

# Chapter 4: The Tenements – c AD 1250 to Modern

by Richard Brown

*Our life contains a thousand springs,  
And dies if one be gone.  
Strange, that a harp of thousand strings  
Should keep in tune so long!*

Isaac Watts

## Introduction

This chapter examines the archaeological evidence for the 22 medieval tenements documented at the site from the 13th century and traces their development to the present day. Key dates in their history include the French and Genoese raid on Southampton in 1338 (which caused widespread damage) and the tenement survey conducted in 1454 to facilitate production of the Terrier, a survey relating to payments for the town's defences (see Chapter 2). The properties are detailed below in two blocks running anti-clockwise around the site, starting from the south-east in accordance with the tenement numbers established by analysis of the Terrier (Figs 2.1 and 2.3). The first block of tenements (Tenements 166-180) fronted onto English Street (now High Street) to the east of the site, while the second (Tenements 237-243) fronted onto French Street to the west. Tenements 166-180 lay within the parish of Holy Rood, Tenements 236-238 within the parish of St Michael and Tenements 239-243 within the parish of St John. Several of the tenements paid rent to the Hospital of God's House or the Priory of St Denys (Kaye 1976; Blake 1981): this and other pertinent information is summarised at the beginning of each tenement description. Each entry begins with details of the extent of the tenement and its surviving building(s) (normally the cellars), followed by a description of other features and deposits by period, many of which lay within the tenement yards.

## Roads

By at least the 11th century High Street/English Street formed the central axis of the town and the churches lining this main thoroughfare – All Saints, St Lawrence and Holy Rood – probably pre-date the conquest. Utility works in the High Street undertaken as part of the new development therefore had the potential to uncover useful archaeological information. Water pipes are known to have been laid along the street in the first decades of the 14th century during the construction of the Friary conduit, which brought water from Shirley to the

lower part of the town (Platt 1973, 65). In addition the street was widened westwards in the area of the site after the war, when the bomb damaged buildings on this side of the street were cleared. The eastern side of the street has also been largely rebuilt although the original frontage is still indicated by the position of the Red Lion Inn, which dates to the late 15th to early 16th century.

Several previous investigations into the strata of the High Street (eg Sites SOU 432, 577, 154, 294 and 593) have largely been related to service trenches, with limited access to archaeological deposits. Late Saxon deposits have been identified at Sites SOU 432 and 294, although the interpretation of gravels as former road sequences and the attribution of date has been problematic since the natural gravel known to cap the brickearth has also been used to infill service trenches and to form the base of the modern roads.

Two features recorded during utility works on the eastern side of the High Street associated with the development site can be tentatively assigned to the high medieval period (Fig. 4.1). A shallow and irregular cut (10040) with root disturbance at its base was filled with mixed soil and gravels and had been truncated by modern service pipes below a gravel road make up. The feature contained three sherds of medieval sandy ware retrieved from its upper fill. Another irregular and shallow feature (10043) contained a single fragment of ceramic building material. Given the limited evidence, the dating of the features remains uncertain. No evidence was found for the Friary conduit or historic road surfaces, which may have been truncated by modern road construction. The High Street's western medieval frontage was defined by watching brief works in the location of Tenement 174 and has been extrapolated for inclusion on the tenement drawings presented here.

## The High Street/English Street tenements

### Tenement 166

Documentary summary: Not tabulated  
Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded  
Status at 1454 Terrier: One of three tenements (164-166) owned by Thomas Payn  
Rental status: Private  
Key owners/occupants: 15th century. Thomas Payn (major property owner and brother of John Payn, see Tenements 239 and 240)



### Tenement extent

Tenement 166 lay at the south-eastern corner of the site and was defined to the north and south by the east-west aligned walls of its medieval basement and later structural build to the rear of the property. The area of excavation did not reveal the full length of the tenement, being confined to the footprint of the development at the eastern end of the plot. Construction of Castle Way in the 1950s had truncated the site to the level just below the apex of the medieval vault (effectively removing any surface level structure) and to the rear of the building had removed garden soils and any horizontal layers, leaving only deep features cut into the natural brickearth.

### The building (Figs 4.2-4.5)

The extant structure on the street frontage included the remains of a single barrel-vaulted cellar, with internal measurements of at least 7 m long by 6 m wide at the widest point. The walls (7562, 7587, 7515 and 7561) survived to approximately 1.5 m high. The eastern and much of the southern walls had been truncated by modern services. The walls were of coursed rubble stone (two samples from wall 7561/62 were identified as Bembridge limestone) and the vault rested on a simple chamfer moulded stringcourse approximately 1 m above the floor. The vault was similar in style and construction to that seen at Tenement 173 (Fig. 4.5). Successive extensions in brick and stone were carried out to the rear of the original building, during the early modern period. Four clay pipe stems dating to 1680-1750 and a fragment of leather shoe dating to the early 19th century were retrieved from the main fill of a medieval pit (7595): the intrusion of these finds into a clearly medieval feature is likely to have been caused by the construction trench for wall 7591 and suggests a date for at least the central extension. The building appears in its full extent by the time of its depiction on the Royal Engineers' Plan in 1846.

### Features and deposits (Figs 4.2-4.5)

Four pits to the rear of the property dated to the high medieval period. Three of these appeared to be related to an episode of construction; they comprised a shallow (0.30 m deep) possible tree clearance hole (7568) and two larger features (7719 and 7619) which were mainly filled with redeposited clay, mortar, ceramic building material (including roof and ridge tile, as well as a kiln tile commonly used in malting ovens), and occasional nails and roves. A decorative copper alloy tap was recovered from pit 7619 (Fig. 5.28, No. 55)

Pit 7595, lying some 8 m to the west of the building, had clearly been used for the disposal of domestic waste. It was just over a metre deep and contained 69 sherds of pottery from its excavated

Fig. 4.1 Features recorded during the watching brief on the High Street



half section. The assemblage was a typical medieval Southampton household group comprising mainly jars, jugs and bowls in local wares, along with fragments of French imported Saintonge jugs, suggesting a mid 14th-century date for the use of the pit. Of note is a jug spout sculpted into a human face in South Hampshire redware (Fig. 5.2, No. 29). Evidence of the household diet included sheep/goat, pig and domestic fowl bone; the wing of

a passerine (songbird) may represent a casualty of nature rather than a culinary treat. Dropped or discarded items included a copper alloy buckle of late 12th to late 14th century date (Fig. 5.25, No. 26), and a dress pin. The organic pit fill was capped with a clean clay layer, presumably to seal in noxious odours rising from the household waste. A later organic fill was covered with a lime-rich deposit which presumably acted as a caustic bactericide.

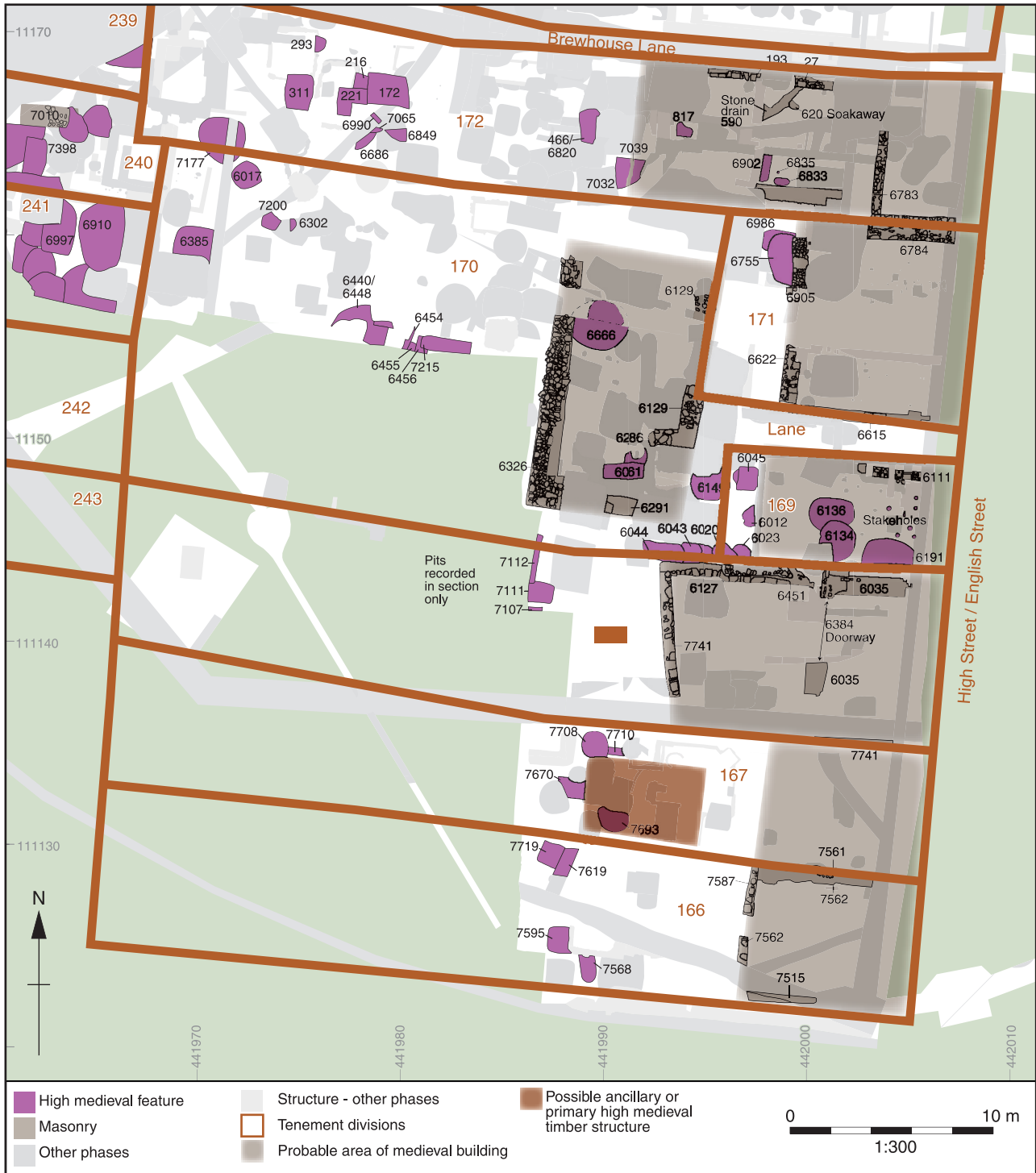


Fig. 4.2 Phase plan: high medieval, Tenements 166 to 172

**Tenement 167**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.1  
 Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded  
 Status at 1454 Terrier: Cottage and tenement (with Tenement 168)  
 Rental status: St Denys rental 1476 (?)  
 Key owners/occupants: William Overay, town mayor 1398

**Tenement extent**

Immediately to the north of Tenement 166 and

south of Tenement 168, Tenement 167 was defined by the walls of the adjacent properties.

**The buildings** (Figs 4.2-4.4 and 4.6)

The Terrier's designation of this property as a cottage implies that it had no medieval cellar and none was found here. Lacking this depth of build, no medieval stone-built structure had survived truncation by the construction of Castle Way. There was, however, evidence for the presence of a timber-framed structure set back from the road

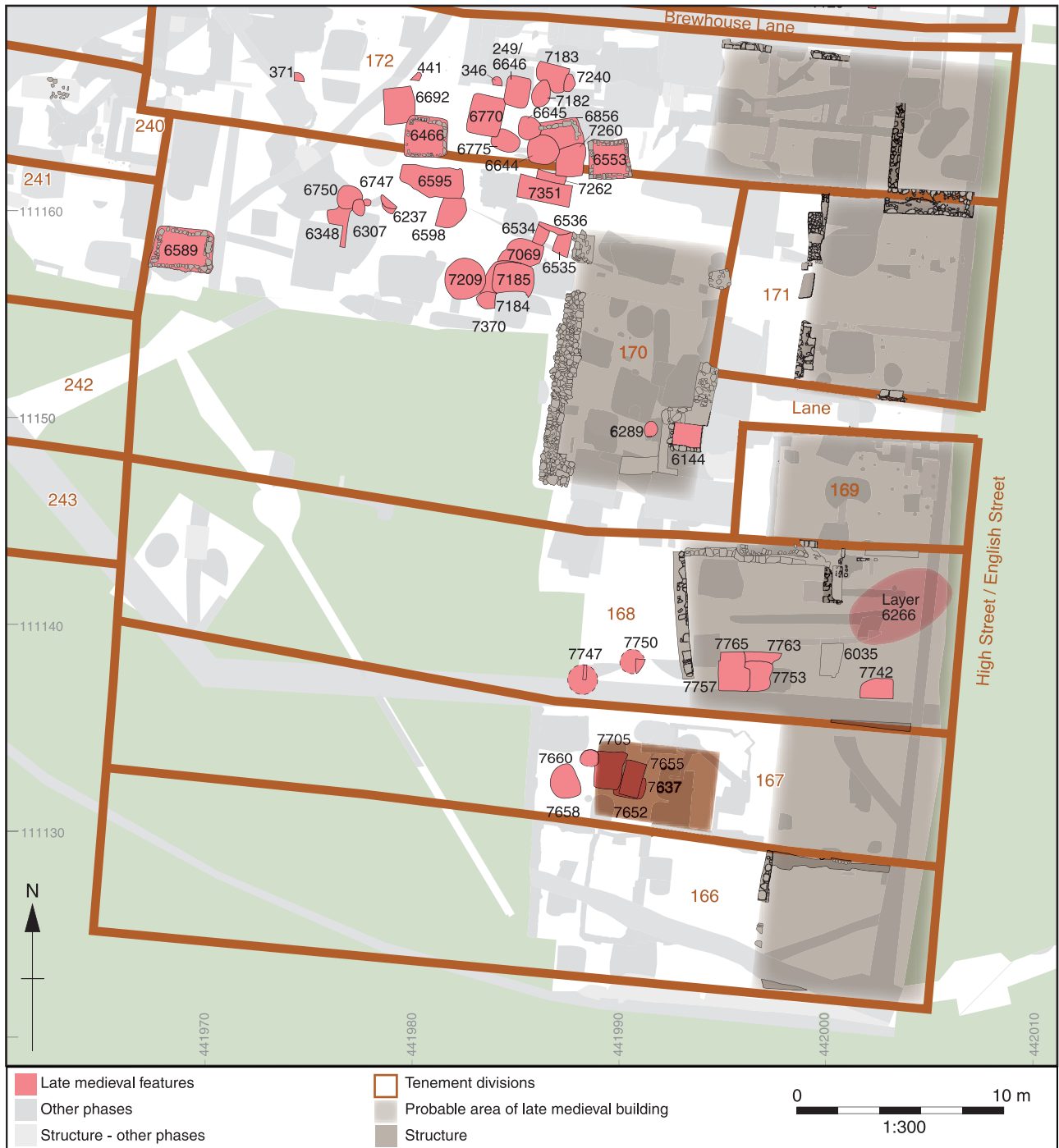


Fig. 4.3 Phase plan: late medieval, Tenements 166 to 172

frontage which took the form of a short stretch of east-west aligned beamslot (7710) containing 13th- to 14th-century pottery. Disturbance by late medieval pitting and the insertion of a modern basement (see below) had removed any further evidence of the structure. A circular cut (7708) was undated but perhaps resulted from the removal of the end post of the structure represented by the beamslot.

During the high medieval period Southampton saw a dramatic shift in building technique from

timber to stone. It may be that during this period the timber structure on Tenement 167 was replaced by a street frontage stone building (no trace of which survived), leaving room at the rear of the property for the digging of rubbish pits within the ground plan of the earlier building. A small area of (limestone) flag flooring (7512) and a shallow posthole cut (7684) within the probable street frontage building have been assigned to the post-medieval period (Fig. 4.4), although their date remains uncertain.



Fig. 4.4 Phase plan: post-medieval, Tenements 166 to 172



A



B



*Fig. 4.5 Tenement 166, the medieval vault A) facing west, B) facing north*





Fig. 4.6 Tenement 167, modern cellar, facing south

Towards the centre of the excavated tenement a modern brick cellar had been constructed (Fig. 4.6). This was approximately square, measuring 3.6 by 3.2 m. Its walls were predominantly red brick (240 x 110 x 50-60 mm) with some mixed brick and stone in the north and west walls. It contained an angle-set niche in the north-east corner and traces of a small semi-spiral stair access in the west wall. A narrow extension led southwards from the middle of the south wall. The floor was covered with flagstones, which concealed drainage runs and a brick soakaway in the north-west corner. No evidence of springing for a vaulted ceiling was visible. The cellar was a wholly modern (probably 19th-century) construction.

#### *Features and deposits*

##### High medieval (Fig. 4.2)

Two rubbish pits (7670 and 7693) to the south of the beamslot noted above may have been contemporary with the putative timber building on the basis of its ceramic date, but this does not appear likely in view of their location, as unless the building was very narrow, pit 7693 would have lain inside the structure. The pits contained animal bone (including a sheep/goat skull and bantam bones) as well as ceramic building material (a glazed crested ridge tile) and 19 sherds

of jar/cooking pots and jugs in local wares. In common with the 'cottages' at Tenements 177, 178 and 179 the pottery quantities are notably less for Tenement 167 during this period than for the other tenements.

##### Late medieval (Fig. 4.3)

A group of six pits datable to the late medieval period lay at the rear of the property. In stratigraphic and date order these were: 7705, 7660 (14th to 15th century), then 7655, 7637, 7652 and – although not stratigraphically connected, 7658 (15th to 16th century). The distinctive square shape in plan and vertical sides of pits 7655 and 7652 suggest that they probably originally functioned as latrines, although no obvious evidence of this (i.e coprolites or green cessy material) was visible in the fills. The pits contained a total of 107 sherds of pottery. In the late medieval period there was no discernible difference in pottery quantities between cottages and other tenements. The later pottery groups were notable by the presence of Low Country and Rhenish wares and a greater diversity of vessel types including a tripod cooking pot, pipkin, dripping pans and olive jars. Duck, deer and swan appear in the food waste and evidence of the household interior was retrieved in the form of a bi-chrome floor tile decorated with fleur-de-lys (Fig. 5.21, No. 18).



Post-medieval (Fig. 4.4)

The rear part of Tenement 167 appears to have been formalised in the post-medieval period, when a north-south aligned wall (7593) effectively created a small courtyard at the rear of the building. Two stone-lined pits (7730 and 7626) undoubtedly served as both latrines and rubbish pits. Pit 7626 is likely to have been the earlier of the two, containing a pottery assemblage dating to the late 16th to 17th century. Pit 7730 was built into the new wall. Several decorated clay-pipe stems in the construction cut fill for pit 7730 suggest a date of 1610-1700 for its construction, although the feature's infill contained pipe fragments dating from 1770-1840 showing that this pit was probably routinely cleaned and used over a lengthy time span. Stone samples from wall 7593 and pit lining 7594 (in pit 7730) showed that both were constructed with Bembridge limestone. A spread of post-medieval dumping with a limestone wall to its south (11156) demonstrated the continuance of post-medieval activity to the rear of the tenement but was difficult to interpret further, being observed within the confines of a service trench.

#### *Tenement 168*

Documentary summary: Table App.1.1  
Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: Cottage and tenement (with Tenement 167)

Rental status: St Denys rental 1476 (?)

Key owners/occupants: William Overay, town mayor 1398

*Tenement extent* (Fig. 4.7)

No fencing or above ground walls survived to define this tenement and its boundaries have been extrapolated from the cellar walls on the street frontage. The western limit of the tenement has been interpreted as the location of the 19th-century parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan, although excavation did not extend this far to the rear of the property.

*The building* (Figs 4.2-4.4, 4.8 and 4.9)

The surviving rectangular cellar on Tenement 168 was divided into two sections. Its maximum internal measurements were at least 11 m by 3.5-6 m. Its eastern and southern sides had been truncated by modern services. The walls on the north side (6451/6035) survived to their original height of approximately 1 m and both were topped with a few courses of vaulting. The vaulting in the eastern part was aligned parallel to the street, north-south. The vault over the western section of the cellar ran east-west. The wall at the western end (7741) survived to only a few courses.



Fig. 4.7 Tenements 168-170 superimposed over excavation photograph, facing south-west





Fig. 4.8 Tenement 168, southern basement doorway and east-west vault, facing west



Fig. 4.9 Tenement 168, northern basement, surviving east-west vault doorway and brick storage bins, facing north/north-east



The elements of the two vaulted cellar halves were the earliest structural features present (see Fig. 4.2). The walls were coursed rubble stone, with several paint and/or whitewash layers. The floor was slightly lower in the eastern half. Both the vaults were sprung from stringcourses with a simple chamfered moulding which matched that seen in the vault at Tenement 173 and was also recorded in the cellar of Tenement 166. The construction date is probably similar to these other examples. Although pottery retrieved from deposits associated with the build itself and from floor make up layers within the cellar (6452 – not illustrated) provides an imprecise date of 13th-14th century, a documentary reference for Tenement 169 (see Chapter 2) suggests that a stone house was present here by the first half of the 13th century.

The stringcourse in the western cellar had been cut back flush with the wall but it seems likely that the moulding was the same as that in the eastern cellar. The two vaults, despite being on different alignments, were of similar construction, although it is not certain that they were part of the same building episode. Part of the primary partition wall (6035) survived separating the vaults and at the centre of the building, although this had been destroyed to the south by modern utilities and to the north a doorway (6384) had been inserted (Fig. 4.8). The latter was substantial (being *c* 1.5 m wide) and utilised Bembridge limestone with large hollow chamfers leading down to broach stops. In the modern period a substantial brick pier was added to the west of the doorway, perhaps to provide additional support for structures above, and a series of brick bins with shallow arched tops were constructed against the north wall in the eastern half of the cellar (see Figure 4.9).

#### *Features and deposits*

##### High medieval (Fig. 4.2)

Earlier investigations of this tenement by Wachter during 1956-58 (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975a; Chapter 1, Fig. 1.3) had revealed a probable cess pit (16) in Wachter's Trench 5, possibly of late 13th-century date; timber posts which survived in the wet loam at the base of the pit may have supported a privy structure above, or may suggest that the feature was timber lined. Another pit (9) in Wachter's Trench 3-4 was probably of 14th-century date and contained a dump of roof slates and ridge tiles.

On the edge of the recent excavation area, three pits (7107, 7111 and 7112) of probable high medieval date to the rear of the tenement were revealed by the removal of modern foundations. Small quantities of animal bone and pottery (including Saintonge ware) were retrieved from the fills of pits 7107 and 7112.

##### Late medieval (Fig. 4.3)

Late medieval features in Wachter's Trenches 3-5 included a pit cut into the top of pit 16 (pit 11)

containing 15th- or 16th-century pottery, along with large tips of oyster and mussel shells and animal bone.

Five pits phased to the late medieval period were found within the cellar of the late medieval building during the recent excavation (7765, 7757, 7763, 7753 and 7742). Pits 7742 and 7753 were cess pits, while features 7757, 7763 and 7765 were rubbish pits. Although shallow, the features clearly lay within the span of the early vault (springing from wall 6035) suggesting that they were not dug externally and later truncated by the construction or expansion of the building. Similar activities within the medieval cellars were also noted at Tenement 173 in the late medieval period, and both Tenements 173 and 169 during the high medieval and post-medieval periods. Perhaps they were used for refuse disposal when the properties were occupied by short-term tenants with no storage requirement for the cellars. Two further rubbish pits (7747 and 7750) lay to the rear of the building.

Sixty-six sherds of pottery were retrieved from these features in total, the assemblage largely consisting of jars and cooking pot sherds including Rhenish, Iberian and low country imports. Pit 7763 contained a 15th-century bowl in late medieval sandy ware (Fig. 5.3, No. 41) and a handled jar or cooking pot of 15th- to 16th-century date (Fig. 5.3, No. 43). Other finds included a 'pecked' limestone cannon ball of possible 16th- or early 17th-century date; metalwork was confined to nails and a copper alloy needle. A partially surviving mortar floor surface (6266) contained a Portuguese copper coin of Alfonso V (Allen *et al*, Chapter 5, No. 7) which would have been in circulation between 1438-81. This was overlain by an occupation layer (6025/6195) and burnt deposit (6033), also containing ceramics dating to this period.

##### Post-medieval (Fig. 4.4)

Outside the area of excavation, pit 8 (in Wachter Trench 3) contained much fine 16th-century glass, including parts of two engraved goblets attributed to Verzelini. The base of the pit was waterlogged and contained a considerable quantity of preserved wood, including several bucket bases, pegs and fragments of carpentered joints. Pit 18 (Wachter Trench 5) was a rectangular stone-lined cess pit containing a thick layer of later 17th-century pottery, including a number of imports.

Two pits (7110, 7759) dating to the post-medieval period were recorded at Tenement 168 in the recent work. Pit 7110 was seen in section only to the west of tenement, with a sequence of gravelly yard surfaces being slumped into the upper part of the feature. Pit 7759 was inside the tenement cellar and contained domestic waste comprising Verwood and Rhenish pottery of the 17th- to 18th-century date, a copper alloy needle (Fig. 5.23, No. 5) and animal bone.

A compacted gravel layer (6110) overlay the earlier floor surface/occupation layer (6025/6195) within the cellar, although its relationship with pit

7759 had been removed. Sixty-nine sherds of pottery including fragments of Iberian olive jars dating to the 17th to 18th century were retrieved from this layer.

#### **Tenements 169 and 171: a note on their subdivision and the creation of Tenement 170**

The arrangement of these tenements is slightly more complex than that of the other properties, the full documentary evidence being given in Chapter 2. The Terrier describes the central tenement (170) as 'the tenement with a narrow entry', a description borne out by the archaeological remains which indicate the presence of a lane between Tenements 169 and 171 and a rectangular building (Tenement 170) behind the two properties. The creation of the latter tenement must have occurred after a reference to Tenement 171 in 1359, which suggests that Tenements 169 and what would become Tenement 171 were adjacent: these two properties may, however, have been 'adjacent' on either side of the lane leading to the rear tenement (Tenement 170). This entrance must predate 1435, since earlier records of the two other properties note that they lay 'next to the little lane'. Regardless of its date of origin, neither the form of the Tenement 170 building nor the lane leading to it survived to effect the shape of the later tenement development: on the Royal Engineers' Plan of 1846 only two properties are present and no lane is visible. The properties have the same long parallel boundaries running back from the High Street frontages that are evident along the length of the High Street.

#### **Tenement 169**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.2

Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: Tenement of Walter Clerk

Rental status: God's House rental 1250-1649 (Kaye Vol II 1976, 358)

Key owners/occupants: John le Clerk, town mayor (1351, 1354, 1356, 1362-64)

*Tenement extent* (Fig. 4.7)

Tenement 169 was defined to the north and south by the east to west aligned walls of its partially surviving street frontage medieval basement. As discussed above, the rear of the property was constrained by the building within Tenement 170.

*The building* (Figs. 4.2-4.4)

The truncated foundation of a single stretch of east-west aligned limestone wall (6111) appeared to be the only surviving remnant of a medieval cellar at Tenement 169. The cellar was rebuilt in the post-medieval period when the access way between Tenements 171 and 169 was removed (coinciding with the disappearance of Tenement 170).

Post-medieval wall 6204 replaced wall 6111 and was built slightly to the north of it. A new doorway

to the north-west allowed access from the cellar to the rear of the property. The rear wall of the building (6011) probably dates to this period. Walls 6204 and 6011 were both constructed in limestone rubble and brick. The latter was isolated from the north and south walls by two voids that appeared to be sockets left by posts rotting out; this was the only cellar where structural timber elements seem to have been used within the basement walls.

The modern cellar measured approximately 7.5 m by 5 m wide. It had a partition in the eastern half that formed a western section of the cellar 6 m long. The eastern end of the cellar had been truncated by modern services. No trace of a ceiling survived but the absence of springers at the height of the brick-built southern and partition wall indicate that it was probably flat. All the extant walls were of a post-medieval/modern, possibly 19th-century, date. The northern wall was a shared party wall with Tenement 171, while the brick wall to the south was built flush to the earlier structures forming the northern wall of Tenement 168.

*Features and deposits*

High medieval (Fig. 4.2)

In the high medieval period several rubbish pits were dug within the cellar of the house (6012, 6020, 6023, 6134, 6136, 6191). These were generally roughly circular in plan and between 0.2 and 0.90 m in depth with garden soil (silty loam) type fills. They contained jugs and jars, largely local coarse-wares with occasional imported wares as well as fragments of roofing tile and goose, pig, fowl, bird, deer and rabbit bones. A copper alloy oval finger ring (Fig. 5.24, No. 20) was retrieved from pit 6020.

A single cess pit (6045) dating to this period is likely to have been immediately external to the medieval building just as it was to the later rebuild. This had also been used as a domestic dump and contained a similar range of finds to the internal pits.

Inside the eastern half of the cellar lay a group of stakeholes, the function of which is unclear. They may have formed wattle partitions within the cellar and were only datable by the presence of medieval ceramic building material.

Post-medieval (Fig. 4.4)

Occasional rubbish dumping in the cellar was still occurring in later periods. A rubbish pit (6075) in the north-west corner of the cellar was dated from the 15th to early 17th century by the presence of a coin/jetton (SF 207; Specialist Download F7). It also contained a possible ring thimble, a probable cloth seal (Fig. 5.23, No. 12) and goat and hare bones. Stakeholes were also evident in this period within the cellar.

Over the centuries the cellar accumulated a compacted earth floor, a 'micro-stratified' deposit derived from disturbed natural, small domestic



dumping episodes and silts imported by trampling. The absence of any noted cellar surface in the auction for this property in 1920 (when the adjacent property No. 109/Tenement 171 is commended as having a stone floor) means that the cellar was probably never formally floored. Layer 6006 was representative of this 'beaten earth' accumulation. This was a partially burnt 'floor' layer containing assorted sherds of early medieval coarsewares, high medieval sandy wares, Tudor green glazes, ceramic building material, a copper alloy ring and a clay pipe stem dating from 1750-1900.

### *Tenement 170*

Documentary summary: Table App.1.3

Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: Tenement with a narrow entry, of Richard Holte

Rental status: Unknown (temporarily sub-divided from Tenement 171)

Key owners/occupants: John le Clerk, town mayor (see Tenement 169)

### *Tenement extent (Fig. 4.7)*

Tenement 170 housed a stone building to the rear of Tenements 169 and 171 and was accessed via a lane between these two tenements (see above). The northern and southern limits of the property boundaries associated with the structure have been defined by the northern limit of Tenement 168 and the southern limit of Tenement 172. The western limit reflects the location of the 19th-century parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan. The allocation of an area of open ground to the tenement is speculative, as it is not possible to determine the historic land allocations of Tenements 169, 170 and 171. The building on Tenement 170 clearly represents a physical obstacle between Tenements 169 and 171 and land to the rear of these properties. Features, deposits and finds in this area have therefore been assigned to Tenement 170.

### *The building (Figs. 4.2-4.4)*

Overlying three earlier pits (see below) were the remains of a medieval structure, which had been heavily truncated by later activity. The walls (6326 and 6129) and footings that survived were quite substantial and included stone and some well-tooled ashlar blocks, although all these types of fragments appeared to have been reused. Some robbing of the walls had been carried out (robber trench 6291 to the south of the structure) but its date remains uncertain.

With the exception of the western and eastern ranges of Tenement 237 (Polymond's Hall), the structure on Tenement 170 is the only building found by the excavation that was not aligned with its gable end facing the street frontage. The building measured at least 11 m long and was nearly 6 m at its widest.

### *Features and deposits*

#### High medieval (Fig. 4.2)

Three pits appeared to closely pre-date the construction of the building. Two of the pits contained medieval (and earlier) artefacts. A large (nearly 2 m diameter and 1.4 m deep) circular pit to the north of the area (6666) contained an homogeneous fill which yielded a single sherd of late Saxon pottery, several wattle fragments and a bone ice skate, as well as medieval brick. Pit 6061 to the south of the area was of similar dimensions and uniform fill but contained more domestic material including fragments of late Saxon, Anglo-Norman and early medieval vessels. A smaller adjacent pit (6286) cut by pit 6061 contained only animal bone.

A group of features to the south-east of the structure (south of the alley way/street entrance) were clustered along the property boundary with Tenement 168, immediately adjacent to and continuing the line of pits along the southern edge of Tenement 169. The group included cess pits (6043 and 6127). A 'nut' from a very large military crossbow was retrieved from the fills of pit 6043 (Fig. 5.52, No. 10). Pottery from the layer above the nut in the pit was largely 13th to 14th century in date although two sherds of late medieval ceramics were also present. Domestic refuse pits were also found in this location: pits 6044 and 6065 (below 6043) contained small quantities of glass, animal bone and pottery. A substantial circular stone-lined pit (6149) was located adjacent to the south-west corner of the building and contained domestic refuse comprising 45 sherds of medieval coarseware and animal bone including fragments of swan bone. Other finds included a crested ridge tile (Fig. 5.16, No. 9).

To the north-west of the tenement, pit 6302 provided evidence of building destruction and clearance, containing nails and roves, burnt slate and crested ridge tile. Pottery included a North French painted ware costrel of 12th- to 13th-century date (Fig. 5.2, No. 21) and a shallow bowl in high medieval sandy coarseware (Fig. 5.2, No. 26). Square-cut cess pits (6385 and 7200) were located to the west of the tenement, near another pit (6017). A cluster of pits to the centre of the tenement plot (6440/6448, 6454, 6455 and 6456) are likely to have been for domestic dumping but were heavily disturbed by modern activity and no finds were retrieved from them.

#### Late medieval (Fig. 4.3)

Improvements in waste management are apparent at Tenement 170 (as elsewhere on the site) in the late medieval period. A stone-lined cess pit and cistern (6144) was built into the south-east corner of the building. The feature measured approximately 1.5 m square and was 1.3 m deep. Presumably this would have been periodically cleaned out and its abandonment would have been coeval with the

final use or demolition of the building. At the point at which it was sealed it contained deer, pig, cattle, rabbit, sheep/goat and fowl bones, as well as non-food items such as the legs of a cat and a rat bone. Other evidence of diet included oyster shells and abundant mineralised remains comprising apple, fig and wheat rachis nodes. Sixty-nine sherds of pottery were retrieved from the feature including fragments of maiolica jugs. Nails and roves were also present. Within the building a single small pit (6289) contained 174 sherds of pottery representing about 52 vessels. The assemblage mainly comprised bowls, jars and jugs of well-fired sandy ware (early 15th to early 16th century) as well as part of a bung-hole pitcher. A copper alloy thimble was also found (Fig. 5.23, No. 7).

Despite the presence of the cess pit integrated in the building, there was continued use of the tenement grounds for cess and rubbish pits. Cess pits (6595 and 7262) and rubbish pits (6237, 6534, 6535, 6536, 6598, 6747, 7069, 7184, 7185, 7209, 7370, 6307, 6750 and 7351) were recorded to the north-west of the tenement in an area which probably represents only half of the yard space adjacent to the building. These were shallower than the earlier features on the tenement and therefore proportionally more severely truncated. None of the features contained any notable finds assemblages, although between them 374 sherds of pottery and 413 fragments of animal bone were retrieved.

A stone-lined and clay-sealed cistern or water reservoir (6589) lay at the western edge of the tenement – it measured 3 m by 2 m and was 1.3 m deep. Nails, kiln tile and glazed floor tiles were retrieved from its fills.

#### Post-medieval (Fig. 4.4)

It appears that the earlier structure on this tenement may have been demolished since pits containing building demolition material (6665 and 7146) and four postholes (6664, 6582, 6584, 6586) were situated in the centre of the area previously occupied by the building: they may have been cut after its demolition (although their date is uncertain). If this is the case, then the following features may have lain within land subsumed (back?) into Tenement 171.

The rubbish pits attributed to the post-medieval period were generally more regular (rectangular) shaped, commonly larger and less densely clustered than during the medieval period. Pit 6200 at the centre of the northern half of the tenement yard was sub-rectangular. Fifty-seven sherds of pottery were retrieved from this feature, including fragments of pipkins, jars, bowls (eg Fig. 5.9, No. 112), dishes, olive jars and dripping pans. Other finds included substantial quantities of bone: species represented were domestic cattle, bantam, fowl, a large amount of sheep/goat, roe deer, duck, goose, hare, pig (suckling pig), swan and wigeon.

At the western boundary of the tenement (adjoining Tenement 240) rubbish pit 6855 was an

oval feature. Metalwork recovered from the pit fills included washers, roves, a pair of keys for a rotary lock (Fig. 5.31, No. 67) and a knife blade. Among the finds was a pebble whetstone (Fig. 5.49, No. 6). Food waste comprised goat, deer, coot, auk (guillemot/razorbill), pig, rabbit and oysters. Other bones included those of cat and jackdaw. North of pit 6855 was a group of postholes (6651 and 6653) and stakeholes (6629, 6655, 6657, 6661). Three of the stakeholes were in a line and may represent evidence for a fence.

The postholes and stakeholes were sealed by a garden soil (6430, not illustrated) which covered much of this area. Among other finds from the soil was a group of 18th-century clay pipe stems, which can be attributed to clay pipe manufacturer Roger Brown and date to 1700-40. Fragments of wine bottles of similar date were also found.

Among the remainder of the pits on this tenement dating to this period (6265, 6303, 6470 (not illustrated), 7051, 7164, 7213, 11135, 7368), pit 7364 was notable as it produced a large quantity of butchered and skinned animal bone (predominantly cattle) representing ninety individual specimens (the pit was below feature 7368 and is not illustrated).

#### Early modern (not illustrated)

A stone-built well was constructed in the area of the tenement yard during the 19th century. It was constructed using a base founded on three oak timbers probably initially cut and prepared as ship's knees (see Goodburn, Chapter 5). The area was developed as Brewhouse Court (see below) in the 19th century with the construction of several houses and a lane. No such well is mentioned in the Dilapidated Housing Survey of 1892-1914 which details this area and it therefore seems probable that the well was filled in at the time the houses were constructed. A pit (6435) found at the same tenement contained a remarkable assemblage of clay pipes dating to 1770-1800 (Higgins, Chapter 5, Fig. 5.43, Nos 15-18), as well as a large Georgian shoe buckle (Fig. 5.25, No. 28).

#### Tenement 171

Documentary summary: Table App.1.3  
 Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded  
 Status at 1454 Terrier: Tenement of John Bedell  
 Rental status: Gods House rental 1248-1629  
 Key owners/occupants: None

#### Tenement extent

Tenement 171 was defined to the north and south by the east-west aligned walls of its partially surviving street frontage medieval basement. Definition of its back plot proved problematic due to the introduction of a property (Tenement 170, see above) to the rear of and accessed via a lane between Tenement 171 and 169: its position is taken as the front wall of the building on Tenement 170.

*The building (Figs. 4.2-4.4)*

The cellared area of Tenement 171 was large, covering an area of approximately 11 m east-west by 11 m north-south in its final form; the eastern area had been truncated by modern services and concrete stanchions had removed much structure of the interior. The cellar had no surviving traces of a ceiling and partially surviving brick floors covered the remains of the early phase walls. The cellar's earliest wall appeared to be that to the north (6784) which was almost 1 m thick and was built from coursed rubble bonded with a lime mortar; it was of a similar character to the medieval walls seen in Tenement 173 and formed a party wall with Tenement 172. Primary surviving elements of the west wall (6905 and 6622) were of similar build although only 0.70 m wide.

The primary southern wall of the cellar (6615) had been largely robbed out with only a small portion surviving. A 2 m gap between wall 6615 and wall 6111 (the north wall of Tenement 169) represented the line of the lane running from the High Street to Tenement 170 behind. The existing shared southern wall of the cellar (6204 along with 6540 and 6405) was of post-medieval construction, partially reusing earlier stonework, perhaps salvaged from the earlier walls. The re-arrangement of the cellar space enclosed the east end of the now redundant lane to Tenement 170 and allowed access to the back plot via Tenement 169's cellar. Running through the middle of the cellar, 5.5 m from the north wall, was a much later brick partition wall/ceiling joist support.

*Features and deposits*

*High medieval (Fig. 4.2)*

To the rear of the building, two rubbish pits (6755 and 6986) immediately pre-dated wall 6905: both contained unremarkable assemblages of largely 13th-14th century local ware pottery and animal bone.

*Post-medieval (Fig. 4.4)*

Within the cellar of Tenement 171 was a group of stake- and postholes, a linear feature (6880) and a pit (6868). Where datable material was present this could be attributed to the post-medieval period, although most features did not generally contain finds. The features all lay above disturbed natural and were sealed by an ashy silt layer overlain by a compacted gravel floor (not illustrated); these deposits both contained 19th-century pottery. Postholes 6606 and 6559 may provide evidence of wooden staircase supports for internal access to the cellar, but for the large majority of the features it can only be proposed that they represent ephemeral divisions or storage supports within the cellar.

*Tenement 172*

Documentary summary: Table App.1.4

Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: Vacant corner tenement of Richard Holte on south side of small lane

Rental status: Private

Key owners/occupants: John le Clerk, town mayor (see Tenement 169)

*Tenement extent*

Tenement 172 was defined to the north and south by the walls of its partially surviving street frontage medieval basement. No fencing or wall features survived to define the sides of the tenement plot to the rear of the street frontage and the boundaries as presented here have been extrapolated from the basement walls (the northern line also dictating the southern extent of Brewhouse Lane). Similarly no physical remains survived to define the western limit of the tenement which has again been interpreted as the location of the 19th-century parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan.

*The building (Figs. 4.2-4.4)*

The cellar itself had been heavily disturbed. Its surviving medieval elements (walls 193, 27, 6783, 7039 and 6784) indicate that the original form of the building was a simple barrel-vaulted construction with street frontage stair access, very similar to the merchant's house at No.58 French Street and Tenement 173. The internal dimensions of the medieval cellar were 16+ m long and 3.5 m wide. The walls survived to less than a metre in height. The cellar's structure had been damaged by modern service runs at the east end and along the north side where service pipes had been laid along the line of Brewhouse Lane; concrete stanchions for the modern Habitat building had removed the majority of the western end wall. The extant floor was a concrete slab overlying a mixture of bricks and compacted gravel; it was considerably higher than the cellars of Tenement 173 to the north and the other tenements to the south, being at c 4.8 m OD as opposed to 3.8 m OD (Tenement 173) and 3.79 m OD (Tenement 171)

The southern wall of the tenement (6784) was considerably wider than the others and was constructed of stone; it apparently formed a party wall with the cellar of Tenement 171 to the south. To the south-west of the building was a small patch of stone paving (745) preserved against a substantial stone wall. This surface could not be dated and may represent part of the original cellar floor, or possibly of a later exterior courtyard area following development of the tenement yard (see below).

The cellar was served by a stone drain and soakaway (590 and 620). Evaluation in 2003 (see below) by SCCAU had revealed this drain and interpreted it as medieval despite the presence of clay pipe in the fill (dating to the late 18th century); the latter is presumably an indicator of the



longevity of the functioning life of the feature rather than a contemporary deposit.

No structural changes of the late medieval or post-medieval period were noted. The cellar was sub-divided during the modern period, when brick walls were constructed and coal chutes inserted, ultimately forming the open courtyard space at the southern rear part of the building visible on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan. It is notable that this division did not continue to the street frontage access, nor was the sub-division reflected in the High Street property numbering. It seems probable that the central brick wall replaced vaulting as the means of ground floor support. Here, as elsewhere on the site, the fire-reddened and blackened walls and very poor state of the cellar show that those structures that were either built without vaulting or had their medieval vaults replaced far worse from bomb damage than those that had retained their medieval sub-structures.

#### Features and deposits

##### High medieval (Fig. 4.2, 4.10 and 4.11)

The area of Tenement 172 had previously been investigated by Wachter in the late 1950s (Trenches 10 and 17; Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975a, 165) and SCCAU (Trenches 13B and 14C; Smith 2003b) (see Chapter 1, Fig. 1.3).

Three pits (817, 7032 and 6902) pre-dated the stone cellar found here. Pit 6902 was a square feature with vertical sides and a flat base and was filled with a homogenous silt containing Anglo-Norman and medieval coarsewares, Saintonge and French White ware. The pit lay in the centre of the medieval cellar and may originally have been relatively deep, having perhaps been significantly truncated during construction of the stone building and its cellar. An adjacent posthole (6833) and stake-hole (6835) suggest associated structural activity. Pit 7032 was cut by 7039, the remnant of the rear wall of the tenement building.

Six rubbish pits (221, 311, 6686, 6690, 6849 and 7177=6116) dating to the high medieval period were recorded in the area of Tenement 172's yard. A higher proportion of the pits were square in plan than in some of the other tenements, giving the impression of better organisation of rubbish disposal. Two postholes (293 and 7065) indicate the presence of structures within the yard, the nature of which had been obscured by later activity. The final pit in the sequence (172) was notable. It contained the remnants of wooden lining and may initially have functioned as a well or cess pit (Fig. 4.10). Its fills contained 163 sheep bones representing 14 animals, fragments of 13th-15th century glass, antler tine, roof ridge tiles and ornate louvers, as well as a large selection of metal objects including the greater part of the arms assemblage retrieved from the site (see Scott, Chapter 5). The metalwork included nails, a billhook, fragments of possible mail armour, fragments of rivetted plate armour

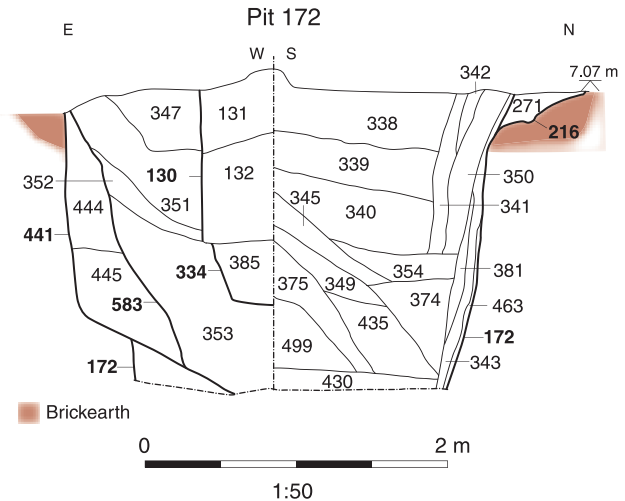


Fig. 4.10 Tenement 172, high medieval pit 172

(Fig. 5.22, Nos 2 & 3), an arrowhead (Fig. 5.22, No.1), a buckle (Fig. 5.24, No. 24) and a decorated strap end (Fig. 5.26, No. 36), likely to be a residual late Saxon object. The pottery and other finds assemblages suggest that the use and infilling of the feature dates from the late 14th to early 15th century. Ceramics include a fragment of Saintonge Whiteware jug (Fig. 5.3, No. 35).

Cess pit 466=6820 was located nearer to the tenement building, presumably for convenience. It was vertical sided and 2 m deep, with lower fills of organic silts and green cessy material. These were sealed with homogenous clays derived from the natural, which contained 77 sherds of pottery dating to the 13th-14th century, including a bowl in Southampton coarse sandy ware (Fig. 5.2, No. 24), and fragments of ceramic building material.

##### Late medieval (Fig. 4.3)

Most of the pits dating to the late medieval period were densely clustered in the central southern part of the tenement yard. The general absence of



Fig. 4.11 Tenement 172, late medieval cess pit 6553

features elsewhere in the plot may indicate the presence of ancillary buildings in its western part. Fifteen pits (249=6646, 346, 371, 441, 6466, 6553, 6644, 6645, 6692, 6770, 6775, 6856, 7182-3 and 7240) were recorded, most of which were clearly rubbish pits with domestic material in deposits alternating with sterile clay dumps intended to suppress odour. Three were stone-lined cess pits (6856, 6466 and 6553) and had cessy lower deposits followed by thicker deposits of refuse. Finds from these features included a French jetton dating to 1450-1520 (SF 235, Specialist Download F7), a hooked clasp (Fig. 5.26, No. 40) and a belt mount or stiffener (Fig. 5.25, No. 33) from the infilling of pit 6553, with four-hooded louvers (Fig. 5.19, Nos 14 and 15) and bones from a peregrine falcon coming from pit 6856. Pit 249 contained a fragment of crested ridge tile (Fig. 5.16, No. 7B), while pit 6553 contained a small jar in developed Normandy gritty ware of 13th- to 14th-century date (Fig. 5.3, No. 39).

Rubbish pit 249=6646 was notable as containing 67 sherds of pottery (including many imported wares such as Seville coarseware and Italian sgraffito) as well as fragments of a glass tumbler and goblet, oyster and winkle shells, fish bones from twenty-two species and 409 fragments of animal bone including swan, deer, pig, rabbit, fowl and cattle.

#### Post-medieval (Fig. 4.4)

Generally by the post-medieval period, pit digging in the tenement yard seems to have almost ceased. Cess pit 490 was dug at the very western limit of the property and dates to the late 16th to late 17th century. The pit contained a Nuremberg copper alloy jetton (SF 6, Specialist Download F7) which would have been in circulation between 1550-1650. The partial remains of an early 18th-century rubbish pit (251) lay in the centre of the tenement yard.

#### Modern (not illustrated)

Pit 228 in the tenement yard was dated by clay pipes attributable to c 1740-1780. It also contained an impressive collection of high quality glass tablewares, including goblets and an engraved tumbler, as well as good examples of wine bottles, phials and window glass (Willmott, Chapter 5, Figs. 5.34 & 35, Nos 7-16). The tablewares are likely to date to the early part of the 18th century and were perhaps treasured family items for many years.

By 1800 Brewhouse Court had been inserted along the line of the rear boundaries of Tenements 172 and 239 (Smith 2003a, 31 and see below, Brewhouse Court). Houses constructed along the line of this court were largely removed by modern truncation. Cellars and external watercloset toilets noted in the 1890-1914 Dilapidated Housing Survey were represented by several brick-lined cisterns and structures revealed by the excavations. To the east of these, a brick structure can be reasonably confidently identified in relation to the housing plan as the back yard toilet (tank) of Tenement 172. A primi-

tive ceramic drain connected the building at Tenement 172 to this tank, which signifies the movement from external to internal ablutions. Clay pipe stems found in the drain fills were produced between 1720 and 1850. The stratigraphic sequence suggests that the insertion of the drain occurred towards the end of this date range, which still suggests a relatively early example of domestic plumbing.

#### *Brewhouse Lane and Brewhouse Court*

Brewhouse Lane was an historic thoroughfare, which formerly linked High Street/English Street and French Street. It ran from east-west through the centre of the site. The line and width of the route was defined to the east of the site by the southern wall of Tenement 173 and the northern wall of Tenement 172. To the west of the site it was delimited by the northern wall of Tenement 239 and the southern wall of Tenement 238. Much of the length of the lane was also traceable due to the presence of a 20th-century drain that had been laid along its centre prior to its destruction in the 1950s. By the late 18th century, houses had been built in Brewhouse Court to the south of Brewhouse Lane (see Chapter 2).

#### *St Denys Garden* (Fig. 2.3)

Documentary references between the 14th and 17th centuries (see Chapter 2) combine to show the presence of a large garden to the rear (west) of the High Street/English Street properties, extending at times from the west of Tenement 180 and east of French Street Tenement 237, to the north of Brewhouse Lane. The garden was a St Denys Priory possession until its dissolution in 1536. The approximate extent of the garden is shown on Fig. 2.3. Generally it appears in historic references as the adjacent property of a particular tenement or group of tenements when it is clearly not leased with the noted properties (eg in 1312, when Tenements 177-179 are described as extending west to a garden). Substantial parts of the projected area of the garden at the rear of these northerly tenements were not excavated, or had suffered later truncation.

#### *Tenement 173*

Documentary summary: Table App.1.5

Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: The capital tenement of Nicholas Bylot

Rental status: God's House property during the 13th century

Key owners/occupants: Nicholas Bylot, 15th-century merchant

#### *Tenement extent*

Tenement 173 was defined to the north and south by the east-west aligned walls of its medieval basement,

which was positioned on the street frontage (the southern line also dictating the northern extent of Brewhouse Lane). No physical remains survived to define its western limit, which has again been interpreted as the location of the 19th-century parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan. It should be noted, however, that documentary records indicate that Tenements 173 and 238 (French Street) were at times under single ownership and there may therefore have been occasions when the rear parts of these properties were not separated.

*The building* (Figs. 4.12-4.18)

Tenement 173 had a large rectangular cellar divided into two parts. The eastern part was probably accessed from the street frontage, although this section had largely been removed by a large modern service running parallel to the frontage. A 4 m length of the eastern part of the cellar was exposed up to the line of the service. The western part of the surviving cellar had an internal measurement of 8.5 m by 6.5 m wide. Its northern and southern walls (001 and 452) survived to their full



Fig. 4.12 Phase plan: high medieval, Tenements 173 to 180





Fig. 4.13 Phase plan: late medieval, Tenements 170 to 180

height of 0.8 m at which point they were topped with a simple chamfered string course that acted as the springing point of a stone-built, single-barrel vault (Fig. 4.16). At the time of excavation several ashlar courses of the vault were *in situ* and their profile was recorded. However the integrity of the

build had been damaged during infilling by the levelling and destruction of the centre of the vault. The vault profile was partially preserved in the western wall and appeared to be slightly pointed. The extrapolated arc of the vault indicates the height of the cellar would have been *c* 2.2 m. The



Fig. 4.14 Phase plan: post-medieval, Tenements 172 to 180





*Fig. 4.15 Tenements 173-176 superimposed over excavation photograph, facing north-west*



*Fig. 4.16 Tenement 173, the cellar during recording, facing west*

thickness of the vault would indicate a c 2.8-3.0 m gap between cellar floor and first floor.

The dividing wall (459 and 460) contained a wide opening leading through to the east. The upper part of one side of a doorway to a staircase survived in the southern half of the west wall (431/432),

although it had been heavily truncated by a modern stanchion. The walls themselves were well-coursed stone rubble, the vault being constructed from well-cut ashlar blocks. Slates were used as spacers and levellers within the fabric. The opening to the east was, where it survived, approximately 0.5 m above



the floor level and had raked reveals. The entrance from the stair into the west wall may have been original, but the surviving steps were concrete.

The vault had been previously recorded by Wachter in the late 1950s and published in a round-up of Southampton's medieval buildings by Faulkner (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975a, 101). Its form was largely the same as the other better-preserved cellars on Tenements 166 and 168 and No. 58 French Street in terms of the simplicity of its vault. Wachter also excavated a cess pit which was partially integrated into the southern wall and partially below Brewhouse Lane, although no finds are mentioned in the publication and any archive that may have been produced has since been lost. At the time of recording the east end of the cellar was extant and was finished with quoins which Faulkner took to indicate that the building had a timber-framed frontage.

Faulkner interpreted the date of the cellar (on the basis of comparison with No. 58 French Street) as late 14th century, although in the same publication No. 58 French Street was dated as early 14th century due to the presence of a shouldered-arch window head. A more recent study of No. 58 French Street by English Heritage was able to date its origins to the early 13th century through documentary sources and dendrochronology (see Chapter 7). Neither artefactual nor stratigraphic evidence from the excavation provides a sharper resolution to the date of the stone-built construction on Tenement 173, although it may also have been constructed in the 13th century.

#### *Features and deposits*

##### High medieval (Fig. 4.12)

The rear of Tenement 173 was exceptional in terms of the intensity of pitting that had been carried out. Forty-three cut features were recorded and many more had been removed by later activity. These included cess pits 811 and 813 situated approximately 10 m from the rear of the building. Environmental samples from pit 813 produced at least nine species of fishbone (including tiny gobies and clupeids), as well as the remains of berries, apples, prunes, figs and possibly almonds showing an apparently varied diet. Meat was represented by fowl, pig, deer and sheep bones. The pit was sub-square in plan, nearly vertical sided and deep (2.24 m). It was wood-lined and the lower cessy fills were capped with domestic refuse. Pottery retrieved from the pit largely comprised sherds of coarseware jugs and jars from the upper fills: these included Southampton coarseware jugs of 13th- to 14th-century date (Fig. 5.2, Nos 22 and 23). Abundant pupae retrieved from the cess-rich layers indicate the fly-blown and insanitary nature of these deposits. David Smith (Chapter 6) suggests that the mineralisation of the environmental evidence in this feature (and others) may have been caused by the application of some caustic material such as lime, intended to kill noisome odours.

The numerous rubbish pits were irregular and intercutting. Finds included a rotary quern, millstone and mortar fragments, kiln tiles, a stone disc, two bone ice skates, a bone knife handle, a bone pin and needle (Fig. 5.51, No. 3), parts of a glass goblet, a lamp and globular flask dating to the 14th century. The metalwork includes a possible toilet implement such as a toothpick or ear scoop (Fig. 5.24, No. 18), a padlock bolt, a belt stud or plate (Fig. 5.25, No. 29), a plate ring and two strap ends, one of which is of 14th-century type (Fig. 5.26, Nos 37 and 38) and a balance arm (Fig. 5.23, No. 15). Another copper alloy object is of uncertain function (Fig. 5.31, No. 72). Abundant animal bone was also found.

Ditches 867 and 594 were both shallow linear features, which apparently respected the limits of the tenement's northern and southern boundaries. Both features were cut through high medieval period pits and were relatively shallow (594 was 0.27 m deep and 867 was 0.13 m deep). The features may have served as drainage channels or perhaps planting beds.

##### Late medieval (Fig. 4.13)

There was very little evidence of later cut features at the rear of Tenement 173. A linear cut (100) lay towards the centre of the rear yard. A stone-lined pit (1344) straddled the boundary with Tenement 174 and may have served both tenements. Most of the features attributed to this period were found within the cellar of the building, including at least one cess pit (1160) and several rubbish pits (eg 1170 and 1141). The change in the character of the archaeological remains is reflected in the artefact assemblages which demonstrate a massive reduction in the presence of ceramics associated with this tenement from the high medieval period (c 2000 sherds) to the late medieval period (c 100 sherds). The earliest surviving floors within the cellar were of disturbed natural clay and accumulated silt (1071 and 1106) containing late medieval pottery.

##### Post-medieval (Fig. 4.14)

Two stone-lined cess pits (854 and 855) were found at the western end of the property, along with the partial remains of two rubbish pits (957 and 1073). Pit 854 contained a copper alloy plate rim fragment (Fig. 5.28, No. 50). The absence of features dating to this period in the remainder of the property (outside the street frontage buildings) in conjunction with the 1663 deed of sale (see Chapter 2) suggests that the area was maintained as a garden or orchard during this period.

The late medieval floors within the cellar were cut by a multitude of postholes running parallel to the east-west aligned cellar walls and containing post-medieval pottery (Fig. 4.14). These are almost certainly the remains of a racking system for casks and barrels during the building's use as the Greyhound Inn in the 17th century. The racking was removed and its features sealed (and the



contemporary floor surface truncated) by the laying of a partially surviving brick floor (488, not illustrated) in the 18th century. Apparently contemporary with the brick floor was a burial in the north-west corner of the cellar of a large Verwood jar (1033; Figs 4.17 & 5.9, No. 108) which contained broken wine bottles, ceramic building material, nails, pig and goat



Fig. 4.17 Tenement 173, late Verwood jar set into cellar floor, facing north-west

bones, a piece of shell and a clay pipe stem, perhaps indicating that the jar was used as a receptacle for sweeping detritus into from the cellar floor. The assemblage suggests an 18th-century date.

Modern (Fig. 4.18)

As noted above, several properties were built along the northern edge of Brewhouse Lane behind Tenement 173 in the 19th century, of which the only surviving evidence was the brick-built cellar of No. 10 (as numbered on the Dilapidated Housing Survey), immediately to the west of Tenement 173. This cellar was 1.2 m deep. A cask-lined pit (885) contained a possible strainer (Fig. 5.29, No. 56): the large size of the hoops from the cask itself suggest that it was used for transporting wine (Scott, Chapter 5, No. 57).

#### **Tenement 174**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.6  
Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded  
Status at 1454 Terrier: Two tenements (includes Tenement 175)  
Rental status: Private  
Key owners/occupants: Owner (?) John Polymond, town mayor (1365, 1369, 1380-82, 1384, 1389, 1391-92)

#### *Tenement extent*

Tenement 174 was defined to the north and south by the remnants of the east-west aligned walls of its street frontage basement. No fencing or walls survived to define the sides of the tenement to the rear of the street frontage and the boundaries here have been extrapolated from the line of the basement walls. The western limit of the tenement was demarcated by modern walls, which also respected the line



Fig. 4.18 Nineteenth-century cellar behind Tenement 173, facing south-east

of the 19th-century parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan.

#### *The building* (Figs. 4.12-4.15)

The cellar on the Tenement 174 frontage, a modern structure, was rectangular in plan with an internal measurement of at least 11 m by 4.5 m wide. The eastern end of the cellar had been truncated by modern services and the western end by a concrete stanchion for the post-1950's Habitat building (which occupied the area prior to excavation) but appears to have been partitioned into a narrow corridor. The walls survived to approximately 1.6 m high and the ceilings appeared to have been flat. The floor of the cellar was a combination of brick and stone paving slabs.

The cellar's southern wall was constructed from roughly coursed rubble stone with occasional brick features such as a niche in the western corner and what appeared to be a door jamb. The other walls were brick. A possible fireplace in the north wall had been heavily truncated by modern stanchions. The whole cellar appeared to be of 18th- or 19th-century date, although the southern wall included (lime)stone that may have been salvaged from an earlier building.

Archaeological deposits to the rear of Tenement 174 had been severely impacted by the construction of a large brick-built cellar/warehouse at the rear of the property. This was actually part of the 1934 Wine Merchants in Tenement 175, but the warehouse extended across both tenements. The building was for the storage of wines and ales and had brick storage bins (similar to those seen in the Tenement 168, a 20th-century wine and spirit importers) as well as concrete ramped walkways, to allow for rolling of barrels.

#### *Features and deposits*

##### High medieval (Fig. 4.12)

Three unremarkable rubbish pits (1225, 1388, 1408) dating to the high medieval period were recorded at the rear of the property. Pit 1408 contained a repair for a sheet metal vessel (Fig. 5.28, No. 54).

##### Late medieval (Fig. 4.13)

Six pits (1194, 1197, 1289, 1301, 1354=1361 and 1363) dating to the late medieval period lay adjacent to the rear of the building, two of which (1289 and 1301) were stone-lined and survived on a high island of strata that had not been reduced by the 20th-century cellaring. Both were approximately 1.6 m by 1.2 m in plan and 0.90 m deep. Pit 1301 was a replacement for pit 1289 and incorporated one of the earlier feature's stone walls. It is possible that both were cess pits serving the house, although (possibly due to cleaning) this was not apparent in the nature of the fills.

Among the remaining rubbish pits, a belt buckle and a Pégau rim and handle with a 'merchant's mark' in Saintonge whiteware (Fig. 5.3, No. 36)

were retrieved from pit 1197. Thirty-two whole or parts of metal rings (possibly mail, Fig. 5.32, No. 73) were found in pit 1361, along with a pendant loop and mount (Fig. 5.26, No 35), and a broad curved blade. Dietary evidence was found in pit 1363 in the form of seventeen different species of fish (including eel, cod, flatfish, mackerel, plaice, perch, goby, thornback, ray and herring – some partly digested), as well as small amounts of oyster, mussel and winkle shell.

##### Post-medieval (Fig. 4.14)

A single shallow pit (1202) containing ceramic building material and animal bone was dated to the post-medieval period on Tenement 174.

##### Early modern (not illustrated)

A stone-lined pit was constructed at the western limit of the tenement (1401/1436). It contained 110 sherds of pottery dating from the late medieval to early modern periods and clay pipe dating to the mid 18th to 19th century. The presence in the assemblage of nearly complete vessels (including a Beauvais Sgraffito dish and a Verwood jar) which are of an earlier date than the feature (late 15th to 16th century and 17th to 18th century respectively) suggest that it was infilled with the redeposited material from nearby rubbish pits. A dish in Donyatt-type slipware was also found (Fig. 5.10, No. 117).

In the 1881 Census, Tenement 174 (No. 112 High Street) is listed as a dispensing chemist. The property was still a chemist when destroyed by bombing in the Second World War. Hundreds of bottles and ointment jars were found within the cellar, along with photographic development equipment (see Chapter 2).

#### **Tenement 175**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.6

Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: Two tenements (includes Tenement 174)

Rental status: Private

Key owners/occupants: Owner (?) John Polymond, town mayor (see Tenement 174)

#### *Tenement extent*

Tenement 175 was defined to the north and south by the east-west aligned walls of its street frontage basement and the modern walls of the warehouse built in the rear of the property. Modern walls contemporary to the warehouse also defined the western limit of the tenement and reflected the line of the parish boundary on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan. In the absence of other evidence, these have been taken to indicate the extent of the medieval tenement.

#### *The building* (Figs. 4.12-15)

The cellar for Tenement 175, in its modern form (not illustrated), was the largest example exposed



during the excavations. It largely consisted of a modern brick-vaulted construction inserted into a medieval cellar and extended westwards. The building is listed in Kelly's Directory as a wine merchants in 1934 and appears to have been purpose-built for this trade. The only remnants of the earlier building were the medieval stone cellar walls (see below), which would have acted as a liner and side support to the cellar during reconstruction. These were sheathed by the brick-built cellar walls.

The building extended approximately 45 m back from the line of the modern service run that truncated the eastern end of the cellar. This was effectively one long cellar measuring approximately 35 m, which was divided into four uneven sections. A further section, roughly 10 m long, was offset to the south at the west end (noted above in Tenement 174). The walls survived between 1 m to c 1.5 m tall. The ceilings over all the surviving sections appeared to have been brick vaults, although only small areas of these remained. The floor throughout the cellars was poured concrete sloping downwards towards a shallow gully running down the centre.

The earliest wall fabric was found in the eastern end of the cellars where the north, south and western walls of a stone cellar survived with some traces of limewash over the stones (5013 and 5015). This cellar, although truncated at its eastern end, measured 11 m by 5 m. The western wall, the end of the original cellar, was taller and preserved the approximate profile of a stone vault. An opening had been cut into this wall when the cellar was extended and the opening rebuilt in brick. The north-eastern section of this stone-walled phase showed some sign of repairs. The remains of the vault resting on top of the early stone walls were brick-built with a sandy yellow mortar: similar bricks were used in some areas of brick walling in front of the stone walls. The extensions to the west of the first cellar were apparently also of this date. Both sides of the cellars were lined with brick partitions, between 1 and 1.5 m apart, forming a series of bins. These were a single brick thick and were built up against both the walls and the vaults. The concrete floor appeared to have been laid around these partitions.

#### *Features and deposits*

##### High medieval (Fig. 4.12)

Ten irregularly shaped rubbish pits (3694, 3745, 3768, 3771, 3784, 3798, 3800, 3833, 3852 and 3854 (not illustrated – below 3798)) dating to the high medieval period survived at the western end of the tenement. A square stone-lined cess pit (3690) was recorded at the western end of the tenement plot. This measured 3.12 m by 1.8 m and was 1.77 m deep, with a central sub-dividing wall. The pit was filled with alternating organic material and sterile brickearth deposits. Only the uppermost infilling of the feature contained pottery, which mainly comprised fragments of local coarseware jugs and

jars. Two sherds of imported material (Maoilica and Iberian redware, dating to the late 15th-early 16th century) may suggest that this feature was still partially open in the late medieval period or may be contamination from an adjacent feature.

##### Late medieval (Fig. 4.13)

Three large pits (3662, 3746 and 3778) and a small, only partially surviving pit (3819) were dated to the late medieval period. Pit 3746 contained a possible glass lamp rim of the 13th to 15th century. An Edward III silver halfpenny of 1335-1343 (Allen *et al*, Chapter 5, No. 6) was found in the lower fills of pit 3778. In the same part of the infill sequence was a 0.10 m deep layer of roofing slate, which indicates demolition and/or possible rebuilding. The lack of burning associated with the deposit means there is no reason to correlate the feature with destruction and clearance associated with the 1338 raid.

#### *Tenement 176*

Documentary summary: Tables App.1.7 and 1.8

Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: Tenement of Thomas Payn

Rental status: Private

Key owners/occupants: Thomas Payn, town mayor 1472 (brother of John Payn, also town mayor)

#### *Tenement extent*

Tenement 176 was defined to the north and south by the east-west aligned walls of its street frontage basement. A modern wall defined the western limit of the tenement: this boundary dates back to at least the 19th century when it defined the parish boundary on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan. In the absence of further evidence this has also been interpreted as the property's medieval limit.

#### *The building* (Figs. 4.12-4.15)

The width of the cellar and its record as a tenement (rather than cottage) in the 1454 Terrier suggests that there may have been a medieval cellar on this plot originally. If so, this had been totally removed by the brick rebuild of probable late 19th-century date (not illustrated). This rectangular structure measured approximately 12 m long by 5.5-6 m wide and was divided into two sections, the eastern end having been truncated by modern services. The western half of the cellar was 4.5 m long and had a winder stair leading up from its south-western corner. The walls survived to approximately 1.7 m high, which must have been close to their original height. The cellar floor was of poured concrete, lying slightly higher in the western section. No ceiling survived, although the complete absence of any vaulting or springing masonry suggests that the roof would have been flat, forming part of the structure of a wooden floor above. The walls were of red brick with several distinct mortars indicating different phases of construction (all of which were



modern). At one point, the cellar was directly connected to the cellar of Tenement 175 to the south by a door in its eastern half.

#### *Features and deposits*

##### High medieval (Figs. 4.12 and 4.20)

Seventeen features were revealed in the rear part of Tenement 176. Many of these (5260, 5264, 5268, 5270, 5272, 5274, 5286, 5288, 5290 and probable cess pit 5282) were not excavated as they lay outside the footprint of the development and have been preserved *in situ*. These features were planned and finds removed from their surfaces. The small quantity of finds retrieved suggests that most of the features dated to the high medieval period.

Six of the pits at the rear of the modern building were excavated (5193-96, 5241 and 5284). This sequence of pits had been dug for initial use as cess pits which were subsequently infilled with sterile clay and re-used as rubbish pits (Fig. 4.20). Samples retrieved from pits 5194 and 5196 indicate the usual range of dietary remains (fowl, cattle, pig, deer and sheep/goat bones), as well as mussel and winkle shells. Fish bones included those of mackerel, eel, cod, flatfish, sardine, herring and perch. No plant remains were preserved, although pit 5194 contained charcoal from oak, beech and a range of other species.

##### Post-medieval/early modern (Fig. 4.14)

A substantial cistern/cess pit (3635) was located at the western limit of the tenement. This was stone-lined and abutted the existing stone wall to the rear of French Street Tenement 237. An impressive assemblage of finds was retrieved from the feature including glass and clay pipe (eg Fig. 5.42, Nos 1, 7 & 9) which, when combined, gives a reasonably confident date for the infilling of the feature of 1740-50. One hundred and sixty sherds of pottery were recovered of which the majority was Verwood. The assemblage includes jars, bowls (eg Fig. 5.8, Nos 98-100), pipkins, chamber pots (Fig. 5.8, Nos 101 & 102), dishes, jugs and tankards. Among the dishes and plates are an Anglo-Netherlands tin-glazed ware dish (Fig. 5.11, No. 123) and plate in the same fabric (Fig. 5.11, No. 126). The glass assemblage is of significant size, comprising heavy lead wine glasses and other common 'middle-class' tablewares. It includes typical 18th-century glass containers (cylindrical phials, and onion or bladder shaped examples), as well as a common, if costly, household item in the form of a piece of mirror glass (Figs. 5.25-5.26, Nos 20-29). Metal objects recovered include an adze blade, an axe blade and a hinge plate. Taken as a whole, the assemblage seems to represent a house clearance which, given the presence of ceramic building material and slate in the deposits, was



Fig. 4.19 Tenements 176-180 superimposed over excavation photograph, facing north/north-west



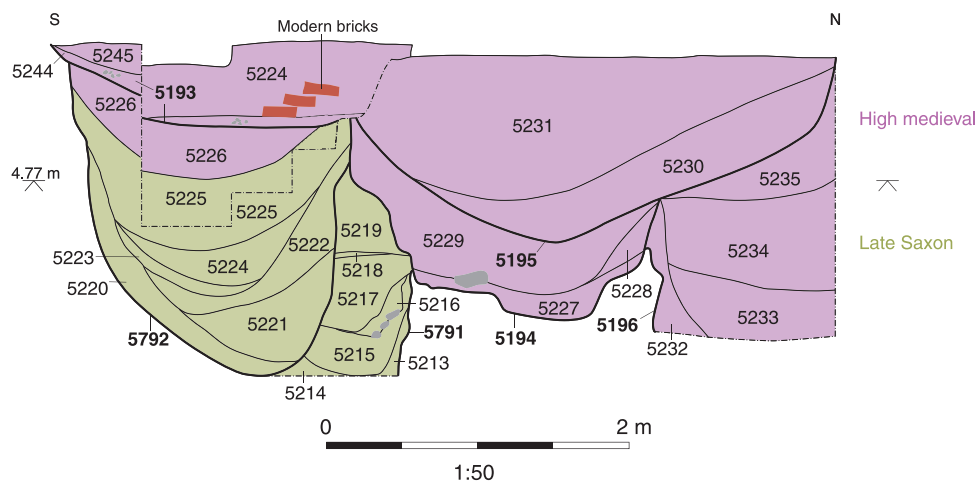


Fig. 4.20 Cess pits to the rear of Tenement 176

probably associated with redevelopment on the site. Documentary evidence does not indicate building works on Tenement 176 at this date, although a major building campaign was carried out at the adjacent plot (Tenement 237) between 1738 and 1767 (see Chapter 2).

#### Tenements 177-179

Documentary summary: Tables App.1.7-1.12  
 Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded  
 Status at 1454 Terrier: Three small cottages  
 Rental status: Held by God's House by 1324 to at least 1459  
 Key owners/occupants: Adam Le Horder, town mayor 1303

#### Tenement extent

The northern and southern limits of Tenements 177-179 were defined by the east-west aligned walls of their modern street frontage basements: no medieval walls were associated with these tenements. Several

features crossed these extrapolated lines to the rear of the properties, raising the question of how clearly demarcated the historic land plots were, particularly bearing in mind that the properties were jointly owned by God's House for much of their history (see Chapter 2). The western limit of the tenements can have extended no further west than the line of the medieval wall which formed the eastern limit of French Street Tenement 237, as well as the first reliably mapped instance of the parish boundary. Documentary references of the 14th and 17th centuries suggest that a St Denys garden property ran north-south behind all three tenements. Measurements (where given) for the properties are, however, in the region of 45 ft (13.7m) east-west which covers approximately the same extent as the excavated area.

#### The buildings (Figs 4.12-4.14 and 4.21)

##### Tenement 177

Properties 177-179 are described in the Terrier as cottages which suggests that they were uncellared



during the high medieval period. The mixed quality of the wall of the smaller original cellar in the western half of Tenement 177 (wall 5113) suggests that it was later than medieval in date and was perhaps broadly contemporary with an early 17th-century token found on the brick floor here (SF 83, Specialist Download F7).

The extant cellar was rectangular, measuring 8 m long by 3.4 m wide; it was divided into two halves by a wide block in the middle of the southern wall. The eastern end of the cellar had been truncated by modern services, as had the southern part of the western wall. There was no evidence that the cellar had been vaulted. The ceiling was probably flat, forming part of the wooden floor at ground level. The floor, where it survived in the western part of the cellar, was brick. The cellar was of two periods, the western half being earlier. The walls here were made of mixed stone and brick with traces of paint or whitewash. They made up a small square cellar, measuring approximately 3.5 m by 3.4 m square.

The cellar was later extended eastwards with brick walls and a possible fireplace created in the western wall of the extension. A block of natural brickearth was preserved between the eastern wall of the original cellar and the rear of this fireplace. The passage between the extension and the original section ran along the northern side of the cellar, but any walls had been removed by the concrete stanchions of the Habitat building. The extension was constructed of the same brick as the cellars of Tenements 178 and 179 to the north; the north wall of the extension was the same as the southern wall of Tenement 178. The extension of this cellar was contemporary with those to the north and dates to the late 19th century.

#### Tenement 178

This tenement's modern cellar was a simple rectangular structure measuring at least 7 m east-west by 3 m wide; the eastern end of the cellar had been truncated by modern services. No ceiling structure survived – it was probably a flat construction. The walls were of the same build as those of Tenement 179 to the north and survived to a height of approximately 1.5 m. In the centre of the western wall was a brick coal chute. The northern wall had a narrow arched niche in the western half of the cellar. In the eastern part of the cellar, a further brick partition wall divided the eastern part from the western part; entry into the cellar was presumably from the street but this part of the cellar had been removed. The cellar was contemporary with the cellar of Tenement 179 to the north and with the extended section of Tenement 177 to the south.

#### Tenement 179

The structure of Tenement 179's modern cellar was a simple rectangle measuring at least 8 m long by 3 m wide; its eastern end was truncated by modern services and not fully exposed. The surviving walls stood to a height of approximately 1.5 m. No ceiling

structure survived, although would evidently have been flat rather than vaulted. The walls were constructed of red brick with a grey mortar. No floor survived. This cellar was contemporary with the cellar of Tenement 178 and was probably of late 19th-century date. The western wall was truncated by a later drain run, capped with frogged bricks stamped with 'Catty Brook Bricks Limited, Bristol'. (Cattybrook Brick Works came about when the Bristol & South Wales Union Railway was building its line to New Passage Pier. The engineer of the line, Charles Richardson, was impressed by the quality of the clay being dug out of Patchway Tunnel and decided to lease a few acres of land at Cattybrook in 1865. The brickworks went on to supply 74,400,000 bricks for the Severn Tunnel (<http://www.bristol-rail.co.uk/cattybrook.php>.)

#### Features and deposits

##### High medieval (Fig. 4.12)

Ten pits dating to the high medieval period (5069, 5188, 5197 (not visible on illustration), 5237, 5250, 5262, 5276, 5280 and 5278) were recorded at Tenement 177, four of which (5262, 5276, 5280 and possible cess pit 5278) were not excavated as they were preserved *in situ*. These were dated by finds retrieved from their surfaces.

Pit 5237 was an extremely large (2.44 m by 1.52 m) and irregular pit, although it was relatively shallow (0.94 m). It contained much domestic refuse including evidence of at least 20 species of fish (eel, conger, smelt, whiting, ling, goby, flatfish, hake, mullet, flounder, cod, ray and chub), as well as oyster shells. Fruit remains included blackberry/raspberry, elder, fig, grape and sloe/plum/damson/greengage. A possible mineralised quince seed was also recovered. Most notably, this pit produced a fragment of a cumin mericarp (see documentary evidence for Tenement 169, Chapter 2 and W. Smith, Chapter 6). Abundant pupae retrieved from the environmental samples show that the pit would have been unsanitary and fly-blown. As stated above (see Tenement 173, pit 813 and D. Smith, Chapter 6), mineralisation of the environmental evidence may have been caused by the application of some caustic material intended to kill off offensive odours.

Two high medieval pits were associated with Tenement 178 (5084 and 5159). A kiln tile was recovered from the lower fills of pit 5084. This pit crossed the extrapolated property boundary to the north (with Tenement 179), and there is documentary evidence that Tenement 179 had an oven in 1359 (see Chapter 2).

##### Late medieval (Fig. 4.13)

The late medieval period features in Tenements 177-179 show a distinct change from the earlier features, as elsewhere across the excavation. All the features with the exception of one pit (5152 on Tenement 179) were square, one being stone lined. On Tenement 178 was a large stone-lined cess pit (5003).

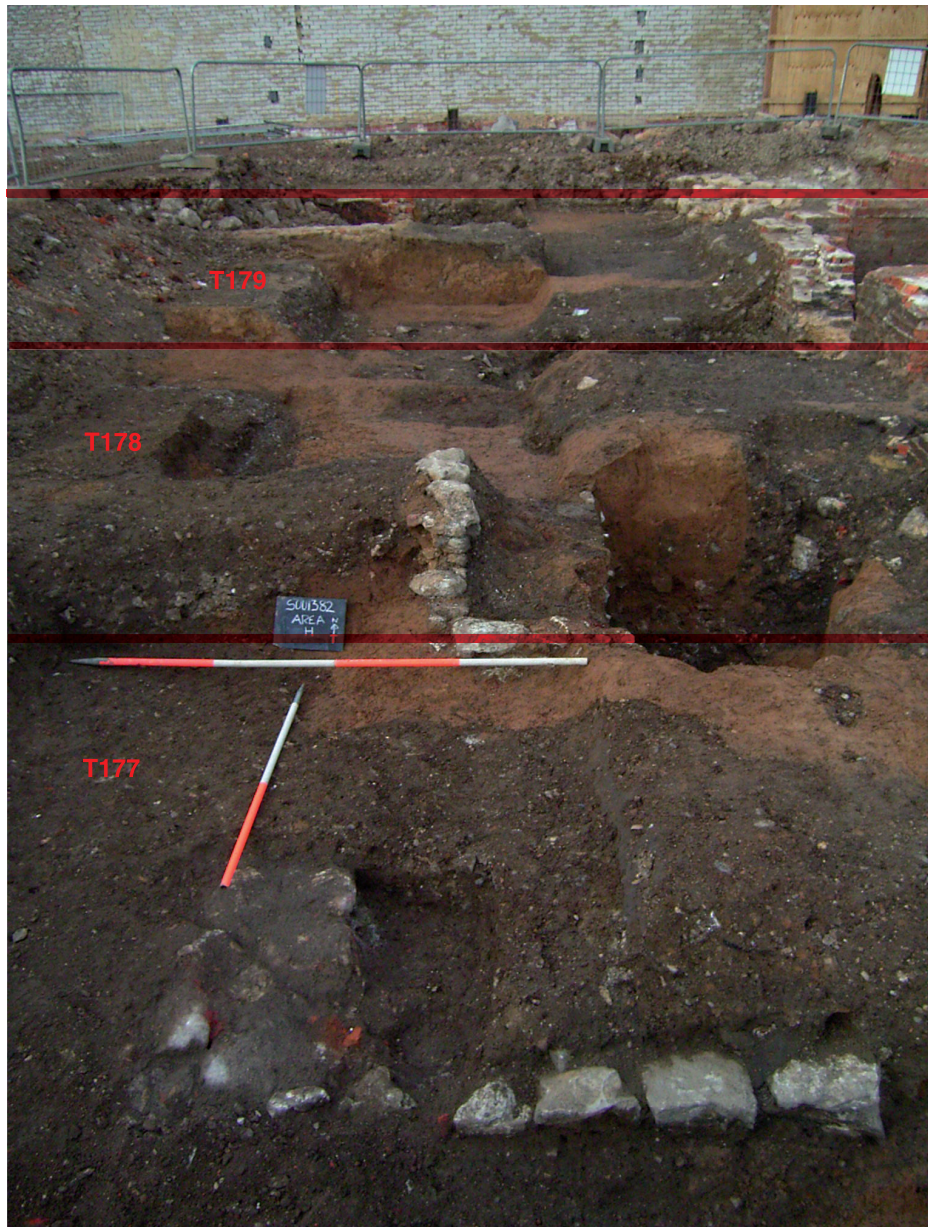


Fig. 4.21 Area behind Tenements 177-80, after removal of modern foundations and before excavation, facing north

Given the absence of any such type of feature on Tenement 177, this may have been shared between the two properties. The pit had been partially excavated during evaluation on the site by SCCAU (Smith 2003b, Trench 10, pit 309). Cess pit 5003 contained a range of charcoal, deriving from elm, oak, beech and other species including wild privet.

Cess pits found at Tenement 179 (5055, 5099, 5104 and 5107) were shallower than those recorded elsewhere on the site (and therefore either shorter lived or regularly cleaned). None of these features was deeper than 0.80 m and the area had not been subjected to deeper truncation.

Rubbish pit 5152 contained a copper alloy jetton (SF 88, Specialist Download F7), which would have been in circulation between 1450-1520, as well as a decorated floor tile (Fig. 5.21, No. 19) and most of a

Saintonge pitcher. Notably these three tenements produced the same proportions of imported pottery to local wares as elsewhere on the site despite their lower status as suggested by the smaller property size and 'cottage' description in the 1454 Terrier. A possible Nuremburg thimble (Fig. 5.23, No. 6) and a copper alloy pin (Fig. 5.26, No. 44) came from pit 5003. Pit 5104 contained a decorative binding or mount (Fig. 5.30, No. 60).

Post-medieval (Fig. 4.14)

Only Tenement 178 showed evidence of activity in the post-medieval period in the form of two rubbish pits (5045 and 5087). Pit 5045 was a large irregular feature containing 58 sherds of pottery, largely local ware fragments of jugs, bowls and jars but also including some imported wares. Other finds



included a jetton, which would have been in circulation between 1525-1600 (SF 73, Specialist Download F7), a fragment of Flemish floor tile, and the bones of cattle, pig, sheep and rabbit.

### *Tenement 180: Polymond's Gate*

Documentary summary: Tables App.1.7 and 1.13

Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: Polymond Gate

Rental status: St Denys, c 1371-1536

Key owners/occupants: Richard de Barflete (town mayor 1317), John Polymond (town mayor, see Tenements 174 and 237), George and Richard Mylles (see Tenement 237)

#### *Tenement extent*

Tenement 180 was defined to the south by its east-west aligned basement wall. No evidence of fencing or walling was found to indicate the line of the tenement boundaries to the rear of the street frontage, which has been extrapolated from the basement wall line. The western limit of Tenement 180 has been defined as the wall forming the rear boundary of Tenement 237 (French Street) which also marks the (19th-century) parish boundary. It should be noted (see St Denys garden, above) that a separately leased garden existed between Tenement 180 and Tenement 237 during the 14th to 17th centuries. For much of that period, however, the garden appears to have been leased jointly with Tenement 180 and indeed the actual excavation here does not extend much further west than the building on the plot suggesting that it probably did not include any of the garden. The northern limit of Tenement 180 was defined by a medieval wall that ran beneath the foundation of the existing property adjacent to the excavations (No. 119 High Street).

#### *The building* (Figs 4.12-4.14 and 4.22)

The surviving building comprised an L-shaped cellar, created in three phases. Its eastern side was partially truncated by modern services. Its internal maximum dimensions were approximately 9 m north-south and approximately 8.4 m east-west. The north-south arm was 3.3 m wide, and the arm running west into the tenement plot was 4 m wide. The cellar walls stood to a height of approximately 1-1.5 m and had no surviving ceiling elements, although it appears likely that the ceiling was flat rather than vaulted. In the eastern arm of the cellar the floor survived, and was of brick with a flagstone section in the central area.

The earliest walls (5258, 5117 and 5116) were of post-medieval date, consisting of roughly coursed rubble stone bonded with a pale grey lime mortar. The cellar was remodelled using mixed stone and brick bonded with an orange yellow brickearth. During this phase a doorway was inserted in the western end wall of the cellar and the western section of the cellar appears to have been reduced in width. The doorway had stone jambs with a single

chamfer which had apparently been reused. There was no obvious entrance leading to the east although it may have been truncated. The lower elements of a window (5121) looking east did survive. The latest phase of the cellar involved several areas of patching of brick bonded with a sandy yellow mortar.

The rebuilt walls of the second phase of development contained several pieces of architectural stonework of a similar size and showing the same character of tooling. They mainly consisted of fragments of vertical elements (such as columns), and it is quite likely that they came from the same structure. This tenement was once occupied by Polymond Gate and it is possible that the architectural fragments were originally part of this structure, having been reused in the remodelled cellar walls. The earliest surviving fabric of the cellar can be stratigraphically assessed to post-date the early 15th century, although a pit in the cellar contained demolition material from an earlier building (see below). The remodelling must have been completed before the mid 17th century as deposits datable to this period infilled a surviving stretch of construction cut (5057) and accumulated against the western doorway insertion (see below, feature 5180).

#### *Features and deposits*

##### High medieval (Fig. 4.12)

Inside the extant cellar an irregularly shaped pit (5306) was sealed below the flagstone floor in the northern half of the structure. The pit contained demolition material (roof and floor tile, including a decorated floor tile, Fig. 5.21, No. 20) and pottery dating to the 13th to 14th century.

Three large irregularly shaped rubbish pits (5157, 5166 and 5358) were recorded to the rear of the building. Pit 5358 contained a continental imitation silver farthing, which is likely to date to between 1248-1279 (Allen *et al*, Chapter 5, No. 5). A composite bone comb and Anglo-Norman pottery were also retrieved from the lower fills of this feature (see Chapter 3, Property 7). Pit 5166 contained a cast copper alloy object (Fig. 5.31, No. 71). A small hearth (5299) was found in the infilled upper part of pit 5358 and measured c 0.85 m in diameter and was 0.10 m deep. It comprised a clean gravel base with a compact burnt clay overlying it. The infill contained several nails, as well as animal bone and local medieval coarseware.

##### Late medieval (Fig. 4.13)

Two features dating to the late medieval period were found in the yard of the tenement. Both were located to the north-west of the site. Pit 5362 may have been a cess pit as it was square in plan, but was filled with a relatively sterile bulk infill (excavation did not, however, reach the lower deposits). Pit 5359 was more characteristically a rubbish pit containing pottery, roof tiles, and the bones of rabbit, cattle and bird.





A



B

*Fig. 4.22 Tenement 180, cellar A) facing north, B) facing west*



Post-medieval (Fig. 4.14)

The building footprint as excavated was established during the post-medieval period. Pit 5180 abutted the western wall of the building. Its fills had been deposited in the recess created by an infilled doorway entrance, meaning that the feature resembled a stone garderobe. The fills contained a wide range of artefacts and ecofacts including a pair of scissor candle snuffers (Fig. 5.30, No. 59), a decorated plate perhaps from a box or casket (Fig. 5.31, No. 65), clay pipes dating between the mid 17th and early 18th century (including Fig. 5.23, No. 10), a token giving a slightly later range (1675-1725; SF 71, Specialist Download F7) and a large assemblage of animal bone which, as well as food detritus, included toad and rat bones. Brazil nuts were also retrieved from the feature and are a rare archaeological find for this date: given the character of the feature and the presence of a grocers on the site from the 19th century it is possible that rats may have been responsible for the intrusive deposition of later material here (see W. Smith, Chapter 6). A possible posthole (5037) lay to the west.

### The French Street tenements

#### *Tenement 237: Polymond's Hall (including Tenement 236)*

Documentary summary: Tables App.1.14-1.17  
Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded  
Status at 1454 Terrier: Polymond's Hall  
Rental status: St Denys, c 1371-1536

Key owners/occupants: Richard of Leicester (mid 1250s), John Polymond (later 14th century), Robert Aylward (town mayor 1441, 1449, 1453) Christopher de Vernagis (1454), Antonio Perugino, Venetian Consul (15th century), John Mylles (16th-century town clerk, involved in dissolution of religious houses and father of George and Richard Mylles; see Tenement 180) John Coombes (shearsmith, 17th century, who left a detailed probate will describing the property; see Appendix 2), Isaac Watts (17th century), Matthew Woodford (18th century)

Tenement 237 was by far the largest property recorded and the most significant in terms of finds assemblages and its documented history. The presence of a stone building at this property is first documented in 1254-72, although it may have been constructed as early as the late 12th century (see Chapters 2 and 7). Excavation now demonstrates that this part of the site was already a focus of occupation the Late Saxon and Anglo-Norman periods (see Chapter 3). The well (3145, see below) found at the centre of the courtyard which formed a focal point of the stone-built development notably contained no dating evidence later than the Anglo-Norman period and may have originated in this earlier period. This, combined with the truncation of an Anglo-Norman feature (4670, see Chapter 3)

for the creation of the street frontage building, suggests the presence of a building constructed in the late Anglo-Norman period that was perhaps contemporary with the great late 12th-century houses of Southampton. Both the well and the remnants of the original stone building are detailed below, rather than in Chapter 3, in order to present all aspects of the building's history together.

During most of the late medieval period this was a prosperous tenement and was described as a capital tenement in 1454. In the late 14th century it had been bequeathed to the St Denys Priory and was leased by a wealthy and prominent burgess, John Polymond. Polymond's properties (among others in the town) extended to Tenements 180 (then known as Polymond's Gate), Tenements 174/5 on the High Street and the adjacent French Street property, Tenement 238. The full history of the property appears in Chapter 2.

#### *Tenement extent and preservation*

The quality of strata preservation on this tenement, which consisted of ranges set around a courtyard, was dramatically different to the others. The primary street frontage building and the western ends of the north and south ranges were massively damaged by the widening of French Street and road drainage runs. The remainder of the tenement area (including a completely surviving basement) had been encased in the foundation/retaining wall and floor of the warehouse constructed on the site by 1958. The warehouse wall surrounded the property and created a raised and level support (on the otherwise sloping topography) for the concrete floor, which was at the exact level to preserve the apex of the vaulting of the undercroft of the northern range. In the context of Wachter's work, it is likely that this 'encasing' was not merely a fortunate accident (see Chapter 1). Tenement 237 was defined to the north by the extant cellar which represents the land plot of Tenement 236 until it was subsumed within Tenement 237 in the 18th century. To the east and south-east the tenement was defined by a post-medieval limestone wall revealed during excavation. To the west the property was delimited by the western medieval walls of the building which were partly visible during watching brief works on utilities – these probably represent the limit of the historic street frontage. Excavations in progress are illustrated in Fig. 4.23B.

#### *High medieval buildings (Figs 4.23-4.31)*

##### Courtyard

The buildings were ranged around a central square courtyard measuring 8.6 m by 6.3 m. Access to the northern range was provided by a doorway in the north-east corner of the courtyard. A second access was via a corridor between the south-east and south-west ranges, which would have led to the stables (see below). Further access to the southern and eastern ranges would probably have existed

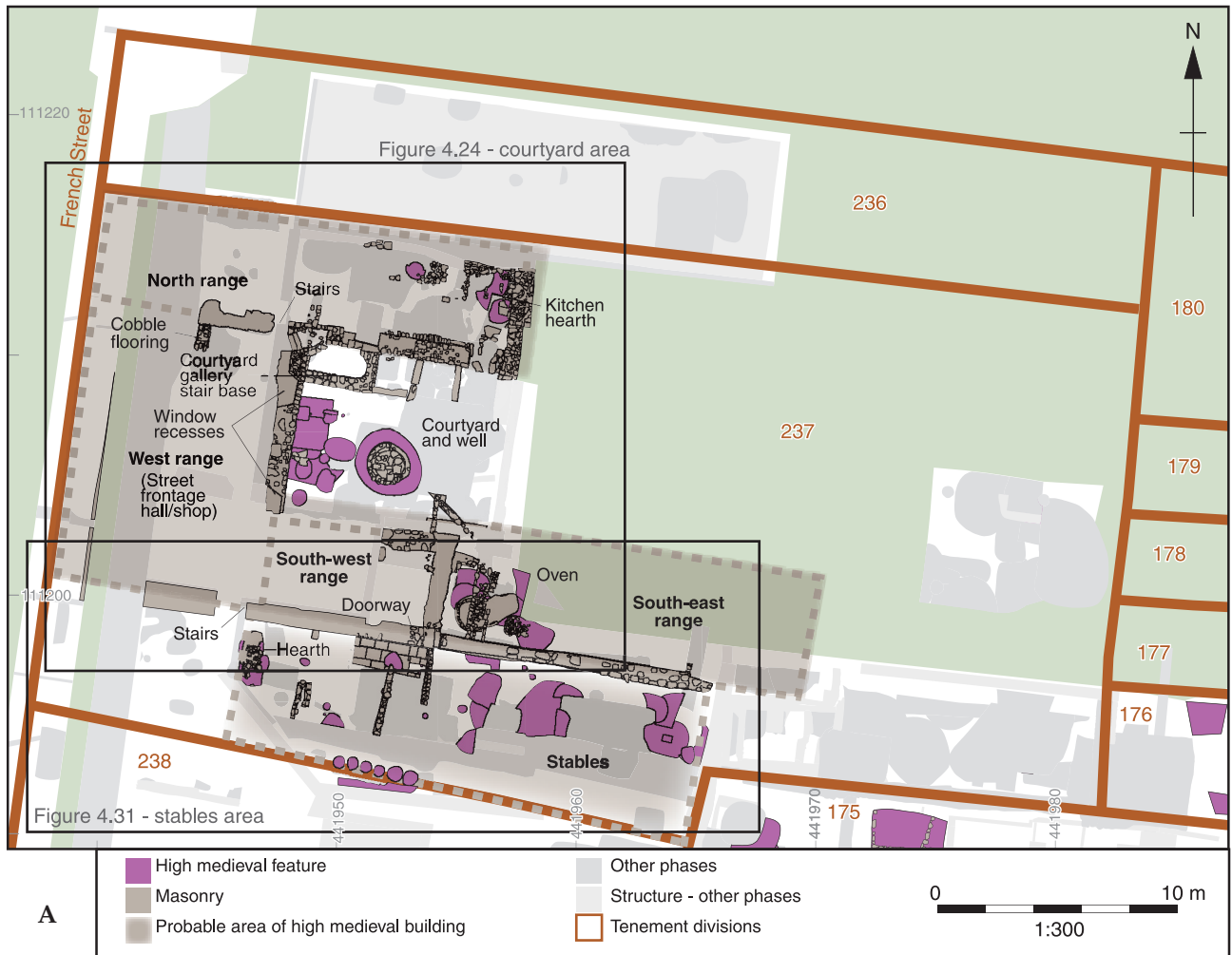


Fig. 4.23 A) (above) Phase plan: high medieval, Tenements 236 and 237 B) (facing page above) Excavations at Tenement 237 in progress, overlain by building plan which includes the high medieval and later phases (facing south)

but had been removed through later activity (or, in the case of the eastern range, was not exposed by excavation).

At the centre of the courtyard lay a well (construction cut 3145, stone lining 3216) which was 2.3 m deep and approximately 1.5 m in diameter (Figs 4.23-25). Only a small quantity of Anglo-Norman pottery was retrieved from infills of its construction cut (3259) and it may have originated in the late Anglo-Norman period. The well was cut into the sequence of underlying gravels through which water would have percolated. It is not clear whether this supply would have been consistent or reliable. A small amount of relatively clean silt formed at the base of the well (4616, Fig. 4.25) and was overlain by a combination of silting and domestic refuse (4574 and 4575), which would have fouled any water present. These deposits contained little in the way of pottery or other artefacts but much dietary evidence; charred wheat, cherry, grape, prune and fig stones, as well as abundant fish and bird bones, and oyster, mussel and winkle

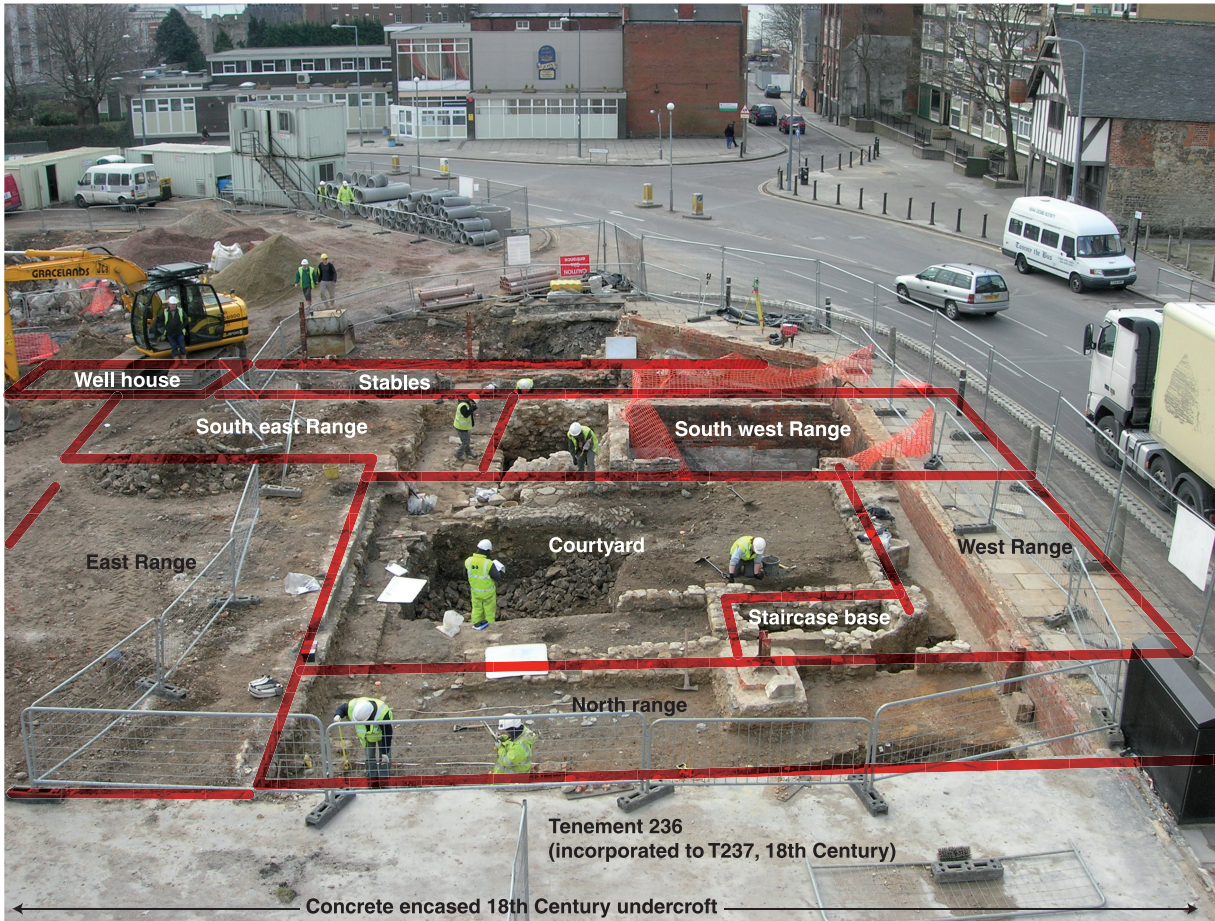
shells. The unsanitary nature of the well at this time is indicated by the presence of insects and fly larvae, the latter including the 'rat-tailed maggot' – a specialised inhabitant of water containing high concentrations of rotting or faecal matter (see D. Smith, Chapter 6). A stone drain (4008) ran from the south-east corner of the courtyard in the direction of the well and may have supplemented the water supply with rainfall although a direct connection with the well had been removed by later intrusions.

The function of a small wall base (3101) overlying drain 4008 is uncertain although it may represent the foundation for a covered porch at the point of access to the southern buildings.

Three large cuts (3498, 4415 and 4410) lay between the well and the east wall of the west range (3061) and, other than the well itself, appear to have been the earliest features in the high medieval courtyard. The pottery retrieved from these features suggests that they dated to the cusp of the Anglo-Norman and high medieval periods (for example, a bowl in Anglo-Norman coarseware, Fig. 5.1, No.12), in keeping with

Fig. 4.24 (facing page below) Tenement 237, high medieval courtyard features, northern range and south-east range





B





Platt's construction date for the building (see Chapter 2). These are likely to represent clearance and levelling of the area prior to construction of the stone buildings. A mortar spread (3499) was recorded adjacent to wall 3061 and may have been deposited during construction of the building.

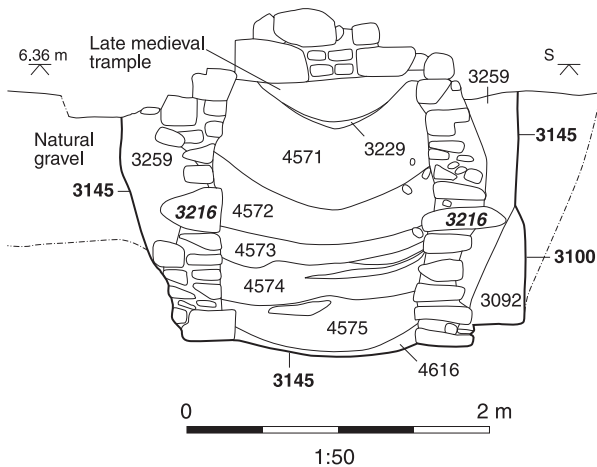


Fig. 4.25 Tenement 237, well 3145/3216

A group of postholes adjacent to wall 3061 cut through the mortar spread and the pit group – these posts are likely to have been elements of the first floor external gallery, as is suggested by the presence of an external staircase base (3056 – perhaps augmented with wall bases 3102 and 3055) to the north. Iron nails were found in the fills of some of the postholes. The northernmost posts may have been purposefully placed in order not to obstruct the northern window set within wall 3233 (the east wall of the west range).

No evidence was found for a deliberately laid courtyard surface in the high medieval period. 'Loam' deposits (3079 and 3078 not illustrated) representing soils across the yard contained mainly high medieval pottery but with some late medieval material present (including a jetton of the mid-late 15th century; SF 44, Specialist Download F7), commensurate with the courtyard remaining in use until it was resurfaced in the late medieval period (see below). A notable find from layer 3078 was an anthropomorphic roof finial of horse and rider type (Fig. 5.18, No. 12).

#### West range (hall/shop)

A substantial stone street frontage building (measuring 10.8 m by 4.5 m) was revealed to the west of the site, formed by walls 3061, 4665, 11042 and 3040. The internal part of the building was slightly 'sunken' (by *c* 0.70 m) below external ground level. Two window recesses were apparent in the rear/eastern wall (3061) and would have opened out to the courtyard to the rear of the building. The eastern wall was 0.85 m thick and was constructed with stone identified as Bembridge limestone. Two stairways were present, one at the north-eastern corner of the eastern wall (3166, Fig. 4.26) and the other at the south-eastern corner of the building represented by a block of curved masonry in the south-west range (see below). Staircase 3166 formed part of a circulation through the northern (kitchen?) range to an external staircase (represented by the staircase base wall 3056). A small patch of cobbled surface (4664) had survived adjacent to the northern wall (4665) and indicates the nature of flooring within the building.

#### North range (kitchen)

The surviving walls of the north range (3202-3204 and 4665) indicated a building measuring *c* 17m east-west by 11 m north-south. The few features present dating to the high medieval period suggest this formed the kitchen range. Located in the north-eastern corner of the structure was a hearth (3232, Fig. 4.28) constructed from a single surviving course of limestone with a burnt clay lining; the feature measured 1.2 m by 0.80 m. Samples retrieved from its infills contained evidence of hazelnut shells, grain (abundant barley and some wheat, rye and oats), as well as animal bone, hake bone, cockle and mussel shell. Further dietary evidence was retrieved from a nearby pit (3305)





Fig. 4.26 Tenement 237, staircase 3166, facing north-east



Fig. 4.27 Tenement 237, curved staircase foundation 4140, facing north





Fig. 4.28 Tenement 237, hearth 3232, facing west

that appeared to have been filled with material derived from the raking out of the oven. This included further cereal grains, abundant pulses (including peas), oyster shell, fish bone (cod, plaice, flatfish, eel and mackerel) and animal bones including goat, rabbit, deer, pheasant and duck. The pit also contained 20 sherds of pottery giving a probable 14th-century date for the infill, as well as some nails, a strip of lead and a copper alloy lace chape. Pit 4291 to the east of the north range was shallow and filled only with stone and earth. No finds were retrieved from this feature and its function is unclear.

#### South-west range

Remnant walls of the south-west range (3040, 3164 and 3158) indicated a building measuring *c* 7.7 m east-west by *c* 4 m north-south. The walls appeared similar in construction to those of the west range, perhaps suggesting a similar date, although unfortunately the physical relationship between the two structures and most of the internal part of the south-west range had been removed by a modern concrete-lined cellar (possibly a maintenance pit related to the garage shown on the Goad Insurance Plan of 1933).

The elevation of wall 3040 indicated the presence of a rounded foundation (4140, Fig. 4.27) at the base of the wall where it would have intersected with

wall 3061: this was probably the base of a circular staircase at the south-east corner of the western range (see above). A doorway was present at the eastern end of wall 3040. This was later blocked in (4015), possibly in conjunction with the construction of the stables to the south of the range.

#### South-east range (brewhouse)

The western part of this range (defined by walls 3164 and 4075) contained a series of kiln/oven bases throughout all periods of occupation. This appears likely to have been the 'brewhouse' noted in John Combes probate will of 1661 (Appendix 2).

Two pits (4401 and 4402) probably predated the range as they appeared to have been used for domestic dumping. Although much truncated by activity within the range, animal bone and pottery dating to the 13th-14th century was retrieved from the excavated part of both pits, including part of a spouted pitcher and a high medieval sandy ware lamp (Figs. 5.1 & 5.3, Nos 16 & 34). A decorative copper alloy binding or mount (Fig. 5.30, No. 62) and a buckle fragment came from pit 4401 and 27 fragments of copper alloy plate from pit 4402. Two kilns/ovens (4282, which contained a small portion of kiln base and 4318) were replaced by the most substantial surviving kiln/oven base of the high medieval period (4185=4280, Fig. 4.29) located in the south-western corner of the building. This





Fig. 4.29 Tenement 237, ovens 4185 (high medieval) and 4162 (late medieval), facing west

feature was keyhole shaped and measured 1.4 m by 2.5 m. It was constructed with brick and limestone in a clay packing. A kiln tile was retrieved from its destruction debris, with another coming from kiln/oven 4318. Samples taken from the material infilling the oven base produced no plant material or dietary evidence, although barley grain was retrieved from kiln/oven 4318. The latter also contained a 13th- to 14th-century glazed bowl (Fig. 5.2, No. 25), a bottle shaped finial from a crested ridge tile (Fig. 5.18, No. 13) and an antler needle/point (Fig. 5.51, No. 4).

#### Area to the south (yard/stables)

The area to the south of the south range underwent several changes during the high medieval period. Initially it appears to have been a garden or yard (Phase 1, Fig. 4.30). Seventeen large pits dating to the high medieval period were present in this area (4086, 4097, 4383, 4381, 4213, 4447, 4359, 4521, 4520, 4619, 4262, 4617, 4656, 4579, 4562, 4578 and 4553). They contained assemblages characteristic of the dumping of domestic waste, although there was notable variance in the distribution and quantities of finds present (for example, 105 sherds of pottery were found in pit 4086 but only a few fragments of tile in similarly sized pit 4553). Pit 4086 contained a possible copper alloy pendant (Fig. 5.24, No. 21), while pit 4579 contained a copper alloy belt plate

(Fig. 5.25, No. 31). Pit 4097 contained a shell lamp in Normandy gritty ware of 12th- to 13th-century date (Fig. 5.1, No. 19). The pits varied between very large (for example, pit 4553; 5 by 3 m rectangular in plan and 0.15 m deep) to smaller circular features (pit 4619; 1 m diameter by 0.5 m deep). The average size of the pits – if intended purely for domestic waste – would be significantly larger than most of the domestic refuse pits associated with the other tenements although perhaps commensurate with the comparable size of household and the more formal organisation of rubbish disposal.

A post-built structure was constructed above the infilled pits (Phase 2a, Fig. 4.31). A line of postholes also delimited by an insubstantial wall (4041, 4044 etc and 4142) to the south formed its southern wall, which may have supported a 'lean-to' roof supported to the north by the southern wall of the south range(s). A series of postholes appeared to provide central supports, while north-south alignments of stakeholes, postholes and stone sleeper walls outlined four 1.3 m wide stalls that enable the building to be confidently interpreted as a stables. The building would have measured c 19 m long by 5.4 m wide.

A second phase of activity could be discerned in the western part of the building during the high medieval phase (Phase 2b). Two posts forming the western limit of the westernmost

(surviving) bay were overlain by a hearth (3335). A flagstone floor (3153) was laid and a new room partition (stone sleeper wall 3025) inserted. Quantities of germinated/malted grain were found in the area of the hearth. Given the nearby presence of a brewing site, this material is likely to relate to that process. It is not clear, however, whether: a) it was a by-product of brewing (ie the mash) which was subsequently been used as high energy horsefeed and fortuitously preserved in what could then be the stables' smithing hearth; b) whether the hearth and material were also part of the brewing process and the west end of the stables had been given over to this activity or; c) whether the material had filtered down from a storage loft above the stables.

Late medieval buildings (Figs. 4.32-4.33)

Courtyard

In the late medieval period, the northern staircase linking the western range with the northern range was blocked. In the courtyard, the upper part of the well was infilled (context 3130) and a stone yard surface (3053, Fig. 4.33) was laid down in the period post-dating the loss of a mid-late 15th-century Nuremburg jetton (SF 44, see above) which was recovered from the top of a high medieval layer (3078).

East range (Polymond's Hall)

Tenement 237 became known as Polymond's Hall by 1393 and it is tempting to associate this title more

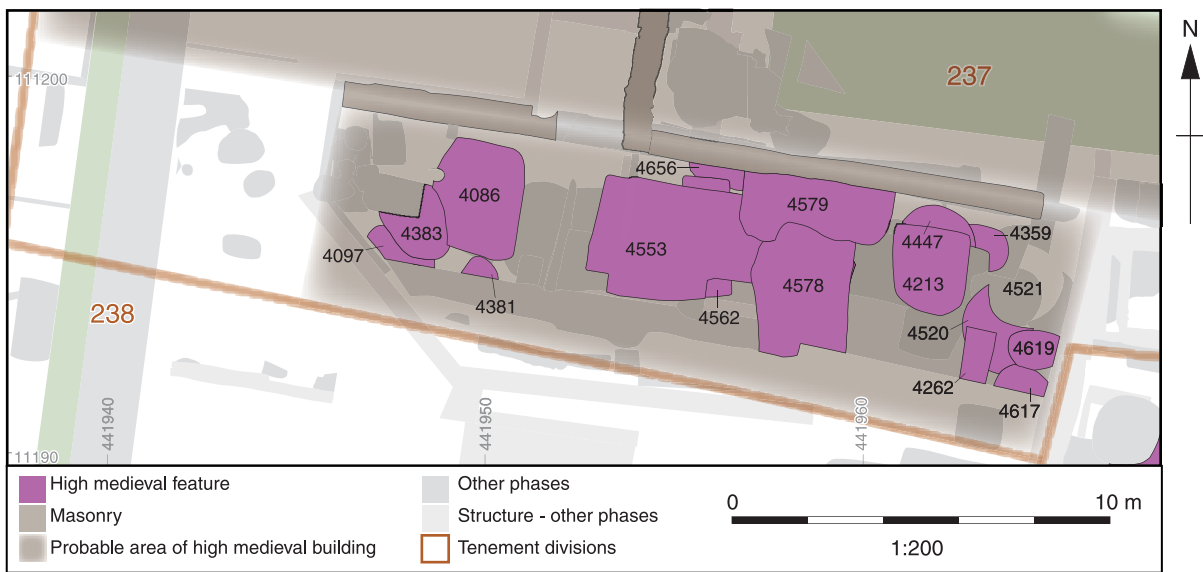


Fig. 4.30 Tenement 237, high medieval stables, Phase 1

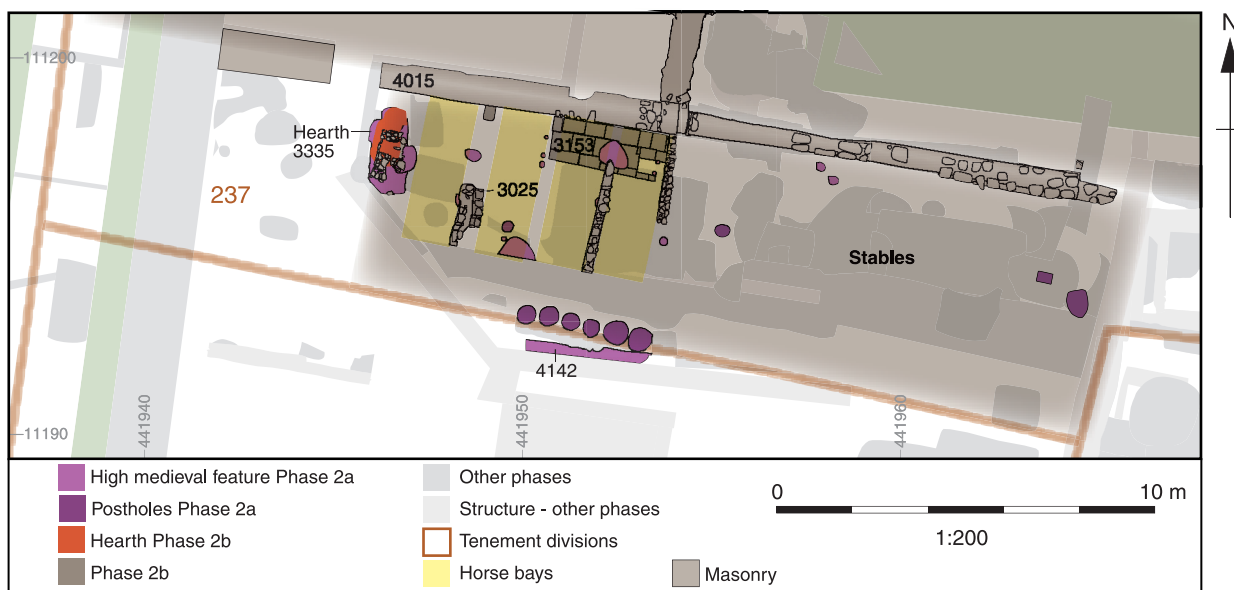


Fig. 4.31 Tenement 237, high medieval stables, Phase 2



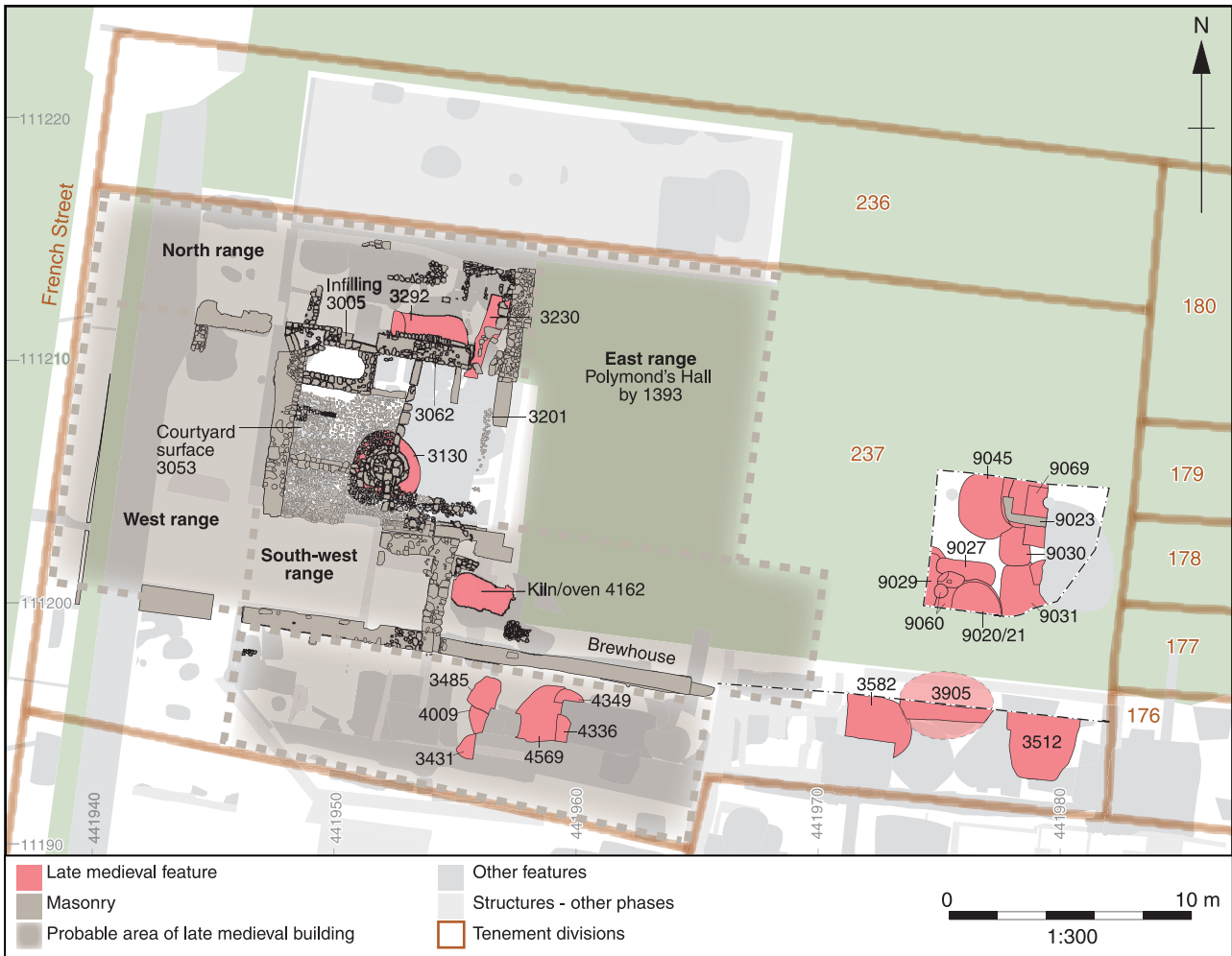


Fig. 4.32 Phase plan: late medieval, Tenements 236 and 237



Fig. 4.33 Tenement 237, courtyard surface 3053 (note slumping into well 3145 below)

specifically to the eastern range which was constructed during the late 14th-15th century. Although this building did not lie within the excavation area, the footing of its primary western wall (3201) was recorded. The level of this wall was slightly higher than that of the north range matching the elevated level of the courtyard following the laying of the new stone surface. MacGregor recorded a medieval roof and contemporary wood panelling within the building and a new hall would be certainly be in keeping with the resources and status of the occupants during the late medieval period. A late medieval date for this range is also confirmed by the single test pit (Trench 9) placed in the east range by SCCAU (Smith 2003) which revealed an internal cobbled floor containing late medieval pottery in its make-up layers as well as brick paving constructed from 15th- to 16th-century Dutch bricks. The creation of a new hall and the removal of access between the western and northern range during the late medieval period may suggest that the western hall was sub-let, possibly either as a shop or under a hosting agreement (see Chapter 7).

#### Other ranges

In the northern range a trench was cut (3292) and underpinning work was carried out on the courtyard wall (3062). The function of an adjacent linear cut (3230), running approximately north-south at the east end of the northern range, is unclear. It may perhaps represent the removal of flagstone flooring in this area. In the south-eastern range (the brewhouse) the earlier kiln/oven (4185) was replaced by a newer version, floored with limestone blocks (4162, Fig. 4.29). Its fill contained a range of charcoal, notably including walnut.

Dense concentrations of rubbish pits (9045, 9069, 9023, 9030, 9031, 9021, 9020, 9060, 9029 and 9027) were recorded at the rear of the property. Kiln tiles found in pits 9069, 9027 and 9029 (Fig. 5.21, No. 22) may relate to work on the adjacent brewhouse. The latter pit also contained a decorated floor tile (Fig. 5.21, No. 21), while pit 9027 contained decorated copper alloy sheet or plate fragments (Fig. 5.32, No. 75). The area to the south-east of the south range had also become utilised for rubbish pits (3485, 4009, 3431, 4336, 4349, 4569, 3582, 3905 and 3512), suggesting that the stable block had moved elsewhere. This area, however, may have been sheltered under a lean-to structure.

#### Finds

Tenement 237 produced large quantities of finds, well fill 3130 and the fills of pit 3582 being the most productive deposits. The former yielded high quantities of Low Countries redware, a fragment of Archaic Pisan maiolica and a rare sherd of alkaline-glazed ware, probably from Syria. Other finds included a cord plaited from fine wire (Fig. 5.26, No. 46) and an iron object (Fig. 5.32, No. 74). Pit 3582 contained Low Countries redware, Siegburg

stoneware, Iberian micaceous redware, Seville blue tinglazed ware, Archaic Pisan maiolica and North Italian earthenware. At least six Archaic Pisan maiolica vessels were present (Brown, Chapter 5). The Italian emphasis and cumulative late 15th to early 16th century date for the assemblage may reflect the tenancy of the Venetian Consul at Tenement 237 during this period (see Chapter 2). Other pottery includes a non-local earthenware bowl (Fig. 5.10, No. 115).

Glass retrieved from pit 3485 comprised ordinary flasks and urinals alongside Italian ribbed flasks, a goblet, a rare blue bowl and a pruned beaker (Fig. 5.37, Nos 40-42). The assemblage was late 15th to early 16th century in date and very similar in character to the residual/redeposited glass assemblage retrieved from pit 3169, a stone-lined cess pit located in the south-west range in the 17th century (see below). Fragments of blue glass and a ribbed goblet bowl were also retrieved from nearby pit 3431. Pit 3582 contained a copper alloy candlestick of possible mid 16th-century date (Fig. 5.30, No. 58), while pit 4009 yielded part of an industrial vessel in late medieval sandy ware (Fig. 5.3, No. 44).

#### *Post-medieval buildings, prior to remodelling (1510-1737) (Figs 4.34-39)*

The post-medieval evidence splits into two major phases: activity pre-dating 1738 and including the occupancy of the Watts family (1689-1737) and the subsequent Georgian townhouse constructed by Matthew Woodford (1738-1789) (see Chapter 2).

The surviving post-medieval features and deposits of the initial phase were characteristically cisterns and cess pits, but also included a well-house, and contained impressive collections of artefacts. A combination of the dating of clay pipe and glass suggests that most features pre-dated the remodelling of the site by the Woodford family in 1738-1789, after which it can only be presumed that waste disposal from the property was conducted largely off site. In this first part of the post-medieval period a corridor was created between the south-east and south-west ranges (one wall being constructed over late medieval kiln/oven 4162). In the east end of the south-east range a new brick kiln/oven base was built (3787/3921), while in the east end of the south-west range was a stone-lined cistern or garderobe (3169, Fig. 4.35). The final infilling of this feature showed it had functioned as a cess pit and waste disposal point for the household, with organic cessy and finds-rich fills (3163, 3167, 3172 etc; see Fig. 4.39) capped with clean clay (3075) and rubble/earth infill (3070-3074). Insect remains from the fills include fauna associated with rotting organic matter and other domestic waste.

The combination of material (especially clay pipes) retrieved from this cistern/garderobe clearly indicates that it was last in use during the mid 17th century, and thereby potentially during the occupancy of Matthew Vibert (sergemaker) or John Combes (shearsmith) (see Chapter 2). Finds



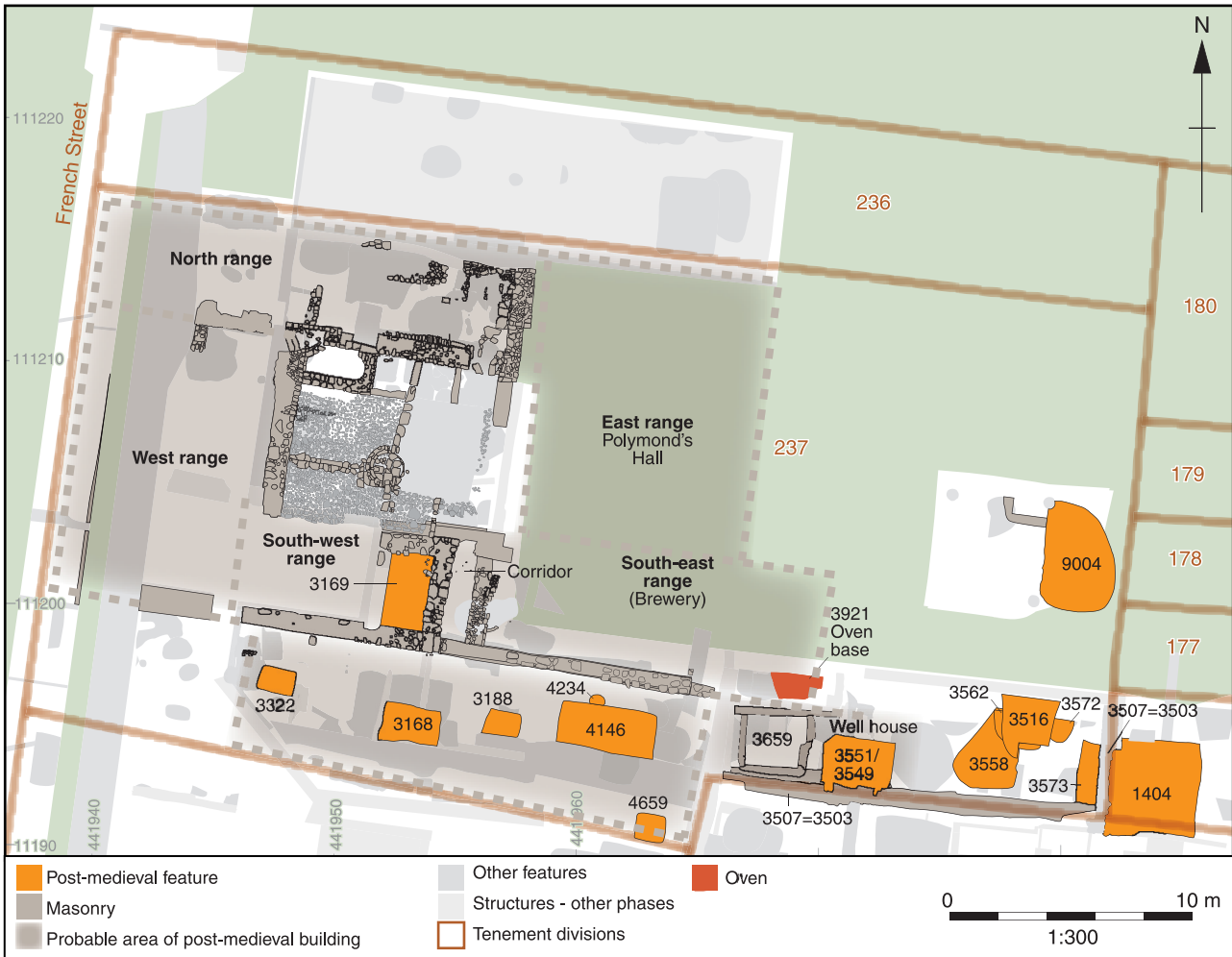


Fig. 4.34 Phase plan: post-medieval, Tenements 236 and 237, pre-1735

included substantial quantity of pottery, including high quantities of post-medieval redware, locally produced sandy wares and relatively low amounts of Verwood-type ware (Fig. 4.36). The relatively few imported types ceramics included Rhenish stone-

ware, French earthenware and Iberian olive jars. The range of vessel types included jars, large bowls, mugs and jugs, while dripping pans, pipkins, chafing dishes, a strainer and a watering pot can be attributed more specific functions. Nearly every pot can be identified as a utilitarian type, used mainly behind the scenes, and there was very little that could be characterised as vessels for serving or presentation, such as shallow, decorated dishes and bowls (see Brown, Chapter 5 and Figs 5.6-5.9, Nos 45, 53, 66, 73, 76, 77, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 88, 90-95, 104, 105, 107, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 119, 122, 127 & 128).

In contrast to the utilitarian nature of the pottery, the feature also contained a large group of glass dating to c 1500-50, having been either well curated or redeposited. The glass comprised good-quality tablewares as well as the more utilitarian storage vessels (see Willmott, Chapter 5 and Figs 5.37-40, Nos 43-63). Among the notable items is a small cylindrical beaker or tumbler, lavishly decorated with optic-blown ribbing, gilding and polychrome enamelling. Other tablewares included fragments from at least five different pedestal goblets including a probable Italian import, a cylindrical

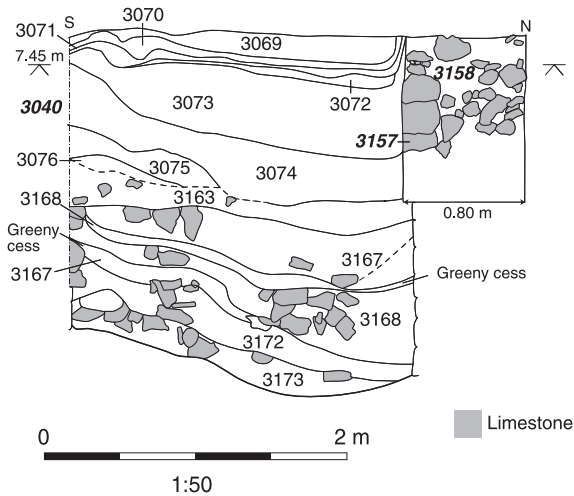


Fig. 4.35 Tenement 237, section through cess pit 3169



Fig. 4.36 Tenement 237, pottery from cess pit 3169

beaker and a possible small jug or cruet. Several flasks were present, all made in a potash-rich glass. Given the proximity of the similar assemblage from pit 3485, it is possible that glass was transported from here when collecting earth from the garden for damping down the odour of the later toilet feature. Other finds included a small spouted copper alloy vessel (Fig. 5.28, 53) and a key fragment (Fig. 5.31, No. 68).

Dietary evidence included cattle, goat, deer, bantam, goose, horse, pig, sheep, mallard and rabbit bones, with other species represented being rat, great auk, cat and dog. Evidence retrieved from environmental samples shows the presence of human coprolites and a wide variety of fish bone including mackerel, herring, flatfish, eel, sardine, sole, thornback ray, cod, salmon, flounder and perch.

#### *The well house* (Figs 4.34 and 4.37-39)

A structure attached to the south-eastern corner of the south-east range consisted of two adjacent tanks, one large, one small. The larger tank (3659) had been incorporated into a sub-surface part of the structure. After initial construction at ground level, the walls of tank 3659 had been reduced and a cellar built around it including a ceiling-supporting archway. The cellar was accessed initially by a spiral staircase and latterly probably by a straight wooden staircase. During construction of the cellar the smaller tank (3551) remained intact to ground level and was integrated into the external walls of the cellar. The absence of a constructed surface at the bottom of the larger tank, the presence of water at its base during excavation and the effort committed to facilitating access to the base of the feature suggest that this served as the household source of water. The development of this structure is set out below and in a sequence of interpretive figures and a photograph (see Figs 4.37-4.38).

#### Phase 1: construction

In the initial phase, two square stone tanks were constructed (3659 and 3551). The smaller structure (3551) was built within a construction cut (3549) which itself cut through the fills of a late 15th- to 16th-century pit (3582). The tank was keyed into (or archaeologically 'cut' into) the existing tenement wall (3507=3503), construction of which probably post-dates a reference in 1551 to the garden being enclosed with pales. Both features functioned at ground level. The larger tank cut through the fills of an earlier pit (3686; see Fig.4.39).

#### Phase 2: enlargement

A second constructional phase saw the walls of tank 3659 being reduced, leaving only *c* 0.6 m of their remnants standing in the base. At the centre of the tank a rubble stone and mortar foundation was constructed for a substantial stone pier (3555) that abutted the north wall of the original tank. The stone pier consisted of reused ashlar blocks with a straight chamfer on the eastern corner; the blocks were well cut but chipped in several places and one had a damaged chamfer-stop laid upside down. The pier supported an asymmetrical stone arch, against the north wall over the 'well'.

After the primary walls were reduced, the area of the original tank was enlarged by moving out the southern, western and eastern walls (3656/3658). To the west the wall was rebuilt approximately 0.4 m back from the original inner edge, while to the east, the extended wall adjoined the wall of tank 3551 exposing the back of its rough trench-built wall. The exposed wall was faced with a brick skin. The corner of tank 3551 appears to have collapsed during the process and was rebuilt with both brick and rubble. The north-eastern part of the newly enlarged tank contained a spiral stair (indicated by scar marks on wall 3658) which spiralled up in an anti-clockwise direction around a quarter turn.



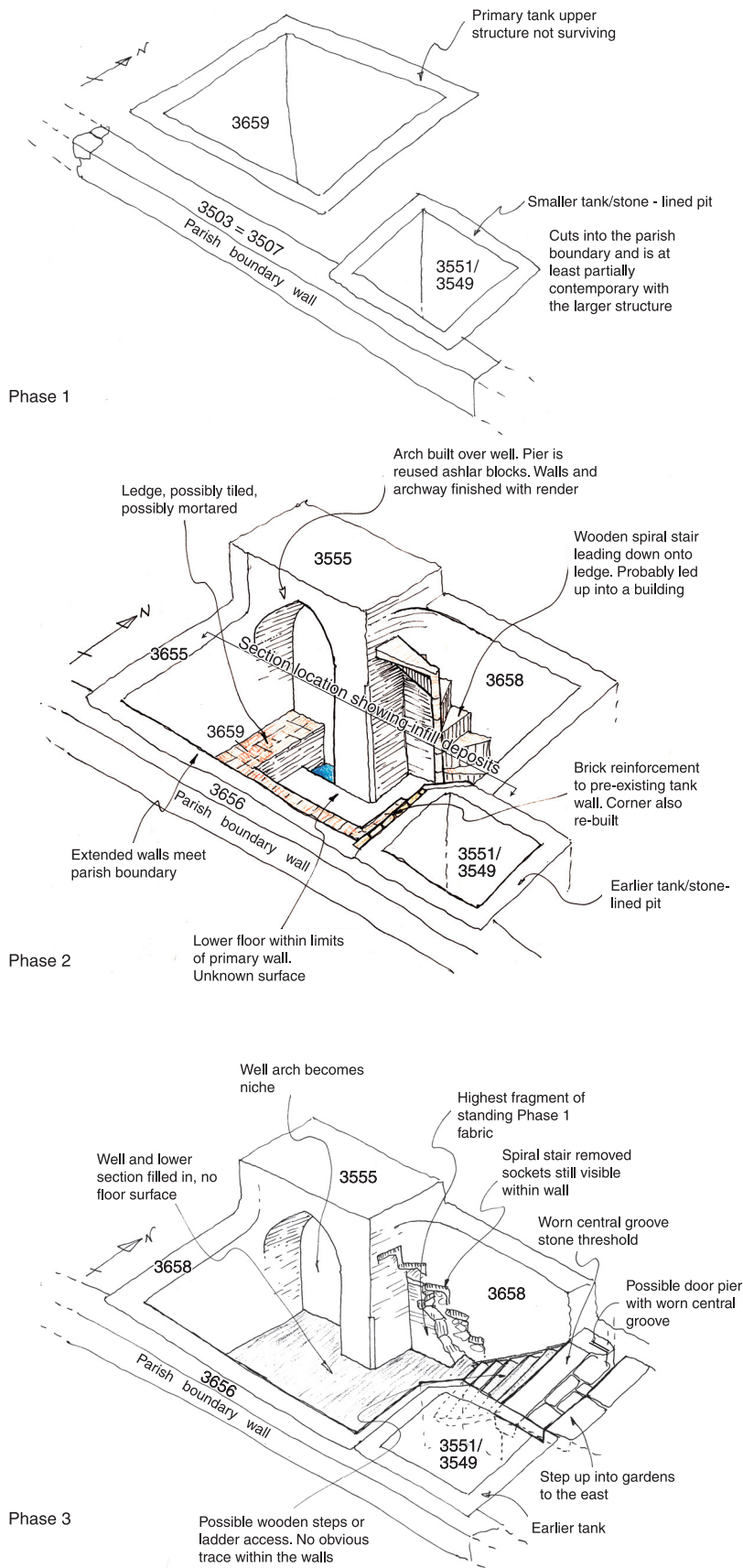


Fig. 4.37 Tenement 237, post-medieval well house, constructional phases

Phase 3: conversion to cellar

The well and the sunken central area of the primary tank were subsequently filled in to the level of the ledge (see Fig. 4.39, fills 3556, 3683, 3685, 3660) altering the function of the structure to that of a cellar and leaving the archway forming an apparently functionless niche. No floor surface survived. Pottery datable to the 16th to 18th century was retrieved from the fills. The spiral stair appears to have gone out of use at this time. In the north-eastern corner, on the eastern wall, a large stone threshold led out onto a stone flag surface, up a single step and into a garden to the east. This entrance must have been served by wooden staircase (see Fig. 4.37, Phase 3), of which no trace survived.

Phase 4: infilling

In the 18th century the entire cellar structure and tank 3551 (cut 3549) were deliberately backfilled.

Finds from the tank included remains representing at least 53 individual sheep which had apparently been butchered on site, showing wholesale processing of livestock. Other finds included a substantial assemblage of clay pipe (Fig. 5.42-43, Nos 2, 4, 8, 11, 14). The glasswares span the late 16th to early 18th century, although most are in the earlier part of the range (late 16th to mid 17th century): the assemblage includes bottles, phials, beakers, goblets, a tumbler and a jelly glass (Fig. 5.40, Nos 64-70). Insect remains included grain pests in sufficient numbers to suggest that a batch of infested grain had been dumped into the tank.

*Pits and cisterns south of the south range (Fig. 4.34)*

Six square pits (3322, 3168, 3188, 4234, 4659 and 4146) were recorded to the south of the south range and west of the well house. All contained mixed assemblages of household waste including pottery and animal bone. The dating of clay pipes recovered



Fig. 4.38 Tenement 237, post-medieval well house, facing north-east



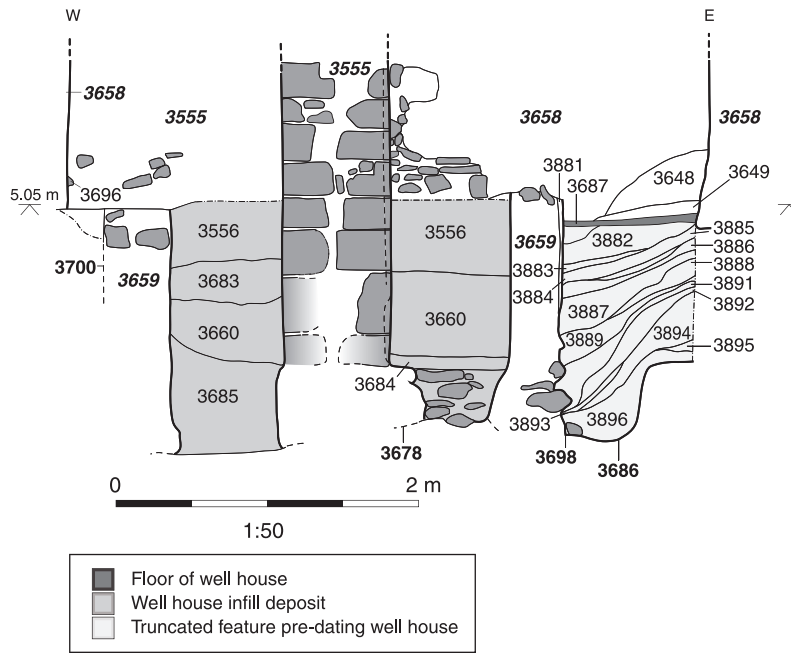


Fig. 4.39 Tenement 237, section through post-medieval well house infill

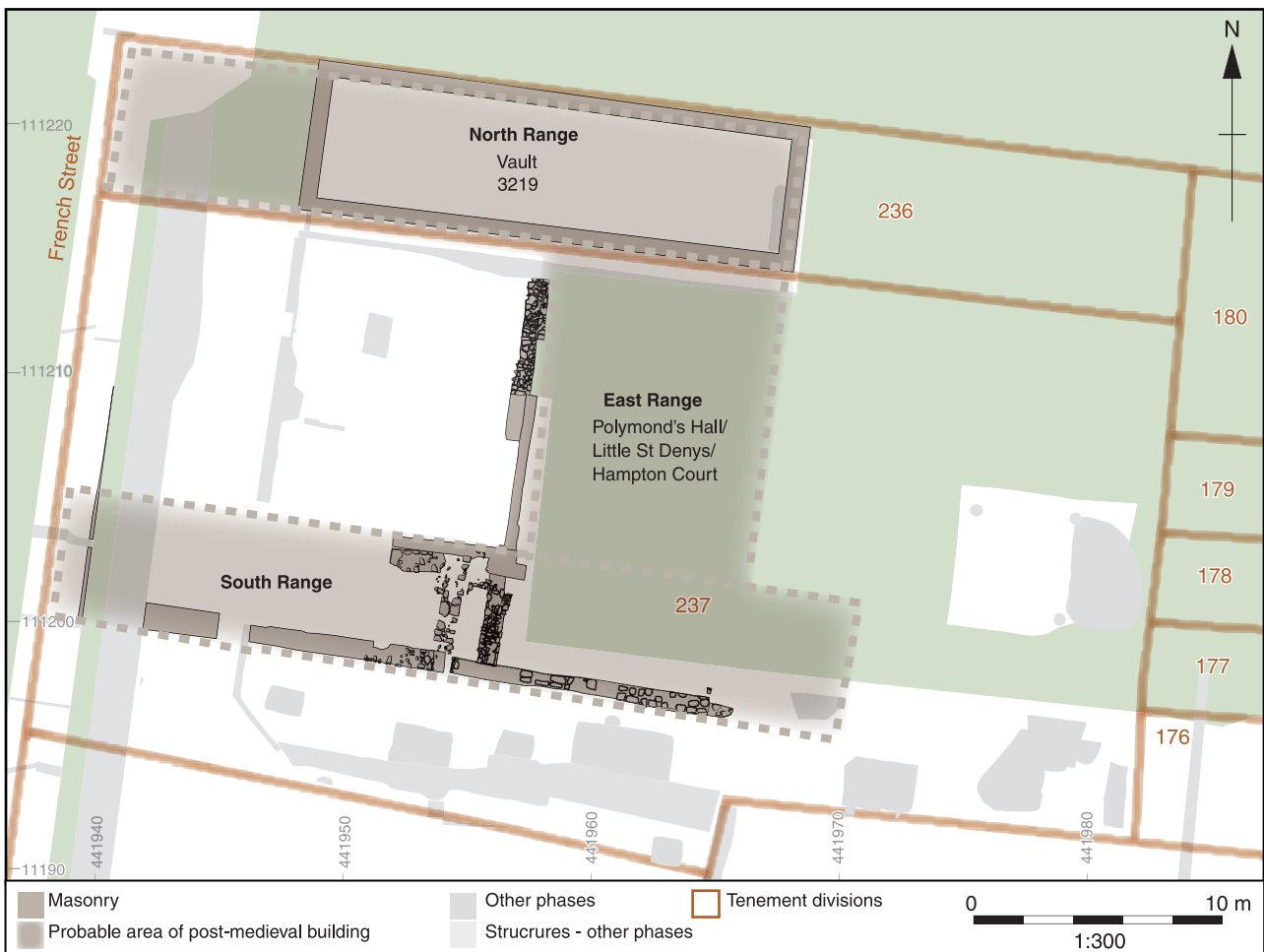


Fig. 4.40 Phase plan: post-medieval, Tenements 236 and 237, remodelled Georgian townhouse

from them places their use before the remodelling of the house in 1738-89: items include a Dutch bowl and a decorated stem, both of c 1720-1750 (Fig. 5.42, No 5 & 7). Pit 3322 contained a match-holder in Staffordshire-type black-glazed ware (Fig. 5.10, No. 116), while pit 3188 yielded a bowl in post-medieval slipped redware (Fig. 5.10, No. 118) and a post-medieval redware bowl (Fig. 5.10, No. 121). It also contained a blue glass vessel, currently unparalleled (Fig. 5.36, No. 30). Pit 4146 contained fragments of wine glasses, phials and bottles (Fig. 5.40-5.41, Nos 71-79). The stone-lined features (such as 4146 and tank 3551/3549 attached to the well house) may have acted as steeping tanks for cloth processing prior to infilling. Pits to the east of the property (3562, 3516, 3558, 3572, 3573 and 3586) were irregular in shape and intercutting. These contained an unremarkable range of post-medieval ceramics and animal bones marking them out as domestic waste pits. Other finds included an iron cauldron rim fragment (Fig. 5.28, No. 52).

#### *Well*

Excavation of an area in the back garden of Tenement 237 prior to the installation of a crane base revealed a well (9004) consisting of limestone blocks capped with an arched brick cover. The feature was preserved *in situ*, meaning that no further information was recovered.

#### *Post-medieval remodelling (1738 to 1789) (Figs 4.40-4.41)*

Beneath the northern side of Tenement 237 (Tenement 236 before the 18th century) an entire post-medieval vault (3219) was preserved beneath a concrete cap. Its internal measurements were approximately 19.5 m by 6 m wide. The floor surface was poorly preserved but may have originally consisted of wooden boards. The north and south interior walls were constructed from a mixture of coursed rubble stone with occasional bricks. From the exterior on the south side, the walls were of coursed rubble and it seems likely that they were constructed with material salvaged from the western range after its demolition.

The vault itself was entirely constructed of red brick (Fig. 4.41) and had a shallow rounded profile without any decorative features, such as the chamfered string courses seen in the cellars of Tenements 166, 168 and 173. The eastern wall was constructed of stone with some brick and had a blocked opening in the centre of the upper wall – this was probably a window although no trace of the structure survived. The western wall consisted of brick of a much later date (probably 20th-century), built into and beneath the vault at the time it was sealed into the concrete floor and walls of the warehouse building which was extant before excavation.



*Fig. 4.41 Tenement 237, undercroft 3219 after removal of the vault, facing west*



**Tenement 238**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.18  
 Impact of 1338 raid: A shop destroyed and never rebuilt  
 Status at 1454 Terrier: Vacant plot on north side of lane, inner part of the capital tenement of Nicholas Bylot  
 Rental status: St Denys, 1434  
 Key owners/occupants: John Polymond, Nicholas

Bylot, John Mylles (see notes on previous tenements above)

*Tenement extent*

In the absence of any medieval buildings Tenement 238 has been defined to the north by the line of the high medieval post-built southern wall of the stable block at Tenement 237. To the east it was defined by the parish boundary (as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan) and to the south by the extrapolated

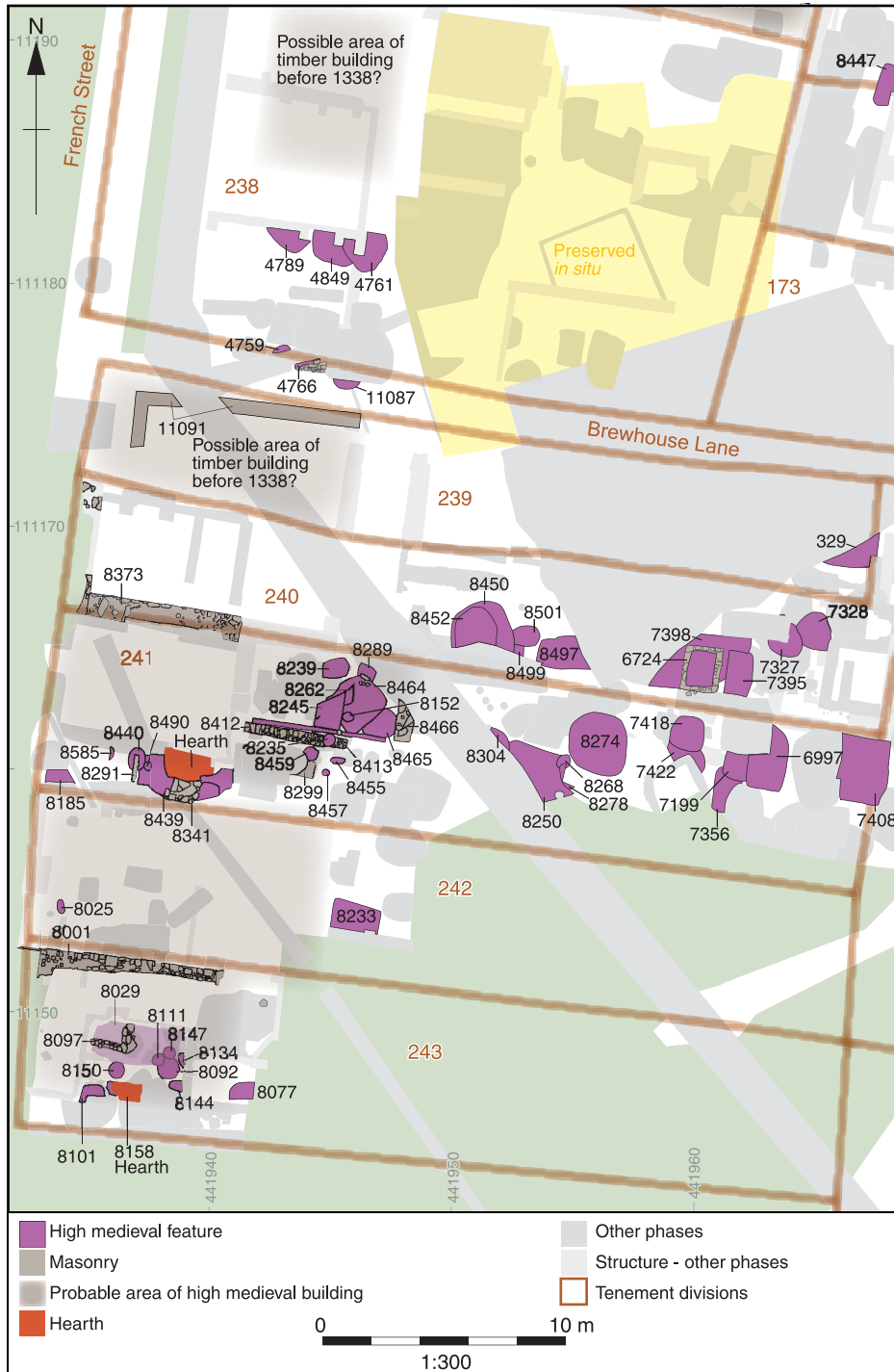


Fig. 4.42 Phase plan: high medieval, Tenements 238 to 243

line of Brewhouse Lane. During preparation for construction of the south-western wing of the new northern apartment block, it was realised that the formation levels for construction of the piling allowed for an area of Tenement 238 to be sealed below the matt and preserved *in situ*. The area was therefore mapped and covered over but not excavated.

*The buildings (Figs. 4.42-4.44)*

No entire structures survived at this tenement, although partially surviving elements of 18th- to 19th-century buildings were recorded. Document-

tary records suggest that a building described as a shop was present in the high medieval period but destroyed during the 1338 raid. No further evidence from either archaeological or documentary sources indicates that any of the buildings pre-dated the modern brick walls recorded on the site and represented on the Royal Engineers' Plan of 1846.

*Features and deposits*

High medieval (Fig. 4.42)

Six pits dating to this period were recorded (4759,

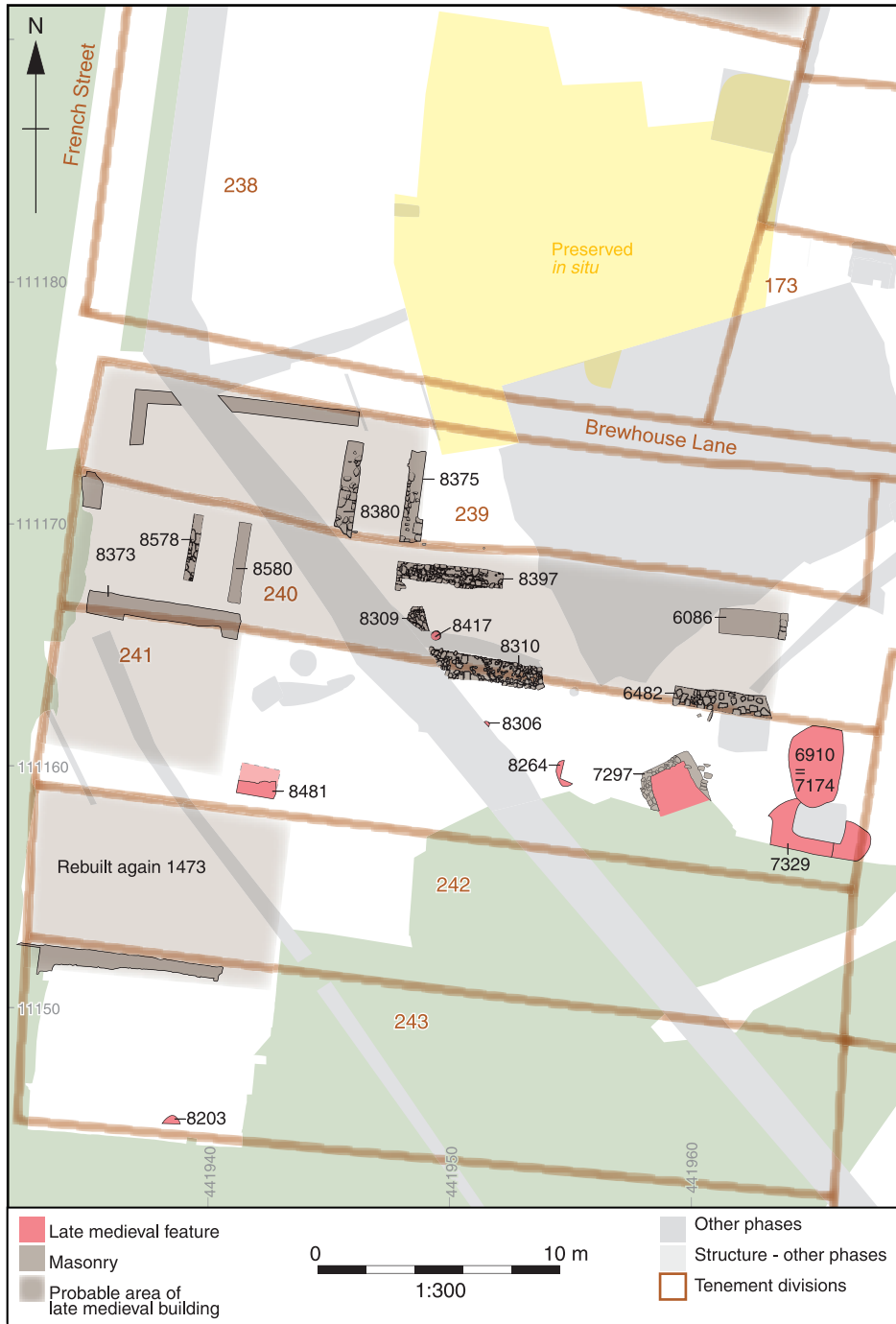


Fig. 4.43 Phase plan: late medieval, Tenements 238 to 243



4761, 4766, 4789, 4849 and 11087), three of which were preserved below the remains of a modern basement and were heavily truncated. The remaining three appear to indicate the possible northern limit of Brewhouse Lane. Only small quantities of local early medieval and high medieval coarsewares were retrieved from these features.

Post-medieval (Fig. 4.44)

Two stone-lined cisterns (4167 and 4774) were phased to this period. Cistern 4167 contained clay pipe (Fig. 5.43, No. 13) and wine bottles dating the

infilling of the feature to the late 17th to early 18th century. This feature was probably part of the group of square cisterns to the south of Tenement 237 that may have been used for cloth processing before being infilled with household waste.

**Tenement 239**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.19 and 2.20  
 Impact of 1338 raid: Described as an empty plot in 1375, suggesting possible destruction of this tenement in 1338

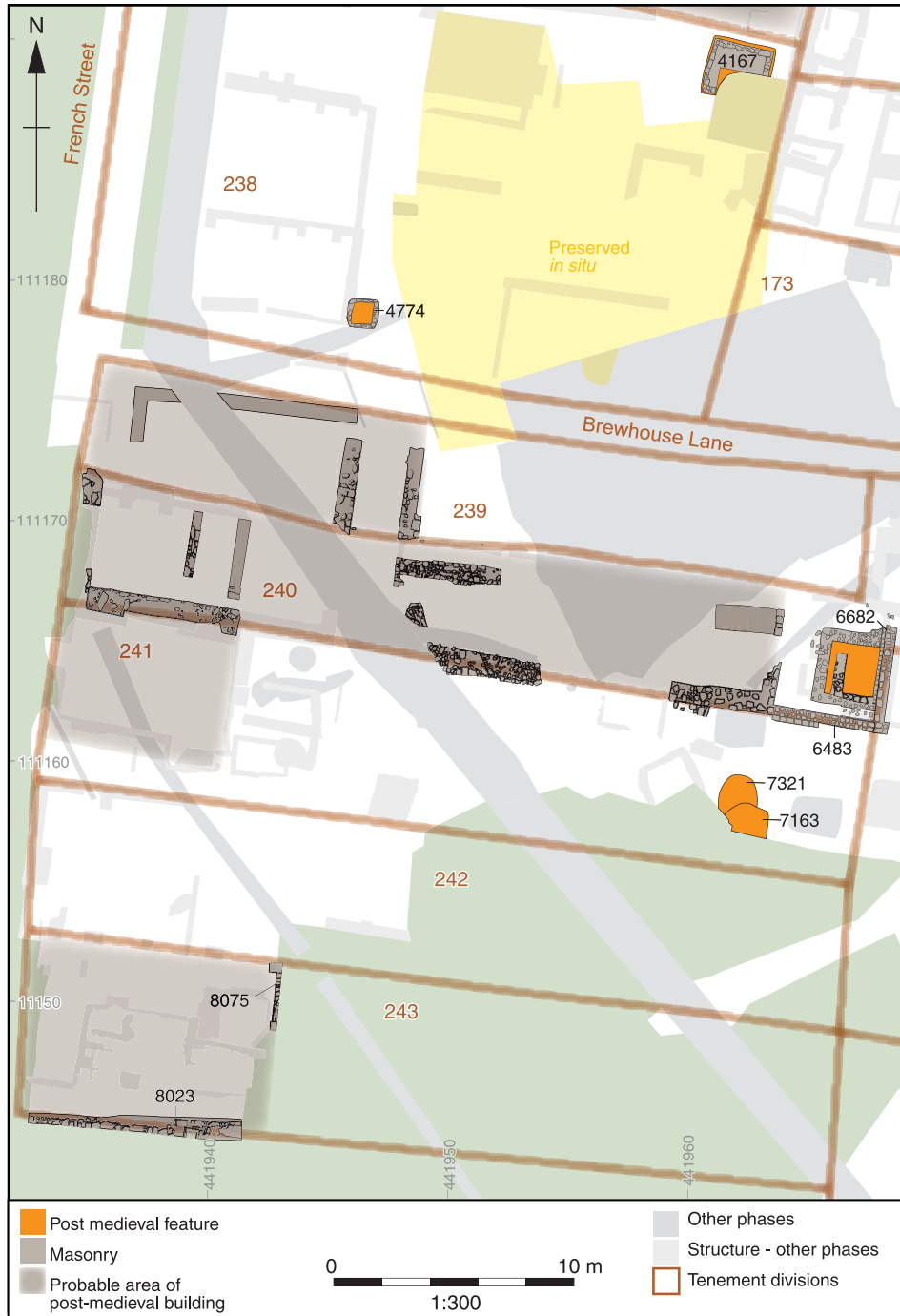


Fig. 4.44 Phase plan: post-medieval, Tenements 238 to 243

Status at 1454 Terrier: Tenement of John Payn  
Rental status: Private  
Key owners/occupants: John le Clerk (see Tenement 169), John Payn (town mayor, 1450-51)

*Tenement extent* (Figs 4.42-4.45)

Tenement 239 was located on the southern limit of Brewhouse Lane. It was defined to the north and south by its basement walls and an extrapolation of these eastwards to the line of the parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan.

*The building* (Figs. 4.42-44)

The northern wall of Tenement 239 (11091) may have been of a high medieval date, although this remains uncertain due to truncation and disturbance by the construction of Castle Way and associated services. The surviving cellar was approximately 8 m by 4 m wide with additional structures at its eastern side. The structure evidently ran continuously into the cellars beneath Tenement 240 and the walls between them were shared. The walls consisted of a combination of hewn limestone, later consolidated with brick sections giving a late medieval character with post-medieval/modern repairs. The cellars were evidently joined in a rebuilding exercise, probably in the early 16th century when both properties were

under common ownership (John Hopton followed by John Mylles, see Chapter 2). An annex cellar to the east (walls 8380 and 8375) was probably contemporary with the rebuilding and expansion of the cellar in the late medieval period.

*Features and deposits* (Fig. 4.42)

The rear part of the tenement had been removed by the construction of the basement of the Mayflower Public House. A single high medieval feature survived in the yard at the extreme eastern limit of the property. This cess pit (329) contained strips and bars of iron and copper, crested roof ridge tile (Fig 5.16, No. 5) and 80 sherds of mainly high medieval sandy and coarseware pottery.

#### **Tenement 240**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.21

Impact of 1338 raid: Garden to Tenement 241, which was destroyed

Status at 1454 Terrier: Tenement and small vacant plot (see Tenement 241)

Rental status: God's House 1220-5 to c.1620

Key owners/occupants: Henry de Lym (town mayor, 1320), John Payn (see Tenements 166 and 239), John Mylles (see Tenement 237)



Fig. 4.45 Tenements 239-241 during excavation, facing south-east



*Tenement extent*

Tenement 240 was defined to the north and south by its basement walls and an extrapolation of these eastwards. It was also defined by the line of several walled structures to the rear of the property. The eastern limit was defined as the line of the parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan. Although the tenement's basement was joined with that of Tenement 239 (perhaps in 1508, see Chapter 2), a substantial modern brick dividing wall (not illustrated) between the two appeared to reflect the original property division.

*The building* (Figs. 4.42-4.44)

Tenements 240 and 241 were listed together in the Southampton Terrier as a 'tenement and small vacant plot' although it was not specified in any other way than order of reference which of the two was the tenement and which was the vacant plot. Burgess interprets Tenement 240 as the vacant plot, and indeed the lack of high medieval structural evidence here seems to confirm that this tenement remained vacant until the expansion of the cellar from Tenement 239.

The cellar was *c* 6 m long by 3.5 m wide. It was defined by a substantial high medieval wall (8373) to the south, forming a party wall with Tenement 241. To the north it was defined by a brick wall (with a fireplace) which partitioned the cellar from its northern half within Tenement 239 (see above). A small area to the east of the cellar had also been enclosed. No trace of springing for a vault was present. Various late medieval walls (8397, 6086, 8309, 8311 and 6482) demonstrated the extension of the building eastwards, although this area was slightly 'sunken' rather than basemented. The character of the walls and the history of the tenement suggest that the cellar was created in the early 16th century when the property was under joint ownership with Tenement 239 (meaning that wall 8373 was originally a foundation that had been exposed by the creation of the cellar and relined with brick and limestone – this is commensurate with its recorded character).

*Features and deposits*

## High medieval (Fig. 4.42)

Three cess pits dating to the high medieval period lay at the rear of the property (8497, 8499 and stone-lined cess pit/cistern 6724). All of these features were arranged along the southern limit of the property and had been heavily truncated, surviving only to a depth of between 0.20-0.40 m. They contained relatively few finds.

Eight rubbish pits had also been truncated (7327, 7328, 7395, 7398, 8447, 8450, 8452, and 8501). Slate was noted in pits 7327 and 7395, which also contained roof ridge tiles (as did pit 7398, Fig. 5.16, No. 11). These may represent building clearance, although possibly from the adjacent property (see

below). Only pit 7398 contained a notable amount of pottery, which was mainly local coarseware jugs and jars.

## Late medieval (Fig. 4.43)

No features were contemporary with the late medieval building other than a single posthole (8417) in the corner of walls 8309 and 8310. Residual finds in the post-medieval features (see below) indicate the impact of later activity.

## Post-medieval (Fig. 4.44)

During the post-medieval period the construction of a relatively elaborate latrine (6682) can be dated by a Charles I farthing token of 1625-31 (SF 234, Specialist Download F7) which was retrieved from its construction cut. The feature comprised a 3 m by 3 m and 1.75 m deep stone-lined pit with an access sheltered by an adjacent wall (6483). Infilling of the feature consisted of silting followed by dumping of building material. Pottery from the construction cut and the lowest fill of the pit included a high proportion of late medieval material and a fragment of a late 15th- to early 16th-century Italian ribbed flask (Fig. 5.41, No. 80) indicating that the feature had been cut through an earlier pit. Pottery from the infilling comprised mainly Verwood and post-medieval earthen wares. Other finds included a ring thimble (Fig. 5.23, No. 8) and a cauldron fragment (Fig. 5.28, No. 51). A large group of animal bone from the feature included sheep/goat, rabbit, woodcock, goose, deer, cattle and rat.

*Tenement 241*

Documentary summary: Table App.1.21  
Impact of 1338 raid: Tenement destroyed and Robert de Billesdone killed (see also Tenement 240)  
Status at 1454 Terrier: Tenement and small vacant plot (see Tenement 240)  
Rental status: God's House 1220-5 to *c* 1620  
Key owners/occupants: Henry de Lym (see Tenement 240), John Payn (see Tenements 166, 239 and 240), John Mylles (see Tenement 237)

*Tenement extent*

Tenement 241 was defined to the north and south by its basement walls and an extrapolation of these to the line of the parish boundary, as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan.

*The buildings* (Figs 4.42-4.44)

Tenement 241 was unusual in that medieval floor layers were present, having survived as a result of the fact that earlier phases of building lay outside the footprint of the building's cellar. The tenement itself had been subjected to documented destruction during the raid of 1338 and the cellar, which probably post-dates this event, shows evidence of burning probably due to bombing during the Second World War. The two phases of building pre-dating the cellar also showed much evidence of

burning. This may be at least partially attributable to the 1338 raid, but accidental fires from the ovens and hearths present in both phases may be a contributing factor. Due to the complex evidence for the evolution of the occupation of this tenement, the building development is described below by period.

*High medieval: Phase 1* (Figs 4.42 & 4.46-4.47)

The earliest high medieval period building comprised a stone wall base, patches of floor, postholes and the remains of a clay oven. An east-west aligned stone wall (8412) was recorded over a distance of 4.4 m before being removed by the cellar construction to the west. This appeared to form the original northern limit of the building. A contemporary portion of wall (8291) to the west was orientated north-south but was less substantial and may have been a partition base. The structure was partially defined by a floor surface (8241) of

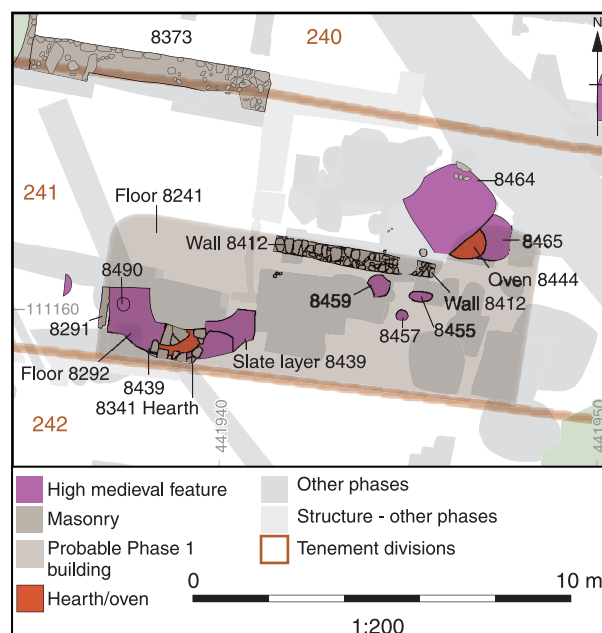


Fig. 4.46 Tenement 241, high medieval building, Phase 1



Fig. 4.47 Tenement 241, hearth 8391 and floor 8292, partially surviving outside later cellars (and stairs), facing east



compacted and burnt gravelly-brickearth. Three postholes (8457, 8455 and 8459) were located near to the eastern end of wall 8412. A stone-lined hearth (8341) with adjacent compacted floor surface (8292) was located within the south-western corner of the building (see Figs 4.46 & 4.47). The hearth was constructed with roughly-squared, fire-reddened and cracked limestone. A single posthole was located to the north-west of the hearth (8490). To the east of the hearth, floor 8292 and the hearth itself were overlain by a deposit of roof slate (8349) which is likely to have been related to the destruction of the early building.

Finds were generally sparse from these features and deposits, although floor 8241 was productive, yielding oyster and winkle shells, pig, sheep/goat and swan bones. These may have been dumped after the building fell from use and the floor became external to the subsequent structure, since environmental samples retrieved from the layer contained mostly weed taxa and included abundant fly pupae.

Outside the building to the north-east, the remains of an oven (8444) represented by a compact deposit of fired clay were found. This feature had evidently replaced an earlier oven, as is indicated by the recovery of oven wall lining from a pit (8465) which lay below the later feature. The insertion of a large pit (8464) appears to have marked the end of the early building and may be related to clearance of the oven. Its fills also contained evidence for demolition and levelling of the ground: seventy-one sherds of high medieval sandy and coarseware jugs and jars were recovered from this pit along with roof louver fragments, ridge tiles and wall wattle.

Although there is evidence of burning from the floor and from around the oven from this early phase, there is no indication of a conflagration from the associated roofing material which displays only the sooting that could be expected from normal use. It is therefore probable that this structure was pulled down as part of a process of renovation and improvement, rather than as a result of the 1338 raid.

#### *High medieval: Phase 2 (Fig. 4.48)*

The second phase of the structure was difficult to define with confidence as it had been partially removed by the later expansion of the cellar. The size of the building can be ascertained from its substantial northern wall (8373), its eastern limit (wall 8466) and the partial remains of its southern wall (8298). The building measured c 16.35 m east-west by 5.6 m north-south. The depth of wall 8373 indicates that the western half of the high medieval building was cellared, but any further evidence for the contemporary cellar has been lost in subsequent expansions and rebuilds. The eastern half was divided by a wooden frame wall (represented by beamslot 8253) into a passageway to the south and an oven area to the north. The passageway terminated before the end of the building with the end of

wall 8298, a posthole for a doorway (8235) and external cobbling (8297) marking the exit.

The remains of an oven (8243) were located at right angles to the north of beamslot 8253. The feature was poorly preserved and identifiable only through the identification of oven lining within the assemblage of compacted fired clay. A hearth (8288) was also found in this part of the building.

Two postholes (8152 and 8237) and a pit (8239), which may have been the result of the extraction of a post, perhaps formed settings for housing additional ceiling joist supports. The features were sealed by a mixed sequence of deposits containing much burnt material (8414, 8240, 8228 and 8146, not illustrated) including wall daub, animal bone, roofing material and 156 pottery sherds. It is probable that these layers provide evidence for the destruction of the building documented in 1338. Documentary evidence suggests that the tenement building was rebuilt and occupied by 1340. This rebuild must have been confined to the area above the extant cellar and therefore did not remove the evidence of the earlier buildings.

#### *The extant cellar*

The cellar as excavated had been extensively built/rebuilt in the post-medieval or early modern period. A poorly constructed stone staircase had been inserted into the south-east corner of the cellar and an outhouse attached to the rear of the building. Brick steps were constructed at the front to access the street level and brick supports were built which presumably replaced vaulting as the floor/ceiling support. The character of the rebuild (and the requirements of the public house then located on the premises) would suggest that this cellar largely dated to the late 19th century.

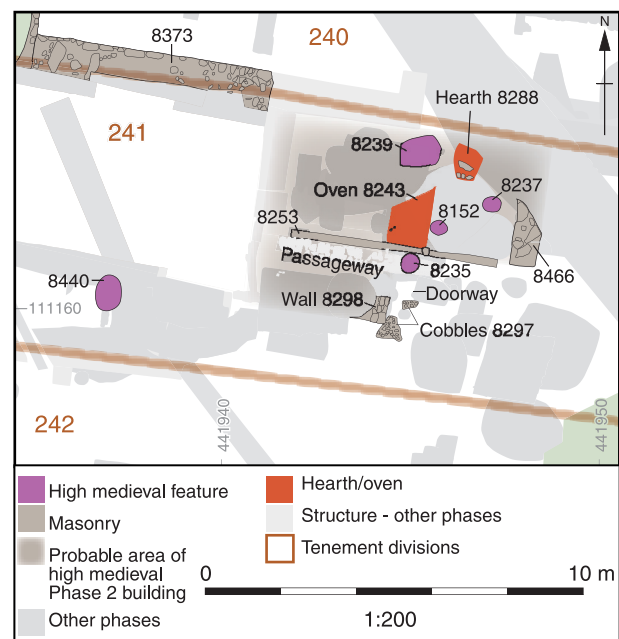


Fig. 4.48 Tenement 241, high medieval building, Phase 2

*The tenement yard*

High medieval (Fig. 4.42)

Numerous probable rubbish pits (6997, 7199, 7356, 7418, 7422, 8185, 8250, 8268, 8274, 8278, 8304, 8353, 8357 and 8359 – these last three seen only in section) and one cess pit (7408) dating to the high medieval period were present in the rear yard of Tenement 241. A stone-filled pit (8440) was located to the south-west of the high medieval Phase 2 building. As was the case with other high medieval areas of pitting on the site the features were irregular in plan and unevenly spaced. The presence of blue slate in pits 6997, 7199, 7422, 7418 and cess pit 7408, could mean these were contemporary with the high medieval building or the destruction of its initial phase. If this were the case then the wall daub, copper alloy folding balance (Fig. 5.24, No. 16), cattle, sheep/goat, pig and dog bone, oyster shell and large assemblage of coarseware jug and jar sherds retrieved from these features would also be related to that phase of activity. In addition, two chimney pots came from pit 7418 (Fig. 5.20, Nos 16 & 17), along with a fragment of quern hopper (Fig. 5.45, No. 1).

Late medieval (Fig. 4.43)

As with other tenements there is evidence for the formalisation of the rubbish and cess pits in the late medieval period. Five pits (6910=7174, 7297, 7329,

8264 and 8481) and a single posthole (8306) date to this period. Cess pit 6910=7174 was a substantial feature (measuring 3.4 by 2.3 and 1.5 m deep) at the eastern boundary of the tenement. It contained coprolites in its cessy lower deposits and domestic dumping in its main infill including a large assemblage of animal bone (bantam, cattle, red deer, pheasant, horse, pig rabbit sheep/goat and teal), and sixty-two sherds of pottery (including Iberian olive jars). Pit 7297 was stone-lined and also contained cessy lower fills with domestic dumping forming the majority of the infill. Pit 8481 was a square feature that would have lain close to the rear of the late medieval building. It contained 35 sherds of pottery including an almost complete 15th-century sandy ware jar (Fig. 5.3, No.42).

Post-medieval (Fig. 5.43)

Two pits (7163 and 7321) dating to the post-medieval period lay at the eastern end of the tenement yard. Pit 7163 contained a clay pipe group dated to 1610-1690, while pit 7321 contained a residual jug rim with applied human face in Saintonge bright green glazed whiteware (Fig. 5.3, No. 38).

**Tenement 242**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.22  
Impact of 1338 raid: Tenement destroyed and the plot remained vacant or a garden until at least 1473



Fig. 4.49 Tenements 242 and 243 during excavation, facing south-east



Status at 1454 Terrier: Recorded as the garden of Ralph Estmer  
Rental status: Gods House Rental, 1220-5 to c 1620  
Key owners/occupants: None

*Tenement extent*

Tenement 242 was defined to the north and south by its basement walls and an extrapolation of these to the line of the parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan. The presence of stairs on its western limit indicates its close proximity to the street frontage.

*The building* (Figs. 4.42-4.44 & 4.49)

The cellar on this property was a large rectangular structure without division, which measured approximately 11 m by 6 m. The southern wall had a number of shallow buttresses against it, which would have supported ceiling or floor joists. In the centre of the western wall was a flight of steps leading up to the street. They were very worn but appeared to have been reset. The southern party wall (8001, with Tenement 243) may have been largely medieval in origin, but the remainder of the structure contained modern brick in its fabric and was therefore modern albeit re-using much salvaged stone. A single posthole (8025) dating to the high medieval period indicates that a cellar existed here at that time as the feature was too far below external ground level to have been cut at

ground level and subsequently truncated by a later cellar insertion. The posthole contained a decorated stone item (Fig. 5.50, No. 9).

*Features and deposits* (Fig. 4.42)

A single square pit (8233) of possible high medieval date was excavated in the rear of the property. It measured 2 m by 0.7 m (visible) and was 0.8 m deep, having been filled with a single silty-clay deposit which contained no finds.

**Tenement 243**

Documentary summary: Table App.1.23

Impact of 1338 raid: None recorded

Status at 1454 Terrier: 'The tenement of the Prior and Brethren of Gods House'

Rental status: Gods House rental, 1220-5 to c 1620

Key owners/occupants: None

*Tenement extent*

Tenement 243 was defined to the north and south by its basement walls and an extrapolation of these to the line of the parish boundary as shown on the 1846 Royal Engineers' Plan. No remains were examined in the area of the tenement yard.

*The building* (Figs 4.42-44, 4.49 and 4.50)

This tenement provided evidence for a high medieval building (Fig. 4.42) which survived in the



Fig. 4.50 Tenement 243 after removal of cellar infill services, facing west

central part of the plot where no cellar had later been inserted. A modern service run had removed archaeological deposits to the south, meaning that the presence of a robber trench for such a medieval wall could not be confirmed (the extant southern wall (8023) was clearly post-medieval in date). The original medieval building can be estimated to have existed between the northern wall (8001) and the back of a hearth (8157/cut 8158), giving a measurement of 6 by 7 m.

The position of this stone-lined hearth probably indicates the southern extent of the medieval building. It measured 0.70 m by 0.70 m and was constructed with a limestone base in a clay lining. It was dated to the 13th-14th century by the presence of three sherds of Southampton coarseware in its construction cut. A small quantity of oat/brome grass and a germinated wheat grain was recovered from a sample taken from the infill of the feature. It is likely that this feature replaced an earlier hearth, as hearth/pit 8101 immediately to the west contained a burnt clay lining. A series of postholes (8134, 8147, 8111) and pits (8092 and 8144) were grouped to the north-east of the hearth with a pit (8150) to the north-west. These features were very shallow and contained few artefacts. Their function is unclear.

The features were overlain by burnt deposits (8083=8090 and 8091, not illustrated) indicative of a widespread fire, which as with Tenements 238-242 may be attributable to the raid of 1338. The layers contained nails, animal bone (cattle and pig), 46 sherds of high medieval sandy ware and coarse-

ware jugs and jars, 100 oyster shells and some winkle shells, a small quantity of barley grain, wheat grain, rye, hazel nutshell fragments and one pea/bean fragment. Layer 8029, a similarly burnt deposit, overlay these deposits and appeared to represent the complete destruction of the medieval building as it contained abundant roof ridge tile (Fig. 5.16, No.7A). Finds included the charred base from a wooden vessel. A fragment of charred linen, broad bean/horsebean wheat grain, oat/brome grass and various weed/wild taxa were retrieved from relevant samples.

A single pit or substantial posthole (8203) found on the southern limit of the tenement (in the vicinity of the earlier building) may have dated to the late medieval period. The archaeological evidence suggests that, following its destruction in the 14th century, the tenement building was not reconstructed until the post-medieval period. This is represented by the construction of a wall (8023, Fig. 4.44), which was built to the south of the earlier wall line and was constructed using limestone with hand made brick inclusions. A limestone wall (8075) to the east of the excavated area may have been a contemporary build but could not be dated on the basis of its stratigraphic position or character.

The extant building measured 7 m by 10.15 m. The structure was only partially basemented, with the cellared element forming an 'L' shape in the northern and western parts of the building. The cellar was built with extruded industrial bricks dating to the 19th to 20th century.