

Excavations at Pevensey, Sussex, 1962-6

By A. J. F. DULLEY

The village of Pevensey in Sussex is the shrunken remnant of a medieval port of modest importance. Between 1962 and 1966 several sites on the fringe of the present built-up area were investigated and one was excavated in some detail.¹ At three points the original shore line was found, with traces of quays or retaining walls at two of them. The main site was adjacent to these and revealed a series of buildings from the 12th to 14th centuries. Another occupation-area south of the church was also explored. The pottery and other finds testify to cross-Channel and coastal trade.

HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY

PEVENSEY² stands about a mile from the sea at the eastern end of a low peninsula of sands and clays surrounded by what is now reclaimed marsh but in the early middle ages was in part a tidal lagoon. The marshes north of the town were mostly drained by the 13th century, but one of the two principal tidal channels, Pevensey Haven, washed the tip of the peninsula and was navigable by small ships until the 17th century, though with increasing difficulty and periods of total inaccessibility after c. 1300.

The origins of the town lie probably in the century before the Norman conquest, which gave the place added importance as a port and as the centre of the Rape of Pevensey, which William the Conqueror assigned to Count Robert of Mortain. The town grew from 52 burgesses in 1066 to 110 in 1086, of whom 60 belonged to the count. In 1292 the successors of the count's burgesses numbered 46, holding 62 tenements. It did not shrink materially until after the middle of the following century. Around 1400 there was a deterioration in the state of the marshes. Agriculture was gradually abandoned in favour of animal husbandry, and population fell. By the reign of Elizabeth I there were only about twenty houses left.

A map of 1595³ enables us to reconstruct the topography of this period. There were then three main streets running parallel the length of the peninsula from the castle and market-place in the west to the bridge (which replaced a ferry c. 1292) and the common marsh on the east. This common marsh, over which the burgagers enjoyed pasture rights, was the last remnant of the medieval

¹ The author is indebted to the Pevensey Memorial Hall Trust, the Vicar and Churchwardens of Pevensey, and the Hailsham R.D.C. for permission to excavate; to the Ministry of Public Building and Works for financing the work; to Mr. G. C. Dunning, Mr. J. G. Hurst and Mr. S. E. Rigold of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments in that Ministry for guidance in the course of excavation and after; to Mr. E. W. Holden for advice and encouragement; and to volunteers too numerous to name for the labour of digging.

² See L. F. Salzmann, 'The inning of Pevensey Level', *Sussex Archaeol. Collns.*, LIII (1910), 30-60; and A. J. F. Dulley, 'The Level and port of Pevensey in the middle ages', *id.*, civ (1966), 26-45.

³ Reproduced in Salzmann, *op. cit.* in note 2, facing p. 56.

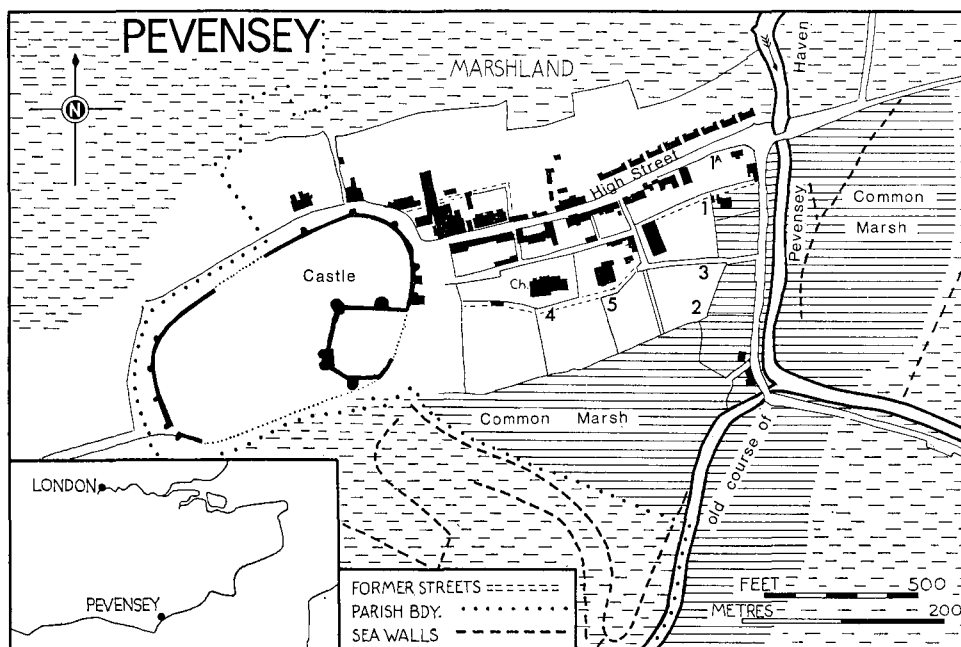


FIG. 55

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

General plan of village with excavated sites numbered (pp. 211 ff.), and inset sketch-map showing position in relation to London.

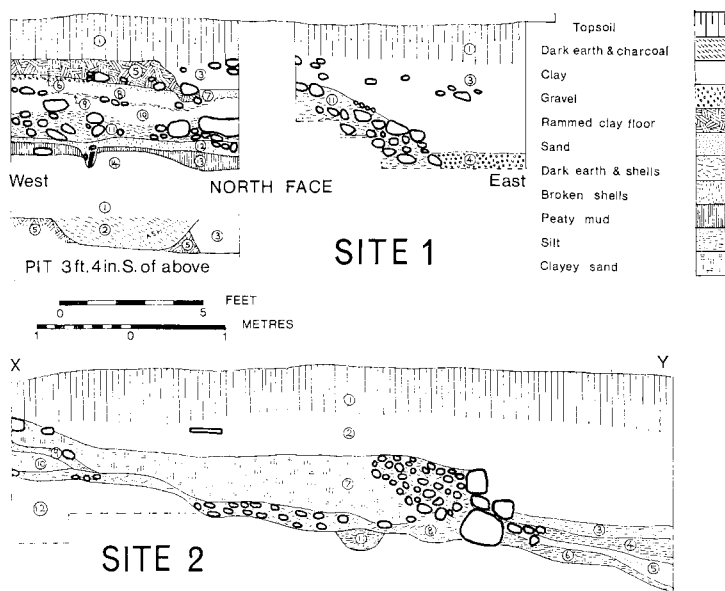


FIG. 56

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Sections, Sites 1 and 2 (letters x and y refer to position on plan, FIG. 57) (pp. 211 ff.).

harbour and had been drained well before 1564. Of the three streets, the northernmost was the principal, and it alone survives complete today. The others have partly disappeared, their remaining portions being linked to form a wandering back lane, although the southern persisted as a right of way until late in the last century, by when it was merely a field path.

THE EXCAVATIONS (FIGS. 55-61)

SITE I (FIGS. 55-6)

This lay in Memorial Hall Field (TQ/64850492), the level of which is about 18 in. higher than the garden to the east. Two trial cuttings were dug here in the hope of finding the original water's edge. They ran E.-W., with their N. faces 41 ft. from the NE. corner of the field, the western cutting being 8 ft. square, and the eastern 8 ft. by 3 ft. Excavation was curtailed because the tenant unexpectedly needed the field for grazing.

A natural surface of compact silt (FIG. 56, top, layer 14) was found at a depth of 5 ft. at the W. end. It sloped down eastwards to the haven, and shortage of time and the inflow of water did not allow its identification in the eastern cutting. Over it was a layer of black peaty mud (13), pierced by a stake. After this had broken, a layer of broken shells (12) accumulated and was sealed by a dump of flints and occupation-debris (11). The flints were water-worn and many were large—up to 2 ft. long—such as could be found at the foot of Beachy Head or the cliffs to the west, six miles away. In the eastern cutting this layer had been cut away, apparently by erosion that left the stones standing out free of their matrix of dark earth. On the west, however, a succession of layers of sand, clay, shells and stones (6-10) had brought the whole to a level surface. On this was found part of a floor of compact yellow clay (5). How far it had originally extended eastwards is uncertain—the erosion had reached it, but what may have been a foundation-trench, filled with stones and clay, appeared to bound it and would have borne a light superstructure.

After the erosion the slope was levelled with a dump of silty clay, typical of the surrounding marsh but not water-laid (3). It contained occupation-debris and had probably been dredged from the haven. A pit (2) dug into it closed the archaeological sequence.

Five phases in the history of the site are indicated: (i) the natural shelving shore, with rubbish accumulating (layers 12-14); (ii) the boulders and their attendant layers to the west (6-11), deliberately laid to raise the area above high watermark; on this was erected a building (5); (iii) erosion and partial collapse; (iv) a second levelling (3); (v) the subsequent dropping and burying of more rubbish (2). It seems reasonable to interpret phase (ii) as a quay, supported probably by a facing of piles farther east, under the adjoining house.⁴ The pottery found within it (FIG. 62, nos. 2-12) dates it not earlier than the early 13th century,

⁴ See Helen Parker, 'A medieval wharf at Thoresby College, King's Lynn', *Med. Archaeol.*, ix (1965), 94-104.

and the few sherds trampled into the clay floor are consistent with this date; there are parallels among material from the castle belonging to a phase earlier than its rebuilding *c.* 1240. The date of phase (iv) and hence the *terminus ante quem* of phase (iii) is less certain. The group of sherds from the pit (layer 2: see FIG. 62, nos. 19–21) is unlikely to be much earlier than *c.* 1280, a date consistent with the

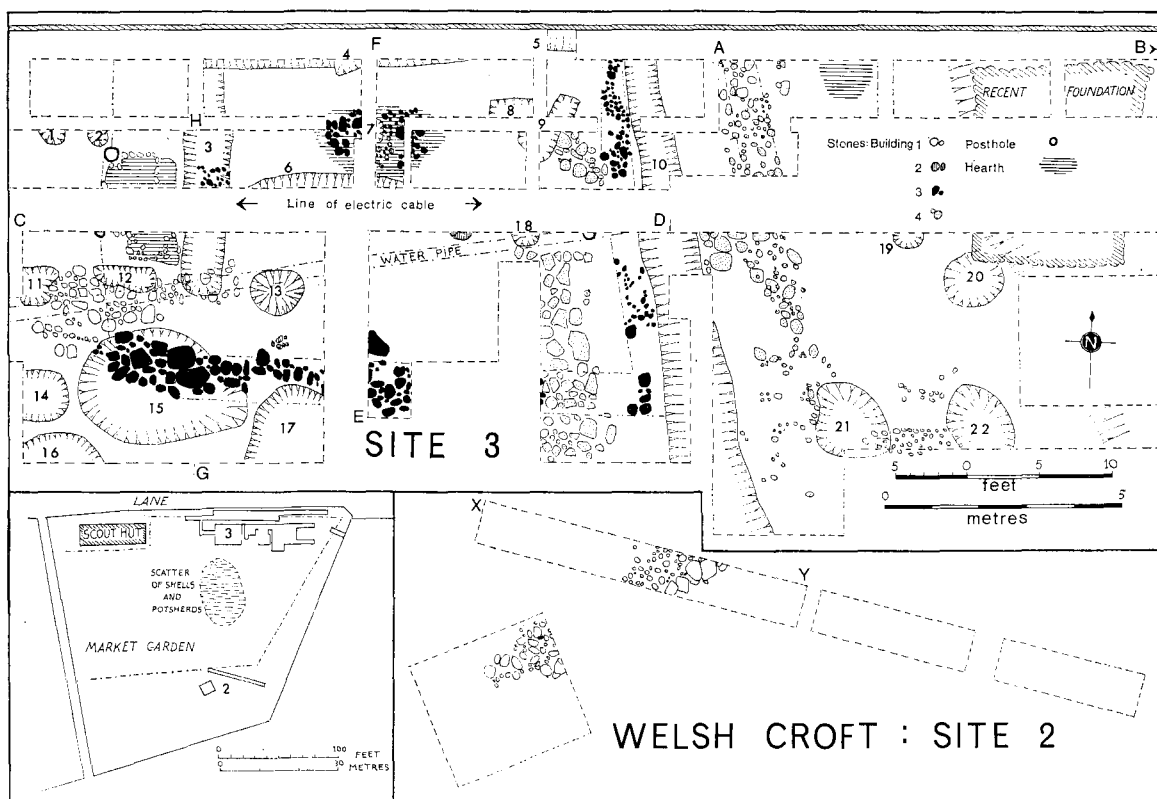


FIG. 57

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Plans of Sites 2 and 3 (letters refer to sections on FIGS. 56 and 59) (pp. 213 f., 216), and small-scale plan showing relative positions of Sites 2 and 3.

latest material from the clay dump. It is tempting, though rash, to associate the erosion with the great flood of 1287, which wrought havoc along this coast and broke sea walls and drowned sheep on the local marshes.

While this site was being excavated, a sewer trench was dug for new houses in the High Street, about 50 yds. to the north-east (TQ/64870498; FIG. 55, Site 1a). The trench was cut N.–S. through silty clay. A seam of whelk shells sloped down to the east. In default of other evidence it may be considered an extension of the clay of phase (iv).

SITE 2 (FIGS. 55-7)

In 1963 cuttings were made in the SE. part of Welsh Croft (TQ/64840482; see plan, FIG. 57) to determine whether the quay extended as far as the S. end of the river front. An initial line of trial cuttings appeared to show that it did. There was a similar surface of compact silt (FIG. 56, bottom, layer 12), barren of finds except for one 12th-century sherd (FIG. 62, no. 22). On this a structure had been built, which the trench had cut diagonally. Behind a face of dry-built sandstone blocks and large flints had been packed smaller stones, shells and sand (8-10). It seemed that after the foundation-course had been laid, flint cobbles and shells had been spread over the slope above. Then sand (7) was dumped on it and the rest of the stones added. The underlying stony layer (8) allowed surface water to percolate through and weep out through the facing stones. This facing was very irregular and had partly collapsed. It is hard to believe that it could have stood long, even to its present height, without support from a timber revetment of some kind. The width of the trial cutting (3 ft.) was too narrow to prove its absence, and, as it was impossible to extend northwards because the land was under cultivation, a square was opened across its presumed continuation to the south. The signs of collapse in the original cutting gave way in this to proof of total ruin. Even its precise line was not certain for more than half the width. However, in both cuttings it was clear that layers of silt (3-6) had accumulated against the foot of the stonework before the whole had been buried in clayey silt (2).

The dating evidence for this sequence was very similar to that from Site 1. Apart from the 12th-century sherd already mentioned, the stones contained a fair quantity of pottery of the early 13th century (FIG. 62, nos. 23-26). Finds from the silt were too few to be of much value, but the final dump incorporated 14th-century material. The stone structure must have been a sea wall rather than a quay. Even allowing for the loss of a foot or so in height, there can hardly have been water enough to float a rowing-boat beside it at most high tides, since there is a considerable variation in tide range (+12 to -8 ft. O.D. at spring tides; +6 to -2 ft. O.D. at neaps).⁵

SITE 3 (FIGS. 55, 57-9)

In the hope of finding the line of the intervening quayside and the buildings behind it, a larger area was excavated along the N. side of Welsh Croft in 1964 and 1965. The whole could not be stripped in one piece because it was partly under crop. The first year's work consisted in making a series of cuttings beside the field wall. These had to be filled into each other because of the limited space available. In the following year it became possible to extend by stages southwards into the field. There had been a good deal of recent disturbance. Nevertheless sufficient remained undisturbed to establish a succession of at least four medieval buildings.

Of the earliest (building 1) the only feature to remain substantially intact was the hearth. This was rectangular, c. 7 ft. by 4 ft., made of flint cobbles set in clay. It had been bisected by a cable trench and may not have been all of one build.

⁵ Information kindly supplied by Mr. C. H. H. Mercer, Engineer to the East Sussex River Board.

Certainly there had been an earlier fire before the N. half was laid. It was impossible to gauge the extent of the building to which it belonged; a scatter of stones to the south may have belonged to its S. wall.

Building 1 lay on the natural surface, which sloped irregularly downwards to the north. Its successor, building 2, was erected on a platform of clay (FIG. 59, layer 18), thus burying the hearth and the occupation-layers surrounding it (22) except their higher parts, which had been scraped down to a level. No trace

remained of walls, but the clay platform covered roughly the area of the later building 3. A circular hearth, again of flints, occupied its centre. The floor had been renewed in patches with thin layers of fresh clay.

Building 2 was taken down and soon replaced by building 3, but in the interval a shallow N.-S. trench (FIG. 59, layer 15) was dug only part of the way across the site and filled with stones, charcoal and rubbish; its purpose is obscure. This, like the rest of the area of the building, was covered with a further layer of clay (14). A new hearth was laid, partly overlapping its predecessor. It was made of small flat pieces of sandstone with one large and irregular piece of slate. The walls of the building could be traced in part. On the east and south were footings of flint and sandstone with a few lumps of slate (FIG. 58). In the SE. corner they were difficult to distinguish from later stonework and had prob-

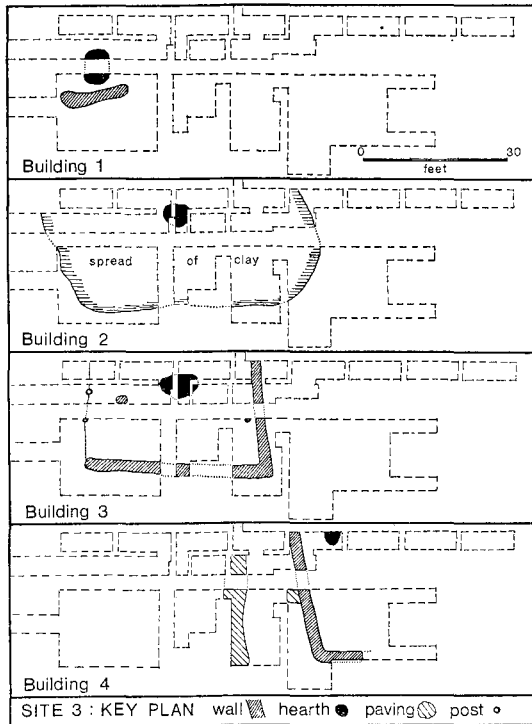


FIG. 58

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Key-plan of Site 3 showing buildings 1-4 (pp. 213 f., 216)

ably been partly robbed. The W. wall had no stone foundations, but appeared to have been framed on wooden posts. Holes for two of these were found, but there may have been others obliterated by disturbances. The N. wall could not be found. It lay under or north of the boundary wall of the field. The lane beyond was there in 1595, and if it follows a medieval street, the building, the approximate dimensions of which were 35 ft. by 25 ft., cannot have extended very much farther to the north. Owing to later pits and trenches, one cannot be certain what the internal arrangements were. There was no sign of any partition, and the floor was uniformly made of the same brown clay, with a certain amount of patching, mainly round the hearth.

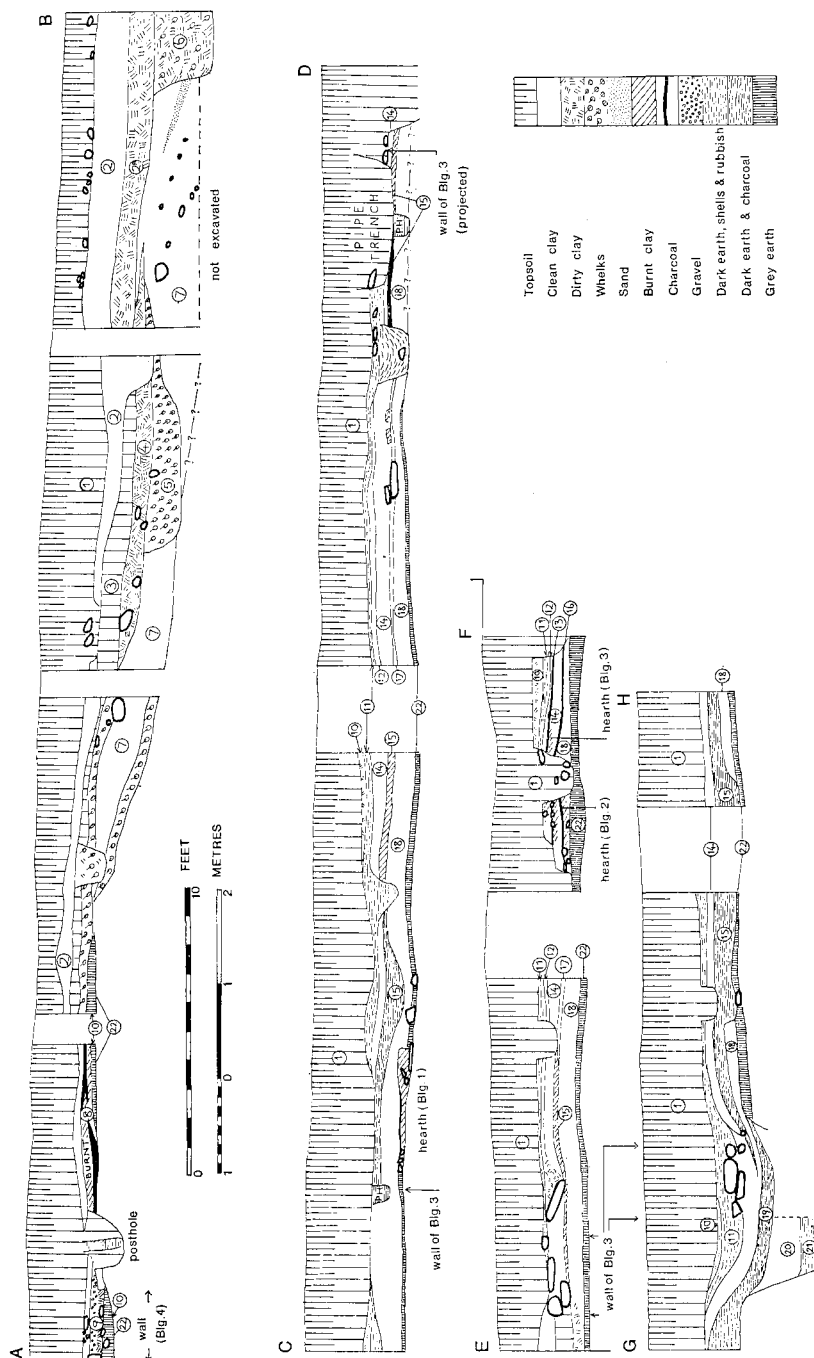


FIG. 59
PEVENSEY, SUSSEX
Sections, Site 3 (letters refer to position on plan, FIG. 57) (pp. 214, 216)

After building 3 became derelict, its site was used as a rubbish-dump, on to which was thrown a large quantity of late 13th- and early 14th-century pottery (FIG. 63, nos. 47–60). While this midden (layer 11) was accumulating, patches of irregular paving were laid over and around the E. wall of building 3, perhaps to give access to building 4, which was now erected to the east of it (FIG. 58, bottom). Only the W. wall of this was at all well preserved, but a short length of similar footings on an E.–W. alignment may have supported part of the S. wall. If so, it was about 30 ft. from north to south, assuming its N. wall was in a corresponding position to that of building 3. The footings were of flints, laid in a shallow trench and set in a matrix of gravel topped with clay. There was no sign of a floor or a made hearth, though a good deal of burning took place in its N. part. The E. side of the building may have been destroyed by the plough or, in part at least, by the construction of a comparatively modern shed, but it is more likely that it was carried away by erosion in the middle ages. About 12 ft. east of the surviving wall the natural ground surface suddenly begins to shelf downwards. On the analogy of Sites 1 and 2, it was expected that remains of a sea wall would be found somewhere between here and the corner of the field. None appeared, but instead there was a succession of layers of dirty clay and shells (4–7), which had accumulated or been thrown on the surface of the slope. Sherds of 15th-century pottery occurred well down among them. Most of the remaining finds appear to be earlier and must have been derived from elsewhere. These layers were well below the level of the adjoining marsh and must have accumulated before it was reclaimed, i.e. well before 1564.

The end of the medieval sequence on this site may therefore be ascribed in round figures to *c.* 1500. Building 4 seems to have been of 14th-century date, while occupation of building 3 had ceased by *c.* 1300. The earlier pottery groups are neither large nor very distinctive, but that associated with building 1 is unlikely to be much earlier than *c.* 1200 (FIG. 63, nos. 36–37).

SITE 4 (FIGS. 55, 60)

A number of exploratory cuttings were made in April, 1963, in the vicarage garden, immediately south of the church (TQ/64690481). The plan of 1595 marks a road here beside the churchyard and a cottage on it facing the church. The road still existed until, late in the last century, the new vicarage was built and its garden extended over it. The part of the garden below the churchyard wall is given over to fruit trees, and an irregular grid of cuttings was made between them.

The road was found to consist of flint metalling with some broken tile and gravel, about 13 ft. in width. Sealed by a thin layer of clay beneath the road were two pits (FIG. 60, nos. 1 and 7), both of which produced medieval sherds. A post-medieval mortared flint foundation (wall 1) ran parallel with the road. It was traced for 42 ft. in cuttings G, H and L, but was absent in cutting B. It was 14 in. wide and had been thickened at H, where pieces of medieval slate were found mortared to its surface. The remains of the 1595 cottage can probably be identified in wall 2, an irregular N.–S. footing truncated by wall 1. The more regular face was to the west. The only trace of a floor was in cutting L, where there were

vestiges of a brownish clay layer, from which came a 15th- to 16th-century sherd. Cutting K was too much disturbed for valid stratification, but a jetton of the 3rd quarter of the 16th century was found resting on one of the stones of the wall.

Cutting E cut across the footings of a third wall, a single course of unmortared flint and sandstone cobbles, about 20 in. wide, comparable in appearance and probably in date with those of building 3 in Welsh Croft. In either direction the wall ran under tree roots, and attempts to trace it beyond met with little success.

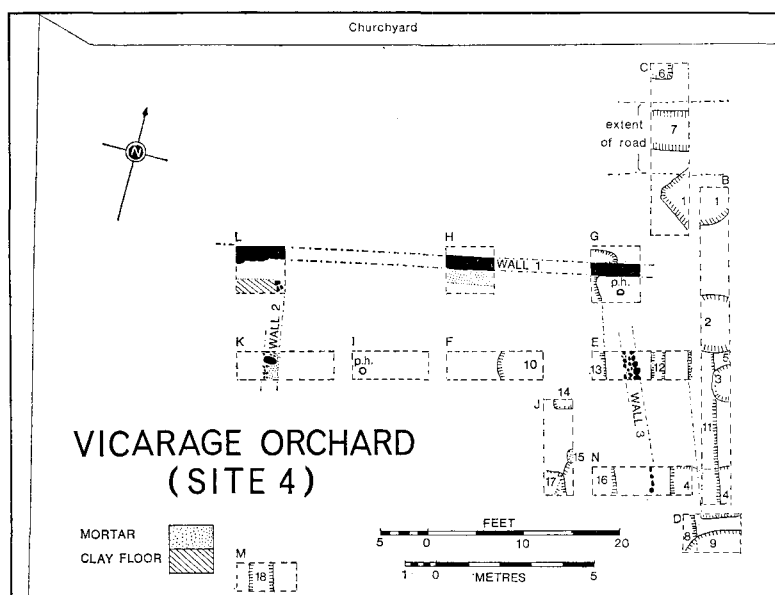


FIG. 60
PEVENSEY, SUSSEX
Plan of Site 4 (p. 216 f.)

Over the stones lay a spread of oyster shells from pit 13, which contained pottery of which none need be later than 1300. This pit was only one of many pits and gulleys in this part of the site, all of roughly the same period, as far as they could be dated. Pit 2 contained the greater part of a Rouen jug of the late 13th century (FIG. 64, no. 70). The occupation-levels to which these pits belonged had been destroyed.

SITE 5 (FIGS. 55, 61)

A search was made in 1966 for further evidence of medieval occupation in the NW. corner of Welsh Croft, midway between Sites 3 and 4 (FIG. 61). A 57-ft. frontage on to the supposed course of the road was examined, but it turned out that modern ploughing had penetrated to the subsoil wherever it was not impeded by 19th-century rubble. The only remaining medieval features were a series of pits. Pit 4 was probably the earliest (early 13th century), while pit 3 produced an

almost complete cooking-pot and large portions of a jug of *c.* 1300 (FIG. 64, nos. 74 and 76). Pit 8 proved to be a bell-shaped clay-pit, about 5 ft. deep, dug in or after the 15th century, after the period when the area was being used as a rubbish-dump, to judge from the comparative sterility of its filling. There were hardly any Tudor finds, despite the fact that the 1595 plan shows a cottage hereabouts.

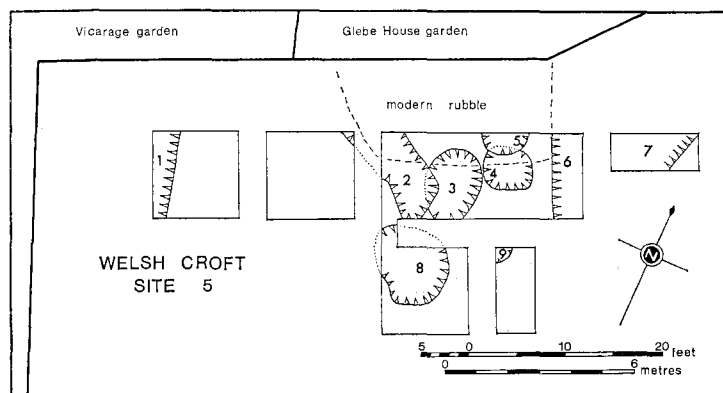


FIG. 61

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Plan of Site 5 (p. 217 f.)

CONCLUSIONS

The sites explored must have been peripheral to the original nucleus of the town, since nothing found could be dated earlier than the 12th century. In view of the pits found under it on Site 4, it is likely that the southernmost street shown on the 1595 plan was, at best, no more than a back lane in the middle ages, with a scatter of buildings adjoining it. In the first half of the 13th century the river bank to which it led was protected by a series of quays and sea walls, and a succession of buildings was erected behind them. The signs of decay begin *c.* 1300 on Site 1, and Site 3 was probably not inhabited after that date, since building 4, unfloored and without a made hearth, has the marks of an outbuilding or shed, in contrast to building 3, which was certainly a house. Site 4 was also less intensively used in the 14th century.

The sea was vital to the town's trade and economy. Continental pottery was in common use down to at least 1300 and formed perhaps 5 per cent. of the total in the midden on Site 3. It came mostly from Normandy but also from Flanders and SW. France. Coasting trade with English ports probably accounts for sherds from Wessex and the London area, for the coal found by the hearth of building 1, and also for the Devon slates. Some of these were intended for roofing, and other roofing materials were uncommon, but a number of larger, irregular lumps probably came as ballast.

Fishing was also important. As a minor member of the Cinque Ports, Pevensey possessed, and doubtless used, valuable privileges at the Yarmouth Herring Fair. There were also local grounds, particularly for mackerel, conger, flat-fish, and oysters and whelks among other shell-fish.⁶ The excavations produced evidence for the consumption of the catch, and also some of the gear used for catching it.

The hearths of buildings 2 and 3 were *c.* 12 ft. above O.D., and that of building 1 nearly 1 ft. lower, i.e. they would be reached by average spring tides at their present level and would be well covered by many of them. Presumably, when laid, they were well above high watermark, which must therefore have risen by at least two or three feet in the intervening centuries, a rise that may have hastened the complex sequences of floods and silting that brought about the decline of the harbour.⁷

THE FINDS⁸

A. THE POTTERY

INTRODUCTION

The bulk of the pottery from all levels consists of a heavily gritted ware with grey core and brown to brownish red oxidized surface. The grit is composed of subangular flint particles with some calcite and ferruginous matter. There is considerable variation in the amount and size of particles in the clay. Three grades are distinguished below, but their boundaries are arbitrary: (a) very copious coarse grit, standing out from the surface, many particles over 1 mm. in diameter; (b) copious grit, but few particles over 1 mm.; (c) sparse grit, the particles generally finer and mixed with sand, and the surface finish smooth.

Generally speaking, the necks and rims alone show wheelmarks, the bodies being built up by hand (e.g. nos. 19, 68, 76). The characteristic rim form is either simply everted (nos. 8, 32), developing into a distinct flange (nos. 24, 27), or, more often, folded over outwards to a triangular profile (nos. 6, 7, 9, 10, 23). In both varieties the later examples have more sharply moulded contours and in particular a tendency to develop an internal hollow below the rim (nos. 19, 20, 34). The less developed forms find parallels in material from the castle belonging to a phase before the rebuilding of *c.* 1240,⁹ the later ones in finds from a house, possibly late 13th-century, at Bramble Bottom, near Eastbourne,¹⁰ but a comparison of the contents of the midden and pit 20 on Site 3 shows that both were in use alongside decorated French jugs that can hardly be earlier than the last quarter of the 13th century.

This gritted ware is clearly related to the local Saxon tradition, but better made and fired than that found in the early Norman castle ditch.¹¹ It was probably a local product; similar grit can be found naturally graded on the present beach, and a Reginald le

⁶ See L. F. Salzmann, article 'Fisheries', *V.C.H., Sussex*, II (1907), 264-71.

⁷ See Charles Green, 'East Anglian sea levels since Roman times', *Antiquity*, xxxv (1961), 21-8.

⁸ The finds have been deposited at the Lewes Museum.

⁹ Information from Mr. S. E. Rigold. See *Med. Archaeol.*, vi-vii (1963), 323-4.

¹⁰ *Sussex Archaeol. Collns.*, xciii (1955), 164, fig. 5, nos. 2, 5, 11 and 12. The dating evidence for this site is not very satisfactory, but it and a surface site at Falkenvil Farm, Saltmarsh, Hailsham, are the only ones to produce close parallels to the Pevensey coarse wares and may indicate the approximate extent of their distribution.

¹¹ *Id.*, xci (1953), 64, fig. 6.

Potere is named as a tenant of the manor in 1292.¹² The kilns must have continued active until at least the late 13th century, but thereafter sandy wares from a variety of sources became more popular.

Higher quality wares had always been obtained from elsewhere, much from the continent, especially Normandy, including both unglazed wares (G. C. Dunning's *Group 14*:¹³ nos. 12, 22, 36, 37, 44), and also glazed Rouen jugs (nos. 66, 67, 70); but some reached Pevensey from farther south-west (nos. 47-9), and also from Andenne (no. 43) and Aardenberg (nos. 51, 73) to the east. Nearer home, there are sherds from Rye (nos. 65, 72), Hastings (no. 60), west Sussex (no. 54), London (nos. 55-7), west Kent (no. 21) and south Wiltshire (no. 39), a coastal distribution that no doubt reflects the pattern of local trade.

CATALOGUE

Site 1 (FIG. 62, nos. 1-21)

- (a) Below quay
 - 1. Rim of cooking-pot in ware *b*, from layer 12.
- (b) Make-up of quay
 - 2-5. From layer 11 (W. trench): 2 and 4 in ware *a*, 3 and 5 in ware *b*; also two others similar to 4.
 - 6. Ware *b*, laminated and very friable, from layer 9.
 - 7, 8. Ware *a*, from layer 7.
 - 9. Ware *b*, also from layer 7.
 - 10, 11. From layer 11 (E. trench): ware *b*; 10 is stabbed beneath rim.
 - 12. Submitted to Mr. G. C. Dunning, who describes it as follows:

'Hard, fine, sandy, whitish ware; the sherd has one red-painted line down to the edge of the base and run underneath; the lines are well spaced, i.e. there is a space of 2 in. to the left of this line. It could be a jug-base (cf. *Antiq. J.*, xxxviii (1958), 209, fig. 2, no. 1 (Pevensey Castle)) or cooking-pot (cf. *Proc. Hants Field Club*, xxi (1960), 137, fig. 2, no. 1 (Winchester)). I incline to the latter, as the sagging base is deeper than usual on jugs.'

From layer 6, which also contained a wall sherd of thin red sandy ware with a patch of dull green glaze, and part of a base in hard grey sandy ware with a few rounded grits. Otherwise all sherds in layers 6-11 were in wares *a* and *b*.
- (c) Trodden into clay floor (layer 5)
 - 13. Ware *c*, apparently rim of lid.
 - 14. Sandy light grey ware with decoration of combed lines, alternately straight and wavy, under thin patchy glaze.
- (d) Silt (layer 4)
 - 15. Ware *b*, grey surface.
- (e) Dump of clay (layer 3)
 - 16. Jug-neck in ware *c*, unglazed.
 - 17. Rim of cooking-pot in ware *a*.
 - 18. Rim of globular neckless jar. Both shape and rim form are unusual for the site, although the fabric is typical ware *c*.

Not illustrated: three sherds of fine hard pink ware with applied rib of triangular section and mottled dark green glaze; an import from Normandy, according to Mr. Dunning.

¹² P.R.O., Rentals and Surveys, S.C.11/663.

¹³ *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 62-71.

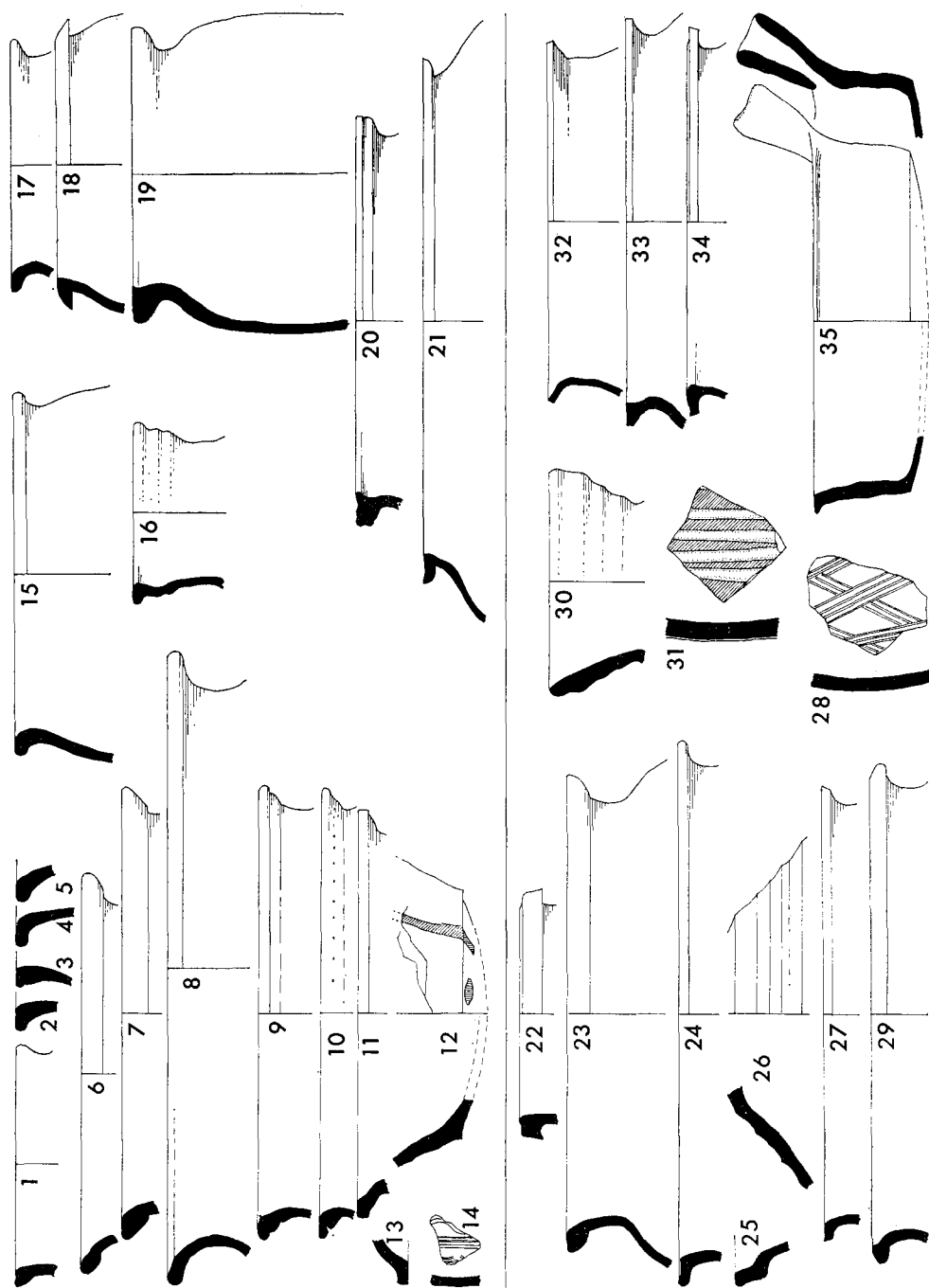


FIG. 62

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Pottery from Sites 1 (nos. 1-21) and 2 (nos. 22-35) (pp. 220, 222). Sc. $\frac{1}{4}$

(f) Pit (layer 2)

19. Most of the profile of a rather deep and narrow cooking-pot in ware *b*. The lower part has shallow vertical flutings inside.
20. Rim in similar ware. The top has two concentric grooves. Cf. *Sussex Archaeol. Collns.*, xciii (1955), 164, no. 2 (Bramble Bottom).
21. Hard sandy grey ware with darker grey surface. Both form and fabric have analogies in W. Kent, e.g. at Joyden's Wood (*Archaeol. Cantiana*, lxxii (1958), 32, no. 2) and at Eynsford Castle, where they occur in deposits of c. 1280–1320 (information from Mr. S. E. Rigold).

Site 2 (FIG. 62, nos. 22–35)

(a) Below quay (layer 12)

22. Hard sandy off-white ware, soot-blackened on outside. An import from Normandy: cf. no. 12 and literature cited.

(b) Among stones of quay (layer 8)

23. One of four similar rims in ware *a*. A fifth has a hollow on the inside (cf. no. 33).
24. Flanged rim, hollow on top, outer edge rounded, in ware *b*.
25. Sandy grey, with orange-buff surface and spot of glaze outside. Rim of jug with trace of attachment of handle.
26. Hard fine sandy ware with some red grits, pinkish white surface and pinker core, surface rilled. Import from Normandy; probably from a lid, rather than a jug. Cf. *Archaeol. J.*, cxxii (1966), 82, no. 24.
Not illustrated: one other jug sherd in coarse sandy orange-buff ware with thin patchy pitted green glaze.

(c) Silt in front of quay

27. Rim in ware *c*, from layer 4.
28. Wall sherd of jug in sandy grey ware with orange inner and red-brown outer surface, bearing combed lattice decoration under patchy olive-green glaze; from layer 4.
29. Rim in ware *a*, from layer 6.

(d) Dump of clay (layer 2)

30. Jug rim in ware *a*, unglazed.
31. Fine sandy ware, grey core with orange surfaces; outside has dark red paint and white applied strips under yellow glaze; worn. Probably an import from London: cf. *London Museum, Medieval Catalogue* (1940), pl. lxiii, no. 1.
- 32, 33. Rims in ware *b*.
34. Thin flanged rim in ware *c*.
35. Skillet with hollow tubular handle in ware *b*, but with black surfaces.
Not illustrated: small sherd from rim of N. French jug in fine cream ware, bearing apple-green crackled glaze with brown spots; wall sherd in fine grey sandy ware, decorated with horizontal grooves under olive-green glaze—a W. Sussex type.¹⁴

Site 3 (FIG. 63, nos. 36–66; FIG. 64, nos. 67–9)

(a) Below floor of building 2 (layer 22)

36. Hard fine sandy cream ware with some large rounded grits.
37. Hard sandy pale buff ware with sparse large rounded grits (up to 4 mm. in diameter); strap-handle with thumbled strip applied down middle.

¹⁴ See K. J. Barton, 'Excavations in the village of Tarring, west Sussex', in *Sussex Archaeol. Collns.*, ciii (1965), 9–27, especially 22–24. I am indebted to Mr. Barton for his comments on this and other sherds from Pevensey.

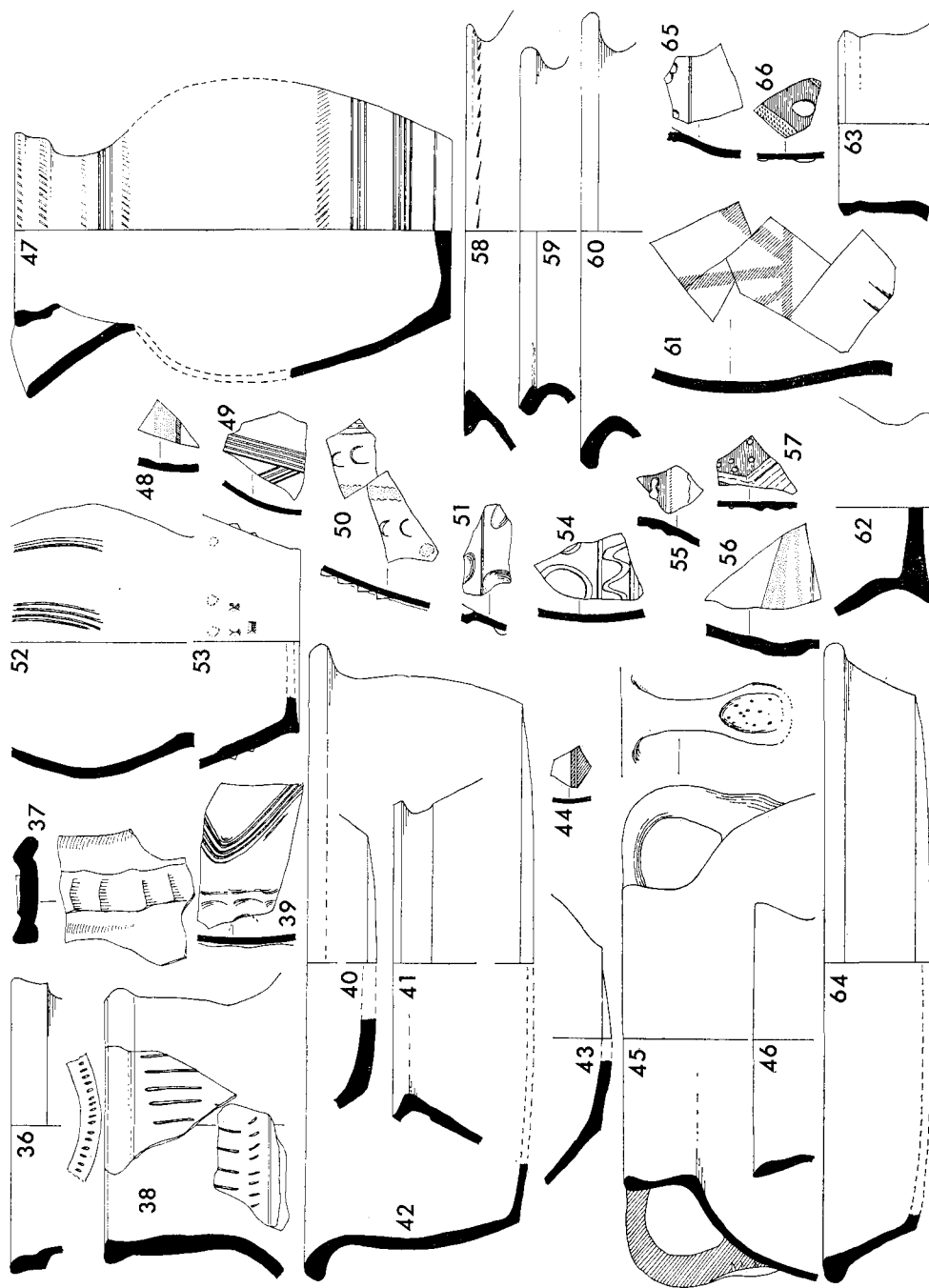


FIG. 63

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Pottery from Site 3 (pp. 222, 224 f., 227), Sc. 1

Both 36 and 37 are imports from Normandy.

Not illustrated: coarse-ware rims similar to nos. 1, 2, 7 (4 rims), 9 and 24 above.

(b) Later than building 2 but below building 3 (layer 15)

38. Three sherds from neck of jug in ware *a*, roughly made and decorated with incised lines.

39. Submitted to Mr. Dunning, who comments as follows:

'Sherd with intense black core and light brown surfaces. The fabric contains admixed grit, consisting mainly of water-worn particles. Both surfaces have a pimply texture, and the outside has a patchy olive-green glaze.

The decoration is in two techniques, applied and incised. The vertical narrow strip is pinched up by the fingers into an irregular ridge. On each side are combed curvilinear bands, forming a vertical wavy pattern.

In all its features, notably the gritty fabric, the glaze and decoration, this sherd is closely matched among the 12th- and early 13th-century tripod-pitchers of south Wiltshire, especially those of Old Sarum (*Wilts. Archaeol. Mag.*, LIX (1964), 147-9, fig. 6, nos. 5-8). The identification of this source for the pot to which the Pevensey sherd belonged has the support of Mr. J. W. G. Musty, who has kindly examined it.

This origin is not so far-fetched as it might at first appear, nor is it isolated as evidence that in the 13th century Wessex pottery travelled long distances, with Southampton as the place of shipment. The same source has been proposed for a jug found on St. Helen's, Isles of Scilly (*Archaeol. J.*, CXXI (1964), 60, fig. 6, no. 2). Another vessel which originated in the Salisbury region is a slender baluster jug found at Ferwerd, Friesland, in the Leeuwarden Museum (G. C. Dunning, 'The trade in medieval pottery around the North Sea', in *Rotterdam Symposium on the Archaeology of Old Towns*, 1966 (forthcoming)).

The explanation of the finding of Wessex pottery so far from its source lies in the trade connexions up and down the English Channel, particularly active during the 13th century. At Pevensey this trade is well demonstrated by the imported roofing slates (see below, p. 231).'

40. Hard fine sandy pink ware with few grits; yellow glaze outside and on bottom, with spots inside. French.

41. Ware *b*; neckless jar or cooking-pot.

Not illustrated: small sherd of strap-handle in ware and glaze similar to no. 40, and unglazed, but otherwise similar, knife-trimmed sagging base; cooking-pot rims similar to nos. 3, 7, 9, 24 and 33. Two, otherwise like nos. 7 and 9, are ornamented with diagonal nicks on the outer edge.

(c) Outside building 3, but earlier than midden

42. Bowl in ware *a*, irregular in shape; surface shows no wheel-marks.

43. Base in hard fine pinkish white ware with few red grits and patchy yellow glaze on exterior. Andenne ware: cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 60-2.

44. Fine hard pink ware with orange slip band and horizontal sgraffito line. French import: cf. *ibid.*, p. 65, no. 3 (from Southampton).

45. Upper part of handled cooking-pot or cauldron in ware *c*, fired red throughout. Cf. K. M. Kenyon, *Excavations at the Jewry Wall Site, Leicester* (Research Report Soc. Antiq. London, xv, 1948), p. 235, fig. 67.

46. Neck of cooking-pot in ware *b*, oxidized throughout. The form is similar to Saxo-Norman pots from East Pallant, Chichester (*Sussex Archaeol. Collns.*, xci (1953), 151), but the ware is indistinguishable from that of sherds of undoubted 13th-century date.

(d) Midden (layer 11)

This produced more than a quarter of the pottery from the site, including over 160 rim sherds, mainly of types already illustrated. One-third resembled no. 33.

47. Rim and base, probably but not certainly, from the same jug, in hard fine sandy greyish pink ware with few red grits, bearing green glaze over decoration of horizontal incised lines and bands of rouletting made by different tools on upper and lower portions. The rim was rouletted before the application of the parrot-beak spout. This form of spout is characteristic of SW. France, but the decoration is not easy to parallel there (cf. K. J. Barton, 'The medieval pottery of the Saintonge', *Archaeol. J.*, CXX (1964), 201-14).
 48. Very fine hard pink ware with few red grits; interior rilled; outside has stripes of brown and light green paint under colourless glaze. Polychrome ware, from SW. France.
 49. Hard fine sandy cream ware with combed decoration under green glaze. French, from a source similar to no. 48.
 50. Hard fine sandy off-white ware with applied triangular-sectioned strips and scales under iridescent green glaze. N. French.
 51. Sandy brick-red ware with horizontal groove and moulded bosses, pressed out from inside; outer surface has coat of white slip and iridescent green glaze. Aardenberg ware. (I am indebted to Mr. J. G. Hurst for this identification.)
 52. Part of biconical jug in hard sandy ware with grey core and brownish buff surface tinged with purple above on outside; it has vertical combed lines and splashes of olive-green glaze. 14th century.
 53. Base of jug in hard sandy greyish white ware with pinkish surface, glazed olive green over decoration of applied diamond-shaped bosses.
 54. Sandy grey ware with orange-buff surface; decoration incised with broad point under thick dark green glaze. From W. Sussex.
 55. Sandy red ware with grey core; bears two raised cordons, between which a band of red is exposed, the rest of the surface being covered with white slip; there is also a pellet of slip on the red band; yellow glaze. Cf. no. 31.
 56. Sandy grey ware with brown surfaces; bears part of raised design (bird?) decorated with strokes of red paint under crackled yellow glaze.
 57. Fine hard sandy grey ware with applied carinated strips and pellets under yellow glaze.
Nos. 55-7 are probably imports from the London area.
 58. Sandy brown ware with grey core and few fine calcite grits; knife incisions below rim. 14th century.
 59. Hard sandy grey ware, with rim formed by folding inwards. 14th century.
 60. Sandy pinkish buff ware with greyer core. Similar to sherds from the kiln-site at Bohemia, Hastings, now in the Hastings Museum.
- (e) Accumulation over river bank
61. Four sherds from wall of jug with traces of thumbing at base; sandy grey ware with orange-buff outer surface, decorated with brown paint beneath patchy dull green glaze. From layer 7.
 62. Base of jug in sandy grey ware with orange-buff surfaces and light olive-green glaze, thick on inside, patch on outside and base. From layer 7.
 63. Hard sandy ware with dark grey core and red skin under dark grey surface with spots of olive-green glaze; neck of jug with traces of attachment of handle. Late 14th or 15th century. From layer 4.
- (f) Below wall of building 4 (pit 21)
64. Hard sandy red ware with grey core and green glaze on lower half of interior. 14th century.
- (g) Unstratified: miscellaneous sherds from decorated jugs
65. Sandy buff ware with grey core; decorated with horizontal groove and stamped 'raspberry' pattern. A product of the Rye kiln (cf. *Sussex Archaeol. Collns.*, LXXIV (1933), 48, pl. 3).

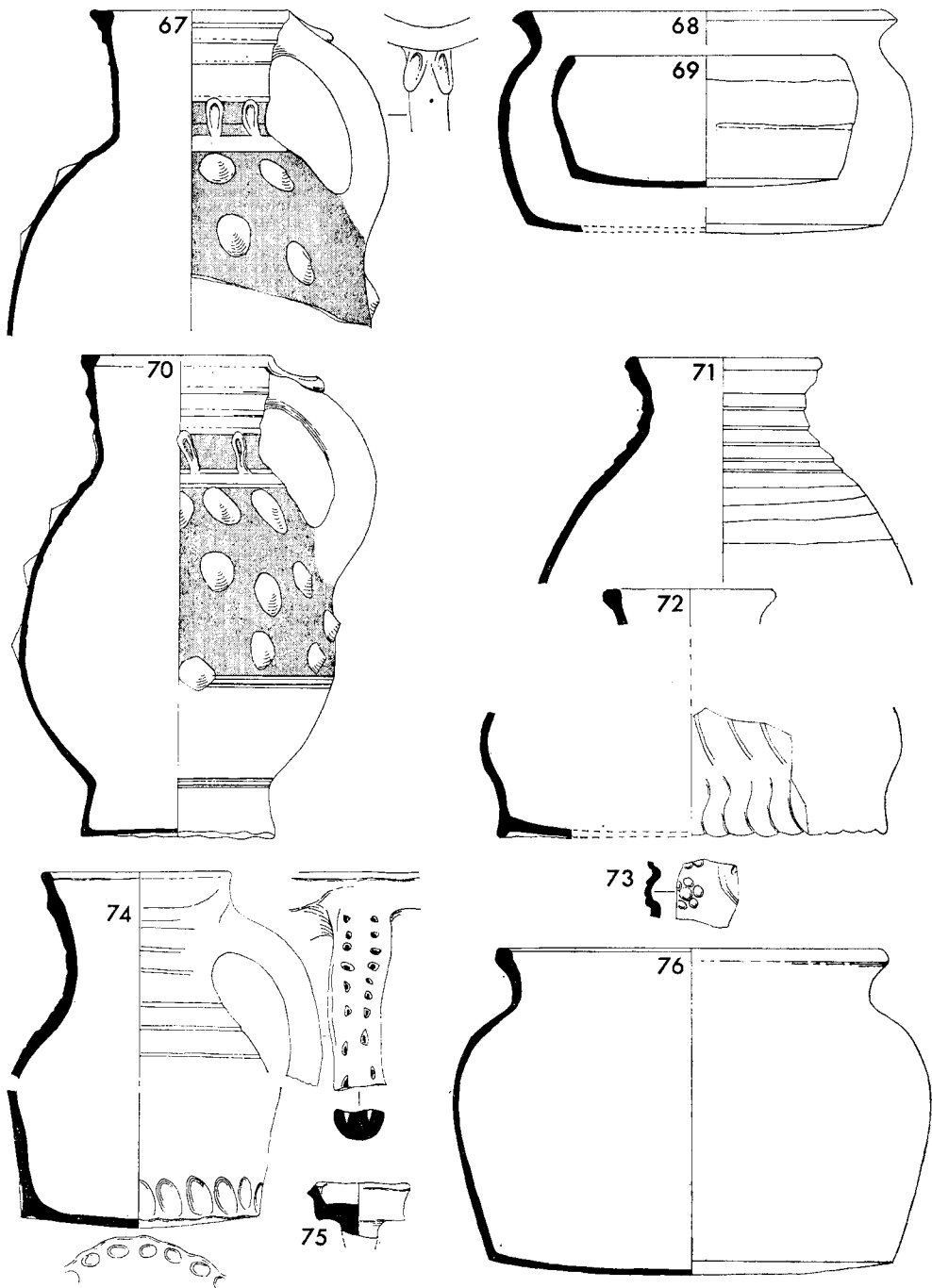


FIG. 64

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Pottery from Sites 3 (nos. 67-9), 4 (nos. 70-2) and 5 (nos. 73-6) (p. 227). Sc. $\frac{1}{4}$

66. Fine hard sandy greyish pink ware, painted red outside, over which are applied diagonal rouletted strips with a pellet between them; yellow glaze. From Rouen: cf. *Archaeol. J.*, CXXII (1966), 76, no. 4.
- (h) Pit 20
67. Upper half of jug in similar ware to no. 66. The red paint is applied rather carelessly in two horizontal zones, one on the lower part of the neck, the other on the body. The applied decoration consists of leaf-like loops on the upper zone and conical bosses on the lower. The solid rod handle has two applied spurs on top of the junction with the body. Cf. no. 70 below. From Rouen.
68. Cooking pot in ware *b*.
69. Bowl in ware *b*, apparently coil-made, the junction of the coils coinciding with the irregular horizontal groove.

Site 4 (FIG. 64, nos. 70-2)

The bulk of the pottery conforms to types already described. The following, however, are worthy of note:

70. Jug similar to no. 67, with the profile in this instance complete. The red-painted zone on the body is defined at its lower edge by two incised grooves. A similar pair of grooves divides the body from the pedestal base, the angle of which is lightly thumbled, a feature rare, if not unique, in Mr. Dunning's estimation. Nos. 67 and 70 are so alike in ware, form and decoration as to be without doubt products of the same workshop. Sherds of a third jug, probably from the same source, are in the Hastings Museum, found at Hastings by Mr. J. Manwaring Baines sealed between two burnt layers ascribed by him on circumstantial grounds to 1334 and 1377, when the town was burnt by the French. From cutting B, pit 2.
71. Sandy light grey ware with cream surface and patchy light green glaze; rilled on neck by means of a broad-bladed tool; incised spiral on body. From cutting G, pit 13.
72. Rim and base, probably from same jug, in sandy orange-buff ware with rare fine grits and paler core; white slip inside rim; base thumbled; body decorated with pairs of incised diagonal lines under blotchy green glaze. From the Rye kiln: cf. *Sussex Archaeol. Collns.*, LXXIV (1933), 60, no. 7. From cutting B, pit 11.

Site 5 (FIG. 64, nos. 73-6)

73. Sandy brick-red ware with white slip on outer surface under bright green glaze, decorated with raised embossed stamps; on the left, one and portions of a second design of seven raised pellets appear to form part of a vertical row of bosses, while to the right is part of a larger and less distinct one. Aardenberg ware: cf. no. 51. From topsoil.
74. Base and parts of rim and handle, probably from same jug. The ware is hard sandy, with grey core, pink-buff interior and greyer exterior; there is a patchy green glaze, stopping short about two inches above the base. This has been pinched out between thumb and fore-finger, leaving impressions on the bottom of the pot as well as the sides. The handle bears deep oval stab-marks. From pit 3.
75. Cresset lamp in buff-grey sandy ware with a few white grits; hand-made, with a small pinched-out spout for the wick. From pit 3.
76. Greater part of cooking-pot in ware *b*; the inside of the body has vertical finger-impressions, and wheel-marks only begin at the narrowest part of the neck. From pit 3.

B. OTHER FINDS

METAL, BONE AND STONE OBJECTS

FIG. 65, nos. 1-18

1. Iron rowel-spur, right arm and point broken. A 14th-century type: cf. *London Museum, Medieval Catalogue* (1940), p. 100, fig. 30. From Site 3, topsoil.
2. Iron knife-blade. From Site 3, layer 18.
3. Iron shears-blade. Ward-Perkins' Type I (11th to 13th centuries): cf. *op. cit.*, s.v. no. 1, p. 156, fig. 48, nos. 1, 2. From Site 3, topsoil.
- 4-6. Iron hooks. No. 5 is certainly a fish-hook, with well-made barb and shank flattened to hold line. No. 6, though barbless (it is badly corroded), has a similar flattened end. No. 4 is larger and could have formed part of a gaff. All from Site 3; nos. 4 and 5 from layer 22, no. 6 from topsoil.

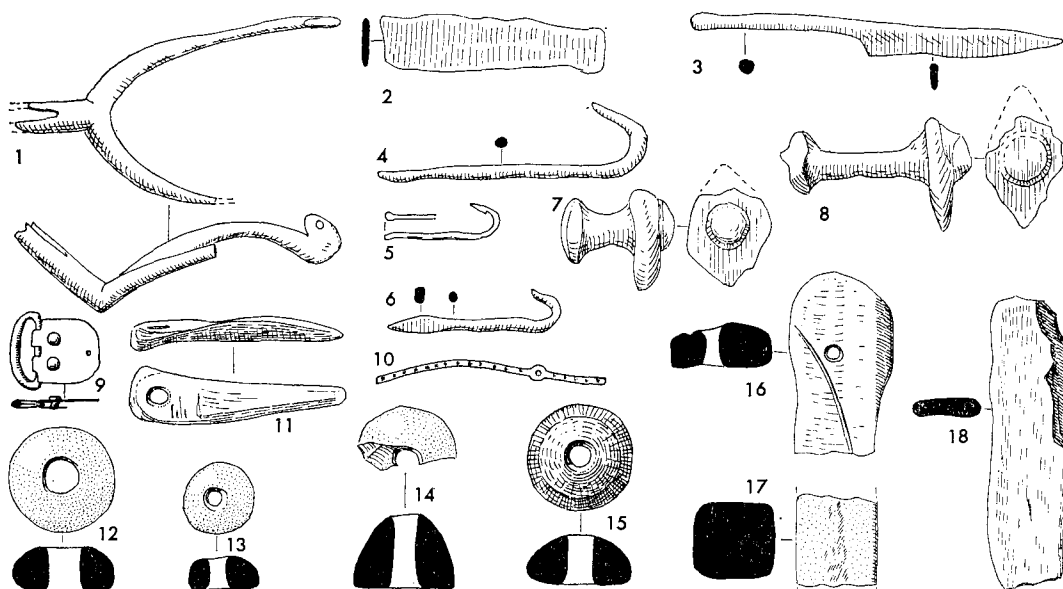


FIG. 65

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Iron and bronze objects (nos. 1-10); bone bodkin (no. 11); stone spindle-whorls and whetstones (nos. 12-18) (p. 228 f.). Sc. $\frac{1}{4}$

- 7, 8. Iron rivets. About a dozen rivets were found on Sites 3, 4 and 5. The examples shown are typical and illustrate the range of size; they normally bear diamond-shaped washers. Though sometimes used by house-carpenters (e.g. for making doors) these are more likely to be relics of clinker-built boats. The manorial accounts record the purchase of 400 'clangnayl' in 1283/4 for the building of a ferry-boat (P.R.O., Min's Accts., S.C.6/1027/17). No. 7 from Site 3, layer 22; no. 8 from Site 4, topsoil.
9. Bronze strap-end buckle. From Site 5, pit 3.
10. Bronze strip decorated with transverse nicks and pierced by nail-hole for attachment, perhaps to a wooden box. From Site 5, topsoil.
11. Bone bodkin; point and shaft polished with use. From Site 3, layer 22.

- 12-15. Spindle-whorls of beehive form normal in Sussex. Nos. 12-14 are of chalk; no. 15 has been turned from a nodule of clay ironstone and finished by vertical filing. Nos. 12 and 13 from Site 3, layer 11; nos. 14 and 15 from topsoil, Sites 3 and 4 respectively.
- 16-18. Whetstones. No. 16 is pierced for suspension and has a groove worn by sharpening points. The other two show spots of iron stain on the working faces. All from topsoil, no. 16 from Site 3, rest from Site 4.

FIG. 66, no. 15

Two fragments of top stone of Mayen lava quern. The upper surface and outer edge are roughly hammer-dressed, but the lower, grinding face is carefully shaped and covered with small pecks. From Site 5, pit 2.

Not illustrated: jetton. Found on Site 4, cutting κ , resting on stone of wall 2. It was submitted to Mr. S. E. Rigold, who reports as follows:

'Nuremberg jetton, diam. 26 mm., of Hans Schultes (fl. c. 1550-74, acc. to F. P. Barnard, *The Casting Counter and the Counting Board*, p. 69). Usual types (3 crowns and 3 fleurs-de-lis/Reichsapfel in trilobe, cf. Barnard, pl. 33, nos. 82-7). Rosette initial mark; wedge stops. Legends, Roman lettering except for the space-fillers at the end, which are Lombardic—evidently a relic of the usually nonsensical Lombardic inscriptions of the first half of the century:—☆ H-NS·SCHULTES-OB-NS (overstruck by die slipping at end)/ HANS·—HULTES·mVR.'

CHIMNEY-POTS (FIG. 66, nos. 1-14)

The following notes are contributed by Mr. Dunning:

Ware. Two broad grades are distinguishable: (1) coarse and gritty, containing much flint and stone grit of several colours, possibly derived from the shore (cf. pottery ware *a*); the side is often thick (up to 0.9 in.); this ware predominates. (2) Finer and sandy (nos. 2, 4); grit is present but sparse.

Shapes. The majority are conical and straight-sided, the normal Sussex type. One (no. 1) has a large bulge low down, and in this resembles a chimney-pot from a kiln-site in Abbot's Wood, Arlington (in Lewes Museum).

Sizes. Nine bases give diameters from 5.65 in. to 7.75 in. The average, 6.75 in., is on the small side. The tops (nos. 7, 13 and 14) are also small. No. 14 has an almost complete profile c. 9.5 in. high. No. 1 has about two-thirds of its profile remaining and can be restored as about 7¾ in. high, again below average; so that all the Pevensey pots are rather smaller than is usual in Sussex.

Bases. As most of the sherds are only 2-2½ in. long, there was some difficulty in deciding the slopes. The bases show a wide range of section. Most are bevelled, usually on the inside (nos. 2, 4, 5, 11) or outside (no. 10), or flat underneath (nos. 1, 14). A moulding or flange, more or less pronounced, is usual on the outside, and on some there is also a flange or beading on the inside. Thus the bases are expanded, ranging from 0.8 to 1.1 in. in width.

Decoration. On most sherds the side is present for only 1½ to 2½ in. above the base, but all are plain at this level, except no. 14. Several large wall-sherds from Site 3, layer 11, are also plain. It seems reasonably certain that most of the chimney-pots were plain, without either thumb-pressed strips or stab-marks, at least on the lower half. Four pieces are decorated (nos. 7, 8, 13, 14). The first has irregular circular stab-marks, and on the others the holes are triangular. On all the end of the nail or tool making the hole has pressed out the inner surface into a small boss. The decorated pots may be from a different source from the plain ones, which were presumably made at or near the site.

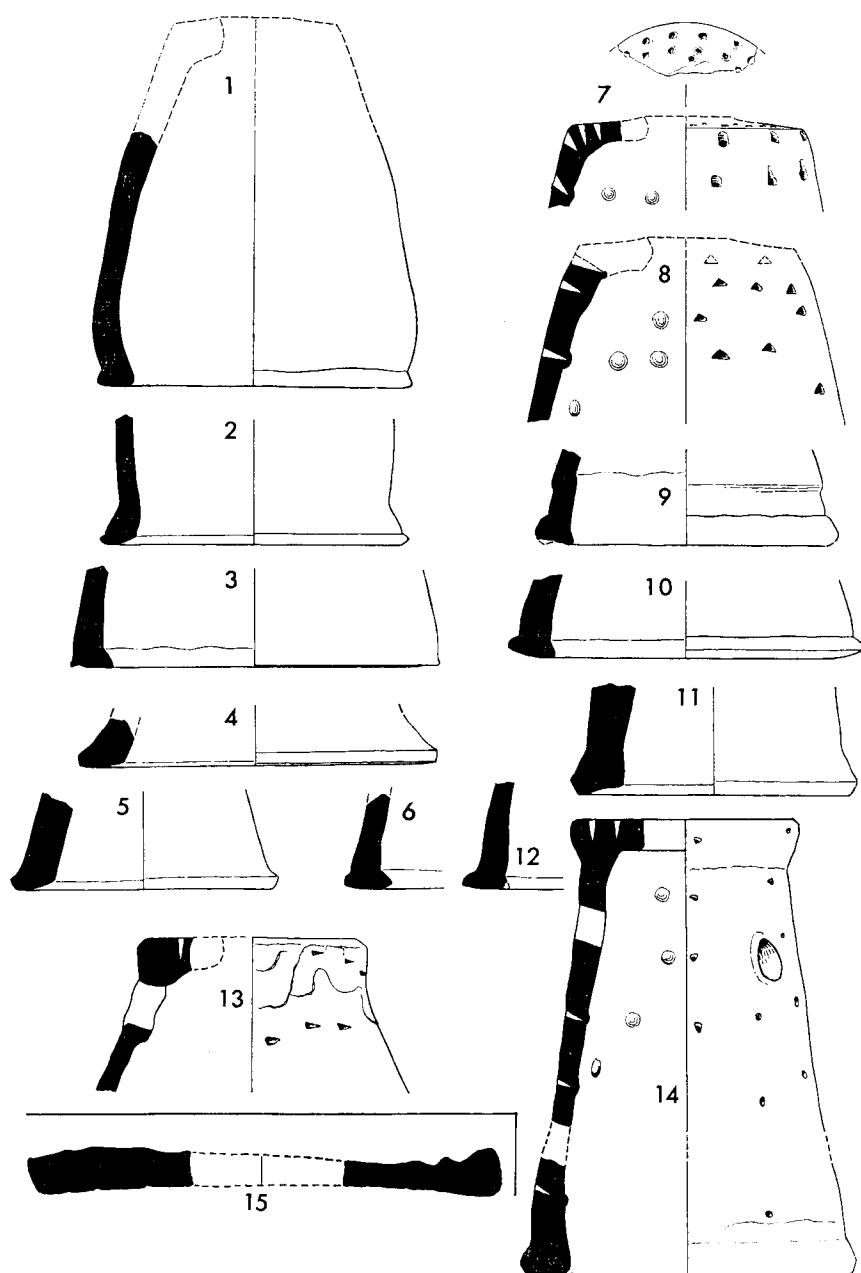


FIG. 66

PEVENSEY, SUSSEX

Chimney-pots (nos. 1-14, pp. 229, 231); quern-stone (no. 15, p. 229). Sc. of 1-14 $\frac{1}{4}$, of 15 $\frac{1}{8}$

Description. All except nos. 2 and 4 are of ware 1 and all are light red in colour unless otherwise stated.

1. Exterior smoothed vertically, yellow-buff, Grey toned on base and lower part inside and out. Two joining sherds.
2. Ware 2, better fired, more regular and smoother surfaced than usual. Grey toned on lower part.
3. Light red throughout. Slight beading on outer edge.
4. Ware 2, grey toned outside. Underneath bears impressions of grass or straw, as if stood on this to dry before firing.
5. Bright red throughout.
6. Outside buff.

Nos. 1-6 are from Site 3, layer 11. Late 13th to early 14th century.

7. Outside grey toned. Two rows of stab-marks on top, and longer oblique stabs on side. From Site 4, topsoil.
8. Grey ware, fired very hard, with thin light red colour just below surfaces. Outside grey and harsh; interior grey to light red. Triangular stab-marks. From Site 1, layer 3.
9. From Site 3, outside building 3, sealed by layer 11.
10. Greyish brown outside. Slope uncertain.
11. Light brown to red outside; grey interior.

Nos. 10 and 11 are from Site 3, topsoil.

12. Reddish brown surfaces, outside greyish in part. From Site 3, layer 15. 13th century.
13. Grey ware, with light red interior and brownish grey outer surface. Approximately half of circumference of top, with part of one side vent preserved. Stabbed decoration made with knife-blade or similar object. Top burred over to form rough scale pattern. From Site 5, pit 2.
14. Brownish grey ware, brown surfaces, outside greyish in part. Three sherds, two of which join. Height approximate. Two side vents remain, at approximately 150° and differing levels, in rather over half circumference. Triangular stab-marks in double concentric circle on top and more widely spaced on side. From Site 5, pit 3. Late 13th or early 14th century.

SLATES

Substantial pieces of three roofing slates were found, each 4-4½ in. wide, with single conical peg-hole, two coming from Site 4, wall 1, and the third from Site 2, layer 2. There were many smaller fragments besides. Single pieces came from the make-up of the quay on Sites 1 and 2, and several from the clay in front of it on both sites. At Site 3 they were associated with buildings 2 and 3, though there was nothing to suggest that these had had slate roofs. Pieces too large and irregular to have been used for roofing formed part of the hearths of these buildings, while others, up to 1½ in. thick, were incorporated into the foundations of building 3.

Thirty-four specimens were submitted to Dr. J. W. Murray of the Department of Geology, Bristol University.¹⁵ Five of these, he considered, could have come from the South Hams region of Devon, and five more probably came from the same area. Of the others, which almost certainly did not come from there, one is similar to some of the Devonian rocks between Plymouth and the Yealm estuary, and three are volcanic ashes, which commonly occur in thin bands in the 'slate' successions of SW. England. He concludes: 'Finally, it can be said with a fair measure of confidence that all the specimens could have come from SW. England, and there would be little need to seek sources elsewhere.'

¹⁵ I am indebted to Dr. Murray for these comments. See also his paper on 'The origin of some medieval roofing slates from Sussex', in *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, III (1965), 79-82; and E. W. Holden, 'Slate roofing in medieval Sussex', *ibid.*, pp. 67-78.

COAL

A small lump of coal, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. across, was found among the charcoal and ash overlying the hearth of building 1 on Site 3. It was sealed by layer 18 and must date from the earlier part of the 13th century.

MOLLUSCA

Shells of edible marine molluscs were the most common find on the site. Oysters were numerous at all periods. Whelks were almost as common, but limited in their distribution. None was found on Sites 1 and 2 in layers beneath the dump of clay, in which they were common. On Site 3 they were absent from buildings 1-3 and related levels, and from the midden (layer 11), which contained many oyster shells. Pit 21, which was below the footings of building 4, was partly filled with them, with a solitary 14th-century sherd in the upper filling, and the layers dumped on the eroded bank of the river in the 15th century (layers 4-7) included many others. At Site 4, pit 10 contained an estimated 17,000, associated with late 13th-century sherds, and none came from earlier contexts.

Mussels and cockles were also found, much less frequently than either of the first two species, but fairly generally distributed.

The large number of oyster shells implies systematic dredging of the oyster beds which existed in Pevensey Bay until the end of the 19th century. The sudden appearance of whelks in quantity after *c.* 1300 suggests an abrupt change of diet, probably accompanied by the invention or introduction of some form of whelk-pot for trapping them.

ANIMAL BONES

The animal bones found on Sites 3-5 have been submitted for study to Mr. R. E. Chaplin of the Passmore Edwards Museum under its Bone Research Scheme, the results of which will be published separately.

Provisionally he reports that the bones would appear to represent food debris and are predominantly of ox, sheep and pig. There is also a limited number of fish and bird bones. The size of sample is large enough to provide an adequate basis for statistical treatment of the bone measurements for information on the food economy and probably also on husbandry techniques.

NOTE

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