Surrey Archaeological Collections, **85**, 61–96, 1998

CHAPTER 3: DORKING

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Surrey Archaeological Collections, **85**, 63–95, 1998

Excavation in St Martin's Walk, Dorking

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Summary

The excavation examined two areas close to St Martin's Church in the centre of Dorking and revealed a variety of features of Roman and medieval date. Those thought to be Roman consisted of ditches, pits and a gully — the latter probably dates to the 2nd century AD, though the other features were not easy to date precisely. Possibly of greater interest was the discovery of thirteen human inhumations of late 12th or 13th century date which are believed to lie within a previous boundary of the church.

Preface

Proposals by Bredero Projects Ltd for the redevelopment of a large part of central Dorking (the new development is called St Martin's Walk) to the north and east of St Martin's Church aroused considerable archaeological interest. The area involved was until recently used as a car park, entered either from the High Street or via Mill Lane, with the upper section accommodating a market on Fridays and being the site of a former cattle market in the late 19th and early 20th century (fig 3.1). It has been suggested on a number of occasions that Dorking was the site of a Roman posting station (cf Bird 1987); finds of Roman material within the churchyard and elsewhere (O'Connell 1980, 49–62), together with the uncertain route of Stane Street through the town (Margary 1963, 69), pointed strongly to the possibility of there having been some form of Roman settlement in the vicinity. Also, with the recording of a church for Dorking in the Domesday Survey of 1086, presumably built on or close to the site now occupied by St Martin's, there was the possibility that settlement or other activities centred around the church would be discovered. Furthermore, not only was the upper part of the car park located close to the medieval High Street with the chance of light industrial or domestic activities having taken place here, but it had been suggested that the remains of a medieval manor house might await discovery within or close to the car park.

Consequently, six trial trenches, each approximately 1m wide, were dug between 26 September 1988 and 19 January 1989 by archaeologists working for Surrey County Council to assess the potential of the area (fig 3.1). The results, which are summarized later, led to detailed excavation of two areas within the car park between 1 May and 9 June 1989. These were then returned to their former usage pending the commencement of the redevelopment, and while this work was in progress the site was monitored where possible. Further useful information was acquired soon after the rebuilding began with the excavation (1 and 2 March, 1990) of features on the site of the former toilet block.

The excavation of area A revealed a narrow gully which dated to the 2nd century AD and several other pit-like features of Roman date. Also found in this area were a number of medieval features and thirteen inhumations of late 12th or 13th century date, to the west of a large ditch of similar date. This ditch presumably served as an early boundary to the graveyard around St Martin's Church. In area B two large Roman ditches were discovered along with a number of modern features.

Acknowledgements

The work was made possible by the generous financial backing of Bredero Projects Ltd, and of Mole Valley District Council which jointly funded the main excavation and the preparation of this report; Bredero were additionally responsible for funding the trial excavations. The general co-operation of both concerns is also much appreciated. Thanks must also go to David Evans,

Fig 3.1 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: location plan. Numbers 1–6 show positions of trial trenches dug in 1988 and 1989. 'A' and 'B' mark the areas excavated in 1989, and 'C' the area excavated in 1990. The plan of the town (inset) is based on the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1870. The trench location map shows the area prior to redevelopment. (Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright MC87175M0001)

Giles Pattison, Rob Poulton and Simon Tomson (SCC) for their work on the trial trenches; to Mark Dover, Simon Hind, Jan Pauliny-Toth and Mark Reeve (SCC) who constituted the full-time work-force of the excavation; and to Vivien Ettlinger, Bob Graham and David Webb who kindly provided their expertise in a voluntary capacity. My additional thanks go to Mrs Ettlinger for her helpful comments on site and for washing most of the finds from the excavation.

For their help at the post-excavation stage I would like to thank the following: Dr Tony Waldron for examining the human bone, Phil Jones and Suzanne Huson for looking at the pottery, building materials and flints; Phil Jones, again, for drawing the pottery; and Giles Pattison for preparing the plans accompanying this report. Finally, special thanks go to Rob Poulton for making the off-site arrangements which enabled the excavation to run smoothly and for his help and advice during the preparation of this report.

Background

SETTING AND GEOLOGY

The setting and geology of Dorking is neatly summarized by O'Connell who writes that: 'Dorking lies to the south-west of the gap in the chalk of the North Downs carved out by the river Mole, whose tributary, the Pippbrook, runs to the north of the town. The town itself is on [the Folkestone Beds of the] Lower Greensand and extends on to the alluvium and gravel associated with the river. A narrow bank of Gault Clay lies on both sides of the Pippbrook' (O'Connell 1977, 15).

The main excavation areas were situated on ground which sloped gently downwards from south to north. The level of the natural sand, which probably best indicates the slope of the ground surface below much recent levelling, fell by a maximum of 2.77m from OD 60.93m beneath the toilet block to OD 58.16m at the northern end of the larger excavation area. In the smaller excavation area a 0.3m slope was observed with the ground surface falling from OD 55.44m on the southern side to OD 55.14m to the north.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Mentioned in the Domesday Survey along with the manor of Dorking, the town's first church may well have originated in the late Saxon period on or close to the site now occupied by St Martin's, though subsequent rebuildings have probably destroyed any early evidence. Between 1138 and 1147 Dorking church was given to Lewes Priory together with a tithe of rents from the manor by the dowager Countess Isabel de Warenne, mother of the third earl of Surrey. The Warenne family acquired their Surrey estates when William de Warenne became the first earl in the late 1080s and Dorking like other Warenne lands had previously been royal demesne. In the 1190s an episcopal confirmation converted the Priory's rights in Dorking into a £6 annual pension (to be received from the church, certain land owned by the church and a chapel-of-ease at Capel in the south of Dorking parish); at about the same time the dedication of the church may have changed from St Mary to St Martin. The original structure of St Martin's is said to have contained 12th century masonry (*VCH*, **3,** 48) and the church may well have survived largely in its early medieval form before rebuilding in 1835–7 created the so-called Intermediate church; further rebuilding in 1874 created the present building basically as it stands today, though with at least one minor alteration (Ettlinger 1978).

Much of the information contained in this section comes from a report by John Blair (Blair 1980), in which he also reproduces an 1829 watercolour of St Martin's Church showing the central tower and tall narrow north transept with 13th century lancet windows.

TRIAL TRENCH RESULTS

Trench 1 was soon abandoned as it became clear that this followed a line of backfilled cellars subsequently found to belong to the houses of St Martin's Place which were demolished *c* 1940. Trench

3 was also unproductive yielding only 19th and 20th century material and features. Trench 2 revealed a large ditch with a V-shaped profile and finds of pottery which indicated that it dated to the Roman period. A continuation of this feature was looked for and found in trenches 4 and 5 (fig 3.2), with a rubbish pit (116) of 18th century date also being found at the south-eastern end of trench 5.

Trench 6 was perhaps of primary interest due to the unexpected discovery of twelve inhumation burials, thought at the time to be most probably of 12th or 13th century date, which clearly established the need for a more detailed examination of the area prior to redevelopment. The fills of these graves were removed to reveal leg bones in most cases, while the major part of each skeleton was presumed to lie outside the limits of the trial trench. The bones were then covered with polythene sheeting and a generous spread of soil to provide protection when the trench was backfilled pending further excavation. Finds recovered at this stage consisted mainly of late 12th and 13th century pottery from the layer sealing the burials (18) and from some of the grave fills; also recovered were residual sherds of Roman pottery and, from the bottom 0.20m of the sealing layer, a Roman bronze coin later identified as belonging to the reign of Constantine I and dating to the period AD 307–337.

The excavation

The excavation was carried out in two stages with the northern half of the main area (area A, fig 3.1) being dug first whilst the southern half was used as a spoil heap. These roles were then reversed during the second stage and an additional area (area B) was opened up on the lower car park. The primary clearance work was carried out by mechanical excavator, and the main problem encountered both at this stage and during the excavation arose from the unfortunate presence of a modern sewer pipe. This pipe, which was still in service, ran north–south through the centre of area A from the public conveniences at its southern end. For discussion purposes and ease of illustration, the results from each stage and from the additional excavation work on 1 and 2 March 1990 have been combined (figs 3.2–3.6).

In each area the evaluation work had shown the recent stratigraphy to consist mainly of tarmac over a rubble levelling layer over topsoil (52), with the concrete surface of the former cattle market also being observed below the tarmac in A. Below this, and again present in areas A and B, was a thick layer of sandy grey-brown loam (18, 3) which sealed the features of archaeological interest, with a thin mixed interface layer (21, 115) between this and natural sand. Carefully supervised machining removed all stratigraphy until just above the level of natural leaving a small portion of the feature-sealing layer to be sampled by hand excavation in area A.

After machining, the burials discovered in trial trench 6 were re-excavated and were found not to have been damaged by the backfilling of this trench. The majority of the features subsequently encountered were sectioned in accordance with usual archaeological practice while the fill of the burials was removed to expose as much bone as possible prior to the remains being photographed, planned to show the key points and lifted. Detailed descriptions of feature fills have not been given in this report as few varied in appearance from the mid-brown sandy soil most frequently encountered; significant variations have been mentioned where appropriate.

PHASE 1: PREHISTORIC

Various finds of prehistoric date were collected during the excavation and these are of intrinsic interest despite the fact that all, with the possible exception of the potsherd from 66 (area A), derive from obviously later contexts. Feature 66 was an elongated pit measuring *c* 1.55m long x 0.90m wide and between 0.23m and 0.16m deep, being deeper in the western half. This feature had a fill of compact light reddish-yellow silty sand which varied considerably from that of other features nearby and contained two sherds of pottery. The first sherd recovered was found very close to the surface of the feature, and was small with a vesiculated chalk or shelly fabric which indicated a 12th or 13th century date. The second sherd was much larger and came from the lowest

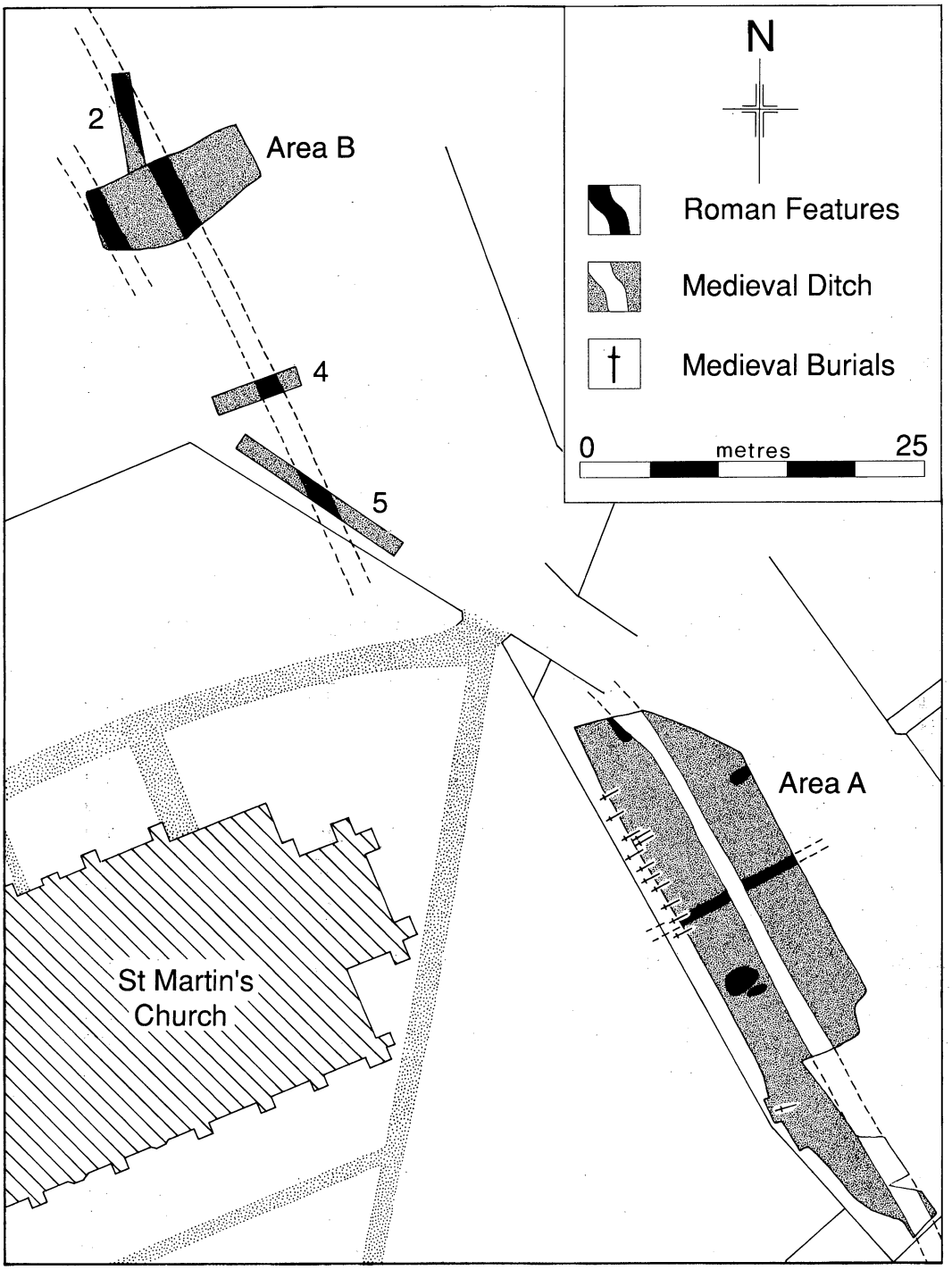

Fig 3.2 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: plan showing the location of the Roman features found within the redevelopment area. The plan also marks the positions of the medieval burials and contemporary ditch (believed to be a former boundary to the churchyard) found in area 'A'. (Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright MC87175M0001)

part of the feature; this unabraded sherd was crude and had large calcined flint inclusions which suggests that it derives from the Bronze Age period.

The information coming from feature 66 is slight, particularly as it yielded so few finds, but it may be argued that the medieval sherd found close to the surface could be the result of contamination, and that the larger, well stratified, unabraded prehistoric sherd is a more reliable indicator of the age of the feature; this is perhaps supported by the unique nature of the fill. Conversely, it could be argued that the prehistoric sherd is residual and that the feature is of 12th–13th century date or, along the same lines, that both sherds may be residual.

The remaining prehistoric finds came from residual contexts and consist of a small collection of struck flints which includes waste flakes and some worked pieces in the form of blades (most broken) and a possible leaf-shaped arrowhead. Little can be said about these pieces, as they were largely undiagnostic, suggesting no more than a Mesolithic/Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Combined with the uncertainty surrounding feature 66 outlined above, there is perhaps little justification for the creation of a prehistoric phase, but this material does at least attest to some degree of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

PHASE 2: ROMAN

Most of the features included in this phase were difficult to date, either because insufficient finds were recovered from them or because of the condition or mixed nature of the assemblage. In allocating some features to this section of the report it was necessary to make a decision about the likelihood of certain finds being present, either residually or as the result of contamination or intrusion. It is possible that the correct decision was not always reached and that some of the features recorded here are of post-Roman origin; the evidence available is presented below.

Area A

Five features (fig 3.3: 59, 77, 110, 112 and 113), believed to be of Roman date, were excavated in area A. Three of these, 59, 77 and 110 (sections 8, 16 and 12), were observed to cut an interface layer 21, which was present between soil layer 18 and clean natural sand and combined the characteristics of both; it is probable that 112 and 113 did likewise, though their relationship to 21 was lost during machining. A mixture of Roman and early medieval finds (pottery sherds and some tile fragments) was recovered from this layer, but as 21 was clearly cut by Roman features the medieval material must represent contamination, either from machining or from the soil turning activities discussed in phase 3b.

Feature 59, which was either part of an elongated pit or the terminal end of some gully-like feature, produced one tiny scrap of tile and four sherds of pottery which suggest that it is of Roman date. It measured 0.66–0.95m wide x 0.22m deep but ran outside the excavation area to the east so its length is not known. This feature has been included in phase 2 on the basis of the limited evidence available for it, and as so few finds were forthcoming the possibility should be considered that this material was present residually in a later context. One of the sherds recovered was quite large, however, and as such is perhaps less likely to be a merely residual find. Feature 77, which measured 0.84m wide x 0.46m deep, again ran outside the limits of the excavation, this time to the north; it was steep-sided and of linear appearance but its function remains unknown. The finds recovered from this feature consist of nine small sherds of Roman pottery, two sherds of medieval pottery (the latest of which is of late 13th century origin), and four small pieces of medieval or post-medieval tile. It is difficult to be certain about the date of this feature because of the mixed nature of these finds, but as 77 was cut by the two medieval features 58 and 72, as demonstrated in section 8 (fig 3.6), it seems reasonable to suggest that these may have been the source of the later material and consequently that this feature might be of Roman date.

Perhaps of greatest interest was the gully 110 (fig 3.3) which ran in an east-west direction across the middle of area A. This was cut by the medieval features S23 and 58 and became unclear at its western end where disturbed by S23 and trial trench 6. It may also have been cut by ditch 90 which would explain why 110 does not appear in section 1 and why layer 21 was not observed at

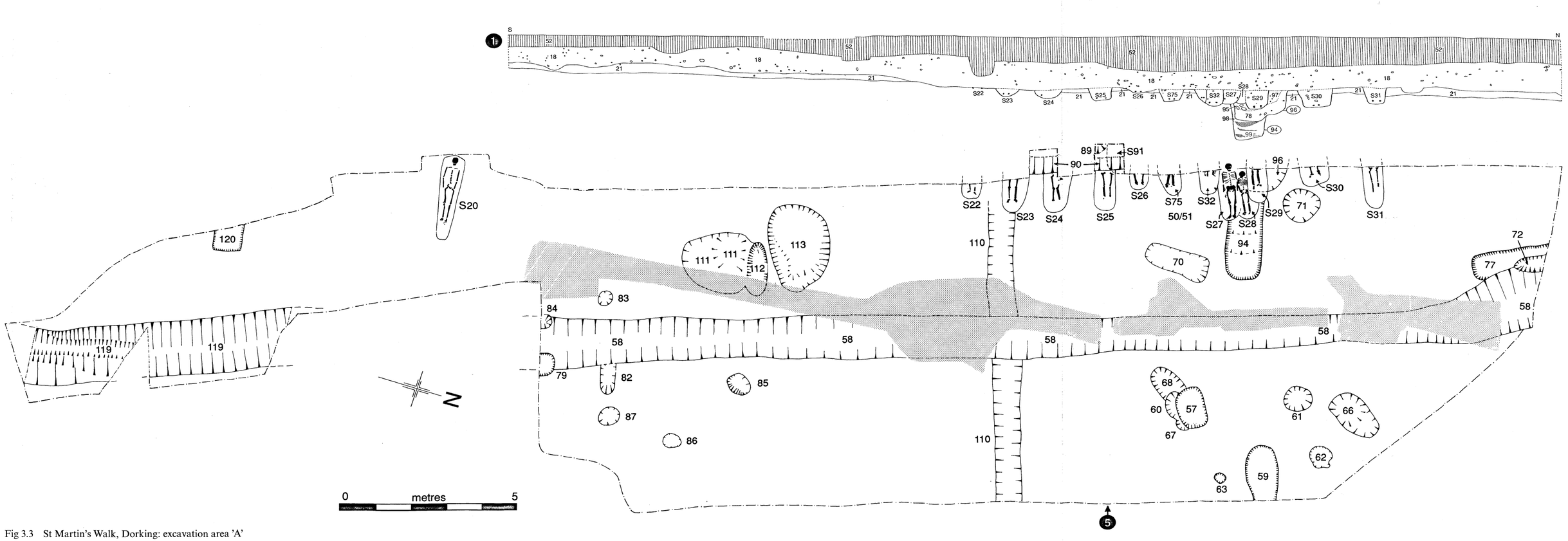

Fig 3.3 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: excavation area 'A'

this point. The width of the gully varied between 0.70m and 0.90m and its depth between 0.30m and 0.40m; its profile alternated between a V-shape and a more rounded U-shape. The feature yielded a large quantity of Roman finds which consisted mainly of sherds of pottery, but included two pieces of tile (at least one of these was part of a tegula), two iron nails and two lumps of iron slag (one possibly from the base of a hearth). Five sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered, but there can be no doubt that these finds must be intrusive given the size of the assemblage overall (see the Roman pottery report below). These finds suggest a mid–late 2nd century AD date for the gully, and are significant as they indicate the presence of at least one contemporary building in the vicinity. The function of the gully must remain uncertain as its extent is not known, but running as it does against rather than down the hillslope it was unlikely to have been used for drainage, so was perhaps most likely a boundary feature.

Features 112 and 113 were pits lying adjacent to each other and the smaller 112 was cut by a third pit, 111, which was of medieval date. Pit 112 was *c* 1.5m long x 0.65m wide x 0.60m deep (the sewer pipe mentioned above making the length somewhat uncertain), and contained three unabraded Roman greyware sherds and two pieces of Roman tile. There is a possibility that these few finds may have been present residually, but in the absence of evidence to the contrary they suggest a date somewhere within the Roman period for the feature, but do not allow a more specific date to be given. Pit 113 was *c* 2.10m long x 1.76m wide x 0.65m deep (its length again being partially obscured by the sewer pipe), and contained 21 sherds of Roman pottery, one medieval sherd, a small fragment of Roman tile and an unidentified iron lump. If it is accepted that the single medieval sherd represents surface (or other) contamination, the Roman pottery indicates a late 2nd or 3rd century date for the feature.

Area B

Two Roman features, 5 and 104, were discovered in area B beneath layers heavily disturbed by the features and demolition material associated with the houses of St Martin's Place; they were sealed by a brown sandy soil layer 3 which is equivalent to 18 in area A. These features, both of which were ditches, were observed to cut a shallow interface layer 115 (equivalent to 21 in area A) which lay between layer 3 and the natural, and were themselves cut by the late 19th century features 109 and 114 (figs 3.4, 3.5).

Feature 5 was clearly a further part of the ditch first located in trial trench 2. The cut number, context 5, and fill number, context 4, given to this feature in trial trench 2 were retained for its excavation within area B. Context 5 is presumably part of the same feature as 14 and 15 found in trenches 4 and 5 respectively (fig 3.2). Overall the ditch had a V-shaped profile, and in area B was 2m wide and between 0.64m and 0.80m deep, with several distinct fill layers and less significant fill 'patches' (4a–f) as shown on sections 2, 3 and 4 (fig 3.5). In the trial trenches small quantities of Roman pottery were recovered along with a lava quern fragment from trench 2. Segment 15 (trial trench 5) yielded four sherds which included a cavetto-rimmed jar of 3rd century or later date. The finds recovered from area B consisted mainly of pottery sherds, but included several brick/tile fragments and a few small pieces of bone and two broken flint blades. The majority of potsherds came from the upper part of the excavated fill (layer 4a) and consisted of a mixture of late 2nd and 3rd century material. Below this five greyware sherds, some probably of later Roman date, were recovered from layer 4c. The brick and tile collected consists of one fragment of Roman tile, two fragments of medieval or post-medieval tile and one fragment of post-medieval brick; all came from layer 4c. The post-Roman material is believed to be intrusive here, possibly coming from the modern feature 109 which cut ditch 5, or more probably from the demolition material through which the trench was cut — this could have fallen into the feature at any stage of its excavation. It seems most likely that the feature is best dated by the finds from 4c and 15 which indicate a date no earlier than the 3rd century AD; the ditch probably served as some form of boundary.

Ditch 104 was located in area B only, running parallel to ditch 5. It had a broader flatter base than 5 and measured *c* 1.55m wide and between 0.50m–0.66m deep. Two fill layers were

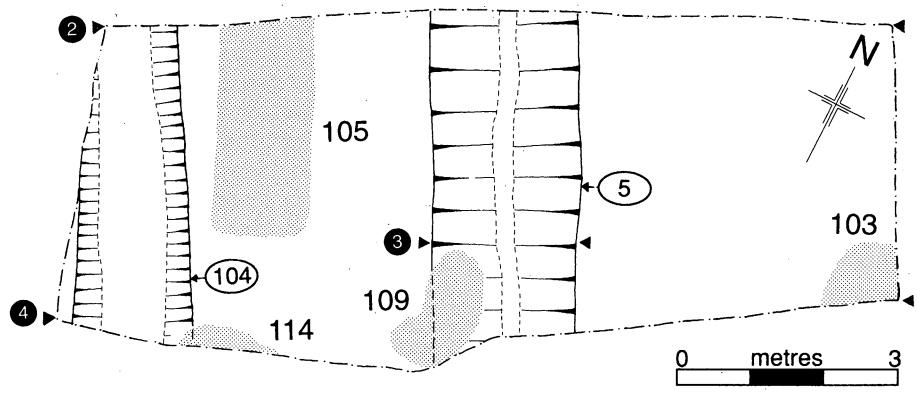

Fig 3.4 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: excavation area 'B'

excavated with 101a, a grey-brown sandy soil constituting the bulk of the fill, and 101b, slightly lighter in colour and mixed with moderate amounts of orangey-yellow redeposited sand, representing a primary fill. The finds recovered from this feature consist mainly of pottery sherds (around 90 of which were Roman, while six were medieval), but include one Roman copper coin (identified as belonging to the reign of Constantius II between AD 346–354), various fragments of tile (11 Roman, 13 tiny scraps of ? Roman/medieval/post-medieval and two post-medieval), an iron nail, three small pieces of iron slag and several flint blades. Unfortunately the majority of the finds from the two distinct fill layers were mixed during excavation and the precise location of most within the feature is uncertain. The coin and at least two of the two medieval sherds are known to have come from the top 0.1m of the fill, but it is particularly regrettable that the identity of those finds recovered from the primary fill was lost. Consequently it has been necessary to consider the date of the feature on the basis of the assemblage as a whole. With this in mind the essential questions are whether the ditch is of Roman or post-Roman origin, and if the former, to which part of this period does it belong.

The evidence that it might be Roman comes from the vast majority of finds, most of which are pottery sherds, whilst the evidence that it may be of post-Roman date comes primarily from the six medieval sherds recovered. It seems more likely that the limited quantity of medieval pottery sherds and the medieval or later tile fragments were intrusive in the assemblage (possibly being introduced as surface contamination or as a result of plant or animal activity), than that so much Roman material was present residually. The early medieval ditch 58 contained plenty of residual Roman material (94 sherds out of a total of 148 recovered), but here the proportion of Roman pottery, present at a ratio of 15:1, is much greater than in 58 where the ratio was 2:1. It is, of course, accepted that the conditions vary at different locations, and the comparisons of ratios in this manner can be misleading, but overall it seems more probable that this feature is of Roman origin, than that it is of later date. If this line of thought is considered reasonable, it is perhaps, most likely to date to the late 2nd century AD as indicated by the majority of sherds — the earlier sherds recovered could have been residual in a feature of this date — and the coin and small number of later Roman sherds may have been present in the final infill or as surface contamination.

PHASE 3A: EARLY MEDIEVAL (*c* 1150–1250)

With the exception of 94 and 96 (and possibly feature 66 mentioned in phase 1) the features belonging to this phase are either inhumation burials or a ditch with which the burials are probably contemporary (fig 3.3). Feature 94 was a linear feature running in an east-west direction from a rounded eastern termination to an unknown point outside the limits of the trench to the

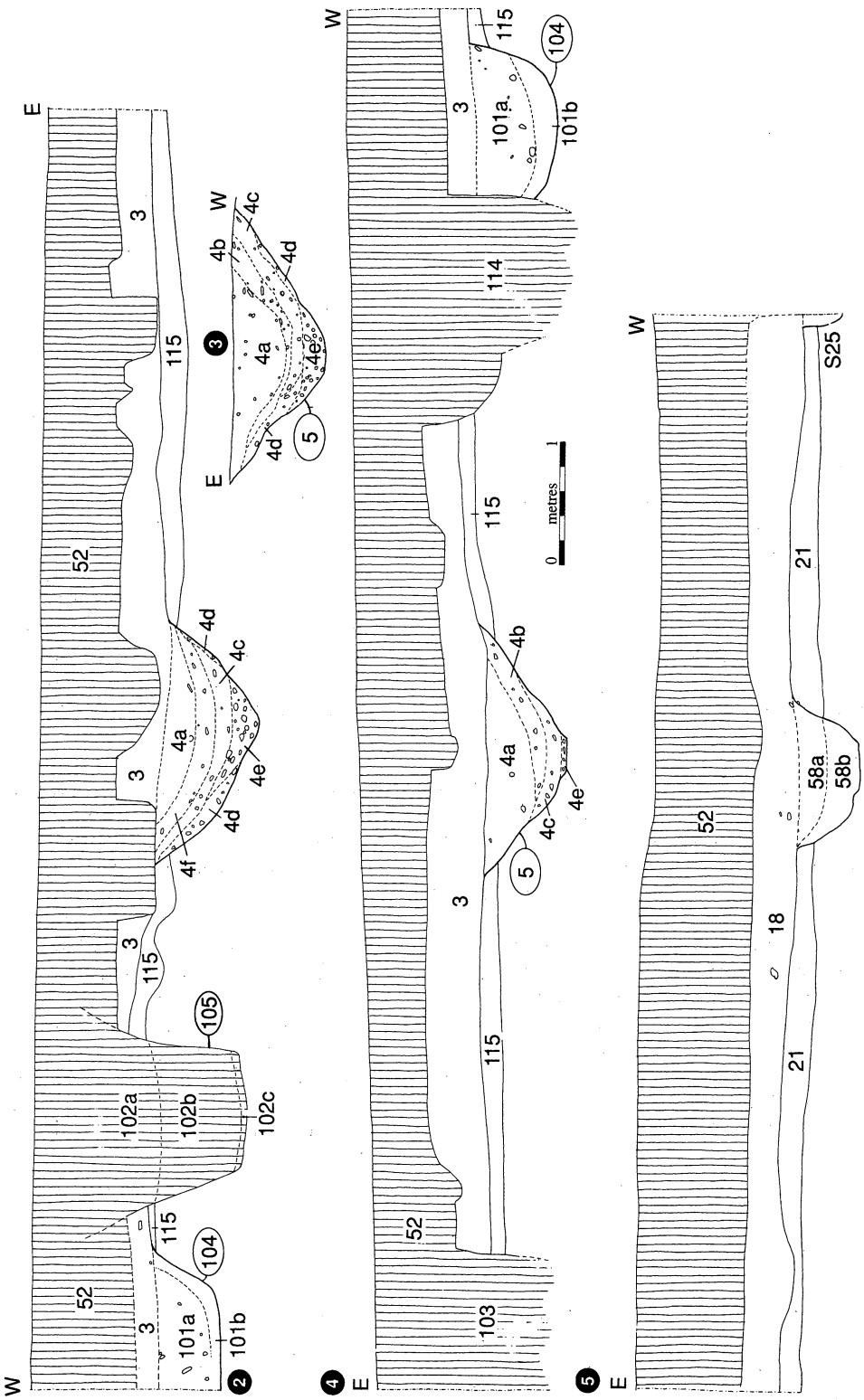

Fig 3.5 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: section drawings, nos 2–5

west. This feature was vertically sided, measured approximately 1m wide and had a base which stepped downwards twice so that its depth varied from 0.83m to 1.15m and then to 1.44m; it was cut by the pits 50 and 96 and by the burials S27, S28 and S29. The fill of 94 was excavated as three distinct layers, 69 (although this layer had been removed where feature 94 was cut by graves S27, S28 and S29, and feature 96), 98 and 99. Layer 69 consisted of a mid–dark brown sandy soil containing many pieces of daub (some with wattle impressions) and numerous small chalk lumps, with this material appearing in more concentrated patches at the bottom of the layer over 98. Other finds from 69 were rare and consisted of one Roman greyware sherd, some medieval tile and several pieces of post-medieval brick (the latter almost certainly representing contamination from pit 50 — see below phase 4). Layer 98 consisted of clean yellow redeposited natural sand with occasional dirty patches and probably represents slumping prior to final infilling; this layer produced no finds. Layer 99 was a dirty yellow sand mixed with discontinuous dark silty organic bands and patches. Finds were rare consisting of one small piece of bone and five pottery sherds — four of these pieces were Roman but significantly one shell-tempered rim sherd belonging to the period between AD 1150 and 1250 was recovered.

The function of this feature must remain an enigma especially as its extent westwards is not known; it may even have had some form of lining (which had decomposed) as without such the sides would surely have shown evidence of collapse in the lower fill. With vertical sides and a flat stepped base it is unlikely to have been a ditch and a suggestion that it was dug for sand extraction may be a little weak as its shape is perhaps not the most practical for this purpose. Chronologically a late 12th or early 13th century date is suggested for feature 94 by the single shell-tempered sherd recovered from layer 99; this also provides a *terminus post quem* for the features cutting 94 which cannot be earlier than the mid–late 12th century.

Feature 96 was a pit-like feature which cut 94 and ran outside the limits of the excavation to the west. It was approximately 1.5m wide, with a base which varied between 0.65m–0.88m deep, contained three fill layers (97, 95 and 78) and was cut by graves S27, S28 and S29 (fig 3.3, section 1). Fill 97 lay to the north of S29 and in plan view appeared the same as 78, initially sharing this number, whilst 95 was found mainly to the south of S29. During excavation 97 was found to be marginally darker than 78 and was mixed with more soil. This layer presumably represents the uppermost fill of feature 96 and may well have overlain layer 95, though the presence of the three graves mentioned makes this uncertain. Layer 95 was a reddish-brown sandy clay containing moderately abundant small chalk lumps, patches of burnt clay, daub fragments (including several pieces with clear wattle impressions) and patches of burnt material including some twig/small branch-sized pieces of charcoal. Layer 78 was a fine compact light pinkish-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks, which appeared at ground level to the north of 97 and was found to underlie both layers 97 and 95 (section 1). This layer also contained daub lumps (again including at least one wattle-impressed piece) and produced the only pottery from the feature, which amounted to three residual Roman sherds and part of the rim of a shell-tempered vessel probably of 12th century date.

The function of feature 96 remains uncertain, and despite the presence of patches of burnt clay and other burnt remains there was nothing to imply that *in-situ* burning had taken place, so this material presumably derives from dumping. The presence of the clay layer 78 is interesting and there may be an association here with the nearby unphased feature 71 which had a similar fill, though such a link does little to aid the interpretation of 96. Despite the general absence of useful finds this feature can be dated quite tightly by its stratigraphic relationships. It is clearly later than feature 94 which produced a sherd of late 12th/early 13th century date from its lowest fill layer (99), and must pre-date the graves (S27, S28 and S29) which cut it (see below for a discussion of the date of these graves).

The most interesting and significant features belonging to this phase are the inhumation burials located along the western side of area A and the ditch running in a north–south direction through the centre of the site (fig 3.3). The remains of thirteen burials (S20, S22–S32 and S75) were located within the excavation area, with two further possible graves (89 and S91) being located when the east-facing section was undercut at the end of the dig (fig 3.3). These burials

are best discussed as a group though where necessary specific mention will be made of individual cases; detailed information concerning the age, sex and condition of individual skeletons can be found in the specialist report which accompanies this work.

Unfortunately only three complete skeletons (S20, S27 and S29) were excavated whilst the remainder consisted of lower limbs protruding from the edge of site. This boundary could not be pushed back further due to the presence of street lights and a high voltage electrical cable running parallel to the churchyard wall and also because the eastern side of the wall was strengthened by buttresses.

Each burial was orientated in an east-west direction with its feet towards the east in typical Christian tradition. The graves were sealed by layer 18 with most cutting the interface layer 21 and all cutting the natural sand below this (fig 3.3, section 1). The fills showed few variations and were essentially homogeneous mid-brown sandy soils with occasional random patches of redeposited natural sand; there was nothing in any fill or section to suggest that coffins had been used.

Bone preservation was on the whole fair to good though the remains recovered from S20, S31, and S91 were in poor condition. However, it is probably unwise to think that such differences necessarily represent significant age distinctions between the burials as many, often localized, soil conditions can lead to considerable variation in the condition of contemporary remains: for example, the modern sewer pipe running close to the eastern end of S20 may well have had an effect on its preservation. Also, where graves were found to be intercutting, the condition of the bone encountered was found to be in no way dependent on the relative age of the burials.

Several of the burials were found either to cut or be cut by other features or graves. The relationships between grave S23, which cut the Roman gully 110, and graves S27, S28 and S29 which cut features 94 and 96 (belonging to this phase) have been mentioned above, leaving those between S27, S28, S29 and S32 to be discussed here. During the excavation and in section it was clear that S32 cut the fill of S27 and that S29 cut S28 removing the left arm of the child buried in the earlier grave. Further, it was clear in section that S27 (an adult male burial) cut S28, and this was confirmed by the left arm of S27 being found to lie over the right arm of S28.

Other than the skeletal remains few finds (and interestingly no clothing attachments) were found in the grave fills, which initially made the close dating of these features quite difficult. No finds at all were recovered from burials S20, S22, S26, S27 or S32 while S24, S28, S31 and S75 produced single sherds of Roman pottery and S25 produced four sherds of Roman date with a piece of (possibly) medieval glass. Fourteen sherds of Roman pottery, most probably deriving from feature 110 which was cut by this grave, and significantly one late 12th or early 13th century shelly ware sherd were collected from S23. Three iron nails were also recovered from S23, but the quantity and positioning of these items in no way suggested the presence of a coffin and they too may derive from 110. Grave S29 yielded part of an iron hook, four Roman sherds and two sherds of late 12th/early 13th century date, and S30 produced six sherds — three of which were Roman — whilst the remainder were of mid–late 12th century date.

Despite the appearance of Roman pottery in several grave fills there is no reason to suspect that its presence is other than residual. Grave S23 clearly must be later than 110, and S27, S28 and S29 can to some extent be dated by their relationships to features 94 and 96 which belong to this phase (see p 72); S30 cannot pre-date the early medieval material collected from its fill. Therefore, it seems almost certain that all the burials are of the late 12th or 13th century. Support for such a chronological placing came with the excavation of ditch 58 which probably has a direct association with the graves.

Ditch 58 ran in a north–south direction through the centre of area A and for much of its length followed the same course as a modern sewer pipe which made its excavation awkward and at times unpleasant. This feature was sealed by layer 18, cut by the pits 72, 79 and 84 and itself cut layer 21, the Roman features 77 and 110 and possibly pit 82. It measured between 1m and 1.75m wide and varied between 0.45m and 0.85m deep, being shallower in the centre of the excavation area where it had been probably truncated to some extent by the later activities. The profile of the ditch showed certain variations along its length, being more V-shaped towards the south (section

19) and having a wide flat bottom to the north (section 16), while much of the intervening stretch showed a more rounded U-shaped profile.

During the main excavation the fill was excavated in two layers with the upper layer, 58a, being a mid-brown sandy soil and showing little or no difference from layer 18; the primary fill, 58b, was lighter in colour being mixed with more orangey-yellow sand from the natural and having thin discontinuous lenses and patches of dark silt close to the bottom (sections 16–21). Finds were quite numerous from both of these contexts and have been listed in detail in the finds report. Most were rather mundane consisting of pottery sherds (including many residual Roman pieces), tile fragments (again with residual Roman material), bone, a lump of iron slag possibly from the base of a hearth and a broken flint blade. Fill 58a did however produce part of a whetstone of early medieval type and this was one of the few small finds recovered during the excavation. Excluding the Roman material, the pottery mainly consisted of shelly and sandy wares of 12th and 13th century date with most pieces indicating a late 12th/early 13th century date for the feature; three sherds of later 13th century date (one from a Surrey whiteware vessel, one from an Earlswood-type vessel and one from a baluster jug in oxidized form) were found in 58a which may indicate when the final infilling of the feature was taking place. The stretch of ditch dug in 1990 was numbered 119 — this produced fewer finds (possibly because its excavation had to be rushed) but the material recovered was compatible with that from 58.

The date suggested for ditch 58 corresponds closely to that for the inhumation burials located just to the west of it, indicating that these features are contemporary. Therefore, when it is considered that no graves were found to the east of 58 the most likely explanation for the function of this ditch is that it served as a boundary to the churchyard during this period. Further, as the nearest graves to the ditch lie *c* 3m to the west of it, it seems possible that this intervening ground was at least partly filled by a bank of material cast up from the digging of the ditch; no evidence for such a bank was discovered during the excavation but any traces would have been destroyed by later activities on site.

On the final day of the main excavation significant discoveries were made when part of the site's east-facing section was deliberately undercut (see box insets on figure 3.3). The initial intention of this exercise was to locate the pelvis of S25, which was assumed to lie just outside the edge of site, and thereby recover a useful indicator of the sex of this burial. However, it became apparent almost immediately that the pelvis was missing and by enlarging the undercut it became clear that the grave had been cut by a ditch-like feature, 90, which ran parallel to the churchyard wall. The excavation of this ditch (section 13) revealed two further features, 89 and S91, which were cut to a deeper level below it. Feature S91 was clearly another grave containing various poorly preserved pieces of bone, including fragments from at least four femurs, two of which presumably came from a disturbed burial given their orientations and apparently random positions within the fill; no finds were recovered other than the human remains.

Little can be said about feature 89 as only a small part could be excavated, but it contained a clear light brown fill and cut the natural sand; it seems most probable that this was the far eastern end of another grave but no human remains or other finds were recovered. Although it was clear that all were cut by 90 no relationships could be determined between S25, 89 and S91. The fills of 89 and S91 were lighter in colour than that of grave S25; however, as mentioned above, this may be a poor indicator of relative age and may merely reflect the fact that 89 and S91 were cut much deeper into the natural than S25.

Various questions arose from the discovery of feature 90, and its dating and probable function will be discussed below (phase 4). To confirm that this was a linear feature a second undercutting of the section was excavated between graves S23 and S24. This revealed a further segment of 90 showing that it was indeed a ditch, and explained the curious reversed position of the upper half of the right femur of S24 which must have been displaced during the digging of 90. No further remains of S23 or S24 were revealed as both were clearly cut by the ditch, which may also explain why the upper left tibia of S22 was missing and why the right tibia and fibula of S26 were awkwardly placed.

PHASE 3B: LATER MEDIEVAL (*c* 1250–1540)

Three features (72, 84 and 111) belonging to this phase were discovered during the main excavation, all in area A, and a fourth (120) was found in 1990 beneath the toilet block (fig 3.3). Feature 72 which cut both 58 (phase 3a) and 77 (phase 2) was either part of an elongated pit or the northern end of a linear feature — in either case it ran for an unknown distance beyond the northern edge of site. This feature measured approximately 0.50m wide by 0.28m deep and had a dark brown sandy fill which contrasted with the lighter fills that it cut (section 16). The finds from this feature consisted of two medieval tile fragments and nine sherds of pottery, three of which were residual Roman pieces. The remaining sherds, two from an Earlswood-type vessel and four (early) Surrey whiteware pieces, suggested a 14th century date for the feature. This feature was most probably the source of the contaminatory material found in 77.

Feature 84 was either a small pit or a posthole which ran beyond the southern limit of the excavation and measured 0.45m wide by 0.32m deep. This feature contained no finds but was observed to cut ditch 58 (phase 3a), having a marginally darker coloured fill than this feature and appeared to have been sealed by layer 18, as can be seen in section 17. Therefore, although its function remains uncertain, it seems most likely that this feature was dug after the mid-13th century and before the mid-16th century, and it is not dissimilar to feature 72 in this respect.

Feature 111, partly obscured by the sewer pipe, was a large pit which cut the Roman feature 112. It was 1.9m long, probably almost as wide, and varied between 0.40m and 0.50m in depth with a darker fill than 112. Finds were relatively few considering the size of the feature, but nine sherds of pottery were recovered along with a small quantity of bone and one flint flake. This material did little to suggest the possible function of 111 but, disregarding five residual Roman sherds, the medieval pottery, which included two whiteware pieces, suggested a late 13th/early 14th century date for the feature.

Feature 120 was a vertically-sided flat-bottomed pit measuring 0.90m wide by 0.92m deep and running outside the limits of the excavation. Little can be said about the pit, though a reasonable collection of pottery sherds and medieval tile fragments was recovered from its grey-brown sandy fill. Much of the pottery consisted of residual Roman and early medieval material but several sandy ware sherds of late medieval type were recovered along with Tudor material which indicated an early 16th century date for the feature.

Although relatively few, the features of phase 3b are not without importance and their significance is discussed below. Of final interest here is the reduction of part of layer 18 in a small area which had been set aside for hand sampling; this area, which measured approximately 4m x 1m, was located between feature 94 and the sewer pipe. Four spits, 53, 54, 55 and 56 were removed during the sampling and each was roughly 0.10m–0.15m deep. The pottery and tile recovered from each of these contexts was well mixed consisting of Roman and (mainly early) medieval material. Not surprisingly, 53 included some post-medieval material introduced from the topsoil layer (52) above. The latest sherds from 54 and 55 were of early 13th century date but significantly whiteware sherds of 14th and 15th century date were recovered from spit 56. The excavation of trial trench 6 suggested that layer 18 was a turned agricultural soil which sealed those earlier features that survived below the level of turning. Removal of these four spits confirmed that this was indeed the case, as the finds recovered were clearly well mixed showing none of the stratigraphic layering usually encountered in purely accumulation soils. The 15th century sherd from 56 and the absence of any later material in spits 54, 55 and 56 suggest that soil turning was probably taking place and may even have ceased in this century, though the small size of the sample area is potentially misleading as far as an end date is concerned; there is every possibility that such activities were in operation from an earlier date, perhaps coinciding with the abandonment of ditch 58 as a churchyard boundary.

PHASE 4: POST-MEDIEVAL

The post-medieval stratigraphy, including the topsoil (52) immediately overlying layer 18, has been mentioned above but various features belonging to this phase were encountered during the

excavation in areas A and B (figs 3.3, 3.4). In area A three rubbish pits (50, 57 and 79) were discovered along with a ditch (90). Little need be said about the pits, but they were clearly used for the disposal of domestic rubbish and contained material such as pottery sherds, glass, bone, iron and roofing tile. Pit 50 was largely removed during machining, though *c* 0.20m of fill remained, showing that the pit clearly cut S27, S32 and feature 94 (phase 3a). The general position of 50 relative to these features should be clear, but its actual location has not been marked on figure 3.3 in order to avoid confusion. Pit 57, which measured roughly 1.20m x 0.82m, cut the doubtful features 60, 67 and 68 (see below) and was abandoned after 0.23m of the fill had been removed. Pit 79 cut layers 52 and 18 and the early medieval ditch 58 (phase 3a); it measured 0.70m wide x 0.87m deep (section 17). These pits probably all belonged to the late 19th century, though 57 was possibly of early 20th century date.

The course of events which led to the discovery of ditch 90 has been described above. This feature was found on the final day of the main excavation when two undercutting box sections were dug into the western edge of the site primarily to recover further skeletal remains from the burials here. The excavation of these sections was made difficult by the presence of a high voltage power cable and by the general instability of the loose sandy soil removed and undercut. Feature 90 was discovered when it became clear that S25 had been cut by another feature, and the excavation of a second box section confirmed that this was a linear feature, as S23 and S24 had been similarly disturbed.

Ditch 90 had a U-shaped profile (fig 3.6, section 13) and a fill of medium brown sandy soil like that of layer 18. Only part of the western side of this feature could be reached, and the level from which it was cut remains unknown as the machining of trial trench 6 must have destroyed this relationship on the eastern side. Finds were quite plentiful from the box sections, and included pieces of medieval tile and a mixture of Roman, late 13th–14th century and 16th–18th century pottery sherds. Due to the difficulties encountered during excavation the exact location, and therefore the significance of most of the finds recovered, must remain uncertain as it was impossible to distinguish the material of the upper fill from what was above it. Unfortunately, few finds came from the obvious lower fill of the feature where it cut the graves, though, significantly, one clay pipe bowl (*c* 1660–1680) was recovered.

Ditch 90 runs in a north-south direction parallel to ditch 58 and to the present churchyard wall and is most probably a redundant churchyard boundary. The dating of this feature is made difficult due to the possibility that the finds collected were contaminated by later material. However, the mid–late 17th century clay pipe bowl recovered came from a secure location in the lower fill so, unless recut, the feature is unlikely to have been dug much earlier than this, and it is possible that some of the 18th century material collected was present in its final infilling.

The remaining post-medieval features (103, 105, 108 and 114) were located in trench B and were probably all associated with the demolished houses of St Martin's Place. Feature 103, a rubbish pit in the south-eastern corner of the trench, contained miscellaneous 19th century material and was not fully excavated. Feature 105 was steep-sided and linear, with a flat bottom and evidence of two roughly opposing postholes in the eastern and western sides. Its upper fill layer, 102a, consisted almost entirely of clean yellow sand and was removed during machining (section 2). Fill 102b consisted of numerous thin dark silty and lighter sandy layers and patches, and 102c at the bottom of the feature was a woody silty deposit. The intended function of this feature is not known but 18th–19th century pottery and other finds were collected along with residual material of earlier date. Features 108 and 114 were presumably rubbish pits though little remained of 108 after machining, and most of 114 lay outside the excavation area; 108, which cut feature 5, (phase 2) contained 18th–19th century pottery and 114, which cut feature 104, (phase 2) contained material of late 19th or early 20th century date.

UNDATED OR NATURAL FEATURES

Various features in area A (fig 3.3) remain either undated (63, 70, 71, 82, 83, 85, 86 and 87) or were thought to be most probably tree or animal disturbances because of their irregular shapes and

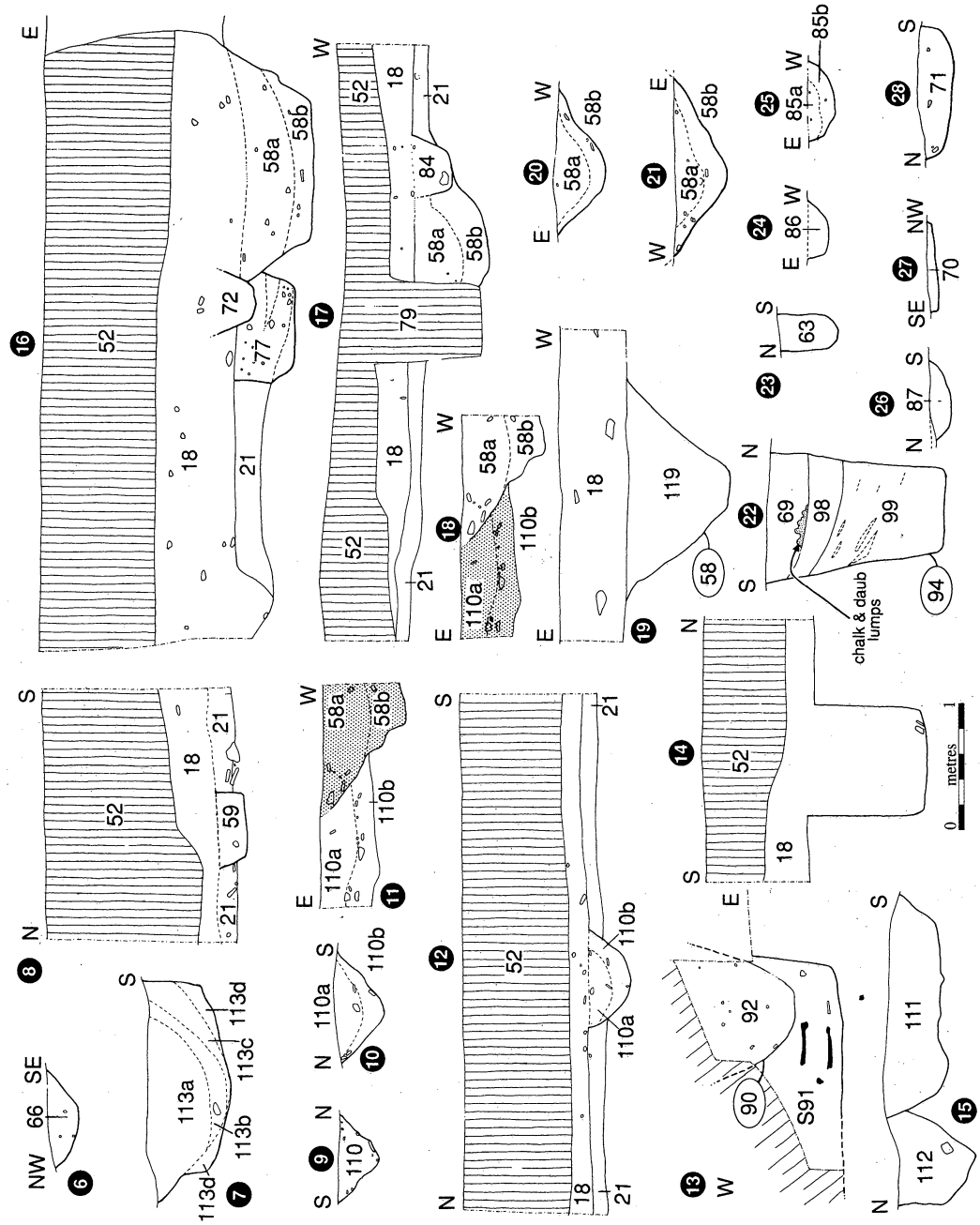

Fig 3.6 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: section drawings, nos 6–28

patchy fills (60, 61, 62, 67 and 68). The former category refers to features which yielded no dateable material, or were devoid of any stratigraphic relationships which might indicate their phasing.

Feature 63 was a vertically-sided posthole which measured roughly 0.32m long by 0.30m wide and 0.46m deep; no finds were recovered from its fill of medium brown sandy soil and no similar features were present within the excavation area. Feature 70 was presumably the heavily truncated remains of an elongated pit which was 1.90m long by 0.75m wide and was no more than 0.10m deep. Feature 71 was a small pit measuring 1.05m long by 0.90m wide and 0.28m deep; no finds were recovered from its light pinkish-brown sandy fill but this fill was similar to layer 78 in the nearby pit 96 (phase 3a), so 71 could be contemporary with this late 12th–early 13th century feature.

Feature 82 was a shallow, elongated pit no more than 0.12m deep and measuring roughly 1m long by 0.45m wide. The relationship of this pit to ditch 58 could not be determined, as both features had similar medium brown sandy fills and the overlap between each was marginal. Feature 83 was a small pit or posthole measuring 0.40m long by 0.35m wide and 0.20m deep, with a medium brown sandy fill. Feature 85 was a small pit measuring 0.63m long by 0.50m wide and 0.23m deep; two equally deep fill layers were observed, with an upper fill of dark grey/brown sandy soil overlying a mid-brown sandy soil mottled with patches of orange/yellow natural sand. Feature 86 had a medium brown sandy fill and measured 0.55m long by 0.46m wide by 0.17m deep, and 87 measured 0.62m long by 0.50m wide by 0.17m deep and had a light brown sandy fill. Despite slight fill and size differences between them, features 82, 83, 85, 86 and 87 were similar to each other and to feature 84 (phase 3b) with which some or all could be contemporary.

Feature 61 showed fairly convincingly as a soil mark but was little more than a shallow scoop, with ill-defined edges measuring 0.75m long by 0.75m wide by 0.10m deep when excavated. It was unconvincing as a man-made feature and is most probably the result of tree or animal disturbance, though it could just possibly be the bottom of a small pit. Feature 62 almost certainly resulted from some kind of disturbance, as it had very irregular dimensions and evidence of root or burrow holes in the bottom. Features 60, 67 and 68 had patchy fills, lacked definite edges and were all cut by pit 57 (phase 4); 60 showed signs of root activity at the bottom of the feature and none of these three were convincing as the results of human activity.

The finds

Note: A list of abbreviations is printed at the front of this volume. For an explanation of codes for ware and fabric types see chapter 6.

A catalogue of the finds providing more information than can be presented here is set out in microfiche (M83–M91). The bones recovered from burials S31 and S91 were not sent to the specialist (a fact unfortunately not realized prior to their re-interment) and consequently are not included in the report on the human remains.

THE HUMAN REMAINS, by Tony Waldron

The human remains from this site consisted of twelve inhumations and some disarticulated bone which represented at least two individuals.

Of the twelve inhumations only three had survived more or less intact and, in one of these three (S20), the majority of the bone was so friable that it could not be given more than a cursory examination. The remaining nine skeletons were all incomplete with only the bones of the leg and feet, and sometimes part of the pelvis, surviving.

The age and sex of the skeletons were determined using standard anthropological methods (Workshop of European Anthropologists 1980) and, where limb bones were complete, an estimate of height was made using the equations published by Trotter in 1970.

Age and Sex

Seven of the skeletons were considered to be male and four females. The final skeleton was of a child who was aged between 6 and 8 years at death, judging from the state of its dental eruption.

Four of the male skeletons could be given an age; two were aged between 35 and 45 at death, and two were over 45 years. The other three male skeletons were all adults, but of uncertain age.

Only one of the female skeletons could be aged. She was at least 45 when she died; the remaining females were all adults.

Height (table 3.1)

Height was estimated for five of the male and two of the female skeletons. Both females were between 1.50 and 1.55m whilst the males fell in the range, 1.65–1.80m; the estimated heights are shown in the table. For what it is worth, the mean height of the males was 1.72m (standard deviation 0.05m), that is, about 2cm below the mean height of contemporary male populations. With such a small sample, however, this difference cannot be considered to have any significance.

TABLE 3.1 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: Estimated heights (m) of skeletons

Male	Female
	1.54
	1.54
1.66	
1.69	
1.70	
1.75	
1.78	

Pathology

Only one of the skeletons (S27) showed any signs of pathology. Some teeth had been lost during life and there was a great accumulation of tartar on those which remained. There had been very great wear on the teeth, and in some the pulp cavities had been exposed, which would have permitted the entry of bacteria to the apices of the roots. None of the teeth appeared to have any abscesses, however. In addition there was some osteoarthritis affecting the facet joints of the spine. The 12th thoracic, 1st, 3rd and 4th lumbar vertebrae were all involved; no joints elsewhere showed any evidence of the disease.

GENERAL COMMENT ON THE POTTERY, by Phil Jones

In total, 1434 sherds were recovered, of which three are prehistoric, 59% are Roman, 25% medieval, and 16% are of early post-medieval types. Eighteenth and 19th century pottery had not been collected. Little can be said of the three featureless body sherds of prehistoric pottery, other than that they are calcined, flint-gritted and could be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Roman pottery was found in a few Roman deposits, but was also widely dispersed and well-represented as residual material in all post-Roman contexts of the site. The fill of a phase 3a medieval ditch, for example (contexts 58, 73, 119), contained 148 sherds, of which 94 were Roman; in the sample of the phase 3b build-up of soils (contexts 3, 18, 53–56, 118), 128 sherds are Roman and 129 of post-Roman types.

Following Suzanne Huson's report (below) is an account of the post-Roman pottery from the site which includes summaries of the assemblages of phases 3 and 4, and brief descriptions of all the fabrics and forms that are represented. More detailed descriptions, and comparisons with the medieval pottery from recent excavations in the towns of western and central Surrey that are reported upon in this volume, can be found in chapter 6.

THE ROMAN POTTERY, by Suzanne Huson (figs 3.7, 3.8)

A total of 845 sherds (7.6 kg) was recovered from 45 contexts, of which 16 are thought to have been of Roman deposition. The pottery from the fills of only one feature, a ditch (contexts 110Ea, 110Eb and 110W) has been looked at in detail, since few sherds were recovered from the other contexts thought to have been Roman. Almost half the Roman pottery from the site was from ditch 110.

The sherds were divided into readily identifiable wares, the largest group being of grey sandy ware types. This group was then further sub-divided at x20 magnification on the basis of the grain size of their tempering agents.

A description of these fabrics forms the first part of this report, followed by a description of the assemblages from ditch 110. The remainder of the Roman pottery is then considered as a whole, and finally there is a discussion on the significance of the collection. Numbers given in brackets indicate drawn sherds which appear in figures 3.7 and 3.8.

I would like to thank Phil Jones (SCAU) and Joanna Bird (for the Samian) for their help in the preparation of this report.

Ware and fabric types

Grog-tempered types

Three sherds (10g), with frequent grog inclusions of *c* 0.3–1mm and sparse quartz sand and iron mineral inclusions of *c* 0.2–0.3mm. Only one rim was found, probably that of a jar (no 60).

Grey sandy wares

All these sherds were divided on the basis of the grain size and frequency of the quartz sand inclusions, with the exceptions of sub-types G and H. The temper is quartz sand, and also present are variably sparse inclusions of iron minerals, but these may have been inherent within the original clay, rather than being deliberately added as a tempering agent. The quartz grains are usually sub-rounded but tend towards being rounded in the finer sub-types.

(A) Very coarse: 7 sherds (288g), of which 4 were from ditch 110. There were some large quartz sand grains between *c* 4–6mm but more commonly between *c* 0.7–1.5mm, and less frequent iron mineral specks of *c* 0.1mm. The only rim sherd was that of a large storage jar (no 24).

(B) Coarse: 6 sherds (303g), none of which were found in ditch 110. Although the larger quartz sand grains are more frequent than those in sub-group 2A, the size range is smaller, between *c* 1.5 and 3mm. The grains are more commonly in the range of *c* 0.3–0.7mm and there are some iron mineral inclusions of *c* 0.2–0.4mm. Three rimsherds are represented, all from storage jars (nos 25–27).

(C) Coarse 'standard' type: 58 sherds (522g), of which 6 were found in ditch 110, including the rim of a bead-rimmed jar (no 11). The type is tempered with frequent quartz grains of *c* 0.3–0.7mm and occasionally up to c1mm. The background matrix is of quartz sand grains of *c* 0.2–0.3mm and some iron mineral inclusions of approximately the same size. Forms represented by rimsherds include three bead-rimmed jars (nos 37, 38, 40), two 'figure-7' type jars (nos 52, 54), a bowl with a flanged rim (no 17), a Surrey bowl (no 70), a flanged bowl with horizontal grooved lines on the body (no 72), and a lid (no 89).

(D) Standard: 380 sherds (3171g), of which 37% was from the fills of ditch 110. There are frequent sub-rounded quartz grains of *c* 0.2–0.6mm and occasionally up to *c* 1.8mm, but the frequency of temper is not as dense as in sub-type C. Iron mineral inclusions are present, frequently of *c* 0.2mm and rarely up to 0.8mm.

In all 38 vessels are represented by rimsherds, of which 11 were from ditch 110, and the majority from jars. They include a storage jar (no 28), nine jar rims (nos 18, 29–32, 34, 36, 43, 63), a bead-rimmed jar (no 39), seven cordon-necked jars (nos 1, 3–5, 7, 10, 46) and a perforated sherd from a cordon-necked jar (no 23), and three 'figure-7' type jars (nos 50, 51, 53). In addition, an everted-rimmed jar (no 56) and the rim of a red-coated jar of 4th-century type (no 62) are both of Alice Holt type 3B (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 42).

Other vessels represented include a bead-rimmed beaker (no 42), a biconical beaker (no 49), two Surrey bowls (nos 68, 71), an Alice Holt 5C.2 strainer (no 41) (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 47 where dated AD 270–420), a reed-rimmed bowl (no 76), a plain bead-rimmed bowl (no 78), and an Alice Holt type 6A with horizontal groove (no 82) (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 48).

(E) Fine: 188 sherds (1404g), of which 43% was from the fills of ditch 110. There are frequent quartz sand grains of *c* 0.1–0.3mm and iron mineral inclusions, frequently of <0.1mm and rarely up to 0.5mm. The rimsherds divide almost equally between those of jar and bowl types. The former are represented by two cordon-necked jar rims (nos 2, 8), a narrow-necked jar rim (no 6), a 'figure-7' type rim (no 55), the rim of a small cordon-necked jar (no 48), four jar rims (nos 9, 35, 45, 47), and three everted-rimmed jars (nos 58, 59, 64). The bowls include a Surrey bowl (no 69), two with flanged rims (nos 73, 86), another with a reeded-rim (no 74), an Alice Holt type 6A (no 83) (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 48, where dated AD 180–420), and another bowl rim (no 75). There is also a lid rim (no 88) and two beakers (nos 66, 67).

(F) Very fine: 66 sherds (367g), of which 27 were from ditch 110. These were tempered with quartz grains and iron mineral inclusions frequently of <0.1–0.2mm and rare quartz grains up to *c* 0.3mm. This gives the fabric a distinctive 'salt and pepper' appearance. This sub-group includes sherds of poppy-head beakers, and the rim of one of these with en barbotine slip-dotted panels, came from ditch 110 (no 21). Two other vessel forms are represented, two Alice Holt type 3B jars (nos 57, 61) (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 42) and a lid (no 91).

(G) Very hard: 1 sherd (145g), very hard and brittle, with quartz sand grains of *c* 0.1–0.3mm and frequent iron mineral inclusions of *c* 0.2–0.5mm. The thickness of the sherd suggests that it may have been from a storage jar.

(H) Standard with pale grog inclusions: 17 sherds (116g), including one from ditch 110. An odd fabric with moderate amounts of quartz grains and iron mineral inclusions, both of *c* 0.2–0.5mm but with sparse inclusions of a white daub-like material up to *c* 1.5mm. The two vessels represented by rimsherds are a jar (no 44) and a bead-rimmed bowl (no 77).

Verulamium region Buff Sandy Ware ('Brockley Hill')

23 sherds (381g), 16 of which were from ditch 110. The include a ribbed strap handle of a flagon and part of the base of a mortarium.

'Surrey buff ware'

(Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 60), 2 sherds (19g), neither of which were from ditch 110.

BB1

1 sherd (14g), the rim of a beaker type (no 93) (Gillam 1976, 66, no 24).

South Spanish Amphora

1 sherd (60g), probably from a Dressel 20 type.

Orange Ware types

32 sherds (115g), 13 of these were from ditch 110. The inclusions are quartz sand grains and accessory iron minerals, both up to *c* 0.1mm. The core is occasionally light grey. Only one rim was recovered, that of a beaker (no 33), but one sherd had rouletted decoration and 15 an external white slip.

'Cologne' Colour-coated Ware

8 sherds (16g), 2 of which are from ditch 110. A fine, quite hard, white to creamy-white fabric. The slip ranges from dark brown-grey-black. No rim forms are present, though all but one are decorated. Six have clay particle roughcasting and one has en barbotine diagonal line below lozenges.

Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware

7 sherds (28g), a soft off-white-buff, fine fabric. The slip ranges from dark brown-red. No rimsherds were found and only one sherd had clay particle roughcasting.

'Colchester' type Colour-coated Ware

11 sherds (81g), a fine, hard orange fabric, the core often having a sandwiched effect. The slip is dark orange-brown. Nine sherds of a cornice-rimmed beaker with clay particle roughcasting came from ditch 110; of the other two sherds one has clay particle roughcasting while the other is rouletted.

Oxford Red Colour-coated Ware

3 sherds (7g), a fine, soft, orange fabric with a red slip (mostly worn away). Forms include the rim of a bowl (no 95) and a mortarium sherd with pink and white quartz trituration grits.

Other colour-coated wares

3 sherds (8g), including one small and worn sherd in a fine, soft cream fabric with light brown slip and fine clay roughcasting (?Nene). The other two sherds are in a fine, soft orange fabric with a dark grey-black slip.

?Verulamium Region Fine Ware

3 sherds (13g). A fine, soft buff-pale orange fabric, with occasional light grey core. The quartz sand grains are up to 0.2mm with some finer iron mineral inclusions. Finds includes a flagon rim (no 94) and a sherd with rows of en barbotine dots covered by a pale orange slip.

Fine Cream Ware

2 sherds (15g), a hard, fine, dark cream fabric with an orange core. One sherd is the rim of a beaker (no 65).

Fine Orange Ware

2 sherds (5g) of a very fine, fairly soft orange fabric. One sherd has en barbotine dot decoration.

Other fine wares

8 sherds (52g) in a fine, fairly soft fabric ranging from buff to pale brown, some with a light grey core. There is no decoration or traces of slip; two hemispherical bowl rims (nos 79, 80) are included.

Samian

17 sherds (79g). Joanna Bird has examined them and her identifications are incorporated in the comments below. Two of these sherds are in South Gaulish fabric (hereafter SG), the others are all of Central Gaulish type (hereafter CG). Most sherds are small and very worn. Two sherds, of CG, are from ditch 110.

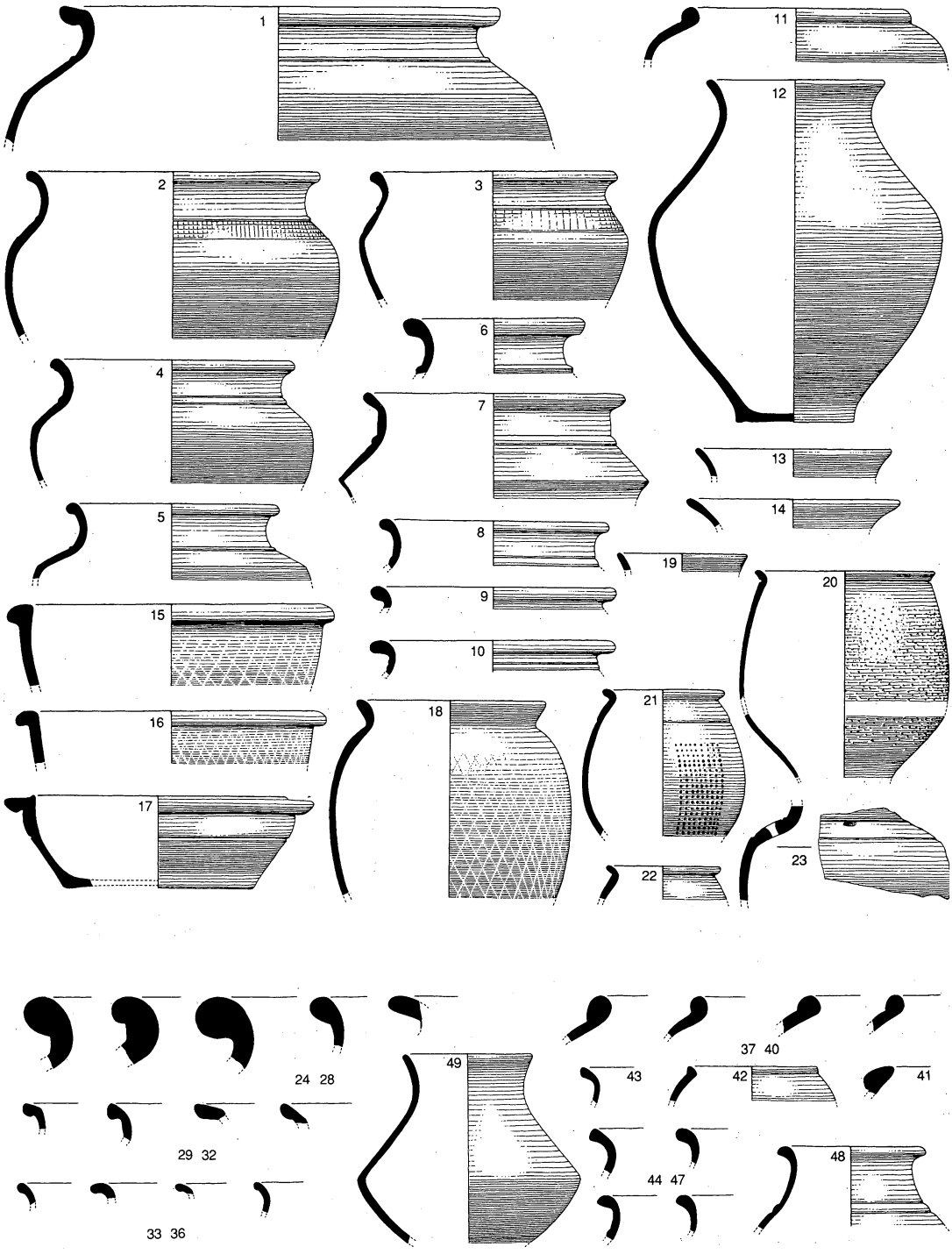

Fig 3.7 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: Roman pottery, nos 1–49. Nos 1–23 are finds from feature 110. Scale 1:4

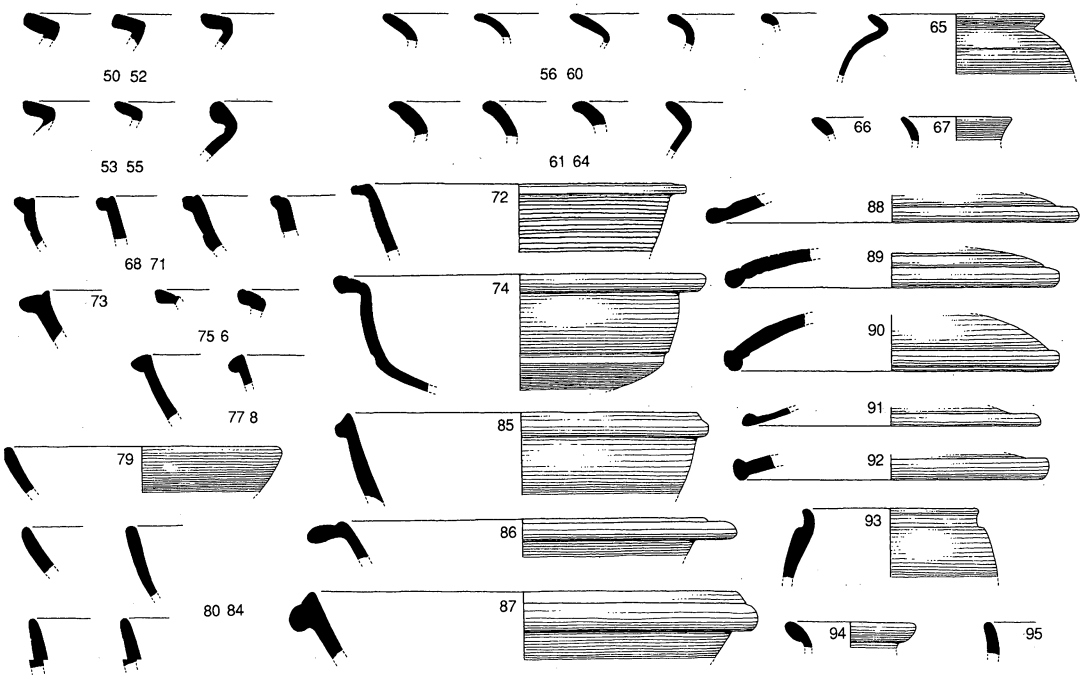

Fig 3.8 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: Roman pottery, nos 50–95. Scale 1:4

Only a few rimsherds were found, including a Dr 37 in CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre), probably from a decorated mould used by X-11 ('Ioenalis') dated *c* AD 100–125; a Dr 31 rim with an uncommon internal groove in C.G. (Lezoux), probably Antonine; a rim (possibly the underside of a Curle 11) in SG; and a Dr 37 (or possibly a Dr 30) rim in CG, of Hadrianic–Antonine date. Other sherds include a dish sherd, probably a Walters Tg or Ludowici Tg in CG, dated after AD 160. There are also two decorated sherds one in CG (Lezoux) from a Dr 37 by one of the Cinnamus group, dated AD 145–175; and a decorated sherd of a Dr 37 in CG and Antonine in date.

Assemblages from ditch 110 (contexts 110Ea, 110Eb, 110W: 320 sherds, 3.6kg)

Most of the pottery from the fills of this feature is in a good state of preservation and the profiles of several vessels could be assembled from joining sherds. The impression is that most of the pottery was of primary deposition.

There is a wide variety of fabric types represented within the assemblage, most of which are greywares. All the greyware sub-types are present except those of B and G. Other wares are represented mostly by a few plain body sherds, including some of Verulamium region and orange fabric types. A smaller number of sherds of fine wares were also recovered including some of Cologne, Nene, Colchester, Fine cream and samian of CG type.

The majority of vessel forms are jars of one type or another, and include nine greyware cordon-necked jars (nos 1–5, 7–8, 10, 23), of which 7 are in fabric sub-type D and 2 in sub-type E. Amongst these are 2 with vertical ladder burnishing in the shoulder panel below the cordon (no 2 in sub-type E and no 3 in sub-type D), a jar-type with an unusually sharp carination (no 7 in sub-type D), and a shoulder sherd which had been perforated after firing (no 23 in sub-type D). Other jars in greyware include a narrow-necked type (no 6 in sub-type E), a bead-rimmed jar (no 11 in sub-type C), a jar with burnished lattice decoration on the body (no 18 in sub-type D), a biconical jar (no 12 in sub-type D) and a rim fragment (no 9 in sub-type E).

Four beakers were found in the greyware fabrics; 2 beakers (nos 13 and 19 in sub-type D), a funnel-necked beaker (no 14 in sub-type E), and a bead-rimmed poppy-head beaker (no 21 in

sub-type F). One other beaker, with a cornice rim and clay particle roughcasting, is in a Colchester-type colour-coated fabric (no 20).

Three bowls were found, all in greyware fabrics, 2 with bead-rims and burnished lattice decoration in imitation of BB1 (nos 15 and 16 in sub-type D) and one with a flanged rim (no 17 in sub-type D).

Only 2 sherds of Samian were recovered, both of CG type. One is the base of a Dr 18/31, considered by Joanna Bird to be of Hadrianic/Antonine date.

The backfilling of this ditch can be put within the second quarter of the 2nd century on the basis of the samian, the greywares in imitation of BB1, and the Colchester-type colour-coated sherd.

Pottery from other possible Roman features and residual sherds (525 sherds, 4kg)

Most of this pottery was quite abraded. A variety of fabric types was recovered, but they were often represented by only one or two worn body sherds. This is especially true of the fine wares. The majority, *c* 60%, was of grey sandy ware types. Other fabrics present include grog-tempered, Verulamium region, Surrey buff, BB1 and orange ware types and a single sherd of South Spanish Amphora. Fine wares are represented by Cologne, Nene, Colchester-type and Oxford Red Colour-coated sherds, a possible Verulamium region fine ware, Fine Cream, Fine Orange, samian and a few other unidentified colour-coated and fine wares.

The majority of vessels represented by rimsherds occur in the grey fabric types and most of these are of jars. Five large storage jar rims were recovered, four of which are in the coarser fabric types (no 24 in sub-type A, nos 25–27 in sub-type B and no 28 in sub-type D). There are four bead-rimmed jars (nos 37, 38, 40 in sub-type C and no 39 in sub-type D), two cordon-necked jars (no 46 in sub-type D and no 48 in sub-type E), six 'figure-7' type jars (nos 52 and 54 in sub-type C, nos 50, 51 and 53 in sub-type D, and no 55 in sub-type E), seven everted-rimmed jars, four of which are of Alice Holt type 3B (nos 56 and 62 in sub-type D, nos 57 and 61 in sub-type F) (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 42), and three others (nos 58, 59 and 64 in sub-type E). In addition to these there were some jar rims which could not be allocated to a particular type (nos 29–32, 34, 36, 43 and 63 in sub-type D; nos 35, 45 and 47 in sub-type E and no 44 in sub-type H). There is also a jar rim in a grog-tempered fabric (no 60).

The second largest group of vessels are bowls. These include four 'Surrey' bowls (no 70 in sub-type C, nos 68 and 71 in sub-type D, and no 69 in sub-type E); three flanged bowls (no 72 in sub-type C and nos 73 and 86 in sub-type E); two reed-rimmed bowls (no 74 in sub-type E and no 76 in sub-type D); three bead-rimmed bowls, one an Alice Holt type 5C.2 (no 41 in sub-type D) (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 47), and two others (no 77 in sub-type H and no 78 in sub-type D); two Alice Holt type 6A (no 82 in sub-type D and no 83 in sub-type E); and one other bowl (no 75 in sub-type E). Amongst the fine wares there is the rim of a bowl in Oxford Red colour-coated ware (no 95); and two hemispherical bowls in unidentified fine wares (nos 79, 80).

Another vessel type indicated by rimsherds is beakers. These include a bead-rimmed beaker (no 42 in sub-type D); a biconical beaker (no 49 in sub-type D); and two other beakers (nos 66 and 67 in sub-type E). There is also a beaker of cooking pot form in BB1, dating to the early to mid 2nd century (no 93) (Gillam 1976, 66 no 24). Beakers also occur in an Orange Ware type (no 33) and in Fine Cream (no 65).

The only other form represented by rimsherds is lids (no 88 in sub-type E, no 89 in sub-type C and no 91 in sub-type F).

The variety of fabric types and vessel forms ranges from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD.

Discussion

The Roman pottery from the site is a mix of 1st to 4th century types, the bulk of which is of grey sandy wares of Alice Holt type. Storage jars are found in the coarser sub-types A and B, bead-rimmed jars and some 'figure-7' type jars occur in sub-type C, and a range of both jar and beaker

types are found in the standard and finer sub-types C, D and E. There is also a diverse range of fine wares, although most of these are represented by abraded body sherds. The collection indicates that there was domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity.

The pottery from ditch 110 is of more interest. This is less abraded and probably of primary deposition, suggesting that this boundary ditch had been backfilled in the second quarter of the 2nd century.

Earlier excavations in the town, at the Wheatsheaf, produced pottery of 1st to 3rd century date (O'Connell 1980) and the present finds allow us to extend the period of Roman occupation into the 4th century.

POST-ROMAN POTTERY, by Phil Jones (figs 3.9, 3.10)

A total of 559 sherds was recovered, of which seven are of Saxon or late-Roman date; 137 are of early medieval types, and 249 of other medieval types; 33 sherds are of 16th century wares, and 140 are of later post-medieval date. This report provides summary accounts of the pottery assemblages of phases 3a, 3b and 4, together with brief descriptions of the wares and forms that are represented.

Most of the medieval pottery belongs to the same ceramic traditions that are represented at other towns in west and central Surrey. The majority of sherds are of late 12th to 14th century types; there are very few sherds of the late Saxon and Saxo-Norman calcareous and poly-tempered fabric types that seem to have been current within this part of Surrey up until the mid to late 12th century, and few sherds of late medieval fabrics and forms. There is, however, a small quantity of transitional red/orange wares. Two fabric types are represented within the St Martin's Walk collection that have not been found at any of the recent excavations at Farnham, Godalming, Chertsey, and Staines. One belongs to a tradition of medieval orange sandy wares that are much better represented at Reigate, and the other is a hard, reduced greyware that is also better represented in East Surrey, and may have been made in the Limpsfield manufacturing area that lies close to the Kent border.

The pottery was quantified by count, weight, and EVEs, and these data, for each fabric and phase, are shown on tables 3.2 and 3.3. Because of the small quantities that are involved, it was not thought appropriate to assess either single context or phase assemblages on the basis of percentage proportions of the wares that are present. In the text only sherd counts are given, except where weight or EVEs were thought appropriate to include. Figures 3.9 and 3.10 illustrate most of the rims and other interesting sherds, and they are presented in fabric/ware order. The contexts in which they were found, and the ware/fabric coding, are usually shown on the left side of each illustration. Where rims have not been fully drawn out, their diameters are given at the external edges.

Fabric and form types

CQ Saxon chalk-tempered ware

A rimsherd of a handmade jar (no 105) and four other body sherds of this quartz sand and chalk-tempered ware were recovered from medieval and later contexts of the site. The ware is probably a mid-Saxon type, and is better represented in the collection from the Godalming Co-operative site (see p 194).

SAXGR Grog-tempered ware

The rims of two handmade grog-tempered jars (nos 96 and 97) and another from a bowl (no 98), may also have been Saxon but could be of late or sub-Roman date. In some parts of southern England there was a revival of the pre- and early-Roman tradition of grog-tempering during the late 4th and early 5th centuries (Cunliffe 1975, 68), but it cannot be known whether these vessels had been made then and not earlier or later. They were found in mixed assemblages of phase 3.

S2 Coarse shell-tempered ware

35 sherds (258g, 0.13 EVEs) of this coarse shell-tempered ware were recovered. The sample includes six rimsherds, of which four are from cp/jars with simple everted and slightly thickened rims (nos 101–104). The two other rims may be from storage jars although the forms and sizes of the rims are unusual (nos 99 and

100). It is possible that no 100, and possibly no 99, are Roman and not medieval, as very similar coarse shelly wares are known to have been supplied to the nearby town of Staines during the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Jones forthcoming). One S2 sherd was found in the upper fill of context 66, although this has been described as belonging to phase 1 by the excavator. Apart from five sherds that were unstratified, all others of S2 were from contexts of phase 3.

Q1L Sand and chalk-tempered fabric

A single sherd from phase 3B context 18 is corrugated and externally green-glazed, and is from the neck of a pitcher or jug (not illustrated). The temper is of quartz sand but there are also moderate amounts of comminuted chalk.

Andennes/Stamford-type glazed whiteware

A fragment from the narrow handle of a fine whiteware jug or pitcher, externally-glazed yellow (no 106). The sherd was recovered from phase 3B context 18.

IQ Ironstone sandy ware

Four sherds (17g, 0.03 EVEs), three of which were from phase 3A contexts, including the rim of a cp/jar (not illustrated), and the other was from a phase 3B context.

Grey/brown sandy ware tradition

This is the ceramic tradition that is most commonly represented amongst the medieval pottery from the site, and four fabric variants were identified.

GQ1B POLY-TEMPERED GRITTY FABRIC

Quartz-sand temper (*c* 0.4–0.8mm), moderate amounts of even larger angular ironstone inclusions (*c* 0.5–2.0mm). Thirteen sherds (366g, 0.12 EVEs), with five from phase 3A contexts and the others from those of phase 3B. Two rimsherds include one from a bead-rimmed cp/jar (no 107) and the other from a bead-rimmed bowl (no 108).

Q1B POLY-TEMPERED SANDY FABRIC

Frequent quartz sand grains (*c* 0.2–0.8mm), and sparse inclusions of large chalk fragments and some ironstone. 76 sherds (1461g, 0.72 EVEs), with 16 from phase 3A contexts, 36 from those of phase 3B, and the rest from post-medieval contexts or else unstratified. Twelve cp/jars and storage jars are represented by rimsherds, and most have similar beaded rims with a flat or slightly lid-seated top (nos 112–117, 127 and 129). Scratch-marked sherds are rare amongst the grey/brown sandy ware from this site, but no 117 has such surface treatment on its shoulder. Of the four other cp/jars, two have club-beaded rims (nos 118 and 128), one is a simple everted and end-thickened rim (no 126), and one is from a small vessel with a simple everted rim (no 110). An even smaller jar is represented by a body sherd (no 111). The only other vessel is the profile of a bowl which has a similar rim to most of the cp/jars (no 119). This rim form may be typical of a source of grey/brown sandy ware that had only supplied Dorking, since although a very similar fabric type has been identified at Reigate *Cherchefelle* (Jones 1986, 62–64; RQC2 and RQC3 types now reclassified as Q1B: see chapter 6), there are few rims from there that could be classified as being of the same type. Some of the Q2C cp/jars at Dorking have similar rims (see below).

Q2C DORKING-TYPE 'STANDARD' GREY/BROWN SANDY WARE FABRIC

'Standard'-sized sub-rounded quartz grains (*c* 0.2–0.8mm) and sparse ironstone. 96 sherds (1040g, 0.75 EVEs), including twelve rimsherds from cp/jars (nos 120–125, 130–134). Five of these are very similar to the distinctive rim carried by most of the Q1B cp/jars (nos 120, 121, 122, 124, 125). Other sherds include a neck sherd with combed decoration (no 109), part of the rilled shoulder of a cp/jar, a scratch-marked body sherd, part of a vertical finger-impressed ribbon strip, and a sherd with external green glaze (none illustrated).

FQ2D FINER DORKING-TYPE GREY/BROWN SANDY WARE FABRIC

Frequent sand temper (*c* 0.2–0.4mm). Thirteen sherds (180g, 0.11 EVEs), including a finger-impressed rimsherd from a cp/jar (no 141), and a sherd that carries part of a horizontally applied ribbon strip (not illustrated). Three sherds were from phase 3A contexts and six from those of phase 3B. None is glazed.

Orange sandy ware tradition

Sherds of this type from the site are very similar to those that have been found during recent excavations at Reigate, and which are thought to have been made in East Surrey or West Kent. A kiln that seems to have specialized in the production of white slipped, glazed and decorated jugs of this tradition has been found and excavated at Earlswood, 2.5km south-east of Reigate (Turner 1974, 47–55). Other kiln sites still await discovery, but at least some orange sandy coarseware may have been made at potteries within the Limpsfield complex of manufacturing sites. Two fabric types were identified in the Dorking assemblage.

OQ2B 'STANDARD'-TYPE ORANGE SANDY WARE

Quartz sand temper *c* 0.2–0.8mm. 32 sherds (271g, 0.11 EVEs), including nineteen that are glazed and of which ten also have under-glaze white-slipped decoration. Although most sherds are from jugs, a few cp/jars are also represented (eg no 144). The only rimsherd of a jug is green-glazed but has no white slip, and is from a vessel that had a tall neck with a central bulge (no 143). Three body sherds from jugs have diagonal white slip stripes that may have been part of a lattice design; another sherd has combed wavy decoration below the slip and glaze, and two others have diagonally latticed combed decoration that is also below the white slip and glaze (none illustrated). The earliest of the decorated sherds,

which most closely resemble those from Earlswood, is from ditch context 58, which had probably been deposited in the mid to late 13th century. The other sherds were from contexts of phase 3B.

OFQ2C FINER ORANGE SANDY FABRIC

Thirteen sherds (146g, 0.15 EVEs), including twelve that are glazed, of which four also have under-glaze white slipping. Kitchenware vessels are represented by the rim of a splash-glazed cp/jar (no 142); of the sherds from jugs, those of note include part of a glazed handle spring, and a moulded fragment with white slip and glaze (not illustrated). The earliest sherd was probably from ditch context 58.

LQ Hard reduced greyware (possibly a Limpsfield-type)

17 sherds (171g, 0.14 EVEs) of a reduced mid to dark grey sandy ware, that includes the rimsherds of five cp/jars (nos 135 and 137–140), and a storage jar (no 136). The earliest sherd was from ditch context 58, and the others were from phase 3B and 4 contexts.

Whiteware: fabrics WW1–3

WW1A COARSE SANDY WHITEWARE

51 sherds (406g, 0.51 EVEs), including the rims of a glazed jug (no 111), a large cp/jar with a vertical ribbon strip (no 145), a 15th century-type bifid-rimmed and glazed cp/jar or cistern (no 149), two flange-rimmed cp/jars of later 14th or 15th century type (nos 146, 147), and a small dish with internal green glaze (no 148). Another glazed sherd from a jug has comb-stabbed decoration (no 150). The earliest sherd is probably the rim of an unglazed cp/jar of late 13th or early 14th century type from ditch context 58 (no 145). All other sherds were from contexts of phases 3B and 4.

WW1B SPARSE COARSE SANDY WHITEWARE

26 sherds (208g), including part of a finger-impressed pie-crust base angle, and a fragment from a stabbed handle (not illustrated). The earliest sherd may be that from context 59; all others were from contexts of phase 3B and 4.

WW2 MEDIUM TEMPERED WHITEWARE

5 sherds (44g), including a pie-crust base angle (not illustrated). The earliest sherd was from context 53 of the phase 3B soil accumulation; all others were from phase 4 post-medieval contexts.

WW3TG

3 sherds (5g) of Tudor Green fineware, all from post-medieval contexts.

WW3 FINE WHITEWARE (BORDER WARE TYPE)

9 sherds (74g, 0.10 EVEs), including two rimsherds from a flanged dish with internal yellow glaze (no 181). All were from phase 4 contexts except for a sherd in the phase 3B accumulation of soils, context 18.

RWW RED/WHITEWARE

4 sherds (39g, 0.03 EVEs), of which two were from the phase 3B accumulation of soils, contexts 18 and 56, including the rim of an unglazed flanged dish (no 152). The two other sherds were from phase 4 contexts.

Redwares

Most are of standard 16th to 19th century redware types, but there are some that are of transitional and Tudor Brown types, and one sherd that may be of a Staffordshire type.

TRANSITIONAL REDWARE OF TUDOR BROWN-TYPE

29 sherds (1022g, 1.17 EVEs) of a buff to brown ware that often retains a grey core, and was sparsely glazed, if at all. All were unstratified or from phase 4 context 52, except for eight sherds from phase 3B pit 120 that includes a rim and handle fragment from a chafing dish with internal dark green glaze (not illustrated). Of five sherds from context 52, there are rimsherds from a large jar with internal patchy green glaze (no 156), and from a bowl with an internal treacly brown glaze (no 155). Other rimsherds of note from the site include one from another deep bowl with internal green glaze (no 154); two bowls with handles (nos 159 and 160), the former unglazed and the latter with external splash glazing; a skillet or pipkin with internal splashed green glaze (no 157); a pancheon with internal green glaze (no 153); and an unglazed jug (no 158). There are, in addition, two body sherds with deliberately reduced surfaces and white-slipped decoration (nos 165 and 166).

? STAFFORDSHIRE BUTTER-POT WARE

A single thick body sherd with a thick internal treacly brown glaze; from the soil accumulation context 18 (not illustrated).

POST-MEDIEVAL RED/BROWN WARES

102 sherds (1891g, 1.17 EVEs), including nine from soil accumulation contexts 18 and 53, and others from phase 4 contexts or else unstratified. Most of the rimsherds that were collected have been illustrated and are of various jar and bowl forms. Nos 162, 163, 168, 170–172, and 177 have internal clear/brown glaze; and nos 164, 167, 169, 173–176, 178, and 180 are unglazed.

Other post-medieval wares

There are ten brown/grey stoneware sherds including a Bellarmine rim fragment and a body sherd of Nottingham type; a small sherd of tin-glazed ware with cobalt blue decoration; a small sherd of porcelain with red painted floral decoration; two sherds of Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware; four sherds of creamware; and fifteen sherds of 19th century 'china'.

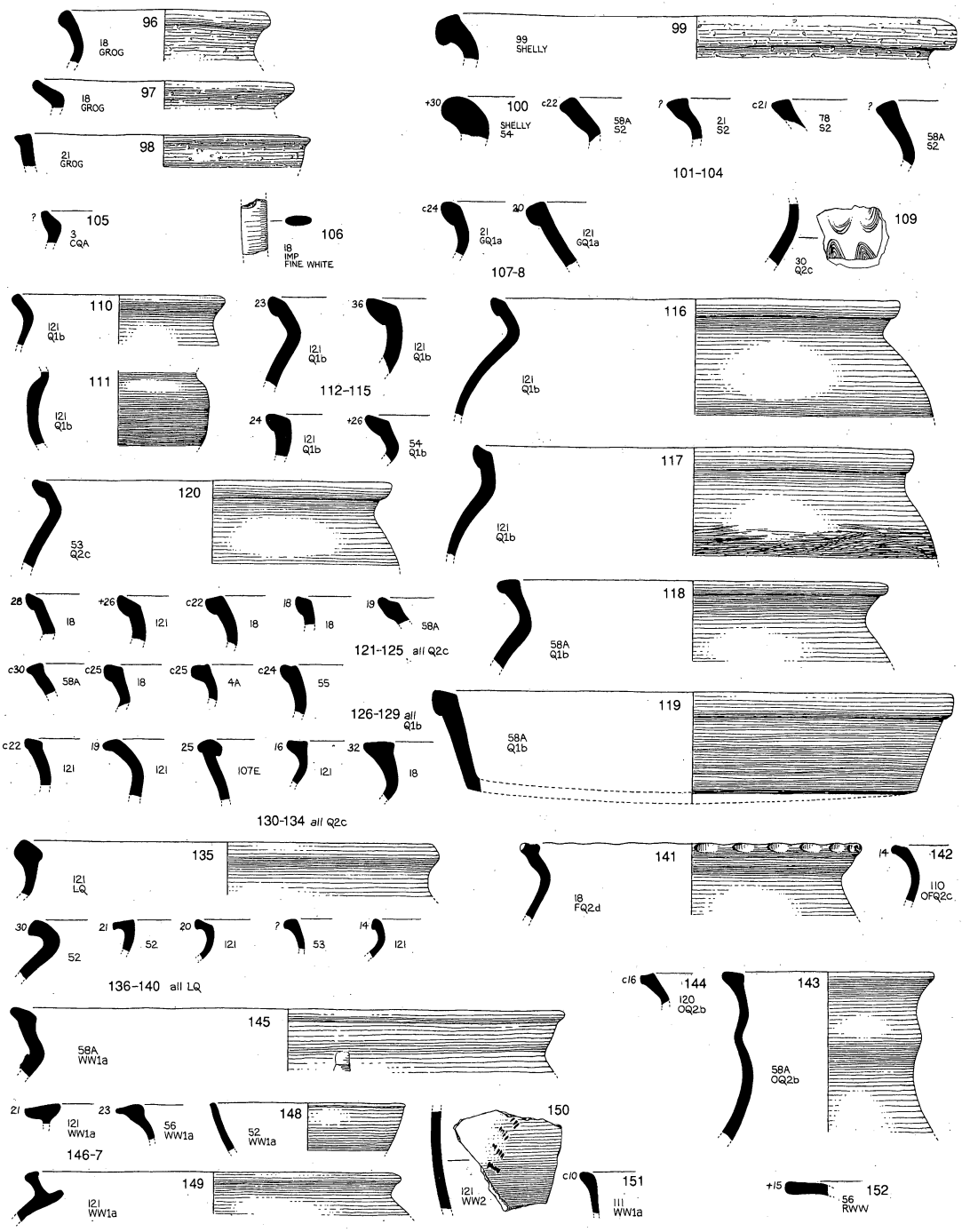

Fig 3.9 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: medieval pottery, nos 96–152. Scale 1:4

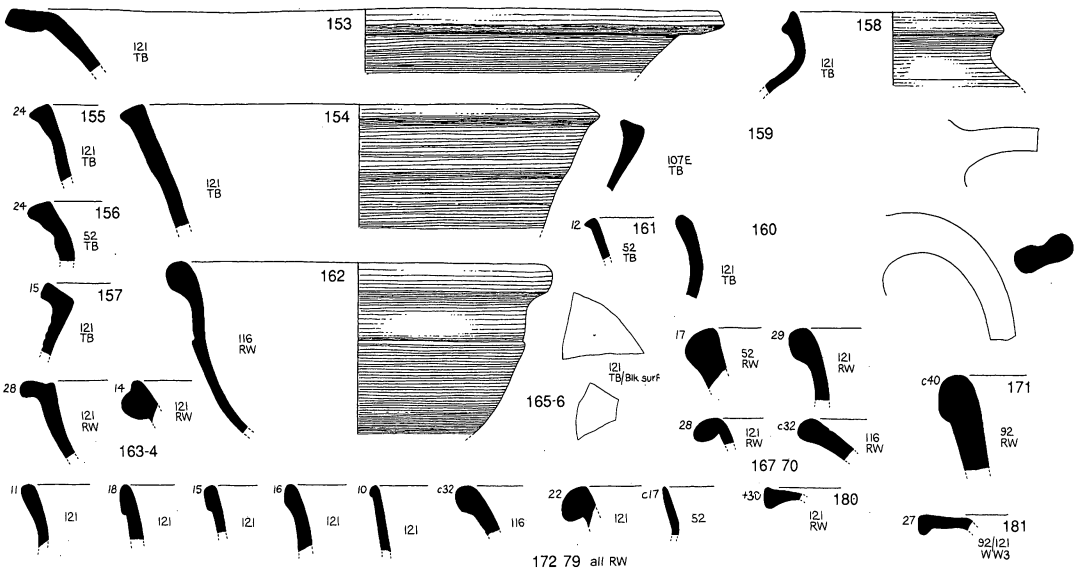

Fig 3.10 St Martin's Walk, Dorking: medieval pottery, nos 153–181. Scale 1:4

The Phase Assemblages

Phase 3a: *c* AD 1150–1250

The assemblage is mostly of residual Roman material (279 sherds), with only 83 medieval sherds that are of 12th and early 13th century types. Ditch 58/73/119 contained the largest quantity of medieval sherds (54), in which the most common types are of the standard grey/brown sandy ware fabric Q2C (19 sherds), and that of a probable variant with some chalk, Q1B (13 sherds). Other fabrics represented in the ditch assemblage and other phase 3a contexts include S2 shelly ware, a grittier grey/brown sandy ware fabric, GQ1B, IQ Ironstone sandy ware, and East Surrey OQ and OFQ orangeware types. There are also single sherds of a hard greyware that may be of Limpsfield type, and of whiteware WW1A (the latter possibly being an intrusive sherd). Three sherds of Saxon CQ ware and one of late/sub-Roman or Saxon SAXGR ware, were also recovered. Of the fourteen graves that were partly excavated, three contained sherds within their fills. Grave S23 contained fifteen Roman sherds (presumably derived from gully 110 through which it had been cut) and a shelly S2 ware sherd; S29 contained four Roman sherds and two of 12th or early 13th century medieval sandy ware types; S30 contained three Roman, one Saxon, and two medieval sherds that are probably also of 12th or early 13th century date.

Phase 3b: *c* AD 1250–*c* 1540

Some 143 sherds are Roman, and 141 are of post-Roman types. The most common fabrics represented continued to be Q2C and Q1B (33 and 36 sherds respectively), although most, if not all, had probably been redeposited. There is a proportional increase in the amounts of sherds of the orange sandy types (14 sherds), hard grey Limpsfield type (7 sherds), and whiteware (21 sherds), but there are no sherds from these or other contexts of the site that can be demonstrated to have been from later 14th or 15th century vessels. There are, however, three Tudor Green sherds and the bifid rim of a whiteware cp/jar or cistern (no 149) in phase 4 contexts that are probably of 15th or early 16th century types.

The sample of the accumulation of soils across the site which sealed phase 3B features 72 and 111 (contexts 3, 18, 53–56, 118), contained 128 Roman and 114 medieval sherds, including some of late 13th or early 14th century types, but no identifiable late medieval material. Fifteen sherds are of post-medieval types, however, and at least one of these, the flanged rim of a 16th century-type bowl (no 152), was recovered from the lowest of four sample spits that had been excavated in order to establish how the soils had formed. The soil layer might, therefore, have been turned over by plough or by hand during the 16th century and perhaps also before, but this may have ceased by, or during, the 17th century. The Roman and medieval material probably derives from layers and features that had been truncated during this turning over of the soils. A pit, 120, had probably been sealed below the soil layer, and may have been filled during the early 16th century since it contained eight sherds of Tudor Brown type, but none of the post-medieval redwares, whitewares or stoneware types that are represented within the soil layer. The pit was found immediately below the foundations of a modern toilet block and there was no means of physically determining its stratigraphic relationship with the soil layer.

Phase 4: *c* 1540 to the present

Some 28 Roman, 39 medieval, and 56 post-medieval sherds were recovered as samples from contexts of this phase, which were mostly the fills of a few pits and linear features of 19th century date. These had penetrated an upper layer of soil, context 52, which lay over the earlier soil accumulation, and which, on the basis of some pottery from it, had probably formed up to, and including, the 18th century.

Unstratified material

Some 82 Roman, 118 medieval, and 65 post-medieval sherds were salvaged from the spoil-heaps of the site, or were otherwise unstratified.

THE BUILDING MATERIALS, by Suzanne Huson

A large variety of building materials was recovered from the site, occurring in all phases. By far the largest quantity of material was tile, 3670g of which was Roman and included examples of tegula, imbrex and flat tile. The medieval/post-medieval tile amounted to 9992g, the majority of which was peg-hole roof tile; no nib tiles were found. There were also eleven examples of medieval floor tiles; one had traces of white slip, another of brown glaze and all the rest had had their surfaces worn away. One example did have unusually deep key finger scoring on one surface. Other tile included 12g of roofing slate from phase 4 and unstratified; of note was 175g of yellow sandstone peg-type tile from phase 3a.

Other building materials from the site included 1458g of post-medieval brick, and 2520g of daub including some examples with wattle impressions from phase 3a. Chalk was found in quantity on the site — 2525g was collected but much more was discarded on site; none of it was ashlar. There was also 65g of Upper Greensand and 20g of other (unidentified) stone from the site.

THE SMALL FINDS, by Suzanne Huson

The collection of small finds from the site is unexceptional, both individually and as a whole.

Prehistoric

A small collection of flints from this site also indicates a prehistoric presence in Dorking, although they were all residual. The 33 pieces of struck flint are worked in a mixture of chalk and gravel flint. The latter could well have been collected from along the river Mole. Of note is the end scraper from context 100 (unstratified) which is of gravel-derived flint. The date of the material is

mainly Mesolithic/Neolithic as suggested by the numerous small blades, although some of the components are possibly of a later date.

I would like to thank Jon Cotton, who has seen the flints and whose comments are incorporated above.

Roman

The small finds give us practically no information on Roman activity in Dorking. Amongst the copper alloy objects only two coins were found, one of which was from a later context and can therefore be regarded as residual; the other is an Æ centenionalis of Constantius II AD 346–354.

There is only one iron object, part of a curved rod of unknown use, and nails; however, there are two pieces of slag, one part of a hearth base (from ditch 110). These and the fragment of lava quernstone give some slight indication of the character of the settlement. The building materials give another indication of the character of the Roman occupation, although a relatively small amount was recovered from this site (3670g of tile). The inclusion amongst this material of roofing tiles such as tegula and imbrex point towards a rather substantial structure in the vicinity.

I would like to thank Mike Hammerson for his identification of the coins.

Medieval

The copper alloy objects consisted only of a lace tag and two fittings, of which little can be said. The majority of the iron objects are of types associated with structures and include a hinge pivot, wall hook and nails. The only other object was an awl (for leatherworking), but a slag hearth base indicates the possibility of smithing in the vicinity. The only other medieval object was a whetstone. The glass recovered from medieval contexts consisted of green bottle and clear vessel type, all of post-medieval date and all of which can be counted as intrusive.

Post-medieval

The only identifiable iron objects were a punch (for use in stoneworking) and a number of nails. Other objects include half a ring and a T-shaped rod; the use of these is indeterminate. Some slag was also recovered. The only other finds were of glass, including clear vessel, green bottle and modern window glass, and clay pipes. These range in date from 1660 to the 19th century and a number of the spurs and stems bear makers' marks.

Discussion

The earliest finds recovered during the excavation were a small collection of flints and a sherd of prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age, pottery from feature 66 in area A. Although it attests the presence of some prehistoric activity in the vicinity, the flintwork is mainly of intrinsic interest, coming from contexts in which its presence was purely residual. Various worked pieces (see finds report) were recovered, but this collection contained nothing that was typically diagnostic of any of the later prehistoric periods; individual pieces could be of Mesolithic/Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Therefore the inclusion of a prehistoric phase in this report is only justified if it is accepted that 66 was a genuine prehistoric feature. This point is debatable for the reasons outlined above, but given the secure position of the unabraded prehistoric sherd found at the bottom of the feature and the nature of its fill, which was unlike that of any other feature on site, there may be grounds to suggest that this find was representative of the age of the pit, if it is accepted that the medieval sherd found near the surface of the fill may have arrived there through contamination.

The first indisputable phase of human activity present on the site dates to the Roman period, with features being present in areas A and B. Certain of the features have been tentatively assigned to this period for reasons given above. It remains possible that some might be of post-Roman date, though, for the purposes of this discussion, it is assumed that they have been

phased correctly. Little can be said about the function of the pits, as finds were not frequent, and there was a virtual absence of organic material such as bone, which could have suggested that they were used as domestic rubbish pits; although present only in small quantities, bone did survive in certain Roman contexts (phase 2), so there is no reason to think that it had decomposed. Finds (mainly of pottery sherds and some tile) were recovered from ditches 101 and 110 in sufficient quantity to indicate Romano-British occupation nearby.

Ditches 101 and 110 appear to have been of late and mid/late 2nd century date respectively and both may have served as boundary features. Certainly 110, which ran in an east-west direction along rather than down the hillslope, is unlikely to have been used for drainage and 101, running downhill in a north-south direction towards the Pippbrook, may have combined both drainage and boundary functions. Little can be said about ditch 5 though it may have been used for similar purposes to 101; if continuous, its course can be traced over a distance of approximately 37m between trial trenches 2 and 5. Finds were not frequent from this feature, but the material recovered from layer 4c (phase 2, area B) suggests that it dated to the 3rd century AD or later.

Although relatively few, these features do at least indicate a Romano-British presence in the vicinity; previous excavations have revealed features and material of similar date nearby — for example, a mid/late 1st century ditch and later Romano-British pottery were found just to the east of St Martin's Church at The Wheatsheaf (O'Connell 1980, 53–55), and material also of this date was found in a pit beneath St Martin's (Ettlinger 1978); no structural remains have been uncovered so far. A pattern is beginning to emerge which suggests that there may have been some continuity of settlement (or at least land usage) in this part of Dorking during the Roman period, though the scale of this activity remains unknown. The density of material found in and around St Martin's Church may at first sight suggest that the nucleus of the settlement was close by, particularly considering the quantity of finds recovered from ditches 101 and 110. However, stray Roman finds have been found at various locations in Dorking (O'Connell 1980, 51), and this impression may merely reflect the fact that opportunities for archaeological excavation have largely been confined to this area. Future work may resolve this question, particularly if structural features are found; if traced, the course of Stane Street, which has been much debated but which remains uncertain, will surely be shown to have influenced the shape and development of the settlement.

The next activity to survive for archaeological recognition on site led to the creation of feature 94 (area B) in the early medieval period. The function of this deep vertically-sided linear feature remains unknown (phase 3a), and finds from its fill were few; stratigraphically this feature is important as one sherd of shell-tempered pottery belonging to the period between AD 1150 and 1250 was recovered from its lowest fill layer (99). This sherd established a *terminus post quem* for feature 96 and graves S27, S28 and S29, which cut 94 and consequently cannot pre-date the mid-12th century (the earliest date suggested for this find).

The upper fill layer (69) of 94 was interesting because it contained numerous small chalk lumps and numerous pieces of daub (some with wattle impressions). The daub alone may have suggested little more than perhaps the removal of a wattle-and-daub fence, but combined with the chalk it could indicate the clearance of a small structure, with material being dumped as a final infill layer in an already abandoned feature. Feature 96 (phase 3a) also contained wattle-impressed daub, chalk lumps and in addition some burnt clay and twig/small branch-sized lumps of charcoal (layers 95 and 97), and could again have acquired this material from some clearance. As no daub and only small amounts of chalk were found eastwards in feature 58 (albeit a slightly later feature but one likely to collect any debris remaining on the ground surface nearby), this suggests that any such structure must have been situated to the west of the excavation area. Therefore, as the Domesday Survey records the presence of a church in Dorking in the 11th century, and this is assumed to have been built in the vicinity of the present church, it may be speculated that a structure hereabouts could have been associated with the early church.

The abandonment and possibly deliberate final infilling of features 94 and 96 appears to coincide with an important change of land use on site which is marked by the presence of ditch 58 and the inhumation burials discovered. When looked at in conjunction with the graves the most likely

explanation of 58 is that it served as a former churchyard boundary — clearly no burials were found to the east of this ditch, and slight turns at each end of this feature suggested that it may have contained an area to the west. The intervening ground between 58 and the graves was probably largely filled by a bank of material upcast from the creation of the ditch, and the presence of a bank implies that 94 had ceased to be an open feature.

The graves all contained simple Christian inhumations which were buried in a supine position and were orientated in an east-west direction with the head towards the west. Later activities and soil accumulation made it difficult to estimate the depths of the graves below the contemporary land surface, though considering the degree of slope and level of the present surface on the western side of the churchyard wall a depth of around 1m seems likely, allowing for some soil build-up within the cemetery. No clothing attachments (such as buckles or lace tags) were found in any of the graves, so it is possible that all clothes were removed prior to interment, perhaps to be replaced by some burial garment, or at least that readily re-useable items were removed, leaving the body clad only in biodegradable garments which have not survived for archaeological detection.

Excluding S20, S27, S28 and S91, the remaining ten burials form a fairly evenly spaced line implying that there was some organization within the cemetery, with the position of burials perhaps being visibly marked. Grave S20 may appear to be an isolated burial at first sight, but this is perhaps unlikely and, without knowing more about the distribution of burials within the graveyard, would be an unsafe assumption to make. It seems more likely that other burials lie slightly further to the west (and therefore just outside the limits of the excavation), or that those between S20 and the very shallow S22 had not been deep enough to survive later uses of the site. Clear stratigraphic relationships (phase 3a and section 1) showed S27 to cut S28 and these graves were cut by S32 and S29 respectively. As S32 and S29 were part of the apparently organized line mentioned above, it is possible either that early burials were not marked or that the location markers of S27 and S28 had disappeared. Further, it could be suggested that overcrowding necessitated the reuse of former plots, or that earlier graves were considered unimportant. However, such suggestions may only be offered tentatively considering how little is known about the graveyard as a whole.

Few contemporary finds were collected from the grave fills (possibly as little domestic material found its way into the graveyard), but occasional pottery sherds of late 12th or early 13th century date were recovered. These sherds correspond with others of similar date found more plentifully in ditch 58, which indicate when this feature was infilling and may reflect the collection of domestic material from outside the cemetery. Therefore, assuming the ditch and graves to be more or less contemporary, a late 12th/early 13th century to mid-13th century date can be offered for those features based on the following points:

1 the graves cannot pre-date the mid-12th century as a sherd of *c* AD 1150–1250 date was recovered from feature 94 (phase 3a and above);
2 finds from ditch 58 and certain grave fills indicate a late 12th/early 13th century date for these features (phase 3a);
3 the latest finds from the upper fill layer (58a) of ditch 58 were of late 13th century date (phase 3a), suggesting that the feature had been infilled by this time and was therefore out of use;
4 assuming an earth bank to have been present to the west of ditch 58, as mentioned in phase 3a and above, this must no longer have been present when the late 13th–early 14th century feature 111 was dug (unless, as seems unlikely, this feature was deliberately dug through the bank);
5 the 14th century feature 72 cuts ditch 58 (phase 3b), which clearly must have infilled prior to this;
6 14th and 15th century sherds from 56, the lowest spit of layer 18 (phase 3b), indicate that soil turning for agricultural purposes was taking place to the west of 58 by this time.

The course of ditch 58 outside the excavation area remains unknown, though slight westward turns were observed to the north and south of the excavation area. No trace of the feature appeared in trial trenches 4 and 5 to the north so it may be that the churchyard did not extend so far at this time. To the south it is possible that the churchyard may have extended as far as the

High Street, and support for this idea comes from two sources. Firstly, human remains were found during reconstruction work at the premises of Messrs C J Pierson & Co Ltd (formerly 22 High Street: we have been unable to ascertain the precise location of this work) in a builder's trench close to the present churchyard (*Dorking Advertiser* 18 August 1933). Secondly, similar remains were discovered nearby in the 1970s during building work below the present Barclays Bank (fig 3.1) (local press reference unknown; some of these finds were kept in the Dorking Museum until their recent reburial along with the remains recovered during the excavation). Neither of these works were well recorded from an archaeological point of view so the age of the burials remains uncertain. Interestingly, reference is made in the 1933 article to old church registers and to the book by the Rev Neville Stiff (1912), which reproduces entries from these. The registers record the burial of certain bodies outside the exact boundaries of the cemetery, and one 17th century suicide burial in the churchyard ditch is cited as an example. However, this in no way influences the interpretation of the graves excavated here and does not rule out the possibility that the remains found in 1933 and 1970 belonged to the same cemetery.

Ditch 58 ceased to be a significant feature by the end of the 13th century, and occasional sherds of this date from the upper fill probably indicate when final infilling was taking place. The disuse of 58 as an ecclesiastic boundary presumably marks a change in the use of land immediately to the west of it to secular functions, but whether or not this indicates an all-round reorganization of the churchyard (as Dorking expanded ?) is unknown. Although pits 72, 84, 111 and 120 were dug during the ensuing period, allowing the important relationship between 58 and 72 to be recognized during the excavation, no other medieval features survived on site. For the most part, the land seems to have been used for agricultural purposes which led to the development of layer 18. This layer sealed Roman and medieval features and, although some of its depth may well be due to natural soil accumulation, this was clearly a well turned soil, as finds from it were mixed and showed no stratigraphic 'age' layering.

Soil turning for agricultural purposes may have taken place sporadically or more or less continually over a number of decades, and shallow features could well have been destroyed during this process. When this activity ceased is difficult to estimate, though some time in the 15th century could be possible as suggested by finds from 56, the lowest spit of 18, in an area excavated by hand (phase 3b). However, even if deep turning did stop by this time, there was no evidence from the excavation to indicate that the site was then used for non-agricultural purposes (assuming it remained in active use as seems likely), and the presence of a similar layer on the western side of St Martin's (O'Connell 1976 and 1980) indicates a similar pattern of land usage here. Further, it may be that the site was a little far from the High Street to have been used for light-industrial or domestic pit digging by those occupying the street frontage, and 120 (to the far south) was the only feature pre-dating the post-medieval period that contained material typical of a rubbish pit.

When ditch 58 became redundant it was presumably replaced by another churchyard boundary, and there is no reason to suspect that this lay other than to the west of 58, though the exact nature and location of its immediate successor is uncertain. However, work on the final day of the excavation (phase 4) located another ditch (90) almost directly below the existing wall, and finds from this feature suggested that it was of mid/late 17th century date; this indicates the presence of at least one intermediate boundary between the time of 58 and the present wall, and this may have been cut or re-cut along much the same line as a predecessor. This boundary is presumably that shown on a 1649 estate map of the manor of Dorking (SHC 196/2/1/Z99), and at that time land to the east of the church (extending southwards to include a building on the street frontage) is shown to have been occupied by Anne Bourer and R^{d} Mason.

The line of ditch 90, where located, coincided almost exactly with the western edge of area A and several graves were found to have been cut by this feature (phase 3a). It is likely that the ditch ran in a north–south direction close to this edge for much of the length of the excavation area, which may explain the apparent absence of layer 21 in the vicinity of graves 22–25 (section 1), as this may also have been cut by the ditch.

Few other features were excavated and, with the exception of an 18th century rubbish pit (116) in trial trench 5, all probably belonged to the 19th or 20th century. These later features (phase 4)

were also mainly rubbish pits with most containing an assortment of Victorian refuse, and those in area B were no doubt associated with the buildings of St Martin's Place. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the upper site was in use as a cattle market, and immediately prior to redevelopment both areas were used for car parking and also for a weekly market.

Appendix: summary of other work in Dorking

VIVIEN ETTLINGER

A number of small-scale pieces of archaeological work in Dorking are not mentioned in the foregoing report, principally because they are not immediately relevant to the main thrust of the argument. As new discoveries are made the significance of this work may well become clearer.

The Malthouse, North Street (rear of) (TQ 1647 4942)
A trial excavation in September 1979 behind the Malthouse in North Street produced a quantity of pottery dating from Romano-British through medieval to recent and included a good series of clay tobacco pipes. (Ettlinger 1979)

15/16 Church Street (TQ 1640 4951)
Two seasons of excavation in advance of development at 15/16 Church Street, produced two short lengths, 50m apart, of V-profiled ditch about 3m wide across the top and about 1.5m deep. These lay on the possible line of Stane Street, the Chichester to London road (Margary 15) although no evidence for any road was recovered apart from a few large flint nodules in and around the ditch. Cut into or associated with the more southerly site were several postholes and two pits, the latter containing, like the ditches, large quantities of RB pottery and other artefacts in unmixed layers. Finds included an enamel and bronze brooch conforming to Collingwood's Group Sii as well as other metalwork, coins of Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Claudius II Gothicus and Constantine, a bone pin and disc, and tile and plaster. A first assessment of the pottery and other finds suggested a sequence, though not necessarily unbroken, from the 1st–4th century. Observation during subsequent development produced further pottery on the probable line of the ditch between the two lengths excavated. (Ettlinger 1982)

Mint Gardens (TQ 1642 4952)
Trial trenching was carried out in 1984/85 on this site to the north of the parish church prior to local authority development. Apart from the foundations of some 19th century cottages which are shown on the tithe map, nothing was found except a quantity of daub and a few Roman and medieval sherds, all of it unstratified. It was therefore concluded that the Roman and subsequent settlements did not extend in this direction. (Ettlinger 1986)