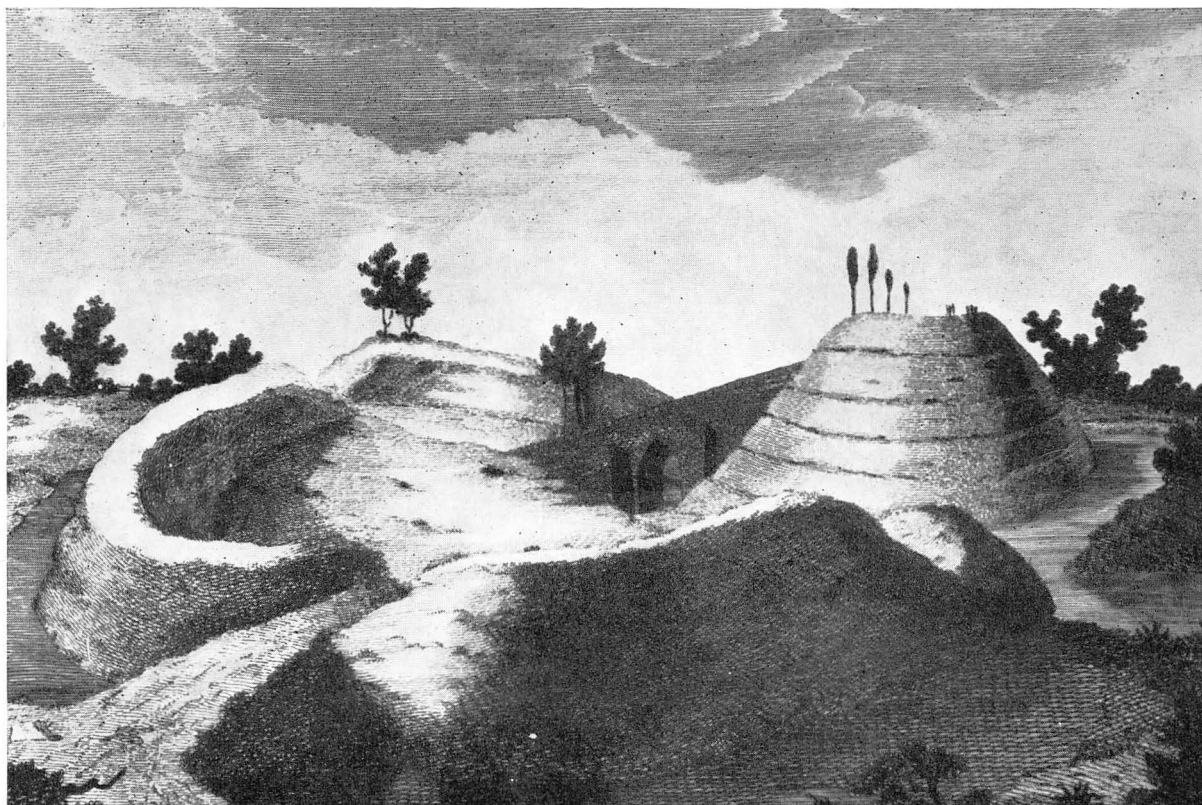


PLESHEY CASTLE

First Interim Report, 1960

By PHILIP A. RAHTZ



PLESHEY CASTLE, 1803

Essex Record Office

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By

PHILIP A. RAHTZ

*"With all good speed at Plashy visit me,
... empty lodgings and unfurnish'd walls,
unpeopled offices, untrodden stones."*

(Richard II, Act I, Scene 2).

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PLESHEY CASTLE, ESSEX

First Interim Report, 1960

This report summarises the history of the Castle and its previous exploration, and describes the first season of excavation by the Essex Archaeological Society in 1959. Cuttings were made through the west end of the Upper Bailey, which revealed foundations and occupation debris of the twelfth to sixteenth centuries.

I should like to thank all those who have helped in the excavation and in the preparation of this report; particularly Major and Mrs. J. G. S. Brinson, who took upon themselves the onerous burden of the organization of the excavation and its aftermath; also Mr. G. C. Boon, Miss Dorothy Charlesworth, Mr. G. C. Dunning, Mr. J. S. Gardner, and Mr. S. F. Rigold, who have contributed to this report; Margaret Gray, who has drawn the pottery; Miss E. Meikle, who has drawn the glass; Mr. Peter Ewence, who has drawn the bronze objects; Mr. K. J. Barton, who has cleaned and conserved the metal finds; the volunteers, numbering nearly a hundred, who took part in the excavation; Messrs. T. Harris and Sons and Messrs. Curtis Bros. who provided plant and equipment free of charge; the Council for British Archaeology, the Essex County Council and numerous others for financial assistance; and finally, on behalf of the Society, I would like to express our thanks to Mr. J. J. Tufnell, of Langleys, the owner of the site, for his generous assistance and co-operation in every respect.

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS

Much has been written on the history and earthworks of Pleshey; we do not intend in this report to repeat the earlier writers in detail, but merely to draw attention to those facts which are well-authenticated and relevant to an understanding of the earthworks and excavation. Little original research has been done; but there are many unexplored sources, in particular the documents in the P.R.O. relating to the royal occupation of the site in the 15th century, and we hope to publish these in a future report.

The principal authority is the comprehensive one of Gough,¹ one of whose drawings of the earthworks is reproduced on the cover; and the reader is referred to this work for a detailed account.

There is no certain reference to Pleshey as a castle before the middle of the twelfth century; before this it was probably part of High Easter parish (perhaps a manor) belonging in the reign of Stephen to Geoffrey de Mandeville.² Geoffrey was seized because of his allegiance to Matilda, and imprisoned; the Tower of London and the castles of Walden and Pleshey³ were made the price of his release; he became a "robber baron" and was shortly after killed in 1144.⁴ What the word "castle" means in this context we do not know; but it suggests that some stronghold, not necessarily having any relation to the earthworks as we see them to-day, was in existence before 1148. After a brief spell in the hands of the Crown the estates were restored to Geoffrey's son of the same name who died in 1167;⁵ they passed to his brother William, who obtained leave of Henry II to fortify his castle at Plessey, wherein he solemnized his marriage in 1180.⁶ This fortification shortly before 1180 may well be the creation of the earthworks in their present massive form; Gough was of this opinion, and the archaeological evidence to be described later in these pages would support a late twelfth century date for the construction of at least part of the ramparts. To this period too belongs the first Church of Pleshey.⁷

1. J. W. Gough "*The History and Antiquities of Pleshy*" (1803).

2. Gough, p. 5.

3. Pleissis, Plascis, Plaisers.

4. Milles "*The Catalogue of Honor*", London, 1610, p. 844.

5. Gough, p. 6.

6. Milles. *op.cit.* p. 848.

7. J. H. Round, in *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.* Vol. XV (1921) p. 132.

Pleshey remained in the hands of the de Mandevilles until 1227, when it passed to the de Bohun family by marriage;¹ it was confirmed to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Essex and Constable of England, by Henry III, in 1273 as “this Castle and Manor of Plessetis”². Through several more of the family, the castle passed to Eleanor, who in 1380 married Thomas Woodstock Duke of Gloucester³, then a young man of twenty-five. This initiated what must have been the richest phase in the history of Pleshey, in the possession of one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in the country. After seventeen years the Duke was decoyed away from Pleshey by his nephew, King Richard II, and murdered in Calais. These events of 1397 have been told in many forms, and account for numerous references to Pleshey in more general contexts such as Shakespeare.⁴ In the various accounts of the King’s visit to Pleshey, quoted by Gough, there are several points of interest in the description of the buildings. “The Duke came out to meet the King in his court. The King went into the hall, and then into the apartment”⁵; this account suggests that these two buildings were in the court, and adjacent. Holinshed⁶ describes how the duke “came down into the base court”. This might mean either that he came down from the motte into the bailey, or down from a first floor level. The King “entered into the chapell, where were a great number of reliques and jewells of great value . . . The duke then went to his lodging which was nigh unto the chapell”⁷. It is of course difficult to be sure that these associations of buildings are derived from eye-witness accounts, and are not merely factual embroidery.

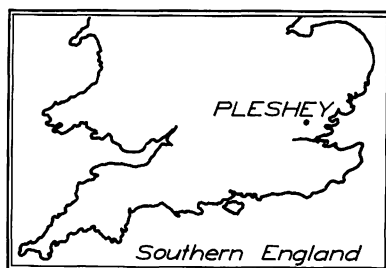


FIG. 1

The castle and the Duke’s possessions were seized by the Crown after the murder, and the inventory⁸ made at that time is a remarkable witness to the regal state in which the Duke and Duchess had been living. There were tapestries, the largest of which was 12-ft. high and 72-ft. long. The Duke’s bed is described as a “great bed of gold, that is to say, a coverlet, a tester and the entire *celure* of fine blue satin wrought with garters of gold, and three curtains of tartaryn beaten to match. Also two long and four square pillows of the set of the bed.” This was valued at a figure equivalent to some £20,000 in modern money.⁹ The Royal possession was probably indicated by a stone, now in Pleshey Church, inscribed RICARDVS REX II.

1. Gough, p. 8.

2. Gough, p. 8.

3. Gough, p. 8.

4. Richard II, Act. I, Scene 2.

5. Gough, p. 75, quoting Froissart.

6. Quoted by Gough, p. 84.

7. Gough, p. 81, quoting Hearne’s life of Richard II.

8. Viscount Dillon and St. John Hope. “Inventory of the Goods and Chattels belonging to Thomas Duke of Gloucester and seized . . . in 1397” *Arch. Journ.* LIV (1897) pp. 275 ff.

9. Inf. from Major J. G. S. Brinson.

The Duchess retained Pleshey until her death in 1399, and little has been written of its subsequent history. Gough described (p. 156) its being held by Edmund, Earl of Stafford, and then became parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster. Recently, however, five rolls have been discovered in the Duchy of Lancaster records in the P.R.O. dealing with works and repairs in 1450-60 when Queen Margaret was in residence. These have not yet been examined in detail, but there is mention of much building in brick in the Hall or the Keep and it may be that this included the bridge and the brick structures found on the motte and in the 1959 excavation. A similar dating is given to the major reconstruction in brick at King John's Palace at Writtle, during its occupation by the Duke of Buckingham.¹ There is, however, evidence of the use of brick in Essex earlier than the fifteenth century, notably at Coggeshall Abbey.²

The latest reference is very informative; this is a survey of the Castle of Pleshey made in 1558-93, an extract from which is here reproduced; it makes it clear that the castle was by that time in decay, and it was asserted that buildings had already been taken down in the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI. It should be noted that the bridge is already "old" at this time, and owes its preservation to rather curious reasons. The "pybble robysshe lyme" will refer to flints in lime mortar.

The said Comysyones together wth the sayd teññtes of the towne of Plesshey do fynde that all the howsinge now remayninge & standynge there are only an olde halle wth a wardroppe & certen Howses adioyninge and standinge nighe to the same and some of them bare wth the tyle taken of & lyeinge bye & an olde house called the Constables warde wth a kychine & the out Gate howse, all bylte of tymbre only & moche thereof rotten, coveryd wth tyle moche brokyn & an old chappell bylte of pybble robysshe lyme, wth some lytle wyndowes of stone in the same; all w^{ch} the sayd comysyones (the greate decaye thereof consydered) do valewe & esteame by there Judgemtes worth to be solde thirtee & thre ponde fyve shillinge & eight pence.

Item there is an olde arche of bryckeworke in the Inner dyche of the castle w^{ch} is the only weye or passage from the castle ground to the castle Hille comonlie called the kepe of the castle w^{ch} arch in or Judgem^{te} is not in any wise mete to be pluckte down because the Inner dyche beinge verye depe caste & a dyche of water if the arche should be taken downe there remaynes no waye to come to the castle hille called the Kepe of the castle, w^{ch} castle hill beinge now replenyshed wth coneyes shoulde have no waye to yt & so woulde be grete hindrans & dyscomoditie to the Keap⁴ of the grounde.

Gough describes the earthworks, and his drawings show that there has been little change since 1803, except that the brick bridge has lost some of its superstructure and facing. The first extensive excavations on the site were undertaken in 1907 by Col. W. N. Tufnell, the present owner's grandfather. He uncovered large buildings on the motte and in the Upper Bailey. From the latter hundreds of decorated glazed floor tiles were removed to his house at Langleys, where they lay for many years in a game larder, but were subsequently discarded and buried.⁵ On top of the keep a rectangular building was found. A plan was made of this, but no record was published until 1921-22, when the Morant Club again uncovered the foundations in two seasons of three days each, and published an account with a plan;⁶ this is of a building 67 × 56-ft. externally, consisting of a thin curtain-wall supported on

1. M.O.W. excavations, 1955-7, directed by the writer.
2. In the 12th century and later: see "Coggeshall Abbey and its Early Brickwork", by J. S. Gardner, M.A., F.S.A. *J.B.A.A.*, XVIII, 1955, pp. 19 ff.
3. Archaeological notes, *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.* Vol. XV (1921) p. 160. The document is in the Duchy of Lancaster records in the P.R.O.
4. probably the *Keeper*.
5. Mr. J. J. Tufnell knows their whereabouts, however, and it may be possible to recover them at a later date.
6. Miller Christy "The Excavation of Foundations on the Castle Keep at Pleshey", *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.* Vol. XVI (1923) pp. 109-124.

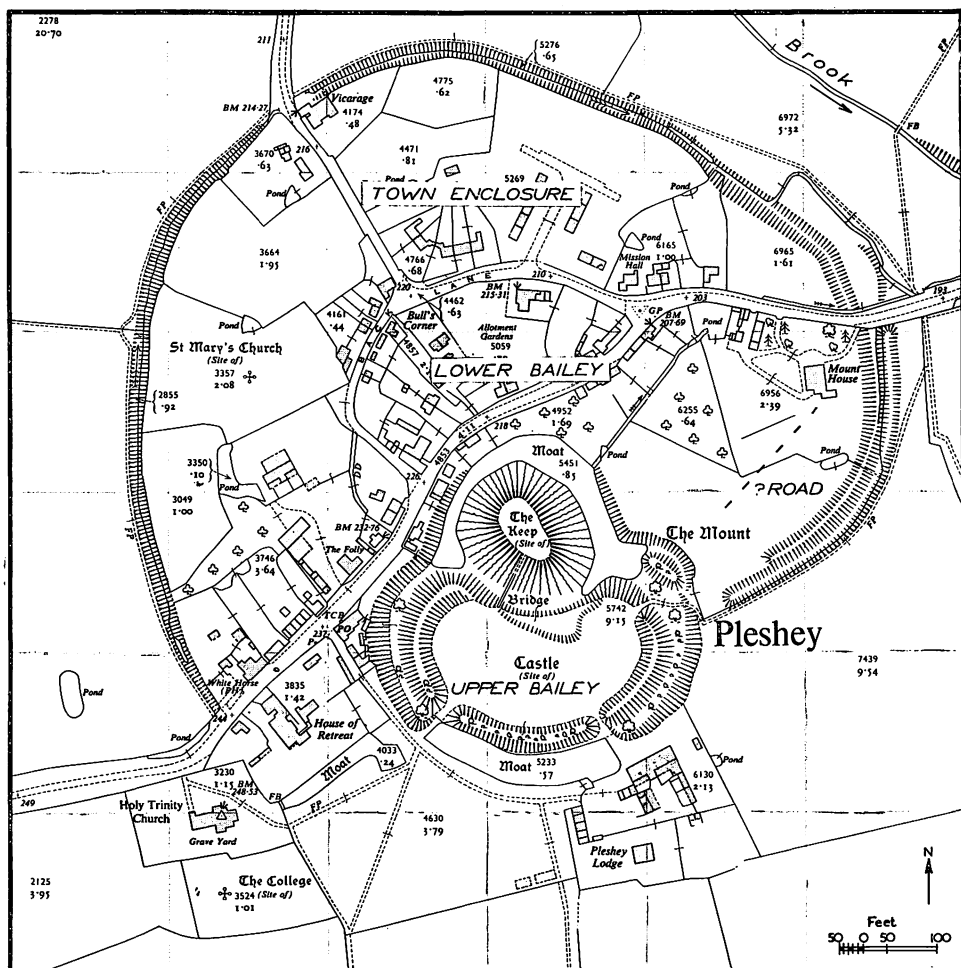


FIG. 2.—Plan of Site and Village. Reproduced, with additions, from the Ordnance Survey Map TL 6614, with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved.

at least three sides by eleven large projections of flint rubble-work, some of them solid, others hollow, (shown in fig. 3). Three types of construction were noted, but no superimposition of foundations; I. was flints in white pebble mortar, II. was flint and tile in yellow mortar, III. was brick in bright yellow mortar. These can be seen today where the bridge abuts on the motte. It seems likely that they are of different dates, probably in the order suggested, but there is no evidence of this yet.

The building on the Motte was identified as a shell-keep with thin curtain-walls, but it seems likely, in the light of the new 15th century rolls, that it was the Great Hall of that period.

The only work done since that time has been the clearance of the trees from the site by Mr. Tufnell which enables us to see the earthworks clearly for the first time. This was followed by the consolidation of the brick bridge by the Ministry of Works in 1958-9 in conjunction with Mr. Tufnell and the Essex County Council. The entire site, including the town enclosure, has recently (1960) been scheduled as an ancient monument.

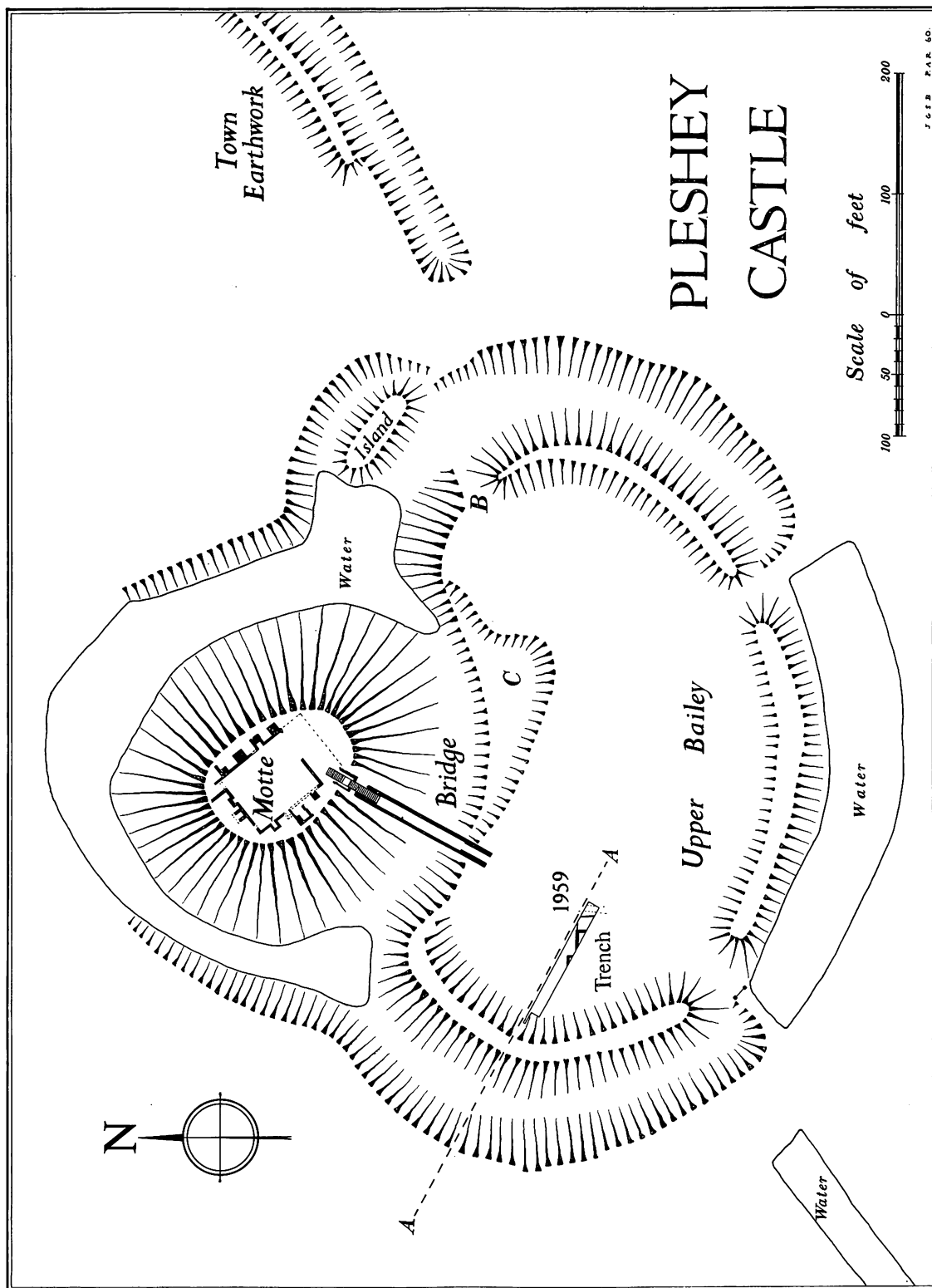


FIG. 3.—Plan of Motte and Upper Bailey, showing 1959 trench. Reproduced, with additions, from the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved.

THE EARTHWORKS, covering some 11½ acres, are shown in the air photographs¹ (Pls. 1 and 2) and in figs. 2 and 3. They are built on a defensible site, on a slight spur between and near the confluence of two small streams. The subsoil is a greenish-yellow Boulder Clay, the stability of which is responsible for the sharp profile of the earthworks. This was found in the 1959 excavation to be capped by several feet of buff clay with small angular flints in its surface; this is probably the weathered surface of the Boulder Clay. The moats were originally filled with water, draining (probably by a controlled system) from higher land to the south-west. The earthworks consist of the following:

The Town Enclosure, on the north side, is delimited by a brook and partly water-filled ditch, together with the remains of an earthen rampart; the whole of the present village lies within its compass, except Holy Trinity Church and the buildings near it: Holy Trinity was a replacement for the earlier medieval church of St. Mary, whose site is shown in the Town enclosure in fig. 2; close to Holy Trinity is the site of the medieval College.²

The Motte is an elliptical conical flat-topped mound 60-ft. high, which shows (pls. 1 and 2) signs of terracing: these may reflect its having been built up in stages, to ensure a regularity of profile, or may be due to natural causes. The greater part of the deep moat round it is still water-filled; if the level of this was originally higher, it must have been contained by a dam on the north side, where now is a garden whose surface is only just above the present water-level. On the south side of the Motte is the *Upper Bailey* which we have thus named because we believe that there was a crescentic *Lower Bailey* at a lower level on the north side, now destroyed, but marked by changes in level on either side of Back Lane and in the garden of Mount House (fig. 2) which we think represent the remains of the levelled-out defences. Only excavation can determine the truth of this suggestion, and supply evidence as to the relative dating of the two Baileys and their relationship to the Motte and Town earthworks.

The *Upper Bailey* is kidney-shaped with an outer 18-ft. high rampart and moat; it is entered by three gaps, to N.E., to S.E., and to S.W. That to the S.E. is a comparatively modern breach, but was there before Gough; that to the S.W. is nearly opposite to the brick bridge, and is doubtless the principal later medieval entrance to the site. The N.E. one (B on fig. 3) however, we believe to be earlier. We would suggest that it is the *Norman Entrance* to the Upper Bailey, and was connected with a roadway going in a north-easterly direction through the Town enclosure. Its course has been located as a hollow way in the garden of Mount House; "solid gravel" was encountered in recent years in planting gooseberry bushes here. Between this hollow way and the N.E. entrance the moat is split by an "island"; we suggest that this is the intermediate support of a double bridge.

On the north side of the Upper Bailey, the edge of the moat is cut back over a considerable area in two "steps".³ The level of the lower step is near that of the moat; the other is about half-way up, and in this there is a circular depression which might be a well. While part of this cut-away may well be due to post-medieval disturbance, particularly at its western end, that at the eastern end is not: two holes dug to bury rubbish showed occupation levels lying horizontally at both levels. We would suggest that these features may be connected with the abutments of a bridge from the Motte to the Upper Bailey; such a bridge or bridges might be Norman or later or both: if the brick bridge is fifteenth century, as seems probable, we have no evidence of access to the Motte in the occupation of the Duke of Gloucester.

1. Taken by Aerofilms in 1959 for Mr. Tufnell, and reproduced with his permission.

2. See *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.* Vol. XVI, p. 191.

3. Not yet surveyed, but in area shown as C in fig 3.



PLATE 1.—Air photograph, 1959, of Pleshey Village.



PLATE 2. Air photograph, 1959, of Motte and Upper Bailey.

THE 1959 EXCAVATION

Method. The aims of the first season of excavation were to explore some part of the site in depth to obtain a chronological sequence and to prepare the way for area excavation. Such soundings were a necessary but destructive preliminary. Medieval excavations, particularly those which involve the recovery of the plans of wooden buildings, demand above all a horizontal approach. It is only by the careful stripping of each layer over a large area unimpeded by baulks that their meaning can be grasped. Such a technique has been developed for medieval village sites, and has been practised notably at Wharram Percy, in E. Yorks, where nothing short of the meticulous care applied could have disentangled the superimposed peasant house plans revealed there.

It was therefore incumbent upon us at Pleshey to obtain our information in depth with as little destruction of levels as possible. By making a wide cutting (10-ft.) and by careful recording of the limited area of each layer that was uncovered, we tried to ensure that no information would be lost in any subsequent area excavation, even though comprehensive photographs of the whole of each layer could never be obtained. On the whole we were successful in these aims, and were able to demonstrate a chronological sequence in depth and to record, though never understand, the superimposed layers that we destroyed. A further factor in determining method was our commitment to provide training, which is most conveniently done in separate units of excavation. The compromise finally adopted was an interrupted trench (pl. 3) 115 ft. \times 10 ft. divided into ten 10-ft. square grids with baulks, which reached depths of 3-13-ft.; each grid was under the control of a trainee, who was required to excavate and record it throughout, with such help as was allocated from time to time; in the final stages of the excavation the upper parts of the baulks were removed to obtain continuity of section and plan.

The dig lasted for five weeks in September and October in the most perfect weather conditions that could have been wished for; 98 volunteers and four paid labourers took part in the excavation; direction and training were by Major Brinson and myself, Margaret Gray was in charge of the finds shed, and Mrs. Redhead acted as guide to our numerous visitors; 9 volunteers received full training as grid supervisors, and 34 others received training of 3-9 days' duration. Few of our helpers had had any previous excavation experience, and none on a complex medieval site; their success may be measured by the pages that follow.

The general plan of the grids is shown in figs 5 and 6: four were completely excavated to "natural"; the rest were limited either in area (as No. 1) or in depth, but in all except 1 the period II levels were cleared. All the sections were drawn in the field, but only representative ones are included in this report; the others will be made available for reference. It has not been thought desirable to deal with all the finds in this first interim report. Selected objects are illustrated, and the pottery from the Norman level is fully described as an important sealed group. The pottery generally will not be fully dealt with until it is possible to relate it to that from the nearby site of King John's Palace at Writtle which is partly dated by coin finds.

The area selected for the 1959 dig was at the West end of the Upper Bailey; it was hoped that here the levels would not have been disturbed by the 1907 excavation, and that we should be able to relate the layers of the tail of the rampart to the level area inside it. Our trench was laid out to give a section at right angles both to the rampart and to a line drawn from the centre of the south-western entrance and the bridge. It was expected that this line would lie on the course of the later medieval roadway, and that any buildings that we encountered would be cut squarely at right angles; in this we were deceived: the roadway was found, but the building found was at 45 deg. to it.

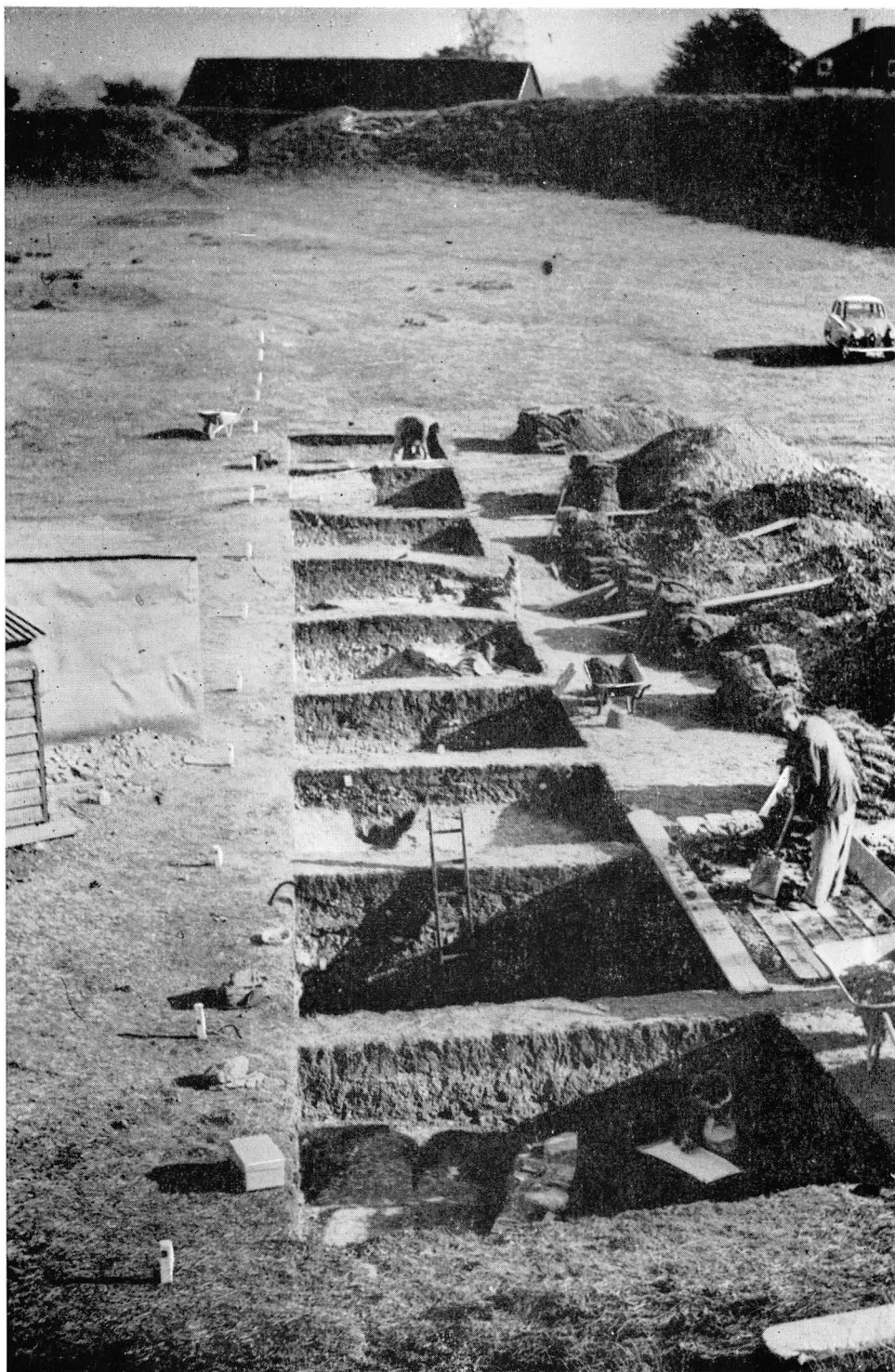


PLATE 3.—1959 Excavation from West.

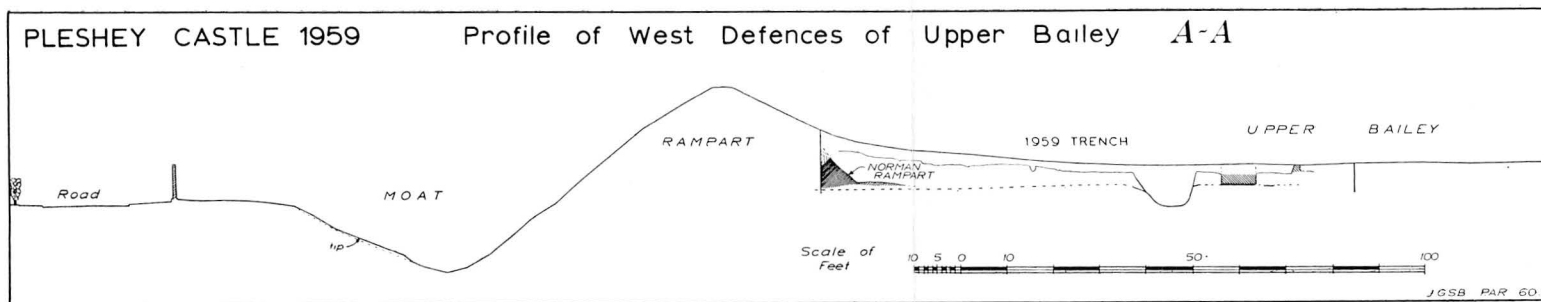


FIG. 4

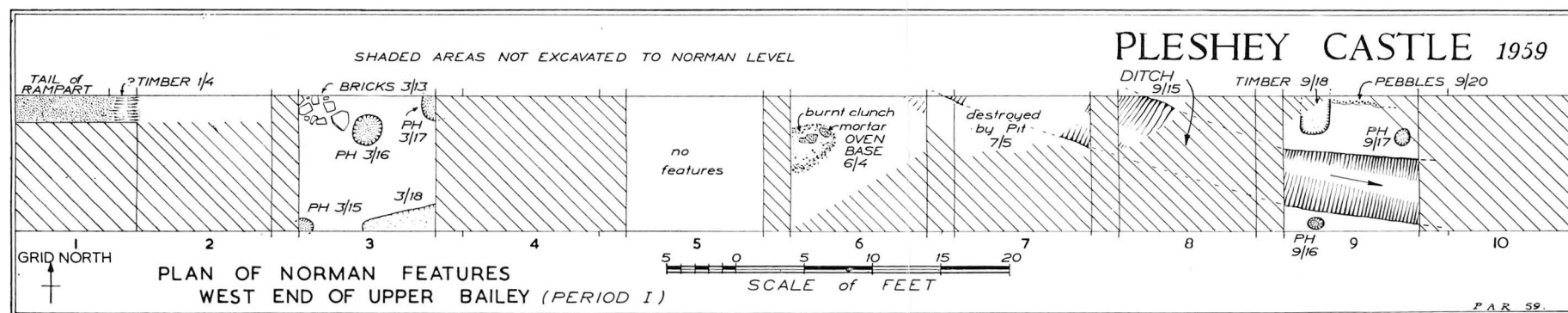


FIG. 5

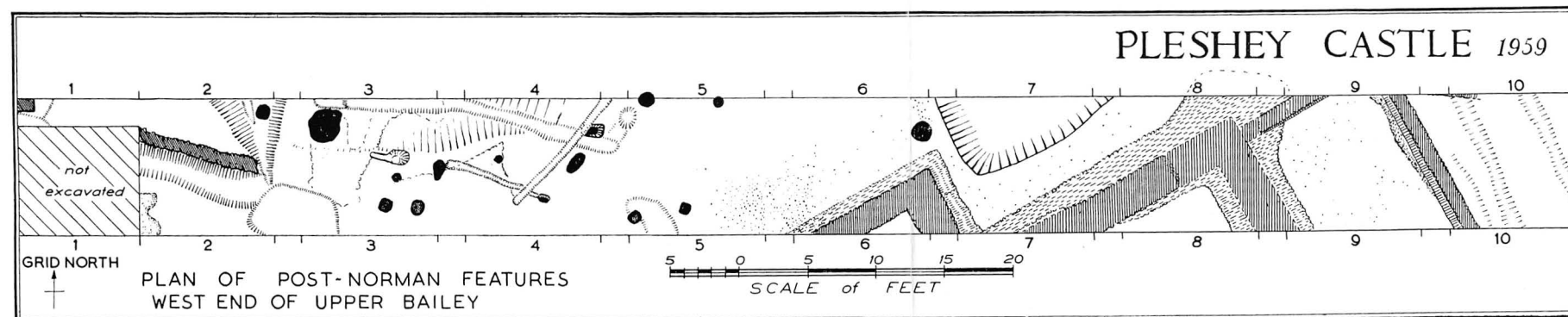


FIG. 6

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

- Period O:* pre-medieval; Roman and earlier scatter.
Period IA: Norman primary occupation; late 12th century.
Period IB: Norman main occupation following construction of rampart and extension; late 12th century to c. 1300 A.D.
I/II: Major make-up of clay, c. 1300 A.D.
Period II: Later medieval occupation, c. 1300 A.D. to mid-late 16th century: three phases of timber building:
—IIA c. 1300 A.D.-14th century.
—IIB 14th-15th century.
—IIC 15th-16th century.
Building A, a major brick and stone-footed building of Period II.
Period III: post-medieval to present day.

The divisions of Period II are provisional, based on the rather limited evidence of the 1959 excavations; they may have to be modified in the light of further research.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PERIODS AND FEATURES

Period O, Pre-medieval: Traces of Roman and earlier occupation were found in Grid 5; they were in the pre-Norman soil, associated with some charcoal-flecking, heavy in places; their position is shown in the section S1, layer W (fig. 7). The only finds were a worn scrap of samian and 3 worn scraps of prehistoric pottery; this is black-brown soft poorly-fired ware which may be of Iron Age date: it is similar to some found under the medieval make-up at Writtle.

There are other finds of Roman date from Pleshey. Those found in the village and its environs have been described elsewhere.¹ Coins in Mr. Tufnell's possession believed to have been found in the 1907 excavations, are described by Mr Boon on p. 23; he suggests that they are part of a 3rd century hoard. Finally, in the restoration work on the bridge early in 1959, a large sherd of a Castor ware indented beaker was found; its exact find-spot is not known.

There is no reason to suppose that the Roman finds in Pleshey have any connection with the earthworks: they are part of a widespread occupation in the district which may be of considerable interest in its own right, but of which we know very little as yet.

Period IA. Norman primary occupation, late 12th century. Fig. 7 shows the section S1 through the tail of the west rampart of the Upper Bailey. The Norman rampart is on the left (layer U), and the main Norman occupation level (T), thick on the level ground, rose thinly on its surface. The material of the rampart (layer U) extended for some distance on the level ground of the bailey. It is not certain what the extension of this layer represents.

The rampart was laid on an existing surface, a "buried soil" (layer W); this is clean and homogeneous under the rampart, but its upper part was dirty under the rampart extension, separately shown as layer V in the section. This dirt apparently accumulated after the rampart was built, but before its extension was laid down; thus the extension is likely to be later than the rampart, though layer U showed no visible junction; the time interval may have been no more than a matter of weeks or months. The occupation layer V, post-rampart and pre-extension, consisted of a bluish-grey charcoal-flecked soil, in which were a few sherds (p. 27) and brick fragments of similar types to those found in layer T above; there is thus no reason to think that our period IA is appreciably earlier than period IB which followed it, after the extension was laid down.

1. *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.* Vol XVI (1923) pp. 190-204, and Vol. XIV (1918) pp. 227-232.

Period IB. Norman main occupation, late 12th century-c. 1300 A.D. *Fig. 7.* On the rampart extension (layer U) as far as it extends, and directly on the buried soil (layer W) on the level ground beyond, was a thick occupation and destruction layer (T) which could be traced throughout the area excavated, and was directly associated with the features shown in fig. 5. These represent the Norman buildings and their destruction in this part of the site. There are at least two buildings and a ditch; one building was at the west end of the trench, and of this we located several large post-holes in Grid 3. In Grid 6 was an oven-base which may belong to this building or to the other found in Grid 9, of which we located a timber-slot and a post-hole on the north side of a ditch draining eastwards; there was another post-hole south of the ditch. The relationship of the Norman levels to the ditch in Grid 9 is shown in S2 and S3 (figs. 10 and 13). The ditch is flowing from NW to SE, possibly starting near the rampart and running between the two buildings.

Of these building we can say little on the evidence of the features found; the size of the post-holes suggests major structures; they appear to have been wholly of timber and cob¹ but with some *brick* used, perhaps for corners, fireplaces, thresholds, etc.; brick fragments were scattered throughout Layer T; they are reddish-brown and sandy; a complete example measured 13 in. × 9 in. × 1½ in. (maximum measurements). *Clunch*, a hard variety of chalk, was used for the oven-base with some mortar in Grid 6, and a few fragments were found throughout Layer T; fragments of burnt and unburnt cob were frequent.¹ The roofs were of thatch, but we do not know of what material. The buildings of period IB by the rampart appear to have been burnt down, if we may judge by the quantity of charcoal and burnt substances. Layer T was a mixed occupation and destruction layer; as shown in S3 (as T1) it dipped into the ditch above a small amount of primary silting and there was little sign of burning in this area; it is extended thinly over Grids 7-10, but became more concentrated towards the rampart, as shown in S1; it extended thinly up the slope of the rampart and filled a hollow at the junction of the rampart and rampart extension; this (1/4) was probably the seating for a timber revetment to prevent the base of the rampart from slipping.

Dating of period IB. There is no reason to suppose that the features just described are not contemporary one with another; the ditch in any case is primary; its upcast (layer X1 in S2 and S3), was thrown to the north (in Grid 9); and layer W, where it was excavated below X1, was quite clean and free even of charcoal-flecks. The dating range of this occupation can at present be gauged only by the pottery in layer T and its associated levels, and by that in the make-up which seals it. This pottery is presented on p. 27 and in fig. 16 as a sealed group, and its dating is there suggested as late 12th to c. 1300 A.D. The earlier dating is suggested by absence of certain fabrics which should be present in the mid-12th century or earlier, and the later dating by the presence of pieces not normally found elsewhere in levels earlier than the end of the 13th century,¹ though they are equally current at the beginning of the 14th.

It would thus seem that the building of at least one major earthwork may be dated to the late twelfth century, and may tentatively be related to the fortification of c.1180 A.D. (p. 3) rather than to the earlier "castle" mentioned before 1144 A.D. (p. 3); and that the Norman occupation which followed lasted for a century or more.²

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1. The unburnt cob on this site is difficult to distinguish from the natural chalky boulder clay from which it was probably made.
 2. The ditch shows little silting for such a long period, but it may have been cleaned out periodically.

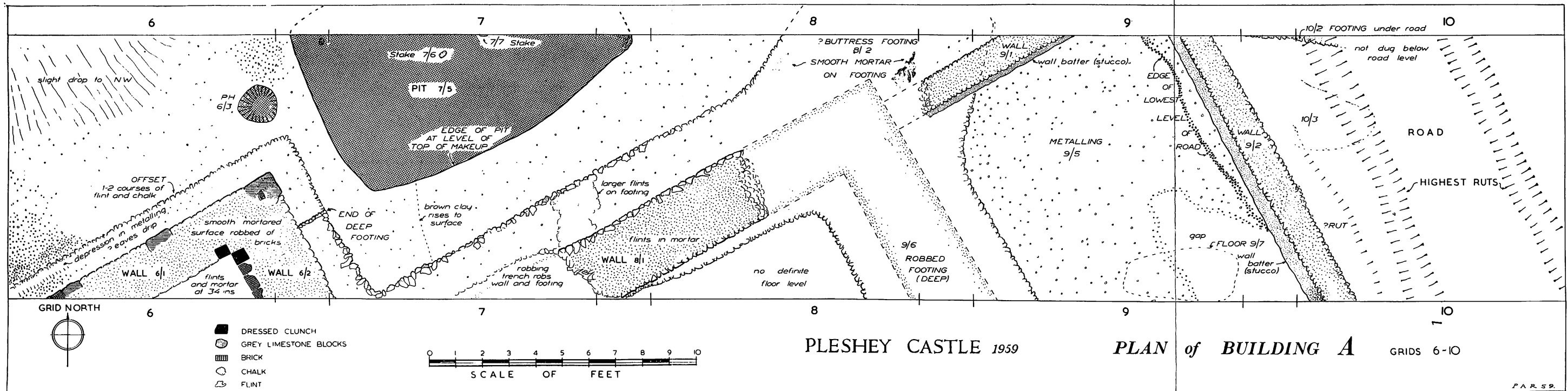


FIG. 9

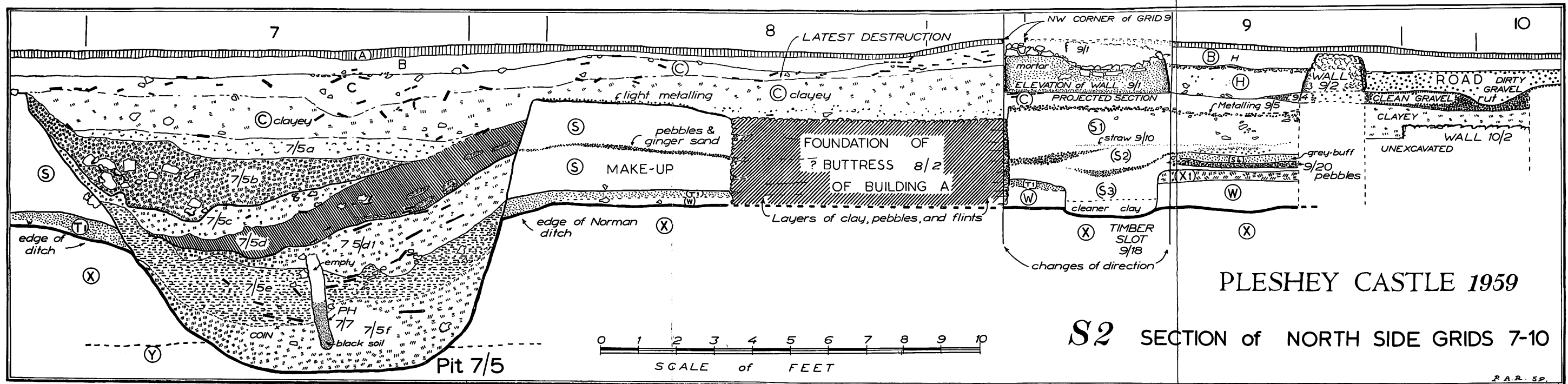


FIG. 10

Period I-II make-up, c. 1300 A.D.

The levels of period I were sealed by a major make-up of clay, to which we cannot at present assign any historical connotation. It is shown in figs. 7, 10 and 13 as layer S, subdivided in Grid 9. In the greater part of the section, as shown in fig. 7, the clay is thick and homogeneous except for lenses of sand in places; the general effect of the make-up was to raise the ground level by several feet and make a slight gradient from the tail of the rampart out to the level bailey; the Norman ground level with its drainage ditch may have been rather muddy and inconvenient. A clay make-up, sealing a similar thirteenth century level with drainage ditches, was found at Writtle; its dating was broadly contemporary with that at Pleshey, and it may be that a worsening climate forced the same action on the occupiers of both sites.

In the level part of the site, the make-up was more complex and may be more of than one period. In Grid 8, as shown in fig. 10, it was divided by a layer of pebbles and ginger sand, which may have no more significance than the lenses of sand in fig. 7. But in Grid 9, there were three layers as shown in figs. 10 and 13. The lowest of these, layer S3, sealed the Norman levels and filled the unsilted part of the ditch, and the post-holes and timber-slots, from which the wood had presumably been withdrawn. On this, in a limited area, is 9/20, a dirty gravel covered by a dirty layer S4 (fig. 10), which may represent some phase of activity. Above this is layer S2, a mixed clay with some straw or grass in it, which may be a destruction layer of cob. On the north side of Grid 9 there was a hollow, either the result of layer S2 having been cut away, or of it having been depressed following the subsidence of layers S2 and S3 over the ditch. This hollow was filled with layer I, a dark brown clay, which could be traced westwards rising slowly until it reached the surface of the make up on the line in Grid 7 shown in fig. 9 (plan of Building A).

On the roughly level surface that now resulted was laid a floor (9/7) of bricks, similar to and probably derived from those in the Period IB buildings. It was found only over a limited area as shown in fig. 9 (plan of Building A). Where it was absent, the same level was marked by a burnt surface (9/8) near to the floor, and further away a layer of straw or grass, as shown in fig. 13.

The final layer in Grid 9 is S1; this contained roof tile fragments, and it is likely that this highest phase of make-up in Grid 9 equates with the first phase *above* the make-up in the western grids (period IIA).

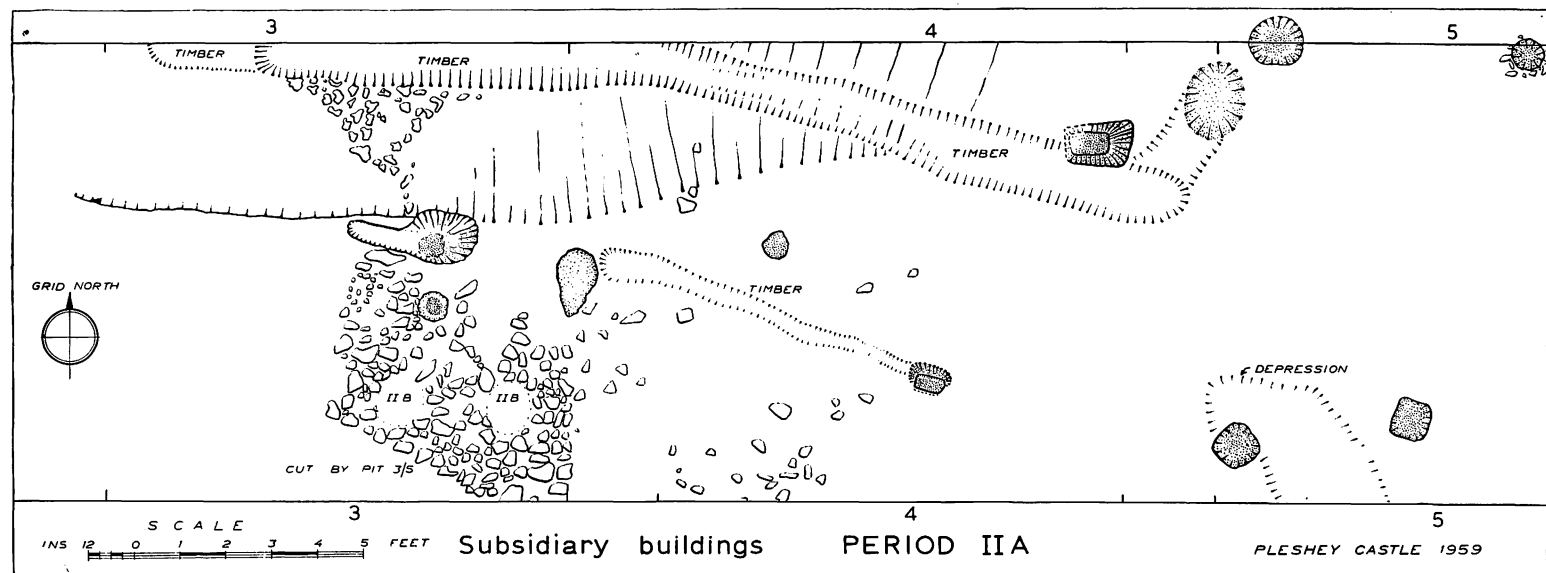
It is impossible to understand the complex stratification of Grid 9 on the basis of the small area examined; or to equate the phases just described with those further up the slope. There was no pottery in the layers S1-S4 different from the later types in the period I and main make-up layers; only the presence of roof tile fragments in S1 suggest a different dating for this layer. In Grids 1-5, roof-tile fragments were found only in the top few inches of the make-up and mark the beginning of period II; a similar dating for the advent of roof-tiles was proved at Writtle.

Period II, c. 1300 A.D. to 16th century A.D.

We cannot yet assign a precise chronology to the later medieval occupation of Pleshey; it seems safer to group these as period II, and to subdivide them only where the stratigraphical evidence is clear. All period II features are shown in fig. 9, consisting of the major building A, a road on the level ground, and minor buildings on the slope. The minor buildings can be divided stratigraphically into three periods IIA, B, C, but it is not certain in which of these Building A originated, so we can only assign it to period II. Nor can we relate the levels of periods II A-C on the slope with those in Grid 9, as there is no continuity of stratification through the intervening grids.

Details of Period II features are shown in two parts as figs. 8 and 9.

FIG. 11
16



The Subsidiary Buildings on the tail of the west rampart

The features that comprise these buildings are shown all together in fig. 8, where they are numbered individually. They can be subdivided stratigraphically into three periods, provisionally IIA, B, C; IIA features are shown in fig. 11, IIB in fig. 12, while IIC comprises the remainder (see below). The basis of this subdivision is shown in section S1 which is representative of the relationships found in excavation. It will not be possible to interpret these buildings until more extensive excavation can be done.

Period IIA: c. 1300-14th century (fig. 11)

The features of this period are those lying on or cut into the surface of the major make-up. There were areas of heavy cobbling, two roughly E-W timber-slots, and major and minor post-holes. The largest timber-slot (3/9 and 4/5) lay in a broad depression; the step at its west end may represent replacement. On the south side of Grid 5 was a shallow depression, perhaps the beginning of a drainage area. The features of IIA contained no pottery demonstrably later than the latest sherds in the Norman layer and make-up; but did contain fragments of roof-tile; it seems likely that their construction took place soon after the make-up was laid down; their duration is uncertain; they appear to have been burnt down (there was a thick layer of charcoal in the base of 3/9, as shown in S1), and were covered in clay (layer J); this may be a destruction level of the cob superstructure, or a deliberate make-up. Some grain was associated with the levels of IIA, and a horseshoe was in layer J above it; IIA and IIB may both have been part of stables or other out-buildings. An interesting find from period IIA is the chimney-pot described by Mr. Dunning on p. 31; it indicates that a building in the vicinity was constructed with a wall fireplace.

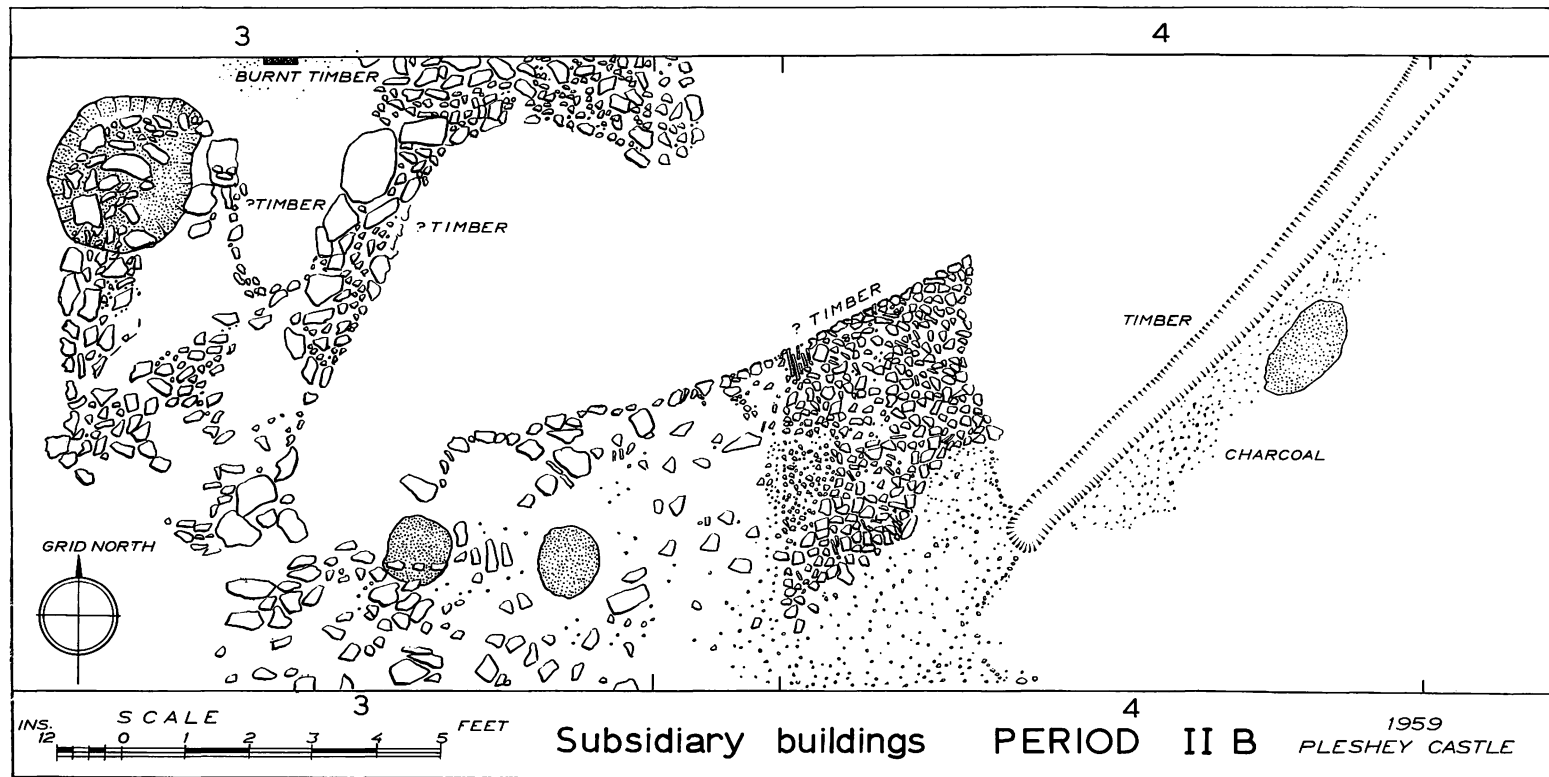
Period IIB: 14th-15th century (fig. 12)

The features of IIB comprise areas of heavy cobbling, timber-slots and postholes, on a different alignment from those of IIA. The cobbling areas had very definite edges in places, which suggest the presence of further timber or wooden floors. There seem to have been modifications, to judge by the cobbles laid over post-hole 3/2, and timber 4/2 may be a secondary feature (see S.1, fig. 7). These buildings were also burnt down; one burnt timber (3/6) was left *in situ* as shown in S.1. There were few finds directly associated with these features; there were, however, some 14th/15th century sherds, tile and glass fragments in layers M and N, and these should date the features broadly to those centuries. They are covered by layer C, which is probably a mixed destruction layer of IIB and occupation debris of IIC.

Period IIC: 15th-16th century

The features of IIC consist of all those in fig. 8 in grids 1 and 2, pit 3/5, and the highest level of metallurgic sealing features of IIA and IIB; this last is not shown in plan, but only in S1 as metallurgic 4/1; it extended over the whole of Grid 4, and tailed off into grids 3 and 5. Three phases were noted in the west end of Grid 1, where pit 1/2 was cut by 1/3, and both were sealed by wall 1/1. The whole complex of IIC appears to be part of a latrine with shallow gullies draining into the probable cess-pit 3/5, containing part of a glass urinal (p. 25). All these features contained sherds of the late 15/16th centuries including "Tudor Green" and early stoneware; pottery of similar date was in and below the metallurgic 4/1, which is one of the latest features; it appears to have been a combined metallurgic and occupation layer, containing many finds, including jetton No. 9 (c. 1500 A.D.)

FIG. 12
18



Period II. Building A (fig. 9)

This is a major building, whose edge was found in Grids 6-10. Its foundations are substantial and of good quality. It is proposed to excavate it in the 1960 season, so only a brief description will be included in this report. Several periods are discernible. 8/1 and its robbed continuation and turn as 9/6 are the earliest; their foundations extended as a projection probably carrying a buttress; this is shown in section in S2, and the whole footings here are similarly massive; they extend to the base of the make-up; they may have been dug through it, or the make-up may have been piled round them. These walls are of flint; their deep foundation turns N.W. in 6/7, but stops abruptly, and wall 6/1 is probably secondary, with brick, chalk, and clunch used in its construction. The latest walls are the most easterly ones in 8-10, less deeply founded. The sequence in Grid 9 is again critical (see S2 and S3); the cobbled layer 9/5 appears to represent the first exterior metalling of Building A; this is sealed by the edge of the roadway, (9/4 pebbles in section) and this in turn by walls 9/1 and 9/2. 9/1 must have abutted onto 9/6 when it was extant, but its end was destroyed when its junction with 9/6 was robbed out (by a robbing trench coming in from the S.E.) The area enclosed by 9/1 and 9/2 was finally sealed by the highest cobbling (between layers B and H); this "sealed" a clay pipe-stem; it and the stubs of walls 9/1 and 9/2 lay just below the turf, and must have been standing to a late date. If the pipe-stem is regarded as intrusive this metalling is dated to the 14th century or later by jettons 5 and 6 sealed beneath it. *Cess-pit* 7/5 was nearly 9 ft. deep; it was aligned on Building A and was filled in the late 15th-16th centuries, probably in period IIC.

It is to be hoped that Building A will be firmly dated when it is excavated. Its relationship to the make-up is uncertain; roof-tile fragments were incorporated in its foundations, so it should be of the 14th century or later, remaining in use till the end of the occupation, and probably one of the buildings seen in 1558-9 (p. 5). There was no sign of the robbing of the main structure being of recent date; the robbing-trench of wall 9/6 was filled with deep humus; it is unlikely that this was one of the buildings excavated in 1907.

The area covered by the unexcavated part of Building A is marked by a large slightly sunken area and it is likely that the floor-levels (not reached anywhere in the small areas inside it in Grids 6 and 8) are deeper than the exterior levels found in 1959.

The road found in Grid 10 consisted of successive layers of gravel metalling which were not fully investigated in 1959; ruts were found at two levels on the west side, and the lowest metalling lay beneath walls 9/1 and 9/2, though it lay higher than the cobbles 9/5. The highest ruts were filled with much building debris including small broken glass, probably dating from the robbing period. The road is leading from the outer bailey entrance, not to the brick bridge, but to some place west of it. The road is dated to the 14th century or later by jetton No. 6 just below its edge (pebbles 9/4).

Period III: Post-medieval to present day

The presence of a clay pipe-stem in the highest metalling of Grid 9 suggests that some occupation of Building A continued as late as the 17th century; this is not confirmed by finds from other parts of the trench, where finds of 17th century and later date were confined to Layer B, a general post-medieval soil accumulation, capped by the turf and clean topsoil A.

PLESHEY CASTLE 1959

Projected section

North

NE CORNER
of GRID 9

CHANGE
of
DIRECTION

S3

SECTION OF
EAST SIDE OF
GRID 9

South

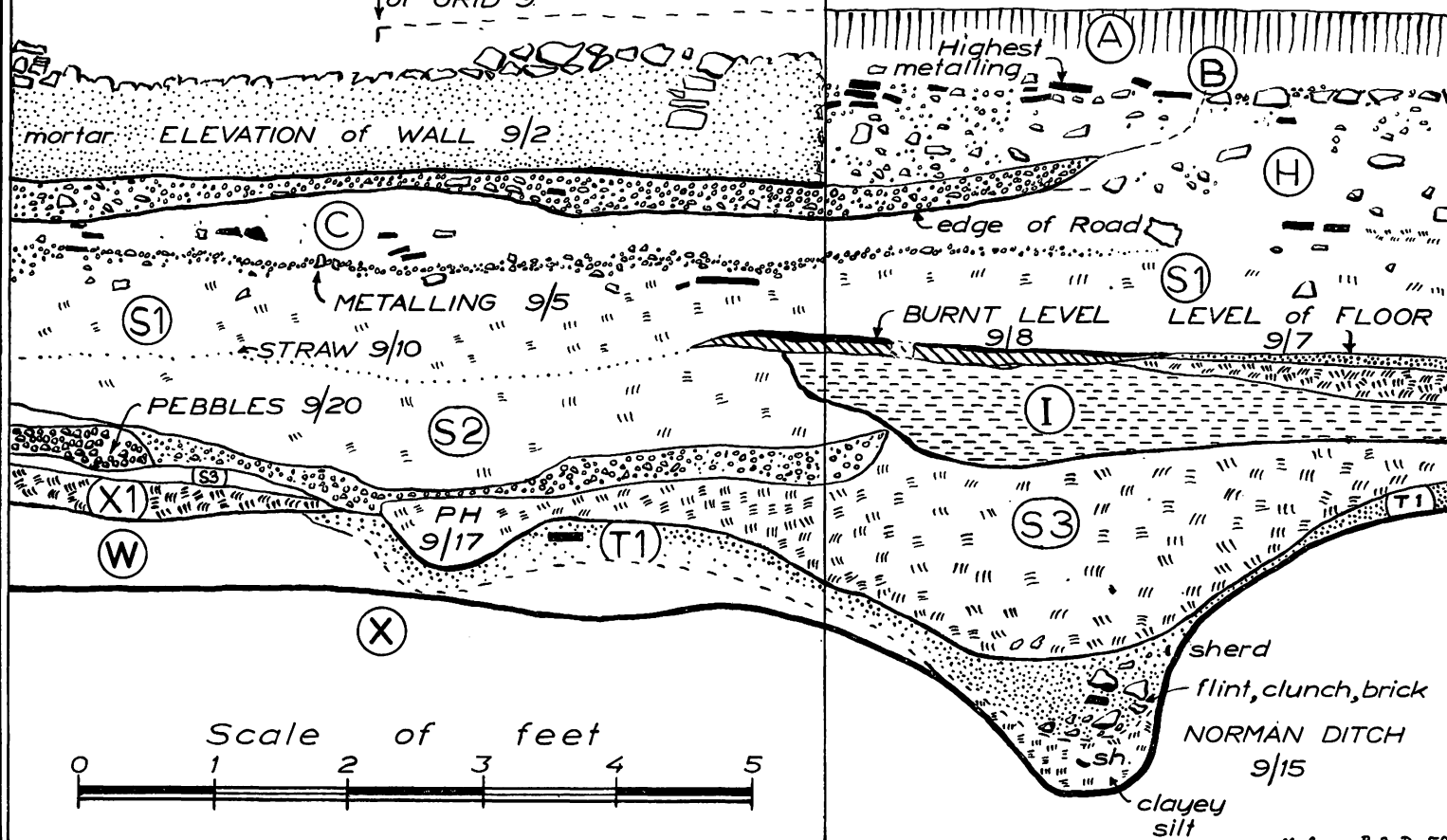


FIG. 13
20

THE FINDS

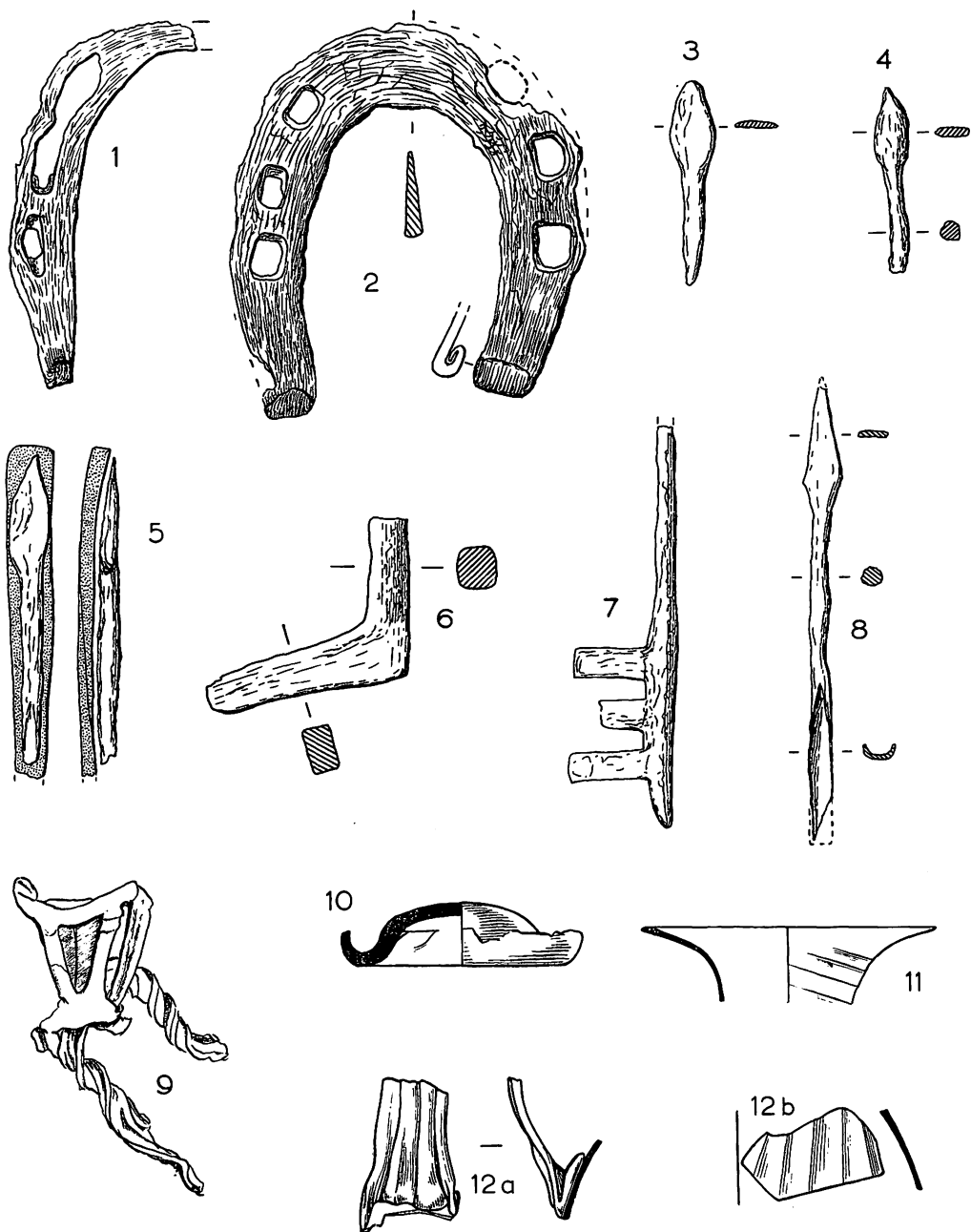
The Roman and Medieval *Coins* are reported on by Mr. Boon and Mr. Rigold on pp. 23 to 24. Of *Bronze or Copper Alloy*, there were 42 objects, all are of period II, probably of IIC. Some are described and illustrated on p. 27; they comprise the following:—

Small ring	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Double ended hooks of thick wire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fitting of uncertain use	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Strap-end (fig. 15, No. 1)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wire rings with twisted ends	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tags for clothing and shoes ("points")	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Pins, large	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pins, small	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Thin belt-end (leaf-shaped)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dagger chape (fig. 15, No. 2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronze strip	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Large-headed tweezers (fig. 15, No. 4)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heads of large studs (hemispherical)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plate frs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Needle (fig. 15, No. 3)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Small tubular handle with perforated end	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								<hr/> 42

Of *Iron* there were 29 objects, of all periods; a few are described and illustrated on p. 25 and fig. 14. They comprise the following:—

Bar with attached hook	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gouges (incl. fig., 14, No. 8)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knives, small	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Knives, large	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shaft or pole binding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Arrowheads (incl. fig. 14, Nos. 3, 4, and 5)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Thistle cutter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Buckle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Key (Fig. 14, No. 7)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hinge-hangers (including fig. 14, No. 6)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Horse-shoes (incl. fig. 14, Nos. 1 and 2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous or unidentifiable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
								<hr/> 29

Of *Glass*, there were four fragments of vessel glass (fig. 14, Nos. 10-12) described by Miss Charlesworth on p. 25, and a green glass bead. There were also several dozen fragments of window glass, all from IIC levels, except two which were in IIA/IIB levels (in layers M and N). Many pieces have knapped edges, sometimes with a scribed line $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. from the edge where the lead came has been trimmed. There were several shapes of pane represented, including diamond, and one triangle was still in its lead frame (fig. 14, No. 9). Colours included pale green, pale blue, pale yellow, and dark red. Decoration, in red paint, includes leaf and ogee, broad and narrow stripes, and a double chevron. The glass will be fully dealt with in a later report.



SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 INCHES

FIG. 14.—Iron objects 1—8 (page 25), Lead 9 (page 21), Glass 10—12 (page 25).

Many fragments of lead "comes" were found; these are strips which comprise the framework into which the glass was fitted; the grooves in these pieces are rectangular in profile where they were folded over the glass edge. In the road gravel in Grid 10 was found an object which was probably used for making up the windows: it is a roughly oval piece of sheet lead 2-in. \times 1½-in. \times ⅛-in. thick which bears on one side a faint cross-shaped depression, with a corresponding convexity on the other side; Major Brinson suggests that this was used as a pad held behind the junctions of the comes, while they were being lightly hammered into the correct position.

There were several varieties of *tile* and *brick*; the Norman bricks of late 12th century date are described on p. 14. *Roof-tiles* of period IIA and later are of two varieties, *A* pierced with two holes, and *B* "nibbed", with projections. *A* would have been pinned with wooden pegs, *B* would hang on battens. It is not possible at present to say whether they are of different dates. "Encaustic" *floor-tiles* and glazed bricks were found in small fragments; they have been examined by Mr. J. S. Gardner, who has given a detailed report with suggested dating; these are not inconsistent with the dating of the layers suggested in the present report; it is proposed to publish a full report on the tiles from Pleshey when more complete examples have been found. There is a possibility that they were made on or near the site. *Stone* includes the carved fragments (fig. 17) described by Major Brinson on p. 30; a *schist* hone 11 cm. long (period IIC), a *jet* bead (IIC) (spherical with flattened ends, ⅝-in. diameter, perforation 3/32-in.); fragments of *lava querns* in metalling 3/1 (IIB) and in post-hole 4/6 (IIA). The former piece is probably part of an upper stone, the latter part of the rim of a lower stone, of diameter 12-15 inches, 2-in. thick near the rim, and 2½-in. nearer the centre. *Bone objects* include a polished implement with perforation. *Animal Bone* was frequent, but has not been examined yet, nor have the *fish bones*, which occurred in a few places. *Carbonised grain* was found on the surface of layer S (period IIA) in a small burnt patch, but no report is as yet available. *Daub and burnt clay* was found in several places; it was almost certainly made of the natural Boulder Clay mixed with straw, the impressions of which could sometimes be seen in the burnt pieces; some pieces with two smooth surfaces are one inch thick.

The metal finds have been treated and conserved by Mr. K. J. Barton, of Bristol Museum.

ROMAN COINS

By George C. Boon, M.A., F.R.N.S., F.S.A.

Eight antoniniani of the period A.D. 268-73 were found in the excavations of 1907. There are signs that these coins formed a hoard or part of a hoard. None is of any interest.

CLAUDIUS II

1. *Rev. illeg.*, perh. *Laetitia* type.

VICTORINUS

2. *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, V, pt. 2, No. 51 of this Emp.
3. *RIC* 67.
4. *RIC* 71.
5. *RIC* 114.

TETRICUS SENR.

6. *RIC* 68.
7. *RIC* 100.
8. *RIC* 138.

MEDIEVAL AND LATER COINS AND JETTONS

By Stuart E. Rigold, M.A., F.R.N.S.

COINS:

1. Edward I. Penny, York, Group IIIb (1280-81); some wear, perhaps lost c.1300. (Unstratified: found during M.O.W. repairs to Bridge in 1959).
2. Edward I, Penny, Canterbury, Group X (1302-1307+); slight wear, lost in 1300's? (Metalling 4/1; period IIc; see Section S1).
3. Cut quarter and bent half of 'Rider', or 2/3 *Gros au cavalier* of John II (d'Avesnes) of Hainault (1280-1304), Maubeuge. Probably an early issue. Traces of solder for mount? obv. Count on horseback. (IO)h'S/COMES/HA/NI.
rev. MONETA:ME (LBOD) IENSIS SIGNVM (CR)VCIS (Pit 7/5, layer f, Period IIc).
4. George II halfpenny, young head (1729-39), worn. (Grid 5, topsoil).

JETTONS: (References are to F. P. Barnard, *The Casting-Counter and the Casting Board*, 1916).

5. English, semi-official pierced as usual, diam. 20 mm.; pellets in outer circle both sides, as on 'sterling' jettons of groups X-XV (Edward II)—perhaps in sequence to those (2nd quarter of 14th century).
(not in Barnard—nearest is Plate 1, 26, nor in Lawrence (Num. Chron. 5, VIII, 165).
obv. Pentacle (5 pointed star).
rev. Quatrefoil elaborated from cross moline. (Grid 9, layer C, between 9/5 metalling and edge of road 9/4; see sections S2 and S3).
6. Similar to 5, broken. (Grid 9, layer H, between road edge and highest metalling 9/5; see S2 and S3).
7. French, semi-official (Paris-Bourges), second half of 14th century, perhaps struck for the Count of Flanders.
diam. 24 mm. Roman E. Long serif to L, Lombardic N. (Barnard. Pl. IV. 15).
obv. Shield with lion rampant L. + GETOERS ‡ DE LATON ‡ B (Bourges?)
rev. Cross fleury in Quatrefoil AVE G in spandrels. (Grid 2, layer C, period II-III occupation and destruction level).
8. Tournai, 15th century, diam. 28 mm. Thick (2 mm.) flan. (Barnard Pl. VII. 64).
obv. Pentagonal shield—2 Towers in chief, 2 lys and trefoil in base.
rev. Cross paty, sprigs in each quarter.
inser. jumbled. (Unstratified: found during M.O.W. repairs to Bridge in 1959).
9. Flemish, c. 1500, diam. 30 mm. (Barnard, Pl. XXIII, 7).
obv. Shield (inaccurate) of Dukes of Burgundy, Brabant, etc. above, Briquet (firesteel), a ducal badge.
rev. Standing semi-nude figure (?Fortuna).
inser. jumbled. (metalling 4/1; period IIC; see Section S1).

IRON OBJECTS

(Fig. 14, Nos. 1-8).

Med. Cat.: London Museum Medieval Catalogue No. 7, 1940.

1. Part of *horseshoe* (Layer T, Grid 6, period IB); this is part of a light shoe, with a tapering heel; the nail-holes are countersunk in an elongated rectangle (cf. No. 2). The shoe is rather eroded, but probably had a more sinuous outline than No. 2, an early feature. cf. *Med. Cat.* Fig. 36, No. 5 (12th cent.)
2. *Horshoe* (Layer M + N, Grid 4, period IIA/IIB): this is a heavier shoe, with turned over heels and 6 sub-rectangular holes only slightly countersunk. This type can be as early as the 12th century (cf. *Med. Cat.* Fig. 36 No. 7, late 12th cent.) but is more likely to be of 13th century or later date.
3. *Arrowhead* with tang (Pit 7/5, layer d, period IIC). The simple form of this and No. 4 is likely to be a common form. (see *Med. Cat.*, Fig. 17, etc.)
4. *Arrowhead*, probably socketed (not X-rayed) (Metalling 4/1 period IIC); there are carbonised grains embedded in the corrosion.
5. *Arrowhead*, socketed, with bone guard, stippled in drawing (Pit 3/5, period IIC). The guard is made from an animal rib, and its slight convexity fits one side of the arrowhead; the two were found fixed firmly together by corrosion products. They were probably originally held by a thong or other organic material.
6. *Hinge-hanger*: (Grid 3, base of layer J, period IIA); this has a rectangular-section shank which would have been embedded in the door-frame; the upper part has characteristically rounded-square section with considerable wear facets.
7. Shank of *Key* (4/1 metalling, period IIC); this has a solid stem and symmetrical wards, probably originally of equal length. (*Med. Cat.* Fig. 42, type VIIIA, 13th century and later). It was found with a piece of strip bronze 3-in. long with two perforations and a rivet, which may be part of the lock-mechanism or surround.
8. *Carpenter's Gouge*, with tang (4/1 metalling, period IIC).

FRAGMENTS OF VESSEL GLASS

By Miss Dorothy Charlesworth, M.A.

(Fig. 15, Nos. 10-12)

10. Base of a bottle in green glass, heavy blackish weathering, (Gully 2/5, period IIC). The bottle is a normal medieval type, bulbous bodied with a 'kick' in the base, a cylindrical neck and generally an outplayed, rounded rim. It is known from manuscript illuminations such as those illustrated by J. Barrelet, *la Verrerie en France*, pl. XXXI.
11. Fragments from the rim of a urinal in similar glass, heavily weathered. The fragments disintegrated when freed from the surrounding soil. (Pit 3/5, period IIC). The urinal is another common medieval type also known from manuscript illuminations (J. Barrelet, *op. cit.* pl. XXII and pl. XXVII) and from a sculptured panel in Rouen Cathedral, illustrated by W. A. Thorpe *English Glass*, pl. XIV, a.
- 12 & 12b. Two fragments of blue glass, in good condition, both from the same vessel, apparently a fluted flagon with a reeded handle. It is an imported vessel, but I can find no parallel. (Pit 7/5, layers e and f, period IIC).

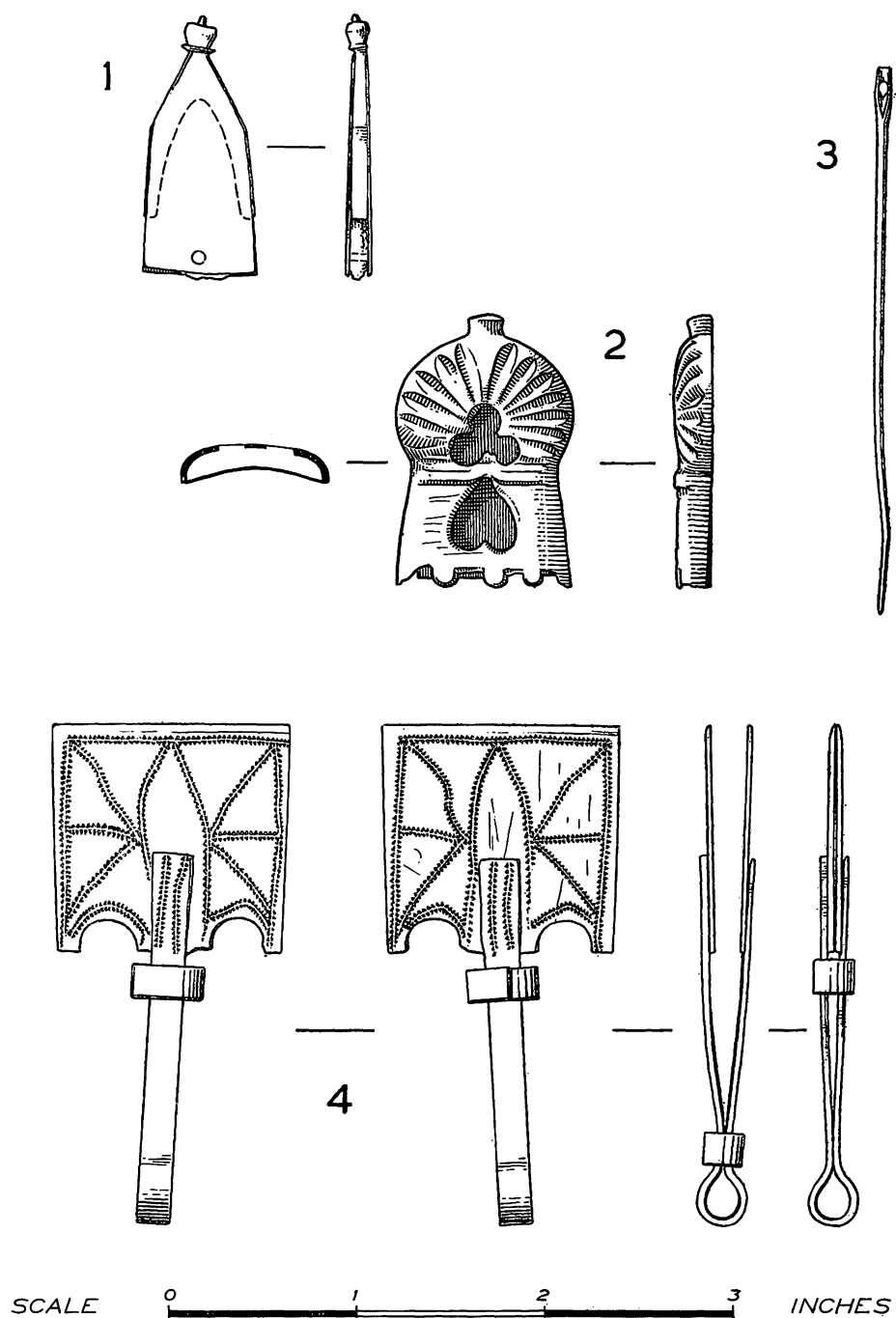


FIG. 15.—Objects of Bronze or Copper alloy (page 27).

BRONZE OR COPPER ALLOY

(Fig. 15, Nos. 1-4)

Med. Cat.: London Museum Medieval Catalogue, No. 7. 1940.

1. *Strap-end* (Layer R + P, Grid 5, Period II); this is hollow and made of four separate pieces of thin plate, with the moulded terminal attached to their junction; the strap-end of leather still survives inside; it was secured by a bronze rivet passing through one side only. This type of strap-end would be passed through a buckle or ring and would hang loosely.
2. *Dagger chape* (Layer R + P, Grid 5, Period II); this consists of a heavy moulded front, with a thinner plain plate attached to the back; see *Med. Cat.* Figs. 87 and 88; this example is of Type III, current in the late 15th and 16th centuries; the triple joined holes framed in scalloping are paralleled by Fig. 88, No. 8 from London.
3. *Needle* (Gully 2/3, Period IIC).
4. *Tweezers or tongs* (Layer C, Grid II, probably period IIC). These are in exceptionally fine condition; they consist of a bow of bronze plate with very similar squared heads soldered on the inside of each end; a movable collar slides up and down the bow as shown in the drawing; in the closed position it rests on the inner sides of two U-shaped recesses; the heads are decorated with a fine toothed wheel, used also on the ends of the bow. The use of this object is uncertain; it may have been for holding the pages of a book open, or for holding a manuscript or music. The only parallels so far noted are in Salisbury Museum (ref. O.S. Roman A.5); these are two similar pairs of tweezers of identical type but smaller (2-in. long) which look as though they were the products of the same workshop as the Pleshey example; they were two of four pairs found together, the other two being bronze tweezers of the more conventional type; the group came from *Old Sarum*, in the pre-1914 excavations; their discovery is described in the Old Sarum excavation diary for 1913, p. 2 (in Salisbury Museum), which says that they were found in a batch in the Cathedral, "in the upper part of the stairway up to the Transept at its North angle with the Quire". The Cathedral context of these suggest a 14th century or earlier date; their use there may well have been that suggested above for the Pleshey example.

MEDIEVAL POTTERY OF PERIOD I

(Fig. 16, Nos. 1-12)

The only pottery included in this report is a group sealed in the Period I levels and in the Period I/II make-up. No attempt is made to relate this to pottery from other sites at this stage, and it is here presented only as a sealed group which is the basis for the dating of Period I.

- IA. In and under the tail of the rampart and its extension (layers U and V in Fig. 7) were fifteen sherds (11 in Grid 3, 4 in Grid 2) and 2 pieces of brick similar to those in layer T. Of the sherds, three were the small bowl figured as No. 1; this and five of the others were of "shell-filled" ware,* the other seven were hard, sandy, similar to Nos. 4-6.
- IB. In layer T were several hundred sherds, with roughly equal proportions of shell-filled and hard, sandy ware. There were fourteen glazed sherds including No. 9, a few with white-painted stripe under the glaze, and some of thick-glazed dark grey ware. There were a few sherds of a finer grey ware. The cooking-pot sherds include a few with finger-pressed strips as No. 7.
- I/II. In layer S were about a hundred sherds, similar to those from layer T, but with a higher proportion of hard sandy wares, some with white-painted stripes, and some of smooth micaceous ware.

No attempt is made to date the period I pottery closely; a dating of late 12th-c. 1300 is suggested.

* A convenient term, but subject to scientific confirmation.

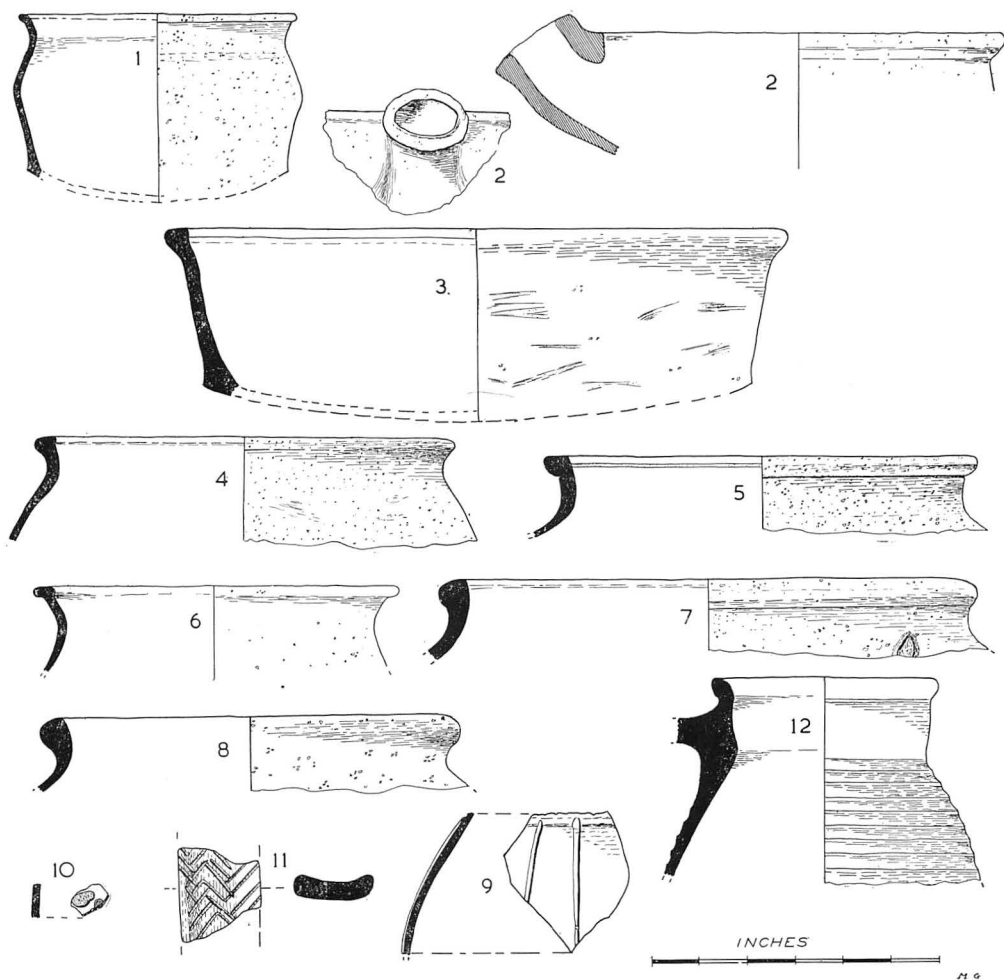


FIG. 16.—Medieval Pottery of Period I (pages 27 and 29); scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

The earlier date is based on the complete absence of Saxo-Norman pottery, which should be present in this part of England in any group of the middle years of the 12th century.¹ Even in the earliest group of period IA, the pottery is not entirely shell-filled, and there is no reason to suppose that the pottery from period IA is appreciably if at all earlier than that from period IB.

Most of the pottery can be matched from Writtle² in the first period there beginning in about 1218 and ending towards c. 1300; the glazed dark grey sherds were associated with a coin of Henry III of c. 1270 on that site.

The later dating of c. 1300 is based on the presence in layer T of sherds of decorated glazed jugs such as Nos. 9 and 10, which are characteristic of the late 13th century elsewhere. The sherds of smooth micaceous ware are characteristic of the 14th century levels at Writtle. The dating of c. 1300 must be taken with reserve at this stage.

1. Sherds of complete side of small bowl; heavily shell-filled; dark grey surfaces except for reddish area near base on inside (3, junction of layers U and V).
2. Sherds of upper part of tubular-spouted bowl; lightly shell-filled; dark grey, reddish on inside. (3, layer T).
3. Sherds of complete side of bowl; lightly shell-filled, dark brown to dark grey surfaces; some knife-trimming on outside (2, layer T).
4. Rim and shoulder sherd of cooking-pot; hard sandy with very little shell; grey to dark brown (3, layer T).
5. Rim sherd of cooking-pot; hard sandy with little shell; reddish brown (2 layer T).
6. Rim sherd of cooking pot; hard sandy with very little shell; dark grey core, red-buff surfaces (3, layer T).
7. Rim sherd of large jar; shell-filled; grey with reddish surfaces; there is the beginning of a raised vertical strip just below the neck, which is pulled out from the body, and not separately applied (3, layer T).
8. Rim sherd of large jar; hard with coarse sandy grit and a little shell; grey with reddish surfaces (3, layer T).
9. Shoulder sherd of jug; smooth slightly micaceous; reddish-buff with pitted mottled green/orange brown glaze; vertical strips applied separately (3, layer T).
10. Sherd of jug; coarse sandy; orange, with olive-brown glaze; the two pellets are separately applied; they are of a different clay, smooth dark red, on which the glaze takes on a dark brown colour (9, layer S2).
11. Handle sherd of jug; coarse sandy; dark grey with orange surfaces, and over-fired olive glaze on exterior; decoration incised by herring-bone slashing (5, layer S).
12. Rim, shoulder, and stub of handle of jug; coarse sandy; grey, reddish-brown surfaces; the bold ridging on the shoulder was probably done with a tool, but before the base of the handle was pressed into the body (2, layer S).

1. Information from Mr. J. G. Hurst, M.A., F.S.A.

2. King John's Palace, excavations by the writer, 1955-7.

ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS

By Major J. G. S. Brinson, F.S.A.

Feature 2/1 was a plinth wall built of reused materials (p. 33). These included brickbats (no whole bricks), roofing tiles and several pieces of reused worked stone most of which were of clunch. These components were not mortared together, but set and bedded in clay; the plinth wall was low, and doubtless used as seating for a wooden sill.

Worked Stones in Feature 2/1.

1. Fragment of applied moulded label in a soft micaceous stone somewhat greyer than clunch; surviving length $4\frac{1}{4}$ -in. Cramp-hole in back for application to wall. (Fig. 17, No. 1).
2. Almost complete moulded clunch stone showing complete length of $15\frac{1}{4}$ inches and surviving width of $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches. In section the stone is a sub-rectangular slightly tapered block with a bold roll on the principal face (greater than a semi-circle) adjoined by a depressed hollow-chamfered edge. This piece is probably a moulded window jamb. (Fig. 17, No. 2).

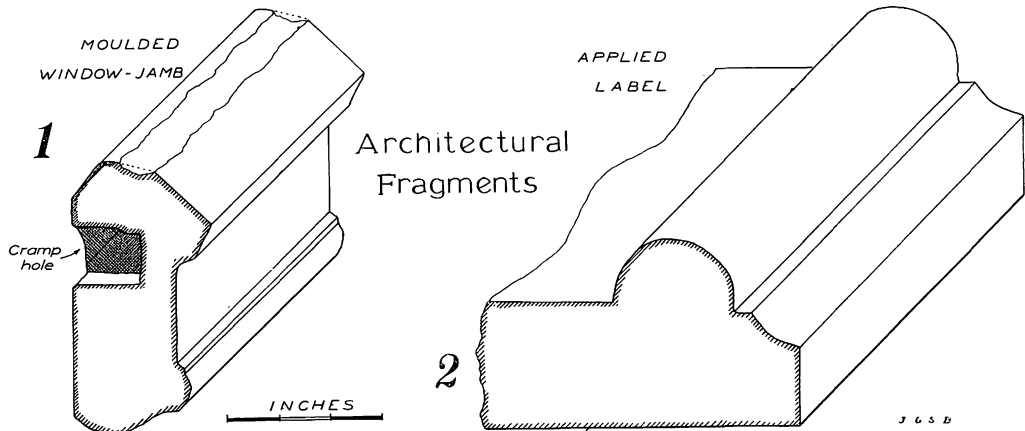


FIG. 17

3. Rectangular block of hard blue stone with dressed face $13\frac{1}{2}$ by $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Overall thickness $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. (Not drawn).
4. Piece of chamfered limestone block 7 inches thick from front face to back; surviving width 9 inches and surviving length 10 inches. The visible front and side faces of the block are both dressed; between them is a slightly hollowed rubbed chamfer, 3 inches on the slope, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in centre of hollow. (Not drawn).

Features 6/1 and 6/2 were two walls joining at right angles, built of flints and chalk lump bedded in mortar. Feature 6/1 was faced externally with dressed chalk blocks coursed in bays of approximately 3 feet separated by large dressed stones. The corner stone on the external angle at point of junction between 6/1 and 6/2 is a well-dressed hard blue stone; between chalk bays 1 and 2 the dividing block is of rough-dressed limestone; between bays 2 and 3 the dividing block is a rough-dressed hard blue stone. The surviving top course of the inner face of wall 6/2 is formed of brickbats 3 inches thick, varying in widths from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 inches. (No complete bricks). The internal quoin between walls 6/1 and 6/2 is formed of two smooth-cut rectangular clunch blocks, one in each wall, set corner to corner. In wall 6/1 the clunch block is 5 inches by 6 inches by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and in wall 6/2 the clunch block is 6 inches by 6 inches by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high.

THE CHIMNEY POT

By G. C. Dunning, B.Sc., F.S.A.

(Fig. 18)

The chimney-pot was found in the destruction level of a fourteenth-century building of timber, which formed part of a complex of buildings in the upper bailey of the castle (p. 17). The period of making and of use of the chimney is reasonably referred to the first half of the fourteenth century. It is thus slightly later in date than the other known chimney-pots of pottery, and in type it is entirely different from the well-defined 'Sussex type' of the thirteenth century.¹ This is conical with a small hole in the flat top, and at about two-thirds of the height the side is pierced by two diametrically opposed holes to promote updraught inside the chimney and assist the exit of smoke through the top.

The Pleshey Castle chimney-pot is made of coarse light red ware with fine flint grits. The inside surface is stained by smoke, light grey on the lower part of the shaft merging into dark grey at the mouth and on the top surface of the moulding. In shape the shaft is narrow and cylindrical, about 5¼-in. diameter outside, and the upper end is expanded into a heavy moulding with a diameter of 8-in. externally. The inside diameter throughout the shaft and at the top is constant at 3-in., without any contraction upwards. As far as can be determined from the fragment, there were no holes piercing the side or shaft. The height of the existing fragment, 7-in., appears to be rather more than half the total height of the chimney-pot. It may be suggested that the complete article was about 12-in. high, and that the base was splayed outwards to balance the top and to ensure fixing.

It is evident that in design the Pleshey Castle chimney-pot differs fundamentally from the Sussex type as briefly described above. In fact it approximates to modern forms of chimney-pot, which depend for their efficiency on updraughts caused by flues in the wall and stacks above the exit through the roof. These structural and dynamic considerations suggest that the chimney-pot was seated on a chimney-stack over a flue, which implies a fireplace against the wall of the building, and not an open central hearth.

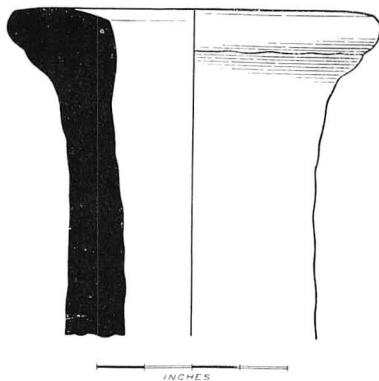


FIG. 18

1. G. C. Dunning, 'Medieval Chimney-pots' in *Essays in the Study of Building History*, in memory of B. H. St. J. O'Neil (in the press).

It is well known that wall fireplaces with flues and tall cylindrical chimney-shafts of jointed stone were present already in England in the twelfth century. The surviving examples belong to Norman town houses and manor-houses built of stone, which were inhabited by people of substance.¹ In the thirteenth century the stone chimneys developed on the lines of those of the Norman period, and these are also found only on castles and manor-houses and other substantial buildings.² It is therefore suggested that the Pleshey Castle type of chimney-pot is appropriate to the lesser domestic buildings of the period, but also provided with wall fireplaces.

It may be added that contemporary illustrations depict this type of chimney. Numerous examples are in the *Romance of Alexander*, illuminated by Jehan de Grise in 1344 and produced in Flanders, probably at Bruges.³ In shape and detail the chimneys are precisely the same as the Pleshey Castle one but made of stone or possibly brick, as the shafts are jointed. The conclusion is that the fourteenth-century fashion in stone chimneys is reflected at Pleshey Castle in a cheaper material.

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1. M. E. Wood, 'Norman Domestic Architecture', *Arch. Journ.*, XCII, 226-7.
 2. M. E. Wood, 'Thirteenth century Domestic Architecture in England', *Arch. Journ.*, CV, Supplement, 122-3.
 3. *The Romance of Alexander*. Edited by M. R. James, 1933. See especially folios 20, 42, 88 and 108.

LIST OF FEATURES

S.B. Plan of Subsidiary Buildings, Fig. 8.

B.A. Plan of Building A, Fig. 9.

N.F. Plan of Norman features, Fig. 5.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Findings and Remarks</i>
1/1	IIC	S.B.	S1	Wall, stone, brick and tile.	
1/2	IIC?	S.B.	S1	Pit, probably cess-pit.	Sealed by 1/1, cut by 1/3.
1/3	IIC	S.B.	—	Pit, probably cess-pit filling chalky loose clay and tile frs.	Contemporary with 1/1.
1/4	IB	N.F.	S1	? Timber-slot, filling as layer T.	Shell, sherds as in T.
2/1	IIC	S.B.	—	Wall, brick, tile and clunch, including re-used carved pieces.	See p. 30 and Fig. 17.
2/2	?IIC	S.B.	—	Cobbles and ginger sand; may be earlier than features near.	
2/3	IIC	S.B.	—	Latrine trench by 2/1, dark friable soil, clay, and tile; emptying into pit 3/5.	Stone ware, Delft, brown glazed sherds, lead came; double hooked bar of bronze wire, 7 bronze pins, bronze needle (fig. 15, No. 3), jet bead, window glass, iron knife. Brown-gl. sherds bronze tag, fr. of glass bottle (Fig. 14, No. 10).
2/5	IIC	S.B.	S1	Gully emptying into 3/5.	
2/6	IIC	S.B.	—	Post hole, 13-in. × 10-in. × 8-in. below base of 2/5, same filling.	
3/1	IIB	S.B.	S1	Cobbling.	Glass fragments.
3/2	IIB	S.B.	—	Post-hole, sealed by part of 3/1; filling tile frs. and flints, chalk, dark clayey soil; 8½-in. deep.	
3/3	IIB	S.B.	—	Post-hole, filling chalky clay & buff soil; max. depth, 9-in.	
3/4	IIB	S.B.	—	As No. 3/3.	
3/5	IIC	S.B.	—	Cess-pit; filling fine ashey grey soil, charcoal, unburnt clay lumps, tile, brick, gravel, animal and fishbones, 219 oyster shells, 111 whelks, 78 mussels, 3 snails, 3 winkles; more clayey, less shell towards base.	C.15 sherds, Tudor-green, early stoneware; glass (window), lead, iron arrowhead with bone guard (Fig. 14, No. 5). Rim of glass urinal (Fig. 14, No. 11).
3/6	IIB	S.B.	S1	End of timber; rectangular section of burnt wood, tailing up to E. and W. over J.	
3/7	IIA	S.B.	—	Cut-away, in which timber 3/9 is laid, perhaps edge of floor area; up to 8-in. change of level.	
3/8	IIA	S.B.	—	Cobbling, irregular, patchy.	
3/9=4.5	IIA	S.B.	S1	Timber-slot, lined with charcoal and burnt clay, and filled with layer J; up to 8-in. deep from base of 3/7; double step at W. end may represent two timbers.	
3/10	IIA	S.B.	—	Timber-slot 25-in. by 5-in. with post-hole 8-in. by 6-in. at east end; filled with burnt soil and charcoal; 6-in. deep.	
3/11	IIA	S.B.	—	Post-hole, dirty yellow dark soil, 10-in. deep.	
3/12	IIA	S.B.	—	Post-hole, dark clayey soil and charcoal, 9-in. deep.	
3/13	IB	N.F.	S1	Bricks, probably destruction debris, surface of layer T.	
3/15	IB	N.F.	—	Post-hole, 6-in. deep; fill as T.	
3/16	IB	N.F.	—	Major post-hole; 15-in. deep; fill as layer T plus mixed clay wood fibre.	
3/17	IB	N.F.	S1	Post-hole, 9-in. deep; fill as layer T.	

<i>No.</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Finds and Remarks</i>
3/18	IB	N.F.	—	Depression filled with layer T, up to 5-in. deep.	Glass frs. Bronze wire ring, pins and tag. Fr. of lock-plate and iron key (Fig. 14, No. 7) and other iron objects incl. Nos. 4 and 8. Coin No. 2 (1302-1307+). Jetton No. 9 (c. 1500).
4/1	IIC	S.B.	S1	Heavy gravel, all over Grid 4, thinning out.	
4/2	IIB	S.B.	S1	Timber slot, end over pebbles on edge of 4/3; filled by 4/1, with dark soil and charcoal; shallow U-shaped profile up to 3-in. deep.	Sherds C13/C14 many nails, burnt daub. Lead; fr. of lava quern, 8 iron nails, iron loop (harness), disc of flat iron plate with grain adhering.
4/3	IIB	S.B.	—	Cobbles; flint and tile; well-defined straight edge which may be timber.	
4/4	IIB	S.B.	—	Post-hole, chalky clay fill, 5-in. deep.	
4/5=3/9	IIA	S.B.	—	Timber-slot, more clayey and greenish concretion than in Grid 3.	
4/6	IIA	S.B.	—	Post-hole near end of 4/5; held squared timber C. 11-in. × 8-in., almost vertical-sided; filling large pieces burnt wood and grey ashy soil as 4/5; 15-in. deep from base of 4/5.	Five 2-in. nails.
4/7	IIA	S.B.	—	Timber-slot; dark ashy soil, sides burnt red; parallel to 3/9; 2-in. deep.	
4/8	IIA	S.B.	—	Post-hole, dark ashey soil, 1-2-in. deep.	
4/9	IIA	S.B.	—	Post-hole; held sub-rectangular timber 8-in. × 6-in., 9-in. deep; vertical sided, but undercut to S. (i.e., post-top leaning to N). Dark clayey and charcoal lumps.	
5/2	IIA	S.B.	—	Post-hole, dark soil, small frs. of bone, many nails (? hole open for some time); 6-in. deep.	See p. 30.
5/3	IIA	S.B.	—	Post-hole as 5/2, 6-in. deep.	
5/4	IIA	S.B.	S1	Post-hole, grey-buff friable charcoal-flecked, tile frs. gravel 4/1 above; 16-in. deep.	
5/5	IIA	S.B.	S1	Post-hole, as 5/4, 4-in. deep with large flints all round.	
5/6	IIA	S.B.	—	Shallow depression with tile frs., possibly beginning of drainage.	See p. 30.
6/1	II	B.A.	—	Foundation; chalk, flint, tile, brick, clunch quoins, footing of only single course of flints.	
6/2	II	B.A.	—	As 6/1, bonded to it, but possibly on line of earlier wall represented by deeper foundation ending below it.	
6/3	?II	B.A.	—	Post-hole; many flints embedded tightly in sides, looser in centre, which has more dirt; 8-in. deep; no tile in filling, may be pre-building; ? scaffolding.	
6/4	IB	N.F.	—	?Oven-base; area of grey-burnt clunch with some yellow sandy mortar among it, and burnt clay with some burnt brick over it; spread of burnt clunch all round, more ash to S.	frs. of glass and C.15 sherds. frs. of glass and C.15 sherds; lead; bronze tag iron strip, rod of thick iron wire. Large C.15 handle with bold white stripe; nails.
7/5	IIC	B.A.	S2	Cess-pit; layers in S2, (fig. 10 below main layer C) are: (a) Buff-brown clayey soil, tile frs., shell, charcoal, gravel (dirt in top of pit). (b) Brownish-yellow clay with large pieces of tile, brick and charcoal (sealing layer).	
				(c) Dirty yellow clay with chalk, gravel, charcoal, tile.	

<i>No.</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Findings and Remarks</i>
				(d) Black earth with charcoal and	
				Tile ... 300 pieces	About 50 C.15 sherds, lead
				Brick ... 6 pieces	came, window glass.
				Oyster shell 154 pieces	Tudor green base; small
				Cockles ... 74	arrowhead (Fig. 14, No.
				Mussels ... 20	3).
				Bone ... 86	
				Apparently tipped in from the N.E. corner of the pit as it was deepest there and tailed off about 18-in. from the W. side of the pit.	
				(e) Friable gritty clay with large tile frs., brick, charcoal, plaster, flints, bone and shell.	lead came, Tudor green
					sherds, window glass;
					fr. of same blue vessel
					glass as in layer f. below
					(Fig. 14, No. 12A).
				(f) Sticky yellowish grey clay; contained many large pieces of tile, some frs. of brick, very occasional pieces of bone and shell, and a little charcoal.	sherds of C.14-C.15 cook-
					pots; coin No. 3 (French,
					1280-1304) bent in half;
					fr. of blue glass vessel
					(Fig. 14, No. 12B).
7/6	IIC	B.A.	—	Stake-hole in 7/5 pit filling, 3-in. × 4-in. × 15-in. deep, soft blackish soil; vertical.	
7/7	IIC	B.A.	S2	Stake-hole in 7/5 pit filling; 10 degrees off vertical; soft blackish soil, upper part empty.	
8/1	II	B.A.	—	Foundation, large flints and mortar.	
8/2	II	B.A.	S2	Footing; large and small flints.	
9/1	II	B.A.	S2	Foundation; flint, brick, tile, and mortar; interior smooth mortar.	
9/2	II	B.A.	S.2, S.3	Foundation; as 9/1 with tile course.	
9/4	II	B.A.	S2	Lowest metalling of road under wall 9/2.	
9/5	II	B.A.	S2, S3	Cobbling of large flints, sealed by road and walls 9/2, 9/1.	
9/6	II	B.A.	—	Robbing-trench of wall return for 8/1, shows in south side of cutting.	
9/7	I/II	B.A.	S3	Floor of bricks of same type as in period I, mortared.	
9/8	I/II	B.A.	S3	Burnt layer, burnt clay on straw layer, 2-3 ins. deep.	
9/10	I/II	B.A.	S3	Straw floor or scatter of thatch, extending from 9/8.	
9/15	IB	N.F.	S3	Ditch, flowing to E.; several large flints and thin layer of clayey soil on base, darker layer above dipping from layer T; layer S3 dips well into ditch, which was little silted.	Sherds of period IB.
9/16	IB	N.F.	—	Post-hole, 8-in. deep; filled with layer S3.	
9/17	IB	N.F.	S3	Post-hole as 9/16, 6-in. deep.	
9/18	IB	N.F.	S2	Timber-slot, depth as section.	
9/20	I/II	N.F.	S2 & S3	Layer of clean pebbles.	
10/2	?II	B.A.	S2	Flint foundation, pre-road.	
10/3	II	B.A.	—	Depression or pit under road, not excavated.	

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