16 BELL STREET, REIGATE

Excavation of a Medieval and Post-Medieval site, 1974–6

by DAVID W WILLIAMS

Introduction and Summary

During the winters of 1974–5 and 1975–6 the Archaeological Group of the Holmesdale Natural History Club excavated on land to the rear of 16 Bell Street, Reigate. The excavation located, to the rear of the site, a rectangular robber trench enclosing a kiln whose function may have been corn drying or malting. It is suggested that both kiln and building were constructed and demolished in the second half of the 13th century AD. Further structural remains were uncovered closer to the present street frontage and these and other features are discussed. The excavation was also significant for a pottery group recovered from a pit for which a date of AD 1200–50 is suggested. Other medieval and post medieval pottery from the site is illustrated and discussed. The excavated material is presently in store with the museum of the Holmesdale Natural History Club.

Acknowledgements

The work was carried out on behalf of the Reigate and Banstead Archaeological Coordination Committee with the kind permission of John and Robert Northover to whom the Committee's thanks are due for their help and interest throughout the excavation. The first season's work was co-directed with Roger Ellaby.

On a personal note the writer would like to thank Dennis Turner for his help, encouragement and guidance and those who assisted with the digging, notably Percy Bailey, Lesley Coates, Sue Hayward, Roger Lunt and David Wiscombe.

He would also like to thank those specialists who have assisted in many ways with the preparation of this report. These include Leo Biek who discussed the kiln and the iron slag; Brian Bloice and Graham Dawson who examined and wrote a report on the delftware; Clive Bonsall who examined the Mesolithic axe; Gale Canvin for examining and reporting on the stoneware; John Cape for identifying the two fossils; F G Dimes for reporting on the whetstones; Michael Dolley for commenting on the weight; Geraldene Done who examined all the skeletal material; the late Gerald Dunning who looked at all the medieval pottery, and whose comments are incorporated in the text; Blanche Ellis for examining the spur fragment; Jeremy Greenwood for the documentary note; David Higgins for reporting on the clay pipes; B Hutchinson and F Ward who discussed the significance of the sundial; Stephen Nelson, who examined the illustrated post-medieval pottery and offered much useful advice elsewhere; Brian Spencer, who examined the fragment of pewter; Martin Roth, who identified the coins and jetons; and Mrs Pat Ashworth for her help with the bibliography.

The Site (fig 1)

Number 16 lies on the west side of Bell Street, one of the two major streets in the medieval town, the other being High Street. The only surviving medieval building in Bell Street is the much altered St. Lawrence's chapel, no 15, on the opposite side of the street. Until modern times Bell Street was known as Bell Lane.

Previous excavation has been almost completely confined to sites bordering the High Street (Slade 1977, Trier 1974 and Woods 1974) and although finds have hinted at the extent of medieval settlement, no structures definitely attributable to the medieval period had been encountered. This is the first site to have been excavated in Bell Street. It is fair to say at this point that, on the basis of results obtained from this and later excavations, Woods' supposition that medieval Reigate is not to be found in the area of the present town (Woods 1974) must be regarded as wholly incorrect. Since this excavation took place, further medieval structures have been encountered during work at 43 High Street.

The site excavated was part of the garden to the rear of no 16, a two storey town house of the late 18th or early 19th century whose facade, which has been much altered by the insertion in the 1930s of the present shop front, still retains its fine doorway. This building has for much of this century been in the ownership of the Northover family who until recently carried on their furnishing business there. The remainder of the original garden, the south side, is now occupied by a three-storey extension of the store built in 1934 and by later extensions further west. It is probable that substantial archaeological levels have survived the building of these extensions but the Georgian building has a cellar which must have destroyed any features on the street frontage.

To the north a brick, and in places stone, wall runs the entire length of the site, pierced at its eastern end by a single original entrance from a short access way leading off Bell Street. This old wall bears evidence of several different reconstructions, not necessarily all on the same alignment.

Documentary Evidence

The first mention of the property is in 1532 when it was owned and occupied by John Skelton who was fined for breaking the assize of ale that year, ie he was probably a victualler (PRO S.C.6. Henry VIII, 3462; SRO 2277/1/1; SRO 371/2/1/1). In 1634 it was sold by John Titchbourne, mercer who then occupied it, to Elizabeth Peake, widow. Previously it had been in the occupation of Edward Thatcher, shoemaker (SRO 371/6/62; SRO 371/2/5/1 fol 222). Elizabeth Peake (formerly Garret) bequeathed it in her will to her son Joseph Garret, doctor, although it was occupied by Stephen Carter, collarmaker. It was then sold to Edward Walter of Brasted, Kent, but tenanted by Edmund Derrick, locksmith (in 1692) (Greater London RO DW.PA.7.15f.14; SRO 371/6/64–65; SRO 371/6/275). In 1712–13, Walter sold it to Rev George Lewis of Westerham, and in 1742 the property was assigned to John Wenham, merchant, of London. In 1746 it was conveyed to the Hon Philip Yorke and later to the Hon Charles Yorke (SRO 371/6/65; SRO 371/6/67; SRO 371/6/68; SRO 371/6/69).

There are a number of minor inconsistencies in the documentary evidence suggesting that there may have been two separate tenements on the site in the 17th century but both were always in the same ownership although the tenants were not always the same. It seems that the present house, 16–18, was not built until after 1786. It was described in *c* 1814 as a large new house, a Mrs Russell's and Mrs Packman's seminary for young ladies.

The earliest large scale plan of Reigate, that of Bryant (SRO 445/3) in 1785, shows the west of the site occupied by a garden, while the east end behind the house is given over to sheds and a yard. No certain evidence of the latter were found in the excavation.

The Excavation (fig 1)

In the first season the west end of the site was examined by trenching using two 10 x 1.5m trenches (1 and 2). A larger (10 x 4.5m) area was opened at the east end in the following season. All trenches were subsequently extended to clarify certain features.

Much of the site, particularly trench 3, had been severely disturbed by gardening operations and relatively recent pit digging, resulting in many poorly stratified deposits and lengths of

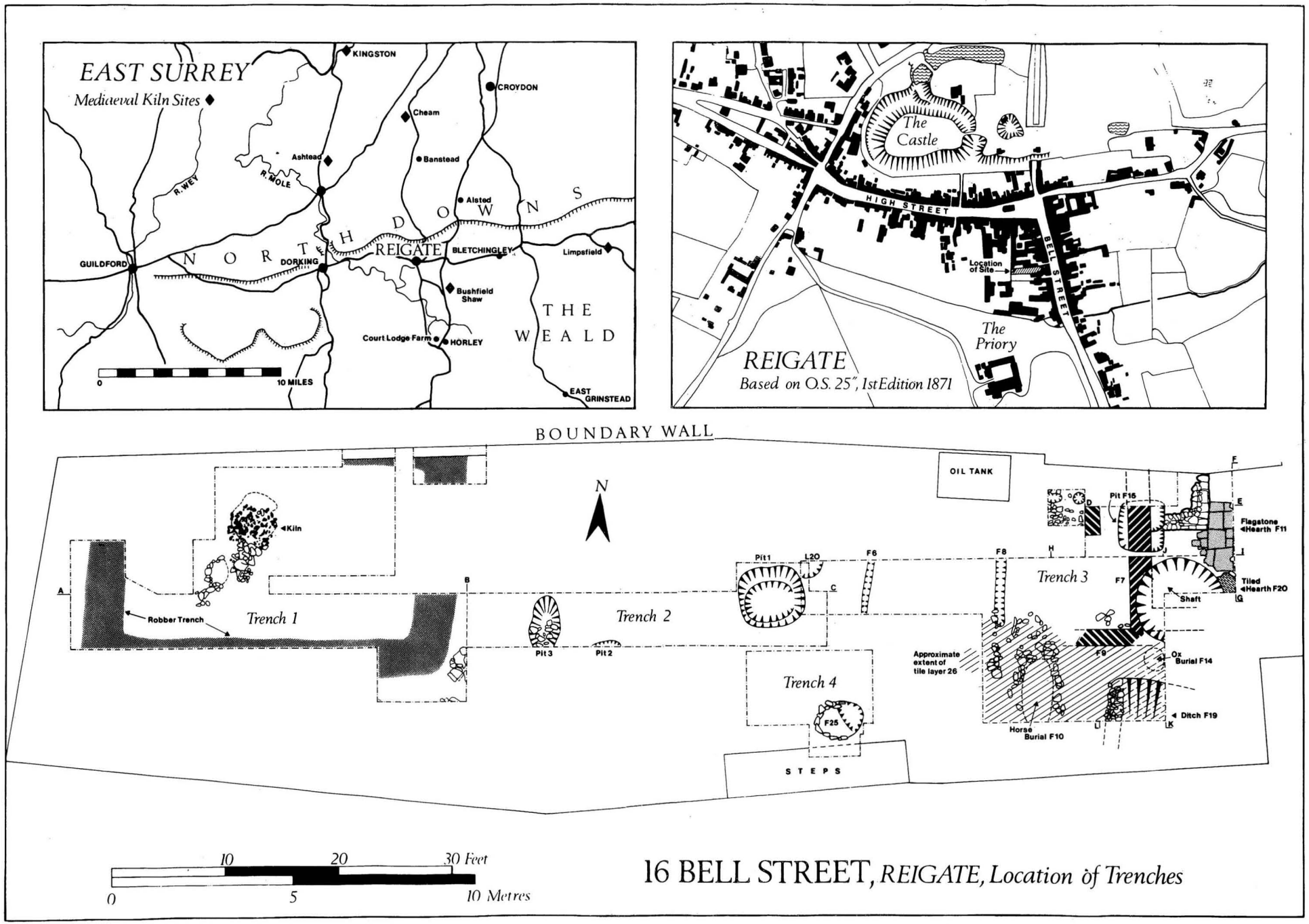


Fig 1 16 Bell Street, Reigate. Site plan and location.

discontinuous walling; seldom were associations clear. This is clearly shown on section BC (fig 3) where almost featureless brown loam (layer 6) continues from the surface to the natural sand, some 1.25m below Even where stratification survived, the risk of contamination was still great, as is instanced by the finding of a 16th century jeton in layer 13 of trench 1 — a layer otherwise well dated on pottery evidence to the 13th century. During the excavation individual numbers were allotted to different areas of this brown loam. Such distinction soon proved meaningless however, and for this reason a sequence of layer numbers mostly different to that used during the excavation is used here.

The two seasons' excavations are described separately.

TRENCHES 1 & 2, SUMMARY

The first season's work located a robber trench delineating a roughly rectangular building, measuring *c* 8m x 4.9m internally which occupied the west end of the site. Within this, lying slightly west of centre, were the remains of a kiln of uncertain purpose, possibly used for corn drying or malting. Pottery evidence suggests a mid to late 13th century date for construction and destruction of both building and kiln. A number of shallow pits were found in Trench 2, the largest of which, pit 1, contained pottery and other refuse dated to about 1200–50 and is thus the earliest feature found on the site. Overlying pit 1 was a lens of pottery and other material dating to the 16th century.

Pit 1 (figs 1, 5 & 6; 1–27)

This pit, which had a shallow, dished profile, lay roughly centrally within the present garden. It had been dug 0.5m into the natural sand and had a maximum width of 1.8m. Its upper levels had been slightly disturbed in the 16th century but the dark fill of the pit was clearly visible against the lighter yellow sand.

The fill consisted of a large quantity of broken pottery including most of an unglazed jug (fig 5:1), animal bones, and other material contained within a sticky, dark brown loam. Some stones lay randomly at the bottom and fragments of daub and figure-of-eight headed nails were scattered throughout. Also present were an iron lock spring and buckle pin (fig 17: 4, 18, 19, & 26).

About a third of the total fill of the pit was sieved through a 1/6th'' mesh yielding a few carbonised grains as well as small faunal remains, listed below in the report on the animal bones.

The pottery, a report on which appears below, consisted mostly of coarse wares; cooking pots, jars, and storage jars as well as a number of jug fragments, very few of which had been glazed. A date of about 1200–50 is suggested for the filling of the pit.

The Robber Trench (fig 1)

The remains of a medieval building, possibly a stone barn, lay mostly within the bounds of the west end of the site but of this only the robber trench had survived. This had cut through layer 13, a sandy brown loam overlying the natural sand. The robber trench had been cut no more than a few centimetres into this sand. It had an average depth of *c* 0.7m. and an average width of *c* 1.25m at its base — this latter dimension corresponding roughly to the width of the original wall. It was clearly distinguishable as a grey mass contrasting against the darker brown loam and contained chippings of Reigate stone as well as pockets of mortar, loam and perhaps lime. At one point it had been disturbed by an animal burrow. In a section taken through its western side pieces of reddened flint and straw-tempered daub were found. These probably came from the demolished kiln. Most of the robber trench was left unexcavated — the majority of the recovered pottery came from the south east corner, which was removed. This pottery (figs 2, 3: 28–47) seems to suggest a date around 1300 for the demolition.

Material similar to that which filled the robber trench and spreading from it, lay thinly across the interior of the building, including the kiln, and also for a short distance east beyond the

robber trench, covering pit 2. This layer (layer 12) thickened somewhat towards the south but became almost imperceptible north of the kiln. Its western extent was obscured by modern disturbance. Layer 12 thus represents a destruction layer contemporary to and uniform with the robber trench.

Pit 2, a shallow depression, lay *c* 2m to the east of the robber trench and also seemed to be connected with the demolition. It contained several rough blocks of stone as well as fragments of daub and pottery similar to that from the robber trench. Further random blocks lay just beyond the southeast corner of the robber trench. Four sides and three corners of the robber trench were located. Above the demolition layer was a thicker deposit of loose grey sandy soil (layer 11) containing reddened flints, charcoal and pottery similar to layer 12 below, from which layer 11 probably derived its colour as a result of cultivation. Above layer 11, layer 6 continued to the ground surface except where broken by the 19th century layer 3C.

Layer 13, through which the robber trench had been cut contained medieval pottery and bone as well as fragments of gravel, chalk, ironstone and Reigate stone. There were also a few heavily patinated flint flakes. A large fragment of a Mesolithic tranchet axe was found just outside the south-east corner of the robber trench in a comparable soil layer (fig 18). Layer 13 became progressively sandier, eventually merging with the natural sand. Although not a distinctly separate layer, finds (including 2 possible prehistoric sherds) were kept apart at the point of merging and the layer number 14 allotted.

The top of layer 13 had formed the earthen floor of the building defined by the robber trench and the pottery must on the whole have been deposited prior to its construction. However, layer 13 also contained a jeton of 16th century date which must be seen as intrusive, as none of the pottery need be dated, on the evidence at present available, any later than the 13th century.

A further pit, pit 3, was located on the south side of Trench 2 but it appeared shallow and was not investigated.

The Kiln (fig 2, pl 1)

Slightly west of centre, within the parallelogram formed by the robber trench, lay the remains of a kiln. It appeared to consist of three main parts:

1 the stoking chamber,
2 the flue,
3 the kiln platform

The Stoking Chamber.

This formed the southernmost part of the kiln. It consisted of a hollow, oval in plan, half the circumference of which had been revetted with a roughly mortared wall of nodules of ironstone and iron slag. This wall had been battered upwards and inwards, and the remainder of the hollow had been filled with a mixture of crumbly mortar and iron slag in roughly equal quantities.

Blocks of Reigate stone lay randomly scattered outside this structure to the south-west, and the soil beneath these and adjacent to the stoking chamber had been reddened by heat.

The slag and mortar filling was covered with a *c* 0.03m thick layer of ash which, when the kiln was in use, had been raked out at floor level over a block of Reigate stone, now badly decayed.

The Flue

A tumble of rough blocks of Reigate stone that lay between stoking chamber and kiln platform may have been the remains of a flue. Some stones were quite massive, resting on and between patches of burnt clay.

The Kiln Platform

This lay to the north of both stoking chamber and possible flue in the centre of a wide trampling of burnt clay. A cobbling of reddened flints which formed the surface of the platform

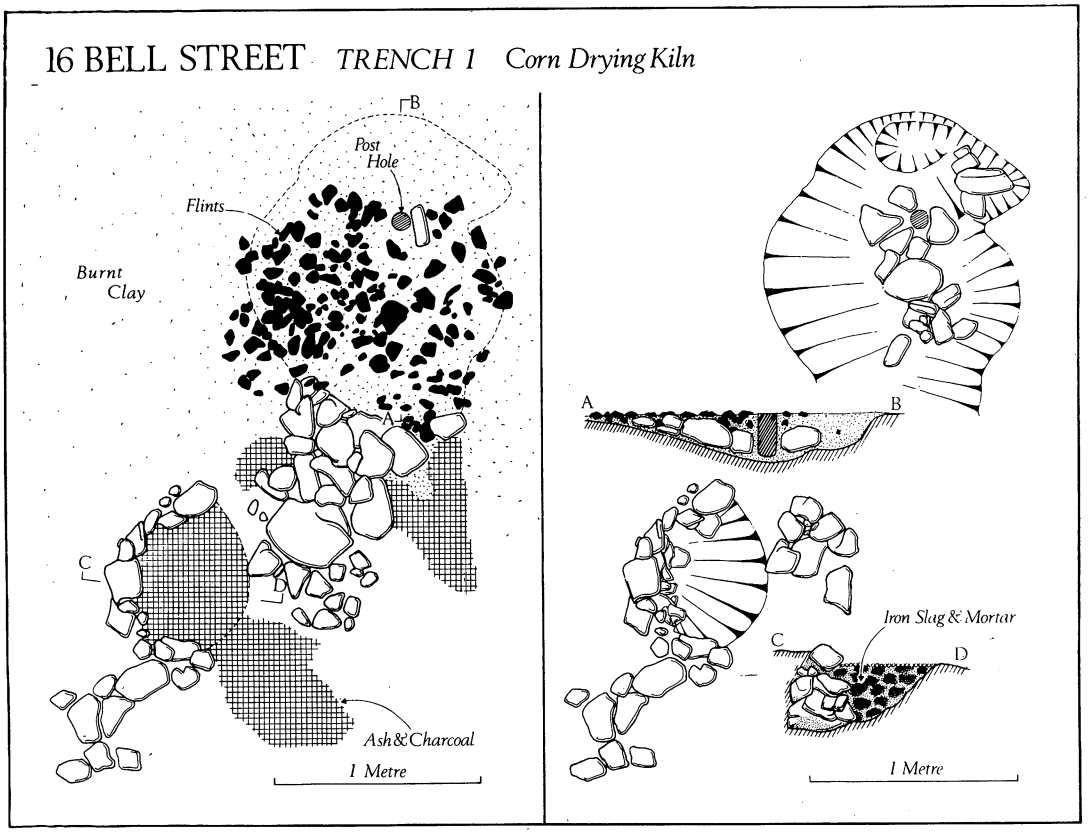


Fig 2 16 Bell Street. Probable corn-drying kiln.

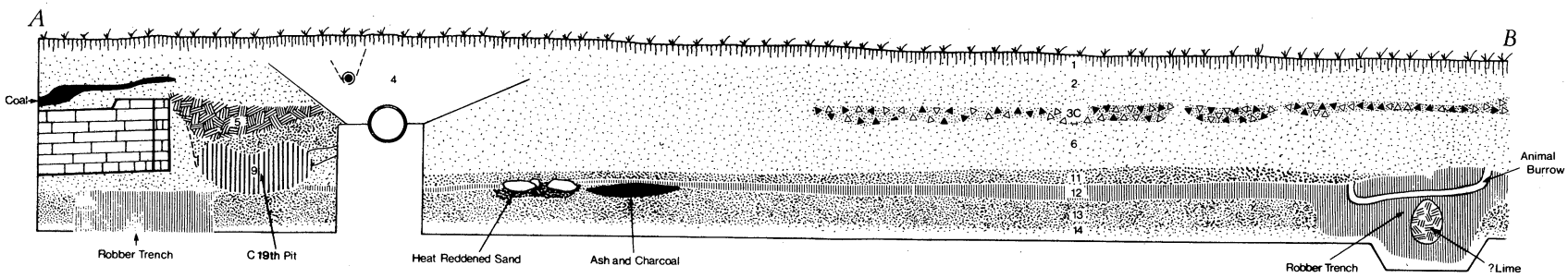
extended in a rough circle for 1.4m east to west by 1.1m north to south. These flints had been set in a mortary mixture that filled a shallow irregularly-shaped hollow, no deeper than 0.25m, which extended somewhat beyond the area of flints. The hollow contained a disorganised mass of different materials; pockets of limey mortar, burnt clay, ash and charcoal as well as roof-tile fragments, pottery and bone. Only a single fragment of iron slag was recovered from this pit, in whose base lay further rough blocks of stone. Some of these appeared to have been set around a post-hole, 0.10m wide by 0.20m deep, on the edge of the flint area.

The stones which may have formed the flue terminated in an arc against the edge of the flints, suggesting that they had fallen against a structure once standing in this position.

Discussion

It seems likely that the slag within the stoking chamber pit was here used merely as an aggregate and does not indicate that metal working of any sort had taken place. Waste from iron working was commonly used as a building and surfacing material in the Weald in later times. The mortar and slag mixture seems to have been used to provide support for the curved revetment which may represent the foundation courses of a corbelled dome inside which was lit the fire used to heat the kiln. The embers of this fire were raked out through an aperture provided at floor level.

The kiln seems most likely to have been used for corn drying or malting. If it is assumed that a clay wall had once encircled the flint platform, (as is likely from the evidence of the trodden clay surrounding it) then the single posthole could possibly be seen as a support for a rack upon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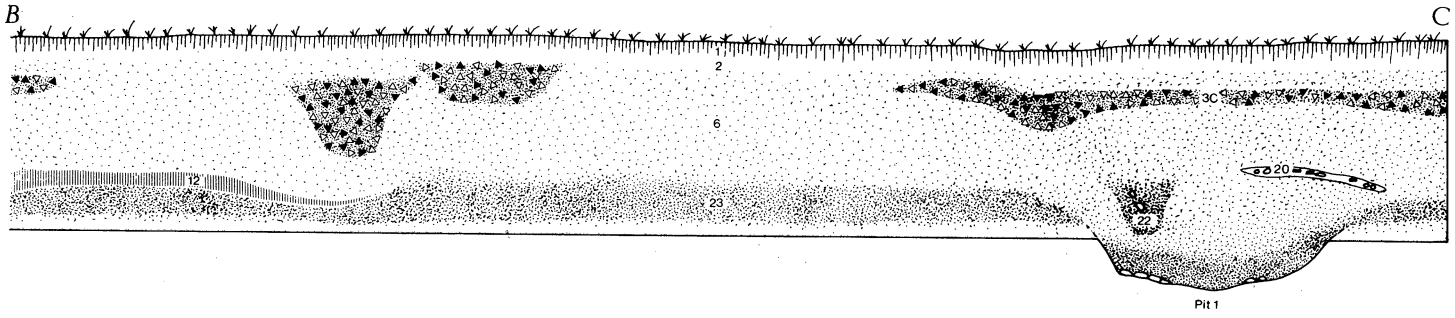
?Lime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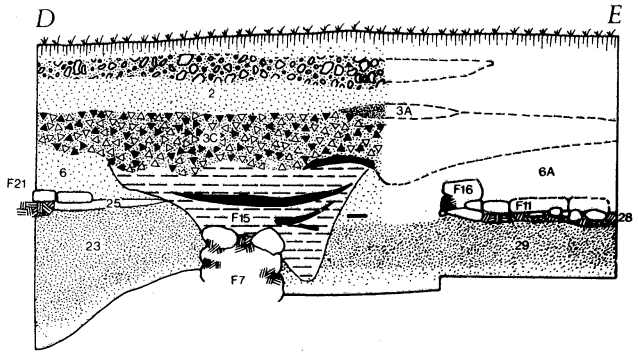
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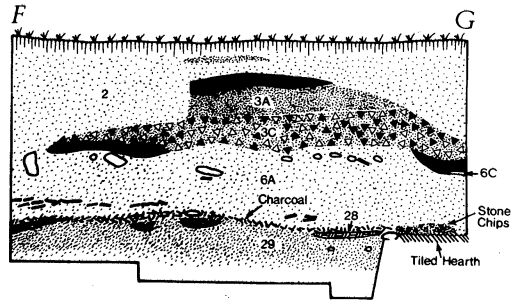
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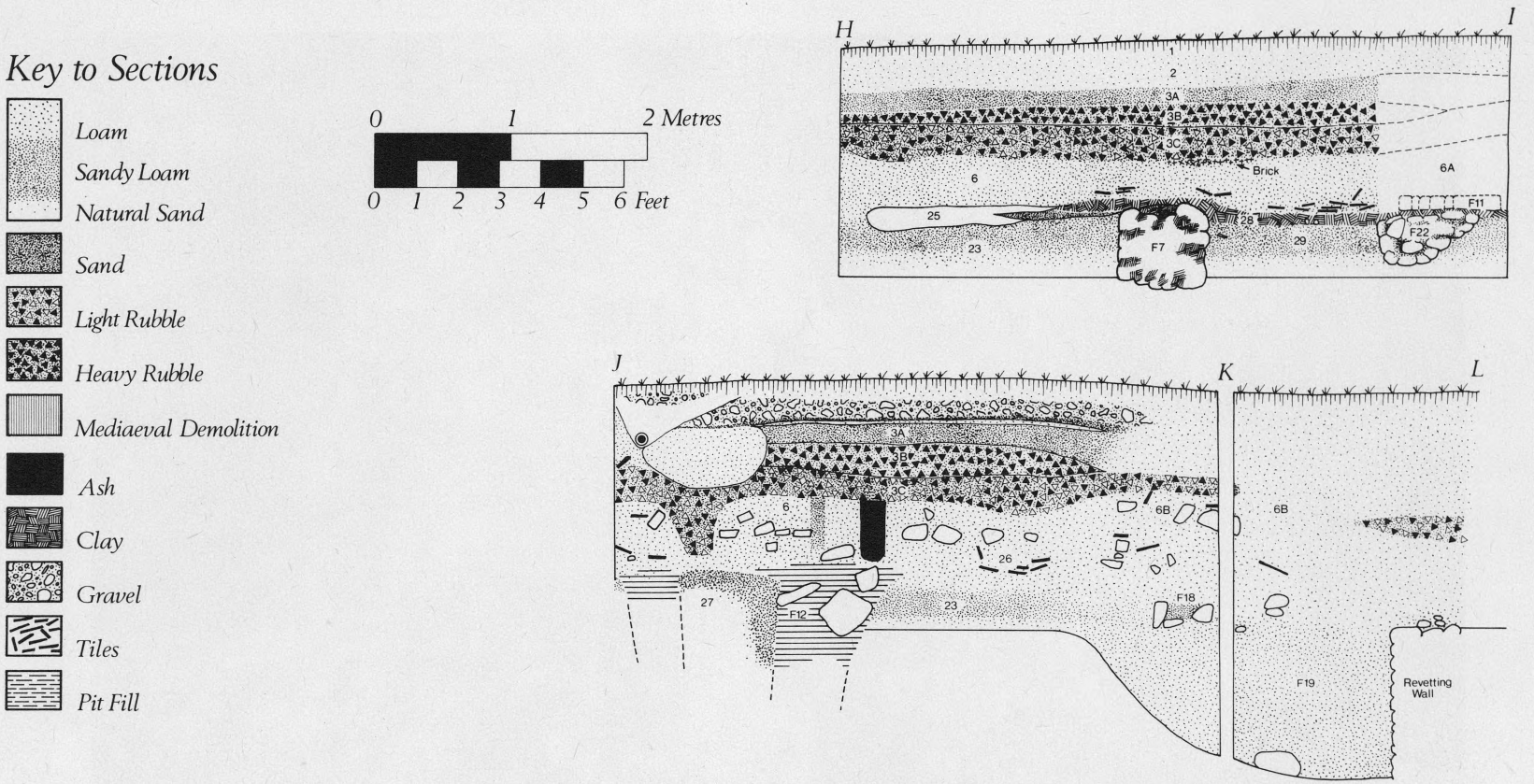

Fig 3 16 Bell Street. Main sections, see fig 1 for locations.

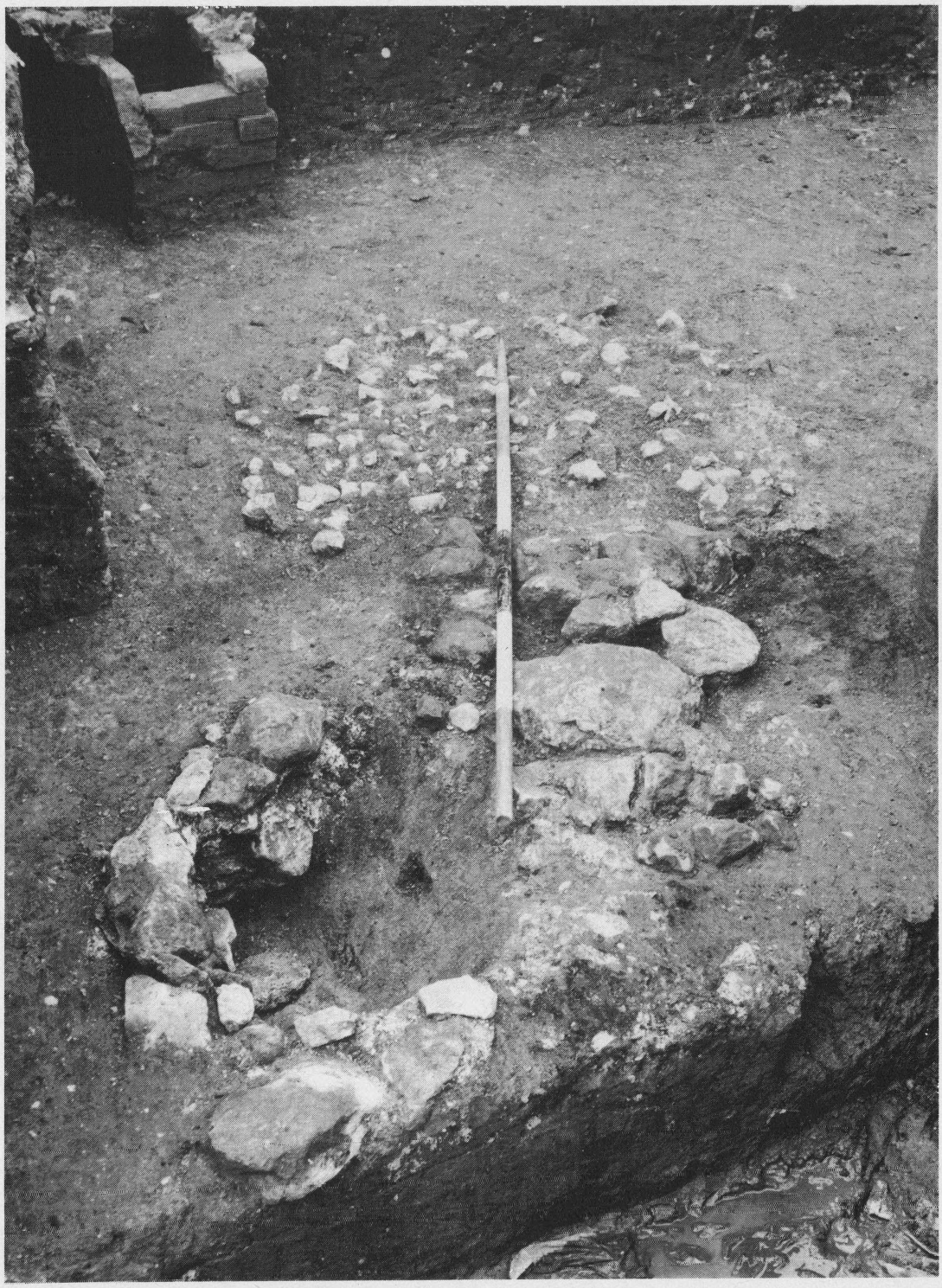

Plate 1 16 Bell street. Kiln from south-west after removal of contents of stoking chamber. Scale in feet.

which was placed the material to be dried. This was thus separated from the source of the heat by a long flue, the fire in turn being prevented from setting any nearby corn alight by being enclosed within its dome.

Medieval corn drying kilns have recently been discussed in detail by Beresford (1979). The use of corn driers appears to have been widespread in the Romano-British period but their discovery in medieval contexts has until recently been mostly confined to western Britain, in particular the uplands of the south-western peninsula. Their use, particularly on Dartmoor, appears to coincide with a period of climatic deterioration during the late 13th and early 14th century.

A notable exception, however, occurs in Nottingham where about 20 examples have been found during excavations in the period 1969–80. These range in date from late Saxon to 13th century (not yet published, C S B Young, pers comm). The sizes of these kilns increase generally from early to late examples, and a charred load of unsprouted grain from one of the larger kilns of *c* 1200, which had caught fire while loaded has enabled its function, that of corn drying, to be confirmed. These Nottingham kilns which are, unlike the Bell Street kiln, normally set within pits, are invariably constructed of wattle and clay daub. None have been found which are demonstrably within buildings.

Excavation in 1981 at 43 High Street, Reigate (Williams 1981a), located what is probably a malting kiln, demolished *c* 1700. Although the earlier phases could not be explored, a medieval origin for this more permanent kiln is thought possible.

One final, negative point is worth noting concerning the Bell Street kiln. Clearly sufficient heat was generated not only to change the colour of the surrounding soil but also to redden the flints forming the platform of the kiln itself. It has been suggested (*Curr Archaeol* 60, 25) that the sort of temperature needed to turn flint red is around 250°–300°C, far in excess of the 40°–50°C noted by Beresford for drying corn, although it is of course possible that the flints were imported to the site already reddened. In this context Ellaby (pers comm) has suggested that a pile of flints was placed within the kiln, which retained the heat when the fire was extinguished. The corn or whatever was then placed above the flints and allowed to dry overnight. It would be unwise to speculate further on the kiln's function as other interpretations may present themselves in future.

Layers 20 & 22 (fig 13: 232–244)

Overlying the fill of pit 1 was a lens within layer 6 containing 16th century pottery, stone and tile. The layer was no more than 10cm thick and sloped down to the east. It was about 1m wide. To the west of this, and cut into the top fill of pit 1 was a narrow north-south gully (layer 22) just visible within the tilled loam. Just above this was found a coin dated 1592. The contents of layer 20 are discussed on p 81.

TRENCH 3, SUMMARY

The 1975 season concentrated on the east end of the site where it was hoped evidence might be found for buildings fronting onto Bell Street. The excavation located what may have been the rear of such a building and the terminal of a ditch of medieval date, but due to the proximity of standing structures nothing further of these could be uncovered. Pottery evidence suggested a construction date of *c* 1300, and demolition probably in the 16th century. The building remains were much disturbed in the 17th and 18th centuries. An 18th century pit contained an interesting group of pottery and clay pipes.

The Medieval Features

Above the natural sand was a spread of tilled brown sandy soil (layer 23), a continuation of that noted in Trenches 1 and 2. This contained much medieval pottery as well as bone. The earliest material may again be represented by sherds of shell-tempered wares as well as a few undiagnostic struck flints. There was no clear distinction between this sandy soil and the

overlying darker loam (layer 6) with which it merged, except where they were separated by lenses of the demolition layer (layer 26). Where not interrupted by 19th century layers, layer 6 continued to the surface. Apart from the building, two other features associated with this sandy soil may be attributed to the medieval period: a ditch (feature 19) ending in a revetting wall, and the skeleton of a young ox (feature 14).

The Ditch (feature 19) (fig 1, pl 2)
This lay in the extreme south-east of the excavated area. It is to be regretted that due to standing buildings it was not possible to trace it further or to suggest its purpose. The ditch appeared originally, bounded by a short length of wall, as a darker area contrasting with the surrounding yellow sand. When the fill was removed the ditch was found to terminate against a vertical revetting wall.

The wall, which followed the contours of the ditch, was 1.2m high and consisted of about 14 courses of roughly-dressed Reigate Stone. The original width of the ditch and wall are unknown but it is thought that about half this dimension may have been uncovered. The ditch was filled with sandy, brown soil similar to that overlying natural sand throughout the site. Overlying the ditch fill was a group of rough stone blocks (feature 18) which are not thought to have formed part of a structure. Throughout the ditch fill there was no change in soil colour or texture nor any evidence for recutting or deliberate rubbish disposal. It may be assumed that the ditch silted up naturally. The lower 0.4m of the fill contained only scattered gravels but above this was much pottery including many fragments of cream-slipped jugs, as well as bone. Surrey white wares were absent and none of the pottery need therefore be dated any later than *c* 1300.

The Ox Burial (feature 14)
At a depth of *c* 1.9m lay the skeleton of a young ox, curled up, nose to tail. This lay on the edge of the excavation area, adjacent to the ditch (feature 19) in a shallow scoop above the natural sand. It is tentatively ascribed to the medieval period as it was associated with two small body sherds of grey sandy ware. Immediately overlying it, however, were fragments of 17th century clay pipes.

The Medieval Building (figs 1, 4, pls 3, 4 & 5)
The remains of a building which had been much disturbed by 17th and 18th century features lay at a depth of about 1.3m. Only a small area could be uncovered but this was enough to show that it extended beyond the boundary wall to the north. The earliest remains consisted of a 0.6m wide wall foundation of Reigate stone, flint and ironstone set in clay (feature 7). This had been much disturbed by the digging of what may have been a well-shaft, but sufficient remained to indicate an easterly return. The foundation cut through sandy, brown soil (layers 23, 29) containing mostly medieval pottery. Within the building, the only structure that could with any certainty be attributed to the medieval period was a rough oval of stones (feature 22) 0.8m by 0.5m. These were set in mortar and filled a pit 0.25 to 0.3m deep. There was a spread of charcoal outside this structure to the south-west. Possibly contemporary, lying adjacent and only partly within the excavated area was a hearth of tiles set diagonally on edge (feature 20). This had been partly destroyed by the shaft. It was covered with a thin layer of Reigate stone chippings (pl 3). The medieval building was subsequently extended to the west before demolition took place. The remains of this extension were very scanty and no plan could be obtained, but evidence for internal alterations did survive.

Leading west from the south-west corner of the medieval wall (feature 7) was a short section of wall foundation (feature 9) built from ironstone blocks bonded with yellow clay (fig 4). This lay slightly higher than the top of the earlier wall with a rough pitching of fist-size flints on either side. No trace could be found of any continuation of this wall.

Further west, two gullies (features 6 and 8) ran north-south (fig 1). Gully feature 6 had cut into the natural sand and had a width of about 0.15m. Its depth was similar; it contained a few

Plate 2 16 Bell Street. Ditch feature 19, revetting wall. Scale in feet.

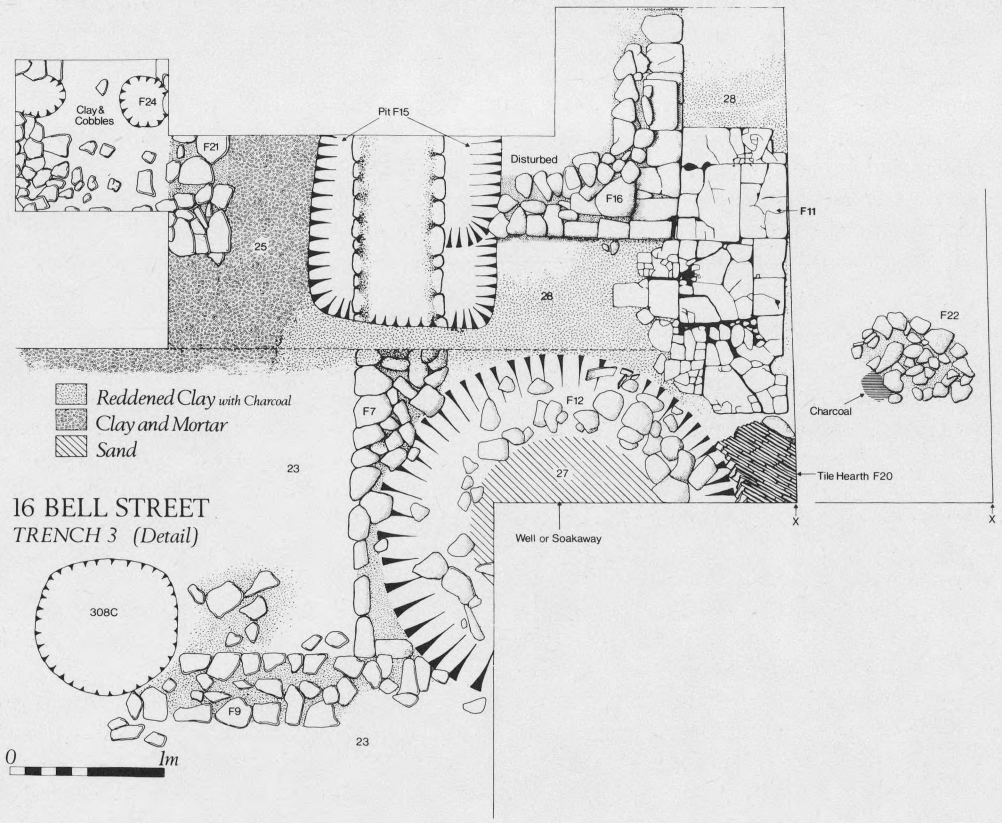

Fig 4. 16 Bell St. Detail of medieval and later structures in trench 3.

pottery sherds as well as bone, tile and charcoal. Gully feature 8 was also cut into the sand. It was 0.25m wide and was filled with clean sand containing a few fragments of brick. Both features are probably of Tudor date and may relate to the building. Within the building a new floor was laid (layer 28; fig 4). This was a spread of charcoal-flecked, heat-reddened clay, 0.2m thick on average, which extended up to and possibly beyond the eastern limit of the excavation. It overlay the medieval feature 22, as well as the remains of the earlier wall feature 7, which must have been partially demolished. It merged with a layer of mortar and clay (layer 25). Beyond this lay the base of a further wall (feature 21) bordering an area of clay and stones within which were two depressions *c* 30cm wide with a block of ironstone in the base of each.

The reddened clay (layer 28) ended at the edge of an L-shaped structure of small, dressed blocks of stone (feature 16). The core of this structure was a rough, semi-circular pitching of stones, bonded with yellow clay. The relationship of this feature to wall 7 could not be determined as both these structures as well as an area of burnt clay had been partly removed by an 18th century pit (feature 15).

Set within the clay floor and abutting the L-shaped structure was a further hearth (feature 11), built of massive Reigate stone flags (figs 1, 4 & pl 4). This ended short of the tiled hearth, as did the clay floor. These flagstones were roughly dressed beneath and were worn smooth on the edges which formed the eastern and southern extremities. The hearth had been damaged by the later shaft and it is likely that the area originally covered by these flagstones extended

further west and probably further north as well. All the flagstones were severely cracked and blackened by fire, and it is this which must have caused the reddening of the underlying clay floor.

Demolition

Evidence for demolition was found in the form of a spread of roof-tile and stone (layer 26), *c* 3×5m, lying wholly outside the building to the south and within layer 6. A few tile fragments were also found in the accumulated loam overlying the building remains (pl 5). This spread of demolition material was about 0.25m deep in the centre, rapidly narrowing to a few stray tiles at its edges. One complete peg tile was found along with joining fragments of others as well as pieces of hip tile and a few pottery fragments of 16th century character. There were two dressed blocks of Reigate stone. Layer 26 overlay the burial of a horse (feature 10, see below).

Discussion and Dating

Dating evidence for the construction of the building relies almost entirely on the material within the tilled soil contained by the walls of the original building. This soil (layer 29, fig 3) contained local medieval sandy wares — the latest material being a few small sherds of off-white wares which suggests an earliest construction date in the second half of the 13th century. At what period the building was extended is unclear due to the lack of stratified deposits associated with this phase. However a few small sherds of medieval pottery were found in the clay floor, and also in close proximity to the wall (feature 9), which suggests at least a date within the medieval period for the extension.

The flagstone hearth (feature 11) overlay a scatter of small stones which may represent a repair to the floor. This contained two small sherds of fine glazed red ware which are unlikely to date to a period earlier than the 16th century.

Within the spread of tiles and stone (layer 26), which probably represents the demolition, were sherds of two chafing-dishes and part of a dripping pan (fig 14: 250, 251 & 253). Also present were sherds of Tudor Green type and two of buff ware with painted slip decoration, as well as plain sherds of fine glazed red wares. Similar sherds were found immediately overlying the demolished building, in layer 6A.

As so little of the building could be uncovered it is uncertain whether the remains represent an industrial or a domestic structure. No waste from any industrial process was found however, so a domestic function for the hearths seems more likely. The large extent of the flagstone hearth suggests that it may have been covered by a hood and the smoke drawn into a chimney, as would be normal in the 16th century. The adjacent stone structure (feature 16), with an off-set foundation course of dressed blocks, clearly intended to be visible, could be interpreted perhaps as the base of a bread oven. A clearer interpretation would depend on excavation of the areas due east and north.

LATER FEATURES

The Horse Burial

Under the demolition layer of tiles and stone, in a shallow scoop within the built-up loam, was the skeleton of a horse. This was surrounded by rough stones (Reigate stone, ironstone and flint). Further stones, some dressed, lay to north and west of the burial. Scattered throughout these stones were four thin slabs of sandstone, representing what may have been an equatorial sundial (fig 19, see below).

The horse had been dismembered before burial. Both head and legs (one of which was entirely missing) had been detached and were found upside down in relation to the torso. As Mrs Done has suggested (see bone report), this may have been done for no other reason than to fit an unwieldy carcase into its grave. The soil within the burial contained similar pottery to that within layer 26. This suggests a date within the 16th century for the burial, though an earlier date cannot be ruled out.

Plate 3 16 Bell Street. Stone structure feature 22 and tiled hearth feature 20 within medieval building, looking south-east. Scale in inches.

Plate 4 16 Bell Street. Flagstone hearth feature 11 and structure feature 16. Vertical view, south towards left. Scale in inches.

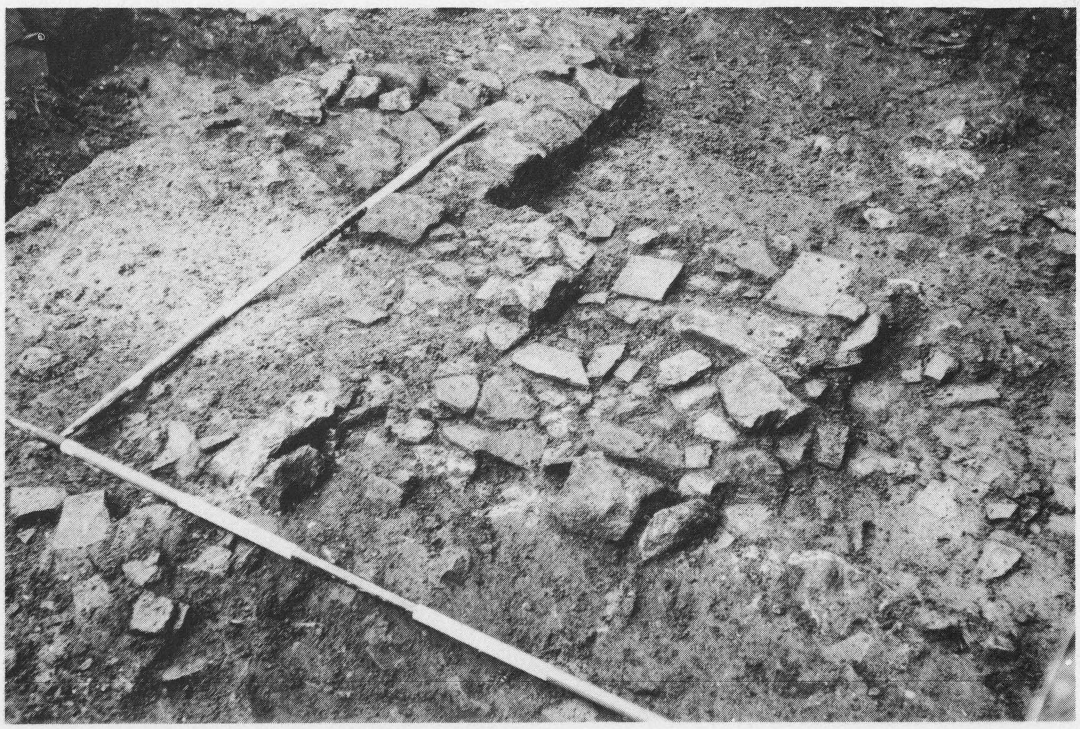

Plate 5 16 Bell Street. Demolition layer 26 and wall feature 9 looking north-east. Scale in feet.

Layers 3C, 6, 6A, 6C

Overlying the building remains and the spread of demolition material was a continuation of layer 6, the area of built-up loam noted across the site. Where this overlay the demolished building it was called layer 6A, and the finds were kept separate.

There was little demolition rubble overlying the building remains save for a few tile fragments. Layer 6A contained pottery and clay pipes dating mostly to the second half of the 17th century but with a few 16th century sherds immediately overlying the flagstone hearth. In this area layer 6A was sealed by a 19th century rubble spread, layer 3C. Sealed between the two layers was a thin lens of pottery and clay pipes beneath a band of ash. However this layer, 6C was present only on the extreme edge of the excavated area and it was not possible to determine with certainty from which layer (either 6A or 6C) some of the material came. Those finds whose provenances were identified with certainty as being from layer 6C suggest a date in the late 17th century (1660–80 for the delftware and 1660–1710 for the clay pipes).

The building remains and the associated demolition spread were partly destroyed by three features: a filled-in shaft (feature 12), a rubbish pit (feature 15), and an amorphous rubbish deposit (layer 6B).

The Shaft (feature 12)

This feature, which could not be fully excavated, had cut through the remains of the building which must already have been obscured when it was dug. It appeared as a circular area with a central core of yellow sand 1.2m wide which contained stone and tile fragments, bone, part of a 17th century white ware plate, and two fragments of glass. Around this sand was an area of sticky, chalky loam, 2.3m wide, containing large stone and tile fragments, the latter obviously displaced from the smashed hearth. There was a small amount of post-medieval pottery as well as residual material. Large fragments of two bellarmine jugs (fig 14: 260–1) were found both in this layer and also within layer 6A adjacent. For these, dates within the first half of the 17th century have been proposed. Taken together, both the sand and the encircling rubble suggest the construction cone and the dismantled, filled-in shaft of a well or soakaway. The shaft appeared to have been dug from a point within layer 6A on the surface of which, as has been shown, was layer 6C dated to the late 17th century. The shaft was therefore dug and filled in within the 17th century.

Pit feature 15, Layer 6B and Trench 4

This pit, which dates to the mid eighteenth century, had been dug from a point above layer 6A. It contained a range of pottery, glass, clay pipes and bone within a gritty soil interspersed with thin lenses of ash. The pit was roughly 1.3m square and had been dug some 0.8m into the natural sand. It had cut through layer 6A into the remains of the building beneath and had removed part of feature 16 as well as part of the clay floor (layer 28). Having encountered an obstruction in the form of the wall, feature 7, the pit was dug mostly to one side of it, thus leaving the wall almost as a step within the pit.

Overlying the south-east corner of the site was an amorphous deposit of 18th century material (layer 6B fig 3, section J-K-L). This had cut through the demolition layer 26, tiles and stone from which were scattered throughout. The extent of this deposit could not be determined due to its similarity to the surrounding soil (layer 6), though it was rather darker. It contained a large quantity of broken pottery and glass which date throughout the 18th century. Because of this the material cannot be considered as a sealed group.

The contents of both these features are discussed in the reports on the pottery and clay pipes in microfiche.

As a final exercise, Trench 4 was opened to the south of pit 1 with the intention of locating further pits. This proved negative. It did however locate what was probably a soakaway (feature 25), which contained pottery and glass dating to the early 19th century. This was of unmortared ironstone construction.

19th century remains will not be dealt with in detail here. However, these included a three-sided brick structure built against the north-west corner of the walled garden and shown conventionally on a late 19th century map as a greenhouse. Further brick structures of horticultural origin associated with pits were located to the rear of the garden, damaging in one instance the earlier robber trench. A layer of demolition rubble below the topsoil (layer 3B) covered most of the excavated area. In Trench 3 layers of heavier rubble and sand (layers 3A and B) overlay layer 3C, accounting in part for the higher level of this part of the garden.

Examination of the footings of the north boundary wall at a point close to the north east corner of the robber trench, revealed three phases. The present brick wall stands on the remains of an earlier wall of Reigate stone which survives to a height of nearly 0.5m, commencing some 0.3m below the surface. It is bedded in grey mortar and contains some orange brick. This in turn overlies a foundation of Reigate stone set in yellow mortar, offset 0.32m from the face of the brick wall, which survives to a height of about 0.3m overlying the surface of the northern side of the robber trench.

The Finds

THE POTTERY (figs 5–16)

Medieval pottery from Reigate town centre, both from excavations and as chance finds, has recently been discussed by Turner (1970; 1974a) and his basic fabric groups have been retained here. The 16 Bell Street medieval pottery is notable not only for the early group from pit 1 but also for the wide range of decorated 13th century jugs. Although very little of the pottery of all periods was well stratified, most of the material which could be drawn, particularly of the medieval period, is illustrated and for the first time shows the range likely to be encountered in the town. Two groups of medieval pottery are shown, from pit 1 and from the robber trench. Illustrated material from the remaining stratified deposits — the sequence from layers 11 to 14 (where layer 12 is considered to be contemporary with the robber trench), from the fill of the ditch feature 19, and from layer 29 — is listed below. The material from feature 19 is thought to represent a gradual accumulation, though probably over a short period, while layer 12 was thin and it was difficult to attribute sherds with certainty.

In the post-medieval period, the 16th century pottery from layer 20 and the 18th century group from the pit, feature 15 are considered.

The Medieval Pottery

Since the 16 Bell Street excavation, work on the site of the Old Vicarage in Church Street (Poulton 1980) has located the site of what was probably part of the Domesday settlement of Cherchefelle much closer to the isolated parish church to the east of the present town. This work suggested migration to the area of the present town, to the south of the castle, probably in the second half of the 12th century. This is borne out by the Bell Street pottery. Sherds of coarse, shell-tempered pottery so common in the Saxo-Norman levels on the Old Vicarage site represented only a very small proportion of the medieval pottery found at 16 Bell Street (see table 1, microfiche 2, and the rim forms of these seem typologically later. They were also much in the minority in pit 1, where they had been supplanted by sandy wares of varying shade and temper, some however still containing a little fragmentary shell.

The 'scratch-marked ware' noted by Turner as occuring in Reigate at its most easterly point of distribution is in fact visually identical to other coarse, sandy wares and should probably be thought of, not as a separate ware but as a distinctive style of decoration. Scratch-marked sherds may perhaps be wholly associated with 'pie-crusted' rim forms as suggested by Turner and further exemplified at Flanchford (Ellaby 1976) and by the curious vessel, no 11, from pit 1.

The group, mostly of large fragments, from pit 1 belonging, it would seem, to the earliest

period of the site's occupation, provides a convenient springboard from which to consider 13th century pottery development in Reigate. The appearance side by side of decorated jugs, both glazed and unglazed, suggests that the pit may date to a time close to the introduction to Reigate of glazed pottery.

Throughout the first half of the 13th century, cooking pottery with everted rims and other coarse wares appear in 'early reduced' (ER) and 'red to brown surfaced, grey, sandy' fabrics (RBSG) as defined by Turner (1970; 1974a) although a considerable variation in both tempering and surface colour occurs with these early, sand-tempered vessels which makes them difficult to separate visually. Certain common rim forms seem to appear in more than one ware, particularly the everted pie-crusted forms (eg nos 49, 96–7). Only one jug was certainly present in the coarser, ER ware (the rather crude handle no 59), but the finer of the orange and RBSG wares provided a variety of decorated jugs, in some cases similar to those from pit 1. These seem to give way to the ubiquitous green-glazed, cream-slipped jugs, so common in east Surrey, probably around the middle of the 13th century. In the same mostly oxidised fabric are found a wide variety of coarse wares: cooking pots, bowls and pipkins. Similarly, grey, unglazed wares are introduced about this time, particularly the black-surfaced grey wares of which the products of perhaps two sources may be present in Reigate.

The sources of much of the medieval pottery reaching Reigate in the 13th and 14th centuries are, however, unknown. Of the known local kilns of this period, the prolific production centre at Limpsfield (Prendergast 1974), some 17km to the east seems to have supplied only a small amount of its rather dull, unglazed, mostly grey wares to the town, while the apparently short-lived kiln at nearby Earlswood (Turner 1974b) could only have supplied a small proportion of the cream-slipped jugs and allied vessels found, although products of this kiln have been identified at 16 Bell Street. It is further suggested, albeit tentatively, that Hertfordshire may be a source for at least some of the grey wares (eg fig 6:30 & fig 10:140). Clearly, on the basis of past discoveries, further kilns in the Earlswood Common area are likely, while the source of much of the remainder may be further south in the Weald clay — an area scarcely touched, in Surrey at least, by systematic fieldwork. The Gault clay also, at the foot of the Downs, may on the evidence of fossil inclusions in two sherds have provided clay for some of the red/brown, sandy wares (see figs 7:46 and 9:104).

It has been thought that the apparent lack of white sandy wares could be construed as evidence for a decline in the fortunes of the town in the mid to late 14th century. But as table 1 shows, sandy late-medieval white wares, although not occuring in stratified contexts are present elsewhere in sufficient quantities to suggest little justification for arguing such a decline.

Pottery Group from Pit 1 (figs 5, 6: 1–27)

This pit, which is thought to be the earliest excavated feature on the site contained a group of predominantly large fragments of cooking pots, jugs and other vessels. Few, if any, vessels in the group can be dated with confidence due to the lack of any firm dating evidence in east Surrey for this period and also to the danger in using far-flung parallels. However a number of points would seem to suggest a date within the period AD 1200–50.

The pit contained 371 sherds and large fragments, many of which joined. It also contained, amongst other small finds, an iron lock spring and buckle pin (see fig 17: 4, 18, 19 & 26) as well as nails, burnt clay and bones, including the complete skull of a dog. Roughly a third of the pottery contained shell-tempering in small quantities, mostly as a surface dusting in fabrics that differed little from the sandy wares that formed the remainder of the group. Only 15 sherds of coarse, shell-tempered ware (none of which could be illustrated) were present. There were very few of these elsewhere on the site and this suggests that the coarser shelly wares had virtually died out by the time this part of the town was occupied — or at least when the pit was filled. These may be compared to the 'Developed St Neots' ware noted at Northolt (Hurst 1961), where a date range of 1050–1150 was proposed.

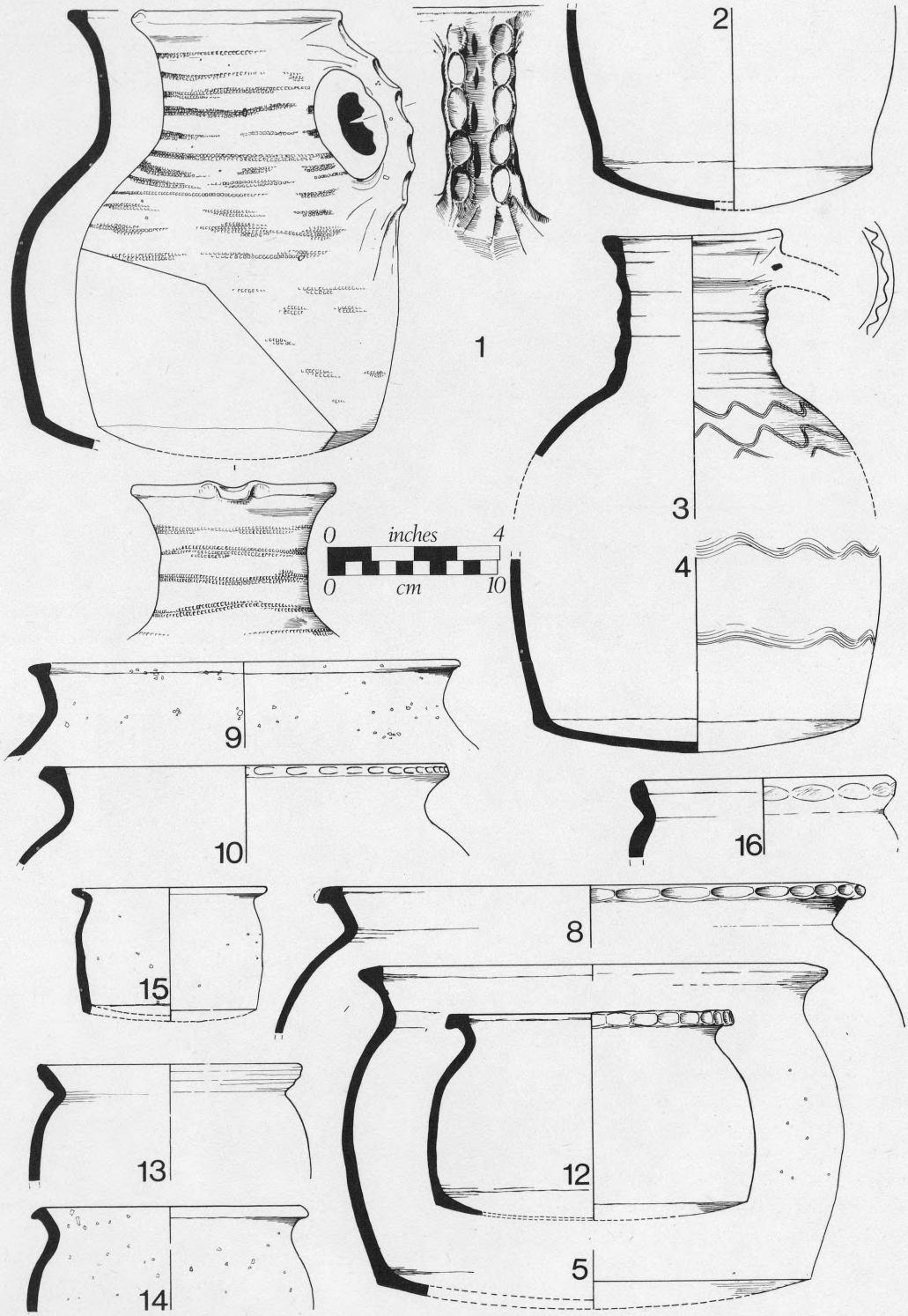

Fig 5 16 Bell Street. Medieval pottery, nos 1–5, 8–10, 12–16

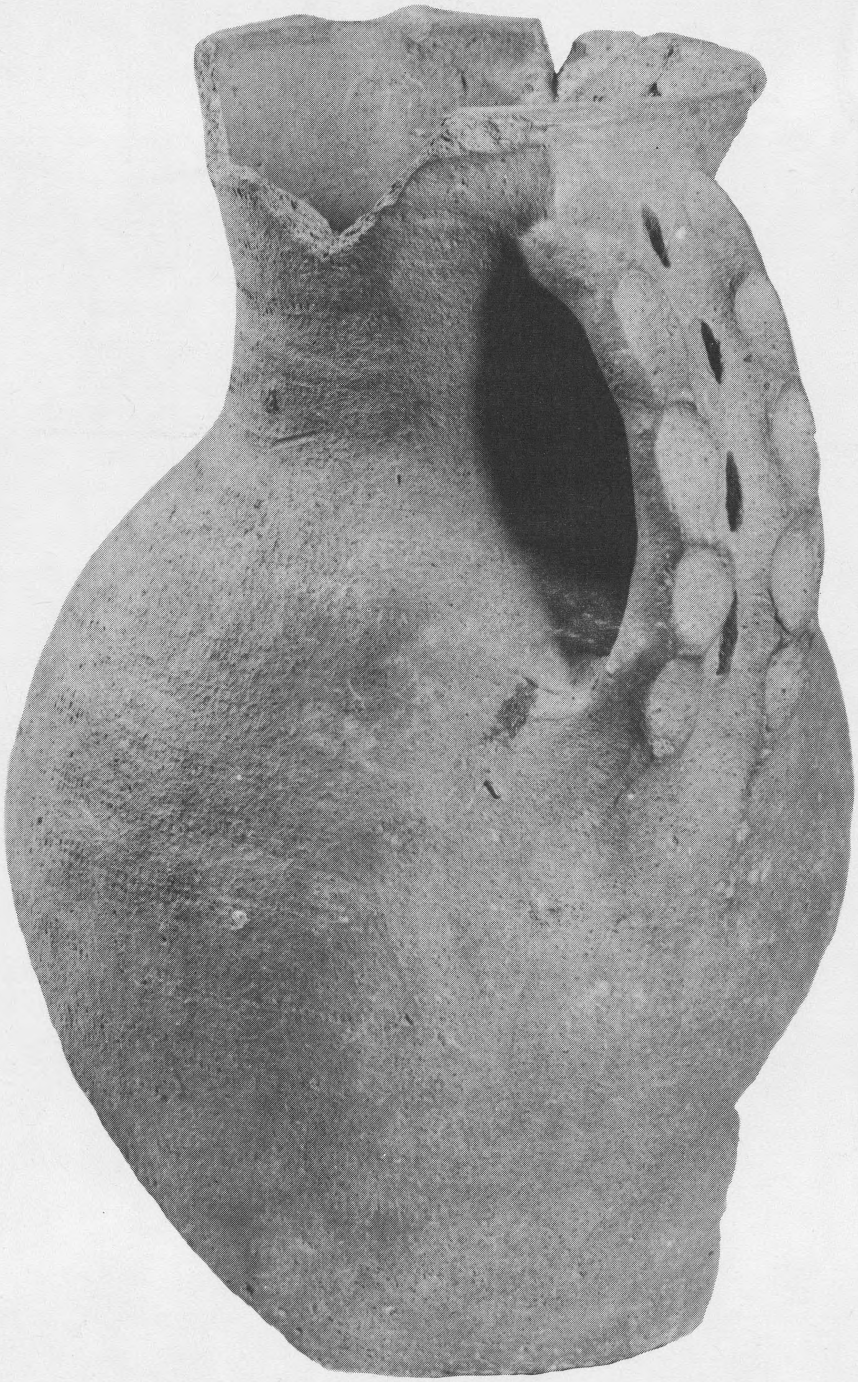

Plate 6 16 Bell Street. Medieval jug no 1 from pit 1.

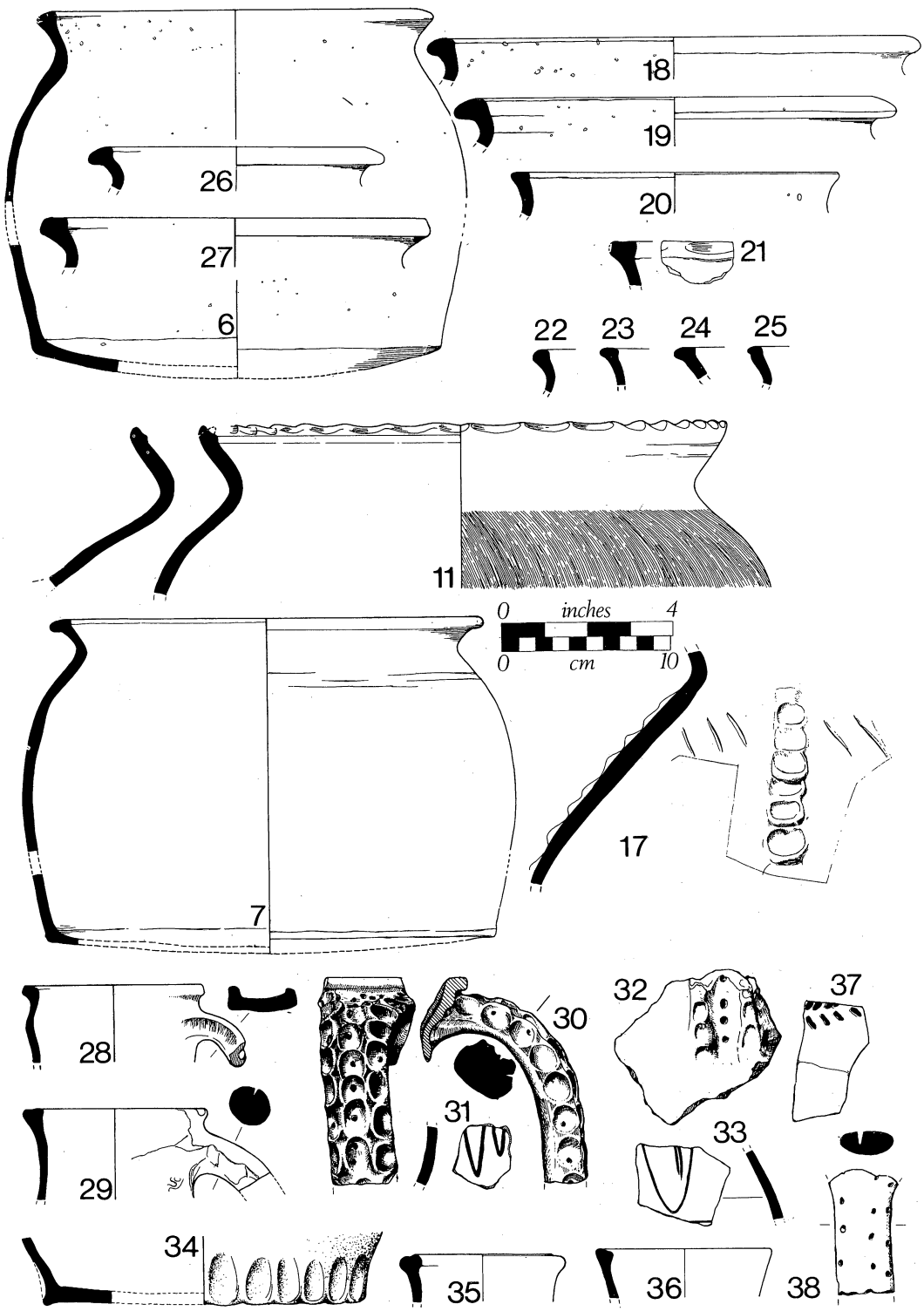

Fig 6 16 Bell Street. Medieval pottery, nos 6–7, 11, 17–38

Amongst the jug fragments were three unglazed vessels of which one notable, almost complete, jug, no 1, was covered with rouletting — bands of squares applied with a notched wheel. Rouletting, particularly as an overall decoration, seems to be an early feature that, in south-east England at least, enjoyed a limited distribution and popularity. It is found on 12th century jugs in St Neots type ware from Oxford and Ely (Haslam 1978, fig 5: 12, 13) on forms similar to the Bell Street jug. The technique is also found, but uncommonly, on Saxo-Norman pottery from Chichester (Barton 1979, 80–1) and rouletted sherds have been found elsewhere in Surrey (The Mounts, Pachesham; D F Renn, pers comm and see Pachesham report, fig 17: 321–5 and microfiche 4) and in Kent (at Eynsford, Rigold 1971, where a 12th century date is suggested for one sherd). There are further small sherds from the site (eg nos 45 & 93). The only glazed vessel from the pit (excepting one small sherd and a few obviously intrusive pieces) is the jug neck 3, whose glaze is rather thick and crude. This could suggest a deposition date for these jugs not long after the introduction of glazed pottery to east Surrey, for which it is fair to suggest a date in the late 12th or early 13th century.

Turner (1974a) argues that finger-tipping and pie-crusting decoration on the rims of cooking pots has perhaps a limited date range. The pit contains examples of both techniques (nos 8, 10–12 & 21). At Northolt thumb-pressed rims occur on 'Developed St Neots' and 'Developed Early Medieval' wares for which date ranges are suggested between 1050 and 1200 (Hurst 1961).

The large, possibly two-handled, pot 11 exhibits scratch-marking on a fabric thoroughly atypical compared to other scratch-marked sherds from Reigate. In addition the pit contained a further four small, scratch-marked sherds. Musty has suggested (in Turner 1970) that scratch-marking as a decorative technique may well continue throughout the 13th century but the comparatively few sherds found on the site (see table 1) suggest that this technique was not widespread in east Surrey in the 13th century and was probably in use earlier.

The pit, then, contains elements that suggest a date in the 12th century (ie scratch-marking, rouletting, finger-tipping decoration and coarse shell-temper) as well as those that argue for a later date (ie the decorated glazed jug). On balance, a date within the first half of the 13th century and probably close to 1200 seems likely, although an earlier date cannot be ruled out.

Robber Trench Group (figs 6, 7: 28–47)

The robber trench contained sherds of jugs, cooking pots and a possible lid mostly in oxidised sandy fabrics and grey wares. There were no white wares and a date in the second half of the 13th century and perhaps close to 1300 may be suggested on present grounds.

Sherds 30, 39–41, 43–4 are grey or black-surfaced grey wares. The jug handle no 30 is unusual and a source in Hertfordshire has been suggested. Jugs 29, 31, 33, 36 have underglaze slips and may share a common source with other oxidised vessels (eg 28, 34, 35 and the cauldron 47) in the Earlswood area if not the Bushfield Shaw kiln (Turner 1974b). Sherd 46 contains a fossil belemnite indicative of a source on the Gault clay (see also fig 9: 104). Only a small part of the robber trench was excavated.

Early Reduced Wares (figs 7, 8: 48–67)

For a description of this ware see Turner (1974a). The forms in this ware seem to be almost entirely cooking pots and shallow bowls — the cooking pots with everted rims, often beaded internally and sometimes either finger-tipped or pie-crusted along the edge. Occasionally there is a little sparse surface shell. Only one jug has been identified (no 59), as well as fragments of possible pipkins or skillets (nos 62, 67). As noted above, this ware may be very variable both in surface colour and in the degree of temper. Sherds 60, 61 and 66 for instance could fit equally well under the heading Red/brown surfaced, grey, sandy ware but generally speaking the ware is reduced with surface colours varying from brown to dark grey. Turner (1974a) stated that this ware had been found at Alsted (Ketteringham 1976) but there are no parallels among the published material from that site. Cf also the material from pit 1.

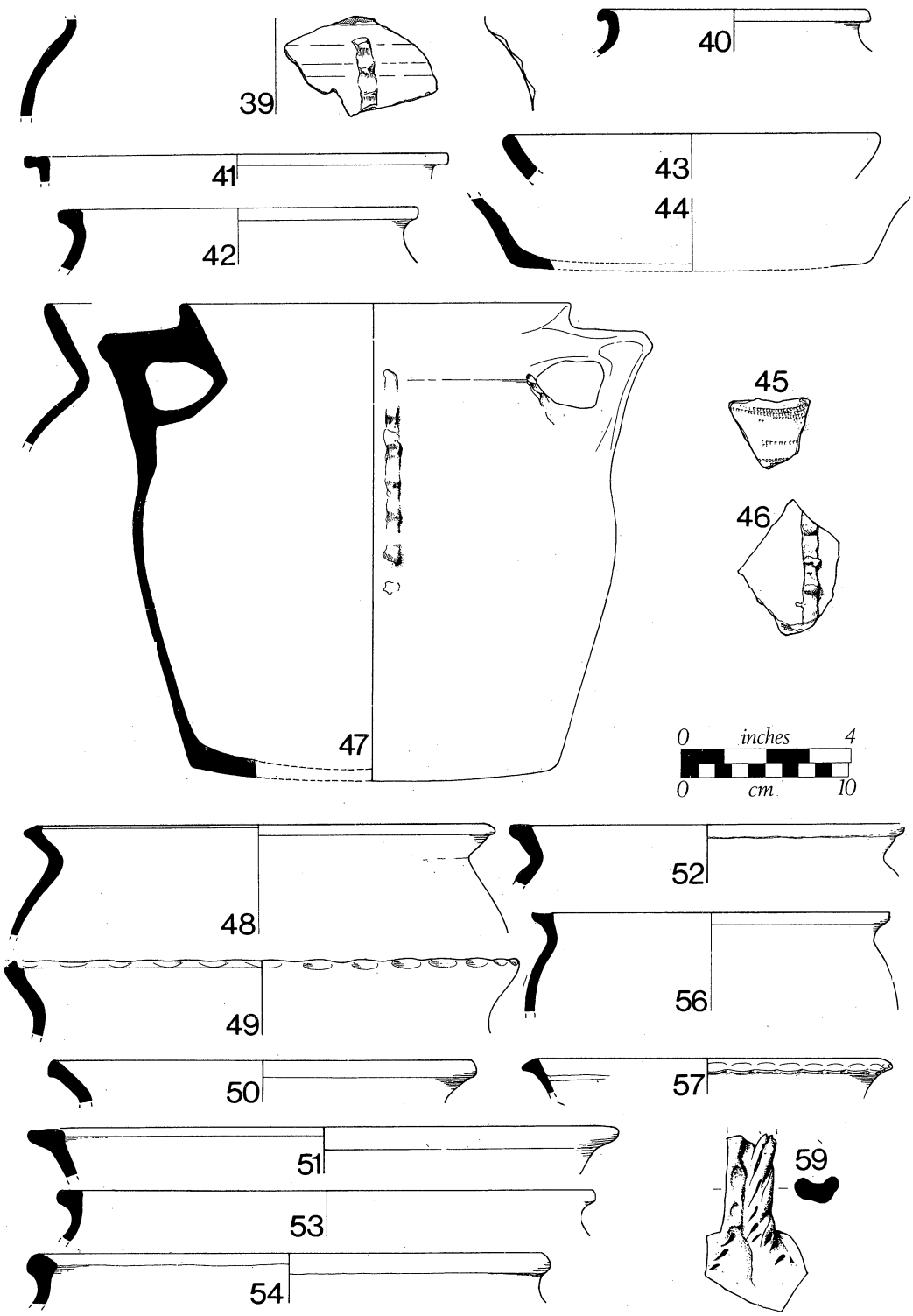

Fig 7 16 Bell Street. Medieval pottery, nos 39–54, 56–7, 59

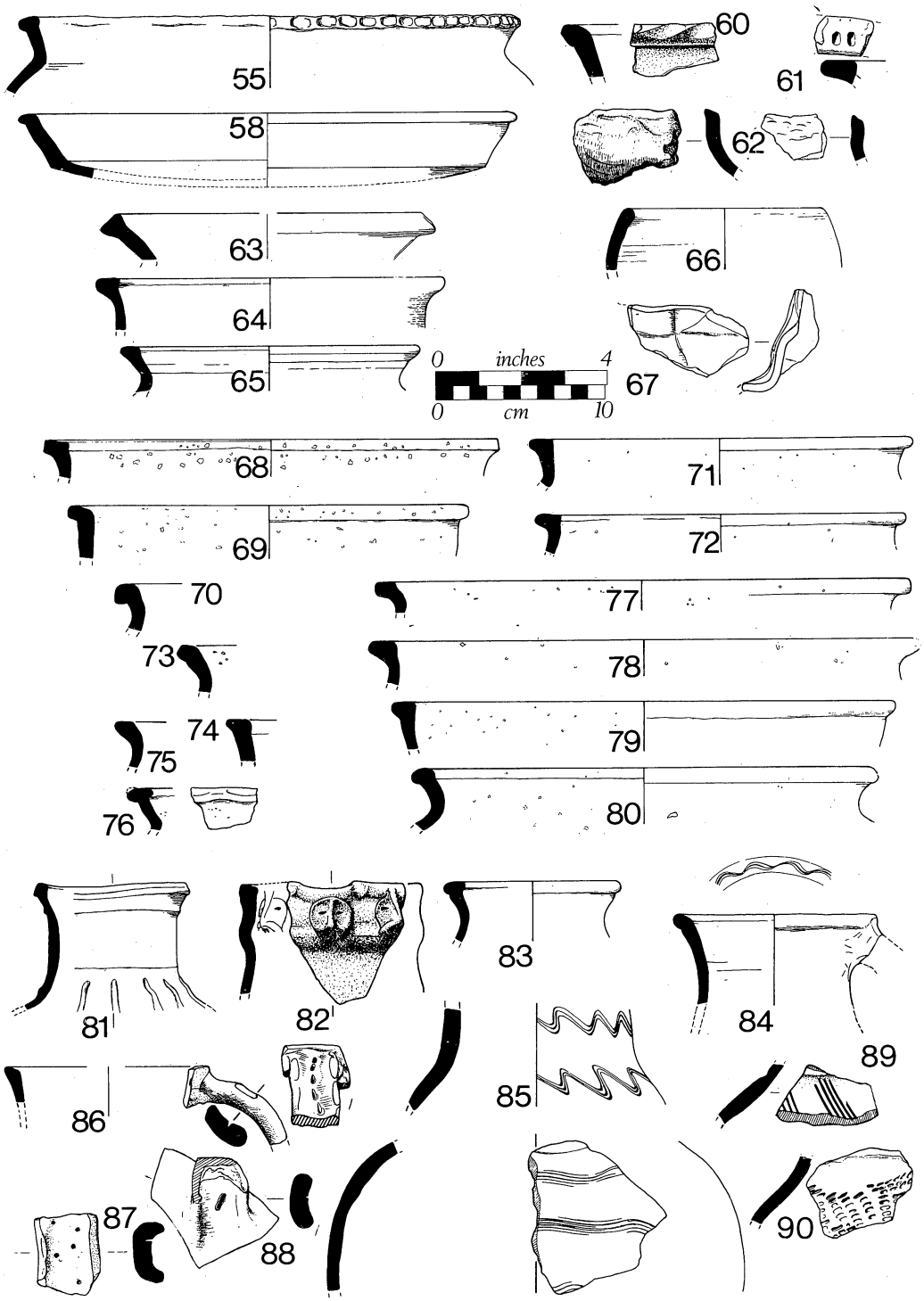

Fig 8 16 Bell Street. Medieval pottery, nos 55, 58, 60–90

Shell-tempered Ware (fig 8: 68–80)
Of the coarse shell-tempered wares found commonly in the Saxo-Norman layers on the Old Vicarage site, very few were found at 16 Bell Street, and these are represented by nos 68 to 70. Typologically, they appear late in the series. The remainder of the illustrated material has a little sparse, usually surface, shell on otherwise sandy fabrics.

Red/brown Surfaced, Grey, Sandy Ware (RBSG) (Figs 6–9, 11, 12:32, 37, 45–6, 81–111, 172, 177, 182–92)
Turner (1970; 1974a) describes this ware, but there are many sherds from the site with varying oxidised surface colours and sand temper which would fit this description (see also similar material from pit 1). Cooking pots with pie-crusted rims are more common in these wares (eg 96–7) while finger-tipping is less so. Sherds 96, 103–4 are in a similar fabric and may share a common source. Some cooking pots not illustrated here are decorated with wavy, combed lines. There is a variety of jugs with oxidised surfaces in this ware. These are often glazed but sometimes are not (eg 32, 84–5, 87–8, and 93 are unglazed, as also are 1 and 2 from Pit 1). Among the glazed jugs are a number with relief decoration of which the anthropomorphic and figure decorated sherds nos 82, 94–5 are notable examples. These 3 sherds are dealt with in detail in the catalogue. The glaze is usually olive green and rather thick with numerous raised pimples (see also jug no 3 from pit 1).

Also included under this heading are the jug fragments 182–92 and possibly 37, 172 and 177. These are in a somewhat finer ware than those above but seem to follow the same tradition of applied relief decoration. Typically with these the fabric is hard, usually with little tempering visible. The surface colour is often a uniform bright orange or dull red, but on the inside surfaces the colour can be a light brown, grey or pink. A distinctive feature of these jugs is the treatment of the inner surfaces which often bear ripples or wrinkles (eg no 192 and for another sherd of this type see Williams 1980, fig 7: 21). Glaze is almost always olive but some sherds (eg no 191) are unglazed.

Two cooking pot sherds, nos 46 and 104, have each embedded within them a single fossil. These are white, cylindrical and about 4mm in diameter. The fossils have been identified by C Wood and E Smith of the Geological Museum as almost certainly Belemnites *Neohibolites*. The source for these is in the Gault clay which runs in a narrow band at the foot of the North Downs to the north of the town. Normally these Belemnites are grey when found; no doubt they change to white when fired at a high temperature. No pottery kilns are yet known on the Gault clay in this part of Surrey.

Grey (figs 6, 7, 9, 10: 30, 39–41, 112–20) *and Black-Surfaced Grey Wares* (figs 7, 10: 43–4, 121–45)
Very few of the hard, grey sandy wares can be attributed with any certainty to the prolific production centre at Limpsfield (Prendergast 1974). An alternative source needs to be found for the majority of these wares and the suggestions made in the introduction to this section that some may come from Hertfordshire needs following up. Little can be said of the plain grey wares though rim forms such as 118–20 do not seem to occur with black surfaces. However, rim forms such as 114, 133, 136 etc are ubiquitous, occurring commonly in both wares. The same applies to the oval-sectioned jug handles and both these and the jug rims 128–30 are similar to some of the published pottery from Limpsfield. Substantial portions of a jug with a thumbed rod handle and a cooking pot in black-surfaced grey ware have recently been found at the Old Vicarage site (Williams 1981b). On both of these the surface colour is variable — indeed it can be difficult to distinguish between black-surfaced grey ware and grey ware with a darker surface, although the former is usually clearly defined and often has a reddish body which sometimes tinges the surface.

No bowls have been noted from this site in either ware, in contrast to Limpsfield where an estimated 10% of the production were bowls. Lids, however are more common in the black-surfaced ware (43, and also at the Old Vicarage). Decoration on the black-surfaced wares is

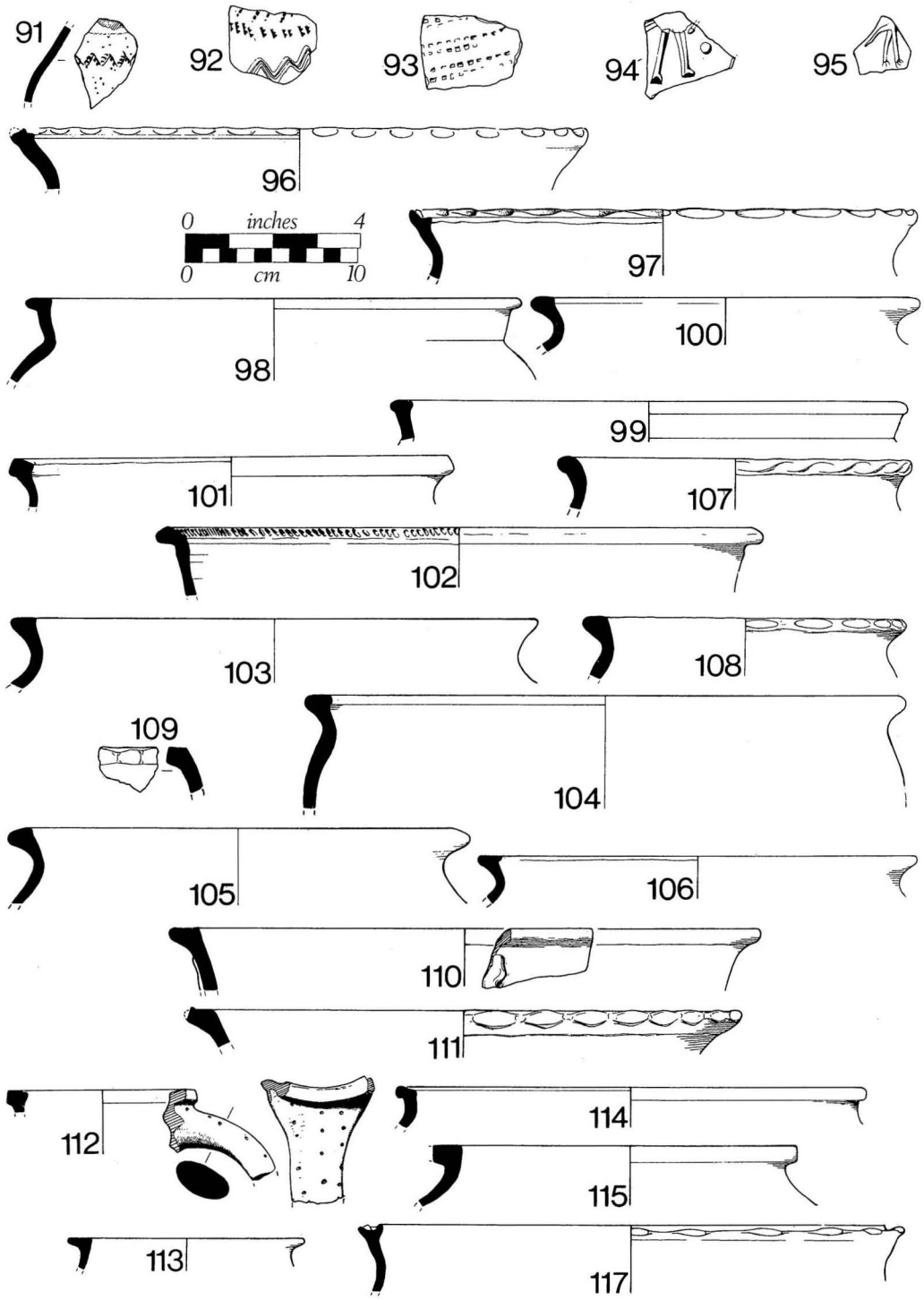

Fig 9 16 Bell Street. Medieval pottery, nos 91–115, 117

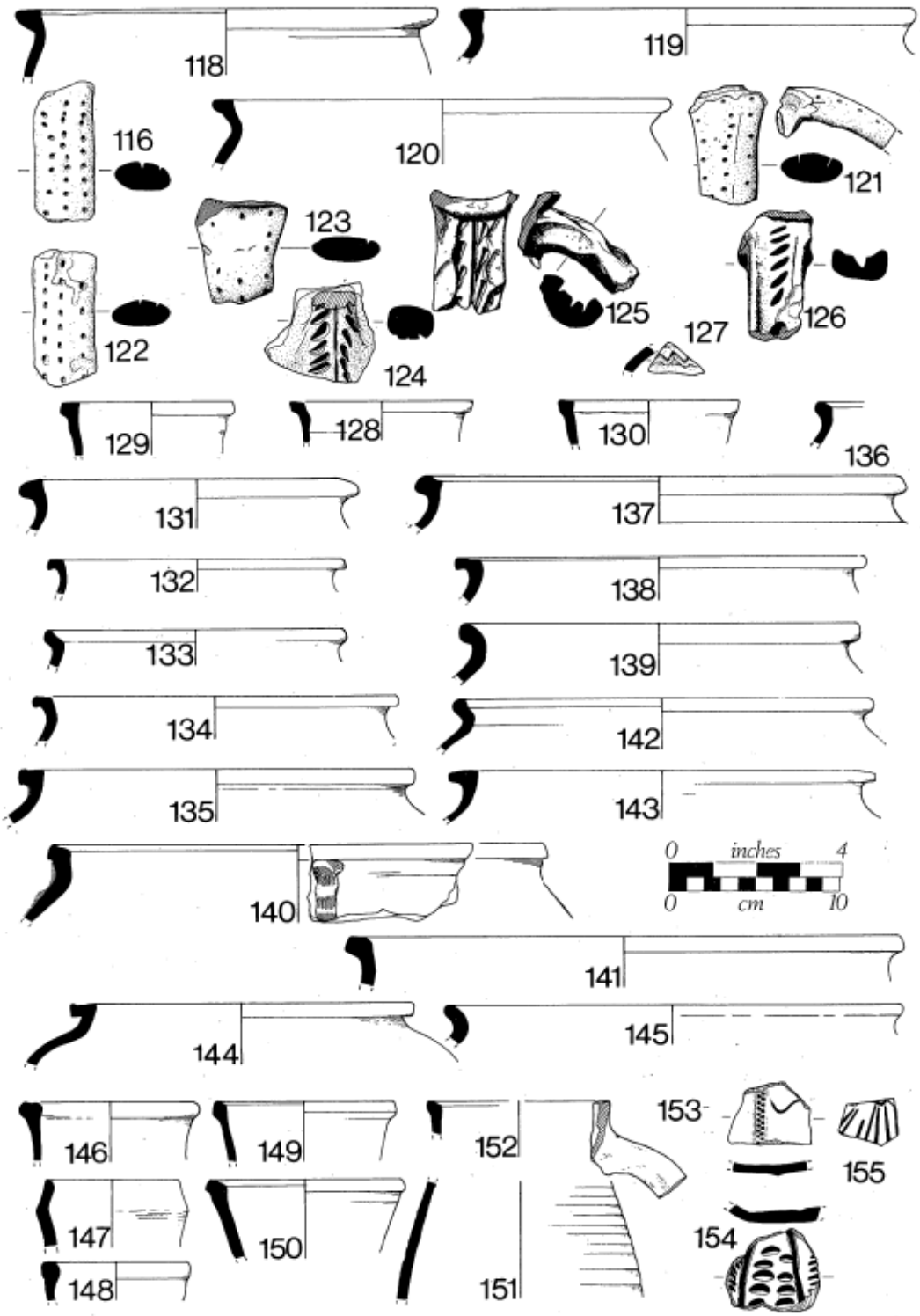

Fig 10 16 Bell Street. Medieval pottery, nos 116, 118–55

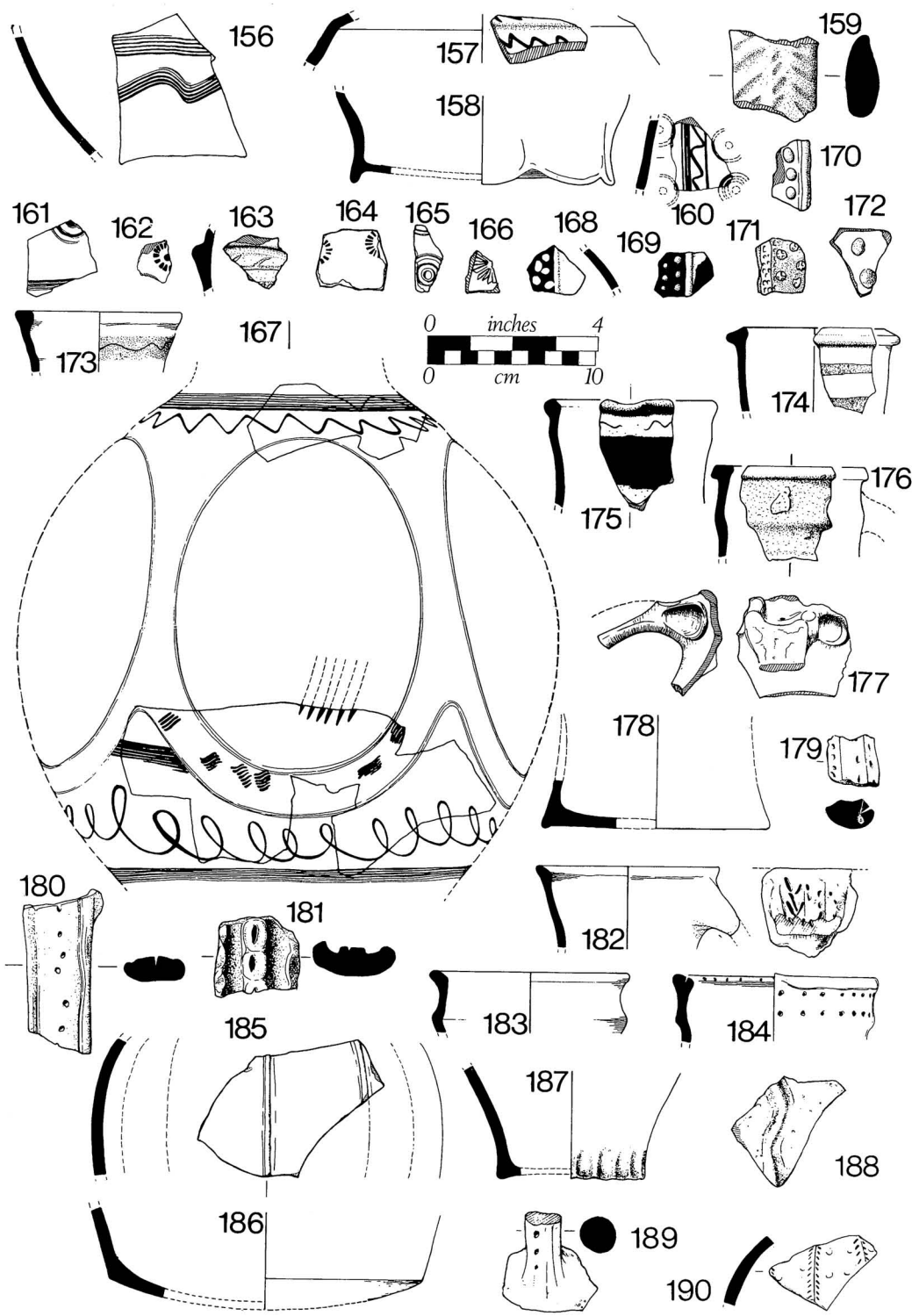

Fig 11 16 Bell Street. Medieval pottery, nos 156–90

uncommon and is confined to wavy lines on one flanged rim and also between grooves on the shoulder of a few cooking pots or jars, eg no 127. On jugs, the only decoration known to the writer is on a sherd from 77–9 Bell St (Williams 1979) where a groove runs spirally around the body. A more functional decoration is common on handles.

Cream-Slipped and Slip-Decorated Jugs (figs 6, 10, 11: 29, 31, 33, 36, 146–71, 173–5, 181)
Jugs, mostly in oxidised fabrics with cream slips under green glazes or with cream slip decoration are common throughout East Surrey and West Kent, also in London and Essex. They are also found in north Sussex (eg from Horsham, information from J Kirby). A kiln source has been located at Earlswood, just south-east of Reigate from which most of the excavated material could originate, but Turner argues for a short-lived kiln at Bushfield Shaw (Turner 1974b) and other unknown sources are also likely. This ware has in the past been referred to as 'West Kent ware' but it is suggested that the term 'Earlswood-type' ware is now more appropriate.

The sherds from 16 Bell Street bear a wide variety of decorative motifs including rouletting (153), impressed stamps (160–2, 164–6) and wavy and combed sgraffito lines (167 etc), all paralleled at Earlswood. 167 is a provisional reconstruction. The basal treatment on 158 is also typical of Earlswood material. There is also a number of small sherds (168–71) which imitate contemporary French jugs from the Rouen area (Barton 1965), of which 171 is a fine example.

Jug rims 173–5 are representative of a group of slip-decorated vessels on whose bodies the slip is often painted in a diaper pattern; again, these are probably from Earlswood. Jug 175 is reduced in contrast to the majority of slipped jugs which have oxidised surfaces. The only other vessel found with an underglaze slip is a pipkin (223) although a sherd from a highly-decorated dish was recently found at the Old Vicarage (Williams 1981b). Jugs 176, 178–80 are in similar oxidised fabrics but there is no evidence of an underglaze slip.

For jugs 172, 177, 182–92 see above under RBSG ware.

Surrey White Wares (fig 12: 193–207]
None of these wares were stratified and for this reason they have not been dealt with in detail here. Most of the material which can be drawn is illustrated. A number of different fabrics can, however, be identified, among which are a medium to fine, buff-surfaced, pink ware, often with a grey core, and a similar grey/buff surfaced, grey ware. No attempt has been made to show the relative proportions of these fabrics nor to suggest provenances — nos 195–6 may, however, be Cheam products.

The vessel types comprise jugs (193–6, 198), often with patches of green glaze on their upper parts and wide, deeply slashed strap handles; plain rod and 'kidney' section handles also occur; cooking-pots or jars (201–7), with flat, green-glazed bases and rims angled for lid seating or T-shaped; and probable lids (197, 199).

A few small sherds of Tudor green type cups and jugs are also present but are not illustrated.

Other Wares (figs 12, 13: 208–31)
Included here are oxidised sandy wares in the same fabric as the cream-slipped jug series alongside which they were produced in the Earlswood kiln and probably elsewhere. 214 and 216 are ubiquitous and representative of a number of similar sherds found. 228–30 are cauldron handles from vessels similar in form to 47. 223–4 are pipkins or skillets. Some of the others may be overfired examples of fabrics already discussed or may be post-medieval (eg 219 and 227). 231 is unidentified — a note from G C Dunning appears in the catalogue.

The Post-Medieval Pottery and Glass
Two groups are considered here; a small group of 16th century pottery from layer 20 (fig 13: 232–44) and a group of mid-18th century material (perhaps just after 1750) from the pit, feature 15 (figs 14, 15: 265–77). As with the medieval pottery, the remainder of the post-medieval material, unless the context is stated, came from layer 6 or from disturbed layers elsewhere.

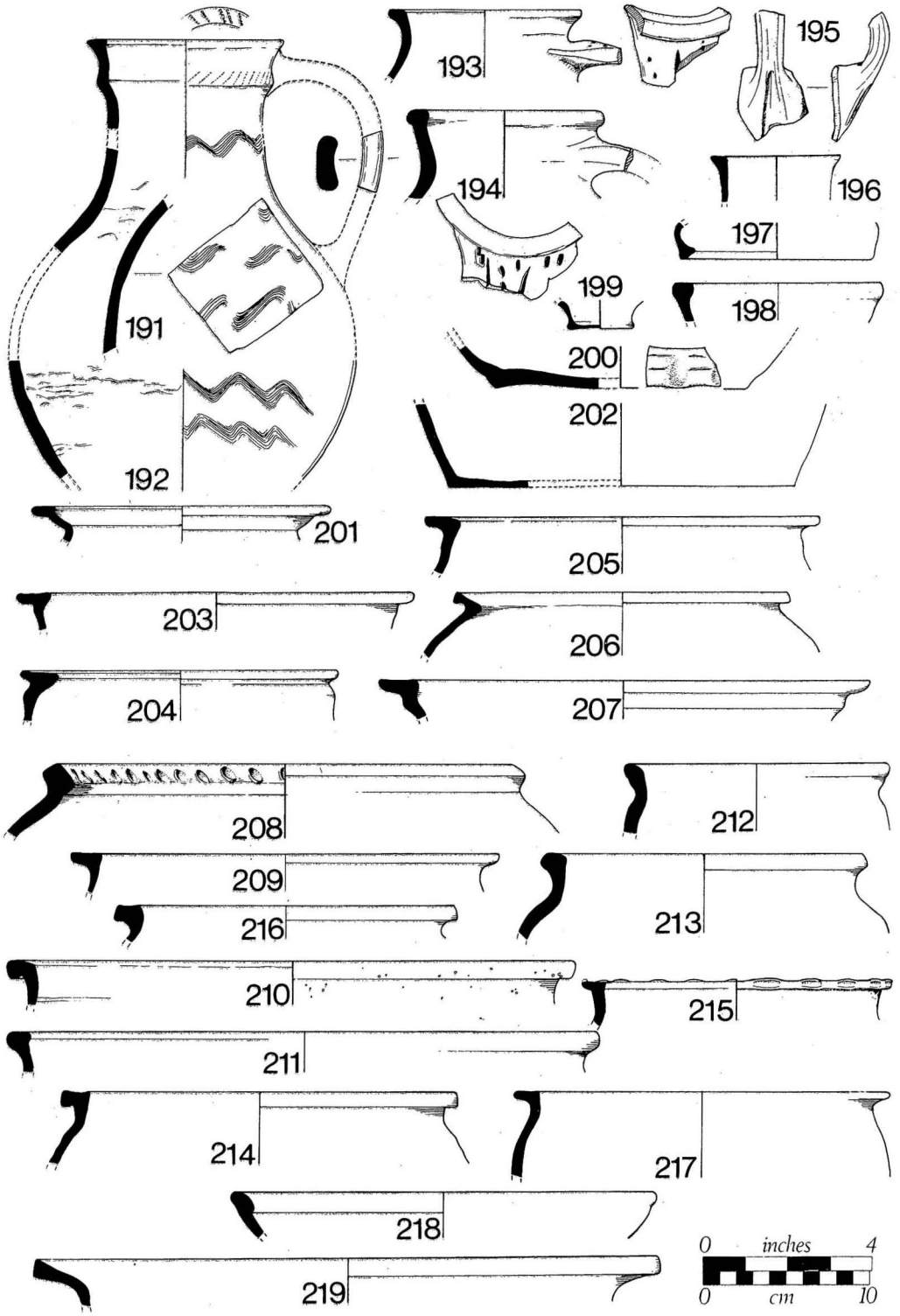

Fig 12 16 Bell Street. Medieval pottery, nos 191–219

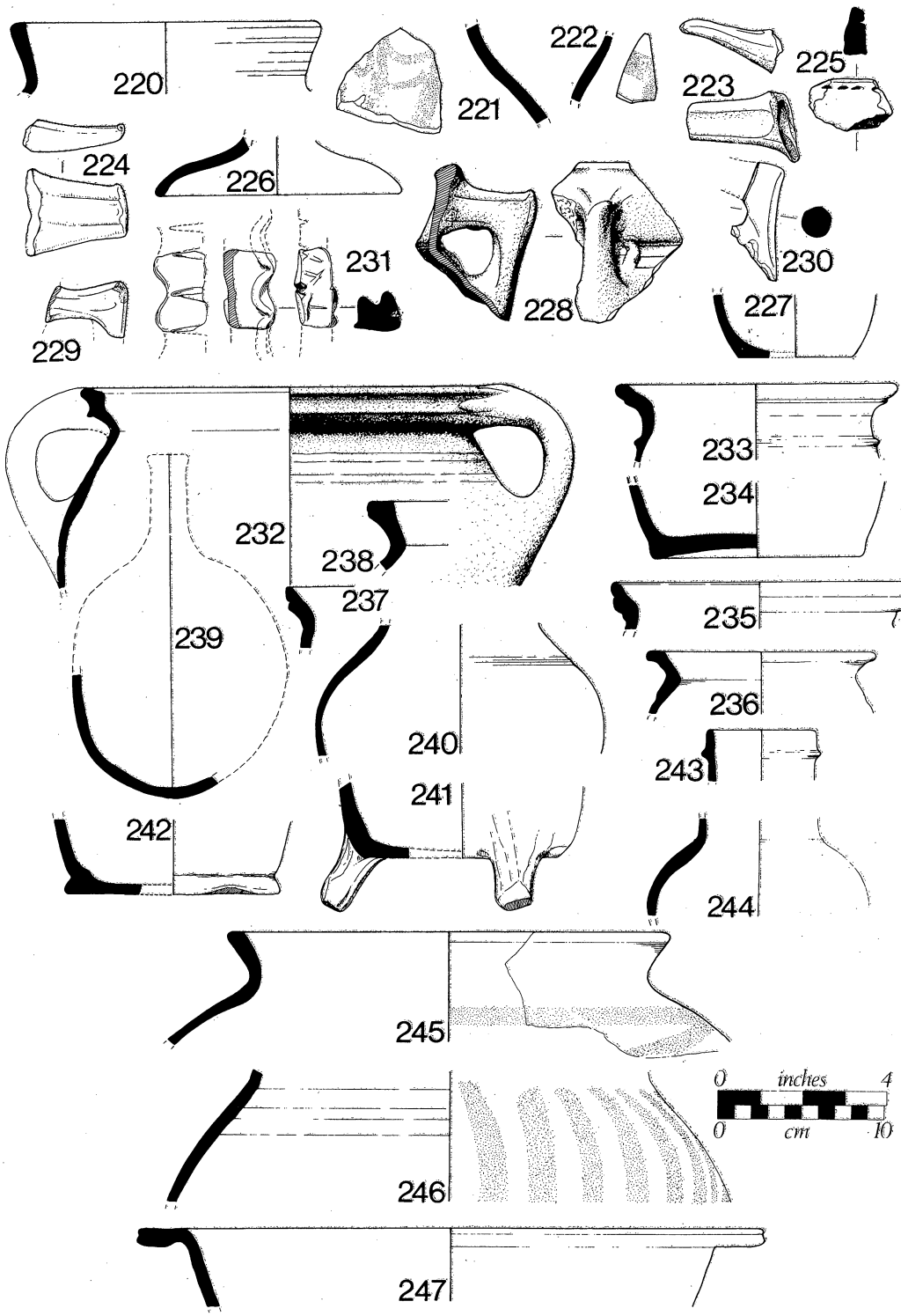

Fig 13 16 Bell Street. Medieval and post-medieval pottery, nos 220–47

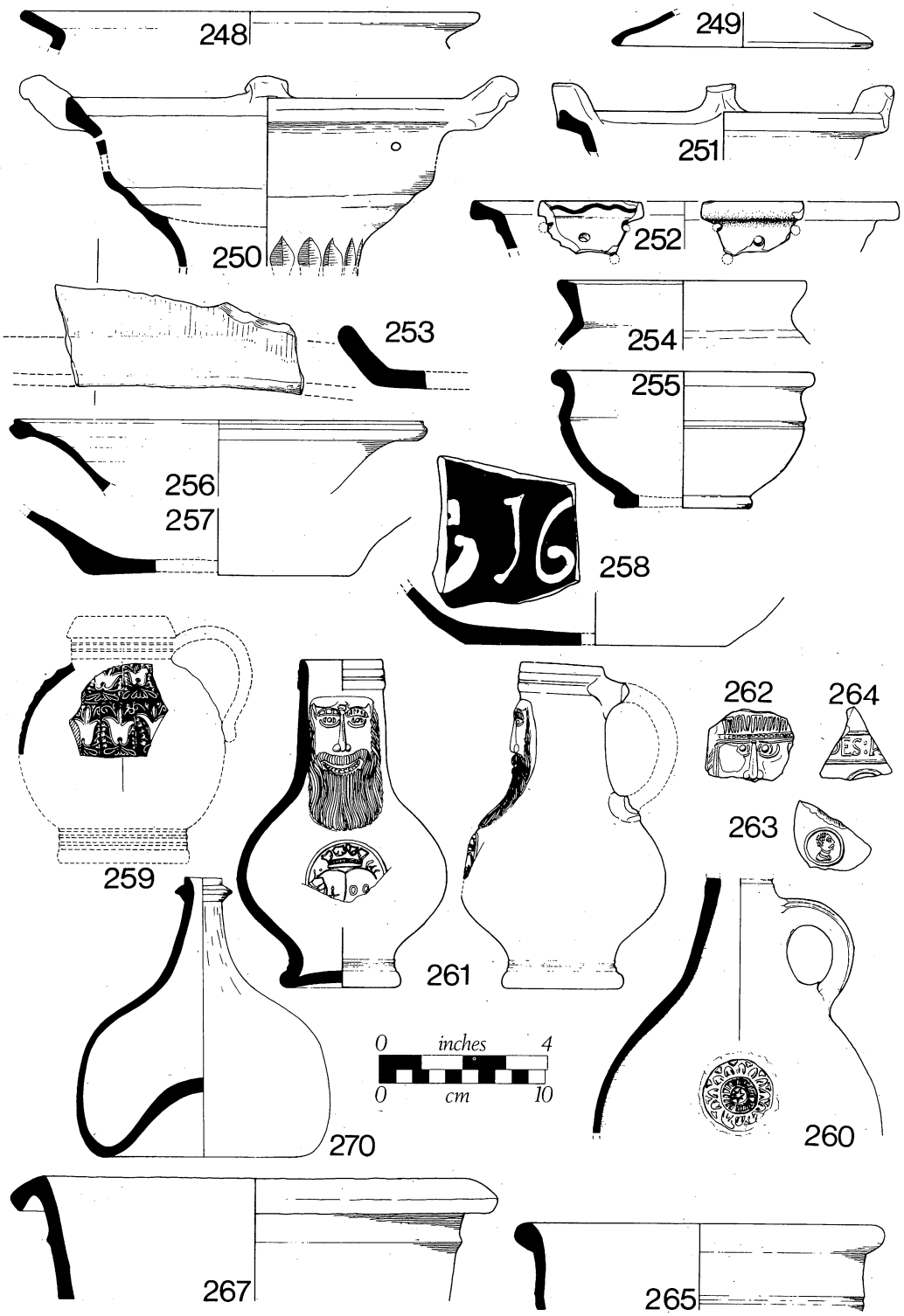

Fig 14 16 Bell Street. Post-medieval pottery and glass, nos 248–65, 267, 270

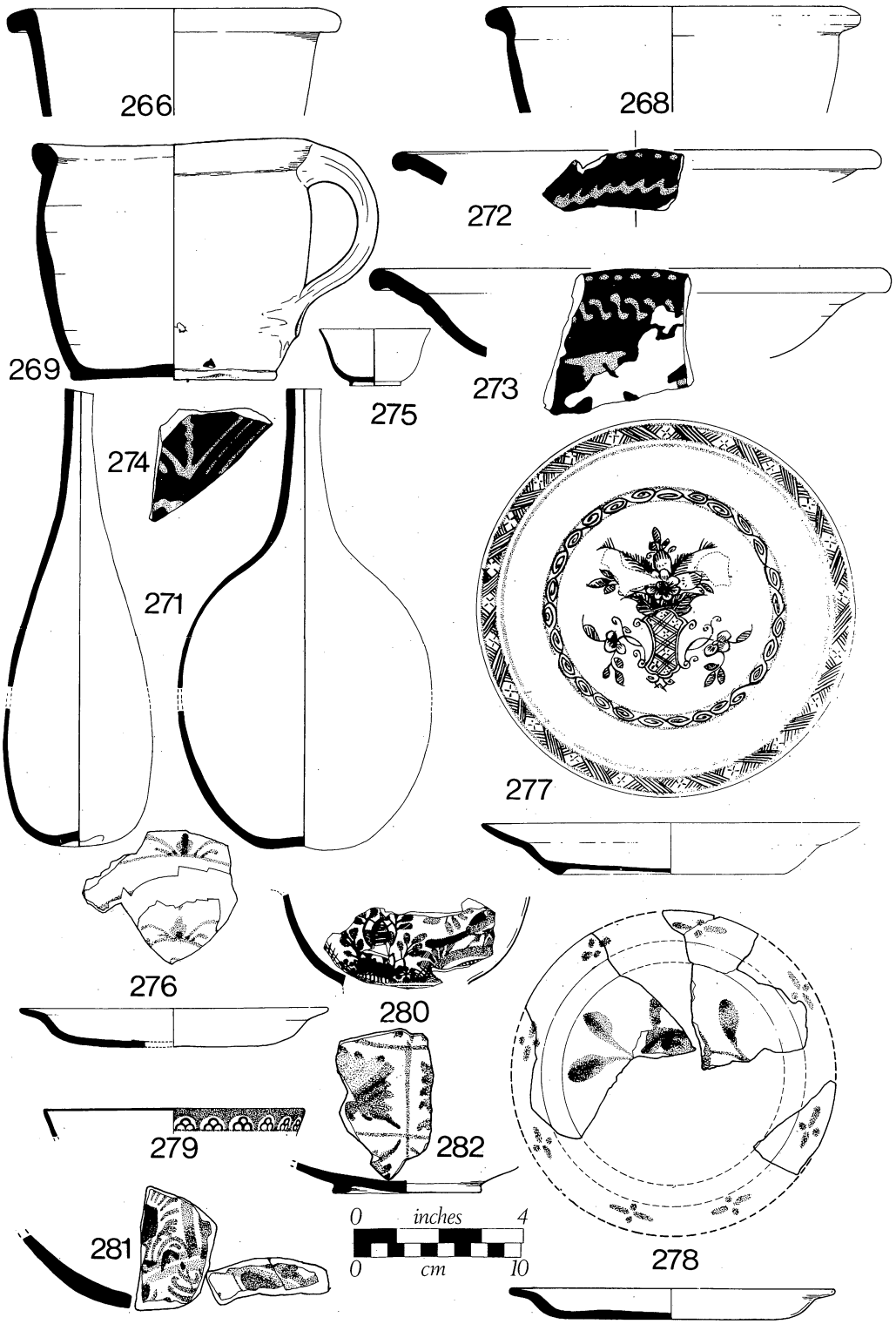

Fig 15 16 Bell Street. Post-medieval pottery and glass, nos 266, 268–9, 271–82

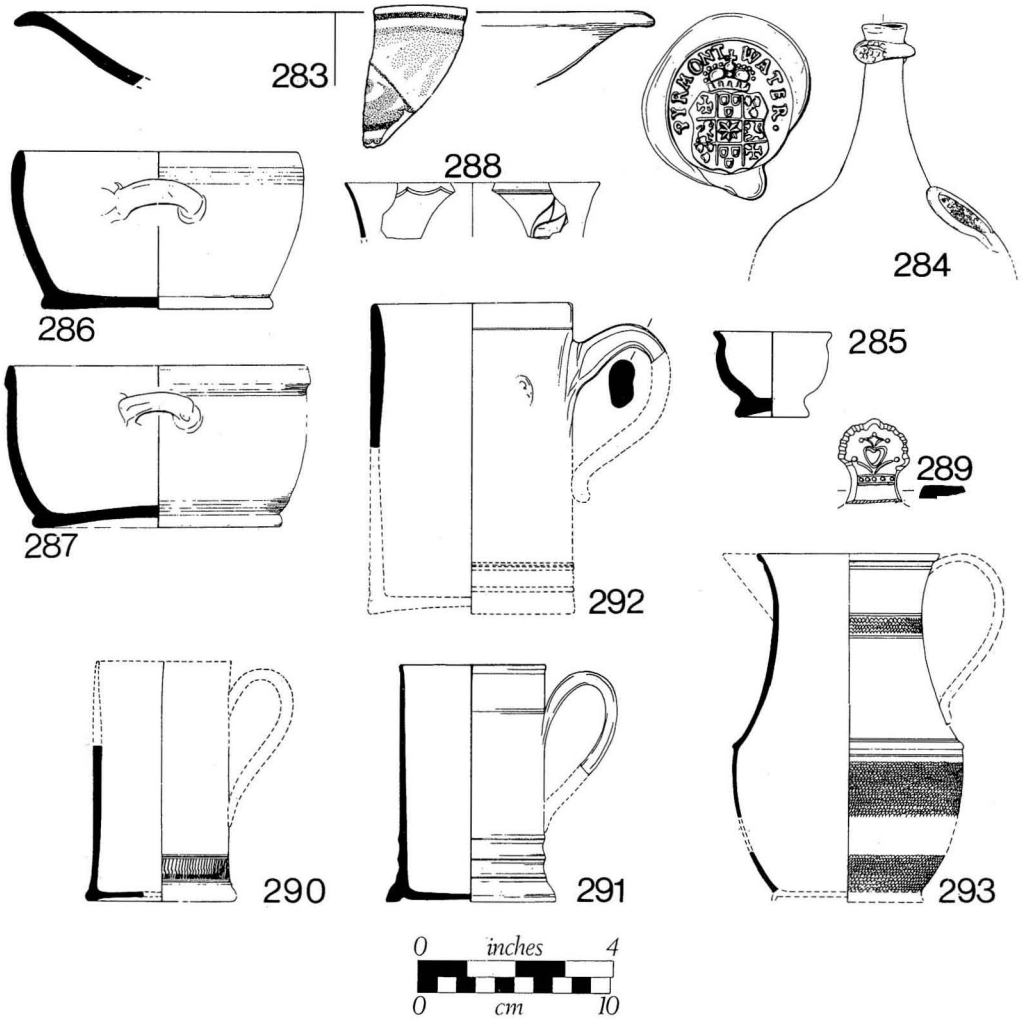

Fig 16 16 Bell Street. Post-medieval pottery and glass, nos 283–93

The contributions by Gale Canvin (stoneware), Graham Dawson and Brian Bloice (delftware), and Stephen Nelson are suffixed in the microfiche by their initials. Dawson and Bloice's original report refers to all the excavated delftware but only those parts relating to the illustrated material is presented here.

Group of Tudor Pottery from layer 20 by Stephen Nelson

The 16th century group from layer 20 comprised: coarse red earthenwares (in the majority); two sherds of Surrey white ware: imported German stoneware and a sherd from a flask. Some dozen sherds of medieval pottery and a small sherd of Tudor Green type fabric were residual.

This group contained no clay pipes or delftware and so was presumed to be 16th century, with a certain amount of residual material. The post-medieval red wares of south-east England are notoriously difficult to date with any precision; from the early 16th century they continue right through to the 19th century with very little significant fabric change and only a gradual development of form. Very limited work has been accomplished and few groups without outside dating evidence can be given dates closer than *c* 50 years. The red wares found here are very similar in fabric and their shapes do not allow dating closer than the 16th century. Some of the angular moulded rim forms may be paralleled with vessels found in the large group at Arundel House, (Hammerson 1975) and dated to the first half of the 16th century. The general lack of white wares suggest an early date as the floruit of the later Surrey white wares was in the later 16th century and early 17th. However, a continuity of production in Surrey is now more evident and the apparent lack may be a peculiarity of the deposit rather than non-availability of the type.

The imported flask 239 and German stoneware 243–4 also strengthen the case for a date later in the century. Hurst (1977) has described these globular necked flasks from Northern France — examples are now known from the village of Martincamp in Normandy — and his Type 3 is generally dated to the early 17th century. The Frechen stoneware jugs, characterised by their globular shape, tall upright rim and cordon around the neck/shoulder junction are known imports during the 16th and 17th century. Many remain in collections with hallmarked mounts dating between 1560 and 1600. The globular, rather than more ovoid forms are generally earlier in date.

Group of 18th-century Pottery and Glass from pit, feature 15 (figs 14, 15 : 265–77)

The evidence of the delftware plate 277 and the clay pipes suggest a date shortly after the middle of the 18th century for the group. See microfiche for detailed catalogue of this and the remaining material.

THE SMALL FINDS (fig 17)

Many of the small finds came from the built-up deposits of garden soil, layer 6. The suggested dating is therefore only tentative.

Stone

1 Whetstone. Length 107mm. This has been examined by F G Dimes of the Geological Museum who comments as follows:
'This specimen is determined as a mica-quartz schist and is of a character not dissimilar to Ellis's Group 1A(1) (Ellis 1969). The source locality for honestones of this type is demonstrated as being Eidsborg, Telemark, central southern Norway'.
Probably 13th century. (Layer 12)

2 Whetstone fragment. Length 57mm. Of similar material to 1. Probably 13th century (not illustrated).

Copper alloy

3 Bronze strip. Bent to form 3 sides with pointed ends. Length 34mm, 2mm thick. Probably 13th century. (Layer 12)

4 Strip of folded bronze. Length 73mm, max thickness 5mm. (Pit 1)
5 ? Part of small decorative handle. Length 35mm, 1.5mm thick. Probably post-medieval.
6 Pierced, hemispherical object. Diam 14mm. Probably medieval.
7 Lace tag. Length 17mm. (Layer 28, clay floor)
8 Lace tag. Length 23mm.
9 Lace tag. Length 36mm. (Layer 29)
10 Pins. 13 examples found. Min length 22mm, max length 32mm.
11 Bronze weight, stamped with figures XVI. This was examined by Michael Dolley, who comments that the weight is non-numismatic and is probably an apothecaries weight. Probably 16th century. (Layer 20)
12 Strip of cut copper. Length 43mm, 1mm thick. Probably post-medieval.
13 ? Inkwell cover. Probably 17th or 18th century.
14 Part of a tube. Faint floral decoration visible. Probably post-medieval.
15 Fragment of a decorated spur. Length 55mm, 3mm thick. This was submitted to Mrs Blanche Ellis who comments:
'The spur fragment comprises part of one side with terminal. D section side with 'figure of eight' terminal. The side decorated with a free pattern of foliage incised, with finely punched textured ground, the terminal and inner surface plain. The whole gilded. From a spur of very fine quality. The gentle curve of the side and the style of decoration suggest that it dates from the first half of the 17th century. There is a complete spur with incised decoration in the Royal Museum, Canterbury'.

Lead

16 Lead or pewter rod with triangular section and inscription. Length 32mm, 4mm thick. This has been examined by Brian Spencer who comments:
'My first thought was that this might be from the stem of a late medieval spoon. The lower ends (nearest the bowl) are often triangular in section and of about the same weight, though they are rarely as clean-cut as this fragment, and I cannot recall ever seeing an inscribed spoon. It is, in fact the inscription that leads me to think that it is more likely to have belonged to an article of personal adornment, such as the pin from a large pin-brooch. Many pilgrim badges and other lead and pewter trinkets of a devotional sort are inscribed with saints' names and the like and, as often as not, they are heavily abbreviated and inverted.

The inscription reads SAN : SVS . . . it may require the eye of faith to discern the final S, but I cannot read it any other way. I would, for example, have preferred to read a D or an A, giving a possible SANCTVM SVDARIUM or SAINTE SVAIRE, both of them inscriptions that one might expect to encounter and standing for the holy sudary or veronica at Rome (and elsewhere), which lay at the centre of a tremendous cult in the later Middle Ages.

However, given SAN : SVS, I can only suggest a possible extension to SANCTA : SVSANNA. There were three or four saints of this name, all of them pretty obscure. The only one of any popular significance was the Susanna martyred in the reign of Diocletian and subsequently buried in what is now the church of Santa Susanna in Rome. It is just possible, therefore, that this object is part of a pilgrim souvenir brought back by someone who had done the tour of holy places in Rome. I can only suggest this very tentatively as there is so little to go on.'
17 Irregularly-shaped strip of ? lead. Length 54mm, 1.5mm thick. Probably post-medieval.

Iron

18 Padlock spring. Length 58mm. (Pit 1)
19 Buckle pin. Length 52mm. (Pit 1)

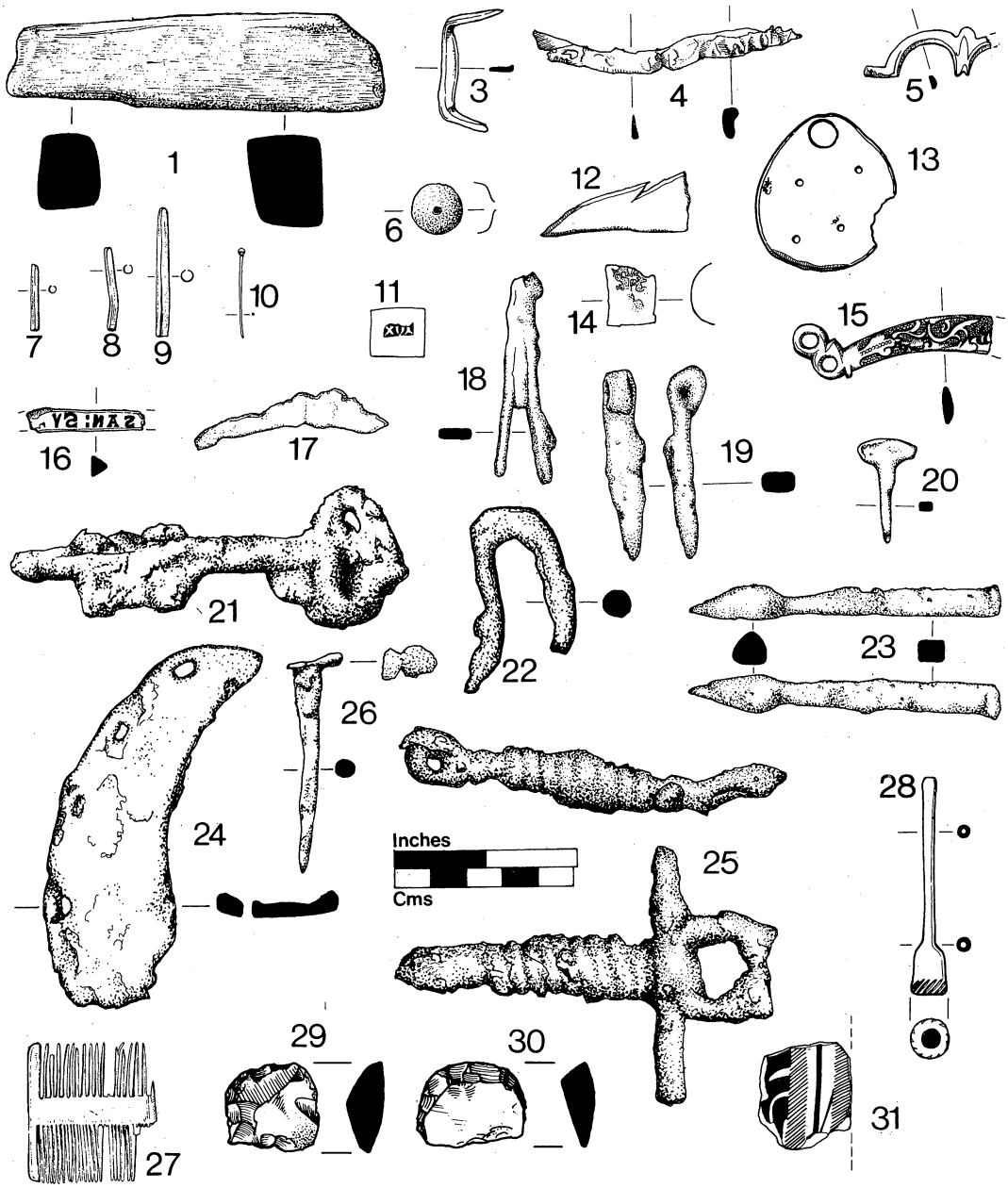

Fig 17 16 Bell Street. Small finds, nos 1–31

20 Horseshoe nail. Length 28mm. Probably 13th century. (Layer 13).
21 Key. Heavily corroded. Length 110mm. Probably 13th century. (Layer 11)
22 ? Staple. Length 50mm. (Layer 14)
23 Iron object. Length 85mm.
24 Ox shoe. Length 108mm, 4mm thick. Probably post-medieval.
25 Snaffle bit. Length 105mm. Probably 13th century. (Layer 11)
26 Nail. 'Figure of eight' head. Length 58mm. (One of a number from pit 1)

Bone
27 Comb. Width 38mm. 17th century. (Feature 12)
28 Unidentified bone object. Probably 19th century

Flints
Other than the Mesolithic tranchet axe (see below, and fig 18), a total of 32 pieces of struck flint were recovered during the excavation, all from disturbed levels. Apart from three long blades and a core suggestive of Mesolithic work, the industry as a whole is undiagnostic. Included among these pieces were two gun flints or strike-a-lights.
29 Gun flint. Mid eighteenth century. (Pit feature 15)
30 Gun flint.

Fossils
The following fossils were found unstratified in Trenches 2 and 3 with medieval material above the natural sand. They have been identified by John Cape.

Micraster Corangiunum an irregular echinoid of bilateral symmetry with an ambulateral area almost like the petals of a flower. Upper Cretaceous; North Downs.

Bryozoa Corelioecia Neocomiensis. Pliocene; North Downs.

Glass
31 Fragment of painted window glass (colour indistinguishable). Probably 13th century.

Coins by Martin Roth
1 Elizabeth I
Fifth issue silver 6d. Dated 1592
Clipped to remove all lettering
Reverse: plain shield with cross fourchy

2 William and Mary
Copper halfpenny. Dated 1694
Reverse: Britannia

3 George II
18th century imitation regal farthing
Obverse legend: GEORGE RULES
Reverse legend: BRITAIN'S ISLE

4 Nuremberg ship jeton.
Probably late 16th century
Reverse: Orb
Fictitious legends

5 Nuremberg jeton by Hanns Krauwinckel
Late 16th century

Reverse: Crowns and fleurs de lys
Legend: GOTES REICH etc

All unstratified in layer 6 except no 4 which was intrusive within layer 13.

Mesolithic Axe Fragment (fig 18)

This was found in a brown, sandy layer overlying the natural sand in trench 1, just outside the south-east corner of the robber trench. It was in a disturbed position with 13th century material. The axe was submitted to Clive Bonsall who supplied the drawing and comments:

'This is a substantial fragment of a transversely-sharpened or 'tranchet' axe, broken at the butt end. The break is clearly not a recent one. Typically, the cutting edge has been formed by the removal of a flake transversely from one side. Both the cutting edge and the proximal edge and the proximal break bear traces of relatively recent chipping damage.

The axe is of grey-brown flint, which now has a dense cream patina. Some cortex remains on one face; while both faces show heavy brown staining. The surviving length is 95mm. The maximum width is 54mm; and the maximum thickness is 33mm.

Axes of this type are particularly characteristic of Mesolithic industries in south-east England.'

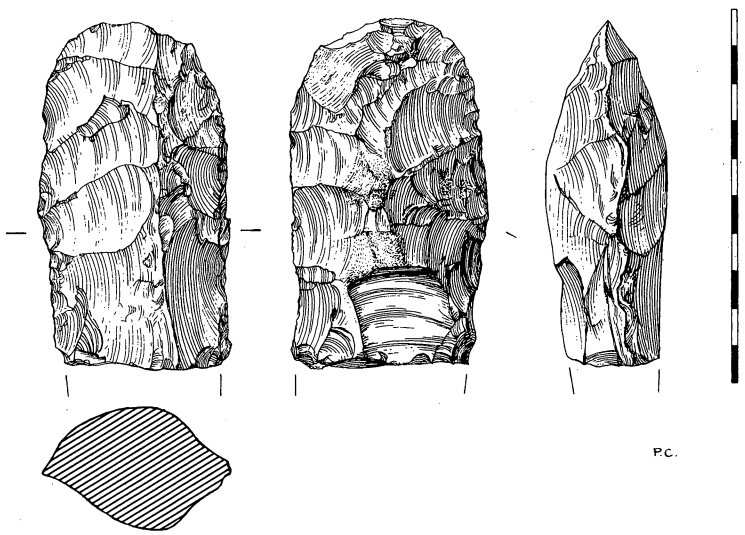

Fig 18 16 Bell Street. Mesolithic tranchet axe. Scale in cm.

The Equatorial Sundial (fig 19)

Four fragments of what may have been an equatorial sundial were found along with other rough blocks surrounding the skeleton of a horse in trench 3. A date in the 16th century was suggested with caution for this burial, but the dial could well be earlier.

The dial is divided into 24 segments by equally spaced grooves, bordered by two concentric grooves, forming a circle 210mm in diameter. At one point the circle is interrupted by a line protruding beyond it. The circle is further divided into quadrants by short lines set at right-angles to each other, some 25mm from the circle's outer edge.

The dial is carved on a 10 to 12mm thin slab of buff, close-grained sandstone. There are traces of mortar adhering to the bottom.

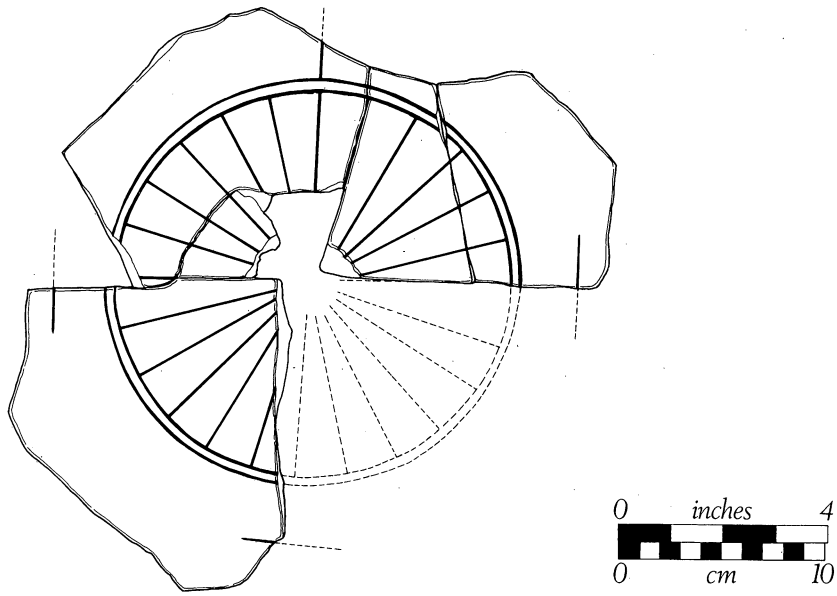

Fig 19 16 Bell Street. Equatorial sundial.

The object was submitted to B Hutchinson of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities at the British Museum who discussed its significance with F Ward, who confirms that the object is an equatorial dial. They comment:

'The 24 hour lines are equally spaced at 15° angles; in use, the dial was probably mounted on a pedestal so that its surface was parallel to the plane of the equator. A central style (now missing) would have been fitted perpendicular to the surface, and pointing to the north celestial pole. Such dials, when placed north of the equator, will only indicate the time during the summer months between the spring and autumn equinoxes. In winter, no shadow is cast unless the style is extended through the dial, which must then be divided on its lower surface in a corresponding manner.

These simple equatorial dials are most uncommon. The most famous surviving examples occur on the Ponte Vecchio, Florence (dating from about AD 1300), and that held by the statue of a youth on the wall of Strassburg Münster (about AD 1240). There is little doubt that others have survived but there appears to be no recognised reference to them. The derivative dials, namely the vertical and horizontal dials, can be used throughout the year and are obviously more convenient for this reason. There seems to be no reason why this dial should not date from the 16th century, depending on the evidence of the associated archaeological material.

One further point is worth mentioning. The surviving fragments suggest that the object was octagonal in shape, but there is no evidence to show how the hour numerals were depicted. Some later stone dials of other forms have survived, and these appear to have been painted, although the numerals are incised in the same way as the hour times. Naturally, without the evidence of such numerals, there is always the possibility that we have incorrectly identified the object as a sundial, but I think that we have made a reasonable assumption.'

The dial was subsequently examined under ultra-violet illumination and also by means of reflected infra-red illumination by W A Oddy. No traces of painted numbers or inscriptions were revealed by either method of examination.

THE ANIMAL BONES (See Microfiche 38)

Summary

The well-preserved, mainly fragmentary bone collection examined by Geraldene Done (and deriving, as far as could be judged, from medieval contexts) contained some noteworthy features. Virtually complete skeletons of an ox and a horse were found along with more fragmentary remains of these and other domestic species: pig, sheep/goat, dog and domestic chicken. In addition ferret/polecat, fallow deer, goose, raven and a finch-size carpo-metacarpus were identified. A sieved sample from pit 1 produced fragments of amphibian bone, an eel vertebra and a second, unidentified, fish vertebra.

The distribution of fragments is summarised in table 4. The following minimum numbers were deduced:-

Horse 2; ox 5; sheep 7; pig 5.

Two mandibles of both adult and young polecat/ferret were recovered — this animal is normally conspicuous by its absence from the archaeological record (pls 7–9).

No firm evidence of disease was found but one bovine dental abnormality was noted.

The horse (feature 10) which was complete save for the entire right fore-limb is estimated to have been about 7 years old, the ox (feature 14) about 18 months.

Plate 7 16 Bell Street. Adult ferret/polecat mandible, lateral view.

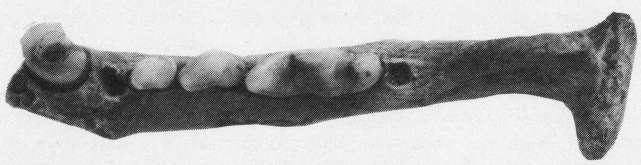

Plate 8 16 Bell Street. Adult ferret/polecat mandible, seen from above.

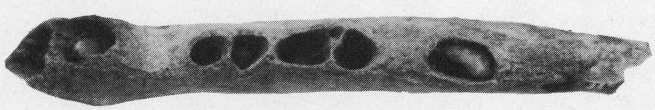

Plate 9 16 Bell Street. Juvenile ferret/polecat mandible, seen from above. Permanent teeth visible in crypts.

Scale in mm.

THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPES (See Microfiche 49)

Summary

Clay pipes for all periods from *c* 1615–1880 were recovered and examined by D Higgins. The earliest marked pipes are those of Lawrence Geale of Guildford (working 1689–1731). The supply then seems to have switched to Dorking (George Thornton I & II) until *c* 1823. From *c* 1760–90 fine bowls with relief heart marks, sometimes accompanied by dots are found. The site yielded 29 examples of these, (eight from pit feature 15) and their general distribution suggests that Reigate may well have been their production centre. In the 19th century Croydon became the centre of supply, reflecting the introduction of rail transport.

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