

EXCAVATIONS IN THE VILLAGE OF TARRING, WEST SUSSEX

By KENNETH JAMES BARTON

SUMMARY

This report details the results of several trial excavations in the village of Tarring and includes the results of the investigation of a house located in the Rectory orchard. This house dates from the late 13th to the 16th centuries, and provides some evidence of the types of ceramics in use in the area during this period.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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TARRING, anciently a separate village, is now incorporated as a district of the Borough of Worthing. It is situated to the west of that town by about two miles and lies a mile inland. (N.G.R. 133040). It was originally a one-street village (now High Street-South Street) to which the church was connected by a twitten, now Church Road.

Historical records of the village go back to a charter of A.D. 940. It was hoped that excavation at selected points would provide a sequence of datable building plans and ceramics from the 10th to the 16th century. Trial excavations took place at six points on the line of what was considered to be the most fruitful areas, i.e. along High Street and South Street about the junction with Church Road which includes some of the land adjacent to the Old Palace. It is in this area that the most ancient remaining structures lie. They include a Palace of late 13th-century foundation, early 16th-century houses and late 16th- and 17th-century houses with later facings, also an 18th-century pigeonhouse.

The sites investigated were (Fig. 1):

1. Rectory Garden.
2. Post Office Garden.
3. Gardens of the three cottages of Parsonage Row.
4. Back Garden of No. 22 High Street and forecourt of West Tarring Boys' Club.
5. The Glebe and Palace grounds.
6. The garden of Market House.

Several of these sites produced only negative or inconclusive evidence. Details of the discoveries at each of these sites are listed below:

SITE 3. Back gardens of the cottages known as Parsonage Row. (These cottages are dated architecturally to *c.* 1480-1500).

Extensive trenching in these gardens failed to produce any material earlier than the middle of the nineteenth century, when it appears that the whole of the top soil was stripped down to the natural (coombe rock) and covered with a three-foot thick layer of coal ash and domestic rubbish. It seems, with one exception, that the ground behind these cottages was not used for the deposition of rubbish by the usual manner of burying in pits. One brick-lined rubbish pit was found here and dated to *c.* 1860. A representative collection of the contents was retained.

SITE 5. The Glebe and Palace grounds.

Although known as the Glebe it was felt that the proximity of this field to the palace might have ensured that rubbish pits and building remains would have been found here. Extensive trenching of this area failed to produce any finds whatsoever.

Three trenches were dug around the Palace. Two small ones in the flower beds on the north side were unproductive. At this time contractors dug a drainage trench along the north wall and into the glebe. This was also barren of archaeological material. A trench, 4ft. wide and 12ft. long, was dug at right angles to the east wall of the Palace (this wall has obviously been repaired at some time as door and window frames are placed haphazardly in its structure) with the object of testing its foundations. Careful investigation of the wall at this point showed that no actual foundations existed, and that at a depth of one course of stone below the present ground level (*i.e.* 9in.) a thin layer of black soil was seen to pass under the building. Pottery actually extracted from beneath these stones was seen to be of mid-19th century date. This also contained the fragment of a pipe made by Harringtons of Brighton *c.* 1860-1870. The rest of the trench contained only a large pit full of empty champagne bottles! There were no traces of medieval levels outside the walls.

SITE 6. The garden of Market House.

One small trench was dug here and although it produced a few

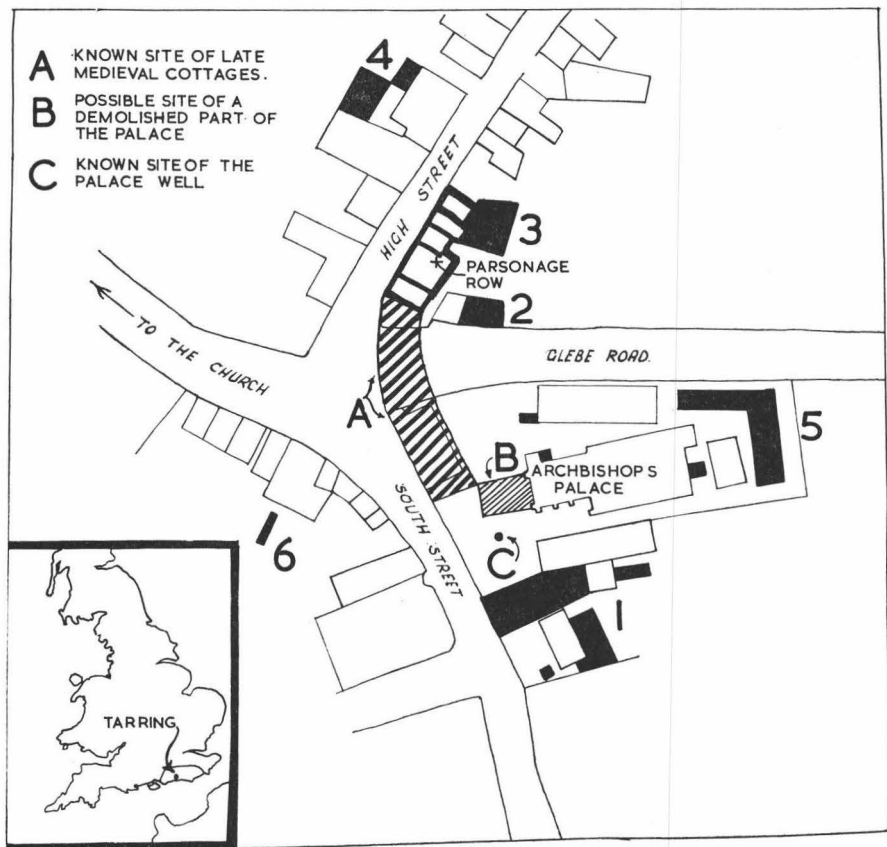


FIG. 1
 LOCATION OF AREAS INVESTIGATED.

sherds of medieval and post-medieval date no structures of any significance were found.

SITE 4. Back garden of No. 22 High Street and forecourt of West Tarring Boys' Club.

The ground to the rear of this 17th-century building was thoroughly investigated and the only item of archaeological significance that was discovered was a thin layer of very black soil, probably an accumulation of tread, which lay on the natural. This layer contained several fragments of medieval pottery, none of which could be dated to earlier than the 14th century.

West Tarring Boys' Club. This recent construction lies on a plateau just behind the site discussed above. Trenches were dug in

front of this building prior to the forecourt being laid down with concrete. Three features were discovered. In the south-west corner on the edge of the plateau was a small pit containing pottery of the period 1675-1700, but due to vandalism this pit was not fully investigated. In the south-east corner a small pit containing two fragments of 14th-century pottery were found. In the centre of the area investigated, in front of the club entrance, trenching revealed a section of plaster flooring, where 14th-century pottery was found in association. It was not possible to continue work on this site owing to the construction programme.

SITE 2. Post Office Gardens.

A well found on this site has been reported on already (*S.A.C.* vol. 101. Worthing Museum Archaeological Notes, 1961).

SITE 1. Rectory Garden.

Three areas were investigated here: 1a. To the east of the pigeonhouse; 1b. To the south, adjacent to the wall of the Fig Garden; 1c. In the orchard at the junction of the boundary wall of the Palace and South Street and eastward of the pigeonhouse. A small trial trench was also dug to the east of this site.

1a. To the east of the pigeonhouse the footings of a wall can be seen which lines up with a buttress existing on the Palace wall. This demolished wall can be traced at least as far as the north wall of the Fig Garden. Excavation proved it to be of 18th-century date. The area in between this demolished wall and the pigeonhouse contained two distinct layers of soil that produced in the upper layers ceramics from the late 17th century to the present day, and in the lower layers fragments of 14/15th-century wares.

1b. Work in the south-east corners of this area (currently a chicken run) revealed a floor of medieval date, as did the small trench to the south of 1c.

1c. THE ORCHARD (Fig. 1, site one, Fig. 2, Fig. 3)

It was in this area that the most significant find of all was made: the foundations of a house that had been occupied from the late 13th century to the early 16th century.

Because it was situated in the middle of the orchard it was not possible to examine more than about 60% of the building, and even then many of the features were damaged by the action of roots.

The building was roughly rectangular in shape, built slightly askew to the road so that the front wall did not form a right-angle, although the back wall was at right angles to the side walls. It measured 38ft. x 24ft. across the middle of the length and the breadth.

Four periods of occupation were noted at this site.

Traces of an earlier structure (Fig. 2, East End)

At the lowest levels of the Phase One building traces of a sill wall with a mortar base were seen. This lay within the later structure and the mortar setting for its base and its eastern limits had been cut into by the sleeper beam trench of this building. There were

RECTORY GARDEN ORCHARD

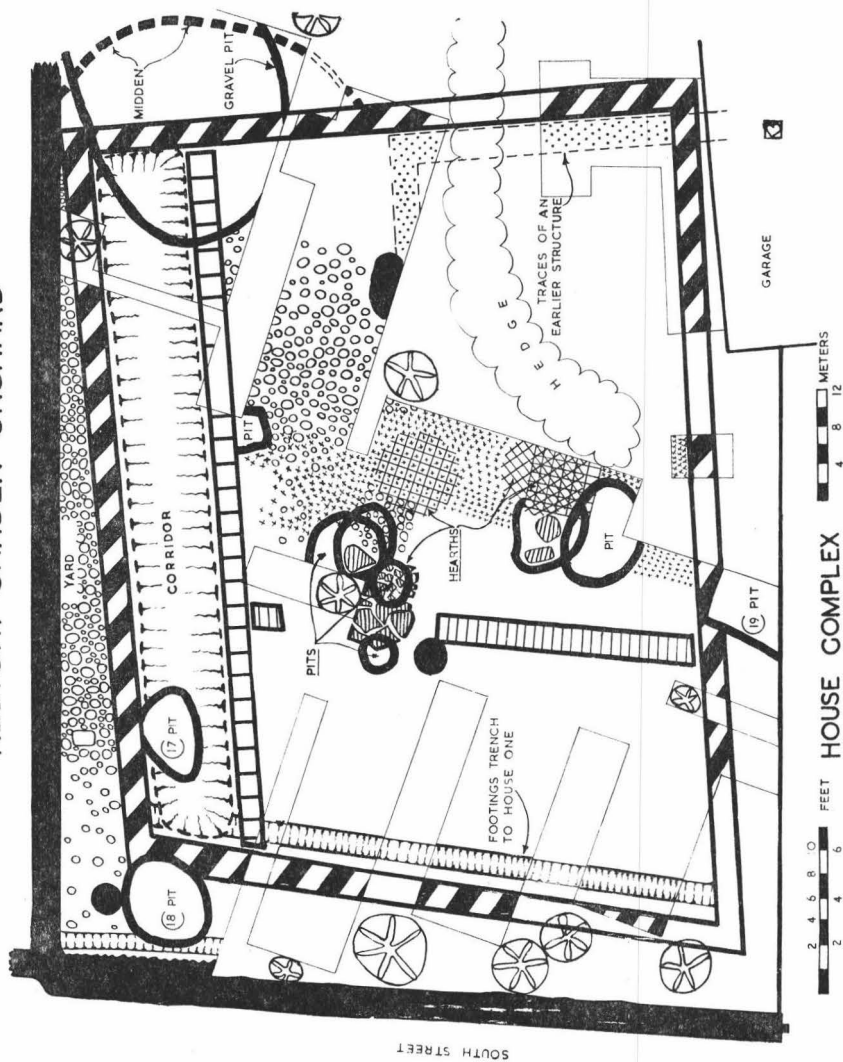


FIG. 2

traces of a return to the west which were broken by the post hole that supported the gable of the later structure at this end. No levels or artifacts were associated with this structure, which may have been of a temporary nature.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING (Figs. 2 and 3)

Phase One (Fig. 3, No. 1)

This was a simple timber structure with the wall rising from a sleeper beam set in a shallow trench. Within the building two posts 10in. and 12in. in diameter respectively supported the roof. An exit was situated in the north-east corner of the house. In the centre of the floor was a large circular depression which contained the hearth. The smoke from this hearth rose through a vent which was probably controlled with a ceramic chimney. The roof was covered with flat unglazed red tiles and the ridge with splash glazed and crenellated ridge tiles. The floor of the house was of dirt as was the yard to the north. On the south side of the house there was evidence of a fence or wooden wall along the line of the existing boundary of South Street. This was to be seen in a narrow sleeper beam trench that contained traces of rotted or burnt wood. This southern section was very disturbed, but no traces of building were found here. To the east the ground at this period of occupation appears to have lain fallow of human occupation. The exit to the north-east indicated that this structure may have been connected with the Palace in some way.

The occupation appears to have been shortlived. The floor had little accumulation on it and there was no evidence of structural alterations in this phase as is common in buildings with a long history of occupation. This building and its occupation fall within the local ceramic time scale at the very end of the use of flint grogging for the body of vessels (Fig. 4, Nos. 4, 5, 6). The significance of this and conclusions regarding dating, etc., will be discussed below.

Phase Two (Figs. 2 and 3)

Reconstructions

At the end of the first phase of occupation the house was completely rebuilt. It was demolished, the sleeper beams lifted and the resultant trenches filled with rubbish, as was the hollow of the central hearth. Immediately following this demolition a large pit was dug through the north-east corner of the building. This pit, which had steep sides and a flat bottom, had been cut to a depth of 2ft. into a seam of clean gravel that occurs here within the coombe rock. This pit was subsequently filled with clean red clay containing pottery and food bones and a little charcoal. This fill had been rammed to make it firm enough to carry the footings of the next building.

The rebuilt house was two feet longer than the phase one building though following a similar plan making a new front on to South Street. The construction was in timber on a low sill of flints and lumps of chalk (brought from the beach). (c.f. Parsonage Row footings). This sill varied in height from 6in. to 1ft. With the exception of the front section this sill was built over the filled-in sleeper beam trench and had, in consequence, sunk in several places. The new front section to the west was laid on a bed of mortar which rested

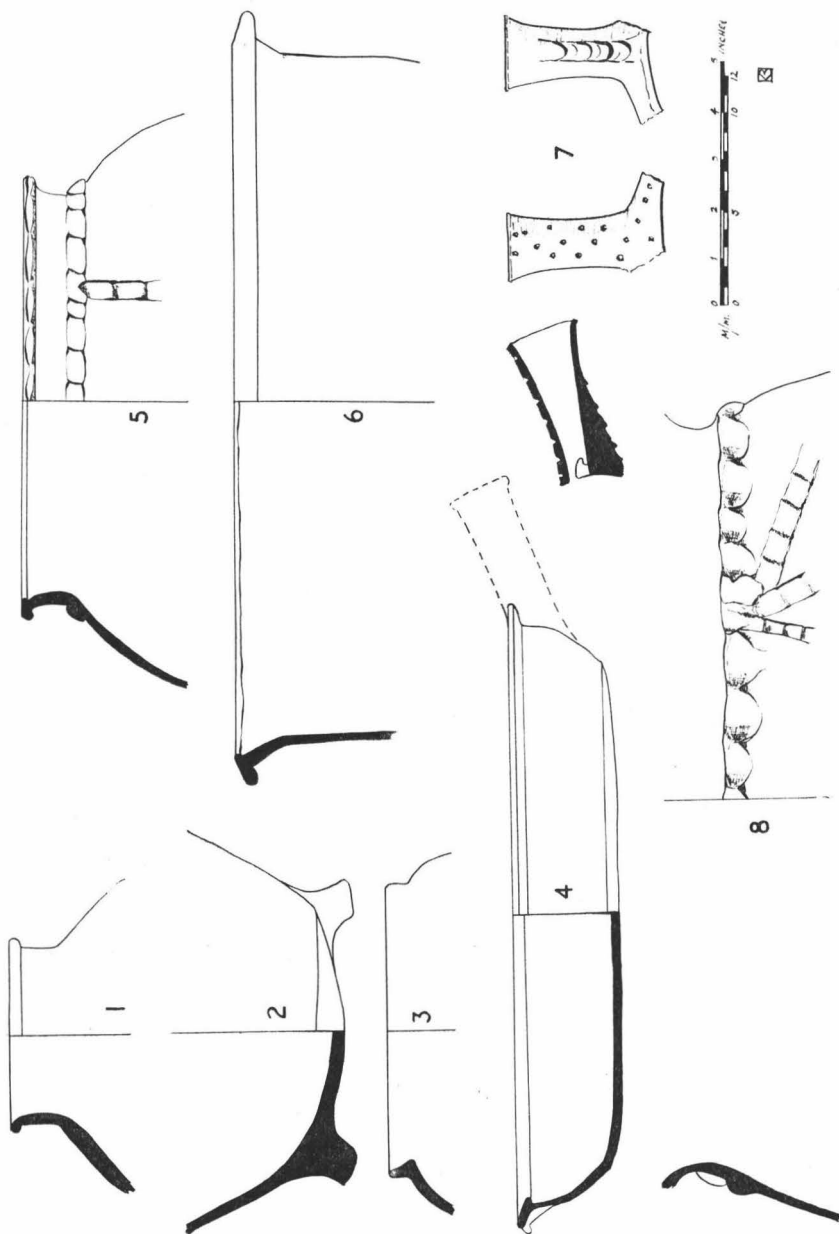


FIG. 4

on the natural. The stones were cemented with a coarse lime mortar.

Following the construction of the outer walls of the house, a corridor was inserted running parallel with the north walls; this was again a timber wall constructed on a sill made up from chalk blocks, flint and odd pieces of tile. Entry was gained from this passage into the middle of the house and from it direct to South Street. There does not appear to have been access to the rear of the building as was seen by the later accumulation of a midden.

It appears that the western post of the original building remained in use although the eastern one had been replaced. Flooring was carefully laid down in parts of the house. In the western half of the building a red clay layer was put down and covered with a yellow plaster. The eastern half began with what can only be described as a hard stand of rammed gravel that lay as a band across the house. Beyond this had been what the writer assumes was an earth floor with a cobble pitching.

These floors were far from complete by the final stages of the occupation. There were many worn places which had been patched with plaster, clay, tile, soil and stones. The plaster floor was worn over wide areas, and the earth and cobble floor had been turned over as if by the hooves of tethered animals or the scratching of fowls.

Associated with this phase of occupation were a large 'hearth,' two 'industrial' pits and two rubbish pits (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, No. 2). The 'hearth' was large roughly circular area that lay south of the central position. The underlying clay and surrounding gravel were very heavily burned. The clay was burned so hard that the upper two inches were of the same texture as soft red brick. This clay was not deliberately laid, but occurred at this point in the natural. The amount of heat generated to bake this clay must have been considerable. However, the proximity of this hearth to the eaves of the house might suggest that it was not an open hearth, but the base of a cloam oven. There are no other hearths in use here during this phase.

Pits (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, No. 2)

Two large 'industrial (?)' pits are known in this phase, so called industrial for want of a better description; they were both of different character. The first was a large pit roughly oval in plan, cone shaped in section and 2ft. 6in. deep. This pit was cut into the edge of the hearth just discussed. It contained seven separate layers of yellow sand (not local). Each layer was burned red on its upper surface and had a layer of charcoal on top of this which in turn was covered with a clean layer of sand. It might be assumed that this pit was dug, a layer of sand placed within it and a fire made with (?) charcoal on this sand. (Was it artificially fed with air?). Some operation then took place, after which the fire was doused with a fresh spread of sand. The purpose for which this particular pit was dug is not fully understood as no artifacts were found in association, however, it

was in the other 'industrial' pit that a clue to the possible answer was found. The second 'industrial' pit was situated on the north side of the room, slightly west of centre. This pit was of circular construction with a roughly semi-circular section; it contained in its upper portions a quantity of charcoal and in its lower portion a small piece of lead melt, then, resting on the bottom of the pit in a layer of charcoal was a cake of lead. This lead had run from a ladle or pot and formed a puddle somewhere where vegetation, such as straw, reeds or grass, could have impeded its flow. There was no indication that any burning had taken place in this pit.

Two other pits belong to this phase: they were small rubbish pits lying just north of the western post hole. The most central of these contained a nearly complete vessel (Fig. 5, No. 9). The other pit contained a few food bones.

Midden (Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Nos. 2, 3)

It is during the initial stages of phase two that the midden was accumulated outside the (?) back door of the house. This comprised for the most part many hundreds of oyster shells (most of which had been rejected hinged) as well as cockle, winkle, mussel and whelk shells; although these types were noticeably fewer than the oyster shells. Food bones were also common, but not so well preserved. A quantity of pottery was found in this midden (see below).

Corridor Floor (Fig. 2, Fig. 3, No. 3)

The floor of the corridor was cut away at the end of this phase and the resultant hollow, at its deepest, 9in., was used for the deposition of domestic rubbish. A quantity of pottery was found in this deposit.

Phase Three

This phase is separated from the main occupation of the house for several reasons. Principally, there was a partial reconstruction of the interior of the house which was divided by a party wall; also there was the construction of an oven and hearth of a new form. Above all, in these final layers, we have a distinctive change in the ceramic forms. There is also an indication of the date of this phase in the shape of a coin. This coin is a *solido* of the Venetian mint issued between 1478 and 1485. It is well worn and very heavily clipped and may have been in circulation for some time—a period of 25 years is suggested. This coin lay on the remains of the plaster floor in what had become the front room of the building by the construction of a party wall which enclosed the western third of the building and replaced the western post. The sill for this timber wall was made up with a deal of rubbish, many potsherds, oyster shells, bones and scrappy bits of flint and chalk, these being bound with a sandy white mortar. This wall extended 10ft. into the house and in

line with it across a gap of seven feet was a similar construction against the corridor wall designed to carry the upright of the door post.

Hearth and oven (?)

The oven was most peculiarly situated within the 7ft. gap that lay between the divided portions of the house. It was unfortunate that a large and ancient medlar grew out of this feature; sufficient was seen, however, to show that the structure was in two parts—a layer of large flat stones making a rough square (2ft. sq.). This was faced to the east by a smaller area, roughly 15in. x 18in. made of broken secondhand bricks. On the large stone platform and scattered around it were a number of 'oven brick' fragments (Fig. 6, Nos. 24, 25). The area had been burned and traces of burnt daub were also found. Associated with this hearth or oven was a rake back that contained much ash and charcoal; a stone had been laid over some of this near to the oven and was probably put there to stand a vessel on near the heat. This oven had been built over the complex of pits previously discussed. The now disturbed gravel strip had been repaired with cobbling in front of the rake back.

The (second) hearth was much larger than the oven and it had replaced the circular one used in phase two. It was, in fact, partially built across the same place as that hearth. The new hearth was rectangular in shape and measured 3ft. x 4ft. It comprised odd bricks, stones and flints, all of which were heavily burned. A quarter of a stone mould for casting leaden objects in was built into this hearth (Fig. 6, No. 24). Despite the alterations that took place at the beginning of this phase no major reflooring took place. The midden remained in use and the corridor floor also received rubbish during this period.

About 1515-1525 the house was abandoned (was this associated with the closure of the palace *c.* 1529?), and demolished, as was shown by the fact that there was no scatter of roofing tiles on the floor, although some were found at the front of the building.

The site then lay derelict and within 100 years one foot of soil had accumulated over it. At this period, *i.e.* the mid to late 17th century, the site became a yard on which a layer of rainwashed pebbles accumulated (a worn halfpenny of Charles II was found at this level) and rubbish pits of late 17th and early 18th century date were dug. After this period the place seems once more to have been neglected until the wall facing on to South Street was built in the 18th century. This wall was completely replaced later by a new wall, the footings of which run parallel to the earlier one. The wall dividing the palace grounds from this site appears to have been built about 1830. Further development in the nineteenth century caused a brick-built cess pit to be constructed through the south wall of the house.

THE FINDS

Romano-British

Phase two floor make-up. (Fig. 4, No. 1)

The neck and upper parts of a vessel in a hard blue grey paste with an overhanging rim. Probably a mid to late 4th century form.

Midden. Five fragments of Romano-British roof tile (tegulea only).

Medieval

Coin: Soldino-Venetian mint. Giovanni Mocenigo. Doge of Venice 1478-85. Badly clipped and worn.

The pottery

One of the principles of this exercise was to determine the sequence of ceramics in this area. This was achieved in part in that it was possible to specify the products of the 13th to 16th centuries only.

The ceramic variations and the phases of occupation correlate to some extent. The ceramics fall into three main groups related to their pastes. These are: flint grogged pastes, sand grogged pastes and ungrogged pastes, in that order. This sequence is also reflected to some extent in the illustrated examples, of which it has been possible to show only a few of the more salient examples from the considerable quantity of material found.

*Figure 4**Phase One. In make-up of floor*

No. 4. Fragments of a skillet with pouring lip and traces of a hollow handle. In a hard reduced buff paste with a grog of fine flint grits.

No. 5. Top of a cooking pot in a similar paste to No. 4 decorated with pie-crusting on the exterior of the rim and with applied thumb-pressed strips on the neck and body.

No. 6. Upper portion of a cooking pot in a hard dull red ware with a grogging of large grained sand.

No. 2. In central hearth. Base of a tripod pitcher in a hard smooth slightly sandy paste. (This is the only example of this paste and form at the site).

No. 3. Fragment from the rim and shoulder of a cooking pot in a similar paste to No. 6.

Phase Two Fill of sleeper beam trench

No. 7. Skillet handle in a hard reduced paste similar to Nos. 3 and 6. Decorated with piercings on the top and a thumbed strip below.

No. 8. Fragments of a large cooking pot in a hard buff-coloured sandy paste. Decorated with thumb-pressed applied strips. The parallel between this vessel and No. 5 is very striking; it probably indicates the continuance of a tradition in design used on the new paste.

*Figure 5**Pit One*

No. 9. Complete cooking pot in a hard buff sandy paste.

In make up of floors

No. 10. Fragment from the rim and neck of a jug in a slight red

paste grogged with a very fine sand. Decorated on the outside with an applied rouletted vertical strip, and an applied boss stamped with a deeply recessed ring and dot motif. The latter is applied over a vertical wash of dark slip. The whole has been lead glazed in an oxydising atmosphere giving an all-over yellow glaze and turning the dark slip to a dark brown colour. Inside the rim and downwards to a depth of 4in. the vessel has been washed with a white slip. This is a most interesting piece because of the treatment it has received and because of its relationship to other vessels elsewhere.

The fact that this vessel is oxydised is relatively unusual, for the bulk of the medieval pottery of this region is fired in a reducing atmosphere. Furthermore, the decoration of this vessel is strongly influenced by northwestern French designs, in which the use of the boss and rouletted strips in association with vertical slip washes is common. (Paris, Rouen, Caen in particular). All the vessels of NW. France appear to be oxydised. All this might point to a French origin for this vessel were it not for the fact that the paste is different; indeed, the paste is exactly the same as that of West Sussex ware, as is the rim form which exactly parallels some examples found at this site. Finally, the white slip wash on the inside of the rim is a peculiarity of West Sussex ware. Examples of oxydised wares were found at Tarring but are uncommon. Although these other examples are green this colour is achieved by the use of copper, necessary to copy the iron green common to reduced wares. There is little doubt, therefore, that this fragment originated in Sussex. It is so uncommon here that for parallels in style and decoration we must look elsewhere. A large group of vessels hitherto unpublished that have been found in and around London and are lodged in the principal museums of that city and in Maidstone, Kent, provide the best examples.

The nearest parallel to the illustrated example can be seen on a vessel from the Greyfriars Monastery, Smithfield, London. (B. Rackham, *English Medieval Pottery*, Plate 'A').

No. 14

Fragment from the side of a vessel in a smooth white paste, covered on one face with a thin bright green copper glaze. One surface decorated with fine thumb-pressed pellets in a strip and also a fine applied line, all in a white underglaze paste. The quality of this fragment places it without doubt amongst the fine wares of the 14th century that are common to NW. France and is readily paralleled by examples to be seen in the Musée d'Antiquités, Rouen, France.

Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 15—West Sussex Ware

This generic term is given to a group of green glazed jugs which have a distribution that appears in the light of recent researches to extend from mid-Sussex to mid-Hampshire, including south Surrey. It is the principal form of jug in use in West Sussex during the period under discussion. In the main these jugs have tall necks on bulbous

bases and solid rod sectioned handles. The decoration is nearly always a reduced monochrome green (with the exceptions discussed above). This colour is relieved with incisions in the form of combing (No. 11) or single stick work (No. 13) occasionally applied thumbled strips are seen (No. 12) these are also rouletted on occasions (No. 15) or jabbed to represent this treatment. Most examples have a fine grey sandy paste that fires on unglazed or unslipped surfaces to a light buff colour (see also Fig. 5, No. 20).

Nos. 16 and 17. Two strap handles decorated with slashing in a smooth hard brick red paste. Covered with a thin green glaze. These handles are associated with 'painted slip under glaze' types. *Corridor Fill* (This includes Phases 2 and 3) (Fig. 5, 18, 19 and 20) No. 18. Skillet fragments in a hard smooth grey paste (known as painted ware paste as it is similar to that found in painted ware vessels, c.f. *S.A.C.*, vol. 101). This vessel had a wide flat handle decorated on the top with slashing and on the bottom with long scorings. Traces of splash glazing.

No. 19. Fragments from the top of a cooking pot in a buff sandy paste. Unglazed. This was the commonest form of vessel on the site, this rim form and paste continued in use throughout the post Phase One occupation and into Phase Three.

No. 20. Top of a jug with a bridge spout. West Sussex ware. Monochromatic reduced green. Paste is a fine green sand grogging decorated with horizontal scoring and applied strip at the spout.

No. 21. Resting on the Top Floor

Tankard with a wide collar and globular body. Traces of a handle are seen on the rim. The whole in a fine smooth white paste covered in part with a lustrous green glaze. A typical example in paste and of glaze 'tudor green' wares. This is in an interesting form as it reflects the Rhenish/Flemish tankard shapes of the period and is an obvious copy of them. The problems of 'tudor green' are only just beginning to be considered, but it is already patently obvious that we must look to western France for the source of this material as well as to sites in England where it was made as well. It is most likely that this vessel is not an import in view of its form and was made here.

DISCUSSION OF THE CERAMICS

The division of the occupation into three periods is essential in order to limit the varying activities that were carried out into specific periods. In actual fact the whole period of activities at this site run into one another and are parts of a whole; this is exemplified by the chronological succession of the ceramics.

In the ceramics we see that the initial occupation begins at a time when flint grogging is coming to an end and sand grogging is coming into prominence. These sandy buff pastes are available at the end of Phase One, and these appear to belong to the same stables as those which produce West Sussex Ware. The former was definitely found

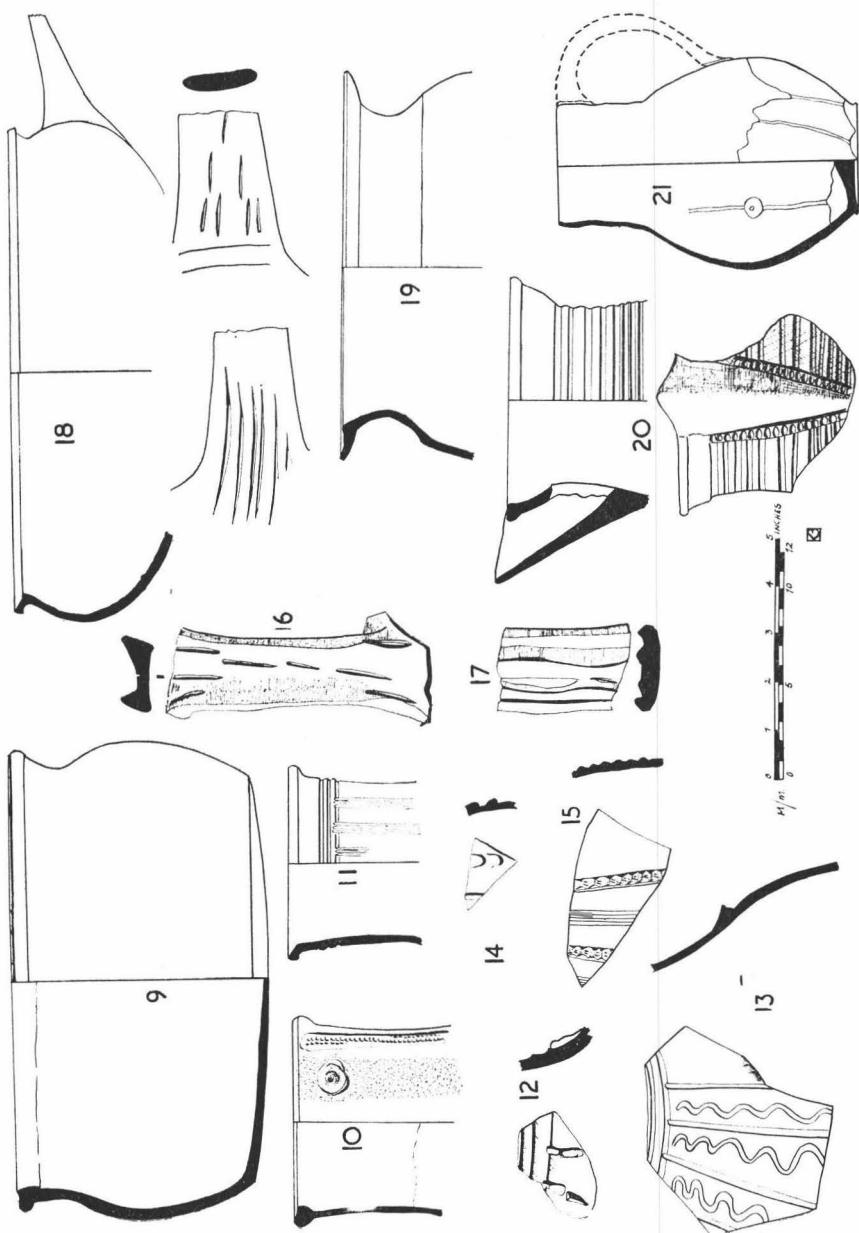


FIG. 5

in association with the Phase One occupation, the latter only in the central hearth which may have been filled up at the time of the filling of the sleeper beam trench.

At the beginning of Phase Two, buff sandy pastes have replaced flint grogged wares and associated with West Sussex ware jugs are the common ceramics. The former continue in use throughout the occupation, the latter remain strong throughout Phase Two and fade out in Phase Three. By the end of Phase Two another form of jug is appearing, this new form is similar in paste to West Sussex wares, but it is decorated with thick painted white and sometimes brown slip, usually in vertical stripes under a coarse green glaze. The jugs have strap handles. Similar wares are known elsewhere to appear about 1350 and these could well be part of that movement.

It is at the end of Phase Two and in the corridor fill that bridges the gap between Phase Two and Phase Three that 'painted ware' proper begins. This ware, which is described in full in the Tarring well report (*S.A.C.*, vol. 101) is an entirely different ceramic type from West Sussex ware, in paste, form and decoration. Arriving at the same time as this new ware are Flemish saltglaze tankards (c.f. Tarring Well report) and also (or later) 'tudor green.'

The dating of these wares is our only criteria to the dating of the structure for we have no other records and the only coin suggests a date for the end of the occupation.

What then of the date of flint grogging? These wares have a long history in West Sussex where they are ultimately derived from Saxon types. Mr. G. C. Dunning in his article on the early medieval pottery from selected sites in Chichester (with A. E. Wilson, *S.A.C.* vol. 91, pp.140-163) tends to regard flint grogging as a 12th century feature and buff sandy pastes as appearing at the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries.

It has already been stated (Tarring Well report *S.A.C.* vol. 101) that painted wares are current c.1500 and this is to some extent brought out by the association of Flemish salt glaze wares and tudor green wares. One would not at the present state of knowledge look much beyond 1450 for the beginnings of these wares here.

We are then left with the possibility that the West Sussex ware/buff sandy paste group stretches from c.1200 to 1500; in the light of experience it would seem unlikely that there would be such a length of time without change in design. It is certain that West Sussex ware was being ousted by slipped wares before painted ware took over completely. It could, therefore, be suggested that its production ceased between 1450 and 1475. To give a standard ceramic form a life of plus two hundred years would appear generous to the writer; this could take us back to the period 1250-1275. The well-turned flint grogged vessels of Phase One could well have extended into the first half of the 13th century.

We are left then with a hypothetical chronology for the sequences

of occupation of the house: Phase One, 1250-1275; Phase Two, 1275-1450; Phase Three, 1450-1525.

ROOF FURNITURE

Roof furniture in the form of ridge tiles, flat roof tiles and chimney pots were found in association with the Phase Two and also in such positions as to suggest that they were also used in the earlier phase.

Ridge Tiles Fragments of these were found in the 'gravel' pit indicating a phase one period use (although not necessarily on this building); also in the floor of Phase Two and in the corridor fill.

All these fragments, with two exceptions, are of a type common to this area. They are in a coarse, heavily grogged, paste covered with a rough green glaze. The tiles have a crenellated crest. The two exceptions are two fragments in a thick, fine bodied reduced buff paste, glazed a bright iron green and bearing decoration in diagonal scraffito.

Flat Tiles Fragments of these were found in all levels after the destruction of Phase One. Their presence in the 'gravel' pit would suggest their period one use. These and those from the make up of the floors of Phase Two had round peg holes, whereas those of the later periods had square peg holes.

At the south end of the Phase Three house a quantity of roof tile was found both inside and outside the building. Amongst these fragments was one example with a dressed diagonal cut suggesting that the gable face was tile hung. A nearly complete flat tile was also discovered. Surface markings on this tile show that it was made in a mould and the excess scraped off in one downward motion. The tile was then laid on grass or straw to dry: the impressions of this are quite distinct on the tile. Two (?) rectangular peg holes were then pierced and when the tile was fired it curled slightly. It was hung with the straw marked side uppermost and had been hung for a sufficient time for the exposed quarter to have become very pitted with weathering. The underside bears traces of the adherent cement which was laid on the lower third.

Chimney pots (Fig. 6) Description by Mr. G. C. Dunning.

These objects were found in association with Phase Two levels only.

No. 22. Part of a chimney pot, about 7in. in diameter, probably from the upper half of the side. Hard light brown sandy ware with sparse flint grits. The surface is smoothed vertically and is light greyish brown in colour. The inside shows wiping marks sloping downwards, made by the fingers after the pot was taken from the wheel. The sherd is decorated with a plain vertical applied strip probably one of four spaced equally round the pot, as indicated in the drawing.

No. 23. Lower part and base of chimney pot, made of very hard light grey sandy ware with light red layers beneath the dark grey surface. The base is 8in. in diameter and has a slight beading on

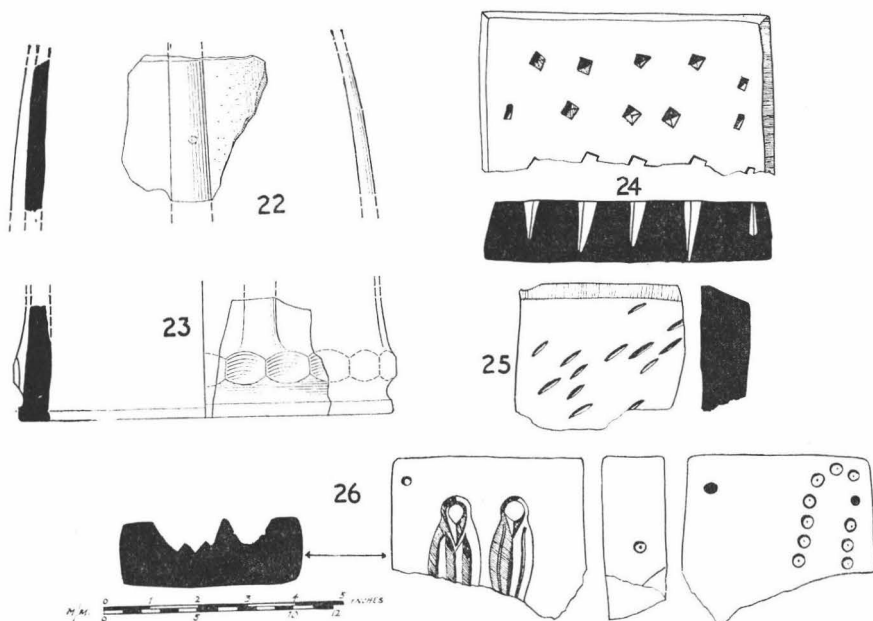


FIG. 6

the inner edge. Above the base is an applied thumb pressed strip, from which a plain strip runs vertically.

Floor Tile

Two fragments of floor tile were found as follows: Phase Two: Corridor Fill: Fragment of red bodied tile with the remnant of a white printed under glaze pattern. Phase Two/Three: Midden: Fragment of a floor tile with remains of cut away pieces at the rear and upper surface decorated with a black glaze.

Oven Tile Phase Three only (Fig. 6, Nos. 24, 25)

Fragments of 9 tiles found in association with the oven. No. 24 coarse red paste made in a mould with sloping sides. One side stabbed with a pointed tool in rows of five stabs. No. 26. Fragments of a square tile similar to that discussed above, one surface covered with small slashes.

Stone

Mould Built into the floor of the large hearth of Phase Three: just over a quarter of a mould cut in a very fine grained limestone that bears minute flecks of iron in it. The mould bears the impression of two halves of unidentified forms, squeezes of these forms suggest that they may have been for casting leaden or pewter badges or cages that held charms of the type used by pilgrims. This block has a series of ring and dot motifs on the back; it is also pierced in the back to take pegs to catch the closure bindings on.

Mayen Lava. Fragment of a mayen lava quern stone, from the corridor fill.

Bones

A study of the bones from this site showed pig to be dominant at all levels, followed by sheep (goat) and young cow. No *avies* or *pisces* species bones were found here.

Shells. Midden and Corridor Fill

In common with most of the occupation of Phase Two, oyster shell was the dominant food shellfish remains found. These shells made up the bulk of the midden for instance. Whelk, winkle, cockle and mussel were also found in the midden and corridor floor.

Phase Three. Rectangular pit against the corridor wall

This pit was filled with sea shells comprising in order of quantity, mussel, winkle, cockle with two oyster shells.

CONCLUSION

Excavations in the village of Tarring have shewn that in the area investigated there was no occupation earlier than the thirteenth century. This would appear to correlate with the building of the Church and the Palace. Should there have been earlier occupation, it is possible that it was not on the present site of the old village. One house that was fully investigated has an occupation from c.1250-1525. The whole of this occupation seems to be associated with the construction and original use of the palace.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF CERAMIC SEQUENCE

	Flint Grogging	Buff Sandy Paste	West Sussex Ware	Painted Slip under Glaze	Painted Ware	Flemish Salt Glaze	Tudor Green	Purple Glaze	
In floor	*								PHASE 1
Central Hearth	*	*	*						
Pit 1.		*							
Gravel Pit		*	*						
Sleeper Trench		*	*						
In Clay Floor		*	*	(5)					PHASE 2
In Plaster Floor			*						
In Cobble Floor		*							
In Gravel Floor and Patches		*	*		(3)				
Midden		*	*		*				
Corridor Fill		*	*	(3)	*	(3)	(2)		
Party Wall make-up		*	*		*	*			
Oven make-up					*				PHASE 3
Oven Rake Back		*							
On Top Floor			(5)		*	*	*	*	
*—Dominant (2)—Number of Fragments	Flint Grog		Sand Grog				No Grog		