bayley (1985, p.20) notes that three spoil heaps from coal mining are recorded on the Stanton Drew tythe map (1842) with 'Batch' names. The present writer (Williams, 1988, p.4) found that, in a perambulation of Rodney Stoke in 1780, a recorded round barrow (Grinsell's, RODNEY STOKE 11) was described as 'a batch of earth' and (p.6) that the name 'Stobarrow Batch' was given to the huge barrow (Grinsell's, WEST HARPTREE 12) mentioned in Mendip perambulations dating back to *c.* 1181. The Compton Martin enclosure map (1791) shows 'Three Mile Batch' which is the 'Strad Barrow' of the *c.* 1600 map of Mendip (Grinsell's, COMPTON MARTIN 7). The Huntington maps *c.* 1777 show three named barrows as well as 'Smytham Batch'.

The description of a 'Batch by the Pit' (1720) might suggest that the mound is a spoil heap. The deep stone-quarry at the rear of the Wells Way Inn seems too far away but there are a number of small surface-quarries nearer, including a shallow depression, 7m in diameter and 0.2m deep, only about 20m NW of the mound. Small pits of this nature are very common on Mendip and many were dug to supply stone for the enclosure walls of the 18/19th centuries. Not all quarry pits are of this period and a curious custom is revealed by Vince Russett (1980, p.4) in extracts from the Cheddar perambulations 1620-30. In an area near Wellington Farm above Cheddar Gorge, which was not enclosed until *c.* 1800, the perambulations record "– boundary stones of late have been broken up and now only the pitts we use(d) to dig by the stones remain for our boundaries –". This does suggest that efforts were made to mark the early boundaries by stones quarried locally and perhaps cairns were raised where prehistoric barrows or other landscape features were not available.

CONCLUSIONS

The mound, which predates the adjoining field-bank, is not large but it has the shape and typical siting of a round barrow. It seems to have no connection with lead mining and, although some Mendip barrows do have 'Batch' names, this is not proof of identification. Even though the earliest known record of the boundary is post-medieval, it is not unreasonable to assume that it was aligned in the late Saxon period, using an existing prehistoric barrow as a boundary marker. However, the mound could conceivably be a purpose-built boundary cairn and so, like many other Mendip sites, it can only be classified as a 'possible' round barrow.

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EXCAVATIONS AT BAILEYS COURT FARM, STOKE GIFFORD, 1990 (A PRELIMINARY NOTE)

by James Russell

Between March and June 1990 rescue excavations were carried out by BAAS and Bristol City Museum on the site of a previously unrecorded Roman settlement revealed by topsoil clearance to the east of Baileys Court Farm (now the Baileys Court Inn), Stoke Gifford. The newly-discovered site, which lies some 1400m north-east of another Romano-British farmstead excavated in 1978-1981 (ST 61708010; Parker 1978) occupies almost level ground rising gently to the east, the underlying geology comprising alternate bands of white lias limestone and yellow clay. Two separate areas of the settlement were exposed, the first (area A; ST 62828092) during building work and the second (area B; ST 62758085) during preparation of a cricket pitch. On both sites excavation, confined to the uppermost Roman deposits, was undertaken at weekends and bank holidays by BAAS volunteers under the supervision of Mr J.M. Hunt and the present writer, followed by detailed recording carried out by the Field Archaeology Section, Bristol City Museum under the direction of Mr B. Williams. Funding for the work undertaken by the Museum was generously provided by the developers, Tarmac Homes PLC (area A), Midas Construction, Hubbard Ford Partnership and Northavon District Council (area B). While new housing has now largely obliterated the remains exposed in area A, those in area B will be preserved below the new cricket square, the drainage for which has been redesigned by the developer to minimise damage.

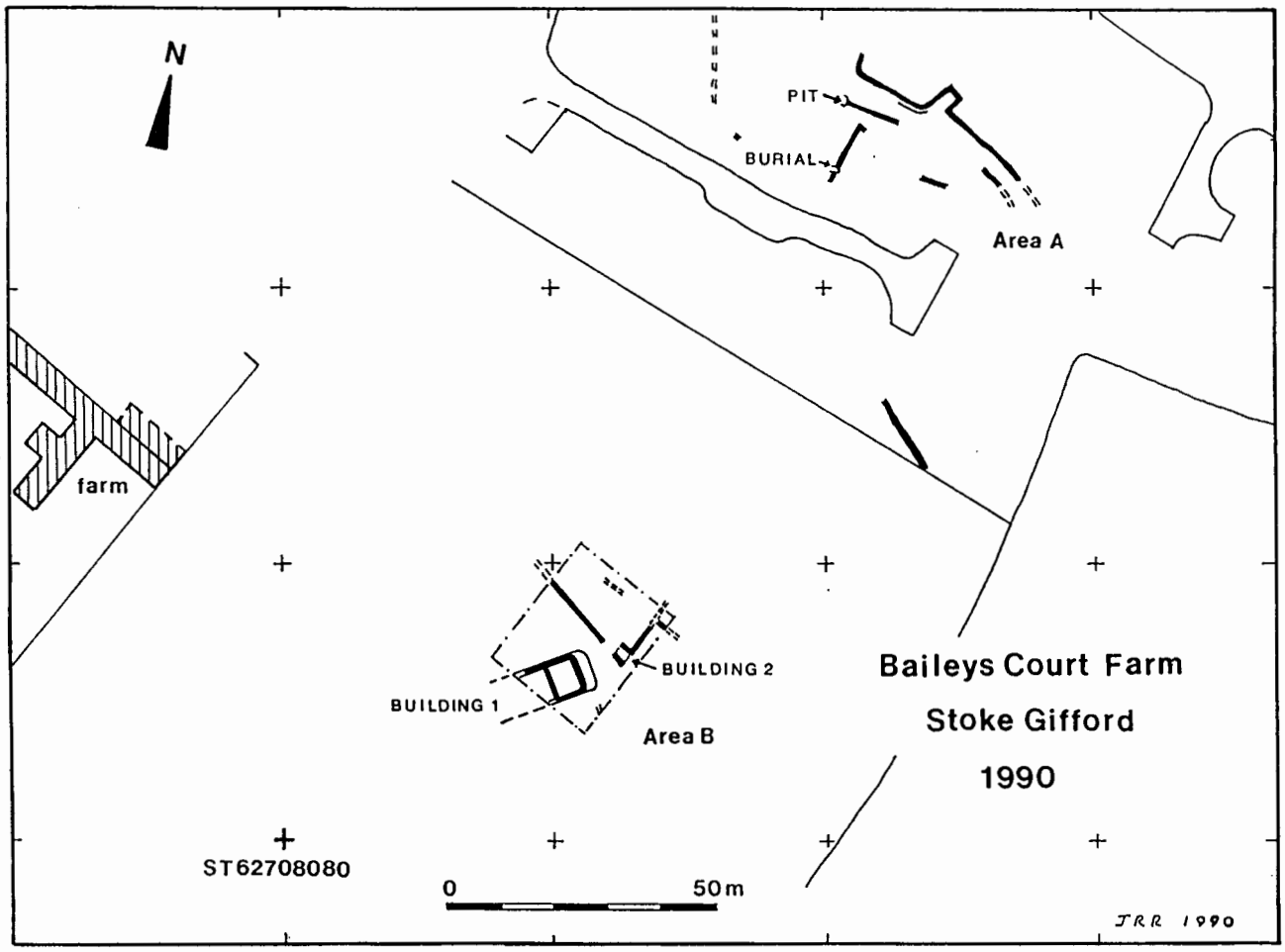

Fig. 1. Site Plan.

AREA A

A complex of walls of unmortared lias limestone was uncovered, apparently defining a series of yards or paddocks laid out on either side of an east-west trackway. Towards the western end of the area a north-south wall was cut by a shallow grave containing the extended skeleton of a child, aligned east-west with its head to the west. Further north an east-west wall was cut by a large pit of uncertain purpose, only a small part of which could be excavated.

AREA B

In the southern part of the trapezoidal area cleared for the new cricket square the unmortared lias footings of a substantial rectangular structure with rounded corners (Building 1) were partly exposed. The north-east gable wall of the building appeared to have been twice reconstructed, being moved south-westwards on each occasion. Within the north-east end of the structure was a room with a well-preserved stone floor, partly pitched and partly flagged, in which was set an upright pottery flagon containing an unworn post-abdication *follis* of Diocletian (*c.* 305 AD). To the south-west of this room the outer walls of the building seem to have been demolished and robbed out before the end of the Roman period, being overlain by a deposit of dark soil containing at least six infant burials. To the north-east of Building 1 further wall foundations and paved areas appear to form part of a second structure extending beyond the edge of the excavation. Above foundation level both buildings are likely to have been constructed largely of timber and to have been roofed with thatch, since no clay or stone roof-tiles were recovered.

FINDS

Considerable quantities of pottery were recovered from both excavated areas, consisting mainly of local coarse wares but including a significant amount of plain and decorated 2nd century Samian.

Non-ceramic small finds, of which a selection are illustrated in Fig. 2, came almost exclusively from area B. Of particular interest are a bronze signet ring with a blue glass intaglio depicting Leda and the Swan (Fig. 2.5) and a brooch of "Aucissa" type (Fig. 2.1), normally dated to the mid 1st century AD. Other finds include spindle whorls, whetstones, iron ox-goads and a dolomitic conglomerate quernstone. Some 30 coins, all of mid 3rd to mid 4th century date, were recovered. It is to be regretted that a significant number of coins and other metal objects were removed from the site without record by unauthorised metal-detector users.

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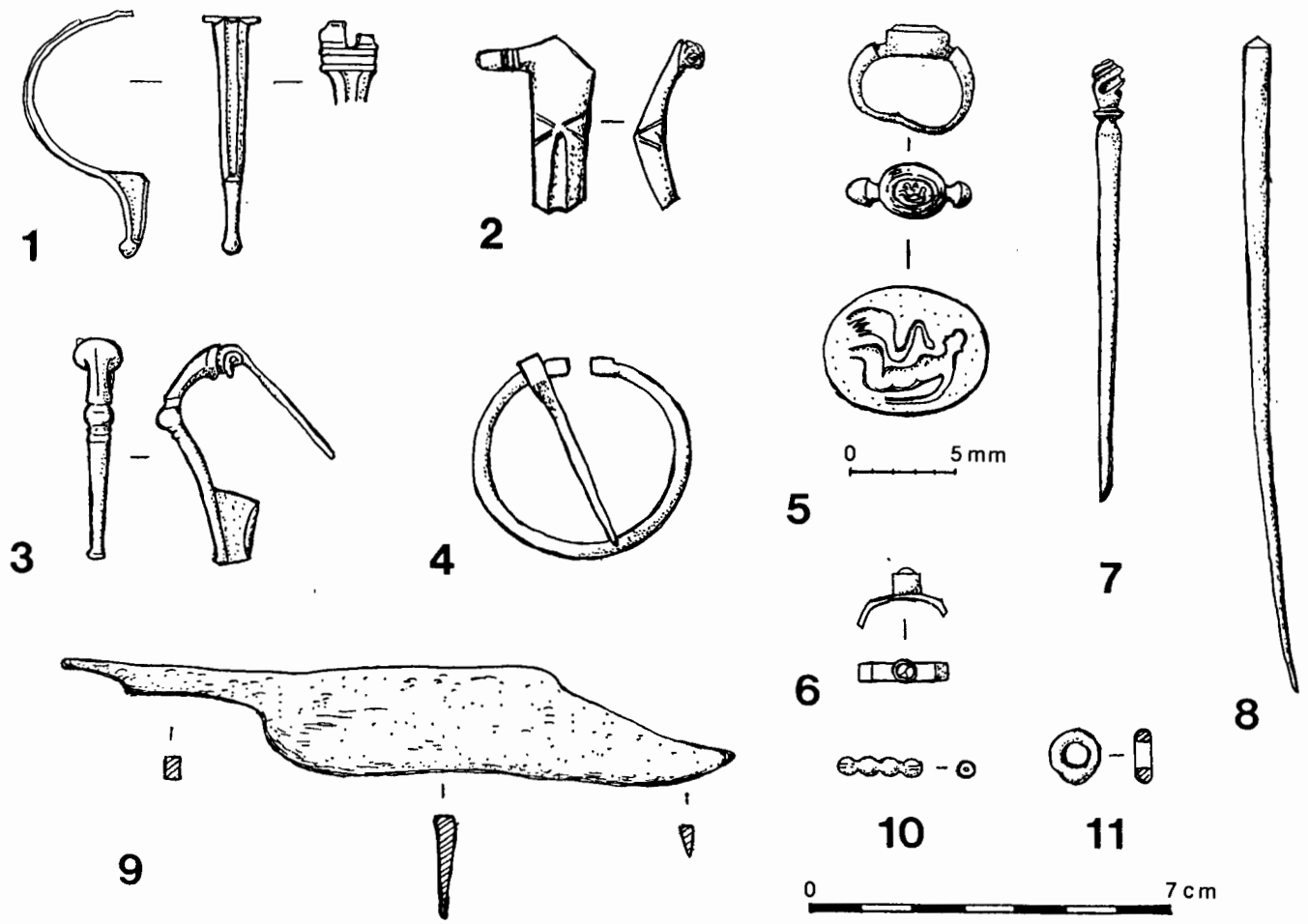


Fig. 2. Small finds from Area B. 1-4: Bronze brooches. 5-6: Bronze finger-rings. 7-8: Bone pins. 9: Iron knife. 10-11: Glass beads.

The majority of pipes which bear the initials of the manufacturer are marked 'JG'. The form of the pipe bowls and the style of mark would indicate that they were made in the second quarter of the 19th century. They were most probably made by the pipemaker James George.

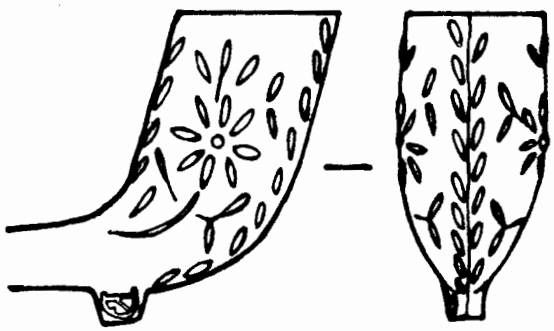
The Georges were one of the most important pipe-making families in Bristol during the 19th and 20th centuries. They owned the last pipe factory in Bristol which closed in 1921 (Price & Jackson, 1979). The first George pipemaker was Thomas George and James George was his son, being baptized at St. Michael's Church on 28 October 1787. In 1808 he was living in Great Ann Street, St. Philip's parish, when he married Sarah White at St. Paul's Church on 25 December. Between 1809 and 1832 he was recorded as living in Great Ann Street when his 14 children were baptized in St. Philip's Church. Between 1825 and 1858 Mathews' Directory records him living at 11 Great Ann Street. He owned a house in Great Ann Street together with a strip of land which he had purchased in 1845. By June 1851 he had erected three dwellings on land behind his house. In 1855 he assigned further land on the south side of Great Ann Street, and immediately west of his house, for the erection of a chapel or meeting house and schoolroom. On the 1884 Ordnance Survey Plan (First Edition) George's dwelling is shown as being 4.5m wide by 9m long with an outhouse and courtyard occupying the remaining 8m length of property. In 1861 the Census shows him as having a 'pipe factory' in Great Ann Street which he was running with his son, Thomas. He was still working at Great Ann Street in 1871. Described as late of Orange Street, St. Paul's when he was buried on 15 April 1873 at Bristol General Cemetery, Arnos Vale (Price & Jackson, 1979).

The impression that we have of James George is that he was fairly wealthy by 19th century standards and that he ran a successful business.

The pipes marked with the initials 'B' or 'D', 'JIP', 'IE' and 'WO' cannot be assigned to James George or, apart from those marked 'IE', to any other Bristol pipemaker of this date. Two possibilities arise: that James George was making pipes from moulds acquired from other pipemakers when they died or went out of business; or that the kiln waste includes pipes made by other, as yet unrecorded, Bristol manufacturers. The first possibility seems the most likely. The initials 'IE' may refer to the Bristol pipemaker Joseph Edwards, although the presence of the initials (?)'JIP' on the same bowls cannot be explained. Joseph Edwards died *c.*1823 when we know that the Bristol firm of R.F. Ring & Company acquired some of the pipe moulds from his estate. It is possible that James George also purchased some of his moulds.

CONCLUSION

It is not known how the pipe waste from James George's factory in Great Ann Street came to be deposited at the site in Newton Street, some 400 metres away. However, the disposal of pipe waste must have been difficult in the densely populated parish of St. Philip's and it was therefore carried as short a distance as possible to the nearest available dumping ground. On Ashmead's 1828 map the area later occupied by Newton Street was still open fields. Mathews' Directories show that the area around Newton Street was beginning to be developed in the 1840s and that the houses in the street itself were built by 1870. The Congregational Chapel in Stapleton Road nearby was con-



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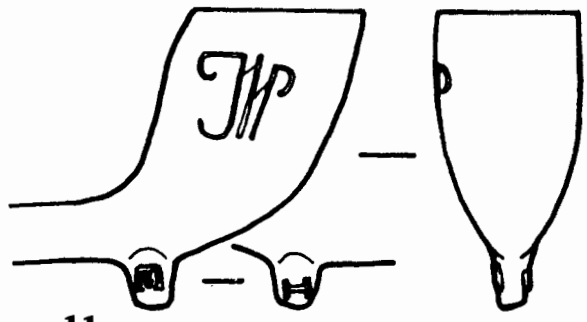

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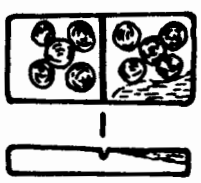

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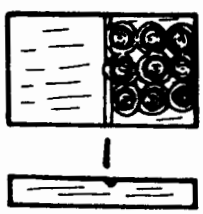

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Fig. 3

secrated on 4 March 1867. The kiln waste would therefore seem to have been deposited on open land at the edge of St. Philip's parish between the late 1820s and about 1870. It is not possible to give a more precise date on the evidence available.

All the finds have been deposited with the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go to PRC Construction of Bath for allowing access to the site and to John Hunt and James Russell of the Bristol and Avon Archaeological Society for their assistance. We are grateful to Mrs D. Skinner, Assistant Keeper of Ceramics at the City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent for her comments on the pearlware pottery. Thanks also to John Williams and his staff at the Bristol Record Office and the staff of the Bristol Reference Library for their help and advice, as always, with the documentary research.

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TRAINING EXCAVATIONS AT CLEEVE 1988 AND 1989: AN INTERIM NOTE

M. Ponsford

A further three weeks' work at Cleeve (ST 451 650) in 1988 saw the definition of timber building 1 which had been slightly terraced into the hill. It is composed of timber uprights with infilling either by earth-fast or sill-beam wattle-and-daub. The corners are quite slight and the posts only 12-14cms in depth. The long sides contained more substantial timbers, probably opposed and defining bays, probably three. The building appears to have slightly bowed sides and measures *c.* 3.8m wide at each end and 4.4m at widest by *c.* 9.8m in length. Internally the floor was composed of red clay with a probable hearth towards the west end. There were signs of internal partitions and indications that the walling had been renewed. At the east end, there were the remains of an oven in the form of a shallow semi-circular pit filled with broken burnt daub and with stake-holes to support the superstructure. The oven projected beyond the line of the wall.

Externally a drain ran round the south and west sides into the swallet and was cut through a levelling deposit of stone and clay. South of the building a rubbish pit was found, while on the east there were a cess-pit and several other pits. The cess-pit contained large fragments of pottery including Ham Green ware and local coarsewares.

The last season of the project (1989) was spent on completing an east extension to the main building. The corners were composed of posts set in shallow pits and part of the end wall was composed of wattles. Remarkable was the find of an iron stirrup, not normally to be associated with a peasant cot.

The project continues in 1990 with post-excavation work. The site records and finds are to be deposited with Woodspring Museum (Accession Number 1982/190).