

Fig. 1: site and trench location plan

Excavations at 25-34 Cockspur Street and 6-8 Spring Gardens

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Introduction

Archaeological investigations were carried out intermittently over a two year period between 1997-1999 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 25-34 Cockspur Street¹ and 6-8 Spring Gardens (Fig. 1), near the south-west corner of Trafalgar Square. The works were on behalf of Trevor Osborne Properties Group Ltd in advance of redevelopment. The investigations produced important and distinctive features and deposits from the late medieval period onwards, which provide a significant addition to our understanding

of the use of space and land in an increasingly urban environment.²

Natural topography

The site was located on land that slopes gently from north to south towards the River Thames, being underlain by London Clay and covered by Terrace Gravel.³ The London Clay was capped by an accumulation of a brickearth-type deposit that in places measured 2.40m thick. The top of the brickearth and any overlying horizontal stratigraphy had largely been truncated by modern

basements, so that generally only intrusive features such as pits, cellars and ditches survived.

General

No prehistoric or Roman structures or deposits were recorded, although residual Roman building material was recovered. The site and general area lay c. 2km south-west of the Roman city of *Londinium*, and to the south-west of the currently known limit of early-mid Saxon *Lundenwic*.⁴ The site also lay north of the late Saxon occupation around Westminster Abbey founded in c. 960 under the patronage of King Edgar.⁵ Throughout the medieval period until the Dissolution, the district of Westminster was a dependency of its single lord, the abbot of St Peter's Abbey. The territory granted to the abbey stretched as far as the walls of London, and between the line of the present Oxford Street and the River Thames.⁶

Westminster grew and expanded northwards towards Charing as a direct result of the establishment of the monastery and the royal palaces of Westminster and Whitehall, which acted as centres of patronage and employment. Members of Parliament, royal household servants and the infamous whores of Charing took up residence near the palaces, prompting urban growth throughout the medieval period. Similarly the foundation of the hospital of St Mary Rouncivall, the first small church at St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Charing Cross itself,⁷ increasingly gave the area of Charing its own identity.

In the medieval period the site at Cockspur Street lay between a royal park to the south and the King's Mews⁸ to the north of the Cross, on the site now covered by Trafalgar Square. It was probably during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I that the Spring Gardens⁹ were first established in the north-east corner of St. James's Park as an addition to the pleasure grounds of Whitehall Palace. On the Braun and Hogenberg map of 1572 (Fig. 2), the Spring Garden is depicted as a little copse ideal for wildfowl,¹⁰ enclosed by a fence with indications that the northern boundary of the copse was defined by a large ditch. The garden steadily increased in size, and before the end of James' I reign became a semi-public pleasure ground.¹¹

During the Restoration most of the Spring Garden was divided into plots and let on leases, with the remainder closed or partially closed, particularly at the height of Cromwell's puritanical zeal. The post-Restoration period saw intense building in the Spring Garden, as this area became increasingly attractive to fashionable society. Private dwellings were recorded in the Spring Garden itself in the early 17th century.¹²

Due to the high status of the residents in the area there was a constant demand for horses,¹³ and the area between Whitcomb Street, The King's Mews and Cockspur Street was reserved chiefly for stabling and coach houses, to the extent that the area became colloquially known as 'Dunghill Mews'. The main streets became increasingly lined with houses and shops throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, so that by the end of the 19th century the site was totally developed, with the structures fronting Cockspur Street and Spring Gardens mainly of commercial use, principally shipping offices.

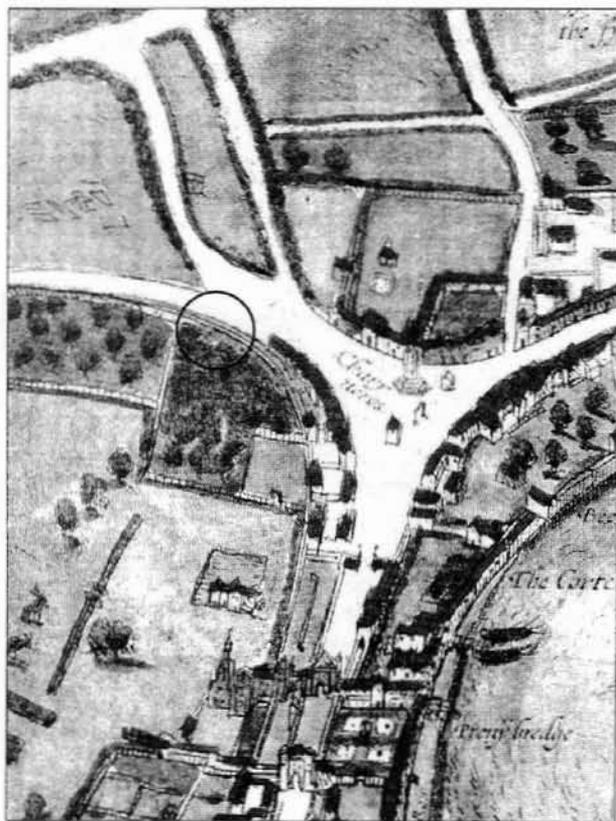


Fig. 2: Braun and Hogenberg's map, 1572

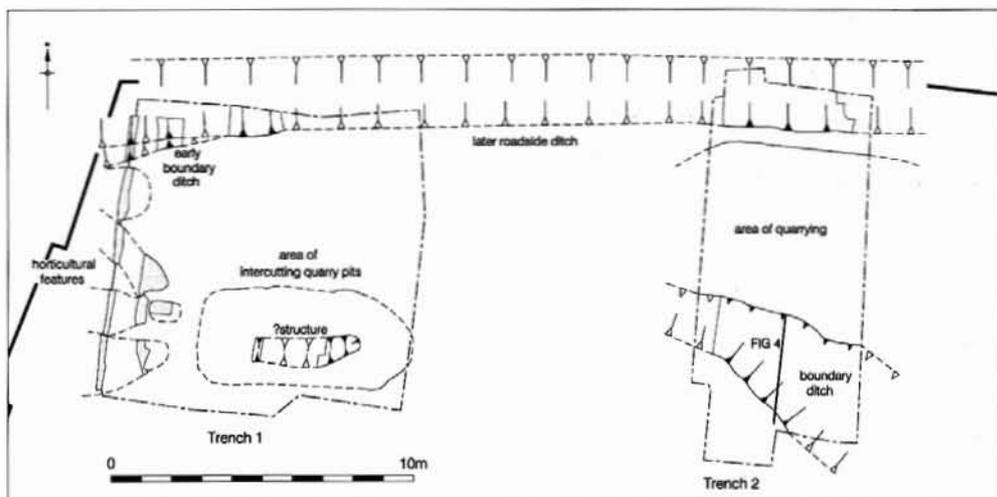


Fig. 3: quarrying activity and intercutting pits

Late medieval/Tudor features

The archaeological and environmental evidence indicates that the site at Cockspur Street was situated in open fields until the late medieval period. Residual pottery and ceramic building material does however attest to occupation near the site as far back as the 13th century.¹⁴

The earliest feature located was a small boundary ditch aligned east-west in the north-west of Trench 1, probably earlier than the 15th century. Although no dating evidence was recovered from its fills, its recutting in the late 16th or 17th century produced residual South Hertfordshire grey wares dating to c. 1150-1300 and London-type ware (LOND) dated 1080-1350, possibly indicating the date of the earlier ditch.

The late medieval/Tudor period saw increased activity in the central area of Trench 2, as an area about 5m square had been extensively quarried. Exploratory sondages across this area revealed contrasting horizons of dumped sandy gravel, redeposited brickearth, and natural silting. The occasional periodic depositions of animal carcasses and limited domestic refuse in this feature appears to be deliberately sealed, probably to mask the smell and to deter rodents. The earliest dumped horizons contained fragments of 15th-century pottery, principally Late London ware (LLON) and Coarse Border ware (CBW). The latest pottery types present included Raeren stoneware (RAER) dated to 1480-1610 and yellow-glazed Border ware (BORDY) dated to

1550-1700, which probably indicate a late-16th-century date for the final infilling.¹⁵

The faunal assemblage from the quarry fills was dominated by horse, due to two partially articulated skeletons; sheep and cattle were also strongly represented. Cut marks located on the proximal part of the spine of a horse scapula and the presence of a cattle skull in these deposits indicates this area was used for the periodic deposition of the by-products of butchery and the skinning of animals.¹⁶ The horse had possibly been filleted to provide meat for dogs or for the removal of the skin, as it was not a common food animal.¹⁷ Rackham suggests the disposal of whole horse carcasses in London was probably illegal in the medieval period. Instead they were removed from the city before disposal in contexts such as ditches or pits,¹⁸ as at Cockspur Street, on the periphery of the main settlement. Two postholes to the south of the area of quarrying are tentatively suggested to form part of a fence line to keep people away from the partially open quarry.

A series of intercutting roughly circular pits (Fig. 3) located west of the quarry seem to have been dug for the same purpose. The sheer size of the largest pit (2.80m north-south by 1.75m east-west and 0.88m deep) supports it being a quarry for the extraction of brickearth. The intercutting nature of the pits could reflect people returning to the area over a relatively long period of time for a high-quality source material. The pits had homogenous inclusion-free fills, indicating natural silting. The

lack of cultural artefacts suggests they were located away from the contemporary settlement core. One of the larger pits contained only six sherds of pottery, mainly Raeren stoneware and residual medieval wares. Only one cut had clearly been re-used as a rubbish pit, as it contained the skeletons of two cows and a sheep.

Structural evidence for the late medieval/Tudor period was limited to a cut, aligned roughly east-west, the near-vertical sides of which were too sheer to support themselves as a ditch. It was therefore interpreted as the robbed-out footings for a building, although the fills contained little discarded building material to support this theory. Two fills were located within the cut; the upper containing a sherd of Spanish tin-glazed earthenware, possibly from an albarello dating to the 15th century, and small sherds of Tudor green (TUDG) dated 1380-1500.

The most extensive feature at Cockspur Street was a large cut aligned roughly north-west/south-east, that measured a maximum c. 3.30m across and averaged 1.50m in depth with a near vertical northern face, a more gradual southern face and a flat base (Fig. 4). Its basal fills indicated it had remained open for a considerable period, as they comprised eroded brickearth from the sides of the cut, up to c. 0.50m thick, sealed by a 0.20m thick formation of compressed decayed organic matter containing occasional domestic waste. This humic layer produced fragments of Cheam ware (CHEA) dated 1350-1450 and a small sherd of Frechen stoneware (FREC), the latter indicating the initial infilling of the ditch occurred no earlier than the last half of the 16th century. The environmental evidence from this layer was dominated by

chenopods (rapid colonisers of disturbed nutrient-rich soils), and weeds of disturbed ground such as dock (*Rumex* sp.), chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and sun spurge (*Euphorbia heliosopia*), the latter indicating that the ditch was kept open and was frequently disturbed. A few damp ground taxa such as sedges (*Carex* sp.) and spike rush (*Eleocharis* subg. *Palustres*) were also present, suggesting that more established vegetation could survive in some places.

The humic accumulation was sealed by a dump of clean sandy gravel, mainly located on the southern face of the cut. The clean nature of the gravel indicates that it had not been reworked and was possibly quarried from a source close to the ditch. The maintenance of the ditch as a boundary division was evidently becoming increasingly less important, as sealing the gravel was a series of silty clay deposits including much domestic refuse dating to the late 16th to mid 17th century. These horizons also included cess deposits that contained fig and blackberry seeds, a few charred cereal remains (bread type wheat *cf.* Barley and oats) and possible medicinal plants (henbane and hemlock) which all suggest close proximity to habitation.

Broadly contemporary with the boundary ditch, a linear feature aligned east-west was dug to the north. It truncated the now fully silted-up pre-15th century ditch. The new alignment ran parallel to the present day Cockspur Street, and as such probably functioned as an early roadside boundary ditch. The primary fill produced an environmental assemblage dominated by white horehound seeds, an introduced medicinal plant that had become naturalised on wasteground alongside disturbed and wet ground taxa.¹⁹

The roadside and the major north-west/south-east boundary ditches finally went out of use and were deliberately backfilled during the late 17th century, as part of a major phase of ground levelling and clearance prior to construction. The latest fill of the roadside ditch produced an interesting fragment of a South Netherlands tin-glazed earthenware (SNTG), an altar vase with blue-on-white decoration depicting a probable cross and the IHS monogram, dated to the early to mid 16th century (Fig 5.1).²⁰

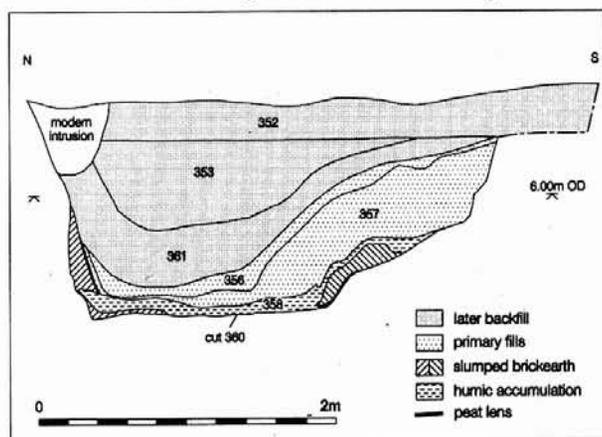


Fig. 4: boundary ditch profile

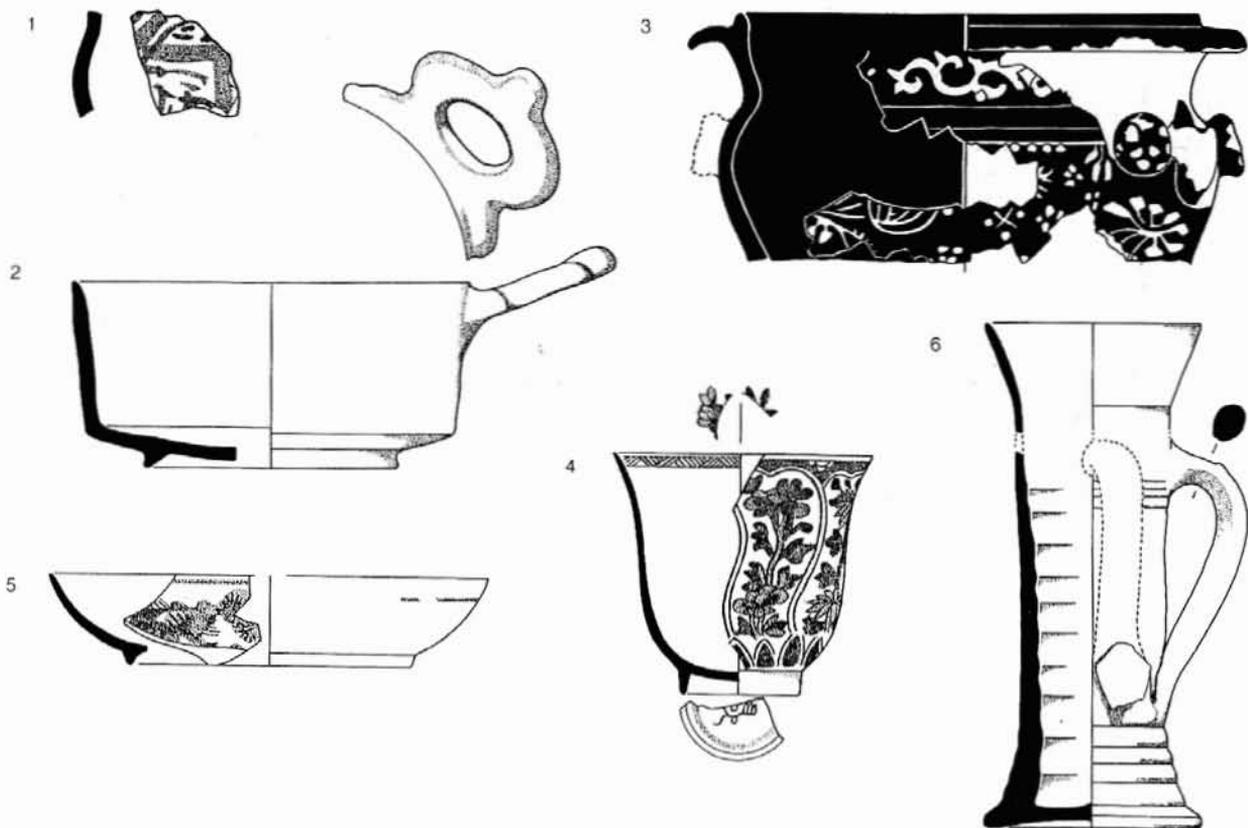


Fig. 5: pottery

The backfilling deposits of the roadside ditch also contained evidence of pin manufacture, a low status occupation in the late 15th/16th century, in the form of a pinner's tool used for making pins from metal wire. The upper limits of both features comprised ground levelling dumps that had sealed or slumped into the top of the cuts. Small fragments of casting waste located in the levelling dumps indicated small-scale industry near the site in the 17th century.

In the west of Trench 1 was a series of probable horticultural features relating directly to the life of the Spring Garden. The cuts were generally shallow and ovoid, arranged on a rough north-south alignment. They had naturally silted with homogenous green-stained sandy silts, containing little in cultural material although the fragmentary pottery and clay tobacco pipes did not pre-date 1450. The green staining probably derived from the leeching of phosphates from manured fields or from the presence of copper salts.

Later post-medieval features

The post-medieval structural remains on the site reflected the increasing urbanisation of the area from the 17th century onwards. The recorded features included isolated brick-lined cuts such as drains, wells, cess pits/soakaways and stratified brick-built structures and floors, from cellar/basement levels.

Following the deliberate backfilling of the boundary ditches, a programme of ground levelling took place, followed by a phase of construction that dated to the 18th century. An 18th/19th century domestic structure was built over the backfilled north-west/south-east boundary ditch; it comprised an east-west aligned brick wall abutted by a roughly rectangular area of mortar floor and a brick-lined cess pit/soakaway (originally this probably had a wooden frame, indicated by several keying holes located at 0.30m and 0.55m from the base of the walls).

The primary fill of the cess pit contained the largest pottery assemblage from any feature on site (184 sherds); nearly half of the deposit comprised domestic pottery, including fragments of a Dutch slipware bowl, Border wares, post-medieval redware, Normandy and Frechen stonewares. The tin-glazed earthenwares consisted mostly of plain white wares: plates as well as several porringers with triangular side handles with holes²¹ (Fig. 5.2). The decorated tin-glazed earthenwares consisted mainly of Orton style D chargers with abstract designs including a vessel dated to 1625-55²² and two bowls in style H dated to 1690-1800, with decoration stylistically dateable to c. 1690-1710.

Over time the east-west aligned wall and cess pit had slumped to the south into the backfilled ditch deposits. Remedial action to rectify the subsidence took the form of a series of deeply cut stake/posts that ran parallel to the wall and acted as either a scaffolding support to the slumped wall, or to higher structural features of the building.

The cess pit was backfilled with demolition rubble and sealed by a 0.35m thick silty clay deposit. The capping deposit was truncated by an irregular, roughly linear cut, associated with the demolition of the building, the finds of which included a 17th-century engraved personal seal implying a certain status with the need to authenticate documents (Fig. 6.1).

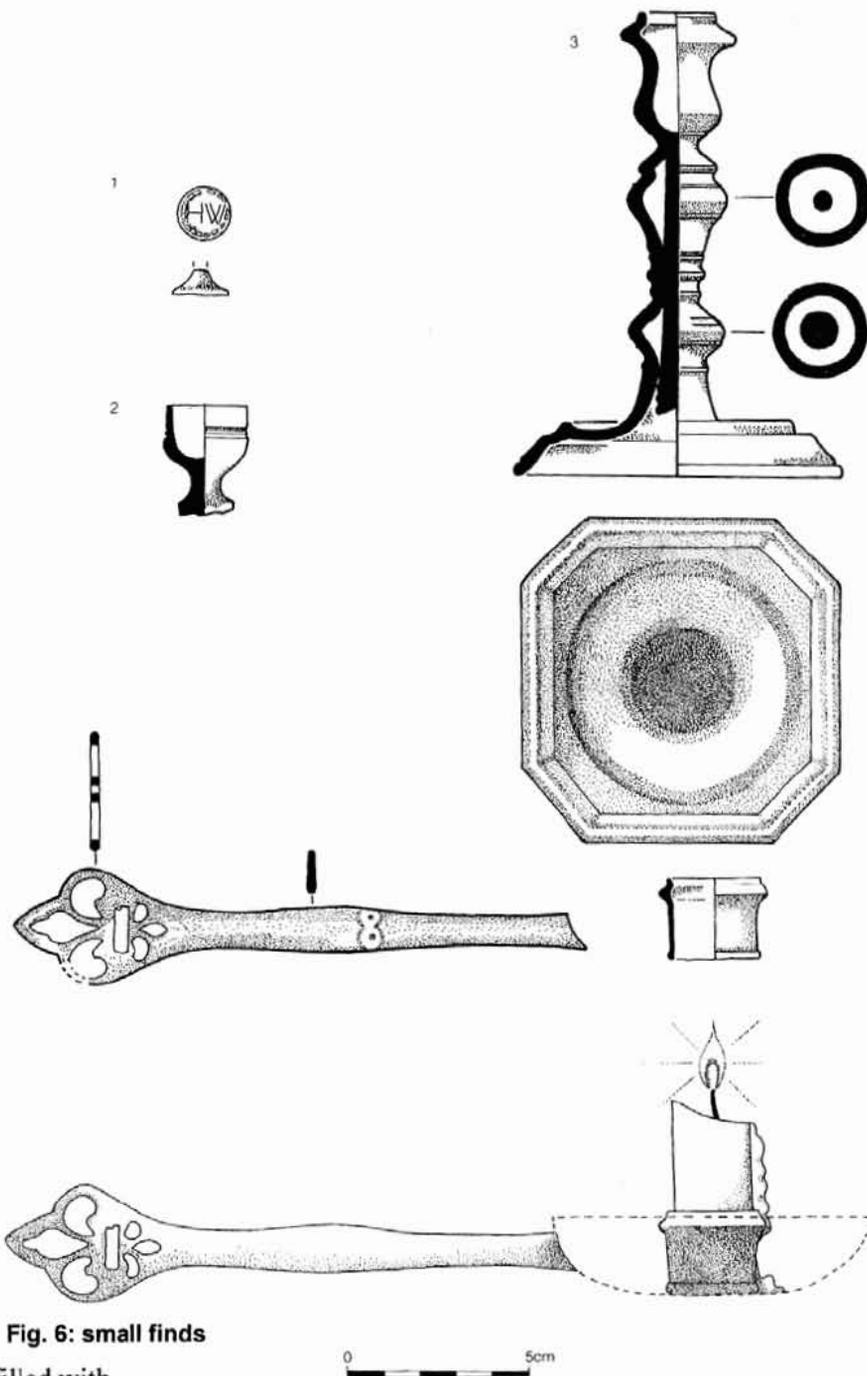


Fig. 6: small finds

Located in the east of Trench 2 were several features which were possibly part of the same structure, including a robbed wall footing that had truncated an earlier posthole. To the east the footing had truncated a north-south aligned brick floor which was observed intermittently along the length of the eastern edge of Trench 2. The bricks

from the floor were aligned at approximately 90° to structure B (Fig. 7) indicating their contemporaneity. The floor had been partly resurfaced with bricks of the same fabric, but bonded by a different mortar.

The most extensive structural evidence consisted of a truncated basement (structure D) (Fig. 7), comprising east-west aligned brick walls bonded to a north-south wall and brick floor, backfilled with a demolition layer dating from the 18th century. Located at the east of the basement, and heavily truncated by modern intrusions, were the fragmentary remains of probably contemporary brick floors and associated make up layers.

Before the basement's demolition it had been subdivided by the insertion of an internal north-south wall and an east west wall forming a square area re-used as a cess pit. The cess pit was backfilled by a dark grey-brown clay silt containing much domestic waste dating to the mid-18th century. The pottery from this feature included fragments of a BORDG dish, a post-medieval black-glazed ware bowl, brown-glazed Red Border ware chamber pot, post-medieval redware, a London stoneware (LONS) cylindrical drinking mug, and tin-glazed ware chamber and ointment pots. The latest dated tin-glazed ware was a Persian blue (TGW E) rounded jar, with knobs on its shoulder, with a white botanical painting on a dark blue background, dated to the 1680s (Fig. 5.3). The

finewares included fragments of imported blue and white Chinese porcelain tea bowls (Fig. 5.4) and a saucer (Fig. 5.5), expensive imports only affordable by the upper classes until the turn of the 18th century.

The cess pit also produced a notable high status group of three different elaborate forms of copper alloy candlestick dated to the early/mid 18th century. They include Candle-holder A with a cast stick, a moulded cup and a splayed base, with a height of 27mm and an internal diameter of cup 20mm (Fig. 6.2). Candle-holder B has an elaborately moulded cast octagonal stem with a height of 135mm, that originally screwed onto an octagonal moulded base, measuring 87 x 87mm, with a deepish drip well with a diameter of 16mm (Fig. 6.3).²³ Candle-holder C, a chamber stick, comprised two elements; an incomplete cast cup with a height of 20mm and an internal diameter of 22mm and moulding at the top, which probably went with two fragments of a decorative handle which overall survives for 155mm; with expanded finial having openwork stylised *fleur de lis*; broken at a pair of turned circle-and-dot motifs (Fig. 6.4).

Two further brick-lined cellars were located during the excavation, both dating to the late 18th/19th century. The more complete structure A (Fig. 7) comprised three walls bonded together; the structure was truncated by modern wall

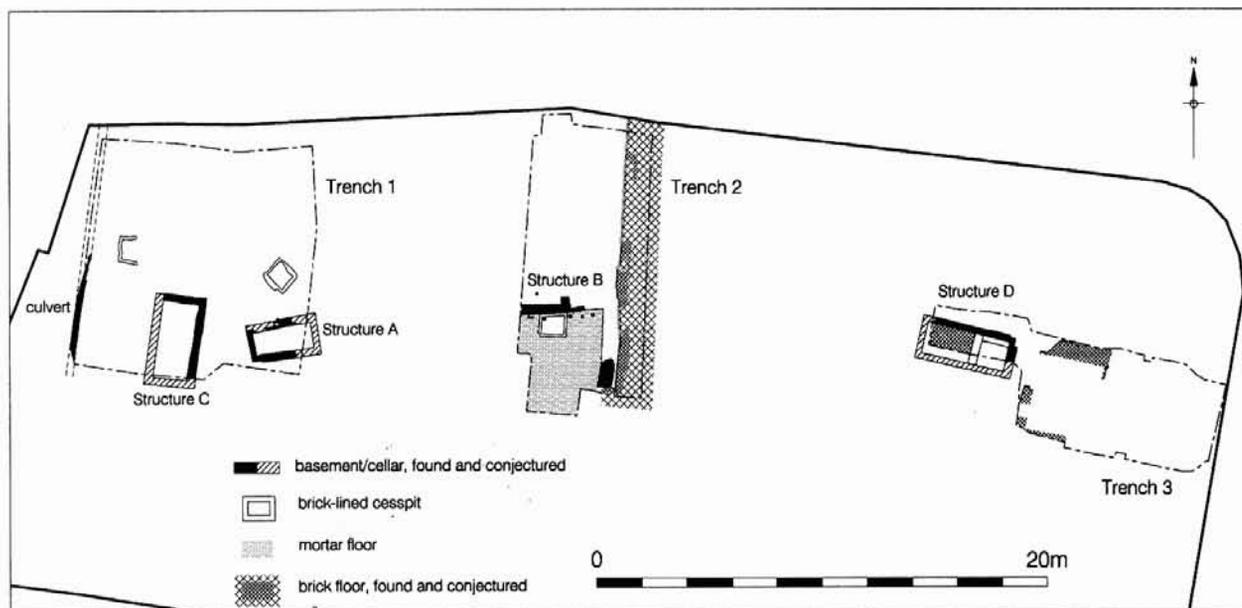


Fig. 7: 18th and 19th century structures

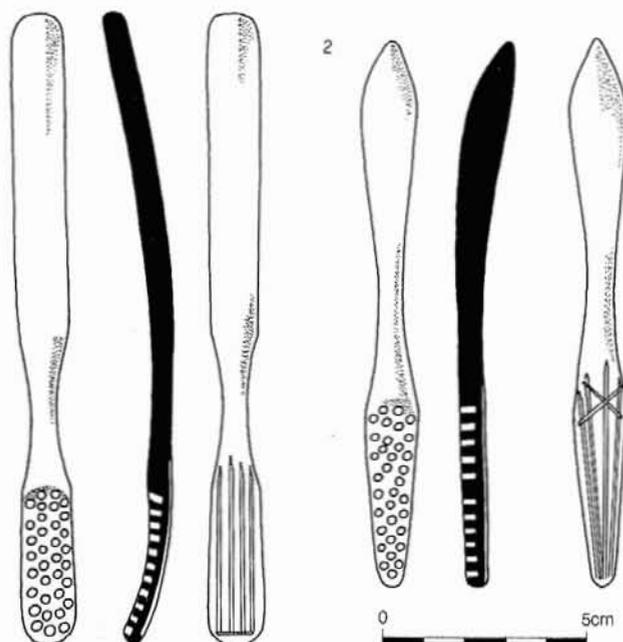


Fig. 8: toothbrushes

foundations to the east. The northern wall was built of three contemporary trench-built brick piers with a wall laid over them; the piers were free-standing on their southern face. Due to the soft nature of the fills between the piers, it is probable that some form of wooden shuttering would have been employed to stop erosion from the sides. Finds included a post-medieval black ware tyg (Fig. 5.6).

The second brick-lined cellar (structure C) (Fig. 7) was positioned in the south of Trench 1 and comprised a 2.40m length of north-south wall bonded to a 1.60m length of east-west wall. No floors were located within either of these two cellars, and as no clear occupation horizons were evident their function remains unclear. Both were deliberately backfilled in the 19th century.

To the north of structure A was a 1.20m square brick-lined cess pit of contemporary or slightly later date (Fig. 7). The primary fill, a humic clay silt, was sealed by a deposit that contained much domestic waste and cess deposits. The faunal assemblage from this cess pit exhibited a high percentage of rodent gnawing and was the only feature on site to produce actual rat bones, indicating they may have lived/fed among the cess and household rubbish.

Several isolated features of mid- to late-19th-century date that were located during the

excavation were associated with this phase of activity. To the north-west of the backfilled cellar, structure C, was a square fireplace which contained an assemblage of bone toothbrushes (Fig. 8), and in the west of Trench 1 was a north-south aligned culvert. A truncated pitched tile hearth was also revealed on the baulk beyond the limits of excavation in Trench 2, overlaying a north-west/south-east orientated 19th century wall (with a circular post setting), running parallel to the former boundary ditch.

During the evaluation work, the fragmentary remains of a number of 18th and 19th century features were located, including brick-lined pits, drains, floors, walls and gravel/mortar surfaces. Located near the south-west corner of the site was an extensive brick-lined well that measured 1.10m across the central shaft and at least 3.00m deep, indicative of the high water table of the area.

Discussion

The excavations at Cockspur Street have shown the increased use of this area of London from the medieval period onwards. Medieval activity at the site seems to be restricted to occasional quarrying for brickearth and the periodic disposal of butchery waste. Quarrying for brickearth and gravel in the general area of the site seems to have been practised since the middle Saxon period, with the features at Cockspur Street dating to the late medieval/Tudor period. The later and more extensive boundary ditches and horticultural features at Cockspur Street appear to relate directly to the laying out and use of the Spring Garden in the 16th century and the formalisation of the Cockspur Street alignment. The larger north-west/south-east aligned ditch seeming to correspond directly to an earthwork shown on the Agas map of the area.

The archaeological evidence indicates relatively high status from the medieval period; occasional evidence of low status industries before the 19th century is suggested by the presence of a tool for the manufacture of metal pins and a few fragments of casting waste. The close proximity of the royal palaces and parks is reflected in the presence of imported pottery from the late 15th century onwards, possibly attributable to local merchants or nobles.

The faunal assemblages from all the phases at Cockspur Street contain relatively high proportions of good quality meat-yielding bone, suggestive of domestic activity and close proximity to habitation.²⁴ For instance, fallow deer haunches represent evidence of high status food in the backfill of the 17th century roadside ditch.

The 18th/19th century cess pits produced a faunal assemblage commensurate with the domestic (kitchen and table) waste nature of these deposits. The assemblage showed greater numbers of high quality butchered meat-yielding bones from cattle, sheep and pig than earlier phases, as well as the first presence of rabbit and hare.²⁵ The relative quality of meat yield shows a peak for the best quality bones for sheep from the site at this time, although cattle still provide a greater bone weight. The increasing high status of the inhabitants can also be inferred by an increase in the consumption of younger animals, due to the residents' ability to afford more choice cuts of meat. Post-cranial cattle fragments exhibiting a juvenile surface texture suggest the consumption of veal.

The analysis of the faecal deposits from the cess pits stressed the importance of cereals in the post-medieval diet; the second most frequent seeds came from *Rubus* spp, including blackberry and raspberry. Native fruits and nuts such as elderberries, apples, hazelnuts, sloes, cherries, plums, strawberries and blackcurrants were evident, although only the latter two were of sufficient size to indicate they were from cultivated species.²⁶ Exotic imported food stuffs included fig, grape, walnut and olive. Plants

possibly used for medicinal purposes included fennel (to expel wind), figs (digestive complaints), hemlock (sedative and antispasmodic) and rowan (for sore throats and to prevent scurvy). The post-medieval features at Cockspur Street produced a number of high status items, specifically the elaborate candlesticks and imported Chinese porcelain, which confirm the wealth of the area from the 17th century onwards. The late 19th century would have seen increasing urbanisation in the area resulting in overcrowding and the subsequent problems of sanitation and hygiene, evidenced by the presence of rat bones, a commensal pest, and by the large number of fly puparia in one of the cess pits.

Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) would like to thank Trevor Osborne Properties Limited for funding the archaeological work at Cockspur Street, and Richard Hughes of Ove Arup and Partners for his help and advice. This synthesis includes contributions from Chris Jarrett (pottery and clay tobacco pipe), Ken Sable and John Brown (ceramic building materials), Robin Bendrey (mammal bone), Geoff Egan, Lynn Keys and Ellen Swift (small finds), Peter Moore (glass objects) and Wendy Carruthers (environmental). The illustrations were produced by Josephine Brown, Kate and Helen Davies. The author would like to thank all who worked on the site specifically Douglas Killock, and gratitude is extended to Gary Brown and Frank Meddens who project managed the investigations and commented on this report.

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1. Cockspur Street derives its name from the cocks' spurs sold here to arm cocks for fighting. The sport was probably introduced by the Romans and was certainly practised in the 12th century. King Henry VIII was a keen follower and insisted on a cockpit in his sports complex at Whitehall Palace; there was also a less exclusive cockpit at Birdcage Walk.
 2. The archaeological investigations comprised 21 trial pits and three excavation trenches centred on concentrations of features defined in the preliminary phase. They were supervised from 1-3/9/97 and 14-21/3/99 by Douglas Killock and from 23/8-10/9/99 by Chris Pickard.
 3. Boreholes were monitored by Martin Bates of University College London, the results of which form a separate archive report.
 4. R. Cowie, R. L. Whytehead and L. Blackmore 'Excavations at the Peabody site Chandos Place, and the National Gallery' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 40 (1989) 35-176; C. Pickard (forthcoming) 'A Middle Saxon Semi-Rural site at the National Portrait Gallery' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc*.
 5. P. H. Sawyer *Anglo-Saxon Charters. An Annotated List and Bibliography* 1968 (Royal Hist Soc, London) no. 670.

6. Following a dispute in 1222 the estate was reduced at its eastern limits and declared exempt from the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the bishops of London; G. Rosser 'The Essence Of Medieval Urban Communities: The Vill of Westminster 1200-1540' in Holt and Rosser (eds) *English Medieval Towns* (1990), 216-237.
7. The Charing, or Eleanor, Cross was one of twelve crosses erected by Edward I in honour of his Queen, Eleanor of Castille. A cross was erected at every stopping point of the funeral cortege's journey to Westminster Abbey in 1290.
8. King Edward I was probably responsible for establishing the King's Mews; the Mews housed falcons and hawks for the king's sport (a mew being a cage or coop).
9. The Oxford English Dictionary gives as one meaning of 'spring' as "a plantation of young trees, especially one inclosed and used for rearing and harbouring game" and it seems probable that it was in this sense that the Spring Garden was first called.
10. In 1610 a John Browne of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, had to answer for "receaving and eating two phaesantes which were stolen forth of the Spring Garde at Whitehall being the kinges Phaesentes" *Survey of London* 20 (1940), 58 and endnote 86.
11. Works accounts from the time of James I recount the laying of a bowling green, butts for the prince, a birdhouse, a paved pond or bathing pool, and the planting of orange trees and other fruit in the Spring Garden.
12. A letter of Viscount Conway dated 31st October 1635, states that he "has taken two chambers in the Spring Garden, but must furnish them".
13. On two plots of land owned by Katherine Crofts (daughter of Lord Crofts) was an open stable yard with a horse pond, which until 1720 was used in common by the lessees of the Spring Garden.
14. J. Brown 'Building Materials report for 25-34 Cockspur Street and 6-8 Spring Gardens' (unpublished report) Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
15. A possible earlier date for this feature can be suggested, since at 5 Excel Court (Bruce 97) and the National Gallery (Cowie *et al*, *op cit* fn 4) to the north of the site quarries of middle Saxon date were not fully backfilled until several centuries later. They had been left open and allowed to fill up gradually, resulting in a lack of cultural material in the lower fills, as at Cockspur Street.
16. R. Bendrey 'The Mammal Bone from Excavations at 25-34 Cockspur Street, City of Westminster, London WC2' (unpublished report, 2000) Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
17. *Ibid*.
18. D. J. Rackham 'Physical remains of medieval horses' in J. Clark *The Medieval Horse and its Equipment* London HMSO (1995) 169-174.
19. A. Kruger *The Pocket Book of Herbs* Parkgate Books (1992), cited in W. Carruthers 'The Analysis of Charred, Waterlogged and Mineralised Plant Remains from Five Environmental Samples from 25-34 Cockspur Street & 6-8 Spring Gardens, City of Westminster, London WC2' (unpublished report, 2000) Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
20. S. Jennings *Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich* East Anglian Archaeology no. 13 (1981), 000.
21. Porringers were used either for serving semi-liquid food eaten with a spoon, or by doctors as bleeding bowls for letting blood. No other vessels in this assemblage served a medicinal function and therefore the former function is assumed, see C. Jarrett 'Post-Roman Pottery Assessment from 25-34 Cockspur Street & 6-8 Spring Gardens, City of Westminster, London WC2' (unpublished report, 2000) Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
22. M. Archer *Delftware. The Tin-glazed earthenware of the British Isles*. London, HMSO (1997), 96; cited in Jarrett, *op cit* fn 21.
23. See R. F. Michealis *Old Base Metal Domestic Candlesticks from the 13th to the 19th Century*; fig 156 middle shows a similar but slightly earlier version with a shallower well, cf G. Egan, and L. Keys 'The Small Finds from 25-34 Cockspur Street & 6-8 Spring Gardens, City of Westminster, London WC2' (unpublished report, 2000) Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
24. R. Bendrey 'The Mammal Bone from excavations at 25-34 Cockspur Street, City of Westminster, London WC2 Environmental Report' (unpublished, 2000) Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
25. T. O'Connor *Selected Groups of Bones from Skeldergate and Walmgate* (The Archaeology of York 15, 2). London; Council for British Archaeology, 1984.
26. Strawberries have been the subject of plant breeding experiments since the 18th century, with the result that by the 19th century large fruited varieties of the Chilean strawberry, *Fragaria chiloensis*, had been developed. Blackcurrants were originally valued for their medicinal properties, until the 19th century when breeding increased their size; see F. A. Roach *Cultivated Fruits of Britain* (1985), cited in W. Carruthers, *op cit* fn 19.