

## **Archaeological work at Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, in 1989–90 and 1994**

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with contributions by  
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## Summary

*In 1989 and 1990 a scheduled earthwork discovered by William Stukeley in 1723 was planned for the first time, and an evaluation by geophysical survey and excavation proved that it was a double-ditched trapezoidal enclosure of medieval date. An adjoining enclosure that was also described and sketched in the 18th century was not positively identified, but some evidence of Late Bronze Age activity was found, both in the vicinity of the main earthwork, and to the north-east of it.*

*Excavation of an adjacent area in 1994 identified a building used for a short period in the early to mid-13th century. The building and finds (especially pottery) exhibited unusual features, suggesting that it was not a normal domestic site. An association with the enclosure seems highly probable, with their functions interrelated. There is, however, no certainty as to what that purpose was: suggestions relating to a hundred moot assembly and a stock enclosure/resting place near to the important market at Staines are considered.*

## Introduction

The pieces of work included in this paper were organised quite separately and the first report had already been completed in substantially its present form before the fieldwork reported on in the second paper was begun. In most respects the two reports are self-contained, but complement each other in certain aspects. The general archaeological background is presented in Phil Jones' paper and is not repeated in that by Graham Hayman. Both papers include a discussion, but that in the former relates only to 'Caesar's Camp', while that in the latter reviews the results of the 1989/1990 work in the light of the 1994 investigations.

The archive has been deposited at Spelthorne Museum, Staines (acc no SMXSP.2003:125).

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND SURVEY OF 'CAESAR'S CAMP', MATTHEW ARNOLD SCHOOL, LALEHAM, IN 1989 AND 1990

PHIL JONES

## Preface

In 1988, the Valuation and Estates Department of Surrey County Council was examining the possibility that part of the playing field of the Matthew Arnold School in Laleham (fig 1; centred at TQ 0534 7066) could be sold for private housing development. The remains of a large enclosure, which is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Surrey no 146), lie buried beneath the playing field, however, and any development that involved ground disturbance would have required the consent of the Department of the Environment. In normal circumstances this would only be granted if any intended development was to involve little or no damage to the surviving remains, or if the earthwork was found to be of lesser importance than is implied by its scheduling. Caesar's Camp, despite being described as such since the 18th century, was then of unknown date or purpose, and a reasonable assessment of its importance could only be obtained by an archaeological evaluation. The archaeological team of the Countryside and Heritage Division, Planning Department, Surrey County Council was asked to devise a scheme of work that would gain consent from the Department of the Environment, and which would be funded by the Valuation and Estates Department. Accordingly, a research design was devised and submitted to the Department of the Environment, which accepted the need for such work and gave permission for it to proceed. The archaeological evaluation was conducted during two seasons, in 1989 and 1990. This entailed a limited study of old maps, aerial photographs, and earlier descriptions, but most of the work involved a geophysical survey of a large part of the earthwork, and the excavation of eight sampling trenches. The excavations began under the direction of Graham Hayman, and were continued by the author during the 1989 and 1990 seasons.

## Archaeological background

In 1723 the celebrated antiquarian William Stukeley discovered what he thought was one of Julius Caesar's expeditionary camps on Greenfield Common in Laleham parish (fig 2). He paced out and sketched a double-ditched rectangular enclosure with an entrance causeway in the middle of its western side, and a more irregular rectangular enclosure attached to the eastern side of the main earthwork, forming an asymmetrical configuration. Stukeley's plan was published in his *Itinerarium Curiosum* of 1776, together with an account of how Caesar had probably accepted tribute from local chieftains whom he imagined as having assembled here in the ancillary enclosure just outside Caesar's own fort (fig 2). Needless to say, there was no evidence to support such a narrative and, furthermore, it was only by a false perception of the main earthwork as being similar to the typical 'playing card' shape of such forts that Stukeley could assume that it was of Roman construction.

One hundred and fifty years were to pass before any further consideration of the earthwork was made. O G S Crawford visited the site in 1925 and found 'the ground uneven and the crop streaky, so far as a ground-view enabled one to see them; and there were, as usual, a few pot-boilers. But beyond this there was nothing to indicate anything of the nature of the earthwork' (Crawford 1933, 291). Crawford persisted, however, and in 1930 rediscovered the double-ditched enclosure as a cropmark that was visible from the air. A very clear photograph (*ibid*, pl 1) was taken by Major G W G Allen in 1932, which also shows some other features that appear to spring from it that may be part of Stukeley's eastern enclosure.

The ground plan of Caesar's Camp indicated to Crawford that it was unlikely to have been a Roman camp since the ditches were too narrow and the corners too angular. He suggested

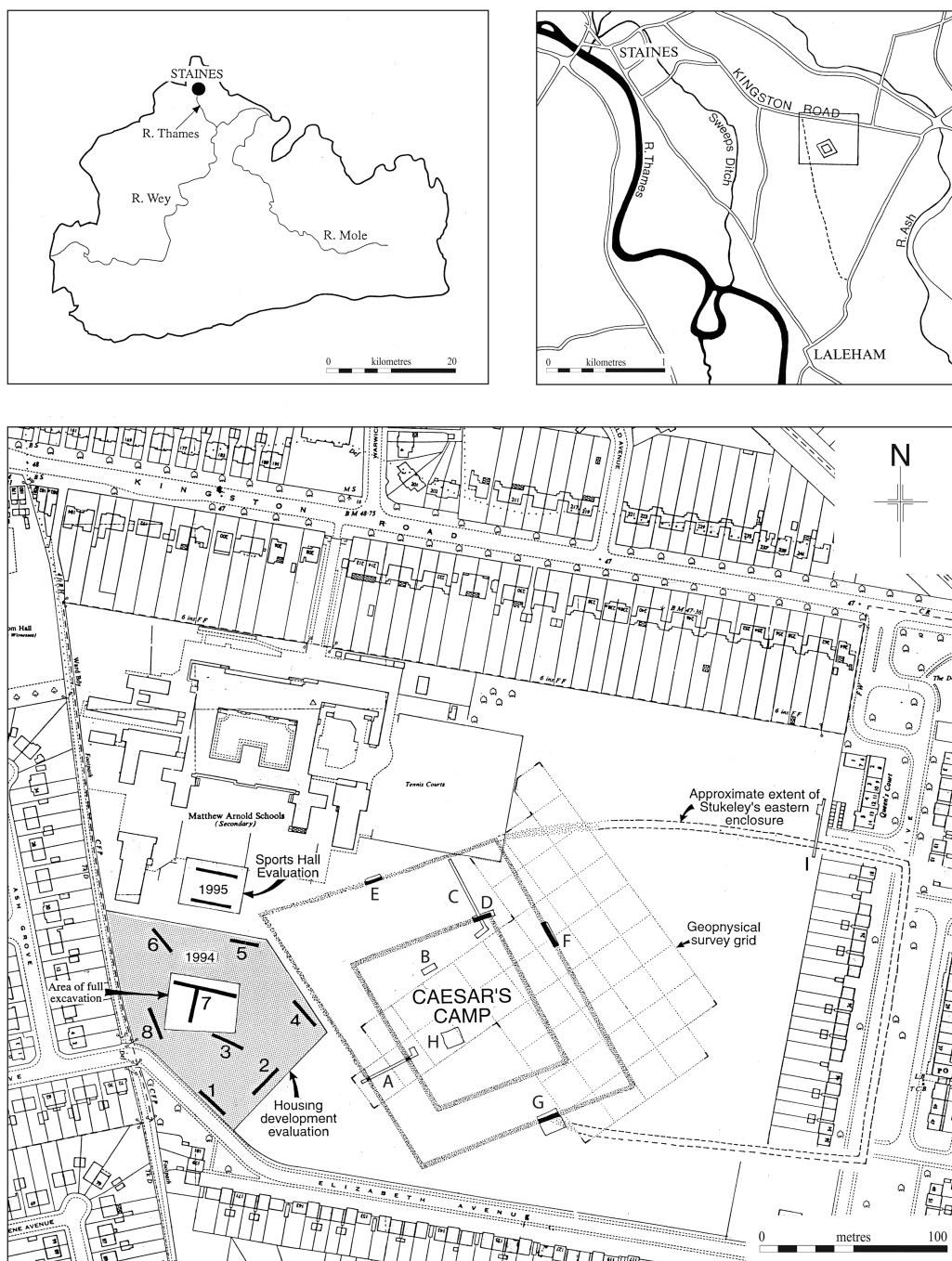


Fig 1 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham. Site location. This figure shows the physical relationship of Caesar's Camp to the area evaluated and excavated in 1994 and locates the position of the 1995 evaluation. Also shown are the trial trenches and resistivity grid from the evaluation of Caesar's Camp undertaken by SCAU in 1989 and 1990. A possible enclosure suggested by Stukeley is to the east. (© Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved)



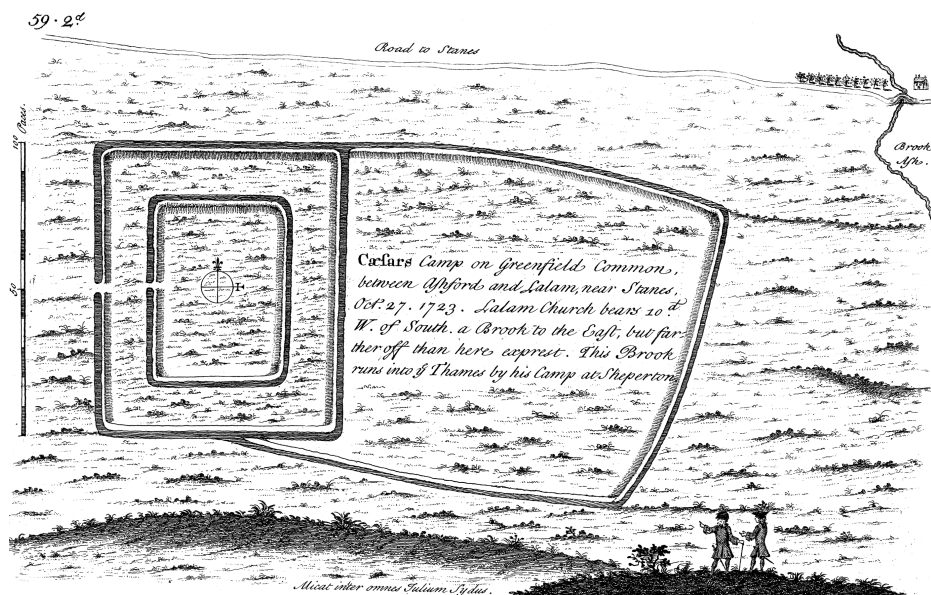


Fig 2 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham. William Stukeley's plan of Caesar's Camp from *Itinerarium Curiosum*, 1776.

that 'a few days' work with the spade would probably determine the age and character of the ditches revealed by the photography, but added that 'it would not be a job for anyone but a digger of some experience, however; for the chance of datable finds is not great' (*ibid*, 292). Three years later, a Mr Parkin and a Dr Nichols obviously thought themselves so qualified, and, under the auspices of the British Archaeological Association (BAA), opened a trench through one of the ditches of the Caesar's Camp enclosure. Unfortunately, the results of this excavation were not published, and the archive was either destroyed along with all other BAA material during an air-raid in the Second World War or was retained by the excavators who have since died (Marion Campbell, pers comm). Only the briefest details are known from a secondary source (a privately circulated note on antiquities in the area of Staines written by M Rendell in 1969 or 1970), and these seem to have been anecdotal, perhaps the reminiscences of some of those who had originally been involved in the two-week excavation. Calcined flints and 'shards of ancient British pottery' were said to have been found, but it is not known whether these were from the ditch or elsewhere. Two photographs that appear to show both faces of the exposed ditch may be the only surviving archive of the excavation, but little is shown with any clarity especially as to how wide and deep the ditch had been. The location of the 1935 excavation is uncertain and it is not known which of the two ditches was sampled.

Prior to 20th century boundary changes, Caesar's Camp lay within the northern part of Laleham parish, in a piece of land enclosed to the north and west by the boundary with Staines parish. The old Staines/Laleham parish boundary still survives as a hedge along the western edge of the school grounds, and the adjoining Staines field here is shown as Berrye Croft on an estate map of Laleham Manor prepared by John Norden in 1623 (fig 3). This also shows a standing cross at Berrye Croft corner on the parish boundary immediately south-west from the earthwork. The 'Berrye' (from OE, *burg*, *burh*, or *byrig* meaning a fort or enclosure) could be that of a visible earthwork enclosure nearby.

It is to be noted that the orientation of Caesar's Camp does not respect either the line of the western parish boundary or Kingston Road, which was also the boundary of the parishes of Staines and Laleham (fig 3). Stukeley's discovery was made on 'Greenfield Common' and his sketch implies this to have been heath or grassland in 1723. Norden's estate map of 1623 shows the area as part of Greene Feilde, but there are indications that it may have been part

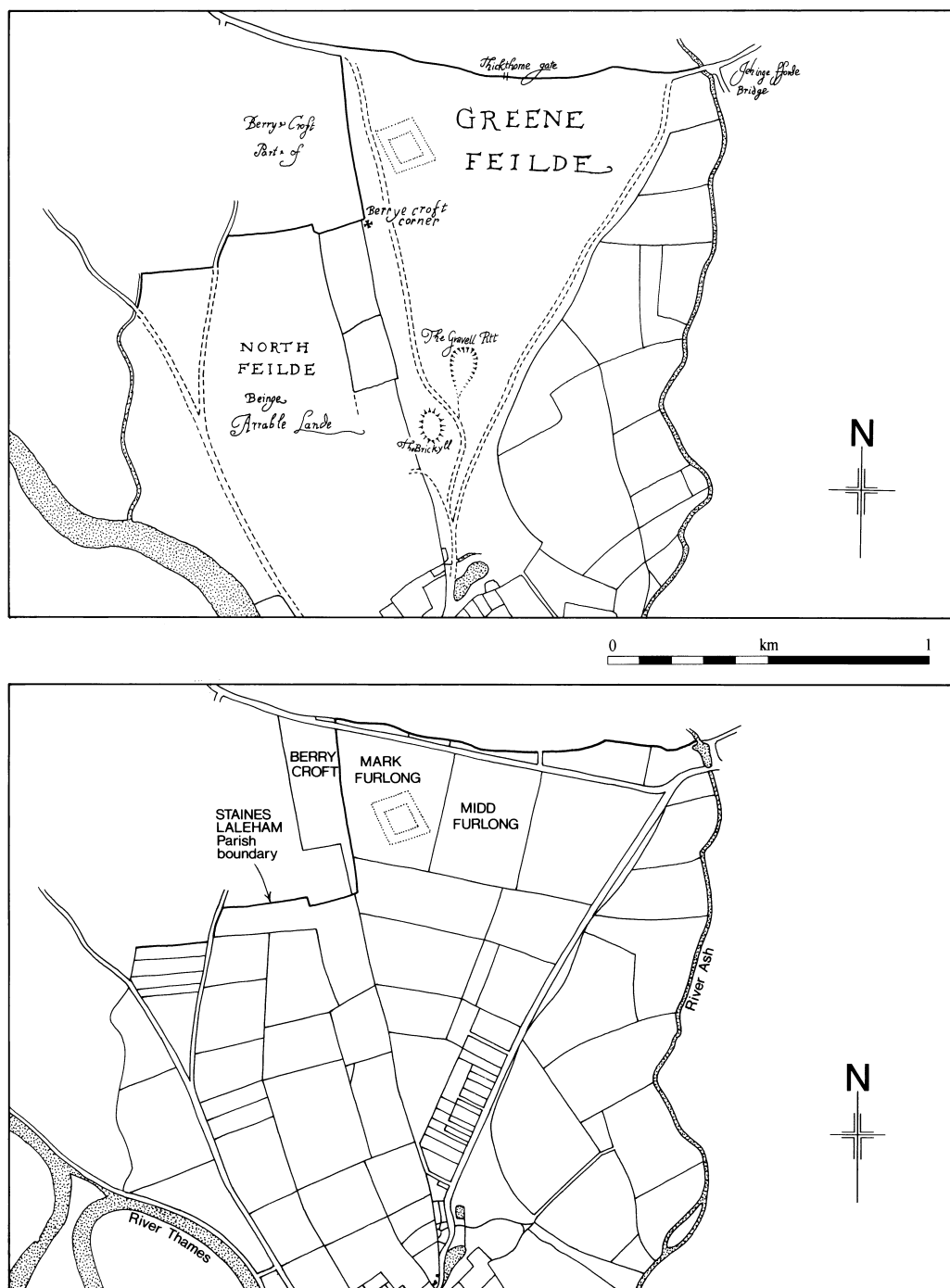


Fig 3 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham. The northern part of Laleham parish in the 17th and 19th centuries: a) from a plan prepared by John Norden in 1623; b) from the Tithe Appportionment plan of 1844. The Caesar's Camp earthwork has been added to both.

of the parish waste by then, since the North and South common fields are annotated as ‘being arable lande’ whereas Greene Feilde is not, and a brickhill and gravel pit are shown towards its south end. In a survey of individual fields within the old common fields of the manor prepared in 1742 some are described as lying within Greenfield, which may have been newly enclosed. Caesar’s Camp came to lie within Mark Furlong, and Stukeley’s ancillary earthwork would have extended across into Midd Furlong. Rocque’s 1754 Map of Middlesex depicts Greenfield as a common, but this may have been based on surveys that he or others had conducted some years before publication. This may indicate that twenty years at most might have elapsed between the time of Stukeley’s discovery and the enclosure of Greenfield for arable. Since the new hedge lines of Mark Furlong and Midd Furlong had not utilised the ditches of Caesar’s Camp they may only have been slight, and Stukeley could have exaggerated their prominence, as well as their shape, to suit his theory.

### Geophysical and other survey work (figs 1 and 4)

In January 1989 a geophysical survey was undertaken to locate the enclosure ditches, since these were not then apparent as surface features, and to identify any internal features that may have existed.

A Geoscan FM18 magnetometer was first tried over an area where the ditches were known to lie, but failed to detect their presence. A Geoscan RM4 resistance meter coupled with a DL10 twin-probe data-logger produced better results and were used for the whole of the

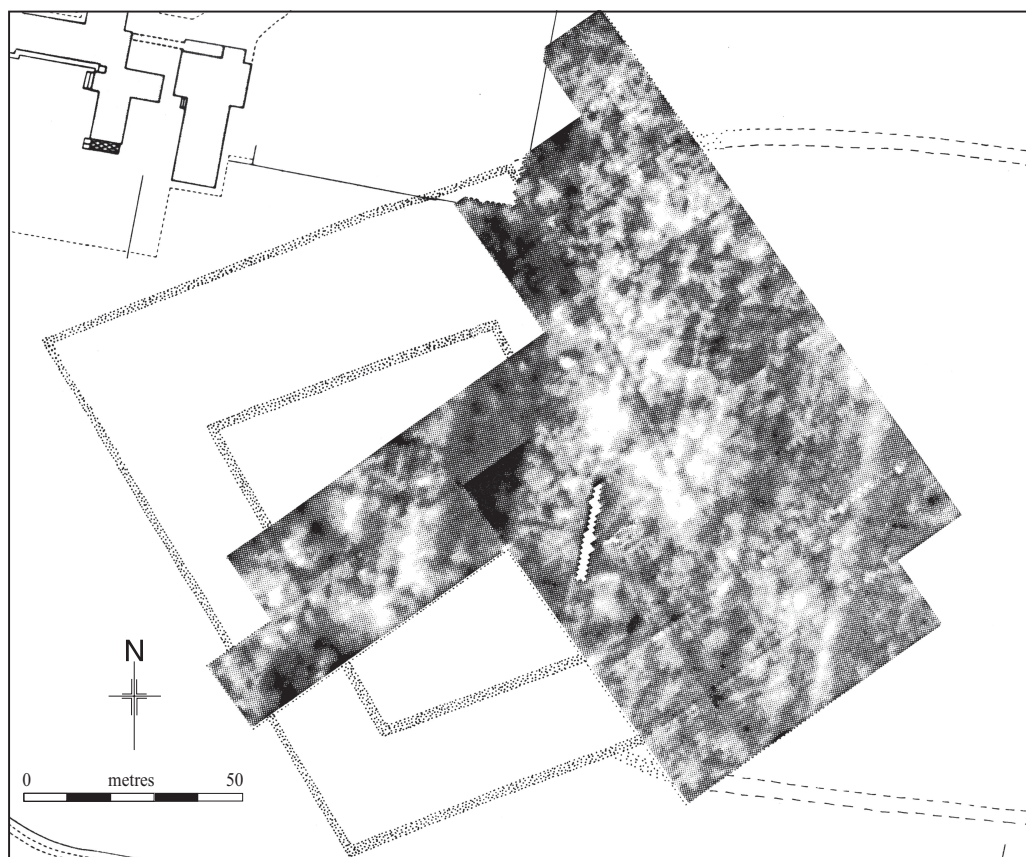


Fig 4 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1989–90. Geophysical survey.

geophysical survey work. Data were transferred to an Epson HX-20 portable computer and processed to achieve both dot-density and profile plots, using Geoplot 3 software. Data enhancement was made possible at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory with a more sophisticated programme, and was then processed through a Sequent Balance system and printed out with a Quine laser printer.

Forty-five 20m squares were surveyed over a third of the Caesar's Camp earthwork, including more than half the enclosed area. The south-east corners of both the inner and outer ditches were located, in addition to most of their eastern, and some of their southern and western lengths. The central part of the western inner ditch did not reveal any evidence of Stukeley's entrance causeway, and no other gaps along the surveyed lengths were apparent. In the interior, no features were revealed that cannot be explained as plough-lines or drains, or as periglacial phenomena. An interesting feature of the enhanced survey is that some of the Caesar's Camp ditches appear to be twinned, with two dark linear features  $\approx 2\text{m}$  apart, for both the outer and inner ditches. All the available aerial photographs, however, show only single ditches, and the excavated sections did not reveal such twinning.

An area of negative resistance just outside the north-east corner of the earthwork (also apparent on Major Allen's 1932 photograph) could be what Stukeley assumed to have been the northern ditch of his eastern enclosure, but this does not extend far. Part of the southern ditch should also have appeared on the survey, but the linear trending in the area where it should spring from the main enclosures is most probably that of the prevailing plough and drain furrows. Less than a quarter of the area shown as the full extent of the enclosure by Stukeley was surveyed, and no internal features were apparent.

During a long dry spell in July and August 1989, and after a close mowing of the playing field, most of the ditches of Caesar's Camp became plainly visible on the surface as dark green linear bands. This made it possible to plan more accurately the south, west and northern sides of the enclosure, which had not been geophysically surveyed earlier in the year. The grass marks of the western side of the enclosure were continuous, and Stukeley's entrance was not apparent.

### **The excavations** (figs 1 and 5–8)

In the summer of 1989 three trenches were opened to sample the inner and outer ditches of Caesar's Camp (trenches A and B) and also a small area of the interior (trench C). As the results of this work were inconclusive, the ditches were sampled again the following year with four more trenches (D–G), and a larger area of the interior was excavated (H). In addition, a trench was opened  $\approx 150\text{m}$  to the north-east of the scheduled earthwork, to locate the northern ditch of Stukeley's ancillary enclosure (trench I). A summary account of the results appears below, but more detailed descriptions of all of the contexts from the eight trenches can be found in the digital supplement (see *Endnote*).

#### CAESAR'S CAMP

A total length of  $\approx 36\text{m}$  of the outer ditch ( $\approx 6\%$  of the whole), and  $\approx 9\text{m}$  of the inner ditch ( $\approx 3\%$  of its full length), was sampled, in addition to  $\approx 124\text{m}^2$  ( $\approx 2\%$ ) of the interior enclosed area.

#### *The outer ditch*

This was cross-sectioned in four of the trenches and was found to have a very similar profile in all of them. It is  $\approx 1.75\text{m}$  wide,  $\approx 0.5\text{m}$  deep, and has steep sides and a rounded base that is slightly flattened. In trenches E and G the fills were of a pale grey and orange mottled silty clay, which was overlain by a pale grey/buff clayey silt sealing the feature (fig 7, sections 4 and 8; fig 8, section 9). There were similar infills in trench F, but with a thin primary deposit of mixed gravel and clay that might have been the result of side-slumping soon after the ditch

had been dug (fig 7, section 7). The grey/orange mottled clay was also the main fill in trench A, but was overlain by a brown gravelly clay, and a final levelling of gravelly loam (fig 7, section 5). Lying on the internal face of the ditch in trench A, however, was a thin layer of dark-stained gravel, and it was unclear whether this had been deposited earlier or later than the grey/orange mottled clay. It is possible that this had been part of a slippage from an internal bank. Trenches E, F and G did not provide any supporting evidence that the ditch had an accompanying raised bank, although this seems most likely. Two sub-round features were found within the ditch in trench E, which might have been postholes. The more substantial of these, 155, had been cut through the base of the ditch, and the other lay on the inner slope between the lip of the ditch and the larger feature, 156.

The only finds recovered were a few worn fragments of tile and pottery, some of which were medieval, and some Roman.

### *The inner ditch*

This was cross-sectioned in trenches A and C, and a longer segment of it was excavated in trench D. It was found to be more substantial than the outer ditch, being nearly 2.5m wide x c 1m deep having more of a V-shaped profile, but with a narrow flat base. In trench A there was a simple sequence of fills with a shallow primary deposit of gravel, a main fill of the same grey/orange clay as was found in the outer ditch, and a thin levelling of gravel (fig 7, section 3). The basal gravel could have been generated by some slumping of the steep sides of the ditch soon after it had been dug, but since it also extended part of the way up the side of the internal, but not the external, face, it could have been eroded from the tail of a raised bank on the inside of the ditch. In trench C and its later expanded area, trench D, the north-east corner of the ditch and 5m of its northern arm were excavated. Here, the grey/orange clay was found as a higher fill than elsewhere in the two ditches, and overlay several earlier deposits (fig 7, sections 1 and 2). As in trench A, there was a primary fill of gravel that extended part of the way up the internal face of the ditch, but this had been superseded by an accumulation of dark grey clay along part of the base. Thereafter, the sequence of fills was sandy gravel, orange/buff clay with some pebbles, gravelly clay, and then the grey/orange mottled clay that had effectively sealed the feature in antiquity. All these deposits appeared to have been deliberate backfills rather than gradual accumulations, with the exception of the dark grey clay at the base, which was humus-rich and could have formed from vegetation under standing water.

Finds were as sparse in the inner ditch as in the outer one. In trench A, two small fragments of medieval tile were recovered from the basal fill and a larger fragment from the upper fill. The more substantial volume of fill in trenches C and D yielded two small fragments of medieval pottery from the basal dark grey clay (as well as some pieces of burnt wood and decayed cattle bones); two tile fragments (one Roman, one medieval); some pieces from a decayed nephrite quern, and three sherds of late 13th or 14th century pottery from the upper fill.

### *Internal features*

In the two areas that were excavated within the middle of the enclosure only one possible archaeological feature was located. Trench B included a shallow, elongated oval feature (fig 6, context 120) that appeared not to have been a natural depression on account of its regular profile, but it contained no artefacts or other archaeological material. Of more interest within trench B, however, were two discrete concentrations of Late Bronze Age sherds that were found during the removal of the third lowest of four spits of the subsoil (contexts 150 and 151). It is possible that they may originally have been within two shallow features, the outlines of which may have been destroyed by worm action, or were perhaps missed during their excavation (which took place in very dry and dusty conditions). Alternatively, the buff/grey

subsoil in the region of the trench may incorporate a buried prehistoric soil, since it contained more calcined flints than were found elsewhere in subsoil levels. Two medieval tile fragments were also recovered from the third spit, indicating that this deep subsoil had become mixed with later material. No finds were recovered from the lowest spit of the subsoil within the trench.

In the larger area that was excavated, trench H, the sub-surface geology was found to be that of an undulating horizon of gravels levelled with superficial deposits of buff/brown clayey loams, but there were no archaeological features (fig 5).

Trench A was located to sample the interior of the earthwork, where a round or oval feature was found (fig 5, context 119; fig 7, section 6). Its fill resembled that of the many periglacial features of the site, but, although it contained no artefacts, a few fragments of charred wood were recovered. This could have been another archaeological feature.

The southern end of trench C extended into the interior of the earthwork, where part of another ditch was found (fig 5, context 125). This was c1m wide and 0.40m deep, and had a U-shaped profile. Its fill was the same as the buff/grey subsoil of the site, and two very small pieces of Roman pottery were recovered from it. Where this ditch met the inner lip of the main outer ditch of the enclosure it appeared that it had cut through the fill of the more substantial feature, although the stratigraphy was not clear at that point and there can be no certainty about this. The internal ditch was set at an oblique angle from those of the main enclosure ditches, however, and ran parallel with the main trend of ploughing and field drains that are evident from the geophysical survey. It seems most likely, therefore, that the ditch was a much later feature, despite the presence of Roman sherds. Also in trench C, within the interior of the earthwork, were several sherds from a single late 12th or early 13th century cooking pot, mostly from the second highest of four spits of the subsoil.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OUTSIDE CAESAR'S CAMP

No features were found in trenches A and E, but there was a small, round posthole that lay next to the outer ditch in trench F (fig 5, context 158). Its fill was the same as that of the subsoil of the site and the only find from it was a single calcined flint.

Trench G sampled the largest area outside the enclosure, and was intended to reveal the junction of the outer ditch of Caesar's Camp (contexts 159 and 160) with the southern ditch of Stukeley's ancillary enclosure. Instead, a large pit of Bronze Age date was found (fig 6, context 161; fig 8, section 9), which had not been joined, either to the main enclosure ditch, or to the rounded and shallow end of a gully that began to deepen by the eastern baulk, and which may have been part of the ancillary enclosure ditch 163.

The pit in trench G was irregularly oval in shape, c 4.5m long x c 2.5m wide, and with a bowl-like profile except where some parts of its base dropped more steeply into narrow hollows that were often undercut. It was at first thought to have been a periglacial hollow, but, although it may originally have been such a natural feature, both of its main upper fills contained several Bronze Age sherds and worked flints. Major Allen's 1932 aerial photograph shows the pit as a discrete feature, but does not reveal the external ditch that Stukeley said was there, and which seems to have been rediscovered in trench G (163). It should be noted, however, that, although this ditch could be part of the southern side of Stukeley's ancillary enclosure, it is on the same alignment as the general trend of ploughing and drainage features throughout the field. The small area of the geophysical survey that should have included part of the ditch revealed nothing that could be regarded as significantly different from these. It is even possible that the excavated feature had been a gully that fed into a pit, rather than the start of a ditch, and that little more of it exists outside the trench area, but this is uncertain. No artefacts or any other archaeological material were recovered from pit 161.

In the north-east corner of the Matthew Arnold playing field, a 30m-long trench (I) was opened by machine in an attempt to rediscover the northern ditch of Stukeley's eastern enclosure. Its approximate position had been extrapolated from his plan, where he shows it

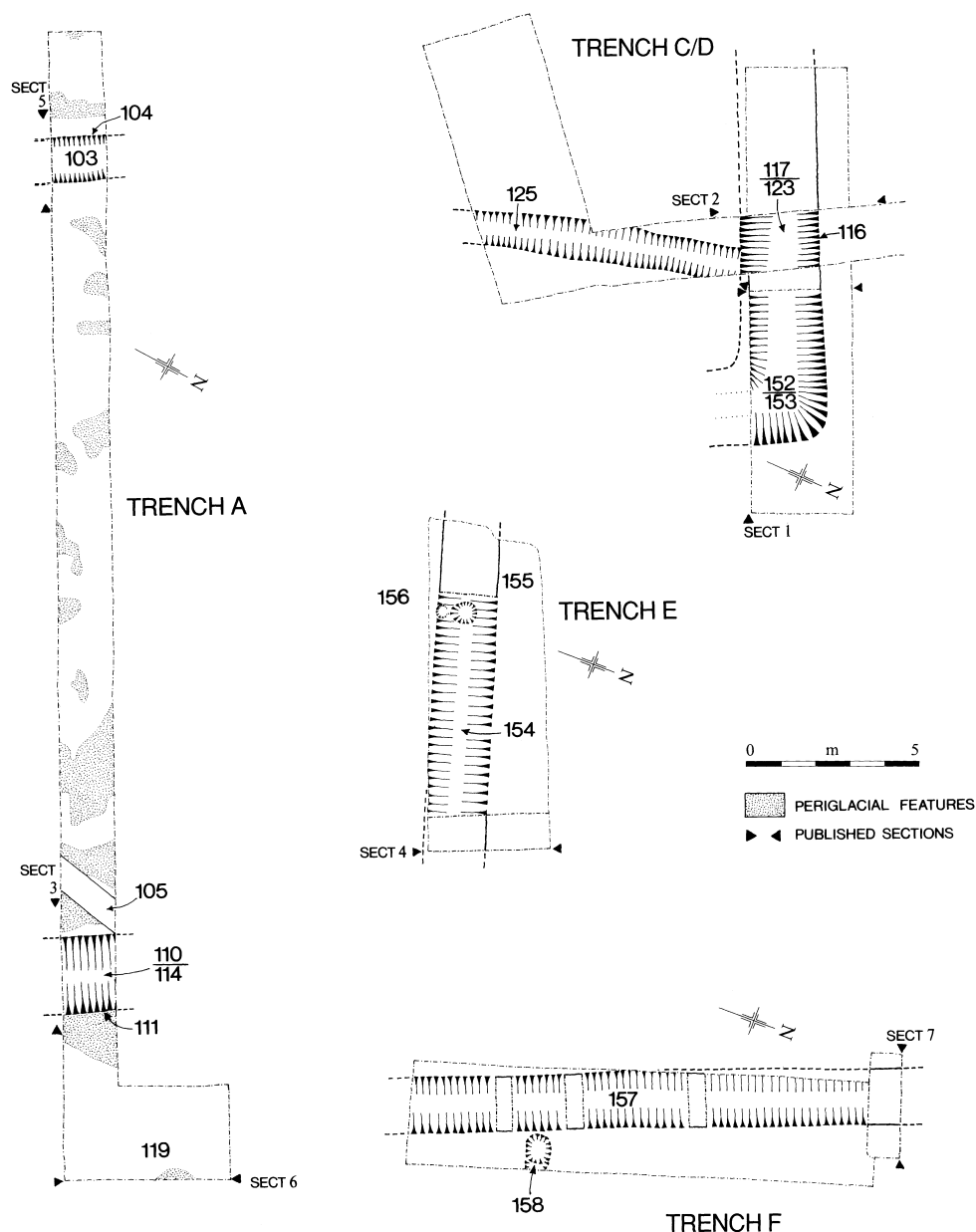


Fig 5 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1989–90. Plans of excavated trenches A, C/D, E and F.

in relation to Caesar's Camp and the Kingston Road – the only other landscape features depicted. It should have been found towards the southern end of the trench, as either an east–west or a north–west/south–east feature, but instead a pair of ditches was found towards the north end of the trench that ran south–west/north–east (fig 6, contexts 169 and 170; fig 8, section 10). Both are *c* 1.5m wide x 0.50m deep, and only *c* 1.75m apart. Between them was a layer of dirty gravel pebbles (171) that tailed off over the fill of 169, but was not present outside the two ditches. It is possible that this was a bank or path, and that its spill over the ditch infill was the result of subsequent ploughing (but according to the section, context 171 also overlies 169, so has to be later). A 2m length of the fill of the more northerly of the ditches

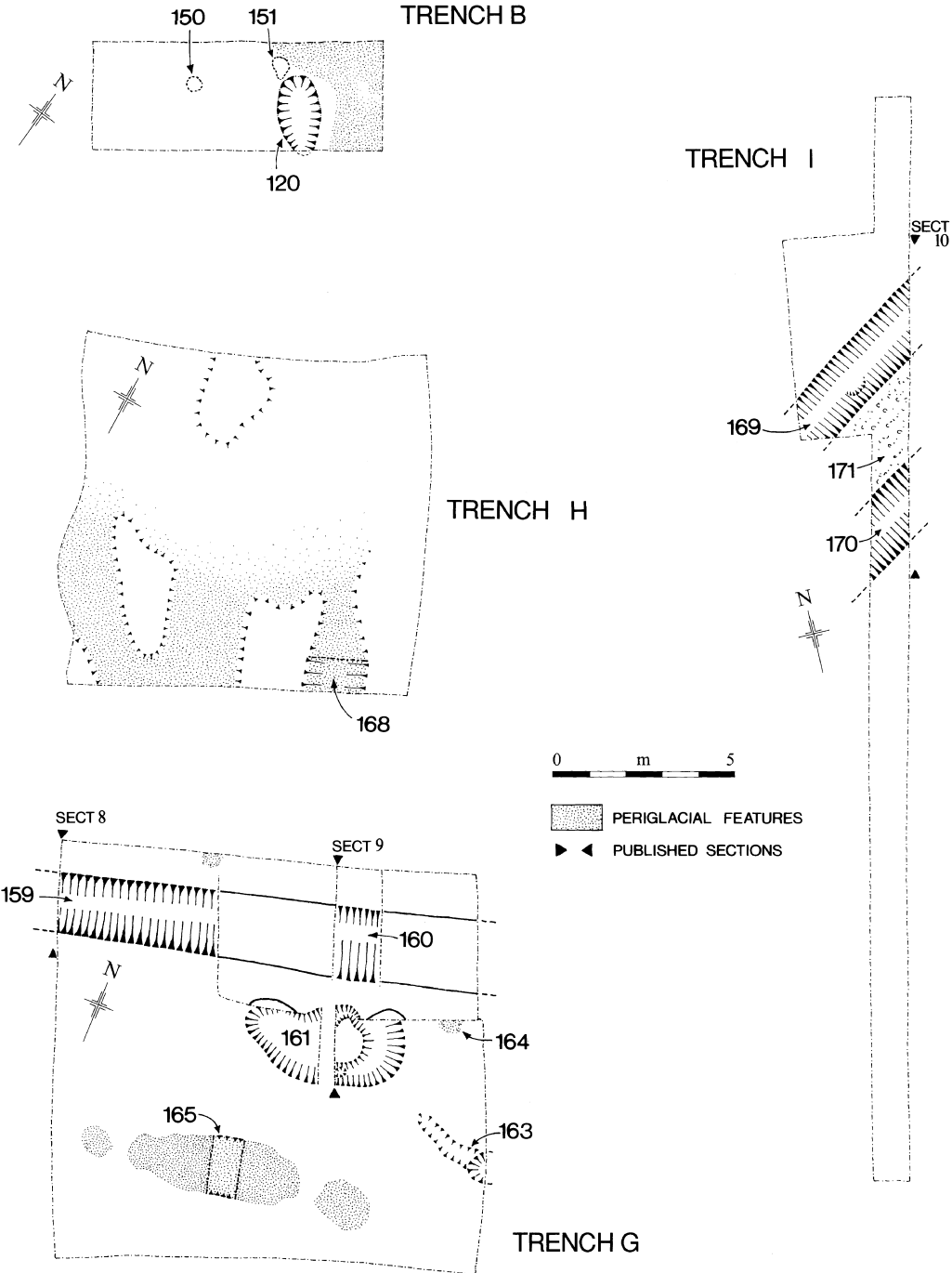


Fig 6 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1989-90. Plans of excavated trenches B, G, H and I.



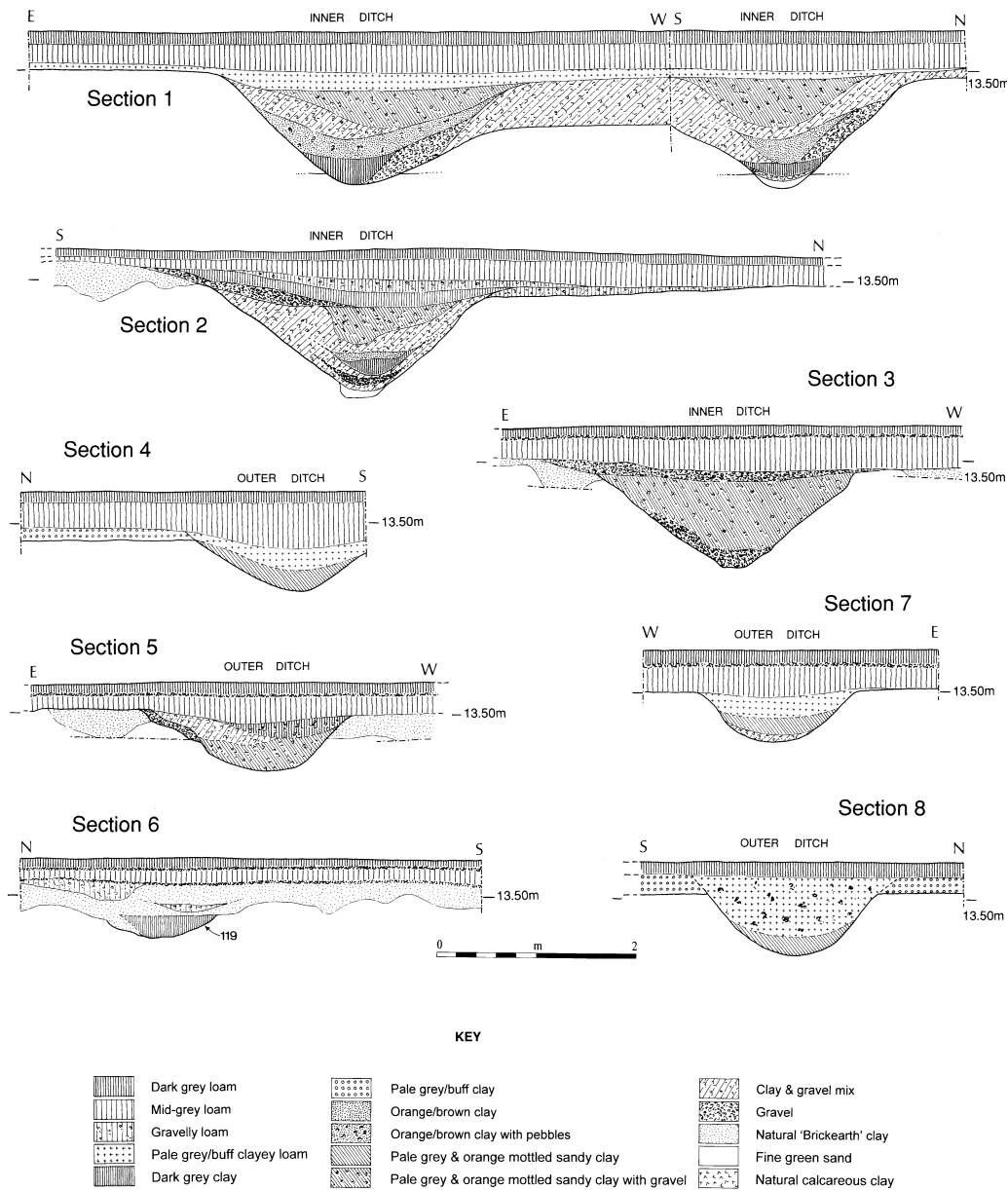


Fig 7 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1989-90. Sections 1-5, 7 and 8 through the enclosing ditches of Caesar's Camp; section 6 through a possible internal feature.

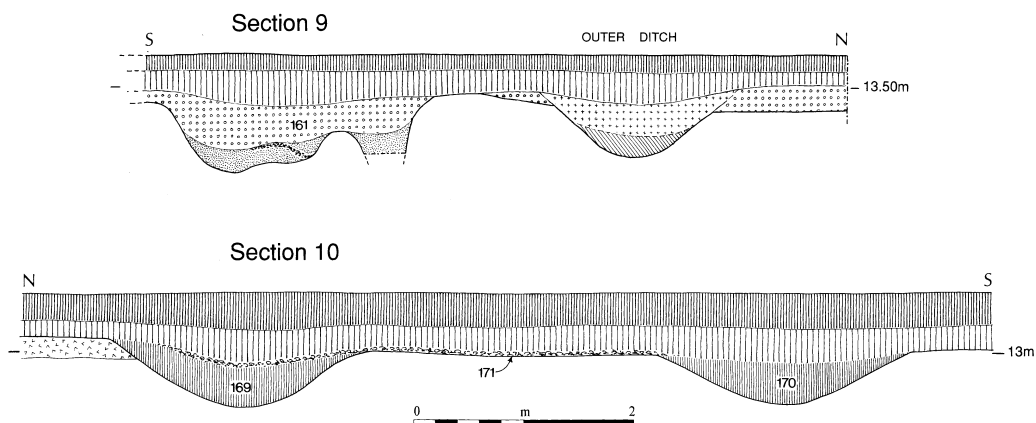


Fig 8 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1989–90. Section 9 through prehistoric features and the outer ditch of Caesar's Camp; section 10 through two prehistoric ditches.

was excavated, and yielded the lower jaw of a horse, two calcined flints, and three sherds of Bronze Age pottery. Since small amounts of such pottery were found in most of the other trenches, it could be conjectured that the sherds from this ditch were redeposited in a much later feature. One of the sherds, however, is large and retains a heavy sooting on its external surface. It would therefore appear more likely that the ditches are prehistoric, and probably of Bronze Age date. A small, half-rounded feature along the lower slope of the excavated segment of ditch may have been a post-setting. It was later observed that the continuation of these ditches was visible as grass marks on the playing field despite being buried beneath 0.5m of dark grey clayey subsoil. Both of these grassmarks ended abruptly: the northern ditch at 26m, and the southern one at 13m from the edges of the machine-cut trench.

### The finds and dating evidence

Relatively few finds were recovered from the excavated trenches, and many of those from the topsoil and subsoil of the playing field might have been introduced during the manuring of the fields before the school was built. These would include eighteen sherds of 18th and 19th century pottery, two clay pipe stems and 38 fragments of medieval and/or post-medieval roofing tile; possibly also all the Roman, and at least some of the medieval, pottery sherds.

#### POTTERY AND TILE

##### *Prehistoric*

Most of the pottery from the site was prehistoric and all or nearly all are sherds of Bronze Age date. Calcined flint-gritted sherds were found in two adjacent concentrations of nine and 70 sherds each within the interior of the Caesar's Camp enclosure (trench B, contexts 150 and 151; fig 9, nos 1–8); in a contemporary pit that lay just outside (28 sherds from trench G, context 161); in one of the two parallel ditches in the north-east corner of the playing field (four sherds from trench I, context 169, including one that was large and externally sooted); from the outer ditch of Caesar's Camp (one sherd from trench G, context 157); and from the topsoils and subsoils of the site (four sherds). Only the large concentration of sherds in trench B contained recognisable vessel forms, and these are of Late Bronze Age types. A carinated bowl (no 1), a 'bucket-like' bowl (no 2), and a cup (no 6), are all very similar to vessels found in the vicinity of a Late Bronze Age settlement at Coombe Warren, Kingston Hill (Field & Needham, 1986, 133–8).

*Roman*

Roman material includes four tile fragments and up to twenty sherds of pottery, all heavily worn. Nearly all the sherds are of grey sandy wares, but two items of special note are part of a 2nd century mortarium made in the Verulamium district and which bears a potter's stamp (see report below) in reverse on the rim flange (fig 9, no 10), and a Late Iron Age or early Roman grog-tempered jar (fig 9, no 9). A few Roman sherds were recovered from both the inner and outer ditch fills of Caesar's Camp, but always within contexts that also contained medieval material.

*The stamped mortarium sherd, by Kay Hartley*

The sherd is residual in context 109, a subsoil layer. It weighs 60g, with a diameter of c330mm. It is a flange fragment in a fabric that is slightly granular to the touch. The surface has been fired to greyish-cream, but the rest of the fabric is considerably more brownish in colour. The fabric is packed with moderately well-sorted quartz together with a considerable amount of opaque, reddish-brown material and rare large red/brown fragments. The fabric is clearly attributable to the important potteries south of Verulamium that included workshops at Verulamium itself, Little Munden, Radlett and Brockley Hill, all in the vicinity of Watling Street (Tomber & Dore 1998, 154–5). It is, however, quite unusual in having more than the barest minimum of red/brown inclusions; these will be partly responsible for the unusual brownish colour of the fabric.

The retrograde stamp reads BRVCIF for 'Brucius fecit', between criss-cross borders, and it is from one of three dies known for Brucius; his other two dies had double C, but this variability is not uncommon. Up to fifteen of his mortaria are known from the pottery-making area at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, where he undoubtedly worked (*ibid*, 155), though only one is from the same die as this example (unpublished). At least 48 mortaria of Bruc(c)ius have been recorded from sites throughout England and Wales, excluding those from Brockley Hill. The rim profiles and spout types used by this potter point to activity within the period AD80–120. The mortaria associated with the BRVCIF retro stamps suggest that the die concerned was being used marginally later in his activity; a date of AD90–120 would fit some of these better. There is no indication of lateness in this example.

There is only one stamp recorded from his third die, but that, interestingly, gives BRVCCI[.] retrograde between criss-cross borders.

*Medieval*

There were fewer medieval than Roman finds, and some of the abraded sherds from the topsoils and upper subsoil spits might have arrived on site by the same means as has been conjectured for all the Roman material. Four medieval pottery sherds, however, were sealed within the Caesar's Camp ditch fills, and include a single sherd of 12th or 13th century Q2 coarse grey sandy ware from the outer ditch (trench G, context 159), and three sherds of WW1A coarse sandy whiteware from an upper fill of the inner ditch (trench D, context 152). In addition, in one small area of the interior that was sampled in trench C, 58 body sherds from a single late 12th or early 13th century cooking pot of Denham-type ware (Farley & Leach 1988) was recovered from the subsoil, suggesting that it had probably been broken on site. Although the number of pottery sherds is low, seven tile fragments of medieval type from the sections through the outer ditch, and two from the inner ditch fill, tend to confirm that the Caesar's Camp enclosure had been of medieval construction – probably during the second half of the 12th or the early 13th century.

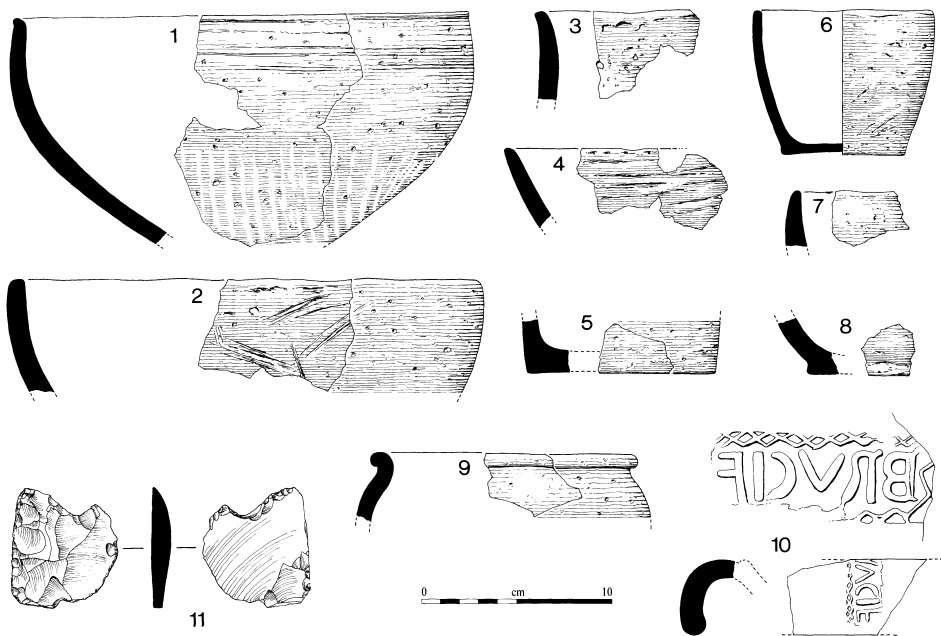


Fig 9 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1989–90. Late Bronze Age pottery from a concentration in trench B, nos 1–8; late Iron Age or early Roman grog-tempered jar, no.9; Verulamium region mortarium, no 10; notched flint flake, no 11. (Scale: all at 1:4 except for mortarium stamp and flint at 1:2)

OTHER FINDS

A few calcined flint ‘pot-boilers’ were found in most contexts that were sampled, and altogether nearly 50 were collected. Twenty-nine pieces of struck flint were also recovered, of which all but one are of waste flakes and (less commonly) blades. The exception was a notched flake with some invasive retouch, which was found in loose association with the larger of the two concentrations of prehistoric pottery in trench B (fig 9, no 11). Seven of the struck flints were from the prehistoric pit 161 in trench G.

Animal bone was absent from the site except for the decaying cattle fragments from the deepest and semi-waterlogged part of the Caesar’s Camp inner ditch, and some teeth and lower jaw fragments, possibly of a horse, from the prehistoric ditch 169 in trench I. If other animal bones had existed elsewhere they would have long since dissolved the acidic environment of the site; the horse fragments probably survived because of the localised presence of a superficial deposit of calcareous clay through which ditches 169 and 170 had been dug.

The only other finds from the Caesar’s Camp ditches include some decaying fragments of a nephrite quernstone from an upper fill of the inner ditch, and a piece of burnt wood from a lower fill of the same ditch (both in trench D).

CATALOGUE OF FINDS

(Note: PM = post-medieval)

CAESAR’S CAMP OUTER DITCH

103 Ditch fill (trench A):  
Roman tile fragment

154 Ditch fill (trench E):  
Four pieces of tile, including a Roman  
fragment and another of medieval or PM  
type with a peg-hole  
156 Posthole (trench E):  
Calcined flint  
157 Ditch fill (trench F):  
Two Roman greyware sherds; one pre-

	historic calcined flint-gritted sherds; five tile fragments, all probably of medieval or PM type; eight struck flints; <i>c</i> eighteen calcined flints		Medieval or PM tile fragment; two calcined flints
159	Ditch fill (trench G): A medieval coarse sandy ware sherd; two struck flints	102	Layers to <i>c</i> 0.15m depth (trench C): Medieval or PM tile fragment
160	Ditch fill (trench G): Three struck flints	108	Layers <i>c</i> 0.15–0.30m depth (trench A): Sherd of PM redware; sherd of stoneware sewer pipe; rim sherd of Late Iron Age or early Roman grog-tempered jar; two fragments of medieval/PM tile; fragment of shelly limestone, calcined flint
Contexts	104 (A), 155 (E): No finds	109	Layers <i>c</i> 0.30–0.50m depth (trench A): Rim sherd of Verulamium region Roman mortarium
CAESAR'S CAMP INNER DITCH			
110	Ditch upper fill (trench A): Medieval or PM tile fragment	112	Layers <i>c</i> 0.15–0.30m depth (trench B): Nine sherds of PM pottery, mostly <i>c</i> 19th century; four medieval greyware sherds; fourteen medieval/PM tile fragments; two fragments of PM brick; iron nail, three calcined flints
114	Ditch lower fill (trench A): Several small fragments of tile or daub		
123	Ditch lower fill (trench C): Small rolled Roman greyware sherd	113	Layers <i>c</i> 0.30–0.35m depth (trench B): Roman tile fragment; medieval or PM tile fragment; worked flint; eight calcined flints; and two concentrations of prehistoric pottery sherds (see 150 and 151)
152	Ditch upper fill (trench D): Three sherds of medieval whiteware pottery; two tile fragments including one that is Roman; four fragments of nephrite quernstone; one struck flint	121	Layers <i>c</i> 0.15–0.30m depth (trench C): Forty-five sherds of a medieval cooking pot; four Roman greyware sherds; three PM sherds including a <i>c</i> 19th century stoneware base; fragment of sewer pipe, clay pipe stem fragment; retouched flint blade; two iron fragments
153	Ditch lower fill (trench D): Small fragment of orange ware, probably medieval; fragment of burnt wood; some decayed bones of cattle		
Contexts	111 (A), 116 (C), 117 (C): No finds	122	Layers <i>c</i> 0.30–0.40m depth (trench C): Five sherds of the same medieval pot as found in 121; seven sherds of Roman grey sandy ware; one PM redware sherd; two sherds, probably Roman and of Verulamium region types
CAESAR'S CAMP INTERNAL DITCH			
125	Ditch fill (trench C): Two tiny fragments of thin sandy ware, probably Roman	124	Layers <i>c</i> 0.40m to top of natural (trench C): Two fragments of medieval/PM tile
EXTERNAL FEATURES			
161	Pit fill (trench G): Twenty-eight sherds of prehistoric calcined flint-gritted pottery, including a rim sherd; small lump of baked clay; seven struck flints; some charcoal fragments	162	Unstratified finds (trench G): Three sherds of prehistoric calcined flint-gritted ware; four struck flints; three fragments of medieval/PM tile
169	Ditch fill (trench I): Four sherds of prehistoric calcined flint-gritted pottery; two calcined flints; some teeth and bones, possibly of a horse	167	Layers (trench H): A prehistoric calcined flint-gritted sherd, a medieval grey sandy sherd, three <i>c</i> 19th century pottery sherds; a clay pipe stem fragment, three struck flints
Contexts	158 (F), 163 (G), 170 and 171 (I): No finds	150	Pot concentration in 113 (trench B): Nine sherds of prehistoric calcined flint-gritted pottery, including a rim sherd of Late Bronze Age type
TOPSOIL AND SUBSOILS			
100	Layers to <i>c</i> 0.15m depth (trench A): Roman greyware base angle; medieval or PM tile fragment; copper-alloy fragment	151	Pot concentration in 113 (trench B): Approximately 70 sherds of prehistoric calcined flint-gritted pottery, including the rims and bases of up to five vessels of Late Bronze Age types
101	Layers to <i>c</i> 0.15m depth (trench B):	Context	115 (B), 118 (A): No finds

## Discussion

The ditches of Caesar's Camp contain medieval roof tile fragments, which implies that they had been backfilled sometime after the middle of the 12th century, when it is thought that such tiles began to be produced for more general needs across southern England. The only medieval pottery from the fills was of coarse whiteware, which first appeared in London and Guildford during the second quarter of the 13th century (Holling 1984, 73; Pearce & Vince 1988, 14), but the three sherds of this are from sparsely glazed vessels that could date to as late as the 14th or 15th centuries. However, they were found in a very late infill of the outer ditch, which may have been deposited long after the original function of so large and deep a feature had ceased. The layer in which they were found seems more likely to have been a levelling, and not part of the main infill, which appears to have occurred as a single dumping operation rather than having accumulated slowly. By the 14th or 15th centuries, therefore, the ditches may only have been relatively slight features, after having been backfilled at an earlier date. Unfortunately, few finds were recovered from the relict ground surface of the interior of the earthwork which might have assisted in the clarification of its period of use and the date of its abandonment. They include, however, many joining sherds of a cooking pot that were found together at the south end of trench C. The ware is of Denham type, the form of late 12th or early 13th century type (Farley & Leach 1988), and it is conceivable that the vessel had been broken during the main period of use of the enclosure.

The earthwork is of an unusual type since it is trapezoidal and has a curiously wide zone between its inner and outer ditches. The sections through the ditches did not display any bias of erosional deposition towards one side or the other that would suggest that there had been accompanying banks, although this could have been the case. Stukeley illustrated such banks, but he also showed a causewayed entrance on the west, which was not apparent either from the geophysical survey or as a grass-mark. The two ditches of the western side were continuous, as were those of the other three sides. Caesar's Camp could have been used as an enclosure for livestock, with a wooden bridge rather than a causewayed entrance since it is only 2km along the Kingston Road from Staines and might have afforded an overnight stay before or after the market which was held in the town from at least as early as the beginning of the 13th century (its day of the week was changed in 1218: *VCHM* 1962, 20).

The existence of Stukeley's eastern enclosure was not proven by the current work. The northern ditch was not found in the long trench I that was cut especially to look for it, and the evidence for the presence of the southern ditch in trench G is ambiguous. It is almost certain that there once had been a ditch or some kind of sunken feature that continued east for *c* 70m from the north-east corner of the outer ditch of Caesar's Camp, since such a feature is clearly visible on the 1933 aerial photograph. It did not, however, continue any further. Doubts about the southern ditch have been expressed already in the description of trench G (see above), where attention is also drawn to the curious coincidence that, for the most part, the north and south ditches were on the same alignment as the ploughing furrows through the field. Stukeley even shows on his plan that their alignments were continued further east by what appear to be field boundaries. When he visited the site it lay on Greenfield Common, but it is inherent in the name, that this had once been arable land.

In conclusion, it is uncertain whether there had been an eastern enclosure, but, if there had, Stukeley's paced plan of it is inaccurate. Much of what he saw could have been part of a ridge and furrow system, or resulted from the creation of the field system that had largely destroyed an earlier earthwork.

Nearly all the excavated contexts of the site contained a few calcined flint 'pot-boilers', and sherds of prehistoric pottery or flints were occasional finds in most of the trenches. In addition, a large oval feature in trench G, and two parallel ditches in the north-east corner of the playing field, were probably of Bronze Age date; two concentrations of similar pottery from trench B could have originally been deposited within a shallow prehistoric feature. Those from trench B are recognisably of Late Bronze Age forms, so it is reasonable to assume that

a settlement of that period probably lies within (or close to) the grounds of the school, but that very little of it was sampled during the excavations.

A few fragments of Roman tile and pottery were also recovered from the site, but all are worn and, most probably, derive from manure and midden scattering of fields at some distance from any settlement.

It was the author's recommendation on completion of the fieldwork that Caesar's Camp should remain a Scheduled Monument, since it is an unusual and still enigmatic medieval earthwork and it may still be possible to gain more precise information as to its period of use and function. At the time of writing it remains Scheduled.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The project received the active co-operation of the Valuation and Estates Department of Surrey County Council, who also funded both the excavations and the post-excavation analyses of the finds and other data. Special thanks are due to T J Borrett of that Department for his forbearance; to the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of English Heritage for the enhancement of the geophysical data; to T W Allen, the headmaster of the Matthew Arnold School, who had to endure two summers of disruption to his playing fields.

The information about the work of Parkin and Nicholas was kindly provided by Marian Campbell, Honorary Secretary of the British Archaeological Association.

## EXCAVATION OF A MEDIEVAL OCCUPATION SITE AT MATTHEW ARNOLD SCHOOL, LALEHAM, IN 1994

GRAHAM HAYMAN

### Preface

Between 3 October and 21 November 1994 staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) carried out an archaeological excavation at Matthew Arnold School, near Staines (fig 1; centred at TQ 0534 7066). The work was undertaken on behalf of the Property Services Division, Surrey County Council, in response to proposals for a housing development on land that, at the time, was part of the school playing field. The excavation followed a trial trench evaluation of the site, completed by SCAU in April 1994, which resulted in the discovery of features of early medieval date within the threatened area.

The site lies immediately to the west of the Caesar's Camp earthwork, and somewhat further to the west of a possible enclosure thought to be of prehistoric date (fig 1). Caesar's Camp, a Scheduled Monument (Surrey no 146), was the subject of archaeological evaluations in 1989 and 1990 (Jones 1990 and above). The results of that work allowed Jones tentatively to conclude that the infilling of the ditches of the earthwork might have begun during the late 12th or early 13th century and that they had probably been infilled completely by the 14th or 15th century. On 18 February 1995, a further evaluation took place at Matthew Arnold School in response to proposals to build a new sports hall for the school (fig 1). The result of this evaluation was entirely negative from an archaeological point of view (Hayman 1995a).

### The excavation

The trial trench evaluation had indicated that the stratigraphy of the site was simple, consisting of *c* 0.25–0.35m of topsoil and grass, over *c* 0.10–0.20m of grey/brown clay loam subsoil over natural orange/yellow/grey clay. This was later confirmed when the excavation area was exposed (using a tracked excavator with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket), as was the suggestion that all features of medieval date cut the subsoil layer. In the central part of the site area, where the majority of features were discovered, the topsoil was largely removed by machine with some remnants being removed as a hand clearance spit (141); the subsoil (163) was removed by hand once the features that cut it had been excavated. Around the periphery of the excavation area both layers were machined to the level of the natural geology.

The excavation led to the discovery of postholes, stakeholes, pits, shallow 'hollows', gullies, and a hearth. The features excavated as part of the evaluation are described below with those from the main excavation. Context numbers below 133 were issued during the evaluation. These include numbers 100–106, which were issued for stray finds recovered during the machining of trenches 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 (topsoil), 7 (subsoil) and 8 respectively. The main excavation area was opened around trial trench 7 and number 104 was re-used for any stray finds collected from the topsoil during machining.

#### PHASE 1: PREHISTORIC (fig 10)

It is difficult to be certain whether this phase can be identified by the presence of features within the site area, but pieces of struck flint and several sherds of pottery recovered during the excavation do at least point to some degree of prehistoric land use in the vicinity. Five features (133–137) that are potentially of prehistoric date were recorded, but none produced



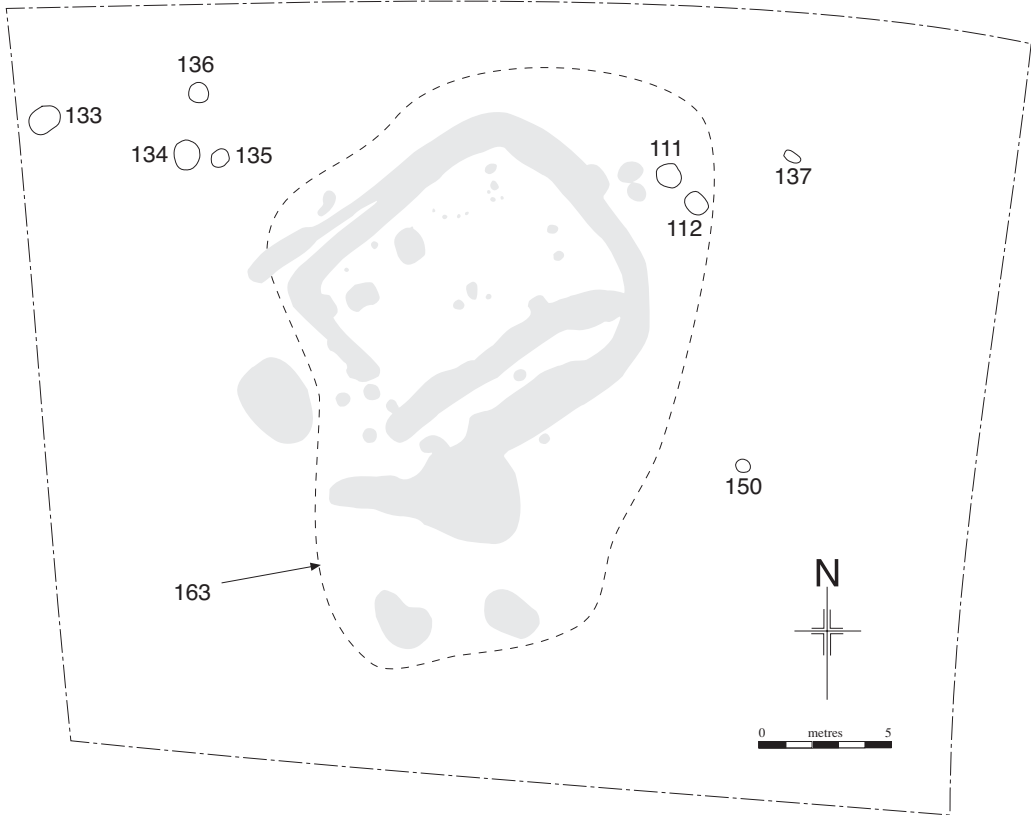


Fig 10 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1994. The area of detailed excavation. The full detail of the stippled area is shown in figure 11.

sufficient finds to confirm their origin and it is also possible that not all were man-made. Contexts 133–135 were all extremely shallow, no more than 0.08m deep, and had similar fills of pale grey/brown clay. One piece of struck flint was recovered from 133, and two pieces accompanied by a calcined flint were recovered from 135. It is possible that these features were shallow pits, but alternatively they may have been simply localised variations in the natural geology into which occasional ‘stray’ finds had been introduced by chance.

Feature 136, either a small pit or a posthole, was a more substantial and convincing feature with three distinct layers of fill (only two appear in the drawn section: fig 14, section 28). The upper fill layer consisted of *c* 0.16m of mid-grey/brown silty clay and overlay *c* 0.20m of mid-dark grey silty clay with charcoal below which was *c* 0.18m of grey/black silty clay with more charcoal. Two pieces of struck flint were found on the surface of the feature, and the only other finds recovered were two pieces of calcined flint from the upper fill.

Feature 137 might also have been a small pit or a posthole. It was *c* 0.25m deep and contained a fill of pale grey/brown clay with a significant patch of dark grey/black clay containing frequent flecks of charcoal (fig 14, section 29). A single piece of struck flint and two pieces of calcined flint were the only finds recovered from this feature.

The flintwork recovered from the site, either from these contexts or present residually elsewhere, consisted mainly of struck flakes and a few tools. It is thought that the majority of this material is of Bronze Age date while a lesser quantity, including two transverse arrowheads, is Neolithic. In addition to these finds a small number of pottery sherds recovered during the excavation from medieval and unstratified contexts were of prehistoric date (see *The pottery*, below).

## PHASE 2: MEDIEVAL (figs 11–14)

The majority of features discovered during the excavation belong to this phase and many were found within the small enclosure created by feature 158. Most of these features were stakeholes and postholes with the latter being supplemented by a number of large features thought to be post pits. The contemporary finds recovered from these features were all of early to mid-13th century date and primarily consisted of pottery sherds, tile fragments and some bone. The pottery mainly consisted of sherds from sandy coarseware vessels and is not mentioned in detail outside the finds report (see *The pottery*, below).

*Layer 211*

Context 211 was a localised area of dark brown/black soil flecked with charcoal, which was revealed after the removal of clearance spit 141. It was initially sampled by the removal of separate portions to the north, 212, and south, 187, of a narrow baulk, that was eventually removed as 211. There was no difference between the fill in each of these areas and all yielded sherds of pottery. Context 211 was a maximum of 0.12m deep overall and appeared to seal features 188 (fig 14, section 24), 197 and part of gully 158. There were no distinct edges to indicate that this context had been a cut feature, and it may have been no more than a spread or dump of soil.

*The stakeholes or small postholes*

Fifteen features have been included in this category because of their profile and/or small size; five of these may simply have been anomalies of natural origin. Features 122, 123, 128 and 138 were the most convincing as stakeholes because they had a small surface diameter, but were between 0.17m (123) and c 0.60m (138) deep. These features all had a fill of dark grey clay loam and in 122, 123 and 128 this was flecked with charcoal and with small specks of red fired clay. A very limited number of finds were recovered from these contexts.

Contexts 121, 153–155, 175 and 202 were all convincing features, but it was less certain whether they had been dug to support small posts or formed by stakes driven into the ground. Four of these features were less than 0.10m deep while 153 and 202 were 0.14 and 0.26m deep respectively. The fills of these features were either grey or grey/brown clay loam, but only two produced any finds and these consisted of two fragments of baked clay from 121 and some fragments of tile from 153. Feature 175 may have cut or been cut by 173, but as 175 was extremely shallow (0.04m) and both features had similar fills, no physical relationship could be determined with certainty.

Features 179 and 205–208 may either have been stakeholes or they were not genuine features. These were discovered in the base of segments 196 and 174 of feature 171 and all had fills of pale to mid-grey clay, which produced no finds. Given their location it is difficult to see what function these features could have served and their fills bore no resemblance to that of 171, which was extremely dark with much charcoal. Although visible as a variation in the surrounding natural clay and recorded during their excavation as stakeholes, it seems most likely that these ‘features’ were no more than localised variations in the natural geology.

*The postholes*

Twenty-one features are included under this heading on the basis of their size and/or profile though three of these, 149, 164 and 168, were extremely shallow (0.05, 0.06 and 0.07m deep respectively) and were not entirely convincing as features; none of these three contexts produced any finds. The majority of the remaining features were between 0.10 and 0.20m deep (108, 110, 124, 127, 132, 148, 160, 161, 165, 222 and 223), while 109, 119, 151, 172, 186, 190 and 216 were deeper (0.40, 0.55, 0.36, 0.27, 0.33, 0.44 and 0.30m respectively). Most of these postholes contained fills of mid-dark grey/brown clay, with the remainder being either slightly lighter or darker than this, and many contained flecks of charcoal (sometimes quite

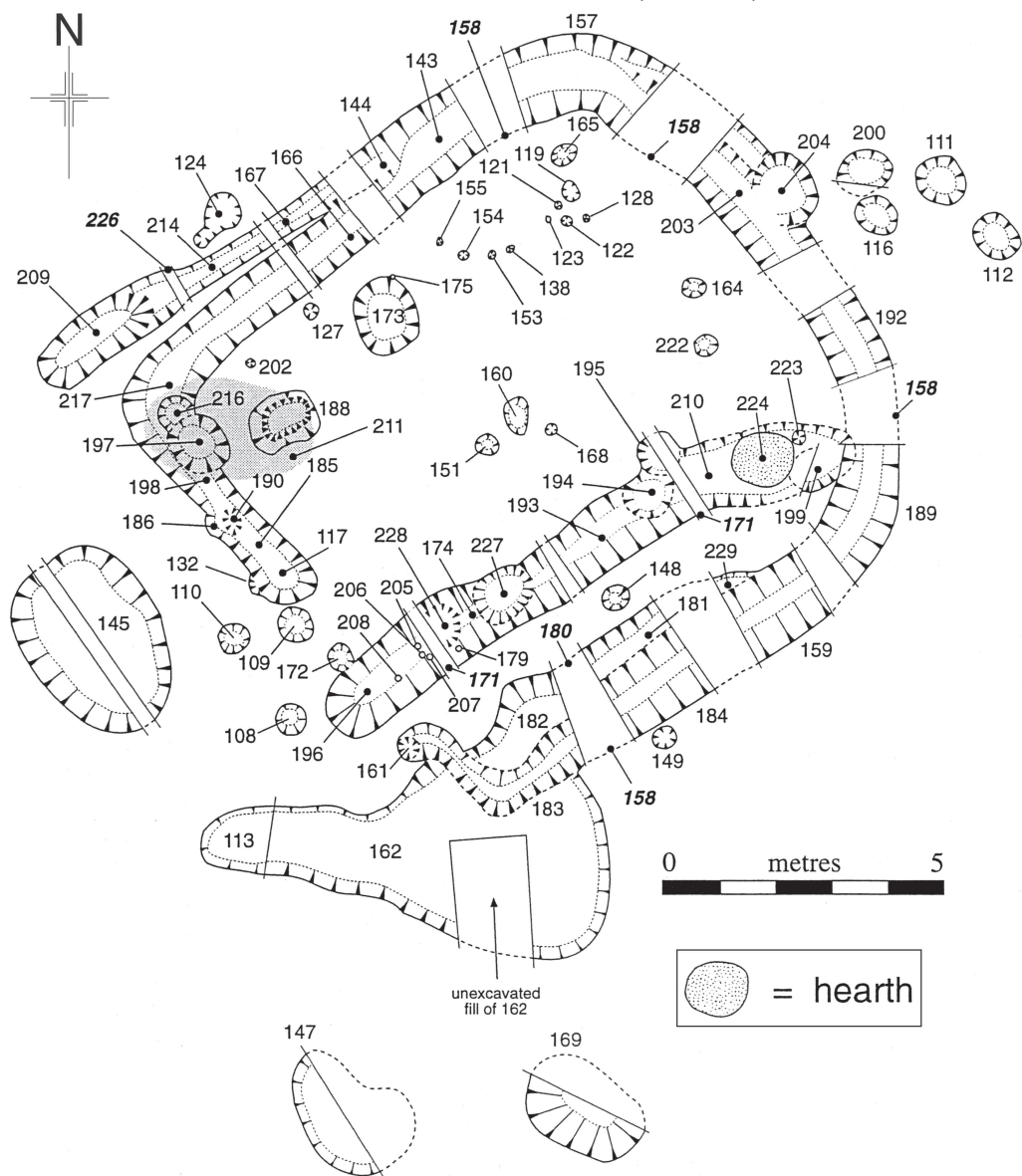


Fig 11 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1994. Detail plan of the principal features.

frequent) and small red specks of fired clay. Finds were not forthcoming in quantity from any of these features, but some yielded a small number of pottery sherds and/or pieces of tile or fragments of baked clay/daub; a horseshoe nail (probably of 13th century date) was recovered from 109 and some fragments of bone were recovered from 186. No finds were recovered from 124, 127, 160, 164, 165, 168, 172, 190, 222 and 223, and 151 yielded just a single sherd of Roman greyware, but there was little doubt from the nature of their fills that these features were more or less contemporary with the others discussed in this section. Most of these features were quite straightforward, though seven require some further mention here.

Feature 124 was noteworthy simply because its southern side was poorly defined and gradually sloped upwards away from the centre. It is possible that this was due to the post having fallen towards the south where it might subsequently have decomposed on the ground

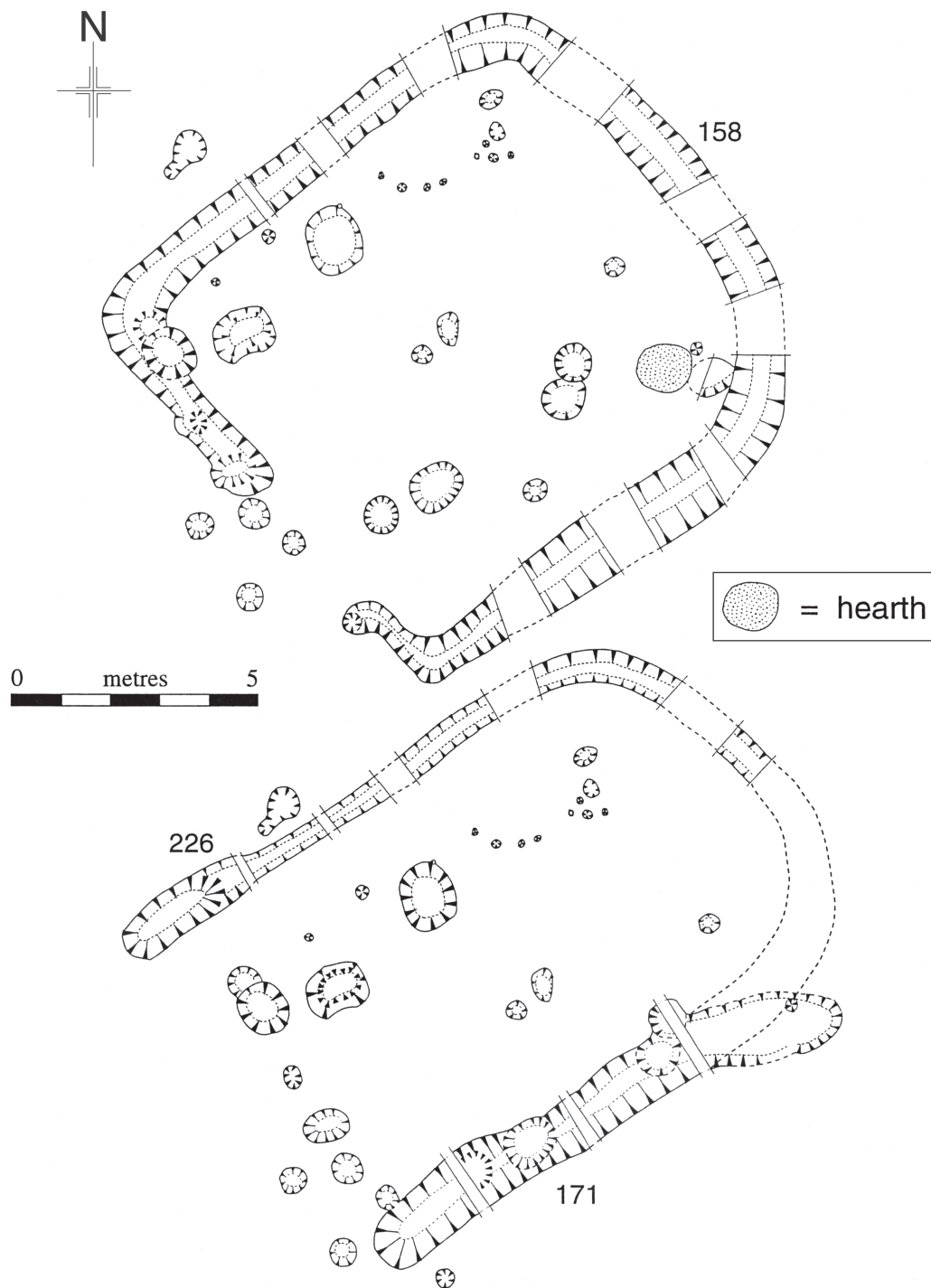


Fig 12 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1994. A hypothetical illustration which separates 158 from 171 and 226 and suggests how these features might relate to two distinct structures.

surface. Feature 132 was clearly cut by gully segment 117 and feature 161 cut segment 183 of 158. Posthole 165 was the only one of the features described in this section to show any evidence of a post pipe; this was clearly defined as a central core of very dark charcoal-rich fill surrounded by a packing deposit of grey/brown clay. Posthole 172 may have cut or been cut by segment 196 of feature 171, but the overlap between these features was so slight that no physical relationship could be determined.

Posthole 186 was discovered during the excavation of segment 185 of feature 158 when much of the fill of the latter had been removed. What remained of the posthole, however, appeared to cut the fill of 185, but no relationship could be determined between either of these contexts and a further posthole (190), which was discovered only when the excavation of 185 and 186 was nearly complete. All that can be said for 190 is that its basal fill was lighter in colour than that of 185 or 186, and it was about 0.12m deeper than 186.

Similarly, feature 216 was discovered during the excavation of post pit 197 and was clearly cut by 197. The relationship of 216 to segment 217 of feature 158 was less certain as initially it appeared to have been sealed by the upper fill (217A) of 217 though at a lower level it seemed to cut 217. The fill of 216, however, contained pieces of flint and lumps of baked clay or daub similar to that found in abundance in 217A, so there seems little doubt that 216 was the later feature.

### *The post pits*

At least three of the features excavated are thought to have been used as post pits, and these have been separated from the ordinary postholes described above on the basis of their overall size and/or internal stratigraphy. Four further features discovered during the excavation of feature 171 are also thought to have been used to support substantial posts (194, 195, 227 and 228); these are best described at the same time as the excavation of that feature even though they may never have been part of it (see *Feature 171*, below).

Feature 173 was a large pit roughly 0.57m deep that contained clear evidence of a post pipe and various fill deposits (fig 14, section 25). The fill was removed as four contexts: 173A, the uppermost 0.10m of fill across the whole feature irrespective of the underlying stratigraphy; 173B, the central upper part (final infilling) of the post pipe which was distinguished by the presence of redeposited yellow clay with much tile; 173C, the basal fill of the posthole which was a black, charcoal-rich, silty loam with specks of fired clay and some sherds of pottery; and 173D, the major part of which consisted of very compacted redeposited grey or orange brickearth with lenses of gritty sand and is thought to have been rammed packing material. The latter fill contained occasional flecks of charcoal and small pieces (with the occasional larger lump) of baked clay, but otherwise was the only layer not to yield any finds. Sherds of pottery, pieces of tile, a small quantity of slag and two fragments of bone were recovered from the other contexts.

Pit 188 is included in this section because it lay between features of comparable size, 173 and 197, both of which contained distinct post pipes. It did not appear to contain any such evidence itself and may have been used for an entirely different purpose to that suggested here, but the physical similarities between it and those two neighbouring features suggest that all may have served the same function. Initially it appeared that 188 might cut layer 211 as trowelling revealed the presence of a feature at this point, but during excavation it seemed more likely that the feature was sealed by 211 as indicated in section 24 (fig 14). Pit 188 was found to contain three distinct layers of fill: 188A, a mixed orange/black sandy loam containing frequent flecks of charcoal with occasional specks of red burnt clay and occasional small lumps of chalk; 188B, a dark charcoal-rich layer; and 188C, a light brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal fragments and specks of red burnt clay; the feature had a maximum depth of 0.48m. Finds were recovered from each of these layers but they were combined during excavation under the single number 188. The finds consisted of sherds of pottery, pieces of tile and several fragments of bone.

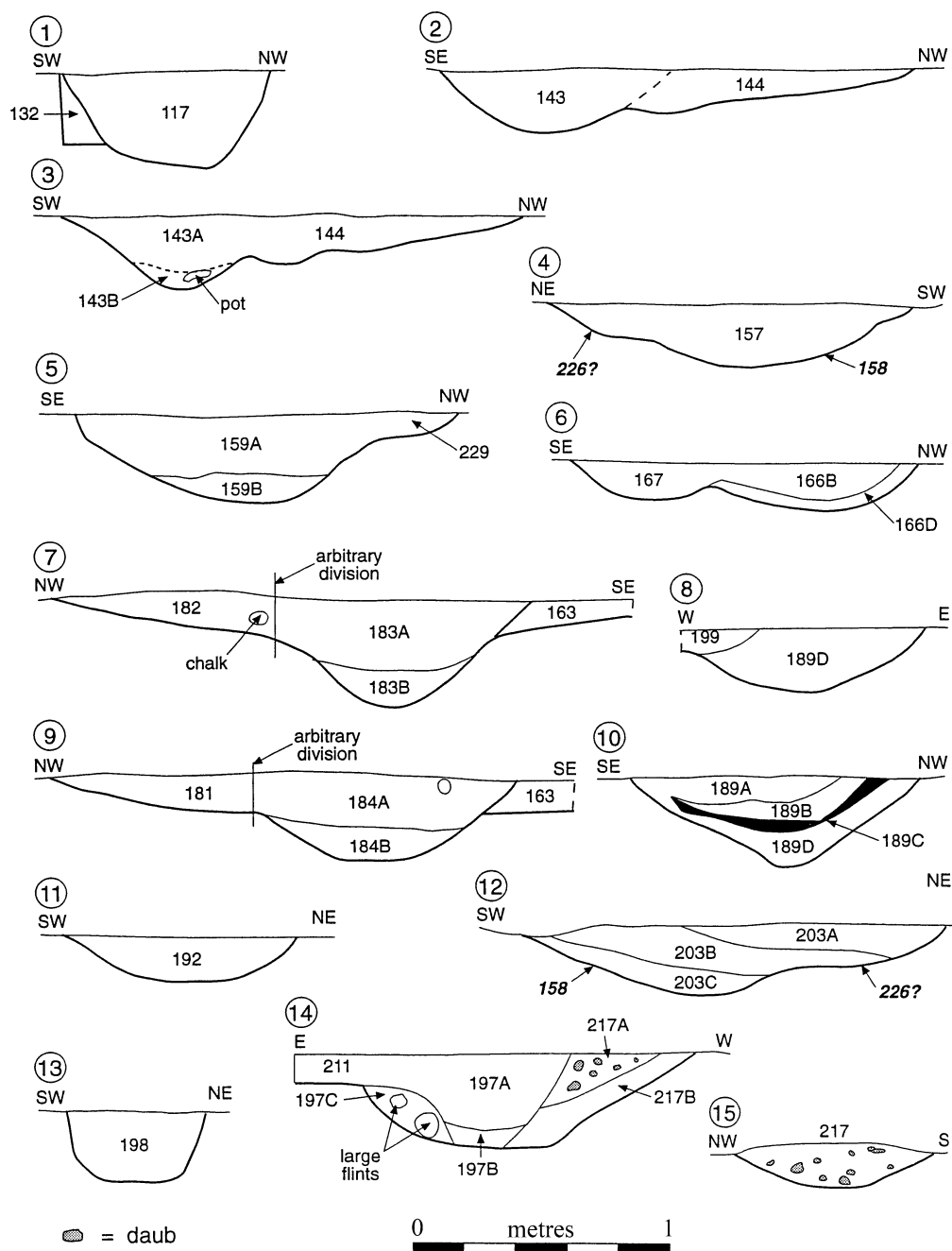


Fig 13 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1994. A selection of section drawings relating to the excavation of gully 158.

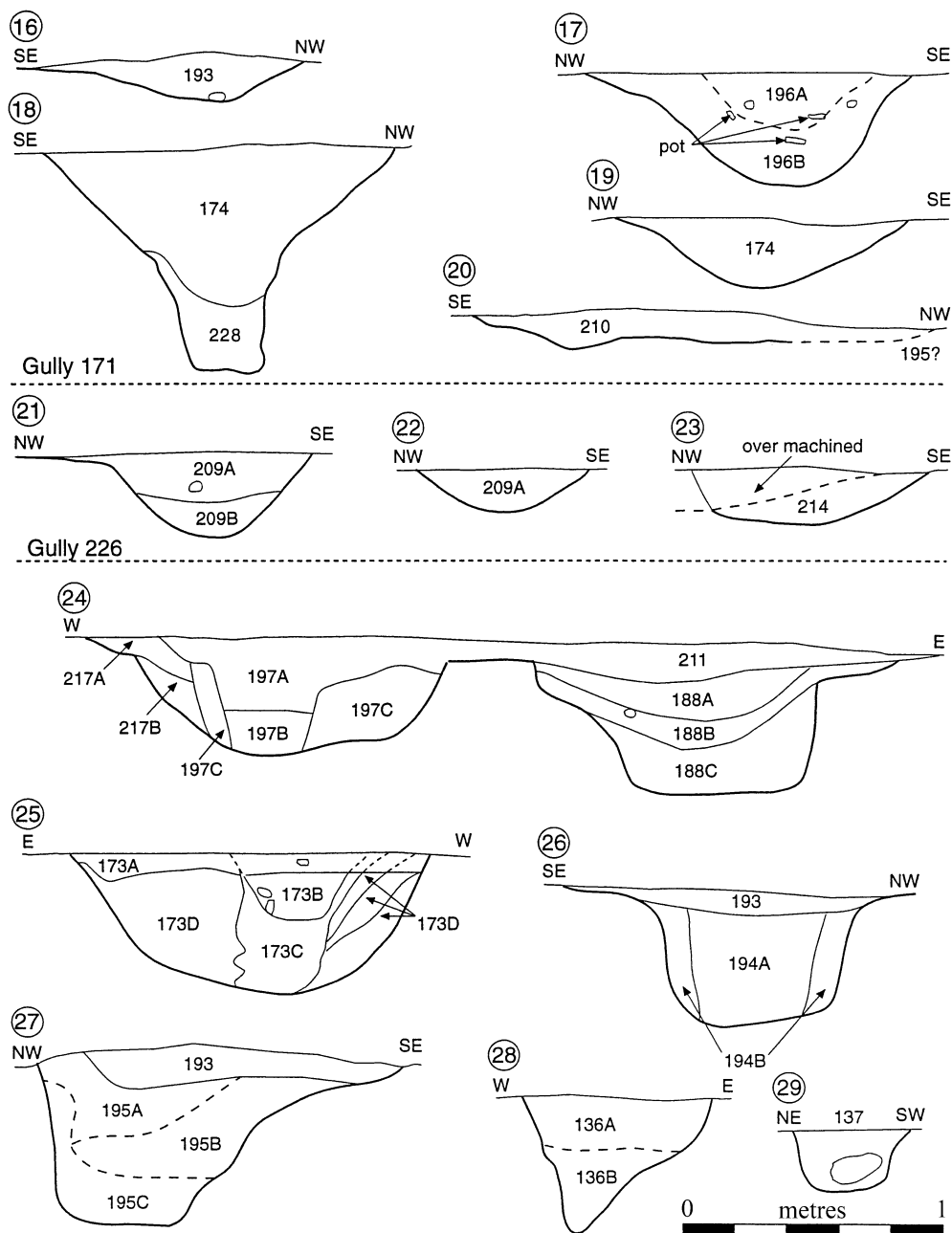


Fig 14 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1994. A selection of section drawings from the excavation of gullies 171 and 226; the post pits or possible post pits 188, 194, 195 and 197, and the possible prehistoric features 136 and 137.

Feature 197 was discovered after the removal of hollow 211 and was seen to cut gully 158 and posthole 216. Sections through this 0.50m-deep feature revealed the presence of a post pipe and three distinct layers of fill: 197A, a dark grey/black soil filling the upper part of the post pipe and not distinguishable from layer 211; 197B, a patchy yellow/brown clay with small lumps of red burnt clay filling the lower part of the post pipe; and 197C, compacted lumps of flint (including one large double fist-sized lump on the base of the feature and probably adjacent to the post) which was presumably used as packing (fig 13, section 14). Numerous sherds of pottery were recovered from 197A, but 197B and 197C yielded much less material; an iron nail was also recovered from 197A.

### *The 'hollows' or shallow pits*

The contexts described in this section filled shallow hollows some or all of which might have been deliberately cut, but owing to their depth and in some cases irregular appearance it was not always possible to determine their origin. Context 145 had the appearance of a large oval pit when first exposed and it was expected to be a substantial feature. It contained a single fill of very dark grey/black/brown clay loam, but surprisingly, this was found to be no more than 0.15m deep. The feature yielded numerous sherds of pottery, several fragments of roof and floor tile and a small quantity of bone most of which came from the central area in the top 50mm of fill. This context also produced a whetstone (of early medieval type), fragments from a horseshoe, a horseshoe nail and part of a spur (probably of mid-13th to late 14th century, 13th century and early 14th century date respectively). These finds were recovered from the junction of clearance layer 141 and the surface of 145.

Feature 147 was again initially thought likely to be a large pit. It had a dark charcoal-rich fill similar to that of 145 though here the dark soil was mixed with patches of lighter brown clay loam. The fill contained a small quantity of angular burnt flints, but yielded only a small number of pottery sherds, a tile fragment and several fragments of baked clay. It occupied a shallow hollow no more than 0.10m deep within layer 163, with the base of the feature lying on the surface of the natural clay.

The largest of the hollows was divided into three main areas, namely 113, which had a linear appearance and was first encountered in trial trench 7; 162, the main part of the feature; and 180, which occurred on the northern side of gully 158. Hollow 113 contained a fill of dark charcoal-rich soil with specks of red burnt clay and had a small quantity of small angular flints lying at the base of the fill on the surface of the natural. Hollow 162 reached a maximum depth of 0.15m, this being the deepest part of the feature overall, and contained a similar fill to 113 though with fewer flints and an increased proportion of small pieces of burnt clay. Hollow 180 was similar to 162 although it appeared marginally lighter in colour and, where excavated, it was subdivided into three areas, 181, 182 and 229. Despite these numerical and minor physical differences there was no indication that the different elements of this feature were not all contemporary. After trowelling, it was clear that gully 158 ran into the area occupied by 162 and 180, but the fill at that point appeared uniform. Consequently a trench was dug through the eastern part of 162 and the western part of 180 so that the relationship between these contexts could be examined. The segment of 158 encountered at this point was numbered 183 and finds from this were collected as 183A and 183B. In section, however, there was no discernible difference between 162, 182 and 183A all of which appeared to be part of the same overall layer, and finds attributed to these contexts during excavation were done so on an arbitrary basis and should now be considered together as part of the same layer. However, a relationship was established between 183A and the subsoil layer 163, the latter being cut by the former (fig 13, section 7). The north-east facing section was later removed and segment 183 was traced to its termination. Similarly, no distinction was visible between 184A and 181 or between 159A and 229 to the north-east (fig 13, sections 9 and 5). Pottery was recovered in some quantity from 162 and 183A with lesser amounts being recovered from 113, 181, 182 and 184A. An iron nail



was recovered from 162 and another was recovered from 182/183A; 162 also produced a small quantity of bone.

When first exposed, feature 169 appeared as a roughly oval area of dark charcoal-rich soil containing frequent small lumps of red burnt clay. The quantity of burnt clay suggested that this feature might have been the remains of a hearth, but no trace of a baked 'surface' of the type usually associated with *in-situ* burning was discovered during excavation. The feature contained a single layer of fill throughout and yielded a few sherds of pottery. It appeared to have been cut through layer 163 and marginally into the surface of the natural but was no more than 0.10m deep overall.

### *The other pits*

The five pits discussed here were all located close to one another on the north-eastern side of gully 158 and are of limited interest. Pit 111 was 0.22m deep and contained an homogeneous fill of grey/brown clay soil flecked with charcoal that yielded several sherds of medieval pottery and a fragment of floor tile. Pit 112 was 0.15m deep and had a similar fill to 111 although here this was speckled with small fragments of red burnt clay; the feature yielded a single large sherd of medieval pottery and three small lumps of daub. Pit 116 was only 0.10m deep and again had a fill of grey/brown clay flecked with charcoal and speckled with small fragments of burnt clay. Two large sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the fill and beneath one of these two small carbonised cereal grains were observed. Unfortunately these were lost after the excavation. Pit 200 was extremely shallow, just 0.06m in depth, but it had a fill of grey/brown clay soil, which yielded several sherds of medieval pottery.

Pit 204 was examined in a section that initially ran through the centre of it and through segment 203 of gully 158 before it was extended. It was suspected during excavation that 204 might have cut 203, but this was not demonstrated satisfactorily. In section, the upper fill layer appeared common to both features and there was only a marginal distinction between the underlying layers present in each. Two pottery sherds were collected from 204, one of which was of Iron Age date. It might be thought significant that two sherds of Iron Age pottery were also recovered from 203 (undoubtedly a medieval feature), as it is possible that the finds belonging to these two contexts were mixed during excavation. As no other features of Iron Age date were identified on site, and as the pits adjacent to 204 were all of medieval date, there is no reason to suspect that 204 might be an Iron Age feature.

### *Feature 171*

Feature 171 is difficult to describe and interpret because of its overall irregularity. When first exposed it appeared to be a gully or trench containing a predominantly black charcoal-rich fill interspersed with occasional patches of dark grey/brown soil. At the south-western end segment 196 reached a maximum depth of 0.46m and contained three deposits of fill. These were: 196A, a medium to dark grey/brown clay soil flecked with charcoal and containing a moderate quantity of small chalk blocks most of which showed through the surface of the fill; 196B, a predominantly black clay loam which was similar to 196A; and 196C, a light to medium grey/brown clay soil with patches of darker grey silty clay and lighter cream coloured clay. Fill 196C was present from the surface to the base of the segment, but only in its south-western part and, therefore, does not appear in section 17 (fig 14). There was no clear distinction between 196C and the other two layers as they tended to merge where they met. Quite frequent sherds of pottery were recovered from 196A and 196B, but 196C yielded a much smaller amount. Some dubious 'stakeholes' (205–208) were excavated in the bottom of segment 196, but, as noted above, it seems unlikely that these were man-made features.

The adjacent segment, 174, was more complicated and deepened steadily towards the south-west from a depth of 0.30m at its north-eastern end. The main fill encountered throughout this segment was patchy and was excavated as a single context using the same number as that issued for the segment. It might be the case that two layers were present here, a mid-dark grey/brown silty clay with flecks of charcoal (similar to 196B), but although there was some suggestion of this, particularly at the north-eastern end of the segment, the mixed nature of the fill made it impossible to be certain of any such distinction during excavation (fig 14, section 19). Numerous sherds of pottery were found throughout this layer and small quantities of tile and bone were also recovered. Several large chalk lumps, similar to those found in 196A, were discovered in the upper part of the fill close to the northern side of the feature. Beneath 174, a thin deposit of mixed natural and grey silty clay with flecks of red burnt clay was discovered in the central region of the segment and this was found to be the surviving basal fill of a flat-bottomed pit or post pit, 227. No finds were recovered from this deposit. Segment 174 reached its maximum depth of 0.65m at the north-east facing section where it cut the substantial posthole 228 (fig 14, section 18). The remaining fill of 228, a dark grey/black charcoal-rich clay soil that extended to a depth of 0.92m below the surface of the natural, produced no finds. On the southern side of 228 a possible stakehole (179) was excavated in the side of 174. This was not a convincing feature, however, and in common with similar dubious stakeholes found in the base of 196, is thought unlikely to have been man-made.

To the north-east of segment 174, feature 171 became increasingly shallow and produced fewer finds throughout segments 193 and 210, being a maximum of 0.20 and 0.12m deep in each respectively (fig 14, sections 16 and 20). The fill within 193 was again patchy and consisted of dark grey/black and brown silty clay soil with charcoal. This material was similar to the main fill removed from 174, and its mixed appearance here indicated that the layering suspected within 174 and noted within 196 was of little significance. Two postholes (194 and 195) were discovered during the excavation of segment 193. The presence of 195 was indicated by a distinct bulge on the northern side of 171, but there was no indication of the presence of 194. After surface trowelling, neither posthole appeared to cut 193. Posthole 194 contained two distinct fills: a central core of dark grey/black clay soil with frequent fragments of charcoal and occasional specks of red burnt clay, 194A, and an outer 'casing' of compact pale grey clay, 194B (fig 14, section 26). The former indicates the position occupied by a timber post within the feature and the latter, packing material around it. This posthole was approximately 0.50m deep below the base of 193 and yielded a single sherd of pottery from 194A. By contrast, no clear post pipe was observed within 195, but instead three layers of fill were identified (fig 14, section 27). The uppermost fill (195A) was a black charcoal-rich soil that produced several sherds of pottery and was difficult to distinguish from 193. It overlay a mixed layer of light yellow sandy clay and pale grey silty clay (195B), which produced several sherds of pottery (these were combined with those from 195A during excavation), and this in turn overlay a compact layer of pale green/grey clay (195C) that produced no finds. Posthole 195 was approximately 0.68m deep and was steep-sided with a flat base. Despite the clear internal differences between it and 194, the size and shape of 195 indicates that it was probably a posthole or post pit rather than simply a pit of non-specific function. No physical relationship could be established between the two during their excavation as the overlap of these features was minimal.

The fill of 210 was the same as that of 193, but the full extent of this remains uncertain as it became increasingly shallow towards the hearth 224 until no distinct cut edges to the feature were visible. This is indicated on figure 11 by the change from a solid to a dashed edge with the latter simply indicating the presence of a surface smear of dark soil at this point. It was not clear whether there was any direct connection or relationship between 210 and the dark charcoal-rich soil covering 224, and no relationship could be established between the smear of dark soil and the small posthole 223. To the east of 224, the reappearance of a shallow cut edge and a slightly greater depth of dark soil (shown on fig 11 as 199) suggested

that 210 may have been present at this point, though it is also possible that this was an unconnected feature with a similar fill. The fill of 199 appeared to cut segment 189 of gully 158.

### *The hearth*

This feature (224) was discovered during the excavation of 210 as initially its dark charcoal-rich cover fill was thought to be part of 210. No relationship could be established between the two contexts owing to the shallowness of 210 and the similarity of the two fills. The removal of the cover soil exposed a hard red/black surface, which was clearly the product of intense heat on the surface of the natural clay. A single sherd of medieval pottery, a tile fragment and a small quantity of baked clay or daub was recovered from the surface of the hearth.

### *Gully 158*

This feature, a D-shaped gully, was sampled by the excavation of thirteen segments: 117, 143, 157, 159, 166, 183, 184, 185, 189, 192, 198, 203 and 217. The subsequent extension of original sections and the removal of baulks eventually led to 117, 185, 198 and 217 becoming one continuous segment. The excavated segments varied in width between 1.60 (159 and 203) and 0.65m (185), and in depth between 0.45 (183) and 0.20m (192 and the north-eastern end of 217). These segments are described below going clockwise from segment 117 on the northern side of the entrance opening.

Context 117 was first encountered during trial trenching when it was half-sectioned and found to cut the posthole 132 (fig 13, section 1). At this stage it was thought to be a large pit, but later clearance work and the excavation of segment 185, which had an identical fill of dark grey/brown clay soil, indicated that it was the northern termination of gully 158. The excavation of 185 led to the discovery of postholes 186 and 190; the former might have cut 185 (see above). Segment 198 was dug as an extension to 185 so, not surprisingly, the fill here was the same; this segment was clearly cut by post pit 197. The excavation of segment 217, however, showed it to vary in fill and depth along its length. At its north-eastern end this segment had a maximum depth of 0.20m, but its depth increased steadily towards the south-west reaching approximately 0.40m at the point where it was cut by post pit 197 (figs 13 and 14: sections 14 and 24). For most of its length 217 contained a mixed fill of grey/brown clay soil and yellow redeposited clay with frequent small lumps of flint and daub (217A), but in the vicinity of 197 this was found to overlie a layer of fill which was the same as that seen throughout 198 (217B). Segment 217 may also have been cut by another posthole, 216 (see above). Sherds of pottery were recovered from 117, 185, 198 and 217; occasional fragments of tile were recovered from 117, 198 and 217; a small quantity of bone was recovered from 117, 185 and 198, and a horseshoe nail (probably of 13th century date) was recovered from 117.

When first excavated, segment 143 was approximately 0.50m shorter than indicated on plan and there was a slight suggestion in each section that it may have cut segment 144 of gully 226 (the latter having a marginally lighter coloured grey/brown silty clay fill than 143) (fig 13, section 2). To test this possible relationship the north-east facing section was extended and the additional fill was carefully removed. Although the basal profile confirmed the presence of 144, no significant distinction was observed between its fill and that of 143, and in the additional north-east facing section no evidence of any relationship could be seen. In the lowest part of 143, however, traces of a previously undetected paler-coloured deposit, 143B, were discovered (fig 13, section 3). To the south-west of 144 no clear relationship was established between 166 and segment 167 of 226 (fig 13, section 6). Four different fills at this point were attributed to context 166, though the uppermost of these, 166A, which was only present in the vicinity of the north-east facing section and also appeared to overlie 167, was

no more than a remnant of plough-soil. At the north-eastern end a very dark grey/brown/black silty clay soil (166B), overlay a basal deposit of mid-grey/brown silty clay, 166D. Towards the south-west, 166B overlay 166C, a mixture of soil and redeposited yellow clay with flints and fragments of daub equivalent to 217A, and this overlay 166D. Fairly numerous sherds of pottery and some fragments of bone were recovered from 143, but only occasional sherds were recovered from 166A and 166B.

Segment 157 contained a single deposit of yellow/grey clay and is noteworthy simply because of the dual profile revealed at the eastern end (fig 13, section 4). This was also observed at the north-western end of segment 203, but in contrast to 157 three layers of fill were identified in 203 (fig 13, section 12). These layers were 203A, a 'dirty' orange/brown silty clay (not appearing in the north-west facing section probably as a result of truncation during machining), 203B, a mid-grey silty clay with flecks of charcoal, and 203C, a primary deposit of 'dirty' orange/grey silty clay. Fills 203A and 203B appeared to be common to both parts of the dual profile mentioned, while 203C was only found in the wider, deeper part on the western side. The relationship between 203 and pit 204 was not satisfactorily resolved during excavation (see above). Sherds of pottery were recovered from 157 and 203, and a horseshoe nail (probably of 13th century date) was recovered from 203A.

Segment 192 contained an homogeneous deposit of orange/grey clay and was quite unremarkable, but to the south of this some minor fill variations were observed at the south-western end of segment 189. Here an upper fill of dark grey/brown silty soil, 189A, overlay a diffuse band of mixed soil and redeposited orange/yellow clay, 189B. This overlay a dark grey charcoal-rich lens of silty clay with flecks of fired clay (189C), which in turn overlay a yellow/grey silty clay soil 189D (fig 13, section 10). At the northern end of this segment only 189D was present, the other deposits having faded out. Occasional sherds of pottery were recovered from 189A, 189C and 189D, and 189A and 189C also yielded a small quantity of bone. The north-western corner of 189 appeared to have been cut by 199 (see *Feature 171*, above).

Two layers of fill were identified within 159 and these were an upper fill of grey/brown clayey soil (159A) and a compact primary deposit of paler coloured yellow/grey silty clay, which was most noticeable at the south-western end of the segment 159B. The majority of finds recovered came from the top 0.10–0.15m of 159A and none was recovered from 159B. The fill of 229 (part of 180, see above) on the north-western corner of 159 appeared the same as that nominally identified as 159A, and the same situation occurred to the south-west in segments 183 and 184, where 162 and 182 appeared identical to 183A and 181 appeared identical to 184A (fig 13, sections 7 and 9). In both 183 and 184 a primary deposit equivalent to 159B was discovered and of these only 183B yielded any finds. Segment 183 was cut by posthole 161.

### *Gully 226*

This feature merged with gully 158 on its northern side, but no relationship could be established between its segments 144 and 167 and segments 143 and 166 of 158 (as noted above). Segments 144, 167 and 214 were narrow and shallow (the deepest, 144, was a maximum of 0.20m deep) and contained a single fill deposit of grey/brown silty clay soil (figs 13 and 14, sections 2, 3, 6 and 23). In the terminal segment, 209, the feature widened and deepened to reach a maximum depth of 0.40m. Two distinct layers of fill, 209A, which appeared identical to the single deposit encountered in the other segments, and 209B, a layer of dark grey silty clay, were identified during the excavation of this segment with the latter only filling the deeper area indicated on plan (fig 14, sections 21 and 22). Sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from segments 144, 209 (those originating in layers A and B were, unfortunately, combined during excavation) and 214, a large fragment of roof tile was recovered from 209A, and an iron horseshoe nail (probably of 13th century date) was recovered from 209A.

*Subsoil layer 163*

This layer had been left *in situ* in the central part of the site area, but elsewhere had been cleared during machining. The remainder was removed once the features that cut it had been excavated; this led to the recovery of further sherds of medieval pottery but produced no additional features. The layer is presumably the remains of an ancient soil deposit that formed prior to the use of the site in the early medieval period and thus it may pre-date this phase.

## PHASE 3: MODERN (fig 10)

Two modern features (150 and 225) were discovered during the excavation: both were postholes of similar size and shape.

**The pottery,** by Phil Jones

## PREHISTORIC

There are six sherds that are certainly of prehistoric date, and seven that are of prehistoric or Roman date; all were recovered from medieval or later contexts. A variety of fabric types are represented, but only two sherds are of types previously found in Bronze Age features in the school grounds (see above). These are a sherd tempered with calcined flint and another with some quartz sand, both from the machined topsoil. Although some of the others may also be of Bronze Age date, the fabric types are more like those found in Iron Age assemblages of the region. They include three grog-tempered sherds (unstratified), one with grog and some quartz sand (unstratified), three sherds with sand and sparse flint temper that are Iron Age or Roman (unstratified except for one from subsoil context 163); a chaff-tempered sherd with sparse sand that is of the local Iron Age type rather than a Saxon one (from gully 158); a Roman or Iron Age rim sherd of a handmade storage jar in a sand and slightly grog-tempered fabric (from gully 158), and a similar sherd but with finer sand (from pit 204).

## ROMAN

Twenty sherds, and perhaps some of those described above, are of Roman fabric types. They were all redeposited in medieval and later contexts. Sixteen are of ubiquitous grey or grey/brown sandy wares, including the beaded rims of two cordon-necked jars (from gully 158 and unstratified), and part of the neck of another (from gully 158). There are also two fine grey body sherds, a small fragment of samian, and part of the pouring spout of a Verulamium region mortarium (from pit 197). It is interesting to note that among the twenty Roman sherds previously found in the school grounds was a stamped rim of a similar mortarium (see above and fig 9, no 10). Most, if not all, of these sherds are of late 1st or early 2nd century date.

## MEDIEVAL

Of nearly 3000 sherds collected, 85% came from medieval features, including the three gullies, a hearth, five hollows, twenty-one pits and postholes, and a remnant of what may have been an occupation layer. Serial deposits were found in a few features, and the finds of each of these were analysed separately, but unfortunately, it had not often been possible to determine the sequence of intercutting features during the course of the excavation.

Thirteen fabric types were identified and quantified by count and Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) within each context assemblage, but as few as nine wares are probably represented, with five having fewer than ten sherds apiece. Most of the pottery is sand-tempered (75% by weight, 72% by EVEs), a coarse shell-tempered ware represents between 16 and 20%, and the rest is of various poly-tempered types (7 or 8%), or rare oxidised jug fabrics (less than 1%).

There are two aspects of note in regard to the collection. The first is that it could represent the assemblage of a short period of use of the site during the early 13th century. The second is that the overwhelming majority of vessels used during that occupation had been cooking pots and storage jars, with surprisingly few bowls, jugs, or other forms.

The following report describes the fabrics and forms of the pottery, summarises the contents of the more important feature assemblages, and concludes with a general discussion.

## FABRICS AND FORMS

### *Poly-tempered wares* (fig 15)

Five fabric types that contain flint, and sometimes chalk and shell inclusions, in addition to quartz sand, account for between 7 and 8% of the collection. No more than this was found in any individual feature, except where several joining sherds are from single vessels. Most features contained none, but have such small assemblages that the absence of such sherds need not be significant. A possible exception is gully 226 with no such sherds in a collection of 44.

### *FLQ1A Flint and quartz sand-tempered ware*

Nine sherds with frequent angular flint fragments ( $c$  0.3–2.0mm, but generally  $c$  0.5–1.5mm), and sparse, sub-rounded quartz sand grains ( $c$  0.2–0.8mm) were found. Two sherds have horizontal finger-impressed ribbon strips, including one from the neck of a storage jar (not illustrated); two others are diagonally combed (including no 3); there are rim sherds from two cooking pot jars (nos 1 and 2). None is glazed. Only one sherd was recovered from a beam-slot gully (context 174 in gully 171). Four sherds from hollow 145 is not an unusually large figure, since the assemblage is of 224 sherds, but two from hollow 169 in a collection of seventeen sherds may be significant, especially since nine others are of shell-tempered S2 ware. The feature may be relatively early.

The ware is similar to that made at Rush Green, Denham, where close matches for the rim forms, applied ribbons, and, most especially, the diagonal combing of the body, were found among the wasters of cooking pots and storage jars (Farley & Leach 1988). It is present in early 13th century groups at Staines in slightly larger proportions than here (Jones forthcoming), but is just as rare at Chertsey (Jones 1998, 230–1). Distribution seems not to have extended any further into Surrey.

### *QFL fabric types*

These are predominantly tempered with quartz sand, but also contain sparse angular flint and calcareous inclusions. Of two varieties, one contains only sparse inclusions of chalk (QFL1), and the other contains the same, but with sparse amounts of comminuted shell (QFL2). There are roughly equal quantities of both types, and collectively they account for between 5% (EVEs) and 7% (count) of all medieval pottery. It is uncertain whether they represent two different wares, or the varieties of one. Both types are common in late 12th and early 13th century deposits at Staines, but less so at Chertsey (Jones 1998, 230–1).

*QFL1*: 100 sherds, including rim sherds from three wheel-thrown cooking pots (nos 4–6); another rim sherd, possibly from a storage jar, with a finger-impressed rim top (no 7), and two base angles from similar vessels. None is glazed.

*QFL2*: 91 sherds, including 55 small fragments of a wide, finger-impressed ribbon strip from segment 217 of gully 158, and sub-context 129 of the subsoil 163 (not illustrated). Other sherds include 28 from the full profile of a handmade cooking pot (no 9). Another rim sherd may be from a storage jar since, although it has a slightly narrower neck than the cooking pot, it is much thicker walled (no 8). It is also combed along the rim top and has part of a vertical depression starting from the base of the neck.

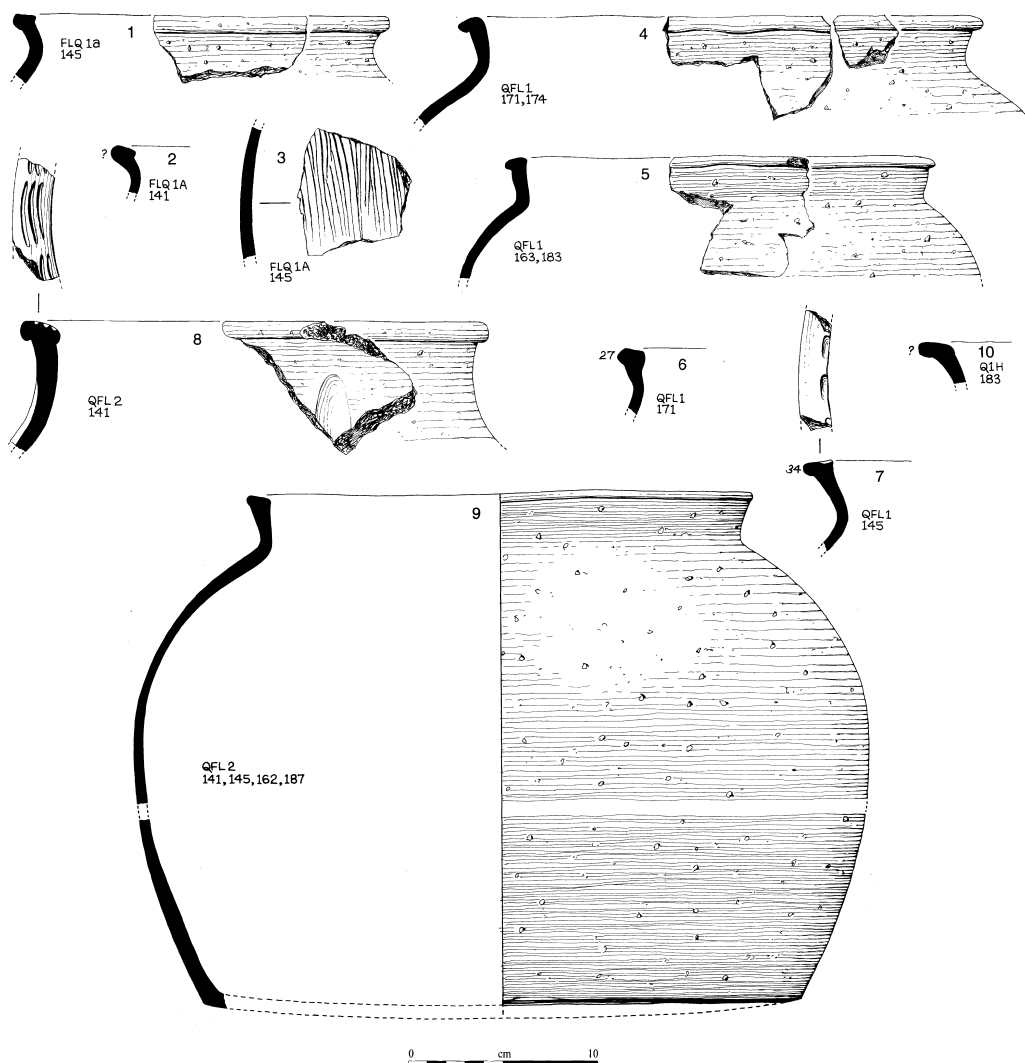


Fig 15 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1994. Medieval pottery, nos 1–10. (Scale 1:4)

### *Q1H sand- and flint-tempered ware*

Fifty-four sherds, predominantly tempered with sub-rounded quartz sand ( $\approx 0.2$ – $0.8$ mm), but with sparse to moderate amounts of angular flint fragments. There are sufficient differences noted both here and at Staines to suggest that these are not merely sandy variants of the FLQ types, although they might represent grittier variants of the Grey/Brown Sandy Ware tradition (see below).

Twenty-eight sherds glazed brown in part, are probably from a single vessel; perhaps a large pitcher or jug. This had been glazed over the inside of the base, and over the outside of the lower body wall. Sherds were recovered from the subsoil 163, hollows 145, 162 and 211, pit 197, and gullies 158 and 171 (not illustrated).

Most other sherds appeared to be from cooking pots or storage jars, of which the only sherd of note is a single rim fragment (no 10).

*Shell-tempered wares* (fig 16, nos 11–28)

## QSH Sand- and shell-tempered fabric

A sherd from posthole 188 is the only example of this fabric from the site. It is a dark grey, wheel-thrown body sherd, with frequent quartz sand grains (*c* 0.4–0.8mm), and moderate amounts of crushed shell, probably of freshwater species.

## S2 Coarse shell-tempered ware

This is the second most common ware in the collection, representing between 16 and 20%. Approximately similar proportions were present in most of the large individual features, and its share of more than a third of the assemblage from gully 158 is solely due to the presence of numerous sherds from a single vessel (no 11).

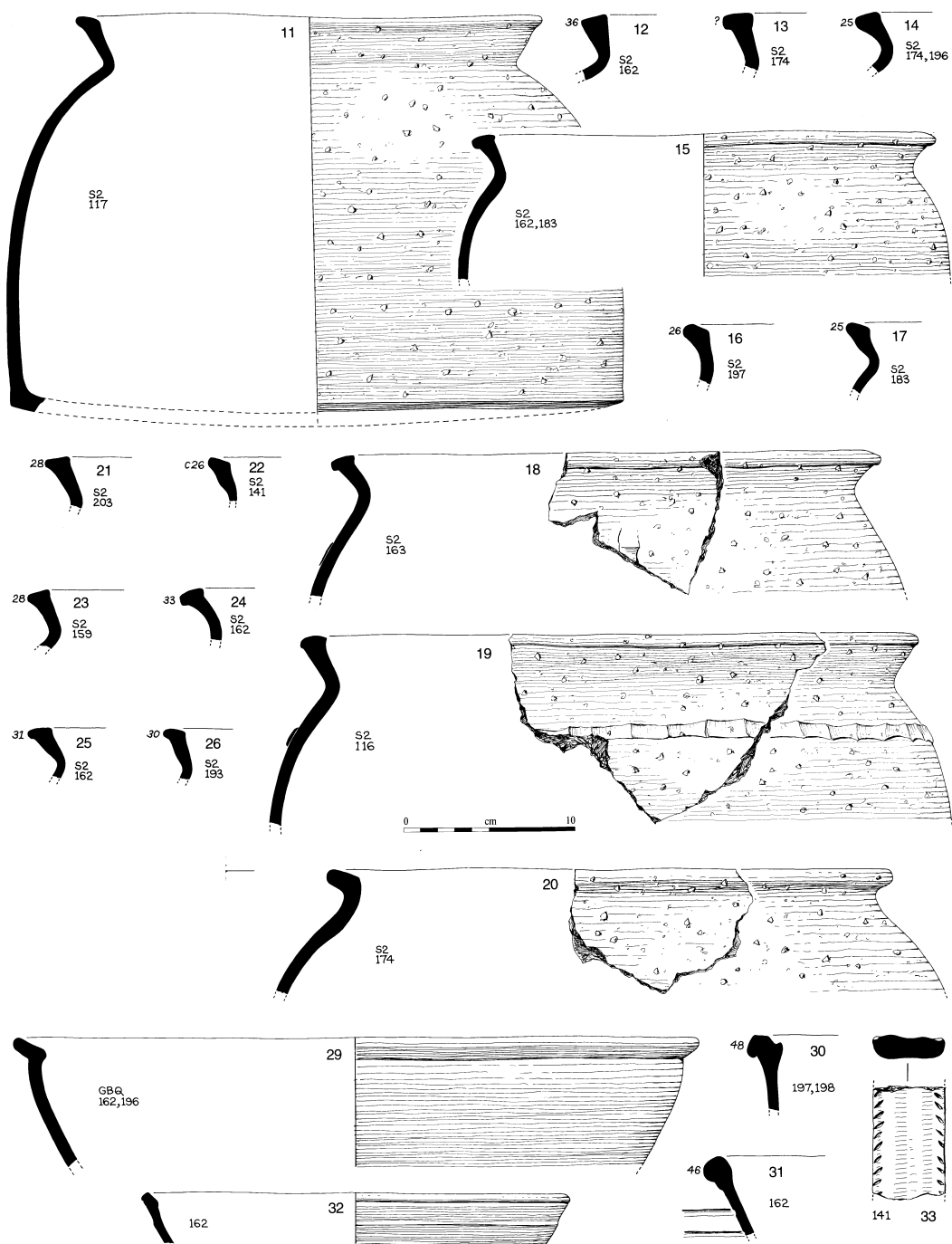
The ware belongs to a ceramic tradition of common currency throughout most parts of Surrey from the 11th to the mid-13th centuries, and which used a temper of crushed contemporary food oyster shell (Jones 1998, 229–30).

All featured sherds in the collection belong to cooking pots or storage jars, and a comparison of the rim forms suggests that at least 23 vessels may be represented. Nearly all had everted rims and squared or rounded beading of their terminations, with or without an internal bevel (nos 11, 13–19, 21–28). One is wedge-shaped (no 12), and another is from a neckless vessel with a short flanged termination (no 20). The beaded types are characteristic of southern English cooking pots of the 12th and 13th centuries, as is the neckless type. Where it was possible to discern from rim and other sherds, most vessels seem to have been finished on a wheel, and, perhaps, had been wholly thrown. This is a characteristic of the later stages of this ceramic tradition. The rims of seventeen vessels could be measured with reasonable accuracy, and showed twelve to have been large, at between 250 and 310mm (measured at the external rim edge), and the rest even larger, up to 380mm. The latter includes both rim sherds with applied finger-impressed ribbon strips on the shoulder, one of which is horizontal (no 19) and the other vertical (no 18), as well as the only neckless vessel with a flanged rim (no 20). The larger vessels may have been intended for storage rather than cooking, and there are another eight body sherds bearing parts of such strips, including seven from a single vessel in hollow 162 (not illustrated).

## Sand-tempered wares (fig 16, nos 29–33; fig 17, nos 34–81)

Seventy-five percent of all pottery from the site has quartz sand as its predominant temper. Some sherds that are mid-dark grey or brown in colour are classified as belonging to the grey/brown sandy ware tradition of Surrey, and a rare few are pale enough to be classified as Surrey Whiteware. The majority fall somewhere in between, and these ‘near-whiteware’ types represent *c* 75% of sand-tempered sherds, and over a half of all pottery from the site. All three varieties contain abundant sub-rounded quartz sand grains (0.4 and 0.8mm average size), but a further sub-division of the grey/brown ware was created to accommodate nearly 200 sherds with smaller and more frequent grains (of between 0.2 and 0.6mm). Thus, four types of sandy fabrics were devised (GBQ, FGBQ, WW and GBQ/WW), and each have been described and quantified separately. It is recognised that this is an artificial division, however, and that these sandy ware sherds are more likely to have belonged to a continuum of tempering and firing practice that operated and developed within a conservative tradition of ceramic manufacture. The proportions of each of the four types are approximately similar in most of the larger feature assemblages, with no significant absences. The few ‘true’ whiteware sherds were recovered from only one feature, gully 158, where they represent between 2 and 3% of a collection of 461 sherds. All fourteen sherds were from only one segment of the gully 157, however, and from a single glazed jug (not illustrated).





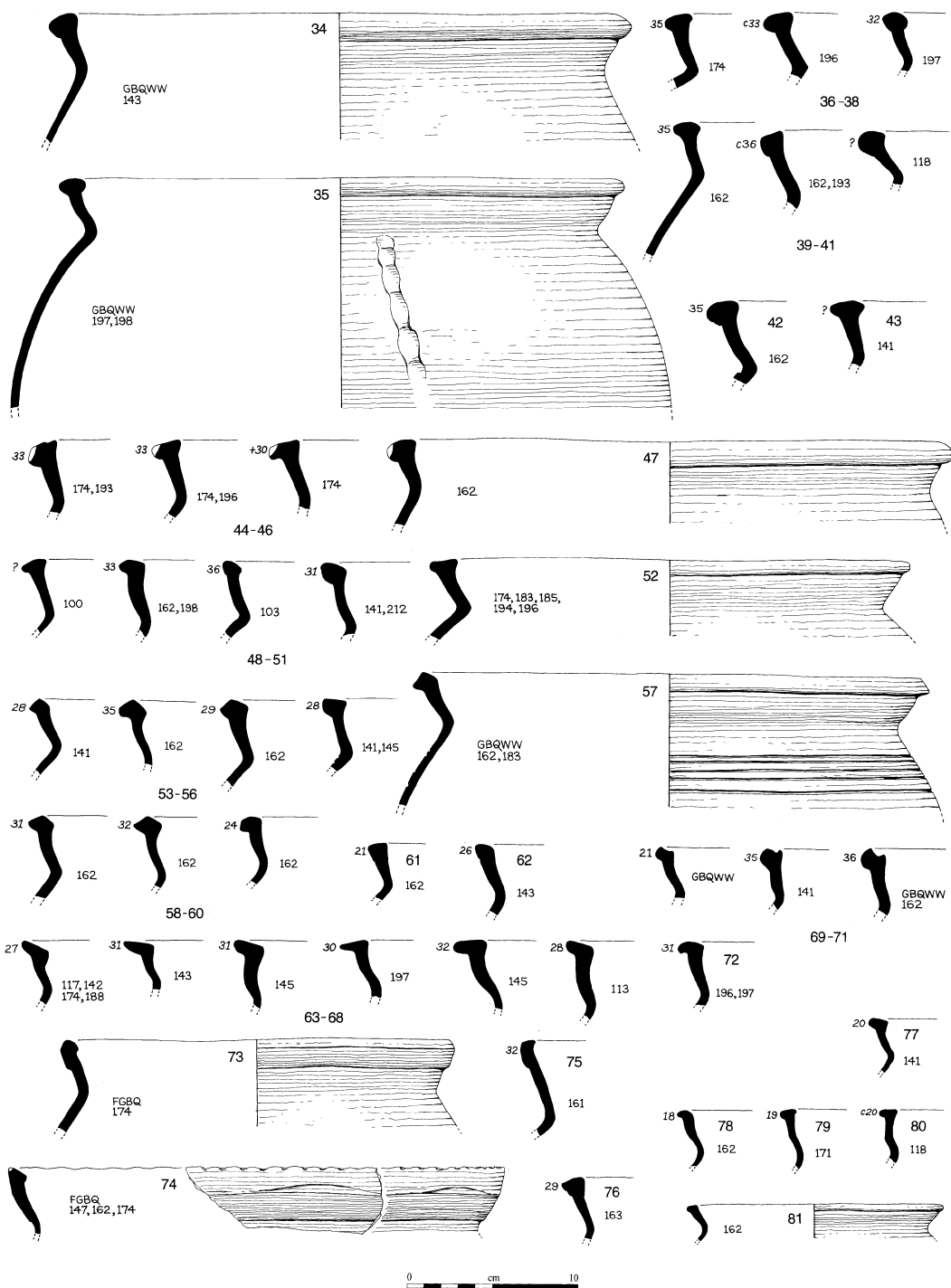


Fig 17 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham, 1994. Medieval pottery, nos 34-81. (Scale 1:4)

From a comparison of rim forms and other featured sherds, a minimum of over 100 vessels may be represented, including 98 cooking pots or storage jars, three or four bowls, and three jugs, including the one in whiteware.

All the cooking pot and storage jar rim forms are typical of Surrey assemblages of the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Almost all have expanded round beading, or a squared termination on an everted rim. Beaded types are sometimes slightly flanged, and both types are occasionally lid-seated (eg nos 69–71). Of 68 rim sherds that could be measured with reasonable accuracy, most are from relatively large vessels, and only twelve had diameters of less than 240mm. Sixty percent of the remainder are above 300mm, which suggests a preference for large vessels such as storage jars. Six vessels of 'near-whiteware' that are cable-impressed on the outer edges of their rim beading are all large (including nos 44–46). Ten body sherds of 'near-whiteware', and one of grey/brown ware carry parts of finger-impressed ribbon strips, and two rim sherds that carry such strips are both of large size (nos 35 and 42). A few body sherds have multiple series of horizontally incised wavy lines, and one rim sherd demonstrates that these had been carried on the shoulder and upper body of the vessel (no 57). The only other decorated sherds from a cooking pot or similar form, are four from gully 158 with multiple series of horizontally incised wavy lines on the body (not illustrated), and an unusual rim sherd in the finer grey/brown fabric with delicate finger-tip impressions along the rim top, and an incised wavy line on the collar (no 74).

The few vessels of other forms include a flanged-rim bowl in grey/brown ware represented by joining rim sherds from hollow 162 and segment 196 of gully 171 (no 29), and another in 'near-whiteware' with a thickened bead at the rim and a series of horizontal incisions on the body (no 31), just like one of the cooking pots (no 57). Both bowls had diameters of over 400mm, as has another represented by joining rim sherds of 'near-whiteware' from pit 197 and the surrounding segment 198 of gully 158. This last vessel is unusual in having had a lid-seating as well as a beaded rim (no 30). Another rim sherd that may be from a bowl is smaller, with a diameter of 250mm (no 32), and may instead be from a related form, such as a frying-pan.

Jugs are as uncommon as bowls. One in 'near-whiteware' is represented by a strap handle with notched edges and pale green glaze from the machined topsoil (no 33). All sixteen sherds of whiteware are probably from jugs, and fourteen of them were from one such vessel in gully 158, whose fragments include part of a rim with pulled spout, part of a pie-crust base angle, and green-glazed body sherds (not illustrated). The two other glazed whiteware sherds were from the machined topsoil. Another unstratified jug is represented by a pie-crust base angle sherd that is unglazed and made of the finer grey/brown fabric (not illustrated).

Ten other glazed sherds are mostly of 'near-whiteware', but include single examples of the grey/brown and finer grey/brown fabrics. Some may be from jugs, but the rim sherds of two cooking pots in the 'near-whiteware' from gully 171 and pit 197 bear spots and splashes of green glaze (nos 44 and 35), as does the base angle of a similar vessel from posthole 195 (not illustrated). Other glazed sherds were found in gully 158 (two), and the topsoil (two). Gully 171 contained the only glazed sherd of the grey/brown variety, and in gully 156 was the only glazed sherd in the finer grey/brown variant.

#### *Other jug fabrics*

These are represented by four sherds from two jugs. One unstratified sherd is bright orange, has a temper of frequent quartz silt grains of less than 1mm diameter, and an external green glaze. The other vessel is represented by three sherds with grey core and orange surfaces and a temper of sparse flint and grog fragments. Two of its sherds were from hollow 145, and the other was unstratified.

*Very fine ware*

Seventeen sherds, securely stratified in medieval features, are of an inclusion-free fabric made into large unglazed forms such as cooking pots and storage jars. Ten sherds from segment 174 of gully 171 include part of a large base angle and curving base plate, and five sherds from posthole 188 are from a similar large vessel. Two other body sherds were recovered from postholes 194 and 195. This ware has not previously been identified in nearby Staines or elsewhere within the region. Were it not for most pieces being large and unrolled, and the presence of a sagging base plate, they would otherwise have been considered Roman, or of a late medieval or Tudor grey/buff coarseware type.

## THE FEATURE ASSEMBLAGES

Quantification of these is given in tables 1 and 2 (see *Endnote*), which provide sherd counts and EVEs for each fabric within each feature. The archive contains full descriptions of all context assemblages, and drawings of all featured sherds. Only a summary catalogue of the more noteworthy sherds within feature assemblages is provided below. Published illustrations are of all rims and most other featured sherds of the poly- and shell-tempered types (figs 15 and 16), and selected examples of the sand-tempered types (figs 16 and 17). Each illustration has a figure number, and the fabric code is provided above the number of the context(s) from which it came. For all rim sherds not fully drawn out, the diameter (in centimetres) is shown by the outer rim edge.

*Sub-soil 163:* 187 sherds from contexts 106, 120, 129, 139, 140, 142 and 163. The layer is cut by several features, including gully 158, but there is no difference of any substance between the assemblages from these features despite the much larger count of poly-tempered and shell-tempered sherds in 163. This is because, of 44 sherds of S2 ware, 40 are from a single storage jar as are, most probably, 45 sherds of QFL2 that join to form a large fragment of storage jar with a wide, finger-impressed ribbon strip (not illustrated). Other sherds of the last-mentioned vessel were found in the adjacent gully 158. Other sherds of note include a Q1H base with internal brown glaze (not illustrated), and a finer grey/brown sandy cooking pot rim with an incised wavy line on the collar, and delicate finger-tipping along its edge (no 74).

*Gully 158:* 461 sherds from entrance terminal 117 (with 185), and segments 143, 157, 159, 166, 183, 184, 189, 192, 198, 203 and 217. Of special note is more than half of a shelly S2 cooking pot, represented by more than 50 sherds and 0.45 EVEs, recovered from terminal segment 117 (no 11). Other sherds of note include eleven from a Q1H base plate from 117; three Q1H sherds with brown glaze in 183; ten sherds and many more fragments in segment 217, of the QFL2 storage jar also found in 163; several sherds of a whiteware glazed jug in 157, and one of two rim sherds of a lid-seated bowl in the 'near-whiteware' (no 30). Other glazed sherds include one of 'near-whiteware' from 203, and one each of grey/brown and finer grey/brown sandy ware from 143.

*Gully 171:* 427 sherds from segments 174 (including 176), 193, 196 (including 114 and 170) and 210. One-

quarter of all QFL1 sherds, including the rim sherds of two cooking pots, were recovered from this gully (nos 4 and 6), in addition to a combed body sherd of FLQ1A (no 3), and an internally brown-glazed sherd of Q1H. Sherds of the same 'near-whiteware' cooking pot with cable-impressed rim and glazed spots were recovered from segments 174 and 193 (no 44), as were body sherds with multiple series of incised wavy lines that might be from the same vessel. A grey/brown sandy body sherd with a glaze spot was recovered from 170, and ten sherds of the Very Fine ware, including a base angle, came from 174.

*Gully 226:* 44 sherds from segments 144, 167, 209 and 214. Only body sherds of S2 shelly, grey/brown sandy, finer grey/brown sandy and 'near-whiteware' fabrics are present, with no poly-tempered sherds. None are glazed.

*Hollow 162:* 614 sherds, with most from Area 162 (594 sherds), and others from Areas 113 and 180, the latter including divisions 181 and 182. The hollow contained the only rim sherd of a QFL2 cooking pot from a sunken feature (no 9), and nine glazed sherds of Q1H. Of note among the sand-tempered sherds are the rim of a bowl in grey/brown sandy ware (no 29); another in 'near-whiteware' (no 31), and that of a bowl or frying-pan, also in 'near-whiteware' (no 32).

*Hollow 145:* 224 sherds. Of note are four of the nine FLQ1A sherds from the site, including a cooking pot rim (no 1), and combed body sherd (no 3); an internally glazed sherd of Q1H; and two of the three sherds from the site of an oxidised jug fabric with sand, flint and grog inclusions, and a pale green glaze.

*Hollow 211*: 144 sherds from the northern (212), middle (211), and southern (187) parts of the feature. Little of note except three sherds of Q1H with internal brown glaze from 187.

*Posthole 197* (including 215): 191 sherds. The assemblage includes six sherds of Q1H with internal brown glaze, and a 'near-whiteware' storage jar with a vertical ribbon strip and (?accidental) green-glaze spot on the external body wall (no 35).

*Posthole 188* (including 118): 61 sherds. Of note are five sherds of the Very Fine ware, and the only QSH sherd from the site.

*Posthole 195*: 28 sherds, including a 'near-whiteware' base angle with an external green-glaze splash.

*Hollow 169* (including 146): seventeen sherds, of which three are of poly-tempered types, including part of a neck with an applied ribbon in FLQ1A ware; and nine of shelly S2. The feature could be earlier than most others on site.

*Other sherds of note from features*: All other features contained fewer than seventeen sherds in each. Most are body sherds, but many joining sherds from an S2 storage jar with ribbon strips were recovered from pit 116 (no 19). Features that contained only single sherds of S2 ware include pit 204, posthole 216, and the hearth 224. While these might have been early features, they need not have been. Other sherds of note include a 'near-whiteware' base angle with green-glaze splashes in posthole 195, and an unaccompanied sherd of Very Fine ware in pit 194.

*Unstratified sherds of note*: These include one of only two cooking pot rims of FLQ1A (no 2), and two of the three rim sherds of QFL2 from the site (nos 8 and 9). One of the latter is a thick and heavy neck of a large storage jar with a combed rim top, and a linear depression starting from the top of the shoulder. Also unstratified was a 'near-whiteware' green-glazed strap handle with incisions down each edge (no 33), the only fine orange sherd from the site, and another oxidised jug sherd in the sand-, flint- and grog-tempered fabric.

## DISCUSSION

The total assemblage is a collection of 13th century pottery from the London region that is unusual, largely on account of the overwhelming predominance of cooking pots and storage jars. Most domestic assemblages of this date from southern England have more bowls and jugs than are represented here, even though they are usually less common than jar forms. This is an important difference that might have some bearing on the function of the building(s). More cooking and storing, and rather less eating and drinking, might have occurred there, with jugs and bowls as rare as the ceramics suggest, or perhaps they were mostly made of wood or metal. If the latter were true, it would imply a site of above average status: a conjecture that may be supported by other ceramic finds, such as the part-glazed roof tiles and both glazed and unglazed floor tiles (see below).

The absence of some medieval wares, and the relative proportions of those present, suggest that the site may have been in use for only a short period during the first half of the 13th century. None of the local Saxo-Norman tufa and fluvial shell-tempered wares are represented, and they would be expected if it had been occupied before the middle of the 12th century (Jones 1998, 213–5). Also absent is IQ Ironstone Sandy ware (*ibid.*, 232–3), or 'Early Surrey ware' as it has been named in London (Vince & Jenner 1991, 73). The production of this ware in the border district of Surrey and Hampshire marked the revival of distant trading of pottery from the Farnham area, after the demise of the ceramics industry that flourished in the same area for the whole of the Roman period of occupation (Lyne & Jeffries 1979). 'Early Surrey ware' is common in 11th century deposits in London, but the supply dwindled in the following century, probably as a result of the development of potteries nearer to the city. At Staines, Chertsey and other sites closer to the source area, however, it seems to have continued to be supplied in significant quantities until later in the 12th century if not the early 13th century. However, it has to be said that this has been deduced from its ceramic associations within assemblages, rather than from any discoveries of independently dated pottery groups in Surrey, of which there are few. Nevertheless, it seems reasonable to conjecture that if these building(s) had been in use during the second half of the 12th century, then Ironstone Sandy ware would have been present.

The absence or near absence of Surrey Whiteware is also of chronological significance. In London and Guildford this first appears in mid-13th century deposits (Holling 1984; Jones 1998, 233–4; Pearce & Vince 1988, 82), and there is no reason to suppose any later dating for its introduction elsewhere in Surrey. Only a few sherds warranted being called whiteware

and, notwithstanding that, it is arguable where the line might be drawn between those sherds that are of sufficient creamy buffness and those that are not. It is noteworthy that perhaps all the whitewares were from glazed jugs. At Staines and Chertsey where whiteware sherds first appear in assemblages dominated by grey/brown sandy ware, a clear distinction between the two can frequently be made on the grounds of colour. Here, however, such a clear distinction could only be made for those fabrics designated as grey/brown and finer grey/brown sandy ware, which together account for between a quarter and a third of all sand-tempered pottery. Except for the few whiteware sherds, the remainder are of 'near-whiteware', and represent about half of all the medieval pottery from the site (49% count, 55% EVEs). The rarity of 'true' whiteware sherds suggests that the use of the building(s) may have ended soon after such types began to be supplied to the Staines area. However, the large number of 'near-whiteware' sherds, could imply that much of the period of occupation had coincided with an experimental period at the start of the west Surrey sand-tempering tradition, in which attempts were being made to produce consistently paler-fired bodies. Such an experimental period, however, seems unlikely to have lasted long. Thus, on account of the absence of IQ ware, the rarity of whiteware, and the predominance of 'near-whiteware', it is possible to argue for a short period of occupation during the second quarter of the 13th century.

The present complex of features lies immediately west of Caesar's Camp which, it has been suggested above, may be of a similar date on the basis of circumstantial evidence, in which many joining sherds of a Denham-type cooking pot with diagonal combing, similar to that of figure 15 no 3, were found close to a buried ditch of the earthwork.

### **Ceramic tiles**, by Phil Jones

More Roman tile fragments were found than medieval and all the principal forms are represented, ie *tegulae*, *imbrices* and floor tiles. Several are warped and vitrified, however, and had probably been scavenged from the waster dumps of tile kilns, perhaps nearby, rather than from the ruins of Roman buildings. Medieval tile used on site included roof tiles with twin round peg holes, some part glazed and both glazed and unglazed floor tiles. It is unusual for any secular building of this period to have had tiled floors and roof, especially at such a remote location.

#### ROMAN

Ninety-four fragments (13.7kg), including nine that incorporated parts of *tegula* flanges (from 100, 104, 141, 159, 162, 163, 173 x 3), three curving pieces from *imbrices* (145, 195, 197), and many thick pieces from floor or walling tiles. Among the latter are two fragments of *tegulae mammatae* floor tiles with spacer blobs (163 and 173). Seventeen fragments are wasters, and are either warped, vitrified, or both (from 101, 104, 144, 145 x 2, 162 x 4, 173 x 4, 174 x 4). Some are from floor tiles (from 104 and 162), at least one is from an *imbrex* (from 145), and it is very likely that *tegulae* are also represented.

One-quarter of all the Roman tile was recovered from pit 173 (3.6kg representing 26% by weight), including three fragments with *tegula* flanges, floor tiles, including a *tegula mammata* fragment, and four waster pieces. Over 1kg of fragments was recovered from each of the gullies 158 and 171, the subsoil 163, posthole 195 and hollow 162.

The Roman tiles are much like the majority from Roman deposits in nearby Staines, which was established as a 'small town' by the late 1st century AD. Nothing is known of the kilns that supplied tiles to the town.

#### MEDIEVAL

Nearly 4.5kg of roof tile and 5.5kg of floor tile fragments were recovered. Counts of corners, however, suggest that only a very small proportion of those used in the building may be

represented in the collection. The roof tiles and more than 50% (by weight) of the floor tiles are made of the typical sand-tempered body of the region, but a significant proportion of the floor tiles are of a poly-tempered body. There are, in addition, a few oddities of both floor and roof tile.

### *Roof tiles*

Fifty fragments (4.3kg, six corners, four complete and eight part peg-holes) of a sand-tempered body were recovered. Four large pieces are glazed on one side (from 145, 173, 188, 196), and three are partially glazed (from 141, 174, 209A). One glazed fragment from hollow 145 may be a waster. Some fragments are as thick as floor tiles (eg a corner piece with peg-hole from 171 that is 190mm thick, and a double-cornered end with two part peg-holes from 162 that is 180mm thick). It is therefore possible that some counted as floor tile may instead be of roofing material. There is the footprint of a dog on one large fragment from gully 158.

### *Standard floor tiles*

Forty-five fragments (3.1kg, and three corner fragments) are of a sand-tempered body that is very similar to that of the roof tiles. Nine fragments have clear or green glaze covering one side (from 100 x 2, 113, 141, 174, 183 x 3), and seven others are splashed or glazed only in part (100, 113, 120, 126, 162 x 3). All have thicknesses of between 18 and 25mm.

### *Poly-tempered floor tiles*

Eighty-six fragments (2.3kg, and two corner fragments) of a friable and fairly soft-fired body were recovered. The fabric is tempered with moderate amounts of sand, crushed flint and chalk, and is dark grey to brown in colour. Thicknesses vary between 18 and 22mm.

### *Other tiles*

A fragment from the terminal segment 117 of gully 158 is 140mm thick and of a grog-tempered body with some sand and flint; in 113, a part of hollow 162, part of a medieval 'great brick' was recovered.

## **Other bulk finds, by Phil Jones**

### CHALK DEBRIS

Several small lumps of chalk were recovered during the machining (seven fragments; 140g), and five medieval features also contained examples (although the material from two of these was not, unfortunately, retained). All lay close together outside the building. One fragment (71g) was found in hollow 162, but it may be more significant that nine and ten fragments were recovered from the nearby twin postholes of 108 and 110, respectively, weighing 255 and 266g. Although these lumps of chalk had probably been only post packing material, it is interesting to note that two lumps in 108, and three in 110 include flat dressed surfaces. These could have been part of a visible wall, perhaps of some ashlar masonry that had earlier surrounded the nearby door.

### IRON SLAG

Nineteen pieces (805g) were recovered, of which eight (555g) came from the machined topsoil. The eleven pieces from medieval contexts include six (92g) from gully 171 (segment 193); four (181g) from pit 173 and one (130g) from posthole 195. It is uncertain what these

represent, except that with so few pieces it is reasonable to conclude that ironworking had not occurred on site. Whether this had taken place nearby, or in the Roman period or in the Iron Age, is also uncertain.

### Small finds, by Suzanne Huson

The assemblage of small finds is rather limited. The two items of copper alloy are unhelpful in the interpretation of the site: one piece is modern, the other of unidentified function and date. The ironwork consists of a number of miscellaneous pieces – the rings and fragments of plate – which could have come from a variety of objects of various functions. The iron nails are a mixture of timber types and fiddle-keys from horseshoes. The latter are of a type of 13th century date. The other two datable iron objects are the horseshoe, of mid-13th to late 14th century date, and the spur, which is an early 14th century type. The iron finds suggest that there was a wooden enclosure or building on the site, possibly stabling for horses, and/or that it was a place that was visited by horse traffic. A whetstone was also recovered from the site, and is of 12th century or later date.

#### CATALOGUE

(D = diameter; L = length; Th = thickness; W = width; SF = small find no; [100] = context number)

#### Copper alloy

- 1 Stud head. Probably modern. D 13mm. [100]; SF 1
- 2 ? Binding strip. Short length of folded sheet, broken at both ends and flattened. L 31mm; W 7mm; Th <1mm. [141]; SF 6

#### Iron

- 3 Thick ring of rectangular section. D 52mm; W 13mm; Th 15mm. [100]
- 4 Fragment of plate with curved upstanding lip. Single rivet hole. Th 4mm. [104]
- 5 Stud or large nail head. D 24mm. [105]
- 6 Strip fragment. L 45mm; W 19mm; Th 3mm. [141]
- 7 Plate fragment. L 63mm; W 40mm; Th 5mm. [141]
- 8 Plate fragment. L 51mm; W 30mm; Th 5mm. [141]/[145]
- 9 Spur. Arms of oval section, point broken but probably a rowel spur. Only two fragments survive. Surviving L 53mm; W 14mm; Th 8mm. Probably of early 14th century date. (LMMC 1940, fig 30 no 7). [141]/[145]; SF 2
- 10 Two fragments of plate. Largest L 67mm; W 46mm; Th 5mm. [141]/[145]; SF 3

- 11 Horseshoe. Narrow, with prominent calkins. Three nail holes in each arm and one nail still *in situ*. ?Dove shoe of mid-13th to late 14th century date. (Sparkes 1976, 11–15). [141]/[145]; SF 4
- 12 ? Fragment of ferrule. Curved sheet, tapering to one end. It is not possible to tell if the sides meet or overlap. It must be of post-medieval, perhaps modern date. L 60mm; max D 20mm; min D 13mm; Th 2mm. [150]
- 13 Large ring. Arm of circular section. D 107mm; D of arm 12mm. [163]

#### Nails

##### Timber

Eight nails were collected from the following contexts (full details in archive): 104, 141, 141/145, 162, 182/183A, 185, 195 and 197A.

##### Horseshoe

Five fiddle-key type horseshoe nails of Goodall type A (with semi-circular head) were recovered from the following contexts: [109], [117], [141]/[145], [203A] and [209A]. This type is dated to the 13th century (Goodall 1973, 173–5).

#### Stone

##### Mica schist

- 14 Whetstone. Rectangular section, worn edges and broken at both ends. L (incomplete) 178mm; W 33mm; Th 19mm. A type current in the 12th century (LMMC 1940, 293) but continuing in use in the 13th century. [145]; SF 5



**Animal bones**, by Kathryn Ayres (tables 3–6, see *Endnote*)

## INTRODUCTION

A total of 223 animal bones were recovered. All the bones were of the same period, which has been dated as the early 13th century AD. Although limited in number, the bones were in good condition providing ageing data for the main domestic species, and allowing measurements to be taken.

## METHODOLOGY

The animal bone was identified and recorded at the Centre for Human Ecology, University of Southampton, using the reference collection. Sheep and goat are classed under a single heading as none of the diagnostic features used to distinguish them were present. Fragments that could not be identified to species level were classed as ‘cattle-size’, ‘sheep-size’ or ‘unidentified’. Measurements were taken with reference to von den Driesch (1976).

## SPECIES REPRESENTATION

The species present in the assemblage can be seen in table 3. Fragments of cattle and ovicaprids dominated the assemblage, although numbers were small. Pig was represented to a lesser degree but was the main food-producing species present. Other species occurring in smaller quantities were horse, dog, hare and bird. Domestic goose (*Anser anser*) dominated the bird species. One fragment of fish was identified as the face-plate of a gurnard; these bones are very robust and preserve well (P Smith, pers comm).

## AGEING DATA

The ageing methods used were tooth wear (Grant 1982; Halstead 1985) and fusion data (Silver 1969), which provided loose age ranges for the main domestic species. The data can be seen in tables 4, 5a and 5b.

*Cattle*: Dental wear suggested one animal of at least 8–18 months, indicated by the presence of a lower first molar (Silver 1969). The fusion data (table 5a) also indicated a young animal, of 7–10 months, at least one between the ages of 12 and 18 months and fused elements which give ages between 24 and 36, and 36 and 48 months.

*Sheep/goat*: The data suggest at least one animal of 6–12 months, and at least one older individual aged 30–42 months (table 5b).

*Pig*: The ageing data for pig were more limited but dental wear suggests one individual of 7–13 months and another of 17–22 months. Fusion data provides an age of 24–30 months for the fused distal metapodials. No mature individuals were in evidence.

## MEASUREMENTS

Table 6 records the measurements taken. The majority are from cattle and sheep/goat, although two were taken from horse bones. These were then compared with the range for each period, which has been calculated from the database of the Animal Bone Metrical Archive Project (ABMAP) (Centre for Human Ecology 1995), containing measurements collected from a number of other sites of the period. All measurements of cattle and horse fell within the ranges calculated from ABMAP, as did the majority of sheep/goat bones, except for the breadth of a distal tibia, which fell below the range although the difference is small.

## COMPARISON WITH OTHER SITES

The assemblage compared closely with a number of other sites in Surrey and of the same period. The excavation at 16 Bell Street, Reigate (Done 1983) also provided limited fragments of animal bones but the proportions of the species were very similar to those of Laleham, with the dominance of sheep/goat, cattle and pig and lesser numbers of other species. Ageing data suggested immature cattle, and sheep/goat of 6 months to 2 years. Excavations at Southwark have also provided similar results: at 129 Lambeth Road (Locker 1988) and 1–7 St Thomas Street (Rixson 1978) the species proportions were similar, illustrating once more the predominance of domestic food species. Ageing data were also provided in the latter report and although at this site more than half the cattle were mature, there were a greater number of immature, rather than mature, pigs.

## BURNING, BUTCHERY MARKS AND GNAWING

A number of bones in the assemblage had been burnt to various degrees. A sheep/goat tibia fragment was identified but the remainder (four in total) could not be identified. The sole evidence of butchery from the bones was a sawn cattle scapula, but no evidence of gnawing was observed despite the presence of at least one dog.

## SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The limited material provides an indication of species present on the site, these being the three main domestic animals, together with a small number of other domestic and wild species. The dental and bone fusion data also supply possible ages for individual animals present. The proportions of the species and the measurements appear to fit in well with other sites of the period.

**Discussion**

The excavation revealed a quite dense concentration of features occupying a relatively small area. The majority of the features discovered were of early medieval date, while a small number of others might be of prehistoric origin and two of the postholes were modern. Little can be said about the possible prehistoric features, three of which were shallow and not totally convincing, as none produced finds in sufficient quantity to date them securely. Occasional finds of struck or burnt flint suggest that they might be of Neolithic or Bronze Age origin, but the evidence provided by this material is inconclusive. Outside the possible features, pieces of struck flint, which include several tools and sixteen cores, were recovered as residual finds in certain of the trial trenches and during the main excavation. Most of this material is also thought to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date and, regardless of the uncertainty surrounding the features mentioned, it indicates that land in the immediate vicinity was being used during this part of the prehistoric period. This is in agreement with the conclusions reached by Jones after the evaluations of the Caesar's Camp earthwork (fig 1) in 1989 and 1990, where the discovery of features containing Bronze Age finds led him to suggest that a settlement of that period may lie within the grounds of Matthew Arnold School (see above).

Other finds discovered during the excavation belong to earlier periods than the main phase represented here. These were occasional sherds of prehistoric pottery, several sherds of Roman pottery, and a significant quantity of Roman tile. Although a single sherd of Roman pottery was the only find recovered from posthole 151, neither of these periods is thought to be represented by features present on site. In the case of feature 151, the character of its fill (which contained small specks of red fired clay similar to those seen in nearby medieval features) indicated that it was unlikely to have been dated by this find.

The Roman pottery was not found in sufficient quantity to support a suggestion that important remains belonging to this period might be present nearby (the same conclusion was reached by Jones in 1990), but the tile is of greater interest. Over 90 fragments of this material were recovered from unstratified contexts and from contexts of medieval date, and almost 20% of this total consisted of waster fragments. Represented among the tile assemblage were fragments of *imbrex*, *tegula* and floor tiles. The origin of this material is uncertain, but the presence of the waster fragments may suggest that at least some of this material comes from a local kiln. A plan prepared by John Norden in 1623 shows a small quarry, with the name 'The Brickyll' next to it, lying just under 1 km to the south of the site (fig 3); this is likely to indicate where clay was extracted for brickmaking, as the name means either 'brick hill' and refers to waste material from brick production (Field 1972, 28–9), or 'brick kiln' (Field 1993, 227). If so, it indicates that the area has a supply of raw material that is suitable for brick and tile making. Furthermore, it is possible that this material was brought to the site deliberately for re-use during the medieval period. On the one hand this may seem unlikely because the medieval floor and roof tile discovered questions the need for imported tiles in various forms as this may have led to an impractical mis-match of materials. On the other hand, however, at least three of the medieval features (162, 173 and 195) contained Roman tile in sufficient quantity to indicate that it was unlikely to have been present simply by chance (see *Ceramic tiles*, above).

The first impression given by most of the features discovered was that they belonged to a single phase of early medieval activity associated with a small ditch or gully which formed a roughly D-shaped or square enclosure with an opening facing towards the south-west (158). Excavation showed the site to be more complex than this, however, but did not provide answers to all the questions that arose.

The excavation of segments of gully 158 showed this feature to cut at least one feature, 132, while it was itself cut by 197 and probably by 186 and 216. This demonstrates that there was at least one phase of activity both before and after 158 was in use, but the pottery recovered showed remarkably little variation in form or chronology and did not help in the identification of the different phases. It is not possible, therefore, to separate the features into contemporary groups, a fact which makes the overall interpretation of the site more difficult. Moreover, the situation is further complicated by the fact that it was not always possible to determine the physical relationships between intercutting features owing to the similarity of the fills encountered.

The majority of the features discovered were stakeholes, postholes or substantial post pits and there seems little doubt that these indicate the presence of one or more small buildings. In support of this, the size and shape of 158 suggests that this feature was associated with a structure, and consequently the hearth, 224, seems most likely to have been an internal feature. The finds from the excavation are also indicative of the presence of a small building as a significant quantity of medieval roof and floor tile was recovered, together with daub (including pieces with distinct wattle impressions), and a number of small chalk lumps or blocks, including five pieces that had been dressed.

If this is accepted, there remains the problem of determining the form and sequence of the structure or structures. Various attempts have been made to determine a building plan using the stakeholes, postholes and probable post pits, but the outcome has not been successful and no pattern has been recognised. Even if it could be determined which of these features were contemporary it seems unlikely that a clear plan would emerge. It was particularly disappointing that no sense could be made of the post pits. It is possible that a building might have been constructed around a haphazard arrangement of postholes, but the presence of the building material noted above suggests that at some stage the site was occupied by at least one building, which must have been more than simply a hovel. The key to this question most probably lies with the interpretation of the gullies 158, 171 and 226.

Assuming 158 to have a deliberate entrance facing the south-west it seems most unlikely that 171, which runs through this opening, can be a contemporary feature. It is possible that

158 and 226 were contemporary, but it has been suggested above that 143 may have cut 144 and, even though this could not be proved satisfactorily, it seems probable that these were originally separate features. Indeed the dual profiles seen in segments 157 and 203 might relate separately to 158 and 226, thus providing further evidence that the cuts for each were not contemporary. There was nothing to link 171 and 226 stratigraphically but, if elements of 157 and 203 did belong to 226, it seems possible that 171 might be part of the same feature. It may, though, be said against this that the fills of 171 and 226 varied considerably as did the width of these features, and there was no indication that the north-eastern end of 171 turned in the right direction for the two to be linked. It is possible, however, that the fills were affected by localised factors (in the same way that the fill of segment 217 of 158 was unlike that of any other segment except perhaps for 166), and segments 214 and 167 of 226 appear artificially narrow as this area was over-machined during trial trenching. The shallowness of 171 at its north-eastern end meant that its course was difficult to follow, and the presence of hearth 224 and context 199 (which may have no connection with 171) mean that its direction as indicated on figure 11 might be misleading. Figure 12 is a hypothetical illustration, which shows 158 separated from 171 and 226 and suggests how these features might relate to two distinct structures. All non-structural features have been removed from figure 12, while the postholes, stakeholes and pits that may belong to either layout are reproduced on each diagram. The figure also illustrates more clearly a similarity between the north-eastern ends of 171 and 226 – both deepen considerably before terminating (though for 171 this is partially obscured by feature 228 and the baulk between segments 174 and 196) and both terminate more or less opposite each other.

Assuming that 158 and 171/226 marked the limits of small buildings, their specific function must be considered. The most relevant question here, perhaps, is whether these features were used for construction purposes or were used (or developed) subsequent to construction as eaves-drip gullies. As far as 158 is concerned it is difficult to see how this could have been used for construction purposes as there was no evidence of contemporary post settings within the trench and no evidence to suggest that the feature was a beam trench. It was thought at one time that the compact nature of the fill of certain segments, notably 184B, was indicative of a deliberately rammed deposit that might have occurred as the direct result of construction, but the absence of postholes within this and the inconsistent nature of the fill elsewhere suggested that this was unlikely. Overall the fill was consistent with an eaves-drip deposit, being essentially a single fill (ignoring certain localised variations) of silty clay soil that might well have been a mixture of contemporary soil and natural clay. If this were the case, and a width of c 1 m is allowed for walling on the inside of this feature, a building measuring approximately 6 m square might have been present within 158. Postholes 151 and 160 would lie centrally to this and might have provided the support for a roof. Unfortunately, this might spoil a tenuous link between this feature and hearth 224. This hearth is centrally placed in relation to the rounded eastern corner of 158, which could imply a connection between the two, but this does not seem likely if there was a wall on the inner side of 158 unless this was considerably narrower than the 1 m width suggested above.

If 158 were an eaves-drip trench, it seems most likely that the same would be the case for 171 and 226. The deepening of each towards the south-west might have been intended to drain water – the lower fill of 209 being particularly silty. No explanation is forthcoming for the dark, charcoal-like nature of much of the fill of 171 as this was unlike the fill encountered in either 158 or 226. Again, allowing for walls measuring up to 1 m thick, a building measuring at least 7 x 4 m could have lain within 171 and 226.

Even with the gullies 158 and 171/226 shown separately on figure 4 it is difficult to see how the postholes could have contributed to either building plan. At first glance 108 and 110 might appear to indicate the position of a porch or doorway, but neither is really in the right place for this in relation to the suggested eaves-drip gullies, and they were not necessarily contemporary with either of these features (or even with each other). If the gullies are interpreted as beamslots it seems more likely that these features could have formed elements

of a porch, but, even so, they are not symmetrically placed. As the postholes do not appear to mark the positions of obvious walls of which they were an integral structural part, it might be possible that some other form of walling was used in association with 158 and 171/226. One possibility is that construction might have been achieved using cob walls. This type of walling was suggested by Poulton for a burnt feature associated with postholes at Reigate (Poulton 1986, 30-1), and by the author for a probable mid-13th to early 14th century structure at Titsey, where there was evidence to suggest the presence of a floor surface and a tiled roof, but there is nothing at all in the archaeological record to indicate how the walls were constructed (Hayman 1997, 80). Evidence for cob walling was not found during the excavation at Matthew Arnold School, but such walling might not have left a visible impression on the ground surface although it could have provided adequate support for a tiled roof. When looked at in isolation, the stakeholes, postholes and post pits appear to form a vaguely rectilinear arrangement that might relate to a distinct phase of construction, but these features cannot simply be interpreted as representing the position of walls as they were too varied in size and shape.

Leaving the question of construction, as it is difficult to see how the discussion of this subject can be taken further, it is necessary to consider what function the suggested buildings might have served and what connection, if any, they might have had with Caesar's Camp. Again neither question can be answered satisfactorily. For the sake of argument it is assumed that each building served the same function and the following discussion may be read as referring to either of them.

The most obvious suggestion for the building is that it was simply used for domestic purposes. Although possible, this seems doubtful, partly because of its isolated position and partly because the finds and features discovered do not really appear to be typically domestic. With regard to its position, not a single medieval feature was discovered beyond the area shown on figure 11 and trial trenching indicates none was present in the immediate vicinity. This fact alone suggests that the building cannot have been a normal domestic structure. In addition, very few pits were discovered and none of those contained material in sufficient quantity to indicate that they had been used for the disposal of domestic rubbish. Even if this material was simply discarded some distance away from the site it would be reasonable to expect more signs of activity on the outside of the building than was discovered during the excavation, particularly as two or more phases of construction for domestic purposes would suggest continuous occupation for perhaps the same number of generations. A small amount of slag was recovered from contexts 104, 141, 173, 193 and 195, but the quantity recovered was insignificant and beyond this there was no indication that the building had been used for industrial purposes. One clue to the function of the building might come from the pottery recovered since the assemblage was somewhat unusual. The overwhelming majority of this assemblage is made up of sherds from cooking pots and storage jars and the virtual absence of other forms is quite remarkable. In a typical early to mid-13th century domestic assemblage it would be expected that the highest proportion of material recovered would come from cooking pots, but one would also expect other forms such as jugs and dishes to be reasonably well represented. Therefore, it is possible that the dominance of cooking pots is significant, and it suggests that the building was used for a specific non-domestic function, but suggestions relating to this function have not been forthcoming. It is possible that cooking was an important activity on site, but other than the discovery of a small number of carbonised seed grains, a small quantity of bone and one small hearth, there is no evidence for this activity other than the remains of numerous cooking pots.

Few small finds were recovered during the excavation and these do not help in determining the possible function of the building. It is interesting to note, however, that a horseshoe of mid-13th to late 14th century type, five horseshoe nails of 13th century type (recovered from separate contexts) and a spur of 14th century type were recovered as this suggests that the site was visited by horse traffic during these periods. The spur appears slightly later in date than the chronology suggested by the pottery but was insecurely stratified, coming from the

junction between the base of the topsoil and the surface of feature 145. It is possible that it arrived at the site some time after its use in the early to mid-13th century, but it is perhaps more likely that the close association of these finds with the pottery recovered suggests that the typology for these artefacts might need to be extended.

It is impossible to reach a firm conclusion about an association between this site and Caesar's Camp as there is nothing to link the earthwork and building other than close proximity, a similar orientation, and the suggestion by Jones that the ditches of the 'Caesar's Camp enclosure had been of medieval construction, and it is likely that this had been during the second half of the 12th or the early 13th century' (see above, p 18). The evaluation of Caesar's Camp was difficult to interpret, however, as very few finds were recovered, and there remains an opinion (R Poulton, pers comm) that it may in fact be of earlier date than is suggested by the material recovered from its limited excavation, as suggested previously by Jones (1990, 5):

The purpose of the earthworks remains unknown, especially since it is of unusual type. If it had merely been for the retention or exclusion of livestock, then a seemingly inordinate amount of effort had gone into its construction. Since it lay close to the corners of three parishes within Spelthorne hundred – Staines, Ashford and Laleham – it may have served a common purpose for all three. A tentative possibility is that it was the site of the moot for the hundred, especially since this has never been discovered before. Previous conjecture had placed the hundred moot c1.5km further east, also next to the Kingston Road, but for no explained reason.

The building discovered during the recent excavation is more or less equidistant between Caesar's Camp and the boundary between Staines and Laleham parishes, and if the suggestion that the earthwork served a common purpose for all three parishes is correct, the same might be true of the building. It should be noted, however, 'that the orientation of Caesars Camp does not respect either the line of the western parish boundary or Kingston Road, which was also the boundary of the parishes of Staines and Laleham (see figs 1 and 3)' (see above, p 5). With this in mind, Jones (see above, p 18) concludes that 'Caesar's Camp could have been used as an enclosure for livestock, with a wooden bridge rather than a causewayed entrance, since it is only 2km along the Kingston Road from Staines and may have afforded an overnight stay before or after the market which was held in the town from at least as early as the beginning of the 13th century'. If the suggestion about the moot is correct it is tempting to suggest a connection with the quantity of cooking pot recovered, but the picture of some form of periodically used location serving refreshments to those attending the meetings nearby would be spoiled by the absence of other vessel forms (jugs in particular would surely have been well represented) unless the items used on these occasions were not ceramic. If Caesar's Camp was used as a stock enclosure, then an interim suggestion by the author (Hayman 1995b) that the building might have been used (perhaps seasonally) by stockmen remains a possibility. If it had been used for a purpose such as this, periodic rebuilding might have been necessary, domestic features would not be present around the site, and the imbalance in the pottery assemblage could result from the use of 'camping equipment' (for example, it might have been necessary for the user to carry the standard form of vessel for cooking, but more readily transportable media such as skins or leather jugs would have served the requirements of liquid refreshment quite adequately). A problem for this interpretation is the observation that tiled floors and roofs, for which there is evidence here, are normally the attributes of buildings of higher status.

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## Endnote

The catalogue and tables listed below are available on the Archaeology Data Service website (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/syac/v94.cfm>). Copies of this material will also be deposited with the Society's library, Guildford and the Historic Environment Record, Woking. Photocopies can also be supplied by post – enquiries should be addressed to the Hon Editors, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX.

## CATALOGUE OF CONTEXTS FROM THE 'CAESAR'S CAMP' EXCAVATIONS, 1989–90

### TABLES (FROM THE MEDIEVAL OCCUPATION SITE, 1994)

- 1 Medieval and post-medieval pottery sherd counts
- 2 Medieval and post-medieval pottery sherd EVEs
- 3 Animal bone – Number of Identified Specimens Present
- 4 Animal bone – summary of tooth wear
- 5a Bone fusion data for cattle
- 5b Bone fusion data for sheep/goat
- 6 Animal bone – summary of measurements

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