

Archaeological investigations at East Lane and South Lane, Kingston upon Thames, 1996–8

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Between 1996 and 1998 archaeological investigations in advance of redevelopment at East Lane and South Lane, Kingston, revealed evidence for an early Saxon farmstead. The settlement, located on a narrow promontory of high gravel between the Thames and marshes associated with its tributary, the Hogsmill, included a possible post-and-stake built building. Subsequently the site was abandoned and not reoccupied until the early post-medieval period, during the expansion of Town End, the southern suburb of Kingston. The early post-medieval buildings occupying the site stood until the mid-20th century, when they were demolished and replaced with a small factory and garage.

Introduction

This report describes the archaeological investigations on the site of Wilcox Automobiles Ltd workshops, at South Lane, and an adjoining light industrial complex at East Lane, Kingston upon Thames, centred at TQ 1782 6869 (fig 1).

The site lay on a sand and gravel ridge on which previous archaeological investigation had identified the presence of pottery of early Saxon date (fig 1; Jones 1995). During the post-medieval period the area is known to have been steadily developed as part of Town End, a suburb of Kingston. Cartographic and photographic evidence indicates that early post-medieval buildings stood on the site until the mid-20th century.

Accordingly, between 1996 and 1998 a programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) in advance of redevelopment. The various investigations of the site were given the individual codes SLK96, ELK96 and ELA98 (fig 2).

The archaeological evaluation of the South Lane part of the site (hereafter SLK) was undertaken between 21 and 24 May 1996. The evaluation took the form of five test pits, each 1m square, excavated within a standing garage complex. The archaeological excavation of the SLK site was undertaken between 15 and 31 July 1996 following demolition and clearance of the garage. A single archaeological trench approximately 23m north–south by 7m east–west was excavated.

Archaeological evaluations of the East Lane part of the site were undertaken from 1 to 5 June 1996 (hereafter ELK) and from 11 to 19 May 1998 (hereafter ELA). The 1996 evaluation took the form of a single trial trench 17m by 2m in an area of surface car parking. The 1998 evaluation was carried out in and around the standing buildings of the light industrial complex and comprised six test pits each 2m by 1m. Following the second phase of evaluation, subsequent demolition and site clearance, an archaeological excavation (part of ELA) was undertaken between 4 and 20 November 1998. Two areas of excavation were opened. The larger, at the north end of the site along the East Lane frontage, measured 8m wide north–south by approximately 30m long east–west. The smaller, to the south, measured approximately 7m square and did not reveal any archaeologically significant remains.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site was located on the highest point, and at the northern end, of a narrow gravel ridge or 'island' (hereafter referred to as the South Lane Island). The island may originally have

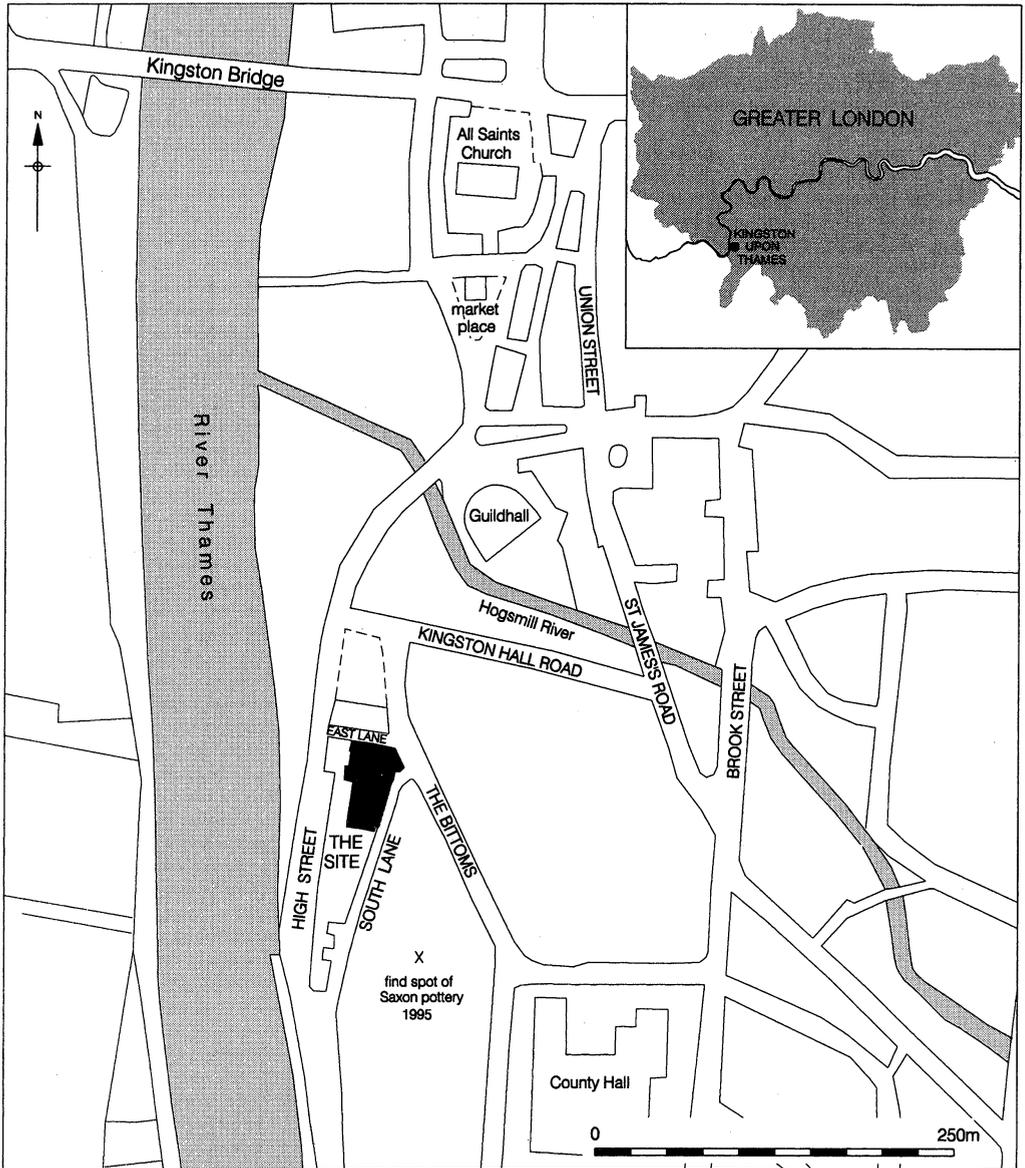


Fig 1 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: location of site; inset: location of Kingston within Greater London (tone). (© Crown Copyright. MC 100014198)

been a sand and gravel eyot formed in the prehistoric Thames (fig 3). The South Lane Island extends from Kingston Hall Road on the north, to the south of County Hall on the south, a distance of about 400m. However, throughout its length the island is extremely narrow, never being more than 40m wide east–west.

The South Lane Island in the area of the site, is currently at *c*9m OD, approximately 1m higher than the land immediately to the west (High Street) and 1.5m higher than the land to the east. To the west of the island, the ground level has been significantly raised since the late medieval period by reclamation from the river Thames. Prior to this it is likely that the island's topography sloped down into the Thames in a long shelving beach.

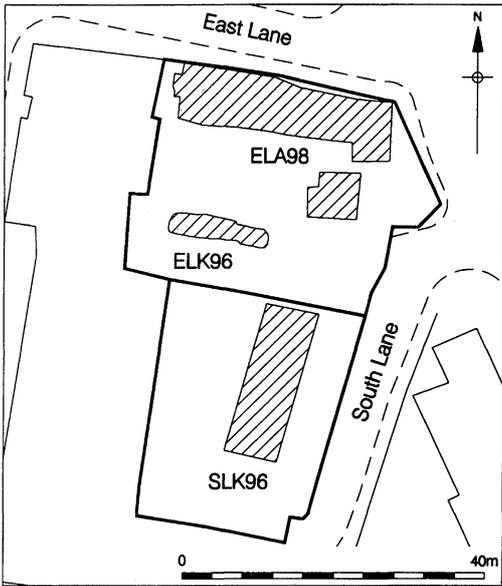


Fig 2 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: location of excavated areas

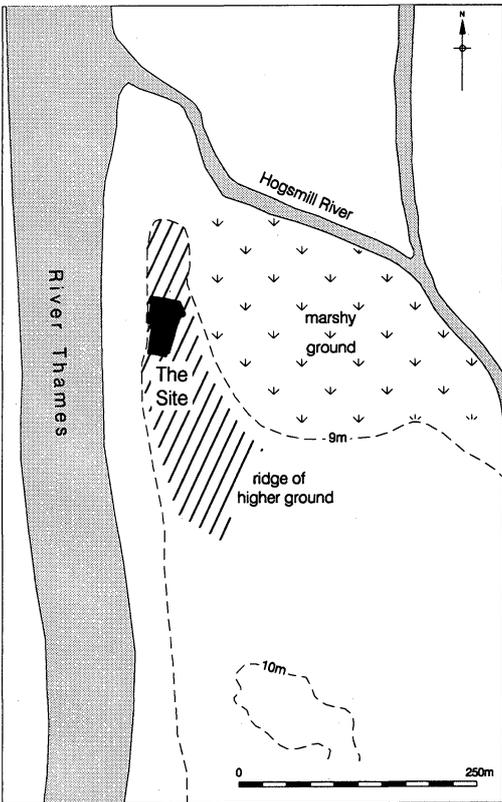


Fig 3 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: topography

To the east of the South Lane Island lay an area called historically The Bittoms, known to have been marshy into the early modern period (fig 3). Ground level in this area has also

been raised significantly since the late medieval period, as confirmed by archaeological investigations at The Bittoms (Thompson 1991) and more recently along Oakleaf Passage (M Higgins, pers comm).

Topographically, therefore, the site lay in a prominent position on the otherwise low-lying Thames flood plain, flanked by the Thames on the west and by braided channels and marshes associated with its tributary, the Hogsmill, on the east. Such a location would have been an obvious focus for human activity from the earliest times.

Archaeological deposits

PREHISTORIC

The investigations recovered 54 struck flints and just over 4.5kg of burnt flint. The raw material and variations in the technology used suggest that the struck flint could derive from multiple occupations of the site spanning the Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age.

A small assemblage of highly fragmented and abraded residual prehistoric (probably Late Bronze Age) pottery (total 71 sherds) was also retrieved from across the site. Both the flint and pottery largely derived from an extensive deposit of post-medieval garden soil and the reworked subsoil.

ROMAN

The only finds of Roman date were a single abraded fragment of tile and six abraded sherds of pottery (two datable to AD350–420). All this material was considered to be residual and no direct evidence for Roman activity remained *in situ*.

EARLY SAXON (fig 4)

A total of 258 postholes and stakeholes, together with a pit and two gullies, are thought to be of early Saxon date through their association with a large assemblage of early Saxon pottery and other finds, including loomweights and an antler tine.

The early Saxon features, all of which were truncated horizontally, were filled with an almost entirely homogeneous fill, the cuts being definable only at the base of the disturbed natural subsoil. No contemporary horizontal stratigraphy was identified on the site, there being a complete absence of floor layers, working surfaces and hearths, possibly due to later reworking and truncation, but perhaps because these were set above contemporary ground level.

Group 1: the pit and associated stakeholes (SLK)

North of the east–west aligned gully 1, lay a sub-rectangular pit (150) with steep sides and a flat base, 1.66m long by 1.3m wide and 0.55m deep, containing animal bone (predominantly cattle), charcoal and 5th to early 6th century Saxon pottery (nine sherds). Close to this feature were several groups of stakeholes. An east–west alignment of stakeholes, to the south of pit 150, could perhaps represent a fence. The finds may represent the disposal of rubbish, although this need not have been the primary function of the pit feature.

Gully 1 (SLK)

A heavily truncated east–west aligned gully with straight, gradually sloping sides and a rounded base 1m wide and 0.4m deep ran to the south of the pit (150) and the stakeholes of group 1. This gully may have been cut by, or cut, stakeholes of group 2. Nothing can be said with certainty however regarding the stratigraphic relationships owing to the general

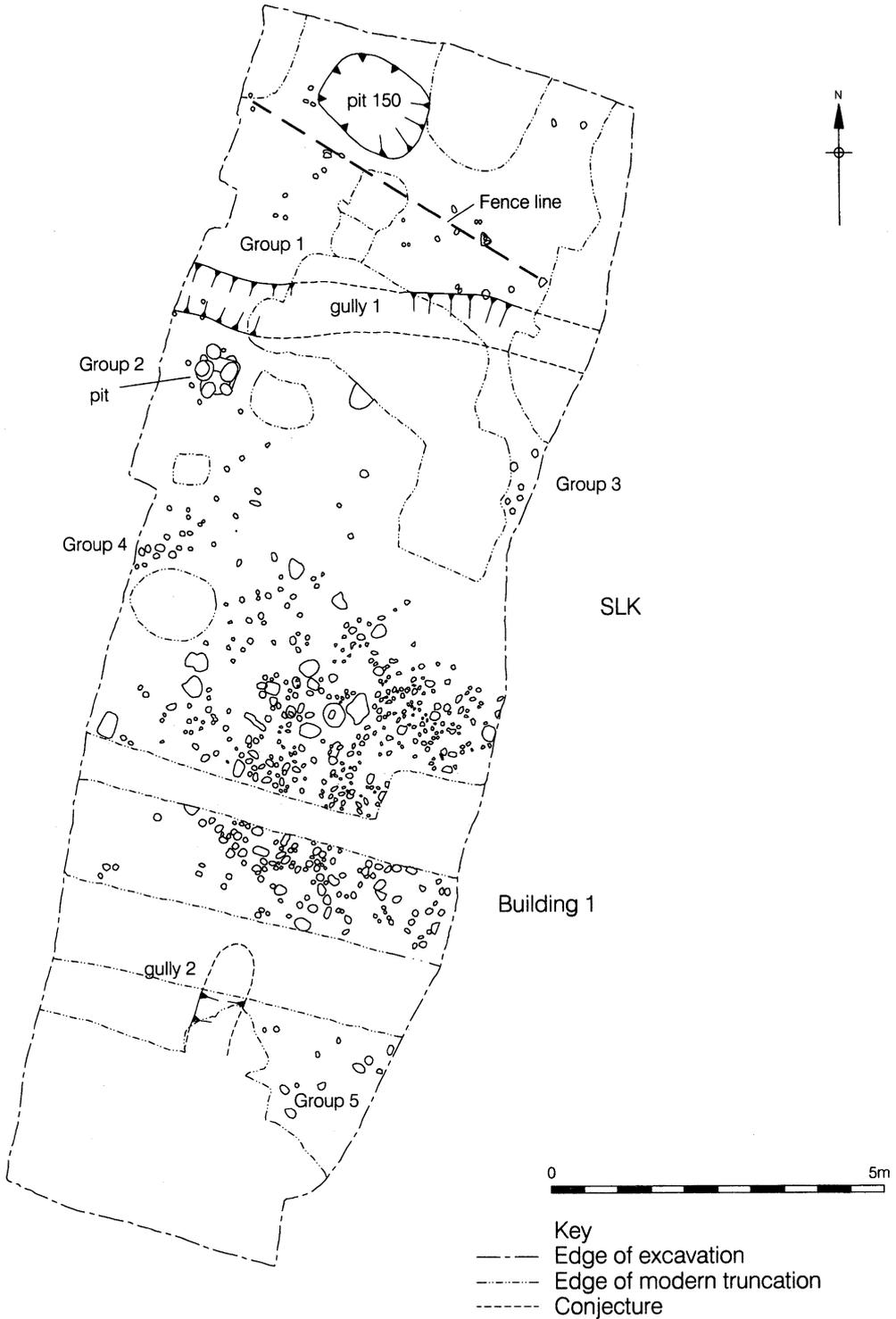


Fig 4 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: plan of early Saxon features in area SLK

homogeneity of the 'fill' deposit. Of particular interest is the fact that this gully appears to run across the top of the South Lane Island down towards the Thames.

Group 2 (SLK)

This group of features comprises a square pit (633), 0.28m deep with vertical sides and a flat base, within which were set a series of postholes up to 0.18m deep. Around this posthole/pit complex were a number of apparently structural stakehole alignments, perhaps representing hurdle screens or walls. Small quantities of burnt flint were present in the pit, together with a sherd of early Saxon pottery and a fragment of iron. No ash or significant quantities of charcoal were associated with this group of features.

Group 3 (SLK)

This group comprises six stakeholes identified towards the eastern edge of the SLK area of excavation. These stakeholes appear isolated from other features but this is perhaps more a product of post-depositional impacts on the surrounding area rather than of any other factor.

Group 4: building 1 (SLK) (fig 5)

This group comprises a rectangular area of postholes and stakeholes, aligned north-west to south-east, and includes the vast majority of such features found in the SLK area of excavation. A number of these produced early Saxon pottery. The group of features was relatively well defined on the north, west and south sides, and appeared to continue beyond the limits of excavation to the east. The north side, in particular is marked by a line of four relatively substantial postholes. Many of the postholes and stakeholes exceeded 0.1m in depth, with the deepest being 0.4m, despite the impact of horizontal truncation, suggesting that they were structural. It seems probable that these features represent a building rather than any other structure such as a pole framework for horticultural use. Possibly the large number of posthole and stakehole features represent a series of rebuildings or adaptations over time. The absence of floor layers, or of hearths, may indicate that these were set above contemporary ground level. The natural subsoil was noticeably level in this part of the site varying from 7.96m OD at the western limit of the features, to 7.78m OD at the eastern limit and from 7.82m OD at the north to 7.84m OD at the south.

Group 5: gully 2 (SLK)

A group of twelve postholes and stakeholes was located at the eastern edge of the SLK area of excavation. These may have been associated with a roughly north-south oriented gully (gully 2) which had been very heavily truncated.

MEDIEVAL

No certain features of medieval date were identified on the site although a few sherds of late medieval pottery together with an (unstratified) late medieval ceramic fishing weight were recovered.

POST-MEDIEVAL (fig 6)

Horse burial (ELA)

A large pit (79) contained a substantial proportion of the articulated skeleton of a domestic horse (*Equus caballus*). The horse, aged about twelve years at time of death, had been



Fig 5 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: photograph of possible early Saxon building, looking east.

defleshed with a knife prior to disposal. Finds recovered from the pit backfill suggest a deposition date after 1580, probably in the early 17th century.

Ditch (ELA)

A roughly north–south aligned ditch (75) bisected the larger, northern area of investigation. The ditch had sloping sides with a rounded base and an average depth of about 0.3m below the contemporary ground surface (6.5m OD). The fill of the ditch contained pottery dated exclusively to the mid-17th century, although 18th century tile fragments were recovered from the surface of the ditch backfill. There was little evidence of erosion of the ditch profile and no evidence of recutting, suggesting that it was open for only a short period of time.

Building 2 (ELA)

On the north-eastern edge of the site a north–south alignment of postholes, 0.15 to 0.33m deep, was identified; this has been interpreted as a wall line.

Yard surface (ELA)

An extensive yard was identified represented by mixed but chalk-rich deposits (2 and 16). Although both deposits had been considerably truncated by modern building activity, they clearly terminated against former wall lines on the east and west. The uppermost deposit (2) contained finds dating to the period 1590–1900. No dating material was recovered from the lower deposit (16).

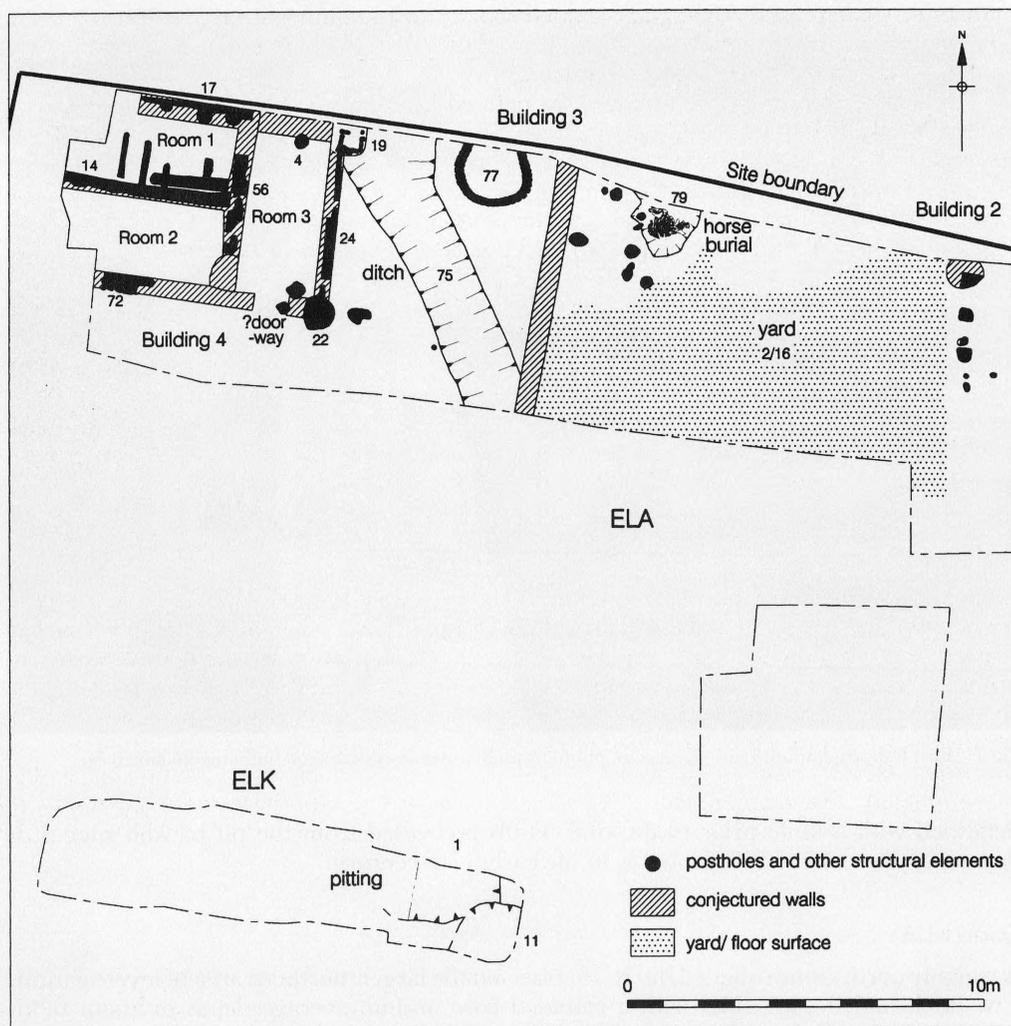


Fig 6 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: post-medieval features

Building 3 (ELA)

A group of postholes, 0.15m to 0.29m deep, together with a circular, shallow brick-lined structure (77), are thought to represent the fragmentary remains of a building. Part of the eastern limit of this building is thought to be represented by the sharp western limit of the yard surfaces (2/16). The bricks used to build the structure (77) are dated to after 1730 and pottery from its backfill was dated to between 1590 and 1900. The extensive strengthening of wall 24 of building 4 (below) may have been carried out when building 3 was constructed.

Building 4 (ELA)

To the west of building 3 was building 4 with overall recorded dimensions of approximately 7.7m east–west by 5.5m north–south. The building continued beyond the western limits of the northern ELA area of investigation and probably ran up to the present day site boundary, giving an east–west dimension of approximately 10m. The building was divided

into three similar-sized rectangular-shaped rooms, all *c* 2.45m by 4.9m (8 ft by 16 ft). The two western rooms (rooms 1 and 2) were oriented on an east–west axis. The easternmost (room 3) was oriented on a north–south axis.

The northern limit of the building was defined by a wall (17), which had in part been built of brick. The north–south aligned wall (56) dividing rooms 1 and 2 from room 3, was constructed with brick footings but contained postholes thought to represent the remains of timber uprights, integral to the original wall structure. The east–west aligned wall (14) which divided rooms 1 and 2 was also partly of brick, but had been heavily robbed.

The southern limit of building 4 was delineated by a fragment of rough masonry wall (72) and a group of postholes between 0.1 and 0.4m deep.

The eastern end of the building was defined by a narrow wall (24). This wall was terminated to the north by a square brick foundation (19) and to the south by a circular brick foundation (22). These are thought to represent the later strengthening of an earlier wall. West of the southern terminal (22) the internal deposits of room 3 ran up to an external cobbled surface indicating a doorway at this point. All the brickwork in this building is thought to represent the later underpinning of an originally timber-framed building. None of the walls survived to a height of more than two courses.

Room 1

The earliest floor surface was represented by a rammed gravel deposit. There was no indication that the room had ever had a timber or paved floor. The rammed gravel surface was sealed by a largely organic deposit containing a high percentage of sawdust, straw and animal dung. The deposit was in turn sealed by a more localized clay/gravel deposit butting against the north wall of the room. Depressions in the organic deposit appeared to represent a series of north–south aligned ground beams, and associated posts, thought to be stalls, which once stood in the room and around which the deposit had in fact accumulated. The stalls appear to have been keyed into the southern room partition wall (14). The dimensions of the stalls (*c* 1.5 by 0.75m) indicate they may have been used for young pigs.

Room 2

Inside room 2 the earliest floor surface was represented by a trampled clay deposit. This was cut by a concentration of small stakeholes and a shallow depression containing a burnt ash and sand fill, in turn sealed by a further ashy sand deposit. The primary floor and burnt accumulations in room 2 were later cut by a 0.6m deep foundation cut backfilled with a crushed brick and silt fill. The foundation cut appears to have butted against the partition wall separating room 2 from room 1 and may represent the base or remnants of foundations for an internal fitting.

Room 3

Inside room 3 the earliest floor surface was represented by a dark brown silty sand deposit sealed by a rammed gravel surface. The rammed gravel was sealed by alternating chalk and silt deposits. The latest floor, a chalk surface, was cut by a single posthole, which may represent part of a later addition to the room.

The rubbish pits (ELK)

A number of post-medieval and early modern rubbish pits were recorded on the site together with a number of isolated postholes and a substantial deposit of ‘garden soil’. Two closely associated rubbish pits (1 and 11), approximately 12m to the south of building 3,

contained pottery assemblages of late 18th to early 19th century date, deriving from general household breakage.

The finds

THE FLINT, by Barry Bishop

Raw material

The colour of the flint was very variable, ranging from fine-grained translucent flint to coarser grained cherty flint. At least two flint sources could be identified. The bulk of the material came from smooth rolled or 'chatter' marked pebbles, often displaying thermal faults, as is indicative of alluvially displaced gravel pebbles commonly available in the vicinity of the site. A few struck pieces, however, displayed a much thicker chalkier cortex, and these are likely to have been obtained from, or very close to, the parent chalk. Such sources could be fairly easily accessed via the Thames and its tributaries.

Burnt flint

Most of the lithic assemblage consisted of burnt pieces. The quantities involved (just over 4.5kg) suggest hearth material, rather than the more extensive burning that has been indicated from other prehistoric sites (eg Bowsler 1991, 11–19).

Struck assemblage

Fifty-four pieces had been intentionally struck, comprising 42 flakes, five blades, four retouched implements and three cores. They were mostly in a slightly abraded condition, and about half were broken. This would suggest that although they had been subjected to some taphonomic displacement, it was not extensive, and they were probably recovered from close to where they had been discarded. A small number had become recorticated.

Technology

A variety of reduction strategies appear to have been employed, ranging from systematic blade and narrow flake to cruder broad flake production. The use of both hard and soft hammer percussion was indicated by the presence of faceting and trimming to some striking platforms, although most were plain, and the common presence of both pronounced and diffuse bulbs of percussion, and hinged and feather distal terminations.

Three cores were identified. These were all irregularly shaped with many randomly oriented platforms, one core evidently made on an alluvial gravel pebble. One core rejuvenation flake was identified, although it was unlikely to be associated with any of the cores recovered.

Retouched implements

Four pieces had been deliberately secondarily modified: three were scrapers and one a possible broken knife. In addition, one broken blade appeared to have been utilized, probably through use as a cutting implement.

Discussion

The small size of the assemblage and lack of diagnostic types make confident interpretation of the lithics problematic. Considerations of the raw materials and general metrical and technological attributes suggests that the assemblage is of mixed date, and probably derives

from multiple occupations in the vicinity of the site from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic until the Middle or Late Bronze Age.

THE POTTERY

Prehistoric pottery, by Alan Vince

A total of 71 sherds of handmade late prehistoric pottery, tempered with angular flint (PF), and one shell-tempered (PSH) sherd were recovered from the site. The assemblage was residual and largely derived from an extensive deposit of post-medieval garden soil and the underlying reworked natural brickearth. The sherds came from straight-sided vessels, one of which had a pronounced shoulder. All the sherds were heavily abraded and weathered. Because of their fragmentary and abraded condition it proved difficult to assign a precise date to the assemblage though comparison with other assemblages from the Kingston area suggests a Late Bronze Age date (Field & Needham 1986, 127–52).

Roman pottery, by Alan Vince

In total, seven sherds of abraded residual Roman pottery were recovered from the site. Two were identified as Portchester D ware (PORD), dated AD350–420+, one was of Highgate C sand-tempered ware (HWC) and one was of unsourced sand-tempered greyware (RPOT) with burnished lattice decoration on the exterior, probably the wheel-thrown black burnished ware, BB2. The remaining sherds comprised a sherd of slightly abraded Roman white fabric and a sherd of burnished greyware.

Saxon pottery, by Chris Jarrett

The Saxon pottery derived exclusively from the SLK area of the site. The pottery was assessed by Vince (1997) and this report draws upon his conclusions. The Saxon pottery was generally not abraded, but was fragmentary with some large body sherds, with few diagnostic pieces that could be confidently assigned to forms; one complete vessel was present.

The fabrics

In total, 105 sherds of Saxon pottery were present as eighteen distinct fabrics. Three were organic/chaff-tempered and one was bone-tempered, three were of a sand-tempered type, nine contained sandstone inclusions and two were iron-rich tempered. The fabrics have been given an alphabetic coding system as employed by the Museum of London and are listed in table 1 below.

The wide range of fabric types indicates that pottery was derived from several sources: quartz sandstone; green sandstone probably originating in Hampshire; iron-stained quartz from areas of outcropping Reading Beds, and limestone inclusions from other areas. The variations in fabric, the presence of eg calcareous inclusions with sandstone, may indicate that clay sources were being utilized at geological boundaries. None of the early Saxon fabrics on the site have the high content of organic tempering which is a characteristic of 6th, 7th and early 8th century pottery assemblages. The chaff-tempered wares here are defined as sparse to moderate organic tempering with either fine quartz sand (CHSF) or with coarser sand inclusions (CHFS). Bone-tempered wares (ESBO) are beginning to be recognized in the Thames valley, and whereas previously they were solely associated with funerary vessels, they have also been recognized from domestic contexts at Prospect Park, Harmondsworth, (Laidlaw & Mephram, 1994, 26–38, fabrics V400 and V401). The sand-tempered wares (ESANA and ESANB) were represented by a small number of sherds, probably representing specialized vessels not made locally such as the ESANA pierced

TABLE 1 Saxon fabric codes

CHSF	Hard, smooth feel, moderately coarse fabric, sparse to moderate strands of organic material (chaff or straw) <4 mm, frequent ill-sorted rounded to angular clear quartz <0.4mm, sparse, ill-sorted iron-stained quartz <1mm, sparse ill-sorted rounded iron ore <0.5mm; unoxidized burnished external and wiped internal surfaces.
CHFS	Hard, slightly rough feel, moderately coarse fabric, moderate strands of organic material (chaff or straw) <7mm, frequent well-sorted sub-rounded quartz sand <0.2mm, moderate ill-sorted sub-rounded, clear, milky or yellow coloured quartz <0.05mm, sparse mica, 0.2mm; unoxidized wiped surfaces which can be burnished.
CHFI	Hard, slightly rough feel, moderately fine fabric, sparse strands of organic material (chaff or straw) <5mm, frequent ill-sorted sub-rounded quartz <0.5mm, sparse ill-sorted rounded iron-stained quartz <0.5mm, frequent well-sorted iron ore, 0.04mm, unoxidized partially burnished surfaces.
ESBO	Hard, rough feel, coarse textured fabric, frequent ill-sorted sub-rounded quartz <1.5mm, sparse ill-sorted limestone <2mm, sparse ill-sorted angular flint <1mm, sparse ill-sorted bone fragments <2.5mm, sparse well-sorted rounded chalk <1mm, sparse elliptical voids (shell?) <4mm; unoxidized fabric with burnished surfaces
<i>Sand tempered</i>	
ESANA	Hard, rough feel, moderately coarse fabric, frequent ill-sorted sub-angular clear and iron stained quartz <0.05mm, sparse iron ore <0.5mm, sparse mica <0.05mm, very sparse rounded red clay pellets <0.05mm, very sparse angular ?chert, 2mm; unoxidized.
ESANB	Hard, rough feel, moderately fine fabric, moderate ill-sorted sub-rounded clear and iron-stained quartz <0.5mm, moderate ill-sorted sub-rounded clear quartz <0.2mm; unoxidized
ESAND	Hard, slightly rough feel, moderately fine textured, frequent ill-sorted rounded sand <0.5mm, sparse sub-rounded rounded iron ore <2mm, sparse strands of organic material (chaff or straw) <2mm, unoxidized burnished and wiped surfaces.
<i>Sandstone tempered</i>	
ESGS	Hard, rough feel, frequent greensand tempered textured fabric, frequent well-sorted sub-rounded greensand <1mm, sparse well-sorted rounded rose-coloured quartz <1mm, sparse ill-sorted rounded iron ore <1mm; unoxidized surfaces.
ESGSI	Hard, rough feel, frequently coarse tempered fabric, frequent ill-sorted angular greensand quartz <1.5mm, moderate ill-sorted rose-coloured quartz <0.5mm, moderate to frequent rounded iron ore, <2.5mm, sparse ill-sorted rounded calcite, 0.5mm; unoxidized surfaces.
ESMS	Hard, smooth feel, moderately fine tempered fabric, frequent ill-sorted sub-rounded iron-strained quartz <1mm, moderate ill-sorted sub-rounded iron-ore <1mm, sparse organic (chaff or straw) <3mm, sparse to moderate mica <0.2mm; unoxidized burnished surfaces.
ESMS(I)	Hard, smooth feel, moderately coarse fabric, frequent ill-sorted sub-rounded iron-strained quartz <1mm, moderate ill-sorted sub-rounded iron-ore <1.5mm, sparse to moderate mica <0.2mm; unoxidized burnished surfaces.
ESSTA	Hard, smooth feel, moderately fine sandstone tempered fabric, frequent sub-rounded ill-sorted clear sandstone quartz <0.5mm, sparse clusters of ill-sorted sandstone <0.05mm, very sparse well-sorted black iron ore, sparse streaks of white material <0.5mm; unoxidized burnished surfaces.
ESSTA(O)	Hard, smooth feel, moderately fine sandstone tempered fabric as above but with sparse organic material <5mm; unoxidized burnished surfaces
ESSTA(O)+CALC	As above but with sparse rounded calcareous (chalk) inclusions <1mm.
ESSTB	Hard, rough feel, coarse tempered fabric, abundant ill-sorted sub-angular sandstone quartz <0.5mm, sparse to moderate rounded clusters of sandstone <6mm (mostly <2mm); sparse well-sorted black iron ore, sparse streaks of white material <0.5mm; sparse mica plates <0.2mm; unoxidized burnished surfaces.
ESSTB(I)	As above but with moderate rounded red iron ore <1mm.
ESSTB(IR)	As ESSTB but with moderate rounded iron rich nodules <2mm.
ESSTB(O)	Hard, rough feel, moderately coarse tempered fabric as above but with sparse strands of organic temper or voids <4mm, unoxidized fabric with burnished surface, and occasionally coarse slipped .
ESSTB(OI)	Hard, rough feel, coarse tempered fabric as ESSTB but with organic temper and iron ore, sparse strands of organic material (chaff or straw) <2mm, moderate to frequent ill-sorted sub-rounded red iron ore <0.05mm; unoxidized wiped surfaces.

Iron-rich tempered

ESIR	Hard, smooth to rough feel, moderately coarse fabric, moderate ill-sorted sub-rounded Iron ore nodules <3mm, sparse ill-sorted sub-rounded grey quartz <1mm, sparse organic inclusions (chaff or straw) <5mm, sparse well-sorted mica, 0.2mm, unoxidized burnished surfaces.
ESIR + CALC	As above but with sparse rounded calcareous (chalk) inclusions <1mm, unoxidized, burnished external surface.

vessel. The ESAND fabric represents a quartz sand-tempered fabric with a noticeable but sparse organic (chaff) tempering and some variation in the frequency of the quartz sand tempering may indicate this inclusion was added. Vessels in this ware tended to be well made with burnished surfaces.

The green sandstone-tempered fabric (ESGS) and its iron rich variants (ESGS and ESMS) are probably of a Surrey or Middlesex origin; ESMS possibly from the Colne valley (L Blackmore, pers comm). The most frequently occurring fabrics (ESSTA, ESSTB) are tempered with a weakly cemented sandstone, possibly of a Surrey origin (L Blackmore, pers comm) identified by sugar-like clusters of quartz. The finer fabric (ESSTA) has sparser and better-separated small clusters of sandstone quartz. The coarse version (ESSTB) had more frequent and larger-sized clusters of sandstone quartz, usually less than 2mm across, but occasionally up to 6mm. Both ESSTA and ESSTB had variants of these fabrics, either with organic tempering or with a noticeable iron-ore component or a combination. Sparse inclusions of chalk or calcareous inclusions also occurred in this fabric. This group of fabrics tended to be made into well-finished vessels showing some competence in pottery manufacture.

The iron-rich fabrics had the appearance of being highly fired vessels, except for the example with calcareous inclusions and the low number of sherds on the site may represent traded specialized vessels, as pierced vessels occurred in this fabric.

Many of these fabrics, particularly the sandstone-tempered wares, are probably not of a local geological origin and show little similarity with the later medieval Kingston pottery industries.

The forms

Few vessel shapes could be confidently distinguished, although open vessels were occasionally indicated and closed forms were represented by shouldered vessels with everted rims. The function of a number of sherds was indicated by external sooting while a few sherds contained internal carbonized deposits showing that the vessels had been used for cooking or heating water.

The chaff-tempered wares included an open vessel with a simple rim, the surface of the vessel being wiped, while internally there was evidence of knife trimming. Closed forms were also present as indicated by shouldered vessels. The rim of one vessel had a slight bead and another had an everted rim with an internal bevel. Surface treatment included the burnishing of both surfaces. Present among the chaff-tempered wares was a crudely made but complete rounded cup or possible lamp (CHSF), slightly rectangular in plan, with three pinioned bosses and a footring base, with a splayed appearance (fig 7, no 1).

The bone-tempered vessel had thin-walled body sherds with a rounded profile and was burnished on both surfaces.

The sand-tempered shapes were difficult to classify but vessels in ESAND were generally well made with thin walls and burnished surfaces and one sherd had two parallel incised lines, possibly decoration. Pierced vessels were also present on the site, one example being a thick-walled cylindrical vessel with a simple upright rim and a diameter of 140mm, its body having numerous circular piercings 10mm in diameter, not always penetrating the

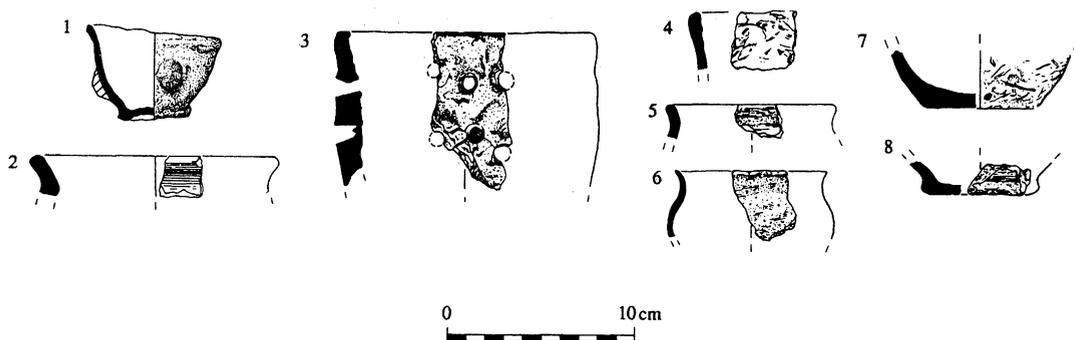


Fig 7 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: early Saxon pottery

entire thickness of the wall (fig 7, no 3) in fabric ESANA. Two other pierced vessels were rounded in shape and thin walled in iron-rich fabrics (ESIR and ESIR + CALC). Such vessels have been interpreted as having multiple functions for example as braziers or vessels in which to warm carding combs, to prepare wool for spinning. On the Continent similar vessels have been interpreted as being for cheese-making. At Mucking, Essex, pierced vessels also came in several shapes which may also imply a variety of functions (Hamerow 1993, 44). The fragments of these pierced vessel types at SLK showed no evidence of heating and therefore may have been used for food preparation.

Among the sandstone-tempered wares a few vessel shapes could be more easily identified and included a closed shape with a simple everted rim in the green sandstone (ESMS) fabric (fig 7, no 2). The sandstone-tempered fabrics produced forms with simple rims, as in the ESSTA example (fig 7, no 4) and in the ESSTB fabrics, possible small rounded jar/closed shaped forms, with simple rim in fabric ESSTB (fig 7, no 5) and ESSTB(IR) (fig 7, no 6). Bases in this fabric included a rounded shape with a flat base (fig 7, no 7) while another vessel in ESTB(O) had a splayed flat base (fig 7, no 8). Another small sherd had faceted lozenge-shaped decoration probably from a closed form, possibly a carinated bowl. Also present were six sherds of sandstone-tempered pottery, all probably from the same vessel, with an external coarse slipped or *Schlickung* surface and internal burnished surface. *Schlickung* was achieved by the application of a sandy slip or by drawing the temper in the clay to the surface with a wet hand or cloth (Hamerow 1993, 35). In England *Schlickung*-type pottery is regarded as a 5th century type fossil, although it can occur in later 6th and 7th century pottery groups. Functionally the application of coarse-slipping on pottery has been seen as decorative but was probably designed for gripping burnished vessels and may have aided heat retention. Petrologically, some sherds of *Schlickung*-type pottery have been suggested as having a possible Continental source, such as the example from St Brides Church, London (Blackmore 1997). However, the possible Surrey origin for the sandstone-tempered examples from SLK, probably indicates the continuation of a potting tradition brought from the Germanic areas of northern Europe. Blackmore (1997) has discussed the development and function of coarse-slipped vessels, recognized in 5th century BC deposits at Wijster, Holland, which continued in use on the Continent in Germanic areas until the 5th century AD.

Dating

A number of elements of the pottery suggest a 5th century date, notably the presence of *Schlickung* on the exterior of vessels. A sherd from a possible faceted carinated bowl would also indicate a 5th century date. Hamerow (1993, 42–4) has discussed the dating of this form, inferring that although primarily a 5th century form, there is evidence for this shape in 6th century dated contexts from England and the Continent. The carinated cup with

the three pinioned bosses additionally suggests a date in the 5th or 6th century (Hamerow 1993, 45). The prevalence of pottery from several sources also suggests a late 5th century date, whereas later, in the 6th century, a higher proportion of local wares would be anticipated, as at Prospect Park, Harmondsworth (Laidlaw & Mephram 1994, 26–38) and Hammersmith (Blackmore 1993, 131).

Distribution of the pottery

Table 2 shows the distribution of the early Saxon pottery in the main deposits in which it occurred, but one or two small sherds were also recovered from a number of stakeholes and postholes on the site, such as the ESANA pierced cylindrical vessel from a group 4 stakehole. Larger features again produced small amounts of pottery. The SLK pit 150 produced the largest amount of pottery (nine sherds) associated with Saxon activity, and also included earlier fabrics, consisting of the base of a prehistoric vessel and a small sherd of late Roman Portchester D ware. The Saxon pottery in this feature consisted of chaff, sand, flint and grit-tempered wares. The reworked natural subsoil over the defined Saxon features produced the largest number of Saxon pottery fragments: 88 sherds, including a sherd linked to the ESANA pierced cylindrical vessel in the group 4 stakehole. This deposit also contained a single sherd of yellow-glazed Border ware, dated 1550–1700. The large number of sherds retrieved from this deposit implies significant truncation of Saxon features and the reworking of associated surfaces.

The overlying garden soil also contained residual early Saxon pottery, notably the chaff-tempered small cup with pinioned bosses. Post-medieval pit SLK 173 also contained residual early Saxon pottery, including a large sherd of ESBO.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery, by Chris Jarrett

The pottery was classified according to the MoLSS medieval and post-medieval pottery type codes. The material was generally fragmentary, except from the ELK part of the site where vessels were largely complete. The SLK area produced 38 stratified pottery sherds for these periods, the ELA area 55 sherds and the ELK area 67 sherds.

Medieval

Medieval pottery was present as a small number of residual sherds in post-medieval contexts and occurred as London-type ware (LOND), dated 1080–1350, Coarse Border ware (CBW), 1270–1500 and Cheam ware (CHEA), 1350–1500.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval pottery largely consisted of undiagnostic sherds of long-lived redwares, post-medieval redware (PMR), dated 1580–1900 and Surrey/Hampshire Red Border ware, 1580–1800.

Pottery characteristic of a mid-17th century date occurred in ELA ditch 75 and of a more general 17th century date in the earliest fill of the ELA brick structure 77. Surface 2 of the ELA area produced pottery of 18th century date. The three sites produced a number of features containing pottery datable to the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Also dating to this period were the pits in the ELK area, which produced a small assemblage of largely complete vessels. Among the pottery in pit 5 was a London stoneware (LONS) cylindrical mug, dated to the end of the 18th century, complete except for its missing handle, with a crowned W R ale measure mark (fig 8, no 1). In 1700 a law came into force (repealed in 1824) making it compulsory for drinking vessels to be stamped with measure marks (Haselgrove & Murray 1979, 147). The ale mark stamps are occasionally

TABLE 2. Distribution of pottery in the main deposits by sherd count and weight (in brackets) by grams

	Fabric	Reworked natural		Layer SLK 147	Pit SLK 150	Pit SLK 173	Cut SLK 785	Layer SLK 146
		Layer SLK 100	Layer SLK 101					
Prehistoric	PF*	7 (37)	1 (70)	8 (43)	8 (26)			1 (48)
	PSH*				1 (4)			
Roman	HWC*				1 (1)			
	PORD*		1 (3)					1 (5)
	RPOT*		1 (12)			2 (13)		1 (22)
Early Saxon	CHFI		1 (5)					
	CHFS		1 (7)	3 (5)	6 (18)			2 (25)
	CHSF		1 (19)					2 (58)
	ESANA		1 (36)				1 (50)	
	ESANB		1 (2)	1 (1)				
	ESAND		2 (3)	1 (3)		2 (39)		1 (28)
	ESAND + CALC		1 (6)					
	ESBO		1 (20)	1 (6)		1 (18)		
	ESGS		2 (84)					
	ESGS(I)							1 (11)
	ESIR		1 (2)	2 (47)				
	ESMS							2 (30)
	ESMS(I)							1 (6)
	ESSTA	2 (18)	3 (79)	1 (12)				1 (14)
	ESSTA(I)		1 (2)					
	ESSTB		4 (14)		1 (3)	3 (16)		
	ESSTB(I)		3 (36)	1 (5)				
	ESSTB(IR)		1 (7)					
	ESSTB(O)		12 (85)	1 (9)				
	ESSTB(OI)		12 (173)	1 (42)				1 (24)
Post-medieval	BORDY		1 (2)					
	CHPO BW					1 (10)		

*Prehistoric flint-tempered fabric (PF); prehistoric shell-tempered fabric (PSH); Highgate 'C' sand-tempered ware (HWC); Portchester D ware (PORD); Roman pottery, unsourced (RPOT).

of the reigning monarch, but are usually of William III, during whose reign the law was introduced. ELK pit 1 produced mostly 18th century wares including the rim of a Staffordshire slipware (STSL) dish, which was sooted implying use for cooking. The latest vessel in this pit was the base of a Transfer printed plate (TPW) with the Willow pattern design of 19th century date (Coysh & Henrywood 1982, 402).

The ELK pit 13, produced only the base of a Red Border ware chamber pot (fig 8, no 2), while ELK pit 11 produced several near complete vessels, two of which have political connotations. The earthenwares present in this pit included Red Border ware, as two medium-sized rounded bowls (fig 8, nos 3–4), one of which had a horizontal loop strap handle (fig 8, no 4), a chamber pot missing its handle (fig 8, no 5) and the rim of a post-medieval redware flower pot (fig 8, no 6). Stonewares were present as the handle of a Staffordshire brown stoneware (STBRs) vessel, dated 1690–1730, and Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG) as two medium-sized rounded bowls (fig 8, nos 7–8), a cylindrical mug (fig 8, no 9) and the rim of a tea bowl; these vessels are difficult to date but are probably *c* 1760–80. A tin-glazed earthenware (TGW H) rounded bowl had in its centre a portrait of a male and below it 'A Keppel for ever' written in purple (fig 8, no 10). The decoration refers to Admiral Viscount Augustus Keppel (1725–86), and was probably made in Lambeth in *c* 1779 (Archer 1997, 123–4). The latest dated vessel in ELK pit 11 consisted of a transfer-printed Pearlware plate (PEAR TR), with a moulded floral rim and blue painted edge. The surviving design on the centre of the plate has a female figure, possibly Britannia, seated at the base of a stone tomb or monument and the remaining text

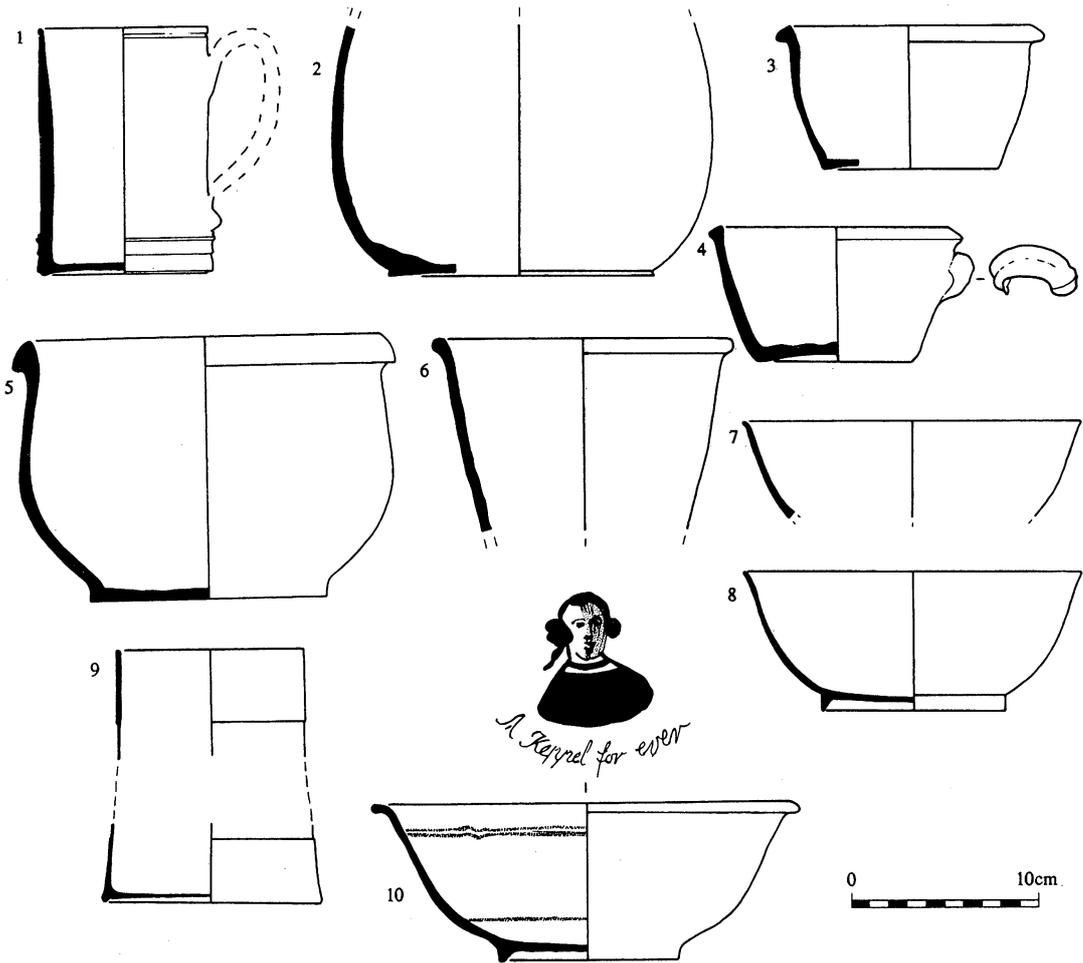


Fig 8 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: post-medieval pottery

reads '... S ... LINE ... Britain ... th 1768 ... Augt. 7th 1821' and represents a commemorative plate for Queen Caroline of Brunswick, the estranged wife of George IV. The plate dates to between 1821 and *c* 1830.

Discussion

Medieval pottery from the three sites was sparse and occurred mostly as residual sherds in 17th century and later deposits, and was probably derived from the spreading of midden material on to agricultural fields surrounding the medieval town of Kingston. The post-medieval pottery from all three sites represented mostly domestic activity with some horticultural vessels.

Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware (made at a number of English potteries) stopped being produced at the end of the 1770s, while after 1800 the London tin-glaze industry was reduced to a single factory at Vauxhall, and others at Mortlake and Isleworth to the west of London (Stephenson 1999, 264–8). The latter was superseded by the more durable industrial finewares, such as Cream ware, its later blue version Pearl ware, and from 1800, the refined white earthenwares such as the Ironstone and Stone china bodies,

which were made at Staffordshire and elsewhere. Red Border ware ceases to be present in 19th century London deposits in any large quantities, although it continued to be produced until the 20th century (Pearce 1999, 246–63), but the vessels illustrated here could be of a late 18th or early 19th century date.

The ELK rubbish pits contained kitchen, table, sanitary and display wares, possibly disposed of following breakage. However, the presence of mostly late 18th century with early 19th century pottery may be due to the fact that the tablewares had become unfashionable and their owners could afford to discard them and buy new replacements. The owners of the pottery in pit ELK 11 also demonstrate political allegiances by the presence of the Admiral Keppel tin-glaze bowl, which suggests that they may have been supporters of the Whig party (Keppel being a radical Whig MP), and the Caroline of Brunswick plate, implying antagonism to George IV.

THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPES, by Chris Jarrett

The three sites produced a small clay tobacco assemblage – SLK: 39 fragments; ELK: nine fragments, and ELA: 40 fragments – and the bowls were classified according to Atkinson & Oswald's type series for London (1969, 171–227). These bowls consisted of a single type 5 bowl, dated 1610–40, present in ELA ditch 75 and 18th century type 25 bowls, dated 1700–70 and type 26 bowls dated 1740–1800. Some of the type 25 bowls were initialled, but usually one or both letters were illegible. The more notable tobacco pipes occurred in rubbish pit ELK 11 which produced an Atkinson type 25 clay tobacco pipe bowl, initialled 'R T' although no makers can be identified, but similar initialled bowls are known in Kingston (Higgins 1981, 233). Additionally there was a decorated type 26 bowl, dated 1740–1800 with a fluted shell design terminating in small flowers. The ELA brick drain (45) contained in its fill a type 26 clay tobacco pipe bowl with the Hanovarian coat of arms and the motto '*Dieu et mon Droit*', the last word presumably being misspelt (Atkinson & Oswald 1969, 198, fig 11.3).

THE BUILDING MATERIALS, by John Brown

A total of 305 fragments of medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material with a combined weight of 56,692g was recovered from stratified contexts on the ELK/ELA part of site, with a further fragment of abraded Roman tile recovered from the SLK area. In addition ceramic building material was identified *in situ* on the ELK/ELA part of site during excavation. Other building materials identified included burnt stone, York stone, Kentish Ragstone, Reigate stone and a worked fragment of Ketton stone.

The building materials were examined using the London system of classification. A fabric number was allocated to each object, specifying its composition, form, method of manufacture and approximate date range. The material was examined under magnification (x20), quantified and weighed. Examples of the fabrics can be found in the archives of PCA and MoLSS.

Roman

A single fragment of highly abraded Roman tile was recovered as a residual find from the reworked natural subsoil (147) in the SLK part of the site.

Medieval

A total of 105 fragments of unglazed and splash-glazed medieval roof tile (combined weight 7730g), was recovered from the excavation. All the material appeared residual and was recovered from ELA ditch 75, elements of buildings 2 and 3, the circular brick

structure and numerous rubbish pits. With the exception of potentially early roof tile in fabric 2271, which has a broad date range (1150/80 to 1500+), all the material was found to date approximately from the late 13th/14th centuries onwards.

One fragment of worked Ketton stone was recovered from the fill of pit 79 on the ELK part of the site. The surface is weathered, with no tool marks visible, although the moulding is indicative of an architectural element such as a lintel or mantle fragment. Ketton stone was commonly worked during the medieval period; however, this piece was too fragmented to date using art-historical techniques.

Post-medieval

Most of the ceramic building material recovered (total 200 objects, combined weight 48.962kg) consisted of post-medieval brick, and post-medieval, unglazed roof tile (in peg and pan tile) fragments.

All the brick fragments with identifiable dimensions were seen to date from the late medieval or early post-medieval (Tudor) period, up to the early 20th century, and the bulk of this material could be narrowed to the 18th or early 19th centuries.

THE SMALL FINDS, by Ian Riddler

Three fragments from two loomweights, the end section of an antler tine and a fishing weight were recovered from the SLK part of the site. The loomweights and antler tine have been assigned a 5th to 7th century date, although more refined dating is not possible. The only object that can be ascribed to the medieval period is an unstratified fishing weight made from brick. Objects of this type are familiar from excavations and riverine exploration along the upper Thames, although they are comparatively rare finds.

Early Saxon

Loomweights

Three fragments of ceramic loomweights were recovered from the same SLK context (101). Two fragments belong to a loomweight of annular form (fig 9, no 1), which, in its original state, would have weighed approximately 512g. A third fragment is noticeably slighter in section and smaller in diameter, and also comes from an annular loomweight, which may have weighed around 225g (fig 9, no 2).

Both the weights given here are approximate values and should only be considered in broad terms. None the less, they suggest that loomweights of different weights were present on site. Both might conceivably have come from the same warp-weighted loom, but the difference in proportion suggests rather that they came from two different looms.

Both loomweights are of the annular form, which is a characteristic of those of early Anglo-Saxon date (Dunning *et al* 1959, 1–78; Hamerow 1993, 66–8). Their weights correspond with two of the groups identified by Barford for the assemblage from Mucking (*ibid*). The smaller example (fig 9, no 2) lies within the most common group from both Mucking and elsewhere, which have weights between 200 and 300g. The heavier loomweight (fig 8, no 1) belongs to a group which can be identified (principally from Barford's graph) as lying between 500 and 800g in weight (Hamerow 1993, fig 46). This is a rarer type and of a size and weight which, in general terms, corresponds more readily with those seen during the late Saxon period (Pritchard 1984, 66).

Both weights are in a soft, fine micaceous fabric with elements of fine quartz sand, a few larger grains of red and milky quartz and some burnt out traces of organic matter. They are well fired and have been shaped to sub-circular or D-shaped profiles. The latter profile, which occurs with the second loomweight (fig 9, no 2), is a consequence of placing both faces of the weight on to a flat surface during its shaping.

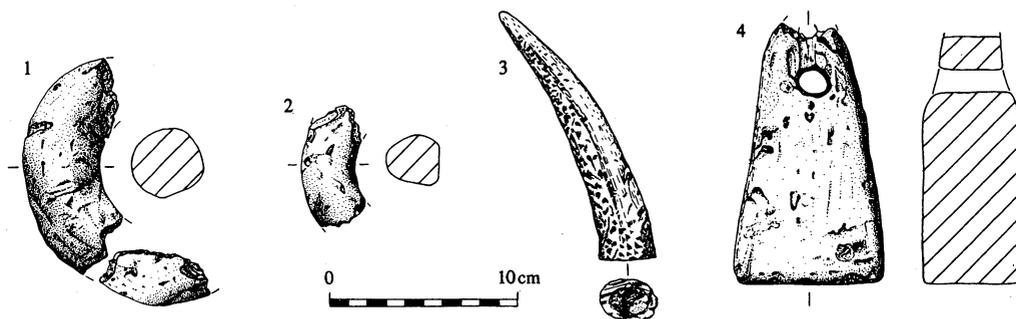


Fig 9 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston. 1-2: early Saxon loomweights; 3: early Saxon antler tine; 4: late medieval fishing weight

Twelve fragments of burnt clay were recovered from the SLK part of the site, which could be fragments of loomweights or spindlewheels or simply burnt daub from buildings. All the fragments were small and undiagnostic.

Antler tine

Part of a tine from a red deer antler (fig 9, no 3), weighing 57g, came from SLK context 101, alongside the loomweight fragments. It survives in reasonable condition and has been sawn laterally from the remainder of its tine. Slight traces of smoothing with the aid of a knife are visible on one face.

Red deer antler waste is commonly found on early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites, although the quantity of material is generally small. Some of the largest early Anglo-Saxon antler waste assemblages come from Abbots Worthy, Hampshire, and West Stow, Suffolk, but even here the number of fragments is less than 100 in each case (Riddler 1991, 47-8; Crabtree 1985, 85-96). The removal of the tines from the beam is one of the early stages in antler working, when the material is cut into sections, usually with the aid of a saw, in order to provide relatively straight lengths suitable for the manufacture of combs and other implements (Riddler 1996, 133). In this case the curved end of a tine has been removed and discarded. Tine ends were occasionally used in antler working, but the majority were discarded, as was the case here.

Medieval

Fishing weight

A trapezoidal ceramic weight (fig 9, no 4) was recovered unstratified from the SLK part of the site and can only be dated on typological grounds. It has been produced in a micaceous, sandy fabric with abundant small quartz grains and sparse elements of larger red and white quartz. Despite its size and weight, it is evenly fired to an orange colour, with a lateral perforation and a curved groove at the narrow end. It weighs 660g.

Medieval objects of this form, which were used as fishing weights in inland waters, have been considered recently by several authors (Mynard 1979, 11-28; Steane & Foreman 1988, 137-86; 1991, 88-101 and fig 12.9). The Kingston weight is closely paralleled for its shape and size by several weights of limestone recovered from sites along the upper Thames which were used as net weights (Steane & Foreman 1991, fig 12.9). These weights were also produced in brick, when limestone was not easily available. They appear to date to the late medieval period, and to be localized to the inland reaches of the Thames, rather than its estuary (*ibid*, fig 12.12). Identical weights held in the collection of Kingston Museum are believed to have been recovered from dredging operations in the Thames.

THE FAUNAL REMAINS, by Philip Armitage (ELK/ELA) and Frank Meddens (SLK)

One fragment of worked bone (the antler tine discussed above) was recovered from the SLK part of the site along with a further 54 fragments of animal bone. The partial skeleton of a horse (discussed separately below) was recovered from the ELK/ELA areas of the site along with a further 71 bone fragments with a total combined weight of 2349g.

Only one Saxon context, the fill of SLK pit 150 produced any bone. This included fragments of a cattle skull and one molar as well as one unidentifiable rib fragment. The reworked soil from the SLK part of the site (100, 101 and 147) produced 33 fragments of bone, some of which may have derived from the period of Saxon occupation. This assemblage included remains of pig, cattle and sheep/goat, although most of the assemblage was not attributable to type. All the material retrieved was heavily abraded as would be consistent with reworking of the soil.

The remaining stratified material (a total of 57 fragments) from all parts of the site also derived from post-medieval contexts. Excluding the horse discussed below, most of this assemblage comprised cattle and sheep.

Post-medieval horse skeleton, by Philip L Armitage

The horse skeleton is represented by portions of the cranium, the lower jawbones, axial skeleton (vertebral column) and rib cage (including the sternum), together with the pelvis and a piece of the sacrum. The remains are lacking in the scapulae and the fore and hind limb bones and were identified as those of a female domestic horse (*Equus caballus*) aged about twelve years at time of death.

Size of the horse

Owing to the absence of the long bones of the fore and hind legs, it is not possible to determine the stature (withers height) of this animal. Some idea of size however may be obtained by comparative osteometric analyses with other archaeological specimens, based upon measurements taken of the upper and lower cheektooth rows. From the results of the analyses, the horse is seen to be of small size (comparable to modern ponies) and, apart from the two Roman horses from Billingsgate Buildings (contexts 208 and 412), the animal was apparently smaller than the other archaeological examples previously studied by the present author (Armitage 1998) although this may in part be a reflection of the fact that other animals examined were all males/castrates and this was a female.

Pathology

There are several superficial knife cut marks on the external (lateral) surface of the iliac wing of the left innominate bone. Similar marks on a medieval horse ilium from Eden Walk, Kingston upon Thames, were interpreted as evidence of defleshing rather than skinning (Serjeantson *et al* 1992, 12).

Ankylosing lesions were observed in several vertebrae (Armitage 1998) which may be indicative of stress injuries resulting from repeated use of the animal in riding or haulage or employment as a pack-carrier, although the exact explanation of these pathologies has not yet been fully determined according to Stecher & Goss (1961, 245–8).

General discussion

The prehistoric flintwork recovered from the site, together with the probable Late Bronze Age pottery, is noteworthy, suggesting early occupation of the South Lane Island. Unfortunately no features on site can be ascribed a certain prehistoric date. Contemporary sites are well evidenced in the vicinity (eg Penn *et al* 1984, 71–90), with the closest being

c 200m south at 17–23 Woodbines Avenue (Bishop 2002, this volume, 237–44) and a Late Bronze Age cooking pit recorded at The Bittoms (Thompson 1991).

The very small number of Roman finds is compatible with agricultural activity, probably the manuring of fields. The nearest known contemporary site, with activity apparently *in situ*, is located some 500m away at Eden Street (Hawkins 1996, 49–50), though residual Roman pottery was also recorded at 17–23 Woodbines Avenue (Bishop 2002, this volume, 237–44).

The early Saxon settlement at South Lane, probably dating from the 5th or 6th century, is one of a number of early Saxon settlements now evidenced from the Kingston area (Hawkins 1998, 275–6). The presence of a possible post-and-stake built building is particularly noteworthy. The two early Saxon gullies are thought most likely to represent drains rather than property boundaries and some of the stakeholes appear to have defined a fence line. The presence of loomweights and an antler tine are of interest, indicating weaving and other craft production on the site.

It seems most probable that the settlement represented at East Lane/South Lane was a ‘farmstead’, rather than a ‘village’. Other finds of Saxon pottery on the South Lane Island are thought to result from the manuring of fields (Jones 1995; Bishop 2002, this volume, 237–44). This probability is heightened by the topographical constraints of the South Lane Island. The archaeological investigations at 17–23 Woodbines Avenue may have identified further contemporary fence lines (*ibid*).

The early Saxon settlements in Kingston are among a number located in close proximity to the Surrey bank of the Thames and its major tributaries, for example at Battersea (Blackmore & Cowie 2001), Ham (Frere & Hope Taylor 1950–1, 101–2), Surbiton (Bagwell 1998), East Molesey (Andrews 1996, 70–6) and Weybridge (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977, 46–8) indicating perhaps both the importance of the river system as a focus for settlement and as a communication highway in this period.

It seems unlikely that the Saxon settlement on the site continued into the mid-Saxon period. Possibly this abandonment was a result of settlement shift to a new location on a larger but lower gravel island to the north (Hawkins 1998, 278). In the medieval period the site was clearly marginal to the settled area of Kingston.

There is clear evidence for 17th century activity on the site in the form of the disposal of the horse carcass close to the East Lane frontage. This may indicate backlands activity associated with the late 16th century building, 37 High Street, which still exists. In this context South Lane might perhaps be seen as a back lane to properties fronting the High Street.

A number of other horse burials are recorded from Kingston with those so far published being ascribed a late medieval date (Serjeantson *et al* 1992, 9–13). However in 1998–9, during archaeological excavations at Charter Quay between Kingston Market Place and the Thames, a very large assemblage of articulated and disarticulated horse skeletons was recovered from several late 16th/early 17th century pits alongside the river. It may be that the processing of horse products was a significant feature of the town’s early post-medieval economy (Andrews forthcoming).

Building 4 can be identified as an integral and original part of the late 16th century building now known as 37 High Street as shown in the tithe map of 1840 (fig 10) and a photograph of 1890–1910 (fig 11). Analysis of historic maps indicates that 37 High Street was shortened (and building 4 demolished) after 1933 but before 1954 (fig 12). This building was used by Wilcox the Butcher from 1845 to about 1912 and this may account for the presence of the animal stalls. Building 3 clearly postdated the mid-17th century ELA ditch (75) and the photograph (fig 11) would certainly suggest a construction date in the second half of the 17th century or first half of the 18th century for the main part of the building. The small extension visible at the rear of building 3 (fig 11) is clearly much later, cutting as it does across a window of the earlier structure. The function of the ELA circular brick feature (77) within building 3 is unknown, though a soakaway seems likely. If this

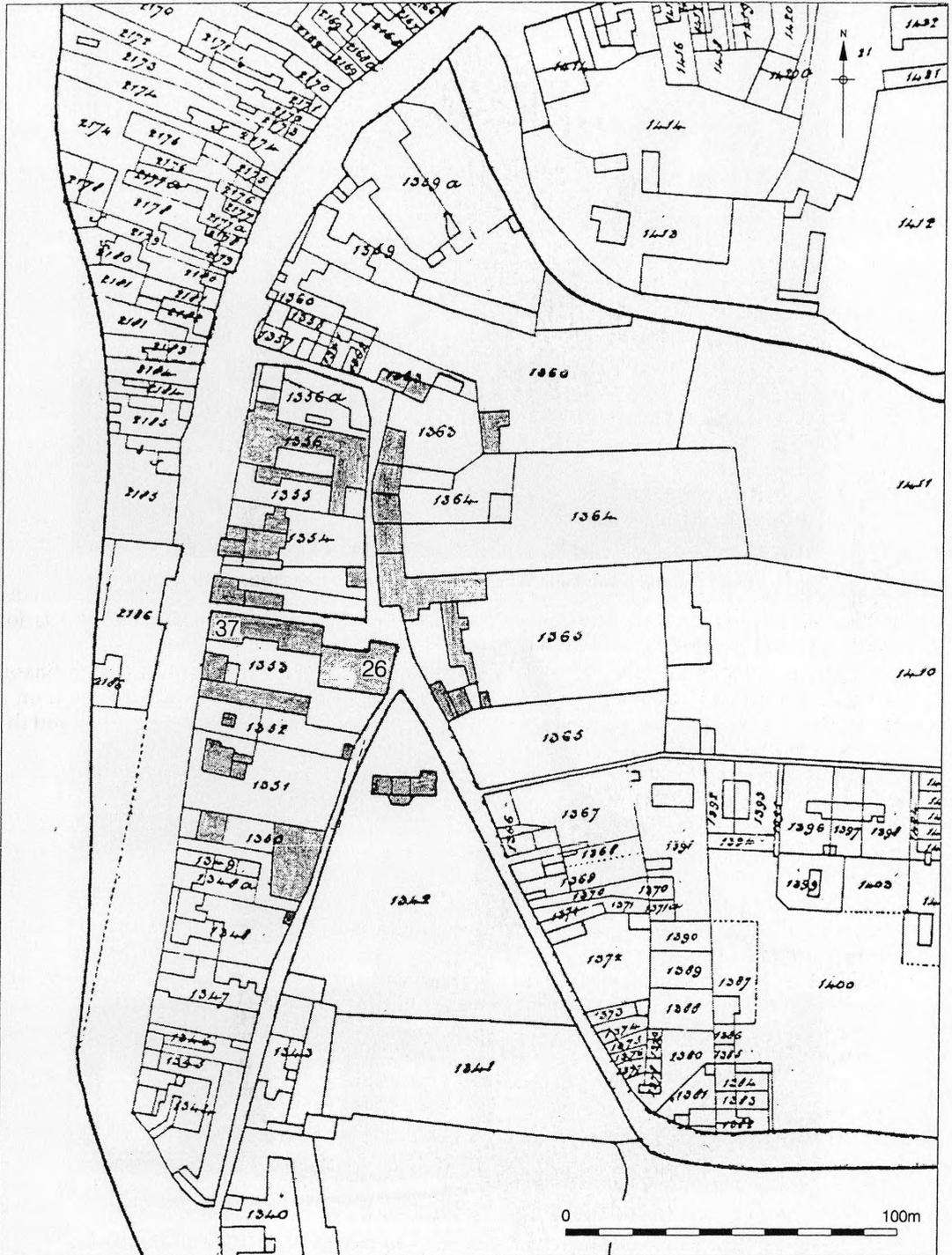


Fig 10 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: tithe map 1840, scale 1:2000



Fig 11 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: photograph of East Lane c 1890–1910



Fig 12 East Lane and South Lane, Kingston: photograph of 37 High Street, showing shortening at eastern end

feature is contemporary with the construction of building 3 then a construction date after 1730 for the building is indicated.

Building 3 in common with building 4 was demolished in the period 1933–54. The yard area east of building 3 is clearly indicated on the tithe map (fig 10) and the surviving photograph (fig 11) indicates that a substantial gate led out from it into East Lane.

Building 2 is known to have been no 26 The Bittoms (or Bittoms Lane). The surviving photograph indicates a masonry building probably of 18th century date, though this could be a replacement of an earlier timber-framed structure, as suggested by the north–south line of postholes. Building 2 was in use as a grocer's shop from at least 1871. It appears to have been demolished in 1933 when a new 'Bittoms Stores' was built.

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