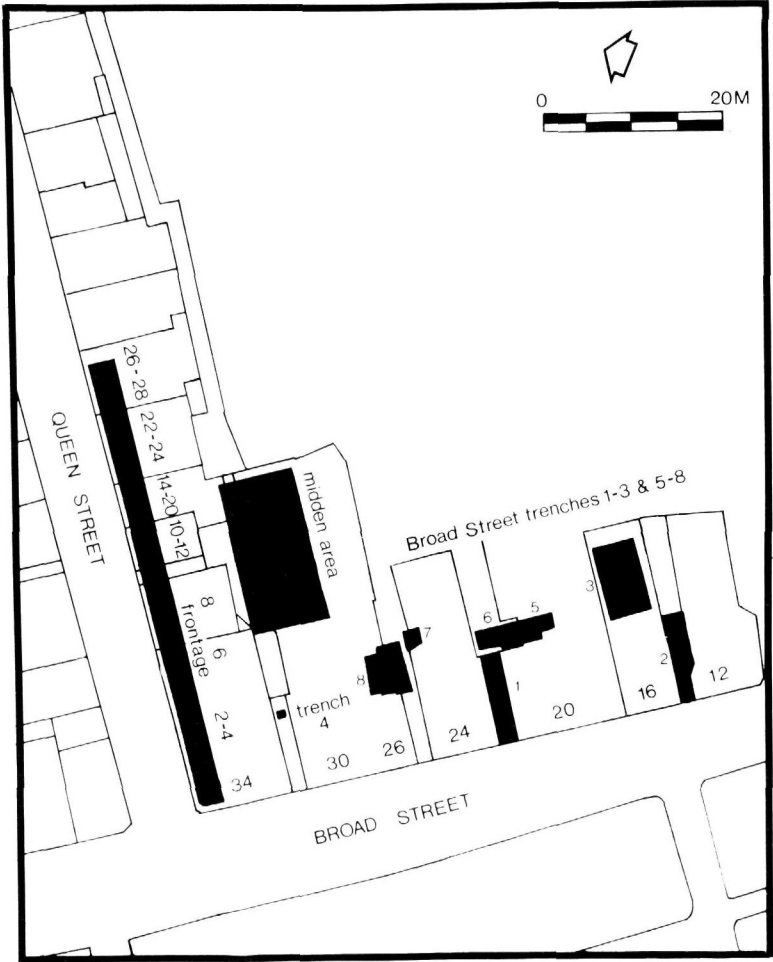


2 THE SITES

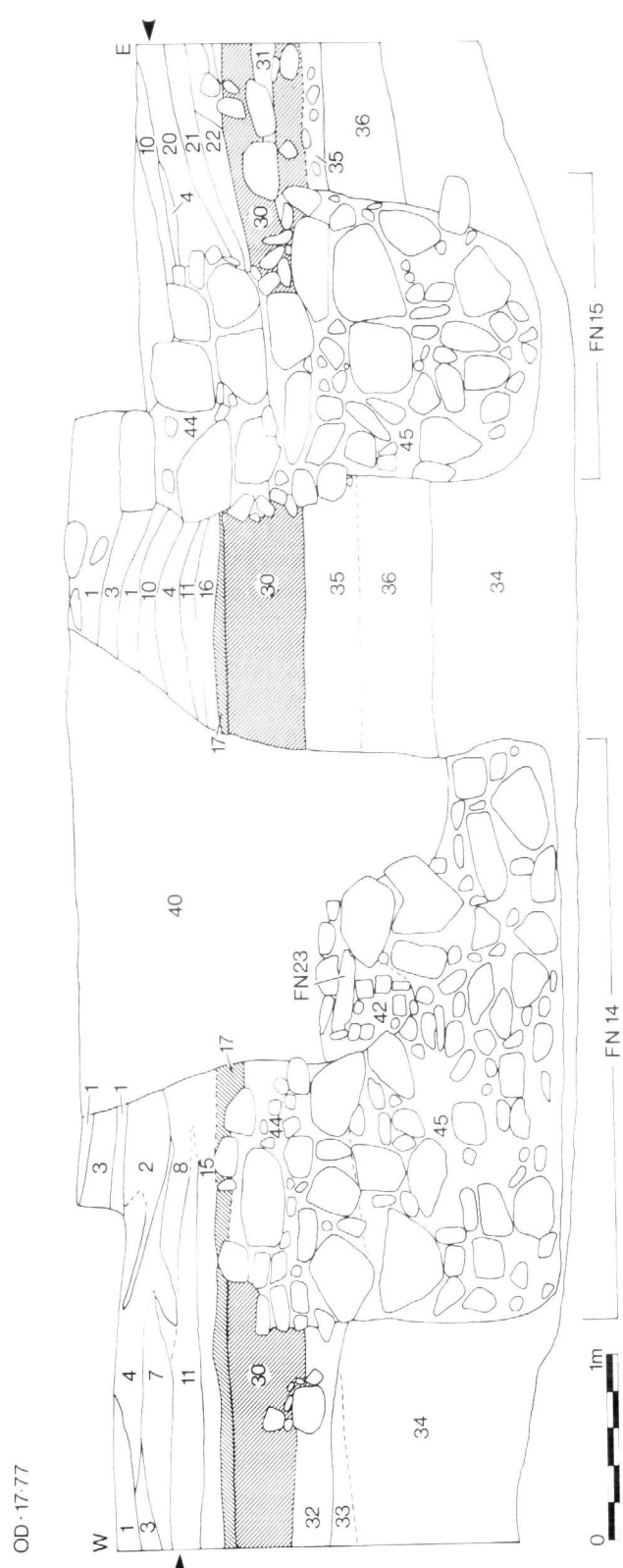
2 : 1 2-28 QUEEN STREET 1973 C M BROOKS

THE SITE

During the excavation of the Queen Street and Broad Street sites an area of the 2-28 Queen Street frontage was examined (Grid ref: NJ943063). Unfortunately 19th-century cellarge and disturbance during the demolition of the standing buildings on the site had destroyed all medieval layers S of the pavement, up to the edge of the Midden Area (Ill 2). As a result little information could be gained regarding the frontage structures and the section itself (Ill 3) which was preserved below the edge of the pavement could not be positively related to the Midden Area.



Ill 2 : Location map of 2-28 Queen Street Frontage, Queen Street Midden Area, 12-26 Broad Street and Broad Street, Trench 4



III 3 : 2-28 Queen Street, Frontage site E-W section

THE EXCAVATION

The main features of interest in the section were two massive clay-bonded stone foundations FN 14 and FN 15 which appeared to be of medieval date. FN 14 was some 3.10 m wide E-W along the section and cut the subsoil (Layer 32) into natural to a depth of 1.30 m. It was apparently partly sealed by Layer 30, and fully sealed by Layer 17; both of these horizons yielded medieval pottery. FN 15 was 1.50 m wide E-W and 1.30 m deep; it appeared to cut the natural sand and gravel (Layer 35) and was sealed by Layer 30. It had been re-used as the base of a later wall.

Stone foundations of comparable size have been found in the city, for example in the Carmelite friary (p 115) and in building JC in 42 St Paul Street (Ill 40); the latter appears to have been a 15th-17th century structure. The only major stone buildings historically known from this area would be those associated with the Greyfriars, but they held property further to the N on Gallowgate. The foundations on the Queen Street frontage, if medieval in date, could imply a very considerable building on the site in the period. Unfortunately the often difficult nature of dating from sections and the very limited fragments of the foundations excavated make any firm conclusions impossible.

Layer 30, which was an organic deposit, may be part of the midden of the Midden Area, Phase 2, but positive identification is not feasible.

2 : 2 QUEEN STREET MIDDEN AREA 1973

COLVIN GREIG

THE SITE

The excavation of the Midden Area (NJ943063), which was directed by the author, took place for seven weeks in 1973 at the same time as the excavation of the related sites of Queen Street frontage directed by C Brooks and 12-26 Broad Street directed by J Dent. The work was carried out by local volunteer labour. Administration was undertaken by Dr G Simpson and Mr K A Wood of the University of Aberdeen.

The site, which consisted of an open area excavation c 11 × 22 m, lay in the backlands between Queen Street and Broad Street. As Queen Street was not opened up until c 1775, only the later features on the site relate directly to it and in the medieval period this area must be regarded as part of the backlands belonging to the Broad Street frontage.

19th-century development with the construction of massive cellars associated with both Queen Street and Broad Street frontages had, however, physically isolated the Midden Area, so that it was not possible to directly relate individual layers or phases.

This area is shown on Parson Gordon's map of 1661 (Ill 130) as a series of long rigs or gardens behind the Broad Street tenements.

THE EXCAVATION

MESOLITHIC HORIZON

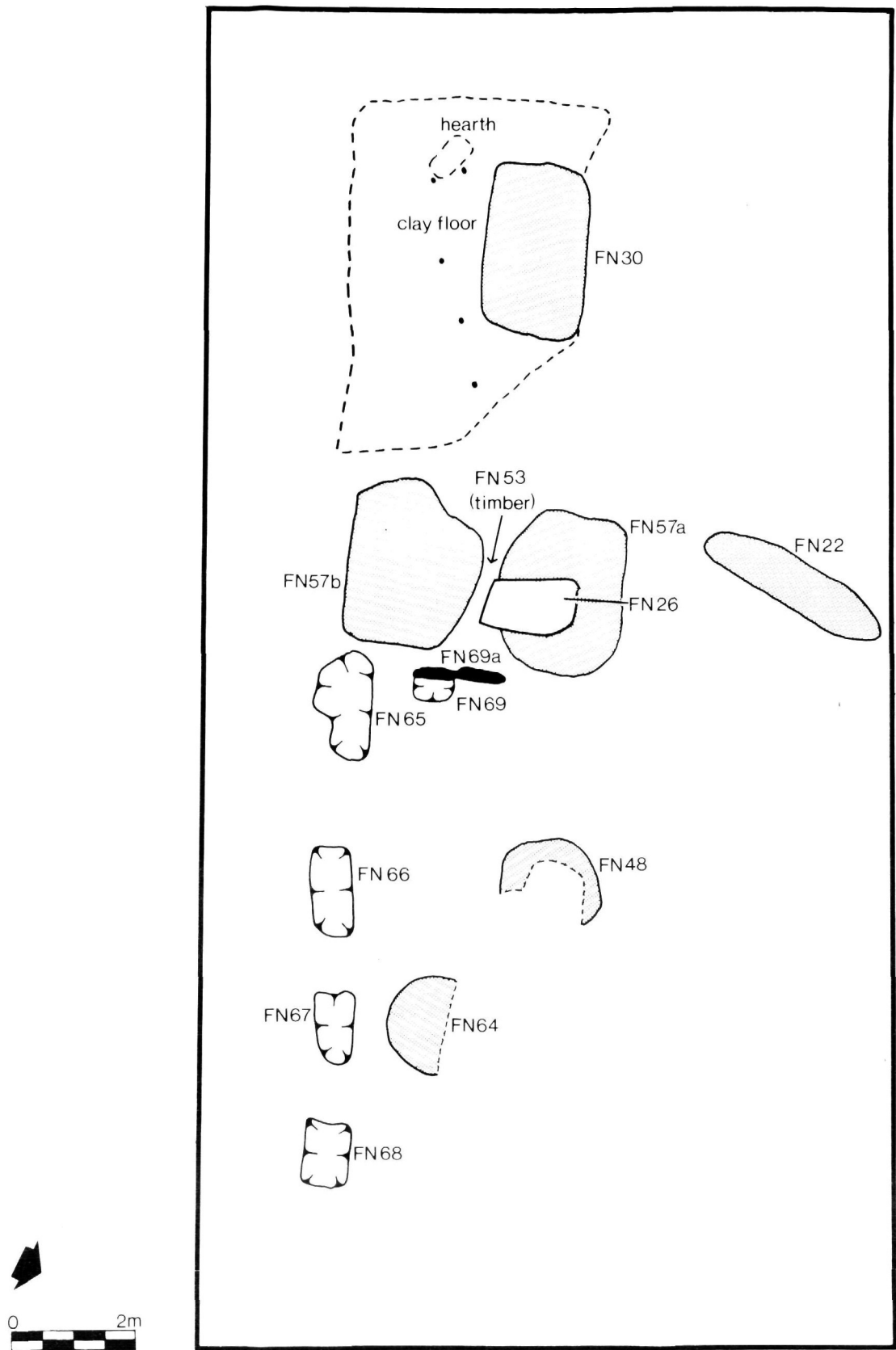
About 0.5 m below the original land surface lay an area of sand and gravel with occasional water-rounded stones. This horizon was uncovered by a section at the W end of the site cut by mechanical digger. An investigation of the sandy area revealed a number of mesolithic flints and flint cores (p 200).

PHASE 1A (Ill 4)

Due to subsequent building and site clearance this horizon was confined to the SE corner of the Midden Area (Ill 4: delineated by dotted lines). A hard beaten clay floor covered the area, lying directly on the natural land surface. The features within this horizon included a flat unkerbed stone hearth with two associated post-holes and a line of three other post-holes. A dark occupation horizon c 0.04 m thick covered the floor. The finds included a few fragments of pottery and some animal bone.

PHASE 1 (Ill 4)

During this phase a series of pits (FN22, FN30/50, FN57a, FN57b, FN48, FN64) were dug. With



Ill 4 : Queen Street Midden Area. Plan of Phase 1a (dotted outline), Phase 1 (shaded) and Phase 3 (unshaded)

the exception of FN30, which truncated the Phase 1a clay floor, all the pits had been cut into the natural. They had been used as cess and rubbish pits and produced large quantities of leather, pottery, animal bone and other artefacts. A number of textiles were also recovered. The pottery from the pits suggests that Phase 1 can probably be dated to the 2nd half of the 13th century.

FN30/50: (1.36 × 2.24 m, depth 1.50 m) This first appeared as a distinct depression in the Phase 4 cobbling (FN30). On further excavation the cause of the depression was discovered to be a cess pit FN50. This pit had been deliberately filled and showed clear signs that layers of sandy gravel had been used to seal some of the rubbish layers. The contents of the pit included bone, antler, pottery and large amounts of fish bone. Within the pit there had been a void subsequently filled with later rubbish, stone and slate which had originally held a post which appeared to have been contemporary with the use of the pit as the tip lines in all cases respected it.

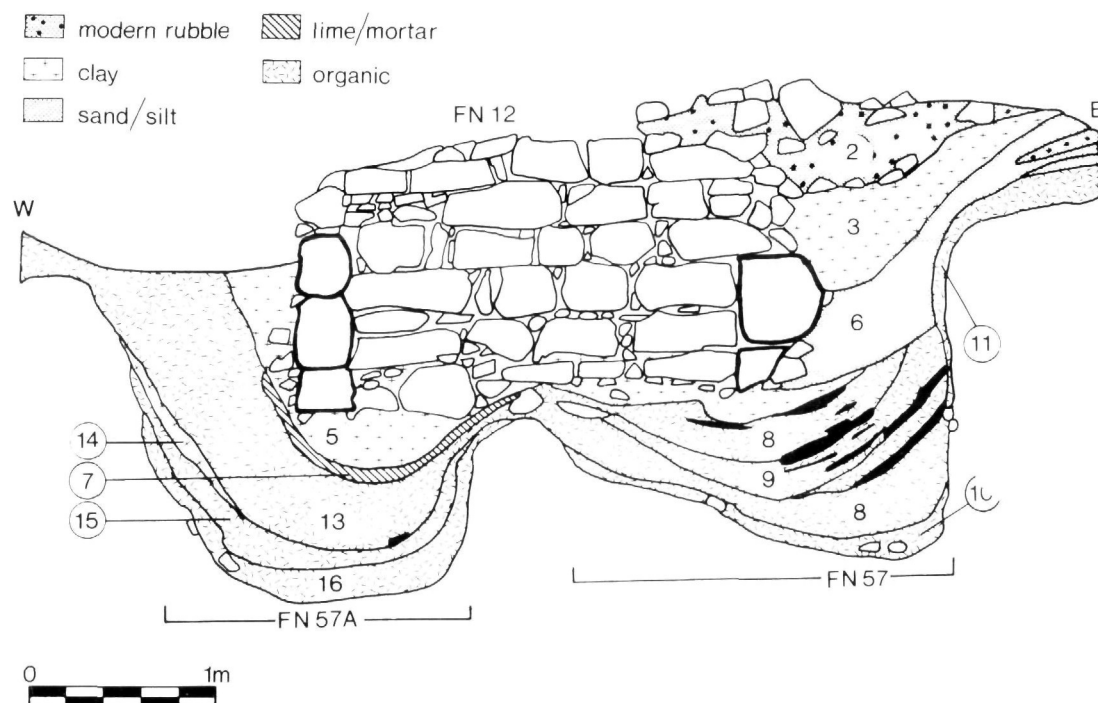
Associated pottery: 42-44, 46, 51, 53-55, 57-58

FN22: (0.62 × 2.56 m, depth: 0.37 m) This consists of a shallow elongated oval pit cut into the natural land surface and filled with rubbish, some pottery but mainly animal bone.

Associated pottery: 37-40, Scottish E Coast Gritty ware.

Associated finds: antler spindle whorl 20

FN57a, FN57b: (A: 1.62 × 2.12 m, depth: 1.75 m. B: 1.76 × 2.12 m, depth: 1.82 m) These two pits were close together and initially appeared to be a single feature. Both had been damaged by a later, Phase 4, structure (Ill 5). However the remains of a timber walkway was uncovered between them. A circular timber stain round the top of FN57A and collapsed timbering within the pit suggests that it may have been timber-lined. One large section of timber contained clenched bolts and nails and therefore may have been re-used ships' timber. This is not unusual on medieval sites. The bottom of this pit produced quantities of oak bark and animal hair.



Ill 5 : Queen Street Midden Area. Section of pits 57A and 57B: Phase 1

FN57b had no evidence of timber-lining and a complete absence of any timber within the pit fill.

The botanic analysis (Chapter 7) of samples from this pair of pits included remains of food plants and parasite eggs which strongly suggest that the pits had been used, at least in part, as cess pits. Moss present in the fill may have been used as 'toilet paper'. There was also a large amount of domestic rubbish, animal bone and pottery.

Associated pottery: 1-34, including large percentage of Scarborough wares (eg 11-16) and local fabrics (eg 1-9).

Associated finds: antler hammer 16, whetstone 47, button/button formers 59, 60, copper alloy boss 64, balance arm 65, copper alloy fragments 69-71, waste lead 92, silk 160, woollen cloth 155. FN48: (1.28 × 1.32 m) It was not possible to fully excavate this feature or ascertain its depth due to the massive concrete foundations which cut into the pit. From the finds evidence it would appear that this pit had also been used as a cess pit.

FN64: (1.20 × 1.24 m, depth: 0.70 m) This shallow pit was also cut by massive concrete foundations but it was possible to establish its dimensions. Over the top of it lay the badly crushed remains of a wickerwork basket or creel. The wickerwork was not closely interwoven, the ribs being c 100 mm apart and 10 mm thick. The horizontals varied from 10 mm to 50 mm apart. There were indications that the basket had a thicker twisted top edge. Due to the extensive damage and decay it proved impossible to reconstruct or to suggest the original dimensions of the object.

Unlike the other pits this feature produced little in the way of finds and had been dry filled. It had been partly sealed by a stone slab (FN63) immediately under which lay the ivory spindle whorl (24).

Associated finds: ivory spindle whorl 24, iron handle 86.

PHASE 2

The filling of the Phase 1 pits with rubbish appears therefore to have established most of this backlands area as a midden. Due to subsequent building development on the site, especially in the 18th century, it was not possible to establish the extent of this midden. However the section along Queen Street frontage (Ill 3) shows a thick band of midden material (30), lying on the natural land surface. There is little doubt that this is part of the same midden which had been separated from it by the massive cellarage of 19th-century Queen Street. It may extend under the present Queen Street. The midden, which survived to a depth of 0.60 m, sealed Phase 1 pits FN22 and FN57A; elsewhere it lay directly on the natural soil level. It contained animal bone, seeds, antler, leather, textiles and other artefacts.

Analysis of the animal bone (Chapter 6) has shown an interesting increase in pig bone during Phase 2, suggesting that the wealth of the area had declined since Phase 1; this would be consistent with its use as a midden.

The pottery from the midden can be dated to the late 13th and early 14th century. There is, surprisingly, a higher percentage of Low Countries grey wares than in Phase 1, which would superficially suggest an earlier date (see p 124).

Associated pottery: 59-125.

Associated finds: dice 18, 19, bone skate 26, copper alloy clasp 63, waste lead 91, 93, lead/copper alloy fragment 94, water spout 98, leather 103, 108, 114, 117, 126, 137, 141, 149, 154.

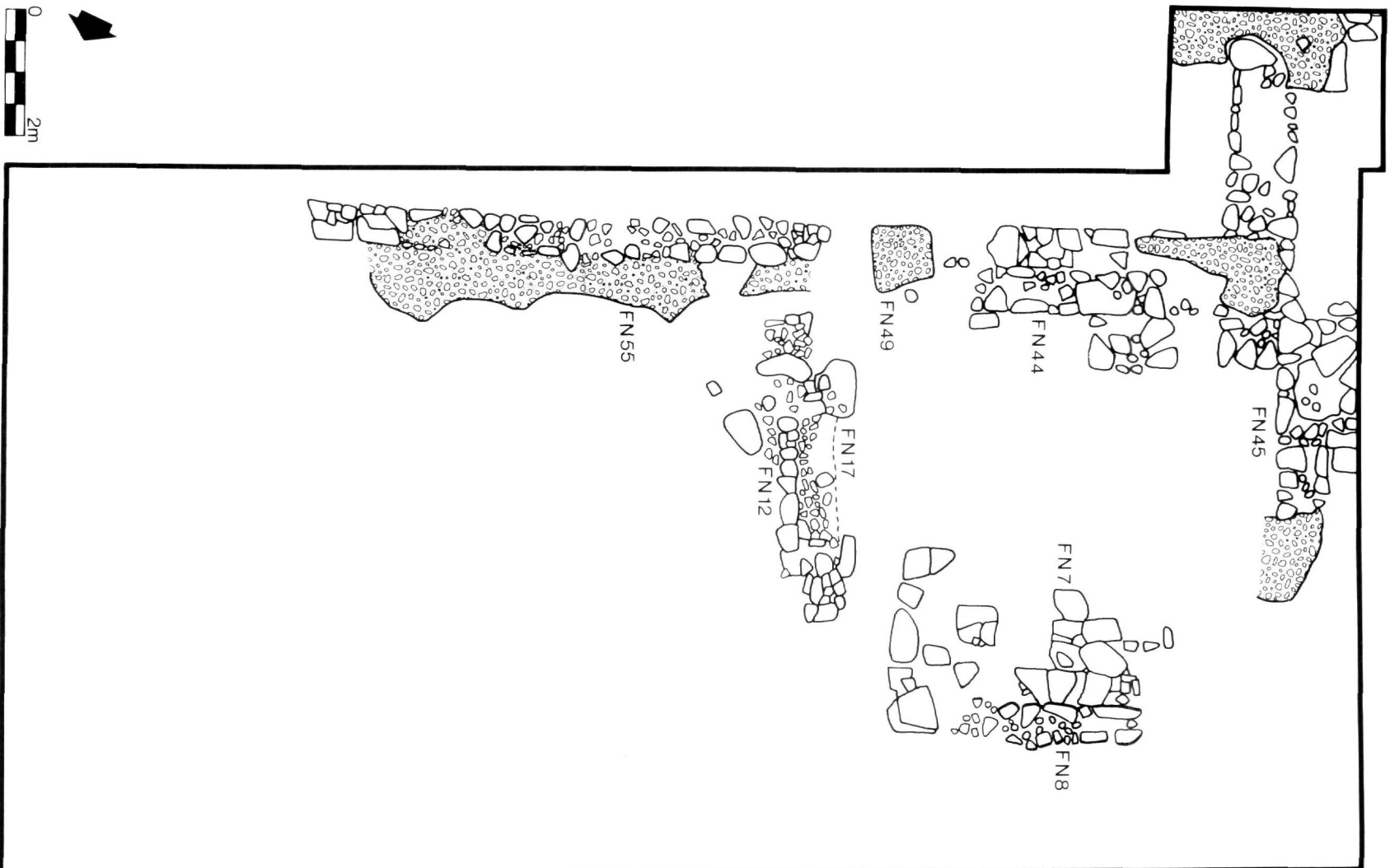
PHASE 3 (Ill 4)

To this phase belonged the only definitive building structure in the backlands area, represented by FN26, FN69, FN69a, FN65, FN66, FN67, and FN68. The building had been destroyed by fire and only one section of burnt wattle and daub walling FN26, a possible timber sill and a number of post settings remained. FN26 was a section of collapsed wattle and daub, c 0.80 × 1.00 m. Excavation revealed that it had fallen on a layer of burnt heather and wattles which in turn covered a thin dark occupation horizon containing only a few fragments of animal bone. The cross-section of FN26 consisted of a layer of hard beaten clay and a second layer of clay into which heather had been pressed in a criss-cross pattern. A number of wattles had also been used in the construction.

A possible sill, a timber upright and planking (FN69a) were found near FN26. The planking was c 1.30 × 0.30 × 0.02 m. There were five roughly rectangular post-pits (FN69, FN65, FN66, FN67, FN68) with a surviving average depth of only 0.09 m, the rest having been cut by later building activity. FN69 and FN65 appear to indicate the corner of the structure. The building appears to have been at least 8 m long E to W, no estimate of the other dimensions is possible.

Associated pottery: 126-129.

Associated finds: copper alloy buckle 55, clench bolts 76, 77.



III 6 : Queen Street Midden Area, Plan of Phase 4

PHASE 4 (Ill 5)

The foundations of a clay-bonded wall (FN8: length 1.20 m, width: 0.24 m, height: 0.60 m) lay parallel to the present Queen Street, at right angles to Broad Street. From its position it would appear to have been a feu boundary wall, further evidence being that the later wall FN7 did not cut or destroy FN8 but had been constructed tightly against its inner face reiterating the boundary. FN8 cut through the midden and was therefore post Phase 2 and as it was replaced by FN7 it was earlier than the 18th century. Gordon's map of 1661 (Ill 130) shows stone boundary walls on the site and could suggest a 17th-century or possibly earlier date for this feature.

Clearance of the 20th-century rubble on the site uncovered a well cobbled floor (FN13) with associated post holes and socketed stones which could have held some kind of machinery. The floor, which was covered with 18th or 19th-century glass bottles and shattered pottery, was bounded by lime-mortared walls (FN7, FN9, FN10, FN29, FN49, FN46). The remains of a well constructed fireplace (FN12), the jambs of which still stood on one side to a height of three courses, suggest a late 18th-century date for the building. The section (Ill 5) shows the back of this fireplace with its associated jambs and foundation trench (5) and (3). Directly below (5) lay a layer of building lime.

At a later date the hearth area (FN13) had been reduced in size and used for some industrial purpose. It is interesting that the 1807 title deeds of 26 Broad Street show that c 1800 Middleton Rettie, a tinsmith, held property in Rettie's Court at the rear of No 26 Broad Street (City Charter Room, Box 30/250).

CONCLUSIONS

One of the problems in understanding the Queen Street Midden Area has been its isolation from the Broad Street and Queen Street frontage sites. The cause of this was the 18th and 19th-century cellaring on the Queen Street frontage and the massive cellars, concrete foundations and post-demolition mechanical disturbance on the Broad Street frontage. This isolation of the different areas made an overall comparative study of horizons and features on the three sites impossible.

The excavation revealed that post-medieval and 19th and 20th-century site clearance and levelling had stripped all evidence of 15th to 17th-century occupation with the result that removal of 18th to 20th-century rubble and occupation immediately exposed an early medieval horizon. It was, however, possible to establish an occupation sequence for the Midden Area during the 13th and 14th centuries.

An early 13th-century domestic settlement (Phase 1a) was followed in the second half of the century by the digging of a series of cess and rubbish pits (Phase 1). This perhaps suggests the formalisation of the Broad Street frontage properties by the second half of the 13th century, the backlands then being used for the disposal of domestic and commercial waste. This hypothesis is reinforced by the continued use of the area as a midden into the early 14th century (Phase 2). The Phase 3 building clearly brought to an end the use of the area as a midden; the Scarborough ware including the face mask jug (I26) suggests a date in the late 13th or early 14th century.

In conclusion, this excavation proved the establishment of settlement in the Castlegate/Broad Street area by the early 13th century.

2 : 3 12-26 BROAD STREET 1973 J DENT

THE SITE

Seven trenches (1-3, 5-8) were excavated on the frontage of 12-26 Broad Street (Ill 2); Trenches 1 and 2 were along closes that lay between the cellars (Grid ref: NJ943063).

A preliminary excavation by J Hinchliffe in January 1973 showed that no archaeological features were likely to have survived below the cellar floors on the street frontage and that much of the potentially interesting material had already been destroyed. It was in this area that buildings were shown on Gordon's map of the town, and the excavators had hoped to find these well preserved. In fact fragments of structures were found at three points along the frontage, lying sealed between the walls of neighbouring cellars. It was not possible, however, to establish the plan of a single building and even though the cellars had been confined to the street frontage, excavation in the backlands was hampered by a multitude of recent wall foundations and other disturbances. Those trenches which could be dug were often widely separated and it was seldom possible to correlate layers from different trenches. Probably 90% of the area had been spoiled for the excavators but, in spite of this, valuable information was recovered, including well stratified groups of medieval pottery.

Because of the difficulty of correlating material from different trenches a degree of flexibility is necessary in interpretation. Although a common 12th-century ground surface was located in each trench, subsequent development of the individual plots, which appear to have corresponded approximately to the modern properties, was piecemeal with perhaps considerable overlaps between building phases. The overall build up in stratigraphy dates from the 13th and 14th centuries, but this predated the latest structures which are likely to have been those illustrated by Gordon.

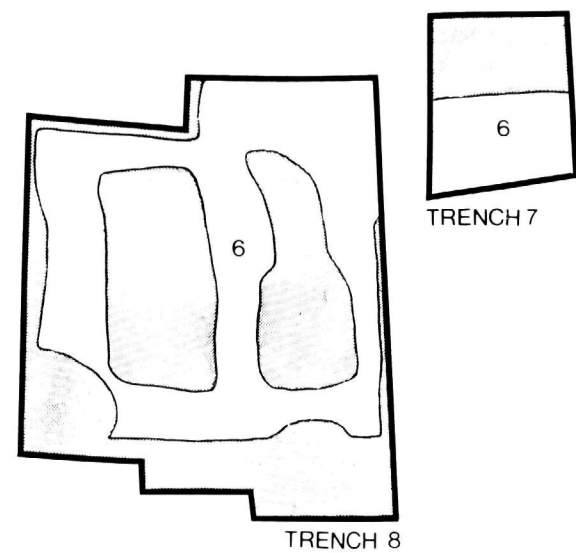
THE EXCAVATION

EARLY ACTIVITY

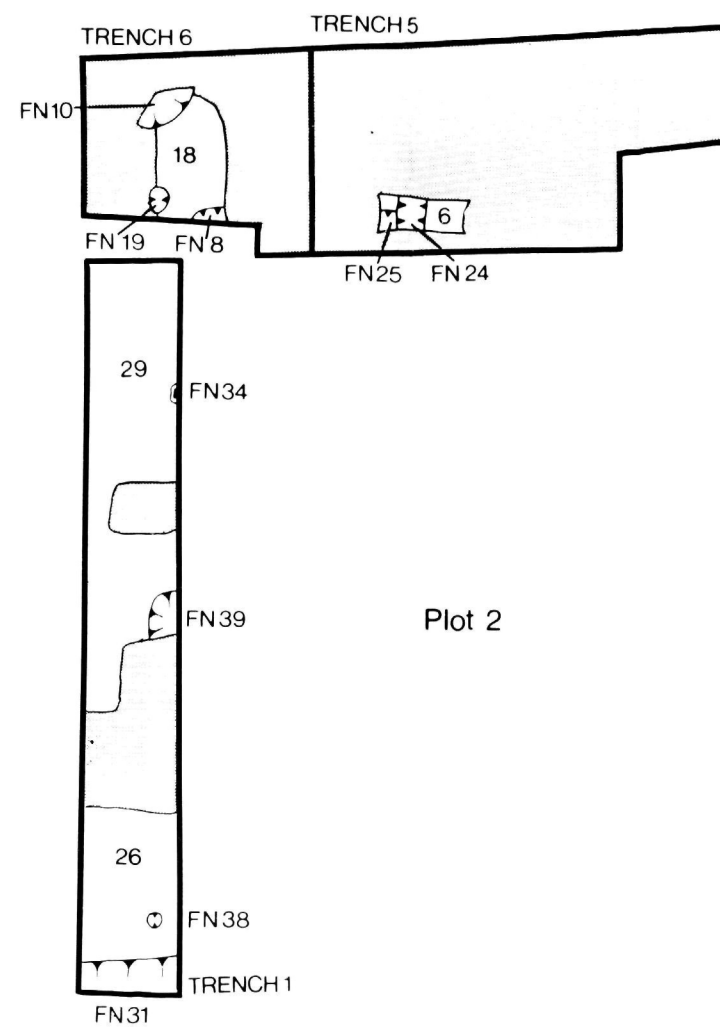
Overlying the natural gravel wherever this was located was an old soil which had formed the early medieval land surface. This fell away towards the SW, so that there was a drop in ground level of some 0.80 m between Trench 8 and the W end of Trench 2. Included in the old soil was flint waste of the sort found elsewhere on the site, while a residual barbed and tanged arrowhead from Trench 1 also belonged to these early stages of activity. The total absence of pre-12th-century pottery suggests that, before the construction of Broad Street, the site was virtually unoccupied.

PHASE 1 (Ill 7)

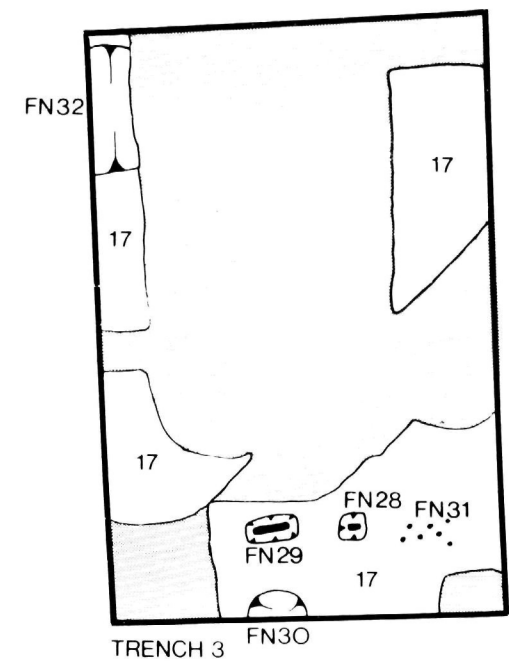
A ditch cut into this land surface (Trenches 1: FN31 and 2: FN23) may be interpreted as the first boundary of a new Broad Street. In Trench 2 this was 1.30 m wide and 0.40 m deep and the fill contained the earliest medieval pottery on the site, possibly dating to the late 12th century. The first building programme was based upon this line and the ground along the street was divided up into



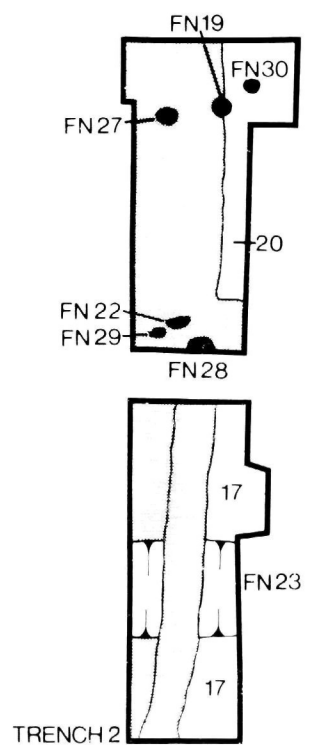
Plot 1

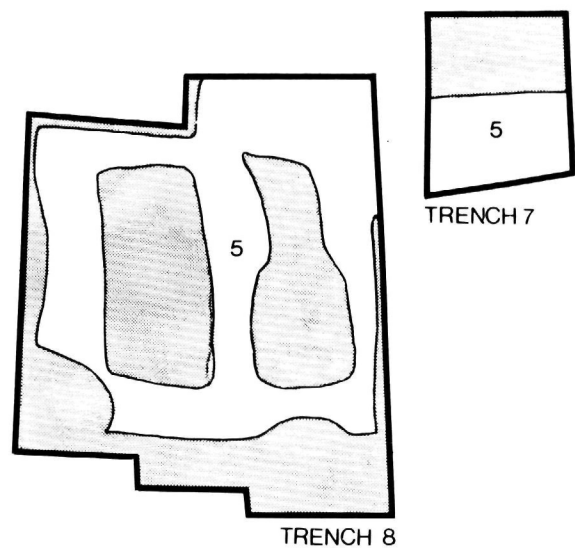


Plot 2

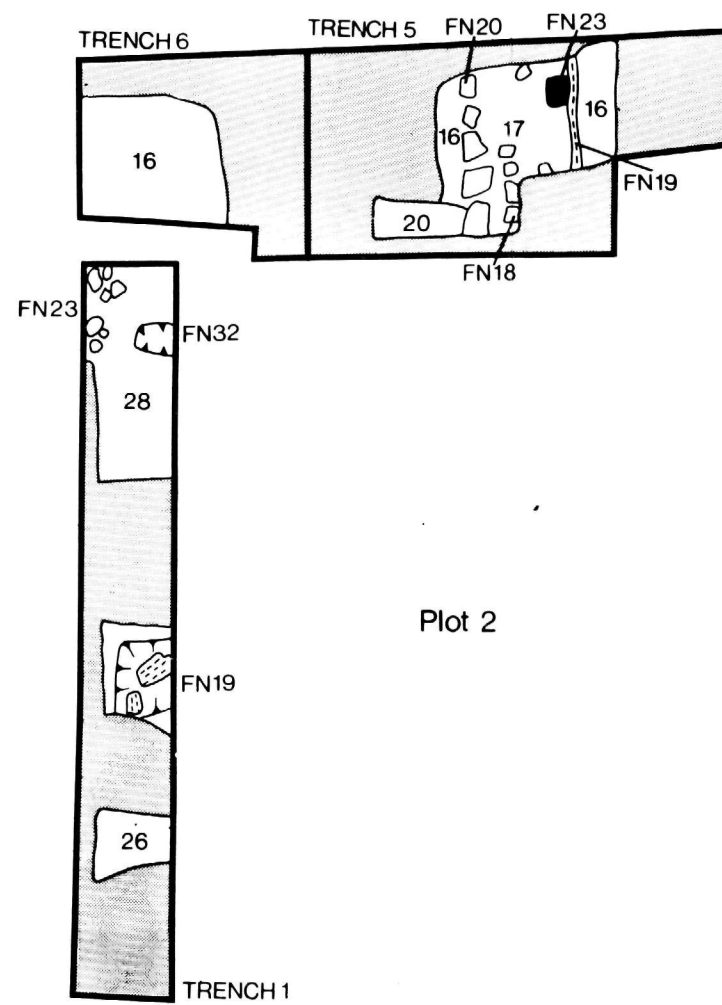


Plot 3

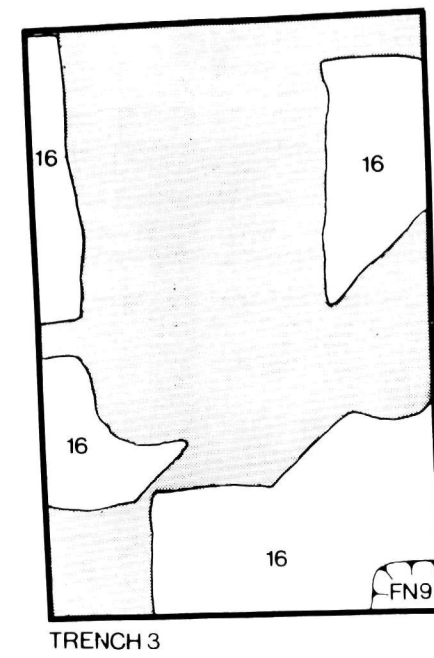




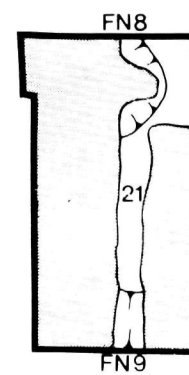
Plot 1



Plot 2



Plot 3



TRENCH 2

separate plots for building. A post-hole in Trench 1 (FN38) may be from a fence which supplemented the boundary ditch along the street frontage.

In Plot 2, remains of a timber building survived in the form of three post-holes (Trench 1: FN34, 39. Trench 6: FN8), one of which contained the truncated remains of a post 0.38 m high and 0.21 m wide. The fact that the post appears to have been sheared off at ground level on demolition suggests that it was rotten by this stage. These three posts could have supported a gable wall some 5 m wide. To the S and E of these were small pits or post-holes and a slot (Trench 5: FN24, 25. Trench 6: FN10, 19) which could have belonged to the same structure.

To the S in Plot 3 there was evidence of another timber structure. Timber uprights (FN28, 29) and vertical stakes (FN31) in Trench 3 seem to belong to the back wall of a building fronting the street, with its front wall and a central support indicated in Trench 2 (FN22, 28, 29: front wall. FN19, 27, 30: central axis). These would give a structure some 6 m wide and at least 5.50 m long, set back from the street ditch by 2.30 m. A trodden earth floor in Trench 2 was overlain by a destruction layer of burnt clay (FN21, 25) which with the timber construction, seems to indicate that the walls had daub infilling.

On the N side in Plot 1, a building in line with those found further S would lie outside the excavated area, and would have been destroyed by cellaring.

In the backlands behind the earliest structures the only feature which might relate to this phase was a pit (Trench 3: FN32).

Associated pottery: *133-137*.

Associated finds: antler offcut *31*.

PHASE 2 (Ill 8)

The earliest stratified pottery from the street frontage comes from the ditch along the road-side and it appears that this was filled in the late 12th or early 13th century. Following this the hard gravel surface of the street was extended up to the building line.

In Plot 2, the first phase timber building was replaced, apparently without burning, by a second wooden structure. What was probably a complete section through the building in Trench 1 showed a foundation trench for the rear and front walls with an extant upright timber, 0.82 m high, in the latter (Trench 1: FN19, 32). A layer of grey clay which was probably the floor of the building overlapped the front foundation trench. At the rear of the structure traces of another foundation consisted of a horizontal timber (Trench 5: FN19), 0.15 m wide and at least 1.50 m long, lying against and over a footing of cobbles set in sand. Embedded in this footing had been a squared timber upright, 0.30 × 0.40 m in section, which was represented by a void (Trench 5: FN23). Four small squared blocks of granite formed a line running from E to W along the footings (Trench 5: FN18). Whether these elements constituted a separate structure or the base of a staircase for access to the upper storey of the building is not known.

In Plot 3 the early timber phase was replaced by a stone structure the walls of which were later robbed out (Trench 2: FN9, Trench 3: FN9). The foundation had cut into the gravel subsoil for some 0.20 m and the walls had been approximately 0.40 to 0.50 m in thickness. An internal partition or support could have rested on a cobble foundation and then been subsequently removed leaving a pit (Trench 2: FN8). Inside the building, a succession of superimposed hard trodden floor surfaces of sandy clay contrasted with the gravel street surfaces to the W and a long period of use is indicated by the thickness of both. Pottery evidence shows that the timber structure in Plot 2 was destroyed first and the overlying ground was building up when the later road surfaces outside the Plot 3 building were being laid down. The breadth of this stone structure is only approximately measurable and was about 4.0 m. This was slightly narrower than the preceding structure and the N gable was somewhat to the S of the earlier line.

Over the whole area a gradual rise in the ground level took place as deposits of building debris and occupation rubbish accumulated to a depth of 0.50-0.60 m. The more durable structure in Plot 3 survived longer, while the wooden foundations of the building in Plot 2 were less resistant to the ravages of damp.

Associated pottery: *138*.

PHASE 3 (Ill 9)

The rise in ground level following the demolition of the second timber building in Plot 2 was the result of the deliberate dumping of organic refuse, implying that the property stood vacant for some little time before further building took place. A large granite block foundation 1.90 m wide and 1.00-1.20 m deep (Trench 1: FN4) could have been intended to support a large stone building, but a single course of undressed facing stones, with the ground surface to the W weathered as if by run-off water, was all that survived of any superstructure. No corresponding walling was found and it is difficult to see any other evidence for this being part of a large stone structure. The way in which the footing cut the gravel suggested that the N, E and W sides were original and that only the S side was truncated, which could support the suggestion that this had been the base of an external chimney or stairway, which would presumably have adjoined a building which lay to the S.

The stone building on Plot 3 appears to have remained in use during this stage of the site's history, but activities in the backlands required the digging of various pits (Trench 3: FN1, 8, 22, 27. Trench 8: FN8) some of which were deep and squared (Trench 3: FN8, 22) and recalled pits from the Queen Street Midden Area. Pit FN8 in Trench 3 was 3.50 m deep.

Building in the backlands was limited to the central area where the SW corner of a rectangular structure survived as a footing of granite blocks set in sand which cut through the earlier deposits and rested on the natural gravel (Trench 6: FN11), S of this, part of the second phase footings (Trench 5: FN18) could have survived above ground, while 1.30 m further to the S was a parallel wall of granite blocks resting on a sand and cobble footing (FN12) which had been robbed down to a single course above the contemporary ground level.

In the forelands, a pit filled with organic material was found in Trench 1 (FN21), but its extent is not known.

Associated pottery: *139-172*.

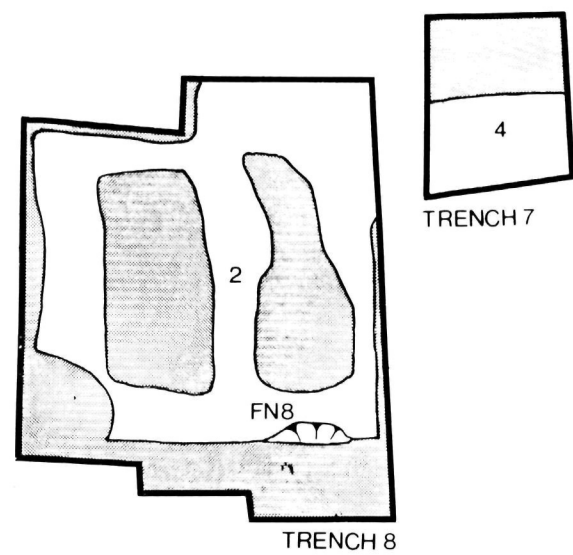
Associated finds: bone spindle whorl 22, copper alloy ring 61, copper alloy plate 67, iron shears 84, cloth seal 88.

PHASE 4 (Ill 10)

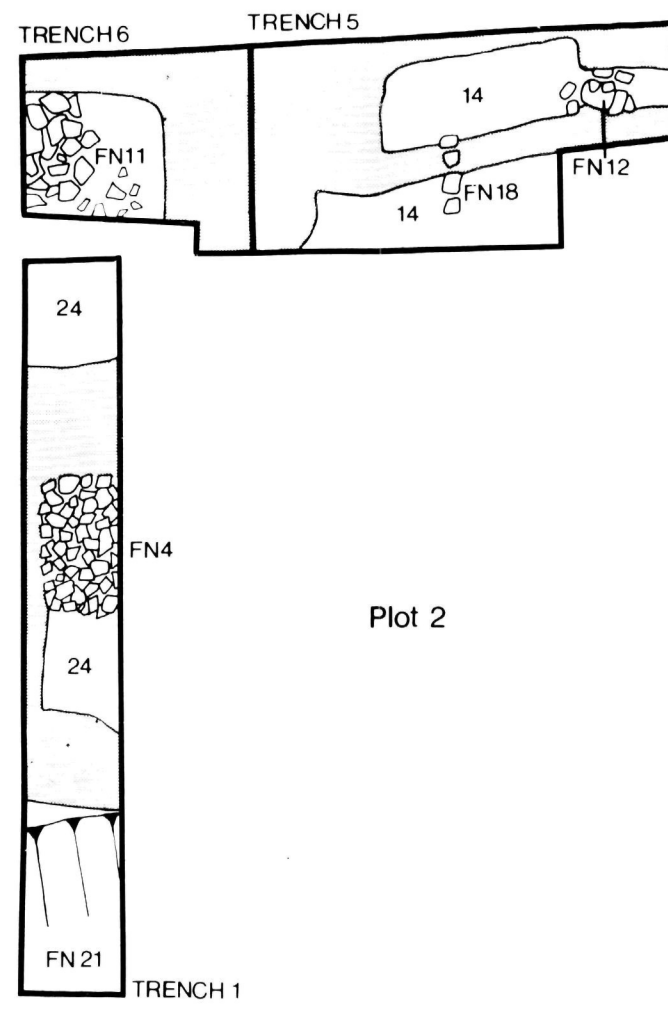
Although a fifth stage of building was to take place in Plot 2, it was the layout of buildings from the fourth phase which was to survive until the rebuilding of the 18th and 19th centuries. In this phase a greater conformity is seen in the street frontage and in the size of houses and backland plots. At least two walls from buildings of this period were incorporated into the later cellars and survived until 1973.

In Plot 2 the tradition of building in timber was continued and a wooden structure with a cobbled floor was erected over the earlier footings. Two stout squared oak timbers survived at what may have been the NW corner, one of which was 1.20 m in length and 0.30 m square, with edges adzed to a chamfer (Trench 1: FN12). An upright central to the gable (Trench 1: FN35) was 0.40 m wide but had been partly sheared away in the construction of a cellar wall. At the rear the wall survived as a horizontal sill fixed in clay and 1.10 m long (Trench 1: FN18). This last was rotted on its upper side and was covered with burned daub. A building c 4 m wide is indicated from the surviving remains and that the length is unlikely to have exceeded 6 m is suggested by the line of a culvert (Trench 5: FN6) which presumably ran to the S. A 14th-century date for this phase is likely from the pottery evidence.

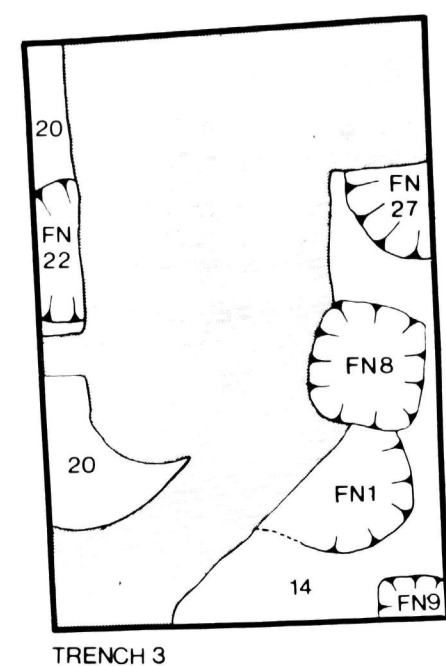
In Plot 3, on the site of the earlier stone building, a new stone foundation was built which consisted of granite blocks set in sand (Trench 2: FN10) filling an irregular trench with a maximum width of 0.80 m and depth of 1.80 m. Included in the wall was a reused block of dressed limestone from a window or door. The complete length of the N gable wall of the building survived below the contemporary ground surface. On the S a thin brick veneer separated it from the interior of a recent cellar. The building had been 4.30 m wide and of unknown length. There was no sign of a further reconstruction until the 18th or 19th century and it seems certain that this was the building shown by Gordon.



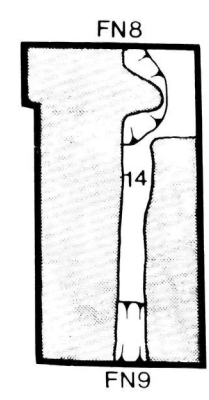
Plot 1



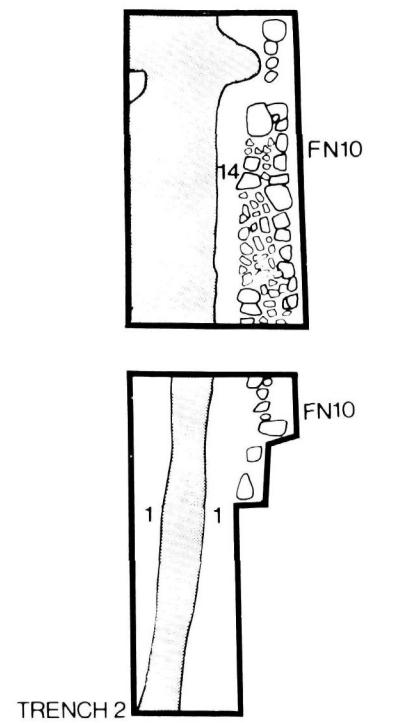
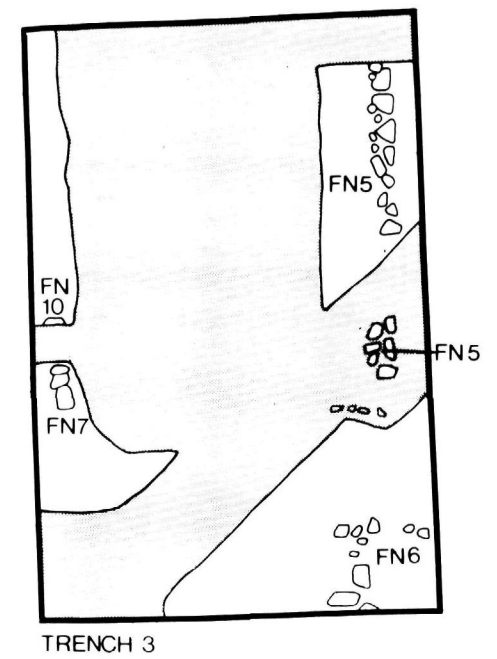
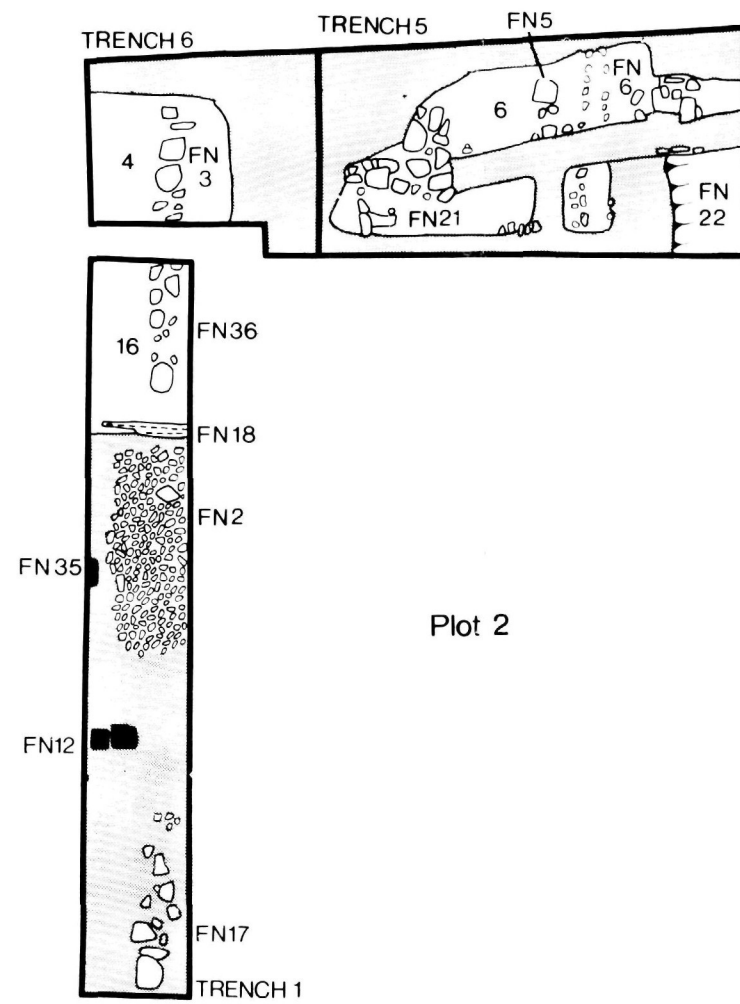
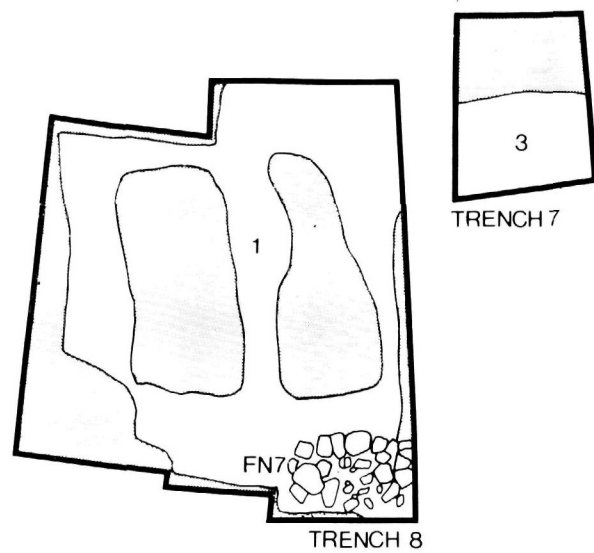
Plot 2



Plot 3



TRENCH 2



In Plot 1 a similar gable wall survived between two cellar walls and was 4.6 m long and rested on the natural gravel. Here, as in the other two buildings, a close relationship with modern property boundaries is evident and the line of the frontages of the three buildings runs parallel to the modern street.

A fragment of cobble foundation in Trench 8 (FN7) could belong to this stage and may have been the base for an external staircase. The surviving fragment was 2.30 m × 1.10 m and was less than 0.30 m in thickness, resting on the fill of an earlier pit.

In the backlands and forelands there was considerable evidence for subdivision in the form of walls or lines of flat stones of a single course (Trench 1: FN17, 36. Trench 3: FN5, 6, 7, 10. Trench 5: FN5. Trench 6: FN3). Related to this was the culvert in Trench 5 (FN6), and to the rear of the central wooden building in Plot 2 was the SW corner of a stone structure, granite block footings which rested on natural gravel and were still 0.70 m high (Trench 5, FN21).

Associated pottery: 173-182.

Associated finds: limestone fragment 48, woollen cloth 156, 157.

PHASE 5 (Ill 11)

In Plot 2, the destruction of the earlier building was followed by renewed activity in the backlands, but no remains were found of a foreland structure earlier than the existing cellars. Although the upper levels were disturbed by services laid along the close here in modern times, it is unlikely that this destroyed all trace of a final phase. It is more probable that the rebuilding closely followed the modern line and that structural remains were removed in more recent times.

The structures at the back which belong to this late phase were: a length of granite boulder footing, set in red clay, some 3 m long and 0.60 m wide with a second course of blocks in places (Trench 1: FN33. Trench 6: FN1); a short fragment of wall footing 1.20 m long and 1.10 m wide, again formed of water worn stone blocks (Trench 5: FN2); and a section of wall footing one course deep running S from the line of FN2 (Trench 5: FN9). This was 2.30 m long and 0.40 m wide and overlay a small pit (FN7) and the robbing trench of an earlier wall (FN22).

Elsewhere there was apparently no change after the fourth phase of building until after the production of Gordon's map.

Associated pottery: 183-188.

Associated finds: whetstone 46.

CONCLUSIONS

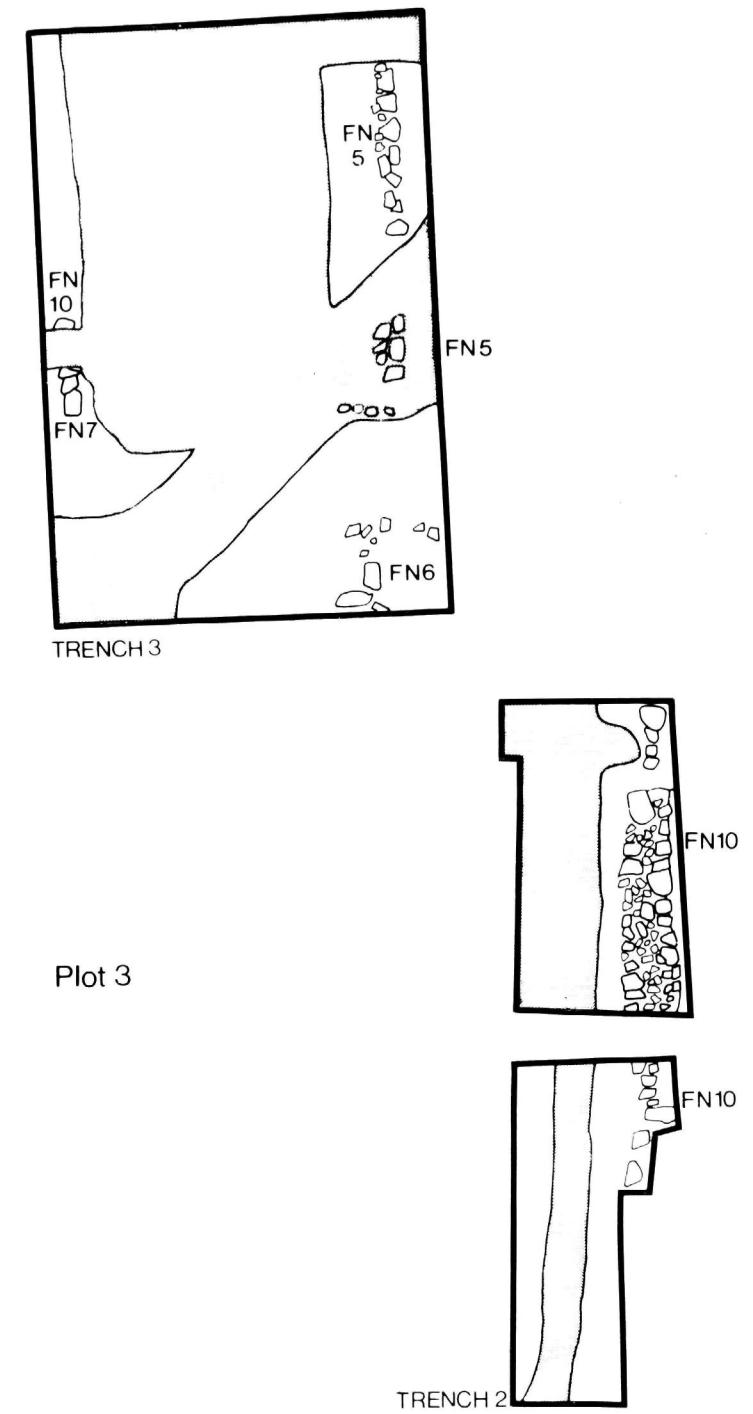
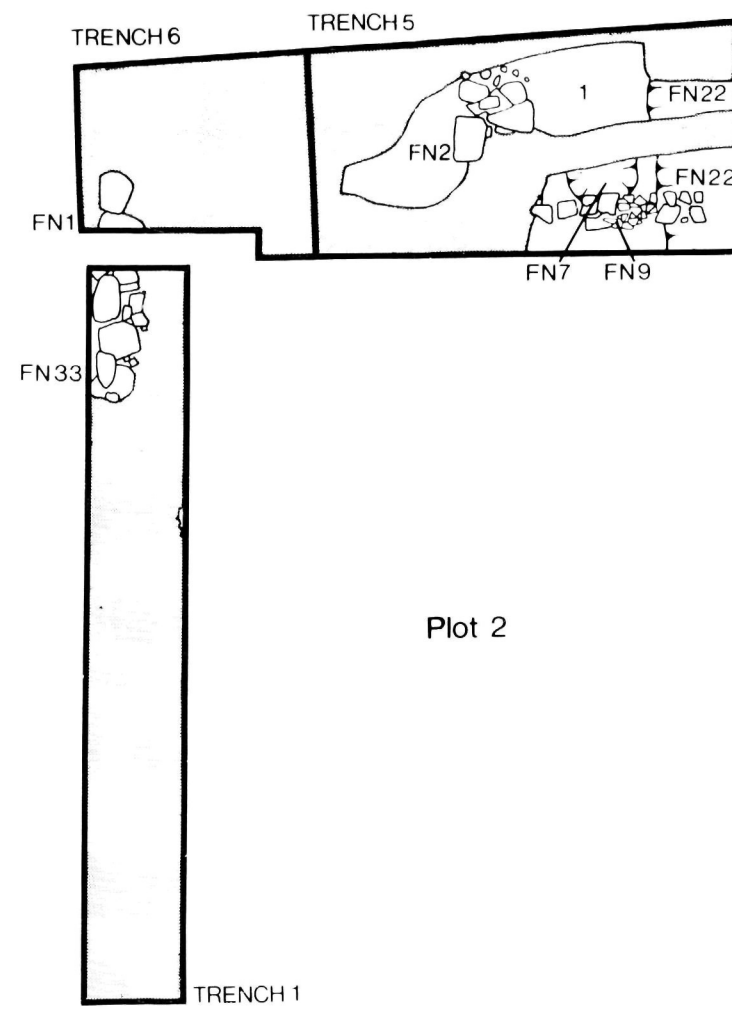
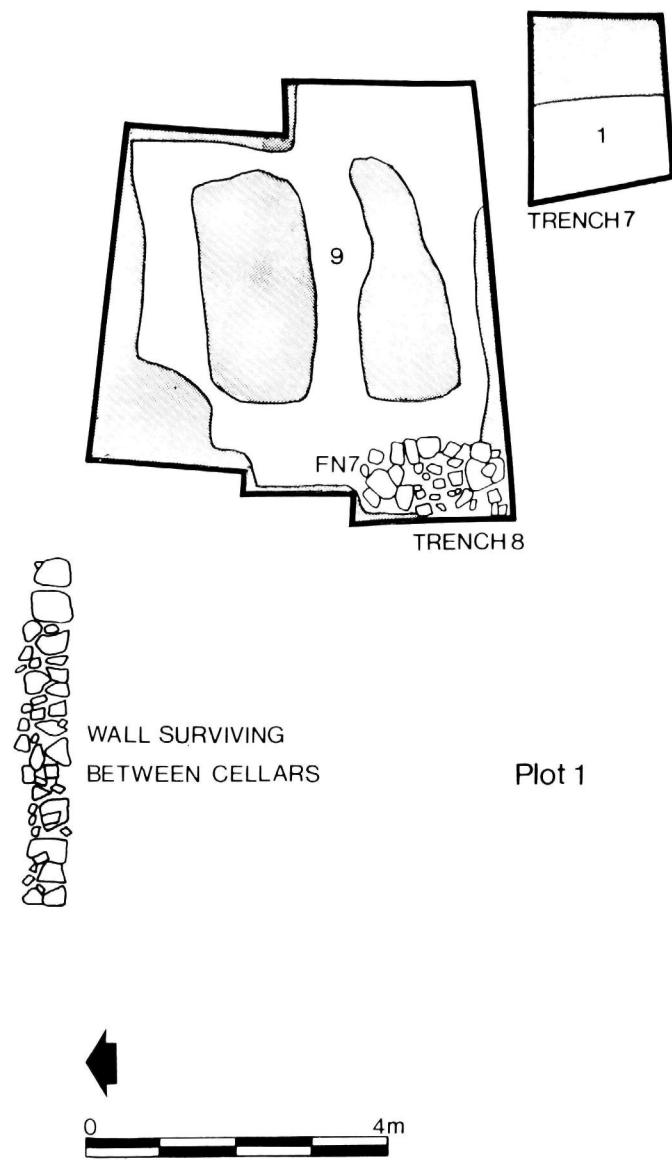
The Broad Street site should be seen as an example of medieval town planning. In the late 12th/early 13th century the land along the road which led from the centre of the town towards Old Aberdeen was parcelled off for housing. The buildings found along the street frontage allow space for a row of structures which need be interpreted in no other way than as houses. The rise in ground level in the 13th and early 14th centuries permitted boundaries to wander slightly but by the end of the period they were very close to the boundaries of 1973. The stabilization of the ground level was the result of improved facilities for the removal of rubbish from the vicinity of the houses, which may have been a reaction to the Black Death of the mid-14th century. Once the ground level remained essentially constant the land divisions were less open to dispute.

The best preserved building arrangements were those of the fourth phase, which suggested that a row of houses was built parallel to the street, each measuring not more than approximately 6 m by 4.5 m. Some evidence for external staircases may indicate that these were two-storied buildings. In front and behind were forelands and backlands which were later to be used as building space.

The shorter sequence of more durable stone foundations on Plot 3 contrasts with the use of wooden uprights in Plot 2 where five stages of construction were attested. There was no single form of building and variations in technique and materials are likely to have reflected variations in wealth. The final phase of activity as represented in Plot 2 would have dated to the 14th century or later, but in terms of the appearance of the street, this is unlikely to have altered between the 14th century and the 18th when the national expansion of commerce began to be reflected in urban building generally.

BROAD STREET, TRENCH 4

A small trench was opened up in the close between 30 and 34 Broad Street. It was very disturbed but yielded a number of 19th-century clay pipes which appeared to have been of local manufacture (Ill 127: 240-241).



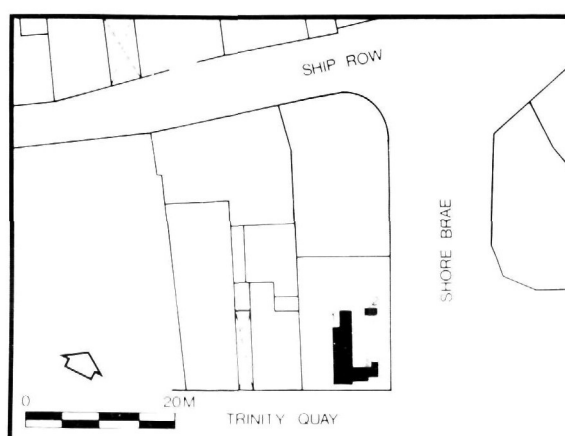
2 : 4 SHORE BRAE 1974 C M BROOKS

THE SITE

A rescue excavation in advance of road-works took place over six weekends in November and December 1974 on a site (Grid ref: NJ943061) at the junction of Shore Brae and Trinity Quay (Ill 12). The work was carried out by local volunteers under the direction of the writer, with the assistance of Mrs Moira Greig.

The significance of this site lay in its position at the innermost point of the town's early harbour, known as the Keyhead, which was the highest navigable point on the sandy estuaries of the Dee and the Denburn. This was therefore for many centuries the main landing and dispatch place for all goods going by sea. The site covers an area of just over 100 sq m, but the area that could be examined was limited by the time available and by safety factors, for the trenches had to be kept a reasonable distance from the standing building adjoining the site to the W and from the walls revetting a car-park uphill and Shore Brae to the E. A total area of about 27 sq m was opened up, but only in 3 test areas (Areas 1-3) was there time to excavate to any depth owing to the thickness and complexity of the post-medieval deposits. In none of these areas, the deepest of which was dug to 3 m below the present ground surface, was the natural undisturbed subsoil reached; the necessity for shoring the sides and constant pumping away of water, and the difficulty of working in narrow deep sections, meant that the earliest deposits could not be reached.

The most important discovery of the excavation was the stone-built late medieval harbour wall, although the constructional details of only two short lengths of this could be recovered. This wall had at least two phases, and was succeeded by major harbour works which created a new waterfront line further out towards the line of the present Trinity Quay. The old harbour area was filled in within a short time, the infill containing late 15th/early 16th-century pottery. When this made ground had stabilized, it was overlain by phases of occupation represented by cobbled surfaces, hearths and drains. The most recent building on the site was a 19th-century warehouse.



Ill 12 : Location map of Shore Brae

THE EXCAVATION

PHASE 1: LATE 14th-15th CENTURY (Ill 13)

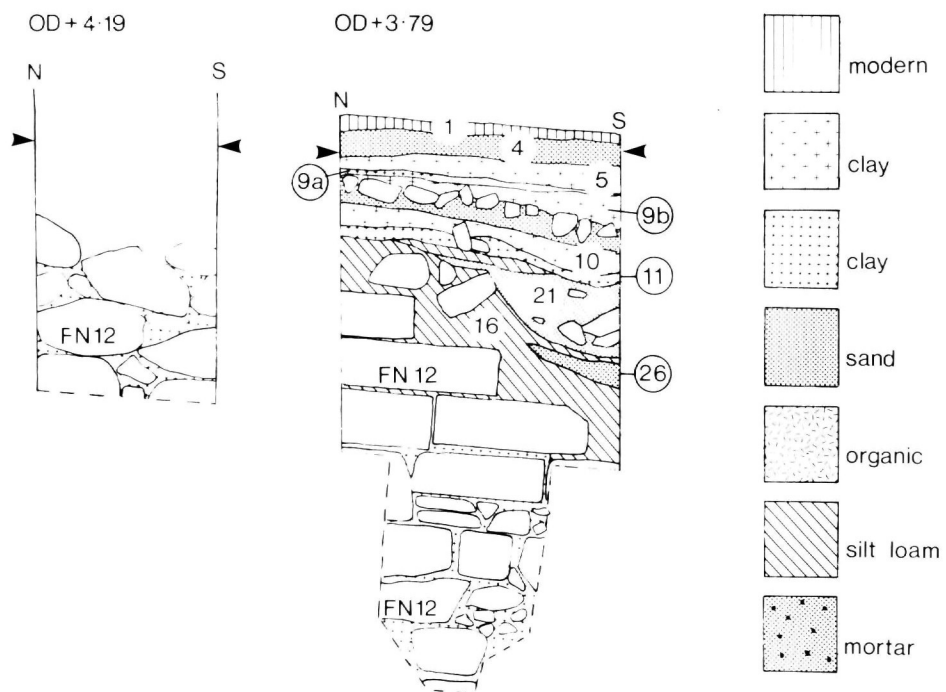
The earliest feature on the site was a wall, FN12, located first in the E extension of Trench 1 at a depth of 0.90 m below modern ground surface. The wall was discovered at a late stage in the excavation, so only a small length, 1.60 m, was revealed. The outer face (Area 3) was dug to a depth of 3.0 m without reaching the base. The wet conditions and necessary shoring at this depth made recording very difficult.

The upper part of the wall (Ill 14) was of large well-dressed granite ashlar blocks, close-jointed and worn smooth on the outer face. The stones, 0.80-0.90 m in length and 0.30-0.50 m in breadth, were laid in courses of varying height. Rounded arrises on the blocks were probably not intentional. The core of the wall was of large water-worn granite boulders bedded in yellow clay. Lower down, the outer face of the wall was of rougher rubble construction bonded with red clay and the core, which was partly excavated, was of stones set in red clay. The W, outer, face of the wall had a pronounced batter and the structural characteristics strongly suggest a quay wall. The upper ashlar-faced section of the wall with a yellow clay core probably represents a rebuild after time and weather had destroyed part of the earlier wall. A layer of grey silt 0.05-0.06 m thick overlying the red clay core supports this assumption. The uppermost part of the wall core has a brown sandy soil between the boulders, which might possibly represent a third phase. (I am grateful to G Stell for comments on the wall.)

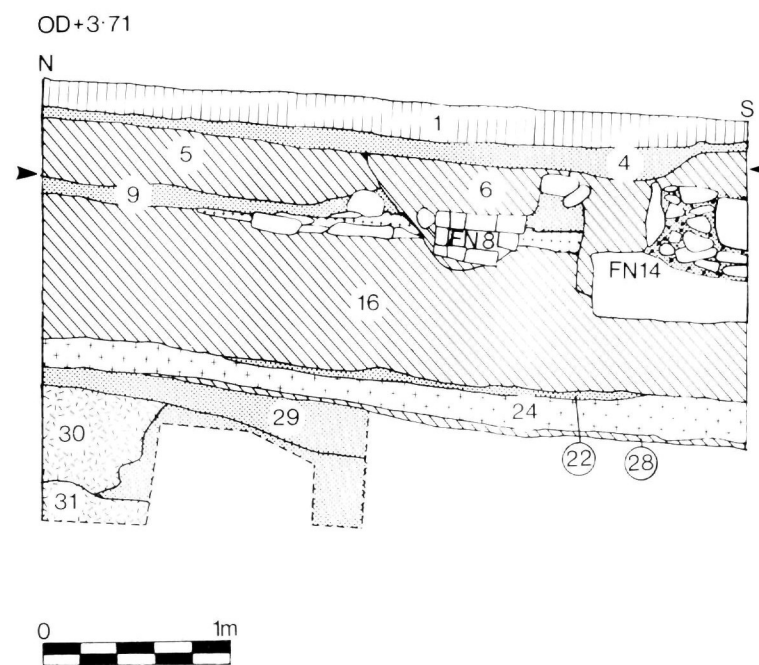
A small trench 1.0 m wide, Trench 2, was laid out some 7 m further back from Trinity Quay to check the line of the wall. The top of the wall was reached at a depth of 0.75 m below modern



Ill 13 : Shore Brae, Plan of Phase 1, 14th-15th century



Ill 14 : Shore Brae, Wall FN12 in E section of Trench 1, Area 3 and E section of Trench 2



Ill 15 : Shore Brae, E section of Trench 1, Area 2

ground level. The construction was of water-worn boulders bonded with red clay, similar to that of the earlier phase of FN12 in Trench 1. Being in a more sheltered position, this part of the wall was perhaps not subject to as much erosion, and did not need repairing when the upper part of the wall in Trench 1 was rebuilt with ashlar masonry. Had there been time to link up these trenches, over 9.5 m of the length of the wall would have been revealed. In the limited area that was excavated there was no trace of any associated timbers.

The dating of this wall presents some problems. Pottery dating of the site in general is complicated by the presence of residual sherds. 14th-15th century stoneware sherds occur in the uppermost levels of the site, for instance, and there are 13th-14th century Scarborough ware sherds in association with 14th-15th century pottery in the lower levels. The dating of locally made pottery is less clear cut, so it is more difficult to estimate how much is residual in a given level. The only direct dating evidence for FN12 is a single unglazed body sherd in Fabric 3 from Layer 38, the yellow clay core of the wall's later phase. This fabric is probably medieval (see pottery report p 171 and Ill 101) but occurs sporadically through to Phase 4. The deposits of sandy soils and midden-like material found at the back of FN12, behind the clay core, are presumably contemporary with the construction of the wall. The only finds from these levels (37, 39, 45) were a few sherds in Fabric 1.

The deposits to the W of the wall are more helpful for dating purposes. The lowest levels in Area 2 (29, 34) were water-laid yellow sand and gravel layers alternating with very thin bands of black clay (Ill 15). These early silting levels, which were taken to be sterile natural sand until sectioned, yielded a few small lumps of burnt daub and a sherd of Langerwehe stoneware. Beneath 29 and 34 was a fine blue-grey apparently sterile sand, which there was not time to test properly. Above was a thin band of black silt (28) overlain by another sandy layer (25). Pottery was found to join between Layers 25 and 34. Layer 24, a narrow layer of dark brown soil with charcoal, overlay 25, and was in turn overlain by a thin brown sand layer (22). These layers all contained 14th-15th century stoneware and Layer 24 had, in addition to local pottery, two late 14th-century Aardenburg handles, a possible Dutch pipkin sherd and a residual Scarborough ware sherd, reflecting the widespread trade contacts of Aberdeen.

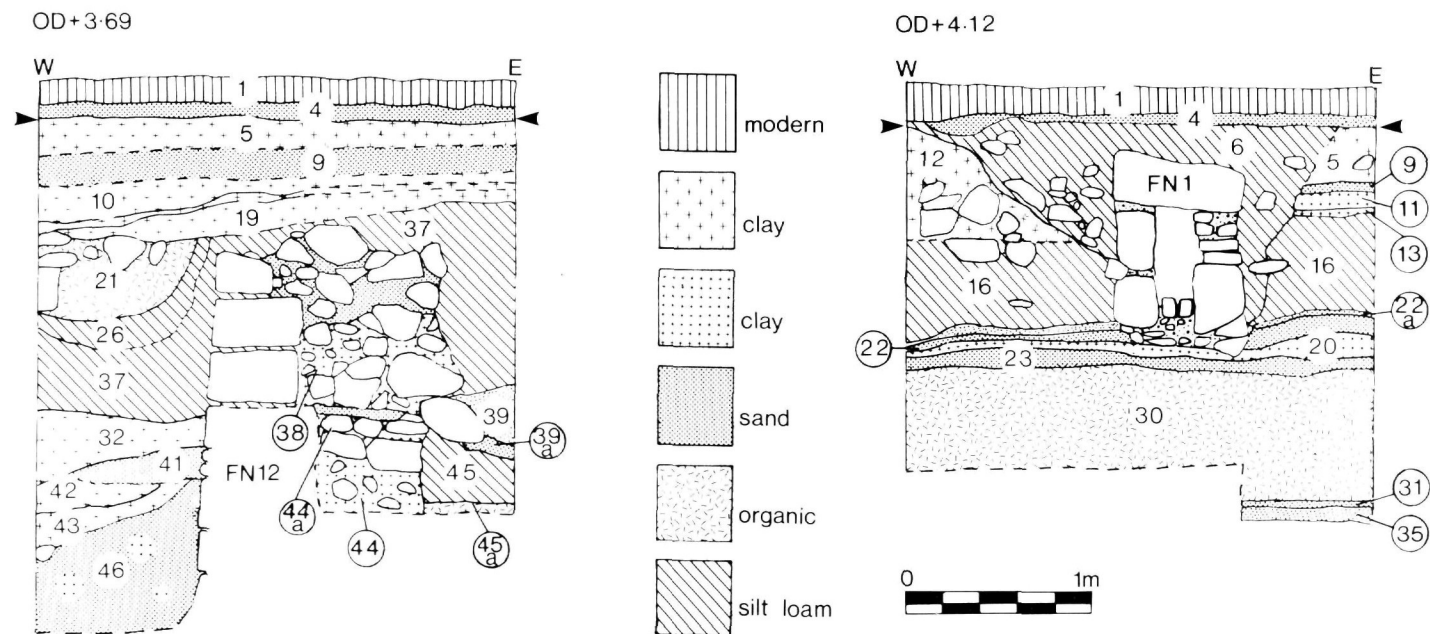
A pottery join between Layers 34 and 46 relates the early silting levels of Area 2 to the lowest brown sandy layer of Area 3 (Ill 16), immediately adjacent to FN12. The levels between the two areas do not correspond directly, however, except in general character. Layer 46 is overlain by 43, a dark grey sandy clay, again containing a possible Dutch pipkin sherd. This is beneath Layer 42, a brown-grey sandy clay, above which is a yellow-grey silt layer with clay lenses (41). A black slightly sandy clay (32) was the uppermost layer of this phase. Both Areas 2 and 3 suggest an initial period of use as a water-channel bounded by wall FN12, with silting levels containing small amounts of refuse probably deposited from the landward side. The dumping of domestic refuse increased with time, leading eventually to the deliberate infill of this area in Phase 2.

Phase 1 deposits in Area 1 (Ill 17) were more difficult to interpret. The lowest level reached (35) was a black pebbly soil with organic material, bone and twigs. A grey sandy soil (31) overlay this and above 31 was a thick black midden-like deposit containing charcoal, bones and pottery (30). A water-laid sand level, 0.08 m thick, covered this (23, corresponds to 29 and 34 in Area 2) and was overlain by a narrow band of black clayey silt (20). The layers with large quantities of organic material were very different from the predominantly sandy levels in Area 2 close by, and evidently indicate a greater use of this area for refuse disposal, perhaps as it was closer to land on the NW side.

The finds from the silting layers suggest a late 14th/15th-century date for the period of use of the harbour wall FN12. The use of granite and method of construction would be consistent with a date in the late 14th or first half of the 15th century. Stratigraphically, the wall and layers of silting and refuse deposition are everywhere sealed by the infill material of Phase 2, which probably dates to the end of the 15th century or early 16th century.

There is some documentary evidence for the medieval harbour and wharf of Aberdeen. It has been suggested that the name 'Shore' as applied to quay-sides and streets close to harbours may indicate the use of a landing-place antedating the construction of regular quays (Graham 1969, 206). This would seem very likely in the case of Aberdeen. Robertson (1839, 275) says:

'The most ancient, and during many years the only erection within the port was a bulwark, extending from the Shiprow southwards, and now known as the Shore Brae. Its extremity



Ill 16 : Shore Brae, N section of Trench 1, Area 3

Ill 17 : Shore Brae, N section of Trench 1, Area 1

was called the QUAY-HEAD, a name afterwards applied to the wharf extending from the vicinity of the Trinity Kirk eastward beyond the present Weigh-house. At what time it was built is altogether unknown, but it was in existence in the fourteenth century, and was probably constructed in the preceding age'.

'Our key of Abirden' is referred to in a contract of 1399 (Dickinson 1957, 106). The town records of the 15th and 16th centuries show that repairs to the quay were frequently necessary (Robertson 1839, 275-6), which would support the interpretation of the two construction phases of FN12; perhaps the repair works can be correlated with those recorded in 1453.

Froissart's *Meliador*, written between 1365 and 1383, refers to Aberdeen's jetty made of ash-wood (Diverres 1965, 100). It is likely that the earliest wharf construction would have been of wood, to be replaced perhaps by the stone and clay construction of FN12 (although only short lengths of this wall were revealed and the possibility of it incorporating some timber cannot be ruled out). The stone construction finds general parallels among harbour walls of later periods, but Graham (1969, 206-7) points to the paucity of dating evidence for their masonry styles and the persistence of traditional building methods, combined with the use at all periods of the locally available stone, which may prove misleading. In discussing the use of undressed beach-boulders, for instance, he notes that these are often found in the lowest courses of 16th-century piers, but also occur in the 18th-century Lundin pier. The inference to be drawn is that these works were built on virgin sites, and that the first courses were thus formed of easily available boulders. Similar boulders were noted in the construction of FN12 in Trench 2.

PHASE 2: LATE 15th-EARLY 16th CENTURY

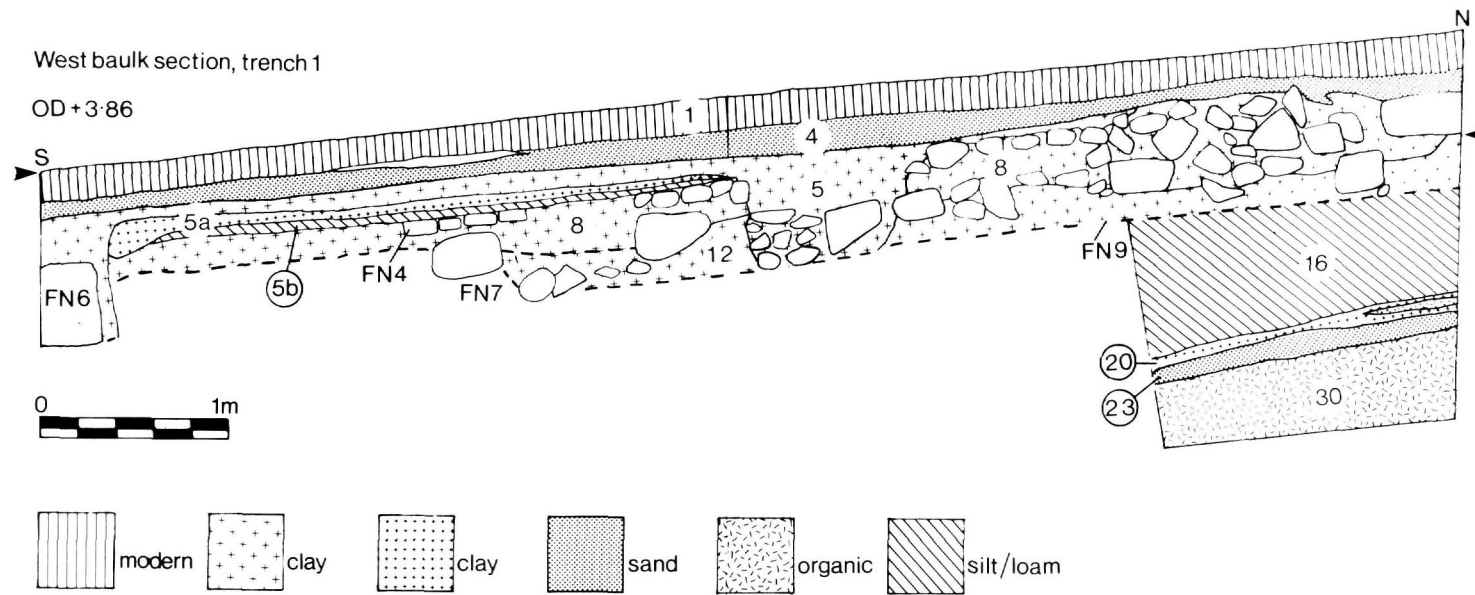
At the end of Phase 1 it is likely that the area sheltered by the bulwark or Quay-head was noticeably filling up with silt and refuse and the wall was again in need of repair. Stones at the S end of FN12 were missing, although it is not clear whether this was through natural action or whether they were deliberately removed for re-use elsewhere. If the latter was the case, it is strange that more of the well-worked ashlar blocks of the upper wall were not taken.

The wall itself in Trenches 1 and 2 and contemporary levels in Areas 1, 2 and 3 were sealed by a grey-brown homogeneous soil 0.45-0.70 m thick, containing pottery and some charcoal (Layer 16, incorporating Layers 17, 18, 27 and 40 which were thus denoted in the various sections until it became apparent that they were in fact the same deposit). Layer 16 appears to have been a deliberate infill of this area, with a view to moving the line of the wharf further out; a continuing process in the development of harbours. This layer contained, in addition to local wares, 14th-15th century stoneware, a Dutch pipkin fragment and a sherd of 15th-century Valencian lustreware. In this context it is interesting to note that about 1484 'the wreck of a Spanish barge, on the southern shore, which obstructed the channel, was removed' (Robertson 1839, 275). At this time also the Quay-head was either repaired or rebuilt.

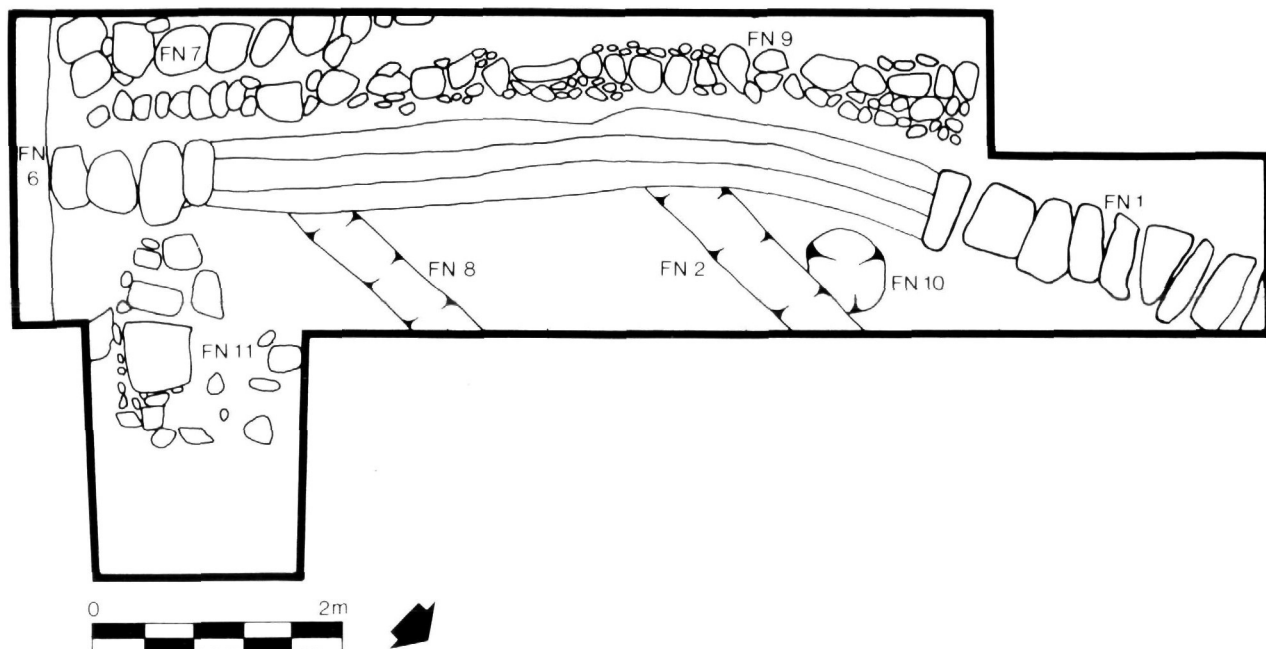
Dating Phase 2 precisely is rather difficult, as the material for infilling might not necessarily contain pottery in contemporary use. Furthermore, an exotic piece such as the lustreware plate might not be broken and discarded for some considerable time after acquisition. Phase 2 might relate either to the rebuilt wharf of 1484, or to a major reconstruction phase in 1526, which was necessary in spite of the repairs carried out in 1512 (Robertson 1839, 275-6). Repairs were also needed in 1549, when a stair was added, and in 1582 a crane was erected. The 17th century saw the building of the Weigh-house which also served as a custom house and the extension of the wharf E to Footdee, reclaiming a considerable amount of land. The appearance of the Keyhead in Parson Gordon's map of 1661 (Ill 130) is thus rather different from that of the earlier harbour and its bulwark.

PHASE 3: 16th-LATE 17th CENTURY (Ill 19)

Above the infill level of Phase 2, various occupation levels were found on the made ground. These had been considerably disturbed by later drainage systems, although there were no cellars on this



Ill 18 : Shore Brae, W section of Trench 1 including W section of Area 1



Ill 19 : Shore Brae, Plan of Phase 3, 16th to late 17th century

site. The remaining small areas of occupation yielded a sequence of post-medieval pottery, mixed with a number of residual sherds. However, it was difficult to make much sense of the floors and structures.

The earliest features were a cobbled surface (FN9) and a trodden clay surface (Layer 13) cut into by a small shallow pit (FN10) with a dark fill containing coal fragments. Layer 13 was cut away by FN1 and FN2; traces of this floor were found also in the area between FN2 and FN8. FN9, which lies at about 0.80 m below ground level, was cut through on one side by the foundation trench of FN1. It did not appear to be cut away on the other side, nor was there evidence for its continuation E of FN1, which suggests that it was a pathway rather than a cobbled area. The stones were well-laid, being up to 0.40 m across and 0.30 m in depth. Beside FN9 and set slightly higher was a row of water-worn boulders at the edge of the trench, which may have been part of a wall (FN7). At about the same depth as FN9 and Layer 13, and probably belonging to the same period, was part of a floor constructed of stone slabs and red clay (FN11).

Between these floors and FN4, the next major horizon detectable, were Layers 10, 11, 12, 19, 21 and 26. The latest layers (10 and 11) are linked by sherds from the same vessel, a trailed slipware bowl; there is another sherd from this bowl from a later layer (5, Phase 4). Phase 3 probably dates to the late 17th or early 18th century.

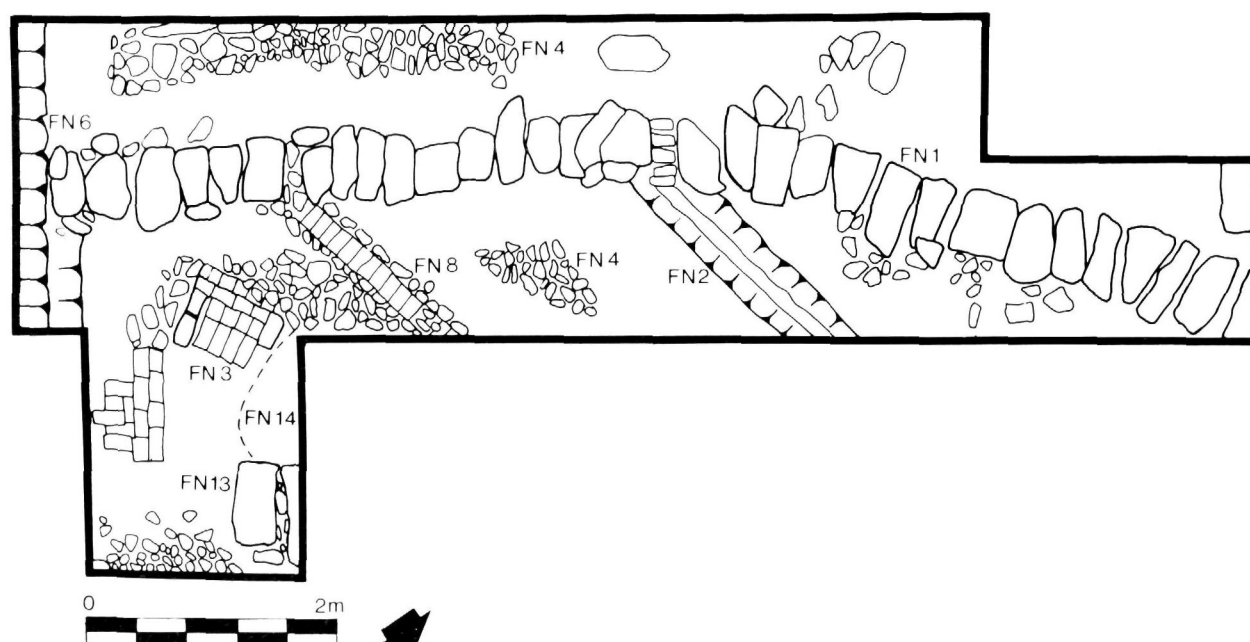
PHASE 4: 18th-19th CENTURY (Ill 20)

The next structural phase was a floor which was in some places of small stone cobbles and elsewhere of bricks (FN4). The cobbles were in close association with a brick structure (FN3). This was probably a hearth, and had a brick floor and a wall of up to three courses of clay-bonded bricks. The fill of this feature was a black soil with ash and coal fragments. Floor FN4, which in places was covered by a similar layer of black soil and coal 10 mm thick, was cut away by the later drains and wall FN6, and also apparently by FN13 and 14. Its depth was 0.40-0.50 m below ground surface.

FN13 was a massive mortared stone structure, possibly a wall, just appearing in the E extension of Trench 1. It perhaps relates to another stone and mortar construction FN14, which appeared in the section of Area 2.

The massive granite block at the bottom of FN14 showed quarrying wedge-marks which were probably mid-18th century in date (Stell, pers comm).

Layer 5 represents a general build-up of material over the whole trench above the level of FN4, and is cut into by drains FN2 and 8, and perhaps FN1. FN1 was a large drain cut to a depth of 1.40-1.50 m, and constructed with walls of mortar-bonded stone and brick covered with large unshaped capstones, the joints of which were sealed with red clay. It ran the length of Trench 1, evidently to empty out into the harbour. Running into it were two smaller drains, one a salt-glazed drain-pipe (FN2), the other a covered drain built of bricks, the trench being packed with stones on either side (FN8). This drainage system is dated by the find of a George III coin from Layer 6, the fill of the trench in which FN1 is set, and some late pottery; the finds from Layers 6 and 8 were combined, as the layers could not be distinguished until the stons of FN1 were clearly defined. Wall FN6 was built over FN1, and was presumably part of the same phase of construction. It was overlain by Layer 5, dated by a small lead seal stamped '1791'. The whole area was later sealed by Layers 1 and 4, the sand-bedded cobbled floor of the latest building of the 19th century.



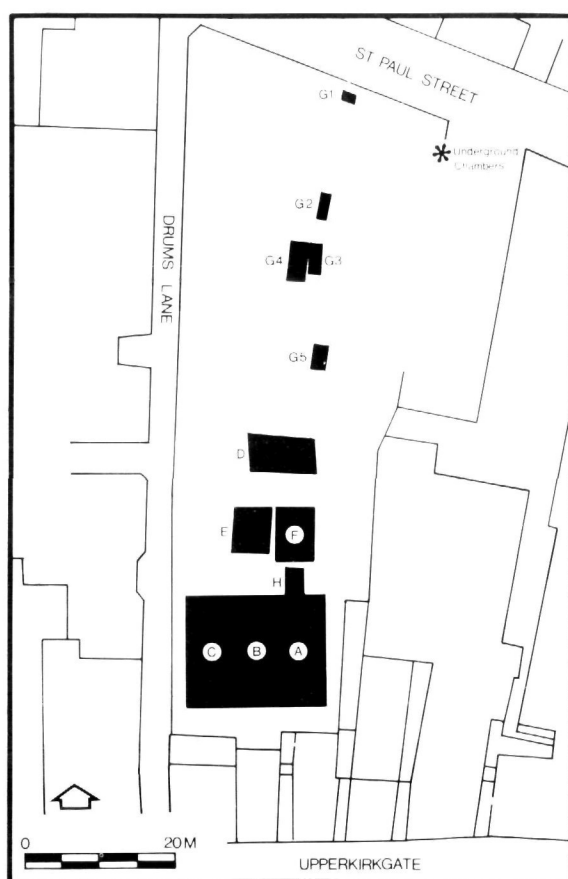
III 20 : Shore Brae, Plan of Phase 4, 18th to 19th century

2 : 5 42 ST PAUL STREET 1977-8 HILARY MURRAY

with contributions by J Cripps, J Kenworthy and Judith Stones

THE SITE

Excavation took place on the area previously occupied by the warehouses of Farquhar and Gill which were acquired by Aberdeen City District in 1977 and demolished prior to redevelopment. The site (Ill 21) extended between the backs of 18-26 Upperkirkgate to the S and St Paul Street to the N; it was bounded on the W by Drums Lane and on the E by Kirkgate Court, a passage between 12 and 18 Upperkirkgate (Grid ref: NJ941065).



Ill 21 : Location map of 42 St Paul Street



III 23 : 42 St Paul Street, Areas A-C. Plan of Phase 4 (shading represents later, intrusive features)

THE EXCAVATION

Trial trenches dug on the site in 1973 by C Brooks had demonstrated that there was a considerable depth of stratified medieval deposits, so it was decided to undertake a large open area excavation as part of a Manpower Services Job Creation scheme which took place in August 1977-February 1978. As the site afforded a good opportunity to investigate several backland properties, the main focus of the excavation lay directly behind the Upperkirkgate frontage buildings where three main areas, A, B, C, each c 6 × 15 m (Ill 21), were examined. Areas A and B were subsequently extended back from the frontage by Areas F, H and E respectively, linking them to the fourth main area, D, 5 × 8.5 m, which was excavated c 35 m N of the back of the Upperkirkgate frontage buildings to see how far occupation extended towards St Paul Street. As the results of Area D suggested that there was little occupation or intensive use of the land N of this point, the remainder of the site was only investigated by a series of trial trenches, G1-G5, which confirmed this impression.

The thickness of medieval deposits varied but it was up to 1.5 m at the S end of the site, tailing off in Area D. Natural levels consisted of a range of sand and gravel layers at depths of OD + 1700 to OD + 1750.

The individual areas were separately supervised (*A, F, H*: H Murray; *B, E*: N Hakiel; *C*: E Sanders, A Graham; *D*: P Yeoman; *G*: A Graham) and separately recorded. Layer numbers are, therefore, preceded by the area letter, eg C122. Features are letter coded eg AA, TAB etc; these are not preceded by the area letter as exclusive groups of letters were used in each area (Area A: SA-TZ, SAA-TAX; Area B: JA-KZ; Area C: AA-ED; Area D: WA-WV; Area E: NA-NP; Area F: UA-UZ, UUA-UUG; Area G: FA-FI; Area H: HHA-HHL). Layers were cross-related between areas and as many of the major layers and features were recognised across the site, the whole site was correlated into 13 phases (composite matrix: Ill 48. Area matrices: Tables 12 mf-17 mf). These are purely stratigraphic and there is no implication that they were of equal duration. The site phases are discussed in summary form, with a plan of each phase. Details and measurements of all the features can be found in the catalogue of features (Tables 1 mf-11 mf). The full site records are held in archive.

PHASE 1 J KENWORTHY

An industry of later Mesolithic technology (?6500-3500 BC) is represented by small amounts of struck flint in the old land surface. The frequent occurrence of burnt pieces shows that hearths were present on or near the site, which may have been a short-term seasonal hunting camp.

Associated finds: flint 185, 188, 189.

PHASES 2 AND 3 (Ill 22)

Phase 2 included features cut into or recognised only in the natural sand. Phase 3 included features cut into or built on subsoil (A212, A233, B116, C277, C287, E35, F70, D73).

Examination of botanical samples (Chapter 7) from the subsoil (A212, A233) yielded a predominance of weed seeds suggesting that the ground may have been waste or uncultivated land before it was divided up. Two soil stains (TAN and TAO) appeared on site to be possible cultivation marks but they were shallow and irregular and are more likely to have been fairly incidental spade marks or the result of the action of small animals. (We are grateful to IAG Shepherd for his opinion on these marks.)

The first recognisable medieval activity began when the area was subdivided by a series of boundary ditches (NH, TAH, CY, HHD, HHE, JO, KC, KT, NI, NJ, UUD, WV). With the possible exception of TAH and NH which were only identified in natural, the ditches were cut into the subsoil. They appeared to form three main N-S boundary lines. The E boundary which was delimited by UUD, HHD and HHE appeared to have been continued S by the narrow ditch associated with TAH.

Any extension of this ditch further S had been cut by later ditches, but the line of a building (TAP), a fence (TAJ) and the E edge of layer A251 suggested that the boundary extended S for the full length of Area A. Further W, ditches KT and NI and bank E34 appeared to form another N-S boundary. The N limit of the property was first defined by ditch NH and later by the E-W section of ditch NI. The third boundary was originally formed by ditch KC but this was soon recut by ditch CY which curved W as DX and DY to form an E-W boundary at the N end of the property. The line of this boundary was extended N by ditches JO and NJ but it was not possible to determine whether these belonged to the earlier or later phase of the boundary.

A large N-S ditch (WV) in Area D did not appear to be in line with any of the other boundaries and it appears likely that this area was beyond the N limit of the properties at this period.

Several very shallow, irregular ditches (EA, KN, DV) did not conform to any of these boundaries and may only have been used for drainage. The boundary ditches themselves appeared to have been used partly for drainage, as pits or sumps were found in TAH and KT. There was, however, no evidence that the ditches had been kept empty and although several (HHD, TAH) had a thin layer of silting at the base, the fills were generally organic and appeared to be the result of rubbish accumulation.

The plots formed by the boundaries have been numbered 1-4 (E to W: Ill 22). The full width of Plots 1 and 4 is unknown as both extended beyond the limits of excavation. It can be said that they were over 3.5 and 5.5 m respectively. Plot 2 varied between 3.5 and 4.0 m in width and Plot 3 between 3.0 and 3.5 m. Although several possible N boundaries were found (for example the end of NI) the exact length of the plots cannot usefully be given as there is no evidence as to whether the street frontage on Upperkirkgate, which would form the S boundary, remained on the present line.

The only feature in Plot 1 at this period was a large cess pit (SK) which appeared to have been filled fairly rapidly as it was cut into A212 and the sealing layer of the pit (A191) lay directly on A212. A fragment of a post-and-wattle building (TAP) stood at the S end of Plot 2. There was no evidence of its function and its E side had been destroyed by later features. The area directly to the N of the building appeared to have been a yard with a fence (TAJ) as the boundary. Much of this yard was covered by a smooth black organic layer (A251) which may have been the result of stabling or herding animals in the area. Further N, there were two cess pits (TAA and UUA). In TAA the cess was sealed by sand (A221, A241). In UUA there was no sealing layer, but a layer of stones at the base of the pit must have been intended as a soak-away.

In Plot 3, a line of four large post-holes (KM, KO) could be assigned to this period. They were not associated with any other structural feature. Three rubbish pits (KI, KJ, KL) also appeared to belong to this period, but the stratigraphy was unclear due to disturbance by the later stone building and they may have been as late as Phase 4 or 5.

Most of Plot 4 up to the N boundary DX/DY was filled by another post-and-wattle building (DI). The function of ditch/trench DU was uncertain. It was not on the boundary line but the rather clean fill (C292) did not suggest that it had been a rubbish or cess pit.

Phases 2 and 3 can probably be dated to the mid-12th or early 13th century on the basis of the presence of some Developed Stamford ware (337, 339-340) and the absence of later fabrics.

Associated pottery: 334-356.

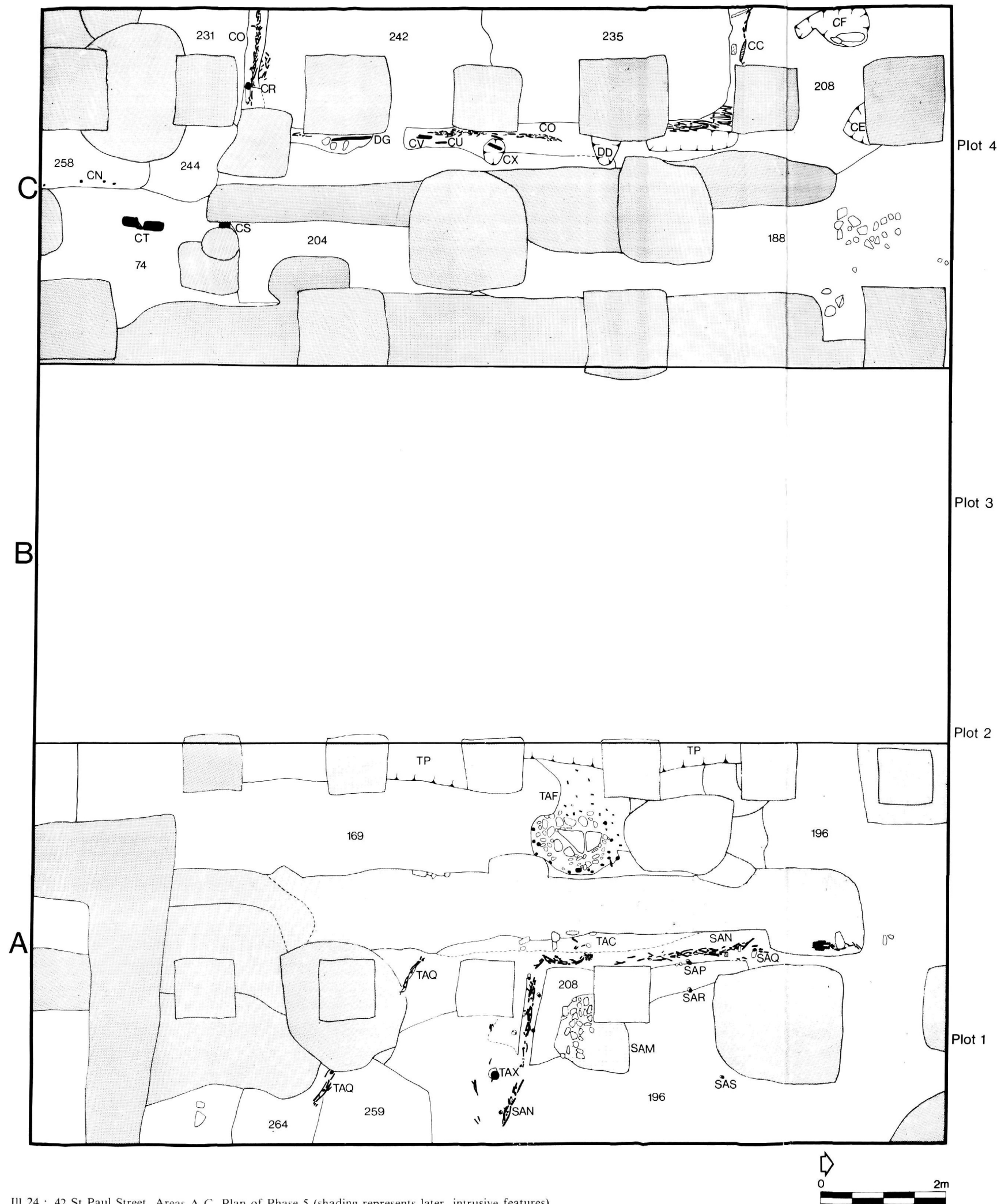
Associated finds: wood 15, comb 30, leather 112, 122, 128, 129, 134, 138, 140, flint 183, 186.

Catalogue of features: Tables 1 mf and 2 mf.

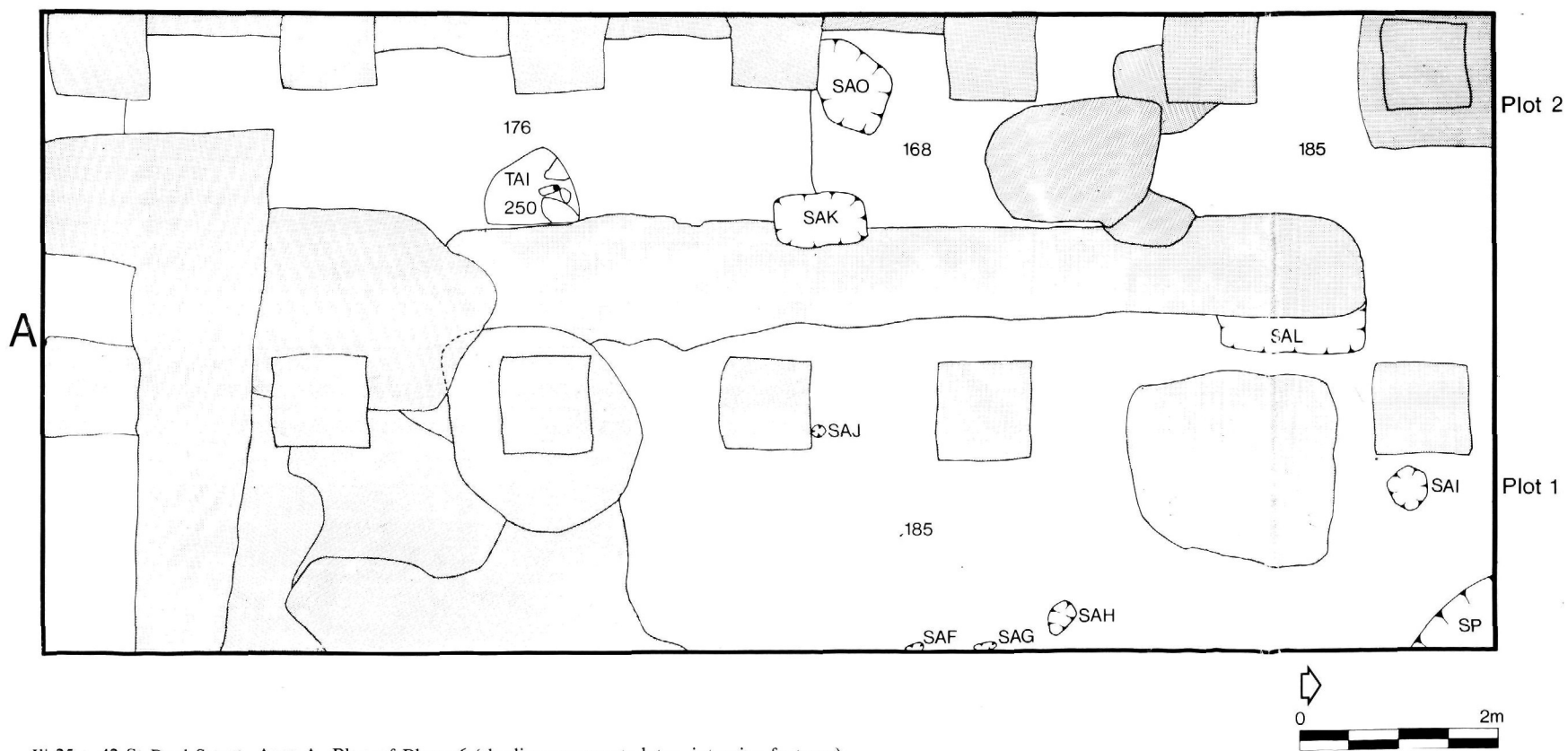
PHASE 4 (Ill 23)

After the boundary ditches of Phase 3 had filled up and the buildings had gone out of use, the S part of the properties, nearest to the Upperkirkgate buildings, appeared to have been used as open yards. There was no evidence of any activity on the N part of the site in this period. The N-S boundary between Plots 1 and 2 appeared to have continued since, although there was no ditch or fence, there were distinct soils to the E and W of the boundary line. In any case, the Phase 7 ditch would have removed most earlier features on this line.

A reddish-brown organic layer containing some wood and decayed bone (A210) had accumulated



III 24 : 42 St Paul Street, Areas A-C. Plan of Phase 5 (shading represents later, intrusive features)



III 25 : 42 St Paul Street, Area A. Plan of Phase 6 (shading represents later, intrusive features)

over most of Plot 1. It varied in thickness from 0.02 to 0.14 m and could most easily be interpreted as the normal organic build-up in a yard area.

The SE corner of a fairly flimsy post-and-wattle structure, possible a shed (TAB) stood at the N end of Plot 2. The W side of the structure had been destroyed by a later stone building. After the building had fallen out of use, the area was cut by a large pit (SAV). The function of this pit was not clear, the fill consisted of alternate woody organic layers and sealing layers of sand or clay. No pottery, leather, bone or small finds were in the fill, so it does not appear to have been a rubbish pit. The S $\frac{2}{3}$ of Plot 2 were covered by an extremely crumbly peaty-organic layer (A169) up to 0.25 m thick. The almost sterile nature of the deposit suggested that it had been a deliberately laid layer of turves.

Nothing in Plot 3 could be attributed to this phase.

During this period Plot 4 appeared to have been used for extensive rubbish dumping. The earliest dumps were at the S end where they were thickest (C279, C272, C267), with a thinner spread to N and E (C259, C256, C257). This midden was presumably being built up by the inhabitants of the contemporary building on the Upperkirkgate frontage dumping their rubbish in the yard behind their house.

A small pit (CL) appeared to have cut into the top of these dump layers. The quantity of pottery, leather and bone in the fill suggested that this was a rubbish pit; the fill was certainly not cess. It is difficult to understand why a pit was dug in this instance instead of merely adding to the midden. The pit and the midden were both sealed by a mixture of organic and clay layers (C231, C243, C244, C270) in Phase 5.

Low Countries grey cooking wares (381) which first appeared in Phase 4 and Yorkshire wares (385, 386) both indicate a date in the early 13th century.

Associated pottery: 357-386.

Associated finds: stove? 6, whetstones 42, 43, leather 107, 131, 142, 148, textile 159.

Catalogue of features: Table 3 mf.

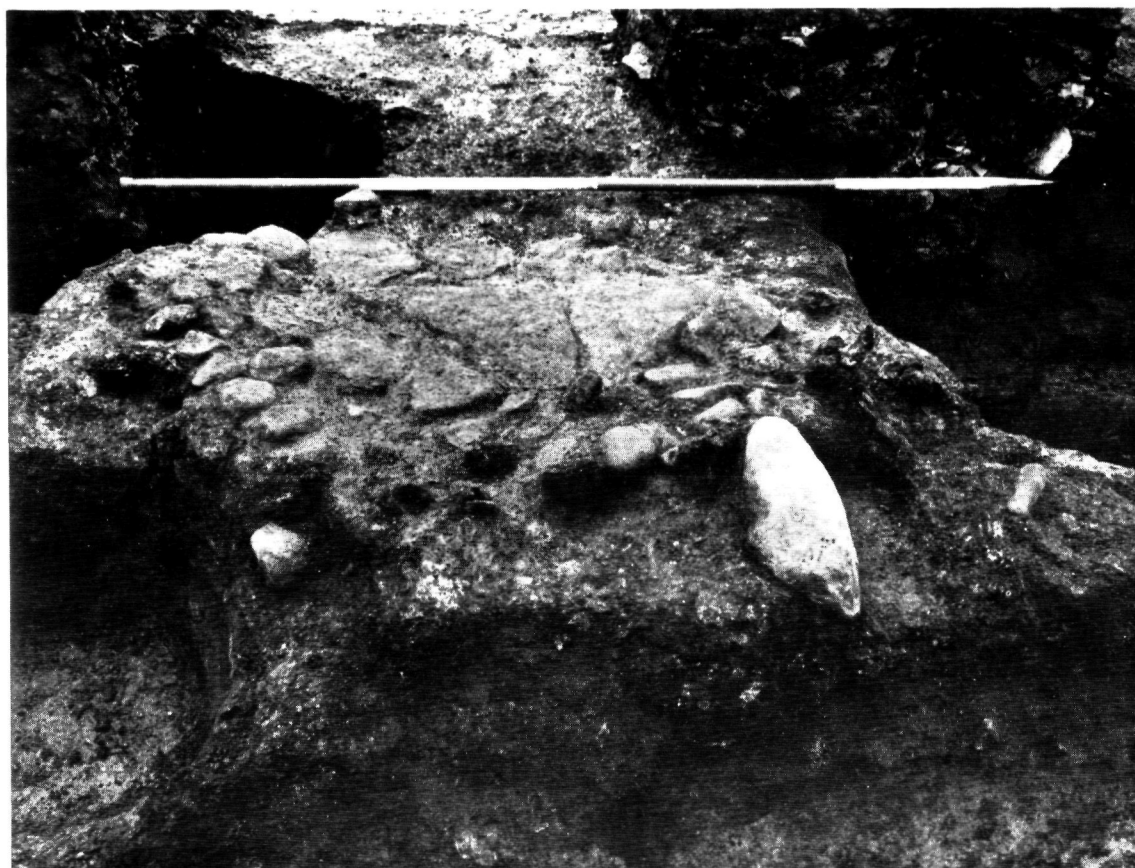
PHASE 5 (Ill 24)

There was a considerable increase in the intensity of use in the area during Phase 5, with buildings on two of the properties and an oven on a third. The N of the site however, still appeared to have been virtually unused.

There was little evidence of the boundaries at this stage. The boundary between Plots 1 and 2 was still in existence, as part of a ditch (TAC) was found on this line and there was still a difference between soil A169 which remained to the W of the boundary and a peaty-organic layer (A196) which extended over the area to the E in Plot 1. The picture was slightly confused, however, as A196 may also have extended into the N end of Plot 2. A ditch-like feature (TP) was found 2 m W of the Plot 1/2 boundary line. It had been badly disturbed by the foundations of a later stone building (JC) and only c 0.20 m width survived. It was unlikely to have been a boundary ditch due to its proximity to the open end of a contemporary oven (TAF) where space would have been needed for stoking and filling the fire.

A post-and-wattle building (SAN) was built at the N end of Plot 1. The building had a hearth and may have been a dwelling. A wattle fence (TAQ) appeared to enclose a small yard around the S end of the building. The yard was covered by a gritty-sandy loam containing ash and charcoal which may have been thrown from the hearth (A258). A rubbish dump (A259) was cut within the yard and appeared to be contemporary as it respected the fence. The remainder of Plot 1 between wall TAQ and the Upperkirkgate frontage, appeared to have been a fairly open area, with an accumulation of organic earth (A264). Other features may have existed in this area but it had been very disturbed by later dumps.

Peaty layer A169 (Phase 4) still covered the S $\frac{2}{3}$ of Plot 2. An oven (TAF: Ill 26) was built on it at this stage. It appeared to have been a bread oven. It is not possible to determine if it was for family or 'commercial' consumption, but the oven would have had a fairly large capacity. There was no sign of a shelter and the oven would appear to have stood in the open air away from buildings, presumably in order to reduce the fire risk.



Ill 26 : 42 St Paul Street, Area A. Base of oven TAF: Phase 5

Nothing in Plot 3 could be firmly assigned to this period although it is possible that pits KI, KJ, KL were as late as this.

A post-and-wattle building (CO) covered most of Plot 4. Before it was constructed the N end of its site was levelled with Layers C236 and C242. There was no evidence of the building's function but it may have been a dwelling. A gravel yard (C208, C240) extended around the N end of the building. A similar gravel (C235) had been laid as an internal floor shortly after the building was constructed. A series of clay and organic layers (C190, C226, C227, C237, C239, C271) accumulated E of this structure while it was still in use. These were ultimately sealed by a compact gritty yellow sand (C74, C173, C188, C204, C221).

A short N-S line of posts (CN) was found at the S end of Plot 4. They appeared to form the E limit of clay C258. They could have been part of a boundary fence but they were not on the earlier Plot 3/4 boundary line and they were even further W than the realignment of Phase 7. They may have been the remains of a fence similar to TAQ in Plot 1.

Two large vertical oak timbers (CS and CT) were difficult to relate to other features. They resembled door or gate posts but there was no associated structure. They may have been related to the contemporary structure on the frontage, rather than to the backland properties.

The pottery assemblage in Phase 5 is similar to that in Phase 4 but with the inclusion of more Yorkshire wares and some early Scarborough ware, including a sherd of Farmer phase II (407) which may be dated to after 1275.

Associated pottery: 387-408.

Associated finds: wooden lid 11, leather 116, 124.

Catalogue of features: Table 4 mf.



Ill 27 : 42 St Paul Street. Boundary ditch TO looking S: Phase 7

PHASE 6 (Ill 25)

Phase 6 represents the accumulation of layers in Plots 1 and 2 after the destruction of building SAN and of the oven TAF. No equivalent phase was evident in Plots 3 and 4 and it is possible that this accumulation took place in 1 and 2 while building CO was still standing in Plot 4.

The only indication of the Plot 1/2 boundary was the difference between the soils in the two areas.

In Plot 1, a layer of compact clay with small sand inclusions (A185) extended over the whole area formerly occupied by building SAN and its yard TAQ/SO. There was little activity at this stage. Only five small post-holes (SAF, SAG, SAH, SAI, SAJ), a rubbish pit (SAL) and a cess pit (SP) cut into this layer. The cess pit was sealed by a clean clay layer (A66).

Similarly in Plot 2, a compact clay surface (A168) was laid over the remains of oven TAF, which had burnt down by this stage. The total lack of pottery, bone, leather or small finds in this layer suggested that it had been deposited quickly, probably as a deliberate sealing layer. Several small pits (SAK, SAO, TAI) were dug during this period.

The pottery suggests a late 13th-century date. It is possible that this phase was of very short duration.

Associated pottery: 409-411.

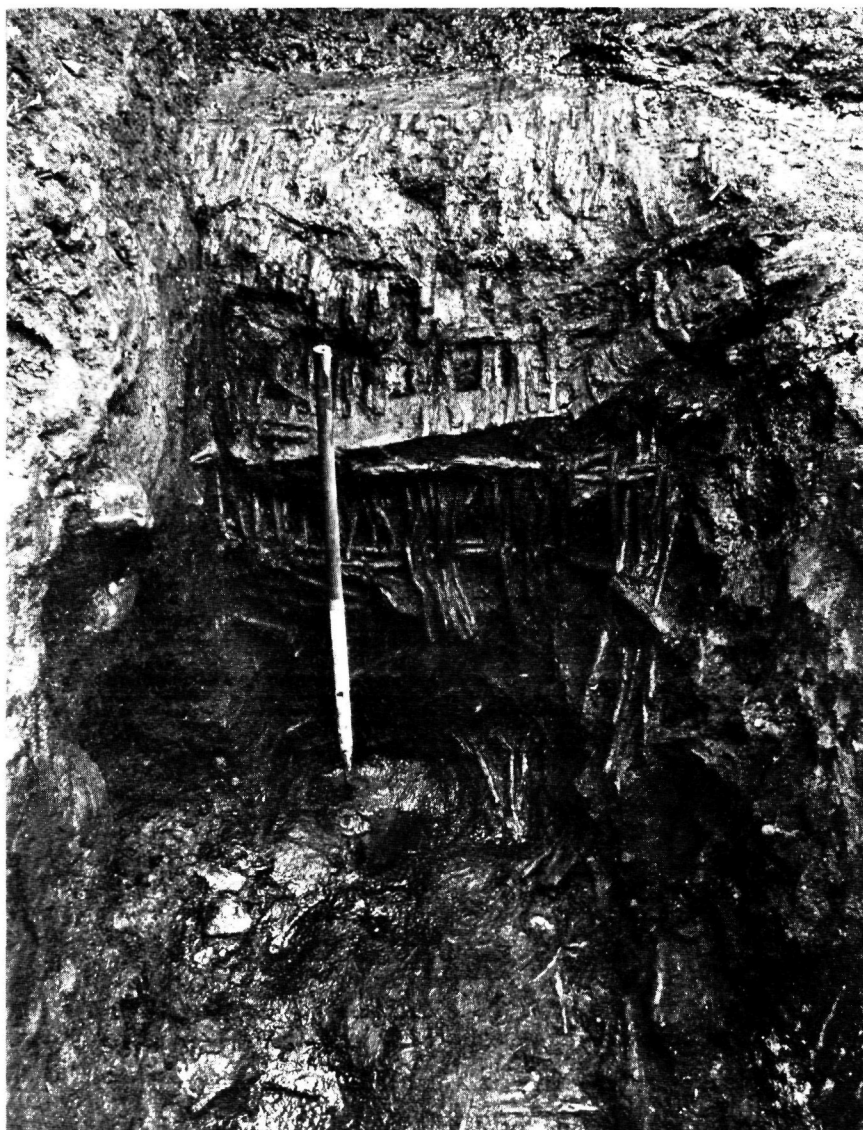
Catalogue of features: Table 5 mf.

PHASE 7 (Ill 30)

After the accumulation of another series of fairly mixed clay/organic layers (A91, B104, C196, E13, E26, F43, F47, F63), there appeared to have been a fairly drastic reorganisation of the boundaries. The boundary between Plots 1 and 3 remained on its former line, but was redefined by a new, deep ditch (TO: Ill 27), the line of which seemed to have been extended N with another ditch (UX). A path (KF: Ill 28) formed the division between Plots 2 and 3. The boundary between Plots 3 and 4 was moved c 2.5 m to the W and redefined by a deep ditch (CH). This reorganisation resulted



Ill 28 : 42 St Paul Street, Area B. Path KF looking N: Phase 7



Ill 29 : 42 St Paul Street, Area A. Pit UG with collapsed hurdle US: Phase 7

in Plots 2 and 3 being c 4.5/5.5 m and 5.5/6.0 m wide respectively. Plots 1 and 4 were probably of a similar width but their outer boundaries were beyond the area excavated. However, if Plot 1 had been 5.5/6.0 m wide, the E boundary would have coincided with the modern boundary of the existing Upperkirkgate property. A similar reconstruction of Plot 4 would place the W boundary on the E side of Drums Lane (not then in existence as a lane).

It appears probable that Plots 2, 3 and 4 were under a single authority or ownership at the period of this reorganisation. The deliberate nature of the reorganisation was emphasised by the appearance of the boundary ditches CH and TO. They were very similar, deep, wide ditches ending parallel to the N and possibly to the S (although TO was cut by dumps at the S end, so this is not certain). There was remarkably little silting in the ditches (possibly A186, A189 in TO; F52 in UX) and the general impression was that they were rapidly filled by rubbish (eg A131, A149: organic, shell, wood and bone). TO had been recut or cut through an earlier ditch as the base was stepped but there was no observable difference in the fills.

In Plot 1 two post-and-wattle fences (SQ and SAC) were built on A91. They were too flimsy

to have been part of a building and were probably yard fences or pens. There were three pits in the plot at the period (SX, TN and UG). UG (Ill 29), which was at the N end of the property, had been covered by a wattle hurdle (US) and may have been some sort of cellar or storage pit. TN was a rubbish pit with a fair quantity of pottery, bone and leather in the fill. SX, which was a cess pit, originally had a kerb of stones around the top.

In Plot 2, a small area of stone paving (KH) on the E side of the property may have been an extension of path KF, but this was very inconclusive.

In Plot 3 there was a small wattle lined pit (DH) at the S end of the property. A second pit (JS) lay to the E. A series of flimsy post-and-wattle fences (NF) stood at the N end of the area. They were probably rough enclosures or pens for animals.

In Plot 4, a rubbish pit (CQ) belonged to this period.

The higher percentage of Scarborough wares and the increasing use of glazed jugs suggest a late 13th or early 14th-century date.

Associated pottery: 412-456.

Associated finds: stave 7, wood 14, whetstone 45, leather 127, 135, 143, 151, textile 158.

Catalogue of features: Table 6 mf.

PHASE 8 (Ill 31)

After the ditches had been filled the W part of Plot 1 and most of Plots 2, 3 and 4 were covered by a layer of redeposited natural sand which had been compacted to form a hard layer up to 0.15 m thick (A17, A110, B86, C5, C23, C24, C44, C84, C103, C153, C181, C182). Similar sand layers extended N and E (E4, E11, F50) but they were less concentrated and in Area D, at the extreme N end of the site, there was only a very thin scatter of sand (D56). These layers appeared to represent a widespread attempt to clean up the area, although in Plot 4 it is possible that they were also used as a floor level.

The boundaries were less definite at this period. The boundary between Plots 1 and 2 was represented by a fence (TX/TY) and posts (UR, UU, UUB and UUF). The central boundary was not clear but there were a few posts on this line and the edge of B86 appeared to have been cut along it. There was no direct indication of the boundary between Plots 3 and 4, but a wattle building (BQ) was just to the W of the line and may itself have formed the boundary. The stoney layer outside the entrance (C110) might have been a path on the boundary but as it was not found extending far to the S, this suggestion must remain tentative.

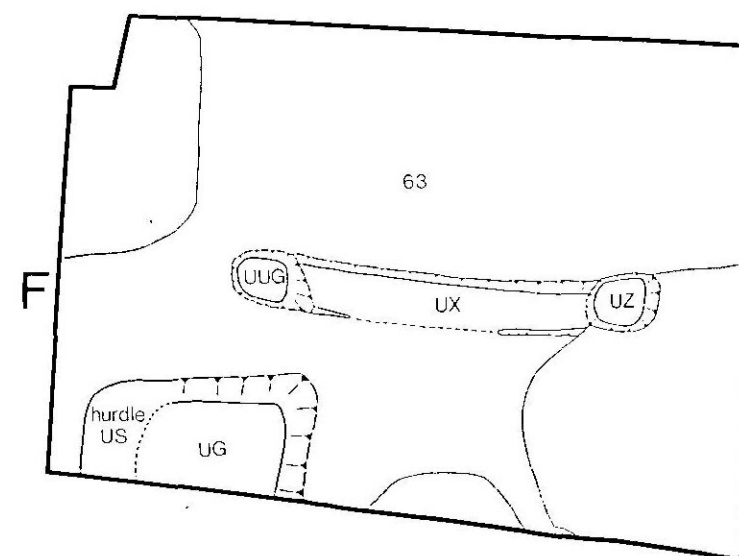
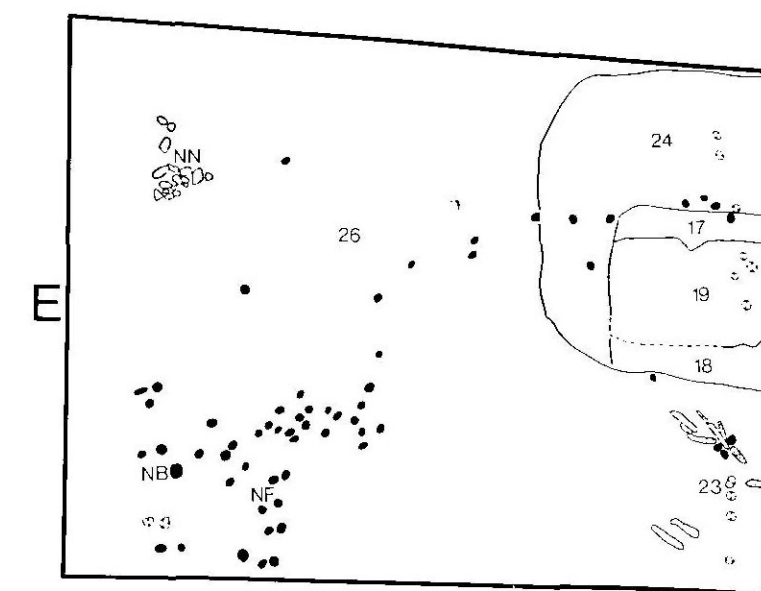
The S end of Plot 1 was cut by a series of large shallow rubbish dumps which cut one another and the underlying levels. They were filled with very compact organic material containing a lot of pottery, bone, leather etc. The duration of the dumping was difficult to determine. The dumps in the SW (A272) might have been earlier but the main dumps (A89, A257, A261) cut the edge of ditch TO and must have belonged to Phase 8. The Phase 7 cellar/storage pit UG fell into disuse at this stage and was filled with rubbish.

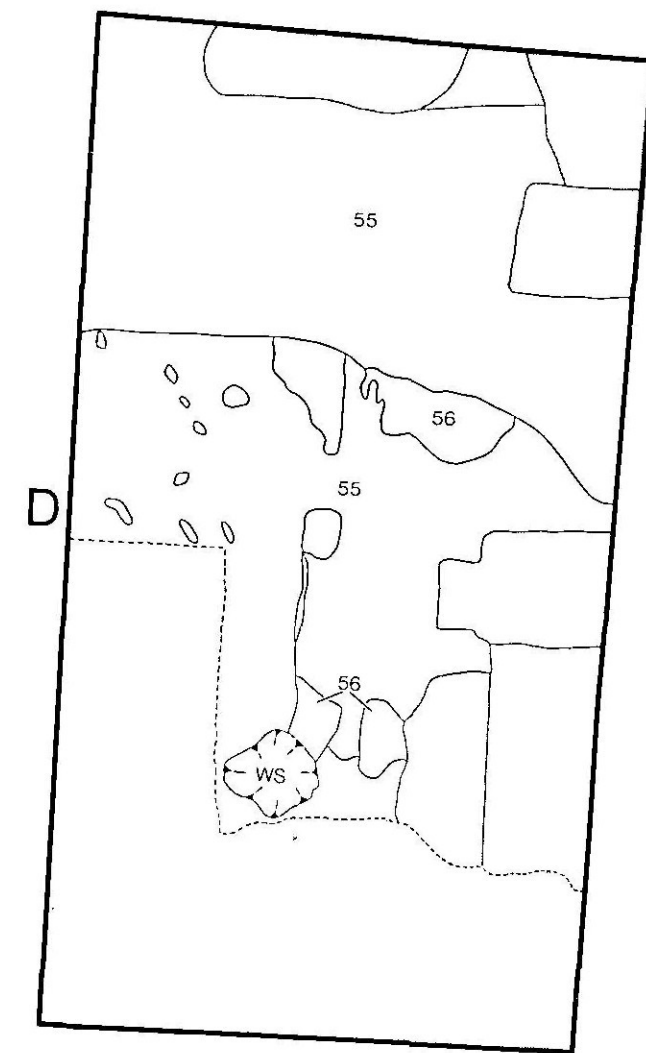
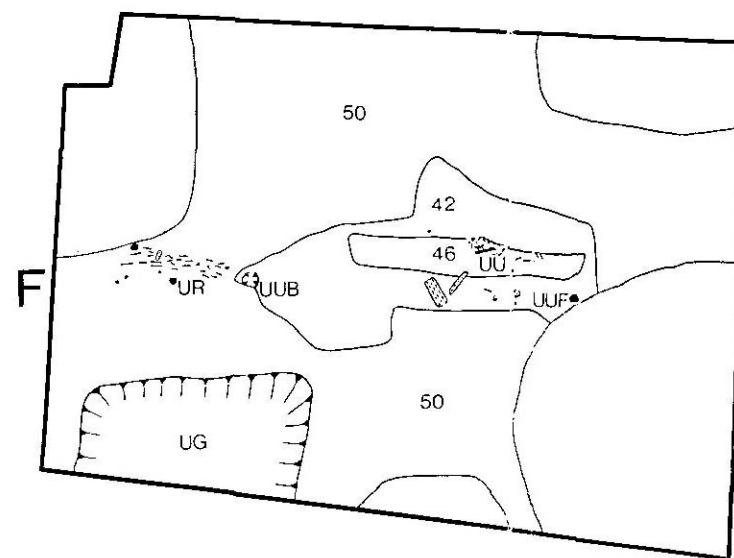
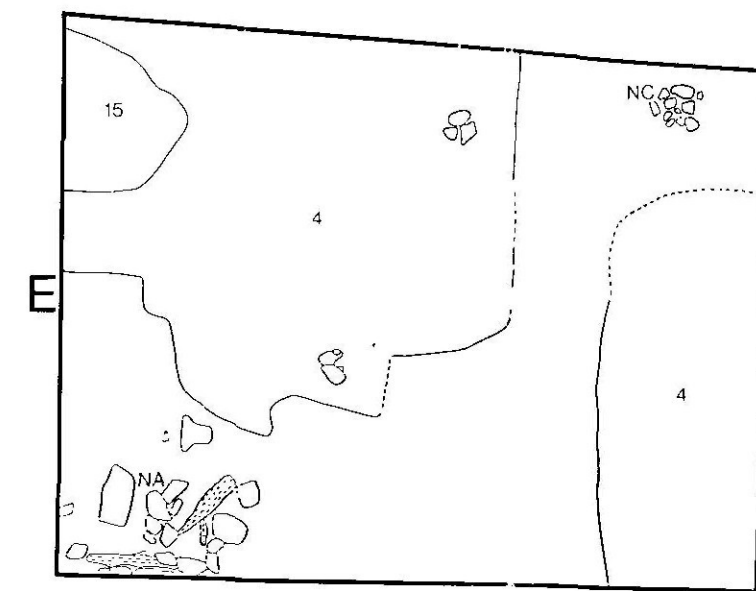
A series of large post-holes (TK, TL, TM, TR, TS, TV) formed parallel lines on either side of the boundary, overlapping Plots 1 and 2. Post-hole TU and the pit/post-hole TT may have been part of this structure. TT cut the boundary fence TX. These post-holes may have belonged to a rectangular structure built over both plots, temporarily destroying the boundary. This is, however, purely speculative as there were no further traces of this structure.

A large open hearth (KB) stood on the W side of Plot 2. There was no evidence of any industrial usage and the hearth was not related to any structure found on the site, so it may simply have been an area where rubbish was burnt.

Plot 3 had been much disturbed by the later stone building (Phase 11) but an organic layer (B92) covered part of the area.

Before the sand layer was deposited, a post-and-wattle structure (BQ) was built along the centre of Plot 4. A series of organic layers containing wood fragments (C184, C191, C193) lay inside the building and may have been associated with its construction. Similar layers (C183, C187, C199) were found outside the building. At the S end of the excavated area, C191 had been cut by a pit (CJ).





As there was no evidence of the S end of the building, it is difficult to know if the pit was in use before the house was built or during its lifetime. The pit was sealed by a sand layer (C5/C23) which appears to have been a floor inside the building but which was contemporary with the sand layer (C84/C181) which acted as a yard surface outside the building and which was part of the general sand deposit over the whole site.

By Phase 8, the percentage of Low Countries wares was decreasing and this, combined with a very high percentage of Scarborough ware and the first appearance of Rouen ware (504-507) on the site suggests a date in the early 14th century.

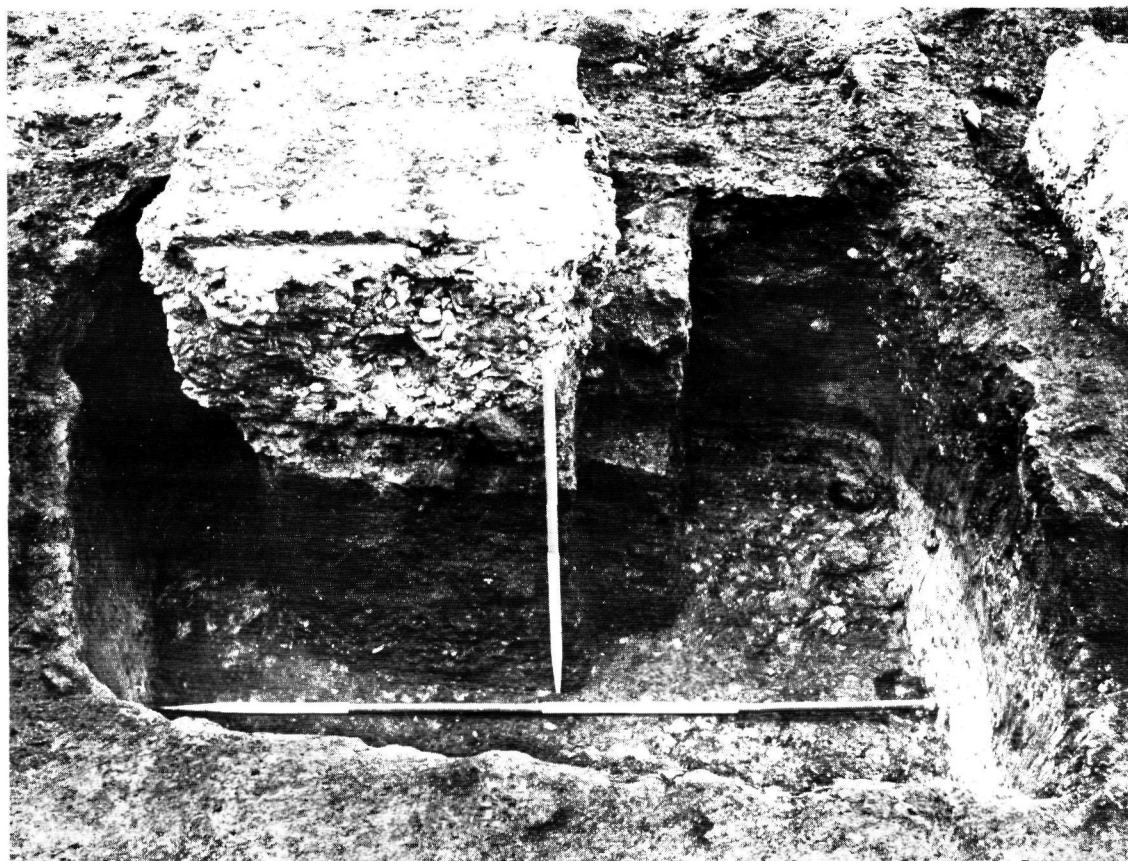
Associated pottery: 457-510.

Associated finds: wooden bowl 1, barrel staves 3, 4, 5, paddle 8, weaving sword 9, wood 13, sharpening wheel 34, sheet copper alloy 72, barrel padlock 75, leather 101, 102, 105, 106, 110, 111, 118, 119, 120, 132, 150, flint 184.

Catalogue of features: Table 7 mf.

PHASE 9 (Ill 33)

A series of generally organic/clay layers (A74, A90, A128, A130, B54, B63, B72, B82, C43, C86, C92, C93, C139, C140, C176, F6) accumulated over Plots 1, 3, 4 and part of Plot 2, sealing Phase 8 features. The overwhelming impression was that, in this period, this area was used as backyards, full of pits and rubbish. The only definite boundary was the one between Plots 1 and 2 which was marked by a wattle wall (SE). It is possible that this wall might have been part of a structure, as it bordered the edge of a contemporary clay floor (A98) to the W in Plot 2 and there was slight evidence that the organic layer (A90, A128, A130) E of the wall might have extended around the N and S limits of clay floor A98, coinciding with the limits of wall SE. If this had been a building,



Ill 32 : 42 St Paul Street, Area A. Pit SM (with modern intrusive pillar base): Phase 9

Plots 1 and 2 would appear to have been united at this stage, although they were separated again by Phase 10. In balance, however, the evidence that this was a building was not convincing, so SE has been regarded as a fence.

The ditch (WQ) in Area D could not be related to any of the other boundaries. It was roughly in line with the Plot 2/3 boundary in Area B but there was no evidence of this in the intervening Area E.

Four pits were in use in Plot 1 during this period (SJ, SM, UC and UH). The most interesting of these, SM (Ill 32), appeared to have been a cellar. The three post-holes at either end could have held posts supporting some sort of roof or covering and there were traces of a wooden lining around the sides of the pit. There was no evidence of a structure on ground level to which the pit could have been related but a demolished sill based construction would not necessarily have left any trace. After a fairly short period, the cellar became disused and the pit was filled by a series of rubbish layers. SJ and UC were also rubbish pits, but pit UH was filled with alternate layers of cess and clean sealing layers of sand (with the exception of the basal rubbish layer F29).

A few posts and fragments of wattle at the N end of the plot may have been part of a structure, but the evidence was very vague. At the S end of the site there was a small E-W gully (SN). Parallel to it, to the S, there was a flimsy stone wall foundation (SG, TE). It is possible that these were on an E-W property division as the layers to the S of them were different from the layers to the N.

The central part of Plot 2 was covered by a deposited layer of clean hard yellow clay (A98), 0.10 m thick. This was like a flooring but may have been an external surface. The N end of Plot 2 merged with Plot 1, both being covered by the same peaty-organic layer (A74, A90, A128, A130, F6). Two large posts (UK, UL) may have been part of the same structure indicating that the N ends of Plots 1 and 2 may have been unfenced at this period.

There were four pits in Plot 2 (TA, TB, TD and UP). TB, TD and UP were all cess pits, TD and UP having had cess fills alternating with sealing layers of sand or peat. UP appeared to have been emptied at least once as the lowest fill (F86) consisted of sand and silt washed down from the sides sealing thin lenses of cess in the base of the pit. At one stage the sides of this pit had been revetted with brushwood (UW).

Plot 3 had been badly disturbed by the later stone building, but there appeared to have been a build up of a general organic layer (B63, B72, B82) over which there was a layer of brown clay (B42, B54). The latter may have been contemporary with clay A98 but this was not certain. The only other surviving feature was a tangled mass of broken wattle fragments (B76/JT) dumped on Layer B63 and sealed by stones (B49: not planned). This may have been used to level a sunken area but it had no apparent structural significance.

The boundary between Plots 3 and 4 was not clear. A series of clay and organic soils (C43, C86, C92, C93, C139, C140, C176) lay over the W area of Plot 3 and over Plot 4. A large number of pits had been dug into these layers (BB, BE, BN, BS, CG, DB). Although there was no clear boundary, BB, BE, BN, BS, CG and DB all fall along a N-S line just E of the previous boundary, so there may have been a division which has not survived. These pits appeared to have been rubbish pits with mixed fills. BE had traces of a wattle and wooden lining and may originally have been a storage pit of some sort. DB had a post-hole at the base, possibly an earlier one cut by the pit rather than one associated with it.

To the W, more pits (BM, BO, CZ) were also cut into these levels. BO and CZ were rubbish pits. BM was the base of a barrel set into a packing of clean clay. It was presumably used as a water-butt. As the layers sealing it had been disturbed, it is possible that this was a later feature, the base of which had survived at this level.

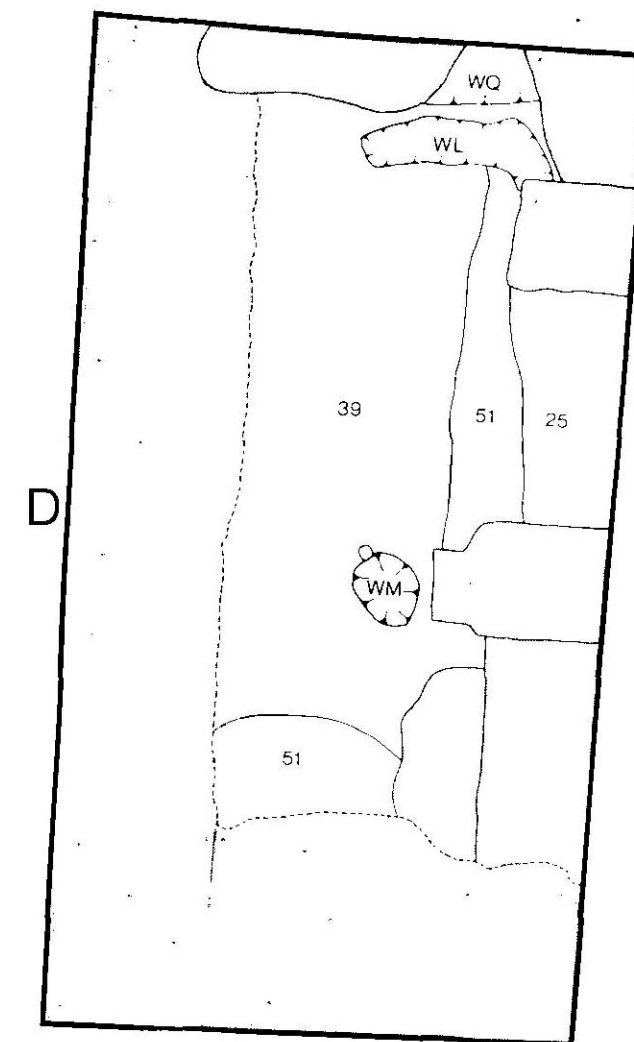
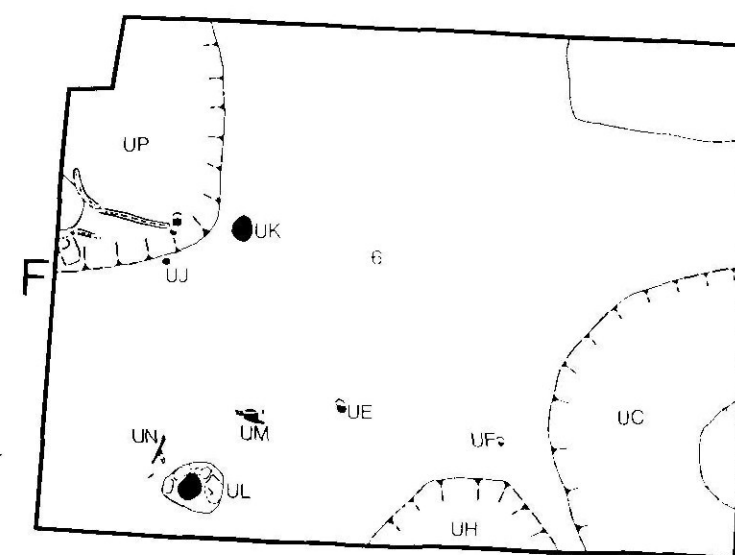
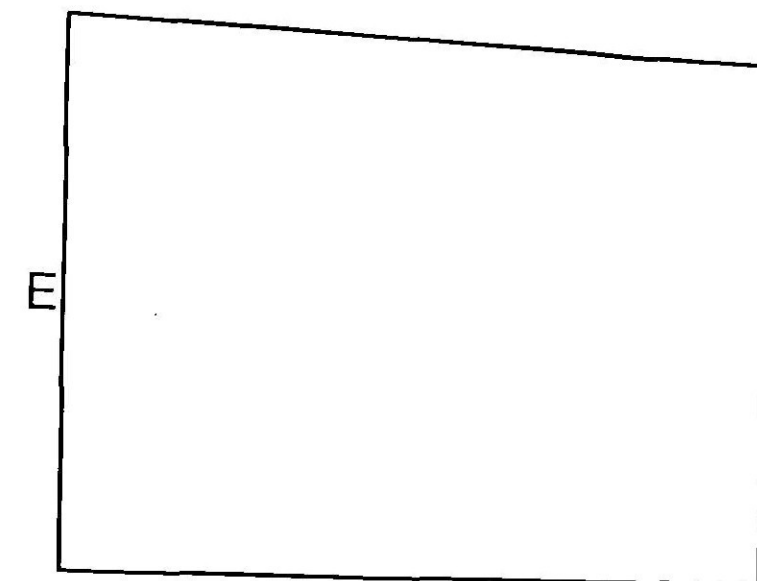
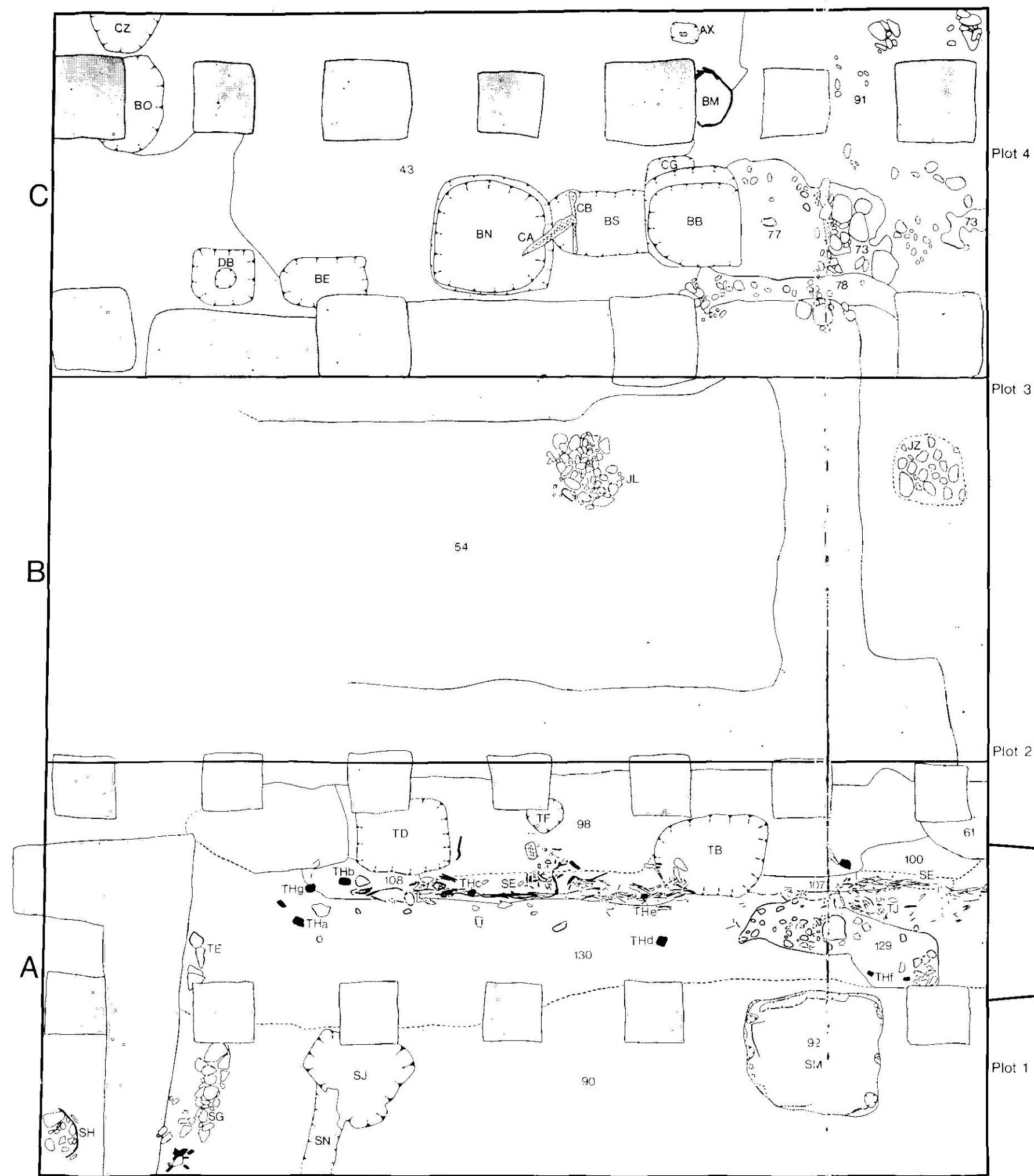
To the N, in Area D, there was some indication of an E-W bank (D25 and D51) which might have formed a distinct boundary at the back of the properties. This was not absolutely definite as D51 also appears to have extended into the SE part of Area D.

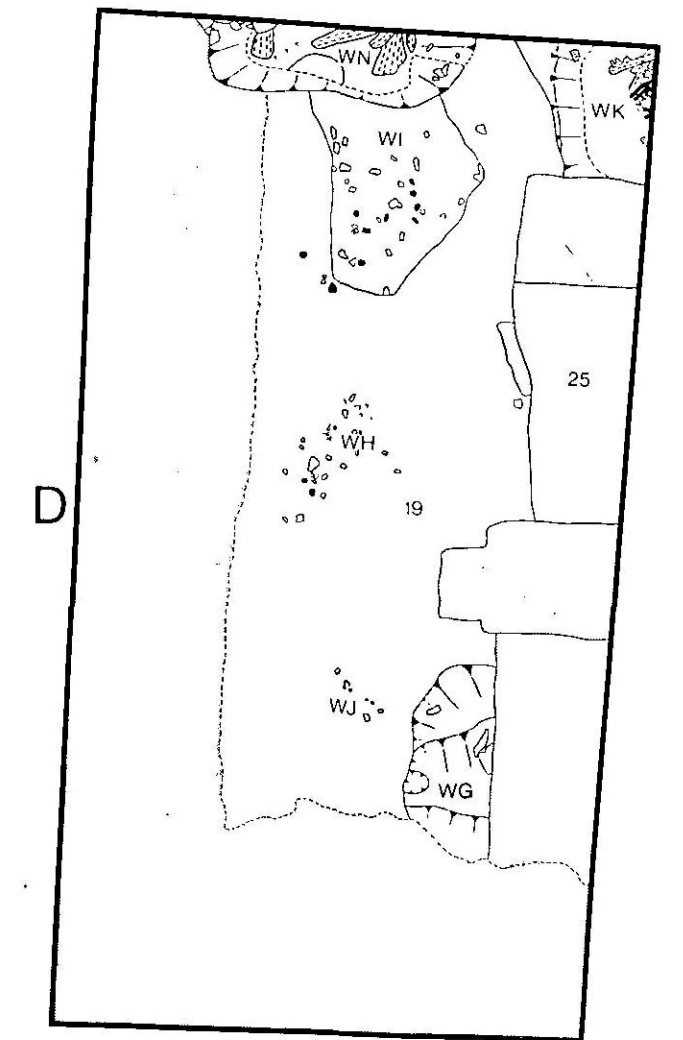
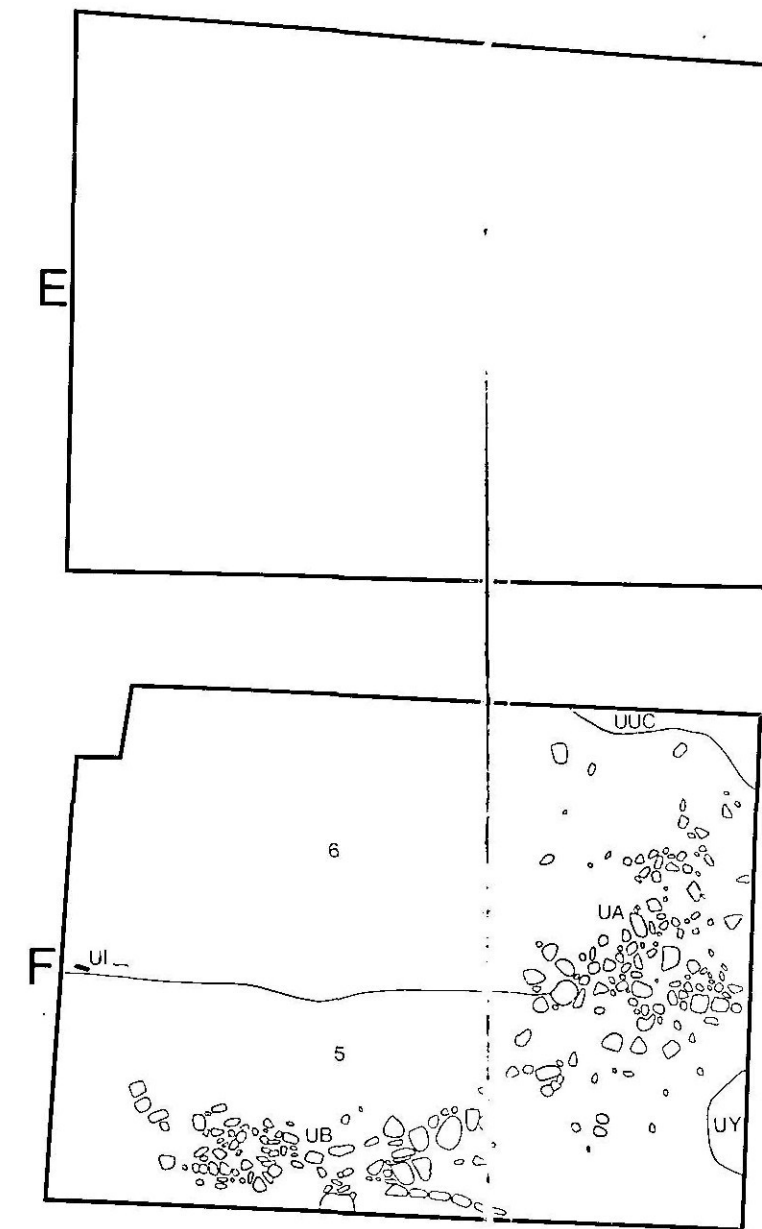
The pottery assemblage suggests a date in the early 14th century.

Associated pottery: 511-618.

Associated finds: wooden bowl 2, wooden lid 10, whetstone 41, copper alloy buckle 54, copper alloy strapping 68, roof finial? 99, leather 113, 121, 133, 136, 144, 147, 152, 153.

Catalogue of features: 8 mf.





III 34 : 42 St Paul Street, Areas A-F and H. Plan of Phase 10 (hatching represents ash, shading represents later, intrusive features)

PHASE 10 (Ill 34)

Phase 10 was the final medieval phase on the site. In Areas A, C, E, F and H it lay directly below the concrete and rubble belonging to the levelling and flooring of the Farquhar and Gill warehouse. In Area B there were traces of a mixed black organic layer (B41, B45) but most of the other evidence had been totally destroyed by the later stone building (JC: Phase 11).

The only boundary that could still be seen was the one between Plots 1 and 2. There was no wall on the line (except stray strands of wattle UI) but, in Plot 1, clay (A22, A26, A48, F5, H2) had been deposited on top of the generally organic layers of Phase 9 and was distinct from the contemporary organic layers W of the boundary line (A30, F6, H3). The Plot 3/4 boundary was not visible at this stage, except possibly in the line between clay (C79) and organic earth (C87).

A small stone-kerbed and lined hearth (SF) lay in the centre of Plot 1. It appeared to have been industrial as it had been fired to such a heat that some of the stones had fused and vitrified and



Ill 35 : 42 St Paul Street, Area C. Drain AK with collapsed wooden cover in foreground looking NW, Phase 10

the underlying layer (A22) had been affected by heat. Ash (A18) surrounded it, with a depth of 0.19 m of ash in the area of the hearth itself. There was no slag in these layers.

In Plot 2, two horizontal timbers (SR) appeared to be the remains of a flimsy structure. It was not possible to reconstruct them or to determine their function, although as they were pegged into the ground they must have been in their original position. Part of a pit (UUC) was found at the N end of this plot.

Plot 3 had been destroyed by the Phase 11 stone building (JC). A large open hearth (JB) at the S end of the plot may have been nothing more than the result of rubbish burning. A stone-lined wooden drain or culvert (AK: Ill 35) extended E-W across Plots 3 and 4. It was not clear if this had been a drain or a freshwater supply, the E end had slumped badly and the direction of flow could not be assessed. It could not be associated with any other feature.

The only surviving features in Plot 4 in this phase were a barrel (AR: probably a water-butt like BM in Phase 9) and a few small unrelated posts and post-holes.

The pottery assemblage suggests a date in the 14th century.

Associated pottery: 619-719.

Associated finds: spindle whorl 38, copper alloy pin 56, staple 62, iron knife blade 87, ceramic object 97.

Catalogue of features: Table 9 mf.

PHASE 11 (Ill 40)

There was no evidence belonging to this period in Areas A and C. In Area B there were the foundations of a stone building (JC: see building report) which covered Plots 2 and 3. This building appeared to have combined these two central plots and the central boundary did not reappear.

There was little direct dating evidence as the deep foundations had churned up much residual medieval pottery but some later fabrics (eg 752) are present which may date to as late as the 16th century. The building, therefore, cannot be dated more closely than between the 15th and 17th centuries.

Associated pottery: 720-752.

Associated finds: pin beater 27, sharpening wheel 35, copper alloy pin shaft 58.

Catalogue of features: Table 10 mf.

PHASE 12

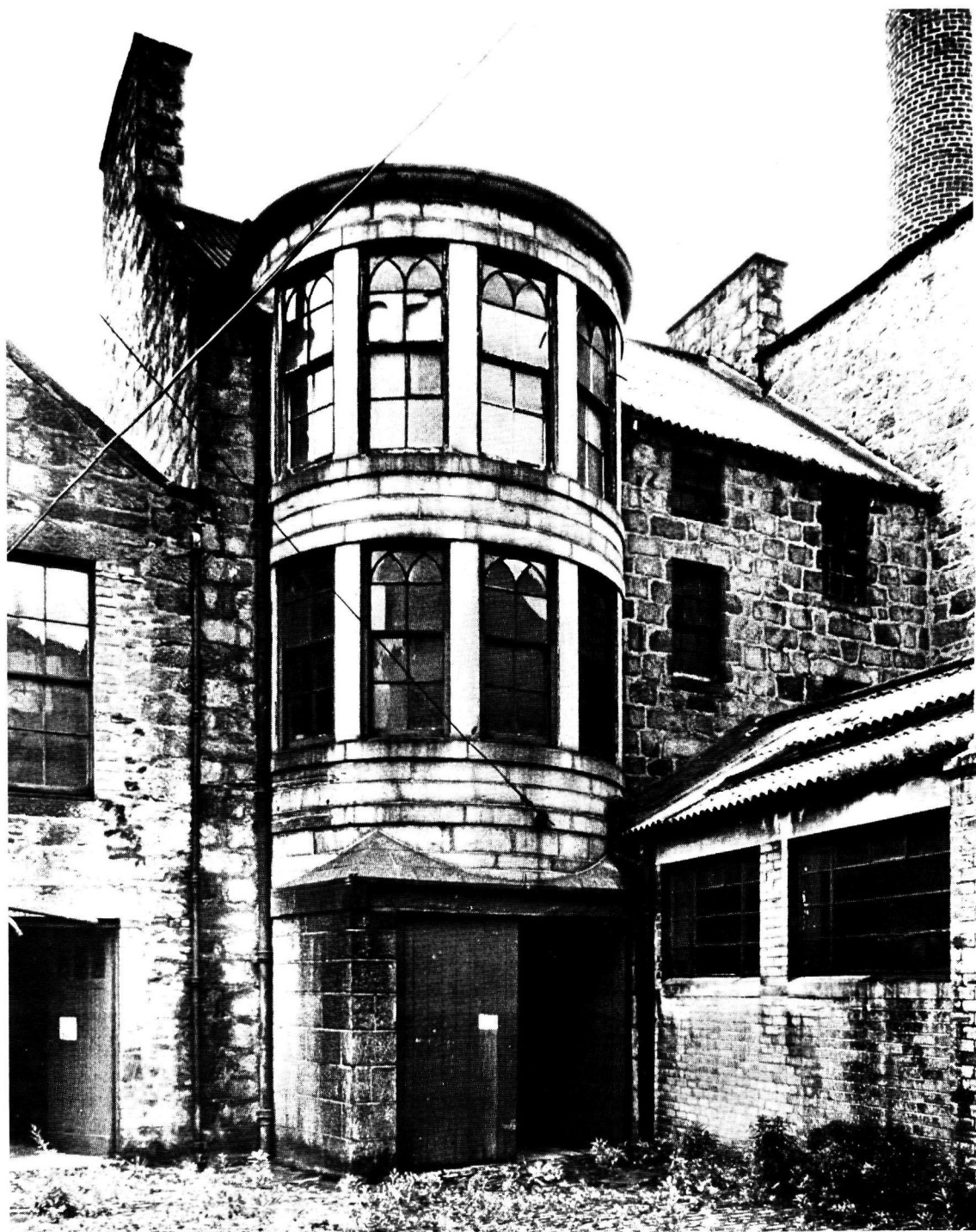
A corner of a building was found in Area D (WA, WB). The N-S wall WB had been strengthened by internal revetting (WD). The walls were identified as the foundations of part of Anderson's Mansion built on the back of Plot 2/3 in about 1741 and demolished in 1977. After its initial use as a dwelling, the mansion had been reused as the Boys' Hospital and was later incorporated into the Farquhar and Gill warehouse (Ill 36).

Associated pottery: 753-760.

Catalogue of features: Table 11 mf.

PHASE 13

All the foundations and levels associated with the Farquhar and Gill warehouse, with the exception of the 18th-century Anderson's Mansion (Phase 12), were assigned to Phase 13. The main part of the warehouse had been built using iron pillars set on square concrete pillar-bases. These pillar-bases cut through the medieval layers in all areas and are shown on the plans as intrusive features. Attempts to remove them created considerable disturbance, so they were mostly left in position. They destroyed all levels to natural. Finds touching the sides of the pillar bases were treated with some caution as there was an obvious possibility of contamination.



Ill 36 : 42 St Paul Street, Phase 12. Anderson's Mansion prior to demolition in 1977

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES JUDITH STONES

Towards the NE corner of this site, close to the line of St Paul Street, there was a modern underground complex, possibly of 18th-century date. It consisted of two circular chambers, with walls and vaults of stone, connected to each other and entered by a corridor and flight of steps. Present access to the complex is by a manhole from the surface. The floors of both chambers and of the corridor were of bricks laid as stretchers. In the chambers the bricks were laid in concentric circles, both chambers having in the centre a circular cavity reaching down at least 1 m below floor level. In the larger chamber a stone surround to the central cavity and a hole in the roof above it suggested a mounting for a piece of machinery. Built into the floors of the larger chamber and the corridor were a number of drains leading towards the central cavity. Against one wall was a freestanding brick structure with the remains of an iron tray beneath it. The dense black material which filled this tray had overflowed on to the floor of the chamber. Behind this structure a 'tunnel', about 300-400 mm square led off to the SW as far as the eye could see. Although various interpretations have been considered, including a possible use as an ice house, no single explanation has yet accounted for all the features of these chambers. It is hoped that they will be published fully elsewhere at a later date.



Ill 37 : 42 St Paul Street, Area C. Building BQ, detail of entrance looking W: Phase 8

CATALOGUE OF BUILDINGS

For an explanation of the wall types see Chapter 5.

BUILDING BQ (Phase 8: Ill 31)

Dimensions

Part of N and E walls of post-and-wattle building. N-S: 3.80 m + E-W: 2.50 m +

Structure

Post-and-wattle wall: Group 1a construction. Posts, diameter: 0.03-0.06 m, 0.10-0.20 m apart (centres). Wattles, diameter: 0.01-0.02 m. Post CI and wood fragments BW may have been part of the E wall but the relationship was not clear.

Freestanding posts: 1. BZ, post-hole outside corner of wall. 2. Two posts, diameter: 0.06 m, 0.06-0.15 m outside N wall.

Entrance: Vertical planks BU, BV and post BVa form the jambs and doorpost of an entrance c 0.50 m wide, near the end of one lateral wall (Ill 37).

Internal details: There was a sandy floor at the N end of the building (C44). A very similar surface (C5, C23) to the S may have been within the structure. It extended to the S limit of the excavation, c 12 m from the N wall of BQ.

Associated layers

C5, C23 Hard compacted sand.
C44 Yellow/brown compacted sand.

Associated pottery and finds

9 Weaving sword. In C23. Possibly outside building, but contemporary.

75 Barrel padlock. In C23. Possibly outside building, but contemporary.
Pottery: 496.

Date

Early 14th century.

Interpretation

The wall of BQ was very flimsy and the building would have needed additional freestanding posts or planks to support the roof. BZ and the two small posts outside the N wall may have been supports of this nature but insufficient evidence remained to attempt a reconstruction.

The pattern of the property boundaries make it almost certain that BQ was a relatively long, narrow building lying N-S along the property. The full width was not excavated but, based on the 5.5-6.0 m width of these later properties, it is unlikely to have been more than 5.5 m. There was no clear evidence to show whether BQ extended to include C5, C23, in which case it was at least 12 m long, or if it extended for the length of C44, some 5.0 m.

BUILDING CO (Phase 5: Ill 24)

Dimensions

Part of N, S and E walls of post-and-wattle building. N-S: 7.70 m E-W: 2.00 m +

Structure

Post-and-wattle wall: Group 1b construction. Posts, diameter: 0.03-0.04 m, 0.18-0.36 m apart (centres). Wattles, diameter: 0.01 m. The wall was built in a foundation gully (CW, DA, DC, DE). Clay daub was found on the N wall and on the N end of the E wall. It was thickest on the inner face of the wattle and around the base of the wall. Matted cow hair identified in this clay appears to have been used as binding.

A plank CCa was incorporated in the wattle of the N wall.

Freestanding posts: 1. Planks CU, CV, CX, DG outside the E wall. 2. Post-hole DD, in the gap between the two sections of wall gully in the E wall. 3. Post CRa outside S wall, 0.50 m from SE corner.

Entrance: There was a gap, 0.70 m wide, in the E wall, c 1.90 m from the SE corner. It was flanked by two of the freestanding planks (CV, DG). There was a vertical groove in the S face of plank CV.

There was a second gap, 0.40 m wide, in the E wall between post-hole DD and wall-gully CW, c 1.50 m from the NE corner.

Internal details: There was a gravel floor inside the N end of the building (C235) and in the yard outside the building (C208). It had been laid down after the wall was built as it sealed the gully of the N wall.

Associated layers

C208 Yellow/brown sandy gravel.
C235 Compact sandy gravel mixed with yellow loam.
C247 Compact fine grey/white clay. Daub on inside of wattle N wall.

Date

Mid-to late 13th century.

Interpretation

CO was one of the more complete buildings excavated. The complete N-S dimension was, without doubt, the length as there was a consistent pattern of long narrow properties on the site throughout the period. The average width of the plots in this earlier phase would limit the width of the building to c 4.5-5.5 m.

This building had two possible entrances in the E wall. The need for two entrances in such a small building may be explained by the fact that the interior was divided into two distinct parts, a N part with a gravel floor and clay daubed walls and a S part with an earth floor and no evidence of daub on the wall. There was no evidence of a partition and the differences may be a reflection of the different uses of the two areas; the N end may have been a dwelling, while the S end may have been a store, byre or work area.

The main weight-bearing elements in the structure were the planks alongside the E lateral wall. It can be assumed that similar planks existed outside the unexcavated W wall. A reconstruction comparable to that proposed for SAN, with a ridge supported by end posts is likely. No ridge posts were found but they may have been outside the excavated area. The irregular spacing of the planks in the E wall makes it unlikely that the planks in the opposing wall were exactly paired, so that rafters dependent on the planks would have been individually tied or jointed to the ridge and not paired. There was no evidence of the type of jointing, but the use of planks and the grooves in CV make it possible that simple joints were used in this structure.

BUILDING DI (Phase 3: Ill 22)

Dimensions

Part of S and E walls of post-and-wattle building. Possible N wall. N-S: 5.5 m +, if EB is accepted as N wall: 9.60 m. E-W: 2.60 m +

Structure

Post-and-wattle wall: Group 1a construction. Posts, diameter: 0.03-0.04 m, 0.25-0.30 m apart (centres). Wattles, diameter: 0.02 m. Posts DK were slightly E of the wall line but were contemporary and appeared to belong to it.

The wood had been identified as birch and willow (J S Murray, Dept of Forestry, Aberdeen University).

Gully EB was cut into the layer (C277) on which the building had been constructed. EB was sealed by the same layer (C273) which sealed floor C280. It was therefore, contemporary to the building and may have been the foundation gully of the N wall.

Freestanding posts: 1. A post-hole, diameter: 0.06 m, at the SE corner. 2. Post EC, 0.40 m from gully EB, appeared to be cut into C273, the layer which sealed EB and C280, but the top of the post may have been forced up through C273 as the layers compacted, so it is possible that it could have belonged to the building. 3. Post-hole DW cut into C277, the layer on which the building was constructed, but was sealed by the floors C282, C285. It could have belonged to a primary phase of the building before the floors were laid.

Internal details: There was an area of gravel flooring at the S end of the building (C282). A similar layer, (C280) lay to the N extending as far as gully EB. A layer of stones (C276) stretched between the two areas of gravel and may also have been part of the floor although it may have been later as several of the stones lay between the posts DK.

Patches of clay (C285) lay below floor C282 and on the floor surface (C281).

Associated layers

C276 Stone scatter.

C280 Yellow/brown sandy gravel, redeposited natural.

C281 Patches of hard white/grey clay in limited areas on C282.

C282 Compact yellow/brown sandy gravel.

C285 Patches of thin white/grey clay below C282.

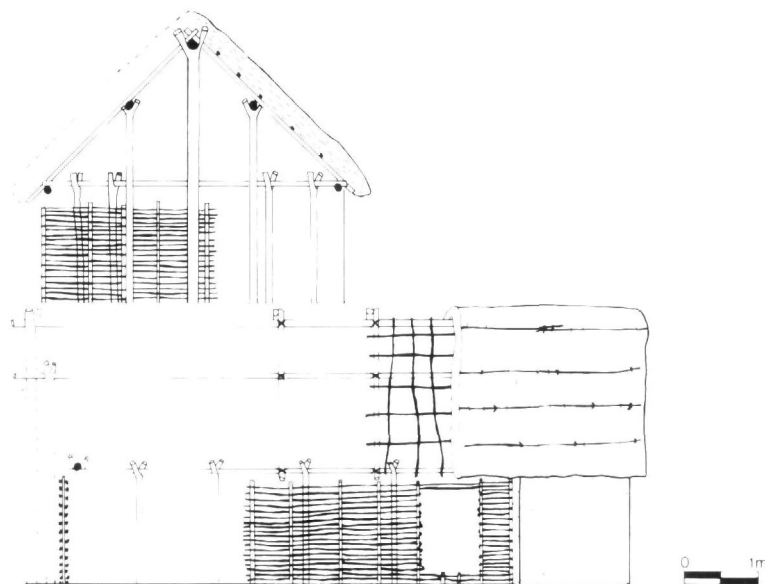
Date

Early to mid-13th century.

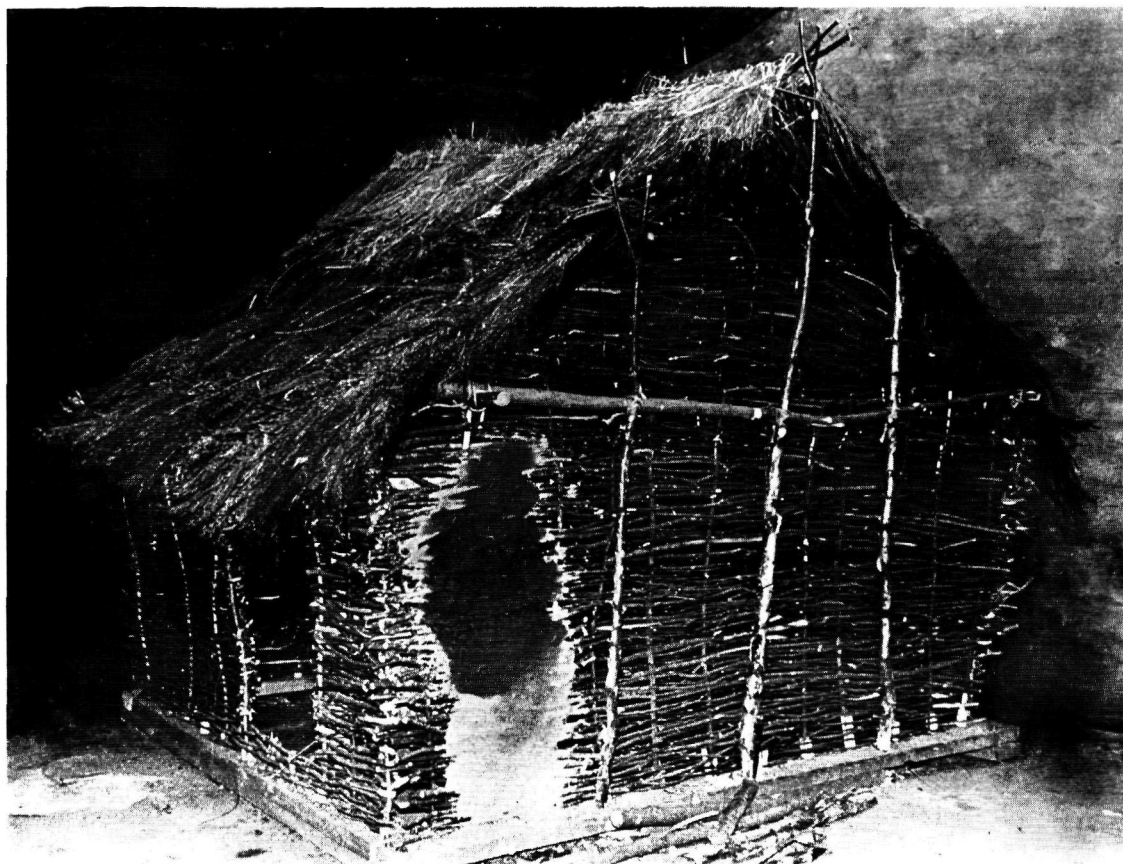
Interpretation

The wall of this building only survived at the S end but it is probable that gully EB was the foundation of the N wall and that C280 was part of the floor. On stratigraphic grounds these are all contemporary to the building. According to this interpretation DI would have been c 9.6 m long. The width can be roughly estimated, by comparison with the plot width, as c 4.5-5.5 m.

With the exception of the small post-hole at the SE corner, there was no evidence that freestanding planks or posts had stood alongside the wattle wall. This presupposes that either the roof was very light or that the wall had been strengthened by clay, dung or turf cladding. No daub was found on the surviving section of wall and the only slight support for this theory was the clay C281 and C285, which lay in patches in the interior of the building. Post EC, c 2.5 m from the E wall, could have been a ridge support. Post-hole DW was the same distance from the E wall and could also have been a ridge support but only in the primary phase of the building as it was sealed by floor C282. No corresponding post was found to the S within the area excavated.



Ill 38 : 42 St Paul Street. Hypothetical reconstruction of building SAN (reconstruction H K Murray)



Ill 39 : Full-scale reconstruction based on building SAN (reconstruction H K Murray in Aberdeen Art Gallery, 1980)

BUILDING SAN (Phase 5: Ill 24)

Dimensions

S and W walls of post-and-wattle building. N-S: 5.80 m +
E-W: 2.80 m +

Structure

Post-and-wattle wall: Group 1b construction. Posts, diameter: 0.03 m, 0.20-0.30 m apart (centres). Wattles, diameter: 0.01-0.02 m.

The wood has been identified as willow (J S Murray, Dept of Forestry, Aberdeen University).

The posts were occasionally paired. There was no direct evidence of daub or other cladding, but the floor and yard surfaces stopped 0.04-0.14 m away from the inner and outer faces of the wall, suggesting that the wall surfaces were covered to this thickness when the floor was laid down.

Freestanding posts: 1. Additional posts stood alongside the inner face of the W lateral wall (SAP, SAQ) and along the inner and outer faces of the S wall (posts: SAT, SAW, SAX; post-holes: SAU, SAY). Posts, diameter: 0.06-0.07 m, 0.50-1.00 m apart (centres), 0.11-0.17 m from centre line of wall. 2. One large post (TAX) stood outside the S wall, c 1.80 m from the SW corner.

Internal details: A gravel floor (A208) survived in the SW corner of the building where it was covered by a thin occupation deposit (A207).

A hearth SAM was set on this floor in the SW corner. It had an oval setting of clay and stones.

Associated layers

A207 Dark brown soft organic layer, c 0.01 m thick.

A208 Compact yellow gravel.

A209 Burnt clay, some ash. Hearth SAM.

Date

Mid-to late 13th century.

Interpretation

Only half of building SAN was within the area excavated but there was sufficient detail to draw a hypothetical reconstruction (Ill 38). The length can be estimated as 7-8 m by comparison to CO. It may have been longer for, although there was no return wall in Areas H or F, the large pits along the E side of Area F may have cut away any evidence. The essential structure is not, however, greatly altered by the length unless it was greater than the available timber, necessitating some form of intermediate support. The width can be estimated more closely as 3.8-4.0 m by comparing the position of the building with the established rig widths.

The wall was of wattle. No evidence of daub survived, but the gap between the face of the wattle and the edge of the floor suggests that there may have been some form of cladding on the wall when the floor was laid down. Mud or dung are possible, neither of which are easily identified; there

was no evidence of clay although it was used on part of Building CO. The wall height has been estimated as c 1.25-1.50 m by comparison with later vernacular buildings. Some confirmation comes from near contemporary wattle buildings elsewhere; calculating the height at which angled buttresses met the top of the wall, the wall height can be estimated as 1.30-1.40 m in Dublin (Murray 1977, 233) and 1.70 m in Viborg (Nielsen 1968, 30). In a Perth example (Murray 1980, 43) it was only c 0.70 m but in this case the buttresses may not have been part of the original design.

The entrance was not in the excavated part of the building so it has been drawn in the unexcavated E wall, opening towards the boundary where they may have been an earlier path on the line of the later pend (Kirkgate Court). This position is comparable to CO and BQ. The width of the entrance has been drawn at 0.70 m, by comparison with CO. It may have been narrower, the entrance in building BQ being only 0.50 m wide. The wattle has been drawn across the base of the doorway, this feature was found in BQ and is common in wattle buildings in Dublin (Murray 1977) and Perth (Murray in PHSEC). The full-scale reconstruction of SAN (Ill 39) confirmed the opinion that this considerably strengthened the whole wall, avoiding splaying at the doorway. For the same reason the wattle was continued across the top of the entrance. Plank jambs were not always necessary as the wattle could be turned back around the flanking wall posts. No doors have been identified; plank doors of the type found at Hedeby (Schietzel 1969, fig 20) and Southampton (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, fig 235: 1697, 1699-1701) may have been used. It is probable, however, that wattle or straw mat doors of the type recorded for 19th-century Irish vernacular buildings (Lucas 1956, 18) could have been used in many cases; they would not have required elaborate hanging.

The reconstruction of the roof is based on two assumptions: that the additional posts beside the wall bore much of the roof weight and that the post excavated outside the estimated centre of the S end wall supported a ridge. Both features can be paralleled in the contemporary Perth buildings (Murray in PHSEC). The main structure has therefore been reconstructed as a ridge held on posts outside the gable ends of the building (the excavated S post being shown on plan). The additional posts flanking the ridge support post outside the end wall, have been reconstructed holding horizontal poles to support the rafters at their mid points; in reconstruction this was found to be especially necessary in view of the very flexible nature of fresh branch wood of the small diameter indicated by the excavated timber. The lower ends of the rafters could have been supported in one of two ways. They could have been individually held by the uprights along the inside of the side walls. Alternatively, as in the drawn reconstruction (Ill 38) these additional posts could have held horizontal poles acting as pseudo wall-plates. In the full-scale reconstruction (Ill 39) it was found that by having a similar horizontal pole held by the additional posts inside each of the gable walls and by notching and lashing these four horizontal poles together at the corners of the building, an extremely strong framework was formed and outward splaying of the rafter supports was avoided. This reconstruction is also favoured as it proffers an explanation of the posts inside the gable wall. All the joints have been drawn using naturally forked posts and notched-and-bound joints. There was no evidence of more elaborate joints and it would have been difficult to cut them in the very small diameter of round posts found. The simple jointing suggested was used in the full-scale reconstruction and was found to be remarkably effective.

There was no evidence regarding the roof covering. Thatch on a base of wattle, brushwood or sods is the most probable. It is clearly impossible to be certain what material was used in the thatch; from the botanical evidence (Chapter 7) it is known that soft reed, heather and sedges were all in

use on the site and broom is possible although it was not identified (legume seeds rarely survive). Any of these are perhaps more likely than straw as they could have been gathered free in marginal land. The roof angle has been drawn as approximately 45° to allow adequate drainage, a steeper roof would probably have placed undue strain on the walls.

As a hearth was found inside the building near the S gable, it is suggested that small smoke vents may have been left open at the apex of the gable walls, although the wattle would otherwise rise to the full height of the gable.

BUILDING TAB (Phase 4: Ill 23)

Dimensions

SE corner of post-and-wattle structure. N-S: 1.70 m + E-W: 0.09 m +

Structure

Post-and-wattle: Group 1b construction. Posts, diameter: 0.03-0.06 m, 0.25-0.35 m apart (centres). Wattles, only fragments remaining.

Freestanding posts: 1. Post, diameter: 0.08 m, at corner of wall. 2. post TAE W of the wall. 3. Post-hole TAD to E of wall line, contemporary but not definitely related. 4. A small vertical plank stood S of the S wall.

Internal details: A possible floor (A216) was confined to the area enclosed by wall TAB.

Associated layers

A216 Grey gritty earth with patches of yellow sand.

A229 Clean yellow sand around posts of TAB.

A235 Very soft black organic fill of post-hole TAD.

A236 Mixed sand and grey/brown loam. Fill of post-hole TAE.

Date

Mid-13th century.

Interpretation

This appears to have been part of a small building with a wattle screen wall and independent freestanding load-bearing posts. The W side of the building had been destroyed by the Phase 11 stone building. The only estimate of its size that is possible is that the width was probably 4.5 m or less by comparison with the plot width and that the length was probably less than 8 m as there was no evidence of the N wall in Area F.

BUILDING TAP (Phase 3: Ill 22)

Dimensions

Part of E wall of post-and-wattle structure.

N-S: 2.00 m + E-W: 1.50 m +

Structure

Post-and-wattle wall: Group 1b construction. Posts, diameter: 0.03-0.06 m, 0.26-0.40 m apart (centres). Wattles, diameter: 0.01-0.02 m.

Freestanding posts: 1. Four posts, diameter: 0.03-0.04 m, 0.30-0.40 m apart (centres), 0.20 m outside wall. 2. Post, diameter: 0.06 m, 0.40 m outside wall. 3. Two posts,

diameter: 0.06 m, 0.45 m apart (centres), 0.15 m inside wall. Internal details: Gravel A265 appeared to be a floor associated with wall TAP. A small pit/post-hole TAS cut this floor but may not have been related to the structure.

Associated layers

A265 Compact yellow gravelly sand with small stones.

Date

Early to mid-13th century.

Interpretation

This appears to have been part of a small building with a wattle screen wall and independent freestanding load-bearing posts.

BUILDING JC (Phase 11: Ill 40)

Dimensions

N-S: 10-10.20 m external, 6.80 m internal. E-W: 7-7.40 m external, 4.40-4.80 m internal.

Structure

Stone wall foundations. The wall foundations survived on the N, E, W and part of the S sides of the building. The S wall had what appeared to be a secondary wall built alongside its outer edge. The main primary wall foundations were 1.30-1.70 m wide, built of rounded rubble stones. The E wall was thinner in places, but this appearance may have been due to the degree of disturbance by the pillar bases of the modern warehouse. The foundations were built in trenches 0.63-0.74 m deep which had been cut through the medieval levels into natural. The W foundation had been cut into the soft fill of an earlier boundary ditch which appeared to have been dug out and filled with large stones to give a firmer base to the wall. The S wall was not so deeply bedded. Larger stones had been used in the construction of the N and S foundations than in those to the E and W. There was no trace of mortar through the foundations but there was some mortar on their surviving top surface; however as the foundations had been reused by later walls it is not possible to tell if the mortar was associated with their primary usage. Nor was it possible to determine the level from which the foundations had been cut, as all contemporary levels had been destroyed by the later warehouse.

A circular stone feature (JM), 0.90 m in internal diameter, abutted the external face of the N wall at the NE corner. Its base was paved with small stones set in a thick layer of clay. There was an opening 0.45 m wide in the SE side giving access from outside the building. The clay had been burnt red and the whole interior had clearly been subject to intense or prolonged heat although no ash or charcoal remained.

An oval pit (JA), 1.30 × 1.85 m internally and c 1.00 m deep, abutted the outer, secondary, S wall. The pit was lined on three sides by drystone walling for its full depth but on the N side the lower 0.30 m of its depth was unlined and only the upper part had three courses of drystone walling. This blocking formed part of the secondary wall. One of the basal course of lining stones projected 0.30 m towards the centre of the pit. The top of this stone was c 0.30 m above the base of the pit.

Internal details

Due to the destruction of contemporary levels it is impossible to decide whether the interior of the building was at or below

the contemporary ground level. The interior appeared to have been levelled by a foundation of grit (B38) sealed by a layer of clay (B47). Over this, two successive gravel floors had been laid. Both were restricted to the W side of the interior; B17 extended to a line c 1.20 m from the E wall and B5/9/15 extended to a line c 2.05 m from the E wall. Between the two floors was a layer of ginger earth (B13/16) which extended over the whole interior. A total of four small posts were found in the interior; two near the edge of B5/9/15, one near the edge of B17 and one by the E wall.

Associated layers

B5/9/15 Gravel.

B13/16 Ginger earth.

B17 Gravel.

B38 Pink grit.

B47 Green clay.

B48 Fill of JM.

Associated pottery and finds

It was difficult to isolate any finds in a primary association to the building as the foundations cut through medieval levels redistributing much earlier material. Modern disturbance and the reuse of the foundations caused further contamination. 27 Pin beater.

Pottery: 733, 736, 737, 740, 746, 748.

Date

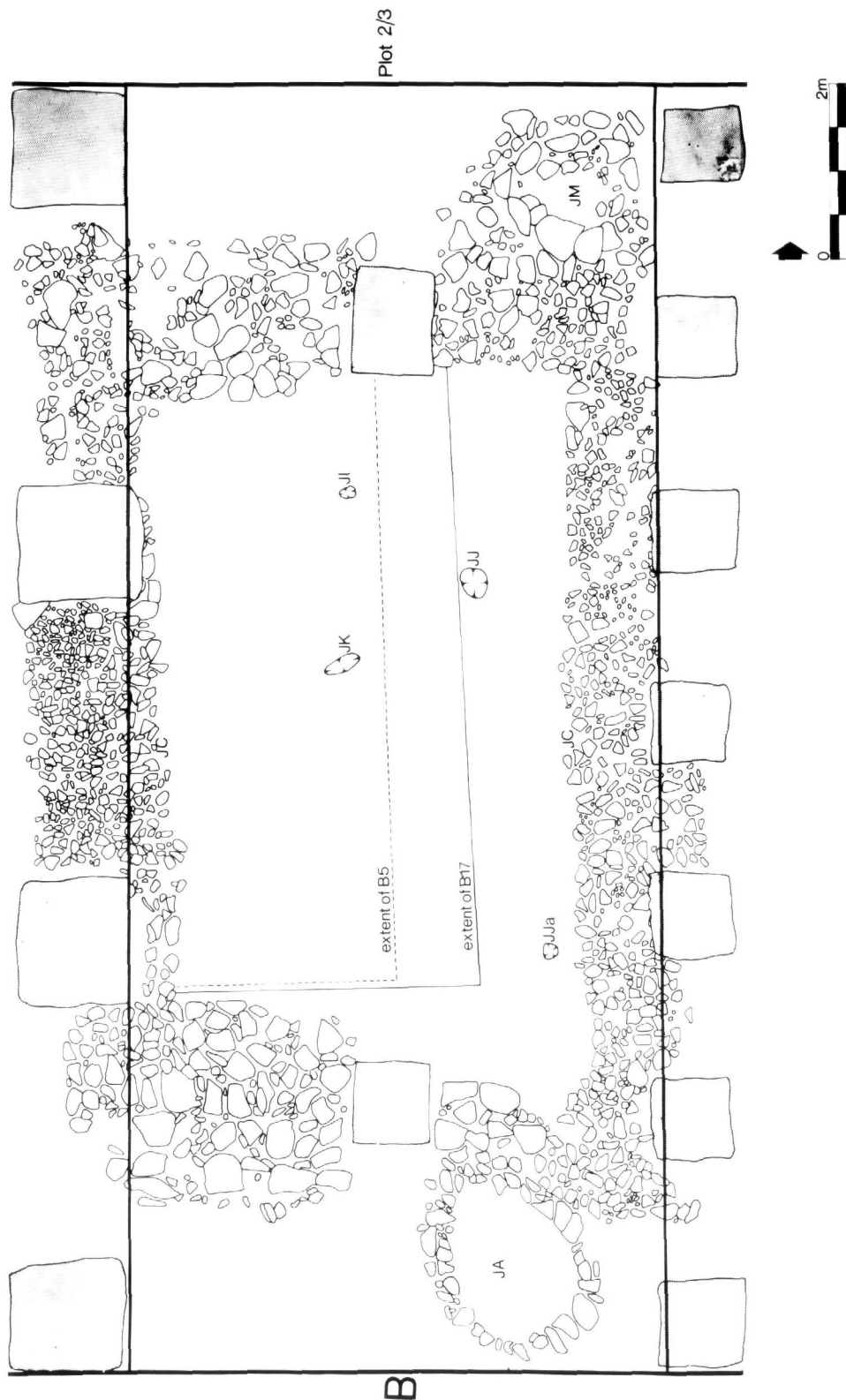
The foundations of the building cut through 14th-century levels but the contemporary ground level from which they had been cut had been destroyed by the warehouse subfloor levelling. As a result it is impossible to date it by archaeological means more closely than between the 15th and 17th centuries.

Interpretation

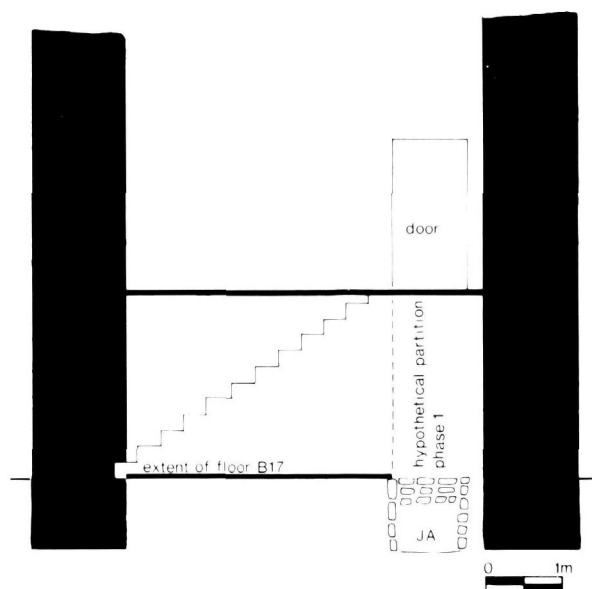
JC was 7 × 10 m externally, at right angles to the street but c 18 m behind the present street frontage. It appears to have been totally freestanding and to have taken over the two central properties, to achieve this size. These two central properties, which were separate in the 14th century, had been amalgamated by the time of the first historical reference to the plot in the mid-15th century. The properties cannot be identified with any exactitude on Gordon's map of 1661 (Ill 47). Interestingly, by this stage he depicts, with what degree of accuracy it is hard to say, all the backland buildings at this part of Upperkirkgate as conjoined.

The only internal evidence consists of two successive gravel floors. The earlier gravel floor (B17) extended to a line 1.20 m from the inner face of the E wall and the later gravel floor (B5) to a line 2.05 m from the inner face of the E wall. In neither case did they extend fully to the face of the S wall at its central point. This evidence suggests a passage along the E side of the interior. The very straight edges of both floors suggests a partition existing when the floors were laid and in use; (if, for example, the E side had been covered by storage bins, the edge of the floor would have had considerable wear on this side, which was not the case). There was no stone wall on this line and the partition may have been a wooden construction, possibly based on a ground sill as there were no convincing earthfast posts. There must have been an interval, possibly very short, between the use of the two floors when the partition did not exist or was being repaired and B13/16 accumulated. The partition was replaced further to the W and floor B5 was laid down. The post-holes may have been involved in these partitions but were too small and too randomly placed to have been major supports. There may have been a door from the passage into the ground floor room at the centre part of the S end.

A possibly contemporary building recorded from Inverkeithing (Mears 1913, fig 3, 4) had a passage with a



III 40 : 42 St Paul Street, Area B. Plan of Building JC: Phase 11



Ill 41 : 42 St Paul Street. Forestair projected onto partially reconstructed cross-section of building JC (reconstruction H K Murray)

similar size and position running from front to back in the building, although in this case the passage gave direct access between the street and the backland and had no surviving access to the ground floor room. It can be regarded as an example of the original passage between properties having been absorbed into the building to allow the space over it to be used fully. It is possible that in the primary phase, building JC might have had similar access to the front, if the forestair and structure JA were really secondary as opposed to merely secondary in the construction order, but this must remain speculative.

There was no direct evidence of a doorway from the passage to the back, N end, but there is likely to have been one to give access to feature JM which was almost certainly an oven opening in the yard behind the building. Similar ovens abutting hall buildings have been found, for example in 14th-century contexts at Kings Lynn (Clark and Carter 1977, 105, fig 44) and East Haddlesey (Le Patourel 1973, 35, fig 12). It is more usual for these ovens to open into the interior of the building but this does not appear to have been the case with JM.

The width and depth of the wall foundations suggest that building JC was at least two storeys high. There was little evidence of the type of bonding. Some mortar along the top level when excavated may have belonged to a later reuse of the foundations; it is possible that the wall was clay-bonded. The workshop wall in Castle Terrace (Chapter 2: 9) was clay-bonded in its original phase in the early 17th century, and repointed and partially rebuilt with mortar in the mid-17th century. This gives some indication of the date to which clay-bonding was in use in the city, although this would probably vary in different grades of building.

There was no evidence of cut stone; however it should be noted that there was very little stone rubble of any nature and the site must have been razed and totally cleared at the demolition. For this reason it is perhaps dangerous to be too certain as to whether some form of vaulting may have been used inside the building or whether the interior was divided by timber floors which could have been supported on runners held by corbels along the side walls. There was no evidence regarding the form or material of the roof.

With the exception of the S wall, no other details of the walls survived, although it is worth noting that the presumably load-bearing E and W walls had deeper foundations, certainly than the S wall. On plan it appears that larger stones were used in the N and S walls but this may reflect a difference in the level to which they survived rather than be of any real significance.

The S wall had an outer wall c 1 m thick, built along its outer face, beginning c 0.75 m from the SW corner. As contemporary ground levels had been removed during or before the building of the 19th-century warehouse, it is impossible to compare the levels at which each of the S walls was built. However it is clear that the inner S wall was bonded to the E and W walls and was therefore part of the main primary structure. The outer S wall was clearly built after the inner one as, if it had been built at the same time, it would almost certainly have been bonded to it, rather than create an unnecessary weakness. Beyond this it is impossible to say how long after or whether it was a part of the original design. The lack of bonding suggests that it was not part of the main load-bearing structure and Stell (pers comm 1981) has suggested that it might have been a forestair. Following this suggestion, a forestair starting 0.75 m from the SW corner where the foundation begins, and reconstructed with a rise of 35° to the horizontal would reach a height of c 2.50 m at c 1.50 m from the inner face of the E wall, giving plenty of room for a first floor entrance at this point (Ill 41). It is interesting to note that this door position is almost directly over the edge of the primary floor B17 where a passage has been postulated at ground level. Forestairs of this type can be seen in *Queen Mary of Guise's House*, Edinburgh (MacGibbon and Ross 1892, iv, 416-17) or on a house in Port Glasgow dated to c 1577 (MacGibbon and Ross 1892, v, 14-15).

The only remaining puzzle of the S wall is feature JA (Ill 42). It was built at the same time as the outer or forestair wall and is bonded into it. It would have been partly underneath the highest part of the stair and partly projecting to the front of the building. It does not appear to have been a cess pit, not only unlikely in respect of its position, but because the fill was clean stoney rubble and there was no

residue, or even staining, on or between the lining stones. Another possibility is that it was a water cistern (it is not deep enough for a well) but the unlined side to the N (below the top three courses) makes this appear improbable as this would cause seepage below the house. At present the best suggestion appears to be some form of dry storage, possibly of fuel, but this is probably not the final answer. A very similar but equally enigmatic structure was found in Castle Terrace

(Chapter 2: 9).

The evidence concerning the function of building JC is enigmatic. In view of the lack of historical reference in the sasines to a public building on the property and taking into account the existence of the oven, the writer would consider it to have been at least in part a dwelling. Its size, construction and position taking up what were formally two plots suggests that it belonged to a fairly prosperous family.



Ill 42 : 42 St Paul Street, Area B. Feature JA in building JC looking N: Phase 11

THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE J A CRIPPS

NOTES ON SOURCES

The writs for the property purchased by the Town Council in 1973 begin only in 1801 (City Charter Room Box 33/13) and the principal documentary source has been the series of burgh sasine registers. (Burgh Sasine Registers (SR) 1484-1679 are in the City Charter Room. Later volumes for 1680-1931 are in the Scottish Record Office.) Although these provide a frame of reference in terms of proprietary rights beginning in 1484, sasines record tenancy and occupation only incidentally. No assumptions about the prosperity of an area can be made from the record of land ownership alone. Other sources have been the printed registers of the bishopric of Aberdeen (Innes 1845) and St Nicholas Kirk (Cooper 1888, 1892). The Aberdeen Council registers beginning in 1398 would doubtless repay systematic study, but this is not at present a practicable proposition. The following survey is in any case impressionistic and based on a preliminary investigation of the evidence.

SURVEY

Although the street name Upperkirkgate is documented from the 14th century (Anderson 1909, 19: 1382) the earliest reference so far traced to the properties under discussion (Ill 46) is a mid 15th-century grant of an annual rent from Rig 2/3 to the Chaplain of St Peter's altar in the parish kirk (Innes 1845, 1, 262: undated but 1449 × 1459). The presence of such proprietors as Master John Cadiou, MP for the burgh in 1449 and probably Town Clerk (Rig 2/3), and John de Scroggs the younger, provost 1449-51 and 1455-6 (Rig 4) and the evidence of the substantial building JC on Rig 2/3 together suggest that this part of Upperkirkgate was in fact a wealthy area in the 15th century. Occupation was certainly sparse, for the rigs stretched from the Upperkirkgate frontage to the edge of the Loch (Rig 4, 1473, Council Register VI/260).

Retreat of the Loch in the early 16th century is indicated by the appearance of 'the vennel leading to the loch' as the boundary of Rig 1 in 1526 (SR V¹/176). This later became Gordon's Wynd, renamed St Paul Street. The whole block of properties continued to be bounded on either side by tenements fronting Upperkirkgate until c 1800, when Drums Lane was cut lengthways through the site of Lady Drum's Hospital and became the boundary of Rig 4 (MS plan of site of Drum's Hospital. Town Clerk's Library).

The first documentary evidence for division of the rigs comes in the early 1500s, when foreland and inland are first mentioned, suggesting more intensive occupation of the ground (Rig 1, 1508. SR III/25). The inlands of Rigs 1 and 4 were disposed in 1556 to Alexander Rutherford by decendants of their 15th-century owners, who finally disposed of their forelands in 1563 and 1576 respectively (SR VIII/290, 305; XI/698; XVII/14 March 1575/6). Rig 2/3 remained undivided until 1627. Division of ownership appears to reflect change in occupational status of the area, for the new owners of the forelands were tradesmen who probably lived on the premises. A saddler, shoemaker, carpenters and glaziers are found between 1575 and 1680. On the inlands were weavers and a litster; in 1611 a weaving shed at the S end of the garden in Rig 1, was conveyed by one weaver to another (SR XXXII/94).

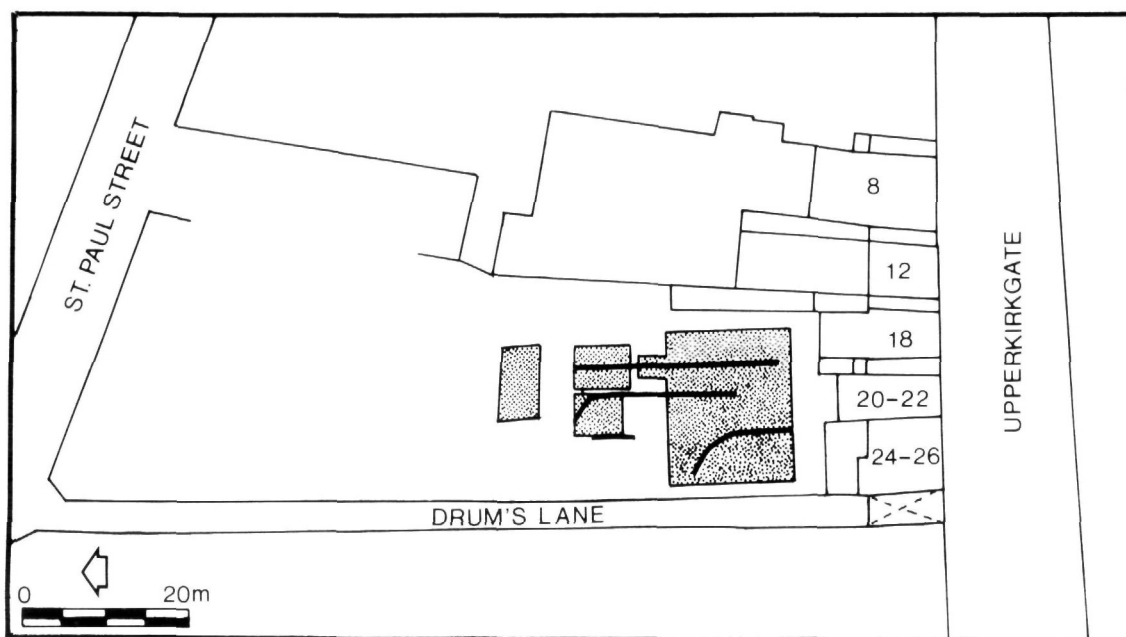
Subsequently the inlands were much divided, and the most notable building on the site was the house apparently built in 1741 by Patrick Anderson of Bourtie (Ill 36, 49) a descendant of John Anderson of Torry, skipper and merchant, who acquired title to the back inland of Rig 2/3 in 1659 (SR XLIII/26 May 1659). The Anderson family gradually acquired all the divided properties on Rigs 2/3 and 4, except the foreland of 2/3, and the whole property was roused in 1828 by the coheirs of Alexander Anderson. The purchasers were John Farquhar and David Gill, painters and glaziers, who sold the mansion house to the Managers of the Poor's Hospital. The house accommodated a Boy's Hospital (ie orphanage) until 1871, when it was bought back by the firm of Farquhar and Gill. This area formed the nucleus of the paint factory, which by 1920 had extended over the whole of Rig 1 behind the frontage occupied by the Kirkgate Bar, and where a row of houses had stood in the 18th and 19th centuries, partly on the site of a soap works fronting St Paul Street. Farquhar and Gill went into liquidation in 1972, and the site was acquired by the Town Council in 1973 for incorporation into the Central Development Area.

DISCUSSION

SITE LAYOUT 1200-1980

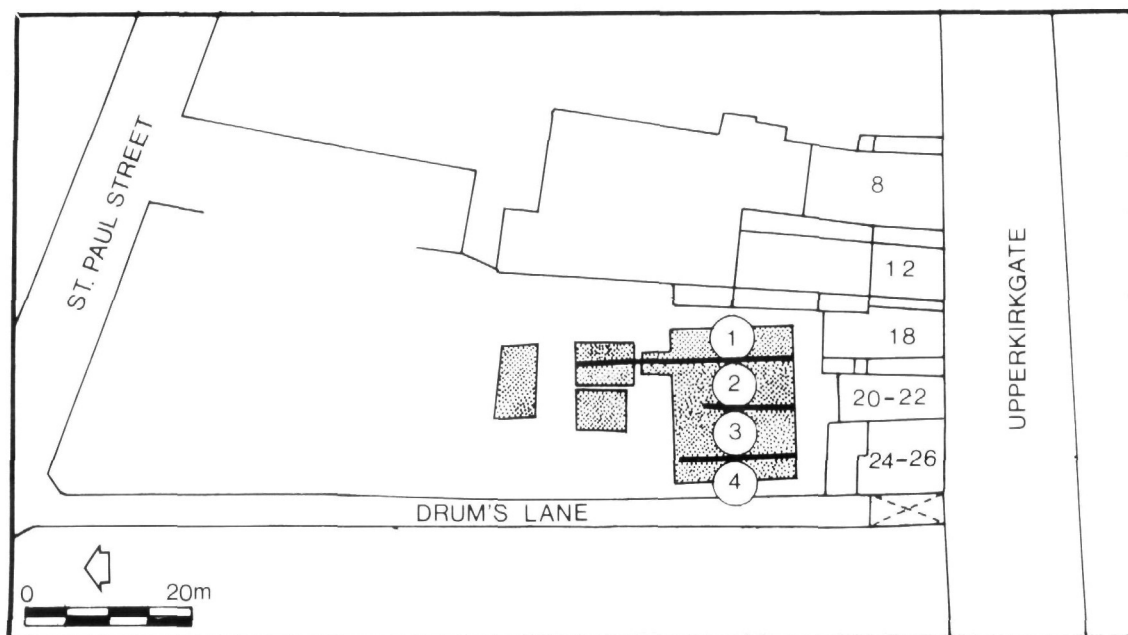
The results of both archaeological and historical investigations of the site, combined with the map evidence, give a fairly full picture of the changes in the layout of this part of the Upperkirkgate from the early 13th century to the present.

From c 1200 (Ill 43) four properties were laid out behind the frontage buildings, at right angles



III 43 : 42 St Paul Street, boundaries in the 13th century (Phases 2-6)

to the Upperkirkgate. The rigs were of unequal width and the boundaries varied in detail, suggesting that this had been a fairly piecemeal development. There was no evidence that these boundaries extended to the street as the frontage was not excavated. However, the coincidence of the line of the E boundary with the modern frontage and the historical evidence that in the mid-15th century the frontage was under the same ownership as the land directly behind it, both suggest that the



III 44 : 42 St Paul Street, boundaries in the 14th century (Phases 7-10)

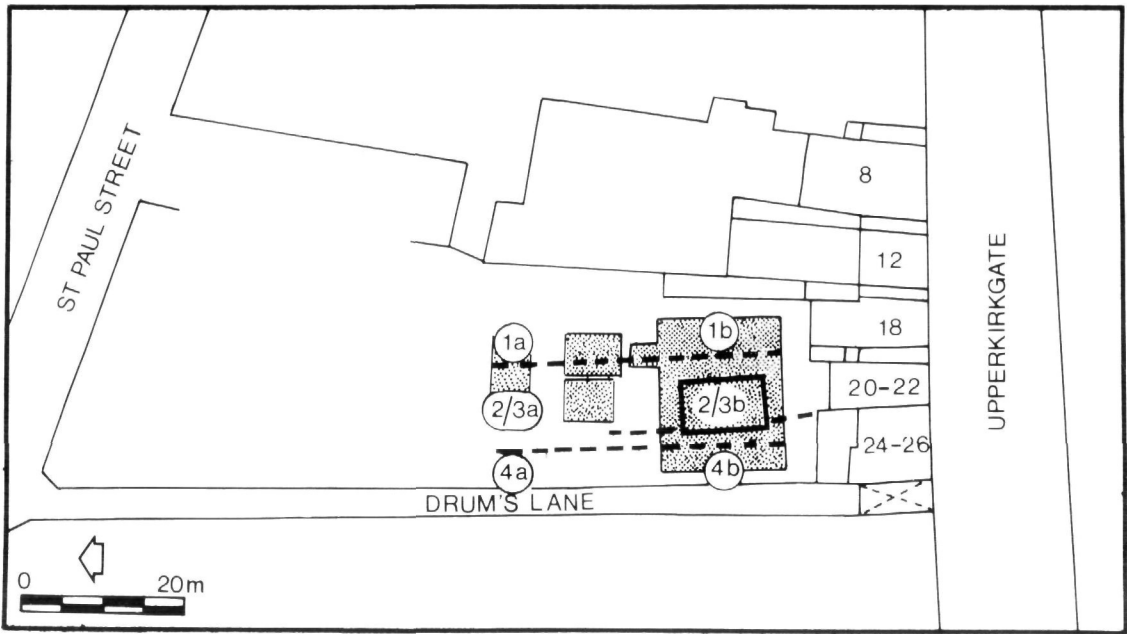


Ill 45 : 42 St Paul Street. The site looking S to the backs of the standing buildings of 18-26 Upperkirkgate (1978) with the 14th-century medieval boundaries TO and CH (Phase 7) superimposed

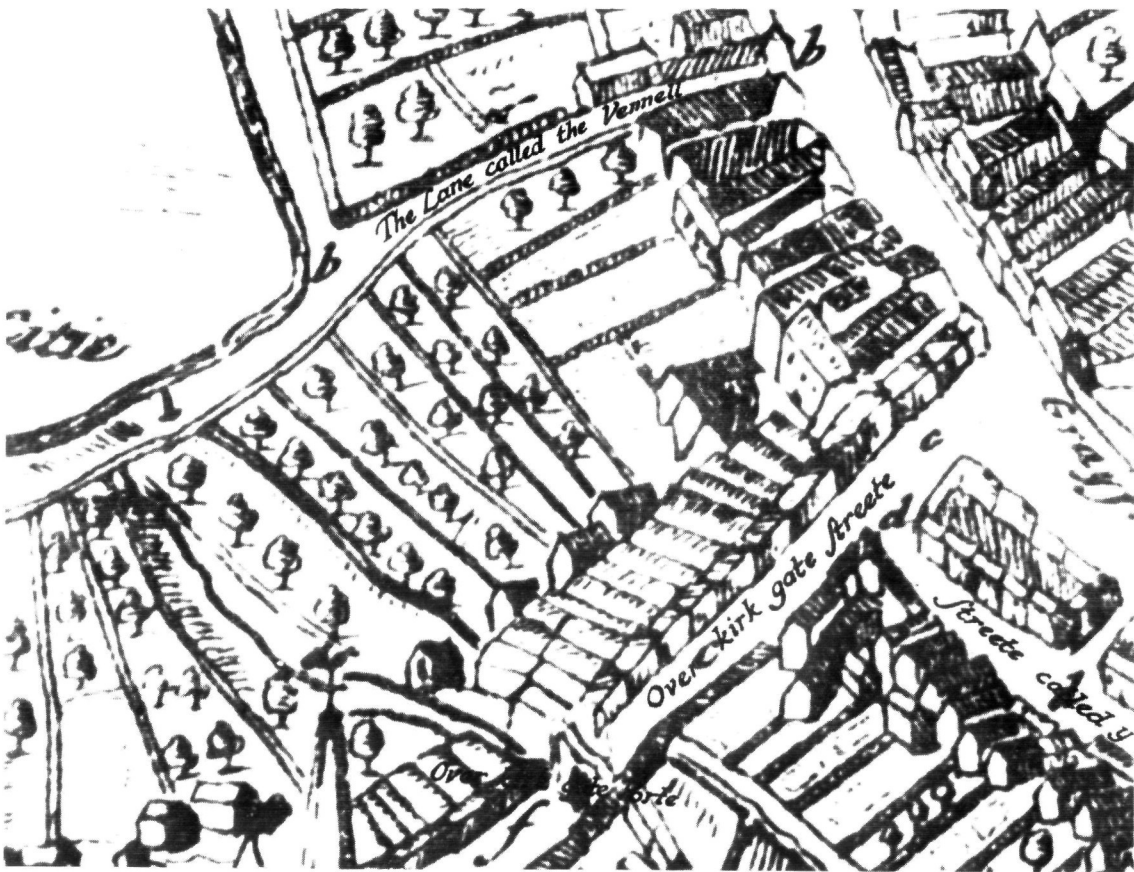
boundary lines would have run right back from the street frontage. There is no evidence of the position of the paths and passages at this period but some access to the frontage is likely.

Later, at the beginning of the 14th century (Ill 44) the boundaries were reorganised to create more regular rigs 5.5-6.0 m wide. Both the E and W boundaries of this period are reflected in the modern frontage; the E was on the line of the W wall of 18 Upperkirkgate and the W was on the line of the W side of a former passage which was (prior to 1981 renovation) indicated by the position of the windows, the former archway and the building line of the 17th-century building 24/26 Upperkirkgate. During the 14th century, however, there was no passage on that line, the only passage serving the two central rigs being a cobbled path running between them.

In the 15th-17th centuries the two central properties were amalgamated to make way for a large stone building (Ill 46). The central path was obliterated and it is likely that at this stage new paths were established, one between 18 and 20 Upperkirkgate, known until recently as Boys' Hospital Court, and one between 20/22 and 24/26 Upperkirkgate, the former existence of which is argued above. The W boundary of Plot 2/3 is likely to have moved to its modern position at this point as there do not appear to have been any boundary changes after the mid-15th century when the historical records begin. It is possible that it became standard from this stage that the passage to the E of a rig belonged to it (thus incorporating the passage between 20/22 and 24/26 into Plot 4). This is certainly true of this area of the town in the modern period and there are numerous historical references concerning the closes and their access to the Upperkirkgate. Gordon's map of 1661 (Ill 47) is little help in a detailed study of the layout, partly because it is impossible to recognise specific plots but



III 46 : 42 St Paul Street. Boundaries in the 15th to 17th centuries with the outline of building JC (Phase 11) superimposed



III 47 : Detail of Parson Gordon's map of 1661, showing the area of the 42 St Paul Street site

primarily because there is no way of assessing the degree to which he generalised. Archways or passages do, however, appear to be shown between most of the buildings on the frontage.

All the archaeological evidence of boundaries applies primarily to the 35 m or so directly behind the frontage buildings, to a point some 45 m N of the actual street line. N of this, towards St Paul Street, the evidence of medieval boundaries is non-existent and as trial trenching in Area G showed little medieval activity, this end of the site may be interpreted as having been gardens or open land.

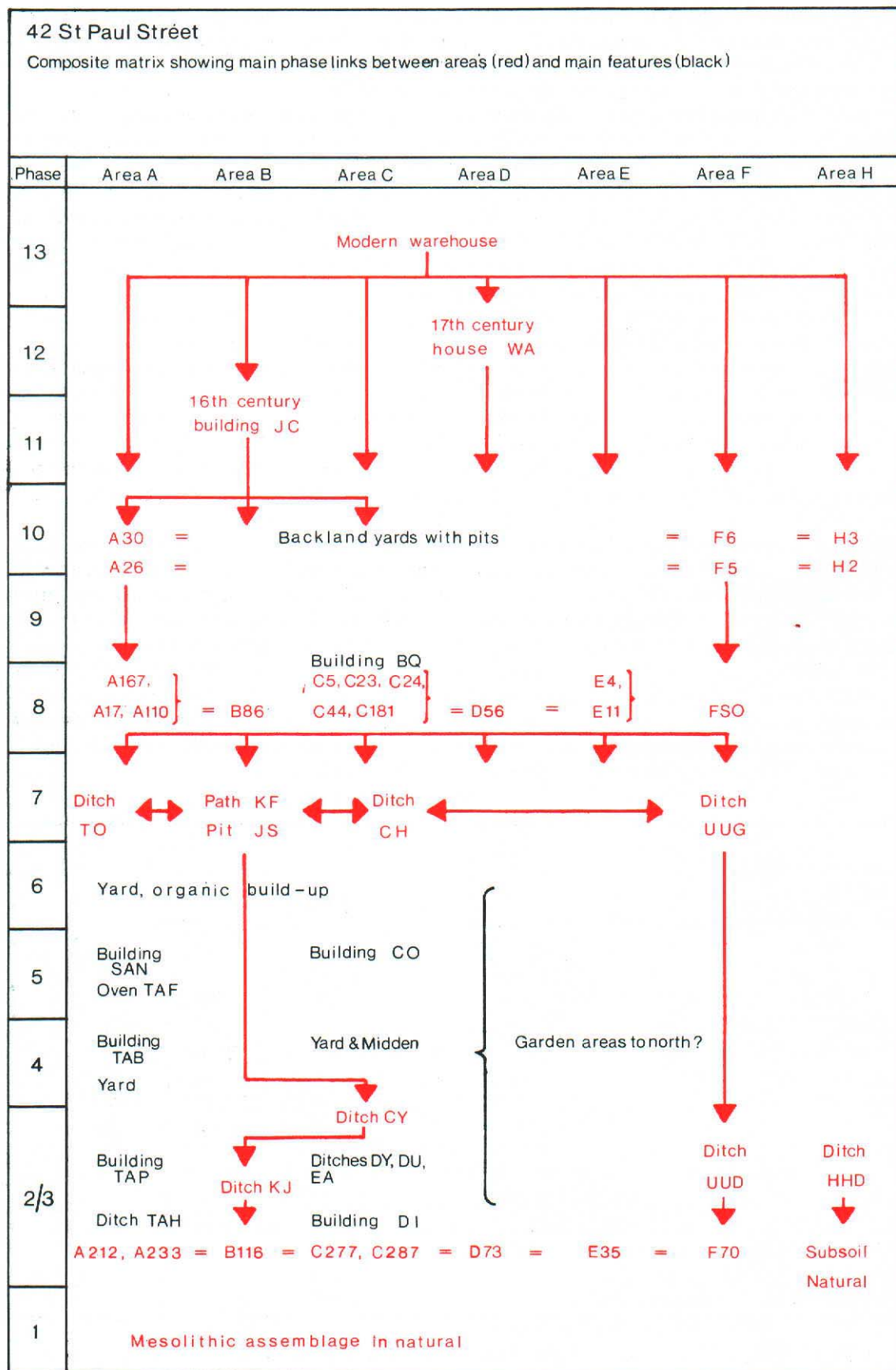
There were slight archaeological indications of E-W boundaries. In Phases 2 and 3, a ditch (DX/DY) curved around the N end of Plot 4, creating a possible N boundary. The N end of Plot 3 may have been marked by another ditch (NH) in Phase 2 and extended slightly by ditch NI in Phase 3. Later, in Phase 9, an E-W bank across the N end of Area D was suggestive of a boundary along the back of Plot 2 but as excavation of the full length was not possible, interpretation must be cautious. As it was probably largely up to the individual property owners to build a suitable boundary at the end of their plot, a very regular E-W boundary should not be expected. Some of the apparent E-W boundaries might be no more than stock barriers to keep animals away from the more domestic part of the property. From the late 15th century the historical sources appear to refer to the full length of the rig and in 1661 Gordon's map depicts all the rigs extending back to St Paul Street (the Vennel).

FUNCTION AND STATUS

As no excavation was possible on the frontage it is difficult to know whether this was built up prior to the development of the excavated backlands. Botanical samples of the subsoil in the backland, archaeologically dated to c 1200, have yielded mainly weed seeds and some heathland plants suggesting that this was uncultivated until its development; it may have been used for rough grazing. There was no evidence (tree root disturbance in natural etc) to suggest that the area had been afforested at this period.

As discussed, the boundaries suggest piecemeal development and each plot can probably initially be regarded as the yard and garden belonging to the corresponding frontage building, without separate ownership of the backland and frontage. This appears to have continued to be true until the late 16th to early 17th century. The first references to Plot 1, for example, show that it was all still under one ownership in the period 1475-1556. Plot 2/3 was not subdivided until 1627 and Plot 4 until 1556. These records, of course, reflect the lack of multiple ownership rather than of multiple occupation but they can be regarded as giving some indication of a limited pressure on the land on this site. This is in marked contrast to the archaeological evidence from Perth High Street, which shows repletion of the backlands well advanced by the 13th and 14th centuries. In this context, the finds and structures must be assessed as being as much related to the unexcavated frontage buildings and their occupants as to the excavated backlands buildings. The oven, for example, is of a capacity probably domestic rather than commercial; all the burgesses had the right to a bread oven and if this is not pure legal fantasy then the oven most probably belonged to a burgess. As there was no building in the excavated part of the plot, one can presume that he lived on the frontage and that the whole of Plot 2 was his yard. Similarly, many of the finds could be regarded as the refuse of possible burgess families living on the frontage; this may make it easier to understand the large percentage of imported wares in the 13th-century levels, which suggest a slightly wealthier way of life than was indicated by those buildings which have been excavated in the related backlands. The bone evidence could also be assessed in this way as, in contrast to the Queen Street Midden Area, the animal bone from 42 Loch Street yielded large quantities of beef bones as opposed to pork, suggesting a more expensive diet for the Loch Street/Upperkirkgate inhabitants (Chapter 6).

The backlands buildings could be regarded in any of four main ways; as the dwellings of dependants of the frontage inhabitants, as dwellings of independent tenants, as outhouses, or as workshops. The lack of any quantity of identifiable industrial debris makes it unlikely that they were workshops. It is impossible to determine the function of the more fragmentary buildings and they may have been little more than sheds, for storage or possibly even for livestock. Buildings CO (Plot 4) and SAN (Plot 1), both in Phase 5, had some slight evidence of domestic use and could



Ill 48 : 42 St Paul Street. Composite matrix showing the principal stratigraphic links between the main excavated areas (red) and the main features (black)

be regarded as the dwellings of tenants or of dependants related to the frontage owners. Comparison with the size range of contemporary buildings in High Street, Perth, suggests that these were typical of the dwellings of the poorer urban inhabitants who, including the lesser craftsmen and their families, must have constituted a large part of the town's population.

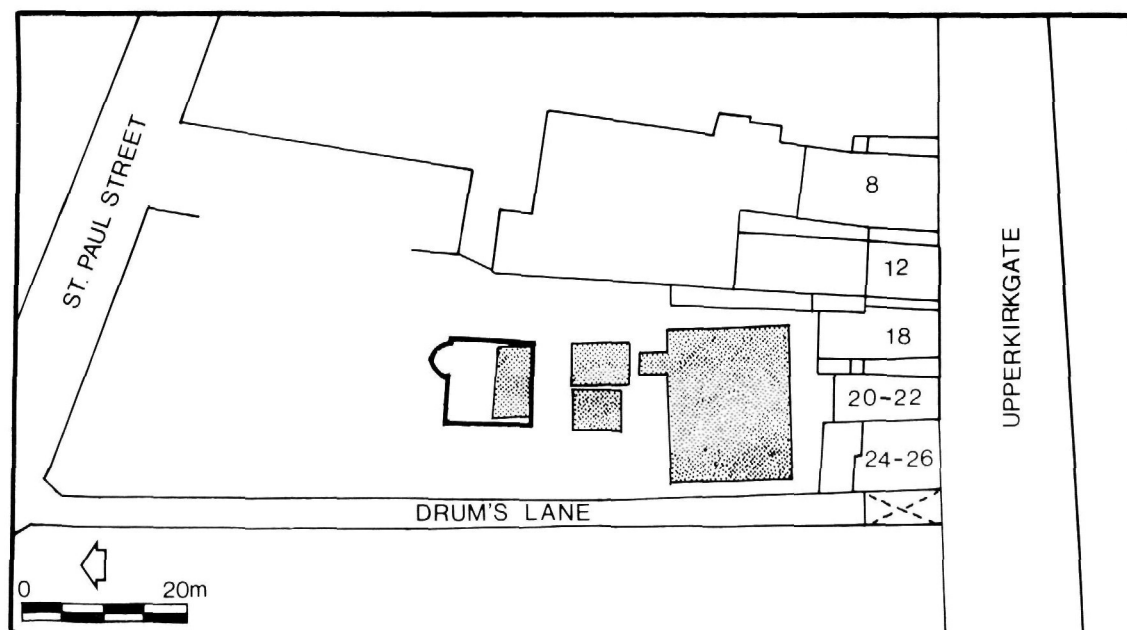
After the alteration of the boundaries in Phase 7, c 1300, there was some change in the use of these properties (Ill 48). The number of pits more than doubled and there were large middens established at the front of Plots 1, 2? and 4. Some of the pits (for example SM Plot 1, Phase 9) may have had storage or other special functions but the majority appeared to have been rubbish or cess pits. There was some slight industrial evidence; pit UG (Plot 1, Phase 8) may have been used in the dyeing process, albeit on a small scale and hearth SR (Plot 1, Phase 10) appears to have been fired at very high temperatures and was probably industrial rather than domestic although there were no associated waste products or related features.

There was only one building in any of these backland plots in the 14th century (BQ, Phase 8), in contrast to the 13th-century phases when there was a total of five buildings, one or two of which were in existence at any one time. This must reflect a reduction in land pressure in this particular area of the town in the 14th century.

This stage coincided with an abrupt change in the character of the pottery; in contrast to the Continental imports of the earlier period, the bulk of the pottery at this date was English and Scottish imports with, for the first time, a sizeable proportion of recognisable local products. At present, however, this appears to have been a major trend in Aberdeen rather than a reflection of the vagaries of the wealth or taste of the inhabitants of this particular site (Chapter 3).

From the late 16th century there are clear historical references to workshops, booths and shops on these properties and to the various craftsmen including weavers, a saddler and shoemakers who, at different periods, owned and probably lived and worked there. There was no contemporary archaeological evidence with the exception of the foundations of the stone building JC, which on structural grounds is likely to have been built between the 15th and 17th centuries.

Gordon's map of 1661 gives an impression of the area in the 17th century although it is not possible to identify the actual plots with any certainty. By this stage there was some repletion of the backlands with two or three buildings behind the frontage properties. The N end of the area is shown as orchard or garden ground, which accords with the archaeological evidence which suggests



Ill 49 : 42 St Paul Street. Position of 18th-century Anderson's mansion in the backlands

little activity at this end of the site, other than possible cultivation, prior to the later industrial development.

In the mid-18th century the Anderson family built their new mansion on the middle area of Plot 2/3 (Ill 49). By the late 18th century there was a soapworks in Plot 1 and in the early 19th century the Mansion was re-used as the Boys' Hospital, both suggesting a decline in the status of the area. The underground chambers at the N end of the site may belong to this period.

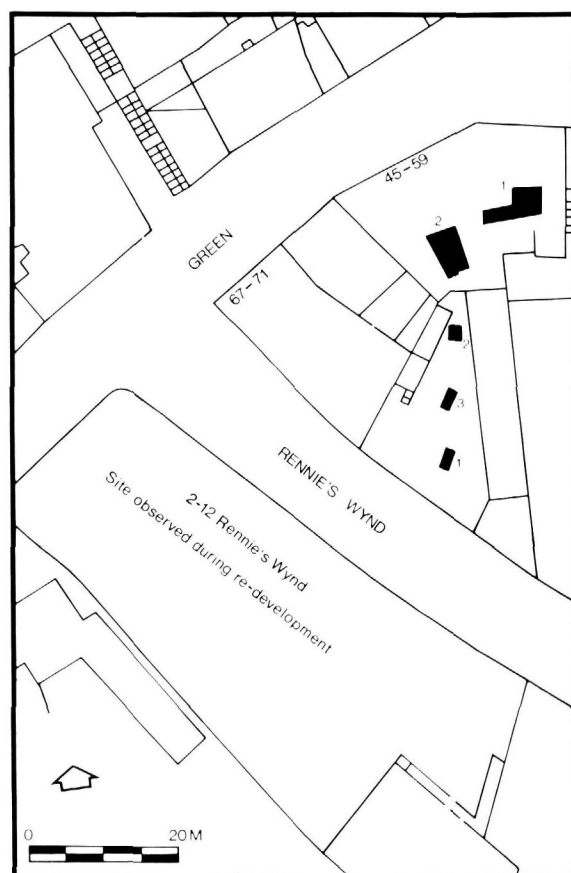
Subsequently the whole backland area was used as the Farquhar and Gill warehouses behind small shops with dwellings above on the Upperkirkgate frontage.

2 : 6 45-59 GREEN 1976 J C MURRAY AND JUDITH STONES

THE SITE

The area known as the Green is a low-lying area, dominated since the early 19th century by the raised level of Union Street, but in the medieval period lying W of St Katherine's Hill (Ill 131). The origin of the name Green is uncertain, but it seems to have long been applied principally to the thoroughfare which runs SW-NE through the area, and upon which the present site lies. Until the construction of Union Street this had the importance of being the main route into Aberdeen from the S. However the name Green is also used to designate the entire area surrounding the street to N and S. Whether the name, which dates back at least to the 13th century (Anderson 1909, 13) suggests a market 'green', or whether the street led originally to a green area on the banks of the Denburn to the W is still a matter of debate.

There is little detailed information about the configuration of the Green area in medieval times,



Ill 50 : Location map of 45-59 Green, 67-71 Green and 2-12 Rennie's Wynd

but it has sometimes been thought of as the earliest nucleus of settlement in Aberdeen (Wyness 1972, 10-18), a theory upon which it was hoped that excavation would throw light.

It has been known that from the late 13th until the mid-16th century a major feature of the area was the presence there of two orders of friars, the Carmelites and the Trinitarians. Until recently, the precise location of the Carmelite Friary was unknown, although its general position could be conjectured from the placing of Carmelite Street and Carmelite Lane some 30 m E of this site. In 1980-81 an excavation at 12 Martin's Lane uncovered the remains of some of the Friary buildings. At the N end of that site, a portion of a building was interpreted as part of a church of late 14th or 15th-century date. The SW angle of this building lay no more than 5 m S of the S extremity of the 45-59 Green site (Grid ref: NJ941060). It is very probable that the Green street formed the N boundary of the Carmelite precincts, and in that case the present site lay within that boundary.

After the Reformation, the possessions of the Carmelite Friary went through various changes of hands before being acquired in 1587 by George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal, and used as part of the endowment of Marischal College.

Parson Gordon's map of 1661 (Ill 130) gives us a clear idea of the layout of the Green area some 100 years after the Carmelite Friary had ceased to exist and its precincts had been turned over to secular use. By 1661, the S frontage of the Green street, including the front portion of the present site, appears to have been heavily built up. This pattern, once established, continued much until the present day with a gradual tendency to develop the back areas as well as the street frontage. Alexander Milne's map of 1789 also shows buildings on the frontage only, but by the time of the 1901 Ordnance Survey map at least part of the rear of the site is shown as built up.

The site was cleared for use as a car park in the 1960s.

THE EXCAVATION

As the front portion of the site was known to have been occupied by 19th-century buildings, it was expected that their cellars would have destroyed any earlier deposits. However, in the light of experience on the Broad Street and Queen Street excavations, it was hoped that two pends or entrances shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map as crossing the front part of the site, would not have been disturbed, and the intention was to excavate along their length as well as testing the rear part of the site.

Unfortunately, however, attempts to explore the front portion of the site proved that this entire area had in fact been destroyed by cellarage. The two trenches which were eventually excavated were both situated at least 8 m back from the present pavement (Ill 50).

The stratigraphy of this site can be divided into five phases. To excavators expecting to explore a wholly medieval site and hoping to examine the origins of urban settlement in the area, the most unexpected discovery, here represented by Phase 1, was the presence of a mesolithic flint working area on the natural gravel in Trench 2. Phases 2 and 3 cover the bulk of the medieval material, Phases 5 and 6 the post-medieval to modern development of the site.

TRENCH 1

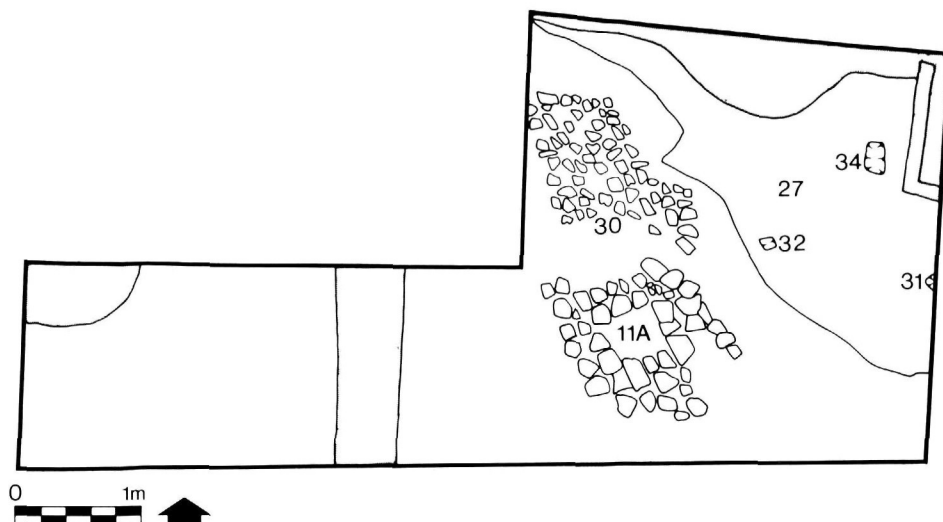
This trench, which was L-shaped, lay towards the E end of the site and covered an area of c 16 sq m.

Phase 1

There was no evidence of mesolithic activity in this trench.

Phase 2a (Ill 51)

The earliest deposits in the trench were found lying directly over the natural sand and gravel at the



Ill 51 : 45-59 Green. Plan of Trench 1, Phases 2a and 2b

N end of the trench. A layer of burnt charcoally material (27) was c 150 mm thick. Nearby, a patch of small rough cobbles (30) measured c 0.80 m × 1.40 m.

Phase 2b (Ill 51)

This phase is unlikely to be greatly separated in date from Phase 2a, but it is distinguished here because some Phase 2b features cut the Phase 2a Layer 27.

The rough cobbling 30 was overlain by a layer of grey clay (29), and a sandier material (28). Layer 28 yielded several sherds of cooking pottery of late 12th/early 13th century date (eg 769).

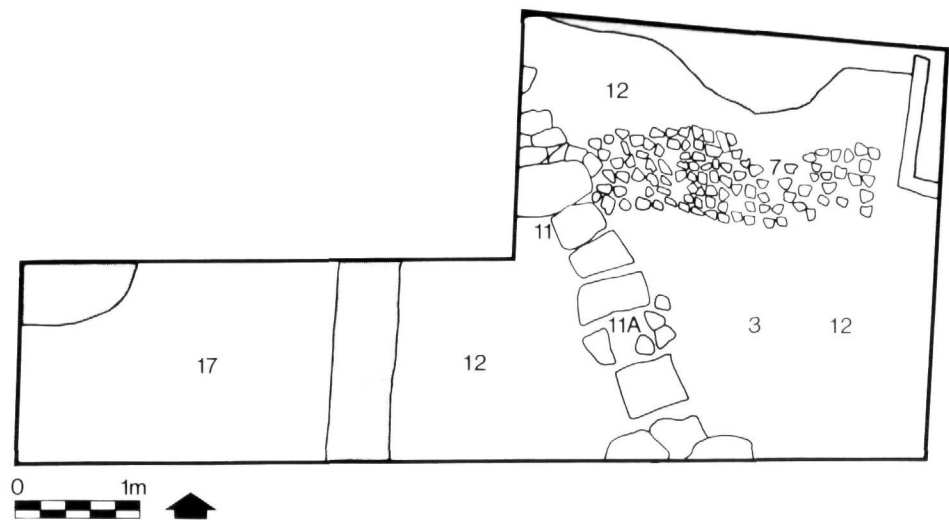
Three probable post-holes (31, 32, and 34) were cut through Layer 27 and down into the natural gravel. 31 contained at the bottom the remains of an almost square wooden post measuring 110 mm × 100 mm. 32 was of similar dimensions to 31 and was about 130 mm deep, but there was no trace of wood surviving in it. 34 was considerably larger than the other two, measuring 160 mm × 240 mm, and had a clean sandy fill. Towards its W end, however, it had some traces of organic material, possibly wood and also two stones which might have been the remnants of packing material.

Phase 3 (Ill 52)

Above this series of features lying on or cut into the natural sand and gravel, there was a considerable accumulation of dark brown garden soil extending over the whole trench. At the W end of the trench, in the absence of earlier features, the garden soil lay directly over the natural. The garden soil was about 0.50 m deep and probably accumulated over quite a long period of time. Because of its depth, it was recorded as a number of different layers, notably 12, 17, 18, and 19. There was not a great deal of pottery within these layers, but the small quantity there was would suggest that the accumulation of the garden soil extended from the 14th century. At a fairly early stage during the build up of soil, Feature 7, a longitudinal area of roughly laid cobbles, may have served as a path, as it had garden soil both below and above.

Phase 4 (Ill 52)

Both the garden soil and the cobbling were cut by a stone drain (11), running approximately NW/SE across the E portion of the trench. This drain was of drystone construction, with four to five courses of stones lining the sides, and large slabs forming the cover. Below these capstones the fill of the drain was composed of two layers. The upper fill (11/2) was a soft loamy earth, and contained a



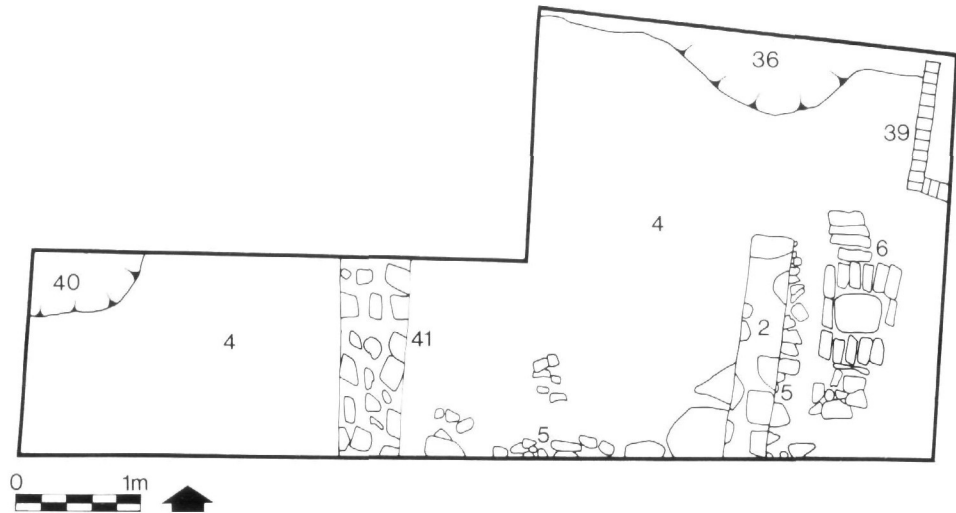
Ill 52 : 45-59 Green. Plan of Trench 1, Phases 3 and 4

number of broken roof tiles, while below that was a layer of greasy silt immediately above the base of the drain. The base lay on the natural sand.

Towards the S end of the excavated length of the drain was a stone feature (11A), approximately 0.40 m square, visible first as a gap in the capstones of 11. Feature 11A had a foundation below the base of 11, consisting of an outer kerb of large stones and an inner area of small cobbles at the very bottom. This foundation was set into a trench which had cut c 0.50 m into the natural sand.

The position of the Green as a low-lying area between the rising ground of St Katherine's Hill to the N, the Dee estuary to the S and the Denburn to the W must have caused a drainage problem throughout the history of the area. The drain 11 and Feature 11A, which should probably be seen as one of a series of soakaways placed at intervals along the length of the drain, clearly represent part of an effort to alleviate this problem.

Stratigraphically, the possible date range for the construction of such a drainage system is wide, as Features 11 and 11A cut the garden soil, which accumulated over a considerable period. Unfortunately, no finds were made from the actual structures of drain and soakaway and the only



Ill 53 : 45-59 Green. Plan of Trench 1, Phase 5

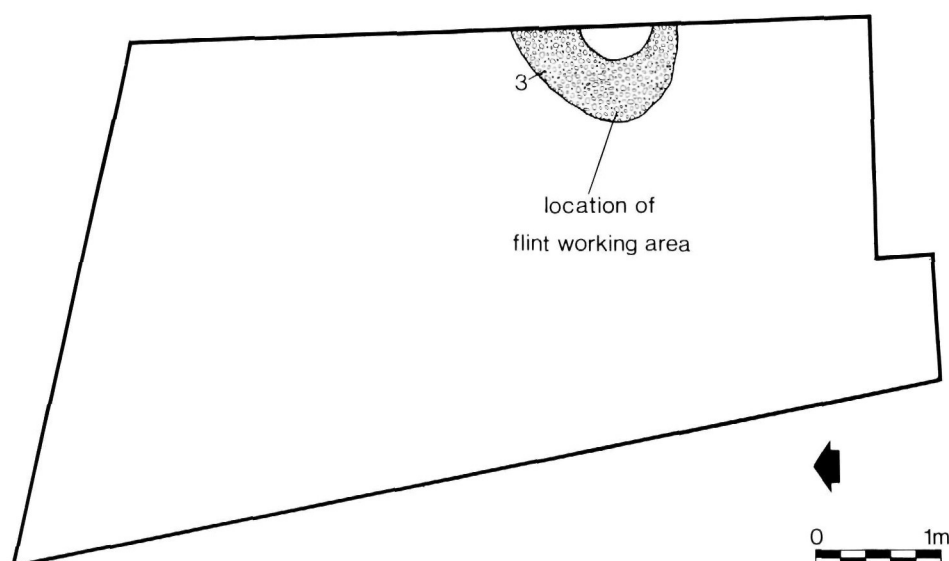
material recovered was from the accumulated layers within the drain. This included some medieval material, but the bulk of it, including a penny of George III, was of late 18th or 19th-century date.

Phase 5 (Ill 53)

The latest features in Trench 1 were all 19th or 20th century in date and were probably associated with the most recent buildings on the site. They consisted of three portions of stone and mortar walls, of which one (41) cut across the W part of the trench, another (2) lay towards the E end, and the third (9) was fragmentary. There were also two brick features (6, 39) and a final layer of concrete slabs (1), which covered the entire trench with the exception of Feature 2.

TRENCH 2

This trench, situated towards the W end of the site, covered an area of c 22 sq m. After attempts to break the surface by hand failed owing to an extreme frost, most of the trench was excavated by machine, which, it was felt, would in this case test the levels adequately.



Ill 54 : 45-59 Green. Plan of Trench 2, Phase 1

Phase 1

The earliest feature in Trench 2, which also constituted evidence of the earliest activity on the site as a whole, was an amorphous area (Ill 54: Layer 3) roughly semi-circular in shape, 0.80×0.90 m, extending into the E section. Scattered over this area was a large quantity of partially worked flints, waste flakes and cores, probably indicating a flint working area of Mesolithic date (p 212).

Phases 2-5

Owing to unusually deep frost penetration, the upper levels of this trench were largely removed by mechanical excavator. However, observation of this process indicated that the material above the mesolithic levels consisted of garden soil (4), very similar to the equivalent layers in Trench 1. A

small pit (5), which cut the Phase 1 flint working area, was difficult to date because its fill was indistinguishable from the garden soil 4, but it was probably medieval. No other medieval features were identified, although the garden soil included a range of pottery extending from the 13th century. The garden soil was sealed by modern earth and rubble and the car park surface.

CONCLUSIONS

It was most unfortunate that the front area of the site had been so seriously damaged by cellarage. This completely destroyed any traces of the buildings visible on Parson Gordon's map of 1661, which would have had much the same frontage as the cellared 19th-century buildings, and indeed any evidence for earlier buildings along the S frontage of the Green.

However, the rear portion of the site produced evidence about its use during the medieval period, even if some of that information was of a negative variety. Only a handful of medieval features were recognised—a small patch of cobbles, a few post-holes and a possible cobbled path—and they could not be significantly related to each other or their surroundings. There was no archaeological evidence of substantial development of the backlands behind the Green frontage in the medieval period. This confirms the impressions gained from Parson Gordon's map and later maps, that the rear areas were not greatly built up until the 18th or 19th centuries.

A notable aspect of this excavation was the small amount of medieval material recovered. There was little pottery and practically no animal bone or food refuse. Nor was there the accumulation of organic deposits which one would expect if the area had been a centre of activity from an early stage. Indeed over much of the medieval period the excavated portion of the site was probably gardens.

There was, therefore, little structural or material evidence found on this site to confirm any theory of the Green as the earliest nucleus of Aberdeen. Although the area covered by the excavation was in use from the late 12th century onwards, it was obviously not the scene of concentrated activity. However, it is most important to emphasise the relatively small area which was excavated, the degree of disturbance, and our complete lack of archaeological knowledge of the frontage area here or at any point along the line of the Green street.

Other archaeological work in the Green area has thrown some light on the configuration and growth of this part of the town. During the entire medieval period the Green must have been greatly affected by its topographical position. The excavation at 67-71 Green and the observation at 2-12 Rennie's Wynd produced evidence that these areas were heavily affected by flooding from the Denburn or were indeed tidal. Paradoxically, however, there was no such evidence at 12 Martin's Lane, not even at the very S end of the site.

The development of this portion of the Green must have been partly conditioned by the presence of the Carmelite Friary. Although the buildings excavated at 12 Martin's Lane were perhaps late 14th or 15th century in date, the Carmelites had probably been settled in the area from the late 13th century. There is still much work to be done in identifying the boundaries of the Friary lands at any given time and the uses to which they were put; it is hoped that further documentary research, as well as excavation, will be of assistance here.

2 : 7 67-71 GREEN 1977 JUDITH STONES

THE SITE

The area known as the Green has been traditionally thought of as the earliest nucleus of settlement in Aberdeen (Wyness, 1972, 10-18). It is a low-lying area, dominated since the early 19th century by the raised level of Union Street, but in the medieval period lying in the shadow of St Katherine's Hill (Ill 131). It is close to the harbour and the estuary of the River Dee. In medieval times the area was intersected by a number of streams, in particular the Denburn, flowing from W of Aberdeen towards the Dee, and the Putachie burn, an effluent of the Loch which lay in the NW part of the town.

This excavation (Grid ref: NJ940060) was one of a series designed to explore the origins of this part of the city, as well as being a rescue operation prior to the development of this particular site. A previous excavation at 45-59 Green, immediately to the N, produced rather ephemeral medieval remains and, unexpectedly, a scatter of mesolithic flints within a semi-circular working area on the natural gravel. It was anticipated that these might extend into the area of the present site as well. A recent excavation (1980-81) on an adjoining site to the E at 12 Martin's Lane, revealed for the first time the location of the Carmelite Friary founded c 1273.

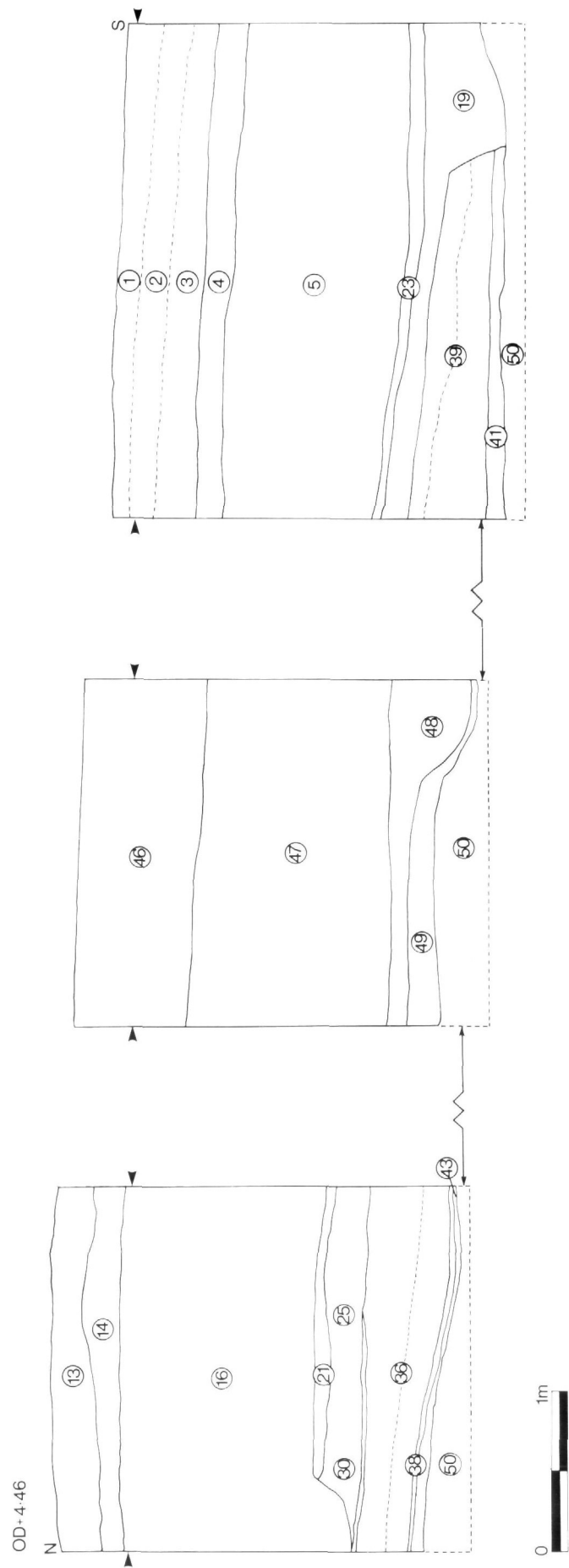
There is little historical information about the detailed configuration of the Green area in medieval times, but it is probable that the present site also lay within the lands of the Friary. At the time of Parson Gordon's map of 1661 (Ill 130) the site was in an open area behind buildings fronting on the Green. Alexander Milne shows the area to have been rather more built up by 1789, but the site has probably never been fully covered by buildings. At the time of the excavation, the site was the backyard of 67-71 Green, although it opened on to Rennie's Wynd.

THE EXCAVATION

The available area was small, measuring 220 sq m, and was surrounded by buildings. Two trenches were excavated at first, at the N and S ends of the site. When soil conditions and levels in these trenches were found to be very dissimilar, a third, intermediate trench was dug by machine in an attempt to establish the cause of this disparity. In all trenches, problems of depth, necessitating shoring, and of waterlogging were encountered. Stratigraphy was not complex and the site has been divided into three main phases: (1) prehistoric (Mesolithic), (2) medieval and (3) post-medieval to modern. Because of the problems inherent in dating deep accumulations of garden soil and waterlaid deposits, two intermediate or linking sub-phases have been introduced. In Trenches 1 and 2, Phase 2a covers the considerable depth of garden soil ranging from the 14th century to the 19th century. In Trench 2, Phase 1a represents the waterlaid sands between the prehistoric and the medieval deposits.

TRENCH 1

This covered 5.10 sq m and lay at the S end of the site, c 4.50 m N of Rennie's Wynd. It was excavated to a depth of 2.45 m, at which point the natural gravel was encountered.



Ill 55 : 67-71 Green. Simplified E-W section

Phase 1

No prehistoric activity was discerned in this trench.

Phase 2

Above the natural grey sand (50) was a series of alternating layers of blue clay and organic material (23, 19, 39 and 41) (Ill 55). Of these, the two lower layers, 39 and 41, contained little pottery, but the quantity of medieval sherds increased considerably in Layers 23 and 19. At the S end of the trench, the dense sticky organic Layer 19 filled a deep channel (AH), 0.35 m deep and 0.95 m wide, cutting through Layers 39 and 41. The sides of this channel were very irregular and it had several smaller dips and crevices within it. In view of this and the fact that Layers 39 and 41 were obviously waterlaid clays, the conclusion was drawn that the channel was a natural tidal or riverine feature. These intermingled waterlaid clays and sticky organic deposits were very similar to the conditions found at 2-12 Rennie's Wynd (Ill 50) during observation of building works.

Phase 2a

Above the organic and clay layers was a very thick deposit (1 m deep) of grey-brown garden soil (5), very friable and stonefree, and dry in contrast to the layers below. Because of its depth, this deposit was excavated in seven spits. The garden soil contained pottery from late medieval to 19th century in date, the medieval sherds being concentrated in the lowest two spits, from OD + 3.01 to OD + 2.86 m.

Phase 3

Above the garden soil 5, another much thinner layer of garden soil (4) was reddish brown, stonier, and contained clay and mortar flecks. Layers 1-3 above this were all modern material, with 1 being the cinder and chippings surface of the modern yard.

Cut from Layer 2 into Layers 3-5 were the remains of a wooden barrel (AA). Latterly, it had been filled up with modern debris—wood chippings, bone and corroded iron—but a thin layer of greenish mud and clay below the rubbish may have been the traces of an earlier use. Presumably the barrel had been dug in for storage purposes, possibly as a water butt, or indeed for rubbish.

TRENCH 2

Lying at the N end of the site, this extended over 2.90 sq m and was excavated to a depth of 2.50 m.

Phase 1

The existence of this phase in this trench was the most striking aspect of this particular site, although not entirely unexpected in view of the prehistoric material previously found in Trench 2 of 45-59 Green, 12 m N of the present trench. Below interspersed layers of waterlaid sand and organic material, a thin layer of black gritty sand with some stones (38) contained a number of worked mesolithic flints. These were of the same character as the flints recovered from Trench 2 at 45-59 Green, but unlike those, the flints from the present site were not associated with any recognisable feature (p 89).

Phase 1a

Layers 21, 25, 30 and 36 were sand layers, alternating with thin patches and lenses of a brown peaty substance. Layers 21 and 25 each contained two sherds of medieval pottery, while Layers 30 and 36 produced no material at all. While all these layers were definitely waterlaid, it is difficult to be sure about the period over which they were deposited.

Phase 2a

Layer 16 represents an accumulation of garden soil similar to Layer 5 in Trench 1, and like Layer

5, it was removed in spits. The lower 0.20 m contained only medieval pottery, the upper levels including also mixed post-medieval and modern material.

Phase 3

There were no modern features in this trench. Layers 13 and 14 represented the most modern material, with 13 being equivalent to Layer 1 in Trench 1.

TRENCH 3

The discrepancy between the waterlogged clays in the lower levels of Trench 1 and the sand deposits in Trench 2 required further investigation, as did the apparently considerable drop (c 0.80 m) in the level of the natural gravel from the N end of the site to the S end. Accordingly, a third trench was excavated by machine mid-way between the other two trenches. This measured 1.20 m × 2.20 m and was 2.40 m deep. It was only possible to clean up and draw the sections before the trench became too dangerous to work in, but the essential information was retrieved.

Phase 1

No trace was found of any prehistoric activity in this trench.

Phase 1a

A grey sand Layer 49 overlay the natural gravel 50. Above 49 was a layer of grey-blue clay 48, ranging in depth from 0.12 m at the N end of the trench to 0.55 m at the S end. At the S end, Layer 48 deepened so much that only a thin lens of 49 overlay the natural gravel 50. This grey-blue clay 48 was very similar to 39 in Trench 1.

Phase 2a

Layer 47, some 1.20 m of garden soil, was the equivalent of Layer 5 in Trench 1 and Layer 16 in Trench 2. As in the other trenches, this garden soil included material ranging in date from medieval to 19th century, with the medieval material being concentrated in the lower levels.

Phase 3

Layer 46 represents the thick band of modern deposits in this trench.

CONCLUSIONS

The excavation provided a number of pieces of information about the natural topography and the development of this area from very early times. It is clear that there was some mesolithic activity at the N end of the site, on what would then have been the banks of the Denburn. However, the fact that the flints were not nearly so numerous or concentrated as at 45-59 Green, together with their absence from Trenches 1 and 3, would suggest that their S extremity has been reached in Trench 2.

The fall in the level of the natural gravel from the N to the S end of the site was approximately 0.80 m. This was not particularly unexpected in an area sloping down towards the Denburn and the River Dee. The clay layers in Trench 1 would suggest that the S part of the site was much affected by flooding and waterlogging during at least part of the medieval period. The Denburn meets the River Dee only a short distance to the SE of the present site in an area depicted on Parson Gordon's

map of 1661 (Ill 130) as 'Marsh Ground overflowed by each tyde'. Similar conditions of waterlogged clays containing medieval material prevailed at 2-12 Rennie's Wynd, just to the S of the present site, immediately next to the modern culverted line of the Denburn, below the Aberdeen-Inverness railway line. During medieval times the Denburn would naturally have been wider and free flowing, and there is little doubt that flooding and tidal water were then commonplace in the Green. Tradition relates that the lands of the Carmelite Friars were subject to frequent flooding from the Putachie burn, which ran to the E of the Green (Wyness 1972, 42). It is likely that they were also encroached upon from the S by the Denburn. It is possible that later in the medieval period the area became less waterlogged, perhaps through deliberate attempts at land reclamation. This would account for the beginning of the accumulation of garden soil, which continued almost up to modern times. No evidence was found to confirm the tradition of the early settlement of the Green area. The land represented by the present site and by 2-12 Rennie's Wynd would have been most undesirable for building during much of the medieval period. The bulk of the medieval pottery found was 13th-14th century in date.

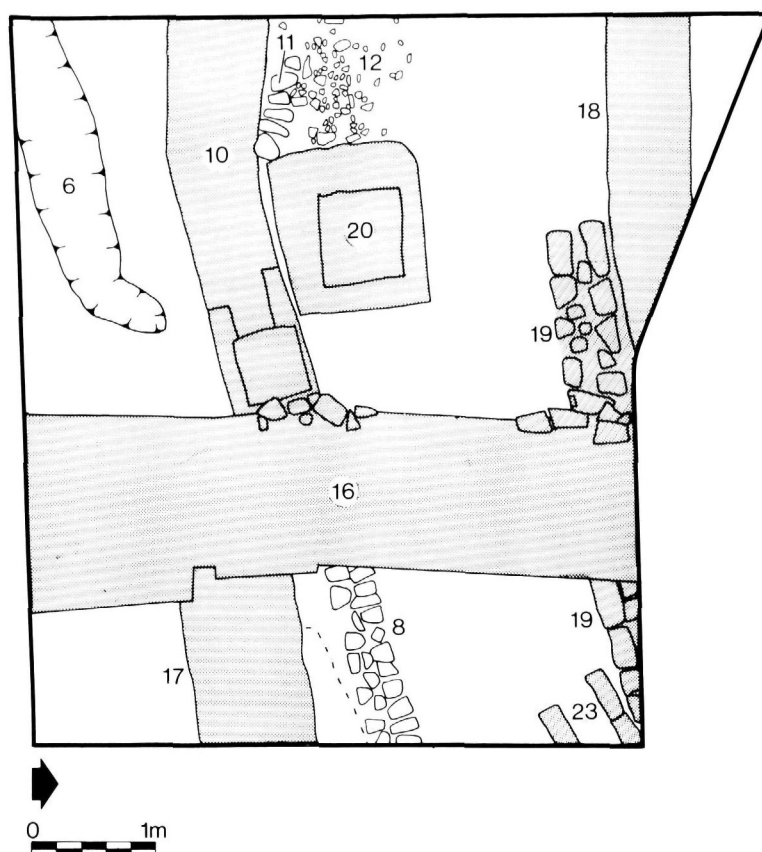
2 : 8 2-16 HARRIET STREET 1977 JUDITH STONES

THE SITE

The site (Grid ref: NJ939065) lies just above the 60 ft contour to the E of the plateau formed by the top of Schoolhill, and therefore slopes moderately to E and S. It was occupied until 1971-2 by the premises of Mitchell and Muil's bakery, and previously by dwellings along the W side of Harriet Street. Harriet Street itself was not a medieval thoroughfare, appearing first on a map of 1822. Earlier, judging from the maps of Parson Gordon in 1661 and Alexander Milne in 1789, the area was feued out as backlands to the buildings along the frontage of Schoolhill. It was hoped that this excavation might produce remains of these or earlier buildings, or some evidence of the N-S boundary walls separating the feus. Moreover, the site is immediately to the E of the supposed position of the Dominican Friary, founded in the late 13th century, and possibly within its lands. Various building works in the area W of the present site, the most recent being the construction of Robert Gordon's College swimming pool in 1935, have produced burials associated with the Blackfriars.



Ill 56 : Location map of 2-16 Harriet Street



Ill 57 : 2-16 Harriet Street. Plan of Trench 2

THE EXCAVATION (Ill 56)

The area available for excavation was extremely large, stretching 80 m N-S along Harriet Street and 20 m E-W. The intention was to sample as much of the area as possible. The placing of trenches was further conditioned by the need to avoid those drains and underground structures whose presence was obvious from the surface. An additional hazard was presented by the layer of concrete over the entire site, c 0.10-0.20 m thick and in places unbreakable even by machine.

TRENCH 1

At the S end of the site, and at right angles to Harriet Street, this trench was rectangular and covered an area of 16 sq m. It was excavated by machine to a depth of 1.70 m which included a cut of 0.70 m into the natural gravel. Immediately above the natural lay 1.00 m of rubble and concrete. There was no intervening soil level at all, except in the N side where a slight amount of soil c 0.50 m deep appeared in section below the disturbance.

TRENCH 2 (Ill 57)

This was the only trench in which any substantial soil cover remained. The trench extended over 30 sq m and lay towards the SE end of the site. The depth of the soil varied according to the natural

slope of the ground from 0.50 m on the W to 1.00 m on the E side of the trench. The existence of soil here when in most of the rest of the site it was absent can perhaps be explained by the situation of this trench nearest to the top of Schoolhill.

The trench was bisected by the main flue of the Mitchell and Muil's bakery complex (16), an elaborate brick structure, 1.50 m wide, running N-S, cutting deep into the natural. Additional modern disturbance was caused by three subsidiary E-W flues (10, 17, 18), a mortared granite foundation (19) giving support to one of these lesser flues and a massive granite block set in mortar (20), which presumably had functioned as a base for a piece of machinery.

Only two small areas in the middle of the trench had escaped disruption by the modern bakery emplacements. In one of these areas to the E of the main bakery flue (16) a linear feature (8), 0.30 m wide, composed of small to medium sized rounded stones, ran approximately E-W. Its W extremity lay very close to the E side of the main flue, and it had been cut by the foundation trench for this flue, which was no more than 50 mm wider than the flue on either side. At its E end, Feature 8 entered the E section of the trench, but further excavation in this direction was made impossible by the thickness of the concrete cover. Feature 8 was found to contain pottery of the late 14th or 15th century.

In the W side of the trench were found the remains of two features. A small patch of cobbling (12) 1.00 m × 1.20 m was cut to the E by the mortar and granite base (20). Abutting the S edge of the cobbling, a line of larger stones two courses deep (11) might possibly have been the vestiges of a second wall aligned E-W. The possibility that this was a W extension of Feature 8 on the other side of the flue was considered. No dating evidence for Feature 11 was recovered, and it was too badly disrupted by one of the bakery flues (10) for its alignment to be certainly defined, but the few stones which remained did not suggest an alignment identical to that of Feature 8.

A handful of pottery was recovered from this trench, ranging in date from the 13th to the 19th centuries. Except for that in Feature 8, however, none of it was stratified, and the abraded nature of the earlier sherds reinforces the theory that much of the trench had been heavily disturbed.

TRENCH 3

This trench, covering 19.50 sq m, was long and narrow, running N-S at the N end of the site, and was excavated solely by machine. In the whole length of the trench the natural gravels were found immediately under the concrete, and thus no more than 0.25 m below the surface.

TRENCH 4

This was rectangular and covered 27 sq m. Again the natural gravel was very close to the surface, c 0.20 m at the N end of the trench. At the S end it was rather deeper, but this was because of excavations for a drain and for the foundation of the chimney of the bakery furnace, which cut into a substantial part of the SW corner of the trench.

CONCLUSIONS

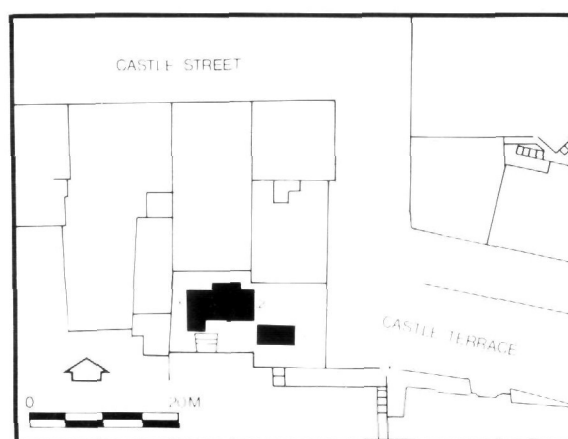
The most striking aspect of this site was the total lack of soil over most of the excavated area, with the natural gravel lying in most places immediately below the concrete floor of the most recently demolished buildings. This can only be attributed to some sort of deliberate levelling procedure, either when the dwellings along the W side of Harriet Street were constructed in the 19th century, or in the 18th century during the process of building Robert Gordon's College.

Apart from the remains of the bakery complex, the only undisturbed features on this site were the patch of cobbling (12) and the possible walls (8 and 11) in Trench 2. Of the walls, one (11), whose very existence is uncertain, was of indeterminate date, and the other (8) was probably late 14th or 15th century. Feature 8 constitutes the only structural evidence of medieval activity on the site, and that is hardly substantial. It should be pointed out that Feature 8 was very approximately parallel to the line of Schoolhill, and one might be tempted to speculate about its being a boundary wall related to buildings on the N frontage to Schoolhill. Archaeologically, nothing is known about this frontage in the 14th and 15th centuries. Our only positive information is from Parson Gordon's map of 1661, which shows the entire frontage area as occupied by buildings, including the Grammar School, by that date. Prior to the Reformation, it is quite possible that the whole area was within the boundaries of the Dominican Friary, and it is not clear how this affected the frontage or to what extent it was built up. At present, therefore, it is not wise to offer any statement about the function of Feature 8, other than to note its probable date. It is most unfortunate that no other medieval features survived the modern disruption caused by the bakery. However, if the site was on the periphery of the Dominican Friary, as is quite possible, it might have been garden land in the medieval period and would have yielded little, even had the disturbance been less comprehensive.

2 : 9 6-8 CASTLE TERRACE 1977 HILARY MURRAY

THE SITE

Excavation took place in a yard (Grid ref: NJ945063) between the former Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children (6-8 Castle Terrace), which had originally been built as a private house c 1720, and a dwelling house (4 Castle Terrace) built c 1760.



Ill 58 : Location map of 6-8 Castle Terrace

THE EXCAVATION

Three trenches were excavated (Ill 58), each approximately 3 × 6 m. Trenches 1 and 2 were finally joined and treated as a single area.

In Trenches 1 and 2 the natural levels proved to be a series of sand and gravel layers with two layers of very hard compacted clay containing stones. These levels appeared to slope down from N to S and possibly also from E to W, in accordance with the present topography. This sequence was in complete contrast with the natural levels in Trench 3, where fine sand extended to a depth of at least 2 m below the base of the occupation deposits. This may not have been the highest level in Trench 3, which had been scarped, but does illustrate the difference between Trenches 2 and 3 over a distance of c 2 m.

TRENCHES 1 AND 2

A total of eight phases of activity could be distinguished in this area. The phasing is purely stratigraphic; there is no implication that the phases were of equal duration (Catalogue of features Table 18 mf. Stratigraphic matrix Table 19 mf).

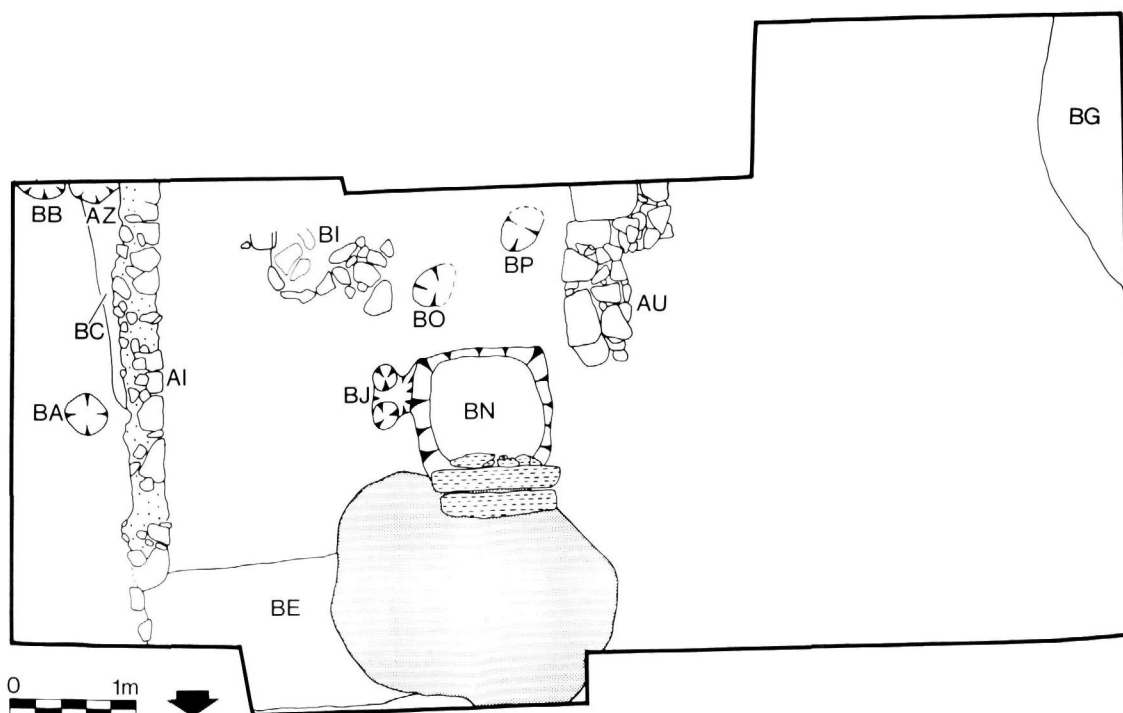
Phase 1 (Ill 59)

The Phase 2 cellar and the Phase 6 dumps had cut away nearly all earlier levels with the possible exception of three small areas: Trench 2 E of the wall (AI), the truncated pit (BG) and the small triangle of undisturbed levels between the W cellar wall (AU) and the later dumps. Unfortunately, the layers E of AI, including several small pits or post-holes, were only sealed by modern levelling and could not be dated with any certainty. Similarly pit BG was only sealed by Phase 6 dumps and could have belonged to any preceding period. Both of these areas may be medieval on the basis of the lack of later material and the presence of some medieval sherds. The only totally undisturbed area was the triangle between wall AU and the dumps AV, an area less than 0.70×1.00 m and liable to contamination from the surrounding disturbed area. Layers 72-79 were a series of clay layers in this area, with varying charcoal contents. Pottery from these layers consisted of four medieval sherds and one post-medieval sherd. The latter may be due to contamination from the dumps or cellar but this cannot be proved.

In summary, Phase 1 may equally well be interpreted as the traces of otherwise destroyed medieval activity or as residual medieval material in later contexts. The stratigraphic statement that, with the possible exception of BG, all these Phase 1 areas precede the building of the cellar is, however, reasonably certain.

Phase 2 (Ill 59)

During Phase 2, a cellar was cut into natural. Due to the underlying slope, the cellar floor was 0.90 m below contemporary ground level to the E but only some 0.20 m below it to the W. The E and W sides of the cellar were lined by clay-bonded rubble stone walls with well finished internal faces. There had been an entrance in the W wall with a stone step up to the external level; as the later dumps cut the W wall alongside the entrance it is possible that a further room had been destroyed. The width of the excavated room was 3.20 m internally.



Ill 59 : 6-8 Castle Terrace, Trenches 1 and 2. Plan of Phases 1 and 2

To the S the building extended beyond the possible limits of excavation. To the N there was no surviving wall but there were indications of the position of the N end of the building. Wall AI stopped roughly on a line with the Phase 2 floor foundations (96, 97). The line was reiterated by Phase 3 post-holes and by the extent of the rubble in the later demolition (Phases 4, 5, Layers 22, 45). BE, a trench cut along this line during the later demolition, may be a robber trench of a N wall, although as discussed in Phase 4 there are problems concerning this interpretation.

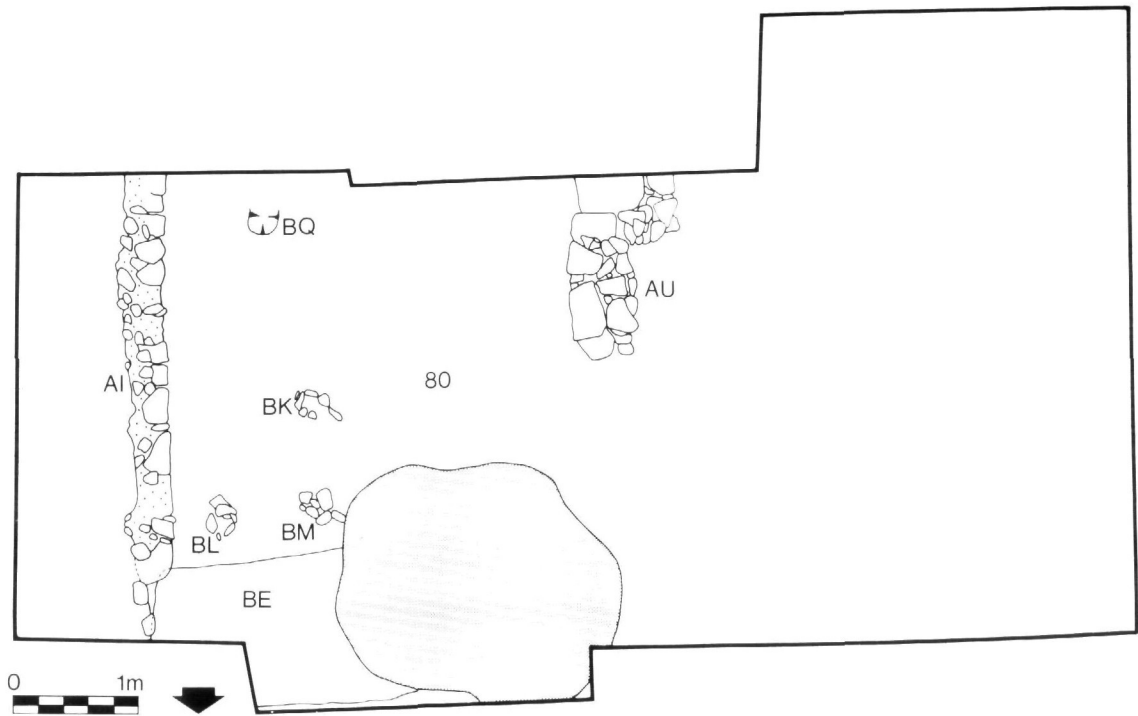
A series of floor levels belonged to this phase (96, 97, 82, 83, 84). The foundation of sand (96) over clay (97) had been laid in a shallow excavated depression, presumably to level the interior. A thin layer of charcoal (84) and a thin clean floor of sand (83) were built up on this foundation. During the period when these layers were formed, a small stone-kerbed hearth (BI) was built inside the building opposite the W doorway. A wood and brushwood-lined pit (BN) was found near the W wall. In section it appeared to have been cut from floor Layer 83 and to be sealed by the Phase 3 floor (80). On excavation, stones set in the natural appeared to follow the W edge of the pit and were originally interpreted as a kerb. Some of these stones were, however, deeply embedded in undisturbed natural clay and as these strata of natural included large boulders it is probable that the appearance of a kerb was coincidental.

Although iron slag in quantity was only found from Phases 3 and 4, it is possible that both the hearth and the pit were associated with some industrial activity, possibly a small scale smithy. The form of the building itself will be discussed in greater detail in Phase 3. With the exception of one early or mid 17th-century clay pipe stem (p 216) from Layer 90 (see matrix Table 19 mf), there was no pipe from Phase 2. This might suggest that Phase 2 preceded c 1630 when clay pipes first became popular in Aberdeen, but a pipe stem in Phase 3, Layer 80, which sealed Phase 2 was mid to late 17th century in date and Phase 2 is most likely to belong to the mid-17th century.

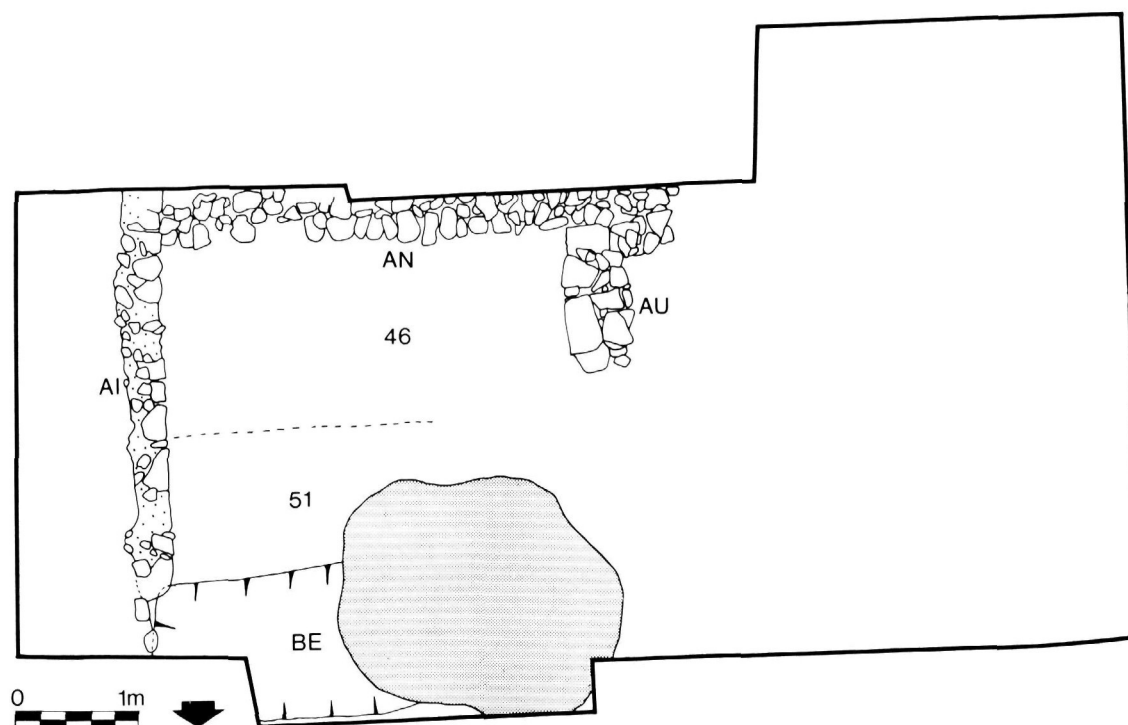
Phase 3 (Ill 60)

There was no abrupt break from Phase 2 to Phase 3, but a new floor (80) was laid down in the cellar, sealing both the earlier hearth and the pit.

The main structure of the building appears to have been unaltered, but two post-holes (BL,



Ill 60 : 6-8 Castle Terrace, Trenches 1 and 2. Plan of Phase 3



Ill 61 : 6-8 Castle Terrace, Trenches 1 and 2. Plan of Phase 4

BM) cut into the Phase 3 floor were possibly the remains of a line of four posts placed at regular intervals across the N end of the building. They were on a line with the end of wall AI and the edge of the earlier floor foundations. Their spacing, and their position on an end wall rather than a side wall line is unusual and one possible interpretation would be that this building was open ended at this N end, with a row of four posts possibly supporting the N edge of the roof in Phase 3. There is no evidence concerning the structure of a N wall in Phase 2, although as discussed it appears to have followed the same line. If a stone wall on this line had been demolished between Phase 2 and 3, there would have been an interruption of the internal layers and at least some rubble; no such evidence existed at this stage.

Phase 3 may be dated to the mid to late 17th century on the basis of a single Dutch clay pipe stem (p 216), dating to the second half of the 17th century, which was found in floor level 80.

Phase 4 (Ill 61)

The Phase 3 building appeared to have been burnt down or demolished. The whole area between walls AI and AU was covered by a layer of charcoal (69) which was up to 0.15 m thick in places. This also sealed the step in wall AU and filled the post-holes BL, BM. A series of layers including a spread of stoney rubble (70) lay over this.

Walls AI and AU appear to have remained in use although they were either rebuilt or more probably repointed at this level using mortar bonding in contrast to the earlier use of clay-bonding. Towards the end of Phase 4 a new rough drystone wall (AN) was built across the S end of the excavated part of the structure, extending between walls AI and AU and blocking the doorway in AU (Ill 62).

At the same period, a trench (BE) was dug on the line of the N end of the building. It extended W from a point nearly level with the N end of wall AI. The actual relationship at the junction was unclear as the N end of AI was very broken. The W end of trench BE had been cut away by a later pit (AF). However BE appeared to have extended across the full width of the N end of the building, as sand 51 which is identical to the natural sand through which the base of BE was cut, appeared to have been thrown up along the edge of BE and this Layer 51 survived across the full width of the building. Interpretation of BE is difficult; if, as seems likely, sand 51 had been thrown up as



Ill 62 : 6-8 Castle Terrace. Trench 1 looking S showing walls AI, AU and AW, post-holes BL and BM, hearth BI and feature AF in foreground

BE cut into natural, then the layers which were over natural should have been found below 51 in the building but no such layers were identified. If BE was a robber trench of a wall, it remains to explain why no trace of the wall rubble remained, why only this wall had needed foundations deep enough to be dug out with a trench 0.65 m deep and why post-holes BL, BM would have existed so close to the hypothetical wall in Phase 2. There is no obvious solution, but some direct relationship to the building is probable as the fill of BE (64, 67) gave no indication of a separate function.

Large quantities of iron slag, scrap iron, coal and charcoal were found in all the layers over 69 (eg 46) and suggest that the area within the walls was associated with a smithy. There was no evidence to indicate whether it was roofed or open at this period.

M Spearman, who examined a sample (1.25 kg: eight pieces) of metal working debris from Layer 46, has commented that it contained substantial quantities of iron smithing waste including fragments of iron slag, coal cinders and hammer scales. The work carried out in the Castle Terrace building would appear to have been forging and smithying making use of prepared bloom.

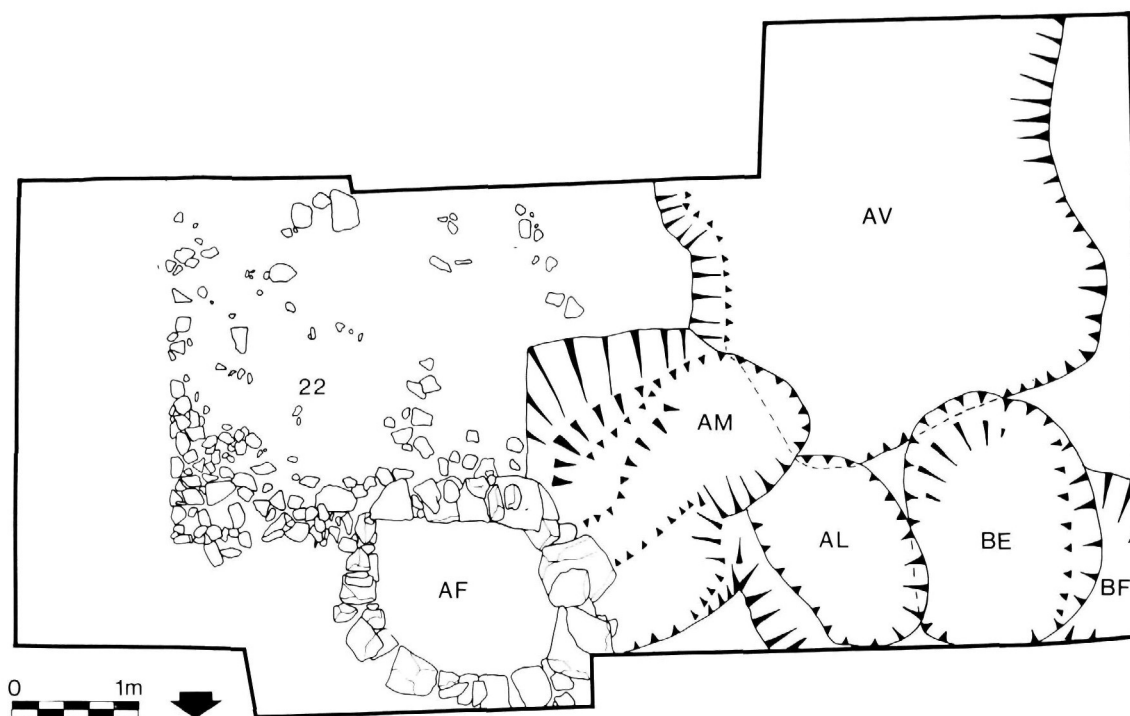
Clay pipes of late 17th-century date have been found in the layers associated with this place. A jug (815), part of which was from Phase 4 and part from Phase 5, is consistent with this date.

Phase 5 (Ill 63)

Shortly after wall AN was built, the whole area inside the building appeared to have been abandoned and filled with layers of rubble and mortar (21, 22, 23) which presumably represent the final demolition of the structure.

Phase 6 (Ill 63)

After the deposition of the rubble layers at the E end of the site, the W end was cut by a series of very deep excavations (AL, AM, AV, BD, BF), possibly the result of gravel quarrying. The hollows were filled by a series of interrelated dumps which included rubbish layers with bone and pottery (30), stoney and brick rubble (37), organic earth (65) and a layer containing fragments of rammed earth walling with a yellow plaster facing (61). None of these fills can be directly related to features on the site and they may have been brought in from elsewhere.



Ill 63 : 6-8 Castle Terrace, Trenches 1 and 2. Plan of Phases 6 and 7

Phase 7 (Ill 63)

At some time after the last dump (AL, AM) was filled, a stone-lined pit AF was dug. The function of this pit was not clear. The fill was of clean stoney rubble with no traces of cess or rubbish, even between the lining stones. It is unlikely to have been a well as the base was on a layer of impermeable natural clay. It is possible that it was used for storage, perhaps as a domestic water supply, but in this case it is hard to understand why the S side was never stone-lined. An almost identical feature was found on the site at 42 St Paul Street (JA: Ill 42) attached to the corner of a stone building of 15th-17th century date.

Phase 8

The site was levelled with rubbish and covered by a granite yard associated with the 1720 building at 6-8 Castle Terrace. The granite blocks had been lifted to insert service pipes and did not, therefore, provide an absolute sealing layer. The clay pipes in the layers below the yard surface were, however, all of types which probably pre-date 1720. This confirms that the yard was contemporary with the house and suggests that there was relatively little contamination from the later disturbance.

TRENCH 3

The area covered by Trench 3 appeared to have been levelled, possibly in the 18th century, removing

all traces of earlier occupation. As a result, natural sand was found directly below a cobbled yard which was sealed by the modern concrete. The cobbled yard may have been cut and replaced when modern service pipes had been inserted. The sand was excavated by machine to a depth of c 2 m to ensure that it was undisturbed natural.

DATING

There is little dating evidence for Phase 1 with the exception of a few sherds of medieval pottery. The lack of clay pipe and of any significant amount of post-medieval pottery suggests that Phase 1 may be medieval. The dating is however questionable as all the Phase 1 areas were susceptible to later contamination and as already discussed the stratigraphy was not very clear.

The features from Phases 2-7 inclusive all appear to date to the 17th century. No clay pipe earlier than 1630 was found but pipe in the layer sealing Phase 2 can be dated to the mid 17th-century, suggesting an early or mid 17th-century date for the original phases of the building. Its secondary use in Phase 4 can be dated to the late 17th century on the basis of pipes dated to 1680 \pm 15 and 1682 \pm 10. The yard of Phase 8 was built in c 1720 forming a fairly undisturbed seal on all the preceding phases.

The pottery can not be closely dated but is of types which appear to be post-medieval (813-823) and would broadly confirm the clay pipe dating of the site.

DISCUSSION

This site showed that although there may have been some medieval activity in the area, the evidence had been almost totally destroyed both by scarping and by later intrusive features. The nature of any medieval activity cannot therefore be assessed.

In the early or mid-17th century a small building was constructed. It may have been open-walled to the N, possibly with a row of posts supporting the roof on this side, although evidence for this was only found in Phase 3. It appears to have been used as a workshop, possibly a smithy. Open-fronted workshops, including smithies, are illustrated in Diderot's 18th-century *Encyclopedia of Trades and Industries* (Gillespie (ed) 1959, I, pl 165, 166, 171. II 293).

After its partial destruction, the building continued to be used as a work area or dump associated with iron working. It was not clear if it was still roofed at this stage.

The Phase 6 dumps appear to be the infill of possible gravel quarrying, the area was presumably semi-derelict when this took place. From Phase 7 it would appear to have been a yard: the possible water tank (AF) must have belonged to a building outside the excavated area, possibly an earlier building on the site of 4 Castle Terrace. The paved yard belonged to 6-8 Castle Terrace which was built c 1720.

The sequence of events on the site appears to show an upgrading of the area from its 17th-century use for iron working to its use in the 18th century for a fairly elegant small mansion (6-8 Castle Terrace). Due to the fire hazards associated with industries like ironworking, it is likely that this was near to the edge of the limit of the 17th-century town at this point. This is probable in any case as the ground slopes abruptly down to Virginia Street from the S side of the site.

The site cannot be accurately identified on Gordon's map of 1661 (Ill 130) which shows buildings along the street frontage, but open ground behind in the area where the 17th-century smithy was.

2 : 10 SMALL SITES AND OBSERVATIONS UP TO DECEMBER 1981

VIRGINIA STREET STEPS, CASTLE LANE 1974 COLVIN GREIG

Due to the construction of a dual carriageway at Virginia Street it was felt that members of Aberdeen Archaeological Rescue Group should keep a watching brief on the site (Grid ref: NJ946063) as its proximity to Castle Hill could produce some archaeological evidence of medieval Aberdeen. Medieval pottery sherds were collected from the site and after cleaning an exposed section the decision was made to mount a small weekend excavation, making use of volunteer labour.

The excavation was of necessity, restricted to a shelf roughly 11.1 m long, 1.5 m wide and 1.2 m deep. In spite of the small area excavated, a number of interesting archaeological strata were exposed which yielded a large quantity of medieval pottery.

Below the disturbance caused by services lay a badly disturbed road surface consisting of well worn stones and large beach pebbles, with a few sherds of 14th-century pottery. Immediately underlying this road was a much cruder road surface. Post-excavation research suggests that the excavation had revealed the original Futtie Wynd which led from the Castlegate to Futtie and that the pottery would date this construction to the 14th century.

Previous to the construction of the road, the area had been used as a midden. In places 0.73 m of midden deposits were revealed, including a most interesting shell midden filled with mussel shells, animal bones, pottery sherds and a few oyster shells. The pottery from this horizon ranged in date from the late 13th to mid-14th century (Ill 82, 83: Nos 189-246).

The natural profile of the site consists of hard packed sandy gravel with large pebbles, above which lies a layer of sand and upon this rests a thick stratum of grey, sandy clay. This latter feature was not present in the section and its place had been taken by the late 13th or early 14th-century midden deposit. The clay had been removed and to assist this operation, which must have occurred in the 13th century, a rough pebbled track had been laid, probably to assist the passage of wheeled vehicles. The clay must, therefore, have served some industrial purpose in medieval Aberdeen, such as use as a building material or perhaps use by a medieval potter.

There was no great time lag between the quarrying for clay, the dumping of rubbish on the site and the final levelling for Futtie Wynd. It can therefore be assumed that by the mid-14th century, a settlement had been so firmly established at Futtie that it warranted proper access to the Castlegate. Ill 1:26.

REAR OF ABERDEEN ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM, BLACKFRIARS STREET 1977 JUDITH STONES

Observation of two small pits (Grid ref: NJ938063) dug during the construction of an extension in the car park to the rear of the Art Gallery and Museum produced no medieval levels. There was

a great deal of modern disturbance with apparently natural sand and gravel some 300 mm below the tarmac surface. The Art Gallery and Museum lies within the area of the Dominican Friary, founded in the late 13th century, and burials were found during the construction of the Gallery in the late 19th century and of the adjacent Cowdray Hall in the 1920s. However, this small car park, sandwiched between the Gallery and the buildings of Robert Gordon's College, would clearly have suffered considerable disturbance during the erection of these substantial buildings. Ill 1:1.

28 HARRIET STREET 1977 JUDITH STONES

Observation during building work (Grid ref: NJ939064) revealed natural levels with no overlying deposits, conditions similar to those found over much of the site at 2-16 Harriet Street. Ill 1:2.

104 GREEN 1977 JUDITH STONES

Observation of trenches within the standing building (Grid ref: NJ940060) prior to major alterations revealed only natural levels. Ill 1:14.

2-12 RENNIE'S WYND 1977 J C MURRAY

The site of 2-12 Rennie's Wynd (Grid ref: NJ940060), along the W side of the Green was observed during demolition prior to the construction of Littlewoods Extension. This area was shown on the 1954 OS map as the possible site of the Carmelite friary, although subsequent excavation at 12 Martin's Lane has proved this to have been further to the N. It was also felt to be an opportunity to investigate the extent of medieval occupation of the W end of the Green.

However, as the contractors worked, it became clear that there had been no extension of medieval activity in this area and that occupation would have been impossible as the presence of waterlaid deposits showed that the area would have been estuarine, and that it was possible that this was the site of an earlier bed of the Denburn. More recent excavations at 67-71 Green revealed the same waterlaid deposits at a slightly higher level overlaid by some medieval garden earth suggesting that this higher N margin of the estuary was being reclaimed by c 13th century. However, there was no comparable evidence at 2-12 Rennie's Wynd and it appears likely to have remained waterlogged until a later period; it is shown as garden ground with a few buildings on Parson Gordon's map of 1661. No artefacts were recovered from the site. Ill 1:15.

17 VIRGINIA STREET 1978 JUDITH STONES

A small trial pit excavated here (Grid ref: NJ945062) revealed only natural levels. Ill 1:21.

DONALD'S COURT, 16 SCHOOLHILL 1978 JUDITH STONES

A small trial pit (Grid ref: NJ940063) excavated prior to alterations here revealed natural gravel beneath the car park surface in the court. Ill 1:4.

56-58 WEST NORTH STREET/MEALMARKET STREET 1979
JUDITH STONES

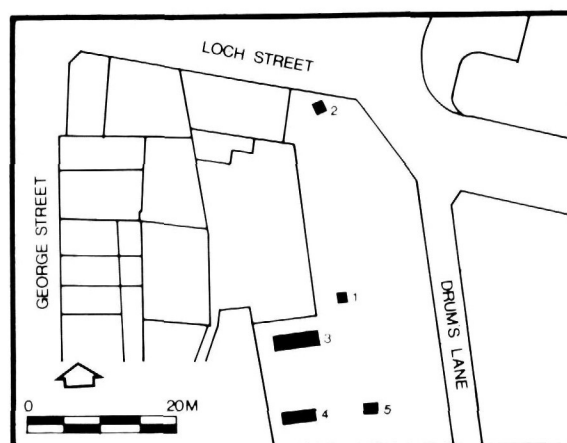
Observation of construction trenches here (Grid ref: NJ943066) showed no evidence of medieval features, but indicated that this area, low-lying in relation to the rising ground of Gallowgate to the W, might have been marshland in the medieval period. Ill 1:10.

42 LOCH STREET, 14-21 DRUM'S LANE 1979
HILARY MURRAY

A total of five trenches was excavated in this backland area (Grid ref: NJ940065). The main aim was to establish how far medieval activity extended towards the Loch. In all the trenches the stratigraphy was a simple sequence of post-medieval garden earth and medieval garden earth over natural. There was a greater depth of medieval deposits at the S end, possibly due to dumping behind the Upperkirkgate properties.

A cess pit was found in Trench 2. It was sealed by post-medieval garden earth and may be medieval or early post-medieval in date. It yielded shell, bone and nut fragments but no pottery or datable finds. It is interesting in showing some activity in the very waterlogged ground near the edge of the Loch.

A possible E-W trench cut into natural was excavated in Trench 5. In the limited confines of the excavated area it was not possible to determine if it was a natural feature. It had a maximum



Ill 64 : Location map of 42 Loch Street

depth of 0.30 m and extended for at least 2 m. The base fill was a fine black silt, sealed by garden earth. It was at least 0.70 m wide, but the S edge was beyond the S edge of the trench which could not be extended safely. If it was a ditch it should have extended into Trench 4, but it did not.

Prior to excavation, demolition workers on the site found two sterlings of Edward I (49, 50). These appeared to have been machined from the medieval garden earth in the proximity of Trenches 3 and 4. Ill 1:15, Ill 64.

56 GALLOWGATE 1979 HILARY MURRAY

The pavement in front of Greyfriars House, Gallowgate (Grid ref: NJ941066) was excavated to a depth of 1.50 m to provide foundations for a new entrance and ramp. Observation showed the site to be within the 19th-century cellars and to have been disturbed to a level just above natural. A humic soil above natural, which may have been medieval, yielded bone but no datable finds. The original E frontage of Gallowgate is now below the street due to road widening earlier in the century. Ill 1:9.

REAR OF 101 HIGH STREET, OLD ABERDEEN 1979

J C MURRAY

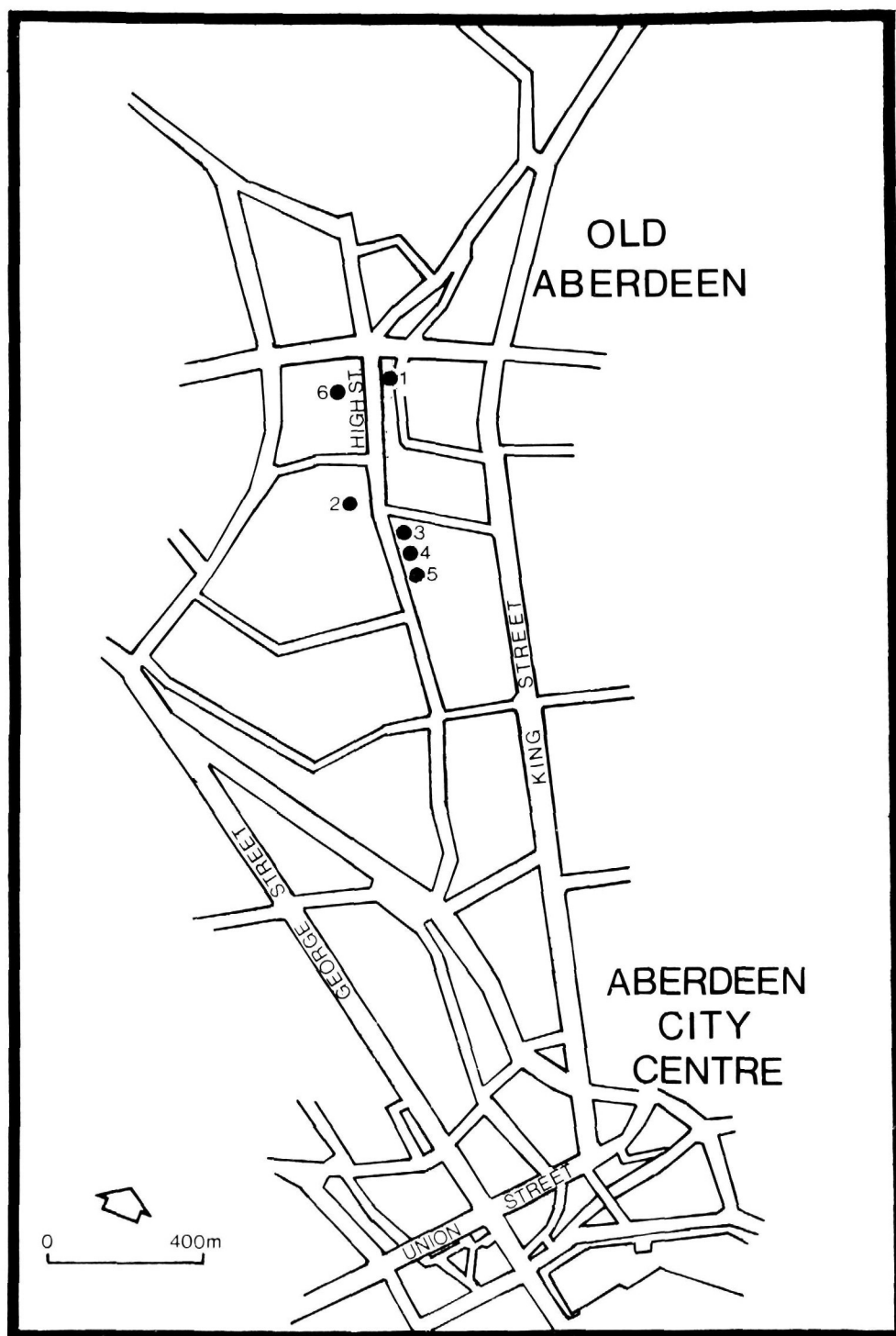
A well was uncovered during the construction of the Geography Department extension, Aberdeen University (Grid ref: NJ938084). It had an internal diameter of 1.00-1.50 m and a surviving depth of 1.50 m. The upper two or three courses were built of red brick but the lower courses were drystone. Ill 65:6. A broken grave slab was found in the well. The inscription read:

HEER LYES T
 OE HENRY KIL . . .
 BVRGES IN ABD-DE . . .
 OCTOBER. 1660 HIS AGE 96
 AND ELIZABETH ANDER
 . . ON SPOVS WHO
 1659

BRITISH TELECOM TRENCHES 1979 HILARY MURRAY

A series of service trenches was observed during the laying of a new major telephone cable along St Paul Street, Loch Street, Gallowgate, Upperkirkgate and Littlejohn Street (Grid ref: NJ940064, NJ941064, NJ940065, NJ941065, NJ942065). Thick organic medieval deposits were observed in Gallowgate, Upperkirkgate and the E end of St Paul Street. There was little medieval evidence from the W end of St Paul Street or from Loch Street.

In Littlejohn Street there were thick organic midden layers at the W end, from the top of the hill to approximately halfway down the hill where they ceased abruptly. This confirms the estimated extent of the medieval town in this direction. There was no surviving evidence of a ditch or any boundary, but it is unlikely that a fence would have been identifiable in the very narrow trenches.



Ill 65 : Location map of sites observed in Old Aberdeen. 1) 104 High Street. 2) Music Dept building. 3) 32 College Bounds. 4) 40 College Bounds. 5) 42 College Bounds. 6) Rear of 101 High Street

The trenches cutting across Gallowgate and Littlejohn Street road surfaces revealed no evidence of earlier street surfaces as the ground was totally disturbed by existing service trenches.

All the medieval layers yielded a quantity of medieval pottery, leather, slag and bone. Ill 1:6.

32, 40, 42 COLLEGE BOUNDS, OLD ABERDEEN 1980

J C MURRAY

The natural ground surface was exposed directly below the modern demolition level (Grid ref: NJ939080). Ill 65:3, 4, 5.

MUSIC DEPT BUILDING, ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY 1980

J C MURRAY

Observation of a small development beside the Music Department of Aberdeen University (Grid ref: NJ938080), proved negative. Ill 65:2.

104 HIGH STREET, OLD ABERDEEN 1980 J C MURRAY

Observation of a development on the property (Grid ref: NJ939084) revealed that the modern levels lay directly on the natural ground surface. Ill 65: 1.

4-6 LITTLE BELMONT STREET 1980 HILARY MURRAY

The site (Grid ref: NJ940062) was observed while the foundations of an extension to Cameron's Inn were being excavated. Below the yard surface there was c 0.90 m of homogenous loam which was interpreted as cultivated earth. There was a little medieval and post-medieval pottery in this deposit but no features were observed. When the natural surface was cleaned, however, a small oval pit was revealed. It was 1.95 × 1.00 m with vertical sides and a depth of 0.60 m. The fill included dark loam and charcoal below soft burnt clay. It was sealed by the medieval garden earth and appeared therefore to be an early medieval feature. The fill contained pottery including Yorkshire fabrics of mid-13th or early 14th-century date.

The size and shape of the pit, its E-W orientation and its proximity to St Nicholas churchyard initially suggested that it might have contained a burial but this was disproved by the contents. It

was also clearly not part of a property boundary. The location of a medieval pit at this point, well to the W of the Upperkirkgate Port and outside the town boundary suggests some form of sub-urban occupation, possibly associated with a farm. Ill 1:11.

12A-13 CORRECTION WYND 1981 HILARY MURRAY

During conversion work two small trial trenches were excavated through the floor of the standing building (Grid ref: NJ941062). They revealed that the existing ground level of the building was semi-celled and cut into natural, any occupation layers having been destroyed. Observation of the small yard at the rear of the property, the surface of which was 0.50 m above the ground floor, revealed no undisturbed levels. Ill 1:12.

EAST NORTH STREET/CASTLE STREET 1981
HILARY MURRAY

A new main sewer trench, c 2 m deep, was cut across the market stance between East North Street and Castle Street (Grid ref: NJ949064). Observation showed that over the whole area, the existing car park surface lies directly on top of natural sand and gravel. The only intrusions into natural were modern drains and no medieval or post-medieval material was observed. The lack of any soil over the sand and gravel suggests that the area was levelled, possibly to provide gravel for the building up of Union Street. Ill 1:27.

2 : 11 PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON MAJOR SITES

EXCAVATED 1979-1981

21-37 VIRGINIA STREET 1979 JUDITH STONES

Most of this large area (c 4000 sq m) had been cut down to natural gravel during 19th-century development (Grid ref: NJ945063). At the E end, four posts (110 × 140 mm) and sand levels containing 14th-century pottery were found. Ill 1:23.

NO 3 BONDED WAREHOUSE VIRGINIA STREET 1979 JUDITH STONES

This site (Grid ref: NJ944062), on the S periphery of the medieval burgh, close to the harbour area, produced little structural evidence. A midden area, possibly associated with dwellings on the Castlegate N of the site, ranged in date from 14th century to post-medieval. In one of the lowest levels of the midden were some sherds of green-glazed Siegburg stoneware, rare in Scotland. Below the midden, three posts may have been remnants of a N-S boundary. Ill 1:20.

45-47 GALLOWGATE 1979 HILARY MURRAY

Excavation in a pend opening on to Gallowgate (Grid ref: NJ941065) yielded a succession of fifteen occupation phases from late 12th century to 19th century in date. A period of dumping in the late 12th or 13th century was followed, as Gallowgate developed, by the construction of a building with a grooved sill-beam on a stone foundation. This had been destroyed by a ditch which was replaced by a wattle lined drain, both near to the boundary which was continued throughout the 14th century by a series of wattle fences. Later in the 14th century, two sill beam structures were successively built on the site and a floor and wattle wall may have been part of a building or yard, all respecting this boundary. Only fragments of the buildings were in the excavated area; the rest had been cut away by the later cellars. In the 15th and 16th centuries a pend was established on the boundary, with three superimposed paths, the uppermost of well set cobbles. This appeared to have become an internal passageway in the 19th-century building which was demolished several years prior to excavation. Ill 1:8.

42 VIRGINIA STREET 1979 JUDITH STONES

An extremely solid metalled surface sealed a single course L-shaped stone foundation (Grid ref: NJ946062). At a lower level, in the natural sand, were three posts, one of which was wedged into place by another shaped timber. Ill 1:25.

12 MARTIN'S LANE 1981 JUDITH STONES

Excavation here (Grid ref: NJ941060) has revealed part of the Carmelite Friary, founded c 1270, whose exact location was previously unknown. Portions of three buildings were examined, probably dating from the 14th century, including the SW corner of a probable church. More than 120 burials were excavated within this building. A large quantity of window glass fragments, several painted or stained, was also recovered. Further excavation may be possible prior to future development of the site. Ill 1:18.