Excavations at Yeoveney, Near Staines, 1982

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A salvage excavation revealed stratified deposits dating to c1250-1350, which are believed to represent either the remains of a mill and dye works or of a hamlet belonging to Yeoveney Manor, together with rubbish deposits from the manor itself.

Preface

In December 1981, Mr F Wood, a member of Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group, discovered a polished jadeite axe within an area that was about to be destroyed by gravel quarrying (Field & Woolley 1983), together with medieval occupation debris. Further investigation by Phil Jones and Sue Shanks in early 1982 indicated that medieval deposits survived *in situ*, and a small salvage excavation was carried out by Martin O'Connell, Rob Poulton and Phil Jones between 22 and 26 July, 1982, prior to gravel extraction. The work was organised on behalf of the Conservation and Archaeology Section, Planning Department, Surrey County Council, and took place by kind permission of the owners of the gravel pit, Greenham's Sand and Gravel Company. Thanks are also due to Mr Wood for allowing us to report on the material he found, and to Amanda Chadburn for post-excavation assistance.

Introduction

The site lies on the alluvial floodplain of the river Colne, 2km north of its confluence with the Thames at Staines, and is centred at TQ 0321 7370 (fig 1). One of the many southflowing streams of the Colne, the Wraysbury river, lies immediately to the west. Yeoveney Farm, which stood on the opposite west bank of this watercourse until it was demolished in 1965, was thought to lie on or close to the demesne farm of Yeoveney Manor (fig 2). This medieval estate occupied much of Staines parish north of the church, and the manorial complex was sited on the eastern edge of an area of slightly elevated ground adjacent to the Wraysbury river and the floodplain of Staines Moor. The higher ground, which has been almost completely destroyed over the last twenty years, was a remnant of an earlier floodplain of the early post-glacial period, comprising outwash gravels and sands, capped by brickearth (the Floodplain Terrace). Subsequent down-cutting by streams of the river Colne dissected it into a series of islands and terrace remnants close to its confluence with the Thames. Yeoveney was one of these islands, and until recently had been surrounded by the Shire Ditch, the Wraysbury river, and other streams to the north and south. The antiquity of the watercourses of recent times is uncertain, as aerial photographs indicate that the braided streams of the Colne underwent considerable lateral movement across the floodplain. There is a possibility, however, that the courses of some streams may have been stabilised and maintained during the prehistoric period and, perhaps more certainly, during the Roman and medieval periods. Most settlement in the area was on the brickearth loams of the Floodplain Terrace. At the southern end of Yeoveney island was a Neolithic causewayed camp which also had later prehistoric, Roman, and Saxon occupation (Robertson-Mackay et al 1981); and nearby is Staines with a similar long history of settlement (Crouch 1976; Crouch & Shanks 1984; Jones 1982) (fig 2). On the alluvial plain, periodic flooding probably rendered most areas uninhabitable marshland until modern times. Low-lying ground here was used as water-meadows throughout the historic

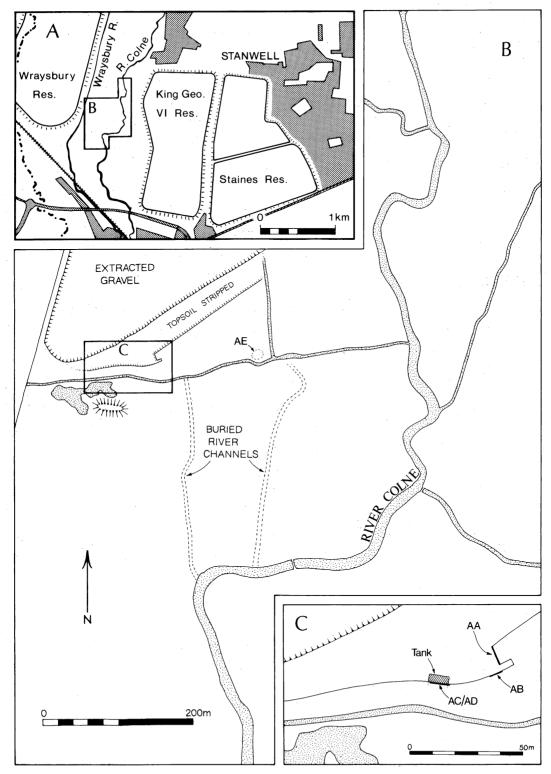


Fig 1. Yeoveney: maps of the site. The plan at bottom right shows the positions of the sections drawn in fig 3

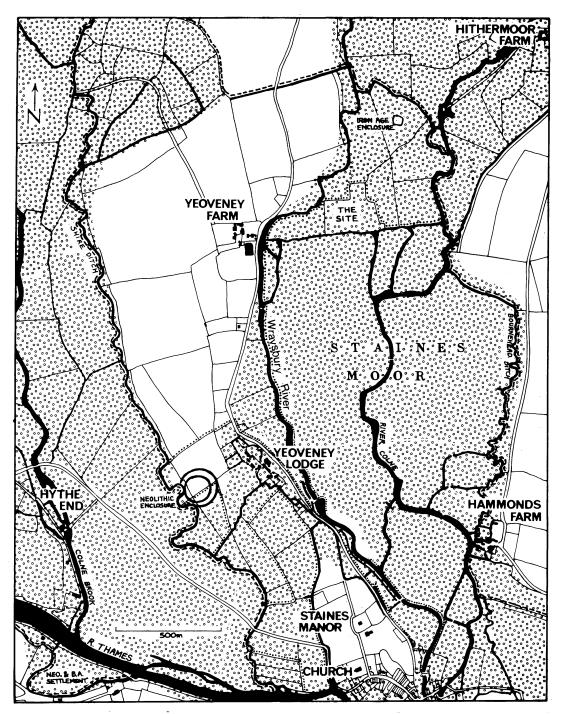


Fig 2. The Yeoveney area in the late 19th century. Areas shown stippled are part of the alluvial flood plain, and land to the north, south, and west of Yeoveney Farm was therefore an island

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period although occupation seems to have been possible at certain times, for example at the mid-2nd millenium BC enclosure and nearby hut circles at the northern edges of Staines Moor (Brown 1972, 160-4; Poulton & Jones forthcoming), and at the medieval site under discussion here.

All previous archaeological work in Yeoveney was a response to the threat of gravel extraction. The Iron Age enclosure was only sampled by excavation in 1963-4, and the causewayed camp was extensively excavated in 1961. Both sites are now completely destroyed, along with 80% of the area of the medieval estate, by a combination of gravel and clay working, and the construction of the Wraysbury Reservoir and the M25 motorway. Further archaeological evidence is unlikely to be recovered from the island, which makes the current finds of some importance, especially if it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that they came from the manor or its adjacent hamlet.

The Excavation

Most of the evidence recorded during the salvage excavation consisted of sections exposed by topsoil removal prior to gravel extraction. There was insufficient time to do more than clean and draw these, very occasionally cutting them back to clarify obscurities, nor was it possible, by the nature of the soil-stripping, to record any features in plan. The limit of topsoil stripping is indicated on fig 1,B. The long north-facing section exposed east-northeast of AA (fig 1, C), showed little or no sign of the stratigraphy observed elsewhere, though the remains of some piles were observed in this area. At the point marked AE (fig 1, B), a black soil layer was observed, from which a number of potsherds was recovered, but time did not allow cutting back and cleaning of the section for drawing.

LAYER DESCRIPTIONS

The drawn sections are all reproduced on fig 3, and the layers shown are described below in numerical order:

Section AA

- 1 Dark brown soil topsoil
- 2 Black clayey soil with plentiful lumps of burnt daub.
- 3 Gravel in a black soil matrix this layer has the appearance of an artificial surface or platform.
- 4 Dark brown clayey soil with daub flecks.
- 5 Yellow/orange clay with lumps of burnt daub, tile fragments and pebbles lying mostly within a welldefined pit with a flat bottom, but with shallower spreads extending to the north and south in section. The feature is interpreted as a probable oven or hearth.
- 6 Dark grey clayey silt with orange striations, containing some gravel patches.
- 7 Natural deposits mostly gravels with occasional brickearths (7a).
- 8 Dark grey/black clay primary deposit.
- 9 Yellow clay with fragments of mortar.
- 10 Gravel in a brown/black soil matrix probably an artifically-created surface.

Section AB

- 11 Black, very clayey silt similar to 8. Infill of a shallow depression.
- 12 Black/dark brown clayey soil topsoil similar to, but more clayey than, 1.
- 13 Grey-brown clayey silt with orange striations (equivalent to 6) with a soil and gravel lens within it.
- 14 Continuation of 11, but infilling of a larger depression or scoop.
- 15 Loose gravel in brown soil matrix.
- 16 Loose gravel and silt primary silting of depression or scoop.

Section AC

- 7 As Section AA.
- 17 Brown soil topsoil similar to 12.
- 18 Brown clay and soil only in section AC.
- 19 Brown clay.
- 20 Blue/grey clay natural formation of clay-like deposits within a man-made water-retentive feature – probably a pond, or tank.

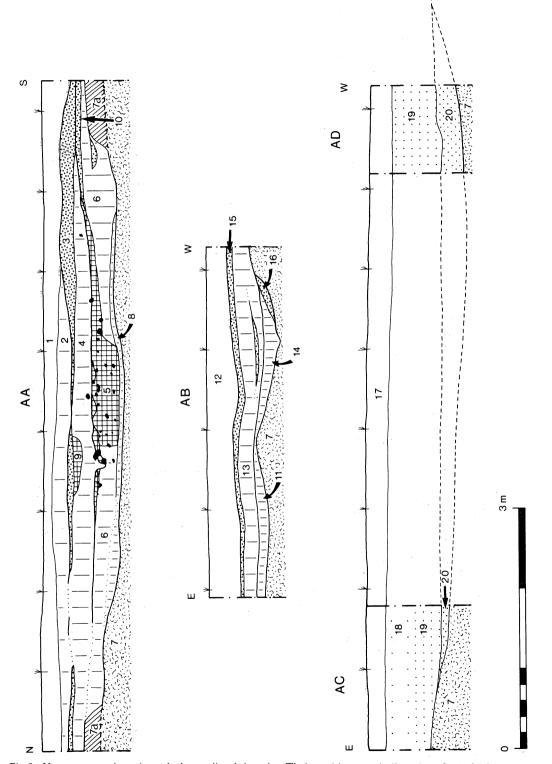


Fig 3. Yeoveney: sections through the medieval deposits. Their positions are indicated on fig 1; for key, see text

INTERPRETATION

The most complex sequence was that revealed in section AA, and this is also, naturally, the most difficult to interpret, especially as there is no information about the extent in plan of the layers revealed. The first activity is represented by the cutting through of the natural brickearth (7) to create a large lowered area 7.5m wide in section AA, but of unknown total extent. A thin, perhaps trampled, deposit (8) formed on the bottom of the hollow before it was virtually levelled by layer (6), which in view of its variable composition seems to have been deliberately dumped in the hollow. A gravel surface (10), was laid over part of the area, and a pit was dug through (6), the fill of which (5), suggests that it was connected with the supposed oven; the latter subsequently collapsed, or was demolished, filling in the pit. Layers (4) and (3) look like a repetition of the sequence of (6) and (10), while (2) was, perhaps, the final phase of tidying when the site went out of use.

It is even more difficult to explain the context in which the above events took place. The most satisfactory explanation would perhaps be that the section drawn lay within a building, the limits of which were beyond the excavated area. Certainly an oven would require to be roofed over, and the repetition of the sequence of soil dumping followed by gravel surfaces, makes more sense if it took place within a defined space.

Section AB is closely related to AA. Two shallow scoops or natural hollows were filled by (11) and (14). The deposition of (13) and (15) was probably part of the same sequence as (6) and (10). The layers in sections AC and AD, however, were quite different and relate to the creation and filling (20) of a pond or 'tank', the square end of which was revealed in ground plan north of AC and AD. It measured c8m east to west, and a little over 3m of it was exposed within the quarry area.

The Pottery (figs 4–6; Microfiche 2–12)

Medieval pottery from the recorded sections (fig 3) represents only a small proportion of the sherds that were collected in the vicinity. 617 sherds (11.7kg) were recovered, but only 135 sherds (1.85kg) came from stratified contexts. In addition there is a small group of 18th or 19th century sherds, mostly of brown coarsewares, that are not further discussed here, and two Roman sherds of c2nd century date. Despite having been collected indiscriminately, Mr Wood's surface finds are of some value, as the relative proportions of ware-types appear to be similar in both collected and excavated groups. All the medieval pottery was processed in order to assess the duration and usage of the site.

It has been thought worthwhile to publish the assemblage in some detail, both because it enables fuller deductions about the significance of the site to be drawn than the limited range of features recorded would have allowed, and because it may indicate a rather different mechanism for the distribution of kiln products than is widely assumed for the medieval period.

Reference is occasionally made in the Microfiche to Staines fabric and ware types. The revised type series of medieval pottery from the town has been prepared, and full details are to be published in the forthcoming reports of excavations at the Mackay Securities and County Sports sites.

Two abbreviations are used in the Microfiche text: cp/jars refer to vessels usually described as cooking pots but which may also have been used for other purposes; and EVEs are estimated vessel equivalents that have been calculated from the percentage totals of the rim fragments (Orton 1975).

DISCUSSION

Comparisons with stratified groups from London and Staines would suggest that nearly all the pottery is of late 13th and early 14th century date. Most is of either Surrey whiteware WW1A (figs 4 & 5, 1-60) and its grey/brown variant (fig 5, 63-101), or else of Denhamtype greywares (fig 6, 102-111). The only other vessels presumed to have been contemporary are some jugs in a variety of oxidised fabrics (fig 6, 113-117). Two of these have been positively identified as Saintonge (fig 6, 116) and London-ware types, and others are probably of south Hertfordshire and Mill Green types, although there remains some uncertainty about their provenance.

Wherever the oxidised jugs were manufactured, most other jugs and nearly all of the kitchen wares are of the whiteware tradition. The coarse sandy whiteware from Yeoveney has many similarities with early Surrey/Hants Border ware which was in use from the second half of the 13th century (Holling 1984). Globular jugs with rilling, vertical grooving and combed decoration are typical of Staines and Yeoveney examples, and also of products made at Farnborough Hill somewhat later in the 14th century. Although the best dated and largest assemblages of whiteware have been found in London, direct comparisons are best avoided until more is known about the number of production centres, and their differences of form, fabric, dating, and distribution.

The presence of WW1A 'proper', and of a variant in distinctive pale grey/brown fabric, is unusual, especially since the latter is not found in Staines. It is possible that the manor bought pottery in bulk, direct from the supplier rather than in the nearby town. Large batches of jugs were ordered by royalty through the bailiffs of Kingston in the second half of the 13th century (Hinton 1980, 382) which may have been of whiteware. Other important landowners, such as Westminster Abbey, could also have received most of their pottery in the same way. Yeoveney was held by the Abbey for most of the medieval period. The majority of the purchases could have been of whiteware proper, but other consignments of iron-tainted near-whiteware may also have been supplied for kitchen use only.

In the middle reaches of the Colne valley to the north of Yeoveney, a number of rural kiln sites are known, which produced broadly similar ranges of coarse greywares with local characteristics. The recently discovered kilns at Rush Green, Denham, represent only one

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	AA8	AA6	AA5/6	AA10	AA5	AA4	AA2	AB 11	AB14	AE2
SURREY WHITE (F.H.)	46	3			3	5	12		7	
SURREY GREY/BROWN	1	6				6		8		6
SAND/FLINT-GRITTED		4	1		1	•		5	2	
other SANDY GREY					-		2	4	2	
SANDY BUFF						1		1		
SHELLY		1		4		1			1	
SAND/FLINT/CHALK						1				1
SAINTONGE									1	

Table 1. Yeoveney: medieval pottery, Sherd count of ware types from excavated or sampled contexts

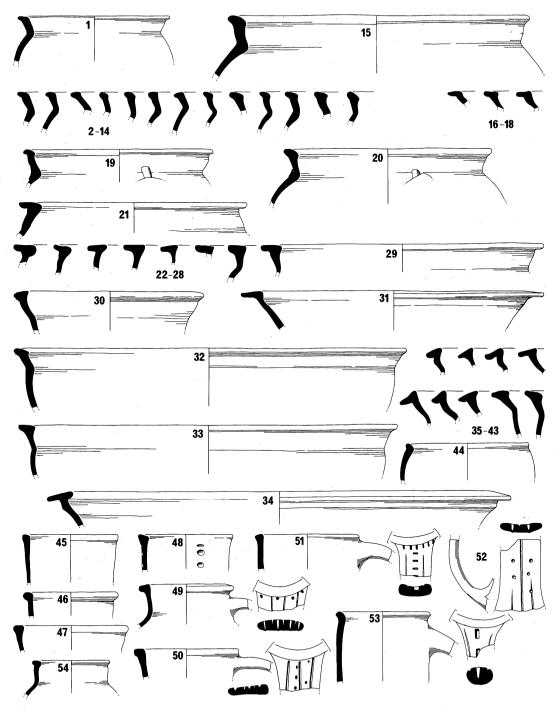


Fig 4. Yeoveney medieval pottery: Whiteware WW1A (Scale 1:4)

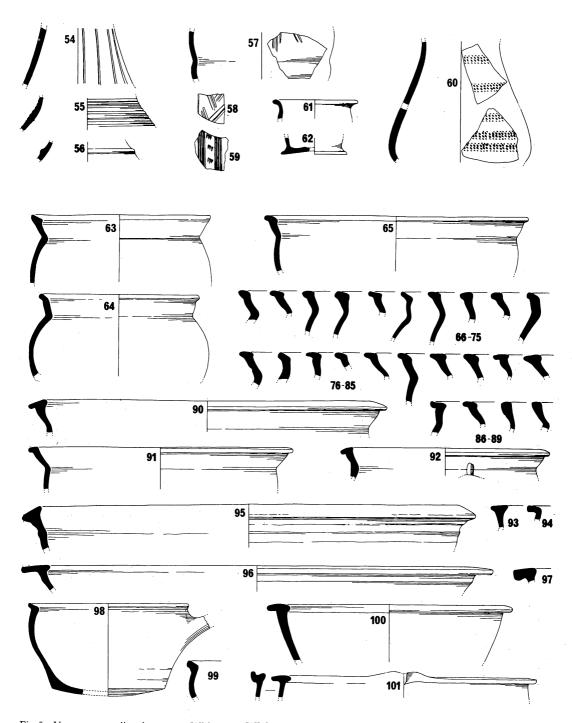


Fig 5. Yeoveney medieval pottery: Whiteware WW1A, nos 54-60; whiteware WW1A pale grey/brown variant, nos 63-101 (Scale 1:4)

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aspect of these 'Hertfordshire Reduced Wares'. Denham-type wares form a significant element in the material from Yeoveney, as they also do in Staines. Others such as those of Pinner-type fabrics were not found at Yeoveney, and are uncommon in Staines.

29 sherds are of wares thought to have been in decline or out of use by the time the Yeoveney site was being used. These were of shelly ware (fig 6, 112), grey sandy ware, and a gritty poly-tempered fabric. A few other sherds were of a later medieval whiteware type (eg fig 5, 61-2), and a sherd from a possibly early post-medieval slipware bowl is of some interest (fig 6, 118).

Other Finds (fig 7)

TILES

Fragments of medieval roof tiles were found in most layers of the recorded sections (one from AA8, one from AA6, seven from AA5 including one that had been part-glazed, and four from AB14). Many other fragments were found on site but only a few of intrinsic interest were retained. These include two fragments of Roman floor tiles (33 and 39mm thick) and the edge of a *tegula*; six medieval floor tiles (between 33 and 42mm thick); and several other roof tile fragments which were pierced by two round peg holes.

Parts of two glazed floor tiles were also found unstratified. One corner fragment, 21mm thick, has slightly bevelled edges and a thin white slip over the upper surface. Most of its clear/pale yellow glaze has worn away and only appears along the edges. The only other fragment, 14mm thick, is without slip, and the clear glaze appears red/brown over the tile surface.

DAUB

A sample of thirteen fragments of burnt daub was retained from AA5. Two were amorphous lumps; seven displayed flattened and wiped surfaces; two were tile-like fragments 16 and 23mm thick, one of which retained an external flat surface and an internal wattle impression, while the other incorporated a three-sided edge.

HONES

Two fragments, both of mica-schist. One is from a small rod-like form of square section, with both ends broken, found in AA6 (fig 7 no 2); the other is a small abraded and unstratified fragment.

ANNULAR BROOCH (fig 7 no 3)

This was found in layer 5 of section AA. John Clark of the Museum of London has contributed

Historical Background

the following comments: Copper alloy with traces of gilding. Cast frame with six raised settings to contain decorative 'gems'; the pin is also cast, and has a plain moulded collar at the hinged end. A very similar brooch from Exeter retains pale green glass or paste in one of its settings (Goodall 1984, 339, fig 190 no 51). The Exeter example is from a mid 13th century context; Goodall also quotes parallels from Worcestershire, dated c1200-1300 (Oswald & Taylor 1964, 73, fig 4 no 17), and Wiltshire (Grant-King 1969, 118, fig 1). A further specimen in the Museum of London collections is undated (accession no A2542: London Museum 1940, 276, pl 78). Annular brooches with settings for paste gems are found in a variety of other forms, with variations in the number of settings and seem, where datable, to belong principally to the 13th century; they are clearly modelled on contemporary jewelled examples in precious metals, such as that in gold set with rubies and sapphires illustrated by Evans (1921, 110 no 10 - cf also Hinton 1982, pl 24).

Justine Bayley of the HBMC Ancient Monuments Laboratory comments that 'the buckle is of fairly pure copper with a gilded surface', and that 'the gilding was probably applied as an amalgam with mercury'.

LEAD

Two small fragments were found unstratified. One may have been part of a came to hold window glass.

BUILDING STONE

One squared block of Upper Greensand, partly burnt, was found lying in close proximity to the hearth or oven AA5.

WORKED FLINTS

One round-end scraper (fig 7 no 1), one snapped blade segment, and one retouched flake. Note also that a jadeite axe was found at this site (Field & Woolley 1983).

The finds from this Yeoveney gravel pit may derive from the Abbot of Westminster's manor or its adjacent hamlet. A published history of the estate by Reynolds (1962, 13-32) describes some topographical aspects drawn from a sample of 13th to 15th century Account Rolls which were examined by Harvey (1977), and from these the identification of the present site as lying close to the manor seems reasonably confirmed. Various other buildings

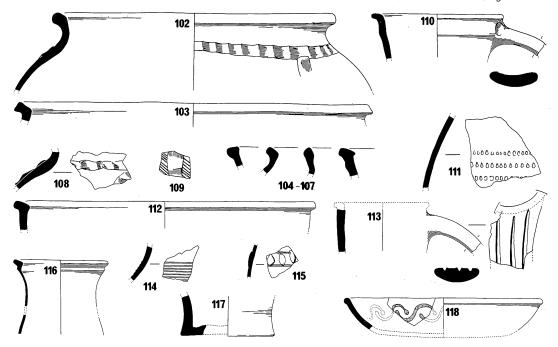


Fig 6. Yeoveney medieval pottery: QF sand and flint-gritted ware, nos 102-111; S2 shelly ware, no 112; oxidised jug wares, nos 113, 114 & 117; London ware, no 115; Saintonge monochrome ware, no 116. No 118 is post-medieval (Scale 1:4)

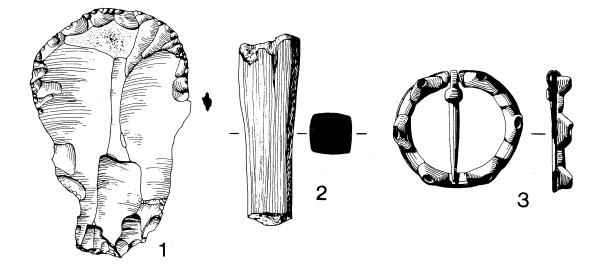


Fig 7. Yeoveney small finds: 1, flint scraper; 2, mica-schist hone; 3, annular brooch (Scale 1:1)

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that included a mill and dye-house may have stood close to the manor, either on the site of the present finds or immediately to the west on the banks of the Wraysbury river. Since there may be some correlation between the fortunes of the manor and the contexts and finds of the gravel pit site, a brief summary of its history seems appropriate. Much of what follows is a digest of the published work by Harvey and Reynolds.

Yeoveney, although not mentioned in the Domesday Book, is soon afterwards referred to as *Gynoeya* (Geofas' island), lying in the pasture of Staines. The area may be that of the later medieval estate as the island would undoubtedly have been that of the raised Floodplain Terrace gravels surrounded by alluvium. The place-name, therefore, may originally have been used to describe the general area, and does not necessarily imply occupation at the manor site or elsewhere. The only evidence of Saxon occupation is at the site of the Neolithic causewayed camp which lies at the southern end of the island, but this seems to have been abandoned before the 10th century (Robertson-Mackay *et al* 1981). The Yeoveney Farm site may not have been occupied before the 12th century, although it has been suggested that there may have been a berewick of Staines there during the 11th century. It may not have been of any great importance however, as the berewicks of Staines in 1065 – Ashford, Laleham, Halliford and Teddington (Sawyer 1968, no 1040) – were in all probability the same four unnamed berewicks listed in the Domesday Book.

In the late 12th century, Yeoveney was described as being farmed separately and on freehold from Staines, whilst still forming part of the Westminster estate in this south-western corner of Middlesex. It received manorial rights early in the 13th century and was engaged in arable production and stock-raising with an area under cultivation of between 140 and 230 acres. In contrast, the amount of arable in Staines remained at c100 acres until the mid 14th century.

Yeoveney mill was possibly one of the six mills of the Staines estate recorded in the Domesday Book. Like the manor itself, however, it is not mentioned until the 13th century, when it is described as being held on leasehold from Westminster Abbey. In 1258, William Poyle, who also held various smallholdings in Stanwell, quitclaimed a house and two mills in Staines and Yeoveney. A description of the latter in 1275 placed it 'by a bridge over and against the moor beyond the mill pond'. This could be the area of the present finds as viewed from Staines, although it could as easily be describing any site along the moorland fringe. Between the site of the current finds and the Wraysbury river however, 19th century maps show an almost completely silted watercourse running parallel with the river for 300m, which could have been the mill leat (fig 2). Yeoveney was probably a nucleated complex administered by Westminster Abbey, with most buildings, including the hamlet for retained staff, adjacent to the manor and probably to the mill. The 1275 description would place it east of the manor complex, with access to the moor by way of a bridge over the river and mill leat.

By the late 13th century the Poyle family had acquired manorial rights for their enlarged Stanwell holdings which included another mill on the Poyle river 3km north of Yeoveney. This straight east-west leat had been cut to divert water from the Wraysbury river to the Shire Ditch which formed the western boundary of the Yeoveney estate. Yeoveney was therefore one of three mills with those of Poyle and Staines, operated by the Poyle family during the 13th century, using the waters of the Wraysbury river. It is suspected that much of the course of the Wraysbury river, as it was until 1965, was due to canalisation, rather than to any originally significant stream. Other deep and meandering channels pass through the area of the gravel pit to the east of its present course and these had totally silted prior to the deposition of medieval debris which overlay them. The blocking of these channels may have been done to facilitate a sufficient head of water in the new or enlarged Wraysbury river, and to assist the reclamation of the moorland.

During the late 13th and early 14th centuries, Yeoveney became a more important asset to the exchequers of the Abbey. Harvey has identified a regional shift by Westminster at this time from its scattered estates to its lands in or near semi-urbanised settlements close to London, such as at Staines and Chelmsford (1977, 168). The main emphasis was on cereal production, although the demands of the wool trade were growing in importance. A woollen industry at Yeoveney was operating by the early 14th century, although tenants of the estate had been raising their own sheep since at least as early as 1275, when one of their number was censured for pasturing more than he had been allowed. A shepherd is frequently mentioned in the account rolls, and the mill which was rebuilt in 1320 was then used, in part, for fulling. A dye-works was also established at the same time.

The early 14th century manor buildings included a hall, gatehouse, byre cowhouse, and two granges. All but the granges may have been contained within the enclosure implied by the gatehouse. There would also have been a need for accommodation for retained staff, as there was by this time a greater reliance on this form of labour service. The enlargement of the demesne and decline in tenancies meant that most work was now performed by paid staff and hired labourers. The hamlet of Yeoveney, mentioned in the Account Rolls, would have served this need for adjacent living quarters.

Two major changes in the management of the estate occurred in the early years of the 14th century. In common with other local estates belonging to Westminster, both labour service and piecework were now in use, and this was made to work to the benefit of the Abbey by the introduction of new accounting procedures. Yeoveney and Staines were worked together by 1346, but five years later Yeoveney became the only large farm in the parish, when such work was abandoned in Staines, most of its lands being acquired by leaseholders; but much that lay north of the church and its glebe eventually passed to Yeoveney.

Yeoveney then, as the principal farm within the parish, was rearing sheep, cattle and pigs; producing wheat, oats and barley; and engaging in 'works' such as the woollen industry. The estate was to change in the mid 14th century however, probably as an indirect result of bad harvests, flooding and plague. Although there is no evidence of any direct cataclysmic effects on the manor, Yeoveney had relied to a large extent on cheap labour, and this became no longer so readily available. There is no further mention of the village or dye-works after the middle of the century, and the mill is last mentioned in 1376. Westminster leased the manor out in 1363, and by the 15th century it was held by the Durdant family. Yeoveney by this time had a chapel subordinate to Staines church, which was either attached to the manor or separately sited 600m to the north on the road to Poyle. By 1555 only three tenants were listed as residents on the estate, apart from those at the manor, and at least some of these may have lived further south in the area of Yeoveney Lodge.

Discussion

It may be possible to reconcile the brief historical summary of the manor given above. with the site of the current finds. The manorial enclosure is most likely to have been that which surrounded the later Yeoveney Farm, with the mill on the Wraysbury river immediately to the east. The hamlet of estate employees probably stood close by, on a lane that led from manor to mill and by bridge out onto the moor. The current finds could be from the mill and dye-works, and the curious clay-filled feature referred to as a tank in the layer descriptions of section AC/AD, may have been connected with such activities. Alternatively, the hamlet may have extended as far as this, since the pottery is largely of kitchen wares and there was much discarded animal bone, a few pits, and at least one oven. Items such as the glazed floor tiles, the Saintonge jug, and the gilded brooch, however, are unlikely to have been the property of cottagers or industrial workers. It could be inferred from these richer finds that the manor house itself may have lain close by, and was perhaps moved to the neighbourhood of Yeoveney Farm after abandonment of the old site. Manors built directly on the floodplain rather than to one side of it are rare within the Colne valley, and the few examples such as The More in Rickmansworth, and Oxhey Hall in Watford, were moated for obvious reasons. Since no such ditched curtilage was observed in the area of the present finds, it is suggested that the site was, in part, used for the dumping of debris from the manor and perhaps also by villagers. It seems likely that there were also some buildings with associated pits, hearth(s) and a 'tank'.

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that may have served some industrial purpose, possibly connected with the mill and dyeworks.

One problem with the interpretation given above, is that 18th century maps show the site as lying just outside the Yeoveney estate boundary, and in the common moor of Staines. This may not have been so in the medieval period however, or at least not prior to the abandonment of the present site. The northern boundary of Staines Moor at that time may have been the east-west ditch which still lies immediately to the south of the site. It is clearly later than the two south-flowing watercourses which traverse the site to the east, and were seen to underlie the ditch in the area AE (see fig 1, B). The east-west ditch was probably dug at or around the time of the first use of the site, since although there were profuse finds immediately north of it, none were found in the quarry and mound immediately to the south.

DATING

From the pottery and other finds it would seem that the site was most in use from the mid 13th to the mid 14th century. The few shell-tempered and other 12th and early 13th century sherds may indicate the survival of old stocks, or else these, and also the two Roman sherds, come from earlier habitation nearby. The majority of the pottery was Surrey whiteware, even in the lowest levels overlying the alluvium. Since there is no certain evidence that the ware was manufactured much before the middle of the 13th century, all the observed stratigraphy was probably of later date. Much of the whiteware is of early Surrey/Hampshire Border-type, usually dated to the late 13th and early 14th centuries. A broadly similar date is likely for the Denham-type ware, the Saintonge jug, and the gilded brooch. Only a few sherds of pottery could be later than c1350. Their presence may again well be explained as due to nearby habitation. Bung-hole pitchers are a notable omission from the range of coarsewares; they are common at Staines in the later 14th and 15th centuries, and their absence at the site of Yeoveney would tend to confirm the impression that it was no longer in use after the middle of the 14th century.

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