

FURTHER EXCAVATIONS IN LEWES, 1975

by D. J. Freke

Following the excavations in Brook Street and Lancaster Street in 1974,¹ the opportunity was taken to check the northern extent of the medieval town on a site in North Street. Permission to excavate was kindly granted by Lewes District Council in advance of an extensive building scheme. The work was carried out by the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit, with a grant from the Department of the Environment, under the direction of the author. The finds are deposited at Barbican House, Lewes, and the detailed plans and notes are in the files of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit.

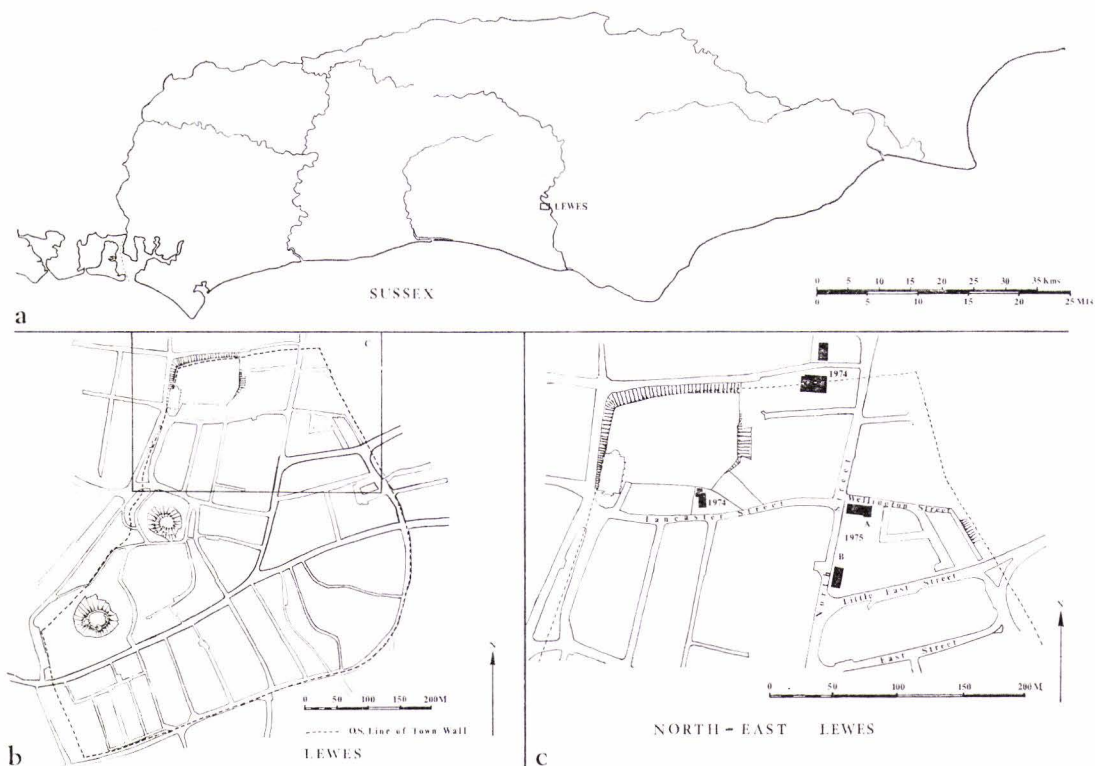


FIG. 1. Lewes, 1975. Location map

¹ D. J. Freke, 'Excavations in Lewes, 1974.' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter S.A.C.), vol. 113 (1975), pp. 66-84.

the nineteenth century would remain, but a single positive post hole (no. 26) and row of slight disturbances (nos. 25a, b, c, d,) in the south-west corner de-limited an area of charcoal speckled silt and gravel. Both features produced fourteenth century pottery.

The other features in the trench, apart from the Pleistocene geological disturbances (see report below by M. Bell), were all medieval pits. Except for pits nos. 8, 22, 29, 55, and 59, their functions were unidentifiable and their forms very variable. However, they all produced fragments of medieval pottery, none large enough or significant enough to illustrate. Pits nos. 18, 24, and 51 contained 13th century material and nos. 23 and 32 produced fourteenth century sherds.

Pits nos. 8, 22, 29, 55 and 59 shared similarities both in their contents and their shapes. They all contained many animal bones (see report below by O. Bedwin) and much pottery, and were square in plan with near vertical sides with flat bottoms, except for no. 29 which changed from rectangular to circular with depth. No. 59 had been cut into by the construction pit of a 19th century well, but it was still possible to determine most of its plan and depth. The uniformity amongst these pits as regards size (in plan) shape and contents suggests that they were originally dug for a similar function. The three deepest and least disturbed appear to have been waterlogged when originally filled and contained characteristic cess-pit material in the lowest layers, so it is suggested that they were cess-pits. After ceasing to be used as cess-pits they were filled in one operation with domestic refuse.

No distinction in date could be discerned in the pottery assemblages from the different cess-pits, but as the material was mainly cooking pots and storage jars it was not the best diagnostic material. Pits 8, 22 and 29 produced small fragments of at least six different vessels of Andenne type ware dated to the twelfth or early thirteenth century (figure 3 no. 14 and figure 4 nos. 25, 31) as well as two small sherds of tenth or eleventh century Pingsdorf type ware (not illustrated, pottery report no. 31a). Pit 22 also contained an almost complete twelfth or thirteenth century storage jar decorated with stamped concentric circles on the shoulder and slashed straps (figure 4 no. 29).

Several fragments of querns and whetstones made of both local and foreign stone were found in pits 8, 22 and 29 (see report below by C. R. Cartwright and A. J. Woods). Pit 8 also produced some fragments of carved bone (figure 6 nos. 78, 81), and pit 22 contained a baked clay "bun type" loomweight (figure 6 no. 74), a mudstone spindle whorl (figure 6 no. 77) and a rough chalk oil lamp (figure 6 no. 76). Half of the material from pits 8 and 22 was dry sieved and samples were taken from all the pits for flotation and analysis by D. Williams (Results forthcoming in London University M.Phil. dissertation).

Trench B.

Underneath the foundations of the recently demolished nineteenth century buildings there was a complete sequence of clay tobacco pipes and pottery which indicated that the area of our trench had been agricultural land, probably pasture or gardens, from the Norman period until the nineteenth century. A layer containing fourteenth century material (figure V nos. 60-69), including a coin of Edward I (see report below by D. Rudling) sealed most of the site. The latest medieval feature in the trench was a beam slot in the south west corner (feature 39) which contained fourteenth century pottery.

The remainder of the medieval features consisted of pits containing Saxo-Norman material with some iron slag and ashes. The weaving industry was represented by two bone needles (figure 6 nos. 79, 80) and many fragments of loomweights of the "bun type." The pits were of

several forms: 29, 30, 35 and 48 were approximately 2m. to 2½m. deep below modern ground level, irregularly circular in plan, steep sided and flat bottomed; 27, 38, 40 and 57 and 72 were irregular and shallow; 33 and 34 were circular in plan, 4m. to 4½m. deep below modern ground level, very steep sided and with fills very similar to those in the cess-pits in Trench A. Half of pit 34 was dry sieved and samples were taken from all the pits for flotation.

DISCUSSION

Both trenches produced evidence for occupation in the Saxo-Norman period, with Trench B being abandoned just before or at the same time as occupation began in the area of Trench A, which was itself abandoned by the fourteenth century. It is not possible on the evidence of the pottery from Trench B to determine whether its settlement dates from before or after the Norman Conquest. The results of this year's work are in accordance, generally, with the evidence from the Naval Prison site investigation of 1962-5¹ when similar deep vertical sided pits containing Saxo-Norman pottery were found. The twelfth century pit excavated in Lancaster Street in 1974² must be re-interpreted, in the light of this year's work, as belonging to the same type. The imported pottery found in Trench A is the first recorded instance in Lewes of a type which would be expected in view of the town's geographical and economic position in the medieval period.

It may be concluded that there was a fairly short-lived and shifting Saxo-Norman "suburb" in north-east Lewes which was abandoned by the fourteenth century and which reverted to open ground until the coming of the Phoenix Ironworks in the early nineteenth century. It is not possible on the evidence produced by this season's work to say whether this medieval settlement was inside or outside the town walls.

THE FINDS

Flint Artifacts.

Fifty four prehistoric flints were found in disturbed medieval layers. These were examined by P. L. Drewett, B.Sc., who reports that the group consists of:

- three end scrapers,
- thirteen retouched flakes,
- thirty-two waste flakes,
- four lumps of rough workshop waste,
- two fire-cracked flints.

One scraper and a parallel-sided flake could well be Mesolithic while the rest are indeterminate. None are illustrated.

Coins and Tokens

by D. Rudling.

1. Edward I. Count of Bar. (Modern Bar le Duc, north-east France). 1302-1337. Silver sterling denier.

Obverse: crowned bust. EDWAR CUENS DE BAR.

Reverse: cross with three pellets in each angle. MON ETS MIC AEL.

Condition: fine.

Trench B, layer 26.

2. Miniature Token. Brass. Diameter: 9mm.

Obverse: Princess Alice bust. PRINCESS ALICE.

Reverse: PRINCESS/ALICE/BORN/APRIL 25 1843.

Trench A, layer 3.

3. Advertising Token. Brass. Diameter 26mm. Pierced.

Obverse: Laureate bust right. GEORGIVS II DEI GRATIA.

Reverse: Advertisement for Macniven and Cameron's pens.

Trench B, surface clearance.

¹ D. M. Thomson, 'Note on excavations at the naval prison, Lewes.' *Sussex Notes and Queries*, vol. 16 (1963) p. 35.

² D. J. Freke, *op. cit.* p. 70.

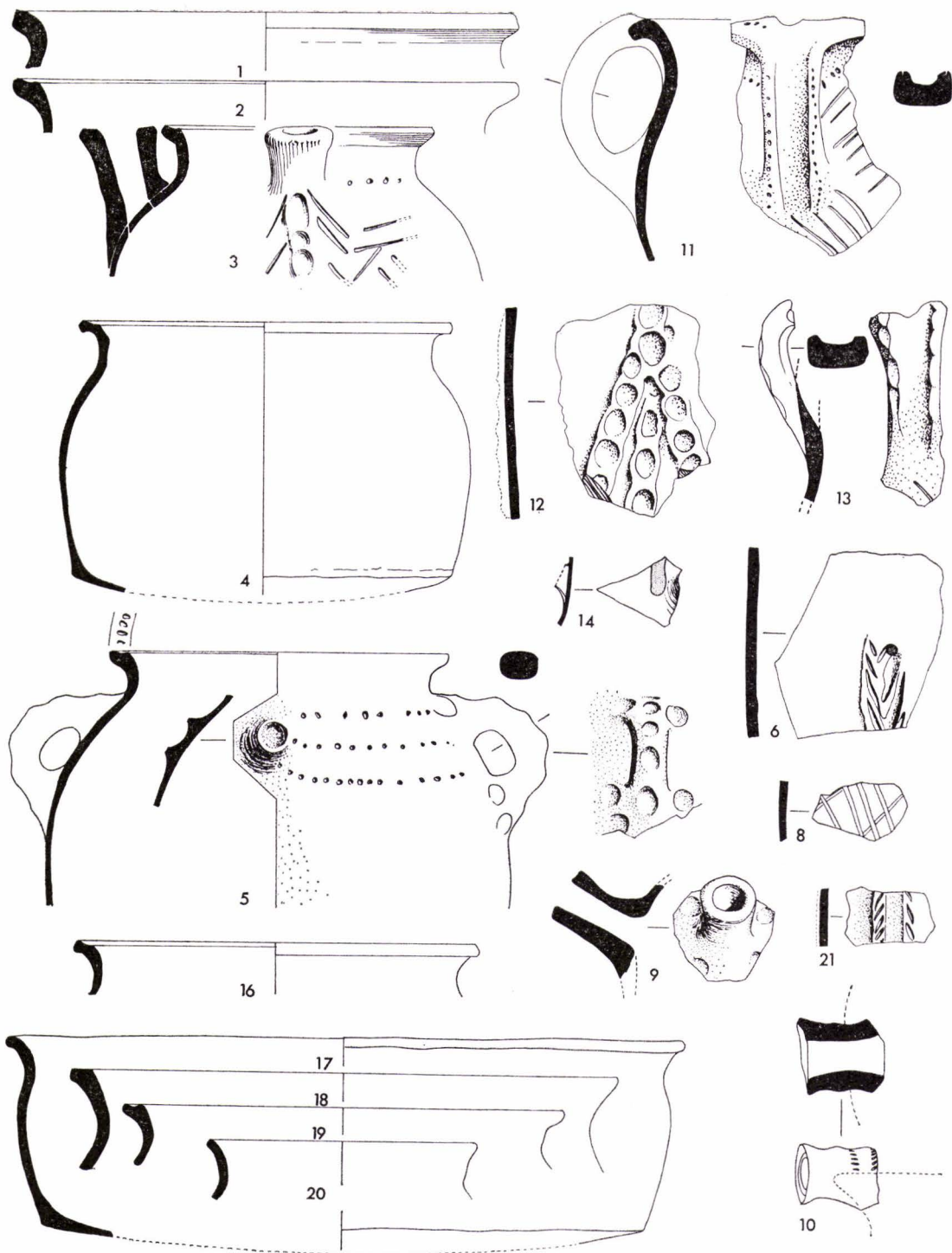


FIG. 3. Lewes, 1975. Pottery from Trench A, pit 8 (4)

Pottery

by D. J. Freke, M.A.

The author is grateful for the advice of Mr. K. J. Barton, M.Phil. and Mr. J. G. Hurst, M.A., F.S.A., who examined samples of the pottery. They are of course not responsible for any errors I have made in drawing conclusions from their help.

Only the basic forms and the decorated fragments have been illustrated. Numbers refer to Figures 3, 4, and 5.

TRENCH A, Pit 8 (Fig. 3).

Layer 54.

1. Rim of cooking pot, light orange-brown surfaces, grey core, medium flint tempering.
2. Rim of cooking pot, grey-buff surfaces, grey core, medium-light flint tempering.
3. Spout and rim, orange-brown outer surface, grey internal surface, grey core, medium flint tempering. Incised and thumbled decoration.
4. Almost complete cooking pot, soot blackened outer surface, light orange-brown internal surface, grey core, medium flint tempering.
5. Rim and handle, light orange-brown surface, grey core, medium flint tempering. Decorated with two opposed bosses (one incomplete). Heavy thumbing round handle and three rows of dotted decoration.
6. Body sherd, orange-brown surface, inner surface very crumbly, dark grey core, medium flint tempering. Incised decoration in the form of a wheat-ear.
8. Body sherd, brown surfaces, dark grey core, medium to light flint tempering. Decorated by scoring and then impressing blades of grass in the wet clay.
9. Spout, grey-brown surface, grey core, medium flint tempering. Lightly thumbled.
10. Spout attached to pot by lower edge only, orange-brown surface, grey core, medium flint tempering. Two lines of incised decoration around top.
11. Handle, light brown surface, dark grey core, medium to heavy flint tempering. Incised and stabbed decoration.
12. Body sherd, orange-brown surfaces, grey core, irregular medium to heavy flint tempering. Robust thumbled strapping.
13. Handle, orange-brown surfaces, grey core, medium to light flint tempering. Thumbled decoration.
14. Body sherd with extrusion (broken handle socket?), pale salmon pink hard fabric, very fine with few inclusions. Dribble of transparent glaze. Andenne ware, late twelfth to early thirteenth century.
15. Not illustrated. Thin body sherd, pale grey-pink surfaces, pale grey core, very fine with few inclusions. Pingsdorf type ware, late twelfth to early thirteenth century.

Layer 60.

16. Rim, light brown surfaces, soot blackened exterior, grey core, regular medium flint tempering.
17. Most of a large bowl, unevenly made, fire blackened external surface, interior orange-brown to grey, dark grey core, medium to light flint tempering.
18. Rim, soot blackened exterior, buff-grey interior, dark grey core, regular medium flint tempering.
19. Rim, black surfaces, dark grey core, medium flint tempering.
20. Rim, light brown interior surfaces soot blackened exterior, grey core, medium flint tempering.
21. Body sherd, buff-grey exterior, interior surface missing, grey core, medium flint tempering. Decorated with slashed raised cordons.

TRENCH A. Pit 22 (Fig. 4).

Layer 22.

22. Rim, orange-brown surfaces, grey core, medium to light flint tempering.
23. Rim, buff-grey surfaces, grey core, medium to light flint tempering.
24. Rim, dark grey to black surfaces, grey core, medium to light flint tempering.
25. Base of pale pinkish grey fabric with flakey very pale amber glaze on exterior surface, internal surface flaked off, very fine with small pink inclusions. Andenne ware? Eleventh to twelfth century.
26. Not illustrated. Body sherd of very pale grey fabric with spotty very pale green glaze on exterior, few inclusions. Andenne ware?. Eleventh or twelfth century.
27. Not illustrated. Body sherd of pale grey fine fabric with thick pale amber glaze externally and pinkish-white slip on interior surface, few inclusions. Andenne ware?. Eleventh to twelfth century.
28. Body sherd, orange-brown exterior surface, interior surface flaked off, grey core, medium flint tempering. Thumbled strap decoration.

Layer 70.

29. Almost complete storage jar, stamped concentric circles on raised band on shoulder, four cordons with diagonal incised decoration. Fired inverted. Brown surfaces, grey core, medium to heavy flint tempering.
30. Rim with thumbled decoration, orange-brown surfaces, grey core, medium flint tempering.
31. Body sherd, very pale grey-pink fabric, pale amber flakey glaze externally. Few inclusions. Rouletted decoration. Andenne ware?. Twelfth century. (Four similar sherds were recovered from this layer).
- 31a. Not illustrated. Small body sherd of creamy coloured fine sandy fabric, red painted. Pingsdorf type ware. Tenth to eleventh century.

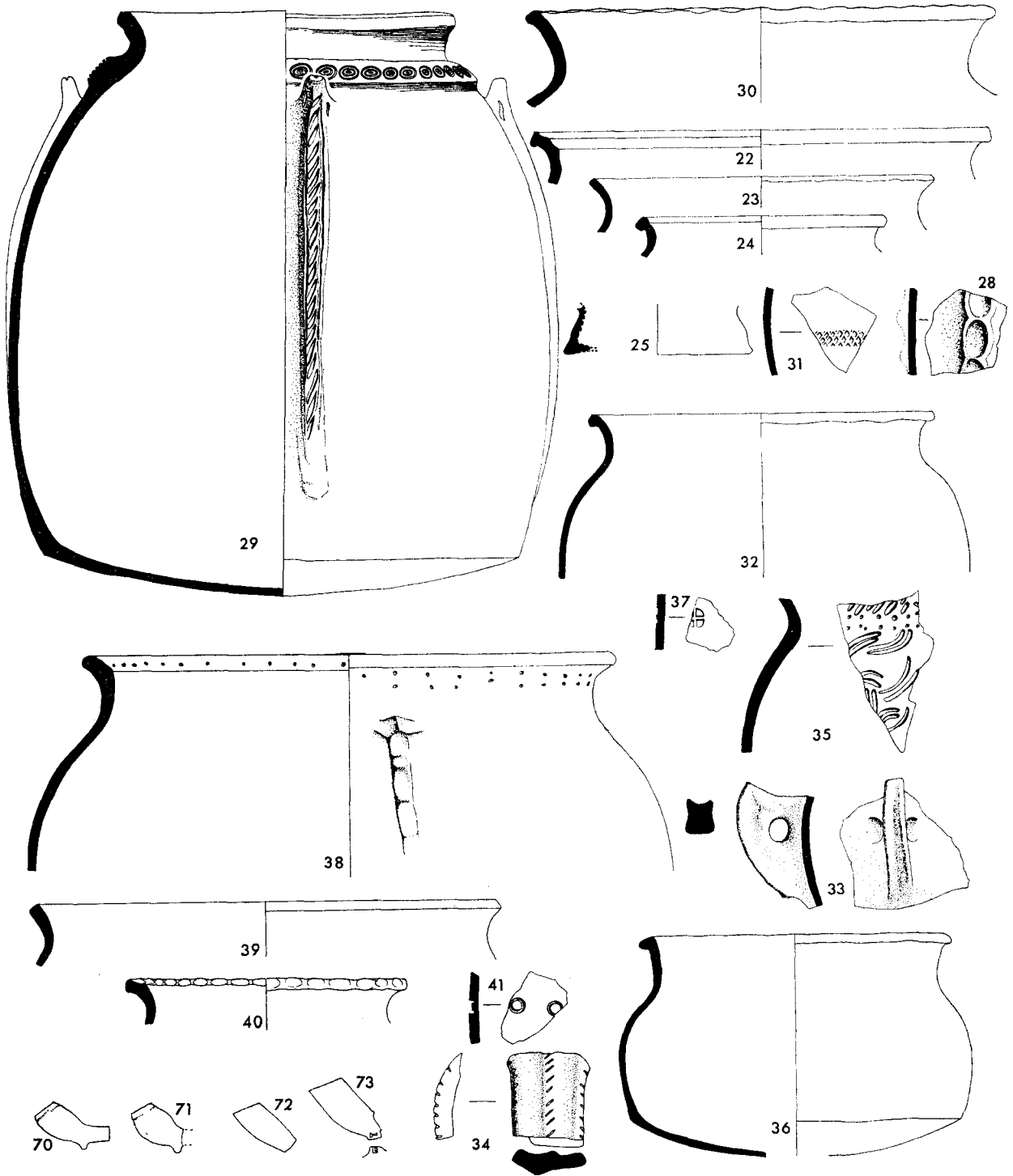


FIG. 4. Lewes, 1975. Pottery from Trench A, pits 22, 29, 59 and post-hole 26; clay tobacco pipes from Trench B (1)

TRENCH A. Pit 59. (Fig. 4).

Layer 59.

32. Rim, light brown surfaces, grey core, medium to light flint tempering. Thumbed rim.

33. Lug, light brown surfaces, grey core, medium to light flint tempering.

34. Fragment of handle, orange surfaces, grey core, medium to light flint tempering. Three rows of slashed decoration.

Layer 66.

35. Body sherd, orange-brown surfaces, very crumbly interior, grey core, medium flint tempering. Exuberant incised decoration.

36. Cooking pot, light to dark brown surfaces, exterior soot blackened, grey core, medium to light flint tempering.

Layer 68.

37. Body sherd, brown surfaces, grey core, light flint tempering. Decorated with stamped cross.

POST-HOLE 26. (Fig. 4).

Layer 12.

38. Rim of storage jar, light orange, grey core, light flint tempering.

TRENCH A. Pit 29. (Fig. 4).

Layer 29.

39. Rim, buff to grey surfaces, grey core, medium flint tempering.

40. Rim with thumbed decoration, dark grey fabric, medium flint tempering.

Layer 49.

41. Body sherd, light brown surfaces, grey core, coarse flint tempering. Stamped circular decoration.

Layer 34.

42. Not illustrated. Body sherd of pale pink-grey fabric, with external pale amber glaze. Rouletted decoration. Andenne ware? Eleventh to twelfth century.

TRENCH B. Pit 29. (Fig. 5).

Layer 53.

43. Rim and lug/handle, dark grey patchy fabric, decayed interior surface, medium flint tempering.

Layer 62.

44. Rim, dark grey to black fabric, medium flint tempering.

TRENCH B. Pit 35. (Fig. 5)

Layer 35.

45. Rim, dark brown surfaces, grey core, medium flint tempering. Rough incised decoration.

TRENCH B. Pit 33. (Fig. 5).

Layer 33.

46. Rim with thumbed decoration, dark grey fabric, medium flint tempering.

Layer 58.

47. Rim, brown surfaces, grey core, medium flint tempering.

Layer 60.

48. Rim with rebate on outer edge, dark grey fabric, medium flint tempering.

Layer 67.

49. Cooking pot, dark grey to black fabric, medium flint tempering.

50. Rim, dark grey fabric, medium flint tempering.

TRENCH B. Pit 37. (Fig. 5)

Layer 37.

51. Rim, black fabric, patchy surface, medium flint tempering.

52. Rim, black fabric, medium flint tempering.

Layer 65.

53. Cooking pot, dark grey-brown to black fabric, medium flint tempering.

54. Bowl, patchy light grey-brown surfaces, grey core, medium flint tempering.

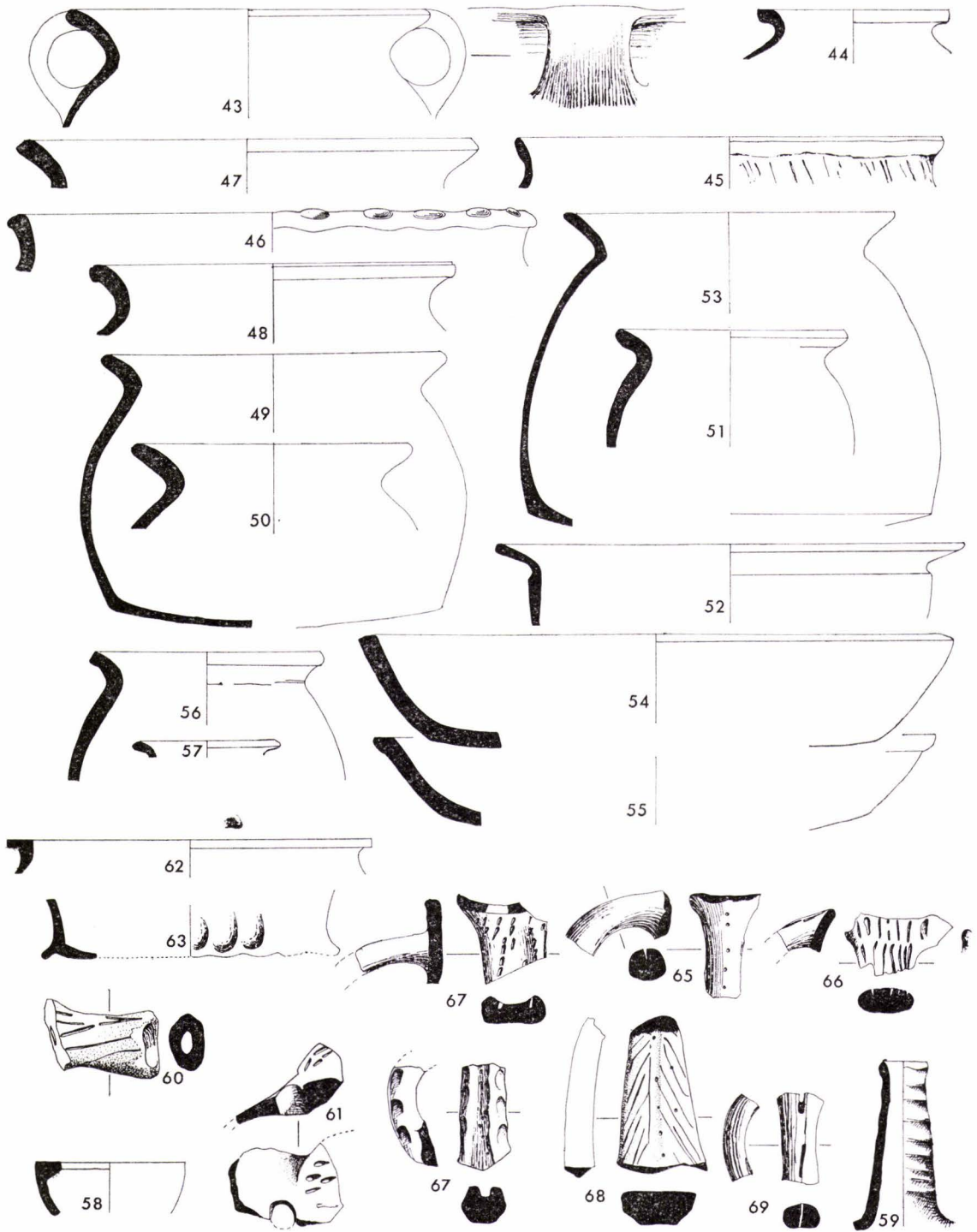


FIG. 5. Lewes, 1975. Pottery from Trench B, pits 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 37, and Layers 12 and 26 (↓)

TRENCH B. Pit 30. (Fig. 5).

Layer 47.

55. Bowl, grey-brown surfaces, grey core, medium flint tempering.

TRENCH B. Pit 34. (Fig. 5).

Layer 34.

56. Rim, dark grey to black fabric, medium flint tempering.

57. Rim, black fabric, medium flint tempering.

TRENCH B. (Fig. 5).

Layer 12.

58. Inturned rim of Rye ware.

59. Flask neck, from near Rouen. Type 3.

TRENCH B. (Fig. 5).

Layer 26.

60. Spout, light orange-brown surface, light grey core, sandy fabric. Incised decoration

61. Fragment of curfew cover, light orange-brown surface, light grey core, sandy fabric.

62. Rim, buff-brown surface, light grey core, fine sandy fabric.

63. Base, orange fabric, sandy, with spotty light green glaze. Thumbed base.

64. Fragment of handle, light grey fabric, fine sandy tempering. Stabbed decoration.

65. Fragment of handle, light orange-brown surfaces with green-grey glaze, fine fabric. Stabbed decoration.

66. Fragment of handle, light orange-brown surfaces light grey core fine fabric. Slashed decoration.

67. Fragment of handle, light orange-brown surfaces, light grey core, fine sandy fabric. Thumbed sides.

68. Skillet handle, light brown surfaces, light brown core, fine sandy fabric. Incised decoration.

69. Fragment of handle, light orange-brown surfaces with grey-green glaze sandy fabric. Stabbed decoration.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

by D. J. Freke, M.A.

The numbers refer to figure 4.

70. Bowl with spur, circa 1650. Trench B, layer 12.

71. Bowl with spur, circa 1650. Trench B, layer 11.

72. Bowl, circa 1760. Trench B, layer 18.

73. Bowl, circa 1780-1800, spur with initials 'I. E.' Trench B, layer 18.

Miscellaneous Objects. (Fig. 6).

74. Baked clay loom weight, bun type. Trench A, Pit 22, layer 76.

75. Baked clay loom weight, bun type. Trench B, Pit 70, layer 70.

Fragments of similar loom weights were found in Trench B, Pit. 37.

76. Chalk oil lamp. Trench A, Pit 22, layer 76.

77. Mudstone spindle whorl. Trench A Pit 22 layer 76.

78. Decorated bone handle (?). Trench A, Pit 8, layer 8.

79. Bone needle. Trench B, Pit 29, layer 63.

80. Bone needle. Trench B, Pit 35, layer 35.

81. Decorated bone ornament. Trench A, Pit 8, layer 8.

Stone Artifacts (Fig. 6. Illustrated stone marked with *).

by C. R. Cartwright, M.A., and A. J. Woods.

Petrological analysis

Non-Local Stone (i.e. not found in Sussex).

1. Trench B, layer 30. Granite quern fragment.

*2. No. 85, Trench A, layer 8. Granite quern fragment.

3. Trench B, layer 35. Granite quern fragment.

Quartz and much feldspar occurs—a little orthoclase is present but mainly plagioclase is represented (some altered) and mica (biotite and a little muscovite is present).

4. Trench B, layer 40 ? Mayen lava quern fragment.

*5. No. 83, Trench B, layer 40 Mayen lava quern fragment.

Local Stone:

6. Trench A, layer 75. Quartzite-sandstone quern fragment.

Mainly sub rounded quartz and round goetnite/limonite but occasional feldspar (small microcline) occurs in a chalcedonic cement.

7. Trench A, layer 24. Fine-grained quartzite quern fragment.

A fine grained quartzite composed of small, compact sub-angular quartz, minute limonite/goetnite fragments, occasional muscovite and haematite flecks.

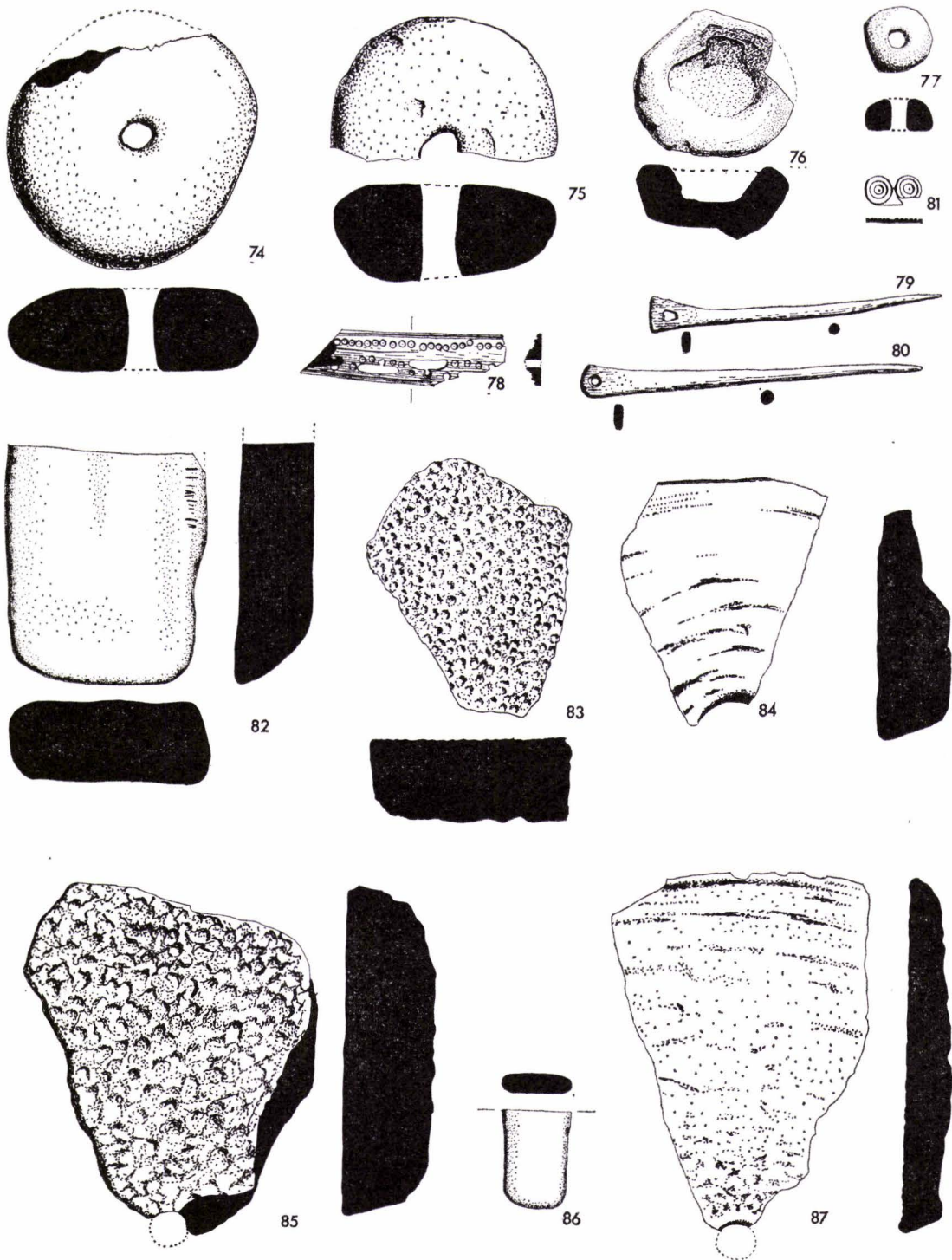


FIG. 6. Lewes, 1975. Stone and miscellaneous objects (↓) except nos. 78, 79, 80, 81 (↑)

8. Trench B, layer 33. Fine-grained calcareous sandstone composed of very small sub-angular quartz cemented with calcite. Quern fragment.

9. Trench A, layer 29. Arkose quern fragment. An arkose composed of varying sizes of quartz: sub-rounded to angular, weathered and rounded (a little microcline but predominantly plagioclase) in a ferruginous cement.

10. Trench B, layer 65, sample b. Slightly fossiliferous calcareous sandstone. Quern fragment. A slightly fossiliferous calcareous sandstone composed of rounded quartz, a little quartzite, much goetnite/limonite with occasional microcline in alcaitic cement. Fossil radiolaria skeletons occur sporadically.

Trench B, layer 65, sample a. Fine-grained quartzite composed of very small subangular quartz. Quern fragment.

*11. No. 82, Trench A, layer 76. Mudstone. Whetstone. Mudstone composed of minute rounded and lath-like quartz fragments, scattered and infrequent mica (muscovite) fragments in a dense matrix.

*12. No. 87, Trench A, layer 54. Quartzite sandstone (similar to 6). Quern fragment. A quartzite-sandstone composed of subrounded quartz, rounded goetnite/limonite and rear feldspar (usually small microcline).

13. Trench B, layer 33. Mudstone. Whetstone.

*14. No. 86, Trench B, layer 38. Quartzite sandstone. Quern fragment.

*15. No. 84, Trench B, layer 35. Ferruginous sandstone. Quern fragment.

16. Trench A, layer 8. Mudstone. Whetstone.

17. Trench A, layer 8. Fine-grained quartzite. Quern fragment.

18. Trench A, layer 8. Quartzite-sandstone. Quern fragment. Slightly calcareous.

19. Trench A, layer 54. Quartzite. Quern fragment.

20. Trench A, layer 54. Fossiliferous calcareous sandstone. Quern fragment.

Miscellaneous:

21. Trench B, layer 33. Mortar ?

Analysis of this material reveals many quartz fragments (very rounded and presumably windblown sand), some quartzite, occasional feldspar (one microcline), iron lumps and iron encasing and penetrating some of the quartz fragments. Optically, it has an isotropic matrix. A large proportion of the body (i.e. the lime component) is affected by acid dissolution.

The Pleistocene Landforms (Fig. 7)

by M. Bell, B.Sc.

Archaeological features at North Street, Lewes, were cut into a series of periglacial landforms which had developed on top of a river cliff of the Ouse. The landforms are morphologically similar to those uncovered on a continuation of the same river cliff at Newhaven.¹ The basic stratigraphic sequence at Lewes is Lower Chalk overlain by Clay-with-Flints on which are patches of silt, and above which the post-glacial soil has developed. The Pleistocene part of this stratigraphic sequence has been folded and contorted into broad pockets by ice action during a period of extreme cold. The various layers would have expanded differently according to their lithology and water-holding capacity. The result was the development of a series of unsorted stone stripes formed by alternating ridges and troughs running from S.W. to N.E. at right angles to the contours. In the centre of the ridges there is chalk flanked by Clay-with-Flints at its margins. Generally speaking the flints were orientated in the same direction as the stripes. The troughs had a silt fill below which is the folded cover of Clay-with-Flints. In Trench B much of the silt was removed by post-medieval terracing, leaving only stripes of chalk projecting through Clay-with-Flints. A few small remaining patches of silt were not planned, but are marked by a paucity of flints.

Small sections across these features were visible in the sides of archaeological features. They had the appearance of simple involutions, such as are visible in many of the cliff sections between Black Rock and Eastbourne. It is generally assumed that on flat surfaces involutions have a polygonal plan, and that on more sloping ground they grade into stripes,² of which this is one of the few examples to have been recorded in plan.

In order to assess more accurately the character and possible origin of these sediments, two samples were taken for laboratory analysis. The particle size distribution of each was obtained by mechanical analysis, and the mineralogical composition of particles larger than 0.2mm. was examined under the binocular microscope. Sample 2 was from a Clay-with-Flints stripe surrounded on both sides by troughs of silt. The cumulative graph shows that it is not well sorted into any predominant grade, and consists of 29.5% clay; 22.5% silt; 27% sand; and 21% gravel. Mineralogically its chief constituents larger than 600 μ m. are grains of iron oxide; silicified sandstone; silicified siltstone; flint and quartz, with the later predominating over the others below 212 μ m. The mineralogy of the sand and gravel fractions of the Clay-with-Flints here and elsewhere are consistent with their being residual deposits from the weathering of Reading Beds, and the solution of chalk.

Sample 1 was from a silt stripe. Mechanical analysis showed it to be well sorted, 53% was silt and a further 17% was fine sand smaller than 0.1mm; both of which are likely to be a wind deposited loess. Some 20% is clay, 8.5% sand larger than 0.1mm. and 1.5% gravel. The mineralogy of material larger than 212 μ m. was very similar to that of the underlying Clay-with-Flints. This indicates that material larger than 0.1mm. in this sample was derived from the underlying deposit by cryoturbation. Thus the loess may be *in situ* except for the local folding and contortion which accompanied development of the stripes.

¹ M. Bell, 'The excavation of an early Romano-British site and pleistocene landforms at Newhaven, Sussex.' *S.A.C.* vol. 114 (1976) pp. 218-305.

² R. B. G. Williams, 'Frost and the works of man.' *Antiquity*, vol. 57 (1973), p. 26.

LEWES North Street
Periglacial Landforms

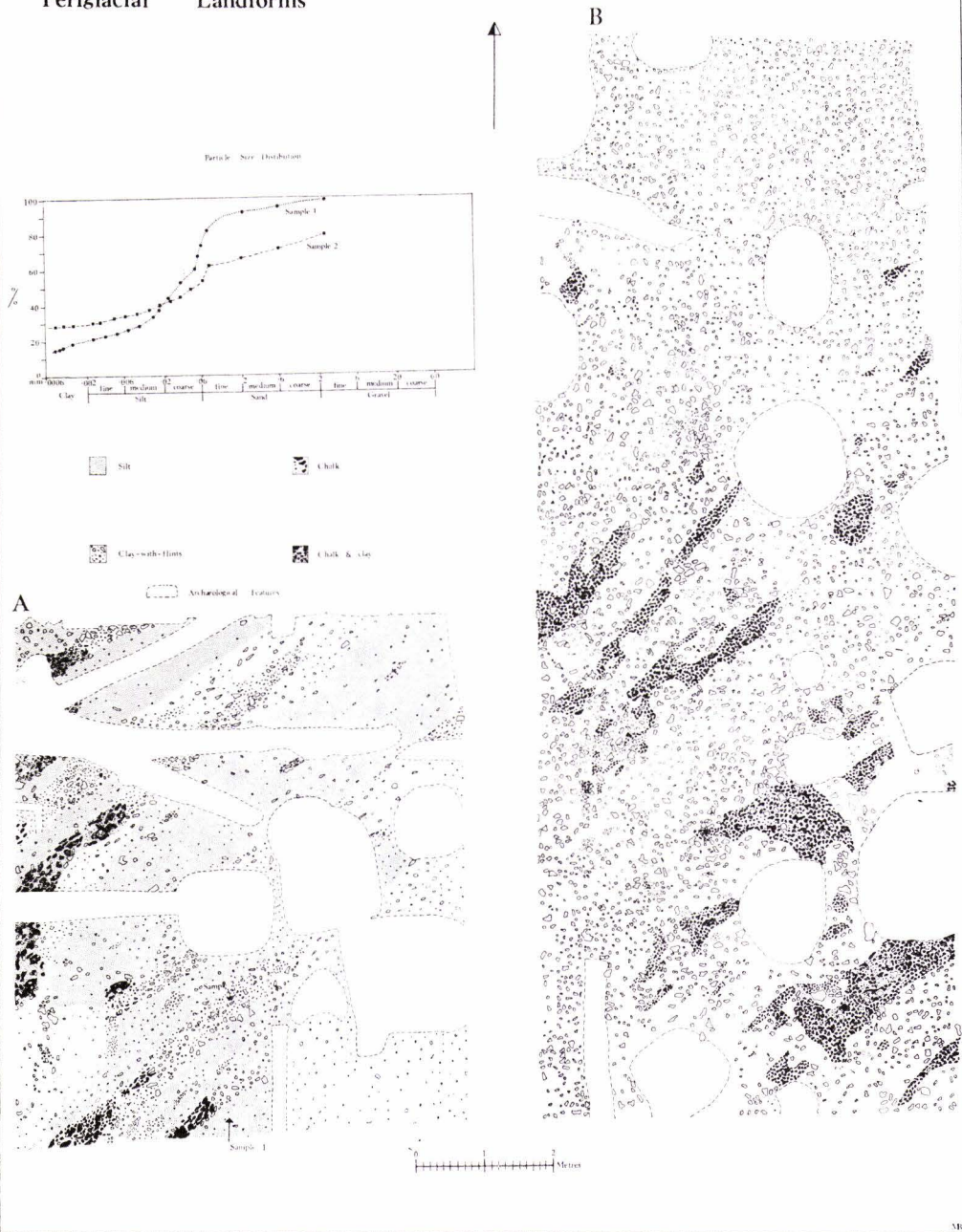


FIG. 7. Lewes, 1975. Pleistocene Landforms. Two areas are shown: (A) the western end of Trench A; (B) Trench B, where a few small areas of silt were not plotted, but are indicated by a paucity of flints. The cumulative graph compares the particle size distribution of samples 1 and 2

Recent work has shown that in the latter part of the Pleistocene many of the soils of Southern England, including those of the Chalk downs, were augmented by deposits of wind-blown loess.¹ The stratigraphic position of the Lewes silt deposits is consistent with deposition in the cold dry Pleniglacial Stadial B, from which the majority of English loess deposits date. Comparison with Newhaven suggests that during subsequent excavations in Lewes the silt horizons should continue to be carefully watched and recorded, for they are potential sources of *in situ* Palaeolithic artifacts.

Bone Report

by O. Bedwin, Ph.D.

Human remains.

8 fragments of the skull of a human adult were recovered from Trench B, Pit 34, layer 67. Age at death was 35 ± 5 years; the robustness of the fragments suggests a male.

Animal remains.

Large amounts of animal bones were found, particularly where sieving was carried out. A total of about 5,000 bones, complete and fragmentary, were identified. (No attempt has been made to differentiate between sheep and goat; where the word sheep occurs in this report, it should be taken to mean sheep or goat).

The common domestic food animals, sheep, pig, and cattle, were all well represented. For the purposes of quantitative comparison, only the material from well-characterised archaeological features, such as the cess-pits, has been used. The histograms show the relative amounts of the four main food animals, sheep, pig, cattle and chicken, which occurred in four of the seven pits, based on a count of the minimum number of individuals, but excluding those of animals too immature to have been of use as food. Pits 22, 29 and 34 are very similar; chicken forms a small, but constant part of the diet throughout.

Apart from differences in quantity, there are also considerable differences in the age at death among the food animals. 60 out of 190 sheep mandibles from the 7 pits were deciduous, whereas only 4 out of 91 cattle mandibles, and 8 out of 52 pig mandibles were deciduous.

Perhaps the most striking feature, however, was the presence of every part of the skeletons of sheep and cattle, from the skull, (with or without horns), down to the phalanges and caudal vertebrae. Assuming that the site was a domestic one, it would seem that much fuller use was made of the bodies of food animals, especially the skulls, than is the case to-day. Moreover, there is little evidence to indicate which joints of meat, if any, were preferred. Table 1 shows the numbers of the larger long bones of cattle, sheep, and pig from Trench A, Pit 8. None of these is strikingly conspicuous either by its absence or presence in excess. Butchering marks were disappointingly few also, though there were several examples of the horns of either sheep or cattle having been neatly cut off at the base. In the material from the seven pits, twelve cases of butchering marks on sheep pelvises were seen, and a similar number on cattle pelvises. In addition to these, there were a few marks on cattle tibiae and humeri, but the great majority of the bones were unmarked, thus giving no information about how the carcasses were jointed.

Table 1.

	Femur	Tibia	Humerus	Radius
Sheep	8	12	5	7
Cattle	4	6	3	5
Pig	3	4	5	3

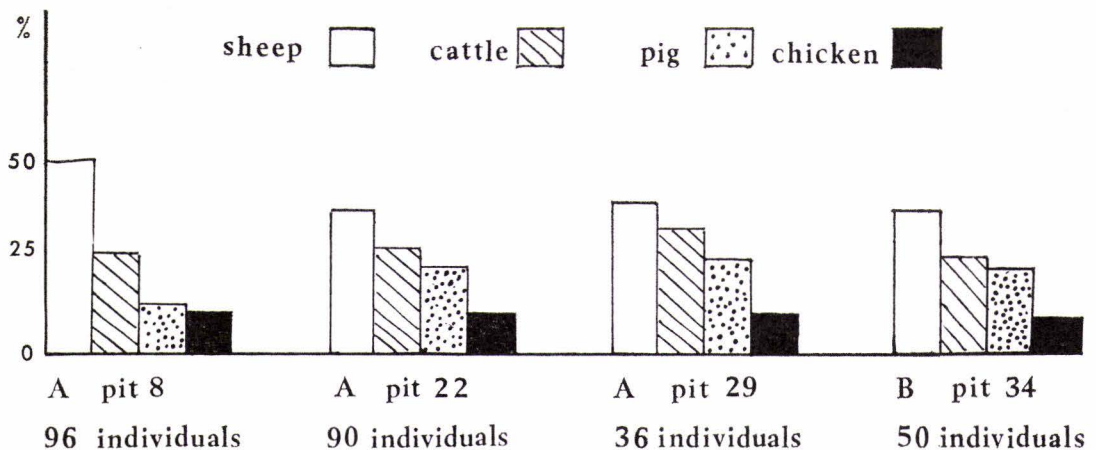
Details for Trench A, pit 55 and Trench B, pits 29 and 33 are not presented as percentage histograms were too few specimens: the figures for these pits are as follows:

Table 2.

	Sheep	Cattle	Pig	Chicken
Trench A, pit 55	4	5	6	0
Trench B, pit 29	6	5	6	6
Trench B, pit 33	6	6	5	3

Other domestic animals present were horse (a total of 17 bones), dog (16 bones, mostly of terrier size, though one skull from Trench A, pit 8 was about the size of a labrador), and cat (6 bones.) A few bones of roe deer were found in Trench A, pit 8. The other mammals represented in the bone record were the badger (*Meles meles*), the mole (*Talpa europaea*), and the rat (*Rattus* sp.). Finally, from Trench A, pit 8 came some vertebrae of frog, (*Xenopus* sp.).

¹ M. Bell, 'Sediment analysis and periglacial landforms as evidence of the environment of southern England during the last glaciation.' (unpub. B.Sc. dissertation, Univ. of London, 1975).



A considerable variety of bird bones, apart from chicken, were found. These were as follows:

Mute swan	Cygnus olor	A, Pit 55, layer 55
Goose — ? Greylag or possibly early domesticated variety	Anser sp.	A, Pit 22, layer 76
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	A, Pit 22, layer 22
		B, Pit 70, layer 70
Curlew	Numenius sp.	A, Pit 22, layer 76
Raven or crow	Corvus sp.	B, Pit 35, layer 35
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	A, Pit 29, layer 75
Starling	Sternus vulgaris	B, Pit 29, layer 62
Coot	Fulica atra	B, Pit 29, layer 53
Meadow pipit	Anthus pratensis	B, Pit 29, layer 53
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	B, Pit 29, layer 53
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	B, Pit 29, layer 53
Dove—? Collared	Streptotelia sp.	A, Pit 22, layer 70
Partridge	Perdix perdix	B, Pit 70, layer 70

Only in the case of the goose (*Anser* sp.) and pheasant was there any indication of more than one individual. Some of these birds no doubt were sources of food, while others such as the jackdaw, may have been pets. Only the raven is not found in the area to-day.

A number of fish bones were also found, mainly by sieving. Unfortunately, all the bones were either vertebrae or spines, which are notoriously difficult to distinguish, especially among the flatfish. The following species were identified, however; all are marine fish.

Cod	<i>Gadus callarius</i>	A, Pit 29, layer 49
		A, Pit 22, layer 76
Cod family	<i>Gadus</i> sp.	A, Pit 8, layer 54
		A, Pit 8, layer 60
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	A, Pit 8, layer 54
Flatfish, i.e. plaice, flounder etc.		A, Pit 22, layer 76
		A, Pit 22, layer 62
		B, Pit 29, layer 62
Black sea-bream	<i>Cantharus griseus</i>	A, Pit 8, layer 54
Mackerel	<i>Scomber scomber</i>	A, Pit 8, layer 54
Conger eel	Conger conger	A, Pit 22, layer 76

In spite of sieving, no skull bones of fish were found; this strongly suggests that fish-heads were removed at the fishmongers and thus never reached domestic sites. (It is frustrating for the archaeologist as fish are far more easily characterised by the bones of the skull, particularly the jaw).

Many oyster shells were found in both trenches as well as mussel, winkle and whelk shells. A small sample of each was kept.

I should like to thank Mr. G. Cowles of Tring Museum and Mr. A. Wheeler of the Natural History Museum, London, for their help and advice on the bird bones and fish bones, respectively.

Wood and Charcoal Samples

by C. R. Cartwright, M.A.

Identifications: Wood.

TRENCH A. Pit 22.

layer 22. Wood, Fragment of wood 7.51cms. long, maximum width 1.40cm. On the flat undersurface there is a shallow narrow groove. *Juglans regia*. Walnut.

Identifications: Charcoal.

TRENCH A. Pit 8.

layer 8: *Crataegus; Cornus; Fagus*.

layer 54: *Quercus*.

layer 60: *Crataegus*.

TRENCH A. Pit 22.

layer 22: *Crataegus; Cornus; Fagus*.

layer 62: *Quercus; Fagus*.

layer 70: *Crataegus; Quercus; Fagus; Salix*.

layer 72: *Quercus*.

layer 76: *Crataegus; Quercus; Cornus; Alnus*.

TRENCH A. Pit 29.

layer 29: *Crataegus*.

layer 34: *Crataegus*.

layer 49: *Crataegus; Fagus; Hedera helix*.

layer 58: *Crataegus*.

layer 64: *Pyrus; Fraxinus*.

layer 75: *Quercus*.

TRENCH A. Pit 55.

layer 55: *Quercus*.

TRENCH A. Pit 59.

layer 66: *Crataegus*.

TRENCH A. Pit 18.

layer 19: *Quercus*.

TRENCH A. Pit 23.

layer 23: *Hedera helix*.

Descriptions of layers.

TRENCH A.

layer 1: garden soil.

layer 2: dark brown soft sandy earth.

layer 3: mixed fine silt, chalk, clay and flints.

Pit 8.

layer 6 and 7: black soil with 19th century material.

layer 8: dark grey-brown clay, yellowish and greenish in places, with occasional chalk lumps and flint nodules.

layer 54: dark grey-brown clay, with chalk and flint lumps.

layer 57: alternate bands of yellow sand and chalky clay.

layer 60: grey-brown crumbly earth.

TRENCH A. Pit 32.

layer 32: *Quercus*.

TRENCH B. Pit 27.

layer 27: *Betula*.

TRENCH B. Pit 29.

layer 29: *Fagus*.

layer 53: *Fagus; Ilex; Quercus; Crataegus*.

layer 53: Possibly *Crataegus*.

layer 62: *Quercus; Fagus*.

TRENCH B. Pit 30.

layer 30: *Crataegus*.

layer 47: *Crataegus*.

TRENCH B. Pit 33.

layer 33: *Ilex; Fagus; Quercus; Alnus; Castanea sativa*.

layer 49: *Crataegus; Fagus; Fraxinus*.

layer 50: *Crataegus*.

layer 58: *Ilex*.

layer 69: *Fraxinus*.

TRENCH B. Pit 34.

layer 34: *Crataegus*.

layer 45: *Ilex*.

layer 67: *Quercus*.

TRENCH B. Pit 35.

layer 35: *Crataegus*.

TRENCH B. Pit 37.

layer 37: *Quercus*.

layer 41: *Fagus; Alnus*.

layer 42: *Fagus*.

TRENCH B. Pit 48.

layer 48: *Fagus*.

TRENCH B. Pit 70.

layer 70: *Quercus; Fagus*.

Pit 18.

layer 19: brownish sandy clay, with streaks of yellow clay, occasional flint and chalk fragments.

Pit 22.

layer 22: brown earthy clay, many small chalk fragments, charcoal flecks and small flint nodules.

layer 62: brown crumbly earth with chalk lumps.

layer 70: brown earth with chalk lumps and much bone.

layer 72: yellow-brown clay with flint nodules and little chalk.

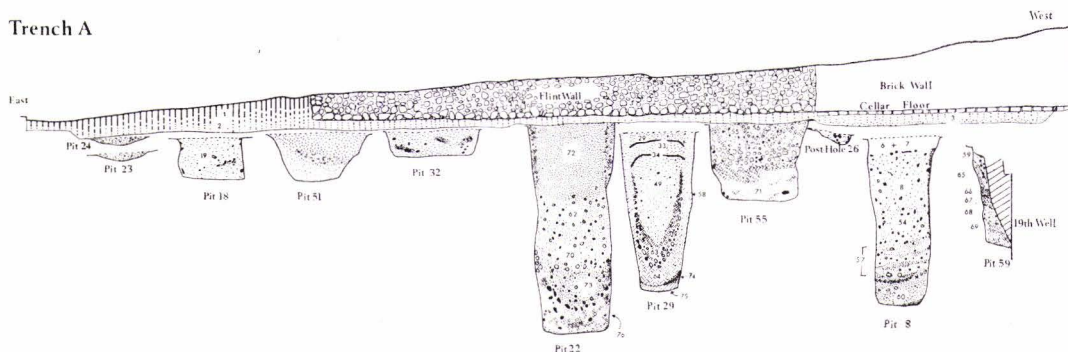
layer 73: green-grey crumbly earth with chalk and flint.

layer 76: brown crumbly earth with chalk and flint.

- Pit 23.
layer 23: dark brown earth with small chalk lumps.
- Pit 24.
layer 24: brown clayey earth with small chalk lumps and charcoal flecks.
- Post-hole 26.
layer 26: grey-brown earth with chalk and flint packing.
- Pit 29.
layer 29: dark brown earth with flint and small chalk lumps.
layer 33: dark brown clay with many chalk lumps.
layer 34: black ashy layer.
layer 49: grey-brown clay with many chalk lumps.
layer 58: brown clayey earth with small chalk lumps.
layer 63: yellow-grey clay with flint and chalk lumps.
layer 64: green-grey clay.
layer 74: dark grey ashy earth.
layer 75: yellow-green clay.
- Pit 32.
layer 32: red-brown clay with small chalk and flint lumps and charcoal.
- Pit 51.
layer 51: brown earth with reddish clay and sandy patches.
- Pit 55.
layer 55: mixed patches of yellow-brown clay, dark brown clay and green-grey earth.
layer 56: yellow to dark brown clay with small flints and chalk lumps.
layer 71: clean yellow-brown sandy earth.
- Pit 59.
layer 59: grey clayey earth with chalk fragments.
layer 65: yellow clay with some sand.
layer 66: grey soft earth.
layer 67: reddish sand.
layer 68: dark patchy grey earth.
layer 69: thick reddish brown clay.

LEWES NORTH STREET 1975

Trench A



Trench B

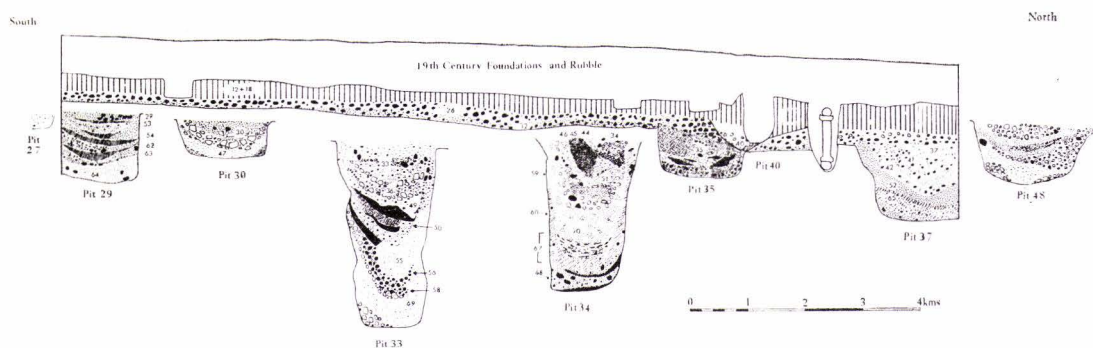


FIG. 8. Lewes, 1975. Trench A, north facing section; the features projected onto the section are all shown at their correct relative height above Ordnance datum and in their correct position east-west except pits 24, 29 and 59, which have been moved east or west so as not to overlap other features (see Fig. 2). Trench B, east facing section; the features projected onto the section are all shown at their correct height above Ordnance Datum and in their correct positions north-south except for pits 27, 33, 48, which have been moved north or south so as not to overlap other features (see Fig. 2)

TRENCH B.

layer 12 and 18: fine dark brown crumbly earth with flints.

layer 26: black flinty earth.

layer 32: dark red-brown sandy, flinty earth.

Pit 27.

layer 27: dark brown loose earth with small flint and chalk lumps.

Pit 29.

layer 29: dark brown soil with flints.

layer 53: charcoal and clay with flints.

layer 54: brown sandy earth with charcoal flecks

layer 62: charcoal bands with clay and flints.

layer 63: dark brown clayey earth with clay and flints.

layer 64: fine textured greenish earth with few flint lumps.

Pit 30.

layer 30: flint and chalk with sandy clay.

layer 47: sandy earth with chalk flecks.

Pit 33.

layer 33: mixed bands of dark brown earth with burnt clay and flints.

layer 36: chalk blocks and rubble.

layer 49: soft chalk rubble.

layer 50: charcoal bands and grey clay with some chalk.

layer 55: light brown earth with charcoal flecks.

layer 56: orange-brown Clay with Flints.

layer 58: sandy earth with charcoal.

layer 69: brown clay with charcoal.

Pit 34.

layer 34: mixed dark brown clay with charcoal.

layer 44: light yellow sand.

layer 45: dark brown clay.

layer 46: orange sandy clay.

layer 51: light brown clay.

layer 59: sandy earth with burnt clay and charcoal.

layer 60: dark brown clay with charcoal.

layer 67: dark brown fine textured earth with charcoal.

layer 68: brown sandy earth with charcoal and flints.

layer 71: chalky and sandy clay with small flints.

Pit 35.

layer 35: mixed bands of dark brown clay, some charcoal, flint and chalk patches.

Pit 37.

layer 37: dark brown earth with charcoal flecks.

layer 41: chalk rubble

layer 42: dark brown earth with charcoal and flints.

layer 52: dark sandy earth.

layer 65: dark sandy and flinty clay with much charcoal.

Pit 40.

layer 40: light brown earth with small flints.

Pit 48.

layer 48: light brown sandy earth with chalk and flints.

layer 61: sandy brown mixed earth with some clay flints and chalk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful for the assistance of my supervisors Miss C. R. Cartwright, M.A. and Mr. I. Blair; my wife Jane and Miss J. Biggar who took on the responsibility of the finds; Miss Biggar with the aid of Mrs. S. Thomas, B.A. also reconstructed the pottery; Mr. E. O'Shea surveyed the site; Mr. E. Holden, F.S.A., the late Mr. G. P. Burstow and Mr. J. Houghton all made helpful visits to the site. I should also like to acknowledge the help of the Lewes District Council who own the land; the Lewes Archaeological Group whose members gave what time they could; Miss Fiona Marsden and Mr. Simon Garrett at Barbican House Museum, Lewes; the various experts who have kindly written specialist reports or given me advice; and finally Mr. P. L. Drewett, B.Sc., Director of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit. The illustrations were drawn by the author except for figure 7, the work of M. Bell, B.Sc.

The Society is greatly indebted to the Department of the Environment for a generous grant towards the cost of publishing this paper.