EXCAVATIONS AT THE FORMER BREWERY SITE, HIGH STREET, MARLOW

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In 1996 an archaeological excavation at the former brewery site, Marlow, produced the first archaeological evidence for medieval Marlow and the development of the High Street. The investigations revealed evidence of a timber-framed building possibly of 13th century date, close to the High Street. At the rear of the building were numerous pits, a possible well and an oven, dug between the late 11th and 14th/15th centuries. A chalk-built cellar, probably constructed in the 17th or early 18th century, may have been inserted beneath the surviving medieval building, or, alternatively, it may have been part of a different structure constructed after the medieval building's demolition. The possibility that the building frontage encroached onto the road is considered. Two chalk-revetted storage pits and one other pit, and possibly two wells were in use at the same time as the cellared building. An 18th century property boundary and an oven were also found. Five late nineteenth century brick-lined pits may have been associated with the brewery, originally established by Thomas Wethered in 1758. In 2017, Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society (CVAHS) decided to review all the data stored in the Buckinghamshire County Museum archive at Halton in order to complete and publish the results of the excavation and the finds reports.

INTRODUCTION

Background

In 1996, redevelopment at the brewery site in Marlow (82-86 High Street) afforded the first opportunity to conduct a controlled archaeological investigation in the heart of the modern town. The excavations, centred on SP 8495 8633, were commissioned by Whitbread Breweries Ltd and undertaken by David Bonner of the Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeological Service (Fig. 1). The investigation involved excavation of an area next to the High Street (Area 1 on Figure 2), and four additional evaluation trenches (2, 5, 6, 7), at the rear of the development area.

The position of the site fronting the High Street suggested an area of high archaeological potential and was the primary reason for the investigation. No previous archaeological investigation had taken place in the core area of the town, except for an evaluation conducted in November 1995 on land at the rear of `Remnantz', on the northwest limits of the old town. This identified a number of late post-medieval cut features and an undated possible buried soil (Murray 1995).

The town of Marlow straddles two Pleistocene river gravel terraces, locally known as the Flood Plain gravels/Kempton Park gravels and Taplow gravels, the boundary between the two being broadly indicated by the course of the modern A4155, at the north end of the High Street (British Geological Survey 1974). `Brickearth' (locally known as the Langley Silt Complex), a combined aeolian and waterlain deposit, is mapped over the terrace gravels of the Middle Thames here, although it is not intimately associated with the underlying gravel. (Gibbard 1985, 1–8, 44–51, 57–69, figs 1 and 2; Sherlock 1960, 48–52; Haines and Horton 1969, 74–89).

The Early History of Marlow

Merelafan or *Merlaue* is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as having within it four estates. One of these had belonged to Athelstan. It is suggested that the name refers to a settlement which grew up on the edge of a mere, although the site of this

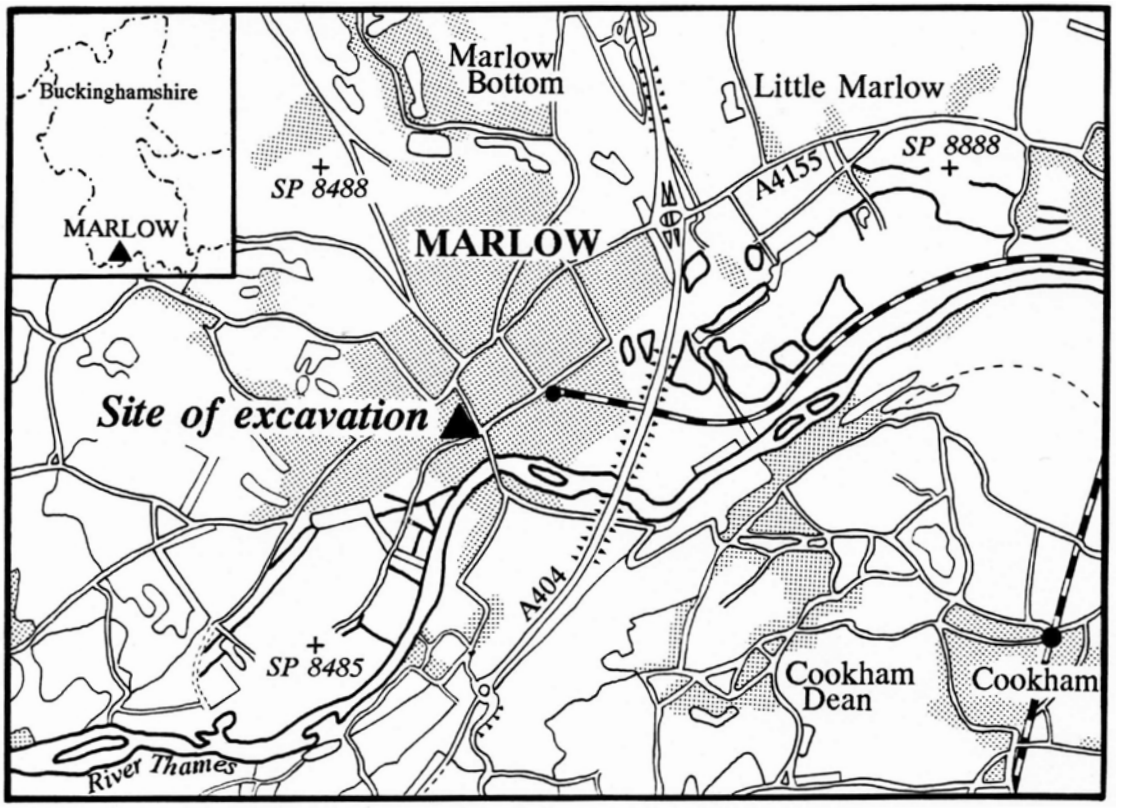

FIGURE 1 Location of excavation *(scale 1:50,000)*

has not been identified (Mawer and Stenton 1925; Baines 1995).

The town of Marlow developed during the 12th century around a Thames crossing of the road from Reading to High Wycombe, and it was probably its position on this communication link which was important in attracting traders to the town. It is not known when the first permanent bridge was constructed; it was certainly before 1227 when a warden, John de Waltinton, is named. By 1107, a church dedicated to All Saints had been built on the north bank of the Thames and burgage rights had been obtained by 1183 (VCH Buckinghamshire 3, 69).

The medieval town flourished as a centre for the surrounding countryside and expanded north-west onto the higher ground of the second river terrace. The town was granted a market by 1227/8 and by 1278/9 there were nearly 200 burgesses. Wheat, hides, cloth and timber were sold, with bundles of firewood being sent from Marlow to Southwark between *c.*1218–1400 (Brown & Hunt 1994). Upstream at Henley the town's medieval economy 'was dominated by the London grain trade and by the town's crucial role as a transhipment point' (Townley 2009). A wool market is recorded by 1375 (Nore, undated) and by the early 14th century, there were two fairs.

The Tudor period marked a decline in the fortunes of Marlow. The estimated population was less than 1000 in the reign of Edward VI (1548–53). A market-house had been built on Market Square in the 1500s, but by 1600 the medieval market had lapsed.

There was a period of revived prosperity during the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1608, John Brinkhurst left land in Oxford Lane (on the north-west side of Marlow) for four almshouses for widows (Davies 1962, 6–17). A large mansion called Marlow Place was built at the north end of St Peter's Street, in the 17th century, and Sir William Borlase, a former owner of the house, founded a school in West Street, in 1624. Marlow Place later

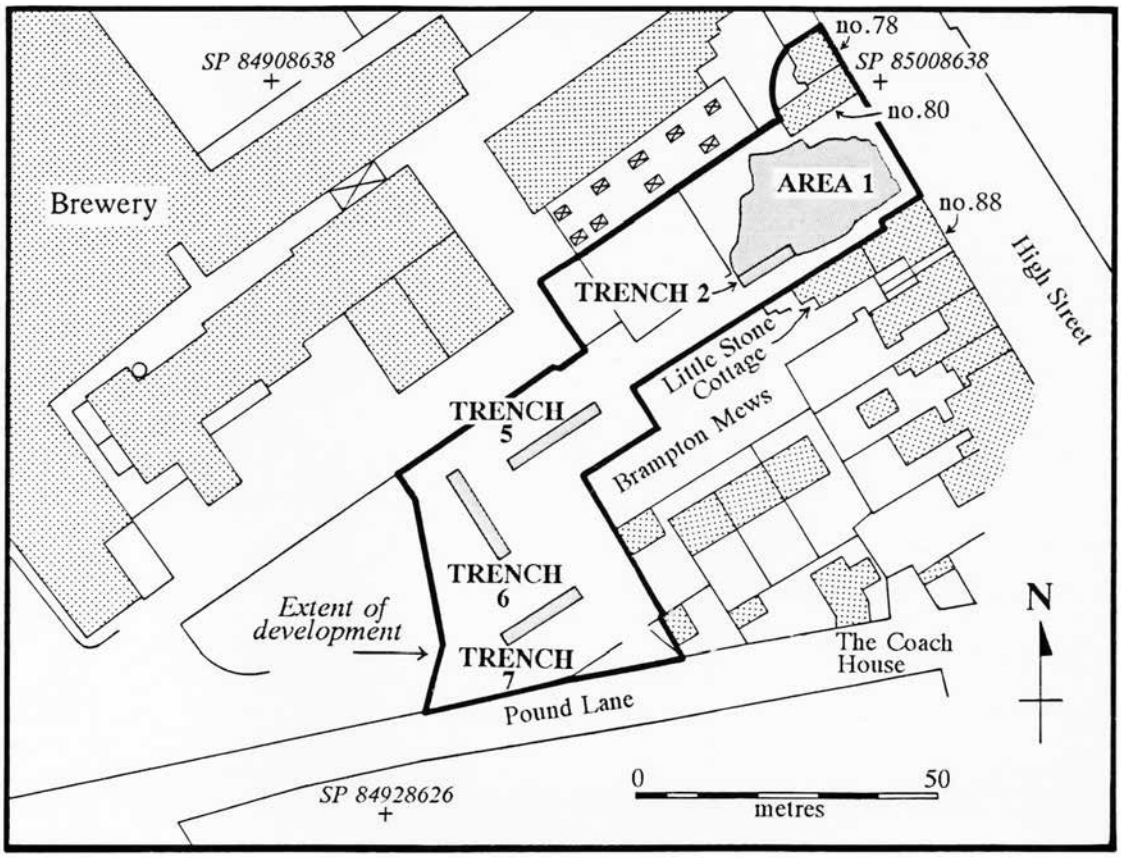

FIGURE 2 Trench location plan *(scale 1:1250)*

became a Royal residence for George II when Prince of Wales between 1720 and 1751.

'Remnantz', an 18th-century house on West Street, was owned by Thomas Wethered, whose family had moved from Penn. Close to the house, on the High Street, Wethered established a brewery in 1758. 'Remnantz' was occupied by the Royal Military College for a period between 1799 and 1811 (Davies 1962, 6–17). A market was re-established in 1780 and there was at that time a thriving fair.

In 1697, a Dutchman, John Lofting, having first established himself as a merchant in London, set up partnership, and jointly acquired a lease for the Great Marlow mills to make brass thimbles and to produce rape seed oil. The mill exported an estimated two million thimbles *per annum* via London before closing *c.*1753 (Holmes 1993, 1–10).

In the 19th century, the fortunes of the town turned again. The majority of the 4000-strong population in 1814 were described as `necessitous'. The church was in a dilapidated state, and part of the spire collapsed in 1831. Despite the agricultural base of the parish, the town market was `ill-supplied' and failed. Even the fair shrank and died out. Marlow declined into a second-rate agricultural town by the mid-19th century (Brown & Hunt 1994). The brewery of Messrs Thomas Wethered and Sons, established in 1758, became the most important industry in Marlow, under the Newport Pagnell Brewery Co. Ltd., throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, until its closure in 1988. The redevelopment of a part of the brewery site forms the subject of this report.

Recent Topographic History

Jeffery's Map of 1770, one of the earliest surviving maps of Buckinghamshire, appears to show houses

fronting the entire length of the High Street at Marlow, although fifty years on, the Ordnance Survey (1822) indicates a break in the frontage approximating to the north-west side of the excavation site, suggesting that this part of the site was not built over. The change in land use of the excavation site from the late 18th century onwards has been reconstructed using Ordnance Survey maps 1822, 1843, 1860 and 1899, and architects' plans 1860 and 1910 in the archives of Whitbread Breweries in London.

By the mid-19th century, a rectangular covered area (later a timber store) and an open enclosure to the south-west of it were built against the south-east wall of the site. On the north-west side was a `saw pit' and `brewery cottages' incorporating a small shop to the rear. The foundations of these buildings were located during the excavations. The buildings were later connected by a possible cart stand to form three sides of a timber yard about 25m across with access from the High Street. The yard was separated from a formal garden to the south-west by a property wall (OS 1843; OS 1860; Whitbread, architect's plan 1860; `Marten' 1991, 20). The north-west side of the cart stand was expanded to form a stable and coach house by 1899 (OS).

According to Whitbread's annotated copy of the OS map of 1860, the timber yard and associated structures were owned by Wethereds Brewery. Many of Thomas Wethered's original late 18th and 19th century buildings survive to the north-west of the excavation site (Pevsner & Williamson 1994, 461). By the early 20th century, a small office with two rooms fronting the High Street was built against a wall dividing the yard. On its north-west side was a stable yard, and on its south-east side was a timber yard. A bottling plant was built on the west side of the site, over the old gardens. (Whitbread, architect's plan 1910). By 1970, the stable and coach house on the north-west side of the courtyard had been demolished and the bottling plant had been expanded to the south-east. In the 1980s large warehouses were erected at the rear of the site. In 1996, the warehouses, the cottages, the office and a shed (the old timber store) were demolished in advance of redevelopment of the site.

The Excavation

The investigations were undertaken as a condition of planning consent imposed by Wycombe District Council, and to a brief set by the County Archaeologist. The development covered an approximate area of 3000m², extending from the High Street towards the south-west to Pound Lane. Initially there were seven evaluation trenches. The evaluation demonstrated that the rear of the plot contained a far lower density of significant features, and it was decided to concentrate efforts on the more rewarding area closer to the High Street. The main excavation Area (1), centred on SP 8499 8636, initially extended about twenty metres from the south-west side of the High Street, but was subsequently enlarged to encompass one of the evaluation trenches (2), increasing its area to 375m², approximately 12.5% of the development area (Figs 3 and 4). Further west, archaeological deposits had been destroyed by a Victorian cellar and an extant sewer.

The Victorian buildings and modern warehouses had been demolished and their foundations grubbed out prior to the commencement of archaeological investigations. Spreads of demolition rubble, of mostly 18th and 19th-century date, were also removed by machine, to a depth of between 0.5m and 1m. This overburden was deepest at the north-west and west sides of the site, where there was a deep spread of gravelly clay (containing 18th-century pottery), which had filled a hollow possibly created by the consolidation of underlying pit fills.

The following periods were identified during the excavation: prehistoric, medieval, 17th and 18th centuries, and 19th century. These periods are based on ceramic evidence and stratigraphy.

Abbreviations used in the following description are as follows: D: depth; diam.: diameter; L: length; W: width.

Prehistoric Activity

No deposits could be positively dated as prehistoric. Three handmade sherds, including an example with corded decoration (of probable late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date), and twelve knapped flints, were recovered from residual medieval and post-medieval contexts. The paucity of prehistoric material is more consistent with intermittent activity than with settlement. For more detail see the report of the excavation at 90 High Street (Markus 2016), discussed later. Prehistoric enclosures and ring-ditches are known to exist approximately 1km to the south-west of the site.

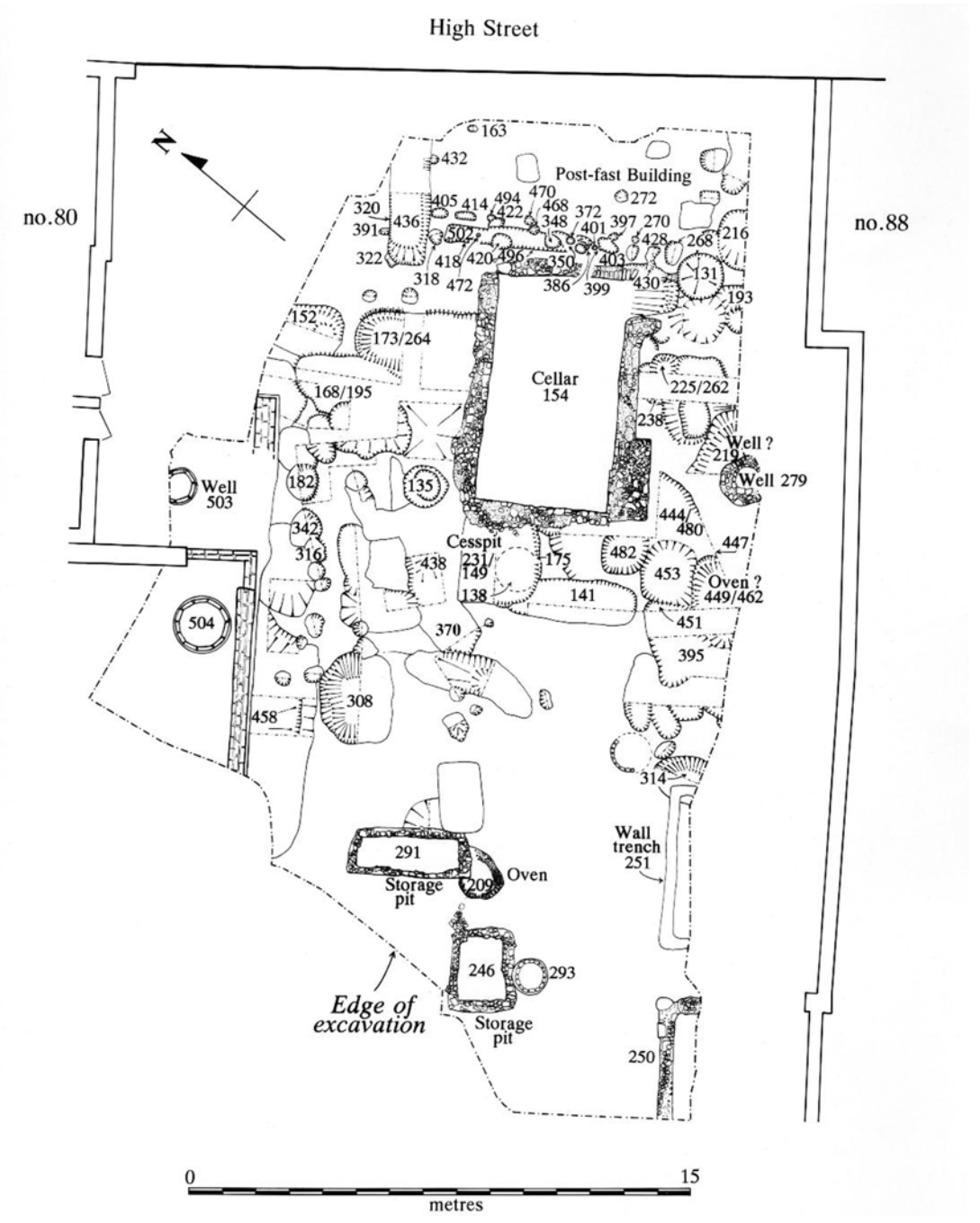

FIGURE 3 Plan of archaeological features, Area 1/Trench 2

FIGURE 4 Overall view of site during the course of excavation, looking towards the High Street from the west

Medieval Occupation (Late 11th to 16th centuries)

The Post-Fast Building (Figs 5 & 6)

Evidence for a wooden post-fast structure was indicated by a possible beam-slot and associated postholes, on the north-east side of the site. The beam-slot had been dug in three continuous segments, forming a straight trench (4.3m long), parallel to the High Street, and set back by about 4m from its south-west side. The postholes at approximately 2m intervals along the line of the beam-slot, continued to the north-west and south-east of it (primary postholes see below), and there was a subsidiary, approximately parallel, line of smaller postholes about 0.4m to the east side of the beam-slot.

a) *Trench/Possible Beam-slot 502* consisted of three continuous segments: a northern (418), 1.28m L; a central (496), 1.8m L; and a southern (350), 1.33m L. The profiles were steep to vertical sides and flat bases (0.50-0.60m W x 0.13-0.17m D). They were filled by yellowish-brown loamy sand with moderately frequent chalk and flint-gravel, and occasional sandy clay lenses with charcoal. The slot contained four medieval sherds, animal bone, tile and two unidentifiable iron artefacts.

b) *Primary Postholes* consisted of two groups (268, 318, 348, 399, and 420) and (372, 386, 401, 403, 428, 430, 472 and 496). The first group, evenly spaced between 1.75 and 2m apart, formed a straight line over 7m long. They were circular or sub-round with near-vertical sides and flat bases (0.23-0.32m diam. x 0.27-0.51m D). The second group, at a shorter interval spacing, were shallow (under 0.12m D), except for two deeper examples (372 and 472). The shape and profile were similar to the first group. They were filled by greyish-brown loamy or silty sands with moderately frequent chalk and flint-gravel, lumps of chalk/flint as possible side packing, and charcoal. One example (318) contained over 7kg of chalk/flint. The postholes contained five medieval sherds, a bone, tile and brick, knapped flint, two iron nails, a ceramic counter and one, possibly intrusive, clay pipe fragment.

c) *Subsidiary Postholes* (405, 414, 494, 422, 468, 470, 397, and 270), spaced between 0.75m and 1m apart, formed a straight line 6m long, parallel to the north-east side of the primary postholes.

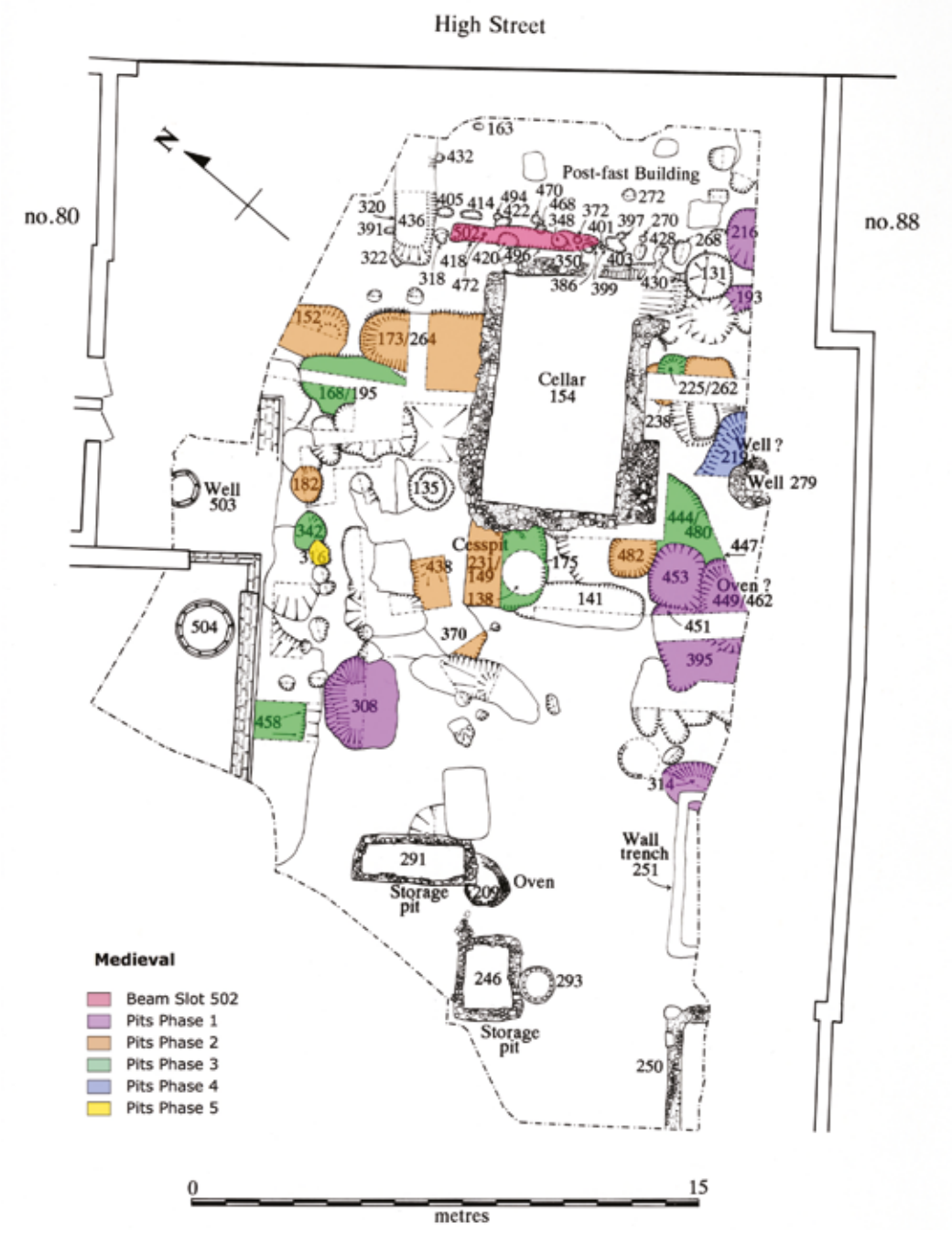

FIGURE 5 Plan of medieval archaeological features, Area 1/ Trench 2

FIGURE 6 Medieval beam-slot and associated post-holes, in front of post-medieval cellar, from the east

They were circular or sub-round with moderately steep sides and rounded bases (0.15-0.25m diam. x 0.06-0.25m D). Two sub-rectangular examples (414 and 422) were double postholes. They were filled by brown to greyish-brown silty sands with occasional chalk, flint-gravel and charcoal. Three postholes contained lumps of chalk/ flint as possible side packing. They contained four medieval sherds.

d) *Other Postholes* (163, 272, 322, 391 and 432) at the north and east sides of the primary/ subsidiary postholes, could not positively be assigned to either group. One (391) may represent the continuation north-west of the primary posthole line, whilst another (432) may be a return wall to the north-east. They had the same fill as the primary/ subsidiary postholes. They contained animal bone and tile and brick.

e) *Trench 436*, at the north end of beam-slot 502, continued north-east into the unexcavated area. It was linear with steep-vertical sides and a flat recessed base (3.7m+ L x 1.3m W x 0.53m D). It was filled by sandy loam with *c.*40-50% flint gravels and chalk clasts. It cut three postholes (322, 391 and 432). It was apparently cut by a possible robber trench (320), see below. There were no finds.

Discussion and Dating of the Building

The trench, primary and subsidiary posthole configurations can be cautiously interpreted as one side of a timber-framed building, with evidence of at least two phases of building construction.

It is uncertain whether the trench was a beam-slot or a foundation trench with individual post-settings at intervals along its length. Whilst some of the primary postholes appeared to be associated with the trench, one (348) appeared to cut its fill, suggesting that some of the postholes belonged to a later phase of construction. So, the primary and subsidiary postholes may represent two independent phases of construction, along similar alignments. Alternatively, the subsidiary postholes may have been part of the original building design or incorporated as secondary support during a later

rebuild. The latter hypothesis is preferred, on the basis that the subsidiary postholes were possibly too insubstantial to have provided any main load-bearing support on their own. The average diameters of the main and subsidiary postholes were 0.26m and 0.21m respectively, although their respective cross-sectional area (a better indicator of load-bearing) was 0.053m² and 0.035m².

Further interpretation of this building is problematic since it is uncertain whether the features described represent its north-east or south-west side. One trench (436), later possibly robbed-out (320), see below, may indicate the position of its north-west wall, although there was no evidence of any return wall on the south-east side. The relative absence of cut features to the north-east side of the beam-slot may be due to its protection by floor levels associated with the medieval building; equally it may have been preserved by the former High Street, if the early street frontage extended further west than it does today. Whichever hypothesis is accepted, the building confirms that the High Street was extant in the medieval period. If the building was set back from the High Street, it may indicate that the road was considerably wider at this point in the medieval period. This may have been a localised widening of the road perhaps to accommodate a market or may indicate that originally the whole street had been broader.

The beam-slot and postholes produced seventeen mostly sandy-tempered sherds of 13th-century date (contemporary with Phase III of the pits – see below). More precise dating was not possible. The other artefacts included undiagnostic building materials (roof tile, floor tile, mortar and iron nails).

Postholes belonging to both phases of the building were cut by a possible robber trench (320), providing a probable *terminus ante quem* in the 17th century for the final destruction of the medieval building; although the dating for (320) is insecure (see below).

Medieval Pits, an Oven, a Well and Other Features (Fig. 5)

Pit digging was a major activity in the medieval period at the site. There were over forty in two main clusters, one to the north-west and the other to the south-east side of the site, at the rear of the post-fast medieval building. Five sub-phases have been recognised on ceramic and stratigraphic evidence and these are discussed below. The phases overlap chronologically.

Phase I (Late 11th to 12th century; pottery catalogue numbers 1–7)

Seven pits (193, 216, 308, 314, 449/462, 451/395 and 453) have been assigned to this phase on the basis of ceramic and stratigraphic evidence.

a) *Pit 193*, to the north-east side of the south-east pit cluster, continued south into the unexcavated area. Oval with shallow sides and a flat base (0.9m+L x 0.85m+ W x 0.25m D), it was filled by silty loam with occasional flint and chalk. It contained 35 medieval sherds, animal bone and tile.

b) *Pit 216*, at the north-east side of the south-east pit cluster, continued south into the unexcavated area. It was possibly rounded with steep sides and a flat base (2.2m+L x 0.8m+ W x 0.55m D). It was filled by primary, sandy loam with flint/ calcareous pea-grit, overlain by a possibly dumped sandy loam deposit, with frequent flint gravels, occasional chalk clasts and charcoal. The surface was compacted by an 18th-century tile layer. It contained 25 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, shell and burnt flints.

c) *Pit 308* lay at the south-east side of the north-west pit cluster. It was oval with moderate to steep sides and a flat base (2.8m L x 2.2m W x 1.25m D). It was filled by five layers: a primary silty-sand (0.32m D) with sub-angular flint gravels and occasional chalk which was overlain by a backfill (0.25m D) of variably-sized flint gravels within a sandy loam matrix. This was overlain on the west side by a natural silty loam (0.25-0.45m D) and on the east by a dump (0.12m deep) of part-scorched, semi-baked, sandy clay lumps (daub); overlain by a naturally accumulated silty loam. It contained 141 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile and brick, fired clay/ daub, shell, a copper-alloy pin and an iron nail. It was cut by a small unphased (medieval) Pit 411 (Fig. 7a).

d) *Pit 314*, at the north-east side of the south-east pit cluster, continued south into the unexcavated area. It was possibly oval with moderately steep sides and a concave base (1.6m+ L x 1.4m W x 0.85m D). It was filled by a sandy clay (0.4m D) with occasional flint lumps and gravels, along the

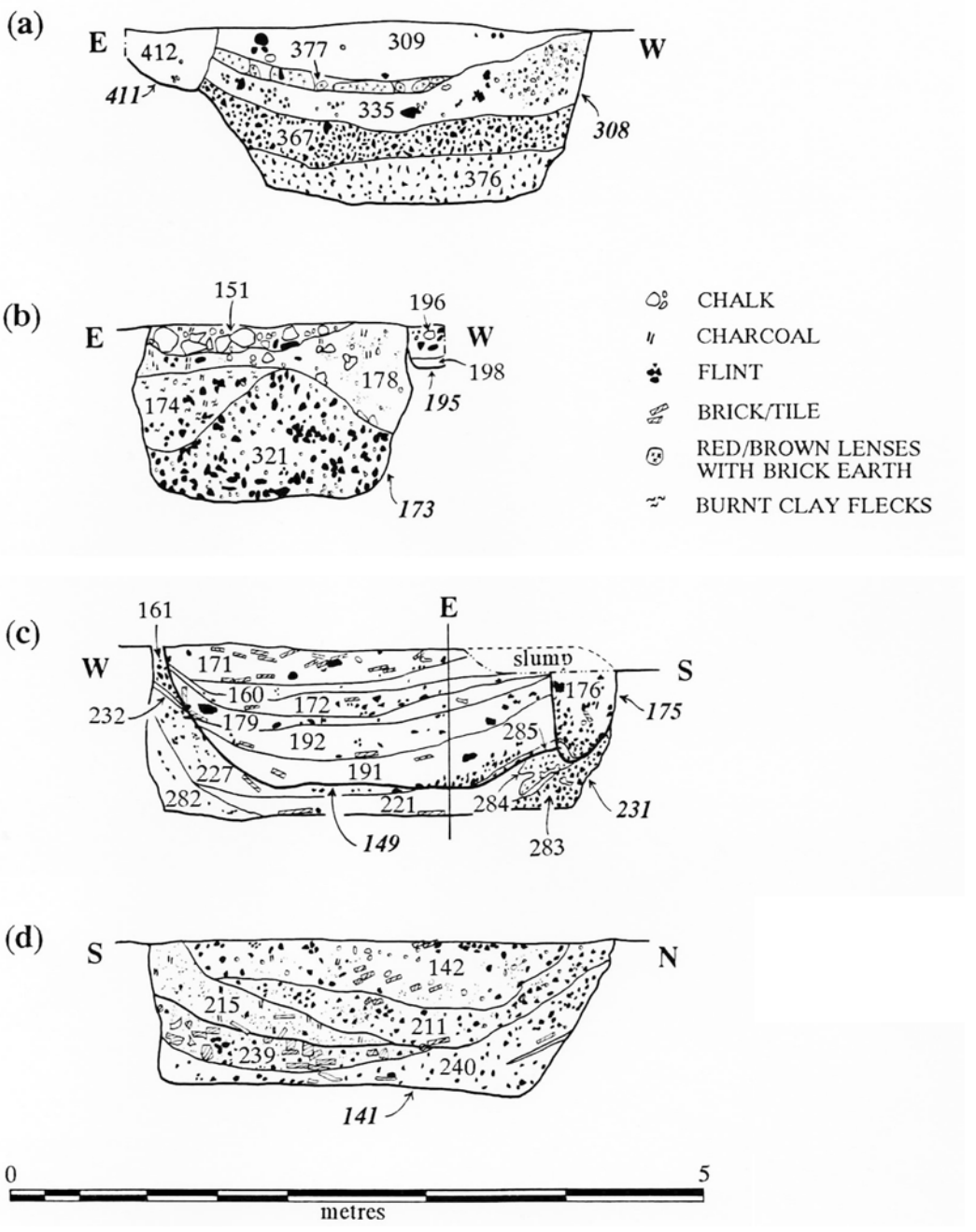

FIGURE 7 Sections through pits (a) 411/308; (b) 173/195; (c) 231/149/175; (d) 141

north side, overlain by a dump (0.45m D) of clay loam with flint gravels and charcoal. It contained 24 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, fired clay, burnt flints and charcoal.

e) *Pit 451/395* lay to the west of Pit 449. It was oval (*c*.2m by *c*.1.2m) with moderately steep sides and an undulating base (0.45m D). It was filled by three layers: primary sandy clay loam with occasional flint gravels; overlain by a thin layer of charcoal, discarded into the pit from its south-east side. This was overlain by a dump of sub-round chalk lumps within a loamy soil. It contained 25 medieval sherds, animal bone and fired clay/ daub. It cut Pits 449 and 453.

f) *Pit 453 lay* to the north-west of Pit 449. It was sub-rectangular with shallow sides and a flat base (1.9m L x 0.6m W x 0.35m D). It was filled by three layers: a primary dump of over 4kg of burnt flints and unadulterated flint and chalk and over 4kg of orange-coloured fired clay and yellow-coloured unadulterated clay, within a silty sand matrix (0.3m D), dumped into the pit from its south-west side. (The yellow clay was similar to the *in-situ* lining within adjacent Pit 449, and also to that within Pit 308 to the north-west). The primary fill was overlain by a dump of charcoal (*c*.1m diam. x 0.02m D); overlain by natural fill of a silty clay loam containing occasional flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained seven medieval sherds, animal bone, knapped flint and burnt flints.

g) *Possible Oven 449/462*, at the north-east side of the south-east pit cluster, continued south into the unexcavated area. It was possibly oval with shallow/ moderately steep sides and a flat base (2.85m L x 1.3m+ W x 0.70m D). It had a brickearth-like baked clay lining with a reddened crust and black sooty patches along its lower north and west sides and base. It was filled by three layers: primary silty charcoal-rich deposit with burnt flints, and lumps of both burnt clay and unadulterated natural clay (possibly cut by Phase I Pit 453); overlain by a compacted layer of flint nodules (0.52m D), within a silty sand matrix, dumped into the pit from its east side and also into the adjacent Pit 453; overlain by a dump of relatively stone-free loamy soil, containing dispersed burnt deposits of flints, clay and charcoal. It contained 46 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, knapped flints and fired clay/ daub.

Phase II (Late 12th to early 13th century; pottery catalogue numbers 8–19)

Seven pits (152, 173/264, 182, 231, 238, 438, and 482) have been assigned to this phase on the basis of ceramic and stratigraphic evidence.

a) *Pit 152*, at the north-east side of the north-west pit cluster, continued north into the unexcavated area. It was possibly oval with steep sides and a flat base (1.75m+ L x 1.65 W x 0.29m D), except for a slightly raised circular area (0.07m D), at the south-east end of the base. It was filled by a silty clay with occasional flint gravels, chalk lumps and charcoal. It contained fifteen medieval sherds and animal bone. It was cut by Phase III Pit 168/195.

b) *Pit 173* lay to the south-east of Pit 152. It was elongated with undercut sides and an irregular base (3.6m+ L x 1.8m W x 1.22m D). It was filled by three layers: a primary, conical-shaped dump of flint gravel within a silty sand matrix (0.90m D); overlain by a silty sand with mixed burnt sediments (0.55m D), including heat-reddened sandy clay, ash and charcoal, dumped along the north-east side of the pit; overlain by a possibly dumped loamy clay (up to 0.7m D) with chalk lumps and flint gravel. The upper surface was compacted by an overlying layer of sub-rounded chalk lumps (151). It contained 126 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, shell, iron artefacts and charcoal. It was cut by Phase III Pit 168/195 (Fig. 7b).

c) *Pit 182* lay within the north-east pit cluster. It was rounded with a deeper west side and a shallow sloping east side (1.1m L x 0.95m W x 0.40m D). It was filled by a silty clay loam with occasional chalk lumps and charcoal. It contained ten medieval sherds, animal bone, tile and knapped flint. It was overlain by a natural brickearth-like layer (186).

d) *Pit 231* lay between the two pit clusters. It was sub-square with vertical/undercut sides and a very flat base (2.5m+ L x 2.4m W x 1.2m D). It was recut as Pit 149, in Phase III (see below). It was filled by four layers: primary slumped gravel from the pit sides (creating an undercut appearance); brown organic-rich, sandy clay (0.15m D), with green sandy clay lenses, along the south-east side only; overlain by a grey sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravels and yellow gritty clay

patches; overlain by a brown organic-rich deposit (0.02m D), possibly decayed wood; overlain by frequent sub-angular flint gravels within a sticky sandy clay matrix. It contained fifteen medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, oyster shells and a coprolite (Fig. 7c)

e) *Pit 238*, at the north-east end of the south-east pit cluster, continued south into the excavation area. It was oval with steep sides and a flat base (1.7m L x 1.3m W x 0.3m D). It was filled by a silty clay with occasional flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained 39 medieval sherds, animal bone and tile.

f) *Pit 438/370* lay within the north-east pit cluster. It was elongated with shallow/moderately steep sides and an irregular base (4.9m L x 1.4m W x 0.3m D). It was filled by a silty clay with occasional flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained 27 medieval sherds, one (residual) Neolithic/Bronze Age sherd, animal bone, tile, shell and an iron nail.

g) *Pit 482* lay within the south-east pit cluster. It was sub-rounded with steep sides and a flat base (1.35m L x 1.1m+ W x 0.7m D). It was filled by a silty loam with dense patches of sub-angular flint nodules (up to 0.25m W). It contained 64 medieval sherds and animal bone.

Phase III (13th to early 14th century; pottery catalogue numbers 20–38)
Seven pits (149, 168, 225, 342, 444/480, 447 and 458) and a layer (186) have been assigned to this phase on the basis of both ceramic and stratigraphic evidence.

a) *Recut Pit 149*, a recut of Phase II Pit 231, lay between the two main pit clusters. It was sub-square with moderately steep sides and a flattish base (3.15m L x 2.5m+ W x 1m D). It was filled by six layers: primary silty clay (0.05m D); overlain by a sandy-clay (0.18m D) with occasional sub-angular flint gravels; overlain by a yellow silty clay (0.23m D) with occasional flint gravels; overlain by a grey sandy clay (0.1m D), with yellow sandy patches and sub-angular flint gravels; overlain by a relatively stone-free, orange silty clay; overlain by a sandy clay loam with sub-angular flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained two medieval sherds, animal bone, tile and shell. It was cut by Slot 175 (Fig. 7c).

b) *Slot 175* was dug along the south-east side of recut Pit 149. It was linear with vertical sides and a concave base (2.5m L x 0.42m W x 0.8m D). It was filled by traces of wood along the base (possibly horizontally lain branches or thin planking), overlain by a loamy clay. It contained two medieval sherds, animal bone and tile (Fig. 7c).

c) *Pit 168/195* lay at the north-east side of the north-west pit cluster. It was sub-rectangular/oval with steep sides and a flat base (3.2m+ L x 1.9m W x 0.4m D). It was filled by sandy silt (0.2m D) with occasional flint gravels and chalk clasts, overlain by a silty clay (with detectable sand) with large chalk lumps (up to 0.4m W). It contained 64 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, shell and an iron nail.

d) *Pit 225/262* lay at the north-east end of the south-east pit cluster. It was oval with shallow sides and a flat base (1.55m L x 0.85m+ W x 0.2m D). It was filled by a silty clay with occasional flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained 21 medieval sherds, tile and shell.

e) *Pit 342* lay within the north-west pit cluster. It was sub-rounded with steep sides and a sloping base (1.1m diam. x 0.27m D). It was filled by a silty clay loam with occasional flint gravels, chalk clasts and charcoal. It contained six medieval sherds, one (residual) prehistoric sherd and tile.

f) *Pit 444/480* lay within the south-east pit cluster. It was possibly oval with an undercut north side, a shallow south side and a sloping base (4.3m L x 3m+ W x 0.5m D). It was filled by three layers: primary slumped sands (creating undercut pit sides); overlain by a sandy loam with occasional sub-angular flint gravels and very occasional chalky clasts; overlain by dense clusters of cobble-sized flint nodules and patches of burnt clay and charcoal-flecked soil, dumped into the pit from its south-east side. It contained 128 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, shell and burnt flint.

g) *Pit 447* lay within the south-east pit cluster. It was oval with moderately steep sides and a flat base (1.8m+ L x 0.6m+ W x 0.42m D). It was filled by a sandy clay loam with flint gravels, chalky clasts and burnt clay/charcoal lenses. It contained two medieval sherds, animal bone and tile.

h) *Pit 458* lay at the south-west end of the north-west pit cluster. Its shape was undetermined with steep sides and a flat base (2m+ L x 1m+ W x 0.65m D). It was filled by four layers: primary sandy silt loam (0.05m D) with moderately frequent flint gravels and chalk clasts; overlain by a conical-shaped dump of flint nodules, within a sandy silt matrix (0.33m D); overlain by a silty loam with mixed burnt sediments (0.45m D), (including heat-reddened sandy clay, ash and charcoal), dumped along the south-west side of the pit; overlain by a clay loam containing frequent, sub-rounded chalk lumps, extending beyond the limits of the pit as layer (457) (see below). It contained eleven medieval sherds, animal bone and tile.

i) *Layer 457* overlay pits at the south-west side of the north-west pit cluster. It consisted of a dump (0.28m D) of sub-round chalk lumps (up to 0.2m W) within a clay loam soil, having a compacted upper surface. It contained four medieval sherds, one (intrusive) post-medieval sherd, animal bone, tile and fired clay/ daub.

j) *Layer 186* sealed pits at the north side of the north-west pit cluster. It consisted of an orange-brown, naturally accumulated silty clay containing very occasional, rounded flint and chalk grits. It contained three medieval sherds and tile.

Phase IV (14th to 15th century; pottery catalogue numbers 39–72)
One pit (219), a possible well, and two layers (151 and 177) have been assigned to this phase on the basis of ceramic and stratigraphic evidence.

a) *Possible Well 219*, lay within the south pit cluster. It was possibly circular with moderately steep sides (diam. estimated *c.*4.5m x 1.5m+ D). The original well structure was not seen. The well had been later recut as (279, see below). It was filled by a silty clay loam with occasional flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained 30 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, shell and charcoal.

b) *Chalk Spread 151* sealed pits at the north-east side of the north-west pit cluster. It consisted of a dump (0.4m D) of sub-round chalk lumps within a clay loam, having a compacted upper surface. It contained 97 medieval sherds, animal bone, tile, fired clay/daub, shell, burnt flint and charcoal.

c) *Soil Layer 177* sealed all the pits of the south-east pit cluster. It consisted of a firm, silty clay loam (0.35m D) with moderately frequent flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained 1000+ medieval sherds, 120kg of ceramic roof tile, animal bone, shell, fired clay/ daub, knapped flint, window glass and miscellaneous metalwork including a silver hammered coin, possibly of Edward I, and a copper-alloy finger ring. It was possibly cut by two (un-phased) pits, although it proved impossible to distinguish with confidence the backfill from the layer.

Phase V (Later medieval, based on stratigraphy)
a) *Pit 316*, centrally positioned within the north pit cluster, was sub-circular, with undercut sides and an undulating base (0.7m L x 0.65m W x 0.47m D). It was filled by a silty loam with very occasional flint/chalk grits. It contained one medieval sherd, tile, knapped flint and charcoal.

Unphased Pits
A further twenty-three pits could not be assigned to a specific phase on either ceramic or stratigraphic grounds. It is likely, however, that most of them belong to Phases I to III (late 11th-13th century), the most intensive periods of pit digging at the site (Table 1). These pits contained 128 medieval sherds, five (intrusive) post-medieval sherds, animal bone, tile and brick, fired clay/ daub, knapped flint, burnt flint, shell, glass, burnt stone and charcoal.

Discussion of the Pits
Almost fifty pits were dug between the late 11th century and the later medieval period. About half could be specifically assigned to one of five Phases (I to V).

The frequency of pit digging at the site was consistent at seven pits per phase, through the late 11th to 13th centuries (Phases I to III) and accounted for over 90% of the total number of phased pits. There followed a sudden and dramatic reduction in pit digging to one pit per phase, in the 14th to 15th century (Phases IV and V). The reduction in pit numbers in the 14th century may reflect a decline in population following the Black Death but is more likely to reflect changing patterns of refuse disposal, following the introduction of night-soil men. The problem of street cleanliness within most medieval urban centres in the

TABLE 1 Number of finds by class per phase and average number of finds per pit per phase

Phase (No of pits)		*Medieval Pot*	*Bone*	*Ceramic Building Material*	*Fired Clay/Daub*
I (7)	Total	303	206	56	39
	Avg	43.3	29.4	8.0	5.6
II (7)	Total	295	272	201	–
	Avg	42.1	38.9	28.7	–
III (7)	Total	288	110	247	1
	Avg	41.1	15.7	35.3	0.1
IV (1)	Total	30	7	21	–
V (1)	Total	1	–	6	–
Unphased (23)	Total	128	139	410	10
	Avg	5.6	6.0	17.8	0.4
TOTALS (46)	Total	1045	734	941	50
	Avg	22.7	16.0	20.5	1.1

country necessitated legislation at least as early as the 13th century, and at Aylesbury night-soil men were certainly working by the 15th/16th centuries (Hampton MSS).

Function of the Pits

The medieval pits at Marlow varied considerably in shape and size from large rounded and oval pits to linear and smaller elongated kidney- and pear-shaped ones. Most pits had been dug to a similar shallow depth (0.5m), into the brickearth, although three (173, 308 and 458) were considerably deeper. The general absence of soft organic-rich, or cess-like sediments in their fills suggested that the pits had not been primarily for the disposal of human effluent. Only one (231) certainly contained cess. Most had been backfilled with a rubbly soil following their disuse. The distinctive characteristic of many (notably those within the north-west pit cluster), was their severely undercut sides, as if eroded by water during some (perhaps industrial) process; the relatively impermeable nature of the brickearth would have allowed the pits to hold water.

One pit (449 – Phase I), possibly an oven, had a burnt clay lining and contained various *in situ* burnt deposits, but no obvious waste products of any process for which it had been used. Yellow clay and unmixed burnt deposits, similar to those within the oven (449), had been deposited within three other Phase I pits (449, 451 and 453), suggesting that these pits may have fallen out of use at approximately the same time as the oven. Burnt sediments were also dumped within two deep pits (173 and 458 – Phases II and III respectively) in the north-west pit cluster.

Discard Activity

The small number of pits in Phases IV and V prevented any meaningful statistical analysis and/or comparison with the other phases. Consequently, much of the following discussion is limited to pits belonging to Phases I-III. That the same number of pits were in use in Phases I, II and III, suggests that the need for below-ground discard was relatively consistent throughout the late 11th to early 14th centuries.

Pottery discard was fairly consistent, with an average of 300 sherds per Phase (I-III). Three Phase I pits (308, 314 and 451/395), contained large unabraded sherds, indicating a high level of primary disposal. By contrast, two Phase III pits (444/480 and 447) contained small abraded sherds more suggestive of secondary discard, although it is possible that some of these sherds were residual from earlier phases.

The animal bone distribution reflects this pattern, in that, in Phase 1 there was a large number of identifiable bones, whereas later phases have a relatively greater number of bone fragments (see the animal bone report).

This pattern may indicate a preference for

below-ground waste disposal in the late 11th to 12th century (medieval Phase I) and a tendency for above-ground middens to accumulate during the 13th century (medieval Phase III). This hypothesis is substantiated by evidence for the development of a soil layer (177) in the 14th to 15th century, which contained over 1000 sherds, a significant proportion of which were large and unabraded, probably to some extent primary material. The large quantities of medieval pottery, animal bone and shell suggested that whatever their primary function, many of the pits were re-used for the disposal of domestic refuse.

A significant increase in the quantity of ceramic roof/floor tile, within the pits of successive phases, suggested that throughout the 13th century there was an increasing incidence of building/demolition in the vicinity (Table 1).

Other Medieval Contexts; Chalk Spreads and Soil Layers

The fills of two deep pits (173 and 458) in the northern pit cluster had compacted and subsided thereby creating a shallow basin-like hollow which was deliberately filled in with chalk (151; Phase IV and 457; Phase III), perhaps in an attempt to level the area, possibly in the later 13th century. A soil layer (177), over the south-west side of the site, which was different from the local naturally occurring (gleyed) brown earth (Ordnance Survey 1973), contained a vast quantity of pottery, bone and tile, suggesting predominantly anthropogenic soil development. Dated to the 14th to 15th century (Phase IV), it is best interpreted as a possible garden soil. A thin, possibly re-deposited brickearth-like deposit (186), over the north-west side of the site, most likely represented a major flooding of the river Thames in the medieval period. The river has flooded north of Pound Lane within living memory.

There is no positive evidence for Tudor activity at the Marlow site, although two sherds of possible 15th/16th century date were found within the garden soil (177). The paucity of evidence may simply reflect that there was little or no ground-disturbing activity in this period, rather than that there was no occupation at all. However, it seems unlikely, although by no means impossible, that the medieval timber building on the High Street was occupied throughout this period.

The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

The most prominent feature of this period was a chalk-built cellar (154) (Figs. 6, 8 and 9). Two chalk-revetted rectangular pits (246 and 291), a large sub-rectangular pit (141), two chalk-lined wells, a robber trench and a property boundary are also dated to this period (Fig. 8).

The Cellar (Fig. 8)

Cellar 154, set back by about 5m from the High Street, was rectangular (7.0m by 3.9m) with an entrance (1.6m by 1.1m) at its east corner. The walls were 1.0-1.4m H and 0.4m-0.6m D, except for a short section (2.5m W), at the south-west end of the south-east wall. The cellar, originally of mortared, chalk-block construction with tile inserts, had been patched, repaired and rebuilt using chalk, flint, bricks, limestone and tile. A large proportion of the east wall was rebuilt in flint. The four corners and parts of the walls had been rebuilt with probable 18th century and re-used Tudor bricks. The north and east walls were additionally reinforced with an internal brick buttress (0.3-0.35m W). The south-east wall was overlain by a short section of mortared brick wall, the remainder of which had apparently been grubbed out by the contractors responsible for site clearance, in advance of the archaeological investigations. It was not certain whether it represented part of the building which had originally stood over the cellar, or whether it was a later wall. The cellar entrance appeared to have been either entirely rebuilt, or possibly inserted, at a later date; it was crudely constructed and incorporated a small patch of wall plaster. A protruding chalk block in the entrance may have supported a flight of wooden steps, fixed by iron nails to the walls; four nails survived *in situ*. The cellar floor consisted of sand-bedded bricks and tiles, which dipped down by *c.*10° towards a central line of bricks along the longitudinal (east-west) axis of the cellar. The patterning of the brickwork on either side of this central line suggested that the cellar had been further sub-divided. Pairs of bricks and tile inserts on the south-west side of the floor suggested that it had been sub-divided to form two square compartments (*c.*2m by 2m). These divisions corresponded with a possible beam setting (0.14m by 0.14m) in the north-west wall, reinforcing the impression that the south-west end of the cellar had been partitioned. The setting of any corresponding cross beam in the south-east wall

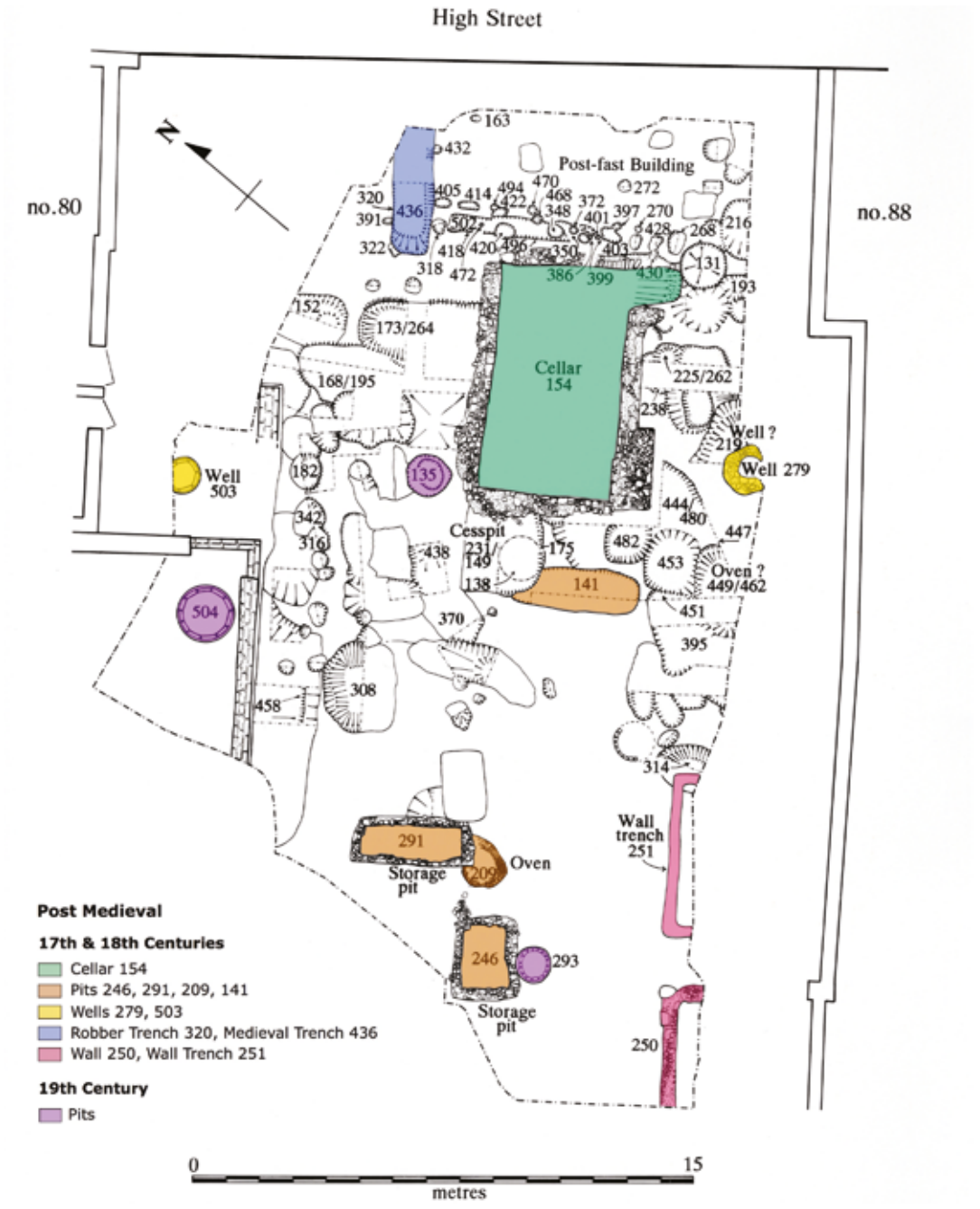

FIGURE 8 Plan of post-medieval archaeological features, Area 1/Trench 2

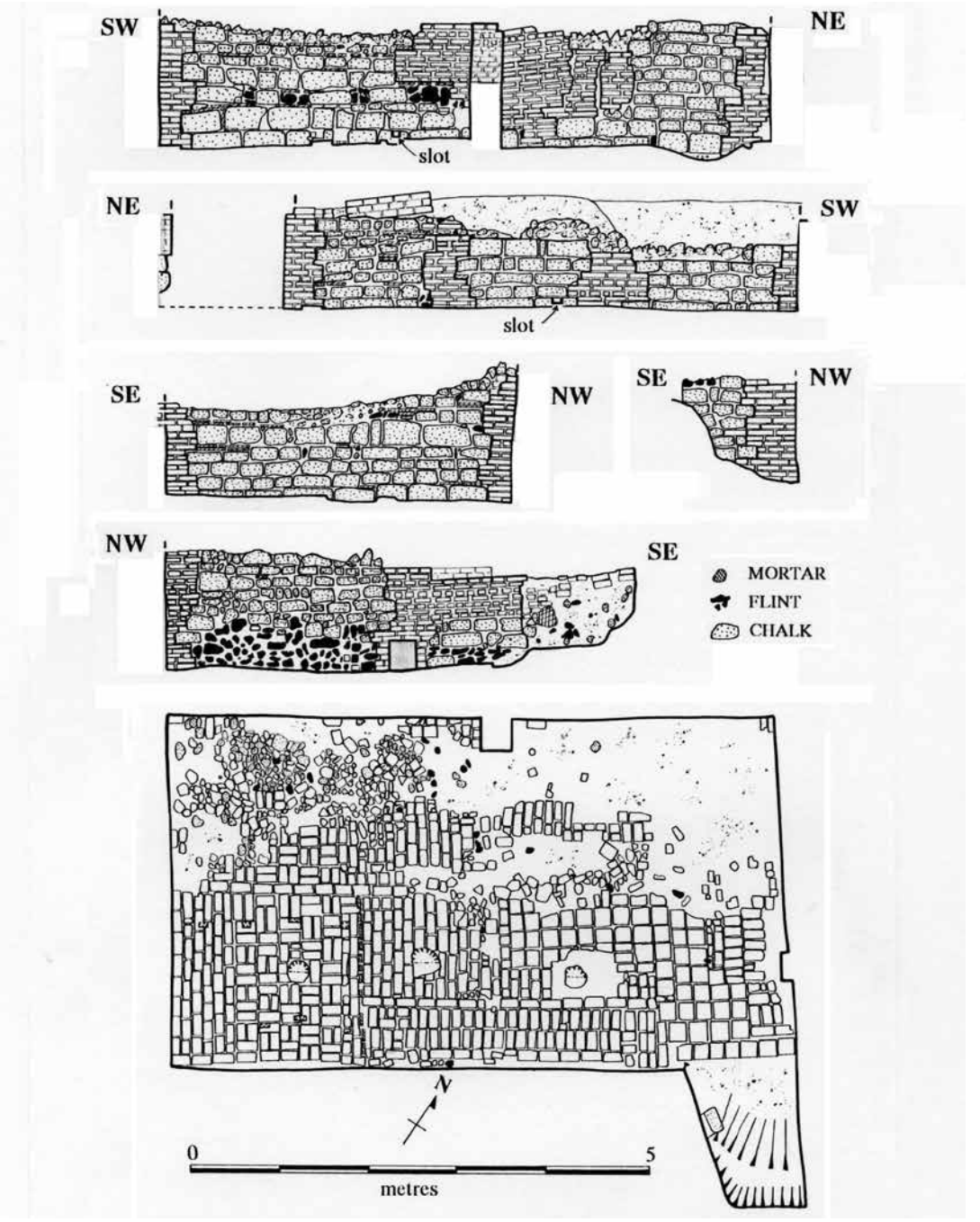

FIGURE 9 Internal elevations and floor plan of cellar

had been destroyed by a later brick repair. The floor of the south compartment incorporated six small slots, presumably to locate upright components of the fittings. The function of a line of three postholes (0.22m-0.30m diam.), inserted into the floor along the south-east side of the cellar is uncertain. They may have supported some form of raised floor, during a later phase of use, although corresponding postholes along the north-west side were absent. The central posthole was in exact alignment with two small opposing slots (0.10m by 0.09m) cut into the chalk walls of the north-west and south-east sides, suggesting the existence of a bay (2.7m wide) at the south-west end of the cellar. The north-west side of the cellar floor was largely destroyed by later disturbance, possibly relating to the demolition of the building over the cellar. Unfortunately, there were no *in situ* deposits relating to the use of the cellar, which would have assisted its dating. Soil had slumped into the entrance from its south-east side, prior to its being backfilled with chalk and flint rubble within a loose, gritty/sandy loam soil. This contained a large quantity of building debris, broken pottery, glass and clay pipes. There were 102 post-medieval sherds (mostly late 17th/ early 18th century and Victorian) and 31 medieval sherds recovered from the main cellar fill, together with animal bone, clay pipes, tile, glass, shell, coal and miscellaneous metalwork, including a medieval strap end.

The cellar, originally of chalk-block construction, had been repeatedly and substantially repaired in flint and brick, possibly due to the damp surfaces of the chalk walls degrading and collapsing into the cellar. It had been necessary to buttress the north and east walls. The south-east entrance, which was more crudely constructed than the rest of the structure, may have been inserted at a later date. An apparent thickening of the south-east wall near the south corner of the cellar, may represent a former entrance filled with chalk rubble.

The function of the cellar was uncertain, although at least two phases of internal sub-division were recognised from the floor layout and corresponding beam slots in the north and south walls, suggesting that parts of the cellar had served different functions. There may have been a raised floor for part of the period of use. It was set back from the High Street by five metres. The position and size of the building which stood over it was unknown, since there was no positive evidence for any contemporary building beyond the limits of the cellar; however, the indications are that until the 18th/19th century the street frontage (at the site) may have been set back from its current position. However, given the probability that it was roughly contemporary with buildings on the present High Street frontage which are still extant, it is thought that the cellar did not extend all the way to the front of the building. Its north-east wall was approximately parallel with, and one metre south-west of, the medieval beam-slot and associated postholes, raising the possibility that the cellar was inserted within the medieval building, which may have been still extant. Alternatively, the cellar may belong to a building constructed after demolition of the medieval precursor. Unfortunately, the evidence for the dismantling of the medieval building rests on a possible robber trench (320) which is not securely dated; this problem is discussed further below.

Although there was no direct dating evidence for the cellar's construction it was cut through the medieval soil layer (177) and chalk spread (151), providing a 14th-15th century *terminus post quem* for its construction. Its overall appearance suggested a date no earlier than the 17th or 18th centuries (pers. comm. M Andrew, District Council Historic Buildings Officer). It incorporated re-used Tudor bricks. This suggests it was broadly contemporary with the Georgian houses along the High Street, many of which (e.g. Nos 80 and 88) were also cellared with chalk foundations.

The quantity and range of discarded pottery and other material reflected the intensity of occupation at the site in this period. The occupants of the building associated with the cellar could afford to buy fine table wares including tin-glazed ceramic. These, together with almost three hundred clay pipe fragments, a thimble, a bone comb and a small group of wig curlers, besides reflecting the fashions of the times, were typical of a domestic middle-class assemblage.

The cellared building fell into disuse, was demolished and rubble placed into the void before 1860, by which date the area was used as an open courtyard (Ordnance Survey). A large quantity of late 17th and early 18th-century refuse within the three pits (246, 291 and 141) to its south-west indicated that they were probably open whilst the cellared building was extant (see below).

The Pits (Fig. 8)

a) *Chalk-revetted pit 246* (Fig. 10, e-h), 12m west of the cellar, was rectangular: externally 2.5m x 1.85m and internally 1.9m x 1.35m. The revetment-wall dimensions were consistent (1m H x 0.2-0.4m W), except for the north-east corner (0.4m H), which had collapsed into the pit. The revetment walls, constructed mainly with mortared chalk blocks (0.2m-0.4m W), used larger blocks (up to 0.6m W) at the corners. The north-east and south-east corners had been additionally reinforced with internal buttresses (0.1m W). A large proportion of the exposed chalk surfaces was covered in a ferrous concretion. The walls had been patched and repaired with flint nodules, bricks and tile inserts. The north wall had almost entirely been rebuilt in flint. The south wall of the pit was cut by a brick-lined, possibly Victorian, well (293). The base of the pit was compacted, as if trampled. An organic-rich (straw-like) deposit, containing many clay pipe fragments, in the south-west corner of the pit may represent an *in-situ* layer, resulting from its use. The pit had been filled by a sandy loam soil containing occasional chalk and flint rubble and a large quantity of broken pottery, glass and clay pipes etc. The north wall was overlain by a line of three mortared bricks, possibly the base of a wall. It was not certain whether this represented a contemporary part of some upstanding structure over the pit, or whether it was later. The latter view is preferred on the basis of the relative absence of demolition debris within the pit. It contained sixteen late 17th/ early 18th-century sherds, two (residual) medieval sherds, clay pipes, tile and glass.

b) *Chalk-revetted pit 291* (Fig. 10, a-d), 2m north-east of the pit noted above (246), was rectangular externally (3.5m x 1.4m) and internally (3m x 1m). The walls were relatively consistent (1.1-1.2m H x 0.15-0.4m W), except for the west elevation (0.35m H), which had collapsed into the pit. The walls, primarily constructed with sub-round chalk lumps (0.1-0.2m W), used larger blocks (up to 0.4m W) at the corners. Occasional use had been made of other materials – flint nodules, brick, tile and a fragment of quernstone – perhaps to make repairs. The north-west wall was connected by a line of surface rubble with the south-east wall of chalk-revetted pit (246), discussed above, although they were not joined below-ground. It was butted by oven (209). It cut a possible 17th-century pit (302) and was cut by a modern brick-filled pit. A compacted chalk deposit along its base may have been an *in-situ* trample layer. It had been filled by a sandy loam soil containing chalk, flint rubble and a large quantity of broken pottery, glass and clay pipes etc. It contained 34 late 17th/ early 18th-century sherds, three (residual) medieval sherds, clay pipes, tile, glass, shell and coal.

The revetments of both pits showed evidence of repair, possibly due to weathering and collapse of the internal walls. The revetment of one pit (246) incorporated internal buttresses at two corners, which appeared to be integral to the original design. It is not known whether the walls of either pit extended above ground, or if the pit was covered. The base of a brick wall founded upon the north-west wall of one of the pits (246) is assumed to be later, unrelated to the structure beneath. A likely *terminus post quem* for the construction of the revetted pits was provided by pit (302), which was cut by pit (291) and contained late 17th and early 18th-century pottery, as did the revetted pits; they were therefore probably in use whilst the cellared building was extant.

The function of both pits is uncertain. They are not thought to be cellars beneath upstanding buildings, due to their small volume (2.6m³ and 3.5m³), and the absence of demolition debris within their fills. Pit (291) had a possible crushed chalk surface upon its base, which probably resulted from the trampling of fallen chalk from the weathered surface of the revetment. Both might have been used for storage. An organic-rich soil from the base of one of them (249) may indicate storage of hay or dung. Alternatively, they could been saw pits; the site is indicated on maps as a `timber yard' from the 19th century and this tradition may have had earlier origins (OS 1843; OS 1860; Whitbread, architect's plan 1860).

c) *Pit 141*, 2m west of the cellar, was sub-rectangular with steep/ vertical sides and a flat base (3.2m L x 1.25m W x 1.05m D). It was filled by five layers: a primary sandy clay with frequent flint gravels, chalk clasts and a lens of slumped brickearth over the north-west side and the base; overlain by two deposits introduced into the pit from its south-east side, first a gritty sandy clay containing flint and chalk rubble and frequent tile and brick, and second, a series of gritty sandy clay deposits rich

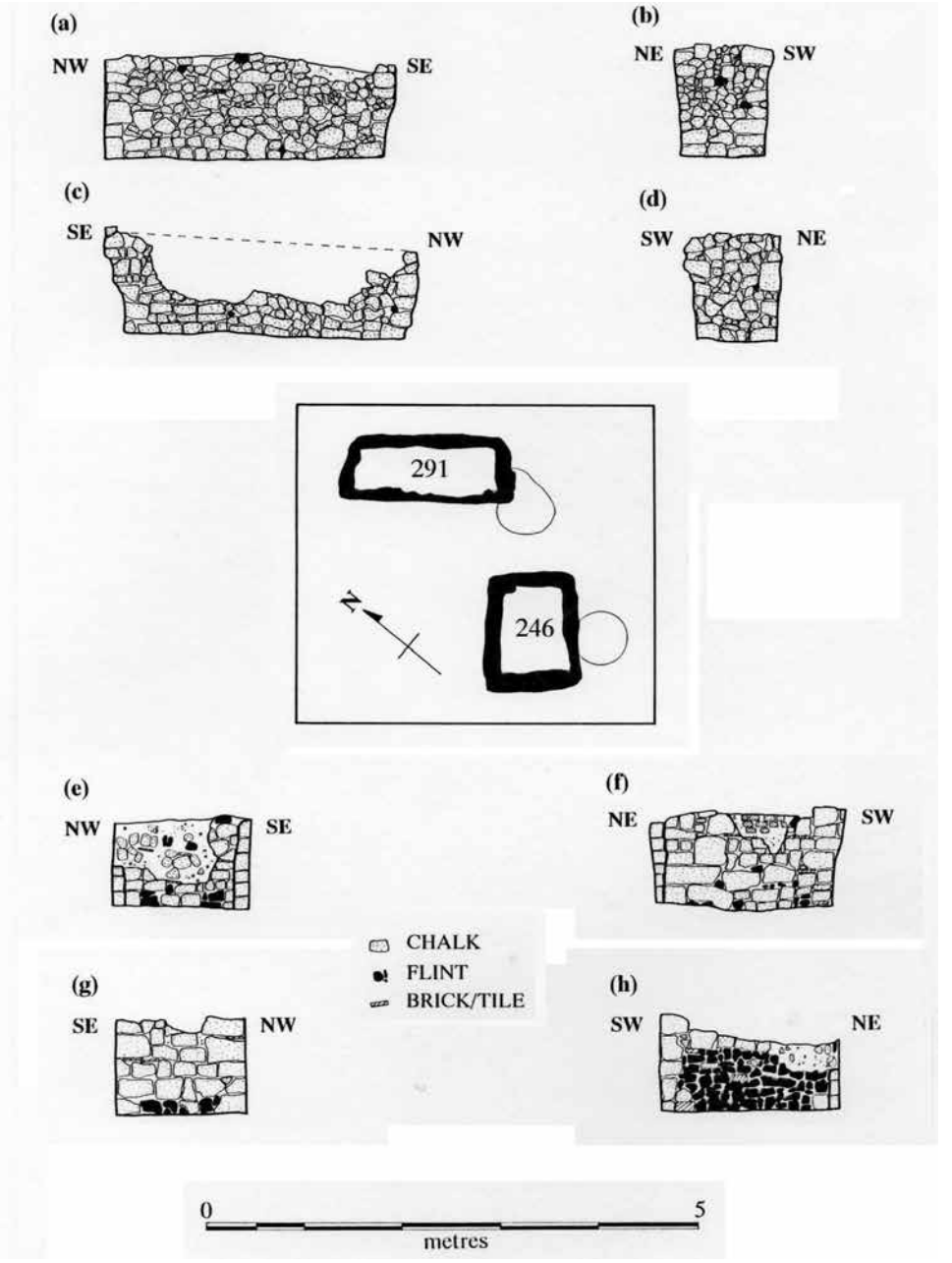

FIGURE 10 Elevations of storage pits 291 (a-d) and 246 (e-h), with inset plan

in charcoal and ash; overlain by a silty clay with moderately frequent flint gravel and chalk clasts; overlain by a gritty silty clay containing moderately frequent flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained 396 late 17th/ early 18th-century sherds, four (residual) medieval sherds, 4.4kg of animal bones, 202 clay pipes, 19.1kg of roof tile, 49.3kg of brick, 2.9kg of glass, fired clay/ daub, shell, foreign stone, coal, clinker, slag, a whetstone, a bone comb, seven ceramic wig curlers, a thimble and unidentifiable iron and lead artefacts (Fig. 6d). It had almost identical proportions to one of the chalk-revetted pits (291), although it showed no evidence of having been revetted. It may have been used for storage.

Of particular interest among the finds from Pits 141 and 291 were fragments of four different stoneware tankards embossed with a `three barrels' motif. When Thomas Wethered leased the Brewery Site from William Clayton in 1788, for 99 years at £18 p.a., the premises were referred in the title deeds as '...formerly Miss Freeman's Boarding School and the Three Tuns Tavern...' (Cairns 1976, 46). The tavern was most likely the `Three Tuns' alehouse, which stood at No. 40, West Street in 1823/4, when its proprietor was recorded as Elizabeth Ollis. By 1851, the pub (possibly now a lodging house), run by Levi White, was owned by Wethereds Brewery. It was renamed `The Three Tuns Hotel' by 1948/9 and it survived at least until 1964 ('Marten' 1991, Pigot's Directory 1824, Return of Public Houses and Alehouses, Illustrated guide to Marlow, Town and Country Directories 1948-49).

The Oven (Fig. 8)

a) *Oven 209*, butted against the south-west corner of chalk-revetted pit (291), was pear-shaped (1.5m x 1.2m). The walls were constructed of small, sub-rounded chalk nodules (0.1m H x 0.14-0.26m W). The base of the pit had a chalky clay lining, which exhibited traces of burning. It was filled by a sandy clay. It contained three post-medieval sherds, tile, fired clay/ daub, animal bone, glass, slag and coal.

The Wells (Fig. 8)

a) *Well 279*, within the south-east pit cluster, was circular (1.8m diam.) with a lining consisting of roughly dressed flint and re-used dressed chalk blocks (0.10-0.15m) and tile inserts bonded with a yellow sandy clay. The central shaft measured 0.6m diam. x 1.7m+ D. Against the outside of the revetment was a backfilled rubbly, silty clay soil containing ten 17th century sherds, thirteen (residual) medieval sherds, three undated sherds, tile and brick, animal bone, glass, clay pipes and shell. Within the shaft was a rubbly silty clay loam backfill. This contained 113 Victorian sherds, clay pipes, shell, tile, glass, animal bone, shell, slag, iron nails and unidentifiable copper-alloy artefacts. It was a recut of possible medieval well (219).

b) *Well 503*, at the north-west side of the site, was circular (1.2m diam.) with a lining of dressed chalk blocks (0.10m-0.15m) and tile inserts. The upper four courses had been rebuilt in brick. The central shaft was diam. 0.7m and contained no backfill. The water table was recorded at *c.*4.5m.

Well (279) was situated within the probable grounds of the cellared building, whilst well (503) probably served the brewery cottages. Well (279) was dated to the 17th century by pottery within its chalk revetment. It was disused and backfilled by the Victorian period, suggesting that it was in use when the cellared building was extant. It is assumed that the other chalk-lined well (503) was broadly contemporary, although Victorian bricks incorporated in its rebuild suggest that it was used into the 19th century.

Structural Features (Fig. 8)

a) Possible *Robber Trench 320*, 2m north of the cellar, continued north-east into the unexcavated area. The trench had steep/ vertical sides and a flat recessed base (3.7m+ L x 1.3m W x 0.53m D). It was filled by a sandy loam with *c.*40-50% flint gravels and chalk clasts. It contained one late 17th/ early 18th century sherd, nine medieval sherds, 6.9kg of roof tile, animal bone, shell, slag and unidentifiable iron and copper-alloy artefacts. It cut trench (436) and three postholes (322, 391 and 432), possibly belonging to the medieval building.

The large proportions of this trench and its continuation south-west beyond the line of the medieval beam-slot and associated postholes suggested that it need not have been related to the medieval building. However, this larger trench followed the line of an earlier, narrower trench (436), possibly the north-east return of the medieval building. This suggests that the later feature may have been a robber

trench, dug to facilitate the dismantling of the medieval building, although the length of time which had elapsed since the building went out of use is difficult to determine. The fill of the trench contained several sherds which need be no earlier than 13th century, and also a single 17th-century sherd, providing a possible *terminus ante quem* for the destruction of the medieval building. It may however be unwise to rely on a single, possibly intrusive, sherd to date this feature, and it remains uncertain whether the medieval building had been destroyed prior to the construction of the cellared building.

b) *Wall 250*, in the south-west corner of the site, continued south-east into the unexcavated area, and aligned exactly with a buttress positioned at a slight change in alignment in the existing south-east boundary wall of the site. The wall was constructed of chalk pieces and flint nodules (0.1-0.4m) with occasional tile (0.35m+ H x 0.23m W). Overlying the foundations (0.7m W) was a dark silty loam, perhaps a garden soil, containing five 18th century sherds, clay pipes, tile and animal bone. This layer was overlain by an alternating series of mortar and chalk surfaces (0.04-0.08m D), each one overlain by a thin trample layer. The uppermost layer contained one post-medieval sherd, clay pipes and tile and brick.

c) *Wall Trench 251*, 1.5m to the north-east of Wall 250, was parallel for over 4m to the south-east baulk and continued into the unexcavated area at either end. The trench (0.4m W) was backfilled by a rubbly sandy loam soil, which also overlay the trench to a depth of 0.3m.

The garden-like soil overlying the foundations of the south side of the chalk wall (250) indicates that the wall did not belong to a building. The wall was possibly the boundary between the land occupied by the cellared building and the adjacent property to the south-east. The 1.5m gap between the two wall trenches could have been an entrance.

The Nineteenth Century

The cellared building was demolished and one of the chalk-lined wells (279) went into disuse. The most prominent features of this period were five brick-lined pits (Fig. 8).

a) *Pit 131*, at the east corner of the cellar entrance, was circular with vertical sides and a concave, recessed base (1.35m diam. x 0.55m D). It had an internal lining of eleven courses of re-used bricks (measuring 0.2m x 0.1m x 0.1m), some of which had been deliberately broken in half. The internal surfaces of some bricks were sooted. It was filled by charcoal and ash-rich deposits overlain by a silty clay backfill containing flint nodules and building debris. It contained one stoneware sherd, clay pipes, glass and animal bone.

b) *Pit 138*, two metres south-east of the cellar, was circular with vertical sides and a concave, recessed base (1.25m diam. x 0.48m D). It had an internal lining of seven courses of re-used bricks (measuring 0.15m x 0.1m x 0.6m), some of which had been deliberately broken in half. It was backfilled with a silty clay containing flint nodules and building debris. It contained six post-medieval sherds, tile and brick, glass, animal bone, shell, clay pipes, slag and an unidentified iron artefact.

c) *Pit 135*, 2m west of the cellar, was circular with vertical sides and a concave, recessed base (1.27m diam. x 0.60m D). It had an internal lining of nine courses of mortared, re-used bricks (measuring 0.13m x 0.1m x 0.6m), some of which had been deliberately broken in half. It was backfilled with a silty sand containing flint nodules and building debris. It contained two Victorian sherds, tile and animal bone.

d) *Pit 293*, to the south-east side of chalk-revetted pit (246), was circular (1.1m diam.) with a brick lining. It was unexcavated.

e) *Pit 504*, 8m west of the cellar, was circular (1.7m diam.) with a brick lining. It was unexcavated.

Three of the five brick-lined pits were excavated and found to be almost identical in size and form, suggesting that they are probably a contemporary group, possibly with some specialised function.

The floor of each pit was recessed slightly, possibly as a result of wear. All the pits had been deliberately backfilled. One pit contained a burnt deposit and some of its brick-lining was sooted, although this did not seem to have occurred *in situ*. The absence of cess suggests that the pits were not in domestic use. Since they were all cut into the basal gravels they could have functioned as sumps.

It is also possible that they were industrial, perhaps related to Wethered's Brewery, which owned this land during the 19th century.

One of the pits (131) occupied a position in front of the cellar entrance, suggesting that it post-dated the use of the cellar in the 17th/18th century. This accorded with the discovery of Victorian pottery within the brick-lining of another pit (138). The pits had a short period of use, restricted to the later 19th century, judging by further Victorian pottery found within the backfill of each pit.

The Prehistoric Pottery
by M Wells and J Hender

Three small residual sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered. One was a corded body sherd from a Bronze Age Beaker (context 371).

The Medieval Pottery (Figs 11-17)
by Michael Farley

Introduction

This piece was drafted nearly twenty years ago and resources then available did not permit a detailed fabric classification of the pottery. Maureen Mellor kindly glanced through the assemblage at that time and made brief comments which assisted the establishment of an outline chronology. It became clear that the Marlow assemblage was not typical of Buckinghamshire groups previously experienced by the writer since it incorporated pottery from a wide range of production areas, many beyond the county boundary. Since completion of the draft, studies of medieval ceramic have advanced considerably, with better-dated contexts from e.g. Oxfordshire and London, the identification of further production areas in the Buckinghamshire Chilterns, e.g. at Penn, Potter Row (Great Missenden) and Cadmore End (Fingest). The likelihood that kilns had existed at the same location as potteries not recorded until the post-medieval period has also been suggested in a recent listing of Buckinghamshire kiln sites (Farley & Hurman 2015). Just over the border in Oxfordshire, the potential for pottery at Henley and the certain existence of potteries at Nettlebed in the medieval period has also been noted (Mellor 1994; VCH Oxfordshire 2016, 275–302),

At Uxbridge, downstream from Marlow, Knight and Jeffries (2004) describe an excavated kiln that produced pottery very similar to that made at Rush Green, Denham (Farley & Leach 1988). The authors suggest a possible direct temporal link between the two locations. In publishing the Rush Green material, it was suggested that one group of wares with simple outswept rims, irregular wall thickness and random surface wiping (some examples of which were present at Marlow), were likely to be of 12th-century (if not earlier) date, and this conclusion has been tentatively accepted for some of the Uxbridge products also (*op. cit*. 46). On a regional level, however, a study of these ubiquitous 'greywares', has demonstrated 'common characteristic in fabrics', in 'shared technology' and 'common stylistic features' across a broad southern Chiltern region, making individual sherds difficult to attribute to specific production sites without petrological and chemical analysis (Blackmore & Pearce 2010, Table 12 and Fig. 48).

It has not been possible to incorporate much of this new information into the accompanying brief record of the Marlow ceramic, but hopefully publication of the original draft will draw attention to the richness of this riverside assemblage which has clear links both up and downstream, and others may feel it is worthwhile to re-examine it in the future.

General Comments

In total, there were 2374 sherds of medieval date from 110 contexts. Each context was spot-dated and the sherds from each counted and briefly described in the archive. Only five contexts had more than 50 sherds. The largest group (1018 sherds) came from context (177), an unsealed medieval soil horizon (Phase IV) from which there was also a substantial amount of roof tile (853 pieces). The bulk of the remainder came from pits. Only a few of these intercut and in one instance where this appeared to be the case (contexts (480) and (482)), the ceramic suggested a reverse order to the sequence observed on site. This might indicate that the backfill had been recycled. The only medieval coin (Edward I (1272–1307)) came from the medieval 'garden soil'. Little material has been attributed to the 15th century, which may reflect lack of knowledge of the ceramic of this date in the area or the introduction of a different refuse disposal practice.

As previously mentioned, there was no opportunity to undertake a full fabric analysis, however, only five calcareous sherds – common in the 11th

to 12th century further upstream – were noted. It is suspected that in south Buckinghamshire handmade sherds with the random wiping/combing on handmade vessels noted above, may be of similar date to this fabric. At macroscopic level, however, it was clear that the bulk of non-jug sherds were in a fine sandy/quartz tempered fabric. Typically, this consisted of fairly tightly-packed rounded clear, milky or slightly iron stained grains, generally less than 1mm diameter.

There was a high proportion of glazed jug sherds on the site (472 out of 2734 = 17.3%). Bearing in mind that glazes on medieval jugs rarely covered their entirety, many other sherds are likely also to be from jugs. Only twelve glazed sherds were certainly from the Brill/Boarstall kilns, the location probably being towards the limit of distribution. A significant proportion had a matt-olive glaze. There are several options for the source of these including locally at Camley Gardens, Maidenhead (Pike 1966) and other kilns farther afield. A proportion with pellet decoration may be London-ware variations of Rouen types (Pearce *et al* 1985). About thirty sherds had some form of white slip, again likely to have been mainly from jugs. This decoration is also present at Camley Gardens but has also been noted at Cadmore End (Hurman 2004). However, as white slip can also be utilised before an application of glaze, some caution is necessary in identification.

A few whiteware sherds were present, one with a stamp impression. Only one Buckinghamshire kiln (Potter Row) is known to have produced pottery in this fabric and these products are of post-medieval date (Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeological Group 1978). In Oxfordshire a white-firing clay is also present at Swyncombe (Mellor 1994, 143) but use of this source for ceramic appears not to have been confirmed, so it is likely that the few whitewares present (including a stamped piece) are Surrey whitewares, produced at a number of locations in that county (Pearce & Vince 1988).

The ceramic was roughly divided into four Phases: I. Later 11th to 12th century. II. Later 12th to early 13th century. III. 13th to early 14th century. IV. 14th to 15th century. No specific wares were allocated to Phase V defined on stratigraphic and other grounds.

Catalogue of Illustrated Sherds

In the following catalogue, where a single colour is given this indicates that the sherd is of fairly uniform colour throughout; the following abbreviations are used: ext. = exterior of the vessel, int. = interior, fab. = fabric. Cp. = cooking pot, ft. = fingertip, dec. = decoration, and core = core of the sherd. Where it is clear from the drawing that the sherd is a rim this is generally not stated. The number in brackets is the context number. The illustrated material was selected principally on the basis of profile completeness.

Phase 1: Later 11th to 12th century (Fig. 11)

1. Cp. rim and body, five joining, handmade, hints of vertical finishing, grey (315).
2. Cp. rim and body (fourteen large joining sherds), ft. dec. rim top inside, grey, sooted ext., possibly 12th century (367).
3. Cp. black, grey core (367).
4. Cp. grey, 11th/12th century, possibly Fulmer kilns (217).
5. Cp. grey, many calcareous inclusions, 11th century (217).
6. Cp. folded in with ft. dec. on ext. edge, grey, possibly Fulmer kilns. 11th/12th century (217).
7. Very large bowl/jar, rim folded out, grey-red, 11th/12th century, possibly Fulmer kilns (217).

Phase 2: Later 12th to early 13th century (Fig. 12)

8. Bowl, grey, thrown (483).
9. Cp. rim/body sherd, slightly everted with ft. indentations on int. edge of rim, applied strip around shoulder with ft. indentations, smoothed into body at top but not bottom, grey (483).
10. Body sherd, jug, two large applied 'pellets' decoration, grey, dark green speckled glaze ext. (483).
11. Dish rim, sharp edge to int. rim, ext. has ft. impressions, light brown, grey core, thrown (483).
12. Cp. greyish (483).
13. Body sherd, applied white strip and pellet dec., clear glaze firing brown, and yellow on slip, slip wash on right in the figure, probably a London imitation of Rouen ware (483).
14. Jug, roulette or stabbed comb dec., olive green glaze on ext., grey. (178). Rouletting is present at the Maidenhead kilns.
15. Jug base, thumbed, dark grey, reddish core, 11th/12th century (237).
16. Large bowl, green glaze splashes on int. surfaces, possibly being drips from another

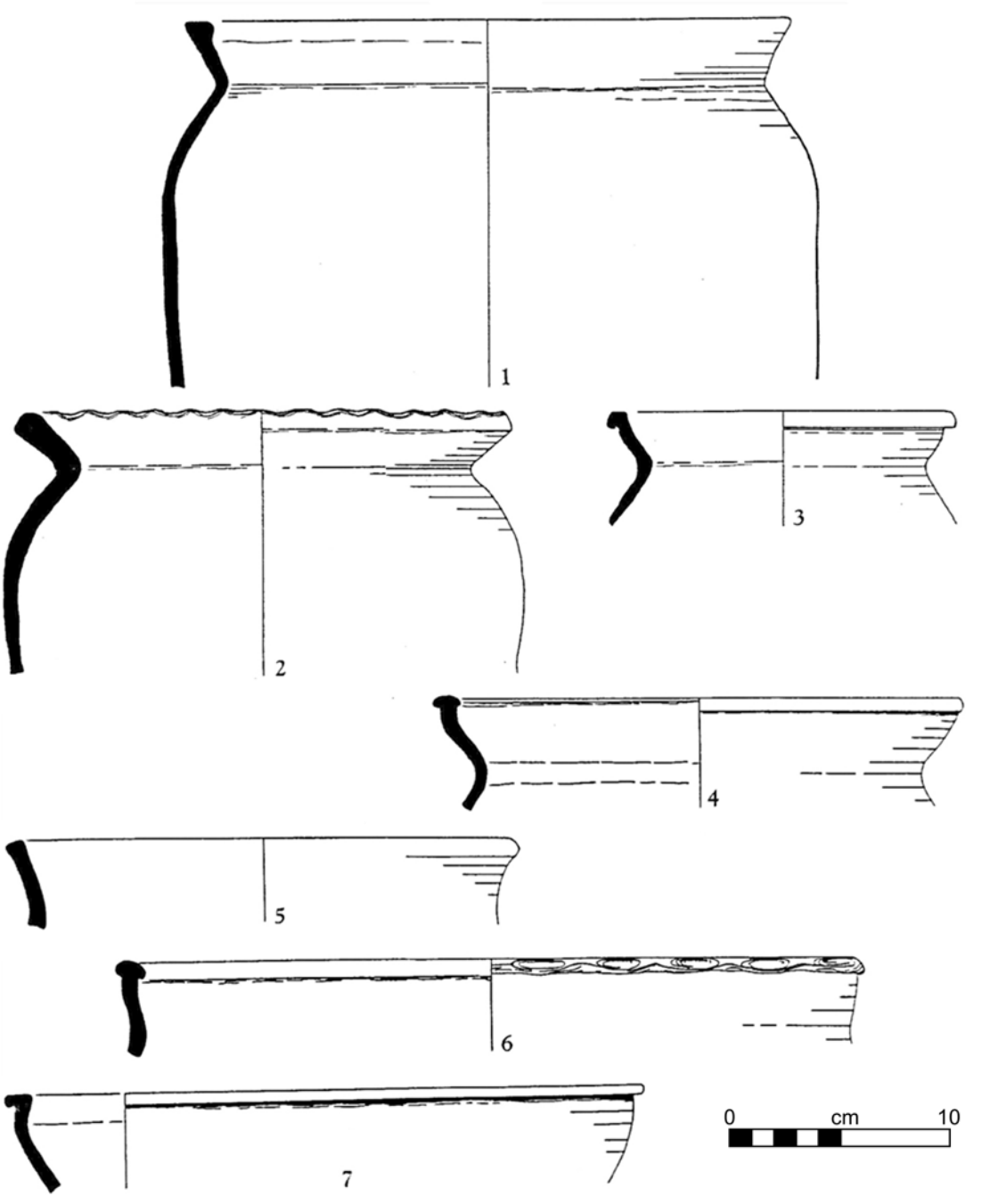

FIGURE 11 Medieval pottery, Phase I, nos 1-7 *(scale 1:3)*

vessel during firing, reddish-brown, grey core, late-12th/early 13th century (161).
17. Jug rim, two joining, ft. dec., thick, grey, red core (450).
18. Strap handle, slashed dec. either side of central groove, overfired, olive-green glaze upper surface, grey (161).
19. Loop handle, possible fish dish, fine sandy, part brown glaze int., reddy-brown, grey core. 11th/12th century (153).

Phase 3: Late 13th century (Fig. 13)
20. Jug handle and rim, dark matt blotchy olive-green glaze, orange, grey core, one other rim sherd (445).
21. Jug strap handle, deep slashes in chevron pattern, dark-green glaze, orange, grey core (445).
22. Jug strap handle, stabbed down centre and impressed with bar stamp, orange, grey core, clear glaze firing brown (445).
23. Jug with rib beneath rim, dark olive-green matte glaze, reddish, grey core (445).
24. Jug base with foot-ring, ext. surface glazed clear firing brown-orange, grey core, possibly hand-built (445).
25. Jug, dec. body sherd, white slip and applied white pellets, yellow/brown glaze all over, orange, grey core (445).
26. Jug strap handle, strong central groove, clear glaze upper side firing light-brown, orange (448).
27. Jug rod handle, pushed through body to join, dark olive-green glaze ext., grey core (448).
28. Jug, reddish-brown with white slip on top of rim and part of ext. surface, clear glaze firing yellow-green, grey core (448).
29. Jug, black, grey core (151).
30. Cp., slight ridge around neck, grey-brown (151).
31. Cp., grey, sooting int. and ext. (151).
32. Cp. [Detail missing.]
33. Jug base, two joining, foot-ring, traces of green glaze *beneath* base, orangey-red, grey core, unusual (151).
34. Jug base fragment, thumbed, orange, grey core (151).
35. Jug sherd dec. with applied 'scales' rouletted lattice band, over white slip, mid-green glaze on ext., orange, grey core, possibly London-Rouen or Aardenburg ware (151).
36. Jug sherd with applied 'scales' and ribs, white slip overall ext. and part int., mid-green glaze ext., orange-grey core, possibly London-Rouen or Aardenburg ware (151).
37. Jug sherd dec. with impressed 'wheel' on applied sprig of clay, clear glaze firing brown on body, white on slip, fine white fab, possibly north French import (151).
38. Jug sherd dec. with applied clay bands, fine fab, white, mid-green glaze ext., possibly north French import (151).

Phase 4: 14th to 15th century (Figs 14-16)
39. Jug, five joining base/body, vertical and horizontal iron slip rib dec. beneath clear glaze ext. with slight green speckle, unglazed int. buff-orange, possibly later Brill (177).
40. Jug, thirteen joining rim/body/handle, yellow-lime green glaze, thick on ext. surface of body and also on part of plain strap handle with two finger-indentations at base, slight cordon around neck, handmade rim on wheel thrown body, light grey-brown (177).
41. Dish, complete profile, T-shaped rim, dark green glaze on int. surface, carbon deposits int. and ext., dark grey (177).
42. Possible tripod pitcher, rim/body handle, remnants of green glaze on int. of rim and splashes on body ext., orange, grey core (177).
43. Bowl/skillet basal end of large strap handle, dark green glaze int. of body only, handle dec. with deep stabbing, orange-grey, grey core (177).
44. Jug base, very slight foot-ring splayed out, olive-green glaze ext., fine, buff-reddish, grey core (177).
45. Jug, rod handle/rim, white slip dec. (not illustrated) on rim top and splashes below handle, olive-green glaze ext., reddish-brown, grey core (177).
46. Jug, rod handle, two applied angular pads on upper surface of handle, dark green glaze, red fab. (177).
47. Bowl (two sherds not joining), T-shaped rim, light fabric, Surrey whiteware (177).
48. Lid sherd, mid-green glaze, very fine fab, light, Surrey whiteware (177).
49. Cup/dish small strap handle, green glaze ext. and int., very fine fab, white, Surrey whiteware (177).
50. Rod handle, green glaze, Surrey whiteware but fabric slightly creamier than other examples from site (177).

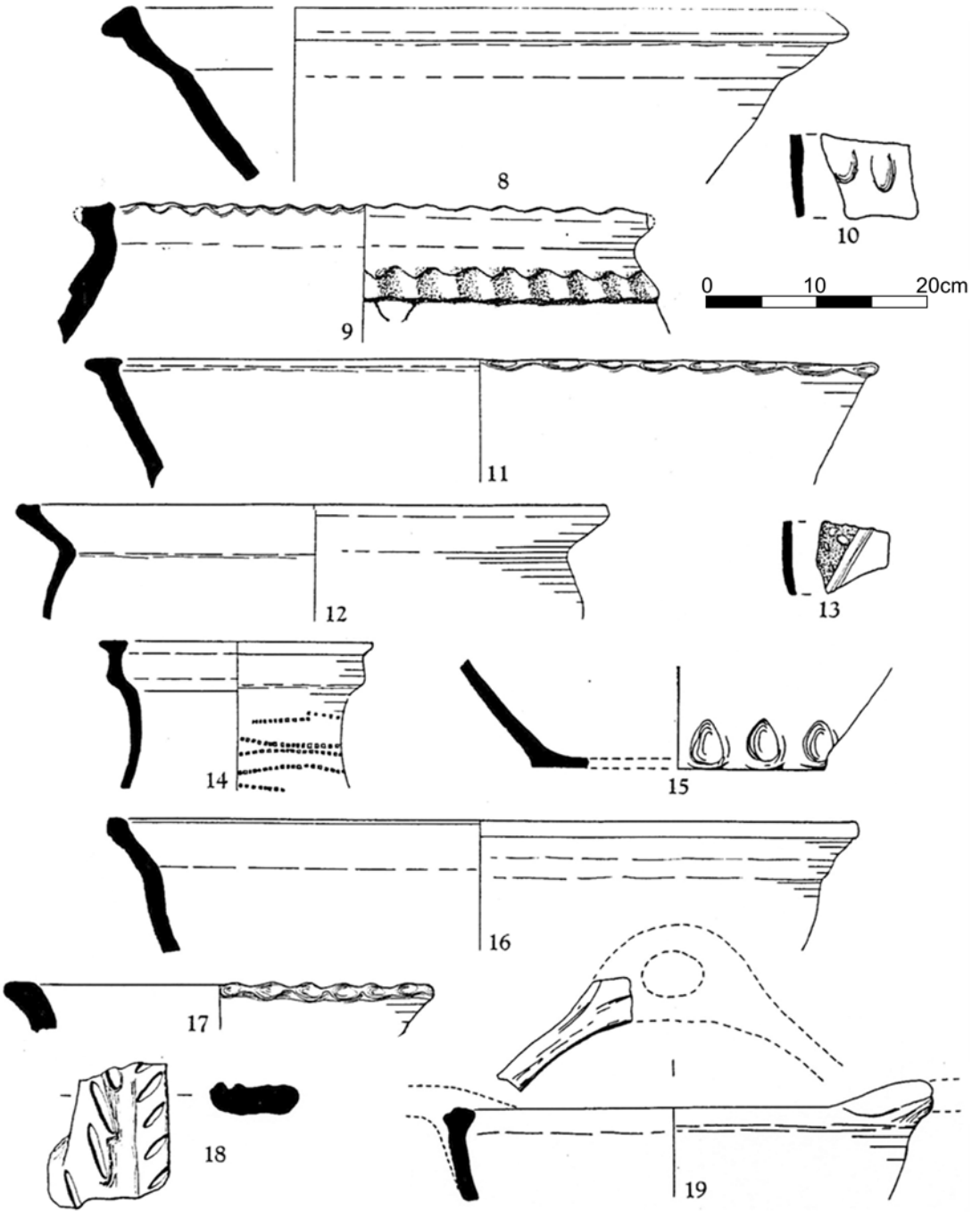

FIGURE 12 Medieval pottery, Phase II, nos 8-19, *(scale 1:3)*

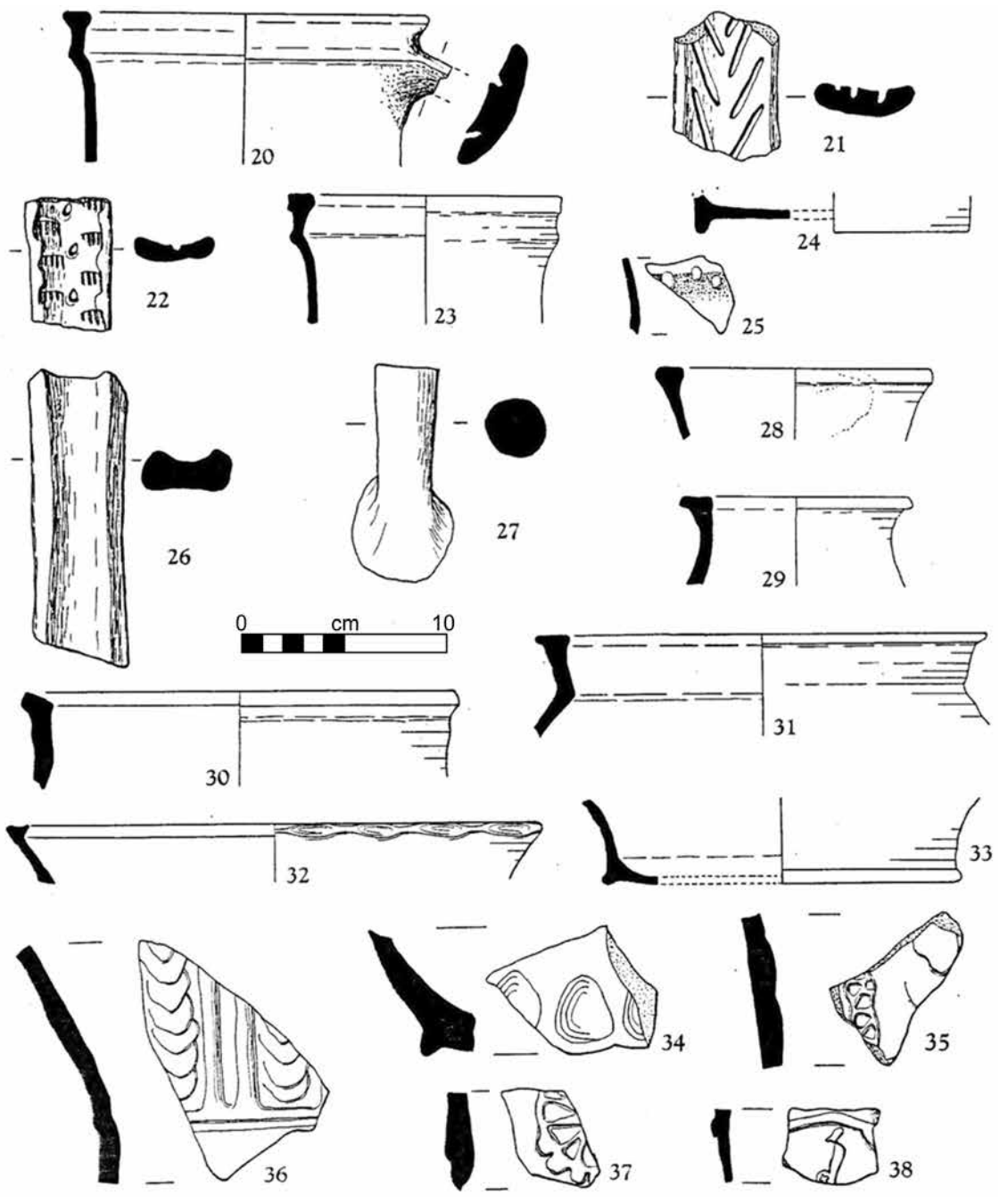

FIGURE 13 Medieval pottery, Phase III, nos 20-38, *(scale 1:3)*

51. Strap handle, mid-green glaze ext. and part beneath handle, three incised grooves running vertically down outside of handle, white, Surrey whiteware (177).
52. Lid rim, orange throughout (177).
53. Jug, pedestal base, orange fabric, thrown (177).
54. Jug base, foot-ring, orange, grey core, clear glaze firing brown (177).
55. Jug, brown, red core (177).
56. Storage jar/cp., brown, grey core, thrown (177).
57. Cp. groove beneath on ext. reddish brown, grey ore, sooted ext. (177).
58. Cp. light grey (177).
59. Cp. grey (177).
60. Jug, reddish brown, grey core, traces of clear glaze firing brown (177).
61. Cp. light grey, sooting ext. (177).
62. Cp. grey-brown, sooting ext. (177).
63. Cp. orange-grey, grey core, traces of reddish-brown slip overall (177).
64. Bowl, everted rim, remnants of olive glaze on int., black ext., grey core (177).
65. Cp. rolled over ext., light biscuit-coloured (177).
66. Cp. throwing lines clear ext., reddish-brown, grey core (177).
67. Cp. grey (177).
68. Cp. grey-brown, sharp angle, thrown (177).
69. Cp. squarish, buff-red, grey core (177).
70. Cp. buff-red, grey core (177).
71. Strap handle fragment, fingertip impressions along either side of handle, grey-black, grey core (177).
72. Possibly handled bowl, rim, dark green glaze on int. surface, red-brown, grey core, much sooting ext. thickening for handle/spout (177).

Miscellaneous Medieval Pottery from Post-Medieval Layers (Fig. 17).

73. T-shaped rim, white, splash green glaze ext., Surrey whiteware (185).
74. Jug body sherd with stamped fleur-de-lys on pellet, orange-red, dark olive-green glaze (145). The use of pictorial stamps including fleurs-de lys on bosses or pellets on jugs is fairly common on Surrey whitewares, Coarse Border ware (Pearce & Vince 1988, figs 53, 63, 69, 70, 72, 88, & 90).
75. Handle springing off rim, orange, touch of glaze on rim, possibly 15th century Penn/ Tylers Green kilns (119).
76. Flat rim cp., orange, possibly 15th century Penn/Tylers Green kilns (119).
77. Loop handle, grey, possibly Denham kilns (185).

The Post-Medieval Pottery
by Michael Farley and Nicky Smith

The excavation produced 883 post-medieval sherds from 43 contexts. Only eight contexts had more than 50 sherds. Of the larger groups that from Pit 141, is of sufficient interest for further discussion. Illustrations of a second group, from Pit 291, are included on account of a tankard stamp; and for completeness an excise stamp from context (172) is also included.

Tin-glazed pottery, which provides some indication of the relative wealth of the community, occurs in several contexts: (101, 108, 119, 121, 143, 281, 288, and 290). Pit 141, which contains the main illustrated group, lay just west of the chalk-block lined cellar. Its fill included glass from a dozen wine bottles, including necks dateable to the period *c*.1710–1725, also a stopper of similar date, wig curlers, etc. The associated clay pipes gave a date range 1730–1780, however, the glass finds together with tin glaze ceramic suggest a date in the first half of the century (possibly the first third) which is broadly supported by the absence of fine salt-glaze table wares (e.g. Jennings 1981, 222) and by the presence of a range of the local ceramic. The pit group (and one other assemblage) includes a tankard stamp featuring three barrels (tuns). The style of stamp on the tankards is elsewhere first firmly dated in 1724 (see No.25 below). These must have come from tankards used in Marlow's 'Three Tuns' public house, first recorded when changing hands in 1788 (Cairns 1976), but obviously in existence prior to that date; probably, as the archaeological evidence now suggests, prior to 1750.

This is the first occasion on which material from local pottery kilns supplying the town has been published. This local material, included in the fill of Pit 141, is of a consistently fine fabric, very competently potted with a range of forms, notable amongst which are the handled bowls and dishes with simple trailed slip. Known ceramic production centres lying within ten miles of the site, include: Nettlebed, Oxfordshire (Stebbing *et al* 1980), the Penn area and Hedgerley, Bucking-

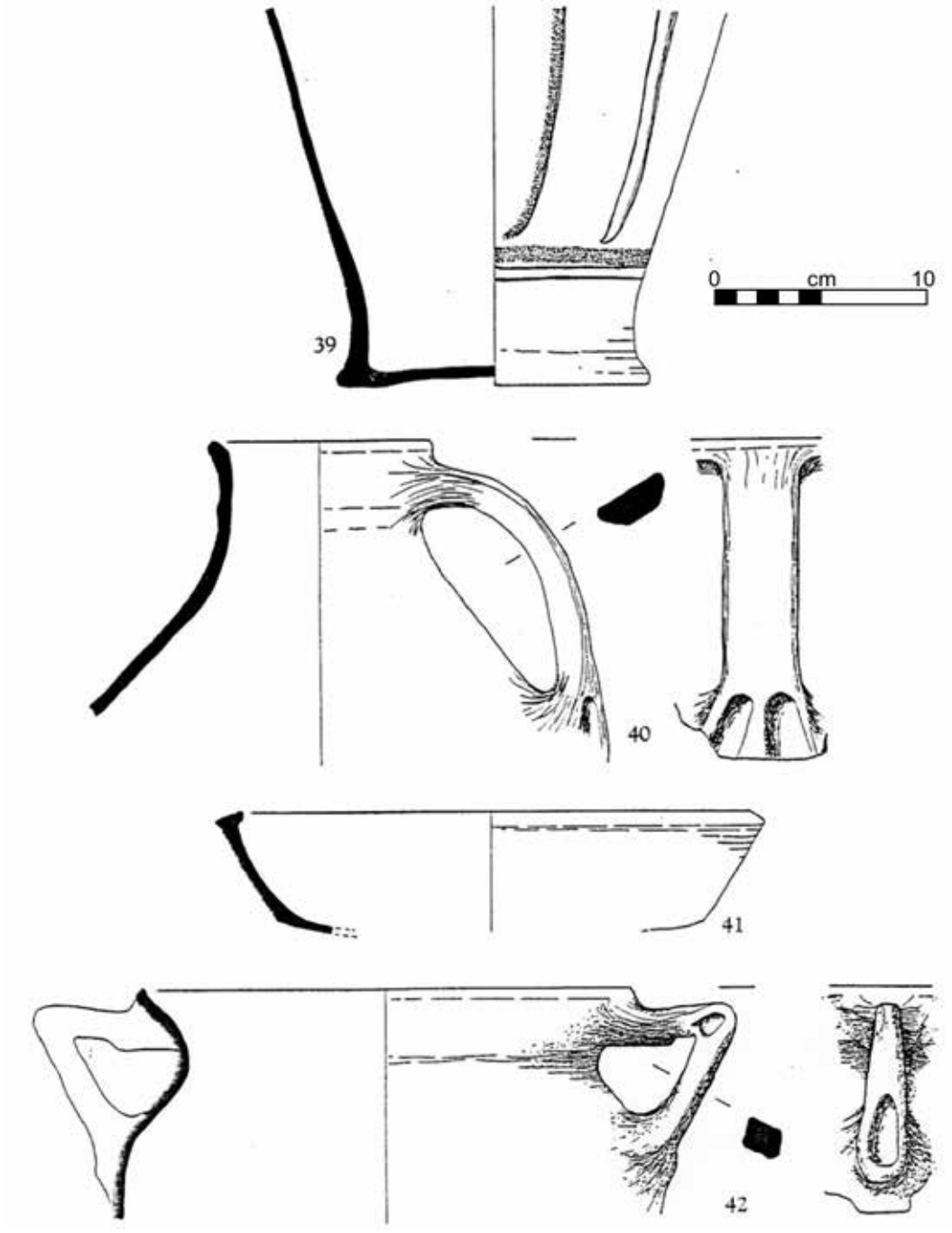

FIGURE 14 Medieval pottery, Phase IV, nos 39-42, *(scale 1:3)*

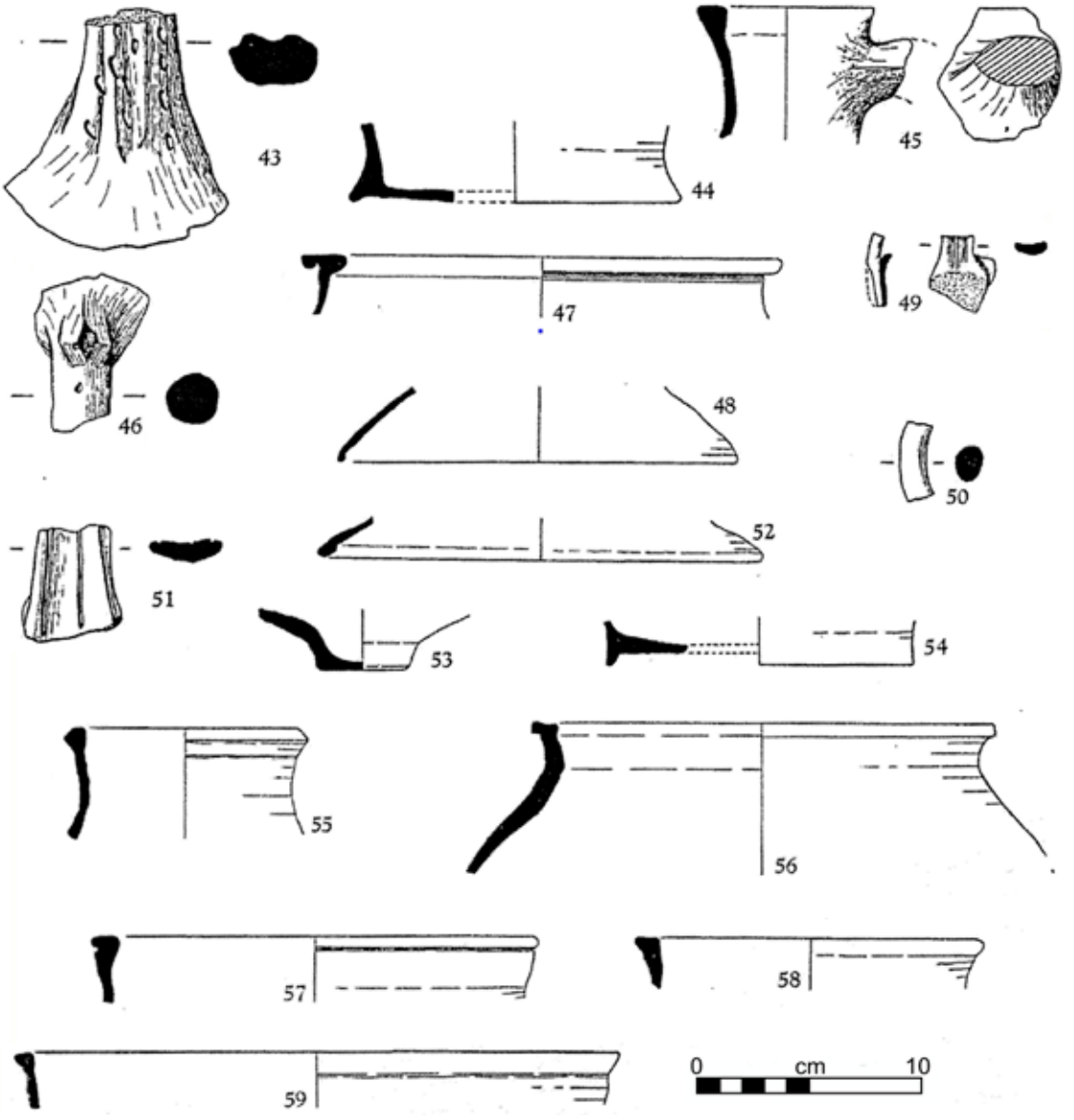

FIGURE 15 Medieval pottery, Phase IV, nos 43-59 *(scale 1:3)*

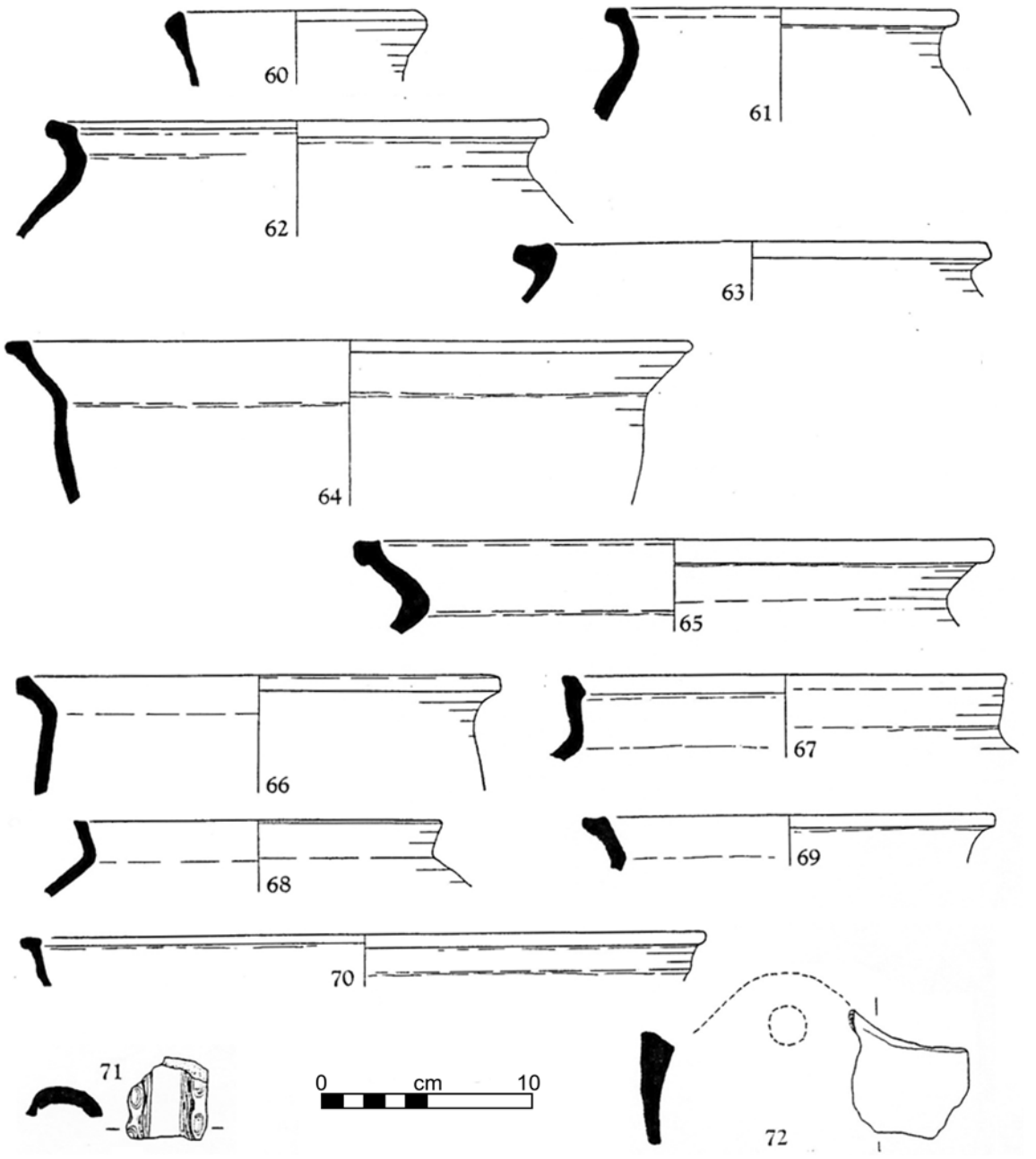

FIGURE 16 Medieval pottery, Phase IV, nos 60-72 *(scale 1:3)*

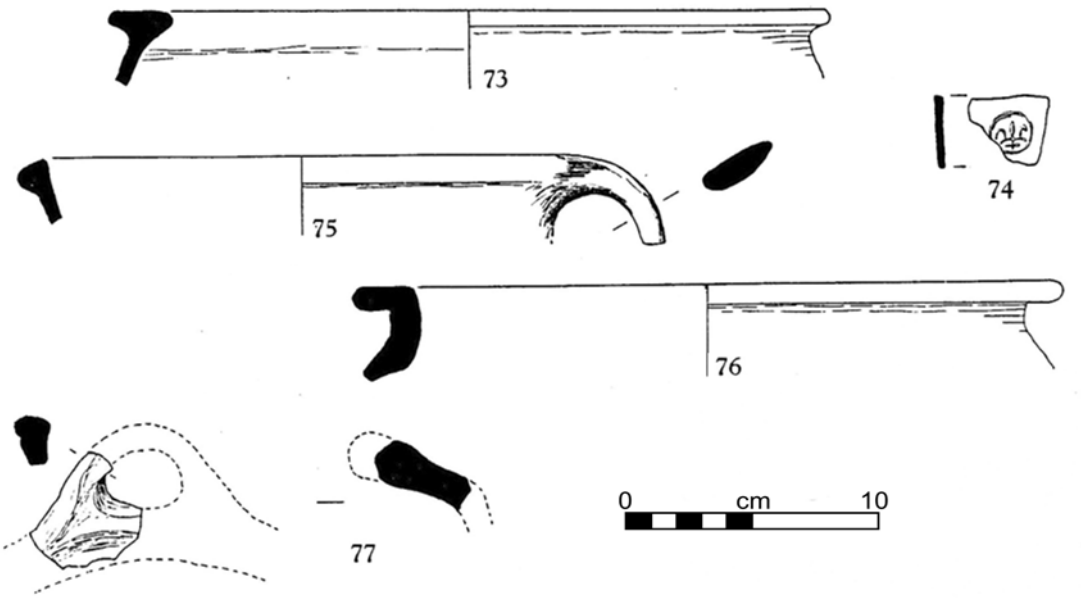

FIGURE 17 Medieval pottery, miscellaneous, nos 73-77 *(scale 1:3)*

hamshire. However, to date there has been insufficient study of their products to characterise their wares closely. No potteries operating locally on the Berkshire side of the river appear to be recorded at this date.

Although the role of passing river traffic at Marlow should not be overrated, it clearly made transport of non-local wares such as the tankards (some perhaps from London kilns), and the tin glaze wares a cheaper option than road transport.

Catalogue of Illustrated Sherds (Figs 18, 19 & 20)
Context numbers are given in brackets after each entry, ext. = exterior, int. = interior, fab. = fabric.

1. Drug jar, tin glaze, unglazed beneath, blue-paint decoration, including central cable band, first half of 18th century, London (e.g. Orton & Pearce 1984, Fig. 24, 103) (211/239).
2. Dish, tin glazed int. and ext. with mid blue decoration, probably London, first half of 18th century (240).
3. Bowl, tin glaze int. and ext., dominant royal blue paint with red brown vegetable motif and part of green leaf. This and the following two sherds, plus one in Lambeth-style decoration, of the first half of the 18th century are probably from the same vessel (215).
4. Bowl, tin glaze int. and ext., ext. decorated with 'fruit' red/brown with five green leaves (215).
5. Tin glaze int. and ext., base, and under base, dominant dark blue over light blue bands, containing two red-brown arcs (215).
6. Dish, bricky fabric, clear glaze firing brown ext., yellow wavy slip decoration on rim (215).
7. Dish, as above but diameter 390mm (215).
8. Dish/bowl rim, yellow lattice slip decoration, similar above (240).
9. Dish, light bricky fabric, clear glaze firing brown, yellow slip with flecks of green (142).
10. Dripping pan, oval, traces of spout, knife trimmed at one place near base, light bricky fabric, clear glaze firing brown, sooting ext. (215).
11. Bowl, light bricky fabric, speckled/streaky iron glaze, crisp grooving below rim and above base (215).
12. Handled pot with ext. lid seating, ext. ribbing, light bricky fabric, iron flecked brown glaze int. and ext. (239).
13. Handled bowl, light fabric, even clear glaze firing yellow int., splashes of green glaze rim ext., horizontal handle, luted on one end, deep thumb print at other, identical piece from context (211), possibly Hampshire/Surrey 'borderware' (142).

14. Handled bowl, flecks of clear glaze firing brown int. (215).
15. Bowl, bricky fabric, grey core, white slip, mid-green glaze over (142).
16. Dish, reddish fabric, clear glazed int., firing green/brown (142).
17. Small dish, light bricky fabric, clear glaze int., firing brown, splashes ext. (215).
18. Tankard, saltglaze stoneware, speckled mid-brown int. and upper ext., sprig-moulded three barrels on circular pad with trace of chain-motif border (215).
19. Tankard, saltglaze stoneware, speckled mid-brown int. and upper ext. (215).
20. Tankard base (possibly Staffordshire), light buff fabric, brown vertically-streaked glaze int. and ext. to foot-ring, base ridges probably formed with template, sooting at base (240).
21. Tankard rim, saltglaze stoneware, dark brown, crowned oval 'WR 'excise mark within field (239).
22. Dish, Staffordshire slipware rim, piecrust edge, white slip, ext. brown slip feathered across (281).
23. Dish, Staffordshire slipware as above with trailed brown slip, unfeathered (288).
24. Cup/posset pot, white body, Staffordshire, clear glaze firing light yellow, brown slip dots with applied white dots over (281).
25. Tankard, saltglaze stoneware, dark brown, sprig decoration of barrel, within frame. Similar frame outlines, typically enclosing inn sign symbols, occur on tankards dated 1724 and 1744 (Oswald 1982, pp.41 and 51), 1746 (Fox and Barton 1986, 147), 1748 (Celoria 1966, 24), and 1758 (Oswald 1982, 43). Both the earliest and the latest have WR excise mark. Some are certainly London products (281).
26. Stoneware tankard rim, light grey flecked brown, crowned WR excise mark. This stamp was used from AD 1700 throughout the eighteenth century (Oswald 1982, 278–9) (172).

Animal Bones
by Yvonne H. Edwards

Only animal bones from the medieval dateable pits are included in this report.

Phase I (Late 11th to 12th century)
From the seven datable pits in this phase 206 bones and bone fragments were recovered.

Pit 308 – Context (309). About 60 animal bones or bone fragments were found in this pit. The cattle finds included an almost intact left calcaneum, a piece of a left proximal femur 4.5cm, the distal end of a femur, and a fragment of an epistropheus (2nd vertebrae). There was also a lower molar tooth, a piece of ulna, part of a left radius, a fragment of scapula and a complete first phalanx. In total there were nine recognizable elements and an additional six cattle-like fragments. The sheep/goat elements included a broken right acetabulum, a distal metatarsus, two distal ends of left and right tibia and a tibia shaft with cut marks. In addition, there were two radii, neither with end pieces. The numerous sheep-like fragments included twenty which were unidentifiable together with two vertebrae fragments, two skull pieces, parts of a distal metacarpus, three metatarsal shafts, two loose teeth, and one frontal tooth with some bone support. An intact metatarsus of a male *gallus* ('jungle fowl'/chicken-type bird) was recovered with a spur at the centre of the diaphysis. Two further metacarpals and a worn right femur probably from the same bird were also recovered.

Pit 216 – Context (217). Only half of this pit (2m width) was available for excavation and twenty animal bones or bone fragments were found, including a right proximal femur, probably from a horse, with a fovea capitas, part ball and upper stem with three cut marks on the ball, and a cattle-like right-hand fragment of epistropheus weighing *c*.4.4gm and 8.5cm in height. The sheep/goat bones included one scapula fragment with a broken edge, a tibia shaft and a recently fused, intact, 3cm long phalanx. Three small ribs were grouped with these finds. In addition, there was a rib, probably from a young pig, along with the remains of an adult pig ulna with both ends lost. A medium sized bird sternum, probably from *Gallus* was also found.

Pit 193 – Context (230). From this pit, eight bones were recovered including two sheep/goat-size scapula fragments, a 10cm length of pig mandible with a single M2 tooth and a jaw fragment of similar size.

Pit 451/395 – Context (452/396). The upper fill contained a femur shaft fragment of pig-size along with two small fragments of sheep/goat size

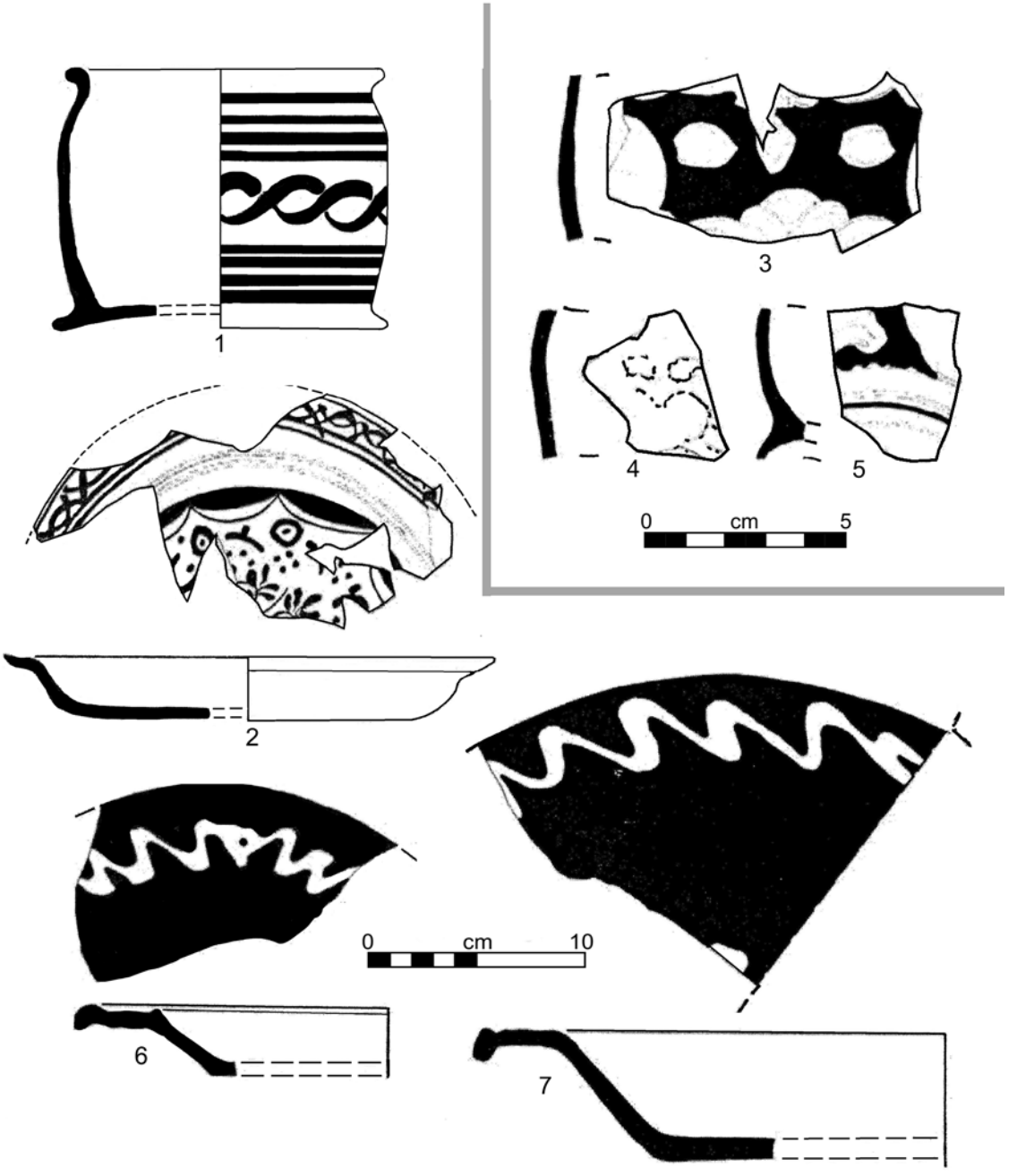

FIGURE 18 Early 18th-century pottery from Pit 141, nos 1-7 *(scale 1:3, except 3-5 which are 2:3)*

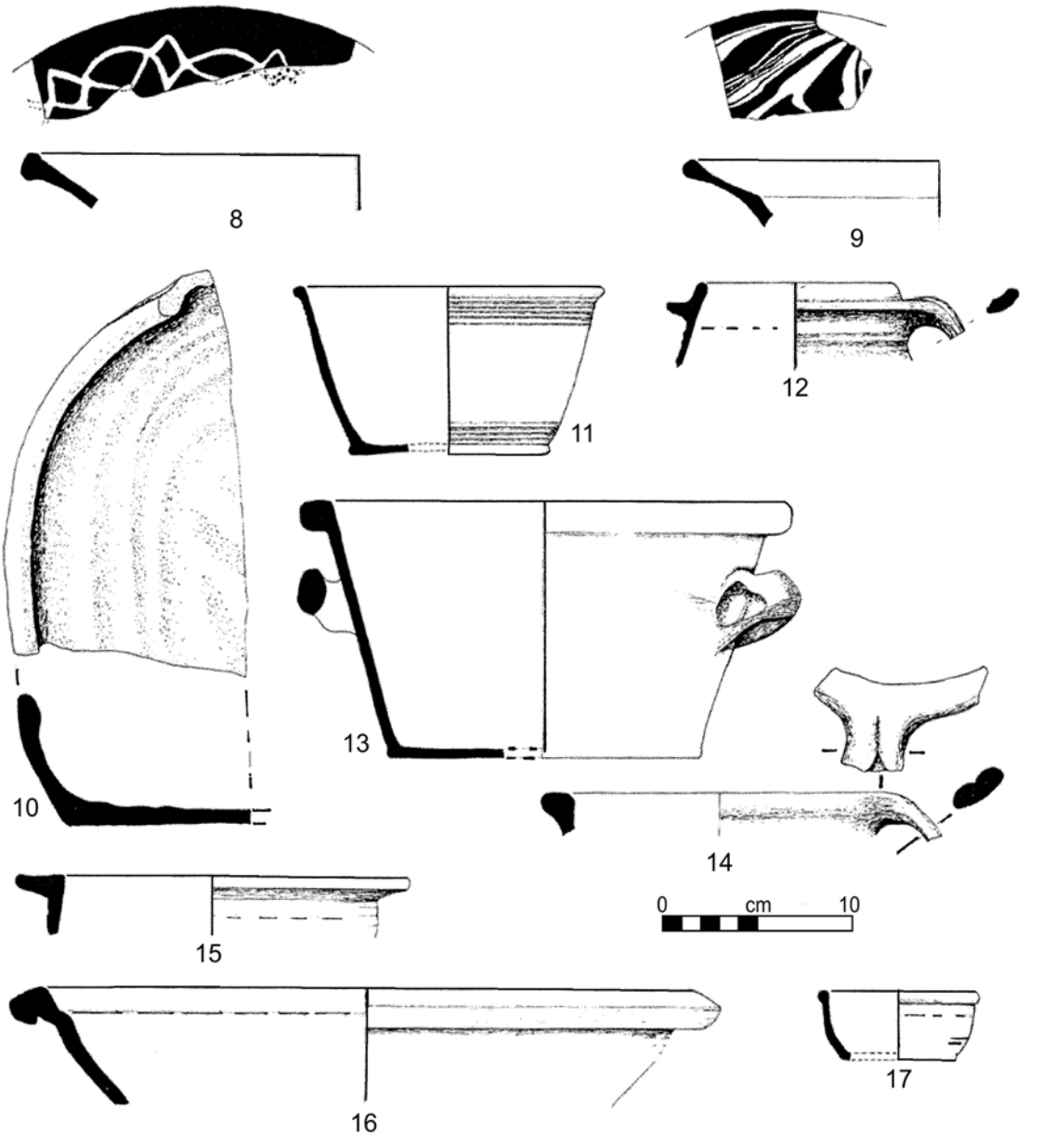

FIGURE 19 Early 18th-century pottery from Pit 141, nos 8-17 *(scale 1:3)*

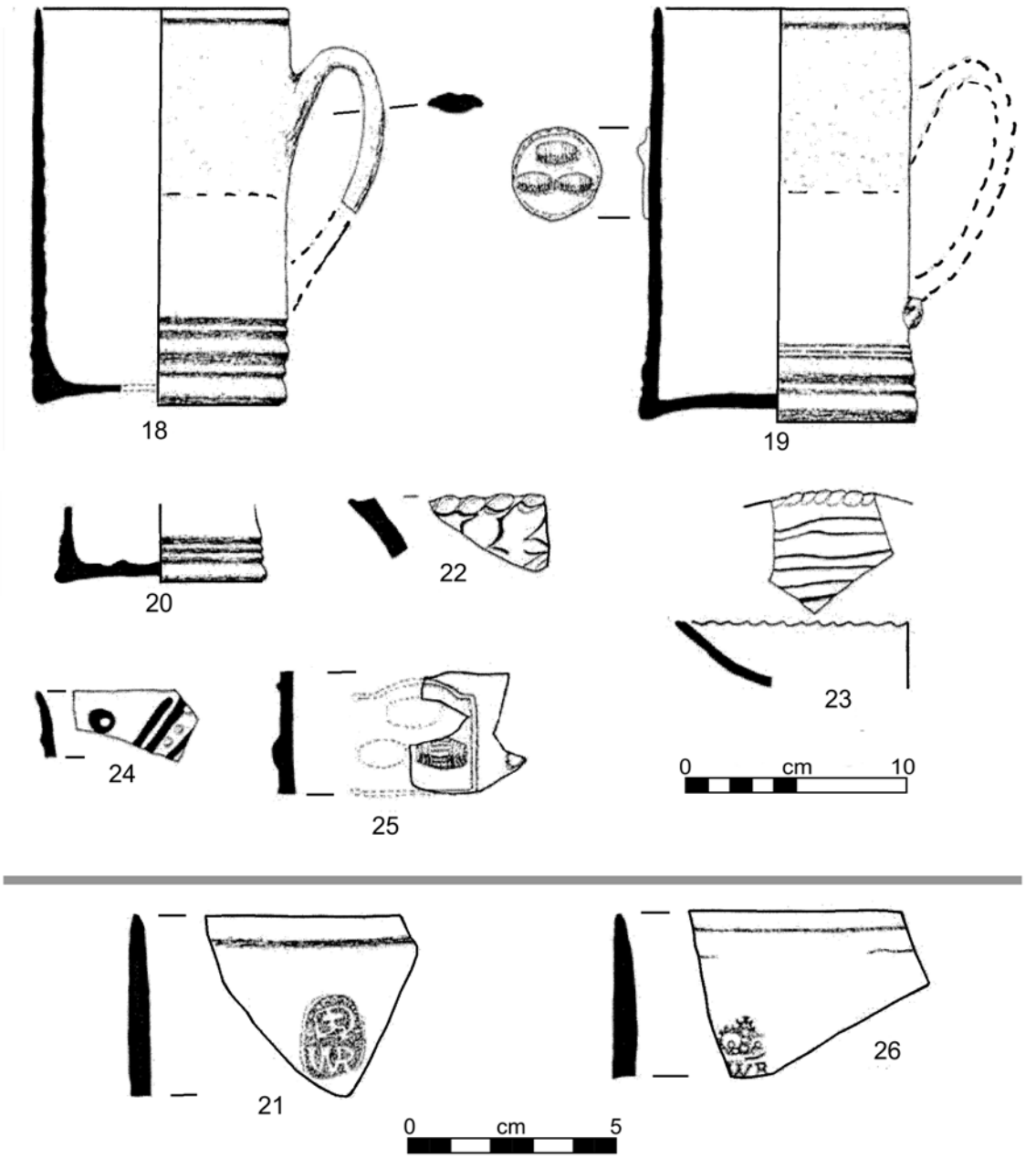

FIGURE 20 Early 18th-century pottery from Pit 141, nos 18-21; Structure 291, nos 22-25 and Context 172, no. 26 *(scale 1:3, except 21 & 26 which are 1:2)*

long bones, and a large cattle lower jaw with the diastema between teeth in place but with M3 and frontal teeth lost.

Pit 314 – Context (315). The cattle bones included three pieces of lower jaw, one piece of which included a single tooth. In another, the teeth were severely worn down and a third was a mandibular fragment derived from the back end of the lower jaw, with no teeth. Also included was a small fragment of a left-hand cattle scapula showing a small part of the upright spinal feature with clear evidence of later chewing at the distal end, and a cattle phalanx 2, which appeared to have been partly eaten on both sides by small animals, and a fragment of a vertebra. The sheep/goat-like bones included a fragment of a distal humerus and a small dp4 premolar juvenile tooth, two bone shafts, probably tibia, an auditory meatus and five fragments of long bones. A piece of pig mandible showed one lateral tooth and two missing spaces of both P3 and P4. In addition, a small fragment of skull, which showed tooth marks, and seven pieces of a small scapula fragment probably from a hare were also recovered as well as a scapula from a fowl, most likely a pheasant.

Pit 449/462 – Context (450). One pig femur was found in this pit.

Phase II (Late 12th to early 13th century)
From the seven datable pits in this phase 272 bones and bone fragments were recovered.

Pit 482 – Context (483). This pit contained sixteen bones, including three cattle scapula, with pieces about 10cm in length, one of which included a scapula head, one right-hand side cattle astragalus, and a pig astragalus with some chipping; both of these were about 9cm long. A right-hand side pig pelvis, the acetabulum, with some edges missing was also noted together with a complete intact radius of a bird similar to *Gallus*. The sheep/goat bones included the upper left mandible with all the teeth, and a lower right mandible with most teeth present apart from the first pre-molar. In addition, a left mandibular hinge was found in relatively good condition.

Pit 182 – Context (183). Eight bones were recovered from this pit including a small part of a cattle ulna which could be recognized by its *processus coronoideus lateralis* with an outer wall on the right-hand side. Another shaft bone fragment was also identified as cattle by its size and thickness. Part of a sheep/goat mandible with M3, M2 and M1 teeth in place but the remainder of the mandible missing, and a fragment of the distal end of a right-hand sided sheep/goat femur were also recovered.

Pit 152 – Context (153). This pit contained the proximal end of a sheep radius with the shaft 12.2m long, with its distal end absent and no cut marks.

Pit 438 – Context (439). Four recognizable bones were recovered from this pit, including a large cattle-size fragment, possibly a cervical vertebra, and a sheep scapula comprising the *fossa articularis* and *processus coracoideus* chipped around the edges. Sheep/goat bones included the shaft of a right humerus, with loss of the distal and proximal ends, part of a thoracic vertebra and a rib fragment.

Pit 238 – Context (237). Several cattle-size elements were recovered from this pit, including a right-hand calcaneus, about 90mm in length, which had been thoroughly chewed/chipped at the top and base, a proximal component of a left-hand metacarpus, a large unfused vertebra, and a left-hand, cloven phalanx together with a left-hand distal fragment of a sheep/goat humerus, about 60mm in length, with evidence of chipping across the right hand area.

Pit 173 – Context (174). This pit contained an early juvenile M3 tooth together with two sheep or pig rib fragments and a right-hand sheep humerus.

Phase III (13th to early 14th century)
From the seven datable pits in this phase 110 bones and bone fragments were recovered.

Pit 149/231 – Context (191). This pit contained two clean cattle metatarsi, both left-hand side and distal end, one 10cm long and the other 13.3cm long. In addition, there were two right-hand jaws of large pigs, both including premolar rows P2 to P4 followed by molars 1 and 2. However one of the jaws extended to the exterior near to the infradental and alveolus with a deep scratch on the nearby jaw. The back teeth of the reduced jaw were

very worn-down. There was also a frontal jaw fragment showing two infra-dentals in place along with a loose alveolus and infradental. A pig-size proximal unfused femur fragment was also recovered. In addition, a fragment of thoracic vertebra derived from either sheep/goat or pig and an unfused tarso-metatarsus of a probable pheasant was noted.

Pit 149 – Contexts (171), (170), (172), (179). The contents of this pit included a roughened and chewed upper fragment of a cattle right-hand *processus olecrani* lying just above an *incisura semilunaris* (half-moon shaped articulation), a full-length sheep metatarsus, a sheep-size rib fragment and two other narrow ribs. Also present was an intact, 'bantam-like' femur with only a few apparent bite marks at the proximal end and three small fish vertebrae.

Pit 168 – Context (169). This pit deposit included a left-hand phalanx of a cow, largely intact but with two roughened areas, a cattle mandibular tooth worn down to its lowest surface, an unfused damaged vertebra and rib fragments of pig-size together with a sheep/goat-size intact phalanx 3 and a scapula fragment.

Pit 444/480 & 447 – Contexts (441), (481). Pit (441) bone yielded two left-hand sheep mandible fragments, one as part of the mandibular hinge, the other as part of the coranoid process. In addition, an 8cm long sheep metatarsus stem, chewed at one end, was recovered. A chewed scapula fragment broken at one end probably from adult pig was also recovered together with part of a juvenile scapula of a smaller size which may have been of small sheep/goat/pig origin together with the right–hand metatarsus of *Gallus* of creamy white colour with a smooth surface and with only the distal end missing. Pit (481) yielded two sheep mandibles, very similar in size and both well worn. M3 to M1 were present together with P3 and P2; P1 was absent in both cases. In addition, several sheep skull fragments, a pig proximal end radius and some ribs were recovered. One bird bone (c. *gallus*) and perhaps two others were also identified.

Pit 195 – Context (196). Bones from this pit included a left-hand cattle calcaneus, comprising a major stem with top and basal fragments missing and copious cracking. It also included a complete acetabulum of a sheep/goat pelvis as well as a sheep mandibular hinge, the damaged distal end of a sheep/goat humerus and a small part of a scapula. The distal end of a *gallus* ulna was also noted.

Pit 225 – Context (194). This pit contained a possible distal shaft of a sheep/goat radius together with two ribs of sheep/goat-size.

Slot 175 – Context (176). Most of the bones in this slot were *Gallus* and judging by the distribution they appear to have come from a single bird. The skull was almost intact with all other features, including the mandible, sternum, scapula, and pelvis. This latter was intact with ilium, acetabulum, pubis and ischium and showed some blackness on its surface. The tibia displayed large growths on the distal end while the humerus was intact and in good condition. Vertebrae were also retrieved.

Pit 458 – Context (460). Two *Gallus* bones were identified in the pit of which one was the proximal end of the coracoid.

Pit 149 – Context (192). This pit contained a metacarpus of a pig in which the proximal end had fused whereas the distal end was still unfused, together with a skull fragment and a rib bone.

Phase IV (14th to 15th century)
Well 219 – Contexts (261) and (296). Seven bones were recovered from this pit including a fragment of cattle scapula showing two small cut marks, a possible bird bone and a cattle-like proximal metatarsus, *c*. 90mm long.

Discussion

The animal bone report was limited to the dateable medieval pits in order to see if there was any correlation between the pottery contents and the bone contents.

Table 1 lists all the animal bones, both complete and fragments. Phases I, II and III, each had seven dateable pits. The majority of the bone was recovered from Phase II pits with each pit containing on average 38.9 bones or bone fragments. Phase I had an average of 29.4 and Phase III had the fewest with an average of 15.7. The presence of bone in these numbers indicates domestic refuse.

Table 2 shows the identifiable animal bone

totals for each pit and phase. Phase I contained the most with 65 bones. Phase II contained the least with 30 bones. This corresponds to the discussion on discard activity in the pits in the excavation report. Phase I has more identifiable bone and large unabraded pottery sherds implying primary disposal, whereas later phases contain more bone fragments and small abraded sherds implying secondary disposal.

It is noticeable that there were more cattle and sheep/goat bones in Phase I compared with the later phases and more pig bones in Phase III. Horse, bird, hare and fish were present but not in large numbers.

TABLE 2 Identifiable animal bones per phase

Phase/Pit	*Cattle*	*Sheep/ Goat*	*Pig*	*Horse*	*Bird*	*Hare*	*Fish*	*Total*
P1/308	9	18			4			31
P1/314	7	5	2			1		15
P1/451/395	1		1					2
P1/216	1	5	2	1	2			11
P1/193		2	3					5
P1/449/462			1					1
P1 Total	**18**	**30**	**9**	**1**	**6**	**1**		**65**
P2/182	1	2						3
P2/438	1	4						5
P2/238	5	1						6
P2/482	4	3	2		1			10
P2/152		2						2
P2/173		4						4
P2 Total	**11**	**16**	**2**		**1**			**30**
P3/149/231	3	2	6		1		3	15
P3/168	2	4	3		1			10
P3/195	1	4			1			6
P3/444/480		5	2		1			8
P3/225		3						3
P3/458					1			1
P3/175					5			5
P3 Total	**6**	**18**	**11**		**10**		**3**	**48**
P4/261	2							2
P4 Total	**2**							**2**
Total	**37**	**64**	**22**	**1**	**17**	**1**	**3**	**145**

Flint
by D Bonner

L = length, W = width, H = height, T = thickness

Twelve flint artefacts and debitage, weighing 71g, were recovered from residual medieval and post-medieval deposits. The flint exhibited varying degrees of patination, and was derived, possibly from local Pleistocene terrace gravels. There were five secondary and three tertiary flakes, of which two had been modified by retouch, whilst another showed signs of use. These included:

a) *Knife*. L 38.2mm, W 40.3mm, T 13.5mm; shallow continuous retouch along long side of ventral surface of a secondary flake; heavily utilised along cutting edge; unstratified layer (112).
b) *Knife*. L 33.6mm, W 24.5mm, T 8.1mm; shallow irregular retouch along edge of ventral surface of a secondary flake; within (464), fill of pit (449) (Phase I, late 11th to 12th century).
c) *Notched Flake*. L 46.5mm, W 28.9mm, T 9.8mm; steeply retouched notch (13.7mm W) along long edge of dorsal surface of a secondary flake; heavily utilised; within 14th to 15th century garden soil (177).

Comparison of the breadth/ length ratios of the flakes with published chronological data-sets (Pitts 1978), suggested that the assemblage was 'chronologically mixed', including components of possibly Mesolithic, late Neolithic and later date.

Copper-Alloy Objects (Fig. 21)
by A Richards

L = length, W = width, H = height, a T = thickness, and diam. = diameter. NI = not illustrated.

Medieval

1 *Buckle-plate*, L 50-55mm, W 20-22mm, T <1mm; rectangular plate with V-shaped end; engraved zig-zag rocker-arm decoration along centre of plate and also along the sides and width of the plate; one rivet hole (diam. 2.5mm) and two pins (diam. 2mm, L 3mm); possible surface gilding; 15th century (Mills 1995, 349); residual within (101): Victorian fill of cellar. The decoration is very similar to a medieval buckle plate from Aylesbury County Museum (Bonner 1996, cat. no. 11).
2 *Needle*, L 64mm, W 0.5-1.5mm; head L 11mm, W 3mm; eye L 7mm, W 2mm; 14th to 15th-century garden soil (177).
3 *Ring*, diam. 17mm, W 2mm, T <1mm; not cast, possibly soldered; possibly 15th century (Egan & Pritchard 1991, 331); intrusive within (177): 14th to 15th century soil.
4 *Padlock Key*, L 55mm, (square) W 3-4mm; one end with pressed oval (diam. 14-16mm,) with T-shaped hole (L 7mm, W 4-6mm); incomplete; 11th-13th century (Biddle 1990, 1021–4); (177): 14th to 15th-century garden soil.
NI *Pin,* L 34mm, shank diam. 0.5mm; wire wound head diam. 2mm, height 1mm; (177): 14th to 15th-century garden soil.
NI *Pin,* L 48mm, shank diam. 0.5mm; solid hemispherical head with flat underside, diam. 3mm, height 1.5mm; possibly 14th century (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 299, 302); possibly intrusive within (309): fill of pit (308) (Phase I, late 11th to 12th century).
NI *Pin,* L 46mm, shank diam. 0.5mm; solid hemispherical head with flat underside, diam. 2-3mm, height 1mm; possibly 14th century (as above); intrusive within (367): fill of pit (308), (Phase I, late 11th to 12th century).

The typological dating of pins is not secure, so it is difficult to determine whether these pins are intrusive.

Post-Medieval

5 *Thimble* (Fig. 21.5), height 18mm, diam. 11-16mm; Dutch type III or English 1730–1800 (Holmes undated); (142): fill of Pit (141), late 17th/ 18th century.
NI *Button,* Diam. 13mm, T < 0.5mm; no stem; loop external diam. 5mm, int. diam. 3mm; total depth 7mm; late 18th-mid 19th century (Biddle 1990, 575, 578); (145): fill of cellar.
NI *Button,* Diam. 13mm, T < 0.5mm; no stem; loop slightly distorted, ext. diam. 3-5mm, int. diam. 2-3mm; total depth 6mm; late 18th-mid 19th century; (145): fill of cellar.
NI Diam. 18mm, T 1mm; missing loop/pin; front has dark blue inlay around rim for 2mm; raised copper-alloy wording 'MARLOW FC SUPPORTERS CLUB'; raised bird of prey in centre; rear has a maker's mark 'Thom…

Limited Birmingham'; post 1870; (111): unstratified.

NI *Pins*; a number of pins were recovered. Typological dating of these is not secure: however, the assemblage included two examples of pins with wire-wound heads, similar to those from Norwich (Margeson 1993, 11–13), as well as at least twenty-five sewing pins (*ibid*).

NI *Stud/tack*, L 11mm, diam. 13mm; shank L 7mm, diam. 1-3mm; corroded with soil and stone; late 16th-early 17th century (Biddle, 1990, 1111–2) or early to mid-18th century (Margeson 1993, 83); (211): fill of pit (141), late 17th/18th century.

NI *Bowl fragment*, 55mm radius, T 5mm, 60mm greater arc; rim section; interior better condition than exterior; possibly cast. 14th-15th century onwards (Mills 1995; 337, 346 & 357); (101): fill of cellar, 17th/18th century.

Undated

NI *Pin*, L49mm, diam.0.5mm; head missing; (119): unstratified.

NI *Pin*, L45mm, diam.1mm; wire-wound head with flat top (diam. 2mm, H 1mm); some white discolouration; (117): unstratified.

Worked Bone (Fig. 21)
by A Richards

6 *Comb*, L 10-44mm, W 8-24mm, T 1.5mm; coarse and fine teeth; 17th/18th century (Margeson 1993, 66-7); (215): fill of pit (141), 17th/ 18th century.

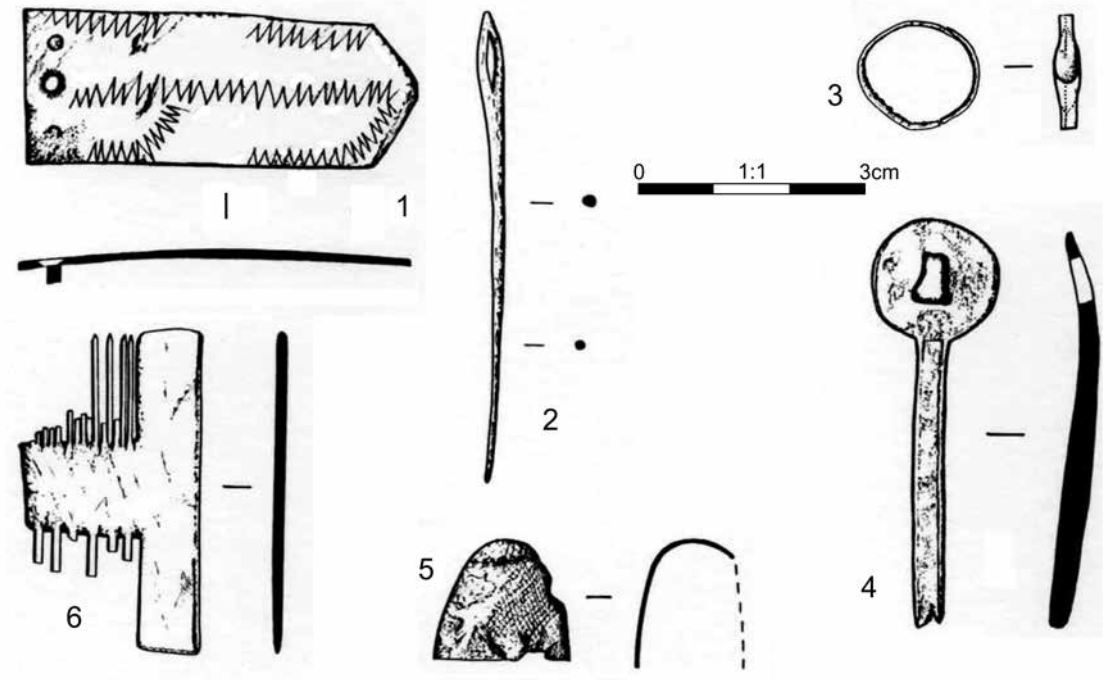

Figure 21 Copper-alloy and bone artefacts 1-6 *(scale 1:1)*

Iron Objects (Not illustrated)
by A Richards

L = length, W = width, H = height, a T = thickness, and diam. = diameter.

Medieval
Tool, shallow, U-shaped, possible central hole; arms L 80mm, W 10-25mm, widening to 40mm at centre; heavily corroded; within (174): fill of pit (173) (Phase II, late 12th to early 13th century).

Blade, L 80mm, core metal T 1.5mm, W 10-20mm; heavily corroded and broken in three places; within (450): fill of pit (449) (Phase I, late 11th to 12th century).

Post-Medieval
Tongs, longest arm L 106mm, shortest arm L 52mm, W 35-43mm; corroded; (321): fill of trench (321), 17th century.

Handle, L 115mm, W 20mm, T 15mm: corroded; (140): fill of brick-lined pit (138), 19th century.

Handle bracket fragment, L 80mm, W 40mm, T 5mm; sub-rectangular; both ends broken; (288): fill of stone-lined pit (291), 17th/ 18th century.

Knife, curved broken blade, L 57mm, W 10-13mm, T 1mm; curved broken bone handle with possible rivet, L 23mm+, W 10-13mm, T 3mm; incised criss-cross decoration; mid-14th century onwards (Cowgill, de Neergaard & Griffiths 1987, 9, 89 and 96); (101): fill of Victorian cellar.

Iron nails comprising seventy-six fragments weighing 664g were recovered from medieval and post- medieval contexts.

Coins (Not illustrated)
by A Richards

Halfpenny, silver, possibly of Edward I (1272-1307), 14th to 15th-century garden soil (177).

Halfpenny, Victoria, young head copper issue (1838–1860); worn; fill of cellar (101), 17th/18th century.

Quernstone, Whetstone and Weight (Not illustrated)
by J Parkhouse

The dating of these items is difficult to determine, but it is considered that although all four items were found in post-medieval or unstratified contexts, they are likely to be of medieval date.

Mayen lava quern, upper stone, worn grinding surface with grooves arranged in harp pattern; T 31mm, diam. 500+mm; residual in context (265), incorporated in 17th/18th century chalk-lined pit (291).

Probable schist whetstone, L 46.8mm; rectangular cross-section 13.2 x 12.6mm; residual in fill of post-medieval pit (184).

Probable bar whetstone, schist, L 71.7mm; sub-rectangular cross-section 20.0 x 16.2mm; (119), unstratified.

Probable bar whetstone, schist, L 59.5mm, W 18.0mm; fill (142) of 17th/18th-century pit (141).

Stone weight, diam. 40-50mm, weight 135g; sub-spherical stone with iron hanging loop attached; possible steel yard weight (Biddle 1990, 922/3); (101), fill of Victorian cellar.

Clay Tobacco Pipes
by Nicky Smith and Daisy Lang

The site produced a total of 364 clay pipe stems, twelve bowl fragments and 39 bowls; a single bowl had decorative rouletting around the outside rim and one other displayed a leaf-pattern design at the front and back. Thirty-nine bowls (76%) were complete enough for the form-type to be identifiable and 15 (38%) of these were also stamped. Six types of bowl, based on Oswald's simplified general typology were identified, plus three based on his regional style (M) and a further two based on his regional style (S) (Oswald, 1975), (Table 3). The most common types were Type 4M (twelve examples dating to *c*.1719–1728), Type 14 (eight examples dating to 1820–1840), Type 5 (seven examples dating to 1640–1660, comprising 31%, 21% and 18% respectively of all identifiable bowl types.

TABLE 3 Types of clay tobacco pipe bowls

Type	*Date*	*Number*
5	(1640–1660)	7
7	(1680–1710)	1
9	(1680–1710)	4
10	(1700–1740)	1
12	(1730–1780)	1
14	(1820–1840)	8
3(M)	(1660–1690)	1
4(M)	(c.1719–1728)	12
6(M)	(c.1706)	2
11(S)	(1690–1700)	1
18(S)	(1840–1860)	1 (with leaf patterning)
		TOTAL = 39

TABLE 4 Stamps on bowls of pipes

Stamp	TD	TS TS	T S	HF	George Weaver
Location	Base of heel	Both initials on each side of heel	Single initial on each side of heel	Base of heel	On either side of the bowl
Number	7	1	6	3	1
Pipemaker	Unknown	Thomas Smith (1731), Eton	Thomas Smith (1731), Eton	Henry Flooke (1692), High Wycombe	George Weaver (c.1680-1700)

There were eighteen stamps recorded in total and only four stamp variations (Table 4). The initials **TD**, with a flower below and within a heart, occurred seven times and in five different **TD** stamp forms belonging to unknown pipe-maker(s). Oswald (1975, 64) notes that the stamp is commonly found on pipes in the Aylesbury area and that the manufacturer is likely to have been local. Excavations in Aylesbury at Castle Street (Moore 1979), George Street (Jones 1983) and the County Museum (Bonner *et al* 1995) recovered numerous examples of similar **TD** stamps. Typological dating indicates that four of the Marlow **TD** stamped pipes date to between 1640 and 1660 (Type 5) and one to *c*.1706 (Type 6M); the two remaining **TD** stamps are undatable.

Six pipes with stamps comprising **T** and **S** (one initial marked on each side of the heel) all belong to Oswald's Type 4M (*c*.1719–1728); a seventh pipe has *both* **TS** initials marked on either side and belongs to Type 12 (1730–1780). The **TS** stamps are most likely attributable to a Thomas Smith, whose death in 1731 is recorded in the Eton Parish Registers (Oswald 1975).

Three stamps with the initials **HF**, within a heart, refer to pipe-maker Henry Flooke, recorded in High Wycombe in 1692 (Bonner *et al* 1995); two of these stamped pipes belong to Oswald's Type 9, dating to c.1680–1710. A large number of similar initial stamps were found at the Vicarage Garden site, Bierton (Dalwood 1986) and in Aylesbury at George Street (Jones 1983), the County Museum (Bonner *et al* 1995), Castle Street, and particularly at a kiln site in Whitehall

Street (Moore 1979). It seems likely that Henry Flooke moved to High Wycombe from Aylesbury in or just before 1692.

A single example of a pipe with **GEORGE** and **WEAVER** stamped upon either side of the bowl (the letters of the surname **WEAVER** appearing to be mirrored), typologically dates to *c*.1680–1710 (Oswald's Type 9). George Weaver is a well attested Aylesbury pipe-maker, active *c*.1680–1700 (Dalwood 1986).

Ceramic Objects (Not illustrated)
by A Richards

Counter, diam. 19-22mm, T 4mm; nearly round; remodelled pottery, dark grey interior with darker exterior; (349): posthole of medieval building.

Wig Curlers: these were usually made of pipe-clay. They were used by heating and then curling the wig hair around them, in a similar way to curling tongs today (Corson 1980, 272). These were within pit (141) except one from an unstratified cleaning layer (104). Length between 34 and 79mm, diam. between 10 and 20mm; dumb-bell shaped in white clay; two complete and six incomplete.

Ceramic Building Materials
by A Richards

A total of 2793 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 228.575kg were collected on site (Table 5). Roof tile accounted for over 98% by number of pieces found.

Medieval
Medieval contexts accounted for over 71% of all ceramic building material, of which more than 99% was roof tile (Table 5). Almost 80% of all tile came from phased contexts (Table 6). The medieval tile pieces have an average weight of 40.54g, excluding the medieval Phase IV layer (177). It is assumed that the size of complete tiles was the same for each period.

Phase I tile pieces were larger than average indicating a higher proportion of primary deposition in these pits. Pieces in the Phase II pits were smaller indicating that some secondary deposition in the pits was likely, and in the Phase III and IV pits pieces were larger indicating a return to primary deposition. The Phase IV layer (177) contained over 40% of the medieval roof tile which had a significantly higher average weight indicating the accumulation of primary material within surface middens. The small sample size of Phase V means that no interpretation can be made.

Post-Medieval
Just under 20% of ceramic building material recovered was from post-medieval contexts (Table 5). Eleven Georgian pits contained over 87% (486) of post-medieval ceramic building material, ten pieces of which were glazed. The average weight of roof fragments was a little lower than the medieval average. Seven Victorian pits contained over 11% (62) of post-medieval ceramic building material. Nine pieces were glazed. The average weight of these was larger than both the medieval and Georgian average. Just over 1% (6) of post-medieval material was recovered from one modern pit. This was too small a sample to interpret. From the undated contexts the remaining 9% (255) of ceramic building material was recovered, six pieces of which were glazed.

Medieval and Post-Medieval Glazed Tile and Brick
Seventy-three (13.622kg) fragments of glazed tile and brick were recovered, over 90% of which came from dated deposits (Table 7). Green glazed pieces accounted for nearly 68% of roof and floor tile. The remaining examples were of either grey or red splashed glaze and were restricted to medieval and Georgian deposits. There were nine glazed bricks: six grey, one white and two aquamarine glazed. The number of glazed and peg-holed tiles increases slightly in Phases III and IV; this may be due to changing fashions.

Fired Clay and Daub
Sixty-five pieces of fired clay and daub were recovered from medieval and post-medieval contexts.

Glass
by A Richards

Window Glass
Thirty-eight fragments of window glass weighing 130g were recovered from medieval and post-medieval deposits.

TABLE 5 Ceramic building material by type and period

Period	*Medieval*	*Georgian*	*Victorian*	*Modern*	*Undated*
Type					
Roof no.	1969	466	57	5	247
weight	165.239kg	17.438kg	5.933kg	0.096kg	14.106kg
Floor no.	9	3	–	1	7
weight	0.728kg	0.304kg	–	0.032kg	4.250kg
Brick no.	6	17	5	–	1
weight	1.359kg	14.072kg	4.708kg	–	0.310kg
TOTAL no.	1984	486	62	6	255
weight	167.326kg	31.814kg	10.641kg	0.128kg	18.666kg

TABLE 6 Ceramic roof tile by medieval phases

Phase (no of contexts)	*No. / (%) frags*	*Total weight (kg)*	*Average frag. weight (gm)*	*Peg No.*	*Glazed No.*	*Ridge No.*
Unknown (32)	431 / (21.9)	10.310	23.92	7	1	2
I (5)	57 / (2.9)	4.186	73.44	1	–	1
II (7)	203 / (10.3)	7.348	36.20	7	–	–
III (9)	233 / (11.8)	12.767	54.79	13	2	2
Layer (2)	29 / (1.5)	1.162	40.07	3		
IV (2)	157 / (8.0)	9.296	59.21	15	18	
Layer (1)	853 / (43.3)	120	140.68	16	28	3
V (1)	6 / (0.3)	0.170	28.33	–	–	–

TABLE 7 Glazed building material by type and period

Period	*Medieval*		*Georgian*		*Victorian*		*Undated*	
Type	*No.*	*Wt. (g)*	*No.*	*Wt. (g)*	*No.*	*Wt. (g)*	*No.*	*Wt. (g)*
Roof	48	3907	4	212	5	400	4	242
Floor			2	266			1	170
Brick			4	4275	4	4150	1	310
TOTAL	48	3907	10	4753	9	4550	6	722

Medieval
Five pieces weighing 6g were recovered from a medieval garden soil (177) and a further piece from the recut of a medieval Pit (149). A further three pieces weighing 2g were residual within 17th-century Pit (321). All the glass was of poor quality and the thickness varied from 0.5 to 3mm. All was colourless except one example which was yellow.

Post-Medieval
Ten fragments of colourless window glass weighing 26g were recovered from late 17th/early 18th century pits (141 & 291). A further fragment (2g) of this date was intrusive within the recut (149) of a medieval Pit (231). The glass varied in thickness from 1.0-3.5mm. Eleven colourless fragments of window glass weighing 72g were recovered from Victorian and later deposits: the backfill of two brick-lined pits (131 and 139) and a well (279). Three pieces from the well (279) joined to form a curving corner with came marks. The thickness varied from 1.0-2.5mm. In addition, there were seven unstratified fragments of colourless window glass, including one edge piece.

Wine Bottles
The typological dating of the wine bottle glass was based upon neck and base form, after Dumbrell (1983). Two hundred and four wine bottle fragments weighing 9.063kg were recovered from post-medieval deposits. Over 60% (130 fragments weighing 6259g) came from three late 17th/early 18th century pits (141, 246 and 291). Apart from two examples of late 17th century date (one a twisted bottle neck), the glass all dated from early to mid-18th century, slightly later than the pottery dating for each pit. Twenty-seven fragments of green bottle glass weighing 1.471kg were recovered from the Victorian backfill of the cellar and two pits (131 and 138). A further 47 fragments of green bottle glass was collected from unstratified deposits. This included three pieces dated to the late 17th/early 18th century and four from the late 18th/early 19th century.

Other Vessel Glass (Fig. 22)
Ninety-seven fragments of other vessel glass weighing 2.082kg were recovered from post-medieval deposits. Seventy-seven fragments weighing 1.905kg were from 17th/18th century contexts. The glass fragments were mainly green or colourless with some blue and varied in thickness from less than 0.5mm to 20mm, most being too small to identify.

Two vessels from late 17th/early 18th-century pits (246 and 291) were worthy of note.

1-4 Plate or large bowl, incomplete, of pale green glass, consisted of 21 pieces weighing 463g. It had a very shallow curvature and was probably of circular or ovoid form. The rim was folded back on itself to 25mm depth where it bonded with the main vessel. Its thickness varied from 2-4mm, and its diameter varied from 50-54cm.

5 The base of an incomplete bowl of pale green glass, (288), in four fragments, weighed 1.185kg. Its base had a maximum measured diameter of *c*200mm and was 20mm thick, although this thinned to 3mm. The stand was coil made with diameter 75mm and height 25mm.

Other identifiable glass (from pits 141 and 291) included two colourless knops (diam. 20mm), three green conical bases (diam. 34-70mm), one curved base (diam. 33mm), a blue shoulder (diam. 45mm) and a neck (H 9mm), all from pits 141 and 291. Eight pieces of colourless and pale green vessel glass weighing 44g, including a vessel shoulder and part of a hexagonal vessel, were found in the Victorian backfill of the cellar. Three colourless glass fragments weighing 20g, including part of a phial or laboratory glass and a bottle neck, were found in a Victorian backfill of a well (279) and a brick lined pit (131). Nine unstratified fragments of glass included a green shoulder rim, a colourless shoulder and a green rim were also found.

Slag
by A Richards

Eighteen pieces of slag weighing 386g were recovered from medieval and post-medieval contexts. Copper and iron slag was found in the 14th to 15th-century garden soil (177), in 17th/ 18th-century Pit (141) and from Victorian brick-lined Pit (140). This suggests a low level of metallurgical activity in each of these periods.

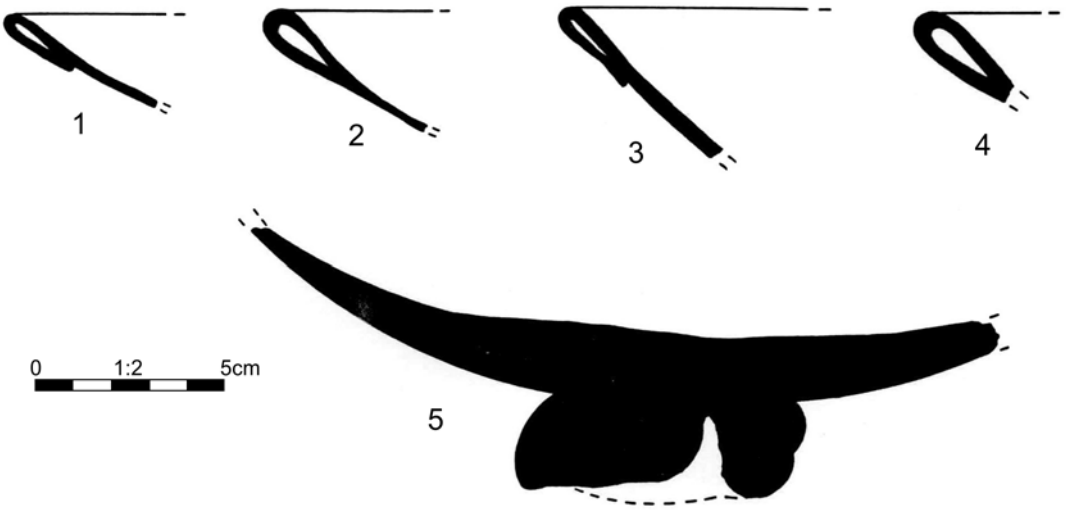

FIGURE 22 Glass vessels, 1-5 (scale 1:2)

MACROSCOPIC PLANT REMAINS
by Ruth Pelling

During the excavation of a small area of the frontage of the High Street in Marlow, soil samples were taken for the retrieval of macroscopic plant remains. Nine samples ranging from 8 to 30 litres were taken from medieval pits. A detailed table is in the archive.

Samples were processed using a bulk water separation machine and collected onto a 0.5mm mesh. Dried samples were sorted by members of the Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeological Group. However, sorted samples appeared to be missing some of the smaller weed component normally expected in a charred assemblage of medieval date. So, one large sample (1005) from Pit (453) for which an unsorted fraction was still available, was sorted by the author. Another sample (1004) from Pit (449) was also selected for detailed identification of sorted seeds and chaff. Identification was made based on morphological characteristics and by comparison with modern reference material held by the Oxford University Museum. Nomenclature and habitat information follow Clapham, Tutin and Moore (1989). In the case of cereals, the plant part identified is given (grain, rachis etc.). In all other identification the plant part recorded is the seed, nutlet etc, unless otherwise given.

Cultivated Remains

Cereal crops are represented by both grain and chaff in both samples. The identifiable cereal remains are dominated by grains of free-threshing *Triticum* sp. (bread type/rivet wheat). Short, plump grains recorded as 'compact' were most numerous, while some longer, narrow free-threshing wheat grains were present in sample (1004). Intermediate grains were classified separately. Given the inherent difficulties in identifying free-threshing wheats to ploidy level on the basis of grain, no attempt was made to identify the grain to species. Free-threshing wheat rachis was present in both samples, however, and fairly frequent in sample (1005). Hexaploid wheat was identified, which will be a variety of *Triticum aestivum* type (bread-type) wheat. No tetraploid wheat was identified. Given that hexaploid rachis tends to be less well preserved, it would appear unlikely that any tetraploid wheat is present in the indeterminate category.

Grains of *Avena* sp. (oats) form the second most numerous cereal category. All seeds identified as *Avena* sp. were recorded as cereals. Although this will result in any wild oats being recorded as cultivated, given the absence of well-preserved floret bases, it provides the best impression of relative abundance. *Hordeum* sp. (barley) was also present. Barley and oats were frequently grown together as a mixed drage

(Slicher van Bath 1963) and were also commonly used together in cooking as pottage (Bennet 1960) and also for brewing. Their occurrence, together in the samples, therefore, may be a result of being grown or at least used together. Given the greater number of oat grains, it would appear that oats at least were also grown and used as a single crop in sample 1005.

Grains of *Secale cereale* (rye) are inherently difficult to identify. Nevertheless, eleven grains were identified from sample (1004), and both samples contained grain recorded as *Secale/Triticum* sp. The weed flora contains species which are commonly associated with rye, while others are associated with rye and autumn sown wheat. Rye appears to have at least sometimes been grown as a maslin with hexaploid wheat, evidence of which was found at West Cotton (Campbell, forthcoming).

A large number of grains were poorly preserved and/or badly encrusted with sediment. Such grains were recorded as indeterminate.

Some large legumes were recorded. The legumes were all poorly preserved with no remaining testa or hilum to enable identification. They were therefore recorded as cultivated *Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp. They were distinguished from wild/weed species *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp. on the basis of size. Legumes are generally under-represented in the archaeological record. Their seeds are less readily preserved by charring than cereal grain and chaff, in part as a result of differing processing stages. Cultivated legumes do appear in increasing numbers throughout the Saxon and Medieval periods. The species most commonly identified include *Vicia faba* (bean), *Pisum sativum* (pea) and *Vicia sativa* subsp. *sativa* (cultivated vetch). *Lens culinaris* (lentil) is also occasionally recorded (Moffett 1988; Grieg 1996).

The Weed Flora

A mature and diverse cornfield weed flora is represented by the samples, including several species, which were formerly common arable weeds, but which are now quite rare, such as *Centaurea cyanis* (cornflower) and *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed). Evidence of the soil types utilized is provided by several species. Species characteristic of heavy calcareous clay soils are present in both samples including *Odontites verna* (red barstia), *Galium aperine* (goosegrass) and *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed). Also numerous are species characteristic of lighter acid sandy soils such as *Valerianella dentata* (narrow fruited cornsalad), *Chrysanthemum segetum* (corn marigold) and *Centaurea cyanus* (cornflower).

Several species are characteristic of the Secalietea community of autumn-sown wheat and rye (Greig 1988). This group includes *Agrostemma githago*, *Lithospermum arvense*, *Galium aperine*, *Valerianella dentata*, *Centaurea cyanis* and *Anthemis cotula*. *Chrysanthemum segetum* is more characteristic of spring sown crops. *Chrysanthemum segetum*, *Centarea cyanus*, and *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle) are particularly associated with rye (Godwin 1975).

Quite a large number of small seeded *Vicia/Lathyrus* species (vetch/tares) were present in sample (1005), in addition to other small seeded leguminous weeds. There does appear to be a correlation between high numbers of cultivated legumes and leguminous weeds at a number of sites of medieval date (e.g. Eynsham Abbey, Pelling, unpublished; Raunds, Campbell, forthcoming). While this may be a reflection of decreasing soil fertility in the medieval period due to increasing pressure on agricultural land, it is also likely that the small seeded legumes are growing as weeds of cultivated legumes. In the case of vetches for example, the wild subspecies could easily have been growing as a weed of cultivated *Vicia sativa*. This could be especially so in the case of the climbing leguminous weeds.

Discussion

The assemblages are fairly typical of the mixed assemblages generally encountered in medieval contexts. While it is not possible to provide a detailed account of the agricultural and economic practices on the strength of two samples, the results do provide a useful record of the cereals cultivated and some hints as to the soils utilised. Bread-type free-threshing wheat, oats, barley and rye were all being cultivated. Rivet wheat is unlikely to have been available at this time and is not represented in the assemblage. The weed flora suggests the cultivation of an autumn sown variety of wheat. Weed floras of rye and of cultivated legumes also appear to be represented. Both heavy calcareous clay soils and lighter acid sandy soils appear to have been cultivated.

Discussion of the 1996 Excavation

These investigations represent the first controlled excavation within the town centre of Marlow and have proved useful in illuminating our understanding of the origins and development of the town.

Evidence for land use prior to the medieval period consisted of a dozen struck flints and three sherds, including one from a Beaker. It is of interest (see below) that a second Beaker sherd and human bone were recovered from adjacent excavations. This might indicate the former presence of one or more burials of this period which have been disturbed by later activity.

The early history of Marlow has been described in the Introduction. The excavation showed that the High Street was in existence by the 13th century, when it was fronted by a timber-framed building, possibly later rebuilt or substantially repaired. The absence of any medieval land boundaries at the site indicates that it lay within a single plot of land. A large number of pits were dug throughout the late 11th to 13th century, presumably by successive occupants of the building. In the late 11th to 12th century, domestic waste was primarily dumped within pits, rather than allowed to accumulate above ground. By the 13th to early 14th century the high percentage of secondary refuse within the pits suggests the accumulation of surface middens. In the 14th to 15th century (Phase IV) there was an increase again in primary discard below ground, although a considerable quantity of primary material became incorporated within a deep soil layer, which had developed over the southern half of the plot.

It is not known when the medieval building was demolished. The 14th/15th centuries saw a dramatic reduction in activity at the site, which accords with documentary evidence for a decline in this period (Brown & Hunt 1994). Following this lull, which lasted throughout the late medieval and Tudor periods, the 17th and 18th centuries brought renewed activity at the site, involving the construction of a cellared building and at least two revetted pits, which may have been used for storage. This revival was reflected by an increase in construction, trade and commerce across Marlow, and a sudden expansion of the town.

It was during the latter part of this period that Thomas Wethered established the brewery and later acquired the area of these investigations, bringing an end to the primarily domestic use of the site. Throughout the 19th century, the site was used as a timber yard and stables, and it is likely that the various brick-lined pits on the site relate to one or other of these activities.

The brewery expanded over subsequent years to become the main employer in the town. What must have been a memorable diversion from the everyday routine is commemorated by an unstratified find (not catalogued): a small button marked "Marlow FC Supporters Club", possibly lost by one of the employees at the brewery. The club, which was founded in 1870, made the semi-finals of the FA cup in 1887 (Brown & Hunt 1994).

Investigations Subsequent to the Above Excavation

by M Wells and J Hender

From November 1996 to 2013 there have been further investigations at the brewery site (Fig. 23).

In November 1996, an archaeological evaluation (Fig. 23, outlined in blue) at the former brewery site was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLAS) on behalf of Berkeley Homes (Holder 1996). The evaluation revealed evidence of 18th and 19th-century horticulture and part of an 18th century building of the early Wethered brewery. No medieval or earlier archaeological features were identified.

In 1998 a watching brief (Fig. 23, coloured green) was carried out at the brewery site by MOLAS (Elsden 1999) during the excavation of service trenches in the brewery courtyard. The earliest feature on site appeared to be represented by a probable 17th-century cess pit fill. Assemblages of 16th to 18th-century pottery, 17th and 18th-century glass bottles, as well as some clay pipes, animal bone and lead shot were derived from cultivated soil layers. Evidence of 19th or 20th-century structures was found, but no medieval or earlier archaeological features were identified.

In June 1999, an excavation (Fig. 23, coloured red) was carried out at the former brewery site by MOLAS (Hoad & Howe 1999). The excavation revealed evidence of 17th and 18th-century horticulture in the form of a cultivated soil horizon, from which numerous fragments of pottery dating from the medieval period onwards were recovered. Features recorded on the site comprised

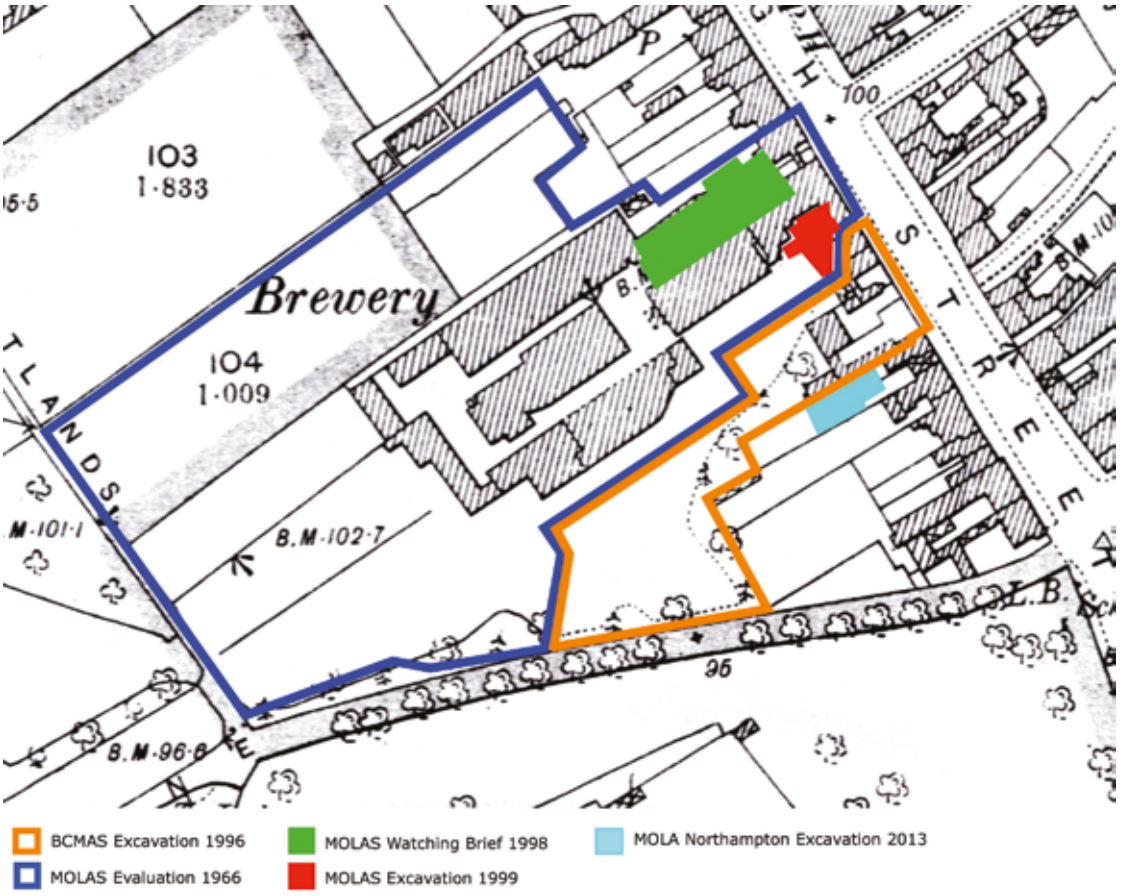

FIGURE 23 Other archaeological investigations at Marlow Brewery

three capped wells, two of which were chalk lined, a possible construction cut for a fourth well, two foundation walls containing re-used chalk and flint blocks and part of a 19th century brick drain. These probably all related to the early Wethered brewery. The report concluded that no earlier archaeological remains survived to the rear of the High Street on this site.

In 2013, an open-area excavation and watching brief (Fig. 23, coloured turquoise) were undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA Northampton), on land to the rear of 90 High Street, prior to redevelopment of the site (Markus 2016). A medieval pit, dated by the pottery finds to the 12th-14th centuries, contained a single sherd of early Bronze Age Beaker pottery and a pile of redeposited disarticulated human bones from two juveniles, which have been radiocarbon dated to the early Bronze Age. The Beaker sherd was similar to the small sherd found in context (371) of the excavation reported above. While only two medieval pits survived, sealed by a soil horizon, the small assemblage of medieval pottery comprised a range of domestic wares, probably from nearby buildings on the street frontage. Above and disturbing the soil horizon was a small building with chalk walls, constructed no earlier than the later 16th century. The presence of brick additions indicates a long period of use and refurbishment into the 18th century and perhaps extending into the later 19th century. Thereafter, it formed part of a garden area to the rear of the street frontage.

Acknowledgements

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