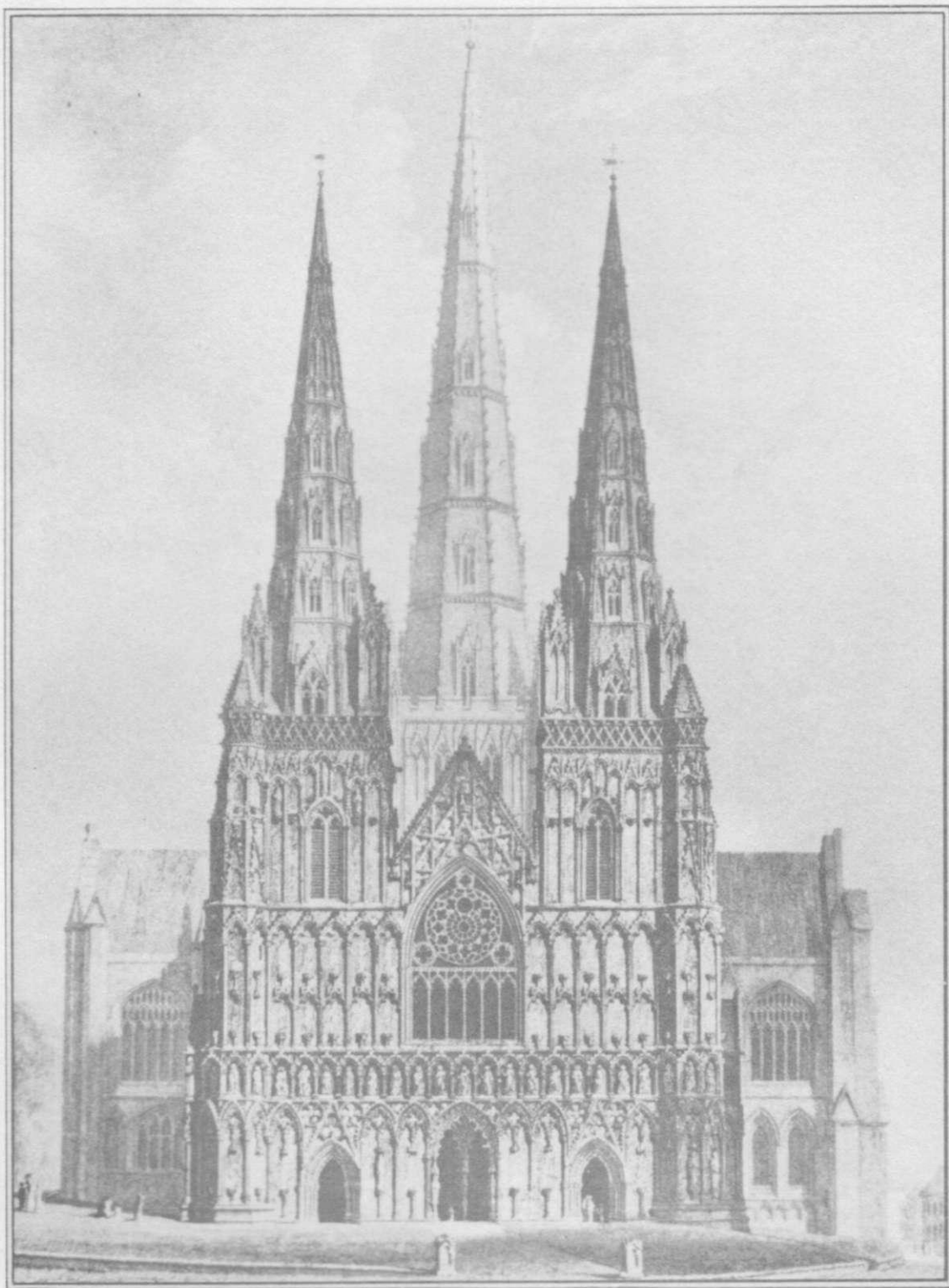




SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TRANSACTIONS 1992-1993 VOLUME XXXIV

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

T R A N S A C T I O N S
FOR 1992-93

VOLUME XXXIV

Stafford
1995

© South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society 1995

ISBN 0 86061 029 2

ISSN 0457 7817

Printed in Great Britain by:

George Street Press Ltd, Fancy Walk, Stafford ST16 3BA

CONTENTS

THE BRONZE CHI-RHO BOWL FROM WALL D. J. SYMONS	1
EXCAVATIONS AT THE PEEL ARMS SITE, TAMWORTH COLM MOLONEY and others	5
TWO MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS IN HORNINGLOW STREET, BURTON-UPON-TRENT R. A. MEESON and A. KIRKHAM	21
DEAN KIMBERLEY'S VISITATION OF CHURCHES IN LICHFIELD PECULIAR JURISDICTION, 1714 DOUGLAS JOHNSON	35
OFFICERS, 1992-93	42
PROGRAMME, 1992-93	43

LIST OF PLATES AND FIGURES

	<i>Page</i>
 BRONZE CHI-RHO BOWL FROM WALL	
Plate I The bowl: painting of 1923.	2
Plate II The bowl: photograph of 1924.	3
 PEEL ARMS SITE, TAMWORTH	
Fig. 1 Site location	6
Fig. 2 Contour survey.	9
Fig. 3 Plan of town centre.	10
Fig. 4 Sections.	12
Fig. 5 Saxon finds.....	17
 MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS IN HORNINGLOW STREET	
Fig. 1 Simplified plans of 186-187, Horninglow Street	22
Fig. 2 West gable wall of 186, Horninglow Street: truss A	24
Fig. 3 186, Horninglow Street: trusses B and C.	25
Fig. 4 East gable wall of 186, Horninglow Street: truss D, and rear elevation A-D ..	27
Fig. 5 186, Horninglow Street: reconstruction of medieval timber frame	29
Fig. 6 186a, Horninglow Street: trusses E and F.	31

THE BRONZE CHI-RHO BOWL FROM WALL

D. J. SYMONS

Readers of the society's transactions may be aware of the reported discovery at Wall in the early 1920s of a Roman bronze bowl decorated with a Christogram, but both the circumstances surrounding the discovery and the present whereabouts of the bowl are shrouded in mystery.¹ Preserved in the collections of the Department of Archaeology at Birmingham City Museum, however, is a watercolour of the bowl which has never, to the writer's knowledge, been published, although it was exhibited in the museum in 1979.² The present note is intended to rectify this omission and to discuss what is known about the bowl's discovery. If any readers are able to supply further information on the matter, or know of the bowl's whereabouts, the writer would be pleased to hear from them.

The watercolour (plate I) was painted in 1923 by Dr. Hugh A. Fawcett and presented by him to the museum in November 1974, when he was 83 years old. It has been catalogued in the museum's collections as accession number 1978 A 401. Only one other illustration of the bowl is known, a poor quality photograph of the underside published in 1924 in the transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society and reproduced here as plate II.³ The photograph shows that the Christogram was worked in repoussé from below, so that it appeared in relief in the base of the bowl. George Boon has identified the bowl as typical of the 4th century A.D., and has kindly given me permission to rehearse his comments here:⁴

'The lip of the bowl is uneven but with a slight outward turn, suggestive of there originally having been a flat rim; the base seems rather small in the painting, but the small diameter is borne out by the photograph. The bowl has a rather curious linear repoussé fluted decoration, similar to that of the container of the Penard (Gower) hoard of Roman coins ending with Carausius' but straight; and here the flutings contain an elongated S-shaped gadroon, making an otherwise unexampled combination. The Christogram on the base would appear in relief within, the *Rho* of course being reversed (%). In general for the basic shape one may compare late Roman silverware, as in A. O. Curie, *The Treasure of Traprain Law* (1923), pi. xiv (cf. also pis. xv and xix); and H. A. Cahn and A. Kaufmann-Heinimann (eds.), *Der spätromische Silberschatz von Kaiseraugst* (1984), taf. 62. *Tresors d'orfèvrerie gallo-romaine* (exhibition catalogue, Musée du Luxembourg, 1989), 272-6, shows examples in tin, and [for ones] in bronze note S. Tassinari, *La vaisselle de bronze, romain et provincial, au Musée des Antiquités Nationales* (1975), pi. xiii.'

The one unequivocal reference to the bowl's discovery occurs in the volume, already noted, of the Birmingham Archaeological Society's transactions,⁵ which records the bowl's exhibition at the society's Open Meeting on 23 January, 1924:

'A *Roman Bronze Bowl* exhibited by Mr. Francis Jackson of Wroxeter. This exhibit was of a small bronze bowl about 3 1/2 in. in diameter and of very thin metal. The side showed some enrichments of very simple form but much obliterated by age. The chief interest is in the Christian monogram P very distinctly embossed on the underside of the base. The bowl was found during some excavation work at Letocetum (Wall) near Lichfield, in 1922, and is particularly valuable as an evidence of Christianity in that district.'

What else do we know of the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the bowl? It was clearly in Francis Jackson's possession in January 1924. In a letter that accompanied the gift of the watercolour in 1974, Dr. Fawcett stated that when he painted the bowl in 1923, it was 'in the possession of the former custodian of the original excavations of Uriconium at Wroxeter'. Extracts from the minutes of the council of the Shropshire Archaeological Society make it clear that the custodian was Jackson:⁶

'May 10th, 1922 - Letter read from Mr. F. Jackson offering his services as Curator of Uriconium. Mr. Jackson to be asked to attend the June Meeting of the Council.'

1 Much of the information about the discovery of the bowl is drawn from letters from Mr. J. A. Pagett and Mr. J. Gould in files in Birmingham Museum. In addition, Mr. Gould has discussed the bowl with me several times, making suggestions which have added considerably to the value of this note. I am also indebted to Mr. G. C. Boon for commenting on the bowl and on the circumstances of its discovery, and also for permission to quote from his letters.

2 *Art in the Roman West Midlands* (handlist compiled by R. Taylor for an exhibition in Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, April-May 1979), no. 19.

3 *Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society*, 1 (1924), pi. xiii. The photograph is reproduced here by kind permission of the Society.

4 Personal communication of 20 March, 1991.

5 G. C. Boon, *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies*, xxii (part 3) (1967), 292, fig. 1.

6 *Trans. Birmingham Arch. Soc.*, 1. 50.

7 *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society*, 4th series, ix (1923-4), p. xviii. Jackson retained his post for more than 20 years.

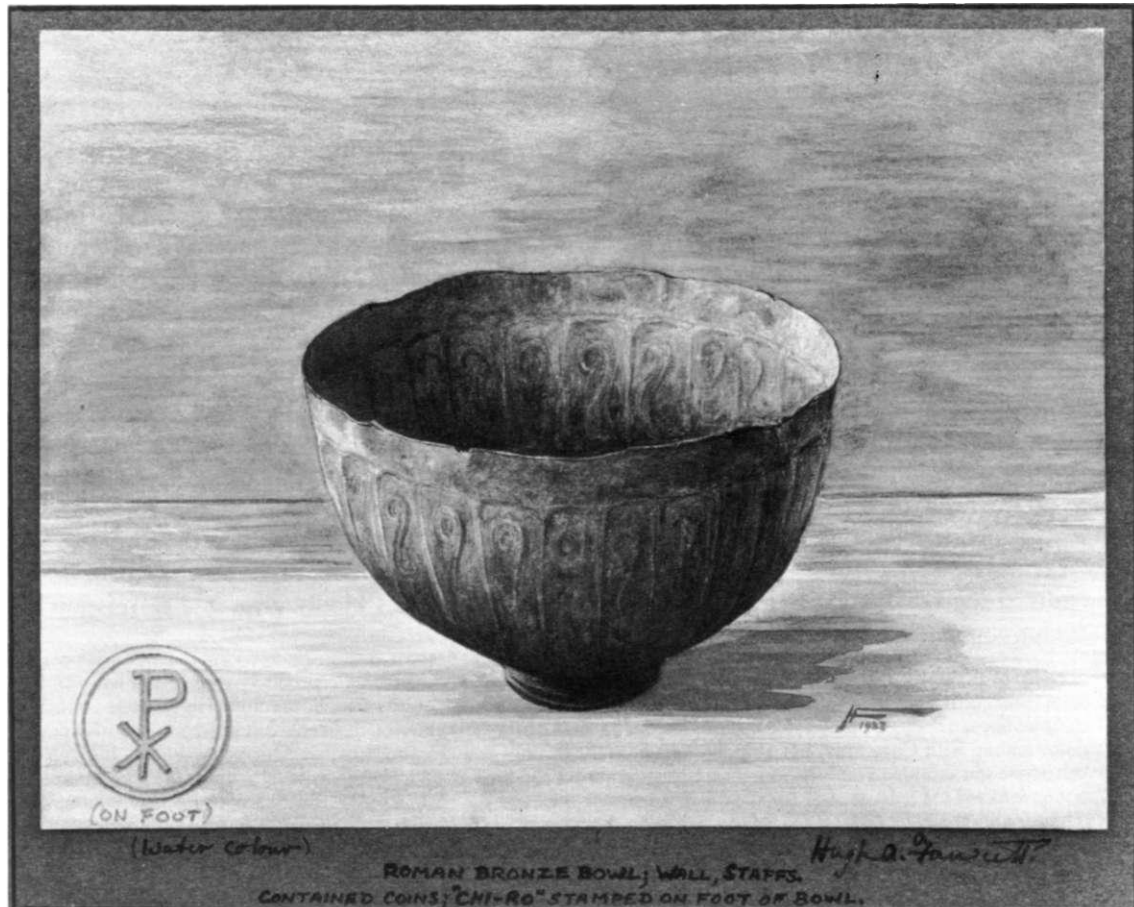


Plate I The Bronze Chi-Rho Bowl from Wall: painting of 1923

'June 7th 1922 - Mr. Jackson attended and was appointed Curator of Uriconium; he [is] to take the whole of the entrance fees after a payment to the Society of a sum not exceeding £10 a year to cover expenses for rent, rates, insurance and repairs. The agreement to be for one year certain, and afterwards subject to 3 months' notice on either side. Mr. Jackson to take half the proceeds arising from the sale of Guides.'

Thus, the bowl was already in Jackson's hands by 1923, and this suggests that he was also the finder. In fact, we know that Jackson and Miss E. D. Henderson dug at Wall in 1921, when they discovered 'that the Roman cemetery which authorities had stated "undoubtedly exists, to the east of Wall", was, as a matter of fact, due west of the village', and they were working there again in December 1923.⁸ The transactions of the North Staffordshire Field Club for 1922-23 contain a reference to 'recent' excavations at Wall, which seem likely to have occurred in 1922, although no precise date was given. The same report contains a tantalizing mention of a Roman vase 'of beautiful design and workmanship', but it does not state what the vessel was made of.⁹ A report in the *Lichfield Mercury* for 24 November, 1922, makes it clear that the excavations that year had indeed taken place in the cemetery area at Wall. Unfortunately, neither the Field Club's transactions nor the newspaper report name the director of the 1922 excavations, but the evidence seems overwhelming that it was Jackson (with or without Miss Henderson) and that the bowl was discovered in a grave to the west of Wall village.

One other point seems fairly certain - when discovered, the bowl contained a number of coins. Although the coins are not mentioned in the account published in the transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society in 1924, it will be seen on plate I that Dr. Fawcett captioned his watercolour: 'Roman Bronze Bowl; Wall, Staffs. Contained Coins; Chi-Ro [sic] Stamped On Foot of Bowl'. The

⁸ *Transactions of the North Staffordshire Field Club*, lix (1924-5), 186.

⁹ *Ibid*, lvii (1922-3), 153: 'During recent excavations some interesting discoveries have been made. Amongst the articles unearthed is a Roman vase, which is described as being in good condition and of beautiful design and workmanship... There are also several other discoveries all of which will appeal to the members interested in this branch of archaeology.'



Roman Bronze Bowl

Found at Letocetum)

Plate II The Bronze Chi-Rho Bowl from Wall: photograph of 1924

ultimate fate of the coins is unknown.¹⁰ There is no explanation how Jackson came to retain the bowl (and possibly the coins as well?), but we do know that he had a private collection of Romano-British antiquities from Staffordshire (possibly from Wall itself).¹¹ As we shall see later, a question mark hangs over the whole affair.

Unfortunately, at this point in the story, we are reduced to hearsay. According to Mr. J. A. Pagett¹²

10 The presence of coins is also mentioned in S. S. Frere and R. S. O. Tomlin (eds.), *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, vol. II, fascicule 2 (1991), p. 61, no. 2415.64. The *R.I.B.* entry is based on a note by R. P. Wright among original *R.I.B.* papers. I am grateful to Mr. Boon for providing this reference, which is reproduced here by kind permission of Professor Frere. Dated 8 September, 1947, the note reads: "at Wroxeter I asked Francis Jackson about this - I could only glean that it was 'found in a trench', 'on the line of Watling Street', '7 miles from Wall' [*sic*. D.J.S.], 'in perfect condition', 'contained 31 coins all 4th exc. one, 1st cent.' - Jackson still has it - but would not make it available for recording".

11 *Trans. Shropshire Arch. Soc.*, 4th ser. xi (1927-8), p. xxii - minutes of council meeting for January 19, 1928: "Permission was given to Mr. Jackson to exhibit his private collection from Staffordshire of Roman remains in one of the end rooms of the hut [i.e. the custodian's hut at Wroxeter]. A notice to be affixed to the door stating that the 'finds' were not made at Uriconium, and that they do not belong to the Society". Jackson is also reported, on good authority, to have sold antiquities to visitors to the site.

12 Letter in Birmingham Museum files dated 28 August, 1978.

he asked the late Miss Lily Chitty¹³ about the bowl on 20 May 1978. She told him that it had been found by Jackson in the stone-lined grave of a priest,¹⁴ on land where Jackson did not have permission to dig, and the landowner had been very annoyed about the matter. Jackson, still according to Miss Chitty, was supposed to have made watercolours of the bowl (possibly different from that made by Dr. Fawcett?) and of the grave. She also mentioned having asked Jackson, at an unspecified date, where the bowl was and receiving the reply 'safe in a bank in South Africa'.¹⁵

Quite what one should make of this information is unclear. Miss Chitty certainly knew Jackson, as she was a council member of the Shropshire Archaeological Society when Jackson was appointed curator at Wroxeter¹⁶ and for many years later. The conversation between Chitty and Pagett, however, took place some 56 years after the bowl's discovery, when Chitty was 85 years old, and it is possible that the details had become garbled. Also, it is only fair to point out that Mr. J. Gould has reported¹⁷ that he mentioned the bowl at a conference in 1965 of the West Midlands branch of the Council for British Archaeology in the presence of Miss Chitty and that 'she did not know of it at that time and she asked me to send her all details of it.'

The final puzzle concerns the statement that the bowl came from the stone-lined grave of a priest. Although any discussion must, in the circumstances, be speculative, the phrase 'stone-lined grave' gives the impression that the bowl came from an inhumation,¹⁸ which was the normal burial rite for both pagans and Christians in the 4th century A.D. The supposed priestly connection, however, is clearly an inference drawn from the bowl's decoration. Moreover, is it certain that the deceased was even a Christian? Christian burials of the period are normally distinguished by their lack of grave goods. An overtly Christian item like the bowl could perhaps be accepted with few qualms, but the presence of a coin hoard in the bowl is more surprising. There are, however, some parallels for such a discovery,¹⁹ and it has been suggested that friends or relatives of the deceased may have added (perhaps even surreptitiously) grave goods to the burials of unimpeachable Christians.²⁰ The burial could, therefore, be interpreted either as that of a Christian with an aberrant deposit of grave goods, or as that of a pagan with a bronze vessel which, while originally of Christian significance, may perhaps have been regarded by the deceased or by those carrying out the funeral as little more than a convenient container. What remains significant, however, is that an overtly Christian piece of metalwork was available in 4th-century Wall for deposit in a grave.²¹

12 Letter in Birmingham Museum files dated 28 August, 1978.

13 For her career see *Trans. Shropshire Arch. Soc.* lx (1975-6), 131-3.

14 The idea that the grave was that of a priest can only derive from the decoration on the bowl (see below).

15 If the bowl did indeed leave the country, this can presumably only have occurred after 1947 when it would seem still to have been in Jackson's possession (see note 10, above).

16 *Trans. Shropshire Arch. Soc.* 4th ser. ix (1923-4), p. vi.

17 Letter in Birmingham Museum files dated 17 May, 1979.

18 Mr. Boon has suggested that Miss Chitty, who was rather deaf in her later years, may have taken this conversation to have referred to another bowl.

19 Mr. Gould has kindly provided a reference to the discovery of inhumation burials at Wall in 1924 (*Journal of Roman Studies*, xiv (1924), 226: 'a dozen interments in coffins and one by incineration'.) He has also suggested that the excavators in the 1920s tended to identify as cremations, inhumations where the bones had been severely damaged by the acidic nature of the soil (J. Gould, 'Lichfield before St. Chad', in *Medieval Archaeology and Architecture at Lichfield*, ed. J. Maddison (1993; being British Archaeological Society Conference Transactions for 1987), 4).

20 D. Watts, *Christians and Pagans in Roman Britain* (1991), 192, where the discovery is noted of a 'small collection of coins' in a grave at Ancaster (Lines.), and of the occurrence of coins in graves in the Poundbury cemetery at Dorchester (Dorset), at Icklingham (Suffolk), and in the Butt Road II cemetery at Colchester (Essex).

21 As Mr. Gould has remarked to me, the Christian dead of the 4th century did not direct their own funerals!

22 For a discussion of the possible early Christian background at Wall in the 4th century, see Gould's article cited in note 19, above.

EXCAVATIONS AT THE PEEL ARMS SITE, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE

COLM MOLONEY

with contributions by Leigh Allen, Alistair Barclay,
Lucy Bown, Angela Boyle and Nicola Scott

INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned to carry out an excavation and watching brief at the site of the Peel Arms Hotel, Tamworth, by Building Design Group of Tamworth. The fieldwork and post-excavation analysis was funded entirely by Hinton Properties Ltd through their agents Building Design Group of Tamworth. The work was carried out over a period of four weeks during May and June 1994 under the direction of Colm Moloney and the supervision of Michael Parsons.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY (figs. 1 and 2)

The site, centring on NGR SK 20620402, comprised an area of approximately 1377 m² at the junction of Market Street and Silver Street, fronting onto King Street, near the centre of Tamworth.

The S end of the site was occupied by a mid-18th century inn with an early 19th-century extension on the W side towards Silver Street. To the rear, and fronting onto King Street, was an open yard, formerly a car park. The excavation and watching brief was undertaken within the confines of this open area.

The underlying geology within the development area consists of red marls overlain by sandy bands of the Keuper series. The ground gently rises from the SW to a height of 223 m OD.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (fig. 3)

Tamworth was the chief residence of Offa in AD 757 and continued as a royal residence until AD 874, when it was ransacked by the Danes. In AD 913 it was re-established as a burh and although subject to Viking destruction in AD 940, the town continued to develop inside the burh defences (Gould 1972, 17). The area excavated lies within this former Anglo-Saxon burh (fig. 3; Meeson 1992, 4, fig. 2). Although Tamworth is not mentioned in Domesday Book, by 1086 William the Conqueror had created the royal Forest of Cannock immediately W of Tamworth (Gould 1967, 23), and it was about that time that Tamworth Castle was built within the town's defences, dominating the southern entry (Gould 1972, 18; McNeill 1989).

Tamworth maintained its small-town status from the 12th to 16th centuries, although its population probably did not exceed more than 150 families during this period. No charter has survived granting the town a market prior to the 14th century, although it is likely that it enjoyed this status at a much earlier date (Gould 1972, 21).

At the S end of the site the facade of the Peel Arms Hotel, formerly a coaching station named The Kings Arms, was constructed in two sections. The western section forming the corner with Silver Street is the most recent addition c. 1807-1809, and it replaced a possibly late-medieval, half-timbered building, no later than the 17th century. The eastern section with a higher roof is earlier than the 1807-1809 addition. Many of the buildings along the northern side of Market Street are of medieval date.

Excavations on the opposite side of King Street from the Peel Arms site in 1971 identified a 14th-century timber-framed building and found the archaeological stratification to be shallow (Meeson and Sheridan 1974, 5). A ditch of unknown date, crossing the N end of the Peel Arms site, is marked on Wood's map of Tamworth (Wood 1958). An evaluation of the Peel Arms site carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) in February 1994 identified two linear features crossing the proposed development area, one aligned E-W (121 = 360) and the other N-S (208 = 326). Both contained pottery dating to the 13th and 14th centuries (OAU 1994). The line of the E-W ditch (121 = 360) is the same as the 'Castle Retrenchment' marked on Wood's map (Wood 1958), and a connection between the two was thought likely.

The evaluation also identified a phase of post-medieval levelling (contexts 106, 107, 203 and 217),

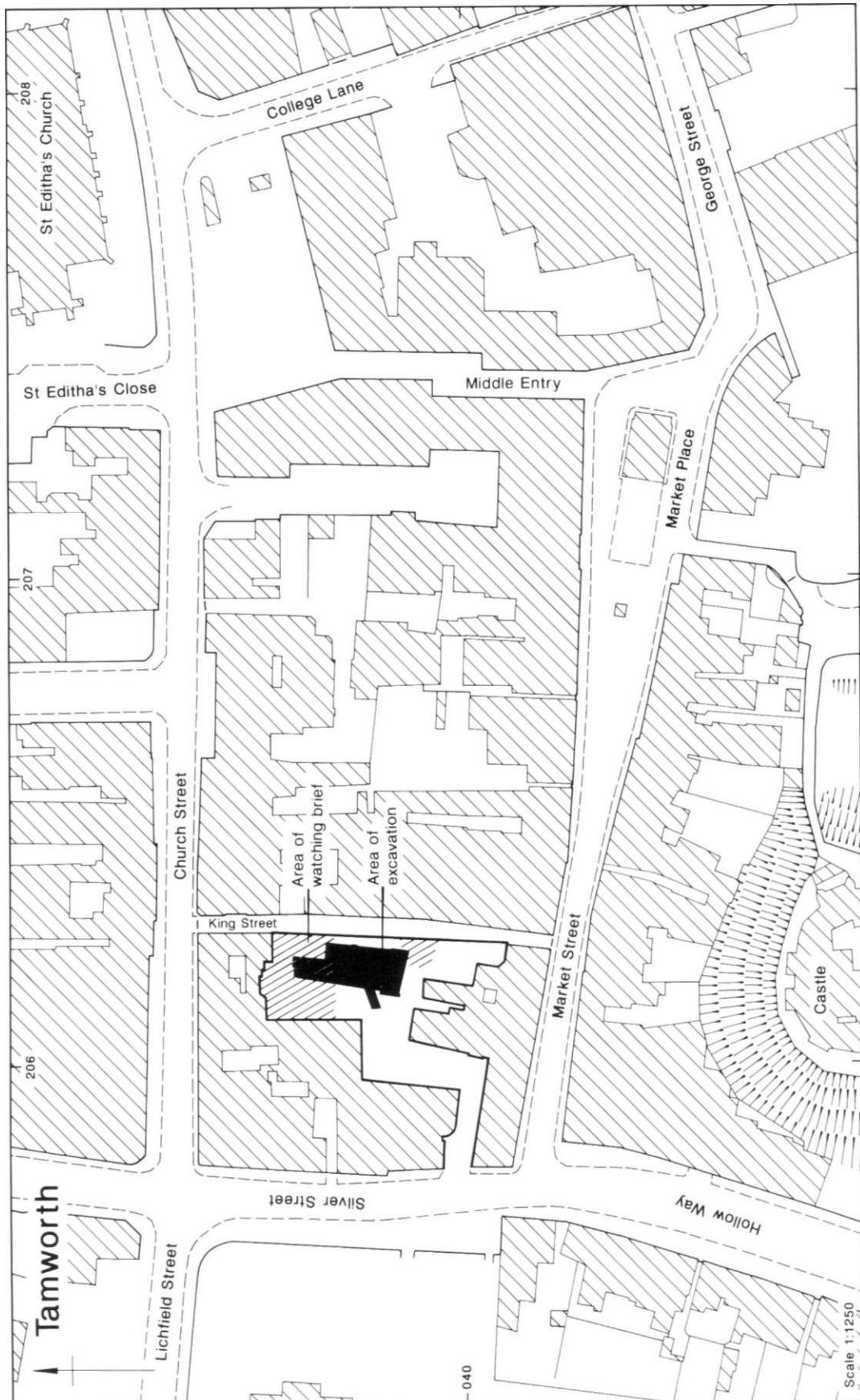


Figure 1: Site location showing areas of excavation and watching brief.

beneath which it was thought likely that further medieval features would be preserved. The lack of medieval pottery from the post-medieval levelling layers implied that if other earlier features did indeed exist, then they may not have been significantly disturbed during the later activity. Eighteenth and 19th-century activity is represented by a series of sandstone foundations and brick walls, being the remains of buildings which once fronted King Street. A brick-lined well (207) was found in trench 2.

THE EXCAVATION

The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed by the Planning Department of Staffordshire County Council determined that 25% of the site should undergo full-scale excavation. The remainder of the site was to be subjected to a watching brief during ground disturbance by the developers. The excavation area measured 9 m by 14 m and was to be sample excavated down to 66.2 m OD, the level of ground reduction proposed by the developers.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective was to determine the nature and extent of the two ditches identified in the evaluation, to determine their significance, and to investigate whether or not they related to the early town or castle defences. The chronological development of the ditches was to be investigated to determine the date of their initial excavation. It was also hoped to gain general information on the topography and development of this part of medieval Tamworth.

METHODOLOGY

The modern overburden was machine excavated, using a JCB, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the first significant archaeological horizon. Due to the large size of the ditch (360) a machine-excavated trench was cut through its fills down to 66.2 m OD to determine its extent and to determine what resources would be required to excavate samples of the fills by hand. All further excavation was by hand.

RESULTS

Phase 0 (fig. 1)

Overlying the natural clay and sand was a thin layer (0.10 m) of loose light grey brown silty loam and gravel (331) which, although extensively sampled, produced no artefactual evidence of any kind. As it was quite distinct from the underlying geology, it is likely to have been the pre-occupation ground surface.

Seventeen rubbish pits cut into the underlying natural were sample excavated during the watching brief. These pits were situated in two groups, one in the northern part of the excavation, centred on 205/120 (364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 390, 392, 394 and 396) and one to the S of the trench, centred on 208/097 (382, 384, 386 and 388). The pits were generally circular in plan varying in diameter between 1 m and 2 m. They were typically around 1 m deep. The fills were consistently of friable dark reddish brown silty loam. Pit 374 was rectangular in plan. Eight pits contained late 11th- to late 12th-century pottery. Three pits contained animal bone including probable butchery waste in context 373.

Phase 1 (figs. 2 and 4)

Initial human activity within the controlled excavation trench was represented by a large E-W orientated linear feature (360) which cut the pre-occupation surface (331, fig. 4 Section 1). This feature was originally identified in the evaluation (121). Detailed investigation during the excavation showed that the ditch was 8 m wide. For safety reasons it was only excavated to a depth of 1.2 m (66.2 m OD) from the machine-excavated level. This feature is undoubtedly related to Tamworth Castle and probably served as the ditch which would have enclosed an outer bailey. The feature had gently sloping, slightly convex, sides and contained a fill 348, consisting of mid-grey sandy silt, which was at least 0.60 m thick. This material appears to have been deposited through natural erosion by the later 12th to early 13th centuries. The dating is primarily provided by the ceramic assemblage from this feature. Once the silt had accumulated along the base and sides of the feature it was partially cleaned

out (fig. 4, section 1), indicating that the ditch was maintained for a substantial period of time after its initial construction. Subsequently the feature silted up with a succession of grey and brown sandy silt deposits (344-347) and by the end of that process would have been no more than a shallow depression on the surface.

The only feature which appeared to be contemporary with the ditch was a large hearth or fire pit (340). This was located on the southern side of the ditch and consisted of a large circular bowl-shaped feature measuring 1.5 m in diameter and 0.20 m deep. It was cut into the pre-occupation layer (331). The fills consisted of loose charcoal overlain by a deposit of loose orange and red sand and clay which appeared to have been discoloured by heat.

Phase 2 (figs. 2 and 4)

According to the ceramic evidence ditch 360 was recut during the 13th century (fig. 4, sections 1-3; 359). The recut was 1 m narrower on its N side, and steeper and more irregular than the Phase 1 ditch. A second much smaller linear feature (355) was located 2.1 m to the N of ditch 359 and ran parallel to it (fig. 4, section 1). This was V-shaped and regular in profile. The fill of this smaller ditch consisted of 0.80 m of brown sandy silty loam (356). Although during this phase, the ditch was allowed to silt up gradually as indicated by the nature of the three grey silty fills contained within it (333, 332 and 343), the fill of the smaller ditch (356) indicates that it was backfilled quickly and deliberately. A glass bead (see below and fig. 5.2) of probable Saxon date was found within the fill of the ditch recut, indicating some redeposition.

Phase 3 (fig. 2)

During the late 14th century, after the ditches had silted up, a deliberate attempt was made to level the area. This is represented by a 0.30 m thick layer of loose grey brown sandy loam with some charcoal flecks (308). This layer was found over the whole of the area excavated.

The boundary once delineated by the ditch was reconstructed in stone during this phase (313). A single course of the wall survived and it was made from yellow sandstone blocks. In form the wall was of ashlar construction with squared and faced stone blocks bonded with both clay and mortar. The foundation (314) consisted of a trench (315) containing rough sandstone blocks in a matrix of loam. The wall terminated just over 1 m short of the eastern edge of the trench, possibly indicating that an entrance or gateway existed at that point. The ceramic evidence would suggest that this phase is late 14th-century.

A N-S orientated ditch (328) terminated at the southern edge of the former ditch, and it has been interpreted as a property boundary. It was 0.82 m wide and 0.18 m deep. Subsequently this ditch was recut (326) and enlarged. A fragmentary copper alloy composite strap-end of a type common in the 14th century was recovered from the fill of the recut (see below). The ditch during this phase was still visible as a substantial depression and seems to have been used to define the back end of burgage plots fronting onto Market Street.

Phase 4 (fig. 2)

The area appears to have been used as waste ground, indicated by the deposition of redeposited natural and possible midden material. This seems to have been a deliberate attempt to level the depression caused by subsidence within the underlying ditch (fig. 4, sections 2 and 3). Initially a 0.30 m layer of compact clean pink clay (305) was dumped into the top of the ditch. A layer of grey brown loam (308) was then deposited over the whole site. This layer contained predominantly 13th- to 14th-century Light Bodied Sandy Wares.

Rubbish pits were subsequently dug over much of the site. Seven pits (307, 310, 312, 316, 318, 322 and 335) and two linear features (320 and 324) were identified within the excavation area. The pits were generally circular in plan and between 0.5 and 1.5 m in diameter. Their depth was between 0.1 and 1.3 m. Pit 316 was rectangular in plan and 0.55 m deep. These pits were filled with friable grey brown silty loams. The two linear features (320 and 324) were approximately 2 m in length and 0.7 m wide. Both were shallow (0.2 m deep) with steep sides and flat bases. They were filled with greenish-grey and dark brown clay loam.

These features were sealed by a layer of midden deposits which consisted of dark brown tenacious silty clay loam (304; fig. 4, sections 2 and 3). Redeposited within this midden was a fragment of a

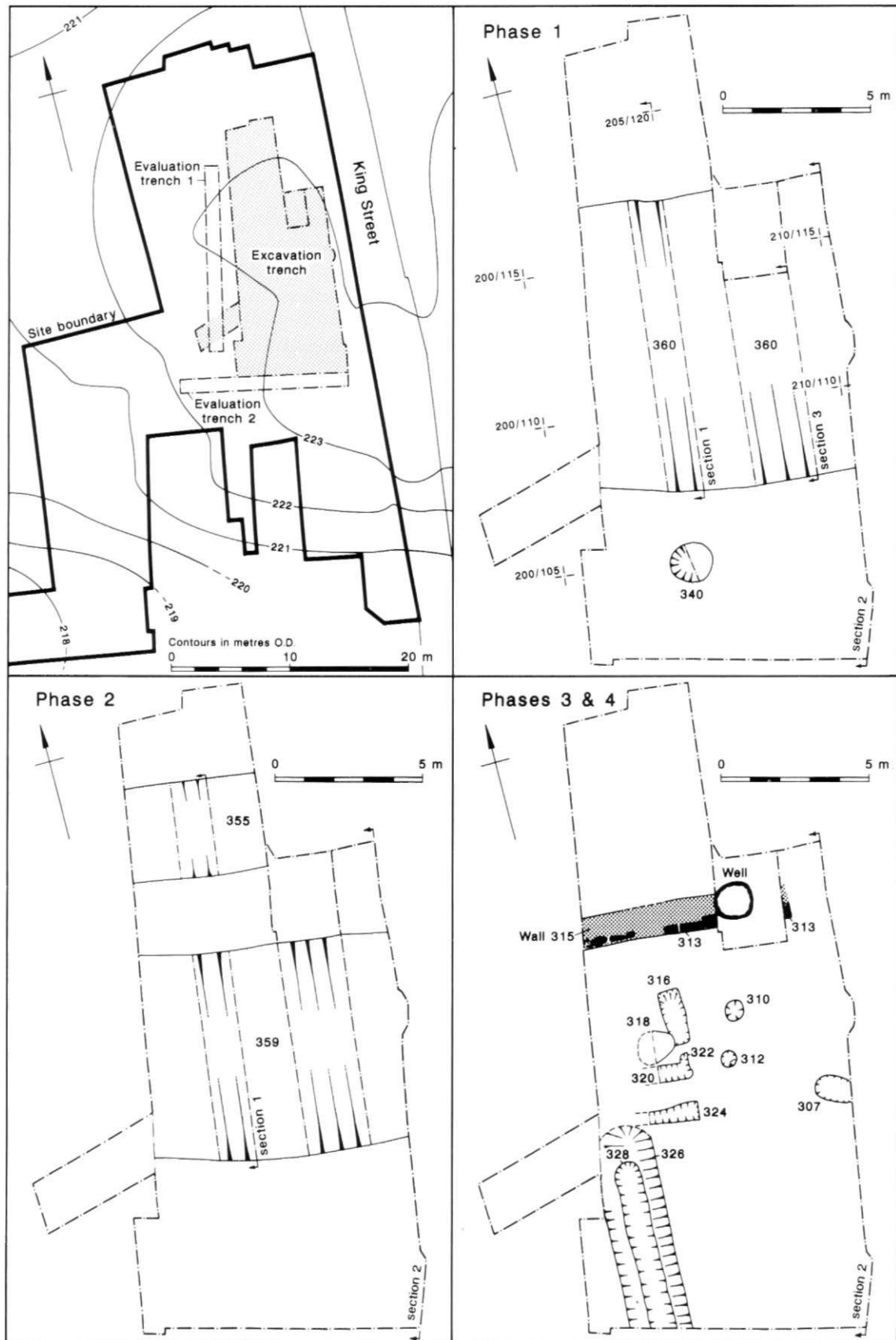


Figure 2: Contour survey imposed on the excavation and evaluation trenches, and phase plans.

doughnut-shaped clay loomweight of probable Saxon date (fig. 5.1; see below). This deposit seems to have accumulated from the end of the medieval period until the 18th or 19th centuries, indicating that the area was vacant during that time. By the 19th century brick tenements with shallow cellars had been built along the King Street frontage. Associated with them were a number of brick-lined wells, one of which is illustrated on figure 2. The wells were on average between 5 and 6 m deep and still contained water at the time of the excavation.

DISCUSSION

Chance finds of Saxon artefacts in the form of two sherds of Saxon pottery, a fragmentary glass bead and a loomweight may indicate that this area of Tamworth was occupied during the Saxon period. Even though the site was within the confines of the Anglo-Saxon burh, the complete absence of any structures pre-dating the Norman ditch is not surprising. The excavation of such a large and deep feature would have completely removed any earlier evidence over much of the area investigated. Reference is made in Domesday Book to the wholesale destruction of Saxon buildings in advance of the construction of Norman castles in towns such as Gloucester. There is no reason to believe that this did not also take place in Tamworth. The earliest activity on the site is attested by the rubbish pits examined during the watching brief. The pottery from these features dated to the 11th and 12th centuries.

It is difficult to determine the exact nature and extent of the ditch without further excavation; it was almost certainly related to the castle. The ditch probably served as an outer defensive ditch, perhaps running along Hollow Way, across the Peel Arms site and back down through Middle Entry (fig. 3). It probably functioned as the ditch for an outer bailey of the castle. The use of the ditch appears to have ceased during the fourteenth century as it was allowed to silt up. This would support the idea that the ditch was associated with the castle.

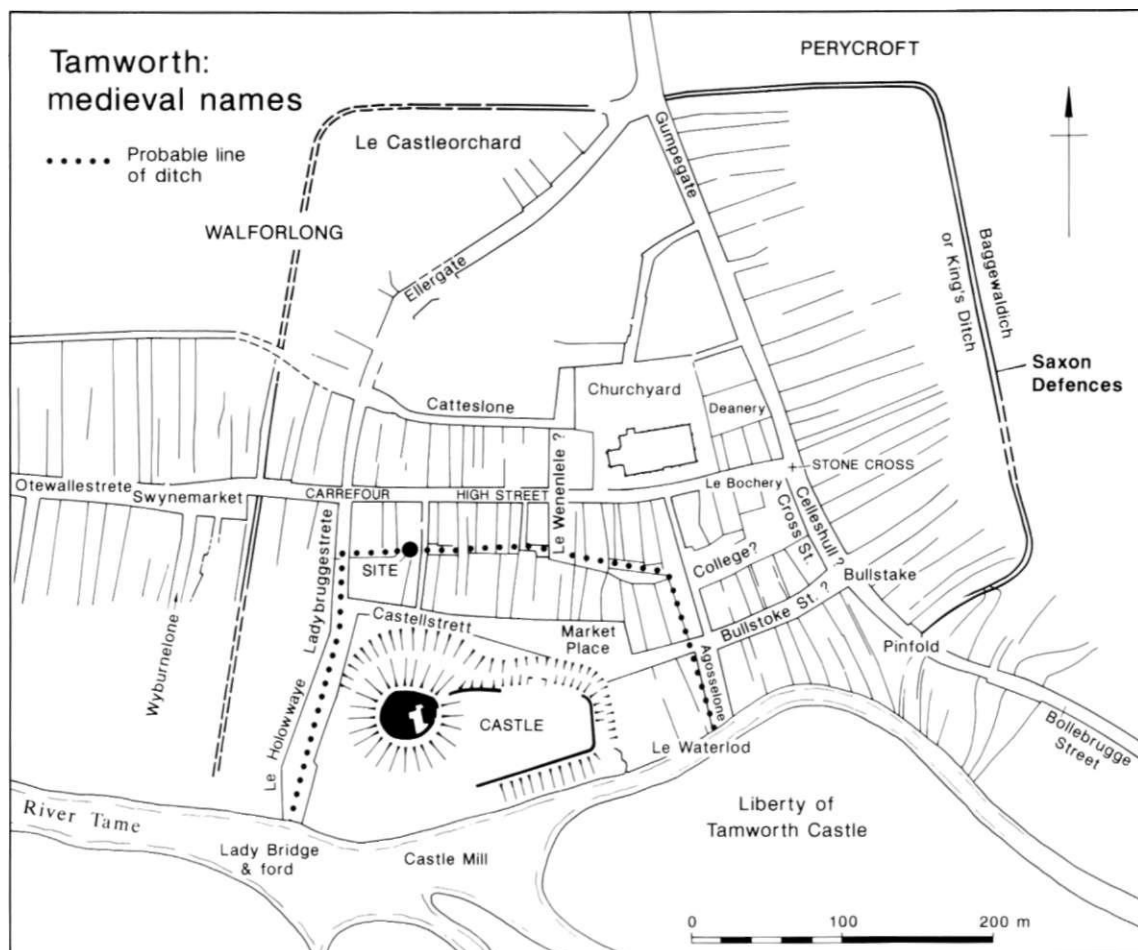


Figure 3: Plan of the town centre showing medieval names and property boundaries (after Meeson 1979).

A study of the town's morphology on the 1882 OS map adds weight to this theory, as does the aerial contour survey commissioned by Tamworth Borough Council in the 1970s (Carver 1987, 118, fig. 80). A map prepared by R. A. Meeson reconstructs the medieval property boundaries of the town and shows an odd arrangement of double boundaries at the rear of the plots fronting Church Street and Market Street (fig. 3; Meeson 1979, fig. 23). This may be the fossilized line of the ditch.

Once it had been backfilled the ditch would appear to have been used as a trackway or a backalley possibly leading off Hollow Way (fig. 3). The property boundary (ditch 326) which was identified running back from Market Street respected this route. The presence of such a trackway would also explain the absence of buildings on the site before the 18th century. The route is shown on Meeson's plan of the medieval property boundaries of the town (fig. 3).

Though references to the existence of numerous ditches are made in Tamworth manor court rolls during the reign of Edward III none of these ditches has been satisfactorily located. An entry dated 2 October 1329, however, may be significant to the Peel Arms site:

'The bailliffs, the frankpledges and the whole community of the town of Tamworth have granted to John le Teynturer of Tamworth and his heirs or assigns forever all that place of land in the ditch called le Suynnedych lying between the land of Parnel Payn and Allan Hemory on one part and the land formerly of Henry Gobbe on the other, and it extends from the highway to the land of the said John, and it extends in part by the whole of John's land at the end of his garden up to the land of John of Wrydefen and Margaret his wife.' (Dale 1959)

Further documentary research may provide locations for these properties and "le Suynnedych".

THE FINDS

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

by Lucy Bown

METHODOLOGY

The pottery has been identified using a x20 binocular microscope and classified into general fabric types based on the principle visible inclusions. The classification of fabrics established from the excavation of the Anglo-Saxon Watermill site at Tamworth (Nailor 1992) and recent work at Stafford (Ford 1992) has provided a framework for recent medieval pottery studies in the West Midlands and has been followed in this report.

Six hundred and thirty-seven sherds (15.5 kg) from the excavation and 50 sherds (1.6 kg) from the evaluation have been fully quantified using sherd count, weight, and a minimum vessel count using rims. This data was entered onto a computerised database to aid the analysis. The fabrics will be discussed in chronological order.

Middle Saxon (7th to 8th century)

One sherd has been identified as middle Saxon. The principle inclusions of the fabric are abundant sub-angular quartz and moderate mica and organic material. The sherd is hand-made with a wall thickness of 7-8 mm; it is smoothed on the external surface. Context 308.

Late Saxon? (10th to 11th century)

One crude sherd, 12 mm thick, is tempered with moderate angular quartz between 0.2 and 0.4 mm, angular quartzite of between 0.5 and 0.8 mm, and large inclusions of grog and fired clay pellets. This sherd is crudely finished and probably hand-made. Context 373.

Stamford Ware

Four sherds of Stamford Ware, fabric type A, are products of the earlier 10th- to 12th-century phase of the industry. Cooking vessels are represented by two sooted sherds, and mid to late 11th-century spouted pitchers by one rim and a sherd with a continuous clear yellow lead glaze on the exterior surface. Contexts 332, 341, 345 and 373.

Shelly Ware

One sherd in an iron-rich, crushed shell-tempered fabric is very similar to Developed St. Neots-type

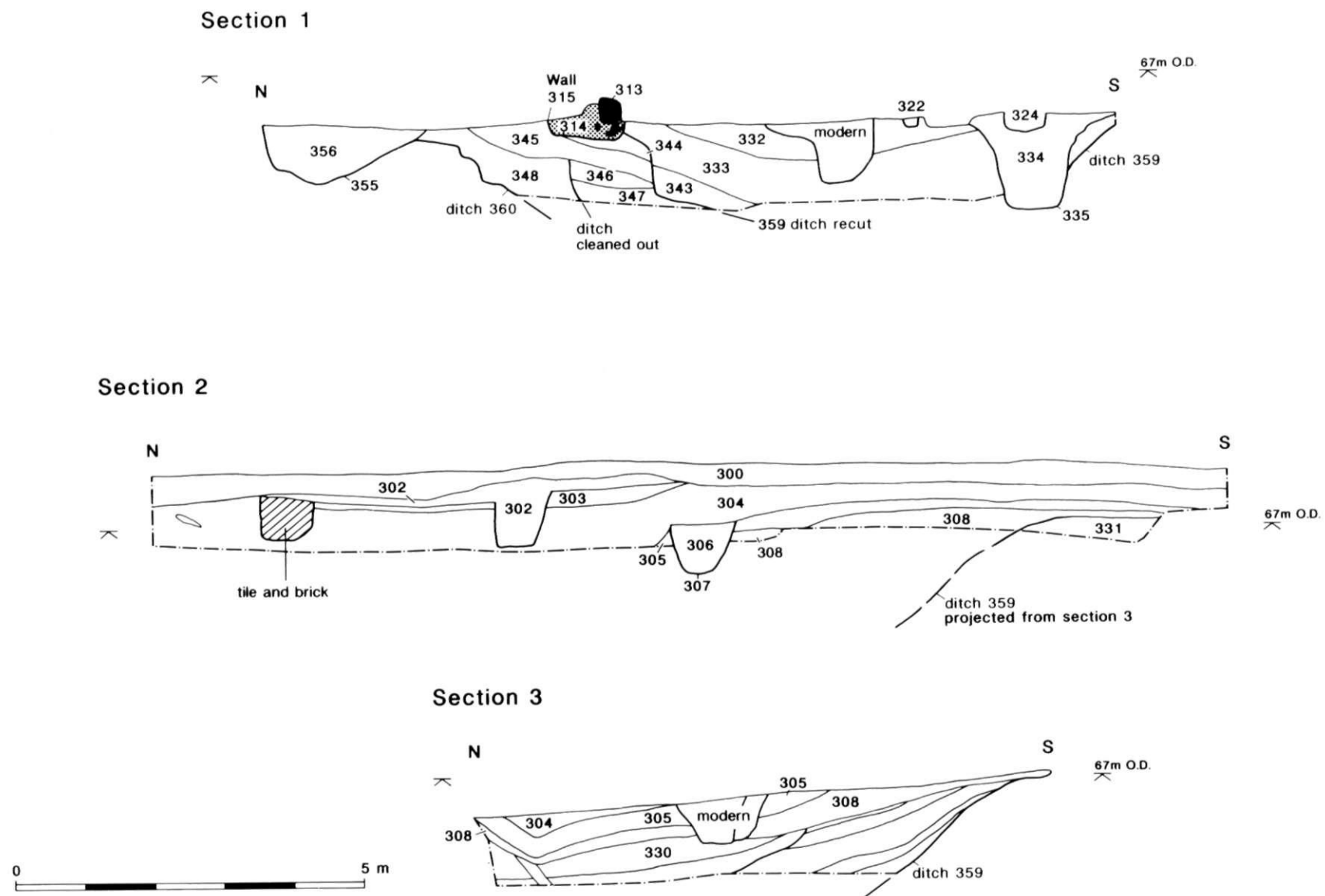


Figure 4: Sections through the moat, showing cleaning out and recutting.

ware of late 12th- to 14th-century date. Its association, in context 345 (assigned to Phase 1), with a predominance of 13th- to 14th-century light bodied wares (see below) supports this identification.

Iron-rich Sandy Wares

The second largest group of sherds recovered in the excavation can be classified as belonging to the generally ubiquitous tradition of Iron-rich Sandy Wares found throughout the West Midlands. Two fabric types and vessel forms in this assemblage correspond with the sub-divisions 'sandy utilitarian ware' and 'sandy table ware/green-glazed pitchers' of that category, as defined at Stafford (Ford 1992). At the Watermill site, Tamworth, these wares are categorized as fabric 3 'Reduced Sandy Ware' and fabric 4 'Reduced Sandy Glazed fabric', and within those categories there is a similar division between utilitarian cooking pots and glazed pitchers/jugs (Nailor 1992). The Tamworth fabrics are likened to those found at Much Park Street, Coventry (fabrics 3 and 4; Wright 1982).

Sandy Utilitarian Wares

One hundred and twelve sherds were recovered from the excavation, all of which display the characteristic uneven surfaces of hand-made and wheel-finished vessels. Generally the sherds are reduced with an oxidised surface, although there are also frequent examples of sherds with both oxidised and reduced firing colours indicating poorly-regulated firing temperatures. The majority of these sherds are from unglazed cooking pots and jars ranging in rim diameter from 140 to 280 mm, and with sagging bases. Sixteen vessels are represented by simple everted rims with folded over edges, one example of which has thumbled decoration around the outer edge of the rim. Exceptions are a lid seated form and inturned rim form. Parallels for these forms can be found at the Watermill site in Tamworth (Nailor 1992, 116, fig. 75.6 & 75.39) and at Much Park Street, Coventry (Wright 1982, 116, fig. 60.2-60.4, 60.11, 60.16, 60.20, 60.30).

One sherd with a thin white slip and orange/yellow lead glaze on the exterior surface is decorated with an applied vertical strip. Similar sherds in this fabric have been found at Stafford (Ford 1992). Sandy Utilitarian Ware is dated from the 12th- to first half of the 13th- century at Much Park Street, Coventry (Wright 1982), and from the 11th to 14th century at Stafford (Ford 1992), it is found predominantly in Phases 5 and 6 at the Watermill site in Tamworth, dated by the pottery as between the second half of the 11th to later 12th century (Nailor 1992). At the Peel Arms site this sandy utilitarian ware is found scattered throughout the features but occurs in particular concentrations in the pits examined during the watching brief 364, 366, 368, 372, 374, 378 and 380 (Phase 0). A late 11th- to late 12th-century date is indicated for these sherds. One cooking pot base was found in the evaluation context 218.

Sandy Table Wares

Four body sherds and one base with an applied foot are typical examples of sherds from green glazed tripod pitchers. All are reduced sherds and have an olive green lead glaze on the exterior. This particular vessel form is dated as 12th or very early 13th century at Much Park Street, Coventry (Wright 1982), at Stafford (Ford 1992), and at the Watermill site in Tamworth (Nailor 1992). At the Peel Arms site these sherds are likely to be *in situ* in contexts 352 and 356 (Phase 2) and in pits 368 and 370 (Phase 0), but probably redeposited in context 333, Phase 2.

Light-bodied Sandy Ware

The major fabric type within this assemblage can be equated with fabric 1 'Light-bodied Sandy Wares' at Tamworth (Nailor 1992), Much Park Street (fabrics 16 and 17; Wright 1982) and buff/white sandy ware at Stafford (Ford 1992). Light-bodied and buff/white sandy wares appear to be a dominant ware in the 13th and 14th centuries throughout South Staffordshire and North Warwickshire, whilst other examples of red painted white wares are known from Coventry (Wright 1982), Warwick (Ratkai 1987/8), and Stafford (Ford 1992). Kiln sites producing White wares are known not only at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, but also at Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent, and the products of the latter have been found as far afield as Powys and Shrewsbury. A different range of wares in a buff/white ware are known from kilns at Audlem and Brereton Park in South Cheshire. Whilst the present state of knowledge about the distribution and marketing of these products is little understood, the provenance of the light-bodied sandy wares found at Tamworth are best interpreted as belonging to a network of wide distribution. At the Watermill site in Tamworth this fabric type is defined as distinct from the Chilvers Coton industry at Nuneaton (Mayes and Scott 1984) on the basis of thin section analysis and

such characteristics as the common use of painted red slip decoration (Nailor 1992). The variation in firing within this fabric type not only produces a range of colour from buff/white to pinkish white but also suggests that more than one clay source or kiln for this ware.

Three hundred and sixty sherds were recovered from a variety of vessels, including cooking pots/jars, jugs, dripping pans and bowls. A large proportion of the unglazed sherds are difficult to define as either jugs or cooking vessels. However, assuming that the glazed and decorated sherds are from jugs, both forms are well represented in this assemblage. Twelve cooking pot/jars are represented by rim fragments in a limited range of angular and thickened forms between 140 and 280 mm in diameter. The same range of forms are found at the Watermill site in Tamworth (Nailor 1992, 116, fig. 75.9, 75.10, 75.16, 75.20). The sooted bases which are assumed to be from cooking pots are usually fiat. Some cooking pots have a splashed mottled lead and copper glaze on the interior surface.

Eight jugs are represented by plain upright rims with a pinched spout, small everted squared rims and an upright form with internal lip possibly for a locking lid. The plain upright rim can be paralleled at the Watermill site in Tamworth (Nailor 1992, 117, fig. 76.25). The rims range in diameter from 100 to 140 mm. Base sherds from both baluster and ovoid jug forms are present. Other diagnostic sherds from jugs include slashed strap handles (Nailor 1992, 117, fig. 76.25), rod handles with notch decoration on the raised spine of the handle, and decorated body sherds. A variety of decorative elements include painted red slip in vertical bands, a single incised line around the outer edge of the rim, and combed bands of lines forming crude triangular patterns over the external surface of the body. Both green copper and yellow lead glazes are found on these jug sherds and occasionally on the interior of the jug base.

Three examples of larger storage vessels were found, all with the same elaborate squared rim form (Nailor 1992, 117, fig. 76.33) and ranging from 180 to 300 mm in diameter. Two of these examples are decorated on the body with vertical and obliquely applied thumbled strips of clay. One vessel with a flat topped rim and straight sided walls, for which it is impossible to measure a rim diameter, is thought to be from a bowl. The substantial part of a dripping pan survives in this assemblage. The vessel is hand-made with a simple everted rim and copper glazed on the interior.

At the Watermill site in Tamworth these Light-bodied Sandy Wares are introduced in the 13th century and are probably still current during at least part of the 14th century. As a general tradition this ware is commonly dated as late 12th to 14th century, though it does not appear to be in production at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, until the 13th century (Mayes and Scott 1984) and does not occur until the later 13th century at Tipping Street, Stafford (Ford 1992). In the Peel Arms excavation this is the predominant fabric type found in all phases and would appear to date from the 13th- to late 14th-centuries. Four jug sherds were found in the evaluation contexts 120 and 218.

Late Medieval Orange Wares

Four sherds in an oxidised orange sandy ware are likely to be 14th- to 15th-century products of a similar tradition to fabrics B and C from the Chilvers Coton kilns at Nuneaton (Mayes and Scott 1984). The same fabric type is present at the Watermill site, Tamworth, where it is paralleled with Much Park Street, Coventry (fabric type 5; Wright 1982) and associated with the production of wide-mouthed jars. Of the four sherds in this assemblage one rim (260 mm) from such a jar and a sagging base can be paralleled at Coventry (Wright 1982, 122, fig. 63.87). The exact provenance of this ware is unknown, although it is a common late medieval type throughout South Staffordshire.

These sherds are associated with the latest fill in the recut of ditch 359 (context 332, Phase 2) and in pits 307, 310 and 316, which were cut into the upper fills of the ditch. A late 14th- or 15th-century date would not be out of place for this material.

Midlands Purple Ware

Ten overfired sherds are categorised as belonging to the Midlands Purple tradition, though some are very similar to the Light-bodied Sandy Wares. The complete profile of a urinal with loop handle, flat base and small everted rim, and the pulled handle from a pipkin could be overfired vessels in the Light-bodied Sandy Ware tradition. Two thickly potted sherds with a purple glaze are more convincing as products of the Midlands Purple tradition. Midlands Purple ware is a late 14th- to 15th-century product found throughout the Midlands. It is known to have been produced from kilns at Ticknall, Derbyshire, and at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton (fabric D), and wasters have been found at Stoke-on-Trent (Ford

1992). In this assemblage its occurrence in the upper fills of the recut of ditch 359 (context 330, Phase 2), the Phase 3 boundary ditch (326), and pit 316 assigned to Phase 4 is indicative of a late 14th- to 15th-century date.

Tudor Green-type Ware

Nine sherds from two cups are found in Surrey/Hampshire Whiteware. The two vessels are represented by rim sherds from a lobed cup and a plain cup with carinated body. These products date from the late 14th to 15th century and are imports into Staffordshire. The sherds are found in the upper fill of the recut of ditch 359 (332) and in the late 15th-century pit 316, Phase 4.

Langerwehe Stoneware

One sherd of finely thrown stoneware is probably a Langerwehe product of late 14th- to 15th-century date. This sherd is found in the upper fill (333), Phase 2, of the recut of ditch 359.

Cistercian ware

One sherd and the base from a cup/posset pot are late 15th- to 16th-century Cistercian ware products. These occur in the Phase 4 pits 310 and 316. Two rim sherds from Cistercian Ware cups were found in evaluation contexts 107 and 217.

Blackwares

Four sherds from tankards in post-medieval Blackware, of 16th- to 17th-century date, were found in evaluation contexts 107, 203, 217 and 218.

Seventy-five sherds (8 Kg) of post-medieval material were collected from the mechanical excavation of context 300. Although this material was not recorded in detail, there is a range of 17th- to 19th-century wares, including Blackware tankards, Staffordshire Manganese Speckled Tankards, Staffordshire White Salt Glaze, Brown Stoneware bottles, Yellow Stoneware jars, English Porcelain, Nottingham Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Mocha Ware, Creamware, Pearlware, Black Basalt, and Transfer Printed Ware.

Thirty-nine sherds of post-medieval date were found in the evaluation trenches. Twenty-one of these sherds are products of the Staffordshire industry, including Staffordshire brown slipped earthenwares produced between 1720 and 1760, mottled glazed cups dating from 1700-1800, and press moulded dishes with combed slip decoration on the interior dating from 1600-1800. The remaining eighteen post-medieval sherds are later products, including mid 18th- to 20th-century Mocha Ware, 18th-century Staffordshire White Salt Glazed Stoneware, 18th- to 20th-century Creamware, and Pearlware with transfer printed decoration.

DISCUSSION

The pottery assemblage is comprised primarily of two ceramic types which predominate in all the main features of the excavation: Iron-rich Sandy Wares dating from the 11th to late 12th centuries and Light-bodied Sandy Wares of 13th- to 14th-century date. Within the same contexts are a small number of residual middle and late Saxon sherds and of Stamford Ware. Seventy-five post-medieval sherds were collected from the machine clearance of the upper levels of the excavation trench.

A group of pits (364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 378 and 380) belonging to Phase 0 recorded during the watching brief are of note because they contain almost exclusively late 11th- to late 12th-century sandy utilitarian ware (pits 364, 366, 368, 372, 374, 378 and 380). The only other wares present are four sherds of 13th- to 14th-century Light-bodied Sandy Ware, 12th- to early 13th-century reduced green glazed pitcher, 10th- to 12th-century Stamford Ware, and the one possible late Saxon sherd (pit 372).

Phase 1

The various fills of the original ditch (344-348) contain a homogenous assemblage of pottery in which the majority of sherds are Light-bodied Sandy Wares of 12th- to 14th-century date. A small number of Sandy Utilitarian Ware sherds, in contexts 348, 346 and 345, might still be contemporary: although they are suggested to be late 11th- to later 12th-century date at the Watermill site in Tamworth, they are found elsewhere in Staffordshire in 12th- to early 13th-century contexts. The one Shelly Ware sherd in context 345 is also probably contemporary in this phase. A single small sherd of Stamford Ware is redeposited in context 345.

The mid to late 11th-century Stamford Pitcher rim in context 341 is residual, occurring with a 13th- to 14th-century sherd of Light-bodied Sandy Ware.

Pits 351 and 349 contained predominantly 13th- to 14th-century Light-bodied Sandy Wares with small quantities of sherds in Sandy Utilitarian Ware and one sherd of late 12th- to early 13th-century reduced green glazed pitcher.

Phase 2

The earliest excavated fill of the recut of the ditch (343) contains an assemblage of 13th- to 14th-century Light-bodied Sandy Wares. The upper fills (332 and 333) appear to be more disturbed, with the majority of sherds being of Light-bodied Sandy Ware, but they also contain redeposited late 11th- to late 12th-century Sandy Utilitarian Wares, 12th- to early 13th-century Sandy Table Wares, Stamford Ware, and late 14th- to 15th-century Late Medieval Orange Wares, Tudor Green Ware and Langerwehe stoneware. The later 14th- to 15th-century wares and the Light-bodied Sandy Wares which could still be contemporary in the late 14th century represent the latest date of deposition in the ditch.

A second smaller linear feature (355) contained predominantly 13th- to 14th-century Light-bodied Sandy Wares with one sherd of a 12th- to early 13th-century reduced green glazed pitcher in Reduced Sandy Ware.

Phase 3

The levelling layer (308) contains predominantly 13th- to 14th-century Light-bodied Sandy Wares. Some degree of redeposition is suggested by the presence of one middle Saxon sherd and a late 11th- to late 12th-century Sandy Utilitarian Ware sherd.

Context 314, the packing for wall 313, contained 13th- to 14th-century Light-bodied Sandy Ware. The fill of the boundary ditch (326) contained mostly 13th- to 14th-century Light-bodied Sandy Wares and redeposited late 11th- to late 12th-century Sandy Utilitarian Wares. The small pipkin handle in overfired Light-bodied Sandy Ware or Midlands Purple Ware is also from this context.

Phase 4

Seven rubbish pits (307, 316, 310, 312, 318, 322, 335) divide into late medieval and early post-medieval features. Pits 307, 310, 318 and 335 contained 13th- to 14th-century Light-bodied Sandy Wares and late 14th- to 15th-century Late Medieval Orange Wares. These pits are probably later 14th-century in date. Pits 316 and 312 contained Tudor Green lobed and carinated cups, Midlands Purple Ware, Late Medieval Orange Ware, and late 15th- to 16th-century Cistercian Ware. An early post-medieval date would be appropriate for these features. Pit 322 contained a late 11th- to late 12th-century Sandy Utilitarian Ware sherd.

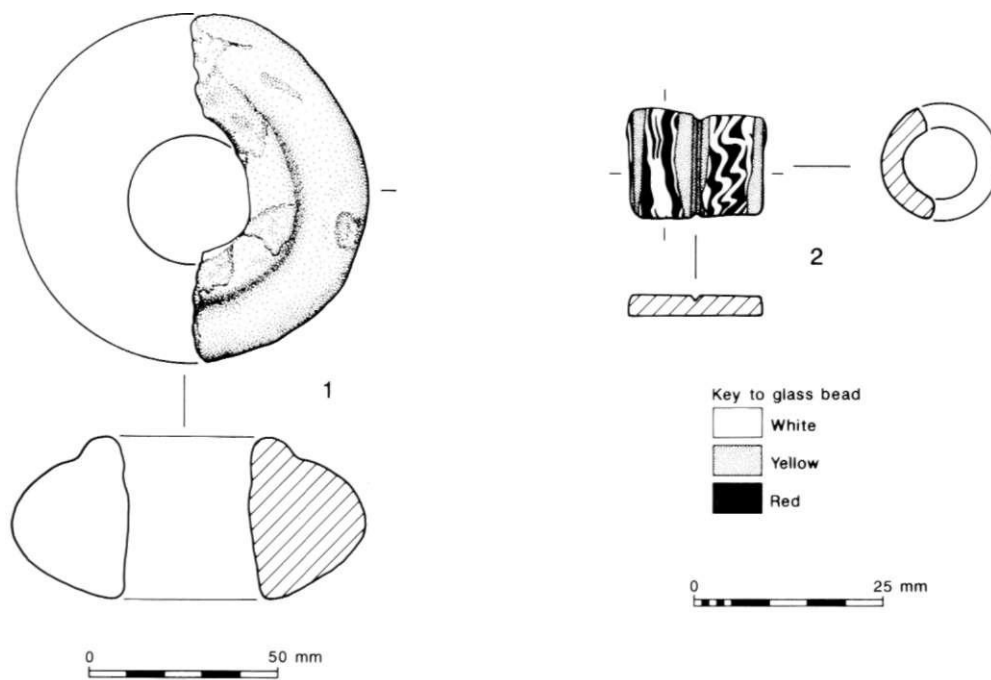


Figure 5: Saxon finds: 1 Fragmentary doughnut-shaped loomweight; 2 Probable Saxon glass bead.

SMALL FINDS

FIRE CLAY LOOMWEIGHT

by Alistair Barclay (fig. 5.1)

A fragment from a Saxon annular loomweight (130 g). It has a hard fabric with coarse quartz sand and ferruginous inclusions. Its exterior surface is oxidised to a light pinkish brown. Sf 5 context 304. Phase 4.

GLASS BEAD

by Angela Boyle (fig. 5.2)

Opaque glass bead; incomplete (c. 50% surviving). Double short cylinder with rounded sides. Height 17 mm, surviving width 12 mm, width of perforation cannot be ascertained. Decoration comprises red background with yellow bands at both ends of each segment. There are a series of wavy white lines around the centre portion of each segment. Probably Saxon. Sf 2 context 333. Phase 2. Parallel: Buckland, Dover (grave 76, Evison 1987, plate III, D13); the grave has been placed in phase 7 of the use of the cemetery (AD 700-750; Evison 1987).

COMPOSITE STRAP END WITH FORKED SPACER

by Leigh Allen

Copper alloy, incomplete. Tongue shaped form with pointed end, slightly concave attachment edge on the front, the back plate is missing. There are two rivet holes at the attachment edge. 20.5 mm x 15 mm x 3 mm. Parallel: Egan and Pritchard 1991, 142-3, fig. 93, no. 662. Sf 1 context 327. Probably 14th century in date. Phase 3. Not illustrated.

STRIP

Copper alloy strip, complete. Two circular perforations and three notches. 51 mm. x 5 mm. x 1 mm. Sf 4 context 304. Phase 4. Not illustrated.

TOKEN

Silver, incomplete. Unfortunately it is too fragmentary for identification. Sf 3 context 364. Phase 0. Not illustrated.

ANIMAL BONE

by Nicola Scott

A total of 357 bone fragments was recovered of which 33% were identified to species and anatomical part. Skull, rib and vertebrae fragments were not identified. Species identified include cow, horse, sheep/goat and pig. In addition, red and roe deer are represented by two scapulae and a red deer antler, all of which were recovered from pit 373. The bone is thinly distributed across the site and only the assemblage from context 373 is presented in Table 1; further details may be found in the site archive.

In general the bones from the site were in a reasonable state of preservation. The assemblage is too small to draw any significant conclusions but the concentration of head and lower limb bones in context 373, Phase 0, may suggest butchery refuse.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork and post-excavation analysis was funded entirely by Hinton Properties Ltd through their agents Building Design Group of Tamworth. The evaluation was undertaken by Robert Early. The brief for the archaeological investigation was set by R. A. Meeson, of Staffordshire County Council, and his help throughout the project is greatly appreciated. The illustrations are by Karen Nichols of the OAU. The site archive and finds will be deposited with Tamworth Castle Museum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Carver, M. 1987 *Underneath English towns: interpreting urban archaeology* (London Batsford)
- Dale, M. K. 1959 *Tamworth Borough Council: Court Rolls* (translation by M. K. Dale, held at Institute of Historical Research, University of London)
- Egan, G. 1991 *Medieval finds from excavations in London: 3, dress accessories c. 1150 to c. 1450* (Museum of London, HMSO)
- and Pritchard, S.,
Evison, V. 1987 *Dover: The Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery* (HBMC Archaeological Report No. 3, London)
- Ford, D. 1992 'Stafford Ware to Cistercian Ware: pottery production and distribution in Staffordshire from the 9th to 15th centuries', in *Exchange and Trade* (Medieval Europe 1992 Pre-Printed Papers, **5**), 105-111
- Gould, J. 1967 'Food, foresters, fines and felons. A history of Cannock Forest (1086-1300)', *Trans. Sth. Staffs. Archaeological and Historical Soc.*, **7** (1965-66) 21-39
- Gould, J. 1972 'The medieval burgesses of Tamworth: their liberties, court and market' *Trans. Sth. Staffs. Archaeological and Historical Soc.*, **13** (1971-2), 17-42
- Mayes, P. 1984 *Pottery kilns at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton* (Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series, **10**)
- and Scott, K.,
McNeill, T. E. 1989 *Excavations at Tamworth Castle, 1972 and 1974* (being *Trans. Sth. Staffs. Archaeological and Historical Soc.*, **29** (1987-1988))
- Meeson, R. A. 1979 'The formation of Tamworth' (unpublished MA thesis, University of Birmingham)
- Meeson, R. A. 1974 'Eighth report on excavations in Tamworth, Staffordshire, 1971 - a timber framed building in Market Street', *Trans. Sth. Staffs. Archaeological and Historical Soc.*, **15** (1973-4), 5-12
- and Sheridan, K.
Meeson, R. A. 1992 'A summary of the history and archaeology of Tamworth with special reference to the Anglo-Saxon period', in P. Rahtz and R. A. Meeson, *An Anglo-Saxon Watermill at Tamworth* (London, CBA Research Report **83**), 1-5

- Nailor, V.
with Wright, S.
OAU 1992 'Pottery', in P. Rahtz and R. A., Meeson, *An Anglo-Saxon Watermill at Tamworth* (London, CBA Research Report, **83**), 110-122
1994 'The Peel Arms site, Market Street, Tamworth: an archaeological evaluation', (OAU unpublished report)
- Ratkai, S. 1987/88 'The medieval pottery', in S. Cracknell 'Bridge End, Warwick archaeological excavation of a medieval street frontage', *Trans. Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Soc*, **95** (1987-88), 33-58
- Wood, H. 1958 *Borough by prescription: history of the municipality of Tamworth* (Tamworth Corporation)
- Wright, S. M. 1982 'The pottery', in S. M. Wright, 'Much Park Street, Coventry: the development of a medieval street. Excavations 1970-74', *Trans. Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Soc*, **92** (1982), 109-131

TWO MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS IN HORNINGLOW STREET, BURTON-UPON-TRENT

R. A. MEESON AND A. KIRKHAM

186-187, Horninglow Street retain traces of timber-framed buildings which shared a burgage plot established before 1214. Although survival is fragmentary, sufficient remains to provide the best insight to date into the character of town-houses in medieval Burton-upon-Trent. Both buildings were jettied, and both had crown post roofs. A tree-ring felling date of 1345 has been obtained for timbers in No. 187.

INTRODUCTION

186-187 Horninglow Street came to the attention of architectural historians in 1990, when a large redevelopment was proposed which included the demolition of buildings fronting onto the street. Although the buildings were retained within the development, and have been afforded statutory protection, parts of the medieval framing were considered beyond repair and were removed. A watching brief was maintained by the authors of this paper on behalf of the Director of Planning and Economic Development for Staffordshire County Council, with a view to securing a record of the medieval timbers exposed during work upon the buildings. The record made during that exercise provided the bulk of the evidence upon which this paper is based. In addition, the remains of another building encountered on the same site during an archaeological evaluation carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (Dingwall 1991) are briefly reconsidered. One of the medieval buildings described below is at number 186 Horninglow Street; the other is at 186a-187 but for simplicity it is referred to below as 187.

Nikolaus Pevsner used the word 'dreary' five times in the first paragraph of his account of Burton-upon-Trent, but he could not be blamed for failing to notice the hidden remains of a number of medieval buildings (1974, 83). The coming of the canals, and later the railway, had transformed a decayed medieval borough into an internationally renowned brewing town. Early breweries were located behind their owners' houses on the former medieval tenements; some expanded on town-centre sites and were linked to the suburban malthouses by a network of private railways (Palliser 1976, 160-162). Many of the 19th-century brewing and commercial buildings have, in their turn, been replaced by modern redevelopment, leaving no visible evidence of the medieval buildings which once lined the streets. Although early carpentry has been surveyed on the site of the Benedictine abbey (awaiting publication), the survival of previously unrecognised medieval buildings elsewhere in the town was extremely unlikely. The only town-house previously noticed in print was at 169, High Street, which was demolished in 1969. That building was interpreted by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England as a 15th-century three-bay open hall with a storeyed end, but elsewhere it was said to be of 14th-century origin and to include 'a great chamber or solar of seven bays about 57 feet long and 17 feet wide' (Mercer 1975, 200-201; Charles 1971, 54-56).

THE CONTEXT OF THE BUILDINGS

Conventionally, the origins of Burton-upon-Trent lie in the foundation of two churches by St. Modwen in the 7th century and the endowment of the Benedictine Abbey by Wulfric Spot in his will of c. 1004 (Whitelock 1979, 586-589). The place-name, however, may derive from the establishment of a fortified settlement before the late 9th century, though as yet there is no archaeological corroboration of this theory (Gelling 1989, 145-53; 1992, 119). Whereas St. Mary's Abbey held extensive property in 1086, the nature and condition of the town of Burton at that time is hard to determine. If, as has been argued, an entry for Stafford in Domesday Book is an error for Burton, nine households might have been accounted in 1086 (Wrottesley 1884, 3). However, for Burton Abbey manors generally, at least two-thirds of its households might have been omitted from the Domesday survey (Walmsley 1968, 79).

Whatever the condition or status of Burton at the end of the 11th century, a charter of Henry II confirmed to the abbot all the privileges and customs *in burgo et extra burgum* which his predecessors had held (Shaw 1798, 2). According to the abbey chronicles it was Abbot Nicholas (1187-97) who 'made the first borough of Burton, namely, the vill and new wick of Burton', and a market charter was obtained in the time of Abbot William Melburne (1200-14) (Deanesly 1937, xxxiv-xxxv).

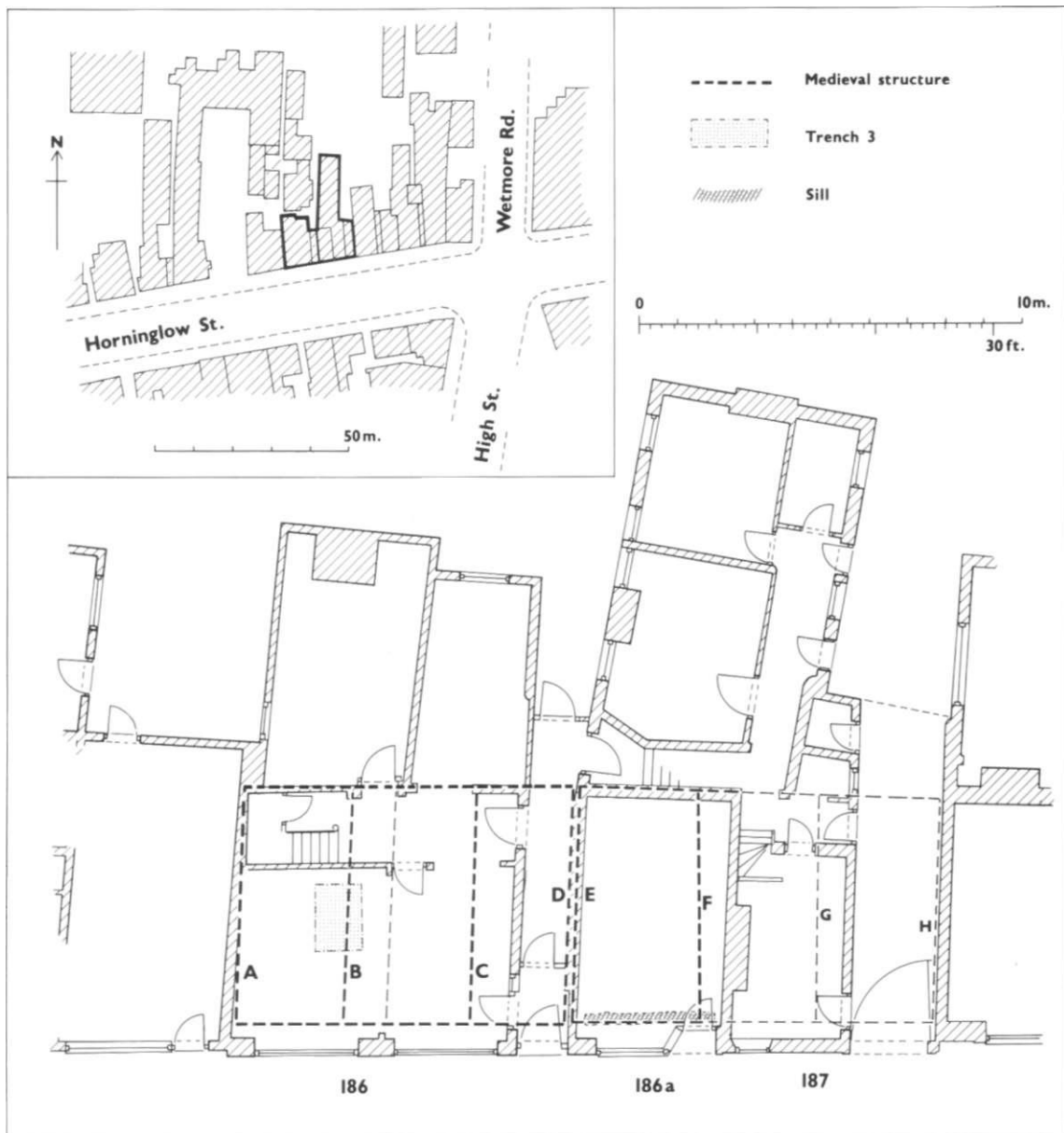


Fig. 1 Simplified plans of 186-187, Horninglow Street, including outline of medieval structures and position of archaeological trench 3.

The tenements along Horninglow Street were the result of an early extension of the borough. Abbot Melburne proposed that burgages should be laid out 'in that street *which lies* [authors' italics] from the great bridge of Burton as far as the new bridge towards Horninglow... paying for each burgage 12d. for all service' (Wrottesley 1884, 44). Possibly the thoroughfare predated Melburne's charter, but it was the abbot who established tenements along it, and over former open fields (Stuart 1994, 6). The borough was extended further in 1273 and 1286 (Walmsley 1973, 348).

Most of the fabric of the medieval town has been obliterated, but the archives of Burton Abbey in the Staffordshire County Record Office, together with a map made by Wyatt in 1760 (D(W) 1734/2/3/133), provide plentiful evidence regarding the foundation and early development of the borough. The

archives include a rental of 1319, an English transcript of which has recently been published (D(W)1734/2/3/112a; Stuart 1994, 1-51). The rental is incomplete, but it appears to retain a full list of occupiers for most parts of the borough. The scribe's itinerary is explicit: in Horninglow Street, where the majority of burgesses paid their rents directly to the abbot, he began on the south side and worked from east to west before returning east along the north side. The name of the occupier, and often the name of the previous holder, are amongst the details given for each plot, and in most cases it is clear what proportion of a burgage was held. The information could be used to work out who lived where in much of the medieval town, but for present purposes the exercise is confined to the east end of Horninglow Street on its north side.

Melburne's charter specified the size of the new burgages: most of them were to be 24 perches long by 4 broad (Deanesly 1937, xxxv). As it is possible to equate the non-standard perch with a modern linear system, the burgages described in the rental can be identified with confidence. Huggins has argued (1991, 6-28) that the 16-foot rod or perch of the 13th-century Statute for Measuring Land may have resulted from a compromise between two early systems which employed a perch of either 5.03m (16'6") or 4.65m (15'3"). Depending upon the perch employed, a burgage in Horninglow Street with a frontage of four perches would have been either c. 20.12m (66') or c. 18.6m (61') wide. The surviving property boundaries conform broadly to the 18.6m unit, suggesting that the 4.65m perch was employed to set out Melburne's burgage plots before 1214.

Numbers 186 and 187 Horninglow Street have a combined street frontage of 18.6m, conforming to the width of a 4-perch medieval burgage. In 1319 the burgage was probably occupied by Adam Pec:

John, son of Stephen of Winhill,...in succession to Elena, wife of John the smith, paying the abbot, and Adam Pec and Matilda his wife, hold (it) for the term of (their) lives... (Stuart 1994, 44).

Despite this wealth of material, there are few insights into the character of medieval buildings in the town. A lease of 1376 referred to 'a messuage with solar and shops in a corner of the market' (Jeayes 1937, 141). In 1405 the tenants of a messuage in or near the market place were required to 'build a new chamber at their own expense 30ft. by 10ft. the timber to be found by the Abbot...' (ibid. 155). A grant of messuages by the widow of Stephen of the Infirmary refers to the 'house and bakehouse' (ibid. 53). In the second half of the 13th century a grant of a portion of Adam Coffin's burgage referred to 'the part of the house in which his oven is' (ibid. 104), and there was a reference c. 1300 to 'a burgage ... with buildings and an oven built upon it' (ibid. 190). In 1319 the burgage at the corner of Horninglow Street and Wetmore Road included a building with at least one upper room, held by a John Davy (Stuart 1994, 44-45).

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDINGS

By the 19th century both of the buildings considered below had been extensively remodelled. It was probably towards the end of the 18th century when the first-floor joists and the jetties were removed, and new floors were inserted at a higher level in order to increase head-room on the ground floor. At the same time better accommodation was created in the attic by changing the pitch of the roof, thereby increasing the height of the eaves adjacent to the street and producing 2-storey brick front elevations. Both buildings were progressively modified to form shop units during the 19th century and after. These later alterations are not considered here in detail as the purpose of this paper is to describe and interpret the medieval structures.

The heightening of the ceilings over the ground-floor rooms was probably at least partly in response to a gradual increase in the ground level outside the buildings; earlier deposits remain sealed beneath the post-medieval layers. An archaeological evaluation by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in March 1991 included two trenches inside 186, Horninglow Street. One trench, excavated in the rear wing, coincided with a cellar. Although its plan dimensions were only 1.15m x 1.80m, another trench (trench 3) encountered significant stratified archaeological deposits which pre-date the extant timber-framed building.

186, HORNINGLOW STREET (figs. 1-4)

The archaeological deposits

The evaluation trench 3 of 1991 was excavated through the floor at the location shown in figure 1.

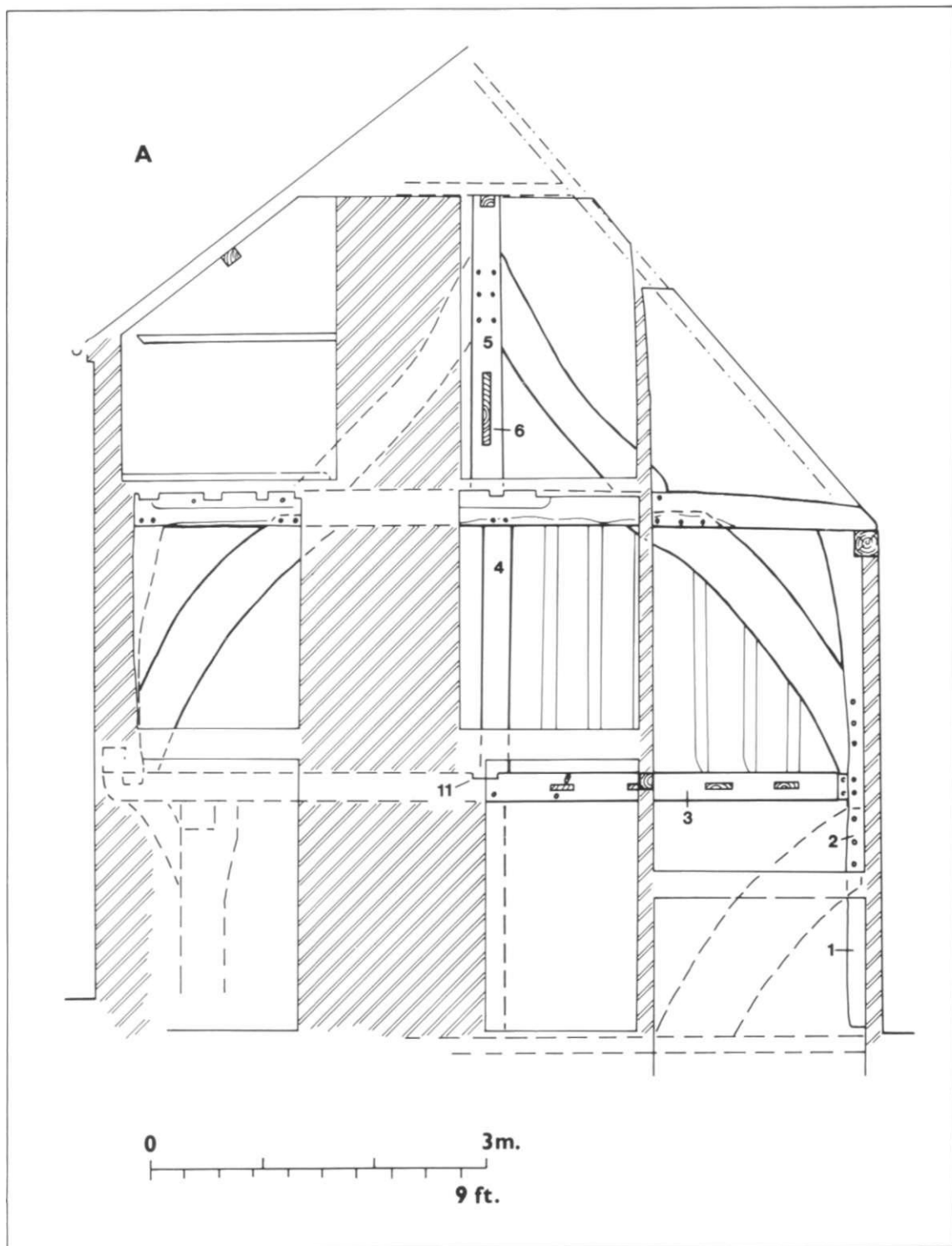


Fig. 2 West gable wall of 186, Horninglow Street: truss A.

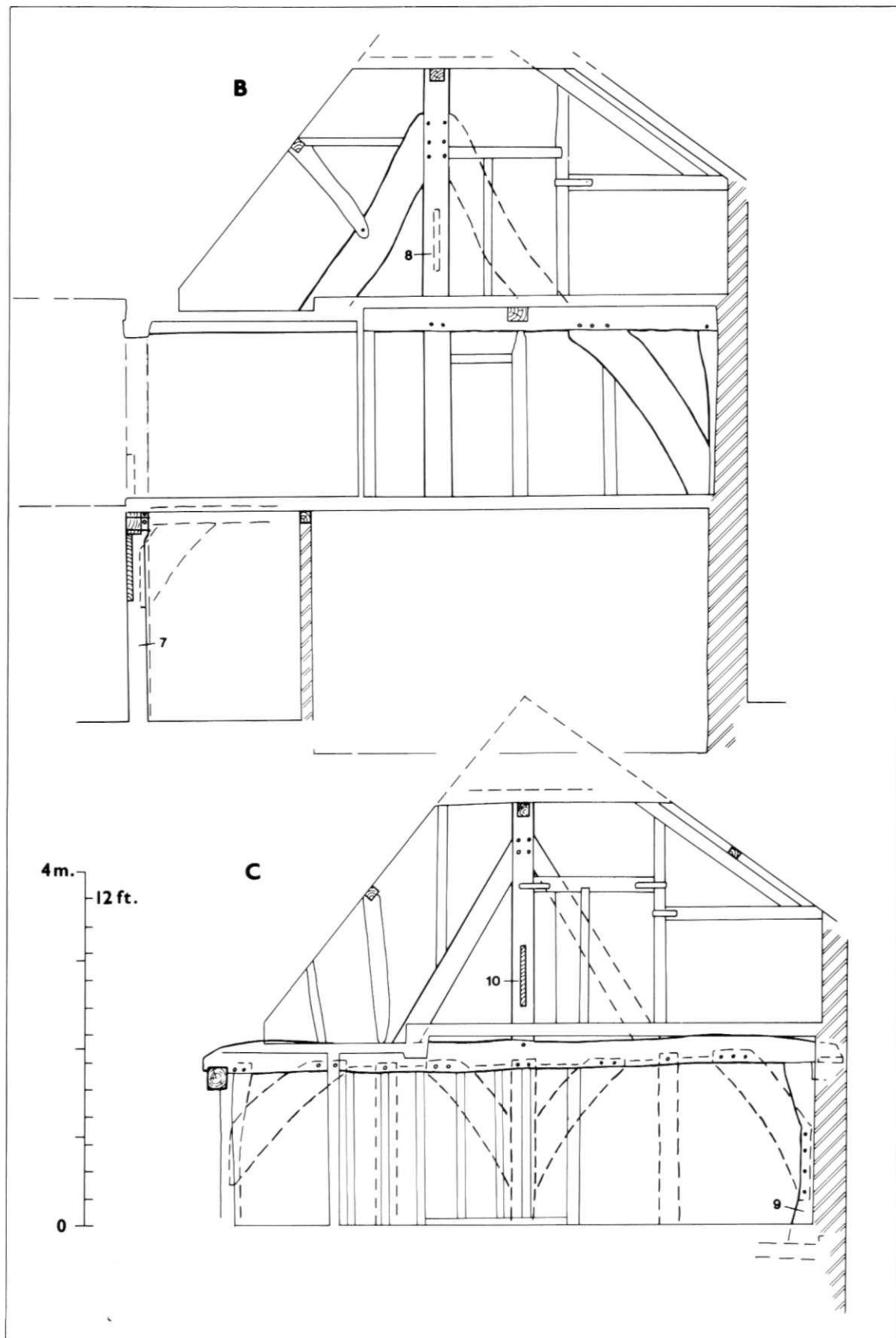


Fig. 3 186, Horninglow Street: trusses B and C.

Amongst the earliest features in the bottom of the trench were four stake-holes, and a possible stone wall foundation set into yellow clay. At the centre of the trench was a group of burnt stone slabs set into a burnt red clay deposit which has been interpreted as a hearth. Burnt buffware potsherds, and a possibly late pre-Conquest sherd were associated with these features. They were sealed by a layer of red clay with inclusions of brick, tile and mortar, assigned by the excavator to the medieval/early post-medieval periods, and were covered by later deposits (Dingwall 1991).

If the 1319 rental has been correctly interpreted, a building on this site might have been occupied at that date by Adam and Matilda Pec, and conceivably they once sat next to the hearth recorded in 1991. If this was an open hearth within a building, Adam and Matilda were probably sitting in a hall adjacent to the street. Since the surviving structure was floored from the outset, the open hearth must belong to an earlier house on the same site.

The medieval timber frame

Most of the surviving medieval timber was on the first floor and in the attic, the ground-floor framing having been largely built away except for part of the rear wall. The three-bay, two-storeyed, jettied medieval building stood on an east-west axis parallel to the street. The west bay A-B was c. 2.75m (9') wide, the central bay was c. 3.25m (10'8") wide, and the bay C-D was c. 2.65m (8'8") wide. The following account commences with a description of the four trusses A-D; it continues with an interpretation of the beams and joists which once carried the first floor, and it concludes with a description of other parts of the surviving frame. Passing reference is also made to the limited surviving evidence of a rear wing.

Truss A was recorded on its east face (fig. 2). In common with the rest of the building, the framing to the ground floor had been almost built away; only the NW corner post (1) remained *in situ* at this level, with a long empty mortice which formerly contained the triple-pegged tenon at the upper end of a down-brace (2).

In truss A, what remained of the girding beam (3) had been dressed back on its east (interior) face but four empty mortices remained, indicating the level of the original first floor and the spacing of the longitudinal joists. A single peg at the side of an inserted chimney breast marked the position of a mortice for a post which once supported the centre of the girding beam (see below). The face of the girding beam had probably been cut away to facilitate the removal of the original joists when the first floor was raised.

At first-floor level one central stud (4) and two long arch-braces remained *in situ*. The tiebeam was relatively straight and only c. 0.31m (1') deep. Above an inserted ceiling was a crown post of rectangular section (5). One of the two curved downward braces from the crown post to the tiebeam survived. The longitudinal upward brace from the crown post to the collar purlin had been cut away but the pegged tenon (6) remained in the mortice. The head of the crown post was not jowled; nevertheless, it was wide enough (0.27m / 10 W) to clasp the sides of the collar purlin and to be double-tenoned into the collar above.

Trusses B and C (fig. 3)

In truss B the north post (7) survived almost down to the level of the former sill beam, and on the ground floor a narrow mortice marked the position of a short upward brace. On the first floor the post could not be examined internally at the time of the survey. The first-floor framing probably comprised no more than two upward curved braces and a single central stud. No evidence of infilling was noted on the soffit of the tiebeam so the truss was probably open at this level. The crown post had been supported by two downward braces, one of which remained complete, and a mortice on its east face (8) once held the foot of an upward brace to the collar purlin.

In truss C only the south post (9) survived below the level of the eaves but the framing at first-floor level could be reconstructed from the joints in the soffit of the tiebeam. Three studs and four upward braces had formed the partition, and a continuous groove on the soffit of the tiebeam formerly held the upper ends of the staves for the wattle and daub infill. The crown post once had straight downward braces on both sides and there was formerly an upward brace (10) to the collar purlin on the west side.

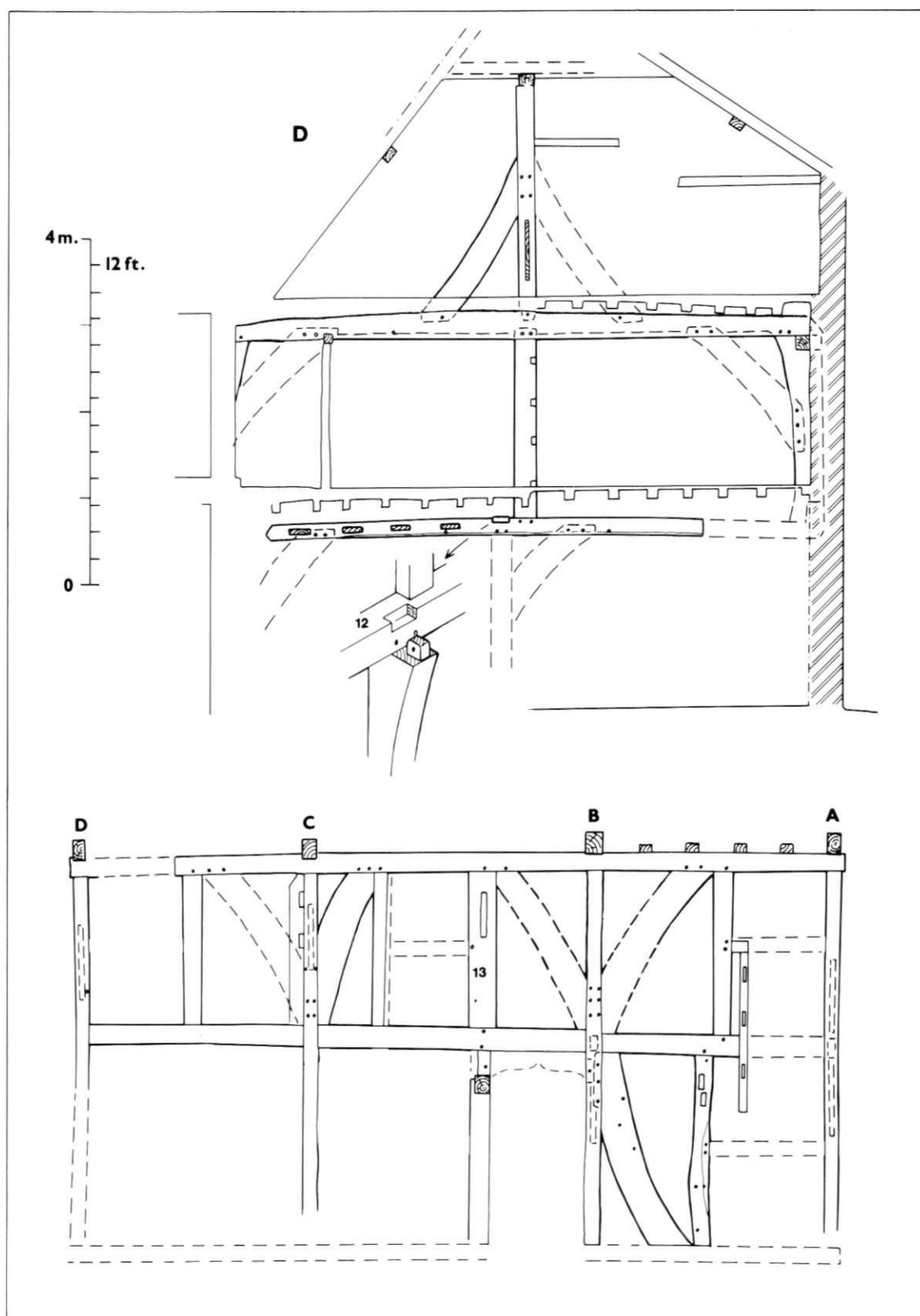


Fig. 4 East gable wall of 186, Horninglow Street: truss D, and rear elevation A-D.

Construction of the first floor (figs. 2, 4 and 5)

As noted above, the medieval floor had been removed during a major remodelling of the building, and only limited evidence of the original arrangement survived. Because the medieval street elevation was jettied, transverse floor joists had been employed in the front of each bay, whereas there was unequivocal evidence of longitudinal joists in the rear of the building. Four mortices in each of the girding beams in trusses A and D formerly housed the ends of the longitudinal joists. As these were not less than 0.22m (8 1/2") wide, they were probably laid with their long sections horizontal and secured by unshouldered soffit tenons pegged from above.

Within each bay the two sets of joists would have been separated by an axial beam, the only surviving evidence for which was a small rebate for a cogged tenon near the centre of the girding beams in trusses A (11) and D (12). The weight imparted by the floor through the supporting axial beam could not have been carried by such an inadequate joint. However, in both trusses this joint was directly above the position once occupied by the ground-floor central post; each of these posts probably had a jowled or bracketed head to carry the ends of the beams (inset, fig. 4). Such an arrangement has been noted elsewhere, as for instance in Shropshire, at 23, Barrow Street, Much Wenlock and 181/2, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (Hand 1989, 38). Providing that the technique employed to support the axial beams has been correctly interpreted, light can also be thrown upon the likely order of assembly of the timber frame. If, as is likely, the longitudinal joists in the rear portion of the building were tenoned at both ends, they could only have been assembled at the same time as the supporting trusses. However, in the arrangement suggested above, the axial beam could have been lowered onto the tenoned heads of the jowled studs after the trusses had been assembled. This stage in the assembly process would have been followed by the introduction of the transverse joists over the jetty plate.

Other aspects of the carpentry

The jetty had been almost entirely obliterated and the surviving evidence was equivocal, so the form of the front elevation shown in the axonometric drawing is largely hypothetical (fig. 5). Rather than resting the jetty bressumer above the ends of the joists, the medieval carpenter might equally have adopted the technique suggested below for the adjoining building. A joist which probably once had a jetty bressumer tenoned onto its outer end in this way was recorded out of its original context above an inserted brick wall.

The rear elevation was unjettied, with storey-high posts to the trusses A-D and girding beams between them. In the bay A-B there might have been windows at both floor levels. One downward brace remained on the ground floor but upward braces were employed throughout at first-floor level. In the central bay B-C mortices for a lintel marked the position of a former doorway.

At first-floor level the stud (13), directly above the ground-floor door east impost, was much wider than its counterparts; it was tenoned at both ends and must have been framed in from the outset. A mortice for a brace in the outside face of this unusually wide stud implies that there might have been a north-south back range from the outset; the remnants of a timber-framed wall, including a scarfed wall plate, might have belonged to such a structure.

The upper roof structure was largely intact at the time of the survey but it was removed by the contractors during works upon the building. It comprised seventeen pairs of coupled rafters connected by single collars.

187, HORNINGLOW STREET (fig. 6)

Adjacent to the east gable truss D of number 186 was the west gable truss E of an adjoining building of medieval origin. Like 186, number 187 had been a four-bay timber-framed building with a jettied front, but survival was fragmentary: all of the framing to the ground floor had been built away and with the exception of a small section of the rear elevation only the remnants of two trusses survived. The distance between the trusses E and F was c. 3.35m (11').

At first-floor level the medieval truss E had comprised only the front and rear posts, a central stud, and four curved braces beneath a cambered tiebeam. That frame had been supplemented in a post-medieval context by the introduction of two secondary (re-used) studs and a prop to support one end

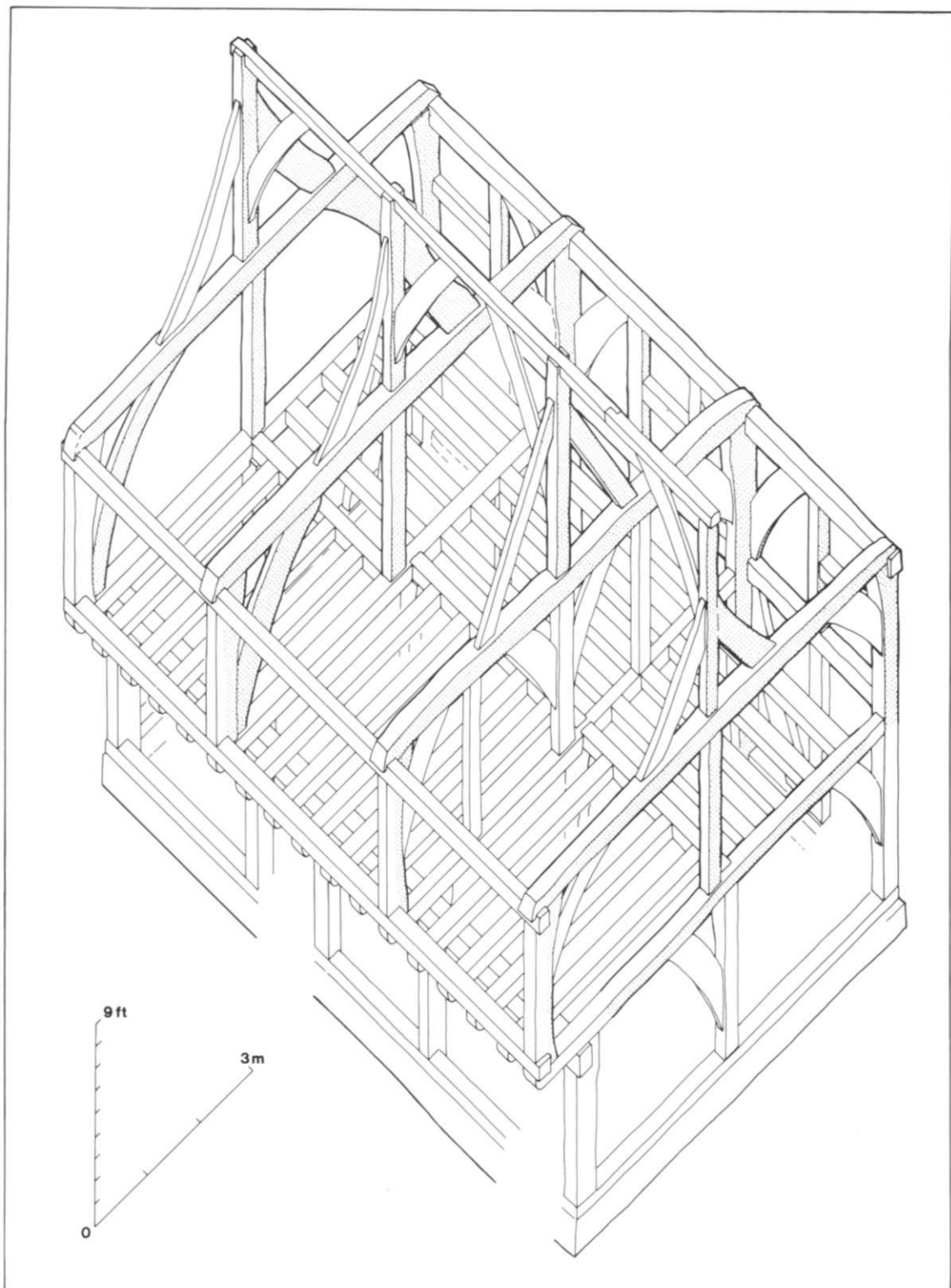


Fig. 5 186, Horninglow Street: reconstruction drawing of medieval timber frame.

of the inserted ceiling beam. The NW corner post had been removed and the original wattle and daub infill had been replaced by bricks. Above the tiebeam was a thin crown post of plain rectangular section with an unjowled head. An empty mortice (14) on the east face of the crown post once held the tenon of a longitudinal brace up to the collar purlin. The brace down to the tiebeam, and a raked strut halved across it, survived on the north side of the crown post, but a similar arrangement to the south had been removed. No evidence was observed to suggest that the raked struts once supported side purlins.

Although few timbers survived from truss F, the mortices in the soffit of the cambered tiebeam provided the evidence for two large panels, a central stud, and curved upward braces similar to those in truss E. Between each pair of braces the vertical staves for the wattle and daub infill had been secured in a continuous groove but there were individual holes for the shorter staves over the braces. Only a downward brace, and a raked strut halved across it, remained above the tiebeam; the crown post had not survived. There were narrow plain chamfers with run-out stops on the tiebeam.

In both trusses the inner faces of the posts survived above the former jetties, providing limited evidence of bracing in the first-floor wall framing overlooking the street. Three pegs in the S W corner post (truss E) may have secured the tenon for an upward brace. The pegs on the post over the jetty in truss F suggested that there were mortices for both upward- and downward braces.

The jetty

All of the ground-floor framing had been built away but in truss E a portion of the girding beam (15) survived near the front of the building. Three pegged mortices in the soffit of the beam indicated the position of the former jetty post, the jetty bracket and an internal brace. The end of the girding beam, the jetty bressumer, and the outer face of the post above the jetty had been cut away when the front elevation was rebuilt in brick. However, in truss F enough of the jowled foot of the first-floor post remained *in situ* to facilitate a tentative interpretation of the jetty assembly. The foot of the post was formerly stepped over the jetty bressumer and tenoned into its upper face. Together with the evidence observed in truss E it is clear that the jetty bressumer was tenoned onto the end of the girding beam; it cannot have been lodged above it, as is more usual. The junction of upper post, jetty bressumer, girding beam and bracket would have placed four joints in very close juxtaposition, giving rise to serious risk of structural instability.

DISCUSSION

The medieval ground floor of number 186 has been almost built away, so any discussion of plan-form or function is difficult. If this building was typical of others in the vicinity, the street frontages would have occupied the entire width of each tenement and access from the street into the courtyards at the rear would probably have been by way of a passage. No stair well or trimmer is shown on the axonometric drawing because no evidence survived to indicate the position of any former stairs. On the first floor there was originally a two-bay room between trusses A and C together with a much smaller room in the east bay; both rooms were open to the roof. Whilst it seems clear that there was a wing at a right-angle to the front range, its suggested function as a hall is highly tentative. In its medieval form number 187 had four bays in the range parallel to the street, taking up the entire width of the half-burgage on which it stood. Any access from the street to the courtyard at the rear might have been through the former bay G-H (fig. 1). Until relatively recent years only three crown post buildings were known in Staffordshire. The base cruck truss across the open hall at West Bromwich Manor (formerly Staffs.), with intersecting transverse braces on each side of the crown post and straight upward longitudinal braces, has been assigned a felling date of c. 1273 (Jones 1977, 1-13; *VA*, xx. 41). Mavesyn Ridware Gatehouse, with two impressive first-floor chambers, is at present attributed to the 14th century. The two open trusses have four-way upward braces from octagonal crown posts; the closed trusses have downward braces to the tiebeams and curved upward braces to the collar (Alcock and Meeson 1985, 18-19; Mercer 1975, 201). In Old Smithy Cottages, Brewood, provisionally dated to around 1350, the truss across the hall includes an arch-braced, cambered tiebeam supporting a crown post with four upward braces; soulaces strengthen the angles between the collars and the rafters (Midgley 1959, 21).

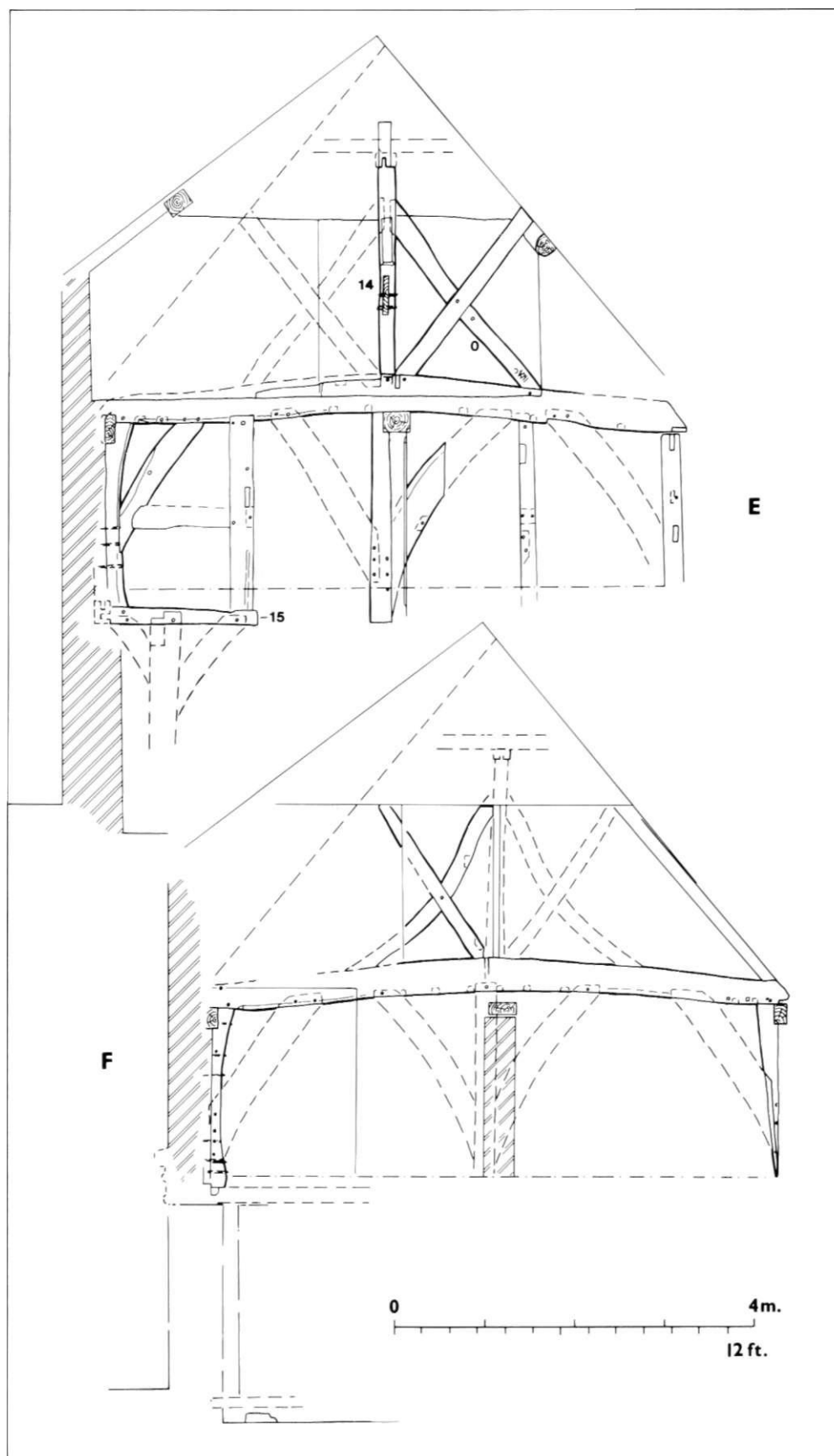


Fig. 6 186a, Horninglow Street: trusses E and F.

Several other crown post buildings have now been discovered in the area. Those in the plank-walled church at Rushton Spencer, with straight upward and downward braces and a fillet on the upper face of the collar purlin, have been tentatively attributed to the late 13th century (Meeson 1983, 29-35). Crown posts were employed in the wing, and probably also on the base cruck truss in the hall, at Pear Tree Farm, Yoxall (Alcock and Meeson 1985, 17). No. 1, Lichfield Road, Kings Bromley, has a plain rectangular crown post with four-way upward braces in what may have been the wing to a former hall; it is tentatively assigned to the late 14th or at the latest the early 15th century. Manor Farm, Wilnecote, has a recently-discovered base cruck truss with a crown post above. Just over the county boundary in Derbyshire, another example has been discovered in Sudbury Home Farm, Doveridge (ex inf. B. Hutton).

The discovery of part of a crown post roof at Abbots Bromley, only 16km (10 miles) west of Burton-upon-Trent, prompts speculation about the way that carpentry techniques were transmitted from one place to another. The village of Bromley had been in the possession of Burton Abbey since the time of Wulfric Spot, and in 1222 Abbot Richard de Lisle created a borough there (Whitelock 1979, 588; Palliser 1972, 68). Churchfields House (SK07962464) retains a single crown post with curved braces down to the tiebeam and an upward brace to the collar purlin. The head of the crown post clasps the purlin and is tenoned on each side into the soffit of the collar — a technique employed in No. 186, Horninglow Street. There were formerly arch braces below the tiebeam. All of the crown posts which have been found in Staffordshire are in high social status buildings or in medieval boroughs. Possibly contact between the two places led to carpenters who had worked in the expanding borough of Burton-upon-Trent being employed to construct Churchfields House and others like it in Abbots Bromley.

No medieval town-houses with crown posts were known in the county until those in Burton-upon-Trent were recognised by Philip Heath and drawn to the authors' attention. The suggested date range for the Staffordshire crown post buildings catalogued above is from the late 13th century to around the end of the 14th century. However, in some south-eastern counties of England construction of crown post roofs continued until much later. Many examples are of octagonal section and have broadly datable moulded bases and capitals. In Kent, during a tree-ring dating programme, crown posts of late 15th- and even early 16th-century date were identified (tree-ring dating lists in *VA*, xix-xxii).

In York crown posts are of plain rectangular section and dating relies upon carpentry more than decoration. A crown post in Lady Row has been dated to *c.* 1316, but (as in Kent) others may have been built as late as the early 16th century. The earliest examples in York are of slender scantling and they have unjowled heads. Late 14th- and 15th-century crown posts are 0.23 - 0.26m (9-10") broad, with a jowled head which 'embraces' the collar purlin and is double-tenoned into the collar above. Early crown posts tend to have short, straight braces whereas in the main period braces are broader and more usually curved (RCHME 1981, lxii - lxxii).

At 187, Horninglow Street, both of the surviving crown posts are slender, with unjowled heads, conforming more closely to early 14th-century parallels in York than to later examples. The intersecting braces on each side of the crown posts also point to an early construction date. Such braces are found in conjunction with a slender crown post at 12-15, Newgate, York, of *c.* 1337 (RCHME 1981, lxx). Conversely, where jettied buildings have joists tenoned into the backs of bressumers they are attributed to the late 15th and early 16th centuries (RCHME 1981, lxix).

At 186, Horninglow Street, the crown posts in trusses A-C are wider than those in the adjoining building; they clasp the sides of the collar purlin, but are not jowled. One such crown post has been recorded in the north wing at Middle Farm, Harwell (Oxon.), and has been tree-ring dated to 1371 or 1372 (Currie 1993, 151). From the roof structure alone, a mid- to late 14th-century date of construction might be postulated for number 186, but the wall framing should also be taken into account. At Mavesyn Ridware Gatehouse a 14th-century date has been suggested for a building with large wall panels and curved braces, but walls with large panels and curved braces are sometimes conservatively dated as late as the 16th century (Mercer 1975, 120).

The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and Staffordshire County Council have jointly funded work at number 187 by the tree ring dating laboratory at Nottingham University, where two of the core samples from this building have produced a felling date of 1345. This is a major step towards the establishment of a typological sequence of timber-framed buildings in the county. The confirmation of the date of construction also provides an insight into the early development of the

borough. It has been shown above that the tenement occupied by 186-187 Horninglow Street was laid out between 1200 and 1214, and rent was being paid for two properties there in 1319; one of those buildings contained an open hearth, presumably in a hall adjacent to the street. In 1345 a new building was constructed at 187 and rebuilding took place soon afterwards at 186. This part of the early thirteenth-century borough extension, therefore, was already undergoing a phase of renewal in the middle of the fourteenth century.

In a town which has been through two major waves of redevelopment, these two medieval buildings are remarkable survivals. Although some cellarage has been identified, generally the ground-level has been built up and the survival of significant medieval deposits below the ground has been confirmed by the site evaluation. The retention of the standing buildings, together with evidence of their predecessors in the ground beneath them and the enormous potential of the medieval archives, combine to make this site one of high archaeological and historical interest and potential.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are grateful to Ednaston Developments Midlands Ltd. for allowing access to the buildings while works were carried out upon them. Douglas Johnson drew our attention to the 1319 rental; he and Denis Stuart provided a pre-publication proof of the transcript. F. W. B. Charles discussed the interpretation of the timber frame, making many valuable suggestions. R. Hook of RCHME was particularly helpful throughout the survey and report preparation, and R. Howard forwarded the tree-ring dates expeditiously to enable them to be included in this article.

REFERENCES

- Alcock, N. W. and Meeson, R. A. 1985 Vernacular Architecture Group, *Spring 1985 Conference Guide*
- Charles, F. W. B. 1971 'A medieval timber-framed building in High Street, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs.', *TSSAHS*, xv. 54-56.
- Currie, C. R. J. 1993 'Larger medieval houses in the Vale of White Horse', *Oxoniensa*, lvii (for 1992), 81-244.
- Deanesly, M. 1937 Preface to Jeayes 1937 (see below)
- Dingwall, L. 1991 'Anson Court, Burton-on-Trent: an archaeological evaluation', Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, Rep. No. 152.
- Gelling, M. 1989 'The place-name Burton and variants', in S. C. Hawkes (ed.) *Weapons and warfare in Anglo-Saxon England*.
- Gelling, M. 1992 *The West Midlands in the early middle ages*.
- Hand, H. 1989 'The axial jowled post in Shropshire', *VA*, xx. 38.
- Huggins, P. J. 1991 'Anglo-Saxon timber building measurements: recent results' *Medieval Archaeology*, xxxv. 6-28.
- Jeayes, I. H. 1937 'Descriptive catalogue of the charters and muniments belonging to the Marquis of Anglesey...', *SHC*, volume for 1937.
- Jones S. R. 1977 'West Bromwich Manor-house', *TSSAHS*, xvii (for 1975-76), 1-64.
- Meeson, R. A. 1983 'Plank-walled building techniques and the church of St. Lawrence, Rushton Spencer', *VA*, xiv. 29-35.
- Mercer, E. 1975 *English Vernacular Houses*.
- Midgley, L. M. (ed.) 1959 *Victoria History of the County of Stafford*, v. 21-22.
- NSJFS* *North Staffordshire Journal of Field Studies*.
- Palliser, D. M. 1971 'The markets of medieval Staffordshire', *NSJFS*, xi. 49-63.
- Palliser, D. M. 1972 'The boroughs of medieval Staffordshire', *NSJFS*, xii. 63-73.
- Palliser, D. M. 1976 *The Staffordshire landscape*.
- Pevsner, N. 1974 *The buildings of England: Staffordshire*.

- RCHME 1981 *An inventory of the historical monuments in the city of York, V, the central area.*
- Shaw, S. 1798 *The history and antiquities of Staffordshire, volume one. Collections for a History of Staffordshire* (Staffs. Record Society)
- SHC
- Stuart, D. G. 1994 'A rental of the borough of Burton, 1319', *SHC*, 4th. series, xvi. 1-51.
- TSSAHS *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society.*
- VA *Vernacular Architecture.*
- Whitelock, D. (ed.) 1979 *English Historical Documents*, i. c. 500-1042.
- Walmsley, J. 1968 'The censarii of Burton Abbey and the Domesday population', *NSJFS*, viii. 73-80.
- Walmsley, J. 1973 'The boroughs of Burton upon Trent and Abbots Bromley in the thirteenth century', *Medieval Studies*, 339-53.
- Wrottesley, G. 1884 'The Burton Chartulary', *SHC*, v (i), 1-104.

DEAN KIMBERLEY'S VISITATION OF CHURCHES IN LICHFIELD PECULIAR JURISDICTION, 1714

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

In the summer of 1714 Dr. Jonathan Kimberley, the recently appointed dean of Lichfield cathedral, inspected 36 of the churches and chapels in the counties of Staffordshire, Derbyshire, and Warwickshire that lay within the cathedral's peculiar jurisdiction (the area over which the dean, rather than the bishop, had the right of general ecclesiastical supervision, including visitation). 'Mr. Dean's Inspection of the Churches', a summary of his orders for improvements to their fabric and furnishings, survives and is printed below. It is one of the few extant surveys of churches within the cathedral's peculiar jurisdiction and affords some clues to their condition at the beginning of the eighteenth century.¹

Kimberley began his tour of inspection on Wednesday, 28 April 1714, when he visited the Staffordshire churches of Weeford, Hints, and Whittington. The following day he went on to Edingale, Alrewas, and King's Bromley; then, after a long weekend, he inspected Armitage, Pipe Ridware, and Mavesyn Ridware on Monday, 3 May. Norton Canes and Hammerwich were visited the following Wednesday. A week later, on Wednesday, 12 May, the dean was in Derbyshire, where he looked at Wilne; next day it was the turn of the chapels at Long Eaton, Breaston, and Risley. Whitsun fell on 16 May in 1714; Kimberley probably spent it at Lichfield. Three days later he was in Warwickshire, where on Wednesday, 19 May, he visited Gaydon, Bishop's Itchington, Ufton, and Bishop's Tachbrook. On Tuesday, 1 June, he made his way north from Lichfield to Stafford, inspecting on the way Longdon, Rugeley, Colwich, Bednall, Acton Trussell, Baswich, and finally St. Chad's, Stafford. After a day's rest he visited High Offley and Adbaston on Thursday, 3 June. Almost a fortnight later he was again in Derbyshire: on Tuesday, 15 June, he looked at Kniveton and Beeley, and two days later he was at Ashford and Longstone. Finally, back in Staffordshire, he went round the three city churches in Lichfield (St. Mary's, St. Chad's, and St. Michael's) on Wednesday, 7 July, and visited Farewell the following day.

It is difficult to estimate how thorough Kimberley's inspections were. They were obviously more than perfunctory, but even on a long summer day and with a good horse or carriage it would have been difficult to have made a detailed survey of seven churches on a single day, as the dean apparently did on his journey from Lichfield to Stafford on 1 June 1714. Against that, however, we must assume that due notice of the visitation had been given: the churchwardens would have been in attendance, all would have been ready for his inspection, and he would not have had to stand waiting while keys were found, chests were opened, and Communion plate was brought out of safe keeping.

The visitation seems to have revealed few horrors. Colwich was apparently the only church in serious disrepair: Kimberley ordered a restoration of the east window and three south windows within four months, the only deadline for repairs mentioned in the visitation. His concern for the repair or cleansing of chancels at Weeford, Edingale, King's Bromley, Wilne, Long Eaton ('altogether out of repair'), Breaston ('totally out of repair'), Gaydon, Bishop's Itchington, Ufton, Rugeley, Bednall, Baswich, St. Chad's, Stafford, Kniveton, Ashford, Longstone, St. Mary's and St. Chad's, Lichfield, and Farewell suggests that the cathedral canons, who as rectors were jointly or individually responsible for the maintenance of chancels within the peculiar, were continuing to neglect their churches. Bishop Lloyd had scolded them for that neglect in 1693 and had attempted to remedy the situation in his cathedral statutes of 1694. Eleven years later Archbishop Tenison was told that the chapter had not mended its ways.² Kimberley's visitation suggests that the canons and the lessees to whom many of the churches had been granted were still reluctant to spend money on repairs. Even comparatively minor matters were sometimes skipped: at Armitage, for example, the chancel was in good order but the stretch of churchyard wall or fence for which Canon Samuel Kimberley, prebendary of Hansacre, was

¹ Lichfield Joint Record Office, D. 30/9/3/2/13. The document is printed by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral. If it is a complete record of the dean's summer tour, he apparently did not visit all the churches in the peculiar. There are, for example, no entries for the Staffordshire churches of Arley (now in Worcestershire), Brewood (of which Kimberley, as dean, was rector), Cannock, Eccleshall, Harborne, Haselour (the status of which was disputed), or Tipton.

² *Victoria County History of Staffordshire*, iii. 179-80.

responsible as rector was out of repair.

Dean Kimberley's vision of a well-ordered and well-appointed church, as it emerges from his visitation orders, was, unsurprisingly, that of most of his contemporaries - a building clean, sober, and decent. The interior was to be whitewashed, and in accordance with the 82nd canon of the Canons of 1604 the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed were to be painted prominently on the walls (Weeford, King's Bromley). All the churches visited apparently had at their east ends the table of the Ten Commandments, as specified by the canon; Kimberley had no complaints on that score. Inscriptions of record and of public interest were to be displayed: at St. Chad's, Lichfield, for example, painted notices were to remind the parishioners of the names of the cathedral prebends jointly responsible for keeping the chancel in repair. The royal arms displayed in the churches must be kept fresh and brightly painted (Weeford). The floors of nave and chancel must be kept smooth; the dean seems to have assumed that the chancel would be paved, but his comments on Edingale, Kniveton, and Farewell suggest that in village churches earth floors were acceptable in the nave if the pews had brick or wooden floors. (The dean's motive in ordering pews to be floored may have been hygienic or precautionary. It was not unknown for worshippers to relieve themselves discreetly in the privacy of their pews during services; brick or wooden floors may have acted as a deterrent to that, or at least have been easier to keep clean than bare earth.) A watertight roof and well-glazed windows were obviously necessary.

Only one church building was being used for secular purposes - Kniveton, in which a school was being held. The dean ordered the school out. It had formerly been regarded as acceptable to house schools in corners of churches, but by the early eighteenth century the general feeling seems to have been that even in villages a separate school-house should be provided. It was not until the explosion of church building in the nineteenth century that, under different circumstances, the idea of the combined multi-purpose school-church or school-chapel was revived.

The furnishings that Kimberley viewed and expected were sparse. There would of course be a Bible and one or two Books of Common Prayer (at Breaston one was needed for the clerk); Kimberley required them to be in good condition and properly bound. The book of Homilies is mentioned only at Hints, where the dean ordered that a shelf should be provided for it, presumably so that it could be read in a dignified manner and not hugger-mugger on a parishioner's knees. The Communion tables were generally in good repair, although at Whittington the door in the Communion rails needed to be mended. Longdon and Longstone were ordered to buy new 'carpets', the coverings of silk or other decent stuff that were laid on the Communion table in the time of divine service, and Norton Canes lacked the linen cloth that further covered the table when Communion was celebrated. A pulpit cloth was required at Alrewas and a napkin for Communion time at Norton Canes; a cushion, presumably also for use at Communion, is mentioned at Gaydon. At Ashford the surplice needed to be washed. There, and at Ufton, the Communion plate was dirty, perhaps an indication of its infrequent use. In general the churches seem to have been adequately provided with plate, although at Adbaston the dean ordered the purchase of a Communion flagon. At Gaydon he demanded the provision of a chest in which to keep the church's plate and its cushion. All the pulpits and pews seem to have been in a satisfactory condition; at Longstone Kimberley ordered the removal of a seat or pew that had invaded the chancel. It is noticeable that Kimberley says nothing about bells; either the churches he visited could be justifiably proud of their bells, which may have been rung in honour of his visit, or the dean had no time or inclination to go scrambling about in bell-lofts and was prepared to accept local assurances that all was well.

Fonts, however, both interested and concerned him. A third of the churches were given orders about them: nine village churches and the city church of St. Michael at Lichfield were told to put their fonts in order, and the village churches of Hammerwich and Gaydon were instructed to provide themselves with one. Fonts were dirty, leaky or without drainage, lacked plugs or lids, and were generally neglected. Although most fonts were evidently satisfactory, and although the dean's campaign for fonts achieved some success - Hammerwich, for example, acquired one the year after his visitation³ - there seems to have been a widespread indifference to their fate. Partly that was because they no longer served their original function. The phenomenon was analysed a few years after the visitation by Kimberley's Lichfield contemporary, Sir John Floyer, whose little book on infant baptism helps

³ Ibid. xiv. 269.

explain the dean's problem.

Floyer (1649-1734)⁴ was one of the leading Staffordshire physicians of his day; certainly he was the most prolific author among them. He was, among other things, a zealous proponent of the virtues of cold baths, which he strongly recommended as a cure for a variety of ailments. That enthusiasm seems to have led him in his old age to become an advocate for the declining practice of infant baptism by total immersion. In 1722 he published *An Essay to Restore the Dipping of Infants in their Baptism*,⁵ in which he set out the arguments - theological, historical, and medical - in favour of infant baptism by immersion ('dipping') and attempted to confute those who claimed that aspersion ('sprinkling') from a font or a basin was sufficient. His rehearsal of his opponents' case and his lament that 'our Fonts stand in our Churches, as Monuments, to upbraid us with our Change, or Neglect of our old Baptismal Immersion'⁶ reveal the general change in attitude that had taken place and provide some local evidence.

Floyer claimed that until the early seventeenth century infant baptism by immersion had been the norm in England. He pointed out that the bowls of the stone fonts in churches - fonts installed after the heroic missionary age of mass adult baptism in rivers or streams had passed - had been designed to be baby-friendly: 'they were made of that Capacity as was sufficient for the Dipping the Bodies of Infants'.⁷ Dipping was now, however, unfashionable. Floyer blamed various factors for that. Papists and Calvinists both favoured aspersion,⁸ which Floyer seemed to consider a Continental aberration. The Calvinists regarded fonts as relics of popery, and when they came to power under the Commonwealth they proscribed them.⁹ Fonts survived, but by the time of the Restoration they had lost their design-function; clergy (who, Floyer implied, preferred merely to wet one hand rather than to plunge both forearms into cold water)¹⁰ chose to accept a rite that was 'more convenient, or more easily perform'd',¹¹ and turned the Prayer Book rubric on baptism upside down. Whereas formerly all healthy babies were immersed and only the sickly had water poured on them, now aspersion was made the rule, immersion the exception.¹² Under the new dispensation, therefore, a basin, even 'a Bason in which our Hands are washed', could be just as useful a container for baptismal water as a font; in fact fonts 'are abused now by putting a Bason of Water in them, in order to Aspersion'.¹³ That the font itself was dirty or leaky would not matter.

Floyer also blamed parents. Clergy had become 'too indulgent to the Fears of the Females'.¹⁴ Recent generations had grown up believing that it was unhealthy to bring small babies into 'a cold Air, and cold Church',¹⁵ and plunge them, naked, into fonts full of cold water. Floyer believed that, on the contrary, a cold plunge was very good for even a sickly baby; moreover, he pointed out, babies were brought to church for baptism warmly wrapped, and were wrapped up again as soon as they had been immersed. He even cited an experiment he had conducted. He had persuaded a neighbour to have his son, John Trubshaw, baptised by immersion at Lichfield cathedral on 19 August 1721. The boy, 'being delivered naked into both the Hands of the Minister, lying at his length, he was let down two or three Inches under the Water ... and immediately raised again out of it.' The experience had done him no harm. Sudden immersion in cold water might, of course, provoke a baby to empty its bladder, but Floyer thought that a good thing, especially if the baby was 'bred from Parents subject to the Stone and Gout'.¹⁶ Clergy and vergers possibly lacked Floyer's enthusiasm.

There was also a new spirit of prudery about: 'the Pretence of ... the Indecency of naked Infants'

4 The most accessible brief life of Floyer remains that in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

5 There is a copy of the book in the William Salt Library, Stafford.

6 Floyer, *Essay*, 60.

7 Ibid. 15.

8 Ibid. 11-12.

9 Ibid. 4, 58.

10 Ibid. 5.

11 Ibid. 32.

12 Ibid. 13.

13 Ibid. 32, 58-9.

14 Ibid. 5 (a comment put into the mouth of a 'Parishioner', who goes on to say ungallantly that if it can be proved to him that his infant son will not be harmed by immersion he will 'get the Dipping over, before his [the baby's] Mother hears any thing of it').

15 Ibid. 48.

16 Ibid. 9-10, 14-15, 17, 19, 45-6, 48.

encouraged sprinkling rather than dipping.¹⁷ The embarrassment may have been greater when the baby was a girl. One of Floyer's sympathisers, a non-juring clergyman at Derby, wrote to say that he had baptised his own three children by immersion - the two boys were baptised naked, but although the girl was baptised privately at home the clergyman remarked without comment that she wore a belly-cloth.¹⁸

The desire for privacy, although Floyer does not mention it, was probably another factor leading people away from the font, reinforcing their 'unreasonable Aversion to cold Water' and the insidious influence of 'some Dissenters, who carry'd on a Reformation too far' and lost respect for all ceremonies.¹⁹ Floyer quoted approvingly descriptions of the baptisms of Edward VI and Elizabeth I - great state occasions at which the royal children were dipped in silver fonts - and remarked that Lord Ferrers (either the first Earl Ferrers, born in 1650, or his son the second earl, born in 1677) had told him that that was how he too had been baptised. Floyer had heard the same of another Staffordshire gentleman.²⁰ For Floyer, himself the son of a Staffordshire gentleman, those were examples of the good old English way of doing things. Perhaps he did not appreciate that it was the portable silver font, not the idea of baptismal immersion, that would have appealed to many of his readers. Few people, then or later, could aspire to a silver font - a survey of church plate in the archdeaconry of Stafford in the 1950s found only three christening bowls, none of them in existence when Floyer wrote his book²¹ - but they evidently preferred basins. A basin was at least portable, and parents with access to a sympathetic clergyman could have their child christened in the privacy and comfort of their own home amid guests of their own choice. Private baptism of sickly children had always been allowed.²² Floyer was one of those who disapproved of christening parties (nowadays 'the Solemnity of Baptism ends in vain Pomp, costly Treats, or Drunkenness') and he thought that godparents should be abolished; it was the duty of parents to undertake the moral and spiritual upbringing of their children, not those 'who never can probably take any Care of such Solemn Promise, nor do practice the Religion they profess'.²³ Christening parties and godparents survive. So, no doubt to the joy of the spirits of Kimberley and Floyer, do fonts.

MR. DEAN'S INSPECTION OF THE CHURCHES²⁴

f. 1 Weeford [Staffs.], 28th April 1714

The chancel window out of repair. The pavement at the entrance into the chancel broken. A new Common Prayer book to be bought. The Lord's Prayer and the Belief²⁵ to be written upon the walls. The Queen's Arms to be new beautified.

John Selvester, churchwarden

Hints [Staffs.], the same day

To put up a shelf in a convenient place to set the book of Homilies on. To mend the leads between an aisle and the church²⁶ on the south side [of] the church.

Thomas Thornton, churchwarden

¹⁷ Ibid. 48, 60.

¹⁸ Ibid. 16-18. Floyer admitted that in the Orthodox Church the priest anointed the head of a girl child and deaconesses the rest of her body: *ibid.* 48.

¹⁹ Ibid. 53.

²⁰ Ibid. 6, 45.

²¹ S. A. Jeavons, 'Church Plate in the Archdeaconry of Stafford', *Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society*, lxxiii (1955), 26-7 (Ingestre, dated 1731), 28-9 (St. Mary's, Lichfield, donated 1743), 40-1 (Wombourne, dated 1812). All were of silver gilt.

²² See e.g. N. Sykes, *Church and State in England in the XVIIIth Century* (1934), 249-50, dealing with a slightly later period.

²³ Floyer, *Essay*, 55.

²⁴ The title occurs as an endorsement, and is probably contemporary. In this transcription the spelling, punctuation, and capitalisation have been modernised, and abbreviations have been extended. The spelling of place names and surnames has not been altered. Editorial comments and additions are in square brackets.

²⁵ The Apostles' Creed.

²⁶ I.e. the nave.

Whittington [Staffs.], the same day

The door of the communion table to be mended. A new Common Prayer book to be bought.
William Smith, churchwarden

Eddingale [Edingale, Staffs.], 29th April 1714

The floor in the chancel to be levelled. The roof in the body of the church to be mended. The floors of the seats to be mended. The font to be cleaned and to be used as often as there is occasion.
John Wilson, churchwarden

Alderwas [Alrewas, Staffs.], eodem die

A pulpit cloth. A new Bible. The mounds²⁷ to be mended where they are wanting.
Thomas Dagley
John Finney
John Kent, churchwardens

Bromley [King's Bromley, Staffs.], eodem die

The chancel to be new washed, and the writing to be fresh done over. The font to be leaded, and to be filled with water as often as there is occasion.
John Goreing
Henry Clark, churchwardens

Armitage [Staffs.], 3rd May

The font to be new leaded and to be put in repair. The mounds belonging to the prebendary of²⁸ the south side [of] the church to be rectified.
Thomas Jackson
John Jackson, churchwardens

Pipe Ridware [Staffs.], eodem die

The font to be new leaded.
Edward Hall, churchwarden

Maveson Ridware [Mavesyn Ridware, Staffs.], eodem die

The font to be new leaded.
William Turner
Richard Aspley, churchwardens

f. lv. Norton [Norton Canes, Staffs.], 5th May 1714

A new communion table cloth and a napkin. The font to be filled with water as often as there is occasion. The font to be leaded and to have a new lid.
Edward Addams
Richard Smith, churchwardens

Hammerwich [Staffs.], eodem die

A new font to be erected and the roof to be pointed.
Thomas Pavier [churchwarden]

Wilne [Derb.], May 12th²⁹

The pavement of the church and chancel to be mended.
William Newton
Matthew Brown [churchwardens]

Long Eaton [Derb.], May 13th

The chancel altogether out of repair. The pavement of the chapel exceedingly out of order. The windows of the body of the chapel out of repair.
John Trowell
Edward Towl [churchwardens]

²⁷ Bounds (walls, hedges, or fences).

²⁸ I.e. 'on'.

²⁹ The entries for Wilne and the following 7 churches are marked with crosses.

Breaston [Breaston, Derb.], eodem die

The chancel totally out of repair. A Common Prayer book to be bought for the clerk.
Robert White
Henry Case [churchwardens]

Risley [Derb.], eodem die

The Common Prayer book to be new bound.
William Smedley [churchwarden]

Gayton [Gaydon, Warws.], 19th May 1714

The roof of the church and chancel to be repaired and the east end of the church to be repaired. A chest to be made to keep the cushion and communion plate. A font to be made.

Itchington [Bishop's Itchington, Warws.], eodem die

The ceiling and roof of the church and chancel to be mended.

Ufton [Warws.], eodem die

The roof of the chancel to be mended. The communion plate in a dirty condition and to be cleaned. A new Common Prayer book to be bought.

Tachbrook [Bishop's Tachbrook, Warws.], eodem die

The Bible to be new bound and a new Common Prayer book to be bought.

Longdon [Staffs.], 1st June

A new carpet³⁰ for the communion table to be bought.
John Marshall
Thomas Hill [churchwardens]

Rudgley [Rugeley, Staffs.], eodem die

The windows of the east and south end of the chancel to be glazed and pointed.
Francis Emery
Thomas Bladen [churchwardens]

f. 2 Colwich [Staffs.], eodem die

The east and three south windows: the brick to be taken down to the stone work and glazed and to certify it's done the Friday after Michaelmas day.

Richard Smith
Walter Smallman [churchwardens]

Bednall [Staffs.], eodem die

The lower ceiling of the chancel to be repaired.
John Farnolls [churchwarden]

Acton Trussell [Staffs.], eodem die

The rail of the door of the chancel and pavement to be mended. The roof of the chancel to be mended. The mounds of the churchyard to be repaired.

William Dale
George Aspley [churchwardens]

Baswich [Staffs.], eodem die

The roof of the chancel to be repaired. The window in the chancel to be mended. The church porch to be repaired.

Samuel Whetnall
Jos. Sharpe [churchwardens]

St. Chad's, Stafford, eodem die

The chancel windows to be repaired. The windows in the belfry and church to be repaired.

John Marston

John Collins [churchwardens]

Offley [High Offley, Staffs.], 3rd June³¹

The windows to be glazed. The porch to be mended. A hole to be made in the font to convey the water out and the floor at the north door to be mended.

John Parton

John Oram [churchwardens]

Adbaston [Staffs.], eodem die

The font to be cleaned and a hole made in it to convey the water out and a flagon for the communion table to be bought.

Jos. Gardner

Daniel Levett [churchwardens]

Kniveton [Derb.], 15th June

No person to be permitted to teach school in the church. The pavement of the chancel to be repaired. The chancel windows out of repair. The chancel to be whited. The floors of the seats in the church and chancel to be bricked or boarded. The floor of the body of the church out of repair.

Thomas Tomlinson

Robert Hurd [churchwardens]

Beeleigh [Beeley, Derb.], eodem die

The hole in the font to be stopped and to be constantly filled with water when there is occasion.

f. 2v. Ashford [Derb.], 17 June

The pavement of the chancel to be mended. The communion plate and surplice to be cleaned.

Longson [Longstone, Derb.], eodem die

The pavement of the chancel to be levelled. A new carpet to the communion table to be bought. The seat of the north side [of] the chancel to be taken down.

St. Mary's, Lichfield, 7th July

The pavement of the south aisle out of repair. The window at the east end of the chancel out of repair. A new Common Prayer book to be bought.

St. Chad's *alias* Stowe [Lichfield], eodem die

The inscription of the prebends that repair the chancel to be fresh done. The pavement of the chancel wholly out of repair. The chancel windows out of repair. The pavement in the body of the church out of repair.

St. Michael's [Lichfield], eodem die

A new Common Prayer book to be bought. The hole in the font to be stopped and to be filled with water when there is occasion.

Farewell [Staffs.], 8th July

The roof of the chancel out of repair. The floor of the seats in the body of [the] church out of repair.

31 The entries for High Offley and Adbaston are marked with crosses.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

1992-1993

President: J. G. L. COLE, **MB., F.R.C.R.**

Vice-Presidents:

C. W. BRIDGEMAN

A. A. ROUND, **B.Sc, F.S.A.**

COUNCILLOR A. G. WARD, **C.B.E., J.P.**

Hon. Secretaries:

STEVEN CAMPBELL-KELLY (general and minutes)

Mrs. BETTY FOX (membership)

Mrs. MARGARET BROWNE (newsletter)

Hon. Meetings Secretaries:

CAROL ALLEN, **B.A., Ph.D.**

C. WARDLE, **B.A.**

Hon. Treasurer: KEITH BILLINGTON, 32 Birchwood Road, Parkside, Lichfield WS14 9UW

Hon. Editor of Transactions: N. J. TRINGHAM, **B.A., M.Litt., Ph.D.**,
V.C.H. Staffordshire, William Salt Library, Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LZ

Committee:

Mrs. DIANA WILKES

Mrs. SARAH ELSOM

Mrs. NANCY BALL

F. BALL

R. A. MEESON, **M.A., F.S.A.**

N. R. NICOLL

P. TWIVEY

Mrs. J. WILSON

Editorial Committee:

KEITH BILLINGTON

J. G. L. COLE

R. A. MEESON

N. J. TRINGHAM

Mrs. DIANA WILKES

Hon. Auditor:

M. S. HORTON

PROGRAMME

1992

- 2 Oct. Annual General Meeting
 Mid-Staffordshire from the Air - John Darlington
- 16 Oct. Effect of religion on the architecture of Lichfield cathedral - Canon Tony Barnard
- 6 Nov. Buried cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum - Ffiona Gilmore-Eaves
- 27 Nov. Conservation of the landscape in Peak National Park - Ken Smith
- 4 Dec. Christmas Pastime

1993

- 22 Jan. Wolseley glassworks excavations - Chris Welch
- 19 Feb. Interpreting the landscape - Mick Aston
- 5 Mar. The work of the RCHM England in the Midlands - Paul Everson
- 19 Mar. Tithe and enclosure maps and awards - Dudley Fowkes
- 2 Apr. Staffordshire's historic parks and gardens - Alan Taylor