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EXCAVATIONS AT 46-50 HIGH STREET, EWELL 1994

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SURREY COUNTY **SCAU**
ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

**EXCAVATIONS AT 46-50 HIGH STREET,
EWELL 1994**

Surrey County Archaeological Unit
County Planning Department
Old Library Headquarters, 25 West Street, Dorking RH4 1DE
Telephone 01306 886 466 Facsimile 01306 740478

Project Manager	Rob Poulton
Author	G Hayman/S. Huson
Client	Fleetwood Developments Ltd
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EXCAVATIONS AT 46-50 HIGH STREET, EWELL, 1994

Introduction

The proposed redevelopment of the site of numbers 46 to 50 High Street, Ewell aroused considerable archaeological interest because of the prolific amount of archaeological remains, particularly of Roman and Saxon origin, already known from the village (fig 2). The redevelopment was to replace the existing buildings on the site (excluding the listed ones on the west side) with new commercial premises and associated car parking. As the construction of the new buildings would cause limited below-ground disturbance (this to consist for the most part of a number of narrow foundation trenches), it was considered most appropriate that an archaeological examination should be carried out in conjunction with the development. This was undertaken by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit on behalf of Fleetwood Developments Ltd. Following some observations made during an early visit to the site, the work consisted of a small excavation, which took place after the existing buildings had been cleared from the site (11th-15th July), and observation with recording and minor excavation, which took place at appropriate opportunities thereafter during each phase of foundation trench preparation.

Geology

The site of the development lies in an area of quite varied geology which includes Woolwich & Reading Beds, Thanet Beds and Upper Chalk. The Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 geological map (sheet 270) indicates that the site is underlain predominantly by the Upper Chalk.

This geology has had a strong influence on the village of Ewell, resulting, among other things, in the long thin shape of the parish, designed so as to take in the varied landscape resources stretching down to the North Downs (it even had 'outliers' in the Weald to take advantage of the good pasture). The place-name of Ewell means 'river spring' and the mixture of sand and gravel layers between the Chalk and London Clay gave rise to the formation of a spring which, in turn, became one of the sources of the Hogs Mill River. This spring became an important feature of the village, influencing the choice of settlement for many generations, from as early as the Iron Age down to the present day.

Initial Site Observations (fig 3)

During a visit to the site on 26th May 1994 three trial pits were partially or fully open for inspection. At 'A' it was only possible to observe the hole to a depth of c0.30m, which was wholly taken up by modern disturbance. At 'B' c0.30m of modern make-up overlay c0.50m of apparently undifferentiated grey-brown sandy soil, with a hint of an occupation surface below. The soil included a piece of Roman brick, but its date should be regarded as uncertain. At 'C' c0.30m of very mixed (modern) soils overlay c1m of chalk rubble, which included some obviously modern brick. Beneath this were obvious Roman deposits including quite a few

sherds of Roman pottery.

The Excavation

Three trenches were excavated at suitable locations along or close to the intended line for the new foundations (fig 3); these provided adequate sample coverage of the limited area that was threatened by major ground disturbance. The upper levels of these trenches, which consisted of modern soils, levelling deposits and other disturbed ground, were removed under archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator. The remaining deposits were examined by hand and were removed, where possible, to the level of the natural geology.

TRENCH 1 (fig 4)

With the removal of the modern stratigraphy (100,101,102) from this trench a soil layer (103) was revealed. Sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the surface of this layer so mechanical excavation ceased at this point and the soil was removed by hand. This produced frequent sherds of Roman pottery, which were mainly of 3rd and 4th century date but included some earlier material, some Roman brick and tile, and two Roman copper alloy coins (subsequently identified as a radiate of Victorinus, dated 268-270 and a coin of Arcadius, dated 388-402). Throughout most of the trench 103 overlay a layer of densely packed fist-sized flint nodules (125), though at the northern end it was of variable depth and overlay a deposit of chalk and flint (126) and a layer of redeposited chalk (127). The removal of these layers revealed an orangy-brown subsoil layer (128/129) at the northern and southern ends of the trench, and an orange clayey layer (130) and another layer of redeposited chalk (131) in the middle. The pottery recovered from layer 125 is possibly of 2nd or early 3rd century date; no finds were recovered from layers 126 or 127.

The removal of 103 had revealed a pronounced hollow in the centre of 125 and with the removal of 125 itself the hollow was still present suggesting that both layers had subsided into a large underlying feature. Continued excavation showed that this was indeed the case and led to the discovery of 'pit' 140 (fig 4) which cut layer 128/129. This feature was found to contain various lenses and layers in the upper part of its fill (layers 130-138 inclusive) and one main layer of green/grey soil with charcoal (139) towards the bottom (fig 4, section 1). The excavation of this feature was made difficult by its depth and the narrowness of the trench. To allow access for continued excavation 'steps' had to be left in the fill and the area in which excavation was possible became progressively smaller. At a depth roughly 3m beneath the present ground level, chalk, believed to be natural, was discovered beneath 139. The excavation of this feature was abandoned at this point for reasons of safety. Finds, mainly pottery sherds, were recovered in small quantities from layers 130, 134, 138 and 139, and in all cases the dateable material was of 1st-2nd century date.

Finally the subsoil layer 128/129 (now clearly the same layer) was removed from the trench. The only finds recovered from this layer were pieces of struck flint of prehistoric origin.

TRENCH 2 (fig 4)

After the removal of layers 105 and 106 and much of the 19th century pit 107 by machine, a dark soil layer (108) was revealed. This layer was equivalent to 103 in trench 1 and was removed by hand in two spits, 108A and 108B. The finds recovered from 108 consisted of pottery sherds, fragments of Roman brick and tile, several small finds (including a Roman copper alloy coin subsequently identified as a *As* of Faustina II of 161-180 date) and several pieces of struck flint. The pottery recovered was mainly of Roman date, consisting of a mixture of 1st-4th century date, but included several intrusive sherds of 17th-18th date from the upper part of 108A. The removal of this layer exposed a spread of flints (124), which was similar to and presumably part of the same layer as 125 in trench 1, the upper fill of feature 123, and an orangey-brown subsoil (144) which was equivalent to 128/129. The surface of 124 may have been cut by a small irregularly shaped feature, 118 - the fill of which produced pottery sherds of 3rd-4th century date and a small unidentified strip of copper alloy, but this did not look at all convincing in section and it is perhaps more likely that this was no more than a hollow caused by subsidence into pit 148 which was later found to lie directly below it. The removal of 124 produced pottery and building materials of 1st to 4th century date, exposed more of 144, and revealed an area of ground disturbance which marked the location of 148. 148 was not excavated at this stage but was recorded in section (fig 4, section 3) after further work by the developers. A number of sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the section (from layer 148D), but it was not possible to be more specific about the date of this material.

The excavation of feature 123 was attempted, but had to be abandoned at a depth approximately 2m below the present ground surface due to the threat of collapse. More of the soft fill of this feature was removed by the developers at a later date in an attempt to reach more stable ground, but at a depth c3.4m below that of the present ground surface they had abandoned their attempt. The base of the feature had not been reached and ground water was seeping in at this level. The fill of 123 appeared to be an undifferentiated layer of greeny-grey silty soil which was excavated in a series of spits (123A-123F) and yielded finds which include pottery sherds of 3rd-4th century date, Roman building materials, a copper alloy coin of Valentinian I, dated 364-375, a copper alloy belt fitting, two bone pins, some slag, and several pieces of struck flint. Both feature 123 and pit 148 clearly cut layer 144 (which again produced only finds of struck flint), and the layers of natural geology also cut by them consisted of various bands of clean clay and loose chalk. The nature of these layers presumably gave rise to the undercut profile of 123 (and to a lesser extent 148), which was probably caused by slumping of the sides. The shape and depth of 123 indicate that this feature was most probably a well.

TRENCH 3 (fig 4)

With the removal of layers 112, 113, 114 and 115 it was clear that most of this trench was occupied by a single large pit, 116, which cut an area of dark soil, 117, present to the north and

east of it. The pit was sampled to a depth c1.75m below the present ground surface (fig 5, section 3) and was found to contain a central area of loose degraded chalk, with some brick and tile fragments, surrounded by a dark soily fill with larger chalk lumps and more fragments of brick and tile (fig 4, plan 3). The tile fragments recovered were of indistinguishable medieval or post medieval type, but the brick was clearly of post medieval date. A single sherd of medieval pottery of 13th or 14th century date was also recovered from the (outer) fill of this feature but the presence of post medieval brick indicates that this sherd was present residually. No further excavation of this feature was undertaken once it had been established that it was of post medieval origin.

Soil layer 117, which was clearly equivalent to 103 and 108 in trenches 1 and 2, was removed and again produced quite frequent sherds of Roman pottery, mainly of 3rd-4th century date, along with three sherds of 17th-18th date assumed to be intrusive. Below this, layer 120 (equivalent to 128/129 and 124 in trenches 1 and 2) overlay the natural geology and yielded a small quantity of struck flint when removed. In the eastern part of the trench, 120 appeared to have been cut by a shallow feature, 119, but the fill of this was undistinguishable from layer 117 in section (fig , section 4). Any finds belonging to this possible feature were collected along with those from layer 117.

Subsequent Observations

Following the main excavation the site was regularly monitored by the Unit and this enabled sections 3 (directly associated with trench 2 and described above), 6, and 7, and pit 159, to be recorded.

TRENCH 4: SECTION 6 (fig 5)

Section 6 was difficult to record properly as it formed one side of a deep, narrow (machine cut) foundation trench - it was not possible to enter the trench or to clarify the layers observed by trowelling or spading the face. A similar sequence of stratigraphy to that noted in the excavation trenches was observed, however, with 152 being equivalent to 103, 108 and 117, and 153 being equivalent to 128/129, 124 and 120. Context 151, present towards the northern end of the trench, appeared to be a levelling layer of chalk rubble and was probably part of the same layer as that observed in pit C (see above) which was found to contain modern brick and to seal deposits containing finds of Roman date. The subsoil layer (128/129 etc) found elsewhere to underlie the dark ancient soil was only identified at intervals along this section (153), but the apparent absences may be because it simply was not recognised at certain points. Beneath these layers the natural geology was cut by at least one feature, 154.

TRENCH 5 : SECTION 7 (fig 5)

Section 7 was recorded inside one of the buildings to be retained on site and formed the north facing side of a trench dug by the developers to examine the foundations of an upstanding wall.

The section shows a similar stratigraphy to that noted elsewhere, with modern layers, 155, sealing a dark soil, 156 (equivalent to 103 etc), and overlying an orange-brown subsoil, 157 (equivalent to 128/129 etc).

TRENCH 6 : PIT 159 (fig 3)

This trench was observed within one of the buildings to be retained on site. The dark conditions inside this building meant that this trench could not be satisfactorily recorded, but it is probable that the upper fill of a large pit was exposed beneath modern deposits and a layer equivalent to 103 *et al.* The fill of this postulated feature appeared similar to that described for pit 123. The limited excavation of this that was possible recovered a considerable quantity of bone, several sherds of pottery, (possibly of 2nd century date), some Roman tile, and a small lump of fuel ash slag.

Discussion

The archaeological work recently undertaken at 46-50 High Street, Ewell, has identified features of Roman date sealed beneath a dark soil layer containing frequent finds which, save for a few pieces believed to be intrusive, are all of Roman or earlier date. This layer was overlain by a variable modern stratigraphy, which included a levelling layer of redeposited chalk lumps in the western part of the redevelopment area, and itself overlay an orangy-brown subsoil which only contained finds of prehistoric (probably Bronze Age) origin and was cut by the features of Roman and later date.

The Roman features were the earliest anomalies discovered on site and these consisted of a large pit of 1st-2nd century date (140), a deep feature of 3rd-4th century date which is believed to be a well (123), two further pits of non-specific Roman date (148 and 159), and two pits which remain undated but seem likely to have been of Roman origin because of their stratigraphic location (119 and 154). In addition to these features the stoney layer 124/125 was clearly deposited during the Roman period, though exactly when remains uncertain. The layer clearly sealed pits 140 and 148, the former being securely dated and the latter perhaps most probably belonging to the earlier part of the Roman period because of this relationship, so a 2nd-4th century date is most likely and is supported by the finds recovered. It was initially thought possible that this layer may have been deposited as part of a trackway or other 'surface'; however, as it was only discovered in Trenches 1 and 2, it now seems more likely that it was deliberately dumped over the top of pits 140 and 148, probably to counteract subsidence, and sank into these features (creating surface hollows) as the fills of each settled.

Due to the small size of the excavation little can be said about the overall significance of these features, but they do at least indicate that this part of Ewell was being used at different times throughout the Roman period. The finds recovered from these features consist of frequent pottery sherds, enough Roman brick and tile to indicate the presence of at least one substantial building in the near vicinity, bone, various small finds (including four copper alloy coins), and a quantity of slag which indicates that smithying was taking place nearby.

The remaining features discovered on site all appeared to be of post medieval date. The only one of these to be sampled by excavation was 116 which was by far the largest and may have been a well. Ideally it would have been desirable to continue the excavation of this feature until a more secure date for it had been established for it than that simply indicated by the presence of post medieval brick, but this was not a practical option because of its depth and the circumstances surrounding the excavation. It is interesting to note that the only medieval find recovered from the site was a sherd of 13th or 14th century pottery present residually in the fill of this feature. This virtual absence of medieval material was something of a surprise.

No further interpretation is possible on the basis of the limited excavation work undertaken at 46-50 High Street Ewell. There is little doubt that additional features and more information would have been forthcoming from a more widespread excavation of the site area (which should be remembered if the site or areas adjacent to it are the subject of further redevelopment work in the future), but there was no scope or need to extend the excavation area in this case and the trenches examined provide a reasonable sample of the ground actually threatened by this redevelopment.

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THE ROMAN POTTERY by *Suzanne Huson*

INTRODUCTION

Excavations at 46-50 High Street, Ewell produced a small but interesting assemblage of Roman pottery dating from the 1st-4th centuries AD. The majority of which consisted of large, unabraded sherds with a high proportion of rimsherds, suggesting that the material was mostly recovered from contexts of primary deposition.

The total site assemblage was 673 sherds, c13kg and c12 Eves, features of later date, mid 3rd to 4th C, dominate the site and account for 71% of the whole collection. The earlier material includes one pit 140 of 1st-2nd C date which is published below, along with a large later pit 123, dated mid 3rd-4th C. These two groups allow a cursory examination of the nature of, and changes in, the Roman pottery found on the site.

METHODOLOGY

All sherds were allocated to a ware or fabric group and are listed below, with references where they are well known and a description where the attribution is problematic. They were then counted, weighed and measured for an Eve (estimated vessel equivalent, see Orton 1980, 00) within each fabric/ware group. The material was then grouped into early features, 1st-early 3rd C, later ones, mid 3rd-4th C and unstratified or residual pottery in post-Roman contexts. All rimsherds were drawn for the site archive, but only the material from early pit 140 and the late pit 123 were drawn for publication along with a selection of more unusual or uncommon types from other contexts.

FABRICS/WARE TYPES

Alice Holt/Farnham greywares: 481 sherds; 7290g; 8.49 Eves

A range of fabrics from the early and late industries were recovered from the site, all fully discussed in Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 18. All the form types from this industry referred to in this report will be preceded by the initials AH.

Grog-tempered ware: 14 sherds; 241g; 0.04 Eves

Brown surfaces with a grey core and a soapy feel. There is often some burnishing on the exterior. Tempered with frequent grog inclusions up to 3mm and sparse sand and iron minerals of 0.2-0.3mm. Possibly produced at the Alice Holt kilns (fabric G) see Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 18.

Shell-tempered ware: 11 sherds; 275g; 0.18 Eves

Brown-grey surfaces with a grey core. It contained frequent crushed shell plates up to 2.5mm long and sparse quartz sand and iron minerals of 0.1-0.2mm, which are probably in the clay body rather than an added temper. Sparse muscovite mica flakes are visible on the surface.

Coarse Brown sandy ware: 1 sherd; 127g; 0.08 Eves

A brown fabric with a pale grey surface (possibly self-slipped). Quartz sand inclusions occur in moderate amounts at 1mm and sparsely at <1mm. There are sparse iron mineral inclusions of 0.3mm and sparse to moderate amounts of chalk up to 5mm.

Possibly the same sand fabric as the AH Class 9 hand-made storage jars occur in (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 33).

Verulamium region white ware: 11 sherds; 351g; 0.45 Eves

Dressel 20 Amphora: 53 sherds; 3797g; 0.11 Eves

All amphorae sherds recovered from the site were of this South Spanish olive oil ware type, discussed in Peacock and Williams 1986, 136-140.

Fine Grey: 6 sherds; 22g; 0 Eves

A pale grey fabric with few inclusions but sparse amounts of quartz sand and iron minerals of 0.1-0.2mm do occur.

Fine grey and ?gypsum: 5 sherds; 30g; 0.09 Eves

A pale grey fabric with frequent amounts of white quartz sand of 0.2-0.3mm, rare iron minerals of 0.1-0.2mm, some muscovite mica flakes and moderate quantities of possibly gypsum (or some other white mineral that is non-reactive with HCl acid), up to 2mm in size.

Oxidised wares:

These divide into a coarser (Oxidised) and a finer (Fine oxidised) component, although there is some variation in the frequency of the tempering in each fabric type.

Oxidised: 37 sherds; 343g; 1.3 Eves

An orange to dark orange body containing moderate amounts of quartz sand up to 0.5mm and sparse iron minerals of 0.1mm. Some sherds have moderate quantities of muscovite mica flakes up to 0/1mm long, whilst others have more frequent amounts of quartz sand, which is in a much more uniform size range of 0.1-0.2mm and is well rounded and sorted. Surface treatments include a white slip, burnishing, and less frequently, a mica slip.

Fine oxidised: 13 sherds; 80g; 0.12 Eves

An orange-cream body with little visible tempering, although there are sparse iron minerals and rare quartz sand grains of 0.1-0.2mm. Surface treatments include white slip, mica-slip and barbotine dots.

Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware: 2 sherds; 21g; 0.08 Eves

The fabric is described in Young 1977, 123.

Oxfordshire white ware: 1 sherd; 169g; 0.08 Eves

See Young 1977, 56.

Cologne colour-coated ware: 2 sherds; 6g; 0 Eves

Nene Valley colour-coated ware: 3 sherds; 12g; 0.07 Eves

Colchester type colour-coated ware: 1 sherd; 2g; 0 Eves

Samian: 32 sherds; 188g; 0.23 Eves

FORMS

The assemblage is composed of a limited variety of forms, as discussed below. The Alice Holt forms were allocated to their individual type number for the purpose of dating the collection (full details in the site archive), but here are only discussed by their general class for the sake of brevity, except where a type is unusual or very uncommon. As many of the forms were found in the two published pit groups, only one example of each different type is published within these groups. A selection of different types from other contexts were chosen to complement these.

Jars

The early Roman (mid 1st-early 3rd C) material from site is dominated by cordoned (AH Class 1) jars, and everted rimmed jars (AH Class 3B), in the Alice Holt grey wares. In addition there are two flat-rimmed jars (AH Class 3A) and two bead-rimmed jars (AH Class 4). In addition there are two large storage jars, one with an everted rim in Coarse Brown Sandy ware and a bead rimmed jar in Shell-tempered fabric. There is a single jar in Verulamium White ware.

Only two late cordoned jars are found on the site, both AH 1.32 and both from the late pit 123. About half of all the everted rimmed jars from the site are from the late Alice Holt industry. However, during the late period flat and bead rimmed jars are replaced by hook-rimmed jars and a single example of a necked jar. Other late jars occur in Grog-tempered fabric.

Bowls/Dishes

These form a large proportion of all the AH vessels represented by rimsherds 38%, compared with 55% jars. The early assemblage is a combination of Surrey bowls (AH Class 5), and flat and triangular rimmed dishes (AH Class 5A). The straight-sided or 'dog' dish form AH Class 6A, straddles the two periods, the types on site being dated 180-270 AD. The later material consists solely of flanged bowls of AH Class 5B type.

Other forms

The Alice Holt material has examples of a butt-beaker of early date (AH Class 3) and a late flagon (AH Class 8), as well as three lids of AH Class 7 types. The other wares yield two Verulamium white ware mortaria with bead and flanged rims dated 100-140 AD, and a late Oxford white ware mortarium (Young type M17) with an upstanding rim and hooked flange, dated 240-300 AD. Amongst the coarse oxidised fabrics are two bowls and three flagons, one of which is ring-necked and two with pulley necks. Beakers are represented by body and rim sherds in Nene Valley colour-coated ware, Fine oxidised and Fine grey/gypsum fabrics.

THE PHASED GROUPS

Early (mid 1st-early 3rd C): 91 sherds; 1516g; 1.96% Eves

The early material is dominated by the local products of the early Alice Holt/Farnham kilns, mostly in cordoned and everted rimmed jars, with some early Surrey bowls. Regional trade was already taking place in Ewell from an early date as indicated by the presence of Verulamium white, and Colchester colour-coated wares, and internationally traded products were reaching the site, such as the Samian, Cologne colour-coated ware and Dr 20 amphorae from South Spain.

The early assemblage contains a single pit 140 (contexts 130, 134, 138 and 139), which, from the unabraded nature of the sherds, would seem to be of primary

deposition. It contains mostly grey wares and Verulamium products with some amphorae sherds. The fine wares are represented by Fine oxidised and Samian sherds.

Late (mid 3rd-early 4thC): 484 sherds; 10053g; 7.66% Eves

A small proportion of the late assemblage is comprised of earlier wares and forms, which are residual in later features. These are the Verulamium white wares, amphorae, Oxidised and Samian wares. The majority of the grey wares are from the later Alice Holt industry and the late fine ware imports include the Oxford Red and White wares and the Nene Valley colour-coats.

The late material is dominated by a single pit 123 (A-F). Very little of this material is residual, mostly the traded wares Samian and Dr 20 amphorae. The grey wares are dominated by late Alice Holt forms, the everted and hook-rimmed jars, there being only five early types amongst the material. These can be accounted for by the digging of this late feature through earlier deposits. The late sherds are large and unabraded and the feature would seem to be of primary deposition.

DISCUSSION

It is difficult to be too specific about the nature of Roman Ewell from such a small collection of pottery. It can be seen that occupation began at the site not long after the conquest (mid 1st C onwards) and continued through to the late 3rd/early 4th C.

The lack of early dated features suggests that the main period of occupation of this area of Ewell was the 3rd and 4th centuries, but this could be a product of the small area of the excavation. The character of the assemblage throughout both phases is domestic settlement in nature, with a high proportion of bowls (38%), indicating material from table as well as food preparation/storage.

Roman Ewell would seem to have had enough status to attract traded fine wares from its inception, which suggests the influence of Roman settlers rather than just the romanisation of the natives. Its situation on the river Wey and along the Roman road of Stane Street, would provide accessible trade routes, and the passage of such traffic may account for the settlement at this site.

SMALL FINDS AND BUILDING MATERIALS REPORT *by Suzanne Huson*

WORKED FLINT

61 humanly struck flints were recovered from the site (see Table 1), only two of which are tools, an awl (context 117) and a scraper (context 108B). The collection is generally poor and undiagnostic, but most pieces probably date to the Bronze Age.

COINS *by Peter Guest PhD*

Copper alloy

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Penny of George III, dated 1807 | (101) |
| 2 | Radiate of Victorinus, dated 268-270 | (103) |
| 3 | Coin of Arcadius, dated 388-402 | (103) |
| 4 | As of Faustina II, dated 161-180 | (108B) |
| 5 | Coin of Valentinian I, dated 364-375 | (123A) |

DRESS ACCESSORIES

Copper alloy

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| 6 | Belt fitting
Flat, thin cast plate, which widens to one end and this wider end has 4 studs along its length. The tapering end is plain.
L. 39mm; W. (max) 54mm; Th. 1mm | (108A) |
| 7 | ? Belt fitting fragment
Triangular strip of sheet with a rivet in one corner and broken along the opposing side. Quite corroded.
L. 15mm; W. (max) 19mm; Th. 1mm | (123D) |

Bone

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| 8 | Pin, Crummy type 3C.
Roughly spherical head with a semi-circular lower half and slightly conical upper half. The shank is slightly thickened in the centre.
L. 78mm; D. 3mm
2nd - 4th century
(cf Crummy 1983, 21 no 288) | (123F) |
| 9 | Pin, Crummy type 3D
Hemispherical head with the shank slightly thickened in the centre
L. 79mm; D. 4mm
2nd - 4th century
(cf Crummy 1983, 21 no 309) | (123F) |

EQUIPMENT

Copper alloy

- 10 Handle, ? from knife
Circular in section, tapering to the junction with the iron ?blade, where it is now broken. Circular collar at the junction.
L. 63mm; D. 8mm (108A)
- 11 ? Spatula
Tang of circular section, tapering to the end, where there is a flat, stepped down blade/dish of rectangular section.
L. 76mm, D. 5mm, W. 8mm, Th. 2mm
1st century
(cf Goodburn 1984, 58 no 216)
(123F)

Stone

- 12 Whetstone fragment
Fine grained, mica sandstone.
L. 35mm; W. 26mm; th. 14mm (103)
- 13 Quernstone fragment
? Upper stone with tooled grinding surface.
175g; Th. 36mm (123E)

MISCELLANEOUS

Copper alloy

- 14-15 Two unidentifiable strip fragments.
(full details in site archive) (118; 123B)

Iron

- 16-18 Three badly corroded and unidentifiable fragments.
(full details in site archive) (108A; 123F; 125)

STRUCTURAL FINDS

Iron

- 19 Hook
Strip bent at one end to form a hook with a rounded end. Broken at the other end. ? Structural.
L. 157mm; W. 37mm, Th. 5mm (108B)

20-32 Nails

Publ. No.	Context	Shank frags	Type 1b	Type 5
20	103	0	1	0
21-23	108A	0	2	1
24	117	0	1	0
25	118	1	0	0
26-27	123A	0	2	0
28	123B	0	1	0

29	123E	0	1	0
30-31	123F	2	0	0
32	125	0	1	0

Table 2: Nail types by context (for typology see Manning 1985, 134)

Window Glass

33 Small fragment.
Medieval

(103)

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table 3 gives the weights for the various types of building materials, both Roman and medieval/post-medieval that were recovered on site. Although the absolute quantities are relatively small (c10.6kg of Roman and c2kg medieval/post-medieval), a full range of Roman tile types are represented which includes tegulae, imbrex, floor and box flue tiles. These probably originate from a building of some status, particularly the box flue tiles which represent a quite sophisticated heating system.

The medieval/post-medieval material is a mix of peg-hole roof tiles and brick, both of which are standard types. A single block of Purbeck marble in a trefoil shape and probably originating from an engaged column is also of medieval date. In addition 960g of stone which may or may not have been used for building purposes was kept (see archive for details).

SLAG

Context	weight (g)	comments
123A	192	slag and hearth lining
123D	9	hearth lining
123F	8	hearth lining
130	42	?slag
159	50	clinker

Table 4: Slag weights by context

DISCUSSION

The finds from 46-50 High Street, Ewell are of some quantity and quality, especially for such a small excavation area. The worked flints are of the earliest date being probably Bronze Age, but only two are tools, the remainder being waste flakes.

The small finds of Roman date divide into four basic groups; dress accessories such as belt fitting and hair pins; personal equipment which includes ?toilet articles like the spatula, as well as domestic equipment such as the whetstone and quern; the slag which is indicative of iron smithying processes on or near the site; and structural finds, mainly nails. These latter combine with the ceramic building materials to indicate some substantial building(s), particularly of Roman date, at or near the site.

Only the window glass can be attributed to medieval date amongst the small finds, although it is possible that some of the iron nails may also belong here (the types for each of the two periods are very similar and can only really be differentiated by context). Along with the medieval/post-medieval tile and brick these finds hold no surprises on a medieval town site.

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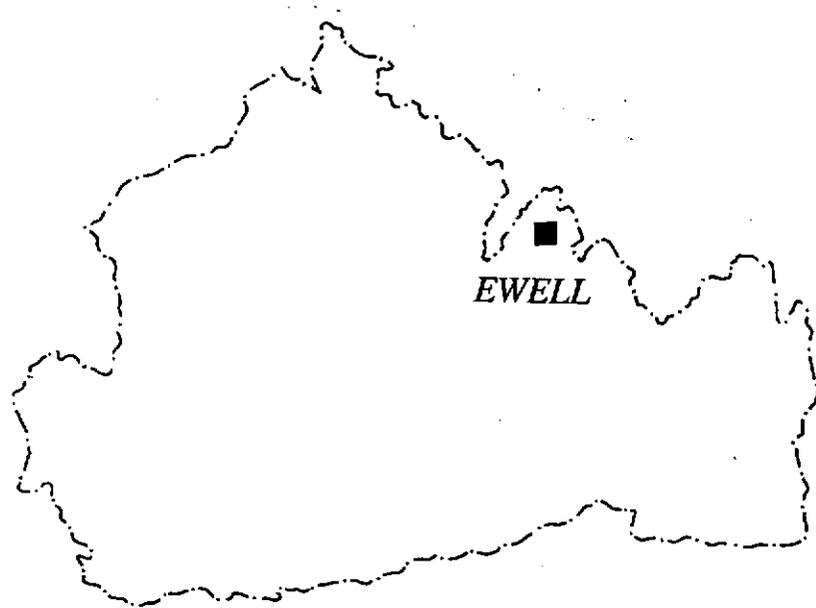


fig. 1 46 - 50 High Street, Ewell: Location of Ewell within Surrey.

1094	Romano-British remains	2556	Flints
1129	Roman U-shaped boundary ditch	2557	Iron Age (A) sherds
1130	Roman buildings (site of)	2574	Mesolithic flint scatter
1141	Roman coins	2577	Mesolithic flint scatter
1148	Roman rubbish pits, 1st/2nd century brooch	3054	Late Neolithic discoidal knife
1149	Roman coin and pottery, Mesolithic flints	3056	Roman settlement
1159	Romano-British pottery	3057	Roman building
1164	Romano-British pottery	3058	Romano-British material
2536	Mesolithic flints	3059	Romano-British sherds
2537	Late Iron Age sherds	3616	Mesolithic flint implements
2538	Roman pottery	3817	Anglo-Saxon burial
2550	Mesolithic flints	3829	Roman pottery (4th century)
2551	18th century sandpit	3830	Prehistoric calcined flint-gritted sherd

fig. 1a 46 - 50 High Street, Ewell: Archaeological discoveries in the vicinity of the development, as shown on fig. 2

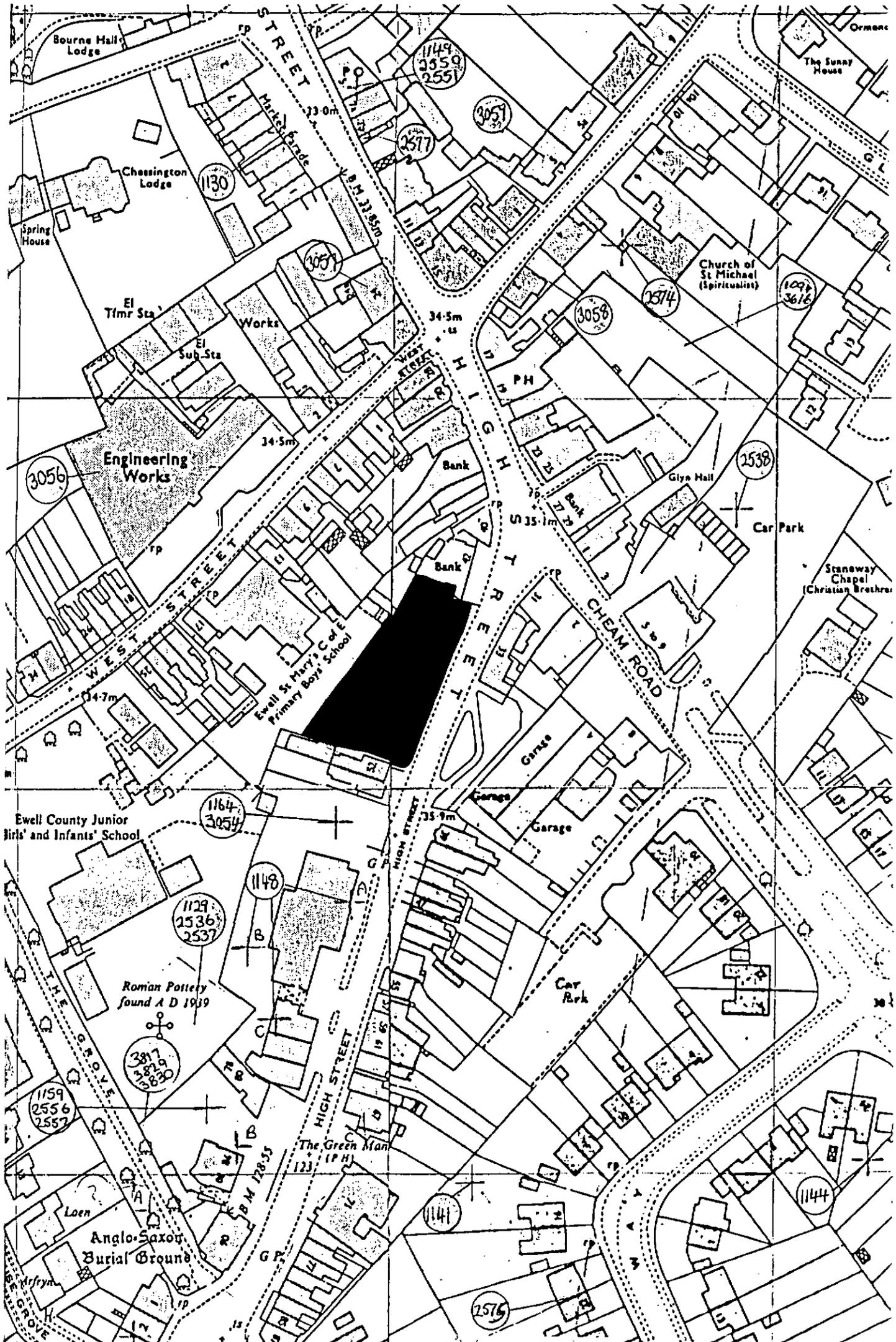


fig. 2 46 - 50 High Street, Ewell: An extract from the 1:1250 Sites and Monuments Record map locating the site area within Ewell and showing the positions of known

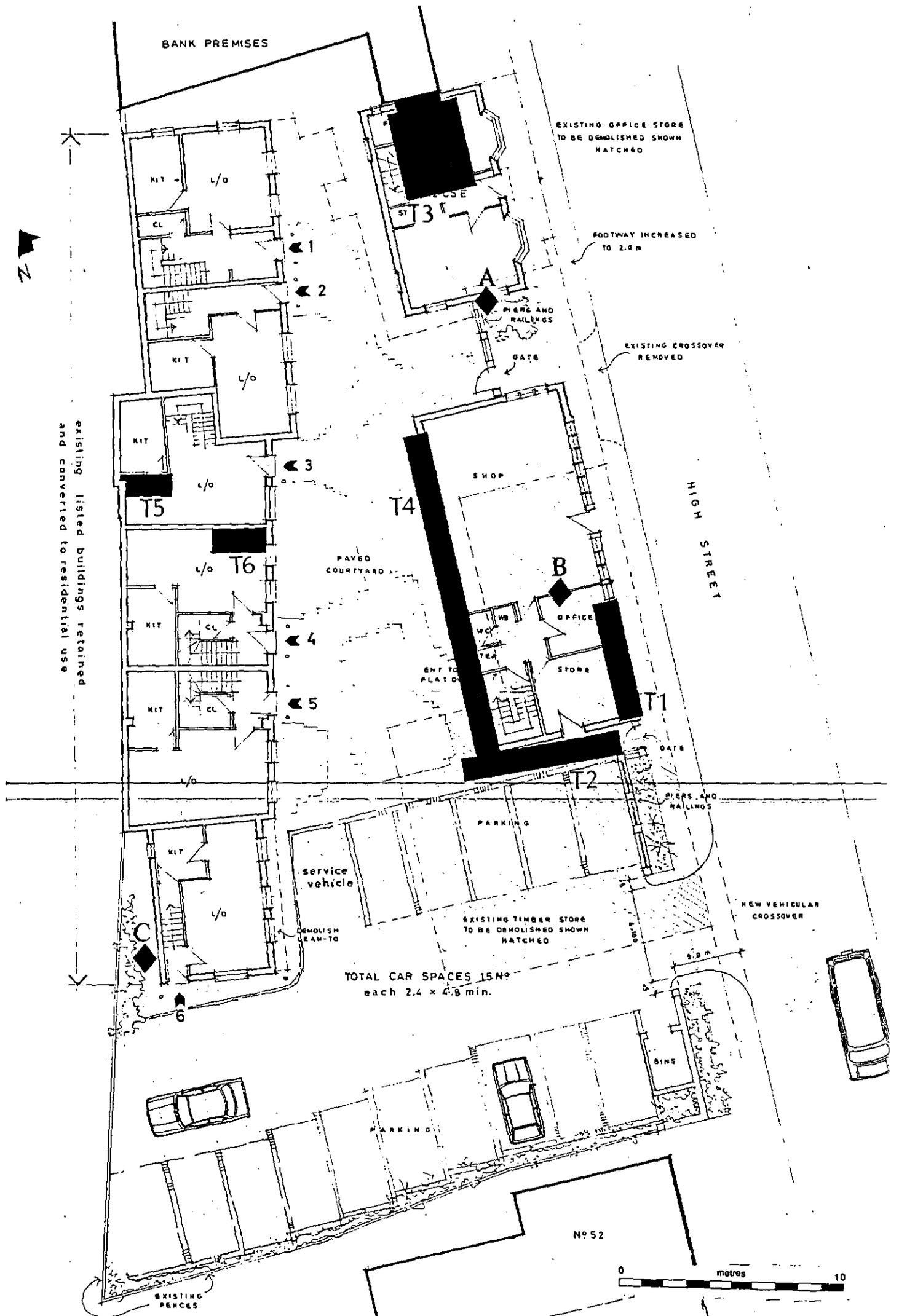
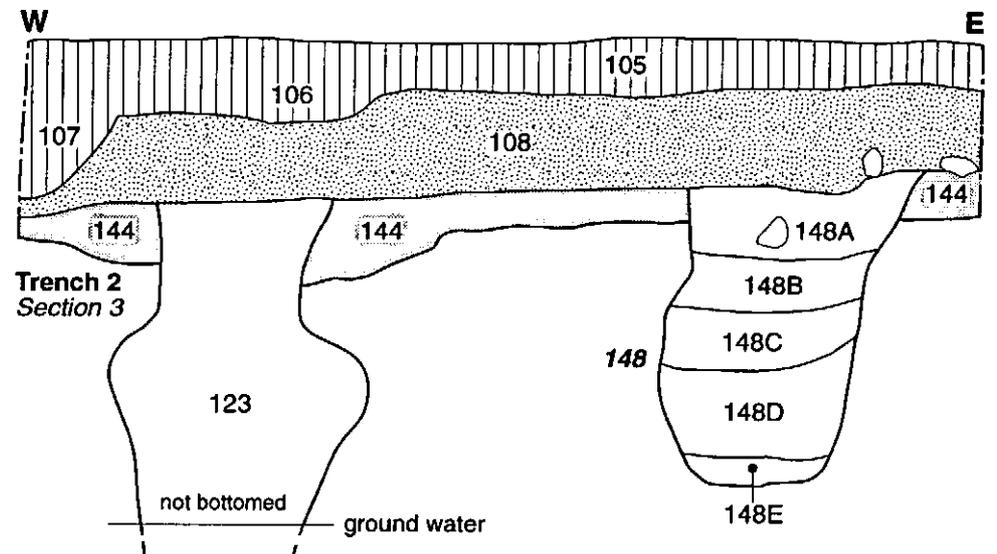
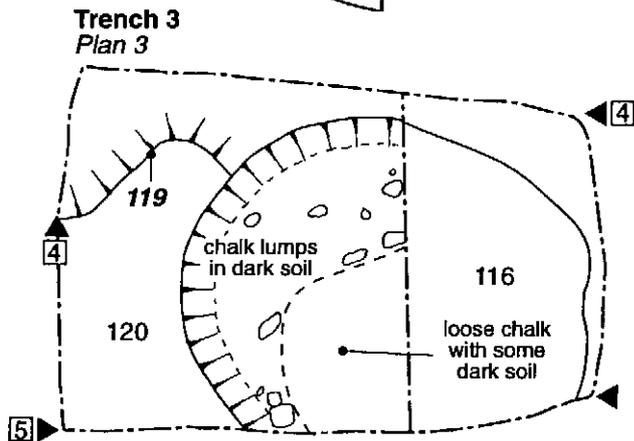
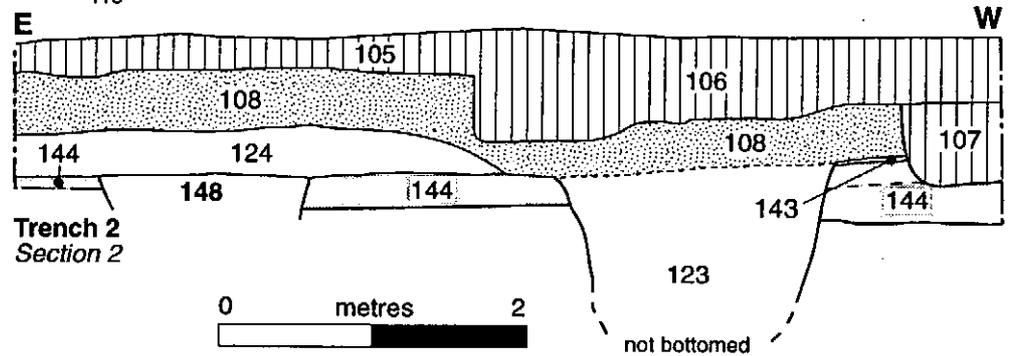
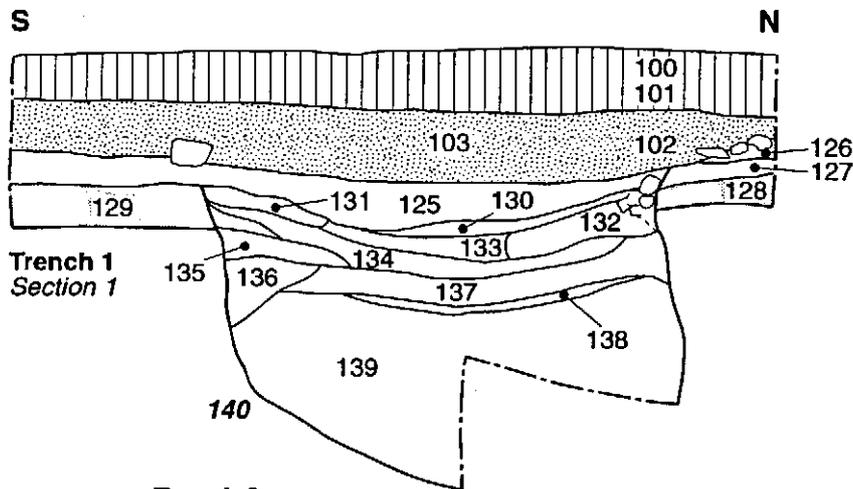
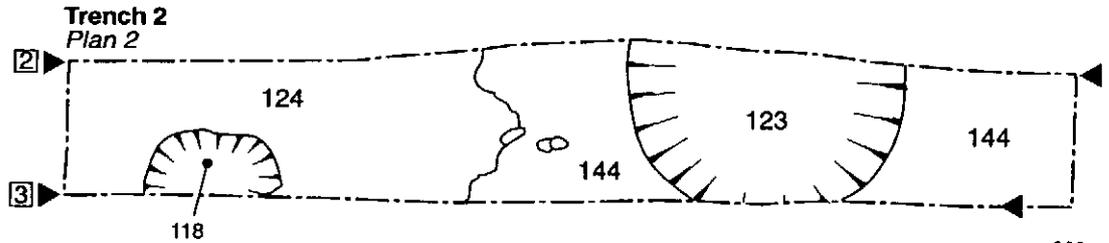
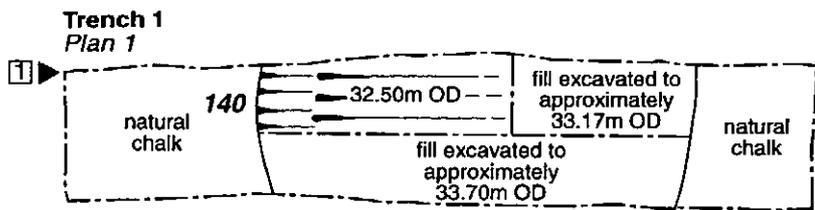


fig. 3 46 - 50 High Street, Ewell: The location of excavation and observation



-  modern deposits removed by machine
-  dark soil containing finds mainly of Roman date and sealing Roman features
-  orange/brown subsoil containing struck flint and cut by features of Roman date

fig. 4 46 - 50 High Street, Ewell. Plans 1-3 and sections 1-3

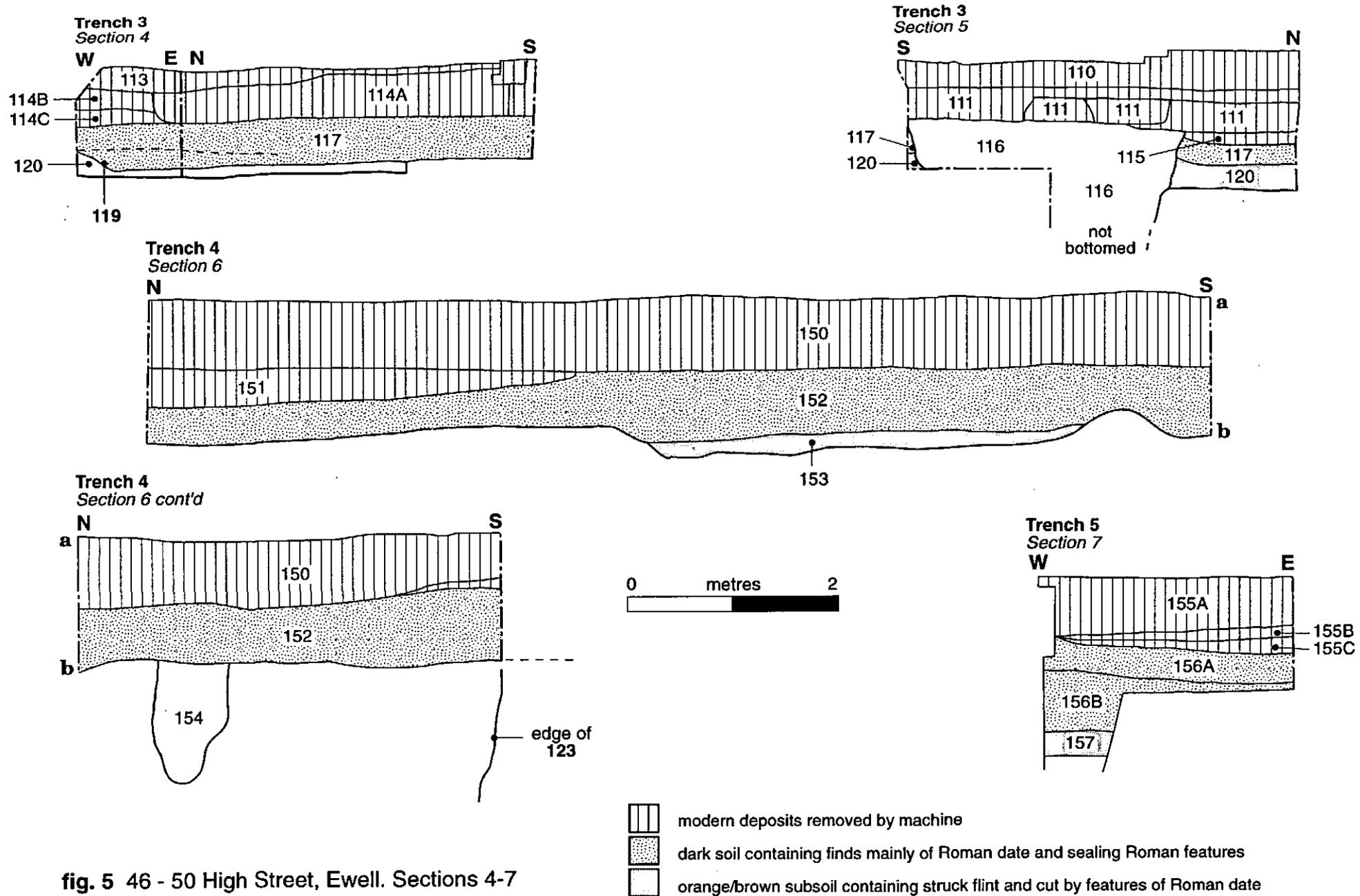


fig. 5 46 - 50 High Street, Ewell. Sections 4-7

PHASE	CONTEXT	FLAKES	RET FL	BLADES	TOOLS	OTHER	TOTAL
	108A	1					1
	108B	1	1		1		3
	117	5			1	1	7
	120	14	1	5			20
	121	1					1
	123A			1			1
	123B	4		2		10	16
	123C	3				1	4
	123E	1	1	1		2	5
	124	1					1
	128	4	3	3			10
	129	3		1			4
	139	2					2
TOTAL		40	6	13	2	14	75

Table 1 High Street, Ewell: Types of struck flint by context

PHASE	CONTEXT	TEGULA	PAVING	IMBREX	FLUE	R MISC	DAUB	MORTAR	M/PM TILE	PM BRICK
	101								38	51
	103	226		110	26					
	104	429								
	108A		135			75				
	108B									
	108B/123	180	174							
	109		750							
	116								1121	560
	117	68								
	118					35				
	123A	1290		33			29			
	123B	837			359					
	123C	457		75	109		21	27		
	123D	1037		589			49	11		
	123E	486	207	56		57	58			
	123F	1707								
	124	81		112						
	125		467			25				
	130					12				
	159	145								
	160	422								
TOTAL		7365	1733	975	494	204	157	38	1159	611

Table 2 High Street, Ewell: Building material types by context (weight in grammes)