

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Although our work in 1967 was mainly concerned with the Roman period, small scale excavations were continued on certain areas of the Medieval Friary building that had been partially excavated in 1966.

Wattle and daub structure (Squares H 8 and H 9).

This is shown in plan and section in Figs. 10 and 11. In this area there is evidence of five periods of rebuilding.

The first period was probably associated with the original Friary structure in the 13th century. All that remains from this period is a wall trench cut into the chalk approximately 4 feet below ground level. In this trench is the daub base of a wattle wall. The foundation trench running north-south and cut into the natural chalk was also associated with this period.

Period II was represented by the remains of a structure forming the rake-out pit for a very early oven which was later built over by the beehive ovens excavated in 1965. The oven rake-out ash could be clearly seen in both plan and section. The ash was laid in alternate layers with mortar. This would indicate a periodic clean up of the floor of the chamber by the renewal of the mortar floor. The chamber was bounded on the south by an earth bank and on the north by a wall which, although robbed, was still evident from the chalk and rubble fill.

A third period is indicated by a Totternhoe stone foundation wall running north-south on grid 9. This is a continuation of the wall excavated by Mr. Bagshawe in 1924 and indicated on the main site plan.

Period IV is shown by the second wattle and daub wall cutting the period III wall.

A final period, the fifth, is indicated by the building of a knapped flint wall over the period III wall and crossing the wattle and daub wall.

The Medieval structures were superimposed on the Roman town ditch. It was found that the west side of the ditch had been dug away during the Medieval period in the area adjacent to the ovens. This was to form a level platform in the chalk at a lower level on which to build the kitchen area and the ovens.

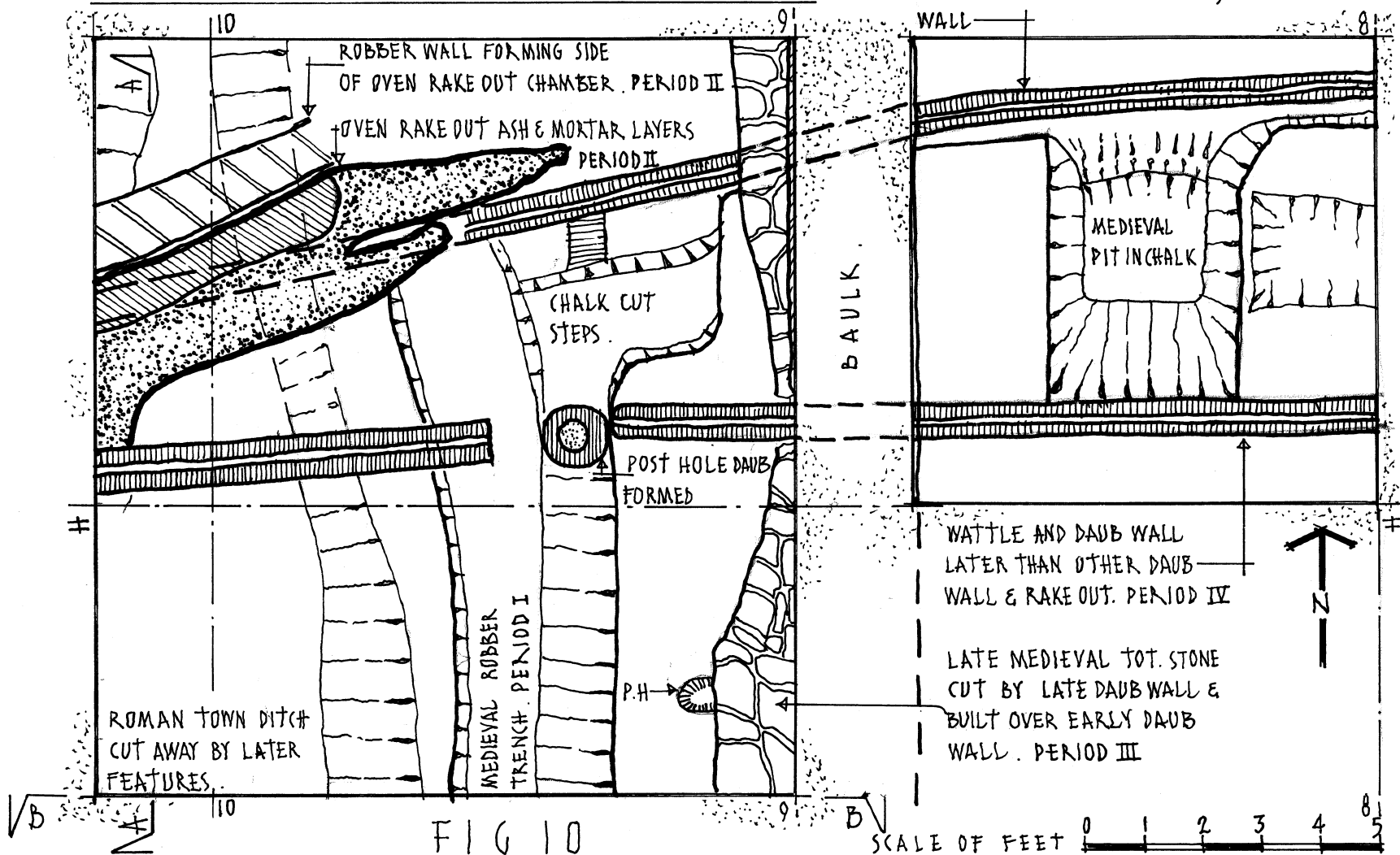
Cut at Grid Q.

A further 3 foot wide trench was cut through the medieval rubbish tip. This was taken just south of, and parallel to, Grid Q, and running between Grids 5 and 10. Several Medieval objects were found in this trench and these have been illustrated in Fig. 12.

DOMINICAN FRIARY DUNSTABLE

J.M. BAILEY. 1967.

OVEN RAKE OUT AREA & FEATURES EAST OF BEE-HIVE OVENS.



DOMINICAN FRIARY DUNSTABLE

SECTIONS OF FEATURES EAST OF BEE-HIVE OVENS.

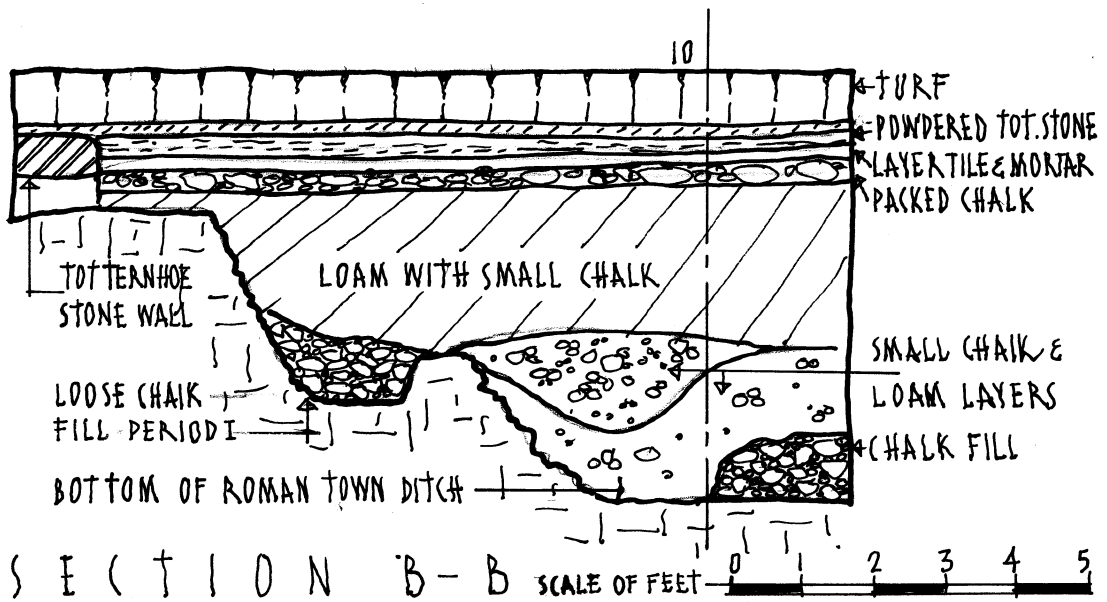
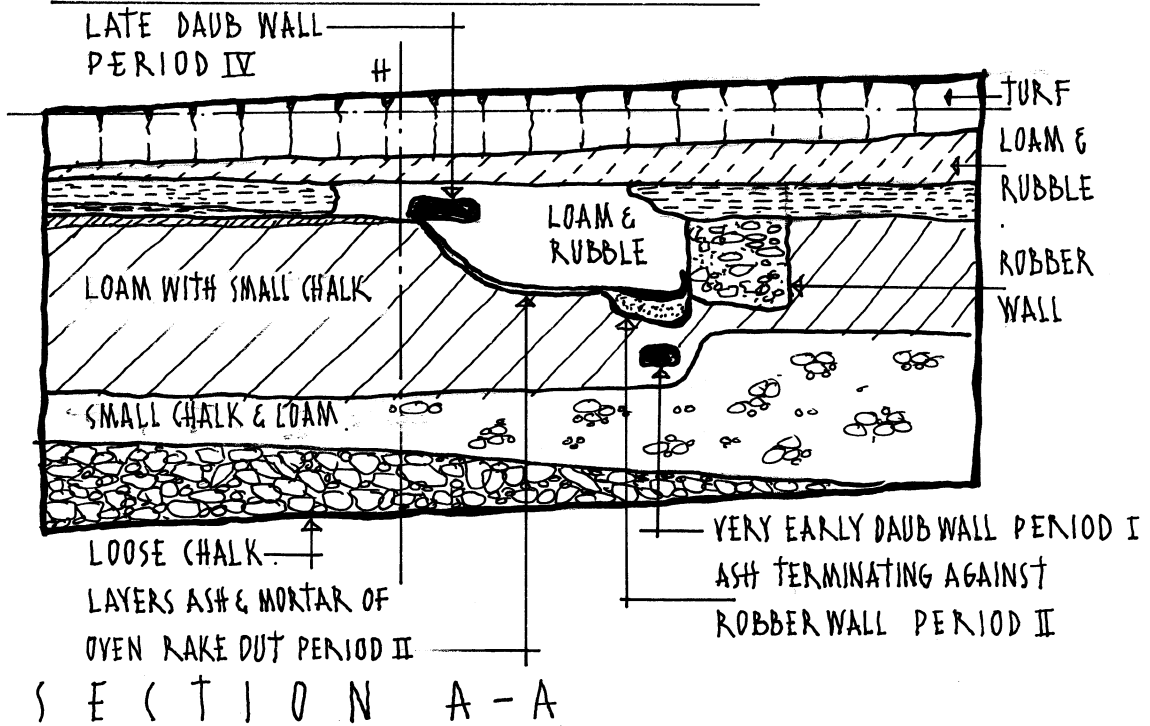
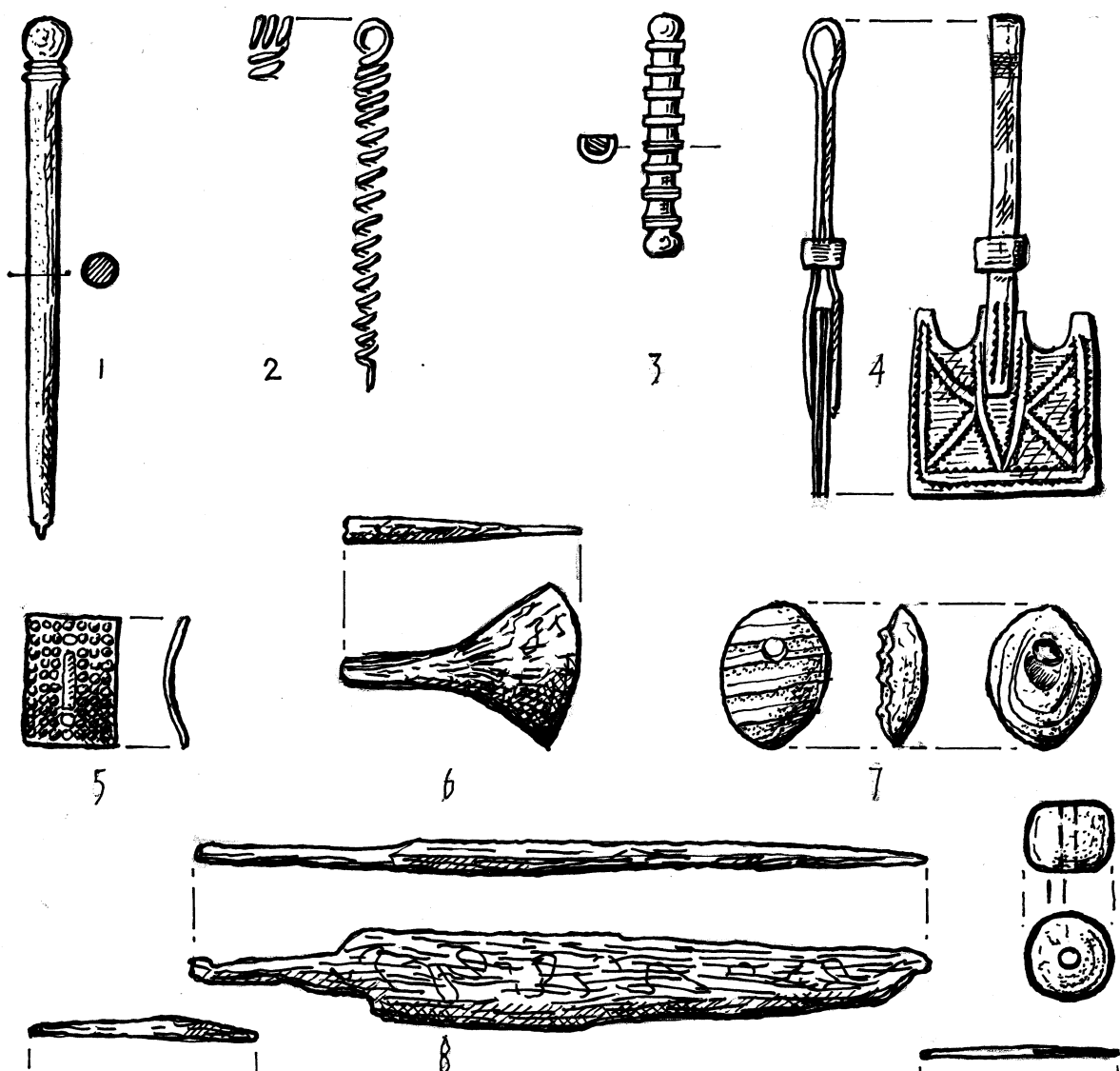


FIG II

J.M.B



- 1 BONE PIN
- 2 BRONZE WIRE SPIRAL
- 3 BONE OBJECT
- 4 BRONZE PAPER CLIP
- 5 BRONZE STRIP
- 6 BRONZE CHISEL
- 7 PIERCED SHELL
- 8 IRON KNIFE
- 9 LEAD OBJECT
- 10 BRONZE OBJECT.
- 11 AMBER BEAD.

FRIARY MEDIEVAL OBJECTS J.M. BAILEY
 FIG 12

Fig. 12. Medieval objects from the Dominican Friary site.

All of these objects except item 2 were found in the Friary destruction material on Grid line Q. Item 2 was found in Square G 9 in the fill above the Period III building.

- 1) Bone pin.
- 2) Bronze wire spiral.
- 3) Bone object. Possibly lace bobbin.
- 4) Bronze clip. Probably a paper clip.
- 5) Bronze decorated plate.
- 6) Bronze chisel.
- 7) Pierced shell.
- 8) Iron knife.
- 9) Lead bung.
- 10) Bronze disc.
- 11) Amber bead. Possibly rosary bead.