



Excavations at the former King and Barnes brewery, Horsham, West Sussex

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INTRODUCTION

During 2002, Archaeology South-East (ASE; UCL Institute of Archaeology) was commissioned by Atis Real Weatheralls, on behalf of Belmont Homes Ltd, to carry out an archaeological evaluation followed by excavation at the former King and Barnes brewery site, Horsham, West Sussex (Figure 1; NGR TQ 1688 3079).

Figure 1: Site location

The site, which lies in the suburb of the medieval town, is bounded to the south by Bishopric, to the east by Albion Way, to the north by the rear of properties on Springfield Park Road and to the west by 22 Bishopric. All buildings previously present on the site were demolished prior to the archaeological investigations except for a grade II listed building (No. 16 Bishopric ref: TQ1630. 877/1/1011) located at the front of the site. The underlying geology, according to the British Geological Survey, consists of Weald Clay overlying Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand.

The archaeological work was undertaken in response to a condition attached to planning consent (Planning ref: HU/159/01) for the residential development of the site. Following an evaluation, an excavation area was targeted (Figure 1). The results of the evaluation and excavation were assessed according to English Heritage (1991) guidelines (Stevenson and Barber 2003).

As part of this process, finds and environmental material was also assessed and, where appropriate, analysis reports were subsequently prepared. Because most of the assemblages are small, pertinent information has been integrated into the stratigraphic narrative and discussion below. Full versions of these reports are

available from ASE upon request. Although also of relatively small size, the medieval and post-medieval pottery assemblage is considered particularly significant because of the rarity of assemblages of this date from the town. Information from this text has therefore been detailed more fully in the discussion section.

Historic buildings recording (HBR) of the listed building, No 16 Bishopric, was undertaken ahead of the archaeological investigations (Martin and Martin 2001). This buildings recording has provided a valuable resource during the analysis of the below ground archaeological remains and the two strands of evidence have been used holistically in the following article to provide an integrated account of the site's history.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The original Anglo-Saxon settlement focus of Horsham lay to the east of the King and Barnes site, clustered around a crossroads where Denne Road and Park Street (now Park Way) crossed East Street (Aldsworth and Freke 1976, 33). The early years of the town which followed the Norman Conquest are not clear, but by 1235 it had been granted borough status and the morphology of the town suggests an element of planning. This is shown by the broad triangular market place (Carfax), with the church at its apex, and a rudimentary grid of streets which can still be traced in the modern street plan.

The King and Barnes site lies to the west of this medieval centre within a late medieval suburb known as 'Bishopric' (alternatively the Archbishopric or the Rookery; Hurst 1889). It gained this name, recorded from 1514, because it lay in the Archbishop of Canterbury's manor of Marlpost (Harris 2004, 15). A tannery may have existed in the area by c.1285 and by 1426 there are references to three tanners and a shoemaker in Marlpost tithing (Harris 2004, 15). Elements of the surviving structure of No.16 Bishopric, located at the front of the site, date back to around the 15th century. Here a medieval range is thought to have been situated to the rear of the present main range of the building (Martin and Martin 2001, 1).

The earliest map available dates from 1756 (Plan of House, Gardens and Lands at Horsham in the County of Sussex belonging to Samuel Blunt Esq) (not reproduced) and partly shows No. 16 flanked to the east by another building set

between an enclosed garden with a geometric pattern of paths and another empty enclosure. The Tithe Map of 1844 (Figure 2) shows a number of houses along the frontage with long gardens behind, some containing outhouses and all with different owners and tenants. Parcel 18 was a pub (the Green Dragon). Behind them lay a meadow, attached to parcel 13 (the present No. 16).

Figure 2: Tithe Map, Horsham Parish (1844)

Some local colour is added by Henry Burstow, a resident of the street, who recorded that in the 1820s and 1830s many of the cottagers made clay pipes (Windrum and Hughes 1982). It is also known that from 1852 until 1914 the Bishopric was used as the cattlemarket and that practically every house in the street was an alehouse, (Windrum 1978). Fittingly, by this time the King and Barnes brewery was established and is shown to have been in place on the 1876 Ordnance Survey Map, to the north of the parcel of land belonging to No 16. Associated buildings had expanded into the western edge of the current excavation area by the next edition of the OS in 1897. A similar pattern of occupation continued in the 20th century with historic mapping generally showing a static arrangement of domestic dwellings along the street frontage, with the periodically evolving and expanding industrial concern of the brewery behind.

SITE AREA, NATURAL GEOLOGY AND OVERBURDEN

Twelve evaluation trenches were initially excavated and two of these fell outside of the excavation area but contained some remains which help to expand on the site's history. The results from these are integrated into the narrative. The excavation area itself was 0.04 ha in size.

The natural Weald Clay was exposed at height of c.41m AOD. The site was sealed by a shallow overburden of c.0.20–0.50m, comprising subsoil (where surviving) overlain by demolition material or made ground. In general, there was a great deal of disturbance across the site caused by modern services.

MEDIEVAL (C.1350–1500 PERIOD 1, PHASE 1): SETTING OUT THE PLOTS

The first definitive archaeological activity dates to the medieval period (Period 1, phase 1). This comprises the construction of formal plot boundaries that either faced directly onto the north-west/south-east aligned street (later known as the Bishopric) or ran from the rear of (conjectured) buildings fronting the street. Within the plots evidence of rubbish disposal in pits was uncovered (Figure 3). The associated finds assemblage was small in size and the datable evidence fairly sparse, although it was from the primary fills of features and provides secure dates for their initial infilling.

Ceramic evidence hints at 11th to 12th century activity in the vicinity and although some of the sand tempered wares may be of early 13th century date, the majority of medieval material appears to point towards 14th and 15th century activity at the site. Virtually all of the features belonging to this period had stratigraphic relationships with later, securely dated, overlying archaeological remains.

Figure 3: Plan of Period 1, phase 1.1 (1350–1400) and phase 1.2 (1400–1500) remains

The historic building recording shows that, towards the end of this period, sometime in the 15th century, the earliest dateable element of the upstanding building at No 16 Bishopric (Figure 3, building B1) was constructed. This seems to have happened around 150 years after the earliest archaeological evidence of activity on this plot and may be a replacement for an earlier building in the same location.

The plot boundaries (ditches D1 and D2)

Two parallel, north-south aligned ditches, D1 and D2, forming plot boundaries were the earliest features present on site.

Figure 4: South-west facing section of [110], D1 (0.5m scale bar)

Ditch D1 was 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep, its upper infilling probably lost to truncation by later activity. The single remaining fill contained a limited finds

assemblage comprising just four sherds of mid 13th–14th century date, but which nevertheless provides a reasonably secure date for its early infilling.

The western plot ditch, D2, was similar in character and was 0.90m wide and 0.10m deep. Unlike ditch D1, two fills were present, the lower of which contained four sherds of c. 14th century pottery. A secondary fill contained a further four sherds of c.15th century pottery. The, final, upper infilling, accumulated as the ditch went out of use, is described in Period 2.1)

The dating evidence recovered from the lower fills of both ditches is broadly consistent and suggests that the plots were created and in use (and the ditches therefore open and accumulating material) by around 1350 and were probably actually cut some considerable time previous to this.

The plots (building plots BP1–BP3)

The ditches (D1 and D2) defined three areas (building plots BP1–BP3) the central of which (BP2) was the most fully exposed during the excavations (Figure 3). These areas represent individual plots, running north from the street frontage. Plot BP2 was 12.5m wide and although the rear plot ditch was not found, it was at least 22m long. The position of this rear boundary is conjectured from the known position of later boundaries shown on historic maps (e.g. the 1844 Tithe Map; Figure 2). This interpretation assumes that the rear boundary's approximate location was maintained through time and that plots BP1 and BP3 were also of similar dimensions.

No archaeological remains of this period were discovered in plots BP1 and BP3. This was probably due to considerable later activity on the site which removed earlier evidence. Plot BP2 provided more evidence of medieval activity as a small group of associated pits were found.

Pit group (BP2)

The four pits which formed this group ranged from 0.50m to 1.90m in diameter and were fairly shallow (c.0.30m deep). All were cut, to an extent, by later activity, meaning that the upper infilling had been removed and just the primary fills remained. Pits [193] and [235], produced small quantities early 14th to 15th century pottery (three and 14 sherds respectively). Two environmental samples from pits [193] and [235] produced very limited assemblages of uncharred macroplant remains and charcoal,

some of which may represent modern intrusive material. There are therefore few clues as to function; although the location of the pits, at the rear of housing plots, might suggest that these were initially dug for waste disposal, although they were fairly unproductive in terms of cultural material.

Building B1 and the use of the plot: archaeological and historic buildings evidence

There was no direct structural evidence of this period identified in the archaeological investigations. However, evidence for an early building occupying plot BP2 was revealed during the historic building recording (Martin and Martin 2001, 1). This recording identified the earliest surviving part of the house now occupying 16 Bishopric as 15th century, suggesting that it probably stood within and was contemporary with building plot BP2. This early part of the structure consists of a two-bay high-end crosswing sited towards the rear of the eastern end of the standing building. The crosswing would have originally been attached to a now demolished range running parallel to the road, which incorporated an open hall with service rooms beyond. The location of the crosswing and the inferred open hall is shown on Figure 3. The building's frontage would have been broadly parallel with the terminal end of plot boundary ditch D2. This probably suggests that the building fronted almost directly onto Bishopric and therefore the edge of the street was located a few metres further north in the medieval period than it is today (Figure 2). The eastern edge of the building as it stands today is broadly in line with plot boundary ditch D2. It seems likely, although it cannot be proven, that further buildings were present in the adjacent plots (BP1 and BP3).

The, albeit fairly limited, material culture found in the pits and primary fills of the plot ditches would have derived from nearby activity associated with the building.

Figure 5: Photograph of the earliest surviving (15th century) part of building B1 showing the two-bay high-end crosswing

EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL (1500–1700, Period 2, phase 1)

During the early post-medieval period, the Bishopric area became more established as a western suburb of Horsham, some 0.40km away from the town centre. According to the historical records, the suburb functioned as an industrial area with evidence of tanning, brewing and shoemaking (Harris 2004, 15–16). As whole, the town's prosperity and population grew during this period and this intensification of activity is reflected in the increased amount of archaeological remains uncovered and major additions made to No 16 Bishopric (building B1). There is, however, little corroboration from either the archaeological or historic buildings data of an industrial emphasis and a domestic use seems the more probable.

?Building B2

The earliest structural evidence found in the archaeological investigations was a short, linear arrangement of un-bonded slabs of Horsham stone, (G8), each typically 0.30m x 0.30m in size (Figure 6). The construction was 0.45m wide, survived to height of 0.30m and appeared to be aligned north-south, in line with the boundary ditch D2. The stonework was set within a shallow construction cut from which eight sherds of mid-15th to mid-16th century dated pottery and a single piece of iron smithing slag were recovered. The remains can be speculated to have formed a sub-wall for the eastern edge of a conjectured building (B2), a structure that would have occupied the front of plot BP3 adjacent to no. 16 Bishopric. A postulated location for building B2 is conjectured on Figure 6, fronting onto the street, although the dimension is unknown and based it is impossible to be definitive in this interpretation based on the limited nature of the archaeological evidence revealed.

Figure 6: Plan of Period 2, phase 1 (1500–1700) remains

Building B1: HBR evidence No 16 Bishopric.

Around 1600, a four-bay front range was added to no. 16 Bishopric (building B1) (Martin and Martin 2001) and would have likely entailed an encroachment onto the street. The 15th century crosswing now became an eastern rear range serving the new front part of the building. It is not known if the medieval hall was destroyed, but it was probably demolished at this date.

A low two-bay western range was constructed to the rear of B1 sometime in the early 17th century (Figure 7). It is possible that the western part of B1 was being used as a shop at this time and that the rear western range was added as service accommodation.

Figure 7: 16 Bishopric, Horsham (B1) during the early 17th century

Building B3

In the later 16th to 17th century, a more substantial structure (B3) was constructed immediately to the north of earlier B2. This could have been a complete demolition and rebuilding of building B2 or it may have incorporated elements of the earlier structure. The remains of B3 consisted of a stone footing or sub-wall (6.6m length surviving) constructed of irregular sandstone blocks (G57) (roughly 0.50m x 0.20m in size) bonded with lime mortar. The wall sat within a construction cut that produced no finds. Seven sherds of later 16th to 17th century pottery were, however, recovered from within the fabric of the footing or sub-wall itself providing a good indication of construction date.

The plot boundaries: infilling and new constructions

During this period, there was apparently some change to the plot boundaries with the ditches going out of use, and perhaps deliberately being infilled in places, to accommodate new buildings fronting the Bishopric. New boundaries must have been built as plots were redefined and there may be some evidence for this with the construction of a possible walled boundary at the east of BP2.

Ditch D2

The western ditch of plot BP2, ditch D2 was partly infilled to afford construction of the building (B2) at the very front of the plot and, sometime later, was further infilled to allow the replacement or augmentation of this building with the more substantial, masonry structure (B3). However, to the rear of the plot, ditch D2 continued as a boundary for some time, finally going out of use in the mid-17th to early 18th centuries. The finds assemblage in this final infilling of the ditch, 33 sherds of pottery alongside iron objects and marine shell, suggest that the feature was used for the

general disposal of waste from the occupants of the buildings fronting the Bishopric (buildings B1 and B3). One object of note recovered from this last infilling was a bone-handled iron knife (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Bone handled knife RF <1>

Possible eastern walled boundary S1

It seems likely that plot BP2 was also increased in size to the east with the possible construction of a more substantial, walled boundary (S1) which replaced the earlier boundary ditch, D1. The remains of this wall consisted of a single course of unbonded Horsham stone slabs (0.40m x 0.30m) probably used as a footing. Late 16th-17th century pottery was recovered from the construction cut in which these foundations sat. The construction of stone culverts in this area in a later period may have been necessary because the ditch was infilled and no drainage was present. Given that drainage might have been a problem, there is the possibility that the masonry structure represents the remains of an earlier culvert rather than a boundary wall.

Evidence of activity within the plots

There is comparatively little evidence for contemporary activity within the plots during this period. This may suggest a real reduction in activity but, given the construction of the buildings and possible boundary wall, this does not seem especially probable. It is more likely that rubbish was being disposed of elsewhere rather than infilling pits within yards. This does, however, leave us with little archaeological indication of what was happening in the immediate vicinity in the early post-medieval period.

Building plot BP2

Only two postholes, ([184] and [164]), containing just two sherds of 17th century pottery were present and there is no way of interpreting what structure they may have represented. Equally, the two encountered pits ([173] and [245]) contained limited finds assemblages comprising thirteen sherds of 17th century pottery and several, diagnostic fragments of ceramic building material (CBM). Environmental sampling of

post-hole [184] and pit [245] produced only very limited assemblages of charcoal and uncharred macroplant remains.

Building plot BP1

A similarly limited amount of archaeological remains were found in plot BP1. This included an intercutting pit group, which produced a varied finds assemblage comprising pottery (dated to the late 17th century and mostly found in pit [126]), foreign stone, iron nails and oyster shell, indicative of general rubbish disposal in open cut features. These pits typically had two fills and ranged from 0.40m–0.50m in diameter and 0.25m–0.50m in depth.

Two postholes, [142] and [144], showed different morphological characteristics and were likely to have been unrelated. Pottery recovered from [142] suggests a 17th century date for the removal of the post. Three pieces of tap slag (indicative of smelting) from pit [104], which also produced 17th century pottery, are likely to be residual medieval, or earlier, pieces.

LATE POST-MEDIEVAL (1700–1800, Period 2, phase 2)

Evidence for activity at the site increases for the late post-medieval period when a number of outbuildings (structures S2–S5) were constructed.

Building B1, No. 16 Bishopric

The historic building investigation discovered a number of early 18th century alterations to no. 16 Bishopric. These included the construction outshot extensions, internal additions such as a staircase and the heightening of the rear range. It is unclear whether these alterations happened sequentially or were part of a single building campaign (Martin and Martin 2001).

Figure 9: Plan of Period 2, phase 2 (1700–1800) remains

Plot boundaries

Though there is no direct archaeological evidence for changes to the plot boundaries, it appears that there were some significant alterations in this period. The possible

eastern wall of plot BP2 (S1) presumably still remained. The western boundary of BP2 can only be inferred at this point; however, it may have shifted around three metres to the east. The main archaeological evidence for this is the location and alignment of the remains of two new buildings (S2 and S3), which may have been built up against the same boundary (Figure 9). Alternatively the insertion of a new linear subdivision within BP2, for which no archaeological evidence survived could also account for this arrangement.

To the north of structure S2 a short surviving length of Tunbridge Wells sandstone wall foundations, S4, may relate to the scant remains of a further structure.

The Tithe Map of Horsham (1844) does show a boundary in this approximate location and it is probable that it had its origins during the 18th century. This apparent boundary also aligns with the eastern wall of the western rear range of No. 16 Bishopric. It effectively reduced the plot size of BP2 to the rear of the building by about a third. These changes also had the effect of creating a new, thin plot, BP4, in between No. 16 (BP2) and No. 18 (BP3) Bishopric, as can also be seen on the Tithe map. This thin plot would later become the access into the King and Barnes Brewery.

Building plot BP2

Structure S2

Structure S2 was a small, rectangular stone and brick-built outbuilding and probably formed part of the plot boundary. It measured 5m x 4m. This building formed a slightly sunken structure, sat within a rectangular cut, dug into the natural substrate (Figure 10). The walls were constructed of mortared Tunbridge Wells sandstone blocks (approximately 0.35m x 0.15m in size) which were faced, in places, with brick. peg tile, brick and sandstone steps led down into the building and onto a flagged sandstone floor, constructed of Horsham stone flags. The tile and brick steps could date anywhere from the later 17th to 18th centuries, but could be re-used from elsewhere. The construction deposits beneath this floor did not produce any dateable material.

Figure 10: Northern portion of period 2, phase 2 structure S2. Looking west (2m scale bars)

Brick samples taken from the walls are of likely 18th century date but may not accurately reflect the original date of construction as there were several clear episodes of repair, probably carried out during the 18th century. This was particularly evident in the northern wall which appeared to be substantially re-built. The unfrogged, grog tempered bricks from this re-build can be broadly dated to the later 17th to early 19th centuries. Taken together, the evidence suggests an approximate construction date of the early part of the 18th century.

A possible indication of the function of the building was found during cleaning and removal of the Horsham stone floor when small quantities of coal were recovered, suggesting that at some point it was used as a coal store. However, this was not necessarily its original function.

The terminus of a short gully, [112], containing late 16th and 17th century pottery was the only feature within BP2.

Building plot BP4

Structure S3: outbuilding

These were the partial remains of a small outbuilding of unknown function, located against the boundary of plots BP2 and BP4. The structure comprised sandstone block wall foundations and a cobbled floor formed of vertically placed Horsham stone slabs. Pottery recovered from the levelling for the floor surface was dated to 1750–1800 and gives a reasonably secure construction date. The building however, was short lived because material recovered from a robber pit which cut the floor was dated to around 1800. This also corresponds to the available cartographic evidence as there is no sign of the structure on the Tithe map of 1844.

Structure S5: outbuilding

A further small outbuilding was located just to the north of built partly over the infilled former western plot boundary ditch (D2). The walls were of brick and sandstone construction, the bricks being, narrow and unfrogged and of likely 17th to 18th century date. Similarly to outbuilding S3, the floor was made of vertically placed Horsham stone slabs. A small stone drain led from the building and it is possible that

this was an outside lavatory or animal shed/stable. The 1844 Tithe map shows a long building in this approximate location and it could be that outbuilding S5 relates to the southern end of that building, although no remains of it were found in a nearby evaluation trench to corroborate this (Figure 9).

Discrete features within plot BP4

There were few cut features of this date to give much of a clue as to the general use of the plot, and beyond saying that it probably related to a garden there is little to be added. Two pits, [187] and [189] (ranging from 1.00m to 1.50m in width and 0.25 to 0.75 in depth) were probably used for rubbish disposal and produced sherds of early to mid 18th century pottery, slag, clay pipe and glass. Two nearby square postholes, [166] and [175] probably formed part of the same structure, perhaps a lean-to against one of the surrounding outbuildings or boundaries. The postholes were 0.10m–0.30m deep. Only one, [175] contained finds, which included, late 17th–18th century pottery, iron and clay pipe.

Building plot BP1

There was no evidence of contemporary activity within this yard plot at this time.

LATE POST-MEDIEVAL (1800–1900 Period 2, phase 3)

The 19th century archaeological narrative is one of substantial drainage construction and the consolidation of the plot boundaries (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Plan of Period 2, phase 3 (1800–1900) remains

Building B1

Alterations continued to be made to No. 16 Bishopric, principally comprising the construction of a new range, infilling the area between the original crosswing and the western range (Figures 12 and 13). Although the standing masonry in this area is of 19th century date, a small area of brickwork in Flemish-bond and a quoin may suggest that elements of this remodelling began slightly earlier, in the mid 18th century. A 19th century façade was also added to the building. On the 1844 Horsham Tithe

Apportionment the plot is listed as a house, garden yard and buildings in the ownership of Richard Turner.

Figure 12: 16 Bishopric (B1) showing historic development

Figure 13: 16 Bishopric today (© 2024 Google)

Culvert S7

A well-built culvert, partly made from Horsham stone slabs and partly from tile/brick ran in two directions. A north-south section was aligned along the plot boundary of BP1 and BP2 and was joined to a north-east south-west aligned section within BP1 (Figure 14). The most secure dating evidence comes from the basal lining of part of the feature which was constructed of tile of 19th century date. There is the possibility that this could be a later repair and that the culvert was constructed slightly earlier, perhaps toward the end of period 2, phase 2 (18th century).

Figure 14: Archaeological excavation of period 2, phase 3 culvert S7

Drainage probably became a problem in the later post-medieval period, perhaps because former ditched boundaries were replaced by walls. The culvert probably served two separate properties, No. 16 Bishopric and further plots located to the east also listed on the Tithe Apportionment as in the ownership of Richard Turner. The presence of the culverts perhaps suggests significant private investment in managing drainage at the site. Horsham's drainage system was not completed until 1879 (Hudson 1986, 182).

Plot boundaries

The best evidence for the pattern of the plot boundaries comes from the Tithe Map 1844 (Figure 2). This shows the western boundaries of No. 16 (BP2) continuing in use from the previous century. It is probable that period 2, phase 1 boundary wall S1 was removed when the substantial drainage remediation detailed above was undertaken, but as can be seen from the Tithe map, the eastern boundary of plot BP2 remained in

roughly the same position (but has left no archaeological trace) and it is likely that the culvert ran adjacent to it.

It is also worth noting that, by this time, the plot (BP4) immediately to the west of No. 16 Bishopric (part of parcel 14 on the Tithe; Figure 2) does not contain any structure adjoining Bishopric but does allow access to the ‘meadow and shrubbery’ to the rear that would later become the site of the brewery.

Sometime towards the end of the 18th century a more substantial, brick built wall (S6) was constructed further east as is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1876 (not reproduced).

The brewery

The King and Barnes Brewery was first shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1876. The purpose of the excavations was not to investigate the brewery archaeologically; however, the edge of a building forming part of the brewery complex was exposed at the western edge of the excavation area. This correlates well with the plan of the building shown on the slightly later OS map of 1897 (see Figure 1). Artefacts relating to the Brewery’s use were also recovered, including glass bottles which comprised, by far, the largest assemblage of glass (by weight) from the site. Some 13 fragments/complete bottles, weighing just over 5.5kg, relate to this phase of the site’s use. The assemblage consists of a number of different beer bottles (11 different vessels) most of which are embossed ‘The Property of King & Barnes, Horsham’. Also recovered was a screw-threaded barrel plug with wooden centre which is impressed with ‘King & Barnes Ltd Horsham’. The Brewery was finally decommissioned in 1999.

Plot BP2

It is worth noting that outbuilding S2 still appeared on Ordnance Survey maps up until 1937. Following this, there is a structure in this rough location but it does not quite equate to the previous remains.

DISCUSSION

Introduction

The archaeological investigations of the former King and Barnes brewery site revealed evidence dating from the 13th to 20th centuries. Although limited in size with relatively little early material culture and environmental evidence, the excavation has given insight into the early occupation of the Bishopric area of Horsham. In combination with the historic buildings recording of No. 16 Bishopric (building B1) the chronological development of the building plots in this area could be traced, albeit with a degree of conjecture.

It is worth noting that the general paucity of artefacts and archaeological features from the earliest periods may not reflect the full extent of past activity. There was much construction on the site in the post-medieval and modern eras that had clearly served to remove evidence of earlier activity to some degree.

Medieval occupation of the Bishopric area

Though most of the earliest pottery dated to the late 13th to early 14th century, there was also possibly some early 13th century material. This would suggest that the ditched boundaries defining the plots were probably cut from around the mid-13th century (Period 1, phase 1). These plots may have run directly from the Bishopric, if the edge of this road is inferred from the terminal of ditch D2. Recording of the historic building (Martin & Martin 2001) has suggested that the original hall of building B1 (No. 16 Bishopric) ran west from the standing 15th century cross-wing. It therefore seems likely that the original frontage of the building was in line with the ditch terminal (Figure 3). This could suggest that the medieval street frontage of the Bishopric was a few metres further north than it is today. Alternatively, if the Bishopric ran in more or less its current location, buildings may originally have been set back from the street frontage perhaps with ‘front gardens’ or street-side stalls.

The archaeological evidence for fairly early settlement of the Bishopric area is perhaps corroborated by a custumal of 1285 which mentions a tanner and someone surnamed Fleming, both residents of Marlpot Manor presumably indicating the Bishopric (Redwood and Wilson 1958, 27–28; Hudson 1986, 136; Harris 2004, 15). Despite the possibility of a medieval tannery in the vicinity no archaeological

evidence related to this was encountered within the King and Barnes site. In fact, the only sign of industrial activity was a single piece of smithing slag recovered from ditch D2. On balance, the fairly limited medieval finds assemblage can tell us little about the economy of the area at this time.

There is no archaeological evidence for any structures in the medieval period (Period 1, phase 1); however it seems possible, given the archaeological activity evident in plot BP2 that an earlier structure originally occupied the front of the plot but was removed for the construction of No. 16 Bishopric in the 15th century.

Discussion of the medieval and transitional pottery assemblages

The earliest material on site consists of a single small sherd of shell tempered ware (residual in context [113]) of probably 11th to 12th century date. Although some of the sand tempered wares may well be of the early 13th century, the majority would comfortably fit into the late 13th, or early 14th centuries. However, the bulk of the assemblage appears to consist of 14th- century well fired sand tempered wares. Although cooking pots and jugs are represented, no feature sherds are present. The Coarse Borderware (M4) suggests activity continued throughout the latter part of the 14th century and to the 15th and it is probable that a number of the harder fired sand tempered wares were contemporaneous with it. The presence of notable quantities of late medieval/transitional hard-fired ‘painted’ wares (M11) confirms this 15th century activity. Unfortunately, the small size of the few late medieval sherds present often precludes their division between the 14th and 15th centuries, a period for which the ceramics of the region are not well understood. Although virtually all of the ceramics on the site are probably of very local manufacture the town was obviously receiving ceramics from the Surrey industries (fabrics M2, M4, M5 and M10) during the 14th century. No foreign imported material is present in the assemblage.

The presence of 11th to 12th- century pottery, albeit one sherd, is interesting, suggesting other early assemblages must lie within the vicinity. Although the site has not produced large, or diagnostic, enough assemblages to fully understand the 14th to 15th century transitional fabrics, it is interesting to note how the Surrey industries were supplying a significant number of vessels to the town in both the later medieval and early post-medieval periods, a characteristic of the assemblages from Crawley, another ‘Wealden’ town (Barber 1997).

The landlocked location of Horsham appears to have greatly hindered the acquisition of foreign imports at least until the early post-medieval period. Although a larger assemblage would be needed from the town to confirm this it is in keeping with results from other Wealden towns such as Crawley and Pulborough (Barber 2008; forthcoming).

Medieval Fabrics

The fabric codes in brackets relate to the West Sussex medieval fabric series and the Sussex post-medieval fabric series.

- M 1 Moderate shell (voids) to 2mm Low fired. (WS: S/M1). Probably mid C11th – mid C12th. (1/3g)
- M 2 Moderate medium sand with common iron oxides to 1mm. Medium fired. (WS: Q/M5). Probably a product of the Earlswood kilns (Turner 1974) which have also been found at Crawley (Barber 1997). Mid C13th – 14th. (4/34g)
- M 3 Moderate/abundant fine/medium sand. A compact and well fired fabric. (WS: Q/M16). C13th – mid C14th. (2/8g)
- M 4 Moderate/abundant medium/coarse sand, often with sparse green patchy glaze. Medium/well fired. Coarse Borderware (Pearce and Vince 1988) (WS: Q/M10). Probably mid 14th – 15th. (12/150g).
- M 5 Moderate fine sand. Well fired. Jugs with external white slip under a green glaze noted. Certainly an Earlswood fabric (Turner 1974) (WS: Q(f)/M9. Mid C13th – 14th. (2/11g)
- M 6 Sparse/moderate fine sand. Medium/well fired buff/grey jugs with good green glaze. Probably a ‘West Sussex Ware’ variant (Barton 1979). (WS: Q(f)/M5. Later C13th – early 15th. (5/39g)
- M 7 Abundant medium sand with rare iron oxides to 1mm. Hard fired jugs with white slip lines under green glaze. (WS: Q/M9). Probably later C13th – mid 15th. (2/39g)
- M 8 Moderate medium sand with larger sub-rounded quartz inclusions. Hard fired. (WS: Q/M21). Probably C14th – 15th. (5/15g).
- M 9 Sparse/moderate fine sand with rare iron oxides to 0.5mm. Well fired. Some evidence of knife trimming to exterior of cooking pots. Spots of glaze noted.

- (WS: Q(f)/M11). Probably an early form of M11 'painted wares'. Mid C14th – 15th. (3/20g).
- M 10 Abundant medium/coarse sand with sparse iron oxides to 1mm. Hard fired. Similar to some Earlswood coarsewares. (WS: Q/M4). Probably C14th – mid 15th. (2/9g).
- M 11 Sparse fine sand with rare iron oxide and mica inclusions. Well/hard fired. White painted slip decoration. 'Painted Ware' (WS: Q(f)/M20a). C15th – mid 16th. (19/187g)
- M 12 Moderate fine/medium sand with common iron oxide inclusions to 0.5mm. Hard fired. (WS: Q/M22). Probably late C14th – early 16th. (1/20g)

Early post-medieval occupation

Horsham experienced continued growth in the post-medieval period, its population nearly tripling between 1500 and 1800 (Harris 2004, 16). The main industries remained tanning and brewing and although these were mostly concentrated to the east of the town, the suburb of Bishopric is known to have been a wealthy area up until the 17th century and industrial activity was almost certainly carried out here in the early post-medieval period (Harris 2004, 16). This wealth is reflected in the archaeological record and the historic buildings recording that showed a sequence of alterations, expansions and new construction. It is in this period that the main street-fronting range and the new rear range of No. 16 were constructed and it could well be that this building campaign marked a change in circumstances (new ownership, or sale of part of the land).

The short section of stone, G8, is the first archaeological structural evidence and this may represent the sub-wall of a building. There were no surviving remains to the east and it seems likely that this structure occupied the plot (BP3) to the west of No. 16. The fact that this structure is in line with the boundary ditch, D2, suggests that the side of the building may have acted as the boundary between Nos. 16 and 18 Bishopric.

This building appears to have been short-lived as it was either demolished and replaced or added to by the construction of a more substantial building (B3) sometime in the 16th–17th centuries. This may suggest an influx of wealth into the Bishopric

suburb as at broadly the same time, the historic buildings record tells us that No. 16 Bishopric (building B1) was substantially added to.

This activity and apparent wealth is not reflected in the finds assemblage which was very sparse. At this time only a handful of discrete features were present, all of which produced very limited quantities of finds or environmental material.

It is difficult to know what to infer from this as the construction of new buildings should equate to an increase in the archaeological signature in their rear plots (for example cesspits, rubbish pits, activity layers) and there may be several underlying reasons. The most likely, perhaps is that later cut features and structures have removed this earlier evidence. It could also be the case that the focus of activity, especially the disposal of unclean waste, occurred further back in the plots, away from the immediate vicinity of the buildings and within the area of plots not exposed during the excavations.

Perhaps the activities carried out in and around the buildings in this area of the Bishopric did not produce a surviving archaeological signature, although one would think that, even if the area had a semi-industrial use, some archaeological evidence would be created. There was, for example, secondary evidence of iron working activity because blast furnace slag and probable smithing slag were recovered. Yet this was in such small quantities that it suggests that iron-working was not occurring very close to the site and that the material had been imported perhaps in hardcore/metalling material used in domestic construction.

The plot boundaries remained in approximately the same location during this period but with several amendments. Ditch D2, forming the eastern boundary of building plot BP2 was infilled towards the street frontage to accommodate the constructions of both building B2 and building B3. It remained open at the back of the plot and was receiving material up until the start of the 17th century. The expansion of building B1 (No. 16 Bishopric) coincides with the replacement of the western boundary of the associated plot (BP2) with a Horsham Stone wall (S1). In effect, this incorporated land from the neighbouring plot, increasing the size of plot BP2.

Discussion of the post-medieval pottery assemblage

The majority of the pottery recovered from the site belongs to this period. Although there is some material of 16th- century date, such as the Raeren sherds, the quantities

involved suggest only a low level of activity. The vast majority of the pottery appears to fall within the 17th to early 18th centuries. Although the assemblage is small it contains a wide variety of wares. As is to be expected, local redwares predominate though the range of forms is uncertain due to the lack of feature sherds. White/buff earthenwares appear to have been obtained from both the Surrey/Hampshire border (PM 14 and 15) and more local Wealden sources, including probable Graffham products (PM 12 and 13). A small quantity of tin-glazed wares are present, most of which appear to be from decorated plates and plain closed forms spanning the early/mid 17th to early/mid 18th centuries. The only imported material for this period consists of German stonewares from both the Frechen and Westerwald industries. The crude nature of the Frechen products, mainly probable Bellarmine, suggests a 17th, rather than 16th- century date. By the time of the early 18th century, regional wares from London and Staffordshire were reaching the town in notable quantities.

Post-medieval fabrics

- PM 1 Medium/hard fired slightly sandy redware with sparse iron oxides to 1.5mm. Sparse 'metallic' glaze. (MGE 6). Associated with M11, suggesting a late C15th – 16th date range. (4/177g).
- PM 2 Medium/hard fired abundant fine sandy unglazed redware. (HFE 11). Probably C15th – 16th. (6/62g).
- PM 3 Raeren stoneware (SW: RAER 2). Late C15th – 16th. (2/17g).
- PM 4 Hard fired sparse medium sand with rare iron oxides to 1mm. (HFE 12). Probably C16th – 17th. (15/455g).
- PM 5 Hard fired redware with rare fine sand. Glazed red/brown, or more commonly green (fabric usually grey for this). (GRE 7b). Mid C16th – early/mid 18th. (61/1,119g).
- PM 6 Medium/hard fired redware with sparse/moderate fine/medium sand. Glazed red/brown, green also present. (GRE 1a). Mid C16th – 17th/early 18th. (43/558g).
- PM 7 Red Borderware (Pearce 1992). (BORD R2a). C17th – early 18th. (1/5g).
- PM 8 Medium fired fine buff earthenware with light brown/tan glaze. Wealden. (WEALD 1). Mid C16th – 17th. (2/13g).

- PM 9 Very hard fired fine purple earthenware with ‘metallic’ glaze. (HFE 9). C17th. (2/19g).
- PM 10 Medium/hard fired fine redware with sparse iron oxides to 1mm. Usually glazed red/brown, though ‘metallic’ examples too. (GRE L1). C17th – 18th. (29/391g).
- PM 11 Black glazed fine redware.(BLGE 2). Mid C17th – mid 18th. (1/4g).
- PM 12 Medium fired fine buff earthenware with green glaze. Wealden. (WEALD 3). Mid C16th – 17th. (3/14g).
- PM 13 As PM 12 but with brown glaze. (WWB 3). Possibly from the Graffham kilns (Aldsworth and Down 1990). Later C16th – 17th. (3/15g).
- PM 14 White Borderware (Pearce 1992) with green (WWG 4) or yellow (WWY 2) glaze. Mid C16th – 17th. (14/119g).
- PM 15 Medium fired sparse very fine sand tempered whiteware with patchy dark green glaze. (WWG 3). Probably an early Borderware. C16th. (1/2g).
- PM 16 Tin-glazed earthenware. C17th – mid 18th from the current site. (TGW). Four types are present: a) bluish glaze with decoration in blue (2/27g); b) plain white glaze (2/5g); c) multicoloured decoration (1/3g) and d) manganese purple glaze (1/2g).
- PM 17 Staffordshire combed slipware (STAFF COMB 1). Probably C18th. (5/16g).
- PM 18 Frechen stoneware (SW: FREC). Mid C16th – 17th. (15/464g).
- PM 19 Westerwald stoneware (SW: WEST). Late C16th – early 18th. (1/16g).
- PM 20 Early London stoneware (SE: LON). Late c17th – 18th. (4/99g).

The late post-medieval pottery assemblage is relatively small. It consists of a number of mid/late 18th- century industrialized wares and local redwares. A range of 19th- century wares is also present.

Late post-medieval fabrics

- PM 21 Hard fired redware with sparse iron oxide and white inclusions to 1.5mm. Glazed red/brown. (GRE L4). C18th – mid 19th. (10/564g).
- PM 22 Unglazed earthenware flower pots in fine sandy fabric. (URE L4). C19th. (5/53g)
- PM 23 White salt-glazed stoneware (WSGS 1a). C18th. (2/8g)

PM 24 Creamware (CREAM 1). Second half C18th. (35/337g)
PM 25 English porcelain (POR 1). Later C18th – early 20th. (2/2g)
PM 26 Pearlware (PEARL 2). C19th. (6/13g)
PM 27 Transfer-printed earthenware. Both a) blue transfer (TPC 1) (9/93g) and b) green transfer (TPC 4) (1/3g) present. C19th.
PM 28 White refined earthenware ('china') with coloured surfaces (CC 1). C19th – early 20th. (6/19g)
PM 29 Yellow ware (YELL 1). C19th. (2/14g)

Late post-medieval occupation

The 18th century saw a reasonable amount of activity as outbuildings were constructed and plot boundaries developed or newly built. Perhaps most significant is a new boundary wall (S4) which created a new thin plot between the existing No. 16 and No. 18 to the west (BP4). There were further alterations to the property in the 18th century. There is little archaeological evidence in terms of finds assemblages to inform on the activities taking place during the 18th century but the construction of a number of fairly substantial outbuildings, in particular building S2, demonstrates an increase in the intensity of activity in and around No. 16 Bishopric. One curiosity is the relative lack of clay pipes from the site as a whole and particularly from this period; only very small assemblage of clay pipe was recovered and almost all consisted of plain stem fragments. No decorated bowl fragments or maker's initials are present. This seems at odds with the late Henry Burstow's observation that many of the residents of the street in the 1820's and 30's made clay pipes (Albery 1975, 11).

CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological and historic buildings investigations complemented each other in the development of a model for the medieval and post-medieval history of No. 16 Bishopric. The archaeological evidence for the plot boundary origins shows that the Bishopric was occupied from the mid 14th century at the latest and was probably in evidence during the 13th century. This perhaps confirms the allusion of a 1285 custumal that mentions tenants of Marlpost Manor that have been presumed to be occupying the area now known as the Bishopric (Redwood and Wilson 1958, 27–28;

Hudson 1986, 136). The two types of investigation have also both reached a similar conclusion that the street frontage of the Bishopric was originally *c.* 6.5m further north-east and that property owners expanded their plots by encroaching on the thoroughfare or shifting the routeway slightly south-eastwards.

Yet despite these interesting aspects, the material culture encountered during the excavations, on the whole proved disappointing. The artefacts and environmental remains have told us little about domestic or industrial activity and do not seem to reflect the lively semi-industrial hub characterised in the documentary sources. The comparative lack of artefacts for the medieval and early post-medieval periods is puzzling and could be the result of removal of material by later building or off-site disposal. The exception is the pottery assemblage, which despite its small size is an important group for Horsham as it has allowed the first insight into the town's ceramics spanning a possible 800 year range.

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Fig 1

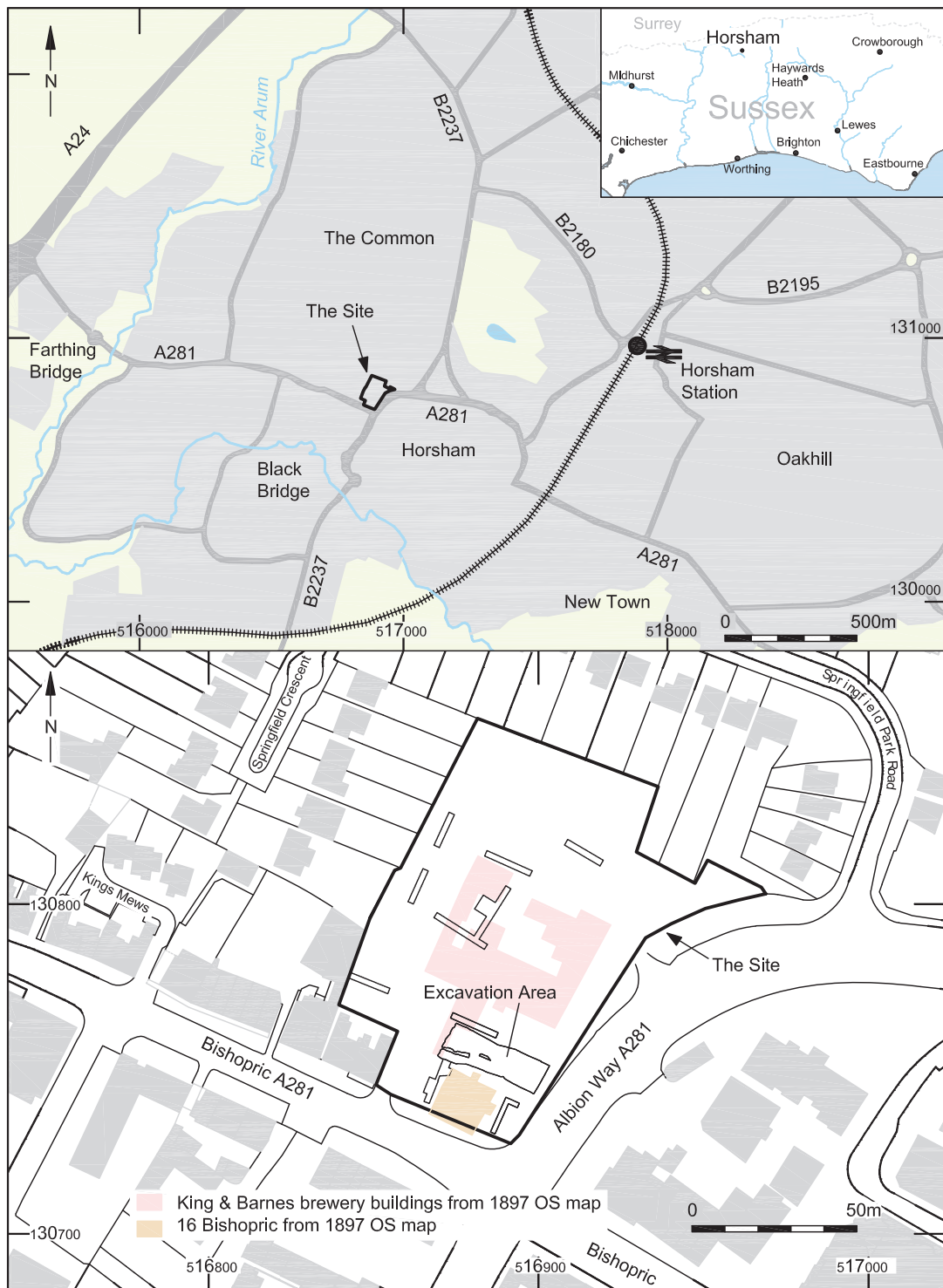


Fig 2

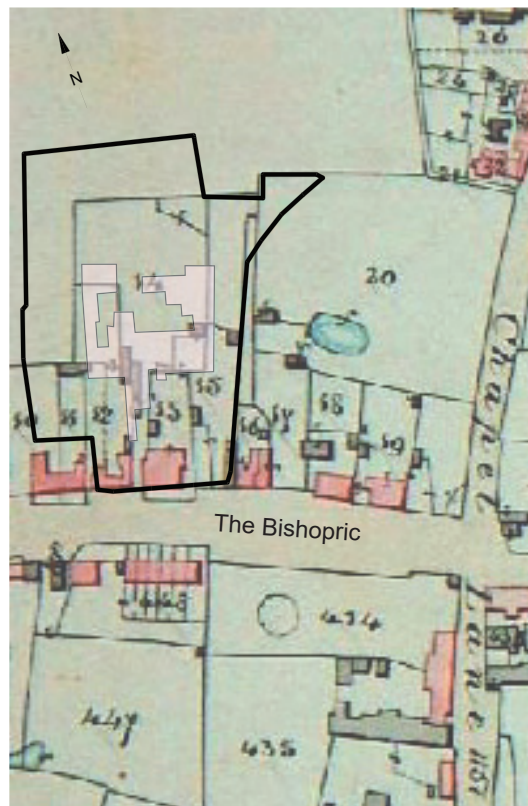


Fig 3

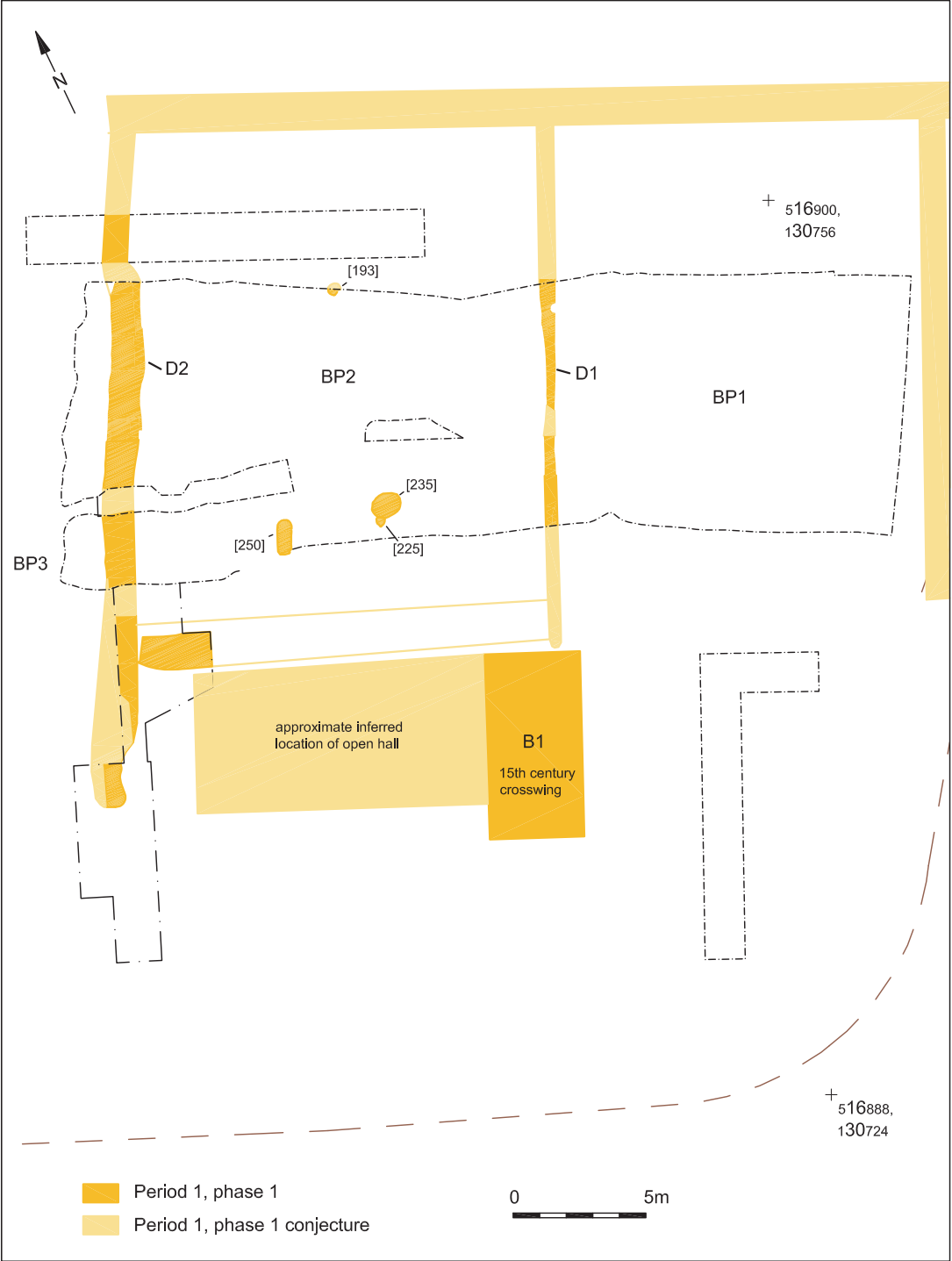


Fig 4



Fig 5

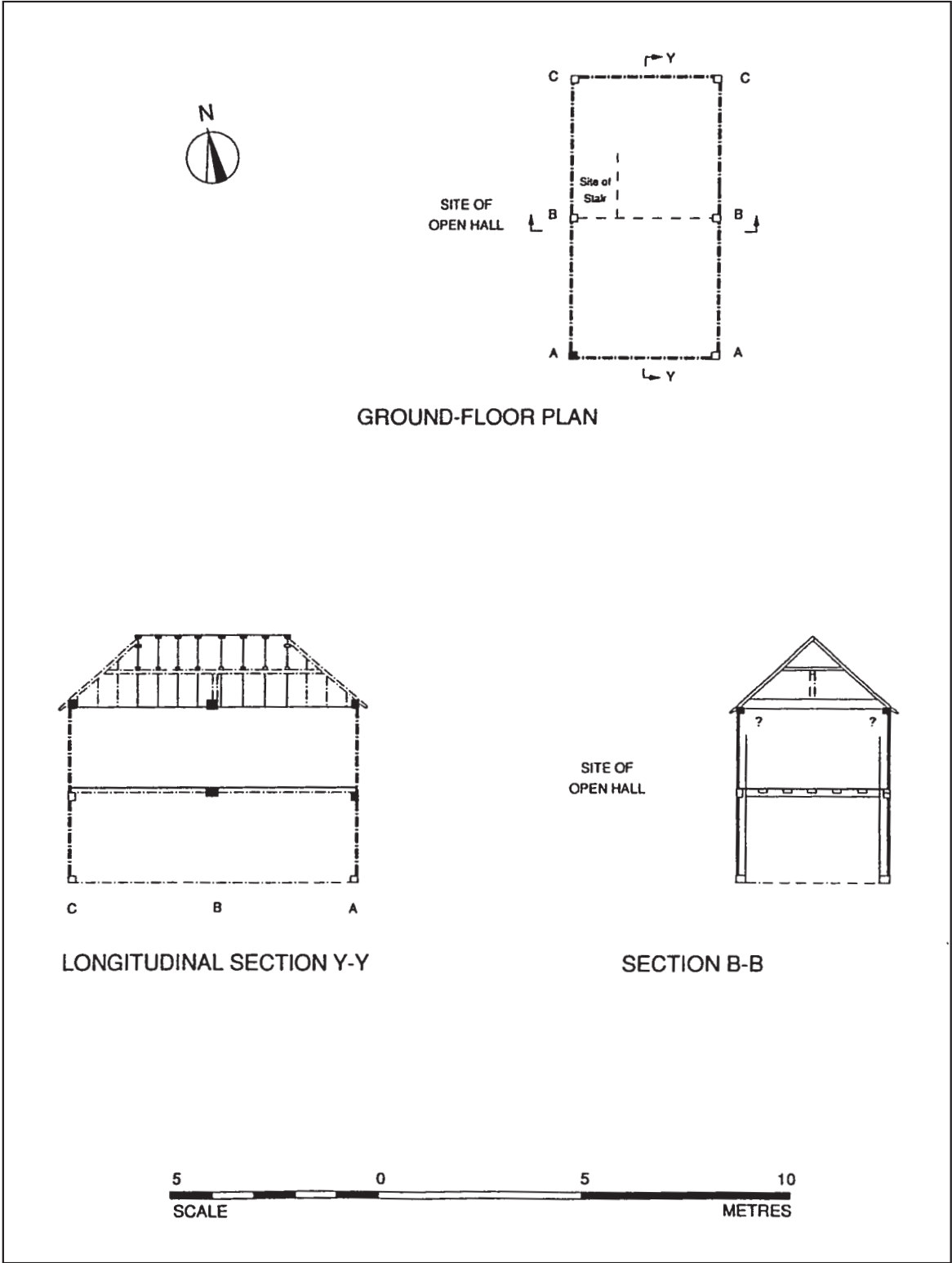
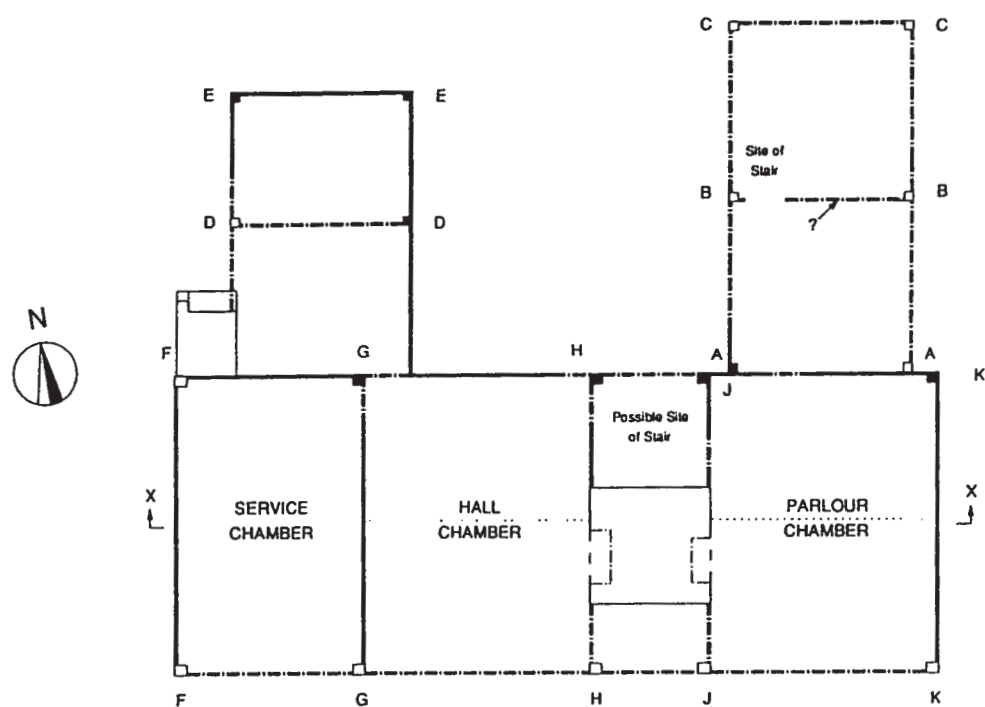


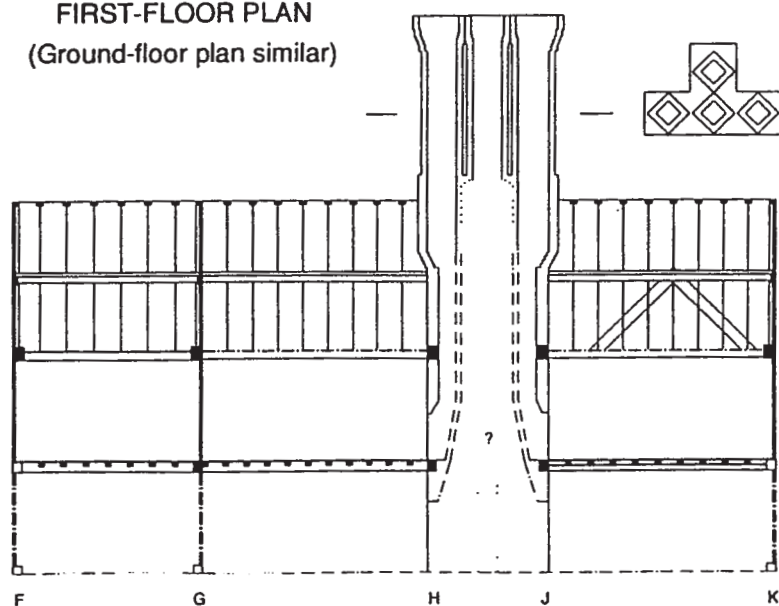
Fig 6



Fig 7



FIRST-FLOOR PLAN
(Ground-floor plan similar)



LONGITUDINAL SECTION X-X



Fig 8

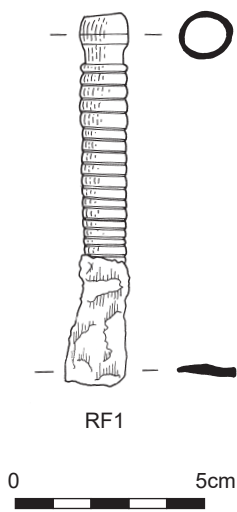


Fig 9

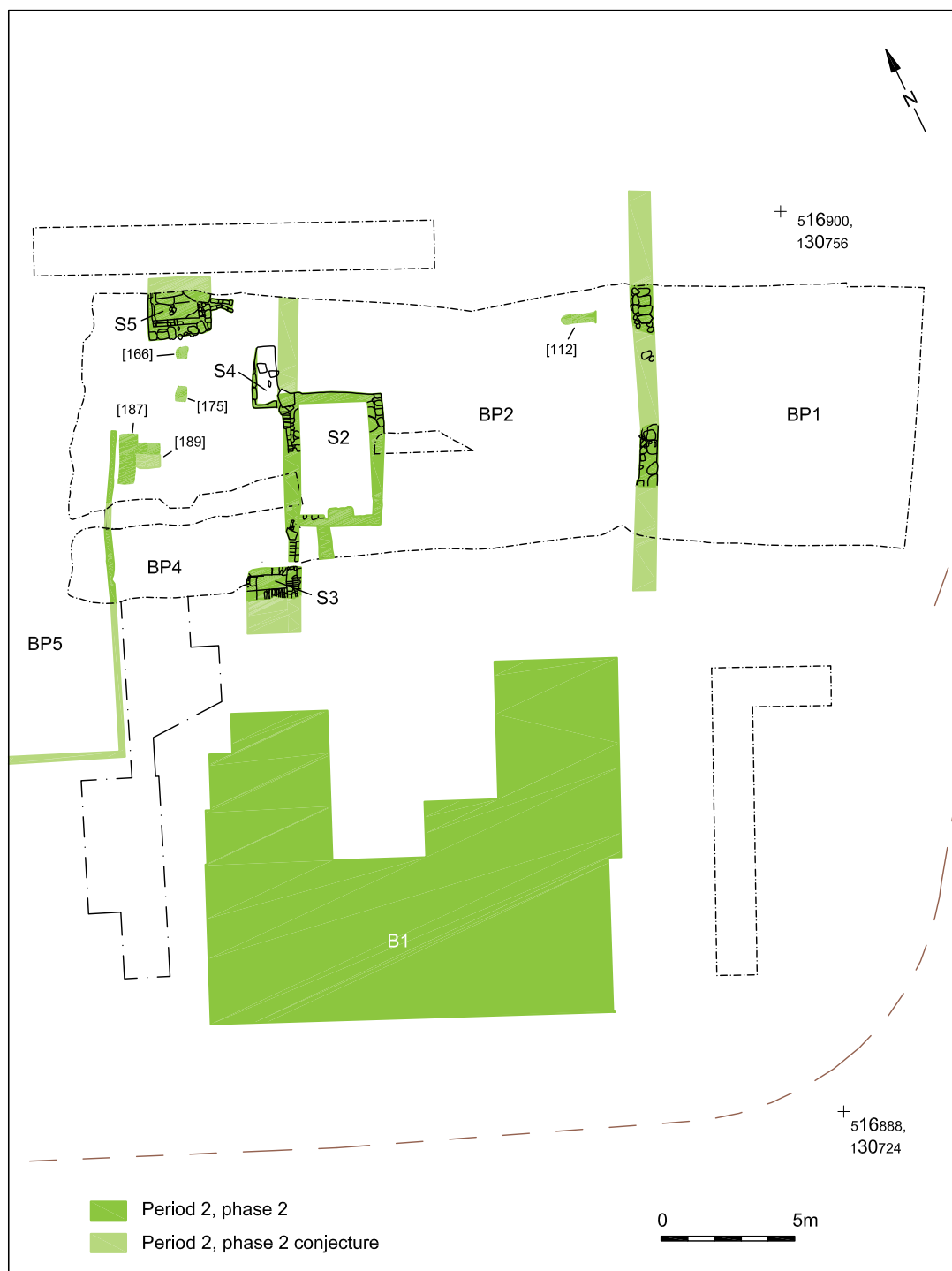


Fig 10



Fig 11

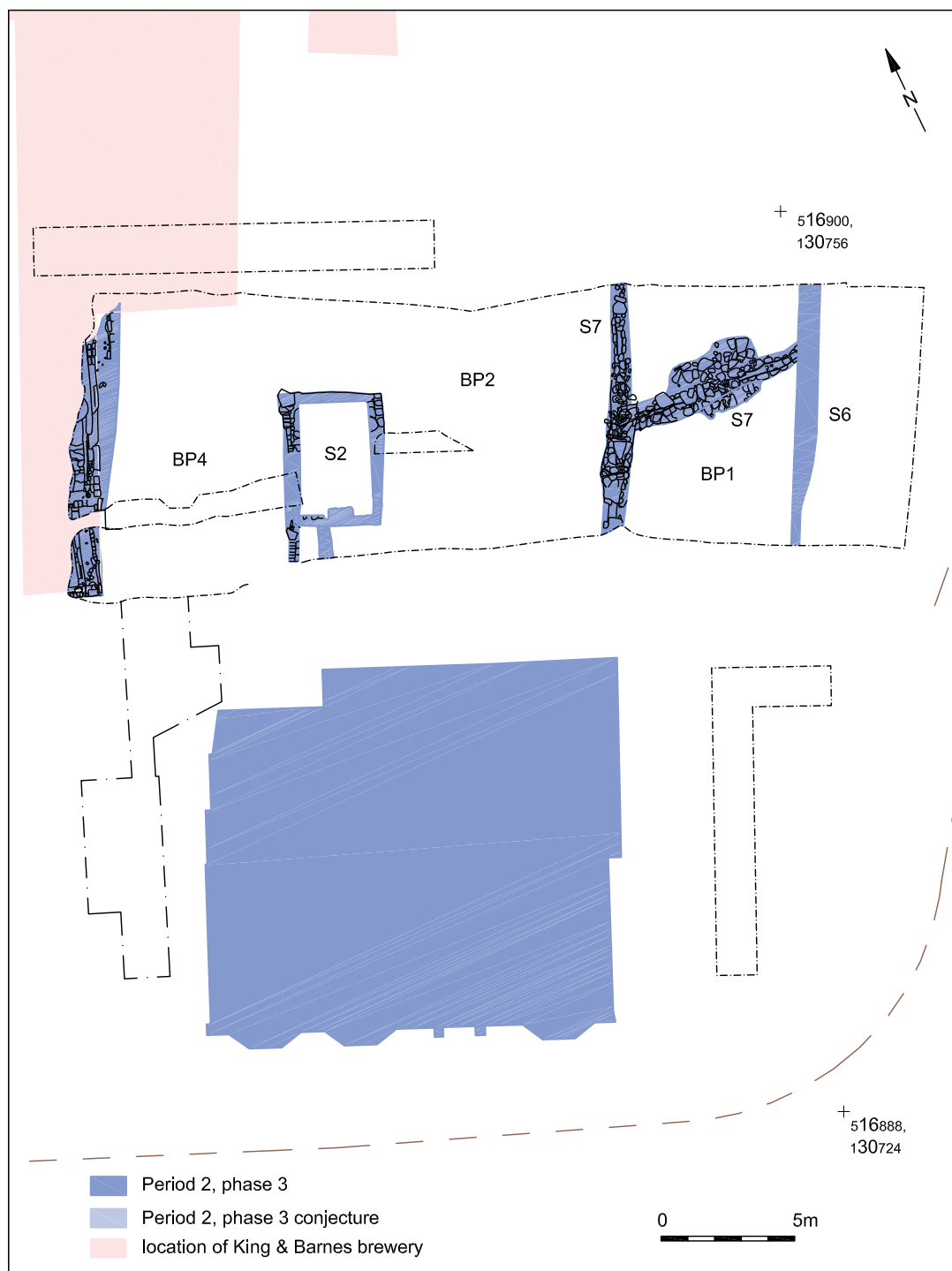


Fig 12

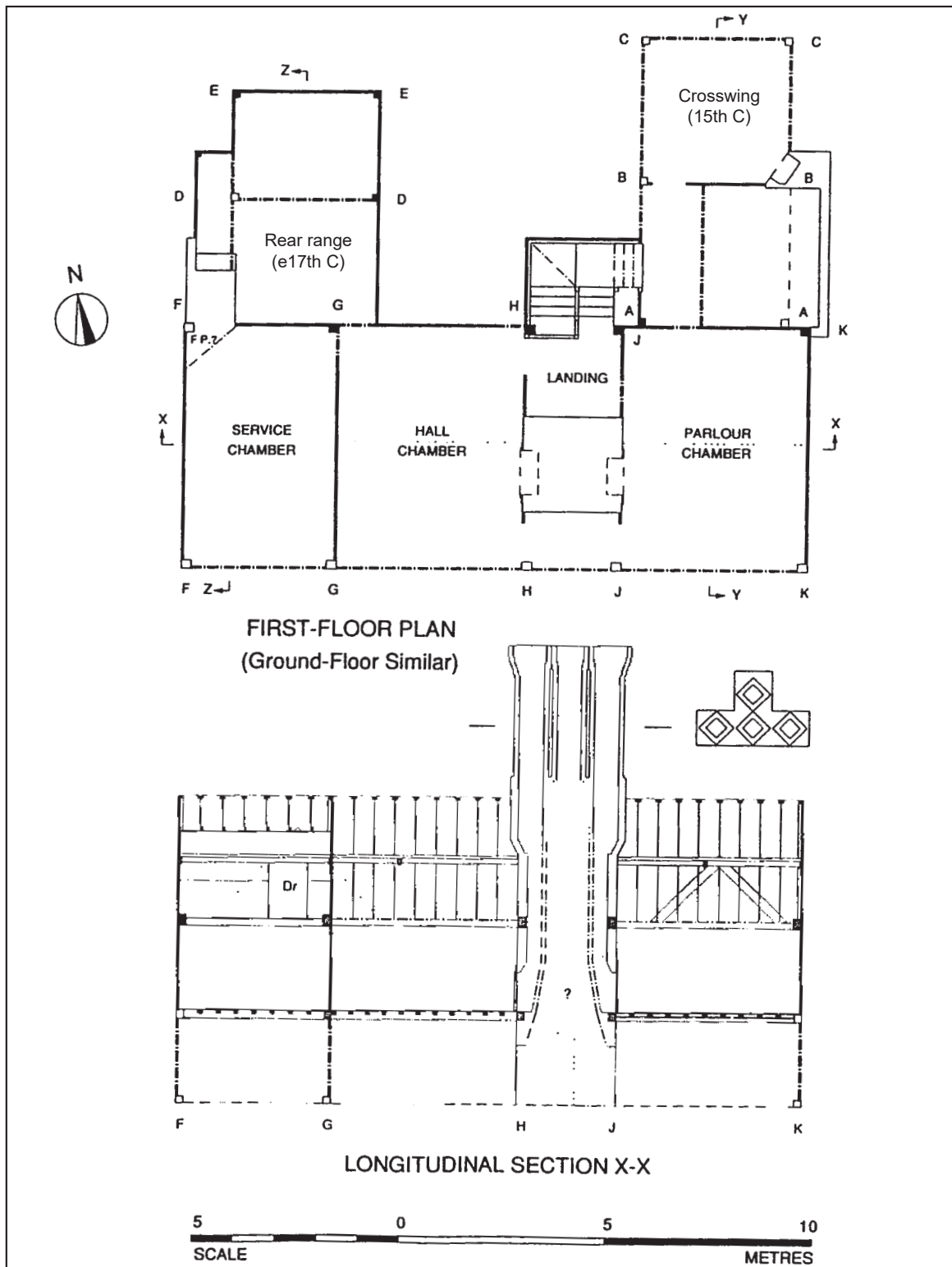




Fig 13

