

EXCAVATIONS IN MEDIEVAL TENEMENTS ON THE QUILTER'S VAULT SITE IN SOUTHAMPTON

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SUMMARY

Areas of five medieval tenements were excavated at the junction of High Street and Porter's Lane, Southampton. Excavation revealed occupation from the eleventh century onwards, with the first stone buildings erected in the twelfth century. A major replanning of the area took place in the thirteenth century, followed by piecemeal development from the sixteenth century onwards.

INTRODUCTION

THE site is located in the city of Southampton within the circuit of the walled town. It is bounded to the east by High Street, to the south by Porter's Lane, and to the west by the stone boundary wall of Holy Rood parish (Figs. 1 and 2).

The underlying natural deposits are yellow aeolian brickearth capping Pleistocene gravels inter-bedded with sand. The present ground surface is approximately 4.76m above OD and the modern reclaimed shoreline lies 114m to the south.

Excavations by Southampton Archaeological Research Committee commenced in April 1976 and continued until March 1977. The excavation took place in advance of landscaping the area with the aims of elucidating the functions and dates of the extant medieval buildings, and throwing further light on the development of the medieval town.

THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

By K. J. N. FAIRLESS and J. WALKER

The site prior to the bombing on 13th August and 30th November, 1940 consisted of four distinct properties (Fig. 1):

1. No. 86 High Street, the Waterman's Arms which together with Canute's Cottage (Canute's Palace) was owned by Winchester College.
2. No. 87 High Street, the Vine Hotel, immediately to the north of no. 86.
3. Nos. 88 and 89 High Street, The Royal George (ex Quilter's Hotel).
4. No. 90 High Street, Moore and Frank, ships' chandlers, whose workshops also extended behind no. 90½ High Street, The Kings Arms.

The major documentary sources for the history of this area are: the Beaulieu Cartulary (Hockey 1974), the God's House Cartulary (Kaye 1976), Winchester College Muniments, and deeds and leases in the Southampton City Records office that were acquired with the site following the last war. Another major source of information is the *Terrier* of 1454 (Burgess 1976) which lists the tenements from north to south as follows:

Tenement 146. The corner tenement in which are collected the customs and subsidies of the Lord King, of the Warden and Scholars of New College, Winchester, that William Soper holds for a term of years...

Tenement 147. The capital tenement of William Soper in which Philip Larcarius lives...

Tenement 148. The tenement called Dame Isabell's Vault, now of William Soper, that Robert Belhous now holds...

Tenements 149-150. The two tenements lying together of William Soper, in which Robert Belhous now lives...' (Burgess 1976, 63).

This information is supplemented by that given by Kaye in which he describes the history of Walter le Fleming's holdings that were immediately to the north of the site and 'Le Cheynes' which together with the start of St. John's parish form the western limit (Kaye 1976, v. 2, 375). The southern edge is provided by Porter's Lane or 'le Colekeye' (Winch. Coll. Mun. 17770) and the eastern by English or High Street.

THE SITE PRIOR TO 1454

Tenement 149

The earliest reference to the site is one in which Corneilles Abbey (Eure), France, granted ca 1216 to Walter Fleming a mesuage formerly held by Olaf de Hampton in return for various services to be rendered to the abbot when he visited the town (Hockey 1974, 195). This holding has been identified by Kaye (1976, v. 2, 375) as the gafol free tenement held by the Abbey at the time of Domesday Book. Corneilles Abbey was founded ca 1060 by William FitzOsbourne (Lord of the Isle of Wight ca 1067-70) and held one other Hampshire property at this time in Thruxton church (Doubleday 1900, 501). Walter Fortin built stone houses on this tenement before selling it and other property in the fee of Rocelin Tyrel, to Beaulieu Abbey for £100 around 1215 (Hockey 1974, 192, 194). About 1220 a dispute arose over the ownership of the northern wall of Fortin's former property (Hockey 1974, 197-8) and Walter le Fleming, the immediate neighbour to the north, successfully claimed that the abbot no longer held the fee as he had granted it to John Blanbuiilly (Blauncbuiilly) in return for rent service. Blanbuiilly still occupied the property when Petronille le Fleming gained possession of her husband's tenements in 1258 (Kaye 1976, v. 2, 344-5). Nothing else is clearly known about this tenement until William Soper gained possession in 1427 (Kaye 1976, v. 2, 378-81).

Tenements 147, 148

Shortly after Fortin's sale of tenement 146 in ca 1210 the Earl of Hereford, Henry de

Bohun, granted to Beaulieu Abbey land 'supra mare' adjoining what is thought to be Fortin's property (Hockey 1974, 191-2). It is known that these purchases were south of Walter le Fleming's holdings on the northern edge of the site but it is uncertain how far south they stretched. It may be that this land held the holdings of Walter Fortin as well, as before 1275 Isabella Fortin held tenement 146. Only one fourteenth-century owner is known for these properties. In 1355 Isabella, daughter of Guillard and Matilda le Moundenard is described as being a previous owner of a building immediately north of the southern tenement, probably tenement 147 (Winch. Coll. Mun. 17761; 17782). She may also have possessed tenement 148 as this is recorded as Dame Isabell's vault in the 1454 Terrier. William Soper gained possession of these tenements by 1427 (Kaye 1976, v. 2, 378-81).

Tenement 146

Somewhere between 1275 and 1289 Isabell Fortin granted a long building on the shore at Southampton to Thomas de Wynton and Jordano de Marisco, of the newly founded Oratory of the Holy Trinity at Barton, Isle of Wight, to be used for the maintenance of hospitality and relief of the poor (Winch. Coll. Mun. 17829). This property of the Oratory eventually passed to Winchester College on 27th March 1439, following a petition by Cardinal Beaufort that the Oratory had insufficient funds (Doubleday 1903, 180-1). In this way many of the relevant documents found safe-keeping at Winchester.

The building is described as standing to the west of a tenement of Mathew Gese (in what is later The Cheynes) (Winch. Coll. Mun. 17829) and may be identified as the Canute's Palace portion of tenement 146. On February 10th 1358 Barton Priory granted for £10 and an annual rent of 11s. a vacant plot north of Porter's Lane along the shore and south of a tenement (presumably 147) once of Isabella Mondelard, to John Malewayn, merchant, and Margery his wife (Winch. Coll. Mun. 17830). This deed suggests that tene-

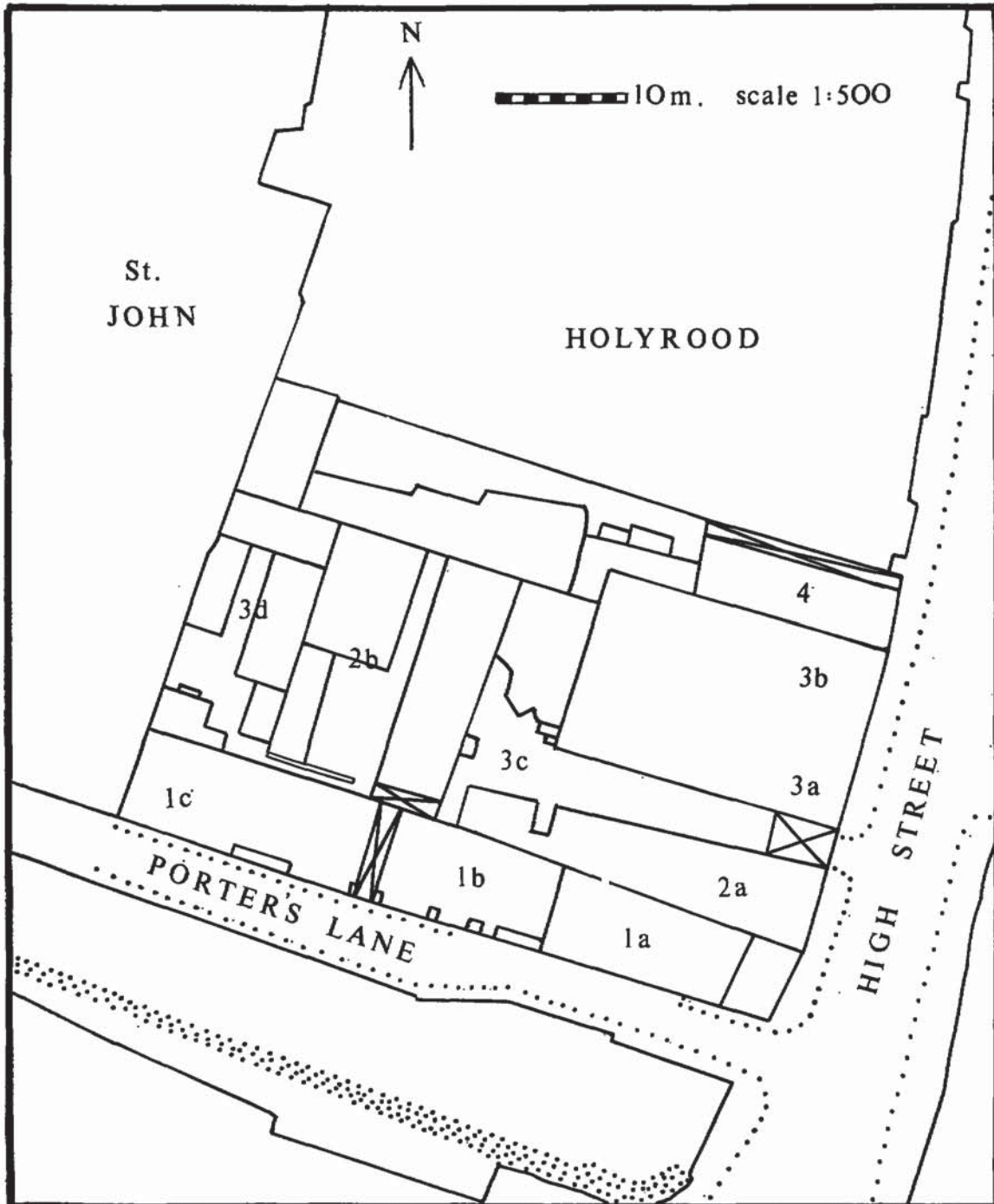


Fig. 1. Quilter's Vault, Southampton: Plan of the site in 1846. 1. 86 High Street, a) corner plot, b) *Vine Tap*, c) *Royal George Tap*, 2. 87 High Street, a) *Vine Inn*, b) stables, 3. *Royal George*, a) 88 High Street, b) 89 High Street, c) yard, d) stable, 4. 89 High Street, *King's Arms*.

ment 146 of 1454 originally consisted of one plot belonging to Isabella Fortin, which the Priory divided into two; one to form Canute's Palace and the other a vacant space to the east. Malewayn left this eastern plot to the crown and Richard II granted it to John Slegh on 18th June 1378 (*Cal. Pat. R.*, 1378, 230). In 1421 the Priory let the whole of the property and a quay for a term of ninety years and an annual rent of 11s. to William Soper (Winch. Coll. Mun. 17535).

THE TENEMENTS IN 1454

It has been recorded above that by the 1420's Soper had acquired or rented the whole of the properties on the site. By the Terrier of 1454 Soper had given over the now reunified tenement 146 to use as a Customs House (SRO SC4/1/1, SC4/3/14, SC4/3/19, SC5/1/30). This tenement remained in use as such until 1519-20 when a new building was constructed on the east of English Street by Richard Palshid (Platt 1973, 254).

THE TENEMENTS AFTER 1454

Tenements 146, 147, 148

Although the Terrier clearly shows four separate properties in the fifteenth century the later history of these properties is one in which subletting and subdivision play a major part. For this reason these three tenements, which eventually become nos. 86, 87, 88 and 89 High Street, are considered together. Christopher Ambrose, a naturalised Florentine and later Mayor, was in possession of these tenements for most of the fifteenth century after the death of Joan Soper, the wife of William. Ambrose's properties were inherited by his son John, a London vintner, who sold them in January 1511 to a fellow Londoner, Thomas Maynerd (Chapman 1915, 54). These tenements passed through Agnes, Maynerd's widow (Kaye 1976, v. 2, 375), to his son Thomas (Chapman 1915, 58).

A document of 1569 (3rd Bk. of Remembrance, v. 2, 210) suggests that tenement 147, the 'capital tenement' of the Terrier, and tenement 148 formed the house of 'My Ladie

Guidott' the wife of Antonio Guidotti, a prominent Florentine merchant. In 1567 this house was owned by John Webbe, a Salisbury merchant, who also leased tenement 146 (Winch. Coll. Mun. 28800). Tenements 147, 148 and perhaps 146 were occupied by a Widow Addison from 1594 to 1611, during which period tenement 147 was described as 'the great house' (SRO SC5/17/510, SC5/17/21, SC14/2/8). Clement Audley, a sergeweaver, acquired the property by 1612 (SRO SC5/17/22) and by 1630 Audley's widow, Mary, had established a lodging house on the site. After Mary Audley's death these properties came into the hands of Nicholas Pescod who sub-let it to Henry Moore, a Southampton merchant. By 1649, after Pescod's death, these properties are described as the *Virginia*, Lodge and tenements, with the *Virginia* perhaps being the large tenement 147 (SRO SC14/2/14). By 1665 new buildings had been constructed on the site of tenement, 147 giving rise to two new properties (SRO SC4/4/577). The *New Inn*, later called the *Royal George*, formed the most northerly of these two new properties and included not only the northern vault of tenement 147 but also Quilter's Vault.

This structure was separated from the other new buildings, the *Virginia*, later *Vine Inn*, by a narrow east-west courtyard and the buildings of the *Vine* were built partly over the rooms of the *Royal George*. The original 'garden' of tenement 147 was divided between the properties and used for outbuildings, gardens and, in the nineteenth century, for stabling (SRO SC4/4/577; Winch. Coll. Mun. 28805; *Poor rates* 1812). This division and re-building of tenement 147 still existed in 1846 at the time of the first accurate maps (Fig. 1). A narrow passage leading from the south west corner of the Royal George yard joined the two plots together while access to Porter's Lane was provided by a covered alleyway through Canute's Palace. Tenement 146 (No. 86 High Street) was used mainly for storage and ancillary buildings for the tenements directly to the north. In the eighteenth century Samuel Miller, a sailmaker, was using

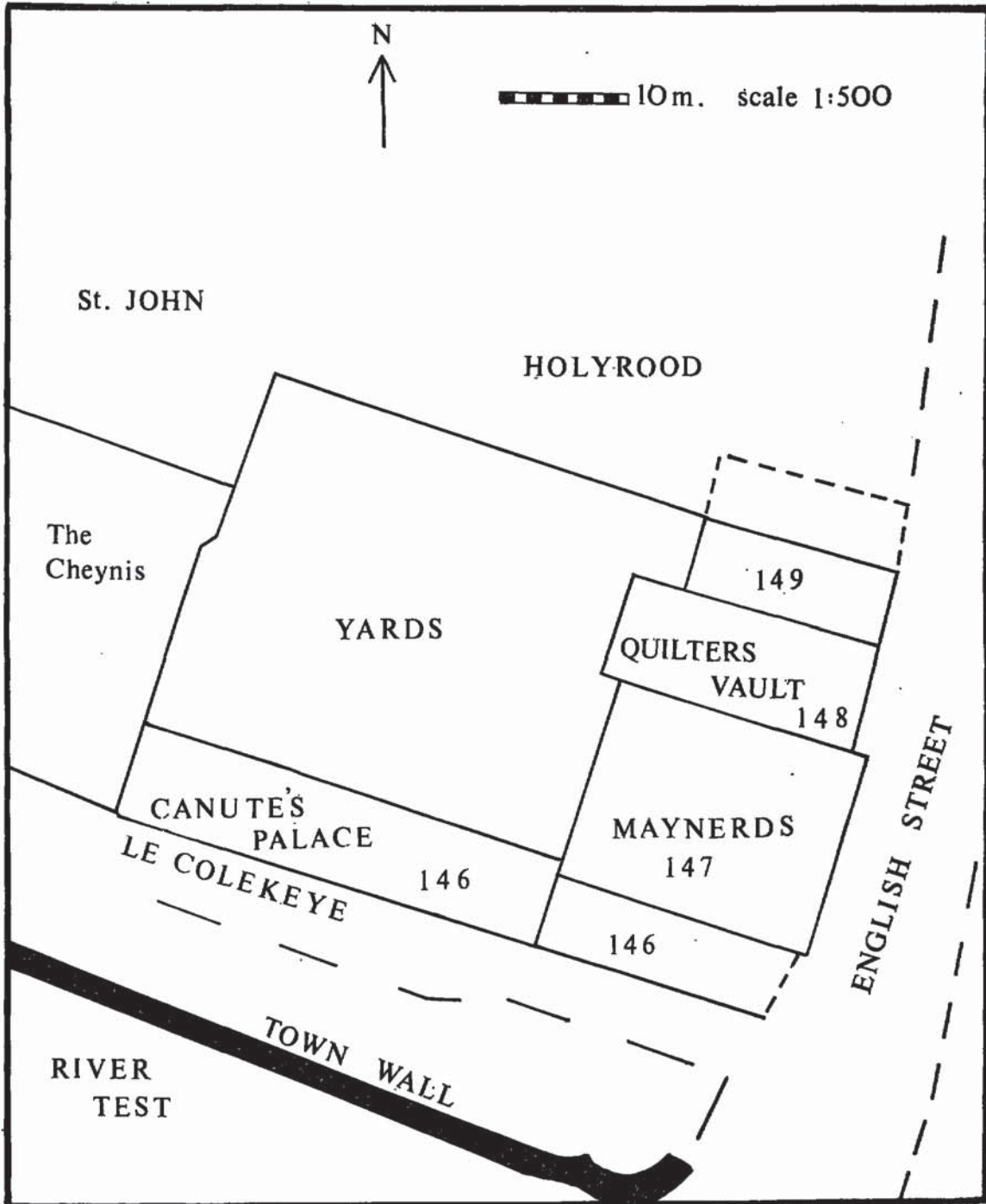


Fig. 2. Quilter's Vault; Southampton: Reconstruction of site plan ca 1300. Tenement numbers from Burgess (1976).

the tenement and its eastern portion. The area originally granted to Malewayn in 1358, was his house and measured 62 ft. 7 ins. east to west by 18 ft. north to south. Adjoining the house to the west was the *Vine Tap*, separated from a storehouse by a covered passage; these two buildings and the passage being formed inside the shell of Canute's Palace. In the mid-nineteenth century this tenement was described as 'all that tenement known as the *Royal George Tap* with storehouse and coach-house thereabouts adjoining' (Winch. Coll. Mun. 28806-28827A). Sometime after this the *Waterman's Arms* was erected on the eastern portion of the tenement.

Tenement 148 (Quilter's Vault) emerges as a separate property in the second half of the seventeenth century belonging to merchant Thomas Cornelius (SRO SC4/4/576, SC14/2/1). Two rooms above the vault were sold in 1796 to Thomas Warner, trustee of George Harris, owner of the *Royal George*, while the vault itself was in the possession of John Butler Harrison. Although the rooms were thus incorporated into the *Royal George*, they retained a separate street number, 89 High Street, and had a separate entrance consisting of a passage and stair on the north side of the vault. These rooms were used as club rooms by Southampton Yacht Club and later as a Coroner's Court (SRO SC4/4/576, 577).

Tenement 149

After 1454 this tenement devolved to John Walker and then to the Earl of Arundel (Burgess 1976, 63). Little is known of the rest of the history of the building. It and the tenement immediately to the north were owned by Hercules Audley by 1613, when he established it as an ale house known as *The Queen's Arms*. By 1674 this had changed its name to *The King's Arms*, being the forerunner of the 1940 *King's Arms*, no. 90 High Street (SRO SC14/2/24, SC14/2/36).

The documentary history of the site thus reveals a prosperous location with stone-built houses from ca 1210 until ca 1669 and a direct

commercial emphasis associated with the presence of the Customs House (from 1421-1519). The rebuilding of 'the great house' in the seventeenth century marked a new phase with hostelry and associated outbuildings typifying the site. By the nineteenth century the site, and the rest of the neighbourhood, became dominated by small businesses and shops as trade migrated into northern High Street and Above Bar.

THE EXCAVATIONS

The excavations on the site took place within areas defined by the surviving buildings, here listed from south to north in order of the street numbers. The description follows the numerical order of the excavated areas (Fig. 3).

High Street No.	Name	Area
86	Corner Tenement	QV2
—	'Canute's Palace'	QV4
87, 88	Maynerd's Vault	QV5
89	Quilter's Vault	QV3
90	Cellar	QV1

Features and layers were numbered separately within each area.

The description of the results of excavation is prefaced in each case by a brief description of the standing buildings, including details discovered by excavation. A full description, excepting only no. 90 High Street, has been published by P. A. Faulkner (in Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975).

90 HIGH STREET, CELLAR (QV1)

This cellar was uncovered by Mr. R. G. Thomson in 1971. The pottery recovered by him from the construction trench of the structure indicated a date ca AD 1300. The cellar is of coursed rubble construction and the stonework includes a variety of limestones including 'Paludina' Limestone probably from the Isle of Wight, rounded flint pebbles and occasional pieces of ironstone and granite, which are found only in the west wall. These materials were bonded with buff mortar and

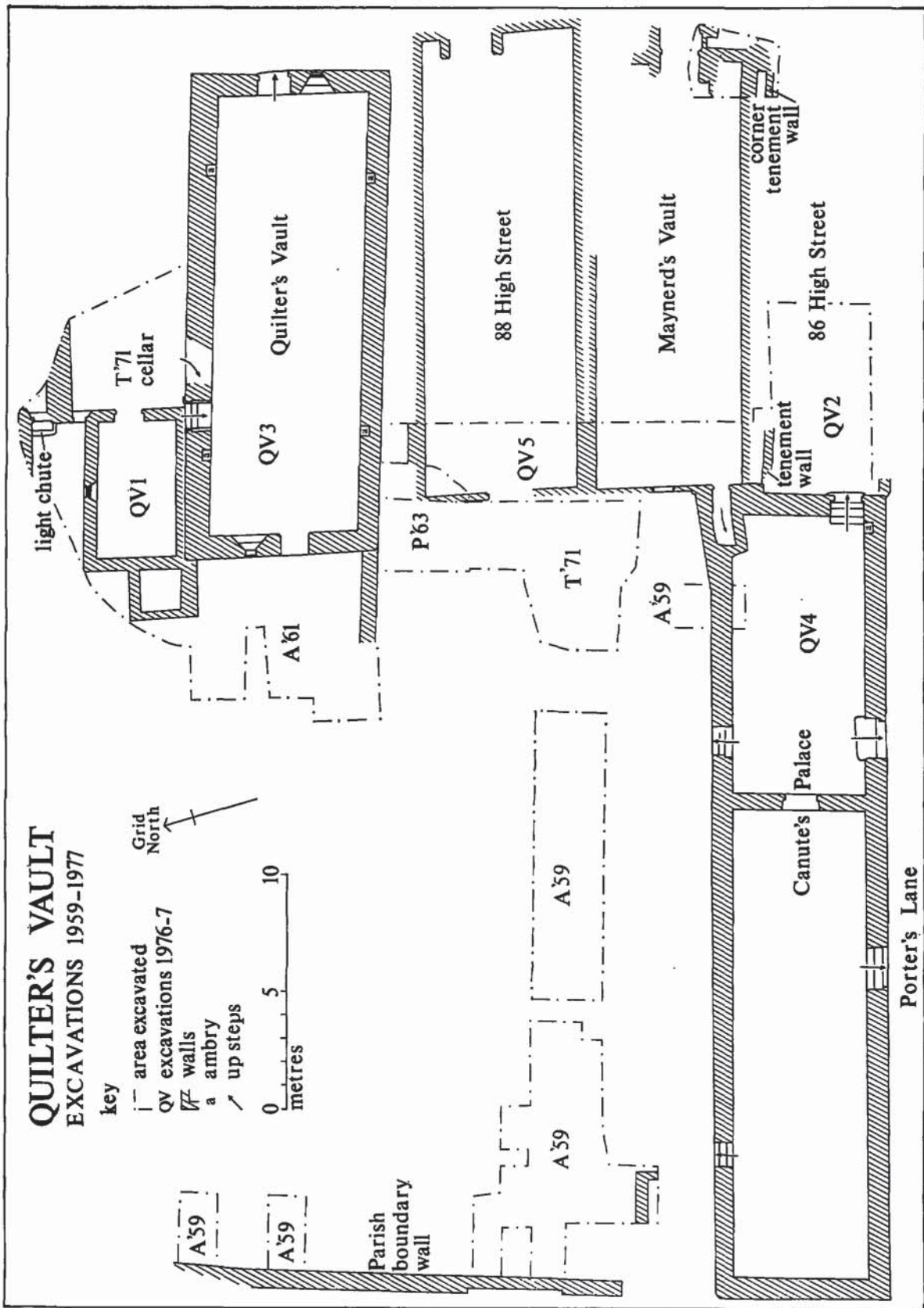


Fig. 3. Quilter's Vault, Southampton: Plan of excavations. A'59, '61 = Aberg 1959, 1961; P'63 = Pallister 1963; T'71 = Thomson 1971.

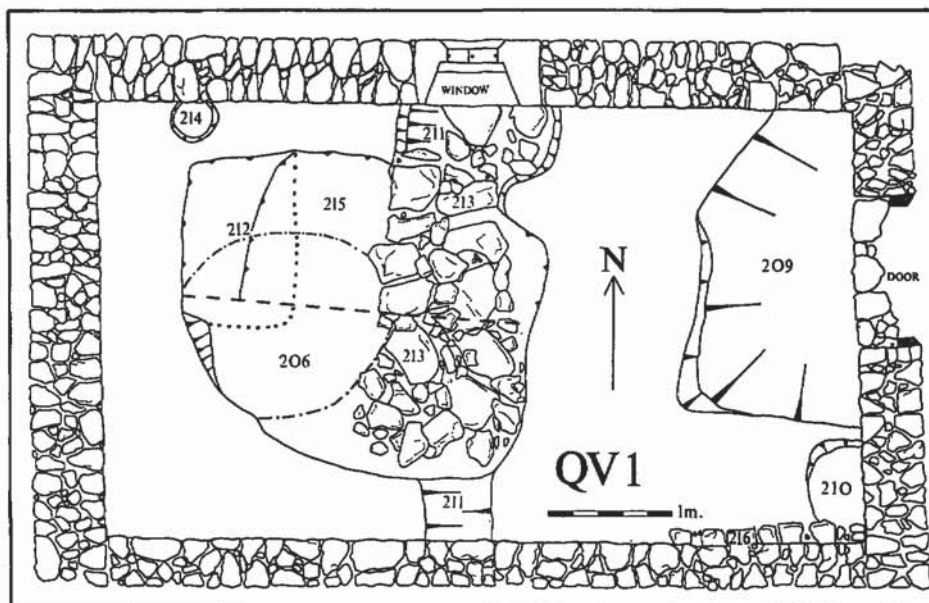


Fig. 4. Quilter's Vault: Plan of area QV1 showing all features.

faced internally with a thin skin of white 'plaster'. Bonded to the west wall is a large rectangular cesspit of small uncoursed limestone and flint rubble.

The floor of the cellar consisted of large irregular limestone flags set on a thin bed of brown loam; the interstices between the flags were filled with limestone fragments. The south-east and north-west corners of the cellar are ashlar quoined in part. In the south wall of the cellar are two ashlar blocks and in the west wall are two beam-sockets 17 cm by 17 cm by 28 cm deep, and occasional half bricks 5 cm by 9 cm approximately. The western cesspit also has brickwork in the form of a course of thin bricks at the top of the south wall. The variety of materials in the west wall of the cellar may indicate a later rebuilding; unfortunately there is no other evidence to support this suggestion.

There is in the north wall of the cellar, a single-light window of ashlar construction illustrated in Figs. 4 and 11. This window bears traces of ferramenta. The slightly off-centre doorway in the east wall is also of

ashlar construction, and is shown in plan in Fig. 4. Following its infilling, the east wall of this cellar formed the western wall of a later cellar that ran as far as the High Street and was in use until 1940. It is of coursed rubble with occasional brick patching and has a single window in the north-east corner.

Mr Thomson's excavations also revealed further traces of a window to the north of that of the later cellar, and traces of cellar walls. It is the opinion of Mr Thomson and the writer that the double cellar development present in area QV1 is probably repeated in the tenement immediately to the north.

Beneath the limestone flagged floor of the cellar the earliest phase (before ca 1200) was represented by the shallow remnant of a pit (F 210), and a feature 10 cm deep (F 214) that may have been a post-hole. Also belonging to this phase was a subrectangular cess pit, 50 cm deep, (F 215) which indicates permanent occupation of the area in this period. During the next phase of occupation (ca 1200-ca 1260) a substantial stone structure was erected. The outline of the building could be traced

from a later robbing trench where the wall itself (F 213, F216) did not survive. This wall overlay the earlier cess pit (F 215) and a later cess pit (F 212) had been dug slightly to the east, presumably to serve the new building.

The robbing of the stone from this building took place between ca 1260 and ca 1300, perhaps to provide material and space for the construction of Quilter's Vault. Some time after this the area was levelled and depressions (F 206, F9), filled with construction debris, prior to the building of the cellar around 1300.

86 HIGH STREET: CORNER TENEMENT (QV2)

This area was bounded on the north by Maynerd's Vault, on the south by Porter's Lane, on the west by Canute's Palace, and on the east by a collapsed brick vault of the nineteenth century.

Results of Excavation

The earliest phase (I) of occupation, from perhaps the early twelfth to the thirteenth century was represented by F51, F54 and F56 and perhaps F39. Feature 54 was the base of a rectangular loam-filled pit cut by a similar feature, F51, F39 was a large pit containing

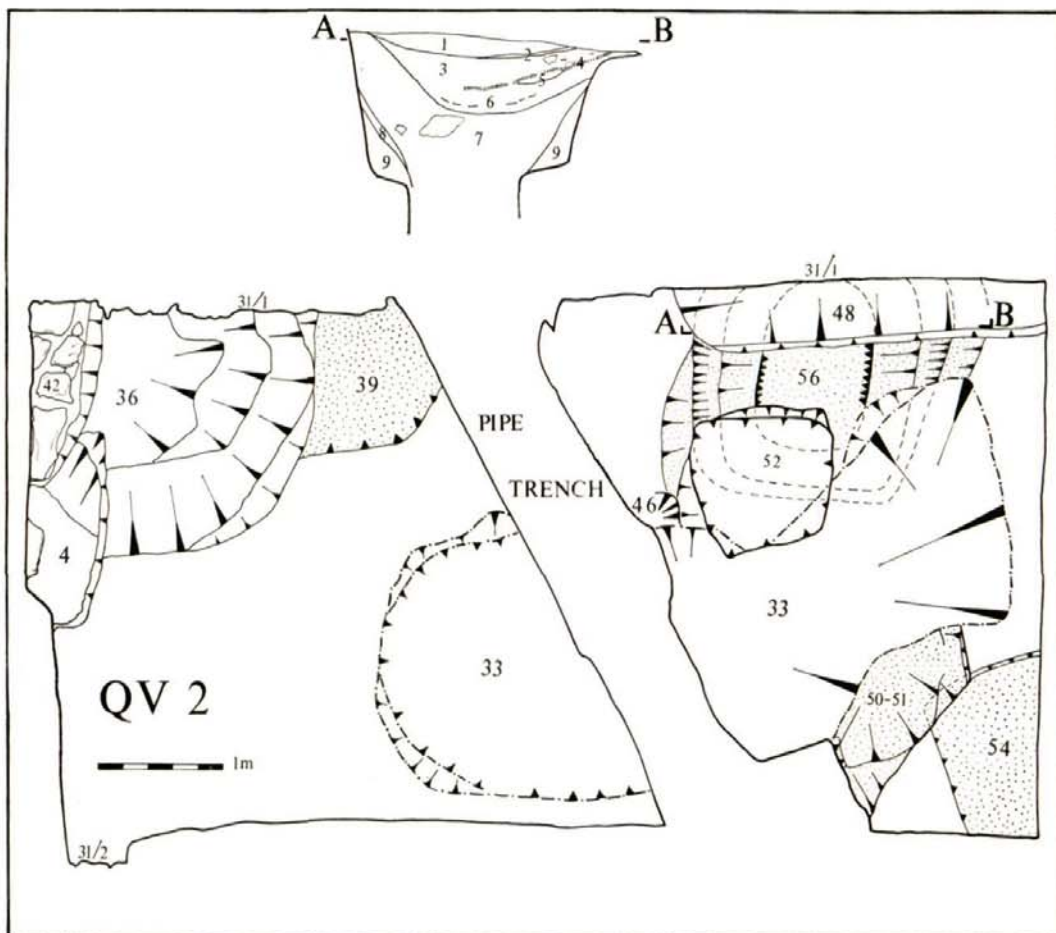


Fig. 5. Quilter's Vault: Plan of area QV2 showing early features. The earliest features are stippled.

redeposited brick-earth and F56 was a well (Fig. 5), the stepped-in sides of which (under layer 56/8) may have represented foundations for some form of well-head lining. This lining had been removed prior to the deliberate infilling of the well with redeposited natural gravel, represented by F56/7, F56/8 and F56/9. This well could not be fully excavated and F56/8 and F56/9, recorded on the steps may have been present in the unexcavated shaft. The well fillings had sagged subsequently, and the loam and charcoal layers, F56/1 to F56/6, may be interpreted as an accumulation of early twelfth-century occupation deposits in the resulting hollow.

In the early thirteenth century (Phase II) a timber building was erected in this area. Traces of the building survived as a wide beam slot, F48, to the north and a single post-hole, F46, to the west. A mortar floor, traces of which survived as the top filling of F51, probably also belongs to this building.

To this period, from the early thirteenth century to about 1300, belong F36, F42 and F52 (Fig. 5). F52 was probably a rubbish pit, as it contained layers of loam and charcoal interspersed with traces of cess, and fragments of a displaced oven-like structure. The original function of F36 remains unknown.

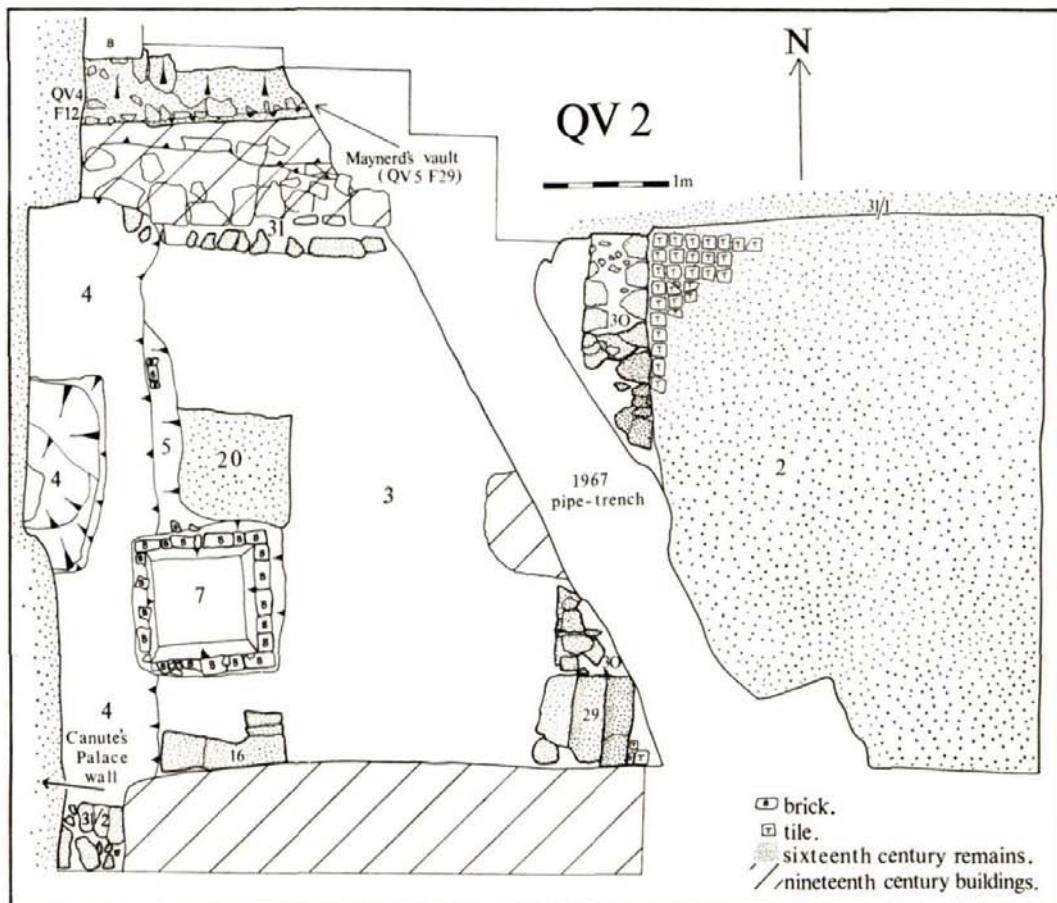


Fig. 6. Quilter's Vault: Plan of area QV2 showing later features.

The filling consisted of redeposited natural gravel and brickearth with no traces of silting. The stratification indicates that Maynerd's Vault had not been constructed at this period. F42 was part of the construction work undertaken slightly later, ca 1270, when a section of the east wall of 'Canute's Palace' was rebuilt.

The timber building and its associated features were demolished by 1300 (Phase III), when F33, an irregularly shaped pit, was dug (Fig. 5). The filling consisted of some redeposited brickearth and much stone building debris, probably resulting from the demolition of nearby buildings. A new stone building, measuring about 16m (52 ft) by 5.25m (17 ft), was then erected. The northern, F31/1, and southern, F31/2, (Fig. 6) walls of this building were constructed of coursed limestone rubble set in a white mortar. Layers associated with this building, which overlay F33, indicate that the floor consisted of a thin spread of rammed gravel and loam. As the northern wall of this building, F31/1, lay directly over Maynerd's Vault, and the vault cut the earlier pits, F36 and F39, it is probable that the vault was constructed at the same time as this building (ca 1300-1350). The absence of any direct access from this building to a yard area suggests that it formed part of a larger complex.

This stone building remained unaltered until the early sixteenth century (Phase IV, Fig. 6), when a limestone dividing wall, F30, was constructed and glazed tiles, F1, laid to the west, set in a white mortar floor, F2. To the east of this wall the floor level was raised with building debris and clay, F3, F18, F13, and a mortar floor, F16, F20, laid, with perhaps direct access to 'Canute's Palace'. The two floor levels of this building were connected by three inserted granite steps, F29. During the seventeenth century layers of fine ash, F9, F17, accumulated on the raised western floor suggesting some semi-industrial activity in this area. Around 1780 a drain and sump, F5, F7, were inserted, and it was not until the nineteenth century that the last above ground

remains of the original fourteenth-century stone building were removed to be replaced by a structure of the same width. Finally, in the twentieth century, the area was bisected by a storm water drain and a trench, F4, dug to facilitate repairs to 'Canute's Palace', destroying significant stratification in the process.

89 HIGH STREET, QUILTER'S VAULT (QV3)

This building is somewhat earlier than the two vaults described below. It has a stone superstructure with, possibly, two rooms at first floor level. Externally the most interesting features are the remains of a spiral stairway and a later brick oven in the north wall. Internally the vault is semi-circular, of rubble construction, 18.7m (61 ft) long by 6.2m (20.3 ft) wide, with an asymmetrically chamfered string course on the north and south walls. The foundations vary, the north and south walls are approximately 1.2 m thick below the springing level and rest on the inside on a single course of small rubble projecting 10 to 30cm from the wall. There is a relieving arch in the north wall near the north-west corner. The foundations of the west wall are deeply sunk and offset by as much as 45cm both internally and externally (Aberg, in Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, v. 1, 204).

Originally the vault was divided into two unequal rooms by a wall, F48, approximately 60cm thick. This wall was bonded into the side of the vault to the height of the string course and loose-filled above. This wall effectively formed two rooms 6.2m (20.3 ft) wide, the eastern one being 10.25m (33.6 ft) long and the western 7.84m (25.7 ft) long. Within the vault are four contemporary square aumbrys and along the eastern half of the south wall just below the string course are traces of beam sockets. The east wall contains an original doorway and a contemporary single splay window with traces of iron window bars. The west wall also contains traces of an original single splay window that has been altered, and south of this is another contemporary window, altered to a doorway about 1500 (Faulkner, in Platt and Coleman-Smith, 1975,

v. 1, 98). In the north wall is an original opening, possibly a doorway, which forms a lunette with the vault. Excavations in 1961 in the neighbourhood of this vault are reported in Platt and Coleman-Smith (1975, v. 2, 204).

Results of excavation

The area available for excavation was limited by modern features (Fig. 8). The earliest feature discovered was a U-shaped ditch, F119 (Fig. 7) (Phase I). A bone sample from the filling yielded a ^{14}C determination of 1040 ± 80 BP (HAR-2185). Dr Shackley has submitted the following report on the fillings of this ditch:

'At the base of the ditch there was a thin layer (1-2.5cm), F123, which was rich in clay. Examination of the section under low power magnification revealed marked sub-horizontal laminae. Above this layer was 22cm of silty sands, F122, also with an appreciable percentage (5-10%) of clay. These silts were laminated irregularly, contiguous laminae occasionally being of different colour. Textural variation from top to bottom was minimal, and the colour variations attributable to differences in raw material or quantity of iron oxides. The silts contained various pebbles, some white patinated and others very heavily rounded, which appeared to be derived from the underlying gravels. There were many root holes and occasional small flecks of charcoal

and patches of iron accumulation. There were also signs of iron deposition visible ca 19cm from the bottom of the ditch. Above the silts was a layer of very sandy gravels, bearing a marked relationship to the terrace gravels into which the ditch was dug. None of the deposits yielded alien particles such as building debris, even when examined under the microscope'.

In the second phase (IIa) of activity no evidence for structures survived but the lowering of the ground level during the construction of the vault would have destroyed much evidence. However, three cess pits, one, F116, twelfth century, two, F125, F81, late twelfth/early thirteenth century, were found. Two of them, F116, F125, had been relined with brickearth. The existence of cess pits indicates permanent occupation and the relining, perhaps, restricted space. Further indirect evidence for the existence of buildings during Phase II is provided by a lime-kiln, F95, dated by thermo-remnant magnetism to AD 1160-1200. This circular kiln had a single wind-tunnel to the west and its floor consisted of burnt clay with irregular patches of lime. Around the walls were traces of branches and extensive burning. The depth of lime and charcoal on the sides may indicate two successive firings having taken place before it fell into disuse. The positions of this and other

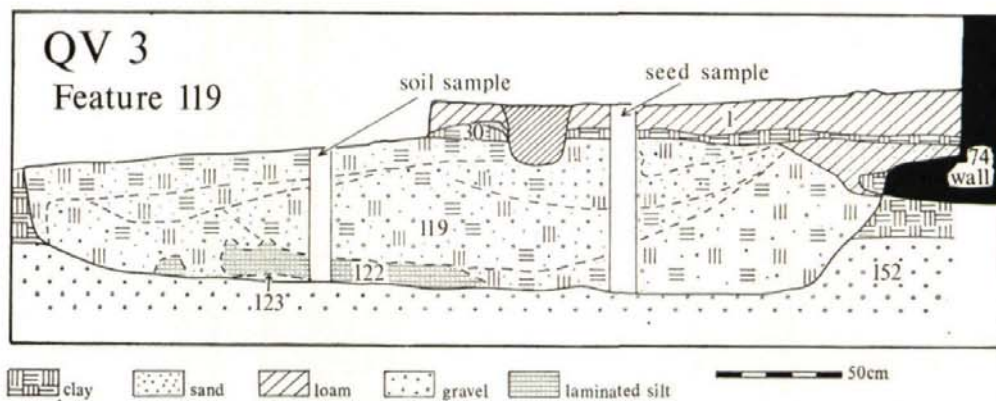


Fig. 7. Quilter's Vault: Area QV3, cross-section through feature 119.

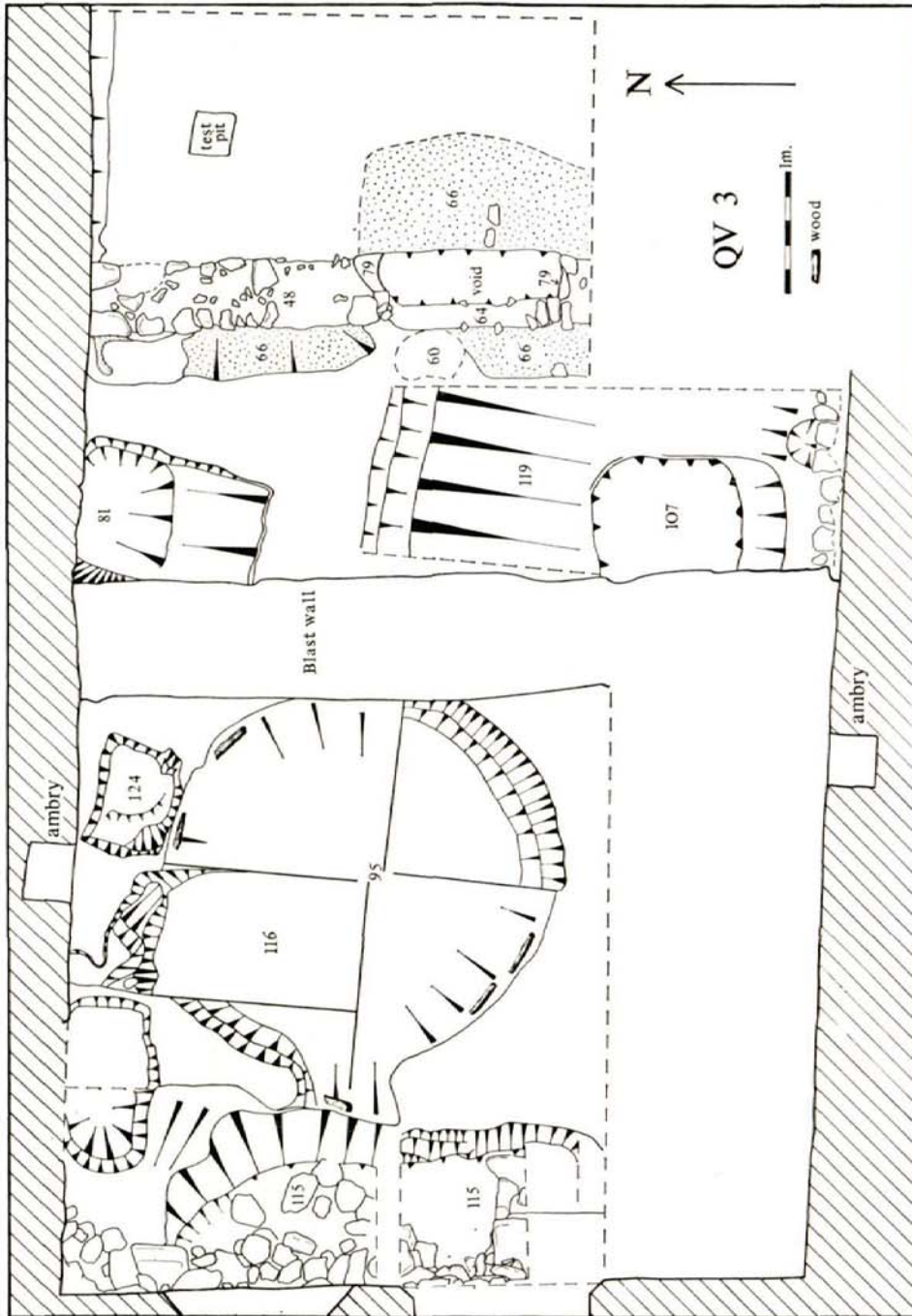


Fig. 8. Quilter's Vault: Plan of area QV3 showing all features.

features suggest that the presumed stone buildings for which this kiln provided mortar were probably aligned sideways on to the High Street.

The features belonging to the period from ca 1200 – ca 1270 (Phase IIB) suggest occupation similar to that of the preceding period. These features are a rectangular cess-pit, F124, and a rectangular lime-kiln, F115, dated by thermo-rémanent magnetism to the period AD 1250–70, which marks the end of the Phase II occupation. In the filling of this kiln were unusual glazed roof tiles (see pottery report below) that may be derived from earlier buildings in this area. It is unlikely that this kiln was used to provide mortar for the construction of Quilter's Vault as the rubble foundations to the west wall of the vault are cut into its loam infills.

The next period (Phase III) is marked by the construction of Quilter's Vault. This vault was bisected by a wall, F48. The spread of mortar, F66, resulting from its construction, was sealed by the floor of the vault, suggesting the wall was contemporary with the vault. Shortly afterwards the dividing wall was altered to admit a timber threshold packed into place by gravel layers, F64, 79. Beneath layer F79 impressions of stones in the natural brickearth were discovered indicating that the dividing wall had been removed at this point. As the packing layer, F64, contained pottery of ca 1280 and the vault wall cut the lime kiln, F115 of ca 1250, this relationship, together with pottery from within the original clay floor, F30, indicates a construction date for the vault of ca 1270.

The original floor of the vault was apparently kept clean and only slight traces of occupation were present on it when it was eventually replaced by a seventeenth-century mortar and gravel floor, F19. In the eighteenth century there was an accumulation of soil on this later floor which was cut by numerous post-holes for internal partitions, some of which were rebated into the roof of the vault.

'CANUTE'S PALACE' (QV4)

This structure, dated stylistically to the 1180's (Wood 1935), but probably of the 1160's, consisted originally of a long building, 34.1m (111 ft) by 7.95m (26 ft). The original uncoursed rubble walls vary in thickness from 80 to 95cm and have as foundations a single course of irregular limestone blocks 55cm deep. Most of the stone seems to have originated from the Isle of Wight where, judging by traces of barnacles on some of the stones, it was collected from the beach. Identical stone can be seen today on the shore between Egypt Point and Gurnard Luck.

Of the original building relatively little remains; the north wall survives in places to first floor height with an internal string course at first floor level. The original west wall remains to a height of 2.74m, above which is a rebuilt gable. The south wall contains the majority of the twelfth-century remains; at ground floor level are traces of the western half of a semi-circular arched doorway and, above this, to the west, a two light window with jambshafts, roll-moulded imposts and miniature foliated capitals on its internal face. The segmental rere-arch of this window is probably a later replacement, although the bull-nosed string course that forms the external sill to the window is original, as is the first floor ashlar pier to the west. This pier formed the central pillar between two hood-moulded doorways 60cm apart that were approached by an external stair (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975). To the east of this pier the wall survives to a lesser height and is pierced by a doorway, which may be original, beyond which the early foundations continue, to end under the steps at the eastern end. The only other surviving portion of the twelfth-century structure is the dividing wall with an inserted fourteenth-century doorway, which may have marked an original passage.

The twelfth-century building has suffered considerable alterations and repairs up to recent times. The earliest alteration was the rebuilding of a section of the east wall from the aumbry to the spur wall of the inserted

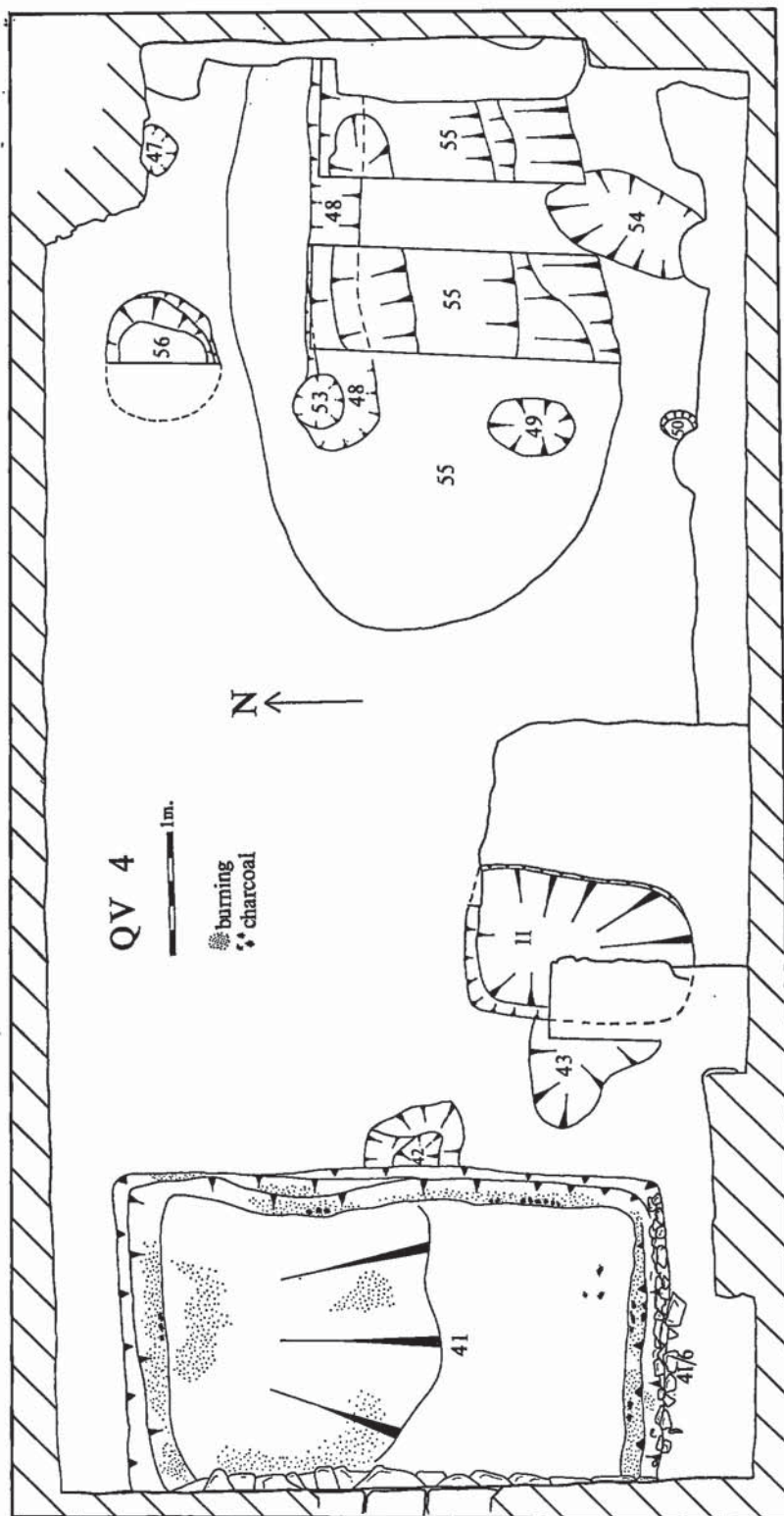


Fig. 9. Quilter's Vault: Plan of area QV4 showing features older than 'Canute's Palace'.

stairs. This rebuilding included a new external door that faced the west end of a wooden building (QV2, Phase II) separated from 'Canute's Palace' by a small earthen courtyard. This alteration of the east wall used the original foundations as far as the northern edge of the new doorway from which point the wall foundation was sunk to a deeper level (see QV2, F42). This wall spanned, by means of a relieving arch, an earlier pit, consolidated with stone blocks during the alterations. An inserted stairway in the north-east corner of the building, dated stylistically to the fifteenth century, gave direct access from 'Canute's Palace' to Maynerd's Vault. Other features visible today represent later multiple sub-divisions of the property.

The original twelfth-century building seems therefore to have consisted of an upper hall house with two 'front doors' and a divided lower floor. Some structural details, however, remain unknown, such as how the first floor was originally supported, for there are no signs of supports for cross-beams or vaulting, and the inserted corbels referred to by Faulkner have been found to correspond to a nineteenth-century division of the property. Furthermore, within the excavated area, no traces of supporting pillars or stylobates have been found.

Excavations had taken place within and near this building before 1976. Those nearby were undertaken by A. Aberg in 1959 (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, v. 1, 218). The (unpublished) excavations within the building were under the direction of Mr Pallister (Faulkner 1977, 133).

Results of excavation

The whole of the interior floor area of 'Canute's Palace' east of the dividing wall was excavated. Three features, F42, 43, 55, dating from the eleventh century (Phase I) were excavated (Fig. 9). F42 and F43 were shallow depressions with sandy clay fillings. F55 was a large pit with a single tip line of mussel shell against its southern slope, the remainder of the filling being charcoal flecked redeposited brickearth. This circular feature with a

V-shaped profile cut both the natural brick-earth and the underlying gravel and may perhaps represent a subsoil hollow (Evans 1972, 219, fig. 66) caused by the falling of a tree.

In the late eleventh century and the first half of the twelfth century (Phase II) a timber building stood in this area. Its northern wall was represented by an 8cm deep trench with a U-shaped profile, F48, terminating in a post-hole 15cm deep, F53. This trench probably represents the setting for a sleeper-beam side wall whereas the west wall was evidently post built, F49, 50, 53. Traces of this building did not survive in the area excavated to the east (QV2) owing to the lower ground level. If the building was limited on the east by F56 (QV2) and on the south by Porter's Lane, its maximum internal dimensions would probably have been 9m east-west by 4.6m north-south. A small rubbish pit, F56, a post-hole, F47, and a rectangular cess pit, F11, belonged to the same phase and all of these features may have been in use during the occupation of the building.

A change of occupation took place around 1160 (Phase III, 1160-ca 1270) when 'Canute's Palace' was constructed. Prior to the construction of this stone building a rectangular lime-kiln, F41, was dug. The fillings of this kiln were predominantly dumped layers of angular limestone fragments about 4 cm in size and indicate a clearance of masons' debris and discarded kiln charge presumably immediately prior to the construction of the building. On the south side of this kiln a stone revetment was provided to ensure stable edges for filling from the direction of Porter's Lane.

Relatively little survives of the twelfth-century internal arrangements of 'Canute's Palace' except for traces of the construction trench, F23, F32, and what may be part of the original earth floor, F45, which consisted of a 4 cm thick sloping spread of brown sandy loam with traces of gravel, stone and oyster shell, as well as appreciable amounts of bone and pottery. It clearly overlaid the earlier timber building but its direct relationship to

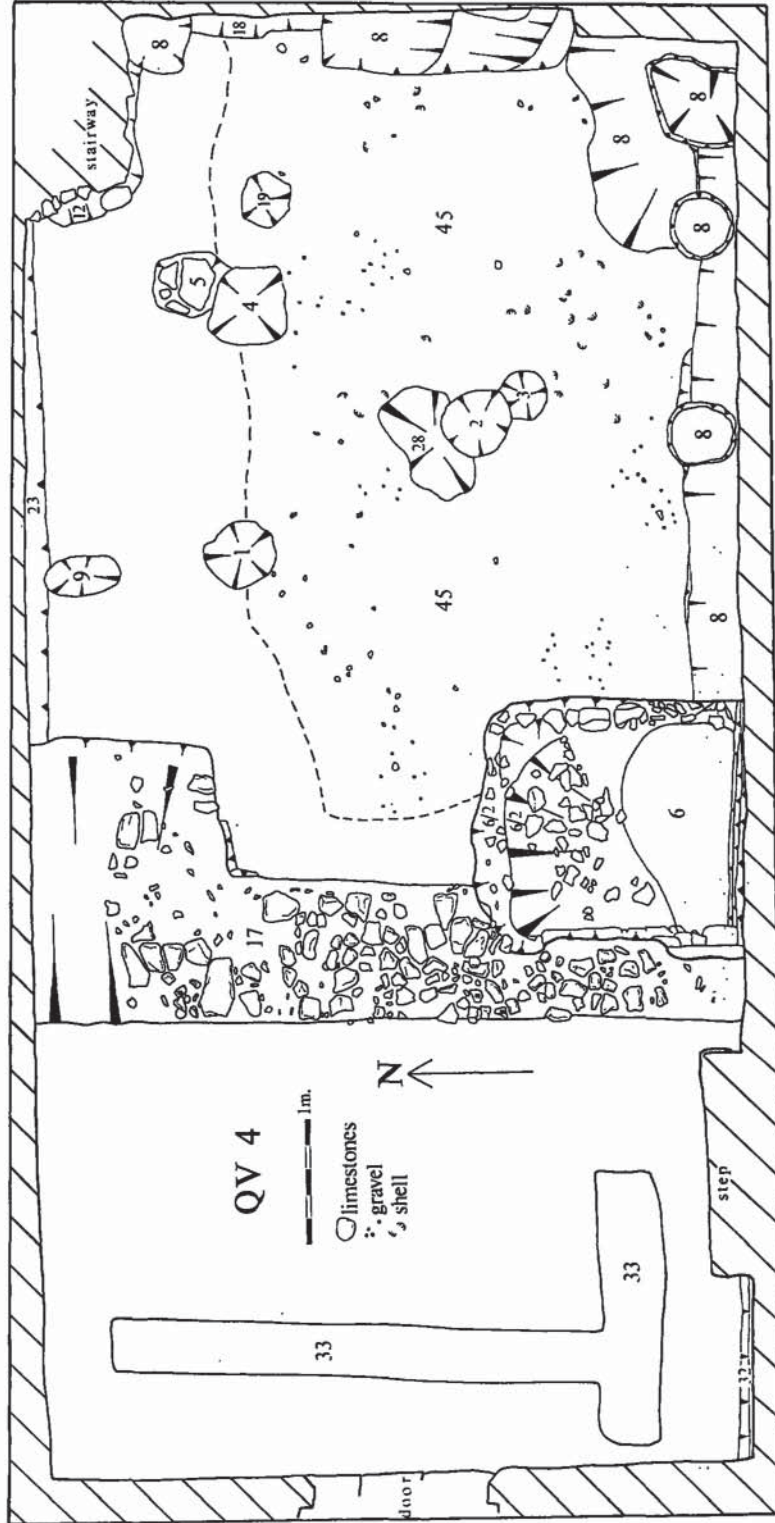


Fig. 10. Quilter's Vault: Plan of area QV4 showing later features.

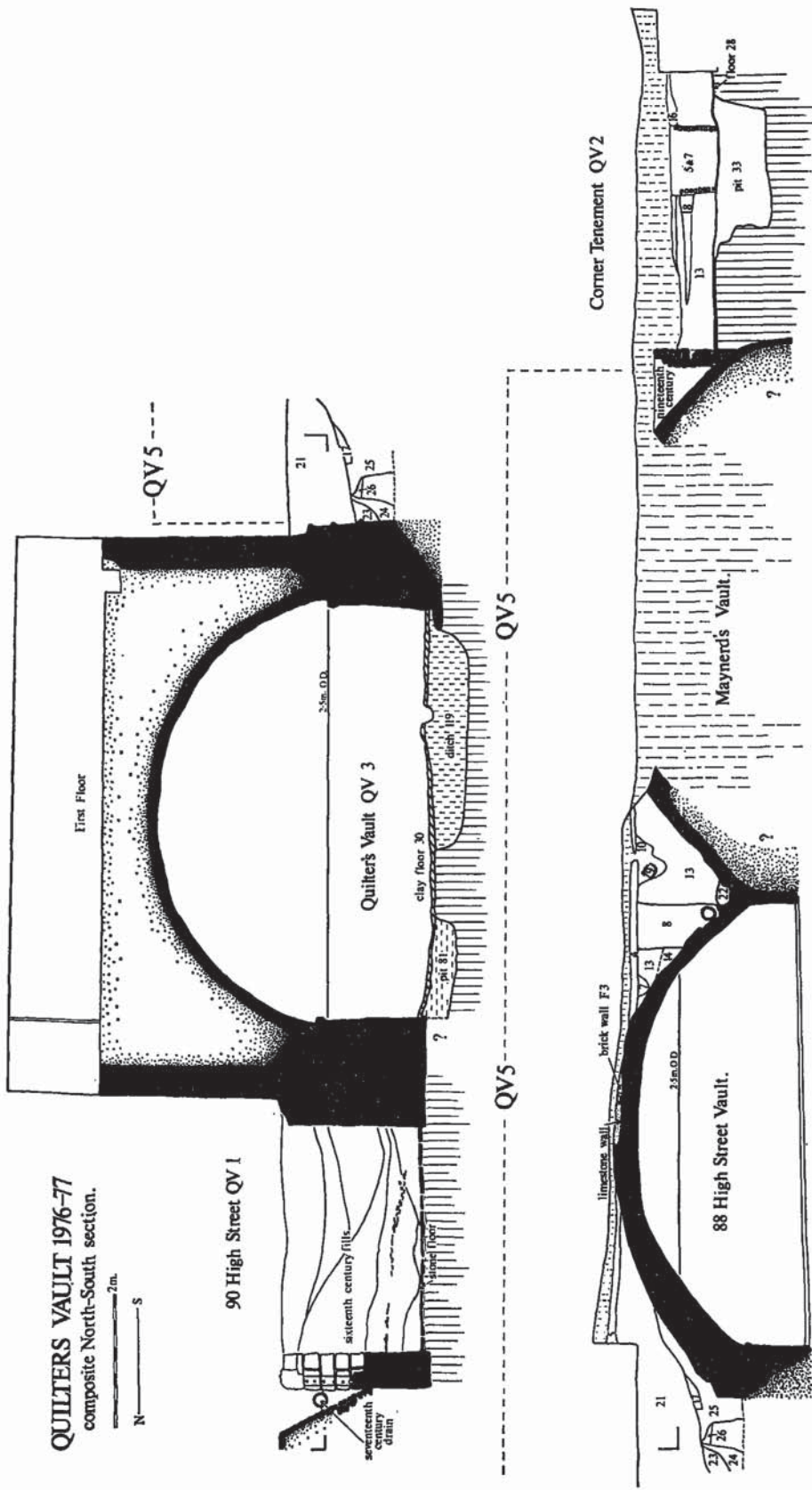


Fig. 11. For location see Fig. 3.

'Canute's Palace' had been destroyed by later features. However, the pottery suggests a twelfth-century date for the floor, which is cut by the east wall, F18, dated to ca 1270.

The beginning of the next period of occupation (Phase IV, ca 1270 – 15th century, Fig. 10) was marked by the reconstruction of the east wall, F18, contemporary with QV2 Phase II. Probably also belonging to this phase was an irregular patch of burnt clay, F28, which may be the remains of a central hearth.

In the fifteenth century a stairway, F12, was inserted in the north-east corner of 'Canute's Palace' connecting it to Maynerd's Vault and the west wall of that vault was rebuilt. A number of post-settings, F1–5, F19, ranging from 5 cm–15 cm in depth, survive from between the fifteenth and the nineteenth centuries. None can be closely dated. By 1846 (see p. 186) a second dividing wall, F17 had been added to the building, and the space between this wall and the existing wall to the west formed an alleyway from Porter's Lane to the yard areas on the north. Later features include a rectangular stone-lined pit, F6, which cut F17. This pit had been excavated prior to 1976, and was found full of modern debris. Layer F6/2 within F6 represents the collapsed north and east walls of this pit lining and, as they lay upon the clean floor of the pit, this collapse presumably occurred during, or just after, excavation. Two post-1940 features, a modern mason's trench, F8, and a previous excavation, F33, were re-excavated but did not provide any additional data.

87 HIGH STREET (MAYNERD'S VAULT) AND 88 HIGH STREET (QV4)

87 High Street: This vault, previously known as 'Canute's Palace' Vault, has been renamed for the purposes of this report to avoid its being confused with the 'Palace' itself. Originally part of the same capital tenement as No. 88, the vault was provided in the fifteenth century with a doorway connecting it to 'Canute's Palace', then the Customs House. The vault had collapsed some time

before 1971, when the western wall was destroyed by a pipe-trench. It was originally a semi-elliptical vault 18m (59 ft) east-west by 6.5m (21 ft) north-south, with a string course and two chamfered spur walls at the east end flanking an off-centre doorway with an aumbry to the south. Excavation showed the west wall to have been a later insertion. Consequently, the dating by Faulkner (in Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, 96) of the construction of the vault to the fifteenth century, on the evidence of the square-headed two-light window in the west wall, needs reconsideration.

88 High Street: This is a semi-elliptical, rubble vault, 20m (65.6 ft) east to west by 6.5m (21 ft) north to south, with a single course of ashlar above the string course. At the eastern end two spur walls with chamfered edges flank the position of the original doorway. To the south of these spur walls are traces of an aumbry, while at the west end there are traces of a central doorway. The vault is set at an angle of 5° to the axis of the High Street and is parallel to Maynerd's Vault, with which it shares a party wall. The original entrance has been extended in brick so that it now encroaches on High Street.

Results of excavation

Two trenches were excavated within the area of 88 High Street and Maynerd's Vault (Fig. 11), a long one from the south wall of Quilter's Vault to the north wall of the corner tenement, QV2, F31, to provide a section across the site and a smaller one in the only accessible area of High Street frontage (Fig. 3). At the western end of the long trench evidence of a foundation trench, F23, F24, belonging to Quilter's Vault, of ca 1270 (Phase I), was revealed. This trench cut a layer of sand and gravel, F26, capping the natural brickearth, which was also cut by the foundation trench, F25, for no. 88 Vault, F28.

The construction of no. 88's vault and Maynerd's Vault appears to have been contemporary as they shared the same party wall and formed part of the same capital tenement. Stratification and finds in area QV2 suggest a

construction date of ca 1330. Two linear clay pads from this phase, F17, F22, probably represent pads for above ground timber buildings. During Phase III the haunches of the vault were infilled with brown loams, F3, 14, 21. At an unknown date in Phase IV a grey concrete yard surface, F4, was laid over the junction of Maynerd's and no. 88 vault, sealing service trenches, F7, 8, 9. A later trench, F10, cut through the yard. F9, which contained a 26 cm diameter red earthenware drain, was probably part of a drainage system laid in the late seventeenth century discovered in 1971 by Mr R. G. Thomson in area QV1 and the yards.

Facing the yard surface and inserted into the roof of no. 88 vault was a wall of irregular limestone blocks bonded in white mortar. This wall and a clay floor, F5, probably belonged to buildings erected in the seventeenth century and replaced in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries by brick buildings, F3.

The south-east corner of Maynerd's Vault was located in the smaller trench (Fig. 3) as well as the remains of a contemporary limestone facade bonded with white mortar, F19. Evidence for a later encroachment onto High Street was provided by a limestone and granite extension to the entrance to the vault. Further encroachments took place in the nineteenth century when the entrance to the adjoining brick corner building was extended 40 cm beyond the line of Maynerd's Vault.

FINDS

THE POTTERY by Robert Thomson

The pottery recovered from the Quilter's Vault excavation is very fragmentary and most of the material can readily be paralleled in Platt and Coleman-Smith's comprehensive series (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, v. 2, figs. 135-220). The report is presented as a feature list in numerical order, listing the illustrated sherds with a brief description of the remainder of the material and references to the previously published series, which are cited for brevity as, Platt no. 63 etc; followed

by a catalogue of material illustrated. It should be noted that the majority of the coarse ware fabrics described in Platt's series as having 'flint inclusions' also contain significant amounts of quartz grains.

Feature Pottery

QV1

- F209: Body sherds from cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions.
- F212: Body sherds from cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions, small green glazed sherd probably from Normandy and similar to Platt no. 991. 13th century.

QV2

- F33: Body sherds from scratch marked cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions, sandy cooking pots in a fabric similar to Platt nos. 482-4, and several sherds of green glazed Saintonge jugs similar to Platt no. 997. Late 13th century.
- F39: Portchester ware body sherds (No. 1) and body sherds from cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions. 10th century.
- F46: Rim sherd from Normandy jug (No. 2), sherds of cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions and fragments of glazed roof tile as Nos. 33 and 34. 13th century.
- F51: Body sherds of cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions and fragments of glazed roof tile as Nos. 33 and 34. 13th century.
- F52: Cooking pot rim (No. 4) and body sherds from scratch marked cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions; rim from unusual Normandy jar (No. 3) and glazed body sherds in fabric similar to Platt nos. 460 and 462. 13th century.
- F56: Cooking pot rims (Nos. 5-11) and many body sherds of similar cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions. The parallels to the illustrated sherds are all of 10th or 11th century date. This material adds to the few late Saxon groups of pottery recovered from the medieval town. The group also contains several fragments of tiles in a smooth red fabric. 10th or 11th century.

QV3

- Fill of F95: Cooking pot rims (Nos. 12, 13 and 14), also fragments of tiles in a smooth red fabric. 12th or 13th century. (Magnetic date, 1200).
- F65: Neck and body sherds of a Spanish red micaceous costrel (No. 15); body sherds of at least two Saintonge polychrome jugs with painted decoration similar to

- Platt nos. 1022 and 1047; rim and body sherds from a small green glazed Sain-tonge jug similar to Platt no. 1501 and sherds from scratch marked cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions. The association of the Spanish costrel with Sain-tonge wares of the late 13th century confirms the early introduction of such costrels to England. Late 13th century.
- F95: Body sherd in brown/red fabric with grey core and flint, quartz and sandstone inclusions. Traces of applied thumbed decoration and probably from a spouted pitcher similar to Platt nos. 42 and 43. 13th century.
- F106: Body sherds of scratch marked cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions and neck and body sherds from Normandy jug (No. 16). Mid 13th century.
- F110: Cooking pot rims Nos. 17, 18 and 19. Rim and body sherd of green glazed jug with applied strip decoration (No. 20); body sherd of jug in a sandy red/brown fabric with quartz inclusions and a thin external clear glaze. Many fragments of glazed roof tiles. Cf. Nos. 33 and 34. (Magnetic date 1200-1250).
- F116: Rim of cooking pot with flint and quartz inclusions and finger tip decoration similar to Platt no. 84; pitcher spout in a brown/red fabric with flint inclusions similar to Platt nos. 42 and 43; fragments of wheel-thrown jug in a sandy red/brown fabric with a clear glaze. 12th or 13th century.
- QV4
- F11: Cooking pot rims (Nos. 21 and 22).
- F45: Cooking pot rims (Nos. 23-27) and many similar body sherds. 12th century.
- F50: One small sherd with flint and quartz inclusions.
- F55: Michelmersh sherd with stamped decoration (No. 29) and cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions. 11th century.
- QV5
- F25: Scratch marked cooking pot rim (No. 30); sandy lug handle (No. 31) and Normandy glazed jug (No. 32). Body sherds of cooking pots with flint and quartz inclusions. 13th century.
- Catalogue of Pottery Illustrated*
Fig. 12
1. Body sherd. Wheel thrown, sandy brown/red fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions; heavily rilled exterior. Portchester ware. Cf. Cunliffe 1976, 187; Hurst 1976, 336. QV2, F39.
 2. Jug rim. Smooth buff fabric with notched decoration around rim flange; green/yellow external glaze. Probably Normandy. QV2, F46.
 3. Jar rim. Wheel thrown, hard fired buff fabric with grey core and abundant quartz inclusions. Normandy. QV2, F52.
 4. Cooking pot rim. Sandy reduced fabric with quartz and flint inclusions. QV2, F52.
 5. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/buff fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions. Cf. Platt no. 15. QV2, F56.
 6. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red fabric with flint and quartz inclusions. Cf. Platt no. 5. QV2, F56.
 7. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red buff fabric with grey core; flint, sparse quartz and occasional iron inclusions. QV2, F56.
 8. Cooking pot rim. Gritty reduced fabric with flint and quartz inclusions. QV2, F56.
 9. Cooking pot shoulder. Gritty red/brown fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions. Cf. Platt nos. 24 and 25 for a similar thickening of profile at shoulder. QV2, F56. This thickening, probably due to the addition of a rim to the already completed pot body, is a technique that appears early in the Southampton pottery series and apparently survives until the late 11th century. Cf. Platt nos. 115, 116, 147, 168, 242 and 244.
 10. Cooking pot rim. Wheel thrown, sandy, red/brown fabric with flint inclusions. Portchester Ware. Cf. Cunliffe 1976, 187; Hurst 1976, 336. QV2, F56.
 11. Cooking pot base. Gritty reduced fabric with flint and sparse quartz inclusions. QV2, F56.
 12. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red fabric with grey core and grey/buff inner surface; flint and quartz inclusions. QV3, F38. Fill of F95.
 13. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/buff fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions. QV3, F38. Fill of F95.
 14. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/buff fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions and scratch marked interior. QV3, F38. Fill of F95.
 15. Costrel neck. Sandy brown/red fabric with mica inclusions. Spanish red micaceous ware. Cf. Platt nos. 1279, 1280, 1283 and 1287. QV3, F65.
 16. Jug neck and body sherds. Sandy cream fabric; external yellow glaze over red slip-painted areas and applied pellets and rouletted strips. Rouen type. Cf. Platt no. 977. QV3, F106; QV3, F30.
 17. Cooking pot rim. Gritty reduced fabric with flint and quartz inclusions; finger pressed rim and scratch marks externally. Cf. Platt no. 306. QV3, F110.
 18. Cooking pot rim. Gritty brown/red fabric with flint and quartz inclusions; finger

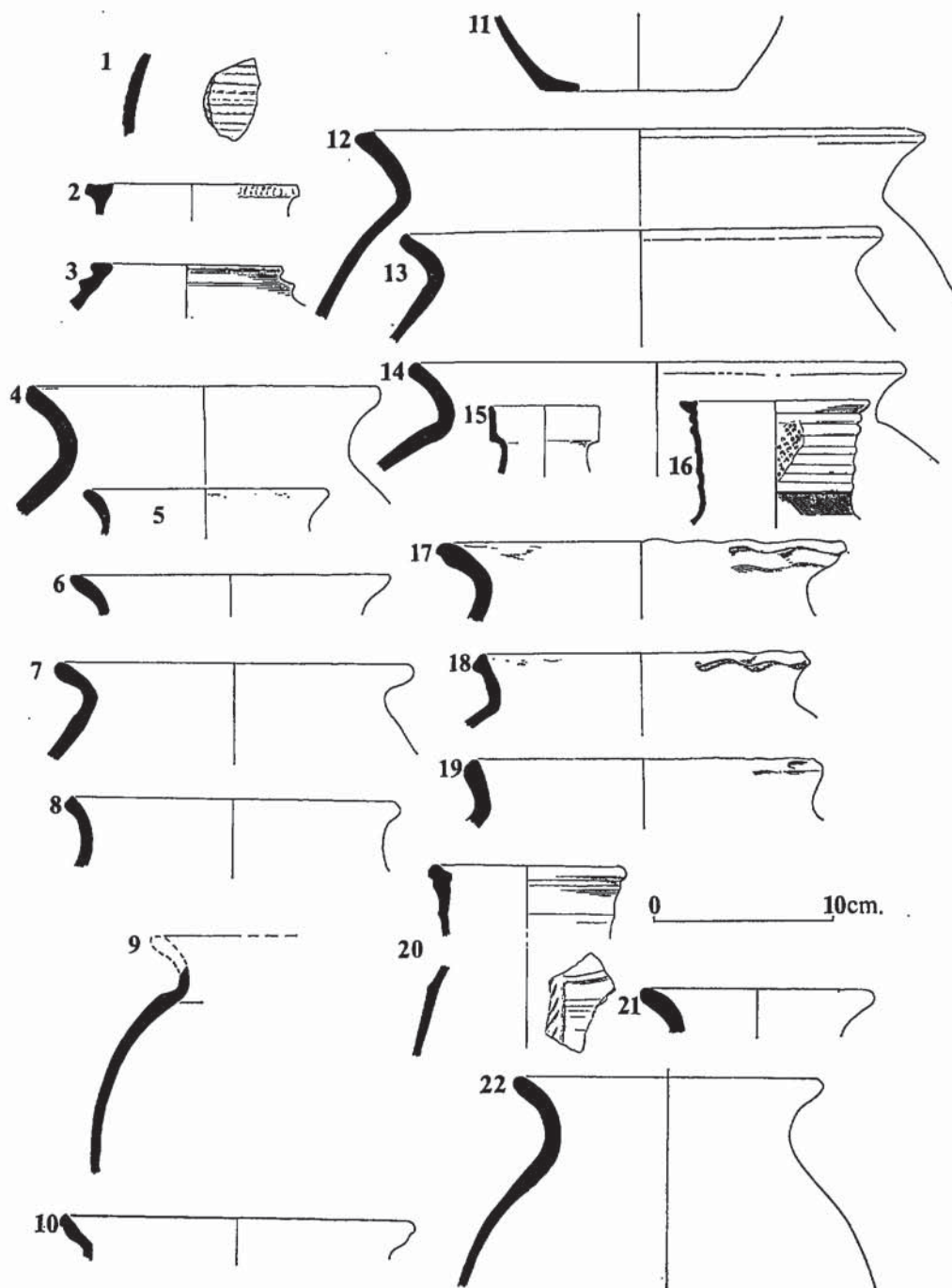


Fig. 12. Quilter's Vault, Southampton: Medieval pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

- pressed rim. QV3, F110. Fill of F115.
19. Cooking pot rim. Gritty brown/red fabric with flint and quartz inclusions; finger pressed rim. Cf. Platt, fig. 142 for similar rim. QV3, F110. Fill of F115.
 20. Jug neck and body sherd. Sandy cream/buff fabric with quartz inclusions; speckled green glaze over applied slashed strips. Probably Northern French. QV3, F110. Fill of 115.
 21. Cooking pot rim. Gritty reduced fabric with flint and quartz inclusions. QV4, F11.
 22. Cooking pot rim. Gritty brown/red fabric with grey core and exterior; flint and quartz inclusions. Heavily finger marked on interior of shoulder. QV4, F11.

Fig. 13

23. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/buff fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions. QV4, F45.
24. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/brown fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions. QV4, F45.
25. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/brown fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions. Finger tip decoration around shoulder. QV4, F45.
26. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/buff fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions. Cf. Platt no. 141. QV4, F45.
27. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/brown fabric with grey core; flint and quartz inclusions. Cf. Platt no. 140 for similar upright rim. QV4, F45.
28. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/brown fabric with grey core; flint and sparse quartz inclusions. QV4, F55.
29. Body sherd. Sandy red/buff fabric with grey core; thinly applied strips with small four sector stamps. Michelmersh, Cf. Platt nos. 31, 32; Addyman 1972, 127, 130; Hurst 1976, 337. QV4, F55.
30. Cooking pot rim. Gritty red/brown fabric with grey core and inner surface; flint and quartz inclusions, scratched marked exterior. QV5, F25.
31. Lug handle, possibly from bowl. Sandy red/brown fabric with grey core; flint, quartz and possibly crushed tile inclusions. QV5, F25.
32. Jug base. Gritty pink/red fabric with quartz inclusions; pronounced throwing marks on interior. Clear brown/yellow glaze on exterior and splashes on inside of base. Glaze runs show that vessel was fired upright. Probably Normandy. QV5, F25.

THE ROOF TILES by Robert Thomson
(*Fig. 13, 33, 34*) (QV3, F110. Fill of F115)

The majority of the roof tiles belong to a hitherto unrecognised medieval form. They

divide into two types, here called *imbrex* and *tegula*, after their Roman prototypes. Both types are complementary and must come from the same roof. They are in a heavily flint gritted red fabric and are partially glazed on the upper surfaces. The glaze, basically a clear one, varies in colour from amber to green, sometimes on the same tile. It has not been possible to reconstruct completely either of the types but they both have suspension holes at one end and the imbrices appear to be tapered enabling the large end to fit over the smaller, thus sealing the suspension hole. Examples of both types came from Aberg's earlier excavations on the site (Platt nos. 1386, 1387, 1389). Although building materials are notoriously difficult to date, a late twelfth century date is suggested by Platt (Platt and Coleman Smith 1975, 24, 289). The associated pottery, here 13th century, can only give a *terminus ante-quem*.

BRONZE by D. A. Hinton

Fig. 14

1. Belt plate, undecorated, with four bronze corner rivets and a broken end. As this object does not have a central slot it cannot have been for use with a buckle frame. At Winchester, two piece belt plates like this occur in the 14th century and later. QV3, F19. Context date ca 1275 or later. (Re-deposited).
2. Chape. The forked tops of this object are skeuomorphs of binding strips and so place the chape early in the medieval series. Two similar chapes from Winchester can be dated to the 13th century by their contexts (Hinton, forthcoming). QV3, F110: Context date ca 1200 - ca 1270.
3. Strip, undecorated, with attachment holes at the end, one with the remains of an iron rivet in it. Presumably this object was originally flat and may have formed a binding strip to a wooden or bone box. QV3, F116: Context date early 12th century (pre ca 1160).

IRON by S. Langford and J. Walker

The iron objects are heavily corroded due to the general salinity of the site and even after X-raying they are not easily identified. Only iron objects before ca 1525 are considered here. The iron finds occur from the early twelfth century and the relative growth in their occurrence may perhaps be indicative of an increasing availability of iron. One interesting group of objects comes from QV2, F33/7 (a demolition pit) dated between ca

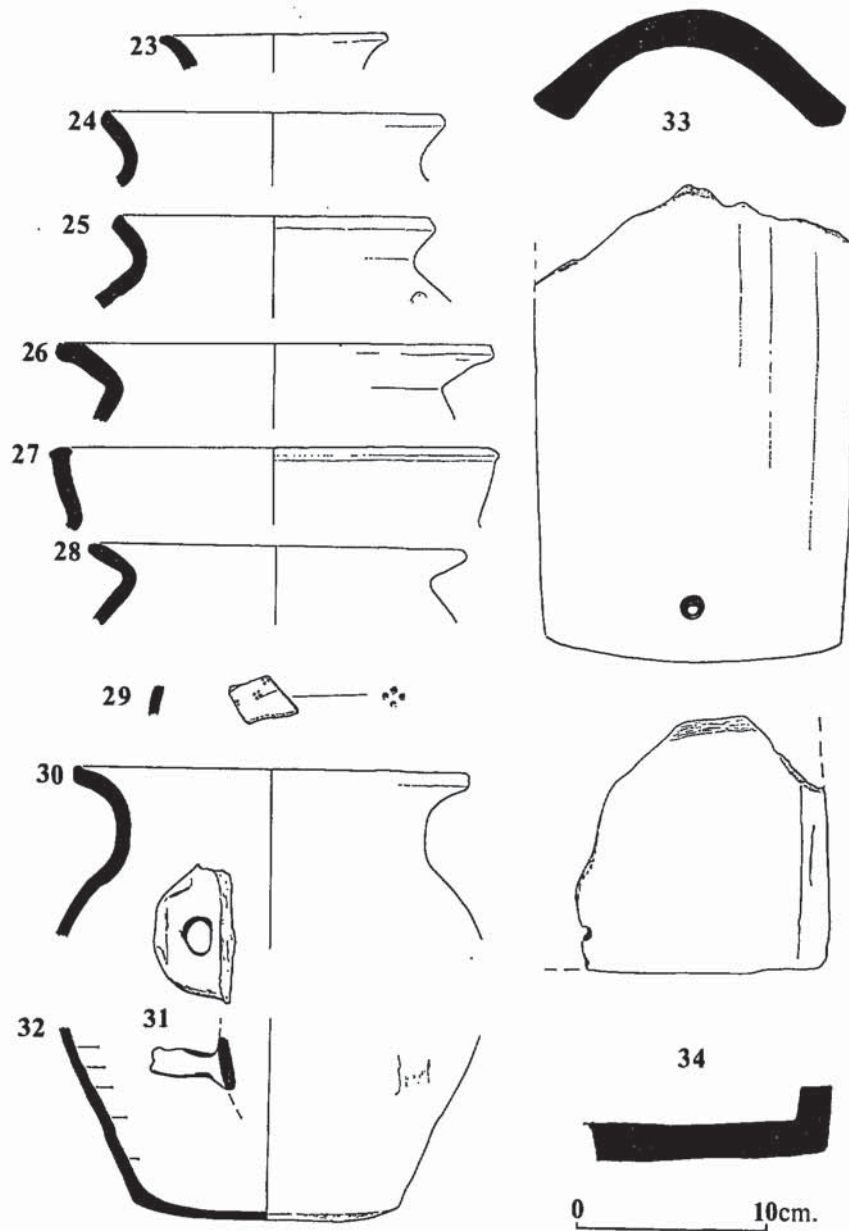


Fig. 13. Quilter's Vault, Southampton: Medieval pottery, 23-32, and roof tiles, 33-4, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

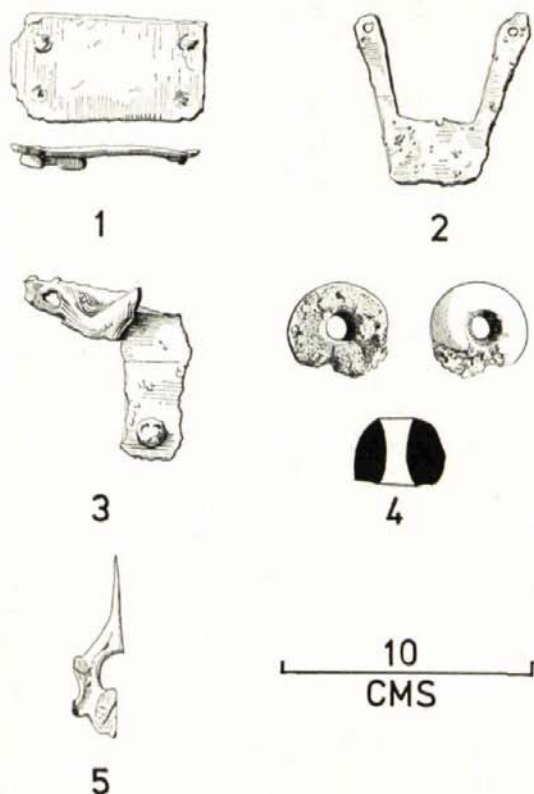


Fig. 14. Quilter's Vault: Bronze, 1-3, and bone, 4-5, objects. Scale $\frac{1}{3}$.

1300 and ca 1340 and includes a variety of nails, clench nails, plates, ferrules, that may represent fittings from timber buildings demolished during a general clearance of the site.

Five small nails: small flat heads, with roughly rounded shanks and even taper to tip, length 25-41 mm, maximum shank width 3-4 mm. Date range ca 1300 - early 16th century.

Five medium nails: flat headed, with either square or rounded shanks and even taper, length 45-60 mm, maximum shank widths 4-6 mm. Date range ca 1300 - early 16th century.

Seven large nails: flat headed, roughly hammered square or rounded shanks. Several were bent or broken and two may be surrounded at the head by the remains of a washer; lengths 40-100 mm, maximum shank widths 6-12 mm. Date range ca 11th-12th - early 16th century.

Three clench nails: flat headed, with flat washers below head at either end, all shanks square in

section, lengths 27-50 mm, maximum shank widths 5-8 mm, washer diameters 20-35 mm. Date range ca 1300 - ca 1500.

Small square washer with central hole, 20x20 mm, ca 1500.

Three studs: broad flat heads with thick and broken shanks, lengths approximately 25 mm, maximum shank widths 8-15 mm, head width 28-50 mm. Date range 13th - 16th century.

Seven plate and sheet fragments. All these fragments were heavily corroded and damaged making positive identifications impossible. However, four of these fragments show at least two layers visible on X ray and may be fragments of knives in sheaths. Lengths between 20-70 mm, widths between 8-35 mm. Date range 13th - 16th century.

Six strips and bars. All of these objects were heavily corroded, making positive identifications uncertain. Lengths between 17-30 mm, widths between 5-20 mm. Date range ca 1300 - 16th century.

Three ferrules. All these objects show either rounded or square hollow sections but there is no other indication of the precise function of any of them. Lengths 10-35 mm, widths 6-13 mm. Date range 11th, 12th - 16th century.

Bill-hook: curved fragment of blade broken at tip and partly down the tang. Section clearly shows inner cutting edge, there are no nail holes and so identification as a horse shoe is clearly impossible, 120 mm from extremity to extremity, 35 mm across blade. Early 16th century.

THE ANIMAL BONE by Jennifer Bourdillon

Animal bone came from a total of 39 layers, features or groups. The total number of identified fragments is not large (1,451); but the material is of interest as a well-sealed and well-stratified collection which documents the animal remains on a particular site throughout the medieval period and up to the end of the eighteenth century. There was no sieving, but all visible bones were collected and, as well as remains from domestic animals and poultry, careful digging recovered various fragments of wild bird, small mammal and fish.

The few bones from the early ditch (QV3, F119) showed manifest differences from the others and were treated on their own. Other finds have been grouped into three broad periods. *Period A* covers the use of the earliest

buildings on the site. There was a shift in social standing when, during this period, some of the first timber buildings were replaced by structures of stone; but there was no change in the alignment and the yards were left as possible grazing grounds for stock. It was in *Period B*, from the construction of Quilter's Vault around 1270, that the realignment of properties brought much denser human occupation and in consequence less space for animals. This major social change was marked on the site by trading activities, by the use of the Customs House in the second half of this period, and by property ownership, at times, by men of wealth and standing. In *Period C*, the 17th and 18th centuries, the Customs House had been closed and the site was used intensively for lodgings and hotels. Not many bones were found for this last period, but the small group from QV2, F5/6/8, is interesting as representing refuse material from a known late 18th-century hotel. From these three periods a few features have been chosen for particular comparison, both with each other and with the early ditch. Medieval Southampton was less than a mile, centre to likely centre, from the site of Middle Saxon Hamwih, and it seems likely that the pattern of animal husbandry established at Hamwih (Bourdillon and Coy, in press) was the starting point for that of Southampton itself. Comparisons are also possible with the medieval animal bone excavated by Platt from the nearby High Street, from Winkle Street and from Cuckoo Lane, and reported on by Barbara Noddle (1975). This material starts rather later, and ends somewhat earlier, than that from Quilter's Vault. It is richer, coming from features selected for the intrinsic interest of their contents. But Noddle's suggestion that changes in butchery marked social changes and new patterns of retail distribution is one that has been mirrored and amplified in this present report.

Other sites from the medieval town are currently under study and soon to be published by Southampton Archaeological Research Committee, and their material has

inevitably helped to shape some of the judgements made in this present report. A study of the Committee's animal bone from medieval Southampton is under preparation.

THE SPECIES REPRESENTED

Table 1: The Fragment Count

	ditch %	Period A	Period B	Period C	Total
Horse.	1	6	—	—	7
Cattle	17	412	88	29	546
Sheep	—	442	52	67	561
Goat	—	6	1	1	8
Pig	2	118	32	15	167
Goose	—	5	4	3	12
Domestic Fowl	—	20	33	36	89
Domestic Duck	—	1	1	—	2
Cat	—	2	3	—	5
Red Deer	5	1	1	—	7
Fallow deer	—	—	1	—	1
Badger	—	—	1	—	1
Hedgehog	—	3	—	—	3
Rabbit	—	1	7	7	15
Hare	—	—	1	—	1
Rat	—	2	—	2	4
House mouse	—	—	—	5	5
Wild Birds	—	—	1	8	9
Fish	—	4	2	2	8
Totals	25	1023	228	175	1451

TABLE 2: Percentage representation by *weight* among the main domestic animals at Quilter's Vault site.

	ditch	A	B	C	Total	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	Weight in kg.
Horse	14.7	3.7	—	—	4.1	1.0
Cattle	81.9	66.7	74.6	42.9	68.0	17.5
Sheep	—	19.8	12.8	40.8	18.1	4.7
Goat	—	0.7	0.5	2.0	0.7	0.2
Pig	3.4	9.1	12.1	14.3	9.1	2.4
	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)	25.8

The Domestic Species

Horse: Horse appeared only in the early ditch and during Period A.

Cattle: The general importance of cattle is seen from Tables 1 and 2. Cattle indeed drop proportionately during Period C, but bone weight may give a fairer picture than the fragment count in assessing the relative importance of a species among the food remains, and on this score the dominance of cattle is too strong to be outweighed even by a large increase in the number of sheep.

Sheep: By fragments, sheep are well represented, rising sharply at the end. These sheep were consistently and surprisingly small, with a mean withers height (Teichert 1975) of only 56 cm and a range of 52 cm to 59 cm.

Goat: All ovicaprid material was carefully examined, but goat was represented only by fragments of horn core.

Pig: All the pig was from domestic stock.

Dog: No dog was found at Quilter's Vault site.

Cat: There were five occurrences of cat. Two unfused tibia (Periods A and B) both came from young animals, though not, by size, from kittens. This would fit with Noddle's suggestion that such animals may have been killed for their skins, although there were no signs of any cuts. The other bones were from small adults.

Domestic Poultry: It may be calculated from Table 1 that the proportion of poultry fragments among the domestic bone rises tenfold from Period A to C, and this is a clear indication of growing variety in the diet. Goose and fowl are of prime importance; domestic duck is rare.

The Wild Species

Red Deer and Fallow Deer, Cervus elaphus and Dama dama: Red deer was found from the start. Fallow deer appears in a feature which fits well in time with Noddle's finding of it in a Cuckoo Lane pit of the first half of the 14th century. There was no antler of any species, nor was there any roe deer.

Badger, Meles meles: A left radius of a young adult badger was found in Period B. There are two small marks on the shaft which come presumably from skinning.

Hedgehog, Erinaceus europaeus: Three fragments of hedgehog were found together in Period A. Hedgehog is said to be good eating, and these bones may well be the remains of a meal.

Rabbit and Hare, Oryctolagus cuniculus and Lepus cf. timidus: Rabbit is included here as wild, partly because the bones found are all from small mature animals, but one cannot rule out the possibility that some of the rabbits had been reared in captivity. Rabbit appeared on the Quilter's Vault site from the late 12th century, and was clearly established by Period B as a regular part of the diet. The only fragment of hare came from a feature where rabbit was also present.

Rat, Rattus sp.: A pelvis and tibia of rat were impeccably sealed in a lime-kiln (QV3, F95) dated not later than 1200. This is quite early for Britain. The introduction of the black rat to western Europe was generally thought to date from the Crusades and their sea-borne contact with the eastern Mediterranean, and that of the brown rat to have followed considerably later.

Heinrich (1976) suggests that both black and brown rat may have been present on the continent from the medieval period or earlier, the black more in evidence as it makes for human settlements, the brown on its own in the wild. But the earlier view has not yet been challenged for this country.

The bones in QV3, F95 and an ulna from QV2, F3 were of the black rat, *Rattus rattus*. The third and last occurrence at Quilter's Vault is a tibia, immature but large and robust and comparable with the brown rat, *R. norvegicus*. Yet it is securely dated to the early 17th century in QV2, F19, and one would not be happy to claim the presence of the species at that time on evidence which is no more than a balance of probabilities.

House mouse, Mus musculus: Several fragments of house mouse were found in a feature from Period C. They included a maxilla with clearly diagnostic molars.

Wild Birds: Two large duck fragments have been taken as most probably domestic. An ulna from Period C was more probably wild, from mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*; two mandibles, from B and C, are from wild duck the size of a pochard, and a right humerus from C is of teal, *A. crecca*. C also produced two occurrences of partridge, probably the English partridge *Perdix perdix*, one of jack snipe, *Lymnocyptes minimus*, and one of woodcock, *Scolopax rusticola*. Woodcock was found at Hamwih, and it was also found by Bramwell (1975) in Platt's Cuckoo Lane excavations. It therefore spans several centuries of catching in the neighbourhood. It is notable that bones from wild birds make quite a late start on this site. There are none in Period A, and one single appearance in B; the richness comes suddenly in C.

Fish: Most Hamwih fish had been easy estuarine catches but in medieval times the pattern changed and attention turned more towards the sea. Of the fish found at Quilter's Vault, only flounder, *Platichthys flesus* and garfish, *Belone belone*, are commonly estuarine. A fish of some gadoid, cod-like species and the garfish came from Period A. The only other archaeological record of garfish comes from a collection of fish-bones from medieval Poole (Coy 1977b). Cod itself, *Gadhus morhua*, and conger eel, *Conger conger*, occurred in B. Conger eel was found by Platt in an early 14th century pit in Cuckoo Lane (Wheeler 1975) and comes at Quilter's Vault from a layer of a similar date. Mackerel, *Scomber scombrus*, was found in C. Most dramatic was the finding in one feature from Period A of both a thoracic centrum from a species of shark and the teeth of an eagle ray, *Myliobates aquila*. (Coy 1977a).

Molluscs: The shift of attention out to sea prompts the question of how far the shore-line itself was exploited. Hamwih's extensive marine molluscs were studied by Jessica Winder, who used the material to pioneer a method of study (in press). The remains at Quilter's Vault were far fewer, even in proportion, and no such detailed work has been attempted. But sporadic oyster and mussel were found, and there were more varied collections of molluscs in some of the later features: it seems that with shellfish, as with other species, the diet grew more varied over time.

PATTERNS IN BUTCHERY

Age at death

Horse showed no young animals, pigs few old ones—the first would be kept for years of working, the second suffered rapid turnover for food. Cattle and sheep, on the other hand, both showed new patterns, with a larger proportion of unfused bones (and therefore of animals killed younger) than they had done at Hamwih (Table 3). It could be that medieval Southampton as a whole showed more readiness to kill its animals at a good age for meat and not to wait until their living use had ended. Certainly there is no evidence at Quilter's Vault of the exostosis described by von den Driesch (1975) as a likely indication that animals had undergone long periods of strain.

TABLE 3:

Percentages of unfused bones of cattle and sheep at Quilter's Vault site, compared with Hamwih, Melbourn Street.

	<i>Early-Fusing Group</i>	<i>Middle-Fusing Group</i>	<i>Late-Fusing Group</i>
Cattle			
Hamwih	9.4	38.5	46.7
QV	27.3	50.0	57.1
Sheep			
Hamwih	6.6	21.5	51.0
QV	17.0	36.8	72.0

Methods of butchery

There is no indication from any period of how the animals were killed, but it is clear that butchery methods on the carcase changed during the life of the town. Noddle found clear differences between her Periods A and B (up to 1225; and mid-13th to mid-14th

centuries). In the later period fragments were generally smaller, and from the sagittal chopping which appeared on the vertebrae she inferred a new division of the carcase for some form of retail distribution. At Quilter's Vault there is a similar diminution in fragment size over time. This occurred for cattle, sheep and pig and has been quantified by weighing (Table 4). There are some signs, too, of sagittal chopping.

TABLE 4

Mean fragment weight (in grams) of bones of main domestic animals from Quilter's Vault site.

	<i>Equid</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goat</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Totals</i>
ditch	340	111.8	—	—	40.0	116.0
A	120.8	31.7	8.8	24.2	15.1	19.9
B	—	24.5	7.1	15.0	10.9	16.7
C	—	14.5	6.0	20.0	9.3	8.8
totals	152.1	32.1	8.3	22.5	14.0	20.0
selected features:						
QV2, F56	80.0	45.8	10.7	10.0	25.0	26.2
QV4, F45	—	20.4	4.9	45.0	12.0	12.5
QV2, F3	—	20.0	2.9	—	10.0	6.6
QV2, F5	—	6.3	6.9	—	5.0	6.7

At Quilter's Vault there was also a change in the type of cuts, a change which suggests more care and precision and also the use of different tools. In earlier layers the bones were broken or chopped, often quite forcefully; in later layers sawing was used in breaking up the carcase and in its division into joints. Some marks of careful sawing give an almost polished finish to the surface of the bone, but they are not linked with bone-working, for the cuts follow the line of dismemberment, often diagonally, and are seen on shafts and epiphyses alike.

Changing butchery would mean changes in cookery. It seems that in the early pattern the meat, and especially the beef, would be stripped from the bones and cut for stewing, with the bones themselves then roughly chopped for marrow. The later sawing, by contrast, implied the careful preparation of joints, presumably for some form of roasting. But roasting is no improvement on stewing when the meat is old and tough, and it was as well that at Quilter's Vault the animals

which were eaten were rather nearer to their prime.

RESULTS BY FEATURES

Ditch, QV3, F119 (Fig. 8)

These bones were immediately distinctive when compared with all others excavated by Southampton Archaeological Research Committee. The five post-cranial fragments of red deer formed one in five of the whole group, as against one in four thousand at Hamwih, yet there was no antler. This could be seasonal; or the bones in the ditch could be the lost complement to antler worked elsewhere, for if any deer were killed this would necessarily happen away from the settlement itself.

The fragments were large (see Table 4), and many bones of all the species represented were complete or near-complete. There were cuts on the cattle, and very probably on the horse: these animals had been butchered and discarded. This is not, however, the normal waste trimmed away after the slaughter of animals for meat. There were no heads, phalanges or ribs. Apart from a single cattle vertebra and a red deer ilium, all mammal fragments were main bones of the legs. A soil sample from the ditch contained no small mammals or bird, but produced some unidentifiable ribs and fins of fish.

Two Late Groups (QV2, F3 and QV2, F5)

The two groups represent the use of the site after the Customs House had gone out of use and when commercial activities were giving way to lodging houses and hotels. Both have an interesting range of supplementary food in proportion to the few bones of the main domestic animals, and in both the main meat animal is sheep. In F5 sheep even exceed cattle in weight as well as in the fragment count. Both groups have domestic poultry and fish, and between them they contain most of the wild birds found at Quilter's Vault. F5 has a little whelk and oyster; F3 has mussel and scallop as well. Both have fragments of small size (Table 4). The basic style of butchery, like the composition of the diet, has undergone a complete change since the early days of the town. F3, uniquely, has both house mouse and rat. F5 has neither—though small rodents must have been present since nearly all the bones have been gnawed and show rows of marks from tiny incisors.

Two early 12th Century Features (QV2, F56 and QV4, F45)

Finally, one would like to trace more precisely the early stages of this change. Noddle, working on a small number of particularly interesting pits

spread over Winkle Street, Cuckoo Lane and High Street, found consistent differences between her periods A and B, which should place the time of change in the first half of the thirteenth century. At Quilter's Vault the change may have started sooner and more gradually. For a clearer definition, two pits will be considered here.

F56 had been a well, though the animal bone came only from the upper layers of its final infilling. This material dated to the late eleventh century was associated with the timber buildings on the site. The bones show an association with horn working: there were cattle, sheep and goat cores, roughly cut, and many cattle and sheep skull fragments. There was also a collection of young sheep mandibles, their 2nd permanent molars all erupting, which bore no relation in age to the sheep long-bones, which came from older animals. Pig, as hornless, was appropriately low among the fragments. There were 3 fragments of horse. One cattle pelvis, it is true, bore a mark of sawing, but otherwise the butchery style of the group was basic, early, unimproved. The material as a whole was roughly chopped, and the fragments were large (Table 4). The long bones could well have been broken for scooping out the marrow, and there were no sagittal cuts.

QV4, F45, approximately sixty years later and linked with the earliest stone buildings on the site, gives at once a different impression. There is a wider range of species represented, with more variety in shell-fish, with more domestic poultry, with red deer. Of particular interest are the eagle ray and shark. There is no horse. Domestic animals are generally younger—40% of the early fusing group of cattle epiphyses are still unfused, compared with only 9% for QV2, F56. There now are sagittal cuts (Fig. 14). At least two bones show unmistakable marks of fine sawing, not for any form of working (for these are distal humeri of pig, cut diagonally across the epiphysis) but as a means of disjuncting the carcass. And for each of the main domestic species the fragment size has roughly halved (Table 4). This startling change does not seem to be a function of poor usage resulting in numerous breaks, since both QV2, F56 and QV4, F45 show quite a low proportion of knocked or battered bones, and although the area was at one time an occupation surface the condition of the bones suggests that these were deposited over a reasonably short period for levelling the surface of the floor.

QV4, F45 went out use more than a century before the great realignment of the buildings which was taken as the division at Quilter's Vault between Periods A and B. This suggests that the newer practices at Southampton were not once-for-all changes affecting a broad range

of social groups in a short period. The pattern of development could well have been more subtle. More prosperous folk living in stone buildings, in place of earlier timber structures, may have modified their eating habits even before the greater concentration of the buildings which was to banish livestock from the yards. The butchery shown in this group gives an early sign of practices which were to be more widespread in the future: QV4, F45 is a forerunner of change.

BOTANICAL REMAINS (from QV3, F119)
by F. J. Green

Botanical material was confined to a very limited range of seeds (see table below), preserved by mineralisation, the original organic structure of the seeds being replaced by mineral salts possibly associated with the iron pan found in this feature.

Species	Synonym	Samples		
		A	B	C
ROSACEAE				
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Blackberry	65	41	2
UMBELLIFERAE				
<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	Hemlock	0	0	1
URTICACEAE				
<i>Urtica urens</i> L.	Small Nettle	1	1	0
LABIATAE				
Sp. indet.				
CAPRIFOLIACEAE				
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	Elder-berry	120	10	180
CYPERACEAE				
<i>Carex</i> sp. indet.		1	0	0

The quantity of seeds represents a distinct accumulation as opposed to the ubiquitous and stray finds of these species found on most sites. As these fruits have a limited survival once harvested it is possible to suggest that both species grew in the vicinity of the site and may represent deliberate collection during late summer. The fluctuation in the quantities of seed of these two main components in the deposits either represents deposition over a number of years or rapid back-fill of the ditch possibly within one season. There is, however, a distinct possibility that the seeds present in this feature may have entered it via root holes or natural disturbance subsequent to its filling, but prior to the construction of the vault.

Other botanical finds include a range of wild plants associated with damp areas or habitats and include: *Conium maculatum*, *Labiatae* sp., *Carex* sp. and small nettle. It is likely that all these wild plants were growing nearby. The absence of carbonised cereal remains suggests a general lack of domestic activities in the vicinity.

DISCUSSION

The early ditch

The earliest evidence of occupation on the site is provided by the ditch (QV3, F119) located in Quilter's Vault (Fig. 8). The following discussion of the fillings of this feature is provided by Dr. Shackley.

'The clay layer at the base of the section on first sight appeared to be a laminated deposit such as may often be found at the bottom of ditches cut in hard rocks, due to the presence of standing water. However it would seem more likely that the laminations are a compression feature. In porous sediment standing water in the ditch would be surprising but the presence of such a clay layer indicates either a brief period of flooding (more likely) or that the clay was derived from outside the ditch and washed down (less likely). In the latter event one might have expected the clay to be rapidly dispersed through the porous basal gravels. A short period of waterlogging is more likely. This waterlogging was followed by the rapid accumulation of the sandy silts. This material is of a much finer texture than the sediment into which the ditch was dug and cannot be the result of collapse of the sides. It is possible that the material was blown in but not that it was washed in, as water action would not result in this type of lamination. Another possibility is that the ditch was filled in rapidly by human action with locally-derived sediment. In any case the source of the sediment must be a sandy silt, and the deposits of brickearth which probably originally capped the gravels in this area would provide a suitable source. It seems likely that the laminated silts accumulated rather quickly, perhaps in even as short a period as a year, and the ditch seems unlikely to have remained open for very long. The laminated silts show no evidence of post-depositional disturbance. The layers on top of the silts would also have accumulated rather fast, either by human activity, natural collapse or a combination of both.'

It is possible that layer 119 represents the filling of a late recut of the ditch; however,

this is unlikely as the gravel in this 'layer' merges into the fillings below and the undisturbed laminated silts (122) merge up into it.

The angles of the ditch sides and the level of natural ground elsewhere suggests that the ditch was originally 4.2m wide by ca 2m deep, similar in size and shape to the Anglo-Saxon defensive ditch at Christchurch. Whether this ditch had an associated bank is uncertain, but it is possible that filling 122 was derived from such a bank. The other fillings in the ditch contained no occupation material other than bone, some seed remains typical of derelict land, and two extremely thin lenses of charcoal. The fillings of the ditch suggest it was open for a comparatively short period of time. There was very little accumulation of primary silts and the main fillings appear to have been deposited quite rapidly. Furthermore, the bone assemblage recovered is unusual for a feature of this kind, a slowly filling feature is likely to contain a more normal collection, the discrepancies and deviations from the mean evening out over time (Uerpmann 1976).

This short length of ditch appears to align with one excavated by R. G. Thomson in 1971 close to the Wool House, and about 110m west of Quilter's Vault (Webster and Cherry 1973, 188), Gloucester Square (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, 224) and Simnel Street (Shaw, forthcoming). This and other stretches of ditch and topographical features have led to the hypothesis of a late Saxon defended enclosure defined by a single ditch (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, v.1, 289) surrounding the lower part of High Street, Bugle Street and French Street. It is possible, however, that the perimeter of the enclosure was surrounded by more than a single ditch as the late Saxon defences at Ramsbury and Chichester have, in part, multiple ditches. There are, however, other ditches that are the earliest features of sites in the medieval town that bear no relationship to such an enclosure (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, 186, 191). Further work is being undertaken by the Southampton Archaeological Research Committee in the hope of resolving this problem.

The Early Medieval Occupation

By the beginning of the twelfth century, at the latest, there is evidence from the timber building below 'Canute's Palace' for permanent occupation on the site. This building is similar in construction to a rural peasant's cot or house without byre. The later 'Canute's Palace' is also a building of a type found in both urban and rural environment and it was not until ca 1270 that the first town-house, Quilter's Vault, was constructed on the site.

'Canute's Palace'

In the twelfth century the site of the timber building was overlain by 'Canute's Palace'. Associated with this stone building was a lime-kiln for which thermo-remnant magnetic dating has provided two possible ranges of dates, 1100-1160 and 1520-1550. Of these the later limit of the earlier range approaches most closely to the accepted dating of 'Canute's Palace' to 1180 on architectural grounds (Wood 1956, 25). An earlier date in this range would conflict with the dates of the QV4 Phase II activities associated with the timber building. However, the alternative date range of 1520-1550 is possible as the kiln is symmetrically placed within the building and its siting suggests restricted space, although the close bonding of the dividing wall, which runs over the kiln, to the twelfth-century north and south walls of 'Canute's Palace', suggests the earlier date range is much more likely to be correct.

The existence of the lower storey and the great length of 'Canute's Palace' have been used as arguments for the building having been divided into domestic and warehouse areas (Platt 1973, 41-2). However, a twelfth-century building at Boothby Pagnell, Lincolnshire, has a similar ground floor division to 'Canute's Palace' and was not bi-functional but a unitary upper hall house (Wood 1965, 79). An unpartitioned hall house 8m longer than 'Canute's Palace' has been recorded at Wolvesey Castle, Winchester (Wood 1965, 32).

'Canute's Palace' covered a floor area $4\frac{1}{4}$ times larger than that occupied by the timber

building which it replaced. The status of the owner of 'Canute's Palace' is unknown but the owner's wealth can be gauged by the fact that 'Canute's Palace' is 40 feet longer than a similar dwelling at Christchurch, Hants., which was occupied by the Constable of the Castle (Wood 1935, 65). The pottery associated with the earliest phases is broadly similar to that recovered from features associated with the preceding building and the only real evidence of this increase in wealth comes from the subtle changes discernible in the faunal material, including changes in the use of domestic animals, and a wider exploitation of the local environment; deer from woodland and heath, mussels and oysters from the shoreline, and shark and ray from deep water.

Archaeological evidence relating to this period between the construction of 'Canute's Palace' and that of Quilter's Vault is relatively poor owing to the destruction wrought by the late thirteenth- to early fourteenth-century redevelopment of the area. However, the documentary evidence for the site records that Walter Fortin, a prosperous burgess, constructed stone buildings side-on to English Street (later the High Street), some of which were on a plot (QVI) referred to in Domesday.

Thirteenth-Fourteenth Century Redevelopment

Between 1250 and 1280 Quilter's Vault was constructed. Previous interpretations of this building (Faulkner 1967) have suggested that the vault was originally divided to form two separate rooms, one to the east and one to the west, with access to a road at the western end. There is no evidence for the existence of such a road and it is highly probable that the existing door at the western end was originally a window. Equally, access to the western part of the vault by the much altered opening in the north wall is unlikely as its base is some 0.8 m above the original floor level and there is no evidence for steps at any time in the vault's history. It seems probable, therefore, that the alterations to the dividing wall in the

vault represent the widening of an existing door between two cells of a single vault.

The construction of Quilter's Vault, with its long narrow rectangular plan, aligned end on to the High Street marks a change in the layout of the area. It seems probable that this change from side-on to gable end frontage onto the High Street resulted from the need to make the greatest use of the available High Street frontage at a time when this area was of growing commercial importance. The re-orientation of the buildings resulted in the reduction of the associated yard area by more than 20%, thereby decreasing the potential livestock area. Other changes also occur within the yards, the most archaeologically significant being the construction of the first, more hygienic, stone-lined cess-pits (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, v.1, 220).

By the fourteenth century tenements on the site were mainly occupied by wealthy merchants. The reasons for this part of the town being a focus of wealth are complex, but the main cause is probably the development of the High Street as both a market place and the main artery of the town. Certainly from a commercial viewpoint the site had definite advantages as it fell within the cheap carriage area of the porters. Furthermore the site was close to the docks and public trading centres such as the Weigh House and the Wool House. Quilter's Vault, and the other vaults, thus mark a change in emphasis from primary residential dwellings, such as 'Canute's Palace', to more directly commercial buildings.

The Customs House

In the early fifteenth century further commercial changes took place. William Soper acquired 'Canute's Palace' and a quay, and in July 1421 became collector of customs on wool and wool fells, having previously been collector of tonnage and poundage since 1413. It is from this period that 'Canute's Palace' and the corner tenement were in use as a Customs House. By 1454 Soper had under his control all the buildings on the site in addition to the tenement immediately to the

north and the Watergate south of Porter's Lane. Soper's life has been charted elsewhere (Platt 1973, 257) and it is evident that as well as being a successful merchant, he was a prominent public servant, being both a parliamentary burgess and Governor of the King's ships. His links with foreign trade can be inferred from the fact that four out of five of his major tenants were Italians (K. J. N. Fairless, pers. comm.).

Sixteenth Century and Later

At the beginning of the sixteenth century the area was still occupied by wealthy merchants, but in 1519/20 Richard Palshid built a new Customs House east of the Watergate, thus depriving the site of its direct commercial importance. Throughout the rest of the century merchants remained connected with the area but a decline was already evident in their social standing. In the seventeenth century another change in function occurred when tenement 147, the former capital tenement, became a boarding house as opposed to a centre for active trading. By 1665 this tenement was divided into hotels and in 1749 the old Customs House site was similarly divided. Hand in hand with this decline the yard areas were further reduced by the erection of permanent buildings, some of which date to the sixteenth century (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, v. 1, 223). From about 1350 onwards, however, the tenement plot boundaries show little change although the types and density of buildings on them could vary greatly through time. This point is borne out by table 2 in Kaye (1976, v. I, p. lvi) where it is demonstrated that thirteen out of seventeen buildings were radically altered in the period

immediately after the raid of 1338, although they retained their original plots.

Although the hotels continued in use in the eighteenth century, additional stabling, brewing and small business outbuildings played a larger part in every day activities. The latter half of the nineteenth century was a slightly more prosperous period for these hotels as the port of Southampton emerged from its late Georgian decline. By the beginning of the present century the centre of trade had moved further up the High Street and immediately prior to the bombings of 1940 the site was given over to small public houses and offices. That the site was not then redeveloped was due to the foresight of Southampton City Council who recognised its potential as both an ancient monument and a record of the development of the port.

Acknowledgements

The excavation was undertaken with the aid of a grant from Southampton City Council. The volunteers who worked on the site were local people, mainly members of the Southampton City Museums Archaeological Society under its chairman Mr R. Culley. The author would especially like to thank the various specialists for their contributions to this report and Mr A. Clark who provided the thermoluminescence magnetic dates. Mr A. D. Morton prepared the main site plan, and Margaret Holland all other line drawings for publication. Finally I would like to thank Jennie Coy for identifying bird and fish remains and for helpful discussion, Mrs Barbara Cooper for typing the final text, Mr P. Holdsworth and Dr Ernest Blake for reading it and suggesting many useful amendments, and my wife for extreme patience. The editorial advice of Mr A. M. ApSimon is gratefully acknowledged.

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This article is published with the aid of a grant from the Southampton Archaeological Research Committee.