

## **Three sites in Reigate: 12–14 London Road, 20–22 and 74–76 High Street**

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*This report brings together an excavation and two observations on three tenements backing onto the western and southern slopes of Reigate Castle. On all three sites there is evidence for construction of the castle's defences in the form of large amounts of dumped sand overlying medieval material. It is argued from this that the castle slopes may have been free from domestic buildings until the castle ceased to have any military significance. An excavation at 12–14 London Road also uncovered the remains of a building dating from the mid-17th century and which was demolished during the 18th century. Both archaeological and documentary evidence suggests that this was the first building on the site. Among the finds from London Road was a glass wine bottle containing urine and bent pins and which is identified as a witch bottle.*

### **12–14 London Road** (figs 1–6)

#### INTRODUCTION

During September 1988 the remains of a building were observed eroding from a vertical face adjacent to the site of the former Auction Rooms in London Road, Reigate, that had been demolished in the 1970s. The site lies adjacent to the western side of the castle earthworks on land which slopes down to London Road (figs 1 and 2). The section through the building (fig 6, section north-west/south-east), which it cut diagonally, was cleaned and recorded in 1988. In 1992, with the kind permission of the landowner, Mr Mark Barham, the opportunity was taken to excavate as the section was continuing to erode. The remains of this building had been partly destroyed in the 19th century by the construction, adjacent and to the south, of the Auction Rooms themselves. This building had been terraced back into the slope at just above street level. In 1988 a large part of what then remained of the building was unfortunately further destroyed when works were being carried out in connection with the backfilling of a series of cavities formed from the 17th century onwards for the purposes of sand quarrying. The cavity which lay just below this site was filled by the simple expedient of mechanically gouging away the overburden downwards into the void, thus newly exposing the remains of the building but destroying much of what remained of it in the process.

The remains of the building lay in an area formerly occupied by gardens to the rear of properties fronting London Road. Few of the properties shown on the 1872 OS map survive and there have been vacant sites for many years. However, no 14, now an antiques shop, still remains. The earliest large-scale survey of Reigate – that of Bryant in 1786 – does not extend to this area. The excavated site was redeveloped in 2001.

#### DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The history of the site (nos 12–14) in the 17th and early 18th centuries as revealed by documents appears complex and it is clear that the properties have been subdivided on at least one occasion. No original documentary research has been done and the present report relies on abstracts from the Court Rolls prepared some years ago by Mrs Ewart Smith on behalf of Mr D J Turner. This work related only to tenancies but unfortunately, despite a search through archives held at the Surrey History Centre, it has not been possible to identify the particular documents from which Mrs Ewart Smith drew her material.

It is appropriate to summarise this evidence and to record that occupation of the site apparently begins before the middle of the 17th century, which accords well with the archaeological evidence. The earliest reference to properties on the east side of London Road

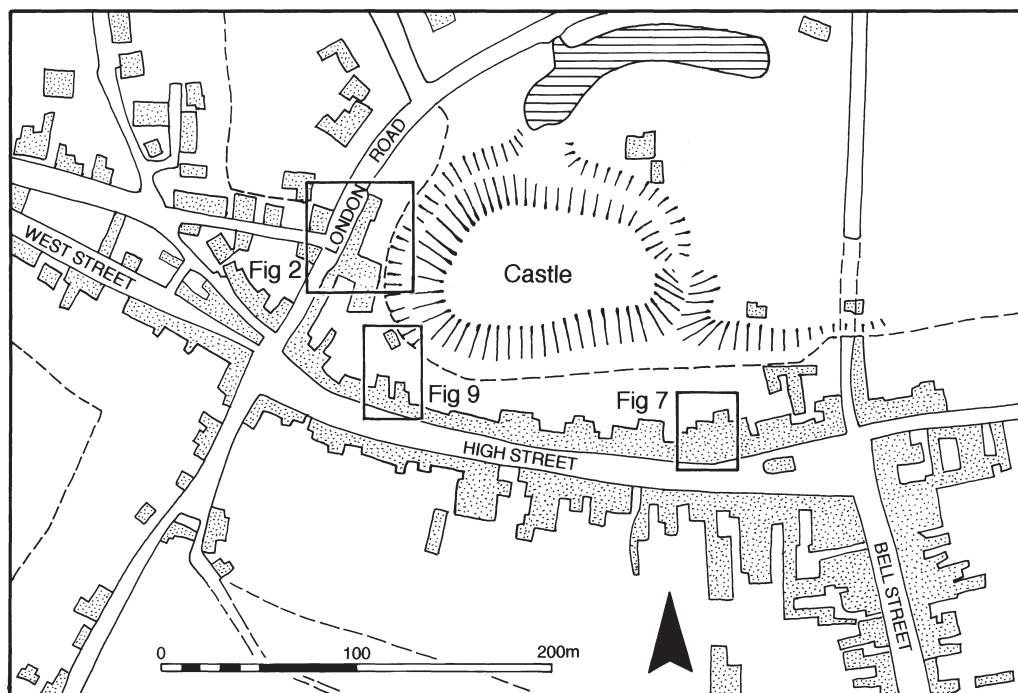


Fig 1 Three sites in Reigate. Reigate town centre, from 1872 OS map, showing the locations of the three sites.

is in 1644, when a tenement belonging to one Mercer 'called Castle Butts' (ie abutting the castle) 'of one rood was conveyed to the use of Simon Glazebrook'. This tenement seems to encompass the site of the building under discussion. In 1665 Glazebrook's property was bounded on the north by 'a croft and land in occupation of John Cuddington and Daniel Ware, part of Castle Butts, of twelve roods'. By 1675 the Glazebrook property (then in the possession of Anne Glazebrook) abutted the tenement of Thomas Street on the north. Street's property seems to equate with that described in 1725 as a 'messuage, structure, orchard and garden of 10 perches occupied by John Miles and John Haybeetle'.

The present site may well have been the property of Mercer prior to 1644 when it was sold to Glazebrook. It seems probable that by 1675 this was the tenement of Thomas Street and that by 1725 it was occupied by Mills and Haybeetle. The name 'Glasbrook' appears on a number of mid-18th century stoneware tankards excavated at 18 Bell Street, though these are too late to be relevant to this site.

#### THE EXCAVATION (figs 2–6)

Overburden, which largely comprised garden soil, was removed by hand together with layers of demolition rubble that overlay the building remains. Metal detectors were used throughout and many finds were recovered by this method than otherwise would have been the case, especially with the Phase 3 and 4 deposits. Four main phases of activity on this site were observed.

#### *Phase 1: medieval* (fig 6, sections west–east and north–west/south–east)

Below and beyond the terrace created by the cut for the construction of the 17th century

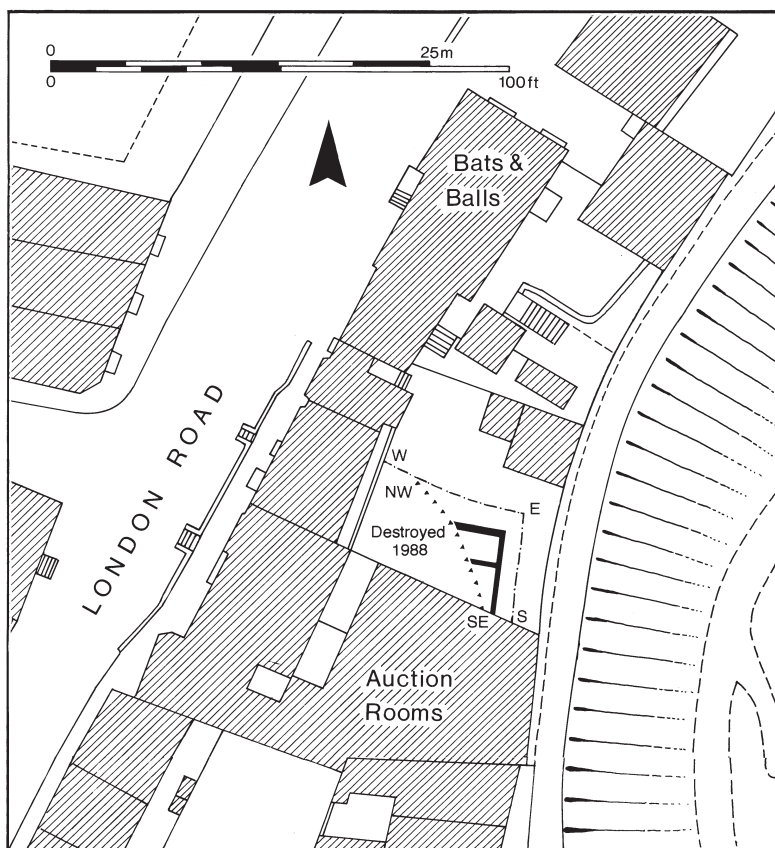


Fig 2 Three sites in Reigate. Area around 12–14 London Road showing the position of the excavated 17th century building and location of main sections. (© Crown copyright and/or database right. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014198)

building were remnants of earlier activity in the forms of spreads of sand. The earliest of these (75), a deposit of dark yellow/grey sand, was present on the north side of the building. This lay at the tail of the slope and survived to a depth of  $\approx 0.3\text{m}$ . This layer contained charcoal flecks and very small fragments of roof tile, bone, ironstone and Reigate stone. Over this was a thin and intermittent lens of charcoal (74) that was traced westward for a distance of 4.3m. Above this was a layer of soft yellow sand (25), up to 0.6m deep but originally of greater depth as it had been truncated by and become mixed with layers of garden soil. To the east of the building were two layers of sand, both much disturbed by later gardening activities. The lower (72) was a compacted yellow sand, which contained fragments of ironstone and Reigate stone, and the upper (31) was a much looser sand that survived to a depth of 0.5m and the upper levels of which were much disturbed and contained 17th century and later material. Context 31 did not extend to the published section. Context 71 was interpreted as the weathered surface of the natural silver sand.

Despite the almost complete lack of dating evidence (a single medieval glazed sherd came from the base of layer 25) contexts 25, 31 and 72 may be interpreted as upcast from the construction of the adjacent castle earthworks. Context 75 probably represents a pre-castle ground surface and 74 perhaps clearance activity.

*Phase 2: 17th century*

Phase 2 comprises the construction of a building in the 17th century and its subsequent use and rebuilding. Context 49 (fig 6, section north-west/south-east) is the initial cut of a terrace to accommodate this building. This terrace penetrates both the outer earthwork of the castle as well as the natural deposits beneath it (71). The northern (room 1) of the two partially surviving rooms of this building was dug slightly deeper than that to the south (room 2); the dividing partition wall resting against the resulting step in levels.

*Phase 2a (fig 3)*

At the base of the terrace, and in the area later occupied by room 2, were three postholes (69, 64 and 66). Posthole 69 was the deeper at 0.35m and this alone contained clear traces of a post-pipe filled with fibrous black matter. Sealing these features was a sequence of thin layers, the uppermost being an ashy spread (20), then a patch of mortar and stone chips (56), which in turn overlay a dark grey sandy layer (57). A layer of sand with chalk, clay and mortar fragments (24) lay beneath these above the natural sand. At the base of the deposits occupying room 1 was a spread of ash and chips of stone, mortar and lumps of chalk and clay (23) that may also belong to this sub-phase.

These postholes and accompanying layers probably represent initial construction activities of stone dressing, mortar mixing and scaffolding. Finds comprised only a few nails and a fragment of bronze strip.

*Phase 2b (figs 3, 6, 10 and 11)*

The surviving remains comprised the north-east corner of a building of which two rooms survived, along with a partition wall. Both north (48) and east (47) walls were originally built of stone set in a brown clayey mixture. Only that portion of the east wall from the surviving north-east corner of the building and extending south as far as the partition wall survived as a foundation. The original north wall and the remainder of the east wall had both been rebuilt at a later date. The partition wall (14) was of mortared stone with a line of bricks overlying its eastern end, indicating the site of a doorway. Within the internal angle formed by walls 47 and 48 was the base of a rectangular structure of mortared stone (46) set onto a ramping rectangular block of sandy clay (58).

Occupying room 2, the southern room, were two superimposed floor layers: the lower of brown clay (19) containing chalk and stone fragments and charcoal, and an upper and final floor of chalk (15), 20–30mm deep. Overlying floor 19 was the surviving corner of a structure (17) edged with bricks on its north side, while on the mortar forming its base were the impressions of further bricks forming a floor. Within the chalk floor were three stakeholes (37–9) and two smooth-surfaced stones, (16) and (36), the latter set in mortar. All these features may span both Phases 2b and 2c.

In room 1, above layer 23, were five superimposed layers, the uppermost also being a chalk floor. In ascending order these comprised: context 22, a deposit of white sand with a scatter of stone chips; 54, a layer of light grey sand with a little stone and tile rubble; 53, an accumulated spread of mortar c 30–40mm deep; 18, a layer of rubbly brown clay; and 13, a chalk surface. Context 53 filled a hollow adjacent to the site of a door in the partition wall (14) and consisted of a number of lenses of mortar interleaved with lenses of brown clay. Impressions of thick stalks and other plant material were clearly visible within each mortar lens. Within the surface of layer 18 was a thin slab of smooth-surfaced cherty sandstone (55) associated with patches of ash, mortar and other material.

Overlying the chalk floors in both rooms and running across the position of the door between them was a thin U-shaped spread of compact dark sandy soil (12).

The remains represent parts of two rooms at the rear of a building, together with associated

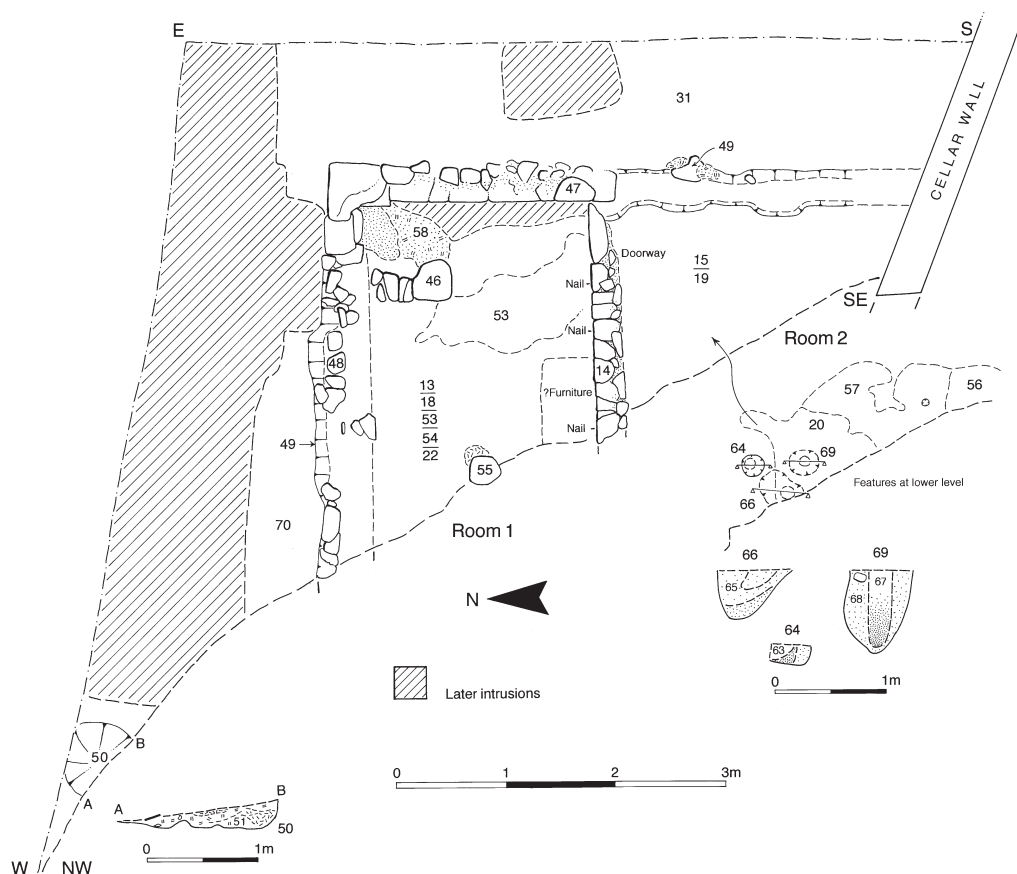


Fig 3 Three sites in Reigate: 12-14 London Road. Phase 2a and b.

superimposed floor levels. Little survives that suggests the purpose of either room or allows more than a guess at the functions of the fragmentary structures within them, although the position of an internal doorway is at least clear. In room 2 the corner of a brick-floored hearth is probably represented by context 17 and suggests the site of a chimney; the adjacent stones set into the floor may be pot stands. The rectangular base in the corner of room 1 is an original feature and may represent a support (for a basin?). In room 1, layer 22 may represent a levelling layer above which layer 54 may be the earliest deliberately laid floor. A hollow had been worn in this by the passage of feet descending from a slightly higher level through the doorway from room 2. At intervals this hollow had been filled with a mortar mixture, which trapped deposits of plant material that may have been strewn wider across the floor. The passage of feet between rooms is also evidenced by layer 12. The stone (18) could be the site of a brazier or other small fire, while a rectangular area of dark soil in room 1 adjacent to wall 14 could be the site of a piece of furniture. Three nails were found widely spaced adjacent to wall 14 and these suggest it may have been faced with wooden panelling.

There were a number of finds from deposits relating to this phase. Context 13 contained a buckle pin and a 'curtain' ring (fig 10, no 16); context 12 a pin (fig 10, no 8); context 18 contained a Richmond farthing of Charles I, a late medieval brooch pin, fifteen dress pins, a fragment of a wire ring, a lace tag, a musket ball, a lead weight, an oyster shell 'strainer', a large piece of lead flashing (fig 10, nos 2, 13, 17, 19 and 25) and an iron buckle (fig 11, no

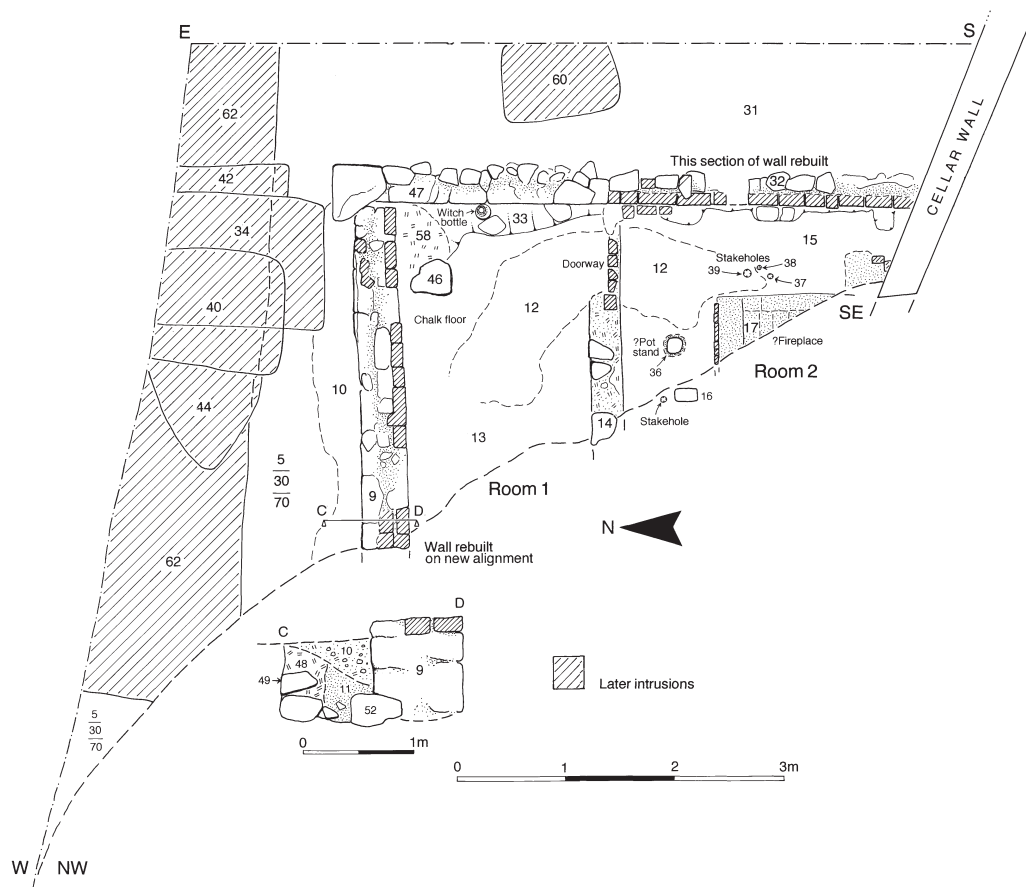


Fig 4 Three sites in Reigate: 12–14 London Road. Phase 2c.

35). Context 19 contained two pins (fig 10, no 12) and iron objects; context 22, a horn-handled iron knife, an ox shoe, an iron tool with a wooden handle, and a fragment of window glass containing part of an etched word (fig 10: 27; fig 11: 28, 29, 36); context 54 contained two pins (fig 10, no 9); and 53 an iron object, possibly a spade blade. At the base of the remains of wall 48 was an iron cylinder, possibly a sleeve for a door pivot (fig 11, no 34).

#### *Phase 2c* (figs 4, 5, 10 and 14)

At some stage after the laying of the chalk floor (13) both external walls of the building were rebuilt. The southern part of wall 47, beyond its junction with partition wall 14, was robbed out and rebuilt using brick (32), a socket being left at floor level to take the end of a beam supporting the partition wall. The north wall (48) was also completely robbed and rebuilt in brick on stone foundations (9) to a width of 0.4m but on a slightly different internal alignment and resting on the chalk floor (13). Both walls were faced with lime-washed plaster. Contexts (10) and (11) represent two phases in the filling of the resulting robber trench. The lower fill (11), comprised a line of stone blocks (52) running parallel with the rebuilt wall. Along the internal face of the eastern wall, slightly undercutting that wall and cutting the chalk floor, was an irregular linear hollow (33). This was deeper in room 1 and contained soil mixed with stone and brick rubble.



Fig 5 Three sites in Reigate: 12–14 London Road. Remains of the 17th century building. Shown here is Phase 2c.

Finds from this phase included a copper-alloy buckle from the robber trench (10) (fig 10, no 1), while context 33 contained part of a pair of copper-alloy scissors, a whetstone fragment, three dress pins and two buttons (fig 10, nos 5, 11 and 15) an iron stirrup and key (fig 11, nos 30–1), and a complete upturned and corked wine bottle (fig 14) later found to contain urine and bent pins and which was clearly intended as a ‘witch bottle’. Context 52 incorporated a fragment of stone moulding from a window of possible late medieval date (fig 14).

In the excavated areas outside the north and east of the building little survived that may have been contemporary with it. At one point adjacent to the remains of wall 48 was part of a sandy grey soil layer (70) that was cut by a pit (50; fig 3) which may also be of 17th century date. The disturbed Phase 1 deposits to the east contained a thimble, a 17th century cloth seal, part of a bone comb (fig 10, nos 14, 18 and 24) and two farthings of Charles I.

### *Phase 3 (figs 6 and 12)*

The remains of the building were covered by three discrete deposits of demolition material (6–8) (fig 6, section north-west/south-east). The lower (8) was the more substantial and contained mostly stone and brick with much broken wall plaster. Finds from this phase include a bead, a whetstone, a copper-alloy buckle, dress pins, a button (fig 12, nos 38–9 and 42), a liard of Louis XIV of France and a 1658 token of William Shorter of ‘Mestham’.



*Phase 4*

Following demolition, the site of the building became covered with a substantial deposit of garden soil, (30) and (5), within which were at least six cesspits or other pits or trenches dating from the late 18th century and later (contexts 34, 40, 42, 44, 60 and 62). Most of these had been dug into the softer soils beyond the area of demolition material.

**20–22 High Street** (figs 7, 8 and 14)

## INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 1989 this building, originally a two-bay timber-framed building with a cellar, dating to *c* 1550–1600, was extensively altered. The rear extension was demolished and some of the remaining original features were lost. A fragment of a painted inscription on a girding beam is published elsewhere (Williams 1991–2). Removal of the extension resulted in the discovery of a well or soakaway and the exposure of a section through the stratification of the lower part of the steep slope behind, above which the castle stood.

## RECORDING WORK

The northern edge of the well lay some 2.5m behind the timber frame of no 20. The well shaft had been dug into a hard deposit of silver sand and, below ground level, had not been lined. At the top of the shaft was a ledge which supported three remaining curved stone blocks (0.54 x 0.33 x 0.19m) bonded with red/brown clay. The well was filled with sand which contained fragments of sandstone and brick and no attempt could be made to excavate it. From the use of clay as a bonding material, which seems common in Reigate in the 16th



Fig 7 Three sites in Reigate. Area around 20–22 High Street showing location of section CDE and the well.  
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Fig 6 (*opposite*) Three sites in Reigate: 12–14 London Road. Main sections, see figure 2 for locations.

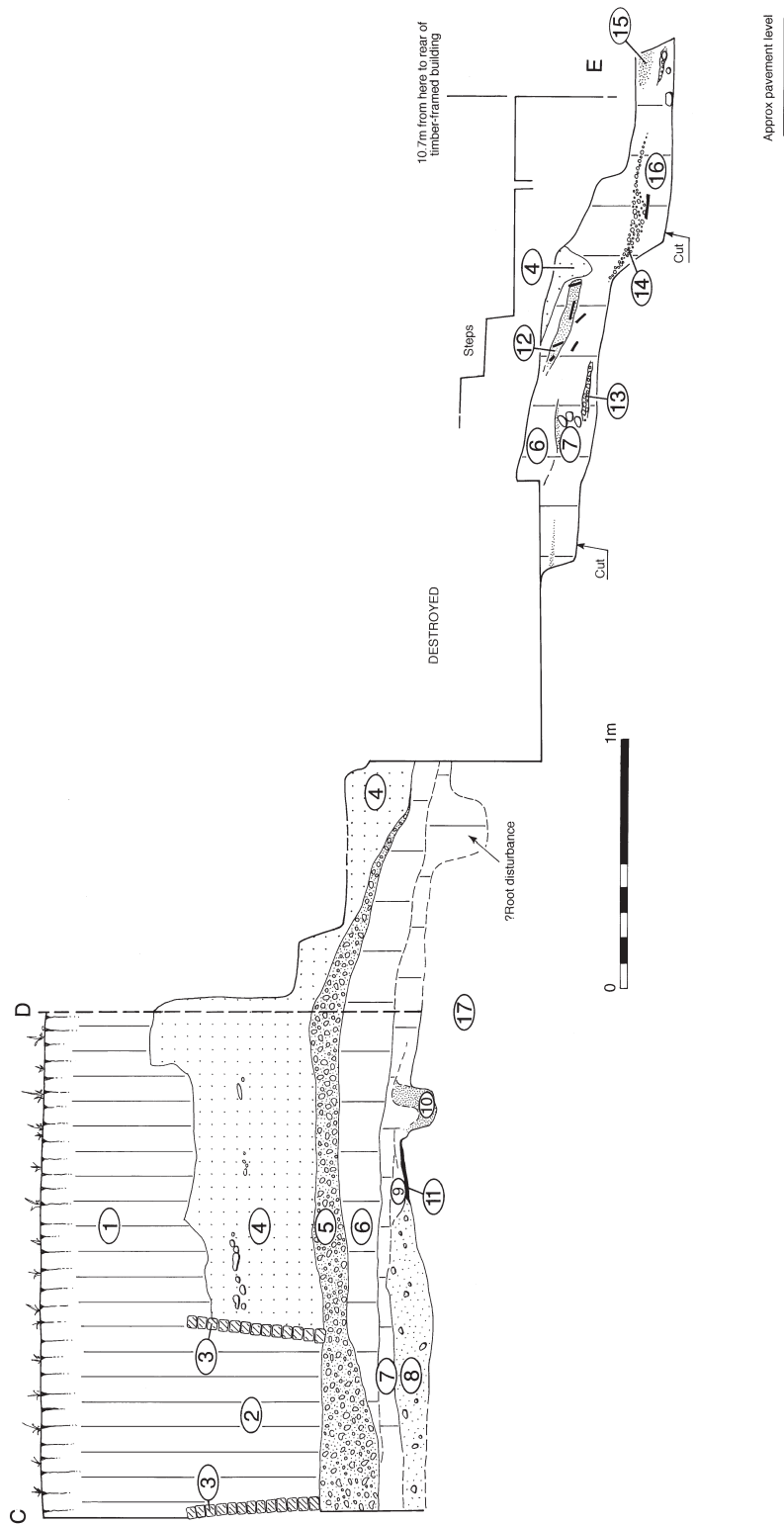


Fig 8 Three sites in Reigate: 20–22 High Street, section CDE.

and 17th centuries, it may be suggested that the well was contemporary with the adjacent timber-framed building. No evidence was seen of an earlier building on this site.

Behind the building two sections (fig 7) were exposed; an east–west section and, at right-angles to it, a second, less well-preserved section was exposed below the steps leading up to the garden. Over 1.5m of deposits were exposed in the east–west section. In ascending order the more substantial layers comprised: the natural silver sand (17); brown and grey sands (6–9), and a charcoal deposit (11). Contexts 6 and 7 were not clearly differentiated and yielded a small amount of medieval pottery. Above these was a layer of fragments of sandstone and ironstone and fewer fragments of Upper Greensand (5) and a substantial deposit, 0.7m deep, of yellow sand with a few ironstone fragments (4). Both were sterile of finds. The latter layer was cut by a 19th century brick structure (2–3) above which was garden soil (1). In the second section, two east–west horizontal cuts or terraces were observed. Above these was a grey sandy soil which probably equates with contexts 6 and 7. Contexts 12–16 were minor lenses of chalky mortar, sand and tile. A pocket of yellow sand above these deposits may represent the base of context 4.

### 74–76 High Street, Reigate (figs 9 and 15)

#### INTRODUCTION

This property backs onto the slopes below the castle and the surface of its upper garden is roughly at a level with the roof of the building below; the castle being at a higher level still.

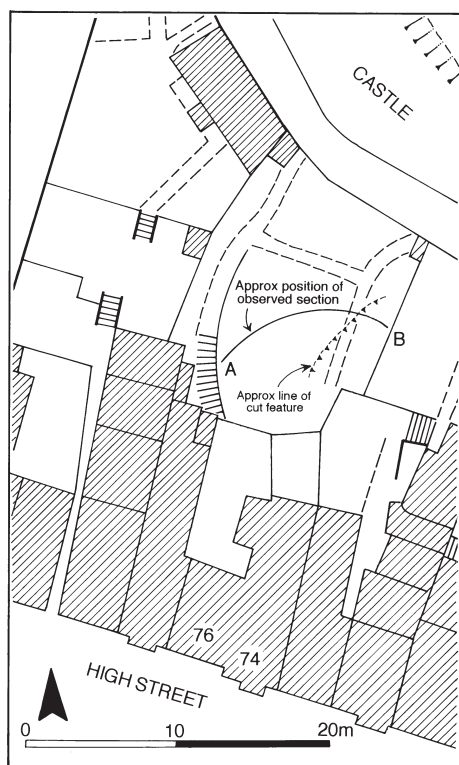


Fig 9 Three sites in Reigate. Area around 74–6 High Street showing location of observed section AB and position of edge of possible sand quarry. (© Crown copyright and/or database right. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014198)

The construction of an extension resulted in the unintentional creation, through landslip, of a semi-circular section through the slope behind the property and which extended across the width of the tenement. The circumstances surrounding the limited archaeological work which was possible on this site in 1998 have been published elsewhere (Williams 1998). As a result of the short time available, wet weather and the danger of subsidence and other peculiar difficulties of this site no formal recording was possible. A 19th century stone and brick oven that had been built into the slope adjacent to the eastern boundary of the property was destroyed without record as was a substantial revetment wall which lay just to the rear of the property. This was constructed, at least in part, of mortared re-used stone, and was probably built not later than the 16th or 17th century.

#### RECORDING WORK

The exposed U-shaped section (fig 13, AB) was briefly examined from extendable ladders but could not be drawn. Below the topsoil (1) was a substantial deposit of loose yellow sand and broken sandstone (2). This was less than 1m deep on the west of the site but dropped to more than 4m deep on the east. This disparity in depth was because of a vertical cut (3) in the underlying natural silver sand. On the west half of the site between the dumped sand (2) and the natural silver sand (7) was a layer of grey sandy soil (6) that contained a number of well-preserved flint blades of late Mesolithic date as well as a few fragments of bone and 13th century pottery. At the base of the deeper level of sand on the east of the site was a dense layer of broken sandstone fragments (Lower Greensand) (4), which overlay a layer of grey clay mixed with chalk fragments (5) that contained pieces of Reigate stone (Upper Greensand), roof tile and sherds of 13th century pottery. The surface of this layer, which could not be examined further, was roughly level with the ground floor of the building and also with the street pavement.

#### The finds (figs 10–16)

##### 12–14 LONDON ROAD (figs 10–15)

Material from Phases 2 and 3 is considered here along with material from Phase 4 where it may be relevant to earlier phases, together with the clay tobacco pipes which are considered from the site as a whole.

NI = Not illustrated

#### POTTERY

Very small quantities of pottery (amounting to 74 small sherds) were recovered from stratified deposits associated with Phase 2. A further 42 sherds were found in Phase 3 demolition deposits. The pottery has not been studied in detail and does no more than to confirm the dating evidence already amply provided by coins and other evidence. Context 18 contained thirteen sherds from a small globular redware jug and contexts 12 and 33 each contained sherds of Staffordshire white stoneware, which first appears about 1720 (Jennings 1981, 222). Pottery earlier than the 17th century was virtually absent from deposits of all phases, with the exception of a sherd of late medieval date from context 23 and a medieval glazed sherd from Phase 1 (base of context 25).

##### *Phase 2*

Copper alloy (fig 10)

- 1 Shoe or breech buckle with central pivot hole.

- 21 x 17mm. This type dates to the second half of the 17th century. Context 10. Phase 2C. SF27.
- 2 Pin from an annular brooch of late medieval date. Length 41mm. Context 18. Phase 2B. SF28.
- 3 Buckle pin. 15mm long. Context 13. SF29. NI
- 4 Lace tag. 31mm long. Context 18. Phase 2B. SF110. NI
- 5 Button, tinned with domed head. Diam 15mm. Context 33. Phase 2C. SF111.
- 6 Button, globular with iron shank. Diam 13mm. Context 30. Phase 2B. SF25.
- 7 Pin. 25mm long. Context 58. Phase 2B. SF43.
- 8 Pin. 26mm long. Context 12. Phase 2B. SF42.
- 9 Pins. 24 and 26mm long. Context 54. Phase 2B. SF47–8.
- 10 Pins. Lengths 24, 24 and 30mm. Context 8. Phase 2C. SF29–41. NI
- 11 Pins. Lengths 23, 28, 30mm. Context 33. Phase 2B. SF36–8.
- 12 Pin. Length 43mm. Context 19. SF108.
- 13 Pins. Lengths 22, 23, 21, 24 (x3), 25 (x6), 26, 30,

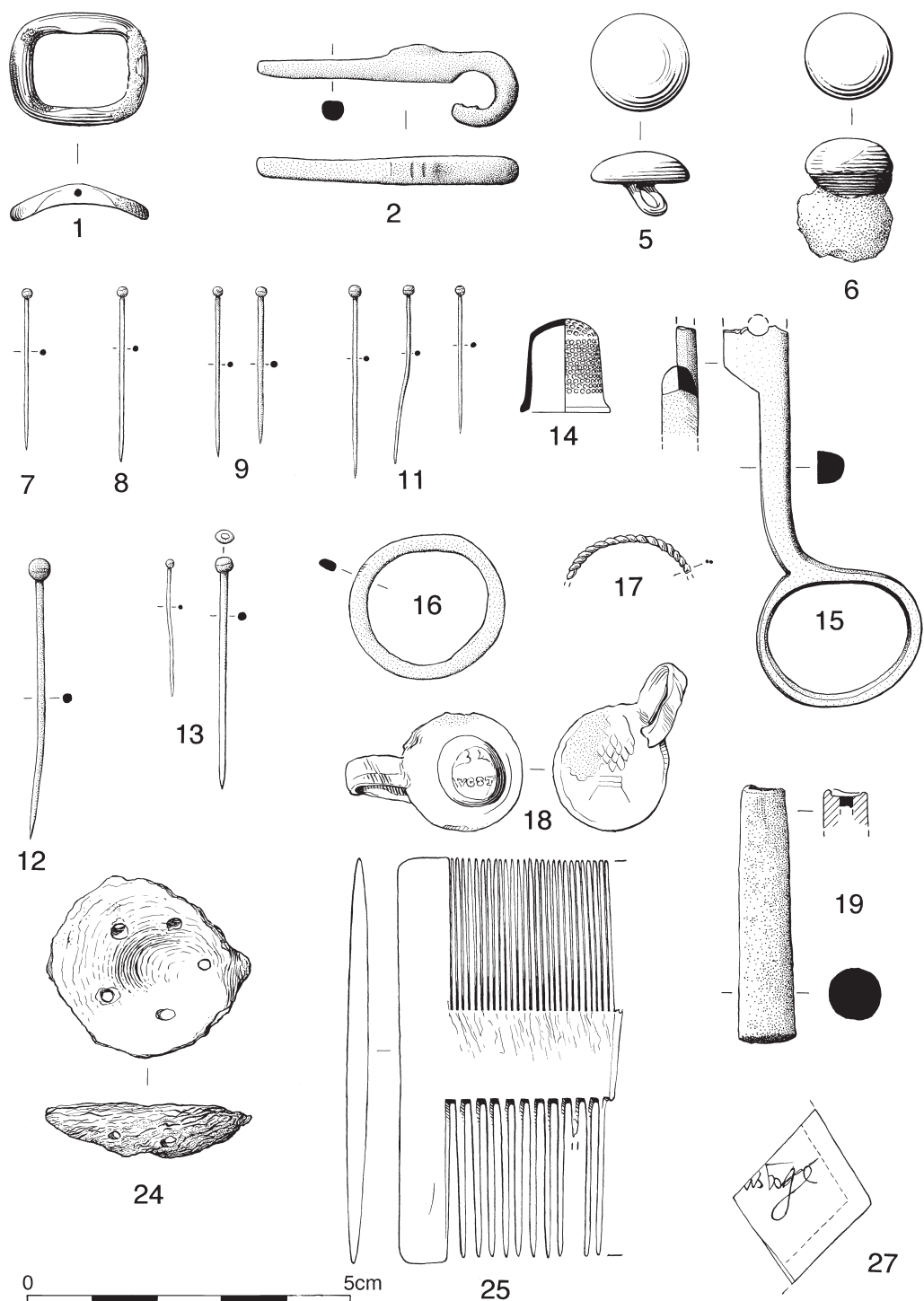


Fig 10 Three sites in Reigate: 12-14 London Road. Small finds of copper alloy, lead and pewter, bone, shell and glass from Phase 2. Scale 1:2.

- 31mm. Context 18. Phase 2B. SF 45-6, 49-60, 33-4. Two are illustrated.
- 14 Thimble. Height 15mm, max diam 14mm. Context 31 (intrusive). SF21.
- 15 Handle and part of the blade from a pair of scissors. 60mm long. Context 33. Phase 2C. SF18.
- 16 Ring. Diam 24mm. Context 13. Phase 2B. SF22.
- 17 Fragment of twisted wire forming an arc  $\approx$  20mm diam. Context 18. SF112.

#### Lead and pewter (fig 10)

- 18 Cloth seal, by G Egan  
Seal from an Augsburg fustian (mixed linen/cotton fabric); pinecone on stand (city arms) // part of ox passant with (A)UGS (BVRG) on the body. Augsburg seals, of various kinds, are the most common and widespread imports in England. This example is probably of early 17th century date. Context 31 (intrusive).

- 19 Lead weight, perhaps for a clock. A tapering lead cylinder with remains of an iron suspension loop in the narrow end. Length 77mm. Context 18. SF64.
- 20 Musket ball. Diam 19mm. Context 18. SF65. NI.
- 21 Flattened sub-oval object.  $\approx$  30 x 40mm. Context 33. SF66. NI.
- 22 Solidified runnel of lead. Length 50mm. Context 12. SF67. NI.
- 23 Large fragment of lead flashing, bent and with an attached iron nail. Max width 132mm. Context 18. SF70. NI.

#### Bone and shell (fig 10)

- 24 Oyster shell, with five drilled circular holes. Presumably this was intended for use as a crude strainer. Context 18. SF82.
- 25 Fragment of double-sided bone comb. Context 31 (intrusive). SF82.

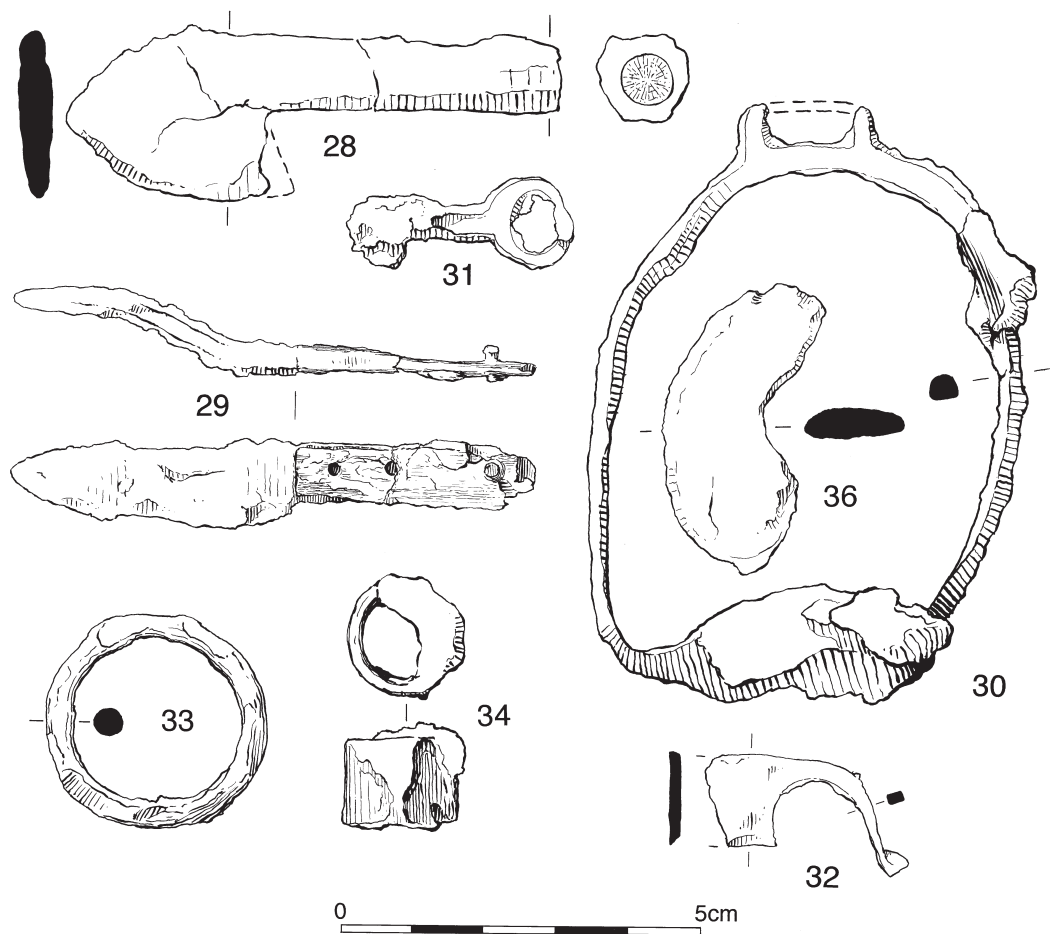


Fig 11 Three sites in Reigate: 12-14 London Road. Small finds of iron from Phase 2. Scale 1:2.

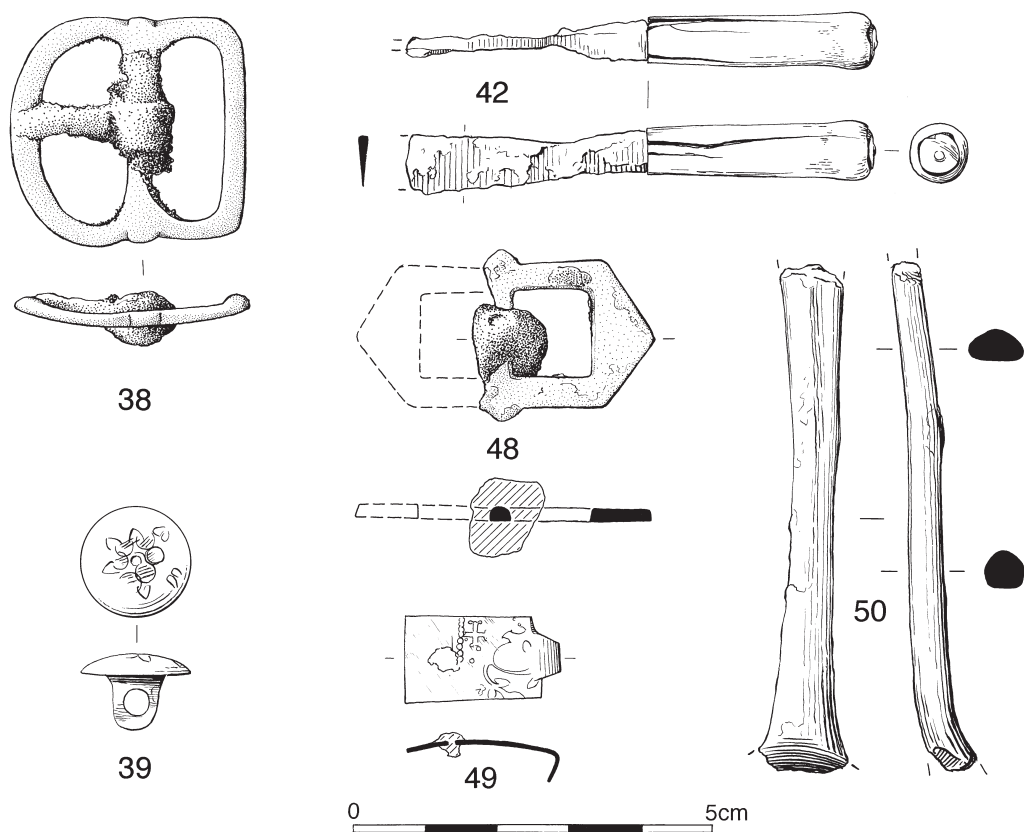


Fig 12 Three sites in Reigate: 12-14 London Road. Small finds from Phases 3 and 4. Scale 1:2.

#### Stone

- 26 Whetstone fragment. Buff, coarse-grained stone. Length 120mm, 30mm square. Context 33. SF75. NI

#### Window glass (fig 10)

- 27 Fragment from the right side of a diamond-shaped pane on which is engraved a word in script. This appears to read '...astage', although the first surviving letter may be an 'o'. The fragment is tantalising but incomprehensible. Context 22. SF83.

#### Iron (fig 11)

- 28 Cutting tool, with a barbed blade and remains of wooden handle still in the socket. Possibly used for leather working. Length *c*140mm, socket diam *c*140mm. Context 22. SF91
- 29 Scale-tang knife with remains of a horn handle originally held in place with three rivets. Length 145mm. Context 22. SF95.
- 30 Stirrup. Although now bent this stirrup appears

very similar in shape to those of Civil War date from Beeston Castle, Cheshire (Keen & Hough 1993, fig 99, nos 124-8). Original length *c*160mm, original width *c*140mm. Recorded as coming from the base of context 8 but is probably from the surface of context 33 below it. SF88.

- 31 Key. Length 60mm. Context 33. SF89.
- 32 Part of a blade or perhaps a strike-a-light (cf an example from Westbury, Milton Keynes (Ivens *et al* 1995, fig 170, 99)). Context 33. SF90.
- 33 Ring, perhaps for harness. Diam 62mm. Context 33. SF86.
- 34 Cylinder, perhaps a door or window pivot. Length 25mm, dia 32mm. Context 48/25. SF87.
- 35 Rectangular buckle with central dividing bar. 30 x 30mm. Context 18. SF92. NI.
- 36 Oxshoe. Length 85mm. Context 22/19. SF93.
- 37 Fragment of thick corroded sheet, perhaps a spade blade or object of similar weight. Context 53. SF94. NI.

Iron nails were recovered from contexts 10, 18, 19, 20, 23, 12 and 57. Context 19 contained a very large square-headed nail. Context 18 contained a fragment from a horseshoe.

*Phase 3* (fig 12: all are from context 8, demolition layer)

- 38 Belt buckle, D-shaped. Copper alloy with iron pin pivoting on central bar. Traces of leather remain on the iron pin. 30 x 33mm. SF26.
- 39 Domed copper-alloy button with punched floral decoration. Diam 15mm. SF109.
- 40 Round-headed pins. Lengths 24, 24 and 30mm. SF39–41. NI
- 41 Fragment of copper-alloy sheet with three unevenly spaced perforations. Length 42 x 29mm. SF20. NI
- 42 Knife. Fragmentary iron blade with cylindrical bone handle and separate bone plug. A number of examples of this type of knife with separate plugs are illustrated in Mynard & Zeepvat 1992 (fig 92, nos 280–2). Surviving length 129mm. Length of handle 62mm. SF80.
- 43 Fragment of a lead bar. 43 x 15 x 5mm. SF68. NI.
- 44 Lead disc with a slightly raised border. Diam 20mm. SF63. NI.
- 45 Two fragments of window came. Lengths 75 & 65mm. SF100. NI
- 46 Bead of light blue glass. Diam 3mm. SF79. NI
- 47 Whetstone of grey schist. Length 100mm. SF71. NI

*Phase 4* (fig 12: selected finds only)

- 48 Buckle fragment, copper alloy, possibly with a white metal coating, and remains of an iron pin. Width originally c 42mm. This is a common mid-17th century type often classed as a spur buckle. Context 5. SF107.
- 49 Book clasp, copper alloy. Punched pattern of floral elements, and a cross bordered on one side with pellets. Length 22mm. Probably 18th century. Context 5. SF19.
- 50 Spoon handle, pewter. Length 68mm. Context 5. SF61.
- 51 Fragment of double-sided bone comb. Width 62mm. Context 5. SF81. NI

Coins and token, by Mark Jobling, except for no 8, by Barrie Cook

- 1 Charles I (1625–49). Richmond or royal farthing. Issued prior to 1634. Context 18, Phase 2B. SF3.
- 2 Charles I. Rose farthing. Issued after 1634. Context 31 (intrusive). SF7.
- 3 Charles I. Rose farthing. Context 31 (intrusive). SF8. Licence to produce farthings was revoked by parliament in 1644 so presumably coins 1–3 ceased to circulate at or soon after this date.
- 4 Token of William Shorter at 'Mestham' in Surrey, dated 1658. Context 8. Phase 3. SF5.
- 5 William III (1694–1702). Halfpenny, first issue 1698. Context 8. Phase 3. SF9.
- 6 George II (1727–60). Halfpenny, dated 1749. Topsoil. SF6.
- 7 George II. Halfpenny, old bust 1740–54. Context 5. Phase 4. SF2.
- 8 Copper liard of Louis XIV of France, from the last days of his reign. The coin is very worn and

presumably did not fall from currency until some time in the 18th century. Whether it had a role in English currency is not clear, but the English copper coinage was in such a bad state in the mid-18th century that it is not impossible it was acceptable as a farthing. The probability is that it was deposited c 1720s–40s, though a later date is not improbable. Context 8. Phase 3. SF4.

- 9 Victoria (1837–1901). Penny, dated 1874. Context 5. Phase 4. SF1.

Clay tobacco pipes, by David Higgins (fig 13)

The 1992 excavations in London Road, Reigate produced one hair curler and 245 fragments of clay tobacco pipe comprising 70 bowl, 172 stem and three mouthpiece fragments. The full report on the clay tobacco pipes and hair curler is available on the ADS website (see *Endnote*)

- 1 Complete bowl of c 1660–80 with an extremely glossy surface. Context 30.
- 2 Bowl of c 1720–70 with the moulded initials 'GT' for George Thornton of Dorking. Context 8.
- 3 Bowl of c 1760–1800 with fluted decoration and the relief moulded initials 'GT'. Context 31.
- 4 Fragmentary bowl of c 1750–90 with relief moulded hearts and dots on each side of the heel. Context 61.
- 5 Bowl fragment of c 1800–50 with large but fairly crudely executed leaves on the seams and small, faintly moulded maker's initials 'WH' on the spur. Context 5.
- 6 Complete bowl and joining stem fragment of c 1810–80. Context 41.
- 7 Fragment, dating from c 1820–50. Context 5.
- 8 Bowl of c 1870–1920 with a 'button' heel and moulded milling at the rim. Unstratified.
- 9 Fragment of a very delicate pipe of c 1870–1920. Context ?41.
- 10 Bowl of c 1870–1920 with a wide cylindrical rest, shown in plan. Context ?41.
- 11 Complete pipe with a cricket bat, ball and stumps on each side of the bowl, c 1870–1920. Unstratified.
- 12 Hair curler made of pipe clay and with an incuse stamp comprising the crowned initials 'WB' on the surviving end.

The witch bottle (fig 14)

A complete glass wine bottle was found in context 33, upturned, corked and still containing liquid. The bottle form dates to the last two decades of the 17th century (Dumbrell 1983, pl 10, shows two sealed bottles, dated 1684 and 1690, both very similar to that from London Road). The context which contained the bottle was a shallow trench of unknown purpose that ran along the inside of the east wall of room 1. This feature also contained thirteen pottery sherds of which two are of white stoneware from Staffordshire. This first appears about 1720 (Jennings 1981, 222). The feature does not allow closer dating but it may be suggested that the bottle was between 30 and 50 years

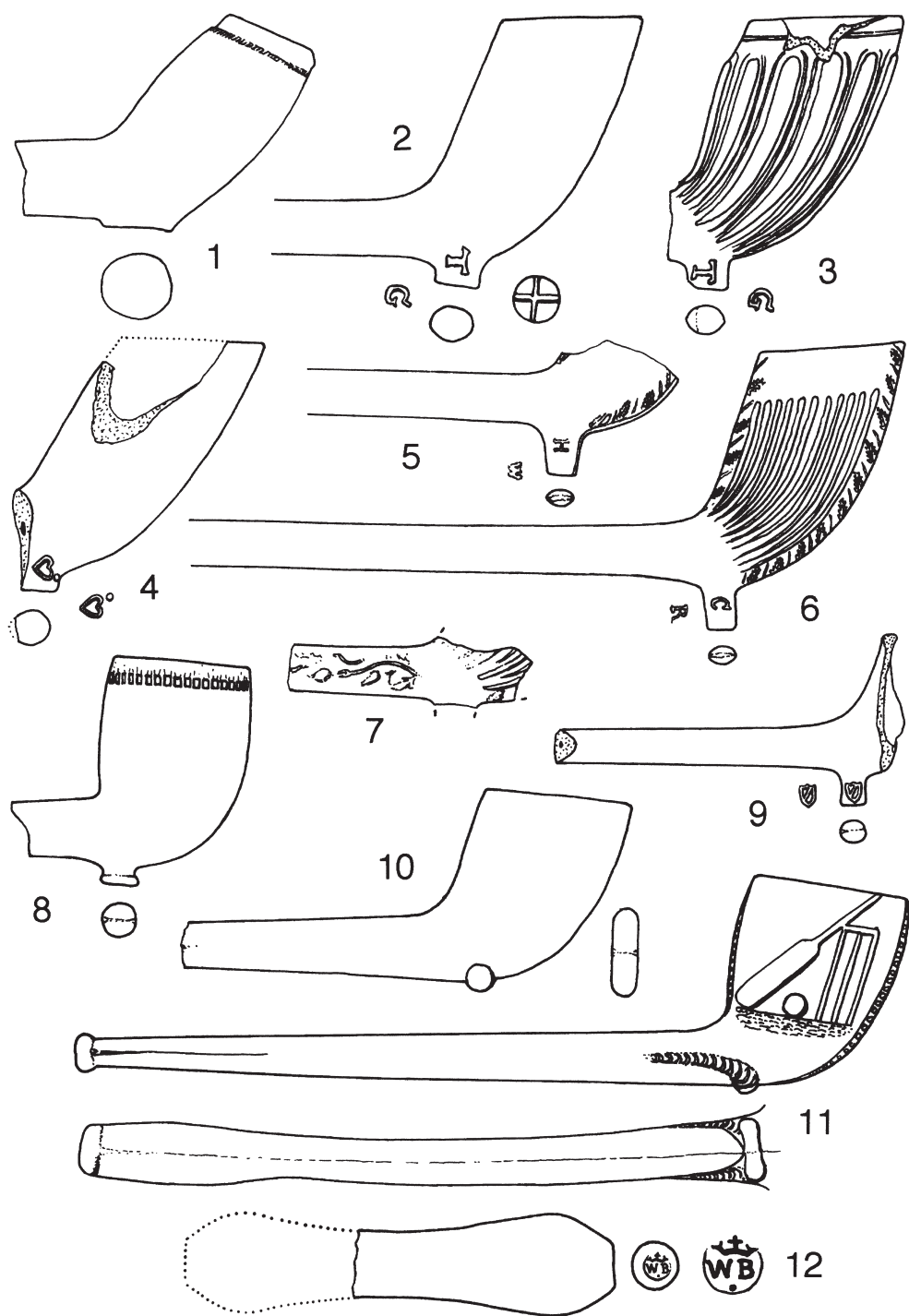


Fig 13 Three sites in Reigate: 12-14 London Road. Clay tobacco pipes and hair curler. Scale 1:1 with hair curler stamp detail at 2:1.

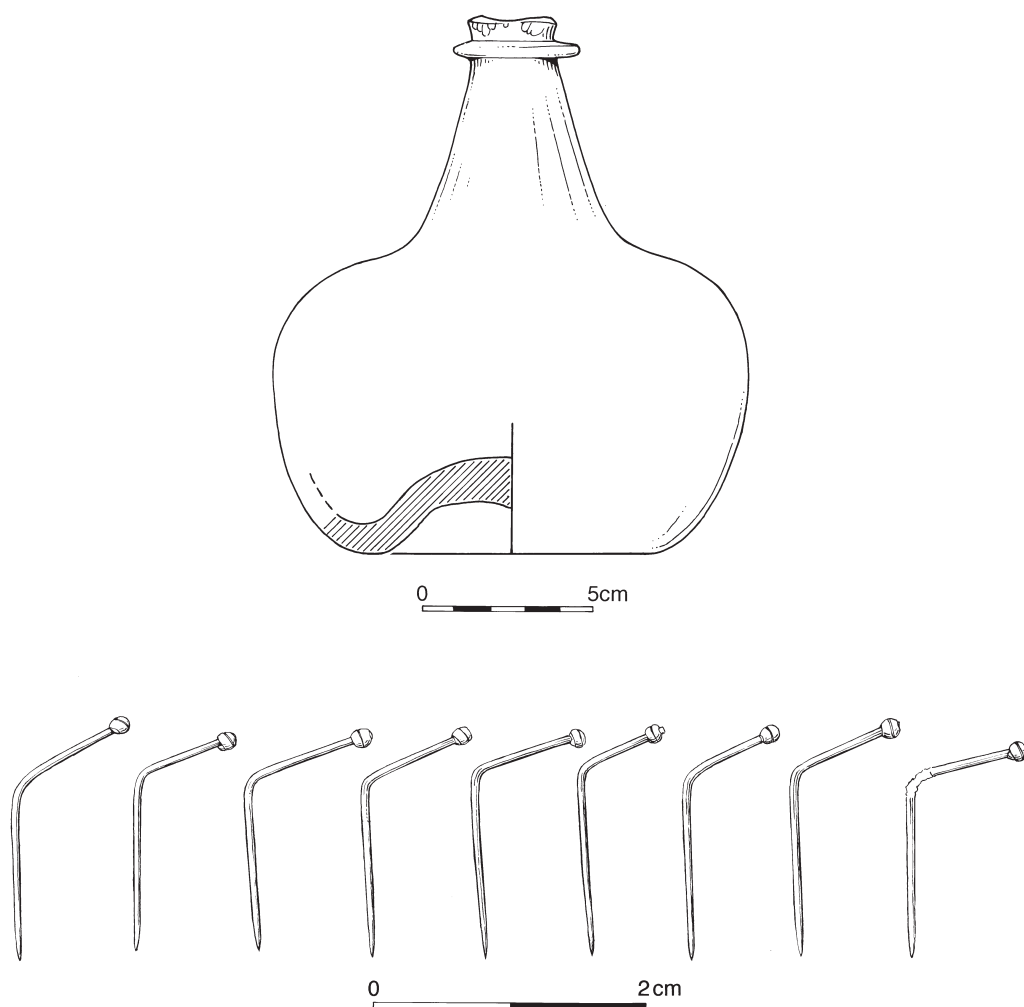


Fig 14 Three sites in Reigate: 12–14 London Road. Glass bottle used as a ‘witch bottle’ with contents of bent pins.

old when it was deposited here. It could also be that it was recovered from elsewhere in the house during rebuilding and redeposited.

The bottle was half full of liquid when found and its use as a witch bottle was not immediately suspected. To test whether the liquid was wine the contents were examined. Upon first piercing the cork considerable pressure was released and a sample of liquid was then injected onto a gas chromatography column. The resultant analysis showed that alcohol was present only in a minute quantity (less than 0.02% vol) and that the, more or less, colourless liquid was therefore not alcohol based or similar. Following this test the cork was removed and the contents strained. This resulted in the recovery of nine bent pins. A sample of the liquid was then analysed for the presence of urea: none appeared to be present.

Following the publication of a note on the bottle (Williams 1997) the liquid contents were further analysed by Dr Alan Massey, who conclusively identified the liquid as urine (Massey 2000). A fuller report on the contents will be published elsewhere.

The use of pottery and, occasionally, glass containers filled with urine from the supposed victim as well as sometimes their hair and toenail clippings, bent pins and other objects such as nails, as charms against the spells of witchcraft is well documented. Merrifield (1987, 159–83) has dealt with the subject in detail. The practice, which had the intention of returning the evil upon the supposed witch, seems to have originated, according to Merrifield, in Suffolk in the middle of the 17th century and appears to have been confined entirely to southern England and, before the end of that century, to the American

colonies. Stoneware bellarmine bottles were most commonly used as witch bottles in the 17th century, perhaps, as Merrifield suggests, because of the malevolent expression on the face mask. The use of these bottles for this purpose seems to have begun at about the same time as the mask degenerated from the more kindly expressions on the earlier bottles. A Reigate example of a bellarmine which may have been used for this purpose was found during excavation of the Old Vicarage, Church Street, buried below the floor in the area of the crosswing. Although empty upon discovery, the vessel was intact and lay upturned in the ground (Williams 1981).

The manufacture of stoneware vessels with recognisable faces had largely ceased by the late 17th century so other impervious vessels began to be used for this purpose. The use of glass wine bottles as witch bottles does not, however, seem to have been recorded before from England. Merrifield (1987, 174) cites an example dating to *c* 1740–50 from Pennsylvania that was found inverted and which contained six bent pins.

#### Architectural fragment (fig 15)

Dressed block of Upper Greensand forming the sill or perhaps an upper corner of a window. The rough and worn surface on one side suggests external weathering. Patches of mortar adhere to broken edges at a number of points, suggesting an earlier re-use as rubble. Despite the damage it is clear, by extending the surviving dressed face, that a groove in which a leaded window could be inserted is absent. This suggests an origin in a late medieval building, perhaps one equipped with wooden shutters. This fragment may have come from an imposing building within the town rather than the castle or priory. Context 52. Phase 2. SF103.

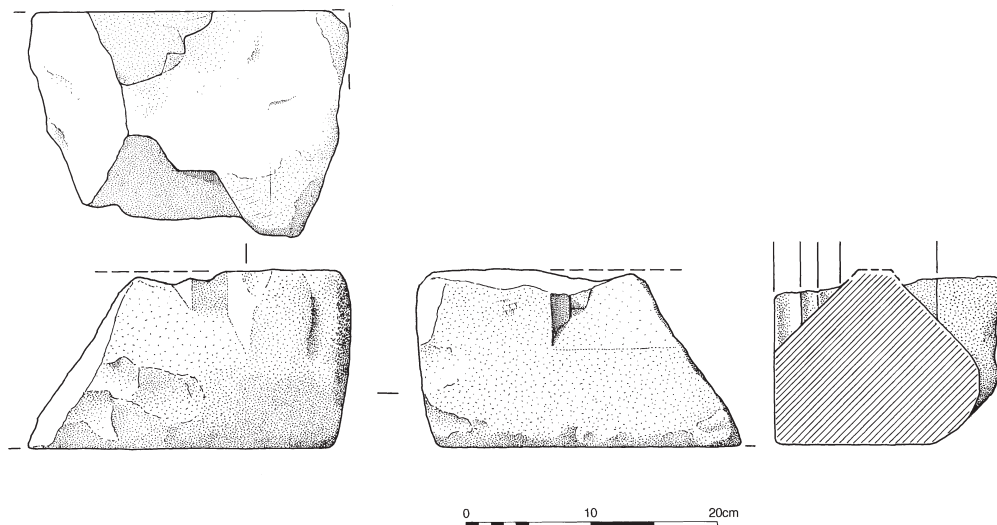


Fig 15 Three sites in Reigate: 12–14 London Road. Architectural fragment.

#### 20–22 AND 74–76 HIGH STREET (fig 16)

##### Pottery

Twenty-four sherds of pottery were recovered from 20–22 High Street, six of which were recovered with certainty from contexts 6 and 7. As no other medieval layers were exposed it may be assumed that the remaining pottery found unstratified on the site also derived from these contexts. A smaller quantity of pottery was recovered from 74–76 High Street. The sherds from both sites are sand-tempered. Shell-tempered and white Border wares are both absent while grey wares are present. There seems no reason to assign any of these sherds to a date outside the 13th century. The pottery from 20–22 High Street may date to the latter half of the 13th century while the smaller group from 74–76 High Street could be earlier.

#### 20–22 High Street

- 1 Cooking pot or jar. Orange buff ware with grey core and medium sand temper.
- 2 ?Bowl. Orange/pink ware. Fine sand temper.
- 3 Jug. Body sherd probably from near the lower handle attachment. Dark green glaze over white slip and looping sgraffito decoration. Fine sand temper.
- 4 ?Bowl. Rim with incised decoration, yellow glaze on interior and attachment for a horizontal handle.

#### 74–76 High Street

- 5 Cooking pot or jar. Dark grey ware. Medium to coarse sand temper.
- 6 Jug. Body sherd. Buff/brown surfaces with a dark grey core. Incised wavy line decoration using a two-pronged implement.

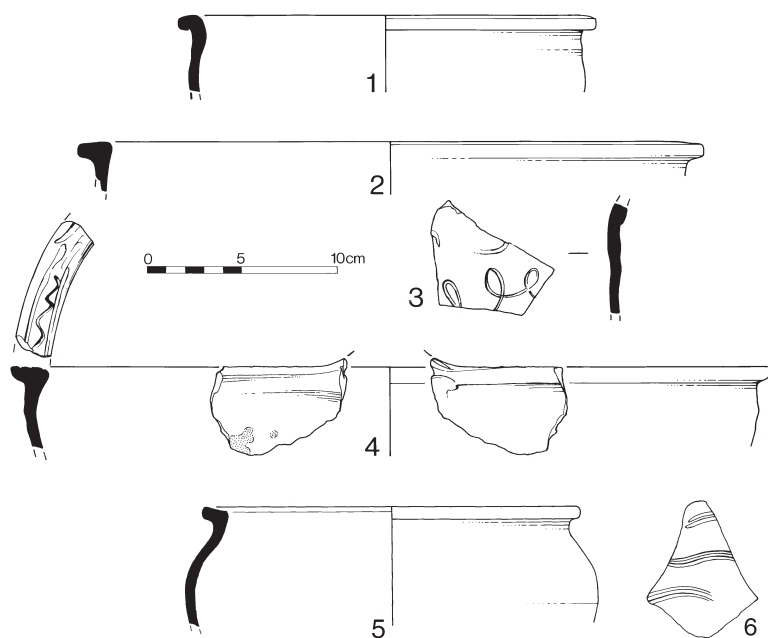


Fig 16 Three sites in Reigate: 20–22 and 74–76 High Street. Medieval pottery.

## Discussion

At each site were found substantial layers of dumped sand and each is interpreted as upcast from the adjacent, upslope, castle earthworks. In the case of 12–14 London Road, the sand is likely to have come from the defensive ditch. Medieval pottery, sealed by these substantial sand deposits at 20–22 and 74–76 High Street, suggests a date in the 13th century for what appears to have been a remodelling of the defences.

At 20–22 High Street, the sequence suggests that after some initial activity in the 13th century (contexts 6–8) the area was buried beneath a substantial depth of sand and stone fragments (contexts 4–5). At 74–76 High Street a similar sequence of events can be seen. Here, the earliest deposit (6) can be interpreted as a buried soil or turf line. Then in the 13th century a pre-existing hollow or perhaps a sand quarry was used to dispose of rubbish and rubble. This episode was then followed by the dumping of a substantial depth of sand which also fills the hollow or quarry.

On none of the sites is there clear evidence for domestic activity either prior to or following the sand dumping episode. The medieval pottery on both High Street sites need not imply any more than the disposal of rubbish downslope from the castle above. The cuts observed in section 2, at 20–22 High Street, are more difficult to explain but again need not imply more than small-scale gardening activities on the lower slopes of the castle. That the dumped sand derives from works related to the castle which stood just above can hardly be doubted. Any pre-existing tenement would have been swamped by such a huge quantity of dumped sand and on neither of the two sites in the High Street does there appear to be evidence for building on the frontage until the 16th century, by the end of which, as Hooper (1945, 46) states, the castle had fallen into decay. The archaeological evidence from these two sites strongly suggests that much, if not all, of the north side of the High Street may have been free of buildings (with the exception of a gateway known to have stood at the present access point to the castle grounds (*ibid*, 45) during the time when the castle was still of military

significance. In military terms, keeping the slopes below the castle clear of buildings makes sense and it is suggested that this was the case until some time from the mid-16th century onwards when the castle ceased to function as a stronghold.

At 12–14 London Road the excavated building remains, which are for whatever reason aligned slightly differently from the present tenement pattern, represent parts of two rooms at the rear of a building. This building was probably at first-floor level relative to contemporary buildings fronting London Road. It may be assumed that the structure was timber framed on a stone (and later, partly brick) foundation. Evidence from the excavation and from surviving documents suggests a construction date just before the middle of the 17th century and there is no evidence for earlier buildings on the site. Unfortunately, despite the good preservation of the remains, too little survived the extensive destruction of 1988 in particular for much to be said about the layout or use of the building beyond what has already been observed. No dimensions can be given although it is probable that a south external wall lay very close to the limit of the extant remains.

At some stage in its short life, although a relatively new structure, it underwent extensive rebuilding. It is difficult to explain why this should have been found necessary and even more so why wall 10 should have been rebuilt and re-aligned.

A date for demolition cannot readily be ascertained from documentary records. A few sherds of white stoneware from context 33 suggest that the building was still being occupied during the first quarter of the 18th century at least. A worn Louis XIV liard from the demolition rubble suggests that demolition had taken place by the middle of the 18th century, when the building was little more than a hundred years old, although demolition could have been a little later than this. A probable reason for demolition can be found in the extensive underlying caverns created by sandworking. Substantial subsidence of properties just to the south occurred in the late 19th century and resulted in the wholesale rebuilding of the frontage properties immediately north of the Red Cross inn. From the evidence of clay pipes found on a number of occasions in these sandworkings, the extraction of sand from the rear of properties fronting London Road in particular seems to have taken place from the 17th century onwards. At the time of the excavation reported on here the ceiling of a substantial cavern lay less than 2m below the chalk floor of the building. Even if this particular cavern is of later date it may reflect the intent, by the 18th century, of undermining the land on which this building stood. By the middle of the 18th century the area had reverted to gardens, and cesspits were being dug in the more yielding soils beyond the demolished remains.

Finally, it should be put on record that a stone wall of similar construction to that which formed the north wall of the excavated building was observed by the author in a similar position to it at the base of the sloping gardens just south of the former Auction Rooms. This raises the possibility of building remains surviving here also.

## Endnote

The full report on the clay tobacco pipes and hair curler is available on the Archaeology Data Service website (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/surreyac/v92.cfm>). Copies of this material will also be deposited with: the Society's library, Guildford; Surrey History Centre, Woking, and the Surrey Sites and Monuments Record, Kingston. Photocopies can also be supplied by post – enquiries should be addressed to the Hon Editors, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX.

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