

**An excavation and watching brief on land to the rear of
15 Sandford Street
Lichfield
Staffordshire**

Report by Nick Tavener with contributions by Stephanie Rátkai, Ian Baxter, Liz Pearson

Summary

The earliest feature was a substantial ditch crossing the site roughly east-west. The ditch was subsequently recut. Neither phase could be dated but both almost certainly predate the formation of the medieval new town c. 1130.

Limited occupation of the site began sometime in the 12th or early 13th centuries but the formal creation of burgage plots did not occur until after c. 1250. From c. 1250 to the end of the 14th century, the backlands became the focus of pit digging activity. Most were cesspits but there were also underground hearths. The layout of the pits supports the information shown on historic maps that the southern most part of the garden area was the backlands of properties fronting onto Bird Street. The central property in the northern part of the excavated area had a stone-lined well, a stone-lined garderobe and a stone hearth set nearly 2 metres below ground. This may have been used for both primary production and secondary working of iron and the property would seem to have been of higher status than its neighbours.

The pit digging activity declined in the later 14th century and 15th centuries but did not cease. A range of walls and pits from later periods indicate that the site has been in continuous occupation from c. 1250 to the present day.

Introduction

No. 15, Sandford Street lies on the southern side of the street some 300m to the south of Lichfield Cathedral at NGR: SK 1157 0936 (Fig. 1). The frontage is largely occupied by a Grade II listed building. At the time of the redevelopment, this was set out as a single block but had formerly been a pair of 18th century houses. The east side of the frontage was an open entry 6 metres wide ('D' on Fig. 2) giving access to a complex of outbuildings that occupied c. 60% of the garden area to the rear of the listed building. The complex comprised a large two storey extension and various smaller single storey outbuildings erected and modified between c. 1910 and 1970.

The property was redeveloped in 2000 by Friel Homes Ltd to form fifteen apartments. The redevelopment was achieved by converting the listed building and constructing a new extension in the garden area to the rear. The scheme also included provision of underground car parking below the new extension. This resulted in the demolition of all of the existing complex of outbuildings followed by a general reduction of the ground level to 1.2m below the top of the natural subsoil over virtually the whole of the garden area right up to the

footings of the western, southern and eastern property boundary walls. The entry on the east side of the plot became a ramp leading downwards from the street to the new car park.

Marches Archaeology had undertaken a desk-based assessment for the property (Stone, 1999a) followed by the excavation of six evaluation trenches. At that time, the outbuildings in the garden area were still standing. The evaluation found intact medieval deposits and cut features in five trenches placed in the garden area around the periphery of the outbuildings (Stone *et al*, 1999 - trench locations on Fig. 2). A sixth evaluation trench placed near the street frontage in the entry had indicated some survival of archaeological deposits at that location. It was evident that the scale of the intended ground works would almost certainly lead to the total destruction of the archaeological deposits and cut features. A condition was placed on the planning consent requiring the excavation of an area of 440m². In addition, a watching brief was to be maintained during construction works on areas not included within that excavation area (Fig. 2).

The fieldwork took place in May and June 2000. The site archive along with all finds will be deposited at the Potteries Museum at Stoke on Trent.

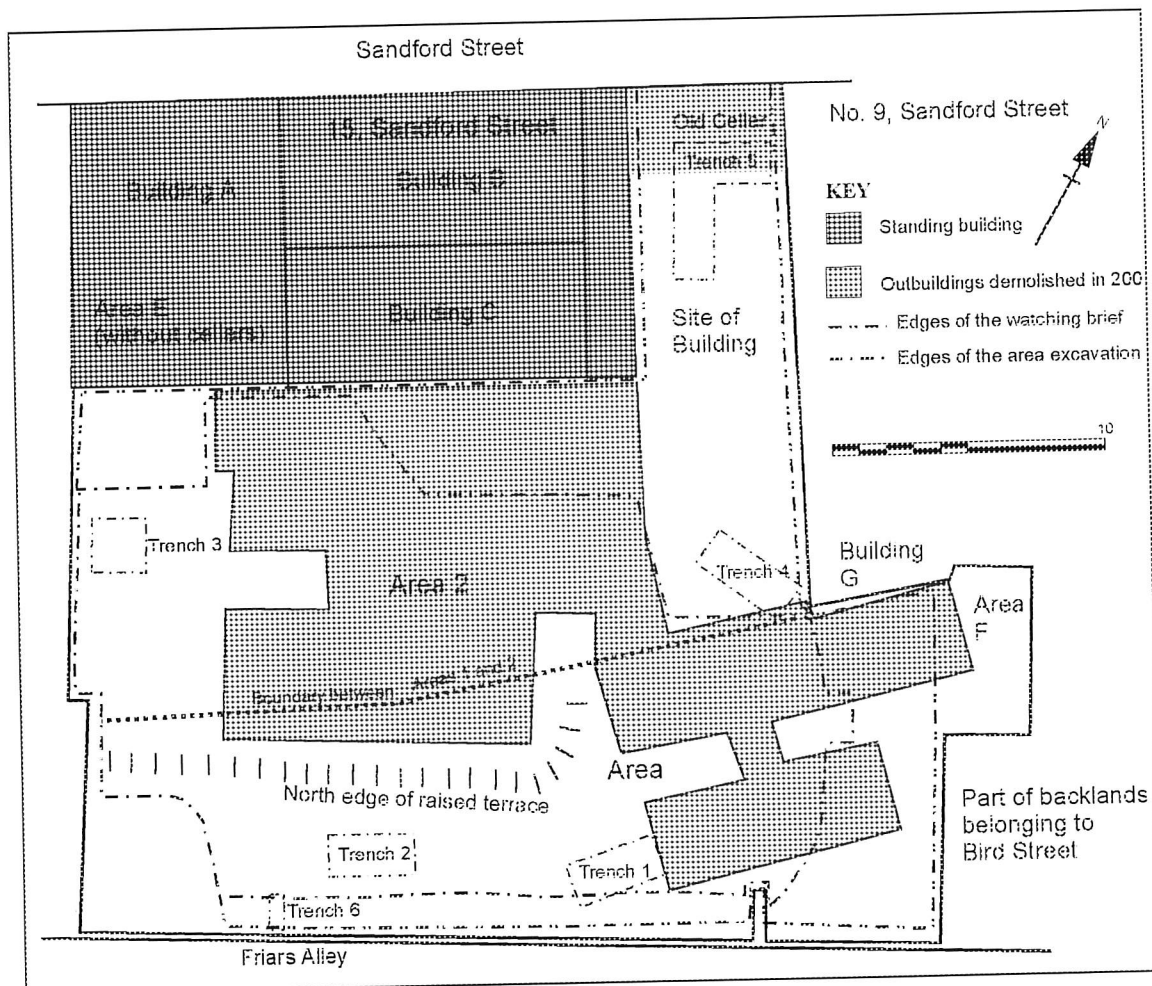


Fig. 2 The site showing the standing buildings and extensions as well as the edges of the area excavation and watching brief

Historical background

Most authors agree that medieval Lichfield was set out as a 'new town' with a grid pattern of streets by Bishop Clinton. The development was probably continued by his successor Bishop Durdent, giving a date range for the scheme from 1129 to 1159 (Taylor, 1969). The sequence of development of the area of the Friary and Sandford Street has generated much discussion. It has been proposed that Sandford Street was the western approach road to the medieval new town, entering at the north-west corner via the Sandford Gate (Bassett, 1982, 106) but there is some argument over the date at which that road was first developed for housing. The earliest documentary reference to the Sandford Gate dates from c. 1198-1208 and also refers to burgages outside the gate (VCH, 1990, 40). The earliest documentary reference to Sandford Street dates to 1294 (VCH, 1990, 42), nearly a century later. The allusion to 'burgages outside the gate' in the earlier reference could be taken to indicate that pressure of space within this part of the town was such that development beyond its walls was necessary. An alternative explanation, perhaps less likely, is that the extra mural development was preferred, as it would avoid payment of dues to the town.

Sandford Street shares a common axis with the east-west elements of the 'new town' grid but joins awkwardly to the north-west corner of the main body of the town. Sandford Street was linked to the believed location of the medieval Sandford Gate by an awkward dogleg that turned first to the north and then to the north-west as Lower Sandford Street (Fig. 1). This dogleg was finally removed during road improvements c. 1990. Speed's map of 1610 shows that the southern side of Sandford Street was built up at that date and clearly shows the same road layout that existed until c. 1990.

Bassett (1982, 106) proposed that the road originally led directly from the Sandford Gate down the line of Lower Sandford Street (Fig. 1) and continued straight on to meet the west end of Market Street, i.e., ran at an oblique angle to the 'new town' grid. Bassett proposed that the more recent layout was a replacement, at an unknown date, of the eastern part of Lower Sandford Street with a 'new' Sandford Street to the south, but now on the existing alignment of the 'new town'. If correct, this hypothesis would have had a profound effect on the street frontage in the vicinity of the excavation area for the existing frontage would have lain c.10-15m to the south of that earlier street and would only have been occupied by the rear parts of frontage buildings or their extensions and outhouses. Burgage plots set at a right angle to that earlier street would be aligned much closer to true north-south. Slater proposed an alternative scheme, arguing that the plan form of the suburb of Sandford suggests that a few crofts already existed before the laying out of the 'new town' and that the presence of these crofts had determined the subsequent laying out of the road (1986, 22). Slater dated the origins of Sandford Street to a time soon after the creation of the new town, but still within the 12th century. The awkward layout of Sandford Street does require some rational explanation and addressing this issue was one of the main research items for this project.

The excavation area virtually abuts the north side of the precinct of the Franciscan Friary, being separated from the precinct by a narrow alleyway called Friars Alley. It has been argued that the Friary, which was founded c. 1237, was originally much smaller and laid out to the north of a street, now lost, which originally continued the line of Bore Street westwards (Bassett, 1982, 104). Bassett further proposed that both Market Street and Wade Street originally continued further westwards but that the western ends of both streets were removed when the Friary was extended northwards and southwards (see Fig. 1). This would have

required major alterations to the plan of the town in this area. The effects upon individual properties would have been so far-reaching that the scheme would probably have required the personal intervention of the owner of the borough (Bassett, 1982, 106). Documentary sources indicate that a disastrous fire in 1291 destroyed much of the town, including a large part of the Friary. Bassett argued that the re-planning of Sandford Street probably took place after the fire of 1291 but before his proposed date of 1329 for the extension of the Friary northwards. The date of 1294 for the first documentary reference to Sandford Street fits neatly into Bassett's proposed window for the realignment of that street (Bassett, 1982, 108) but the absence of documentary evidence for Sandford Street before that date is not proof of absence of the street at an earlier date.

Friars Alley runs more or less parallel to Sandford Street for its whole length but there is a rather awkward dogleg in the alley some 20m to the south-west of the excavation area. The dogleg formed part of Bassett's argument that the Friary had been extended northwards. Speed's map shows that the dogleg existed before 1610. The tithe map of 1848 shows a substantial fragment of the Friary abutting the south side of Friars Alley at the northern part of the dogleg (Fig. 3). The presence of the building fragment almost certainly explains the layout of Friars Alley at that particular location. John Hills's map of the Friary dated 1638 shows a land holding called 'Newports land' immediately to the west of the excavation area and also shows that the Vicars Choral owned a large area immediately to the west of Newport's land. There is a reference to Newport's land in Sandford Street in a rental dated 1535 (Harwood, 1806, 215). The holding belonging to the Vicars Choral was probably a garden given by Thomas Chesterfield, a former canon at Lichfield Cathedral, after his death in 1452 (Harwood, 1806, 502). The dogleg in Friars Alley, i.e. the sudden turn to the south, was probably necessary to take the alley around the north side of the Friary building shown on the tithe map and then round the south side of the parcel of land owned by the Vicars Choral. John Hill did not, unfortunately, give information for the excavation area or the plots to the east.

Documentary references to individuals and trades in Sandford Street are rare during the medieval period. A fuller is mentioned in 1298 and a glazier in the late 13th century (VCH XIV, 1990, 120). In 1532, the population was recorded as being 23 people but these were probably heads of households (Kettle, nd, 178-9). Linen manufacture is mentioned around 1691-6 and a tanner lived in the street in the early 18th century (VCH, 1990, 121). There were weaving shops in the early 1800s, calico workers in 1804 and a dyehouse in 1814 (VCH, 1990, 123). In 1803 the parish workhouse was located in Sandford Street (*ibid*). Although this would seem to indicate that the street was fairly run down at that time, slightly later directories list 'gentlemen' in the street.

The existing buildings and property boundaries

The building on the frontage of No. 15 was formed from three components. The earliest part of the structure lay at the west end. It was a two bay brick house with its northern gable 'end-on' to the street (building 'A' on Fig. 2). This has a massive central brick chimney stack and probably dates to the late 17th or early 18th centuries. It was originally an entirely separate property.

The central part was an elegant three storey brick townhouse of mid 18th century style (building 'B' on Fig. 2). It comprised three bays of single room depth set out along the street frontage and was referred to as Sandford House in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (VCH,

IV). It was extended to the rear later in the 18th century (building 'C' on Fig. 2). John Snape's map of 1781 shows all three components with a narrow passageway down the east side giving access to the rear of the property and a large extension at right angles extending southwards from building C. The three building components dating to the 18th century have cellars cut at least 1.5m into the natural clays and sands and it is highly unlikely that any archaeological remains survive below them.

Sandford House was converted into the Lichfield Victoria Nursing Home in 1899 with two public wards. In 1910, it took over building 'A' and was also extended into the garden area. The hospital moved into new purpose-built premises nearby in the Friary in 1933 and the Sandford Street premises were reopened as a clinic in 1934 (VCH, IV, pp 105-6).

Snape's map shows a fourth building at the eastern end of the frontage (marked 'site of building D' on Fig. 2) separated from Sandford House by its own passageway. Later maps show that the structure featured small extensions and outbuildings to the rear, the whole ensemble being roughly 6m wide and extending for some 20m to the south of Sandford Street. This property probably represents a surviving fragment of the old burgage plot system but was probably a part burgage plot rather than a whole plot. An evaluation trench found part of a narrow cellar on the frontage but indicated that there had never been cellars further south (Stone *et al*, 1999).

Snape's map also shows an east-west wall roughly 10 metres to the south of Sandford House. The area to the south of that wall line formed the southern half of the excavation area. Snape showed the area to the south of the wall as gardens extending both eastwards and westwards, the layout strongly suggesting that the gardens lay at the rear of a property fronting onto Bird Street which lies some 60m to the east. This suggestion is strongly supported some 70 years later by the tithe map and apportionment of 1848. The tithe map indicates that the wall separating the northern and southern parts of the modern property was at an oblique angle (Fig. 3). This oblique alignment is carried on to this day by the southern wall of an outhouse on the southern boundary of No. 9, Sandford Street (building 'G' on Fig. 2).

The tithe map and apportionment show that most of the southern half of the excavation area was part of a garden or yard to the rear of a house on Bird Street belonging to a Thomas Purden (tithe apportionment entry No. 339). No buildings are shown within the garden area. Purden's holdings in the area were quite extensive and included Nos. 338, 340 and 352 (Fig. 2). He is stated as being the occupier of Nos. 338 and 339, so his main holdings seem to have been on Bird Street. Although No. 339 was largely cut off from the street frontages, it had a possible entry route from Sandford Street through No. 352 as well as a narrow but easy access via Friars Alley.

The Ordnance Survey 1:500 'Town Series' map of 1882 shows two sets of steps against the eastern boundary of the modern property, one into the eastern part of No. 339 and the other into No. 340. The latter steps still survived in 2000 leading upwards to a blocked opening in the eastern boundary wall of the modern property, clearly demonstrating that there was physical access into the rear of property No. 340 on Bird Street. The 1882 map shows that Sandford House, i.e. No. 15, had encroached across the wall line into the old tithe enclosure No. 339 at some time before that date. It would be difficult, although not impossible, to construct a sensible argument to show that No. 339 had been owned by various properties on

Sandford Street, lost to Bird Street and subsequently regained by the Sandford Street properties after an interval of more than a century.

The original pattern of long narrow medieval burgrave plots survives quite well in the area to the north of the Friary. Both the tithe map of 1848 and Ordnance Survey map of 1882 show a fair degree of uniformity of plot widths at around 6 metres in the vicinity of No. 15. Tithe plots Nos. 337 and 355 were 12 metres wide, i.e. probably double width plots. Plots Nos. 340 to 342 to the east of the excavation were between 4.4 and 5.5m wide and slightly narrower than the norm, possibly indicating a rearrangement in the area at some time in the past. The south-east corner of the excavation area, i.e. the area to the rear of Nos. 341 and 342 was a small walled yard forming part of the holding of the Rose and Crown public house (also on Bird Street) in 1848 (Fig. 2). Whilst none of the old Bird Street burgrave plots extended as far westwards as the excavation area in 1848, all three may originally have done so, i.e., the southern part of the excavation area may have been a far flung part of burgrave plots fronting onto Bird Street in earlier times. If true, this leaves only very short plots c. 20m in length north-south fronting onto Sandford Street in the medieval period.

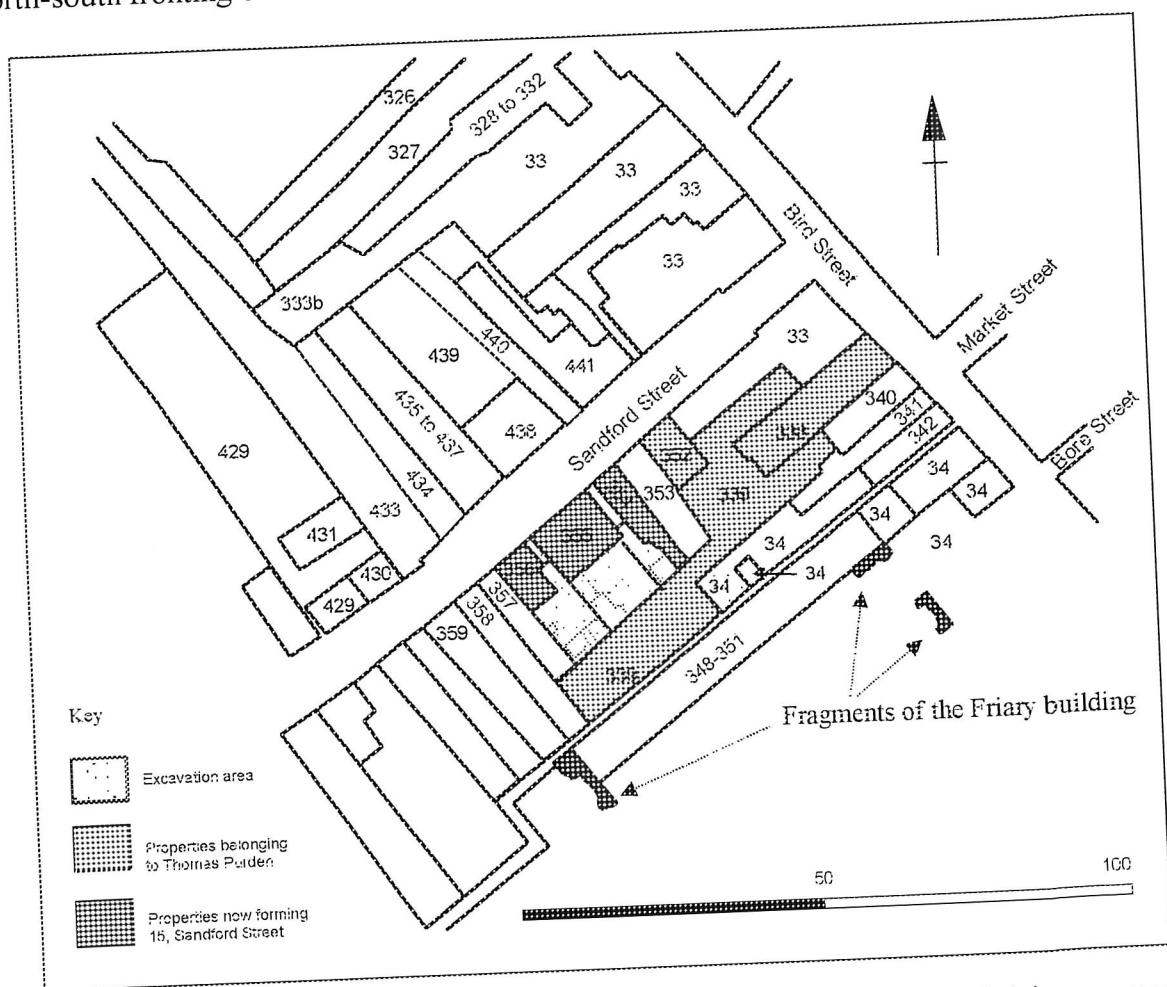


Fig. 3 Main property boundary detail from the tithe map with internal subdivisions removed

Close examination of the pattern of property boundaries further eastwards on the tithe map also shows that the Sandford Street property No. 352 fits uncomfortably against the Bird Street properties 337 and 339 and that Nos. 353 to 357 form a coherent block backing onto No. 339. This situation is mirrored on the north of Sandford Street where properties Nos.

434 to 441 fronting onto Sandford Street fit awkwardly to properties Nos. 333 to 336 which clearly ran off Bird Street (Fig. 3). The whole appearance is suggestive that blocks of properties have been 'shoe-horned' into the back of an existing layout. It is not entirely clear which were the earlier or later blocks of properties but the arrangement does suggest that Bird Street took precedence over Sandford Street in terms of layout. The route of Sandford Street, (i.e. its possible origins as a simple road to the Sandford Gate) could, nonetheless, still be earlier than Bird Street.

Conclusions

In summary, the sparse documentary evidence indicates that Sandford Street was probably developed at some date during the 12th century, probably following the creation of the new town in the second quarter of that century. Development along the road to Sandford Gate may have been precipitated once Bird Street had become fully developed, but this remains unproven. The Friary was founded around 1237 on land off Bird Street and was later probably extended westwards, southwards and slightly northwards. The latter movement might explain the rather awkward dogleg in Friars Alley just to the south-west of the study area. No documents or deeds have been traced that relate specifically to the excavation area or its immediate environs during the medieval period.

The tithe map of 1848 shows that that the southern part of the excavation area belonged to properties on Bird Street at that date. The general layout of property boundaries in the vicinity is probably indicative that the boundaries of 1848 were probably originally medieval burgrave plot boundaries. The southern part of the excavation area may have been part of the back-plots of two or more burgages fronting onto Bird Street in the medieval period. The northern half of the excavation area probably encompasses the back half of either three or four much shorter burgrave plots fronting onto Sandford Street. The excavation area has thus been subdivided into two areas, Area 1 (Bird Street) and Area 2 (Sandford Street) partly for convenience but largely to test this observation (Fig. 4)

Methodology and factors affecting preservation of deposits

The 'Brief and Specification' prepared by the local authority's Archaeological Advisor stipulated full archaeological excavation of an area of 440m² in the garden area to the rear of the 18th century frontage buildings. A watching brief was to be maintained on all subsequent ground works in areas not included within the archaeological excavation.

Area 1

Most of area 1 was a raised terrace running the entire width of the property east-west. Three evaluation trenches had all encountered a similar deep sequence of humic topsoil layers including remnants of the medieval soil horizons at the base (Stone *et al*, 1999).

The terrace was machined in spits to the top of the uppermost medieval soil horizon [149]. Several post-medieval features were exposed and recorded during the machine stripping. No medieval features could be discerned cutting the top of the medieval topsoil [149] and it was found to contain early post-medieval artefacts as well as medieval pottery. A further 0.3-0.4m

depth was removed by machine in spits 0.1m deep to the top of the 'A/B' horizon [7] (Avery, 1980) at which level intact medieval features and deposits were revealed.

Area 2

Concrete floors and footings occupied most of area 2 and were removed, along with the underlying hardcore, by a tracked excavator under archaeological supervision. This exposed the natural subsoil [8] as a reasonably level surface over most of the area. The area occupied by the hospital outbuildings had been stripped to the top of the clean subsoil prior to their construction. This had removed any soil horizons or archaeological deposits overlying the subsoil, leaving the lower portions of deeper cut features. The footings for the outbuildings as well as the sewer system and the basement area of the lift shaft (context [197]) penetrated to varying depths below the top of subsoil inflicting deeper damage to cut features over c. 10% of the area.

Scaffolding had been erected all along the rear of the standing building prior to the excavation and was in use for works on the roof and walls during the excavation. A strip c. 2.5m wide running along the back of the standing building was excluded from the excavation area on safety grounds. In addition, the entry on the east side of the property was in constant use for the delivery and storage of building materials and could not be included in the main area of excavation. These areas were monitored during the later watching brief.

General

By the end of the main area excavation, all layers had been removed to the top of the subsoil [8] within the limits of the main excavation area shown on Fig. 2. All cut features within that area were excavated to at least a half section and recorded. Several features were completely excavated. Several slots were dug across each linear feature.

Following the excavation, the ground level was reduced by a further 1.2m across the whole garden area for the below ground parking. These ground works extended to within 0.5m of the boundary walls on the southern, eastern and western sides of the site and exposed the cellar wall all along the back of the standing building. The ground works along the entry rose to 0.25m below pavement level at the frontage. These ground works were monitored as a watching brief and resulted in the investigation of a further 240m² of archaeological deposits and features around the periphery of the main excavation area. The features were recorded rapidly, often under 'salvage' conditions, although an excellent working relationship with the contractors meant that most features were at least partially hand dug and sections were drawn of all. These ground works removed all archaeological features and deposits within the development area except for the lower portions of wells. A small area on the east side of the garden area (marked 'Area F' on Fig. 2) remained virtually untouched and the archaeological deposits almost certainly survive *in situ*.

The excavation and watching brief

The soil profile

The site is underlain by fluvio-glacial deposits formed over beds belonging to the Bunter Sandstone series (BGS, 1984). The deeper ground works revealed the top of the Bunter Beds, a soft weathered sandstone, the top lying at c. 82.4m O.D. The bedrock was overlain by a sequence c. 0.3 - 0.4m thick of thin layers of pale yellow and red sands that had almost certainly weathered from the bedrock.

The sterile coarse sands were sealed below a compacted red-mauve clay marl [8] that was fairly uniformly c. 0.8m thick across the site. The boundary between the clay marl and the top of the underlying sands was often wavy and uneven. The clay marl was often composed of a succession of very thin horizontal varves and lenses so the material was probably deposited in standing or very slow moving water. A random pattern of narrow tapering fissures filled with clean sterile sand and gravel bisected the clay marl all across the site. The fissures may have been of slightly later glacial origin and had undoubtedly improved the natural drainage.

Clay marl [8] was overlain by a thin 'B' horizon (Avery, 1980) of dirty beige, sterile sand [42] that was usually no more than 0.25m thick. It often featured a thin pebble scatter along the top that may have resulted from translocation of stones downwards from the overlying soil profile by worm action.

Area 1

Most of area 1 was occupied by the deep soil profile forming the raised terrace. Here, the 'B' horizon [42] merged upwards into a mid red brown sandy silt loam [121] containing frequent pottery dating to the period from the late 13th to late 14th centuries. Soil [121] merged gently upwards into a very slightly more humic soil [149] of identical texture. The two layers in combination varied from 0.3-0.5m in thickness. The pottery recovered from soil [149] was largely medieval in date but also included a thin background scattering of early post medieval material. The top of this soil represents the approximate level of the medieval ground surface. Soil [149] merged gently up into a deep dark grey brown humic loam [120] that contained some medieval material but mainly pottery dating to the later 17th and early 18th centuries. This merged upwards into an almost black silty sand loam [119]. The finds recovered from this soil show that it developed from the late 18th century until fairly recent times.

Area 2

The ground works for the various outbuildings in the early to mid 20th century had removed all soils and other deposits above the top of the subsoil from over 95% of the area. There were small patches of survival of medieval soil deposits along the western periphery of the area and also in the extreme south-east corner.

The archaeological features

Phase 1 - pre mid 12th century

The earliest feature on the site was a substantial linear ditch [416] crossing the site east-west. The centre line of the ditch was roughly 5m to the north of Friar's Alley and more or less parallel to it (Fig. 4). Six exploratory trenches, each 1m wide, were excavated across the ditch and the lower fills of a further 10 linear metres of the ditch were excavated by hand during the

watching brief when the profiles at the east and west edges of the site were drawn complete to the modern ground surface (Fig. 5, sections A-B and M-N).

Ditch [416] was c. 3 metres across at the top with a fairly steep V-shaped profile. The surviving upper edge was eroded, presumably following prolonged exposure, so the ditch was probably slightly narrower when created. Where the relict topsoil [149] survived it could be seen that the ditch was originally c. 1.85m deep. The ditch was subsequently completely recut on almost exactly the same alignment (cut [348]) but the centre line was shifted c. 0.4m to the north and the second cut was c. 0.1-1.5m shallower than the original cut [416]. The edges of both phases of the ditch were fairly straight and neatly cut.

The earlier cut was especially clear at the east edge of the site where the bottom of both phases of the ditch cut the top of the weathered sandstone bedrock (Fig. 5 M-N). The remnants of the lower fills in the base of the earlier ditch were invariably lenticular hard fine silts and clays. Because the recut had been moved northwards, the remnants of the fills of the earlier cut had survived as a narrow band of mid grey brown silty loam along the southern edge of the feature. No finds or potential dating samples were recovered from fills associated with the primary ditch cut [416]. Many of the excavated profiles featured a substantial band of hard marl lying just above the southern edge of the secondary cut which usually extended down into the base of the cut (Fig. 5). The marl layer was undoubtedly the result of natural silting and slumping.

Where the marl layer had not filled the bottom of the channel of the recut [348], the fills were usually fairly soft silty sands much coarser than the silting in the base of the primary cut [416] and there were frequent rounded platy stones. The overlying fills were invariably soft mid brown sandy silt loams based largely on material eroded from the sides mixed with material derived from the surrounding topsoil. Despite considerable hand digging, the sole find from the recut ditch [348] was a single large fragment of Roman box flue tile recovered from fill [406] at the base of the ditch (Fig. 5, K-L). Small pockets of pea-grit were a common feature within the numerous worm burrows that penetrated down through the ditch profiles right to the very base of the fills. The pea-grit commonly included small and abraded fragments of charcoal, especially amongst the stony fill along the bottom of the ditch. No charcoal could be found that would allow a reliable radiocarbon date for either phase of the ditch.

There were no other features anywhere on the site provably associated with, or as early as, this ditch.

Phase 1 - interpretation

The fragment of Roman box flue tile in the base of ditch [348] demonstrates that the recut of the ditch cannot have been earlier than Roman. Both ditch cuts had been completely truncated in an area between 3m and 6m to the west of the find spot of the box flue tile by a complex of intersecting cesspits [358] of early post medieval date. Two fragments of Roman *tegulae* were recovered from the lower fill of a late cut within that pit complex. It is possible, perhaps likely, that the *tegulae* had been removed from the ditch during the creation of cesspit [358] finding their way back into the cesspit with some of the quarried material at a slightly later date.

The fine particle size of the primary fills in the bottom channel of cut [416] probably indicates sedimentation in a regime of slow moving water. The hardness of these primary silts was possibly caused by compaction resulting from shrinking and swelling of the clays during alternate wetting and drying. The coarser nature of the bottom silts of the recut [348] suggests deposition in a regime of faster flowing water than had applied during the lifetime of the primary cut [416]. The ditch had clearly functioned as a watercourse in both phases, even if that were not the sole or main intended function. Both cuts dropped by c. 0.1m over a linear distance of 30m from west to east. The direction of flow was thus eastwards towards the present town centre.

The band of loam along the southern edge of the primary cut [416] was presumably the remnants of a sequence of fills based largely on the prevailing topsoil and overlay the earlier waterborne fills in the base of the ditch. The presence of these soil based fills indicates that the silting up of the ditch was probably fairly advanced before the fills were largely removed by the secondary cut. As erosion of the upper edge of the recut proceeded, the clay marl layer began to fall into the ditch. The amount of spoil resulting from the creation of the ditch would have been considerable and removal off site would have required considerable labour. The presence of the redeposited natural marl along the southern edge of ditch [416] suggests that the spoil was mounded along that side, possibly as a deliberate bank. There were, however, no layers above soil [121] or [149] on either side of the ditch that might have represented a bank but the widespread preservation of the natural soil profile along the south side of the ditch through the medieval period might be explained by the protection offered by a bank, or at least the flattened remnants of one. The bank, if present, may finally have been removed by continued cultivation of soil [149] into the late 16th century and later, but this is speculative. It is, however, certain that the recut [348] had been moved slightly northwards. This might also indicate the presence of a bank on the southern side for natural processes of slippage would lead to the bank form the primary ditch spreading back over the southern edge of that ditch and the new ditch would probably have been cut along the northern edge of the bank as perceived at the time of the recut.

Phase 2 - the 12th to mid 13th centuries

Area 1

A small bowl-shaped pit [227] cut the upper fills of ditch [348] near the west edge of the site (Fig. 4 and A-B on Fig. 5). The fill of pit [227] was a mid reddish brown loam [226] similar in nature to the lower part of the surrounding relict topsoil [121] and the pit was of indeterminate function.

Two features in the south-eastern corner of the site extended southwards out of the excavated area under the boundary wall to Friars Alley (Fig. 6). The easternmost was a steep sided sub-rectangular pit [456] originally 1.2m deep. The lower fills, which contained pottery exclusively of 12th or 13th century date, featured several soft, thin pale grey lenses that were probably originally cess. The western side of pit [456] had been removed by a later pit [530]. A second cesspit [423] just to the north of cesspit [456] may have been broadly contemporary with that pit. Pit [423] had been considerably truncated by later features but was originally c. 1m deep. A pit [540] further to the west was largely filled with very solid, clean red clay marl with c. 40% small rounded gravel. The fill on the western edge was similar but gravel free, the

boundary between the two fills being nearly vertical. The relationship between pits [530] and [540] had been destroyed by a later cut [538]. Neither fill of pit [540] contained finds and even though the edges of the feature were very sharp and regular, it may have been a natural feature.

Area 2

A pit [33] c. 1m in diameter lay 8 metres to the north of pit [227]. It was probably no more than 0.4m deep originally and the whole of the west side of the feature had been removed by a later and slightly deeper pit [21]. The base of pit [33] was covered by a thin clay lining [118] which was covered by the main fill, a soft mid brown silty sand [32]. This contained a substantial proportion of a single cooking pot of 12th or 13th century date. There were no indications of burning or heat in the pit so it would seem not to have been a hearth and its function remains obscure.

A small shallow bowl-shaped pit [290] was found some 20 metres to the east of pit [33]. The pit was of similar size and depth to pit [227]. The fill was likewise largely based on the contemporary topsoil and the function remains unclear.

Interpretation

Although the activity was sparse, the features are of considerable importance to the understanding of several aspects of the site. Pit [227] was securely dated by pottery and provides the best *terminus ante quem* for the ditch recut [348] for it proves that the ditch was abandoned and largely filled in by the mid 13th century at the latest. The upper edges of pit [227] could not be discerned within the upper, topsoil-based fills of ditch [348] so the ditch may have still been a shallow linear hollow and pit [227] may have been sealed below some of the very highest fills of the ditch. It is, however, equally possible that the upper edges of pit [227] were destroyed during later medieval cultivation or by general soil processes acting within the top fill [348] of the ditch.

The presence of cesspits [423] and [456] in area 1 indicate some form of domestic occupation on the southern part of the site in this phase. The presence of a hearth [33] at the west end of area 2 and a single small pit [290] some 20m to the east would likewise seem to indicate some usage of the area but the two features hardly indicate intensive settlement.

Phase 3 - the mid 13th to mid 14th centuries

Area 1

The earlier phase 2 cesspit [456] was completely silted up and abandoned before another cesspit [530] was dug cutting the west side of the older pit. Pottery recovered from pit [530] indicates a *terminus post quem* of 1250 AD and the pit was likewise completely silted up when it was cut by a linear trench [538] 1m wide and 1m deep which had destroyed the relationship between the two earlier features [530] and [540]. All of these features extended southwards out of the excavated area (Figs. 6 & 7). Cut [538] was probably a construction trench for it contained several courses of random drystone masonry [537] apparently forming a crude footing for a wall running roughly north-west to south-east. The wall footing was securely

dated to the period between the mid 13th to later 14th centuries by pottery sealed beneath the masonry. No other structural features can be related to this wall.

Wall [537] was truncated by the construction of a substantial masonry wall [452] along the north side of Friars Alley beneath the present property boundary wall. The intersection between construction trench [538] and wall [452] could not be fully exposed for safety reasons but limited hand excavation showed that masonry feature [537] was clearly truncated by the construction cut [450] for wall [452]. It was not clear whether wall [537] was already ruinous.

Six linear metres of the north elevation of wall footing [452] were exposed during the watching brief. None of the stonework was removed so the width of the footing remains unknown. It was formed from random blocky sandstone brought to course with no obvious bonding material. There was a noticeable construction break in the masonry but this may simply reflect two separate 'lifts' rather than being an indication of two separate phases of construction. A similar and equally substantial masonry footing had already been found c. 20 metres to the west in the 1999 evaluation (trench 6). The upper part of that wall (context [126]) had been rebuilt in sandstone in the 18th century but the lower part (context [135]) was medieval (Stone *et al*, 1999). A small near circular pit [123] at the base of evaluation trench 6 had originally extended southwards out of the site but the southern portion of the pit had been removed by the construction trench [134] for medieval wall [135]. A further portion of the north face of a masonry wall c. 1m in length was exposed between the two locations during the watching brief but safety considerations precluded further investigation and it is not known whether the exposed portion was medieval or later.

The northern end of masonry footing [537] was cut 1m to the north of wall [452] by a large sub-rectangular pit [244] measuring 4m by 2.3m. The east end of the pit cut the masonry footing but some of the masonry was left *in situ*, possibly being retained as a revetment [296] for the east end of the new pit. Some of the stones forming [296] were partially burnt but there was no other indication of burning *in situ* so the pit had probably not been used or re-used as a subterranean hearth. This pit also appeared to have thin areas of a clay lining along the cut to the west and the higher fills would be largely be consistent with usage of the feature as a cess or rubbish pit. Pottery from these fills indicates that the feature silted up in during the 14th century. A posthole [298] was found sealed beneath masonry [296]. There was no sign of a timber setting protruding through masonry [296] but the setting may have been disturbed during the cutting of pit [244]. The posthole was almost certainly associated with the masonry when it was part of wall [537], not with the usage of pit [244]. Another posthole [300] found 2.5m to the west high in the north-west edge of pit [244] was sealed below the fill of pit [244]. It may have been associated with posthole [298], but this could not be proved. It may alternatively have been a timber setting for some form of superstructure or canopy to pit [244].

Two postholes just to the north and another to the west were completely sealed below the cultivation of soil [149] and were thus probably medieval. None of the features contained finds so they cannot be proved to relate either to each other or to posthole [300]. Posthole [392] cut the southern edge fill of ditch [348]. The two packing stones of another posthole [596] to the west had been pulled flat, presumably by cultivation, whilst the three packing stones within posthole [236] remained vertical. The three features were not equidistant but they possibly

formed a line roughly parallel with the north edge of the area that was, in itself, a property division at a later date.

A hearth [380] to the north-west of pit [244] comprised a simple ring of stones set fairly centrally within the bottom a broad shallow pit [230]. The lower fills were heavily charcoal flecked and the base of the cut was fired red by heat [379]. The cut was very circular with a bowl shaped profile. It was 2.5m in diameter and originally cut c. 0.8m deep from the top of soil [149]. It had been left to silt up naturally following abandonment of the hearth.

A large shallow scoop [242] 2m to the south-west of pit [230] proved to have the same neat circular shape and profile as pit [230] but was merely filled with silts based largely on the surrounding natural 'B' horizon and subsoil. There were no finds but the feature was long abandoned before being cut by a slightly later hearth [250].

To the north-west, three cesspits, [154], [165] and [170], were dug in a line more or less in the centre of ditch [348], so the ditch may have still been visible as a shallow linear hollow. All three pits were sub-rectangular in shape with near vertical sides and all three pits had a thin skin of silty clay along parts of the sides of the cuts where the natural was clayey sand rather than pure marl. Where the edge was natural marl, the clay lining seemed to be present as a coating of soft marl clay c. 10mm thick. Pit [165] had been cleaned out or recut once as cut [160] and pit [170] twice, firstly as recut [585] and later as recut [168] (Fig. 8). The latter recut contained predominantly medieval pottery but also some sherds of pottery of 16th or 17th century date. These were probably introduced during part of the more widespread cultivation or disturbance of soil [149] that had partly sealed the pit. The westernmost cesspit [154] contained more residual 12th century pottery than the two pits to the east. Following its abandonment, pit [154] was cut on the south-west side by a shallower medieval pit [172] that contained burnt sooty soil and burnt daub (Fig. 5, A-B). The function of pit [172] remains unknown, but the pottery from the pit dates exclusively to the mid 13th to late 14th centuries and also indicates that the *floruit* of cesspit [154] was probably fairly short.

A group of three shallow pits lay towards the east side of the area. The westernmost was a small, shallow fire pit or hearth [315] that was cut by a similar hearth or fire pit [312]. A small post or stake hole [329] sealed below the basal fill [327] of pit [312] may have been associated with one of the hearths. Hearth [312] cut a small pit [310] lying on its east side whilst a further metre to the east, a shallow scoop [232] featured a sandstone slab occupying most of the base of the feature. The slab was burnt and heat fractured and was overlain by a mixed layer of soil with charcoal and small pieces of daub. These hearths seem to have been a series of replacements for each other. The relationship between hearths [232] and [312] was destroyed by a later cesspit so the exact sequence could not be established.

Two metres to the east lay a much larger pit [240] originally c. 0.9m deep that contained the complete articulated skeleton of a horse [239]. The pit was undoubtedly purpose dug for the burial. To the south, two small shallow bowl shaped pits [375] and [377] as well as a larger irregular scoop [234] contained fills based largely on soil [149] and the pits remain of indeterminate function.

Near the south edge of the site, a rubbish pit [366] originally c. 1m deep cut the north part of phase 2 pits [456] and [530]. The north part of pit [366] was subsequently removed by a slightly deeper medieval pit.

The remnants of a cesspit [384] lay 2m to the north-west of pit [234]. The feature appears to have been very narrow and also over 2m deep originally. It was largely truncated by a deep early post medieval cesspit but because pit [384] was so deep, the very lowest part of the feature survived. This part of the feature contained a sequence of grey yellow and grey soft silty sand lenses typical of the types found in cesspits elsewhere on site. No finds were recovered so the exact phase of the pit remains unknown.

Area 2

All deposits above the subsoil had been removed from most of area 2 by previous ground works. As a result, many medieval and early post medieval pits and other features survived as individual isolated features simply cutting the natural with no relationships to earlier or later events and dated solely by the pottery found in the fills.

Historic map evidence indicates that the frontage was probably divided into three plots by c. 1780. In the description of the features set out below, the area has been subdivided into a western plot based on the back-plot to the rear of building A (Fig. 2), a central plot to the rear of building C and an eastern plot behind building D. This was done partly for convenience but mainly to assess whether the excavated features support the subdivision of the area along these boundaries (Fig. 7).

Western plot

A cesspit [270] at the south of the plot was partly truncated by the construction of the eastern boundary wall in the late 19th century. The cesspit was recut as a broader shallower cesspit [272] within this phase. To the north-east, a small scoop or pit [21] of irregular plan and profile cut the west edge of Phase 2 pit [33]. The top part of pit [21] (and also the upper part of pit [33]) had been removed by the cut for a brick footing [20]. The fill in the surviving basal part of scoop [21] was a charcoal spread [23] up to 0.07m deep below which the natural sand had been discoloured to a reddish orange by heat. Two sherds of pottery recovered from fill [23] were probably from the same cooking pot as the sherds recovered from the underlying pit [33]. The upper fill [22] contained no finds and the pit remains insecurely dated.

A group of four deep, sub-rectangular cesspits were found near the north-west corner of the site. The earliest feature was a large sub-rectangular pit [437] measuring 2.1m by 1.3m and probably originally c. 1.8m deep. Only the bottom part of the pit survived because the upper portion had been largely truncated by a slightly later cesspit [435] leaving just the basal fill, a very soft grey yellow silty muddy sand [436] of a type seen frequently around the site in more complete cesspits. The western side of the secondary cesspit [435] had been removed by two recent service trenches, whilst the upper eastern side was cut by a much shallower cesspit [433] which was in turn recut as cesspit [431]. The pits undoubtedly represent a series of cesspits being dug at very nearly the same location. Pottery recovered from pits [437] and [433] indicates that the whole sequence right up to the final abandonment of pit [431] took place within the 14th century, so the pits may have been replacements for cesspit [270] or [272] to the south. There was some survival of isolated patches of medieval topsoil horizons (contexts [22] and [19]) and in a band c. 1m wide near the west side of this plot but no

relationship could be established between cesspit [270] and the group of cesspits to the north because two post-medieval brick footings ran between the two locations, truncating the soils.

A narrow cesspit [316] to the north was truncated by the standing building. The pit would have been c. 2.5m deep originally but the upper part of the pit had been truncated within the excavation area by ground works for a lift shaft c. 1950. The surviving portion of pit [316] was 1m wide at the top and sub-rectangular with steeply sloping sides. The fills included several pale grey and yellow grey lenses and the pottery recovered indicates a *terminus post quem* of c. 1250.

Central plot

The southern extremity of the plot was occupied by a group of intersecting features that straddled the boundary between areas 1 and 2, i.e., the proposed boundary between the Bird Street and Sandford Street properties. The earliest feature was the bottom part of small sub-rectangular pit [374] originally c. 1.3m deep which was filled with a topsoil based fill of dark red brown silty loamy sand [373]. The sole find was a piece of ceramic roof tile so the feature remains insecurely dated. It is unlikely to have been significantly earlier than this phase but ceramic roof tile was found in the earlier Phase 2 pit [456]. The surviving portion of pit [374] lay more or less centrally below a much larger but shallower pit [372]. This was near circular with a bowl shaped profile and originally c. 1m deep. It was filled with a homogenous greenish grey brown silty sand [371], probably largely made up of redeposited natural sands. This fill contained no finds suggesting that the feature was not a cesspit or rubbish pit. Pit [372] cut a slightly smaller pit [368] to the west filled with heavily charcoal flecked dark brown sandy loam [367] containing pottery dating to the mid 13th – 14th centuries. This feature was almost certainly not a cesspit. At the west end of the pit group, a broad but shallow pit [370] cut the west side of pit [368]. Pit [370] was near circular and filled with soft brown red clay silt [369] containing pottery dated to the second half of the 13th century. The fill did not contain any obvious cess layers and the function of this pit remains unknown. A small bowl shaped pit [248] lying immediately to the north of pit [370] contained merely a single charcoal flecked soil fill identical in nature to the fill of pit [368].

Pit [372] was cut by the southern wall [260] of a garderobe structure [280] comprising four sidewalls [257], [260], [264] and [340] in a common construction cut [259]. Three walls were more or less rectilinear but the eastern wall [257] was at an oblique angle, giving the structure a distinctly trapezoidal shape. The structure contained a deep sequence of fills with frequent grey and yellow grey soft silty lenses of cess interspersed with darker soil layers. The lowest cess layers lay within a hollow [303] that occupied most of the bottom of the feature and was lower than the base of the walls around the pit (Fig. 7). The fills of this hollow contained only whitewares but there were numerous recuts within the fills of the feature above and the pottery recovered from fills of these recuts indicate that the garderobe was in use not only through phase 3 but continued on into the early post medieval period. Pit [303] may have originally been a large, open cesspit like pits [160] and [170] but was perhaps redefined and strengthened with sidewalls when the original sides eroded. Alternatively it may have been purpose built as a garderobe in phase 3 but multiple cleanings had taken the cut to below the base of the sidewalls. This garderobe was the earliest feature to abut the proposed boundary between areas 1 and 2.

A large very square pit [506] some 5 metres to the north was one of the more unusual features. It was 1.3m deep from the top of subsoil [8] so was probably c. 1.8m deep originally (Fig. 9). The sides on the south and east sides were truly vertical whilst the northern side was slightly undercut. The base of the feature contained a three sided masonry structure [513] built from random masonry brought to course and bonded with mauve red clay [514] sourced from the adjacent clay marl natural [8]. All three sidewalls were in bond. The western ends of the northern and southern stub walls stopped abruptly as flush elevations. There had obviously never been a west wall, the western side of the structure being open and facing a ramp sloping upwards at c. 20°. Two small sherds of whiteware recovered from the bonding [514] for the masonry demonstrate that the walled structure was built after c. 1250. The west part of the ramp was removed by the construction trench for a set of steps leading down into the cellar below the standing building. A large 18th century pit had removed the upper part of wall structure [513] and the upper fills of the pit. The natural at the bottom of the pit had been affected by heat although not violently and several small pieces of burnt sandstone lay across the base of the feature. This had undoubtedly been a hearth or fireplace.

Following the abandonment of hearth [513] a formation of c. 0.15m depth of humic soil [505] developed or accumulated in the area between the walls. The soil featured a well-developed crumb structure of a type often found below pasture so the soil may have taken some time to develop. A near complete, unglazed red-painted whiteware baluster jug, missing only the upper part of the neck and the strap handle, was found lying inverted on top of soil [505] against the inner corner of wall [513] in the south-east corner of the feature. An iron horseshoe and a small curved piece of brass rod lay immediately alongside the neck of the flagon. A piriform bottle, identified as a possible witch's bottle (Rátkai, below), was found crushed at the same level as the flagon some 0.3m to the north-west near the centre of the walled structure. Two chunks of partly burnt coal, a fairly rare find in the medieval pits on site, were found a few centimetres away from the piriform bottle. The pottery recovered from the fills accumulating soon after the structure was abandoned dates to the later 13th or 14th centuries.

Some 3m to the west lay a very large, near rectangular pit [442] measuring nearly 8m by 4m and 1.2m deep. Only the very southern part of the pit could be safely investigated during the main excavation. The full extent of the pit became apparent during the later watching brief and was, of necessity, recorded rapidly. The east edge was undercut at an angle of c. 10° off vertical. The angle of slope of the east edge remains unknown because that edge was removed by a slightly later well [440]. An upper fill within pit [442] contained modest quantities of iron working wastes whilst the lower fills contained frequent animal bone and pottery. The fills had largely been dumped into the feature from the east side, i.e. from the vicinity of the ramp on the west side of pit [506] and the pit would appear to have been used as a rubbish pit even if that were not its original function.

The creation of pit [442] had almost totally truncated a pit [448]. This must have been c. 1.3m deep originally, the last fragment surviving as a hollow c. 0.1m deep below the south-west corner of pit [442]. The western part of pit [448] had been removed by well [440]. The fill was a slightly loamy sand with no finds so the true age and function of feature [448] remain unknown.

Well [440] was the only well on the site which could be shown to date to the medieval period. It had been capped with a large flagstone in the 19th century. When this was lifted, it revealed

an air void to a depth of 5.2m. The well had slightly less than c. 0.3m depth of silt in the bottom. Two 19th century ceramic services had been led into the well to use the void as a soakaway and the silts dated entirely to that period. When these were removed, the well was found to be utterly dry. The uppermost part of the shaft cut through the clay marl and weathered sands and was square in plan. At 3m below the top of the subsoil, the shaft hit solid bedded sandstone. At this level a shelf was created on the bedrock to support a circular lining [439] formed from very large rectangular blocks of sandstone weighing 40 kg or more. The earthfast portion of each block was rough hewn but the inner facing surface of each block had been carefully dressed to make a smooth and very nearly circular shaft extending from the rock ledge up to the ground surface that tapered slightly as it rose. The dressing probably took place after the blocks had been positioned. The space between the lining and the sides of the square shaft had been backfilled with sand and broken sandstone and this material contained several whiteware sherds but no later material. Below 3m depth, the well was simply a circular rock-cut shaft, belling out to make a flask or bottle shape. The sides featured a herring-bone pattern of deep close spaced pick marks where the workmen had cut the sides to form an almost perfect circle.

A large, deep, sub-rectangular pit [550] lay c. 0.5m to the south of hearth [506]. The fills contained numerous pockets of soft yellow and yellow grey silts and the feature was almost certainly a cesspit. A small shallow pit [346] to the south of pit [506] was largely removed by a post medieval well. The surviving fragment of the pit contained a reddish brown soil based fill heavily flecked with charcoal. There were no finds but the pit was of similar type to pits [248] and [352] to the south west.

Eastern plot

The ground works along the entry stopped 0.4m away from the walls of the existing buildings on each side.

A post medieval cellar extended 2.5m southwards from the edge of the pavement, occupying the entire width of the plot. This had removed the northern part of a small shallow scoop [84] with a single soil fill. A small circular bowl shaped feature [73] cut 0.4m into the subsoil on the southern edge of scoop [84] contained pottery of 13th century date. This may have been a posthole but there were no packing stones. A deeper sub-rectangular pit [76] some 1.5m to the north contained merely a single soil based fill but no datable finds. It was cut by another small sub-rectangular pit [92] again with a single soil fill but again with no datable finds. All four features were sealed below a topsoil [71] that produced only late medieval pottery in the vicinity of the pits. There were no other features of medieval date in the vicinity and soil [71] merged to the south into a dark black brown very silty and muddy soil [454] that extended southwards to the line of the rear of Sandford House. There was no clear edge between soils [71] and [454] but the latter contained a range of pottery spanning the period from the later 13th to the later 16th or early 17th centuries and must represent later disturbance, perhaps of the local equivalent of cultivation soil [149]. Soil [454] became progressively cleaner towards the south end of the plot where it merged gradually into a red brown silty clayey sandy loam [70] that overlay the subsoil and was 0.3m deep. This extended southwards to the edge of area 2 where it was indistinguishable from the cultivation soil [149] at the north-east corner of area 1 so soil [70] probably represented also the physical materials from the medieval soil profile.

Soil [70] sealed a small oblong pit [127] that contained a considerable amount of small debris from iron working in a heavily charcoal flecked loam [100]. The deposit is dated by pottery to the mid 13th to 14th centuries. Pit [127] cut a large sub-circular pit [130] of indeterminate function. The pit was 0.7m deep with near vertical sides. The lower fill [136] contained no finds but pottery of mid 13th to late 14th century date was recovered from the upper soil fill [129].

Interpretation

General

The main activity across both areas was the creation of several large, deep pits dated to this phase by pottery. The long-lived nature of many of the pottery styles in use in the medieval period, especially from the mid 13th to late 14th centuries, ostensibly the period of greatest pit digging activity, means that closer dating of the isolated features cannot be achieved using the available taxonomic sequence for the regional pottery styles.

The larger pits were usually sub-rectangular in shape and in many cases, the fill sequences were largely the product of natural silting processes interspersed with very distinctive pale grey and grey yellow silty muddy bands usually no more than 0.1m thick and often much thinner. This material was presumably cess but the bleached colours possibly indicate alterations brought about either by acidity or possibly the addition of lime. The shallower cesspits were probably 1.4m deep originally whilst the larger pits were probably nearer 2.3m deep. Virtually all the cess pits showed signs of being recut at least once, sometimes within or nearly within the footprint of the original pit whilst others were recut alongside, sometimes partly truncating the original cut. The pottery evidence indicates that most of the pits were eventually abandoned within this phase, although garderobe [280] continued functioning into the early post medieval period.

The fills of two small shallow bowl shaped scoops [368] and [248] were similar to the fills of two similar shallow scoops [352] and [354] dug at a later date slightly further southwards in area 1. All four pits contained a single fill based on charcoal flecked topsoil but there were signs of burning in situ. It is possible that these shallow scoops were dug to bury ashes.

Area 1

Most of the linear extent of wall [452] was never exposed and the wall remains intact behind the new retaining wall. It almost certainly extended all along the southern edge of the site. The small amount of pottery recovered from the fill of the construction trench [450] for the wall dated to the mid 13th – 14th century indicating that the wall post-dates the original founding of the Friary c. 1237. The pottery would in no way contradict Bassett's proposed date for the northwards expansion of the Friary around 1330.

The fact that the phase 2 cesspit [456] and phase 3 wall [537] and cesspit [530] extended not just up to, but under wall [452] and hence beyond the southern edge of the property clearly shows that there has been a later encroachment into area 1 from the south in the later part of phase 3 or early part of phase 4. The fact that cesspit [530] was created and abandoned before being cut by the construction trench for masonry wall [537] and then cut off and completely sealed by wall [452], all apparently within this phase, clearly demonstrates that there was more

than one phase of activity during this period. The only other structural features in the vicinity of masonry [537] were four postholes which cannot be related to each other and in any case form no coherent building plan or part of such. The pottery recovered from pit [244] indicates the fills date to the 14th century indicating that the pit, although broadly contemporary with wall [452], may have been a replacement, outside the newly extended Friary precinct, for one of the phase 3 pits sealed below wall [452]. It was not possible to establish whether any of the other features further away from wall [452] were earlier or later than the wall.

Area 2

Activity on the western plot was entirely confined to cesspits. Activity in the central area was more diverse and appears to be less casually laid out. The carefully cut stone lining in well [440] would seem to indicate some care and expenditure and might indicate a property of status as might the underground hearth or fireplace [513]. The very large pit [442] was used as a rubbish pit even if that were not its original function. The base of well [440] lay considerably below the level of the Minster Pool some 180m to the north and yet the well was bone dry. There has obviously been a considerable drop in the water table in the vicinity since the well was created.

Garderobe [280], or more correctly, the earliest cut within it (pit [303]), may have originally been a large, open cesspit like pits [160] and [170] that was redefined and strengthened with four walls when the original sides eroded. Alternatively it may have been purpose built as a garderobe but periodic clearance of the contents led to the cut [303] being taken to below the base of the sidewalls. Garderobe [280] appears to have been the first feature to sit against the proposed boundary between the Sandford Street and Bird Street plots but this could be coincidence. The cluster of four pits that straddled the proposed boundary, namely pits [372], [368], [370] and [374], show that the boundary was either fluid or non-existent before the garderobe was created. This in itself has major implications with regard to the layout of the burgrave plots.

No coherent structure can be reconstructed from the four features on the frontage at the eastern end of the site and there were no wells or cesspits within the area to the rear at this date. The existence of the late medieval soil layer [71] in the vicinity of these features indicates that there has been no serious truncation at the north end of the plot (with the exception of the area of cellar [44]) and that other features, if present, should have survived. The central part of this plot was either heavily disturbed or stripped to the subsoil in the 17th century. The two pits to the south appear to have been rubbish pits. It would be very hard to argue a case for any intensive occupation of this plot in this phase.

Phase 4 - The later 14th and 15th centuries

Area 1

Hearth [380] was cut by a slightly deeper but much more substantial hearth pit [250] (Fig. 7). This was lined along the north and south edges by large platy stones [251] set on edge. There was no stone lining at the east end of the hearth and the arrangement at the west end remains unknown because that end was removed during construction of a post-medieval brick structure. The fire deposits [237] between the two lines of stones [251] must have lain at c.

0.8m below the original ground level and amounted to c. 0.2m depth of burnt red soil and charcoal lenses. There were no finds from these. The fill [249] above the fire ash deposits was indistinguishable from the surrounding topsoil [149] and many of the stones on the northern line had been laid flat whilst this fill accumulated. Pottery dating from as late as the 16th century was found in the upper part of fill [249] and it seems that the top part of the hearth had been badly disturbed, probably by late cultivation of the surrounding soil [149].

The south edge of hearth [250] was cut by a small hearth [396] comprising a simple ring of fist sized stones set in the top fills of ditch [348]. There were only minor indications of burning and the hearth would appear to have been little used. It was sealed below a crude masonry wall [252] orientated east west and c. 0.3m wide. The wall appears to have been demolished in the early post medieval period and only a 4m length of the basal course of masonry survived. The construction trench [144] was a mere 0.06m deep but could be traced for c. 1m to the east and west of the masonry before being truncated at both ends by later disturbance, probably the same cultivation that had disturbed hearth [[251]. Pottery recovered from the fill [143] of the construction cut below the masonry indicates a 14th or 15th century date for the wall.

The northern edge of hearth pit [250] was cut by a very shallow bowl-shaped pit [354]. A very similar pit [352] lay c. 1 metre to the east.. Both pits contained fills based largely on topsoil with heavy charcoal flecking but there were no significant signs of burning *in situ*. Neither pit contained datable finds but both were sealed below a thin covering of soil [149] indicating that they were probably broadly contemporary with either hearth [396] or wall [252].

A pit [360] near the south-east corner of the site cut the northern part of phase 3 pit [366] whilst the north part of pit [360] was itself removed by a later feature. Pit [360] appears to have been roughly sub-rectangular before truncation and c. 1m deep originally. It contained no obvious cess layers and was of indeterminate function but may have been a rubbish pit after its abandonment.

Area 2

Western plot

A large, deep cesspit [494] near the north-west corner of the excavated area was cut by the rear wall of the standing building. The footings for the early 18th century house had subsided into the very soft fill of the pit, requiring a relieving arch. The pottery indicates the pit was filled in the 14th or 15th centuries.

Central plot

Well [440] and garderobe [280] continued in use throughout this period. A large, shallow sub-rectangular scoop [334] was dug in the area to the immediate south of well [440]. It cut a small shallow pit [611] containing a soil fill with no finds. Scoop [334] was filled simply with a sandy loam [335] derived largely from topsoil and its function remains unclear. It was cut by a much smaller, shallower pit [331] of indeterminate function.

Eastern plot

A cesspit [519] was dug c. 1m to the north-east of the earlier cesspit [550]. Both pits were set slightly obliquely to the frontage but pit [519] was the first cesspit to clearly lie completely within this plot. The earlier cesspit [550] probably belonged to the central plot although this would be hard to prove in the absence of any clear hard boundaries. Cesspit [519], which was very neatly rectangular, was sealed below soil [454]. It was slightly smaller than cesspit [550] but much shallower.

A small pit [99] first encountered at the rear of the property in the evaluation was further investigated. The pit had been dated to the 15th century and this date was confirmed. The pit was roughly circular and around 1m in diameter with a bowl shaped profile c. 0.5m deep below the subsoil. It would appear to have been a small rubbish pit.

Interpretation

The longevity of the pottery styles means that there may be a degree of overlap between the features ascribed to this phase and those ascribed to the preceding phase.

Activity in area 1 was sparse and largely confined to a handful of features in the area of hearth pit [250]. The earlier cesspits were abandoned and filled either before this phase or within the opening part of it. There were no new cesspits. The short length of late medieval wall [252] may represent a fragment of a once longer wall orientated east-west marking a burgage boundary relating to Bird Street. Equally, it may simply relate to a structure near or around hearth [250].

Activity in area 2 was almost as sparse. Two cesspits were dug closer to the street frontage in the western plot but the plot still had no well, at least not in the back-plot, and there was no other provable activity. The garderobe [280] and well [440] in the central plot were still in use but new activity was confined to a series of shallow pits of indeterminate function in the central part of the plot. Activity on the proposed eastern plot was confined to the excavation towards the rear of the plot of the first cesspit and a probable rubbish pit. There were no new features on the street frontage.

Phases 5 and 6 – the late 15th to late 17th centuries

A sandstone footing [200] ran roughly east-west for c. 20m across the middle of the site (Fig. 10). Only the basal course of masonry survived and this indicated that the wall was c. 0.4m thick. Pottery recovered from the fill of the construction cut dates the wall to the 17th century. The wall was set at an oblique angle to all of the existing property boundaries and the alignment is continued eastwards to this day by the south wall of an outhouse of probable 18th century date that forms the southern boundary of No. 9, Sandford Street. Wall [200] formed the first clear physical boundary between areas 1 and 2.

Area 1

A complex of deep, intersecting cesspits [308], [358], [580] in the south-east corner of the site were a series of replacements for each other. The pottery recovered from these pits indicates a fairly narrow date range for the complex from the early to late 16th century and also shows that a deep cesspit [489] less than 1m to the south lying against the site boundary was

probably broadly contemporary. A shallow pit [390] cut by cesspit [358] was filled with mortar and loam with a large quantity of fragments of ceramic roof tile and brick. The pit was probably dug to dispose of demolition material. Three sub-rectangular pits [148], [146] and [13] of 17th century date lying to the west also contained demolition debris and likewise appear to have been used solely for rubbish disposal. There was very little other early post medieval activity in the remainder of the area to the south of wall [200].

Area 2

Western plot

In the extreme north-west corner of the site a steep sided sub-rectangular cesspit [496] that was c. 1.2m deep and of 15th or early 16th century date was almost certainly a smaller replacement for cesspit [494].

A shaft [220] c. 1.2m in diameter and just over 3m deep was found near the western edge of the site. The sides were utterly vertical but it seems unlikely that it was deep enough to have ever functioned satisfactorily as a well. It may be that it was never completed having failed to find bedrock. Pottery and other materials recovered from the lowest fills indicate that the shaft was abandoned in the 16th century and probably used subsequently as a cesspit. It may have been a larger replacement further towards the rear of the property for cesspit [496].

A group of three intersecting and possibly related pits [204], [206] and [208] were found just to the east of pit [220]. Although fairly small and shallow they contained grey yellow lenses interspersed within dark loamy fills and were almost certainly cesspits or rubbish pits of 16th or 17th century date. An even shallower scoop [210] with an identical soil fill nearby contained no diagnostic finds and remains undated.

Central plot

A broad shallow pit [262] filled with topsoil type material containing pottery of 16th century date cut the western half of the north wall [340] of garderobe [280] to a depth of 0.4m below the top of the subsoil. The east side of pit [262] was subsequently cut by a sub-rectangular pit [294] that contained most of the rib cage of a pig. This was cut on the east side by a smaller oval pit [292] that contained part of a sheep carcass. Pottery recovered from both pits indicates that neither were significantly more recent than pit [262] and another pit, feature [255] of 16th century date was dug in the top of garderobe [280]. All four pits would seem to have been rubbish pits and between them had served to remove the upper part of the north wall [340] of garderobe [280].

At about the same time a short length of wall [263] was constructed running westwards from the north-west corner of the garderobe. The construction trench cut the southern edge of pit [262]. Less than 2 metres to the west, the construction trench for another wall [338] was cut along the southern edge of medieval scoop [334] on the same orientation to wall [263] but c. 1 metre further northwards. A third and similar wall [337] was cut into the northern side of scoop [334]. All three walls survived merely as a single basal course of soft green sandstone and at less than 0.3m thick, none of these walls seem to have been very substantial. The gap between walls [263] and [338] was presumably an entrance. The three walls may have formed part of a larger structure, this remains unclear, for it is possible that the west side of the

structure could have been removed by a recent sewer service and early post medieval pits to the east of pit [262] may have removed the eastern side of a shallow structure, if such ever existed.

The upper fills of the garderobe were sealed below a thin layer of trample [253] with a high proportion of demolition materials or possibly construction waste of 17th century date that extended for c. 1 metre to the north and west of the garderobe but not to the east. It was confined on the south side by wall [200].

Eastern plot

On the frontage, a crude east-west stone footing [86] appears to have been a square plinth, perhaps a base for a timber setting associated with two rather insubstantial stone footings [47] and [48] although these appear to have post dated [86].

To the south, the subsoil was directly overlain by 0.4m depth of very dark humic soil [454] which contained a range of pottery dating from the 13th to the later 16th or early 17th centuries. The layer was sealed directly below rubble laid in the late 20th century. The sharp and level nature of the boundary between soil [454] and the subsoil indicates that the central part of this plot had been either stripped to the subsoil before soil [454] was deposited or that the area was disturbed or cultivated over a long period. Soil [454] merged into medieval soil [71] to the north and soil [70] to the south. A large near circular rubbish pit [96] at the rear of the property cut soil [70]. The pit was dated by pottery to the 17th century,

Interpretation

Wall [200] was probably one of the most important features on the site for it forms the first substantial physical evidence of a division of the excavation area in the 17th century into northern and southern areas, i.e. between one or more backplots belonging to Bird Street and those belonging to Sandford Street.

The extreme distance from Bird Street could explain the relative paucity of early post-medieval activity in area 1. The concentration of cesspits in the south-east corner of the area were confined within the footprint of the yard shown three centuries later on the tithe map as belonging to the Rose and Crown public house on Bird Street. This yard or enclosure may have existed from the early 16th century onwards. These pits form the bulk of the activity in the area, leaving just a small group of rubbish pits dug to the west in a landscape dominated by a rapid growth in depth of the topsoil profile.

Activity in the western plot was confined to a single cesspit and a small group of rubbish pits. In the central plot, the pottery recovered from the upper fills of the garderobe indicate that it was being cleaned out and still in use until fairly shortly before pit [255] was dug in the 16th century. The group of intersecting pits [292] [294] and [262] had truncated all of the upper part of the north wall of garderobe structure [280] at about the same time as pit [255] was dug, indicating that the old garderobe was now abandoned. Wall [200] ran along the top of the southern wall [260] of the medieval garderobe [280], although it did not follow the line of wall [260] exactly. The alignment of wall [200] may therefore be an old alignment first marked by the rather odd trapezoidal shape of the medieval garderobe [280] but the common

alignment could just be a coincidence. In all likelihood, the wall of the old garderobe had stood less than a hundred years before wall [200] was constructed.

The three small stone footings on the frontage in the eastern plot would seem to indicate that a structure of some sort stood on the plot frontage in the 16th or 17th centuries. Any attempt to reconstruct a building on the fragmentary remains would be futile. It should be stressed that the ground works stopped 0.4-0.5m from the edges of the plot and there may be structural features in the unexcavated areas alongside the walls of the standing buildings.

Phases 7 and 8 – the early 18th to late 20th centuries

Area 1

The lower parts of a building [173] were found set into the southern side of wall [200] on the same oblique alignment as that wall. The building measured 3m by 3m internally and the floor was set c. 1m below ground level. There had been a fireplace in the north-east corner that was an integral feature of the original structure.

The south-east corner of the area was occupied by a succession of large (and very deep) cesspits confined entirely to the east of an 18th century brick wall footing [460]. Wall [460] bonded into the existing brick wall [125] that forms the north side of Friars Alley and was almost certainly the west wall of tithe enclosure 343. The sequence of cesspits started with pit [469] then pit [473] and finally pit [470] (Fig. 6), the latter being in use in the later 18th and early 19th centuries. Two other cesspits, [476] and [480] lay on the same line some 4-5 metres to the north. Wall [460] traversed northwards from Friars Alley completely over the top of the long abandoned 16th century cesspit complex [308] / [358] / [489] which might indicate that this boundary did not exist in the early post-medieval period, but the clustering of the earlier post medieval cesspits in area 1 under the line of wall [460] suggests that an earlier boundary may have existed very slightly to the west. The area to the east of wall [460], i.e. within tithe plot 343, had a succession of ash and sand surfaces interspersed with ashy loam landfill deposits in the 18th and 19th century (contexts [461] to [464] on Fig. 6). The sequence to the west of wall [460] was completely different throughout this period comprising solely of a steady build up of garden soils [11] and [119] (Fig. 6).

Area 2

Western plot

The alignment of a mid 18th century brick wall footing [20] on the west side of the site was not matched anywhere else in the plot except by the rear boundary wall [217] which dated to the late 18th or early 19th centuries and probably formed a replacement for the west end of the old masonry wall [200]. The stubs of two walls footings to the north, [212] and [215], were slightly later additions abutting wall [217]. All of these walls undoubtedly relate to building A (Fig. 2). A well [499] just to the rear of the standing building at the extreme north-west corner of the plot had a brick lining, the bricks being of 18th century hand made type. The well was filled in using demolition rubble c. 1900.

Central plot

A wall [192] on the west side of the plot was almost certainly part of the extension shown on Snape's map of 1781 and was the only part to have survived truncation by later ground works although a set of steps [590] leading downwards into the cellar below the standing building were probably broadly contemporary. It would appear that the extension shown by Snape lay entirely to the north of wall [200] confirming the detail shown on his map and also on the later tithe map. The 18th century extension was modified at some time after the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 when a room [150] was added at the southern end, being built southwards through the line of wall [200] leading to the demolition of structure [173]. The walls [179] and [181] of the southern room abutted the south side of wall [192] but cut a large rubbish pit [185] dated securely by pottery to the late 19th century. The room was not shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 and was probably built as part of the extension of the hospital c. 1910. These walls were demolished for later improvements to the hospital and most the other footings for the remainder of the structure associated with room [150] had been removed by various ground works including sewer services in the mid to late 20th century.

A circular shaft [274] was found in the north east corner of the plot. It was c. 1.3m across with vertical sides. This was observed during the later watching brief down to 1.4m below the main excavation surface. The backfill contained copious quantities of late 19th century material. It seems likely that this was a well and that the lining, presumably either brick or stone, had been salvaged prior to the backfilling. It was presumably built to replace the medieval well [440] which was turned into a soakaway in the 19th century.

Eastern plot

The area against the pavement was occupied by a cellar [44] filled with brick rubble [89] of Victorian date. An extension of the cellar running southwards towards wall [46] was probably the access stairway but this was not exposed. A brick wall on the west side of the entry was the east wall of the passageway for the building shown on historic maps from 1781 to c. 1965 but little indication remained of the rest of the building but these may lie in the unexcavated areas along the periphery of the standing buildings. A brick lined well [68] was dug to the rear in the 18th century and in use until the mid 20th century when it was backfilled with demolition rubble. A rectangular arrangement of brick wall footings [58] in the vicinity of well [68] relate to the outbuildings to the rear of the house shown on 19th century maps.

Interpretation

Area 1

Building [173] was almost certainly the small building shown at this location on Snape's map of 1781. It abutted wall [200] but was demolished when the extension on the south side of Sandford House was extended southwards c. 1910 by the addition of room [150]. This marks the first time at which buildings attached to Sandford Street cross the line of wall [200] into area 1. The cluster of deep cesspits in the south-east corner of area 1 indicate that this part of the area, probably corresponding directly to tithe parcel No. 343, was probably the toilet facility for the Rose and Crown public house. The remainder of area 1 was obviously a garden during throughout this period.

Area 2

The alignment of wall [20] on the west side of the site was not matched anywhere else on site. The wall almost certainly formed part of an outbuilding for building A (Fig. 2). The remaining features can be seen to relate almost entirely to structures shown on historic maps. The walls forming room [150] cut a pit [185] dated by pottery to the late 19th century but the room was not shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 so was probably built as part of the extension of the hospital c. 1910. The western plot was brought within the curtilage of Sandford House at that date and this almost certainly explains why room [150] crossed into the western plot. In all likelihood, other walls relating to wall [20] may have been removed to make way for room [150].

The pottery by Stephanie Rátkai

Methodology

All stratified medieval pottery in phases 2-6 was examined under x20 magnification. Post medieval pottery from these phases was divided into ware groups eg blackware, yellow ware etc. Midlands Purple was treated as a ware group although there were variations in the fabric. All pottery from phases 2-6 was quantified by sherd count, sherd weight, minimum rim count and *eves* (rim %). Details of vessel form, decoration, glazing, sooting, and wear were noted.

The medieval pottery was fabric typed following the type series for Sandford Street (Rátkai, forthcoming a). Fabric descriptions are not given in this report unless the fabric did not appear amongst the material from the previous Sandford Street excavation.

Pottery Fabrics and Forms

The pottery fabrics identified on the north side of Sandford Street (Rátkai, forthcoming a) are not described here and the reader is referred to the previous report. A small number of different fabrics from those found previously on Sandford Street were noted. These additional fabrics fell into two main groups; fabrics that were early i.e. 12th - early 13th centuries and fabrics which belonged to the late medieval/early post medieval period i.e. 15th – 16th centuries. The presence of the former group tends to confirm that there was a greater amount of earlier occupation on the south side of Sandford Street than on the north in the post-Conquest period. Developed Stamford ware (Kilmurry 1980), Coventry D ware (Redknap 1985), Deritend ware (Sherlock 1957, Rátkai forthcoming b) and wheel-thrown, oxidised Malvernian ware (Hurst 1992, Hurst and Rees 1992) are well known regional types and are also not described in this report.

Fabric cpj8a

abundant rounded quartz c0.5mm, sparse iron oxide up to 2mm, sparse rounded mudstone c. 0.5mm, orange brown surfaces, grey core. Hand formed hard.

Jugs and a minimum of three cooking pots were represented. One cooking pot rim was too fragmentary for illustration, the second (**Fig 11: 20**) had combed decoration on the rim and the third (**Fig 14: 65**) had a simple everted rim and heavy external soot. A similar cooking pot (in fabric cpj4) was found on the north side of Sandford Street and others are illustrated by Ford (1995 Fig 9: 28, 29). Jugs were represented by body sherds only. One had a thick opaque pale olive glaze. The margin below the glaze was pale grey. The second jug sherd had an olive glaze and was decorated with a line of applied scales.

Fabric cpj8b

sparse-moderate, ill-sorted rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, sparse iron-oxide 0.25-0.5mm, pale brown-orange surfaces and dark blue-grey core. Hand-formed, hard.

This fabric was better represented than fabric cpj8a. All the sherds appeared to be from cooking pots but only one rim sherd was present (**Fig 11: 13**).

Fabric cpj9

sparse-moderate, sub-angular granitic temper up to 2mm, sparse rounded quartz up to c. 0.25mm, sparse golden mica. Hand-formed, hard.

The fabric is the same as Fabric J11 from Stafford Castle (Rátkai forthcoming) which is directly paralleled by granitic tempered sherds from Wolvey, Warks (Rátkai, 1998). Sherds from both Stafford Castle and Wolvey were examined petrologically by Dr David Williams who writes:-

“Only one of the Stafford sherds has a fabric which resembles the Wolvey material. This contains frequent inclusions of a quartz-diorite or granodiorite rock and closely resembles Wolvey (fabric A). Wolvey is situated a few miles to the south east of the Pre-Cambrian and Cambrian igneous formations around Nuneaton [Geological Survey 1” Map of England Sheet No. 169; Eastwood, 1923]. A local source in the Nuneaton area is suggested and it is worth noting that the nearby medieval kilns at Chilvers Coton produced pottery whose fabric contained diorite [Williams, 1984]. The remaining two sherds from Wolvey, (fabrics B and C), also contained distinctive inclusions of shale. It is possible that these derive from the Stockingford Shales which outcrop around Nuneaton [ibid.]. Inclusions of shale were also a feature of some of the Chilvers Coton fabrics [Williams, 1984].”

Further examples of this fabric have been found at Coventry (Wright, 1987), Bascote (Rátkai, forthcoming d) and Cotton Park (Denham, 2001). This fabric was represented by a single sherd from [458]. The sherd is from the base and lower body of a cooking pot with a sagging base and is sooted externally. There is a distinct ridge at the junction of the body and base, a feature seen on 12th century, mudstone-tempered ware cooking pots from Stafford Castle (Rátkai, forthcoming c).

Fabric medg2

Moderate-abundant rounded quartz c0.5-1mm. Surfaces pale brown, core grey. The firing is variable so that some sherds are brown throughout. Hand-formed, hard.

Sherds in this fabric are characterised by the poor quality of the glazing. This varies from white slightly powdery residues, where the glaze has not properly fluxed, to a thick opaque cream glaze, to an olive splash glaze. Decoration seems to consist primarily of bands of combing. A sherd recovered from the evaluation of the north side of Sandford Street was decorated with an applied vertical thumbed strip over incised horizontal lines.

Fabric medg3

Sparse sub-angular quartz, sparse iron oxide, sparse brown ?ferrous lumps, rare sandstone (coarse poorly cemented grains), rare mudstone/siltstone.

There was a single sherd in this fabric from a hand-formed pitcher. The glaze is of a similar poor quality to that found on fabric medg2 pitchers, being pale, opaque and powdery in patches. The occasional small lead globule adheres to the exterior of the pot. A small portion of the lower handle survives, with an applied central strip.

Fabric ww4

Fine sandy matrix, quartz grains <0.1mm, rare rounded quartz grains c0.25mm, sparse burnt out organics.

There were only two jug sherds in this fabric. Both had an olive glaze. One sherd had part of an impressed design. Ridging within the depression suggests that a comb was used to form the impression. Something similar is illustrated by Ford (1995, Fig 15: 93)

Fabric lmt2

Sparse-moderate, ill-sorted rounded quartz 0.1-0.5mm. Wheel-thrown, hard. Fabric colour varies from buff to orange to pale grey. The firing is inconsistent so that some of the sherds have reduced cores, whilst others are oxidised throughout.

Forms comprised jugs (**Fig 13: 41**) and indeterminate jugs/jars/cisterns. Glazes were olive or brown.

Fabric lmt2a

Moderate quartz <0.1mm, rare larger rounded grains, sparse-moderate flecks of silver mica, rare sub-angular white inclusions (no reaction with HCl, ?gypsum) Slightly powdery surface feel, wheel-thrown, hard.

There was only one sherd in this fabric and it may have been a variant of fabric lmt2.

| Fabric | ww1 | | ww2 | | ww3 | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| Vessel Form | % count % weight | | % count % weight | | % count % weight | |
| Unknown | 23.9 | 6.9 | 47.6 | 31.1 | 45.5 | 60.0 |
| <i>Cooking / food preparation</i> | | | | | | |
| Bowl | 3.3 | 2.2 | 6.7 | 7.9 | 9.1 | 12.0 |
| Cpj | 5.4 | 2.3 | 22.4 | 29.9 | 9.1 | 10.7 |
| <i>Liquid storage / tableware</i> | | | | | | |
| Jug | 30.4 | 53.4 | 23.3 | 31.1 | 36.4 | 17.3 |
| Bottle | 36.9 | 35.1 | | | | |
| Total count/weight | 92 | 2522 | 313 | 3445 | 11 | 75 |

Table 1. Whitewares: percentage (by sherd count / sherd weight (grams) of vessel forms by fabric.

There were a larger number of whiteware sherds from 15, Sandford Street than from the excavation site on the north side of Sandford Street. On both sites fabric ww2 was the best represented, followed by ww1 and ww3 (Table 1). Jugs still made up the greater part of the repertoire in fabric ww1, whilst on both sites roughly equal amounts of cooking pots and jugs were found in ww2. A preference for bowls in fabric ww3 was not observable on this site.

Unlike the north side of Sandford Street, no pipkins, jars or cisterns were identified in any of the whiteware fabrics. Red painted whiteware sherds made up about 6% of the whiteware assemblage. This was exactly the same figure as that obtained from the north side of Sandford Street. Other types of decoration were limited. These comprised two examples of combing and an applied thumbled strip on ww1 jugs and two examples of combing, an applied notched strip, an applied thumbled strip, a vestige of an applied strip and a row of lunate fingernail impressions on ww2 jugs. One fabric ww3 jug had combed decoration. It can be seen from the above and from the north of Sandford Street that the whitewares were usually undecorated. However, when decoration was present it could be quite elaborate. A fabric ww2 baluster jug base (**Fig 11; 9**) had a band of horizontal combing below wavy combing and above a band of vertical slashing that resembles a frill or folds of material at the hem of a garment. A similar effect, taken from contemporary sources, is shown by Houston (1939, Figs 17 and 52a). Here an overgarment with an embroidered hem (in both cases a dalmatic) finishes a little above a full undergarment, resulting in decorated band above plain pleated material, very like the baluster jug base. Whether this aspect of the decoration was purely coincidental or reflects an element of anthropomorphism is arguable but worthy of comment.

The most common ww2 cooking pot form had a squared often undercut rim (**Fig 11; 5, 10, 16 : Fig 13; 47, 59**). This form was paralleled on the north side of Sandford Street but the clubbed rims found there were not in evidence at 15, Sandford Street. In contrast the triangular rims (**Fig 12; 23, 25**) and upright rims (**Fig 11; 8 : Fig 13; 38**) were not found on the north of Sandford Street.

There were very few substantial sections of cooking pots or jugs in the iron-rich fabrics cpj1-cpj8b and medg-medg3. Most of the cooking pot rim sherds had broken away at the neck or shoulder junction making it difficult to determine the vessel form with any accuracy. There was however, roughly half a fabric cpj4 shouldered cooking pot (**Fig 11; 1**) from [32] the fill of pit [33]. This vessel is discussed more fully below. Also worthy of note were two cooking pots with thumbled rims (**Fig 11; 11, 18**) in fabric cpj2. One is similar to a vessel from Drayton Bassett illustrated by Ford (1995, Fig 10: 38). Thumbled rims are not common in Staffordshire - there are for example only two illustrated in Ford's (1995) survey, both from Drayton Bassett. At Stafford Castle (Rátkai, forthcoming c) thumbled rims were associated with the early timber castle and date to the late 11th – 12th centuries. It is therefore very likely that the examples from Lichfield date to the 12th century and are contemporary or near contemporary with the glazed pitchers found on Sandford Street.

Glazed pitchers were found in fabrics medg, medg2, medg3, Coventry D ware, cpj5g and cpj6g. The latter two fabrics are glazed versions of fabrics more normally used for cooking pots. As stated above, the glazing was generally poor on these vessels. Sherds were usually small. A few seem to have been decorated with combing or incised horizontal lines but the material was so fragmentary that it was impossible to form a clear idea of how these vessels appeared when whole. However, the glazing, firing and manufacture of these vessels indicate that they were products of the mid 12th -early 13th centuries.

The average overall sherd weight of pottery from phases 2-6 was just under 20g. This was slightly lower than the figure recorded for north Sandford Street. This broke down by phase into 34.3g (Phase 2), 14.5g (Phase 3), 13.8g (Phase 4) 28.3g (Phase 5) 37.9 (Phase 6). This suggests that pottery from the 13th and 14th centuries had been subjected to the most disturbance and that the residual component in Phases 3 and 4 was higher than in either Phase

2 or Phases 5-6. This is broadly the same pattern as that encountered on the north of Sandford Street, allowing for the differences in phasing between the two sites. The residual component in Phases 5-6 ran at about 15% by sherd count or 7% by sherd weight. The average sherd weight of the residual material in Phases 5-6 was c 13.8g as compared to c 32.3g for pottery contemporary with Phases 5-6. It appears that the earlier medieval material was much more heavily disturbed than that of the late medieval and early post-medieval periods. It may be significant in this respect that there was very little 17th or 18th century pottery and this area of Sandford Street may have been relatively neglected from the later 16th century through to the late 17th or early 18th centuries. This would account for the paucity of yellow ware on the site and may account for the relatively undisturbed nature of deposits containing 15th –16th century pottery. The near absence of 17th or 18th century pottery is in marked contrast to the north side of Sandford Street.

| Fabric | Phase 2 | | Phase 3 | | Phase 4 | |
|----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | % sherd count | % sherd weight | % sherd count | % sherd weight | % sherd count | % sherd weight |
| cpj1 | 25 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 5.1 | 3.2 | 2.1 |
| cpj2 | 3.6 | <1.0 | 3.6 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 6.3 |
| cpj4 | 60.7 | 85.8 | 1.9 | 2.0 | | |
| cpj6g | 10.7 | 6.6 | | | | |
| Cov D | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| cpj3 | | | 1.7 | 1.0 | | |
| cpj5 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| cpj5g | | | 1.1 | <1.0 | | |
| cpj6 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| cpj7 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| cpj8 | | | 1.1 | <1.0 | | |
| cpj8a | | | 1.5 | 1.1 | | |
| cpj8b | | | 5.7 | 5.1 | | |
| cpj9 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| Derit | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| Dev Stam | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| irp1 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| irp2 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | 19.4 | 21.1 |
| shell | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| medg | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| medg2 | | | 1.7 | <1.0 | | |
| medg3 | | | | | 3.2 | 29.8 |
| ww1 | | | 16.3 | 31.8 | 9.7 | 6.5 |
| ww2 | | | 50.5 | 35.7 | 42.0 | 23.0 |
| ww3 | | | 1.3 | <1.0 | | |
| ww4 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| cm1 | | | <1.0 | 6.4 | | |
| cm3 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| lmt1 | | | <1.0 | 1.2 | | |
| lmt2 | | | | | 6.5 | 3.9 |
| rw1 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | 3.2 | 3.0 |
| rw2 | | | | | 3.2 | <1.0 |
| rw3 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| rw4 | | | | | 6.5 | 3.3 |
| rw6 | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| mp | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| cist | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| yw | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| cw | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| stw | | | <1.0 | <1.0 | | |
| Total sherd count/wei ght | 28 | 960 | 529 | 7685 | 31 | 430 |

Table 2. Quantification of pottery by percentage sherd weight and count, Phases 2-4

| Fabric | Phase 5 | | Phase 5 / 6 | | Phase 6 | |
|--------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | % sherd count | % sherd weight | % sherd count | % sherd weight | % sherd count | % sherd weight |
| cpj1 | 2.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| cpj2 | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| cpj4 | 2.0 | 1.1 | | | | |
| cpj8b | <1.0 | <1.0 | 3.7 | <1.0 | | |
| irp1 | <1.0 | <1.0 | 7.4 | 17.1 | | |
| ww1 | <1.0 | <1.0 | 3.7 | 1.0 | | |
| ww2 | 9.9 | 4.7 | 11.1 | 4.2 | 1.3 | <1.0 |
| ww3 | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| cm1 | 3.5 | 2.8 | | | | |
| cm1a | <1.0 | <1.0 | 2.6 | 2.0 | | |
| cm2 | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| cm3 | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| lmt1 | 5.4 | 3.6 | | | | |
| lmt1a | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| lmt2 | 3.9 | 4.2 | | | | |
| lmt2a | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| rw1 | 5.9 | 7.3 | | | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| rw2 | 1.5 | 1.2 | | | | |
| rw3 | <1.0 | 2.0 | | | | |
| rw4 | 7.4 | <1.0 | 4.0 | 8.6 | | |
| rw7 | <1.0 | 7.2 | | | | |
| malv | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| mp | 27.6 | 46.8 | 3.7 | 55.7 | 9.3 | 15.6 |
| tg | 3.9 | <1.0 | | | 1.3 | <1.0 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|------|------|-----|-------|
| cist | 9.9 | 7.8 | 22.2 | 8.7 | 2.3 | 2.2 |
| cistblw | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | | |
| blw | 4.4 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 2.2 | 9.3 | 37.5 |
| blwcw | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | 2.3 | 23.8 |
| yw | | | | | 4.7 | <1.0 |
| cw | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | 7.0 | 8.3 |
| mpcw | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | 2.3 | <1.0 |
| stw | | | | | 2.3 | <1.0 |
| mang | | | | | 4.7 | 2.3 |
| porc | | | | | 2.3 | <1.0 |
| slpw | | | | | 7.0 | 1.8 |
| wsg | | | | | 9.3 | 1.3 |
| intrusive | <1.0 | <1.0 | | | 7.0 | 2.5 |
| Total sherd count/weight | 203 | 5737g | 27 | 690g | 43 | 1630g |

Table 3. Quantification of pottery by percentage sherd weight and count, Phases 5-6

| Fabric | Phase 2 | | Phase 3 | | Phase 4 | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| | % rim count | % eves | % rim count | % eves | % rim count | % eves |
| cpj1 | | | 11.8 | 7.5 | 33.3 | 14.7 |
| cpj2 | | | 5.9 | 6.6 | | |
| cpj4 | 100 | 100 | 4.0 | 3.6 | | |
| cpj3 | | | 4.0 | 2.1 | | |
| cpj6 | | | 2.0 | 2.1 | | |
| cpj7 | | | 1.8 | <1.0 | | |
| cpj8a | | | 5.9 | 6.9 | | |
| cpj8b | | | 2.0 | 2.4 | | |
| ww1 | | | 11.8 | 16.7 | 33.3 | 64.7 |
| ww2 | | | 45.1 | 20.5 | 33.3 | 20.6 |
| ww3 | | | 2.0 | <1.0 | | |
| rw1 | | | 2.0 | 1.8 | | |
| rw6 | | | 2.0 | <1.0 | | |
| rim count / eves | 1 | 37% | 51 | 335% | 3 | 34% |

Table 4. Quantification of pottery by percentage rim count and eves, Phases 2-4

| Fabric | Phase 5 | | Phase 5 / 6 | | Phase 6 | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| | % rim count | % eves | % rim count | % eves | % rim count | % eves |
| ww2 | 13.3 | 3.7 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 20.0 | 36.1 |
| ww3 | | | | | | |
| cm1 | 3.3 | 3.2 | | | | |
| cm1a | | | | | 20.0 | 18.1 |
| lmt1 | 10.0 | 5.0 | | | | |
| lmt2 | 3.3 | 4.5 | | | | |
| rw1 | 6.6 | 5.2 | | | | |
| rw4 | 3.3 | 2.6 | | | | |
| rw7 | 3.3 | 3.7 | | | | |
| mp | 23.3 | 49.4 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 20.0 | 18.1 |
| tg | 10.0 | 3.2 | | | 20.0 | 6.9 |
| cist | 20.0 | 15.1 | | | | |
| cw | | | | | 20.0 | 20.8 |
| rim count/eves | 30 | 43% | 2 | 18% | 5 | 72% |

Table 5. Quantification of pottery by percentage rim count and eves, Phases 5-6

The proportion of fabrics by phase was much the same on the Sandford Street sites. The 13th and 14th centuries were dominated by whitewares, particularly fabric ww2. By the 15th century whitewares occur residually although two sherds from a jug/cistern from the north of Sandford Street may indicate that there was a small amount of whiteware production in the 15th century. However, by and large, the 15th and 16th centuries on both sites were dominated by Midlands Purple ware, the redwares (fabrics rw1-rw7) and the late medieval transitional wares (fabrics lmt1-lmt2a) with a smaller proportion belonging to fabrics cm1-3. On both sites, cistercian ware, Tudor Green and blackware form a significant part of the assemblage and suggest prosperous bourgeois occupants on Sandford Street.

The evidence from 15 Sandford Street did not help much in elucidating the relative chronology of the cooking pot fabrics. The uses of fabrics cpj1, cpj2 and cpj4 seem to predate the use of whitewares. Fabric cpj4 is however, over-represented since all of the Phase 1 sherds were from a single cooking pot (**Fig 11; 1**) found in pit [33]. A date of earlier than the mid 13th century was suggested for fabrics cpj1, cpj2 and cpj5 on the north of Sandford Street but the suggestion that fabrics cpj3 and cpj6 were coeval with the whitewares could not be verified by the finds from 15, Sandford Street.

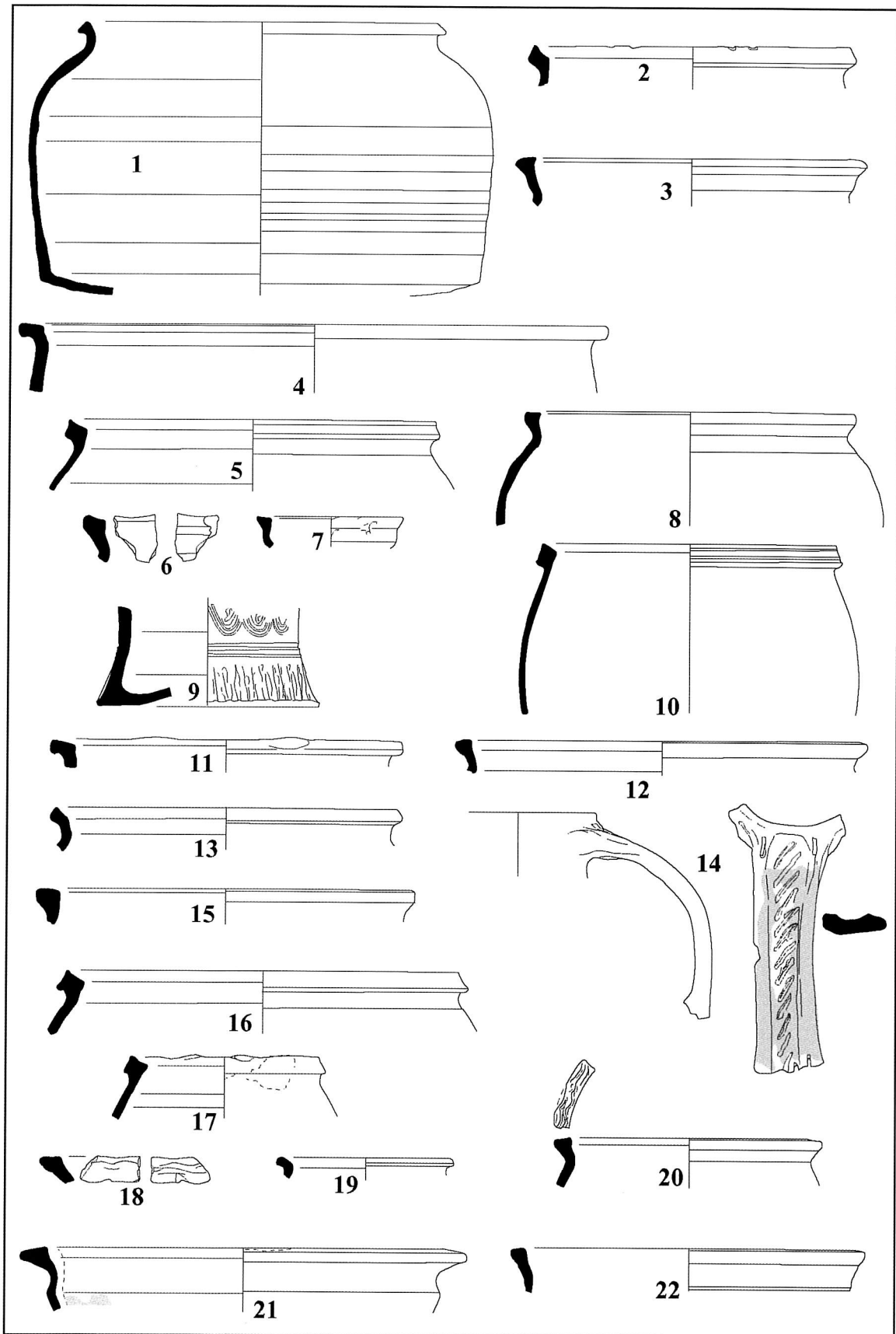
The suggestion that fabric cm1a was unlikely to date to before the later 14th century finds some support from 15, Sandford Street since it was not found before Phase 5. However, the combined information from both Sandford Street sites suggests that some of the redwares must have been made in the 14th century, although as stated above, they became pre-eminent in the 15th and 16th centuries. In general, the proposed chronology of the pottery outlined by Rátkai (forthcoming a) is supported by the evidence from 15, Sandford Street.

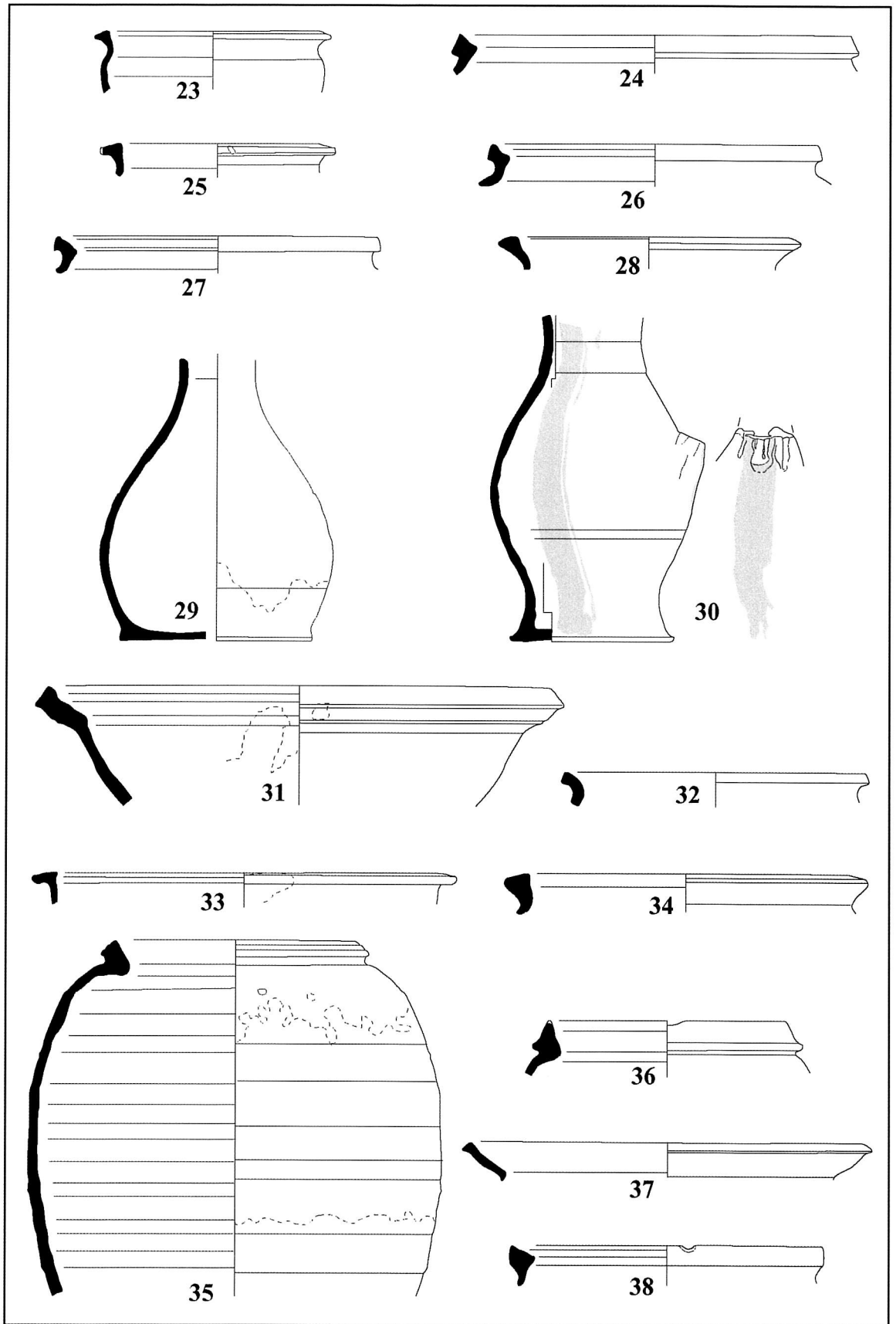
The small amount of clearly intrusive material in Phase 3 was almost certainly introduced into the fills of earlier features by the widespread cultivation or disturbance of the relict medieval topsoil [149] into the early post-medieval period. Stoneware was recovered from this soil. A Midlands Purple sherd was found within the fill of the horse burial [239] in pit [240],

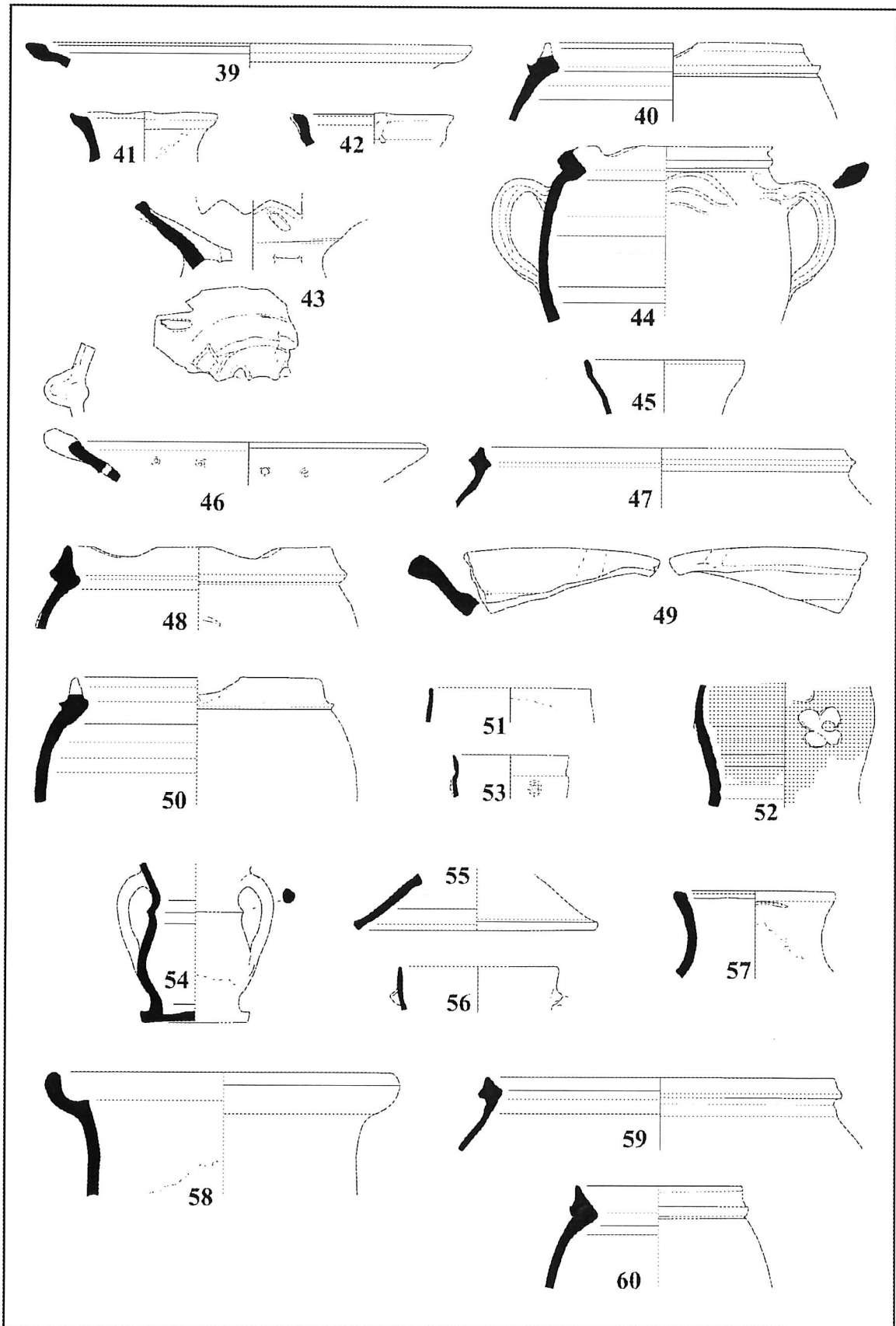
cistercian ware within the fill of pit [248] and a yellow ware sherd in the middle fill of pit [168]. All three features and their fills are discussed more fully below.

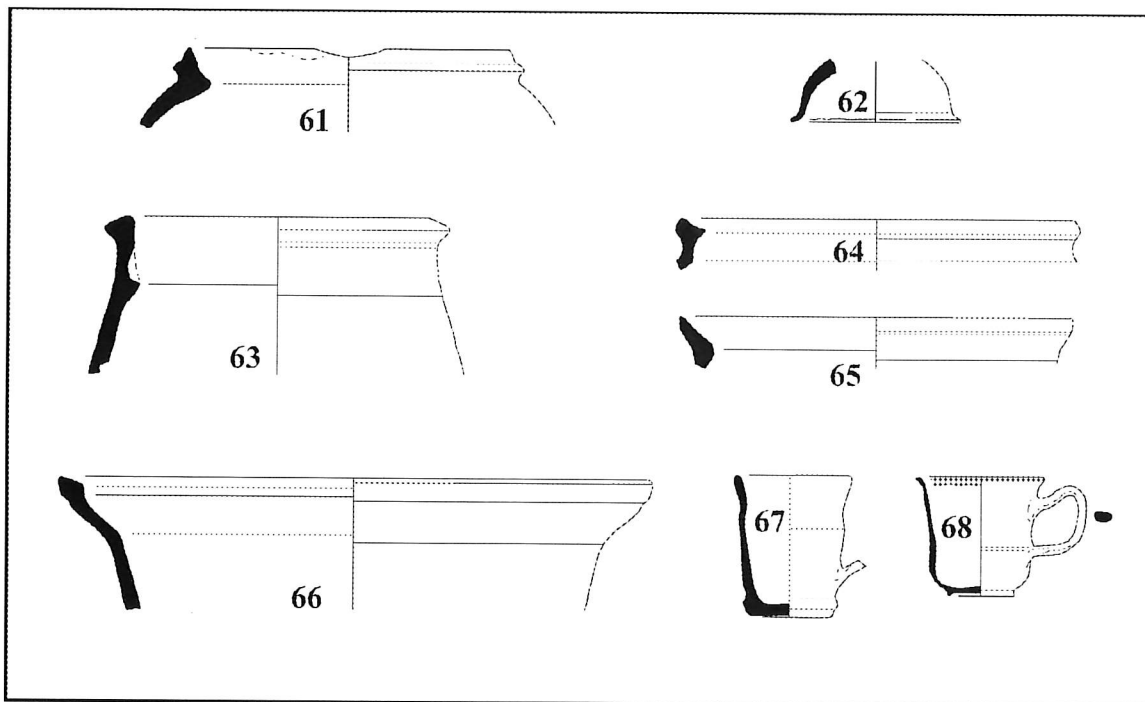
There were differences between the two Sandford Street sites. In the 15th and 16th centuries Midlands Purple ware was the major ware type at 15 Sandford Street and cistercian ware was better represented than Tudor Green ware. Midlands Purple ware formed nothing like the same proportion of the pottery on the north side of Sandford Street and Tudor Green seems to have been better represented. Differences in phasing on the two sites make direct comparisons difficult but there is probably a case to be made for the use of Tudor Green as a precursor to cistercian ware, which was suggested for the site on the north side of Sandford Street, but with some overlap of the two fabrics in the late 15th or early 16th centuries.

| Vessel Form | Phase 2 | | Phase 3 | | Phase 4 | | Phase 5 | | Phase 6 | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | count | weight | count | weight | count | weight | count | weight | count | weight |
| Unknown | | | 162 | 1012 | 12 | 73 | 58 | 721 | 32 | 881 |
| pancheon | | | | | | | 1 | 126 | | |
| Bowl/pancheon | | | | | | | 1 | 72 | 2 | 36 |
| Food preparation | | | | | | | 2 | 198 | 2 | 36 |
| Bowl | | | 28 | 491 | 2 | 28 | 10 | 347 | | |
| cpj | 25 | 897 | 177 | 2292 | 5 | 69 | 9 | 134 | | |
| pipkin/skillet | | | | | | | | | 1 | 38 |
| Cooking / food preparation | 25 | 897 | 205 | 2783 | 7 | 97 | 19 | 481 | 1 | 38 |
| Chafing dish | | | | | | | 4 | 137 | | |
| Cooking / table | | | | | | | 4 | 137 | | |
| Cistern | | | | | | | 31 | 2107 | | |
| Jar /cistern | | | | | | | 3 | 155 | | |
| Jug/jar/cistern | | | | | 2 | 22 | 31 | 881 | | |
| Jar | | | | | | | 1 | 76 | 1 | 100 |
| Storage/brewing | | | | | 2 | 22 | 66 | 3219 | 1 | 100 |
| Pitcher | 3 | 63 | 15 | 548 | 1 | 128 | | | | |
| Jug | | | 111 | 2442 | 9 | 110 | 18 | 314 | 2 | 470 |
| Bottle | | | 34 | 886 | | | | | | |
| Liquid storage/table | 3 | 63 | 160 | 3876 | 10 | 238 | 18 | 314 | 2 | 470 |
| Drinking vessel | | | 2 | 9 | | | 33 | 605 | 4 | 90 |
| Consumption/table | | | 2 | 9 | | | 33 | 605 | 4 | 90 |
| Lid | | | | | | | 2 | 32 | | |
| Industrial? | | | | | | | 1 | 30 | | |
| Chamber pot | | | | | | | | | 1 | 15 |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | 3 | 62 | 1 | 15 |
| Total count/weight | 28 | 960 | 529 | 7680 | 31 | 430 | 203 | 5737 | 43 | 1630 |









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