

# ◆ Refining the biography of a marketplace tenement

A RECENT EXCAVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIVE SURVEY AT 'THE MARLIPINS', SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, WEST SUSSEX

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with a major contribution by  
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*In advance of its recent redevelopment, The Marlipins — New Shoreham's sole remaining known medieval vernacular building and a local museum since the 1920s — was subjected to a programme of archaeological survey and recording which has shed new light on its constructional history. Emphasis is placed on integrating new details relating to the earliest (12th-century) phase of the building, including the tree-ring dates returned by the heavy timber joists spanning the ground floor, which must now have a strong claim to be the earliest in-situ survivals of domestic structural timber-work in Sussex, and the buried foundations for a previously unknown north wall incorporating a rectangular stone-lined pit — interpreted as the subterranean remnant of a first-floor garderobe. In addition to refining the chronology of its constituent phases, the opportunity is taken to reassess the likely function of the building as originally intended. A wider archaeological context for the historic range was provided by the results of an adjoining excavation which uncovered the footings for a medieval timber building or buildings, a group of medieval and post-medieval pits and foundations for 18th- and 19th-century workshops and sheds. Finds from this sequence included the first closely-dated assemblages of post-medieval pottery and glass to have been recovered from the town.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Marlipins, a grade II\* listed building, occupies a corner plot at the junction between High Street and Middle Street, within the historic core of New Shoreham (Fig. 1). Upheld as a classic representative of a Norman planned town and established within a generation of the Conquest by William de Braose, New Shoreham grew to prominence during the 12th and 13th centuries as a major port and shipbuilding centre before experiencing — like many other Sussex port towns — a serious late medieval decline at the hands of an unstable coastal geomorphology which compromised the viability of its harbour (Beresford 1988, 80, 180; Elrington 1980, 138–48). Whilst some uncertainty surrounds the exact layout of the medieval street plan, there can be little doubt that High Street (formerly Procession Street) was one of the most important thoroughfares in the town: it was occupied by the site of the medieval market and funnelled traffic to and from the site of the early medieval harbour located, before the eastwards deflection of the mouth of the river

Adur, on the western side of the town.<sup>1</sup> Middle Street formed one of a series of parallel north–south lanes, but one lane away from that which forms the western side of the rectangular precinct enclosing the mother church of St Mary de Haura, located some 170 m north-east of The Marlipins.

The site is otherwise located on alluvial Head and Brickearth (Geological Survey Sheet 333) which slopes gently towards the harbour frontage on the south side of High Street from a maximum elevation of 6 m.

The Marlipins was last interrogated archaeologically over 80 years ago by Arthur B. Packham in anticipation of its transferral from private ownership into the guardianship of the Sussex Archaeological Trust (Packham 1924). By the standards of its day this is a commendably thorough study containing cogent arguments that the building enshrines the core of a 12th-century structure extensively rebuilt and upgraded in the 14th century. To the latter phase he attributed *inter alia* the celebrated southern façade — complete with its original doorways, windows and decorative chequerwork — previously thought by some to be

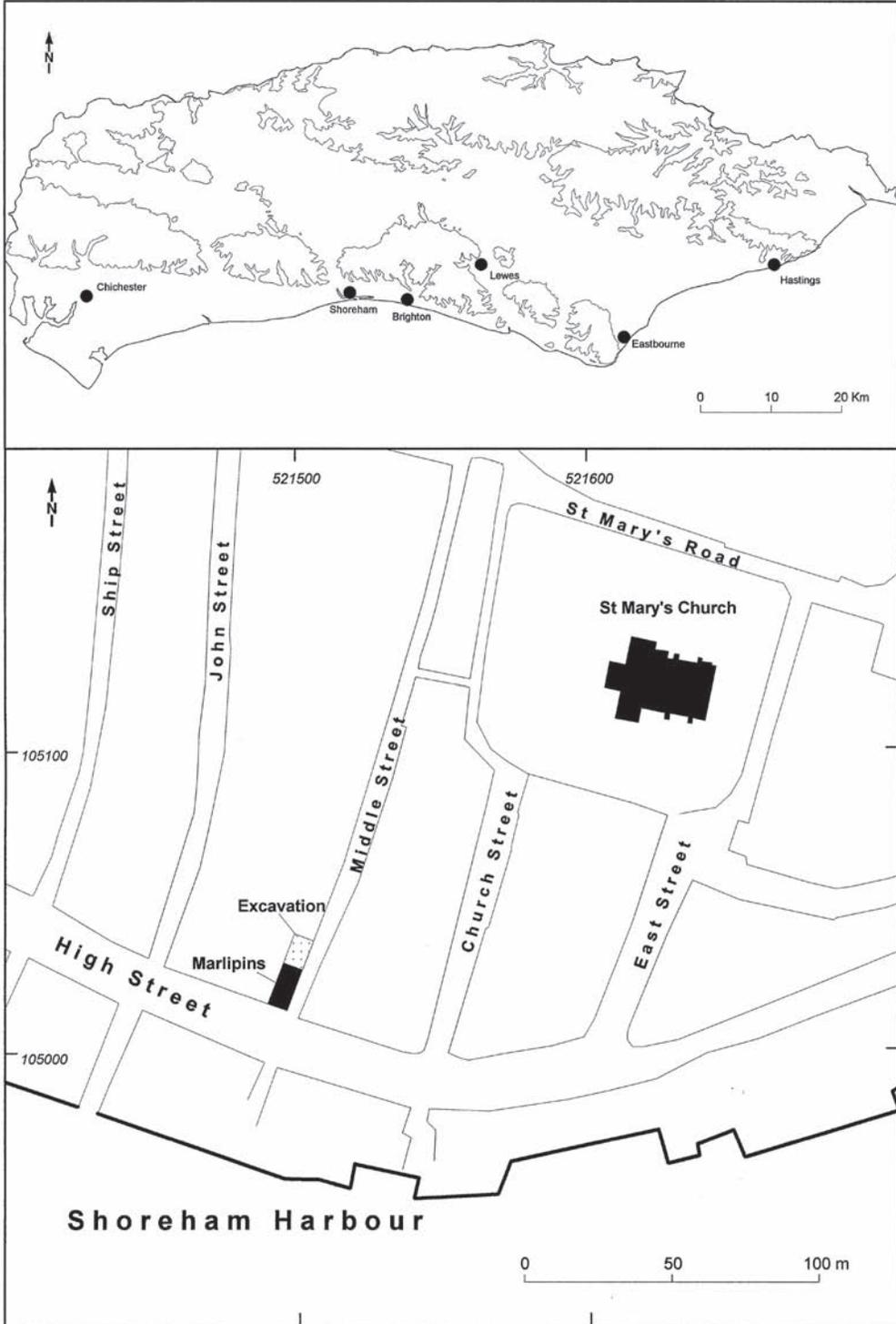


Fig. 1. The Marlipins: site location.

a post-Dissolution aggrandisement using materials robbed from the nearby parish church of St Mary de Haura. As was the primary intention of his study, Packham also demolished a series of spurious theories relating to the function of the building, several invoking an explicitly ecclesiastical connection, and cleared the path for the more realistic (if somewhat overly-specific) suggestion that it served as a store and collection-point for customary payments claimed by the Braose family, who held the town as lords of the rape of Bramber. Whilst partly based on etymological speculation that fails to stand up to modern scrutiny (Coates 1990), a commercial function is one that nevertheless receives strong independent support from the building's location, and suggested layout, as reviewed below.

Notwithstanding advances in understanding brought about by Packham's study, the deployment of modern techniques of archaeological recording both above and below ground provides a new basis for updating and augmenting previous research. Aside from recovering previously unrecorded features with a bearing on the appearance of the building in its earliest guise, these techniques have allowed the constructional history of The Marlipins to be refined and its constituent phases to be dated with greater precision. For the first time an attempt can also be made to place the standing building within its wider archaeological context. Owing to editorial constraints, the following text necessarily concentrates on what is new, particularly on evidence relating to the earliest phase of the building and on archaeological discoveries made to the rear of the historic range. The reader is referred to the ADS for full architectural descriptions of all four constructional phases as identified by the recent building survey.

## METHODOLOGY<sup>2</sup>

The archaeological survey and recording here reported was initiated following a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to modernise the museum housed within The Marlipins, which at the time included galleries within both floors of the historic range and a communicating northern ground-floor annexe added to the museum in 1935. The centrepiece of the redevelopment involved the replacement of the northern annexe by a two-storey structure to be constructed upon the same footprint.

Archaeologically sensitive aspects of this design, as highlighted in the archaeological brief,<sup>3</sup> chiefly related to the punching of new ground- and first-floor access points through the fabric of the north wall (albeit through what were then thought to be 19th-century or later intrusions), to accommodate the insertion of a new floor and the reduction of the ground level within the footprint by 1.4 m.

In order to gauge the impact of these works an archaeological evaluation, informed by the excavation of three test-pits, was undertaken by the Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) in the interior of the single-storey annexe in February 2002 (Thomas 2002). The highlight of this work was the unexpected discovery of a substantial buried foundation on the exterior side of the historic north wall (then located in a cross-passage separating the historic range from the modern annexe). Evidence gleaned within the remainder of the footprint included a sequence of stratified pits — partly preserved under an accumulation of garden soil — spanning the medieval and post-medieval periods together with stone foundations relating to later usage of the plot to the north of The Marlipins. Overall, the extent and survival of archaeological features was shown to warrant full-scale excavation of the footprint.

During the same period, to anticipate the discovery of new structural information relating to The Marlipins, the Historic Buildings Division of Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological interpretative survey of the historic range with the intention of updating Packham's previous study (Packham 1924). To provide an absolute dating framework for this updated building sequence, English Heritage also commissioned a dendrochronological survey (Bridge 2002), the results of which are incorporated within the relevant sections of the interpretative survey.

Following the demolition of the northern annexe and the removal of sections of modern paint and render, a full photographic and drawn record was made of the north wall, both externally and internally, ahead of the main excavation (records relating to this work are deposited with the excavation archive). A further phase of recording took place during a watching-brief imposed upon works associated with the insertion of a new ground-floor doorway through the north wall, which provided important evidence for constructional changes to the north end of the

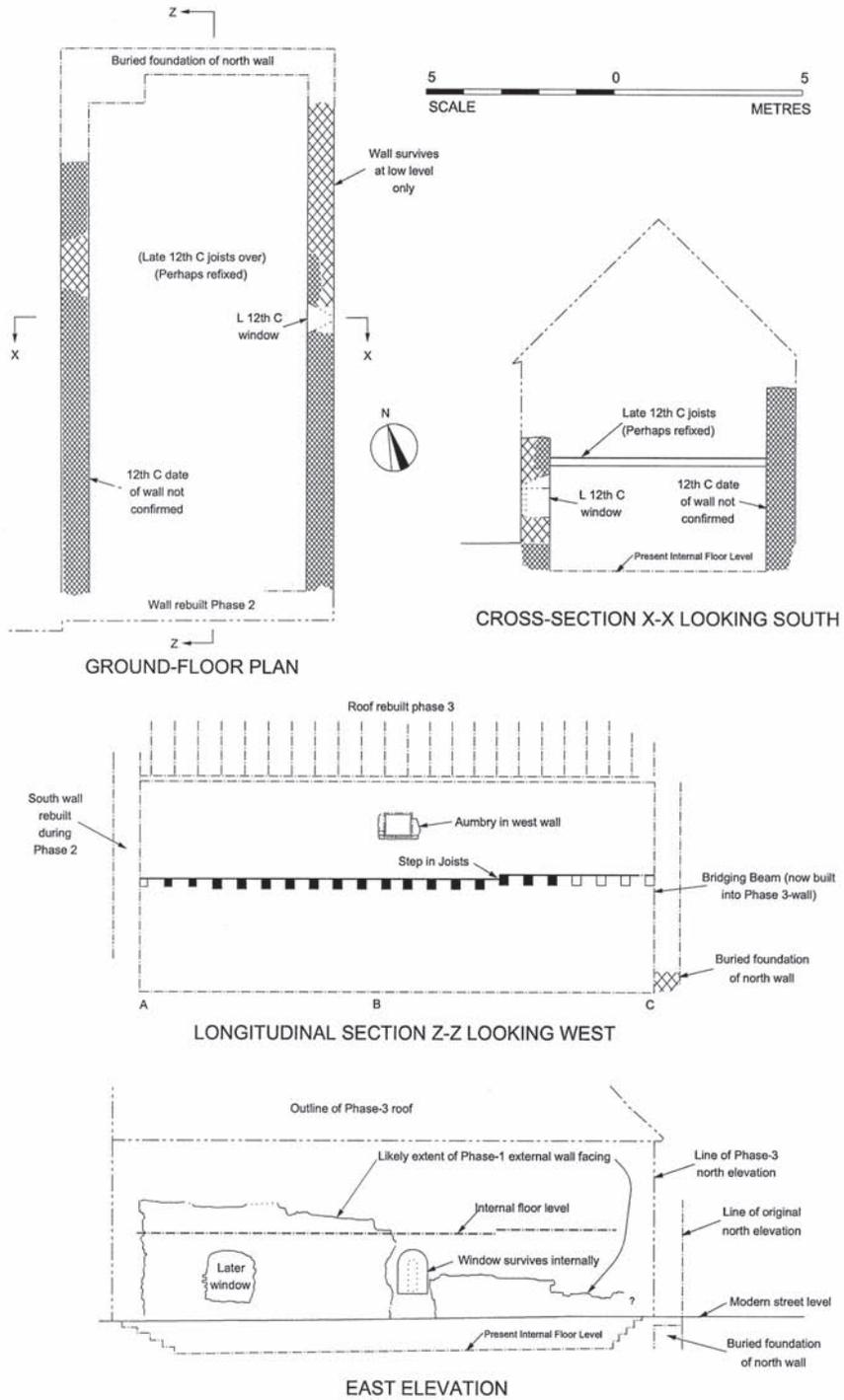


Fig. 2. The Marlipins: Phase-1 constructional details.

historic range. Close liaison with the architect, The Hunt Partnership, ensured the *in situ* preservation of newly uncovered historic fabric for display within the new gallery space.

The excavation was undertaken during four weeks in February and March 2003 by a small team comprising two professional site staff aided by volunteers from both the Sussex Archaeological Society and The Shoreham Society, under the overall direction of the author, then Research Officer for SAS. Following the demolition of the single-storey annexe a JCB and spoil remover were used for preliminary ground clearance and the extraction of the garden soil. The latter was removed in 100mm spits and the surface of each new spit was scanned by members of the West Sussex Metal Detector Club; the remainder of the area and the stratigraphy beneath the garden soil was excavated by hand.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
INTERPRETATIVE SURVEY OF THE  
STANDING BUILDING

By David & Barbara Martin

**SUMMARY OF PHASING** (Figs 2–5)

The Marlipins is a two-storey, rectangular flint-built structure, the ground floor of which is located partially below modern street level. It is aligned upon a NNE–SSW axis (hereafter assumed N–S) with its principal elevation fronting on to High Street; adjoining immediately to the west is the Marlipins public house.

The earliest datable architectural feature within the building is a 12th-century (Phase 1) round-headed lancet window incorporated within the east wall (Fig. 2). Although much rebuilt, sufficient survives of this wall to indicate the existence of a two-storeyed building upon the site, and it is likely that, although devoid of datable features, the 12th-century western wall also survives largely intact. In contrast, the entire southern end wall and a greater part of its opposite have been rebuilt, the latter on a foreshortened alignment to the original north wall, the foundations for which were revealed in the recent programme of recording and excavation. Interpretation of the newly-exposed fabric suggests that the NW corner of the original range was occupied by a garderobe chute housed within a corner turret. This emptied into a stone-

lined pit (incorporated within the foundations) with relieving arches to support the weight of the walls above and also to facilitate internal access for the purposes of cleaning. Of the original flooring, tree-ring dating has shown that the heavy joists supporting the first floor date from the close of the 12th century and, although possibly refixed, are likely to be *in situ* (Bridge 2002).

During Phase 2 (late 13th/early 14th century?) the front wall and upper part of the east wall was rebuilt and the first-floor joisting was strengthened by inserting a bridging beam supported by an arcade of three Samson posts with arch bracing (Figs 3 & 4). The southernmost of these posts has been dated by tree-ring analysis to 1276–1308 (Bridge 2002). Presumably at this period the building was re-roofed, perhaps to an eaves level slightly higher than before. The front wall, the building's principal feature, is faced in a checkerboard pattern and incorporates four original openings. There are two doorways — one leading down to the ground floor and the other — via a staircase — directly to the upper floor. There was no internal intercommunication between the two levels, which could thus be let separately. Deeds of 1346 and 1478 merely refer to the building as 'a stone corner tenement which is called Malduppinne' (Packham 1924, 188).

In Phase 3 (2nd half of the 15th century?) the northern wall was for some uncertain reason reconstructed immediately to the south of its predecessor, necessitating the shortening of the internal bridging beam and with it the dismantling of the northern Samson post (Fig. 5). The roof was entirely rebuilt using very plain crown-post construction; one of the rafters sampled for tree-ring dating has an estimated felling date of after 1445. There is some evidence to suggest that the northern first-floor section may have been used at this period as a dovecote or for a similar function, for its walls appear to incorporate nest boxes (now blocked). A window inserted into the southern end of the east wall may belong to this period. It is worth noting that deeds from 1488 onwards refer to the property as 'a certain cellar and a chamber or loft above the cellar built . . . called Malapynnys' (Packham 1924, 189).

During Phase 4 (late 16th century?) an upper floor was inserted into the first-floor space (an event tree-ring dated to between 1567–1599) and the roof structure was modified in order to make

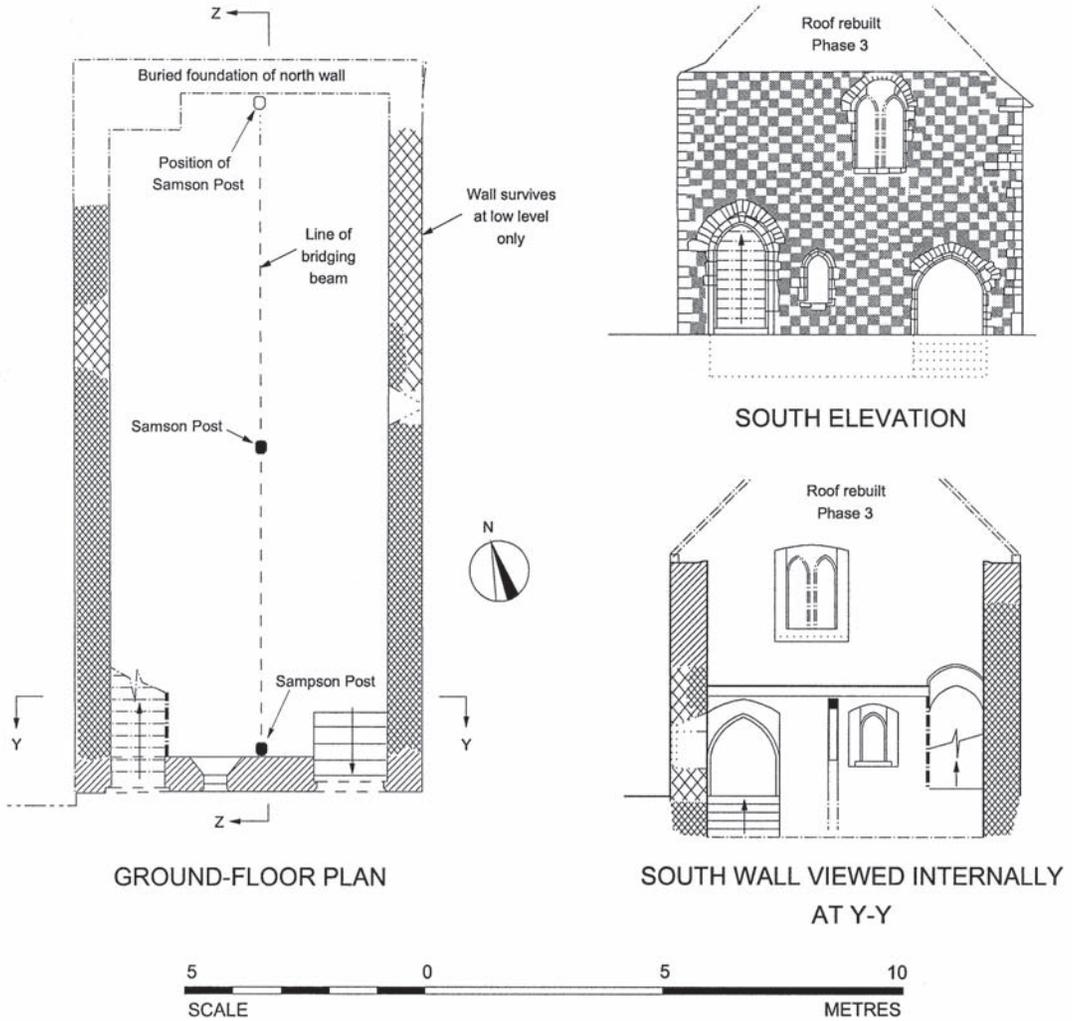


Fig. 3. The Marlipins: Phase-2 constructional details.

the roof void more usable (Fig. 5). It is also possible that a window was inserted into the west elevation. At this period the building still contained a single room on each floor, both independently accessed from the exterior. The structure appears still to have functioned as a pair of warehouses/workshops — one on each storey.

Since Phase 4 there have been a number of alterations, most of which have been minor, though there has been some reconstruction at the northern end, particularly in the northern wall and at the northern end of the east wall. A drawing made by S. H. Grimm in the 1780s shows that

already by that date the first-floor window in the south wall had lost its tracery, whilst in the east wall the southern ground-floor window had had its external opening enlarged and the 12th-century window had been converted into a doorway. Two apparently blocked windows are shown on the first floor of this wall: one quite large towards the southern end and a much smaller opening a little to the north of the 12th-century ground-floor window. The illustration shows no buildings to either the north or west, but this is likely to be because only Marlipins itself was drawn, for the Marlipins public house immediately to the west

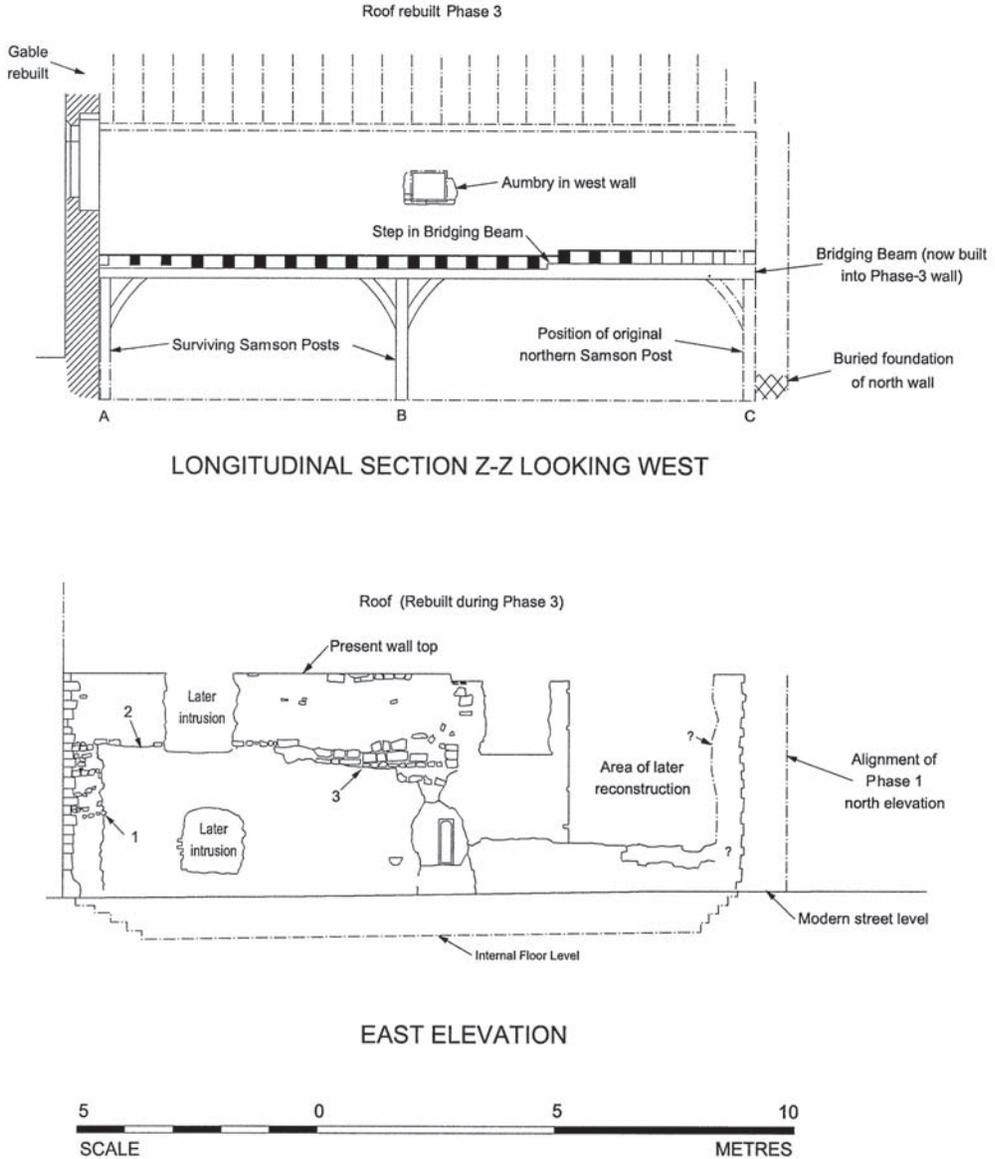


Fig. 4. The Marlipins: Phase-2 constructional details.

certainly existed by that date (drawing reproduced in Packham 1924, fig. 3). In 1806 the building remained in use as a warehouse, being described in that year as 'a warehouse or storehouse called or usually known by the name of The Marlipins' (Packham 1924, 193). A drawing made by John Buckler in 1822 (British Library Add. MS. 36,390 f.22) shows the building from a similar angle

to that adopted by Grimm, complete with The Marlipins public house and a two-storeyed building attached against the northern wall. It also shows a further small ground-floor window in the east wall, to the north of the former 12th-century window, but it does not indicate the large blocked window towards the southern end at first-floor level. Associated with the northern addition, a

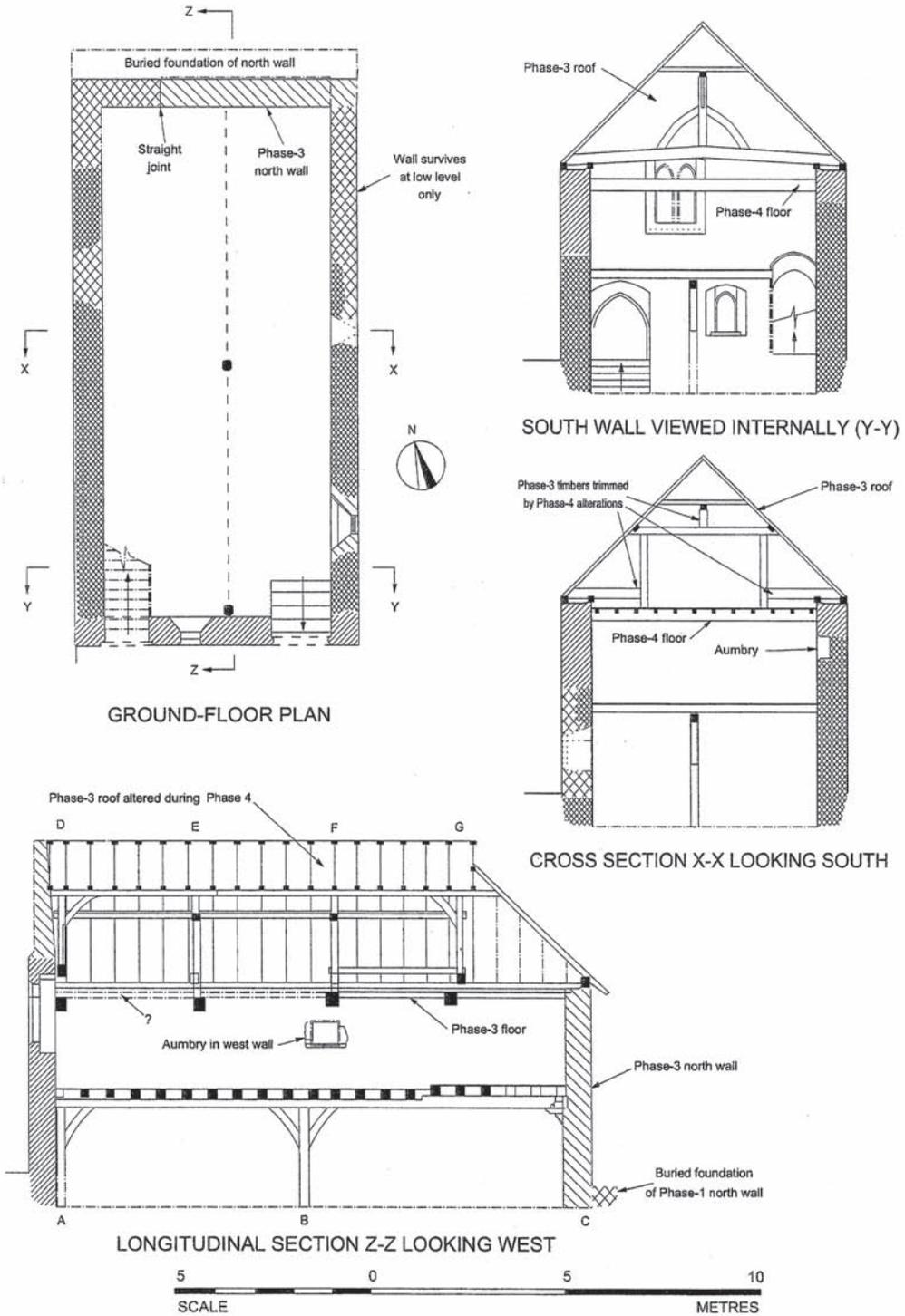


Fig. 5. The Marlipins: Phase-3 and Phase-4 constructional details.

wide ground-floor recess (perhaps a fireplace) was incorporated into the northern wall (facing north) and at some subsequent date doorways had been inserted into both this and the first-floor wall above, connecting the northern building to the old part. The building was shown in almost identical form in a drawing by Richard Henry Nibbs dated February 22 [18]51. Subsequently, late in the 19th century the northern end of the east elevation was rebuilt to incorporate two large first-floor windows which internally extended down to the first floor with a fireplace incorporated into the jamb between them. A matching window was intruded at the southern end of the same wall (Marlipins Museum, photo refs: SHORM 89/734 and 95/2647.4) and brick strengthenings were incorporated into the corners. The two-storeyed northern building still survived in 1924 (Packham 1924), but was subsequently demolished and the openings through the north wall blocked (Marlipins Museum, SHORM 95/2647.10). By this date the doorway cut through the 12th-century window had been blocked and this and the southern ground-floor window returned to something resembling their original form. In 1935 a single-storeyed annexe was built over the site of the former northern two-storeyed range, a new ground-floor doorway was cut through to connect the two, and modifications were made to the interior of the late-19th-century windows in the east wall — this included blocking the fireplace. By 1950 the northern hip was in poor repair and it was rebuilt and the roof was strengthened.

#### **DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF PHASE I (PROBABLY 1167–1197)**

##### **Layout**

The initial late-12th-century phase of the building comprised a rectangular structure measuring 15.40 m north–south by 7.15 m east–west externally (Figs 2 & 3). That the present ground floor is located approximately 850 mm below current street level has usually been taken to denote that the first building was quasi-celled. However, somewhat surprisingly, recording of the Phase-1 foundations has shown that the original floor was located at ground level (*see below*).

The ceiling of the ground-floor area is formed by massive joists which span the building in one length. Two of these have been tree-ring dated: one produced a felling date of 1165–1197. In the other the heart/sap boundary could not be determined

with absolute confidence, but the last intact ring dated to 1160 and (assuming the heart/sap boundary to be correct) produced a felling date of 1169–1201 (Bridge 2002). The joists are therefore very likely to belong to the phase-1 building. The timbers are built into the walls at each end and are likely to be *in situ*, though given that the extent of the surviving phase-1 walls is uncertain (*see below*) the possibility that the timbers have been refixed cannot be entirely ruled out. If they are *in situ*, the lack of any evidence for former internal partitions implies that the ground-floor area formed a single space.

Although the upper levels have been rebuilt, it is thought that much of the Phase-1 east wall survives to a maximum of 900 mm above first-floor level, whilst it is likely that virtually all of the west wall still stands to a height of 1.85 m above the first floor (Fig. 2). The straightness of the visible joint which indicates where the latter wall has been raised suggests that the underside of the raising indicates the wall's original full height. It is impossible to say whether this upper level was a single room or divided by partitions; neither is it known whether it was open to its roof or incorporated a ceiling.

##### **The external walls and their architectural features**

The elevation of the eastern wall is the only one which contains a Phase-1 architectural feature above ground level and even this wall has been much rebuilt: the southern end during Phase 2 and the northern end during the late 19th century. The latter work appears to have retained much of the original core and internal facing up to the level of the first-floor joists, but involved refacing the upper part of the ground floor externally. The early sections of wall are faced in coursed flints, mostly un-knapped but selected for size and laid in copious amounts of mortar in order to accommodate the irregularities in the flints. Although the west wall contains no datable architectural features and cannot therefore be positively identified as being of Phase-1 date, the visible details are very similar in character, and this is also the case with the western portion of the north wall on the ground floor argued below to represent the southern wall of a corner garderobe chute.

The southern Phase-1 wall was entirely rebuilt during phase 2, though alternating dressed quoins incorporated into the eastern jamb of the Phase-2

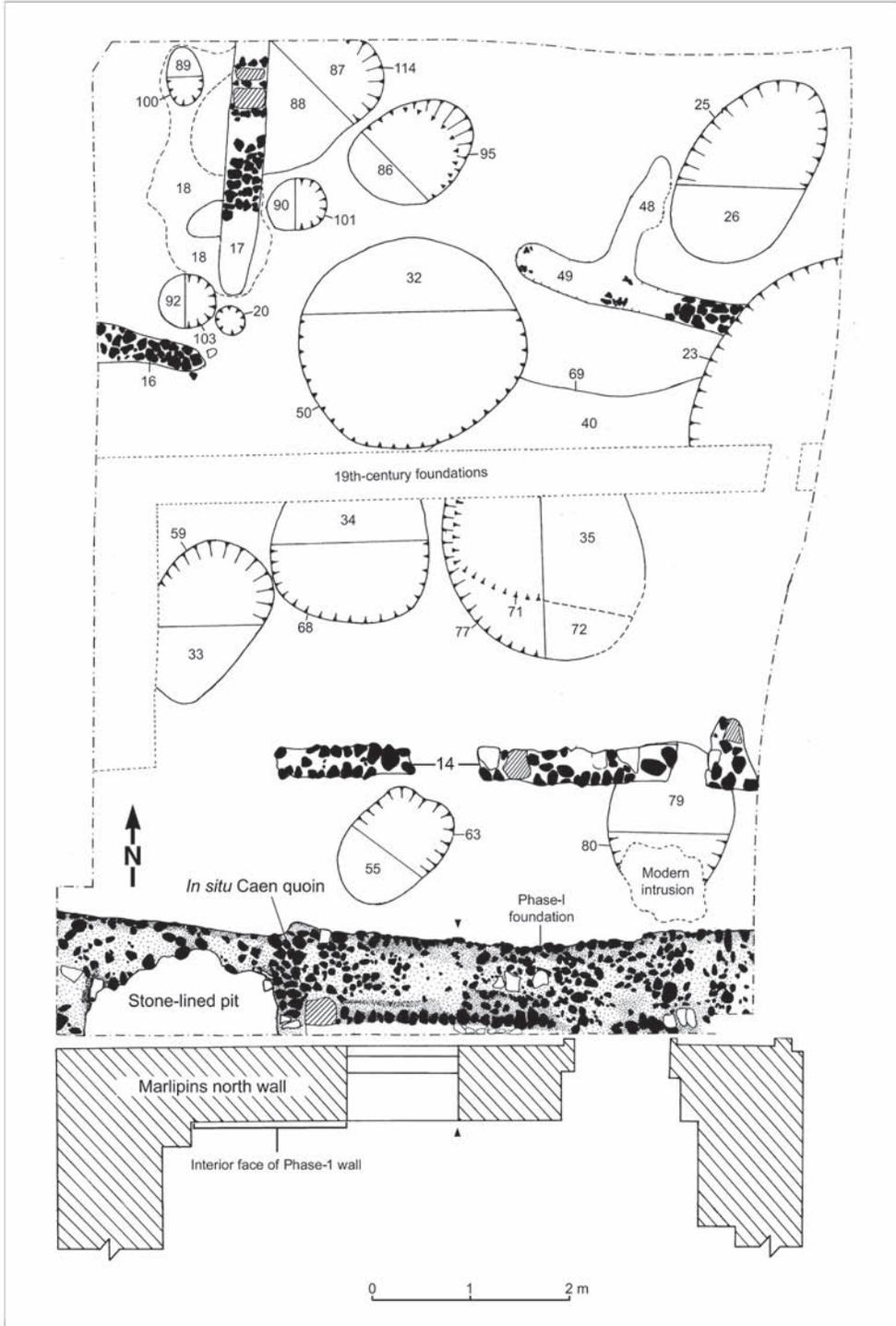


Fig. 6. Features excavated within annexe footprint.

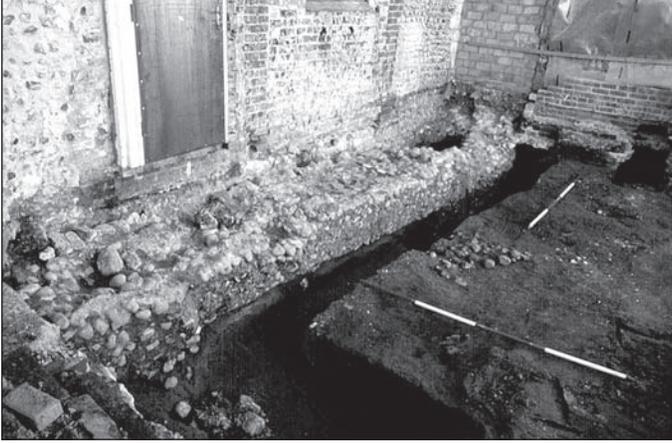


Fig. 7. The Marlipins, the north-wall foundation looking south west.

eastern doorway in line with the present northern face of the wall indicates where the internal face of the Phase-1 wall formerly turned, confirming that its alignment was identical to that of the later work. When the wall was rebuilt incorporating the present eastern doorway, every alternate quoin stone was removed because it projected westwards and would have fouled the new opening.

The surviving Phase-1 lancet window is located approximately halfway along the length of the eastern wall and only retains original work on the interior. The reason for this is that the opening was widened and converted into a doorway during the 18th century — it was restored back into a window after 1924. Luckily, the dressed Caen stone quoins of the steeply splayed jambs, together with the voussoirs of the round-headed rear arch escaped intact when the doorway was punched through. Although the lower quoin stones were replaced during the restoration, photographs taken prior to the repair clearly show the original height of the window (Packham 1924, fig. 2). The angle of the splayed jambs and head indicate that the external opening would have been no more than 150–200 mm wide and about 0.7 m high.

The only ancient architectural feature contained within the west wall is a blocked and badly damaged locker recess or aumbry (Fig. 2). Located approximately halfway along the wall on the first floor, the dressed stones which make up its surround have mostly shattered and been roughly repaired in cement mortar. However, the Caen-stone cill is intact, as too is the lower stone of the

southern jamb. Both appear to be reddened (?by fire) and are rebated for a door which would have been set flush with the internal face of the wall. Sufficient survives of the shattered lintel to indicate that the recess was square-headed. It measured 0.68 m wide by 0.55 m high and was set with its cill 1.20 m off the floor. It is not clear whether the feature is of Phase-1 date, or whether it was intruded during either Phase 2 or 3.

#### Floors and stairs

The first floor is carried by 22 massive joists which span the building in one length with their

ends built into the east and west walls (some ends had rotted overtime and were 'accro-ed up' during the late 1920s restoration and re-fixed: Cheal & Browning 1928). The southernmost joist and four at the northern end represent replacements, but otherwise all appear to be original. They are entirely plain. In scantling they vary in section from 240–260 mm wide by 250–255 mm deep and are of sufficient size to span the 5.80 m (19'0") internal width of the building without any intermediate support. However, they are now strengthened from beneath at near centre span by a spine beam supported by Samson posts (Figs 3 & 4). The design of the supporting structure is typical of the form of construction used during and prior to the early 14th century. Therefore, all could be of one date, except that the tree-ring analysis suggests that the Samson posts are approximately 100 years younger than the joists. As noted above, it is possible that the joists were re-fixed in their present position during the phase-2 alterations. However, there is a strong likelihood that the joists are *in situ* and that the spine beam and Samson posts were merely added to strengthen the joists during Phase 2.

If the joists belong to Phase 1, the only possible location for an internal staircase is in the south-western corner, where the present staircase is located and where it is known the stairs have been sited since c. 1300. However, the possibility that the building was entered through an external first-floor doorway should always be borne in mind.

## THE EXCAVATED NORTH-WALL FOUNDATION

### Exterior features

Excavation below a 19th-century chalk floor alongside the standing north wall of the historic range exposed a substantial flint foundation on a near parallel alignment (Figs 6, 7 & 8A). It comprised two trench-built sections displaying flint facings and a flint rubble core. The shallower, ranging from 480–550 mm deep and 0.86 m to 1.01 m wide, extended from the eastern quoin of the present north wall for a distance of 4.80 m. The original trench for this section had neat vertical sides and an uneven bottom and was filled with a mix of flint and mortar capped by a single coursed row of knapped flints just above ground/floor level. The outer flint facings of this upper course survived substantially intact, the southern side terminating in a Caen stone quoin — the archaeological significance of which is discussed below (Fig. 6). Comparison of the northern with the southern face (in cross-section) revealed that the change from a rough flint and mortar mix to neatly coursed flint capping was uniform across the foundation, thereby confirming that exterior ground level and interior floor level were originally the same and that the current floor level (400 mm below that of Phase 1) must have been achieved after a subsequent phase of ground reduction. The sunken appearance of the ground floor is thus largely due to street-level rise.

The western section of foundation, which extended for a distance of 2.20 m up to the modern western partition wall, was sunk in excess of 2 m below the contemporary ground level to accommodate an interior, stone-lined pit. A joint observed in the northern face of the foundation at the point where the two sections abut confirmed that they belonged to the same general phase, with the deeper section having been constructed first (Fig. 8A). Owing to health and safety restrictions, the precise form of the lower external portion of the foundation and its overall external depth were not established.

### Relationship to the extant building

Monitoring the building works associated with the creation of north-wall access provided direct evidence for the physical relationship between the outer foundation and its successor (Fig. 8B). A straight joint between the younger (Phase-3) north wall and the pre-existing foundation was

observed in both sections of the cutting, the two builds being additionally distinguished by differential mortar compositions and, in the case of the younger wall, a greater frequency of chalk and Caen-stone inclusions. The west-facing section provided a valuable piece of evidence in the form of a post-hole lined with a large Horsham slab on its southern side. Located directly in between the two walls on an alignment coincident with the internal timber bridging beam, this clearly marked the original position of the missing northern supporting Samson post removed when the north end of the range was foreshortened in Phase 3.<sup>4</sup> The survival of the post-hole can be attributed to the fact that the post was evidently left *in situ* to provide structural support while the wall was being rebuilt.

### INTERIOR OF THE STONE-LINED PIT (Figs 9 & 10)

The top of the stone-lined pit was first recognized as a loose, semi-circular area of fill within the western portion of the Phase-1 foundation (Fig. 9A). Its semicircular form was defined by a mortar capping used to consolidate the top of the shaft prior to the erection of the present (Phase-3) north wall, by which the shaft is partially obscured. As part of this process of consolidation, the upper section of the shaft was deliberately filled with demolition rubble (22) comprising a matrix of degraded mortar containing flints, Caen stone (which incorporated several architectural fragments) and Horsham slab and tile. This in turn overlay a sequence of deposits evidently tipped into the shaft through an internal opening lying directly under the line of the current north wall (Fig. 10, section C–D). These comprised a central layer (81) with dark organic friable lenses (rich in environmental remains and fresh conjoining sherds from a 15th-century cooking-pot) sandwiched between two layers of redeposited natural clay (82) and (85). These deposits overlay a thin, discontinuous floor of rammed chalk (93) voids within which the surface of the underlying natural subsoil was exposed.

In form, the pit may be described as a rectangular roofless chamber, 2.88 m deep with internal dimensions of 1.92 m by 0.96 m at floor level. The narrower opposing east and west faces are lined with roughly hewn Caen stone for their lower courses, largely obscured by patches of mortar facing, above which is a band of up to six courses of neatly laid flints and chalk (Fig. 9B, C & D). A fragmentary chalk arch displaying

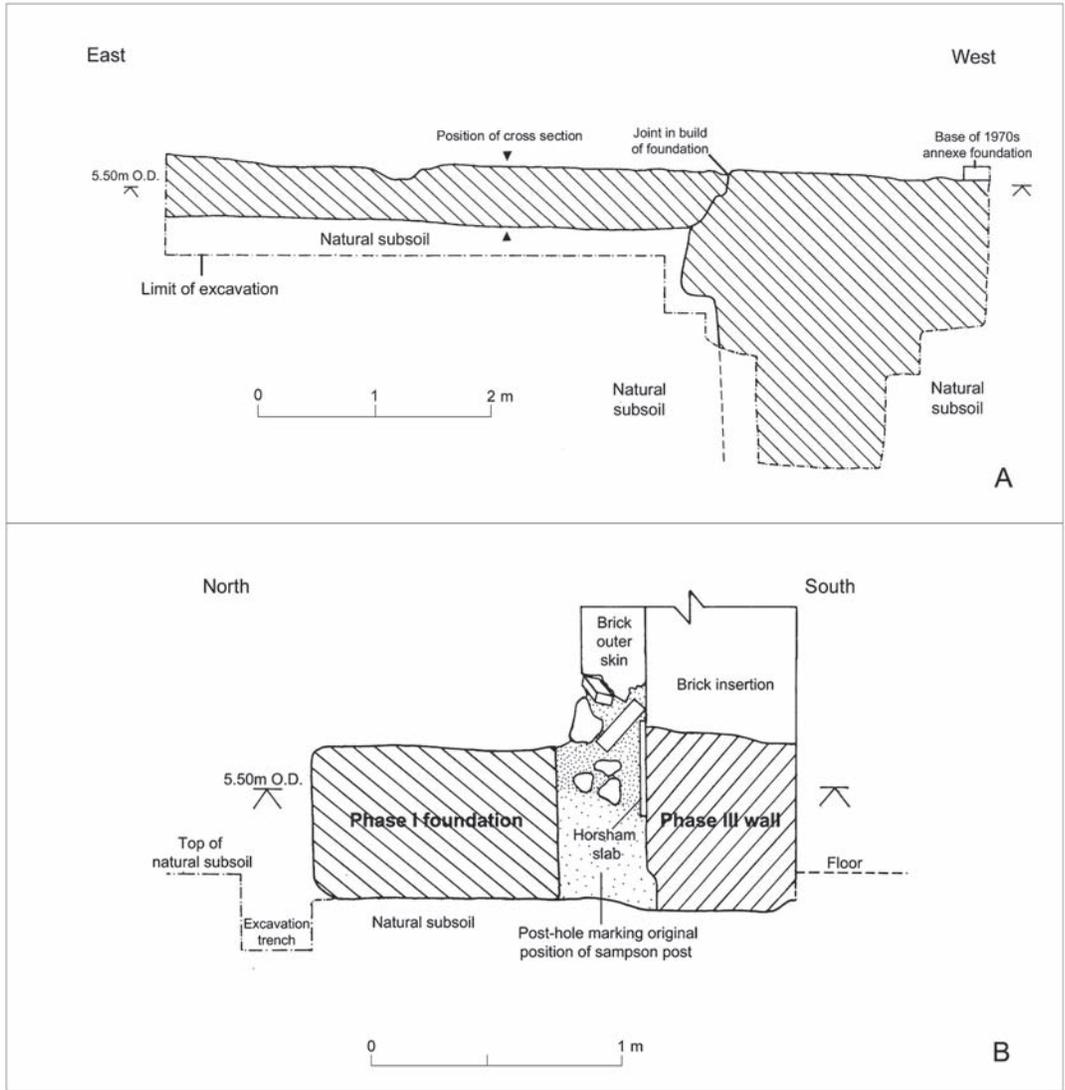


Fig. 8. The Marlipins, north elevation and cross-section of north-wall foundation.

a maximum width of 360 mm springs from the uppermost of these neat courses, (Figs 9B & 10). Whilst the central voussoirs of the arch are missing, its original, pointed form can be reconstructed from the configuration of flints within the north face of the chamber, which reveals that the top of the arch would have projected just above floor level. The quality of the build to the south of the arch, substantially comprising chalk with lesser quantities of flint, contrasts with the neatly laid courses below, perhaps indicating some form of

blocking or secondary alteration.

The north face is similarly distinguished by having predominantly Caen stone for its lower courses, replaced above by neatly coursed flint with occasional chalk blocks (Figs 9B & 10, Section A–B). Evidence for the construction of the chalk arch was provided by clear impressions of the shuttering boards in the mortar forming the soffit of the arch.

The southern face of the chamber is spanned by a second chalk arch, 2.04 m in height from



A



B



C



D

Fig. 9. The Marlipins, interior details of foundation pit showing (A) west wall and floor (B) north face with fragmentary remains of northern retaining arch (C) upper section of east face (D) lower section of east face showing chalk impost of southern arch.

floor to apex, which projects directly under the line of the extant north wall. The eastern side of the arch is sprung from a projecting chalk impost which rises 0.58 m from the floor of the shaft (Figs 9D & 10 section B–C), whereas its western side is sprung integrally from the shaft's western face. Exploratory probing behind the arch (excavation was discontinued owing to the danger of undermining the overlying north wall) established the presence of a cavity filled with

demolition material and clay derived from the same source as that responsible for the fill sequence within the main space of the shaft. The cavity was found to project above the height of the arch, suggesting that the latter is unlikely to mark the entrance to a tunnel extending south beneath the ground floor of the historic range. A more likely alternative is that it represents a means by which internal, floor-level access was gained into the pit, perhaps via a flight of steps. Unfortunately, a Ground Penetrating Radar survey undertaken by English Heritage failed to establish the extent of the sub-floor cavity, so this attribution must remain speculative.

#### Interpretation and reconstruction

The likeliest interpretation for the stone-lined feature is that it served as a cesspit for a garderobe. Extant examples of garderobes are, of course, common within castles and other surviving seigneurial buildings, but documentary sources indicate that they were also widely adopted within medieval urban contexts, especially for high-status or commercial stone buildings such as the Marlipins (Wood 1965, 377–88).

The archaeological evidence for the layout of two-storey townhouses — commonly orientated with one of their gable ends on a street frontage — reveals that attached garderobes were invariably placed towards or at the rear of the building (Schofield & Vince 1994, 68). The successive pits attached to two phases of a stone building named the 'Merchant's House' which was excavated behind Water Street, Stamford, Lincs, provide a good parallel for The Marlipins example (Mahany *et al.* 1982, 29–38). Discovered partly underlying the back wall of the

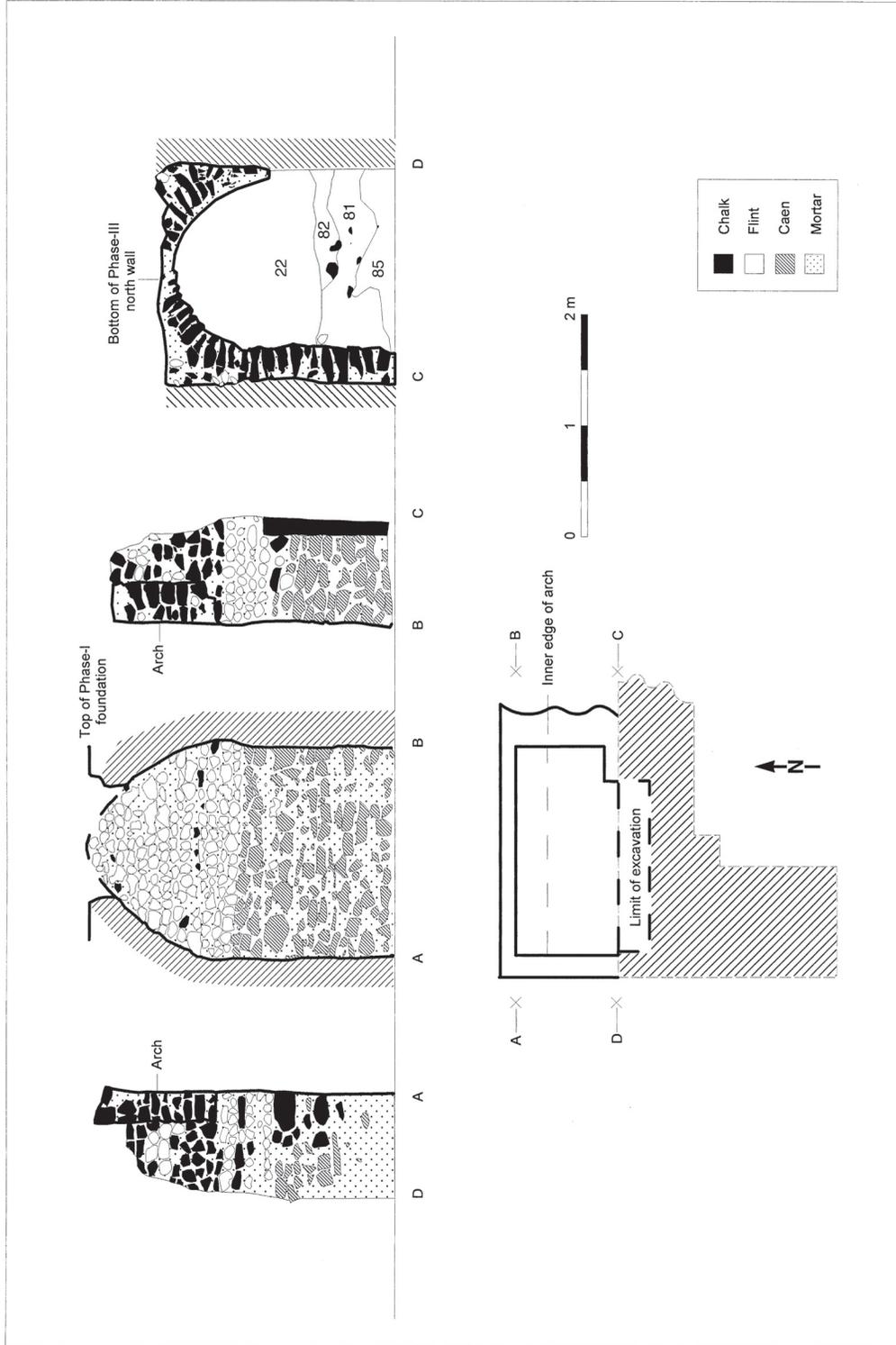


Fig. 10. The Marlipins, plan and elevations of foundation pit.



Fig. 11. The Marlipins, internal view of ground-floor north wall with lower section stripped of paint and render. The eastern quoins for the portion of Phase-1 wall (interpreted as the southern wall of a garderobe turret) lie immediately above the left hand (white) division of the 2 m horizontal ranging pole. Note the contrast with the mixed composition of the phase 3 wall to the right.

surviving undercroft of the first-phase structure (dated to the later 12th century), the earlier pit, measuring some 2.7 m by 1.2 m, was stone-lined and spanned by a relieving arch, blocked off from the interior of the building by a facing of smaller stones (Mahany *et al.* 1982, 34–5; figs 20 & 21). The Phase-2 pit of a more sophisticated design — incorporating two communicating cells — was attached to the rear wall of a later western extension, constructed during the 13th century. The surviving height of the rear wall in this case suggests that the garderobe extended to an upper storey toilet. The stone building known as Blackfriars Barn (dating to c. 1300), in Winchelsea, East Sussex, provides a more local example, again with the excavated remains indicating a first-floor toilet. This originally featured a ‘spacious’ attached garderobe block (only surviving at foundation level) which incorporated an internal chute that extended from an upper-floor toilet down through the thickness of the wall into a circular stone-lined pit below (Martin & Martin 2004, 174; fig. 10.8).

The record of the internal face of the north wall made following render-stripping suggests that a similar first-floor toilet arrangement existed at The Marlipins, for preserved within the standing fabric

is a substantial portion of Phase-1 fabric which can be interpreted as the south wall of a similar garderobe turret. The relevant, 1.5 m-wide section of wall, which can clearly be distinguished from the later Phase-3 fabric by its homogenous (flint) fabric and neat coursing, is in exact alignment with the dimensions of the external shaft foundation, its eastern end being marked by two Caen stone quoins (Fig. 6 & Fig. 11 in ADS). The latter lie in precise alignment with the Caen stone noted in the southern facing of the exterior foundation as indicating the return of an eastern wall. As to the north wall, this would have originally been carried by the thickened western portion of the north wall foundation, partly over the cesspit, thus requiring the support of a northern internal retaining arch.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES IN THE REMAINDER OF THE EXCAVATED FOOTPRINT

This section discusses the remaining features and deposits discovered within the confines of the excavation (Fig. 6); these can be resolved into five broad chronological phases. Stratigraphic relationships between the above and the historic

range, including the buried Phase-1 foundation, were effectively severed by the foundations for the recently demolished 1935 annexe.

#### PERIOD 1 ?1175–1350

The earliest activity was represented by a small, isolated, group of undated shallow pits and post-holes in the extreme north-west of the site (Fig. 6, cuts 95, 100 & 114) which stratigraphically predated features attributable to Period 2, including the footings for a timber structure (*see below*). There is a strong likelihood that this activity is the source of a small residual assemblage of earlier medieval pottery recovered from later contexts.

The traces of evidence for this period, such as exist, can do little more than establish an early medieval presence at this location, although the proximity of the later wall footings may hint towards the possibility of an earlier structure on the same site.

#### PERIOD 2: 1350–1500

Evidence for this phase included the fragmentary stone footings relating to a timber structure or structures, unfortunately only partially exposed within the excavation area.

The more complete of the footings comprised an N–S wall alignment (Fig. 6; no. 17) 2.60 m in length with a maximum width of 380 mm found in association with a perpendicular E–W wall (Fig. 6, no. 16) 1.10 m in length with a maximum width of 360 mm (Fig. 12). Both comprised a continuous shallow trench some 200 mm deep packed with stone, the better surviving long wall displaying a neat interlocking configuration of stones with traces of mortar surviving in the interstices. Whereas the short wall footing was exclusively composed of flint nodules, the more substantial long wall incorporated two re-used fragments of Caen stone and the fragmentary base of a Purbeck marble mortar (17) which could have acted as padstones for principal timber uprights.

Also directly relating to this structure was a spread of mortar and fragmented West Country slate (18). This was found within the presumed interior of the building, abutting the western edge of the long wall, and may relate to the collapse and decay of the superstructure; a post-hole (20) located in the angle between the terminals of the long- and cross-walls may be a further structural element of this building.

A further E–W wall-footing (49) with only a



Fig. 12. Medieval footings for a timber-framed structure.

small section of its stone packing intact survived some 2.2 m to the east of the marble mortar base (17). This footing originally extended more than 2.04 m, as revealed by the surviving cut (70), which was truncated at its eastern end by a large post-medieval rubbish pit (23). A similar linear cut (48) 400 mm wide and 1.20 m long, perpendicular to the E–W footing (49) may represent the robbed-out or disturbed remains of an internal partition wall. The preserved section of the footing was exclusively comprised of flint nodules, one of which sealed a large fresh sherd of 14th- to 15th-century pottery located at the bottom of the cut.

#### Interpretation of the footings

The considerable disturbance suffered by the footings and the fact that they were only partially exposed within the area places severe limitations upon a structural interpretation. This extends even to the most basic of attributions, for there is some ambiguity as to whether the ground-plan represents

two separate structures or, perhaps less convincingly, a single building fronting on to Middle Street. Such uncertainties are exacerbated by the lack of evidence for internal features such as hearths and floor levels which may, when present, provide a guide to the original extent and layout of a structure.

Notwithstanding the limitations of the evidence, there can be little doubt that the footings underpinned one or more free-standing timber-framed superstructures (Addyman 1979). Close parallels for the Marlipins evidence are forthcoming from sites such as Cuckoo Lane, Southampton (Platt, in Platt & Coleman-Smith 1975, 297–8, 96), and Coppergate, York, where minor (usually un-mortared) cobble sills and occasional padstones constitute the primary structural evidence for timber-framed buildings (Hall & Hunter-Mann 2002, 721, fig. 4.11; 765–6, fig. 456). A particularly instructive local comparison is furnished by the remains of successive phases of medieval street-frontage buildings excavated at Pevensey, East Sussex. Here the wall alignment of one of the structures, interpreted as an ancillary building, was similarly represented by a narrow stone sill — on this occasion comprising flint, greensand, and chalk — also found in association with a spread of West Country slate (Barber 1999, 102, fig. 4).

The use of ancillary structures and buildings within urban burgrave plots has been noted elsewhere with the proviso that such structures are likely to be significantly under-represented in the archaeological record where post-medieval intrusion associated with pit-digging, gardening and the insertion of cellars is likely to have obliterated traces of their former existence (Platt & Coleman-Smith 1975, 27–8; Schofield & Stell 2000, 386). Against this we should be cautious of pigeonholing the Marlipins structure into the 'ancillary-building' category too readily. Ground-level traces left behind by timber-framed buildings are by their very nature ephemeral and thus may often belie the scale of the original structure: even superior timber-framed hall-houses such as that excavated at Brook Lane, near Horsham, West Sussex, can leave behind scant physical remains (Holgate 1989, fig. 4). The widespread historical evidence for the speculative subdivision of urban plots within the late medieval period, and the emergence of an appropriately diminutive class of urban dwelling is another salutary reminder that small proportions need not necessarily denote a

non-domestic, utilitarian function (Palliser *et al.* 2000, 169–72). Given such ambiguities, it is best to keep an open mind as to the size and precise function of The Marlipins structure/s.

#### Other features

Three closely spaced pits located to the south of the 19th-century foundations can safely be assigned to this period on the basis of ceramic evidence (Fig. 6). The two larger pits, (68) and (71) both over 1.5m in diameter with depths of 0.68m and 0.75m respectively, were characterised by fills containing a high proportion of building material, including quantities of medieval roof and floor tile, Horsham slab, chalk, building flints (some with mortar adhering), Caen and ironstone. The constituents of the third pit (59), which measured 1.60 m by 1.08 m by 300 mm deep were somewhat different, the major inclusion being lumps of baked clay, possibly representing the discarded remains of hearth or kiln lining. Environmental samples taken from this pit produced a notable quantity of clean de-husked charred cereal grains suggestive of on-site processing, perhaps either milling or brewing (*see below*).

Three further pits (25, 63 & 80), all sub-circular in form and under 500 mm in depth, may belong to this phase, although their failure to produce securely datable pottery prevents a positive attribution. The ceramic tile yielded by all three pits, however, generally reflects this dating as does the absence of post-medieval pottery which occurs in abundance in later, Period-3 contexts. As in pits (68) and (71), the fills of these pits were characterised by their high yields of building detritus, dominated by large flints, several of which still had mortar adhering.

The related compositions of the pits attributed to this period point towards a fairly major clearance operation following structural alterations to a stone building, most likely The Marlipins itself. It may be noted that pits of very similar character were sampled in Southampton from strata attributed to a major phase of rebuilding and reorganisation in the wake of the town's devastation by a French raid of 1338 (Platt, in Platt & Coleman-Smith 1975, 245). In the case of The Marlipins, it is tempting to link this episode to the Phase-3 rebuilding of the north wall, an alteration which is securely dated on dendrochronological grounds to the second half of the 15th century (*see Martin above*).

Sealing two of the pits was an extensive area of scorching measuring some 5 m by 3 m which also encompassed two discrete, sub-circular patches of *in situ* burning (53 & 54). It is impossible to distinguish whether these traces represent a distinct conflagration or more sustained burning perhaps from a hearth related to a later structure.

### PERIOD 3: EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL 1550–1650

Features securely attributed to this period on the basis of tightly-dated assemblages of clay pipe, ceramic and glass included two substantial pits. The most productive in terms of artefacts (50), some 2.30 m in diameter and in excess of 1.10 m in depth, was located in the middle of the site immediately to the north of foundation wall (5). Whether or not this feature had originally been constructed for some specialised purpose, perhaps as a well or a cesspit (partial excavation precludes an accurate identification) is uncertain, but by the first half of the 17th century it was receiving large quantities of refuse, both household waste and demolition material (*see below*). Towards the end of its life, no later than 1650, and perhaps as early as 1620/30, the contents of the pit were sealed by a capping of rammed chalk (51) which subsequently slumped centrally; the hollow was filled by a further layer of rubbish (32).

A similarly sized pit (23) was discovered to the east of (50) although this was only partially revealed within the excavated area, the exposed portion being further obscured by the eastern end of the 19th-century foundation (5). This was also seemingly utilised for refuse disposal, although a contrasting artefactual assemblage, headed by a notable absence of clay pipe, suggests that this was filled slightly earlier, somewhere between 1550 and 1600.

Two other features are tentatively included here on broad stratigraphic grounds although their dating is far from assured. Feature 69 was linear in plan with an E–W orientation and with a sub-rectangular profile, 0.60 m deep and 0.65 m wide, where it was truncated by the eastern side of pit (50). The single homogeneous fill, (40) comprised closely packed unmortared stone, including large flints, iron stone and occasional re-used fragments of dressed Caen stone. Such characteristics accord with some form of foundation, although it is impossible to push the fragmentary evidence much beyond this basic identification. The fact that it did not extend beyond the western side of pit (23) at least

discounts the possibility that it represents a plot-width, gable-end wall. More certainly structural was an E–W wall foundation (14), much mutilated by modern drains, made of flint with some re-used dressed Caen stone bonded in a stiff, yellow/orange clay. This was surrounded, and partly covered, by a more extensive area of flint tumble clearly derived from the same structure. Although fragmentary, it is clear that this would have once have spanned the full width of the plot and could therefore represent either the end wall of a timber lean-to or shed or, less convincingly, a partition wall for an adjoining free-standing structure.

### PERIOD 4: 1650–1700

A change in the usage of Marlipins tenement was evidenced by an extensive garden soil (4) up to 300mm thick, which extended across most of the site including an area to south the of the east-west foundation (5) where it was severely truncated by modern drains. The artefact assemblage from this layer, while containing some residual medieval material — including a series of metal-detected finds — indicates that its deposition was relatively rapid and commenced immediately after the final filling of the large post-medieval pits, probably no later than end of the second quarter of the 17th century. The paucity of 18th-century and later material from the garden soil suggests that this 'open' phase was relatively short-lived.

### PERIOD 5: 1700–1935

This period witnessed the construction of a succession of workshops and storehouses in the plot to the north of the historic range whose existence and form can otherwise be gleaned from contemporary historical sources, particularly the earliest known depictions of The Marlipins (*see Martin above*). Physical evidence included a series of substantial foundations left *in situ* for the duration of the excavation. Spanning the width of the plot was an E–W end wall, 480 mm wide, with foundations of large mortared flints set on edge topped, at superstructure level, by three courses of mortared flints (5). This was abutted at its western end by a wider N–S foundation, 0.6m wide, made of fragments of red and yellow brick set in a mortar with the hardness and consistency of concrete. Contiguous with the walls and extending as far south as the external face of the Marlipins north wall, was a rammed chalk floor 30 mm thick which directly overlay the buried north-wall foundation.

## THE FINDS

### INTRODUCTION

For the sake of brevity, the only specialist material to receive more than summary treatment in this report is the pottery, a decision based upon the fact that it represents the first stratified medieval and post-medieval assemblage for Shoreham. In the case of other categories of finds, detailed analysis and methodological considerations have been omitted in favour of discussion highlighting such themes as status, economy and patterns of resource procurement, which contribute to the overall interpretation of the site. Full finds reports on the pottery and other finds have been deposited with the archive and on ADS.

### THE POTTERY

By Luke Barber

The evaluation and subsequent excavation at the site produced 725 sherds weighing just over 18.5 kg from 44 individually numbered contexts. The pottery spans the 13th to 19th centuries, though by far the majority can be placed between the mid/late 16th and 17th centuries.

The main aims of the pottery analysis were to characterize the assemblage, to help date the excavated features and, as this is the first reasonable assemblage to be analyzed from the town, to begin to create a fabric series.

Initially, the pottery was used, in conjunction with the clay pipes, to establish a spot-dating list for all contexts. All pottery was quantified by sherd count/weight by context. The pottery from the larger sealed assemblages was subsequently divided into fabric groups based, using a hand-lens where necessary, on a visual examination of tempering, inclusions and manufacturing technique. This was only undertaken on the post-medieval assemblage. The medieval assemblage from the current site is too small to be reliably used for the establishment of dated fabric types in Shoreham, particularly in the light of the large medieval assemblage excavated at the Ropetackle site (Stevens pers. comm.). All the fabric groups were given a short title and code (*see below*) to enable ease of recording on proformae. Each fabric was subsequently quantified by sherd count and weight for each context. This information, along with the spot dates and general quantification for all contexts, is housed with the archive.

### Medieval

The earliest medieval material consists of a single rim fragment from a cooking-pot in a sand-tempered fabric containing sparse fine flint and chalk to 1mm (Context 79). A later 12th- to 13th- century date is likely. The majority of the medieval material consists of fine and medium sand-tempered fabrics, frequently well-fired. These are more likely to be of the mid/late 13th to 14th centuries. Cooking-pots, storage jars and jugs are all present. Surprisingly, no imported material was recognised in the medieval assemblage, but this is likely to be the result of the small size of the assemblage. A small scatter of material of probable late 14th- to 15th- century date is also present, usually represented by plainer vessels with flaring rims and finer, harder-fired fabrics. Within this group are the white painted wares (Fabric code FSE/B+W) of the 15th to early 16th centuries.

No medieval groups were large enough for meaningful quantification by fabrics and only a few vessels were considered worthy of illustration (Fig. 13).

1) Cooking-pot/storage jar with oblique applied thumbled

strips and squared, slightly downturned rim. A well-fired medium sand-tempered fabric with very rare inclusions of white flint to 2 mm. Mid grey core and interior surfaces. Dark grey exterior surfaces. Probably 14th century. Context 72.

- 2) Skillet with simple out-turned rim with slight traces of the scar for the handle (not visible on the illustration). A well-fired medium sand-tempered fabric with very rare white flint inclusions to 1 mm. The exterior surface has spots of green glaze and is quite heavily sooted. Grey core and dull orange brown surfaces. 14th to 15th century. Context 72.
- 3) Nearly complete storage jar/cooking-pot with large flaring rim and horizontal (x1 around shoulder) and vertical (x7 slightly irregularly spaced) thumb-applied strips. A well-fired fine to medium sand-tempered fabric with very rare rounded quartz to 2 mm. A dull brown orange throughout. Spots of clear glaze on the exterior surface and knife trimming evident on the lower third of the body. Interior had a thin yellow green glaze on the base and partly up the interior wall. Sooting covering the lower two thirds of the pot's exterior surface demonstrate its use for cooking. Probably later 14th to 15th century. Context 81. (NB. Sherds from the base of this vessel were also recovered from Context 85).
- 4) Bowl with wide flaring rim. A medium fired fine to medium sand-tempered fabric with knife trimming on the exterior surface toward the base. Dull green glaze on interior base. Grey core and buff surfaces. Later 14th to 15th century. Context 210 (TP 2, evaluation).

### Early Post-medieval

The assemblage from this period dominates the pottery from the site, both from the cut features and the overlying garden soil. As a result all the material of this period, whether from sealed cuts or the garden soil, was scanned in order to note the full range of fabrics present. This is given below and uses common names for wares where applicable, including a reference for fuller publications.

- 1) Fine Sandy Earthenware: oxidized (FSE /O1).
- 2) Fine Sandy Earthenware: oxidized and hard-fired (FSE /O2).
- 3) Fine Sandy Earthenware: reduced (FSE /R1).
- 4) Post-medieval Redware with thin green/brown glaze (PMR/GBG 1).
- 5) Post-medieval Redware with green/brown glaze (PMR/GBG 2).
- 6) Post-medieval Redware with green glaze (PMR/GG 1).
- 7) Post-medieval Redware with patchy thin clear/red glaze (PMR/RG 1).
- 8) Post-medieval Redware with even clear/red glaze (PMR/RG 2).
- 9) Post-medieval Redware with thick and even clear/red glaze (PMR/RG 3). A distinctly sandy earthenware of Dutch type, only two sherds of this fabric were noted: a handled cauldron from the garden soil (Context 4) and a typical Dutch folded handle from a skillet from Context 31; both are closely paralleled in Norwich (Jennings 1981, nos 957 and 988 respectively). Import.
- 10) Post-medieval Redware with dark brown/black/metallic glaze (PMR/BIG 1).
- 11) Post-medieval Redware with dark brown/black/metallic glaze (PMR/BIG 2).

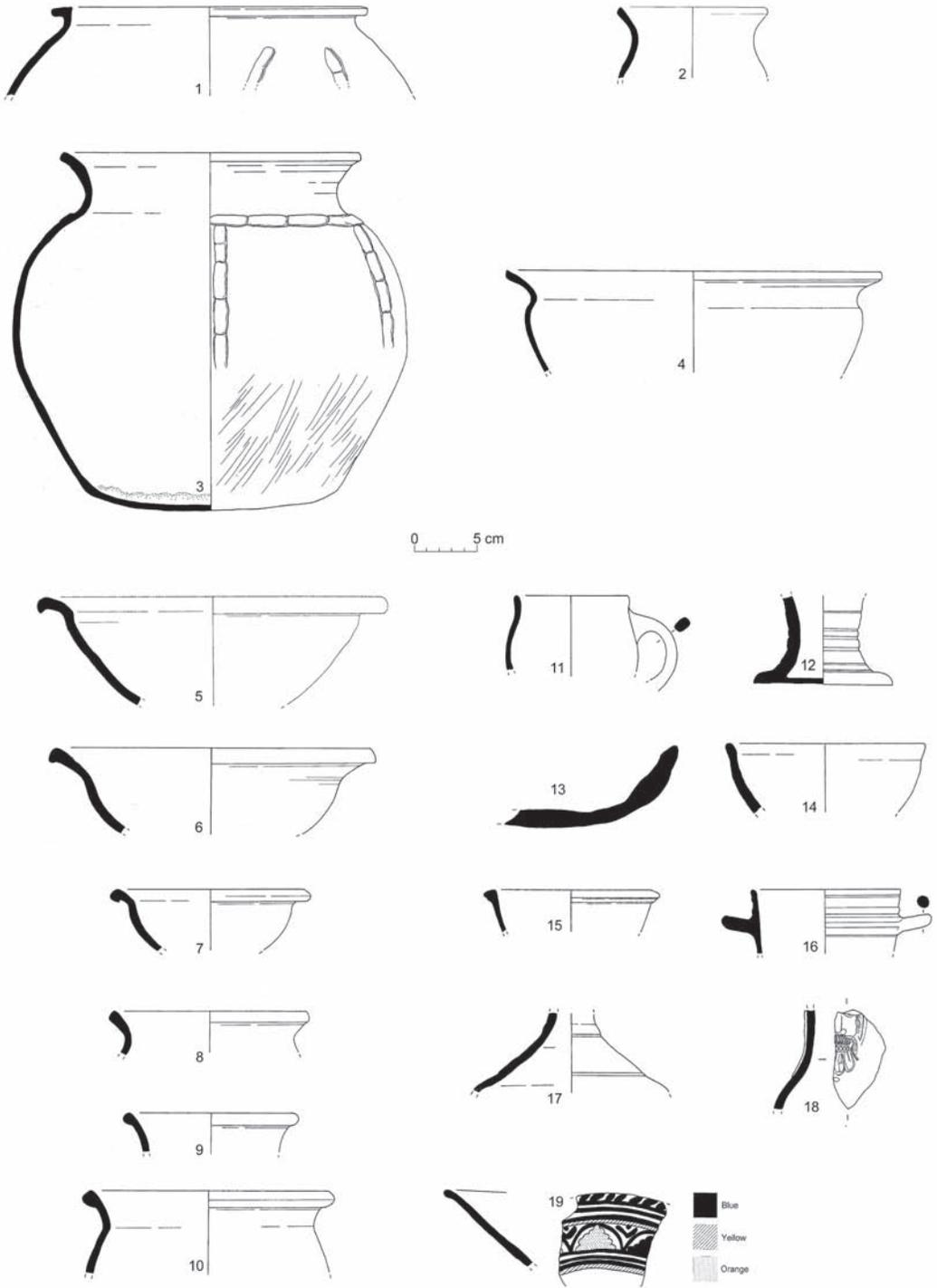


Fig. 13. Medieval and post-medieval pottery.

- 12) Post-medieval Redware with black glaze (PMR/BIG 3).
- 13) Post-medieval Redware with all-over brown glaze (PMR/BG 1).
- 14) Post-medieval Redware with yellow/tan glaze (PMR/YG 1).
- 15) Post-medieval Whiteware with all-over brown glaze (PMW/BG 1). Probably Borderware (Pearce 1992).
- 16) Post-medieval Whiteware with iron oxide inclusions and thick brown glaze (PMW/BG 2). An off-white fine fabric with moderate black iron-oxide inclusions to 1 mm. West Country type?. An identical fabric has been located in Lewes at the hospital of St Nicholas (Barber forthcoming).
- 17) Post-medieval Whiteware with streaked fabric and very dark brown glaze (PMW/BG 3). Fabric similar to that from Staffordshire combed slipware.
- 18) Post-medieval Whiteware with sandy fabric and even clear/yellow glaze (PMW/YG 1), Surrey/Borderware? (Pearce 1992).
- 19) Post-medieval Whiteware with fine fabric and patchy thin/thick clear/yellow glaze (PMW/YG 2). Borderware (Pearce 1992).
- 20) Post-medieval Whiteware with fine sandy fabric and even clear/yellow glaze (PMW/YG 3). Not Borderware. Possibly a local copy – Graffham?
- 21) Post-medieval Whiteware with iron oxide inclusions and yellow/green streaked glaze (PMW/YG 4). As No. 16, but with fewer iron oxides in fabric and an iron-spotted yellow/green glaze. German/Hafner type? (Hurst *et al.* 1986).
- 22) Post-medieval Whiteware with fine fabric and good light to dark green glaze (PMW/GG 1). Borderware (Pearce 1992).
- 23) Post-medieval Whiteware with fine fabric and patchy thin/thick green glaze (PMW/GG 2). Tudor Green (Pearce 1992).
- 24) Green Glazed Coarseware. Only one sherd of this distinctive coarse sandy buff fabric was located: Context 4 (garden soil). Probably a Spanish product (Hurst *et al.* 1986). There appears to be a white external slip on the outer surface and an even green glaze inside and out.
- 25) Langewerhe Stoneware (Gaimster 1997).
- 26) Raeren Stoneware (Gaimster 1997).
- 27) Cologne/Frechen Stoneware (Gaimster 1997).
- 28) Tin-glazed Ware with lead glaze on exterior of vessel (TGW 1).
- 29) Tin-glazed Ware with painted decoration (TGW 2). Decorated with crude painted lines in blue, yellow, purple and ochre.
- 30) Tin-glazed Ware – plain white (TGW 3).
- 31) Tin-glazed Ware – lustre (TGW lust). Spanish lustreware of 16th-century date (Hurst *et al.* 1986). Only one sherd was found from the site in an overburden layer (Context 2). Late 15th to 16th century. Import.

### Later Post-medieval (Post 1800)

Although the site produced very few sherds postdating the 17th century, the fabric series was continued for the sake of completeness. The full list of these fabrics can be found on the ADS supplement.

### THE POTTERY GROUPS

The site produced only three sizeable pottery groups, two from cut features (pits 23 and 50) dating to the late 16th,

early 17th centuries respectively, and the garden soil, which, although effectively unstratified, is nonetheless dominated by late 16th- and 17th-century wares. Only vessels from the stratified pits are included for illustration (Fig. 13).

#### Pit 23: Fills 24, 96, 97, 98

A full fabric breakdown for this pit appears on the ADS supplement. The small size of the assemblage means the percentages of fabrics by sherd count and weight can vary wildly as a result of the presence of one or two large sherds, it is, however, interesting to note the dominance of the FSE fabrics over the PMR fabrics. The group's best dating evidence comes from the dominance of the FSE sherds, the total absence of clay pipes and the presence of the face-mask from a Cologne/Frechen Bellarmine with 'naturalistic' face (Fill 97). This type of mask is typical of the later 16th century (Gaimster 1997, nos 58, 59 & 64). Only one sherd from this group has been illustrated:

- 5) Deep bowl with slightly hooked rim. PMR/GG 1. Even dull green interior glaze going light green/brown toward rim. Fill 24.

#### Pit 50: Fills 32, 44, 51/309, 52/311, 58, 66, 306, 307

Dating of this feature has relied heavily on the clay pipes which suggest a deposition date in the first half of the 17th century, probably between 1610 and 1620/30. However, a few later pipe fragments, dating from the second half of the 17th century suggest a little intrusive material, perhaps introduced by animal burrowing from the garden soil above. Although this slight intrusive element is also apparent with at least one sherd of pottery, it is considered highly probable that the vast majority of the assemblage falls between 1610 and 1620/30. The presence of conjoining sherds between a number of the fills suggests either that the pit was backfilled rapidly, or that some mixing has occurred by animal activity. Only the largest group, from Fill 52/311, is considered here.

This group has small quantities of residual medieval material and at least one intrusive late 17th- to early 18th-century London stoneware sherd. There is a marked difference between the percentages of different fabrics depending on whether sherd count or weight is used as a medium for quantification. This is due to a number of sherds being present from large vessels. For example, the dripping dish in PMR/GG 1 (*see below*) consists of only two sherds though by the very nature of the vessel, both are large and robust. Similarly the PMW/YG 1 sherds are large and all from a single bottle. The presence of these anomalies has thrown some of the other categories. Whatever the case, it can be seen that Post-medieval Redwares (PMR), particularly PMR/GBG 2, dominate the assemblage, together with Cologne/Frechen stonewares. A number of sherds have been illustrated:

- 6) Bowl with slightly hooked rim. PMR/GBG 1. Thin patchy green/brown internal glaze on interior base with spots on interior of rim. Exterior unglazed. Possibly an old vessel made in the later 16th century.
- 7) Small bowl with hooked rim. PMR/GBG 2. Internal green/brown glaze with splashes on exterior surfaces.
- 8) Jar. PMR/GBG 2. Interior dull brown green glaze with splashes on exterior of rim.
- 9) Small jar. PMR/GBG 2. Interior dull green brown glaze with exterior splashes around rim.
- 10) Jar with thickened rim. PMR/GBG 2. Interior dull

Table 1. Vessel forms recognized in Pit 50 (All fills) by fabric.

Vessel Form	Fabrics/Minimum vessel numbers
Storage jars/jars	PMR/GBG 2 – x6; PMR/RG 2 – x1;
Handled jar/chamber pot	PMR/GBG 2 – x3;
Dripping Pan	PMR/GBG 2 – x1; PMR/GG 1 – x1;
Tripod Pipkin	PMR/GBG 2 – x1;
Lid	FSE/O 1 – x1
Bowl	FSE/R 1 – x1; PMR/GBG 1 – x2; PMR/GBG 2 – x3; PMR/BIG 1 – x2; TGW 2 – x1
Handled Bowl	PMR/YG 1 – x2; PMW/YG 2 – x1
Plate/charger	TGW 1 – x1;
Costrel	PMW/YG 1 – x1
Mug	PMR/GBG 2 – x1; PMR/BIG 3 – x1;
Bellarmino/Bottle	Cologne/Frechen – x5
Tavern pot	Cologne/Frechen – x1
Tankard	London stoneware – x1
Other	PMR/GBG 2 – x1 candlestick; TGW 2 – x1 'closed form'

green glaze. Exterior reduced dark grey (over orange earthenware fabric).

- 11) Handled mug. PMR/GBG 2. All-over dull green glaze with red patches.
- 12) Base of candlestick with horizontal incised line decoration/grip. PMR/GBG 2. Spots of dull brown/green glaze on exterior. The remains of an apparently triangular cut-away are present close to the base. Similar forms are known from a 17th-century kiln at Cove (Haslam 1975, nos 114–115) though without the cut-away.
- 13) Rectangular/oval dripping dish. PMR/GG 1. Internal dull green glaze with spots on exterior of base.
- 14) Bowl. PMR/BIG 1. Interior glazed very dark brown with unglazed exterior reduced mid/dark grey.
- 15) Bowl with thickened rim. PMR/BIG 1. Glaze etc. as No. 14.
- 16) Handled bowl with slightly corrugated body. PMR/YG 1. Interior brown yellow even glaze with splashes and thin glaze on exterior rim and upper body. Two horizontal handles.
- 17) Bottle-shaped Costrel. PMW/YG 1. Even clear external glaze over upper part of body glazing to yellow. Other sherds of this vessel were found in other fills of the pit as well as the overlying garden soil. Similar forms are known from Norwich (Jennings 1981, no. 1329) though the current example is probably from the Borderware industry where it also has close form parallels (Pearce 1992, fig. 38).
- 18) Facemask from a Bellarmino bottle. Frechen stoneware.
- 19) Shallow bowl with a diameter of c. 300 mm. TGW 1. Decorated with repeating ochre and blue 'foliage' design under blue arcing, the whole contained within blue and yellow banding.

### Conclusions

The site has yielded a small but important group of pottery for the town. Although little can be said regarding the medieval material, most is of the 13th, or more probably, 14th centuries. The bulk of the assemblage is of the later 16th and earlier

17th centuries. This early post-medieval group suggests the disposal of domestic refuse primarily from a 'kitchen' area. The material is dominated by local products, but regional wares are also quite common. Although the presence of large quantities of imported German stoneware in the assemblage is not surprising for deposits of this date, the presence of the possible German whitewares (Hafner), Spanish lustreware and green-glazed coarseware suggests that other wares were reaching the household through the port. Hopefully, further assemblages from the town will extend the fabric sequence into the medieval and later post-medieval periods.

### THE CLAY PIPES

By Luke Barber

(incorporating comments by David Atkinson)

Only one reasonably well-sealed group was located: that from Pit 50 which produced 72 stems and 11 bowls/fragments. The material from this pit is dominated by well-made small bowls of a quite well-developed London type dating to c. 1610–1620/30. Otherwise, the majority of the clay pipe (numbering some 243 stem and 16 bowl fragments) was derived from the unstratified garden soil. This material, spanning the 17th and 18th centuries, includes diagnostic bowls from 1610–1620 and 1630/40–1680 date-ranges respectively, and a stem fragment stamped John Stephens (Newport, Isle of Wight), dated 1709–1751 (Atkinson 1977, 20).

### THE GLASS

By Rachel Tyson

#### Medieval

A small window fragment with two grozed edges at right angles dates to the medieval period, certainly no later than the 16th century when the grozing iron was replaced by the diamond cutter. Four heavily weathered vessel body fragments cannot be attributed to any particular form, but the degree of weathering suggests that they are consistent with their 13th- to 14th-century context date (81). Glass was a valuable possession at this date, and all the sites where 13th- and 14th-century glass has been recovered so far have been interpreted as wealthy or high-status.

### Post-medieval

The glass assemblage is dominated by drinking vessels dating to the second half of the 16th and first half of the 17th century. A green-tinted pedestal goblet is one of the earlier types, dating to the second half of the 16th century. A number of the beaker types can be attributed to the first half of the 17th century, particularly those with plain cylindrical bases which may even be mid-17th century in date. The remaining types can only be dated more generally to within the period 1550–1650.

Later glass comprises a few wine bottle fragments, a lead wine glass stem and an apothecary's phial all dating to the later 17th or 18th century, a soft drinks bottle of the late 19th/early 20th century, and small window fragments dating throughout the post-medieval and modern periods.

### Function

The assemblage is typical of a domestic urban site, with a predominance of drinking vessels. Of the 1550–1650 glass only one goblet can be identified, while a minimum number of 15 beakers were counted, reflecting a preference for ale or beer over wine. A number of different beaker types can be identified including undecorated styles, and those with optic-blown wrythen ribs, mesh patterning and bosses. The majority have pedestal bases, others have an applied rigaree-patterned base ring, while some have a plain cylindrical base. This mixture of types suggests that vessels were acquired in small quantities at different times and therefore of a domestic nature, contrasting with assemblages where larger 'sets' of similar beakers are found which may indicate an inn (Willmott 2002, 23–4). The only other vessel type of this date is a probable bottle, while the small window fragments indicate that the property was glazed, although there is no evidence for the type of glazing scheme.

### Source

Most of the post-medieval glass is English green-tinted potash glass, and up to c. 1615 is likely to have come from the nearby Wealden glass industry. Examples of the beaker and goblet types found here have been identified during fieldwork on these industrial sites (Kenyon 1967). After wood was banned as a fuel in 1613, potash glass furnaces were established in other parts of the country (Willmott 2002, 12). A few fragments of higher-quality *façon de Venise* glass were recovered, which is colourless or has a grey tint. This was made to emulate Venetian glass, produced at urban glasshouses in Europe including London and the southern Netherlands from where glass was certainly exported into England.

One *façon de Venise* fragment is particularly interesting as the only example of its type in England: a beaker with very indistinct 'thin-cut trailing' (see Willmott 2002, 40–41 for a description of this production technique) with enamel dots in the centre of each of the prominent bulges of the trail (32). A few examples using the same technique but with 'thick-cut trailing' decorated with blue and white enamel dots between the trails are known, predominantly in the southern Netherlands suggesting a production centre there (e.g. Henkes 1994, 134), with the only examples in England from Norwich (Willmott 2002, 40–41). However, no 'thin-cut' examples have yet been found with enamelling.

Other colourless *façon de Venise* beaker fragments came from contexts 32, 52, 66 and 311 (all the fill of pit 50), including a body fragment with three horizontal adjacent

opaque white trails, and two bases with rigaree-patterned base rings. It is not possible to determine whether these vessels were manufactured in London, or other *façon de Venise* centres.

### Status

In the mid-16th century the ownership of glass tablewares was still restricted to the more wealthy sections of society, but by the second quarter of the 17th century there is evidence that they were more affordable for the middle classes (Willmott 2002, 22). While this assemblage is dominated by standard English forest glass beakers, the few fragments of *façon de venise* glass, one of which probably comes from the southern Netherlands, indicates that the owners could afford more than the cheapest glass tablewares available.

### BUILDING MATERIAL by Luke Barber

As is to be expected given the site's urban setting, the finds assemblage was dominated by stone and ceramic building material which must have been derived either from phases of alteration to The Marlpins itself or from demolished structures which once occupied or overlooked the plot to its rear. Unfortunately, as much of the material is recyclable (most of the stratified assemblages contained a residual component) and lacking in diagnostic detail, broad trends in technology and in some cases provenance can provide only a rough guide to dating.

### Ceramic building material

With the exception of a small assemblage of possibly 13th-century nib- and peg-tile (context 79), most of the ceramic building material was derived from late medieval and post-medieval contexts. Two sizeable assemblages (each numbering some 60 pieces, mostly roof tile) were recovered from the fill of the stone-lined pit (22) and pit 35, both dating to the mid-14th to 15th century. The range included peg-tiles with round holes in hard sandy fabrics and, in the case of the foundation-pit group, with splashes and patches of a dull green glaze, which both serve to distinguish them from earlier residual tile.

The assemblage from Pit 50 — at 72 pieces by far the most productive of the early post-medieval features — was dominated by peg-tile in a range of higher-fired fabrics typical for the period. Also present were a single bonnet tile and a green-glazed floor tile, possibly representing a French import.

Brick, the majority of which comes in variants of a sandy, low-fired 'Flemish-style fabric, makes a limited appearance in 14th- to 16th-century contexts (only 11 pieces) when it was most likely used for specialist purposes such as hearth linings. Again, pit 50 also produced the richest post-medieval assemblage (68 pieces) which included a range of higher-fired fabrics, perhaps designed for the insertion of chimneys and ovens into an existing building.

### Building stone

As reflected in the standing fabric of the historic range, a variety of local geological sources provided building material, headed by Horsham slate — as still appears on the roof — followed by hard chalk, lower greensand and Wealden clay ironstone. These were supplemented by a variety of imports from outside the region, including West Country slate and Caen stone which receives a fuller discussion below in view of the interesting assemblage of worked fragments found from context 22.

### Caen stone

The stone-lined pit (22) contained 49 pieces of Caen stone, 30 of them derived from square or rectangular ashlar blocks and 19 from architectural mouldings. The majority of the latter, whilst too small to be identified closely, exhibit rolls — some with keels — chamfers and hollows, diagnostic of jambs, window voussours, and string courses. At least one piece, part of a half roll, appears to have been re-tooled for re-use and a further fragment represents a rebate for a shutter fitted to a window with a slightly splayed internal jamb (D. Martin pers. comm.). Although most pieces could span the later 12th to 14th centuries, those with more diagnostic features appear to be late 13th to early 14th century in date.

Caen stone is also well represented in 14th- to 15th-century contexts where it is virtually exclusively used, where discernible, for ashlar blocks and moulded architectural fragments. Context 18 (the spread of slate) produced two large shaped blocks, one from a plain voussour, probably from a relieving arch, and the other from a window edge. Caen stone in post-medieval contexts is always present in small pieces and can be assumed to be re-used and/or residual.

### STONE OBJECTS

By Luke Barber

Amongst the stone object represented were seven mortar fragments. Those from late medieval contexts included a portion of Purbeck marble mortar base (external diameter 240 mm) with the remains of one lug surviving, re-used in the stone footing (17). A fragment of a plain Caen mortar with obvious signs of burning was also recovered from one of the fills of the stone-lined foundation pit (22); four further fragments, all recovered from post-medieval contexts, are almost certainly residual.

Also recovered was part of a square-sectioned whetstone made from a white Tertiary sandstone (origin uncertain but possibly the Hampshire Basin; (26) ) and part of a Lower Greensand rotary quern 45 mm thick with signs of burning (86).

### THE METALWORK

By Gabor Thomas

The archaeological interventions produced a total of 132 metalwork finds, over 90 per cent of which were recovered from metal-detector scanning of the garden soil (context 4). The remaining metalwork was nearly all from post-medieval contexts; a small number of copper-alloy pin and pin fragments were recovered from the environmental samples taken from post-medieval pit fills.

### Iron

The majority of the ironwork, totalling 90 individual pieces, was identifiable without the aid of X-radiograph despite being in a generally poor state of preservation. The assemblage covers a range of structural fittings and fixtures, headed by a total of 74 nail and nail fragments of various shapes and sizes, followed by two clench-bolts and two hinge-pivots, the latter probably from doors. Other identifiable pieces included a rectangular buckle, and a chain-link.

### Non-ferrous metalwork

Non-ferrous items include a standard range of medieval and post-medieval copper-alloy belt- and strap-fittings, including three plain single- and double-looped buckles (e.g. Fig. 14, no. 1, (4) ). More elaborate is a rectangular belt-mount with a circular perforation and edge-nicks closely paralleled by a tightly-dated, 16th-century, example from Whitefriars,

Coventry (Woodfield 1981, 93, fig. 5. no. 43), and two post-medieval sword-belt fittings which represent plainer versions of the example discussed by Gaimster (1988) from Pyecombe, West Sussex. Other dress accessories, ubiquitous on post-medieval sites, include a total of six small drawn-wire copper-alloy pins with spherical heads and a cast lead/tin-alloy button (Goodall 1984).

Additional functional categories represented in the assemblage include a copper-alloy folding balance (Fig. 14, no. 2, (4) ), closely comparable to a London find from a context dated 1350–1400 (Egan 1998, no. 1055, 326, fig. 243), a copper-alloy crotal bell, and eight fragments of post-medieval — probably 18th- or 19th-century — 'milled' lead window came. Less readily classifiable is an unusual crescent-shaped copper-alloy object with a convex outer surface carrying ribbed decoration (Fig. 14, no. 3, (4)).

Coins and tokens recovered from the excavations are exclusively post-medieval in date and include three 17th- to 18th-century lead-alloy tokens (only two of which are illustrated, Fig. 14, nos 4 and 5, context 4), an imported lead-alloy cloth seal from Augsburg, Southern Germany (1620–1640) (Fig. 14, no. 6, (4) ), and a silver Threepence of Charles II (1670–84).

### Discussion

Despite the limited size of the area investigated, the excavations at The Marlipins have produced a corpus of metalwork which embraces many of the categories of objects represented within larger medieval and post-medieval assemblages from towns such as York, Winchester, Norwich and London. The mix of household fittings and *personalia* with items associated with commercial activity (the folding balance, trading tokens and cloth-seal) is exactly what one would expect from a site enjoying such a prime situation within a coastal town, and is perhaps also reflective of the excavations' physical proximity to a building which may have had mercantile/commercial associations during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

### THE ANIMAL BONES

By Naomi Sykes

The range of species represented in The Marlipins assemblage is very similar to that from other sites in the region, although the relative frequency in which some taxa are represented is slightly anomalous. This is particularly true for the 16th-century and later material, which shows a much higher percentage of cattle (51% of the main domesticate assemblage) than is generally found on sites along the Sussex coast. Nearly all the late medieval and post-medieval sites in this region have yielded caprine-dominated assemblages: on average sheep/goat account for over 60% of the main domesticate remains, a situation which can be linked to the South Downs wool industry. Although The Marlipins' high percentage of cattle remains deviates from local patterns, it is in keeping with national trends; whereby cattle frequencies rise through the late medieval and into the post-medieval period (Sykes in prep.). This shift was accompanied by a move towards the slaughter of juvenile animals, and both changes have been attributed to an intensification of the dairy industry. It seems likely that the Marlipins material, which also contains a considerable number of calf remains, reflects this concentration on dairying. The late 16th-/early 17th-century deposits from the Phoenix Brewery site also produced a cattle-dominated assemblage, which was interpreted as tanning waste based on the quantity of horn cores (Clemons 1993). No such anatomical

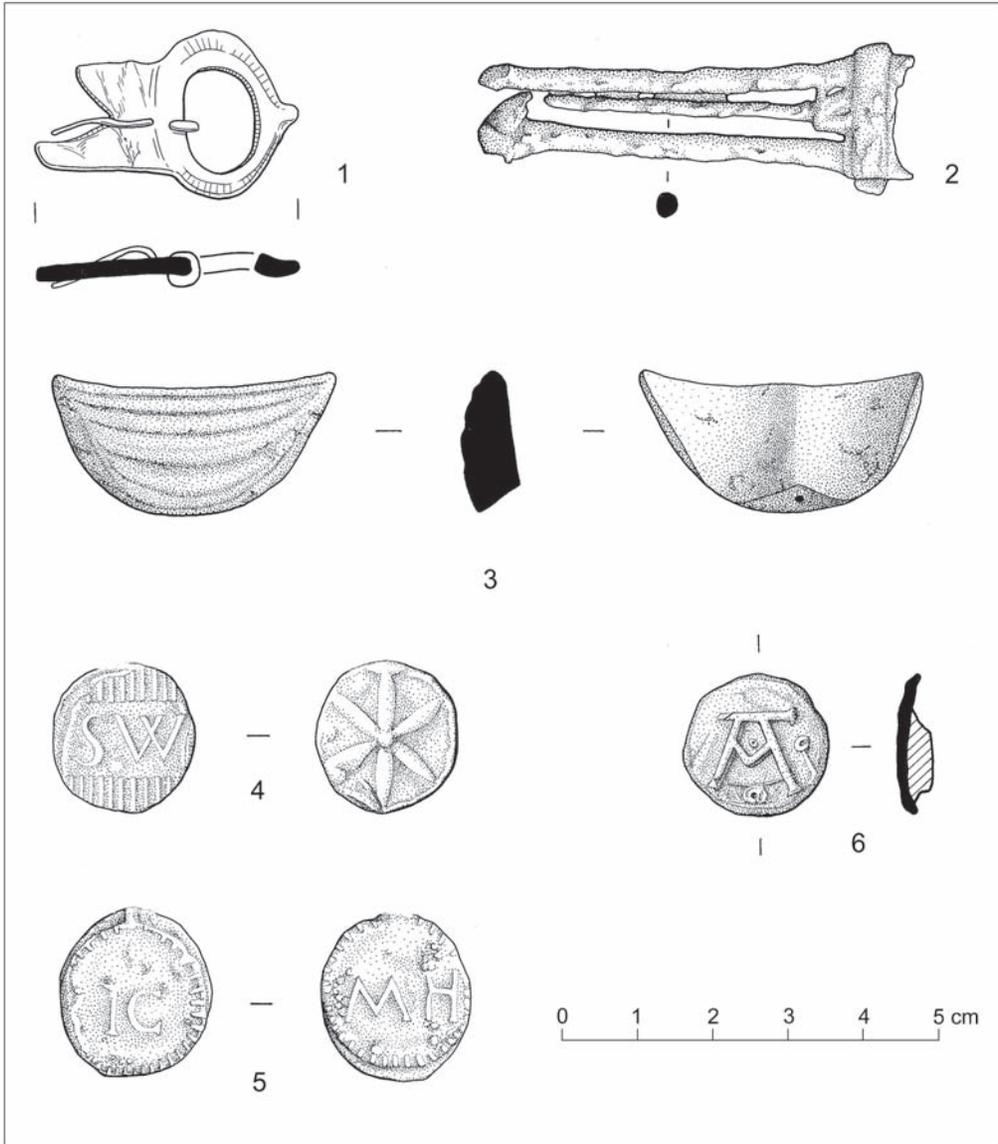


Fig. 14. Selected medieval and post-medieval metalwork.

pattern was observed for the Marlipins material, indeed, the absence of mandibles and presence of meat-bearing elements suggests that the deposit was food, rather than industrial, waste. If this is the case, it is surprising that metapodia are amongst the best represented bones, since these elements are commonly removed during primary butchery. Interestingly, four of the five ageable metapodia were from young animals, whereas the meat-bearing elements derived primarily from adults. This may suggest that the carcasses of juvenile and adult animals were treated differently, with veal carcasses arriving at the site only partially dressed whilst beef was imported as pre-butchered joints of meat.

Although sample sizes are small, the data suggest that pigs were managed differently in the earlier and later periods. For the 12th to 14th-century assemblage the presence of neonatal bones and the fact that all parts of the body are represented indicates that animals were raised, butchered and consumed within the household. By the post-medieval period, however, it would seem that pigs were raised away from the site, and that male individuals aged approximately 14–21 months were selectively sent to provision the urban population.

Evidence for diet was particularly forthcoming from the organic fill of the foundation pit (22). This assemblage seems to have been composed almost entirely of food refuse, as is

indicated by the high percentage of meat animals - those that provide no secondary products, such as pig, roe deer, rabbit, pigeon, partridge and fish. The presence of juvenile pigeons ('squab') is interesting since, in the medieval period, the flesh of these birds was not considered to be 'meat' and so could be consumed, along with fish, on days of fast (Harvey 1993). It must be assumed that squab and fish were purchased especially for this purpose and it seems likely that the other wild and semi-domestic species were similarly bought from specialist fowl and game traders.

The range of fish species represented is typical for sites on the south coast — comparable assemblages having been recovered from the Phoenix Brewery in Hastings (Clements 1993), Denton (Rhodes 1979) and Seaford (Bedwin 1978) — and they provide an indication of the type of fishing techniques employed in the area and period. Eel and flounder bones were the least numerous and probably derived from individuals that were caught in the Adur estuary. The remaining species would have been caught off-shore. In the medieval period fish such as herring and haddock were commonly purchased in a preserved state - usually having been decapitated and salted - but the presence of head bones from both these species may suggest that the individuals represented in the Marlipins assemblage were eaten fresh.

Not all of the remains from the foundation pit (22) came from food animals. For instance, several rat bones, one positively identified as *Rattus rattus* were retrieved, confirming the idea that this species was well established in Britain by the 13th century (Armitage 1994, 236). A minimum number of four cats — two adults, one immature and one juvenile — were also represented. Cat skeletons are often found amongst medieval domestic rubbish - five were recovered from a 14th-century well in Church Street, Seaford (Brothwell 1979), and three more were found in 13th century deposits at Denton (O'Connor 1979). Frequently the remains show skinning marks, indeed one of the skulls recovered from Marlipins displayed cut marks, suggesting that urban households frequently added to their income through the sale of cat fur.

The animal bone assemblage from The Marlipins, although small, is not without interest. Perhaps most importantly it adds to the zooarchaeological database for urban sites on the Sussex coast, but it also provides an insight into the day-to-day life in medieval and post-medieval Shoreham.

#### THE PLANT REMAINS By Lisa Gray

Charred cereal grains, of wheat (*Triticum* spp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and oats (*Avena sativa* L.), were the most frequent taxa observed in the processed samples. The assemblages throughout all periods were clean, with rare charred grass or legume seeds or chaff, such as glume fragments. The richest samples came from pit 59, which produced abundant quantities of clean bread-wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) and oat (*Avena* sp.) grains. The clean (de-husked) state of the seeds suggests that activities such as milling or brewing took place at this period, in which case the charring could be the result of deliberate preparation: either drying to remove pests or

harden the grains for milling, or roasting as part of the malting process (Van der Veen, 1989, 303–4).

The organic fill of the foundation pit (22) yielded mineralised remains of seeds of fig (*Ficus carica* L.), apple/pear (*Malus/Pyrus* sp.) and a fragment of horse bean/pea (cf *Vicia faba* L. / *Pisum sativum* L.). Once consumed, these edible species pass through the gut as faeces, a fact which accounts for their frequent survival within the mineralising environment of medieval cess pits and garderobes (Greig 1982, 49). Although the quantity of seeds is small and the number of species restricted compared to other medieval faecal deposits (e.g. Dimpleby 1975), in combination with the faunal assemblage, with its rich array of food waste (Sykes above), the deposit certainly compares closely to the contents of medieval cesspits and garderobes recovered elsewhere (Schofield and Vince 1994, 181).

#### MARINE MOLLUSCS By David Dunkin

Among the species of marine mollusc recovered from the excavation are *Ostrea edulis* (Common Oyster), *Cerastoderma edule* (Common Cockle), *Venerupis decussata* (Carpet Shell), *Littorina littorae* (Periwinkle), *Mytilus edule* (Mussel), and *Aequipecten opercularis* (Scallop). Oyster remains dominated the assemblage for all periods and age analysis shows that c. 75 per cent of all the collected oyster were in the middle to upper range (5–25 years) of the estimated ages. The majority of those which were less than five years in age were of sufficient size to be edible. Therefore virtually all could have been utilised as a food source. Twenty per cent of the assemblage showed evidence for infestation by polychaete worms (eg *Polydora ciliata*/P. *Hoplura*) and the burrowing sponge (*Cliona celata*). Most of these were restricted to the older species (10years+). These numbers lie well within the normal parameters of oyster collected from healthy colonies. This is further corroborated by the very minimal number of valves showing distortion. Distortion usually occurs in overcrowded colonies and low numbers of these may also suggest that the resource was not being over-exploited. The latter suggestion is also supported by the low number of adhering shells (the carrying of infants) of which only nine individuals were noted.

It is not possible to identify the source of the oyster, but they almost certainly derive from the estuarine reaches of the River Adur in the vicinity of New Shoreham. The importance of oysters to Shoreham's economy is well-documented by the 19th century, by which time the town had become a major centre for the farming, processing and trans-shipment of the foodstuff, as attested by its possession of several oyster beds (Elrington 1980, 163). The prevalence of oyster within both the medieval and post-medieval contexts at Marlipins and other recently excavated sites in the vicinity, including Ropetackle, suggests that the oyster was likely to have been an important food resource from the town's very beginnings.

The low yields of the other five edible species indicates that these were probably only a supplementary food resource from the early medieval through to the early post-medieval period. Their relative importance as a food resource, however, may have fluctuated through time.

## DISCUSSION

**THE BUILDING**

The Marlipins, an architectural archaism on a bustling modern thoroughfare, provides a unique glimpse of one of New Shoreham's lost medieval streetscapes. This opportunity is all the more serendipitous when one takes into account that the buildings' adaptation as a premises by a succession of local businesses during the 18th and 19th centuries included an engineering works, when, in the words of Packham, 'it was rather roughly used' (1924, 194). Paradoxically, it was probably the distinctly utilitarian nature of The Marlipins at this period that saved it from wholesale modernisation such as might have befallen a centrally-located townhouse. On the eve of a new phase in its long history, it is appropriate that the Marlipins's complex development can now be reconstructed in greater detail to the benefit of its enhanced role as a museum for showcasing Shoreham's past.

Arguably the greatest contribution of the recent programme of recording and excavation has been to demonstrate that considerably more of the original 12th-century fabric survives in the present edifice than has generally been credited. In addition to the dating of the first-floor joists, probable phase-1 flintwork has been recognised in all but the rebuilt southern wall. The feature of most interest, however, is the buried north-wall foundation which reveals the basic fact that the original building was over a metre longer than that which stands today. Moreover, this extra metre of early fabric contains a second, non-structural furnishing (additional to the lancet window) demonstrably belonging to the Norman building: the internal stone-lined cess pit with associated traces of a surmounting garderobe turret. In spite of this new information it must still be admitted that the lack of contemporary evidence for a roof and heating system remains a major obstacle in the path of interpreting the internal layout of the building in its earliest phases. But significant strides have been made in our understanding of medieval urban stone buildings since Packham's day, sufficient to justify a re-examination of the building's function drawing upon the more complete physical record now at our disposal.

We may begin by examining previous arguments regarding function. These have taken as their starting point etymological flights of fancy, in Richard Coates's words 'groping explanations'

on the arrestingly distinctive name: Henry Cheal making a link to the word (*pin*) for a fixed measure of wine or brandy and Packham to an archaic term for a customary payment which he further linked to the Braose's hereditary right to claim a unit of cargo on shipments of wine entering the port. Both these speculations can be safely dismissed on the basis of modern scholarship, with the most recent research favouring a derivation from a French personal name (Coates 2000, 31–3). If these spurious derivations on the name are no longer tenable neither is the specificity of Packham's attribution: a customs house where duties (either in the form of monetary payments in the case of market tolls or bulk goods in the case of wine and other imports) entered the coffers of the Braose. Having firmly discredited the basis for previous speculation, let us now refocus attention on the only reliable evidence at our disposal: the physical attributes of the building and its location.

The first issue worthy of consideration is that of internal communication (or lack of) between the two floors. As argued above, the evidence from Phase 2 onwards indicates that the upper and lower storeys of the building were entered independently from the street, allowing the self-contained spaces to be let separately, as was certainly the case later in the 18th century when wills make the distinction between an 'upper' and 'lower' Marlipins under different tenancies.<sup>5</sup> That the same independent arrangement existed during Phase 1 is highly likely on the basis of the timber joists spanning the ground floor. These indicate that the doorway providing access to the first-floor must have been in the same position as the western (street-access) doorway surviving in the present façade; the only other possible scenario is that of a first-floor door approached via an external stair also rising from the street.

It is important to state that split-level access, whilst certainly suggestive of a commercial/ utilitarian function for each storey (*see* Martin above), does not preclude a first-floor hall arrangement comprising a residential unit raised above a basement and/or undercroft, with the latter being used for explicitly commercial functions appropriate to the building's town-centre location.<sup>6</sup> Indeed, such a split arrangement is well-attested in urban contexts during the 12th century, as illustrated by the fine selection of surviving stone buildings and undercrofts from Southampton

generally regarded to be merchants' houses (Faulkner 1975, 79–80). The same arrangement has also been inferred for over half of the Winchelsea cellars (the majority lacking standing remains above) which document its continuing deployment into the 13th and 14th centuries (Martin & Martin 2004 109–11). In the context of a Norman town-house it should also be remarked that the Marlipins' size falls within the standard range exhibited by structures attributed to this category such as the 'Music House', Norwich at 15.24 m by 6.1 m (quoted in Faulkner 1975, 89).

As intimated above, the physical evidence for the layout and function of the first floor of The Marlipins at this early period is highly equivocal. Signs which may be adduced in support of a domestic use, whilst slight, are not altogether absent. They include the aumbry in the western wall (although this could be a later insertion), and the step observed in the Phase-2 spine beam which may hint at a division of the upper floor into two rooms — with a hall to the front and chamber to the rear - possibly fossilising an original arrangement.<sup>7</sup> Although by no means exclusive to domestic contexts, the attached upper-storey garderobe could lend weight to the suggestion that the rear of the upper floor acted as a private chamber during Phase 1.

Unfortunately, the contents of the garderobe pit, whilst containing a suitably 'domestic' refuse assemblage, including kitchen waste and also possibly faeces (*see* Sykes and Gray above) cannot - on the evidence of datable ceramics - be linked to its primary use. Rather, the evidence is consistent with an 'afterlife': a discrete episode of dumping immediately prior to the pit's sealing by the phase-3 north wall during the later 15th century (we must presume that the original contents were cleaned out as seems to have been the case with many of the Winchelsea cesspits). Whatever implications this raises for a domestic use in later periods, at least for defined periods (*see* below), it takes us no further in establishing when the garderobe went out of use and, by implication, whether the Phase-2 and -3 alterations marked a change in the function of the upper storey.

Of Packham's original argument, the one thread worth retaining is the building's prominent position on the medieval market place: the wider portion of High Street depicted on the town plan of 1789 which is referred to as the Oatmarket and the

Cornmarket in 1346 and 1478 respectively. Here it may be added that the site of the market-house in the later medieval and post-medieval periods lay just to the east of High Street's junction with Middle Street (directly opposite the Marlipins) as did 'the Stone' which has been interpreted as the base of the earlier market-house, perhaps used as a ceremonial focus on civic and commercial occasions (Elrington 1980, 146). Commanding a prime location within the commercial heart of the town and evidently built to superior specifications (stone was reserved for high-status properties during the 12th and 13th centuries), the Marlipins must have been amongst the top tier of New Shoreham's vernacular buildings, a standing that it certainly retained into the early 14th century when it acquired its decidedly showy chequerboard façade. There can also be little doubt that The Marlipins was designed to exploit its location to commercial advantage. The problem arises in determining the precise nature of its commercial usage prior to the substantial changes of the 15th century. Whilst it is tempting to back-project evidence of later phases for the building containing two, single-room floors and thus fulfilling a purely utility function (as in the case of an independently let workshop/warehouse or two-tier warehouse), the suggestion that The Marlipins started life as a merchant's house with domestic quarters on the first floor and with the ground floor offering storage for merchandise cannot be ignored as a possibility. The scenarios offered above may seem unsatisfactory in comparison with Packham's single, apparently definitive attribution; on the other hand they may be deemed to be a truer reflection of the ambiguities surrounding the early life of a building which has experienced seven hundred years of change and alteration.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Like the fabric of the building, the space examined to the rear of The Marlipins underwent considerable change down the centuries until its eventual occupation by warehouse structures attached to the historic range in the 18th and 19th centuries. Unfortunately, our ability to track this development for earlier periods is curtailed by the truncation of shallow features and the loss of key stratigraphic relationships by later disturbance, especially at the southern end of the site. The earliest (Period 1) evidence, broadly contemporary with the first

two phases of the historic range, is too enigmatic to interpret intelligibly. At most, one may hazard that the small quantity of Period 1 pottery, appearing as a residual component in later features, is perhaps a genuine reflection of low-level activity to be expected in the early phases of the town.

For the 14th and 15th centuries (Period 2) one is slightly better equipped to make an informed assessment. The discovery of stone footings at least indicates that part of the plot was occupied by the timber structures for some of this period. Unfortunately, the remains are too fragmentary to offer any firm conclusions as to the layout, scale or function of the structure/s. If one were to take a maximalist view, such traces could be tentatively resolved into a single building of inhabitable pretensions fronting on to Middle Street: an ancillary structure standing within The Marlipins' tenement would be the preferred interpretation from an opposing, minimalist viewpoint.

It may be remarked that none of the pits belonging to this general phase (with one notable exception) have compositions consistent with domestic-type rubbish. In any case, their specialised character — denoting a short and responsive episode of demolition clearance — increases the likelihood that their use and that of the timber structure/s was asynchronous. The extent to which the lack of domestic rubbish pits is a reflection of the utilitarian nature of The Marlipins at this period (as argued by Martin above) or one of a restricted open space behind the building is impossible to gauge: given the buildings' town-centre location the lack of pitting is certainly surprising, although it may suggest that rubbish was dumped off-site. Indicators of subsistence and other economic activities at this period are scant. The discarded hearth-lining and charred seed remains from one of the pits (context 59) may suggest that brewing or milling took place in the vicinity although incidental incorporation into a domestic hearth would provide just as likely explanation for the latter's survival. The one piece of — albeit unstratified — evidence hinting towards a range of activities beyond the purely domestic is the folding balance, probably used for weighing items of commerce such as coins or expensive spices.

Into the early post-medieval era (Period 3) much of the area had evidently been cleared, by which time at least two substantial rubbish pits had been dug towards the northern end of the plot. The

importance of these pits lies in their rich and tightly-dated artefactual assemblages providing physical insights into the town's economy in the century centred on 1600. Unlike their medieval precursors, the Period-3 pit assemblages, containing a high component of food waste and kitchen debris, are distinctly domestic in nature. The range of pottery and glass vessels represented supports the same conclusion, although here it may be added that the household/s contributing to these rubbish assemblages could aspire to some of the imported luxuries channelled through the port, including Spanish ceramics and an imitation Venetian glass from the southern Netherlands. The nature of these assemblages provides grounds for the presumption that one or other of the floors of The Marlipins was occupied during this period, even if only on an intermittent basis. As there appears to have been no internal heating system at this time (*see* Martin above, Phase 4), there is a possibility that the lean-to structure represented by the E-W wall foundation (context 14) served as an adjoining kitchen. It is not difficult to envisage a centrally-located building such as The Marlipins being inhabited by itinerant merchants during periods of business within the town: a context for the domestic usage of commercial spaces (admittedly for an earlier period) is provided by documentary references to those Gascon vintners who evidently treated rented cellarage as a temporary home for eating, sleeping and entertaining (James 1971).

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The finds from the excavation (several of which are on permanent display) and the site archive have been deposited in Marlipins Museum.

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#### ADS Supplement

Information within appendix on ADS website can be found at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library>. Follow the link to *Sussex Archaeological Collections* and select Volume 143.

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4. The Marlipins, outline details of the building as existing, 2002.
5. The Marlipins, Phase 1 details.
6. The Marlipins, Phase 2 details.
7. The Marlipins, Phase 3 details.
8. The Marlipins, Phase 4 details.
9. The Marlipins, north elevation, external.
10. The Marlipins, north elevation, external showing stone types and intrusions.
11. The Marlipins, north elevation, internal.

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## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Elrington's revised interpretation of the medieval street-plan based on the premise that previous estimations on the extent of coastal erosion have been exaggerated (1980, 144–7) ventures that the original High Street was located on the north side of the church, an axis which gives that building a more central aspect within the planned core of the medieval town.
- <sup>2</sup> Documentary research undertaken as part of the survey includes a tenemental survey (drawing upon sources dating back to 1692) prepared by John Mills which is retained as part of the excavation archive. Regrettably, it has not been possible to commission further documentary work in advance of the publication of this report. The reader is otherwise referred to Packham (1924) and Cheal and Browning (1928) for a basic historical outline of the Marlipins. Elrington (1980, 145) has pointed out that the tenure of the Marlipins in 1572 as a freehold tenement of New Shoreham manor makes

an association with Lewes Priory improbable, and further research should concentrate on the more recent archive of the Norfolk Estates' lordship in the town (I owe this suggestion to Christopher Whittick).

- <sup>3</sup> Prepared by John Mills of West Sussex County Council in consultation with Judith Roebuck of English Heritage South-East Division.
- <sup>4</sup> The truncated end of the internal bridging beam (evidently built into the phase-3 wall) displayed a peg-hole for securing the head of the lost arch brace to the former northern samson post; observation made by Martin and Martin.
- <sup>5</sup> Information contained within tenemental survey as specified in Note 2.
- <sup>6</sup> This arrangement is derived from the classic first-floor hall as adopted in both urban and rural contexts during the Norman period (Wood 1974, 68).
- <sup>7</sup> It should be further qualified that ambries also appear in non-domestic contexts, as demonstrated by the examples appearing in several of the Winchelsea cellars (Martin & Martin 2004, 118–21).