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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
ON THE SITE OF THE  
OLD POLICE STATION  
&  
10-16 LONDON ROAD, STAINES**

2001

**SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**



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ON THE SITE OF THE  
OLD POLICE STATION  
&  
10-16 LONDON ROAD, STAINES**

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## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION ON THE SITE OF THE OLD POLICE STATION & 10-16, LONDON ROAD, STAINES**

### **Summary**

*The excavation of an office redevelopment on the outskirts of Staines produced features and material belonging to a number of periods. A concentration of Mesolithic flintwork, most of which came from three features, was of great interest as it suggested a hunter-gatherer presence on, or in the immediate vicinity of, the site. Residual finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age origin provided evidence of other prehistoric activity nearby. Several ditches, pits, and cremation burials of Roman origin, and one possible late medieval feature, provided further evidence of the occupation of the town during these periods. Two inhumation burials, at least one of which was of an execution victim, provide further evidence of interments along London Road.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Between 27th July and 18th August, 2000, and 16th to 24th, January, 2001, staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit undertook a programme of excavation work on a site lying adjacent to London Road, and close to its junction with Kingston Road, Staines (fig 1). The site had formerly been occupied by buildings associated with the Old Police Station and by several shops (Nos 2 - 16, London Road), and has now been redeveloped as an office building with a basement; the original Police Station building, a Victorian structure, has been retained and refurbished as part of the development. Previous excavation work undertaken by the Unit in the immediate vicinity had indicated that the site was of high archaeological potential, this work being supported by a number of nearby entries in the Sites and Monuments Record for Surrey, and negated the need for a fieldwork evaluation prior to excavation (Shaikhley, 1999). The main excavation was supplemented by the investigation of another small part of the site in 2001, following the demolition of some remaining structures and the addition of pile-driven shoring around the area to be basemented, which took place during the early stages of the redevelopment's groundwork.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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### **METHODOLOGY**

The overburden was removed from both excavation areas by a tracked excavator, equipped with a toothless bucket. Many of the features revealed by this were clearly of recent (18th century or later) origin and were not investigated further (they mostly appear unnumbered on fig 2), but all contexts that were of earlier, or uncertain, date were sampled by manual excavation in an attempt to assess their origin. These contexts were then recorded, drawn, and photographed in accordance with usual archaeological practice. A metal detector was used to scan the unexcavated fills of all ancient features, and was used, as time allowed, during the excavation of certain contexts. This tool was responsible for the discovery of most of the coins and many of the iron objects noted below.

## STRATIGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Most of the material removed during the machining of the main site area consisted of a mixture of concrete, rubble, and other recent building or demolition remains (101), and a modern topsoil/ garden soil containing 18th and 19th century material (102). Three other layers were also identified above the undisturbed geology : 104, a layer of dense pea-gravel in a matrix of dark clay soil; 105, a layer of green-grey clay soil; and, 106, a layer of light green-grey clay soil - see fig 3. These layers, and 102, survived best in the less disturbed southern and eastern parts of the excavation area (behind the shops which fronted London Road), 104 only being observed in the south-eastern corner.

Given the nature of the excavation, and the time available for its completion, it was necessary to remove all stratigraphy to the level at which the first datable ancient (medieval or earlier) features were found to occur, this being to the level of the undisturbed geology, or just above; some of the shallower features were unavoidably damaged as result of this requirement. This material was generally rationalised as a single clearance context, 100, and this number was used for any unstratified material collected then or subsequently; a small number of finds were attributed to their correct context at this stage, however. Later the layers beneath 102 were sampled in more detail by the excavation of box sections 160, and 173, and by some manual clearance work in the vicinity of feature 136. The layers were renumbered in each box section, for recording purposes, with 161, 162, and 163, and 174, 175, and 176, being equivalent to 104, 105 and 106 respectively, but the finds recovered have been combined in respect of the original layer numbers for the purposes of this report. 104 and its corresponding contexts produced approximately one hundred sherds of Roman pottery, three later sherds which may have come from 102, and thirty four pieces of tile (mostly of Roman origin where diagnostic, but including one medieval or post-medieval fragment that also probably emanates from 102). 105 *et al* produced forty Roman sherds (which include a largely complete Samian vessel), a prehistoric sherd, and four fragments of tile which are probably all Roman, and 106 *et al* produced a single, small, prehistoric sherd, twenty five pieces of humanly struck flint, and over seventy pieces of burnt flint. The material recovered from 104 and 105 dates these contexts to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD, while that recovered from 106 is exclusively of prehistoric origin. Only modern contexts were observed to cut 104 or 105 during machining, and 104 was seen in section to post-date the 3rd century feature 137, though the relationship of this pit to 105 is uncertain (see fig 3, and below); 104 was either a late Roman or post-Roman soil, therefore, and 105 could be late Roman. Roman contexts 136 and 137 were seen to cut 106 and this relationship seems most likely to have been the case for all features of Roman or later date.

One further context, 198, which occurred in the north-western corner of the 2000 excavation and is recorded only in the edge of site section above ditch segment 194 (phase 2), may have been a shallowly dug feature (fig 3). It consisted of a very dark grey-black clay soil with dense gravel and gravel lenses, and appeared to cut layer 105 and segment 194. Section cleaning produced eleven sherds of Roman pottery, mostly of late 3rd or early 4th century origin, which may all have been present residually.

The undisturbed geology revealed by the machining of the site was of orange-grey brickearth over gravel (the latter only being revealed in the sides of the deeper features excavated).

## THE EXCAVATION (figs 2 & 3)

The contexts resulting from both periods of excavation work are discussed here as one group, but those from 2001, all of which were discovered in the north-western corner of the site, have numbers which begin at 210. The majority of contexts sampled have been assigned to one of the four phases below, but a small number remain undatable and are described subsequently.

## **Phase 1 : Prehistoric**

Six excavated features, 148, 149, 164, 172, 182, and 185, have been attributed to this phase and are described here; layer 106, which only produced material of prehistoric origin, has been described above. Features 148, 164, 182, and 185, varied between 0.06m (185) and 0.12m (182) in depth, and contained fills of stiff, dark grey, or grey-black, clay; the exposed surface of 148 had a humic appearance. 172 was cut by the Roman ditch 193. 149, which was a maximum of 0.30m deep, and 172, which reached 0.50m in depth, each contained two deposits of fill, these being a black, humic, clay (149A), over a green-grey tinged yellow clay containing some patches of humic material (149B), and, green-grey clay (172A), over a stiff dark grey clay (172B), respectively (fig 3). The edges of 148 and 172 were not clearly defined, and the western edge of 172 may have been slightly over dug as a result of this, which may have given it a more regular planned appearance than was really the case. The most significant of these features, in terms of finds recovered, were 148, 149, and 185, which produced fifty four, one hundred and fifty four, and sixteen pieces of humanly struck flint respectively. This material, which is discussed in detail in the report by Marples below, is of Mesolithic origin. 148 and 149 also produced a few burnt flints. 164, 172, and 182 have been attributed to this phase because the close resemblance of their fills to the other three features described here, these being distinct from any discovered by the excavation. 172 produced a single, undiagnostic, struck flint, and 182 produced two burnt flints.

## **Phase 2 : Roman**

### *The Ditches*

Parts of three ditches were discovered within the excavation area, two of which, 134, and 228, were orientated roughly at right angles to the third, 129. 129 was sampled at eight locations and found to consist of various elements of other ditches, these being clearly the product of recutting. The most distinct of these elements were the final cut, 187, a predecessor of the main ditch, 241, and, possibly, cuts 231 and 241 at the western end; the less distinct, or consistent, elements have not been numbered separately. The feature is best understood by reference to the section drawings (those for the partial segments, 165 and 194, have not been reproduced) - see fig 3. The sections show that the internal stratigraphy of the segments excavated was quite variable, and while some of these variations will be due to localised inconsistencies in the infilling, others may reflect different ground conditions at the time of excavation (the moisture content of the soil may have varied due to the buildings that occupied the site prior to excavation, for example). The segments are briefly described below, going from east to west.

Segment 130 was cut by pits 109 and 123, and by ditch 187, and contained a largely homogeneous fill of dark grey-green clay soil, 132, which overlay a similar deposit containing much gravel, 133. Segment 197 was also clearly cut by 187, and contained two deposits of fill, 197A, a green-grey silty clay, and 197B, a mid to dark grey silty clay. An earlier phase of the ditch is indicated by the slight shelf on the northern side of the feature, which appears to predate 197B, and another phase may be suggested on the southern side (this being clearer in 158). Four deposits of fill were recorded for 158, these being a dark grey-black silty clay, 158A, a green-grey silty clay, 158B, a grey silty clay, 158C, and a deposit of orange-grey clay (probably largely slumped or eroded natural), 158D, and a comparable sequence was observed for 157, 165, and 194, though with no deposit equivalent to 158D. It is probable that 157A and 158A partially, or largely derive from cut 187, which seems most likely to have been present along the entire length of 129 (within the limits of the redevelopment, at least), but the course of the feature was not clear through the central part of the site area. In segment 225, the gritty, grey-black final infill deposit, 225A, was indistinguishable from the fill of 187 (context 226) during excavation and in the east-facing section, but was seen to be cut by the less gritty fill of 187 in the opposing section. Other layers encountered within this segment were, 225B, a green-grey clay soil, 225C, a dark green-grey clay soil with frequent flecks of charcoal, 225D, a green-grey silty clay, 237, a layer indistinguishable from 225D, 238, which was marginally lighter in colour than 237, 239, an orange-grey clay (primarily slumped or eroded brickearth from the side of the ditch), and 240, a deposit similar to 239. 237, 238, 239, and possibly 240, provide the most conclusive evidence for the suggested earlier phase of 129, cut

141. Segment 229 was clearly cut by the 18th century feature 234, and probably cut a predecessor, 232, on its southern side. The segment appeared to contain an homogeneous deposit of grey-green silty clay (also numbered 229), and was indistinguishable from another deposit, 225, which was identified on its northern side and may belong to 241; no relationship was established between either of these contexts and another ditch (presumably a further element in the history of this ditch), 231, also on the northern side. The excavated segments of 187 (125, 196, and 226) contained an homogeneous deposit of fill like that described above for 225A.

The finds recovered from 129 primarily consist of around two hundred and twenty sherds of Roman pottery, fragments of Roman brick/ tile, several iron nails, some animal bone, occasional items of lead, and several copper alloy coins (some of which may emanate from 187). In addition to this, around forty Roman sherds, some more animal bone and brick/ tile, several iron nails, some items of lead, and 20 copper alloy coins were recovered from the identified segments of 187 and from scanning its course with a metal detector. A further seven sherds were collected as a mixed context, 225A/ 226A (the material collected as 157A and 158A should also be considered as a potentially mixed context, though the 39 sherds this involves have been added to the total given here for 129). The finds recovered indicate that both ditches had infilled by the late 3rd or early 4th century AD. 170 was cut by 234, and was observed to cut 235 and, possibly, 229 to the west of this, but was removed from this area by the mechanical excavator (the westernmost 5m of the 2001 excavation was over-machined by approximately 0.20m - 0.30m due to the presence of various recent disturbances). Three sherds of Roman pottery, one of which can be dated to the 2nd or 3rd century AD, and some bone were recovered from 232, and 231 also produced some bone; some of the bone fragments from 231 were human.

Ditch 134 ended just short of 129, its terminal segment, 169, cutting another feature, 170, at this point (fig 2); to the south of this, 134 was cut by features 154 and 155 (phase 4 - see fig 2). Segment 169 contained three layers of fill, 169A, a gritty dark green-grey clay, 169B, a mid green-grey silty clay, and 169C, a sticky grey clay, and a similar sequence was seen in segments 122 and 135 (in the former, 122B was less substantial and was mixed with brickearth from the edges of the feature, and in the latter, a comparable deposit, only recognised in section, was removed with the basal fill as 135B). In segment 122, a fourth deposit, 122D was identified, this being a gravel-rich orange-green clay that coincided with a shelf present on the western side of the feature (fig 3); this shelf, which was only visible in the north-facing section, may well be a surviving remnant of an earlier phase of the ditch, but could also be the product of variable digging as a result of subsidence. No layering was observed in segment 223, which appeared to contain a single deposit of fill equivalent to 169A. The ditch varied between 0.50m and 0.85m in depth, being shallowest in segment 135 (where it was cut by 155), and deepest in segment 122. Feature 170 may have been the remains of a forerunner of 134, or else could have been another feature, such as a pit; it contained an homogeneous fill of green-grey clay soil. There was no visible distinction between the fills of 170 and 129.

A large assemblage of finds was recovered from 134, coming mostly from segments 122 and 135. This consisted of over three hundred sherds of pottery, frequent pieces of Roman brick/ tile, some bone (including a bone pin), a whetstone, a quernstone fragment, some iron nails, and several copper alloy coins (see specialist reports for further details). This material dates the ditch to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD. 170 produced twelve sherds of pottery, which have been dated to the same period, some bone, and some Roman brick/ tile.

Ditch 228 was sampled by the excavation of one partial segment, 221, against the western limit of the excavation. 228 cut feature 232, and did not appear to continue to the north of 129, so seems most likely to have been contemporary with one of the phases of that ditch. It was approximately 0.60m deep where sampled, and contained five deposits of fill, 221A, a black clay soil, 221B, a green-grey silty clay, 221C, a dark grey silty clay, 221D, a fine, gritty, gravel, and 221E, a mid to dark grey silty clay (fig 3). The fill produced nineteen sherds of Roman pottery, sixteen of which came from layers A and B, some Roman brick/ tile, a quernstone fragment, and some animal bone. The pottery indicates that the feature infilled during the 3rd century AD.

### *The Pits*

Four of the features attributed to this phase have been classified as pits, though it is possible that one of these, 137, may have been a ditch terminal. 137 was approximately 0.30m deep, and may have contained a shallow upper fill of dark grey-green clay soil (some of which was removed by the mechanical excavator), and a primary fill of slightly lighter coloured sandy clay, though this distinction was only observed in section and the fill was removed as a single context. The relationship of this feature to layer 105 was not clear in section, but if the upper fill noted was within its edges, and was broadly contemporary with its infilling (rather than a later deposit which formed in a subsidence hollow over the pit), the pit must have cut 105 (fig 3 - the fills are distinguished by the suffix A or B in section). The finds recovered from this excavation mostly came from the lower fill, and consist of eighty sherds of Roman pottery, one small prehistoric sherd, some Roman tile, a small quantity of animal bone, approximately half of a copper alloy bracelet, and twenty eight iron nails (one of which was a large, bent item). The nails are interesting as most were recovered from two linear clusters, one of which was central to the southern edge of the feature, while the other was around the northern corner. The presence, and positioning of these nails within the fill initially suggested that this feature may have been a grave, but as their distribution was too inconsistent and localised to be indicative of the position of a coffin, and as no human remains were recovered elsewhere, this possibility was disregarded. The pottery recovered from 137 indicates that the feature dates to the 3rd century AD.

Pit 213 was a substantial sub-rectangular feature, approximately 0.85m deep, which contained a main fill of gritty green-grey-black clay soil, 213A, a lower fill of green-grey clay, 213B, and a basal fill of grey silty clay, 213C. It produced fifty three sherds of Roman pottery, some Roman brick/ tile, a small quantity of bone (some fragments of which were human), seven iron nails, and four unidentified iron lumps; the metalwork items all came from the main fill.

Pit 123 cut ditch 129, while the similarly sized pit 200 may either have cut, or been cut by, this ditch a short distance to the north-west. The former contained a dark, grey-black fill, was approximately 0.14m deep, and produced three small sherds of Roman pottery, four fragments of Roman pottery, and part of an iron spearhead, while the latter contained a pale grey-brown fill, was around 0.10m deep, and produced an iron axe head. It is impossible to be certain that the finds recovered date these features, however. The material from 123 may emanate from 129 and/ or from the subsoil, particularly as the spearhead may belong to the 1st century AD and, if so, must predate the ditch in origin at least (see the report by Ayres), and the single find from 200, which was recovered from the machine-exposed surface of the fill, could also potentially be a residual artefact.

### *The Inhumations*

Burial 188 was extremely shallow, lying on, or just below, the surface of the brickearth, and part of the skull, shoulders, and the left side of the pelvis was unavoidably damaged during site clearance due to this; the majority of the skull may have been lost previously. The surviving bones were in very fragile condition, and many fragmented during their removal. The body appeared to have been buried in a semi-crouched position, with the upper part of the torso, and probably the head, being supine, and the pelvis and legs, which were bent at the knees, inclined towards the right hand (northern) side. The right arm lay across the chest, and the left arm across the abdomen. No finds were recovered from the green-grey clay which constituted the grave fill, but a radiocarbon date obtained from the right femur of this burial indicates that it most probably dates to the period between AD 71-130.

Burial 212 was contained within a marginally deeper grave than 188, the cut reaching 0.12m below the surface of the brickearth at the deepest point. The left tibia and fibula, and the right foot were damaged/ lost during site clearance, and the skull, shoulder bones, left and right humerus, and many ribs, had been disturbed previously by post hole 211 and at least one other modern feature (not numbered on fig 2). The fill of the feature was a grey-green clay, comparable to that of 188 and the nearby dog burial 216, and the surviving bones exposed by its removal were in fair condition. The burial was supine, with

the right leg extended and the left leg bent at the knee, the right arm lay across the waist, and the left wrist lay beneath the left femur. The vertebrae were in poor condition, and were difficult to distinguish, but two or three found in the vicinity of 211 appeared to be stacked vertically, which suggests that the head may have been raised at the time of burial. A single human tooth, presumably from 212, was recovered amongst the concrete and gravel which filled 211. Burial 212 has been assigned to this phase solely on the grounds that it is, perhaps, most likely to be loosely contemporary with 188, but other possibilities for its origin are considered below (see Discussion). No finds were recovered from the grave fill, and it proved impossible to obtain a radiocarbon date from bones due to an insufficient collagen content.

#### *The Cremations and Context 214*

Three definite cremation burials, 136, 167, and 215, and two possible cremations, 109 and 214A, were discovered during the excavation. The most interesting of these was the unurned burial, 136, which produced funerary remains and a variety of prestigious artefacts, from a pit roughly 0.25m deep. The main fill of the feature was a dark grey-black clay soil which contained pieces of burnt bone (occurring individually, or in small clusters, throughout the fill), charcoal (including some large lumps) and fragments of baked clay. An upper fill of mid grey clay soil was also present within the central area, but was an inconsistent deposit which occurred both above and below the main fill (fig 2). The deliberately deposited 'grave goods' produced by the feature were all recovered from locations close to the surface, and were mostly covered by, or within, the upper fill deposit. These items consisted of two, enamelled, copper alloy brooches which had been joined together by a copper alloy chain (little of this survived, but the link was indicated by a visible trail of corrosion products within the soil), three glass vessels, and a small Samian bowl which was upturned within the soil; a fragmented iron implement may have been another conscious addition. Three further Roman sherds, two copper alloy coins, and around sixty complete or broken iron nails were also recovered from the fill, the latter mainly coming from peripheral locations, but occurring irregularly throughout the fill. The positions of the nails did not indicate that they belonged to a buried box or coffin which may have contained the remains, and the rounded profile of the base of the feature also suggested that it was unlikely to have contained such an object, so the nails most probably came from wood burnt as part of the funeral pyre (some could have come from a coffin burnt at this stage).

The pottery, glass, and brooches recovered indicate that this burial belongs to the middle to late 2nd century AD. One of the coins dates to the second half of the 1st century AD, and the other to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD; the earlier artefact may have been deliberately deposited with the burial, but is, perhaps, most likely to have been present residually, and the later coin must be intrusive. A bulk sample of the fill was collected for specialist examination, and was found to be typical of cremation deposits (see the report by Fryer). The discussion below considers the possibility that the pit containing these remains was a *bustum*.

Cremation burial 167 was discovered approximately 1.75m to the west of 136, and, unlike 136, consisted of a small pit in which most of the human remains were contained in an urn. The drawn section of this feature (fig 3) records the position of the vessel, 167A, which was filled with burnt bone and charcoal, a surrounding back-fill of yellow-green clay soil, 167B, and a basal fill of dark grey-black, charcoal-rich, soil which contained frequent fragments of burnt bone, 167C. The funerary vessel was upright within the pit, but its upper part was missing (possibly as a result of machining), and its base was detached but present within 167C; 167C presumably consists of surplus material that did not fit into the vessel, or, given the location of the pot base, of material re-collected after vessel broke prior to burial. The funerary vessel dates this burial to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD; the feature produced one other residual sherd and a several pieces of burnt flint, but no other finds. A bulk sample of the fill of this feature was retained for specialist examination - see the report by Fryer.

The unurned cremation burial 215 was located approximately 1.5m to the south of an undated dog burial (216), and 2m to the south-east of another possible cremation, 214A. 215 consisted of a small,

0.10m deep, pit, which contained frequent pieces burnt bone in a matrix of dark grey-black-brown clay soil. No finds were recovered from the feature, so the burial may belong to any period, but it is, perhaps, most likely that all of the cremations are broadly contemporary. See the report by Fryer for further information relating to this feature.

Possible cremation 109 cut ditch 129, and was itself cut by ditch 187 (fig 2). It contained two distinct layers of fill, 124, an orange-brown clay with much densely packed gravel, and 131, a dark grey-black clay soil which contained fragments of burnt bone. The feature produced no finds, but must be of Roman origin because of its relationship to 129 and 187; it seems most likely to belong to the 3rd century AD given the dates of these ditches. See the report by Fryer for information arising from a soil sample taken from context 131.

The black, charcoal-rich, context 214A was momentarily observed during site clearance (as reconstructed on fig 3) before being mostly disturbed by the mechanical excavator. Its appearance was similar to that of 215, but the remnant that survived was only a few centimetres deep. Most of the disturbed fill was spread across pit 220, and was recovered from this location as a contaminated soil sample, while the undisturbed fill was excavated and sampled normally. Both areas produced frequent small and large lumps of charcoal and burnt sherds of Roman pottery, and the displaced soil produced fragments of burnt bone, but none were found within the *in situ* soil. 214A cut, or overlay, a shallow deposit (barely more than a shallow spread) of green-grey clay with charcoal, 214B, that was cut by 220 (18th century) and 129/ 241 (see above); 214B also produced a few pieces of burnt bone. It seems most likely that both of these contexts were associated with at least one cremation burial, and possible, because of its visual similarity to 215, that 214A may have been a burial pit. The eleven sherds recovered from 214A date this context to the late 2nd or 3rd century AD. See the report by Fryer for information concerning the soil samples taken from 214 and 215.

### **Phase 3 : Late Medieval**

The presence of this phase is suggested most tentatively on the evidence of just one feature, 150. This was a wide, shallow, feature of uncertain classification, that extended beyond the northern limits of the excavation in 2000, and was not traced beyond this in 2001 due to the presence of various modern disturbances (fig 2). It was a maximum of 0.40m deep where sampled, and contained an homogeneous fill of dark grey clay soil which produced fifteen sherds of Roman pottery, two small medieval sherds, a copper alloy coin dating to the late 3rd century AD, some animal bone, and an unidentifiable iron lump. The Roman pottery is of late 3rd or 4th century origin, while the medieval sherds date to the late 15th or early 16th century. 150 may have cut the late Roman ditch 129, but the overlap between the two fills was too small to be certain of this relationship.

### **Phase 4 : Post-medieval to Modern**

Many of the features revealed during site clearance contained material that proved, beyond question, that they were of 18th century or later origin, and, while a few of these were numbered for descriptive purposes, none required sampling by manual excavation. A large proportion of the remaining features seemed likely to be broadly contemporary with these, primarily because of their location or the characteristics of their exposed fills, but required sampling to confirm, or probably confirm, this impression. As a result of this work, ditches 107 and 154, articulated pig burial 153, pits 108, 112, 144, 189 - 191, 220, and 234, and post holes, or possible post holes (some may have been small pits, and others were little more than shallow hollows), 111, 113 - 117, 126 - 128, 138, 140 - 143, 145 - 147, 151, 177, 184, 192, and 211, have been assigned to this phase.

With the exception of ditch 107, pits 189 - 191, and possible post holes 177 and 192, which contained fills of mid grey-brown soil, and ditch 154, feature 155, and pits 220 and 234, which are noted below, all of these features had similar fills of dark clay soil, many of which were unconsolidated. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from 107, 112, 114, 115, 190, 192, and 234, and indicates an 18th century date for these features, clay pipe fragments were recovered from 114, 144, 177, and 192,

fragments of medieval or post-medieval tile were recovered from 114, 144, and 153, and concrete was recovered from 211 (and was present in the nearby, unexcavated features 217 - 219); residual sherds of Roman pottery and fragments of tile, which sometimes outnumbered the later material, were recovered from most of these contexts. Features 111, 116, 127, 138, 140, 143, 145, and 146 only produced Roman and undiagnostic material, but much of this consisted of small abraded sherds or tile fragments, all of which seems most likely to be present residually in view of the other information available, and 113, 115, 117, 141, 142, and 184, produced no datable finds, but their appearance indicated that they were of similar origin to most, or all, of the other features noted here. The imbalance of pottery sherds recovered from the excavated segments of ditch 107 is interesting to note in passing - segment 139 produced over one hundred and twenty sherds of post-medieval pottery, a medieval sherd, and sixteen Roman sherds, 171 produced sixteen post-medieval sherds, a medieval sherd, and ninety six Roman sherds, and 186 produced a medieval sherd; and thirty Roman sherds; the high proportion of contemporary material within 139 is probably indicative of deliberate deposition. It is probably significant that the majority of these features were located in the south-eastern corner of the excavation area, behind the buildings formerly lying adjacent to London Road.

Ditch 154 was overlain by layer 118 (see below), and cut the Roman ditches 129 and 134, and layer 105. It was sampled at two locations, and was found to contain a fill of pale green-grey-brown clay soil in segment 121, and a mid brown clay soil in 166. 121 may have been cut by an articulated dog burial (this was distinguished by the number 152, and was located central to the segment, close to the section, in the middle to upper part of the fill, but is not shown on fig 3), but the fill surrounding the skeleton was undistinguishable from that of the segment and could not be planned as being indicative of a later cut; it is possible that the edges of a grave cut were invisible, or that the animal was simply placed within the partially infilled ditch. The segments excavated produced sixteen sherds of Roman pottery (most, or all belonging, to the late 3rd or 4th century AD), around twenty fragments of tile (most of which were of medieval or post-medieval date where diagnostic), and one piece of post-medieval brick. The brick, which was found in the lower fill of 121 (below, and well away from the location of 152), and later tile fragments seem most likely to date the feature, and the relationship of 154 to ditch 129 supports this chronology. 154 was not traced to the north of 129 due to the presence of various modern features. A piece of glass, three pieces of medieval or post-medieval tile, and some small lumps of coal were recovered from the vicinity of 152.

Feature 155 was found to occupy a large area in the south-western corner of the site, and extended beyond this. It was sampled at location 201, using the mechanical excavator, and found to consist of various layers of redeposited orange or grey clay, with some lenses of clay soil (156), over a darker, grey, silty clay (159) which was not bottomed. A mixture of Roman and post-medieval material was recovered from these layers. The latest pottery recovered from either context dated to the 18th century. 155 extended further northwards than is indicated on fig 2, cutting (not simply overlaying) the brickearth and the upper part of the southern end of ditch 134, but becoming increasingly shallow further north. Here 156 was overlain by a contemporary deposit 118 (not illustrated), which extended further northwards over 134 and 154, both layers being removed from this area by the mechanical excavator; some additional Roman and 18th century finds were recovered from 118, with most of this material coming from context 120, a clearance spit over ditch segments 121 and 122. It seems likely that a pond may existed in this vicinity, and was infilled during the 18th century.

Pit 220 was a steep sided feature, approximately 0.70m deep, that contained an upper fill of mixed orange clay and brown clay soil (220A), a lower fill of grey, silty, clay with frequent pea-gravel (220B), and a primary fill of mixed orange clay and grey, silty, clay with fragments of saturated wood (220C). It was located approximately 2m to the north-east of a similar feature, 234, which was 0.54m deep and also contained three layers of fill. The layers present in the eastern segment of 234 (rapidly removed as a single context, 233, but observed in section) were comparable to those of the western segment, these being 230A, a mid to dark brown silty clay, 230B, a gritty, brown, sandy clay with some pea gravel, and 230C, a grey silty clay. Two narrow planks of wood were situated just above the base of

the feature and were present in each segment excavated. 234 mainly produced Roman material, but also produced medieval and post-medieval (18th century) pottery, and fragments of post-medieval brick and tile, but 220 only produced four Roman sherds and a prehistoric sherd; both features cut Roman contexts (see phase 2, and fig 2). Given the similarities between these two features, and the fact that the Roman material from 220 consisted of small, abraded, sherds, it seems most likely that both features were of 18th century origin.

#### Undated Features

It was impossible to date five of the features revealed by the excavation, these being 168, 178, 180, 181, and 216. 168, 178, 180, and 181 were all found in the north-eastern corner of the excavation, and contained fills of grey, or grey-brown clay soil. Four of these features may have been small pits or post holes, while the exception, 181, may have been a gully terminal, though this was not entirely convincing as a man-made feature and it was not rediscovered in 2001; these features varied between 0.09m (178) and 0.13m (180) in depth. 178, produced some small, undiagnostic, tile fragments, a small lump of baked clay, and one burnt flint (the tile indicating that the feature is of Roman or later date), and 180 and 181 also produced some undiagnostic tile scraps. The colour of the fills excavated may suggest that some of these features predate the group of 18th century pits and post holes found further to the south; the sub-circular features may be contemporary with the similar-sized contexts 177 and/or 123, (tentatively dated to phases 4 and 2 respectively), but it is impossible to be certain.

216 was an articulated dog burial which was slightly damaged during site clearance, but was largely complete. The hind legs of the animal were extended close to the body, with the right paw almost touching the mandible, and the front legs lay over the back ones. The green-grey colour of the clay soil grave fill indicated that this was most probably a medieval, or earlier, burial, but the only find recovered from this was one small pottery sherd that could only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

#### Discussion

The presence of Neolithic and/ or Bronze Age material within the finds assemblage for the site is noteworthy because it provides further evidence of the occupation of this area that was suggested by the Phase 1 features discovered nearby at 42 - 54 London Road (Hayman 2000, 2-4). The discovery of the Mesolithic material is of greater significance, however, because it represents the first concentration of artefacts belonging this period to be found in Staines. It is particularly interesting that most of this material was recovered from the confines of features 148, 149, and 185, though it is impossible to be certain whether or not these contexts, or the three others attributed to phase one, were deliberately dug features. The nature of their fills, the somewhat amorphous shapes (in plan or profile) of most features (none of the shallower ones were really much more than 'hollows'), and the imprecise edge definition encountered during the excavation of 148, and 172, may suggest that they are more likely to have been formed by other means, however. The excavator of these contexts suggested that 148, 149, and 172, at least, may have formed through natural means, and suggested that arboreal activity was a possibility for 148 and 149.

If the flintwork assemblage was recovered at, or close to, its original point of deposition, it provides evidence of a hunter gatherer presence in this vicinity during the Mesolithic period. The doubt expressed in this comment arises from a concern that it may have been brought here by other means, with waterbourne activity being the only likely possibility if so. This suggestion implies that the material recovered from the features may have settled in preformed hollows, possibly where tree stumps had rotted, and is prompted by the somewhat unusual nature of the fills encountered, by an observation (recorded in the site records for the two most prolific flint-bearing contexts) that the material was evenly distributed throughout the fills (concentrations which may have indicated flint working in the immediate vicinity were absent), and by knowledge that flooding events have influenced land use around Staines during different periods (Jones & Poulton in prep). It may also be relevant to note that very few features of Mesolithic origin have been suggested in Surrey (Bird & Bird, 1987), not that this fact alone excludes

the possibility of their discovery, and that the Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic material discovered approximately 1km to the west at Church Lammas (Jones 1995), was only recovered from waterborne deposits. This said, however, there was nothing in the site stratigraphy that suggested the occurrence of a flooding event (unlike at Church Lammas), and, even if it were argued that such evidence may have been destroyed by later activities, the concern would require infeasibly large amounts of struck flint to have been carried in suspension (this being directly proportionate to the amount that could have been deposited within the confines of feature) for it to be valid. The evidence outweighs the concern voiced, and should be taken at face value.

The discovery of Roman features within the site area was not a surprise as this period is well represented in the immediate vicinity by the presence of excavated features residual artefacts. Recent work undertaken by the Unit (prior to other redevelopments) has revealed Roman features, also of Late Roman origin, on the site previously occupied by Staines House and 1-13 London Road (Dover, Poulton & Hayman), at 18-32 London Road (Hayman 1999), and at 42-54 London Road (Hayman 2000), and previous excavation work in Kingston Road and George Street has revealed Roman ditches and a levelled surface (SMR 2914). The possible significance of Late Roman features in this area, which may relate to the expansion of the settlement 'Pontibus' during this period, has been discussed elsewhere (Hayman 1999, & 2000).

The most significant Roman discoveries at this site were the inhumation and cremation burials, particularly the latter which are the first features of this type to be excavated in, or around, Staines. The London Road area has previously been suggested as a likely location for the discovery of Roman burials, this being because of its location (on the outskirts of the town with the road roughly following the course of the important London to Silchester Roman road), and because complete Roman vessels have been found to the south (Bird & Bird 1987, 187, note 63) and east of the site (SMR 768), strongly suggesting the presence of a cemetery, but the only confirmed burials previously discovered in the vicinity have been inhumations. The cremations themselves are of further interest because of their variety as the small number discovered are represented by both urned and unurned burials, with one of the latter possibly being a *bustum*. This type of burial, where a rectangular pit is dug beneath a cremation pyre, and is then employed as a site of burial for the cremated remains, is more common on the Continent (Barber & Bowsher 2000), and the only other example known to the author was found in a Romano-British cemetery on Watling Street (Mackinder 2000, 10-13, from where the information given here has been taken). The Watling Street example was slightly larger than burial 136 here, and contained five stake holes around at least one edge (complete excavation of this feature was not possible - see Mackinder 2000, 11, and fig 24), but otherwise the features are comparable. The sides of neither feature were scorched, as would be expected with burning that occurred *in-situ*, but both contained fragments of fired clay, charcoal, iron nails, and fragments of burnt bone, and both produced unburnt grave goods. The Watling Street *bustum* dates to the late 1st - 2nd century AD. It is possible that context 214 represents the surviving remnants of a second *bustum*.

It is uncertain how many of the inhumations discovered so far in this area date to the Roman period, but the majority are of late Saxon or early medieval execution victims, and were found at 42-54 London Road (Hayman 2000). Of the thirty individuals discovered at that site, at least sixteen appeared to have been executed (these were identified as multiple, decapitated, or face down burials, or as burials that had probably had tied hands), and a further six seem most likely to have been shared the same fate because of the nature of their burial (they appeared to have been unceremoniously deposited in shallow, sometimes over-short graves). The remaining burials, for which there were no obvious indications of execution, may be of similar origin, but could potentially be of earlier or (probably less likely) later date. Until now, the main reason for suspecting the presence of Roman inhumations in the vicinity comes from the evidence offered by one of the two burials found at 18-32 London Road (Hayman 1999, 7-8, context 107), from which a number of hobnails, identified as being Roman, were recovered from around the feet. The second burial, 114, found nearby, may have been an execution, and, although possibly Roman, is potentially contemporary with those from 42-54 London Road because of this. Three burials found

opposite the Police Station site at Staines House (Dover, Poulton, Hayman 2000) may also have been Roman, but the dating evidence available for these is inconclusive; two were found within a single grave (context 1004, a unusual burial where the limbs of the two bodies had been deliberately entwined), the fill of which produced just a small number of pottery sherds which may have been present residually, and the third (context 118S), was mostly removed by a later ditch, which might be Roman but is probably medieval, and had no diagnostic finds associated with it.

At least one of the inhumations discovered during the Police Station excavation appears to have been an execution victim (212), as the position of the left arm in relation to the left leg demonstrates that the body was not laid in the grave with any care or respect, and suggests that the hands may have been tied (between the legs, rather than behind the back) at the time of burial. The other, 188, which was found in a similar shallow grave, may also have been an execution. Two chronological possibilities exist for these burials, the first being that they are loosely contemporary, and are, therefore, both of Roman origin given the radiocarbon date for 188, and the second being that they belong to different periods. If the first is correct, the likelihood that both burials were executions is probably increased, particularly as cremation was the usual rite for Roman burials during the 1st and 2nd century (Bird & Bird 1987, 187). The dating evidence available indicates that 188 predates the earliest of the cremation burials, 136, and this may suggest a change in land use in this vicinity around, or just after, the end of the 1st century AD (execution inhumations and formal cremations seem unlikely to have shared the same ground during the same period). If the second possibility is correct, 212 could belong to any period, though the evidence from 42-54 London Road may bias consideration towards the late Saxon or early medieval period. This would suggest that these burials were dispersed alongside of London Road, and were not be confined to a cemetery, possibly near the place of execution, as is often the case for such burials (Hayman 1992, and Poulton 1989, for example) and as may, to some extent, be the case for those at 42-54. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the contention that both inhumations were Roman is, perhaps, the most probable. For further discussion about execution burials see Hayman 2000.

Little can be said about the significance of the possible late medieval feature found on this site (150), but the evidence here, and from the other excavations along London Road, is that this area was not intensively occupied during the medieval period. The possibility that 150 may be a medieval feature is recognised by the inclusion of sub-phase 3a in this report, but the author remains dubious of its validity. Only eight medieval sherds were recovered during the excavation, the remaining six coming from 18th century contexts (107 and 114), or probably emanating from a modern context (174), so the period is not well represented by artefactual remains. This suggests that the medieval sherds are less likely to be intrusive in an earlier context, and more likely to be either contemporary with the feature, or residual in a later context. The absence of other medieval features within the site area, and the occurrence of quite frequent 18th century features, may increase the likelihood of this also being a later context, but this said, the feature and its fill was not really comparable with any of these. Medieval pits and ditches, mostly of 11th - 14th century origin, were discovered opposite the site at Staines House.

There is an absence of evidence of activity on site from either the time of the later inhumation burial, or from the date of 150, if this was medieval, to the 18th century when a ditch and a number of small pits and/ or post holes were dug. The Rocque map of 1754 (Shaikhley 1999, fig 3) indicates that the site was either undeveloped at this time, or else contained one, or possibly two small structures. No evidence of 18th century structures were discovered, and the smaller of the two possibilities appears to equate roughly to the location of feature 155, so this may have been a pond (the scale of, and detail presented on this early map makes it difficult to interpret with certainty). The Inclosure Map of Staines of 1845, and the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25 inch Map of 1871 indicates that the site is still undeveloped, though the latter indicates the presence of a boundary in roughly the position occupied by ditch 107. The 'Old Police Station' was purpose built after the purchase of land known as 'Knightingale Fields', and was opened in 1876. A photographic survey carried out by the Metropolitan Police commission in 1908, shows Staines Police Station with allotment gardens to the rear, such gardens apparently being a feature of many police stations of this time (Whiting 1999).

## THE POTTERY by Phil Jones

### Introduction

Of 1531 sherds recovered from the site, five are prehistoric, eight are medieval, 160 are post-medieval and the rest are Roman.

The total of the latter is 1358 sherds (19.9kg, 20.9 EVEs), of which 72% are from stratified Roman features and layers. Most Roman sherds from the site are from late 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century vessels, but some, including those from the human burials, are of mid to late 2<sup>nd</sup> century date.

Pit 150, the only possible medieval feature, is likely to have been of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, and the few other medieval sherds are of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century types. The post-medieval material is of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century types and was mostly associated with the enclosure ditch 107 and its associated features.

All Roman pottery was separated into the fabrics and wares (Groups 1-10) of the Surrey county type series established by the author to study the collections from Staines town centre (Jones, forthcoming), and which has since been employed to process assemblages from other sites in Surrey. Groups 1 to 6 are of coarsewares, Group 7 includes all *amphorae* and *mortaria* sherds irrespective of whether any are made in the fabrics of other Groups, Group 8 is of various oxidised wares, Group 9 includes relatively local finewares and Group 10 includes all regionally traded and continental imports. Roman vessel form types are, in large part, the same as those published from the relevant production sites, most notably those of Alice Holt/Farnham (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, hereafter referred to as L&J) and the Oxford region (Young 1977).

Medieval pottery has been classified according to the county type series (Jones 1998), but most post-medieval sherds have been simply sorted into those of whiteware, redware, stoneware and tin-glazed ware.

Quantification is by count, weight and EVEs for each context assemblage, and vessel counts are based on rim counts and EVEs. Full details for each context are in the archive, but the quantities from Roman and later features and layers are provided in tables 1-6 (figs 4-5).

The report that follows begins with a note on the prehistoric sherds, and then provides a summary account of the complete Roman assemblage followed by brief descriptions of the stratified features and layer groups. The medieval sherds are briefly noted, as also the post-medieval collection.

### Prehistoric

All five sherds (27g) are tempered with crushed calcined flint and some quartz sand, and all but one were from Roman and later contexts. The exception is a single, small sherd (1g) from layer 163, the lowest of a series of three soil layers sampled on site. The two layers above were late Roman, but this may have been prehistoric. The sherds are featureless, and have no surface treatment. They are probably of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

### Roman Pottery

#### *Key to the Acronyms Used For Forms*

BRJ: Bead-rimmed Jars. In figs 5/6, those with the suffix (E) are early forms, whilst those with (L) are later Roman types

CNJ: Cordon-necked Jars

CAVJ: Cavetto-rimmed Jars

NNJ: Narrow-necked Jars

ERJ: Everted-rimmed Jars

HRJ: Hook-rimmed Jars

BRBk: Bead-rimmed Beakers

CNBk: Cordon-necked Beakers

ERBk: Everted-rimmed Beakers

SSB: Straight-sided Bowls. In figs 5/6, those marked (A) are plain, (B) are those with a single

external groove, and those marked (C) have two grooves.

BRB: Bead-rimmed Bowls

RRB: Reed-rimmed Bowls

FRB: Flange-rimmed Bowls. Those with the suffix (5B1) are examples with incipient flanges like their L&J counterparts

FRD: Flange-rimmed Dish

### *The Site Assemblage*

#### **COARSEWARES**

These represent between 85% (W) and 88% (C) of all pottery from the site, but most are of Alice Holt/Farnham/Overwey fabrics. Next most common is BB1 ware and then a late Roman shell-tempered ware.

#### Group 1d Late Roman Grog-Tempered Ware

12 sherds (0.29kg) of this wheel-thrown late variant of the grog-tempered tradition, with much grog and some quartz sand. Most sherds are from storage jars and from ditch 134.

#### Group 2a Late Roman Shell-Tempered Ware

23 sherds (0.36kg; 0.24 EVEs), of which three are from ditch 129, ten from ditch 134 and the rest in post-Roman contexts. The ware is handmade and tempered with crushed bivalves and other less common fossils from a Jurassic source area. Featured sherds include three rims from jars that were all recovered from the post-medieval ditch 107 (nos 32-34).

#### Group 3a Alice Holt/Farnham Grey/Brown Sandy Ware

1042 sherds (12.9kg; 12.8 EVEs), of which c72% (C) is from Roman contexts. The largest discrete assemblages are from ditches 134 (250 sherds) and 129 (228), layer 161/174 (91) and pit 137 (71). There are about equal proportions of open and closed forms, but the latter are of jars and beakers combined. Between 30% (E) and 35% (C) of rims are from jars, and another 10% (C) or 21% (E) are from beakers. Together with storage jars, at 2% (C, E), they represent between 43% (E) and 47% (C) of all Group 3A rims from the site. Bowls/dishes account for between 37% (E) and 44% (C), and there is another 9% (C, E) of other forms such as lids, flagons and some that remained unidentified.

*BRJ Bead-rimmed jars* (L&J Class 4; MM Type 16): There are two examples of the early Roman type of rim of such vessels with a simple rounded beading, and both are from ditch 129 (including no 1). There are also two rims of the later Roman variants with more attenuated beads and in finer pastes (including no 2, which is comparable with L&J 4.41 of probable 3<sup>rd</sup> century date).

*BRBK Bead-rimmed beakers* (as above): Two rim sherds are similar to the early types of BRJ jars (see above), but have rim diameters of 9cms. One was from ditch 129 and the other was residual.

*CNJ Cordon-necked jars* (L&J Class 1; MM Types 17/18): Only three rims could be identified, and there are few neck sherds that are cordoned. The best example is not an early Roman form since its mid girth cordons and grooves are more typical of later 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century types (no 3; compare with L&J fig 22 examples).

*CNBK Cordon-necked beakers* (see above): There are four everted rim sherds with cordoned necks that are similar to the CNJ jars except they are smaller. Two with diameters of 12cm are from ditch 129, and of two others with diameters of 6cm, one near complete example was from ditch 134 (no 12) and the other from layer 161/174.

*CAVJ Cavetto-rimmed jars*: Four of the six examples of this loose category of jar came from ditch 134. All are characterised by an everted rim with an overhanging bead or slight flange, and diameters of between 14 and 22cm. Those that extend as far show a rounded neck with no cordon or offset (including nos 5 and 6).

*NNJ Narrow-necked jars*: Two rim sherds belong to the later Roman range of variants of such jars (nos 7 and 8). Both probably belong to L&J Class 1A large jars, although the less massive of the two could be from a Class 1B flask. Five body sherds with combed latticework could belong to these or similar vessels.

*BSJ Beehive Storage jars* (L&J Class 10): Amongst a relatively small proportion of greyware sherds thick enough to have been from storage jars, six have internally scored lines and two have small, round piercings. These most probably belong such vessels.

*ERJ Everted-rimmed jars* (L&J Class 3B; MM Type 23): About half of all jars from the site are of this form, which is characterised by a strongly everted, curving rim, a rounded shoulder and a pear-shaped body. It derives from the common Type 20 BB1 jar form, of which several examples were found on site.

Those in greyware include ten rims from ditch 134, but only four from ditch 129. Their rim diameters fall between 14 and 22cm, although there are some smaller and classified as ERBk beakers (see below). There are only two rim sherds that extend as far, but both have a mid girth panel of obtuse burnished latticework (nos 9 and 10). It should not be thought from this that most of the others of these jars had such panels since as only five other body sherds from the site were noted as having such decoration. None from the site include white or black-slipped zones like some made in this form from c270 AD (L&J, 42).

*ERBk Everted-rimmed beakers*: Seven rim sherds are similar to those of the ERJ jars but have diameters of between 8 and 12cm (including no 13).

*HRJ Hook-rimmed jars* (L&J Class 3C; MM Type 27): Five examples, including three from ditch 129, with everted rims that have 'hooked' ends. There are other examples in Group 5.

*FRB Flange-rimmed bowls (and dishes)* (L&J Class 5B; MM Type 14): The most popular open form in greyware, with 30 rim sherds. Five have a long flange similar to the L&J Class 5B.1 sub-form that is thought to be relatively early in their development (including no 24). Of twelve examples from ditch 134, two are of this 'incipient' form. Of two full profiles recovered, one is a bowl (no 26) and the other is a dish form that has a short beading like that of L&J Class 6C1 (no 23). This is the only example of the dish form that was recognised. No FRBs were found with black or white slipped zones or burnished decoration, like some that have been found elsewhere (L&J, 46).

*SSB Straight-sided bowls* (L&J Class 6; MM Types 7/8): The second most popular open form with a simple, straight or slightly curving body. Most of the 20 rim sherds are plain, like the L&J equivalent 6A1-4 (including nos 18/19), but three have an external groove (including no 20) and one has two such grooves like some other sub-classes recognised by L&J (no 21). Two of the plain forms have internal white slip, and two others have external incised wavy line decoration. The underside of a plain form also seems to have curvilinear burnished decoration, perhaps in imitation of the BB1 equivalent form H&B Type 59.

*BRB Bead-rimmed bowls* (L&J Classes 5A and 6B; MM Type 12): Only three rims found, of between 18 and 26cm diameter (including no 22).

*RRB Reed-rimmed bowls* (L&J Class 5E): Three rims found (including no 14).

*Lids* (L&J Class 7): Of two rims, one is from the possible burial pit 137 (no 16) and the other from ditch 134. Also from the ditch is the handle of another (no 15).

*Strainer* (L&J Class 5C.2): A single distinctive rim sherd of this form was from ditch 129 (no 29).

*Flagons and Flasks*: Two beaded rim sherds, both of 6cm diameter, are probably from vessels such as these (including no 27), and there are also two segments of twin-lobed flagon handles.

Group 3B Alice Holt/Farnham Coarse Sandy variant  
One rimsherd identified; of a lid from Roman gully 221 (no 31).

Group 3D Alice Holt/Farnham Orange/brown Sandy variant

25 sherds (0.5kg, 0.10 EVEs) of this late Roman grey to orange/buff or brown variant of the tradition, often employed on storage jars. Amongst several large storage jar sherds from the site, one is internally gouged like the L&J Class 10 Beehive type. The only rim sherd is from a thick-walled SSB straight-sided bowl with internal white slip (no 30).

#### Group 4 Verulamium Region Buff Sandy Ware

12 sherds (0.6kg; 0.6 EVEs), including six from ditch 129, four from pit 214 and a complete flagon from *bustum* pit 136 (fig 10, no. 1). Although it seems probable that the flagon and some other body sherds likely to be from similar vessels are from the Verulamium region, some classified as Group 4 may have a more local origin. The only other featured sherd is the rim of a bowl that is not in the standard repertoire of the Verulamium region industry (no 36).

#### Group 5 Overwey/Tilford Coarse Sandy Ware

18 sherds (0.2kg: 0.38 EVEs), of which four are from ditch 129 and five from other Roman contexts. The standard HRJ hook-rimmed jar, the most commonly made form in this ware, is represented by four rim sherds, some rilled shoulder sherds and two wire-cut bases. The only other form recognised is a FRB flange-rimmed bowl (no 35).

#### Group 6 BB1 Ware

75 sherds (2kg; 2.1 EVEs), including 24 from ditch 129, 20 from ditch 134 and 17 from pit 213. Of 21 vessels represented by rim sherds, only six are from jars and all are of the ERJ type (including no 37), the equivalent of H&B Type 20 with a band of obtuse burnished latticework mid-girth. Another example had been used as a cremation urn in pit 167 (no 00). All other rims are from bowls, including two BRBs of H&B Type 34 (including no 39), three FRBs of H&B Type 45 (including no 40) and one BRB of H&B Type 59, of which nine examples are present (including no 38). Most, but not all of these vessels had burnished latticework on the body. The only other featured sherd is a handle from a mug of H&B Type 6.

#### Group 7A Amphorae:

Only three sherds, all from ditch 129 and including two of 7A1 southern Spanish type and probably from Dressel 20s, and another, unidentified, of 7A2 type.

#### Group 7B Mortaria

26 sherds (0.5kg; 0.79 EVEs), representing between 2% (C) and 4% (E) of all pottery from the site. All are of Oxford region types, and the majority are of 7B2 whiteware that includes seven rims, or part rims, of Young's Type M17 form (including nos 44-47). Next most common are those of 7B3 red/brown-slipped ware, with three examples of Young's wall-sided type C97 of later 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century date of which two are from ditch 134 (including no 49), and two part-rims of Young's flanged form C100. One other Oxford type is represented by a rim sherd of 7B4 orange sandy fabric with a white slip in Young's Type WC5 form of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (no 48).

#### FINEWARES

These represent c10% (C, W) of all pottery from the site, of which about a half (C, W) are of Samian and its red-slipped successor from the Oxford region. Next most common is orangeware with 21 sherds and then creamware and 10B2 with five sherds each, but there are only three or less sherds of all the other types of fineware.

#### Group 8 Orangeware:

21 sherds (0.2kg; 0.06 EVEs), including 12 finer (8A) and the rest more sandy (8B). Featured sherds of the former include the rim of a lid or bowl (no 43), part of the rim of a flanged bowl like that of Young's

Type C100, a segment from a twin-lobed handle of a flagon and some body sherds from beakers. The only featured sherd in 8B is part of the rim of another C100-type bowl.

#### Group 9A Fine Grey Ware

Only two sherds were recognised, although many of the Group 3A sherds are of a similar fine paste with little or no sand temper. This is because later Roman greyware tends to be finer than before, but the distinction was maintained to distinguish these two sherds because they are more likely to be from early Roman vessels. One of the two is a body sherd from a poppy beaker with part of an *en barbotine* dotted panel, and the other is the splayed base of a similar vessel. There may be other earlier Roman sherds of 9A in the collection, but these have been included with those of Group 3A.

#### Group 9B Fine Cream/buff Wares

Five sherds (0.07kg; 0.3 EVEs), including the rim of a ring-neck flagon (no 42).

#### Group 10A1 Samian Ware

Twenty sherds (0.7kg; 2.1 EVEs), all from Central Gaulish vessels, and mostly from Dr. 18/31 bowls with seven rim sherds found. Two decorated sherds, including one with an *ovolo*, are probably also from such vessels. Two other decorated sherds include a Dr. 35 cup from the pit 136 (fig 10, no.2), and a Dr. 30 bowl from layer 105/162/175 (fig 12). The former is a funerary accessory vessel, and it is suspected that the latter might also have been. The only other vessel type identified is part of a Dr. 33 cup.

#### Group 10A3 Oxford Red/brown-slipped Ware

47 sherds (0.3kg; 1.2 EVEs), of which 34 were from Roman contexts. Eleven vessels represented by rim sherds include six bowls, four beakers and a possible lid. Amongst the bowls is one of Young's Type C49 (no 51), one similar of Young's Type C47 (no 50), two bead-rimmed examples of Young's Type C51 (no 56) and a rouletted bead-rimmed form of Young's Type C55 (no 55). The lid is not a recognised Oxford form in this ware (no 57), and the vessel may, alternatively, have been another of Young's Type C45 bowls. Three beaker rims are of Young's C22 bead-rimmed pentice type (including nos 53 and 54), and the other is everted (no 52). Amongst the beaker body sherds is one with *en barbotine* floral motifs, and another has applied scales.

#### Group 10A4

One sherd (2g); roughcast.

#### Group 10A8

One sherd (3g); brown slip inside and out, and with part of a series of raised diagonal lines.

#### Group 10B2

Five sherds (32g), all from beakers, including four from ditch 129. They include two that are roughcast and another from a rouletted folded beaker.

#### Group 10B3

Three sherds (24g), including a beaker base angle from pit 213.

#### Group 10B4

One sherd (8g), from a Hunt cup with *en barbotine* motifs; from ditch 129.

#### Group 10B5

Three sherds (397g), including the base of a candlestick from ditch 129 (no 58), and the base of a Young's Type P24 carinated bowl from ditch 134 that has internal red painted schemes (no 58). The

candlestick, so far unique within Staines, has slashed cordons and oblique strokes of red slip on its splayed foot. The round and centrally pierced base plate had been made separately, and then wire-cut from the wheel and attached to the hollow column of the candlestick.

#### THE ROMAN STRATIFIED ASSEMBLAGES

##### Cremation Burial Pit 136

Two vessels were found within the ash layer of this *bustum*. A small Dr. 35 dish in Central Gaulish Samian ware with *en barbotine* trailed leaves on its flanged rim (fig 10, no.2) lay upside-down on the top of the pile of cremated bone. It is complete except for a few chips along the rim that had, almost certainly, been sustained during its use. The other vessel is a single-handled ring-necked flagon in Verulamium region buff sandy ware that was found as a pile of sherds immediately next to the cremated bone (fig 10, no.1). The disposition of its parts, however, suggests that it had originally been placed upright and whole within the pit, and became crushed subsequent to burial. Both forms are 2<sup>nd</sup> century types.

##### Pit 167

This feature had been dug just large enough to accommodate the cremation burial urn, which was a BB1 jar with a mid-girth zone of obtuse burnished latticework. The upper part of the vessel had been truncated by the machining of the site prior to excavation and was never found. As emplaced, it lacked a base. It was, most probably, an H&B Type 20 jar with a strongly everted rim, which was a common form during the later 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries (another is illustrated as no 9).

##### Pit 214

There is no obvious funerary ware from this possible burial pit, although the few sherds from it are of approximately the same date as those from the two pits described above. Four of the eleven sherds are of Verulamium region buff ware, including the base of a flagon, and there is a large fragment from a beaker in Fine Grey Ware. These are more likely to be 2<sup>nd</sup> century rather than later Roman forms. There is little that distinguishes the other six sherds, which are all of the standard greyware.

##### Layer 105/162/175

40 sherds (1.0kg, 1.36 EVEs), of which all but eight are of greyware. Featured sherds include some from early forms such as the only two rims from late 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> century-type BRJ jars from the site (including no 1), and the rim of a CNJ jar with an everted neck and a beaded rim. There are many later forms of greyware, however, such as the rims of a HRJ jar, a RRB bowl and a FRB bowl.

Amongst the remaining eight sherds is the only example of a 7B4 Oxford mortaria from the site, which is characterised by an orange sandy body and a white slip (no 48). There is also part of an Orangeware beaker, a sherd from a Fine Grey Ware poppy beaker with *en barbotine* dotted panels, and another of Oxford red-slipped fineware. Of special note is a near-complete decorated bowl of Central Gaulish Samian ware. This, perhaps, could have been associated with a burial in the area and then redeposited in this later Roman layer.

The inclusion of red-slipped Oxford fineware and FRB bowls in greyware suggest that the layer had continued to accumulate until the later 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century.

##### Layer 161/174

99 sherds (0.58kg, 0.71 EVEs) from the layer above 105/162/175, and also with only eight not of greyware. Featured sherds amongst the majority coarseware include the rims of a HRJ jar, a CAVJ jar, a CNBk with an everted rim and three FRB bowls. A similar FRB rim has an attenuated flange similar to L&J Class 5B.1 type (similar to no 24).

Featured sherds of other wares include the rims of a HRJ jar in Group 5 fabric, a bead-rimmed beaker of Young's type C22 in 10A3 fineware and a *mortaria* in 7B2 Oxford whiteware (no 44).

Much of the assemblage is of later Roman forms and fabrics, with little that might have been earlier. There is some degree of intrusion, however, as there are also two sherds of medieval shelly ware S2 and a small (1g) sherd of post-medieval redware.

#### Pit 137

80 sherds (0.8kg, 1.1 EVEs), of which 71 are of greyware. They include the rims of two ERJ jars, two FRB bowls, a lid (no 16) and an odd bowl form (no 21). The greyware also includes part of a twin-lobed flagon handle and a storage jar sherd with combed latticework. The single sherd of Group 5 fabric is rilled and probably from a HRJ jar, and there are two featured sherds amongst the 10A3 fineware: the rim of a rouletted bowl of Young's type C55 (no 55) and the everted rim of a beaker (no 52). The pit was probably of 4<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### Pit 213

53 sherds (0.79kg, 0.97 EVEs), including 31 of greyware and 17 of BB1 ware. The latter represents the highest proportion of BB1 from any feature or layer of the site, and by weight (43%) and vessel count based on rims (eight out of twelve) the ware is even better represented. The eight vessels include an ERJ jar of H&B type 20 (similar to no 37), two H&B type 34 bowls (including no 39), a BRB dish of H&B type 40 (no 41) and four SSB bowls of H&B type 59 (similar to no 38). Except for the jar, the rim sherd of which was too short to tell, all the BB1 vessels had burnished latticework on the body.

The preponderance of bowls continues in the 3A greyware, in which the only featured sherds are two BRB bowl rims (similar to no 22), and a curious open form (no 28).

The three sherds of Central Gaulish Samian ware includes the rim of a Dr. 31 bowl, a body sherd of a similar bowl bearing part of an ovolo and the wall of a Dr. 33 cup. A single sherd of Orangeware has a white slip and may be from a flagon, and there is a base angle sherd from a beaker in Nene Valley ware.

No obviously later Roman fabrics are represented, and the assemblage is probably of mid to late 2<sup>nd</sup> century date.

#### Gully 170

12 sherds (0.09kg, 0.07 EVEs), including the rims of a ERJ jar in greyware, and of a bead-rimmed bowl of Young's type C45 in 10A3 red-slipped fineware. Probably late 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Pig Burial Pit 153

13 sherds (0.06kg), including the rims of a ERJ jar and of a SSB bowl with an external groove (no 20) in greyware; part of the rim of a wall-sided *mortarium* of Young's type C97 in Oxford red-slipped 7B3 fabric (similar to no 49) and a body sherd with applied scales in its non-*mortarium* equivalent fabric, 10A3. Probably late 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Dog Burial Pit 216

A single sherd of 3A greyware. Roman or later.

#### Gully 221

19 sherds (0.4kg, 0.37 EVEs), from five consecutive spits. The single sherd from 221E is of Orangeware, and another from 221D is the rim of a lid or bowl with internal red slip in the coarse sandy Group 3B fabric (no 31). Seven sherds from 221B include the rim of a FRB flanged bowl of H&B Type 45 in BB1 ware, and the heavy cordon of a CNJ storage jar in greyware. All eight sherds in 221A are of greyware, including the rims of an SSB bowl with external burnished latticework and of an FRB bowl. 221A and B are probably of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century date, but the lower spits could have been earlier.

### Gully 232

Two sherds of 3A greyware. Roman; probably late.

### Highway Ditch 129

307 sherds (4.6kg, 3.6 EVEs) from several sampled segments (132, 157, 158, 165, 194, 195, 197, 198, 225, 226 and 229) and a subsequent gully on the same alignment (187 including 196).

Between 67% (W) and 79% (C) are of Alice Holt/Farnham Groups 3 and 5, and 8% (CW) or 20% (E) are of BB1 ware. These, together with the small quantity of Group 4 Verulamium region sandy sherds, represent between 77% (W) and 91% (E) of the assemblage. The proportions of vessel types of these are shown on fig 00. Illustrated examples of greyware include the rims of two ERJ jars with panels of burnished latticework (nos 9 and 10), a CNBk beaker (no 4), a large bead-rimmed and everted jar (no 6), a flagon or flask (no 27) and a strainer of L&J Class 5C2 (no 00). The Verulamium material includes an unusual bowl form (no 36).

Of five mortaria sherds, three are of 7B2 Oxford whiteware, including a rim of Young's type 00 (no 47), and two are of 7B3 red-slipped ware, including a flanged rim of Young's type C100. They represent 2% (C, E) or 3/4% (W) of the assemblage.

Finewares represent 5% (W) and 8% (C) of all pottery, but only by excluding a candlestick in 10B5 Parchment ware (no 58). Its weight (0.33kg) would have distorted the first of these proportions.

Of 24 other fineware sherds, seven are of Oxford red-slipped ware, including the rims of a Young's type C47 bowl (no 50) and of a lid (no 57). There is also the rim of a Central Gaulish Samian Dr.31 bowl, a sherd from a Hunt cup beaker in Nene valley ware and a roughcast beaker sherd in 10B2. Nine sherds of Orangeware including part of the flanged rim of a bowl made in imitation of Samian form Dr. 37, a flagon handle and the base of a beaker.

Whilst it is clear that the assemblage is largely comprised of later Roman forms, there is no certainty as to when the ditch was filled in. The rarity of sherds of Group 5 Overwey fabric, sometimes said to have become more common in the later 4<sup>th</sup> century (L&J 1979), might suggest that the ditch had been sealed before the end of the Roman period and possibly as early as the middle decades of the century. There is nothing about the small assemblage of 40 sherds from gully 187 context 196 that seems different from that of the main fill. It includes two ERJ jar rims and one of a flagon or flask (no 27) in greyware, and the only other featured sherds are a segment from a twin-lobed flagon handle in orangeware, and a sherd from a roughcast beaker in 10B2 fabric.

In addition to the dating of the ditch and an understanding of pottery usage in the near-vicinity, the quantities of pottery in the several excavated segments provided an opportunity to gauge the density of the adjacent settlement. In these, there are only seven and five sherds in segments 231 and 130 at the west and east ends of the extant 55m length of the highway ditch. From west to east through the six other segments, the sherd counts are 64, 48, 12, 81, 47, and three. This last low count in segment 197 is because the earlier fill had been cut through by gully 187 (196), the fill of which contained 40 sherds that might have been re-deposited from the earlier ditch. These counts do not suggest any diminution from east to west or vice versa, and indicate that there might have been a relatively even spread of activity across the site.

### Boundary Ditch 134

324 sherds (5.8kg, 6.1 EVEs) from four segments (122, 135, 169 and 223).

Between 77% (W) and 86% (E) of the coarsewares are of Alice Holt/Farnham fabrics, although those of Group 5 are even less common than in ditch 129 with only two sherds found. Most forms of greyware are the same as those found in the highway ditch, and of the more common forms there are proportionately more FRB bowls in 134 than in 129 (10:3 by rim count; 1.22:0.32 by EVEs), and also of SSB bowls (11:2 by count; 0.07:0.09 EVEs). Four of the ten CAVJ jars found on site were recovered from the ditch, as well as ten of the 34 ERJ jars from the site. Two of the only three RRB bowls were also recovered (including no 14). Illustrated greyware vessels include one of two examples from the ditch

of later forms of BRJ jars (no 2), a globular beaker (no 12), a ERBk (no 13), two FRB bowls (nos 24 and 26), two SSB bowls (nos 18 and 19) and the handle of a lid (no 15).

Group 6 BB1 ware represents between 6% (C, E) and 9% (W) of the assemblage, and illustrated examples include the profile of a jar of H & B type 20 with obtuse burnished latticework (no 37) and the profile of a H & B type 59 bowl with external burnished latticework (no 00).

Of six *mortaria* sherds, one is of 7B2 Oxford whiteware, and the rest are of 7B3 Oxford red-slipped ware, including the rims of two wall-sided examples of Young's type C97 (including no 49).

Between 4% (W) and 7% (C) is of fineware, and 14 of the 22 sherds involved are of 10A3 Oxford red-slipped ware. They include the rims of a flanged bowl of Young's type C51 (no 56), and a bead-rimmed beaker of Young's type C22 (no 54); and decorated beaker sherds include one rouletted, one with applied scales and another with *en barbotine* floral motifs.

Amongst the sherds of Group 8 orangeware is part of the wall and flange of a bowl (similar to no 56), and the rim of a lid or bowl (no 43); and two of only three sherds of Partchment ware from the site (the other is the candlestick from 129), includes the base of a Young's type P24 bowl with internal red painted decoration.

The pottery suggests that the ditch was filled during the 4<sup>th</sup> century, but it seems unlikely that it had remained open until the end of Roman occupation, especially with so few sherds of Group 5. It may have been filled at the same time as ditch 129.

### Medieval

Only two of the eight sherds were found in a probable medieval feature (see below), and the others from post-medieval contexts include five of whiteware and two of shell-tempered ware.

Both sherds of coarse shelly S2 ware (Jones 1998) were from the layer sample 174, and the whiteware includes five sherds of coarse sandy WW1A fabric and two of the less sandy WW1B type. All are featureless and plain, except for a rim from pit 150 (see below), a pie-crust jug base of WW1B and an internally green-glazed body sherd in WW1A. The manufacture of S2 is thought to have continued until the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century in Surrey, when sandy whitewares were becoming established. The WW1B variant, when found unglazed as here, is often a characteristic of later medieval assemblages in the heart of Staines town further west, so the range of possible dating for the medieval sherds from the site is from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. So few sherds, and only a single possible feature, strongly suggests that the site had remained unoccupied during that period.

### Pit 150

In addition to fifteen residual Roman sherds there are two of medieval whiteware. The smaller sherd (2g) is of WW1A, and the other, of WW1B, is from the beaded and finger-tipped rim of a jug. As both sherds are unglazed and one is of WW1B, the pit was probably of later medieval date and possibly of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### Post-medieval

172 sherds, of which all but a few are of white or red Border Ware (Pearce 1992) of late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century types, and most were from the enclosure ditch 107 (144 sherds). Much smaller assemblages came from pits 112 and 234, post-holes 114, 115 and 192, and from samples of the post-medieval soils of the site.

### Ditch 139 (contexts 139, 171, 186)

144 sherds (2.07kg; 1.96 EVEs) of post-medieval pottery, of which all but five sherds are of Border Ware. This is represented by roughly equal proportions of red and white-bodied varieties, and identifiable vessel forms include tripod pipkins, chamber pots and flanged dishes. There are also two sherds from English stoneware jugs, probably from London; and three sherds of tin-glazed ware include the base of a white glazed ointment jar and the rim of a dish with internal cobalt blue decoration. It is

noteworthy that of the three sample sections, most post-medieval sherds (129) came from the entrance terminal 139, whereas only 16 were recovered from the right-angled corner 171, and none were present in 186.

The ditch was probably filled in the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Other post-medieval pottery of note

Few other featured sherds of Border Ware were recovered from the site, but there are two redware rim sherds of flanged dishes from pit 114 and layer context 156 in 'Metropolitan' style. These have white-slipped wavy lines on their rims, and such types are not in the repertoire of Border Ware. They may be from kilns as far distant as Harlow (Newton 1960, 358-62), but might have been made more locally. The three stoneware sherds not from ditch 139 are also from English (London) drinking jugs.

### WORKED & CALCINED FLINT by N J Marples (tables 7-17, figs 6-9)

#### Introduction

A total of 296 flint artefacts were recovered from 30 flint-bearing contexts across the site, spanning both phases of archaeological work, although the excavation in 2001 yielded only 5 items.

Most struck flint (224 items, comprising some 75.7% of the excavated total) was recovered from a group of three hollows located close to the southern edge of the site. 25 pieces (8.4% of the total) were collected in the course of sampling a subsoil layer of probable prehistoric date, contexts 163 and 176, along the eastern edge. The remainder (47 pieces, constituting 15.9%), are presumed residual within a range of later contexts.

The material has been classified to accord with this context grouping in table 7 and fig. 6.

#### Raw Material

Where original cortex survives, most flints appear to be have been derived from small river gravel pebbles. Sub-cortical surfaces range from pale grey/black to varying shades of brown, orange and red, with occasional pale grey crystalline inclusions.

Two large items from context 135a with thick white unabraded cortex and, less certainly, two small flakes from one of the hollows, context 149a, are of chalk flint.

#### Condition

Most of the worked flint is fresh and unrolled, conspicuously so in the case of finds recovered from the 3 hollows. A significant proportion, 27.7% of the material overall, is burnt, with some surface pitting. Relative proportions of burnt flintwork across the three context groups are presented in table 8 and fig. 7.

Breakage is common among finds from the hollows, accounting for 35% of all waste flakes and 65% of all blades, although no distinction has been drawn between thermally induced, accidental or deliberate fractures.

#### Technology

*Hollows 148, 149 & 185 (table 9, fig 8)*

#### DEBITAGE

Of 48 classifiable flakes and blades excavated from the three hollows, 64% showed evidence of soft hammer percussion. This feature, taken together with the high proportion of blades recovered (comprising nearly 22% of the total) are indicative of early prehistoric flintworking. Evidence of blade removals is present on both complete cores. The latter, one of which is of 'pyramidal' form, are very small, with maximum linear dimensions of 42 and 40 mm and a mean weight of 33.5g.

On several flakes and blades there are indications of platform edge abrasion. One core rejuvenation flake and a possible axe sharpening flake were recovered from context 149a.

One consistent aspect of thedebitage is its generally small size, attributable only in part to breakages. Although the largest blade recovered measures 56 x 14 mm, the majority are much smaller, corresponding, at 12 mm wide or less, to Barton's definition of bladelets (Barton 1997, 136).

The high proportion of chips present (20.2%) is probably due to the frequent incidence of fire damage, as well as to recovery factors; although sieving was not undertaken, the material was painstakingly collected from generally stone-free deposits under good working conditions. Most chips (defined here as pieces with a maximum diameter <10mm) are fragments of other artefacts and only a few constitute true micro-flakes indicative of primary knapping waste.

#### RETOUCHED FORMS

3 microburins, testifying to the on-site manufacture of microliths, were recovered from context 149. These are consistently small, proximal specimens, smaller than any of the microliths recovered, with a mean length and breadth of 14 and 7 mm. respectively.

Of 4 microlith forms identified within hollows 148 and 149, 2 obliquely blunted points had clearly been burnt and 2 other points had suffered damage at their proximal or distal ends which may have been fire induced. A fifth microlith, a triangle, was recovered from subsoil layer 163. A full breakdown of microlith typology is presented in Table 5.

Of other tool forms present, a possible burin resembles Wymer's class of core gravers (Wymer 1959, 346 and fig 10 no 15). A small distal fragment is the only surviving portion from one of the awls identified.

#### DATE

Obliquely blunted points were current throughout the Mesolithic but are rare during the later period, c. 6000-4000 bc (Ellaby 1987, 63). The small size of the 2 complete specimens and of the 3 microburins recovered at Staines Police Station, however, may well be a reflection of the overall diachronic diminution in microlith size as noted by Pitts and Jacobi (1979, 169-78). The triangle from context 163 and a possible tanged or hollow based point from hollow 148 are forms which were not made before c. 8500 bp (Jacobi 1987, 164). All of the microliths recovered could, therefore, fall within Ellaby's 'Horsham' period c. 7000-6000 bc. (Ellaby loc. cit., 61).

#### *Layer 163/176 (table 12)*

With the exception of the triangle microlith noted above, no diagnostic artefacts were recovered from context 163. Although the proportion of burnt worked flint recovered overall, at 28%, is akin to that from hollows 148, 149 and 185 (cf. tables 8 & 15), there were no breakages which had not been thermally induced. A total absence of blade forms and soft hammer removals suggest a later more general Neolithic/Bronze Age date, although some residual Mesolithic flints could be present.

One significant difference between the two context groups is the high proportion of burnt flint within layer 163/176, constituting 60% by weight and 61.9% by count of the total excavated sample (see table 14).

#### *All Other Contexts (table 13)*

Only 4 items of flintwork from all other contexts were burnt, constituting the lowest such proportion, at 8.5% amongst the three context groups, and only 3 were broken. As with layer 163/176, these differences, alongside the paucity of blade forms at 2.1% and a general absence of soft hammer removals, are indicative of later prehistoric flintworking. Noteworthy items include 2 hammerstones and 2 core rejuvenation flakes.

A utilized blade and a utilized blade tip from contexts 100 and 136 are almost certainly of Mesolithic date

### **Calcined Flint**

111 calcined flints were also recovered on site, as set out in table 14 and fig. 9.

The very small amount excavated from hollows 148, 149 and 185 may constitute unidentifiable fragments from other burnt artefacts or else have been introduced by burrowing earthworms, since the frequent concentrations of pea gravel indicating their presence occasionally contained tiny fragments of burnt flint and modern tile.

Although subsoil layer 163/176 was sampled in the eastern baulk adjacent to a probable *bustum*, 11 calcined flints were excavated from a test pit c. 3.5 m. further south, and none of the 4 flints collected here showed any sign of thermal damage. The significant quantity of calcined flint in this area is probably of later prehistoric date.

### **Discussion**

The similar character, location, content and fills of contexts 148, 149 and 185 clearly suggest a common, contemporaneous origin for all three hollows. The condition, distribution and technology of the flintwork recovered are of a consistent character throughout, with no perceived intrusive elements.

High proportions of fragmentary artefacts are a common feature of many Mesolithic assemblages (cf. Healy 1992, table 1; Healy 1993, 9) and in this respect the contents of hollows 148, 149 and 185 from Staines Police Station would seem to be fairly typical. Some regular breakages are doubtless a result of the deliberate snapping of suitable flake and blade blanks for composite hafting, as suggested by Grace and Ames (Grace 1992, 62 & fig. 17; Ames 1994, 6).

The similar high percentage (31.4%) of burnt flintwork can also be paralleled. Approximately 17% of almost 15,000 waste items recovered at a Mesolithic site in Holyport, Berkshire, and a considerable proportion of flintwork (including 56.2% from a random sample of 1821 waste pieces) from Iping Common in Sussex had suffered varying degrees of fire damage (Ames 1993, 5; Keef, Wymer & Dimbleby 1965, 88). At Thatcham in Berkshire, burnt flintwork was found in some of the excavated hearths. At Staines Police Station the proportions are similar for each hollow and for both parts of context 149, as well as for individual categories of flintwork, where numerically significant, within and across the group as a whole (see table 15).

Unlike their Neolithic and Bronze Age counterparts, Mesolithic features and layers, with the exception of hearths, do not usually yield consistently large quantities of calcined flint (cf. Healy 1992, table 2 and Healy 1993, table 2, where only 1058 g. and 1690 g. respectively were hand excavated from flint-rich deposits at two sites in Thatcham and Windsor), although just such an association has recently been claimed for a number of pits recorded at the Perry Oaks Sludge Works in West London (Barret, Lewis & Welsh, 2001, 195). The paucity of purely calcined flint recovered from the three hollows is in marked contrast to the significant quantities collected as a result of sampling layer 163/176, which is likely to be of later prehistoric formation.

Finds were thinly distributed throughout all 3 features, with no significant clustering or differentiation between the upper and lower elements of hollow 149. Relative proportions of artefact categories are similar to those of other documented Mesolithic assemblages, albeit with a somewhat higher tool component; the low percentage of cores present is paralleled by the figure of 1.5% for the very much larger collection of flint artefacts excavated at Thatcham (Healy 1993, table 2).

The survival of such evidence within a marginal topographic zone subject to later flooding can be compared to a number of recently discovered Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites within the Colne and Middle Thames Valleys, including Church Lammas on the outskirts of Staines c. 1 km. to the west (Jones 1996), Three Ways Wharf in Uxbridge (Lewis et al. 1992), Runnymede Bridge, Egham (Needham 1992), Jennings Wharf in Windsor (Healy 1993) and at Dorney in Buckinghamshire (Allen 1999, 35). The discovery of a concentration of Mesolithic material within the modern town of Staines is, however, thus far unique. Isolated residual finds of similar date hinting at a more widespread pattern of activity have been recovered from another excavated site c. 100m. to the east of the Police Station at 42-54 London Road (Marples 2000, 25), and from a number of former gravel 'islands' in the surrounding

area, including Staines High Street (Jones 1984, 27), Binbury (Durden 1997, 11, & Marples 1999, 35) and Yeoveney (Robertson-Mackay 1987, 116). Hitherto, evidence pertaining to the Mesolithic period in this part of Surrey has been extremely sparse and limited to a number of stray riverside finds (cf. Ellaby 1987, fig. 3.4).

Similar contemporary assemblages which have escaped the erosive effects of flooding and development may await discovery within any surviving 'ecotonal' zones situated along the margins of former terrace gravel remnants (cf. Bates 1999, 5).

Whereas the more obviously residual flintwork recovered at Staines Police Station can be taken as a further general indication of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity better attested by the Phase 1 features recorded at 42-54 London Road (Hayman 2000, 2-4), the Mesolithic finds constitute new evidence of a hunter-gatherer presence here, either on site or in the immediate vicinity, where some flint knapping, microlith manufacture and discard and other tool use took place and where, in all probability, fires were kindled sometime around the 7th millennium bc.

Finally, in the context of the recovery of microliths from the site, it is perhaps worth noting the results of a recent use wear analysis carried out on several examples from a Mesolithic site at Thatcham (Grace 1992); these clearly indicate that their conjectured use solely as projectile armatures is no longer wholly tenable and that their primary function on some sites may have been as boring and piercing tools.

## OTHER FINDS *by K Ayres*

### *Introduction*

A catalogue and discussion of the finds assemblage from the excavation are set out below, grouped by material. The majority of the finds were dated to the Roman period with a small quantity dated to medieval and postmedieval periods. The assemblage included personal, domestic and structural items with a small number of artefacts suggesting some industry/ craft working having taken place on, or at least near the site. Inhumations and cremations were also present, with one of the latter being associated with burial goods.

Where applicable, descriptions are followed by the small find (sf) number. All measurements were in millimetres (mm) and all weights are in grams (g). Other abbreviations used are as follows:

d	diameter	h	height
L	length	max	maximum
th	thickness	w	width
*	denotes that the find had been sent for conservation		

### *Prehistoric*

Other than the flints and pottery discussed above which indicate prehistoric activity at or near to the site, no other material of prehistoric date was recovered.

### *Roman*

The majority of the finds assemblage was dated as Roman although the quality and quantity (apart from the burial goods from cremation 136 (fig 10), discussed separately below) was poor. The only personal items identified were a copper alloy bracelet (fig 11, no 2) and a worked bone pin (fig 11, no 3). Domestic items were more abundant and included rims of glass vessels, a whetstone for sharpening knives and quernstones for grinding grain, together with animal bone and shell.

Finds of interest include a carpenter's axe (fig 11, no 2); a tool which would have been in fairly common usage in the Roman period as woodworking was an important industry producing domestic objects such as food vessels, boxes, furniture as well as structural fittings; and a spearhead, the blade of which was unfortunately broken close to the socket.

As frequently occurs on such sites, the structural component of the finds assemblage was the most extensive. Almost all the recorded buildings in Roman Surrey had stone foundations, but the

evidence is rarely sufficient to show whether whole buildings were made of stone or merely a stone base for a clay and timber superstructure (Bird 1987, 176). Most buildings tried to make use of local materials although some is obtained from further afield. Tiled roofs were common and consequently tegulae and imbrices are frequently found on Roman sites. At Staines Police Station, iron nails and bolts, tiles, daub and stone were recovered and suggest buildings, if not necessarily on the site then close by. Miscellaneous iron fragments and items such as bars and other unidentified fragments would no doubt have had structural purposes such as holding tiles on, wood together and so on.

#### *Roman cremations and inhumations*

Five cremations were discovered on the site, two of which were urned with the most interesting being that in context 136 which also contained an array of burial goods (fig 10). The pottery vessels have been discussed above, but other associated finds include a pair of enamelled disc brooches together with a small fragment of the chain which had once held them together, 2 coins, 2 glass unguent bottles/flasks and a glass dish. Many fragments of baked clay (weighing 629g) were collected. These were probably part of a single object, although it cannot be reconstructed and therefore its original shape is unknown. A number of the pieces have flat surfaces and it is possible that it was used as a stand for some of the other grave goods. Also found were a very corroded iron implement/tool, nails and a single cattle molar.

None of the artefacts had been burnt and therefore must have been deposited with the cremated bones rather than being placed on the pyre and burnt with the body. Finds such as these were often placed within graves to serve specific purposes to aid passage into, of for use in, the after life, and these goods may either have belonged to the dead person or be gifts from the living designed to symbolise their relationship to the dead in the grave (Millet 1995, 123). Cremations with personal ornaments occur in many Romano British cemeteries but make up only a small proportion of the total number of burials (Philpott 1991, 128)

Although coins are one of the few types of furniture that occurs widely in cremations over Roman Britain (Philpott 1991, 208), it is more common to find them in association with objects such as lamps rather than with glass vessels and jewellery (Philpott 1991, 210). Brooches were the predominant type of personal ornament in mid-late 1<sup>st</sup> century cremations and pairs or larger groups of brooches were introduced by the mid-late 2<sup>nd</sup> century (Philpott 1991, 129). Glass vessels also became increasingly common in cremations from the late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, with phials (also called lachrymatories or unguentaria) being relatively common finds in graves dating from the late 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century (Philpott 1991, 117). It is thought that they contained luxury products such as perfumes, oils or cosmetics because of their small size (Price 1978, 102) and also as the anointing of the body was one of the elements of Roman funerary custom (Alcock 1980, 62). Glass dishes are not as common, although previous examples have been dated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (Philpott 1991, 115).

Although personal ornaments are often assumed to be characteristic of female burials, the sex determination of cremations at a number of sites has shown that males were often provided with a brooch (Philpott 1991, 132), and it is now recognised that the remains of individuals cannot be sexed solely by the accompanying grave furniture. However, the presence of glass and samian in well furnished graves such as this one indicates a relatively wealthy individual of medium to high status (Philpott 1991, 115).

A similar bustum cremation has recently been discovered on Watling Street (Great Dover Street), London (MacKinder 2000). A large number of grave goods accompanied the cremated bones but consisted mainly of lamps and tazze as opposed to the brooches and glass vessels of the Staines Police Station cremation. Glass phials similar to those from cremation 136 were present within the cemetery on Watling Street but with the inhumations.

Cremation burials were more prevalent in the first and second century AD (Wardle 2000, 27) and unurned cremations occasionally occurred beside urned ones (Philpott 1991, 46). Those without containers can rarely be dated but occur in cemeteries which have been in use from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, although the majority are probably of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD (Philpott 1991, 47). It may be that they represent individuals of lower status but this is not known for certain.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD inhumation gradually began to replace cremations as the favoured disposal rite in Rome and by mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century inhumation was common throughout the provinces (Toynbee 1971, 40). Two partial inhumations were excavated on the site, one of which (from context 188) was radiocarbon dated to the Roman period (AD71-130). No grave goods were found with either of these.

Cemeteries were usually located at the edge of small towns such as this and as the town expanded outwards, as it appears that Pontibus has done, it is not surprising that areas of occupation started encroaching on the burial areas. This closeness between living areas and burial areas has been noted in other Roman towns in Britain (Esmonde-Cleary 1999, 163).

#### *Medieval*

Few medieval finds were recovered during excavations, the small assemblage consisting of general urban rubbish as was disposed of at other sites in Staines. These include two fragments of window glass; a small amount of tile; a few fragments of animal bone and an unidentifiable lump of iron,

#### *Postmedieval*

A small number of finds from postmedieval features were collected from the site. Personal items include 2 copper alloy bracelet fragments, one made of a strip of copper alloy and another made of twisted wire similar to that from Roman context 137, an iron buckle frame and a number of clay pipe fragments. Food remains were present in the form of animal bones and oyster shells, and structural debris included nails, bricks, baked clay, stone fragments and part of a wooden plank.

#### *Unstratified*

A small amount of finds came from features which could not be dated to any period with confidence. Items recovered from such features consist of a copper alloy button, and a buckle/brooch fragment; structural remains such as nails and a split pin, baked clay as well as some calcined flint, and unidentified iron objects and lead offcuts.

#### *Comparisons with other sites*

As mentioned in the main excavation text above, the site of Staines Police Station lies outside the area of the main Roman town of Pontibus. The coins and pottery indicate that apart from cremation 136, the majority of features on the site could be dated to the later Roman period, and occupation here may be the result of the expansion of the town to the east.

A comparison was made between sites previously excavated within the area of the main town and those on the outskirts, which highlighted differences within the finds assemblages. Excavations on those sites within the Roman town itself (Prudential, Percy Harrisons, Johnson & Clarks and the Elmsleigh Centre sites) produced artefacts of a much higher quality and in greater quantities than those surrounding the London Road area, where the assemblages were all fairly limited. The most obvious differences are in the personal and domestic items. Many more brooches, buckles, bracelets and rings as well as bone hairpins and glass beads were retrieved from the former sites with domestic items such as knives, whetstones, toilet articles and glass vessel also being more frequent. The range of finds was also greater with items of horse furniture and occupational tools such as surgical instruments and an oculist's stamp reflecting the intense level of occupation and commercial activity in the centre

In contrast, few personal items were present and recorded from the excavations at 18-32 and 42-54 London Road, and Staines House which were all located on the outskirts of the town, with domestic items and structural remains being collected but again at a much lower frequency.

These comparisons serve to show that although occupation was spreading out from the initial centre of the town, the level of occupation was never as intense and commercial activities remained in the centre. The finds suggest that the occupants of the area around Staines Police Station would not have been as wealthy as those in the centre of the town.

## **Coins**

A large number of coins were recovered during the excavations. After being x-rayed by conservators at Museum of London Specialist Services (MOLSS), they were identified by Michael Hammerson. Table 18 lists the coins recovered, with their dates.

## **Copper Alloy Objects**

Other than, the pair of brooches recovered from cremation feature 136 few copper alloy objects of interest objects were recovered during the excavations. The deliberate positioning of the brooches and the undisturbed nature of the context meant that both brooches (and their decoration) were in very good condition and were submitted immediately to the MOLSS conservation lab for cleaning and stabilisation (see conservation notes below).

The brooches, illustrated in fig 10 (no 3) are of umbonate disc type, with part of the chain link which had once joined them still being present. The decoration on the faces of the brooches is a version of the sunburst pattern in which the suns' rays are represented by a geometric pattern of triangles (Hattatt 1982, 140). The design is outlined by cast bronze with the cells being filled with alternating red and blue enamel. On an identical example from Owymby in Lincolnshire it is thought that the metal surrounding the enamel was originally of a bright golden colour (Hattatt 1982, 141).

Disc brooches such as this were not as abundant as the ubiquitous bow brooches in Romano-British times, and Hattatt (1987, 41) believes they may have been more exclusive, being suited to the lighter and finer expensive clothes worn by the more affluent (Hattatt 1982, 137) as well as being more showy in their decoration. Linked pairs of brooches were relatively frequent in Southern Britain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and are thought to have been used at the shoulders for pinning overtunics (Wild 1985, 412). Similar brooches to these have previously been dated from the Flavian period to late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (Hattatt 1982, 140).

The other personal object was a fragment of bracelet (fig 11, no.1) which had been made by twisting three strands of wire together, similar bracelets having been excavated at Colchester (Crummy 1983, 39) and Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, fig 41).

An unknown object was also recovered which may have been a personal item. It was made of solid bronze and was shaped like a torpedo or truncheon, having been broken off at one end. It is not known what the completed object would have looked like, or its function, but may have been part of a figurine, common in the Roman period. Other copper alloy objects from the Roman period consisted of folded plate and strips; and the remainder in the assemblage were found within postmedieval and unstratified features.

## *Roman*

- 136 Pair of enamelled disc brooches. Circular discs with central hollow-backed hemispherical boss, separated from flange by deep groove. Four spherical projections are equally spaced around the circumference. The boss has two concentric rows of triangular cells, separated by the copper alloy design, the cells alternately containing blue and red enamel, with only traces of the red remaining. The decoration/attachment at the very centre of the boss is missing. The discs would have been connected by a chain passed through perforations at the head of each, the perforations and a fragment of chain remaining intact on each disc. The 'riveted' pin and solid catch plate also survive. D disc 24mm; d boss 18mm, d projections c.3mm. (fig 10, no.3) SF1\*
- 137 Bracelet fragment. Made of three circular sectioned strands of thick wire twisted together. The clasp is still present one end in the form of a hook, other end of bracelet having broken off. Approximately half (or just under) of the bracelet survives. (see Crummy 1983, no 1628; Fishbourne; Cunliffe 1971, fig 41, no 48 & 49). (fig 11, no.1) SF2\*
- 196 Broken fragment of solid object, of unknown function. Very heavy, possibly bronze. Fragment is truncheon/torpedo shaped with a circular cross section. The rounded terminal tapers from 10mm

	– 6mm diameter where it is then broken. It is perhaps part of figurine. L 52mm	SF52*
135A	Folded plate. Curved edges, probably originally circular/disc shaped, but too fragile to be unfolded. No decoration/writing can be observed on it. Th 1-2mm	SF50*
122A	Two strips of copper alloy. Largest L 10mm; w 9mm; th <1mm	SF48
122A	Three fragile and irregular shaped strips of copper alloy	SF49
169B	Offcut. Irregular shaped thin fragment of copper plate. Max L 27mm; max w 17mm; w <1mm	SF51

#### *Postmedieval*

121	Thin strip of copper alloy. Flat curved strip, smooth on inside of curve, rough on outside edge. Possibly part of a bracelet. (Cool & Philo 1998, 61, no 191; Crummy 1983, 39, no 1628). L 25mm; w 3mm; th 1mm	SF47
165	Possible bracelet made of three copper alloy wires twisted around each other. Slightly curved, similar SF2, and possibly of Roman date. L 20mm; d 3mm	

#### *Unstratified*

100	Button. Anchor design on thinly striped background, with rope border around edge of button. Loop on reverse for sewing to fabric. Postmedieval. D 20mm; th 1-2mm	SF45
100	Buckle/brooch fragment. Flat, curved fragment, possibly of circular frame. Thins to one end, with the copper flattened and rolled over on itself. Other end has been broken. On surface of object are a number of irregularly spaced notches. L 24mm; w 2mm; th 1-2mm	SF46*

#### **Iron objects**

A larger number of iron objects were recovered from the excavations, but the majority were structural and consisted mainly of nails. The most interesting object was the spearhead from pit 123. It was very corroded and through x-ray it could be seen that the blade had been broken very close to the shaft, and the exact shape and width of blade could not be ascertained. However, similar spearheads with flat blades have been dated by Manning (1985) to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

The long, thin iron object recovered from the cremation context 136 may have originally been part of a tool/implement but again it was very corroded and disintegrated further during conservation work, preventing an identification.

Nails made up the vast majority of Roman iron objects, and are listed by context in the archive. Many were broken but average surviving length was measured as 35mm with a range from 13-82 mm. Of those with heads 23 were circular with an average diameter of 15mm, ranging from 9-29 mm; one had a square head measuring 20mm each side, and one had an oval head. These fit into Manning type 1B (Manning 1985, 134) and would have been used to join structural and other timbers, and also items of furniture. Over 60 nails were recovered from the cremation (136), and as discussed above, it is thought that they may have been part of an object on the funeral pyre.

The remainder of the Roman iron assemblage consisted of bars, fragments of plates and unidentified lumps, many of which were also probably used for structural purposes.

A final object of interest is the axe head (fig 11, no.2). This, unfortunately, was recovered from an unstratified feature, although it has all the basic features which define a typical Roman axe such as the triangular longitudinal section, the oval eye and the heavy poll, and could be identified as Manning type 3 (Manning 1985, 15, fig 3). As these are fairly light they were probably used as carpenters' tools.

#### *Roman*

123	Socketed spearhead, with broken blade. Base of blade, which is flat, widens from shaft but little remains, having been broken close to the shaft. Circular-sectioned socket extends and widens from the blade. Total surviving length 175mm; surviving blade only L 40mm. Diameter socket 22mm.	SF58*
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- 125 Fragment of flat iron plate, broken, one end rounded and perforated. L 38mm; w 20mm SF55\*
- 129 Thin tapering object of iron, rectangular cross section. L 52mm; w 5mm; th 3mm
- 136 Implement/tool, broken into many pieces. Thin bar-like object of rectangular cross section but too corroded to be identified. Conservation notes suggest a thin layer of tinning SF54\*
- 137 Fragment of (broken) rectangular iron plate. SF56\*
- 169B Unidentified object(s). Flat circular plate fragment with what may be iron nails corroded together. Initially a number of different objects which have been joined together through corrosion.
- 129 Small fragment iron plate bent into an "S" shape. Total L 50mm; th 4mm
- 129/187 Irregular fragment plate. L 50mm; w 27mm
- 137surf Lump
- 196 Fragment rectangular cross sectioned bar, with circular perforation at one end. L (broken) 30mm; w 20mm; th 4mm SF57
- 196 Curved iron bar. L 65mm; d 5mm
- 196 Bar fragment. L 75mm
- 196 Bar fragment, poor condition. L 100mm
- 213A Fragment rectangular iron bar. L 29mm; w 8mm; h 6mm
- 213A Two unidentified objects
- 129 Tack. Oval head. L 23mm

#### *Medieval*

- 150 Lump

#### *Postmedieval*

- 139 Buckle. Square buckle frame with single pin across centre. Frame measures c 30x30mm \*

#### *Unstratified*

- 183 Split pin or similar object with ring at one end. L 78mm; ring d 25mm
- 174 Three unidentified lumps
- 200 Axe head of typical Roman type, with triangular longitudinal section (rounded at handle end), oval eye and splayed blade. Round headed nail survives through the eye. Manning type 3  
(Manning 1985, 15 fig 3). (fig 11, no.2) SF53\*

#### **Lead objects**

A small quantity of lead was recorded from Roman and unstratified features and consisted of lead sheet offcuts and unidentified molten lumps. The lumps do not indicate lead-working on site; as lead has such a low melting point it is most likely they were items which had become accidentally, (or perhaps even deliberately) melted down.

#### *Roman*

- 129 surf Thick fragment of lead sheet, folded over upon itself. L 51mm; w 23mm; th 2-3mm
- 129 Lump of lead. Molten and solidified
- 129/187 Small fragment lead sheet
- 129/187 Small irregular lump
- 135A Small irregular lump
- 187 Fragments of lead molten onto sherd of pot. One is a strip of length 37mm; w 7mm. Other is oval drop with diameter c 16x13mm
- 187 surf Six very small fragments of lead, probably offcuts
- 187 Four small fragments lead. Sheet/offcuts

## 225A/226A Fragment of sheet/offcut

### *Unstratified*

- 100 Small thin offcut fragment. Approx L 12mm; w 10mm  
153A Rectangular fragment of sheet, possibly an offcut. L 36mm; w 19mm; th <1mm

### **Worked bone**

A single bone pin was recorded from Roman ditch context 122C. Until buttons were adopted in the medieval period pins were one of the objects, together with brooches, straps and ties used for fastening clothes, and were generally associated with loose cloaks and tunics (MacGregor 1985, 115). The tapering of the shaft as seen in many examples would have held the pin more securely in position when it had been thrust through the weave of the material, or through hair as they were also often used as hair pins (MacGregor 1985, 116). This pin has been identified as Crummy type 3 which are thought to have been used from c200AD to the later 4<sup>th</sup> or early 5<sup>th</sup> century (Crummy 1979, 157).

- 122C Bone pin. Ovoid shaped head, Crummy type 3. Shaft broken and tapers from 3mm at broken edge to 2mm below head. Head and shaft smooth and polished. L shaft remaining 41mm; head L 6mm; w 4mm. (fig 11, no.3) SF62

### **Glass**

A glass dish and two glass flasks were found associated with cremation 136. Although fragmented all three could be reconstructed, the flasks almost completely and the dish enough to gain a profile (fig 10, nos 4-6).

The dish was produced from a colourless glass with a yellowish tinge. This type of glass was produced in quantity from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, and during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries was used extensively as good quality tablewares (Price & Cottam 1998, 16). Exact comparanda for the dish have not been found but a similar one as illustrated in Allen (1998, fig 28.11) was thought to be popular in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

The flasks were made of blue/green glass which was commonly used to produce glass vessels in the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, the colour being produced by impurities in the sand (Price & Cottam 1998, 15). Such bottles or flasks were common in Roman period and, as shown with the flasks here, there was a considerable variation in size (Charlesworth 1972, 205/6). Both have parallels which have been dated from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (Allen 1998, 37), have often been found in burials, and probably contained oils and unguents (Price & Cottam 1998, 172-5).

Other than these vessels, two rims of Roman glass were identified (one within a post-medieval context), which are made of the same blue/green glass as the flasks. Unfortunately the fragments were not large enough for the form of the vessels to be identified.

### *Roman*

- 136 Dish, partially reconstructed. Clear glass with a yellow tinge. Shallow dish with out-turned rim, straight side tapering in with convex lower body, flat base with tubular base ring. Rim d approx 70mm; base d 35mm; height c 23mm. (fig 10, no.4) SF59  
136 Unguent bottle/flask of transparent blue glass. Horizontal folded rim, long cylindrical neck with indent at base before swelling to conical lower body. Flat base. Total height 130mm, neck length 75mm; rim d 33mm, neck d 20mm, base d 50mm, widest part conical lower body 80mm. (cf Isings 1957, form 82). (fig 10, no.6) SF60  
136 Unguent bottle/flask of transparent blue glass. Uneven out-turned rim, with long cylindrical neck, a short conical body, and flat base. Thin glass. Total height c. 95mm; neck length 57mm; rim d 17-18mm; neck d 11mm, base d 25mm; widest at conical lower body 36mm. (cf Price & Cottam 1998, fig 77; Isings 1957, form 82). (fig 10, no.5) SF61

- 195 Vessel rim of pale blue-green glass. Roman. Thin glass, many small bubbles. Probably of flask, jar or cup. Too small to identify, measuring approx. 20mm x 15mm (length of rim). Of fairly wide-mouthed vessel – shallow curve to the rim. Fire-rounded rim.

#### *Medieval & Postmedieval*

- 186 Vessel rim of pale blue-green glass. Roman. Thin glass, many small bubbles. Probably of flask, jar or cup. Too small to identify. Measures approx. 20mm x 15mm (length of rim). Of fairly wide-mouthed vessel. Sheared rim.
- 139 2 fragments of window glass. Patinated and flaking. Probably of medieval date.

#### **Clay pipes**

The production of clay pipes started soon after the introduction of tobacco in the sixteenth century. Most of those collected on site were stem fragments, but some bowl fragments were also recorded which could be dated. Six were of the typically small size of the earlier pipes (the bowls getting bigger as tobacco became cheaper over the centuries) and were dated to the seventeenth century.

- 114 Stem fragments x2. L 26mm; 30mm
- 118 Fragment bowl and stem. Small spur, line scored under rim of bowl. Dated as possibly late C17 (1660-80; Atkinson & Oswald no 15). Stem L 67mm
- 120 Stem fragment. L 45mm
- 120 Fragment of bowl
- 120 Bowl and stem fragment. Bulbous bowl, wide and flat spur, milling under rim. Dated as c1640-1660 (Atkinson & Oswald, no 10). Stem L 30mm
- 139 Stem fragments x2. L 29mm; 32mm
- 139 Bowl fragment, with milling under the rim. Cannot be dated precisely but probably of “early” type i.e. C17
- 139 Bowl and spur. Small, bulbous bowl with milling under the rim, and shallow flat spur. Dated as early C17 (Atkinson & Oswald)
- 139 Bowl and spur. Small, bulbous bowl with flat spur cut almost flush with the stem. Dated as C17 (Atkinson & Oswald)
- 139 Stem fragments x2. L 25mm; 27mm
- 144 Stem fragment. L 31mm
- 156 Stem fragment with small squarish spur similar to 118. L 49mm
- 177 Stem fragment. L 24mm
- 186 Stem fragments. L 19mm; 23mm; 37mm
- 192 Bowl and spur fragment. Shallow spur, dated as C17 (c1640-20; Atkinson & Oswald, no 11). Stem 22mm

#### **Stone objects**

Three stone artefacts were identified from the Roman period. One of these was a whetstone which would have been used for sharpening knives, and the other two were fragments of quernstone used for grinding/milling corn. The fragments of quernstone were not complete enough for measurements to be taken, but could be identified as rotary querns. These were introduced in the middle or possibly early Iron Age (Curwen 1937, 140) and continued to be used throughout the Roman period. Lower greensand was a common stone used for querns in Surrey due to its hardness and local availability.

- 122B Whetstone, produced from fine grained sandstone. Rectangular fragment with rounded end, slightly charred. Broken, but smoothed on all original surfaces. Height 22mm; surviving length 41mm. Wgt 39g.
- 135B Fragment of lower greensand rotary quernstone fragment, weighing 303g

221B Fragment of lower greensand rotary quernstone fragment, weighing 121g

### Ceramic building materials

All ceramic building material collected on site was examined and recorded but much was subsequently discarded, a sample of tegulae and imbrices, box flue tiles and those with signature or other marks being retained in the archive. The fragments ranged from orange-red through to brown in colour, with quartz sand grains in the clay matrix, some being very poorly fired. Larger grains were probably deliberately added as temper.

A total of 771 fragments, weighing over 65kg were recovered, over half were identified as Roman, with lesser quantities of medieval and postmedieval tiles and postmedieval bricks.

#### *Roman tile*

477 fragments of Roman tile were recovered from the site, weighing over 48kg. These consisted of both roof and floor tiles. Roof tiles were the most frequent of the identifiable tiles with both tegulae and imbrices being represented. These would have been slotted together by means of cutouts to form a waterproof roof. Only one example of a cut-out was identified, a triangular shaped one on a tile from ditch context 193.

A smaller number (13 fragments weighing 1960g) were identified as paving tiles. These were thicker than the roof tiles, but as they were all broken no estimation could be made of their complete size. One tesserae weighing 24g was also observed.

Signature markings, as formed by the tile maker, were observed on a number of the tegula. These are made with the tips of the fingers on the unfired tile occur most commonly on tegula than any other type of tile (Brodrribb 1987). The most frequent, as here, are single or double semi-circles or arcs, or diagonal lines forming a cross, although one triple arc signature was noted. Others had parallel or perpendicular lines scored on them, which is usually characteristic of a wall-facing tile, the lines helping to attach the mortar to the walls. However, as these are usually combed rather than scored as knife-cuts cannot have provided much grip for keying (Brodrribb 1987, 109), it may be that the marks here were just a form of signature or batch/tally marks.

Seven fragments of tile had traces of a clear white glaze on their top and side surfaces (709g) which would have been formed by purposeful or accidental firing of the tile with wood ash to form an alkaline wood ash glaze.

An unusual object was found in Roman context 122A. It is fragmented with approximately half of the object present which appears bowl-like in shape. The inside of rim is smoothed whereas the inside surface of the base has been left rough. No comparanda could be found by the author or by other specialists who were consulted about the possible function of the object (although thanks must be given to John Leveson Gower, and Ian Betts for their help). Its identification must therefore remain unknown at present.

100 fragments of medieval or postmedieval tile were recorded, weighing 7283g. These included one plain fragment of floor tile (861g), and a number of tiles with circular pegholes. These were formed before the tile was fired with pegs or nails hammered through them to keep the tiles in place. Some of the other fragments had traces of mortar still attached.

11 fragments of postmedieval brick weighing 4047 were counted, and 186 fragments (6056g) were of too small a size to be dated or identified to any particular type of tile, including one tile of grey colour with traces of whitewash or similar substance.

#### Baked clay

155 fragments of baked clay, weighing 1530g, were collected in total. 141 (1371g) of these were recovered from Roman features although a large number were recovered from cremation 136 and although probably part of a single object could not be reconstructed. Apart from this object, one fragment had a flat surface and two fragments had groove; daub was often used in conjunction with wattle in buildings in Roman Britain to

fill in between timber walls and the impression marks could be a result of where the clay had been pressed against timber or wattle.

Eleven fragments (115g) were collected from postmedieval contexts and 3 (54g) from unstratified contexts, although some of them may be residual from earlier periods.

### **Stone**

A small number of stone fragments were collected from Roman, postmedieval and unstratified features on the site; a total of 29 weighing 4675g, as seen in table 19.

A number of these stones are local to Surrey. Lower Greensand, the largest quantity of stone identified outcrops in the south of Surrey and was used for a number of purposes including querns (as noted above), and as building material; with one fragment from a postmedieval context which had been shaped. Quartzite and sarsen probably derive from the heathlands to the south west of Staines, chalk and chert pebbles are also local to Surrey.

Others would have been brought from further afield and include Millstone Grit from the Pennines, and Oolitic Limestone, the nearest outcrops of which are in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

Shale is often worked and formed into bracelets and other jewellery although the fragments recovered here were not worked.

In earlier Roman Britain the majority of buildings were completely or at least in part made of timber, with the building of stone becoming more common from the second century onwards. The reuse of stone was commonplace and much stone used in later buildings and found in later features, may have originally been utilised in the Roman period.

### **Animal bone & shell**

#### *Introduction*

753 fragments of animal bone were recovered during the excavations, 328 of which could be identified to species (44%). As well as these fragments 3 animal skeletons or partial skeletons were retrieved. The largest proportion (411) of bones was recovered from Roman contexts, with only three being recovered from a single medieval context, and 241 fragments and one skeleton from postmedieval features (table 20). Another 96 fragments and 2 skeletons were retrieved from features which could not be accurately dated. These are not discussed further in this report although a full and detailed database can be found in the archive.

#### *Methodology*

Frags were recorded using a zoning method following Serjeantson (1991), zones being recorded when over 50% was present. Sheep and goat fragments could not be distinguished between in the assemblage and although both may have been present they have been referred to from hereon as sheep. Those fragments which could not be identified to species level were classified as 'cattle-size', 'sheep-size' or 'unidentified'. The total number of fragments (NISP) was calculated for all species, but the minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not calculated for this assemblage due to the small number of bones recorded. The bones from the samples have been separated from the handpicked.

Wear stages were recorded for the permanent lower molars of cattle and sheep using Grant (1982) and grouped into age stages following the methods of Halstead (1985) and Payne (1973). The fusion stage of post-cranial bones was recorded and related age ranges taken from Getty (1975).

#### *Roman*

Of the 411 fragments of animal bone recovered from Roman features, just over half (222) could be identified to species. All were of domestic species with nearly half of these identified as cattle (104 fragments; 47%), 35% as sheep/goat (77 fragments), and much fewer fragments as pig (only 5 bones).

Two non-food species, horse (35 bones) and dog (1 bone), were also represented. Although present for some species, ageing data as a whole was limited in the assemblage.

#### CATTLE

Only two cattle jaws were available for ageing, from a single context with their identical tooth wear data suggesting that they are a pair. They came from an animal which would have been a young adult when it died. Fusion evidence was similarly limited but a wide range of ages was represented and included two humerii from very young, possibly neonatal, cattle, and bones from animals between the ages 1 and 2 years, and over the age of 3-4 years.

An array of bones from all parts of the body were identified, although the largest quantity (half of the bones) were fragments of longbones, the "meatier" of the bones, particularly scapula. Smaller fragments of skull and feet were identified, and very few from the spine.

Two examples of pathological bones were identified: exostoses (bony growth) on the distal epiphysis of a humerus, and slight exostoses on the distal articulation of a second phalanx.

#### SHEEP:

Only 77 bones of sheep or goat were identified and the limited ageing information included a fused metacarpal which would have come from an animal over the age of 2 years, and three jaws aged to 1-2 years; 2-3 years; and 3-4 years. As with the cattle, the majority of fragments were identified as long bones, with lesser quantities of bones from the head and feet. 29 rib bone fragments were also identified, all from the same context.

#### PIG

The 5 bones of pig recorded included the radius of an animal over the age of one year.

#### HORSE AND DOG

35 fragments of horse were identified with teeth being the most prevalent. Of these fragments a pair of femora were recovered from context 158C, one of which articulates with a tibia, and a radius and ulna from the same context which also articulate, the five bones most likely coming from the same animal, possibly together with the metapodial, mandible and two molars with which they were found. Only one dog bone was present; a mandible, which, due to absence of teeth, could not be aged.

#### *Medieval*

Only two bones were recovered from medieval context 150, a cattle metatarsal and a horse radius.

#### *Postmedieval*

A total of 242 fragments were recovered from postmedieval features, 85 of which could be identified to species with cattle, sheep and horse again being the most frequent. The 31 cattle bones included a single jaw from an individual over the age of 8 months, this being the only ageing data available. As with the Roman assemblage fragments from all areas of the body were represented, and two incidences of pathology: exostoses on distal femur and slight growth on an atlas.

26 bones of sheep were recorded, with fragments from the head and torso only. Five jaws were identified from animals ranging from 1-2 years to over 4-6 years. The pig bones included teeth, an ulna and a metacarpal as well as a juvenile skeleton. One of the teeth, a third molar was from an adult animal.

Horse was again represented with bones from the head, torso and feet; and a radius and 2 unidentified long bones were identified as bird but the exact species could not be determined.

#### *Taphonomy*

The bones were in a fairly good condition allowing the indicators of taphonomic processes to be clearly visible. Chop and cut marks were visible on bone fragments from Roman and postmedieval features. In

the Roman assemblage they are present on cattle and sheep bones, mostly on longbones. Only 2 marks were recovered on sheep bones, a cut mark on a tibia and cut and chop marks on a radius. Although limited, this indicates that the bones were chopped up for joints of meat, with cuts indicating skinning marks and the marks on the cattle mandible possibly indicating the removal of the tongue or the detachment of the head.

On postmedieval bones marks were again identified on cattle and sheep long bones and, unusually for the period, on horse bone fragments.

Burnt bones were noted in a few Roman contexts including two fragments of bone from a sheep-sized animal from cremation 167, an unidentified fragment from 137 and a quantity from ditch context 135. The postmedieval assemblage included two burnt cattle longbones and an unidentified calcined fragment.

Canid gnawing was noted on 40 bones in the Roman assemblage, 13 each on cattle and sheep long bones and on a lesser number of pig, horse and fragments of bones from sheep and cattle-sized mammals. Rodent gnawing was noted on a cattle radius. In the postmedieval assemblage gnawing was identified on cattle, sheep, pig, horse and fragments of bone from cattle- and sheep-sized mammals.

#### *Discussion*

The small number of identifiable bones in total, plus limited ageing data mean that few conclusions can be drawn from the assemblage. Cattle were the most frequently identified species which is common for the Roman period, with those settlements which are more "romanised" such as towns, having higher proportions of cattle than native sites which often have larger proportions of sheep in their assemblages (King 1978, 211).

The cattle and sheep bone fragments recorded are from all areas of the skeleton, although the more 'meatier' limb bones were the most frequent. The presence of fragments of head and feet would suggest that animals were kept in the area whilst live and perhaps slaughtered there; it may be that some were retained on their way into the main urban settlement of Pontibus, as well as joints of meat being bought possibly from the town itself, as indicated by the butchery marks.

The data suggest that animals from a range of ages, from the very young, represented by neonatal humerii, to adult and even aged animals had been consumed. The pathological bones of the cattle are indicative of animals which had spent much of their life being used as traction. These had possibly been brought into the town to be sold for meat once their working life had ended.

Animal bone assemblages have only been studied from a small number of the sites excavated within the main Roman town of Staines itself but indicate a larger range of animals to include wild species, as well as lesser fragments of horse (Chapman, Elmsleigh). However, other sites excavated in the area outside the main Roman town centre (18-32 and 42-54 London Road, and Staines House) produced similarly small quantities of animal bone. Cattle were again the most frequently identified species, with sheep also commonly recorded. The number of pig bones at each site was similarly low possibly due to the fact that pigs are often killed when younger than cattle and sheep, for their tender meat, and the bones are more susceptible to decay. The high proportion of horse as seen in this assemblage is also noticeable at these other three sites, as is the pathology as noted on the cattle bones.

As well as the animal bone fragments number of fragments of oyster shell were recovered from Roman (92g) and postmedieval (249g) contexts. These were common shellfish to be eaten in the Roman period and added variety to the diet.

#### **Human bone**

##### *Inhumations*

Two human skeletons were recovered from contexts 188 and 212, although both were incomplete, having suffered from post-mortem damage. As the limb bones of both were broken and measurements could not be taken, no estimates of stature for either skeleton could be calculated. A femur from each was sent off

for radiocarbon dating. The results revealed 188 to be dated to the earlier Roman period (AD 71-130), although the sample from 212 did not have enough collagen to be dated.

#### 188

The bones of this partial skeleton were in fairly poor condition. The left side of the skeleton was damaged during site clearance including skull, part of pelvis and left arm, although parts of all other limbs were present. Some of the smaller bones of the hands and feet were present but again were in a poor condition. Ribs were recorded but no vertebrae.

All epiphyses are missing from the limb bones, and together with the high fragmentation and absence of part of the skull and pelvis, result in a lack of aging and sexing data. Two permanent molars were found with the mandible. These were heavily worn and indicate the skeleton was of an adult although no more precise age can be given.

The only pathology noted was bony growth on the articulation of two 3<sup>rd</sup> phalanges of the hand indicative of a degenerative joint disease, although one molar had been lost ante-mortem and bone had begun to reform.

#### 212

This was the better preserved of the two skeletons but, as mentioned above, the bones did not contain enough collagen to be dated. More of the skeleton was present although, again, skull and other bones were lost during site clearance, and disturbance by other features. The lower arm and hand bones were present, as were fragments of pelvis, some of the vertebrae and partial remains of the legs and feet.

Epiphyses of all the limb bones were present and fused, indicating that the skeleton was of an adult, although the skeleton cannot be aged more precisely than this. Pelvis fragments were present but much fragmented, although the sciatic notch was of a broad, shallow shape usually taken as a more female characteristic (Schwartz 1995, 281). However, as the skull and other areas from which sex is usually determined were not present to confirm this, it cannot be concluded with any certainty.

Again some pathology was noted on the skeleton. Some of the vertebra fragments exhibited minor osteophytosis (bony growth on the margins of the vertebral body). This can occur because of the constant stresses of work on the intervertebral discs, and is a general feature of the ageing process (Roberts & Manchester 1995, 106).

#### Cremations

A small number of cremations, both urned and unurned, were discovered on the site. The most interesting is that from context 136 which was excavated with a number of grave goods and has been discussed in detail above.

Other urned cremations include 167 from which 1823g of bone was collected, and soil from pots in context 135B were sent off for analysis and a tiny amount of burnt bone was recovered. Neither of these contained grave goods. Four other features containing cremated bone were excavated and although one of them (214) contained small quantities of pot and iron fragments the others (131, 215) were not accompanied by any finds.

#### Wood

A fragment of wooden plank was recovered from the site but the pit from which it was recovered has been dated as postmedieval and no further work/study has been carried out upon it.

#### Charcoal

A small bag of charcoal was collected from context 214, a Roman possible cremation and must have been part of the funeral pyre, and 8 fragments were collected from a postmedieval ditch.

### **Slag**

A fragment of hearth lining was collected from Roman ditch context 132. This consisted of a large fragment of slag with part of vitrified clay lining attached, weighing 449g. The base of the slag is curved indicating it may have been part of the hearth bottom, formed by the accumulation of slag droplets and scale (McDonnell 1983, 83).

In addition, two fragments of undiagnostic slag (together weighing 14g) were collected from Roman features.

### **Conservation work**

The majority of the metalwork, including all coins, was submitted to the conservation labs of the Museum of London Specialist Services for x-ray and assessment. The x-rays allowed a number of the iron objects to be identified further and details of other objects to be seen more clearly. The coins, once x-rayed, were examined and spot-dated by Michael Hammerson.

It was recommended that further work, namely cleaning and stabilisation, should be undertaken on the brooches (SF1) and bracelet (SF2). These were cleaned gently with wood sticks and scalpel to remove surface soil and minor corrosion to reveal decorative detail. The metal was then degreased with cotton wool swabs of a minimal amount of acetone, and lacquered with 10% Inralac in toluene with a matting agent (which contained BTA corrosion inhibitor).

## **CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS *by Val Fryer,***

### **Introduction**

Excavations at Staines Police Station revealed features of Roman date associated with activity alongside the approach road to the Roman town of Pontibus. The excavated area was situated on brickearth surrounded by flood plain gravel, both major components of the local river terrace deposits. Excavations were carried out by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit.

Samples for the extraction of plant macrofossils were taken from across the excavated area and twelve were submitted for assessment.

### **Methods**

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at low power (up to x 16 magnification) and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on tables 21 – 23. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were preserved by charring. Modern contaminants, including fibrous and woody roots, seeds/fruits and arthropods were present throughout.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts and ecofacts were removed for further specialist study.

### **Results of assessment**

#### *Plant macrofossils*

Cereals and/or seeds of common weed and grassland species were noted at low to moderate densities in all but four samples. Preservation was poor to moderate. Cereal grains and seeds had frequently become puffed and distorted during charring and many specimens were also very fragmented.

### **CEREALS**

Grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were recorded at a very low density in four samples (131, 136, 136B and 225A). Chaff elements were not present. A single possible cotyledon fragment of a large pulse (pea/bean) was noted in sample 136.

## WILD FLORA

Seeds/fruits and tubers of common weed and grassland plants were present in seven samples. Taxa noted included onion-couch (*Arrhenatherum* sp.), medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), indeterminate grasses (Poaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.), sheep's sorrel (*R. acetosella*) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.).

## OTHER PLANT MACROFOSSILS

Charcoal fragments were present throughout at varying densities. Other plant macrofossils included fragments of charred root, rhizome or stem and indeterminate buds, seeds and tubers. Mineral replaced wood fragments with possible ferrous concretions were noted in sample 136.

### *Other materials*

The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material, black tarry material and the siliceous globules are all probably derived from the combustion of organic materials (including straw/grass) at extremely high temperatures. Burnt bone fragments were noted in eight samples. Other materials included fish bone and fragments of vitrified material. The pieces of coke and the small coal fragments may be derived from recent agricultural or light industrial practices.

## Discussion

The majority of the samples submitted were taken from cremations or associated deposits and sample 136 is typical of cremation assemblages of the late prehistoric to early post-Roman periods. The principal components are charred seeds/fruits of grassland and weed plants, tubers, charcoal, fragments of charred root, rhizome or stem and cereals. The weed seeds, charred root and/or rhizome fragments and onion-couch tubers probably indicate that dried grass and grassland herbs were being gathered for use as kindling and/or fuel for the cremation pyres. Although the cereal grains may be derived from offerings for the deceased which were included in the pyre, it is equally likely that cereal processing debris, including some cereal grains, was being used as an additional fuel source for the pyre. The heavily burnt and distorted condition of the grains in sample 136 indicates that combustion took place at extremely high temperatures, in which case the more delicate chaff elements would have been completely destroyed during the cremation, leaving only the grains in the assemblage. It is possibly of note that heavily burnt organic concretions which may include chaff and inflorescence fragments were recorded from this sample. Sample 225A has a broadly similar composition and may also be derived from primary pyre material.

The remaining assemblages all contain an extremely low density of charred plant remains. Given the contexts from which the samples were taken, this material is all probably derived from cremation residues. The differences in composition between the samples may reflect differing methods of the collection of the material in antiquity.

## Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In conclusion, sample 136 is typical of cremation deposits, containing material which probably indicates that dried grass and grassland plants were used as fuel/kindling for the pyre. The remaining assemblages may also be derived from pyre debris although the density of material present is very low.

The small quantity of material present in the majority of assemblages precludes further quantification. Although sample 136 may contain a quantifiably viable assemblage (100+ specimens), it is considered unlikely that analysis of one sample in isolation would add to the overall interpretation of the site. Therefore, no further work is recommended.

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## **FIGURES**

- Fig 1: Old Police Station, Staines: Location Map
- Fig 2: Old Police Station, Staines: Feature plan.
- Fig 3: Old Police Station, Staines: Section drawings.
- Fig 4: Old Police Station, Staines: Roman Pottery
- Fig 5: Old Police Station, Staines: Roman Pottery
- Fig 6: Old Police Station, Staines: Overall Composition of Flint Assemblage
- Fig 7: Old Police Station, Staines: Flintwork Totals Showing Burnt Component by Context Group
- Fig 8: Old Police Station, Staines: Flint Artefacts from Hollows 148, 149 & 185
- Fig 9: Old Police Station, Staines: Calcined Flint Quantification by Context Group
- Fig 10: Old Police Station, Staines: Finds Associated with Cremation 136
- Fig 11: Old Police Station, Staines: Selected Copper Alloy, Iron and Worked Bone Finds
- Fig 12: Old Police Station, Staines: Decorated Bowl of Central Gaulish Samian Ware

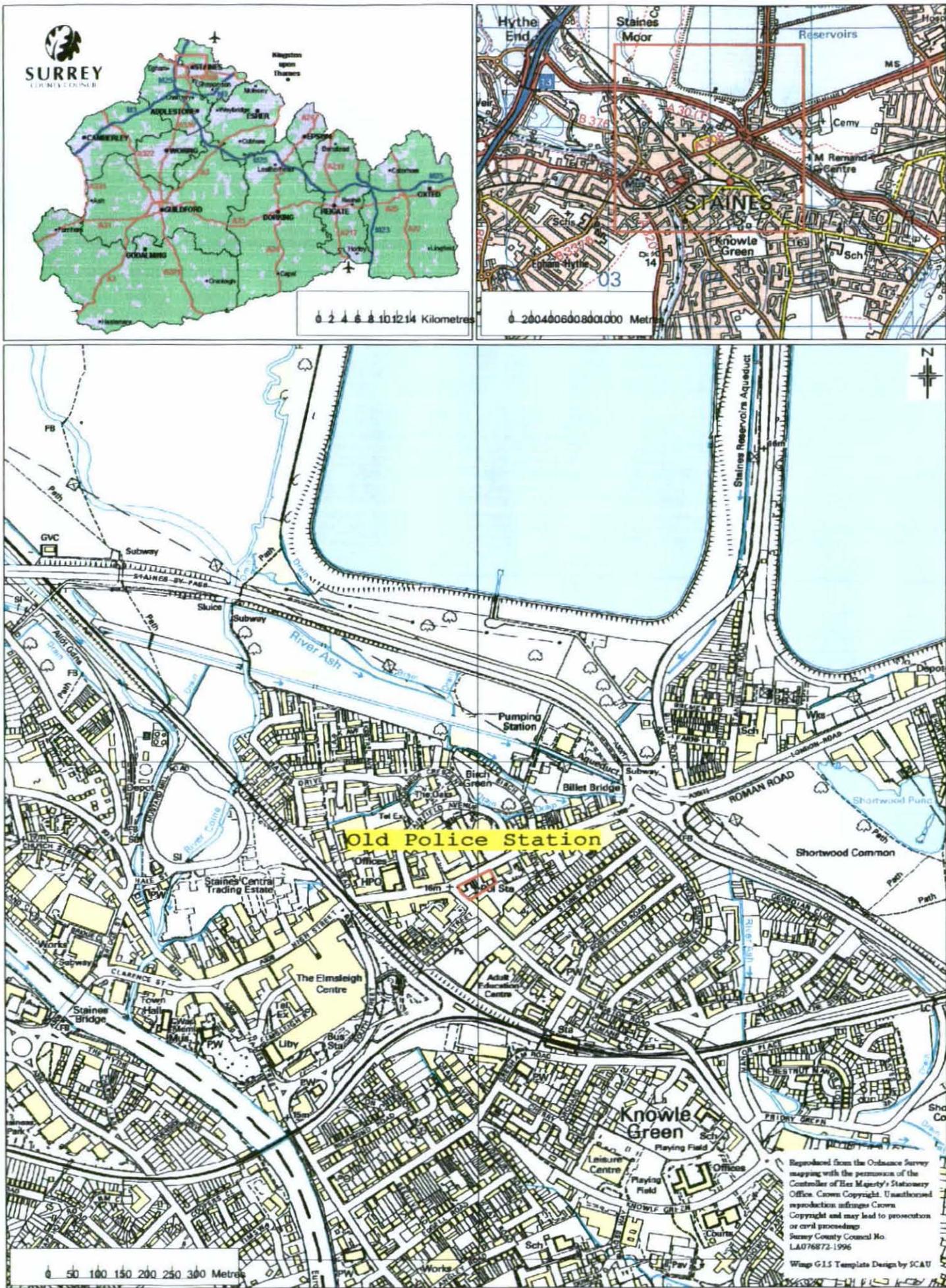


Fig 1: Old Police Station, Staines: Location Map

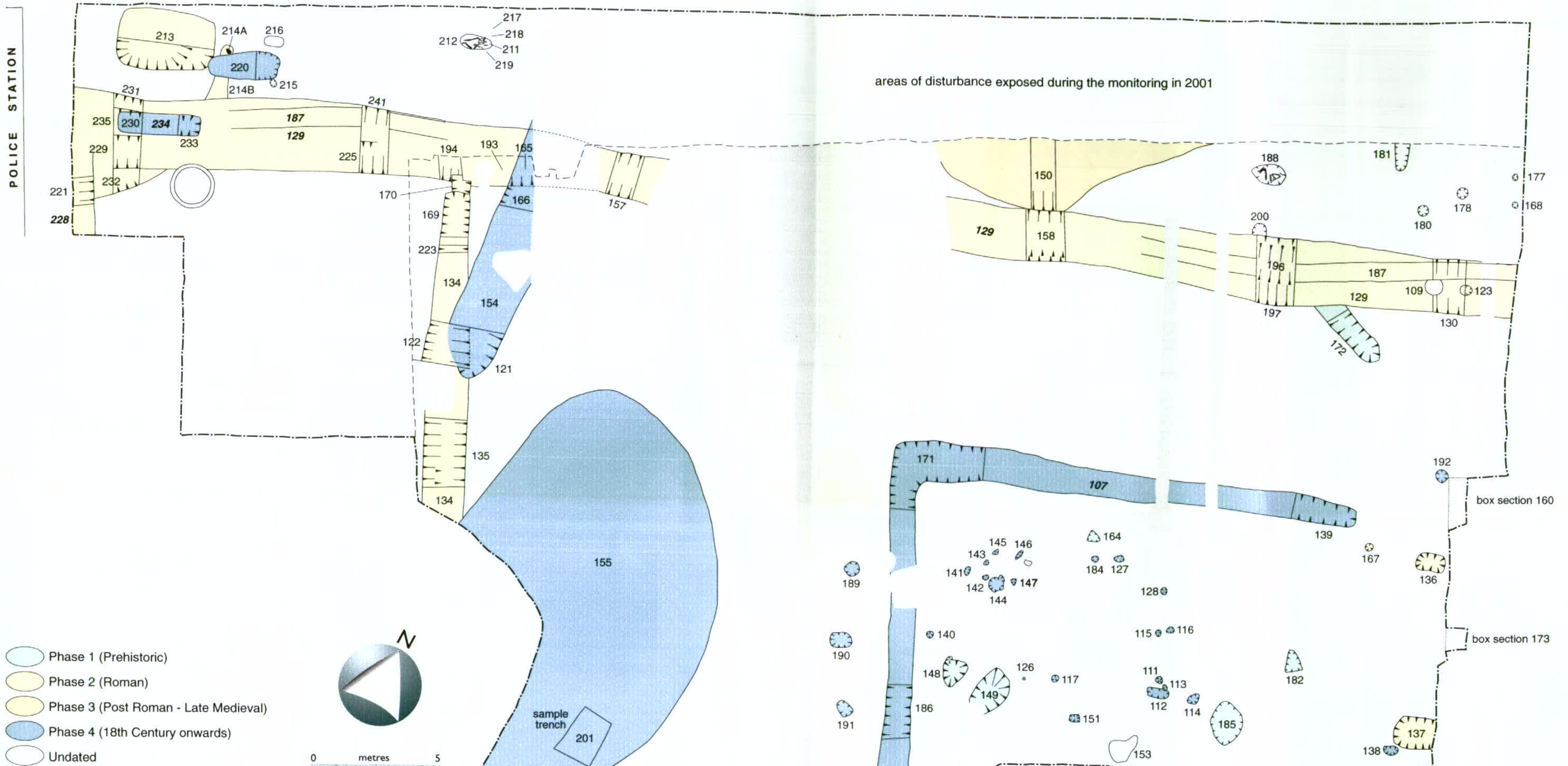


fig 2 Old Police Station, Staines: feature plan

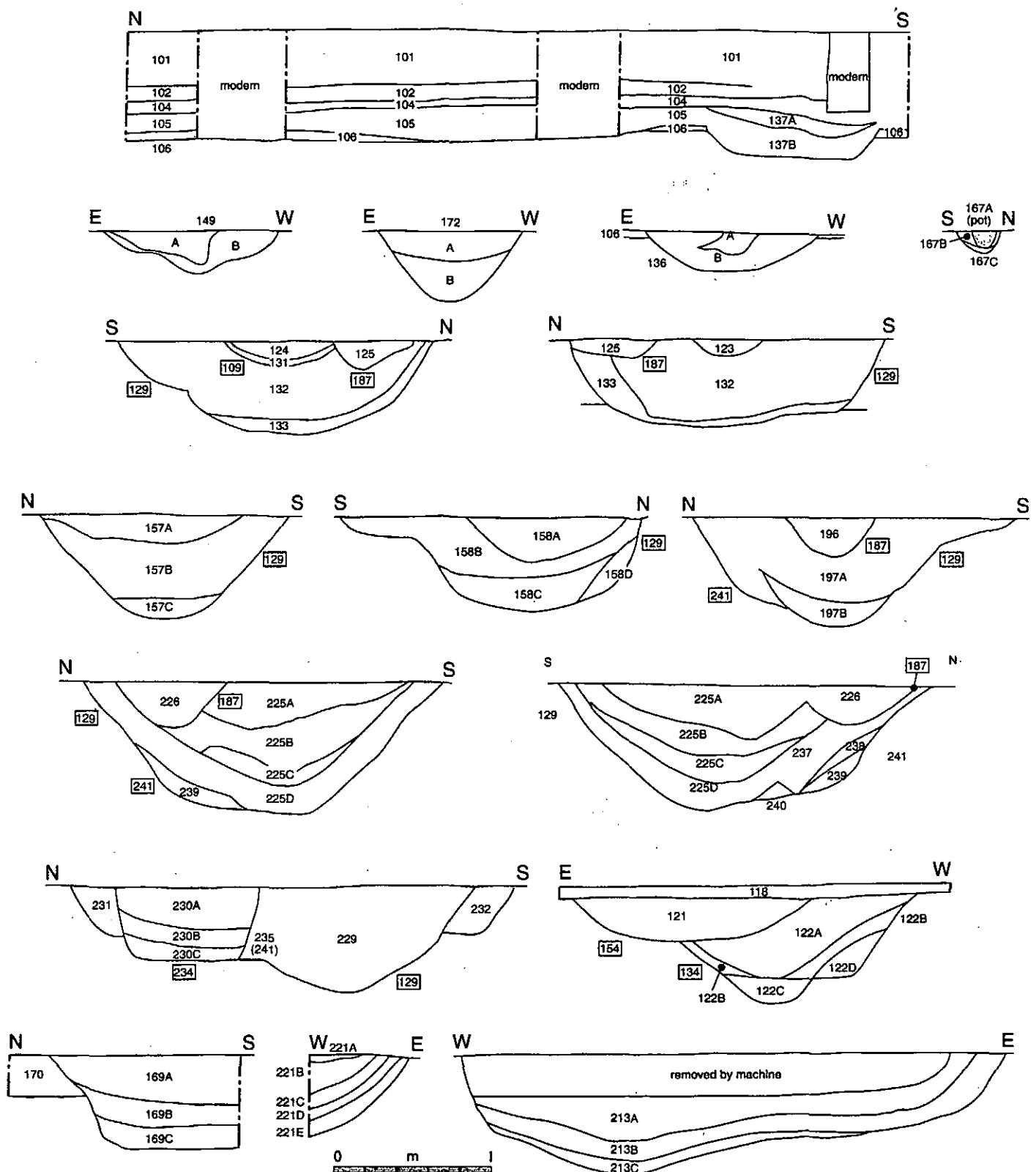


Fig 3: Old Police Station, Staines: selected section drawings

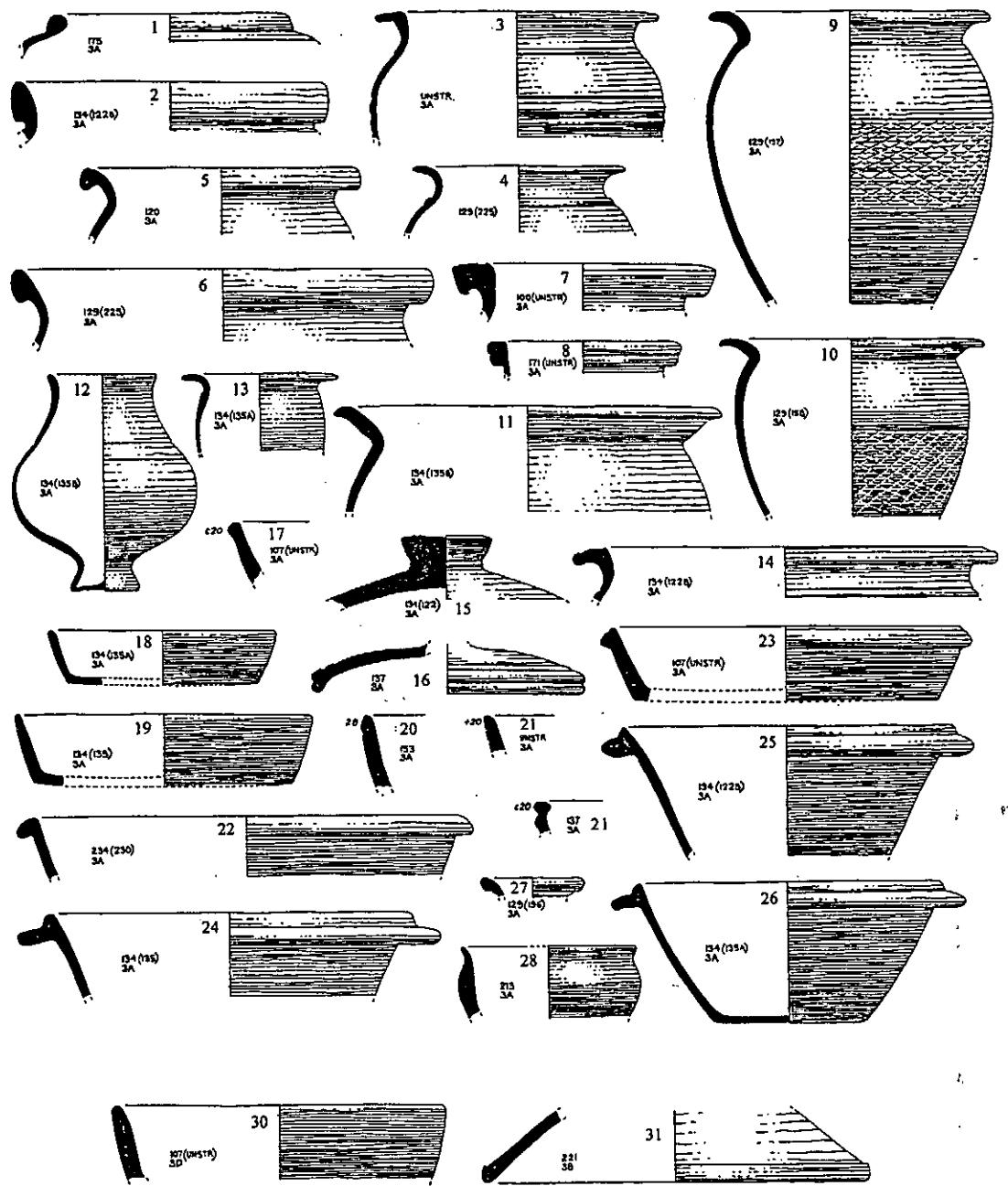


Fig 4: Old Police Station, Staines: Roman Pottery

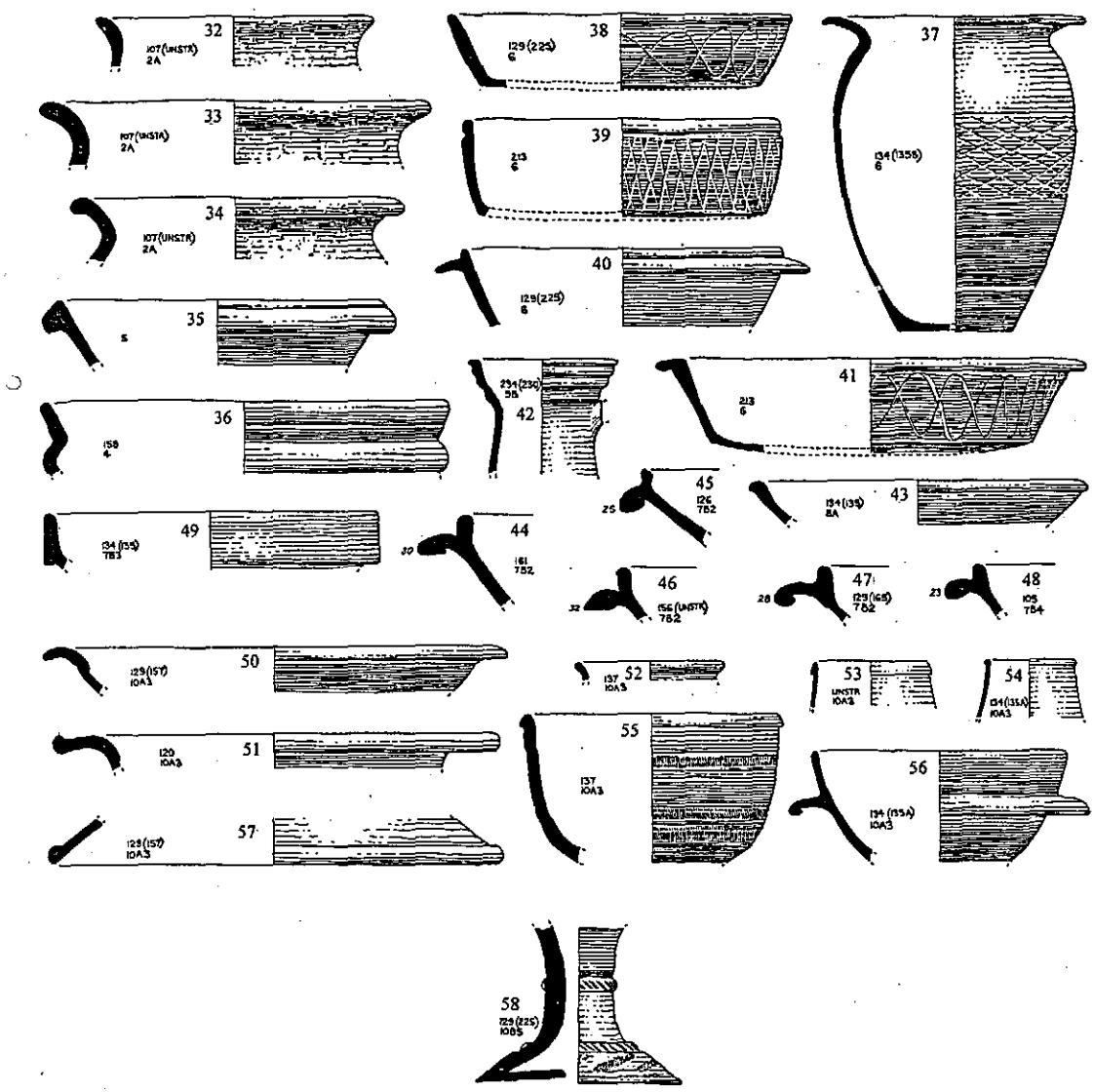


Fig 5: Old Police Station, Staines: Roman Pottery

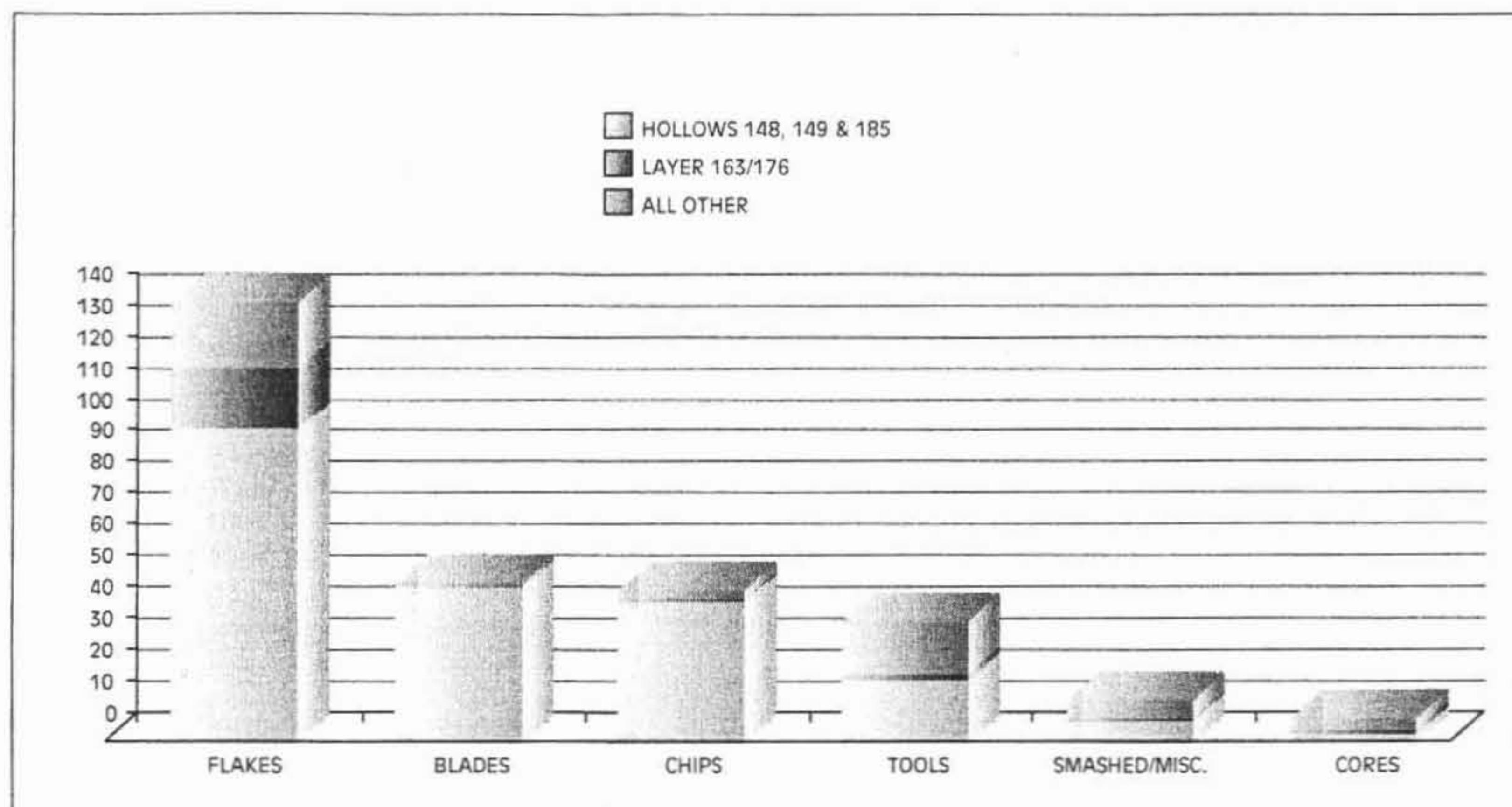


Fig 6: Old Police Station, Staines: Overall Composition of Flint Assemblage

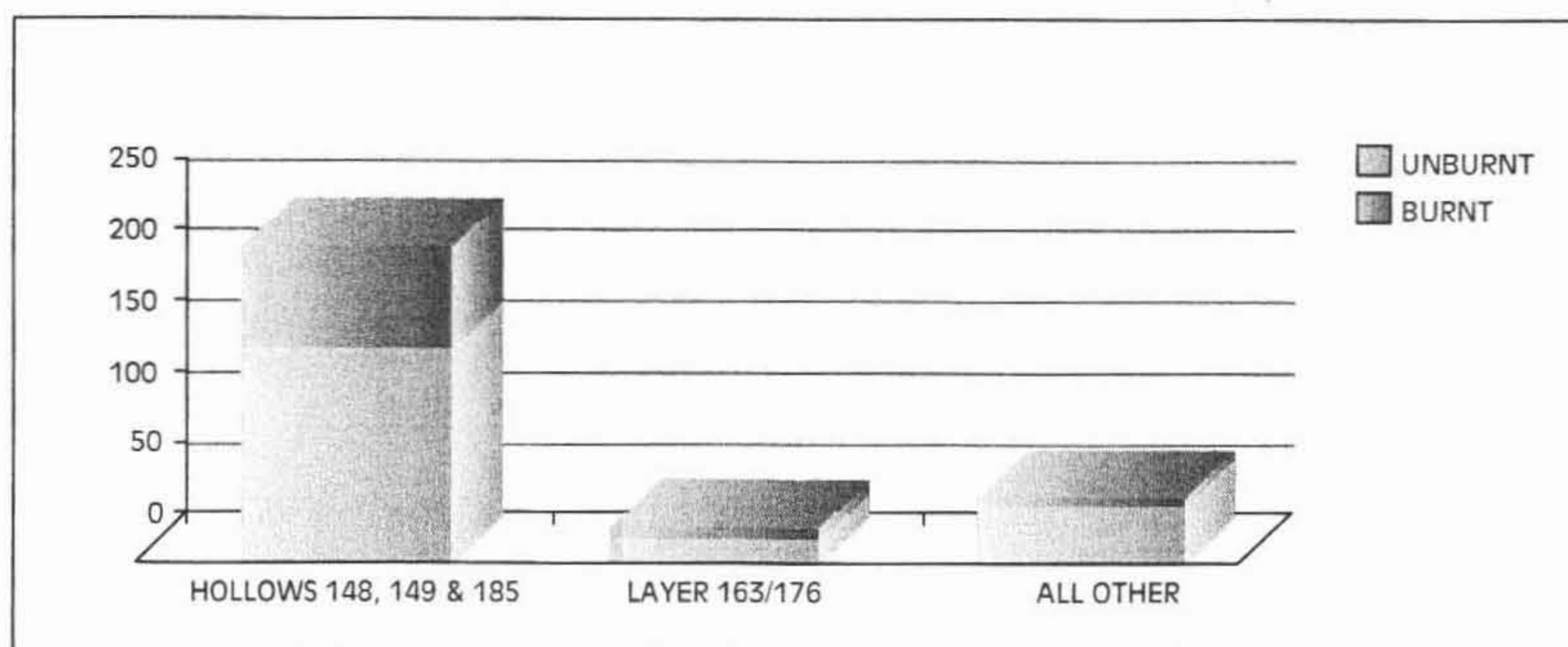


Fig 7: Old Police Station, Staines: Flintwork Totals Showing Burnt Component by Context Group

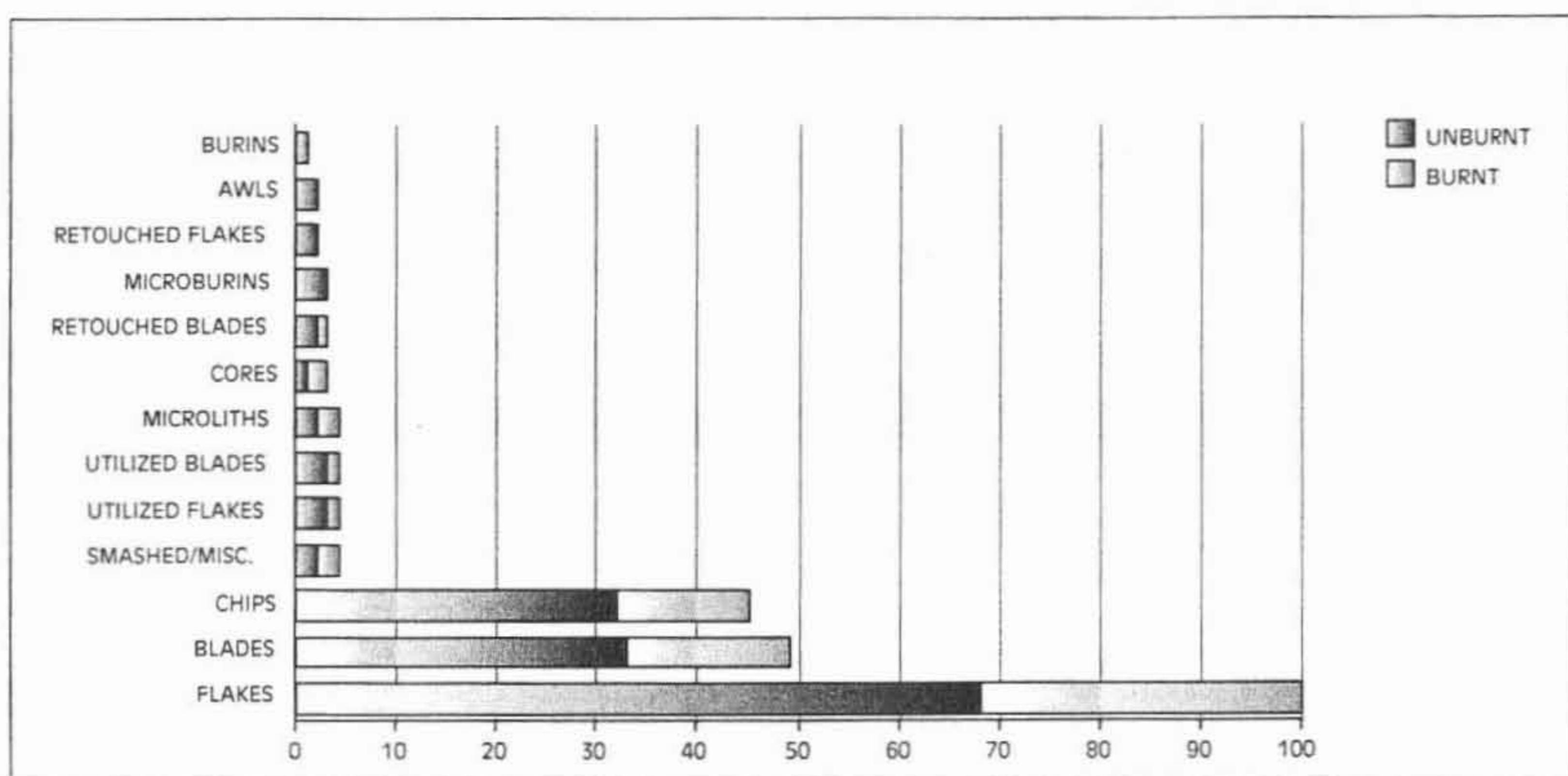


Fig 8: Old Police Station, Staines: Flint Artefacts from Hollows 148, 149 & 185

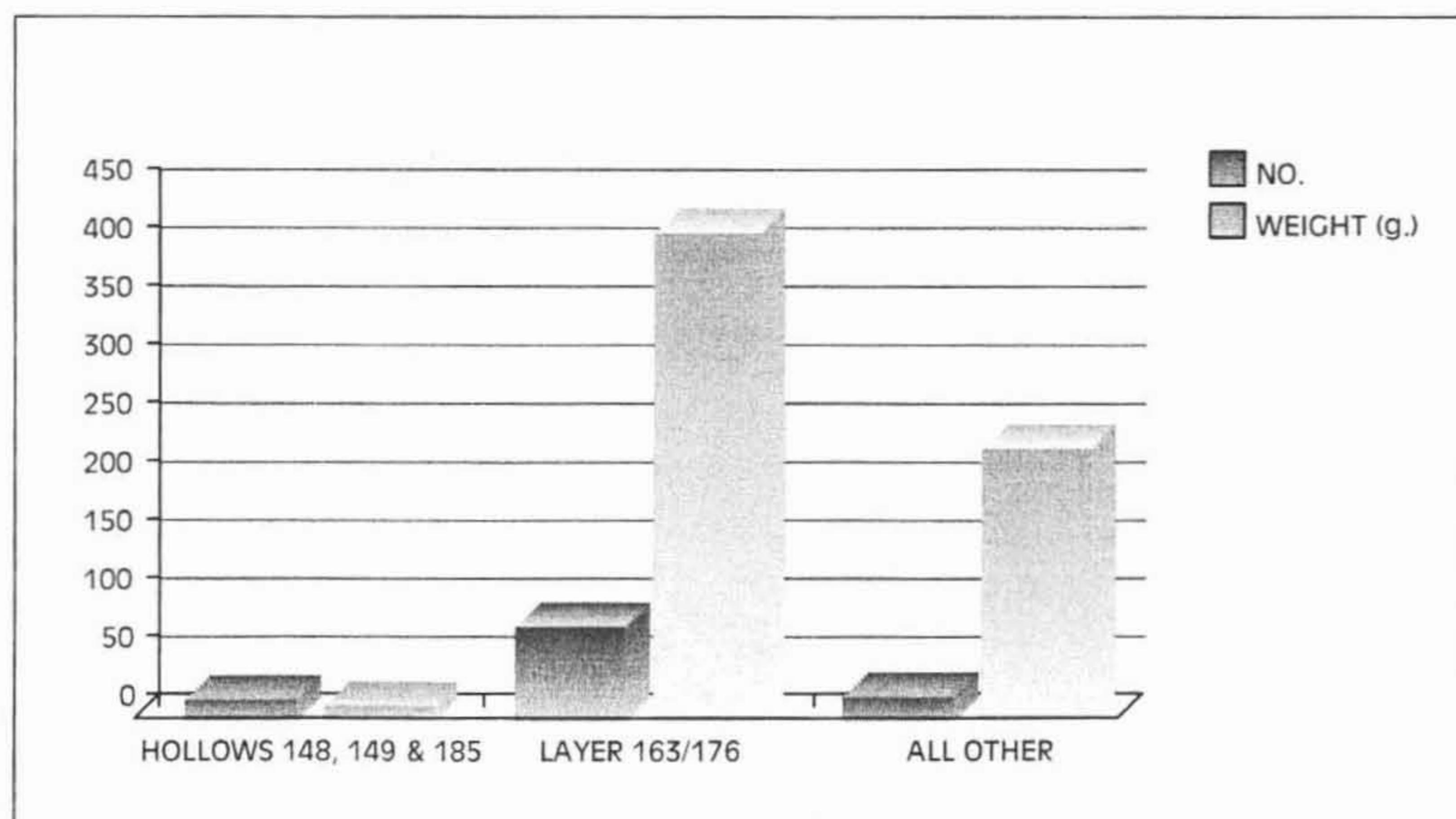
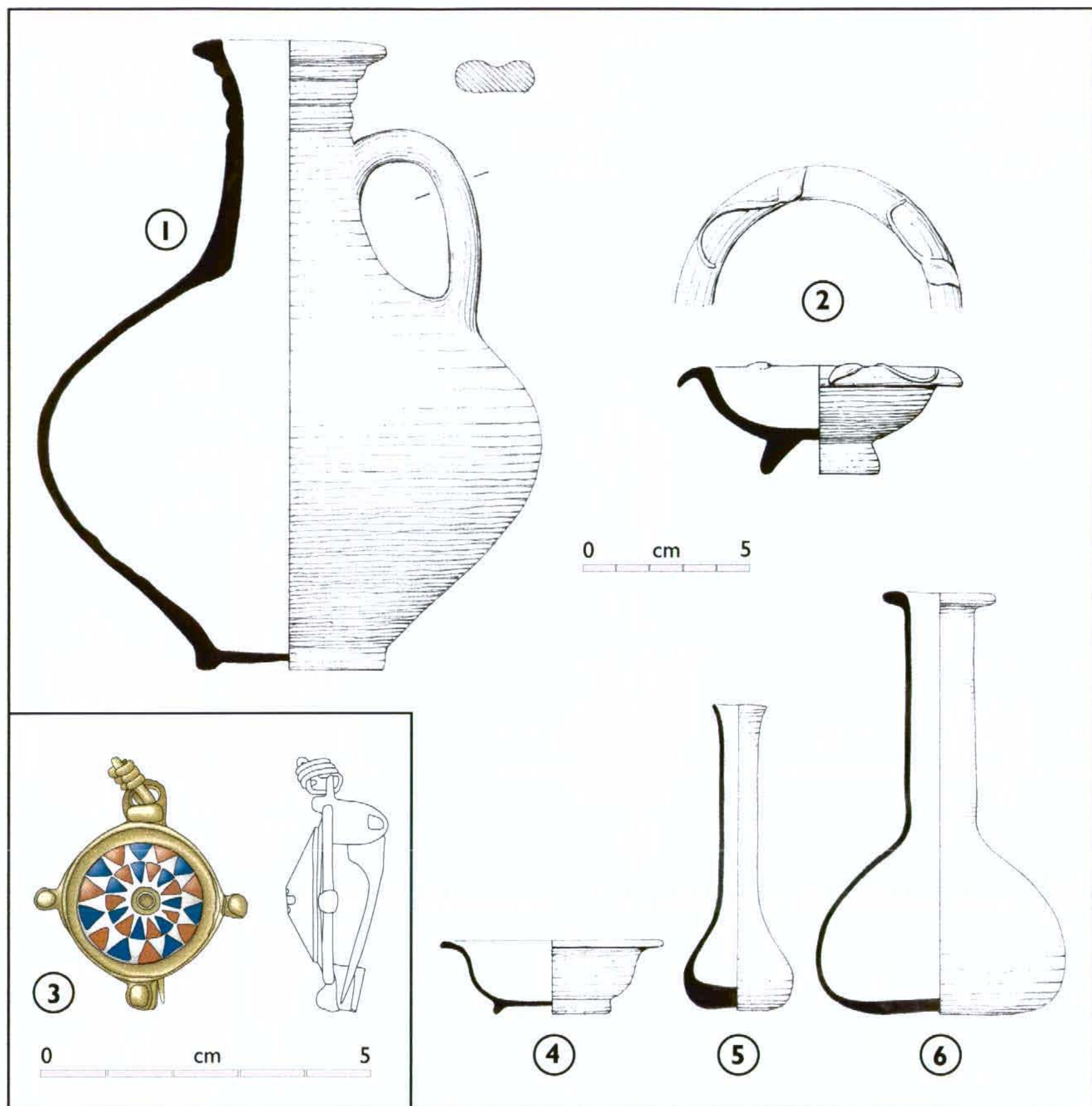
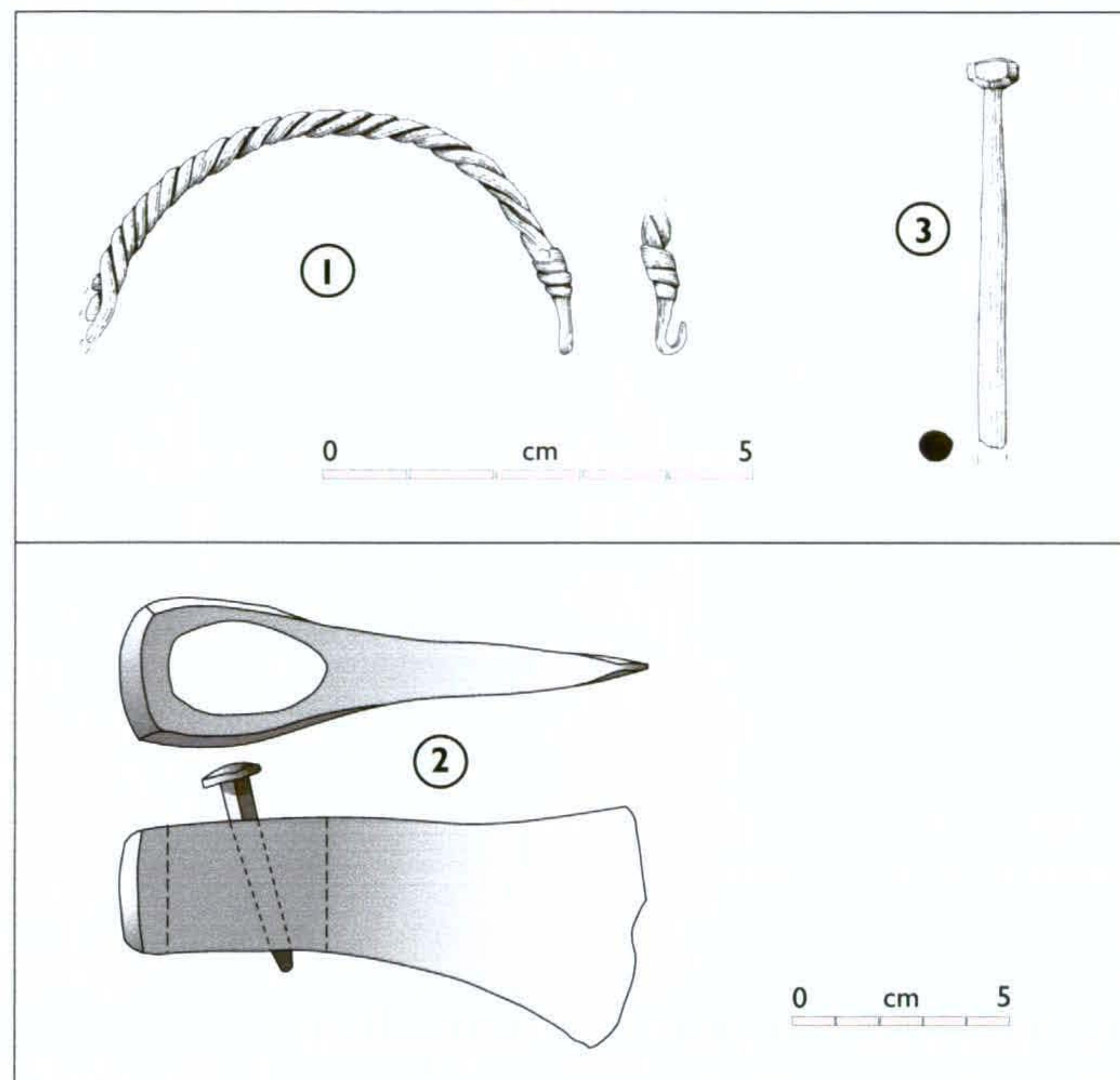


Fig 9: Old Police Station, Staines: Calcined Flint Quantification by Context Group



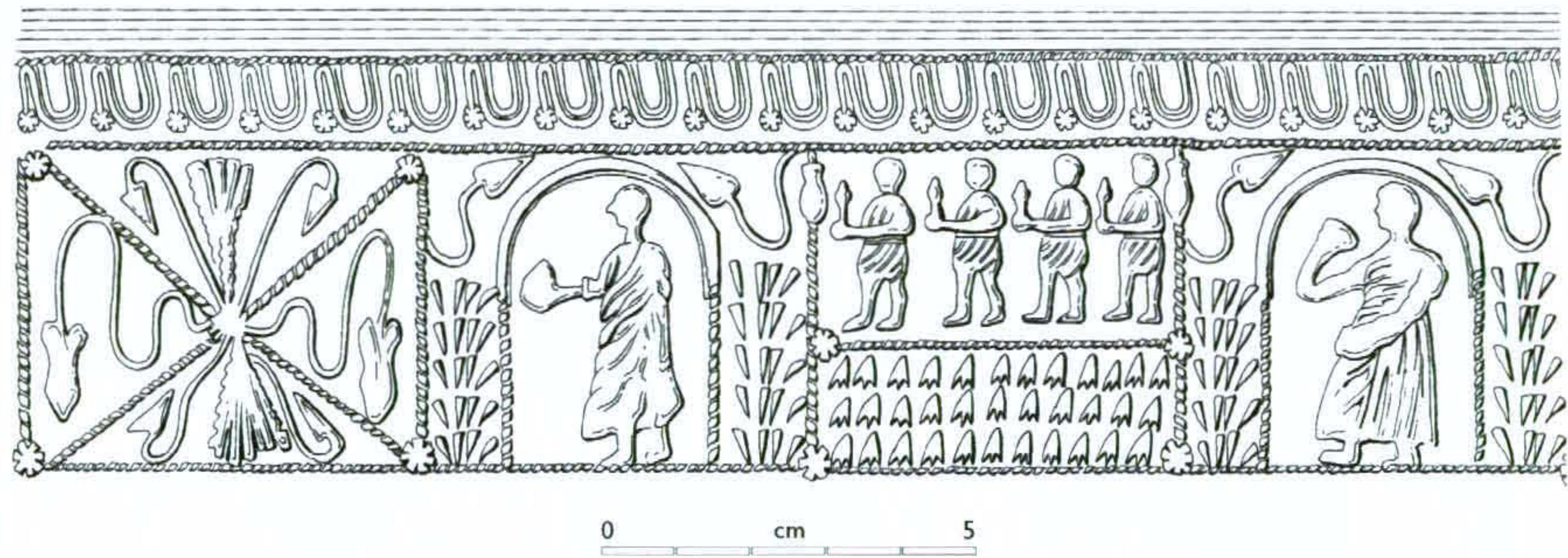
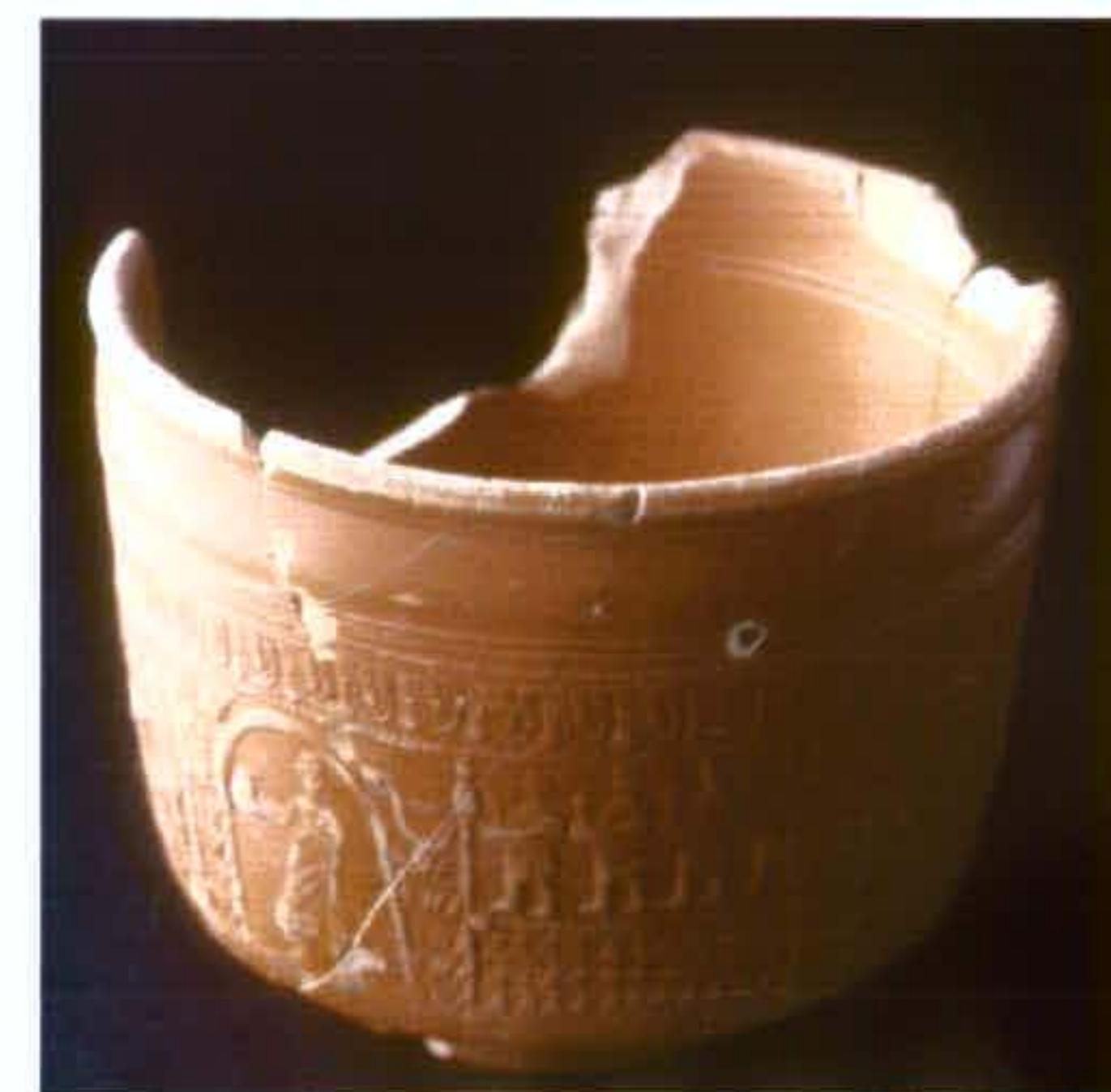
**fig 10 Old Police Station, Staines:**  
finds associated with cremation 136

- 1 Verulamium region single handled flagon
- 2 Central Gaulish Samian DR35 dish
- 3 One of a pair of enamelled disc brooches, SF1
- 4 Glass dish, SF59
- 5 Glass phial, SF61
- 6 Glass phial SF60



**fig 11 Old Police Station, Staines:**  
selected copper alloy, iron and worked bone finds.

- 1 Copper alloy bracelet, SF2
- 2 Axe head, SF53
- 3 Worked bone pin, SF62



**fig 12 Old Police Station, Staines:**

decorated bowl (Dr. 30 type) of Central Gaulish Samian ware  
found in layer 105/162/175, but possibly disturbed from a burial.

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Table 1: Roman Pottery: Sherd Count by Context

Table 2: Roman Pottery: Sherd Weight by Context

Year	Ctxt	Date	PRJNIST Calc	PROJECTED WEIGHTS																			odd buff	Total				
				ID	2A	3A	3B	3D	4	5	6	7A1	7A2	7B2	7B3	7B4	8A	8B	9A	9B	10A1	10A3	10A4	10A5	10B1	10B3	10B4	10B5
SPS00	100	L3/E4	-	-	10	144	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	42	24	-	3	493	7	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	207
	105	L3/E4	-	-	-	163	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	725	
	111	LR	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	
	112	LR	-	-	7	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	
	114	18th	-	-	10	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	
	115	18th	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18		
	116	R	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
	117	LR	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	
	118	LR	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
	120	18th	-	-	-	196	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	331		
	121	3/4	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53		
	121A	L3/E4	-	-	-	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142		
	122A/B/C	L3/E4	-	-	-	40	1293	-	35	-	8	142	-	-	-	8	54	2	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	1590		
	123	R	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28		
	127	R	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27		
	128	R	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		
	132	2nd	4	-	-	10	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38		
	133A/B	E4	-	237	121	3071	-	57	-	5	402	-	-	19	30	-	11	-	-	5	131	-	-	-	58	4127		
	136	M-12	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	567	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	63	-	-	-	-	-	635		
	137	E3	3	-	-	179	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	57	-	-	-	-	-	844		
	138	R	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9		
	139	18th	-	-	-	114	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118		
	140	L3/E4	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		
	143	L3/E4	-	-	-	5	-	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56		
	145	R	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16		
	146	R	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5		
	147	R	-	-	-	145	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	171		
	153	L3/E4	-	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62		
	156	18th	-	-	3	102	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	56	-	-	-	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	185		
	157A/B/C	L3/E4	-	-	17	693	-	-	-	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	811		
	158A/B/C	L3/E4	-	-	-	342	-	107	40	37	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	586		
	159	18th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	161	L3/E4	-	-	-	162	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	232	
	162	L3/3	2	-	-	298	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	391	
	163	Precut	1	-	-	11	193	-	-	-	-	8	265	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	524	
	165	L3/E4	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130		
	166	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	611	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	623		
	167A	L3/E4	-	-	-	114	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	740		
	169A/B	M-12	-	-	-	61	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95		
	171	18th	-	109	703	-	66	-	12	7	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	938		
	174	17/18	-	-	298	-	23	-	3	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	3	-	15	-	4	-	-	-	-	352		
	175	L3/E4	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37		
	186	L3/E4	-	-	-	196	-	14	-	3	-	-	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	231		
	189	R	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9		
	190	L3/E4	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	37		
	191	L3/E4	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20		
	192	18th	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8		
	194A/B	L3/E4	-	-	344	-	62	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	463		
	195a/b	L3/E4	-	-	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130		
	196	L3/E4	-	-	232	-	74	-	5	9	-	-	36	-	-	23	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	388			
	197	R	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24		
	198a/b	L3/E4	-	-	93	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	152		
	u/s	-	41	10	293	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	372		
	M's ditch	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73		
	210	M-12	-	-	218	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	259		
	213A/B/C	M-12	-	-	375	-	-	-	-	341	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	791			
	214	L3/3	-	-	61	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138		
	216	R	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8		
	220A	L3/3	17	-	23	-	11	9	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43		
	221A-E	3rd	-	-	341	29	14	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	406		
	223	R	-	-	289	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	289		
	225D/C	3rd	-	-	559	-	75	-	-	237	-	-	9	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1261		
	225f/g	3/4	-	-	108	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	137		
	226A	2/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7		
	227	2/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
	229low	3	-	-	8	-	16	-	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	117		
	230upp	18th	-	-	122	-	-																					

Table 3: Roman Pottery: EVFs by Context

Year	Ctx.	Date	PREMIST Cat.	EVFs																		Total						
				1D	2A	3A	3B	3D	4	5	6	7A1	7A2	7B2	7B3	7B4	8A	8B	9A	9B	10A1	10A3	10A4	10A8	10B2	10B3	10B4	10B5
SPS00	100	L3/E4	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	
	105	L3/E4	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	
	111	LR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	112	LR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	114	18th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	115	18th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	116	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	117	LR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	118	LR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	120	18th	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	
	121	3/4	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	
	121A	L3/E4	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	
	122A/B/C	L3/E4	-	-	96	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	
	123	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	127	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	128	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	132	2nd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	135A/B	E4	-	-	422	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	492
	136	M-L2	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	155	
	137	E3	-	-	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	
	138	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	139	18th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	140	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	143	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	144	L3/E4	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	
	145	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	146	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	147	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	150	L15/E16	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	
	153	L3/E4	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	
	156	18th	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	
	157A/B/C	L3/E4	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	
	158A/B/C	L3/E4	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
	159	18th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	161	L3/E4	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
	162	L2/3	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	
	163	Prehis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	165	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
	166	L3/E4	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	167A	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	169A/B	M3	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	
	170	L3/E4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	
	171	18th	-	24	77	-	10	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	
	174	L7/18	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	
	175	L3/E4	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	
	186	L3/E4	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
	189	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	190	L3/E4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
	191	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	192	18th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	194A/B	L3/E4	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	
	195urr	L3/E4	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	
	196	L3/E4	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	
	197	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	198urr	L3/E4	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	
	u/s	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	
	M5 ditch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	
	210	M-L2	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	
	213A/B/C	M-L2	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97	
	214	L2/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	216	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	220A	L2/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	221A-E	3rd	-	-	18	7	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	
	223	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	225B/C	3rd	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	
	2256/A	3/4	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	
	226A	2/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	227	2/3	-																									

Table 4: Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery: Sherd Count by Context

Year	Ctx	Date	MEDIEVAL			POST-MED					<b>TOTAL</b>
			S2	WW1A	WW1B	WW2	RW	Stone	TNGL	Red	
SPS00	112	LR	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	114	18th	-	1	-	3	6	-	-	-	10
	115	18th	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	120	18th	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
	135B	E4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	139	18th	-	1	-	60	64	2	2	-	129
	150	L15/E16	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
	156	18th	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	4
	159	18th	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
	171low	18th	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
	171upp		-	1	-	3	11	-	-	-	15
	174	17/18	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
	186	L3/E4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	190	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	192	18th	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	6
	u/s		-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
SPS01	230upp	18th	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
	230inter		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>TOTALS</b>			2	6	1	71	96	5	4	1	186

Table 5: Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery: Sherd Weight by Context

Year	Ctx	Date	MEDIEVAL			POST-MED					<b>TOTAL</b>
			S2	WW1A	WW1B	WW2	RW	Stone	TNGL	Red Basalt	
SPS00	112	LR	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
	114	18th	-	9	-	32	30	-	-	-	71
	115	18th	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	15
	120	18th	-	-	-	11	15	-	-	-	26
	135B	E4	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	22
	139	18th	-	1	-	747	997	198	18	-	1961
	150	L15/E16	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	9
	156	18th	-	-	-	29	72	132	-	17	250
	159	18th	-	-	-	-	49	-	4	-	53
	171low	18th	-	-	-	28	-	-	3	-	31
	171upp		-	8	-	27	111	-	-	-	146
	174	17/18	15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	16
	186	L3/E4	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
	190	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
	192	18th	-	-	-	2	7	32	-	-	41
	u/s		-	-	-	11	82	-	-	-	93
SPS01	230upp	18th	-	-	-	-	35	16	-	-	51
	230inter		-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2837</b>

Table 6: Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery: EVEs by Context

Year	Ctx	Date	MEDIEVAL			POST-MED					<b>TOTAL</b>
			S2	WW1A	WW1B	WW2	RW	Stone	TNGL	Red Basalt	
SPS00	114	18th	-	-	-	20	10	-	-	-	30
	135B	E4	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	8
	139	18th	-	-	-	109	49	-	4	-	162
	150	L15/E16	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
	153	L3/E4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	156	18th	-	-	-	-	5	27	-	-	32
	171upp	-	-	-	-	7	17	-	-	-	24
SPS01	230upp	18th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	230inter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	232	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>			-	-	9	136	89	27	4	-	265

Table 7: Worked Flint: Overall composition of the flint assemblage

Context Group	Cores	Smashed/Misc.	Flakes	Blades	Chips	Tools	TOTAL	%
Hollows 148, 149, 185	3	7	100	49	45	20	224	75.7
Layer 163/176	1	1	20	-	1	2	25	8.4
All Other	3	5	20	1	2	16	47	15.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>296</b>	
<b>%</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>12.8</b>		<b>100</b>

Table 8: Worked Flint: Relative proportions of burnt flintwork by context group

Context Group	Unburnt		Burnt	
	N	%	N	%
Hollows 148, 149, 185	153	68.3	71	31.7
Layer 163/176	18	72	7	28
All Other	43	91.5	4	8.5
Total N & Overall %	214	72.3	82	27.7

Table 9: Worked Flint: Flint artefacts from Hollows 148, 149 & 185 (for burnt worked flint totals see fig 3 and table 8)

Context	Smashed					Ret.	Utl.	Ret.	Utl.	Awls	Burins	Microliths	Microburins	TOTAL	%	
	Cores	/Misc.	Flakes	Blades	Chips											
148	2	-	29	8	11	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	54	24.1	
149a	1	2	44	22	25	1	2	2	1	2	-	1	2	105	46.9	
149b	-	-	21	18	5	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	49	21.9	
185	-	2	6	1	4	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	16	7.1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>224</b>		
<b>%</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>		<b>100</b>	

Table 10: Worked Flint: Core classification (all contexts; B=Blade removals present)

Context	Single Platform	Double Platform	Multi-Platform	Fragment	Total
100	-	-	1	-	1
136	-	1	-	1	2
148	1 (B)	1 (B)	-	-	2
149a	-	-	-	1	1
163	-	-	-	1	1
Total	1	2	1	3	7

Table 11: Worked Flint: Microlith Typology (all contexts)

Context	Obliquely Blunted			Total
	Point	Triangle	Other Points	
148	1	-	1	2
149a	1	-	-	1
149b	1	-	-	1
163	-	1	-	1
Total	3	1	1	5

Table 12: Worked Flint: Flint artefacts from layer 163/176 (burnt worked flint totals in brackets)

Context	Smashed			Utilized			Total
	Cores	/Misc.	Flakes	Chips	Flakes	Microliths	
163	1 (1)	1	17 (6)	-	1	1	21 (7)
176	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
Total	1 (1)	1	20 (6)	1	1	1	25 (7)
%	4	4	80	4	4	4	100

Table 13: Worked Flint: Flint artefacts from all other contexts (burnt worked flint totals in brackets)

Context	Smashed													
	Cores	/Misc.	Flakes	Blades	Chips	Hammerstones	Ret. Flakes	Util. Flakes	Util. Blades	Awls	Scrapers	TOTAL	%	
100	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	8	17	
114	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	2.1	
121a	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.1	
135a	-	1	2 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 (1)	6.4	
135b	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4.3	
136	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	5	10.7	
138	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4.3	
139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2.1	
144	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4.3	
156	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2.1	
165 Upper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2.1	
171 Lower	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.1	
171 Upper	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2.1	
172	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2.1	
174	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	4.3	
175	-	-	2 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	4.3	
186	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	8.5	
189	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2.1	
190	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2.1	
192	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	4.3	
213a	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4.3	
213b	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.1	
216	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2.1	
223	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5 (1)</b>	<b>20 (2)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2 (1)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47 (4)</b>		
<b>%</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>		<b>100</b>	

Table 14: Worked Flint: Calcined Flint Quantification by context group

Context Group	Count		Weight		Mean weight
	N	%	g	%	
Hollows 148, 149, 185	15	13.5	11	1.7	0.73
Layer 163	78	70.3	416	63.1	5.33
All Other	18	16.2	232	35.2	12.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.94</b>

g = grams

Table 15: Worked Flint: Relative proportions & numbers of burnt worked flint artefacts from Hollows 148, 149 & 185, expressed as % of all flintwork recovered, by category & context

Context	Cores		Smashed/Misc.		Flakes		Blades		Chips		Tools		OVERALL	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
148	50	1	-	-	31	9	25	2	45.5	5	50	2	35.2	19
149a	100	1	50	2	29.5	13	31.8	7	38	7	10	1	29.8	31
149b	-	-	-	-	28.6	6	33.3	6	20	1	50	2	30.6	15
185	-	-	-	-	66.7	4	100	1	-	-	-	-	31.3	5
Overall % & Total	66.7	2	28.6	2	32	32	32.7	16	28.9	13	25	5	31.3	70

Table 16: Worked flint in context order

Context	Cores	Fragments	Smashed /Misc.	Flakes	Blades	Chips	Hammerstones	Ret. Flakes	Util. Flakes	Ret. Blades	Util. Blades	Awls	Scrapers	Burins	Microburins	Microliths	TOTAL
u/s	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
100	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	6
114	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
121a	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
135a	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
135b	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
136	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
138	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
144	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
148	2	-	-	29	8	11	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	54
149a	-	1	2	44	22	25	-	1	2	2	1	2	-	-	2	1	105
149b	-	-	-	21	18	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	1	49
156	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
163	-	1	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	21
165 upper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
171 lower	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
171 upper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
172	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
174	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
175	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
176	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
185	-	-	-	2	6	1	4	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	16
186	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
189	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
192	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
213a	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
213b	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
216	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
223	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	4	3	10	140	50	48	2	5	7	3	7	7	1	1	3	5	296

Table 17: Calcined flint in context order

Context	No. pieces	Weight (g)
114	4	30
116	1	67
137	2	4
139	2	13
140	1	54
144	3	16
148	9	3
149a	5	6
149b	1	2
162	1	2
163	67	408
166	1	36
176	11	8
182	2	2
197	1	8
Total	111	659

Table 18: Dated Coins from the Excavations

Phase	SF	Context	Period	Date	Diam (mm)
u/s	3	100	?Gallienus	?259-68	-
u/s	4	100	Irregular	c.270-365	10
u/s	5	100	Irregular	c.340-365	11
u/s	6	100	Uncertain	260-376	-
Roman	7	122A	Irregular	c.270-85	-
Roman	8	122A	?Gallienus	?259-68	-
Roman	9	129	Uncertain	3rd-4th C	-
Roman	10	129	Irregular	c.270-365	11
Roman	11	129/187	Uncertain, poss irregular	270-85	13x11
Roman	12	134	Claudius II	268-70	-
Roman	13	135A?	Gallienus	259-68	-
Roman	14	135A	Uncertain	?later 3rd C	15
Roman	15	135A	Irregular	270-365	11
Roman	16	135A	Gallic Empire	259-73	-
Roman	17	135A	Gallienus	259-68	-
Roman	18	135A	Constantinian, rev.unclear	320-65	-
Roman	19	136	Diocletian	295-310	-
Roman	20	136	Vespasian	69-79	-
Med	21	150	Irregular	270-85	15
Pmed	22	154	-	270-85	-
Pmed	23	166	Irregular	c.270-365	12
Roman	24	187	Irregular	270-85	10x8.5
Roman	25	187	Irregular	270-365	10
Roman	26	187	Irregular	270-365	10
Roman	27	187	Constantinian, rev. unclear	c.320-65	-
Roman	28	187	As	c.70-120	-
Roman	29	187	Irregular	c.270-365	11x10
Roman	30	187	Irregular	c.270-85	9
Roman	31	187	Irregular	c.270-365	14
Roman	32	187	Irregular	c.270-365	11
Roman	33	187	Irregular	c.270-365	10x7
Roman	34	187	Irregular	c.270-85	11
Roman	35	187	Constantinian, rev CAESARVM NOSTRORVM	c.320-325	-
Roman	36	187	Irregular	c.270-365	-
Roman	37	187	Irregular	c.270-85	-
Roman	38	187	?not coin	-	-
Roman	39	187	Irregular	270-285	11.5
Roman	40	187	Uncert. poss copy as of ?Hadrian	?2nd-3rd C	-
Roman	41	187	Claudius II, rev. centaur	268-70	-
Roman	42	187	Claudius II, irreg, rev. Altar	c.270-85	-
Roman	43	187	Irregular	c.270-85	12
Roman	44	187	Irregular	c.270-365	14
Pmed	59	220A	Irregular, no detail	c.270-365	10
Roman	60	225A	Irregular, no detail	c.270-365	10
Roman	61	225A	Tetricus I	270-3	-
Roman	62	225A	Uncertain	later 3rd C	-
Roman	63	225A	Carausius	287-93	-

Table 19: Numbers of Fragments of Stone Recovered, by Period

	Chalk	Chert pebble	Lower Greensand	Millstone Grit	Oolitic Limestone	Quartz	Sarsen	Shale
Roman	275	-	60	-	445	252	303	-
Postmed	104	-	2551	623	-	-	-	5
Unstrat	-	2	28	-	-	-	7	-

Table 20: Animal Bone: Number of Identified Specimens Present (NISP)

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Pig sk</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Dog</i>	<i>Dog sk</i>	<i>Bird</i>	<i>Cattle-size</i>	<i>Sheep-size</i>	<i>Unid</i>	<i>Total</i>
Roman	104	77	5	-	35	1	-	-	59	54	76	411
Medieval	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Postmedieval	31	26	8	1	16	-	-	3	40	17	100	242
Unstratified	4	6	6	1	2	1	1	-	12	22	43	98
<i>Total</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>753</i>

Key:  
 sk skeleton  
 Unid unidentified fragments

Table 21: Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains from Contexts 131, 135 &amp; 136

Context No. Context type	131 BB	135B PF	136 C/PF	136B BB
<b>Cereals and other food plants</b>				
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	x	
Large Fabaceae indet.			xcifg	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)			x	x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x		x	
<b>Herbs</b>				
Apiaceae indet.			x	
<i>Arrhenatherum</i> sp. (tuber)			x	
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.			x	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.			x	
Small Poaceae indet.		x	x	
Large Poaceae indet.			x	
Polygonaceae indet.		x		
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.			x	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.			x	
<i>R. acetosella</i> L.			x	
<i>Valerianella dentata</i> (L.) Pollich			x	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.			xx	x
<i>V. cracca</i> L.			x cf	
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>				
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x		xx	x
Charred root/rhizome/stem	x		xx	x
Mineral replaced wood frags.			x	
Indet.buds		x		
Indet.seeds			x	
Indet.tuber frags.			x	
<b>Other materials</b>				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x			x
Black tarry material	x			
Bone	xb		x xb	xxb
Burnt/fired clay			x	
Burnt concretions			x	
?Coke				x
Fish bone		x	x	
Siliceous globules			xx	x
<i>Sample volume (litres)</i>	6.5	1.5	27	2.5
<i>Volume of flot (litres)</i>	<0.1	<0.1	0.3	<0.1
<i>% flot sorted</i>	100%	100%	50%	100%

Table 22: Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains from Contexts 137, 151 & 167

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>167A</i>	<i>167B</i>	<i>167C</i>
<i>Context type</i>	<i>SB</i>	?	<i>PF</i>	<i>BB</i>	?
<b>Herbs</b>					
<i>Sinapis</i> sp.	xcf				
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>					
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	xx	x	xx
Charcoal >2mm			x		
Indet. seeds		x	x		x
<b>Other materials</b>					
Black porous 'cokey' material		xx		xx	x
Black tarry material	x	x	x	x	
Bone			xxb	xb	xxb
?Coke	x				
Fish bone	x				
Small coal frags.	xx			x	
<i>Sample volume (litres)</i>	0.1	5.5	2.5	4	2
<i>Volume of silt (litres)</i>	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
<i>% silt sorted</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 23: Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains from Contexts 214, 215 & 225A

Context No.	214	215	225A
Context type	?C	C	?
<b>Cereals</b>			
Cereal indet. (grains)	x		x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)			xcf
<b>Herbs</b>			
<i>Bromus</i> sp.			x
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.			xcf
Small Poaceae indet.			x
<i>Rumex</i> sp.			xtf
<i>R. acetosella</i> L.			xcf
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.		xcfcoty	x
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>			
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	
Charred root/rhizome/stem			x
Indet.seeds			x
<b>Other materials</b>			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		x
Black tarry material		x	x
Bone	xb	xb	
Burnt stone	x		
?Coke	x		
Fish bone	x		x
Siliceous globules			xx
Small coal frags.	x		x
Vitrified material	x		
Sample volume (litres)	5.5	5	2.5
Volume of flot (litres)	0.2	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	50%	100%	100%