

Notes

FARNHAM: M. B. A. PALSTAVE. Mr Ashton Booth, curator of the Farnham Museum, has reported an M.B.A. palstave (Fig. 1), found during agricultural operations in October, 1972, on Mr Tice's farm at Runfold (SU 8695 4829). Mr Booth considers that the palstave belongs to M.A. Smith's 'low-flanged' category¹ and comments that it is interesting to note that it is practically a borderline example, presumably indicating western influence on a South-eastern type, which one might expect on the borders of Hampshire and Surrey. The palstave is on permanent display at the Farnham Museum (acquisition No. 154-72) and the circumstances of the discovery have been related by Mr Booth in the *Farnham Museum Society Quarterly Newsletter*² together with an interesting speculation that the irregular outline of nearby field boundaries evident on the Tithe Award Map suggest that there there may have been a Bronze Age farmstead comparable to that on Horridge Common Dartmoor.

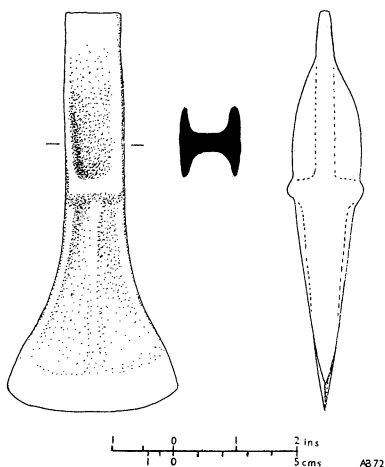


Fig. 1. Middle Bronze Age Palstave from Runfold.

NOTES

1. *P.P.S.*, XXV (1959), 144-87.
2. *Farnham Museum Quarterly Newsletter*, III, 4 (December 1972).

D. J. TURNER

STANE STREET (CHICHESTER—LONDON): THE THIRD MANSIO. The physical remains demonstrate conclusively the locations of the mansiones at Hardham (Pulborough) and Alfoldean (Slinfold). The absence of such

evidence for the third and fourth mansiones on Stane Street which would have serviced the last three stages on the military route from Chichester to London has led to much conjecture but remarkably little controversy. So far as the fourth mansio is concerned the claims of Ewell as opposed to Merton have recently¹ been urged with plausible logic but inadequate evidence and that would have implications, though not definitive, for the siting of the third. As regards that Hilaire Belloc, in *The Stane Street* (1913), evaluated the probabilities and decided that the third mansio was sited south of the west end of the High Street in Dorking near the Pipp Brook. Subsequent writers and archaeologists have either endorsed or acquiesced in his conclusions. Yet common sense would insist, as Belloc recognized, that a site on the River Mole at Burford Bridge would have been more likely. The conjectural arguments that favour a site at Dorking rest largely on the unexplained absence of any vestiges of earthworks in the vicinity of the Mole. In Dorking this particular weakness has been dismissed on the grounds that the continuity of human occupation could have erased the vallation in successive building processes. An important point supporting the Burford Bridge location lies in the evidence of the place-name itself and the weakness of Dorking in this respect. This appears to have been neglected by Belloc and others who have investigated the course and archaeology of this important Roman road.

In planning the route from Chichester to London it is certain that the Roman surveyors would have sought to locate the four mansiones according to certain basic criteria. They would need to have been as near equidistant (except for the first or final stage to which special considerations might apply) as possible within the range of five daily marches of 12-14 miles (modern distances—a Roman mile was equivalent to 1,620 yards). The exact distance would depend on the terrain, the physical suitability of the ground at the proposed site and, importantly, the proximity of water for domestic use at the station and, secondarily, defence and communications. A coherent and credible plan would thus have postulated a sequence of overnight camps based on the pattern Rother/Arun (Hardham)—Arun (Alfoldean)—Mole (Burford Bridge)—Wandle (Merton). A site for the third mansio at Dorking by the Pipp Brook would not have satisfied these criteria nearly as well as Burford Bridge unless there was some significant factor behind the preference which so far as present knowledge is concerned is hardly within the realm of conjecture. But Hilaire Belloc, with characteristic assurance, asserts that 'the conclusion is forced upon us' that the third mansio must have been 'within the limits of Dorking itself'. 'Such a site', he wrote, 'would account for the disappearance of the Vallum'. W. A. Grant who in *The Topography of Stane Street* (1922) severely criticised Belloc's alignments nevertheless notes that he placed the site 'quite rightly, I think, in the middle of Dorking'. The archaeologists, S. E. Winbolt and I. D. Margary, also accepted this reasoning. Winbolt wrote in *With a Spade on Stane Street* (1936),

Actual remains of a Roman station at Dorking do not appear ever to have been observed; its most probable site has long been built over.

Mr Belloc has argued very cogently for a position athwart South Street and south of West Street, and personally I accept something like this.

I. D. Margary observed in his *Roman Ways in the Weald* (1965) that the third posting station had been placed at Dorking 'on the grounds of general probability as to distances, a suitable site, and the absence of alternative finds elsewhere'.

Let us examine these criteria more closely. I have adumbrated above the view that on general probability a site on the Mole would have deserved priority. That river would have afforded much better facilities than the Pipp Brook which is, and presumably was, no more than a stream. As to distances, S. E. Winbolt tabulates them as in the column below. I have indicated the alternatives for a site at Burford Bridge in the second column.

Chichester—Hardham	13m. 43yds.	
Hardham—Alfoldean	11m. 1160yds.	
Alfoldean—Dorking	11m. 620yds.	— Burford Bridge 12m. 1740yds.
Dorking—Merton	14m. 1410yds.	— B. B. —Merton 13m. 290yds.
Merton—London	7m. 660yds.	
Bridge		

It will be seen that from this aspect Burford Bridge merits preference. I would observe also that Burford Bridge and its immediate vicinity was already an established focus of communication in that it was there that the North Downs Ridgeway, one of the most important prehistoric routes in England, made its passage of the Mole. And it should be remarked too that in comparison with Alfoldean and Hardham the putative site in Dorking has yielded virtually no recorded archaeological material of the Roman period despite the use and re-use of the land. Apart from a few scattered Roman coins this is true also of the general vicinity of Burford Bridge where the land, although exposed to the plough, has never been excavated to the same extent for building purposes.

But it is to the evidence of philology that I wish to invite attention. Since Belloc's day the significance of place-name nomenclature has been more fully appreciated and its value in chronology and historical interpretation acknowledged. There can be no doubt that 'Burford', which is noted from the thirteenth century and was certainly of earlier provenance, can be interpreted as 'the ford by the fort'. In the Place-Names of Surrey it is suggested that the attribution of the element 'bur(gh)' may have been allusive to a burgh at Norbury (Mickleham). It is also possible that the Anglo-Saxons who probably named the crossing did so in reference to a stronghold then existing on the river or to the remains of a Roman camp at Dorking (more than a mile distant and early place-names were strictly local) which they apparently developed as a settlement of 'Deorc's people'. More likely it would refer to an encampment at the ford itself or nearby and that could well have been of Roman origin and still visible to the Anglo-Saxons who after all conferred the name on Stane (Stone) Street itself as a physical feature of the Weald.

We must surely conclude that Dorking has been too readily accepted as the site of the third mansio and Burford Bridge too lightly rejected in the absence of site evidence, when on other grounds the arguments tend to favour that location. There must have been a third mansio and it must have been situated on Stane Street in the vicinity of Dorking and Box Hill. Its location is still an open question and there are, in my view, inadequate grounds for preferring Dorking to a site by the Mole near Burford Bridge the name of which is significant and demands attention. The spade must eventually settle this question; nothing else will suffice. Meanwhile should we not take an even more tentative view than that which has prevailed since Belloc first inscribed Stane Street in topographical literature?

NOTE

1. *London Archaeologist*, I, No. 4 (August 1969).

KENNETH NEALE

A DECORATED LID FRAGMENT FROM THE ALICE HOLT ROMAN POTTERIES. The report on the excavation of a kiln mound (Site B) in the Alice Holt published in *Surrey A.C.*, LX refers in Appendix B to a perforated object conjectured to be a pottery skillet handle (Plate Va). A re-examination of material from this excavation in Farnham Museum revealed that this fragment joined with a rim illustrated in the same report as Fig. 4-47¹. The resultant piece was seen to be a segment from an openwork lid of unusual design. This was originally about 12 inches in diameter and hand-made in a coarse sandy poorly-reduced fabric. Its upper surface was polished and the underside rough. The lid's design was based on a flower motif with twelve radiating openwork petals framed by shallow grooving on its underside. Midway between each 'petal' were two perforations; an outer $\frac{3}{5}$ inch in diameter and an inner, smaller one $\frac{2}{5}$ inch in diameter. The nature of the heart of the design remains conjectural but the lid may have had a central hole².

This lid was probably from a cheese mould and the accompanying illustration (Fig. 2) shows the mould proper restored as a straight-sided dish with a perforated base to expel the whey³. Justification for this restoration lies in both the width of the seating on the underside of the lid, which is too narrow to take a more complex rim form, and contemporary cheese moulds from elsewhere⁴.

Columella writing in the first century states that cheese was made from goat's and ewe's milk. This was collected in pails and rennet from a lamb's or kid's stomach added to curdle it. Until the liquid thickened up it was kept warm and was then transferred to wicker vessels or moulds. The whey was expelled by the repeated application of weights alternating with the sprinkling of salt over the cheese.

The reference to wicker vessels is interesting when one comes to examine the trellis and similar patterns found on the interior surfaces of some

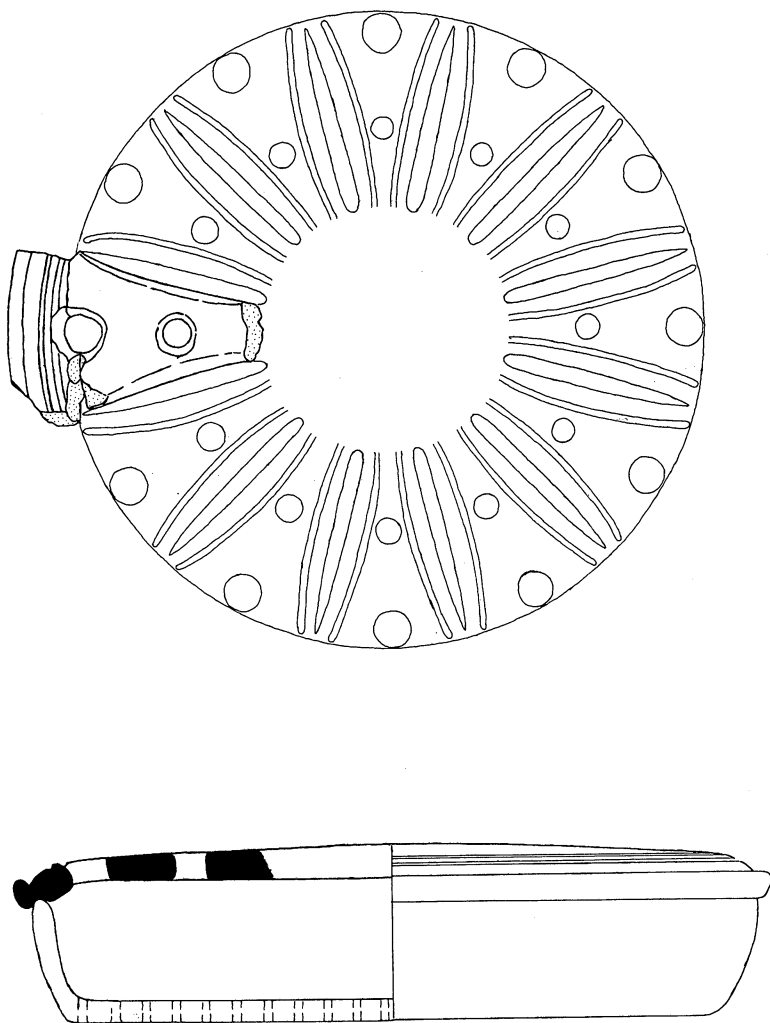


Fig. 2. *Top.* Reconstruction of lid design with surviving fragment superimposed.

Bottom. Section through lid and conjectured mould proper. ($\frac{1}{3}$)

straight-sided and convex-sided dishes from the Alice Holt potteries. The larger examples of such vessels could have been used as milk-curdling pans and cheese moulds. Their prototypes can be seen from such patterns to be wickerwork vessels, perhaps similar to those described by Columella and Varro. In the case of milk curdling pans the wickerwork frame was probably covered with hide to make the vessel non-porous.

Having said all this there remains the possibility that the lid belonged not to a cheese mould but to a beeswax one. Honey was the main sweetening agent known to the Roman world and the importance of beekeeping in the area served by the Alice Holt potteries is testified by the production of earthenware cable rimmed beehives in imitation of basketry originals by this centre. Beeswax was a valuable side product of the honey industry, being used for writing tablets, candles etc. Both Columella and Varro refer to it being separated from the honey and cast in moulds. Bearing in mind the origin of beeswax it would not be inappropriate to stamp the wax cakes with a flower motif.

NOTES

1. We wish to thank Mr Booth for the loan of the subject of this article from Farnham Museum.
2. An undecorated lid fragment with a slightly convex, smoothed upper surface and rough underside as in this piece, exists in the material presented by Major Wade to the British Museum in 1957. This has a central hole 1 inch in diameter.
3. Perforated bases associated with this type of vessel have so far not been encountered in the Alice Holt. This is perhaps not surprising in view of the comparative rarity of cheese moulds in the range of pottery types. Only one other small fragment of a lid similar to that described is known from the complex. It may be that their mould bases were not perforated; the whey being forced out through the openwork decoration in the lid. Such perforated bases as are known from the Alice Holt are from cooking pot type vessels which may have been used as simple colanders, honey strainers, or in the earlier stages of whey separation before the cheese was solid enough to be moulded.
4. *Aspects of the New Forest Late-Roman Pottery Industry* (C.B.A. Research Report 10), Figs 9-14.

M. A. B. LYNE and R. S. JEFFERIES

MEDIEVAL TILES FROM THE RIVER WANDLE AT MERTON. During the summer of 1971, the river Wandle at Liberty's Print Works, Merton, was dredged and members of the Merton Historical Society had the chance to examine the riverbank.

Along with some building stone, possibly coming from Merton Priory, were found two patterned medieval floor tiles.

These tiles were shown to Mrs E. Eames of the British Museum who supplied the following notes:-

The first tile shows an armed man with sword and shield. The second one is more puzzling, it could be part of a winged mythical creature. The designs are both fairly deeply impressed on the surface of the tiles, and the bottom of the depression is covered with light-firing slip, so that the design is in counter relief, picked out in yellow.

The fabric of both tiles is light red with a dark core not reaching the surface. The glaze is yellow. A date between 1250 and 1350 is suggested.

There are two other tiles which could probably belong to the same series. The first found during D. J. Turner's excavations near Merton Priory 1962-63; Tile No: 38. This is a small corner fragment from the bottom right corner of a tile, and shows a foot in a shoe and part of a leg.

A tracing of a tile in the possession of Mrs Eames, coming from Merton Priory, also undoubtedly belongs to the same series; this design is surrounded by the same border line. It shows a winged mythical creature with a bird's head, two lion's feet and a curled tail, but it is not the same creature which is on the newly-found tile.

The designs on the new tile are of a very high quality, but the method of applying them to the tile is not a first class one.

DAVID BROOKS

A SURREY DEED OF 1414 (*Surrey A.C.*, LXVIII (1971), 201), I am obliged to Miss J. M. Harries and Mr R. C. Gill for the following information:-

Westhall is not the place in Warlingham. It is in Mortlake and is an area of East Sheen. The manor of East Sheen and Westhall was a subordinate manor to Wimbledon. *Victoria County History, Surrey*, IV, 71 notes that Westhall is first mentioned in 1386 as being acquired by Robert de Dynely and his wife Margaret. In 1395 Margaret, as widow, conveyed her lands in East Sheen to James Dynely and these were sold by Robert Dynely in 1442-3. West Hall Road is a turning off Mortlake Road (now part of the South Circular) running north towards the river. On its west side is a late seventeenth or early eighteenth-century house known as West Hall and reputed to be the manor house.

The indexes to the *Surrey Archaeological Collection* (Vols I-LX) include references to a Wm. Brocas, of Peperharow, *fl.* 1400; Nich. Carew, of Beddington, *d.* 1432; John Weston, *fl.* 1431; William Weston, *fl.* 1447; John Wyntereshulle, *fl.* 1425; the last three all M.P.'s for the county in the years named.

In *Surrey A.C.*, LXVIII (1971), 201, line 13 of the Latin, for *feodorum* read *feodorum*; p. 202, line 17, for *and who said* read *and who is said*.

J. H. P. PAFFORD

MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM WATENDONE, KENLEY (Fig. 3). Excavation of what was arguably part of the site of the deserted medieval village of Watendone was carried out in 1966 by the Bourne Society in advance of building operations (Saaler, 1967). Part of a burial ground and an adjacent unicameral building were excavated. The building, which lay on an east-west axis, was considered by the excavator to have been the chapel which is reputed to have survived as a barn until *c.* 1780. West of this were found fragmentary traces of possible floors of hard-packed flints and an extensive chalk floor, probably a yard.

Stratification was poor and pottery finds only loosely associated with features. The medieval sherds appear to span the period from the twelfth century to *c.* 1350. The pottery is all typical of that found on medieval sites in north-west Surrey and no imported sherds have been recognised. Decoration is rare and all the pottery is likely to have been of local origin. The dating of the various pottery classes recognised is tentative as well-evidenced dated examples of medieval pottery are rare and are virtually non-existent in north-east Surrey or north-west Kent. The basis of much of the dating has been argued elsewhere by the writer (Turner, 1967 and 1970) and is not re-stated here except where additional comment seems needed.

Shell-filled ware

Two sherds of corky ware were found which appear related to the local shell-filled fabrics. These sherds are probably shell-filled ones from which the shell has leached out.

Forty sherds of pottery with shell filling varying from full to very slight, and with marked variations in colour and texture, were found. The majority of the filled sherds were found associated with a possible hearth outside the north-west corner of the chapel.

Most of the sherds of this class are grey bodied with pinky-brown surfaces and there is a definite gradation into the red-brown surfaced, grey sandy ware. It can be noted that many of the rim forms of the latter seem to be more archaic than most of those of the shell-filled pottery. A starting date for shell-filled wares in north-east Surrey has yet to be determined but there is evidence for a terminal date somewhere between 1250 and 1300. The flanged rims prevalent at Watendone suggest a date at the end of the sequence for most of the pottery—the internal bead, for example, does not appear on flanged rims at Eynsford (Rigold, 1971) until the fourteenth century.

From outside north-west corner of the chapel, 2-3 feet deep, near the possible hearth:

- 1* Plain everted rim of cooking pot. Corky ware with some shell and a little fine sand filling. Grey-black with grey-brown surface. Probably twelfth century.

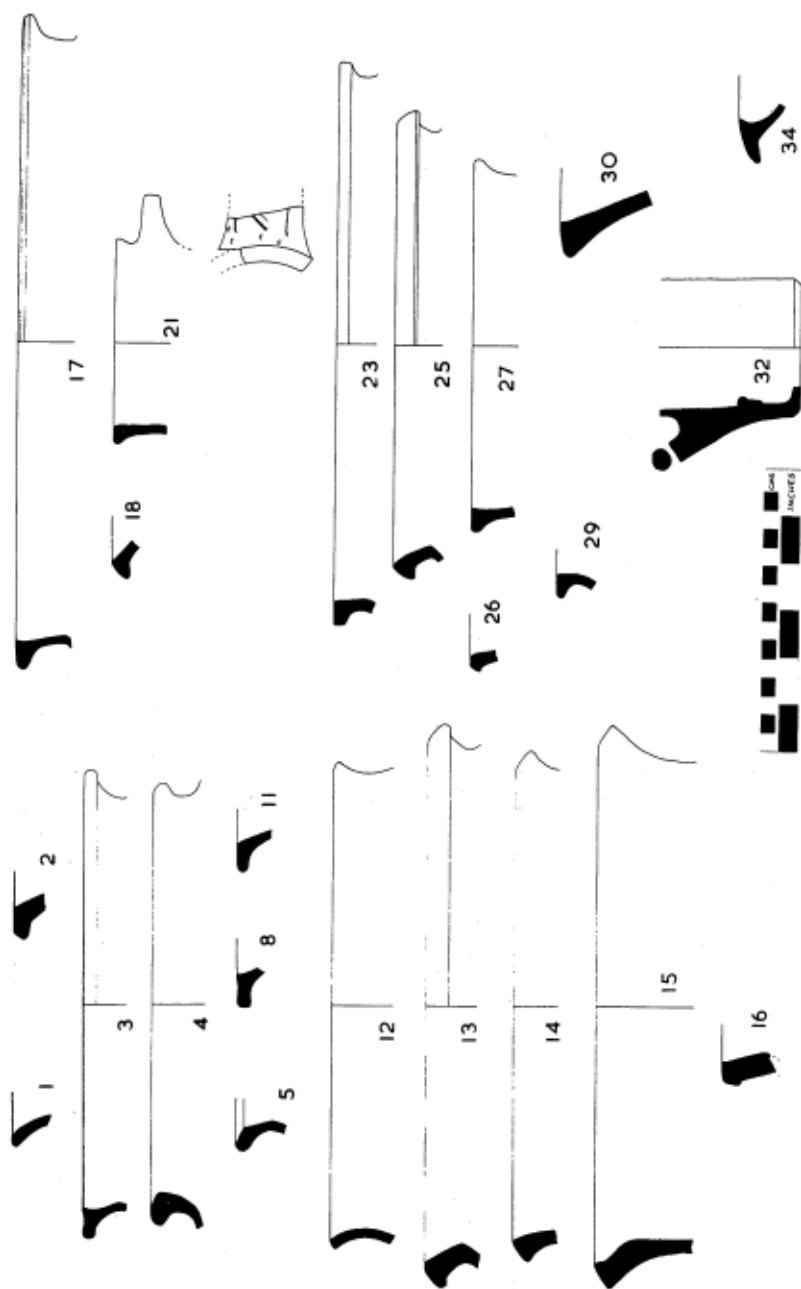


Fig. 3. Medieval pottery from Watendone, ($\times \frac{1}{3}$)

- 2* Rim of flattened, slightly flanged form. Grey ware, fully shell-filled.
- 3* Flanged rim with marked internal bead. Cooking pot of grey-brown ware with pink surface internally.
- 4* Rounded flanged rim. Cooking pot of grey ware with pink/brown surfaces.
- 5* Sloping flanged rim from cooking pot of grey ware with pink surfaces.
- 6 Similar rim to 3 but both surfaces pink.
- 7 Identically shaped rim to 3 but smaller. Grey ware with pink surfaces.
- 8* Flat flanged rim with incipient internal bead. Dish or bowl of grey-brown ware with pinkish surfaces.
- 9 Plain base angle (120°). Grey laminated ware, fully shell-filled.
- 10 Plain base angle (120°). Grey-brown ware with pink surfaces, sand and shell filling.

From the east end of the chapel:

- 11* Flat flanged rim from dish or bowl of grey ware with pinky-brown surfaces.

Red-brown surfaced, grey sandy ware

Well made and fired uniform ware with a distinctive margin and surface of bright red-brown or pinky-brown colour on a grey body. Fine sand filler and usually appreciably more filler than the similar fabric found in some cream-slipped jugs.

A tentative ascription to 1150-1300 might seem reasonable.

From west of chapel:

- 12* Slightly rounded everted rim from cooking pot.
- 13* Sherd of bead rim on sharply everted neck.

From outside north-west corner of the chapel, associated with the possible hearth:

- 14* Bevelled rim.
- 15* Everted and bevelled rim with slight internal beading.
- 16* Flattened bead rim on slightly everted neck.
- 17* Flat flanged rim on everted neck.
- 18* Rounded downturned triangular rim from dish or bowl. Slight shell filler.
- 19 Plain sherds from jugs with yellow/brown glaze on exterior with body showing through. Glaze thickest on neck.

20 Plain base angles (120-130°).

From elsewhere:

21* Upper handle and vessel junction and rim of jug. Strap handle with decorative stabbing and slashing and longitudinal grooves near the edges. From above the chalk floor.

22 Plain base angle (110°). From west of chalk floor.

Limpsfield ware

Well made and fired pottery, normally reduced, with a range of colours from pinky-buff or brown to grey. Fine sand filler. The ware, colours and rim forms are well paralleled by pottery from the well known but unpublished kiln dumps at Scearn Bank, Limpsfield Chart. The Watendone pottery of this type probably came from the Limpsfield area but the range at Watendone is almost completely restricted to plain cooking pots and bowls. The date for this pottery would seem to be in the region of 1250-1350.

From west of the chapel:

23* Squared-off flat-flanged rim with bevel underneath. From cooking pot.

24 Fragment of strap handle with single line of stabbing down centre.

From outside north-west corner of the chapel, associated with the possible hearth:

25* Rounded flanged rim from everted neck of cooking pot.

26* Squared bead rim (c.f. no. 16).

27* Rounded triangular rim.

28 Plain base angles (110°-120°)

From elsewhere:

29* Triangular rim on curved neck of cooking pot. From outside south-east corner of chapel.

30* Thickened rim from dish or bowl. From east end of chapel.

Decorated brown ware jug

31 Small sherd of pinky-brown ware with decoration of bands and blobs of white slip, possibly over red paint, with clear glaze overall. Typical decorated jug of type found widely in the London area (London Museum, 1954). Usually dated to 1250-1350.

Cream-slipped Jugs

Cream-slipped jugs are common in the area south of London and three different fabrics occur which may have significantly different geographical and temporal distribution (Turner, 1967) although all three wares fall in the century 1250-1350.

- 32* Lower handle and body junction, with base, of slender jug of brown-surfaced grey fabric with very slight sand filler (Merton fabric (a)). Rod handle, no glaze. Sherd shows perforation for dowel from handle. From above chalk floor.
- 33 Two joining sherds of plain base angle of grey reduced fabric (Merton Fabric (c)) with poor green-brown glaze. From outside north-west corner of chapel associated with the possible hearth.

Off-white sandy ware

From the Northolt evidence (Hurst, 1962, 273-4) this ware, which was produced at Kingston and possibly elsewhere in Surrey, should have a date range 1300-1400.

- 34* Hammerhead rim of dish or bowl. From chalk floor area.

Buff-surfaced sandy ware

A slightly later version of the foregoing, made at Cheam and possibly elsewhere. Probably runs from c. 1325 to c. 1475. A few body sherds only found at Watendone.

No pottery was found to bridge the gap between the buff-surfaced sandy ware and post-medieval (probably seventeenth century onwards) pottery found in the vicinity of the flint floors. Fifteenth-century forms and wares are absent and from the pottery evidence medieval occupation seems to have ceased about the middle of the fourteenth century.

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Acknowledgements

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D. J. TURNER