



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE SITE OF THE FORMER CAPITOL CINEMA, TONBRIDGE, KENT

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE SITE OF THE FORMER CAPITOL CINEMA, HIGH STREET, TONBRIDGE, KENT

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With contributions by Ian Betts, Tony Grey, Lynne Keys, Alan Pipe, Beth Richardson, Kate Roberts and Terence Paul Smith.

Summary

This report presents the results of work by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS), known since October 2008 as Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), on the site of the Capitol Cinema, Tonbridge, between 2003 and 2005, and the subsequent analysis of the finds. The site lies within the area that was enclosed by the town wall built c 1259. The two phases of archaeological work revealed evidence for buildings and associated yards and pits dating from the 12th century to the late 19th century. The various finds shed light on the local diet and industries, notably iron-working in the 12th century (both smithing and smelting); an important ceramic assemblage was also recovered.

Introduction

Following an archaeological evaluation of the site in 2003, the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) conducted an excavation in June and early July 2005 at the former Capitol Cinema site on Tonbridge High Street, Kent (Fig 1). The approximate centre of the investigated area lies at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 559040 146773.

The first phase, an evaluation of all but the north-east part of the site (Watson 2003), found little potential for archaeological survival – for example, no trace was detected of the earthwork of the 13th-century town wall along the north-western portion of the site perimeter – though a cluster of medieval rubbish pits and a single posthole was recorded in the south-east part of the evaluation. A second phase of evaluation (Swift 2005a), in the north-east of the site, found coherent evidence for medieval occupation and a controlled excavation (Swift 2005b) was subsequently undertaken in this area. This article reports, in an integrated format, on the results of the second phase of evaluation and the excavation (Dan Swift) and the finds analysis (Lyn Blackmore).

Modern ground level at the site lay at between 29.21m OD in the north-east and 28.00m OD in the south-west. Topsoil and modern obstructions were removed over an area c 27m long and c 47m wide and archaeological features cut into the underlying geology were revealed. These archaeological features were then either fully excavated or half- or quarter-sectioned by hand or, in some cases such as the longer linear features, multiple sections were excavated. There was very little horizontal stratigraphy, although occasional complex relationships between the intercutting features were encountered.



Figure 1 Site location

All of the pottery, clay pipe, registered finds and animal bone was hand-collected (additional animal bone was recovered from the environmental samples), whilst representative sampling of iron slag, building materials and bottle glass was undertaken. Twenty environmental samples were selected for further study.

The archaeological sequence was excavated on a single context system. During the analysis of the archaeological work, a hierarchy of larger units is employed to describe the activity on the site. Contexts are arranged into subgroups and groups which are then interpreted in terms of land use and period. Within this report, archaeological context numbers are denoted [1] etc, accessioned finds <1> etc and illustrated pottery sherds <P1> etc. Pottery fabrics are referred to by the codes used by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, expansions of which are given in Table 2 and Table 3 at the end of this report. References to group numbers are prefixed by G. A land use is an entity such as a Building (B), Structure (S) or Open Area (OA).

All stratigraphic and specialist data were recorded using standard MoLAS procedures and subsequently entered into an Oracle database. Within the database the pottery fabric codes are prefixed 'C' (thus EM35 as employed within this article is rendered as CEM35). This database, housed in the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC), is the medium through which the finds, environmental and field records may be interrogated.

More detailed coverage of aspects of the site can be found in the specialist archive reports listed in the bibliography. These reports and the remainder of the site archive (site code KT-TBR03) remain with MoLAS awaiting deposition with the appropriate local repository.

Site geology and topography

The drift geology beneath Tonbridge is generally Quaternary clay and gravel (Gallois 1965, Dines et al 1969). The upper surface of these deposits was lowest in the south-west of the site, where it was recorded at 27.14m OD. In the north of the site, they were overlain by a layer of Tunbridge Wells Sand, which was up to 0.50m thick. At its highest point, near the High Street frontage, the sand lay at 28.29m OD.

The topography of Tonbridge is dominated by the River Medway, which originally defined the southern edge of the settlement, and by the artificial mound next to the river on which the castle was built c 1080–1090. The site lies on rising ground c 137m to the north-east of the castle within the area enclosed by the town wall c 1259.

In the central and western parts of the site, a dark grey-brown fine silty topsoil, between c 0.50m and c 1m in thickness, overlay the drift geology. It contained occasional finds but no archaeological features were recorded within it. On the eastern part of the site, the topsoil was completely removed, and much of the archaeological stratigraphy truncated, by the Capitol Cinema or other post-medieval buildings (see Building 4 below). Here, the truncated archaeological cut features were overlain by a post-medieval demolition debris.

Use of the site before the medieval period (period 1)

A single prehistoric worked flint and a potsherd of possible Roman origin were recovered as residual finds within later features. The possible Roman pottery was unexpected, as there is no known Roman occupation in the area, but this is not the first time isolated finds have been noted in the town (Streeten 1976, 106). Small amounts of residual Roman pottery have also been found on the adjacent site at The Slade (Jarrett in prep; Holden & Pickard, nd) and on the Lyons site in East Street (Wragg et al 2005, 120–1). The former of these sites also produced a few residual sherds of prehistoric pottery and the latter some evidence for some Mesolithic activity.

The site sequence

Early medieval activity on the site c AD 1050–1250 (period 2) (Figure 2)

Building 1

Building 1 (B1) was recorded in the north-east of the site. The front of the building, where an open-fronted, lean-to structure may have stood, would have faced onto the medieval high street. Any floors or occupation deposits within B1 had been truncated but several thin, shallow linear slots, the impressions of the base plates of the timber-framed walls, were identified. Several postholes were also associated with the slot alignments. All of the timber beams and posts had been removed, indicating that the building had probably been dismantled. A quantity of slag (4.463kg) was recovered from B1 which, although largely undiagnostic, includes a small amount of tap slag and flakes of hammerscale.

Some of the slots and one posthole contained shell-tempered pottery, amounting to 38 small sherds from up to 10 vessels. Most of these are of fabric EM35 (27 sherds) which is dated to c 1050–1225. The sherds include rims from two jars (Fig 3 <P1>, <P2>) which are paralleled by finds from phases W and X at Eynsford Castle (Rigold 1971, 131–4, 150–2, Fig 12), dated to after c 1080 and 1130 respectively. Two sherds of EM36, which is dated to after c 1125 (and could be closer to c 1140), are also present in B1 contexts and consequently it is likely that the building – or at least its demolition – dates to c 1125–1150.

An iron rotary key (<4>) was recovered from a B1 posthole. This is much corroded but has details visible on X-ray. It is approximately 95mm long, has a circular openwork trefoil bow and a shank decorated with disc and baluster-shaped mouldings. The bit is incomplete. This type of shank-moulding is normally a characteristic of post-medieval keys; no medieval parallels have been found, but this does not necessarily preclude a medieval date (Richardson 2006).

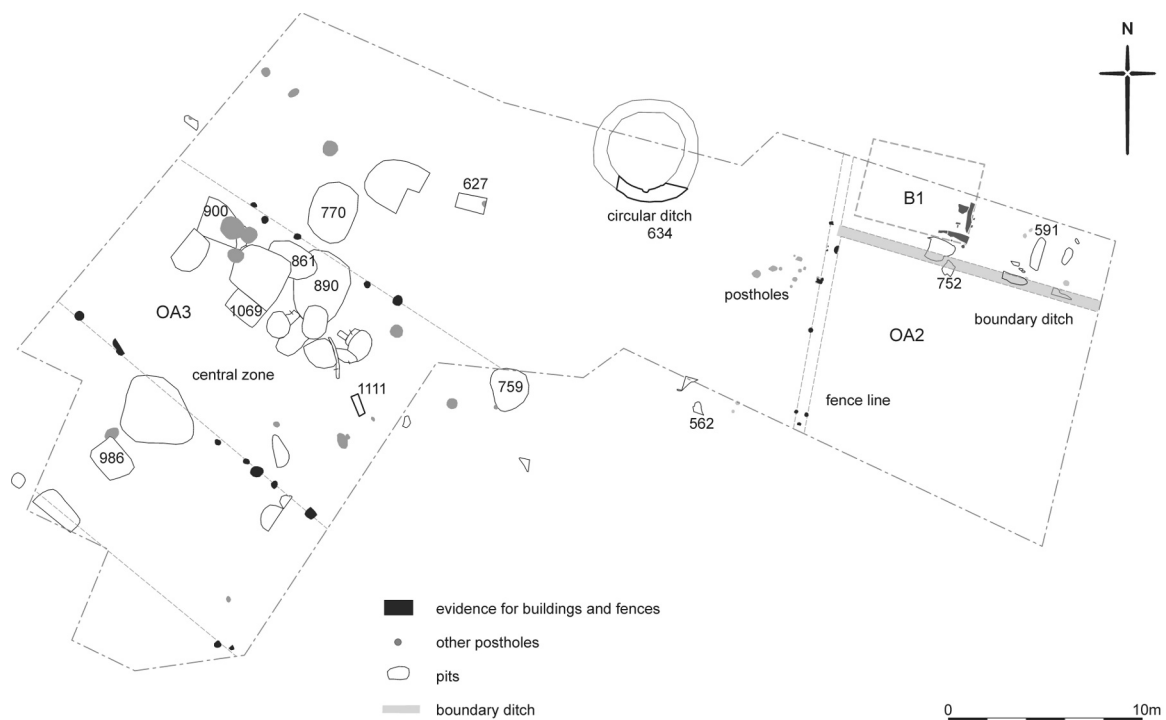


Figure 2 The principal archaeological features of period 2

Open Area 2

Open Area 2 (OA2) lay to the south, east and west of B1 and contained numerous postholes and a few small pits. Again, all the posts appear to have been removed in antiquity. To the east of the building, a noticeable concentration of slag, including tap slag, run slag, vitrified hearth lining and a possible smithing flat was found in pit [591] (1.151kg) and the postholes around it (1.546kg).

Although no buildings were found within OA2, environmental samples from features within it give some indication of the character of buildings close by. For example, the fills included indicators of sedges and rushes – probably used as flooring or roofing. Occasional peg roofing tile was also recovered from the pits.

Two linear features sub-divided OA2. The first of these, a shallow, narrow ditch, ran east–west, parallel to the southern wall of B1. This was probably a property boundary, though it may also have acted as a drain. Its fills contained a sherd of reduced sand-tempered ware (fabric EM4/M38A1) and five sherds of shell-tempered pottery (all fabric EM35), including two rims of deep everted form (like Fig 3 <P1>, <P2> from B1). One is flat-topped with slight external bead, while the other is more rounded and from a slightly larger vessel. The pottery fabric types and rim forms suggest a date of c 1100/1125–1130/1150 for this feature.

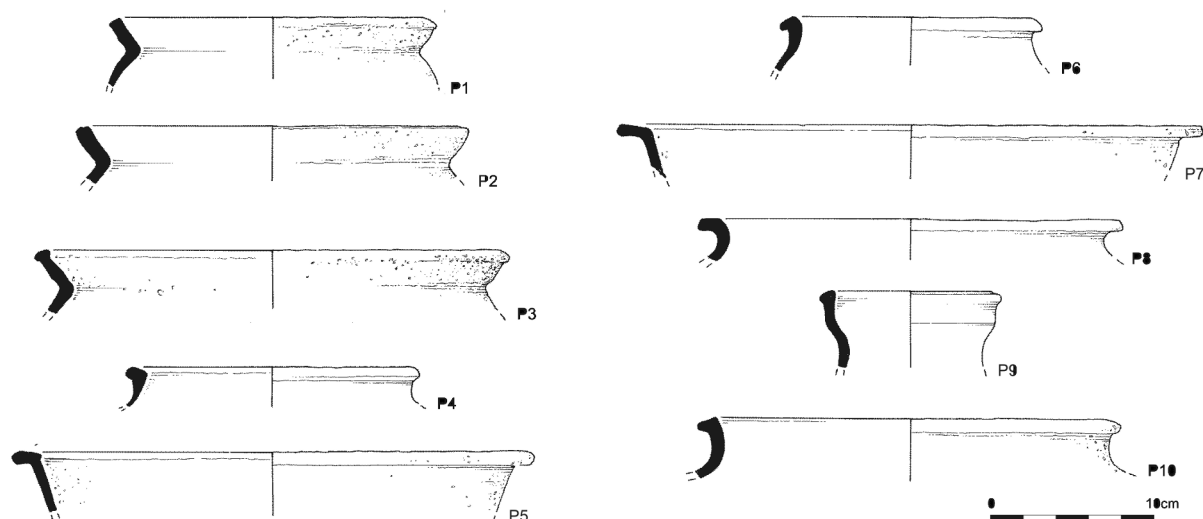


Figure 3 Period 2 pottery (<P1> - <P10>) from Building 1 and Open Area 2

The second linear feature was an alignment of 10 posts running from north to south. These probably formed a fence at the back of the property: this conjectured boundary is marked with a dashed line on Figure 2. None of the postholes contained any trace of timber. Twenty-six small sherds of shell-tempered pottery (all fabric EM35) were recovered from the postholes; again, these probably date to the earlier part of the full date range (i.e. c 1050–1150). A cluster of postholes to the west of the fence alignment contained neither traces of timber nor any dating evidence, and there is no clear evidence that they formed part of a structure.

A possible ring ditch [634] lay a little further west. The excavated portion of the ditch was c 0.60 to c 0.80m wide and c 0.60m deep. It had a flat base and an undercut profile but, as it continued northwards beyond the excavated area, its complete form and function remain unknown. The backfill included charcoal, slag (1.411kg), mainly undiagnostic but including part of a smithing hearth bottom and a quantity of run slag. The fills of ditch [634] contained one of the larger pottery groups from OA2, comprising 19 hand-collected sherds (and seven small sieved fragments). One deep everted rim in fabric EM35 (Fig 3 <P3>) is similar to those from B1, but slightly more developed. Wheel-thrown rims from a jar and a dish in fabric EM36 are typical of the later 12th and 13th centuries (Fig 3 <P4>, <P5>) and greyware sherds (M38A1, M38A2) included the rim of a jar (M38A1 Fig 3 <P6>) which is not dissimilar to the rim of a shell-tempered jar from the Lyons site, Tonbridge (Jarrett 2005, fig 8, no. 10). The presence of the greywares make it likely that this feature was backfilled c 1150–1200, or possibly slightly earlier. Some of the greyware sherds have sparse fine shell or calcareous matter and/or larger rounded quartzes, which would suggest a source in the Medway valley, perhaps closer to Tonbridge than Maidstone.

A small pit or posthole [752] to the south of B1 contained the largest amount of slag from OA2 (3.03kg, including tap slag and vitrified hearth lining). Its fills also generated the largest amount, and widest range, of pottery from OA2 (158 sherds, 728g). These included sherds of M38A1 and two jugs in the related fabric M4 (Fig 3 <P9>). Most sherds (c 66% by sherd count and weight) are in fabric EM36 including a curfew (Fig 3 <P7>) and eight cooking pots, (including Fig 3 <P8>). This feature was probably backfilled c 1170–1200.

In all, 15 features in this area contained slag (7.013kg), including tap slag, vitrified hearth lining, dense runny slag, part of a possible smithing hearth bottom, and various other ferruginous concretions. Over half of the collected slag was undiagnostic, but it would appear that both smelting and smithing were taking place locally, perhaps in or adjacent to B1, and that waste materials were discarded in the surrounding pits.

The ceramic evidence from OA2 as a whole (245 sherds, 1.234kg) suggests that most features date to the mid or late 12th century, although the boundary ditch could be earlier and some features could be of early 13th-century date. Some intrusive material appears to be present such as fabrics M38A3 (c 1300–1400) and LM34B (1450–1550) in pit [562]. The pottery is entirely domestic in character. Whilst it mainly comprises jars/cooking pots, other forms such as a curfew, six dishes and one or two jugs in fabric M4 are present. Rims from the features not discussed above include a greyware jar (Fig 3 <P10>, M38A1). The domestic character of the fills of the features is reinforced by the types of animal bone found within them which include ox, sheep/goat, pig, chicken and fish (vertebrae from cod and herring), all of which are indicative of local diet (Pipe 2006). Only minimal quantities of cereals were recovered, but include free-threshing wheat, oats and barley (Roberts 2006).

Open Area 3

Open Area 3 (OA3) was divided up into three portions of land, of roughly equal size, by three rows of postholes orientated north-west to south-east: again, these conjectured fence lines are marked on Figure 2 with dashed lines. No timber was extant in any of these features. The fills of the southernmost row contained small amounts of pottery dating to between the late 11th to 13th centuries but those of the middle row included pottery of late 17th- to early 18th-century date. The northern row contained no datable material. The regularity of the boundaries suggests that they were contemporary in inception and therefore present by the late 13th century; the later pottery may be intrusive or indicate the longevity of the boundary lines. Most of OA3 was dominated by large, sub-circular rubbish pits. The environmental samples from these were not particularly rich in dietary remains, but what food plants there were, were dominated by oats in almost all samples, with free-threshing wheat, spelt wheat, rachis, elder, raspberry/blackberry and plum also present (Roberts 2006). Ox and sheep/goat dominated the recovered animal bone, with pig, chicken, horse, cod, haddock, eel, frog and cat bones also present in smaller quantities (Pipe 2006).

Two features within the central zone of OA3 are of special interest. The first, pit [1111], contained the skeleton of a complete young adult pig. The precisely rectilinear form of the cut and the frequent traces of iron nails around its edges strongly suggested that the pig had been interred in a wooden box. Although of good meat-bearing quality, the animal had not been butchered and why it had been buried in this manner is perplexing. All but one sherd from the backfills are of 12th- to 13th-century date: a small chip of fabric LM34A (1480–1550) is likely to be intrusive.

The second feature is pit [900]. With 55 sherds (862g), it contained the most significant group of pottery from this part of the site. Fabric EM36 is the most common, and includes rims from a dish and six cooking pots (Fig 5 <P11>–<P15>), two of the latter substantially complete. The rim forms range from clubbed (<P11>) through flat-topped and slightly squared to everted/expanded, either rounded (<P13>), squared (<P14>) or sharply angular (<P15>). The presence of four sherds of M38A2 suggest a date of 1175–1250 is likely for this group.

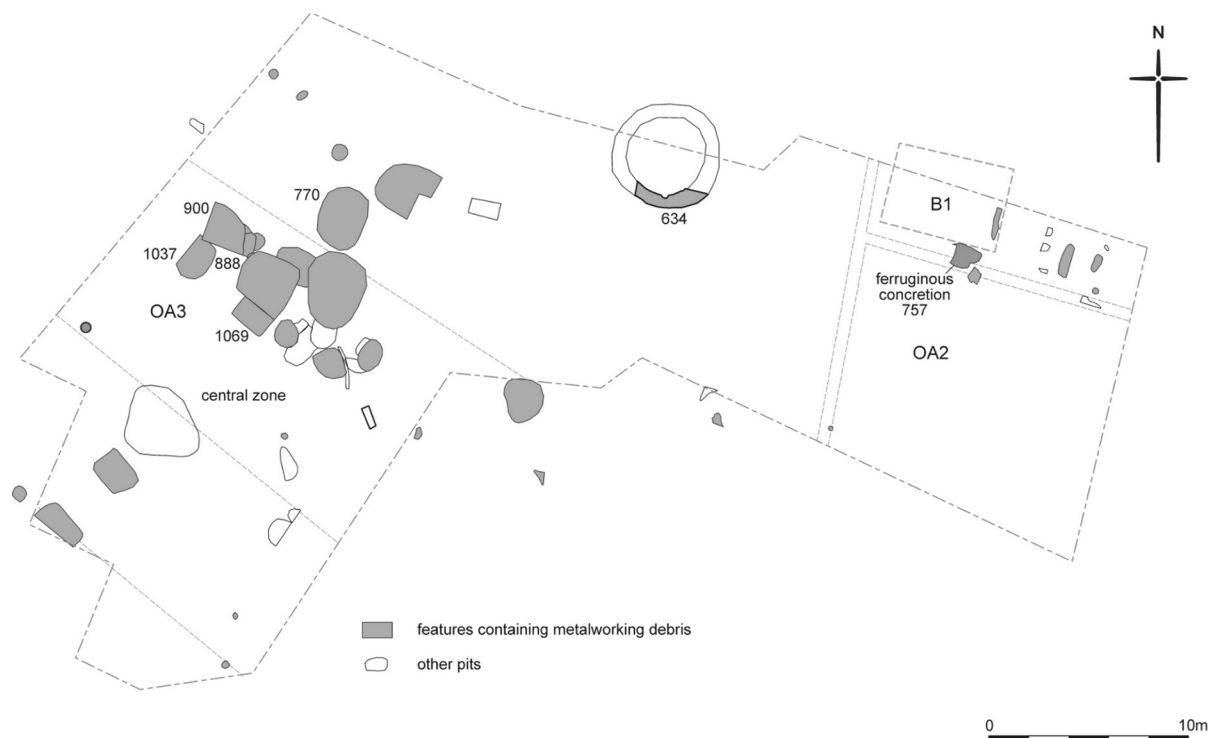


Figure 4 The principal concentrations of metalworking waste in period 2

A large amount of slag was recovered from OA3, with 13.93kg from 36 features, mostly from the pits and postholes located in the western part of the central zone, where it was present in almost every feature (8.884kg). The largest quantity (2.84kg) came from pit [900] but pits [1069], [1037], and [888] also contained notable quantities of metalworking debris (2.463kg). Most is undiagnostic, but tap slag, run slag, dense slag, two smithing hearth bottoms, hearth lining, hammerscale and cinder were recovered. A small piece of copper alloy strip with a forked end <25> was recovered from pit [888], but this is too small and corroded to identify. It is likely that the large pottery assemblage in pit [900], dated 1175–1250, provides the best indicator of the time span within which the metalworking was taking place on the site.

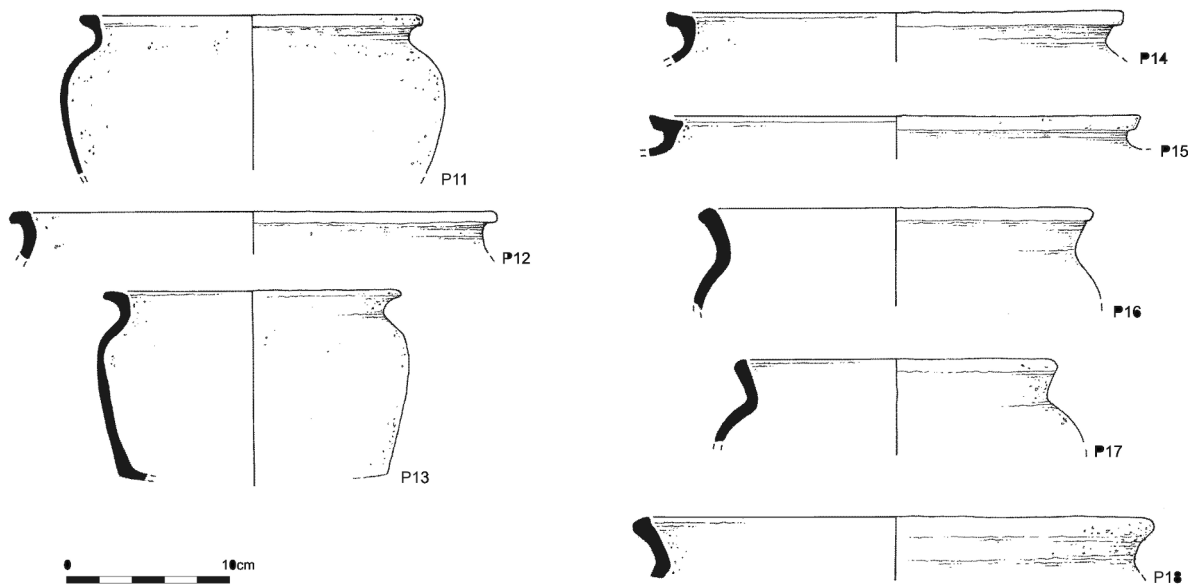


Figure 5 Period 2 pottery (<P11> - <P18> from Open Area 3

In the northernmost part of OA3, eleven sherds of pottery – from jars/cooking pots in fabrics EM36 and M38A, and part of a greyware jug with stabbed handle – were recovered from an ashy layer in pit [627]. Slag was also present in numerous features, but apart from pit [770] the amounts are much smaller (total 3.435kg).

The pottery group from OA3 in period 2 is the largest from the site (375 sherds, c 170 vessels, 3.684 kg). However, most individual context groups are small; 16 contexts contained only one sherd, and although the numbers appear higher in some cases, this is usually due to the presence of small sieved fragments. The majority of the sherds are medieval fabrics similar to those from OA2, but one sherd is in an unusual coarse fabric with sandstone, ragstone and flint (Fig 5 <P16>).

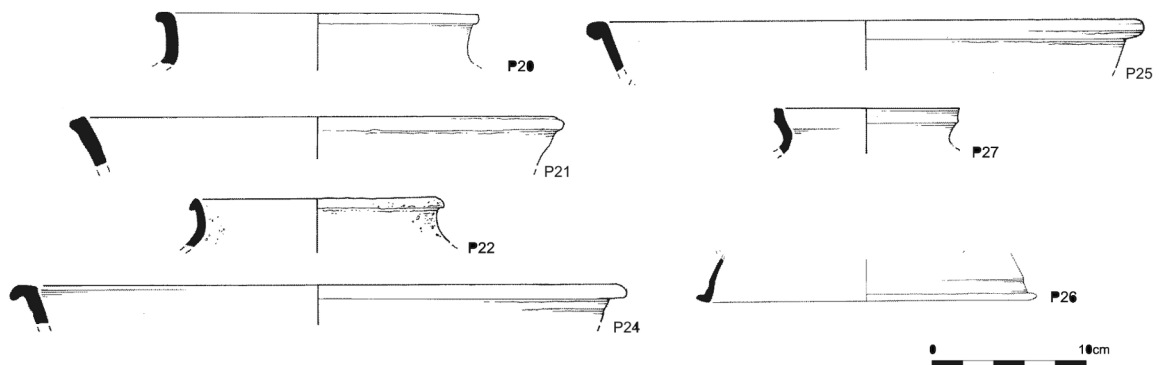


Figure 6 Period 2 pottery (<P20> - <P22> and <P24 - <P27>) from Open Area 3 (continued)

Fabric EM35 amounts to only 56 sherds (including Fig 5 <P17>, <P18>) whilst the EM36 group is much more common with 126 sherds from an estimated 76 vessels accounting for 34% of the medieval sherd count. A few of the cooking pot/jar rims are similar to those in fabric EM35, being of everted or long-necked form (Fig 6 <P21>). Most, however, are wheel-thrown or wheel-finished, ranging from bevelled (Fig 6 <P22>) to clubbed (Fig 5 <P11>) through flat-topped and slightly squared (Fig 6 <P20>) to expanded, either flat-topped or everted, rounded (Fig 5 <P13>), squared (Fig 5 <P14>) or sharply angular (Fig 5 <P15>). Other forms comprise four dishes (Fig 6 <P24>, <P25>), a dish or curfew (Fig 6 <P26>), and possibly a jug.

The 49 sherds of fabric M38A mainly derive from jars/cooking pots but include the rim of a jug or pitcher (Fig 6 <P27>), while sherds from a jug with rilling on the shoulder and a stabbed strap handle were found in pit [627].

Other fabrics include a cooking pot sherd in M4/M38, and jug sherds in (Wealden buff ware (fabric M10, pit [861]), Earlswood-type ware (M44B, pits [770] and [1111]), London-type ware (M5, pit [986]) and calcareous London-type ware/Scarborough ware type 1 (M11, pit [890]). Pit [890] also contained a small, incomplete iron hook <22>.

Later medieval activity on the site c AD 1250–1550 (period 3) (Figure 7)

Building 2

Another small medieval building – Building 2 (B2) – was recorded in the north-east of the site. During period 2, the boundary features in OA2 defined a property to the south of B1. The subdivisions of OA2 observed in period 2 seem to have continued to function in period 3. Therefore, although B1 had been demolished by the onset of period 3, the boundary ditch to its south was still in use. It is likely that B2 was set within the southern property, facing towards the medieval high street. No floors or associated occupation deposits were found within the building but two shallow linear features, probably slots for base plates for the building's timber-framed walls, and a posthole aligned with one of the slots were recorded. All the timbers had been removed in antiquity. The backfill of the larger slot contained a sherd of possible early Limpsfield ware (Fig 8 <P28>, M38/44A). A sherd of hard north/west Kent grey ware (M38A3) suggests that the building was removed 1300–1400.

Open Area 2

Activity was confined to a few small pits and postholes, all lying north of B2. No trace of timber was found in any of the postholes. Four features contained 13th- to 16th-century pottery, comprising 63 sherds (c 23 vessels, 786g). Many sherds are shell-tempered wares like those found in period 2 (mainly EM36 but some EM35), which are presumed to be residual here, but also present were a number of reduced sandy wares and a few later sherds. The largest group is from pit [884], which yielded a total of 50 sherds from 12 vessels. These include a large, highly fired jar in fabric EM36C (Fig 8 <P29>), a jug in fabric M38A2 (Fig 8 <P30>) and the most unusual pottery find from the site, a unique, near complete, lobed cup with

a modelled horse and rider at the centre in fabric M4, which dates the group to after 1350 (Fig 8 <P31> see also 'Discussion' below). This pit also contained a small piece of unidentifiable sheet iron <21>.

Posthole [540] contained a tiny fragment of Earlswood-type ware, fabric M44B. Occasional peg roofing tile was recovered from the pits, and small amounts of iron slag were found in pits [884] and [906], and in posthole [540]. The latter contained a fragment of ox longbone, while pit [884] also contained some cod, ox and pig bones (Pipe 2006).

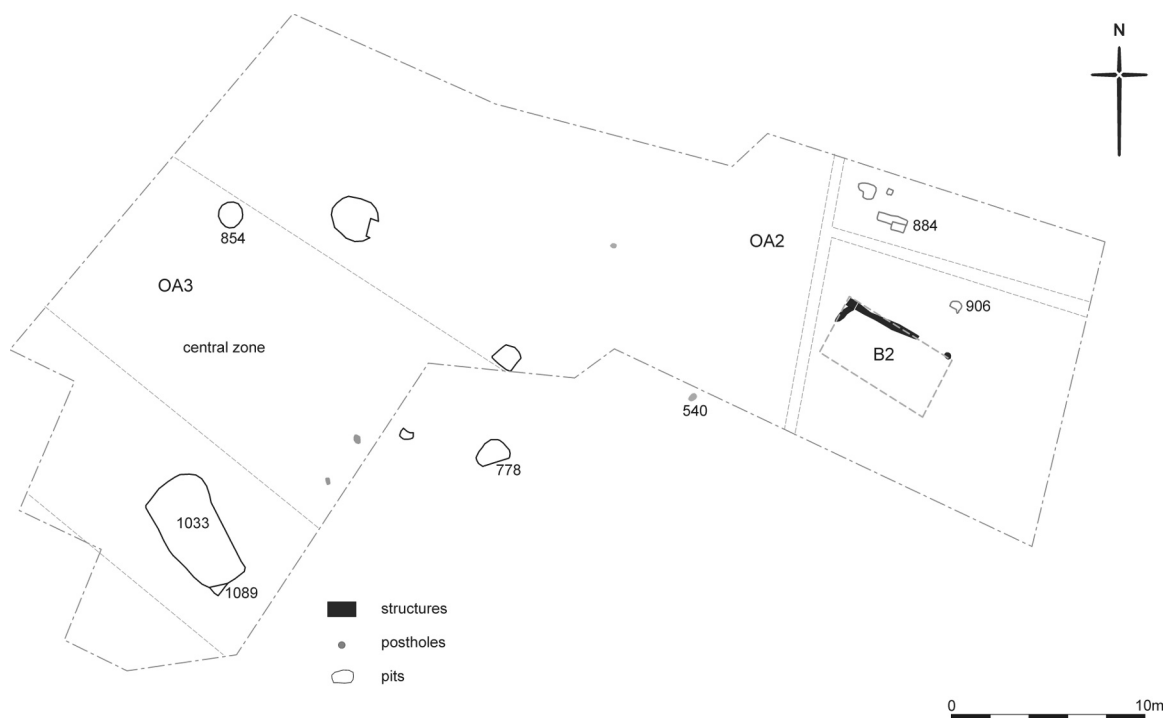


Figure 7 The principal archaeological features of Period 3

Open Area 3

Six large pits and four postholes recorded in OA3 contained 13th- to 16th-century pottery. Small quantities of free-threshing wheat, oats, grape, blackberry/raspberry and elder, together with bones from cod, ox, horse, cat, pig, chicken, sheep/goat were recovered from the pits (Pipe 2006), which also contained occasional peg roofing tile and residual slag (4.921kg). The latter is mostly from pit [854], at the western end of the central zone, two pits closer to OA2, and pit [1033] in the southern zone (where it could be contemporary). As in period 2, considerably more pottery was found in OA3 than in OA2, which reflects the greater concentration of pitting further away from the High Street, with 147 medieval sherds (c 60 vessels, 1.64kg). The fabrics present are mostly similar to those found in period 2 (and the sherds of EM35 are certainly residual) but the quantity of EM36 is greatly reduced (29 sherds) and almost equal to that of the greywares (fabric M38A). The latter

include a few sherds of the harder, finer fabric M38A3, which probably dates to the 14th century. Other fabrics include a few sherds of Maidstone area buff/oxidised ware (M4) and three sherds of London-type ware (M5), one from a 13th-century highly decorated jug (Fig 8 <P32>).

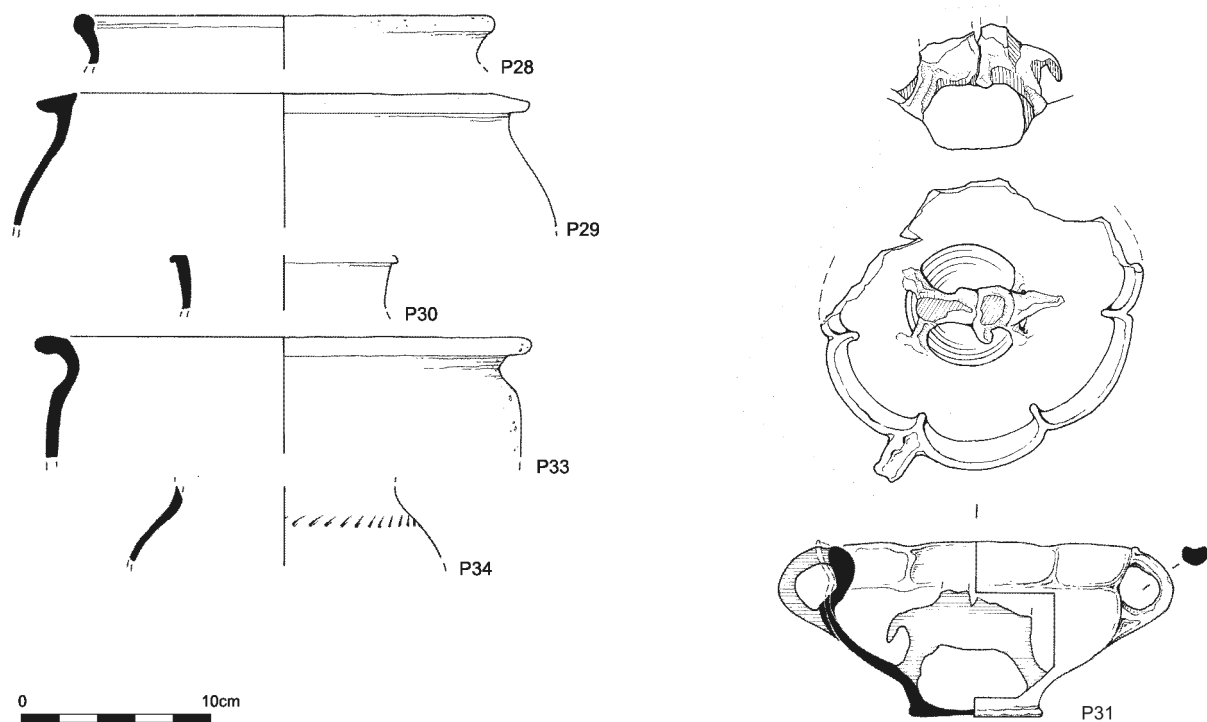


Figure 8 Period 3 pottery (<P28> - <P31> and <P33> - <P34>) from Building 2 and Open Areas 2 and 3

The largest single pottery groups in OA3 are from pits [854] (71 sherds, c 13 vessels); and [778] (37 sherds, c 21 vessels). Both pottery groups are very similar but an unusual rim sherd in EM35 (Fig 8 <P33>) came from pit [778]. Other finds include the socket/spout from a bowl or frying pan in fabric EM36A and sherds from four greyware jars and two jugs, one with nicked decoration around the shoulder (Fig 8 <P34>). Also present is the rim from a London-type ware baluster jug. Whilst most of the pottery from pit [854] is medieval, it also contained one sherd of late medieval pottery (?LM34A), two sherds of post-medieval redware and one of Staffordshire salt-glazed ware (PM26) which are assumed to indicate some disturbance of the pit in the mid 18th century.

Activity on the site c AD 1550–1700 (period 4) (Fig 9)

Building 3

Building 2 was replaced by Building 3 (B3). Fifteen postholes formed an approximately square arrangement, which, on the evidence of adjacent pit [904] (see OA2 below), may have been an animal stall. A central dividing wall may have run east to west along the spine of the building. None of the postholes contained

any timber. The dating of clay pipe stems found in two of the postholes indicates that the building was removed after 1580 and the pottery present in B3 contexts (fabrics LM17 and LM37) suggests that an early 17th century date is possible. Post-medieval peg tile and brick were recovered from four of the postholes, as well as residual slag (1.126kg).

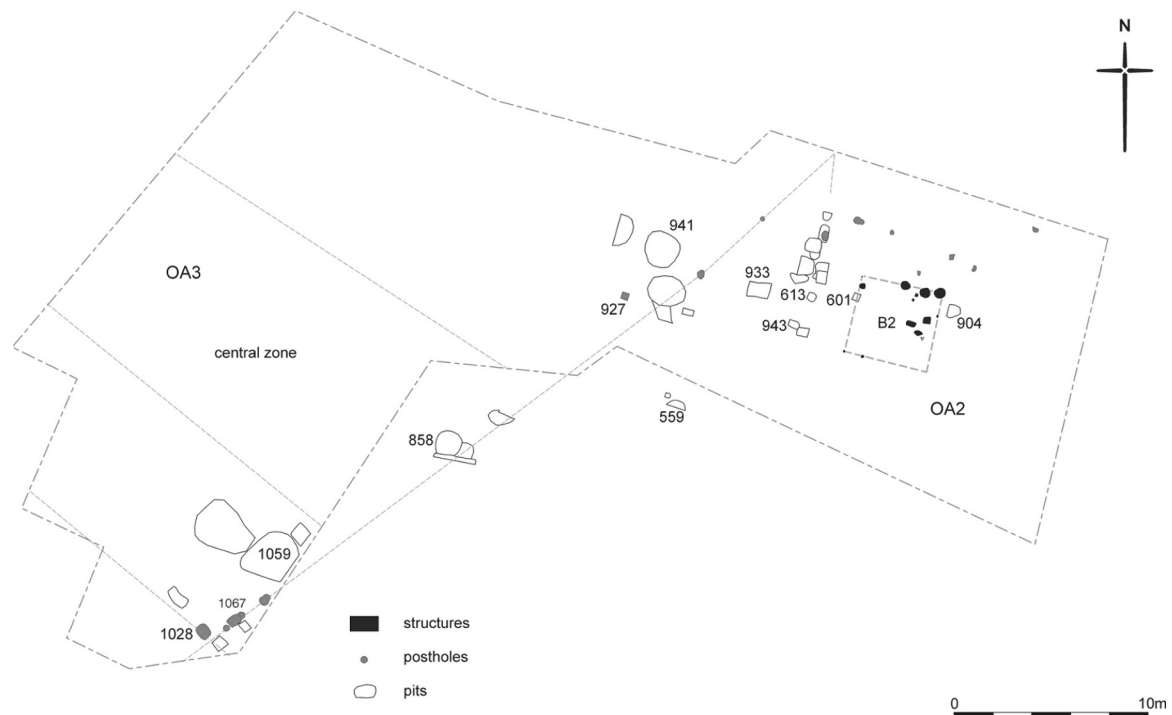


Figure 9 The principal archaeological features of period 4

Open Area 2

Within OA2, numerous pits and occasional postholes were recorded to the west and north of B3. The recovered animal bone included sheep/goat, ox, pig, dog, horse and cat. None of the postholes contained any timber, but two contained copper alloy belt-buckles. Residual slag was recovered from six features. Several of the small pits and/or postholes follow roughly the same two alignments as the property boundaries laid out in the Norman period, suggesting that these had remained unchanged.

One small pit [904] situated just east of B3 contained the richest charred plant assemblage of all the samples. This included flooring or roofing plants, such as sedges and rushes which may come from the building, and cereals, predominantly hulled barley which was used for both human and animal consumption, rye, wheat and oats.

Pottery was found in 15 of the pits and postholes in OA2 (94 sherds, c 56 vessels, 846g). Most groups are small (less than five sherds), with the largest amounts coming from pits [941] and [559] (23 and 16 sherds respectively). Thirteen features

contained post-medieval pottery, which accounts for 42% of the total sherds. Most of these date to after 1550, and the deposits as a whole probably date to c 1600–1650. Redwares of note include some 15 jars in the fine calcareous fabric PM64 and the similar Wealden fabric PM2.7. The three tin-glazed sherds derive from a dish, an albarello-type jar (pit [613]) with decoration in blue and white, and a plain white tin-glazed vessel (in fill [557] of pit [559]). The latter is probably from a chamber pot dating to after 1670 and is the latest diagnostic find from this area. German stonewares include jugs from both Cologne (PM4) and Frechen (PM5), one of the latter with an applied medallion showing the arms of Amsterdam (pit [942]). Of particular interest is a sherd from a Martabani storage jar (PM107), imported from the Far East, which was found in posthole [911]. Fragments of clay tobacco pipes dated from 1580–1910 and 1680–1710 were recovered from five features.

Open Area 3

Several large pits were excavated in OA3. Samples from these features contained barley, elder, fig, raspberry/blackberry and grape. Ox, sheep/goat, pig, cod bone were also present. Two pits contained fragments of clay tobacco pipe dated 1580–1910, and residual slag was again present.

An alignment of postholes could be identified over c 35m on a south-west to north-east orientation and may define a boundary (shown as a conjectured line on Figure 9). One of the postholes contained the pointed base of a large oak post, possibly a gate-post, which was the only timber found on the site. Only eight sherds of pottery, mostly residual, came from this posthole alignment feature but sherds of post-medieval redware and Surrey-Hampshire borderware provide a date of after 1550.

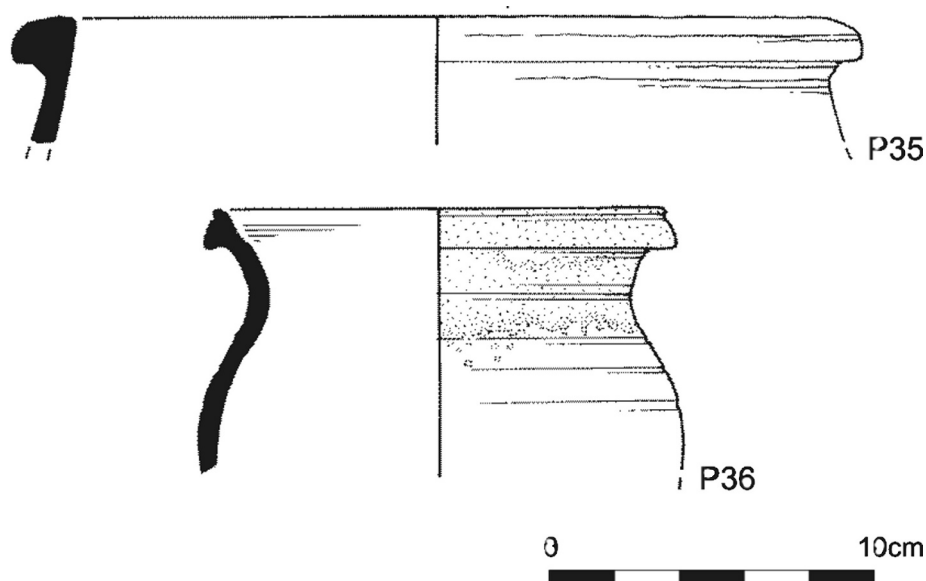


Figure 10 Period 4 pottery (<P35> - <P36>) from Open Area 3

One pit [1059] contained the most significant group of post-medieval pottery recovered from the site, with 20 large sherds from 10 utilitarian vessels (2.353kg). These include large base sherds from a stool pan in Surrey-Hampshire border ware, a jar/butterpot with dark metallic glaze in fabric PM64, and a flowerpot in Wealden buffware (fabric PM2.6). Also present are sherds from a bowl and jar (Fig 10 <P35>) in fabric PM64 or a similar ware, two large dishes and a bowl in post-medieval redwares (fabric PM1), and a Wealden redware jug/chamber pot with incised wavy line decoration (PM2.7). This pottery group has a broad dating of 1580–1700 but the absence of tin-glazed wares or later 17th-century types could indicate a tighter date range of c 1600–1650. Other than pit [1059], the most important group is from pit [858]. The primary fill [857] contained only one tiny sherd of medieval pottery, but the secondary fill [855] contained 16 sherds, some quite sizeable, most of which are from a post-medieval fine redware pipkin (Fig 10 <P36>, fabric PM1.3) and the base of a Surrey-Hampshire border ware tripod pipkin.

Taken together, the pottery from OA3 amounts to 93 sherds (c 65 vessels, c 3kg) recovered from ten features. Over half the assemblage comprises very small sherds, mainly of medieval date. Late medieval/post-medieval pottery dominates (54 sherds). As a whole the pottery is contemporary with that from OA2, with a mix of local and regional redwares, and other fabric types such as Surrey-Hampshire border ware and tin-glazed wares; no imports are present.

Activity on the site c AD 1700–present (period 5) (Figure 12)

Building 4 and yard

In the eastern part of the site, it is likely that B3 was replaced by a new building – Building 4 (B4). Although no firm evidence for B4 was found, the remains of a cobbled surface, probably the yard behind the building, were recorded. This yard sealed over the site of B3. All of the pottery from the cobbled surface ([840]) is medieval in date and possibly residual. It includes some quite large rim sherds in EM36B (Fig 11 <P37>, <P38>) and EM36C (Fig 11 <P39>).

The cobbled surface was sealed by patches of occupation debris ([775] and [776]) containing clay tobacco pipes of late 17th-century date, small quantities of residual slag, and domestic waste such as ox and sheep/goat bone. These deposits also included a range of redwares (fabrics PM1, PM2, PM64) and Frechen stonewares (PM5) dating to the 17th century.

The whole yard area, and probably the rear of B4 as well, was covered by a layer of building debris ([783]), containing a large amount of peg tile and occasional red bricks, which is likely to have come from the demolition or collapse of B4. Also present in the demolition debris was a fragment of 15th- or 16th-century floor tile imported from the Low Countries and a marked clay tobacco pipe (type OS10) bearing the initials HI, possibly denoting that it was made by Henry Jeffrey of Maidstone, who was active from 1723–61. The pottery from the demolition debris was similar to that from the occupation layers, with the addition of Surrey-Hampshire border ware (PM10), English stoneware (PM25T) and one sherd of

early creamware (PM43). Like the tobacco pipe, the stoneware points to a date after 1700 for the deposit, and the creamware, if not intrusive, suggests that the building was demolished after 1740 and possibly after c 1775. Other sherds of interest from [783] comprise a complete jug rim in fabric PM64 (Fig 11 <P40>), part of a slipware dish, probably of Wealden origin (?PM2.7S) and an unusual, very highly fired whiteware with pale green glaze (PM100), possible a heat-altered Surrey or Wealden ware. In all the pottery amounts to 48 sherds (1.144kg).

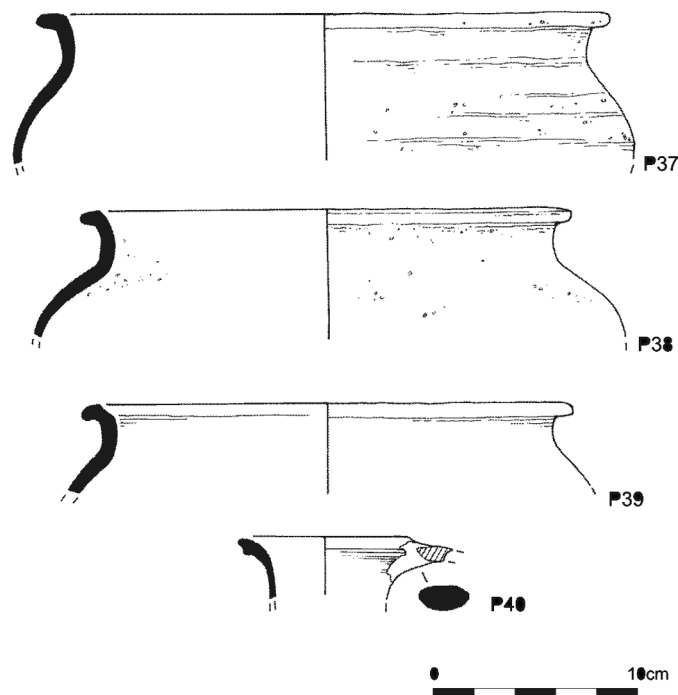


Figure 11 Period 5 pottery (<37> - <P40>) from Building 4

Building 5

Directly north of B4, a short length (c 1.75m) of brick wall foundation running perpendicular to the High Street, was the only surviving evidence of Building 5 (B5). The wall was two courses thick and four courses high, and was constructed in a variety of bonding patterns. It is common for the brick coursing in foundations to be variable or ill-defined as these parts of the wall were never visible. The build and materials of the wall suggest an 18th-century date for B5.

Open Area 2

Occasional pits and postholes were recorded in OA2 behind the High Street buildings. These produced 20 sherds of pottery (c 19 vessels, 297g). Most are very small, and five are of medieval date. The remainder differ in character from those associated with the buildings, mainly comprising factory-made wares such as a Staffordshire salt-glazed stoneware plate (PM26, pit [624]), creamwares (LPM11), pearlware (LPM12) and transfer-printed wares (LPM12G). Pit [624] dates to 1725–1780, but the other features consistently date to after 1770 or 1780, and pit

[913] contained part of a transfer-printed saucer dating to after 1810. This feature also contained the only post-medieval redwares found in this part of the site, amounting to four large sherds from two chamber pots and a bowl (fabric PM1.3). Small quantities of residual slag were found within several features and ox, pig and sheep/goat bone were recovered.

A circular brick-lined pit [527] was constructed from a variety of brick fabrics of 18th- or 19th-century date. The only pottery found within the pit is a tiny chip of late 18th- or 19th-century transfer-printed ware (LPM12G), but an incomplete medieval sandstone voussoir, probably from Tonbridge castle, was recovered.

A c 18m long linear feature perpendicular to the High Street bisected OA2. This was roughly parallel to the existing site boundary wall c 7.70–8.70m to the north, and probably signifies the location of a boundary wall removed prior to construction of the cinema.

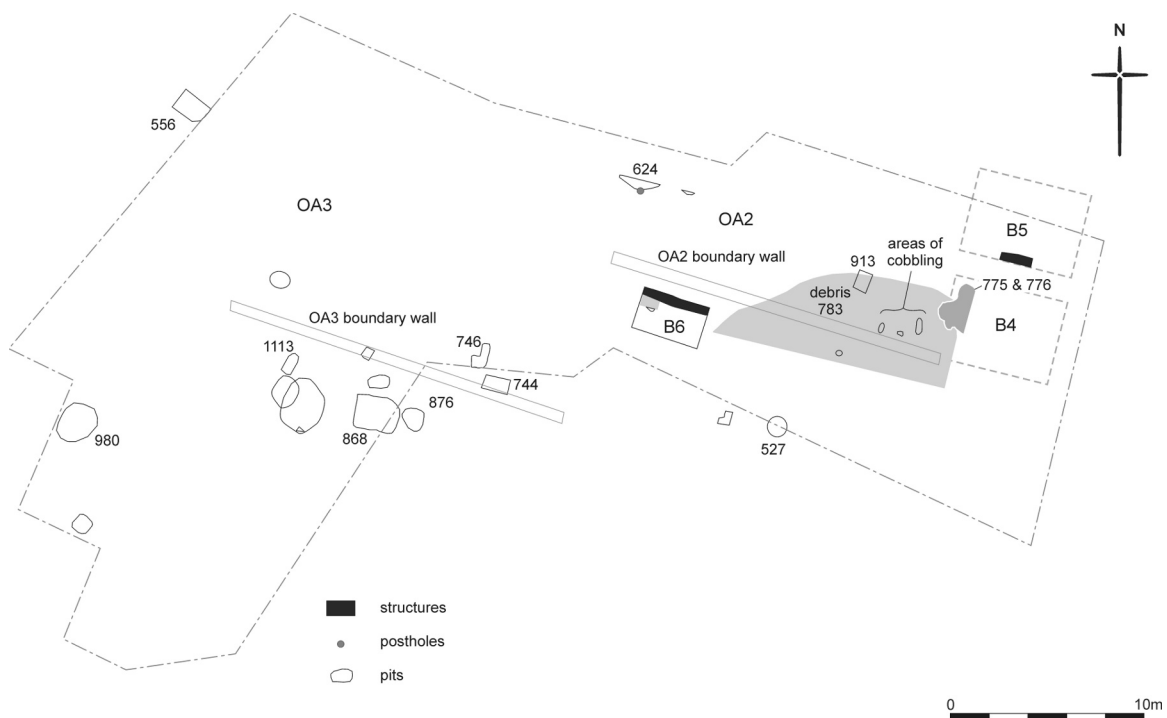


Figure 12 The principal archaeological features of Period 5

Building 6

To the south of the boundary wall, a parallel wall had been constructed from large, roughly squared, sandstone blocks, coarsely mortared together. The sandstone blocks (up to 0.70m x 0.30m x 0.38m) also probably came from the fabric of the castle. The construction backfill around the wall included red brick. Only a c 3.50m length of wall remained extant: to its south it was abutted by the remnants of a small 18th- or 19th-century brick built hearth or oven. These remains constitute Building 6 (B6).

Open Area 3

Within OA3 several pits and postholes were recorded. Ten of these contained pottery, which was predominantly post-medieval and ranged in date from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The latest feature is pit [746], which is dated to after 1825 by transfer-printed ware (fabric LPM12G) and yellow ware (LPM5), while posthole [878] and pit [744] date to after 1807. As a whole the pottery from OA3 contains more creamware and transfer-printed wares than the other contemporary deposits. Of note are the base of a possible toy cup in Staffordshire salt-glazed ware (PM26, pit [1113]) and part of a transfer-printed wash basin (LPM14TR2, posthole [878]). A large sherd from an English stoneware tankard (PM25T) was found in pit [556]. Imports are limited to two tiny sieved sherds of Frechen stoneware (PM5) and two small sherds of Chinese porcelain (PM40 from pits [868] and [980]). Small amounts of residual slag; and cod, herring, sheep/goat and pig bone were also recovered. The bottom few courses of an 18th- or 19th-century brick wall, c 20m long, probably marking the limits of the next property, were found c 8m to the south of the property boundary in OA2.

The pottery by fabric and form

by Lyn Blackmore

The hand-collected pottery was examined macroscopically and using a binocular microscope (x 20). Selected sherds were also compared with the reference collection of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) and with those from the adjacent site of KBST05 (Jarrett in prep). Sketches were made of most rims from periods 2 and 3 and the material was recorded on paper and computer by sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight, using standard Museum of London codes for forms and decoration, and codes devised by the CAT for the fabrics (see Table 2 and Table 3). Where necessary additions were made to the Canterbury series or the dating of existing types was modified slightly. The Canterbury system has a category for late medieval wares, but the London database is restricted to medieval and post-medieval; fabrics dated to after 1450 were, therefore, recorded as post-medieval, although some could be of late medieval date. Sieved sherds from contexts with no other pottery were recorded fully but the remainder were simply counted, weighed and recorded as 'misc'. The emphasis of this report is on the medieval wares.

The medieval pottery

The pottery from the excavated areas discussed above amounts to approximately 1000 sherds from some 415 vessels (subsequently stated as ENV); the total weight is 8.531kg (Table 2). Twelve ware types were identified, some with a number of sub-types; the main groups comprise two types of shell-tempered ware (EM35, EM36) and reduced sandy wares (M38). The fabric codes and the date ranges used in the analysis are listed in Table 2.

Shell-tempered wares

The classification of the shell-tempered wares largely follows that used for Fremlin Walk, Maidstone, some of which were sampled in thin section, and the reader is referred to that report for more detailed information (Blackmore with Vince 2005). The earliest shell-tempered wares have a soft, virtually inclusion-free matrix containing abundant fossil shell thought to derive from Woolwich Bed deposits (fabric EM35). This ware, which equates with London fabric EMSH (Vince and Jenner 1991, 63), was rare at Fremlin Walk but here amounts to at least 218 sherds (86 ENV), of which 151 (58 ENV) are from phase 2 deposits.

The most common group comprises sand-and-shell-tempered sherds (fabric EM36), which amounts to at least 312 sherds (153 ENV), of which 239 (110 ENV) are from period 2. This is an umbrella code that applies to north-west Kent, and includes a range of types (Cotter 2006, 177–8). Analysis of samples from Fremlin Walk, Maidstone defined three petrological groups, while others were defined visually (Vince 2005a; Blackmore with Vince 2005). Fabrics EM36A and EM36B appear to contain shell from, or derived from, Cretaceous deposits. They are otherwise almost impossible to distinguish by eye, but EM36B contains occasional flint and chert, and it can also contain sparse to moderate yellow and rose-coloured quartz. As no analysis was carried out on the Tonbridge material, the sherds were grouped by texture. Fabric EM36A generally contains a higher proportion of shell and abundant evenly sorted quartz sand, while in EM36B the sand is less well sorted and there is less shell; there is, however, a continuum and some sherds could fall into either group. Both types include rounded and/or sub-rounded Greensand quartz grains up to 1.5mm across. Fabric EM36C comprises sherds that contain much less shell and which have a body very like that of fabric M38; in some cases it is very difficult to decide whether a sherd should be in this group or classed as a slightly shelly greyware. This seems to be the most common category in phase D at Eynsford (dated to after 1312, but almost certainly residual; Rigold 1971, 129, 158). Only one residual sherd from period 4 (pit [559]) was recorded as fabric EM48, a fabric that at Fremlin Walk has a silty, micaceous matrix and probably contains Tertiary shell derived from the Woolwich Beds (Vince 2005a; Blackmore with Vince 2005).

Cooking pots and jars are by far the most common forms made in all the shell-tempered fabrics. Those in fabric EM35 are handmade and tend to have deep everted rims that are slightly expanded at the top; they range between 200mm and 320mm in diameter. Ten examples of this form were found in period 2 contexts (eg Fig 3 <P1>–<P3>; Fig 5 <P17>). One rim has an angular profile (Fig 3 <P1>) while another is thicker and more rounded (Fig 3 <P2>). In most cases the junction of the rim and the body is quite rounded, but on <P18> (Fig 5) it is noticeably more angular and the uneven inner surface shows how the rim was applied separately to the body of the pot. Rims of this type are well represented in phase W and X contexts at Eynsford (dated to after c 1080 and 1130 respectively) and at Lullingstone (Rigold 1971, 127, 129–35, 151–2, fig 12; 1973, 106, figs 12–14). A find from period 3 (Fig 8 <P33>) is more developed, with a thickened expanded profile, while one vessel has applied thumbled strips (small pit or posthole [752] period 2). The only other form in EM35 is the bowl/dish (diameter 260mm), represented by rims from the same pit.

Cooking pots and jars in fabric EM36 are, on the whole, wheelthrown. An exception, in EM36B, is handmade with an everted rim and uneven wall thickness; the shoulder is remarkably thick in proportion to the rim. This form is similar to finds from phase Y deposits at Eynsford, dated to the late 12th century (Rigold 1971, fig 13; 1973, fig 12). Other 'early' forms from period 2 deposits are sherds from a large vessel with everted rim, possibly a cauldron (Fig 6 <P21>) and a long-necked jar with small, hooked, or bevelled, rim (Fig 6 <P22>).

Other than this the rims are mainly squared (for example Fig 6 <P20>, and an internally angled rim Fig 3 <P4>) or expanded. The expanded rims can be flat-topped or near flat-topped (Fig 3 <P8>, Fig 5 <P12>, Fig 11 <P37>) or slightly angled with outer edges that are rounded (Fig 5 <P13>), vertical (Fig 5 <P14>) or bevelled (Fig 5 <P15>, <P18>). One jar has a rim with grooved convex top (Fig 6 <P23>), while another has a thickened, slightly clubbed profile (Fig 5 <P11>). One rim from period 3 is externally angled (Fig 11 <P36>), while another appears to be lid-seated (Fig 11 <P39>). All these forms are found in London shelly-sandy ware (SSW) and Essex shell-and-sand-tempered wares, which date from c 1140–1250 (Blackmore and Vince 1994; Blackmore and Pearce in prep). They are also widespread across Kent, where they seem to be longer-lived. They compare well with find from phases Z and A and later deposits at Eynsford, dated to the 13th century (Rigold 1971, figs 14–7), Leigh (Parfitt 1976, 189, fig 7), the Lyons site, Tonbridge (Jarrett 2005, figs 7, 8), Bromley (Timby 1997, fig 7, nos 2–6), Dartford (Mynard 1973, fig 3, PP25), amongst other sites. The rim diameters of the jars and cooking pots range between 160mm and 320mm, with two or three examples of each size over 220mm (19 rims); only seven examples fall into the smaller size range (160–210mm).

Other forms include a bowl (pit [904] period 4), a bowl with spout/socketed handle (pit [778] period 3), two curfews (Fig 3 <P7> and Fig 6 <P26>), six dishes (including Fig 3 <P5>, Fig 6 <P24>–<P26>) and a jug (pit [1069] period 2). Socketed/spouted bowls were also found on the Lyons site in Tonbridge (Jarrett 2005, fig 7, <P5>–<P7>), while socketed dishes occur at Eynsford (Rigold 1971, fig 17, B14) and Dartford (Mynard 1973, fig 3, PP25).

Sand-tempered wares

These mainly reduced wares fall into several sub-groups, of which the earliest, dated to 1125–1250 in the CAT type series, is fabric EM4, which may have been produced in the Hoo Peninsula/Isle of Grain (Cotter 2006, 176). No examples of this fabric were found, but the later fabric M4 is represented by 26 sherds from nine vessels. This code is reserved for jugs, and covers two variants. One variant is similar to EM4, with abundant very fine quartz sand and moderate coarser sand (up to 0.5mm across) that can be very well sorted or less well distributed. The surfaces tend to be pinkish-buff in colour with a grey core, but can have an oxidised outer margin/surface and reduced inner margin/surface (or vice versa). As found at Fremlin Walk, Maidstone, this group can have a very thin glaze or be unglazed. The Tonbridge finds include an unglazed collared rim from a jug or pitcher (Fig 3 <P9>). The second group has a vesicular structure similar to some of the fabric M38

greywares, and the body can be reduced, as typified by the lobed cup (Fig 8 <P31>). The inclusions are larger, less well-sorted and can include sparse shell or calcareous matter. Fabric type M4 is dated in the CAT type series to 1225–1400, but it seems likely that the first variant overlaps with fabric EM4 and the earlier reduced sandy wares (M38A).

The north or west Kent greywares (total 182 sherds) are coded as fabric M38. These wares were broadly dated by the CAT to 1150–1400 and divided into types A, B and C (Cotter 2006, 178–80). There is no real difference between the samples of M38A and M38B in the CAT type series, and so the latter code has not been used here. As for Fremlin Walk, Maidstone, fabric M38A has been divided into three chronological groups, and fabric M38A1 is now dated from 1125 to cover the earlier greywares (some handmade) that are neither EM4 nor M4. The fabric generally contains abundant evenly sorted sand; it can be similar to both the EM36 group and the fine sandy variant of fabric M4. Some sherds contain very sparse fine shell inclusions.

The harder, finer unglazed fabrics were recorded as M38A2 (dated to 1170–1350) and M38A3 (1300–1400). The textural difference between M38A1 and the other two groups is similar to that between Kingston-type ware and coarse Surrey/Hampshire border wares (M38A2, M38A3). All types can contain rounded Greensand(?) quartzes, but in some sherds of M38A2 these are noticeably more abundant. In the 14th century these wares became harder and finer, evolving into fabric M38C and then into the more oxidised fabrics LM34 and LM37. No examples of fabric M38C were recorded, although they could be the same as M38A3 (nine sherds).

Fabrics M38A1 and M38A2 are more or less equally represented on the site, and it seems likely that most are broadly contemporary with the shell-tempered wares. Jars and cooking pots are the dominant form types (86 and 29 vessels respectively). The rims include <P6> and <P10> (Fig 3) and <P34> (Fig 8) in M38A1. Two sherds have applied thumbled strips (from ditch [634] and pit [759] both period 2).

Other forms comprise a spouted bowl (pit [927] period 4), two dishes, a small dish/lid, three possible spouted pitchers (including Fig 6 <P27>) and up to 14 jugs. The latter include two collared rims (Fig 8 <P30>), two stabbed strap handles (from pit [627] period 2 and pit [941] period 4), one sherd with incised wavy line decoration (pit [854] period 3) and one with oblique slashes around the shoulder (Fig 8 <P34>). Pit [1089] (period 3) contained 11 sherds from the base and body of a jar or jug with applied thumbled strips. The collared rims are similar to those of Fig 3 <P9> and two complete jugs from a well on the adjacent site of KBST05 (Holden et al in prep). The construction of the well has been dendro-dated to c 1096–1131, but the timbers could have been reused and the well could have been in use for some time; a date of 1170–1225 seems likely for the jugs found in it (C Jarrett pers comm). None of the illustrated finds from Leigh is of this type, but a similar form was found under Bentlif wing of Maidstone Museum (Spillett et al 1942, 64, fig 3, no. 2). Other examples include finds from New Addington (Alexander 1961, 47–8, fig 14.6), Bromley (Timby 1997, 215, fig 7.4) and Maison Dieu, Ospringe, (Thorn 1979, 170, fig 38, nos. 61–63, 70).

Limpsfield-type reduced wares (fabric M44A) are characterised by a dense fabric with abundant rounded iron-veined quartz grains up to 1mm and sometimes larger, but rarely any flint or chert (Jones 1998, 218; Blackmore and Pearce in prep). They seem to be very rare on this site, and also on the adjacent site of KBST05. The two rims found derive from a period 3 jar (Fig 8 <P28>) and a period 4 jug (from pit [941]).

Other coarsewares

The most unusual early medieval fabric, represented by a handmade rim sherd from period 2 (Fig 5 <P16>) contains abundant coarse rounded sand, sparse flint, sub-angular fragments of ?ragstone/grog and scattered fragments of red sandstone. This was recorded as fabric EM100 as no parallel was found in the CAT reference collection. Sandstone occurs in some of the Surrey fabrics (Jones 1998, 219, fabric IQ), but not together with flint. A possible source is in the Limpsfield area, but it is more likely that this fabric is from south Kent or Sussex. Unusual flint-tempered wares have also been found on the adjacent site of KBST05 (C Jarrett pers comm.) and on the Lyons site, the latter possibly part of a mould (Jarrett 2005, 145)

Glazed wares and other finewares

Glazed sherds are very rare on this site. Given this paucity, it is most surprising that the period 3 pit [884], in OA2, contained a unique find, a near complete lobed cup Fig 8 <P31>, with a modelled horse and rider at the centre (see discussion). Probably of later 14th- of early 15th-century date, this is in a slightly calcareous grey sandy ware that compares well with fabric M4, thought to be from Maidstone, and has a streaky green glaze over a white slip both internally and externally.

Other fabrics include nine sherds of coarsely sand-tempered oxidised ware; the fabric is similar to Tyler Hill ware, but is more likely to be Earlswood ware from Surrey (fabric M44B, 11 sherds from six vessels). One has combed wavy lines (pit [1111] period 2), while a strap handle has clear glaze over a white slip (pit [941] period 4).

Pottery from further afield comprises six sherds of London-type ware (M5) and one sherd of calcareous London-type ware/Scarborough ware (M11, pit [890] period 2). The former is the main regional import to Kent in the 13th century and occurs elsewhere in Tonbridge (Jarrett 2005, 145) and in the general area, for example at Joydens Wood (Dunning 1958, 34–5), Strood (Rigold 1965, 129), Eynsford (Rigold 1971, 159, 168, fig 23; 1973, 116), Dartford (Mynard 1973, 190), Leigh (Parfitt 1976, 195–6) and Otford (Keller 1984, 169). The finds here include two rim sherds, one a baluster jug found in pit [778] (period 3), the other a jug in the north French style from pit [980] (period 5). Other finds include a sherd from a large highly decorated jug decorated with applied rouletted strips and faint traces of a green glaze. A few London-type wares were also found in the evaluation of the site and on the adjacent site of KBST05 (Holden et al in prep). Scarborough wares are less common, the most important find being a knight jug from Dartford (Dunning 1973).

The post-medieval pottery (c 1500–1900)

The post-medieval assemblage from the contexts discussed in this report amounts to 232 sherds (170 ENV, 5.96kg). Altogether the pottery derives from 49 contexts; the seven occurrences in periods 2 and 3 are intrusive. The material ranges from later 15th- to 19th-century in date, but approximately half dates to after 1700 (c 220 sherds, mostly 1740 and later). The material is in reasonable condition, but sherd size varies from large to tiny chips. The fabric codes and the date ranges used in the analysis are listed in Table 3.

Fabrics and forms

In all 44 fabric types/fabric sub-types are represented. Redwares are the most common category, with more or less equal amounts of most other types.

Redwares

These fall into several groups based on the nature of the clay as much as the abundance (or lack of) inclusions. One late medieval/early post-medieval sherd in a coarse fabric is of unknown origin (LM1.2T). The late medieval/early post-medieval redwares have an inclusion-free matrix with added sand (LM34A, five sherds), sometimes also with fine chalk or calcareous matter: LM34B (eight sherds), LM37 (12 sherds) and PM64. The most common of these calcareous wares is fabric PM64, which was probably produced in a number of centres. Most of the 30 sherds in this fabric are from jars, some with angular or distinctive collared rims. Other forms comprise two bowls, a possible butterpot, a possible lid, a pipkin and the complete rim of a lipped jug (Fig 11 <P40>). The majority are unglazed, but some have a metallic glaze, which also occurs on a range of other fabrics. Fabrics of LM34A, LM34B and LM37 are very similar to those of the medieval reduced wares M38A and M38C and also to pottery found at Pivington (fabrics Bi, Bii, Biii, Ci, Cii; Rigold 1962, 41–2; Blackmore 2005). The distribution of similar late/post-medieval fabrics to Rochester and other sites in north Kent suggests that most are from the Medway area, although some could be from Hareplain, near Biddenden (fabric LM18; Kelly 1972), the only known kiln producing late medieval/Tudor pottery in the general area, which is located on Wealden clay. Archaeomagnetic dating and stylistic parallels with finds from Pivington suggest a date of c 1500–1525 for the Hareplain industry (ibid, 173–4; Rigold 1962), although the CAT dating is c 1450/75–1525/50 and it is clear that fabric PM64 continued in use after this.

The other redwares were mainly recorded as fabric PM1, which is a general catch-all category (19 sherds). Those that could be assigned a form type are from bowls and dishes, although one is from a jar. The finer wares were mainly identified as PM1.3 (12 sherds) with two possibly of fabric PM1.6; they derive from jars, bowls (Fig 10 <P35>), pipkins (Fig 10 <P36>), a chamber pot and a possible distillation base (from posthole [878] period 5). The latest finds were recorded as fabric LPM1A (High Halden-type) and LPM2 (flowerpot-type fabrics); these amount to 12 and four sherds respectively. Some of the fine red/buff wares, particularly those with a slightly streaky body, are probably from the Weald, although some could be from

the Surrey/Hampshire borders (see below). One jug sherd was recorded as LM3 ([748]), but most were assigned to fabric PM2.7 (11 sherds from jugs, jars, pipkins and a chamber pot). Also present are a flowerpot in fabric PM2.6 (from pit [1059] period 4), and single sherds of Cistercian-type ware (fabric PM57) and Wealden slipware (fabric PM2.7S).

Other wares

The other main categories of 16th- to earlier 18th-century pottery comprise Surrey/Hampshire border wares (fabric PM10): 16 sherds from pipkins, dishes, chamber pots and a stool pan) and tin-glazed ware (fabric PM9). The latter (19 sherds) are mainly table wares (bowls, dishes and plates) but include four chamber pots. The remaining finds include a few fragments of London stoneware (PM25, three tankards; LPM9), but mainly comprise factory-made wares from Staffordshire/the Midlands dating to the mid/late 18th and early 19th centuries. The main category is pearlware (LPM12, 18 sherds from 14 vessels), followed by creamware (PM43 and LPM11), with 12 sherds from 10 vessels. Also present are Staffordshire salt-glazed stoneware PM26 (four sherds, four vessels), refined white earthenware, some transfer-printed (LPM14, eight sherds from five vessels), yellow ware (LMP5) and English porcelain (LPM7). These finds include tablewares and sanitary wares, with part of a toilet and wash basin in posthole [878] (period 5); of note is part of a toy cup or bowl in Staffordshire salt-glazed stoneware PM26 from pit [1113] (period 5). Such finds are rare, but an important group is known from Finsbury Square (Thomas 2003, 109, no. 8; Blackmore in prep), and scattered items have been found on sites across London.

Imports are not common on this site and, as at Fremlin Walk, they mainly comprise stonewares from Cologne and Frechen (PM4, PM5), one of which has part of a medallion showing the arms of Amsterdam ([942]). The two sherds of Chinese porcelain (PM40A) are not unusual, but a sherd from a Martabani storage jar (PM107) from the Far East is an unexpected find in period 4 pit [911], in OA2.

Discussion

There is little evidence that Tonbridge was a major Saxon centre. However, the Domesday Survey of 1086 records that the “lowy of Tonbridge with its fortress” had been awarded to Richard de Fitzgilbert (the lowy was an appropriated area whose revenues were devoted to the upkeep of the castle and garrison) and it is probable that the origins of Tonbridge lie in the years just before or after the Norman Conquest. The earliest Norman (and probably wooden) castle was burnt down in 1088 and was replaced over the next few years by one of stone. In 1124 a priory was established in the area of Tonbridge railway station, and the parish church of St Peter and St Paul (1750m to the east of the site) is also thought to have been founded in the 12th century. The archaeological evidence is in agreement with this chronology. No evidence of Saxon activity was recorded on the site but period 2 (1050–1250) accounts for 45% of all excavated features and would seem to denote

a phase of rapid expansion. The medieval high street is thought to have followed the same course as the present road and B1, the earliest identified structure on the site, probably fronted onto it.

From the recovered environmental material it is clear that the inhabitants of this area of Tonbridge enjoyed a varied diet during the medieval period. There was clear evidence for animal husbandry, with an abundance of ox, pig, sheep/goat bone, and many bones showed signs of butchery and splitting for the removal of marrow and brain etc (Pipe 2006). It is also apparent that sea fish were being consumed on site – bones from species including cod, herring, eel and haddock were recovered – most probably in a salted form (ibid). Plant remains include cereals, predominantly oats, but also wheat and barley, and fruits including elder, raspberry/blackberry, plum and grape (Roberts 2006).

Whilst Tonbridge is well known to have prospered in the post-medieval period as a result of the Wealden iron industry, the medieval relationship between the town and the regional industry is not clear (Wragg et al 2005, 122). Although the town's medieval prosperity was founded on its strategic location and role in the cloth trade, it now also seems apparent that iron-working was carried out on an industrial scale in the heart of the town in the 12th century, if not earlier. Iron-working is well evidenced in the site during period 2, when both smelting and smithing were carried out in or near to B1, in the circular ditch and particularly towards the western end of the middle property or zone in OA3. The raw materials may have reached the site via the River Medway, which is conveniently close to the south. Because of a lack of comparative evidence, it is not clear whether the industry occupied a defined zone within the town or if it functioned on a permanent or seasonal/temporary basis (Blackmore and Keys 2006). The origins of the industry may have lain in a desire to ensure a steady and economical supply of materials, perhaps initially for the building of the castle and then for properties within the town. While the industry may have continued on a reduced scale in period 3, it is probable that all the later slag is residual (see below).

In 1215, King John attacked and seized Tonbridge Castle, which he retained until his death the next year. The de Clare family, who held Tonbridge, had been key figures in forcing the king to sign and honour the Magna Carta (Simmons 1998). As the site lies only c 130m north of the castle, it may be that the apparent clearance of the features such as B1 on the medieval high street relates to this event.

Only about 7% of the excavated features have been attributed to period 3 (1250-1550). This may reflect a real decline in occupation or prosperity in this part of the town, which may be related to the siege of 1215. Nevertheless, documentary sources demonstrate the town's continued development: it was first mentioned as being represented as a borough and vil by its own jury at the eyre (the travelling royal court of justice) in 1241. In 1259, Henry III licensed the enclosure of the town within a crenellated wall, although archaeological evidence indicates that only a bank and ditch were ever constructed (Streeten 1976, 118). The site lies c 100m within these defences, known as 'the Fosse', which can be still be traced around the northern part of the town today. In the same year, 1259, licence was also granted for a market to be held within the church grounds. This was moved to the High Street, at its junction with Castle Street and East Lane (to the southeast of the site)

in 1285, where a market cross and a market building stood, although stock such as cattle may have been corralled farther west, closer to the site.

In 1262 Gilbert de Clare, lord of Tonbridge, supported Simon de Monfort in an unsuccessful rebellion against Henry III. In 1264, the king set fire to the town and took control of the castle. It is likely that most buildings in Tonbridge, save the castle, church and priory, were wooden like B2. Much of the town is likely to have been destroyed. The local iron industry probably declined rapidly at this time (if not earlier), and while smithing may have continued, smelting would probably have been forced elsewhere for safety reasons (Blackmore and Keys 2006).

The medieval pottery from the site is entirely domestic in character and amounts to approximately 1000 sherds from some 415 vessels (8.528kg). Although only a sample of the whole, this is three times as much as was found on the Lyons site (Jarrett 2005) and considerably more than was recovered from Lansdowne Road (Streeten 1976), but is comparable with the assemblage from the adjacent site at The Slade (Holden et al in prep). The dating of the pottery is not entirely certain. Most publications for north and west Kent quote the dating for Eynsford (Rigold 1971; 1973), which is both complex and imprecise. Nonetheless, the three main sites testify to a rapid development of Tonbridge from the late 11th century onwards, but especially in the 12th to early 13th centuries, when the shell-tempered fabric EM36 was the dominant type, both on Capitol Cinema and Lyons sites (Jarrett 2005). The source of the shell-tempered wares is unclear, but fabric EM36 contains shell derived from the Woolwich beds and could have been produced to the north of Tonbridge, especially as it is common at Eynsford and similar wares reach London. The other shelly wares that make up the EM36 tradition could be from the Medway area (see below). It is generally accepted that shell-tempered wares could have persisted as late as 1300, but this could vary from one location to another and needs more research.

The sand-tempered wares used in Tonbridge in the 12th to 14th centuries could be from two main sources. One of these is at Limsfield, only c 13 miles to the north-west, where a number of kilns have been found (Prendergast 1974; Blackmore and Pearce in prep). The other is in the Medway area, perhaps close to Maidstone. The problem of differentiating these wares has been noted and debated in the past (Dunning 1956, 63; Streeten 1982, 93; Rigold 1971, 158; Parfitt 1976, 186). For the Lyons site in Tonbridge it was suggested that the sherds identified as fabric EM36 were also made in the Limsfield area (Jarrett 2005, 141). Recent scientific analysis of finds from Fremlin Walk, Maidstone, however, has shown that fabrics EM36 (four samples) and the sandy wares M4 (three samples) and M38A2 (one sample) are chemically related and, although petrologically different, the latter two are similar to samples from the Week Street Kiln and the Bentlif Wing in Maidstone (Vince 2005a, b; Blackmore with Vince 2005; misquoted in Edwards 2007, 89). Until such time as another kiln is found, the origin of these wares must remain unresolved, but it is likely to be in the Medway area.

The present assemblage offers very little evidence for any development in the pottery used in Tonbridge in the later 13th and 14th centuries, other than a slight increase in the greywares. This suggests that either the local traditions were very

conservative, and/or that much of the material from the period 3 deposits is residual. The most distinctive find from the later 14th or 15th century is the lobed cup (Fig 8 <P31>). This was not analysed scientifically, but is visually identical to samples from Maidstone in the CAT reference collection and it seems very likely that it was made there. The lobed cup is a form that reached England from France, probably in the late 13th or early 14th century. In southern England it first appears in Kingston-type ware (Vince 1985a, 57, figs 26, no. 3; 27; Pearce and Vince 1988, 50) and wasters from rather deeper cups dating to the 14th century have been found at the Eden Street and Knapp-Drewett kilns in Kingston (Vince 1985b, fig 6; Miller and Stephenson 1999, 39, fig 28.63). The form was later taken up and produced in greater quantities by potters in the Surrey-Hampshire borders (Pearce and Vince 1988, 66–7) and at Cheam (*ibid*, 80–1). Decorated examples are extremely rare but include the centrepiece of a Kingston-type ware cup with internal horse and rider very similar to no. 31 (*ibid*, fig 100, no. 389). The type is slightly more common in Surrey-Hampshire border ware, and examples with a range of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures have been found (*ibid* figs 34, 119, nos 514–517; Blackmore 2004, 343, 353, fig 95, <P35>). No equivalent cups are known in any of the other industries supplying London, and they seem to be hitherto unknown in Kent. It is likely that such vessels were used as centrepieces or perhaps communal drinking vessels at feasts and other important events such as hunting parties (Pearce and Vince 1988, 66; McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 114). The unique find from Tonbridge may have been specially commissioned for such an occasion.

In terms of pottery marketing, therefore, it would seem that both Tonbridge and Maidstone belonged to a Medway tradition. Shell-tempered wares amount to 73% and 36% of the medieval pottery from periods 2 and 3 respectively, while the reduced sandy wares amount to 15% and 41%. The closest published medieval assemblage is that from the moated site of Leigh (Parfitt 1976), which is slightly closer to Limpsfield and later in date (later 13th/early 14th century). Comparison is hindered by the fact that all unglazed wares from Leigh were counted together, but again these make up 86% of the assemblage as a whole. Few other medieval wares were found on the present site, and the main non-local pottery is London-type ware. There are no continental imports, although Saintonge ware from southwest France was found on the Lyons site (Jarrett 2005, 145) and it might be assumed that imported wares were used in the nearby castle, as they were at Eynsford (Rigold 1971, 171, fig 24).

During the Tudor period, Tonbridge became more prosperous as a centre of the technologically revolutionised Wealden iron industry (Chalkin 2004, 95). This boost of affluence is perhaps reflected in the archaeology at the site where about 23% of the total number of recorded features are attributed to period 4 (1550-1700) compared with only 7% in later medieval period 3. The recovered environmental material was very similar to the medieval samples, suggestive of a varied diet with an abundance of butchered ox, pig, sheep/goat bone split for the removal of marrow and brain. Cod and herring were again present, but in lesser quantities than in the medieval samples (Pipe 2006). Cereals included oats, wheat and barley, but also rye; and fruits included elder, raspberry/blackberry, fig and grape (Roberts 2006).



Figure 13 The site in relation to the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866

Information on the town in the 17th century has been previously analysed (Chalkin 1961) and reveals that most of the buildings – other than church and castle – were still of timber. After the Civil War, however, the castle was partly demolished and much of its masonry systematically sold off. B6 was probably built from such material. Major stimuli to the development of Tonbridge during the 18th and 19th centuries were the opening of the Medway to navigation in the early 1740s

(Chalkin 2004, 97), perhaps around the time that B4 was demolished and B5 was constructed; and the arrival of the railway in 1842 (Chapman 1976). The cattle market moved to the rear of the site in 1856 (Davis 1985). With the exception of B6, it would seem that the site had always had open ground behind the street frontages, and in 1866, the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 13) shows that this area consisted largely of gardens, yards and small structures. The fine building that housed the Capitol Cinema, originally built as a public hall in 1873, formed the northern street side of the site until it burnt down and was demolished in 2004.

The post-medieval pottery assemblage is limited, and only pit [1059] contained a group of any size. As a whole the assemblage is similar to that from the Lyons site (Jarrett 2005), generally typical of wares from medium status households in character, with little that is decorated. The late 15th- to 18th-century fabric types are mainly associated with food storage and food preparation, and most of the jars are unglazed. The later 17th- to mid 18th-century wares also include plates and chamber pots, but no drug jars or ointment pots. No Wrotham ware was identified. The 18th- to 19th-century finds mainly comprise tablewares associated with the consumption of food and drink, with two stoneware tankards, a Staffordshire salt-glazed plate with barley decoration on the flange, and a range of plates, cups and saucers in creamware and pearlware. Also present are 19th-century sanitary wares and a possible distillation base of uncertain date, found together in posthole [878] (period 5). Imports are not common on this site; they mainly comprise German stonewares from Frechen, with a few from Cologne. The presence of Chinese porcelain (two sherds) is not surprising, but a sherd from a Martabani storage jar from the Far East is an unexpected find in posthole [911] (period 4) in OA2.

To sum up, the excavation has provided important information on the development of medieval and later Tonbridge; when the results of other work are published (Holden et al in prep) it will be possible to examine the changing local economy still more closely.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are principally due to the client, the Tonbridge Stock and Cattle Market Company who commissioned the archaeological work on the site. Thanks are also due to the client's agent, Paul Carter of Broadlands Chartered Surveyors.

MoLAS would also like to thank Wendy Rogers (Kent County Council), Prys Williams (Crest Nicholson (SE) Ltd), and Stuart Holden (Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd) for their help with this project, and the site excavation team, particularly Jo Lyon and Elaine Eastbury.

The figures for this article were prepared by Faith Vardy. Specialist study of the finds was undertaken by Lyn Blackmore (pottery, glass, slag), Tony Grey (clay pipes), Lynne Keys (slag), Alan Pipe (animal bones), Beth Richardson (registered finds), Kate Roberts (environmental) and Terence Smith with Ian Betts (building materials). Detailed reports by these specialists (listed in the bibliography below) may be consulted in the site archive.

Table 1 The pottery

No.	context	feature	period	land use	fabric	rim diam mm.	Fig
<P1>	[706]	slot [707]	2	B1	EM35	200	3
<P2>	[706]	slot [707]	2	B1	EM35	240	3
<P3>	[633]	ditch [634]	2	OA2	EM35	290	3
<P4>	[633]	ditch [634]	2	OA2	EM36B	180	3
<P5>	[633]	ditch [634]	2	OA2	EM36B	320	3
<P6>	[633]	ditch [634]	2	OA2	M38A1	160	3
<P7>	[751]	pit/posthole [752]	2	OA2	EM36A	360	3
<P8>	[751]	pit/posthole [752]	2	OA2	EM36	260	3
<P9>	[751]	pit/posthole [752]	2	OA2	M4	110	3
<P10>	[560]	pit [562]	2	OA2	M38A1	260	3
<P11>	[899]	pit [900]	2	OA3	EM36B	210	5
<P12>	[899]	pit [900]	2	OA3	EM36	300	5
<P13>	[899]	pit [900]	2	OA3	EM36B	180	5
<P14>	[899]	pit [900]	2	OA3	EM36B	280	5
<P15>	[899]	pit [900]	2	OA3	EM36B	300	5
<P16>	[765]	pit [766]	2	OA3	EM100	240	5
<P17>	[758]	pit [759]	2	OA3	EM35	200	5
<P18>	[1076]	pit [1077]	2	OA3	EM35	320	5
<P19>	[769]	pit [770]	2	OA3	EM36B	280	-
<P20>	[796]	pit [797]	2	OA3	EM36B	210	6
<P21>	[860]	pit [861]	2	OA3	EM36	320	-
<P22>	[1082]	pit [1083]	2	OA3	EM36B	170	6
<P23>	[1038]	pit [1039]	2	OA3	EM36	260	-
<P24>	[732]	Posthole [733]	2	OA3	EM36B	400	6
<P25>	[1068]	pit [1069]	2	OA3	EM36B	360	6
<P26>	[1102]	pit [1103]	2	OA3	EM36B	440	6
<P27>	[771]	Posthole [772]	2	OA3	M38A1	120	6
<P28>	[824]	slot [825]	3	B2	M44A	220	8
<P29>	[883]	pit [884]	3	OA2	EM36	260	8
<P30>	[883]	pit [884]	3	OA2	M38A2	120	8
<P31>	[883]	pit [884]	3	OA2	M4		8
<P32>	[763]	pit [764]	3	OA3	M5		-
<P33>	[777]	pit [778]	3	OA3	EM35	260	8
<P34>	[777]	pit [778]	3	OA3	M38A1		8
<P35>	[1058]	pit [1059]	4	OA3	PM1.3		10
<P36>	[855]	pit [858]	4	OA3	PM1.3	1	10
<P37>	[840]	cobbled area [840]	5	B4	EM36B	280	11
<P38>	[840]	cobbled area [840]	5	B4	EM36B	260	11
<P39>	[840]	cobbled area [840]	5	B4	EM36	250	11
<P40>	[783]	debris [783]	5	B4	PM64	83	11

**Table 2 Key to the medieval fabrics and their date ranges
with quantification by period**

Code	Fabric type	Date	Period and sum of weight (g)				Total
			2	3	4	5	
EM100	Unknown English early medieval ware	900–1250	47	-	-	-	47
EM35	N/W Kent shell-tempered (fossil shell); virtually sand-free	1050–1225	900	307	30	1	1238
EM36	N/W Kent shell-tempered with sand (general)	1100–1250	23	-	2	-	25
EM36 A	N/W Kent shell-tempered with moderate/abundant shell and sparse to moderate sand	1100–1250	481	173	11	32	697
EM36 B	N/W Kent shell-tempered with moderate/abundant shell and moderate to abundant mixed sand	1100–1250	1645	143	-	282	2070
EM36 C	N/W Kent shell-tempered with abundant coarse sand	1100–1250	559	270	27	78	934
EM48	N/W Kent shell-tempered, fine sandy fabric	1050–1250	-	-	5	-	5
M10	Wealden pink-buff sandy ware	1350–1550	1	-	2	-	3
M4	Maidstone sandy ware (see also M38)	1225–1400	33	406	10	1	450
M5	London-type ware	1140–1350	17	44	-	9	70
M11A	Scarborough ware (type 1)	1135–1225	6	0	-	-	6
M38	North Kent sandy ware (general)	1125–1400	-	-	2	-	2
M38A	North Kent sandy ware (general, mainly reduced)	1125–1400	-	1	41	-	42
M38A1	Coarse greyware; abundant fine mixed sands+?glaucanite	1125–1225	374	806	95	3	1278
M38A2	N/W Kent sandy ware	1170–1350	345	162	124	74	705
M38A3	N/W Kent hard fine sandy ware	1300–1400	4	44	-	-	48
M44A	Limpsfield reduced coarse ware	1150–1300	-	18	27	-	45
M44B	Limpsfield/Earlswood-type oxidised ware	1200–1400	6	11	60	86	163
M100	Unknown English medieval ware	1200–1480	25	-	-	-	25
MISC	Unrecorded sieved sherds		465	84	110	19	678
	Total		4931	2469	546	585	8531

**Table 3 Key to the post-medieval fabrics and their date ranges
with quantification by period**

Code	Fabric type	Date	Period and sum of weight				Grand Total
			2	3	4	5	
LM1.2T	late medieval/transitional sandy ware	1475–1550			3		3
LM17A	Late medieval hard fine sandy ware (reduced)	1525–1625			3		3
LM17C	Late medieval hard fine sandy ware (Cistercian-type glaze)	1525–1625			1		1
LM3	Wealden(?) fine buff earthenware	1475–1550			5		5
LM34A	Medway hard silty sandy ware	1450–1550	2	0	1		3
LM34B	Medway hard silty sandy ware with calcareous inclusions	1450–1550	146		11		157
LM37	Medway (Maidstone?) fine calcareous sandy ware	1525–1575			181		181
PM1	Post-medieval redware	1550–1800	1		1023	55	1079
PM1.3	fine post-medieval redware	1575–1700		9	249	166	424
PM1.5	compact post-medieval redware	1600–1775				9	9
PM10.1	Surrey/Hampshire border ware, green -glazed	1550–1725			530	50	580
PM10.2	Surrey/Hampshire border ware, yellow-glazed	1550–1725			151		151
PM100	Unknown English post-medieval ware	1500–1900			2	22	24
PM107	misc Asian wares	1500–1800			20		20
PM2.6	Wealden fine pink-buff earthenware with marl inclusions	1525–1750			248		248
PM2.7	Wealden orange-pink fine sandy ware/Surrey-Hampshire border redware	1525–1825			147	159	306
PM2.7S	Slip-trailed Wealden or Surrey-Hampshire border redware	1525–1825				14	14
PM25T	London stoneware (tankards)	1700–1800				266	266
PM26	Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware	1720–1780		2		6	8
PM26B	Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware, moulded decoration and scalloped rims	1720–1780				28	28
PM4	Cologne stoneware	1500–600			6		6
PM5	Frechen stoneware	1550–			42	161	203

continued on next page

Table 3 continued

Code	Fabric type	Date	Period and sum of weight				Grand Total
PM9B	English tin-glazed ware, blue and white decoration	1575–1775	1		27	99	127
PM9BT	English tin-glazed ware, blue-tinged plain	1675–1775				10	10
PM9W	English tin-glazed ware, plain white	1630–1775	25		3	107	135
PM40A	Chinese porcelain (underglaze blue decoration)	1650–1800				3	3
PM43	Creamware (early types)	1740–1780			1	64	65
PM57	Cistercian ware	1500–1575				14	14
PM64	Medway/NW Kent calcareous ware	1550–1700		15	691	164	870
LPM1A	red earthenware with iron-streaked glaze (High Halden type)	1775–1925				368	368
LPM2	fine red earthenware (flower pot type)	1775–1925				36	36
LPM5	yellow ware	1825–1900				20	20
LPM10A	modern English stoneware (bottles)	1800–1940				13	13
LPM10B	modern English stoneware (jars)	1800–1940				53	53
LPM11	creamware (later types)	1775–1880				59	59
LPM12	pearlware (plain)	1770–1840				61	61
LPM12C	pearlware (plain)	1770–1840				2	2
LPM12D	pearlware, painted or enamelled	1770–1840				5	5
LPM12G	pearlware, feathered or shell edged	1770–1840				89	89
LPM14	refined white earthenware	1800–1900				120	120
LPM14TR 1	transfer-printed ware, Chinese-style	1780–1900				22	22
LPM14TR 2	transfer-printed ware, line and stipple	1807–1900				154	154
MISC	unrecorded sieved material		5		10		15
Grand Total			180	26	3355	2399	5960

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