MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN BRISTOL'S INNER SUBURBS

edited by Martin Watts

55-60 ST THOMAS STREET, REDCLIFFE, BRISTOL: EXCAVATIONS IN 2006
by Peter Davenport, Roger Leech and Mike Rowe

26-28 ST THOMAS STREET, REDCLIFFE, BRISTOL: EXCAVATIONS IN 2002
by Martin Watts

by Mary Alexander and Chiz Harward

CABOT HOUSE, DEANERY ROAD, BRISTOL: INVESTIGATIONS IN 2008
by Ray Holt and Roger Leech

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Cover image: extract from 'The way from Canon's Marsh to the Butts, looking east', watercolour by T.L. Rowbotham, 1826 (M2540) © Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives.

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FOREWORD

In some respects the title of this volume is misleading. All four sites reported herein were indeed located within historic suburbs of Bristol: two in the planned 12th-century suburb of Redcliffe, to the southeast of the medieval city; the other two to the southwest in the medieval district of Billeswick and in the vicinity of St Augustine's Abbey, also established in the 12th century, the church of which is now Bristol Cathedral. However, with the exception of a small part of the former abbey/Cathedral precinct uncovered at Harbourside, it is the lack of evidence for any substantial development at these sites throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods (up to the beginning of the 18th century) that provides a common theme.

The scarcity of evidence for medieval and post-medieval development at some of these sites is unsurprising. Both of the Billeswick sites, Cabot House and Harbourside, were in the ownership of the abbey or cathedral throughout this period, and were clearly of value as undeveloped land, either as parkland (as at Cabot House) or meadow (i.e. Canon's Marsh, south of the precinct at Harbourside). The dearth of evidence from the St Thomas Street sites in Redcliffe has been more unexpected, though this appears to corroborate documentary evidence suggesting that this part of the suburb remained something of a backwater into late post-medieval times. At nos 55–60, there was no evidence for anything more substantial than a few simple timber structures, perhaps used for drying cloth, until the beginning of the 18th century. At nos 26–28 there was no evidence for tenements until late into the post-medieval period and the site may well have been a part of a medieval grange, noted in the documentary record for the adjacent site to the south. The development of the first substantial buildings at both St Thomas Street sites, of new streets and terraces at Cabot House, and of the ropewalks and later industrial development of Canon's Marsh at Harbourside, all reflected the rapid expansion and building boom Bristol enjoyed in the 18th century, largely a result of the city's involvement in the Atlantic trade.

It was Bristol's much more recent building boom of the 2000s that saw redevelopment of these four sites and the opportunity for their archaeological investigation. Unfortunately, funding was not available subsequently to complete post-excavation work on the records and finds from nos 26–28 St Thomas Street. The summary of results in this volume has been produced by Cotswold Archaeology to complement those from nos 55–60, the sites being directly opposite each other, but it should be made clear that this summary is based on preliminary work only, and that detailed analysis of the stratigraphic record and important assemblages of finds and biological material from this site remains outstanding.

Martin Watts
Head of Publications, Cotswold Archaeology
December 2011
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Nos 55–60 St Thomas Street, Redcliffe, Bristol: Excavations in 2006

Excavations in 2006 at the corner of St Thomas Street and Mitchell Lane in Redcliffe revealed evidence for six tenements of medieval origin, which survived through into the 20th century as nos 55–60 St Thomas Street. During excavation the tenements were recorded as four plots, reflecting episodes of amalgamation and subsequent subdivision. The earliest remains appeared to be of mid 13th-century date, a hundred years after the documented laying out of the planned suburbs of Redcliffe and Temple Fees, suggesting that this area was slow to develop compared to more northerly parts of the suburb closet to Bristol Bridge. One boundary between tenements was part of the boundary between Redcliffe and Temple parishes, and was marked by a substantial drain. The tenements seem to have remained largely open and unoccupied, with no evidence for any substantial streetside buildings until the later 17th century. However, the area was clearly in use during the late medieval and post-medieval periods, with numerous fencelines, pits and some timber structures, including parallel beam slots that may have been the remains of drying racks for cloth, a trade with documented historical associations with this part of the city. There was also some evidence for medieval ironworking and post-medieval copper-alloy casting in the vicinity. Phases of activity were separated by substantial horizons of dumped material, perhaps deposited to raise the ground level periodically in this area of former marsh.

Substantial archaeological remains survived from development that commenced in the late 17th or early 18th century, and intensified throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, reflecting Bristol’s booming trade and growing wealth at that time. Stone-built streetside buildings were erected, respecting the tenement structure established several centuries earlier, and their rear gardens were rapidly filled in with extensions to houses, and outbuildings and yards. In the 18th century the properties were a mix of commercial and domestic use, including public houses at nos 55 and 60. The early 19th century saw the establishment of an iron foundry at nos 56–57, which by the mid 20th century had expanded across the whole site, reflecting the early 20th-century industrialisation of the suburb.

Nos 26–28 St Thomas Street, Redcliffe, Bristol: Excavations in 2002

Excavations in 2002 at the corner of St Thomas Street and Three Queen’s Lane in Redcliffe found evidence of activity from the medieval period onwards, but with little evidence for any formal subdivision of the area until the late post-medieval period, when substantial streetside buildings were constructed within tenements fronting St Thomas Street, many with large stone-lined tanks to the rear. This report presents a summary of the preliminary results only from this excavation.


A series of evaluation trenches and two open areas were excavated within the Harbourside redevelopment area between 2003 and 2008. These revealed evidence for medieval, post-
medieval and later activity within part of the former precinct of St Augustine's Abbey (the church of which is now Bristol Cathedral), and within the western part of Canon's Marsh. Borehole investigations revealed little evidence for exploitation of the floodplain prior to establishment of the abbey in the 12th century. At the northern end of the site, the remains of several small medieval buildings and gardens were revealed next to a lane leading southwards to the precinct gate to Canon's Marsh, and to either side of a channel that was part of the abbey's water management system. In the post-medieval and later periods, houses were rebuilt to either side of the lane at its junction with Anchor Lane, which ran to the south of the former precinct boundary. These buildings were prebendal properties of the Cathedral's Dean and Chapter and included a shop, from the remains of which fragments of glass phials were retrieved.

Within Canon's Marsh, the remains of 17th-century sea banks protecting the marsh were recorded and the remains of 18th and 19th-century industrial buildings were observed, including those of a ropewalk. The arrival of the railway in the 20th century saw Canon's Marsh given over to transit sheds and sidings, and the demolition of all buildings along Anchor Lane, which was relocated to the present position of Anchor Road.

**Cabot House, Deanery Road, Bristol: Investigations in 2008**

Investigations in 2008 at Cabot House included the excavation of two areas of former 18th-century housing development. Borehole investigations of deposits within the infilled valley, over which the housing development had been constructed, revealed little evidence of exploitation of the area during the Neolithic period. There was also little evidence for any activity up to the 18th century either, the area having been parkland belonging to St Augustine's Abbey (and later Bristol Cathedral) during the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, the recorded remains of the former 18th and 19th-century properties that preceded Cabot House provide insights into the construction, use and changing status of the buildings in this part of the city, for which detailed documentary evidence also survives.
55–60 ST THOMAS STREET, REDCLIFFE, BRISTOL: EXCAVATIONS IN 2006

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INTRODUCTION

Between January and May 2006 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at the junction of St Thomas Street and Mitchell Lane, Redcliffe, Bristol (centred on NGR: ST 59237257; Fig. 1), on behalf of Blenheim House Construction Ltd for CB Richard Ellis Investors Ltd. The project was designed to mitigate the impact of the construction of a five-storey office building with associated basement car parking. The archaeological potential of the site had been previously investigated by desk-top study (BaRAS 2002a) and evaluation (BaRAS 2002b) and the combined results of these investigations suggested that there was good survival of a sequence of occupation dating from at least the 13th century AD. Given the archaeological potential of the site, the planning application was agreed subject to the condition that a programme of archaeological work took place, comprising excavation and a borehole survey (Fig. 2). This report describes the results of those investigations.

This site lies within the parish of Redcliffe on the floodplain of the River Avon. The upper geological deposits formed of estuarine alluvium were encountered at the base of the excavations. The underlying solid geology is recorded as Triassic Redcliffe Sandstone and Keuper Marl (BGS 1974), which current usage refers to as Mercia Mudstone. The ground surface before excavation was level and lay at a height of approximately 8.5m AOD.

Historical and archaeological background

Development of the Redcliff and Temple Fees in the 12th century is the earliest known use of this part of the Avon floodplain, and resulted in the formation of a suburb that was to rival in size the built-up area of the town. A fee was an area of lordship, which could be made profitable through rents. The Redcliff Fee was developed by Robert Fitzharding, being part of his manor of Bedminster (Cronne 1946, 32–3). The two main streets of this development were St Thomas Street and Redcliff Street; the latter was the principal route to the south, towards Fitzharding’s manor of Bedminster. Each street was laid out with burgage plots to either side, those on the west of Redcliff Street stretching to the Avon. Dendrochronological dating of structural timbers from the excavations at Dundas Wharf (no.1, Fig. 1) has shown that the west side of Redcliff Street was being developed from c. 1123–33 and that quays were being built by 1147–8 (Nicholson and Hillam 1987, 141).

The Temple Fee was granted by Robert Earl of Gloucester to the Knights Templar between 1128 and 1148 (Taylor 1875, 27–78). The building of Temple church followed, together
Fig. 1  Site location plan (scale 1:5000)
Fig. 2  Trench and borehole location plan (scale 1:500)
with the setting out of Temple Street and the subdivision of the land either side into burgage plots. The boundary between the two Fees was called the Law Ditch (a common name for the early boundary ditches in Bristol), which also served as a drain and open sewer for the tenements on both sides (Fig. 1). Each burgage plot from ditch to thoroughfare was about 10 to 12 ‘poles’ in length (a ‘pole’ being approximately 5m). The majority of the site was in the former Redcliff Fee, however the northern end (Plot 4, Fig. 2) was formerly part of a western extension of Temple Fee that is known to have existed in the vicinity of Mitchell Lane (Fig. 1). The course of the Law Ditch therefore crossed the northern part of the site from east to west, between Plots 3 and 4. Like the Law Ditch, Mitchell Lane was probably part of a plan agreed between the lords of the two Fees.

The earliest map to depict this area in any detail is Smith’s map of 1568, which shows this part of St Thomas Street as developed. Millerd’s plan of 1673 shows St Thomas Street frontage fully developed and two buildings fronting Mitchell Lane (Fig. 3). Millerd’s revised plan of c. 1715 shows no change, and neither do Rocque’s map of 1743 and Donn’s map of 1773 (BaRAS 2002a, 5). In the numbering system introduced by James Sketchley in the first Bristol Directory (Sketchley 1775), the house plots that fall within the excavated area are nos 54–60 St Thomas Street (house numbers are taken from BRO: Goad 1887 Fire Insurance Plan; Fig. 6). The widening of Mitchell Lane in 1905 (BRO: Building Plan Book 47, fo.68) truncated almost all of no. 54, and the remaining properties on St Thomas Street also lost their frontages to street widening in c. 1938. Later uses of the site included a garage fronting St Thomas Street. Prior to development the site had been

Fig. 3 Extract from Millerd’s plan of 1673, with site in outline
55-60 ST THOMAS STREET, REDCLIFFE, BRISTOL: EXCAVATIONS IN 2006

levelled and was used as a car park. Detailed histories of excavated tenements appear below (The documentary evidence).

Excavation methodology

A 1m-wide trench was excavated around the perimeter of the site to a depth of c. 0.5m to insert sheet piling (Fig. 2). This was undertaken by a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision. Archaeological features exposed in the trench were excavated and recorded with the same methodology as the main excavations. Once the sheet piling had been installed, modern surface material and overburden were excavated mechanically from the main excavation area. The depth of overburden removed was up to 0.2m across the site, with some deeper areas where modern intrusions were removed. The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of stratified archaeological deposits. Where widespread homogeneous deposits were identified, these were mechanically removed under archaeological supervision. Petrochemical contamination from the former garage prevented excavation in an area near to the St Thomas Street frontage. The presence of this contamination slowed the removal of spoil from the site, resulting in the excavation area being dug in two halves.

For the borehole survey, three boreholes were drilled (Fig. 2) to examine the Pleistocene and Holocene layers below the level of excavation. Drilling was abandoned at the depth that fluid sands were encountered (up to 7m). The cores were processed off-site and a detailed report is included (see Borehole stratigraphy, below).

Following excavation, the site data were assessed for their significance, and further analysis was undertaken in accordance with the work specified in the Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design. The results form the basis of this report.

EXCAVATION RESULTS

Archaeological remains were found across the whole of the excavated area. Three principal periods of activity, each subdivided into two, were identified through analysis of the stratigraphic sequence, dated by the artefactual evidence:

- Period 1a: medieval (13th to early 14th centuries)
- Period 1b: late medieval (14th to 15th centuries)
- Period 2a: early post-medieval (15th to late 16th centuries)
- Period 2b: post-medieval (late 16th to 17th centuries)
- Period 3a: later 17th to early 19th centuries
- Period 3b: 19th to mid 20th centuries

During excavation, the site was divided into four plots, numbered 1 to 4, south to north. These were based on substantial boundaries evident from the archaeological remains, and provide the framework used for describing the results as they could be recognised from all but the very earliest levels, although detailed analysis and historic mapping suggest that these plots had a complex history of division and amalgamation. The series of horizontal deposits that formed horizons between the principal periods are not shown on the site plans. Much of the ceramic dating is referenced to the Bristol Pottery Type (BPT) series (see Pottery, below).
Fig. 4  Periods 1a and 1b (13th to 15th centuries) (scale 1:350)

Period 1a: medieval (13th to early 14th centuries) (Fig. 4)

Trampled alluvial clays pre-dated the earliest activity, which comprised a number of pits, postholes and gullies, some representing ephemeral buildings. The earliest plot boundaries were defined by post-built fences. With a very few exceptions, the pottery was of types current in the 12th and 13th centuries, including Ham Green 'A' wares (BPT 26), Minety wares (BPT 18, BPT 84) and coarseware types BPT 114, BPT 32 and BPT 46. Ham
Green 'B' type (BPT 27) in later jug styles, late forms of Bristol glazed ware (BPT 118) and occasional Bristol types BPT 121 and BPT 128, suggest the late 13th to early 14th centuries for the infilling of features. Some stratigraphic relationships between features suggest that not everything in this period was strictly contemporary, and some features may well be of earlier 13th-century date. The deposits that sealed activity from this period (Horizon 1) were of mid 14th-century date.

The alluvial clay silts at the base of the excavation lay at approximately 6.8m AOD. A
series of trampled and disturbed alluvial clays above the alluvium, with an upper surface at between 6.8m and 7m AOD, pre-dated almost all of the features of Period 1a. Layer 1563, of red-brown silty clay, covered an area south of Fenceline 6 and either side of the drain gully 1630, which post-dated it. Also pre-dating the plot divisions was a shallow scoop 1582, cut by a posthole of Fenceline 6. Layer 1563 and scoop 1582 contained 12th to 13th-century pottery. Above this, silty clay 974 was recorded across most of the site. The equivalent layer 925 from the piling trench was cut by postholes of Fenceline 3. Both contained pottery of mid to late 13th-century date, animal bone and charcoal.

These layers were cut by a number of pits of various sizes, and gullies. The profile and generally shallow depth of these features strongly suggested that they had suffered truncation. Some grouping was apparent, the most obvious of which were the lines of postholes for timber fences, some of which showed signs of postpipes.

Two pits (686 and 688) and a scoop, only seen in section on the east side of Plot 1, could not be allocated to Period 1a or 1b specifically as, although they cut the earliest occupation layers, they were not sealed by any other contexts. However, 13th to 14th-century pottery collected from the fills exposed in section suggests the earlier period, as does a fragment of roof tile from pit 688.

Plot 1
Fenceline 1 ran east/west, 5–6m north of the southern edge of the excavation. It comprised postholes at varying distances and with variable depths, ranging from 0.06m to 0.45m. All but one contained substantial sandstone fragments or slabs at the base. The pottery
suggests abandonment in the 13th or early 14th century. Just to the north, Fenceline 2 extended further to both west and east, and contained 11 larger and more regularly spaced postholes. The fills were similar to Fenceline 1, as was the pottery dating. Postholes 1141 and 1137 contained post-impressions and possible packing.

A group of postholes and beam slot 1096 at the western end of Fencelines 1 and 2 appeared to comprise part of a rectangular structure (Structure 1), 5m east/west by 2m north/south, although the fills were very similar to the fencelines and may have been directly associated. The structure was cut to the west by north/south gully 1135.

In the south-west corner of Plot 1, Structure 4 was represented by a pair of gullies, 1029 and 1052, cut by parallel gullies 1025 and 1027, and posthole 1054. All were very shallow, less than 0.1m deep. The slots were mostly flat-bottomed with vertical sides and very straight, suggesting that they were beam slots. The north/south gullies were very similar to the 'slot groups' in this area in Period 1b (see below).

South of Fenceline 1 were several shallow pits and gullies. Most notable were pits 1058 (sub-rectangular, 1.2m x 2.2m) and two intercutting oval pits, 1062 and 1064, between 2.1m and 2.4m in width. All were 0.4m deep with gently sloping sides and flattish bases. These pits produced the majority of the animal bone from this period. The pottery suggests infilling in the mid 13th century.

**Plot 2**

Fenceline 3 consisted of a short east/west run of five small circular pits at the east side of the site. With Fenceline 4 (below) it marked the boundary between Plots 2 and 3 in this period. These pits were very close-set at only 0.55m centre to centre. Four of the pits were identical in diameter (0.4m) and depth (0.1m). The fifth (892), cutting a shallow scoop forming the western terminal of the eastern part of the row, was bigger and 0.33m deep.

A substantial north/south gully, 1231, c. 0.6m wide with vertical sides and a flat base, with smaller gullies 1121/1199, 1056, 1110 and 1235, suggested a rectangular enclosure measuring 6m x 8.5m (Structure 2). Nearly half of this structure had been truncated by modern disturbance. All the gullies had contained sandstone rubble in a yellowish-brown clay with chalky/limey patches and gravel, suggesting a timber-and-daub or a cob-type construction. Gully 1121 cut the fill of gully 1231, but if gully 1231 was a foundation for an earth wall, then gully 1121 could have been a drain passing through it, rather than post-dating it.

Occupying the northern half of Structure 2 was a close-packed group of pits forming a series of possible parallel alignments. It is unclear if these fulfilled a structural function; only pit 1215 had a profile and stone packing suggestive of a posthole, and was also by far the deepest pit. Five other pits, oval in plan, lay east of the supposed wall line of gully 1231. Dating evidence from most of these features was of the 13th-century, and was sealed by deposit 807, also of 13th-century date. Pit 1200 to the east of gully 1231 was not associated, as it was not sealed by deposit 807 and contained 14th-century pottery.

**Plot 3**

The southern boundary of Plot 3 was defined by Fenceline 4. Fenceline 6 may have been an early northern boundary (before it was moved to the line of Culvert 4). Fenceline 5 divided Plot 3 into two, a property boundary that reappeared in later periods.

The fills of the postholes of Fenceline 4 were similar to Fenceline 3, but with a high proportion of sandstone rubble. The greyer fills of two postholes (also noted in some Fenceline 3 postholes) may have derived from an overlying stony bank (685; see Period 2, below).
Finds were predominantly centred on the 13th century; one sherd of 16th or 17th-century pottery found in posthole 922 is assumed to be intrusive.

Fenceline 5, 6.5m north of Fenceline 4, was made up of six widely spaced postholes and a straight gully (1639), separated from the postholes by a gap of 5m. The two rectangular postholes in the centre (1524 and 1526) could have been gateposts. The range of pottery recovered from the fills suggests a 13th-century date for abandonment. The postholes and gully were overlain by layer 1404, the boundary of Periods 1a and 1b.

Fenceline 6 ran east/west, just south of the later Culvert 4. The postholes were irregularly spaced, close together at the west end and further apart at the east end, and with varied fills. Posthole 1568 had a large flat stone in the base, and posthole 1535 had two large possible packing stones. Pottery gives a date of the 13th century, apart from 14th to 15th-century pottery from posthole 1576, which may be intrusive from the overlying pit 1447 from Period 2a. A large gully, 1630, ran northwards across Plot 3 with a distinct fall to the north, where it was cut away by Culvert 4 (Period 3a). It was probably a drain that pre-dated Fenceline 6 and emptied into a predecessor of Culvert 4. To the east, parallel gully 1558 had vertical sides and a flat base, and at up to 0.54m this was probably a robbed masonry structure. Its slope down to the north, where it was also cut by Culvert 4, suggested it was a drain, like gully 1630.

To the south of Fenceline 6, a series of postholes and gullies, some of which crossed the alignment of Fenceline 5, may represent timber structures post-dating the abandonment of Fenceline 5, although they did not form any coherent plan.

Pit 1543, to the north of slot 1619, was flat-bottomed and vertical-sided, just under 1m across and 0.37m deep. Sitting neatly in the base of the pit was a wooden barrel base. This was buried by a 0.2m-thick layer of yellow, sandy mortar, topped by a dump of dark brown clay silt with much carbonised wood. No side timbers survived (Fig. 7). Pottery suggests a 13th-century date or later for the infilling. The fills of postholes 1634 and 1623 contained mortar, perhaps due to their proximity to pit 1543, suggesting that they were contemporary. The pottery from the postholes was of the early 14th century.

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*Fig. 7* Wooden barrel base in pit 1543, Plot 3, Period 1a (scale 0.3m)
Plot 4
As with Plot 3, there was a line of postholes (Fenceline 7) in Plot 4 running parallel to Culvert 4, with a central gap caused by later disturbance. Depths averaged 0.22m, and posthole 1546 showed evidence of a possible postpipe (1503) and contained large packing stones.

North of Fenceline 7 in the north-west corner of the site was a group of 15 small postholes. This group of postholes, and postholes 1552 and 1591 at the west end of Fenceline 7, were sealed by deposits 1540 and 1541, composed of successive lenses of clay, burnt clay and carbonised wood only 0.06m thick in total. One of the lenses contained a smithing hearth bottom, providing evidence of ironworking. The oak charcoal from here, unlike that from elsewhere, suggests that these deposits were the residue from iron smelting (The wood charcoal, below).

Horizon 1 (not shown on plan), composed of clayey silts, clays and loams, overlay all the features of this phase. The pottery from this horizon was all of 12th to 14th-century date, with some mid 14th-century wares. The horizon overall was 0.3m thick. The layers generally extended across the whole of each area of excavation, and where there was not a direct relationship, could be linked from area to area by a common level and character.

Period 1b: late medieval (14th to 15th centuries) (Fig. 4)
The datable material from this period was not significantly different from Period 1a, but the stratigraphic succession and depth of deposits suggest the later dating given here. Features assigned to this period were sparse, and were limited to Plots 1 and 2.

It seems that the northern boundary of Plot 1 was redefined as Fenceline 8, and a shorter parallel fence (Fenceline 12) immediately to the north, suggesting a slight shift of the principal boundary of about 1m to the south. Dating suggests these features are 14th-century or later.

Fenceline 8 consisted of eleven postholes to the west, with rectangular pit 884 possibly associated, and a stone-packed gully (865) to the east. Four of the postholes contained the remains of post-packing. The fill of posthole 902 contained a fragment of tap slag, indicative of iron smelting. Gully 865 was the foundation trench for a boundary wall, packed with unmortared flat and roughly coursed stones. To the east it extended beyond the edge of excavation.

Fenceline 12 was made up of seven postholes which superseded both Fencelines 1 and 2. Relatively large stone fragments for post-packing were common. It defined only a small section of the boundary, which may elsewhere have been linked to gully 865 or marked in some way that left no recognisable trace.

To the south of this boundary were four linear slots aligned north/south, and a posthole. The fills were similar grey silts with gravel, but slot 900 also contained rubble. The slots were similar in size and alignment to Period 1a slots 1025 and 1027 to the west. Slots 894 and 898, closer to the northern boundary and flanking posthole 896, were equally shallow and slightly wider than the other slots. Pottery was sparse but suggested a mid 13th to 14th-century date. The function of these slots was unclear, but they may have been structural.

Slot 965 was cut into the top of a large oval or subrectangular pit, 1068. Despite its size it was only 0.17m deep. Its fill was dark and contained oyster and mussel shell, animal bone and charcoal, suggesting domestic waste. There appears to have been a connection between these two features as the slot followed the outline and depth of the side of the pit. The only other feature of this period was isolated posthole 1021.

The demolition of the stone wall within gully 865 was indicated by stone scatter 591,
which spread across Plot 1 and the southern part of Plot 2. It was not particularly dense, except for where it lay to either side of gully 865. This layer sealed slots 898 and 900 and was covered by Horizon 2, which divided features of this period from those of Period 2a.

**Period 2a: early post-medieval (15th to late 16th centuries) (Fig. 5)**

The beginning of this period was represented by the dumping of layers of silty clay up to 0.26m thick (Horizon 2) over the earlier layers and features. A high level of residuality was present in this period with over half the pottery of medieval date. Abundant Malvern Chase redwares (BPT 197) suggest that the main focus for activity was earlier than c. 1600, although the presence of Somerset glazed wares, including BPT 280 and BPT 96, extends the period to the mid or later 16th century.

**Plot 1**

At the south-east corner of the site, three slots (880, 882 and 1652) projected northwards from the edge of excavation. The slots were only 0.15m deep and filled with rubble and silt, suggesting that they were structural, perhaps for sill beams supporting a small structure about 4m across. A 16th-century date is indicated from pottery from two of the slots. No other features of this period were apparent.

**Plot 2**

The southern boundary of Plot 2 was inferred from the southern limit of a number of slots at the eastern edge of excavation and from two pits, 804 and 802. The northern edge was marked by a stony bank (685), built directly over Horizon 2, running more or less over former Fenceline 4. Stone-filled gully 874, along the southern edge of the bank, followed the alignment of the earlier Fenceline 3.

Bank 685 may have been a metalled path running from St Thomas Street towards the rear of the tenements. It was 2.5m wide at the east end, truncated to 1.5m at the west end. Its crown was over 0.5m above its base (Fig. 8) and it was formed with a clay core, 879. Stone and silt from the eroded bank (878) was cut by a straight gully (874), 0.15m deep in the side of the bank, which appeared to have been dug to redefine the boundary. Its fill contained a lot of sandstone rubble fragments and pink mortar. The gully was cut into by a kidney-shaped pit (876) of rounded profile and filled with clean yellow clay, possibly the remains of a clay storage pit.

At the east end of Plot 2 was a group of long straight gullies, with some pits, postholes and short, irregular gullies. These were probably the remains of the ground beams and posts of a timber building (Structure 5). The fills of all the gullies were similar silty clays, apart from gully 950, which was packed with stone. The two large round postholes (946 and 948) were 0.4m deep with very stony fills. Pottery was of the range 12th to 15th centuries. Cutting across the southern end of gullies 841 and 950 was a 1m-deep rectangular pit (976), packed with stone rubble.

Pit 1243, by far the largest feature from this period, ran across the full width of Plot 2. It was flat-bottomed and steep-sided, up to 0.89m deep, with a shallow shelf at the top, extending its width to the west by another metre or so. The feature cut eroded bank material (878) and was therefore dug some time after the bank construction. Its thin basal fill was a mix of a reddish brown clay, pink mortar and sandstone roof tiles, separated from a series of upper fills by a thin layer of stone-free reddish, silty clay. The upper fills were
predominantly ceramic tile and brick, pink mortar and sandstone roof tiles in a reddish silty clay. Despite the presence of residual 13th to 14th-century pottery, a few sherds of 16th-century pottery and a piece of clay tobacco pipe of 16th or 17th-century date from the upper fills suggest a late Period 2a to 2b date for these fills, which is consistent with the stratigraphic sequence and with the type of mortar present. The purpose of such a large feature was unclear. Despite containing building debris, it did not appear to be structural and nothing in the character of its fill indicated its purpose.

Well 1 cut into the north-east side of pit 1243. It was built with walls of flat sandstone slabs (854) set in a pinkish mortar tightly lining the well cut and leaving a shaft of 0.9m² but of unknown depth. Following the infilling of the well shaft, the stone lining was robbed to a depth of c. 0.4m, leaving a cone that was filled with a series of dumps.

There was no dating evidence from the well or its infilling or robbing, but it post-dated the infilling of pit 1243. The very close similarity between the fills of pit 1243 and the construction materials of Well 1 suggest that both could be derived from the same source, with the pit being filled in to facilitate the construction of Well 1, which would therefore be dated to the late 16th or early 17th century. The eastern end of gully 874 was probably filled in at the same time, as the fills were nearly identical. The gully was clearly a boundary feature but it was not obvious whether there was any functional relationship with pit 1243.

A sinuous gully (1004/1091) running east/west just north of the Plot 1/2 boundary, cut across infilled pit 1243. However, it was not sealed by anything earlier than late Period 3 layers. It most closely resembled a drainage gully but was not clearly related to any other feature. It contained pottery of the 13th and 14th centuries but its relationship to pit 1243 means this pottery must have been residual.

Plot 3
There was no evidence for subdivision of Plot 3 in this period. Fenceline 10 seemed to be a replacement for Fenceline 6, following it exactly but stopping a few metres short at either end.
The 11 postholes in Fenceline 10 were quite large but relatively shallow; the exception was posthole 1402, at the east end, at 0.45m deep. A small, squarish pit, 1399, near the eastern edge of excavation may have been a part of this fence. The main fenceline was augmented by two smaller postholes, 1425 and 1429, and postholes 1359, 1427 and 1473 had been replaced or reinforced at some point. The pottery suggests a 16th-century date for backfilling of these posts, and their lack of post-pipes and homogeneous character indicate that this would refer to demolition rather than construction. The common occurrence of 13th to 15th-century pottery might indicate a 15th-century construction date.

Fenceline 9 formed the south side of a double boundary with Fenceline 10, with a 2m gap between. Fenceline 9 was defined by two slots, 1375 and 1485, both slightly V-shaped in profile with a steeper south side. The profiles suggest post-trenches, with the posts set against the more vertical south edges. The distance between their terminals was c. 6m. The western half of the gap between featured three postholes (1445, 1451 and 1462). The datable material recovered from the trenches and postholes is of 16th-century date, while much residual material suggests construction in the 15th century. Post-dating the infilling of gully 1485 were three of seven postholes of unknown function (Posthole Group 4).

One of the latest features in Period 2a (if not actually later) was gully 1491. This feature, with a bulbous southern end, ran northwards to the later Culvert 4. It cut through the infilled gully 1485 and posthole 1493. It is presumed to run into a drain replaced by Culvert 4 of Period 3a. It was sealed by deposits containing 18th-century and modern pottery.

**Plot 4**

In the north-west corner of Plot 4 was a scatter of postholes or similar features. Posthole 1387 had large flat stones in the base and many large fragments of stone rubble in its fill, suggesting packing and a post-pad. Close by were postholes 1392 and 1385, and two rectangular postholes, 1537 and 1532. These features may have related to the pits described below, and were infilled in the 16th century.

Two notable pits lay to the east of these features. Pit 1457 was roughly circular and flat-bottomed, only 0.1m deep but 1.75m across. Its fill was a dark, orangey brown, friable sandy clay with much charcoal, suggestive of soil that had been subject to a lot of heat, perhaps the rake-out from a hearth or oven. It is not clear whether the pit edges and base were affected by heating, but this might have been an oven or hearth base. There was no evidence for any associated structure but the area immediately north and east was truncated by later activity, which may have destroyed such evidence. Next to it was pit 1464, bowl-shaped in profile and 0.43m deep. Its fill contained some stones that had been reddened by heat and showed carbon staining but it had no evidence of in situ heating, and it may have been associated with the same activity as pit 1457. A total of 176 clay mould fragments for casting metal cauldrons was retrieved from pit 1464 (a few fragments from layer 1410 into which the pit was cut are considered intrusive). Dating, both by typology of the cauldron and the associated pottery, suggests a 15th-century date for the pit fill. A similar-sized and shaped pit (1345) occurred just south of these features in Plot 3, partly removed by the later Culvert 4, but showed no evidence of heating.

**Period 2b: post-medieval (late 16th to 17th centuries) (Fig. 5)**

A discontinuous layer of silty clay (Horizon 3) sealed Period 2a features in Plots 1, 3 and 4, and most features ascribed to Period 2b were cut into this. It was not present in the central
area of Plot 2 and the southern half of Plot 3, but very few Period 2b features were found in those areas. Where present, Horizon 3 was 0.2m to 0.3m thick. Pottery from this horizon was of 16th to 17th-century date, including cups in the Cistercian ware tradition (BPT 93 and BPT 275). Some residual 14th and 15th-century material came from the layers beneath, and this horizon may represent deposits reworked by gardening activity.

**Plot 1**

In the centre of the plot, two rounded pits (628 and 632) cut into the soils of Horizon 3 and shared a fill of pale yellow sandy silt similar to those of some of Slot Group 3 (see below). Pit 628 was cut by pit 650 associated with Slot Group 4. Pottery from these pits has a fairly wide date range of 15th to 17th century.

This area was otherwise dominated by a row of straight north/south gullies, mostly running off under the southern edge of the excavation and therefore of unknown length. They fell into three groups in plan, although the gap between the central and western ones was partly due to later disturbance.

Slot Group 3 contained eight slots, all aligned north/south (a ninth was seen as a fragment in the eastern edge of excavation). Three at the east end were complete, being 1.5m to 2m long. The others continued into the southern section. The northern ends of the slots were all c. 2.5m from the southern edge of excavation. Slot Group 4 was similar, and contained five slots. Aligned with them was pit 650, 0.15m deep with a very flat V-shaped profile with a vertical face at each end and a narrow, flat base. Its fill was dark brown with a large proportion of carbonised wood fragments. Three of the slots were segmented. Further west, Slot Group 5 may have been associated. The majority of the slots were very shallow. The four complete slots at the east end of Slot Group 3 and the two interrupted slots at the east end of Slot Group 4 had the same yellow-brown sandy silt fill but the other fills varied. The few sherds of pottery from these features suggest a 17th-century date.

The function of these slots was unclear. It they were garden features, the silty fills and rounded profiles suggest open features such as drainage between raised beds, rather than the loamy and humic fills of bedding trenches. As with the short gullies in Period 1, these might have been slots for sill beams, with edges eroded following the removal of the timbers, but no other features representing such structure were apparent. A further slot-type feature 611, seen just north-west of Slot Group 5, is not considered to be associated with the others as it lay at an oblique angle and was filled with a dark brown clayey silt similar to the fills of a row of small postholes just north of Slot Group 5.

**Plot 3**

Evidence for activity in this period was limited to a scatter of pits. On the south, close to the stony bank, was oval pit 938. A larger irregular pit, 886, was dug across the edge of bank 685 but contained no dating evidence. Further north, in the gap in Fenceline 9, was a round pit, 1288, possibly an addition to the boundary. Close by was rectangular pit 1286, with vertical sides and a flat base. Its top was packed with stone rubble but this did not continue at depth. Another rectangular pit was recorded south of gully 1375, cutting into its fill. Evidence from pits 938 and pit 1286 indicated a 17th-century date.

**Plot 4**

Evidence to the north of Culvert 4 was limited to the northeast corner, where a few pits, probable drains and a ditch were found. Gullies 1383 and 1394 were presumably drains.
leading into the predecessor of Culvert 4. The fill of gully 1394 included sandstone rubble and 16th to early 17th-century pottery. Both gullies were cut through by a substantial east/west gully (1316) with a bulbous, pit-like western end. It was 1m wide and 0.74m deep, and its western end was 1.8m in diameter. It contained no debris to suggest it had
a structural function and presumably was a drain leading from a sump at the west end. It seemed to have been filled in by the early 17th century.

To the south of gully 1316 were four pits. Pit 1401 had 16th to early 17th-century pottery in its fill, pit 1397 only had residual medieval pottery. Pit 1380 contained charcoal and charred seeds, including the greatest concentration of charred wheat grains from the site (Charred and waterlogged plant remains, below). The fills of these pits and the later drain were covered by layer 1072 and other related layers (Horizon 4), which served as garden soils until later building in Period 3.

Period 3a: later 17th to early 19th centuries (Fig. 9)

The period was defined by post-dating the widespread layers of Horizon 4 which covered the earlier features. There was evidence for early pits, gullies and other construction work prior to the construction of masonry buildings and the associated drains and culverts. The buildings were mostly represented by sandstone footings, with the remains largely being of basements (Fig. 10). Four cellars were recorded, one largely complete, and several cisterns, two brick-vaulted. Brick was increasingly used.

The large amount of pottery in Horizon 4 showed that this period post-dated the late 17th century. Apart from a little residual medieval pottery, the pottery was of mid/later 17th and earlier 18th centuries in date, featuring quantities of yellow slipware (BPT 100), tin-glazed earthenwares (BPT 99) and Somerset earthenwares (BPT 280). Finds of mid/later 17th to 18th-century date included two Royal farthing tokens (see Coins/jettons catalogue, below) dating to 1614–34 and 1625–34, and a Nuremburg jetton of 1586–1635. A large assemblage of clay pipes confirmed this date range, with many pipe bowls identified to Bristol pipemakers (The clay tobacco pipes, below). The dating from cut features in Period 3a is also late 17th to 18th century, but it is probable that the period lasted into the early 19th century and some buildings certainly survived into the 20th century.

Fig. 10 Structural remains in the western halves of Plots 1–3, looking west

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Horizon 4, 0.3m thick, comprised layers of dark silts and soils with building rubble. These were probably the Period 2b garden soils mixed up by the building of Periods 3a and even 3b. Deposit 547 in this group contained pieces of hearth or furnace lining, but nothing in situ.

The street numbering current in St Thomas Street during this period, and into the 20th century, is used to describe the buildings. The concordance of archaeological plots with street numbers is as follows:

Plot 1: no. 60 St Thomas Street
Plot 2 (south): no. 59 St Thomas Street
Plot 2 (north): no. 58 St Thomas Street
Plot 3 (south): no. 57 St Thomas Street
Plot 3 (north): no. 56 St Thomas Street
Plot 4: no. 55 St Thomas Street

Plot 1: no. 60 St Thomas Street
Building 1 was represented by fragments of wall and stone surfaces representing a rear room of the main building, an external subterranean cistern, a yard surface with integral drain, and a fragment of wall from a rear outbuilding. No separate footings existed, the walls of rubble sandstone rising directly off earlier deposits to about 0.5m above the base. Wall 301 was a wide north/south wall that lay on the line of the 20th-century street frontage at the west of the excavation, but seems to have been a major internal wall pre-dating the road widening. Wall 545 represented the northern side wall running back from wall 301. Its external wall was rendered, indicating that the area to the north was not built on when it was erected. Its junction with wall 301 was truncated by a later drain trench. With wall 543 (the return wall to the south), these defined three sides of a room, presumably the rear room of a small house, whose southern side fell beyond the edge of excavation. In the internal angle of the walls was a fragmentary paved surface of sandstone slabs (540); pottery from the make-up layer below this surface suggested a late 17th or early 18th-century date for construction.

A couple of metres to the rear of the building was a stone-built cistern, 573, of two phases. The original build was 2.8m x 3.6m internally. Further east, a wall (516) under a later (Period 3b) wall was truncated at each end by later disturbance, but it may have been part of outbuildings.

A stone and brick drain (Culvert 5), capped with large sandstone slabs, ran towards cistern 573, but the intersection had been truncated by Period 3b Well 9, and any internal evidence was obscured by a later lining within the cistern. Culvert 5 was built in a grey cinder mortar, similar to the cistern. A contemporary pitched stone surface, 211, was recorded along most of the northern side of the culvert, adjacent to and at the same level as the capping stones. Another culvert ran westwards from the cistern. Another drain, leading northwestwards, cut wall 545, indicating it was of a later period.

Plot 2 (south): no. 59 St Thomas Street
Before the masonry buildings were constructed in this plot, three postholes were dug that formed three corners of a rectangle (postholes 608, 734 and 742). The sides of this notional structure would have been 6.5m x 4.5m. The pits were all round in plan and vertical-sided, and pit 734 had a clear postpipe. The fills all showed evidence of burning, with ashy layers, abundant carbonised wood and very dark stained silts. Pottery from all
three suggested a late 17th-century date. Also belonging to this preliminary phase was a substantial masonry wall, 307, seen in the piling trench (this was not investigated further due to contamination). It was stratigraphically earlier than the Period 3a walls of Building 2 (see below), being under the bedding for a brick floor of that building.

The surviving elements of Building 2 consisted of a cellar with a stone stair, and the southern boundary wall of the tenement. The boundary wall was built up against north wall 545 of Building 1, cut across its west wall 301 of Building 1, and extended most of the way to the eastern limit of excavation. The wall was built in several sections (walls 551, 1651, 523 and 509), which suggests it was extended eastwards over time. The walls were rubble in a grey cinder mortar, surviving to between 0.6m and 0.7m above their foundation-less bases.

The Building 2 cellar was of sandstone rubble set in a white lime mortar, smoothly plastered internally. The cellar, 3.3m x 3m and surviving 1m above its flagstone floor, was reached by a stone winder stair, of which three steps survived. The cellar had been altered by the addition of a flagstone floor laid on a bed of clay (747). This same clay was used to line up to 0.4m of the northern wall and parts of the east and west walls. The clay lining featured pink plaster where it had been trapped behind a later stone structure (746), built against it. The rendered clay lining must have been an attempt at damp-proofing, and wall 746 was probably a stone bench built against it.

The cellar was approximately 3m north of the south wall of Building 2, and the position of the winder staircase left space for a corridor (or external passage) between. The north side of the cellar was in line with the boundary with no. 58 St Thomas Street (Plot 2, north). Wall 308 marked the position of this boundary in the piling trench. It was associated with a brick floor (305) on its southern side, on a mortar bedding which ran down to abut wall 551. This floor was 0.8m above the cellar floor and was probably a half-basement of the front of Building 2. No dating evidence was retrieved from this building, but the style of construction would not be amiss in the early to mid 18th century. The bricks in the floor 305 were less than 21/2" (62.5mm) thick, which, unless they were special paviours, would also suggest an earlier 18th-century date or before.

Next to the cellar, just by its southeast corner, was stone-lined Well 3. Its construction could not be clearly dated, but it was backfilled in the 19th century.

Plot 2 (north): no. 58 St Thomas Street

Building 5 survived as a few fragments: a boundary wall and cross wall at the southwest corner of Plot 2 (north), a fragment of the northern boundary wall with Plot 3 and part of a cellar to the north. The south boundary wall (309/723) was of coursed sandstone in white mortar, of which only the footings survive. Wall 732 ran north from it, forming an internal cross wall. It came to an end 3.1m to the north. Also to the north, a short length of east/west wall, 781, marked the northern boundary.

No Building 5 remains survived further to the east, except for the western end of a stone-flagged cellar (728) and a further fragment of the northern boundary wall, 715. The cellar walls stood to 1.25m above its floor on the north side and retained the seating for a vault, which probably crowned at about 2m above floor level, given the width of 3.1m. A stub of wall 715 gave an east-to-west length of 5.9m for the cellar. The floor of the cellar was at 7.21m AOD, a little higher than the cellar floor of Building 2. The northern boundary of this property was also represented by wall 654 at the eastern end of excavation.
Two fragments of stone drain (758 and 785) appeared contemporary with Building 5. Drain 785 ran east/west against the south side of wall 781, and drain 758 clipped the southwest corner of the cellar. A well was noted at this level southeast of the cellar along the southern plot boundary. This was not examined due to oil contamination but it was probably contemporary, within an external yard of the building.

A lease plan of no. 61 St Thomas Street survives from 1816/17 (Fig. 20), which closely matched the surviving fragments of Building 5 at no. 58, suggesting a similar construction. An elevation was also drawn, allowing the age of the building to be gauged both on stylistic grounds as well as the plan type: a late 17th-century date seems likely.

Plot 3 (south): no. 57 St Thomas Street
Floor 768 was a patch of pitched stones pre-dating the construction of Building 6, recorded in the piling trench as floor 310. This was very similar to cobbles of this phase in Plot 4 (below).

The foundations and lower walls of Building 6 survived more completely than the others of this period. As with the other tenement boundaries, the southern wall of this building was independent of the northern boundary wall of no. 58. Two wall fragments, 783 and 827, survived, both of similar character to the other walls of this period described above. The northern wall of Building 6 (788) and its east end wall (711) were integral. A full width rear room was partitioned off by cross wall 797, and further subdivided by a thin stone partition (805) near the east end. The room was stone flagged and vaulted in brick. A structure on the south side, walls 829 and 831, may have been a chimney breast. This room was clearly a vaulted cellar under the rear of the building, although at 8.2m AOD, the floor was considerably higher than the cellars in Buildings 2 and 5.

Three rooms towards the street were separated from the north boundary wall by a passage, which opened into a courtyard between cellar wall 797 and cross wall 789. The eastern room was just under 4m². West of wall 778 was a smaller rectangular room with two post-pads along the centre line (779 and 780), which may have supported part of a staircase. Another room west of wall 769 was probably of a similar size to the eastern room (to the original frontage), but only a small part was within the excavation.

Well 5 was integral with the north tenement wall, 788. Its cap was of the same construction as its lining and the wall was built over the cap. It was presumably a shared well, as was sometimes found on property boundaries, but its position is rather unusual, apparently being reached from an internal corridor. There was no artefactual dating, but the plan and construction details suggest a later 17th or early 18th-century date for Building 6. The building can be identified on a survey of 1914, incorporated within the rebuilding of a foundry in Period 3b (Fig. 22), so it survived well into the 20th century.

Wall 662 was L-shaped and formed the north and east sides of what was probably a yard or garden to the rear of Building 6. The southern side was presumably wall 654, which it abutted, and while the junction of walls 662 and 711 had been truncated when Culvert 3 was demolished, the lack of any scars on wall 711 shows that wall 662 must have been an addition. A single square sandstone paving slab, 705, may have been the sole surviving floor slab of this yard.

Two culverts crossed the yard enclosed by wall 662. Culvert 3 ran from immediately east of the centre of wall 711 northwards to Culvert 4. Like Culvert 4, its sides were of rubble stone and brick, and its base and capping were of sandstone slabs. Two silt traps
were incorporated into the drain at the south end, suggesting that sinks or similar drained into the culvert. These may have been housed in small outbuildings which have left no trace, or the drain was for lead downpipes from the room above the vaulted cellar (there were no signs of pipes or drains through wall 711). Culvert 2 originated under a masonry structure (666) against the east face of wall 662, and then passed westwards under the wall and across the yard, past the south end of Culvert 3, and dived under the floor of the cellar of Building 6. It was not traced beyond this point. Structure 666 seems to have been the top of a drain for excess water, pumped or spilt from Well 6, to which it was adjacent. At the east end of the yard, against the western face of wall 662, was a rectangular brick structure over a circular brick shaft (681) that led down into Culvert 2. This was some kind of water feature, designed to handle flowing water and send the excess back into the drain. Nearby, a ring of radially arranged bricks (683), only 0.4m in diameter, may have been the remains of a hollow plinth for a garden feature or planter. Well 6 appeared to sit within an enclosure or building east of wall 662 (Building 10). This was indicated by the continuation of boundary wall 654 eastwards and the existence of stubs of similar walls (668 and 870) north of the well. It may have been a well house.

Plot 3 (north): no. 56 St. Thomas Street

At the western end of Plot 3 north was a linear spread of sandstone rubble (1405), 1m wide, possibly a path. It was truncated by later structures to the west (below), and to the east by a stone tank 1407. The latter was a rectangular pit with walls of sandstone blocks and the underlying alluvium as its base. It was filled with a series of irregular tips and lenses of red and orangey mortar, ashy clinker and dark brown soil layers (1408). These two features appear to have been domestic structures such as might have been expected in a rear yard, i.e. a garden path and cess pit.

At the eastern end of Plot 3 north were a number of pits. One of these was an elongated rectangular pit (1322) which contained dark brown silt with animal bone and pottery of a late 17th-century date. Two large round post-pits (1308 and 1314), 1.1m in diameter and up to 0.5m deep, contained clear evidence of post-sockets constructed from sandstone set vertically. These two pits could have completed the line of Fenceline 10 of the previous period; however, finds and stratigraphy make it clear that they belong in this period.

No coherent structural remains from this period survived in this plot, but some elements of a building were recorded. To the west, wall 329/796 was a fragment of a boundary wall between nos 56 and 57 St Thomas Street, and was earlier than Building 6, suggesting that the building here went up before Building 6. To the east, stub walls 672, 674 and 676 were later than wall 662 of Building 6, and were therefore clearly not the same phase as wall 329/796. Close to the stub walls, a mortared pitched cobble spread (1192) was probably the remains of a yard surface. Just adjacent was a squared, stone structure, 1190, that may have been the footings or base of a brick pier. These features post-dated pits 1308 and 1314.

Culvert 4 formed the north side of Plot 3 in this period. The culvert was 1m wide internally and 1.98m deep. The side walls (1238 and 1303) were mortared rubble and brick, up to 0.6m thick. It was roofed by the corbelling of the side walls inwards at the top, and bridging the gap with sandstone slabs. Its northern wall supported the southern boundary wall of Building 7 (no. 55 St Thomas Street, below). Halfway along the culvert was a manhole, built through the corbelled capping.
Plot 4: no. 55 St Thomas Street
Wall 408, just visible in the northern side of the piling trench, may have been the northern boundary wall to Plot 4. Cobbles 424 and 1368 at the north-western corner of the plot were very similar to cobbles 310/768 in Plot 3. Such surfaces were generally external or in workshops, being very hard wearing. It is not clear what they were here, as no associated structural evidence survived. Pottery associated suggests a late 17th-century date.

Building 7 lay north of Culvert 4, its northern side beyond the edge of excavation, and was of several phases of construction. Walls 1370, 1295 and 1271 formed the southern wall running partly over and partly alongside the north wall of Culvert 4. Wall 1370 had the remains of a return to the north at its eastern end where it was butted by wall 1295. Wall 1295 was contiguous with wall 1271 and its return north, wall 1249, which formed the eastern end of the building. Two cross walls (1299 and 1266) were recorded, the latter with back-to-back fireplaces. A flagged floor had been laid between this wall and the end wall 1249. A stone tank (1257) was recorded against the east side of wall 1299, but with no sign of a vaulted roof. It may have been a cess pit. Walls 1095 and 1118 were the east and north walls of a rear extension or outshot to Building 7 on the south side of the plot, and only half its width. The plan form of Building 7 suggests a single tenement running back from St Thomas Street rather than a series of smaller ones fronting Mitchell Lane.

A certain amount of rebuilding and alterations can be inferred in this building. Wall 1299 was only 2m east of the northwards return of 1370, and seems to have been a replacement. It butted wall 1295, suggesting it was secondary. It is possible that wall 1266 and its fireplaces were also added subsequently to the south boundary wall. The construction of wall 1295 extended the property to the rear, and wall 1266 created a further two rooms in what was probably originally a yard. This interpretation is supported by the way that wall 1266 cut across both Well 2 and Well 4. The wells are likely to have occupied originally the open yard, with the cess pit against the rear wall of the house.

Cistern 1071, a brick-built tank with a stone-flagged floor, was built against the outer corner of the outshot (wall 1095). The cistern was vaulted in brick with a central access hole. It was rendered internally in pale grey cinder mortar, whereas the brick had been laid in a white mortar, together indicative of an 18th-century date. The flagstone flooring was not watertight suggesting that the tank was more likely to have been a cess pit than a water storage tank. It had no direct relationship to Building 7, but was truncated by structures of Period 3b, so was probably contemporary with Building 7.

Period 3b: 19th to mid 20th centuries (Fig. 9)
During the later 19th century the buildings on the site were replaced or extended and modified piecemeal. Final major changes followed street widening in 1938. Most of the replacement walls were laid in a dark cement mortar and there was an increased use of brick. Further development and recent demolition left little in place of these changes but wall footings and drains. A small assemblage of pottery from this period was consistently of the (mid/later) 19th century and later, with 19th-century Bristol stoneware (BPT 277) and refined whitewares dating to 1840/50 found with more broadly dated 19th-century transfer-printed (BPT 278) and Mocha wares (BPT 223). This dating is supported by associated clay pipes (The clay tobacco pipes, below).
Plot 1: no. 60 St Thomas Street

Building 3 was a rebuild of Building 1. This involved alterations to and partial rebuilding of the south wall of Building 2 in brick (walls 522 and 503), extending the wall to beyond the eastern edge of excavation, which henceforth acted as a party wall rather than part of a double wall arrangement typical of the earlier periods. A new wall was laid along the centre of the plot (505, 545 and 520) with cross walls 514 and 521 linking it to the northern boundary wall. Wall 301 from Period 3a was retained, as wall 520 butted it. At the east end, wall 504 ran the full width of the plot, and wall 505 ended against it. Walls 503 and 504 enclosed a brick-floored yard or room. A brick wall with a kink (seen in the piling trench, 213) marked the southern boundary. Cistern 573 was relined with rubble and given a brick vault, reducing its size to 2.2m x 2.5m internally and c. 2.3m deep. Next to the cistern was stone-lined Well 9, the construction of which had truncated the cistern wall, which seems to have been the occasion for the relining of the cistern. The well presumably pre-dates 1882 as a pump is shown in this position on the 1882 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 21). The rebuild does not match the plan of the property given in 1882 (Fig. 21) or 1887 (Fig. 6) but does match the rebuild shown in a plan of c. 1939 (Fig. 24).

Plot 2: nos 58–59 St Thomas Street

Culvert 1 was a brick-built and vaulted culvert that ran most of the length of Plot 2 (south) at no. 59 St Thomas Street. It was tunnelled under the cellar of Building 2, clipped the north side of Well 3 and continued beyond the western edge of excavation. At its east end was brick-lined Well 7, with the base of a cast iron pump still in situ. Immediately south of it was a square brick shaft forming the head of the culvert. A vertical stone baffle, acting as a U-bend or trap, was still in place. Together, these features constituted a pumped well and adjacent overflow. To the south of the culvert was a brick-lined rectangular pit, probably relating to the workshops of the Bristol Foundry Company, which extended its premises to nos 58–60 after the Second World War. To the west of this was a cistern, shuttered in asbestos and not excavated.

Plots 3 and 4: nos 55–57 St Thomas Street

The boundary wall over the north edge of Culvert 4 was retained as a footing along most of its length. To the north, wall 417/1366 was the front wall onto St Thomas Street and Mitchell Lane, curving around the corner of the new street line that resulted from the widening of Mitchell Lane in 1905. Three new north/south walls 1364, 1293 and 1251, butted the re-used south wall of Building 7 of Period 3a; the rest of the walls were not reused. The brick vault of cistern 1071 was removed to allow the construction of a back room, comprising a wall (1107), which ran eastwards from wall 1251, and wall 406, a remnant of the northern return wall recorded in the piling trench.

Building 9 occupied the northern half of Plot 3. It incorporated Building 6, but the buildings on the rest of the plots were completely replaced. Further south, only a few scattered structures could be allocated to this period. Near the present street frontage were the remains of a weighbridge pit, accompanied by four concrete stanchion foundations shown on the 1914 plan inside the main entrance from St Thomas Street (Fig. 22). The four foundations supported posts that held up the upper floors to either side of a hauling way that led from the weighbridge to the yard at the rear. At the east end of the site east/west wall 1188 bisected the space between wall 662 and Culvert 4. On plans of 1904 (Fig.
23) and 1914 (Fig. 21) this wall divided a yard area to the north from store rooms and foundries to the south. Brick pit 678 also belongs to this period. The southern wall of these rooms was represented by wall 713, a short length of sandstone wall, built over the cellar of Building 6. Wall 707 may have been more of this wall.

THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE
by Roger Leech

This section supplements an earlier desktop study (BaRAS 2002a) that consulted published and unpublished sources at the Bristol Record Office and the National Archives, including Building Plan Books, Corporation Plan Books, Land Tax returns, Poor Rate assessments and Parish Deeds. The previous work was supplemented by research of individual tenement histories through early leases and rentals, derived partly from conveyances relating to acquisitions by the City Council for street widening, and the examination of the title deeds held by Electricity Supplies Nominees Ltd (the present owners of the site).

The origins of the name of Mitchell Lane are obscure. It may be equivalent to the 'Boketeslane' referred to in a will of 1416/17 (Wadley 1886, 98; BaRAS 2002a), and is first mentioned as 'Hundon Lane' in 1496 (BRO: P/St/T/D/139). It is also variously known in leases as 'Howne Lane', 'Hownden Lane' or 'Houndenlane' up to the 18th century: a name it appears to have shared with the equivalent lane on the west side of St Thomas Street, now Three Queens' Lane (BaRAS 2002a, 5).

Detailed tenement histories

Nos 54–55 St Thomas Street (Plot 4)

These two properties formed part of the lands or endowment of Foster's Almshouse on St Michael's Hill. No property in St Thomas Street is mentioned in the will of John Foster of 1492 (TNA: PROB11/9 Dogett 9), and the site probably formed part of lands said to be 'in Bristol' more generally. The earliest mention of the properties in St Thomas Street belonging to Foster's Almshouse is in a deed of 1505 between the Mayor of Bristol and the Master of St Mark's Priory, declaring that John Estefield, a merchant, had lately been empowered by John Foster to endow the newly founded almshouse with various lands including 'a garden lying in [St] Thomas Street' (Manchee 1831, 1, 82). As shown below, nos 54–55 were part of a larger block of land, nos 54–57 all belonging to Foster's Almshouse.

In 1617, nos 54 and 55 were the tenement, garden, lodge and a rack called 'Parke Corner', formerly of Thomas Dale, apothecary, and now in the holding of the widow Ledman, leased as part of the lands of Foster's Almshouse to Julian, Alice and Mary Godman (BRO: 04041 fol.298; 04335(5) fol.98), between 'Howne Lane' (which later plans show to be the same as Mitchell Lane) on the north and the Law Ditch on the south, extending from the street on the west to the land of John Priddy, merchant, on the east. From 1694 the property was divided into nos 54 and 55, and a property fronting 'Hounden Lane'; the latter was probably to the east beyond the limit of excavation. The mention of the Law Ditch on the south refers to a ditch which was also at this point the boundary between the parishes of Temple and St Mary Redcliffe. In the laying out of the new suburbs in the 1120s to c. 1150, for reasons unknown, the parish of Temple extended westward at this point to include nos 54 and 55 St Thomas Street.
From 1694, nos 54 and 55 were the tenement at the corner of Hownden Lane and St Thomas Street leased to Isaac Partridge, his lease renewed in 1710 (BRO: 04335(7) fol.162; 04335(9) fol.102). In c. 1740, this was also the tenement leased for a rent of £1 to Mary Greenfield, spinster, late of Isaac Partridge, now in the possession of Thomas Goldsmith, cordwainer, held by a lease of 1717, and from 1750 leased to Thomas North (BRO: 04044(1) fol.222; 04479(2) fol.114, showing location). By 1775, no. 54 was occupied by William Crisp, baker; the bakehouse is shown on a plan of 1802 (BRO: 04479(2) fol.114). In 1775, no. 55 was the Ring of Bells, held by Samuel Speir, victualler; by 1802 it was held by Philip Tanswell, victualler (BRO: 04479(2) fol.114), and is shown as a public house on the 1802 plan. It was still the Ring of Bells in 1837 and was also listed as such in the 1877 survey of properties of the Bristol Municipal Charities (Manchee 1831).

It is quite possible that by the early 15th century a property fronting St Thomas Street could have been entirely garden. It was a part of the city in which there were scattered gardens with garden houses, the lodges or second residences of wealthier citizens (for which see Leech 2003), and where gardens and open spaces were places in which to site racks for the drying of cloths. Close to nos 54 and 55 was no. 61, described as a garden and lodge in 1566 and 1602 (BRO: P/StT/D/15-16). This lodge was possibly the single-cell structure set back from the street and shown on a plan of 1816–17 (BRO: P/StT/Ch/3/31 fol.4) (Fig. 20). Further south in St Thomas Street, nos 64–66 were in 1572 described as ‘two lodges under one roof and gardens to either of them belonging’, one with two racks for the drying of cloths (BRO: P/STMR/D/4/1). On the north side of Mitchell Lane a garden fronting Hownden Lane in 1496 (BRO: P/StT/D/139–40) was, by 1636, described as the site of ‘a lodge and a stable with a garden adjoining’ (BRO: P/StT/D/4). With a garden, lodge and rack in 1617, nos 54 and 55 St Thomas Street were therefore typical of this part of the urban landscape of Bristol south of the Avon.

The plan of 1904 (Fig. 23), drawn up in the year before the widening of Mitchell Lane, shows that nos 54 and 55 continued as a pub and bakehouse respectively. Following road widening, a very detailed plan of the site of nos 55–57 in 1914 (BRO: 38041/BMC/12/PL3 fol.71) shows the corner of Mitchell Lane and St Thomas Street cut back, and a property, a single room in width, at the front end of the tenements (Fig. 22). These boundaries are the same as those shown on a plan of 1953 (BRO: 24529(5)).

Nos 56–57 St Thomas Street (Plot 3: north and south)
Early tax returns do not list a full complement of properties for nos 56–57 St Thomas Street (or for nos 58–60, see below), and named occupants cannot be ascribed to specific properties within the site with any confidence. Post-1700 Land Tax returns for Redcliffe list three entries running north from no. 60, and it is unclear whether no. 56 is omitted or included with no. 57. The house and yard which are described as the northernmost Redcliffe property in 1730 can be traced through occupancy to 1775 when it is numbered 57 St Thomas Street. It is notable that the 1870 Matthews Directory skips no. 56 altogether, as does the Redcliffe Parish first rate assessment. The property at no. 57 was occupied by a wheelwright from 1755. In 1810, John Geves, an iron founder, is listed here and the property continued as an iron foundry through the rest of the 19th century; the Goad 1887 Fire Insurance Plan (BRO) shows a warehouse with a foundry to the rear. By 1939, the property had been absorbed into the Bristol Iron Foundry which had taken over most of the area within the limits of excavation (BRO: 24529; Fig. 24). Nos 56–57 formed part
of Foster’s lands when conveyed by the trustees of the almshouse to Weston’s Estates Ltd in 1904, the properties being shown in detail on the plan of that date (Fig. 23). Nos 56 and 57 clearly formed one property by 1914, when shown on the plan of that date (Fig. 22) as the foundry of Messrs Weston’s Ltd. The plan within an Abstract of Title of c. 1939 shows nos 55–56 and no. 57 as the same holding (Fig. 24). At an earlier date, no. 57 was probably a separate property, having on the street frontage a house of two rooms in depth with a central staircase, a plan typical of the 17th century.

Nos 58–59 St Thomas Street (Plot 2: north and south)

Early tax returns do not list a full complement of properties for nos 58–59 St Thomas Street, and as a consequence, it is difficult to establish the occupation or occupier at no. 58 until John Merewether was named in the Redcliffe Land Tax for 1745, later listed as ‘gent’ (Sketchley 1775). By 1800, Charles Powell was resident and the 1810 tax returns list him as ‘seedsman’, although William Dibben at no. 59 was the proprietor of both premises. The 1820 Land Tax lists a cooper at no. 58, a cab proprietor in 1870, and in 1875 a smith, but the property continued to be listed as a dwelling house throughout with no shop or workshop attached, and it may be that these trades were practised elsewhere. The 1882 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows a shared yard with no. 57 occupied by Campbell Foundry (Iron), although the property at the street front continued as a dwelling house (BRO: Goad 1887 Fire Insurance Plan).

At no. 59, Mary Gee, grocer, succeeded Captain Brackinrigd in the 1760s tax returns and in Sketchley’s Directory of 1775. In 1790, William Dibben, the proprietor of both nos 58 and 59, was in residence, replaced by James Bartlett, corn factor (corn dealer), in 1820. By 1841, Mary Parker ran a seminary here, and in the remaining years of the 19th century the property housed a tailor, sign-painter, bellows-maker and basket-maker. Nos 58–60 were rebuilt in 1938 (Winstone 1987, pl.134; BRO: Building Plan book 174, fo.28). The plan within an Abstract of Title of c. 1939 shows nos 58–59 as one holding (Fig. 24).

No. 60 St Thomas Street (Plot 1)

Deeds for no. 61 dated from 1409, 1438 and 1446 record land to the north as a garden of the Abbot and Convent of Keynsham (BRO: P/StT/D/133–35). In 1456 and 1457 the abutals record John Benett, tucker (woolworker), at no. 60 (BRO: P/StT/D/1; P/StT/D/137); in 1468 the abutals refer to the garden ‘of Richard Earle’ (BRO: P/StT/D/136). No further information was available until 1681 when no. 60 was in the tenure of Joseph Ivy, a weaver (BRO: P/StT/D/154). By the mid 18th century the Redcliffe Land Tax included tenements that may have lain behind the main property at the street frontage. By 1764 the tax payer at this property was the licensee of the Artichoke public house, and the 1775 Sketchley Directory lists Joseph Jenkins as ‘victualler’, although his profession in 1784 was a house carpenter. Tax assessments of the mid 19th century continue to list a house and tenement for this property (BaRAS 2002a). The plan within an Abstract of Title of c. 1939 shows no. 60 as one holding (Fig. 24).

THE FINDS

Pottery, by E.R. McSloy

A total of 3327 sherds of medieval and later pottery, weighing 49.07kg, was recovered from
356 separate deposits. Of these, 2668 sherds, weighing 27.25kg, were from the medieval period and 659 sherds, weighing 21.82kg, were post-medieval and modern. The pottery was sorted by fabric type, using as a basis the Bristol Pottery Type (BPT) series (Ponsford 1988; 1991). Sherd count and weight were recorded for each context and, where these could be determined, vessel form and rim EVEs (Estimated Vessel Equivalents). A system of form classification was utilised, adapted from the Medieval Pottery Research Group’s scheme (MPRG 1998) and incorporating recording of rim, base or handle morphology.

The bulk of the assemblage was recovered from hand excavation, with further material (167 sherds weighing 461g) retrieved from bulk soil samples. Mean sherd weight values, excepting sherds extracted from soil samples, are 10.4g for the medieval component and 33g for post-medieval/later material. This difference reflects both the greater robustness of the later wares and the moderately high levels of fragmentation noted for the medieval component.

**Assemblage composition: medieval**
The assemblage is broadly reflective of medieval groups recovered from excavations across the city, with types produced in or near Bristol making up the majority (58.2% by sherd count). Of the remainder, most comprised regional ‘imports’ from the neighbouring areas, primarily north Wiltshire. Among this material, the major production centres at Minety and also (probably) Nash Hill, Lacock (Wiltshire), are moderately well represented. The largest element comprised the so-called ‘Bath A’ type coarseware (BPT 46) which is thought to originate in west Wiltshire or north-east Somerset. Continental imports are present as a small group of north French wares (seven sherds or 0.3%; BPT 366) and, reflecting the later medieval emphasis in the assemblage, south-west French wares (60 sherds or 2.3% by count; BPT 156 and 157).

**Assemblage composition: post-medieval and modern**
The later part of the assemblage, although much smaller, follows broad trends of supply established from city assemblages for the post-medieval period, with the shifting of production away from the city after c. 1450 (below). The composition of most groups reflects the limited evidence for activity after c. 1700. The range of continental types present supports this chronological emphasis, the most common types being Rhenish stonewares of the 16th and earlier 17th centuries. Of similar dating are Iberian types (BPT 81 and BPT 282); their presence also reflects increased trade with Portugal from the 15th century onwards.

**Chronology: c. 1120 to c. 1200**
The earliest identifiable pottery comprised small quantities of BPT 6, a type first identified in association with the filling of the castle motte ditch, and thought to date before c. 1120 on this basis (Ponsford 1991, 136–7). This occurs as small body sherds, for the most part from Period 1a deposits (posthole fill 1154, layer 1563 and fill 1588 of gully 1558) and all in association with later material. A slightly larger volume of material conforms to types typically datable to c. 1120/1150 to c. 1200. Most characteristic of this period are Ham Green ‘A’ jugs (BPT 26), identifiable from sherds with ‘stepped’ shoulders and/or sherds with lines of diamond-patterned roller-stamping, and pitchers in a pale-firing gritty south-east Wiltshire fabric (BPT 18c) from Period 2a layer 848 (Horizon 2). In addition a proportion of the Minety ware (BPT 18) pitchers (Fig. 11, nos 2–3) and coarseware types BPT 114,
BPT 32 and BPT 46 very probably relate to this period. The quantity of types certainly datable to before c. 1200 is small and a portion of this group appears to be residual.

**Chronology: c. 1180/1200 to c. 1250/1270**

The earliest substantive activity contained within Period 1a took place within this date range and probably after c. 1200. The most characteristic pottery types of this date range are Ham Green wares, principally the Ham Green ‘B’ jug style (BPT 27), the classification and dating for which has been discussed by Ponsford (1991). Ham Green ‘B’ vessels at nos 55–60 St Thomas Street are four times more common compared to the earlier type ‘A’ vessels, and it might be expected that a similar balance is the case among the undifferentiated material (BPT 26/27). The ‘B’ vessels identified are the typical handmade, round-bodied jugs and feature collared rims, bridge spouts, applied frilled bases and applied (self-coloured) strip decoration. In a small number of instances it is possible to apply Ponsford’s proposed dating scheme based on aspects of form and decoration (Ponsford 1991): sherds from three vessels (Period 1a layer 1563; Period 2b layer 850, Horizon 3) feature stabbed ‘deer hoof’ motifs, of the kind thought to occur with early styles intermediate between ‘A’ and ‘B’ styles (Mike Ponsford, pers. comm.) and therefore probably of later 12th century. Three vessels are of Ponsford’s plainer, late style where decoration is confined to close-set grooves, concentric or spiralled up from the girth (Fig. 11, nos 4–5). The dating for the late-style vessels is in the range c. 1225–1275 (Ponsford 1991). Significantly this matches the proposed dating for Period 1a pits 1062, fill 1063, posthole 1500, and fill 1499 of Fenceline 7, based on associations with Bristol Redcliffe glazed wares (below).

Handmade Minety wares (BPT 18) are contemporary with Ham Green and occur moderately commonly in Period 1a. Represented forms consist of tripod pitchers, usually identifiable from sherds with high, flaring rims or from feet and globular jars with short, simple everted rims. Body sherds with combed wavy decoration probably come from pitchers. A pitcher from Period 1a layer 1563 (Fig. 11, no. 3) features a strap handle with applied pads, which is distinct from the 12th-century composite rod handles described by Vince (forthcoming), and may be a later style.

Ham Green coarsewares (BPT 32) occur most characteristically as sandy, red-firing fabric, distinct from that used for jugs (BPT 26/27), although the occasional presence of spots of glaze indicates the two products could have been fired together. Forms consist mainly of jars, typically with rounded bodies, simple everted rims and sagging bases and a decoration of combed wavy lines to the shoulder and/or rim. A more unusual vessel form is a lamp or small bowl from Period 1a Fenceline 1 (Fig. 11, no. 1). It is unclear whether the manufacture of Ham Green coarsewares is contemporaneous with the glazed wares (i.e. from c. 1120), though Vince (1984) favoured a later *floruit*, between c. 1180 and c. 1250. A variant (‘proto-Ham Green’ BPT 114), distinguished by the presence of mixed inclusions of larger quartz, sandstone and some calcareous inclusions, may be earlier or of equivalent date and made at an adjoining manufacturing site at Pill (Mike Ponsford, pers. comm.). A second variant, BPT 305, is characterised by larger jar vessels; it is a type known most commonly from waterfront sites and dates to the late 12th or early 13th centuries.

Bath A type coarsewares (BPT 46) are more common compared to the equivalent Ham Green products, although this may reflect a lengthier period of production. Forms comprise mainly jars with developed/moulded everted rims differing in detail. There is frequent evidence for use as cooking vessels in the form of carbonised residues. In addition
Fig. 11 Medieval and post-medieval pottery, nos 1–11 (scale 1:4)
to the jars there are rare instances of interturned dishes or ‘West Country’ vessels (from Period 1a layer 1563 and pit 1524, fill 1525). The three recorded vessels of this type, which are sometimes interpreted as the bases for bee hives (Jope 1952, 65), are identified from the distinctive base sherds. It is possible that some rims from such vessels are also present in the assemblage, these being indistinguishable from those of the more common jars.

**Chronology: c. 1250/1270 to c. 1350/1400**

The outline model for later medieval pottery supply in Bristol is defined by the demise of the Ham Green ‘industry’ probably by the third quarter of the 13th century, the appearance at broadly the same time of the production of Bristol glazed wares within the city’s suburbs, and a little later on (after c. 1300), by marked shifts in the supply of pottery coarsewares.

Bristol glazed wares (‘standard’ jug type BPT 118 and its variants) were routinely present across the medieval Periods 1a and 1b, and overall are twice as common as Ham Green jug fabrics BPT 26/27 (796 sherds compared to 365). The majority of identifiable forms are jugs and these more commonly exhibit ‘early’ features not dissimilar to the Ham Green series including collared rims, bridge spouts and applied frilled bases. Other than wheel manufacture another distinguishing feature is the decoration, which includes applied strips or iron-rich slips contrasting with the body colour of the vessel (Fig. 11, no. 6). Some vessels feature decoration as applied strips or ‘blackberry’ motifs and these ‘highly decorated’ style vessels probably date before c. 1300/25 (Ponsford 1998). French influence is apparent in jug styles from the start of the 14th century and this is seen in vessels with splayed-out bases in the manner of some southwest French jug forms. It is likely that Bristol glazed wares continue in production well into the 15th century, before the increased availability of Malvern Chase wares brought about a halt (Ponsford 1998). There are very few of the plainer and smaller late-series jugs represented as type BPT 118L. Two sherds with French-style splayed bases are rare examples. Of non-jug forms, only jugs (BPT 85; Fig. 11, no. 7) are reasonably well represented (18 vessels).

Among the more distinctive glazed wares from non-Bristol sources is a sandy fabric with ‘sandwich’ pale orange/grey firing which is tentatively identified as Nash Hill ware (BPT 368), and one sherd in a fine buff fabric (Period 1a layer 925) which is probably a Laverstock product from southeast Wiltshire. Other less distinctive glazed wares or sherds which are burnt or otherwise ‘altered’ (catch-all group BPT 252) may include material from Bristol, south Somerset or south Wales.

Wheelthrown Minety ware (BPT 84) is moderately well represented in Periods 1 and 2, occurring primarily as jars with fewer jugs and a bung-hole cistern from Period 2b gully 1394, fill 1395. The adoption of wheel-throwing at Minety occurs at some point in the 13th century, and thereafter an increasing range of vessels is produced (Musty 1973) and the ware is a constant presence in 14th/15th-century groups from Bristol (Ponsford 1988, 125). An elaborately decorated vessel from Period 1a gully 1056, fill 1057 (Fig. 11, no. 8) is probably an example of this later repertoire.

Continental wares are rare in the Period 1a/b assemblage. The majority comprised southwestern French mottled-glazed wares (BPT 156 and 157), which are expected to date after c. 1250, continuing to c. 1350 (Ponsford 1991, 137). Most are unfeatured jug sherds, although a vessel from deposit 806 (Horizon 1, Period 1b) features a wide, splayed base and probably dates after c. 1300. A thick-walled sherd in sandier variant BPT 157 is probably from a mortar (from Period 1b, bank 685). Jugs which are unglazed or have a sparse glaze
‘bib’ (BPT 160) represent a late variant, dating after c. 1350 and continuing into the post-medieval period. This variant is less common overall, although, significantly, the majority of sherds occur from deposits dated to later medieval phases (Periods 1b and Period 2b).

**Chronology: c. 1400/50 to c. 1600/50**

A small number of types define pottery supply in the period c. 1400 to c. 1600 and are moderately prominent at nos 55–60 St Thomas Street in Periods 2a and 2b. Most common are Malvern Chase red wares (BPT 197), which are noted in a wide range of forms including jars (Fig. 11, no. 10), pipkins, skillets, bowls (Fig. 11, no. 9), jugs and a cistern. No distinction was made at the time of recording between the reportedly earlier fabric (Vince, forthcoming) and the later finer and pink-firing variants; however, it would appear that the large majority conforms to the later type and probably dates after c. 1500. As noted by Vince (ibid.), Malvernian wares are not thought to continue much beyond c. 1600.

‘Tudor Green’ type wares are moderately sparsely represented: 22 sherds, predominantly from Period 2a/b. Cups in this tradition from the Hampshire/Surrey borders (Pearce and Vince 1988) occur in Bristol from c. 1420, probably continuing into the 16th century. Forms consist of thin-walled body sherds or handle fragments from cups, including a lobed cup from Period 2a pit 1464, fill 1465. Cups in the Cistercian ware tradition, consisting of hard redwares with a dark brown glaze (BPT 93 and 275), overlap in date with the Tudor Green vessels, the main period of use being the 16th and 17th centuries. An emphasis in the later end of this range is suggested by the phasing: three sherds occur from Period 2a and 11 sherds from Period 2b (below). The illustrated example from Period 2a posthole 1411 (Fig. 11, no. 11) compares with 16th-century examples from Acton Court (Vince and England 2004, fig. 9.4, no. 110).

The middle to late 16th century is marked in Bristol by further changes in the supply of pottery coarsewares and a shift southwards from Malvern Chase to sources in Somerset (principally Nether Stowey type BPT 280 and Wanstrow type BPT 96). This shift is demonstrated most clearly in Bristol from the well dated Narrow Quay assemblage (Good 1987). At nos 55–60 St Thomas Street the range of forms differs between the main types: the Wanstrow group comprised small jars comparing to those from Narrow Quay (Good 1987, fig. 33); pipkins (ibid., figs 24–25); deep bowls (ibid., fig. 20); chafing dishes (ibid., fig. 38) and jugs. The Nether Stowey group typically comprised more decorative forms, mostly large plates/chargers with sgraffito or over-slipped decoration (Fig. 12, no. 16) and fewer deep bowls (Fig. 12, no. 14), jars and a chafing bowl (Fig. 12, no. 15). The Somerset wares, including the unattributable type BPT 285, are scarce until Period 2b, where they represent 50% of the total sherd count (excluding the residual medieval element).

Continental imports attributable to this period occur only sparsely and include Rhenish stonewares (Raeren type BPT 287 and Frechen BPT 286), the latter type continuing into the 17th century, and Iberian types (‘olive jar’ type BPT 81 and micaceous red ware BPT 282). Some of late south-west French wares (BPT 160; above) may also extend into the 15th and 16th centuries and this type is significantly better represented in Period 2a than in earlier phases (16 sherds). Continental imports are present sporadically across Periods 2a/2b, mostly as unfeatured sherds. Large and joining sherds of a Frechen drinking jug/mug (Fig. 12, no. 12) are among a group of material which appears incongruously early within Period 3a gully 1316 (fill 1317) and it is likely that this vessel dates to the 16th century. A notable ‘import’ (Fig. 12, no. 13) unfortunately redeposited within modern
Fig. 12 Medieval and post-medieval pottery, nos 12–21 (scale 1:4)
deposit 529, is a sherd from north Italian Montelupo tin-glazed earthenware (BPT 107). The form is a large plate or charger with painted polychrome decoration identifiable as of the ‘nastri’ (stars) design sometimes referred to as ribbon pattern (John Allan, pers. comm.). Dating for this vessel is probably in the range c. 1525–1625.

**Chronology: c. 1650 to c. 1780**

Pottery attributable to this period (within Period 3a), is under-represented at nos 55–60 St Thomas Street compared to earlier material, although the general trends in supply are still reflected. The Somerset glazed earthenwares remain in production well into the later 18th century and this is reflected in their continued presence into Period 3a. By 1650 coarse ‘gravel-tempered’ wares (BPT 112) and a finer, commonly sgraffito-decorated type, appear and during the 18th century are a common element of coarsewares. Production of tin-glazed earthenwares (BPT 99) began in Brislington in the 1640s and in Bristol soon after. Early (17th-century) English tin-glazed wares are present in the assemblage as porringers (Fig. 12, no. 17) and as plates possessing footrings, where the undersides are of clear lead-only glaze (Fig. 12, nos 18 and 21). Later flatwares with plain bases also occur and include examples with ‘chinoiserie’ designs (Fig. 12, no. 19) and, after c. 1750, with powdered manganese decoration (Period 3a, Culvert 5). By 1690/1700, yellow slipwares (BPT 100) made either in Staffordshire or in Bristol itself appear and are abundant in 18th-century groups. An example with slipped motto is illustrated (Fig. 12, no. 20).

**Catalogue of illustrated sherds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>BPT</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Lamp or bowl with pouring lip.</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Fenceline 1 posthole 1153 (fill 1154)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Composite pitcher handle.</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Horizon 1 (layer 1501)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18/84</td>
<td>Pitcher or jug.</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>early occupation (layer 1563)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Ham Green B late-style jug.</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Fenceline 7 posthole 1500 (fill 1499)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Ham Green B late-style jug.</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>pit 1062 (fill 1063)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Jug with slip decoration.</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>early occupation (layer 1563)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Jar (or pipkin?).</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>Fenceline 9 slot 1375 (fill 1376)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Large jar or bowl with applied, thumb-impressed strip decoration.</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>gully 1056 (fill 1057)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Bowl(?).</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>Well 1 (fill 857)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Jar.</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>Horizon 3 (layer 411)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>Cup.</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>posthole 1411 (fill 1412)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>Mug/drinking jug.</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>gully 1316 (fill 1317)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Large plate with 'nastri' design.</td>
<td>Modern deposit 529</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>280sg</td>
<td>Bowl with sgraffito decoration to rim.</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Horizon 4 (layer 737)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Chafing bowl.</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>Well 1 (fill 860)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>280sg</td>
<td>Plate.</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Horizon 4 (layer 507)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Porringer.</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Horizon 4 (layer 737)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Footring dish with clear glazed underside and tulip design.</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Horizon 4 (layer 737)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Plate. With 'Chinoiserie' design featuring cockerel.</td>
<td>3b</td>
<td>Building 9 (fill of Culvert 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Bowl with motto or personal name in pelleted characters.</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>Posthole Group 3, posthole 1322 (fill 1323)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Counter cut-down from footring plate with clear glazed underside.</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>stone tank 1407 fill (1408)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion**

The pottery assemblage from nos 55–60 St Thomas Street reflects the patterns of supply
established for Bristol across the medieval and subsequent periods. In common with many Bristol sites, this assemblage lacks the larger discrete feature groups which permit intra-site comparisons and can often provide the best insights into contemporary pottery supply and use. The bulk of pottery derives from extensive layers where the potential for accumulation and ‘reworking’ over a extended periods is high.

Evidence for activity before c. 1150/1200 is sparse, but would appear to be continuous thereafter. The medieval wares occur in the narrow range of vessel forms which are typical for the period up to c. 1325/1350. Such forms may have performed a variety of uses, although cooking and storage were undoubtedly primary. Most common are jars with rim forms and body profiles which may differ in detail but where such differences are unlikely to relate to specific function. A broad distinction in the assemblage can be made between tablewares, made up of glazed serving vessels (pitchers and jugs) and kitchen/utilitarian classes, made up of the unglazed types, mostly comprising jars with a very few bowls/dishes and possible lamps. Using this broad-based distinction, the ‘utilitarian’ component makes up 48% by count of the Period 1a assemblage. This figure is somewhat higher compared to equivalently dated/sized assemblages from 1–2 Redcliff Street (37% by count; McSloy, forthcoming[a]) and Cabot Circus (43% by count; McSloy, forthcoming[b]). All of the sites referred to, as well as St Bartholomew’s (Ponsford 1998, 144), demonstrate a fall-off in kitchen wares into the late medieval period (14th to 15th centuries), almost certainly the result of increased use of metal cooking vessels.

It is possible that the proportionally larger kitchen/utilitarian component recorded for Period 1a might reflect lower status for this location. Determining status using an essentially low-status commodity, widely available in the setting of a major port city, has proven frustratingly difficult and there are as yet too few published comparanda to permit comparisons. On the available evidence, French imports, initially mainly from Normandy and then from the southwest, were widely available and occurred at most Bristol sites in moderate quantities. There is some variability in representation, however the figure of 2.2% for south-west French wares at nos 55–60 St Thomas Street (by count as a proportion of the total medieval assemblage) is very closely matched at 1–2 Redcliff Street (2.1%; McSloy, forthcoming[a]) and Cabot Circus (2.6%; McSloy, forthcoming[b]). Higher representation at St Bartholomew’s Hospital (8.1% by count) might in part be a result of a bias to deposits of c. 1250 to 1350, but also hints that the institution, or possibly its master’s lodging, was well appointed (Ponsford 1998, 145). For all sites, the majority of the south-west French wares comprise jugs with mottled green glazes (BPT 156/160). Perhaps significantly, the more decorous Saintonge polychrome products (BPT 39) are best represented at St Bartholomew’s Hospital (34 sherds or 0.5%) and are very scarce or wholly absent at the other sites described.

The later medieval period (Period 1b) continues to reflect the major patterns of supply established for the city, albeit viewed through the confusion of earlier, redeposited material. There are no clear indicators of higher status of the kind recorded from some Bristol groups in the form of south Mediterranean imports dating as early as the later 15th century (Gutiérrez 2008, 61–2). The post-medieval/earlier modern assemblage (Periods 2/3) is relatively small, although it reflects the patterns in supply usual for the period. As with earlier periods, ‘status’ remains difficult to assess. The presence of Spanish olive jars (BPT 81) and of the Montelupo sherd (Fig. 11; no. 13) are hints of higher status in the 16th/17th centuries, although this material is highly fragmented and the possibility that it originated off-site must be considered.

34
The clay tobacco pipes, by Reg Jackson

Introduction and methodology
The excavation produced 336 clay pipe fragments from 34 contexts plus some unstratified material. Of these, 209 were pipe bowls or bowl fragments, of which 13 bowl fragments were too small to be dated. There were five decorated or marked pipe stems.

The pipes have been dated by the use of the general bowl typology developed by Oswald (1975), and refined by Jackson and Price (1974) for pipe production in Bristol. A relatively close date for a pipe can be achieved unless a large part of the bowl is missing or its typology cannot be determined, then only a wide date range can be given. The position, type and style of a maker's mark can be used to refine dating and identify the place of manufacture. The pipemakers working in Bristol have been extensively researched using documentary sources (Price et al. 1979). Bristol was a major centre for the manufacture of clay tobacco pipes and most of the pipes found at nos 55–60 St Thomas Street were made in the city. The marked clay pipes are described below in order of their likely production dates. The names of the Bristol pipemakers whose pipes appear in the assemblage, and their known working dates, are taken from Price et al. (ibid.) and descriptions of their pipes are given below.

Early to late 17th century
Pipe bowls marked with a symbol rather than a maker's name or initials cannot be assigned to a particular maker, although the bowl forms suggest that they were made in Bristol or the immediate vicinity in the mid 17th century. These symbols, all on the heels of the pipes, are a flower in a heart from deposit 507 (Fig. 13, no. 1), a fleur de lys from deposits

Fig. 13 Clay tobacco pipes (scale 1:1)
507 and 1247 (Fig. 13, no. 2) and an anchor from deposit 530 (Fig. 13, no. 3). These deposits all form part of Horizon 4 (Period 3a).

A previously unrecorded and unusual mark occurred on two pipes from deposits 530 and 547, Horizon 4 (Fig. 13, no. 4). It is a two-line mark incuse on the heel but in cursive script rather than the more usual capital letters. The first line is illegible but the second line appears to read 'ovell', perhaps the surname Lovell. Both bowls are forward projecting, burnished, and in the so-called West Country style commonly found in Somerset and Wiltshire but also produced by the Hunt family of pipemakers in Bristol. No pipemaker with the name Lovell has so far been recorded working in Bristol or the surrounding area during the mid 17th century when this bowl type was produced. Pipes with marks in cursive script are rare in southwest England although examples are known to have been made by Thomas Hunt (Atkinson 1965, fig. 1.7) and by Jeffry Hunt (T. Wilcox 1980, fig. 9.10).

**Bristol Manufacture**

**Thomas Monkès.** A heeled bowl, with the initials 'TM' (the T above and joining the centre of the M) incuse on the heel, from deposit 530, Horizon 4, Period 3a. Thomas Monkès obtained his freedom to work as a pipemaker in the city (hereafter 'was free') in 1626 and was still working in 1670.

**John or Jane Wall.** A heeled bowl with the initials 'IW' with decoration above and below, all incuse on the heel, from Well 7, fill 652, Period 3b. John Wall was free in 1639, last recorded working in 1647 and was dead by 1650. His wife Jane carried on the business after his death until she died in 1661.

**Philip Edwards I.** Heeled bowls with the initials 'PE' incuse on the heel from Well 7, fill 652, Period 3b, and Horizon 4, Period 3a deposits 507, 546, and 730. Philip Edwards I was free in 1650, last recorded working in 1681 and was dead by 1683.

**Humphrey Partridge.** Two heeled bowls with the joined initials 'HP' incuse on the heel, from deposit 773, Horizon 4, Period 3a, and unstratified. Humphrey Partridge was free in 1650 and had died or left Bristol by 1654.

**James Fox.** A heeled bowl with the initials 'IF' with a dot between within a dotted circle, all incuse on the heel, from deposit 507, Horizon 4, Period 3a, and a heeled bowl fragment with the initials 'IF' with a single dot above and below, all in relief in a circle on the heel, from Well 7, fill 652, Period 3b. James Fox was working from at least 1651 and died in 1682.

**Flower Hunt.** A forward projecting bowl with a burnished finish, with the initials 'FH' with dotted decoration above and below, all in a circle incuse on the heel, from deposit 507, Horizon 4, Period 3a; a forward projecting bowl with the initials 'FH' in a circle, incuse on the heel, from Well 7, fill 652, Period 3b, and a forward projecting bowl with a burnished finish, with the three-line mark 'FLO/HER/HVNT' incuse on the heel (unstratified). Flower Hunt was free in 1651 and died in 1672.

**William Evans I or II.** A spurred bowl with the initials 'WE' below a crescent of triangles, all incuse on the back of the bowl from Culvert 2, Period 3a. William Evans I was free in 1660, William Evans II was free in 1667, and one of them was working until at least 1713.

**Timothy Ricketts.** A heeled bowl with the initials 'TR' incuse on the heel from deposit 730, Horizon 4, Period 3a. Timothy Ricketts was free in 1651 and dead by 1667.

**Llewellin Evans.** A heeled bowl with the initials 'LE' incuse on the heel from deposit 547, Horizon 4, Period 3a; five spurred bowls with the initials 'LE' incuse on the rear of the bowl from Culvert 1, Period 3b, fill 1408 of stone tank 1407, Period 3a, and unstratified; a stem fragment with rouletted decoration in the form of
one band of interlocking diamonds containing the initials ‘LE’ between two lines of milling (unstratified). Llewellyn Evans was free in 1661 and died in 1688.

John Sinderling. A spurred bowl with the initials ‘IS’ in relief in a circle on the side of the bowl from deposit 530; a spurred bowl with the initials ‘IS’ incuse on the back of the bowl from deposit 1247; a spurred bowl with the initials ‘IS’ with a dot between, all in relief on a circle on the side of the bowl, both from deposit 1247, all from Horizon 4, Period 3a, and a bowl with an oval heel and the initials ‘IS’ incuse on the rear of the bowl, deposit from the fill of posthole 1322, Period 2b. John Sinderling was free in 1668, last recorded working in 1696 and was dead by 1699.

Somerset manufacture

Jeffry Hunt I or II. A single pipe bowl from deposit 799, Horizon 4, Period 3a, made by either Jeffry Hunt I or II, father and son, who were working in Norton St Philip, Somerset, from 1625 to the late 17th century (Lewcun 2004, 356).

Late 17th and 18th centuries

Bristol manufacture

Robert Tippet II. A spurred bowl with the initials ‘RT’ incuse on the back of the bowl and the three-line mark ‘R/TIPP/ET’ in a circle in relief on the side of the bowl, from deposit 530, Horizon 4, Period 3a. Robert Tippet II was free in 1678 and died in 1722.

William Tippet I. A bowl fragment with the initials ‘WT’ incuse on the back of the bowl, from deposit 730, Horizon 4, Period 3a. William Tippet I was free in 1690 and still recorded working in 1728.

Thomas Owen. Three spurred bowls with the initials ‘TO’ incuse on the back of the bowl from deposits 684 and 730, Horizon 4, Period 3a. Thomas Owen was free in 1698 and dead by 1725.

John Macey I. A spurred bowl with the two-line mark ‘IOHN/MASE’ in relief in a circle on the side of the bowl, from deposit 530, Horizon 4, Period 3a. John Macey I was free in 1700, last recorded working in 1727 and was dead by 1739.

John Ricketts I. A spurred bowl with the initials ‘IR’ incuse on the back of the bowl, from deposit 684, Horizon 4, Period 3a. John Ricketts I was free in 1707 and last recorded working in 1715.

John Wickham. A spurred bowl with the initials ‘IW’ incuse on the back of the bowl from deposit 1247, Horizon 4, Period 3a. John Wickham was free in 1723 and died in 1754.

Chester(?) manufacture

Chester origin. A single stem fragment with elaborate moulded decoration in the form of repeating spiral bands of grape vines and flowers (unstratified) is not typical of Bristol-made pipes, although a similarly decorated stem was found during excavations at Union Street in the city (Jackson 2010). However, stem decoration of this type is common on pipes made in Chester during the mid 18th century and that seems the likely origin of this example (Rutter and Davey 1980, e.g. fig. 62).

19th century

The assemblage contained a number of 19th-century pipes with decorated bowls, quite often comprising paired leaves on either side of the front and rear mould lines. More elaborate decoration included a bowl with footballers in relief, a bowl in the form of a lady’s boot and a pipe where four large leaves in relief cup the bowl. These bowl forms and types of decoration commonly occur on pipes made throughout the United Kingdom during the 19th and early 20th centuries, and Bristol pipemakers are known to have been making similar examples (Insole and Jackson 2000, fig. 5. 19; Price et al. 1984, e.g. fig. 6).

One pipe stem is marked with the name ‘Fiolet’ and was made by that company in St Omer, northern France in the late 19th century (deposit 117, part of demolition of Culvert 4, Plot 4, Period 3b). Fiolet pipes were high-quality products, often with elaborately decorated or
figural bowls, that were popular throughout northern Europe, so its occurrence in Bristol is not unexpected.

The majority of the stratified material derived from deposits grouped together as Horizon 4, Period 3a. The date range of the pipe bowls with pipemaker's marks supports the late 17th to 18th-century date suggested by the pottery. Within the assemblage were a small number of pipe bowls with previously unrecorded and unusual marks, illustrated here for the first time.

**Medieval ceramic roof tile**, by Angela Aggujaro

A total of 137 fragments of ceramic roofing material, weighing 7394g, was recovered. A total of 47 fragments (1914g) from Periods 1 and 2 was selected for detailed recording of fragment count and weight per fabric, and where present such attributes as crest form and decoration. The fragments from the medieval phases mainly comprise glazed crested ridge tiles of the type familiar from excavations in Bristol (Williams and Ponsford 1988, 145–9). Two fragments of louvre (a decorative roof vent), are also described, although both are residual pieces from post-medieval deposits.

**Composition**

Fabric classification is adapted from Williams and Ponsford's scheme (1988):

- **Type 1**: Bristol type with common non-homogenised clay lumps (ibid.).
- **Type 4**: Bristol type with abundant white quartz inclusions (ibid.).
- **Type 4a**: variation of Type 4 with black organic inclusions.
- **Type 7**: red-firing Malvernian fabric with sparse igneous rock inclusions (Vince 1977, 274)
- **Type Minety**: Minety tile fabric. Characterised by fine oolitic limestone inclusions (Ireland 1998, 141).

**Roof tile**

The majority of the Period 1 group consists of ridge-tile fragments conforming to Types 1 and 4. These are commonly considered to date to the later 13th and 14th centuries, and were produced in Bristol alongside Bristol Redcliffe glazed pottery. Three fragments are attributed to Type 4a, a variation distinguished by the presence of black organic inclusions.

One fragment, from Period 1 pit 688 (fill 689), is identifiable as of Minety-type and probably dates to the late 13th century or 14th centuries (Ireland 1998, 141). Only one tile fragment, from Period 1a posthole 1209 (fill 1210), may date to after c. 1400. This is a fragment in Type 7, and is representative of material most commonly seen in 15th to 16th centuries (Vince 1977, 274). As such this fragment may be intrusive.

**Decoration**

Five fragments feature a knife-cut crest, probably of triangular form. Two examples, in Type 1 from Period 1b posthole 923 (fill 924) and posthole 888 (fill 889), both feature low triangular crests (under 20mm). The remaining examples in Type 4 all feature higher crests (25 to 40mm). Stabbed decoration was noted to the base of each triangle crest. Nine tiles feature an applied strip that is either thumb-impressed or pinched in 'pie-crust' fashion.

**Louvers**

Two fragments of roof furniture thought to derive from louvres were recovered from Period 2a posthole 1427, fill 1428 and posthole 1471, fill 1472. Both occur in a fabric comparable with roof tile Type 4 and were probably Bristol products. That from deposit
1428 consists of a flattened finial knob, with thick lead glaze, and is similar to examples known from Bristol (McSloy forthcoming[c]) and also from Nash Hill (McCarthy 1974, fig. 23). The fragment from deposit 1472 is glazed internally and externally and is possibly part of a vent aperture.

**Coins/Jettons catalogue, by Edward Besly**

No. 1 Copper 4-maravedis. Spanish America, Juana and Carlos I (1516-55); Santa Domingo, 1542-55. From fill 1261 of Culvert 3.


No. 3 Copper-alloy Royal farthing token; contemporary counterfeit of James I Lennox/Charles I Richmond types, 1614-34. Nonsense legend on obverse. From layer 519, Horizon 4, Period 3a.

No. 4 Four Royal farthing token; Charles I Richmond type 1625-34, probably counterfeit. From levelling layer 1292 within Building 7, Period 3a.

**Metal and worked bone objects, by E.R. McSloy**

The full assemblage of 241 objects of metal, and 9 of worked bone, was recorded. With the exception of items clearly identifiable as iron nails, and some clearly modern items, the metal artefacts were x-rayed to assist in object identification and constructional details. The majority of items comprised iron nails and fragmentary iron objects for which no function could be ascribed. Selected items of individual interest or which are datable by form are catalogued below including five illustrated items (Fig. 14, nos 1–5). Object dimensions are included with each item; measurements in millimetres (L. = length; W. = width; T. = thickness; D. = diameter); (n.i.) = not illustrated.

**Iron or composite (Fig. 14)**

No. 1 Key with hollow stem and elaborate bit. Identifiable as Goodall’s type B, likely to be of 13th century date (Goodall 1980, 148). L (overall). 73mm; W (bow). 21mm; W (shank). 8mm; W (bit). 23mm. From Horizon 4 deposit 547, Period 3a.

No. 2 Iron strip with two small and two large hollow copper-alloy rivets. Although parallels for this object have yet to be identified, use as a scale-tang knife handle is suggested due to similarities noted on examples recorded by Goodall (1980, 83). Scale-tang knives are dated to 13th–15th centuries. L. 66mm; W. 20mm; D. 4mm. From pit 886, fill 887, Period 2b.

(n.i.) Horseshoe. Almost complete horseshoe probably of Clark’s type 4 of later medieval date, (Clark 1995, 88-9). Broad ‘web’ with rectangular holes in 3/3 arrangement. Nails are still present in two of the holes. Residual due to the 16th–17th century date of the associated pottery. L. 118mm W. (web max) 35mm. From backfill 860 of Well 1, Period 2b.
Fragmented iron horseshoe. Probably Clark's type 3 or 4 of later medieval date (ibid.). Broad 'web' with rectangular holes in 3/4 arrangement. Possible calkin or thickening of one heel visible on x-ray. L. 124mm; W (max web) 40mm. From gully 1213, fill 1214, Period 1a.

Blade from whittle-tang knife or shears, broadly medieval in date. Straight-backed. The tang is at the centre line, suggesting a more probable use as a knife blade. L. 135mm; W. 25mm; T. 2mm. From fill of pit 1208, Period 1a.

Iron horseshoe fragment. Elongated countersinking is visible on the two rectangular holes present. This feature is characteristic of Clark's type 2 shoes, which typically date to the 12th and 13th centuries (Clark 1995, 95). L (remaining) 80mm; W (web) 30mm. From layer 1563, Period 1a.

**Copper Alloy**

Domed thimble of post-medieval type. Thick band of dot decoration in spiral form near the crown. Two separate bands of very small dots are visible lower down the thimble. A band of very small dots also covers the area near the open end. L. 25mm; W (open end) 16mm; T. 0.5mm. Unstratified.

Cast sub-rectangular buckle with drilled frame for separate spindles. Similar in style to Georgian-style shoe buckles in Whitehead (1996, 104), which date from 1720 to 1790. L. 37mm; W. 25mm; T. 2mm. From Horizon 4 deposit 547, Period 3a.

Asymmetrical buckle with one large oval and one small rectangular loop. Likely to be post-medieval in date. L. 29mm; W (max) 25mm; T. 2mm. From deposit 547, Period 3a.

Shaped strip. Shaped into two arcs formed from folded sheet with flattened, bent ends. This is likely to have been used as a purse suspender as it is similar in style to examples from Meols of medieval date (Griffiths et al. 2007, 126). L. 6.5; W. 4mm. From Horizon 4 deposit 547, Period 3a.

Pin. The head appears (from the x-ray) to be solid rather than wound and of late medieval or post-medieval type. Similar examples are known e.g. from Colchester (Crummy 1988, 6–9). L. 46mm; W. (shaft) 1mm. From layer 684, Period 3a.

'Loop fastener', a common type of clothes fastener frequently encountered in archaeological contexts of the 16th and 17th centuries. Similar examples from St Bartholomew's Hospital, Bristol (Good 1998, 168). Diameter (external) 10mm. From layer 850, Period 2b.

'Loop fastener' as above. Diameter (external) 12mm. From layer 850, Period 2b.

Lace tag formed from rolled sheet with overlapping seam. Metal lace ends tipped the leather 'points'. They were used to secure the doublet and hose in the late 14th and 15th centuries and were put to other uses in the 16th and 17th centuries (Crummy 1988, 13). L. 31mm; W. 3mm; T. 1mm. From fill 1317 of gully 1316, Period 2b.

**Worked bone (Fig. 15)**

No. 3 Die. Of regular type (the scores of opposing faces totalling seven), identifiable as Potter variant 5 (Potter 1992, 79–91) of late medieval to post-medieval date. Scores depicted as circles with central dots. Slight damage to one face (score two). L. 70mm; W 70mm; D 70mm. From Horizon 4 deposit 547, Period 3a.

No. 4 'Pinner's bone.' Adapted from a sub-adult cattle metapodial. Diagonal file marks visible on flattened proximal end. Such items were used in the manufacture/finishing of wire pins before the end of the 18th century when the process was mechanised (MacGregor 1985, 171). L. 127mm; W. (max.) 53mm (min.) 12mm. From fill of gully 1316, Period 2b.

No. 5 Spoon with plain, sub-rounded bowl with handle, 'twisted' midsection and scallop-shell handle terminal. Post-medieval dating is suggested on the basis of its association with pottery dating between the late 17th and 19th centuries. Parallels for this object are not forthcoming. It is likely that the design follows that of metal spoons. L. 88mm; W. (bowl) 20mm (max handle) 13mm. From fill 1261 of Culvert 3, Period 3b.

No. 6 Domino, 18th-century or later date. Double ring and dot in 6/9 arrangement. L. 25mm; W. 14mm; T. 4mm. Unstratified.

Shaft and point from pin or needle, undiagnostic. Crudely formed though 'polished' from use. L. (surviving) 60mm; W. (max) 4mm (min) 1mm. From Horizon 4 deposit 547, Period 3a.
Fig. 15  Worked bone artefacts (scale 1:1)
Glass and glass waste, by E. R. McSloy

A total of 38 fragments, including vessel and window glass, was excavated in addition to a small quantity of waste material (900g) relating to glass manufacture. A descriptive catalogue for all fragments is included in the archive.

Vessel glass

A total of 21 fragments derived from post-medieval or later contexts, primarily from Periods 3a and 3b. Amongst these were a small number of tableware fragments. Stemmed drinking glass fragments derive from 18th or 19th-century dated deposits, but are insufficiently complete for close dating or further comment. A plain rim fragment from Period 3b deposit 518 (Fig. 16, no. 1) occurs in poor yellowish green glass (forest glass?) and may be an example of an earlier post-medieval (16th or 17th centuries) beaker or tumbler of English manufacture.

Examples of glass pharmaceutical phials were recovered from Period 3 and unstratified contexts. A complete phial from Period 3 deposit 1072 is of unusual form (Fig. 16, no. 2). Dating for this vessel in the 17th or early 18th centuries is likely (John Shepherd, pers. comm.) and there is a similar ribbed flask of comparable date from Canterbury (Charleston 1987, fig. 94, no. 20). That the form occurs somewhat later is however suggested by a bottle of similar size and form (though of 'silvered glass') displayed as a 'witch bottle' in the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford (PRM accession no. 1926.6.1), which is thought to date to the 1850s. Fragmented examples of phials from other deposits are of more typical cylindrical form and likely date to the 18th century (Noel Hume 1969, 73, fig. 17).

The majority of vessel glass comprised bottle glass fragments datable to between the later 17th and 19th/early 20th centuries. A fragment from the fill of posthole 1322, Period 2b, is from a short-necked bottle with string rim, datable to between the later 17th or early 18th centuries. Substantially complete cordial bottles from Period 3b cellar fill 1281, and an ink bottle from the fill of drain 1260, Period 3, date to the late 19th or early 20th centuries. Two cordial bottles from cellar fill 1281 feature embossed legends of later 19th-century type (see catalogue).

Catalogue (Fig. 16)

No. 1 Plain rim fragment from beaker or tumbler, thickening towards rim. Yellowish green glass with common bubbles. Diameter 60mm. From Horizon 3 (layer 518), Period 3b.

Fig. 16 Vessel glass (scale 1:2)
No. 2 Complete phial of ribbed, double-bellied form. Bulbous body, smaller neck expansion and out-curved rim. Clear glass with greenish tint. Height 84mm; diameter at maximum girth 56mm. From Horizon 4 (layer 1072), Period 3a.

(n.i.) Moulded clear/natural green-coloured bottle with embossed legend ‘H.L. WILLIAMS XXL NEWPORT MON and E. BREFFIT & Co. MAKERS LONDON’. The Breffit bottle manufacturer operated from c. 1880 to 1913. From Building 7 cellar fill, deposit 1281, Period 3b.

(n.i.) Moulded clear/natural green-coloured ‘Codd’ bottle with embossed legend ‘BATEY & Co. KINGSLAND RD’. The Batey ginger beer makers company was established c. 1853 and operated as a limited company from 1887 until 1952. This bottle was manufactured by Turner and Co. and probably dates to the 1880s or 1890s. From Building 7 cellar fill, deposit 1281, Period 3b.

Window glass
Window glass (17 fragments) was recovered from ten Period 2 and 3 deposits. The earliest material, including fragments from Period 2 deposits, consists of dark green forest glass panels deriving from diamond-leaded windows of 16th or 17th-century type. A complete ‘quarry’ which features grozed edges, was recovered from Period 3 deposit 507. The remainder of the window glass, mostly from Period 3, consists of fragments in natural green or colourless glass and probably dates to the 18th or 19th century.

Glass waste
Small quantities of glassworking waste (900g), comprising dark green-coloured blocky lumps and elongated ‘runs/pulls’, were recovered from Period 2 and 3 deposits. The material is typical of the glasshouses in Bristol and other areas, associated with bottle manufacture between the later 17th and early 19th centuries. The quantities of waste material are insufficient to imply close proximity of glassworking activity and it is probably residual.

Metallurgical residues, by E.R. McSloy
A smithing hearth bottom weighing 466g from the Period 1a charcoal-rich layer 1541 (Wood charcoal, below) in Plot 4 is the only direct evidence for smithing activity. More plentiful are residues including hearth/furnace lining (136g), vitrified clay/cinder (162g) and ‘miscellaneous’ ironworking slag (467g) which are unspecific of a particular process. A small quantity (23g) of ‘tap’ slag, characterised by low vesicularity and ‘ropey’ structure, was noted from Period 1 deposits, and was the sole evidence for iron smelting. In all instances the quantities recorded are much too low to imply ironworking in the immediate area.

Clay moulds, by E.R. McSloy
A total of 176 fragments of clay mould weighing 3429g was recovered, providing evidence for the casting of copper-alloy vessels. The bulk of the material derived from fill 1465 of Period 2a pit 1464, associated with pottery dating to the 15th or 16th centuries. A small quantity derived from Period 1 layer 1410, into which this feature was cut, is almost certainly intrusive. The system of recording and classification was adapted from that used for the clay mould material from Cowick Street, Exeter (Blaylock 2000). Thin-section analysis was undertaken on two samples from pit 1464 for the purposes of characterising and confirming the use of local clays (below).

Description
Fragments were identified from each of the two main components of the mould: an inner ‘core’ and an outer ‘cope’, which was probably made in two halves and luted together.
Cope and core fragments were fairly readily distinguishable with either a concave or convex casting surface. Some cope fragments exhibit the longitudinal ‘wire’ moulding which is a common feature of cauldrons and skillets of mid 14th to 17th-century date. In addition to the cope/core rim and body fragments, there are a small number of fragments identifiable as ribbed leg moulds (Fig. 17, no. 2). A small fragment with one curving surface surviving with a diameter of approximately 80mm may represent part of the sprue cup (the funnel-shaped ‘in-gate’ for the pouring of the molten metal).

**Discussion and dating by form**

Leaded-bronze cooking vessels, cast in clay moulds, are known from the late 12th century in England, becoming progressively more common throughout the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Casting in clay moulds continued to c. 1670/1700, with sand-casting dominant thereafter. No certain examples of handle moulds were recorded, making identification of the vessel forms produced problematical. The size of the vessels, indicated by the few larger surviving fragments of rim and leg mouldings (Fig. 17, nos 1 and 2), is most appropriate for cauldron vessels; the common form for which was with an everted rim and globular (medieval) or bag-shaped (post-medieval) body, with two round-sectioned L-shaped handles and three legs. This basic vessel form has its origins in the medieval period and continued into the 16th and 17th centuries. The few lower body mould fragments from nos 55–60 St Thomas Street suggest that at least some of the vessels produced were of low-bellied or ‘bag-shaped’ body profile, most typical of earlier post-medieval vessels (Butler and Green 2003, 8).

No structural evidence associated with metal casting was recorded and the mould fragments might represent a dump of material from activities located elsewhere. The assemblage is similar in character to material from 1–2 Redcliff Street dated c. 1400–1580, which was associated with well preserved reverberatory furnace structures (Hart, forthcoming), of the kind required for the melting of copper alloys.

**Illustrated fragments (Fig. 17)**

No. 1  ‘Core mould rim fragment’ from vessel with diameter of c. 350mm, from pit fill 1465, Period 3a.
No. 2  Ribbed leg mould fragment, from pit fill 1465, Period 3a.

![Fig. 17 Clay mould fragments (Scale 1:3)](image-url)