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former DEE'S GARAGE, Brighton Road, South Croydon London Borough of Croydon

An Archaeological Report

Museum of London Archaeology Service
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London Borough of Croydon

An Archaeological Report

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Abstract

Archaeological investigation of a redevelopment site at 15–17 Brighton Road, South Croydon took place between the 28th June and 30th July 1993. Work was undertaken with the financial support of the developers, Bellway Homes (South East Division).

The site was located immediately to the east of the Brighton Road, about 1200m to the southeast of the historic town centre. The immediate area is generally built up but historically was open land, with the medieval Haling Manor to the southwest (roughly the area of the present Whitgift School). The present line of Brighton Road may follow that of the Roman road to the south coast, the so called London–Brighton Way: it is also possible that Croham Road, to the east of the site, follows an original Iron Age/Roman route.

The overall development area measured approximately 80m x 100m; just over 20% of this was covered by the investigation, which consisted of nine separate or connecting trenches. Excavation produced nearly 300 prehistoric struck flints, largely miscellaneous flakes but including a few tools. Most of the flints were residual within later (Roman to post-medieval) contexts, but their presence clearly indicates earlier activity in the area. Of particular importance was a Late Bronze Age copper alloy razor.

The investigation also yielded quite substantial quantities of Roman material, mainly potsherds with very occasional building material. There were a number of associated features, in particular two parallel east–west ditches which appear to date to the period AD 120–180; however, other Roman contexts may be later. Particular evidence for a late Roman presence was afforded by a somewhat dispersed hoard of 58 bronze coins, of mid 4th century date.

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Front cover: Coin of Magnentius, AD 351–352. *Reverse* GLORIA ROMANORUM. Emperor on horseback, spearing kneeling enemy. Mint TRP (Trier) (Scale 2:1)

Acknowledgements

The Museum of London Archaeology Service would like to express its thanks to Bellway Homes (South East Division), who provided access to the site and project funding, as well as machining and on-site facilities. Particular thanks are due to Mr Neil Lockhart for his coordination of the developers response.

This report should also acknowledge the support for archaeological measures given by English Heritage (Ken Whittaker), and by the London Borough of Croydon Planning and Transportation Department.

1. Introduction

This report forms a summary of archaeological investigation on the site of the former Dees Garage, 15–17 Brighton Road, London Borough of Croydon (Fig 1). Work was undertaken between the 28th June and 30th July, 1993, by staff from the Museum of London Archaeology Service.

The site was centred at approximately National Grid Reference TQ32556428. It lies partly within an archaeological priority zone, as defined in the London Borough of Croydon Unitary Development Plan Deposit Draft (July 1993).

Archaeological investigation took place following a planning application (Ref.92/2601/P), and as a condition of consent for redevelopment. Negotiations were undertaken and the support of the developer, Bellway Homes Limited, obtained for an agreed programme of work.

The initial archaeological investigation took the form of an evaluation, carried out in accordance with a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority and English Heritage. The basic methodology is set out in the DOE Planning Policy Guidance 'Archaeology and Planning' No.16, November 1990 (PPG 16). The primary purpose of an evaluation is to assess the extent and character of archaeological remains, and consequently the potential threat posed by development, as a material planning consideration.

Where necessary therefore archaeological safeguards can be applied to a planning application, either as a pre–condition to or during redevelopment work. Safeguards would normally include design modifications to facilitate in situ preservation and/or archaeological excavation in advance of development.

On the Brighton Road site arrangements for archaeological excavation formed the principal strategy for implementation of further archaeological measures, following on from the positive result of the initial evaluation. In addition, the development design allowed for some measure of preservation in situ.

The archaeological investigation at 15–17 Brighton Road has also provided an opportunity to address several research questions. There are three main areas of enquiry: Possible prehistoric activity from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age; the origins and early history of Croydon itself, from Roman to medieval times; and finally the more recent development of the area. The existing evidence on all these points is summarised below.

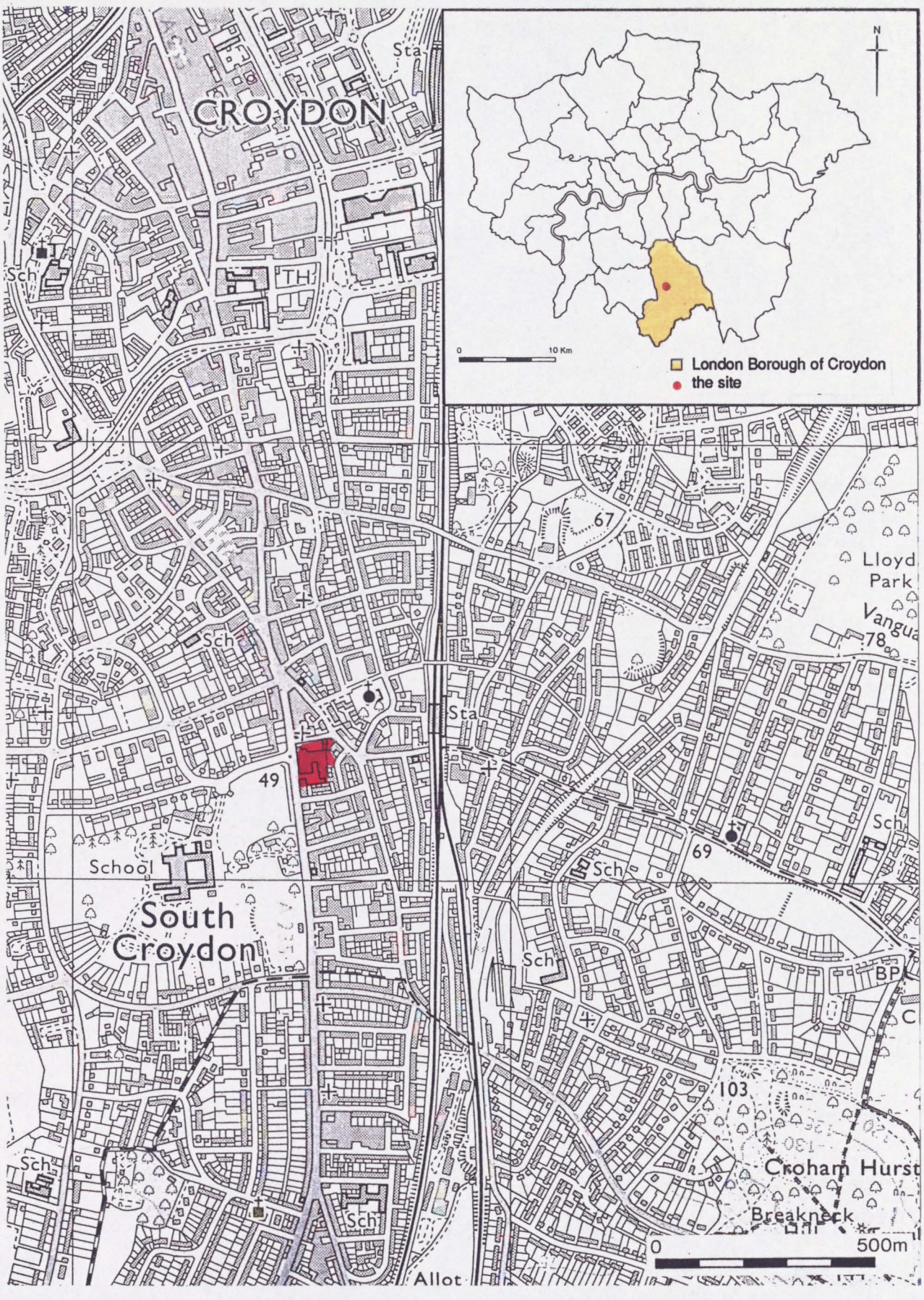


Fig 1 Site location

2. Background: The location, archaeology and history of Croydon

The site is located at the entrance to an important gap in the North Downs; this formed a natural communications route now followed by the Brighton Road. The indigenous environment may also have been attractive to early communities.

The archaeological and historical record indicates continuous human activity over a long period of time, and a consequently high archaeological potential within many parts of the Croydon area (Appendix XI).

2.1 Geology and topography

The development site lies near the lower end of a north/south dry valley, close to the point at which this emerged from the northern slope of the North Downs into the Thames Basin. The valley was formed by postglacial meltwater drainage, as part of a more extensive tributary system of the Thames.

The site itself and the immediately adjacent land is quite level, in general between +49.00 and +49.50 mOD. However, the valley basin is narrow, even at this point no more than 300m wide. The surrounding downland rises to the east and west (Fig 8), to heights of around +65.00 to +80.00 mOD within 1000m. To the southeast the rise is steeper, to over +90.00 mOD.

The site itself overlay a natural ground surface of geologically quite recent alluvial gravels (otherwise referred to as the Taplow Terrace). This deposit was laid down along the valley floor during the Pleistocene period, and is one of a complex series of terraces found within the Thames Basin. The gravel now forms an extensive deposit over the much older Cretaceous chalk of the North Downs.

2.2 Prehistory

There are a considerable number of references to prehistoric material, both from archaeological excavation and chance find (Appendix XI, also Barratt & Miller 1991, Nielsen 1992). These include occasional Palaeolithic finds; however, the first extensive indication of human activity in the area comes from finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic date (8000–2500 BC).

Evidence for settlement is considerably later, dating to the Later Bronze or Iron Age (c.900 BC to AD 43). This suggests scattered settlement at a number of locations, notably Waddon and Beddington in the Wandle Valley.

2.3 Roman evidence

Croydon lay on the line of a fairly important Roman road, the so-called London-Brighton Way. To the north this route is fairly well established, from the Old Town through Broad Green to Streatham, and ultimately to a junction with Stane Street just to the south of London. However, to the south of Croydon and as far as Godstone Hill the exact course is uncertain; the road may have followed the line of the valley and the present-day Southbridge and Brighton Roads (Drewett 1974, 1), or it may have lain on higher ground just to the west of Haling Park – a possible route lies about 700m from the present site (Margary 1937, 132 & 1973, 62).

To date it has not been possible to firmly establish the nature or extent of any settlement. Nevertheless, there is considerable evidence for Roman activity in the Croydon area, and in particular within the Old Town. Past finds include pits and ditches, pottery, building material, coins and several coin hoards, and a number of inhumations (Appendix XI, also Shaw 1988a, Miller 1989b, Barratt & Miller 1991, Nielsen 1992). The character, scale and distribution of these finds clearly indicate more than isolated occupation, for instance a single farmstead.

It may also be noted that Croydon lies approximately 10 miles south of London. Thus it has been suggested that the town originated as the site of a *mutatio* (one of a series of posting stations constructed at roughly 10 mile intervals along imperial roads). It is likely that such an establishment would in time have attracted further settlement and ultimately led to the development of a roadside village. Several settlements in Surrey probably owe their origin to this process.

2.4 Saxon settlement

There have been a number of finds of Saxon date; moreover, the name Croydon evidently originated in this period. One of the earliest and most important finds is represented by the discovery in 1893/94 of inhumations dating to the 5th or 6th century AD. These were located in the Edridge Road area, just to the southeast of the Old Town and about 900m to the north of the present site. In recent years this has led to further investigation, the most recent and notable at 82–86 Park Lane (Nielsen 1992). This revealed at least twelve and possibly seventeen cremations and inhumations, provisionally dated to the 5th century AD.

These discoveries form part of one of three major pagan Saxon cemeteries in the area, the others being located at Beddington and Mitcham. The very early date, and the presence of some Roman pottery, would also suggest a continuity of occupation from the Roman period.

However, there is once again a lack of hard evidence for settlement. This may have been in the vicinity of the present parish church, which replaced a medieval church largely destroyed by fire in the 19th century, and which in turn may have been constructed on the site of a Saxon establishment.

The earliest documentary references to Croydon date to the ninth century – AD 809 and 871 (Gent 1991, Drewett 1974, 2), although these give no detail as to the size of the settlement. Occasional finds of later Saxon material have been made during excavation, notably in the area of the Old Town (Drewett 1974, 2).

2.5 The medieval town

The settlement was firmly established by the time of the Norman Conquest. The Domesday survey in 1086 records the Manor of Croydon as follows:–

> "Archbishop Lanfranc holds in demesne Croindene. In the time of King Edward it was assessed for eighty hides and now for sixteen hides on one virgate. The land is sufficient for twenty ploughs. In demesne there are four ploughs, forty–eight villans and forty–five bordars with thirty–four ploughs. Here is a church; and one mill of five shillings and eight acres of meadow. Wood for two hundred swine. Of the land of this manor Restold holds seven hides of the Archbishop. Rolf one hide; and from thence they have seven pounds and eight shillings for gable. In the time of King Edward, and afterwards, the whole was worth twelve pounds. Now, twenty–seven pounds of the Archbishop; and of his men ten pounds and ten shillings."

The Archiepiscopal Palace may have been constructed at this time or shortly after, quite possibly on the site of an existing Saxon manor.

Croydon really appears in the written record from the later 13th century. References stem from the Archbishop of Canterbury's residence in the town, and in fact form the first actual evidence for this (as distinct from the possession of land). The 1270's saw establishment of a weekly market and an annual fair, acts which presumably both reflected and enhanced Croydon's role as a centre for local trade. These privileges were extended by further Charters in 1314 and 1343.

In the 14th century the Archiepiscopal Palace (otherwise known as Croydon House) would have formed the focus of the medieval town, and its presence must have had considerable influence on further development. Although still fairly small the settlement was starting to expand, in particular to the east and onto higher ground overlooking the Old Town (the area of the present day Surrey Street).

Recent archaeological investigation has produced further evidence for medieval settlement (Miller 1989a/b, Barratt & Miller 1991, Nielsen 1992). To the southwest of the present site, in the area of Whitgift School, lay Haling Manor – dated from documentary sources to at least AD 1202. Excavation here has revealed evidence of 13th century activity (Davison 1988).

2.6 Later history: The 16th to 19th centuries

By the later 16th century Croydon was a well established market town. This role was enhanced by its proximity to London – notably as a centre for the local charcoal burning industry, which formed a major source of fuel until the large scale advent of coal in the 18th century. In the 17th and 18th centuries Croydon was also an important centre for the corn trade.

The town underwent relatively gradual change in size and geographical extent until the mid 18th century. After this date the growth in trade gave Croydon an increasingly prominent position on the route from London to the south coast. Initially this led to the establishment of the London–Brighton road, which in turn stimulated ribbon development to the north and – in particular – to the south of the town. This was followed by the opening of the Surrey Iron Railway (1803–1805) and the Croydon canal (1809). The enclosure of common land in the latter half of the 18th century was also to have considerable influence on the later expansion of the town.

However, rapid growth only took place from the 1840's, prompted largely by railway development and the appearance of a commuting labour force. The rapid expansion in housing is clearly illustrated by maps of South Croydon, which show the area between Brighton Road and the railway line to the east largely empty in 1847, but almost wholly built–up by the end of the century. Croydon's population increased more than ten–fold between 1851 and 1931.

2.7 The development of the Brighton Road site from c.1750

The development of the present site took place in stages, and can be best summarised from cartographic evidence. The Rocque map of c.1763 appears to be the first to show the area in any detail, albeit not to an accurate scale. It is evident that the land was composed of open fields; nor is there any evidence for previous building on the site, although Rocque does show the line of the present Brighton and Selsdon roads – which partly demarcate the site – and the beginnings of ribbon development.

The above picture is subsequently shown in a rather more detail (Bainbridge 1800), from which it can be seen that the site area was occupied by parts of two adjoining fields, with an approximate east–west division.

The first plan of building on the site appears to date to the Tithe Assessment (Roberts 1847). This shows the land in considerable detail, now divided into about five principal east–west plots: Within two of these are adjoining (though fairly sizeable) properties, located about midway along the Brighton Road frontage of the present site. This development most probably dates to the 1830's or early 1840's.

Subsequent evidence of development is provided by the Ordnance Survey twenty–five inch series. The first edition (c.1863) shows further building, principally two blocks of terraced properties to the north of the site, facing onto Brighton Road and Bartlett Street. There had also been some limited development in the northeast and southeast corners.

South Croydon as a whole continued to be rapidly built up. However, the 1894/96 map and the 1913 revision both show the site area much as described above; the only significant addition is represented by two adjoining properties constructed on the Bartlett Street frontage.

The 1933 revision shows all the previous buildings but also extensive development within the central part of the site, as well as the construction of a number of small units to the south. These changes are presumably associated with the establishment of Dees Garage, and it is evident that land ownership was progressively absorbed into a single concern. Subsequent maps show that this process continued, with the disappearance of most of the earlier properties. In 1992 the land was finally sold off and the site subsequently cleared for redevelopment.

3. The Archaeological Investigation

3.1 Methodology

The total area affected by the planning application covered approximately 0.69 hectares (Fig 2). The proposed redevelopment involved the construction of two main blocks of residential flats to the north and west of the site, with adjacent service trenches, access roads and car parking areas. This development would clearly have a significant impact upon potential archaeological remains.

Agreement on the initial research design provided for an archaeological evaluation: Two trenches were opened by machine, each approximately 5m in width and respectively 25m and 20m in length. These trenches were located to the north and west of the site within the footprint of proposed main construction, and were aligned to follow this, respectively east/west (Trench 1) and north/south (Trench 2).

The evaluation trenches covered an area of approximately 225sq.metres. A number of significant archaeological features were identified, apparently of both prehistoric and Roman date. Subsequently an archaeological mitigation strategy was agreed; this took account of the evaluation results and the nature of the proposed development, which included both intrusive groundwork and a more general reduction of levels. The preferred option was for archaeological excavation over a large part of the site, and a specification/research design for this was accordingly produced.

In the event Trenches 1 and 2 were extended so as to join to the northwest; a further seven trenches were opened, all but one of broadly similar width (c 5m) but ranging in length from about 23 to 41 metres. The second phase trenches sought to follow the projected line of features established in the evaluation and also to intersect others in areas not previously investigated. The actual number of trenches and extent of investigation was determined during the course of work on site. This decision was made on practical and archaeological grounds, in essence that an adequate sample had been obtained.

The final trench layout is shown on Fig 2. Almost all the work was contained within a roughly rectangular area measuring some 50m east/west by 60m north/south (approximately 0.30 of a hectare) which formed the focus of redevelopment.

National Grid References for the corners of this area were as follows:-

SW	TQ3252664249
NW	TQ3251864309
NE	TQ3256764316
SE	TQ3257464256

One trench (No.9) was located to the east of the main area of investigation, in order to sample that part of the site.

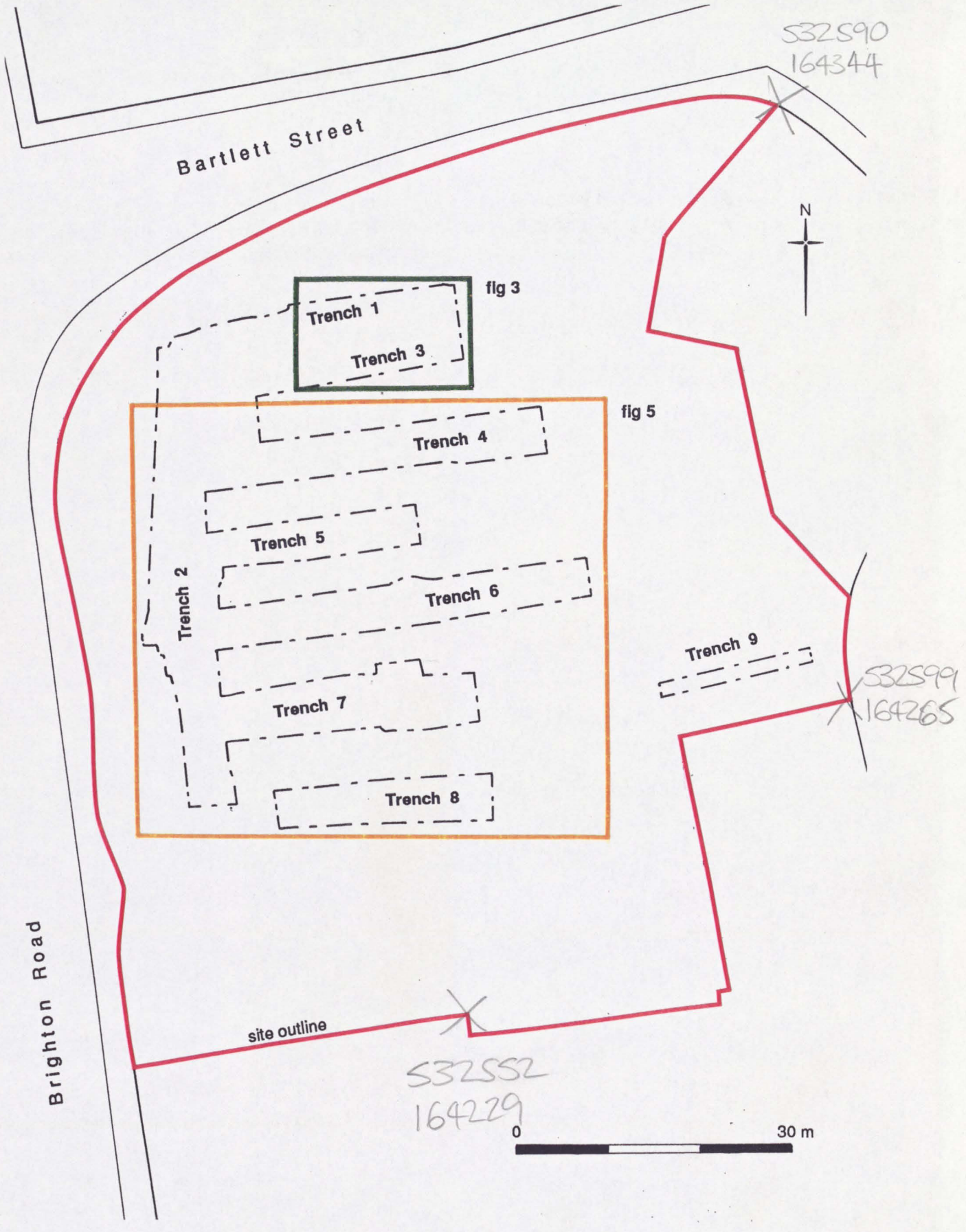


Fig 2 Plan showing site outline and archaeological trenches

In practice the area was somewhat reduced by the presence of modern foundations and other disturbance, mainly (although not exclusively) from the recently demolished garage. Quite large areas had been truncated in plan, and there were also a number of deeper intrusions; this latter was particularly evident in the southwest corner of the investigation area, where it appears that fuel tanks had been located.

In detail the archaeological trenches comprised the following:-

Trench No	Comment/approx.dimensions	Area(sq.m)
1	Evaluation trench (5 x 20m), extended to the west (c.5 x 14m)	170
2	Evaluation trench (5 x 25m), extended to the north (c.5 x 23m), plus further strips to E and W (approx.1-3m wide)	288
-	Additional area to NW, in angle between extended Trenches 1 and 2 (c 6.5 x 9m)	58.5
3	Second phase of investigation, E-W trench (4 x 23.5m)	94
4	E-W trench (5 x 38m)	190
5	" " (4.5 x 22.5m)	101.25
6	" " (4.75 x 41m)	194.75
7	" " (c 6 x 28.5m, including sections subsequently cut back 0.5m to 1.5m to N and S)	171
8	E-W trench (5 x 24m)	120
9	" " (1.5 x 17m)	25.5
	TOTAL	1410

The total area of archaeological investigation was thus just over 0.14 of a hectare, or some 20.5% of the whole site - and in practice a much larger proportion of the area directly affected by construction.

The archaeological trenches were excavated by machine to varying depths, from about 0.15m to as much as 1.0m below ground level. In general the deeper areas were to the east and north, in the latter case outside the previous building footprint. The uppermost stratum was

largely formed by recent demolition debris; in the deeper areas this overlay a layer of presumed agricultural soil. This latter was up to about 0.4m in depth and of fairly recent (later 18th to 19th century) date.

In some areas (especially to the west of the site) there was little or no extant soil profile, all deposits except deeper cut features having been removed to the level of natural gravel by successive developments of the site in the 19th and 20th centuries. Where possible machining was used to remove all recent deposits and features, whilst leaving anything of archaeological value. Modern disturbance was largely reduced to discrete features, many of which were cut into the natural gravels.

Initial archaeological investigation took place in plan, exposed surfaces being cleaned by hand to identify any possible features. Thereafter deposits and infilled features were dug out, in stratigraphic sequence, either wholly or within a sample area. The nature of redevelopment and the varying depths of archaeological material will ensure a measure of in situ preservation on the site.

3.2 The archaeological record

Throughout the text the investigation is described in terms of nine separate trenches. In fact most of these were physically joined, but – due to subsequent truncation – had little or no archaeological continuity. This will be considered more fully below.

All archaeological deposits and features found in the investigation are represented by discrete context numbers (1 to 118). Reference is made to these within the text and in illustration. The principal contexts, features of Roman or possible prehistoric date, are shown on Figs 5 and 3 respectively.

All context numbers also appear within their stratigraphic relationship on the respective trench matrix (Appendix VIII), and are listed in full with a brief interpretative note (Appendix IX). The following trench descriptions may therefore be read in conjunction with these Appendices.

3.3 A description of archaeological findings in Trenches 1–9

Trench 1

The investigation revealed a considerable number of features, particularly in the central and eastern part of the trench (the initial evaluation area). The resultant contexts can broadly be divided into three groups:–

i) Post–medieval pits (contexts 3–14, 34–37, 39–40, others not recorded in detail).
Trench 1 contained about twenty infilled pits which were, or appeared to be, of fairly recent date. These were of varying sizes and depths, from about 0.4 to 2.5m in plan, although in all cases truncated by machine clearance. Most of these features were discrete and, despite some pattern, lack an obvious functional interpretation.

One further note may be added, in relation to the pit infill (9). This produced a fragment of Roman glass, consequently residual but the only example of this material from the investigation (Appendix IV).

ii) Roman soil horizons (contexts 18 and 44).
In parts of Trench 1 machine clearance exposed an undifferentiated spread of fairly dark sandy silt and gravel which produced sherds of Roman pottery. This was particularly marked in the case of (18), which occupied roughly the western half of the original evaluation trench.

Several of the contexts described below as possibly prehistoric (21, 25, 27) are recorded as having produced Roman pot. It is quite possible that this material was intrusive – or perhaps lay at the base of an overlying soil horizon. All the sherds were small, abraded and in the case of both (21) and (25) limited to a single example.

iii) Possible prehistoric features (contexts 19–28, 32–33).
Within the original evaluation area of Trench 1 there were five shallow but quite sizeable features, four of which were linear and lay on the same (roughly north/south) alignment. The fills were all quite similar, basically a grey brown sandy silt with gravel and some larger flint nodules. In general these features could not be traced above the level of the adjacent natural gravel; presumably they had been truncated by later cultivation.

It is possible that some if not all of these features were prehistoric. However, there was no conclusive – or at least – close dating evidence (Appendix 1); nor was there any relative chronology between the features. In part the suggested dating is based upon the absence of Roman finds (except as noted above and probably intrusive). This was particularly noticeable in the case of the feature (27/28), where the overlying deposit (18) had produced quite frequent Roman pot. The possible prehistoric features are considered below from east to west (and are illustrated in Fig.3):

– A roughly ovoid hollow (fill 25/32, cut 26/33). This spanned more or less the full width of the trench, running into section to the south. Dimensions were approximately 5m x 3m, and maximum depth 0.26m.

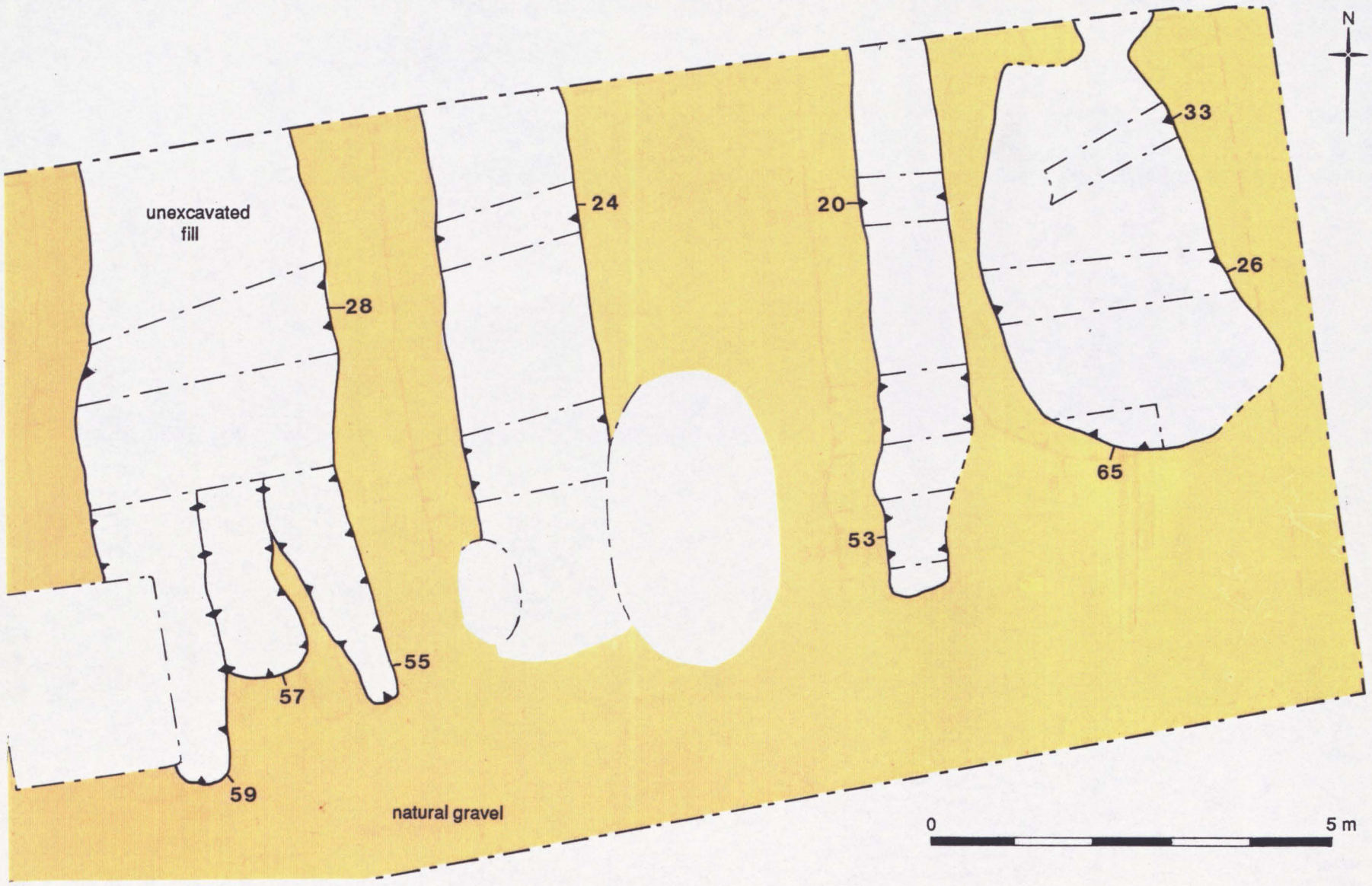


Fig 3 Plan of possible prehistoric features in Trenches 1 and 3

– A north/south linear feature (fill 19, cut 20). This was traced for just over 5m, across the full width of the evaluation trench, and ran into the section on both sides. The feature was about 1m wide but quite shallow, at about 0.07 to 0.15m deep.

– A further linear feature (21, 22). This lay just to the west of the above and on the same alignment, but appeared to terminate (or perhaps was truncated) to the south. The cut was up to 0.9m wide – in the north section – and about 0.2m deep.

– A linear feature (23, 24). Similar to (20)above; a length of about 5m was traced, apparently running into section to the north and south. The cut was about 1.75m wide but no more than 0.05 to 0.1m deep.

– Three adjoining linear features (27, 28). These appear to represent parts of a single event; they were not obviously differentiated by fill, and in fact were only defined the southern end of a broad feature which crossed Trench 1. The individual cuts were from 0.8 to 1.25m wide and 0.14 to 0.18m deep. By contrast, a second excavated slot in the centre of the trench revealed a single uninterrupted profile, approximately 3m wide and about 0.15m deep. However, all these areas produced prehistoric struck flint – and in considerably greater quantity than the other features noted above (Appendix I).

Trench 2

The southern part of Trench 2 was extensively disturbed by modern building and demolition activity. Machine clearance over some 8 to 10m revealed only truncated natural gravel or deeper rubble filled intrusions.

The northern part of the initial evaluation trench – an area of approximately 8m x 7m – contained a series of brick foundations, and also part of a backfilled cellar. Wall thicknesses ranged from about 0.25 to 0.55m; the foundations were quite shallow, and survived only to two or three courses in height.

These features clearly predated the recently demolished Garage, and probably relate to the adjoining houses shown on the map of 1847 (2.6 above). Only a part of the ground plan survived, probably to the south, and appeared to include one room about 5m square. The infilled basement, which was located on the eastern side of the trench, was subsequently defined in plan (Trench 6). The dimensions were 4.5m east/west by at least 6m north/south, although it was only excavated to a depth of about 0.6m.

Archaeologically much more significant features were represented by sections of two Roman ditches. These were located in the initial evaluation trench, near its northern end and in the central area; they crossed the trench east/west, where not removed by modern intrusion. The cuts were broadly similar in depth and profile (that to the south being slightly larger), and both were clearly truncated by modern construction – at or just above the level of natural, with remnants of the adjacent soil horizon (31/41).

– The northern ditch (fill 16, cut 17) was about 1m wide and (at a maximum) 0.33m deep. A total east/west length of nearly 7m was traced, thereafter cut away in both directions by modern intrusion.

– A shorter length of the second ditch (29, 30) was recorded. This too was cut away to east and west by modern intrusion, giving a maximum length of about 2.3m. The width of the cut was 1.45 to 1.6m, and depth up to 0.5m.

Further substantial lengths of both these features came to light in Trenches 6 and 7 (Fig 5); the evidence for dating is also considered more fully in these sections.

Trench 3

To the north this trench directly adjoined the evaluation area of Trench 1: to the south a line of modern disturbance traced the northern extent of the recently demolished garage. Once again there were a number of discrete cut features, many of which were clearly modern (contexts 48–51 and others not recorded in detail). There were several other features which produced no dateable finds but which may be prehistoric, in so far as they formed a continuation of those already noted in relation to Trench 1. These were generally shallow and clearly truncated by later activity; from east to west they were as follows:

– A fairly small semi–circular feature (fill 64, cut 65); this represents the southern extremity of the shallow hollow (26/33).

– A roughly linear feature, aligned north/south (52, 53). This may be the continuation of the cut (20), although it terminates (or is possibly truncated) less than 2m to south.

– Three separate linear cuts and associated fills (54–59 inc). These represent the direct continuation of (27, 28). Once again the features terminate a short distance to south, between 1.40 and 2.60m. Two of the features – to the east – were largely intact, but that to the west had been heavily disturbed by modern intrusion.

– Towards the western end of the trench there was a further possible north/south feature (fill 60, cut 61). The adjacent area was rather disturbed, but further intrusions may represent parts of an originally continuous feature. However, none of these cuts produced any dateable finds.

Trench 4

Within this trench there were a number of fairly small pits, generally about 0.5 to 0.9m in plan and some 0.11 to 0.2m deep. A number of these were not conclusively dated (74, 75, 84–89 inclusive). However, it is likely that most (if not all) were post–medieval, quite possibly 19th century or later.

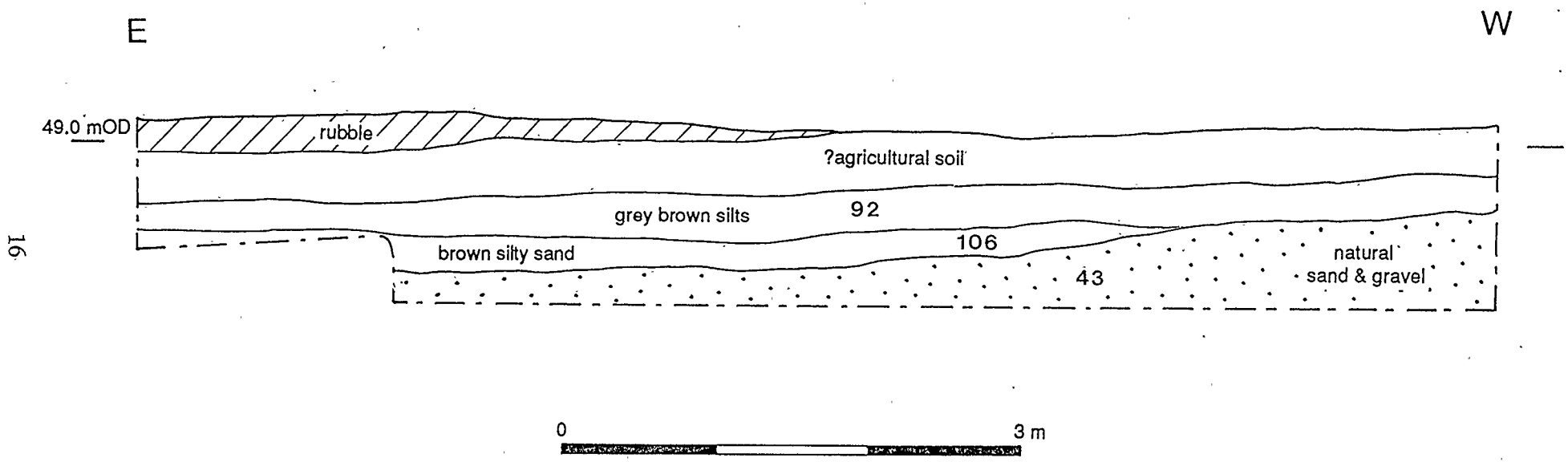


Fig 4 Section in Trench 4 showing the natural land surface and overlying deposits

In the western part of Trench 4 there were a series of linear features, aligned (with one exception) roughly north/south and all apparently truncated. These are described below from east to west:

– Two adjoining trenches (Fig 5): a north/south cut and associated fills (68–71 inclusive), and to the southwest a similar feature (72, 73). These features converged to the north, and may well form parts of a single event. It was not possible to differentiate fills; moreover the cuts were of fairly similar width and depth (respectively 0.85 to 1.05m and 0.16 to 0.3m). The features produced Roman pottery and appear to be of this period, although closer dating was not obtained (Appendix II). However, it is possible that they continued to the south, to reappear as (100) and (101) in Trench 5.

– A linear feature (fill 90, cut 91). This was undated, but may form a continuation of the cut (61) in Trench 3. The feature was about 0.8m wide but no more than 0.09m deep, and appeared to terminate – or was truncated – some 2.7m to the south.

– A further linear cut and fill (83, 82). Again undated, and apparently terminating to the north, although the line may be continued to the south by (97) in Trench 5 (see below). The cut was about 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep.

In the above areas the natural gravel was exposed, and probably to some extent truncated. However, towards the eastern end of Trench 5 the surface of this deposit sloped away – by some 0.55m over a distance of 9.5m. It was progressively overlain by deposits of mid and darker brown sandy silt with gravel inclusion (92 and 106, Fig 4).

Trench 5

The investigation revealed a scatter of fairly small pits (98, 99, 102–105 inclusive, plus others not recorded in detail). These averaged 0.5 to 0.7m in plan, and ranged from 11 to 0.2m in depth. It is likely – as in Trench 4 – that these were all of post–medieval date, probably 19th century or later. There were three principal features in Trench 5, in each case linear and aligned roughly north/south. These were as follows:

– Most obviously, a broad cut which bisected the trench near its eastern end (101, fill 100). This was nearly 4m wide, although apparently only about 0.2 to 0.3m deep. The feature may form a southward continuation of those in Trench 4 (68–73 above); in particular, it contained on its eastern side a slightly deeper area which followed the line of (69) and (71). It also produced Roman pottery dating to the period AD 120 to 400 (plus one apparently intrusive post–medieval sherd): the earliest date suggests a possible parallel with features in Trenches 6 and 7 (see below).

– Towards the western end of Trench 5 there were two further features (94–97 inclusive). These were confined to the northern half of the trench, about 3m apart, and both were about 0.25m deep. Neither feature was dated, although it is possible that (97) represents a southward continuation of (83) in Trench 4.

Trench 6

At its western end this trench was cut away by part of a 19th century cellar, already described under Trench 2.

Otherwise the trench followed the line of a Roman ditch (17), also previously noted in relation to Trench 2 (Figs 5 and 6). Pottery finds suggest that the most likely date for this feature – or at least for its final infilling – lies in the period AD 120 to 180 (Appendix II). The possible function and likelihood of associated features are discussed in more detail below (4.2).

Excavation of the ditch was confined largely to a series of sample slots at regular intervals. However, the cut was traced in plan along the length of Trench 6 and finally into section in the southeast corner, giving a total length of about 50m. It was only seen at the level of the natural gravel, and had evidently been truncated. The extant width ranged from about 1 to 3m, and the depth from about 0.35 to 0.5m; in cross–section the cut was roughly bowl–shaped, the sides becoming shallower as the width increased to the east.

In the western part of Trench 6 the base of the ditch sloped down from west to east, following a gentle fall in the surface of the natural. However, the cut then dropped quite steeply, by about 0.5m in 5m, becoming deeper as it did so. Further to the east the ditch shallowed out again, its base rising about 0.3m over a distance of slightly less than 20m.

The material within the ditch fell basically into two categories; apparently deliberate infill and natural waterlaid deposition. The first of these occurred in the western part of the trench – a dark brown sandy silt with gravel (16), clearly a continuation of the fill recorded in Trench 2. In the centre and to the east of the trench thick deposits of fine sand/silt (114, 116, 117) overlay a primary fill of silty sand with gravel. These deposits were particularly in evidence in the deeper central section of the ditch; to the east these were sealed by a relatively shallow (0.1 to 0.15m) layer of clean sandy gravel (115).

The fine sand/silt was clearly waterlaid, either washed out from adjacent higher areas or deposited within standing water. It is possible that infilling (117), which was found towards the eastern end of the ditch, had left the central (and deeper) section open, in effect forming a elongated pond. It was this area which produced the Late Bronze Age copper alloy razor (Fig 7 and 4.1 below). There were two principal deposits, (116) which had probably accumulated in shallow standing water, and (114) which overlay this and may well reflect a transitional/marshy enviroment.

Despite truncation the ditch fills formed a relatively well stratified and datable deposit; samples were therefore taken to recover any potential environmental material (Appendix VII). Soil conditions suggested that this would be restricted to bone and molluscs and possibly carbonized remains, although it was hoped that well compacted silt would preserve some organic remains in an anaerobic environment.

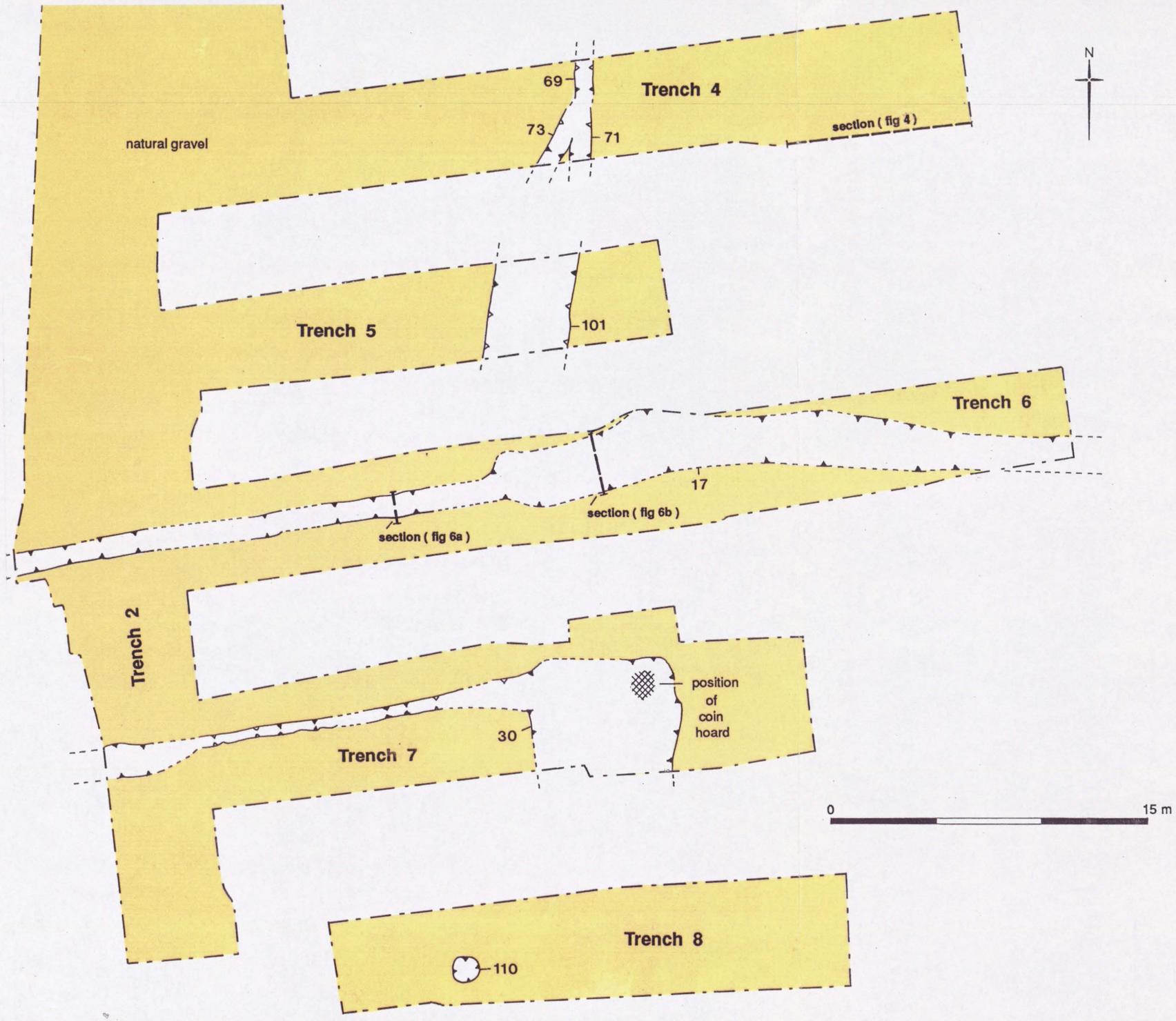


Fig 5 Plan of Roman features recorded during the investigation

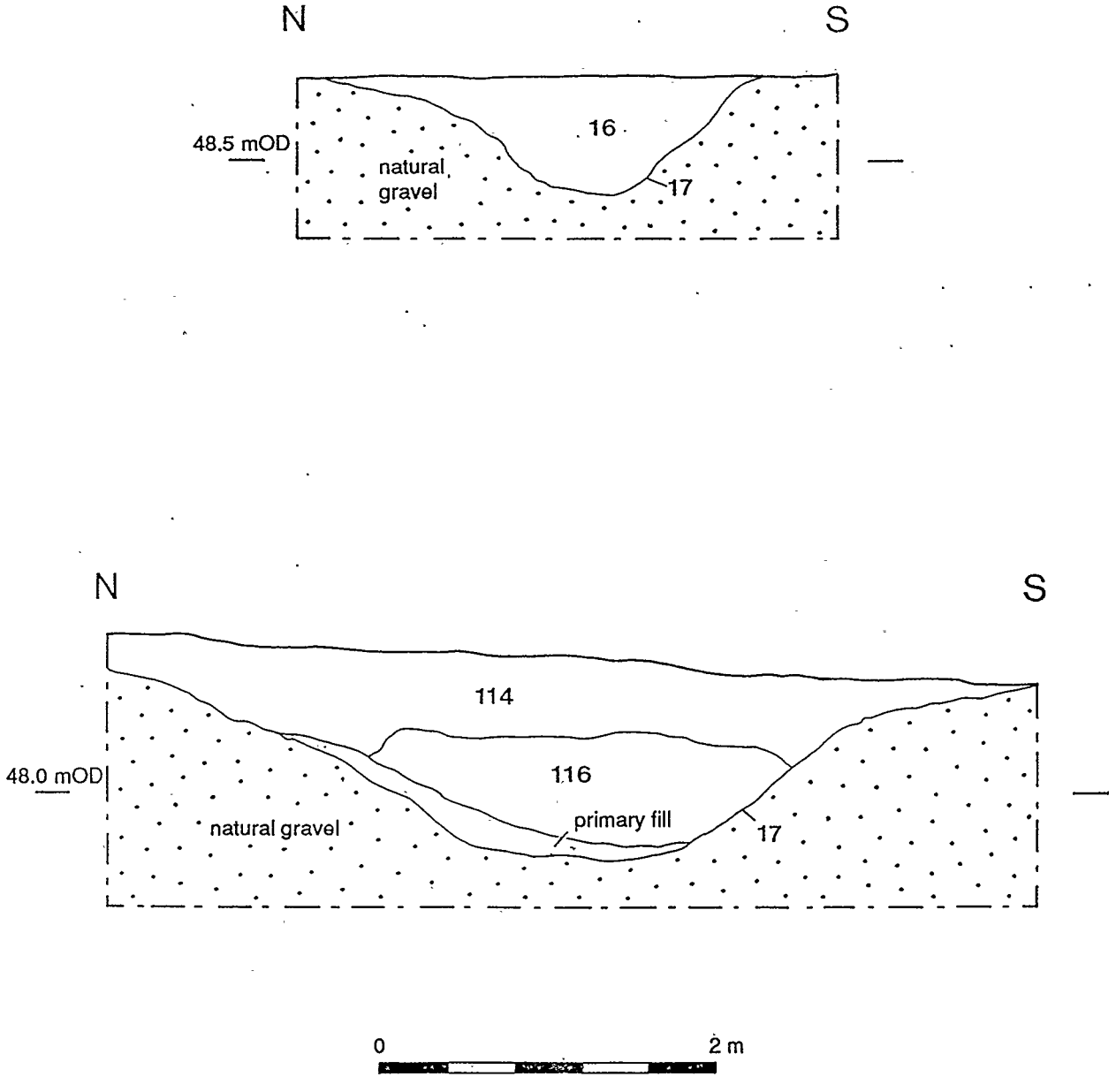


Fig 6 Sections in Trench 6 through the Roman ditch

Trench 7

This trench contained a further east/west ditch (29, Fig 5), in this case a continuation of that first recorded within the central part of Trench 2. The ditch was traced over a total distance of some 20m; at its eastern end it opened out into a larger cut, which covered a further 7m east/west by at least 6m north/south. To the south this cut ran into section; it was not clear whether it continued into Trench 8, about 5m further to the south (see below).

The above appeared to be parts of a single event, with the northern side of the ditch continuing to form one end of the larger feature. The date of this probably falls between AD 120 and the late 2nd century (Appendix II). Both features were evidently truncated, the ditch in particular having suffered from modern activity: thus the width of the cut ranged from about 0.4 to 1.6m, and depth was from 0.15 to 0.85m. In fact the base of ditch was fairly level over much of its length, before dropping quite steeply to the east – by some 0.4m over a maximum distance of 5m. Beyond this the larger, sump–like, feature was deeper still, by some 0.55m.

The ditch contained an undifferentiated fill of sandy silt with gravel (29), similar to that (16) within Trench 6. At its eastern end this was overlain by deposits (77, 78) which both infilled the deeper feature and – at a higher level – merged with the surrounding soil horizon. These deposits appear to undergone some disturbance, presumably through cultivation: further evidence of this came with the discovery of a somewhat dispersed coin hoard of mid 4th century date (Plates I and II; Appendix VI). The majority of the coins were found within the lower layer (78), but spread over an area of approximately a square metre; there were also isolated examples outside this area, the most distant about 9m away.

Trench 8

This trench produced only one significant feature, a bowl–shaped pit near its western end (fill 109 and cut 110, Fig 5). Potsherds recovered from the fill indicated that this was Roman, although closer dating was not obtained (Appendix II); the feature was also apparently truncated by recent activity.

The remainder of Trench 8 was heavily disturbed by modern intrusion, including the recent demolition, and in large areas truncated to the level of the natural gravel. The only other notable find was a single coin from the layer (81) (Appendix VI); this was of mid 4th century date and almost certainly part of the hoard found in Trench 7. (81) itself probably represents a direct continuation of layer (77).

It is possible that this trench also contained the southward continuation of the large cut feature found in Trench 7, at the eastern end of the ditch (30). The evidence is ambiguous: there was certainly a drop (of at least 0.2m) in the surface level of natural on the projected line of the cut; but on the other hand this was by no means as great (or as steep) as within Trench 7.

Trench 9

This was a relatively small trench, located to the east of and outside the main area of investigation. The only obvious archaeological deposit was a waterlaid sandy silt (113), which covered some 7.5m at the eastern end of the trench. The deposit increased in thickness to the east, to a maximum of about 0.45m; in part this reflected a fall in the surface of the underlying natural gravel. (113) may have been laid down in marshy/periodically flooded conditions (Appendix VII iii).

(113) produced one piece of struck flint (Appendix I). However, it also has similarities to the Roman waterlaid deposits in Trench 6 (116 and 117, see above) – although there was no indication here of a ditch or similar cut feature.

There is one other point worth noting. The level of the natural gravel within Trench 9 broadly coincides with that at the eastern end of Trenches 4 and 6 to 8; thus it further indicates a eastward fall in the underlying topography of the site.

3.4 An outline of the dating evidence

References are to pottery sherds unless otherwise noted, residual elements omitted. See also Appendices I, II and VI.

	Context No	Date Range
Trench 1		
Post–medieval	3, 9, 11, 13, 36, 39	1770–1900
	34	1750–1900
Roman	18	70–120 (+ intrusive medieval)
	44	40–400
	46	40–400 (+ post–med disturbance) Later 2nd century (worn coin)
Prehistoric	19, 23, 25*, 27*	?Neolithic or Bronze Age. (Struck flint, also * probable intrusive or superficial Roman pot

	Context No	Date Range
Trench 2		
Roman	15	40–400 (+ intrusive medieval)
	16	120–160
	29	As above
Trench 3		
Post–medieval	39	1770–1900
Trench 4		
Roman	70	40–400
	72	As above
	92	50–400
	106	40–400
Trench 5		
Roman	100	120–400 (+ post–medieval intrusion?)
Trench 6		
Roman	80	250–400 (+ intrusive medieval)
	114	120–180
	116	120–250
Trench 7		
Roman	76	50–400
		351–352 (coin)
	77	90–400
	78	70–120
		341–352 (coin hoard)
	118	120–400
Trench 8		
Roman	81	40–400
		351–352 (coin)
	109	40–400
Trench 9		
Prehistoric	113	– (struck flint)

4. Chronological summary of results

The most significant results of the archaeological investigation relate to the prehistoric and Roman periods. Finds – principally pottery and flint – were recovered from within associated features and residually in later contexts. There was often no direct stratigraphic relationship between the various features; for example, a number of Roman features were only related insofar as they were overlain by an apparently homogeneous soil layer. There were a number of undated features, but it is likely that these were post–medieval, and in fact probably quite recent.

4.1 Prehistoric

The investigation produced fairly frequent finds of struck flint – a total of 284 pieces – as well as considerably greater quantities of fire–cracked flint (Appendix 1). There was also a fine Late Bronze Age copper alloy razor (Fig 7 and Appendix V); however, there was only one sherd of probable prehistoric pottery, of Iron Age date (context 114, Appendix II). Most of the prehistoric material was clearly residual, within Roman or post–medieval contexts.

Struck flint was found in a total of thirty–eight contexts, of which four represent possible prehistoric features (plus one disturbed level immediately over). Twenty contexts were Roman and one (113) represented an otherwise undated deposit which was probably either prehistoric or Roman. The remaining twelve contexts were post–medieval, probably all 19th century or later. However, it should be noted that many of the finds (struck and burnt flint) occurred in soil horizons which were presumably derived from reworking of a primary context: examples of this include (18, 45–47, 78 and 106).

The bronze alloy razor was found within a waterlaid deposit (114), infilling part of a probable 2nd century Roman ditch. (114) was naturally formed within standing or flowing water, from the settlement of material in suspension, which would imply that the razor was either washed out of an adjacent surface OR that it had deliberately been thrown into the water. It is tempting to see the heavy cross–hatched scratching, of one surface in particular, as part of a process in which the object was found, tested for metal content and then discarded.

Possible prehistoric cut features (Fig 3) were confined to Trenches 1 and 3, and have been described in some detail above. These are suggested to be prehistoric on the basis of finds; however, there was no conclusive stratigraphic (or other) evidence for this. All that can be said is that these features appear to predate – and in some cases to be truncated by – demonstrably Roman levels. Whilst uncertain in date, it may well be significant that all but one of the features is on the same or a similar alignment and that all share a broadly similar cut–off point to the south. Both these facts suggest that the features are roughly contemporary, and that they also respect some previously extant east/west boundary.

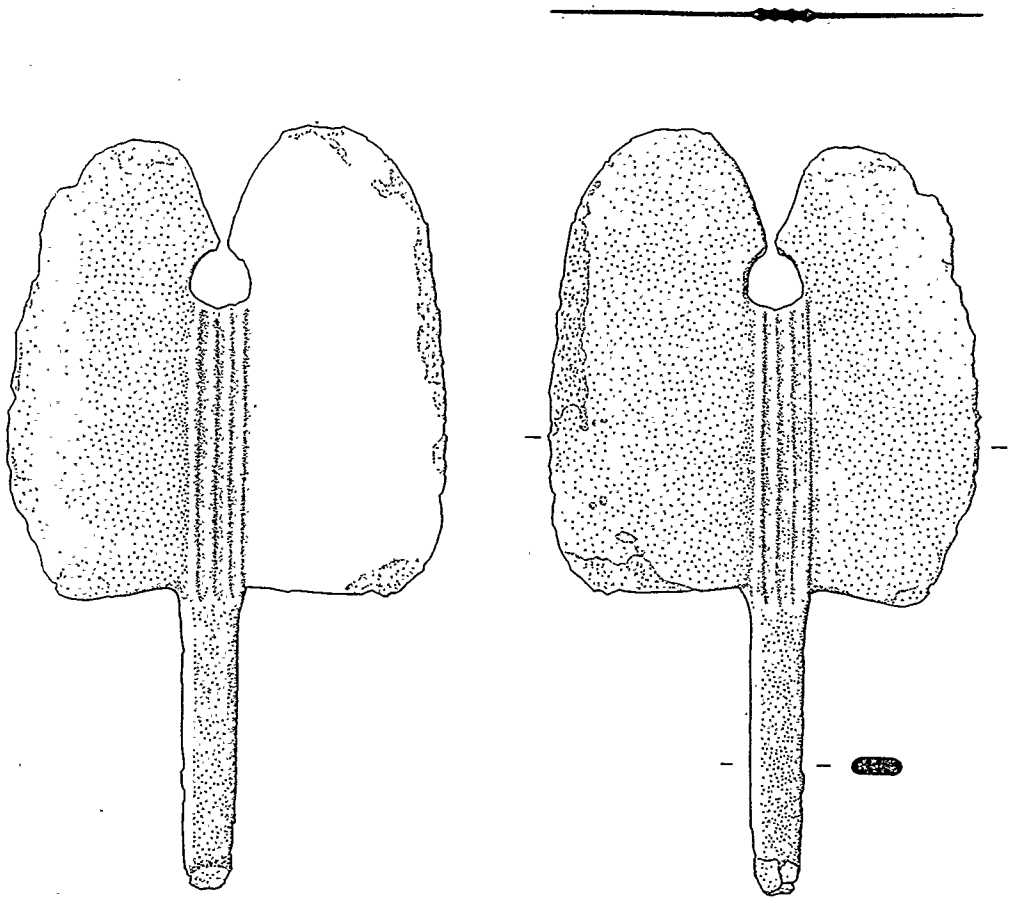


Fig 7 Late Bronze Age copper alloy razor (Scale 1:1)

Functional interpretation is less obvious; various suggestions may be put forward. It is possible that the linear features were associated with cultivation, for example as bedding/planting trenches. One or more may also form parts of a property boundary, although there was no evidence for an associated structure (for example, stakeholes or timber staining) in any of the features which were investigated.

4.2 Roman

The findings of the investigation included both finds of Roman date and – on a rather more limited scale – associated features. Pottery sherds were recovered from a total of twenty–seven contexts (Appendix II), of which nineteen are definitely or probably Roman. Three other contexts relate to possibly intrusive material in prehistoric contexts (21, 25 and 27). The remaining contexts are described as post–medieval, although in four cases (45–7, 107) they were derived from clearance after machining, at the level of probable Roman activity. A few potsherds were found in the fill of a post–medieval feature (11); one similar feature (9) also produced a fragment of glass (Appendix IV).

The investigation yielded only two definite and two possible fragments of Roman ceramic building material, in each case one from a contemporary feature (respectively 78 and 16) and one residual within a post–medieval context (7 and 102).

Three isolated coins were found (Appendix VI, conclusion). At least two of these (Hadrian and Faustina the younger) were heavily worn and had evidently been in circulation for many years. Their loss could have been as late as the mid 3rd century AD, given the relative stability of the monetary system until this time (Reece 1987, 41).

The most important find of Roman date is represented by the 58 bronze coins of a dispersed hoard (Plates I and II; Appendix VI). This dates to AD 341–352, and was found principally within the sandy silt deposit (78); the area had evidently been subject to some disturbance, probably as a result of cultivation. There was no indication of a container or other receptacle, although this might be expected (Robertson 1974, 23): most probably the coins were held within a leather or fabric bag, now wholly perished. Although disturbed most of the coins were in very good condition, neither worn nor corroded. Presumably burial took place only shortly after the latest recorded date.

The principal Roman cut features (Fig 5) were represented by the two east/west ditches (17) and (30) and their respective infills. In both cases pottery finds indicate a date approximately within the period AD 120 to 180. The possibility that these were more or less contemporary, and perhaps parts of a single event, is enhanced by their similarity of profile and location in plan. It is also possible that these ditches remained in use for a considerable period of time; half a century is not inconceivable.

Other probable Roman features include the north/south linear cuts in Trenches 4 and 5 (68–73 inclusive, 100 and 101), and also the pit (109, 110) in Trench 8. These may be roughly contemporary, with each other and with the above ditches; for example, it is possible that

Constantius AD 348–350
D.N.CONSTANTIVS P.F.AUG.
Head of the Emperor

Constans AD 348–350
D.N.CONSTANS P.F.AUG.
Head of the Emperor

Decentius AD 351–352
D.N.DECENTIVS NOB.CAES.
Head of the Caesar

Magnentius AD 351–352
D.N.MAGNENTIVS P.F.AUG.
Head of the Emperor

Plate 1 Coins from the 4th century hoard – *Obverses* (Scale 3:1)

the east/west ditch (17) and north/south trench (68–73) were connected, although the latter was very shallow. However, the dating of this secondary group is much less precise, with a suggested range from the mid 1st or early 2nd century AD to the late 4th century. Nor was there any direct stratigraphic relationships, largely as a result of later truncation. Nevertheless, it is possible that there was a principal phase of activity in the 2nd century AD, perhaps contemporary with the development of the nearby settlement.

Interpretation of the function of various features is also rather tentative; the main east/west ditches are presumably for drainage – certainly some of the infill is waterlaid, although the longer northern ditch (17) could also represent a property boundary. The shallower linear features in Trenches 4 and 5 may be associated with cultivation, a possibility already noted in relation to those in Trench 1 (4.1 above).

It appears from the profile of the underlying natural that the original land surface sloped down from west to east. Thus in the western areas of investigation the natural gravel was exposed and frequently truncated. However, to the east it was overlain by a thickening layer of mid grey brown sandy silt with gravel; in places this further overlay a lighter silt/sand and pebble deposit (hence 92 and 106, Fig 4). These deposits averaged 0.3 to 0.5m in depth; they also sealed parts of the two major ditches (17) and (30).

It seems clear that the material noted above primarily represents reworking of an extant soil horizon, in the course of which the upper level of earlier features has been truncated. There may also have been some deliberate deposition, or perhaps more likely a gradual accretion of ground as a result of cultivation.

4.3 Medieval

The investigation produced no more than four or five medieval potsherds, from the same number of contexts (Appendix II). This material spanned the period AD 1150 to 1500; in three cases it appeared to be intrusive within a Roman context, in the remaining two it was residual within a post–medieval context (probably 19th century or later). It seems likely that the pot was all residual, in the sense of being found within deposits which had been subsequently worked. Indeed, it has been suggested that the pot was introduced onto the site at a later date.

Ceramic building material (12th to 15th century, Appendix III) occurred definitely in two contexts: the Roman soil horizon (92) and the post–medieval fill (102), and so was respectively intrusive and residual. Possible medieval building material was also found within the Roman ditch fill (16).

Magnentius AD 351–352
VICTORIAE DD.NN.AUG.ET CAE.
Two Victories, flanking shield inscribed VOT.V.MULT.X.
Mint AMB (Amiens)

Constans AD 348–350
FEL.TEMP.REPARATIO.
Phoenix standing on a globe (the 1100th anniversary of the foundation of Rome)
Mint TRS (Trier)

Constans AD 348–350
FEL.TEMP.REPARATIO.
The Emperor standing in a galley, holding Christian standard and ?phoenix.
Mint SLG (Lyons)

Constans c.AD 348
FEL.TEMP.REPARATIO
Soldier leading ?captive from a hut beneath a tree.
Mint ?RQ (Rome)

Plate 2 Coins from the 4th century hoard – *Reverses* (Scale 3:1)

4.4 Post-medieval

The investigation produced a scatter of post-medieval material, principally pottery, of broadly 17th to 19th century date. Pottery (Appendix II) was recovered from a total of 9 contexts; in two of these (1 and 100) the material appears to be intrusive, but otherwise it all relates to the fills of post-medieval features. All these have been spot-dated to the mid or later 18th century or later, and in fact probably all relate to the development of the site in the 19th century. There were a number of sherds which were earlier in manufacture, and so potentially residual; in general date to the 17th or 18th century, with the latter more likely.

The later history of the site has been discussed above (2.7), and it is not intended to add substantially to this. The archaeological investigation did however confirm elements of the 19th century development, specifically the initial construction of houses on the Brighton Road frontage (3.3, Trench 2). Also a note may added on the deposits overlying Roman horizons. In the western and southern parts of the site these had been largely if not wholly truncated by modern development. However, elsewhere these deposits formed a homogeneous grading of topsoil, of fairly uniform depth (0.3 to 0.4m; Fig 4). Where briefly examined these deposits produced material which generally dated to between 1750 and 1900.

The origin of this material is not immediately obvious. It seems likely that the whole area was for a very considerable period of time given over to agriculture, either grazing or crop production. This would result in partial reworking of earlier deposits; such things as ploughing might also lead to a gradual movement of soil from higher to lower ground. It is likely therefore that the upper soil horizon relates principally to the final phase of agricultural activity, immediately predating development of the site in the mid 1800's; in some areas it must also includes subsequent garden soil.

5. Conclusion

The archaeological investigation at Brighton Road has produced worthwhile results, both in the main areas of enquiry and in terms of particular finds.

The finds included prehistoric material, almost entirely struck or burnt flint. Much of this, in particular the struck flint, occurred in later (mainly Roman) contexts. Nevertheless, the finds form a valuable addition to the existing corpus of evidence for early settlement. At the same time the discovery of the Late Bronze Age razor represents a find of considerable interest and rarity.

The main finding of the investigation was undoubtedly the evidence for Roman activity, both in terms of features discovered and the range of finds – the latter reflecting something of contemporary provincial life as well as the nature of local settlement. This was enhanced by a further intrinsically important find, in the form of the mid 4th century coin hoard.

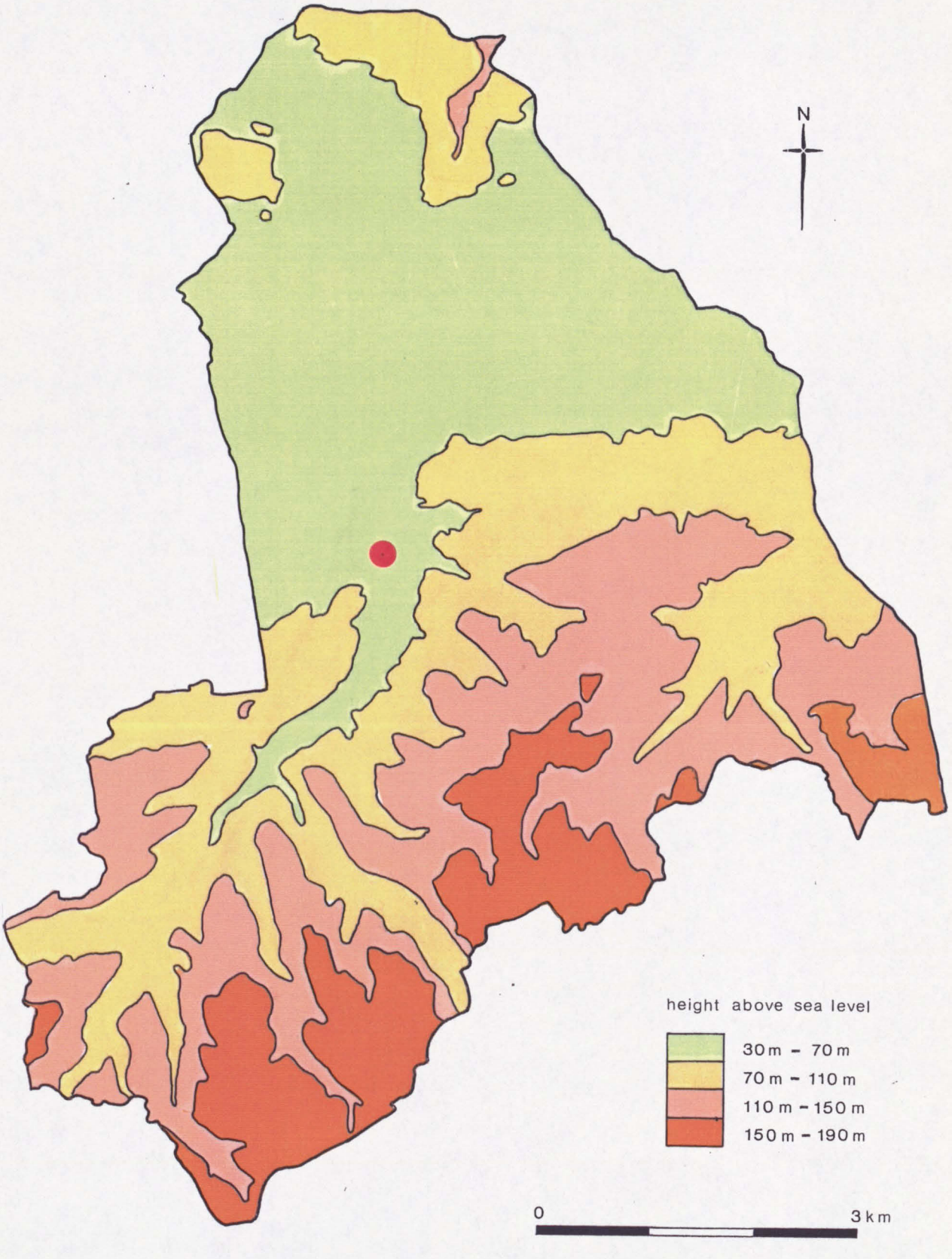


Fig 8 The topography of the borough of Croydon

Appendix I. The struck flint

Jonathan Cotton (28.8.1993)

Introduction

In all 286 pieces of struck flint were recovered from 38 separate contexts, only four of which (19), (23), (25) & (27) were thought by the excavator to be prehistoric.

The raw material comprises predominantly gravel pebbles of small size, and 182 pieces or 63% of the collection retain portions of cortex. Apart from one or two pieces with thermally fractured facets, the bulk of the material is sharp and unpatinated; one piece has been burnt.

The material is summarised in Table 1 below:

Context No	Total flint	Flake/ spalls	Flake frags	Blades	Blade frags	Core/ frags	Misc waste	Scraper	Misc retouch
1	7	3	1	–	–	–	3	–	–
2	5	4	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
3	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
7	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
11	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	8	5	–	–	–	1?	1	–	1
16	19	3	2	3	4	–	5	1?	1
18	30	20	–	–	3	1	6	–	–
19	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
23	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
27	23	18	–	1	1	–	3	–	–
29	5	2	1	–	–	–	1	1	–
39	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
44	3	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
45	13	9	–	1	2	–	1	–	–
46	10	4	1	3	–	–	2	–	–
47	9	7	–	1	–	–	–	1?	–
48	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
50	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–
66	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
70	2	–	–	–	1	1?	–	–	–
72	2	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–
76	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
77	10	7	–	–	1	–	1	1	–
78	8	1	1	–	–	2	4	–	–
80	22	7	2	1	3	–	4	2	3
81	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
92	14	12	–	2	–	–	–	–	–
100	24	16	1	2	–	–	2	1	2
102	2	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
106	20	9	3	1	2	–	4	–	1
107	13	6	–	3	1	–	2	–	1
108	6	5	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
109	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
113	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
118	4	–	–	2	–	–	–	1	1
Totals	286	159	14	21	19	5	46	10	12

Discussion

The collection is small and mixed and contains few diagnostic or datable pieces; scrapers are the only recurrent tool type, though there are three notched fragments amongst the `miscellaneously retouched' category.

There is a small blade element within the collection which perhaps hints at Mesolithic or early Neolithic activity. Equally, however, the presence of a number of flakes with wide striking platforms, low flaking angles and terminal hinge fractures is suggestive of a poorly-controlled later prehistoric knapping technology.

None of the pieces from the four `prehistoric' contexts are sufficiently distinctive to be useful for closer dating purposes.

Appendix II. The pottery

i) Roman Pottery Assessment

Jo Groves (August 1993)

Introduction

There are three boxes of pottery from the site, most of which is Roman. The material was spot-dated according to standard MoLAS procedures.

Summary

Condition

Most of the groups are small; the largest is from context 29 (1 large bag). All of the sherds are abraded and in some instances the original surfaces have not survived. The degree of wear is the most striking features of the assemblage. It is largely composed of small, undiagnostic body sherds. The condition of the material made identification difficult and it was necessary to microscope most sherds. A high proportion of the sherds have been assigned to general categories such as GROG, SAND and OXID because more precise identifications were not possible. Lack of familiarity with fabrics local to the area may also be a contributory factor to this problem.

Composition

The assemblage is dominated by reduced wares which includes a high proportion of unsourced grog-tempered wares (GROG). Some of the grog-tempered ware sherds have traces of a black coating on their exterior surfaces and many have a 'soapy' feel which may be due to abrasion. The GROG vessels seem to mainly consist of storage jars and may include Patchgrove ware. Finewares and oxidized wares are poorly represented. The identified types are Samian, Nene Valley Colour-coated ware (NVCC), North Kent Grey ware, Fine Micaceous wares (FMIC), Verulamium Region White ware (VRW), Local Oxidized wares (LOXI) and Hoo ware (HOO).

The assemblage from Context 29 includes two smashed vessels necked jar (IIE) and a 'poppy head' beaker (IIIF) both in Highgate Wood C ware (HWC). The sherds of the IIE may constitute a complete profile. The group is dated *c* 120-160.

Dating

Most of the groups have been assigned broad dates due to their small size and the lack of identifiable sherds. Almost all the identified sherds are of 1st or 2nd century date. The only exceptions are Alice Holt Farnham ware (AHFA), Nene Valley Colour-coated ware (NVCC) and possibly Much Hadham ware (MHAD) which are all from context 80, dated *c* 250-400.

Only one sherd (from context 114) has been recognized as being pre-Roman. It has been tentatively identified as Iron Age by Hedley Swain. According to the site matrix contexts 21, 25 and 27 are in Period G? which is prehistoric. The small quantity of pottery from these contexts, however, appears to be Roman.

Recommendations for Further Work

The small size of the assemblage and its poor quality mitigates any further work. It does however highlight the difficulties of identifying local fabrics from sites in Outer London. This will be a recurrent problem which should be resolved by extending the MOLAS Fabric Reference Collection and the Corpus of forms to include such material. This necessitates the study of large good quality assemblages.

ii) The post-Roman Pottery

Lyn Blackmore (August 1993)

Methodology

A total of 88 post-Roman sherds was examined, of which five are medieval, the remainder of later 18th or 19th-century date. The pottery was recorded on proforma sheets and on computer using the standard MoLAS fabric codes. The spot-date file is in the network directory /finds/current/spotdir, filename brr.spot.dat.

Distribution

Trenches 1 and 3

One possible 12th/13th-century sherd was recovered from layer 18 (horizon B), which is otherwise thought to be a Roman deposit. The largest group of pottery was recovered from the post-medieval horizon (C); most of this falls within the period 1770-1900, although one group is 1750-1900. One medieval sherd was found in layer 9; another sherd in layer 5 may be of Roman or medieval date.

Trenches 2, 6 and 7

Only two sherds were recovered. One, from horizon D (layer 80), is a battered whiteware with traces of green glaze, possibly from Earlswood. The other, from layer 15, is from the base of a Surrey greyware cooking pot.

Trench 5

The only post-Roman sherd is a piece of Red Border ware, dated to 1600-1750, from context 100 (horizon E).

Discussion

The above sherds are all small and battered, and probably arrived on the site as a result of manuring the fields. No further work is required on the group.

iii) Pottery spotdates by context

1,MPOT,S,–,1150,1300,SHER? *ABR,–
1,PPOT,S,–,1770,1900,TPW PLATE *WILLOW PATTERN,CREA BOWL,RBOR,–

3,PPOT,S,–,1770,1900,PEAR,TPW PLATE,TPW BOWL,PMR DISH,ENPO VASE *SMALL BASE; FLUTED EXT,CHPO,–

9,MPOT,S,–,1350,1500,CBW? DJ?,–
9,PPOT,S,–,1770,1900,PEAR MISC,PEAR *BLUE DEC,TPW,ENPO TEA,PMR FLP,–

11,PPOT,S,–,1770,1900,SWSG,SWSG CHP?,TPW PLATE *WILLOW PATTERN,TPW,PEAR DISH *BLUE DEC,PEAR,CREA DISH,–
11,RPOT,S,RES ABR SMALL SHS,40,400,AHSU,SAND,–

13,PPOT,S,–,1770,1900,PMR FLP,SUND? DISH *SLIP DEC,ENPO BOWL *BASE,PEAR BOWL,–

15,MPOT,S,–,1150,1300,SHER CP *BASE,–
15,RPOT,S,RES ABR SMALL SHS,40,400,GROG II NCD,GROG,SAND,SAND NJ?,SAND II,SAND BUD,–

16,RPOT,M,?RES ABR MOSTLY SMALL SHS DATE UNCERT 2 UNK SHS,120,160,SAND STD *RODWELL TYPE,LONW?,HWC?,HWC II,SAND,SAND II,SAND NJ,HWC,FMIC,VRW,HOO I, GROG SJ,GROG *TRACES OF BLACK ON RIM ?PATCHGROVE,GROG,GROG II/IV *RIM,OXID,VRW MORT HOF <*> STAMP CASTUS 100–140,SAMLZ <*>STAMP....M,–

18,MPOT,S,–,1150,1300,SHER CP,–
18,RPOT,S,RES SMALL SHS ABR,70,120,GROG IIA ?HWB,OXID *?BM,GROG LID,GROG,SAND IVF,AHSU?,HWC,SAND,OXID,VRW,NKGW,–

21,RPOT,S,ABR,40,400,SAND *1 SMALL SH,–

25,RPOT,S,ABR,70,160,HWC? *VSMALL SH,–

27,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,40,400,GROG,SAND,–

29,RPOT,L,ABR MOSTLY SMALL SHS FEW OXIDS,120,160,DR20 *MANY BODY SHS,GROG IIA,GROG,HWC IIE *SMA ?PROF,HWC? COARSER THAN USUAL HWC,HWC IIIF *SMA,BB2 II AL,SAND II,HWC,BB2 IIF,BB1 IV,BB1 IVG,FMIC?,VRW *RILLED EXT,VRW? II?/IV *?BRICKET WOOD ABUN BLACK IRON,OXID,SAND? NJ,SAMMV,–

34,PPOT,S,–,1750,1900,RBOR BOWL,RBOR JUG? *,PMFR FLP?,BORDO PIP,ENGS JAR,JACK JUG?,TPW JAR,–

36,PPOT,S,–,1770,1900,BORDY,RBOR FLP?,RBOR JUG? HANDLE,PMFR FLP X2,PMFR FLP?,PMR DISH,PEAR BOWL *FLUTED INTERIOR,PEAR JUG,TPW DISH *B+W RIM,TPW DISH *B+W,TPW *B+W,–

39,PPOT,S,–,1770,1900,BORDY BOWL,RBOR FLP,ENGS JAR *LAMINATED,PEAR JAR X2,PEAR JAR *FLUTED,TPW BOWL *LRG B+W,TPW DISH X2 *B+W,TPW BOWL *B+W EXT,TPW SAUC *BLACK+WHITE,PEAR *LAMINATED,LUST? DISH *?NEWCASTLE PURPLE,LUST? BOWL *?SUNDERLAND,ENPO CUP?,ENPO BOWL *OVERPAINTED,ENPO BOWL,–

44,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,40,400,OXID,SAND,–

45,RPOT,S,ABR,50,160,VRW/LOXI,GROG,–

46,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,40,400,VRW?,COAR,SAMLG,SAND/OXID,–

47,RPOT,S,ABR MOSTLY SMALL SHS,50,400,GROG SJ?
STB,GROG,VRW,OXID,OXID/SAND,SAND,–

70,RPOT,S,ABR,40,400,SAND/OXID,–

72,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,40,400,SAND *2 SHS,–

76,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,50,400,GROG,OXID,VRW,SHEL *LGE VESS COAR,–

77,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,90,400,SAND,VRW,LOXI II,GROG,BB1?,SAMLG,–

78,RPOT,S,ABR MOSTLY SMALL SHS,70,120,GROG *?PATCHGROVE,SAMLG DR33,RWS
NJ,OXID,HWC LID,HOO I,GROG *VLGE VESS THICK WALL,SAND/OXID,SAND,SAND II,–

80,MPOT,S,–,1250,1400,EARLSWOOD? JUG,–
80,RPOT,M,ABR MOSTLY SMALL SHS,250,400,GROG,NVCC III,MHAD?,DR20,SAND IVJ VAR
*GROOVED ON EXT,SAND II,BB2? II,HWC,COAR,OXID,OXID IID,AHFA II,HOO,–

81,RPOT,S,ABR,40,400,GROG *1 SH,–

92,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,50,400,GROG STB *?PATCHGROVE,SAND,VRW,GROG,OXID,–

100,PPOT,S,–,1600,1750,RBOR BOWL,–
100,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,120,400,VRW,LOXI LID,GROG,HWC,BB2? IVJ,BB2 II
BUD,SAND,HWC,AHSU/AHFA,NKGW,–

106,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,40,400,DR20,GROG,SAND,–

107,RPOT,S,ABR SMALL SHS,120,400,GROG SJ,GROG,OXID,LOXI II SHL=,VRW,SAMLZ
DR33,SAND,HWC,AHSU,SAND II,–

109,RPOT,S,ABR,40,400,GROG SJ *BASE SH,–

114,–,S,IRON AGE? 1 SH,–
114,RPOT,S,ABR MOSTLY SMALL SHS,120,180,GROG IIA,GROG,VRW,OXID,SAND,BB2 II AL
*LIMESCALE/BURNT,HWC,HWC III BDD,–

116,RPOT,S,ABR,120,250,VRW MORT HOF *POST TRAJ,SAMLZ DR33 *NO ORIG SURFS,
GROG,BB2 II *BURNT,SAND,GROG SJ? *LGE BASE,–

118,RPOT,S,ABR,120,400,SAND II,SAMLZ DR33 *SEVERAL SHS,–

Pottery codes

RPOT – Roman

AHFA	Alice Holt/Farnham wares, 250,400
AHSU	Alice Holt/Surrey wares, 55,200
BB1	Black-burnished 1 ware, 120,400
BB2	Black-burnished 2 ware, 120.400
COAR	Misc coarse wares, 40,400
DR20	Dressel 20 Amphorae, 40,200
FMIC	Fine Micaceous Black-grey ware, 55,120 (may include undecorated LONW)
GROG	Grog Tempered ware, 40,400
HOO	Hoo-type fabric, 40,100
HWB	Highgate `B' Grog-tempered wares, 40,400
HWC	Highgate `C' Sand-tempered wares, 70,160
LONW	London ware, 70,120
LOXI	Local Oxidized ware, 90,160
MHAD	Much Hadham ware, 200,400
MORT	Misc Mortaria Types, 40,400
NKGW	North Kent Grey ware, 100,150
NVCC	Nene Valley colour-coated ware, 150,400
OXID	Misc Oxidised wares, 40,400
RWS	Roman misc red and white slipped wares, 40,300
SAMMV	Les Martres de Veyre Samian, 100,130
SAND	Misc Sand-tempered wares, 40,400
SHEL	Misc Shell-tempered wares, 40,400
VRW	Verulamium Region White wares, 40,200

MPOT – Medieval

CBW	Coarse border ware, 1350(1300)?, 1500
SHER	S.Herts wares, 1150,1300

PPOT – Post-medieval

BORDY	Yellow-glazed Border ware, 1550,1750
CHPO	Chinese porcelain, 1650,1900
CREA	Creamware, 1750,1900
ENGS	English stoneware, 1670,1900
ENPO	English porcelain, 1700,1900
JACK	Jackfield-type ware, 1750,1900
LUST	19c lustreware, 1800,1900
PEAR	Pearlware, 1780,1900
PMFR	Post-med fine redware, 1580,1700
PMR	Post-med redware, 1600,1800
RBOR	Red Border ware, 1600,1750
SUND	Sunderland coarse ware, 1800,1900
SWSG	Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware, 1720,1770
TPW	Transfer-printed ware, 1760-1800, 1900

Appendix III. Building Material Assessment

Naomi Crowley (21.8.93)

Ceramic Building Material

7 contexts produced fragments of ceramic building material. They are all small and generally abraded which in some cases has made it difficult to identify form or date.

The Post-medieval phase contains a fragment of blue and white delft wall tile. The fragment is so small that it is not possible to comment on the design or to date it any tighter than 18th or 19th century. These layers also contained a small fragment of abraded tile, possibly Roman.

The fills, (16) and (102), and soil horizons, (78) and (92), in the Roman phase both contained tile that are likely to be medieval peg roof tile. (78) also contained a fragment of abraded Roman brick in fabric group 2815. Tile in this fabric was made at kiln sites around London, using clay from the Quaternary alluvial deposits that occurs over the whole of the Thames Valley Region. A number of these kiln sites are known, but because of the homogeneous nature of the clay it is not possible to assign this brick fragment to any one of them.

The building material is listed below:

Context	Form	Date Range	Comments
7	Fragment	?Roman 1st–3rd	Small and abraded
9	Wall tile	18th/19th	Blue and white
9 <70>	Fragment	18th/19th	Wall tile
16	Peg roof tile?	L12th–L15th	Small, possibly Roman
78	Brick	Roman 1st–3rd	Abraded
92	Peg roof tile	L12th–L15th	Very small fragments
102	Fragment	Roman 1st–3rd	Small, possibly med
102	Peg roof tile	L12th–L15th	Small

Stone Building Material

The Post-medieval layers produced a single fragment of slate with a nail hole indicating its use as roofing. The Roman layers produced several small abraded fragments of different types of stone. In the Greater London area Reigate Stone does not appear to have been used in the Roman period so its presence in context (80) is a bit odd. Context (29) a fill of a drainage ditch contained two fragments of flint, one of which may be a tessera (small block used in construction of a tessellated floor).

The stone is listed below:

Context	Stone type/Comments
7	Roofing slate fragment.
29	2 flint fragments, one possibly tessera.
78	Very small fragments of Niedermendig lava possibly from quern. Not necessarily building material.
80	Small fragment of medium grained sandstone.
80	Abraded fragment of Reigate Stone.
92	Smooth sandstone pebble.
102	Ferruginous sandstone fragment.

Appendix IV. Other finds: A general note and list of miscellaneous metalwork and glass

Angela Wardle (August 1993)

The finds from this site range in date from Prehistoric to post-medieval. The Bronze Age razor is a find of extreme importance; the number of examples from the London area is small and few of these have come from controlled excavations. Despite the fact that this object was found in a context of Roman date, its rarity makes it worthy of further study.

Fifty-five of the 58 coins belonging to the 4th century coin hoard reported by J Hall (Appendix VI) came from Context 78, (Trench 7), a Roman soil horizon. The remainder were from contexts immediately above this level, one of which contained the 1st century Colchester brooch. A coin of Hadrian (AD 119) was residual in a post-medieval context as was the only other Roman find from the site, a fragment of 2nd century bottle glass. The wide date range of the Roman material reflects long-lived Roman activity in the area, but yields little specific information about the site. The coin hoard is however of intrinsic interest as noted below.

The remaining objects constitute a scatter of post-medieval, mostly 19th century material.

List of finds:

Copper Alloy

[1] <73> Fragment, possibly part of a key handle. Post-medieval.

[76] <63> Length 40.5mm. Brooch. Two-piece Colchester brooch, complete apart from the missing pin; ribbed decoration on the bow and a plain catch plate. Mid to late first century AD. Gravel layer, Roman horizon.

[107] <64> Buckle. Fragment from a double frame, with part of the central bar and decorative mouldings. Post-medieval. Clearance, disturbed level over Roman horizon.

[107] <67> Loop fitting. Post-medieval

[116] <62> Razor. Length 101.5mm; width 58mm. Double-sided razor with centrally placed handle and four decorative ribs separating the blades on both faces. One blade is heavily scratched. Mid to late Bronze Age, (residual in a 2nd century Roman level - waterlaid deposit).

See also Appendix V.

Iron

[1] <72> Diameter 25mm. Circular mount with concentric circle decoration. Method of attachment lost.

[107] <65> Length 116mm. Key with solid shank and three symmetrical wards on the bit. ?Post-medieval. Clearance, disturbed level over Roman horizon.

Glass

[9] <69> Fragment of bottle glass. Natural blue. Roman, late first/second century AD. Fill of post-medieval cut.

[9] <71> Fragment of vessel glass. Post-medieval. Fill of post-medieval cut.

[9] <87> Fragment of vessel base. Clear colourless glass. Post-medieval, 19th century or later. Fill of post-medieval cut.

Appendix V. The Prehistoric razor

Jonathan Cotton (23.8.93)

Context 116 <62> (Fig.4)

Tanged, bifid, copper alloy razor of Piggott's Class II (1946, 138–40), whose blade–form belongs to a heel–shaped sub–series (Needham 1980, 19–20). Hoard associations, from Llanwyllog, Anglesey and Feltwell Fen, Norfolk in particular, suggest a date within the Ewart Park phase of the Late Bronze Age (LBA 2–3; 9th–8th centuries BC) for the type, though an earlier, Wilburton (LBA 1; 10th century BC), genesis is possible (Needham 1980, 20).

The `V'shaped notch terminating in a circular perforation and the reeded mid–rib of the present piece are features which can be paralleled on a number of razors, including an unfinished example encased in a clay mould recently discovered at Runnymede Bridge, Egham (Needham 1980, 13–14; 19–20).

The even matt black patina of the new razor is unusual for a land–find, being more consistent with copper alloy objects recovered from the river Thames in Greater London. However, the interpretation of context (116) as a `waterlaid–deposit' within a small pond of probable Roman date (inf Geoff Potter), plausibly explains the potential disparity.

Conservation Report

Virginia Neal (September 1993)

Condition

Some soil and pale brown corrosion products were visible partially obscuring the surface. The edges were damaged and had laminated in some areas. The object displayed a dark and shiny patina in which deep scratches had been made on both sides. Corrosion products and dirt were visible in the grooves under low magnification indicating that the scratches had occurred before burial. In places `blistering' of the surface had occurred. Green copper corrosion products were visible under the displaced surface layer.

At the end of the handle the corroded remains of a rivet were present. The fact that the rivet had corroded and could only be identified by the presence of voluminous green copper corrosion products, suggested that it had been manufactured from a different alloy of copper than the main body of the razor.

Analysis

The razor was analysed by Cath Mortimer at the English Heritage Ancient Monuments Laboratory using the technique of X–ray fluorescence. This process identified the presence of certain elements within the alloy.

The elements identified were copper, lead and tin. The technique of X–ray fluorescence does not produce quantitative analysis, therefore further research would have to be carried out to identify the exact composition of the copper alloy.

From the appearance of the surface of the object it seems likely that the alloy is a leaded copper alloy containing a high percentage of tin. The surface patina resembles that of a high tin bronze, the alloy is also known as speculum.

An X–radiograph has not yet been taken of the object. This may give further information as to whether the shiny surface is present as a result of a high tin bronze alloy having been used, or is a type of surface treatment such as tin plating. If an object has been cast enrichment of the metal surface can occur. One of the components of the alloy can settle at the surface. If the element is tin this is known as `tin sweat'.

During the study of the object under magnification of x 20 it was noticed that the corrosion products had settled below the surface in small depressions. On closer investigation it became apparent that these depressions were the dendritic structure that had formed during the casting of the object. This phenomenon has been identified on metal objects from waterfront sites, which have a naturally etched surface, but rarely on objects with such a well preserved patina as the razor.

Appendix VI. The coin hoard

Conservation Report

Virginia Neal (September 1993)

Burial Conditions

The preservation of detail and surface patina on the coins was exceptional as a result of the nature of the burial conditions. The surrounding soil was of a dense and silty nature encasing the metal finds in a stable and anoxic environment. No surface etching was visible. The was little evidence on the surfaces of the objects to indicate that movement had occurred after deposition.

Coin Report Jenny Hall (11.8.1993)

58 coins were found as a scatter across part of the site and constitute a dispersed hoard dating from AD 341–352.

The coins are all of copper alloy and the emperors are as follows:
40 coins of Magnentius; 6 coins of Decentius; 1 unidentifiable but either Magnentius or Decentius; 6 coins of Constans; 1 of Constantius II and 4 belonged to the House of Constantine.

Of the coins of Magnentius, 32 come from the Amiens mint which was set up by Magnentius. They all show similar reverses of two Victories holding a wreath with the words VOT V MVLT X inscribed on it. Three coins of this type were minted at Trier, one at Lyons. In addition, there was a *Gloria Romanorum* reverse type from Trier. The 6 coins of Decentius also are of the *Victoriae* type, 2 coming from Amiens, 2 from Lyons and 2 with illegible mint marks. All these coins date to AD 351–352.

In addition, there are 11 coins of the previous emperors Constantius II and Constans, and the House of Constantine which date to AD 341–350.

The coins are therefore closely dateable and as such form an interesting group. Coins of Magnentius are not common since he was only in power for three years (AD 350–353) and while some coins of Magnentius and Decentius are found in coin hoards during the 4th Century they are seldom many in number. The fact that this hoard has 69% of coins of Magnentius makes it unusual and worthy of further research.

Total 58 Coins	AD 341–352
40 Coins of Magnentius	**341–352**
1 *Victoriae* type with inscribed wreath on column	
2 *Victoriae* type with inscribed wreath, no column	
3 *Victoriae* type with inscribed wreath, no column +	
Amiens mint – 3 coins type 1; 7 coins type 2; 22 coins type 3	
Trier mint – 3 coins type 2; 1 *Gloria Romanorum* type	
Lyons mint – 1 coin type 2	
Plus 3 coins, *Victoriae* type, with illegible mint marks	
6 coins of Decentius	**351–352**
Amiens mint – 1 coin type 1; 1 coin type 1	
Lyons mint – 1 coin type 1; 1 coin type 2	
Plus 2 coins with illegible mint marks, 1 VOT V retro.	
1 unidentified coin ?Magnentius/Decentius	**351–352**
6 coins of Constans	**341–350**
1 coin of Constantius II	**348–350**
4 coins of House of Constantine	**341–346**

Magnentius

Reverse:	VOT V MULT X – Amiens		
1	RIC 7	AMB	column
2	RIC 9	AMB	no column
3	RIC 11	AMB	no column
4	RIC 11	AMB	no column
5	RIC 14	AMB	no column
6	RIC 20	AMB	chi–rho
7	RIC 23	AMB	chi–rho
8–20	RIC 25	AMB	chi–rho
21–15	RIC 27	AMB	chi–rho
26–27	?RIC 5 or 7	AMB?	column
28–29	?RIC 9–19	AMB?	no column
30	–	illeg	no column
31	–	illeg	chi–rho
Reverse:	VOT V MULT X – Trier		
32–34	RIC 312	TRP	no column
Reverse:	*Gloria Romanorum* – emperor and barbarian – Trier		
35	RIC 270	TRP	
Reverse:	VOT V MULT X		
36	?	S Lyons RSLG	? column
37	?	?	no column
38	?	?	chi–rho
39	?	?PLG	no column
40	?	?	no column

Decentius

Reverse:	VOT V MULT X – Amiens		
41	RIC 6	AMB	column
42	RIC 13	AMB	no column
Reverse:	VOT V MULT X – Lyons		
43	RIC 130	SV RSLG	no column
44	?	?Lyons	column
Reverse:	VOT V MULT X – unknown mint		
45	?	?	column
46	?	?	no column NB VOT V ... retrograde

Magnentius/Decentius

Reverse:	VOT V MULT X		
47	?	?	column

Constans

48	RIC 71	Lyons	*Fel temp* (galley) 348–350
49	?RIC 140	?Rome	*Fel temp* (captive/hut) c.348
50	?	?	*Fel temp* (galley) c.346–350
51	cf RIC 232	Trier	*Fel temp* (phoenix/glove) 348–350
52	RIC 234	Trier	*Fel temp* (phoenix/globe) 348–350
53	LRBCI, 140	Trier	*Victoriae* – 2 wreaths 341–350

Constantius

54	?	Trier	*Fel temp* (phoenix/rock) 348–350

House of Constantine

Reverse: *Victoriae* – 2 wreaths

55–57	?	Trier	341–346
58	?	illeg mint	341–346

Other coins from the site

A	Faustina II – *sestertius*	?Juno	AD 161–175
B	Hadrian – *As*	Pietas	AD 119
C	? – *Antoninianus* copy	Salus	270s–280s

Appendix VII. Environmental Research

i) Soil samples

John Giorgi (September 1993)

During the excavations, two bulk samples of 15 litres from Trench 6, and single samples of 20 litres from Trenches 7 and 9, were collected for recovery of information regarding the environmental history of the site and human activities in the area. These were taken from contexts provisionally dated to the Roman period, with the exception of the sample from Trench 9, which may be prehistoric or Roman.

The samples were processed on a Siraf flotation tank using sieve mesh sizes of 250 microns and 1mm for the quantity of soil (c.2 litres) was set aside for wet sieving for molluscs from context 116, owing to the large number of snails visible in the flot. The residues and flots were sorted and environmental material extracted.

Results

Trench 6: Two samples were analysed from fills (114) and (116) within an east/west linear drainage ditch cut into the natural gravels.

The lower fill: (Context 116)

This consisted of a fine sandy silt flint gravel matrix with a high frequency albeit relatively low diversity of both freshwater and terrestrial molluscs.

The freshwater species included *Planorbis planorbis*, which lives in marshes, ponds, ditches, canals, and rivers, usually in shallow water where there are masses of weeds and possibly *Succinea* spp.

The terrestrial snails consisted of a number of wet/marshland species including *Trichia Striolata*, found in woods, hedges, roadsides and waste ground, usually in damp and shaded places.

Other material recovered from the deposit included several small fragments of Roman pottery plus very small flecks of charcoal and indeterminate animal bone.

The molluscan evidence suggests that there was either standing or running water in the ditch at least some of the time which never completely dried out with a wet/marshland environment on the margins of the ditch.

The upper fill: (Context 114)

This was similar to the lower fill, a silty fine sand flint gravel matrix. However, it contained virtually no molluscs. A small number of poorly preserved animal bone fragments were recovered including a mouse/vole humerus, a small mammal vertebra and indeterminate fragments, several of which belonged to sheep size mammals. A very small number of charcoal flecks plus a number of Roman pottery sherds were also retrieved. This was interpreted as 'run-off' from adjacent higher deposits.

Trench 7

Context 78: This consisted of a sandy silt flint gravel horizon which also filled part of a drainage/boundary ditch (Context 30). A 4th Century coin hoard (Appendix VI) was recovered from this deposit. No environmental material was recovered from this sample save for a few charcoal flecks. The only finds were a few very small fragments of pottery and brick/tile.

Trench 9

Context 113: This overlay the natural gravels and consisted of a sandy silt flint gravel matrix with occasional fragments of charcoal and moderate quantities of terrestrial and freshwater molluscs, indicative of a wet–marshland environment with standing or running water at times.

An analysis of the molluscs from the subsample of context 116, may provide more detailed information on the character of the local environmental.

ii) The animal bone

Jane Sidell (October 1993)

Hand–collected animal bone was recovered from 9 of the deposits isolated on this site. A total of 1.2 kilogrammes of bone was collected, from Roman and Medieval contexts. This material has been washed and identified. None of the assemblages contain a significant quantity in terms of weight or number of fragments. The species list is also extremely restricted with only large mammal bones found, no bird or fish. The species identified are horse, cow, dog, largomorph species and cattle and sheep size material. No pathology and very little butchery evidence was observed.

Roman

78	–	ditch fill,	0.18kg
80	–	buried soil,	0.10kg
114	–	ditch fill,	0.55kg
116	–	ditch fill,	0.05kg
117	–	ditch fill,	0.05kg
118	–	ditch fill,	0.05kg

Post Medieval

3	–	cut fill,	0.05kg
9	–	cut fill,	0.05kg
107	–	clearance,	0.22kg

Although the majority of the bone is concentrated in the Roman deposits, the volume of material is so small as to make it extremely difficult to reach any conclusions based on such a small sample size. There is the further problem that the bone, which is highly fragmented and poorly preserved, may have washed into this area and not be an indicator of local anthropogenic activity. This possibility of the material simply being `background noise' (material which has been reworked from on or around the site) holds for the post–medieval material which is present in very low quantities and also poorly preserved. It is extremely unlikely that a full analysis of this material would contribute significantly to our understanding of the human occupation of this area.

iii) Report on mollusca recovered from two bulk samples

Keith N Wilkinson,
Department of Human Environment, Institute of Archaeology, University College London
(October 1993)

Introduction

Mollusc shells were recovered from two samples (numbers 4 (context 116) and 2 (context 113)) taken at the above site. Initially the shells were observed during flotation processing, but were recovered in such numbers from sample 2 that a separate sub–sample was taken for more thorough recovery of shells using a finer sieve mesh.

Methodology

Methods of flotation recovery are described elsewhere (see above), but basically involve that use of a 1 mm mesh for residue retention and a 0.25 mm mesh for retaining the flot. This method of sample processing biases the molluscan record as many shells of a robust nature (e.g. *Pomatias elegans, Bithynia tentaculata,* Clausiliidae) do not float, and yet can be recognised in finer fractions than 1 mm (for further discussion of this topic see Wilkinson 1991). Therefore the one sub–sample (of sample 2) processed specifically for mollusc analysis was passed through a 0.5 mm mesh following treatment with Hydrogen peroxide (to disaggregate the sediment and remove organic material). The residue retained on the sieve was air dried, split into two using a riffle box (there was insufficient time to sort the entire residue), and sorted by eye for fractions greater than 2 mm and with the use of a low power binocular microscope for fractions finer than this. Identification was possible to a species level in most cases, except with smaller individuals of the genus *Cochlicopa* and *Cepaea*. In Table 1 nomenclature is after Kerney and Cameron (1979) for terrestrial and Kerney (1976) for freshwater Mollusca. Quantification in Table 1 is on the basis of the number of shell apices recovered for the gastropods (no shells of bivalves were found). The total row at the base of Table 1 is the sum of all gastropod apices (i.e. as an estimate of minimum number of individuals). The weight of sample 2* is the sample weight prior to any processing.

Results

Table 1 details the molluscan species found in each sample. The asterisk (*) denotes the portion of sample 2 that was processed specifically for the recovery of molluscan shells, the remaining samples being processed by use of a flotation machine.

The mollusc assemblages recovered from Brighton Road are restricted both in terms of terrestrial and freshwater molluscan components. In context 116 the freshwater part of the assemblage is dominated by *Lymnaea peregra*, a species of catholic preferences that will live in all but the most fast running and deep water. *Planorbis planorbis* is also common to many aquatic environments, but may suggest shallow and still, or slow running water. Therefore it is likely that the feature 017 (of which context 116 is a fill) had water within it, but this was shallow and largely stationary. It is likely that this water largely filled the lower part of the feature and there are unlikely to have been areas of mud immediately adjacent to it, as there are no examples of marsh dwelling species amongst the mollusc shells examined. If this hypothesis is correct it is probable that the shells of land Mollusca recovered have eroded into the feature from an external area. Two pieces of evidence suggest that context 116 accumulated quickly and was rapidly sealed (by context 114). These are:

a. The freshwater assemblage is, as suggested above, very restricted and dominated by two species that are well known as early colonisers of a newly created environments. If the sediments comprising context 116 had been accumulating for any length of time it would be expected that additional species would colonise the feature.

b. A large percentage of the individuals of *Lymnaea peregra* and *Planorbis Planorbis* are juveniles. This fact suggests that burial was rapid, wiping out a generation almost instantaneously whilst still at a juvenile stage of development. An alternative explanation for this phenomenon could be that the environment was largely unsuitable for the support of a mollusc population (e.g. lack of water plants for food), but this seems unlikely as the adult population would not have been able to breed so successfully.

	Sample –	**2***	**2**	**4**
	Context –	**116**	**116**	**113**
Species	Weight (Kg.) –	2.85		
Valvata macrostoma	Steenbuch	1		
Lymnaea truncatula	Müller		1	
Lymnaea peregra	Müller	118	207	✓
Lymnaea palustris	Müller			3
Planorbis planorbis	Linnaeus	6	59	
Cochlicopa lubrica	Müller		6	
Cochlicopa sp.		7	4	2
Pupilla muscorum	Linnaeus	2	4	
Vallonia costata	Müller	1	6	
Vallonia pulchella/excentrica		4	12	
Ena obscura	Müller		1	
Aegopinella nitidula	Draparnaud		2	
Oxychilus alliarius	Miller	1	1	
Helicella itala	Linnaeus			1
Monacha cantiana	Montagu		1	
Trichia hispida	Linnaeus	27	236	24
Trichia striolata	Pfeiffer		8	
Cepaea sp.			1	
Total		**169**	**559**	**30**

Table 1. Mollusc shells recovered from the samples at Brighton Road, Croydon.

Only two individuals of freshwater species were found that were not *Lymnaea peregra* or *Planorbis planorbis*. These were *Lymnaea truncatula* (from the flotation sample), a species that prefers a habitat that is both muddy and subject to drying, and *Valvata macrostoma* which inhabits aquatic environments of moving water. It is dangerous to draw any conclusions regarding the freshwater environment from these two shells, and indeed it seems very likely that the single specimen of *Valvata macrostoma* is derived from the Pleistocene gravels into which feature 017 was cut (i.e. these gravels probably represent a period of quick running water in a riverine environment).

The terrestrial Mollusca represented in sample two are again largely of catholic environmental preferences. The assemblage is dominated by *Trichia hispida* which is again a rapid coloniser of new environments. However, it is likely that the terrestrial environment during the deposition of context 116 was largely open, as of the species that have specific environmental needs those of open country preferences predominate (*Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia costata, Vallonia excentrica*). The five specimens of shade loving species (*Ena obscura, Aegopinella nitidula, Oxychilus alliarius*) could have been living in isolated areas of higher vegetation. The single example of *Monacha cantiana* indicates that deposition occurred in the Roman period or later, as this species is thought to have colonised Britain only during and after this period (Evans 1972). There is no evidence among the terrestrial Mollusca for particularly large numbers of juvenile shells which suggests that the terrestrial component was indeed derived from outside (but probably very close to) the feature, and therefore its population did not suffer to the same extent as that of the freshwater species by the deposition of layer 114. A single spine of a stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) was also found in the sub-sample processed for molluscan analysis. This species lives in all types of freshwater conditions, but is particularly indicative of shallow moving water and would therefore seem to agree with the hypotheses indicated from the molluscan analysis.

Mollusc shells recovered from sample 4, context 113 were few in number, but would seem to indicate drier conditions than those present in context 116. This is suggested by the dominance of the assemblage by shells of terrestrial species, and in particular in the presence of *Helicella itala*, which is largely intolerant of damp conditions. This species also prefers open environments, suggesting that conditions were at least as open and as devoid of high vegetation as in context 116. The remainder of the assemblage consists of terrestrial species of catholic preferences (*Trichia hispida* and *Cochlicopa* sp.), and three examples of the freshwater species *Lymnaea palustris*. This species again can live in many freshwater environments, and could indicate the presence of a small water body close by. However, it is also possible that these shells of *Lymnaea palustris* are derived from the Pleistocene gravels below, in which case it would seem likely that context 113 formed in fully terrestrial conditions. Even if this is not the case it would seem likely that terrestrial processes dominated the genesis of context 113.

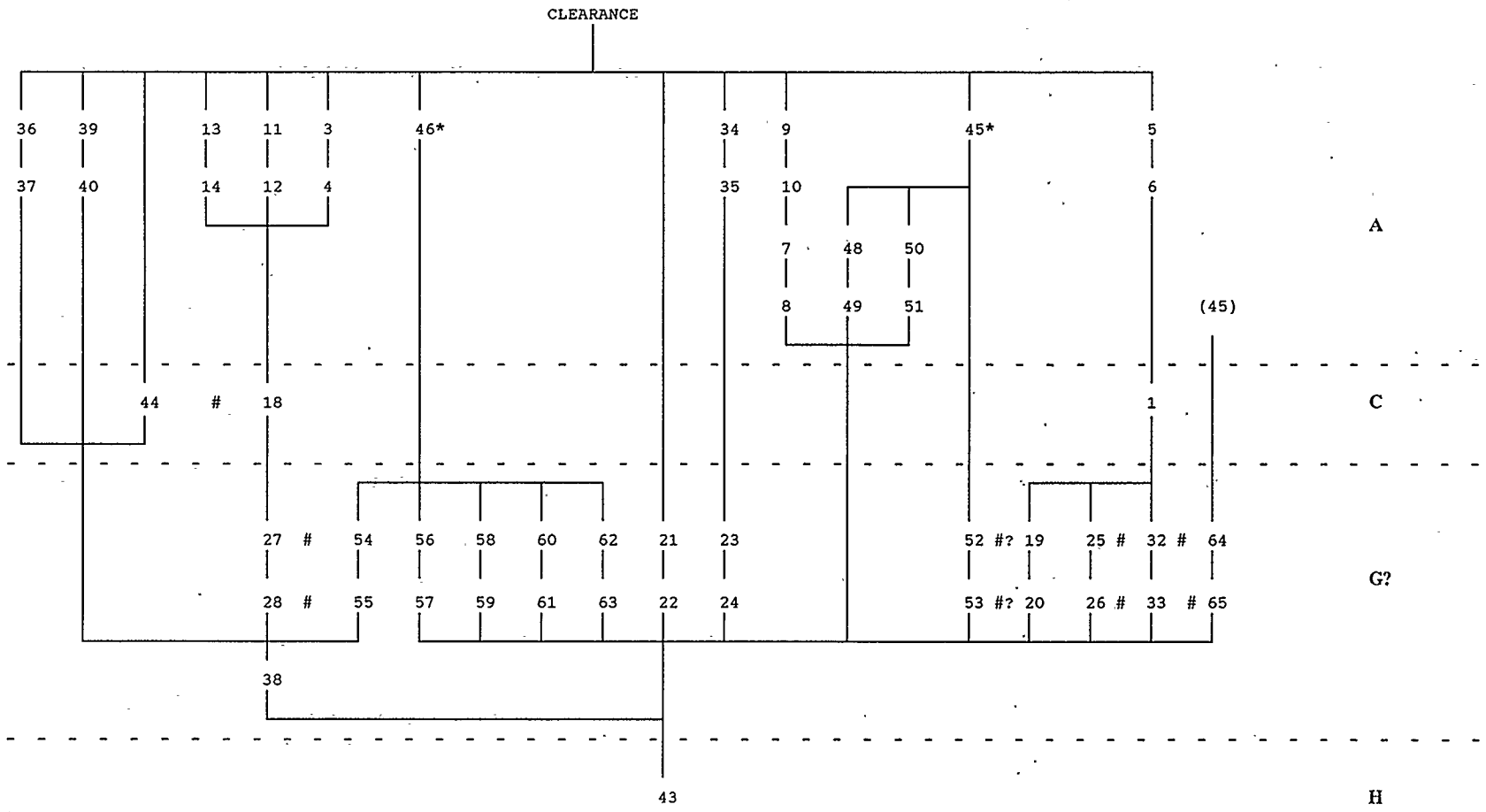
Conclusions

Mollusc analysis of samples from Brighton Road, Croydon has allowed the reconstruction of the environments in which two sedimentary units formed. Namely that context 116 formed rapidly in a shallow, slow moving (or still water) aquatic environment, with the input of terrestrial molluscan shells the result of erosion of the features (context 017) sides. Context 113 is likely to have formed in a fully terrestrial or mixed terrestrial/aquatic environment. The analysis has also demonstrated that burial of context 116 by context 114 occurred rapidly, wiping out large numbers of freshwater Mollusca whilst still at a juvenile stage of development.

Appendix VIII. Matrices showing the relationship of archaeological contexts recorded in Trenches 1–9

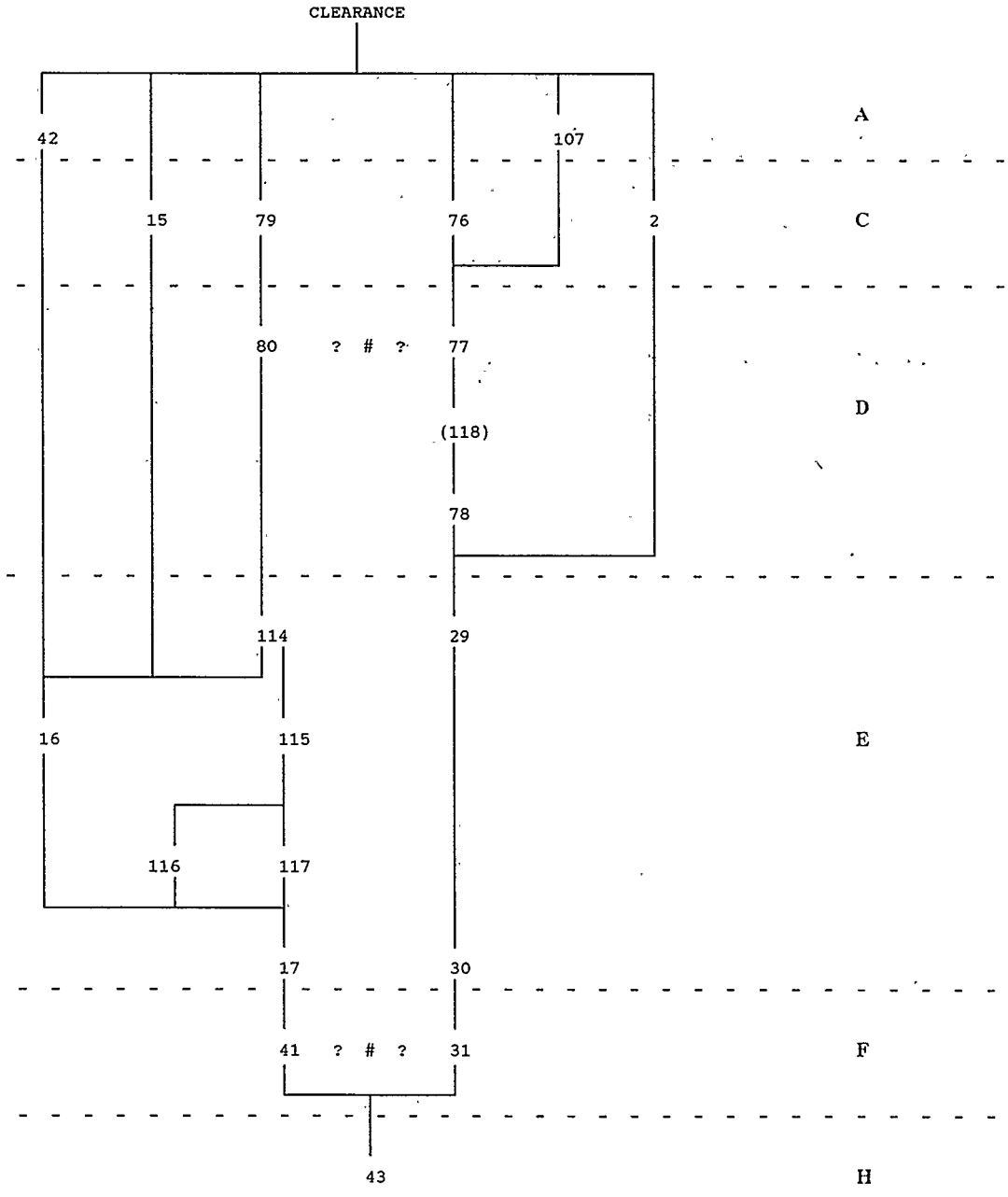
See page 60 for explanatory notes

TRENCHES 1 AND 3

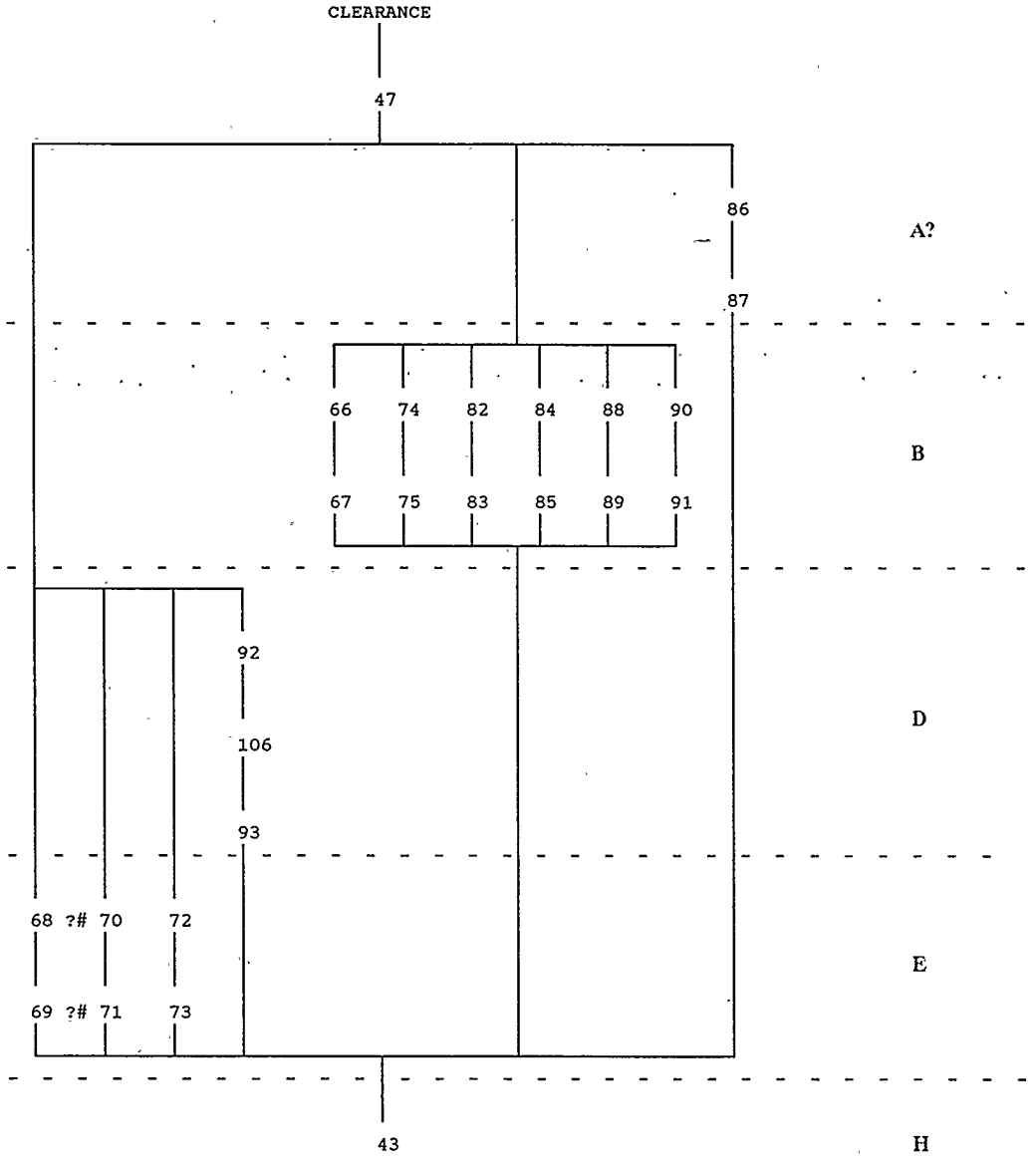


*Disturbed, but basically comparable to layers in 'C'

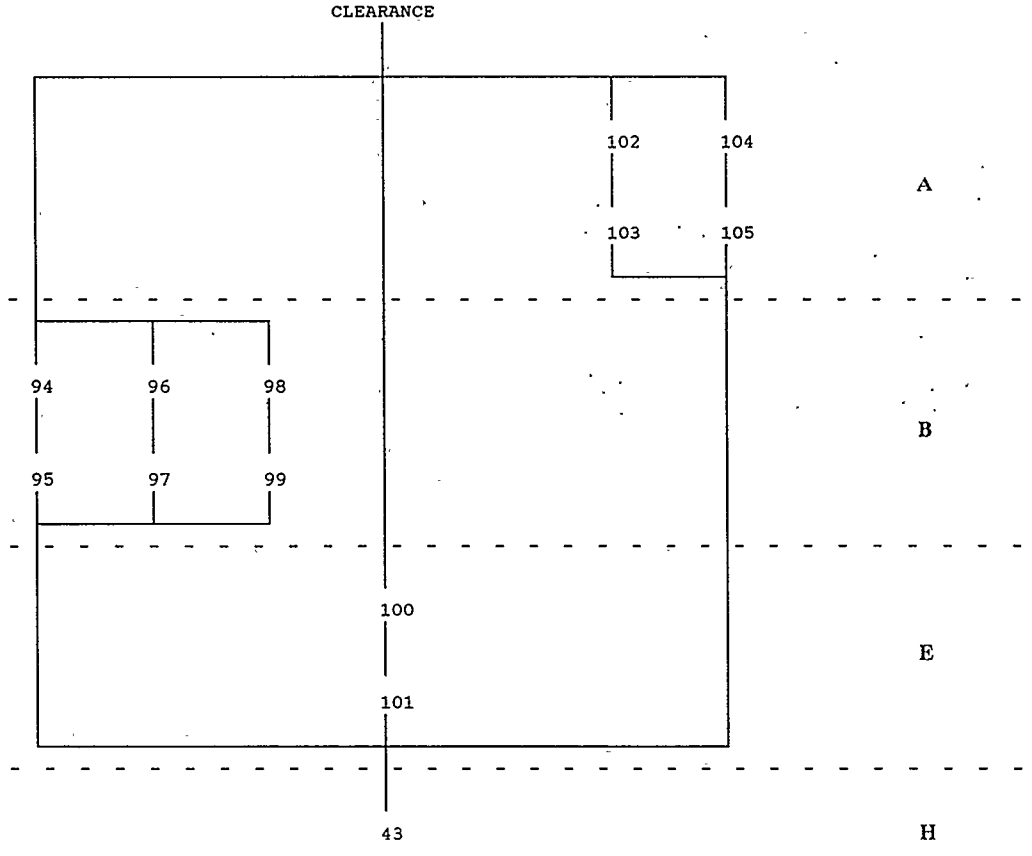
TRENCHES 2, 6 AND 7



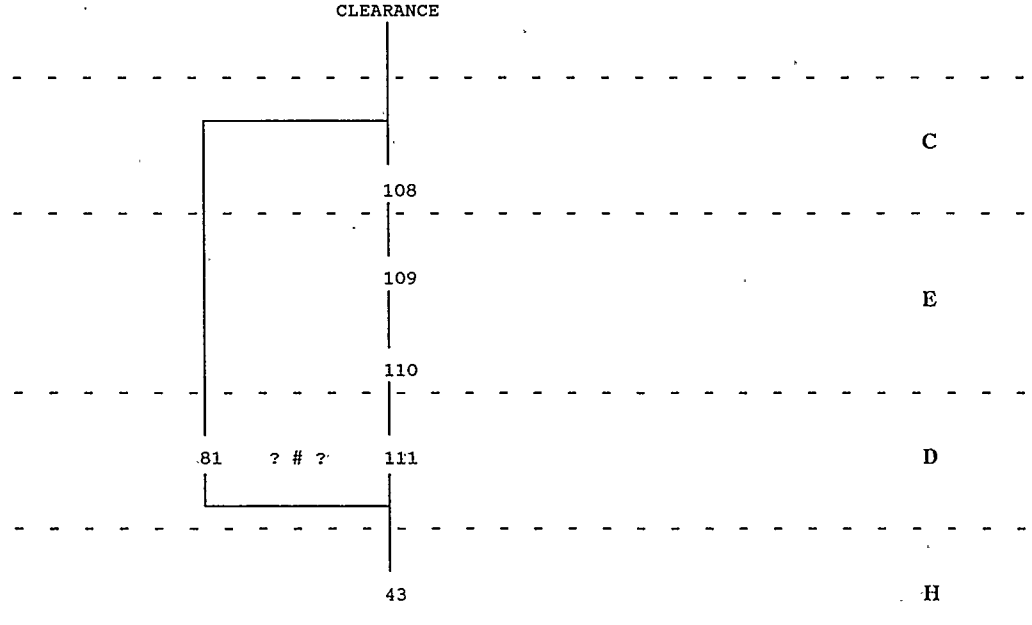
TRENCH 4


CLEARANCE
47
86
A?
87
66
74
82
84
88
90
67
75
83
85
89
91
B
92
106
93
D
68
?#
70
72
69
?#
71
73
E
43
H

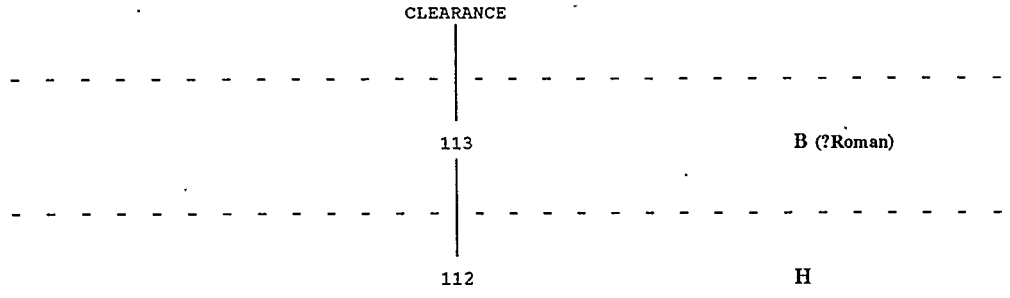
TRENCH 5



TRENCH 8



TRENCH 9



Appendix VIII (continued). Notes on matrices

i) Chronological period of contexts

A	POST–MEDIEVAL	Apparently all 19th century or later
B	NOT DATED	Cut features/infill
C	ROMAN	Surface below machine clearance
D	"	Layers, soil horizons
E	"	Cut features/infill
F	"	Truncated subsoil
G	PREHISTORIC	Cut features/infill
H	NATURAL	Taplow Terrace gravels

ii) Contexts recorded in separate trenches but possibly forming part of a single event/feature

FIRST RECORD			SAME AS	
Context	Trench	Type	Context	Trench
60	3	Fill of (61)	90	4
61	3	N/S linear cut?	91	4
70/72	4	Fills of (71/73)	100	5
71/73	4	Linear trenches, roughly N/S	101	5
82	4	Fill of (83)	96	5
83	4	Linear cut, roughly N/S	97	5
18	1	Buried soil horizon	31	2
			41	2
			44	1
			Also 45 & 46?	3
77	7	Buried soil horizon	80	6
			81 (& 111?)	8
			92	4
78	7	Buried soil/subsoil horizon	106	4
43	1–8	Natural gravel	112	9

Appendix IX. List of contexts recorded in the investigation

Context	Trench	Description	Comment	Date*
1	1	Grey brown sandy silt + gravel	Disturbed surface of or deposit over (25/32)	?Roman
2	2	Brown/grey sandy silt + pebbles	Disturbed surface of (29) and (31)	Roman
3	1	Grey sandy silt, moderate pebble + gravel inclusion	Fill of (4)	Post–medieval
4	1	Shallow oval cut	Truncated pit	"
5	1	Dark grey brown sandy silt, frequent gravel inclusion	Fill of (6)	"
6	1	Fairly shallow circular cut	As (4)	"
7	1	Grey sandy silt, frequent gravel + pebbles	Fill of (8)	"
8	1	Roughly circular cut	As (4)	"
9	1	Grey to buff sand/silt mix, some pebbles/gravel	Fill of (10)	"
10	1	Circular cut	As (4)	"
11	1	Brown grey sandy silt, moderate gravel + pebbles	Fill of (12)	"
12	1	Circular cut	As (4)	"
13	1	Similar to (3)	Fill of (14)	"
14	1	Small circular cut	Truncated pit or posthole	"
15	2	Gravel + fairly dark brown sandy silt	Surface of (16)	Roman
16	2	As above	Fill of (17)	"
17	2	E/W linear cut	Drainage ditch	"
18	1	Brown grey sandy silt, frequent gravel	Surface of (27) + (38) OR immediately overlying layer	"
19	1	Grey brown sandy silt, frequent gravel + small to large pebbles/flint nodules	Fill of (20)	?Prehistoric
20	1	Shallow N/S linear cut	Truncated boundary ditch or agricultural feature?	"
21	1	Similar to (19)	Fill of (22)	"
22	1	N/S linear cut, with (?) original S.end	As (20)?	"
23	1	Similar to (19)	Fill of (24)	"
24	1	Small N/S linear cut	As (20)?	"
25	1	Brown/grey sandy silt, large flint nodules towards base, frequent gravel/pebble inclusion throughout	Fill of (26)	"
26	1	Part of a large but shallow oval depression	Cut or (more likely) natural feature	"
27	1	Brown grey sandy silt, frequent gravel + pebbles	Fill of (28)	"
28	1	Three parallel and adjoining cuts, apparently a single event (unitary fill)	Ridge and furrow profile, possibly agricultural trenches	"

* Contexts dated as post–medieval are probably all 19th Century or later

Context	Trench	Description	Comment	Date
29	2	Grey brown sandy silt, frequent small to large flint nodules	Fill of (30)	Roman
30	2	E/W linear cut	Drainage and/or boundary ditch?	"
31	2	Similar to (29), also frequent gravel	Truncated soil horizon	"
32	1	Very similar to (25)	Fill of (33)	?Prehistoric
33	1	As (26), northern part of same	As (26)	"
34	1	Brown/grey sandy silt, moderate pebble + gravel inclusion	Fill of (35)	Post-medieval
35	1	Large, roughly circular (?) cut	Truncated pit	"
36	1	Similar to (34), slightly higher percentage gravel + pebbles	Fill of (37)	"
37	1	Roughly circular cut	As (35)	"
38	1	Mid brown grey sandy silt + gravel, frequent pebbles + occasional larger nodules	Buried soil horizon (top removed as (18)?)	?Prehistoric
39	1/3	Similar to (34), but dark grey	Fill of (40)	Post-medieval
40	1/3	As (35)	As (35)	"
41	2	Fairly light brown sandy gravel, occasional flint nodules	Truncated soil horizon	Roman
42	2	Brick walls/foundations	Remains of partly cellared house(s) facing Brighton Road	19th century
43	1-8	Light brown/yellow gravel with coarse sand	Natural	Post-glacial
44	1	Similar to (38)	Buried soil horizon	Roman
45	3	Fairly dark brownish grey silt and gravel	Clearance over (52), (64), etc	Post-medieval
46	3	As above	" " (54), (56), (58), etc	"
47	4	As (45)	Clearance	"
48	3	Very dark mixed silt/sand + gravel	Fill of (49)	"
49	3	Shallow elongated cut	Truncated pit	"
50	3	Similar to (48)	Fill of (51)	"
51	3	Small oval pit	As (49)	"
52	3	Gravel (including flint nodules) + brown to black silty sand	Fill of (53)	?Prehistoric
53	3	Section of N/S linear cut?	Truncated ditch, continuation of (20) to S?	"
54	3	Dark brown sandy silt + gravel	Fill of (55)	"
55	3	N/S linear cut	Possible agricultural trench	"
56	3	Similar to (54), more silt + fine gravel	Fill of (57)	"
57	3	As (55)	As (55)	"
58	3	Similar to (54)	Fill of (59)	"
59	3	As (55)	As (55)	"
60	3	Similar to (54)	Fill of (61)	Unknown

Context	Trench	Description	Comment	Date
61	3	Possibly part of N/S linear cut	Truncated, possibly agricultural origin. See also (91)	Unknown
62	3	Mid brown silt/fine gravel mix	Fill of (63)	"
63	3	Small irregularly-shaped cut	Truncated, possibly a continuation of (61)	"
64	3	Large flint nodules + some gravel in brownish grey silt	Fill of (65)	?Prehistoric
65	3	Roughly semicircular cut	Continuation/southern edge of (26)	"
66	4	Dark brown sandy silt + gravel, occasional larger nodules	Fill of (67)	Post-medieval
67	4	Circular cut	Truncated pit?	"
68	4	Dark brown-grey sandy silt + gravel, moderate larger nodules	Fill of (69)	Roman
69	4	N/S linear cut	Possible drainage trench	"
70	4	As (68)	Fill of (71)	"
71	4	As (69)	Direct continuation of (69)?. See also (101)	"
72	4	Similar to (68/70)	Fill of (73)	"
73	4	Linear cut, aligned roughly SW-NE	As (69), possibly part of same feature	"
74	4	Dark brown sand/silt/gravel mix	Fill of (75)	Unknown
75	4	Shallow, roughly oval-shaped cut	Truncated pit?	"
76	7	Gravel + fairly dark grey brown silty sand, occasional larger flint nodules	Disturbed (?) surface of (77)	Roman
77	7	As above	Buried soil horizon	"
78	7	Fairly light greenish brown sandy silt with pebbles, occasional larger flints	Soil or subsoil horizon below (77). Also fill at E.end of (30)	"
79	6	Clearance	Disturbed surface of (80)	"
80	6	Similar to (76)	As (77)	"
81	8	" "	Truncated but otherwise as (77)	"
82	4	Dark brown sandy silt, frequent gravel + pebbles	Fill of (83)	Unknown
83	4	Roughly N/S linear cut	Agricultural trench? Possible northern end of (97)	"
84	4	As (82)	Fill of (85)	"
85	4	Small, shallow circular cut	Truncated pit or posthole?	"
86	4	As (82)	Fill of (87)	? Post-medieval
87	4	As (85)	As (85)	"
88	4	As (82), occasional larger flint nodules	Fill of (89)	Unknown
89	4	Shallow circular cut	As (85)	"
90	4	Dark brown sand/silt, frequent gravel + moderate pebbles	Fill of (91)	"
91	4	N/S linear cut	Drainage or agricultural trench? Possible southern continuation of (61)	"

Context	Trench	Description	Comment	Date
92	4	Mid grey brown sandy silt with gravel	Buried soil horizon	Roman
93	4	Gradual downward slope of natural gravel to east	Part of fall in natural land surface on eastern side of site	Prehistoric
94	5	Dark brownish grey sand/silt, frequent pea-gravel + moderate pebbles	Fill of (95)	Unknown
95	5	N/S linear cut	Agricultural trench?	"
96	5	Similar to (94)	Fill of (97)	"
97	5	Roughly N/W linear cut	As (95). Possibly southern continuation of (83)	"
98	5	Dark brown sand/silt, frequent gravel	Fill of (99)	"
99	5	Small oval cut	Truncated pit or posthole?	"
100	5	Similar to (94)	Fill of (101)	Roman
101	5	Broad N/S linear cut, apparently a single event (undifferentiated fill)	Drainage/agricultural feature? Eastern side may be a continuation of (69/71) to N.	"
102	5	Dark grey sandy silt, moderate pebbles	Fill of (103)	Post-medieval
103	5	Small circular cut	Truncated pit/posthole?	"
104	5	Similar to (102), + frequent gravel	Fill of (105)	"
105	5	As (103)	As (103)	"
106	4	Mid brown silty sand, moderate pebble + coarse gravel inclusion	Buried soil/subsoil horizon?	Roman
107	7	Clearance	Disturbed surface of (77)	Post-medieval
108	8	"	Surface of (111)	Roman
109	8	Dark grey sand/silt + gravel	Fill of (110)	"
110	8	Circular cut	Pit, possibly truncated	"
111	8	Similar to (109), slightly lighter	Truncated soil horizon	"
112	9	Light grey yellow gravel with coarse sand	Natural	Post-glacial
113	9	Light yellow brown sand/silt, occasional flints	Waterlaid deposit?	?Prehistoric or Roman
114	6	Fairly dark grey brown silty fine sand, moderate pebbles	Upper fill of (17), probably washed in	Roman
115	6	Light yellow brown gravel + coarse sand	Fill of (17)	"
116	6	Light greyish yellow fine sandy silt	Waterlaid deposit, fill of (17)	"
117	6	Yellow brown silty sand, occasional gravel	Lower fill of (17)	"
118	7	Gravel + mid greyish brown silty sand	Fill at eastern end of (30)	"

Appendix X. The site archive

The site archive is held by the Museum of London Archaeology Service under the site code BRR 93.

The archive consists of:–

Separate context, drawing, environmental sample and photographic indexes
118 individual context sheets
4 environmental sample sheets
Matrices for each trench and context list (see Appendices VIII & IX)
9 1:10 and 1:20 sections
30 1:50 25cm² planning sheets (single and multi–context)
4 1:200 site plans supplied by Bellway Homes Limited (one including primary coordinates for site grid)
1 1:100 digitized plot of trench outline (1 to 8) + some archaeological features
One copy of this report and 9 draft drawings
Finds catalogue and reports (for latter see Appendices I to VI)
Environmental assessment (See Appendix VII)
Digitised plot of site boundary, trench location and grid and some recorded features
26 black and white negatives and contact prints
26 colour transparency slides

Appendix XI. The Sites and Monuments Record and recent archaeological work within a radius of approximately 1000m of 15–17 Brighton Road

PREHISTORIC			
– Palaeolithic	020168	Flint axe	Croydon
– Mesolithic	020044	Flint artefacts	36 Mansfield Road
	020046	Flint arrowhead	27 Birdhurst Road
– Neolithic	020100	Flint artefacts	St.Peters Road
	020126	Flint axe	Beech House Road
	020132	Flint axe	Haling Grove
	020134	Flint axe	Pampisford Road
	020137	Flint scraper	Haling Park
	020302	Flint implements + pot boilers	27 Stanhope Road
	020525	Arrowhead	8 Duppas Hill
– Bronze Age	020194	Stone axe	St.Anns Way
	020299	Excavation	27 Stanhope Road
– Iron Age	020216	Potsherd	Park Hill
" " ?	020671	Trackway	Croham Road
ROMAN	020232	Coin	Birch Wood
	020239	Coin	Croham Farm
	020245	Coin + potsherd	St.Matthews Vicarage
	020255	Coin	Sheldon Street
	020256	Coin	107 High Street
	020270	Coin Hoard	S.Croydon
	020281	Ceramic flagon	11 Chatsworth Road
	020289	Pottery assemblage	S.Croydon
	020291	Samian dishes	Park Hill
	020397	Fibula brooch	94 Park Lane
	020416	Potsherds	Edridge Road
	020456	Coin	S.Croydon
	020460	Coin	Dering Road
	020585	Coin	27 Wandle Road
	020668	Road surface?	Lower Coombe Street
ROMAN?	020450	Flagon	S.End/Toronto Bldgs
SAXON	020345	Cemetery	Edridge Road
	020404	Inhumations	Bramley Hill Road
	020633	Potsherd	Edridge Road
MEDIEVAL	020300	Excavation	27 Stanhope Road
	020349	Inscription	High St, Greyhound Hotel
	020396	Excavation	Park Lane
	020396.01	Field ditch	94 Park Lane
	020396.02	Ditch and pottery	99–101 Park Lane
	020414	Artefacts	Old Town
	020634	Cultivation?	Edridge Road
	020825	Potsherds. Oven or ?kiln	Whitgift School
	*	Excavation	113–121 High Street
MEDIEVAL?	020655	Manor House	94 Park Lane
"	020694	Manor House	Duppas Hill Lane

POST–MEDIEVAL	020196.02	Ditch and pottery	99–101 Park Lane
	020300.01	Excavation	27 Stanhope Road
	020301	Glass + pottery assemblage	27 Stanhope Road
	020370	Excavation	12–14 Bramley Hill
	020373	Excavation	Park Hill Road
	020373.01	Wall	Park Hill Road
	020381	Excavation	Duppas Hill Lane
	020402	Artefacts	28 Church Road
	020414	Artefacts	Old Town
	020630	Excavation	94 Park Lane
	020635	Excavation	Edridge Road
	020655	Manor House	94 Park Lane
	020694	Manor House	Duppas Hill Lane
	*	Excavation	113–121 High Street
MULTI–PERIOD	020299	Excavation	27 Stanhope Road
	020331	"	99–101 Park Lane
	*	"	5–25 Edridge Road
	*	"	Mint Walk
	*	" (mainly Saxon cemetery)	82–86 Park Lane

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