TWO SITES WITHIN THE OUTER PRECINCT OF THE MEDIEVAL PRIORY OF THE ORDER OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM

Ken Pitt with Richard Bluer

With contributions by Terence Paul Smith (building material), Lyn Blackmore (medieval and post-medieval pottery), and Geoff Egan (accessioned finds)

SUMMARY

This report summarises the findings from two sites that lie within the outer precinct of the medieval priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. Both cut features and domestic buildings relating to the medieval priory were found. The buildings relate to the monastic period c.1280–c.1540 and include a building which may have been that referred to in documentary sources as the 'Great Barn'. Following the dissolution of the priory in 1540 the area was intensely redeveloped and at least two subsequent phases of buildings were identified. This report also draws on previous published documentary and archaeological evidence (Sloane & Malcolm 2004).

INTRODUCTION

The circumstances of the investigations

The two sites at 6–9 Briset Street/12–13 St John's Square (MOL site code SNQ99) and 89–97 St John Street (MOL site code SAJ98), London Borough of Islington (Fig 1), were excavated by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) in 1999. Both sites lie within the designated Archaeological Priority Zone no. 72 (as identified in the Borough's Unitary

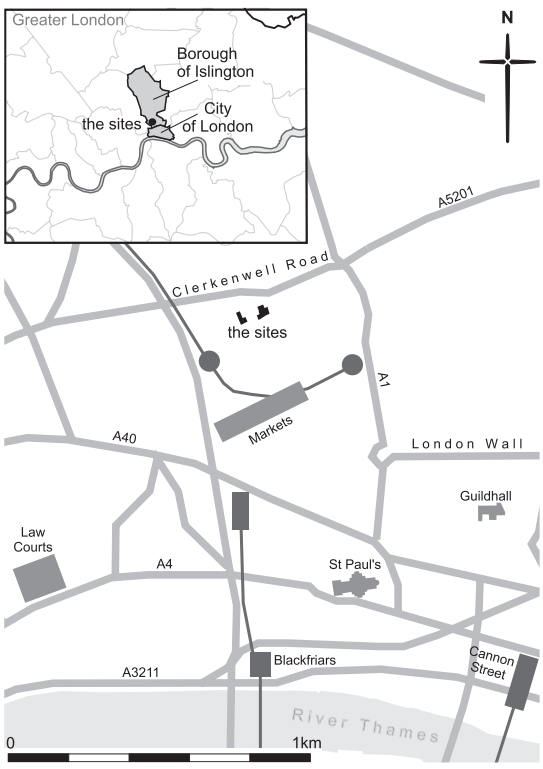

Fig 1. Location of the sites (scale 1:25,000)

Development Plan) and to the south-west and south-east respectively of the standing gatehouse (Scheduled Ancient Monument no. GL8) of the priory of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, built by Prior Thomas Docwra in 1504. Thus both sites lie just outside the area of the priory's inner precinct (Fig 2). The similarity of the two sites in respect of the monastic topography, as well as their proximity — at their closest points the sites are only 40m apart — justify their being brought together in a single

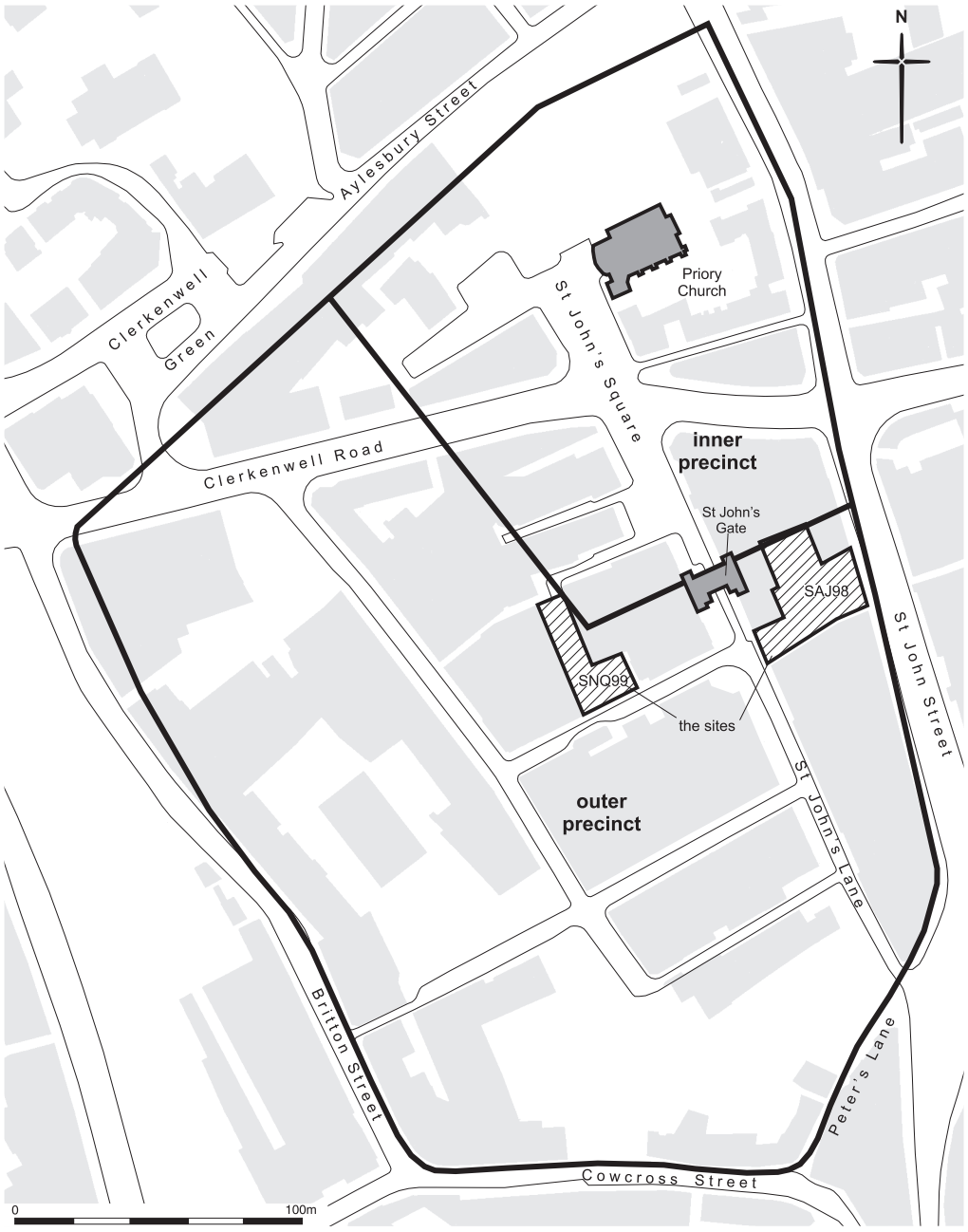

Fig 2. The sites in relation to the extent of the monastic precinct of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (scale 1:2,500)

report. Detailed finds and environmental reports as well as the research archive have been deposited with the Museum of London's London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) and can be consulted by prior arrangement.

The first programme of excavation on the 6–9 Briset Street/12–13 St John's Square site took place intermittently between November 1989 and May 1990 (site code BAD89). Two trenches were excavated (not illus), one (Trench 1) occupying an area some 7m by 12m on the 6–9 Briset Street property, close to the southern boundary of the property at 14–17 St John's Square. A second trench (Trench 2) was opened at the south end of the 12–13 St John's Square part of the site.

The site then lay fallow until August 1999, when three trenches were opened (Fig 3) (site code SNQ99). Trench 1 provided no archaeological information and was immediately backfilled and all the stratigraphy in Trench 3 had been truncated by an 18th-century cellar wall. Therefore, excavation was concentrated in Trench 2, which greatly expanded the findings from Trench 2 at the BAD89 excavation. Fieldwork ceased in September of the same year.

During September 1998 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the St John Street site (Hill 1998). This concluded that between 0.55m and 1.23m of horizontal stratigraphy survived in those areas of the site that were unaffected by modern basements. In September 1999 controlled excavation commenced in Area A of the site (Fig 3), finishing in November. Because of the high level of truncation by modern cellars, Area B was subject only to watching-brief coverage; this took place intermittently between October and December 1999. The northern half of the site (behind 97–101 St John Street) was not investigated as a large modern basement had removed all archaeological material to a depth of *c.*14.60m OD.

The archaeological deposits were recorded in accordance with MoLAS procedures, by identifying the individual events generally known as contexts (context numbers are shown in square brackets *eg* [123]). The stratigraphic sequence of contexts recorded was analysed into sub-groups, the sub-group sequence into groups, and the groups into numbered land-use elements — Buildings and Open Areas — which form the principal interpretative units used in this report, numerated in a single sequence covering both sites. The sequence is divided into six chronological periods. Periods 2–4 correspond to Periods M4–6 from a previous publication (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 12). For each period, the findings are presented

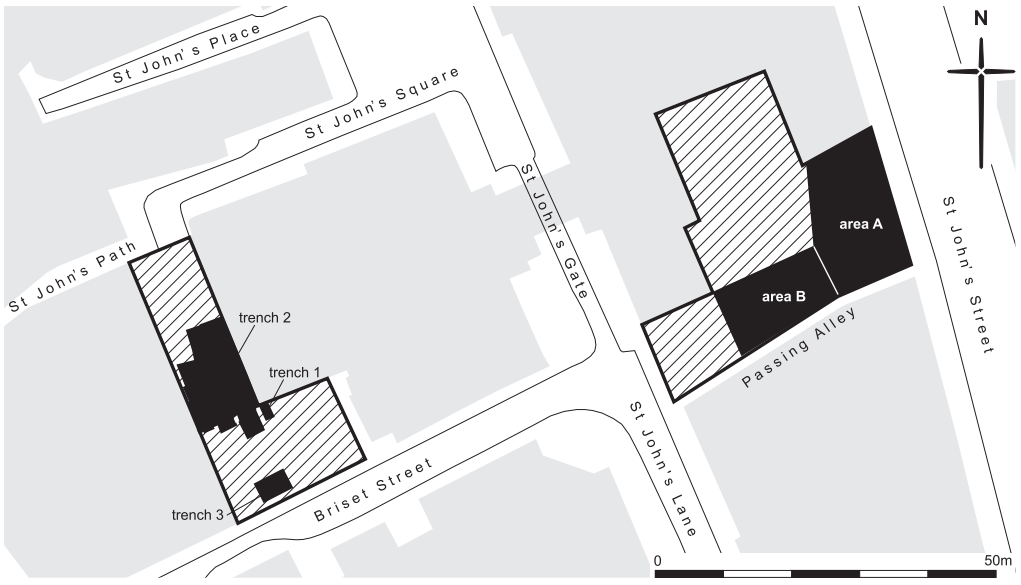

Fig 3. Areas of investigations at the two sites

by site. This article makes use of previously published documentary and archaeological evidence (Sloane & Malcolm 2004). Illustrated pottery is referred to as <P00>, tiles <T00>, non-ceramic finds <S00>, and worked stone <WS00>.

THE PRIORY OF ST JOHN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLERKENWELL

The Knights of St John, or the Knights Hospitaller, were one of the most famous Christian military orders. Their humble origins lay in helping early pilgrims at Jerusalem from the turn of the 12th century, but they developed into a true multi-national organisation with headquarters in almost all European countries. The Priory in England was centred at Clerkenwell, in London, where the surviving medieval crypt and Tudor gatehouse are well-known landmarks. The earliest church, with one of the largest British examples of a round nave as well as a crypt, was built on land given to the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem by a Norman knight, Jordan de Bricet, in 1144. The crypt, greatly enlarged *c.*1185, still survives, with part of the nave and chancel. A major redevelopment at the beginning of the 14th century replaced the round nave with a more conventional rectangular one, and added a long hall. The priory precincts were divided into an inner, monastic, precinct, and an outer, more secular, court. The inner precinct blended monastic elements, such as a large church and a cemetery, with a great hall, residential ranges and service courts, found usually only at the palaces of the richest nobles. The outer precinct was developed from the 14th century onwards, forming a kind of close filled with houses and gardens where officials and important servants of the Priory of England took up residence. During the Peasants' Revolt of *c.*1381 the priory was 'consumed by fire'.

The dissolution of the priory in 1540 by Henry VIII appears to have had little effect on the priory buildings. The nave and bell-tower were destroyed by 1550, but other buildings were adapted for private use, becoming the residence of nobility and the location, for a while, of the royal Master of the Revels. The return of the Order to its former site in 1557 under Queen Mary was short-lived. Two principal mansions were formed out of the old monastic buildings.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

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Pre-priory, before *c.*1280 (Period 1)

No *in-situ* prehistoric deposits were recovered from any of the sites. However, two small hammer-struck flints, of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, were recovered from a primary reclamation dump at SNQ99.

In Trench 1 of the BAD89 excavation, a spread of soil up to 200mm thick was recorded directly above natural gravels. It included five small assemblages of Roman pottery, much of which was abraded, presumably as a result of reworking the soil by ploughing. Generally, the pottery was in the *c.*AD 55–160 date range, but there was also a black burnished ware everted-rimmed jar with a *terminus post quem* of *c.*AD 180. Eight sherds of residual Roman pottery were recovered from medieval contexts at SNQ99, including Much Hadham ware (*terminus post quem* of *c.*AD 200), confirming that there was activity in the near vicinity in the later Roman period. No deposits or artefacts of the Saxon period were recorded on any of the sites.

The earlier 14th-century outer precinct, *c.*1280–1330/50 (Period 2)

Period 2 is from the foundation of the priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in *c.*1144 to the mid-14th century. Both of the sites lay within the outer precinct of the priory, an area that was fairy under-developed during this period.

East of St John's Lane (SAJ98)

Early cut features (Open Area 1)

Clean natural gravels were not seen above 16.0m OD. They were sealed by weathered or root-disturbed gravels, in turn sealed in the central part of the site by brickearth. This underlay a sandy silt containing a small assemblage of pottery, which included Kingston-type ware (KING) and South Hertfordshire ware (SHER), but was dominated by London-type wares (LOND). Vessels in the latter included a North French

style baluster jug with an applied vertical strip, a highly decorated jug with vertical rouletting, and a polychrome jug which gave a *terminus post quem* of *c.*1240 for activity at the site.

Cutting this silt was a curvilinear ditch, at least 2.9m long and incorporating a posthole, but nevertheless more likely to be delineating a boundary than structural in function.

West of St John's Lane (SNQ99)

The findings from the earlier excavation (BAD89) suggested that the Roman soil horizon (Period 1) was sealed by a similar soil with pottery of *terminus post quem* 1050 (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 24), probably representing a late Saxon/early Norman use of the area as open farmland.

At SNQ99, sealing the natural gravels at 13.55m OD was a deep (up to 0.6m) deposit of mid-brown silty sand, containing one abraded sherd from a Roman grog-tempered bowl. This can only be broadly dated to *c.*AD 40–400, but is in keeping with the presence of Roman pottery on other sites in the area.

Building 11

A masonry wall (Building 11) was then constructed in this area. It was east–west orientated and ran the full width of Trench 2, the observed length being 9.1m (Fig 4). At the eastern trench limit it had been truncated by an 18th-century wall; to the west it was not identified during archaeological observations of development of the adjacent property, and is presumed to have been truncated by post-medieval cellars.

At 14.6m OD, there was a step-out of 75mm width on the southern side, corresponding to the division between foundation and superstructure. The former was 0.8m deep, and was composed of medium and large (<300mm) uncoursed and undressed chalk blocks, with a few Kentish Ragstones. The broader upper part was faced entirely with Kentish Ragstone on both sides, but the work was of poor quality with the stones not squared or regularly coursed, although there was one course of large stones (<500mm) near the base of the north face. Its core was chalk rubble with occasional flints. The superstructure generally survived to a height of 0.5m above the step-out, with localised survival to 1.3m (within 0.3m of present-day ground level) at the western site boundary (see Fig 9). Peg and earlier mid-12th to early 13th-century shouldered peg tile was

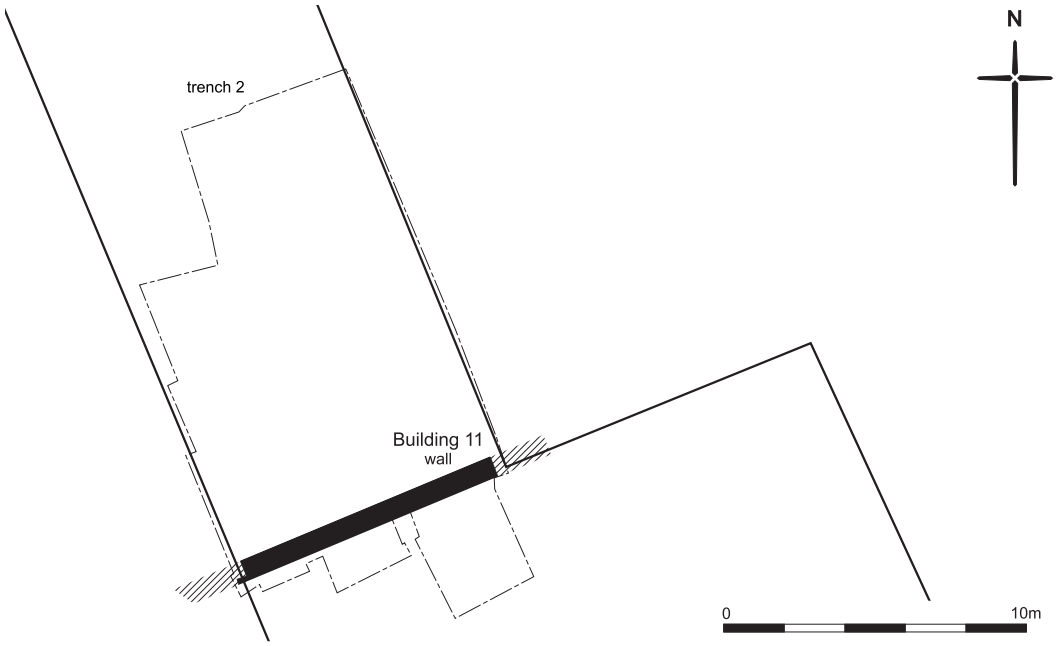

Fig 4. Plan of Building 11 (SNQ99) in Period 2 (scale 1:250)

reused in this wall. It was not clear from the constitution of the faces which (if either) was internal, but the presence of an east–west-aligned ditch found on the previous excavation (BAD89) (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 77–8) to the south suggests that this is the southern wall of a building.

It is assumed that the northern wall of this building was truncated by the cellars of later buildings (Buildings 12 and 13, Period 5); the position and dimensions of those cellars imply that the building could not have been more than 7.5m wide. It is known from documentary sources (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 140) that this area of the outer monastic precinct was occupied by a 'Great Barn' by the late 15th century.

The later 14th- and 15th-century outer precinct, *c.*1330/50–1480 (Period 3)

East of St John's Lane (SAJ98)

The ditch from Period 2 was sealed by a re-worked soil horizon, possibly a ploughsoil, which brought the ground level to 17.0m OD; the pottery from this dated to the late 13th–14th century. Coarse Surrey/Hampshire border ware (CBW) was the most common type followed by London-type ware. Also present were Mill Green ware (MG), Kingston-type ware (KING), South Hertfordshire-type greyware (SHER), and part of a Saintonge ware jug (SAIM). The latest material comprised two sherds of Cheam ware (CHEA), which indicate a date after *c.*1350 for the group (Pearce & Vince 1988, 17, 85–91). Animal bone recovered included a small group of fragments derived from ox skull, lower jaw and rib; sheep/goat skull; and plaice/flounder upper jaw. There was no butchery evidence, and no evidence for age at slaughter.

This reworked soil also contained the most significant artefact from the excavation, an embossed lead seal <S1> from a papal bull (Fig 5) issued by Pope Innocent III (1198–1216). This date of issue may be compared with the deposition date of *c.*1350–1400, as indicated by the pottery. This would suggest that it was redeposited in a later context. Given that it would presumably have been important evidence authenticating the papal document, it seems more likely to have been lost than discarded, although it may have been jettisoned when the bull was no longer relevant to the situation of the Order.

In the north-east of the excavated area was a ditch over 1.4m wide, with a steep side and a flattish base sloping slightly down to the west. Three observations of the southern edge enabled the course of this to be extrapolated to a kinked plan (Fig 6) of length 9.0m (or possibly 14.0m if a section observation at the western limit of excavation is included). The considerable width of the feature suggests an interpretation as a significant boundary, although the slight kink in the alignment is puzzling, and suggests it might have been following a pre-existing feature. Perhaps it was merely a drainage or irrigation ditch, in which case there would have been no need

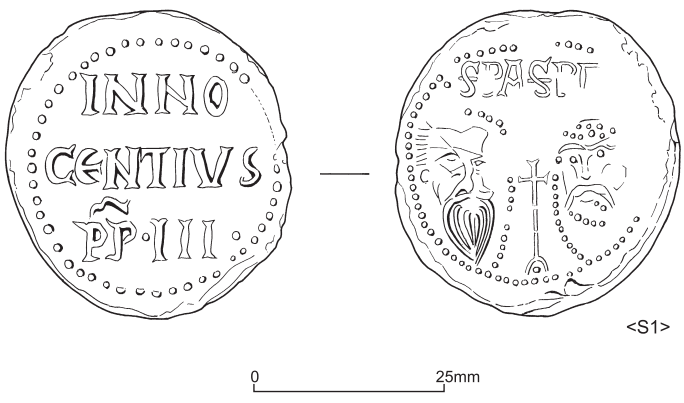

Fig 5. Papal lead seal <S1> of Pope Innocent III (scale 1:1)

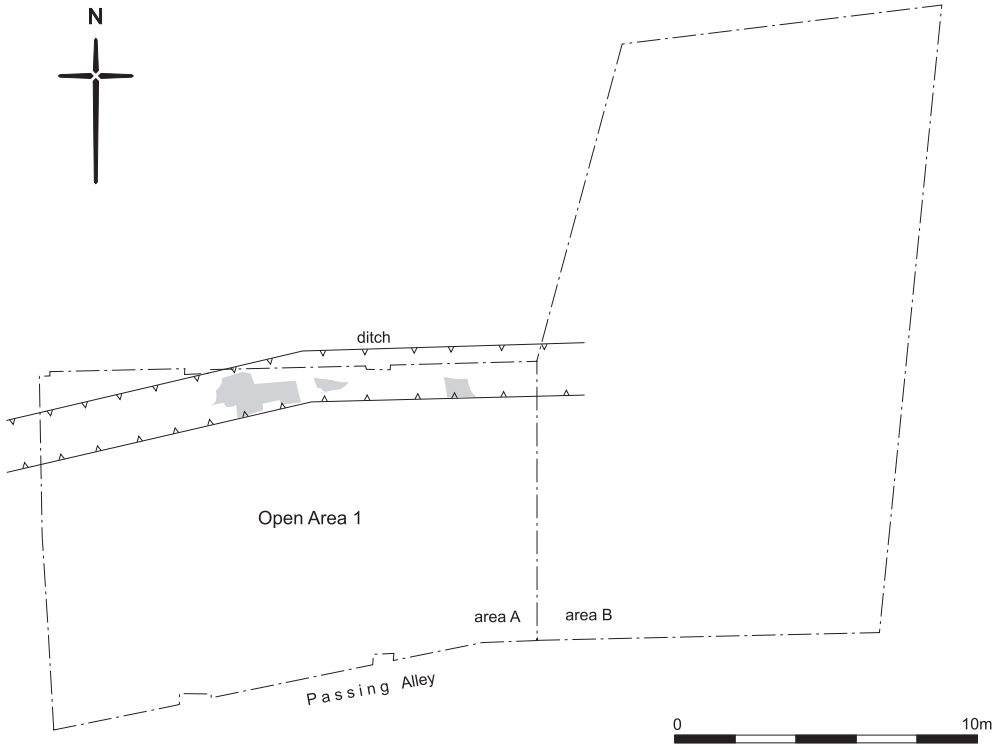

Fig 6. Plan of the ditch at SAJ98 (scale 1:250)

to maintain a straight line. The backfill of this ditch contained pottery of a similar date to that from the reworked soil horizon. The latest diagnostic piece is part of a Dutch redware cooking pot (DUTR), a fabric type that is extremely rare in contexts dating to before the mid-14th century (Vince 1985, 58, 79; Blackmore 1994, 37)

A few pits (not illus) are also dated to this period, on the basis of pottery in their backfill. One pit contained sizeable fragments of medieval peg tile stacked horizontally on the base and also set vertically around the perimeter. These are of splash-glazed type with two round nail-holes and are all in London area fabric types (MoL fabrics 2271, 2587, 3090). Peg tiles would have roofed many of the minor priory buildings, whilst the priory church would have been roofed in lead. Possibly from the priory church itself is a fragment of plain yellowish-green glazed floor tile (fabric 2199) found associated with the peg tiles; this is of 'Westminster' type, made in London during the period *c.*1250–*c.*1300 (Betts 2002, 25). These tiles may have acted as a pad and packing for a post, but no other evidence of structures was recovered in the vicinity. The dating of the floor tile agrees well with the pottery (KING) recovered from the fine silt between the tiles which has a *terminus post quem* of *c.*1230; a single sherd of post-medieval redware (PMRE) is thought to be intrusive.

Another pit is dated to 1350–1450 by one sherd of 'Tudor Green' ware lobed cup (TUDG) and two of late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware (LMHG; Jenner & Vince 1983, 152–3), one of which has repoussé raspberry bosses; also in this backfill is a sherd from a KING jug with fleur-de-lis stamped decoration.

An animal burrow, 1.6m long, had been tunnelled underneath the earlier deposits and contained pottery dated *c.*1340–1400; it contained the skeleton of a cat which had been partially burnt. The overall lack of structural activity during the 12th to 15th century suggests this was an open area in the monastic outer precinct, presumably given over to agricultural or similar activity,

sub-divided to some extent by the cutting of ditches and pits.

West of St John's Lane (SNQ99)

Building 11 was retained during this period and no other features relating to this period survived later truncation.

The 16th-century outer precinct, *c.*1480–1540 (Period 4)

Period 4 represents the late 15th century through to the dissolution of the priory in 1540. The earlier phase of quasi-rural tranquillity was overtaken during this time by the pressure of development, with the construction of numerous buildings.

East of St John's Lane (SAJ98)

Building 1

An L-shaped stone foundation formed the north-east corner of a building (Building 1, Fig 7) that extended beyond the site boundary to the south. The trench-built foundation was 0.70m wide and up to 0.48m deep, and comprised a single course of roughly hewn Kentish Ragstones and greensand blocks, bedded on a 240mm-deep deposit of crushed mortar, brick and tile rubble. A sequence of three brickearth layers and an intervening mortar layer, all heavily truncated, may have been internal surfaces associated with this building. The two uppermost surfaces were intensely scorched, suggesting that the building was destroyed by fire. Post-medieval redware (PMREM), roofing tile in fabric 2276, and brick fragments incorporated within the scorched floors indicate that they were constructed after *c.*1480. The early post-medieval redware sherds with metallic glaze (PMREM) are probably from a near-complete cauldron found in Building 3. It is unclear whether these sherds are intrusive or if the two assemblages are contemporary.

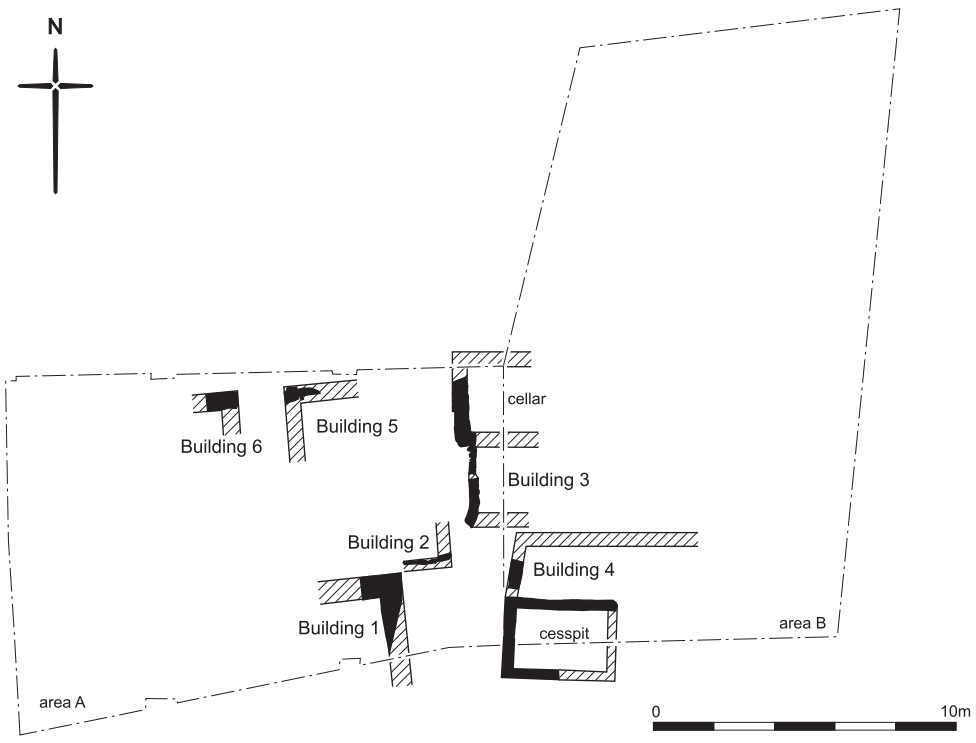

Fig 7. Plan of the late monastic buildings at SAJ98 (scale 1:250)

Building 2

Close to Building 1 was a similar (though less substantial) masonry foundation (Building 2, Fig 7), with a single surviving course of roughly hewn chalk and greensand blocks. It was heavily truncated by later pitting, but appeared to form the south-east corner of a separate building or structure.

Building 3

In the north-east corner of Area A, a 500mm-wide foundation of heavily mortared, roughly hewn chalk blocks, over 2.3m long on a north–south alignment, formed the rear wall of a cellared building to the east (Building 3, Fig 7). The foundation was 0.50m wide and survived to a depth of 1.20m. At its south end was a much shallower (*c.*350mm deep) return to the east incorporating some brickwork; it is possible that this replaced the original south wall of the cellar. A layer of mortar in the base of the cellar might have been construction debris or the make-up for a floor.

A relatively insubstantial north–south-aligned foundation of chalk blocks bonded with blue-grey clay was built against the south-east corner of Building 3. This is interpreted as the west wall of an addition to the original building, and an east–west return is conjectured.

Building 4

At the south end of Area B was a substantial (3.2m by 2.0m in plan) rectangular masonry-lined sunken feature (Building 4, Fig 7) which cut some 0.5m down into the natural gravel. The walls were 0.35m thick and constructed of mortared chalk blocks with occasional bricks, the west wall surviving to a depth of 1.6m. The basal fill consisted of *c.*60mm of organic silt, and contained some tile fragments and lenses of crushed greensand. Overlying this was a layer of clayey silt, up to 0.45m deep, which might have been a sealing deposit.

Buildings 5–6

An east–west element, 0.7m long and comprising heavily mortared Kentish Ragstone, chalk and brick rubble, was butted against a north–south element, 0.4m long, of similar composition (Building 5, Fig 7). These formed the vestigial remains of the north-west corner of a building of unknown extent. To the west was an aligned shallow foundation of mortared Kentish Ragstone with some chalk and flint (Building 6, Fig 7). The proximity of the two masonry elements suggests that they may have been part of the same building, despite their both being apparently butt-ended.

Discussion of Buildings 1–6

None of the superstructure of Buildings 1–6 survived, but it may be conjectured that they were associated with tenements that are recorded in documentary sources. These tenements are likely to be those lying within a plot of land located to the south of an alley, called Pissing Alley in Period 4 (see Fig 10). This plot is referred to in December 1486 as occupied by William Savage and on 24 April 1514 as 'our tenement with adjacent garden now in the tenure of Christopher Grene and Henry Savage'; this property was leased by the priory to Henry Savage and his wife Joan on 11 January 1515 for 40 years from the following Lady Day (25 March) at an annual rent of 40s (BL, Cotton MS Claudius E.vi, fo 149v; Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 142).

On 7 March 1529 the priory leased to Constantine Benet, gentleman, that tenement or messuage with adjacent garden once in the tenure of Henry Savage and his wife Joan, which their son Edward had sold and alienated to Sir Richard Nevile, a deceased brother of the priory, and which Edward had been obliged to buy back. It was described at this date as between St John Street to the east, the way leading towards the hospital or priory to the west (now St Johns Lane), the priory's tenement once in the tenure of William Warde to the north, and another priory tenement in the tenure of Francis Bell, deceased, to the south (PRO, LR2/62, fo 14r; Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 142).

On 5 June 1531 the priory leased to Benet all their messuage or tenement, described as 'newly built and edified and not yet fully finished' and on the site of an old tenement formerly in the tenure of Henry Savage, and including other tenements and houses and buildings, and a garden. At this date the northern boundary of the property consisted of a 'little lane or way' leading from St John's

Lane to houses in the tenure of William Hanley and Robert Lorde which were once part of Savage's holding. The property was to be held from St John's Day (24 June) next for 70 years at the previous rent of 40s, which included property on the west side of the lane (PRO, LR2/62, fo 78v; Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 142). This little lane was opposite the *parva venella* on the west side of St John's Lane (this was a small lane which ran to the south of the barn on site SNQ99) (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 142).

The plot to the south of this may also be within the area of SAJ98; this was in the tenure of Robert Foster, who was mentioned as a former occupant when it was leased to 'our servant' Francis Bell, gentleman, on 24 April 1514. It was identified as a tenement with adjacent garden lately in the tenure of Robert Foster, between St John Street and St John's Lane. The lease was for 40 years from the previous Lady Day (25 March), and the rent was 26s 8d (BL, Cotton MS Claudius E.vi, fo 132r; Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 142). The documentation of adjoining properties records Bell as occupant in January 1515, but shows that he had died by March 1529, and that in May 1536 his widow Marion was in occupation.

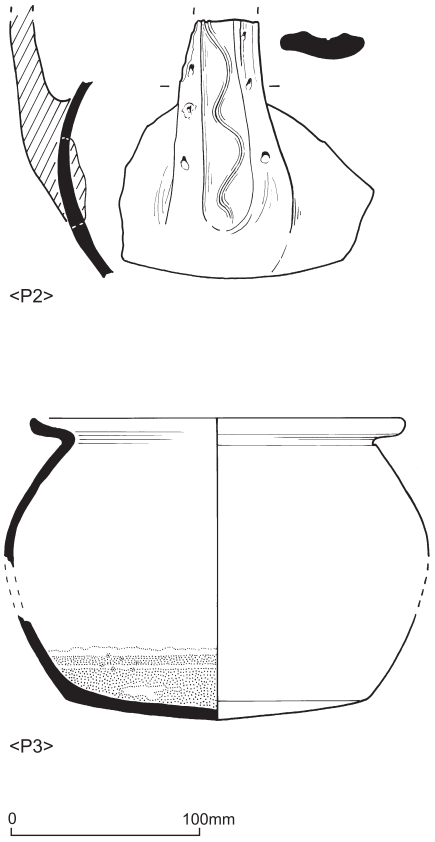

Fig 8. A large jug handle in late London-type ware <P2> and a late London-type slipped ware cooking pot <P3> from Open Area 1 (scale1:4)

Open Area 1

A number of pits (not illus) dating to this period were found associated with these buildings. These were located to the south and west of Building 3. These contained 14th-century pottery, early post-medieval redwares (PMRE, PMREM, PMSL), and early Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware (EBORD) giving a date of *c.*1480–1550. Of note were a late London-type ware (LLON) jug with decorated strap handle with stabbing along the sides and an incised wavy line in the thumbed groove along the back (<P2>, Fig 8) and a late London-type slipped ware (LLSL) cooking pot (<P3>, Fig 8) that seems to have been burnt after fracture but prior to discard in the pit.

These pits produced evidence for burnt animal bone; a fragment of adult ox femur was charred and calcined in different areas indicating a combustion temperature range of 400–700 degrees Celsius (Lyman 1994, 386). Also recovered were pig, cod and mallard/domestic duck. Butchery marks on the sheep/goat material indicated detachment of the forelimb at the shoulder and of the hind foot at the 'ankle', with further lateral chops on the scapula suggesting preparation of a half-shoulder joint. Fragments of pig pelvis and skull both derive from juveniles; the remainder of the material was adult. A complete fully fused sheep radius measured 0.145m in greatest length, indicating an animal with an estimated withers ('shoulder') height of 0.583m (Driesch & Boessneck 1974). This bone was probably derived from domestic food remains.

West of St John's Lane (SNQ99)

Leases from at least 1479 mention that 'a certain barn of the said hospital called le

Fig 9. The north face of Building 11 wall, the foundation step-out is just above the chalk blocks, and the debris of its destruction, wedge-shaped in section, is directly above the one-metre ranging rod, which lies on the brickearth surface

great barne' was located in the vicinity (BL, Lansdowne MS200, fo 46f; Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 140).

Building 11 was modified with a sunken floor cut below the level of the base of the foundations (Fig 9). This brickearth floor, although patchy in places, was generally quite level, at 14.2m OD. The surface contained a number of splash-glazed peg roofing tiles and a small fragment of ridge tile. The peg tiles include examples in fabric type 2276 which are unlikely to date much earlier that *c.*1480 (the others are in types 2271, 2586, 2587). This hints at a tiled roof for this building.

The brickearth surface was sealed by a homogeneous deposit of mortar, interpreted as destruction debris from the wall (Fig 9). Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from this material, but it may be a similar deposit to the spread of tile and mortar recorded in Trench 1 at BAD89, and there dated to the mid-14th century. This lay to the north of the east–west ditch, to the south of Building 11, which probably represented some kind of internal division within the priory, perhaps even the division between inner and outer precinct prior to the construction of the precinct wall.

Post-priory Clerkenwell, *c.*1540–*c.*1700 (Period 5)

East of St John's Lane (SAJ98)

In the earlier post-medieval period a number of alterations and additions were made to existing buildings, and an entirely new building was constructed (Fig 10). By this time Buildings 1 and 2 had been demolished.

Building 3

The cellar of Building 3 was infilled partially with deposits of organic silt, which suggest that it had a secondary use as a cesspit (Building 3, Fig 10). These deposits were sealed by a number of horizontal wooden planks, above which was a backfill of sand, silt and gravel. Seven pottery sherds, mostly

Fig 10. Plan of the buildings at SAJ98 in c.1700 (scale 1:250)

residual medieval, but including one of post-medieval redware, were recovered, dating the backfill to 1480–1600. These include the substantial parts of two pipkins, one of which has a metallic glaze (PMREM) (<P4>, Fig 11); the other, in PMRE, is either overfired or burnt (<P5>, Fig 11). Also present are sherds from other redware cauldrons/pipkins and part of a jug in Surrey-Hampshire border whiteware (EBORD).

Building 4

Alterations were made to the cesspit associated with another building (Building 4, Fig 10). Part of the masonry lining of the cesspit seems to have been incorporated into a later cellar. Because these contexts were only observed under watching-brief conditions, it is unclear whether the cellar represents an alteration to Building 4 or the construction of an entirely new building. The east wall of the cesspit was removed entirely, and the resulting trench was infilled with deposits of clay and cess containing three broken but near-complete post-medieval redware (PMRE) cauldrons, including an example with pinched feet (<P6>, Fig 11) suggesting a date before 1600. A brick floor was laid on top of the clay fill of the cesspit. The cellar floor abutted the west wall (and probably the south and north walls) of the original cesspit, though its extent to the east is unknown. Bricks used in the floor are of red type in fabric 3046, which indicates manufacture at a brickyard somewhere in the London area. Based on their thickness, the bricks from Building 4 are probably late 15th- or 16th-century, their complete size measuring 221 by 101–106 by 48–53mm.

Building 5

Part of Building 5 was modified by the insertion of a cellar (Fig 10). The cellar had brick walls, a brick floor and a fireplace at the

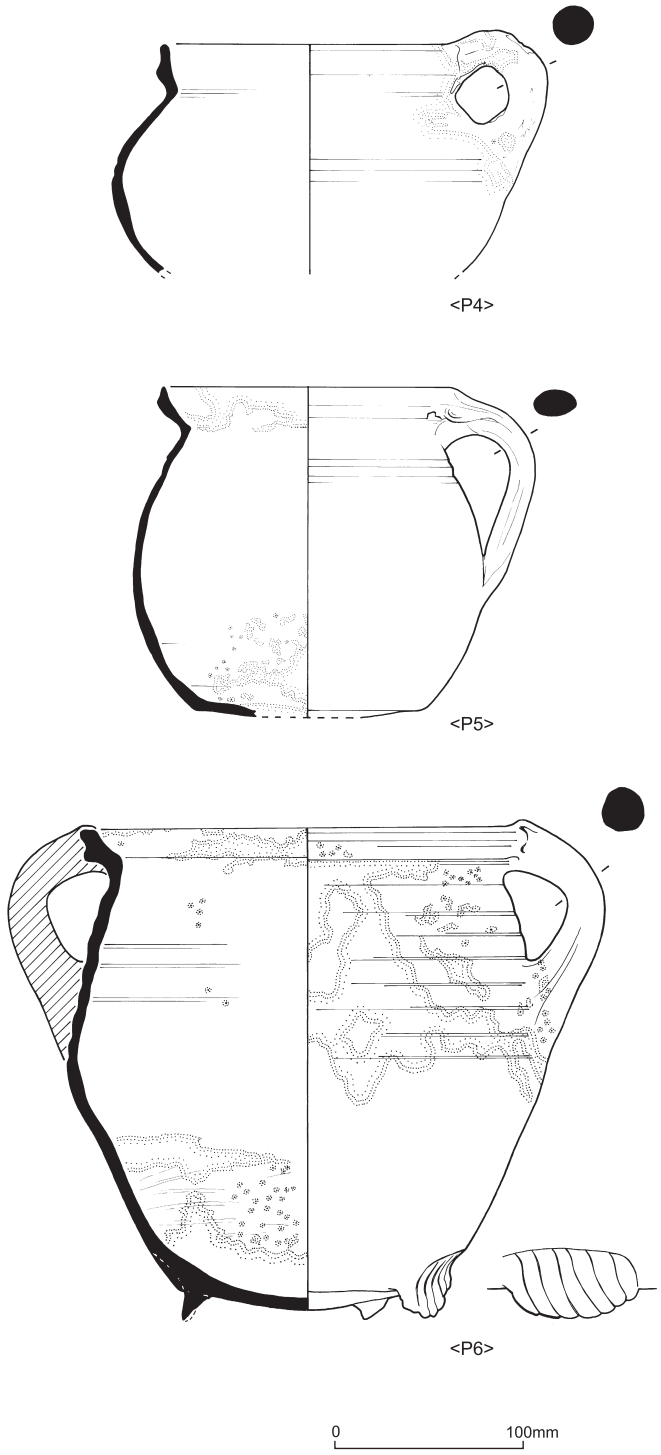

Fig 11. Post-medieval redware pipkin with a metallic glaze <P4>; an overfired or burnt pipkin in post-medieval redware <P5> from Building 3; and a post-medieval redware cauldron with pinched feet <P6> from Building 4 (scale 1:4)

east end. It underwent several modifications, including the relining of the fireplace and the insertion of brick drains with wooden lids, which ran around the edge of the cellar beneath the brick floor. The function of the drains may have been to collect condensation or ground water running down the walls of the cellar. They were connected to another drain that ran south-west from the corner of the cellar, presumably part of a planned drainage infrastructure. The red bricks used in the floors and walls of this building are all very similar in fabric (type 3033) and size (210–227 by 100–114 by 46–64mm). One has sides with a slight yellowish tinge and others have flint inclusions, both features which are more common in brickwork post-Great Fire of 1666. The bricks from this building cannot be dated with any precision, although these features together with their thickness would suggest a 17th-century date.

Four decorated tin-glazed blue-on-white tiles were found in the backfill over the floor of the cellar and a similar tile was found in the make-up for the floor. Four of the tiles show one quarter of a Tudor rose; one of the most common designs found on tin-glazed floor tiles used in London. It is not certain where these were made as tiles with this design were produced at a number of London delftware factories during the late 16th to mid-17th centuries.

Close examination of the 'Tudor rose' tiles reveals the work of two different tile painters. One tile painter (<T1>, Fig 12) is represented by a single tile with pale blue infill of certain flower petals. In the other painter's work (<T2>, Fig 12) these flower petals are deeper blue and there are also less circular marks in the decorative strapwork area. The third tile has a fairly crude flower design with barred ox-head corner motifs (<T3>, Fig 12). Tiles with similar flower arrangements and the same corner motif were made at both Pickleherring, Southwark, and Platform Wharf, Rotherhithe (Tyler *et al* 2008, 59, D25 and 89, D16).

The 'Tudor rose' tiles show either no or possibly only very slight wear, which suggests that they were laid as paving for a short period during the 17th century before being pulled up and discarded. It is not known where they were originally laid, although polychrome delftware tiles are known to have been used as decoration in Berkeley House, a large secular mansion which formerly stood on the west side of St John's Lane and south of the *parva venella* to the south-west of SAJ98 (Pringle 2004, 326).

Most of the pottery sherds associated with Building 5 are from the make-up layer. This can be dated to after 1630 by sherds from a plain white tin-glazed ware porringer (TGW C, Orton 1988, 321–7). Also present are brown-glazed Surrey/Hampshire border redware (RBORB), a polychrome tin-glazed dish, post-medieval redware, and Frechen stoneware (FREC); two small intrusive sherds of Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG) were also recorded. The clay pipes present are consistent with a date of *c.*1640–*c.*1660.

The make-up for the brick floor of the cellar produced a small group of animal bone comprising calf tooth and radius, ox vertebra, sheep/goat rib, vertebra, radius

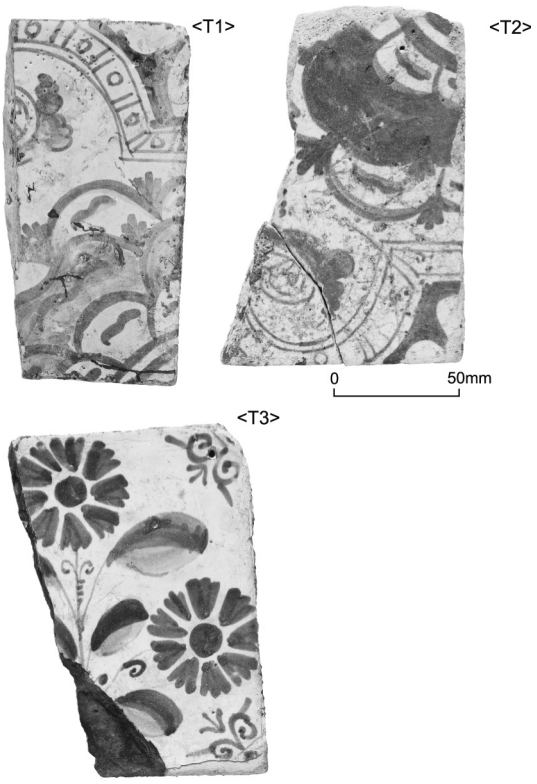

Fig 12. Blue-on-white tin-glazed floor tiles (<T1>–<T3>) dating to the second half of the 17th century, found infilling the cellar of Building 5 (scale 1:3)

and juvenile metapodial ('foot'), and juvenile rabbit radius. The calf radius had been chopped through at the 'wrist' articulation indicating detachment of the forefoot. The backfill over this floor produced only a few fragments of chicken skull and sheep/goat vertebrae and metapodials. The sheep/goat vertebrae had been chopped along the midline indicating division of the carcase into 'sides'. Much of this material had been severely gnawed by rodents, probably indicating domestic food waste dumped into the cellar.

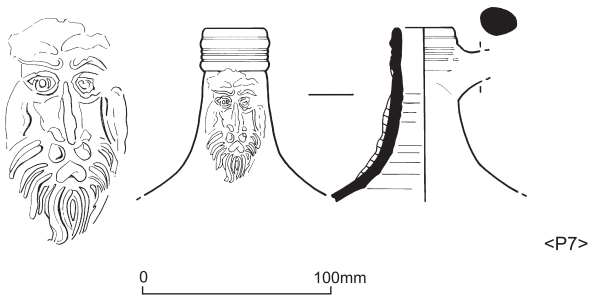

Fig 13. Frechen stoneware Bartmann jar <P7> from Building 7 (scale 1:4; face detail 1:2)

Building 7

At the same time as Buildings 3–5 were being modified, an entirely new building was constructed, at the west end of Area A (Fig 10).

Phase 1: Building 6 was replaced by a new building (Building 7, Fig 10) with substantial brick foundations. There is no evidence for the building's exterior appearance or method of construction above ground level, and subsequent alterations have obscured its original plan and extent; it may have extended beyond the south boundary of the site. A rectangular pier of coursed and mortared brick and chalk rubble in the interior of the building is interpreted as the base for a chimney.

Phase 2: Building 7 was subsequently modified by the insertion of a cellar. The original brick foundations were undermined for the insertion of the cellar walls. These were fairly insubstantial and had to be rebuilt at least once (in the south-west corner) due to subsidence. The cellar had a brick floor that survived partially in the south-west corner, and a low brick sill running along the base of the cellar wall in its south-west corner may have functioned as a base for timber racking for barrels. A brick-lined well was incorporated within the west wall of the cellar. A pottery sherd from the backfill around the well lining dates its construction to post *c.*1550. A sub-rectangular brick-lined alcove facilitated the use of the well; a similar well was located adjacent on the east side of Building 7. The Phase 1 chimney base was partially removed, and was replaced by a larger rectangular structure of thick brick walls backed with mortared chalk, brick and greensand rubble. The north side of this structure incorporated a semi-circular alcove or niche, partially blocked at a later date, perhaps in response to subsidence. The neck of a Frechen stoneware Bartmann jug (<P7>, Fig 13) was found in the rubble backfill behind this fireplace. This backfill dates to *c.*1550–1700. The west side of the chimney base incorporated two smaller adjacent niches at head height. These might have been designed to house lamps, although there was no evidence for soot deposition on their surfaces.

Phase 3: The cellar of Building 7 was further modified with part of the east wall being removed for the construction of a small side room. The Phase 2 well that had originally been external was incorporated within this room and was used as a cesspit or soakaway. There was also a brick floor incorporating a gutter with a tiled base. The original function of the room remains unknown, although it was ultimately used as a coal store. At the same time that the cellar of Building 7 was extended, another cellar was built against the outside of the building to the east. Originally it had a low, barrel-vaulted roof and a brick floor, and was possibly used as a cold store or icehouse (Fig 10), possibly entered via a trapdoor at ground level. In its north wall a trapezoidal thickening supported a vertical post on a timber baseplate. The function of the post is unclear, but it might have supported a hoist for loading goods into the cellar.

Brick-lined cesspits

To the east of Buildings 5 and 7 were two rectangular, brick-lined cesspits constructed during the 17th century. The northern of these was built over and incorporated the partially demolished remains of the foundations of an earlier building (Building 3, Period 3). The brick lining of this cesspit contained a small sherd of Cistercian ware, while the primary fill contained seven sherds, including a post-medieval redware bowl, two tin-glazed plates, English stoneware and Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed ware (STMO). These suggest an 18th-century date for the feature, and this agrees with the clay pipe dating of *c.*1700–10. One sherd from a transfer-printed (TPW 3) gravy boat dates to after *c.*1810 and must be intrusive.

The southern cesspit was of similar construction, and cut through an earlier pit, which in turn cut the masonry foundation of an earlier building (Building 1, Period 3). This cesspit was backfilled with demolition rubble and domestic refuse. These fills contained 63 sherds of pottery from 26 vessels. Numerically the most common type is tin-glazed ware, although the 40 sherds derive from only ten pots, with the majority from two albarelli. Also present is a sherd from a Metropolitan slipware dish that is covered with thin mortar-like deposits. Most of the pottery in this group could date to the mid to late 17th century; the latest sherd is a piece of London stoneware, which together with other pottery and clay pipes (dated 1680–1710) suggests that the cesspit was backfilled between 1680 and 1700.

Since both of the cesspits post-dated earlier foundations, it is apparent that there was some clearance of the late medieval buildings on this part of the site, to enlarge an existing open area or yard.

Open Area 1

Between Building 7 and the cesspits was an open area (Open Area 1, Fig 10) with various pits containing pottery dated to the 16th and 17th centuries. This pottery mainly comprised kitchen and tablewares, including part of a large carinated dish in post-medieval slipped redware (PMSRY/G), the base of a Raeren stoneware mug (RAER), and the base of a small Cistercian ware (CSTN) mug with

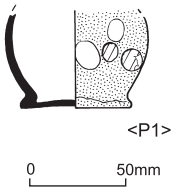

Fig 14. Cistercian ware mug <P1> from Open Area 1 (scale 1:4)

slip decoration dating to after *c.*1500 (<P1>, Fig 14); also represented were cooking pots, a skillet, jars and a dish. Of note was a sherd of PMRE (*c.*1480–*c.*1600) that has joins with the cauldron found in Building 4 (<P6>, Fig 11). Four pots in Surrey-Hampshire border whiteware (BORDO), Martincamp-type ware (MART3), post-medieval black-glazed ware (PMBL), and post-medieval redware (PMR) are represented in two pits, with some of the sherds joining to indicate that backfilling of the pits was contemporary, probably between 1600 and 1630.

A small assemblage of glass, deposited after 1540 (Fig 15), was also found in these pits. It comprised at least three pedestal beakers, a flat goblet, and a tankard in crystal, along with a forest-glass roemer (drinking glass). This is a prestigious group of unusual vessels, from the period when crystal glass was only available as imports. The glass calender (linen-shiner) is another unusual find, but from the everyday domestic sphere.

One of these pits also produced a very worn, plain yellow glazed floor tile measuring 127–128mm square by 23mm in thickness. The tile can be identified as Flemish by its distinctive calcium carbonate rich fabric (type 2504) and by the presence of a round nail hole (1.5mm diameter) visible in one top corner. Flemish tiles of similar size and fabric are already known to have been used at St John's Priory (Pringle 2004, 326), where they date to sometime between the 14th and late 15th century.

Animal bone recovered included sheep/goat and ox, including longbone and rib fragments which had been calcined indicating a combustion temperature of at least 700 degrees Celsius (Lyman 1994, 386); chicken and goose were also represented.

An isolated brick foundation in Open Area

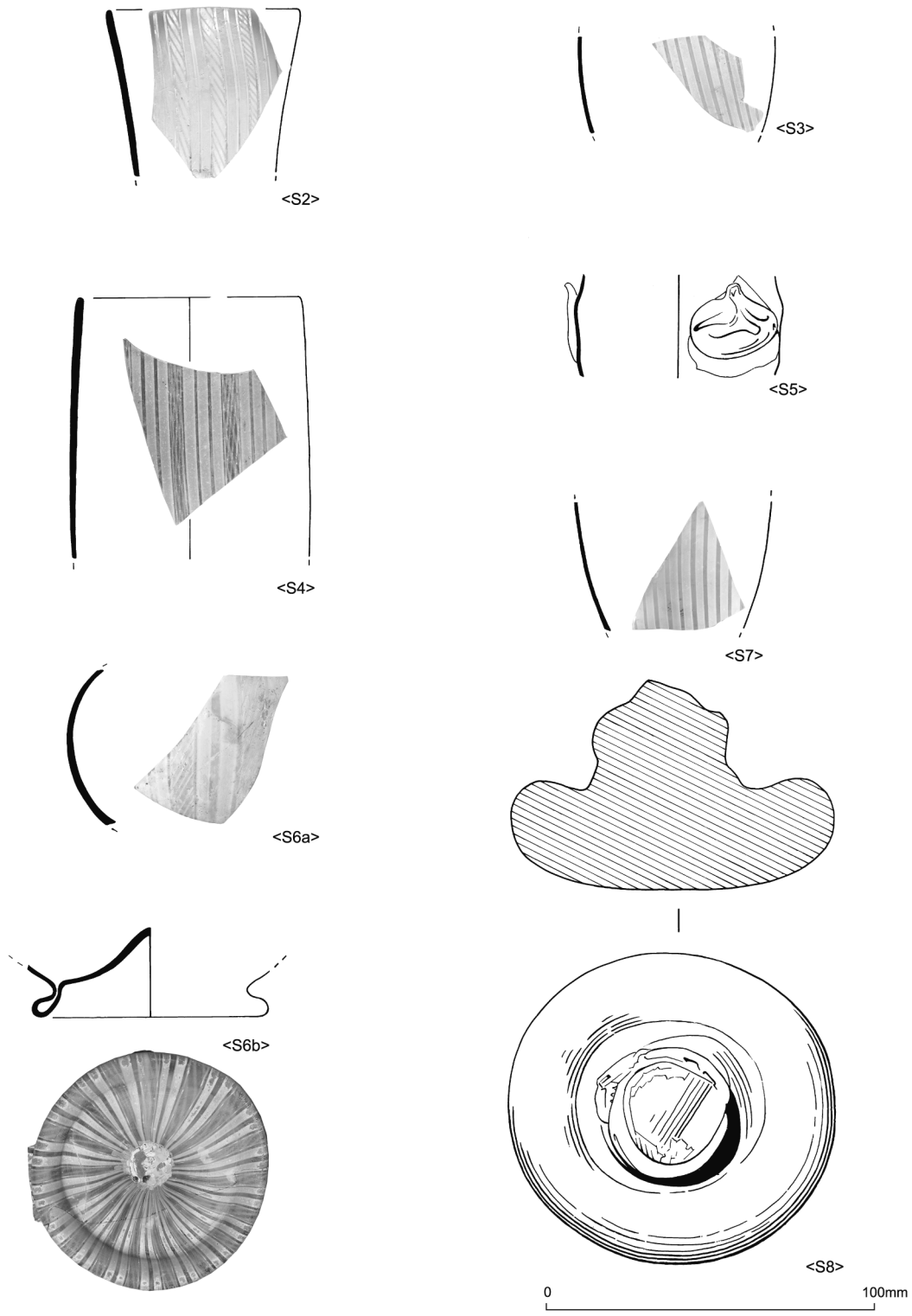

Fig 15. Glass from pits in Open Area 1: translucent, blue-green roemer lower-wall fragment with applied, pulled prunts <S5>; bulbous tankard wall sherds <S6a> and folded, pedestal foot <S6b>; plain rim sherd <S2>; pedestal-beaker wall sherds <S3>, <S4>, <S7>; and calender <S8> (scale 1:2)

1 contained an example with a sunken margin (fabric 3033), whilst a drain has a brick with a vitrified header face (fabric 3046) which may originally have been intended for use in a building with decorative diaper work.

West of St John's Lane (SNQ99)

Buildings 12 and 13

In the north of the site was the substantial cut for a pair of well-preserved brick-built cellars separated by a thin party wall (Buildings 12–13, Fig 16). Both cellars were an indented rectangle in plan, each being a mirror image of the other. Internally they measured 4.3m east–west by 5.2m north–south, the walls standing to a maximum height of 1.9m. The indentations in the southern wall were flanked by a pair of substantial buttresses, interpreted as supporting members for a fireplace range which would have been installed on the ground floor and probably every storey above. There was no sign of there ever having been a fireplace in either cellar, indicating that they were probably used for storage.

The northern wall of both cellars was continuous, showing that the two were contemporary. It incorporated much closely-jointed masonry, principally Kentish Ragstone, with some greensand and several large (up to 400mm) ashlar blocks of yellowed chalk (Fig 17). The presence below the masonry of a single course of header bricks, projecting 50mm into the interior and running around the entire perimeter of both cellars, precludes this masonry being *in situ*. The lowest 420mm of the brick-built party wall was butted to this continuous northern wall.

There must be a strong presumption that the masonry derives from a building belonging to the priory and demolished after its dissolution. The most convenient source would have been the northern wall of Building 11 (see Fig 4), although this conclusion must be tempered by the absence of any dressed masonry in the surviving southern wall of the latter, which was entirely of Kentish Ragstone and had no dressed chalk or greensand.

The cellars were entered through gaps in their northern walls; the stairs had been entirely removed. The ground-level entrances of both cellars were flanked externally by a curious architectural embellishment in the form of a chamfered buttress to each side, the chamfers having been created with specially

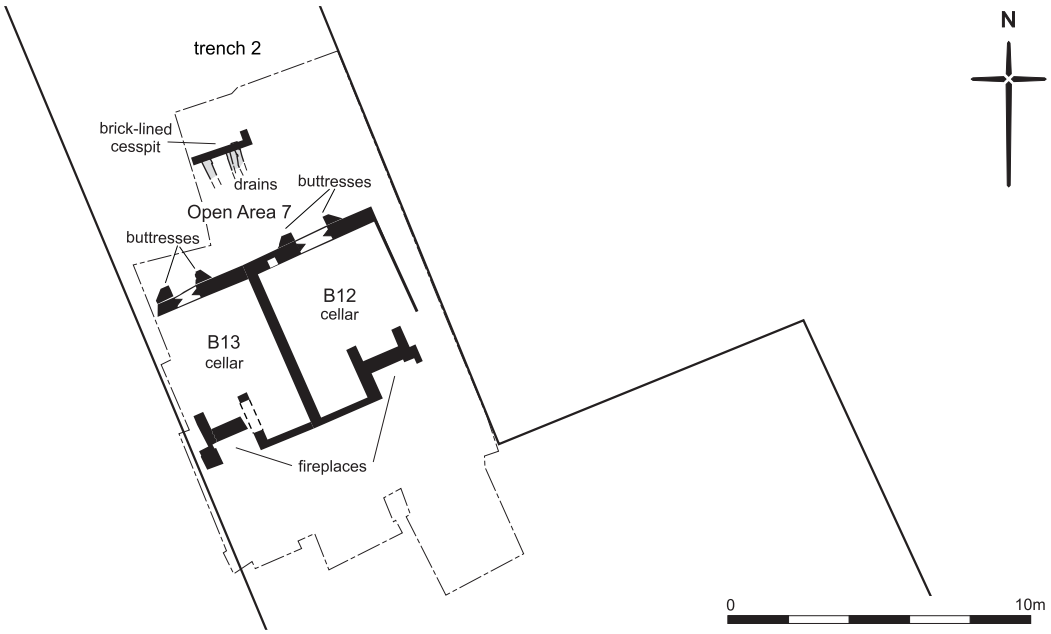

Fig 16. Plan of the cellars of Buildings 12 and 13 at SNQ99 (scale 1:250)

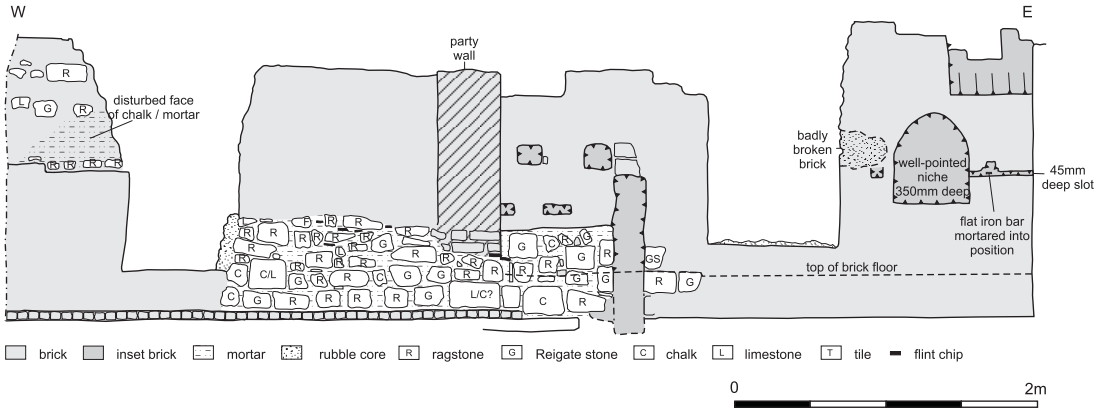

Fig 17. South-facing internal elevation of the northern wall of the cellars of Buildings 12 and 13 at SNQ99 (Scale 1:50)

shaped bricks. Although the buttresses were not bonded in to the main wall, they appear to be integral to the construction of the building, perhaps as part of a light decorative porch (Fig 18).

The well-constructed walls of these cellars strongly indicate that they belonged to houses of not inconsiderable status and are probably those shown on the Ogilby and Morgan map of 1676 (Fig 19). If the gravel surface to their north does indeed represent the external ground level, then the upper part of the wall and the chamfered buttresses must have been part of the superstructure, with the

Fig 18. The brick cellar of Building 12, viewed from the north: the chamfered buttress in the foreground flanks the entrance, while the suggested fireplace buttresses are in the top left (Building 13 cellar is in the top right, with a 19th-century well post-dating its disuse) (scale 1m)

Fig 19. The site outlines superimposed on a detail of the Ogilby and Morgan map of 1677

implication that this too was of brick. This would be further emphasis of high status, as 'very few buildings were of brick or stone in the seventeenth century' (Schofield 1984, 169), although brick may have been used to infill between the studs of a timber frame. There is, however, no evidence of any timber in the superstructure of these houses.

Both cellars were floored in brick, on a bedding layer of off-white mortar. The bricks were severely abraded in places, particularly in front of the entrance to the cellar of Building 12. Incorporated into the floor of that cellar, between the buttresses noted above, was a shallow linear brick-lined feature with a sloping floor, capped with York Stone flags. It looked very much like a drain, but came to a butt-end so that there was nowhere for fluid to drain to, nor was there any sediment within the feature. The interpretation of this feature therefore remains problematic; it may have had some kind of flue or ventilation function. Beneath the mortar make-up was a deposit, up to 60mm deep, of dark grey silt. This may have been a primary beaten-earth floor, but is as likely to have been construction trample for the brick floor.

17th-century pottery was recovered from the various make-up layers associated with this brick floor. Almost all the pottery comprises sherds from vessels associated with food preparation, storage and serving. The majority consist of local and regional redwares and whitewares, with part of a butterpot from the Midlands. These types were in use throughout the 17th century, and are in keeping with the clay pipe dating of *c.*1660–80. The imports comprise a few sherds of Raeren and Frechen Rhenish stonewares, the rim of a slip-decorated white ware jug or mug from Germany or the Low Countries (<P9>, Fig 20), and part of a Spanish mercury jar with olive-green glaze both inside and out (<P10>, Fig 20); the latter is the only find that could conceivably have a non-domestic function. Also recovered was a sherd from the base of a tin-glazed albarello (<P8>, Fig 20); stylistically this piece is typical of Antwerp.

The internal elevations of the cellars showed some noteworthy features (see Fig 17). The eastern one (Building 12) showed two arch-headed niches integral to the original construction. One of these had been provided with a draw-bar to close it off,

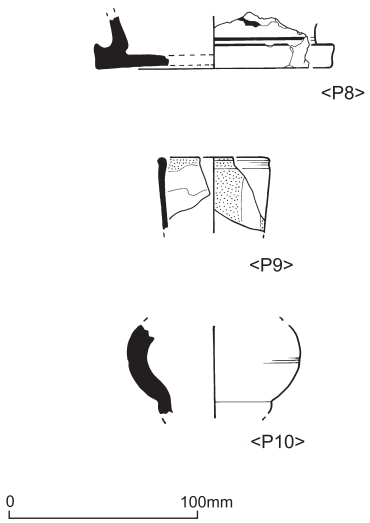

Fig 20. Tin-glazed albarello <P8>, whiteware jug or mug <P9>, and Spanish mercury jar <P10> from Buildings 12 and 13 (scale 1:4)

implying that it may have been used for storage of valuable small goods, perhaps salt or spices. The absence of burning or sooting within the niches is evidence against their use for candles or lamps.

In the south-eastern corner of the cellar of Building 12, a small corbel-vaulted structure (Fig 17) had been added, constructed in bricks of the same fabric as the main cellar walls. This feature showed no signs of burning or the accumulation of any sediment which might give any clue to its function.

The presence of a number of small depressions knocked into the wall, presumably for the affixing of fittings or furnishings, suggests that the cellars, particularly of Building 12, were used for more than just storage. Circumstantial evidence for such activity came from the possible beaten-earth floor, which produced a sherd from a Spanish mercury jar. Otherwise no industrial practices could be identified either from structural features, pottery or other finds. Black staining of the floor bricks of the cellar in Building 13 suggested that it had been used as a coal store at some time in its life. Generally speaking, this cellar appeared to have been less used than its neighbour.

An unusual feature of the cellars was that the northern wall of each incorporated a vertical shaft (see Fig 17) within the body of the wall, internally rendered in such a way that it could only be contemporary with the construction of the wall. In the cellar in Building 12 the shaft opened into the elevation just above the floor, but in Building 13 it did not. Their function was not immediately obvious, but may have been ventilation.

The bottoms of these shafts were filled with a densely laminated deposit of thin (2–3mm) layers of tan-coloured brickearth alternating with white mortar or plaster. Pottery from within the upper backfill of the shafts, sealing the laminated material, was dated to after *c.*1720. Very similar laminated deposits were also observed at points where the cellar was probably open to the outside. This deposit also filled a gap in the party wall, which had apparently been partially demolished to floor level during the lifetime of the cellar, permitting access from one to the other.

The bricks

Terence Paul Smith

Most of the bricks used in the cellars of Buildings 12 and 13 are of fairly soft red type (fabrics 3033, 3046) and some from Building 12 have indented borders suggesting a pre-Great Fire (1666) date. Others, however, are darker red (fabric 3032), which is normally a feature of post-Great Fire bricks, although this is uncertain here as some have indented borders. The bricks in the cellar, which measure 220–230 by 95–110 by 54–68mm, cannot be dated with any precision, although their thickness and similarity to definite post-Great Fire bricks in fabric 3032 would agree with the 17th-century date obtained from the pottery.

The bricks were laid in a very consistent English Bond. The bricks laid flat to form the cellar flooring seem to be more or less similar in fabric and form. A few shaped bricks are incorporated in the buttress-like additions either side of the primary entrance. These have been cut to a pointed shape on one header end, probably by the bricklayers as they went along. Bricks used in the arches of the niches are standard bricks, not cut to shape.

A further shaped brick was found in the make-up layers beneath the brick floor of the

cellar of Building 12. In the make-up layer were two glazed Flemish floor tiles, probably originally from the priory, dating to the late 15th to mid-16th century. In the make-up for the brick floor of Building 13 was a fragment of decorated 13th-century 'Westminster' floor tile. The tile is worn, but it is just possible to identify the design type as W107 (Betts 2002, 58), which has also been found elsewhere at the site of the priory (Pringle 2004, 322).

Open Area 7

The construction backfills on the northern side of the cellars were sealed by a compacted deposit of gravel (Fig 16), at 14.7m OD, which seems to be the primary external surface associated with the buildings, although it was not extensive enough to be identified as a path or courtyard. It may be noted that its level is only 0.15m higher than the foundation/superstructure division of the medieval building (Building 11) described above, suggesting that the ground level had not risen significantly over the intervening centuries. From the make-up deposit associated with this external surface pottery dated *c.*1640–50 was recovered. Most are redwares, but Surrey/Hampshire border

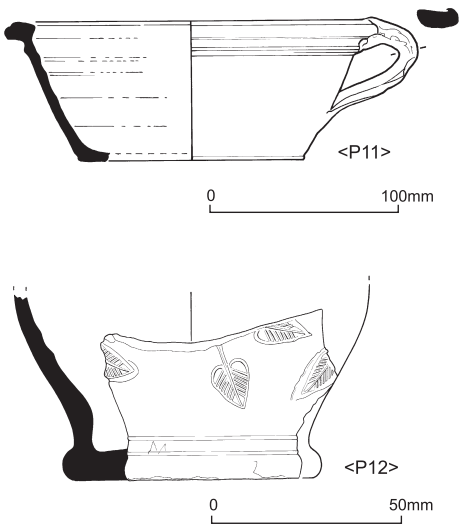

Fig 21. Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware handled flared dish <P11> (scale 1:4) and a Cologne stoneware jug with applied rose leaf decoration <P12> (scale 1:2)

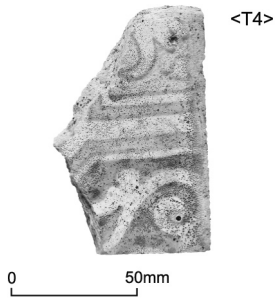

Fig 22. Blue-on-white tin-glazed floor tile (<T4>) probably made at Pickleherring, Southwark, c.1618–30, from Open Area 7 at SNQ99 (scale 1:3)

whitewares are also well represented, with a large fragment of a handled bowl in BORDG <P11> (Fig 21) and a pipkin rim in BORDY. Other finds of note comprise a sherd from a whiteware bowl with red slip that could be from Germany or the Low Countries, and a sherd from a Cologne stoneware jug with applied rose leaf decoration dating to *c.*1500–50 (<P12>, Fig 21). Also found in this make-up deposit was a worn fragment of tin-glazed floor tile (<T4>, Fig 22). This is one of the designs made by the tilemakers working at Pickleherring, Southwark (Tyler *et al* 2008, 53, D5), although this example differs from all the others found on the factory site in being painted in blue-on-white rather than polychrome. If it is indeed from Pickleherring then the tile can be dated to *c.*1618–30.

Brick-lined pits

To the north of the cellars was a sequence of brick-lined pits (Fig 16) which cut through the primary gravel surface. Only the south wall of the primary one survived; it was perforated and feeding into the holes were short drains truncated by a later pit. These drains were within the construction backfill and could not have been fed from ground level. They probably functioned to drain the liquid fraction of the cesspit fill of the feature out into the surrounding soil. Red bricks in fabric 3033 were used in the south wall of the primary brick-lined cesspit; these measure 224–228 by 105–106 by 54–61mm, which is similar to the bricks in Buildings 12 and 13. Pottery dated to *c.*1630–80 was contained

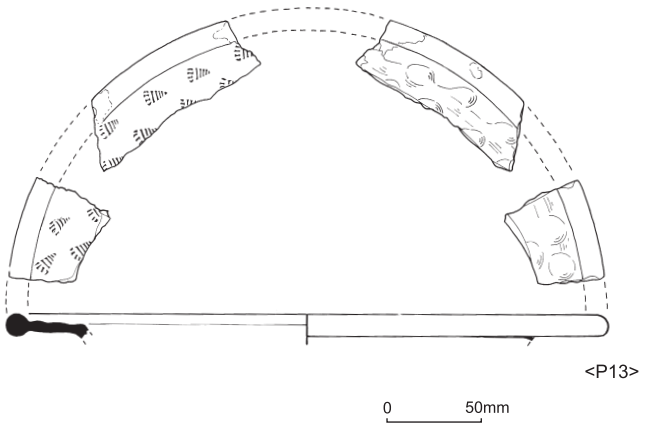

Fig 23. Surrey/ Hampshire border whiteware dish with unusual cone- or tassel-shaped stamps <P13> (scale 1:4)

in the construction backfill of this pit and included part of a tin-glazed bowl and a rim from a Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware dish with unusual cone- or tassel-shaped stamps <P13> (Fig 23). This pit had been truncated to the north by another example, which had in turn been capped over by a barrel vault which continued beyond the northern limit of the trench.

Clerkenwell *c.*1700–1890 (Period 6)

East of St John's Lane (SAJ98)

In the later post-medieval period medieval buildings were replaced by new brick buildings and Building 7 was extended and substantially renovated (Fig 24).

Building 5

Building 5 (see Fig 10) seems to have been abandoned and demolished in the 18th century. The front of the fireplace was infilled with re-used blocks of brickwork and masonry rubble, and some new brickwork. The fireplace was then backfilled with demolition rubble and domestic refuse dated *c.*1740–80. Pottery included a creamware teapot, a fluted bowl in English porcelain, a two-handled bowl in post-medieval redware, and a brown-glazed Surrey/Hampshire border redware porringer. Also recovered were up to five Westerwald stoneware chamber pots, two with medallions, a broken but complete Surrey/Hampshire border ware chamber pot, and Staffordshire salt-glazed stoneware (including a complete bowl and ointment pot). The cellar was backfilled, presumably at the same time.

Building 7 (Phase 4)

Following the demolition of Building 5, Building 7 was extended to the east (Fig 24). At the same time the upper parts of some of the cellar walls were rebuilt and the cellar was extended to the south and substantially remodelled. There is little to date this work, although it seems to have been part of a single process of construction, rebuilding and restoration.

The brick floor of the cellar was removed to allow underpinning of the walls and the insertion of ceramic drains connected to down-pipes in the north-east corner and a central sump/silt trap with an iron lid. At the same time a small hearth was built against the north wall of the cellar. The alcove enclosing the well in the west wall of the cellar was rebuilt and the well was partially covered by a stone slab. It was presumably used subsequently as a cesspit or soakaway.

In the small side-room on the east side of the cellar the brick floor was removed to allow a number of alterations. The well/soakaway was capped with a pierced stone slab. A rectangular brick structure was built on top of the slab, and this is interpreted as a privy seat, closed by means of two small

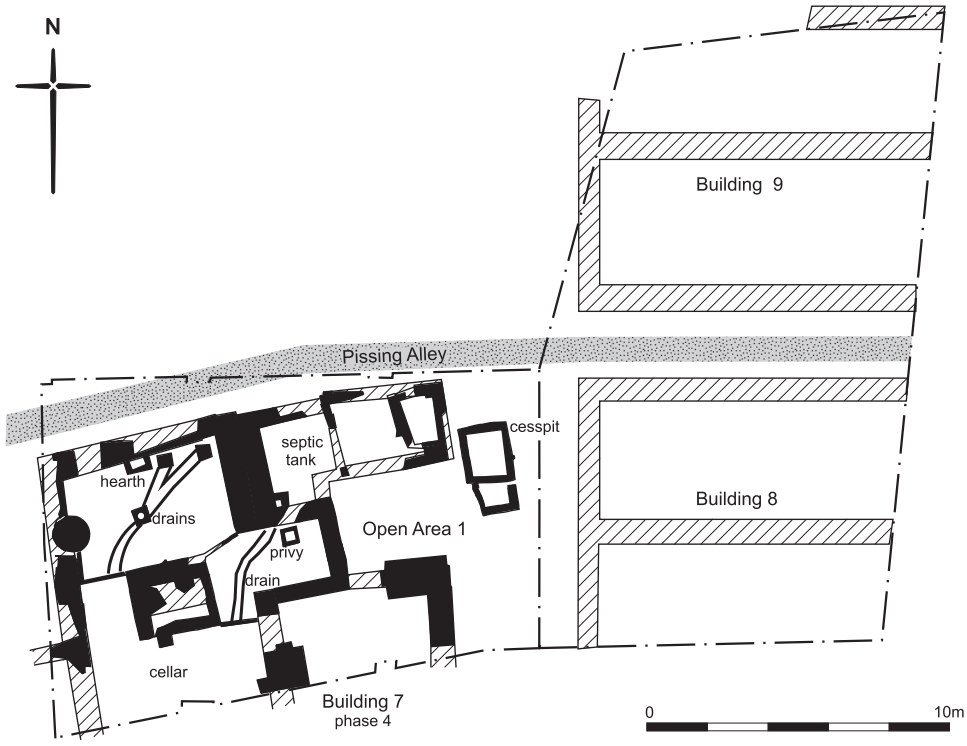

Fig 24. Plan of buildings at SAJ98 in c.1850 (scale 1:250)

stone slabs. At the same time part of the brick drain connecting with the cellar of Building 5 was rebuilt, and a new brick drain was constructed that passed below the north wall of the side-room and connected to a septic tank (see below). The brick floor was relaid, and part of the north wall was tiled and rendered.

The barrel-vaulted cellar was remodelled as a septic tank. A new wall was built on the west side, but all other walls were retained and repointed. A raised drain was built in the south-west corner, with a removable stone lid. This allowed solid waste to collect in the base of the septic tank, and liquids to run away via a brick-built drain that passed under the south wall. The floor of the tank was built of bricks with a thick cement surface render, on a bed of clay. The septic tank was eventually backfilled with soil. When Building 7 was demolished in the late 19th century, its cellar was infilled with demolition rubble.

The northern cesspit to the east of Building 7 (Period 4) (Fig 10) was enlarged, and continued in use until the middle of the 19th century, when it was backfilled with domestic refuse and demolition rubble. This backfill contained domestic pottery, mostly tablewares in creamware, pearlware, English porcelain and transfer-printed ware. Also present are a few jars, ointment pots and kitchenwares in creamware, English and London stoneware, and tin-glazed ware, as well as a mocha ware chamber pot.

Cellars of properties fronting onto St John Street (Buildings 8–9)

The masonry structure that comprised Building 4 (see Fig 10) was demolished and replaced by a new brick building with a cellar and a tiled floor (Buildings 8–9, Fig 24). This floor was composed of tiles 27mm thick, probably 18th- to 19th-century imports from the Low Countries.

This was one of a group of four brick buildings that fronted onto St John Street; the one to the south of Pissing Alley being

Building 8 and the one to the north Building 9. The cellars of the northernmost and southernmost 'rooms' reached as far as the modern pavement line, and were equipped with coal chutes. The cellars of the two central 'rooms' extended beneath the modern pavement.

These buildings were demolished at the same time as Building 7 (in the middle of the 19th century), and were replaced by 89–97 St John Street, the façades of which have been retained as part of the current redevelopment of the site.

West of St John's Lane (SNQ99)

The cellars of Buildings 12 and 13 (see Fig 16) had been backfilled after *c.*1740. Pottery from the backfill of Building 12 comprised mostly post-medieval redwares and tin-glazed ware; there was also a range of Staffordshire wares and Imari-style Chinese porcelain. This group of pottery and the clay pipe suggest a central date of *c.*1740–50 for the backfilling. A residual sherd of Cologne stoneware with oak leaf decoration (<P14>, Fig 25) that dates to *c.*1500–50 was also found. A similar but smaller assemblage was recovered from the backfill of Building 13, covering the same date range as the backfill of Building 12. Redwares included a large handle from a jug or bunghole pitcher in post-medieval redware (PMRE) (<P15>, Fig 25). This implies that the two cellars went out of use simultaneously, as part of a substantial rebuilding project. The dating would indicate that the cellars were in use for a little over a century.

Brick-lined cesspits were constructed in both of the entrances to the cellars but these contained only residual pottery. These did not reuse the cellar walls as such, although clearly the builders were aware of the soft ground within the entrances.

At the eastern and western edges of the excavated area were brick walls in an 18th-century fabric (Buildings 14 and 15 respectively, not illus). These would have belonged to uncellared buildings which replaced the cellared ones described above, some time in the middle years of the 18th century. The cesspits cutting Buildings 12 and 13 may well have served these buildings; several adaptations were made to them, suggesting a relatively long life.

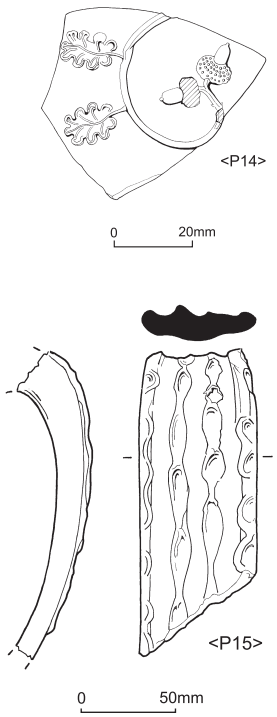

Fig 25. Cologne stoneware with oak leaf decoration <P14> (scale 1:2) and a large handle from a redware jug or bunghole pitcher <P15> (scale 1:4)

A further trench (Trench 3) was opened on the Briset Street frontage and included the remains of a wall of red brick (Building 16, not illus) which ran north–south across the trench, with its base at *c.*14.6m OD. This is interpreted as belonging to the cellar of a building, probably of 18th-century date, fronting onto what was then known as Bartlets Street on John Rocque's map of 1745. This cellar had truncated all the earlier stratigraphy, so the trench was not investigated further.

CONCLUSIONS

A few small sherds of Roman pottery were found at SNQ99, but there is no evidence for any post-Roman activity on the site prior to the foundation of the priory of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in *c.*1145. Both of the sites reported on here are within the outer precinct of this priory. During the early monastic period *c.*1150–

1330/50 (Period 2) the area east of St John's Lane appears to have been open land, with a possible boundary ditch to the south and a few pits. To the west at SNQ99 a building, probably a barn, was built. Only the southern wall of this was found; it was constructed in masonry. Documentary evidence indicates that a barn existed here in 1479 (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 140). In a previous report (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 76–8) the 'barns' at SNQ99 were thought to have existed by the late 13th or early 14th century based on pottery evidence and the construction style of the masonry wall compared to better-dated walls within the priory.

The area east of St John's Lane remained open till at least *c.*1480. It is interesting to speculate that the remains of a burnt cat (in a feature dated to *c.*1340–1400) could represent an event associated with the Peasants Revolt of 1381. During the late monastic period *c.*1480–1540 (Period 4) at SAJ98 the first masonry buildings were constructed, probably comprising six different structures or possibly one larger subdivided building. Documentary evidence suggests a single tenement with adjacent garden, no evidence for this garden was found. The material recovered from these buildings indicates that they may have been domestic in nature. The barn to the west underwent some internal modification during this period when a sunken brickearth floor was inserted below the level of the masonry foundations.

After the Dissolution (Period 4, *c.*1540–*c.*1700) the majority of the properties in the outer precinct continued to be leased and rented as before with only the landlord changing (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 274). Archaeological evidence suggests that modifications were made to some of the buildings at SAJ98 and a new building (Building 7) constructed in the west of the site. Again it may be that the remains found do not represent separate structures but divisions within a single building; the depiction of the site on the Ogilby and Morgan Map of 1676 would tend to support this. This new building and the remodelled buildings were probably domestic dwellings; documentary evidence describes the area as a tenement with a garden to the west (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 231). At SNQ99 the 'barn' was replaced by two terraced buildings with cellars which are shown on the 1676 map. These buildings, and those on SAJ98, may have been part of an upper class residential area (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 274). At SAJ98 in the 19th century (Period 5, *c.*1700–*c.*1890) one of the buildings was demolished and the most recently constructed building (Building 7) was extended to the east and remodelled. To the east of this two other buildings were built, probably at the same time as the remodelling. These buildings were probably demolished in the 19th century and replaced with buildings which stood until the new development; the façades of the latter have been retained for future appreciation.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The medieval and post-medieval pottery

Lyn Blackmore

Introduction

A total of 867 sherds of medieval and later pottery (up to 459 vessels) was recovered from 47 contexts on site SAJ98, and 342 sherds from 31 contexts at SNQ99. All the pottery from Period 2–4 contexts (*c.*1150–*c.*1700) on both sites was re-examined by the author for this report, and that from SAJ98 was weighed. The material from both sites was recorded using standard Museum of London fabric codes (Tables 1–2), and the data are stored on an Oracle database. The numerical data include sherd count and ENV for each fabric/context, and weight for the pottery from SAJ98, Periods 2–4 (total 14.709kg). Most of the individual context groups comprise less than 30 sherds, but eight have 30–100 sherds, while one pit at SAJ98 (Period 5) contained 240 sherds. The finds can be related to activity within the priory of St John Clerkenwell and later properties on the site.

The medieval wares

Only four medieval sherds were found at SNQ99, but the 237 sherds from SAJ98 fall into fifteen medieval fabrics (Table 1). Fabrics and forms that can definitely be assigned to the 12th century are few, and most material dates to the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries.

Table 1. Medieval pottery fabrics and their dating

Fabric	Expansion	Earliest date	Latest date
CBW	coarse Surrey/Hampshire border ware	1270	1500
CBW BIF	coarse Surrey/Hampshire border ware cooking pot with bifid rim	1380	1500
CHEA	Cheam whiteware	1350	1500
DUTR	Dutch red earthenware	1300	1650
EARL	Earlswood-type ware	1200	1400
ESUR	early Surrey ware	1050	1150
KING	Kingston-type ware	1240	1400
KING POLY	Kingston-type ware with polychrome decoration	1240	1300
LCOAR	coarse London-type ware	1080	1200
LLON	late London-type ware	1400	1500
LLSL	late London-type slipware	1400	1500
LMHG	late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware	1340	1450
LOND	London-type ware	1080	1350
LOND BAL	London-type ware baluster jug	1180	1350
LOND EAS	London-type ware with early style decoration	1140	1200
LOND HD	London-type ware in the highly decorated style	1240	1350
LOND NFR	London-type ware with North French style decoration	1180	1270
LOND ROU	London-type ware with Rouen-style decoration	1180	1270
LOND TUL	London-type ware tulip-necked baluster jug	1270	1350
MG	Mill Green ware	1270	1350
MG COAR	Mill Green coarseware	1270	1400
MG CON	Mill Green ware conical jug	1270	1330
MG POLY	Mill Green ware with polychrome decoration	1290	1350
MG SQU	Mill Green ware squat jug	1290	1350
SAIM	Saintonge ware with mottled green glaze	1250	1650
SHER	South Hertfordshire-type greyware	1170	1350
SSW	shelly-sandy ware	1140	1220
TUDG	'Tudor Green' ware	1350	1500

When the assemblage is considered as a whole, the various London wares (LCOAR, LLON, LLSL, LOND: for descriptions see Pearce *et al* 1985) are collectively the most abundant. The single most common ware type, however, is coarse Surrey/Hampshire border ware, followed by Kingston-type ware and Mill Green wares total. All other fabrics are quite sparsely represented. No profiles could be reconstructed for any of the ware types.

Almost all the London-type wares are from jugs; many are of baluster form and some are in the North French style; one is decorated in the Rouen style, while one is of highly decorated type and one is of tulip-necked form. One baluster jug base form that is internally sooted may have been used as some form of cooking container, perhaps for making a meat loaf (for recipes see Moorhouse 1981, 115–19). Most sherds of Kingston-type ware are from quite standard forms. Some are from cooking pots and one with an applied thumbed strip may be from a cauldron, but jugs dominate. These include two with polychrome decoration and a base with exaggerated flaring profile; this could be from a metal copy jug but the continuous thumbing around the base angle suggests that it is from a narrow-necked baluster jug (*cf* Pearce & Vince 1988, 20, 25). Of interest, but not of particular rarity, are two sherds with repoussé decoration that probably come from cylindrical-necked baluster jugs or rounded jugs (Pearce & Vince 1988, 42; figs 53–4). One has part of a fleur-de-lis motif (*cf ibid*, figs 27a, 90), the other is less easy to interpret due to the small area that survives, but it could be part of a zoomorphic stamp such as a lion (*cf ibid*, fig 92, no. 281). In

addition, one sherd has part of a wheatear stamp (*cf ibid*, fig 93). Two of the four sherds of late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware are also stamped, one with raspberry bosses, a motif that is not paralleled in published London corpora (Jenner & Vince 1983).

The coarse Surrey/Hampshire border wares mainly comprise cooking pots (50 sherds) with one cauldron and two jars. Eleven jugs are represented, together with single sherds from a bowl, a dish and a lobed cup. With one exception, all the Mill Green sherds are from jugs. The quantities of the other fabrics are insufficient to merit discussion, but it is of note that imports are very scarce, comprising only Dutch redware and Saintonge ware.

The post-medieval wares

The 630 sherds of post-medieval pottery from SAJ98 fall into *c.*36 main fabric groups, with a number of sub-types (Table 2) and include a high proportion of factory made wares from Staffordshire and other centres outside London. As a ware group, redwares (fabrics CHEAR, PMBL, PMFR, PMR, PMRE, PMREM, PMSL, PMRSG, PMSRY) are the most common. As on the other sites within the priory (Blackmore 2004, 344 and table 63), the most frequent of these is early post-medieval redware. These wares are especially dominant in Period 3 (*c.*1480–*c.*1540) and Period 4 (*c.*1540–*c.*1700), but less common in Period 5 (*c.*1700–*c.*1890). Surrey/Hampshire border wares are much scarcer. Tin-glazed wares are absent in Period 3, but amount to 36% of the sherds from Period 4 (25% by ENV). In Period 5, however, this has dropped to 4% by both count and ENV, as both the red and white earthenwares were to some extent replaced by mass-produced wares from the Midlands. The latter include creamwares, pearlwares and transfer-printed wares. Other types are all minority groups.

Almost all the pottery from SNQ99 is of post-medieval date. Again, redwares dominate but here the most common type is post-medieval redware (PMR). The redwares include a number of large jars, cooking vessels and dishes, both plain and slipped that were probably used in the kitchen or pantry. Of note are a very crudely finished

Table 2. The post-medieval pottery fabrics and their dating

Fabric	Expansion	Earliest date	Latest date
AGAT	agate ware	1730	1780
BEAY	Beauvais yellow-glazed ware	1500	1600
BLUE	blue stoneware	1800	1900
BORD	Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware (unglazed)	1550	1700
BORDB	Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware with brown glaze	1620	1700
BORDG	Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware with green glaze	1550	1700
BORDO	Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware with olive glaze	1550	1700
BORDY	Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware with yellow glaze	1550	1700
CHEAR	Cheam redware	1480	1550
CHPO	Chinese porcelain	1580	1900
CHPO BW	Chinese blue and white porcelain	1590	1900
CHPO IMARI	Chinese Imari porcelain	1680	1900
CREA	creamware	1740	1880
CREA TORT	creamware with tortoiseshell glaze	1740	1770
CSTN	Cistercian ware	1480	1600
EBORD	early Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware	1480	1550
ENGS	English stoneware	1700	1900
ENPO	English porcelain	1745	1900
ENPO PNTD	English porcelain with underglaze polychrome painted decoration	1745	1900
FREC	Frechen stoneware	1550	1700
GERSL	North German slipware	1480	1900
KOLS	Cologne stoneware	1500	1580

LONS	London stoneware	1670	1900
MART2	Martincamp-type ware type 2 flask (brown stoneware)	1500	1650
MART3	Martincamp-type ware type 3 flask (red earthenware)	1600	1650
MERC	Spanish mercury jar	1500	1800
METS	metropolitan slipware	1630	1700
MOCH	mocha ware	1780	1900
MORAN	Midlands orange ware (oxidised Midlands purple ware)	1480	1600
MPUR	Midlands purple ware	1480	1750
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1700	1800
PEAR	pearlware	1770	1860
PEAR FLOW	pearlware with flow blue transfer-printed decoration	1830	1860
PEAR PNTD	pearlware with underglaze polychrome painted decoration	1770	1860
PEAR TR2	pearlware with blue transfer-printed decoration (stipple and line)	1807	1860
PEAR TR3	pearlware with transfer-printed decoration (brown or black)	1810	1860
PMBL	post-medieval black-glazed ware	1580	1700
PMBR	London-area post-medeival bichrome redware	1480	1600
PMFR	post-medieval fine redware	1580	1700
PMR	London-area post-medieval redware	1580	1900
PMRE	London-area early post-medieval redware	1480	1600
PMREC	early post-medieval calcareous redware	1480	1600
PMREM	London-area early post-medieval redware with metallic glaze	1480	1600
PMSL	London-area post-medieval slip-decorated redware	1480	1600
PMSRG	London-area post-medieval slipped redware with green glaze	1480	1650
PMSRY	London-area post-medieval slipped redware with clear (yellow) glaze	1480	1650
RAER	Raeren stoneware	1480	1610
RBOR	Surrey/Hampshire border redware	1550	1900
RBORB	Surrey/Hampshire border redware with brown glaze	1580	1800
RBORG	Surrey/Hampshire border redware with green glaze	1580	1800
REFR	refined red earthenware	1740	1800
REFW	refined white earthenware	1800	1900
SIEGS	Siegburg salt-glazed stoneware	1500	1630
STBL	Staffordshire-type black-glazed ware	1740	1780
STMB	Staffordshire-type marbled slipware	1680	1800
STMO	Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed ware	1650	1800
STSL	Staffordshire-type combed slipware	1660	1870
SUND	Sunderland-type coarseware	1800	1900
SWSG	white salt-glazed stoneware	1720	1780
SWSG SCRB	white salt-glazed stoneware with scratch-blue decoration	1740	1780
TGW	English tin-glazed ware	1570	1800
TGW A	tin-glazed ware with Orton type A decoration (external lead glaze/ Wan Li/blue/yellow)	1612	1650
TGW BLUE	tin-glazed ware with plain pale blue glaze	1630	1800
TGW C	tin-glazed ware with Orton type C decoration (plain white glaze)	1630	1800
TGW D	tin-glazed ware with Orton type D decoration (external lead glaze/ polychome painted)	1630	1680
TPW	transfer-printed ware	1780	1900
TPW FLOW	transfer-printed ware with 'flowblue' pattern	1830	1900
TPW2	transfer-printed ware with type 2 decoration (stipple and line)	1807	1900
TPW3	transfer-printed ware with type 3 decoration (brown or black)	1810	1900
TPW5	transfer-printed ware with type 5 decoration (three colour)	1848	1900
WEST	Westerwald stoneware	1590	1900
WEST CHP2	Westerwald stoneware chamber pot with flanged rim	1740	1760
YELL	yellow ware	1840	1900

jug base and a large strap handle, probably from a bunghole pitcher, that is decorated with longitudinal bands of applied thumbed strips <P15> (Fig 25). Surrey/Hampshire border wares are also well represented; the whitewares include a handled bowl <P11> (Fig 21), an externally lid-seated pipkin, and part of a large yellow-glazed bedpan. Jugs are not common, but there are a few dishes and plates in tin-glazed ware and Surrey/Hampshire border ware, including <P13> (Fig 23).

Turning to the forms, those associated with food preparation and storage are well represented on both sites. The finds from SAJ98 include three substantially complete cauldrons/pipkins, one in PMREM <P4> (Fig 11) and two in PMRE <P5>, <P6> (Fig 11). Although tin-glazed dishes are relatively common in Period 4 (*c.*1540–*c.*1700), many of the possible tablewares are large, heavy, slipped redware dishes that were probably used in the kitchen or pantry, and jugs, although present, are scarce. In Period 5 (*c.*1700–*c.*1890), however, there is a considerable increase in the range of forms present and also a marked trend towards finer tablewares (cups, saucers, plates, teapots) that were imported from the Midlands. In addition a number of chamber pots are represented, mainly at SAJ98.

Imports are very rare at SAJ98, but include the Frechen stoneware *Bartmann* jug <P7> (Fig 13). They are slightly more common at SNQ99, where the stonewares include sherds from Cologne stoneware jugs with applied rose leaf decoration <P12> (Fig 21) and oak leaf decoration <P14> (Fig 25) (*cf* Hurst *et al* 1986, fig 101). Two whiteware vessels, probably from northern Germany or the Low Countries, are of interest. One is a dish with a red floral motif, the other the rim of a jug or drinking vessel in a white fabric with vertical stripes of white slip over an all-over red slip <P9> (Fig 20). The latter is similar in style to Weser ware, but the fabric appears more soapy. Also of note is the base of a tin-glazed albarello with an expanded chamfered footring in the Italo-Netherlandish style but more exaggerated <P8> (Fig 20). This could be from Antwerp (*cf* Veeckman & Dumortier 1999, figs 4, 22), but it could equally be from the first London tin-glazed pottery at Holy Trinity Priory, Aldgate (Noel Hume 1977, 111–15, fig XIX, nos 3, 11; Britton 1987, 103, no. 18; Blackmore 2005, 237–41 and 246–7). Definite French imports are limited to two sherds from a type 2 Martincamp flask (SNQ99) and two from a type 3 flask from SAJ98 (Hurst *et al* 1986, 102–4). The only possible southern import is a thick-walled squat bulbous jar with an olive glaze both internally and externally <P10> (Fig 20) (SNQ99). The form is similar to that of the imported 'mercury jars' but, unusually, the fabric is a fine sandy buff ware. If this is a Spanish import it is probably from Seville (*cf* Brown 1995, 321; fig 24.2.15).

Discussion

Although there is some chronological progression in the pottery from SAJ98, this is not as clearly defined as in other parts of the priory (Sloane & Malcolm 2004; Blackmore 2004, 348–51) or at St Mary Clerkenwell (Sloane in prep; Blackmore in prep). Although *c.*50% is stratified in Period 2 (*c.*1150–*c.*1480) contexts, the dating of the pottery in each context is by no means homogeneous, and some groups contain 12th- and 13th-century material together with later material. On the whole, however, it can be said that the finds from SAJ98 and SNQ99 are consistent with the other assemblages that have been studied (Blackmore 2004) in that the bias is towards later medieval and post-medieval material, with Surrey-Hampshire border ware (CBW) being the dominant medieval ware type. The assemblages discussed here reflect the fact that they come from within the outer precinct. At SAJ98 it would seem that small amounts of pottery were discarded over a long period of time and mixed together as the soil was reworked or features were cut into it.

In terms of forms, jugs are the most common type, accounting for *c.*50% of the medieval assemblage by sherd count and ENV, and 45% by weight. Some of these are decorated, but no more than might be found in an average urban assemblage. In addition there are sherds from an imported wine pitcher from the Saintonge (pégau). Forms that would have been used in the kitchen comprise between 38% and 44%; the majority were recorded as cooking

pots, but some are listed as cauldrons or cauldrons/pipkins. Bowls and dishes, by contrast, amount to only 1.6% of the total sherd count. Other forms comprise jars and a lobed cup. As a whole the pottery from SAJ98 is of mediocre quality, and although there are a few decorated pieces that would have been desirable when new, there are not so many as to indicate high status. This could equally reflect the simple standards of life in a religious house, or the fact that the more important items were either discarded elsewhere or taken from the site at the Dissolution.

Changes in the use of the area after the Dissolution are reflected by the increase in the amount of pottery that was discarded. On the whole the range of pottery types present in Period 3 (*c.*1480–*c.*1540) and Period 4 (*c.*1540–*c.*1700) at SAJ98 and in Period 4 (*c.*1540–*c.*1700) at SNQ99 is quite typical for the period in London. The latter assemblage is also similar to the post-Dissolution assemblage at BAD89 (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 271 Open Area 32), where 236 sherds were found on the site of the Great Barn, which was demolished between *c.*1560 and *c.*1580 (*ibid*). These included a concentration of Dutch-type bird pots, sherds of which might have been expected in the SNQ99 assemblage, but which were missing. On all three sites the main sources of supply are either local or in the general London region and there is virtually nothing to suggest that the properties from which the material came were of particularly high status. There are, for example, no wares from SAJ98 that could be considered displayable, and very few from SNQ99. The latter include the Cologne stoneware, which could have been used in the late monastic period as much as the post-Dissolution period, and the stamped Surrey/Hampshire plate, which is perhaps an oddity rather than an upper class item. There is also a lack of other imports, notably Dutch redwares, which were well

Table 3. Catalogue of the illustrated pottery from SAJ98 and SNQ99

No.	Period	Land use	Context	Fabric	Form	Sherds	Comment	Fig no.
<P1>	3	OA1	[131]	CSTN	mug	1	base	14
<P2>	3	OA1	[368]	LLON	jug	3	decorated handle	8
<P3>	3	OA1	[368]	LLSL	cooking pot	6	burnt post-fragmentation and heavily sooted	8
<P4>	4	B3	[236]	PMREM	cauldron	19	upper profile; as [294]	11
<P5>	4	B3	[236]	PMRE	cauldron or pipkin	26	22 x1 prof; overfired	11
<P6>	4	B4	[286]	PMRE	cauldron	20	complete; pinched feet	11
<P7	4	B7	[203]	FREC	bartmann jar	1	rim	13
<P8>	4	B12	[68]	TGW A	albarello	1	base; Antwerp?	20
<P9>	4	B12	[68]	GERSL	drinking jug	1	whiteware with red+white slip	20
<P10>	4	B12	[68]	MERC	jar	1	grgl int/ext	20
<P11>	4	OA7	[39]	BORDG	handled bowl	3	handled flared dish	21
<P12>	4	OA7	[39]	KOLS	jug	1	rose leaves	21
<P13>	4	OA7	[27]	BORDY	flanged dish	1	cone-shaped; stamps; as 28	23
<P13>	4	OA7	[28]	BORDY	flanged dish		cone-shaped; stamps; as 27	23
<P14>	5	B12	[54]	KOLS	jug	1	oak leaves	25
<P15>	5	B13	[109]	PMRE	bunghole jar?	1	broad strap handle	25

represented at 1–7 Albion Place (JAN90, APB94) and at 1–7 Cowcross Street/35A St John Street (Blackmore 2004, 346–8). At SNQ99, however, a few imports are types that are quite uncommon in London and hint at the presence of persons with connections in the Low Countries/Germany.

In Period 5 (*c.*1700–*c.*1890) the emphasis changes to mass-produced wares from the Midlands, and local wares decline. There is no evidence, from the pottery, for any change in the status of the buildings.

Illustrated non-ceramic finds catalogue

Geoff Egan

Lead

<S1>, SAJ98,<69>, [331], OA1 (Fig 5)
Subround seal of varying thickness, 39 by 36mm: SPASPE over central patriarchal cross, pelleted surrounds to stylised, three-quarter opposed facing heads of the respective patriarchs, all in pelleted border // INNO / CENTIVS / PP · III:, all in pelleted border.

This is the conventional obverse for a medieval Papal bull, with the reverse specifying it is in the name of Innocent III (in office 1198–1216). Comparable to de Gray Birch 1900, 269 no. 21,738 *etc.* This would have authenticated a document sent to the religious house from Rome. Papal bullae from the 13th century or earlier are less common, in England at least, than later ones (see Egan 2001 for a series from Wiltshire).

Glass

<S2> SAJ98, <16>, [254], OA1 (Fig 15)
Plain rim sherds, but two a fili trails to one a torti; diameter *c.*65mm.

<S3> SAJ98, <17>, [254], OA1 (Fig 15)
Pedestal-beaker wall sherds with vertical opaque white a fili trails. *Cf* Willmott 2002, 50 no. 4.10.

<S4> SAJ98, <18>, [254],OA1 (Fig 15)
Similar to <S3>.

<S5>, SAJ98, <12>, [254],OA1 (Fig 15)
Translucent, blue-green roemer lower wall fragment with applied, pulled prunts; superficially corroded. *Cf* Willmott 2002, 53 no. 7.1.

<S6a and 6b>, SAJ98, <13> and <15>, [254], OA1 (Fig 15)
Bulbous tankard: wall sherds and folded, pedestal foot, diameter 72mm; opaque white vetro a fili alternating with a retorti trails; the white at the base has worn away from sustained abrasion. *Cf* Willmott 2002, 56 no. 9.2.

<S7> SAJ98, <37>, [138], OA1 (Fig 15)
Pedestal-beaker wall sherds with vertical opaque white a fili trails. *Cf* Willmott 2002, 50 no. 4.10.

<S8> SAJ98, <61>, [395], OA1 (Fig 15)
Calender (slickstone): dark (?)green, mushroom-shaped, with incomplete handle; diameter of roundel 91mm, thickness *c.*30mm; superficial decay in area abraded from use; diameter of handle 30mm. For giving linens a gloss. *Cf* Walton Rogers 1997, 1775–9.

The worked stones

Terence Paul Smith

Introduction

Nine worked stones (<WS1>–<WS9>) were recovered, none complete and most unstratified. Two (<WS2> and <WS3>) fit together as a single (incomplete) stone. Two others (<WS5> and <WS7>) are separate stones but part of a single feature.

Petrology

Two stone types are present, both of them freestone and both much used in the London area during the medieval and Tudor periods. Lacking building stone of its own, London had to obtain it from elsewhere, usually from within England, sometimes from the Continent. Both source types are represented in the assemblage.

Medieval mouldings

Stones <WS8> and <WS9>, of medieval date, are of Caen stone, a cream coloured, fine grained non-oölitic limestone. It was extracted at various locations along the River Orne, around Caen and Falaise, in Normandy.

<WS8> is part of a curved hood mould to

Table 4. Worked stones

Accession	Petrology	Form	Date (approximate)
<WS1>	Reigate	Fireplace jamb	1450–1550
<WS2>	Reigate	Fireplace jamb	1450–1550
<WS3>	Reigate	Fireplace jamb with plinth	1450–1550
<WS4>	Reigate	Fireplace jamb	1450–1550
<WS5>	Reigate	Fireplace bressummer component	1450–1550
<WS6>	Reigate	Fireplace jamb with plinth and rose-in-quatrefoil decoration	1450–1550
<WS7>	Reigate	Fireplace bressummer component	1450–1550
<WS8>	Caen	Hood mould	late 13th century /early 14th century
<WS9>	Caen	Vault rib	late 13th century/ early 14th century

a doorway or other opening. It comprises a roll with frontal fillet above a bead with a flat fascia above the moulding; below the bead the stone is damaged, but there is just the start of what may have been a hollow chamfer. The stone is 110mm thick from the rear to the fascia and 150mm from the rear to the front of the fillet. The fascia and moulding show fine combing; the curved upper face has coarser combing over boasting; the rear shows claw tooling and the one surviving end (bedface) has claw tooling with pecking as a mortar key. The claw-tool, though used in Roman times (Blagg 1976, 162–3), seems not to have been employed in the medieval period until the mid-13th century. The stone is probably of late 13th- or early 14th-century date. The well preserved state of the stone and its tooling suggests a sheltered location.

<WS9> is part of a small vault rib with parts of both bedfaces preserved. It has a roll with frontal fillet flanked on each side by a smaller roll and a hollow chamfer. It is only 130mm long and 100mm deep from the rear to the front of the fillet. The exposed faces show fine boasting and fine claw-tooling; the rear shows somewhat coarser boasting, whilst the bedfaces have been pecked to form mortar keying. The rib clearly derives from a relatively small structure rather than from a high vault, and may be from a cloister vault: rib fragments of similar pattern, as well as a vault boss in Caen stone, have been found in excavations within the precincts at St John's (Samuel 2004, 286), and it is known that a cloister was built under William de Hanley, prior *c.*1287–90 (Sloane & Malcolm 2004, 69). The form of the rib is consistent with this late 13th-century date, although it could be somewhat later, being a type found in the late 13th and early 14th centuries (Forrester 1972, 13). The vault ribs in the Norwich cathedral cloister are of similar form, and date from *c.*1290–1310 (Samuel 2004, 286). Mortar on the exposed faces indicates subsequent reuse, probably as rubble.

Fireplace components

The Reigate stone elements are all components of fireplace surrounds. Each surround would have comprised the jambs and bressummer (mantel, lintel) spanning between them, the whole being known in the Middle Ages as a *parel* (variously spelled: Salzman 1967, 101, 460).

<WS2> and <WS3> fit together and are similar to <WS4>. They are parts of fireplace jambs, or possibly part of a single jamb. The mouldings, which are on a 45º-cant and are best preserved on stones <WS2> and <WS3>, consist of an inner wave, a hollow chamfer, and an ogee which returns the moulding on to the front face of the jamb. On <WS3> (Fig 26) the mouldings end with simple run-out stops, 55mm beneath which is a plinth section with an offset consisting of a stepped ogee above a hollow chamfer. The rear faces and perpend faces are batted, and <WS3> has on its section of perpend face several criss-crossing chiselled lines (2–3mm wide), presumably intended as a mortar (or other adhesive) key. Interestingly, <WS4> preserves on its perpend face a black

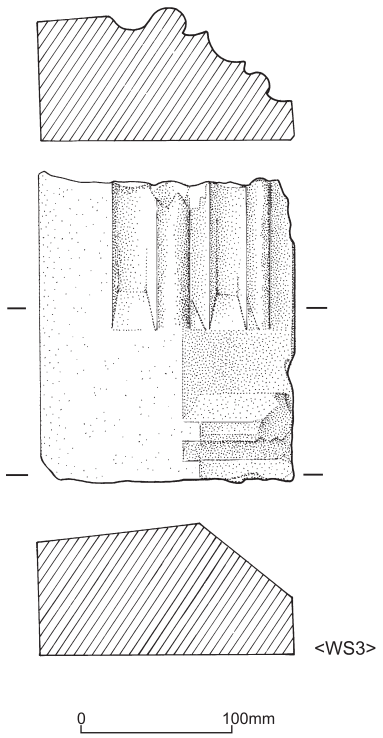

Fig 26. Fireplace jamb <WS3> (scale 1:5)

substance, probably pitch, seemingly used as an adhesive in lieu of mortar. The stones are 270–80mm wide and 135mm thick. They are badly damaged, whilst mortar on the mouldings indicates reuse, presumably as rubble. <WS2> and <WS3> preserve traces of white paint.

<WS6> (Fig 27) is the most ornate. It is a fireplace jamb, 300mm wide and 170mm thick, with an enriched 45º-cant. At the foot is a plain plinth section with an offset similar to that on <WS3>; the plinth is 360mm in height to the top of the stepped ogee. Almost immediately above it, within the plane of the cant and occupying its full width of 155mm, is a square with tiny sunk spandrels enclosing a quatrefoil, in the centre of which is a rose of heraldic type — that is, of the common dog-rose variety, five-petalled with the sepals showing between the petals and with a large seeded centre (Brooke-Little 1996, 177). From a point just above the square the cant has vertical mouldings, different from those on <WS2>, <WS3> and <WS4>, which continue on to the front face. There is a bead at the intersection between the cant and the front face and a hollow chamfer on the front face itself; the cant carries a double ogee and a single ogee moulding. There are simple run-out stops. The upper part of the stone is not preserved. The rear faces are batted and the one surviving bedface shows claw-tooling. There is a well preserved mason's mark, 55mm high, on the plain cant of the plinth section. The stone preserves a little white paint. Stone <WS1>, which is 300mm wide and 180mm thick, shows the same moulding as <WS6>, though without either offset or rose-in-quatrefoil decoration: it may be from the same jamb, from the opposite jamb of the same fireplace, as suggested by the similar width and closely similar thickness, or from the jamb of another fireplace of related design. The rear of the stone and the one surviving bedface are batted. On the rear are two small concentric circles, with diameters of 49mm and 55mm, made with a pair of dividers. It is possible that this is some form of quarry or setting mark — or it may be no more than a graffito. The moulding retains some white paint.

<WS5> and <WS7> belong together, each (when it was complete) forming half the bressummer of a fireplace and meeting in a vertical butt joint at the apex of a depressed pseudo-four-centred arch at an angle of 170º. The mouldings comprise a bead at the bottom, a hollow chamfer, and an ogee. The last runs horizontally, the others slope down from the apex towards the springings. But neither stone is complete, and the spandrel sections are not present. On each, however, is just the start of a sharply pointed spandrel sinking containing a trace of tendril or other floral decoration. The upper face of each stone rises to a somewhat sharper angle of 150º. At the centre, the stones have a height between the upper and lower vertices of 455mm; they are 140mm thick. In the rear face of each is a horizontal groove 40mm wide and 25mm deep: this would have housed an iron bar giving additional support to the bressummer. It is probable that the ends of the bar were bent at right-angles so that it formed a cramp holding the two stones together or cramping them to the adjoining masonry. The perpend faces forming the

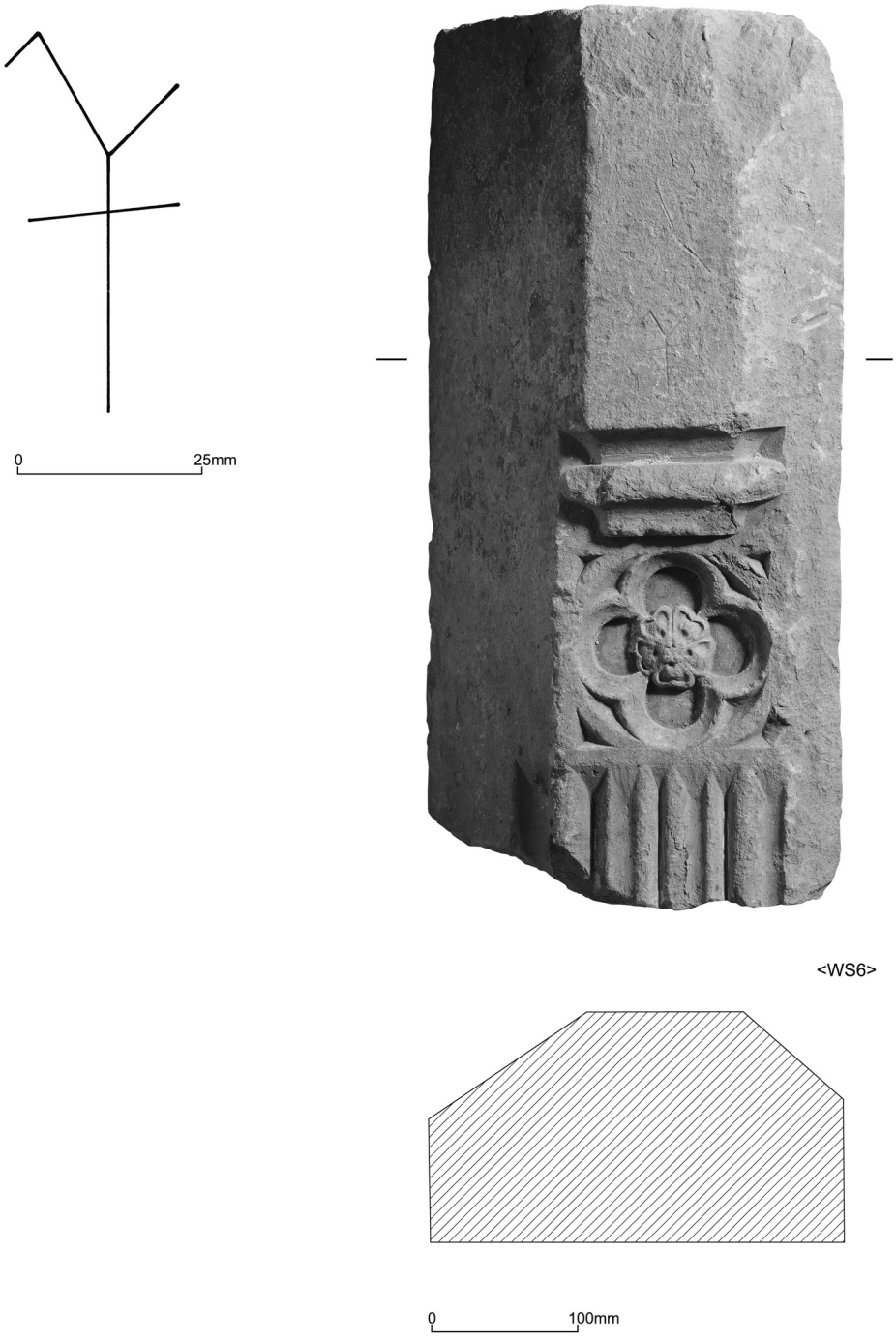

Fig 27. Fireplace jamb with plinth rose and mason's mark <WS6> (scale 1:5)

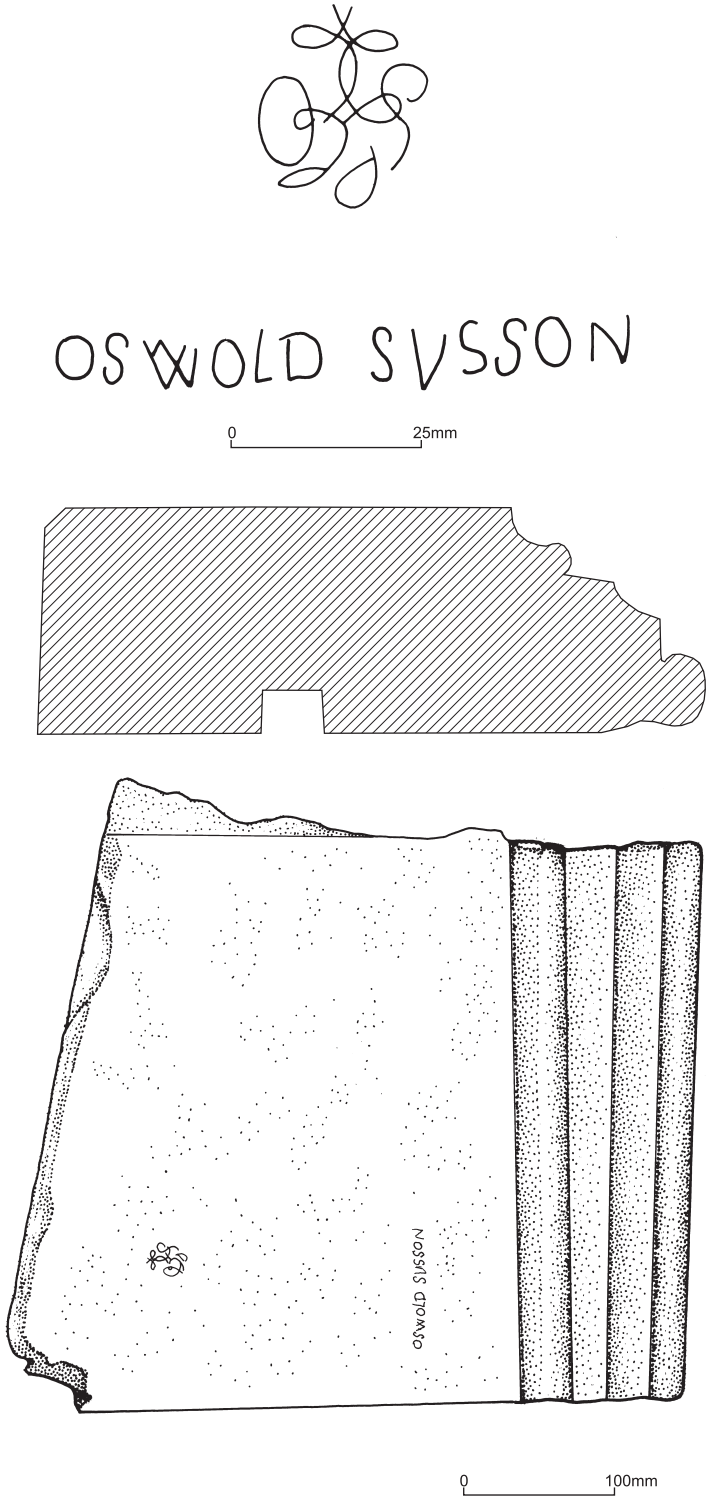

Fig 28. Fireplace bressummer with scratched graffito <WS5> (scale 1:5)

butt joint preserve claw-tooling; otherwise, no tooling is visible. <WS5>, which is in a somewhat better state of preservation, retains extensive traces of white paint; <WS7> has much more meagre traces. The front face of <WS5> shows a graffito (Fig 28) scratched into its surface in rather rough capital letters 7–9mm high, though with the Y reaching 10mm and the ascender of the L rising to 13mm: OSWOLD SYSSON. A short space above the name are the scratched letters O and S — presumably the initials of Oswold Sysson — combined with a fairly elaborate knot to form a cypher (monogram) 34mm high. <WS7> has on its front face a series of three concentric circles (incomplete), the largest with a diameter of 180mm, scribed into it, clearly using a pair of dividers. This is presumably another graffito.

The fireplaces: discussion

Two different jamb mouldings are present, whilst the bressummer moulding is different again, implying that at least three fireplaces are represented by the stones, at least two of them having splayed reveals (45º-cants) and at least one of them having a depressed pseudo-four-centred arch, moulded and set within a rectangular frame. It seems likely that all the fireplaces were of basically similar form, although that which included <WS6> was more ornate than some at least of the others. A moulding similar to that on <WS1> and <WS6> is present on early Tudor fireplace components found at the nunnery of St Mary Clerkenwell (Sloane in prep).

The fireplaces probably date from the late Perpendicular or early Tudor periods, *c.*1450–1550. They perhaps reflect improvements to the accommodation, a common concern for greater personal comfort within monastic precincts in the late pre-Dissolution period; that they derive from early post-Dissolution modification cannot, however, be ruled out. Four-centred arches came into fashion for fireplaces in the late 14th century, 'giving the necessary width with opportunity for decoration in the spandrels' (Wood 1965, 266). They remained popular in the 15th century and throughout the early Tudor period, though with the true four-centred arch usually superseded, as here, by the pseudo-four-centred form with straight rather than segmental soffits adjoining the quarter-circle ends — a form often referred to as a 'Tudor arch'. Such fireplaces sometimes continued even beyond the end of the Tudor period. The mouldings may be stopped at a higher level on these later examples, although this is not invariably the case (Smith 1992, 190). The mouldings on the stones from this assemblage, however, support the earlier date suggested above. The arches of such fireplaces are typically very depressed, as with the angle of 170º formed by <WS5> and <WS7>. They are formed either from two stones, as here, or from a single stone with the arch shape cut from the underside. Structurally, neither form is a true arch, but acts, rather, as a (single or composite) lintel or beam.

The components are too incomplete to provide precise information on the width and height of the fireplace openings. The one complete plinth (<WS6>) is 360mm in height to the top of the moulding. The late 15th-century fireplace in the Bishop's Palace at Wells (measured drawing by A W N Pugin reproduced in Wood 1965, pl 21) has a ratio of plinth height to overall height to the arch-springing of 11:46: this same ratio applied to <WS6> would give an overall height to the arch-springing of (360 ÷ 11) × 46 = 1505.5mm = 1.5m (5ft). It is more difficult to arrive at an estimate for the width of the fireplace of which <WS5> and <WS7> formed the bressummer, but it is not likely to have been less than 1.75m (5ft 6in).

In relatively modest buildings, fireplace jambs might be provided with no more than a simple plain chamfer running down the arris, but in less humble examples the jambs were usually decorated with mouldings, typically placed on a 45º-cant — in effect, a wide chamfer — as here. A plinth was usually, though not invariably, provided. Further enrichment, such as the rose-in-quatrefoil, is far less common, although related decorative motifs occur on fireplace jambs at Sutton House, Hackney, built by Sir Ralph Sadleir in 1534–5 (Gray 1992, 11). Often there was an overmantel or decorative frieze above the arch, although in the present case the upper form of the bressummer, rising to an obtuse angle, would seem to preclude this. Those *in situ* at Sutton House are similarly constructed and do not have friezes. It is, of course,

possible that the fireplace from which <WS6> derives, with its more elaborately decorated jambs, had such a frieze, perhaps serving for an heraldic display, as not infrequently (Wood 1965, 271).

The use of (probably) pitch as an adhesive on <WS4> is of interest. In medieval and later times various substances, known as 'cement' (*ciment* or *siment* and variant forms, with the accent on the first syllable) were sometimes used in building (Salzman 1967, 153–4; for later use: Neve 1726, 103). Wax and resin were the usual basic ingredients but pitch was sometimes used, more especially where there was exposure to water — though that would hardly have been the case with the fireplaces. Of equal constructional interest is the use of an iron bar or cramp to strengthen the bressummer with its butt joint — the latter a somewhat weak method of construction, though familiar enough from doorway, window, and other openings as well as from fireplaces. It is likely that there was a relieving-arch of stone or brick above the bressummer, thus easing it of any appreciable vertical stress.

Reigate stone was quite commonly used for fireplace surrounds in London and surrounding areas in the medieval and Tudor periods and later. Fireplace components of the sort represented here were probably produced in large numbers, either at the quarries themselves or in London workshops, for purchase from stock, a common practice in the late medieval and early Tudor periods (Knoop & Jones 1967, 70–1). There was a wide market because elements of basically similar form could be used not only for fireplaces but also for tomb recesses and Easter sepulchres (*cf* Cherry 1990, 140–54). Indeed, but for the form of the bressummer, its flat front face rising to a blunt point, these stones might be taken as components of monuments or similar ecclesiastical structures. At Hunsdon House, Herts, in 1528 'parelles of chymneys [= chimney-pieces]' were supplied 'redy wrought' (Salzman 1967, 101), as were the 'parells' bought from two London masons, Gilbert Burssam and Gabriel Coldam, for Henry VIII's manor house at Dartford, Kent, in 1541 (Colvin *et al* 1982, 71). It was probably because they were produced in this way that it was found necessary for the London 'Freemasons' Ordinances' of 1509–10 to specify a minimum thickness for the 'mantelles and Jamys' of fireplaces (Knoop & Jones 1967, 200).

That all the St John's Street fireplace stones from the site come from the same workshop is not only intrinsically likely but is also suggested by the appearance of the similar offset on stones with otherwise different mouldings. Even the rose-in-quatrefoil, which would have provided quite striking decoration to the fireplace in which it occurred, was probably part of the regular repertoire. It may be significant, however, that it is only on this stone that a mason's mark has been observed. This may indicate that masons of above average accomplishment cut such items and were paid on a piece-work basis, thus needing to mark their own products, whilst the more standard mouldings were cut by masons paid on a day-rate basis. Or perhaps the more skilled masons added the rose-in-quatrefoils to areas left blank for the purpose on jambs cut by others. That there was a degree of specialisation in the making of the fireplaces is suggested by the frequency with which John Modill was paid for supplying *parrels* and other components of 'chimneys' for various building projects on the London Bridge estates in 1537–8. He is described seven times as 'of Reigate' and once, and presumably mistakenly, as 'of Kent': certainly the stone he used is sometimes specified as Reigate (Harding & Wright 1995, 208–12, 222, 233).

Reigate stone is of a sombre, not especially attractive, hue. It is therefore significant that most of the stones bear traces of white paint: this probably served as an undercoat to more colourful pigments, though none was observed. It is almost certain that painting, if not perhaps always gilding, was the norm for such fireplaces. Not infrequently the carvers incorporated blank shields, typically within the spandrels, on which appropriate coats of arms could be painted.

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