

# Report on Excavations at Brookside, Bridge Road and off Half Moon Street, Bagshot, Surrey

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with contributions by J H Jillings and P R G Stokes

*Trial excavations at Brookside, Bridge Road, in advance of redevelopment during 1982 and at Half Moon Street in 1983 provided the first indications of intact archaeological stratigraphy beneath Bagshot village and provided evidence for occupation during the late medieval and post-medieval periods.*

## Introduction and Acknowledgements

Attention was first drawn, in 1982, to the potential for archaeological excavation in Bagshot by J H Jillings, then research officer of the Bagshot Society. By the kind permission of Surrey Heath Borough Council and Kingcraig Construction Ltd, two small areas were opened on the site of Brookside, Bridge Road, Bagshot prior to its demolition and redevelopment for housing for the elderly. Thereafter followed a series of rescue excavations (the subject of later reports due to the quantity of excavated items) together with the opportunity to open a small area off Half Moon Street, Bagshot by the kind permission of the then owner, Mr Proctor.

Both excavations were undertaken by members of the Bagshot Society and the former Surrey Heath Group of Surrey Archaeological Society under the direction of the author, and the post-excavation analysis by members of the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust. All work was entirely funded by the Bagshot Society, the former Surrey Heath Group of Surrey Archaeological Society and the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust.

Throughout this report the reference numbers 82/01 areas A and B are applicable to the excavations at Brookside and 83/05 to the excavation off Half Moon Street.

The finds, excluding items forming parts of reference/comparative collections, will be deposited at Surrey Heath Museum, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey together with all excavation records and post-excavation documentation. Duplicate records and documentation will be held at the Archaeology Centre in Bagshot, together with the reference/comparative and educational collections, all of which will be available for inspection by appointment with the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust.

The accession numbers at Surrey Heath Museum will be:

Brookside, Bridge Road, Bagshot, Surrey – SHM/2000  
Half Moon Street, Bagshot, Surrey – SHM/2001

## Geology and Topography

The excavated sites were located on the Bagshot Series, which in this area includes thin lenses of iron-pan and gravels overlying glauconite (Greensand) and pockets of sand and clay, close to the Windle Brook on fairly level ground at approximately + 61.00 OD.

## Historical Research

### BAGSHOT

The name from which Bagshot is probably derived occurs in 1165 as 'Bachesheta' or 'Bagsheta', in 1204 as 'Bacsete' and in 1253 as 'Baggeshete'. The first element of the word may have been a personal name ie 'Bacga' and the second element is 'sceat' (OE: meaning angle, corner or strip of land) (Eedle 1977).

The Gough map of the mid-14th Century shows Bagshot but not located on one of the marked roads. It is generally accepted that such places were located on one of the important but unmarked roads which, in the case of Bagshot, was probably the route from Windsor to Winchester passing through Farnham. At this date the Great West Road from London to Exeter was routed through Kingston, Guildford, Farnham and Winchester and it was probably not until the early Tudor period that the main western route was through Staines, Bagshot, Basingstoke and Andover to Salisbury. In 1571 Bagshot was shown in a French *Guide de Chemins* as a stage on this road from London to Exeter via Basingstoke (Darby 1969, 342, fig 64). Norden's map (1607) of Bagshot Park (fig 2) shows the ribbon development of Bagshot to both sides of the Great West Road with the road to Windsor branching off by the Park. Over 30 buildings are shown in the village including a small structure on the site of Brookside, Bridge Road and a much larger courtyard building near the site off Half Moon Street.

### *Brookside*

The building, deriving its name by being positioned to the east of and close by the Windle Brook, was located near to the Bagshot bridge built by the Bedfont and Bagshot Turnpike Trust in 1768. This bridge may have replaced an earlier structure over the Windle Brook although none is shown on Norden's map. It is thought unlikely that the building demolished in 1982 was the same as shown on Norden's map.

### *Site off Half Moon Street*

The site was located adjacent to the area occupied by the large courtyard building shown on Norden's map as fronting the High Street with two wings extending in westward directions. This building may now be identified, in part, as nos 75-9 High Street and in 1549 it was described as 'le Bell in Bagshot with its shops . . .' (CPR 1548-9, 414). The structure, of which five and a half bays remain, was probably of 15th century date, built in the traditional local manner of a timber frame on undressed sarsen sandstone footings with a continuous jetty fronting the High Street. The jettying, which can clearly be seen in a water colour painting by John Hassell of 1824 (Batley & Moss 1984, 45, item 823 - wrongly ascribed to Windlesham), has since been masked by the forward construction of a ground floor brickwork wall to obtain more floor area and to strengthen the front wall of the building. By 1725 the 'Bell' had been renamed the 'Rose and Crown'; at this time Edward Greentree paid church rates on an inn of that name (Eedle 1977) located (as it is) opposite the Three Mariners. The building had been sub-divided by the 1780s and was no longer in use as an inn.

Half Moon Street did not exist in 1607, according to Norden's map, nor in 1771, according to John Rocque's map of Surrey, but by 1813, the date of the *Plan of the Parish of Windlesham in the County of Surrey as divided and inclosed by Act of Parliament* the street is clearly seen in its original crescent shape (CPR 1548-9, 414; Darby 1969).

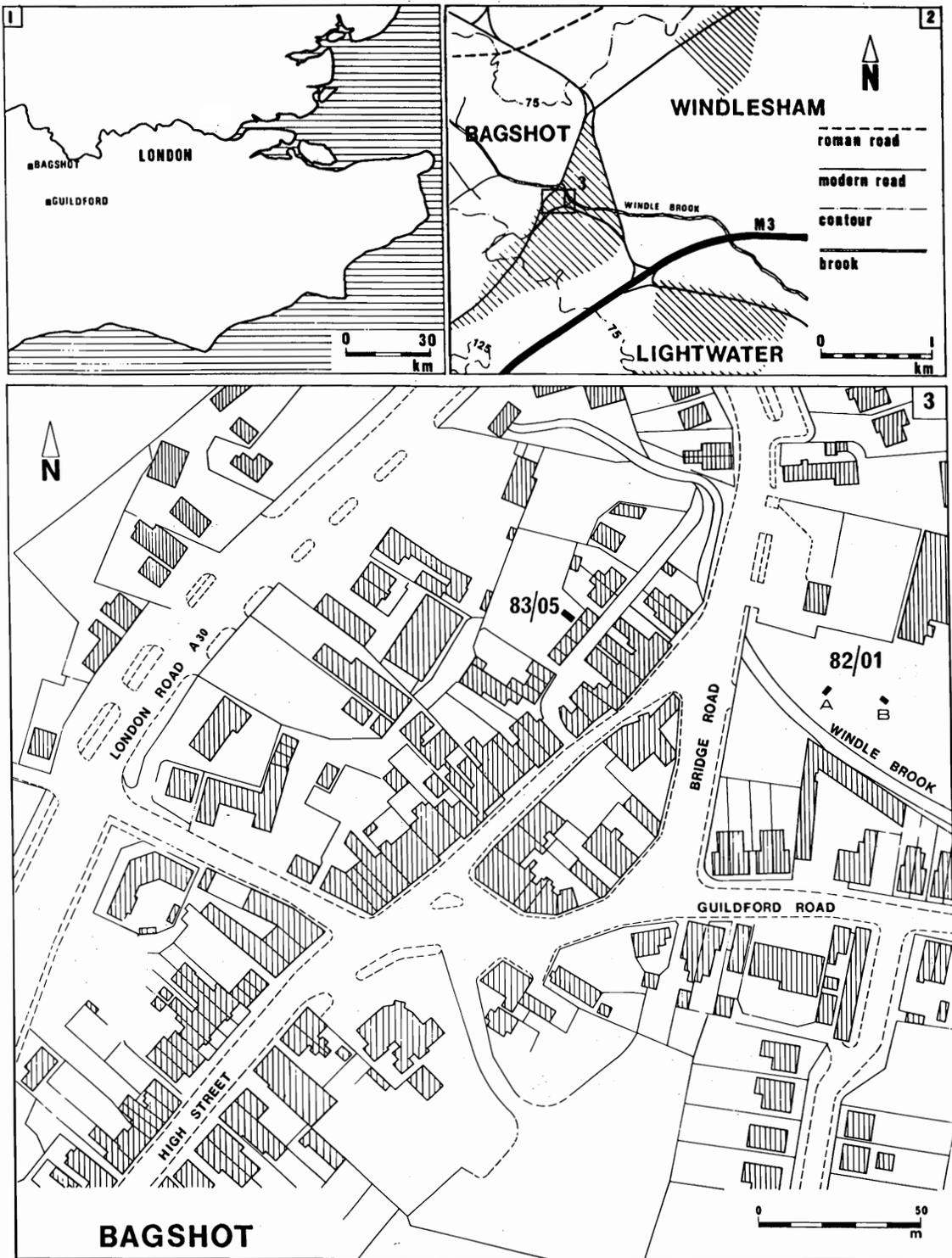


Fig 1. Bagshot village central area and location maps

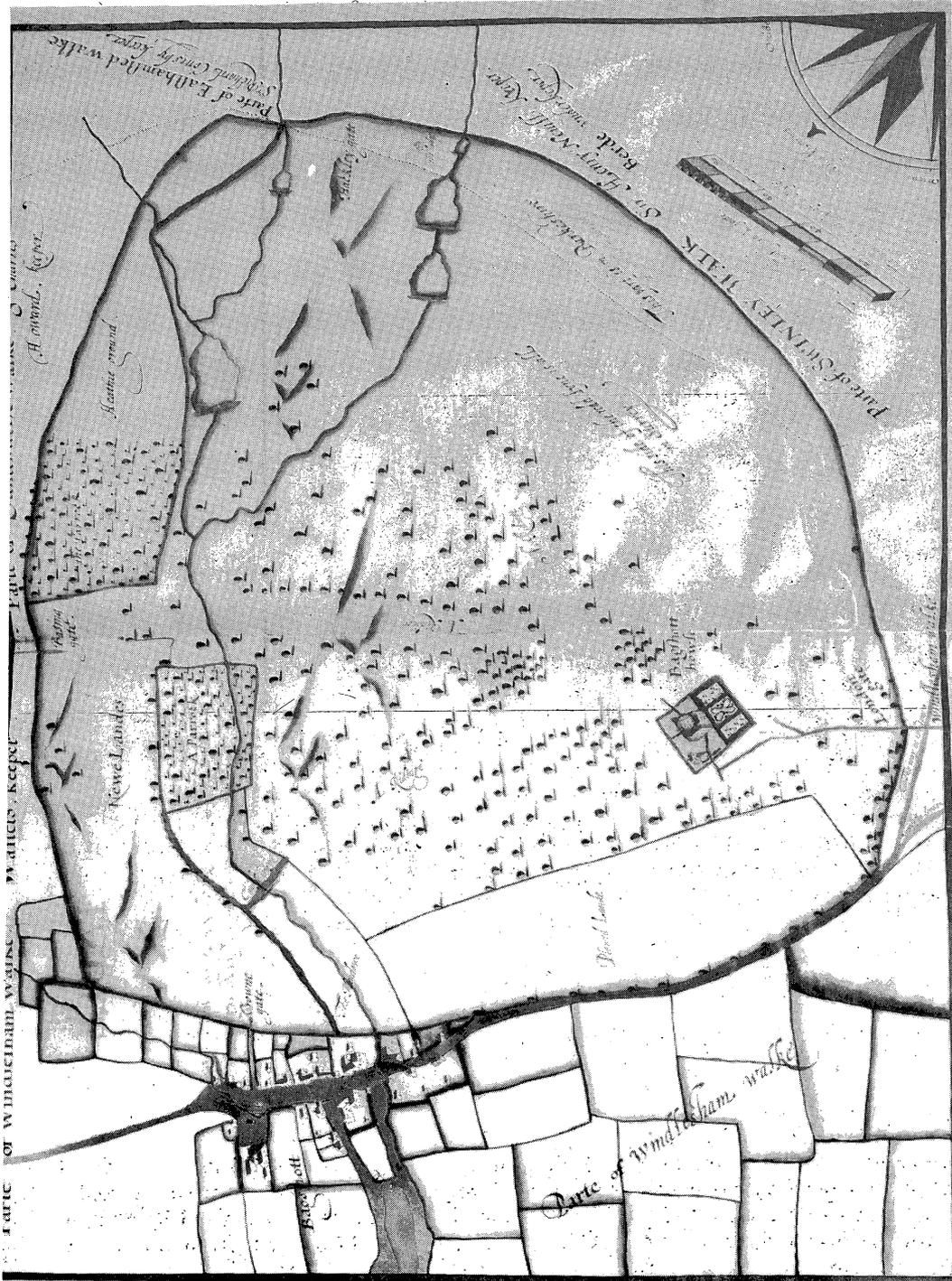


Fig 2. The village of Bagshot as depicted by John Norden in 1607 (© Windsor Castle Library, 1990, Her Majesty The Queen)

## The Excavations

### BROOKSIDE

Area A (fig 3) revealed an artificially constructed heaped linear pathway of orange/yellow gravel (4) extending alongside the Windle Brook and overlying the natural greensand (10). The side ditches were filled with grey silty clay (9) which had accumulated during the period c1620-1660. The build-up of contexts (2) a yellow/grey sandy soil, (3) a dark grey silty sand and (1) a grey sandy soil are thought to be largely due to flooding by the Windle Brook. By this stratigraphy and the dateable materials contained therein, it is apparent that the pathway was out of use by c1660.

Area B (fig 3) revealed the natural orange gravel (4) overlying greensand (10). Context (5) a grey sandy soil deposited by the flooding of the Windle Brook, was cut by pits (6) and (8) and a shallow gully or root line (7). Material from pits (6) indicate a date of later than c1660 and from context (5) a deposition date of c1620-1660.

From the evidence it seems likely that the area occupied by Brookside was especially liable to flooding between c1620 and 1660 and that the contents of pits (6) relate to the building that was demolished in 1982 and not that shown on Norden's map of 1607.

### SITE OFF HALF MOON STREET

Context (9) of orange gravel (fig 3) represented the natural surface within the area excavated. Sarsen sandstone wall foundations, built on the natural surface, had been considerably disturbed by the installation of a brick constructed drain (5) but sufficient evidence remained to identify the corner of a building. Items from the wall backfillings of dirty yellow sandy soil (2) suggested a construction date for the wall of c1600-1650. Contexts (6) and (8), consisting of dark grey sand and tile rubble, backfilled the drainage construction hollow. Although containing residual material from the wall backfilling (2), they could be dated to c1680-1750. The post hole (7) was probably of contemporary date and connected with the building. Pit (4) filled with dark grey sandy soil was dated to the 19th century and underlay a brick and tile rubble path (3) which had been partially constructed over the demolished building foundations. This path was bounded on the south-eastern side by a bank of yellow clayey sand.

It is likely that the sarsen sandstone wall foundations related to a rear extension to the Bell Inn which had been demolished by c1750. The brick drain, being parallel to the buildings shown fronting Half Moon Street on the Inclosure Plan of 1813, is thought likely to have served the inn.

## The Finds

*Catalogues of non-illustrated glass, building material, metalwork and small finds are on Microfiche 11-13.*

### THE POTTERY (figs 4, 5)

The assemblages, dating from the late 16th century to the mid-19th century, consisted largely of vessels of probably local manufacture, together with representative examples from kiln sites at Ash (Holling 1969), Cove (Haslam 1975) and Farnborough Hill (Holling 1971). With the exception of contexts A/2, A2i, A/2ii, A9, B5 and B6 from the site at Brookside and contexts 2 and 4 from the site at Half Moon Street, all contexts were substantially disturbed and contained residual and intrusive items. Post-medieval red wares represented 51% and formed the dominant fabric of the excavated pottery assemblages from the late 17th century onwards. The stoneware bottle neck (no 34) was found on the

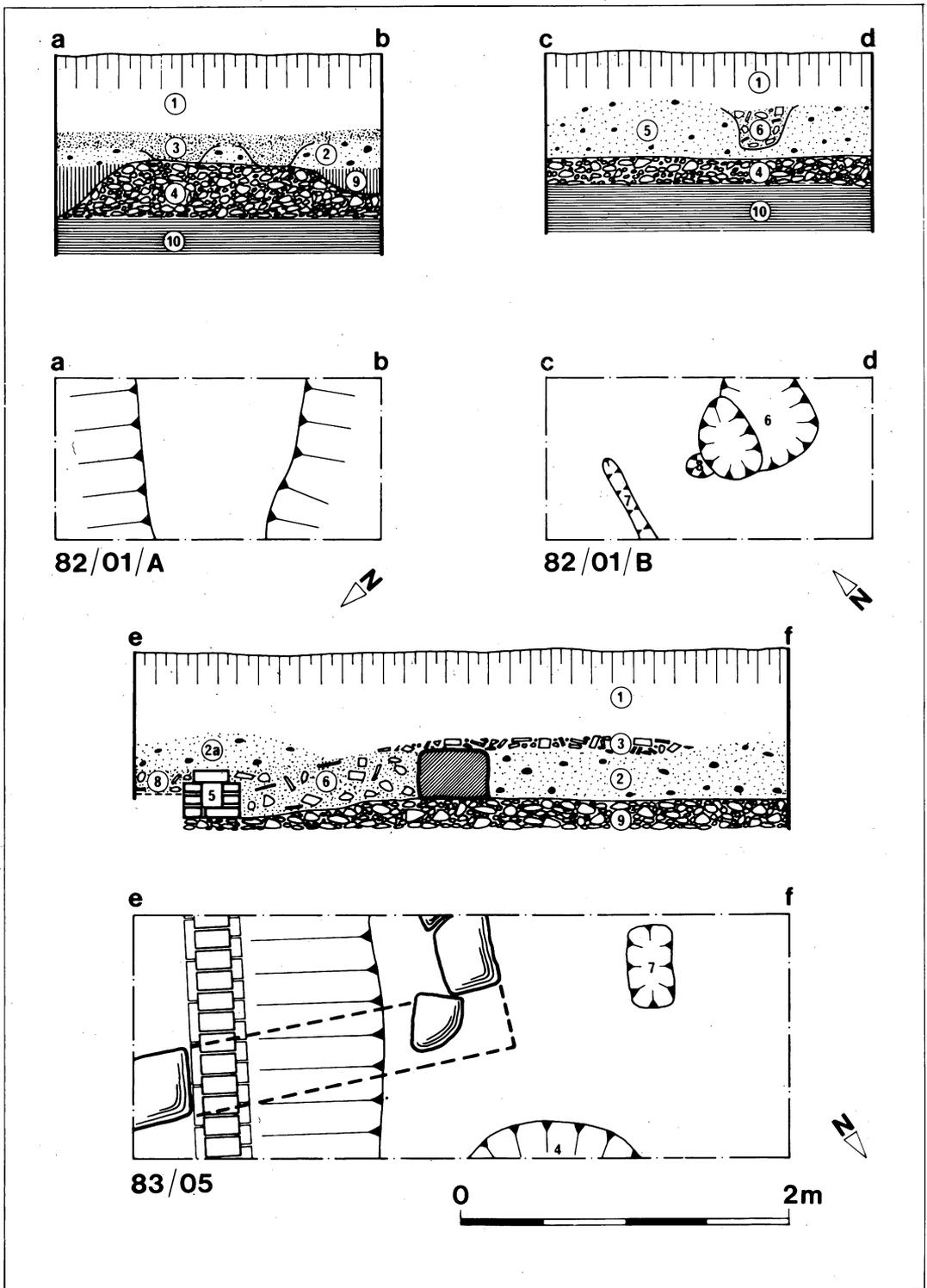


Fig 3. Brookside, Bridge Road, Bagshot areas 82/01/A and 82/01/B.  
Site off Half Moon Street, Bagshot, 83/05

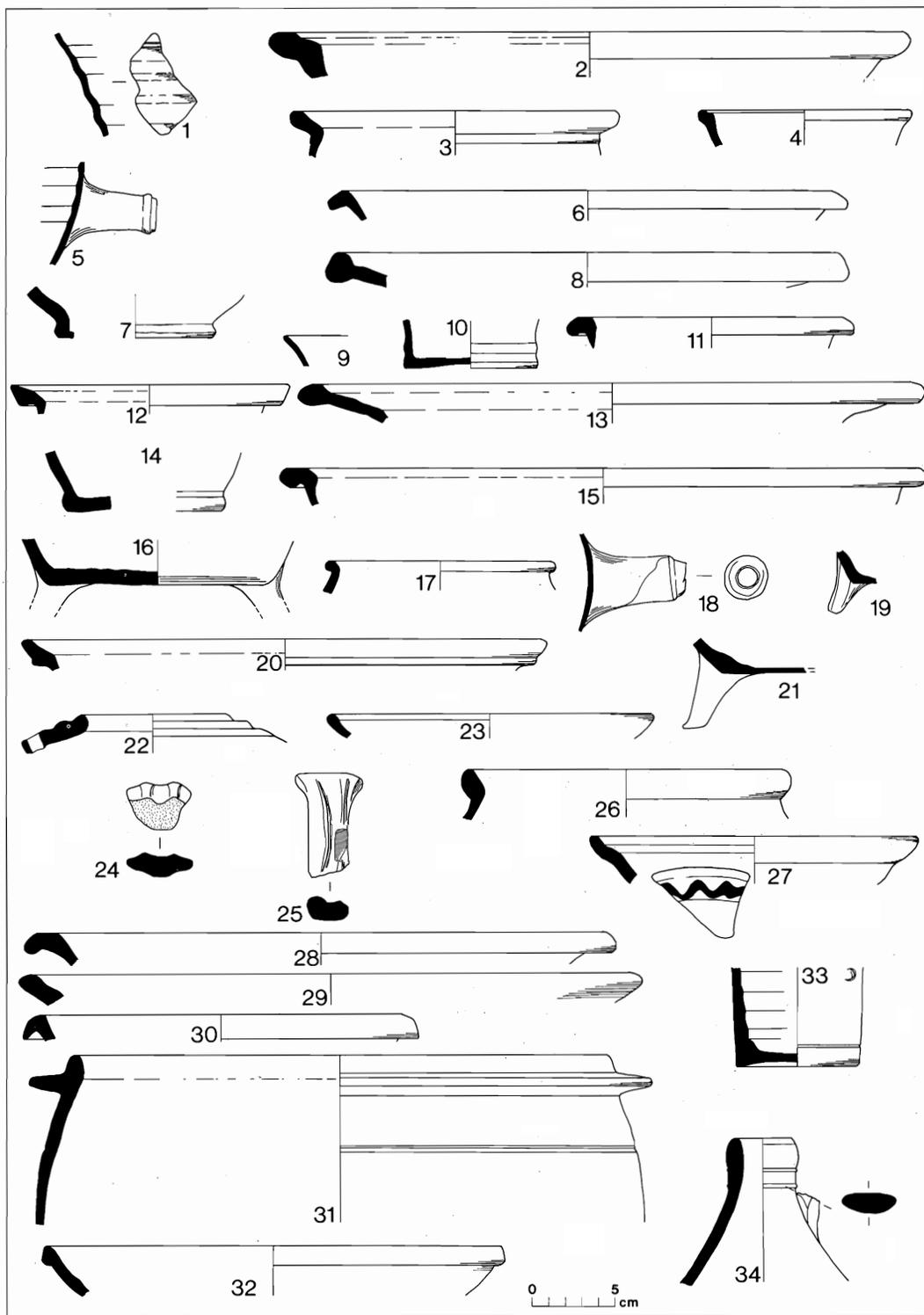


Fig 4. Bagshot. Post-medieval pottery, nos 1-34 (1/4)

land surface directly opposite Brookside on the southern bank of the Windle Brook during car park construction.

The pottery dating is based on the stratigraphic relationships available, comparative studies where possible and the dateable clay pipe evidence.

#### *Post-Medieval Red Wares*

The fabric is of uniform hardness varying from light pink to red in colour (Munsell 2.5 - 7.5 YR 7/6 - 8.5/4) and all vessels are wheel thrown. Two sub-groups can be distinguished:

- 1 A coarse red fabric with inclusions of black ironstone, quartz and grog. The glaze is invariably clear or orange with one example of a speckled rich brown glaze (no 30).
- 2 A fine pink fabric with inclusions of black ironstone, grog and quartz of red, black and grey shades. The glaze is invariably clear or orange with one example of yellow glaze (no 8) and one example of greeny orange exterior glaze (no 7) which is more likely to have been the result of localised reduction of the fabric rather than the addition of copper.

With very little work having been accomplished in the detailed study of the post-medieval red wares of southern England, comparative studies are limited. Attempts have, however, been made to date the post-medieval red wares by stratigraphy but owing to the limited assemblages in all contexts, such dating must remain tentative.

*The catalogues of illustrated and non-illustrated pottery are on Microfiche 2-5 and 8-9 respectively.*

#### CLAY TOBACCO PIPES (figs 6, 7)

The Brookside site produced 14 bowls and 151 stem fragments and the Half Moon Street site produced 1 bowl and 15 stem fragments. The illustrated pipes have been selected as being good examples of their type and it is intended that they will be reference specimens in future publications by the Trust.

*Table 1, showing distribution by date, is on Microfiche 6; the reference numbers and the clay tobacco pipes analysis are on Microfiche 10-11.*

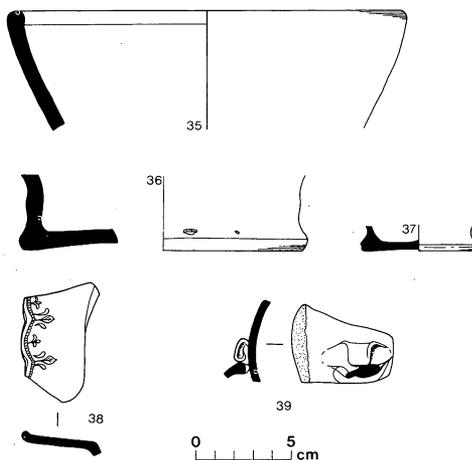


Fig 5. Bagshot. Post-medieval pottery, nos 35-39 (1/4)

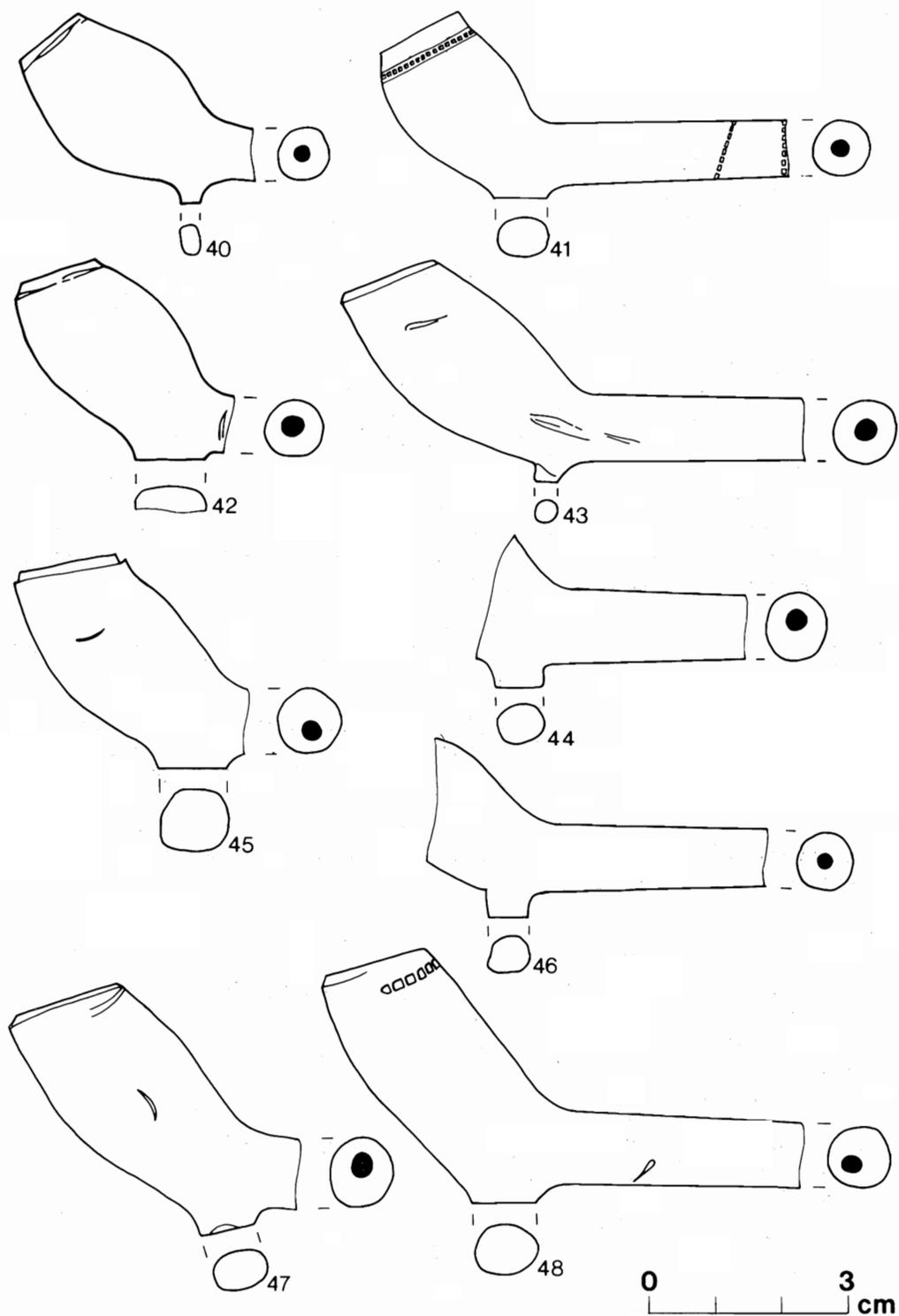


Fig 6. Bagshot. Clay tobacco pipes, nos 40-48 (1/1)

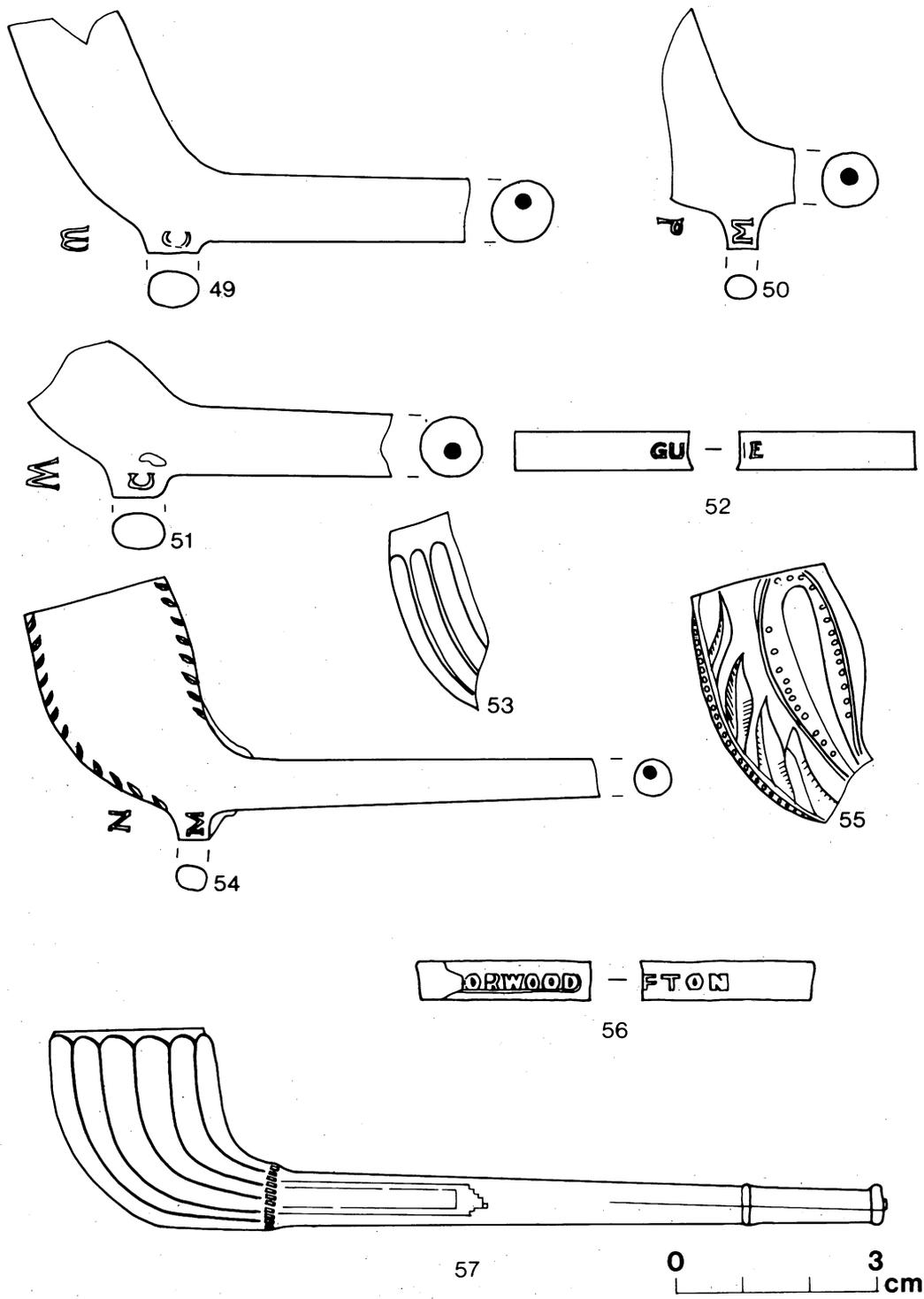


Fig 7. Bagshot. Clay tobacco pipes, nos 49-57 (1/1)

## OBJECTS OF STONE (fig 8)

Fig 8, 58. Struck black flint flake, probably part of a core (82/01/B/5).

Fig 8, 59. Sandstone whetstone (83/05/6).

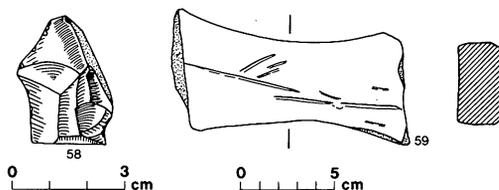


Fig 8. Bagshot. Objects of stone (1/4)

## THE FAUNAL REMAINS by P R G Stokes

82/01

The skeletal material was extremely sparse, poorly preserved, fragmentary, eroded and very fragile.

*Context A/1 and A/2/ii*

Four very fragile bone fragments, probably comprising a single bone, from Context A/1 were identified as probably of sheep/goat.

Two burnt fragments of bone from context A/2/ii were too small to permit positive identification.

*Context B/1*

Three bone fragments were present, two of sheep/goat very badly weathered and one of possibly ox pelvis.

*Context B/5*

Two bone fragments were present, one of which was burnt and too small for identification and the other was the shaft of a sheep/goat metacarpal.

No conclusions can be drawn from such a small assemblage other than to provide positive species identification as noted.

83/05

The small amount of bone recovered from this site was on the whole in fairly good condition (Table 2; Microfiche 7). All bones were weighed, counted and the whole bones were measured. The measurements taken were those defined by van den Driesch (1972). Using Boessneck's criteria (1969), separation of the sheep/goat bones was attempted. There were no obvious differences found as most of this type of bone was of a fragmentary nature. Therefore all this bone has been labelled sheep/goat.

The species from which identifiable bones and shell were derived were cattle, sheep/goat, pig, chicken, dog, cat and oyster. Minimum numbers of each species present have not been assessed due to the small amounts of bone recovered in each context.

*Butchery Evidence from the Site*

There were a very small number of bones that exhibited some sort of butchery marks, both sawn and chopped.

Context 05/1 produced two sheep fibia fragments with two distinctly different butchery techniques. One shaft had been sawn both ends, one end cleanly, but the distal end was sawn three-quarters of the way through and then broken, whereas the other had been chopped more than once, leaving marks 1cm from the break. Other than two pieces of

rib, also from Context 05/1, that were sawn, all other bones that could be identified as having any evidence of butchery were chopped.

No complete skeletons were recovered; most of the bones were of domestic meat-producing animals (with the exception of cat and dog, possible pet burials). Nearly all the bones were meat bones which would indicate that most of the material was domestic rubbish.

*The full faunal remains analysis is on Microfiche 13-16*

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