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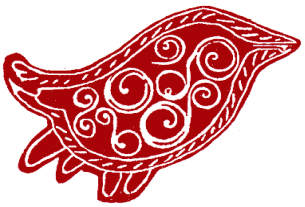

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Excavations at Grand Parade, Cork, II

By MAURICE F. HURLEY

Part 1

INTRODUCTION

The Pfizer Chemical Corporation provided the Department of Archaeology, University College, Cork, with a grant for the excavation of an archaeological site in Cork city. In 1985, Cork celebrated the 800th centenary of its royal charter. For this reason, it was considered appropriate to excavate an area which seemed likely to contain evidence for the earliest Anglo-Norman occupation of the city. An area lying to the west of the recently-excavated portions of the city wall (Hurley and Power 1981 and Hurley 1985) was chosen[1](Fig. 1A). Three factors influenced this choice. Firstly, the site occupied an area scheduled for redevelopment,[2] lying within the known area of the medieval city. Secondly, a recent excavation of the Cork city wall (Hurley 1985) indicated that the area to the south of a wall running at right angles to the city wall contained a well-preserved medieval stratigraphy. In addition to this, optimum conditions for the preservation of organic material prevailed there. Thirdly, as a consequence of the development by Cork Corporation of a city centre amenity park between South Main Street and Grand Parade, further excavation could not be undertaken in this area in the immediate future.

THE EXCAVATION

Work began on the site on 22 July and was completed on 13 September 1985. An area 11.50m E/W by 3.50m N/S was excavated to a maximum depth of 3.60m. The site was situated *c* 30m to the west of Grand Parade. Part of the area had been occupied by Jennings' furniture store prior to its destruction by fire in the early 1970s. The site lay derelict until 1981 when it was prepared for the construction of a six-storey office block. In the course of this work concrete piles were inserted at 1m intervals. The area available for excavation was limited by a line of piles which occurred along the southern baulk of the excavation trench, and by buildings on the western side. The northern baulk was delimited by a low wall which, at that time, marked the boundary of the amenity park.

The upper levels were extensively disturbed by the foundations of a large wall of concrete blocks, i.e. the northern wall of Jennings' store. The wall and rubble layers resulting from recent construction work were removed by a mechanical excavator. The soil contained a large amount of lime mortar and brick rubble. The majority of finds recovered from this level were of seventeenth to nineteenth-century date. At a depth of *c* 1.50m on the western side of the trench and 1m on the eastern end, the organic content of the soil increased noticeably and modern rubble no longer occurred.

Level 1 (Fig. 2)

Dark-brown, organically enriched soil (Feature 1) formed a relatively homogeneous layer throughout for an average depth of *c* 1m. This deposit seems to have resulted from a gradual accumulation of domestic refuse during a period when the site was not occupied by buildings. The area may have been cultivated as a back garden, used as an animal enclosure,

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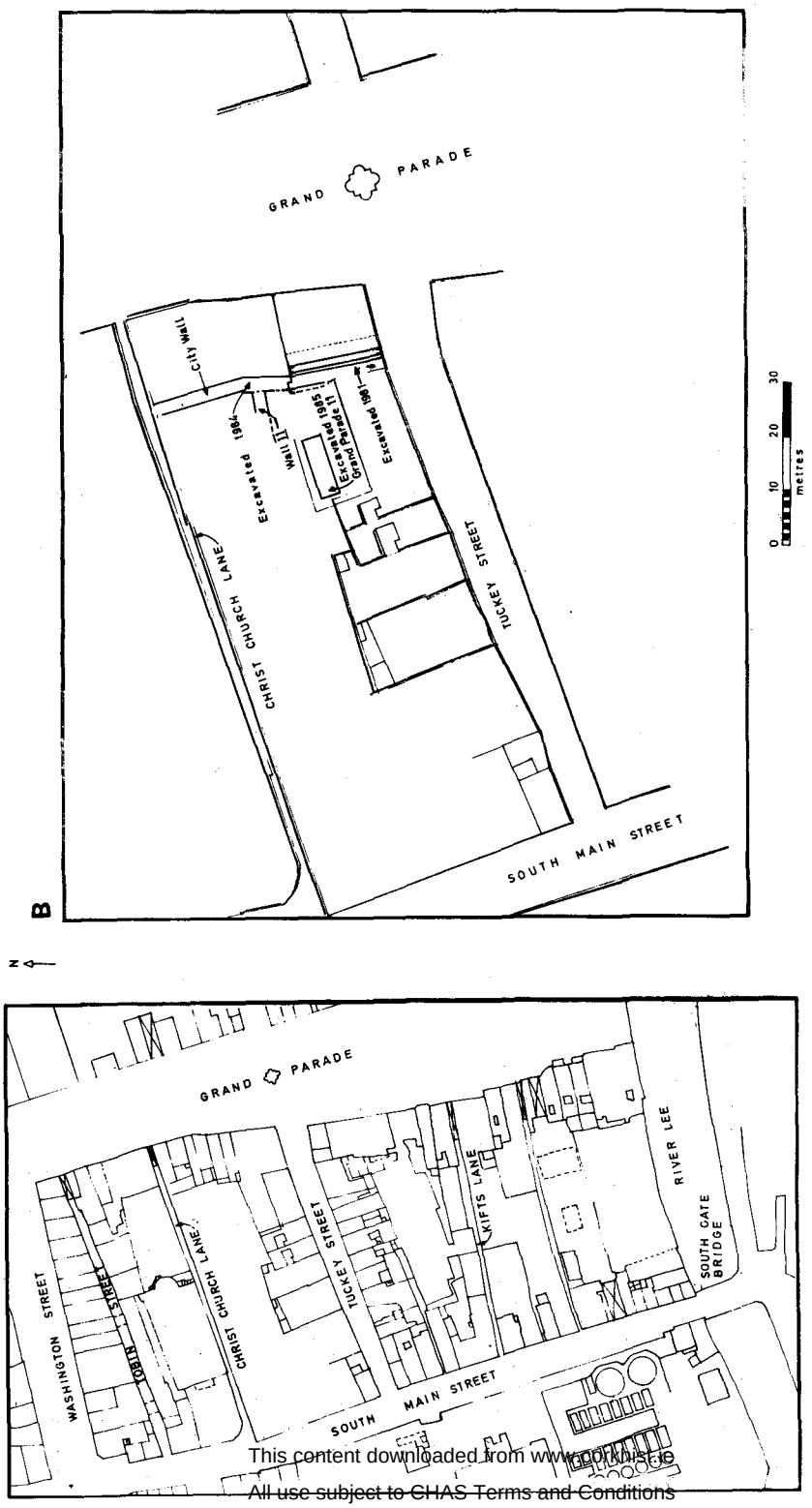

Fig. 1. A. Location map. B. Site plan showing recent excavations in the immediate area of Grand Parade II

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or it may have been allowed to remain as 'waste' ground. Very little information can be deduced from this deposit, except that it post-dates the mid-fourteenth and pre-dates the mid-seventeenth century. Sherds of pottery ranging in date from the early thirteenth to the mid-seventeenth century were intermixed throughout the layer. Sherds of green-glazed, medieval Saintonge pottery were found in association with fragments of clay pipes and seventeenth-century smooth and gravel-tempered wares. A small amount of Spanish pottery dating to the sixteenth century was also found. These were mostly sherds of burnished ware from amphorae or similar large vessels. An assessment of the relative distribution of the pottery revealed that the amount of seventeenth-century material decreased with depth roughly in proportion to the increase of medieval material. The nature of the inter-mixed finds may be indicative of an area regularly dug over for cultivation as a garden. The addition of animal manure, compost or domestic refuse as fertilizer may have contributed to the gradual build-up of the layer and the increase in the amount of objects it contained.

A single large pit (Feature 14) had been excavated in the centre of the trench in recent years. The pit measured 2.30m E/W by 1m N/S and was packed with human bones. It was probably dug as a charnel pit to contain bones removed from a nearby cemetery, possibly that at Christ Church, which is adjacent to the site. The site of the pit was vacant ground throughout the 1970s when many of the old centre city cemeteries were cleared and landscaped. The majority of the bones were shafts of various long-bones and skulls. A similar charnel pit was discovered nearby, on the western side of the city wall (Hurley 1985), and in that case it was suggested (Ó Donnabháin 1985) that such large collections of bone could have been re-buried following normal grave-digging disturbance, or as a result of a single clean-up of a cemetery such as the burial ground or crypt at Christ Church.

Five other pits (Features 3-7) contained shells, mostly oyster. The pits varied between 20cm and 50cm in depth. The occurrence of the pits, containing distinct and undisturbed layers of shells, would suggest that these post-date the cultivation. Very few finds were recovered from the pits, although pottery from pit no. 4 suggests an early to mid-seventeenth century date.

A stone-filled drain (Feature 2) extended N/S at the western end of the trench. The U-shaped trench was cut to a depth of 20cm and sloped gradually towards the south. The stone infill was loosely set and the stones averaged 10-12cm in diameter.

Level 2 (Fig. 2)

At a depth of *c* 2m below the surface, the organic content of the soil increased considerably. A turfy layer of compacted straw and wood shavings (Feature 8) occupied approximately two-thirds of the site. The compacted nature of this material was consistent with a trodden straw-covered floor. The associated features (13 and 18) would indicate the existence of a house at this level.

An area *c* 1m square (Feature 13) was covered with closely-set blue slates, many of which were slightly overlapping. The slates formed a level surface which indicates that they were deliberately laid down to form a floor or pathway. The relationship of the slate floor to other features within the house is unclear. It is possible that the slates were placed at or just inside a doorway or other area frequently trodden by the inhabitants. The lower courses of a post-and-wattle wall, set in a slot trench (Feature 18) *c* 40cm deep, extended for a distance of 3.80cm to the south-east of the slate floor. The slot trench appears to have contained the foundation course of a flimsy wall. The occurrence of the slate floor at one end of the slot trench adds credence to the

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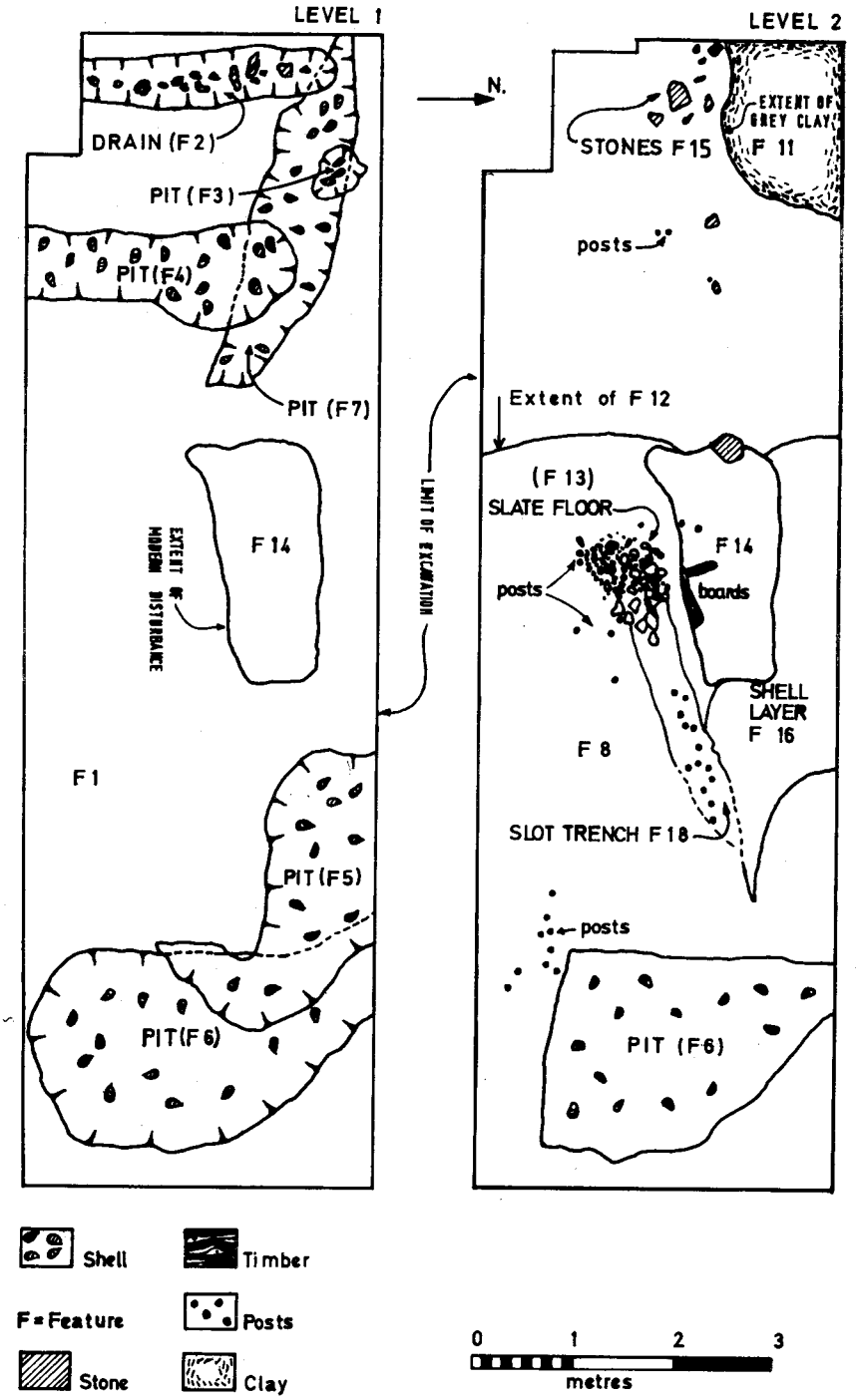

Fig. 2

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suggestion that it lay at the threshold of a doorway. Five small pointed stakes (3-6cm in diameter) occurred at the southern side of the slate floor, but these would have been too slender to support a lintel, and their location does not coincide with the likely position of door jambs.

Another group of nine stakes occurred at the south-western corner of the trench, similar to the ones in the slot trench, but it was not possible to establish the relationship between these and any other feature on the site.

The upper layers of a large shell-midden (Feature 16) were apparent at Level 2; however the features seems to relate particularly to the occupation of Level 3. The lower levels of a pit (Feature 6), which occurred in Level 1, also occupied much of the eastern part of the site in Level 2.

The western end (*c* one-third) of the site contained a fill of turfy soil and clay (Feature 12). This material may have been introduced deliberately to raise the ground level, and to provide a clean and secure surface on which to live. In the north-western corner, the fill consisted entirely of clay (Feature 11) covering an area approximately 1.50m square. A random scatter of stones (Feature 15) and two closely-set posts uncovered in this area could not be related to an identifiable structure. All of the occupation at Level 2 appears to date to the end of the thirteenth and the first half of the fourteenth century.

Level 3 (Fig. 3)

Evidence for an earlier phase of occupation was recorded at Level 3. No less than 8 successive layers of compacted straw had been laid down and accumulated to a depth of 50cm above the primary floor, which occurred in Level 3. Beneath the layers of straw, much of the floor area was covered with carefully-laid overlapping slates (Feature 2). These slates formed the primary floor of the house. The slot trench (Feature 18) which held the house wall delimited the floor area on the north-western side. A large midden of oyster shells (Feature 16) occurred to the north of the slot trench, i.e. immediately outside the wall. A spread of clay (Feature 11B) extended for 1.80m on the southern side of the slot trench. A single large post occurred in the centre of the excavated floor area. The oak (*Quercus* sp) post was cleft radially and survived to a height of 30cm. It was not set in a pit but merely rested in a slight hollow and was held in place by three boulders. This post was the only substantial structural feature found within the house. Its positioning on the floor level suggests that it was placed subsequent to the building of the house, possibly to support a sagging roof.

At Level 3, the western end of the trench was similar to Level 2. The fill of turfy soil (Feature 12) and the grey clay occupied the greater part of the area. Two additional spreads of clay (Features 23/23A) occurred in isolation within the turfy fill. A slot trench (Feature 17) contained traces of what may have been the lower courses of a brushwood fence. Three pointed stakes (hazel, *Corylus avellana*), varying between 6 and 12cm in diameter, occurred on the central axis of the slot trench. Four other pointed stakes (*c* 8cm in diameter) were randomly set adjacent to the slot trench. These stakes could not be related to any fence or structure which may have existed in the area. The last quarter of the thirteenth-century is suggested as a building date for the house.

Level 4 (Fig. 3)

Beneath the house floor which occurred at Level 3, no other features could be directly related to domestic structures. The natural ground level (estuarine and leached geological clays) sloped from west to east. A natural rise in the ground from the waterway (where Grand Parade now runs) towards the centre of the island (South Main Street) appears to have existed. On the eastern part of the site where the ground was lower, and possibly liable to

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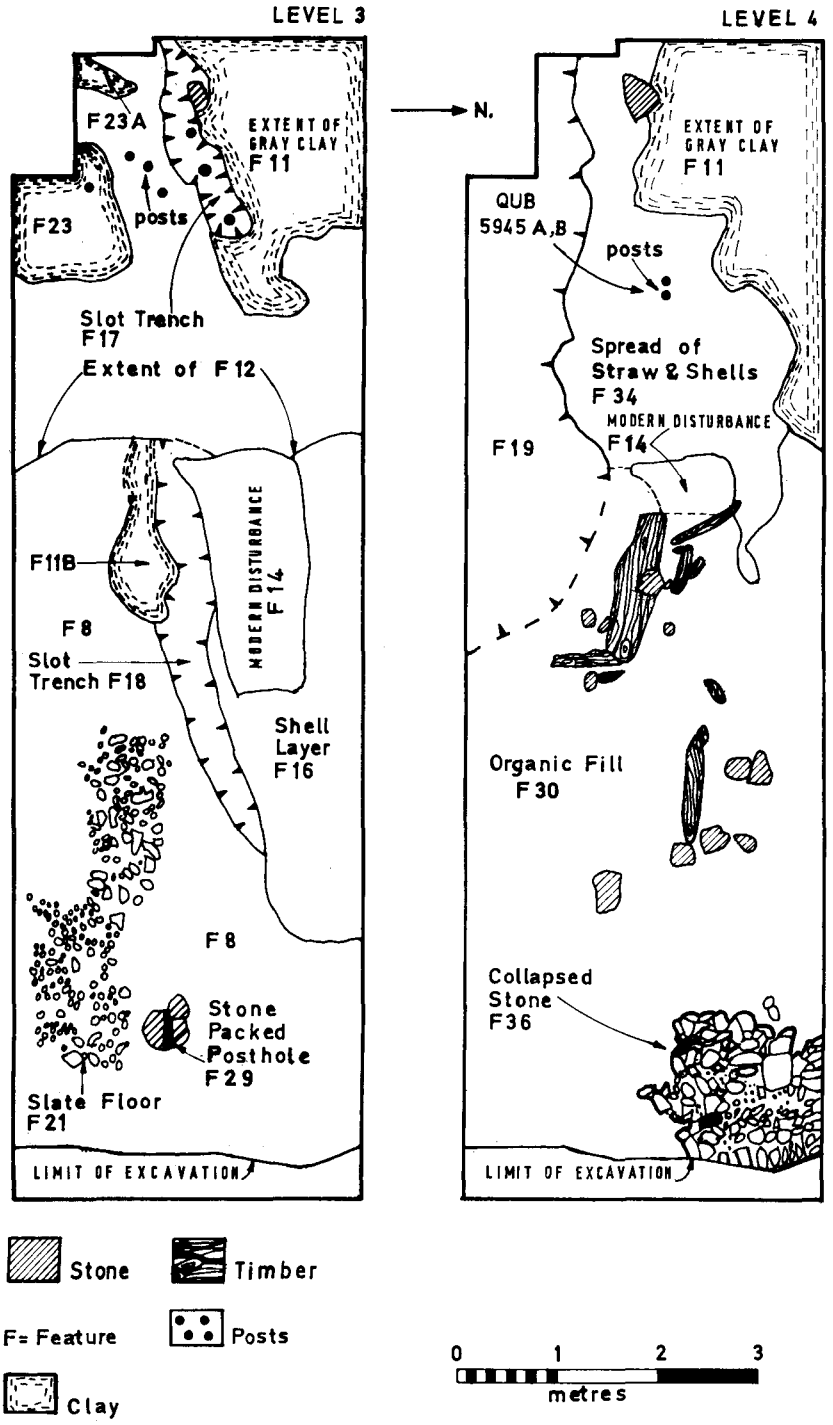

Fig. 3

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flooding, material was dumped. This dump, while presumably providing a convenient area for waste disposal, also had the advantage of raising the ground level to provide a high and even surface on which the Level 3 house was built. As a result of the natural slope of the ground, the depth of introduced material was deeper by more than 1m on the eastern side of the trench.

The fill was relatively homogeneous on the eastern half of the site. The material was organic (Feature 30) consisting mostly of straw, twigs, wood chips and shavings, moss, horsehair, bracken and leaves. Endless variations in the relative densities of the various materials suggest that the fill was deposited in small quantities over a relatively short period of time. The material was probably domestic refuse and manure from stables and animal shelters located behind the houses fronting the main street. Large amounts of pottery, mostly of mid to late thirteenth century in date, butchered animal bones (Appendix 4), fabric (Appendix 3), wooden dowels (Fig. 18) and iron nails and rivets (Fig. 15) were found throughout the fill. Large wooden beams and limestone boulders were also randomly deposited.

A group of timber beams and planks in the central area of the site, although not arranged in a formal pattern, may have formed a walkway or ramp. This could have provided a stable surface from which the refuse was thrown onto the lower ground to the east. In the extreme south-eastern corner, a large spread of stone (Feature 36) appeared to have collapsed from a wall located outside the excavated area. This may have been part of the city wall or of an associated tower or similar building. A substantial stone wall, running at right angles to the city wall (Fig. 1), was uncovered at *c* 4m to the north of the present site (Hurley 1985, 65-75).

The western part of the site consisted of 3 distinct features. A spread of clay (Feature 11) occupied the north-western corner as in Levels 2 and 3. A compact spread of straw and twigs, intermixed with oyster shells, occurred in the central area. To the south, this layer shelved steeply into a ditch (Feature 19). The lower levels consisted of black humic material. Apart from the homogeneous black colour, the material in the ditch was similar to the organic fill of the eastern part of the site (Feature 3).

The overall picture apparent at Level 4 is one in which a clay bank (Feature 11) on the higher ground on the north-western corner of the site was incorporated into level ground as the lower area to the east was gradually infilled with refuse from the city. Spreads of straw, brushwood and wooden planks were used to extend the ramp into the lower (wetter?) and as yet unstable dump, and thereby to extend the tiphead.

Level 5 (Fig. 4)

The undisturbed estuarine and leached geological clays were *c* 90cm higher on the western end of the site. This clay was covered in places by a timber platform or walkway (Feature 37). Radially-split oak (*Quercus*), alder (*Alnus*) and hazel (*Corylus*) timbers were randomly laid on the surface of the clay. In the centre of the site, a large oak plank and a brushwood (mostly hazel) floor (Feature 35) marked the crest of the clay ridge from where the ground sloped steeply to the east.

On the eastern side of the site, 2 distinct fills of organic material (Features 30 and 42) were distinguishable. Two wattle fences (Features 41 and 43) had fallen over and remained more or less intact in a horizontal position. The posts were mostly of hazel and alder and the wattle wands were hazel. The posts were pointed at one end and they had been driven into the ground to a depth of 9-12cm. Both fences had collapsed to the south of where they had originally stood. The purpose of the fences is unclear but it is unlikely that they ever formed part of any domestic structure. A number of

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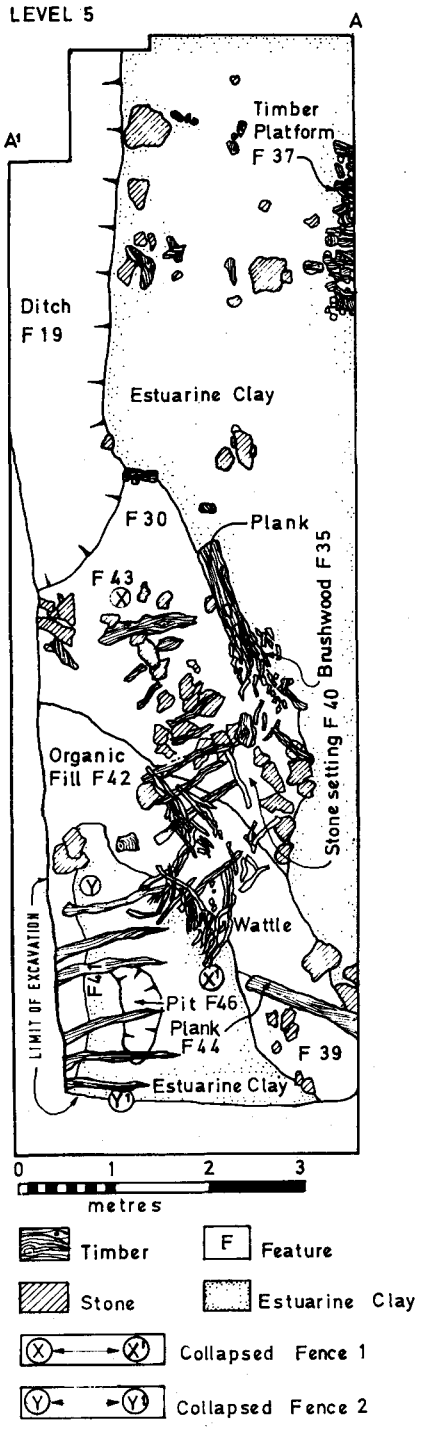

Fig. 4

limestone boulders (Feature 44) had been set against the base of fence no. 1 (X-X_1, Fig. 4). A substantially greater amount of wattle wands survived intact on this fence than on fence 2 (Y-Y_1).

When the large deposit of collapsed stone (Feature 36, Level 4) was removed from the north-eastern corner of the site, a large oak beam (Feature 44) delimited an area of organic fill made up almost entirely of twigs. Predominant among the various species recorded were hazel (*Corylus*), yew (*Taxus baccata* L.) and alder (*Alnus*). A pit (Feature 46) set in the clay contained a similar fill of twigs and bracken, and is probably the feature of earliest date recorded on the site. Sherds of Ham Green ware from Bristol and sherds of Saintonge green-glazed pottery were recovered from the pit, as well as leather shoes and iron rivets. This pit group can be dated to the middle of the thirteenth century, or possibly slightly earlier.

DISCUSSION AND DATING

All of the artifacts recovered from Levels 4 and 5 belong to a comparatively short time span centring on the middle of the thirteenth century. The dendrochronological calibration (Appendix 2) corroborates the dating of the pottery. Two posts set at Level 4 (Feature 34) produced a dendrochronological date of 1262 ± 9 (AD) as the suggested time of felling. A date centring on the middle of the thirteenth century is suggested for the deposition of the material immediately below this (Level 5).

Levels 2 and 3 can be dated from the last quarter of the thirteenth century to the mid-fourteenth century by the occurrence of Saintonge polychrome wares and Bristol wheel-thrown wares. A silver long-cross penny of Henry III dating to the period 1247-1272 was also found in Level 3. As previously mentioned, the pottery from Level 1 was mostly from disturbed contexts and, although medieval wares were predominant, some

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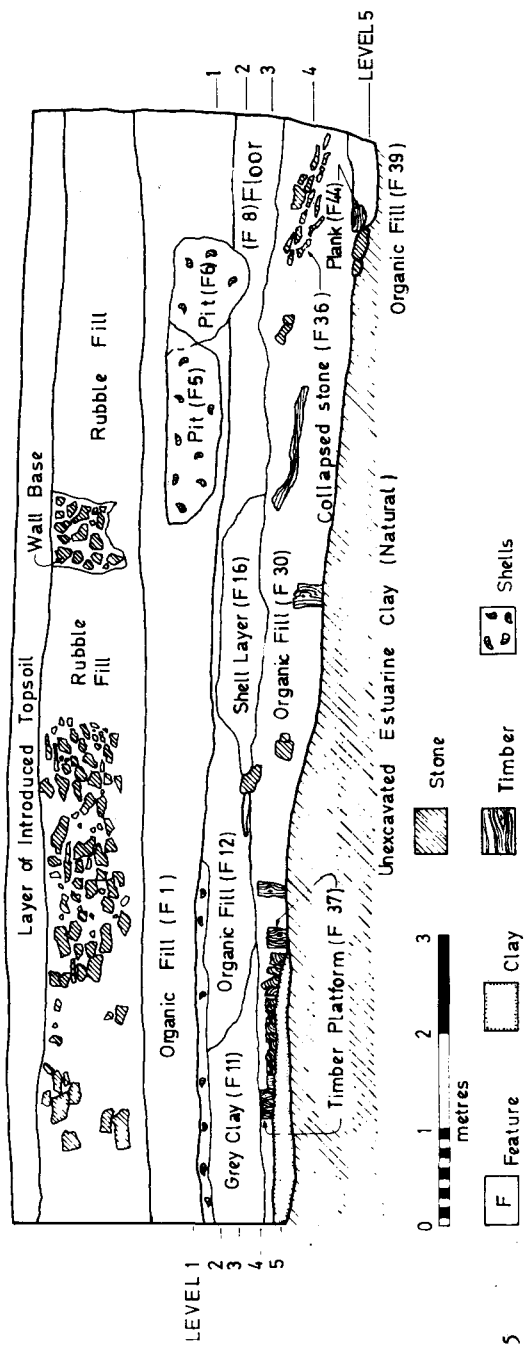

Fig. 5

fifteeth/sixteenth-century Spanish pottery, as well as some seventeenth-century wares, were intermixed in the upper layers of Level 1.

THE FINDS

The finds are housed in the Cork Public Museum and are registered under the National Museum of Ireland registration number E315: 1-3276. A correlation of museum registration numbers and figure numbers used in the text is given in Appendix I.

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

2390 sherds of pottery were recovered from the excavation. All but 100 or so are of medieval date (i.e. thirteenth and fourteenth century). Of these, approximately 51% were of South-Western French origin, 22% were of Western English origin, and another 22% are of probable Irish origin. The remainder are mostly of Northern French origin, and 6 sherds (0.26%) are Spanish, the latter being of fifteenth or sixteenth-century date.

Pottery was found in every feature on the site. Saintonge green-glazed wares from South-Western France were found throughout every level and vastly outnumbered all other types of pottery between Levels 4 and 2 (*c* 1250 AD - 1350 AD). Saintonge polychrome ware, generally dated to between 1280-1320 AD (Dunning 1968, 45; Allan 1984, 200-01), occurred mostly in Levels 3 and 2. Bristol wheel-thrown wares, similar to the pottery found at the Redcliffe Hill Kilns in Bristol (Price *et al* 1979, 43-44), also occurred predominantly in Levels 3 and 2, as did most of the wares of probable local origin. A small amount of Ham Green pottery from Bristol, as well as some Northern French wares and Saintonge green-glazed wares were found in Levels 5 and 4. The Spanish ware, as well as some seventeenth-century English gravel-tempered and smooth wares, were found in disturbed contexts in Level 1.

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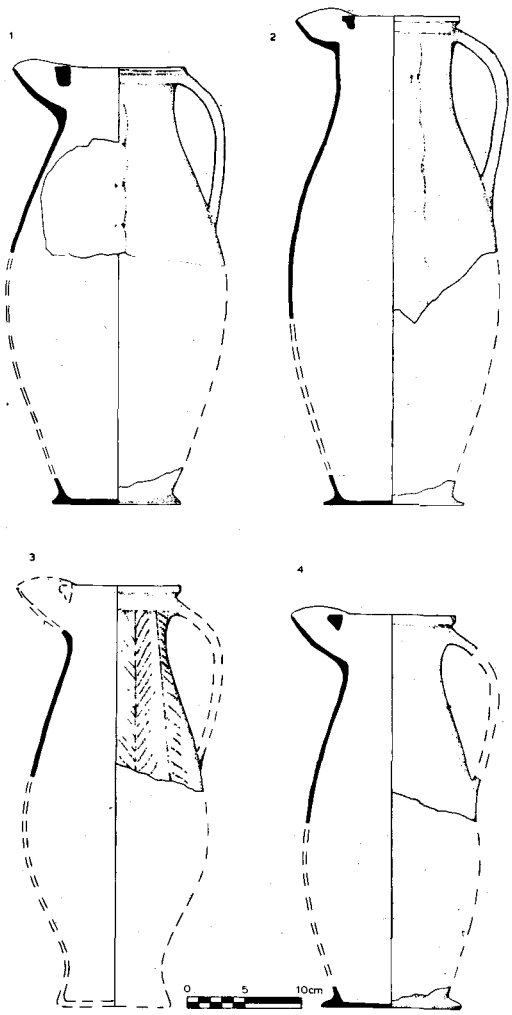

Fig. 6. Saintonge green-glazed jugs (nos. 1,2,4); Saintonge sgraffito (no. 3)

South-Western French Ware (Figs. 6 and 7)

Pottery imported from south-western France generally forms the largest proportion of pottery from the medieval levels of Cork City (Hurley 1985 and 1986a). By sherd count alone, Saintonge green-glazed ware vastly outnumbered all other forms of pottery. These numbers are, however, unsatisfactory in estimating the proportions of various represented forms of pottery. The thin-walled Saintonge jugs tend to shatter into many fragments, while the coarser native ware and Bristol jugs tend to survive in larger fragments, consequently producing fewer sherds. For this reason, the percentages of pottery were based on an estimate of the surviving amounts of rims. Each rim sherd expressed as a percentage of its overall diameter was used to calculate the minimum number of vessels. By this method, it was shown that pottery from SW France represented more than 50% of the assemblage.

Green-glazed jugs from the Saintonge region, north of Bordeaux, in SW France were obviously in general use in Cork from the middle of the thirteenth century until late in the fourteenth. The minimum number of vessels based on percentage rim count was 15. There were 18 complete or semi-complete bridge spouts, 12 strap handles and 23 bases. This indicates that in excess of 20 jugs may be represented. Three of the jugs (Fig. 6, nos. 1, 2 and 4) were partially reconstructed. They are of finely-textured clay, well fired to a cream or white colour with an external lustrous green glaze. The jugs are generally tall (35-45cm) and slender, and are provided with a bridge spout and strap handle. A variety of rim forms are represented, and the bases generally have a slight foot. The decoration, where it exists, consists of between 3 and 6 vertically-applied strips with thumb impressions.

All of the forms represented in Fig. 6 were found in mid-thirteenth to early fourteenth-century contexts. These forms are noted by

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Chapolet (1983, 49-53) as being particularly frequent. A similar range of jugs was recovered from levels within a similar date range at Southampton (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, II, 135-147).

Thirty-four sherds formed part of a single Saintonge sgraffito jug (Fig. 6, no. 3). The sherds were found mostly in Levels 2 and 3. Their occurrence in association with Saintonge polychrome ware in late thirteenth/early fourteenth-century levels has been noted at other excavations, particularly in Dublin (Wallace, pers. comm.). Three other sherds of Saintonge sgraffito ware are part of a different jug, and are distinguished by a heavier rim and a difference in the colour of the fabric and glaze.

At least 4 Saintonge polychrome jugs are represented by 23 body sherds, one strap handle and parts of 4 rims. The polychrome jugs, while of similar form to their green-glazed counterparts, are generally regarded as a 'high-class' form of tableware. The heraldic and bird designs were painted and then covered by a clear lead glaze without the addition of copper. The occurrence of polychrome ware in association with a penny of Henry III (1247-1272) is in keeping with the currently accepted date range for the pottery, as the coin may have been in circulation for some time.

At least 3, and possibly more, Saintonge jugs show no traces of glaze. Although many of the unglazed sherds may be parts of poorly-glazed vessels, it seems likely that some at least of the Saintonge pottery was never glazed at all.

A substantial amount of a large Saintonge *pégaux* pitcher (Fig. 7, no. 1) was found on the surface of the straw floor (Feature 8, Level 2). This is a large three-handled vessel with applied decoration consisting of stamped pads and vertical strips which were thumbed and rouletted. The fabric is coarser than that of the green-glazed jugs and has large quartz and quartzite inclusions. Saintonge *pégaux* pitchers generally date from early to mid-fourteenth century.

Part of the rim and handle of a costrel (Fig. 7, no. 2) from the Saintonge region was found just below the slate floor (Feature 21, Layer 3). The handle was glazed indicating that the costrel may originally have had an all-over glaze. Costrels were vessels used to store liquid refreshment when travelling. A reconstruction of the shape is suggested but the form may have been barrel-shaped or flat-based opposed by a closed conical end. Costrels of this form were produced in the Saintonge area from the late thirteenth until the late fourteenth century.

A strap handle (Fig. 7, no. 6) with shallow incised grooves, and random pierced holes below the broken rim can be identified as another product of the Saintonge region. The fabric is chalky-white and is covered with a lustrous green glaze. The piece belongs to a Saintonge chafing dish. It was recovered from unstratified material in Level 1. Pottery of this type generally dates to the fifteenth or sixteenth century (Hurst 1974, 233ff). A number of similar pieces were found in more closely datable contexts at St Peter's Market, Cork (Hurley 1986a, 34-36).

Sherds from at least 5 other different pots originated in South-Western France, but these do not have the characteristic Saintonge fabric. Their source of origin may be kilns in other parts of SW France, outside the Saintonge area. One of these is illustrated (Fig. 7, no. 8).

Northern French Ware (Fig. 7, nos. 7-17)

At least 6 other pots have been identified as products of France and of these at least 4 are of Northern French origin. There are no positively identified products of Rouen, and the pottery seems more likely to have originated in the Paris or Caen regions (Barton 1966, 73-87). The pottery fabric is mostly made from a sandy clay, and is either buff/orange or grey in colour. Small fragments of rims (Fig. 7, nos. 7-10) provide us with rim profiles and

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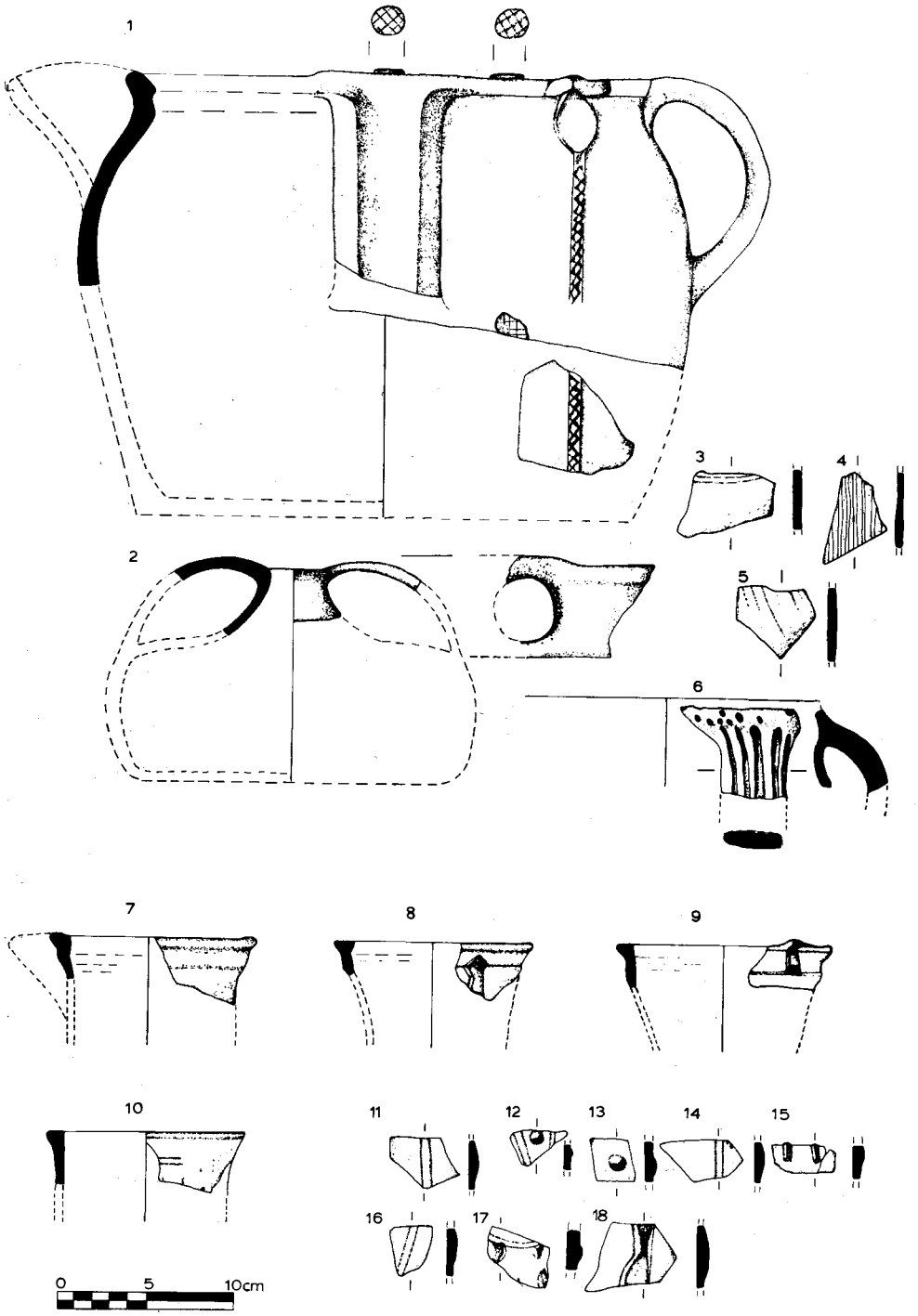

Fig. 7. 1: Saintonge *pégaux;* 2: Costrel; 3-5: Spanish ware; 6: Chafing dish; 7-18: Northern French

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diameters but spouts and handles were not found. Seven sherds displaying various decorative devices of applied strips and pads (Fig. 7, nos. 11-17) are illustrated.

Spanish Ware (Fig. 7, nos. 3-5)
Six sherds from 4 different Spanish amphorae were found in unstratified contexts in Level 1, and three of these are illustrated. The fabric is orange/buff in colour and contains large amounts of mica. The outer surface is sometimes burnished (Fig. 7, no. 4). Most of this pottery may post-date the sixteenth century; however similar sherds were found in possible fourteenth/fifteenth-century contexts at St Peter's Market, Cork (Hurley 1986a, 32-34, where comparative material is listed).

Unidentified Pottery (Fig. 8, no. 2, and Fig. 11, no. 4)
A single rim and rod-handle sherd (Fig. 8, no. 2) is from a disturbed context and its source of origin remains uncertain. The hard, grey fabric contains quartz and large plates of mica. Its source may be somewhere in Ireland, but similar Irish vessels of this type are unknown. The presence of a stripe of white paint on the neck may be diagnostic, and a date from late fourteenth to the sixteenth century could be considered.

Part of a crucible (Fig. 11, no. 4) is made from hard, grey fabric, and as its source of production has not been identified, Irish origin cannot be discounted.

English Wares (Figs. 8, 9 and 10)
Almost all of the positively identified English pottery[3] originated in the Bristol area. Exceptional to this is the cooking ware.

Cooking Ware (Fig. 8)
Only 8 sherds of cooking ware were found; they originated in a number of production centres in Western England. Most of these were recovered from disturbed contexts or pits

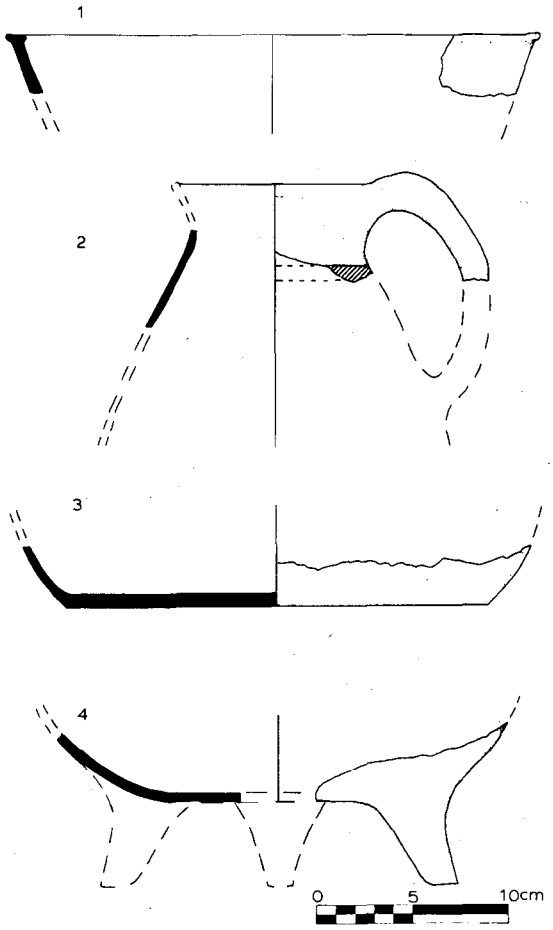

Fig. 8. English cooking ware

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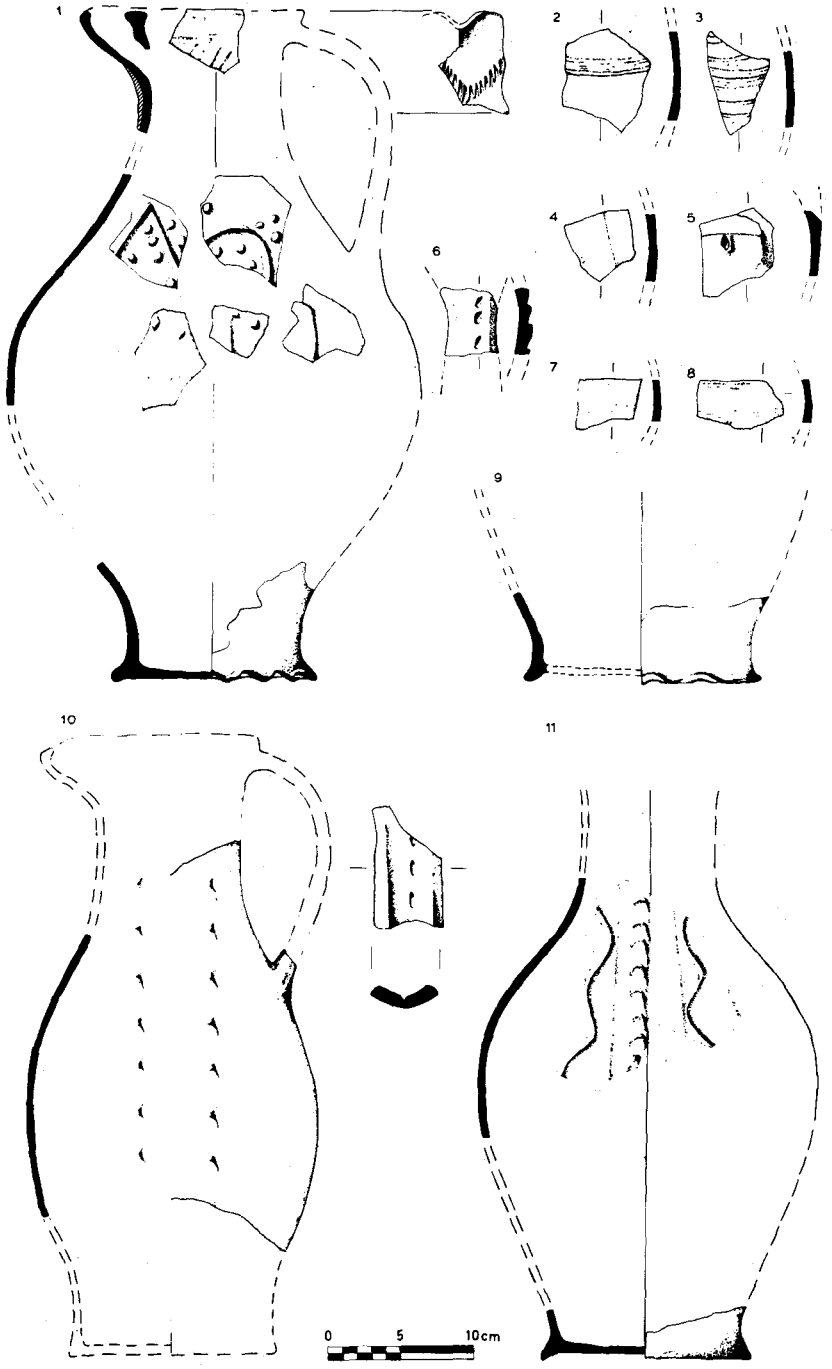

Fig. 9. Bristol jugs; Nos. 2-8: Ham Green; Nos. 1, 9-11: Redcliff type

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in Levels 1 and 2 and are of limited use for comparative dating purposes.

Two sherds of West Wiltshire cooking ware (Fig. 8, no. 1 and no. 868, not illus.) were found in the upper layers of a shell midden (Feature 16) in Level 2. This type of ware appears to be roughly contemporary with Ham Green pottery (Vince, forthcoming), i.e. late twelfth to mid-thirteenth century. Its occurrence in a predominantly early fourteenth-century context would indicate that it is residual. Another sherd of cooking ware, no. 36 (not illus.), has been identified as a product of Somerset. This is a coarse, micaceous cooking ware.

No. 3 (Fig. 8) is a base sherd from a cooking pot which originated in the region north of Bristol, probably close to the Wiltshire border. It was found in Feature 30, Level 4, which places it in a mid-thirteenth-century context. Another vessel from this context is no. 4 (Fig. 8) which is a Gloucestershire tripod pitcher. The pottery was reduction fired. The fabric is sandy and contains a large amount of mica. Three sherds (nos. 5, 777 and 1595, not illus.) of Ham Green (Bristol) cooking ware were found. Only one of these, from Feature 30, Level 4, came from a stratified context. This is Ham Green 'A' fabric with flint inclusions.

Jugs (Figs. 9 and 10)

The identifiable sherds indicate that only 3 or 4 Ham Green jugs are represented. They are typically decorated with parallel straight or wavy lines (Fig. 9, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8) and with crude stabbed or slashed (Fig. 9, nos. 5 and 6) strap handles. Ham Green ware generally dates to the first half of the thirteenth century (Barton 1964, 95-126). Most of the sherds were found in a pit (Feature 46) in Level 5.

A wide range of forms is represented in the wheel-thrown pottery. Some of the jugs were made at the Redcliffe Hill kilns in Bristol (Price *et al* 1979, 43 and 44), others probably come from as yet undiscovered kilns in the Bristol area (Ponsford and Vince, pers. comm.). The wheel-thrown Bristol pottery dates predominantly from the late thirteenth to the mid-fourteenth century. The relatively low proportion of English pottery (22%) compared with SW French pottery (51%) indicates the predominance of the French wine trade during this period. A similar pattern was noted for late thirteenth to mid-fourteenth-century levels at St Peter's Market (Hurley 1986a, 25).

The wheel-thrown jugs are typically tall (40-45cm) with wider bellies than Saintonge jugs (Fig. 9, nos. 1, 10 and 11). The bases may be frilled (Fig. 9, nos. 1 and 9) or have a raised foot (Fig. 9, no. 11). They are generally provided with bridge spouts (Fig. 10, no. 7), wide strap handles, with slashed decoration, which spring from below the rim (Fig. 10, nos. 1-6), and the bodies are heavily decorated with a wide variety of applied devices. The decoration includes thumbed strips or bands (Fig. 10, nos. 10 and 11), plain vertical or wavy lines (Fig. 10, no. 11) and curvilinear bands in a variety of patterns which usually terminate in pads or bosses. The bosses may be plain (Fig. 10, nos. 8, 13 and 20) or stamped with *fleur-de-lis* (Fig. 10, nos. 12 and 17) or contain numerous pellets creating a characteristic 'raspberry' motif (Fig. 10, nos. 10, 11, 15 and 16). Another common form of decoration is the 'tree' or 'foliage' motif on the neck of a jug. Ponsford (1979, 49-54) suggests a date range of early to mid-fourteenth century for this form of decoration on Redcliffe jugs. Similar pieces have been found in Cork at Grand Parade (Hurley 1985, 77-8) and at St Peter's Market (Hurley 1986a, 27).

The Redcliffe fabric is usually a smooth paste and is well fired to a pale grey colour, sometimes with a pink/buff or dark-grey inner surface. The glaze is usually an overall lustrous dark-green colour.

Irish Ware (Figs. 11 and 12)

At least 12 jugs appear to be of Irish manufacture. No positively identified Irish cooking

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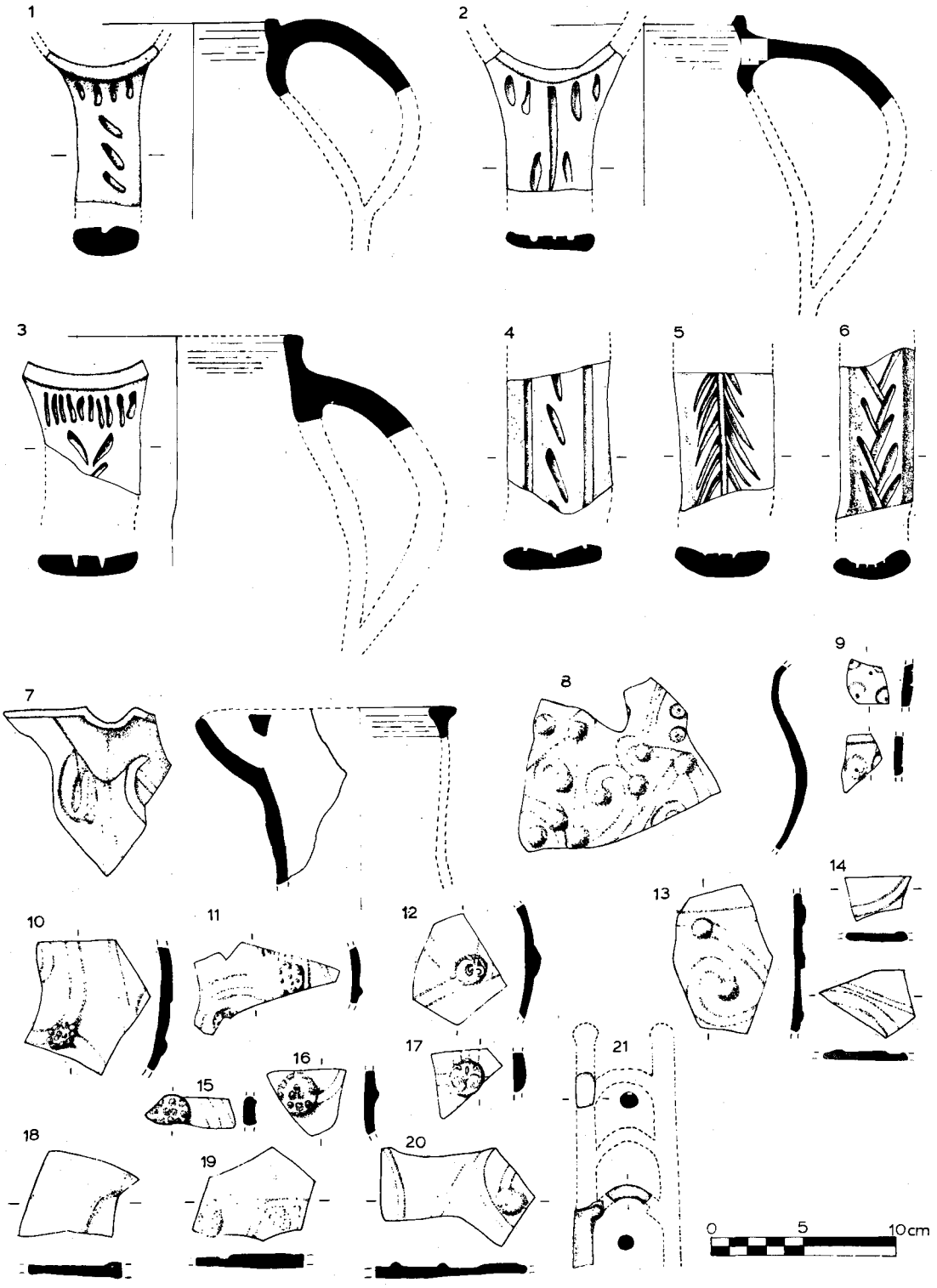

Fig. 10. Bristol jugs, Redcliff type. Nos. 1-6: Strap handles; No. 7: Spout; Nos. 8-20: Decorated body sherds.

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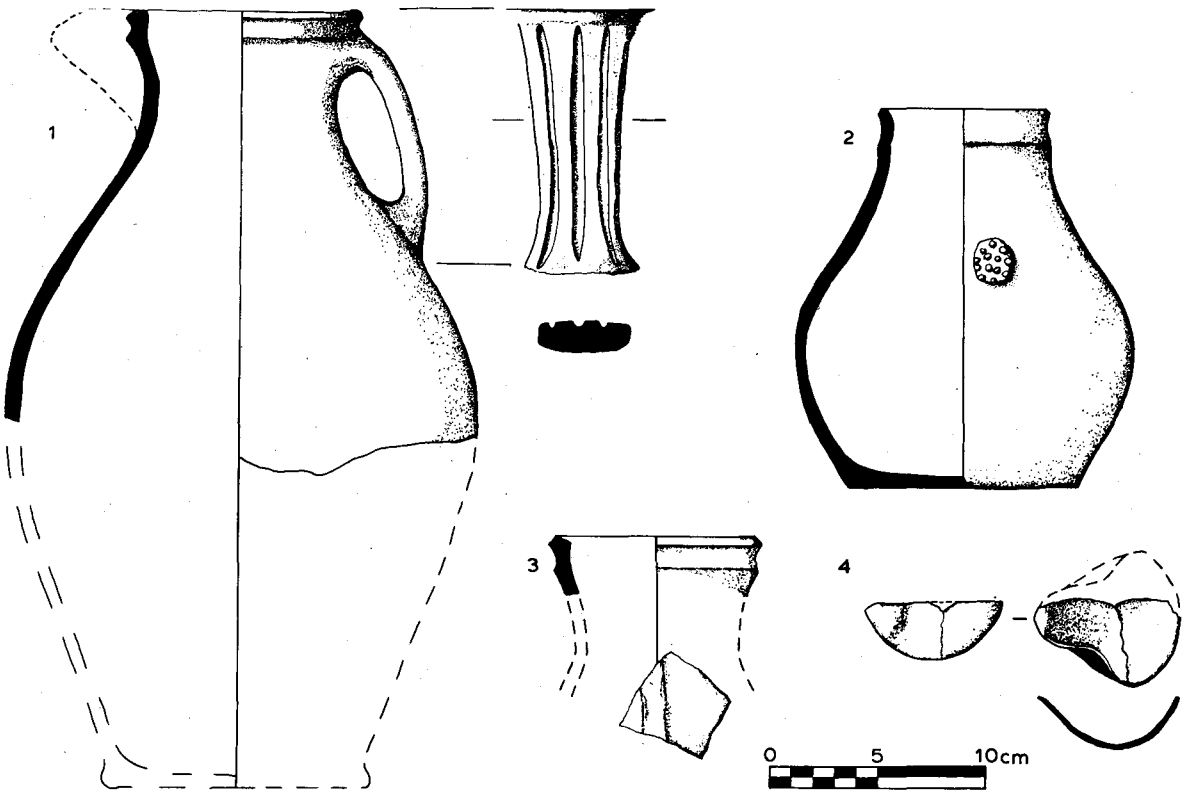

Fig. 11. Nos. 1-3: Irish jugs; no. 4: Crucible, source uncertain

ware was found on the excavation. Given the fact that no Irish medieval pottery kilns have been identified or excavated, it is impossible to attribute pottery which appears to be of local origin to a precise source. The medieval pottery of Leinster is well documented because of its occurrence in a wide range of sites from Drogheda to Wexford, e.g. Trim Castle, Co. Meath (Sweetman 1978), Ferns Castle, Co. Wexford (Sweetman 1979), Kilferagh, Co. Kilkenny (Hurley 1987). The South Leinster cooking ware has similarly been classified as an identifiable group, and has been studied in detail (Ó Floinn 1976 and forthcoming). With the exception of a few sherds (Hurley 1985, 78; 1986a, 31-32), very little South Leinster pottery has been found in Cork, consequently the pottery from Cork which may be of local origin remains a diverse group which can only be identified as local by a process of elimination. A comparative analysis of the pottery fabric and the regional clays should enable us to be more precise in the identification of Irish pottery. In the absence of such information, only a few elements such as the presence of mica or quartz and the absence of calcite, flint etc. in the fabric can serve as guidelines.

At least 20% of the assemblage could be of Irish origin. In all, there are 87 body sherds from jugs, 9 bases, 9 rims and 4 strap handles. Most of the pottery was found in Levels 2 and 3, with only a small amount from Level 4, therefore the dates centre on the late thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century.

A large, semi-complete jug (Fig. 11, no. 1) has brick red/orange fabric, covered by a clear

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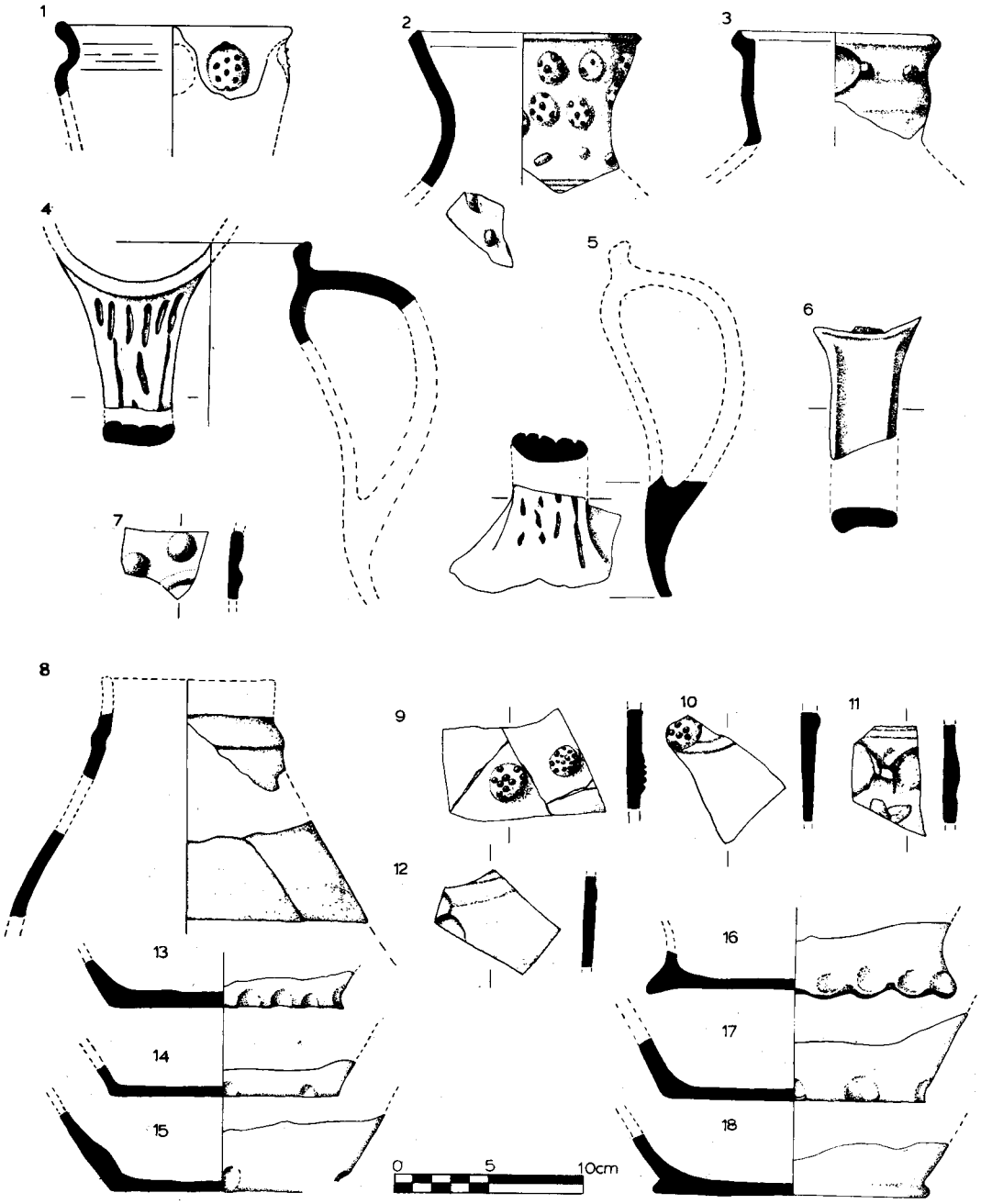

Fig. 12. Irish jugs

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glaze giving a lustrous red / orange outer surface. The strap handle is slashed with three deep incisions. No. 3 (Fig. 11) is similar to no. 1 in many respects, but the surface is decorated with applied strips in low relief. The greater part of a small globular jug was also found (Fig. 11, no. 2), however, as some of the upper part of the jug is missing, it is unclear if the vessel was ever provided with a handle. The fabric and glaze are similar to no. 1. It is decorated with applied bosses of 'raspberry' type which are a common motif on Irish pottery of the late thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century (Fig. 12, nos. 1, 2, 9 and 10).

By contrast, there are a large number of jugs which have a form and fabric so similar to South Leinster ware that Irish origin is almost certain. It was not possible to reconstruct any of the green-glazed jugs (Fig. 12) but the shapes and decorative devices point to the prevailing influence of late thirteenth century Redcliff (Bristol) pottery. A variety of rim forms occur (Fig. 12, nos. 1-3); the strap handles (Fig. 12, nos. 4 and 5) have deep slashes and the bases are generally thumbed or frilled (Fig. 12, nos. 13-17). No. 16 is very similar to Redcliff bases while no. 18 is more like Saintonge ware in form.

NOTES

1. Exact location: OS 6" scale sheet Cork 74. 28.2cm from S margin; 40.1cm from W margin. Municipal Borough of Cork, Central Ward; Ph. Christ Church; Co. Cork.

2. Part of the site lay within what was formerly Jennings' furniture store. This site was acquired by Messrs Power Securities Ltd. As part of an arrangement with Cork Corporation, a greater area was acquired by Power Securities. This arrangement resulted from changes in the design of the intended building necessitated by the conversion of the adjacent area into a public park. Subsequently, the entire site was incorporated in the park.

3. Identified by Alan Vince, Museum of London, and Michael Ponsford, Bristol Museum.

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