

Excavations near Broad Street Common, Worplesdon, Guildford, in 1994, 1997 and 1998

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with contributions from

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The tables listed below are available in the digital supplement on the Archaeology Data Service website (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/surreyac/v92.cfm>), with the exception of tables 1, 5 and 7, which appear in the printed text.

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Summary

The site, within the grounds of the former Barnwood School, was investigated by trial trenching in 1994 and 1997, and by area excavation, in advance of housing development, in 1998. Occupation began in the late 1st or early 2nd century AD, and the earliest substantial features were a post-built structure and a boundary ditch. The area was laid out anew around the mid–late 2nd century, with the construction of an aisled agricultural building, containing a T-shaped corn drier, set within a complex of ditched and fenced enclosures. The aisled building was demolished in the later 3rd century, but significant activity clearly persisted until the early 4th century. It is almost certain that the excavated site forms part of a complex associated with the villa on nearby Broad Street Common, which was identified in the 19th century. The emergence of this settlement on the London Clay may be associated with more developed exploitation of the woodland and pasture resources on that geology, for which the postulated creation of a road, linking settlements at Neatham, Hampshire and Ewell and passing nearby, may have acted as a catalyst.

Preface

The work at this site (for the location of which see figs 1 and 2) was organised by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) on behalf of Surrey County Council (Estates Strategy Section). It took place on three separate occasions between 1994 and 1998. The excavation near Barnwood School in the summer and autumn of 1998 was the culmination of the two previous seasons of trial archaeological work. The first of these, in 1994, was arranged when consideration was being given by Surrey County Council to the possibility of redevelopment of all or part of the area shown as sampled on figure 3. The area was thought to be of high

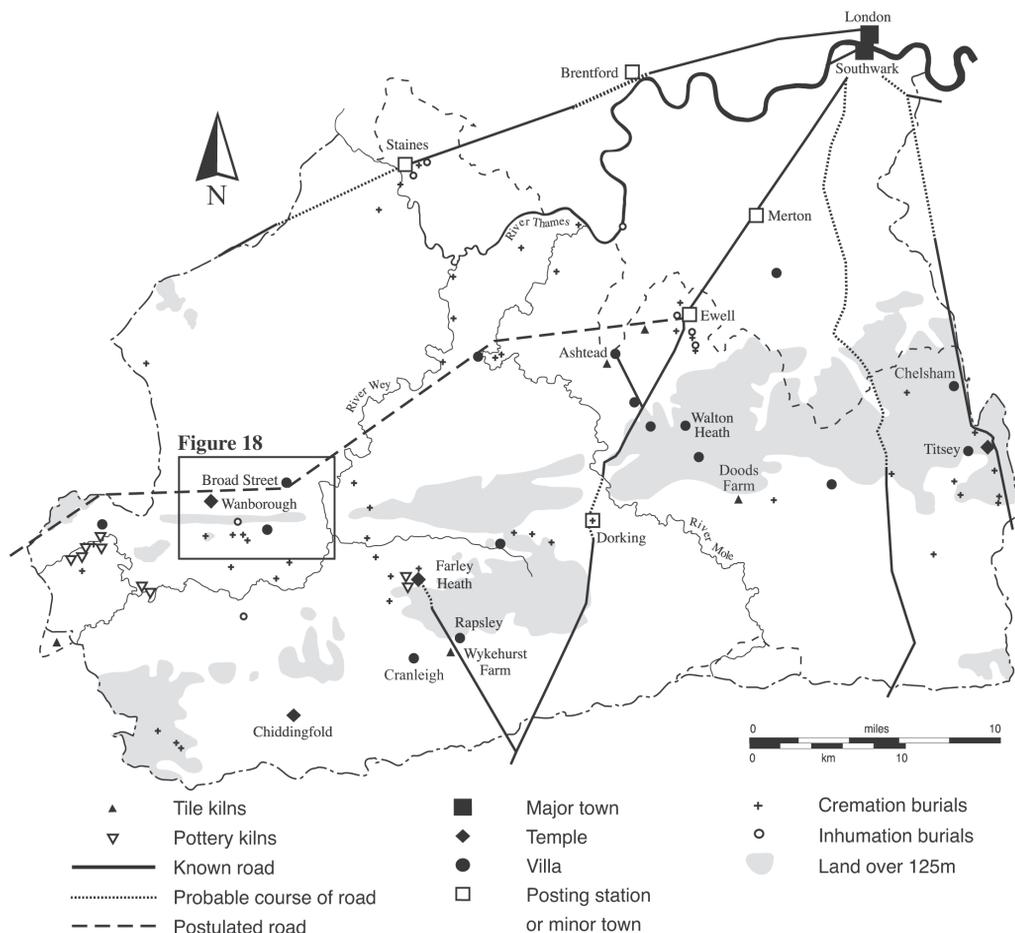


Fig 1 Broad Street, Worpleston: location of the site in the context of a map of the principal archaeological features of Roman Surrey (based on Bird 1987, fig 7.7, with additions). The classification of Chiddingfold as a temple follows the suggestion of Bird (2002), but the earlier identification as a villa remains a possibility.

archaeological potential because of the existence of a major Roman building on the common just to the west (Sibthorpe 1831) and the presence of an 18th century farm (fig 2B) at the north end of the site, which was believed to have medieval antecedents (Jones 1995). This initial evaluation found little evidence for the latter, but did find an extensive spread of Roman material.

These results were an important consideration in a subsequent review of the development possibilities. The northern part of the area was not considered further for redevelopment at that time. The central portion was proposed as, and has been made into, a school playing field, with the intention that this should result in the preservation *in situ* of any remains within it. Unfortunately, the insertion of a drainage system for the playing field in 1995 resulted in some near surface damage to archaeological remains and was accompanied by some salvage recording of the evidence. The southern area was proposed for housing development and a second trial trench evaluation of this area was undertaken in 1997 in order to establish more precisely the extent and importance of the Roman remains within it. This evaluation established that significant archaeological evidence was confined to the area which was later subject to detailed excavation in August to November 1998.

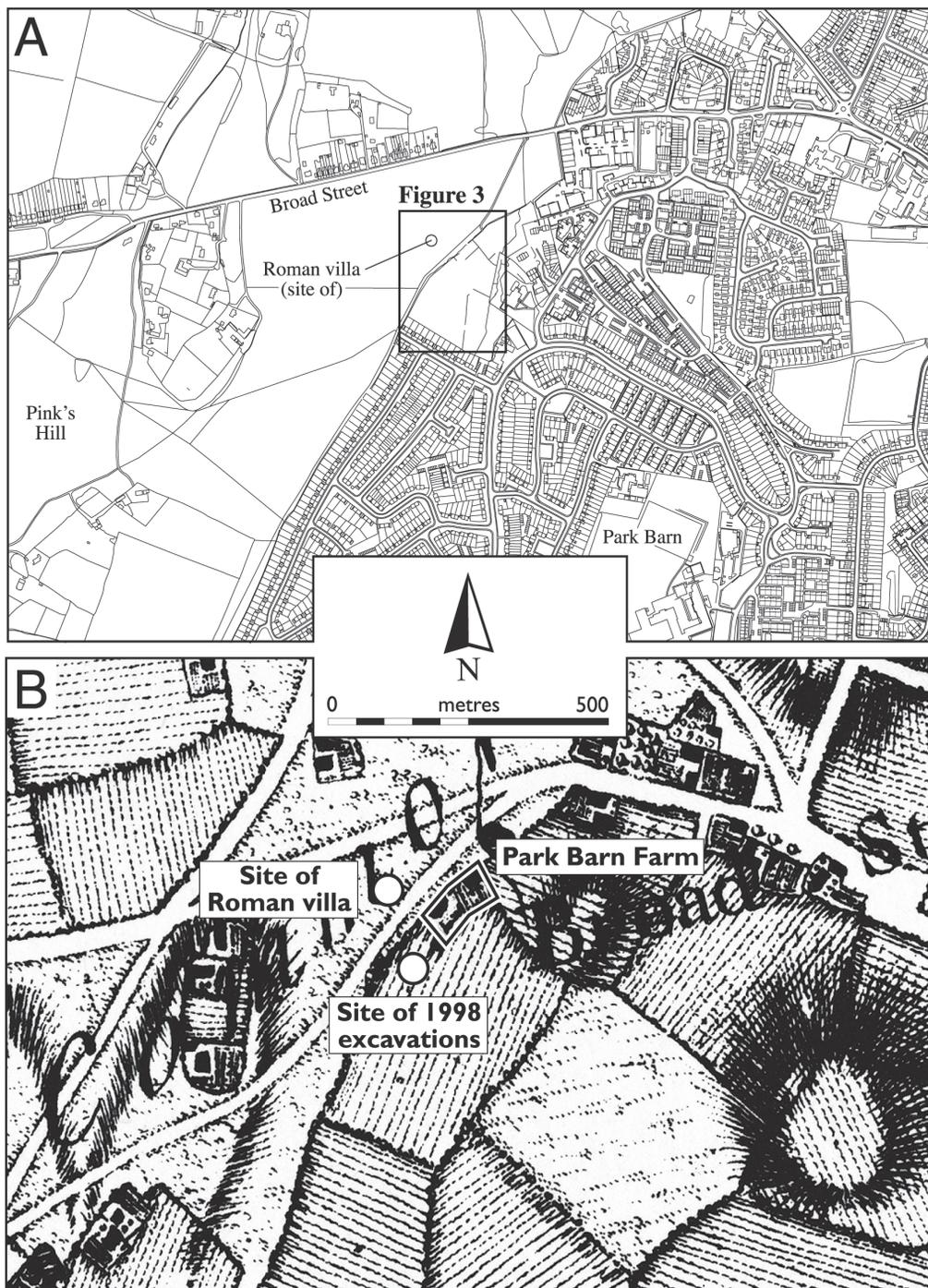


Fig 2 Broad Street, Worpleston: location of the area shown in detail on figure 3.

A As shown on the 1:10,000 OS map 1983. (© Crown Copyright and/or database right. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014198)

B As shown on the Rocque map, published 1768. The original has been enlarged to match the scale of A, and both show exactly the same area, although, owing to differences in the accuracy of the surveys, the location of the villa and 1998 excavations can only be regarded as approximate.

A condition contained within the planning permission for the site, which was given in February 1998, was intended to secure these works, the first stage of which was the preparation of a detailed specification. The second stage was the 1998 excavation, which was organised partly as a training excavation, and this produced a considerable body of material that is of importance in understanding not only the development of the Roman site within the development area but also the 19th century discoveries on the adjacent common, and the history of Roman settlement north of the Hog's Back.

The third stage of work was the preparation of a research design for the publication of the full excavation report, and this was prepared soon after the completion of the fieldwork. The site was sold to Rosebery Housing Association prior to the agreement of and commencement of this work. The new main contractor (Kier Southern Ltd) to the owners offered to pay half the cost of the post-excavation programme, and, after protracted discussions, Surrey County Council (Estates Strategy Section) agreed to contribute a further sum (around 25%). The report has been prepared under these funding constraints, and the analysis and presentation of the results has, in consequence, been less comprehensive than envisaged.

The archive will be deposited in Guildford Museum and has the site codes WRV 94, WRV 97 and WRV 98.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Aims and objectives

The general aims of the evaluation of the site in 1994 and 1997 have been indicated in the preface, and this section is concerned with the aims and objectives of the 1998 excavation and subsequent work. They provide the rationale behind the selection of methods and tasks utilised in the fieldwork, and they were essentially unaltered for the report preparation. Funding constraints, as noted above, meant that work in relation to B4 and B5 was less comprehensive than originally envisaged. The aims are set out below as they were in the original Project Design.

A Site specific

- 1 Establish the spatial distribution of Roman settlement evidence, paying particular attention to evidence relating to the sequence of development.
- 2 Define the temporal sequence of Roman activity, the date of origin, the development through time, and the period of abandonment.
- 3 Assess the character and function of Roman settlement, paying close attention to evidence regarding the status of the site relative to (in particular) the aisled building discovered on the adjacent common in the 19th century.
- 4 Establish the boundaries of the site, both formal and without physical definition, examining especially the close vicinity of the present stream to define whether it was a significant boundary in the Roman period.
- 5 Define the evidence for pre- or post-Roman activity of archaeological significance.

B The site in context

- 1 Relate the area of detailed excavation to the totality of the evaluation work.
- 2 Establish the relationship between the present site and the Broad Street Common villa.
- 3 Recent work has significantly increased the number of Roman sites in the local area. The present site needs to be related to this emerging pattern of settlement.
- 4 Romanised buildings have attracted considerable attention over many years, and there have been some important recent developments within the Surrey area. This will represent the most comprehensive modern investigation and will be a catalyst for understanding the lower quality and more partial evidence from elsewhere.

- 5 The reasons for locating the present site on the generally ill-favoured London Clay must be fully explored, as the detailed evidence it produces should enable significant advances in our understanding of such developments in the distribution of Roman settlement.

Topography and geology

The site occupies an area of fairly level ground, at around 54m OD, that lies on the London Clay, which here forms a moderately wide (about 3km) plain between the higher ground of the Hog's Back (North Downs) to the south, and the great expanse of the Bagshot Heaths to the north (fig 18). East and west of the excavated area are ditches or watercourses (fig 3). The ditch on the western side formerly marked the boundary of Guildford Park (see below) and presently divides the common land (Broad Street Common) from the fields and houses. It is generally fairly straight over its considerable length, although it exhibits some wiggles in the area of the present site. This contrasts with the sinuous course of the Honey Brook to the east, and it seems possible that the western ditch is either an artificial watercourse, dug to mark the boundary of the park, or a natural stream which has been partly altered for that purpose (see further Chapter 5). The two streams join to the north of the site. It was observed that neither was subject to overbank flooding during periods of very wet weather, although the ground itself became saturated, owing to the poor drainage of the London Clay.

Broad Street Roman villa

The villa on Broad Street Common is clearly of considerable importance in relation to the present site and the purpose of the present note is to summarise what is known about it: the relation between it and the recent work is discussed in Chapter 5.

The villa was first discovered in 1829 by labourers digging for road metalling (Sibthorpe 1831). Some follow-up work shortly after this led to the recovery of a simple ground plan of the villa at, or close to, the position marked on the Ordnance Survey (OS) map, but this is believed to be just part of a greater overall complex (Bird 1987, 176). All floors seem to have been tessellated, with a pattern along the one in the corridor, and a disturbed central area which may have had a mosaic. This would have been the main reception room, and its sophistication suggests that the recorded plan (fig 3) is only a part of the whole villa (Bird 2004c, 110). Close to the end of the Second World War, deep ploughing on Broad Street Common in the vicinity of the villa brought to the surface a number of ironstone mosaic cubes, together with pieces of brick, tile and pottery. The pottery recovered was largely of 3rd and 4th century AD date and is recorded by Clark & Stuart (1946), who also note the presence of occasional samian sherds of earlier date, though are cautious of the significance of this fineware. Bird (1987, 175, and pers comm) considers that the samian can be regarded as indicating that occupation of the site began at least by the mid-2nd century.

In 1997–8 a resistivity survey was carried out over light woodland on Broad Street Common (Davies *et al* 1998), an area of ground which was drier than that around it (as had been reported (Sibthorpe 1831, 398) for the site of the villa), and also over the area of the excavation work reported here. The survey did not yield any clear-cut evidence for the Sibthorpe villa or for the features eventually identified by excavation in 1998, but some small test pits did reveal evidence of flint surfaces or walls, as well as Roman tile fragments. It was concluded that the work suggested that Sibthorpe's villa was of little greater extent than the recorded plan. This conclusion should, however, be treated with considerable caution. The survey was entirely to the south of the OS siting for the villa. The authority for this is unknown, but it has been marked at this point since the 1st edition 25-inch maps of 1869. It would not be surprising if this siting was based on contemporary evidence, at a date when some people would still remember the 1830 work and/or physical evidence for its

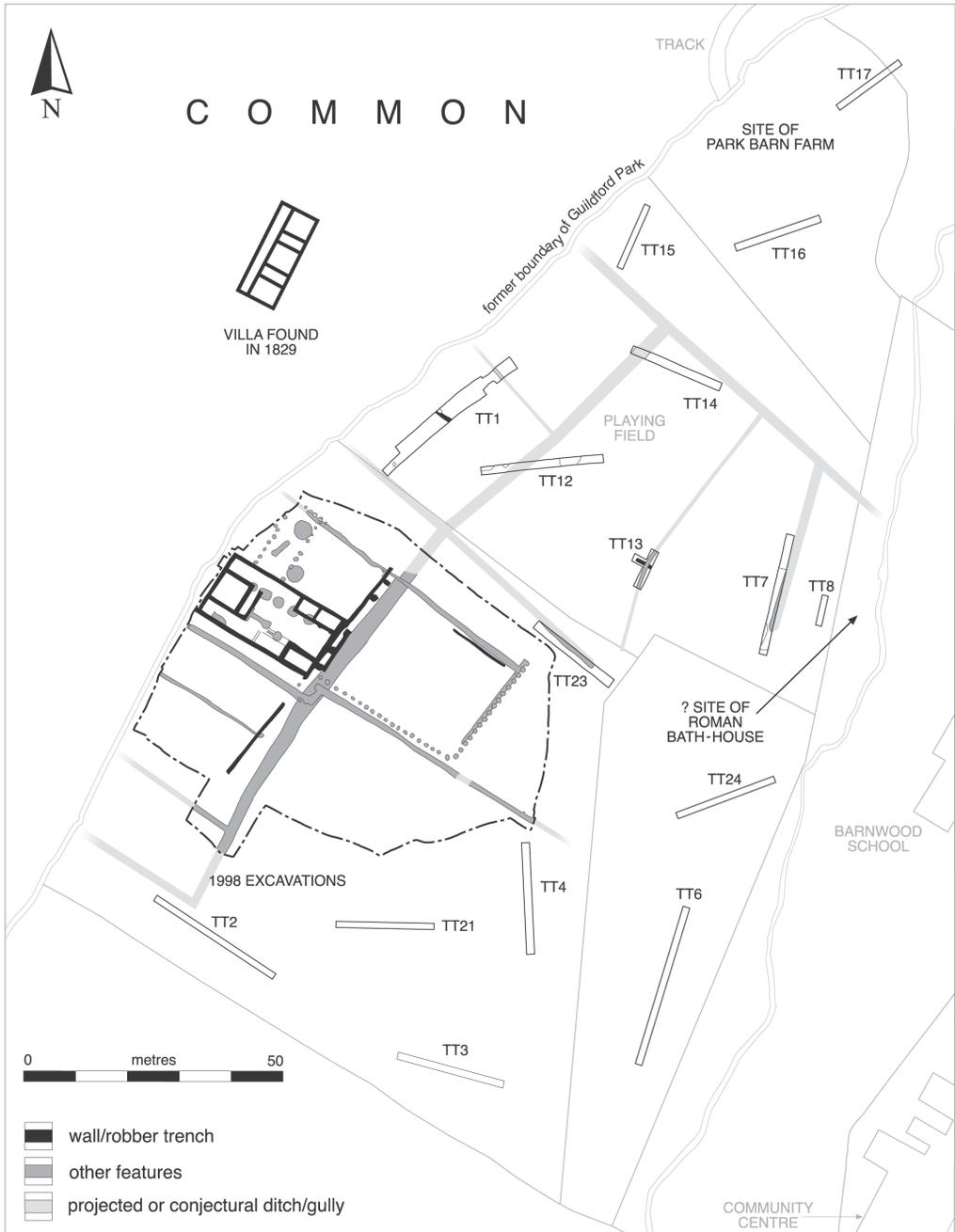


Fig 3 Broad Street, Worpleston: plan showing the location of all archaeological investigations. The location of Sibthorpe's villa is based on that of the Ordnance Survey. Its plan and orientation are based on Sibthorpe 1829, although the precise alignment has been adjusted to agree broadly with the walls in the 1998 investigations, as Sibthorpe gives only a broad north-south orientation.

location still survived. Equally, the relative dryness of the woodland area may have been precisely because of the tree cover, rather than indicating a correlation with the site of the 1830 villa. Finally, the resistivity survey did not reliably detect the excavated walls within the 1998 excavation area, and it must, therefore, be doubtful whether the negative evidence of the survey on the common can be relied on.

CHAPTER 2: THE STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Introduction

The results for all three stages of archaeological work are reported below, and a brief account of the methodology of work is included in each case. The results of all work within the main excavation area, including the earlier trial trenches, are presented together. The recording systems used on site were of a standard character, although duplication of numbers in 1994 and 1997 requires them to be presented here in the form 4.125, 7.152 etc. Context numbers 500 and higher were used in 1998.

A number of features were of 18th century or later date. None are of particular interest, and they receive no further comment below. Some features are of uncertain date, but most of these are probably Roman, like the great majority of contexts. All other features of archaeological interest are of Roman date.

The only dating evidence that carries any precision is the pottery, and, as Chapter 4 makes clear, this provides close dates for only a very small number of features. In the main excavation area there is evidence for a sequence of development, and the great majority of features can be assigned to one of three phases:

- Phase 1 Initial Roman activity, ? late 1st–early to mid-2nd century
- Phase 2 The developed building and associated features, mid–late 2nd century to late 3rd century
- Phase 3 Demolition and later activity, late 3rd–early 4th century

The remaining features in the main area are given a general Roman date. Features in trial trenches elsewhere have not been phased since they cannot be related to this sequence of development.

The area excavation in 1998 (fig 4)

METHODOLOGY

Soils were stripped from the entire area using a mechanical excavator down to the level at which features of archaeological interest began to appear, generally at a depth of around 0.25m. The features were all cut through a layer of very changeable surface appearance, both in colour and texture. It was generally a grey, slightly silty clay, but the colour could vary to orangey-brown, and there were wide variations in the amount of gravel (pebbles) within it. This layer was seen to contain fragments of pottery and tiles at numerous points, the frequency of such varying with the density of archaeology across the site. There seems little doubt that this layer represented the bioturbated upper horizon of the natural London Clay, which became apparent as a clean and sterile layer at a depth of around 0.10m.

Features were generally sampled, rather than fully excavated. The excavation of wall foundations proved to be a slow and hard process involving the removal of the flint cobbles in their clay matrix, and it was decided to obtain a fuller sample of wall profiles by machine

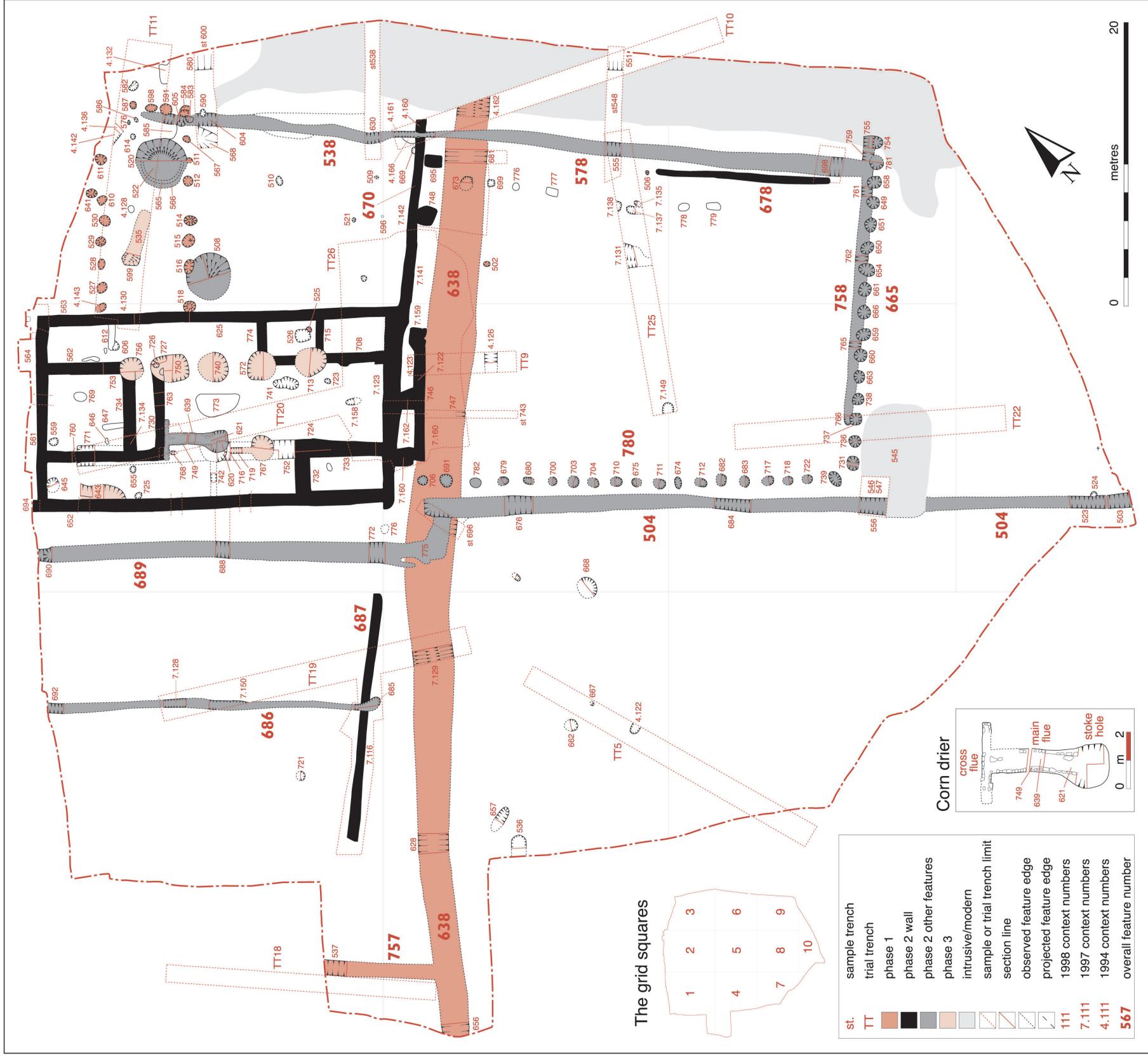


Fig 4 - Broad Street, Worplesdon: overall plan of the main excavation area. The Phase 2 corn drier within the aisled building is shown as a larger inset.

excavation at the end of the main excavation. Unfortunately, the onset of heavy rain at the end of September 1997 turned the site into a quagmire, to which machine access was impossible. This change in the weather also slowed and limited the sampling of other features, producing a lesser sample than ideally desirable.

PHASE 1: INITIAL ROMAN ACTIVITY

There is evidence of activity preceding the phase 2 buildings, and this includes some human cremations, boundary ditches, and a post-built structure.

Cremations

A total of six features were identified as having burnt/calcined bone suspected of being of human origin (see Chapter 4), and all lie within grid squares 2 or 6 (the grid squares are numbered on the inset plan on fig 4). In only two cases, 502 and 506, was the identification confirmed. Both these features are small (0.25–0.35m diameter), shallow (c0.10–15m deep) scoops. Two other features, 509 and 525, are of similar size and shape and it seems probable that they are also cremations. Feature 525 also included animal bone, iron nails and pottery sherds of 2nd century date. These elements might throw doubt on its identification as a cremation but, since cremations seem often to represent a token sample of material from the funeral pyre (McKinley 1993), they need not be out of place. Two features, contexts 681E and 741, contained burnt/calcined bone but seem unlikely to be cremations as such. Context 681E was a layer within the basal fill of ditch 638 (Phase 1), and the bone could, therefore, have arrived there as a by-product of cremation activity, or as a result of disturbance of a cremation in digging the ditch, this part of which lies in the same general area as the more certain examples. Context 741 was an irregular feature, or possibly two or more inter-cutting features with patches of burnt material. Like 681E, the material could derive from funerary activity and is in the same general area as the more definite cremations.

It is possible that the cremations are themselves earlier than other phase 1 contexts. Cremations 502 and 506 lie outside (south of) the Phase 1 boundary ditch, 638, and it seems probable they preceded its creation. The cremations were found within a limited area, and it seems unlikely that this type of activity extended much beyond it or that there were ever more than a small number of these burials, although they are so shallow that some might have been lost in earlier activities or during machine clearance. It is unclear what settlement activity they may be contemporary with.

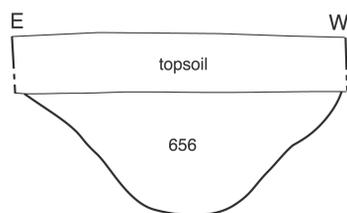
Boundary ditch 638 (figs 4 and 5)

A substantial ditch (638) was found to run south-west to north-east across the main excavation area. Sections through it were excavated at a number of points, and it was found to be generally U-shaped, between 2 and 3.4m in width, and between 0.8 and 1.1m in depth. The ditch was widest in the vicinity of the main Phase 2 building, and narrows both to the south-west and north-east. It is unclear whether, at least partially, this is due to a lesser degree of truncation in this area rather than an original variation of this magnitude. At all events the ditch is of similar size to ditch 165 in trench 14, which is on its projected alignment (fig 3), and the two may be part of the same feature, especially as that feature is also dated to the early to mid-2nd century. This would imply that the feature was missed in trench 12 (or, possibly, that an entrance gap existed at that point), which is not improbable as that trench was abandoned due to waterlogging prior to proper cleaning or excavation of the features in it. The feature was not observed in trench 2, to the south-west, and this may genuinely mean that it ended or turned between there and the main excavation area. On balance, the pottery indicates that this feature was mostly infilled in the mid-late 2nd

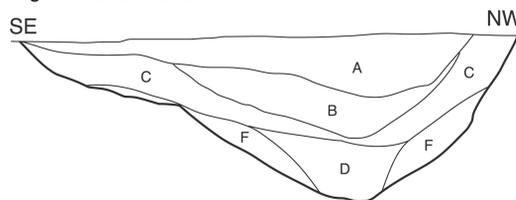
PHASE 1

Ditches

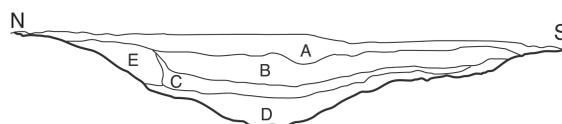
Segment 656 of ditch 638



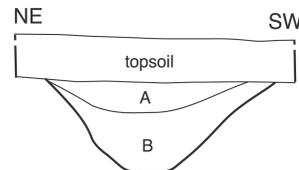
Segment 681 of ditch 638



Segment 4.165 in TT14



Segment 537 of ditch 757



Post-built structure

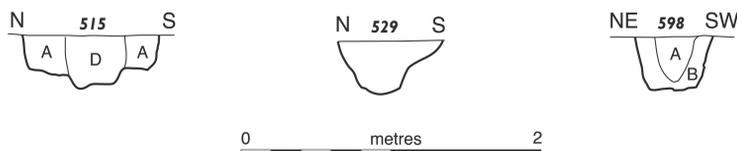


Fig 5 Broad Street, Worpleston: sections of Phase 1 features in the main excavation area.

century, although subsidence has introduced later material into the uppermost excavated fill. This also provides a date for the beginning of Phase 2 since the creation of the new building seems to be the proximate cause of the levelling of the ditch. Other Phase 2 gullies and features were cut into the infilled ditch. Gully 757 appears to be coeval with ditch 638, although the intersection of the two was not excavated. It was 1.5m wide and 0.6m deep. It may have been retained in use during phase 2, forming one side of a plot bounded to the north-east by gully 689, from which it is exactly the same distance (30m) as gully 538.

The size of ditch 638 suggests that it is an important boundary or enclosure ditch, and the area to its north-west lies within it. There is little certain information regarding the nature of activity in this area during Phase 1, apart from the building discussed below.

The post-built structure (figs 4 and 6)

This structure was identified in the northern corner (grid square 3) of the 1998 excavation. The evidence for its date is not very strong, but all the datable pottery recovered from the fills of the postholes is of 2nd century date.

The main building (hereafter called the aisled building) of Phase 2 may have been erected while the post-built structure still stood, since the south-west end of the latter is exactly

aligned with the main north-east wall of the former. Indeed the possibility that the sequence should be reversed cannot be rejected, although, if so, the post-built structure must have been demolished long before the aisled building, as the backfill of its postholes contained no tile or other demolition debris and several features (pits 508 and 520 and gully 538), also of Phase 2 and presumed to be broadly contemporary with the aisled building, post-date the infilling of the Phase 1 postholes. The aisled building was clearly built after the Phase 1 boundary ditch had been backfilled, but it is presumed that the post-built structure was erected while the boundary was in use.

The overall dimensions of the structure appear to be 14 x 6.2m, measured between the centres of the postholes. This assumes that the south-west end was originally between postholes 518 and 4.143 (but see below), and that the north-east end is represented by postholes 584, 591 and 598, and perhaps 587 which is slightly out of alignment. The series of postholes which make up the north-east side (4.143, 527–30, 610 and 611) form a good line with even gaps of 1.5m between the centres of the postholes, with the exceptions that 530 is displaced to the south-west, and the gap between 610 and 611 is 3m. This might suggest an entrance in this position, in which case 641 might just be part of a porch extending to the north-east. The distances between postholes along the south-west side (511, 512, 514–16, 518, 568, 583) are identical except that in this case there are two 3m gaps, between 518 and 516, and between 514 and 512. Posthole 567 lies north-east of its true alignment. Almost all the postholes were 0.30–0.35m deep, although 514 (0.20m), 528 (0.25m) and 583 (0.20m) were shallower. Only 515 had a clear post-pipe fill, about 0.40m in diameter, and the diameter of the postholes was quite variable, although almost all were in the 0.60–0.90m range. Many of the postholes were oval, and it seems likely that this shape was created in the process of removing the posts: the general absence of post-pipes would seem to confirm that the structure was carefully dismantled, and the form of the excavated postholes may largely be due to digging out of the post bases at that time.

There seem to be no other features definitively associated with the building, and an



Fig 6 Broad Street, Worplesdon: view of the Phase 1 post-built structure, looking south-west; scales in 0.2m divisions.

agricultural rather than domestic function may be suspected. If the south-west end was between 4.143 and 518, as suggested above, the structure would have been open fronted, but it is possible that the end wall was where the later wall 563 ran: this is in the same relative position to 4.143 and 518 as the north-west wall line is to 583. The possibility that this structure was part of an aisled building is discussed in Chapter 5.

PHASE 2: THE AISLED BUILDING AND RELATED FEATURES (figs 7 and 8)

It is presumed that the post-built structure was dismantled when a new stone structure and related enclosures were laid out across the site. The ditch 638 was certainly filled in at this time as some Phase 2 features overlie its infill.

The walls and interior features

The aisled building is of the type of Roman building in which there is a general tripartite division along its length, resembling the nave and aisles of a medieval church. The aisle walls, as excavated, were not continuous, although it seems that the one on the western side was originally so, since a robber trench (segments 716, 752, 771; fig 11) extended between wall 760 and wall 724. The robber trench was wider than the former, but the same width as the latter, with its base at the same depth (0.7m) as that of 724.

This seems to indicate that from the outset the building was divided into a series of rooms of varied size and shape. The western aisle was divided by a substantial wall, 732, and possibly by a further relatively flimsy partition wall, marked by feature 742, creating a total of three rooms, B, C and D. Two rooms, E and F, existed on the eastern side and a further room, A, at the northern end. Except for 742, the walls of all these rooms had substantial foundations 0.7m or more deep.

Rooms B and C ceased to exist when the aisle wall was removed by the robber trench. Strangely, the upper part of the backfill of this included layers (fig 11, layer 760A) which were initially planned as a continuation of 760 (as shown on fig 4) and could have been elements of a shallow wall footing. There must be considerable doubt about it, but it would seem either that room A was retained or reinstated even after removal of the main aisle wall or that it was only created after the removal of this wall. The latter is supported by the fact that walls 562 (753), 734 and 760 all had foundations only 0.2–0.3m deep, in marked contrast to the other walls in the aisled building. There is no evidence as to the function of the rooms, or of the areas between them. A number of generally shallow pits and/or postholes was identified within the area, but none shows a positive association with the walls. Some have been assigned to Phases 1 or 3, and the remainder are more likely than not to pre- or post-date the building. A shallow burnt clay feature (769) might have been a hearth in room A.

The robbing of the aisle wall was followed by some other modifications. The earliest of them seems to have been the excavation of a substantial pit, 620, which was subsequently infilled with a silty clay with large quantities of flint nodules. The purpose of this feature is unclear. A further and more interesting feature, a T-shaped corn drier (fig 4, inset; Morris 1979, 5–22), was then constructed partially over it. The feature was not, unfortunately, clearly identified in the initial stages of excavation, partly because of confusion caused by the coincidence of the position of the stoke hole with that of pit 620, and partly due to the removal of part of the structure in the excavation of trial trench 20. The stoke hole (621) was a simple shallow bowl, 1.50m in diameter but only 0.25m deep. Its upper fill, which was identical with that of the main flue, consisted of a silty clay, mixed with plentiful tile, flint nodules and sandstone pieces. Below this was a soft pink ash layer, which in turn overlay a compacted layer of burning, including burnt sandstone. These layers extended into the main flue (639, 749), but quickly became less definite, so that where sectioned at 639 they were evident only as a burning of the natural sandy clay at the base, below the demolition

debris which largely filled it. The main flue was straight sided and flat bottomed, around 3m long, 0.25m deep and 0.50m wide between its walls. The walls were constructed of a mixture of stacked broken tile, flint nodules and pieces of sandstone, in descending order of frequency. The cross flue was similarly constructed, but was much narrower at only 0.20m between the walls, and was about 2.8m long. There was no clear evidence for the form of the superstructure of the drying chamber, which would have been above the flues, although the possible partition wall 742 and posthole 768 might be associated with it.

The characteristics of this feature can be paralleled at a substantial number of sites. They are usually identified as corn driers, but a wide variety of drying functions are possible (Morris 1979, 5–9): where, as here, there is no evidence for the form of the drying chamber that would have been above the flues, and nothing within the fills to provide a pointer, the precise purpose must remain uncertain. Corn driers became especially common in the 3rd and 4th centuries, which fits with the present example, although T-shaped examples have not previously been identified in this area, or the South East generally (*ibid*, fig 28a).

No part of the superstructure of the building was identified. The plan (fig 7) shows the walls as identified immediately below topsoil. In some areas the exposed surface consisted of the densely packed flint nodules, set in clay matrix (sometimes with a yellow mortar also included), which filled the foundation trenches for all walls. In other locations it is the robber trench for the walls which was planned: as the fill of this also often included significant quantities of flint, it is not always clear, where further investigation did not occur, which of these two was recorded. Fortunately, in most cases the width of the robber trench proved closely similar to that of the underlying foundation trenches. An exception was 708, near its junction with 7.123, where the robber trench was wider than the foundation trench on its western side. The walls, as shown on figure 7, are generally of a fairly consistent width, but it may be that some of the apparent variations are due to later robbing. The depth of robbing, from the exposed surface below the topsoil, varies between around 0.1m and 0.3m. It would seem from this that the robbing was not intended to recover the flint nodules, of which a vast quantity remained below this level, but the stonework of the superstructure. None of this



Fig 8 Broad Street, Worpleston: view of the aisled building, looking south.

survived *in situ*, and only a very small amount of stone, none of it obviously worked, was found generally on the site. That found was mostly of Upper and Lower Greensand, although chalk lumps were found in robber trenches 518 and 561. It would seem from this that the building was carefully and thoroughly dismantled, and the materials taken away for re-use elsewhere. This seems to be confirmed by the relatively limited quantity (generally small fragments) of roof tile recovered from the area in and around the aisled building.

No *in-situ* evidence of flooring was recovered, nor can any of the loose finds related to floors (Chapter 4) be positively associated with this structure. The truncation of Roman levels by later activity seems to have been quite limited, and this indicates that the floor level of the Roman building may have been towards modern ground level. If so, it could have been deliberately raised above the general level of the ground outside to reduce problems caused by the high water table in the London Clay. This assumes that the thin and much degraded patch of material resembling *opus signinum* (773) was redeposited, and not *in-situ* material in the final stages of degradation. The discovery of 3rd/4th century pottery within this layer seems to confirm this interpretation.

At the south-east end of the building, a wall (746) runs parallel to and about 2m distant from the main south-east wall (7.133), and was linked (or nearly so) to it by three cross pieces (7.159, 7.160 and 7.162). This feature must be related to the entrance arrangements to the building; for further comment see Chapter 5.

The overall appearance of the building is difficult to characterise with certainty. The depth (generally around 0.9m) and solid character of the main foundations suggest that they are likely to have carried solid stone walls, rather than timber framing above dwarf walls, and that these are likely to have been of a height greater than around 3m. The internal walls also seem to have generally been of a solid and loadbearing character, 0.7m deep or more. The walls of room F had foundations of 1.3–1.5m depth which implies that they were intended to support higher walls than elsewhere, perhaps forming a corner tower. The building was approximately 25 x 14m in overall dimensions and must have had an imposing appearance. The function of the building is considered in the wider context of Roman-period occupation at the site in Chapter 5.

The courtyards or enclosures

The construction and use of the aisled building was accompanied by the subdivision of the area around it into courtyards or enclosures. This was achieved in three ways – by walls, by ditches or gullies (perhaps more accurately by the banks alongside them which did not survive), and by fences supported on uprights placed within postholes. Not all of these features were in use at the same time: the fences (posthole lines 665 and 780) seem to be replacements for the adjacent gullies (758 and 504), while the gully 686 post-dates wall 687 (see further below). Walls 678 and gully 578 were presumably not in contemporaneous use, but there is no evidence as to sequence (unless, as noted below, this wall is part of a structure, rather than a boundary, in which case they are likely to be contemporary).

The different elements in the system may be summarised as follows (wall elements are listed first, followed by gullies and then fence-lines).

Wall 670 (4.160, 7.141, 7.142) was of one build with 7.123, the south-east gable end of the aisled building, and extended north-east for an unknown distance. A gap was built into it to allow gully 538/578 to pass through (fig 9). The wall was evidently of a substantial height, as there is evidence for the foundations of two buttresses, 695 and 748.

Wall 687 (7.116) was of similar width to 670, and aligned with it on the north-western side of the aisled building. There was a gap of 6m between a short projection of wall 7.123 and the end of this wall. Much of this gap was filled by gully 689, and presumably its associated bank. If the latter was on the north-western side of the gully, then posthole 776 (not excavated) might have been part of an entrance arrangement to the enclosure adjacent to the aisled building. The north-western end of 687 did not connect with any further



Fig 9 Broad Street, Worpleston: view of gully 4.161 (538) as it passes through wall 4.160 (670), looking south-east; scale in 0.1m divisions.

enclosure element. The Phase 1 ditch 757 may have remained in use (as suggested above) as part of this system of enclosures, but if so, it is unclear how the gap between it and 687 was closed. An alternative view is that wall 687 represents the back wall of a lean-to structure (presumably facing north-west), of which the other element had insufficient below-ground impact to leave archaeological evidence (owing to sill beam construction, perhaps). If so, the bank associated with Phase 1 ditch 638 may have survived in Phase 2, and provided the south-eastern side of the enclosure within which the building stood.

Wall 678 was a short stretch of wall foundation running parallel to gully 578. The suggestion that 687 was part of a structure rather than a boundary feature can be advanced with equal or greater force for 678.

Gully 686 (685, 697, 7.128, 7.150) was later than wall 687, and terminated just beyond it. This odd relationship may suggest that wall 687 still functioned in some sense as a dividing element or structure at the time the gully was dug.

Gully 689 (688, 690, 772, 775) ran parallel to wall 652 of the aisled building, with a gap of 2.5m between them. It appeared that it was cut by gully 504 (as shown on fig 4), but it nevertheless seems probable that they were in contemporary use.

Gully 538 (604, 605, 630, 4.161) was narrower and slightly sinuous as compared to other gullies. It was contemporary with wall 670, and its continuation to the south of 670 was numbered 578.

Gully 578 (555, 698) was of a single construction phase with gully 758, which ran at right angles to it at its south western end.

Gully 758 was clearly superseded by posthole line 665. At its southern end, there was a gap of 5m between it and gully 504. This was presumably an entrance to the enclosure, wide enough for wagons.

Gully 504 (503, 523, 556, 676 (fig 10), 684) was very nearly aligned with the south-west wall of the aisled building, and terminated 2m away from it. The gully was continuing south-east at the edge of excavation.



Fig 10 Broad Street, Worplesdon: view of gully 676 (504) and postholes 679 and 680 (parts of 780), looking south-east; large scale in 0.2m divisions, small scales in 0.1m divisions

Fence 780 was marked by a row of postholes (674–5, 679–80 (fig 10), 682–3, 691, 700, 703–4, 706, 710–712, 717–18, 722, 739, 782) that run parallel to gully 504 and are clearly part of the same system as fence 665. In view of this, it is assumed that they are later than gully 504. The postholes are evenly spaced, with a gap between centres of c 1.5m. The holes were 0.6–0.8m wide and 0.25–0.4m deep, and tended to be oval in shape with steeply sloping sides and a flat bottom. None produced evidence of a post-pipe, and almost all were identified by the presence of flint cobbling at their surface, although such cobbles were infrequent lower in the fill. The most probable explanation of this is that the fence was dismantled carefully, and the posts dug out, after which the holes were infilled and then levelled with the original post-packing.

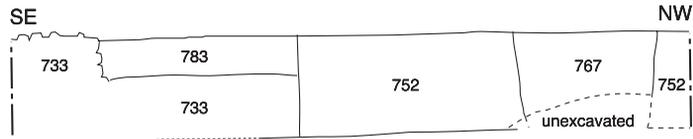
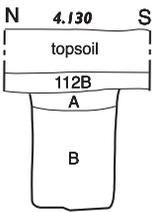
Fence 665 was marked by a row of postholes, which ran parallel to gully 758, with many of them partly cut through the silted-up gully. It seems likely that the fence was in use at the same time as fence 780, but the absence of a common corner post suggests they were erected at different times. The separation between centres of postholes was similar, at c 1.5m, but other aspects suggest differences in origin and end. The holes were almost all about 0.8m in diameter, occasionally larger, and roughly circular. They were 0.3–0.4m deep, with sloping sides to a flat bottom c 0.2m wide. In two cases, 659 and 660, clear evidence of a post-pipe of this width survived, with stone post-packing. The variable surface appearance, with a general absence of flint cobbling, suggests that, while there may have been opportunistic removal of posts after the fence had gone out of use, there was no systematic dismantling. The posts of both these fence lines seem to be of surprisingly large dimensions for something which was not loadbearing, and this raises the question as to whether these were something more than ordinary fences, although what is unclear.

Other features

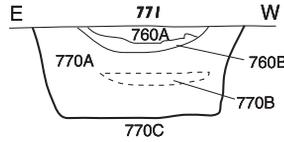
The number of features identified within the enclosures or courtyards was very low

PHASE 2

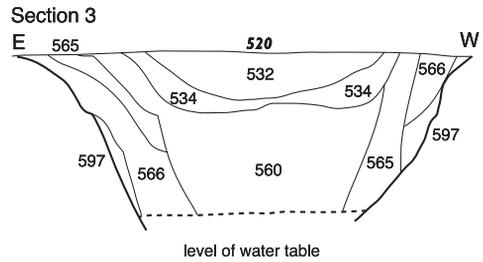
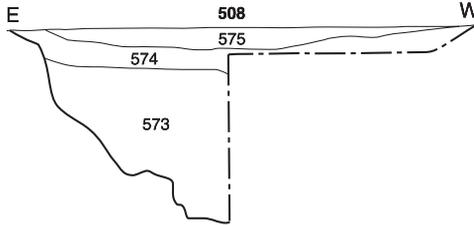
Villa walls



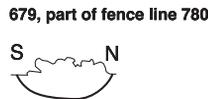
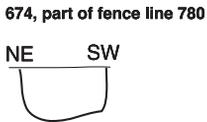
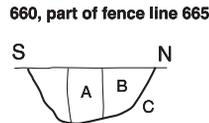
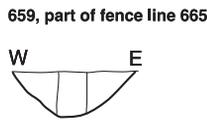
Robber trench



Features



Fence lines



Gullies

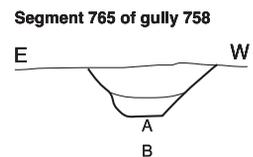
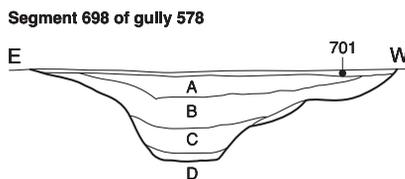
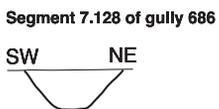
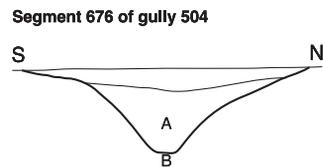
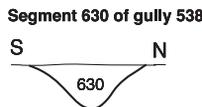
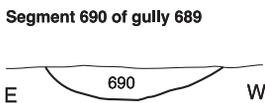


Fig 11 Broad Street, Worpleston: sections of Phase 2 features in the main excavation area.

(excluding those which belong to Phases 1 or 3). Most of those that were identified are undatable, although these are almost entirely discrete shallow pits or postholes unlikely to be of great significance, whatever their date. In fact only two features, both to the north-east of the aisled building, call for further comment.

Feature 508 was a substantial pit, about 3m diameter and 1.3m deep (fig 11), with a rather irregular profile. There is nothing to indicate its original purpose. It was largely infilled with a homogenous, sterile, clay (573), clearly in a single episode of dumping, and prior to any silting of the pit. The clay was presumably stored there for some purpose. It was overlain by a thin layer of silted material (574), containing a few finds. The final infill (575) seems to have arrived in the top of the feature following subsidence of the layers below, and includes brick/tile and stone probably derived from demolition of the adjacent building.

Feature 520 (fig 11) was of similar dimensions to 508, although the feature was not bottomed at 1.2m when there was strong ingress of ground water which made unsafe the section of the feature. The feature was steep sided and had a very mixed layer (566/597) against its sides. The section seems to suggest that this layer was cut through to create a smaller feature with near-vertical sides which was then lined with 565, a sterile clay layer. The general appearance is of a typical Roman well, with a construction shaft, infilled with 566/597, outside a timber-framed structure, long since decayed. The feature was infilled with 560, clearly a dumped layer, containing demolition debris, especially large pieces of sandstone (Lower Greensand). These tended to be rectangular, up to 0.3m long, 0.2m wide and 0.15m thick, suggesting they may have derived from a roughly coursed wall, perhaps part of the nearby aisled building. Context 534 seems to be silting following the backfilling, and 532 a levelling up of the subsided top of the feature: all finds within it are of Roman date.

Occupation deposits

A scatter of finds, outside of features, was found across the excavation area, and this was more intensive in the area in and around the aisled building. At no point, however, did this scatter become sufficiently concentrated to suggest an *in-situ* accumulation or dumping of occupation debris. It is suspected that this is because the area was kept clean during the Roman period, as there was an absence of deep later disturbance that would have removed such deposits.

PHASE 3: DEMOLITION AND AFTER

Demolition deposits

The evidence has already been noted for the careful dismantling of the aisled building, and there is a corresponding lack of demolition debris. A general scatter of demolition debris was identified in and around the aisled building, but there were no real concentrations, and the material, mostly roof tile, was quite fragmentary. The impression that the area was cleaned up after demolition seems to be confirmed by the limited amount of debris which found its way into the Phase 3 features. The final fill of 520 indicates that it was used as a convenient hole in which to bury material. Such features commonly reveal evidence of a ritual of termination, but the evidence for this would have lain in the unexcavated basal layers.

Features

The features assigned to Phase 3 are almost exclusively pits identified within the aisled building footprint. Four of these (fig 12: 572, 713, 750 and 756) cut through internal aisled building walls, while a fifth (740) forms part of a line with these four. A sixth feature (767) is not part of this line, although it also crosses an aisle wall line, the western of the two. These

features have a general resemblance to one another in plan and profile, but with a fair degree of variation when looked at in detail (fig 12). This is true also of their mode of infilling, where all seem to show some evidence for initial silting and/or slumping of the sides, but followed by dumping to infill them, seemingly mostly with the material which had been excavated from them. The quantity of finds produced from them is small, and it seems likely that much of the pottery is residual, but a few sherds of 3rd and 4th century pottery may indicate the date. The 4th century material only appears in the uppermost fills of 572 (557) and 767 (767A), and it could be that this material arrived in the features at some point after they had been infilled.

The positive relationship between the alignment of these features and the aisled building walls seems to suggest that they were dug with knowledge of the walls, and therefore presumably shortly after demolition. The possibility that they were dug while the building was in existence has been considered, but while the outer walls might have still stood to some height, it is difficult to see how it could have been roofed with the internal walls destroyed. The function of these pits is obscure. In three cases they were placed at a corner or junction of walls, where they would have been particularly difficult to dig, but quarrying of the flint rubble foundation does not seem to have been the motive, as that material was abundant in the backfill of the pits. No other aspect of the form or fill of the features appears to offer a pointer to the function of these pits, and this issue is further discussed in Chapter 5.

Only one feature, 535, outside the aisled building, has been assigned to this phase, although it is quite possible that some of the unphased features also belong here. Feature 535 has been included because it contained tile and stone presumably derived from demolition; in fact its fill closely resembled that found where the aisled building walls had been robbed out, although its irregular profile (segment 599 on fig 12) and isolation from other potential structural elements make it unlikely to be a robber trench. Its function is therefore uncertain.

PHASE 3

Pits

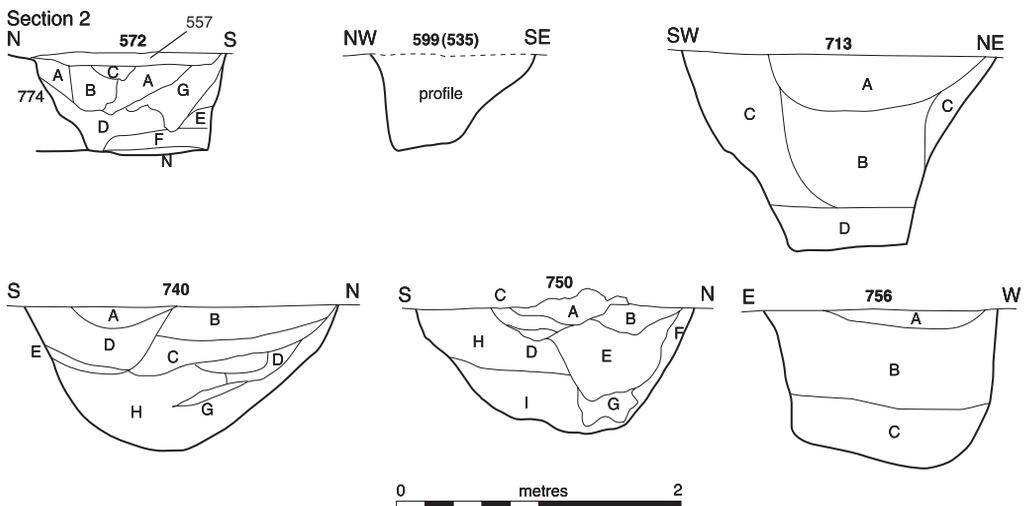


Fig 12 Broad Street, Worpleston: sections of Phase 3 features in the main excavation area. For a section of pit 767 see figure 11.

Occupation deposits

Later 3rd and 4th century pottery was found scattered across the site, and especially sunk into the subsided top of the Phase 1 boundary ditch (638). The main focus of such activity may, however, have been in the playing field area, where there was a rather higher proportion of such finds, or, perhaps, in an unexplored portion of the site.

UNPHASED FEATURES

A number of features were identified which could not be phased either by virtue of finds within them or their relationship to other features. All are pits or postholes, generally quite shallow, and none are of intrinsic interest. The rarity of features within the enclosed areas strongly suggests an agricultural function.

The evaluation work in 1994, by G Hayman

INTRODUCTION

Between 16 May and 10 June 1994, SCAU staff carried out a site evaluation. The reasons for and background to the work have been presented above, and what follows is a summary account of observations in each trench. Features identified in those trenches falling within the 1998 excavation area are discussed above.

METHODOLOGY

The land examined was predominantly an open field, which had been used as grazing for horses until immediately prior to the commencement of the evaluation. To the north-east the land was covered by dense vegetation and could not be investigated at this time. The topography of the site was mainly flat but sloped gently downwards to the east towards a watercourse known as Honey Brook.

The evaluation was achieved using a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket to open up seventeen trial trenches. These provided good coverage of the accessible part of the threatened area and are located on figure 3. Mechanical excavation was supported by manual work where it was found necessary to sample features and deposits of interest. Trenches 2–4, 6 and 15–17 revealed no features of archaeological significance, though unstratified finds of Roman origin were recovered from trenches 2, 4 and 6, and modern remains associated with Park Barn Farm were discovered in trenches 15–17. These trenches were backfilled immediately and the remainder on completion of the evaluation.

The trenches found to contain features and deposits of archaeological interest are summarised below and the features revealed are shown on figure 13. The dates given below either cover a broad range or are those indicated by the latest material present in each context – where the latter is the case, finds of earlier date may also have been recovered.

RESULTS

Trench 1. The machining of this trench revealed an area of densely packed flint and chalk rubble and two features cut into the natural orangey-yellow clay. The rubble lay directly beneath *c*0.15–0.20m of topsoil and occupied much of the central and north-eastern part of the trench, while the features were located towards the south-western end beneath *c*0.25m of topsoil and *c*0.25m of grey/brown subsoil.

Feature 4.170 was a large square posthole which contained sherds of pottery that indicate that it is of Roman date. Feature 4.172, apparently a large pit, lay only partially within the limits of the trench and was sampled by the excavation of a trench 0.75m wide. This revealed that the feature contained a number of distinct layers but these contained

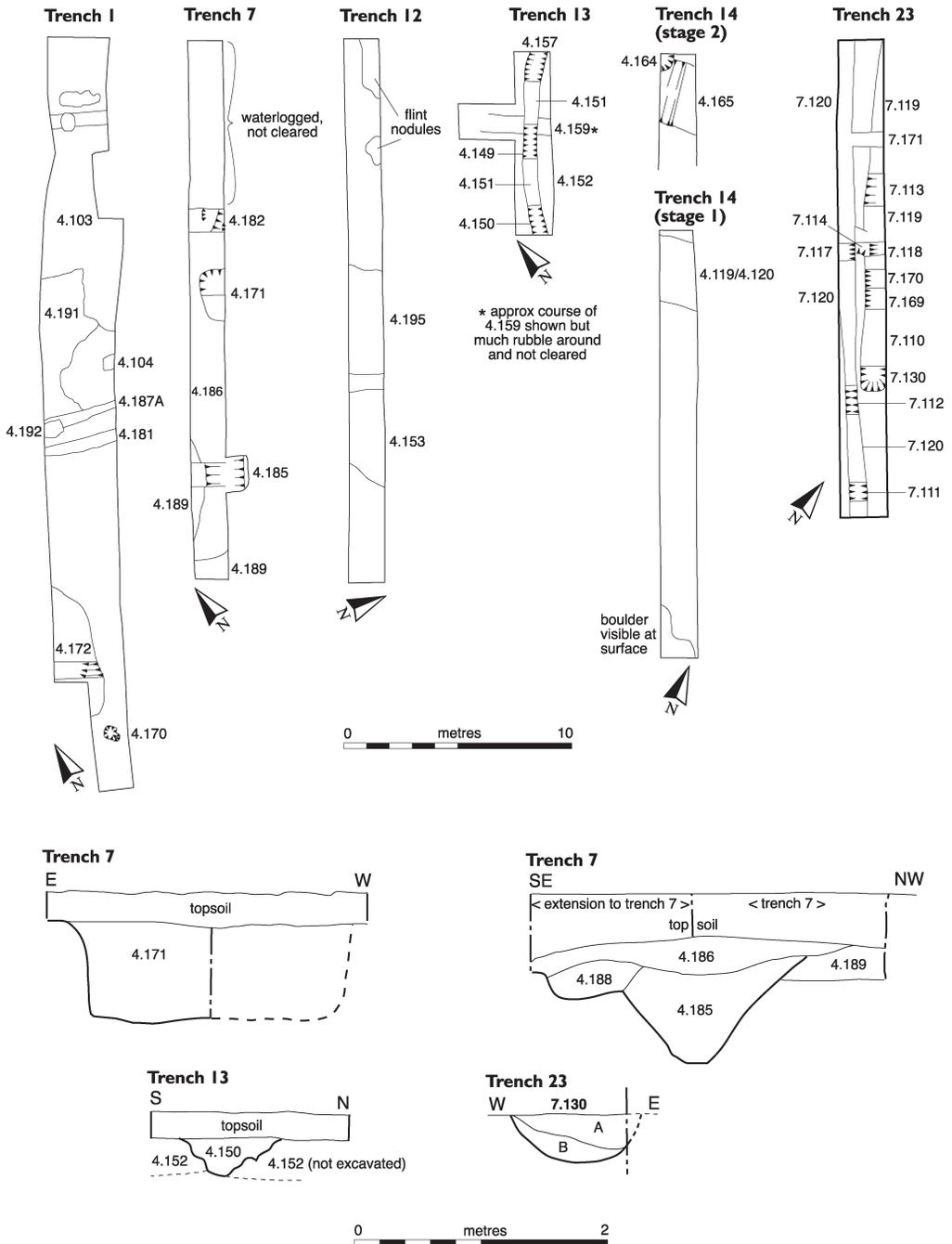


Fig 13 Broad Street, Worpleston: plans showing trial trenches outside the main excavation area, and selected sections.

surprisingly few finds. The excavation of this feature was abandoned at a depth of *c* 0.70m below the surface of the natural on the discovery of two large sherds of 18th–19th century pottery in layer 4.179 and a complete brick, probably of similar date, in layer 4.178; the bottom of the pit had not been reached at this depth.

The south-western end of the rubble spread was selected for detailed examination by the removal of remnant topsoil (4.103) from around the stones. This revealed an area of dark soil (4.181) running parallel to the remains of a wall made from densely packed fist-sized flints (4.187), a dark greeny-grey sandy soil layer (4.104), a localised spread of double fist-sized flint nodules (4.192) and an area of double fist-sized flint nodules and lumps of chalk with fragments of Roman brick and tile (4.191). Context 4.191 appeared to cover much of the remainder of the trench to the north-east. Numerous sherds of pottery and pieces of brick and tile were recovered from 4.103 and surface finds of similar type were collected from 4.104 and 4.181. A total of 227 sherds of pottery was recovered from these three contexts, fairly evenly distributed between each, and all of similar late 2nd–early 4th century AD date. In addition a later 3rd century coin was recovered from 4.103.

During machining it had been observed that a flint or flint-and-stone wall (4.193) ran across the north-eastern part of this trench and that a stack of Roman tile lay on the north-eastern side of the wall. Unfortunately, this part of the trench filled with water after a period of heavy rain and could not be investigated further. Also during machining, the remains of a large wooden post set in mortar with fist-sized lumps of flint (4.194) was pulled from a position central to or just off central to the wall.

There seems little doubt that wall 4.187 is of Roman date but the origin of 4.193/194 is less clear. The initial impression of 4.193 was that it was probably constructed using larger stones than 4.187, and there was no indication that 4.187 contained posts. Also, the walls appear to be on a different alignment (though 4.193 was planned as it appeared beneath 0.15m of water) so it is possible that they are not contemporary and that the rubble lying between them may be associated with more than one phase of building/demolition. The finds recovered during the detailed clearance work indicate that at least one of these postulated phases is of Roman date, but it may be relevant that several sherds of post-medieval pottery and pieces of window glass were noted as being present in the topsoil at the north-eastern trench in the vicinity of 4.193. Walling of similar appearance to 4.187 was also discovered in trenches 9 and 10.

Trench 5. See main excavation report.

Trench 7. The removal of *c* 0.25–0.35m of topsoil from this trench revealed an extensive layer of black soil (4.186), patches of yellowy-grey/brown clayey subsoil (4.189), and a pit (4.171). A large quantity of finds consisting of sherds of Roman pottery and fragments of brick and tile (the latter including pieces of *tegulae*, *imbrices* and box flue tile) were recovered during the machining, most coming from close to the surface of 4.186. The 76 sherds of pottery recovered from 4.108 and 4.186 are of later 3rd century and mid–late 3rd century AD date respectively.

Pit 4.171 cut 4.186 and was found to be *c* 0.80m deep with a patchy fill of yellowy-grey clay and dark soil. The finds recovered from this feature consisted mainly of brick and tile fragments but included several pottery sherds. All finds were of Roman date and the thirteen pottery sherds recovered have been dated to the late 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

Context 4.186 was sampled by the excavation of two test trenches, each *c* 1m wide, which showed it to be a layer up to 0.30m thick overlying the subsoil already identified as 4.189. Layer 4.186 was found to contain quite frequent pieces of charcoal and also to be quite peaty, these two influences combining to give it its dark coloration. In each test trench 4.186 was found to conceal the cut of a ditch (4.182 and 4.185) that appeared to follow a course similar to that of the trial trench. The ditch appeared to cut 4.189, and the segments excavated were found to contain sherds of Roman pottery and frequent pieces of Roman

brick and tile (including at least one nearly complete *tegula* and some other sizeable fragments). Examination of the pottery recovered indicated that the ditch may date to the mid-2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Immediately prior to the backfilling of this trench the test trench containing 4.185 was extended by mechanical excavation. This showed the ditch to be approximately 1.60m wide and confirmed that it was *c* 1m deep at this point. Another feature, possibly a small pit (4.188), was discovered on the eastern side of 4.185 and this yielded a single undiagnostic sherd of Roman pottery from the machine-cut section. Also at this stage, a short trench was cut at roughly 90° to the southern end of the trial trench. No features were discovered in this trench, which indicates that the ditch may terminate just to the south of 4.185.

Trench 8. This trench revealed a similar stratigraphy to trial trench 7 with layer 4.186 being observed at a similar depth, though it may not have been as thick at this point. Frequent finds of Roman brick and tile were recovered during machining. This trench filled with water after heavy rain and could not be examined further.

Trenches 9–11. See main excavation report

Trench 12. The machining of this trench revealed a spread of densely packed flint nodules with fragments of Roman brick and tile (4.153), an area of very dark soil (4.195), two concentrations of flint nodules of uncertain significance at the western end of the trench, and natural Clay-with-flints. Feature 4.153 was sealed by 0.15m of topsoil and the eastern and western ends of the trench were covered by 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m of brown subsoil, and 0.20m of topsoil respectively. Four sherds of pottery, three of 18th century date and one of Roman date, were recovered from the topsoil immediately above and around the stones of 4.153. Much of this trench was flooded after a period of heavy rain so no further work was done here.

Trench 13. The removal of 0.12–0.25m of topsoil from this trench revealed part of a wall built from blocks of Reigate stone (4.159), a surface of small densely packed flints (4.152) and a ditch (4.151) which appeared to cut both wall and surface. Numerous finds of Roman brick/tile and two sherds of 3rd–4th century AD pottery were recovered during the machining of this trench. Three segments of 4.151 were excavated (4.149, 4.150 and 4.157), but these yielded few finds and the dating of the feature is unclear. Several fragments of post-medieval window glass were recovered from close to the surface of 4.157, but similar glass was observed to have been present in the topsoil at this end of the trench so it may have been intrusive in 4.157. Similarly, sherds of pottery and pieces of Roman brick and tile were recovered from certain segments but these may have been present residually.

The remainder of the trench was carefully cleaned but no further excavation was attempted. The majority of 4.152 consisted of small gravelly pieces of flint associated with some larger stones and pieces of Roman brick/tile. These stones appeared to be part of a deliberately laid surface rather than just loose rubble, though some loose rubble was observed at the western end of 4.159.

Trench 14. The machining of this trench revealed a linear feature containing slabs of sandstone, pieces of flint and fragments of Roman brick/tile (4.119/120), two post medieval features, a curious outcrop of ?natural stone and natural clay. The stratigraphy removed was variable and consisted of 0.25–0.30m of topsoil over natural clay (rising to zero coverage over the stone outcrop) at the eastern end of the trench, and 0.10m of topsoil, over a chalk lump surface of post-medieval date which measured a maximum of 0.10m deep, over another soil layer *c* 0.12m deep at the western end of the trench.

Feature 4.119/120 was sampled and found to be a large ditch (subsequently renumbered 4.165 on the stage 2 plan) which was cut by a pit of 18th–19th century date. The ditch was

c.2.75m wide and 0.66m deep and contained four distinct layers of fill. Each layer contained sherds of Roman pottery but these were especially abundant in the third layer down, 4.165C, which yielded a total of 116 sherds. Despite the presence of post-medieval features elsewhere in the trench, there is no doubt that this ditch is of Roman date, and the finds recovered indicate that it belongs to the early to mid-2nd century (see p 65 for further discussion).

The evaluation work in 1997, by G Hayman

INTRODUCTION

Between 27 October and 12 November 1997, SCAU staff carried out a further stage of evaluation work (fig 3). The work consisted of a trial trench evaluation and limited area excavation. The reasons for and background to the work have been presented above, and what follows is a summary account of observations in each trench. Those trenches falling within the 1998 excavation area are discussed above.

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was achieved using a JCB mechanical excavator with a 1.8m-wide toothless bucket to open up eight trial trenches and an area measuring approximately 15 x 8m that received more intensive investigation. The trenches were numbered 18–26, continuing on from the trench numbers of the 1994 evaluation. Trenches 18, 21 and 24 produced no material of archaeological interest and were backfilled immediately, but the remainder all produced features. Among these, only trench 23 was not incorporated into the main 1998 excavation area.

RESULTS

Trench 23. The removal of c 0.25–0.35m of topsoil from this trench revealed three ditches, 7.119, 7.120 and 7.171, and another feature, 7.114. Ditches 7.120 and 7.171 contained a fill of dark soil that was indistinguishable from the topsoil. Ditch 7.120 was sampled at three locations, 7.111, 7.112 and 7.117, and produced fragments of modern roof tile and various iron objects. Ditch 7.171 was not sampled, but clearly cut ditch 7.119 and was doubtless of similar (if not contemporary) date to 7.120.

Ditch 7.119 was sampled at five locations, 7.113, 7.118, 7.130, 7.169 and 7.170, though segments 7.169 and 7.170 were only partially excavated and were dug to locate the southern edge of the feature; the feature was between 0.40 and 0.60m deep where sampled. Segment 7.113 contained four distinct layers of fill, while a single deposit was observed in 7.118, and two layers were found in 7.130. Sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from segments 7.113 and 7.118, and 7.113 also produced some fragments of Roman brick/tile and a small quantity of bone. Ditch 7.119 appeared to have been cut by feature 7.114, which itself was cut by 7.120. It was not clear what type of feature 7.114 was (it may also have been a ditch), but it produced sherds of Roman pottery and fragments of Roman brick/tile.

CHAPTER 3: THE POTTERY, by P Jones with contributions by B Dickinson and J Bird

Introduction

A total of 3679 sherds (128kg, 42.4 Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs)) was sampled from 117 layers and features of the site that included 54 pits and postholes, sixteen ditches and

gullies and thirteen robber trenches. Three phases of activity are perceived from stratigraphical circumstances, but the ceramics shed little further light on the dating of these since Phase 1 features contained only 201 sherds, and only ten came from the four pits containing pottery of Phase 3. Of the rest, *c*25/30% (count and weight) is from Phase 2 contexts (1092 sherds, 11.1kg), *c*29/38% (count and weight) is from stratified contexts that were not easily fitted into the phased sequence (1128 sherds, 17.7kg) and *c*34/31% (count and weight) was of unstratified material in later contexts or the uppermost soils (1248 sherds, 13.7kg).

Most feature and layer assemblages are small, and only 25 contained over twenty sherds. Those with 50 or more include ditch 638 of Phase 1 (128 sherds); pit 520 (335), pit 578 (318), pit 620 (134), ditch 504 (148) and gully 4.142 (50) of Phase 2; and ditch 4.165 (134), pit 572 (59), posthole 576 (68) and feature complex 621 (90) of uncertain Roman phasing. Features 504, 520, 578, 620, 638, and 4.165 are individually catalogued below.

Most pottery was made locally, with 85/90% (count and weight) represented by Alice Holt/Farnham grey to brown sandy coarsewares, and among the 7% of finer wares the most common was samian which represented *c*4% of the entire collection.

A selection of 144 vessels or parts of vessels are illustrated (figs 14–16), including the large feature assemblages of pit 520 (nos 1–37), ditch 578 (38–65), pit 620 (66–74) and ditch 4.165 (75–81). The others were selected as best representatives of their form. In addition to the illustration numbers (larger print), the other (smaller) numbers refer to the context in which they were found and their fabric type. When not fully drawn out, diameters in centimetres (cm) are given at the outside edges of the rims.

Quantification is based on sherd counts, weight, EVEs and rim counts, and where percentage figures are provided in the text they are followed by (SC), (W), (E) and (RC) accordingly.

There are four tables, providing sherd counts and weights by phase (table 1), sherd counts and weights by fabric type and by features and layers (tables 2 and 3; see p 31), and rim counts and EVEs by fabric type and vessel form (table 4; see p 31).

The report that follows is in six parts that describe the fabrics and forms represented, catalogue the six largest feature assemblages, summarise the pottery of Phases 1–3, catalogue the plain samian, provide a note by Brenda Dickinson on the samian stamp and conclude with a general discussion.

Fabrics and forms

All sherds were separated into the Broad Ware Groups and sub-Groups originally determined to study the Roman pottery of Staines (Jones & Poulton, in prep), and which have since been used to characterise the pottery of several other sites in Surrey. Group 1 is of grog-tempered wares, Group 2 is of shelly wares, Groups 3 to 6 are of sandy coarsewares, Group 7 is of *amphorae* and *mortaria*, Group 8 is of orangeware, both fine and coarse, Group 9 is of presumed locally traded wares such as 9A fine greyware and 9B fine cream/white ware, Group 10 is of Continental or regionally traded wares including 10A redwares such as samian and Oxford finewares, and 10B white/buff wares such as those of Nene Valley ware.

Vessel forms are described below most often by their acronyms. A key to these, and their corresponding types according to Lyne & Jefferies (1979) and Millett (1979) is given below.

		Lyne & Jefferies class	Millett type
BRS	Bead-Rimmed Storage Jar	—	—
ERS	Everted-Rimmed Storage Jar	9	—
CRS	Cable-Rimmed Storage Jar	10	—
BRJ	Bead-Rimmed Jar	4	16
CNJ	Cordon-Necked Jar	1	17, 18
ERJ	Everted-Rimmed Jar	3B 1–7	—
Fig7J	'Fig 7' Jar	3A	20, 22
3BJ	Curving Everted-Rimmed Jar	3B8	23
3CJ	Hook-Rimmed Jar	3C	26, 27
RRJ	Reed-Rimmed 'Fig 7' Jar	—	—
NNJ	Narrow-Necked Jar	1A	29, 30
Fig7Bk	'Fig 7' Beaker	—	—
ERBk	Everted-Rimmed Beaker	2	—
BRBk	Bead-Rimmed Beaker	—	—
ButtBk	Butt Beaker	3	—
SB	Surrey Bowl	5	2
BRB	Bead-Rimmed Bowl/Dish	5A, 6B	4, 12
SSB	Straight-Sided Bowl	6A, 1–3	5
IFRB	Incipient Flange-Rimmed Bowl	5B1	11, 13
FRB	Flange-Rimmed Bowl	5B2 & 3	14
RRB	Reed-Rimmed Bowl	5E	32
CarinB	Carinated Bowl	—	—
CampB	Campanulate Bowl	—	—
Strainer	Strainer	5C2/3	15
Flagon	Flagon	8	36, 37
Flask	Flask	1B	—
Lid	Lid	7	—

SUB-GROUP 2A SHELL-TEMPERED WARE

Only three sherds were found of this ware that is tempered with coarse shell fragments, probably of oyster. It is uncertain whether they are residual early Roman sherds or belong to the later Roman period.

GROUP 3 ALICE HOLT/FARNHAM GREY/BROWN SANDY COARSEWARES

There are 3334 sherds (37.9kg, 33.3 EVEs), of which most are of the standard range of slightly sandy grey or grey/brown fabrics collectively designated as 3A. Those alone represent between 60 and 78% (W and SC) of all pottery from the site. A much coarser sand-tempered fabric, 3C, was identified and quantified separately, as well as a buff to red/brown sandy variant, 3D, that is typical of later Roman sites in west Surrey. All three account for between 79 and 90% (E and SC) of all pottery. No sherds were classified as belonging to sub-Group 3B, which is an early Roman orange/brown variant, and if any sherds are present they have been included with those of sub-Group 3D.

SUB-GROUP 3A FABRICS

These represent 60 (W), 68 (E), 70 (RC) and 78% (SC) of all pottery from the site, and include most vessel forms recognised by Lyne & Jefferies ((1979) hereafter referred to as L&J). Of 297 rims, five are from storage jars (0.61 EVEs), 175 from jars (18.3 EVEs), 30 from beakers (3.5 EVEs), 73 from bowls and dishes (5.7 EVEs), ten from lids (0.9 EVEs), three from flagons and one each from a strainer and a flask.

Of five storage jars, two are BRS bead-rimmed types (including no 82), two CRSs are similar but have external finger-impressed cabling like those of L&J Class 10 'beehive' vessels (including no 83) and one ERS is simply everted and has a groove along the shoulder (no 84).

The most common jar form, 3BJ, has a slightly curving, simple everted rim (L&J Class

Table 1 Broad Street, Worpleston: pottery sherd count and weight by phase

Fabric	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Unphased		Unstratified		Total	
	count	<i>wt</i>	count	<i>wt</i>	count	<i>wt</i>	count	<i>wt</i>	count	<i>wt</i>	count	<i>wt</i>
2A	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	-	-	3	11
3A	158	1770	887	7638	8	98	879	9922	972	8162	2904	27590
3C	11	140	100	2292	-	-	142	4496	80	1588	333	8516
3D	3	69	34	486	-	-	17	596	42	1565	96	2716
4	1	5	6	29	-	-	2	78	7	133	16	245
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	20	2	8	4	28
Buff	-	-	6	39	-	-	5	21	7	65	18	125
6	1	3	4	106	-	-	3	54	8	154	16	317
7A1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1368	-	-	5	1368
7B1	1	3	-	-	-	-	5	272	-	-	6	275
7B2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	56	3	157	5	213
7B3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
7B6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	63	3	257	5	320
8A	5	28	8	117	-	-	12	144	11	50	36	339
8C	2	59	10	122	-	-	10	84	9	134	31	399
9A	1	3	1	6	-	-	2	12	3	45	7	66
9B	3	154	15	70	1	8	5	193	15	96	39	521
10A1	12	75	16	179	1	14	19	170	79	1264	127	1702
10A3	-	-	2	29	-	-	2	8	4	60	8	97
10A7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	2
10A8	2	5	2	6	-	-	4	76	1	2	9	89
10B3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	40	1	17	6	57
Overfire	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	3	1	6	3	11
Total	201	2316	1092	11121	10	120	1128	17689	1248	13763	3679	45009

3B.8 and similar), but simple CNJ cordon-necked jars (L&J Class 1), Fig7J jars with rim profiles like a figure seven (L&J Class 3A) and other everted forms are also common. Other less common jar forms include BRJ bead-rimmed types (L&J Class 4), 3CJ hook-rimmed types (L&J Class 3C), RRJ Fig7 variants with reeded rims (no exact L&J equivalent) and NNJ narrow-necked types (L&J Class 1A).

The CNJ jars usually have slightly flanged or expanded rim ends, and fully beaded examples are rare. Of nine rim sherds that extend so far, three are decorated in the panel between the neck cordon and the shoulder groove with burnished cross-hatching. Two of these from ditch 4.165 may be part of a set (nos 45 and 46). Few body sherds from similar vessels carry decoration in the panel. Also uncommon are examples with carinated shoulders (nos 46 and 87). Only one full profile of a CNJ could be reconstructed (no 85). Others illustrated are from pit 520 (nos 1–5, 10, 15 and 18) and pit 578 (nos 40–42). Another from the same pit is almost a hybrid CNJ/Fig7J form (no 39).

Only two BRJ jar rim sherds were recovered, and the one illustrated from pit 605 is relatively narrow mouthed at 8cm diameter (no 38). The other is 15cm. The form is typical of early Roman assemblages and their rarity here suggests little or no 1st century occupation.

Illustrated examples of Fig7J jars are of five from pit 620, including one with one and another with two shoulder cordons (nos 7–9 and 11–13) and another from ditch 578 (no 48); and of four RRJ reed-rimmed variants, three are from ditch 578 (nos 53, 54 and 60). Their rim size ranges from 13 to 22cm.

A catch-all category of ERJ everted rimmed jars may include some CNJs and Fig7Js, but some, at least, seem to be hybrids of the latter with 3BJs (eg nos 47 and 77). Another vessel with mixed antecedents looks like a CNJ with an angled shoulder, but without a neck cordon (no 86).

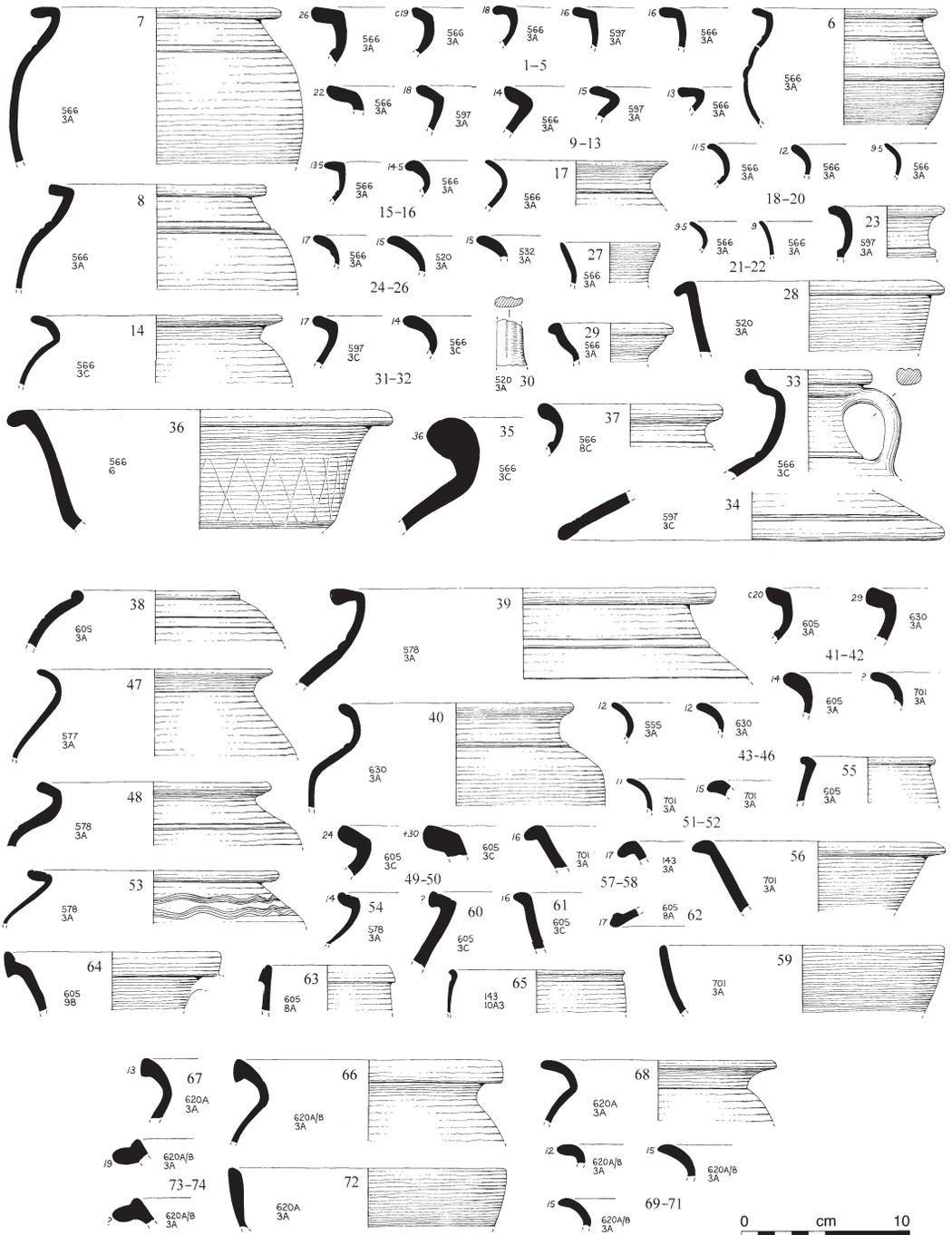


Fig 14 Broad Street, Worpleston: pottery drawings nos 1-74 (scale 1:4)

The 3BJ everted rimmed jars includes only one with burnished latticework over the body (no 90) and there are few body sherds similarly decorated. Other illustrated examples of 3BJs include three from pit 620 (nos 24-26), four from ditch 578 (nos 44-46 and 52), four from pit 620 (nos 68-71) and one other (no 89).

were represented by only one example (no 108), and there are only two of BRBk bead-rimmed type (nos 55 and 111). There are three beakers with Fig7 rim profiles, including a hybrid CNJ type with cordons at the neck and mid-girth (no 6), and another of biconical type has a slashed mid-girth cordon (no 95). Most beakers were ERBk types with simple everted rims, and those with neck cordons most closely resemble small CNJs. Illustrated examples include seven from pit 520 (nos 17–22 and 27), two from ditch 578 (nos 43 and 51) and one other (no 88).

Of eight bowl or dish types, the most common are BRB types with beaded or slightly flanged rims like L&J Classes 5A and 6B. Most have straight walls, but at least one has a pronounced curving body (no 99). The only near-complete profiles are of bowls (nos 97 and 98). Others illustrated include three from ditch 578 (nos 56–8), and one from ditch 504 (no 28). A variant has a carinated body (no 100).

The next most common type is the SSB simple, straight-sided dish, like L&J types 6A 1–3, of which there are two complete profiles (nos 102–3). Three similar examples are illustrated (nos 59, 72 and 80), as well as one with a slight groove below the rim (no 101). This last is the only example from the site that resembles L&J types 6A 5–11, although on the Worplesdon example the groove is more of a burnished indentation.

Another relatively common open form is the FB flange-rimmed bowl of L&J types 5B2 and 3, and illustrated examples include two from pit 620 (nos 73–4) and one other (no 105). There are also three with the ‘incipient’ flanged rims of L&J type 5B1, one of which is illustrated (no 96).

Of two large RRB bowls with reeded rims like L&J type 5E, one is illustrated (no 91); both campanulate bowls are shown (nos 106 and 109).

Lids are fairly common, with ten rims identified (including no 107) and two knob handles (including no 107).

There are three rims from flagons, including a cupped type (no 29) and two ring-necked types (nos 112–13), as well as the neck of a pulley type (no 114) and part of a three-lobed handle (no 30). The rim of a flask was also found in pit 520 (no 23).

SUB-GROUP 3C COARSE SANDY WARE

This represents *c* 9 (SC and RC), 10 (E) and 19% (W) of all pottery from the site, and the proportional imbalance by weight is because of a preponderance of larger forms. Nine of the 37 vessels represented by rim sherds are storage jars, eight are from other jars, six from bowls/dishes, three from lids and one from a flagon.

There are two examples of BRS storage jars (none illustrated), two of the CRS type (including no 115), and five ERS everted-rimmed types including one with burnished latticework on the shoulder (no 116) and another with a hooked rim (no 118). One other ERS is illustrated (no 35).

Most of the jars are Fig7Js, and five are illustrated, including one from ditch 578 with a reeded rim and combed decoration on the shoulder (nos 31, 49, 50, 53 and 120). The last of these is one of two with a groove on the shoulder.

Less common are 3BJ jars and of three illustrated, two are from ditch 520 (nos 14, 32 and 119).

All three bowls are of BRB type (nos 61 and 122–3) and three dishes are of SSB type (including nos 117 and 121).

There are also three lids (including no 34), and a cup-mouthed flagon with a three-lobed handle (no 33).

SUB-GROUP 3D LATER ROMAN RED/BROWN TO BUFF SANDY WARE

This represents *c* 1 (E), 2 (RC), 3 (SC) and 6% (W) of the collection, and of eight vessels represented by rim sherds four are of CRS storage jars (none illustrated). The four others

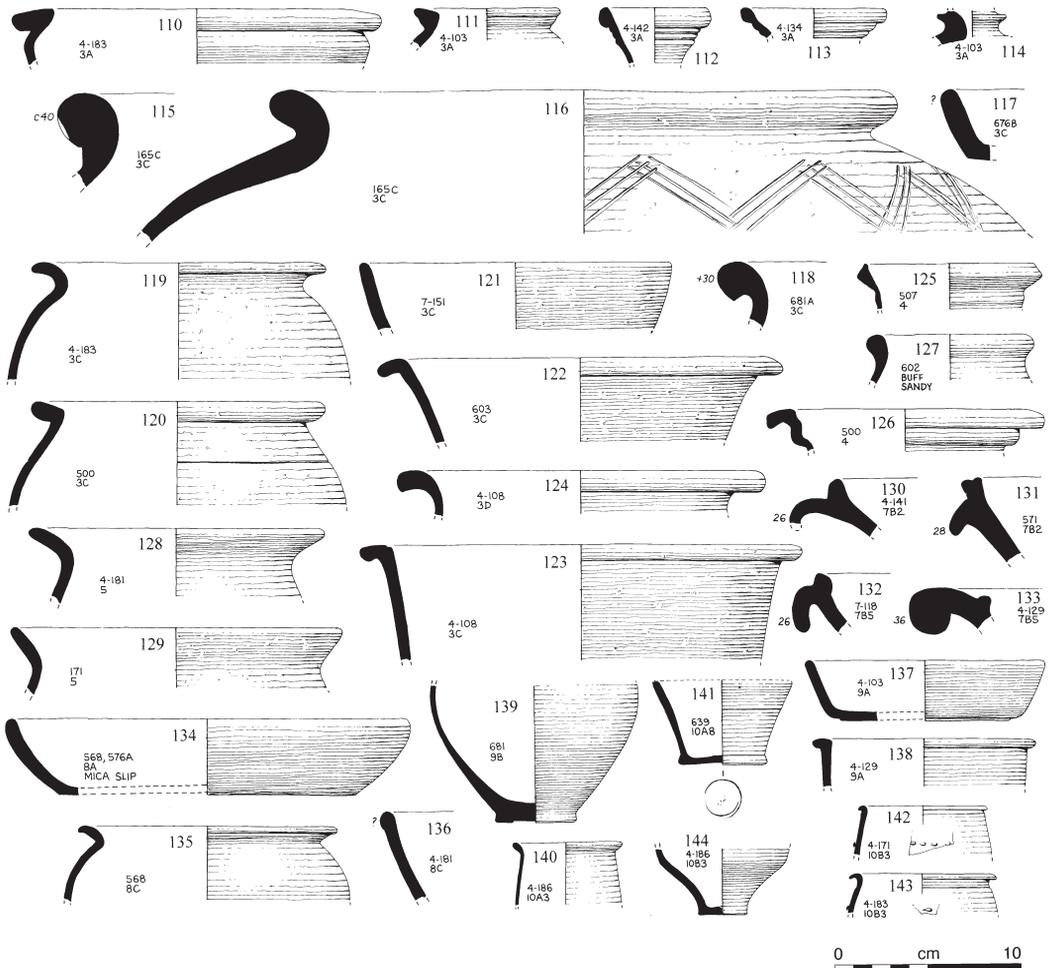


Fig 16 Broad Street, Worpleston: pottery drawings nos 110–144 (scale 1:4)

are from jars and include an ERJ with a simple everted rim, two 3CJs with hooked rims (none illustrated) and one with an overhanging cavetto rim (no 124).

GROUP 4 VERULAMIUM REGION BUFF SANDY WARE

Sixteen sherds were identified as probably having derived from vessels made in this source area, of which six from *mortaria* are described with all the others of that form (see 7B below). Many of the remaining sixteen are less certainly from the Verulamium district as there is some overlap with the texture and colour of some local variants of the Alice Holt/Farnham tradition. Some that are more likely to be of Group 4 include the only two rims: of a flagon (no 125) and of a larger flagon or amphora-type vessel (no 124).

GROUP 5 OVERWEY-TYPE COARSE SANDY WARE

Four sherds were tentatively identified as being of this later Roman coarse sandy ware, but there remains some uncertainty. All may, instead, be of the coarse sandy 3C variant of the Alice Holt/Farnham tradition. All three rims are simply everted and from jars (including

nos 128–9), and such a form is not in the standard repertoire of Overwey/Tilford types (Clark 1949).

BUFF SANDY WARE

Eighteen sherds were sufficiently different from other oxidised varieties of the Alice Holt/Farnham tradition as to qualify for their separate description and quantification. The only rim is from a narrow-necked jar (no 127)

GROUP 6 BB1 BLACK-BURNISHED WARE

Sixteen sherds identified from their distinctive fabric. Of five rim sherds, two are from later Roman FB flanged bowls (Holbrook & Bidwell 1991, Type 45), one is from a 3BJ jar (*ibid.*, Type 20) and another from a SSB straight-sided bowl (*ibid.*, Type 59). One of the flanged bowls has burnished latticework on the body, as has a BRB bead-rimmed bowl (*ibid.*, Type 39) from ditch 520 (no 36).

GROUP 7 AMPHORAE AND MORTARIA

7A Amphorae

Only five sherds were found, and all are of 7A1 southern Spanish type. Three were from pit 572, one was from layer 4.104 and the largest (1.3kg) was from layer 4.183.

7B Mortaria

Only 22 sherds were found, including rim fragments from six vessels. One is of 7B1 Verulamium Region Buff Sandy ware and bears the corner of a stamp (no 81), three are of 7B2 Oxford White Ware including two of Young's (1977) Type M3 (including no 130) and one of Type M22 (no 131), and two are of 7B6 unidentified fabrics (nos 132–3). Among the body sherds is one from a 7B3 samian Dr. 48 *mortarium*.

GROUP 8 ORANGEWARES

Two variants were distinguished: 8A fine fabrics and 8C sandy fabrics. Each represents *c* 1% of the collection (SC, RC, W and E). No white-slipped sherds were found. At Staines an intermediate, slightly sandy variant, 8B, was identified, but at Worplesdon all such sherds are included with 8C.

SUB-GROUP 8A: Of three rim sherds one is from a beaker or odd flagon (no 63), another from a lid (not illustrated) and the last is a complete profile of a hemispherical bowl (no 134). It was the only mica-slipped vessel represented on site. Other featured sherds include parts of three foot-ring bases from flagons.

SUB-GROUP 8C: There may be some overlap of these with the more orange/brown vessels of the 3A fabrics. Two such examples could be a CNJ jar rim from pit 520 (no 37) and a 3BJ jar from elsewhere (no 135). The rim of a hemispherical bowl from ditch 504 (not illustrated) and a bead-rimmed bowl (no 136), however, may belong to a distinct orangeware variant, as also an unstratified foot-ring base and the neck of a ring-neck flagon from ditch 578 (not illustrated).

GROUP 9A FINE GREYWARE

Only seven sherds were selected from the greater mass of greyware as probably representing examples of a separate fineware, although it may also have formed part of the Alice Holt/Farnham industry. They include the rims of two small bead-rimmed bowls (including no 138), a cordoned neck sherd of a globular beaker (not illustrated) and a straight-sided dish (no 137).

GROUP 9B FINE WHITEWARE

The 39 sherds of these fabrics represent *c* 1% (SC and W) of all pottery, but a few may be of 10B3 Nene Valley ware with the slip eroded away. This is especially suspected for the flagon foot-ring base (no 139). Other featured sherds include part of a three-lobed flagon handle and a splayed base angle (both not illustrated) and the hooked and internally bevelled rim of a large flagon from ditch 578 (no 64).

GROUP 10A1 SAMIAN

This represents 4 (SC and W) and 11% (RC and E) of all pottery from the site. Almost all are from central Gaul, with only a few from southern and eastern Gaul. Of up to 49 vessels represented by rimsherds *c* 40/48% (RC and E) are of Dr. 18 or 31 bowls, and 28/29% (RC and E) of Dr. 33 cups. There are also three rims of decorated Dr. 37 bowls, three of Dr. 36 or Curle 11 dishes with *en barbotine* decoration, four Dr. 38 flanged rim bowls and four Dr. 27 campanulate bowls or cups. Other forms represented by body sherds include a southern Gaulish Ritterling 12 and a central Gaulish Ritterling 13.

GROUP 10A3 OXFORDSHIRE RED/BROWN-SLIPPED RED FINeware

Only eight sherds were identified, including the rims of a bowl with a slight neck from ditch 578 of Young's Type C75 (no 65) and of a probable pentice beaker of Young's Type C22 (no 140). There is also a base angle of a roughcast beaker, a rouletted beaker sherd and the base angle of a bowl.

OTHER GROUP 10A IMPORTED FINE REDWARES

There is a single sherd of 10A7 Rhenish ware with a metallic slip from robber trench 153; eight sherds of miscellaneous others (10A8) include a Dr. 33 copy in a pink fabric with an orange/red slip (no 141), five roughcast sherds including a beaker base, and one with an internal red slip.

GROUP 10B3 NENE VALLEY BROWN/BLACK-SLIPPED WHITEWARE

Six sherds, including two from cornice-rimmed globular beakers with *en barbotine* decoration (nos 142–3), a base angle of a beaker (no 144) and a roughcast sherd.

Selected feature assemblages

PHASE 1

Ditch 638 (contexts 628, 681, 696, 4.155, 4.162, 7.129, 7.150)

128 sherds (1.71kg). 68/74% (C and W) is of Group 3A; 4/8% (C and W) is of 3C and 3D; 3/5% (W and C) is of samian represented by five sherds. Twenty-two vessels represented by rimsherds include:

S/Group 3A:	CNJ	x 1
	ERJ	x 1
	3BJ	x 5
	3CJ	x 1
	Fig7J	x 3
	ERBeak	x 1
	SB	x 1 (no 96)
	BRB	x 3
	SSB	x 1
	CampB	x 1 (no 106)

S/Group 3C	ERS	x 1 (no 118)
Group 9B	Flagon	x 1 base (no 139)
Samian	Dr. 18/31	x 1 rim and 2 body sherds. CG
	Dr. 38	x 2 rims. CG

The assemblage is mostly of 2nd century forms, although some, such as the CNJ jar and the SB Surrey bowl, could be earlier. The dominant forms are 3BJ jars and BRB bowls, both of which began during the mid-2nd century and derive from BB1 forms. The Dr. 38 flanged bowl is also an Antonine form. The dating is probably mid-late 2nd century.

PHASE 2

Pit 520 (contexts 532, 534, 560, 565, 566, 597 4.138) (fig 14, nos 1–37)

335 sherds (3.34kg). 68/83% (W and C) of 3A; 8/24% (C and W) of 3C; 2% (C) of samian represented by eight sherds. 39 vessels represented by rimsherds include:

S/Group 3A	CNJ	x 6 (nos 1–5, 15)
	Fig7J	x 7 (nos 7–13)
	3BJ	x 4 (nos 16, 24–26)
	ERBk	x 7 (nos 17–22, 27)
	Fig7Bk	x 1 (no 6)
	Flask	x 1 (no 23)
	Flagon	x 1 (nos 29) and a handle (no 30)
	BRB	x 1 (no 28)
		+ a roundel made from a base
S/Group 3C	ERS	x 1 (no 35)
	3BJ	x 2 (nos 14, 32)
	Fig7J	x 1 (no 31)
	Lid	x 1 (no 34)
	Flagon	x 1 (no 33)
Group 6	BRB	x 1 (no 36)
S/Group 8C	NNJ	x 1 (no 37)
Samian	Dr. 18/31	x 1 rim. CG
	Dr. 18/31R	x 1 base. CG
	Dr. 33	x 1 rim. CG
	Dr. 38	x 1 rim. CG
		Body sherds. CG
Group 10A8		roughcast sherds, dark brown slip

Most featured sherds are of mid-late 2nd century forms, although some of the CNJ jars may be residual. The Dr. 33 and Dr. 38 forms are Antonine. The dating is probably mid-late 2nd century.

Ditch 578 (contexts 555, 577, 578, 605, 630, 701, 4.161, 7.143) (fig 14, nos 38–65)

318 sherds (3.32kg). 60/77% (W and C) of 3A; 16/35% (C and W) of 3D; 1/2% of 9B. Only two sherds of samian. Thirty vessels represented by rimsherds include:

S/Group 3A	BRJ	x 1 (no 38)
	CNJ	x 4 (nos 39–42)
	3BJ	x 4 (nos 44–6, 52)
	ERJ	x 1 (no 47)
	Fig7J	x 1 (no 48)

	ERBk	x 2 (nos 43, 51)
	BRBk	x 1 (no 55)
	RRJ	x 3 (nos 53, 54, 60)
	BRB	x 3 (nos 56–8)
	SSB	x 1 (no 59)
S/Group 3C	Fig7J	x 2 (nos 49, 50)
	BRB	x 1 (no 61)
S/Group 8A	Lid	x 1 (no 62)
		Beak or flagon (no 63)
S/Group 8C		sherd of ring-neck flagon (not illustrated)
Group 9B	Flagon	x 1 (no 64)
Samian	Dr. 33	x 1 rim. CG
	Dr. 36/Curle	11 x 1 rim. CG
Group 10A3	Beak	x 1 (no 65) burnt

This is largely a 2nd century group but some may be residual, such as the BRB jar, some of the CNJ jars and the Dr. 36/Curle 11 rim. The BRB bowls and 3BJ jars are of mid-2nd century date or later, as also the Dr. 33 rim. One odd sherd is the burnt beaker rim in 10A3 fabric, since, if not intrusive or misidentified as an Oxfordshire piece, it would date the feature as being of later 3rd century date at the very earliest. The SSB bowl is also a later 2nd or 3rd century form. Mid-late 2nd century, or possibly a century later.

Pit 620 (fig 14, nos 68–74)

134 sherds (1.42kg). 75/83% (W and C) of 3A; 15/22% (C and W) of 3D. Only one samian sherd. Ten vessels represented by rimsherds include:

S/Group 3A	3BJ	x 4 (nos 68–71)
	3CJ	x 2 (nos 66–7)
	SSB	x 1 (no 72)
	FB	x 2 (nos 73–4)
Samian	Dr. 31	x 1 rim. CG

The presence of only 3BJ and 3CJ jars of mid-2nd or later date, and the SSB and FB bowls probably of 3rd century date, supports the idea of a 3rd century date for this assemblage.

Ditch 504 (contexts 503, 523, 556, 676, 684) (fig 15, nos 105, 117, 102 and 122)

148 sherds (1.53kg). 70/80% (W and C) of 3A; 15/21% (C and W) of 3C and 3D. Only three sherds of samian. Twelve vessels represented by rim sherds include:

S/Group 3A	ERJ	x 4
	3CJ	x 1
	ERBk	x 1
	BRB	x 1 (no 122)
	FB	x 3 (no 105)
	SSB	x 2 (nos 117, 102)
Samian		Two worn CG sherds

A 3rd century or later date is suggested from the presence of the SSB and FB bowls.

UNPHASED

Ditch 4.165 (fig 15, nos 75–81; fig 16, nos 115–16)

134 sherds (4.06kg). 32/63% (W and C) of 3A; 36/66% (C and W) of 3C. Eight vessels represented by rim sherds include:

S/Group 3A	ERJ	x 1 (no 77)
	CNJ	x 2 (nos 75, 76)
	ERBk	x 1 (no 78)
	SSB	x 1 (no 80)
	Lid	x 1 handle (no 79)
S/Group 3C	ERS	x 1 (no 116)
	CRS	x 1 (no 115)
Group 7B1	<i>Mortarium</i>	x 1 (no 81) Includes part of a stamp; illegible

This is an odd group since all except the *mortarium* sherd is of Group 3 greyware. Also of interest is that there are two CNJs that may have been part of a matching set, with the same decorative motif in the shoulder panel. Both could be as early as the late 1st or early 2nd century, as also the ERS with the similar burnished latticework on its shoulder. The *mortarium* rim is also probably earlier than the mid-2nd century. The assemblage could therefore, be of early to mid-2nd century date, were it not for the SSB bowl rim, which is usually a 3rd century form. It is possible, however, that it is from a hemispherical bowl type of 2nd century currency. Probably early to mid-2nd century.

The phased pottery

PHASE 1

201 sherds (2.30kg), of which over 65% was from ditch 638 (see above). Rim and other important sherds from other contexts include:

S/Group 3A	CNJ	x 3 (including no 87)
Samian	Dr. 18/31 sherd.	CG
	Dr. 38 rim.	CG
	Dr. 33 sherd.	CG
	Dr. 45 sherd.	CG
	Ritt. 13 sherd.	CG
10A8		roughcast sherd with dark brown slip

Ditch 638 is probably of mid–late 2nd century date, and the Dr. 33, Dr. 38 and Dr. 45 sherds would confirm this date for the phase as a whole. Oxfordshire and Nene valley wares are absent.

PHASE 2

1092 sherds (11.12kg), of which most came from ditches 504 and 578 and pits 520 and 620 that are catalogued above. Rim and other important sherds from other contexts include:

S/Group 3A	CNJ	x 3
	3BJ	x 7
	Fig7J	x 1
	3CJ	x 2
	ERBk	x 1
	BRB	x 1

	SSB	x 2 (including no 103)
	FB	x 1
	Lid	x 1
	Flagon	x 1 (no 142)
S/Group 3C	BRS	x 1
	Lid	x 1
Samian	Dr. 33	x 1
10A3	Beak	x 1 base, roughcast

Most of the large feature assemblages are probably of 3rd century date, but contain much mid–late 2nd century material. The others catalogued above tend to confirm this dating for the phase as a whole. There are two sherds of 10A3 Oxfordshire fineware, however, which might indicate that the phase ran on towards the end of the century. No other Oxfordshire or Nene valley sherds are present.

PHASE 3

10 sherds (0.12kg), from four pits. The only rim sherds are of:

S/Group 3A	3BJ	x 1
	FB	x 1
	Lid	x 1

The FB bowl rim confirms a probable 3rd or early 4th century date for this phase.

Catalogue of samian, by J Bird and P Jones

The 1994 collection and decorated pieces from 1997 and 1998 have been identified by J Bird, and all others by P Jones. See also B Dickinson's report on the stamped sherd.

1994

4.100	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to early Antonine
	Curl 11 (Dr. 36) sherd, CG, Hadrianic.
	Barbotine leaf
4.112	Dr. 37, CG, Cinnamus ovolo (Stanfield & Simpson 1958, pl 158, no 15), AD155–75
	Dr. 33, CG, mid–late 2nd C
	Dr. 38 (probably), CG, Antonine
	Dr. 31 base, EG, first half 3rd C
	Walters 79 sherd, CG, mid–late Antonine
	Sherd, CG
	Dr. 33, EG, late 2nd to first half 3rd C
4.127	Dr. 15/17R or 18R, SG, 1st century
	Dr. 33, CG, Antonine
	Dr. 27, CG, Hadrianic to early Antonine.
	Two sherds probably of the same vessel
	Curl 11, CG, Hadrianic
	Ritterling 12 sherd, SG, 1st C
	Sherd, CG
4.128	Curl 11 CG, Hadrianic. Probably same vessel as in 127 above
4.129	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to early Antonine (see report on stamp, below)
	Two rimsherds Dr. 33, CG, Antonine
	Dr. 33, CG, Antonine
	Dr. 27, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine

	Curle 27, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	Dr. 33, CG, Antonine
	Ritterling 13, SG, 1st C	Dr. 33 sherd, CG, Antonine
4.129 (134)	Sherd, SG, 1st C	Dr. 36/Curle 11, CG, Hadrianic, Barbotine leaf
520 (4.138)	Dr. 38, CG, Antonine	Sherd, CG, 2nd C
591 (4.141)	Dr. 31, CG Lezoux, Antonine	Sherd, EG, 3rd C
4.154	Dr. 38, CG, Antonine, four joining sherds. Joins with sherd in 162A	512 Dr. 33 sherd, CG, Antonine
162 (4.155)	Sherd, CG, 2nd C	520 surf Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
638 (4.162A)	Dr. 38, CG Lezoux, Antonine. Joins sherd in 154	528 Ritterling 13, CG
638 (4.162G)	Dr. 18/31 sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	529 Dr. 18/31 sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
190 (4.186)	Dr. 38, CG Lezoux, Antonine. Burnt	520 (532) Dr. 33, CG, Antonine
<i>1995</i>		520 (532/4) Sherd, CG, 2nd C
T3A	Dr. 37, CG	543 top Dr. 18/31R base, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
	Dr. 18/ 31R sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	549 Dr.33, CG, Antonine
<i>1997</i>		520 (560) Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
7.103	Dr. 37, CG	568 Dr. 27, CG, Hadrianic to early Antonine
	Dr. 36, CG, Hadrianic, Barbotine leaf	578 (577) Dr. 33, CG, Antonine
	Dr. 18/31 sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	Dr. 36/Curle 11, CG, Hadrianic. Barbotine leaf
7.103/124	Dr. 33, CG, Antonine	579 Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
119 (7.113C)	Dr. 18/31 base, CG Hadrianic to Antonine	Dr. 33, CG, Antonine
670 (7.142)	Dr. 33, CG, Antonine	Sherd, CG, 2nd C
7.144/145	Dr. 15/17 or 18, SG, 1st C	572 (594) Dr. 18/31 sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
<i>1998</i>		598 Dr. 45 sherd, CG
500	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	620A Dr. 31, CG Hadrianic to Antonine
	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	640 Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
	Dr. 18/31 sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	Dr. 33, CG, Antonine
610 (501)	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine, includes two lead rivets	Dr. 8/31 base, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	645 Sherd CG, 2nd C
505	Dr. 31R, CG, Antonine	504 (676A) Sherd CG, 2nd C. Worn
	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	638 (681E) Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
	Dr. 33, CG, Antonine	504 (684) Sherd CG, 2nd C. Worn
	Dr. 33 sherd, CG, Antonine. Plus two similar fragments	696A Dr. 18/31 sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
	Dr. 36/ Curle 11, CG, Hadrianic.	713C Dr. 18/31 sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine
	Two sherds	
507A/B	Dr. 31R, CG, Antonine	
507	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	
	Dr. 18/31, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	
	Dr. 18/31 sherd, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	
	Dr. 18/31 base, CG, Hadrianic to Antonine	

The samian potter's stamp, by B Dickinson

Layer 4.129: M CCIVSF on form Dr. 18/31: Maccius ii of Lezoux, Die 5b. This occurs as a mould stamp on a decorated bowl from Alcester, in a pit filled in the 150s (Hartley *et al* 1994, fig 49, 272). It was also used on a number of plain forms, including Dr. 27 and Dr. 31. *c*AD 130–60.

Discussion

The range of vessel forms and their relative quantities is broadly similar to that found at other rural and Roman town sites in west Surrey, and seems wholly domestic with its preponderance of kitchen and table coarsewares and a minority of fineware for the table and display.

The majority of the collection almost certainly belongs to the second half of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd, but how early in the 2nd century the site was occupied

and how far its use extended into the second half of the 3rd century is less certain. Occupation during the 1st century seems unlikely, and the few early types that could just as easily have belonged to the early 2nd century include the two bead-rimmed bowls, the two Surrey bowls, the few south Gaulish samian sherds and the other early Roman-type fineware sherds. Grounds for suggesting that there had been little or no 4th century occupation are based on the absence or rarity of several forms and fabrics. Oxford red fineware, the most common tableware of all other late Roman assemblages in the region, is very rare. The characteristic white or black slips of Alice Holt/Farnham greyware from the end of the 3rd century onwards are absent, as also snub-nosed types of flanged bowls (L&J Class 6A. 5–12), and late types of storage jar (L&J Classes 1C.6 and 4.45) in those fabrics. Even the tentatively identified Overwey-type material may be from the very beginnings of the sub-industry, or else is really just an earlier variant of the Alice Holt/Farnham tradition. Since the use of monochrome slips and the trading of Oxford red fineware outside its core area occurred towards the end of the 3rd century, it can be surmised that this part of the Worplesdon villa complex had been abandoned at about that time.

Phases 2 and 3 of the site are clearly of 3rd century date, and the presence of Oxford red fineware in assemblages of the latter would indicate its demise towards the end of that century. Phase 1 was probably of 2nd century date, but after BB1 became more widespread in its second quarter. There are no grounds, however, to suggest that it continued beyond the middle of the century. In summary, occupation may have begun by the mid-2nd century and could have ended in the late 3rd century.

The assemblage is dominated by Alice Holt/Farnham coarsewares, and since the known area of production lies, at its nearest, only 11km distant on the Surrey/Hampshire border, it is remarkable that coarsewares from other source areas are represented. Although there is some doubt as to whether some of the sherds attributed to the Verulamium region might instead have been made more locally, the two flagons and the *mortaria* sherds almost certainly were. The proportion of BB1 is relatively small, but much the same as has been found in 2nd and 3rd century assemblages in Staines and rural sites in west Surrey. The most common *mortarium* type is Oxford whiteware, and although elsewhere in the county this is the earliest of the Oxfordshire forms to appear in Roman assemblages, at Worplesdon sherds the type is absent from the Phase 1 assemblage of mid-2nd century date. There remains some uncertainty about the provenance of the orangeware vessels, but some, and perhaps most, could have been made locally. The same can be said for the grey fineware, which probably represents an, as yet, little understood aspect of the Alice Holt/Farnham tradition. The only confusion concerning the fine whiteware is how much of it may, instead, be of Nene Valley ware with its slip eroded away.

It is uncertain whether the relatively high proportion of samian among the finewares reflects a different usage of the site than elsewhere, or whether samian is usually dominant in late 2nd and early 3rd century assemblages. Another interesting aspect of the samian is the large number of sherds from cups of Dr. 33 type, which might suggest a significant difference in the pattern of consumption in this part of the villa complex compared with other domestic sites. Put simply, such drinking cups may have been preferred above all other types. The samian bowl repaired with lead rivets poses an interesting question, but one that can probably never be satisfactorily answered. Was there someone at the villa with such specialised skills, or did it have to be taken elsewhere for repair?

Very few *amphorae* sherds were found, but this need not be significant. Although they might have been rare, sherds could have been collected and used as building materials or for other purposes elsewhere in the villa complex, or simply have been disposed of away from the site.

A significant aspect of the Alice Holt/Farnham material is the quantity of coarse sandy 3C type, which is much higher than at other domestic sites in west Surrey. One possibility is that the villa lay closer to the source of that variant, which might have been an eastern outlier of the central production area. A coarse sandy fabric like 3C was found in waster

dump AH5 in Alice Holt Forest, where it was designated as Fabric F with grain sizes up to 7mm (L&J 1979, 19). It seems only to have been used rarely and for storage jars, however (L&J 1979, fig 21 no 9.4), and coarse tempering is said to have declined during the early 3rd century. Fabric F may correspond to early Roman sub-group 3B of the Staines/Surrey Roman pottery type series, and need not be connected to the later 2nd and 3rd century sub-group 3C of Worplesdon. There are several storage jars represented in 3C, but many other forms are present as well, including a cup-mouthed flagon. There is little from these excavations that is, or might be, later than the end of the 3rd century, but at the villa site a group of Alice Holt/Farnham pottery was recovered (Clark & Stuart 1946) that clearly extends into the 4th century.

CHAPTER 4: OTHER FINDS AND BUILDING MATERIALS, by K Ayres with contributions from V Fryer, M Hammerson and N Marples, and conservation work by M Brooks and A Tribe

Introduction

A discussion of the finds is followed by a detailed catalogue, grouped by material. Where applicable, descriptions are followed by the small find (SF) number. Details within the descriptions were aided by the conservation reports (archive reports by A Tribe and M Brooks). All weights are referred to in grams (g). Abbreviations used are as follows:

d	diameter	l	length
ht	height	th	thickness
w	width	u/s	unstratified

Discussion

The number and quality of the finds from the Broad Street excavation was low with few personal and domestic items recovered, and more abundant structural remains. The pavement and other finds discovered by Sibthorpe in 1829 (Sibthorpe 1831), located just to the north-west of the present excavations, represent a nearby Roman building, a villa, and it is possible that some of the structural remains may have originated from this.

PERSONAL AND DOMESTIC ITEMS

Few personal possessions were recovered, and those that were tended to be broken and of fairly low quality. All the jewellery items found were broken and included brooches, fragments of what may be a ring and a bracelet, and an iron buckle. A hobnail was discovered, but a fragment of leather shoe is most likely to be post-medieval, possibly from the 18th century (see below).

Domestic artefacts were similarly lacking in the assemblage and again mainly consisted of broken items which would no longer have been usable. The steelyard and lead weight would have been useful additions to the household in many ways, but probably chiefly used in the kitchen. The fragments of glass were too small in many instances to determine what type of vessel they derived from, but fragments of bottles and a shallow bowl were identified. Remains of meals were represented by the animal bones and oyster shells. The slide key, which would have been used in conjunction with an early form of lock, suggests that security of the building or a room in it would have been a consideration.

STRUCTURAL REMAINS

Structural items made up the largest proportion of the finds assemblage. Those made of metal include nails for fixing tiles, holding wood together and so on, wire, hooks, straps and bolts – objects for joining parts of buildings, and probably also for holding furniture together. A number of fragments of stone were recorded, but none showed signs of being worked.

A substantial quantity of *tegulae* and *imbrices* were found and most probably came from the roof of the aisled building. Some could have belonged to other roofs or have been used for other purposes. A quantity of hypocaust tiles was identified, mainly from one area (trial trenches 7 and 14), and although they may not be sufficient in number to suggest a whole bath-house, they do indicate a heated room or building somewhere nearby.

The presence of ceramic paving tiles may suggest tessellated floors, although a number were used in the construction of the corn drier (fig 4). Tesserae of both clay and stone were recorded, but the presence of only five pieces may indicate that they derive from the villa excavated in 1829 rather than a building within the area recently examined.

Interior walls were regularly painted. The quantity and size of the painted plaster fragments was far too small for any pattern to be identified but dark red bands could be identified.

There is contention over the glazing of the windows. Johnston (1979, 16) is of the opinion that windows were rarely glazed, probably due to the expense, and that wooden shutters were the norm, but Allen (1998, 56) suggests that they were relatively common. The small amount of Roman window glass suggests that at least one of the windows at the site would have been glazed.

EVIDENCE FOR THE ROLE OF THE AISLED BUILDING AND STATUS OF THE SITE

It seems probable that the site functioned as a farm to some degree, producing and processing food and other animal products such as wool, leather and so on. Unfortunately, the quantity of animal bone collected and recorded was not large enough to determine the exact agricultural role.

It is also likely that some of the unidentified iron objects or parts of objects would have initially been part of agricultural tools, of which there was a wide range in the Roman period. Tools which could be identified include a hammerstone, chisel and whetstones for sharpening knives. These are regular tools, probably used for everyday jobs around the site, and do not necessarily indicate an industrial role.

The worked bone and antler (including unfinished objects) suggest that some bone working was carried out on site, but again this is more likely to have been a domestic craft. Both slag and frit were identified which, in large quantities, would indicate metalworking and glass-making respectively. However, the amounts recovered were very small.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL

A small number of medieval and post-medieval items were recovered. Personal items included a button or disk from an unstratified context, and a fragment of leather shoe recovered from ditch 149 that is likely to date to the late 18th century. Medieval and/or post-medieval tiles (4713g) were also collected and although it is not certain, it is likely that some of the other (metal) structural remains were of post-medieval date, including iron tacks and scraps of metal.

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Many of the personal and domestic items retrieved were from unstratified general clearance

layers from the interior and around the area of the aisled building. The metalwork, glass vessels and animal bone were also found around the main building indicating that there was no designated place for different types of rubbish, such as food remains, but that they were generally disposed of together. However, as the quantity of animal bone was small, it could be that more had been disposed away from the buildings, in an area not uncovered by the excavations

Many of the building materials, such as stone, were found around the main area as were fragments of interior building materials, for example flooring, mortar, painted plaster, nails, indicating that they were left where they fell. Tile of all types was most frequently found in trial trench 7 in the playing field area, with flue tiles concentrated in this, and trial trench 14, suggesting other buildings in this area.

Flint, by N Marples

QUANTIFICATION

Fourteen flints deemed to be of prehistoric origin were recovered from thirteen flint-bearing contexts spanning three separate phases of archaeological work. Fragments adjudged to be from flint foundations of Roman date have not been considered here.

COLOUR AND CONDITION

Colour is mainly red/green. Most pieces are quite fresh, with no obvious indications of rolling.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATING

Flint reduction is clearly flake-based, although one blade form is present within context 127. Despite the lack of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, flake morphology, coupled with the presence of a multi-platform core, all point towards a probable broadly Neolithic/Bronze Age date for the very small sample of flintwork collected.

Coins, by M Hammerson

There is little that can usefully be said about the nine coins recovered (table 5). The total is a low one and what little evidence it provides is fairly conclusive, in numismatic terms, as far as such limited evidence can be conclusive, and relying on the state of wear of the coins, for the 2nd century. A single coin of Victorinus does not suggest much in the way of post-Antonine activity.

Metalwork

Selected metal finds were submitted to conservators at English Heritage for X-radiography and cleaning. The X-radiographs and brief notes on the work undertaken can be seen in the archive.

COPPER ALLOY

Sixteen copper-alloy objects were recovered from the excavations, and included personal, domestic and structural items. The brooches were broken and had probably been discarded as they were no longer functional. Colchester derivative brooches such as those identified here developed at about the time of the conquest and continued in use through the Flavian period (Cool 1998, 29). Trumpet brooches are found throughout Britain from *c*AD 40, being most common in the 2nd century (Hattatt 1982, 104–8). They often had a loop on

Table 5 Broad Street, Worpleston: coins

SF	Ctx	Identification	Date	Wear
–	103	Victorinus	268–70	–
–	112	Illegible	C3–4?	–
–	129	Hadrian	119–21	–
6	505	Illegible Æ22mm. Probably Roman: alternatives: Irregular Claudius I (but small for this type)	c45–65	–
–	505	'Lightweight' copy of as/dup., but small	C1–2	–
–	505	Ant.	c270–90	–
–		Æ2/3 of Magnentius	351–3	–
8	505	Æ dup., Trajan, rev. SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI, Abundantia	98–117	C
9	505	Illegible Æ. No detail remaining on uncorroded half of 1 side visible, suggesting worn flat or not coin. Unusually elliptical for a coin of this size (25–22mm), suggesting irr. copy if coin – perhaps Claudian (c45–65) or 'lightweight' copy (C1–2).	–	–
22	500	Trajan, Æ den., type not in RIC. Obv.: IMP TRAIAN AVG GER DAC PM TRP, Laur. head r. Rev.: COS VI SPQR OPTIMO PRINC IPI, Providentia? stg. l.	112	B
38	767A	Vespasian, Sest. Heavily corroded, fragile surface, rev. illegible. Further treatment not recommended; too fragile	69–79	D
39	767A	Hadrian, Sest., RIC.516A Obv.: IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS HADRIA[NUS AVG] Laur. bust r. Rev. PONT MAX TR POT COS III / SC Jupiter std. l.	119	D

Key
Wear:
B = light wear
C = 'average' wear
D = fairly heavy wear

Æ = copper alloy
 Æ = silver
 Den. = Denarii
 Dup. = Dupondius
 Ses. = Sestertius

their head for the purpose of chaining two brooches together for wearing in pairs (Hattatt 1994, 63) as can be seen on SF30. A brooch pin was also identified, and fragments of what were probably bracelets, which are badly damaged and fragmented.

Only one domestic item was recorded, a steelyard arm from context 505, and the remainder of the assemblage included a tack, a length of wire, and various sheet fragments.

Personal

u/s Disk, possibly a button. Post-medieval.
 u/s Ring with a sub-square cross-section. No decoration can be observed but it may originally have been plated. Ext d 23mm. SF2
 500 Colchester derivative brooch. Plain bow and wings, and perforated catchplate. Spring and fragment of pin present. Bow length 52mm; bow at widest 4mm; wing length 17mm, broken for the last few millimetres. SF31. Fig 17
 507A/B Thin bent strip of copper alloy, pointed at each end. Possibly fragments of brooch pin, or corroded fragment of bracelet. SF40
 520 Trumpet brooch with simple decoration. At the centre of the bow are two sets of horizontal ridges with a waist between; below this is a long vertical groove leading to the foot. The decoration does not continue around the back of the bow,

which is flat. It has a solid catchplate, and a loop at its head for attaching to another brooch to form a pair. Part of the spring is retained with another loop projecting at right angles to main body of brooch, the purpose of which is not known. Length of bow 64mm; d head 17mm. SF30. Fig 17
 602 Bracelet or curved rod fragment which may have been plated. Fragment of arc 22mm long; cross-section diameter of rod/bracelet 6mm. SF41
 557 Possible fragment of bracelet. Too corroded for any decoration to be identified. L 62mm; w 3mm. SF19
 508 Fragment of unidentified object. Length of copper alloy with a plano-convex cross-section which narrows to a small round terminal, one end and broken the other. As so little of it survives it cannot be determined whether it is the very end of a cosmetic tool, or possibly just manufacturing waste ending in a rounded drop. SF3

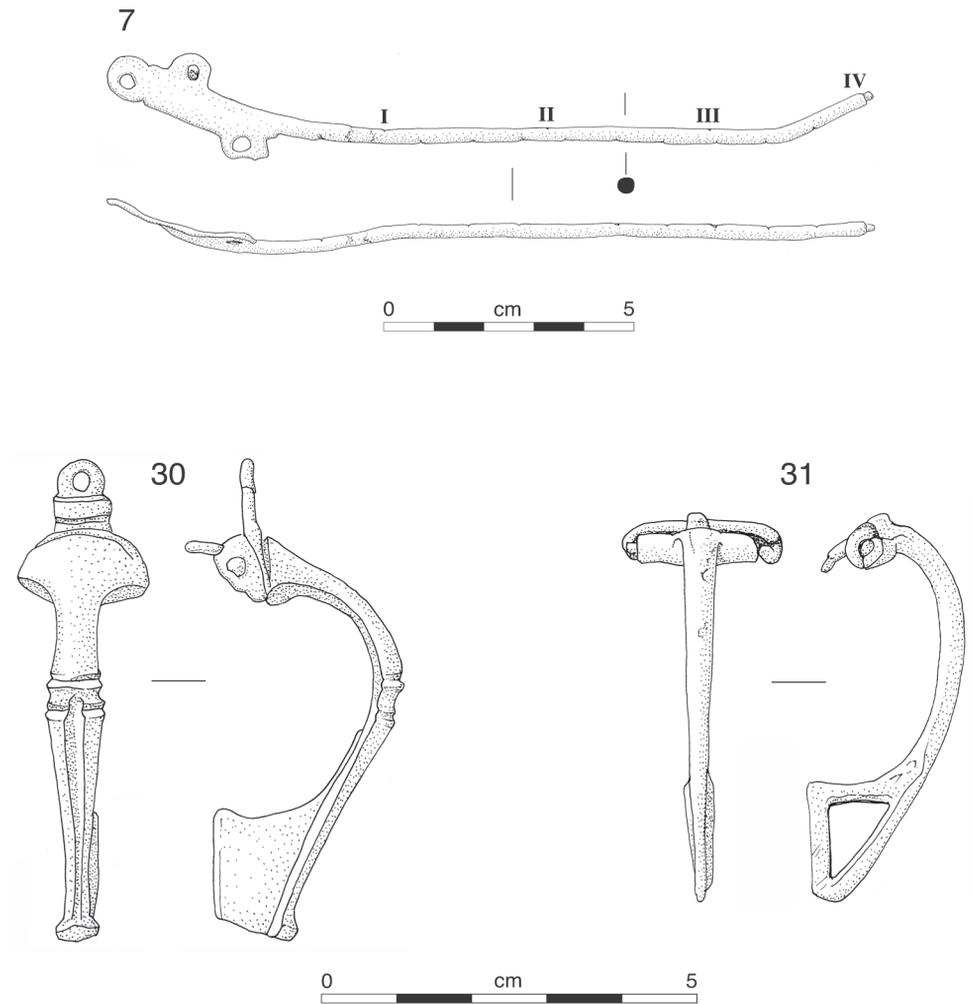


Fig 17 Broad Street, Worplesdon: small finds illustrations (no 7 at scale 2:3; nos 30 and 31 at 1:1)

Domestic

- 505 Steelyard arm of circular cross-section with the scale marked on in the form of notches every 10mm on one side and roughly every 32mm on the other. One end is flattened and has holes for the attachment of suspension hooks (Crummy 1983, 100). Overall length 155mm; length of circular arm 120mm. SF7. Fig 17

Structural

- 500 Iron tack with copper plating on its head. L 19mm; d head 8mm. SF36

Other

- 7.125 Copper lump of irregular shape, melted fragment
 7.144/5 Piece of copper alloy with flat back, broken in several places
 500 Thin sheet fragment. May have been burnt or in contact with hot ash. L 37mm; w 32mm. SF32
 507 Tiny copper fragment
 602 Sheet fragment, very thin. Possibly burnt or in contact with hot ash. L 23mm
 602 Copper-plated iron object. Unidentifiable.
 531 Length of wire, with circular cross-section. L c 70mm; w 1mm. SF10

Iron

Only the personal and domestic iron items have been

catalogued here. The full catalogue of structural and other unidentified items can be found in the archive.

Two personal items were recorded. One was a fragment of what may have been a buckle, the other a hobnail. Domestic items were also few. Slide keys, such as the one from context 507 were used with a tumbler lock, the keys having a number of projections matching the tumbler holes on the bolt. Two possible Roman chisels were identified although the form of this tool remained virtually unaltered to modern times, which can make examples difficult to date (de la Bédoyère 1989, 61). The possible tenterhook would suggest textiles being stretched out to dry and may indicate textile production such as spinning or weaving on site. A horseshoe nail was also recovered.

Structural items were numerous and included nails, bolts, bars and various other items for joining parts of buildings. It is not unusual for these to constitute the largest section of the assemblage as they survive when many of the other materials have been destroyed/rotted away. A number of iron objects could not be fully identified but their appearance suggests that they would have been structural in purpose. There were also a considerable number of unidentified small iron fragments or lumps.

Personal

- 7.103 Hobnail. SF42
7.127 Buckle fragment. Single loop; oval or D-shaped. D 25mm. SF43

Domestic

- 500 Large curved piece of iron, from object of

unknown function. Possibly a vessel or tool fragment. L 110mm; w 43mm; th 2mm. SF33

- 507A/B Slide-key fragment, with rectangular sectioned shaft. L 115mm. SF44
4.176 Chisel/punch. SF45
547 Chisel. L 135mm; w 18mm. SF16
557 Horseshoe nail. SF46
639 Possible tenterhook, 143mm

Lead

Lead objects were few. A lead weight was identified, possibly for use with the steelyard. Other than this, the majority were sheet or strip fragments and melted fragments. Owing to the low melting point of lead these were probably the result of accidental fire and, without the support of other evidence, cannot be interpreted as waste from deliberate melting and casting. Presence of molten waste does indicate destruction debris, but whether accidental fire or deliberate demolition is not known (Mould 1998, 125).

- 500 Lead weight. Biconical shape with central circular perforation. Height 11mm; d 24mm; d perforation 6mm. SF34
503 Two pieces of lead which have melted and flowed, with a sherd of pot/brick/tile incorporated. SF1
507 Sheet/strip fragment folded back on itself a number of times. SF26
621A Lead rod. SF47
697 Disc, centrally perforated. Possibly a modern washer. SF37

Shale

A single fragment of shale was recovered from pit 566. It may have been worked, and one of the surfaces has been polished, but its exact identification is uncertain. It is possibly a fragment of inlay.

- 566 Worked shale object, roughly rectangular in shape, with polished surface. Broken. L 40mm; w 10mm

Glass

VESSEL

Glass vessels were used regularly in Britain soon after the Roman conquest (Allen 1998, 18), with styles changing greatly over the centuries. Unfortunately, the fragments generally lack diagnostic features, but the fragment from 602 is a square bottle of a type which first appeared just before the middle of the 1st century AD and was probably made until sometime in the second half of the 2nd century (*ibid*, 35). Fragments often appear in archaeological features of late 2nd/early 3rd century date, and may reflect continued use of the vessels as it is likely that bottles were refilled and re-used a number of times (*ibid*, 34). Colourless glass, also represented in the assemblage, began to be produced in quantity in the third quarter of the 1st century AD (Price & Cottam 1998, 15)

4.127	Two sherds of fine vessel glass	566	Thin colourless vessel fragment, fairly straight and with a straight double scored line. L 35mm; w 20mm. SF20
500	Curved fragment of vessel glass, clear pale blue colour. Probable bottle rim. L 15mm; w 13mm	568	Curved vessel fragment, clear pale blue. L 40mm; w 18mm
507A/B	Small curved fragment of vessel glass, clear pale blue. L 15mm; w 10mm	584	Curved vessel fragment, clear pale blue. L 22mm; w 15mm. SF21
532/4	Six belonging vessel fragments, opaque, colourless glass, likely to be from a shallow bowl. Part of the base is present and the fragments display a curved scored double line running around the vessel. SF11	602	Fragment of square bottle base, clear pale blue colour. L 35mm; w 28mm
		?697	Curved fragment of clear, colourless vessel glass. L 18mm; w 17mm

WINDOW

All the window glass fragments were very small and give no evidence for size of the panes (cf Harden 1961, 49)

507	Two tiny fragments of window glass, clear pale blue in colour	620A	Edge fragment of clear green window glass, dull on one surface. L 40mm; w 40mm. SF25
507	Fragment clear pale blue window glass, dull on one side. L 50mm; w 40mm	620A	Clear blue window glass fragment, triangular
507	Fragment clear pale green window glass, thinner than that listed above, dull on one side. L 30mm; w 20mm	654	Triangular fragment of glass, pale blue/green colour. Probably window. L 20mm; w 17mm
507	Fairly thick fragment of blue ?window glass, uneven, dull on both surfaces. L 22mm; w 15mm	?697	Fragment clear, colourless window glass, dull on one surface. L 33mm; w 14mm
532/4	Thick fragment of clear pale green window glass, dull on one surface. L 20mm; w 16mm		

Frit

Two fragments of frit were identified. Frit is the resultant material from the initial heating together of glass-making ingredients to remove the volatile impurities. This is then broken up and heated in a crucible to form glass. As only two fragments were recorded, however, it does not indicate glass-making on the site itself.

7.140	One small fragment	671	Thick uneven fragment, possibly frit
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Stone objects

Two stone objects were identified. One of these was a whetstone, oval in cross-section. Schist whetstones are so abundant that they were probably produced in quantity and widely traded (Tweddle 1986, 185). An object made of flint was retrieved from posthole 718. It was roughly circular in shape and may have been used as a hammerstone.

T3b	Part mica schist whetstone with oval cross-section, broken at both ends. L 60mm; w 25mm; h 12mm	718	Flint object, roughly circular, weighing 1255g. Possibly used as a hammerstone, and appears to have been burnt
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Other stone

A number of fragments of stone were recovered, some of which may have been used as building materials. They include fragments of Upper and Lower Greensand (39 fragments weighing 5782g, and three fragments weighing 607g respectively), fragments of Bargate stone weighing 6274g, and a small number of chalk fragments weighing 294g. All these stones occur naturally in Surrey. Two tesserae fragments were collected: one

of sandstone (4g) from an unstratified context, and one of ironstone (20g) from feature 4.139.

Ceramic building materials

All material collected on site was examined; much was subsequently discarded, but a sample of *tegulae* and *imbrices*, box flue tiles and those with signature or other marks were retained in the archive. Most fragments ranged from orange/red through to brown, with quartz sand grains in the clay matrix, the larger grains probably being added as temper. Totals for both count and weight are given in the archive for tile from the 1995–8 excavations but that from 1994 gives only weight, and all the material is therefore discussed in terms of the latter.

A total of over 400kg of tile was recorded from the site as a whole, and included roof, paving and box flue tiles. Roof tiles constituted the largest proportion of tile on the site, and included both *tegulae* (126,852g) and *imbrices* (44,437g). A small number of the *tegulae* had signature markings of the tile maker present, created by running a finger over the tile before firing. These can take many forms, the most common, as here, being single or double semi-circles or arcs, although one with a cross (X) on it was also recorded. One *tegula* with a round peg/nail hole was identified, and although most tiles were locked together by the means of cut-outs, a certain number would have been pegged for greater security. The holes were generally pierced before the tile was fired, as in this case, although some would have been made after the tile had hardened (Brodrribb 1987, 11).

A lesser proportion of the tiles was identified as paving tiles (134,141g) which could have made up floors or been used for other purposes. All examples were broken and it was not possible to estimate their size when complete. Three fragments of tesserae, weighing 65g, were recorded. Two were recorded from context 4.112, one rectangular (36 x 22mm) and the other of a squarish shape (27 x 27mm), which displays four diagonal ridges. These may have been functional in use, and helped the tile to key to the mortar. Another square-shaped tessera (24 x 24mm) was recorded from context 4.171.

In total, 8026g of box flue tiles were collected and recorded, indicating the presence of a hypocaust system. These were distinguished by the combed and scored lines which help them to adhere to the mortar on the walls. Most of the fragments were not large enough to determine the full patterns but they consisted of geometrical patterns with vertical and/or horizontal straight lines, as well as curved and wavy lines. None of the tiles was decorated with roller die patterns as recorded by Lowther (1948) at other villa sites in Surrey. Although the weight of the box flue tiles seems heavy, in actual count there were only a small number of tiles.

In addition to these were a number of miscellaneous tile fragments (82,524g) which could not be identified to any particular type of tile. A small number (from contexts 4.113, 4.114, 4.185B) had been burnt, and a single tile from layer 4.183 had been overfired. One displayed the imprint of a dog paw.

A small number (4713g) of medieval and/or post-medieval tiles was also collected.

Mortar

Mortar fragments were recovered from fifteen contexts, and would have been used on both walls and floors for holding together stones, attaching tiles and so on. It included buff and pink *opus signinum* (34 fragments weighing 1186g and 98 fragments weighing 1182g respectively), and seventeen fragments of painted *opus signinum* weighing 515g. Although much of the mortar was very eroded and fragmentary, a number of pieces had faint ridges on one of the faces. This was also noted on the tesserae, and was probably a way of ensuring a good fix between mortar and tiles or tesserae.

Painted plaster

A small number of fragments of *opus signinum* from demolition layer 564 had retained fragments of painted plaster, indicating that they were pieces which had formed part of the walls rather than the floor. Although they were too small for the exact decoration to be picked out, the pattern appeared to be simple and consisted of a thick band of a deep dark red colour (c 40mm wide).

Baked clay

Nine fragments of baked clay weighing 103g were collected from features surrounding the building. Although the amounts collected are small, impression marks could be noted on some of them, possibly where the clay had been pressed against timber or wattle.

Animal bone and shell

INTRODUCTION

The total quantity of animal bone recovered was not large; 453 fragments were recorded of which 266 (59%) could be identified to species. Because of this small sum the total number of fragments (Number of Identified Specimens Present (NISP)) has been given for all species, but Minimum Numbers of Individuals (MNI) were not calculated. As with the other finds, all the animal bone has been considered as a single assemblage, dating from the late 2nd to the late 3rd centuries AD.

The bones were mainly recovered from pits where they had been discarded with other rubbish. Most was recovered from around the aisled buildings and also the interior of the building, presumably dumped there as and when the rooms became disused.

METHODOLOGY

Fragments were recorded using a zoning method following Serjeantson (1991), zones being recorded when over 50% of that particular zone was present. Ribs were only recorded when the head was present and vertebrae (except axis and atlas) when over 50% of the centrum was present. Those fragments which could not be identified to species level were classified as 'cattle-size', 'sheep-size' or 'unidentified'. Wear stages were recorded for deciduous fourth premolars, permanent fourth premolars and permanent lower molars of cattle, sheep and pig using Grant (1982) and grouped into age stages following the methods of Halstead (1985), Payne (1973) and O'Connor (1988). The fusion stage of post-cranial bones was recorded and related age ranges taken from Getty (1975). Pig canines were sexed.

CONDITION OF THE BONES AND TAPHONOMY

The condition of the bones was rated on a scale of 1 to 5 where bone graded as 1 was in excellent condition, and that graded as 5 could be identified only as 'bone'. Table 6 (see p 31) sets out the bone graded by contexts and as can be seen is in very good condition.

A very small proportion of the bones showed signs of butchery – thirteen fragments in total excluding the worked antler. Marks were identified on bones of cattle, cattle-sized mammals and unidentified species. Thirty-six instances of canid gnawing were recorded, and a small number of burnt bones was recovered from various contexts over the site, including samples (see below).

THE ASSEMBLAGE

Table 7 shows the number of identified species present in the assemblage. Fragments of

Table 7 Broad Street, Worpleston: animal bone – number of identified specimens (NISP)

Species	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Red deer	Roe deer	Deer	Cat/hare	Dom. fowl	Cattle-size	Sheep-size	Unid	Total
Total	92	58	9	4	4	2	3	1	1	60	32	187	453

domestic animals dominated the assemblage, although a small number of wild species were represented. Cattle were the most frequently identified species, and bones from all parts of the carcass were present. Ageing data were limited owing to the small data set but all the long bones present were fused, indicating adult animals. This was reflected in the dental data, with jaws from three adult and one senile animal being recorded. The exception was a juvenile metacarpal recovered from pit 566.

Sheep were the second most frequently identified species. Meat-bearing bones were present, as were fewer numbers of teeth and some extremities, the latter being articulated. As with cattle, all bones recorded were fused indicating adults, and the two ageable jaws were also both from adults. Fragments of pig and horse bone were less abundant in the assemblage. Only nine fragments of pig bone were recorded and apart from two fragments of radii, consisted of skull and teeth fragments. One of the radii was fused, indicating an adult animal, but no jaws were available for ageing. Four bones were identified as horse and included one complete mandible, with teeth missing, a fragment of mandible, and two tibia fragments. A single humerus of domestic fowl was identified.

Although there were no dog bones recorded in the assemblage, the instances of canid gnawing on other bones in the assemblage indicate that dogs were present on or around the site, which may have either been pets, working dogs or even strays.

The proportion of wild species represented in the assemblage was low, with only a single metapodial fragment of hare being identified, and fragments of deer antler. Both red and roe deer were represented by antler which does not actually indicate the presence of deer on the site, or the consumption of venison, but most likely just the collection of the antler for working (see below). A large antler of red deer from pit 620 could be partially reconstructed. It included the coronet indicating that it had been shed, and a broken brow tine. The trez tine has been chopped off and the antler beam had been broken before being discarded.

PATHOLOGY

Two examples of pathological bones were noted, both of which were 1st phalanges of cattle. A slight extension of distal epiphyses was identified on one of them, and a large bony growth on the proximal articular surface of the other. Injuries such as this could be work related, caused by the cattle being used for heavy traction. The old age of the cattle on this site could indicate that they were used as working animals for a length of time.

DISCUSSION

Animal bone can represent food debris reflecting the dietary habits of the inhabitants, as well as providing information on the economy of the settlement. The small quantity of bone scattered around the site is probably most indicative of the former, and cannot give any detailed information on the agricultural role of the site.

The higher proportion of cattle bones is common on other sites of the period, with the proportion of cattle in the Roman period being higher than the Iron Age and continuing to increase over the following centuries. There is also a tendency for 'romanised' sites such as military sites, villas etc to have a higher percentage of cattle than native homesteads. The dominant impression from many Roman sites is of cattle killed when fully mature, being as useful as working animals as for their meat (Grant 1989, 136). The sheep, as well as being

eaten, would also have a secondary purpose – for their wool – and may be linked to spinning and weaving artefacts, such as spindlewhorls, and the tenterhooks listed above. Unlike cattle and sheep, pigs were kept solely for their meat and lard, and did not fulfil any other function while alive, except perhaps the production of manure. They were therefore usually killed at a younger age, when their bones are more porous and, apart from their teeth, did not survive as well. This may be a contributing factor to the low proportion recovered from the site. Horse and dog were common on Roman sites, with the former being used as riding animals and dogs being used for hunting, as guard dogs and as pets.

The domestic chicken was introduced to Britain in the Iron Age, and was not unusual on Roman sites although their presence was usually minor (Grant 1989, 143) and they would have constituted only a small proportion of the diet. The small proportion of wild species was also not unusual, as although they were present on most sites, they occurred only in small numbers (Grant 1989, 144). Bones of red and roe deer and hare are frequently found. The deer remains reported here are not bone but antler fragments, and this reflects the prime importance of deer in this period as being a source of antler as a raw material rather than meat. They also were more frequently collected after they had been shed, and not removed from slain animals (Grant, 1989, 144).

Thirty-five fragments of oyster (weighing 255g) were also recovered from the 1998 excavations.

Worked bone

A number of examples of worked bone were identified. Three were the deer antlers briefly mentioned above, two of red deer and one of roe, all of which had been chopped through the beam. One, from context 507 had also been sawn at one end and shaped at the other.

Other worked bone could be identified as cattle long bone fragments. Some of these were chopped and shaped along their shaft and looked as if they had not been completely finished. The other two (one a radius) had been sawn at one end, and chopped and shaped at the other. It cannot be said with certainty what these would have been used for and these also might have been discarded as unfinished.

Leather

An incomplete leather shoe sole and several loose fragments of leather and associated iron nails were recovered from ditch context 149. Details within the description were aided by the conservation report by A Tribe, which can be seen in full in the site archive. Two parallel rows of copper nails ran along each edge, 49 on one edge and 43 on the other, with possibly a total of twenty iron nails present in the main sole fragment. A further eight copper nails, some as long as 13.5 mm, and about 39 iron nails were present in the smaller fragments. Some of the copper nails could be seen on the X-radiographs to have a finely ridged shank, almost like a screw thread, presumably to increase the grip inside the leather. A very worn grain pattern was visible on some areas on the leather, but the wood fragments bore no evidence of having been worked and were probably not originally associated with the leather but were simply from the same burial environment.

The shoe (and the context) is not Roman but post-medieval. A similar shoe with brass rivet construction was found at the Abbey Wharf site in Reading in a deposit dated 1780–1857, and is thought possibly to be a French import (Q Mould, pers comm).

Charcoal

Small fragments of charcoal were recovered from features in area 3 and 6, in total weighing 20g. These indicate burning from cooking or other domestic activity.

Slag

A number of fragments of slag (81 pieces weighing 1098g) were collected from the site, mainly from area 10. Two fragments were identified as hearthbases, one from general clearance layer 507 and one from pit fill 571. These are formed by the accumulation of slag droplets and scale at the base of a smithing hearth, or possibly a furnace base as it is very difficult to distinguish between the two (McDonnell 1983, 81)

Soil samples and cremated human bone

A number of contexts were sampled, some of which were thought to contain cremated bone. Although some could be identified as human, much of the bone was too burnt and fragmented and could not be identified to anatomical element, or even species. A list of finds from the samples is given below.

Context	Sieve size	Identified bone
502	2–5mm	Burnt/calced fragments, none identifiable
	>5mm	Burnt/calced fragments of human long bone, phalanges and cranium
506	2–5mm	Burnt/calced fragments, none identifiable
	>5mm	Human vertebrae, long bone and cranium fragments
509	all	All unidentifiable bone
525	2–5mm	Burnt/calced fragments, none identifiable
	>5mm	Animal bone including fragments of sheep long bones, mandible, vertebrae and phalanges. Also unidentifiable bone, fragments of iron nails and Roman pottery
681E	2–5mm	Burnt/calced fragments, none identifiable
	>5mm	Charcoal and fragments of sheep rib, pottery and glass
741	2–5mm	Burnt/calced fragments, none identifiable
	>5mm	Sheep-sized longbone fragment and sherd of pottery

Charred plant macrofossils and other remains, by V Fryer

INTRODUCTION

Three samples for the extraction and assessment of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from two pit fills (contexts 510 and 566 (a fill of pit/well 520)) and a black ashy layer (context 602), all of Roman date.

METHODS

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 μ -mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in table 8 (see p 31). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All tabulated plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including seeds, woody roots and fungal sclerotia were present throughout.

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

RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT

Plant macrofossils

Seeds and cereals are present as single specimens in samples 1 (context 566) and 2 (context 602). Preservation is very poor; the grains are very puffed and distorted (possibly as a result of high temperatures during combustion) and the seeds are extremely fragmented. Charcoal fragments are abundant in all three samples.

Other remains

The fragments of black porous ‘cokey’ material and black tarry material may be derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Industrial residues (ie vitrified material, hammer scale and ferrous globules) are common in sample 2, and fragments of burnt bone are also recorded.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The predominance of charcoal fragments within these assemblages possibly indicates that the material is largely derived from fuel waste. The industrial residues within sample 2 may imply that some small-scale industrial activities were being undertaken on or near the site during the Roman period.

With the exception of charcoal fragments, plant macrofossils are so rare within these assemblages that further analysis is not recommended.

CHAPTER 5: THE ROMAN SETTLEMENT AT BROAD STREET COMMON, WORPLESDON

Introduction

The archaeological work during the 1990s within the (former) grounds of Barnwood School revealed evidence to complement that discovered in the 19th century on the adjacent Broad Street Common (Sibthorpe 1831). The purpose of this concluding chapter is to review all the evidence and assess its date, extent, character and contemporary context. The work within the main 1998 area will be assessed first, and in turn related to the other Roman discoveries in the adjacent ground. A concluding section then places the settlement within the wider context of Roman occupation, especially in south-west Surrey.

The 1998 area excavation

INTRODUCTION

In 1998 an area of almost 0.5ha was stripped of topsoil and subject to detailed archaeological examination. Some modern features were apparent, of 18th/19th century or later date, but the evidence of interest was almost exclusively of Roman date, and this is true also of the 19th century work and the 1994 and 1997 evaluations.

A very few worked flints and two prehistoric sherds were identified, but nothing to indicate occupation or activity areas at any period. These small quantities do not suggest significant activity in the immediate vicinity either. The lack of finds is consistent with the generally limited evidence for prehistoric occupation on London Clay geology in this area (Cotton 2004; Poulton 2004), which is believed to be due to it remaining a wooded area, with little or very limited agricultural exploitation. It is interesting to note, though, that some prehistoric evidence has recently been identified in the area to the south, on the London Clay (fig 18), at the Royal Surrey County Hospital site (Davies & English 1999), and the Manor Farm (University of Surrey) site (Wessex 2002; Pine 2005). The latter has produced the most useful evidence, including Iron Age roundhouses and other features, and it is of interest that it lies close to the edge of the London Clay, as do the few other similar sites on that geology (Poulton 2004, 58).

The lack of post-Roman evidence from the site is equally marked, and this again, at least partially, reflects the comparatively thin spread of such material in this physiographic zone. A more pertinent reason is the location of the main excavation area within the Royal Park

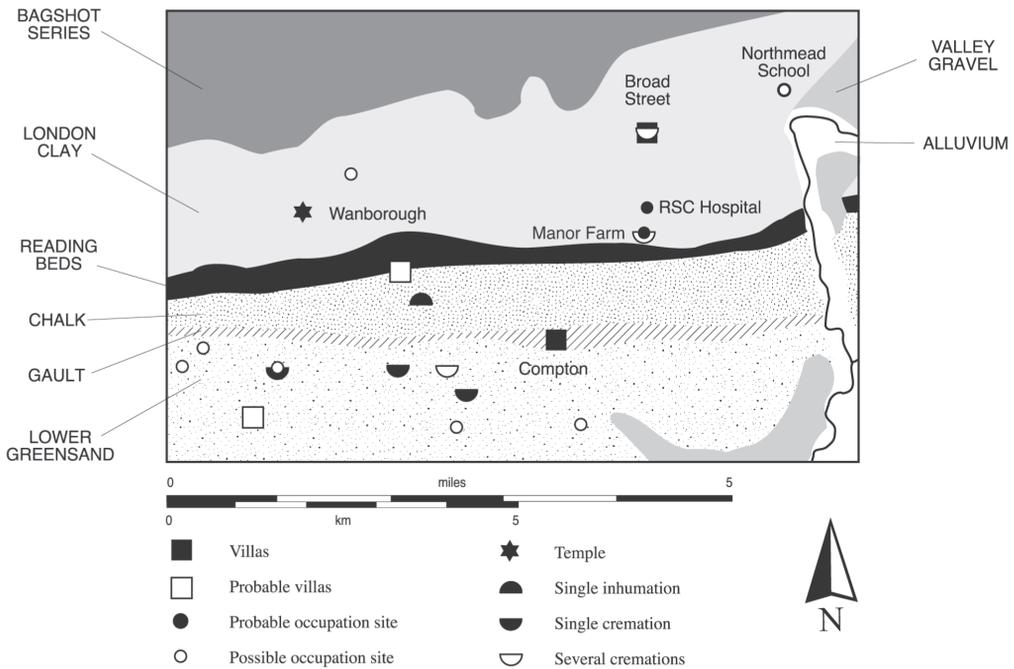


Fig 18 Broad Street, Worpleston: Roman sites and geology in the local area. See figure 1 for the location of this area within Surrey.

of Guildford from at least 1166, when the park was enclosed, until it was disparted in the 17th century (Underwood 2002; Crocker 2006). This removal of the restrictions on settlement was followed, probably soon after, by the emergence of Park Barn Farm, which is shown on Rocque's map (fig 2B), which was compiled around the middle of the 18th century.

PHASE 1: LATE 1ST–EARLY TO MID-2ND CENTURY

The dating of the site is almost entirely dependent on pottery (Chapter 3). There is very little material of 1st century date, and it seems safe to conclude that occupation began only very near the end of that century. It may well be that the main area of the earliest Roman occupation lay outside that examined in 1998. Those features identified as belonging to Phase 1 have, generally speaking, few finds by which to date them, and are classified more by their relationship to Phase 2 features.

The earliest activity is associated with human cremation. There are two definite examples, in which a few handfuls of material from the funeral pyre were buried in shallow scoops dug into the ground, and several other discoveries which suggest the existence or former existence of other cremations. It seems all but certain that this activity preceded the establishment of the major boundary ditch, which is also regarded as belonging to Phase 1. There are comparatively few known examples of this type of unurned cremation at this period, but examples of Iron Age to Roman date are known from Farleigh Court and Hurst Park (Bird 2004a, 71), and from the Manor Farm (University of Surrey) site (Pine 2005, 8–9): all are relatively recent finds, and it may be that this is an aspect of the early Roman period which has been previously under-reported. The Manor Farm evidence is of further

interest in that the cremations are (arguably) set just outside a Roman enclosure or enclosures (Wessex 2002, plan of Area B), as is suggested below for the present examples.

A substantial ditch, up to 3.4m wide and 1.1m deep, was identified running south-west to north-east across the main excavation area, and perhaps extended as far as trench 14 in the main excavation area. Towards the south-western identified limit a smaller ditch meeting it at right angles appears to have been of the same date. It is difficult to imagine that this is other than the boundary ditch of a newly created or newly enlarged settlement.

There is little evidence for the character of this settlement. It is probable, but not certain, that a post-built structure to the north-east is contemporary. This structure measures 14 x 6.2m, but there is no evidence of its function. It is possible that it might be an example of an aisled building where evidence for the outer walls, presumably resting on sleeper beams at ground level, does not survive (as suggested, for example, by Bird (2004c, 104), for similar sets of postholes at the Beddington Roman villa site).

PHASE 2: MID-LATE 2ND CENTURY TO LATE 3RD CENTURY

The ditch was largely filled in by the mid-late 2nd century, but it seems probable that much of its line was retained, presumably by a bank and/or associated hedge/fence running alongside. Certainly, the new system of enclosures or courtyards, which characterises Phase 2, respects its alignment, and in some instances the gullies that demarcate the enclosures are found on only one side of the former boundary. The new gullies are generally fairly shallow and narrow by comparison with the Phase 1 boundary ditch. The arrangement of the gullies shows that they were intended to create a series of enclosures, but one was definitely also a drain as it was channelled through an enclosure wall: it is not improbable that all were originally intended to serve a drainage function on a site prone to waterlogging.

Only one complete enclosure was identified, south-east of the Phase 1 boundary ditch, and it measured *c*27 x *c*24m. On the other side of the Phase 1 ditch, three parallel gullies (the most south-western of which may have originated in Phase 1) are evenly spaced, with a 29m gap between each pair. A number of other gullies were identified in trial trenches and are at approximate right angles or parallel to those in the main excavation area.

There is very little evidence of the uses to which the various enclosures were put, apart from that containing the main stone building (see below). There was some modification of them over time, and this may include one or more of the stretches of wall foundation identified adjacent or near to boundaries, at least one intermediate gully, and the seemingly very substantial fence which replaced earlier gullies on two sides of one enclosure. In overall terms, the general absence of features within the enclosures and their arrangement suggest that they were mainly designed for stock management. The fenced, or partly fenced, areas might have had a different use, with a woodyard as one possibility. The two stretches of apparently isolated wall foundations may be best interpreted as parts of lean-to structures, which could be associated with stock management (as, for example, pens or shelters) or other activities (as, for example, covered work areas).

The stone building is a difficult structure to characterise. In its general appearance, it resembles a church with a nave and aisles. The aisle walls are not, however, continuous along the length of the building (although initially the western one probably was: see p 41). Instead a series of rooms of varied shapes was created. The comparatively deep foundations of the outer walls suggest that it was a tall building (say 3m tall or higher). Room F, at the south-eastern corner of the building, had much deeper foundations than elsewhere, implying that they supported taller walls, or, in other words, a corner tower. A foundation *c* 1m south of and parallel to this end of the building is hard to explain, although it is presumably related to entrance arrangements. Some type of porched entrance is a possibility, although a more symmetrical arrangement might have been expected. Another possibility is that the foundation supported a flight of steps, rising parallel to the end wall, and accessing an entrance at first-floor level. This implies at least partial flooring at this level,

perhaps for storage. A raised wooden ground floor would have avoided the wet clay below, although there is no direct evidence for one. It might explain, though, why no *in-situ* evidence for flooring of any sort was recovered, despite the apparently limited later disturbance of the site. The only internal feature, a tile-lined channel with evidence of burning must be the remains of a corn drier.

The intimate connection of the building with the enclosed areas around it also seems likely to be significant, especially the massive post-built fence erected on two sides of the yard to the south-east. Again, this does not seem like something to be expected in the immediate surrounds of a high-status residence. The only feature loosely associated with the building, for which a function can be suggested, is a waterhole or well (520), which might be equally at home in a domestic or farmyard context.

A large number of Romano-British aisled buildings have been identified, and almost all the features identified in the Broad Street structure can be paralleled at other sites (Morris 1979 provides a convenient collection of examples, although many more have been identified since he carried out his survey). The size of the building is fairly typical, and the seemingly haphazard arrangement of rooms is also not uncommon. As Morris (1979, 56) points out, the evidence for the use of such buildings ranges from essentially domestic, as the main house of a farm, to purely agricultural. The Broad Street building has very limited amounts of the more obvious indicators of domestic use (such as tessellated floors, wall plaster, hypocausts, etc), but these are not completely absent (Chapter 4). The small quantity of these items may suggest that, if the finds do not derive from the nearby villa, domestic use was minor and/or short lived. The building does have features that can be related to agricultural activity, including the corn drier, the tower, which might have been used to store grain (Morris 1979, 36–7), and the porch, which might relate to access by cart. A raised wooden floor, if it existed, would have facilitated the threshing of grain.

It seems probable, then, that it had an essentially agricultural function. This is reasonably consistent with the indications from some of the artefacts and animal bone evidence from the site (Chapter 4), which suggest a broad association with agricultural activity, and the unusual paucity of personal or prestige items (Chapter 4). On the other hand, Jones (Chapter 3) observes that the pottery is wholly domestic in character. This may best be accounted for by it deriving from the undoubted nearby domestic occupation, but the possibility of some domestic use for the aisled building cannot be wholly dismissed.

In sum, the building is best understood as a subsidiary agricultural building within a complex dominated by the villa discovered in the 19th century on Broad Street Common. This assumes that the building was established rather earlier than the later 3rd century date indicated by Clark & Stuart (1946), something that has already (p 35) been suggested. If the aisled building was used (at least partially) for domestic purposes it seems likely that this was in the earlier stages of its existence, before the corn drier was built, and perhaps, before the main villa was constructed.

The aisled building was probably demolished in the later 3rd century (see below). There is evidence of continuing activity into the 4th century on the common and in the school grounds, and this may have included the continuing use of the enclosures.

PHASE 3: LATER 3RD CENTURY

The evidence from the main excavation area is quite limited for this period, and is principally represented by a series of pits within the area that follow the alignment of its north-eastern nave wall. The pits do not themselves seem to have any possible structural purpose (their size and variety in depth and shape precludes the suggestion that they are a linked set of postholes), and three are cut through wall foundations of the aisled building. It is hard to imagine that the building could have still functioned in these circumstances, and it seems most probable that the pits were dug after it had been largely dismantled, but while its foundations or stub walls were still visible. The excavation of these pits through packed

flint wall foundations would have required considerable effort, yet they seem to have been infilled mostly with the material excavated from them, and there is no evidence of a practical purpose to which they were put.

Seemingly purposeful actions without a practical outcome might be a working definition of ritual activity for the archaeologist. In this case there is a possible parallel with late or sub-Roman pits at Silchester (Fulford & Clarke 1999, 179–80), which were interpreted as part of a ritual ‘pollution’ of an abandoned area of the town, although those pits have finds that suggest their ritual character, unlike the present examples.

The Roman settlement at Broad Street, Worplesdon

The detailed excavation of an area in 1998 has shown that there was change and development within it during the Roman period, and there is no doubt that more intensive work in areas that were only subject to trial trenching would reveal similar complexity. Nevertheless, the evidence from the 1994 and 1997 evaluations and work on the adjacent common all indicate activity from the early 2nd to the early 4th centuries, and it seems reasonable to assess all the material from this relatively short period as a whole.

It is important first to consider where the limits of Roman occupation in this area might be. Trial trenches to the south and south-east of the main excavation area (fig 3) were wholly negative. Neither was anything of substance found in the south-eastern part of the main excavation area between the 1st and 2nd phase ditches (also investigated by TT5), and this suggests that these may effectively have formed the boundaries of the settlement. All the trenches, except TT15, within the playing field area produced finds and features of interest. TT16 and TT17 to the north were also devoid of Roman material. It seems probable, then, that the northern limit of the settlement ran between trenches 14 and 15, possibly then passing just to the north of Sibthorpe’s villa. Trench 8 produced a number of large pieces of flue tile, leading to the tentative suggestion that a detached bath-house might be sited adjacent to the stream. It would seem logical that the stream formed the western limit of occupation, and more recent work has confirmed this to be the case. Trial trenching on the eastern side of the stream (Hart 2003) produced a low-density spread of Roman building material, but no features that were certainly of Roman date. It was suggested that a palaeochannel might have carried water at that date, and be the precursor of Honey Brook, with which it is roughly parallel.

There is no direct evidence for the eastern limits. There is a possibility that the 1998 building and Sibthorpe’s villa represent (parts of) two separate complexes, separated by the stream which now divides the common from the fields, perhaps in a similar fashion to that recently identified at Titsey (Davies 1997; however, at Titsey there is a considerable difference in height between the two villas, whereas the structures at Broad Street are at the same level). The stream is a boundary of considerable antiquity as it represents the limits of Guildford Park, which was established in the 12th century. Its almost straight course, in contrast with the sinuous course of the Honey Brook on the eastern side of the site, suggests that it is probably an artificial boundary of medieval date. The main south-western wall of the 1998 building projects outwards of the excavation area towards the stream and seems almost certainly to have been cut by the latter. The dense growth of vegetation down the banks of the stream at the appropriate levels precluded any visual check for this, but, overall, it seems most probable that there was not a physical division between these two areas in the Roman period. The work by Davies *et al* (1998) also revealed Roman evidence well beyond the limits of the villa exposed by Sibthorpe, which also tends to suggest a continuous spread of settlement.

The discussion of the main building identified in 1998 has suggested that it had an essentially agricultural function and this would seem to make most sense if it was a subsidiary building within a substantial and well-organised complex, dominated by the villa, with its mosaic and tessellated floors, discovered in the 19th century (Sibthorpe 1831).

The emergence of such a substantial complex on the London Clay is in marked contrast to the comparative dearth of occupation evidence in this physiographic zone in the Iron Age (Poulton 2004, 58). It is complemented in the near vicinity by a number of other indications of Roman activity (fig 18), including the major Roman temple at Wanborough (Bird 2004b, esp 87). Settlement evidence has also been found at several nearby sites, including Northmead School (Poulton 1997), in the grounds of the Royal Surrey County Hospital (Davies & English 1999), and at the Manor Farm (University of Surrey) site (Wessex 2002; Pine 2005). It is highly likely that the area had long been valued for its extensive resources of timber and pasture, but this evidence suggests that there was now an intensification in its exploitation, leading to an expansion in settlement. The small enclosures at Broad Street seem most likely to be primarily related to stock control, which would fit with this hypothesis. If, however, the aisled building was, wholly or partly, a granary then that might suggest arable exploitation. An expansion of arable farming onto the London Clay in the Roman period has been suggested in the past (cf Bird 1987, 178) but there is a lack of positive evidence for it.

Physical evidence for a London–Winchester road (fig 1) remains elusive, but there is a growing body of circumstantial detail for its existence (Bird 2004a, 66). There seems little doubt that it would have passed through the Broad Street area, and it seems highly likely that it would have been the catalyst which enabled the development of this substantial complex, in a previously unfavoured area. Indeed, Orton (1999) has suggested that a roadside settlement might have emerged in the Broad Street area. The present work, however, has indicated some limits to the spread of Roman settlement evidence, and it now seems unlikely that there is much more than the villa complex. Nevertheless, in looking at figure 18, it is striking to see that there is an almost equal intensity of Roman activity to either side of the chalk of the North Downs (the Hog's Back). It may be that there were estates facing in different directions and exploiting different resources, but of broadly similar wealth and status.

Reconstructing the Roman farmstead at Broad Street, Worpleston

Soon after the report on the excavations had been submitted for consideration for publication, an opportunity arose to prepare an interpretation board, which is now on display on the boundary wall of 12 Roman Farm Road, one of the new houses built after the 1998 excavations. It was decided, as part of the board, to attempt a reconstruction of the overall plan of the farmstead. This proved an interesting experience, revealing how much ignorance could be concealed by a few phrases regarding, for example, 'stock management' or 'system of enclosures', but bringing out a more satisfying impression of how the farmstead might have worked.

The reconstruction plan is based on the Phase 2 (mid–late 2nd to early 3rd century) evidence from the 1998 excavations, and evidence from earlier excavations in the vicinity (fig 3). It seems that fully romanised farmsteads generally had regular and more or less rectilinear plans, and the indications of this at Broad Street have been extrapolated to suggest its existence across the whole area of the complex. Positive evidence for Roman features has almost always been incorporated into the plan, the exceptions occurring where trial trench evidence was difficult to fit into the overall framework, and has been presumed to belong to a different phase of settlement. Conversely, conjectural features, with two exceptions where the difficult conditions at the time of work mean that there is some uncertainty about the archaeological evidence (p 53), are confined to locations not subject to excavation, although it needs to be acknowledged that some conjectural boundaries pass between trial trenches in a fashion that is surprisingly convenient for the reconstruction. A key assumption is that the watercourse marking the former boundary of Guildford Park (see p 81) did not exist in the Roman period. The principal elements in the plan have been given numbers on figure 19, and further comment on each of these is given below. The areas beyond the main complex are shown as a mixture of extensive pasture (mainly, perhaps, for

pigs, but also sheep) and woodland. This resembles how the land was organised in the early medieval period, but the evidence for the Roman period is lacking.

- 1 It seems reasonably certain that Sibthorpe's (1831) plan (fig 3) represents only a part of the villa (Bird 2004c, 109–10) and the reconstruction adds wings to either side of the recorded set of rooms, and a corridor on the south-east side, where the main entrance ought to be: without this the villa would appear to face in the wrong direction, and the addition also makes it consistent with the general orientation of villas (*ibid*, 108).
- 2 The aisled building is shown with a tower at the east corner.
- 3 This stretch of walling is interpreted as the back wall of a lean-to building, in this case a cattle byre. In this area the Phase 1 boundary is assumed to have remained in use, in contrast to what happened in the remainder of the complex.
- 4 This stretch of walling is also interpreted as the back wall of a lean-to building. This was, perhaps, an open-fronted, covered workshop, used for cutting and shaping the timber brought into the suggested timber yard to its south-west.
- 5 A stretch of walling seen in trial trench 1 is linked to the wall projecting from the north-east corner of the aisled building, and to other conjectural walls, to suggest that the core area of the farmstead was within a walled enclosure. The enclosed area outside the walls is generally shown as being less intensive in the way it was used, including pasture, orchards and crops, the last named being envisaged as intended for the owners and workers on the estate rather than for the market.
- 6 A wall in trial trench 13 is shown as part of a small building (of unspecified purpose).
- 7 The incidence of flue tiles in trial trench 8 is used to suggest the existence of a bath-house complex. The conjectural plan of this is loosely based on that found at Compton (Bird 2004c, 110–13). The distance of the baths from the villa is, perhaps, surprising, although there are parallels including a detached bath-house associated with the Chelsham villa (Jackson *et al* 1999, 236) and one next to a stream at some distance from the villa at Barcombe, Sussex (D Bird and D Rudling, pers comm). If this suggestion is correct, the siting was presumably because of the need for proximity to the water supply provided by the adjacent Honey Brook.
- 8 The buildings and features in this area are all conjectural. They include a stable block.
- 9 A small family cemetery plot is shown, with an adjacent shrine, both conjectural. The location is on the opposite side of the villa to the main farm working area.
- 10 There is no evidence for the precise location of this road, which is the conjectural Neatham to Ewell road (fig 1).

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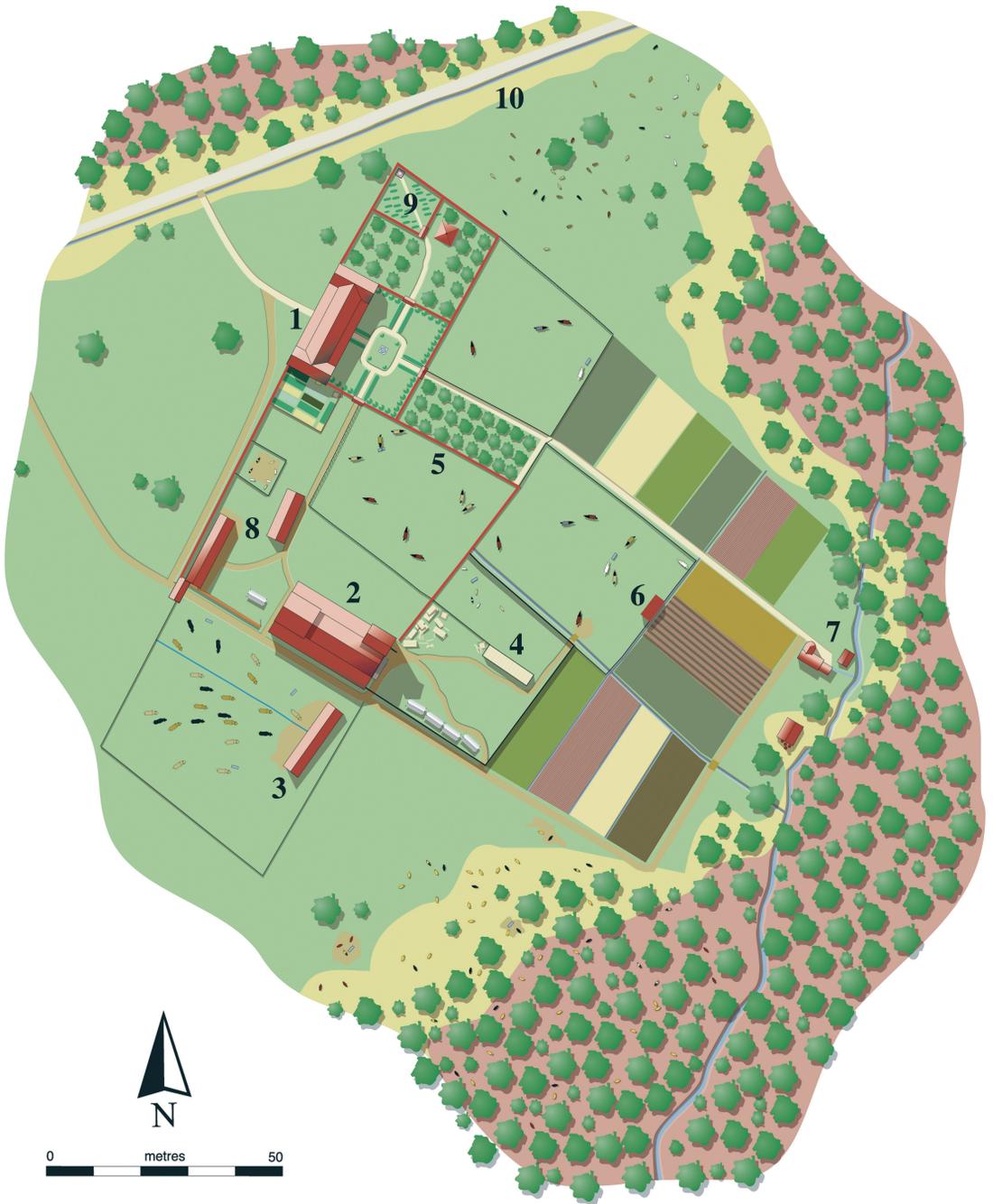


Fig 19 Broad Street, Worplesdon: a reconstruction plan of the Roman farmstead. See the text for an explanation of the numbers.

excavation work. Any merit that the report may have is owed as much to his meticulous work, advice, and ideas as to the principal author.

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