

EXCAVATIONS IN LEWES, 1974

By D. J. Freke

In July and August, 1974, three trenches were opened in parts of Lewes which are threatened by development. The excavations were pilot studies into the early history of the town and the areas were chosen with the intention of checking and extending our knowledge of its Saxon and medieval origins. They were carried out with a grant from the D.O.E. by the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit and the Lewes Archaeological Group under the direction of the author. The finds are deposited in Barbican House, Lewes, and the detailed plans and notes are in the files of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit.

INTRODUCTION

Lewes is one of the four Sussex towns mentioned in the Burghal Hidage (Fig. 1c), a document in existence by 919 A.D., but no unequivocal archaeological evidence has yet been found of either the walls or the focus of this important Saxon town. Two recent excavations which produced quantities of Saxo-Norman material did not uncover any evidence of early urban structures, but they were carried out in circumstances which militated against the survival of such evidence.¹ There appeared to be two areas, however, which offered most promise of further information: the supposed line of the medieval town wall along Brook Street as shown by the Ordnance Survey and the so-called 'fosse' along the north of Lancaster Street. The line of the medieval town wall is of interest when investigating early Lewes because its length—approximately $1\frac{1}{8}$ miles, is near to that which can be derived from the Burghal Hidage— $1,787\frac{1}{2}$ yards. Also it has been shown that sometimes the medieval wall of a town has followed the earlier Saxon structure, as at Wallingford, Cricklade, Wareham and, possibly, Tamworth.² The north-east section of the wall seemed to be particularly promising because of the proximity of the only Saxo-Norman material so far discovered in Lewes. Trenches were opened to the north and south of Brook Street to investigate these possibilities.

The so-called 'fosse' in Lancaster Street is part of an enclosure now occupied by the burial ground of St. John-sub-Castro, which contains the site of the only identifiable Saxon church in Lewes. The enclosure is at present formed by massive banks falling away on three sides of a small tongue of high ground projecting into the flood plain to the north of the town, and by a bank and ditch (the 'fosse') which cuts across the neck of the projection on its south side. This enclosure has aroused speculation for nearly two centuries.³ The demolition of 19th century houses along the north side of Lancaster Street in the spring of 1974 gave an opportunity to investigate the ditch and bank near the south-east corner of the enclosure.

¹ The Naval Prison site, 1962-5 and the Greenwall site, 1967, excavated by D. M. Thomson and C. E. Knight-Farr, *S.N.Q.*, vol. 16 (1963), 35 and 337-9 respectively.

² C. A. Ralegh Radford, "The Later Pre-Conquest Boroughs and their Defences", *Medieval Archaeology* 14 (1970), 84.

³ It has at various times been considered to be Roman, Saxon, part of the medieval wall, and the site of the Saxon burgh. It is first mentioned in P. Dunvan, *The Ancient and Modern History of Lewes and Brighthelmstone* (1795), 332-3.

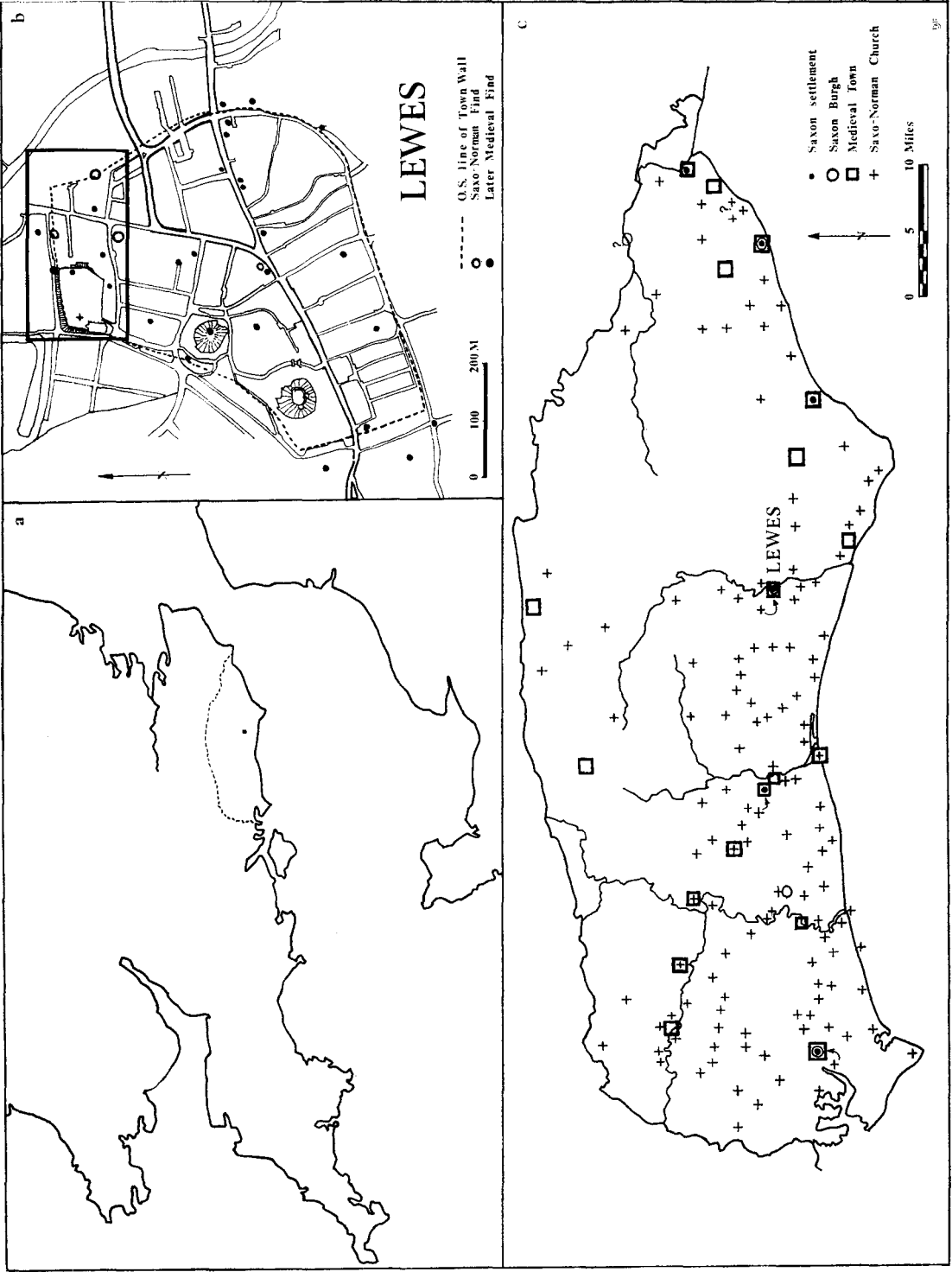


Fig. 1. Lewes, 1974. Location maps

THE EXCAVATIONS

Brook Street South

As the plan and section (Figs. 2b, 4) of this site show, there was at no time a defensive wall, or bank, or ditch within the area of our trench, and the few early features seem to suggest that this site was outside the Saxon and medieval urban settlement. Recent demolition and levelling had removed perhaps half a metre of soil¹ leaving naturally deposited sands and gravels exposed in the north-east corner of the site after the mechanical stripping of the car-park surface. Some flint flakes, possibly Mesolithic, were found associated with the gravels (Fig. 6, Nos. 10, 13, 17, 19, 20). Two pits cut into this produced a few sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery (Fig. 7, Nos. 46, 47), while a shallow irregular scoop which occupied the south-eastern half of the site and cut into the natural sand yielded many small fragments of fourteenth century pottery (Fig. 7, Nos. 48-58). There was no evidence of any kind of structure before the nineteenth century, but no less than eleven cesspits and five other pits of uncertain function dating from the last century were found.

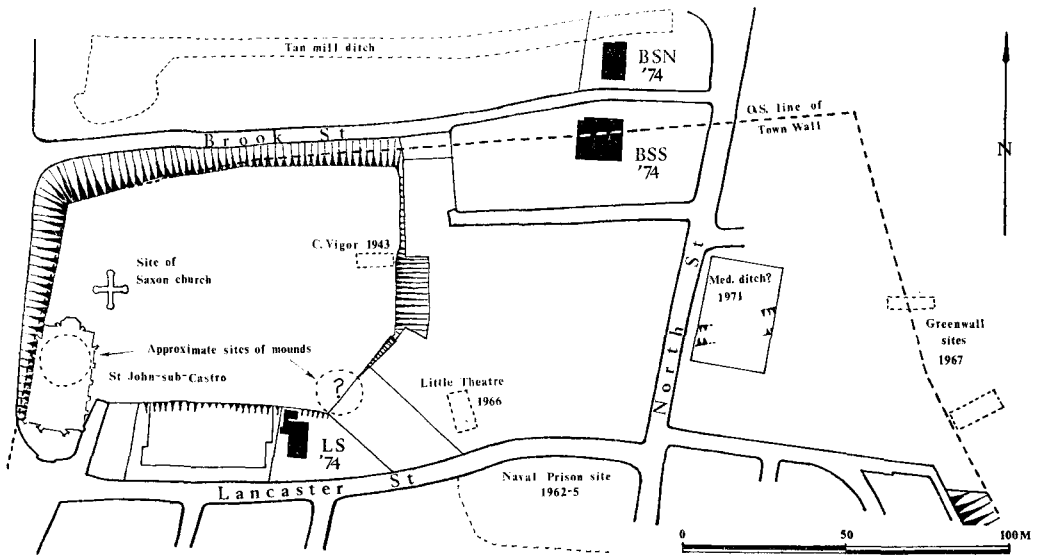
Brook Street North. (Fig. 3a, b; Fig. 4)

The earliest archaeological layers in this trench were at a depth of about 3.1m. below present ground level; they consisted of a level layer of rough flints laid on a layer of grey clay 2 to 10cm. thick immediately above natural chalk. The layer of flints seemed to cover the entire area of the trench except where it had been disturbed by later features, but could not be dated. A 4.5m. wide track or bridle path with a pronounced camber of about 25cm. had been made up on the early surface with layers of gravel and small stones 50cm. deep. It was surfaced with flint cobbles and ran east-west across half of the southern part of the trench (Fig. 3a) but had been completely removed by the later brick pits to the west, and cut by a sixteenth century gully and several undated pits. The track seems to have been made as a causeway across the marshes, for on both sides of it were thick deposits of organic silt. Its highest point is below the present water table. The track was worn over its entire surface but particularly in the middle; there were no cart ruts. The track eventually seems to have succumbed to the rising water level, and was abandoned and covered by at least 20cm. of organic silt. A layer containing late fourteenth or early fifteenth century pottery (Fig. 7, Nos. 43-45) covered part of this silt at the southern end of the site, but this may not be its original context.

The next use of the site was as a dump for cattle horn cores about 1700, the entire area was covered with many hundreds of them, some with parts of the skull still attached but otherwise with very few other bones. The date was obtained from clay tobacco pipe fragments (Fig. 8, Nos. 78, 79).

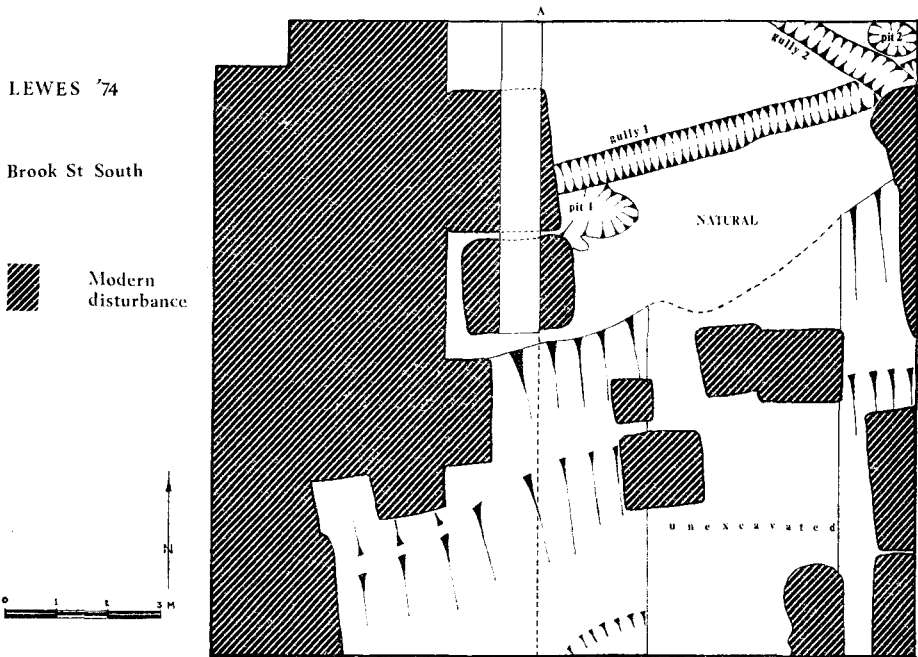
A pit (Fig. 3b, pit 1) 3m. wide in its north-south dimension and at least 1m. east-west was cut through the horn cores and was near a barrel set into the ground, only the lower half of which remained. When this pit had been back-filled (not silted up), a sluice or drain made of oak planks held together with iron clamps with Horsham stone slabs across the top was laid diagonally across the southern end of it. This in its turn was cut by a large clay-lined pit (Fig. 3b, pit 3) 4.5m. north-south and at least 1.5m. east-west, with a brick lined sluice or drain along its western lip. An even larger, more irregular pit (Fig. 3b, pit 2) covered most of the rest of the site, but later disturbances obscured its full extent.

¹ This was shown by the fact that the walls of the houses along Brook Street were reduced to a single course of the foundations, and the arched cesspits had lost their top courses.



NORTH - EAST LEWES, PLAN OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

a



b

FIG. 2. Lewes, 1974. (a) North-east Lewes, plan of archaeological sites; (b) Plan of Brook Street South excavation

The next phase of pits and sluices culminated in a block of at least six brick-lined pits floored with planks 40cm. wide, surrounded by considerably worn brick paths with a brick walled building erected on wooden piles to the east. A complete barrel was found set into one of the pits, and a brick lined drain ran under the paths. The entire complex was filled in and covered with chalk rubble at some time in the first half of nineteenth century and stables which existed until 1966 were built.

Lancaster Street. (Figs. 3c, 5)

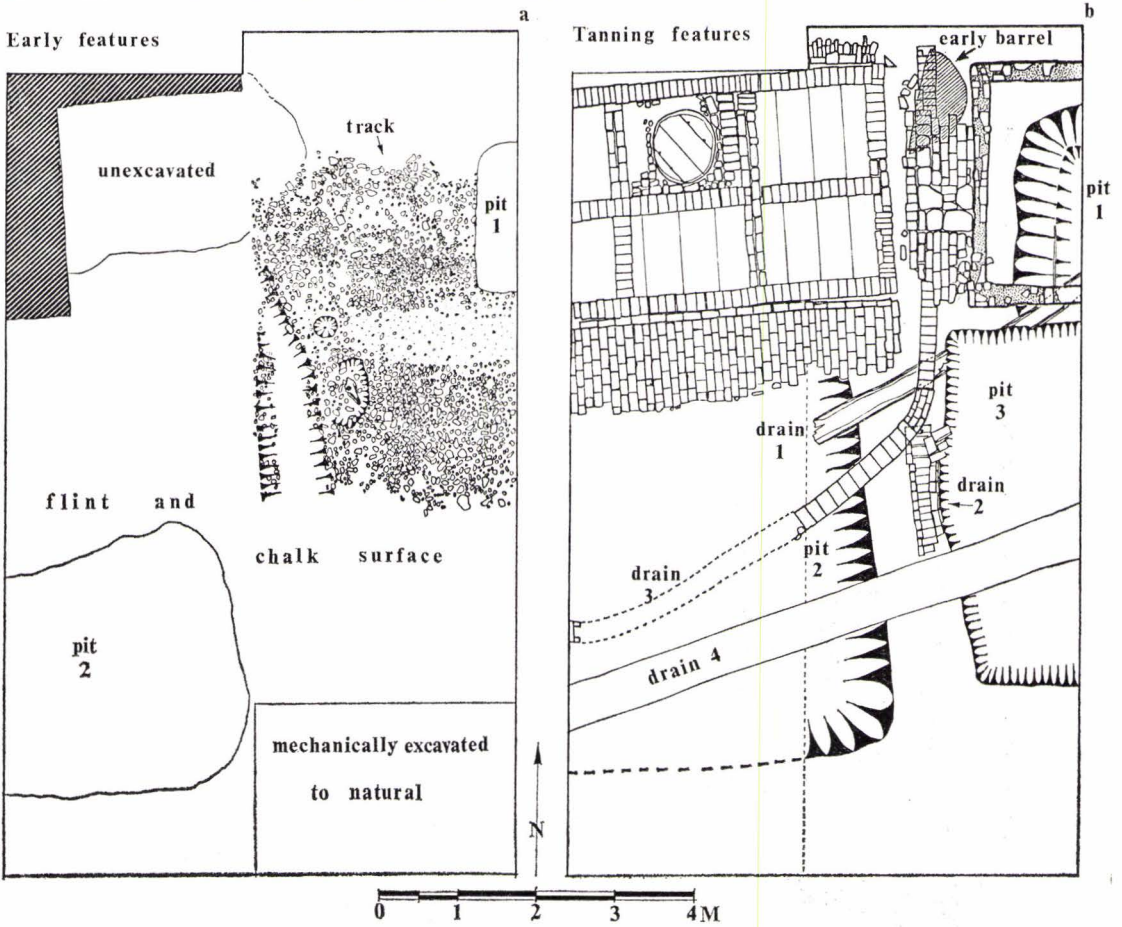
A section was cut across the ditch and the very battered remains of the bank round the churchyard were examined. The ditch proved to be very much bigger than expected—at least 7.5m. below road level—and the bottom could not be reached because of the proximity of Lancaster Street. It was dug into Chalk through 1.5m. of Coombe Rock. The earliest artifacts were Mesolithic flints associated with this layer (Fig. 6, Nos. 1, 5). The ditch itself produced two small worn fragments of late Saxo-Norman pottery, but there were layers containing twelfth century pottery (Fig. 5, layer Nos. 22a and b) lower in the ditch. The ditch silt was composed of a primary layer of gravel (layer No. 23b), derived from the Coombe Rock, overlain by a substantial thickness of large chalk lumps (layer No. 23a), presumably from the original bank on the north. There followed a period of gradual silting by fine clays (layer Nos. 17a, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22b) and then a very thick deposit of large chalk lumps was laid down (layer Nos. 16a, b, c and d), which would appear to be material from the bank, possibly deliberately pushed down. A gully was cut into this (layer No. 15) along the line of the original ditch. This was followed by a gully cut at right angles to the line of the ditch (layer Nos. 13, 14), then a period of slow silting (layer Nos. 10, 11, 12) and finally by the cellar floor of the nineteenth century house standing on the site until 1974. A fragmentary inhumation was found under the foundations of a garden partition wall (layer No. 8a). This was probably the re-burial of remains disturbed in the construction of a bakehouse actually cut into the bank of the churchyard.

The early layers were very disturbed by nineteenth century cesspits and walls, which meant that at no place could a continuous section north-south be obtained. The section illustrated (Fig. 5) is a composite one with a section of the bank 7m. to the west projected on to the main west facing section (see Fig. 3c for locations of sections).

The bank had been seriously damaged both by the nineteenth century builders and by the recent demolishers, and the relationship of the bank and ditch was difficult to interpret. However, there appears to have been a deep pit, square with rounded corners, dug into solid Chalk, underneath or on the outer edge of the bank. It had a filling of twelfth century material, but could not be totally excavated. The material of the bank was sandy or gravelly clay and displayed clear tip lines.

A shallow, narrow gully cut into the Coombe Rock ran along the lip of the ditch. It contained twelfth or thirteenth century pottery and there were suggestions of posts and packing in the eastern portion but not enough to draw conclusions about the nature of the structure it held. However, this gully must represent the very last remnant of a trench which contained a timber revetment. This is suggested by the position of the gully on the lip of the ditch, and the tip lines of the bank, which (where visible) indicate that the bank material was thrown up against a revetment. The large pit may have been dug as a post hole, or it may have been

LEWES BROOK ST NORTH '74



LEWES LANCASTER ST '74

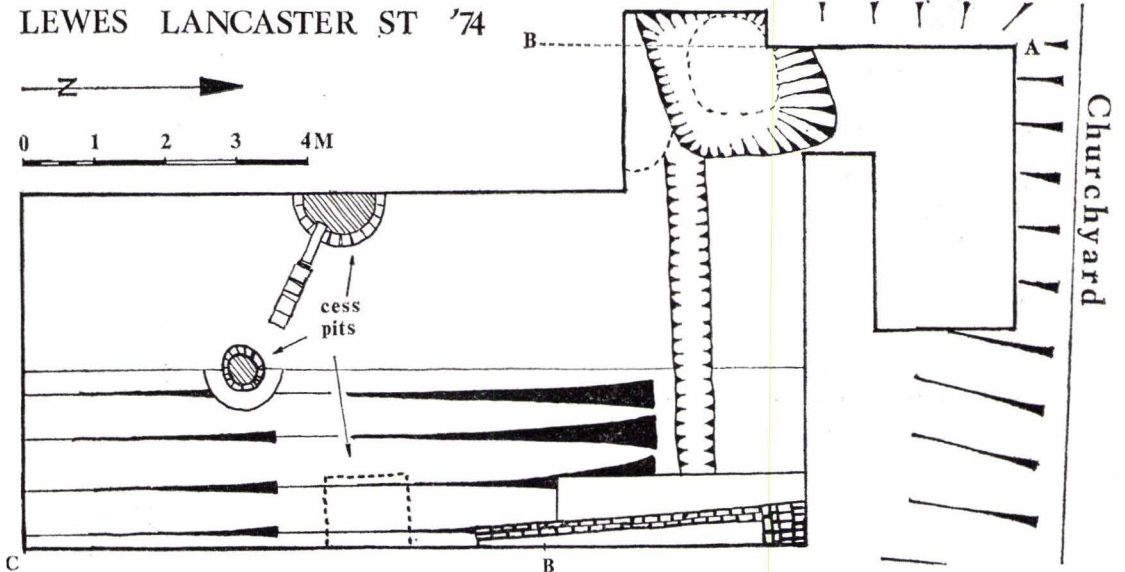
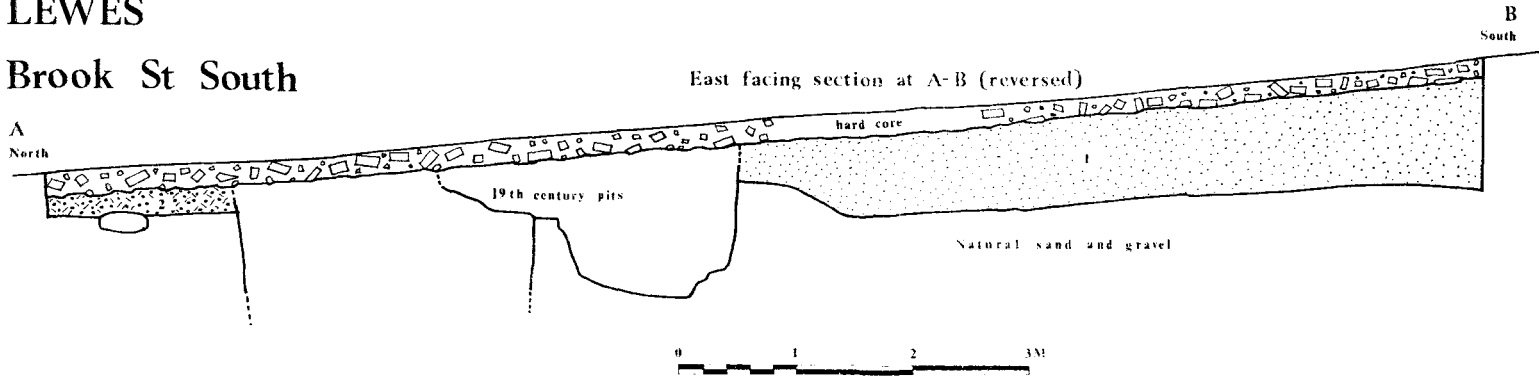


FIG. 3. Lewes, 1974. (a) Brook Street North, early features; (b) Brook Street North, tanning features; (c) Lancaster Street, plan of excavation

LEWES

Brook St South



Brook St North

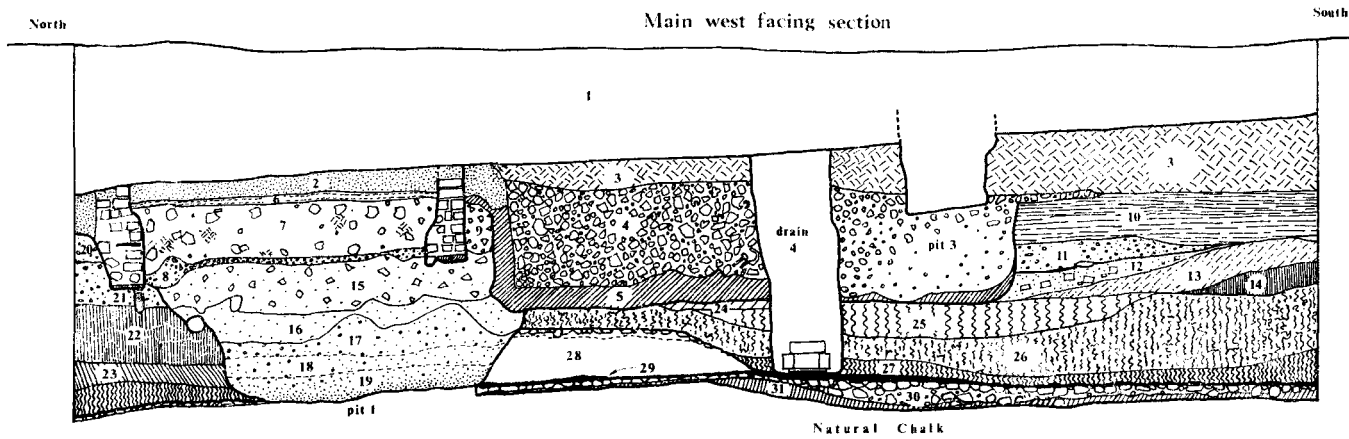


FIG. 4. Lewes, 1974. (a) Brook Street South, north-south section at A-B; (b) Brook Street North, main west-facing section of trench

an earlier pit re-used as a post hole. The filling of the inner hole (socket?) fell away from the packing which may suggest that the buried post rotted in situ. The fill of this socket contained twelfth or thirteenth century pottery (Fig. 7, Nos. 21-27), and at the top contained wall plaster, rolled up lead window comes and drips of lead, a piece of Roman tile, worked chalk blocks, painted window glass, and heat-reddened clay with charcoal flecks. This must be the debris from a robbed church, presumably the Saxon church of St. John-sub-Castro only 100m. away. The debris had been deposited after the post had rotted or been removed, and the ramparts were no longer functional in the twelfth or thirteenth century.

DISCUSSION

The town wall

The town wall does not appear in either of the Brook Street trenches, despite the fact that the southern site straddles the Ordnance Survey line. Furthermore the trenches contain no evidence of any urban structures before the nineteenth century. The few Saxo-Norman features do not suggest a wall or bank in the vicinity, but the two trenches are 13m. apart—ample room for a medieval rampart which may have enclosed an area of the town which, for whatever reason, was not built up. This possibility, although unlikely, cannot be ruled out. The only information on the alleged defences along Brook Street is in recent sources. The earliest mention is by Dunvan, in 1795: “From that (Brack) Mount to *St. Johns Church*, there were two very high and strong lines of vallation, and from the Churchyard to *Greenwall*, and thence to the East-gate, there seems to have been but a single line, which was sufficient, with deep ditches and morasses in front, to prevent or resist an assault on those sides.”¹ The wall is marked on J. Edward’s map of 1799 in substantially the same position as that indicated by the Ordnance Survey since its first edition in 1873 and is similarly marked on J. Marchant’s map of 1824. Horsfield, in 1825, describes a line for the wall which differs from the one shown on all these maps but nonetheless refers to Marchant’s map as showing the correct line.² It is significant that these descriptions were speculative, they imply or actually state that this section of the wall had disappeared at the time of writing.³

An alternative explanation for the “single line . . . with deep ditches and morasses in front . . .” is that Brook Street and the Greenwall appear to be on the line of a river terrace. A section drawn across both Brook Street sites shows that the depth of the archaeological deposits north of the road is more than 3m. while to the south the depth to the undisturbed natural sands and gravels is less than 50cm. Although there can be little doubt that this is the line of a natural rise, it does not rule out the possibility that it was utilised for defensive purposes—as indeed it was for the northern boundary of the churchyard and for at least some of the Greenwall—but the rise may have misled early historians and cartographers. *If* Brook Street is not the line of the defences, they should be sought further to the south, and in any case the northern limit of both the Saxon and the medieval settlements must be further south, too.

¹ P. Dunvan, *op. cit.* pp. 332-3

² T. W. Horsfield, *History of Lewes*, I (1824), 164-5. Mr. J. Houghton drew my attention to this anomaly.

³ *Ibid.*, 165. “From the south-eastern(?) extremity of St. John’s Churchyard to the Greenwall there are no vestiges remaining of either wall or embankment.” (My question mark.)

The features north of Brook Street

The earliest features of the site north of Brook Street show a gradually rising water level which swamped the track at the north end of the trench at some time before the eighteenth century. It is impossible to estimate how long the track had been in use, but it was considerably worn and had been patched. It may have been in use during the general respite from flooding which occurred at the beginning of the fourteenth century¹ and then succumbed to the disastrous floods which occurred throughout the fourteenth century from 1331, which resulted in 400 acres in Southeram being turned from pasture to fisheries by 1421². The dating of the track to this period is possible but the stratification is not secure, and some evidence suggests that it may be post-medieval. If this is the case then the track may date from the improvement in the drainage of the area resulting from the cutting of a new channel for the Ouse at what was to become Newhaven in 1539.³ The subsequent inundation may relate to the deterioration of drainage in the early seventeenth century. The layers securely dated to about 1700 may be too close to the flood deposits to allow their interpretation as being fourteenth or fifteenth century, and the sixteenth century gully which cuts the track is inconclusive.

The pits which were dug on the site in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries seem to represent a tanning industry. The land was rented from 1798⁴ by the Chatfield family, first mentioned as tanners in a survey of 1760.⁵ The three phases of reconstruction bear functional similarities (water-tight pits, careful drainage, barrels set into the ground or a pit) and the final brick pits have a striking resemblance to the convention used by J. Marchant to designate tanneries on his map of 1824. However, this map does not show the area of Brook Street as a tannery as does J. Edward's map of 1799. The Chatfields are called tanners for the last time in a poll book of 1818.

Lancaster Street

The pottery in and under the bank dates its construction to the twelfth century (a carbon 14 date is awaited), and the ditch must be presumed to be the source of the bank material and therefore of the same period. This result was most unexpected and alters the whole picture of medieval Lewes. The churchyard of St. John-sub-Castro, allegedly a fortified position *within*—supposedly—a walled town with a strong castle, presented a puzzle which was not solved by the traditional dating of the fortification of the churchyard to a pre-Norman period whether it was a site of a Roman camp or the Saxon burgh. The bank and ditch were clearly features in the medieval town and the suggestions of earlier origins for them did not solve this problem. There is also documentary evidence that the fortifications faced *uphill* against the town—two mounds are recorded from the churchyard, one on the site of the present church

¹ P. F. Brandon, "The Origin of Newhaven and the Drainage of the Lewes and Laughton Levels", *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter abbreviated to *S.A.C.*), vol. 109 (1971), 97.

² *Ibid.*, 97.

³ *Ibid.*, 99.

⁴ Verena Smith (ed.), *The Town Book of Lewes, 1702-1837*; Sussex Record Society, vol. 69 (1973), 101.

⁵ T. Woolgar, *Spicelugia*, Vol. 1 (1790-1822), 526. MS. at Barbican House, Lewes.

LEWES LANCASTER ST. '74

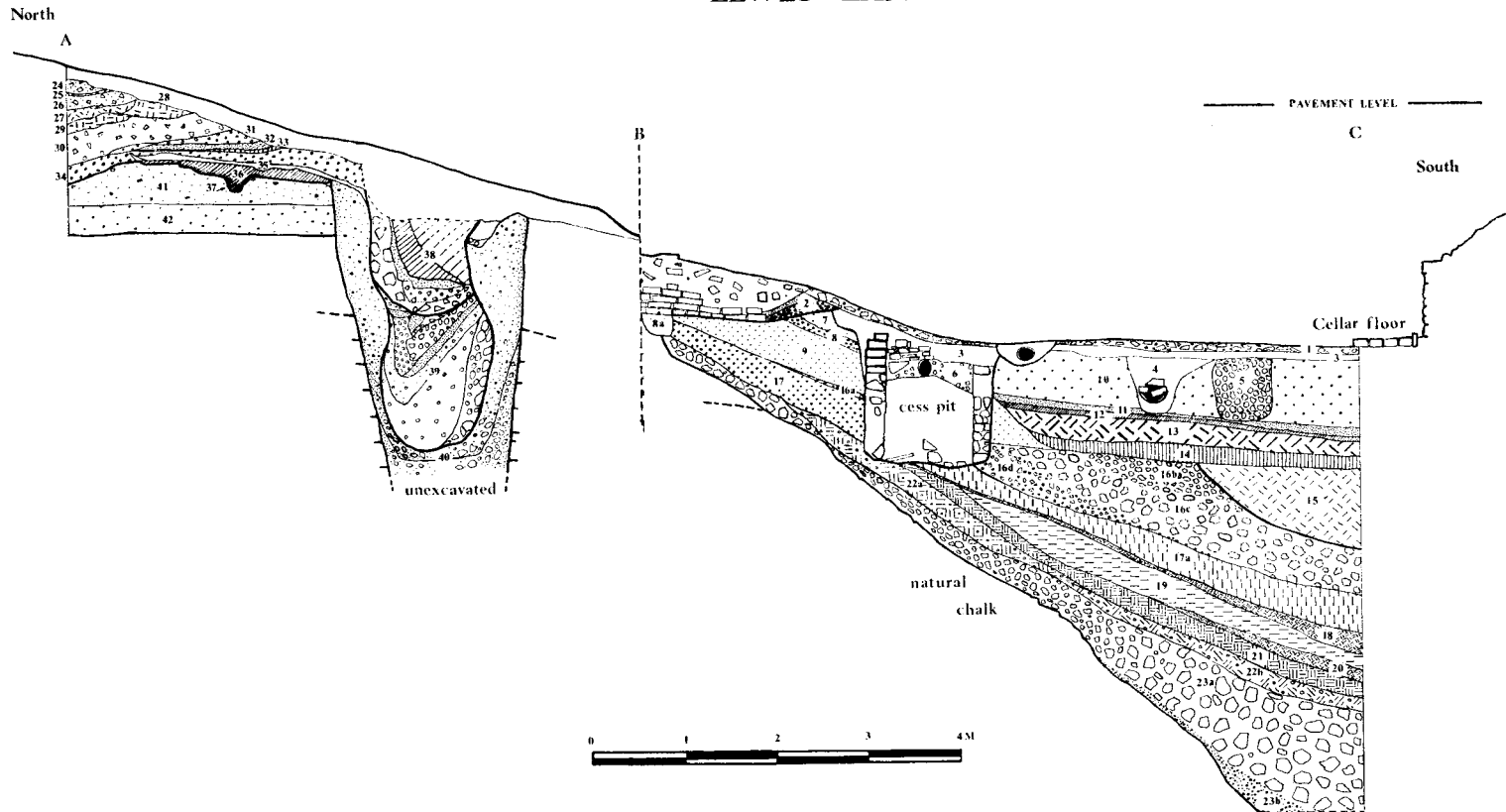


FIG. 5. Lewes, 1974. Lancaster Street, main north-south section of trench (west facing), with section of bank 7 metres to the west projected (reversed)

in the south-west corner and one apparently in the south-east¹—which argues against the camp being used as an outpost of the castle. The date and the proximity of this camp to Lewes castle suggests the period of civil war and anarchy in the middle of the twelfth century, but there is as yet no documentary evidence of a local feud in Lewes during Stephen's reign.

The pottery found in the mass of chalk debris in the ditch (Fig. 5, layer Nos. 16a, b, c, d) which has been tentatively interpreted as the result of the destruction of the rampart, is too similar to that found under the bank to be clearly distinguished in date and may indeed have been derived from that source. There was nothing of a later date in this material to lead one to doubt that the rampart was not very long lived as a defensive feature. The latest possible date for the deposition of this material is given by the recut in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century (Fig. 5, layer No. 15).

CONCLUSIONS

This first year's pilot study of Lewes has answered some questions about the origin of the town and raised others. It is now clear that even if—by the remotest chance—the town wall did follow the line of Brook Street, the Saxon and medieval urban areas did not spread so far north. The Naval Prison site, the Greenwall site and these excavations have not produced any evidence of urban structures, and the same is true of the Edward Street excavations of 1971² slightly further to the south. These facts, taken together with the strong possibility that in the twelfth century the fortified area round St. John-sub-Castro was outside the town, suggest that the northern boundary of medieval Lewes may lie south of Lancaster Street. One piece of positive evidence which supports this hypothesis is a large medieval ditch observed in 1971 by M. Bell during building operations just to the north of Wellington Street, where it joins North Street.³

It is hoped that continued work of excavation and observation may make the picture of medieval Lewes clearer.

¹ P. Dunvan, *op. cit.*, 342; M. A. Lower, *Handbook of Lewes* (2nd ed.), (1852), 75-76: "In levelling the ground for the erection of this church (St. John-sub-Castro, 1838-9) a large artificial mound was removed, and another tumulus of colossal dimensions occupied the site of Mr. Barrett's new house." A MS. by Thomas Wakeham of 1783, discovered at the East Sussex Record Office by R. Gilbert in 1963 (MS., *History of St. John-sub-Castro* (1969), Barbican House), which says that the east mound in the churchyard was demolished in 1779 to provide material for raising the level of the nave. R. Gilbert MS., p. 7.

² M. S. Page, "Excavations at Edward Street, Lewes, 1971," *S.A.C.*, vol. 111 (1973), 113.

³ Mr. M. Bell has kindly allowed me to consult the notebook and finds relating to his observations of this site. They are now deposited at Barbican House, Lewes.

DESCRIPTION OF LAYERS

Brook Street South

Layer	1	Heavy mid-brown sandy clay, few small stones, becoming sandier with depth, otherwise homogenous.
"	2	Orange-brown sandy clay with small stones.
Pit	1	Soft, clean, mid-brown sandy clay.
"	2	Brown friable sandy clay, flecked with charcoal.
Gully	1	Dark brown sandy clay, few small stones.
"	2	Dark grey-brown friable sandy clay with small flints.

Brook Street North

Layer	1	Mixed layers of chalk rubble and rubbish, levelling.
"	2	Yellow mortar, fragments of brick.
"	3	Orange-yellow loam and clay.
"	4	Chalk rubble, very clean to North, clayey to South (fill of pit 3).
"	5	Very solid clean greenish clay (lining of pit 3).
"	6	Charcoally layer, with brick, chalk and mortar fragments.
"	7	Orange-yellow to brown loam, patches of clay.
"	8	Loose brown soil with much broken glass (19th century).
"	9	Mid orange-brown clay, with some flints.
"	10	Several layers of brick rubble, clay and chalk.
"	11	Pale ashy, charcoally layer.
"	12	Grey sandy clay layer, with many brick fragments.
"	13	Friable greenish-grey gravelly clay.
"	14	Pale green solid clay, very hard.
"	15	Brownish dark layer, crumbly and ashy, with brick fragments and flints in Pit 1.
"	16	Orange-brown sandy clay in Pit 1.
"	17	Dirty pale grey clay in Pit 1.
"	18	Dirty grey sandy clay with brick fragments in Pit 1.
"	19	Compact clean buff clay in Pit 1.
"	20	Dirty orange-brown sandy clay with brick fragments.
"	21	Dirty orange-brown sandy clay with brick fragments and flint.
"	22	Dark grey charcoally sandy clay.
"	23	Dark charcoally layer of sandy clay.
"	24	Pale brown compact clay.
"	25	Pale grey clay with charcoal flecks and rust coloured streaks.
"	26	Grey brown peaty clay, full of organic material.
"	27	Clean, pale green compact clay with chalk flecks.
"	28	Several layers of gravel, stones and sandy clay forming the foundations of a track, surfaced with flint and chalk.
"	29	Black gritty layer of gravel and sand.
"	30	Packed chalk and flint surface, not very worn.
"	31	Very clean grey clay.

Lancaster Street

Layer	1	Cinders and ash.
"	2	Brown sandy soil with pebbles and clay.
"	3	Black layer of ash and cinders.
"	4	Brown clay with much brick.
"	5	Compact chalk rubble.
"	6	Chalky clay with brick rubble (modern sewer trench).
"	7	Brown sandy soil.
"	8	Grey soil with pebbles and small stones.
"	8a	Mortary soil with brick fragments.
"	9	Brown clay with small flints.
"	10	Brown clay, with chalk, brick fragments, ash.
"	11	Brown clay and chalk lumps.
"	12	Fine grey loam.
"	13	Orange-brown, very compact clay.
"	14	Clean grey clay, very compact.
"	15	Pale brown or buff clay with chalk lumps.
"	16a	Small chalk fragments.
"	16b	Small chalk lumps with light brown soil.
"	16c	Medium chalk lumps with light brown clay.
"	16d	Medium chalk lumps with pale brown clay.
"	17	Light brown clay with chalk flecks.
"	17a	Orange-brown clay with chalk flecks.
"	18	Mid-brown stony clay.
"	19	Yellow-brown sticky clay.
"	20	Mid-brown clay.
"	21	Orange-brown clay.
"	22a	Light-brown clay.
"	22b	Mid-brown clay.
"	23a	Large lumps of chalk.
"	23b	Gravelly flinty layer.
"	24	Hard yellow-orange clay with flints.
"	25	Hard buff-yellow fine clay.
"	26	Hard yellow-orange clay with small flints.
"	27	Hard buff-grey clay with flints.
"	28	Hard buff-grey fine clay with small flints.
"	29	Hard grey fine clay with small flints.
"	30	Mixed layer of yellow-orange and orange-grey stoney clay.
"	31	Stoney mixed grey clay.
"	32	Fine green-grey clay.
"	33	Fine green clay.
"	34	Mixed charcoally sandy clay.
"	35	Small chalk fragments.
"	36	Dirty yellow charcoally layer.
"	37	Charcoal lumps.
"	38	Mixed layers, heat-reddened clay surrounded by chalk lumps.
"	39	Mixed layers of chalk and clay, with near vertical run of large flints.
"	40	Mixed layers of gravelly clay with chalk lumps and flint.
"	41	Sandy, gravelly clay with angular flint lumps.
"	42	Gravelly clay with large angular flint lumps.

FINDS

I am grateful for the advice of several experts in the evaluation of the finds, particularly K. J. Barton, M.PHIL., who examined the pottery. They are, of course, not responsible for any errors I have made in drawing conclusions from their work.

The animal bones are being studied separately, and a general animal bone report will be published after further excavations have provided more comparative material.

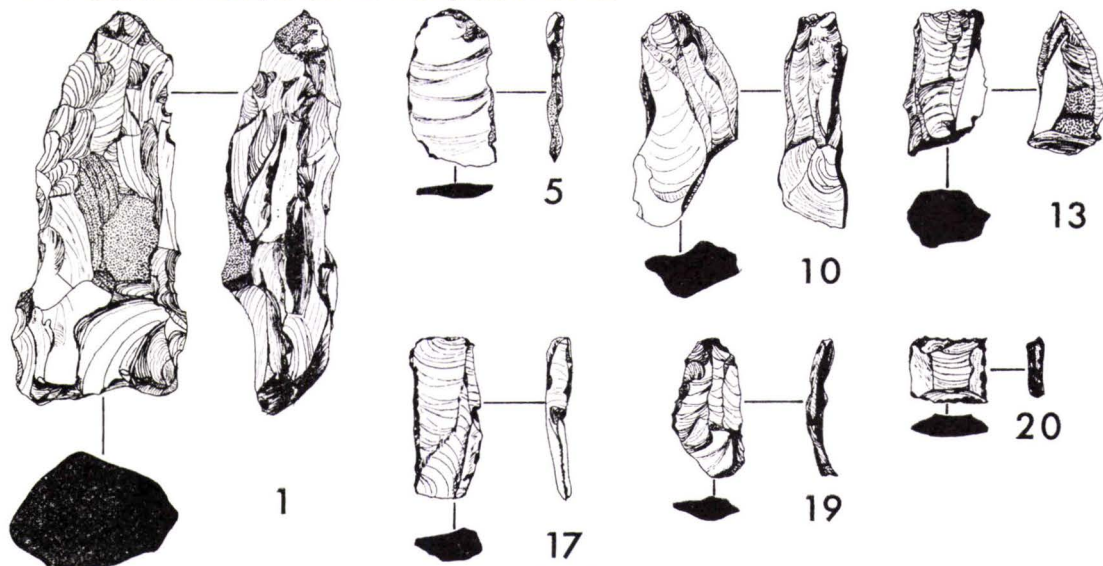


FIG. 6. Lewes, 1974. Flint artifacts, $\frac{1}{2}$.

Flint Artifacts from Lewes (Fig. 6, Nos. 1, 5, 10, 13, 17, 19, 20) by P. L. Drewett

During excavations in medieval Lewes nineteen prehistoric struck flints were found together with one post-medieval gun-flint. Although they consist of a mixed group found disturbed by medieval and later occupation they have some interest in that they are the first published discovery of prehistoric flintwork from this area of Lewes. During the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods the Brook Street site would have been on a raised terrace above the flood plain of the River Ouse while the Lancaster Street site was a chalk promontory capped with Coombe Rock. This small group of flints appears to indicate periodic flint knapping in the area from the Mesolithic period onwards but it must be remembered that flints ascribed to any particular period below are only done so tentatively as, without a large sample, flint waste is particularly difficult to ascribe to any specific period. (Illustrated flints are marked with an asterisk).

- 1.* A roughed-out axe made of a grey cherty flint. Although areas of cortex perhaps indicate the axe was not completed it appears to have been used in this state as there is evidence of battering at several points along its perimeter. Possibly Mesolithic. (Lancaster Street, layer 38).
2. Core-rejuvenation flake with three flake facets on its upper surface. Dark grey flint. Perhaps Mesolithic. (Lancaster Street, layer 38).
- 3-4. Waste flakes (Lancaster Street, layer 40 and revetment trench).
- 5.* Retouched flake. Grey cherty flint. (Lancaster Street, layer 40).
- 6-8. Waste flakes. (Lancaster Street, layer 29).
9. Waste flake. (Lancaster Street, nineteenth century disturbed layer).
- 10.* Core-rejuvenation flake with parallel sided flake facets. Grey flint. Mesolithic. (Brook Street South, nineteenth century disturbed layer).
11. Waste flake. (Brook Street South, nineteenth century disturbed layer).
12. Waste flake. (Brook Street South, Gully 1).
- 13.* Micro-core for parallel sided blades. Dark grey flint. Mesolithic. (Brook Street South, surface of natural gravel).
14. Waste flake. (Brook Street South, surface of natural gravel).
- 15-16. Waste flakes. (Brook Street South, layer 1).
- 17.* Retouched blade possibly used as side scraper or saw. Steep retouch. Grey flint. Mesolithic. (Brook Street South, nineteenth century disturbed layer).
18. Waste flake. (Brook Street South, nineteenth century disturbed layer).
- 19.* Core-rejuvenation flake. Black flint. Possible Mesolithic. (Brook Street South, nineteenth century disturbed layer).
- 20.* Rectangular gun-flint from a flintlock gun. Post-medieval. (Brook Street South, pit 1).

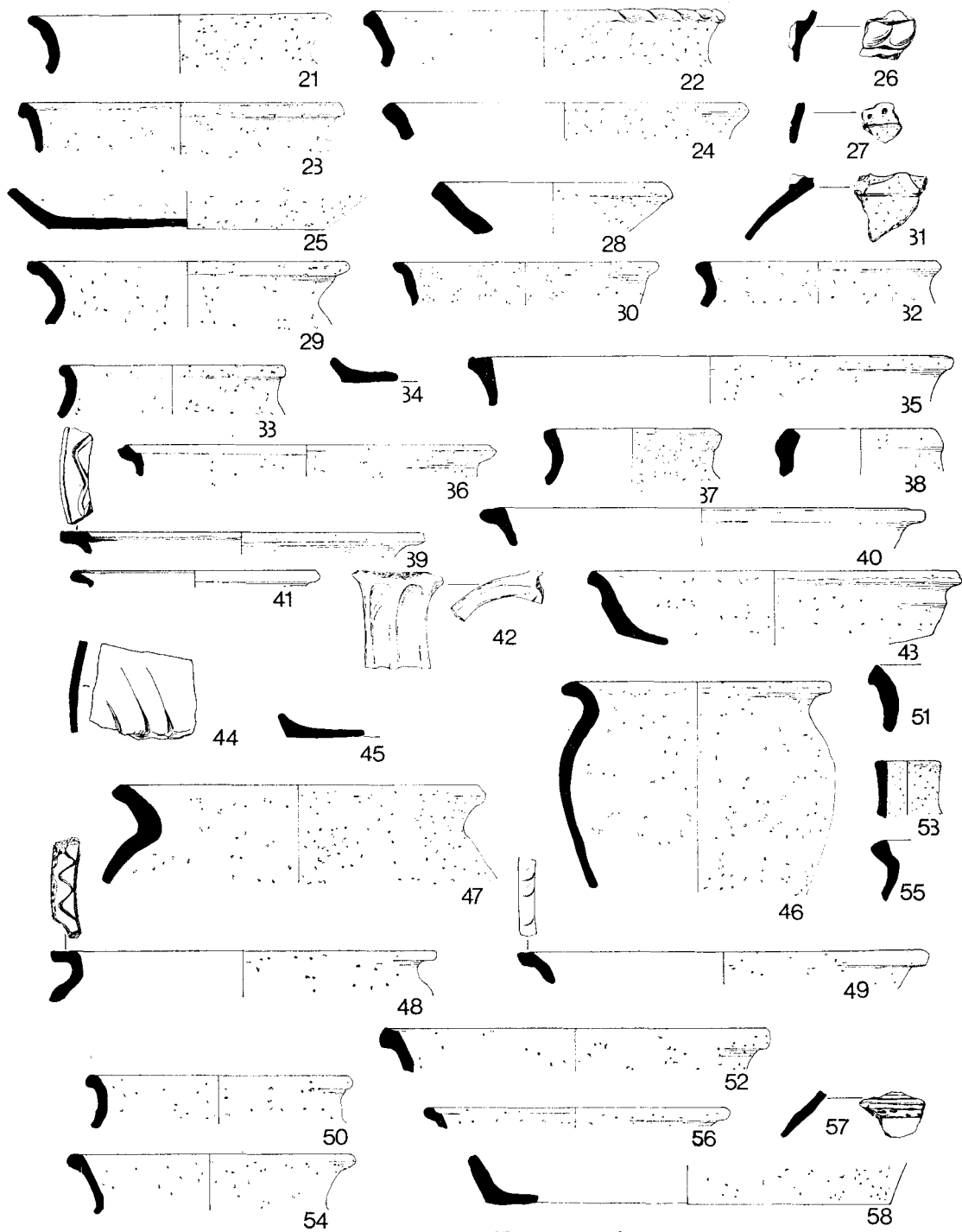


FIG. 7. Lewes, 1974. Pottery, $\frac{1}{4}$.

Pottery by D. J. Freke

The numbers refer to Fig. 7

Lancaster Street

21. Rim of pale grey fabric with large but fairly regular flint tempering. Partially oxidised inside and out to a pinky grey. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 38.
22. Thumb impressed rim of grey fabric with medium sized flint tempering. Patchily fired. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 38.
23. Rim of pale grey fabric with medium sized flint tempering. Partially oxidised inside and out to a pinky grey. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 38.
24. Rim of grey fabric with medium sized flint tempering. Partially oxidised inside, reduced outside. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 38.
25. Base of grey fabric with large angular flint tempering. Oxidised inside and out to a pinky grey. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 38.
26. Fragment of thumb impressed strip decoration, in grey fabric with medium to large flint tempering. Reduced inside and out. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 38.
27. Fragment of stamped fabric, grey with smallest angular flint tempering. Reduced inside and out. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 38.
28. Rim of shallow bowl in grey fabric with medium flint and shell tempering. Reduced inside and out. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 36.
29. Rim of grey fabric with medium sized flint tempering. Partially oxidised inside and out. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 36.
30. Rim of grey fabric with medium sized flint tempering. Partially oxidised inside and out. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 36.
31. Fragment of thumb impressed strip decoration in grey fabric with medium sized flint tempering. Reduced inside and out. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 36.
32. Rim of hard grey fabric with medium to small flint tempering. Reduced inside and out. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 40.
33. Rim of hard grey fabric with medium to small flint tempering. Oxidised outside to salmon pink, reduced inside. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 40.
34. Base of grey fabric with medium to large flint tempering. Reduced inside and out. Twelfth or early thirteenth century. Layer 40.
35. Rim of grey fabric with medium flint tempering. Partially oxidised inside and out to a salmon pink colour. Thirteenth century. Layer 17a.
36. Rim of grey fabric with sandy flint tempering. Oxidised inside and out to an orange colour. Thirteenth century. Layer 17a.
37. Rim of buff-grey fabric with medium to large flint tempering. Partially oxidised inside and more completely outside to a salmon pink colour. Thirteenth century. Layer 17a.
38. Rim of brownish grey sandy fabric, partially oxidised to a salmon pink inside and out. Thirteenth century. Layer 17a.
39. Rim of fine sandy grey fabric, partially oxidised to a buff-pink inside and out. Decorated with an incised wavy line on upper surface of rim. Fourteenth or fifteenth century. Layer 15.
40. Rim of fine sandy grey fabric, reduced to a buff-grey colour. Fourteenth or fifteenth century. Layer 15.
41. Rim of very fine orange fabric. Fourteenth or fifteenth century. Layer 17.
42. Strap handle of jug of hard very fine orange fabric. Post medieval. Layer 9.

Brook Street North

43. Rim and base of shallow pan in dark grey smooth fine sandy fabric including shell and flint fragments. Heavily reduced. Late fourteenth to early fifteenth century. Layer 14.
44. Fragment of hard, very fine grey fabric, oxidised inside and out, but with a grey slip over exterior. Decorated with overlapping fingerprinting. Late fourteenth to early fifteenth century. Layer 14.
45. Base of hard, fine sandy grey fabric, slightly oxidised with patches of olive green glaze. Late fourteenth to early fifteenth century. Layer 14.

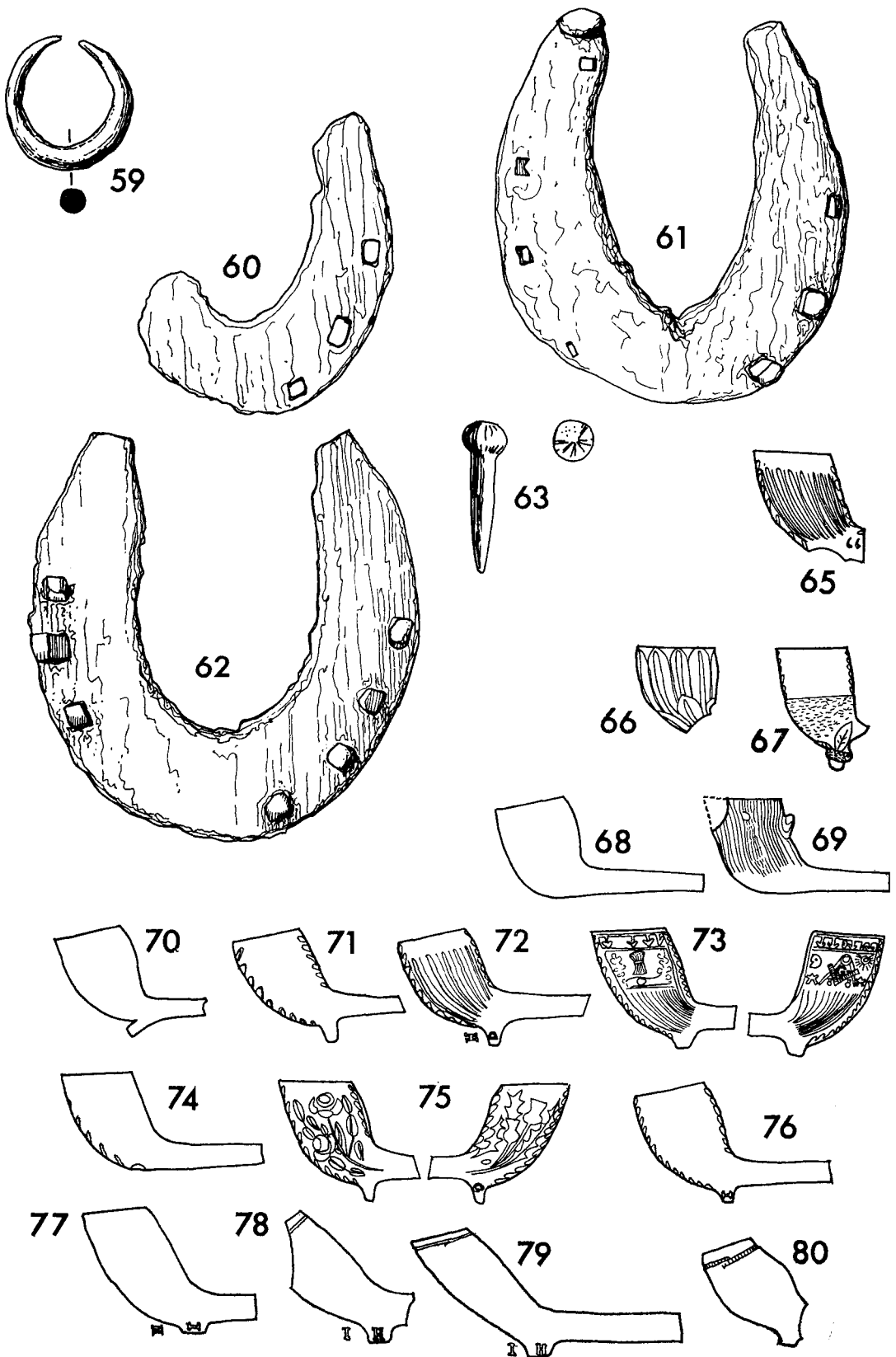


FIG. 8. Lewes, 1974. Metalwork and clay pipes (59 and 63 full size, remainder half size)

Brook Street South

46. Rim of grey fabric with large but regular angular flint tempering. Patchily reduced to dark grey on surface. Late tenth or eleventh century. Pit 1.
47. Rim of grey fabric with large but regular angular flint tempering. Exterior shows patches of oxidation. Late tenth to early twelfth century. Pit 2.
48. Rim of fine sandy grey fabric, oxidised to salmon pink inside and out. Very worn, with incised wavy line on upper surface of rim. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
49. Rim of sandy grey fabric, oxidised inside and out with patchy smoke marks. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
50. Rim of grey sandy fabric, oxidised to a salmon pink inside and out; worn. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
51. Rim of grey sandy fabric, oxidised to a salmon pink outside, reduced to buff-grey inside; worn. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
52. Rim of grey sandy fabric, slightly oxidised to a buff-pink inside with smoked patches outside. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
53. Rim of grey sandy fabric with small flint tempering, oxidised inside and out to a salmon pink; worn. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
54. Rim of grey fabric with medium to small flint tempering. Reduced outside, slightly oxidised inside to buff-grey. Thirteenth or fourteenth century. Layer 1.
55. Rim of grey sandy fabric, reduced with patches of oxidation; worn. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
56. Rim of grey sandy fabric with a little shell tempering, oxidised and slightly smoked inside and out to a grey-pink. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
57. Decorated body sherd of grey sandy fabric with small flint tempering. Decorated with roughly incised lines and stamped dots. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.
58. Base of grey sandy fabric with small flint and shell tempering. Reduced inside and out to dark grey. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.

*Metal Objects**Lancaster Street*

59. Bronze penannular ring. Twelfth or thirteenth century. Revetment trench. Not illustrated. Lead window comes, rolled up. Twelfth or thirteenth century. Layer 38.

Brook Street North

- 60-61. Horse-shoes, iron. Fifteenth century? Layer 25.
62. Horse-shoe, iron. Sixteenth-seventeenth century? Layer 13.

Brook Street South

63. Bronze nail/pin. Fourteenth century. Layer 1.

Miscellaneous Objects

64. Roman tile, with wavy grooves. Layer 38. (Not illustrated).

*Clay Tobacco Pipes by D. J. Freke**Brook Street South*

Most of the pipes from this site came from back-filled cesspits and they are all nineteenth century. Numbers in brackets refer to Fig. 8.

- | | | |
|-------|--------|---|
| Layer | 5 (65) | Decorated bowl, very late nineteenth century. |
| | 8 (66) | Decorated bowl, very late nineteenth century. |
| | 9 (71) | Bowl decorated with leaf-pattern front and back. c. 1850. Long spur, no initials. ¹ |
| | (72) | Ribbed bowl with leaf-pattern front and back. c. 1850. Initials D. H., unidentified maker. |
| | (75) | Bowl decorated with rose and thistle pattern. Initials J. G., John Goldsmith, Brighton, active 1826-46. |
| | (76) | Bowl decorated with leaf-pattern front and back. Initials I. T. This maker may be John Tanner of Lewes, active 1823-29, when the use of I for J had not been superseded. ² |
- Other interesting fragments in this group were two items with the marks of I. (John) Winter, of Keere Street, Lewes, active 1832-34.³

¹ D. R. Atkinson, "Sussex Clay Tobacco Pipes and Pipe-makers", *Sussex Notes and Queries*, vol. 16 (November, 1964), 126.

² D. R. Atkinson, "A New List of Sussex Pipe Makers", *S.A.C.*, vol. 110 (1972), 38-41.

³ D. R. Atkinson, *op. cit.* (1964), pp. 80, 171.

- Layer 10 (67) Two complete bowls and one fragment in the shape of an acorn. No initials. Examples of this pattern were found when the kiln in Pipe Passage, Lewes, was excavated. Its dates were c. 1840 to c. 1880.¹
- „ (68) Plain bowl, fluted internally, no spur. c. 1870. Two examples were found.
- „ (69) Copy of briar bowl with mock wood bark. c. 1870 or later. Uninitialled.
- Other fragments in this group included a fragment of bowl with leaf-pattern front and back with “BURNS CUTTY,” stamped on both sides of the stem;² and the stem and spur of an internally fluted bowl initialled S.S. (?).
- Layer 13 (Not illustrated). One fragment of a stem in the style of John Winter of Keere Street, Lewes, but the name was broken off.
One fragment of stem with “G. Corner” on one side and “(LE)WES” on the other, stamped. George Corner worked at the Pipe Passage Kiln, and was active 1866-74.
- Layer 31 (74) Bowl decorated with strip of widely separated leaves at front. c. 1850 bowl. Spur broken off.

Brook Street North

- Layer 1 (70) Plain bowl with forward pointing spur. c. 1870. No initials. Similar to some found in kiln in Pipe Passage, Lewes.³
- Layer 11 (77) Plain bowl. c. 1750. Initials I.H. John Harman (?) of Lewes, active 1734.
- Layer 12 (78) Plain bowl, milled rim. c. 1700. Initials H.I. Unknown maker.
- „ (79) Plain bowl, milled rim. c. 1700. Initials H.I.
- Layer 23 (80) Plain bowl, milled rim. c. 1680.

Lancaster Street

- Layer 1 (73) Bowl with masonic design. c. 1850. Uninitialled. Two complete bowls and one fragment were found in this group, which also included: fragments of John Winter's pipe stems with the letters 'I. WINTER' on one side and '(K)E)RE ST. LEWES' on the other, moulded; a fragment of a bowl with a leaf pattern on the front with a stem marked '(C)UTTY' one side, and 'HARRI(NGTON)' on the other, stamped. The latter is presumably by James Harrington (later Harrington & Son), Brighton, active 1867-1910.
- Other initialled fragments found elsewhere on the site were: J.G. or C. (perhaps John Goldsmith of Brighton, 1826-46) found in a group containing a stem stamped 'Baltic' one side and 'Yachter' the other; a fragment of plain c. 1700 bowl initialled T.H. on the spur (Thomas (I) Harman, Lewes, 1697-1781?); a long spur initialled R.N. (Richard Neeve, Lewes, 1774-1818?).⁴

Tokens by D. Rudling

1. Nuremberg brass jetton. Sixteenth century. Obverse: a conventional *single-masted* vessel at sea, with a streamer and flag fore and aft. Reverse: four FLEURS DE LYS in a lozenge which is circumscribed by a graduated circle, with five pellets in each segment.
Fictitious legends. (Similar to German jetton No. 9 in “THE CASTING COUNTER AND THE COUNTING-BOARD” by F. P. Barnard, 1916). Condition: fine. Lancaster Street. Layer 9.
2. Lead trade tokens. Probably nineteenth century. Many of these tokens are thought to have served as tallies to be given to field-workers, fruit pickers, and so forth, to show the amount of work they had done and to be given in at the end of the day as a claim for payment.
 - (a) Uniface token. The design consists of a six petalled geometrical flower. Diameter 20mm. Brook Street South. Surface find.
 - (b) Token which is convex on one side. Both sides have an embossed “Grid” like design. Diameter 18mm. Brook Street South. Nineteenth century disturbed layer.
 - (c) Uniface token. Design of a boot. Diameter 18mm. Lancaster Street. Mid nineteenth century disturbed layer.

¹ N. E. S. Norris, “A Victorian Pipe Kiln in Lewes”, *Post Medieval Archaeology*, vol. 4 (1970), pp. 168-70. Plate IX, No. 25.

² D. R. Atkinson, *op. cit.* (1964), p. 126.

³ N. E. S. Norris, *op. cit.*, Plate IX, Nos. 2, 30.

⁴ D. R. Atkinson, *op. cit.* (1972), pp. 38-41.

Charcoal and Wood Identifications by C. Cartwright, M.A.

<i>Lancaster Street</i>		Layer 38	<i>Quercus</i> sp. <i>Cornus</i> sp. <i>Pyrus</i> sp. <i>Fagus</i> sp. <i>Crataegus</i> sp. <i>Betula</i> sp. <i>Taxus baccata</i>
Layer 29	<i>Quercus</i> sp. <i>Taxus baccata</i> <i>Carpinus betulus</i>		
Layer 31	<i>Quercus</i> sp. <i>Cornus</i> sp.		
Layer 34	<i>Quercus</i> sp. <i>Fagus</i> sp. <i>Corylus</i> sp.	Layer 39	<i>Crataegus</i> sp. <i>Corylus</i> sp.
Layer 36	<i>Quercus</i> sp. <i>Cornus</i> sp. <i>Pyrus</i> sp. <i>Crataegus</i> sp. <i>Ilex</i> sp.		
<i>Brook Street South</i>			
		Gully 1	<i>Quercus</i> sp. <i>Corylus</i> sp.
		Gully 2	<i>Quercus</i> sp.

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The information for distribution map (Fig. 1c) was derived from A. E. Fisher, *The Saxon Churches of Sussex* (1970), and C. M. Heighway (ed.), *The Erosion of History* (Council for British Archaeology, 1972).

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