

## EXCAVATIONS AT CLIFFE, LEWES, 1987 and 1988

by David Rudling

*Trial excavations in 1987 and 1988 to the north of St Thomas à Becket Church, Cliffe revealed large deposits of compacted chalk. Dating evidence from some of these deposits indicates that they were laid down during the 13th/14th century. Other discoveries included a number of rubbish pits/deposits, one of which yielded some interesting inscribed stoneware tankards.*

### INTRODUCTION

In advance of redevelopment, trial excavations were undertaken by the Field Archaeology Unit in 1987 and 1988 to the north of St Thomas à Becket Church, Cliffe, Lewes. These excavations are the first to have taken place in Cliffe, a suburb settlement of Lewes on the opposite bank of the River Ouse (Fig. 1). This suburb developed as a result of the importance of the river crossing. It is thought to date back to Late Saxon times, since 59 houses in Lewes are mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the Rape of Pevensey, and the boundary of the Rapes was the river (Aldsworth and Freke 1976, 37). In more recent times Cliffe was a separate town from Lewes until 1881 (Chapman 1990, 10).

A religious fraternity was established and endowed at Cliffe soon after the death, and in honour of, St Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was martyred in 1170. This fraternity, 'who were subject to the College of South Malling, had their Chapel and most probably their residence near the site of the present church' (Dunvan 1795, 310). The fraternity continued at Cliffe until 1545 when they were suppressed and 'their possessions in and near the Cliffe, were granted with those of Malling College, to Sir Thomas Parker' (Dunvan 1795, 314). The Parish Church, which is dedicated to St Thomas à Becket, dates from the

13th and 14th centuries and may perhaps incorporate the 'Chapel' of the religious fraternity. The first recorded vicar was John de Arundel, who held office from 1320–1349.

By 1410 Cliffe was a settlement of sufficient size to require a market, and was granted by Henry IV a charter for holding a weekly market on Wednesdays and two yearly three-day fairs, one on the feast of St Mark the Evangelist and the other on the Feast of St Matthew (Dunvan 1795, 311). The fair place is known to have been located to the north of the Church (Salzman 1940, 8).

From the above it can be seen that the recent redevelopment of land to the north of the Church was of archaeological interest since the area potentially contained traces of occupation since the Late Saxon period; evidence of the religious fraternity; possible burials associated with the Chapel and/or Church; and the site of the Cliffe fairs. At the request of the County Archaeologist, Dr Andrew Woodcock, J. C. Design and Construction Ltd agreed in 1987 to allow and fund archaeological trial trenching prior to the demolition of the old Church Hall (Fig. 2). As a result, two trenches (I and II) were machine excavated under the direction of Dr Robin Holgate. Unfortunately the results of this work (see below) were disappointing. Subsequently, in 1988, two further trenches (III and IV) were excavated in advance of the main

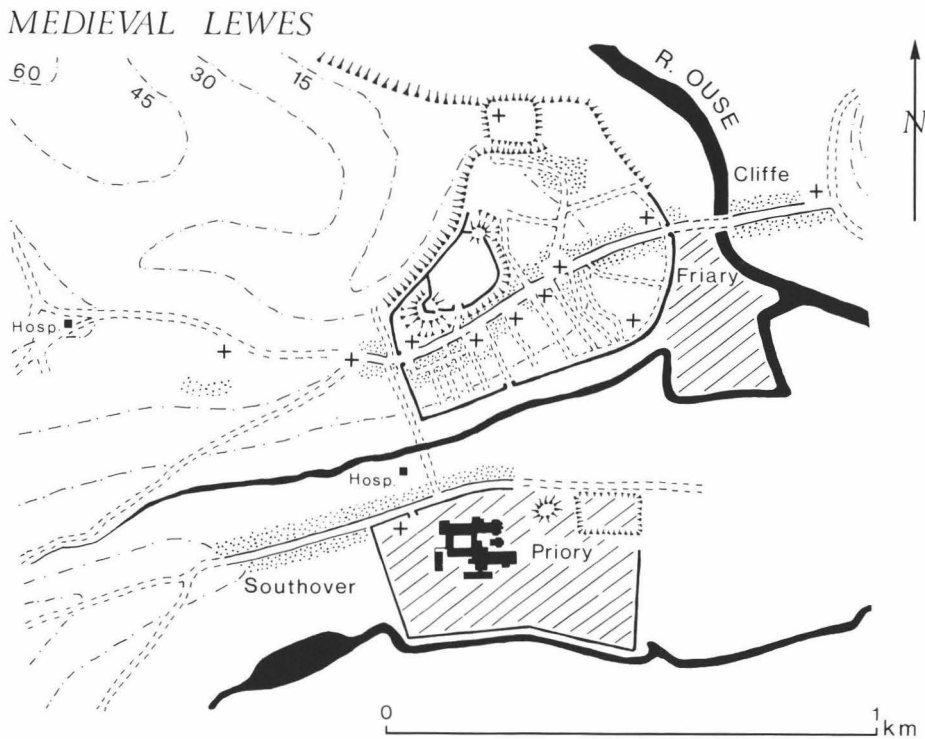


Fig. 1. Medieval Lewes and Cliffe.

phase of redevelopment. This work, which was directed by the author, was funded by the East Sussex County Council and the Margary Research Fund of the Sussex Archaeological Society. The developers again kindly made available the use of a mechanical excavator. Volunteer help on the excavation was provided by students of the Institute of Archaeology.

## THE EXCAVATIONS

### a) 1987

Two trenches were machine excavated to a depth of about 2.5 metres to the north of the Parish Church (Fig. 2). All that was encountered below the surface was a compacted deposit of chalk blocks/rubble. No finds were made.

### b) 1988

#### Trench III

A 10 metres long and 1 metre wide trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of

2.4 metres. A compacted deposit of chalk blocks/rubble was encountered at a depth of approximately 1.3 metres and was still present at 2.4 metres. A few finds were recovered from the deposits above the compacted chalk. These included two sherds of medieval pottery, several sherds of post-medieval pottery and a halfpenny dated 1807. Unfortunately no finds were retrieved from the chalk itself.

#### Trench IV

An approximately rectangular area, some  $7.6 \times 6.6$  metres, was machine excavated to an average depth of 1-metre. A 1 metre wide strip along the southern face of the trench was machine excavated to a depth of approximately 1.5 metres.

The removal of the upper-most layers (Context 1) of the trench by the JCB cut through a number of brick foundations (Fig. 3). The deeper machine excavation along the southern

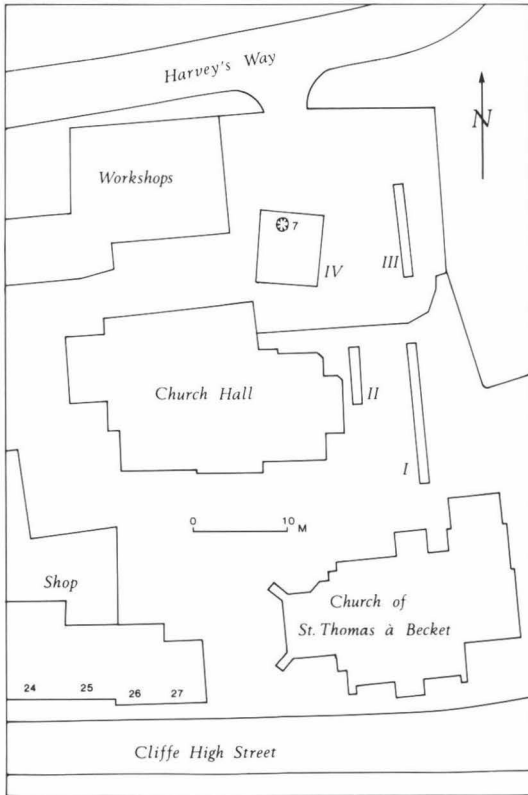
*Cliffe 1987 & 1988*

Fig. 2. Cliffe 1987 and 1988. Trench plan.

face of the trench resulted in the disturbance of three deposits/features. At the eastern end the machine disturbed a concentration (probably a rubbish pit or midden) of late 17th- and early 18th-century material. Although the exact edges of this deposit/feature could not be recorded, the finds from this area were assigned to Context 2. The pottery, glass and clay-pipe evidence suggest that this deposit dates to *c.* 1720–40. Just to the west of Context 2 was a small clay deposit (Context 3) which contained 13 pieces of window glass, some animal bones, marine molluscs and a piece of clay-pipe with spur dating to *c.* 1690. At the western end of the machine slot the JCB clipped the edge of a pit (Context 6). The fill (Context 4) of this feature (Fig. 3) yielded three

pieces of glass which probably date to the early part of the 17th century. Other finds from this pit include animal bones and oyster shells.

Over the rest of the trench the machine stripping stopped just above an extensive layer of compacted chalk (Context 9). The remaining soil (ie. the base of Context 1e, but allocated Context 11) was removed by hand. This disturbed layer contained a mixture of medieval, early post-medieval and a few modern pottery sherds. Context 9 proved to be cut by four features; two of which (Contexts 12 and 13) were modern pits (one contained GPO fittings). The other two features (Contexts 5 and 7) were rubbish pits.

Context 7 (Fig. 2) was a small pit approximately 1 metre across and surviving to a depth of 45 cm. (Fig. 3). A sample of the fill (Context 8) of this feature was wet-sieved. The main dating evidence consists of post-medieval pottery and a Nuremberg jeton of Hans Krauwinckel II (Master 1586; died 1635). Unfortunately all of the pottery sherds are fairly small and the assemblage contains a number of residual late-medieval examples. The imported stonewares have been dated by Clive Orton (see below) to the mid-16th to mid-17th century. There is also, however, a sherd (Catalogue No. 21) of stoneware which may be later; possibly even early 18th century. Given that this sherd could be intrusive, the rest of the material from the pit indicates a date of mid-17th century. Other finds from this feature include window glass, metalwork, a lead token, building materials, charcoal, animal bones and marine molluscs.

The earliest feature which cut Context 9 was Context 5—a pit (fill: Context 10) located in the north-west corner of the trench (Fig. 3). Unfortunately only one piece of pottery (Catalogue No. 7) was recovered from this feature; a 14th or 15th century date is possible. Other finds from the pit were fragments of iron, animal bones and oyster shells.

In an attempt to try to date Context 9 (the layer of compacted chalk) the top 20 cm. of this deposit was excavated by 'pick and shovel'.

# Cliffe 1988

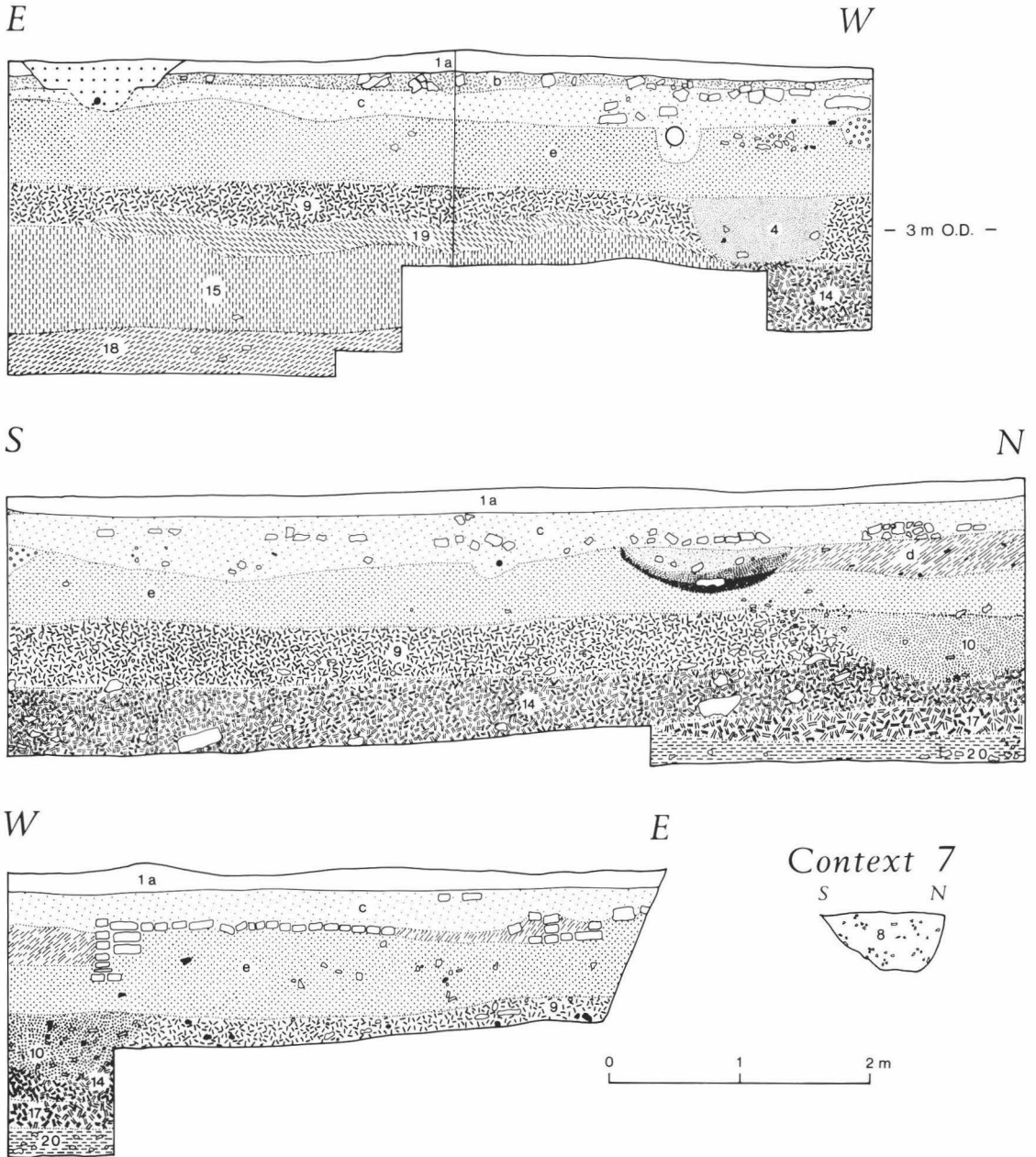


Fig. 3. Cliffe 1988, Trench IV. Sections.

Finds were not plentiful, but included oyster shells; animal bones; roofing tile and slate; and two small pieces of pottery. Both sherds are late medieval sand tempered wares.

Due to a shortage of time, the subsequent excavations concentrated on the digging of slots against the southern and western faces of the trench (Fig. 3). In the western slot Context 9 was found to overlie Context 14; which was another deposit of compacted chalk, this time including some substantially larger pieces. No finds were made. At the northern end of the western slot Context 14 was found to overlie a clay deposit (Context 17). Finds from this clay include 16 sherds of 13th/14th century pottery, animal bones and oyster shells. Beneath Context 17 was another deposit of compacted chalk (Context 20), but unfortunately this did not yield any finds.

In the southern slot Context 9 overlay a deposit (Context 19) of chalk containing some light brown clay. No finds were recovered from this context, which in turn overlay another layer of compacted chalk (Context 15). Finds from Context 15 include 5 small sherds of medieval pottery (including one piece, Catalogue No. 6, dated to the 13th century); roofing slate; charcoal; and animal bones. Below Context 15 was a layer (Context 18) of grey brown humic clay with chalk inclusions. The water table was reached at approximately 30 cm. below the bottom of Context 15. For safety reasons the excavations were only continued for a further 10 cm. Unfortunately Context 18 did not yield any archaeological finds, and its date is thus uncertain.

## THE FINDS

(N.B. Finds marked with an asterisk are illustrated)

### Pottery

The 1988 excavations (mainly Trench IV) yielded a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery. A selection is described below to give an indication of the dating of contexts and the range of pottery types and wares.

a. Medieval (Fig. 4).

\* 1. Cooking pot. Sand-tempered grey ware with occasional flint inclusions. Trench IV, Context 17.

- \* 2. Cooking pot with impressed decoration below the rim. Sand tempered orange ware with grey core. Trench IV, Context 17.
- \* 3. Body sherd from a jug with applied leaves/petals and stems below a yellow/green lead glaze. Grey sand tempered ware with orange inner surface. London-Type ware (Pearce *et al.* 1985). 13th century. Trench IV, Context 17.
- 4. Body sherd of jug. Fine sand tempered light grey ware with cream inner surface and external green lead glaze. Trench IV, Context 17.
- \* 5. Base of jug with thumbed decoration. Sand tempered grey ware with cream surfaces and external mottled green lead glaze. 13th/14th century. Trench IV, Context 17.
- 6. Body sherd of jug. Fine white ware with external light-dark green lead glaze. Probably French or possibly Surrey Ware. 13th century. Trench IV, Context 15.
- \* 7. Dripping dish. Sand tempered orange ware with grey core. The base of the interior has an orange lead glaze. Trench IV, Context 10.
- \* 8. Cooking pot. Sand tempered grey ware with buff inner surface. Trench IV, Context 1.
- \* 9. Cooking pot. Sand tempered orange ware with grey core and patches of mottled orange lead glaze on the interior surface. Trench III, Context 1.

### b. Post-medieval (Fig. 5)

- \*10. Skillet handle. Fine buff ware. Surrey-type. 16th/17th century. Trench IV, Context 1.
- 11. Small body sherd. Orange hard-fired local earthenware with black exterior surface. Late 15th/16th century. Trench IV, Context 8.
- 12. Small body sherd. Fine hard orange ware with orange lead glaze on both surfaces. 17th century. Trench IV, Context 8.
- \*13. Footring base of a charger. Dutch or English polychrome (blue, light blue and brown on white background) Delft Ware, c 1580–1650. Trench IV, Context 2.
- \*14. Chamber pot. Delft Ware with white glaze over a fine light yellow fabric. Late 17th/early 18th century. Trench IV, Context 2.
- \*14A. Ointment pot. Delft Ware with white glaze over a fine light yellow fabric. Early 18th century. Trench IV, Context 2.
- \*15. Tea bowl with carnation decoration. Tin-glazed cream ware with decoration and internal mark in blue. c. 1700. London or Low Countries. Trench IV, Context 2.
- \*16. Cup. Imitation porcelain. Tin-glazed cream ware with red and green decoration. Mid 18th century. Trench IV, Contexts 1 and 2.

### c. The Stonewares (by Clive Orton) (Fig. 6)

- \*17. Large straight-sided tankard in London stoneware, upper part of exterior mottled. Base burnt. Capacity one quart. Inscribed:

]ye King & Queen in ye[  
]ft Lewis 1715

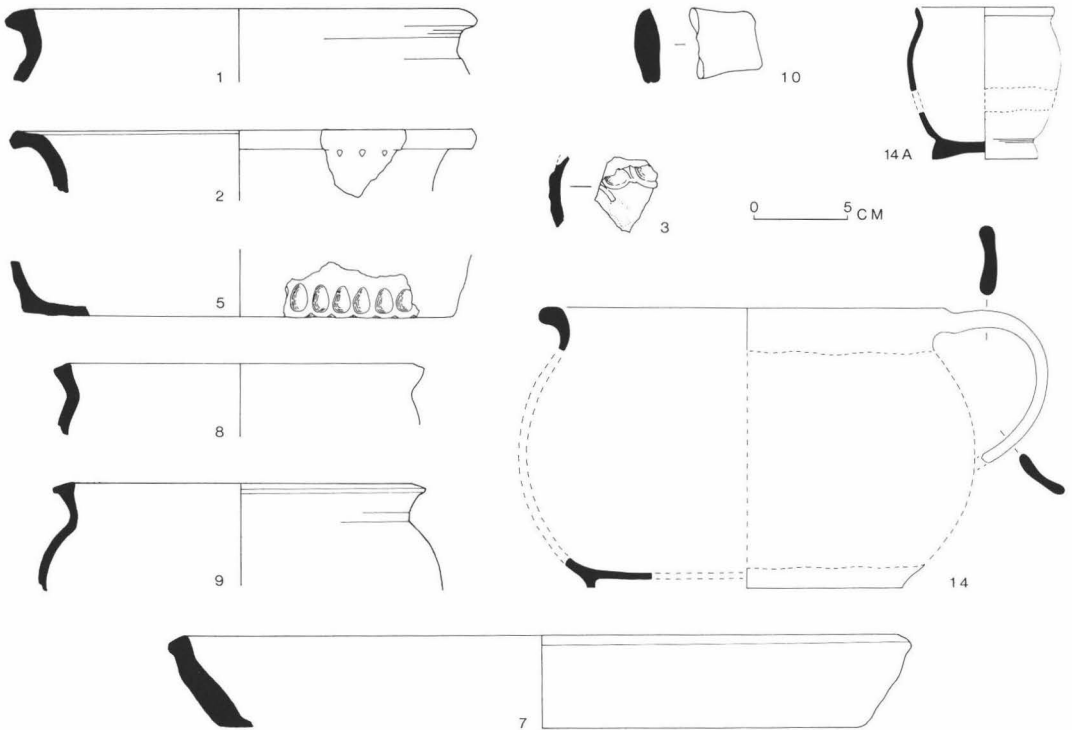


Fig. 4. Cliffe 1988. Pottery.

\*18, 19 Two small, straight-sided tankards in London stoneware. No. 18 has the upper part of the exterior mottled, and No. 19 is burnt. Both have a capacity of  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint. No. 18 is inscribed:

Thos. Ford at ye King[ ]en  
In the Clift 1715

No. 19 is inscribed:

]g & Quee[  
]1715

In addition Nos. 17 and 18 bear WR ale-marks. Trench IV, Context 2. These inscriptions can be conflated to a full reading of: Thos. Ford at ye King & Queen in ye (the) Clift Lewis 1715.

This presumably refers to an inn, its proprietor and its location. The significance of 1715 is not clear; it might refer to the opening of the inn, a new proprietor, or the date of some historical event. It does not mean that the tankards were necessarily made in 1715. That George I was king by 1715 does not contradict the WR (William Rex) ale-mark since it continued in use for long after his death (Bimson 1970).

20. Globular mug with heavily-ribbed rim in London stoneware. Very late 17th or early 18th century. Trench IV, Context 2.

These four drinking vessels presumably form part of the normal debris of the King and Queen Inn, at a date shortly after 1715.

21 Rim sherd of mug in grey stoneware with clear glaze.

22 Body sherd of mug or bottle in grey stoneware with mottled yellow-brown glaze.

23 Body sherd with handle, probably from a mug, in grey stoneware with mottled brown glaze.

24 Similar body sherd, probably not from the same vessel.

Nos. 21–24 are all from Trench IV, Context 8. Nos. 22–24 are all Cologne or Frechen types of mid-16th to mid-17th century date. No. 21 looks later, possibly up to early 18th century, and could be from London.

\*25 Body sherd of globular vessel in Westerwald stoneware with blue and purple decoration. There are no convincing parallels in von Bock (1976), but Noel Hume (1970, 281) asserts that purple decoration did not start until 1665, giving a *terminus post quem* for this sherd. Trench IV, Context 11.

#### Clay Pipes (by David Atkinson)

A catalogue of all the clay pipe finds forms part of the Archive. A selection of finds from Trench IV is described below. (Fig. 7)

1 Piece of stem with relief decoration, c. 1850. Context 1.

\* 2 Piece of spur which bears the initials T/H, c. 1770–1780. T/H is Thomas Harman II, working 1768–74. Context 1.

3 Polished bowl with no initials, c. 1720–40. Context 1.

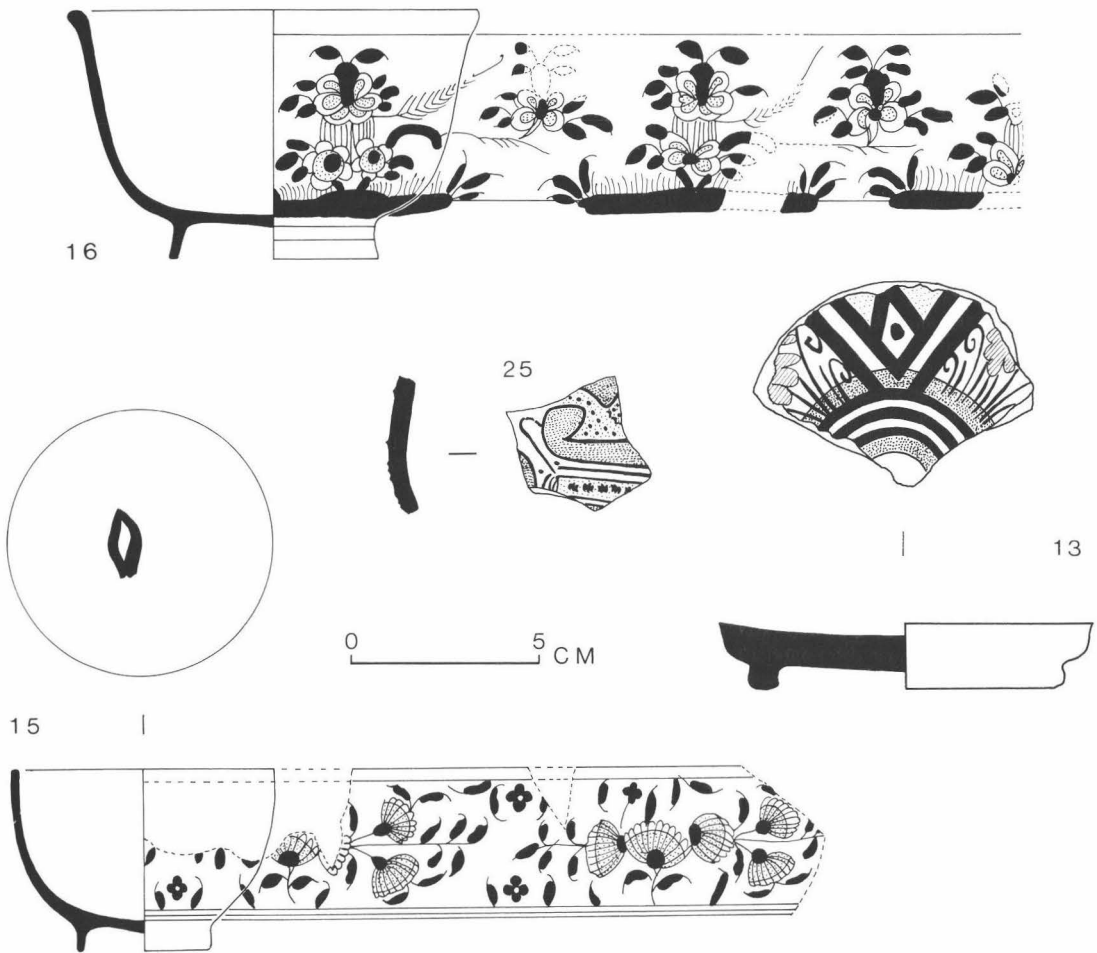


Fig. 5. Cliffe 1988. Post-medieval Pottery.

- \* 4 Bowl with initials H/A, stem nearly 10 cm., c. 1720–40. H/A is an as yet unidentified early 18th century Lewes pipe-maker. Context 1.
- \* 5 Polished bowl with initials T/H, c. 1720–40. T/H is Thomas Harman who lived in Lewes from 1697–1781. Context 1.
- 6 Bowl with H/A moulded at base, c. 1720–40. See No. 4. Context 2.
- 7 Piece with spur, c. 1690. Context 3.
- \* 8 Small wig curler made of pipe-clay. Context 11.
- 9 Two pieces of stem, probably late 17th century. Context 12.

#### Glass (by Christopher and Prue Maxwell-Stewart)

The bulk of the glass finds from Trench IV consist of parts of wine bottles of shaft-and-globe shape made in the English style, mostly round but some oval, all dating from

1680–1720. There are some pieces from cylindrical wine bottles from later in the 18th century: one in particular with a curiously shaped base, the kick having been a quatrefoil shaped indentation. This bottle is probably of Continental manufacture.

As well as the quantities of dark green bottle glass there are also parts of several small bottles in thin green/blue glass, probably medicine bottles, one with a very high pointed kick. All these would date from the late 17th century.

The earliest pieces of glass found were three forest glass sherds from Context 4: the pit in the south section. These are from a vessel with a folded pedestal foot 80 mm. in diameter, and would probably date from the early part of the 17th century. This is likely to have been of Wealden manufacture.

There are pieces from two very different types of drinking glass, both dating from the first quarter of the 18th century. One is a fine Silesian stemmed six-sided pedestal



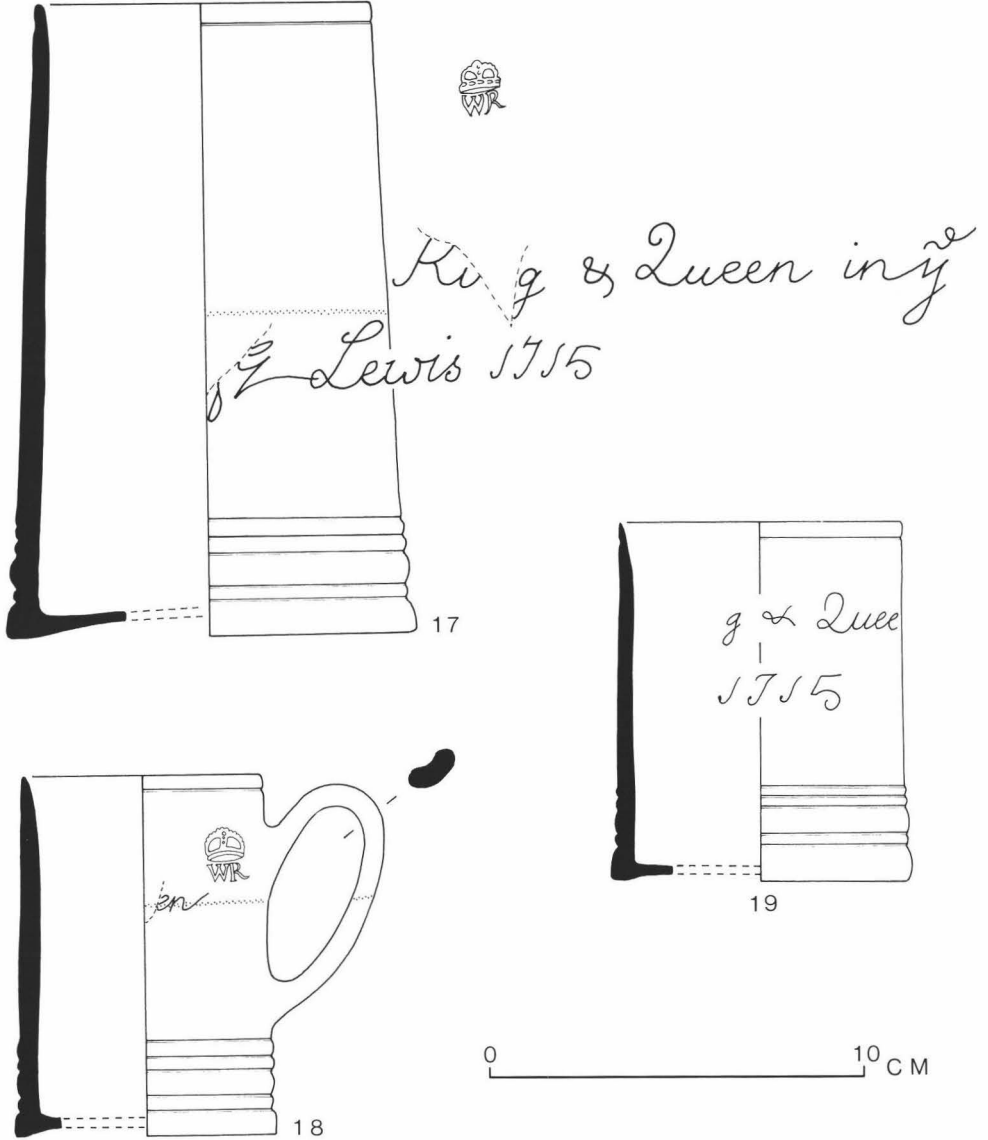


Fig. 6. Cliffe 1988. Stoneware Tankards from the King and Queen Tavern.



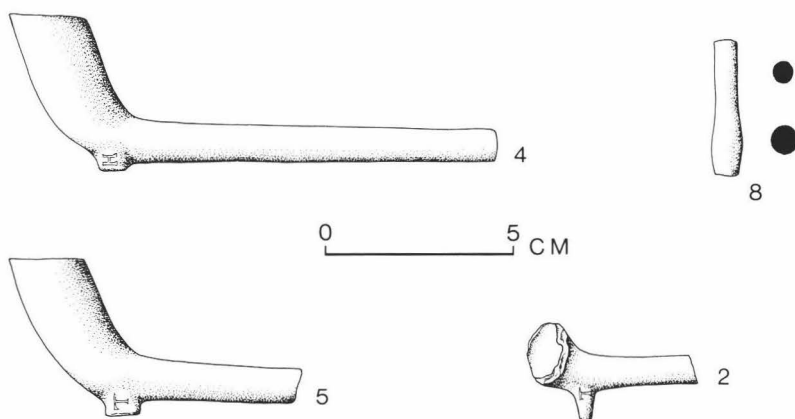


Fig. 7. Cliffe 1988. Clay Tobacco Pipes and part of a clay Wig Curler.

moulded wine glass with stars on the shoulders of the stem and a thick rounded base to the bowl, in leaded metal. The other a complete stem with a tear in the centre, and part of the conical foot of a crudely made drinking glass in soda metal. Both these glasses would appear to be of English manufacture.

There were also quite a few sherds of window glass, some of which had been made by the broad glass technique: several pieces showed finished edges where the cylinder had been cut.

Apart from a few erratic items of more recent date, the glass from this site covered a date span from 1600–1720 with a preponderance of finds from the period 1680–1720.

A complete catalogue of all the glass finds from Trench IV forms part of the Archive. A selection of finds is described below. (Fig. 8)

- 1 Three pieces of glass from a lightly leaded vessel, one with crudely folded rim. Probably from a shallow bowl or pottipan. Late 17th/early 18th century. Context 1.
- 2 Thirty nine body sherds from onion-shaped wine bottles. Complete short necks with sharply bladed string rims and flaring rims above. Two large base sherds from same with shallow domed kick. English style *c.* 1680–90. Context 2.
- 3 Complete neck and part body of large oval wine bottle with crudely applied string rim. English style of manufacture *c.* 1690. Context 2.
- 4 Complete base and part body of round bottle of squat globular form with shallow kick and indistinct pontil. English style *c.* 1690. Context 2.
- 5 Complete neck of smaller round shaft-and-globe type wine bottle with well applied bladed string rim. English style *c.* 1700. Context 2.
- 6 Neck of thin green/blue glass bottle approximately 70 mm. in diameter with bladed string rim; two pieces of base from the same bottle with conical kick and broken pontil; three body sherds from the same bottle. Late 17th century. Context 2.

- 7 Whole base of stemless glass with small rounded foot. Lightly leaded, possibly a jelly glass. Late 17th/early 18th century. Context 2.
- 8 Stem and part of conical foot of crudely made drinking glass with an off-centre tear. Soda metal. Probably early 18th century. Context 2.
- 9 Five body sherds from large bowl, two pieces of base of the same vessel with shallow domed depression; and one piece of folded rim, probably from the same bowl. All soda metal. Early 18th century. Context 2.
- \*10 Part of thistle-bowl wine glass on a hexagonal moulded stem with stars on the shoulders ('Silesian' pedestal). Leaded metal. English. *c.* 1720. Context 2.
- 11 Complete base of wine bottle: a very high kick with quatrefoil mark from kick stone. Probably Continental. Mid to late 18th century. Context 2.
- 12 Three very small pieces of window glass. Context 8.
- \*13 Three pieces of forest glass from a pedestal footed bowl, 80 mm. in diameter, made from one piece of glass with the base folded back on itself. Late 16th–early 17th century. Context 4.

#### Coins

- 1 Louis XIV of France. Copper Liard. Dated 1698. Mint of Lille. Trench IV, Context 2.
- 2 George III of England. Copper halfpenny. Fourth issue. Dated 1807. Trench III, Context 1.

#### Tokens

- \* 1 Lead token, the 'Cross and Pellets' series, *c.* 1425–1490. 12 mm. (Fig. 9) Obverse: a shield quartered by linear cross within a circle: the whole enclosed within a broad oblique ray border. Reverse: a cross with expanded arms: a dot-in-circle in each angle: the whole enclosed within a broad oblique ray border. Reference: Type M, No. 8 (Mitchiner and Skinner 1985, 95 and Plate 4). Mitchiner and Skinner (1985,

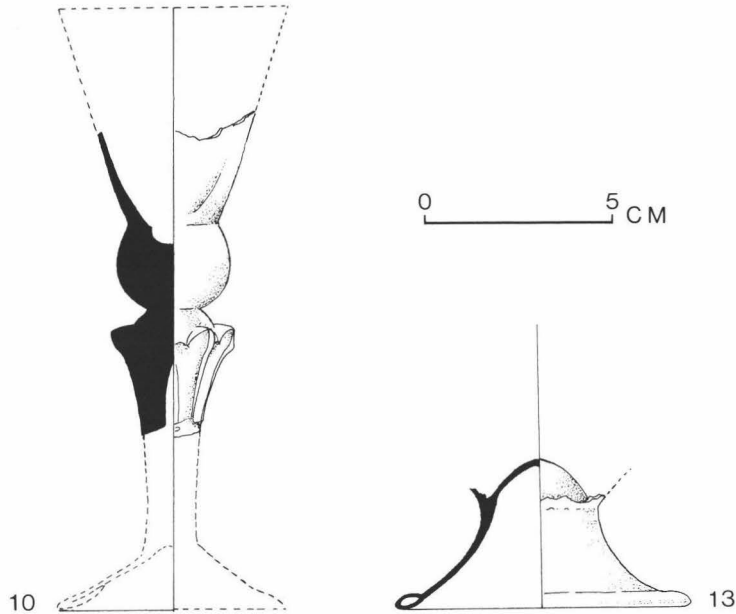


Fig. 8. Cliffe 1988. Post-medieval Glass.

94) note that at the time of writing their paper, all the recorded 'Cross and Pellets' Series M tokens were found in London. Trench IV, Context 8.

2 Brass jeton of Hans Krauwinkel II (Master 1586: died March 1635) of Nuremberg, 25 mm.

Obverse: DAS WORT GOTES BLEIBT EWICK rosette, three crowns, alternately with three lis, arranged centrifugally around a central rose with six heart-shaped petals.

Reverse: HANNIS KRAUWINCKEL IN NVRNB.; Imperial orb surmounted by a cross patty, within a tressure with three main arches: no ornaments around tressure.



Fig. 9. Cliffe 1988. Lead Token.

Reference: Type as Mitchiner (1988) No. 1496, but struck from different dies (e.g. rev.: bottom of tressure points to letter 'C'). Trench IV, Context 8.

#### Copper Alloy Objects (Fig. 10)

- \* 1 Head of stud or boss with centre surrounded by five convex circles. Possibly an ornamental stud for clothing. Cf. Crummy (1988, 17–18) Nos. 1773–1775; 1786 and 1788. Trench IV, Context 8.
- \* 2–3 ?Lace-ends. In both cases a single strand of wire has been folded and twisted to leave a loop. Cf. Crummy (1988, 13) Nos. 1621–1623. Trench IV, Context 8.
- \* 4–18 Pins with a head where the wire has been wrapped round the shaft and shaped to globular form. Whilst all of the complete pins range in length from 27–30 mm., the shaft of one broken pin (head missing) from Context 8 measures 35 mm. Cf. Crummy (1988, 8), Type 2. Trench IV, Context 2 and 8 (Nos. 5–18).
- \*19–21 Thin strips/fragments of sheet metal of uncertain function. Trench IV, Context 8.
- \*22 Bent strip. Trench IV, Context 8.

#### Lead

- 23 A small, thin and narrow curled strip of lead. Trench IV, Context 8.
- \*24 A small rod of lead bent to form a loop. Possibly a form of binding. Trench IV, Context 8.
- \*25 Binding. 37 mm. long. Trench IV, Context 3.
- \*26 Large fragments of a circular disc of 48 mm. diameter. ?dress weight. Trench IV, Context 2.

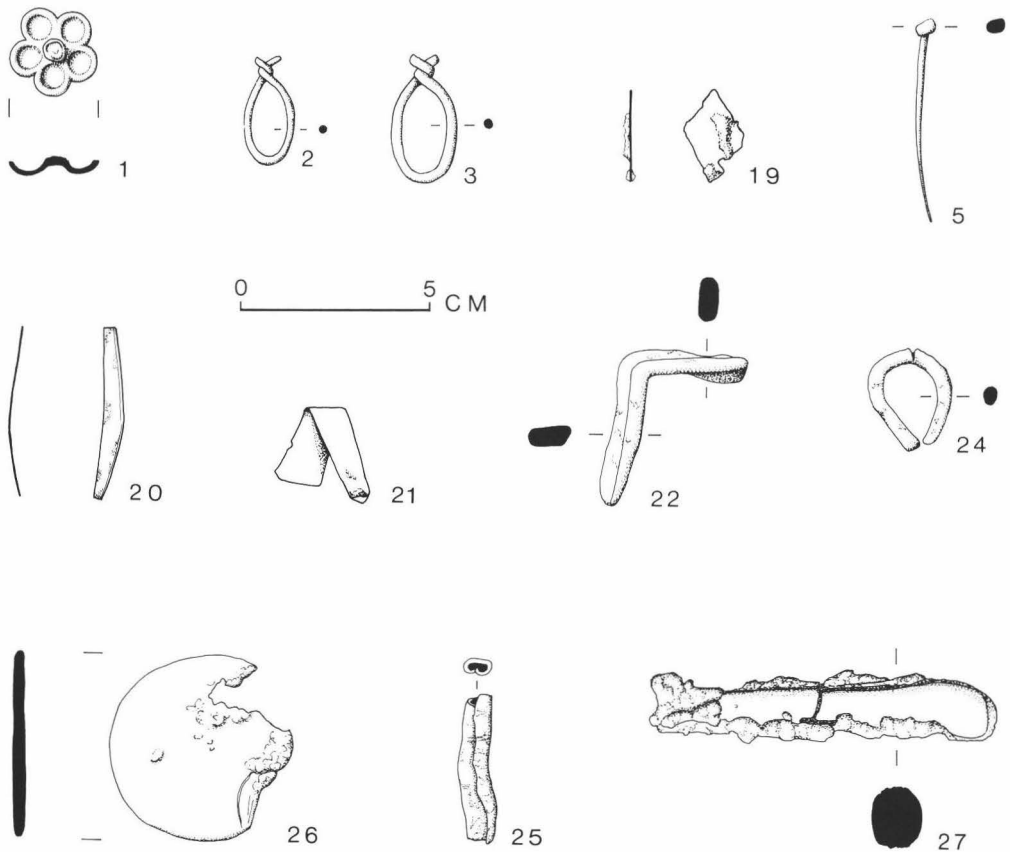


Fig. 10. Cliffe 1988. Metalwork. Copper-alloy: 1-22; Lead: 24-26; Iron: 27 (all at  $\frac{1}{2}$ , except Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 22 and 24 which are 1:1).

#### Iron Objects

\*27 Iron knife with two-piece bone handle. Trench IV, Context 2.

Other fragments of iron, mainly from nails, were found in Trench IV, Contexts 1, 2, 3, 8, 10 and 11.

#### Slag

Two pieces of slag/vitrified material were recovered from Trench IV, Context 2.

#### Roofing Slate (by the late Eric Holden)

Pieces of roofing slate were recovered from Trench IV, Contexts 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17. All are small fragments and are typical of slate found in Sussex, principally from the 13th to 15th centuries, although it is known in the 12th and 16th-17th centuries (Holden 1965). Colours vary from various shades of grey, grey-green, lilac, purple, all of which can be matched with specimens from the Start Point area of South Devon (Murray 1965). South Cornwall may be an alternative source. One piece from Context 1 has signs of a fixing-hole; others have traces of mortar, used in bedding the tails of slates. Most slates have 'delaminated', i.e. they are less

than their original thickness. Three pieces appear not to have done so, and are c. 8 mm. in thickness.

There is ample evidence that slates were more used in coastal areas and river valleys than elsewhere within the county, and were especially favoured for ecclesiastical buildings (Holden 1989). Slates were used at the same time as clay tiles, shingles or thatch, and more than one material may form a roof-covering. They are very difficult to date, being of long-lasting material, and they may well be residual.

#### Tile and Brick

Fragments of flat clay roofing tile, approximately 1 cm. thick, were recovered from Trench IV, Contexts 1, 2, 8, 9, 11 and 12. One fragment, from Context 2, had a square peg-hole. Two fragments of tile from Context 1 are probably from ridge tiles. One of these fragments, which is 1.2 cm. thick and in a sand tempered orange fabric with grey core, has partial mottled green lead glazing on the upper surface. This tile could be medieval.

The same contexts yielded a number of fragments of brick. One from Context 8 (17th century) is 5 cm. thick.

*Burnt Clay*

Two pieces of burnt/vitrified clay were found in Trench IV, Context 17. These fragments are possibly pieces of furnace lining.

*Struck Flint*

A struck flint flake, probably caused during shaping flint for building purposes, Trench IV, Context 1.

*Geological Material* (by Caroline Cartwright)

Trench IV, Context 11 yielded two fragments of greensand.

*Charcoal* (by Caroline Cartwright)

Small fragments of bark, root, twig and larger rounded charcoal were recovered from four contexts in Trench IV. The largest sample came from Context 8 (17th century pit fill) and the species included *Quercus* sp. (oak), *Salix/Populus* (willow/poplar), *Betula* sp. (birch), *Fagus* sp. (beech), *Fraxinus* sp. (ash) and *Corylus* sp. (hazel). *Salix/Populus* charcoal was also present in Context 11, and *Quercus* sp. charcoal was recovered from Contexts 12 and 15.

It may be suggested that the charcoal fragments relate largely to fuel for hearths or fires, but in the absence of precise corroborative contextual information from the evidence on site, this must remain speculative.

*Animal Bones* (by Patricia Stevens)

The animal bones from the 1988 Cliffe excavations were recorded using the method devised by A. J. Legge of the University of London Extra-Mural Department and adapted by the writer.

Of the 754 bone fragments examined, 31 per cent were identified to species or family, the remainder being assigned to large or small ungulate or unidentified mammal. Large ungulate is that material which, in this instance, cannot be identified to either cattle or horse with any degree of certainty; small ungulate is material too small to assign to either sheep or pig, and unidentified mammal is used where fragments are too small to be assigned to any of the species identified from the site.

Each bone fragment was examined and recorded by species and anatomy where possible, and further examination for possible butchery cuts and chops, gnawing by canids and rodents as well as any evidence of pathology. Measurements were taken whenever possible to help an estimation of size of the animals present, and mandibular teeth were recorded for wear, and fusion data of all bones was recorded; both latter giving an indication of the age of animals at death. All this detailed information forms part of the Archive.

The 754 bones were collected from twelve contexts ranging from the medieval period to the 18th century. Fourteen species were identified and are listed in Table 1 below.

Looking at the material as a whole, butchery evidence from the site is low, with cattle showing more evidence than the other species present. Two radii, a fused radius and ulna had been chopped through the midshaft, and an ilium and tibia had also been chopped in the same way. An atlas split through axially is a possible indication that the animal was

TABLE 1  
Cliffe, Lewes—Bone Species List

<i>Species</i>	<i>No. of Bones</i>	<i>%</i>
Cattle ( <i>Bos</i> sp.)	56	7
Ovicaprid	93	12.5
Pig ( <i>Sus</i> sp.)	9	1
Horse ( <i>Equus</i> sp.)	1	
Dog ( <i>Canis</i> sp.)	5	
Cat ( <i>Felis</i> sp.)	5	
Mouse ( <i>Apodemus</i> sp.)	1	
Brown Rat ( <i>Rattus Norvegicus</i> )	1	
Fowl ( <i>Gallus</i> sp.)	5	
Goose ( <i>Anser</i> sp.)	1	
Pheasants (Phasianidae)	1	
Magpie ( <i>Pica pica</i> )	1	
Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )	29	4
Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )	2	
Large ungulate	48	6
Small ungulate	54	7
Unidentified mammal	433	57
Unidentified fish	9	1
Species present:	14	
Number of Bones:	754	

cleaved through axially after killing. One metatarsal had knife cuts at its proximal end which are probably due to skinning and dismembering. Only two ovicaprid bones show butchery evidence—a metacarpal and a tibia both chopped through midshaft. A pig femur has the head chopped through indicating that this was probably done to remove the leg from the pelvis. There is little to indicate that the bones had been left on the surface for any length of time, as only two cattle bones—a tibia and a radius and ulna show gnawing by dogs, and only one distal humerus fragment shows some slight erosion.

*The Site by Period*

The site contains material from the Medieval period to the present, and the bones are discussed in three main groups (see Table 2 below): medieval—post-medieval, late 16th/mid 17th century, and late 17th/early 18th century. The other contexts and periods contain few or no bones at all.

*Probable Medieval or Early Post-Medieval*

There is nothing remarkable about those species represented from this period, but the absence of fowl is worth noting, as it is generally a common species throughout most sites of this date (Table 3).

Very few measurements could be taken, but the length of lower molar 3, taken from two ovicaprid mandibles measuring 21.1 and 20.2 mm., are of a similar size to those taken from Wharram Percy (Stevens 1987). Little can be said

TABLE 2

<i>Medieval/ E. Post-Med.</i>		<i>Late 16th/ Mid. 17th</i>		<i>Late 17th/ Early 18th</i>		<i>Topsoil/ Modern</i>	
<i>Context</i>	<i>Bones</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Bones</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Bones</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Bones</i>
9	20	6	5	2	43	1	20
10	14	8	485	3	17	12	11
15	10			11	111	13	1
17	17						
	61 (8%)		490 (65%)		171 (22%)		32 (5%)

about the ages of those animals present apart from two sheep mandibles which indicate that they were of between three and four years, which indicates that they could have come from a flock kept for milk, meat or wool. The fusion data also points to mature animals as there were no unfused bones present.

Butchery evidence for the period is very slight, with one cattle radius chopped midshaft, one vertebra chopped through axially, one mandible fragment split along its base, and one ovicaprid rib split through.

There is no dog or rodent gnawing of the material from this period of the site which, together with the absence of eroded material, suggests that this material was disposed of rapidly and was not left lying around for any length of time.

#### *Late 16th/Mid. 17th century*

This period contains the largest collection of material from the site. As can be seen from Table 4 below, practically all the bones come from Context 8, which was sieved. Unfortunately, the majority of the bone fragments were too small to identify the species; a not unusual occurrence where the bones have been broken up to facilitate the removal of marrow. Very few bones show evidence of fresh breakage which could bias the numbers.

All the species represented for this period appear to be adult, there being no unfused bones present; the one ovicaprid mandible that could be used for ageing purposes indicates an age of between four and six years.

The bones from Context 8 are generally from the poorest meat-bearing bones together with teeth, feet and horn-core fragments. Of the 21 cattle bones, two radii and one ilium have been butchered by chopping through the midshaft. Two ovicaprid bones out of 40, a metacarpal and femur, have also been chopped in the same way. Again only one bone, a metacarpal, shows signs of dog gnawing, again indicating

that the material was not left lying around and in this instance was probably deposited directly into the pit.

Two herring bones were recovered, but the majority of the fish bones come from cod, represented by all parts of the skeleton indicating that the fish were brought in whole.

#### *Late 17th/Early 18th Century*

The bone from the late 17th/early 18th century comes from three contexts, the majority of the bone comes from Context 11 (Table 5).

Bones from this period appear to be adult, as they were all fused. An age-wear pattern of between four and six years was obtained from an ovicaprid mandible. Few measurements could be taken from material from this period, although one cattle metacarpal gives an estimated withers height of 135.7 cm. and one ovicaprid metacarpal gives an estimated withers height of 57.9 cm. Both these measurements compare favourably with those measurements taken from Exeter (Maltby 1979) and Wharram Percy (Stevens 1987).

Butchery evidence is very slight, with one cattle mandible being chopped through, a femur being chopped through the midshaft, and a metacarpal with proximal knife cuts probably indicating dismembering of the carcass or skinning. A pig femur has been chopped through the head, probably when removing the leg from the pelvis. Only one

TABLE 3

<i>Context</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>S/G</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Lar</i>	<i>Sar</i>	<i>Unid.</i>	<i>Total</i>
9	0	5	0	0	0	15	20
10	6	5	1	1	1	0	14
15	2	5	0	0	0	3	10
17	7	2	0	8	0	0	17
TOTAL:	15	17	1	9	1	18	61

TABLE 4

<i>Context</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>S/G</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Cat</i>	<i>Fowl</i>	<i>Cod</i>	<i>Herr.</i>	<i>Lar</i>	<i>Sar</i>	<i>Unid.</i>	<i>Total</i>
6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
8	21	38	4	1	1	29	2	25	13	351	485
	21	40	4	1	1	29	2	25	13	354	490

TABLE 5

Context	Cattle	S/G	Pig	Horse	Dog	Cat	Mse	Rat	Fowl	Goose	Pheas.	Magp.	Lar	Sar	Unid.	Total
2	2	6	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	23	43
3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	11	17
11	17	19	2	1	3	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	0	25	36	111
Total:	19	26	3	1	5	3	1	1	4	1	1	1	5	30	70	171

bone, a cattle femur, was gnawed, again confirming that the area was kept clean.

#### Summary and Conclusions

The remains from Cliffe are dominated numerically by ovicaprid, cattle, cod and pig, in descending order.

Numbers of cattle and pig bones remain constant throughout all periods, whereas ovicaprid bones are doubled in the late 16th/mid-17th century, compared to the other periods. It is interesting to speculate whether the low numbers of bones recovered is due to poor retrieval or whether numbers would have been increased greatly if all contexts had been sieved (Payne 1972). In this latter period, cod becomes the second most numerous species identified; cat, fowl and herring are also identified. The late 17th/early 18th century sees a further increase in the identified species and this may be an indication of some change, perhaps in the use of the site, as mouse and rat are included. It is of interest that pig numbers are extremely low for all periods.

A comparison with North Street, Lewes (Freke 1976) where some sieving was carried out, shows that the proportions of the major species identified are similar, except that fowl is absent from Cliffe in the Medieval period. One of the most striking contrasts between the two assemblages is that all parts of the cod are present at Cliffe, whereas at North Street no skull bones are present.

It can be seen from the foregoing that the site contains evidence of general food waste with some evidence of butchery. There is no evidence to support any specialist activity within the site and it would appear that the material was from the poorer quality meat cuts being supplemented by cod in the late 16th/mid-17th century. Although there is evidence of dog and rodents within the site, there is little gnawing of bone to indicate that the material was left lying around for any length of time, and in all probability it was deposited directly into pits.

#### Acknowledgements

I acknowledge the time given by E. Somerville and D. Gregory in identifying and recording the bones from the site.

#### Marine Molluscs (by Mary Rudling)

The excavations at Cliffe yielded a total of 110 marine molluscs. The range of shells on the site was as follows (in order of decreasing numbers): Oyster *Ostrea edulis* 101 (91.8 per cent of the total sample), great scallop *Pectens maximus* 4 (3.6 per cent), whelks *Buccinum undatum* 2 (1.8 per cent), periwinkle *Littorina littorea* 1 (0.9 per cent), limpet *Patella vulgata* 1 (0.9 per cent), and mussel *Mytilus edulis* 1 (0.9 per cent). Whole oyster shells were counted, in addition a total of 109 oyster fragments was recorded, which suggests that the total oyster count could have been much larger.

The following contexts contained marine molluscs: Context 1 (post-Medieval) contained oyster, periwinkle and scallop; Context 2 (post-Medieval) contained oyster; Context 3 (post-Medieval) contained oyster and scallop; Context 6 (post-Medieval) contained oyster; Context 8 (17th century pit) contained oyster, limpet and mussel; Context 9 (Medieval/post-Medieval) contained oyster; Context 10 (late Medieval pit) contained oyster; Context 11 (post-Medieval) contained oyster and scallop; Context 12 (modern) contained oyster and whelks; Context 13 (Modern) contained whelk; and Context 17 (Medieval) contained oyster.

The largest numbers of shells were found in the late Medieval pit (Context 10) 59 oysters and 50 oyster fragments, and the 17th century pit (Context 8) 12 oysters and 21 oyster fragments, one limpet and one mussel. The oyster shells from Context 10 were fairly large and thick, and a quick study of the annual growth layers of several of the shells suggests that they were five or six years old. The shells show light to moderate parasitic infestation by worms. In contrast the oyster shells from Context 8 were much smaller than those in Context 10. It is thus possible that they were either harvested/collected younger than those found in Context 10, or that they were growing in less favourable conditions. With only one exception (perhaps residual) which was somewhat larger than the other shells and heavily infested, the shells were only lightly infested by worms. Although the numbers involved are small, the oyster shells from both Contexts 8 and 10 have a predominance of right (upper) valves over left (lower) valves (63 per cent and 60 per cent respectively). This may indicate kitchen as opposed to dining-room rubbish.

Whelks were found only in the modern features (Contexts 12 and 13)

A more detailed study of the shellfish from Cliffe excavations, and also from other sites in Sussex, is being undertaken by Dr E. Somerville of the Lewes Archaeological Group.

#### DISCUSSION

All of the trial trenches reported above revealed extensive deposits of compacted chalk. This area is very low lying, with the surface of Trench IV being approximately 4 metres O.D., and the water table being reached in that trench at approximately 2 metres O.D. Woollgar (n.d., 247) informs us that 'the streets of Cliffe are made grounds raised from a Marsh formerly overflowed by the River as appears from the Slub and Sea sand found beneath in sinking wells for

the use of the inhabitants'. The chalk deposits are evidence that this part of Cliffe is indeed built upon 'made ground'. Dating evidence from the investigated chalk deposits (ie especially Trench IV Contexts 9, 15 and 17) would suggest that these were laid down during the later medieval period, probably 13th/14th century. No finds were recovered which could be dated to Saxon or Norman times. The absence of such finds does not necessarily rule out the utilization of this area to the north of the church before the 13th century, but the problem could only be resolved by an investigation of the deepest deposits of dumped chalk/clays. It is possible that the presumed Saxon settlement of Cliffe was located slightly further to the east at the edge of the chalk, and/or along West Street (modern Cliffe High Street) to the south of the Parish Church, which may have been reclaimed earlier than the lands to the north.

The original use of the made ground to the north of the Church is uncertain, but is unlikely to have involved burial. No human bones were discovered in any of the trial trenches, and the nearness of the water table would have made burial an unattractive option. Dunvan (1795, 322) notes that the 'inhabitants of this parish had long continued to bury their dead at South Malling, and St John's in Lewes; but for a considerable time back, they have had a small cemetery in North Street' (modern Malling Street). Woollgar (n.d. 328) also records that the 'ancient burying place of the Parish is situated on the east side of the North Street and adjoining up to the Down'. Horsfield (1824, 289) records that this 'ancient burying place'... 'having been found too small, an addition was made there to, by the purchase of some premises adjoining, on the south of it, about the year 1718'.

It is known that the 'Fair Place' was located to the north of the Parish Church (Salzman 1940, 8). Thus it is possible that starting in 1410 the area investigated by the trial trenches undertaken in 1987 and 1988 may have been the location of the two annual three-day fairs. Dunvan (1795, 313) records that in about 1747

the sheep fair held on the 22nd October was 'removed to a field of Mr Trayton's and since to a field called the Paddock, belonging to Henry Shelley, Esq., north of the town of Lewes'. Of the fair held on the 5th May 'which is chiefly for black cattle', Dunvan notes that it 'is still held in the Cliff and lower part of Lewes-Street'. Pedlary fairs continued to be held at the Fair Place until at least the 1830s. By the late 18th century however, part of the land to the north of the Parish Church had been built upon and was known as St Thomas' Square (Colin Brent pers. comm.). The buildings included houses and a school. It is possible that the brick foundations found in Trench IV may belong to this episode.

From the period prior to the construction of the brick buildings referred to above, the area investigated by Trench IV has revealed evidence for one particular activity—rubbish disposal. The earliest pit, Context 5(10), dates to the late medieval period. Two pits, Contexts 6(4) and 7(8) probably belong to the early/mid-17th century. Contexts 2 and 3 were rubbish deposits dating to the late 17th/early 18th century. Some of the pottery finds from Context 2 are of particular interest. These are the fragments of stoneware tankards (Catalogue No.'s 17–19) bearing inscriptions that refer to Thomas Ford at the King and Queen, in Cliffe, at Lewes, 1715.

The King and Queen tavern, which was located at number 15 North Street (modern Malling Street), was only some 50 metres to the east of Trench IV. Colin Brent, who has made a study of the historical evidence for Cliffe, has kindly informed me that the first record of the King and Queen's Head tavern is in a deed of conveyance dated 1694, which refers to the fact that the tavern had lately been new built by John Hodge. This dating suggests that the name of the tavern had been chosen to commemorate King William and Queen Mary. John Hodge is recorded as having held the same property in 1685 when the freehold rent to Ringmer Manor was 9d. In 1705 the freeholder of the King and Queen was John Grover, but there is then a gap in the records until the Land Tax of 1749 which



refers to the late Charles Boore. In 1755 it was owned by Robert Chester of the Castle Brewery, Lewes, and in 1794 its name was changed to the Swan. The discovery of the inscribed tankard fragments thus helps to provide the name of one of the owners during the otherwise undocumented period between 1705 and 1749. Thomas Ford Senior 'of the Cliffe' is known from his will made on 18 February 1724 (East Sussex Record Office SM/D7 p. 34) to have been an Inn holder. The will was proved in 1738, presumably the year of Thomas' death.

Also of interest is the fact that broken tankards from the tavern, together perhaps with other tavern rubbish such as glass bottles and other broken pottery, was being disposed of on the land to the north of the Parish Church. Colin Brent has pointed out that both the King and Queen tavern and the land to the north of the Church were part of the Church Estate in Cliffe. This Estate can be traced back to the possessions of the religious fraternity of St Thomas, which had been suppressed in 1545. On 22 December 1591 the former possessions of the fraternity together with those of Malling College were granted among other lands and tenements to William Typper and Robert Dawe, 'gents' of London (Dunvan 1795, 314). On 10 June 1592 Typper and Dawe sold these lands to John Whiting of Ditchling and Richard Shorewell of Wivelsfield. Ten days later the lands were sold to William Covert, Andrew Stone, John Pierce and Abraham James. Ten years later on 18 March, John Pierce of Glynde released all claim in the premises to Gargin Archer of Cliffe, freemason. On 28 February 1603 Gargin Archer and John Pierce with Abraham James of Hellingly granted by deed to John Stansfield of Cliffe, Gent. and 13 other persons and their heirs for ever, the lands and premises for the maintenance of the Church

of St Thomas the Martyr and for the relief of the poor of Cliffe. The name or names of those responsible for this benefaction to the town and parish of Cliffe is uncertain (Dunvan 1795, 317). Unfortunately the pious intentions of the donors were soon abused and some of the property was sold to private individuals (Woollgar n.d. 326). This situation resulted in an Inquisition held at Lewes in 1631 which decreed that the rents and profits of the estates should thenceforth be received by the Parish for charitable purposes. By *c.* 1715 therefore the area to the north of the church and the King and Queen tavern were both parts of the Parish Estate. Perhaps this connection has something to do with the reason why rubbish from the tavern was being disposed of on land to the north of the Church. Alternatively, the rubbish may be derived from a booth which the tavern may have had at the Fair Place on fair days.

#### *Acknowledgements*

I should like to thank J. C. Design and Construction Ltd., especially Mr J. Letton, and Bryant Homes for permission and help with regard to the excavations. Other sources of funding included East Sussex County Council and the Margary Research Fund. Help on site was provided by several members of the Lewes Archaeological Group and by students of the Institute of Archaeology, London. I wish to thank all the specialists whose reports appear above, and also Colin Brent for his help on historical matters. Miles Russell drew the medieval pottery and Jane Russell prepared all the other drawings. The finds have been deposited at Barbican House Museum, Lewes and the Site Archive is stored at the Institute of Archaeology, London.

*Author:* David Rudling, Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

## References

- Aldsworth, F. and Freke, D., 1976, *Historic Towns in Sussex, an Archaeological Survey*.
- Bedwin, O., 1976, 'The Animal Bones' in Freke, D. J. 'Further Excavations in Lewes, 1975'. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **114**, 189–90.
- Bimson, M., 1970, 'The Significance of 'Ale-Measure' Marks'. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* **4**, 165–6.
- Chapman, B., 1990, 'The Cliffe Story'. *Sussex Life*, (April Issue) 10–13.
- Crummy, N., 1988, *Colchester Archaeological Reports 5: The Post-Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971–85*, Colchester.
- Dunvan, P., 1795, *Ancient and Modern History of Lewes and Brighthelmston*. London (ed. W. Lee).
- Holden, E. W., 1965, 'Slate Roofing in Medieval Sussex'. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **103**, 67–78.
- Holden, E. W., 1989, 'Slate Roofing in Medieval Sussex—A Reappraisal'. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **127**, 73–88.
- Horsfield, T. W., 1824, *The History and Antiquities of Lewes and its Vicinity*.
- Hume, I. Noël, 1970, *A Guide to the Artefacts of Colonial America*. New York.
- Maltby, M., 1979, 'The Animal Bones from Exeter 1971–1975'. *Exeter Archaeological Reports* **2**, Sheffield.
- Mitchiner, M. and Skinner, A., 1985, 'English Tokens, c. 1425–1672'. *The British Numismatic Journal* **54**, 86–163.
- Mitchiner, M., 1988, *Jetons, Medalets and Tokens, The Medieval Period and Nuremberg*.
- Murray, J. W., 1965, 'The Origin of Some Medieval Roofing Slates from Sussex'. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **103**, 79–82.
- Payne, S., 1972, 'Partial Recovery and Sample Bias: The Results of Some Sieving Experiments'. In *Papers in Economic Prehistory*, (ed. E. S. Higgs) Cambridge, 49–64.
- Payne, S., 1973, 'Kill-off Patterns in Sheep and Goats: the Mandibles from Ansvan Kale'. *Anatolian Studies* **23**, 281–303.
- Pearce, J. E., Vince, A. G. and Jenner, M. A. 1985. *A Dated Type-Series of London Medieval Pottery Part 2, London-Type Ware*, L.A.M.A.S. Special Paper No. 6.
- Salzman, L. F., 1940, *V.C.H. Sussex*, **7**.
- Silver, I. A. 1969. 'The Ageing of Domestic Animals' in *Science in Archaeology* (2nd edn. eds. D. Brothwell and E. Higgs), 283–302.
- Stevens, P. M., 1987, *The Vertebrate Remains from Wharram Percy, North Manor Boundary East*. Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report No. 99/87.
- von Bock, G. R., 1976, *Steinzeug*. Kataloge des Kunstgewerbemuseums Koln.
- van den Driesch, A. 1976. *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones From Archaeological Sites*. Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Harvard.
- Woollgar, T. n.d. *Spicilegia sive Collectanea ad Historiam et Antiquitates Municipii et Vicinia Lewensis in Comitatu Sussex* Vol. 2. Manuscript in the Sussex Archaeological Society Library, Lewes. (T. Woollgar 1761–1821).