

## THE PEACOCK INN, CHESTERFIELD

BY PATRICIA BORNE, TERRY COURTNEY AND PHILIP DIXON

Until 1973, archaeological research into the origins and development of Chesterfield had been minimal, but in that year the announcement of the Borough Council's Central Development Scheme stimulated public interest in the town's past. The Chesterfield Archaeological Research Committee was formed and a series of rescue excavations and surveys launched, financed jointly by the Borough and the Department of the Environment. This coincided with the publication of John Bestall's first volume of his *History of Chesterfield*, which provided a framework for the Committee's research programme.

Under the then Central Development Scheme the southern boundary of the Market Place, Low Pavement, was scheduled for demolition. It was neither possible nor desirable to excavate the entire street frontage after demolition so the opportunity was taken to examine one site at the western end of Low Pavement, the Peacock Inn. The building was identified as timber-framed in a preliminary survey conducted by Mr. Michael Brayshaw and Dr. Vanessa Doe in February 1974.

The Peacock Inn project was undertaken between May and August 1974 with the following objectives:

1. Excavation beneath the standing timber-framed building, and in Peacock Yard at the rear of the property.
2. Interior stripping of the modern superficial cladding for an architectural survey of the timber-framed building.
3. Documentary research into the history of the property.

The excavations and interior clearance were directed by T. W. Courtney; the architectural survey by P. Borne and Dr. P. W. Dixon; the documentary research by Mrs. R. Milward, P. J. Riden and Dr. D. G. Edwards.

The results of this work are now described, in chronological sequence beginning with the earliest phases exposed by excavation. The excavation was the first in north-east Derbyshire to establish a stratified medieval sequence of occupation, and the finds analysis is also the first in the area from such a sequence. It should be noted, however, that the artefact assemblage has been considerably illuminated by subsequent excavations on other sites within the town; these are scheduled for publication in the near future.

### THE SITE

**Location** (SK 382711) (Fig. 1)

The property known as the Peacock Inn is situated at No. 67, Low Pavement, on the south side of the New Square (formerly West Square) extension of Chesterfield Market Place. It has a street frontage of 33 ft. 9 ins. (10.24 m).

No. 65, Low Pavement, is now represented by a gap of 22 ft. 3 ins. (6.75 m) in what is otherwise a continuous line of buildings, those in the immediate vicinity being apparently of early 19th century origin. Nos. 65 and 67 used to be a single unit, bounded to the east and west by the properties now known as Nos. 63 and 69, and to the north and south by the Market Place and the River Hipper. Road building of the 19th and 20th centuries has curtailed the property to the south. The whole site is on a slope, so that the ground level at the rear of the Peacock's front range is three feet or more below that of Low Pavement.

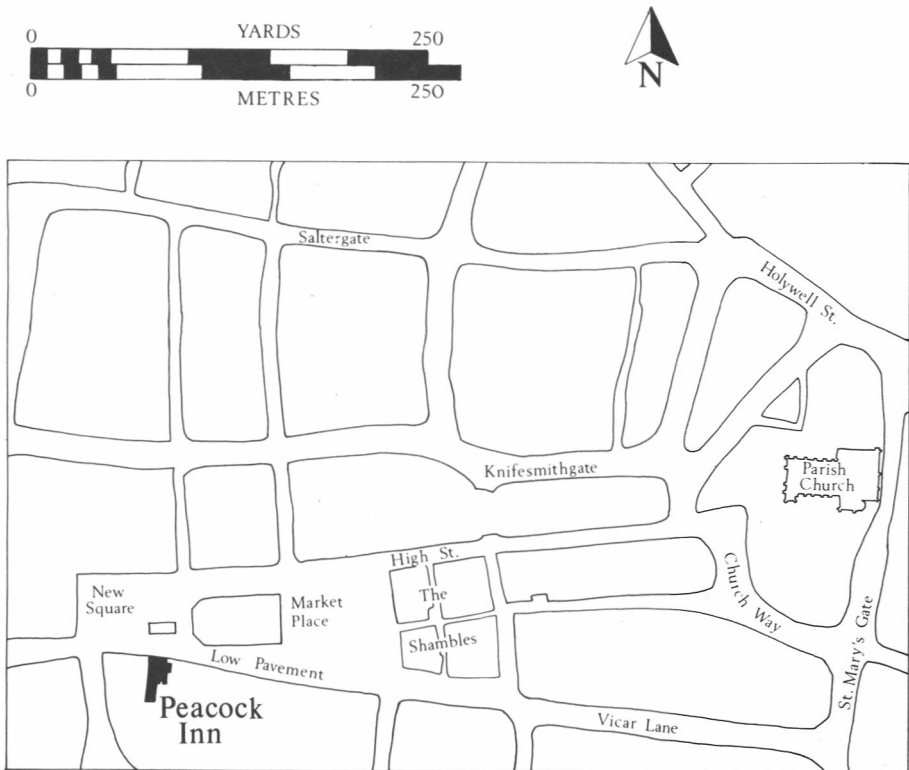


Fig. 1 The Peacock Inn, Chesterfield

### Standing buildings (Fig. 2)

The present complex of buildings is concentrated on that part of the property known as No. 67, but overlaps slightly into that of No. 65. The front range is a timber-framed structure of late medieval date, consisting now of two bays divided into three storeys. The numbering of the surviving trusses, together with other evidence, shows, however, that this building originally had three bays, of which the missing eastern one occupied most or all of the plot of land now known as No. 65. Reference to the bays in the text will be by the numbers shown in the perspective reconstruction (Fig. 15).

A three-storeyed brick wing, built in 1839, extends southwards for about 30 feet from the rear of Bay 3 of the front range. A further single-storeyed southward extension, almost as long, was added to this later in the 19th century. Adjoining the rear of Bay 2 and extending a little beyond its eastern end is a clutter of single-storeyed rooms of 19th and 20th century date, one of which is likely to be an early 19th century wash house. The earliest of these rooms appear to be constructed largely of re-used timbers, while the later additions are of brick. A 20th century single-storeyed structure with brick walls and a concrete roof lies partly within and partly to the east of Bay 2, but at a lower level.

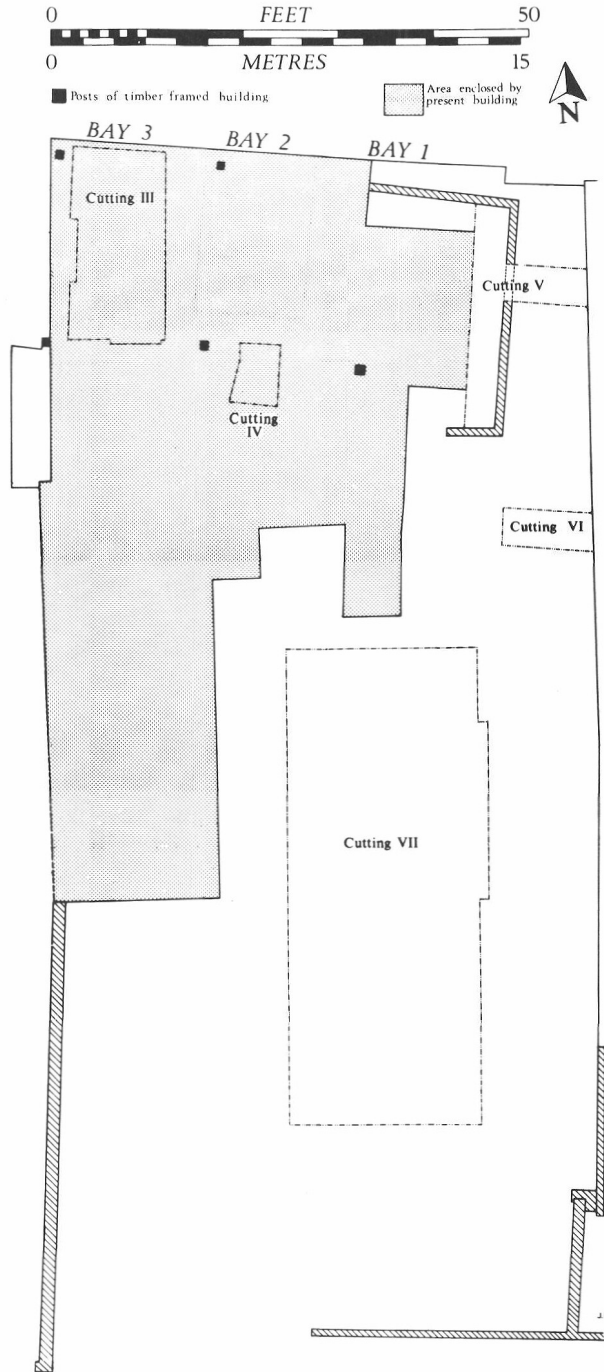


Fig. 2 The Peacock Inn: Excavated areas

### Cellars

A small cellar underlies that part of Bay 2 rather less than three quarters of its length, to the immediate west of the chimney stack. Access to it is by a twisting stair from one of the rooms behind the bay. The floor over the cellar, with vertically set joists, appears to be comparatively recent, and excavations of the cellar floor produced evidence indicative neither of a pre-Victorian date for the construction of this cellar, nor a predecessor for it. A further, and very large cellar, underneath the present wing, appears also to be Victorian. There is no cellar beneath Bay 3, the floor of which has been excavated, but a portion of one was discovered immediately to the east of the modern building in Bay 1, and to this further reference will be made.

### Outbuildings

A complex series of further dwellings and outbuildings has been uncovered by the recent excavation in Peacock Yard (the large yard at the rear of the building, and not the very small enclosed area marked on the plans at the south-western corner of the front range). The excavations extended southwards from the site of Bay 1 and part of Bay 2 and revealed numerous intercutting walls, drains, pits and basements. Most of these features belong to the 19th century, and there is nothing in the related small finds to suggest that any structures are earlier than the late 18th century (Fig. 2).

## THE EXCAVATION

BY TERRY COURTNEY

The excavated 'cuttings' are shown in Fig. 2.

- CI The standing timber-framed building.
- CII Excavation beneath the late 19th century stone floor of Bay 2 cellar. The cellar was found to have been dug in the late 19th century, with the consequent obliteration of earlier features: it is not therefore reported here.
- CIII Bay 3 excavation beneath extant floor.
- CIV A small excavation within the standing building on the line of its south wall. The features within this restricted cutting area were disturbed and were post-18th century in date, and are not described here. No trace found of earlier elements.
- CV A narrow trench across the north end of the passageway at east end of missing Bay 1.
- CVI A narrow trench across the south end of the passageway at the east end of missing Bay 1.
- CVII A large cutting in the back yard of the Peacock Inn to investigate previous uses of the plot and to complement the interior excavations, particularly with regard to dating.

Only CIII (the Bay 3 floor levels below the former kitchen of the public house) and CVII (back yard), contained strata and structures of medieval date. No features of earlier periods were found, and most of the post-medieval features were of 19th century date. The excavation report therefore concentrates on CIII and CVII.

### BAY 3 EXCAVATION (CIII)

Structural obstacles restricted the Bay 3 excavation to an area of approximately 12 sq. metres. It was not possible to extend the cutting to the street front wall of the building, and the relationships between the excavated floor levels and the extant building could not be determined.

**Period I: Structure 1 (Fig. 3)**

The earliest phase of occupation on the Peacock site was represented by a V-shaped trough (F100) of which a 1.8 m length was present in CIII. The trough ran west-east, and was deepest (0.35 m) at its western terminal. Its width varied from 0.32 m to 0.80 m, but its original dimensions could not be estimated because it had probably been reduced prior to the deposition of its sealing layer, F92. The fill of the trough was of a sandy brown soil. Other minor features had been sealed by F92: F97, a small stakehole; a group of pitched stones (F98) set in the sandy bedrock.

No finds were recovered from these earlier features of the site. If the central gully F100 had been enclosed within a structure, a function as a drain for a byre might be suggested.

**Period IIa: Structure 2 (Fig. 3)**

Better evidence for a building on the site was provided by the strata and features associated with the sealing layer—F92—of gully F100. This was laid down over the whole of the CIII area and consisted of a floor-base of clay, varying in colour from yellow to grey and brown, and in thickness from four to 14 cm.

In the south-east corner of CIII a hearth site (F94) was established, comprising burnt sandstone slabs. A thick (up to 6 cm) layer of powdery slag and charcoal (F90) spread outwards from the hearth, petering out within 2 m to the north-west. This layer contained the earliest potsherds from the CIII strata: a vessel base of a fabric similar to 11th century Derby ware was found, but abraded, clearly residual, and of no significance for dating purposes (Fig. 19, 4). The hearth was overlain by a patch of burnt red hard clay. During the period of use of this hearth, the adjacent floor area were made up by spreading thicknesses of sand where necessary.

At one stage a narrow sinuous gully (F91) was dug into the floor abutting another scooped hollow (F93): the gully ran in for 2.5 m in a north-west south-east direction, with a width of 17 cm, terminating in a post hole F705, cutting the hearth. The function of the gully/post hole is not known and it was soon infilled with the material of another floor make-up level, F75/F85.

**Period IIb (Fig. 4)**

The new floor make-up level F75/F85 was found over most of the excavated area of CIII, and it consisted mainly of a yellow/brown sandy clay up to 20 cm thick. No true floor surface was found over F75/F85, nor any hearth. However, another sinuous gully, F87, dug into the make-up level seemed to belong to this phase. In dimensions and alignment the gully was very similar to its precursor F91.

A new hearth was laid slightly to the west of the hearth F94: it consisted of two stone slabs (F82) set in a shallow depression within a yellow clay floor matrix (F83). The existing dirt floor spread, F75/F85, remained as the initial floor surface for the room, and the repositioned hearth does not suggest any structural alteration in the building. Contemporary floor surfaces spread outwards from the new hearth: F78, F79, F80, F81, F84, F89. None of these deposits contained finds.

**Period III: Structure 3, stone building****(a) Period IIIa (Fig. 5)***Floors and hearths*

The Period IIb floors were covered by new floor make-up levels, F70 and F71, and the establishment of a new fireplace may indicate either a modification of the building or the construction of a completely new building.

The section profile (Fig. 6) of the south baulk of CIII demonstrates that a later west wall (F16/F27) to the building obliterated all traces of the wall which it must be assumed enclosed the room of which the floor make-up levels were F70 and F71, both 5 cm in



### CUTTING III

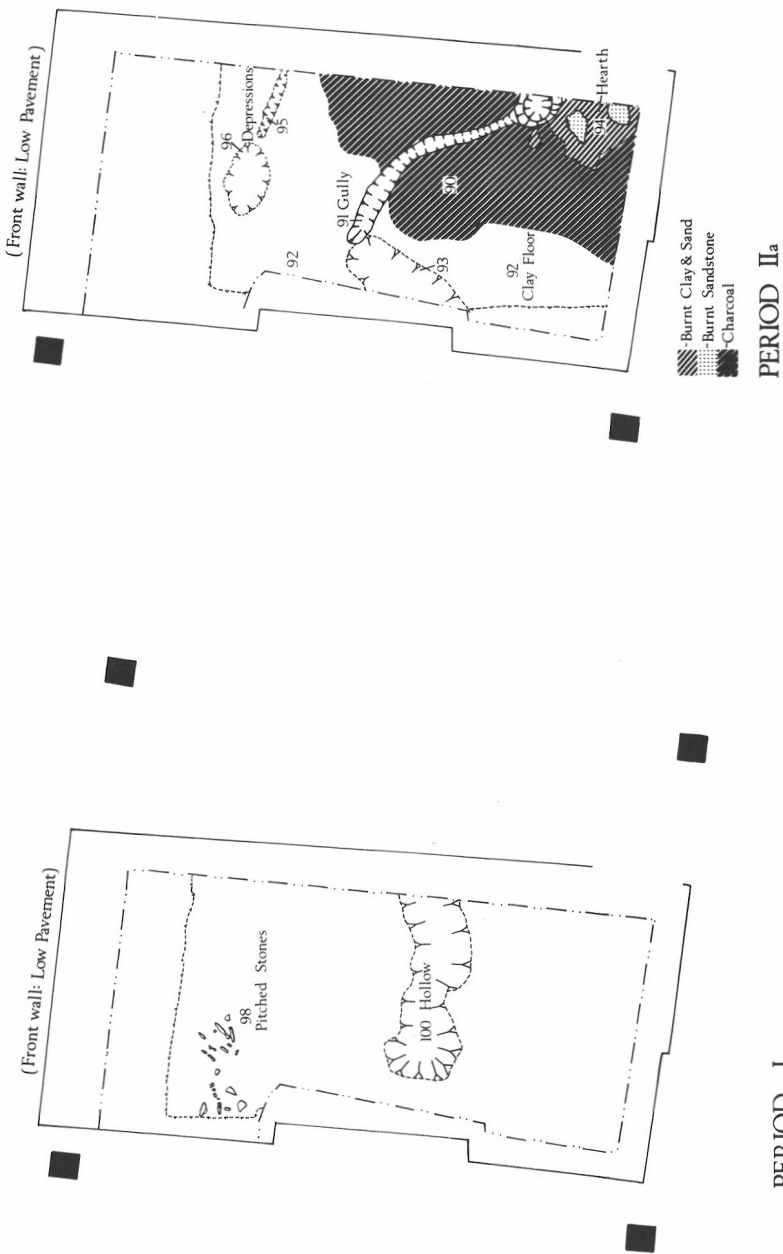


Fig. 3 The Peacock Inn: Period I, Period IIa



CUTTING III

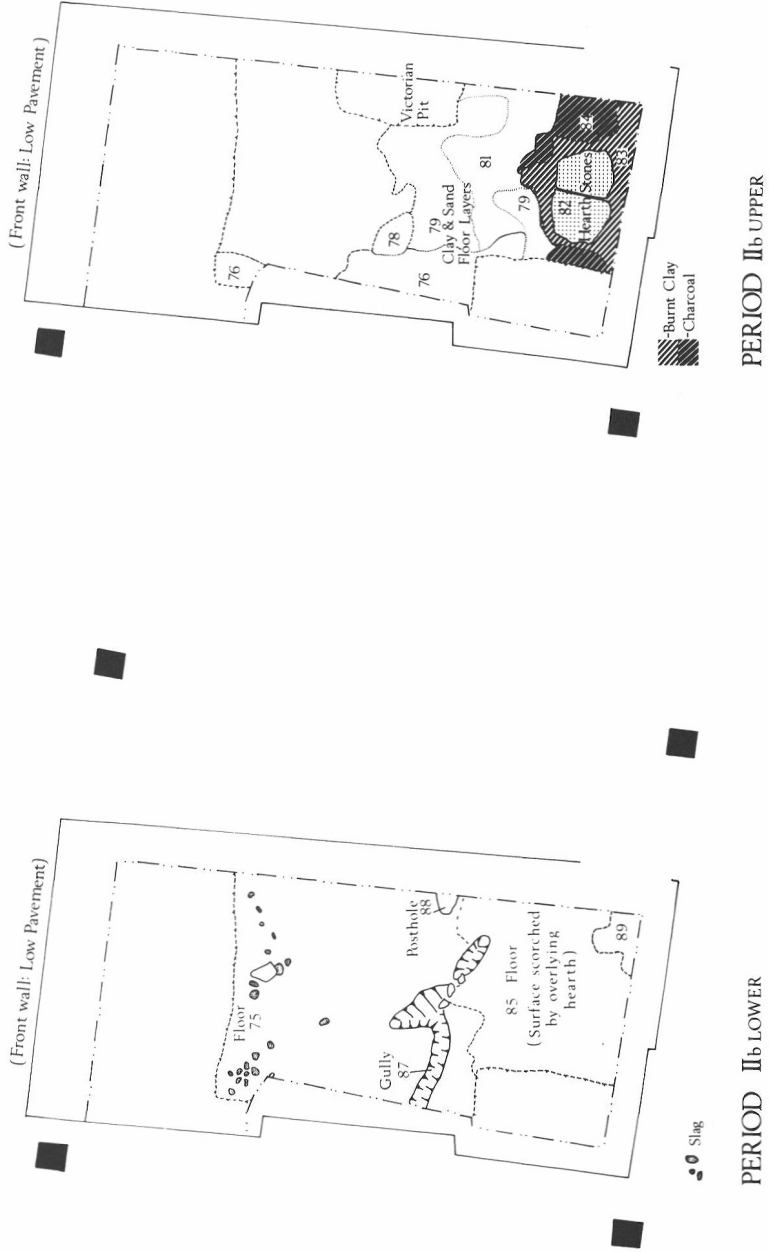


Fig. 4 The Peacock Inn: Period IIb lower, Period IIb upper

thickness. The later foundation trench F19 cuts through F71 and its associated hard-packed sand floor layer F70. No other traces of walls were found, and the nature of the building at this period cannot be known. Any walls had either been obliterated by later reconstruction of lay outside the excavation area.

The floor make-up level F71 consisted of dark brown earthy clay, about 5 cm thick, covering the whole of the excavated cutting save for the strips removed by the later wall foundation trenches F19 and F72. The floor surface for this period was represented by a spread of hard-packed dirty yellow sand, with soft, friable sandstone rubble (F70).

The hearth for this period, F74, was sited just over 1 m north of the Period IIc fireplace. The hearth survived as an area of pink burnt sandstone, forming a hump on the floor levels F71 and the unburnt area of F74.

Thin surviving floor layers and fire patches for this Period IIIa were, then, the only traces of what may have been an entirely new building on the site. It is convenient to link these floor layers with the overlying series of floors—those of the Period IIIb stone building. There is a possibility that although the Period IIIb wall foundation trench F72 cuts the Period IIIa floor level F71, the latter may have been established at virtually the same time as the walls were built.

### (b) Period IIIb (Fig. 5)

#### *Floors and hearths*

Phases IIIa and IIIb present difficulties in interpreting the building sequence. The rather unsatisfactory evidence for the Period IIIa wall has already been presented.

The features which overlie or cut those of Period IIIa are of a more substantial nature, and this subsequent phase is more easily understood because new stone walls, hearths and floor levels are linked as one major period.

A new floor was built up by the tipping of layers of sand at the south end of the room, F58, F68 (grey/yellow sandy clay with angular stones, 7–10 cm thick, with gypsum and charcoal). A second, separate use within the room could be discerned, for at its northern end a thickness of loose stone rubble (F17, maximum thickness 15 cm) had been laid.

A new fireplace, F67, was established about 1 m to the south of the Period IIIa hearth. F67 survived as a sub-circular area of burnt sandstone rubble. At the northern end of the room, the stony surface of F17 served as the floor.

The hearth F67 was superseded by another—F12—in the same position, founded on a 3 cm thick clay base (F33) which exhibited various gradations of heat effect. Only half of this hearth was available for excavation, since its eastern part lay below the unexcavated 19th century entrance hall of the present building.

Part of the clay foundation F33 lay within the excavated area of CIII, and the 'rim' of this clay which surrounded the stone hearth had been pierced by a number of stake holes, F35, F43, F44, F45, F46, F47, F48, F49, F50, F51, F52, F53, F54, F55 and F60. The holes averaged 2.5 cm in diameter, and most had a depth of 2.5–6 cm except for F45, F46, F47, F53 and F54 which were 8–12 cm deep. All, however, seemed to belong to one structure: perhaps a curving wattle fireguard or a curfew over the fireplace. The presence of a thin 3 cm layer of fine yellow sand F65 beneath the hearth stones of F12 shows that the hearth had been renewed at least once. One m to the north of the hearth was a secondary arrangement of stake holes, cutting F34, which probably represented a second temporary structure.

#### *Walls*

Two sandstone walls (of the Period IIIb stone house) were exposed in the excavated cutting; that of the north side of the building (F14), and that of the west end (F16) and apparent continuation F27. The two walls were laid in foundation trenches F72 and F19/F63 respectively and the trenches packed with stone rubble and sand. The inner facings and stone rubble cores of the clay bonded walls were visible, but the outer facings lay beyond the limits of the excavation, as must have any southern west-east return wall.

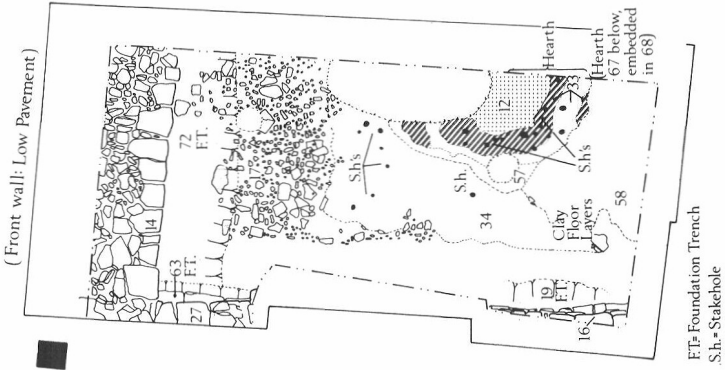




CUTTING III



PERIOD III a



PERIOD III b

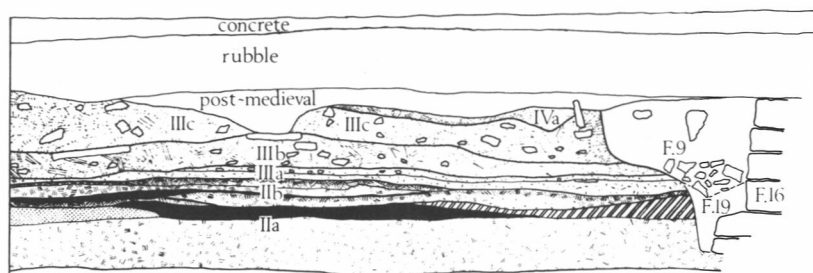
The Peacock Inn: Period IIIa, Period IIIb

E

South Baulk

W

-88.57m. O.D.



NATURAL

IVa	F.22	Yellow/brown clay
	F.9	Robber Trench
IIIc	F.24	Clay
IIIb	F.58	Yellow/brown clay & angular stones
	F.16	N-S stone wall
	F.19	Foundation Trench
IIIa	F.70	Hard packed sand & crumbly sandstone
	F.71	Earthy clay with charcoal
IIb	F.79	Clay with burnt upper surface
	F.83	Clay with burnt patches
	F.84	Thin charcoal spread
	F.85	Earthy clay with hard, reddened surface
	F.89	Slightly burnt, hard, red clay surface
IIa	F.90	Powdery charcoal/slag spread
	F.94	Hearth
	F.92	Thick, compact clay layer
I	not shown	Features cut into natural

Scale  1m.  
3ft.

The Peacock Inn: Cutting III—section at South End of Bay 3

No traces of either this stone-founded house or its precursors were found in any of the other trial cuttings opened on the site.

The north wall F14 was built in foundation trench F72 which had been dug through the floor layers of the Period IIIa house. The trench was partly sealed by F17. The walls F14 and F27 were roughly bonded and doubtless built at the same time. The foundation trenches for the two ends of the west wall F27/F16 were both narrow.

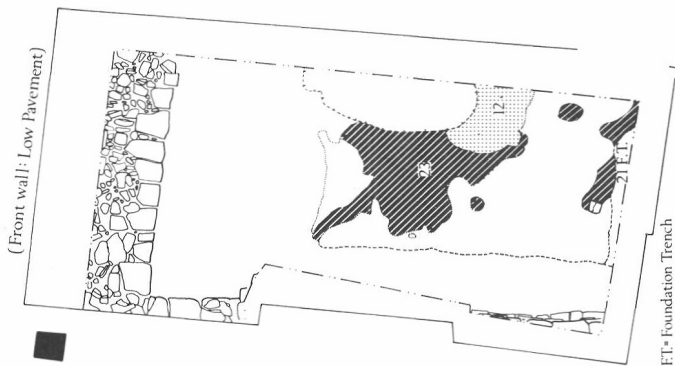
The south baulk section profile (Fig. 6) shows that F16 was built in a trench (F19) dug through the Period IIIa floor levels, F70/F71. This trench corresponds with F63, the narrow foundation trench for F27 at the north end of the wall. This west wall was built from the west side.

### Period IIIc (Fig. 7)

In its final stage of use, the sandstone fireplace was extended fractionally, and this involved the removal of some of the inner stakes, since a line of thin upright stones marking the final rim of the hearth were positioned where the stakes had formerly been

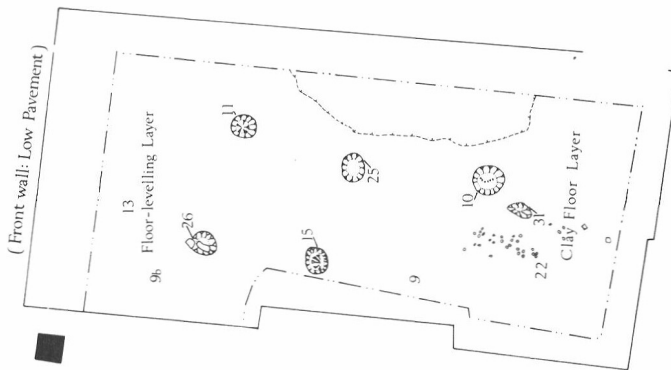


CUTTING III



ET = Foundation Trench  
 ▨ Charcoal & Soot  
 ▩ Burnt Sandstone

PERIOD IIIc



N.B. Post-holes 26 & 31 are sealed by F13,  
 Post-holes 10, 11, 15 & 25 cut F13.

PERIOD IVa

The Peacock Inn: Period IIIc, Period IVa

bedded. During this final period of use, the wattling may have been removed, or positioned further east in the unexcavated area. A brown clay floor layer F24 (max. 17 cm thick) and a major charcoal spread F23 (9.5 cm thick) were associated with the final use of the hearth F12. The northward limit of this floor level again coincided with that of F17, demonstrating that the internal partitioning of the room (referred to in Period IIIb) was still in evidence at this stage.

#### **Dating evidence for the Period III stone building**

Dates for the construction and demolition of the Period III stone building are difficult to ascertain because of the paucity of artefacts in the floor levels and foundations of the building. The few potsherds which were recovered from these features were too small or abraded to be of use in dating, and consequently are not illustrated. The recognisable sherds are of approximate 13th/early 14th century date and are mostly of Chesterfield ware or Humber ware type; most are doubtless residual.

It is probable that a cess pit F545, excavated in CVII (back yard) was dug to serve the occupants or users of the Period III stone building; if so, the cess pit ceramic assemblage (described in the pottery report) might suggest a late 13th/early 14th century date for at least one part of the building's life.

#### **Period IV: Demolition of stone structure and erection of timber-framed building (Fig. 7)**

The demolition of the building was doubtless undertaken immediately prior to the construction of the timber-framed structure, and on architectural grounds this was probably in the late 15th century. The Period III stone building therefore, may have stood for two centuries. The reconstruction work involved the demolition of the north wall F14. The west wall F16 was reduced to its present level; a robber trench F9 attests to this.

The demolition/levelling spreads F13/F22 were of brown clayey soil 6–10 cm thick, and they covered most of the floor of the Period IIIb building, and the base of the demolished north wall F14.

A number of post holes were located in CIII: F10, F11, F15, F25, F26, F31. Two of these, F26 and F31, were not apparent until the light brown clay levelling spreads F13 had been removed, indicating two groups of post holes, the function of which is uncertain.

#### *First group of post holes (Fig. 7)*

F26 Post hole, fill of light orange sand with large water-worn packing stones; diameter 16–25 cm, surviving depth 15 cm.

F31 Post hole; fill of small lumps of yellow/brown clay mixed with small lenses of charcoal; diameter 15–31 cm, surviving depth 7 cm.

Both post holes were sealed by F13, a layer of brown clayey soil which had been spread over the former floor level of F34/F58.

#### *Second group of post holes (Fig. 7)*

F10 Post hole; fill of charcoal flecked clay (upper), grey soil with clay flecks (lower), and packing stones; diameter 32 cm; surviving depth 16 cm.

F11 Post hole; fill of grey soil with coal and clay flecks and packing stones; diameter 23–27 cm; surviving depth 16 cm.

F15 Post hole; fill of fawn soil; diameter 23–27 cm; surviving depth 16 cm.

F25 Post hole; fill of grey soil flecked with brown clay; diameter 31–36 cm; surviving depth 12 cm.

No datable finds were recovered from the post holes, which would have been sealed by the initial floor of the timber-framed building. None of the excavated floors of CIII belonged to Period IV, except for the make-up level F13/F22: the floor surfaces proper had been removed by post-medieval construction work.

## PERIOD IV: THE TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDING c. 1500 TO THE PRESENT DAY

BY PATRICIA BORNE AND PHILIP DIXON

The front range of the former Peacock Inn is a timber-framed structure standing on an east-west axis at the northern limit of the site (Fig. 2). This was originally two storeys high and three bays in length with a wing or turret to the rear of its western bay. It seems to belong to the late 15th or early 16th century, and it is likely to have been designed as a public building, but no documents relating to its early use have yet been identified. The following account describes the substantial portion that survives and the evidence for the parts now missing, and attempts to relate the structural history to changes of use in the light of later documentary sources.

The eastern part of the building has long since disappeared. The trusses, however, were numbered by carpenters' marks from the east, and it is most fortunate that the west gable end (Truss IV) has survived to indicate the original total number of bays. Bays 2 and 3 are each 16 ft. 6 in. long; if the missing Bay 1 was of the same length and no change has taken place in the eastern boundary of the property, there would have been space beyond it for an open passage to the back of the house with a maximum possible width of 4 ft. 6 in. Inventories of the late 17th century, however (Appendix III), suggest that the missing bay ran as far as the boundary and incorporated, at its eastern end, a covered way over which the first floor extended. In this case the total length of the building would have been about 54 ft. Heights of about 31 ft. to the apex of the rafters and about 18 ft. to the top of the wall-plate produce a fairly steep roof pitch of 52°. The average ground-floor width is 20 ft. and the upper storey projecting over the pavement on a jetty originally continuous along the entire frontage, is 2 ft. wider. The present building is shown in detail in the drawings, in which the principal insertions are included.<sup>1</sup>

### Construction

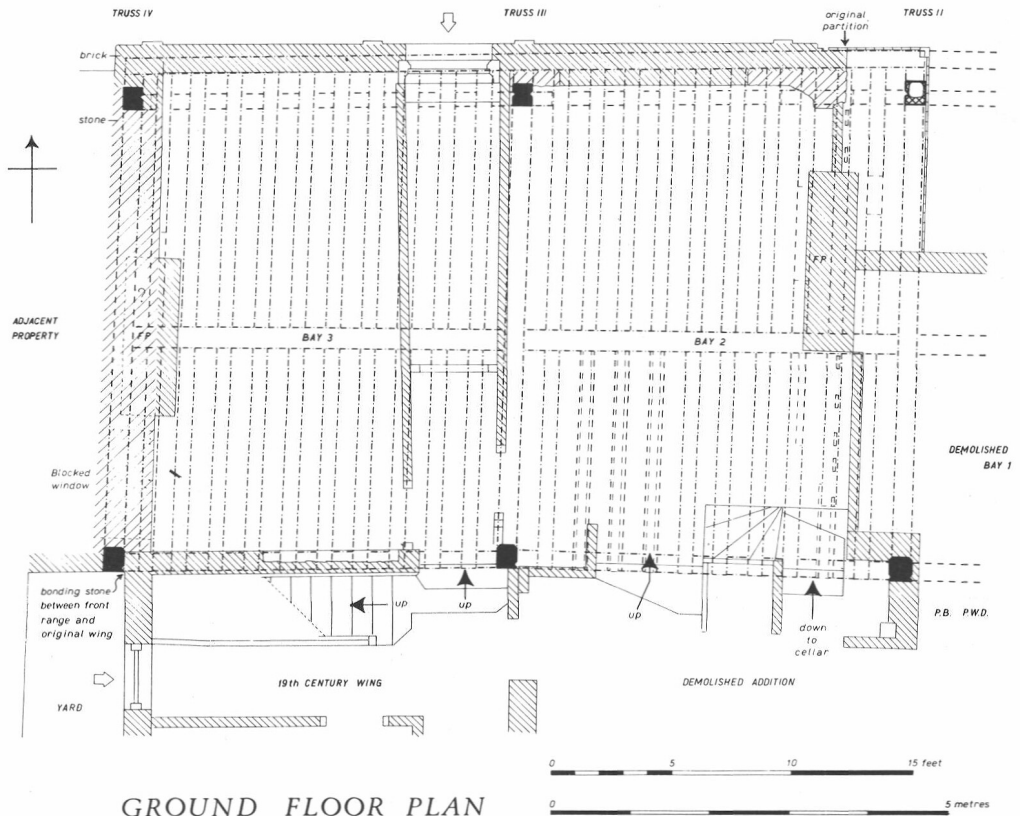
The timber-framed structure, of whose main posts five survive at ground floor, was erected on pad-stones with a sill-beam or rail connecting the posts about three feet above their bases, a technique possibly reminiscent of post construction.<sup>2</sup> A masonry plinth was then built up to the underside of the rails. Its height was nowhere more than 3 ft. 6 in. at the front of the building, but, because of the site's southward slope, it was up to twice as high at the rear. One of the pad-stones supporting rear-post IV, at the south-west corner, also bonds with the west wall of the 19th century brick wing, showing that an earlier structure stood in the place of the present wing (Figs. 8 and 12).

The principal timbers are very substantial and the carpentry is of high quality throughout the building. Each rear post is jowled not only at its head but also at mid-height under the first floor cross-beam, thus providing a shoulder for the beam to rest on instead of imposing its entire weight on its tenon. The upper front posts are jowled at their feet as well as their heads to allow for tenoning into the cross-beams, and the lower front posts are heavily jowled outwards to provide jetty brackets.

The first floor, very handsome from below, with its chamfered beams and joists almost intact, is remarkably solid in its construction. Its timbers are large, with beam sections of over a foot square and closely-spaced joists of up to 9 ft. × 7 ins. Its cross-beams have curved knee-braces, of which only one (in Truss IV) remains intact, from the front posts.

### Ground floor walls (Figs. 13 and 14)

These have suffered much alteration, and neither the stone plinth nor the sill-beam survives. The pegged mortices that engaged the latter's tenons are still to be seen, however, in the sides of the posts. The studs, whose feet were held in the sill-beam, have



### GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Fig 8 The Peacock Inn: the timber-framed building—ground floor plan

likewise disappeared, but pegged mortices for their upper tenons in the girding-beam show their precise arrangement on the south wall. An irregularity in these peg holes in Bay 2 may indicate the position here of a former window. Although the northern top-plate has been almost entirely cut away so that evidence survives for only three studs, we can be sure that the front of the ground floor was walled in the same manner as the rest of the building, but the absence of its plate unfortunately prevents any reconstruction of its openings.

The west wall (Fig. 12) is now of stone and may have been so from the start. If it was close-studded the studs must have been longer than those of the front and rear walls for, although the inner faces of the rear post are now completely obscured by brickwork and masonry, it can be seen that the front post was never morticed for a mid-wall rail. Any studding must thus have extended down to a sill-beam level with the feet of the posts. Enough can be seen of the brace from the front post to the cross-beam in this frame to show that it is longer than was its counterpart in Truss III.

### Upper storey

The former importance of the building is best displayed on the first floor, where much of the original framing is preserved. Although now considerably marred by an ugly brick partition and stack near the eastern end of Bay 2, and by the unsightly underside of the inserted garret floor, it is still possible to envisage the upper storey as it was originally designed, an open hall of some grandeur.

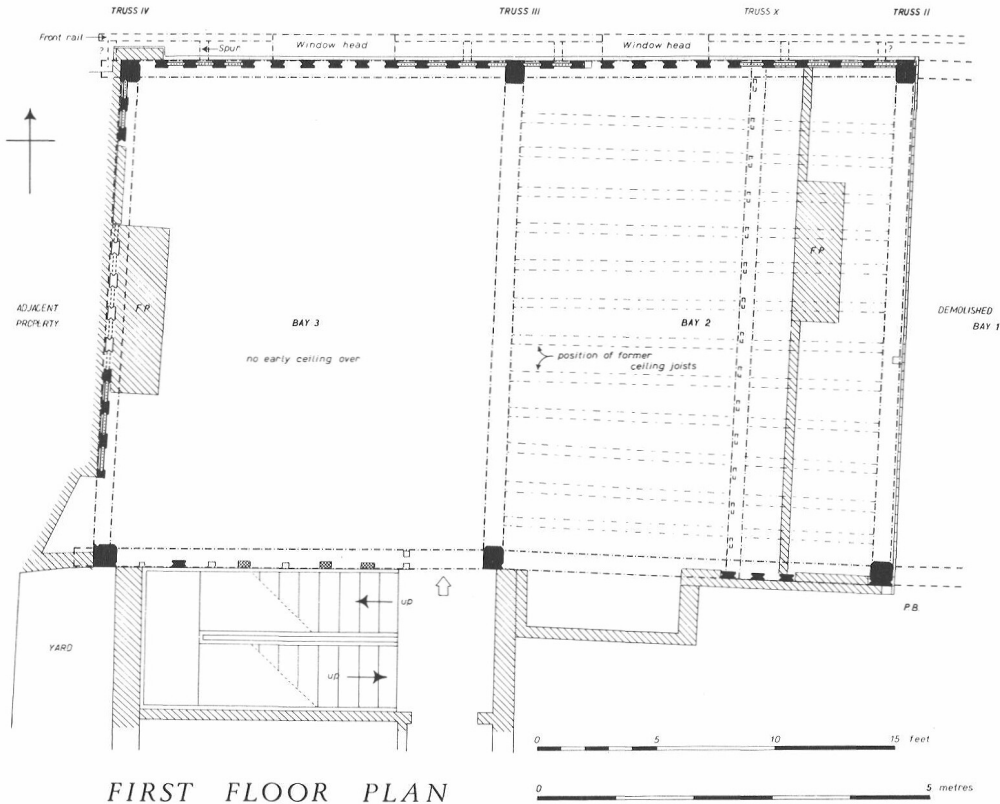


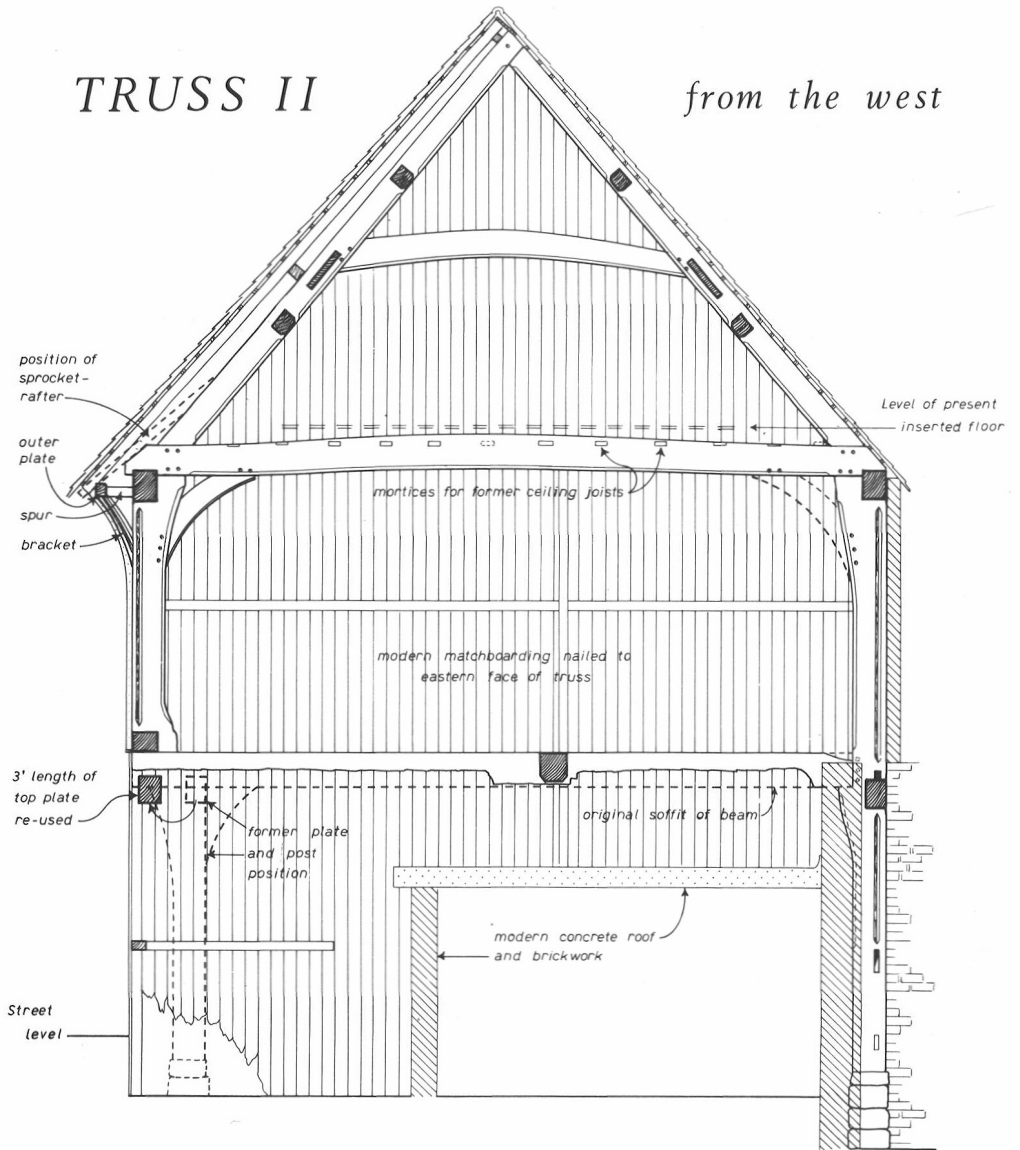
Fig 9 The Peacock Inn: the timber-framed building—first floor plan

The tie-beams of the open Trusses II and III are regularly cambered, and had curved knee-braces from the front and rear posts. One only of these survives (in Truss II), and the collar of Truss III has been shortened and raised to give more headroom in the inserted garret floor, but the two open trusses have otherwise suffered little damage (Figs. 10 and 11). Carpenters' marks, in Roman numerals, occur on the west face of Truss II and on the east face of Truss III. Instead of knee-braces between posts and tie-beam, the closed Truss IV had long braces or struts between the first floor beam and the posts (Fig. 12).

The wall-plates are intact and although the close-studding of the south wall has been much depleted, that of the north wall has been reduced only slightly by modern windows which are a little wider than their predecessors. The original windows were oriels whose projecting heads survive; peg holes in the studs below suggest that their sills, now gone, may have been supported externally on curved brackets. Despite the mutilation of its rear post, both braces and a number of studs, by the insertion of two openings, the west wall, Truss IV, retains much of its framing and further original timbers may be preserved behind the later chimney stack. A considerable proportion survives, in both the north and west walls, of the original stone infill between the studs whose sides are grooved to house the slabs. Similar grooves occur in the sides of the posts and the long braces in the south and west walls.

TRUSS II

from the west



P.B.

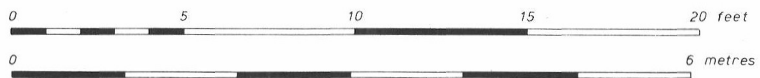


Fig. 10 The Peacock Inn: the timber-framed building—Truss II



TRUSS III

from the east

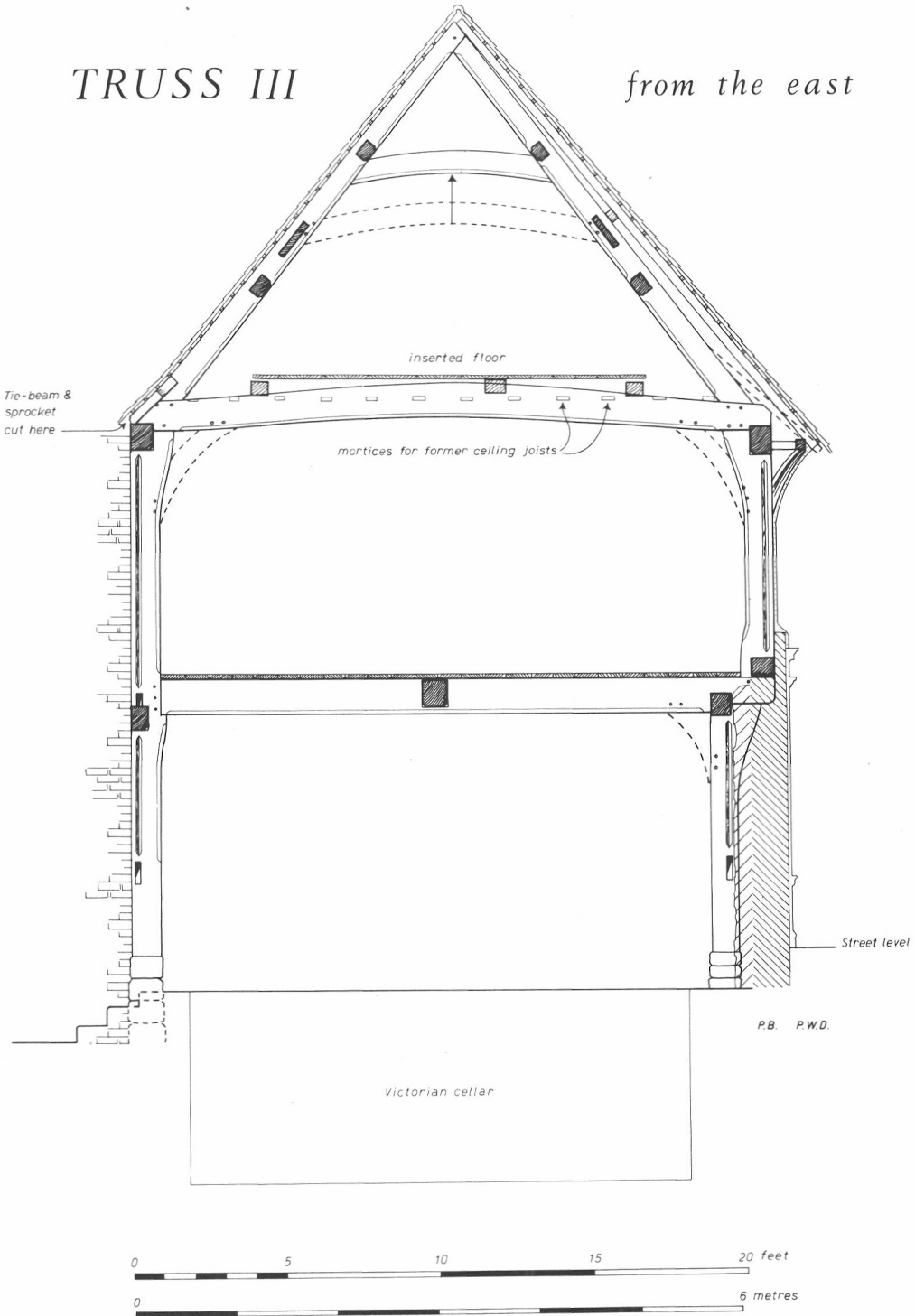


Fig. 11 The Peacock Inn: the timber-framed building—Truss III

A remarkable survival is that of the coved or overhanging eaves. In this complex arrangement (Figs. 9, 10 and 15) a curved bracket, of the same width as the studs and similarly grooved for infill, is secured to the outer face of each stud by the two pegs visible inside the building. On top of the brackets rests the outer plate, held in place by vertical tenons on the brackets. Spurs, set at approximately four-foot intervals, act as ties between the wall and outer plates, being secured to both these timbers by pegged tenons. Also incorporated into this structure are the original oriel window heads, which take the place both of the spurs and outer plate, and into which the ends of the latter are stub-tenoned. The arrangement was completed by sprocket-rafters which spanned from the common rafters (to which they were nailed) to the outer plate, and carried the lower part of the roof at a shallower pitch. The sprocket-rafters were later made obsolete by alteration to the front slope of the roof and are the only missing members of the assembly. The new common rafters bypass the wall-plate and rest directly on the outer plate.

### The roof

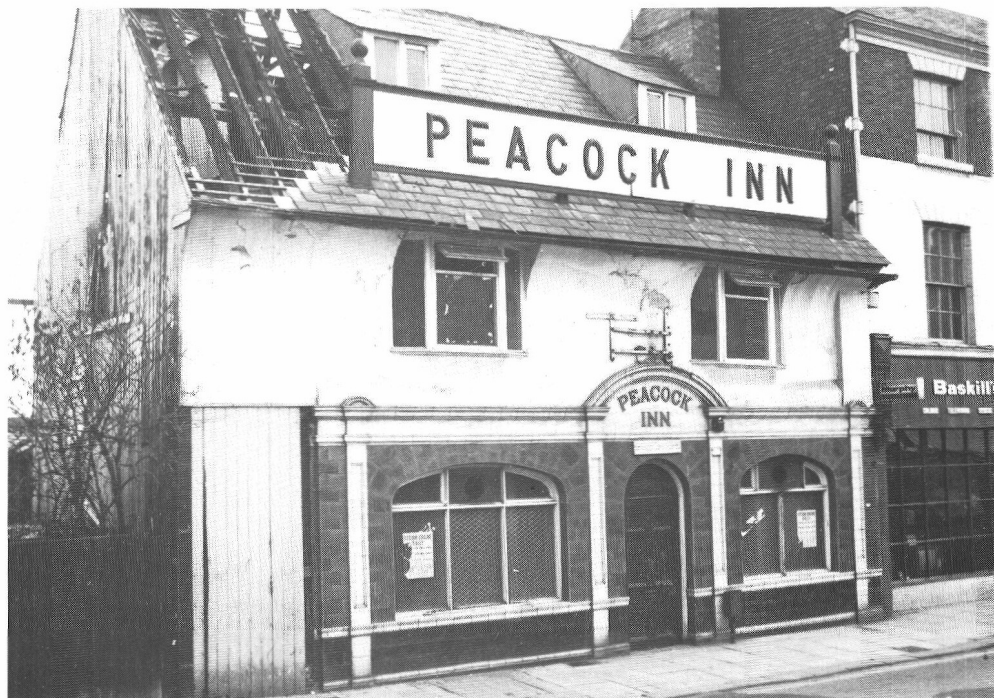
The roof is of double purlin construction with one tier of wind-braces to the upper purlins. The lower rear purlin in Bay 3 has been cut to provide access from the garret to the second floor of the Victorian wing, but the other purlins and the wind-braces are all intact. The majority of original rafters survive. In their feet, always on the west side, occur the curious rafter holes that have been recorded in a number of medieval and post-medieval buildings of superior quality. About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins. in depth and 1 in. in diameter, the holes are set with their centres at an average of  $4\frac{3}{4}$  ins. above the wall-plate. Several explanations for their functions have been proposed. The most convincing is that of Mr. F. W. B. Charles, who suggests that they held iron dowels or cranked bars to clamp the rafters to the wall-plates during construction and until the roof was loaded: this would restrain the natural tendency of the green timbers on exposure to the elements to warp outwards.<sup>3</sup> An alternative explanation recently put forward by Mr. J. McCann is that 'the rafter holes were part of a gauging system by which a perfectly aligned roof could be built on a pair of imperfectly aligned wall-plates'.<sup>4</sup> A third proposal is that they are the peg holes for fixing side-sprockets to the rafters.<sup>5</sup>

Some evidence for their function in the roof of the Peacock is found on the rear slope which retains its original pitch. Here the surviving rafters are fitted with top-fixing sprockets. These are secured by nails, not pegs, and so too is a side-sprocket which survives on the east face of Truss III (Fig. 11), where it takes the place of the top-fixing type on the common rafters. These sprockets, which have every appearance of being original, are unconnected with the rafter holes. Furthermore, the missing sprocket-rafters at the front of the building cannot have been pegged into the rafter holes, for their pitch would then have been far too shallow. For this building at least, then, the third suggestion for the purpose of rafter holes does not apply.

### The original wing (Fig. 13)

By the most fortunate survival of two lengths of its valley rafters at the rear of Bay 3, the height and width of the original wing are known. These timbers, pegged to the outer faces of the main roof common rafters, show that the wing's roof was slightly lower than that of the front range and that its width was the length of Bay 3. At one point only between this roof abutment and the bonding stone near ground level is there any possible evidence of further physical contact between the two structures. The south end of the tie-beam of Truss III has been roughly sawn off and left at an angle different from that of the other tie-beams. It is possible that this tie-beam continued into the wing as a wall-plate.<sup>6</sup> The wing may have been of timber, otherwise separately framed, or it may have been entirely of stone. There is no architectural evidence for its original length. No trace of any corresponding eastern wing was revealed by excavation to the rear of Bay 1, nor is there any sign of alteration to the southern end of the Truss II tie beam.

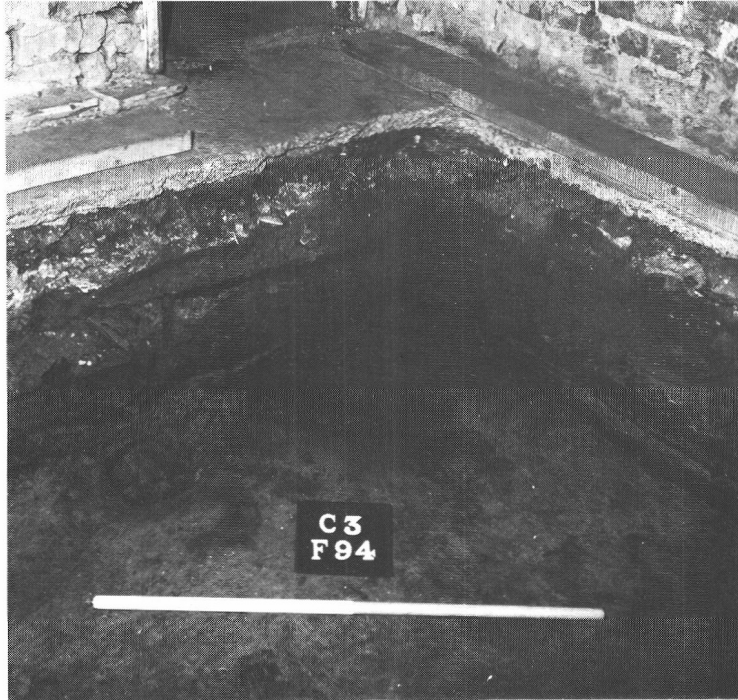
THE PEACOCK INN, CHESTERFIELD



1 (a) The Peacock Inn from the north: Bays 2 and 3. Steep pitch of roof and cove under eaves indicate the survival of a timber-framed building behind the later façade.



1 (b) The Peacock Inn from the south: 19th century wing, outbuildings and rear of Bay 2.

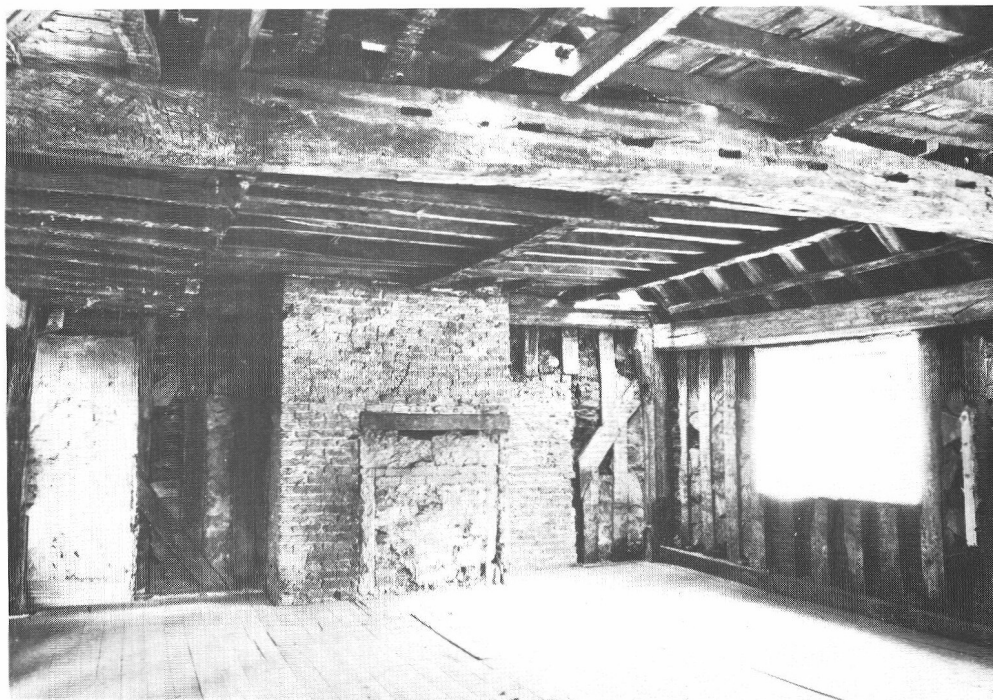


2 (a) Bay 3 excavation: Period IIa hearth (F94) with later floor levels visible in sections. North is to the left.



2 (b) Period III stone walls: F27 (left, west), and F14 (top, north).

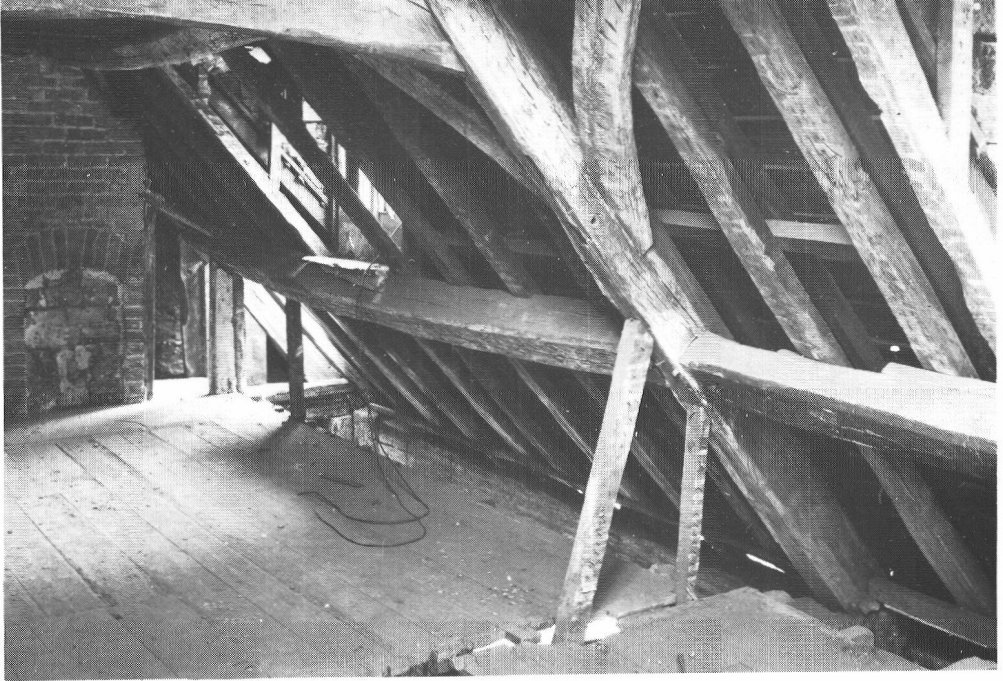
THE PEACOCK INN, CHESTERFIELD



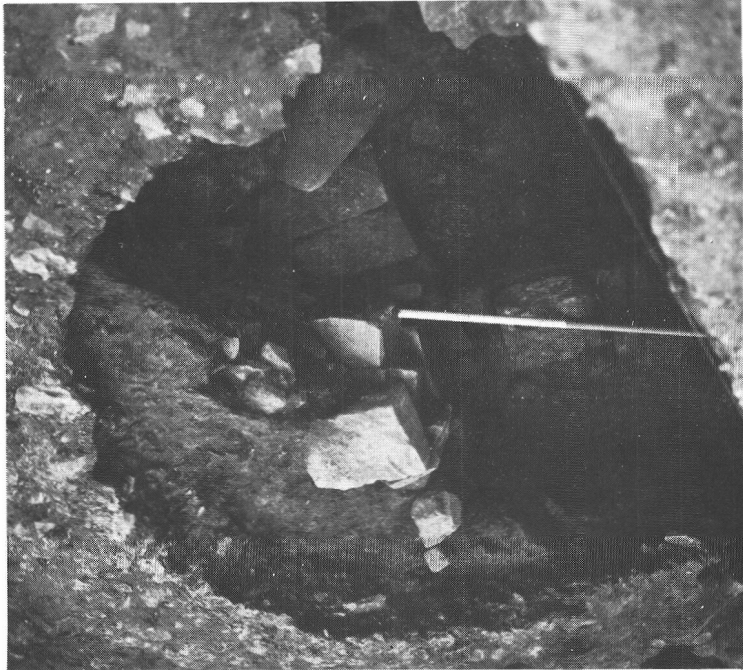
3 (a) The Peacock Inn: Bay 3, first floor, looking north-west. Some original stone infill survives between studs. Inserted second floor rests on tie-beams of Trusses III and IV.



3 (b) The Peacock Inn: Bay 3, first floor, north wall from the interior showing studs and coving brackets, both grooved for infill.



4 (a) The Peacock Inn: north roof slope looking west. East face of Truss III with recently-raised collar. The new roof has been constructed outside the original rafters. Floor, chimney, dormer and horizontal timbers for attic ceiling are all inserted.



4 (b) The Peacock Inn: CVII excavation F545, stone-lined cess pit (Period III). North is at the top of the photograph.

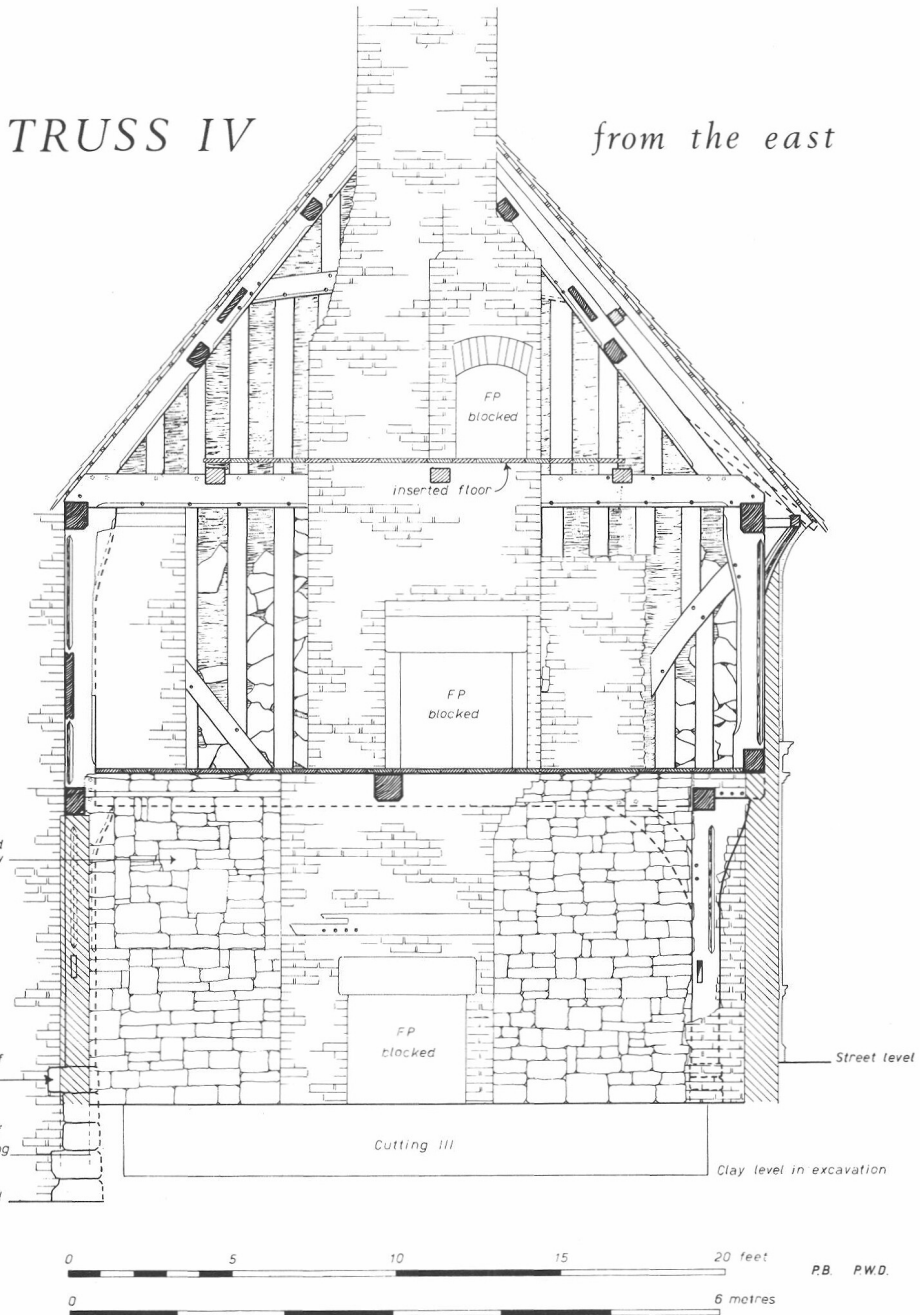


Fig. 12 The Peacock Inn: the timber-framed building—Truss IV

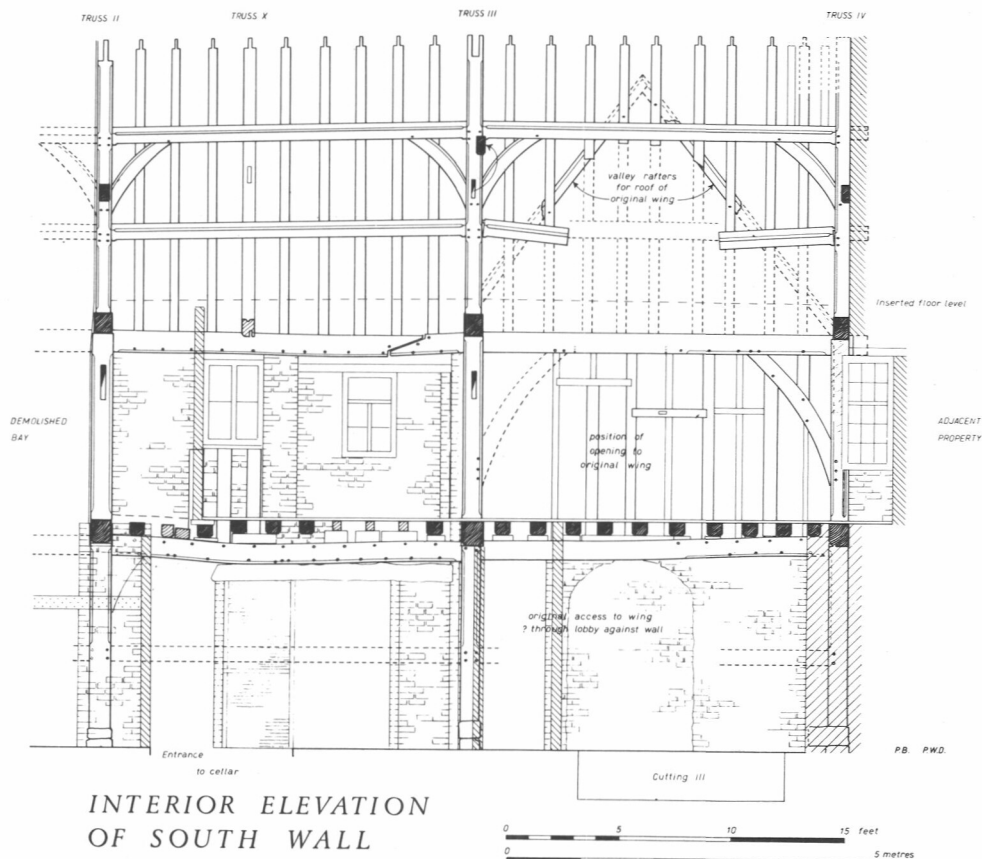
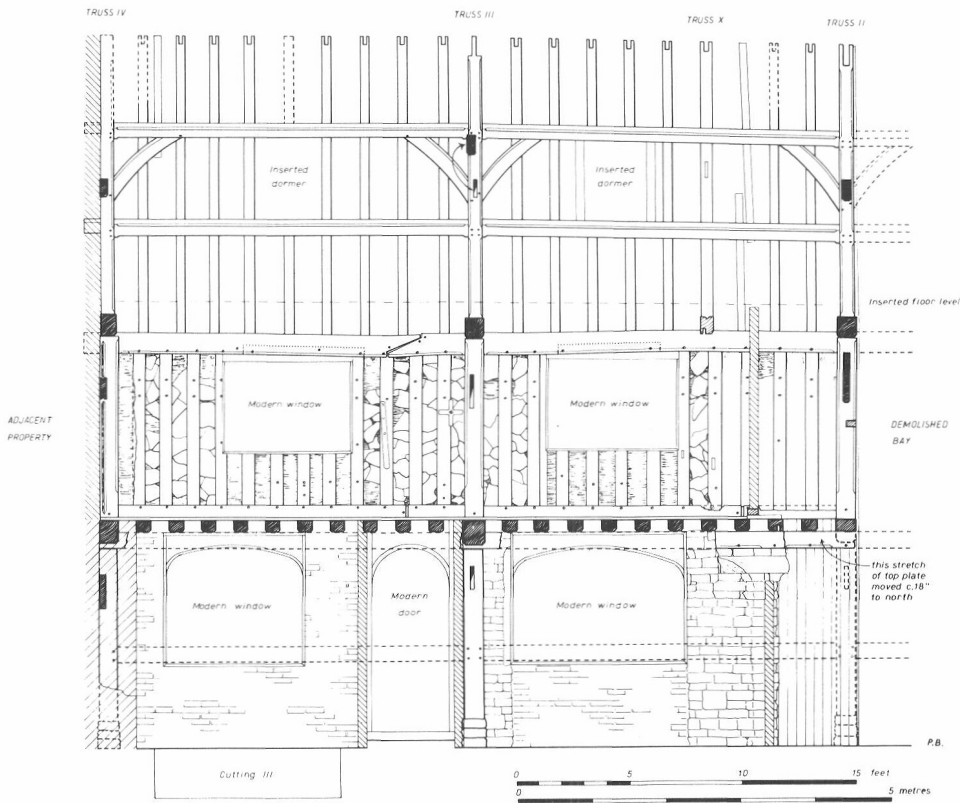


Fig. 13 The Peacock Inn: the timber-framed building—interior elevation of south wall

Access to the wing from Bay 3 was provided at both floor levels, and it is likely that it contained a staircase, probably of considerable scale (Appendix III). The precise nature of the openings to the wing cannot now be reconstructed, but examination of the framing of the rear wall of Bay III shows that they cannot have been the relatively simple doorways usual in timber buildings of this period. At the western end of the wall both wall-plate and girding-beam are chamfered and housed studs in the normal way, but their eastern (and longer) portions have no chamfers and have never held studs, nor has the western face of rear post III been grooved for infill. At each level, therefore, a secondary structure of some sort abutting the inner face of the wall, was associated with the opening to the wing.

On the first floor the rear wall of Bay 3, alone in the surviving part of the building, had long curving braces, of which one remains, from posts to wall-plate. Here the opening, whose position is defined by that of the missing brace, was at the western limit of the now-vanished structure. In the soffit of the wall-plate above are two pairs of vertical peg holes whose purpose could have been to restrain from lateral movement a large doorhead. Similar peg holes may occur in the girding-beam directly below, where its soffit is now obscured by a brick wall. This indeed is the likeliest position for the lower opening, as the mortice for a mid-wall rail in the western face of rear post III shows that it was not adjacent to that post. The soffit, furthermore, of the girding beam in the 3 ft. length which is visible to the west of the post, over the modern opening to the wing, has





### INTERIOR ELEVATION OF NORTH WALL

Fig. 14 The Peacock Inn: the timber-framed building—interior elevation of north wall

neither mortices nor peg holes. As the original openings appear thus to have been sited at one end rather than in the centre of each of the secondary structures, the interpretation of the latter as internal porches or lobby entrances seems perhaps best to fit the available evidence.

#### Partition walls

An oddity in the Peacock's internal planning is that the divisions do not correspond to the structural bays: Trusses II and III were left open on both floors and the partitions were constructed elsewhere. Thanks to the survival of so many original joists, the initial ground-floor layout in the present building is beyond doubt. A large room, almost two bays long, extended from the west gable end to a partition standing 2 ft. 6 ins. to the west of Truss II (Figs. 8 and 14). In the absence of Bay 1 the arrangements beyond this cannot now be reconstructed. The partition in Bay 2 was below the second joist from the east, in whose soffit are pegged mortices for studs, now gone. An irregularity in the mortice spacing, centred at 4 ft. 6 ins. from the southern end of the joist, may well indicate the siting here of a door. Extrapolation of the normal spacing across the inserted chimney stack suggests that there was no corresponding irregularity in the northern part of the bay. The partition was aligned at each end with a stud in the north and south walls. The chamfer on the north top-plate was stopped for it, but that on the rear wall girding-beam appears to have continued past it. The morticed joint is chamfered on its western side

only, and the mortices are set well towards its eastern face, which was flush with that of the studs. This arrangement may indicate that the large room to the west of the partition was the more important.

On the first floor Bay 2 is spanned, 6 ft. west of Truss II, by an intermediate truss, marked 'X'. This consists of a tie-beam, rafters of the same depth as the common rafters, but slightly wider, and, formerly, a collar. Truss X held a partition which may have been wattled between the tie-beam and the now-missing collar and whose lower part is shown by mortices in the soffit of the tie-beam to have been constructed of regularly spaced studs (Figs. 9, 13 and 14). It was not directly over the ground floor partition, but 3 ft. 6 ins. further west, and, as the chamfer on its tie-beam shows, it faced, by contrast, to the east. It may be significant that if the first floor extended, as suggested above, to the eastern limit of the property, this partition would have divided it precisely into two halves.

The original windows in Bay 2 were clearly designed to avoid an obstruction here, that in the north wall being almost midway between Trusses X and III, while that in the south wall was placed centrally between Truss X and the scarf-joint in the wall-plate. The division seems then to be original, and the tie-beam of Truss X is secured to the wall-plate with dovetails in the normal manner. In the quality of its timbers, however, and in its construction, the truss is markedly inferior to the standard of the rest of the building: unlike the ground floor division the upper partition does not correspond to any studs, the tie-beam is irregularly cambered and (particularly to the west) extremely rough, and in its rafters the mortices for the collar show that member was some four inches higher at its southern than at its northern end. Some doubt must therefore attach to the authenticity of Truss X. If it is to be accepted as an original feature it must be concluded that its imperfections were obscured, at least on its western face, by applied panelling or some other sort of cover.

### **The original function of the building**

In its original form the Peacock was a building of considerable status. It was well-proportioned, and its workmanship, materials and finish were all of high quality. Its structure provides hints of its purpose, for in a three-bay town house whose principal range lies parallel to the street one would expect to find on the ground floor either a subdivision into a row of narrow units for shops or trades, or evidence of a hall and cross-passage layout, including solar, services, or both.<sup>7</sup> With its very large ground-floor room, the Peacock falls neither into these nor any other established domestic categories, and its plan is no more compatible with the courtyard arrangement of a late-medieval inn. Indeed, although one bay has been lost, enough remains to show that the structure was one of a recognisable group of late-medieval first-floor public halls.

The same general arrangement above stairs seems to have been common to most buildings of this type. The stair, either internal or external, would normally lead into an antechamber, which might also have had some service function, at the lower end of the hall. There might, at either end of the hall and either as an alternative or in addition to these arrangements, be an inner chamber or parlour. Ground floors were divided variously, according to individual requirements. Although such buildings often consist of four or even five bays, in contrast to the Peacock's three, those of the latter are longer than normal, so that its original total of either 50 or 54 ft. exceeded in length the four-bayed public halls at Barley (Herts)<sup>8</sup> of 47 and Milton Regis (Kent)<sup>9</sup> of 40 ft. overall, and is similar to that of 54 ft. for the four-bayed gildhall at Warwick.<sup>10</sup> The five-bayed hall at Stratford-upon-Avon<sup>11</sup> on the other hand, was about 70 ft. long: in this respect the Peacock seems thus to fall near the centre of the range.

In the case of the Peacock the likeliest position for the stair, as already noted, is in the rear wing, which could also have contained an ante-room, either a small one at the stair head, or, if the wing was more than a stair turret, a larger one perhaps to the south of the stairs. Entrance to the hall would then have lain through the presumed lobby, discussed

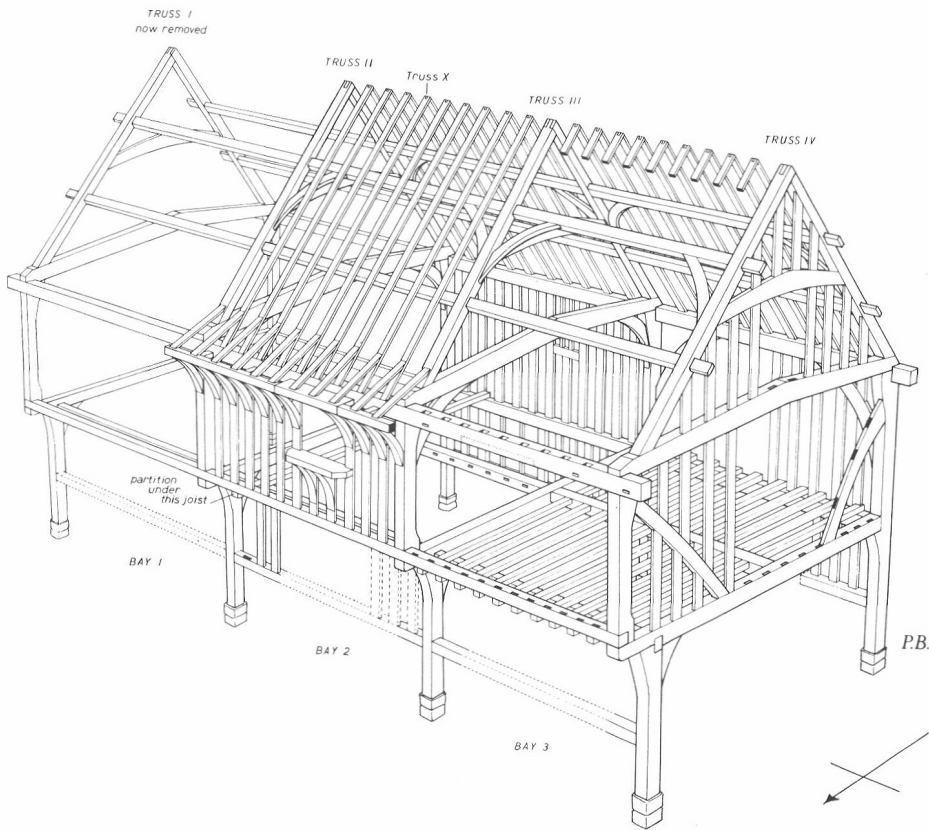


Fig. 15 The Peacock Inn: original timber framing

above. In the halls at Kelsale (Suffolk)<sup>12</sup>, Barley and Milton Regis one longer end-bay was screened from the hall. As has been seen, the Peacock was differently divided and the hall extended either to the screen under the intermediate Truss X, or, if this was not an original feature, to an unknown point east of Truss II. Its length in the former case would have been 26 ft., compared with 28 ft. at Milton Regis (a courthouse) and 31 ft. at Barley (in origin a gildhall); the area beyond the screen could have been a second hall, or subdivided into smaller units.

Many of these late-medieval public buildings, particularly of the first-floor hall type, seem to have been given over to a variety of functions, and, unless detailed records survive, their precise uses are often obscure. Their numerous—and often alternative—designations give some idea of the varying needs of the community for which such buildings catered, and to these may be added their very common secondary use as free schools, and (particularly in those built by religious gilds) as alms or poorhouses. The extent to which a public building was put to general use depended, naturally, on the size and wealth of the community, and in a town of Chesterfield's importance one would expect a considerable degree of specialisation. At the moment, with no explicit documents earlier than 1686 relating to the Peacock, its finer classification within the category of public hall is largely speculative, and it is hoped that further archival research will throw more light on these problems. It will be useful, however, briefly to consider the institutions that would have required such a hall, together with what is known of the town's former public buildings.

A hall would have been needed by the town council, which developed from the gild merchant confirmed by charter in 1294. It seems probable, however, that the burgesses' Gild Hall was always on the site eventually occupied by the 19th century Municipal Hall—later known as Court House. Other public buildings required during the course of Chesterfield's urban development were a Market House or Hall and a manorial Court House. A variety of sources show that after 1634 at the latest the needs of both, together with those of the Hundred of Scarsdale, were accommodated in a single building. This, the Moot Hall, with court rooms above, and shops and a prison below, stood in a group of buildings between Market and New Squares until 1790 when its successor, John Carr's so-called Town Hall, was built on a new site where the Midland Bank now stands. The Market Hall was restored to its former site in 1857, with the erection of the present building.<sup>13</sup>

It is probable indeed that the siting of the Moot Hall in the Market Place can be traced back at least to 1524, but it is not clear whether or not the Moot Hall served as both Court and Market House during the 16th century and before. On architectural grounds the Peacock, with its close-studded lower walls, is hardly likely to have been a market hall, traditionally as open as possible at ground-floor level. It could, however, have been a courthouse, for which use the first floor is well suited, while the absence downstairs of a prison cell is not necessarily significant, for one may have been incorporated in the missing bay or in the wing. It is thus possible that the building was designed as a manorial courthouse, at a time when the market hall was separately housed, and that it was so used until the introduction of the dual-purpose Moot Hall in the 16th century. It is of interest here to note, in a rental agreement of 1562 between the aldermen and burgesses of Chesterfield and the Earl of Shrewsbury, a reference to 'one house or hall lately buyled' in the Market Place, which presumably refers to the Moot Hall.<sup>14</sup>

The fourth type of institution requiring a capacious hall in a medieval town would be the gild fraternities. There must have been several such bodies in Chesterfield, though so far no more than four have been identified, of which only two (those of the Blessed Mary and of the Merchants of the Holy Cross) survived until the 16th century. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 four *mansiones*—substantial houses or halls—are recorded among church properties in Chesterfield.<sup>15</sup> Two stood near the church (the Vicarage and the Chantry of St. Michael); two, the surviving gildhalls, have yet to be located. The design of the Peacock is sufficiently consistent with that of known examples of gildhalls, and the presence of the very large ground-floor room adds support to this interpretation of its function. Of a comparable room in the gildhall at Barley, Mr. S. E. Rigold comments: 'This unit suggests a single well-lighted lodging . . .

implying that the use of the ground floor for almshouses may have been some precedent from the outset'. At Stratford-upon-Avon there are references to a lower as well as an upper hall, but here the sick and poor seem to have been cared for in purpose-built almshouses. The gild halls at Stratford and Warwick were each a unit in a group of buildings, including in both cases a stone chapel. The absence of such a complex at the Peacock is not, however, significant, for a certain amount of space for the necessary services and accommodation would have been available in the parts of the building now missing. Yet not only are there no contemporary references to the Peacock as a gildhall, but not even an echo of former religious association survives into the period when documents occur: for none of the Peacock's deeds contain the description, used of other properties in the town well into the 18th century, '[parcel] of the late dissolved gilds in Chesterfield'. The lack of any tradition of religious ownership might, of course, simply indicate that the building was converted entirely to secular use at an early date, perhaps even before the period when, under the Renewed Chantries Act of 1547, most of the religious gilds were suppressed. The Peacock, if it was ever a religious gildhall, is most unlikely, therefore, to have been among those which continued to house charities (by then secularised) after 1547.

### The 17th century and beyond

Whatever its original function may have been, the Peacock had certainly been turned into tenements by the late 17th century. Three probate inventories of tenants have been found, taken on the deaths of Hugh Wheldon (1686), Thomas Bretland (1687) and Margaret Wheldon (1691/2), of which the first and last relate to the same tenement.<sup>16</sup> They are identified with the Peacock by one of its deeds, a conveyance of 1687 which names Thomas Bretland and Margaret Wheldon as tenants.<sup>17</sup> It also mentions a cottage 'now in the tenure of Martha Nealor'.

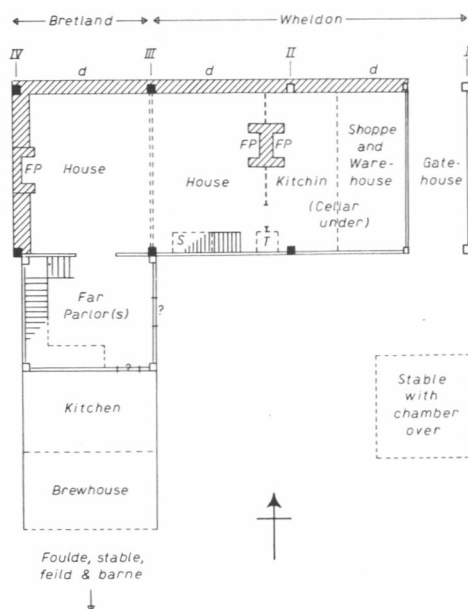
The inventory of Hugh Wheldon's goods, which amounted to the large sum of £244 5s 4d, is very detailed. The rooms appear in the following order: the house, the Chambers over house, over Kitchin, over Shoppe and over Gatehouse, the Kitchin, the Cellar, the stable and Chamber over it and the Shoppe and Warehouse (see Appendix III). The household goods were valued at £45 15s 0d; the shop was a 'general store', whose stock included paper, gunpowder, exotic spices and items such as 13 lbs. of sugar valued at 3s 3d, 2½ stone of raisins at 9s 0d and 40 lbs. of tobacco at £1 16s 8d. Margaret Wheldon's goods, described in far less detail, totalled £214 17s 2d. The rooms are listed in the same order in her inventory, except that the kitchen appears before rather than after the first floor suite. Thomas Bretland's goods amounted to only £35 1s 8d and the inventory is accordingly brief. His rooms are listed thus: the house, the Far Parlors, the greate Chamber, at the Staire Heade, the kitchen and the Brewhouse. His household goods totalled £16 6s 8d (of which £6 13s 0d related to items in the brewhouse); the bulk of his estate was represented by livestock and fodder in the Foulde, the stable, the Feilde and the Barne.

The inclusion of room names in probate inventories allows a hypothetical reconstruction of a building's contemporary room arrangement. Because the appraisers seem usually to have taken the shortest possible route through a house, the order in which the rooms are listed is significant. In the case of the Peacock the property could have been subdivided and the rooms disposed in several ways. Despite the fact that the line drawn between the two tenements, at Truss III, does not coincide with the known property division of recent years, near Truss II, the arrangement proposed in the plan (Fig. 16) has been chosen as best according with the architectural and archaeological evidence.<sup>18</sup>

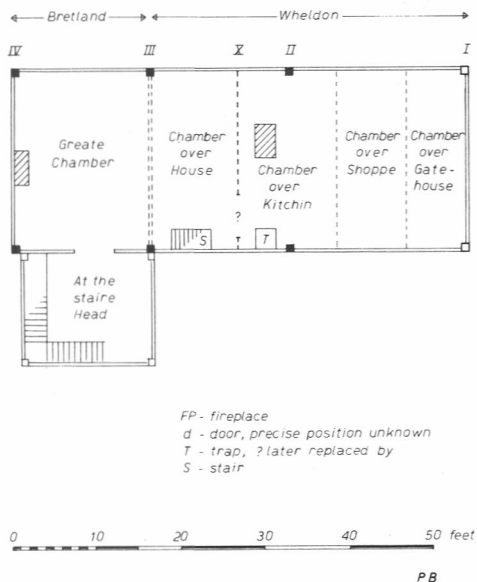
The decline in status of the building to multiple occupation resulted in much alteration—and damage—to its fabric. The alterations were not all carried out as a single operation but constituted a series of modifications, of which none is individually datable, though certain relative sequences can be discerned. Some insertions, however, such as those of the chimney stacks, probably initially of stone, must date to the early stages of the conversion. The division into two dwellings necessitated the complete closure, if the inventories are correctly interpreted, of the formerly open Truss III, and, to supplement the two existing partitions, many more were added. We know from the 1687 conveyance that the tenants who preceded the Wheldons and Thomas Bretland were both named Webster, Nicholas and William. We do not know whether they were related, and their common name may be no more than a coincidence; but they may well have been brothers, sharing and subdividing a hitherto single dwelling. After the division the eastern tenement needed access to its first floor accommodation, and the cutting of the joists in Bay II suggests a progression, as shown in Fig. 16, from a simple trap door to a more convenient stair. The upper rooms, except the 'greate Chamber' in Bay III, are likely to have been ceiled over at an early stage, though it is not recorded that the areas above were used for storage at the time of the inventories. To this earlier period probably also belongs the replacement (or encasement) of the west and north ground floor framing with stone walls, and these are therefore included on the plan (Fig. 16).

The building continued as two tenements throughout the 18th century, and although the property changed hands several times, no great structural alterations seem to have

## Ground floor



## First floor



## POSSIBLE ROOM ARRANGEMENT, 1680-91

Fig. 16 The Peacock Inn: possible room arrangement, 1680-91

taken place. Having bought it in 1687 from Robert Middleton, yeoman, Samuel Slater, butcher, sold it in 1715 to Richard Calton, gent., in whose family it remained for over 40 years. At the close of the century it was owned by Anthony Lax Maynard, who sold it to Bernard Lucas, gent., in 1800, at which time Hellen Calton and William Manley were the tenants. The 19th century, however, brought profound changes to the building, for an agreement of 1806 between Lucas and George Bainbridge almost certainly records the destruction of Bay 1. Lucas granted permission to Bainbridge to build a house (not necessarily for himself as he was a mason) on part of the site of the Old House which he had taken down, subject to restrictions to protect Lucas's house to the east adjacent to the tenement. Thus it seems that at this time Lucas owned at least two adjacent properties in Low Pavement—the medieval house and what is now known as No. 63. Bainbridge was not to block windows or injure the walls of Lucas's house, and was to leave a space between the two houses. The resulting passageway may echo the line of the medieval through-passage mentioned above, and, though disused in recent years, is still intact. The new house was built against the eastern face of Truss II, and although we know nothing of its appearance, it is plain that it was not a self-contained unit, for Truss II was left open. This is likely to have been the date of the replacement of their stone predecessors by the present brick chimney stacks, and thus, if it had survived so long, of the removal of the partition at Truss X.

A somewhat confused period follows, for which, despite a considerable number of deeds and leases, it is impossible to reconstruct a precise sequence of events. During this period part of the property—which part is unclear—had become a public house 'called', according to a lease of 1829, 'or known by the name or sign of "The Peacock"'. The building, hitherto in multiple occupation but single ownership, emerges in the 1840's as two separate properties, which thereafter had different histories, both fairly well documented. The long-established sub-division of the building at Truss III had been abandoned, and the present arrangement arrived at whereby No. 65 comprised the new

house on the site of Bay 1, together with about three feet of Bay 2, and No. 67 the remainder of the old building and extensions to its rear. The splitting of the property can plausibly be dated to c.1839 by which time the 'Public House . . . called . . . "The Peacock"' had been converted into three dwelling houses, one remaining in use as a pub, and then or subsequently occupying the whole of No. 67. The third dwelling was presumably the cottage in the rear yard. To this conversion can be attributed the extensive rebuilding of No. 67, in which the three-storeyed brick range was built behind Bay 3 on the site of the original wing, the second floor (with its dormer windows and a new fire-opening in the western stack) was inserted into the front range, and partitions were again reorganised. At some time before 1847 a bakery was established at No. 65, which continued to be described as a 'baker's shop and house' until 1921.

In about 1880 No. 67 was bought by Brampton Brewery. The only major change effected by this owner was the remodelling of the facade, to which operation belong the present door and windows, and the green and white tiles. The asymmetry of this composition, which terminates at the division between No. 65 and No. 67, to the present two-bay building, shows that it was designed at a time when No. 65 was still intact, and when the eastern three or four feet of Bay 2 belonged not to the Peacock Inn but to the baker's shop and house. Its style would suggest a date in the early years of this century. At the same time, the enlargement towards the street of the ground floor rooms and the heightening of their windows involved further mutilation of the north wall framing—so that many of the first floor joists are now supported at the street end only by the modern window heads—and the replacement of much of the 16th/17th century stone wall with brick (Fig. 14). Few subsequent alterations took place in No. 67 until the recent uncovering of its timbers by the archaeologists. No. 65, however, was also acquired, in 1921, by Brampton Brewery, and shortly afterwards, with the exception of that part of it within Bay 2 (thus isolated and since disused), was demolished. The now open east end of Bay 2 was covered with matchboarding nailed on to the timbers of Truss II (Fig. 10). The Peacock Inn itself, consisting of Bays 2 and 3 of the original timber-framed building, together with the additions to the rear, continued to function as a public house until the compulsory purchase of both properties by the Council, late in 1973. Since then most of the 19th and 20th century extensions have been removed.

## EXCAVATIONS IN THE BACK YARD (CV, CVI, CVII)

BY TERRY COURTNEY

Three cuttings were opened in the present back yard of the Peacock to ascertain the uses of the plot during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The location of these cuttings is shown in Fig. 2.

The results were disappointing and generally inconclusive, since 19th century disturbance had extended to bedrock over much of the area. Of the three cuttings only CVII contained surviving medieval features.

### MEDIEVAL FEATURES (Fig. 17)

#### 1. Intrusive features in bedrock

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Dimensions (N-S, E-W)</i>	
543	Shallow pit	Black soil coal chips	30 cm	60 cm	51 cm
546	Soil patch	Brown soil coal chips	15 cm	97 cm	45 cm

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Dimensions (N-S, E-W)</i>	
547	<i>Circular pit</i>	<i>Brown soil coal chips</i>	<i>21 cm</i>	<i>97 cm 97 cm</i>	
549	<i>Small pit</i>	<i>Brown soil clay, stones</i>	<i>21 cm</i>	<i>46 cm 51 cm</i>	
551	<i>Hollow</i>	<i>Yellow-brown clayey soil</i>	<i>30 cm</i>	<i>1.64 m 1.50 m</i>	
553	Stake hole in base of 546, sloping	Grey soil	8 cm	7 cm(NW-SE) 6 cm(NE-SW)	
554	Stake hole	Grey soil	18 cm	10 cm(NW-SE) 9 cm(NE-SW)	
555	Stake hole	Grey clay	21 cm	14 cm 18 cm	
556	Stake hole	Grey clay	13 cm	7cm(NW-SE) 6.5cm(NE-SW)	

Only three of these minor features exhibit any relative stratigraphy: 553 cuts 543 which itself cuts 546. Of these only the latter contained pottery: a body sherd of Burley Hill ware. These features are, like the other isolated hollow, undatable. They form no coherent groupings, and no useful interpretation may be put on them, except to suggest that they may simply be minor disturbances to the back yard from digging or stake driving.

## 2. Cess pit

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
545	Cess pit shaft	Sandy clay with large stones	Not excavated to full depth	90 cm (N-S): 80 cm (E-W)
557	Stone wall	Clay-bonded	80 cm +	2 m long (N-S): 40 cm thick (E-W)
558	Stone wall	Clay-bonded	38 cm (two courses)	1 m long (E-W): 50 cm thick (N-S)
559	Stone wall	Clay-bonded	32 cm	1.84 long (N-S): thickness not known
560	Stone wall	Clay-bonded	18 cm	1.20 long (E-W): 33 cm thick (N-S)
561	Cess pit fill	Dark grey sticky clay	c. 80 cm	90 cm (N-S), 80 cm (E-W)
562	Cess pit fill	Yellow clay and water worn boulders	Not excavated to full depth	90 cm (N-S), 80 cm (E-W)

The cess pit F545 was the only substantial medieval feature found in CVII. Even though the demolition schedule prevented its total excavation, the upper layers produced a useful ceramic group, which demonstrated that the cess pit predated the timber-framed building (some 14 m to its north) and suggested that the pit was associated with the Period III (structure 3) building.

The pit comprised a stone-lined square soak-away built within a sub-circular shaft. The stone walls of the pit—F557 (E), F558 (N), F559 (W), F560 (S)—were partly dry and partly bonded with grey clay, and the spaces between them and the sides of the shaft filled with tightly-packed yellow clay. The pit walls were constructed of sandstone, the east wall F557 having the largest and most regular coursing. The north wall F558 had been doubled in thickness with an extra facing of blocks built on to the original and probably too narrow wall. This wall included some small river-worn boulders.

The pit fill consisted of dark-grey, sticky clay (F561), grading downwards into a yellow clay (F562) containing water-worn boulders and coal fragments. Both the clay elements were streaked with cess stains.



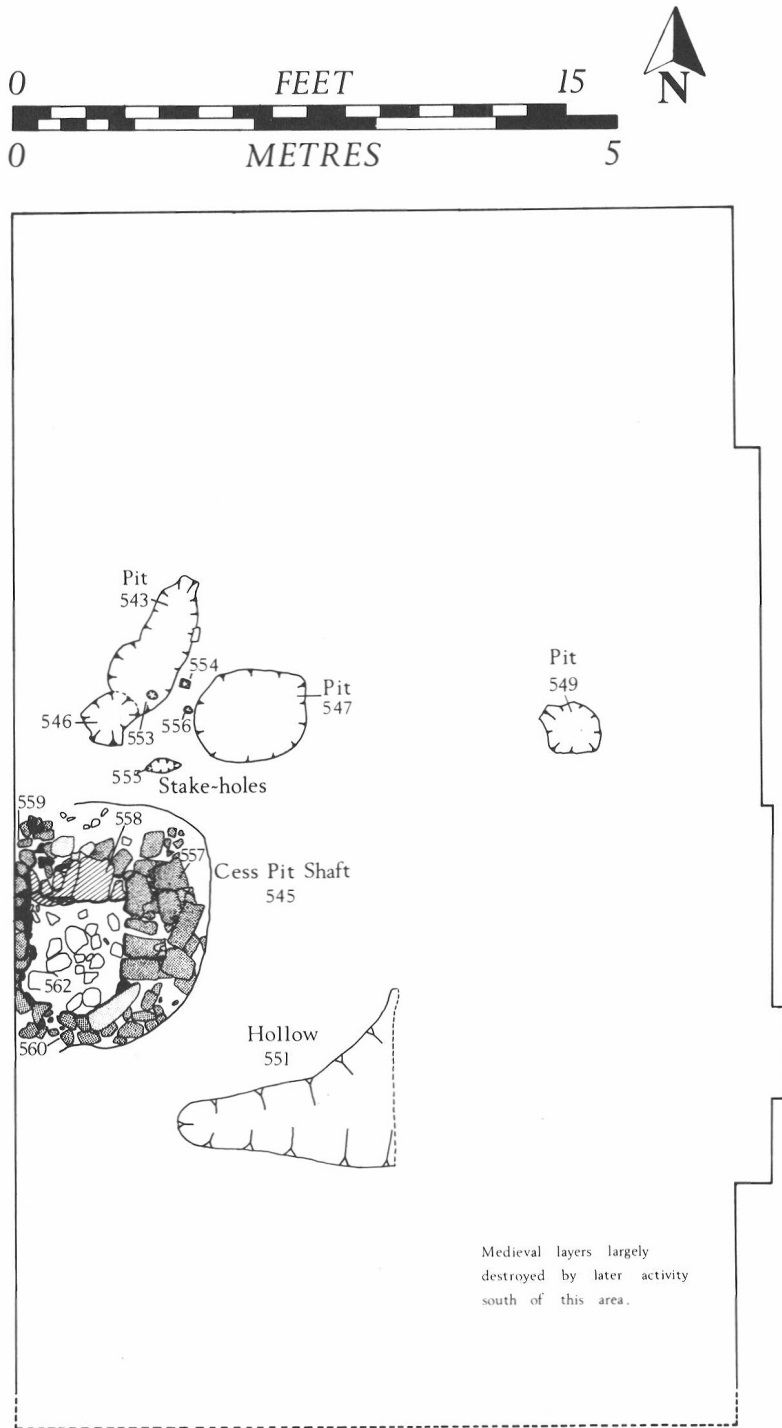


Fig. 17 The Peacock Inn: Cutting VII, medieval features

*Cess pit ceramic assemblage*

This feature produced the only securely stratified group of pottery. Profiles and rimsherds were rare. Rimsherds from four vessels were recovered. The first of these, a cooking pot (Fig. 19, 5) in 'Shelly ware', may be given a late 13th century date by analogy with a group from St. Annes Street, Nottingham. The three remaining vessels, including jugs in Chesterfield ware (Fig. 19, 6, 7 and 8) were dated by comparison with such well-dated groups as those from Full Street, Derby, and the Bodleian Extension, Oxford. This seems to confirm a mid- to late-13th century date for the cess pit. One further datable sherd, a twisted handle (Fig. 19, 9) also in Chesterfield ware, can be fitted into this range, though implying the latter end of it.

Sherds from 15 vessels were present, though in three cases there was a single sherd only, and no vessel is represented demonstrably by more than three fragments. The 58 sherds of Chesterfield ware come from at least seven vessels. Three of these were identified as jugs by their rims. The only other recognisable form was the cooking pot in 'Shelly ware'. Body sherds of Burley Hill ware were also present, and several sherds of a vessel in an unidentified ware, a soft oxidised slightly micaceous fabric tempered with grog and sand. Its external surface has a weathered green/brown glaze.

## POST-MEDIEVAL FEATURES (Fig. 18)

The earliest post medieval features surviving in the present yard were exposed in CV (Extension), a narrow east-west trench excavated between the east wall of the Peacock and No. 63, and extended southwards beneath the existing concrete path. The CV extension was partly located within the area of Bay 1 of the timber-framed building, although no features contemporary with that structure were found.

In the CV extension, a stone, soil-bonded wall F217 survived to six courses below present ground level. It included some brick-bats of late 18th century or early 19th century type, and it might be seen as a support for an unstable eastern wall of the property (perhaps after the demolition of the east bay in 1806), or as the wall of a small basement within the area of Bay 1. The wall lay partly beneath the eastern wall of the modern flat-roofed extension (see Fig. 2) and is not illustrated.

The wall overlay a drain (F227), lined and covered with stone blocks (F226). The two sherds of pottery from the black fill of the drain were of late 18th or early 19th century date.

The remainder of the back yard area seems to have been used as an open space until No. 65 was extended southwards early in the 19th century. The back yard was made up of a succession of rubble, rubbish and soil levelling spreads, with many disturbances, containing pottery mainly of 19th century date. These do not merit description here. Although the earlier post-medieval finds (pre-1750) from these contexts are of no stratigraphical significance, they do constitute the first post-medieval assemblage from north-east Derbyshire, and are therefore described in the specialist reports for their intrinsic interest.

The 19th century modifications to the rear plot of Nos. 65 and 67 may be summarised. The foundations of the brick and stone-built southward range were exposed in CVII: a southern wall, F416, and an eastern wall, F563. No northern wall was found other than an internal one (F437/445), and the block doubtless extended to the street frontage to join with the extension of 1806 (see survey report of standing building).

At the southern end of the block a cellar had been dug, with a stone-flagged floor. Its northern wall was provided by a massive stone stanchion F418, the northern side of which showed evidence of having been an oven wall. This feature clearly belongs with the bakery, known to have been established early in the 19th century.

To the south of the extension block, the backyard had been cobbled on several occasions and criss-crossed by pipe trenches. No medieval or early post-medieval features were located here.

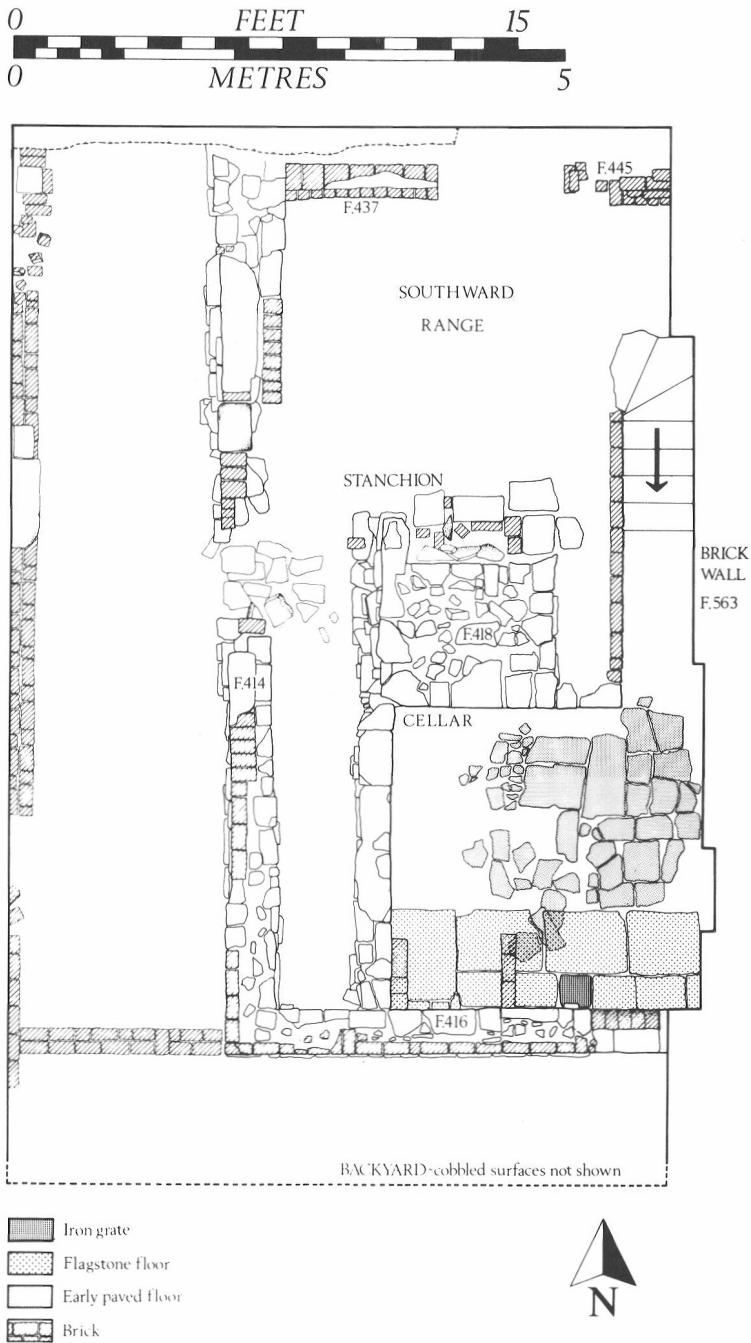


Fig.18 The Peacock Inn: Curring VII, post-medieval features

The present passage between No. 65 and No. 63 was used as an alley from 1806 onwards, and numerous gas, water and sewer pipes were routed through it, with the consequent obliteration of all pre-19th century features.

## APPENDIX I THE POTTERY

NOTE: The specialist reports are edited by Vivienne Metcalf; the authors of the individual reports are acknowledged in the appropriate sections. The very considerable preliminary work of Steven Cracknell, Joan Gallagher and Pamela Broady is acknowledged here.

The bulk of the artefact assemblage was ceramic, and approximately 580 sherds pre-dating 1750 were recorded during the Peacock Inn excavations. With the exception of the Nottingham stonewares, only those sherds pre-dating 1750 have been considered in this report. Due to recent disturbance, a large proportion of the medieval and early post-medieval sherds was residual in features post-dating 1750, but because this is the first pottery report from the Chesterfield excavations it has been thought proper to publish all the types of pottery present on the site, as well as the stratified group.

While numbers of other 'small finds', including glass and clay marbles, and slate pencils, were recovered from the Peacock Inn site, as well as a large amount of bottle glass and some bones, all these were of the 19th century and from 19th or 20th century contexts, and it has not been thought necessary to publish them here. In the catalogue, the illustration number precedes the context number.

### ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY by Vivienne Metcalf (Fig. 19)

There were sherds of only three Romano-British vessels from the Peacock Inn, all of them residual as follows:

1. F551 Rimsherd in soft, buff/grey sandy fabric; very worn.
2. F452 Amphora rimsherd in fairly hard sandy micaceous buff/pink fabric; opaque grey and white quartz inclusions. *cf.* Verulam 15, 140–150 A.D.
3. F529 Rim/body sherds of small globular bowl in fairly hard fine cream fabric; external surface has a pale orange slip and burnishing.

### MEDIEVAL POTTERY by Graham Storey (Figs. 19–21)

Approximately 280 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during the Peacock Inn excavations, 125 of which (including many of the catalogued sherds) were residual in post-medieval features. Very little of the pottery can be dated before the 13th century and the majority of the sherds seem to be of the 13th, 14th and early 15th centuries. As might be expected in this area, pottery from all recognised kilns within a 30-mile radius is represented, although the majority of the medieval sherds from the site (62%) are in a new fabric (described below), which has tentatively been called 'Chesterfield ware' although it has as yet no known place of manufacture. No imported wares were recovered from this site.

Descriptions of fabric types follow, and the type name will be used instead of a fabric description in the catalogue. Unusual sherds will be described in full where necessary.

#### Shelly ware

Three sherds of this ware were found, in a fairly hard fabric with red/brown to buff internal surfaces and a grey core. The fabric was tempered with either shell or limestone, which has later leached out. All sherds are from cooking pots, the forms comparable with those from St. Anne's Street, Nottingham, which date to the late 13th century.<sup>19</sup>

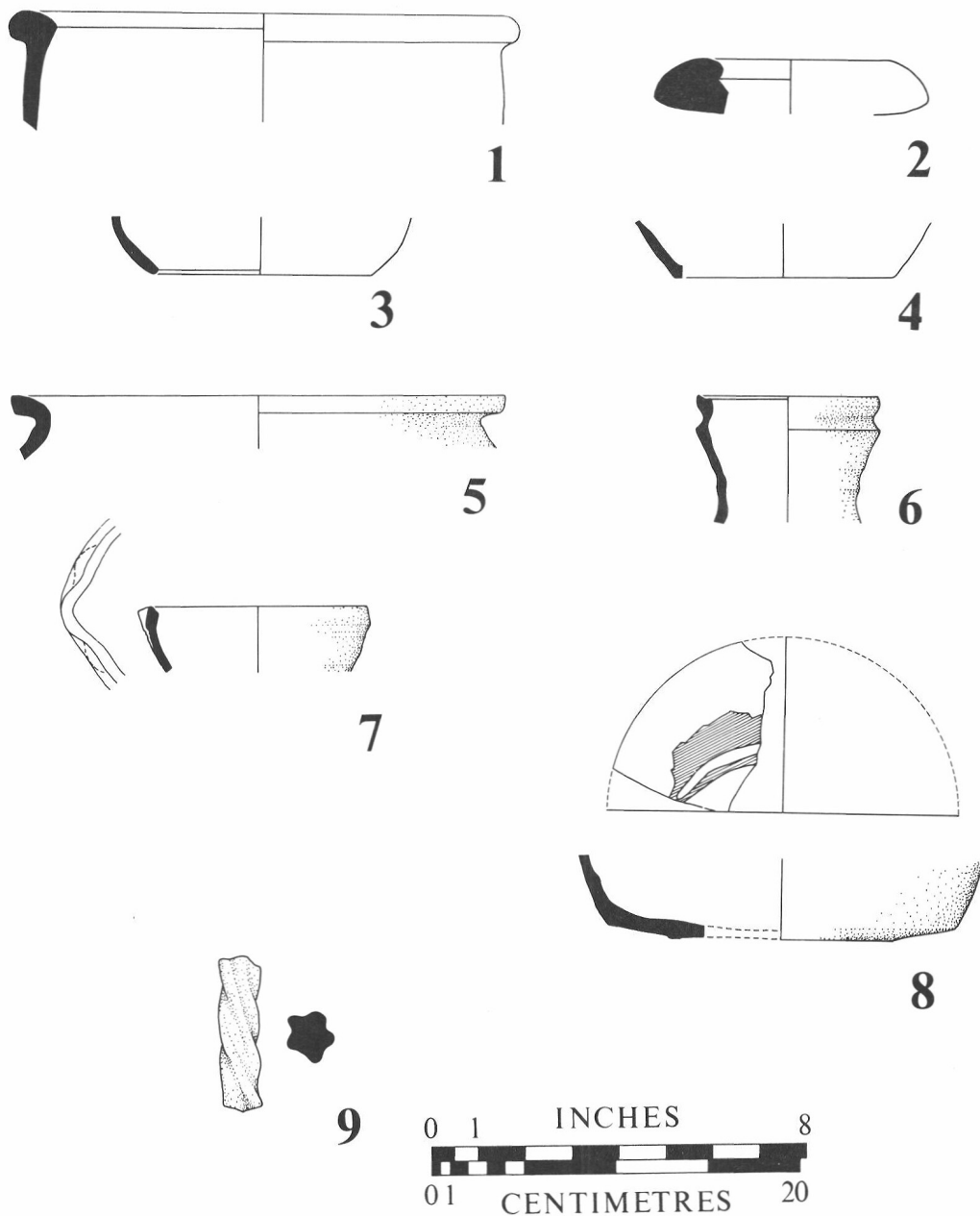


Fig. 19 Roman and medieval pottery

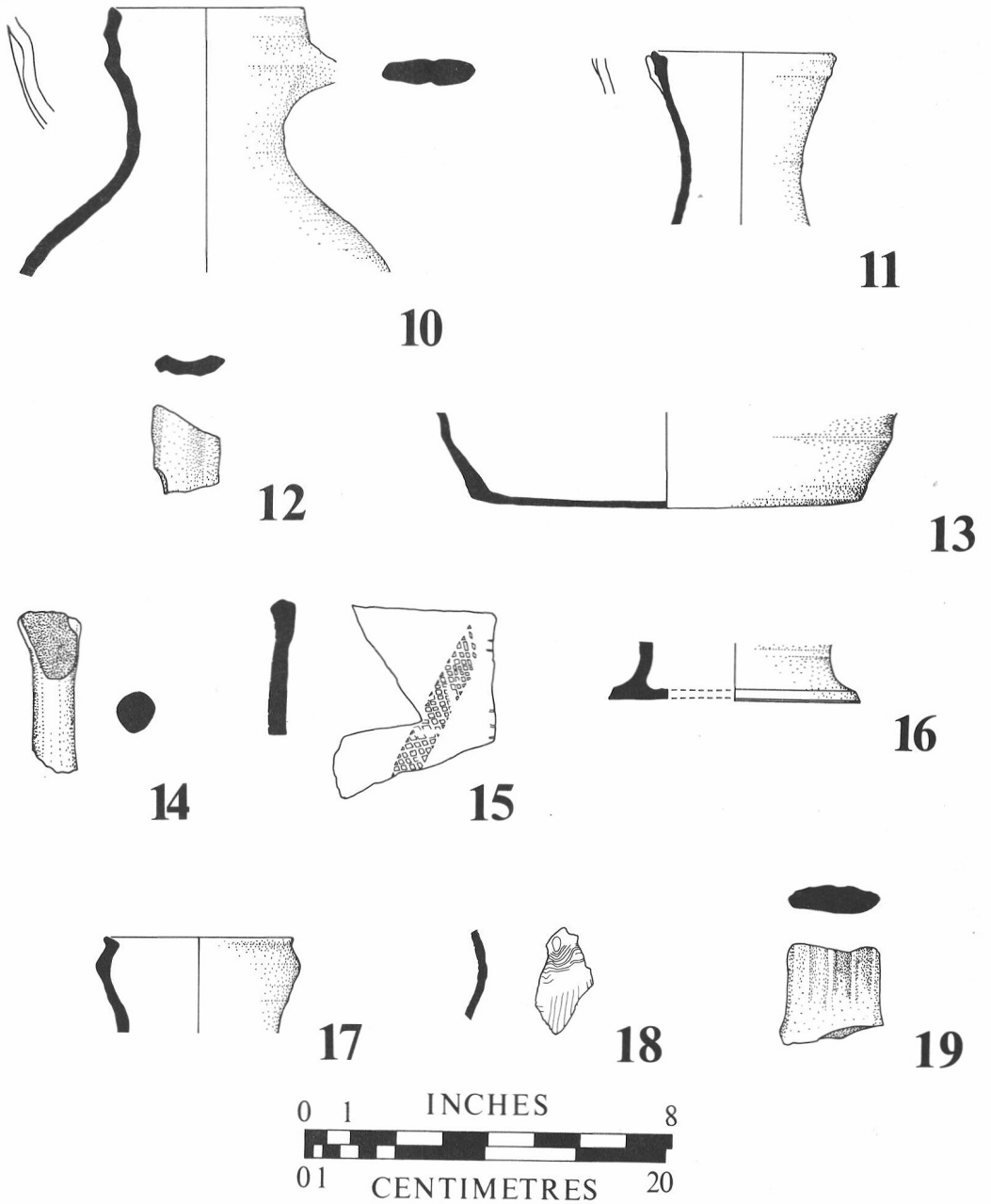


Fig. 20 Medieval Pottery

### Nottingham ware

A hard, fine, sandy fabric, the colour varying from off-white to grey with the internal and external surfaces sometimes pale buff. The external surface commonly has a dark green glaze, usually thick and evenly applied, though sometimes streaky. Most of the sherds are from jugs, and there is one bodysherd, possibly from a cistern. A date range of 13th-early 15th century is suggested from this ware.<sup>20</sup>

### Burley Hill wares

A hard, sometimes sandy fabric characterised by rounded quartz inclusions, sometimes with grogging and occasional specks of mica. A range of colours is represented, from orange through buff to pale grey. If glaze is present it can vary from yellow/green to dark green, sometimes over a white slip, and always on the external surface. Jugs and pitchers are the only identifiable forms. A date range from late 13th to early 15th century is suggested for this ware.<sup>21</sup>

### Humber wares

'Humber ware' has become a generic term for a range of pottery fabrics; those within this class here are individually described in the catalogue following.

### Chesterfield ware

This is usually a quite well-fired, often hard, fabric, although it can be soft and powdery, and is frequently much abraded. It is not heavily gritted, though the grits can be quite large (c. 3 mm × 2 mm). Among the inclusions are angular quartz, some sand, occasional mica flecks, and haematite, indicative of the coal-measures clays found in the district; grog is also occasionally present. In colour the fabric varies from pale grey through off-white to pale pinkish orange; the external surfaces are sometimes coated with a self-slip in pale buff/orange.

The vessels are glazed externally, with a colour range which includes apple green, olive green and greeny brown. The glaze often continues under the base. There is a great variation in the quality of the glaze, which is sometimes thickly and evenly applied, but more often patchy, streaky and very worn. Some vessels are splash-glazed. Some bodysherds have bands of double or triple grooved decoration.

All identifiable vessels from this site are jugs. Some are wheel-thrown, but others show good evidence of coil-building and vertical smoothing, though the necks and rims appear to be wheel finished. There are also five fragments of tile in the same fabric, two decorated with bands of square rouletting.

From the evidence of the cess pit F545 (see main text), Chesterfield ware would appear to be well-established by the mid/late 13th century. Stratigraphic evidence is of little use in suggesting a terminal date for this ware, though from the few rim forms available at present a mid/late 14th century date might be suggested.

## CATALOGUE

### 1. Stratified medieval pottery

4. Base/body sherd in softish sandy oxidised fabric with remains of much-decayed pale green lead glaze on exterior surface. Probably 11th century Derby ware.<sup>22</sup>

#### *Cess pit F545*

5. Rimsherd in Shelly ware with oxidised exterior surfaces and a dark grey core.
6. Jug rim sherd in Chesterfield ware with splashes of a lime-green glaze externally.
7. Rimsherd in Chesterfield ware with a lip; external brown/green glaze.
8. Base sherd of Chesterfield ware vessel with a slightly sagging base and prominent kiln scar. Traces of green/brown glaze externally and under base.
9. Twisted handle in hard grey/white Chesterfield ware, with a good yellow/green glaze.

## 2. Residual and unstratified medieval pottery

### *Chesterfield ware*

The following sherds were either residual, or unstratified in modern contexts, and feature numbers are therefore omitted.

10. Rim/handle sherds of a jug in Chesterfield ware. Hard off-white/grey fabric—appears to have been burnt producing an olive-green/purple brown glaze with patches of slight crazing.
11. Rimsherd with part of spout in Chesterfield ware. Hard off-white throughout with pale buff/orange surfaces. Streaky thin apple-green/yellow bib of glaze externally and over rim in places. Wheel finished from rim to incurve of neck.
12. Strap handle in Chesterfield ware. Off-white fabric with patches of grey on orange surface; very thin, unevenly applied green/yellow glaze, mainly over outer surface of handle.
13. Basal angle sherds in coiled Chesterfield ware. Hard fired off-white fabric oxidised pale orange towards exterior with orange external surfaces. Traces of knife trimming and yellow/brown glaze.
14. Rod handle in Chesterfield ware. Hard fired off-white fabric with grey core. Patchy orange/grey surfaces with unevenly applied mottled green/yellow glaze.
15. Chesterfield ware tile floor showing roller stamping of repeated lozenge motif.

### *Burley Hill ware*

16. Base of baluster jug in Burley Hill type ware. Pale orange hard fabric reduced internally, with burnt and crazed glaze externally. Stacking scars on base around edge.
17. Rimsherd in Burley Hill type ware. Fabric off-white/grey oxidised internally to pale orange. Thick olive-green glaze evenly applied externally and over part of rim.
18. Upper body sherd of Burley Hill type ware jug. Orange fabric with reduced pale grey core. Incised horizontal and vertical decoration on external surface, with traces of olive-green glaze.
19. Handle. Transitional orange gritty<sup>23</sup>—Burley Hill.

### *Nottingham ware and others*

20. Nottingham ware base. Orange sandy fabric with pale grey core. Abraded dark green glaze externally and dribbling towards base. Stacking scar on base showing only as non-oxidised crescent.
21. Rim/handle of jug. Trent Valley type fabric, Notts. form.
22. Rim sherd in Midlands purple ware. Brick-red hard earthenware. Surface rough but not porridge in texture.

## POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY by Graham Storey (Figs. 21–24)

As with the medieval pottery, very little of the early post-medieval wares came from stratified contexts. The earliest post-medieval ware is a single sherd of Tudor Green ware from the Surrey potteries.

### **Cistercian ware and its derivatives (Figs. 21–22)**

The most common domestic pottery is Cistercian ware and its derivative Blackwares. Brears' Cistercian ware cups, forms 3 and 4, are present (Fig. 21, 24, 26), and also his Midland Blackware form 1 (Fig. 21, 32). Two other Blackware forms have parallels from Stoke-on-Trent.<sup>24</sup> 47% of the sherds, however, show the distinctive white flecks beneath the glaze which are typical of the Ticknall kilns. One fragment bears a white clay pad impressed with an excise mark of William III (Fig. 21, 31). These marks were introduced in 1700, but the stamps made before 1702 were not officially withdrawn until 1876. It is unlikely that this sherd dates much later than c. 1720, as Blackware mugs are largely replaced by other wares in the early 18th century.

### **Midland Yellow ware and the slipwares (Figs. 22–23)**

Midlands Yellow ware is only poorly represented in its earlier undecorated forms. The later 17th century trailed slipwares which developed from it appear to have enjoyed a far greater popularity. Substantial proportions of two wheel-made dishes (Fig. 22, 41; Fig. 23, 42) were recovered, but none of the slightly later pressed ware plates were present. Early 18th century combed slipwares were quite common, though only one hollow ware sherd was recognised.

### **Delft ware (Fig. 23)**

Delft ware was also less common than might be expected. Twenty sherds were recovered, only three of which were decorated. Albarellos and chamber pots (single unillustrated sherds only), together with flatwares, were present. All appear to be English and unlikely to date before 1650.<sup>25</sup>



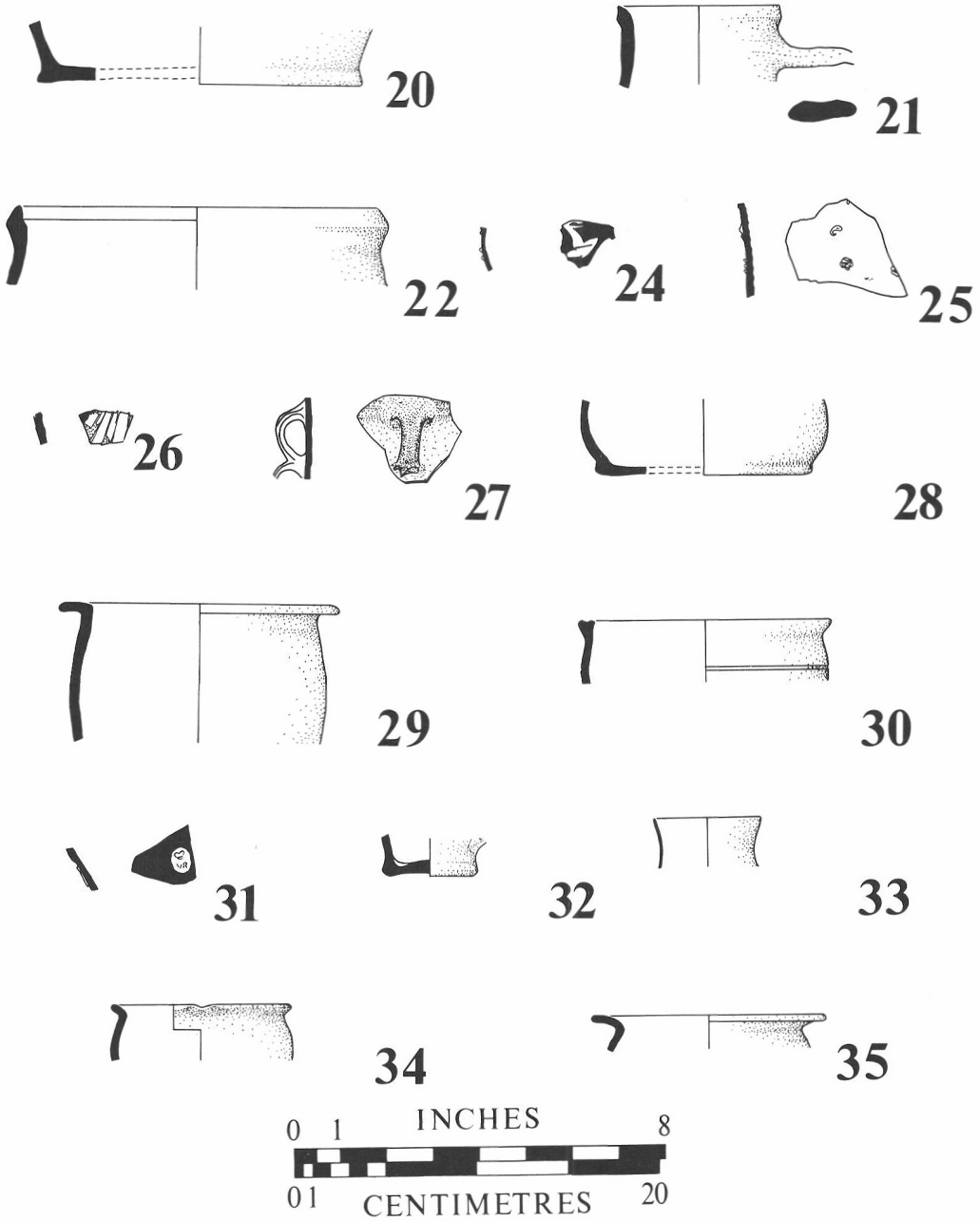


Fig. 21 Medieval and post-medieval pottery

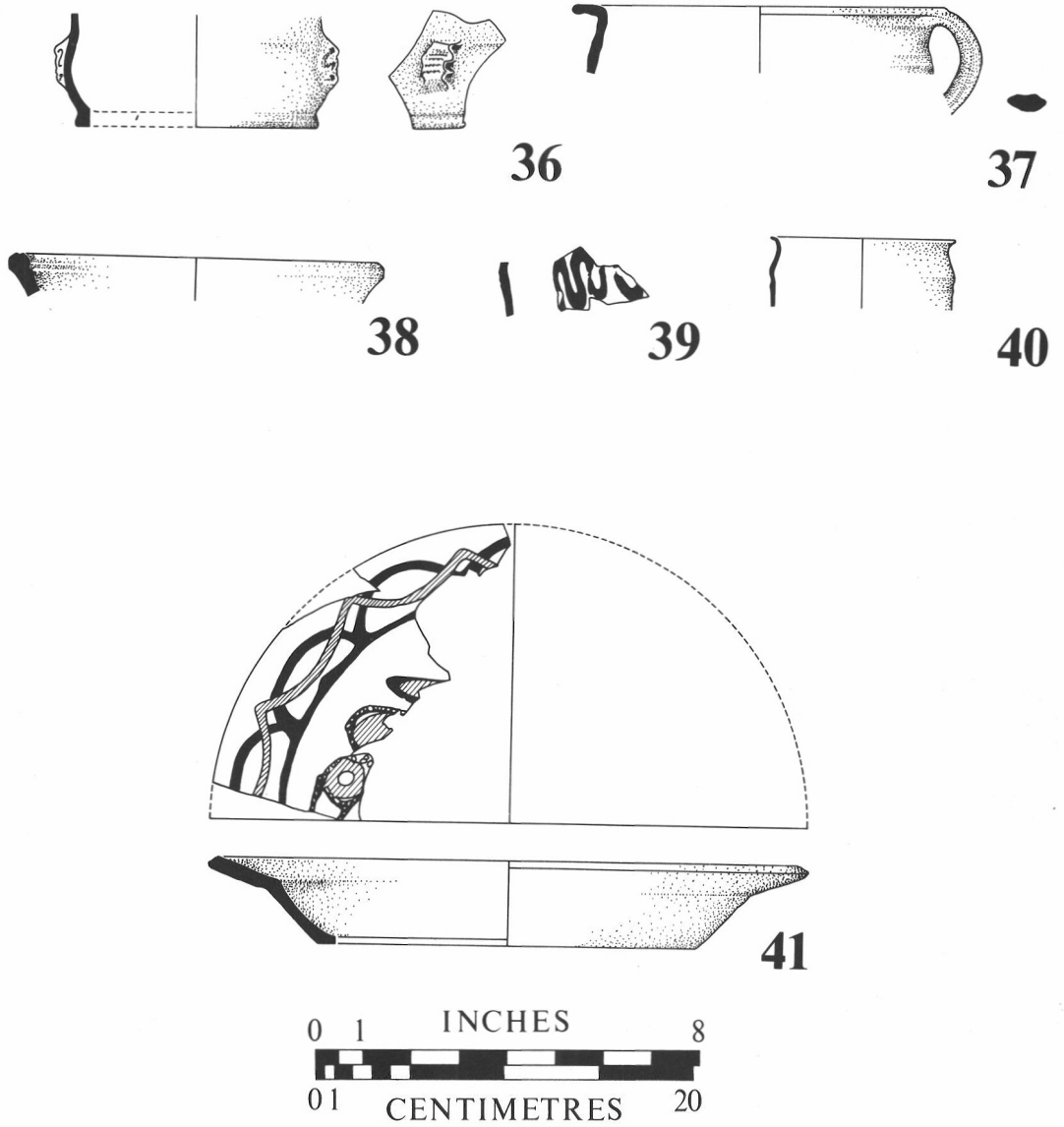


Fig. 22 Post-medieval pottery

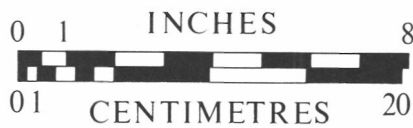
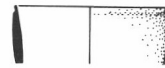
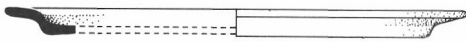
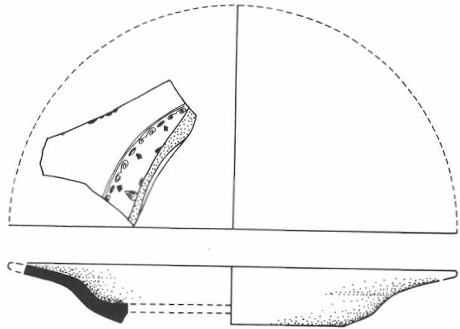
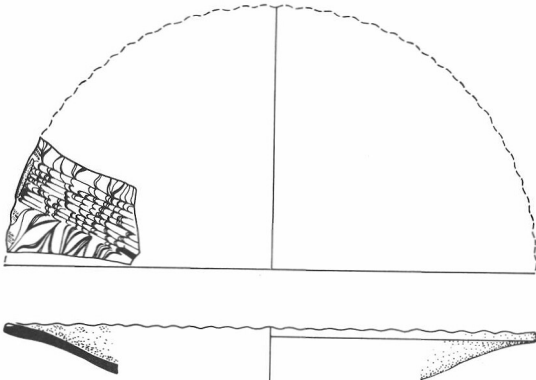
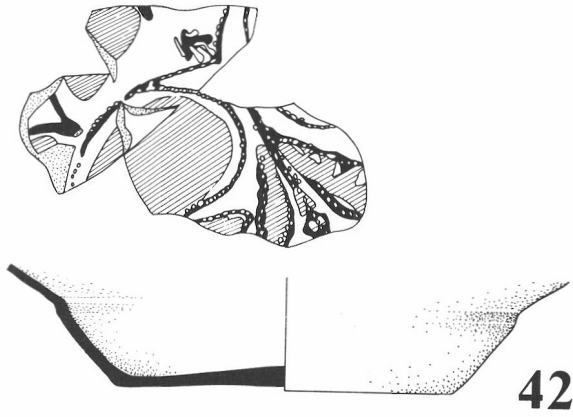


Fig. 24 Post-medieval pottery

**Imported stonewares (Fig. 23)**

Four sherds of imported German stoneware were found, representing the Rhoneland factories of Frechen, Raeren and Westerwald. One sherd of each ware represents a type of drinking-mug commonly imported during the 16th and early 17th century.<sup>26</sup> The Frechen sherd (Fig. 23, 47) is of the late 16th century while the Raeren and Westerwald fragments probably belong to the early 17th century. The fourth sherd is from a Bellarmine vessel corresponding in fabric to No. 268 from the Basing House catalogue<sup>27</sup> which is generally dated to the first half of the 17th century. All the above sherds are residual.

**English stonewares (Fig. 24)**

Very few sherds of early white salt-glazed stoneware were recovered; these include a rimsherd of a pressed plate. The brown stonewares, all of which are of Nottingham or local manufacture, are dealt with later.

The general pattern of the post-medieval pottery in Chesterfield, as indicated by the finds from the Peacock Inn site, seems to be one of an early dominance of local products, gradually giving way to the influence of Staffordshire wares during the late 17th and 18th century. The products of Yorkshire and the Southern potteries make scarcely any impression on the pottery from Chesterfield. This fits in well with the pattern apparent on other sites in the East Midlands, such as Newark and Derby.

**CATALOGUE**

23. One small rimsherd Tudor Green ware (not illustrated).

*Cistercian ware and its derivatives*

24. Cistercian ware body sherd decorated with applied white clay pads. Probably Brears form 3. Stag decoration.
25. Cistercian ware body sherd, roughly finished with uneven glaze. Decorated with stabbed white clay pads.
26. Cistercian ware body sherd. Decorated with applied white clay. Probably Brears' form 4.
27. Handle/body sherd from Cistercian ware beaker, with double handle and ribbing. White Skerries visible through glaze.
28. Base sherd Midlands Black ware. Glaze thickly applied, collecting in basal angle.
29. Rim/body sherd Midlands Black ware. Glaze brown/black, slightly streaky unglazed patch running below rim. Late piece. 18th century.
30. Rimsherd in Midlands Black ware with lid seating. Purplish red hard fired fabric. Roughly incised line externally. Glaze thickly and unevenly applied. 18th century.
31. Body sherd in Midlands Black ware, with W.R. stamp surmounted by a crown on applied pad of clay.
32. Base of handled cup in Midlands Black ware, showing scar on base from firing prop. Probably Brear's form 1.
33. Rimsherd of Midlands Black ware. High-fired purplish fabric. Glaze evenly applied with fine 'orange-peel' surface.
34. Rim/body sherd of lipped vessel in red fabric with black glaze unevenly applied over rim and internally. Unglazed exterior except for a few thin glaze patches.
35. Everted rimsherd in high fired red fabric. Slightly streaky evenly applied manganese glaze.
36. Two sherds of a Midlands Black ware multi-handled tyg.
37. Rim and handle sherd of late Midlands Black ware chamber pot.

*Midlands Yellow ware and the slipwares*

38. Rimsherd of Midlands Yellow ware. Possibly drip tray from candle holder, glazed on upper surface only.
39. Decorated body sherd of Midlands Yellow ware cup or two-handled mug.
40. Rim/body sherd of Albarello; white slip glazed pale yellow over red earthenware body. Small round stacking scar on rim.
41. Slipware dish with trailed and jewelled slip decoration.
42. Slipware dish with trailed and jewelled slip decoration.
43. Press-moulded slipware dish with combing. Pie-crust edge, hand-moulded, series of small stacking scars along edge of rim.

*Delft wares*

44. Delft ware plate with a blue floral decoration. Early 18th century.
45. Undecorated Delft ware plate. The form used at Lambeth, 1690-1780.
46. Delft ware rimsherd with stacking scars. Cauldron type container 101 or 102, Norfolk House.<sup>28</sup>

*Imported stonewares*

47. Rimsherd in 17th century Rhenish stoneware. Frechen. Ash grey fabric with mottled brown salt glaze.
48. Handle sherd in off-white stoneware with a pale grey salt glaze. Westerwald (not illustrated).
49. Base sherd in grey stoneware with clear to olive salt glaze. Raeren mug. (not illustrated).
50. Bellarmine sherd in light buff fabric with bright mottled brown salt glaze externally. First half of 17th century (not illustrated).

*English stonewares*

51. Rimsherd of a pressed plate in white salt glazed stoneware; early/mid-18th century.

## THE SHEFFIELD MANOR PRODUCTS FROM THE PEACOCK INN by Pauline Beswick (Fig. 24)

The 1971 excavations directed by the writer for Sheffield Museum uncovered the foundations of a pottery kiln which had been inserted into the ruins of the Manor shortly after its partial demolition in 1708. A dutch oven made on the site bears the date 1715 and the initials of the potter John Fox. The pottery is a mottled lead-glazed earthenware and compares closely with similar wares produced in Staffordshire in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

Products typical of the Manor kiln are tankards with ribbed and corrugated decoration, porringers, possets, chamber pots, dishes and plates which seem to be a Manor speciality. The fabric is evenly fired and is usually pale cream or pink in colour. It is noteworthy both for its relative fineness, grit filler being almost absent, and for its thin body. The basic yellow-to-brown colour of the lead glaze was enriched by the addition of manganese which produced streaks of dark purple-brown.

Earthenwares of this type are often very similar and it is often difficult to assign sherds to an individual kiln site. However, on the evidence given by both form and fabric, sherds from the Peacock Inn site can be identified as Manor products. There are ten sherds from the Peacock sites<sup>29</sup> all recovered from 19th century contexts in CVII, the back yard, including identifiable fragments from a tankard (Fig. 24, 52). An interesting fragment from the Peacock site bears the cipher WR under a crown on an applied stamp (Fig. 24, 55). It is from a ribbed vessel very similar to Manor tankards, but although the WR mark continued in use long after William III's death in 1702 no sherd bearing a verification mark has yet been found at the Manor kiln site, and identification must remain uncertain.

## CATALOGUE

52. F474 Tankard with characteristic ribbing on base.
53. F474 Base of unidentified vessel.
54. F474 Base of unidentified vessel.
55. F488 Stamp—WR under crown—applied to ribbed tankard.

## THE BROWN STONEWARE by Adrian Oswald (Fig. 24)

Forty-six sherds of brown 'Nottingham' stoneware were recovered from the Peacock Inn site, from features F409, F432, F468, F474 and F481. These features are all 19th or early 20th century in date, and are levelling spreads and disturbances within CVII, the back yard.

The pieces which have diagnostic features have been drawn. 'Glaze' and 'fabric' descriptions are based on the classifications given by Hughes and Oswald in 'Nottingham and Derbyshire Stoneware'.<sup>30</sup> References to 'John Street' relate to a large collection of waster material from Nottingham in the Birmingham Museum, closely studied by the author and to be published as an appendix to the *Stoneware of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia*.

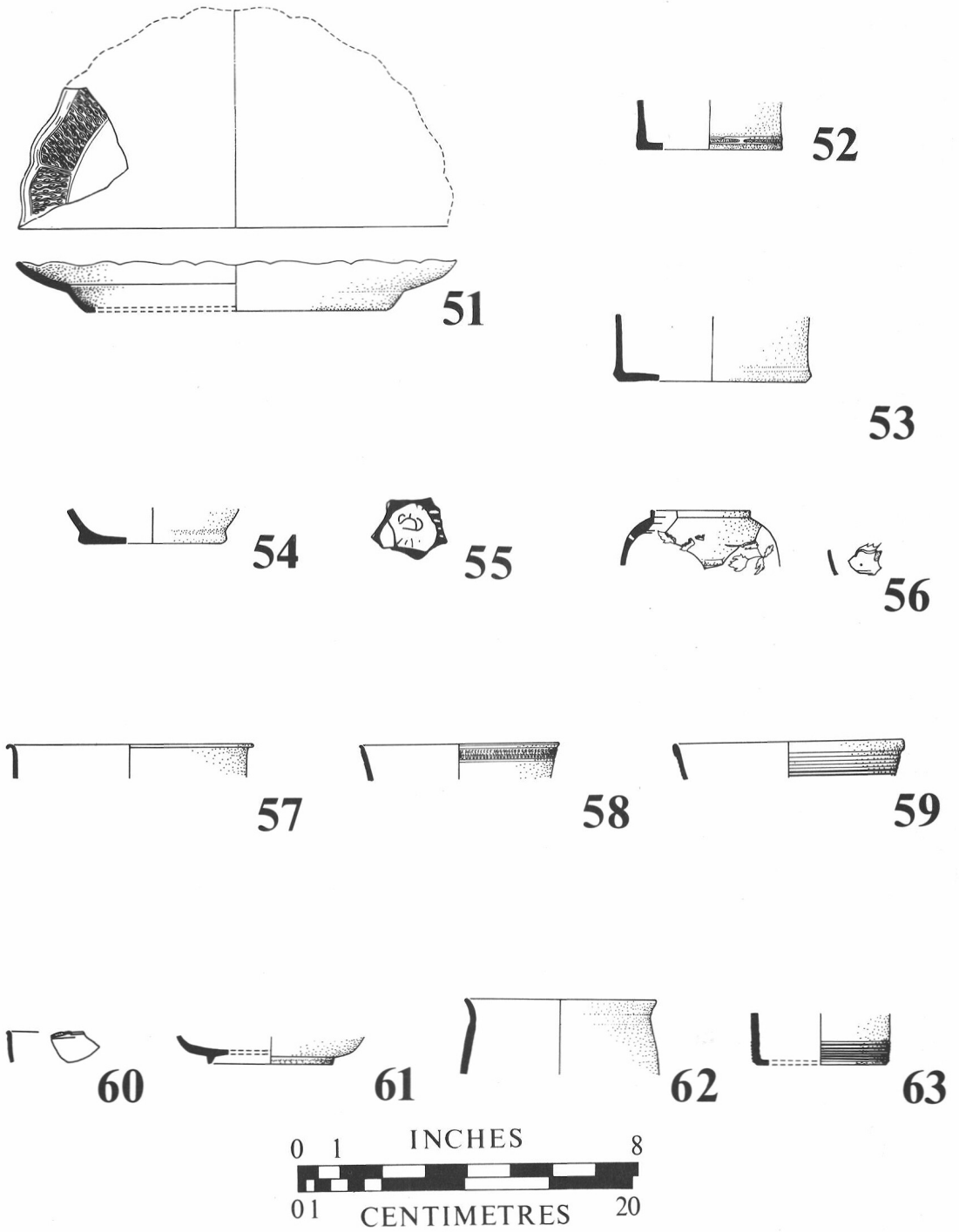


Fig. 24 Post-medieval pottery

## CATALOGUE

56. Two fragments of perhaps a teapot, (a) from F474, (b) from F409. Light to medium-dark brown glaze with some white spots on exterior. Interior glaze a buff varnish with some larger white grits and small black ones. Hughes and Oswald glaze type D. (a) shows the top of probably a strap handle between pierced leaves and incised stems and points; (b) shows a fragment of a pierced leaf.

This vessel with pierced decoration seems to be a double skin pot of type which appears in the advertisement of the *Nottingham Potter* John Morley issued in c. 1700 and now in the *Bodleian*.<sup>31</sup> This shows four kinds of such pots; a small jug, a handled cup or 'capuchine', an elaborate flower pot and a very peculiar teapot. Of these more than 20 jugs are extant and one capuchine was recently sold at Sotheby's. The flower pot is depicted by an incised design on a loving cup of 1703 but no trace has been found of the teapot. One cannot be certain from these two fragments of the nature of the vessel. In shape it is closely paralleled by a biscuit pot from a kiln in Old Hall Street, Hanley<sup>32</sup> operating 1700-30.

There is no sign in the interior of any attachment for an inner skin and the uniformity of the interior glaze perhaps argues against a double skinned vessel, but the decorative technique is in favour. The outer glaze can be matched in Nottingham and Crich material of the early 18th century.

The restoration of the design is based on the pierced jug in the Nottingham Museum dated 1701 with the inscription 'Crich'.<sup>33</sup>

57. F409 Rim of bowl. Diameter 7½ ins. Hughes and Oswald glaze type C. Light brown-buff lustrous glaze with orange peel surface and some black grits. Buff core. No white line. Glaze and delicacy of the potting suggest a date in the first half of the 18th century.
58. F409 Rim of bowl. Diameter 5 ins. Hughes and Oswald glaze type B. Medium brown lustrous glaze without the white line. Light grey core. Similar bowls from John Street date to the second half of the 18th century.
59. F409 Rim of bowl. Diameter 5 ins. Dark brown glaze (type B). Light grey core. No white line. Also John Street, late 18th century.
60. F432 Rim of mug. Brown chocolate glaze. Grey core. White line. A waster with adhesion on the lip and sherd twisted.
61. F481 Base of a ?bowl or teapot. Lustrous orange-brown glaze. Hughes and Oswald glaze type D. Interior buff varnish as 56 with the same grits. In fabric this could be the base of 56 but the diameter seems too great. The outside of this base shows faint dark striations across the body and some slight indentations on the base. Such striations occur on Nottingham and Crich vessels with inscribed dates in the range 1707-46.<sup>34</sup>
62. F468 Rim of bowl. Orange-buff glaze with some black grits. Grey core. White line. Late 18th century.
63. F477 Base of mug. Dark brown lustrous glaze. Buff red core and white line. Flat reeded base, Hughes and Oswald glaze B. Very similar mugs occur as wasters at John Street pre 1744 and at Old Hall Street, Hanley.<sup>35</sup>

The bulk of the material from Chesterfield—including the Swan Yard material which I have also looked at—seems to originate from the Nottingham and Crich potteries. However the fine black grits on No. 62 may perhaps indicate manufacture in the Chesterfield region.

## OTHER STONEWARES

Chesterfield has been the centre of a stoneware pottery industry from the late 18th century until the present day, and naturally many of its products, including the brown decorated stoneware known as Brampton ware, are found in abundance on all sites in the town. It has been thought advisable to wait in order to publish a full corpus of this pottery in the future, rather than to publish a relatively small and unrepresentative sample in this report.

## APPENDIX II

## THE CLAY PIPES

by R. C. Alvey (Figs. 25-26)

Fragments of clay pipes were found in all cuttings on the Peacock Inn site. Complete or fragmented bowls (182) were recovered, and many hundreds of stem fragments, including green glazed mouthpieces. The bulk of the 164 bowls came from the 19th

century back yard levels (CVII), and none was recovered from the floor levels inside the building (CI), although nine 19th century bowls were recovered from structural gaps between the upper floors and ground floor ceilings.

Although the contexts in which the bulk of the clay pipes were found are of no stratigraphical significance, the pipe collection is the first from the area, and therefore a number of complete bowls representing the pipe sequence recovered, including those of special interest, is published below.

#### CATALOGUE

##### Figure 25 Nos. 1–21 clay pipe bowls

1.	F516	c. 1660–80	
2.	F516	c. 1660–90	
3.	F516	c. 1660–90	
4.	F488	c. 1660–90	
5.	F481	c. 1660–90	
6.	F474	c. 1660–90	
7.	F474	c. 1660–90	
8.	F486	c. 1660–90	Marked with IS in a circle-type stamp, initials in relief, possibly same maker as 14.
9.	F485	c. 1670–90	
10.	F409	c. 1670–90	Marked with TB in a rosette-type stamp, initials in relief. This could be of Broseley manufacture.
11.	F409	c. 1670–90	Marked with IC rosette-type, initials in relief, again possibly of Broseley manufacture.
12.	F409	c. 1670–90	Marked with FH in a circle-type stamp, initials in relief. Maker unknown.
13.	F503	c. 1680–1700	
14.	F481	c. 1680–1700	Marked with IS in relief on the back of the bowl, possibly John Simcock of Broseley.
15.	F6	c. 1750–1800	An unusual pipe or cheroot holder, marked with an H in relief on the lower part of the bowl. Maker unknown.
16.	F531	c. 1760–1800	
17.	F531	c. 1760–1800	
18.	F2	c. 1760–1800	
19.	F2	c. 1760–1800	
20.	F530	c. 1780–1800	
21.	F2	c. 1780–1820	

##### Figure 26 Nos. 22–28 stem decoration

22.	F3	c. 1830 +	Possibly Henry Roden of Broseley.
23.	F474	c. 1730–70	This is a roller-impressed stem decoration, with the name (P)AUL ROBINSON in a Broseley-type square frame. The Robinsons were a family of pipe-makers, working in Chesterfield and district between 1723 and 1876. Paul Robinson is recorded in the list of Derbyshire pipe-makers. <sup>86</sup> This type of stem decoration was made in Derby, Nottingham and Lincoln, each having slight differences in its make-up.

The following examples of stem decoration are included for comparison and to help any future worker in this field; they were not found at the Peacock Inn.

It will be seen that a great deal of care will be needed with any worn or badly-rolled stamps. Many stems with this type of decoration are badly worn or incomplete, and, more often than not, the stamp has been run too far around the stem and it overlaps, making it difficult to read. These stamps are done with a roller after the pipe has been moulded and trimmed. The similar motifs used on all the roller stamps illustrated here suggest they are the work of one man, possibly the mould maker himself. He was a craftsman, as can be seen from the quality of his work.

Realising that each pipemaker should know his own work, he made a slight change in the roller decoration supplied to each pipemaker. This decoration can be single, with or without a name, or repeated once or twice with or without a name.

24. From Derby. Inscribed Salisbury, Derby.
25. From Derby. Inscribed Rich. Pain, Derby.
26. From Nottingham. Inscribed John Wyer.
27. From Nottingham. Also a Wyer pipe.
28. From Lincoln. This roller stamp had no name; the pipe could have been made in Derby or Chesterfield or be by a Lincoln maker as yet unnamed.



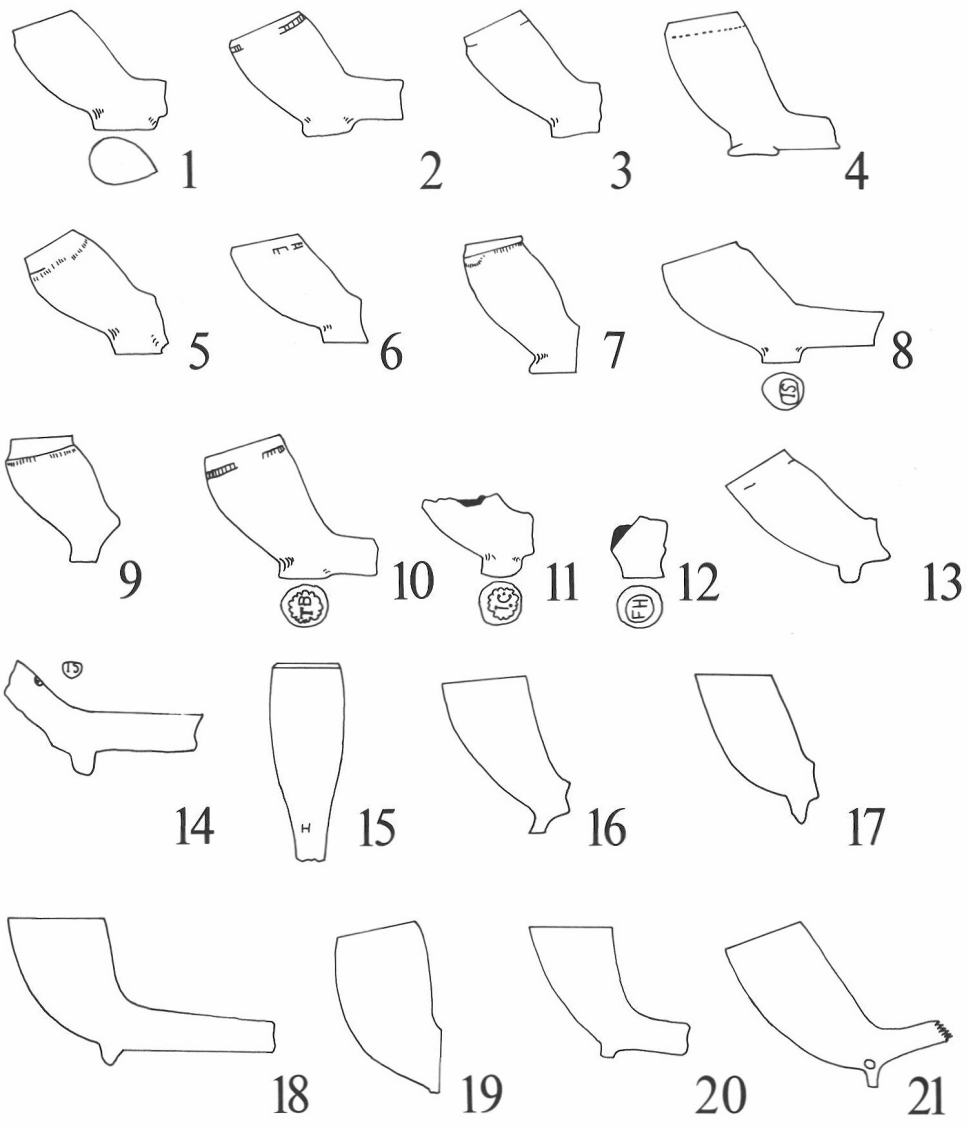
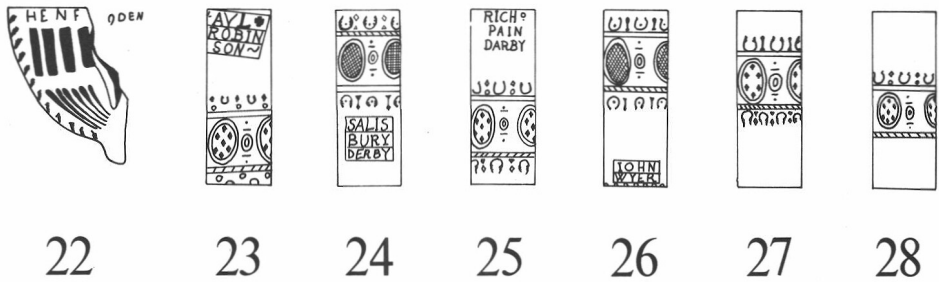


Fig. 25 Clay tobacco pipes



64



Fig. 26 Clay tobacco pipes and pipeclay figurine

#### THE PIPECLAY FIGURINE by Vivienne Metcalf (Fig. 26, 64)

A small headless figurine, perhaps a chessman, was found in CVII F503, the fill of a foundation trench dating to the late 18th or early 19th century. The figure stands 4.8 cm high on a base measuring 1.8 × 2.2 cm, and was made in a two-piece mould. The fabric is yellowish-white, discoloured to pale brown in some places on its surfaces. The sex of the figure is not apparent, though the elaborately draped robe might indicate that it is female.

### APPENDIX III

## INTERPRETATION OF INVENTORIES

by Patricia Borne and Philip Dixon

**Transcripts of the inventories by Rosemary Milward**

(a) Hugh Wheldon of Chesterfield, 1st June 1686 (proved 22nd September 1686)

	li	s	d
Imprimis Purse and Apparrell	10	00	00
In the roome called the house			
A landiron two froggs one Rackentine an iron plate one fire shovell and A paire of tongues	00	06	08
A lancke Settle and three Chaires	00	10	00
A Cupboard and two tables	00	15	00
one hanginge Cupboard	00	05	00
In the Chamber over the house			
one seeled beadstead one feather bed one Matrice 2 bolsters 2 pillowes 3 blanketts A rugge Curtaines and vallance	03	00	00
one Trundle bed A flock bed one blanket one Coverlett and one pillowe	00	06	00
A Lank Settle and A little livery Cupboard A Chest A deske A trunk and A little landiron	01	00	00
In the Chamber over the Kitchin			
One halfe headed bed A flock bed 2 Coverletts and A Boulster	00	13	04
Two seeled Chests A trunk A deske one table and A Buffett Forme one measure called A Strike one measure called A pecke 4 Corne sackes	01	06	08
eight paire of linen sheets att sixe shillings per paire and eight paire of hardin sheets att 3s per pair	03	12	00
eight paire of pillow beares	00	08	00
3 dozen of linen napkins 3 dozen of hardinge napkins linen and hardinge Cloth and hardinge yarne	01	16	00
Flax beere	02	00	00
	00	10	00
In the Chamber over the Shoppe			
A seeled bedstead one feather bed one Matrice two blanketts one rugge one bolster one pillowe and Curtaines and vallance	05	00	00
A table 4 Chaires 4 buffetts and one Chest	01	10	00
In the Chamber over the Gatehouse			
one seeled bedstead one flock bed one rugge one Coverlett 2 blanketts one bolster 2 pillowes and Curtaines and vallance	01	10	00
three Chaires	00	04	00
A hacking saddle and A pillion	00	10	00
A deske and A little Chest	00	06	00
two loades of wheate	00	12	00
Oates and blend corne	00	05	00
In the Kitchin			
12 pewter dishes 6 pewter porringers 2 pewter flagons one pewter Tankerd 2 pewter basons and 2 pewter Chamber potts 4 brass potts 3 brass skelletts 2 iron potts 2 iron kettles one puddinge pie plate and one posnett	04	10	00
one landiron 2 froggs one rackentine one fire shovell one paire of tongues 4 spitts	01	00	00
2 paire of Cubboards and one dreepinge pan			
Pewter plates and trenchers	00	10	00
Foure bibles and other bookes	01	00	00
two dressers A little table and 2 Chaires	00	05	00
twelve Cusheons	00	12	00
In the Cellar			
One stone trough 2 dressers 2 barrells 2 brewinge tubbs 2 churnes one washinge tubb and 2 kitts	01	05	00
	45	15	00
In the stable and Chamber over it			
One Chest 4 ladders haie and pickforkes	01	00	00
In the Shoppe and Warehouse			
tobacco 10li Strongwaters 03li oile treacle and vinegar 1li	14	00	00
Browne Sugar 12li fine browne Sugar 04li 10s	16	10	00
A Barrell of sope 02li 06s A frayle of reasons 16s	03	02	00
Browne paper and Starch 01li Currans 06li 10s	07	10	00
Gunpowder ginger brimstone and alam	01	00	00
Hopps 12li loafe Sugar and fine powder sugar 05li 10s	17	10	00
Reason of the sune and pruan	01	00	00

	li	s	d
Nutmegs Cloves and Mace and Sinomond	03	00	00
Browne Candie	00	05	00
worme seed Coriander seeds Carue seeds and annyseeds	01	10	00
Pins incle thread Cardes white paper pack thread Candles and pipes	02	10	00
A nest of boxes Shopboard glazed pipes shelves and press and barrel of Sand	02	03	04
five paire of brass scales and brass weights A paire of great scales with an iron beame and severall leaden weights	00	15	00
Three foales and A Cow	12	00	00
And all huslements	03	00	00
oweinge to Hugh Wheldon at the time of his decease from Mr. Richard Marchant upon two Bills under his hand and Seale	80	00	00
oweinge then alsoe to him from Thomas Bretland and James Bretland upon writeinge obligatorie	20	00	00
oweinge to him then alsoe from John Downes upon writeinge obligatorie	05	00	00
one Bill speciall from William T . . . to Hugh Wheldon deceased for the payment of two pounds and fifteen shillings upon (the) sixth day of December next	02	15	00
	198	10	04
	45	15	00
	<hr/>		
Total	244	05	04
Debts accounted absolutely . . . are these following—			
One further writinge abligatory dated the 14th day of September 1657 whereby Nicholas Webster deceased stood indebted to Hugh Wheldon deceased for the payment of tenne pounds	10	00	00
One other writeinge obligatorie whereby Samuel Towndrowe stands indebted to Hugh Wheldon deceased for payment of three pounds	03	00	00
	<hr/>		
	13	00	00
	<hr/>		
By us Richard Milnes Joseph Rotheram Richard Milward			

(b) Thomas Bretland of Chesterfield 19th September 1687 (proved 20th September 1687)

	li	s	d
Imprimis Purse and Apparell	01	00	00
In the house			
Item			
One Cubboard 1 little Box 1 langsetle and 1 little chaire	01	10	00
In the Far Parlors			
One little table 1 glass case 1 chaire	00	09	00
In the greate Chamber			
One livery Cubboard 1 Carpit 1 deske	00	12	00
At the staire Head			
One Bedstead 1 Chest one deske one Fall table	01	01	00
In the Kitchen			
Five score pound weight of puter	03	06	08
Two gunns 1 great Chest 2 sauce panns 1 pott and one possnet	01	10	00
One Brass dish and 5 candlesticks	00	05	00
In the Brewhouse			
One Copper and cover 1 mash Fatt one litle Barrel and 1 loome	06	13	00
In the Fould			
One sow and 5 piggs and 4 shotes	02	13	00
Two powles 1 ladder and some odd wood and one stone trough	01	17	00
In the stable and in the Feild			
Two mares 1 gelding and some Hay	10	15	00
In the Barne			
A percell of Rie and a percell of oates	03	10	00
	<hr/>		
Valued by us James Massey John Revell Daniel Worth Robert Allen	35	01	08
	<hr/>		

## (c) Marget Wheldon of Chesterfield 8th January 1691/2 (proved 8th April 1692)

	li	s	d
Imprimis Her Purse and her Apparell	15	00	00
In the goods there prised to	02	00	00
House Putter and Dishes	03	04	00
Kittchen goods	03	10	00
Chamber over the House goods in it	02	16	00
Chamber over the Kittchen goods in it	03	10	00
Chamber over the Shopp goods in it	05	00	00
Chamber over the Gattehouse in it	02	00	00
Linnings Prized to	10	00	00
Hopps to	09	00	00
Cellor to	00	10	00
Boxes to	04	10	00
2 Longe Ladders	00	10	00
In the Debt Booke	04	10	00
Bonds that are desperate	31	05	00
Husselments of the house	00	10	00
Shopp goods			
One Case of Peper 14li	00	18	08
Jammaka Pepper 7li and a ½	00	11	00
Longe Pepper 2li	00	02	00
Turmerick 1li½	00	01	06
Indiccho 18li	00	18	00
wormeseede 7li	01	01	00
Chouse ¼	00	02	03
Sinnomon ½	00	01	06
Suggar Candie 1li½	00	01	09
Cloaue Barke 1li½	00	02	06
Sugar 13li	00	03	03
Suggar 9li½	00	02	04
	200	00	09
Currand 22li	00	06	00
Corrand 2st 1e	00	19	00
Fine Suggar 2 00	00	10	06
Soape 20li	00	05	00
A Kag of Soape	00	15	00
Gingar	00	13	04
Challke	00	06	00
8 Reahme of Course browne paper	00	12	00
5 Reahme of Cappaper	00	12	06
Teareing Papper	00	05	00
4 Quier of Writing Papper	00	01	08
7 Pounce of Brimstone	00	03	00
2 stone 10li of Gunpowder	01	10	00
14li of Sugar Candie	00	10	00
2 stone 7li of Reasons	00	09	00
½li of Nuttmegs	00	03	04
11 Dozen and 4 Barbers Balls	00	08	00
Tobaccho 40li	01	16	08
Same Tobaccho 40li	01	16	08
7 Dozen and ½ of Candels	01	02	09
Pippes	00	05	00
24 Dozen of Soape	01	04	00
Alloes 3li½	00	05	00
	14	16	05
	200	00	09
	214	17	02

Richard Milnes  
William Poynton  
Peter Parkinson

## Interpretation

As the excavations have revealed no sign of an early eastern rear wing, the property subdivision has been taken as a two thirds/one third splitting of the front range, with the west wing belonging to the one third. Bays 1 and 2 have been allocated to the Wheldons, and Bay 3 and the wing to Thomas Bretland. This arrangement, with the disposition of the rooms as shown in Fig. 16, combines the following advantages:

- (i) The layout of rooms is compatible with their order in the inventories.
- (ii) A likely position for Bretland's 'at the Staire Head' (large enough to contain 1 bedstead, 1 chest, 1 deske, 1 Fall table) is at the top of the original grand staircase. Linked with this is an explanation for the absence of a chamber over the Bretland kitchen.
- (iii) A plausible reason for the greate Chamber's title is provided by its occupation of a whole bay, which, furthermore, may well have been unceiled. (There is no evidence for a pre-19th century ceiling in Bay 3).
- (iv) The Gatehouse is more acceptable at the eastern end of the building—one at the west end would involve postulating a pentise beyond Bay 3. Location at the east end also allows continuity of passage siting.
- (v) The Wheldon cellar would appear, from the order in which the rooms are listed, to have been entered from the kitchen. A cellar of possibly early date was found partly under the conjectured position of this kitchen.
- (vi) Continuity of fireplace siting is allowed—a valuable point insofar as the two remaining bays are concerned, for the present stacks are in the only positions where breaks in the rafters occur directly over breaks in the joists.
- (vii) It seems preferable to envisage the continued use of the original ground floor partition and that of Truss X, supplemented by new divisions, rather than to postulate an entirely new set of partitions. The earlier ones are distinguished in Fig. 16 by heavier line.

An inconsistency perhaps arising from the inclusion of 'a little landiron' (andiron) among the contents of the chamber over the Wheldons' house, which, in the present reconstruction, can have had no hearth, would have to be explained by the article being in storage rather than in use there. Though a hearth might be expected in the chamber over the kitchen, through which, in our scheme, the central stack rises, the inventories mention no fire furniture in this room. This stack has therefore been shown on the plan without a first floor hearth.

The Bretland 'Far Parlors', listed as containing '1 little table, 1 glass case and 1 chair', has been taken as referring to one room only, which has been placed at the base of the staircase. The term could, however, have been used to describe two extremely under-furnished rooms (Bretland was a comparatively poor man), in which, case the second parlour could take the place of the kitchen, this, with the brewhouse, then being moved one unit further down the wing. The wing itself, beyond the staircase, might have been the remains of a longer original wing, or could have consisted of a range of single-storeyed outbuildings extending from the staircase block.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>The modern windows have been omitted from the plans to avoid confusion, but can be seen in the elevations. In these a number of features now missing or completely invisible, but for which there is good evidence, have been indicated in broken lines. In several instances surviving original timbers that are not visible, because of insertions, from the section lines have nonetheless been drawn in solid outline, as though seen through the insertions, e.g. all three rear posts at ground level in Fig. 13. This has been done for the sake of clarity and only in cases where such outlines can be seen from elsewhere.

The perspective reconstruction (Fig. 15) includes further timbers now missing but for which there is reasonable evidence, such as rear wall studs. Some existing timbers, on the other hand, are omitted for clarity: in Bay 2 all the joists except the second from the east, and in Bay 3 the rafters, cove and first floor studs on the north side, and some studs on the gable end. Bay 1 has been indicated in outline, but no attempt has been made, as the surviving evidence is too slight, to reconstruct the original wing to the rear of Bay 3.

It will be observed that in the text the dimensions of the timber-framed structure are cited by the imperial measurement in which it was designed.

- <sup>2</sup>We are grateful to Mr. F. W. B. Charles for this suggestion.
- <sup>3</sup>'Scotches, lever sockets and rafter holes', *Vernacular Architecture*, 5(1974), 21-4.
- <sup>4</sup>'The purpose of rafter holes', *Vernacular Architecture*, 9(1978), 26-31.
- <sup>5</sup>K. W. E. Gravett, 'Rafter holes', *Vernacular Architecture*, 8(1977), 40.
- <sup>6</sup>F. Atkinson and R. W. McDowall, 'Aisled houses in the Halifax area', *Ant. J.*, XLVII. 1(1967), 77-94, esp. p. 81 and Plate XVIIIId. A similar arrangement may be seen at Throstle Nest: compare *Yorks. Arch. J.*, 44(1972), 222, Fig. 1 and for discussion J. A. Gilks, 'Boothtown Hall', *Yorks. Arch. J.*, 46(1974), 74.
- <sup>7</sup>W. A. Pantin, 'Medieval English Town-House Plans', *Medieval Archaeology*, VI-VII (1962-3), 202-239.
- <sup>8</sup>S. E. Rigold, 'The Town House, Barley', *Hertfordshire Archaeology*, 3(1973), 94-99.
- <sup>9</sup>S. E. Rigold, 'Two types of Court hall', *Arch. Cant.*, 83(1968), 1-22.
- <sup>10</sup>P. B. Chatwin, 'The Hospital of Lord Leycester . . .', *Trans. Proc. Birmingham Arch. Soc.*, 70(1952), 37-47, esp. p. 37 and Plate 16.
- <sup>11</sup>L. Fox, 'Some new sidelights upon Stratford-upon-Avon's medieval guildhalls', *Trans. Proc. Birmingham Arch. Soc.*, 70(1952), 48-59.
- <sup>12</sup>C. G. Holland, 'Kelsale Guildhall', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Arch.*, XXX(1965), 129-142.
- <sup>13</sup>The Moot Hall was described by Samuel Pegge (College of Arms, Pegge Collection, Derbyshire ii, 113, 115, 117). For this and other information in this paragraph we are indebted to Mr. Philip Riden.
- <sup>14</sup>Nottinghamshire Record Office, Portland MSS, A Description of the Grand Inquest at Chesterfield, 1562 (DDP/59/8) and Oakley papers, Chesterfield Library. This reference was kindly provided by Mrs. Rosemary Milward.
- <sup>15</sup>*Valor Ecclesiasticus* III, 174-5.
- <sup>16</sup>Initially investigated by Mrs. Milward; Lichfield Joint Record Office, B/C/11. We are grateful to the Staffordshire County Archivist for permission to publish transcripts of the three inventories.
- <sup>17</sup>This and other title deeds of Nos. 65 and 67, Low Pavement, were investigated by Mr. Riden: Chesterfield Borough Council, Town Clerk's Department, title deeds to Corporation property.
- <sup>18</sup>See Appendix III for transcript of inventories and discussion of their interpretation.
- <sup>19</sup>I am indebted to Mr. G. Coppack for this information.
- <sup>20</sup>I am grateful to Mr. A. McCormack of Nottingham Castle Museum for this information.
- <sup>21</sup>I am grateful to Mr. G. Coppack, the excavator, for this information.
- <sup>22</sup>Identified by Mr. G. Coppack.
- <sup>23</sup>R. Hall and G. Coppack, 'Excavations at Full Street, Derby, 1972' *D.A.J.*, XCII (1972), 29-77.
- <sup>24</sup>Six Figs. in City of Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society Report No. 41973.
- <sup>25</sup>I am indebted to Mr. J. G. Hurst and Mr. R. Alvey for this information: also B. J. Bloice, 'Norfolk House, Lambeth: Excavations at a Delft ware kiln site 1968', *Post Medieval Archaeology*, V(1971), 99-159 (Bloice).
- <sup>26</sup>Bloice.
- <sup>27</sup>S. Moorhouse, 'Finds from Basing House, Hampshire c.1540-1645' (Part 1), *Post Medieval Archaeology*, IV(1970), 35-76.
- <sup>28</sup>Bloice.
- <sup>29</sup>In contexts F474 rubble levelling for yard containing mostly 19th century finds, and F488 19th century rubble spread.
- <sup>30</sup>R. G. Hughes and A. Oswald, 'Nottingham and Derbyshire Stoneware', *Transactions of the English Ceramic Circle*, 9(1974), Part 2, 144-6. (Hughes and Oswald).
- <sup>31</sup>Hughes and Oswald, P189a.
- <sup>32</sup>Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society Report No. 6, 20 No. 54 (Stoke-on-Trent).
- <sup>33</sup>Hughes and Oswald, 176(2).
- <sup>34</sup>Hughes and Oswald, 146.
- <sup>35</sup>Stoke-on-Trent, 19 No. 30.
- <sup>36</sup>A. Oswald, 'Clay pipes for the archaeologist', *British Archaeological Reports*, 14(1965), 165-6.

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