

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF STAINES AND THE EXCAVATION AT ELMSLEIGH HOUSE

by
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This report on Staines (the Roman settlement of *Pontes*) has been divided into two parts.

Part 1 deals with some of the evidence for settlement from the prehistoric (neolithic?) to the late medieval, with emphasis on the Roman occupation. Information has been collated from literary references, chance finds and excavations to 1975. The 1974-75 excavation at Elmsleigh House forms Part 2 of the report.

Part One

Staines (TQ 035 716) occupies a position at the confluence of the River Colne with the River Thames at the south-western edge of the old county of Middlesex¹ (Fig. 1). A number of chance finds have been recorded since the eighteenth century and the first archaeological excavation was conducted in 1969. This was followed by a number of small scale excavations on behalf of the then London Museum and the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society by Mrs. M. Rendell. In 1974 due to the imminent redevelopment of the town centre, the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society appointed the author as Field Officer.

Geology and Geography

The 'drift' geology consists of the Thames Valley River Alluviums, Brick earth (an alluvial) and the Flood Plain Gravels. The 'solid' geology is that of London Clay, the top surface at approximately 6.09m O.D. The Flood Plain Gravels abut each side of the Thames at Staines outcropping at approximately 14.00m O.D.; this being exploited by the siting of the medieval bridge and most probably its Roman predecessor. Brick earth outcrops to the east of Staines along the line of the modern A30 road and the river alluviums outcrop to the north and south of Staines.

The Flood Plain Gravels on Elmsleigh House site (TQ 0376 7165) and the Friends Burial Ground (excavated 1975-76, TQ 0372 7168) have a top surface at 12.04m O.D., and shelve southward of an east-west line (Fig. 2) to approximately 12.00m O.D. at the southern edge of the sites. These are covered by a build-up of alluvial deposits ranging from muddy silts (south of the line) to sands and gravels (in the north) with a level surface at 13.48m O.D. During the prehistoric period these sands and gravels were occupied and in the Roman period were important in the determination of the line of the major London-Silchester road and the extent of the settlement to the sides.

In the third century silts covered part of the earlier occupation abutting against sands and gravels at 13.48m O.D. This flooding only reaching as far as the Friends Burial Ground (see Fig. 2 and p. 74). During the late third and early fourth century the deposited silts dried out and were occupied. On the Elmsleigh House site (Fig. 8) there are indications of flooding during the Saxon period and again in the late thirteenth

century removing most of the earlier levels, but the flooding did not apparently extend as far towards the High Street as the earlier floods. From this time onwards the land lying below 13.48m O.D. was marsh and was not re-occupied until the nineteenth century.

Roman Staines

At present there is insufficient evidence to provide a proven picture of the origin and subsequent development of Roman Staines. A possible course of development is outlined below in the hope that this will provide a model which may be proved or disproved by future archaeological work. It must, however, be emphasised that the picture presented is a hypothetical one only.



Fig. 1. Location map of Staines.

Staines (*Pontes*) lies $20\frac{1}{2}$ Roman miles (19 miles) from Roman London (*Londinium*) and $28\frac{1}{2}$ Roman miles (25 miles) from Roman Silchester (*Calleva*)² on the London-Silchester road (Margary 4a).³ The outcrops of gravels from the alluvial muds of the flood plain, the confluence of the rivers, Thames and Colne and marsh to the south were contributory to the siting of the road and the development of the settlement.

The Thames was probably bridged at Staines and this is supported by its Latin name of *Pontes* ('at the Bridges'). The first bridge may have been of pontoon construction,⁴ possibly later replaced. This was perhaps built in conjunction with the construction of

what must have been a primary road soon after the invasion of A.D. 43, from London to the west of the country. The position of the bridge is unknown but most likely in the area of its medieval successor with the line of approach dictated by the geology (see above). Supporting evidence comes from the quantities of material dredged from the river at this point (Fig. 2).⁵ Any such major route would in the first instance have been furnished with military policing posts of some kind, later to be developed as posting-stations, *mansiones* or *mutationes* of the *cursus publicus*, the official communications system. Military activity at Staines is indicated by the find of a cheek-piece of a cavalry helmet from the Barclays Bank site and dated c. A.D. 60 (Appendix 1, p. 77). Stukeley⁶ writing in 1723 and identifying Staines as *Pontes* suggests that the settlement 'was fenced round with a ditch' but it is not clear whether or not he actually saw traces of a defensive system.⁷

Apart from its actual topographical siting, a further indication that Staines may well have served as and had the status of a *mansio* or posting-station, is provided by the inclusion of the settlement in the seventh journey of the British section of the Antonine Itinerary.⁸ This journey runs from (probably) Chichester to London with *Pontes* as the entry between Silchester and London. Despite mileage errors the identification of *Pontes* with Staines is certain⁹ and the actual entry in the text *Pontibus* (in the locative plural) can be translated 'at the Bridges'. It provides the only evidence for the Latin name of the settlement.

From the Antonine Itinerary as a whole, it can be shown that the routes in the document consist of lists of *mansiones* and do not generally include the smaller 'changing' stations, *mutationes* that lie between the *mansiones*. Thus the inclusion of *Pontes* in such a list can be taken to indicate that it probably had at sometime the status and function of a *mansio*.¹⁰ Brentford, midway between Staines and London, may well prove to be the *mutatio* between the two.¹¹ No certain date for Staines as a *mansio* can be deduced from the Itinerary, as the document consists of material of varying dates, but it would be natural to see any earlier military policing-point developing or being replaced after the pacification of south-east Britain in the second half of the first century A.D., by an official *mansio* of the *cursus publicus*. The establishment of an official complex, whether policing-point or *mansio*, would soon act as a nucleus or springboard for the growth of a civil settlement. This settlement probably also developed as a small marketing centre for the surrounding countryside, and in turn relied on the out-lying farmsteads and villas to supply it with food. Other roads, coming from Farnham, St. Albans and the Midlands,¹² besides the major London-Silchester road may have been built once the civilian settlement was established. It is possible that a road coming from the north-west has been observed on an aerial photograph at TQ 054 753 joining the Roman London-Silchester road to the east of Staines.¹³

The name *Pontes*, being plural, deserves some comment. There are three other entries in the Antonine Itinerary recording similar place-names, *ad Pontem* twice, once in Britain (East Stoke, Nottinghamshire);¹⁴ the second in Spain;¹⁵ the third, again in the locative plural case, is in the Gaulish section (perhaps modern Ponches near Boulogne).¹⁶ The plural of *Pontes* (Staines) perhaps refers to two bridges at Staines, one across the Thames, the second across the Colne, but until topographical and archaeological work has established the position of the course of the Colne in the Roman period and the exact line of the main Roman road, this can only be a tentative explanation. Other explanations are possible.

Excavation before 1974

Between 1969 and 1973 some nine sites were explored by Mrs. M. Rendell, but as yet remain unpublished. Information from them is limited to short notes, but all are of importance to any discussion regarding the Roman settlement of *Pontes* and the later development of the town.

(The number of each site refers to Fig.2)

1. Thames Street 1970 (TQ 0366 7157); Roman? road with side ditch alignment uncertain, but either parallel to Barclays Bank road (see below) or at right angles to it. Roman pottery recovered from side ditch. In the topsoil eleventh and eighteenth century material.
2. Conservative Club 1970 (TQ 0351 7158); in section two daub walls superimposed, a burnt layer separating them. Material recovered gave similar dates to those of Barclays Bank site.
3. Johnson and Clark, 19 High Street (TQ 0345 7159); extension at rear of building. First to fourth century Roman material, twelfth century pit group, thirteenth and fourteenth century pottery and seventeenth century tin glaze.
4. Halifax Building Society 1971 (TQ 0368 7169); cross-section of a Roman kiln, six wasters found with kiln dated to the second century. Fill of the kiln containing late third-fourth century material.
5. Halifax Car Park 1971 (TQ 0369 7175); a Roman clay floor cut by two features; a ditch with grass tempered pottery and a pit with fourteenth century pottery.
6. Perrings (TQ 0360 7165); Roman pottery of first-fourth centuries. Medieval and post-medieval pottery present in topsoil.
7. Mumford and Lobb 1972 (TQ 0385 7177); excavation in advance of redevelopment. Roman material from first-fourth centuries found. Fourteenth century and post-medieval pottery present in topsoil.
8. Friends Burial Ground (TQ 0370 7152); first explored by Mrs. M. Rendell in 1970. Two trenches 3m square were opened up and material from prehistoric-fourth century Roman found. The amount of material recovered made further investigation worthwhile and work started in 1975 continuing in 1976 by the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society under direction of the author.

The site had been divided into two by a nineteenth century brick wall. To the north of this the land had been heightened by 2m to accommodate the Quaker burials and to the south by 1m. 100 sq.m of land to the north of the wall were excavated, the removal of 2m of topsoil exposed a fourth century land surface and the eroded top surface of a third century clay bank built against flooding. Beneath this bank was a road with side-ditch and bank. These sealed two pits containing prehistoric (neolithic-iron age) material and the skeleton of a cow (dated to the late iron age¹⁷). 200 sq.m to the south of the wall were also excavated and here the silts abutted against the clay bank (see above) and they had been cut into by fourth century gullies, pits and thirteenth century cess pits. The silts sealed material dating from the prehistoric period to the early third century. At present (March 1976) examination of the material from the 1975 excavation suggests on the first assessment of the prehistoric (neolithic-iron age) material recovered, that there is substantial prehistoric occupation in the area. Material from the Roman period is equally extensive, consisting of a wide range of pottery types, imported and local,

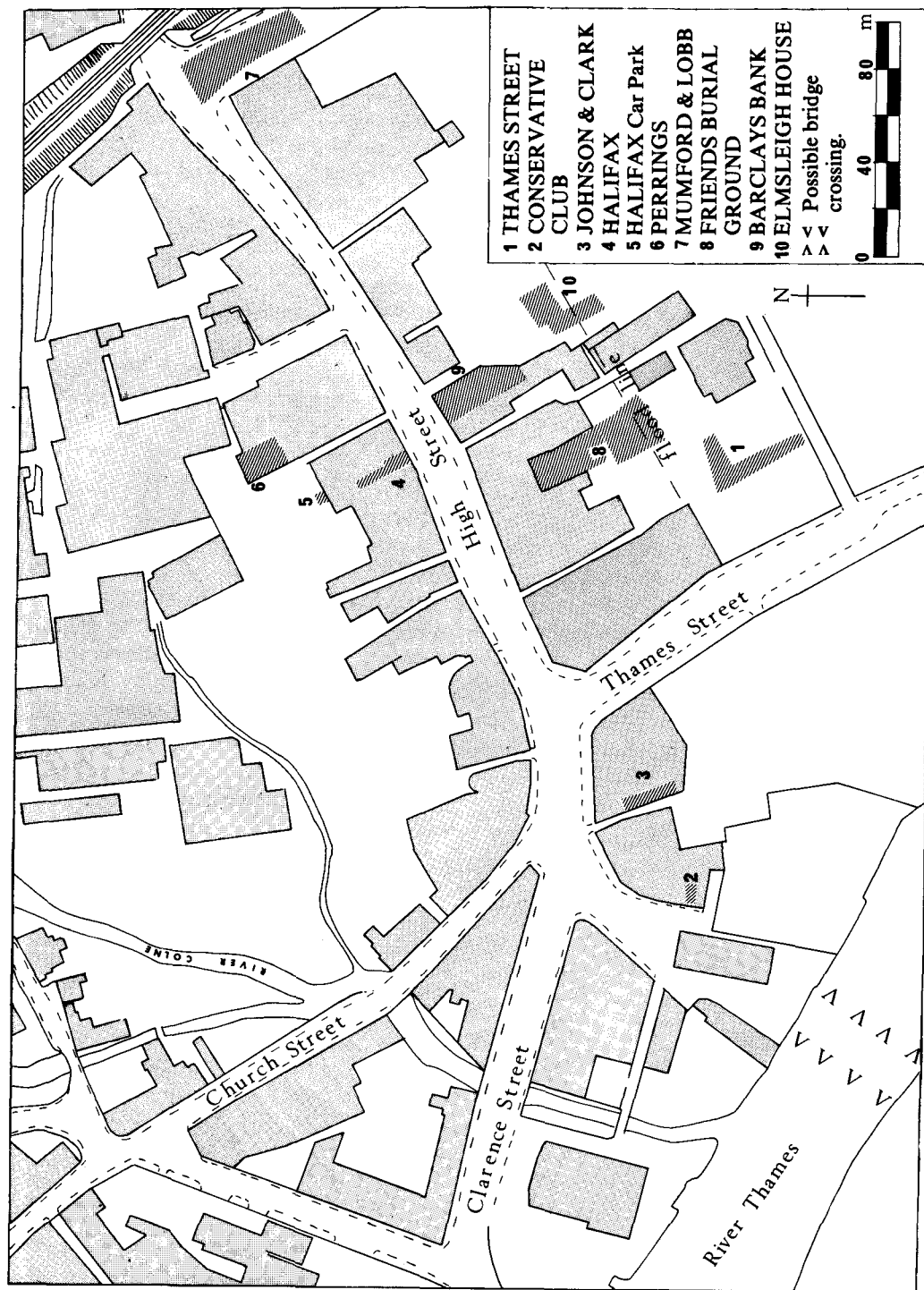


Fig. 2. Staines: Map of sites.

quantities of window and vessel glass, wall plaster, tesserae fragments, building materials of brick and stone (Purbeck marble), roofing, hypocaust and flue tiles, all indicating the presence of at least one substantial building in the vicinity.

9. During the redevelopment of Barclays Bank¹⁸ High Street, the first major evidence for the Roman settlement was uncovered. The earliest feature reported is that of a road running east–west across the front of the site; being 11 feet wide (3.453m), cambered, with side ditches. A thin layer of mud covered the road surface followed by a burnt layer with two timber buildings superimposed. Dating from pottery would seem to suggest that Building 1 had a date of *c.* A.D. 70 while Building 2 a date *c.* A.D. 130–150. The site also produced a group of imported pottery with a date range of *c.* A.D. 40–60. A number of military pieces were found, in particular a cheek-piece from a cavalry helmet dated *c.* A.D. 60 (Plate 1, Figs. 3, 4; Appendix 1, p. 77). Among the domestic pottery were, grey ware, bowls, dishes and jars, mica dusted vessels, half a lead glazed bowl (Plate 2, Fig. 5; Appendix 2, p. 80), samian and Spanish amphorae, their necks having been removed and the rest of the vessel reused possibly for the storage of foodstuffs.¹⁹ A black soil sealed all the previous levels and contained third and fourth century material. This in turn had been cut by a pit? ditch?, containing twelfth to early thirteenth century pottery. No later material was recovered due to the advanced state of redevelopment at the time of discovery.

Conclusion

From evidence to date it would seem that the Staines area has had occupation in one form or other since the neolithic period,²⁰ though there is little doubt that the Roman settlement owes its origin to the existence of the road, and perhaps a small military establishment guarding the bridge. A civilian settlement no doubt soon followed, grew and prospered in the first and second centuries, probably relying on out-lying farmsteads and villas to supply it with food. As a riparian settlement river-borne trade would also possibly have been important to the economy.

Imported material comes from Gaul, Italy, Spain and Germany and British wares from Brockley Hill, Dorset, Surrey, Sussex, Buckinghamshire, London and local kilns are also present. It is possible that some form of decline occurred in the third century though this assumption is based on the lack of material of this date from the sites excavated so far. Material from the fourth century, suggests expansion, if one accepts the above premise, with pottery coming from Hampshire, Surrey, Oxford, Nene Valley, Colchester and Germany (Rheinish and Mayen wares). The final collapse of the Roman settlement appears to have occurred at the end of the fourth or early fifth century.

Saxon material, predominately grass tempered pottery, is present from the town. It is impossible to suggest a date for this material as there is, at present, no securely stratified sequence from the fourth–tenth centuries. The medieval town arose quickly after the tenth century to judge from the pottery imports from Holland and East Anglia in addition to local products. It was probably, however, not until the late twelfth–early thirteenth century that the medieval town reached the size and prosperity of its Roman predecessor.

NOTES

¹ Since 1963 following the London Government Act which abolished the Administrative County of

Middlesex, Staines has formed part of the County of Surrey.

- ² A Roman mile is 1,618 yards.
- ³ I. D. Margary *Roman Roads in Britain* (Baker 1967).
- ⁴ S. S. Frere *Britannia* (London 1967) 65 Footnote 1.
- ⁵ Thames Conservancy Board dredging 1956 *Berks. Archaeol. Journ.* 56 (1958) 54–56.
- ⁶ W. Stukeley *Itinerarium Curiosum* (1726) 205.
- ⁷ *Ibid.* 205. It is possible that Stukeley saw the ditch (now canalised) that is called the Sweeps Ditch. The date of this ditch is unknown but probably medieval.
- ⁸ O. Cuntz *Itineraria Romana* i (Leipzig 1929); Wess 478.4.
- ⁹ A. L. F. Rivet 'The British Section of the Antonine Itinerary' *Britannia* 1 (1970) 49–50, 77.
- ¹⁰ Information and discussion with Mr. Hugh Chapman.
- ¹¹ A. Laws 'Excavations at Northumberland Wharf, Brentford' *Trans. London and Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 27 (1976).
- ¹² The Viatores *Roman roads in the South East Midlands* (1964) 125–136.
- ¹³ Aerofilms. Hunting Surveys. No. HSL/UK/62/230.
- ¹⁴ Cuntz *op. cit.* in n. 8, Wess 477.7, A. L. F. Rivet *op. cit.* in n. 9, 49.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.* Wess 409.2 The first stop north on the road from Cadiz to Cordoba.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.* Wess 363.1.
- ¹⁷ Information from the Natural History Museum.
- ¹⁸ *London Archaeol.* 1 (1970) 161.
- ¹⁹ G. C. Boon *Silchester: The Roman Town of Calleva* (Newton Abbot & London 1974) 239.
- ²⁰ Causewayed enclosure (Neolithic). Excavated by Mr. R. Robertson-Mackay.

Appendix 1

Fragment of a helmet cheek-piece, Barclays Bank Site, 1969 by H. Russell Robinson

Figs. 3, 4 and Plate 1

The cheek-piece (right side) is made of an iron plate wrapped on the outer face with a thin sheet of embossed bronze which is turned in at the edges. The remaining portion consists of the upper forward two-thirds which would cover the wearer's cheek from just below the hinge by which it was attached to the helmet skull and includes the cut-out for the eye in the forward edge and the projecting lobe for the cheek-bone. The lower edge terminates just above the centre of the cut-out for the mouth and curves backwards and upwards to the forward edge of the ear.

The decoration embossed on the outer sheathing consists of a cabled border following the outline of the plate set in at approximately 10mm from the edge but excluding the ear; the normal outline of a cheek-piece. In this case however, the ear was not left uncovered for the plate continued over the front with a stylised representation of that appendage embossed in both the iron and the outer bronze.

Occupying the central panel is a broad V shaped cabled ridge which joins the upper corners of the inner border and a large male head of which only the top of the skull and nose, mouth and chin survive. The absence of a cap or helmet suggests an imperial head or deity such as Hercules.

Between the bronze and the iron in the area of the head are traces of a black substance, possibly pitch which may well have been left adhering to the inside of the bronze when it was removed from the pitch-block upon which the finishing of the embossing was carried out with punches. The presence of pitch proves that the cheek-piece sheathing was hand worked and not die-struck as are some examples.

This cheek-piece belongs to a well defined group which belonged to Roman cavalry service helmets of the first and early second centuries A.D. The skulls of two such helmets stripped of their bronze sheathing have been found in Britain, one from Newstead¹ and another from Northwich.² A more complete example with much of its tinned and embossed sheathing was found recently near Koblenz.³

Cheek-pieces survive in slightly greater quantity in Britain and on the continent though not all of them have yet been published. The British examples are from Newstead,⁴ Carlisle,⁶ Brough,⁷ Kingsholm,⁸ and Usk.⁹

Continental examples are from the Waal near IJzendoorn, Holland;¹⁰ Mainz, now at Mannheim,¹¹ and Heddernheim now at Frankfurt.¹²

The quality of the embossed decoration varies considerably probably due to the manner in which it was executed. The Brough, Kingsholm and Heddernheim pieces are die-struck and in consequence are far superior to the others which are raised with a hammer and then worked with punches. Three examples bear heads for comparison with the Staines fragment. That from Corbridge carries a female bust, the Mainz example a head of Minerva and the recently found Heddernheim specimen a youthful imperial bust wearing a laurel wreath.

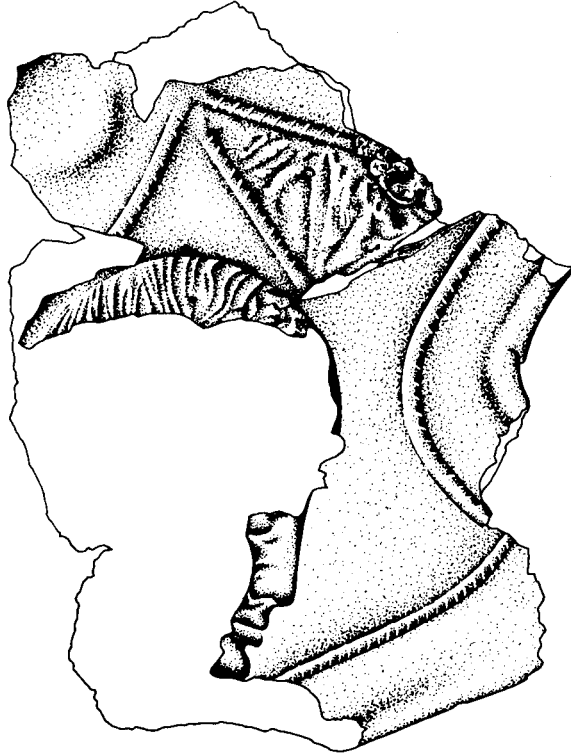


Fig. 3. Staines: Helmet cheek-piece ($\frac{1}{1}$).

For sculptural representations of these helmets we must look at the series of grave stelae found along the Rhine frontier such as that of Romanius at Mainz, Bassus at Cologne and two unidentified riders at Worms.¹³

The helmets are of classical Attic form with their skulls covered with embossed bronze to represent hair; a feature well shown on the Koblenz helmet.

Not all cavalry units had such elaborate helmets for there are examples such as that from Witcham Gravel now in the British Museum¹⁴ and a cheek-piece from the Valkenburg in Holland¹⁵ which are of the same date and character but whose decoration is confined to raised borders, bands and bosses.

The embossed decoration was either entirely tinned or had the background tinned with the ornament in bright yellow bronze relief.

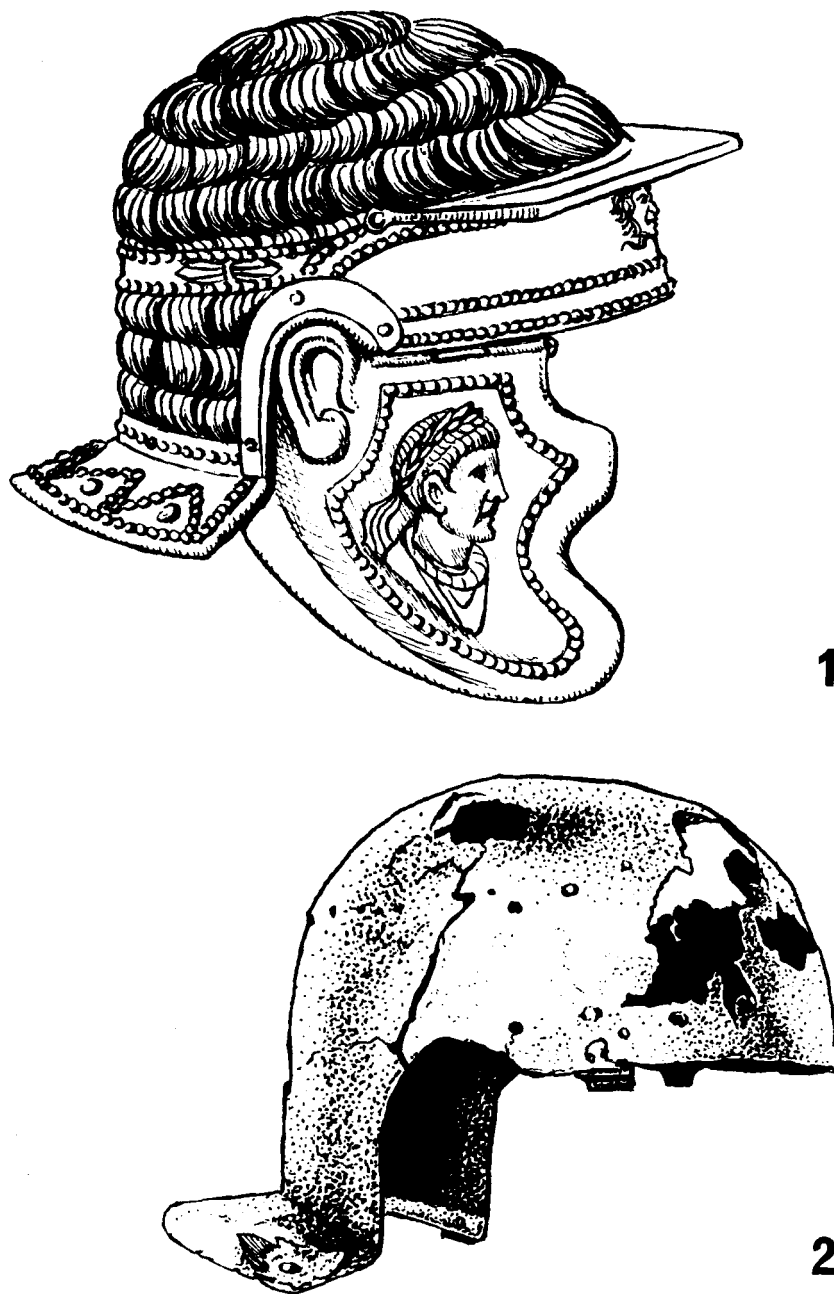


Fig. 4. Staines: Reconstruction of helmet cheek-piece. 1. Reconstruction of a first century A.D. cavalry helmet found near Koblenz. (City Museum, Koblenz.) (Not to scale.) 2. Iron skull of a cavalry helmet from the fort at Newstead. Late first century A.D.

NOTES

¹ H. Russell Robinson *The Armour of Imperial Rome* (London 1975) 94 Plate 246.

² *Ibid.* 94 Plates 248–9.

³ Hans Klumbach *Romisches Helme aus Niedergermanien* (Bonn 1974) 45 No. 32, Taf. 32.

⁴ H. Russell Robinson *op. cit.* 133, Plate 400.

⁵ *Ibid.* 134, Plate 402.

⁶ *Ibid.* 134, Plate 403.

⁷ *Ibid.* 134, Plate 401.

⁸ *Ibid.* 134, Plate 406.

⁹ This piece has not yet been published.

¹⁰ H. Russell Robinson 'Fragments of a Roman Cavalry Cheek-piece from the Fort at Newstead' *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* 102 (1969–70) 291, Fig. 2.

¹¹ *Op. cit.* Note 1, 135, Plate 404.

¹² This piece has not yet been published.

¹³ All of these are shown together in the *Armour of Imperial Rome* 104–5, Plates 297, 299, 301, 302.

¹⁴ Robinson *op. cit.* Note 1, 94–5, Plates 250–3.

¹⁵ W. Groenman-Van Waateringe *Romeins lederwerk uit Valkenburg Z. H.* (Groningen 1967) 203, Abb. 76.

Another similar cheek-piece was found at Nijmegen, see Klumbach *op. cit.* in Note 3, 57, No. 45, Taf. 44.

Appendix 2

The Roman Lead Glazed Pottery by Paul Arthur

Fig. 5 and Plate 2

Two fragments of a Central Gaulish globular beaker in hard off-white fabric and with a lemon-yellow glaze covering both internal and external surfaces. Decoration consists of arrangements of barbotine dots. Date: Middle of the first century A.D. From Barclays Bank site 1969. The type is illustrated by Greene¹ and Brenders has a full discussion.²

(Not illustrated)

1. Almost exactly half of a Romano-British beaker imitating samian form Dr. 30 (Plate 2). It has a brick-red fabric with grey core and thin grey surface covered by a yellowish glaze which appears olive-green. Decoration consists of a central zone filled with criss-cross barbotine threads forming a continuous line of diamonds. There is no exact parallel published although the piece is similar to the glazed form 30 'Sussex' beakers³ and an example from Hambledon Valley, Bucks.⁴ This piece probably did not come from the same kilns, but was also fired upside down. Date: Late first–early second century A.D. From Barclays Bank 1969.

2. Rim and body sherd from Romano-British vessel imitating form Dr. 30. The medium grey fabric is covered, strictly speaking, with a yellow glaze which appears olive-green over the pottery. It is decorated with a central zone filled by, at least, one row of circles in underglaze white barbotine. This fragment is very unlike the previous piece and I would suspect that it came from a different kiln site in south-east England. Parallels can be cited from Springhead, Kent (two pieces; one published⁵). There is no indication of inverted firing of this piece. Date: Late first–early second century A.D. Elmsleigh House site—topsoil.

3. A small body sherd in light pink fabric with an external yellow glaze appearing green and an internal light brown glaze. Underglaze lines of white slip suggest that the vessel may originally have been decorated with a honey-combed lattice pattern. This piece may be related to No. 2 above and to a series of pear-shaped flagons also found in south-east England. Date: Late first–early second century A.D. From Elmsleigh House site—early medieval plough soil.

4. A simple bead rim and a body sherd in pink fabric and light brown glaze, both of the same vessel. The vessel was probably a globular jar or beaker derived from native traditions.⁶ The body sherd appears to display the ends of four vertical combed lines.

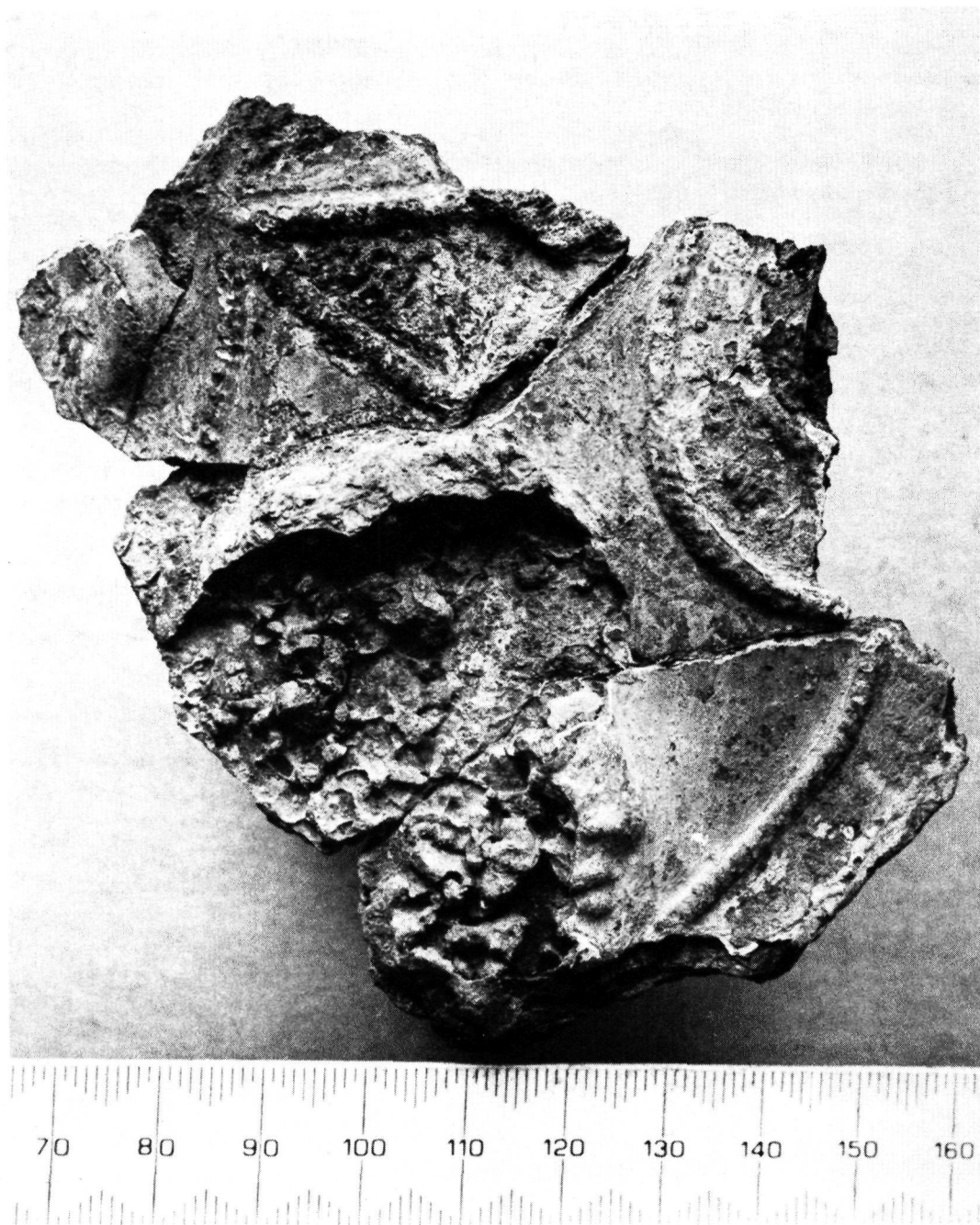


Plate 1. Staines: Cheek-piece of Roman helmet. (Scale in mm.) (p. 77.)



Plate 2. Staines: Roman lead glazed beaker. (p. 80.)

Date: Late first–early second century A.D. From Elmsleigh House site—early medieval pit.

The main interest in the Staines lead glazed vessels is their variety. The Central Gaulish type is often found in connection with early military activity. Local British variation is indicated by the rest. Nos. 1 and 2 typically copy popular imported samian vessels, while No. 4 is less common in that it would seem to have derived from a well known native type. This is interesting, and Mr. Peter Leach informs me of a small glazed jar decorated with Durotrigan inspired motifs from recent excavations at Ilchester. It is unfortunate that all these vessels are from later layers as what is now needed are securely dated examples on which a tighter chronology can be based.

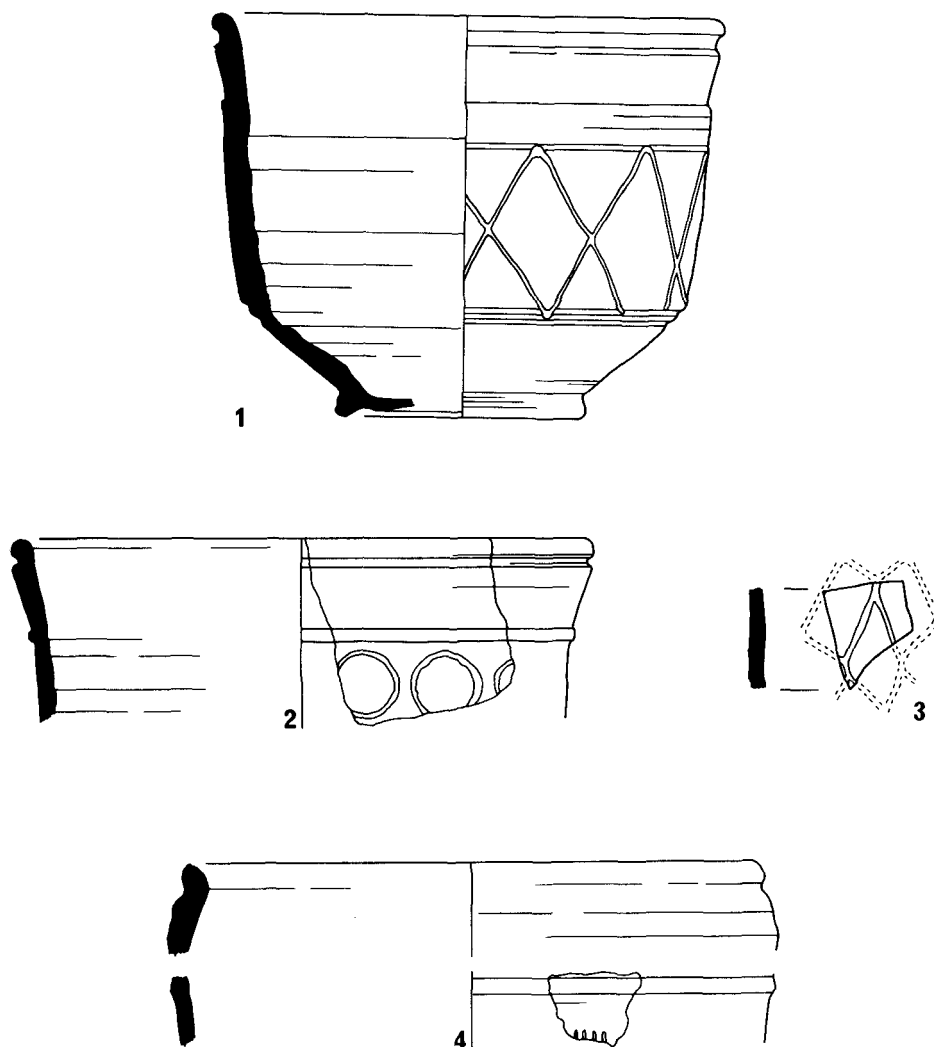


Fig. 5. Staines: Lead glazed pottery (Nos. 1–4) ($\frac{1}{2}$).

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¹ K. Greene *Guide to Pre-Flavian Fine Wares* (Cardiff 1972) Fig. 12, No. 16.

² F. Brenders *Het Romeins Geglazuurd Aardewerk* (Leuven 1975) 43–46 (Privately circulated doctoral thesis).

³ A. Down & M. Rule *Chichester Excavations I* (Oxford 1971) 77–79, Nos. 45 and 247g.

⁴ A. H. Cocks 'A Romano-British Homestead in the Hambledon Valley, Bucks' *Archaeologia* 71 (1920–21) 175.

⁵ W. Penn 'Springhead, The Temple Ditch Site' *Archaeol. Cant.* 79 (1964) 182, No. 4.

⁶ cf. B. Philp *Excavations in West Kent 1960–1970* (Dover 1973) 75, No. 202.

Part Two. The Elmsleigh House Excavation

Introduction

The site (TQ 0376 7165) was situated off the High Street behind the Barclays Bank site excavated in 1969 (Fig. 6). With demolition of Elmsleigh House in advance of redevelopment the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society were given permission to excavate the garden area. Funds were made available by the Department of the Environment and Spelthorne Borough Council and excavation commenced in August 1975 and lasted until May 1976. Several months were lost due to flooding.

An 'L' shaped area of 170 square metres was excavated (Fig. 7). This showed that the site had had very little modern disturbance. Only at the southern edge was there any major disturbance and here a fifteenth–sixteenth century brick building had destroyed all earlier layers. In the nineteenth century the southern part of the site was heightened by 0.50m to a level of approximately 15.24m O.D.

Summary of results

1. Although traces of prehistoric and first–second century Roman material were found, the first identifiable occupation began probably in the third century.
2. A Roman roadway was built running north–east–north–west across the northern part of the site and had one structural phase.
3. A series of Roman buildings were erected on the gravels of the road. Some demolition and rebuilding took place, probably in the early–mid fourth century. Associated pits and post-holes were found.
4. During the Saxon period there was occupation in the northern part of the site, but the southern part was affected by flooding. Covering the Roman and Saxon was a black soil of ninth–twelfth century date, used at sometime for cultivation. Traces of ridge and furrows were discovered running along the contour and parallel to the High Street.
5. Flooding again occurred in the late thirteenth century, though not to the same extent as before but sufficient to remove any earlier features. The black soil again covered all the site and was used for cultivation. It contained pottery and other materials from the Roman period to the fifteenth century.
6. A gravel surface sealed the above plough soil. The gravel had been cut by a number of post-holes and post pits, but due to later destruction no plan could be discerned. It is probable that the gravel is contemporary with the building (see below) found at the southern end of the site.
7. This building was built probably in the late fourteenth–early fifteenth century and of timber-framed construction. It was replaced in the sixteenth century by a brick structure, demolished in turn in the seventeenth century. Later in the same century an out-building was constructed utilising part of the foundation wall of the earlier brick building. This appears to have been deliberately demolished in the early eighteenth century and replaced by a second out-building, demolished in the 1760's. Finally a nineteenth century garden wall was built upon part of the previous structures and the rest of the site used as a garden for Elmsleigh House.

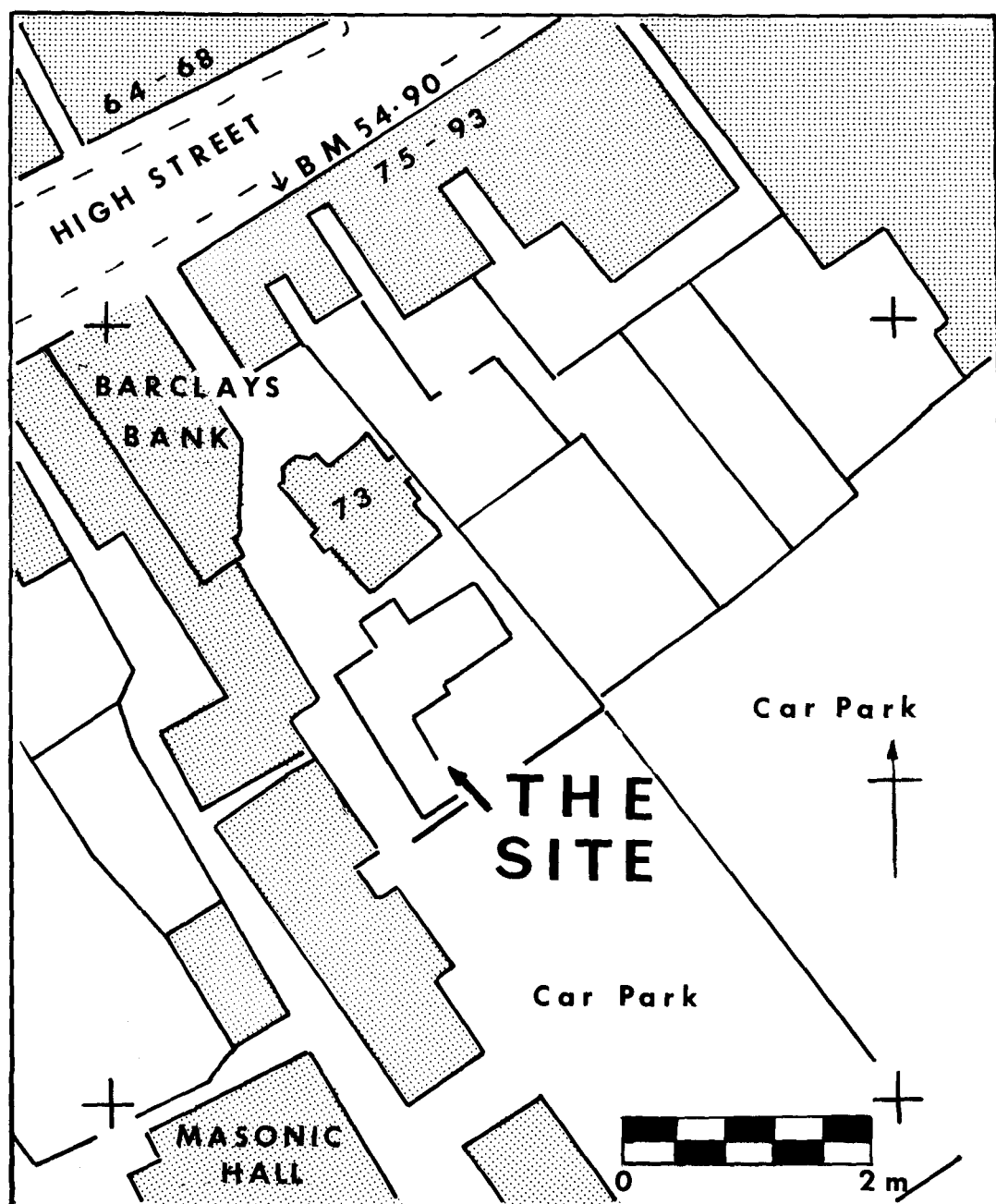


Fig. 6. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Location of site.

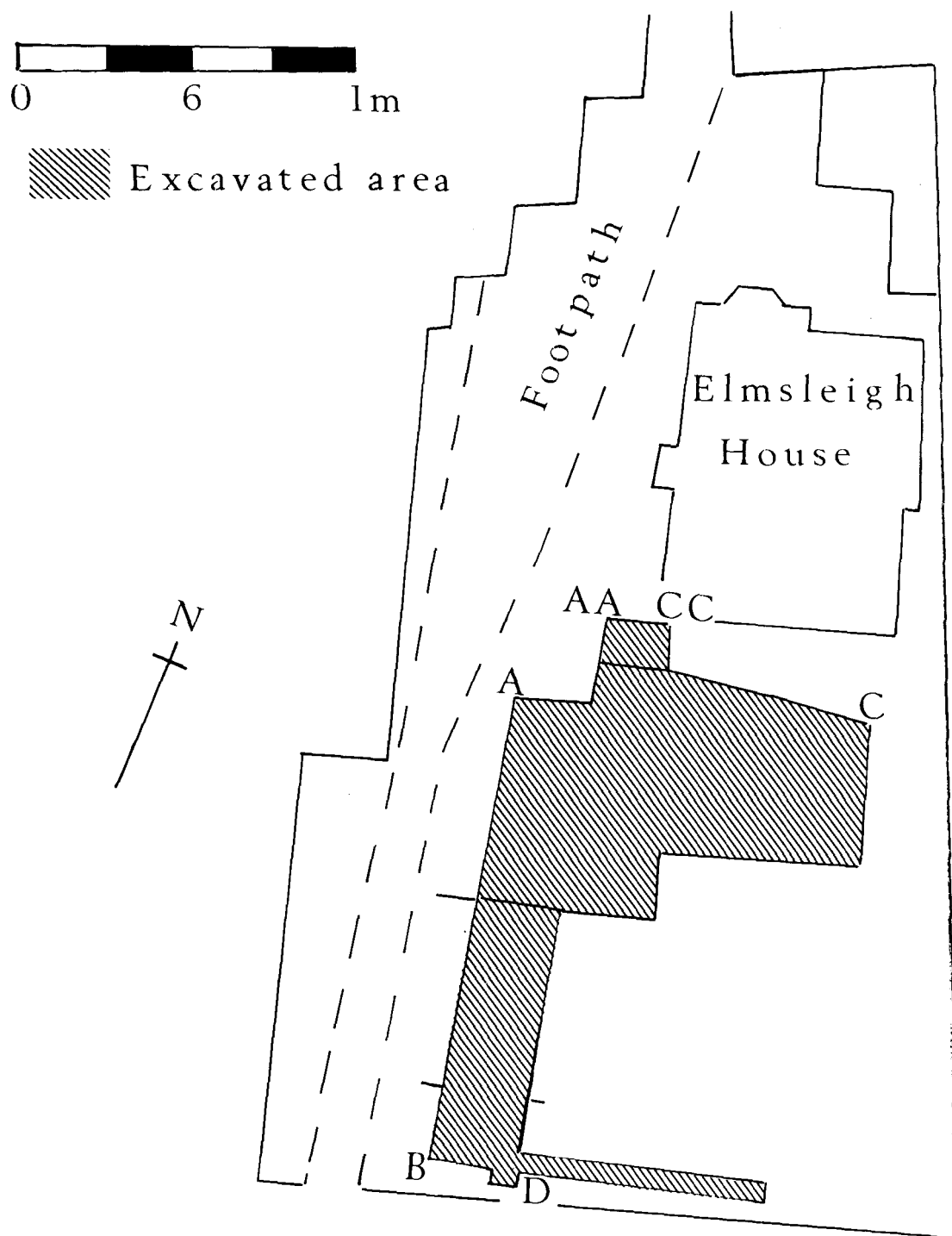


Fig. 7. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Site Plan.

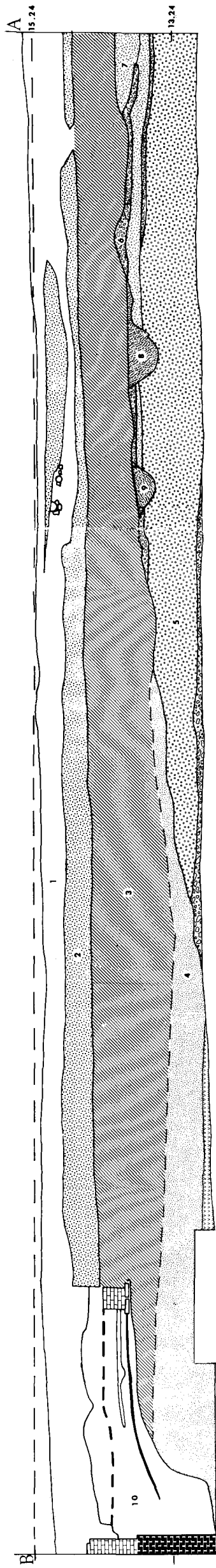
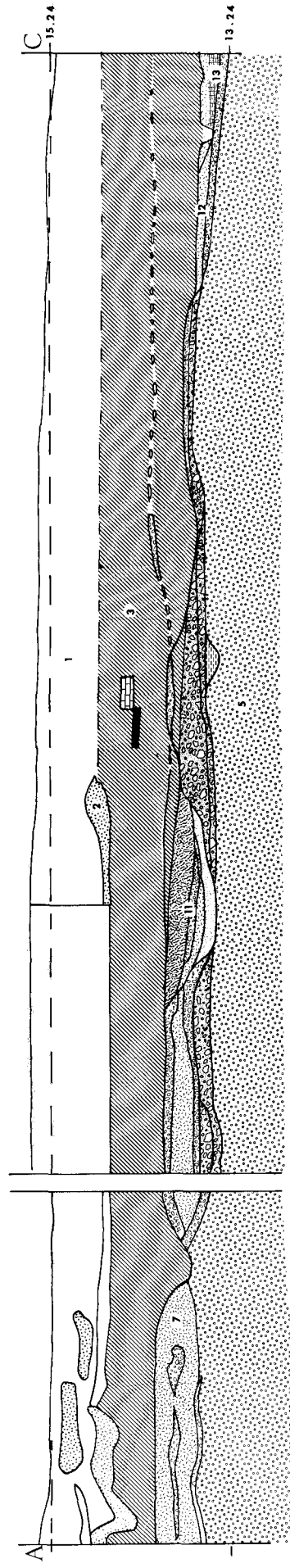


Fig. 8. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Section A-B. 1. Topsoil. 2. Nineteenth century gravel. 3. Plough soil. 4. Silts. 5. Natural sands and gravels. 6. Road gravel. 7. Yellow clay. 8. Gully (Z33). 9. Beam trench Building III. 10. Sixteenth-eighteenth century Building.

(Below) Section A-C. 1. Topsoil. 2. Nineteenth century gravel. 3. Plough soil. 5. Natural sands and gravels. 7. Yellow clay. 11. Gully (Z33). 12. Yellow clay Building I, phase 2. 13. Clay floor Building I, phase 1.



The findings

Pre-third century

Little evidence of activity prior to the third century was obtained from excavation. Some worked flints and a few pieces of abraded prehistoric (neolithic-iron age?) pottery were found within the Roman and medieval layers. First and second century Roman coarse wares and lead-glazed wares (Appendix 2, p. 80) were found in medieval features and modern topsoil.

The evidence does not suggest any settlement and it is likely that the prehistoric material was brought in with the clays and gravels for the construction of the road during the Roman period.

The road (Fig. 8)

The road ran north-east to north-west across the northern part of the site. Its uppermost metallised surface lay about 1.60m below modern ground level and was overlaid in part by building structures and black soil.

The road in the north-west was constructed of dumped gravels and yellow clay laid upon natural sands and ironstone. The first was of gravel 0.06m thick, followed by a layer of yellow clay 0.12m thick at north thinning to 0.06m in the south. Above this a final gravel surface, 0.16m thick thinning to 0.08m, had been laid. It was difficult to determine the width of the road due to extensive cutting by later features, but it was probably *c.* 3m wide. To the south the road sloped down for a further 3.70m. A side ditch to the north terminated 8.00m in from the western edge of the trench and was 2.00m wide, 0.36m deep. At the north-east the road was constructed entirely of gravel with three separate layers. The date of the side-ditch and road was difficult to ascertain due to the lack of dateable finds from the make-up of the road. It is probable that the road is no later than the mid-third century as it was cut by a pit (Z119) (2×2×1m and with four stake-holes in the bottom). The fill of the pit was of green clay containing freshwater gastropoda and sealed by a layer of animal bones (see bone report p. 131) 0.20m below the top surface. This in turn was covered by a black soil with mid-third century pottery (No. 1, p. 98).

Settlement

The buildings (Fig. 9)

Part of three buildings have been interpreted from the site of which two, buildings I and II each had two phases. The buildings were built either upon the underlying gravel road or natural sand and apart from the road and associated pit (see above) there was little stratigraphical evidence of Roman activity preceding their construction. No frontage on which the buildings may have been aligned was discovered, though this may have lain under the northern edge of the trench.

Building I (Fig. 9)

Phase one

The north-eastern part of the road was sealed with yellow clay flecked with chalk and the clay utilised as a floor. This was apparently the south-west corner of a Roman building which carried on under the baulks. The remains of the southern wall of this building, of gravel and clay, survived to a height of 0.10m and was 0.32m wide. No dateable material was obtained from the wall or floor of this building itself, but two gullies which cut through the floor level provide some evidence. Gully (Z136) was 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep at west sloping to 0.30m against eastern edge of trench. Gully (Z105) is 0.70m, where it enters the first gully, narrowing to 0.30m. The fill of both gullies was a black soil and this contained sherds of coarse grey wares of Farnham-Alice Holt type (late third-fourth century).

Phase two

Sealing the building and gullies was a second yellow clay floor, probably of mid-late fourth century date. A beam slot cut into the floor of the building. The corner of this building occurred close to the east edge of the trench, where a second beam slot (0.30m wide, 1.40m in length and 0.12m deep) cut obliquely across the gullies (see above). The fill of this slot contained a flake of iron from a larger object, one nail and pottery of mid fourth century date (Fig. 15, Nos. 2-4). The fact that the beam slots had had their timbers removed suggests that Building I may have been

deliberately demolished when it was replaced by Building II at an oblique angle. Material from a wall of this second building which had collapsed to the south and west perhaps indicates that the building was simply abandoned. Sealed beneath the collapsed material was pottery of fourth century date. Two gullies were cut into the remains of Building I (phase two). One gully (Z137) (0.30m long, 0.10m wide, 0.20m deep), contained a Saxon grass tempered rim sherd. The second gully or beam slot (Z101) ran along the northern edge of the trench (0.24m wide, an exposed length 1.30m, 0.20m deep). Fine gravel lay at the bottom and contained pottery sherds of eleventh–twelfth century date (p. 102, No. 45).

Associated activities

Direct evidence of associated activities for these two buildings is absent. But to the south west of Building I was an oval dump of iron ore (Z106) with a hollow centre. Around the outer edges of this dump were a series of stake-holes. The fill of this iron dump being of green clay with pottery of mid fourth century date (Fig. 15, Nos. 20–25) together with animal bone, tile, iron nails and an iron bar. It is possible that this is connected with metal working. The plough soil above this level contained a number of iron blanks, iron knives and slag of probable Roman date. Between the iron dump and buildings there was a post-hole (Z102) (0.14m dia, 0.30m deep), again containing pottery of the mid fourth century. This had been partly covered by collapse from the adjacent building. On the other side of the site the road and side ditch had also been levelled with a yellow clay deposit. This however did not show any indications of buildings.

Building II

Phase one (Fig. 10)

To the north of the road a yellow clay flecked with chalk (0.18m thick) had been laid upon the natural sand, and a trench with a rectangular section (0.24m wide and 0.20m deep) had been cut into it running north–south. This had a black fill of black soil though with no dateable material and is best interpreted as a beam slot. This suggests that the building was perhaps contemporary with Building I (phase one). Sealing the clay floor was a gravel layer 0.11m thick with a post-hole (0.30m × 0.20m) cut into it.

Building II (Figs. 10 and 11)

Phase two

A second yellow clay floor had been laid over the gravel and had been cut by a number of features. The main feature was a series of beam slots (Z125) forming three sides of a rectangular structure. Two ran north to south 1.40m apart and both were rectangular in section (0.30m wide and 0.15m deep). These were joined by a third, with the same dimensions, running along the southern edge. A fourth beam slot met the top and eastern slot. Much of this and part of the eastern beam slot had been destroyed by later disturbance. At each side of the western beam slot were two post-holes (0.15m dia.) with gravel fill. The date for this building depends upon pottery recovered from the beam slots and this suggests a date in the mid fourth century (Fig. 15, Nos. 5–10), possibly indicating that it was contemporary with Building I (phase two).

Building III (Fig. 9)

On the western side of the site lying upon the gravels of the road was a third building. Cut into the gravels were two beam slots. The first (Z30) (4.20m in length, 0.40m wide, 0.20m deep) ran north–south and had been mostly destroyed by a later gully. Running at right angles to this and forming the southern edge was a second beam slot (Z37) (0.40m wide, 0.20m deep and recorded length of 2.60m). At its east end a square cut post-hole (0.30 × 0.30m) had been sunk. All the features had a fill of black soil with pottery of the mid fourth century (Figs. 15, 16, Nos. 31–34). The third side of this building would have ran parallel to the second side but had been completely destroyed by a later gully (Z25).

All these buildings were probably of timber/clay construction and of a rectangular plan.

Associated activities

To the south of Building II was the remains of a pit. This had been cut into the end of the side

ditch and in turn cut by a Saxon pit and gully, leaving only part of the base. Interpretation of the existence of this pit relies principally upon the large amounts of Roman pot found in a good condition even though found with grass tempered pottery.

To the south-east of Building III was a post-hole (Z48) (0.60m × 0.40m) with a black soil fill but no dateable material though it is likely that this may be associated with Building III.

Gravel surface (Z35) (Fig. 9)

The rest of the site consisted of the gravels of the Roman road which had in turn been covered by a layer of fourth century domestic debris. (Fig. 16, Nos. 38–42). Into the gravel had been cut a number of pits and gullies of late Roman and medieval date.

Late fourth century activity

An elliptical shaped pit (Z112 Fig. 9) (3.30m × 2.00m and 1.20m deep) had been cut through the gravels into the natural ironstone. The fill consisted of pebbles at lowest level sealed in turn by grey silts, green clay and pebbles, and finally covered by a further green silt and grey clay. The fill of the pit contained pottery of mid-late fourth century date with a predominance of Alice Holt and Oxfordshire wares (Fig. 15, Nos. 11–19). There were also quantities of animal bone (see bone report p. 131) tile and oyster shell. Two shallow gullies (Z113 and Z114) led into the pit above, one following the camber of the road and cutting through the collapse wall material (0.50m wide and 0.10m deep) with pottery of late fourth century date (Fig. 15, 29–30). The other gully ran parallel to southern edge of trench and ended 1.20m from above pit. Adjacent to this gully, but running in opposite direction was a similar cut gully (Z107) again with pottery of the fourth century. A post-hole (Z122) cut the north-east edge of the above pit (0.70m dia. and approximately 0.60m deep) containing late fourth century pottery (Fig. 15, Nos. 27–28).

Post-Roman activity

It is probable that abandonment of the site occurred sometime in the fifth century, possibly caused by flooding which was seen in the southern part of the site, sealing beneath it Roman material. The number of gullies and pits of Saxon date show that the site was re-occupied. Unfortunately no exact date can be given for these features as the dating of the ceramic evidence cannot be precise, (see p. 101).

One Saxon gully (Fig. 9) cut into the floor of Building I (see above) but on the western side of the site there was more definite evidence of Saxon occupation. The Saxon pit (Z131) had cut into and almost completely destroyed an earlier Roman pit and had in turn been cut by a gully (Z33) (Fig. 9) which curved round through the beam slot and floor of Building III. Both these features contained a high percentage of residual Roman material but with some sherds of Saxon grass tempered pottery (Fig. 20, Nos. 153, 155).

To the south of this gully and cutting through the gravels and natural ironstone, was a roughly rectangular feature (Z44: 3.00m × 2.60m) which had at its northern end the possible indications of a beam having been laid with two post-holes at either end (Fig. 9). The floor of the feature was a grey sandy soil mixed with gravel and charcoal. Pot (Late Roman and Saxon grass tempered sherds) tile fragments and animal bones were found (Fig. 20, No. 152 and bone report p. 131). The tentative interpretation of this feature is that it is the floor of a Saxon hut.

Eleventh–twelfth centuries

From sometime towards the end of the Saxon period to the fifteenth century much of the area was apparently used for arable cultivation. Evidence of ploughing was seen by ridge and furrows in section running parallel to the High Street and cutting into the silt deposit and gravels.

A number of features of late eleventh–twelfth century were found, confined mostly to the north and west of the site.

A beam slot (Z101) contained pottery of eleventh–twelfth century date.

Two gullies (Z25) joined each other and possibly drained into a pit (Z52 see below and Fig. 9). The gullies (0.80m wide and 0.20m deep) were cut into the yellow clay of Roman date, the right hand branch having destroyed the beam slot of Building III and contained pottery of late eleventh–twelfth century date (Fig. 17, Nos. 48–49).

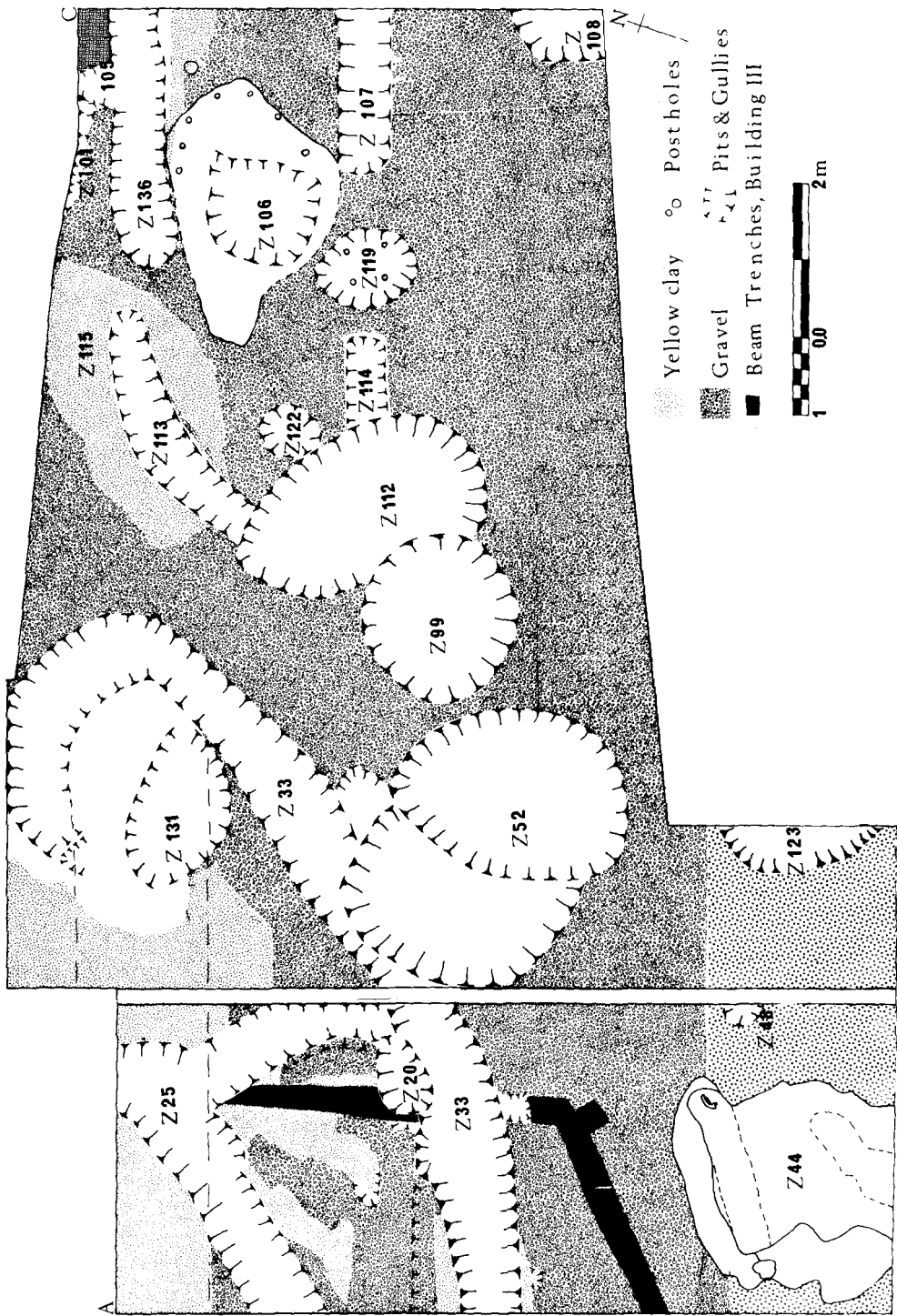


Fig. 9. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Plan of fourth century level.

A pit (Z99) (2.20m × 2.00m and 1m deep) had cut into a Roman pit (Z112) and contained pottery with latest date of early twelfth century (Fig. 17, Nos. 50–55).

A grey clay, containing a single sherd of twelfth century pottery, covered part of the Saxon feature (Z44). To the north of the above a rectangular strip of gravel had been built upon the underlying Roman gravel. Within this gravel two body sherds and one rim of late eleventh–twelfth century date were found (No. 47). Due to heavy ploughing during the later centuries these eleventh–twelfth century features seem to have little to connect them, except for the pottery, and it is possible that all are connected with occupation close by.

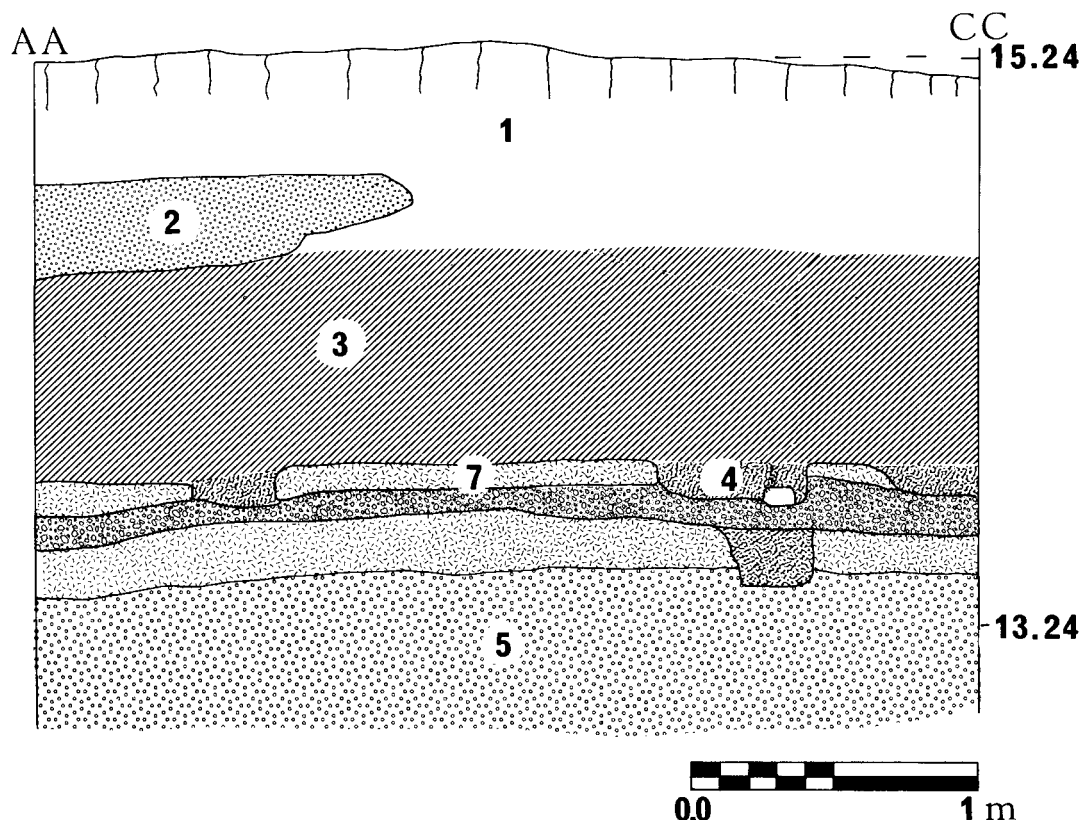


Fig. 10. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Section A/A-C/C. 1. Topsoil. 2. Nineteenth century gravel. 3. Plough soil. 4. Beam trench, Beam trench Building II, phase 2. 5. Natural sands and gravels. 7. Clay floor, Building II, phase 2.

Late twelfth–fifteenth centuries

Two pits (Z108, Z123) (Fig. 9) were dug to the south of the site both with pottery of late twelfth–early thirteenth century date (Fig. 17, Nos. 56–64). During the late thirteenth century flooding occurred in the south of the site though not to the same extent as the earlier flood (see above and Fig 8) covering the pits and a sherd of shell tempered pottery of late twelfth–early thirteenth century found on natural gravel. The silts had been cut by a pit (Z16) containing the skeleton of a horse and pottery of late thirteenth–early fourteenth century, (Fig. 18, Nos. 75–79 and bone report p. 131), and at extreme northern end by a black soil and gravel mix with pottery

of late thirteenth–early fourteenth century, brick, tile and chalk.

To the north-west there were a series of pits (Z18, 19, 20) of late thirteenth–early fourteenth century date and one post-hole with early fourteenth century pottery sherds in its fill (Fig. 12).

A large double pit of late thirteenth–early fourteenth century (Z52) had cut into an earlier eleventh–twelfth century pit (see above and p. 87). The double pit was at first thought to be two separate pits, excavation showed that they were in fact two parts of a single pit that had been divided by wood or wicker shuttering. They are described separately here.

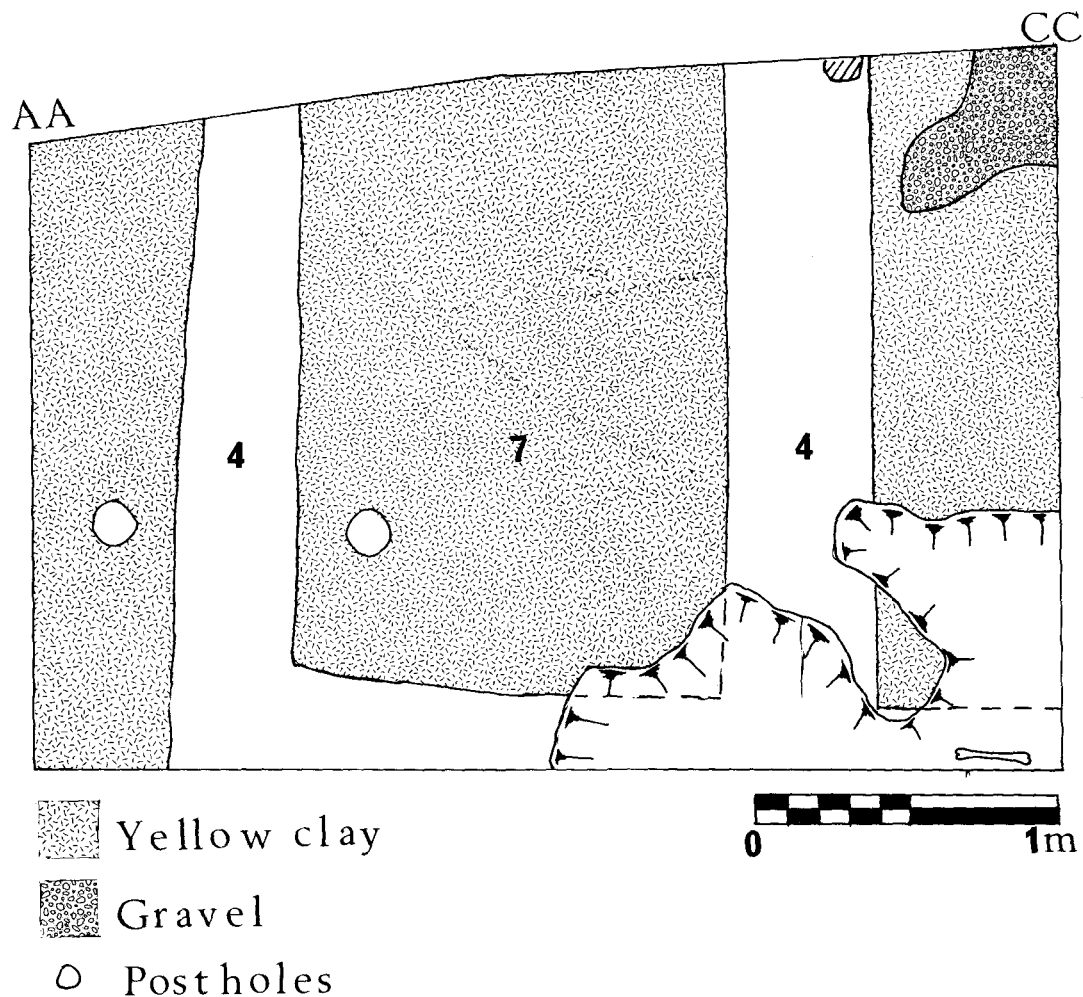


Fig. 11. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Plan of Building II, phase 2. 4. Beam trenches. 7. Clay floor.

The top layer (i) of both pits was a black soil, and contained medieval and early sixteenth century pottery (Figs. 19, 20, Nos. 104–144).

Pit I. Most of the fill consisted of a fine black soil (ii) containing medieval sherds, animal bones, tiles and shells with at the base two large quartzite blocks, one having a moulded interface. Below was a peaty soil (iii) containing preserved wood and medieval sherds. Around the sides was a mix of soil and pit side collapse. Beneath the two quartzite blocks were two post-holes with their stakes preserved and there was at least one other post-hole but flooding prevented examination.

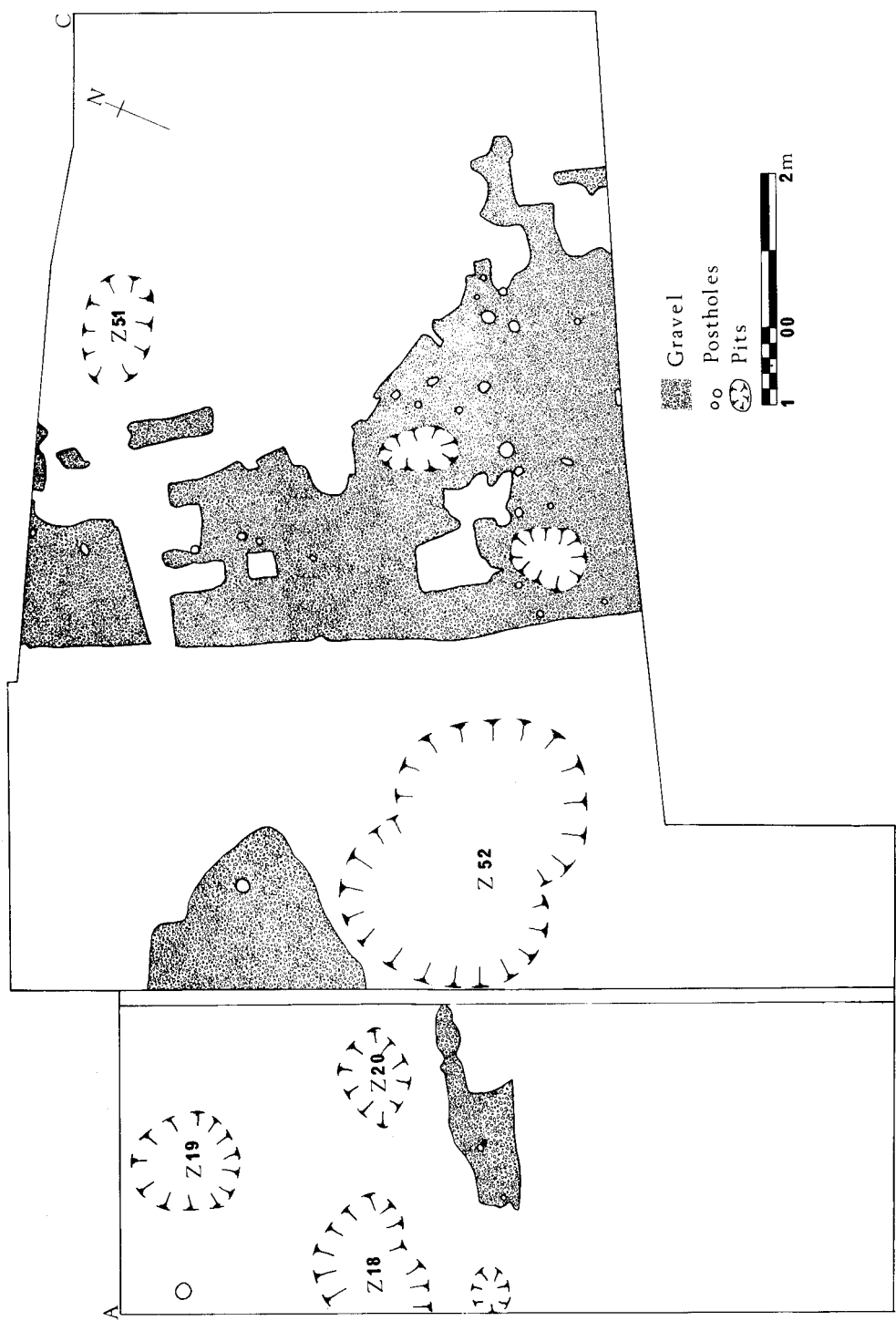


Fig. 12. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Plan of late medieval surface.

Pit. II. Below the black soil was a yellow/grey clay (v) filling the centre of the pit. This abutted against a straight edge which separated the clay from a fine black soil (vi). This straight edge was either a wicker or wood shuttering separating the two parts of the pit. The fine black soil (vi) merged into a peaty soil as in Pit I and below this and cut into the natural were four irregular shallow holes, probably post-holes. Beneath the yellow/grey clay was a circular hole (approximately 0.15m deep) filled with clay and cut into the natural. The western edge of the clay was built up against layer ii of Pit I and in a similar way to the shuttering of Pit II. The northern side of the clay was probably pit collapse.

Late medieval

Sealing all earlier levels was a gravel surface approximately 1.12m below modern ground surface and of late medieval date. Most of the surface had been destroyed by later digging so that it was impossible to discern any plan from the post-holes and two post pits remaining. It is probable that this surface is contemporary with the brick building at the southern end of the site (see below and Fig. 12).

The brick building (Fig. 13)

Only the front edge of this building was discovered; the rest lay beneath the car park to the south (Fig. 6). Several phases of construction were interpreted for this brick building.

The first phase was probably of late fourteenth–early fifteenth century date, of timber framed construction with foundations dug into late thirteenth century flood deposits. The timber framed building was replaced in the late fifteenth–early sixteenth century by a brick building which was demolished in the mid seventeenth century. During the late seventeenth century an out-building was constructed upon part of the foundation wall of the earlier building. This first out-building was probably deliberately burnt down and demolished before being rebuilt in the early eighteenth century. It was finally demolished in the late eighteenth century.

From material recovered from the excavation it is probable that this late medieval–early post-medieval building was of some importance though to date no documentary evidence from Staines has been found for its existence.

Phase I late fourteenth–early sixteenth century

The earliest surviving construction phase for this building consisted of a beam slot and a brick pier. The beam slot (Z135) (2.40m in length, 0.30m wide and 0.20m deep) was found at 12.64m O.D. and had been cut into the flood deposits of the thirteenth century. The slot and associated layer contained pottery of late fourteenth–early fifteenth century date (Fig. 18, Nos. 80–103) and associated with it was the remains of a brick pier (Fig. 13). Originally the brick pier had abutted the beam slot, though it had been partly robbed leaving only seven layers of brick intact (2.12m × 0.53m height). The top layer of brick showed traces of mortar suggesting that the structure was higher while the southern face of the pier had been faced and curved inward. A tentative interpretation is that this is the remains of a pier being part of a supporting superstructure for the entrance into the building which lay to the south. The building itself was probably constructed of timber and plaster with a tiled roof, for sealed beneath a yellow clay floor were a beam and a post of oak (?) together with roofing tiles and mortar rubble. The beam (0.15m square with an excavated length of 1.05m) ran diagonally across the bottom of the trench and the post had been sunk into the flood deposits (surviving length 0.74m × 0.30m × 0.25m). The top of the post had been carved into a column (0.33m in length and 0.20m dia.) with the back left flat so that it would stand flush against a wall. Around the post on three sides were four tiles set on edge.

Phase II sixteenth century

The timber framed building and bridge pier were demolished in the early sixteenth century and replaced by a brick building. This brick building was built to the south of the brick pier (see above and Fig. 13). The front wall of this brick building, which was the only part available for excavation, had a zig-zag plan (Fig. 13). The wall survived to a height of 1.05m and was built on rubble and roof tiles of the previous building. The wall had alternate layers of headers and stretchers and a relieving arch had been built to the west end perhaps to support a drain or culvert. On the inside of the wall there was a yellow clay layer (0.29m thick) utilised as a floor and sealed

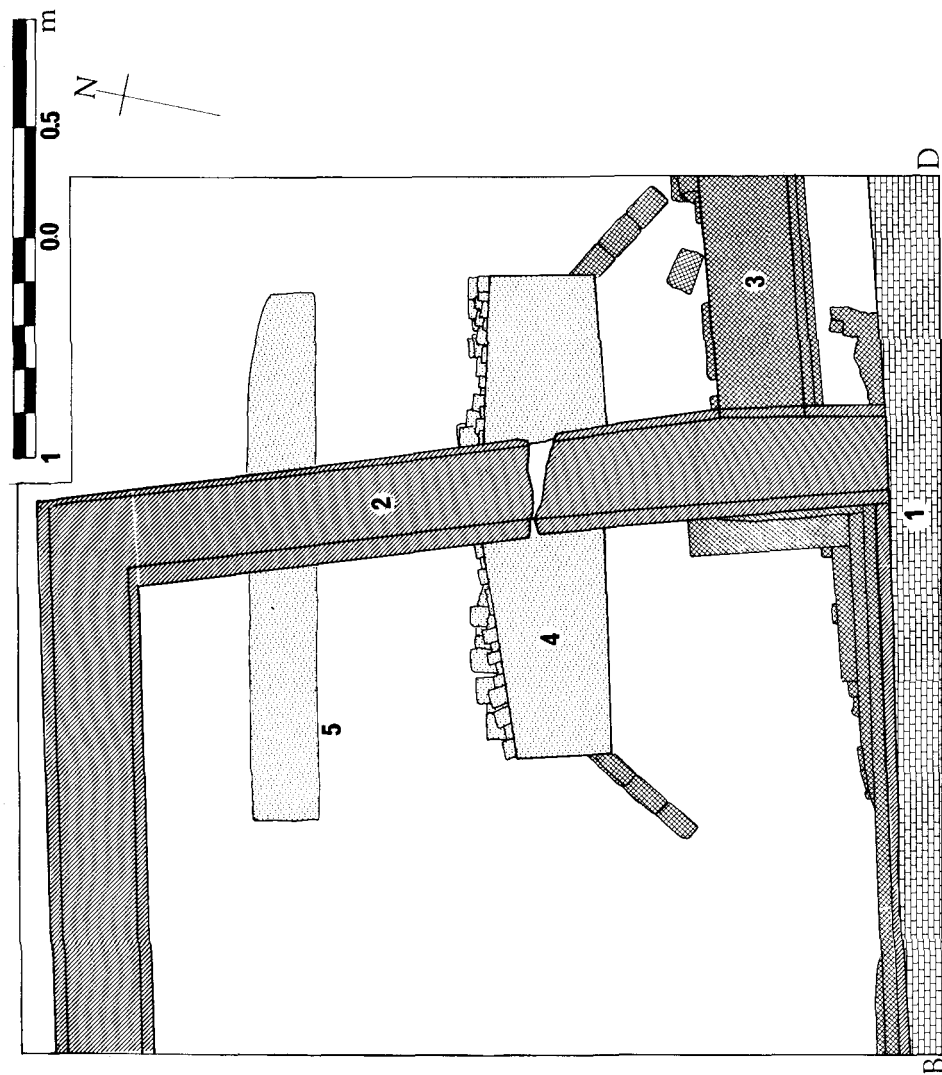


Fig. 13. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Plan of brick building phases. 1. Nineteenth century. 2. Sixteenth-seventeenth century. 3. Pier, fifteenth century. 4. Beam trench, fourteenth-fifteenth century. 5. Beam trench, fourteenth-fifteenth century.

beneath it the remains of the earlier building (see above). It is possible that tiles had been laid upon this clay, though none survived intact, but from the layer above broken glazed tiles and mortar were recovered suggesting that the tiles had been deliberately removed before destruction of the building.

At the point where the line of the wall changed direction the wall had been widened at sometime during the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century from its original width of 0.33m to 0.47m by addition of offsets. These offsets were incorporated in an extension built between the wall and surviving part of the brick pier (Fig. 13). An arch was formed between the wall and brick pier and the gully formed was blocked at some later date with mortar and tile.

An extension trench was dug to find the full length of the front of the brick building. The east corner of the building was found and gave a length of 12m. This however was not the complete length, as the wall was traced to the west beneath the footpath but no return was established.

Phase III Late seventeenth century

The brick building was probably demolished sometime in the mid seventeenth century. Part of the remaining wall was used as a base for the southern and part of the eastern wall of an out-building. The rest of the east side and the north side were built directly upon the soil. The eastern face was 3.80m in length, and the exposed length of the north and south walls 2.50m. The walls (0.34m wide) rested upon a single layer of bricks (0.44m wide) forming offsets on each side. The out-building had a tiled floor set on mortar, which sank into the underlying foundation trench and pit of seventeenth century date. This subsidence caused part of the east wall to crack and it is probably due to these factors that the building was demolished and the rubble used to form a solid base for a second out-building constructed on the same plan.

Pipes and pottery suggest a date of c. 1710 for this re-building. (See clay pipe report, p. 129 and pottery, Fig. 21, Nos. 5–15.)

Phase IV eighteenth century

The second out-building was built on same plan as first. Mortar was laid on the rubble and on to this the tiles from the earlier building were laid. This out-building continued in use until the 1760's when it was demolished and the site levelled (Fig. 21, Nos. 1–4). The only evidence of occupation connected with the eighteenth century is a pit of c. 1760 (Fig. 22, Nos. 35–52).

Nineteenth century

The site it would seem was left vacant until the building of Elmsleigh House towards the High Street (Fig. 13). Gardens were laid out over the site with gravel paths, the southern end being heightened by 0.50m and a garden wall constructed using part of the sixteenth and eighteenth century walls as foundations. This nineteenth century garden wall was demolished c. 1950 and house demolished c. 1968.

General Conclusions

The findings from the Elmsleigh House site have to be dealt with in isolation at present, though some reference to previous and present excavations is cited.

Prehistoric

The evidence of prehistoric occupation is limited. The nearest major evidence of prehistoric activity during the neolithic is the causewayed camp (TQ 025 725) at Yeoveney¹ and late bronze age–early iron age at Runnymede Bridge, Egham (TQ 019 718);² and it is therefore likely that there was prehistoric occupation of some character at Staines itself. This has been hinted at by a quantity of neolithic–iron age material recently found on the Friends Burial Ground (Fig. 2) in 1975–76.

From the limited evidence so far available it is probable that any occupation occurred on the higher ground above 13.48m O.D. towards the River Thames. Consequently

examination of sites set on the higher ground at about 13.48m O.D. might produce more substantial evidence of pre-Roman occupation.

The Roman Settlement: Late third–fourth century A.D.

From the Elmsleigh House site some change in the estimation of the extent of occupation to the back of the High Street has been necessary. It is now known that clay and timber buildings stood some 50m to the south of the main London–Silchester road and that probably metal-working, indicated by the presence of iron and bronze slag and half finished artefacts, was a minor industry.

The end of the Roman settlement and Saxon occupation

It is not possible at present to say what happened in Staines at the end of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth centuries A.D. It is probable that a gradual decline occurred as shown by the collapse material from the late Roman clay and timber buildings and the decline in the quantity of late Roman pottery after about A.D. 370. A similar picture is reflected in the coin percentages (p. 120).

When and exactly how the Saxon occupation started is still doubtful, but it is likely that there was a slow transition from Roman to Saxon settlement and that occupation became centered along the High Street and towards the bridge-head. The flooding which occurred during the Saxon period may well have concentrated any occupation to these areas.

Medieval period

The medieval period is characterised by plough soil of up to a thickness of 1m. Ploughing occurred close to the town along the contour line and parallel to the High Street. It is interesting to note that the Domesday Survey mentions some 24 ploughs³ in Staines.

The presence of pottery from a wide area, e.g. Pingsdorf, St. Neots and East Anglia suggests that the medieval town acted as a market centre from an early date, at least by 1218.⁴ The presence of Windsor Castle, six miles to the north, would also be an added stimulus to growth.

Late thirteenth century flooding

The evidence of flooding on Elmsleigh House site is of interest as it is possibly contemporary with the flooding which occurred in London in 1294, evidence for which has recently been found at Toppings and Sun Wharves, Southwark.⁵ Whether this flooding is of precisely the same date and from which direction it came up or down stream, it is not at present possible to be certain.

Late fifteenth–sixteenth century building

Only the front part of this substantial building was excavated. At present there is no traced documentary evidence for it, but the depth of foundation and material found in association would suggest that it was of some importance in the town. The demolition of the building occurred in the 1650's, possibly at the same time as that of Oatlands Palace, Weybridge (TQ 079 652) in 1650–52, by order of Oliver Cromwell.⁶

NOTES

¹ Report forthcoming. Interim report. *Archaeol. News Letter* 7 (1962) 131-134.

² Excavation by Surrey Archaeol. Society, directed by David Longley 1976.

³ Victoria County History *Middlesex* 3 (London 1962).

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ H. Sheldon 'Excavations at Toppings and Sun Wharves 1970-72' *Trans. London and Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 25 (1974) 25.

⁶ Excavations carried out by Department of the Environment 1967-72. Report forthcoming. Information from Weybridge Museum.

THE FINDS

The Flints by Phil. Jones

Fifteen struck flints were recovered from various features and layers of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date throughout the site. They could have been introduced onto the site with road metalling gravels extracted outside the settlement area, but current excavations (Friends Burial Ground) suggests that there is considerable prehistoric activity in Staines and that it is more likely that the Elmsleigh House flints represent peripheral activity of at least one period of neolithic-bronze age activity near the foreshore of the Thames. There are no implements that can adequately be used to determine specific phases of flint working with the possible exceptions of the shouldered point/blade (No. 7) which, with its steep retouched notches, is of mesolithic ancestry though known to continue through the neolithic; and the waisted end scraper (No. 5) which has been observed as a scraper sub-type of late neolithic and early bronze age settlements as at the beaker settlement of Belle Tout, Sussex, Bradley (1970, 36). All but one of the five scrapers are on fairly thick flakes and are generally convex end scrapers with occasional supplementary side working. The spurred scraper (No. 2) is another distinct sub-type, but the rolled condition indicates its introduction into the area via the Thames.

Seven small flakes and blades show retouching or utilization as knives on one or both edges and include a primary flake (No. 6) with a convex working edge.

Most of the flints were of a brown to buff colour although the rolled and presumed alien spurred scraper was a mottled red and tan; the shouldered point blade (No. 6) was dark olive; and the two unworked parallel sided blades (No. 4 and unillustrated) were a buff colour. These exceptions could still fall within the range of local flints from the floodplain and Thames Terrace gravels.

Flints (Fig. 14)

1. Convex end scraper on a thick flake, with retouch extending down three-quarters of the right side and half-way down the left. Maximum thickness 15mm.
2. Rolled flake with much cortex. Scraper edge on lower left side and a spur with concave retouch on the left side. Maximum thickness 10mm. Purple-red flint.
3. Convex end scraper on primary flake, retouch extends down most of left and right sides. Maximum thickness 10mm.
4. Bulbar end of broken parallel sided blade. No retouch or utilization. Long thin arrises. Some degree of calcination. Maximum thickness 20mm. Pale grey flint.
5. Broad convex end scraper on a waisted flake, retouch extends down whole of left side. Much cortex, maximum thickness 10mm.
6. End and side scraper edges on small flake. Slightly convex end retouch extending down left side. Right side possibly utilized as a knife edge. Maximum thickness 7mm.
7. Shouldered point/blade (broken at tip and base), steep retouch in upper right and lower left notches, and knife utilization down left side, some cortex.

Brown/olive-green flint.

8. Blade with knife retouch down whole of left side and intermittently down right side. Hinge fracture on the end. Maximum thickness 3mm.
9. Irregular shaped blade with knife retouch and use down both sides. Hinge fracture on the end. Maximum thickness 3mm.
10. Broken blade with retouch down whole of right side, possible knife. Maximum thickness 5mm. Brown flint with pale blue patina.
11. Broken blade with retouch down left side and utilization of right side. Maximum thickness 25mm.

Not illustrated

Broken blade, no retouch or utilization. Maximum thickness 2mm. Beige/pale grey flint.

Flake with convex knife retouch down whole of left side and shaping retouch on right side. Maximum thickness 9mm.

Broken blade segment. Some invasive retouch on lower right edge, possible knife. Maximum thickness 5mm.

Small blade with some utilization on right side. Maximum thickness 3mm.

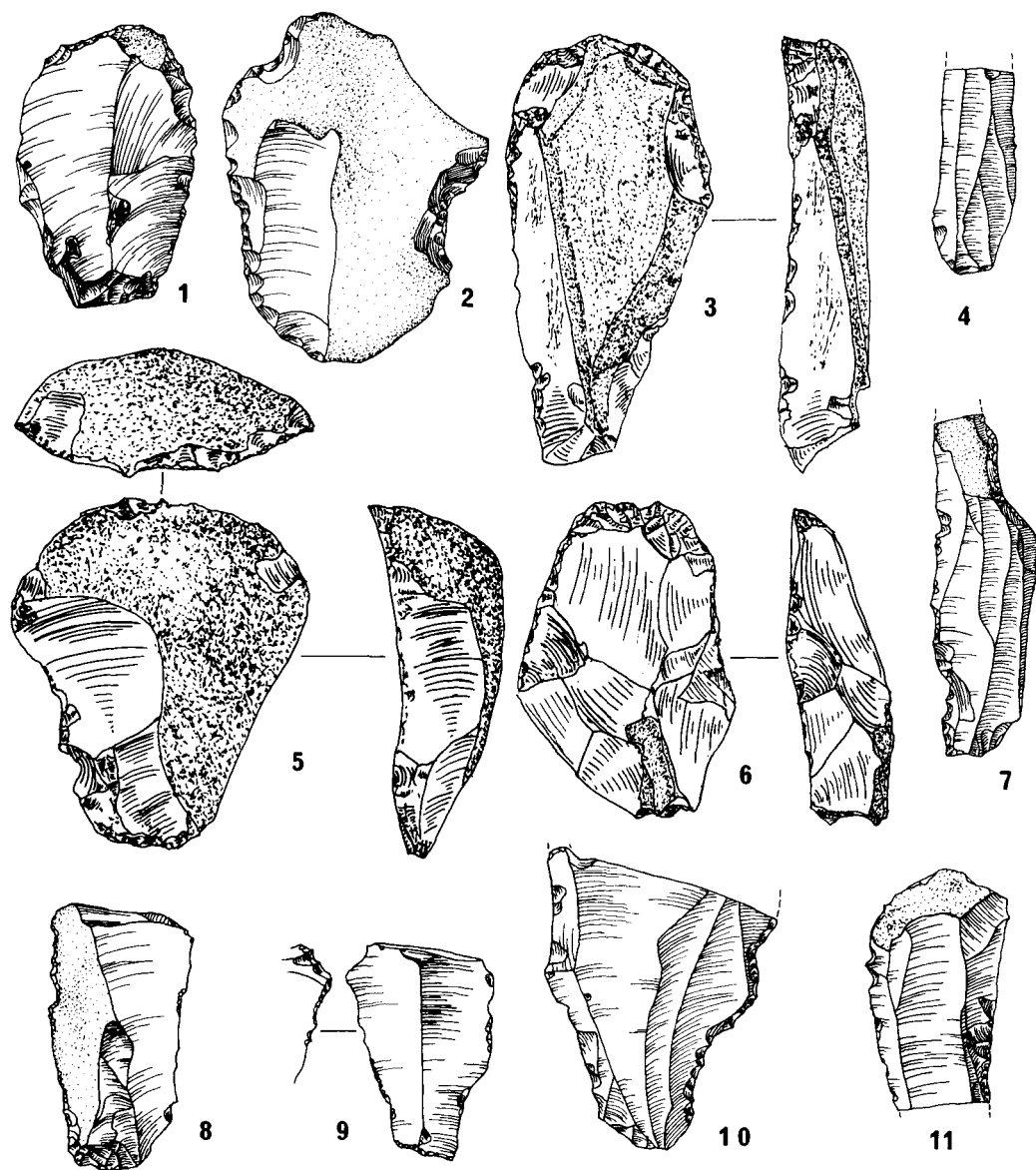


Fig. 14. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Prehistoric Flints ($\frac{1}{1}$).

The Roman Pottery by Kevin Crouch

1. Introduction

The groups of illustrated pottery represent most of the vessels from the features of the Late Roman occupation which could be drawn.

The pottery is presented in a stratigraphical sequence starting with the earliest (third century A.D. to the late fourth century A.D.). Within this outline is further grouping into material from pits and buildings.

The two stamped wares which are illustrated, though being residual, are of interest.

Limited dating has been attempted by using other excavations, dated primarily by coins.

Conventions used in the descriptions of the drawn vessels follows that of Southwark, Sheldon (1974, 41).

1. Temper, 'sandy' indicates that small grains were visible in the clay, 'gritty' that large grains were present. Where no tempering is mentioned none was present.
2. Quality, 'fine' and 'coarse' indicates the texture of the clay.
3. Colour, a hyphen indicates an intermediate colour (e.g. blue-grey a colour between blue and grey) and a solidus a mixture of colours (e.g. blue/grey patches of blue and grey).

(Numbers in text refer to Figs. 15-16)

(Z119) Pit (mid third century)

1. Bowl. Sandy, soft, fine fabric. Light grey core. Silver-grey slip on inside and top of flange. Third century. Philp (1973, 147-8).
Not illustrated: Mortarium rim, sandy, fairly hard, pink-buff fabric. Slight burning on part of rim. Third century A.D.

(Z103) Beam trench Building I phase 2

2. Bowl, sandy, soft, fine fabric. Orange-pink core with reduced grey centre. Red colour coat. Imitation samian Dr. 18/31R. Neal (1974, 236-7, No. 272) second quarter of fourth century—A.D. 353.
3. Handle from flagon. Gritty, hard, fairly coarse fabric. Brick red core, with reduced grey centre. White slip. Oxfordshire?
4. Jar. Gritty, hard, coarse fabric. Grey core. No burnish. Two ridges on underside of rim.
Seven sherds of grey coarse ware. Farnham-Alice Holt.

(Z125) Beam trenches Building II phase 2

5. Jar. Sandy, fairly hard, fine fabric. Grey core. Burnishing on inside of rim lip and underside of rim. Sheldon (1972, 115-6, No. 2) A.D. 317-355.
6. Jar. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Grey core. Blue-grey surface. Sheldon (1972, 122, No. 16) A.D. 270-320.
7. Jar. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Grey core. Silver-white slip. Cordon on shoulder. Farnham-Alice Holt. Fourth century.
8. Jar. Gritty, hard, shell tempered fabric. Light brown colour. Neal (1974, 240, No. 315, dated to second quarter of fourth century—c. A.D. 353).
9. Bowl. Sandy, fairly hard, coarse fabric. Grey core. Silver-blue slip on inside and top edge of rim. Groove 15mm below rim. Farnham-Alice Holt type.
10. Bowl. Sandy, hard, fairly fine fabric. Blue-black burnish. Soot residue on outer surface. Inside of rim imperfect, indentation caused by thumb print. Woods (1970, 59, Fig. 11, No. 48) Late third-first half of fourth century.

(Z112) Pit

11. Bowl. Sandy, soft, fine fabric. Buff-beige core. Pink-cream slip on inside of bowl and top surface of rim. Farnham-Alice Holt. Fourth century.
12. Bowl. Sandy, fairly hard, fine fabric. Grey core. White slip on inner surface and top surface of rim. Neal (1974, 242-3, No. 354, accumulation date A.D. 340-350).
13. Jar/Beaker. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Orange-beige core, with reduced grey centre. Red colour coat. Probable late third-fourth century.
14. Bowl. Sandy, fairly soft, fine fabric. Light grey core. Blue-black slip on inner surface and on upper surface of flange. Sheldon (1972, 112-3, No. 11, A.D. 317-c. 355).
15. Bowl. Gritty, hard, coarse fabric. Light grey core. Blue-black burnish. Third century. Frere (1972, 342-3, No. 1065, A.D. 200-275).
16. Jar. Sandy, soft, fine fabric. Light grey core. Silver-blue slip on both faces of rim. Farnham-Alice Holt. Frere (1972, 353-4, No. 1187, A.D. 315-360).
17. Storage jar. Sandy, fairly hard, fine fabric. Brick red core reduced to grey centre. Pink-white slip. Farnham-Alice Holt. Fourth century.
18. Storage jar. Sandy, soft, fine fabric. Light grey core. Blue-grey slip. Farnham-Alice Holt. Frere (1972, 358-9, No. 1243, A.D. 350-410+).
19. Mortarium. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Brick red core, reduced to grey in centre. White slip. Oxfordshire. Late third-fourth century.

(Z106) Pit

20. Jar. Gritty, hard, coarse fabric. Light grey core. Neal (1974, 239-40, No. 320. Second quarter of fourth century—353 A.D.).
21. Bowl. Soft, fine fabric. White powdery-pinkish core. Painted red/brown decoration. Parchment ware. Oxfordshire. Fourth century.
22. Jar. Sandy, soft, fine fabric. Light grey core. Blue-black slip. Sheldon (1972, 124-6, No. 22, House of Theodosius—408 A.D.).

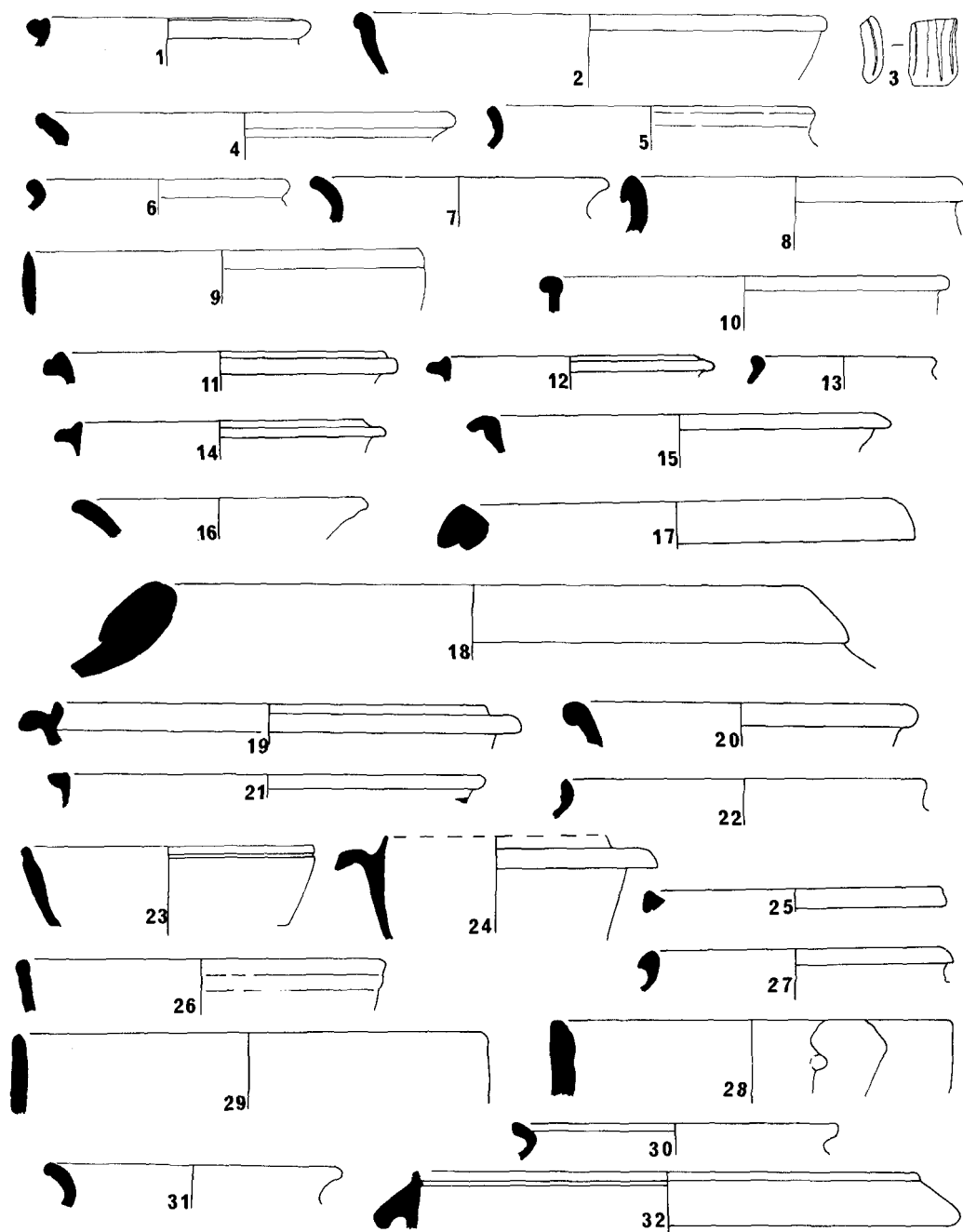


Fig. 15. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Roman pottery, Nos. 1-32 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

23. Dish. Sandy, fairly hard, fine fabric. Light grey core. Blue/black colour. External horizontal groove 1mm below rim. Sheldon (1972, 113-4, No. 34, A.D. 317-c. 355).
24. Bowl. Sandy, soft, fine fabric. Red-orange core, reduced grey centre. Red colour coat. Imitation samian. Drag. 38. Philp (1973, 149-50, No. 389, second half of fourth century).
25. Jar. Gritty, hard, coarse fabric. Grey-pink core. Surface 'smoked' grey. Sheldon (1972, 115-6, No. 21, A.D. 317-c. 355).

(Z102) Post-hole

26. Jar. Fairly hard, fine fabric. Light grey core. Ridge 12mm below rim. No burnish or slip. Frere (1972, 353-4, No. 1178, similar but not same fabric, A.D. 310-315 and No. 1220, 357, A.D. 360-370).

(Z122) Post-pit

27. Jar. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Light grey core. Darker grey external surfaces. Slightly worn. Sheldon (1972, 124-5, No. 16, Theodosius—408 A.D.).
28. Dish. Hard, coarse fabric. Dark grey core. Blue-black slip on internal surface. Blue/black external surface, no burnish. Hand made finish. Hole drilled in centre of body. Cunliffe (1964, 74-5, No. 27, mid fourth century).

(Z113) Gully

29. Dish. Soft, fine fabric. Light grey core. Silver-blue slip on external surface. Sheldon (1972, 113-4, No. 24, A.D. 317-c. 355).
30. Jar. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Grey core, red centre. Two grooves on upper surface of rim. Sheldon (1972, 124-5, No. 20. House of Theodosius—A.D. 408).

(Z30) Beam trench Building III

31. Jar. Fairly hard, fine fabric. Light grey core. Slight burning on rim. Cunliffe (1964, 71-2, No. 7, mid fourth century).
32. Mortarium. Fairly hard, fine, sandy fabric. Red-pink core. Burning on inner edge. Third-fourth century.

(Z37) Beam trench Building III

33. Jar. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Light grey core. Grey

slip on inside of rim. Sheldon (1972, 115-6, No. 2, A.D. 317-c. 355).

34. Jar. Soft, fine fabric. Light grey core. No burnishing or slip. Neal (1974, 239-40, No. 313, second quarter of fourth century—353).

(Z115) Collapse material

35. Beaker. Hard, fine fabric. Red-orange core, reduced grey centre. Orange/red colour coat. Neal (1974, 246, No. 379, A.D. 270-353).
36. Bowl. Gritty, fairly hard, coarse fabric. Grey core. Brown/beige slip. Burnt rim and body. Sheldon (1972, 112-3, No. 12, Carausius—317-c. 355).
37. Bowl. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Light grey core. Blue/black slip. Sheldon (1972, 112-3, No. 13, A.D. 317-c. 355).

(Z35) Gravel surface

38. Jar. Hard, fine fabric. Medium grey core. Brown-beige slip on external surface of rim, in horizontal bands. Neal (1974, 247-8, No. 393, A.D. 270-388/402).
39. Jar. Hard, fine fabric. Medium grey core. Silver/grey slip on external surface and half of internal surface of rim. Neal (1974, 248-9, No. 404, A.D. 350-410+).
40. Jar. Gritty, hard, coarse fabric. Light grey core. Heavily gritted. Part of rim distorted.
41. Jar. Hard, coarse fabric. Grey core. Hand made. Johnson (1972, 132-3, No. 62, end of fourth century).
42. Bowl. Sandy, hard, fine fabric. Light grey core. Reeded rim. Blue-black slip, on external surfaces. Farnham-Alice Holt, fourth century.

(Z3)

43. Sherd. Fairly hard, fine fabric. Orange-brown core. Brown-red colour coat. Decoration of vertical bands of rosettes between vertical rows of small sunk squares.

(Z10)

44. Fairly hard, fine fabric. Orange-red core. Red colour coat. Stamped decoration of wheels. Frere (1972, 358-9, No. 1229, Fig. 137, dated 370-410+).

Eighty percent of the Roman material recovered from the excavation came from residual levels. The range of material from late third-fourth century possibly indicates that the ploughing carried out in later centuries along the contour and parallel to the High Street destroyed most of the late Roman occupation levels.

As would be expected a high percentage of the pottery is of the Farnham-Alice Holt and Oxfordshire types. 70% Farnham-Alice Holt, 25% Oxfordshire, 5% Local and other types.

The period between the late fourth century and the fifth century is unclear in Staines. No typical 'Romano Saxon' forms have been found and the relationship between the Roman and Saxon settlement is undefined (p. 95).

The Oxfordshire wares were easily transported down the River Thames to Staines. The passage of the Farnham-Alice Holt wares causes more difficulty as there is no direct route-way between Staines and Farnham area that has been definitely identified. However there is the probability of a direct road link between Staines and Farnham area or by use of the river Wey to Weybridge (TQ 074 658) and then up the Thames to Staines.

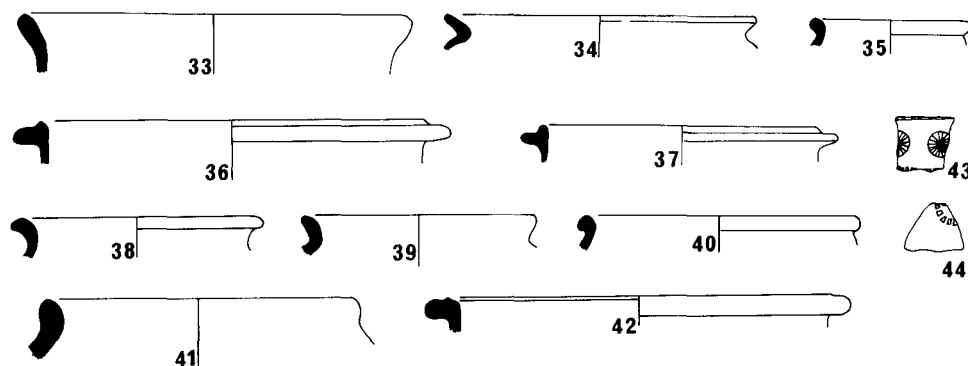


Fig. 16. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Roman pottery, Nos. 33-44 (1/4).

Saxon and Medieval Pottery by Phil. Jones and Susan Shanks

Part A: Introduction

This first medieval pottery report from Staines is a preliminary survey of the ceramic range found in the south-west corner of Old Middlesex. Consideration of the Elmsleigh House site material was hindered by four factors that detracted from the adequacy of chronology:

- (i) The nature of the stratigraphy; whereby late medieval and post-medieval reversion to arable land and ploughing along the contour behind and parallel to the High Street disturbed much of the Roman and medieval domestic activity.
- (ii) Lack of dateable structures related to documentary evidence.
- (iii) The mixed nature of most of the surviving features, with a preponderance of residual material.
- (iv) The lack of published accounts of sites of comparable material in the immediate area. Many Saxo-Norman and early medieval wares are of handmade types and should adhere even more rigidly to Le Patourel's deduction that a ten mile radius is a reasonable limit for distribution of pottery from a manufacturing centre, Le Patourel (1968, 101-26).

Nevertheless, if a broad generalised time scale is allowed for, the material presents an outline of pottery traditions distinct from London groups. Staines is the only other Middlesex town where a Saxon and medieval range has been published in some quantity.

Much use has been made in this report of the published account of Northolt, Hurst (1961) c. 15 kms. from Staines. Although this report dealt only with a small area of the total excavation it provided an outline of a type series that has provided useful comparisons for many other sites both inside and outside Middlesex. It should be noted, however, that most of the dates put forward for the fabric types at Northolt were themselves analogous from other sites, and that independent dating was generally lacking.

It is to be clearly understood that all references to fabric types of Northolt, or other such series, are visual considerations and that similarities of rim profile have not been cited as other than of generalised contemporaneity.

Descriptions of the pottery within the catalogue make use of some of the conventions adopted at Southwark, Sheldon (1974, 64). A vessel of variable colour will be signified by a solidus (/), separating the two or more extremes of shading (e.g. red/brown) and intermediate colours will be hyphenated (e.g. red-brown). Texture has also been described as Southwark i.e. 'fine sandy' implying a sandy feel although no grains are discernible; 'coarse sandy' when grains can be seen, and 'gritty' which departs somewhat from Southwark analysis in that angular particles are generally present although larger rounded grains are included within this category. Fingernail

tests for hardness have been considered too arbitrary as a strict guide, and so a simple progression of soft, fairly hard and hard has been adopted.

Since little is known about medieval pottery in the Staines area, the catalogue (B) has been arranged in feature groups which run in chronological order according to the latest dated sherds which may or may not indicate the date of deposition or infill.

Saxon features can be found at the beginning of the catalogue sequence, but a fuller exposition of their contents plus residual Saxon (or iron age?) pottery is to be found towards the end of the report under the separate headings of 'Saxon grass/chaff tempered pottery' (C), (p. 111) and 'Other Hand Made Wares' (D), (p. 111). Reasons for their separation from the main body of the report are given in the introductions to those sections. A small miscellaneous section (E) has been included to deal with other medieval items of interest from post-medieval levels.

(The pottery numbers refer to Figs. 17–20)

Part B: Catalogue

(Z137) Gully

Like other Saxon features on the Elmsleigh House site, it is not yet possible to narrow the dating of this gully down to reasonable limits. The sequence of grass tempered pottery in Staines is unclear and the small size of the rim sherd 149 (the only artefact recovered) detracts from any possible typological assessment. (See section C, p. 111 for full description and illustration.)

(Z33) Gully

Although the quantity of residual fourth century material is dominant within this gully, its stratigraphical context and the inclusion of grass tempered pottery (including the rim sherd 153) brings its period of infilling forward to the Saxon occupation of the area. (See section C, p. 111 for description and illustration.)

(Z43)

Apart from several residual fourth century sherds, the dating is dependent on a sherd of grass tempered pottery of Saxon date.

(Z131) Pit

Two grass tempered body sherds of black ware were found within this pit; one of black paste and surfaces with occasional small shell fragments, and another thicker sherd of black fabric with a smooth brown exterior.

(Z101) Gully

Only one sherd was found within this gully, so firm dating of the feature cannot be reliably established from the pottery. Possibly late eleventh–early twelfth century.

45. Everted rim of a cooking pot in a soft black fabric with purple/brown surfaces and much crushed shell temper. The ware and rim diameter is akin to the

'Developed St. Neots' type as found in phase 1C at Northolt, Hurst (1961) although no sand is present to give harsher surfaces.

(Z118) Plough soil

Dating for this black plough soil is probably of mid to late eleventh century based on the rim sherd below, and a fragment of grass tempered pottery. (See section C, p. 111.)

46. Large sherd from the simple everted rim of a cooking pot in a hard gritty black ware with some shell. The body appears handmade and has some external burnishing after a slow turning of the rim. The profile and narrow diameter of the rim displays the Saxon ancestry of this particular 'Early Medieval'

form and so is assigned here to the mid to late eleventh century. Dunning (1959) and Hurst (1961) for consideration of 'Early Medieval' hard sandy fabrics. The rougher tempering is unlike Northolt examples and is more like the Oxford area variants of this ware. Jope (1946–47, 171; 1952, 87–89).

(Z35a) Gravel.

This earliest intact medieval layer of dirty gravel is presumed to be of the eleventh or early twelfth century on the basis of two sherds of 'Early Medieval' type black sandy ware, and the shell

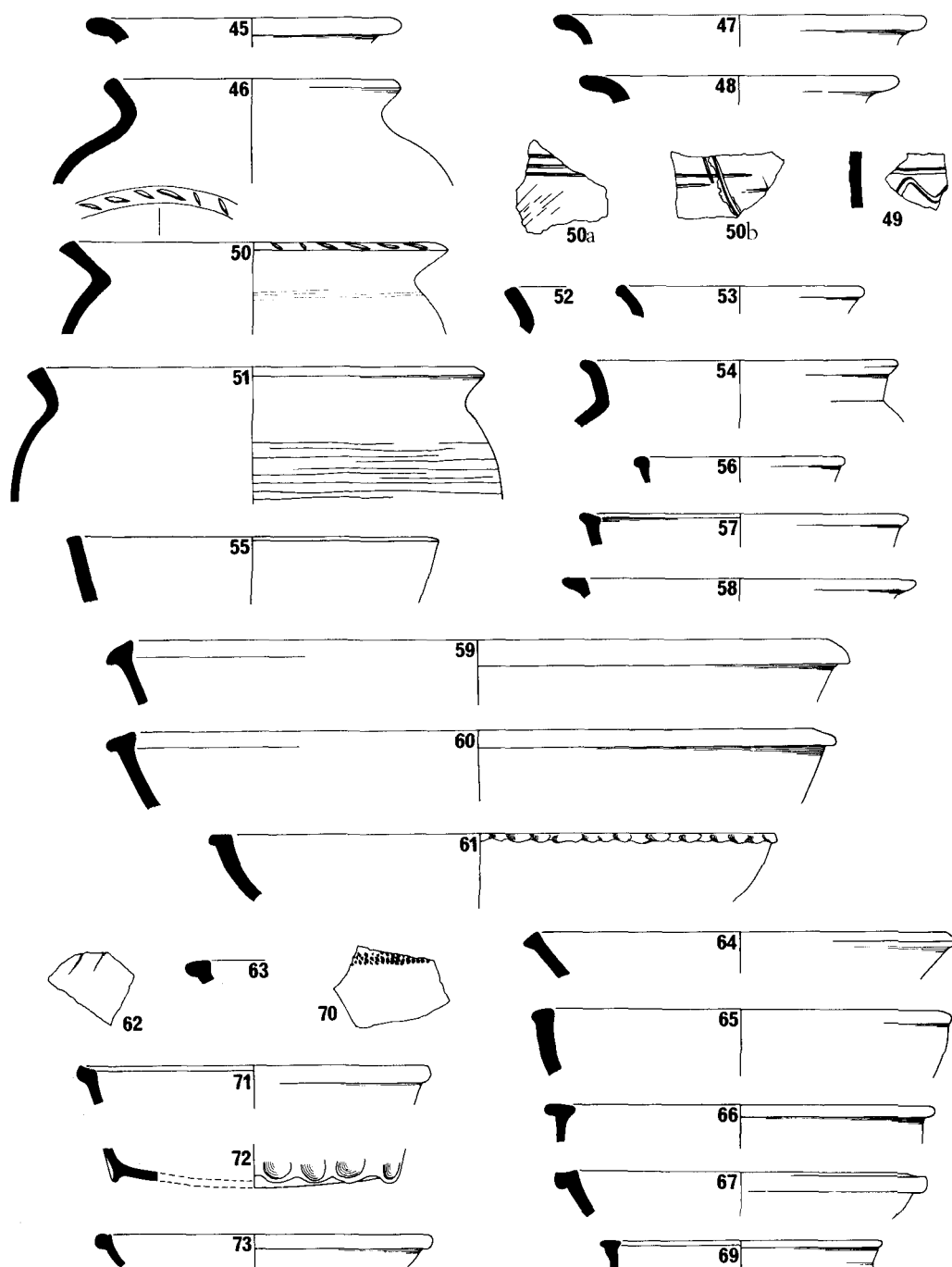


Fig. 17. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Saxon and medieval pottery, Nos. 45-73 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

tempered rim of general 'Developed St. Neots' type.

47. Rim sherd in a grey ware with purple/brown or blackened surfaces, tempered with crushed shell and some sand.

(Z25) Two gullies

The black soil fill of these two gullies contained only two medieval sherds, amongst the Roman wares, dating to the late eleventh–early twelfth century as both accord to the characteristics of 'Early Medieval' type ware.

48. Everted rim of a cooking pot in a hard grey sandy ware with black surfaces.
49. Body sherd in a similar ware to 48 (and possibly of

the same vessel), decorated with a horizontal line surmounted by a wave pattern executed by grooving with a blunt object.

(Z99) Pit

The date of this feature is possibly early twelfth century, considering the relatively slight development of the rims from simple everted forms to more expanded versions, and comparisons to the Northolt type series. Also present were some soft shelly and grass tempered sherds (not illustrated) probably representing eleventh century residue.

50. A sharply everted and slightly thickened rim sherd of a cooking pot with slashed decoration, made of a hard grey ware with grey-brown inside surface. Tempered with sand, shell and chalk. The outer surface of the body is marked on several sherds with irregularly placed grooves (50a and b).
51. Everted and thickened rim of a cooking pot in a hard grey fabric with brown surfaces. The temper of rounded brown grits and quartz fragments is less resistant than the paste in the manner of the Northolt 'Developed Early Medieval' type, to which this rim form, and horizontal grooving of the body is

also comparable.

52. Small everted rim sherd of a cooking pot in a hard gritty grey ware.
53. Everted and slightly beaded rim in a fairly hard grey ware with sand temper and some grits.
54. Everted rim sherd of a cooking pot in a light grey ware with red-brown outer surfaces. The dense 'Early Medieval' sandy fabric also contains occasional crushed shell fragments.
55. A straight sided rim sherd of a bowl in a similar fabric to that of 51.

(Z45) Pit

Dating evidence for this pit deposit is slight and dependent on a single sherd of 'Developed Early Medieval' type possibly twelfth century. (Not illustrated.)

(Z39) Green clay

Four sherds of 'Developed Early Medieval' type are the latest fragments from this green clay with building debris. They are accompanied by three presumed contemporary sherds of shell and sand tempered ware, and one sherd of a sandy black fabric of 'Early Medieval' type plus residual fourth century material. The relative sequence, however, together with (Z9), must place this layer up into the late thirteenth or fourteenth century. (Not illustrated.)

(Z123) Pit

Although several sherds from this pit are of early twelfth century and late Saxon character, the bowl forms of 59, 60, 61 and the rim fragment of 58 are well developed, with pronounced external flanges. Whilst differing in character from the early twelfth century group of (Z99), there is no true squaring of the rims as one would expect in thirteenth century pottery, so the pit is assigned to the late twelfth century, until more clearly dated groups are forthcoming from Staines.

56. A small dish or bowl with thickened and externally beaded rim in a dark grey sandy ware with black burnished surfaces. It compares with the 'Early Medieval' fabric found at Northolt but has a more developed rim form.
57. An expanded rim sherd in a hard dark grey ware with pale grey inner surfaces. Grit tempering.
58. Flat topped rim sherd in a light grey sandy ware with pink/buff interior surfaces and grey/buff outer surfaces.

59. Large bowl with straight sides and developed rim in hard sandy grey ware with grey or light brown surfaces.
60. A similar bowl to 59 but with a less developed rim profile. Hard sandy grey ware with grey or buff/grey inside surface.
61. Flat topped rim sherd of a bowl with thumb impressions modifying the outer edge. Dark grey sandy ware with shell fragments and red-brown surfaces.

62. Body sherd of a sandy grey ware with brown surfaces and an oblique thumb pressed plastic cordon.
63. Fragmentary rim sherd of a bowl in a sandy grey ware with orange/pink outer, and pale grey interior

surfaces.

154. Grass tempered rim sherd. (See section C, p. 111 for full description and illustration.)

(Z108) Pit

This pit contained only a few sherds of various fabrics that include soft and shelly, sandy and shelly, and rough gritty wares that roughly correspond to Northolt types (e.g. 'Developed Early Medieval' and 'Rough Medieval'). The absence of comparable material in this area, makes the dating of this feature dependent on Northolt conclusions and so an early thirteenth century date has been deduced from the presence of 'Rough Medieval' type pottery (j) and the absence of 'Hard Medieval Grey' (k) wares. (Not illustrated.)

(Z134) Gravel surface

Only one sherd was recovered from this gravel surface which, on the basis of form and the persistence of shell tempering, is assigned to the late twelfth–early thirteenth centuries.

64. Straight sided rim sherd with expanded rim, in a grey ware with blackened outer surface. The temper

is of fine sand and occasional crushed shell.

(Z117) Green clay

Residual sherds from this flood deposit of green clay includes Roman fourth century pottery and two rim forms of late eleventh–twelfth century character, but the sherd of Surrey fabric albeit of simple profile brings the date forward to the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century.

65. Expanded rim of a bowl in a hard grey fabric with brown surfaces. Sandy temper with occasional grits.
66. Typical Surrey ware rim profile with undercut

exterior and rounded internal bead. Sandy off white fabric with buff surfaces and a spot of green glaze on the rim. Closest parallels with Northolt examples is to the cooking pot (68/65) of period II 1300–1350.

(Z18) Pit

Included among residual body sherds (grass tempered, shell tempered, and 'Rough Medieval' type wares) within this pit was a rim with a more developed profile of thirteenth century character. But according to the site stratigraphy (p. 90) the feature should be dated as contemporary with or before the fourteenth century deposits of (Z22).

67. Expanded and hollow topped rim sherd of a bowl in a pinky-grey sandy ware.

(Z20) Pit

Five body sherds and a grass tempered rim from this pit do not provide any concrete dating evidence for the deposit which is stratigraphically of, or not much before the fourteenth century. Two small fragments are presumably Roman, and another is of 'Developed Early Medieval' type with horizontal striations across the body, but the remaining three sherds are of Saxon type.

68. Fairly soft and only slightly sandy ware from a hand made pot. Pale grey to grey ware fired red on the outside and pale buff on the inside. (Not illustrated.)

Grass tempered rim. (See section C, p. 111, No. 154 for description and illustration.)

(Z22) Pit

An early fourteenth century date for this pit is deduced from the persistence of fabrics that correspond to the 'Hard Grey Medieval' of Northolt (known elsewhere as Hertfordshire Reduced ware, Renn [1964]) and the percentage of Surrey ware vessels (c. 33%) represented by a sherd count. By 1350 the off-white fabrics dominate in London and Northolt and the proximity of Staines to the manufacturing centres suggest that a similar (if not earlier) pattern should be expected here.

69. Rim sherd of a jug in a fine sandy grey ware with brown and black surfaces.
70. Body sherd of Surrey off-white fabric with exterior mottled green glazed decoration that also covers a band of rouletted impressions.

71. Rim sherd of a bowl in a hard grey fabric with reduced surfaces. Sand temper with some larger grits.

72. Thumb impressed base angle in sandy buff Surrey ware with occasional green glaze speckles.

73. Small bowl or dish in a fairly soft and smooth grey ware with pale pink surfaces, tempered with a few brown grits. A body sherd (not illustrated), of this

ware, if not this vessel displays a patch of mustard coloured glaze on the outside surface.

(Z9) Green clay

A sherd of Surrey fabric with external mottled green and yellow glaze together with a fragment of hard gritty grey ware were the only inclusions within this silt deposit. Probably late thirteenth or early fourteenth century.

(Z21) Pit

Whereas three of the four sherds found within this pit were of shell tempered fabrics (soft grey ware with red-brown surfaces; grey ware with brown surfaces and some sand; soft slightly sandy grey wares with red-brown surfaces and minutely crushed shell); the fourth fragment was from a Surrey ware jug. Together with stratigraphical evidence, this feature is assigned to the fourteenth century.

74. A body sherd which includes the lower end of a handle. Surrey off-white sandy ware with buff outer

surfaces splashed with glossy light green glaze. (Not illustrated.)

(Z16) Pit

This pit with horse burial contained numerous sherds of Saxon and 'Early Medieval' fabrics that are loosely comparable to the Northolt series e.g. types (a), (h), and (j), but the presence of at least one Surrey ware vessel moves the dating forward to the late thirteenth or early fourteenth centuries but probably no later, as with any later deposition of material one would expect a higher ratio of off-white fabrics.

75. Everted and expanded rim of a cooking pot in a fine sandy grey ware with pale grey interior and pink exterior surface occasionally soot blackened.
76. A basal angle (flat bottomed) of the same ware and presumed to be of the same vessel as 75.
77. Everted and expanded flat topped rim of a small cooking pot in a fine sandy grey ware with grey-pink surfaces.
78. Flat topped and beaded rim in a dark grey ware with dark grey surfaces. Tempered with sand, grits and some shell.

79. A basal angle (sagging) in a black roughly finished ware tempered with small quartz grits, grog, brown grits and crushed shell (this has closest parallels with the 'Rough Medieval' of the Northolt type series).

Other sherds (not illustrated) include Surrey off-white fabrics, a black ware with grass tempering, fine sandy grey sherds with pink interior and black exterior surfaces, similar to the 'Early Medieval' fabric of Northolt (h) and Dunning's group 5; and a finer ware, grey with red/brown surfaces and external ginger or clear glaze over parallel lightly incised lines.

(Z135) Foundation trench

There is nothing in this foundation trench that would be out of place within a fourteenth century context. Surrey off-white products constitute just over half of all vessels included, at the expense of gritty and sandy grey wares, which are the dominant coarse ware types of the thirteenth century.

Red ware vessels made from iron-bearing clays make their first appearance on the site within this feature, and are of two variants, namely a hard sandy fabric (99) which compares well with so called 'East Anglian' types and a more friable ware (100) possibly made from local ferruginous clays.

The dip-slipped jug fabric (93) shows the lengths taken to achieve a near white surface, presumably in imitation of the popular Surrey industry, and the same reasoning could be applied to the smearing of a buff slip over the surface of another jug (92). The appearance of hard gritty sherds with triangular rouletting (103) could well be of thirteenth-fourteenth century date although no parallels for this ware have so far been found. The presence of shell tempered pottery is presumed to be residual, from its fragmentary and eroded nature and by analogy with other sites.

Surrey Off-White Wares

80. Rim sherd in an off-white sandy ware with buff exterior surface. A body sherd, probably from the same pot was decorated with vertical applied band.
81. Cooking pot with splashes of green glaze inside and outside of the rim.

82. Cooking pot.
83. Cooking pot rim in off-white sandy ware with cream surfaces.
84. Rim sherd of a bowl in Surrey fabric.

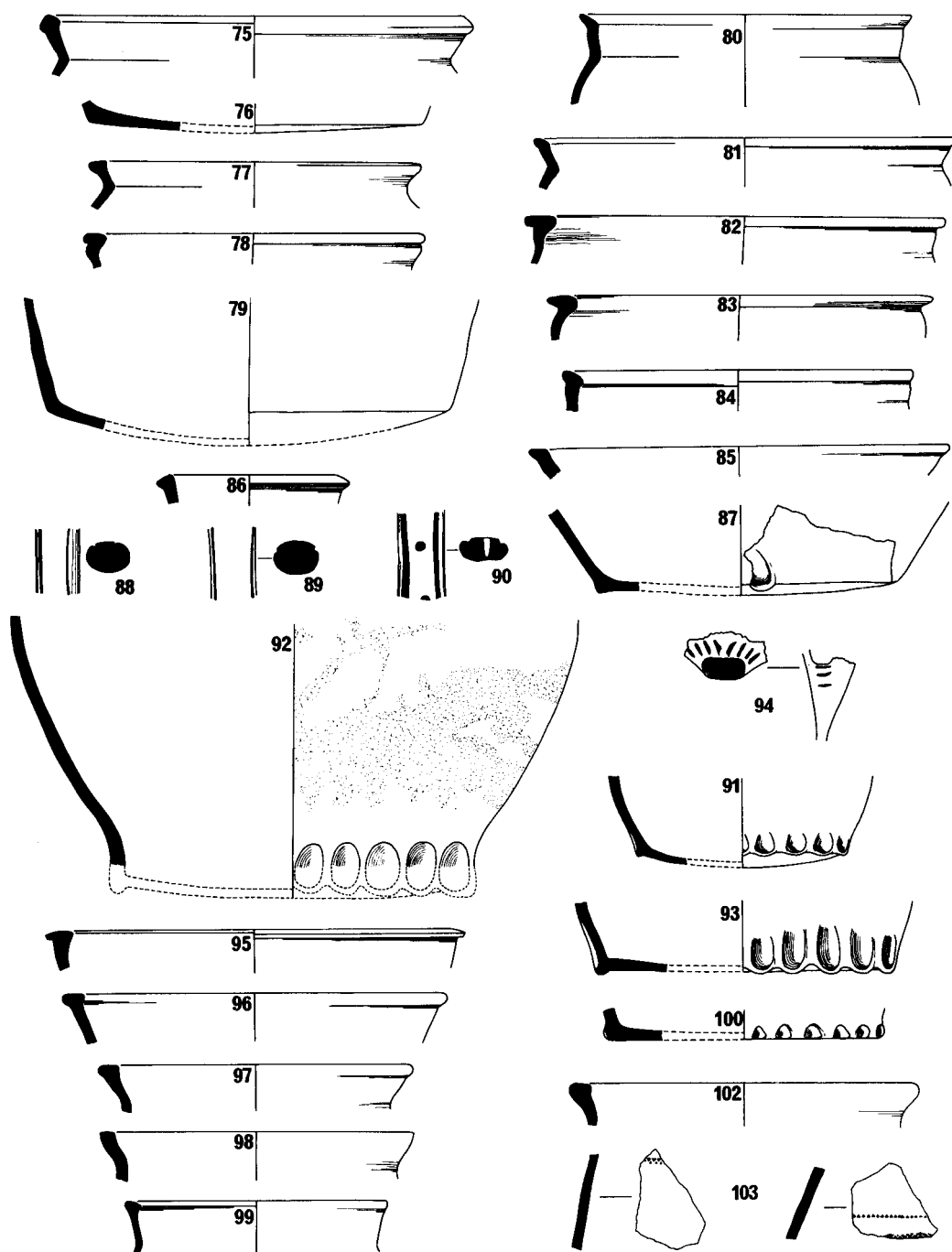


Fig. 18. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Saxon and medieval pottery, Nos. 75-103 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

85. Flat topped rim of a bowl in a sandy pink-tinged cream fabric with off-white/grey surfaces.
86. Rim of a jug in Surrey fabric with a splash of green glaze outside and over the rim.
87. Base angle of a wide bodied jug with only one thumb impression on the edge of the sherd. Pink-tinged cream sandy ware with some red grits and a mottled yellow and green glaze which disappears before the base.
88. Grooved rod handle in Surrey off-white ware, retaining a grey core.
89. Grooved rod handle of oval section, at its junction with the body of a Surrey ware jug.
90. Grooved and pierced strap handle in Surrey ware with some grits.
91. Basal angle with thumb impressions in a Surrey off-white fabric with buff surfaces and patchy green and yellow glaze on the outside.
Several other body sherds with overall mottled green glaze are decorated in a variety of techniques that include thin raised horizontal cordons, parallel grooving, and grooved wave patterns.

Pink Wares

A few small sherds of a fine pink fabric with patches of yellow, orange and green glaze and combed decoration. (Not illustrated.)

Slipped Wares

92. Large fragments of a wide bodied jug in a grey sandy ware with red/pink surfaces. The lower body above the thumb impressed base is smeared with a buff slip and splashed with a pale green glaze. (Slip shown as stippled.)
93. Thumbed base in a sandy bright pink ware with overall pale grey slip. The interior of the base was trimmed with a knife before the application of the slip.
94. Flattened rod handle at its junction with the body of a vessel, with stabbing for firmer adherence and to prevent mishaps in firing. Sandy pink ware with some larger pink grits. Similar sherds from the same pot are covered with green glaze on the outside surface.

(Z52) Pit

Most of the vessels represented within this oval pit are Surrey wares (just under half of all the recovered medieval rim forms) in a variety of shades and textures. In the coarse wares other generalised types are Red wares, some sherds of which could well be local; a mixture of grey wares, presumably of local, Surrey, and north-west Middlesex manufacture; and shell tempered forms which, with their roughly square-sectioned rim profiles, are probably residual and of the thirteenth century. A wide variety of jug fabrics were also found, ranging through the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, and body sherds of note include those of grass tempered ware (see section C, p. 111) and a percentage of Roman pottery higher in fact than that for all phases of medieval pottery.

Sherds of so-called 'Tudor Green' pottery have been taken as a relatively reliable criterion for the final dating of the fill of this feature. Two rims conform to the accepted characteristics but are of different types that recall Hurst's division, Cunliffe (1964, 140) into fine and coarser fabrics.

No. 126 is of the coarser type which is identical in most respects to the Surrey Off-White and sandy tradition. It should probably be considered as part of that industry as also No. 127 which although of a more distinct fabric, glaze and form, was undoubtedly contemporary with, and manufactured alongside traditional Surrey wares as at Farnborough Hill. If it is accepted that the rim and its few

Grey Wares

95. Rim sherd of a bowl with a knife trimmed external flange. Hard grey sandy ware with some grits and a mottled green glaze on the inside which has also dribbled onto the rim.
A sagging base in a similar ware to 95 is possibly of the same pot. (Not illustrated.)
96. Rim sherd of a bowl in gritty grey ware with pink/buff internal surfaces.
97. Rim sherd of a cooking pot in a sandy pale grey-pink fabric.
98. Slightly everted and recurving rim in a fine sandy light grey ware with buff surfaces and some blackening on the outside surface.

Red Wares

99. Everted and thickened rim sherd in a red-brown fabric tempered with fine sand.
100. Basal angle of a jug in a gritty red ware with a black external surface and spots of clear glaze both inside and outside. The thumb impressions are purely decorative, serving neither to affix a separately made body and base, or to provide support for a sagging base as in the Surrey tradition where the technique survives until the late fifteenth century as at Farnborough Hill, Hollings (1971).

Shell Tempered Wares

101. Small rim sherd of a grey sandy ware with large shell fragments and purple/brown surfaces. (Not illustrated.)
102. Flat topped rim sherd of a bowl in a grey sandy ware with shell tempering and red/brown to black surfaces.

Miscellaneous

103. Four sherds of a hard grey ware with yellow internal, and pale brown external surfaces. There is much sand tempering that stands out from the surface to give a 'sandpaper' feel. At least two runs of rouletting were made round the main body of the vessel(s) to leave a raised zigzag line where contact with the pot was maintained. (Two sherds illustrated.)

body sherds are from a corrugated cup then analogous dating (corrugated cup found in a deposit of c. 1521 at Farnham castle, Moorhouse [1971] and from Winchester, Cunliffe [1964, Fig. 27, No. 8]) should place it within the early sixteenth century, although their manufacture before the sixteenth century has been attested in the late fifteenth century Farnborough Hill kiln alongside standard medieval types of Surrey ware, Holling (1971). The absence of any definitely later sixteenth century pottery within the pit confirms a date in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century.

Other body sherds of note within this feature include three sherds of grass/chaff tempered ware. (See section C, p. 111.)

Grey Wares

104. Rim of a bowl in a pinky-grey ware with fine sand temper.
105. Rim of a straight-sided bowl with flattened bead rim. The fabric is dark grey and tempered with sand plus some grits and occasional crushed shell.
106. Rim sherd of a bowl in a grey sandy fabric with pink surfaces.
107. Rim sherd of a bowl in a smooth sandy grey ware.
108. Square-sectioned rim sherd in a gritty grey ware with darker grey surfaces.
109. Rim sherd in a grey ware with dark grey exterior pale grey/pink interior surfaces. Tempered with sand and some grits.
110. Rim sherd in a sandy grey ware with grey and pink exterior and pale grey inside surfaces. Indentations on the rim are possibly an attempt at decoration or mishandling in the workshop.
111. Rim of a bowl or dish in similar ware to that of 104.
112. Simple everted rim of a cooking pot in a similar fabric to 105. Dark grey with sand, occasional shell and calcined grit temper.
113. Body sherd of a gritty grey ware with an applied vertical cordon.

Shell Tempered Wares

114. Rim sherd of twelfth century character in a dark grey ware with red/brown surfaces. Tempered with sand and some crushed shell.
115. Square-sectioned rim sherd in a similar ware to 114.
116. Similar square-sectioned rim sherd to 115 but without the grey core.
117. Rim sherd in a similar fabric to that of 114 and 115 with dark grey paste tempered with sand and some crushed shell. (Not illustrated.)

Red Wares

118. Body sherds in a smooth and sandy reddish/brown ware with an applied white slip pattern (curves and lines), covered with a pale yellow or clear glaze. (Only one illustration.)
119. Sharply everted and thickened rim sherd in a sandy red ware.

Other red wares found within this feature include a body sherd with mottled clear glaze; another red sandy fragment retaining a grey core and coated with a paler red self-slip; and a basal angle of a brick-red sandy ware with pale grey core and spots of internal mustard glaze.

Jug Fabrics

120. Jug base in a smooth pale grey ware, with green glaze speckles on the body and liberally over the exterior of the base. Probable baluster jug.

121. Three sherds (one illustration) of a sandy buff ware with some grits. The outside surface is decorated with irregular vertical stripes of an applied red-brown slip, and occasional blobs of pale green to yellow glaze.
122. Body sherd of a jug in a soft and smooth grey ware with brown surfaces and tempered with some small grits and shell fragments. The exterior decoration of parallel grooved lines and impressions is covered with a thin ginger brown glaze.
123. Jug base in a smooth grey ware with pale brown surfaces and a similar body sherd with green glaze speckles. Probable baluster jug.
124. Body sherd of a jug in a sandy pink ware with lustrous external olive green glaze covering a modelled design of probable floral character.
125. Three sherds of a rough sandy grey ware with pale brown surfaces (the texture and appearance of the fabric is similar to that of 122). The pitted external surface is intermittently covered with a thin mottled green glaze.

Surrey Off-White fabrics

126. Rim sherd of a bowl in off-white sandy fabric with overall mottled green glaze.
127. Rim sherd of a cup in a smooth beige ware with overall glossy 'Tudor Green' glaze. The rim form and some body sherds, presumed to be from the same vessel, suggests a corrugated cup of small rim diameter not unlike the type 4 of the Cistercian Ware type series, Brears (1971). The best associations of this form have been at Winchester and Farnham Castle of the early part of the sixteenth century, Cunliffe (1964, 94, Fig. 27, No. 8) and Moorhouse (1971, 45, Fig. 1, No. 18).
128. Body sherd from a jug with grooved decoration.
129. Protruding foot of a tripod pitcher in off-white sandy ware with green glazed exterior walls and soot blackened base.
130. Rod handle of a pitcher in off-white sandy fabric with mottled green glaze on the upper surface.
131. Flanged rim of a cooking pot in off-white sandy ware with spots of green glaze below the flange, and a blackened exterior.
132. Rim of a jug in pale grey sandy ware with off-white internal, and grey external surfaces.
133. Rim of a jug in off-white sandy fabric.
134. Base of a strap handle in pinky-buff sandy ware with centrally-placed piercing and thumb impression.
135. Strap handle with deep central groove separating two rows of stabmarks on the lower half and two grooves on the upper half. Buff sandy ware with splashes of red and green mottled glaze.
136. Rim of pale buff sandy ware with buff surfaces and a splash of pale green glaze across the rim. (Not illustrated.)

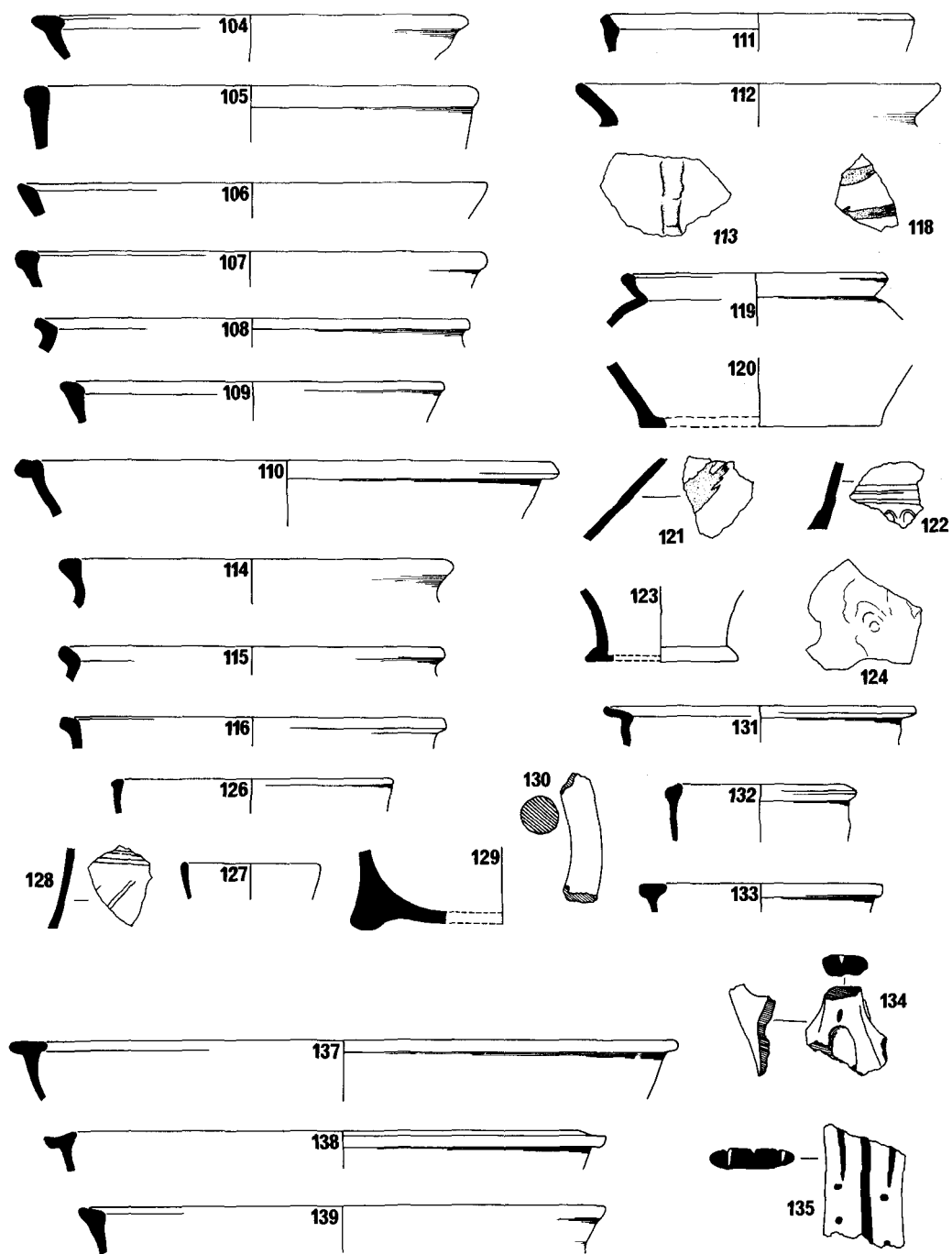


Fig. 19. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Saxon and medieval pottery, Nos. 104-139 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

137. Surrey ware cooking pot in a pale buff sandy fabric with dribbles of pale green glaze on the rim surfaces, and a blackened exterior.
138. Rim sherd of a bowl in off-white sandy fabric with upturned external flange and blobs of glossy green glaze on the inside surface.
139. Rim of a bowl in off-white sandy fabric.
140. Cooking pot rim in off-white fabric with blackened exterior and one spot of pale green glaze on the shoulder.
142. Rim of a cooking pot in a pale pink sandy fabric with buff surfaces and traces of green glaze under the internal flange.
143. Rim of a bowl in off-white sandy fabric.
144. Cooking pot rim with pronounced external flange and splashes of mottled green glaze across and under the rim.
- Other sherds not worthy of illustration display a wide range of Surrey type characteristics from off-white to beige and pale pink fabrics with sandy or small gritted temper and occasional decorative elements of incision, grooving, rouletting and raised cordons.

Part C: Saxon Grass/Chaff Tempered Pottery

Residual material has been included within this section which deals mainly with organically tempered handmade fabrics, for although Saxon occupation should be as extensive over the Mid Thames gravels as in the Upper Thames; little has been excavated south-east of Bray and even less published. Reliance on the verbal descriptions of the Old Windsor series is hazardous and access to the material, which is to be stored at the Reading Museum, at present is difficult. The probable domestic production of these wares and the relatively homogenous nature of the recovered fragments makes typology difficult and the material is presented as a series of forms that could range from the fourth century, Rodwell (1970, 271, Fig. 5f) to mid eleventh century as at Old Windsor.

48 sherds were found of grass or chaff temper, with a black or occasionally dull red paste and brown to black outer surfaces. The rim forms of these were generally simple eversions with the same thickness as the body, although there is a tendency for the rim to taper towards its extremity and in instances (148, 156) have been roughly squared off. The makeup of the body of the vessels show signs of lamination; especially so in the shoulder of 151 where two layers of clay of equal thickness can be observed. External surfaces show various degrees of smoothing, ranging from the rather coarse wiping of 148, through to the relatively even surface of 147, but a common feature is a burnishing of the inside surface of the rim edge (seen on 149, 150, 153, 154, 156). Occasional grog and grits are found within the fabric but are not consistent with anything other than accidental inclusion.

145. Large rim fragment from plough soil (Z10). Simple everted and almost vertical rim. Black fabric with brown outer surface and burnished on the inside of the rim.
146. Thick everted rim sherd from (Z10), with a diameter that suggests a storage jar. Black paste with red/brown outer surface that extends over the top of the rim.
147. Upstanding rim sherd with no neck constriction, found within the gravel layer (Z126) (residual). Black fabric with smooth brown outer surface.
148. A tapering everted rim sherd with a roughly squared edge recovered from the modern topsoil. Black paste and surfaces with slight burnishing on the inside of the rim.
149. Simple everted rim sherd of black ware and surfaces with burnishing on the inside of the rim.
150. Everted rim fragment from (Z10) (residual) in a black ware and with black surfaces. The inside of the rim has been burnished, and occasional small shell fragments supplement the organic tempering.
151. Everted rim sherd from (Z10) in a black paste and surface. The pronounced shoulder has been formed by the lamination of two layers of clay that do not appear to extend beyond the neck constriction.
152. Simple everted rim in a black fabric with black-brown exterior surface.
153. Simple everted rim from (Z33) with black paste and surfaces.
154. Cooking pot of grass tempered fabric but the everted neck tapers to a sharper rim edge than other such rims so far found in Staines. The paste is black with a brown exterior surface.
155. Everted rim from (Z137) in a red/brown ware with long dark grass strands and chaff. Black smoothed surfaces.
156. Everted rim sherd from (Z10) in black paste and surfaces.

Part D: Other Handmade Forms

Several sherds, recovered in the main from the deep medieval plough soil, are of handmade forms and do not fit easily into either a Roman or medieval typography. From what is known of the nature of occupation most can be assigned to the early or mid Saxon period, to supplement the grass/chaff tempered wares, although no more specific dating can be forthcoming, due to the small size of the sherds and the lack of sealed groups before the introduction of Saxo-Norman techniques.

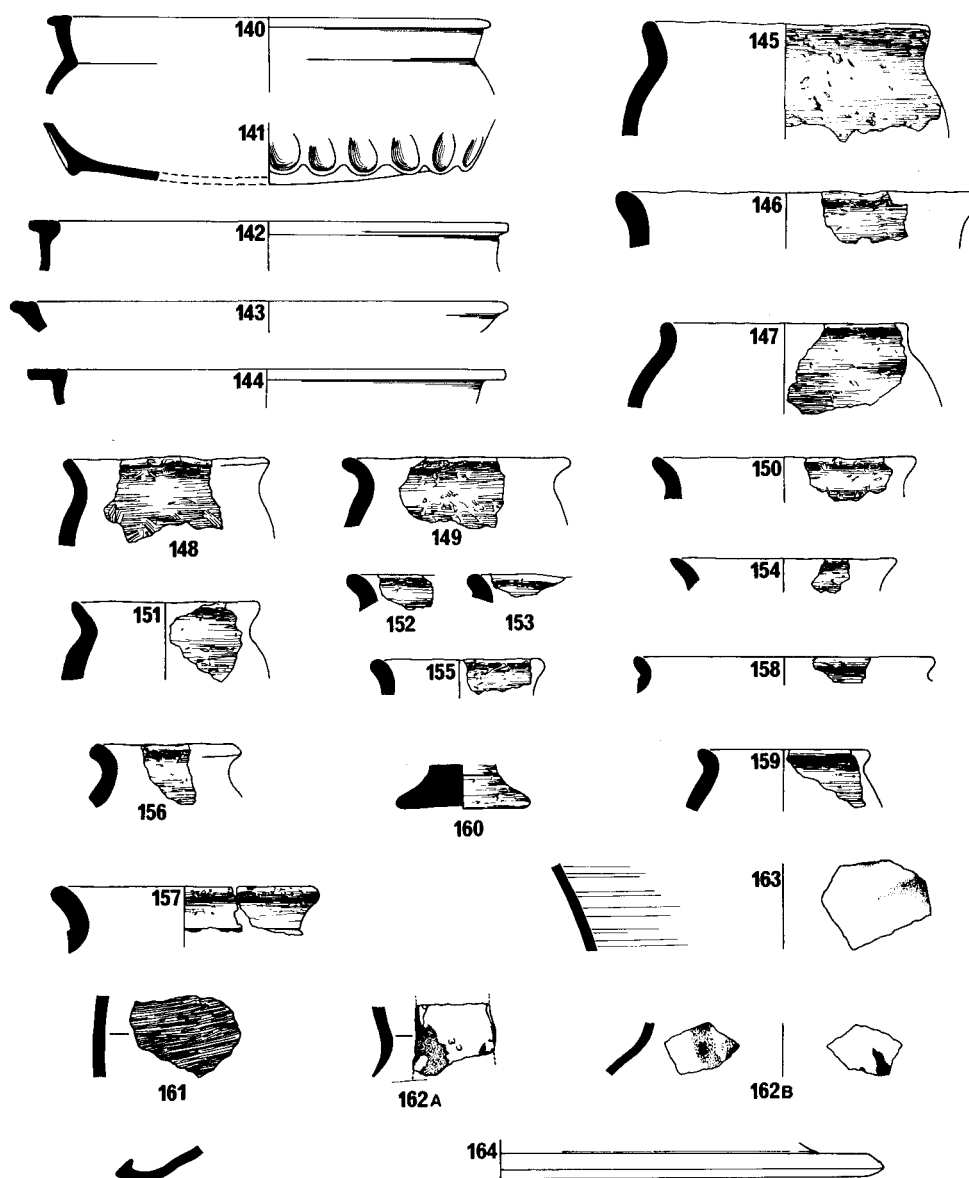


Fig. 20. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Saxon and medieval pottery, Nos. 140–164 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

Their inclusion within this report is considered necessary because of the possibility of a continuity of settlement from late Roman to Saxon occupation. It must be stated, however, that examination of the late Roman pottery reveals mostly early to mid fourth century types and an absence of characteristic sub-Roman types (such as 'Romano-Saxon', and grog tempered handmade pottery in Roman forms). Therefore the relationship between the Roman settlement and the Saxon town of Staines is still unclear in archaeological terms.

The wares are listed below under Roman numerals to make for ease of reference and are not intended as a definitive typology of fabric types.

- (i) Four sherds of very rough flint gritted ware generally black with brown outer surfaces. The paste is less resistant to erosion with the result that the calcined grits stand out from the surface. Similar sherds were found at Northolt in two pits of Period 1b and represent fabric C (c. 700–1050) of the type series there, Hurst (1961).
 - (ii) Three sherds of thin dark grey ware with red-brown surfaces, sometimes blackened inside. The tempering is of sand and blue calcined grits that unlike (i), do not stand out from the surface to make for a harsh surface. Some vesiculation.
 - (iii) Three body sherds, a basal angle and rim of a rough grey-black ware with some shell, grits, and/or chalk some of which had leached out.
157. An everted and slightly beaded rim of a high shouldered jar found in (Z50). The profile and wheel thrown character at least on the upper part, suggests influence from Saxo-Norman styles and is more developed than a similar handmade cooking pot of the ninth century from Portchester, Cunliffe (1970). Possibly tenth century.
158. Flat base and wall angle of above or another similar vessel. Some oxidation of the outer body surface. (Not illustrated.)
- (iv) Two sherds of a fine black ware with black inner surface showing some degree of wheel manufacture, and burnished black outer surfaces. One of the sherds is from a carination of the body and is perforated possibly for suspension. The general character of this ware and the angled body sherd seem to be similar to types found at Portchester, Cunliffe (1970, Fig. 2, Nos. 2, 3, 7) and Mucking, Jones (1968, Fig. 5) of the early fifth century, but clearly more quantitative samples are needed from Staines and especially the decorated forms, before we can think of Germanic intrusion, whether mercenary or otherwise.
 - (v) Four sherds of a friable brown ware with some sand and organic tempering. Surfaces vary in colour from black to red-brown and have a soapy feel.
158. Small and simple everted rim from (Z10) in this ware with slight ridging that suggests some degree of wheel turning.

Rimsherds in Other Handmade Fabrics

159. Typical everted rim as found on the grass tempered wares but in a granular black ware with some grits. The brown or black surfaces have been burnished, especially so on the inside of the rim which is also typical of the organically tempered rims, to which this form is closely similar. A major difference though, is that this rim was probably made on a turn-table.
160. Lower part of a pedestal based lamp in an orange handmade fabric with some sand and grog inclusions. The irregular grooving on the surface is consistent with the use of a turntable. Whereas the form is recognised widely in shell-tempered fabrics of the Midlands, it is interesting to see handmade forms being used for similar purposes.

Part E: Miscellaneous

This section deals with those medieval sherds recovered from later contexts which are therefore residual, but have sufficient value to warrant their inclusion within this report.

161. Body sherd of scratch-marked pottery in a gritty grey ware with a black internal surface. The outer surface was probably self-slipped to facilitate the scratched decoration, as the grey fabric becomes brown just below the black surface coating. The sherd was found on the Johnson and Clark site, No. 19 High Street (Fig. 2) but is included in this report to show the presence of this ware type within Staines. The distribution is centered on the Wessex region and extends through Hampshire but was not known from Middlesex until recent examination of Northolt material which revealed some fragments (personal communication R. Lancaster, Gunnersbury Museum). Although a late Saxon trait, the technique is known to survive till the early thirteenth century, Platt (1975, 22, Fig. 144, Nos. 299–301, early thirteenth century group, Fig. 145, Nos. 304–5, A.D. 1200–1250) and probably late thirteenth century, Musty (1969, 105, Fig. 10, Nos. 32–38, for 'Developed scratch-marked ware' from Laverstock). The hard gritty character of the Johnson and Clark sherd is consistent with a late survival.
- 162A, B. Thin and hard sandy grey ware with buff surfaces from the mixed plough soils of (Z10). Red painted smears have been applied to the upper surface of the handle (162A) and the outer surface of the body sherds (162B). The presence of paint on the inside surface of the sherds could well be accidental although internal decoration is known on these Pingsdorf derivative forms, Dunning (1959, Fig. 29, No. 5) is a wine amphora with painted strokes on the inside of the rim. The Staines sherds probably come from the angle between a short neck and globular body and could well imply some degree of rim decoration. The most common form of these red painted imports found in this country are the wine amphorae ultimately derived from the Badorf types and the diameter of the vessel obtained from the body sherd is consistent with this form. In comparing the Staines fragments with the series of wasters from Continental kiln sites producing red-painted pottery (British Museum reference collection) it was noted that the closest parallel for these sherds was Pingsdorf itself with a similar mid-

grey fabric. Products from elsewhere, including the Limburg kilns (e.g. Brunssum, Schinveld) which manufactured a derivative style in the twelfth-thirteenth centuries, Dunning (1959), were generally a lighter grey fabric.

163. Body sherd of a pale grey sandy ware with some rounded grits and buff surfaces. Red paint smears are present on the external surface. This is also a continental red painted vessel and its dimensions

suggests a wine amphora, Dunning (1959).

164. Rim sherd of a lid in a hard sandy red ware of considerable size. Although it is possible that a pottery vessel could have been made large enough to accommodate this lid, it is reasonable to suggest that a barrel or even a pit could have been covered. The fabric is a common type in the later Middle Ages of the London area and begins in the mid thirteenth century as at Waltham, Essex, Huggins (1973).

Part F: Discussion

Recent excavations in Hendon have shown that village sites do offer some opportunities for extended type series but Staines must qualify for rather more status than that of a forest clearance settlement, as its position on the navigable Thames adjacent to a good bridging point and its hinterland of rich gravel and brickearths provided a firm basis for prosperity. Staines was a market town by at least 1218 when its date within the calendar year was changed, V. C. H. (1962, 20) and could have achieved that status as early as the other major markets of Middlesex, such as Uxbridge 1170, V. C. H. (1971, 79) and High Barnet 1199, both in similar positions on the edges of the county and straddling major routes out of London.

The geographical position of Staines, relative to Dunning's distribution map, Dunning (1959, Fig. 30) shows that the town could have important trading implications, not only within the trading area of London, but for the Thames Valley to Oxford and Kingston; the Colne Valley to St. Albans; and the south-west route to Winchester. It is this central position for the ebb and flow of ceramic traditions that should make study of medieval pottery from Staines worthwhile.

It is hoped that future redevelopment within the town, and consideration of material from previous excavations, will provide adequate opportunity for the establishment of an independent type series that will present another facet of Middlesex to add to that of the manorial enclosure and earlier settlement at Northolt, which remains the best sequence in Middlesex.

A concrete example of the value of the work in Staines is the recovery of red painted sherds, albeit from a residual context, on the Elmsleigh House site. When Dunning considered the distribution of imports of this type from Northern France in an evaluation of material from below Oxford Castle, Jope (1952, 90-1) he deduced an overland route from the port at Hamwih via Winchester. The distribution of the finer quality ware (e.g. Pingsdorf type) was contemporary with the coarser Northern French series, Cunliffe (1964, 125), and his theoretical overland route from Southampton to Oxford could have remained viable with the absence of such pottery on the Thames between Oxford and London (the latter presumably with independent trading links to the continent). The presence of red painted sherds in Staines is supporting evidence that the material in Oxford could have been the result of a direct trading route along the Thames. In this way ceramic studies in Staines have relevance for the whole of the south-east, as well as the hitherto unknown nature of pottery from south-west Middlesex.

Post-medieval Pottery by Patricia Croft and William Woodadge

The pottery which is drawn is that which is of importance to the dating of the post-medieval structures. Examination of other material from the Elmsleigh House site showed similar types and date range to that described.

For the purpose of describing the colour of glazes and fabric only, we have adopted the conventions adopted at Southwark, Sheldon (1974, 64).

(i) colour: a hyphen indicates an intermediate colour; while a solidus (/) indicates a mixture of colours (e.g. red-brown means a colour between red and brown; red/brown means red in parts and brown in parts).

(The pottery Nos. refer to Figs. 21-23)

(Z4) Demolition layer of out-house phase 2

The evidence of clay pipes dated 1660-1770 and glass ware 1720-1730 places this group in the mid eighteenth century. The pottery is in the main seventeenth century type, apart from the cream-ware which was introduced in 1720 and was universal by 1750.

Red Wares

1. Rim of a basin. Fairly hard, orange-red sandy ware. Unglazed.
2. Rim of a bowl. Fairly hard, orange-red sandy ware. Green-brown glaze.

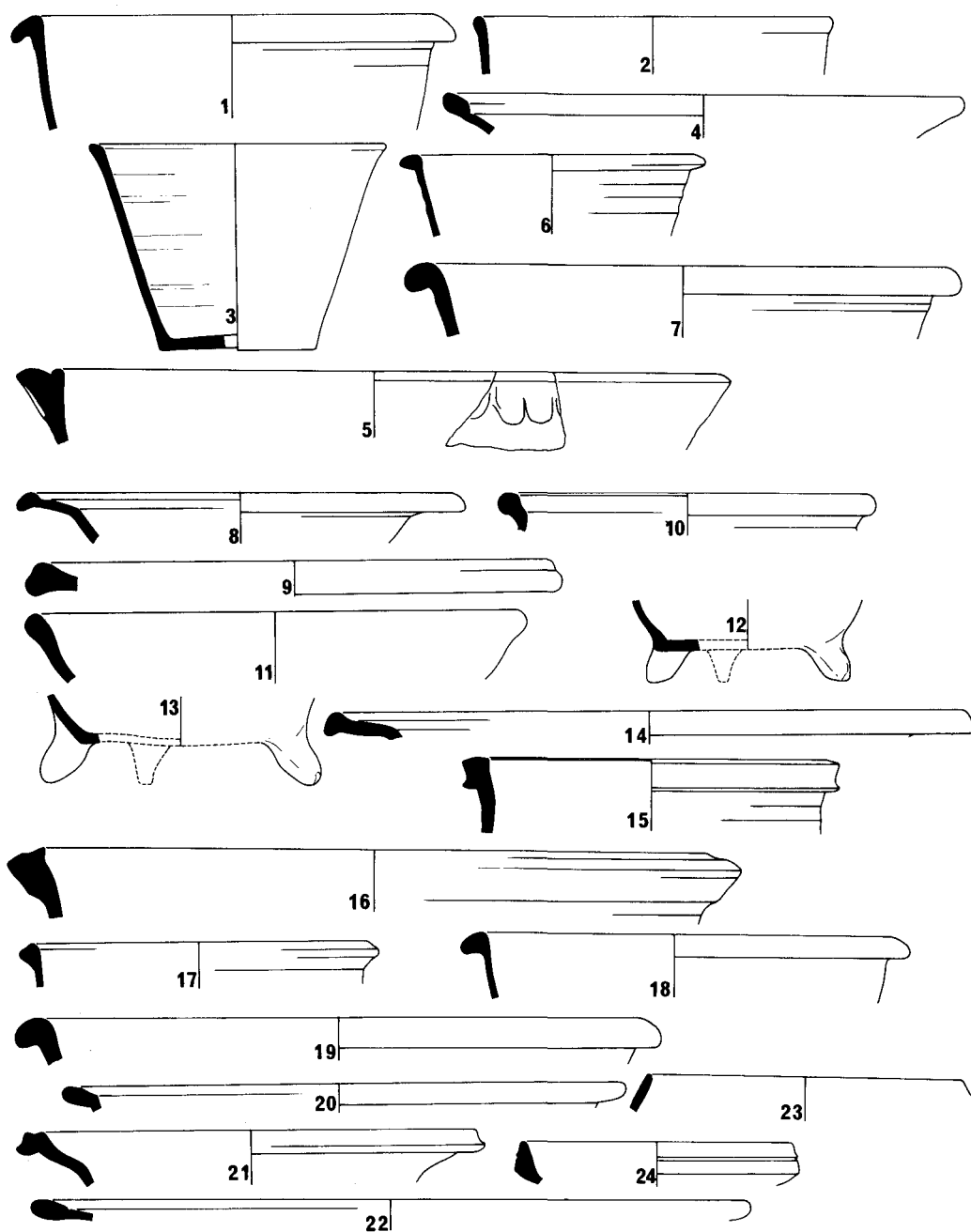


Fig. 21. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Post-medieval pottery, Nos. 1-24 (1/4).

3. Flower pot. Hard, orange-red sandy ware. Unglazed apart from splashes of brown glaze.
Various body sherds of orange-red sandy ware, mostly glazed.

Surrey White Wares

4. Rim of a dish, hard cream fabric. Light green glaze on outside.
Various glazed body sherds.

Cream Wares

A rim and body sherd. (Not illustrated.)

Stone Wares

Various sherds of Bellermino, one of which has part of a face mask. (Not illustrated.)

(Z5) Ash layer

The clay pipes suggest a date of about 1710 for this group, which consists of just two body sherds of orange-red sandy ware. One sherd has a light brown glaze and the other has a green-brown glaze on the interior. (Not illustrated.)

(Z6) Demolition layer of out-building phase 1

The clay pipes (1640–1710) and glass (1700) would seem to date this group to the late seventeenth century–early eighteenth century.

Red Wares

5. Rim of a basin/bowl. Hard orange-red sandy ware. Brown glazed interior. Unglazed exterior, which has thumb impressions.
6. Rim of bowl. Hard, orange-red sandy ware. Light brown glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
7. Rim of bowl. Hard, orange-red sandy ware with grey core. Dark brown glaze.
8. Rim of dish. Fairly hard, orange-red sandy ware. Light brown glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
9. Rim of dish. Soft, orange-red sandy ware. Brown glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
10. Rim of Pitcher. Hard, orange-red sandy ware with grey core. Dark brown glazed interior. Unglazed exterior. Handle scar present. Hollings (1971, Fig. 13).

Surrey White Wares

11. Rim of bowl. Hard white fabric. Mottled yellow/green glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
12. Base of cooking pot. Hard cream fabric. Pale green-yellow interior. Unglazed exterior.
13. Foot of cooking pot. Hard white fabric. Yellow glazed interior. Unglazed, fine blackened exterior.
14. Rim of dish. Soft cream fabric. Dark green glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
15. Rim of dish. Hard cream fabric. Light brown/green glazed interior. Rim and exterior unglazed.

Staffordshire Slipware

Body sherd. Hard buff fabric, glazed overall yellow back-ground and raised dark brown motif superimposed with white dots (possibly the letter 'P'). (Not illustrated.)

Stoneware

Base and body sherd of jar. Westerwald type.

(German stoneware.) Hard grey fabric. Mottled blue glazed exterior with a dark blue 'random mark'. Grey glazed interior. (Not illustrated.)

(Z8) Foundation trench of sixteenth–seventeenth century building

The clay pipes are dated to 1640–1680 and the glass to 1700. The pottery in this group consists of types in use from the mid sixteenth–late seventeenth century.

Red Wares

16. Rim of basin. Fairly hard, orange-red sandy ware. Unglazed except for streak of glaze on exterior.
17. Rim of basin. Hard, orange-red sandy ware with white grits. Green-brown glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
18. Rim of basin. Fairly hard, orange-red sandy ware. Light brown glaze on interior with some light green on rim itself. Unglazed exterior. Drewett (1974, Fig. 15, No. 474).
19. Rim of basin/bowl. Fairly hard, orange-red sandy ware with grey core. Green-brown glaze.
20. Rim of bowl/dish. Fairly hard, orange-red sandy ware with grey core. Mottled green/light brown glaze.
21. Rim of dish. Fairly hard orange-red sandy ware with grey core. Mottled green/light brown glazed interior with a light brown glaze on top of rim. The exterior has a 35mm unglazed strip around the top of the sherd, and then has a mottled brown/green glaze. There is a dark brown splash of glaze on top of rim and on to unglazed strip.
22. Rim of dish. Fairly hard, orange-red sandy ware. Mottled green/light brown glaze on interior. Unglazed exterior.
23. Rim of dish. Hard, orange-red sandy ware. Green-brown glazed interior. Dark brown glazed exterior.
24. Rim of dish. Soft, orange-red sandy ware. Unglazed.

Surrey White Wares

25. Rim of basin/bowl. Hard cream fabric. Green-yellow glazed interior. Unglazed exterior except for 8mm strip along rim.
26. Foot of cooking pot. Soft cream fabric. Dark yellow glazed interior. Partly green-yellow glazed exterior.
27. Rim of dish. Hard, cream fabric. Dark yellow glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
28. Rim of dish/plate. Hard, cream fabric. Mottled yellow/dark green glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
29. Rim of dish/plate. Hard, cream fabric. Pale green-yellow glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
30. Lid? Hard, cream fabric. Mottled yellow/green glazed exterior. The unglazed interior has small glazed splashes.
31. Rim of pipkin. Hard cream fabric. Yellow-green glazed interior and to flange on exterior. Hollings (1969, Fig. 5, A1), Drewett (1974, Fig. 11, No. 28).
32. Rim of cup. Hard grey fabric. Light brown salt glazed exterior; light grey interior.

Tin Glazed Earthenware

33. Rim of chamber pot. Soft, cream fabric. White glaze.
34. Jar in soft, pink fabric. Off-white glaze. Drewett (1974, Fig. 14, No. 310 but no blue decoration).

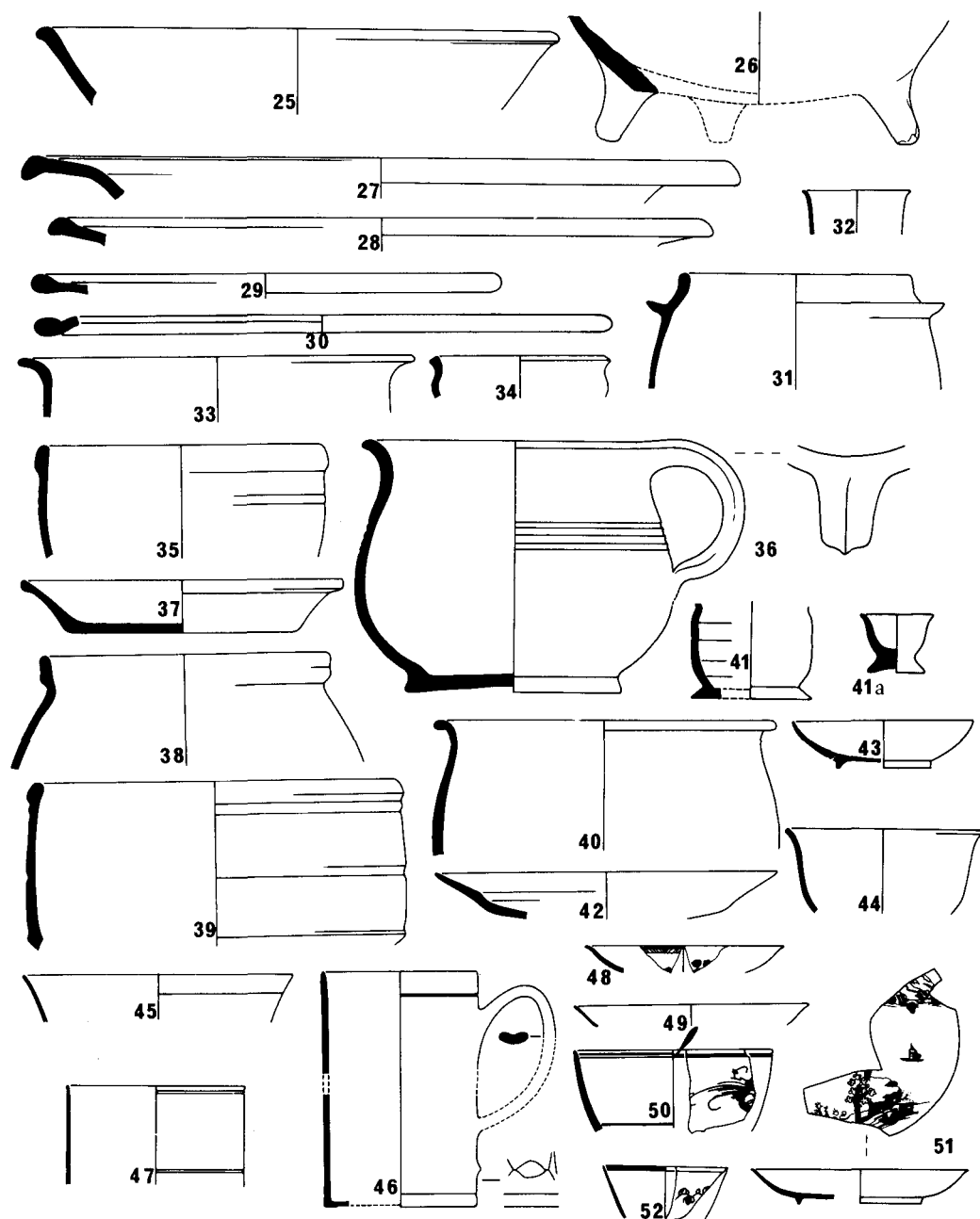


Fig. 22. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Post-medieval pottery, Nos. 25-52 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

(Z51) Pit

This group is dated to the eighteenth century on the evidence of the clay pipes (1700–1770) and glass (1729–1800). The bulk of the sherds are of eighteenth century pottery types apart from one rim (38) which is of a seventeenth century type.

Red Wares

35. Rim of bowl. Hard orange-red sandy ware. Light brown glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
36. Chamber pot. Complete section. Hard, pale orange-red sandy ware. Dark brown glaze.
37. Complete section of a dish. Hard, orange-red sandy ware. Light brown glazed interior. Unglazed exterior with some glaze splashes.
38. Rim of a pitcher. Hard, orange-red sandy ware. Dark brown glaze.
39. Rim. Hard orange-red sandy ware. Streaked light brown/dark brown glaze. Part of an unglazed possibly sagging base.

Staffordshire Slipware

Body sherd. Hard, cream fabric. Yellow glazed interior with brown feathered decoration. Unglazed exterior. (Not illustrated.)

Tin Glazed Earthenware

40. Rim of a chamber pot. Soft, cream fabric. Light blue glaze.
41. Chemists drug jar. Near complete. Hard off-white fabric. Off-white glaze. Underneath of vessel rough finish.
- 41a. Chemists drug jar. Complete. Hard, off-white fabric. Off-white glaze.
42. Rim of a plate. Hard cream fabric. Light grey glaze. Also present, a minimum of five chamber pots with a range of glaze colours from eggshell blue–pink/blue, a plate sherd in soft white fabric with pale blue glaze and dark blue decoration; a second plate sherd in soft white fabric, pale blue glaze with polychrome decoration, and base sherd in soft white fabric with mottled mauve glaze. (Not illustrated.)

Stonewares

43. Complete section of a bowl. Hard, cream fabric.

Clear salt-glaze.

44. Rim of bowl. Hard, light grey fabric. Off-white salt-glaze, with dark brown line running along top of rim. Traces of brown each side of rim.
45. Rim of a bowl. Hard, off-white fabric. Clear salt-glaze.
46. Rim and base of a mug. Hard, off-white fabric. Clear salt-glaze. (Calculations indicate that the mug would have held one pint to the exterior groove.)
47. Rim of a mug. Hard, off-white fabric. Clear salt-glaze.

Porcelain

48. Rim of a bowl. Hard, white fabric. Light blue glaze. Dark blue line on inside of rim. Orange and blue interior decoration. Blue line 2mm below interior of rim. Chinese import.
49. Rim of bowl. Hard, white fabric. Light blue glaze. Dark blue hatched decoration just below interior of rim. Chinese import.
50. Rim of bowl. Hard, white fabric. Light blue glaze. Dark blue and orange decoration with boat and landscape. Chinese import.
51. Rim of bowl. Hard white fabric. Light blue glaze. Parallel blue lines just below rim on interior and exterior. Blue decoration on exterior and possibly interior. Chinese import.
52. Rim of a cup. Hard, white fabric. Clear glaze. Parallel blue lines just below rim on interior. Thin blue line below rim and floral decoration on exterior. Chinese import.

(Z133) Eighteenth century garden soil

The pottery was of seventeenth and eighteenth century type, but there was no other dating evidence.

Red Wares

53. Base of a chafing dish. Hard, orange-red sandy ware. Yellow-green glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.

Surrey White Wares

54. Rim of bowl. Fairly hard, cream fabric. Dark yellow glazed interior. Unglazed exterior.
55. Rim. Hard, cream fabric. Pale yellow glaze.

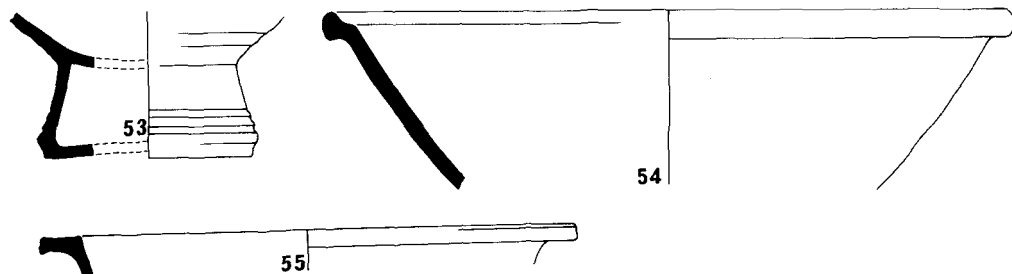


Fig. 23. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Post-medieval pottery, Nos. 53–55 (1/4).

Coins Roman by M. J. Hammerson

Elmsleigh House 1974 and Barclays Bank 1969

Summary (Chronological)

Vespasian	2 (Barclays Bank)	Constantinian: 330-35	4
Domitian	1 (Barclays Bank)	337-41	2
Trajan	3 (2 from Barclays Bank)	341-46	3
Julia Domna	1	Irregular, 330's-40's	1
Severus Alexander	1	Magentius	1
Victorinus	1	Irregular, 350's-60's?	1
Tetricus II?	1	Valens	1
Irregular Radiates	2	Theodosius I	2
Allectus	1	Honorius	1
		House of Theodosius	3
		Late eighteenth century	1
		Illegible	2


State of Wear

A = Unworn	D = Quite heavily worn
B = Slightly worn	E = Heavily worn
C = Worn	? = Too corroded to ascertain


Barclays Bank

<i>Small Find No.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Identification</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Wear</i>
B.B.5	—	Vespasian, As. RIC. 84, IVDAEA CAPTA SC.	77- 78	?A
B.B.3	—	Vespasian, As.	69- 79	D/E
B.B.1	—	Domitian, Dupondius. RIC. 352, FIDEI PVBLICAE SC.	87	B
B.B.4	—	Trajan, Dupondius. RIC. 489, SPQR.		
B.B.4	—	OPTIMO PRINCIPI, Rome seated with Victory and Spear.	106-111	D
B.B.2	—	Trajan, As.	98-117	?

Elmsleigh House

<i>Small Find No.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Identification</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Wear</i>
146	(Z100)	Trajan, As.	98-117	E
81	(Z10)	Julia Domna, Denarius. RIC (Severus) 165, VESTA. (Flan irregular: legend weak, sometimes of poor standard; possibly a contemporary copy.)	193-196	D
68	(Z50)	Severus Alexander, Denarius. RIC. 133, ANNONA AVG.	233-235	B
39	(Z8)	Victorinus, Antoninianus. RIC. 112-114, INVICTVS.	268-270	E
71	(Z20)	?Tetricus II, Antoninianus. (Identification uncertain.)	?270-273	?
58	(Z10)	Irregular copy, Victorinus or Tetricus I, 14½mm dia.	270's-290's	B/C
147	(Z100)	Irregular copy, Tetricus II. 12½mm dia. Reverse probably Pax or Fides.	270's-290's	C
194	(Z35)	Allectus, 'Quinarius'. RIC. 55, VIRTVS AVG. Mint-mark QL (London).	293-296	D
69	(Z50)	Constantine I, AE3, GLORIA EXERCITVS (two standards).	330-335	C
227	(Z52)	Constantine II, AE3, GLORIA EXERCITVS (two standards).	330-335	C
77	(Z50)	Constantinopolis, AE3.	330-335	?
101	(Z10)	Urbs Roma, AE3. LRBI-65.	c.332	C/D
108	(Z33)	Constans, AE3, LRBI-774, GLORIA EXERCITVS (one standard). Mint-mark  (Siscia).	c.338	C

-ASIS

121	(Z10)	Constantius II, AE3. LRBI-441, GLORIA EXERCITVS (one standard). Mint-mark <u>G</u> (Arles). <u>PARL</u>	c.341	C
90	(Z10)	POP ROMANVS, AE3. LRBI-1066. Mint-mark CONSA (Constantinople).	c.342-3	C
42	(Z50)	Constans, AE3. LRBI-142, VICTORIAE DD AVGGQ NN, 2 victories facing. Mint-mark <u>D</u> (Trier). <u>TRP</u>	c.343-4	B
130	(Z100)	Constans, AE3. LRBI-160. As above, but  <u>TRP</u>	c.345	C
144	(Z43)	House of Constantine, AE3, possibly irregular.	330's-340's	B
222	(Z35)	Magentius, AE2. LRBII-50, FELICITAS REIPVBLICE. Mint-mark <u>IA</u> (Trier). (N.B. obverse reads IMP CAE MAGENTIUS AVG, missing S after CAE.) <u>TRP</u>	c.350	A
142	(Z24)	Almost certainly Irregular copy of type imitating FEL TEMP REPARATIO (Fallen horsemen) reverse. Dia. 6mm. Design struck on both surfaces, but not sufficiently detailed to be recognisable.	350's-360's	C/D
94	(Z79)	Valens, AE3 LRBII-1018, GLORIA ROMANORVM. Mint-mark .SMAQP (Aquileia).	c.369	B
180	(Z110)	Theodosius I, AE4. LRBII-1871, VICTORIA AVG, two victories facing. Mint-mark <u>TESA</u> (Thessalonika).	383-392	B
119	(Z100)	Theodosius I, AE4 VICTORIA AVGGG. Victory with wreath and palm. Mint of Western Empire.	388-395	D
185	(Z135)	Honorius, AE4. LRBII-806 or 809, SALVS REIPVBLICAE, victory dragging captive. Mint-mark <u>RP</u> (Rome).	395-408	B
63	(Z50)	House of Theodosius, as above.	388-408	B
72	(Z79)	House of Theodosius, AE4, VICTORIA AVGGG; part shaved off in antiquity.	388-402	C
150	(Z1)	House of Theodosius, as above, also shaved.	388-402	C/D
34	(Z50)	Token farthing of George III, late eighteenth century.		E

All the Barclays Bank finds date from c. 70-120 A.D. They generally show average wear and, by themselves, suggest late first to later second century occupation; this evidence should be examined in the light of ceramic and other finds from the site, as coin and ceramic evidence are often *prima facie* contradictory at this period.

The Elmsleigh finds show a typical selection of coins from a small site occupied from the mid third century onwards. The coin of Trajan is very worn and need not have reached the site until the third century; large first and second century bronzes often remained in circulation until the 260's. The coins of Julia Domna and Severus Alexander likewise could have reached the site some years after their manufacture.

The general coin distribution shows an interesting parallel with that seen at Old Ford, Sheldon (1972), as follows:

	Old Ford (%) Elmsleigh	
First to second century	3	3.5
Third century	26	25
House of Constantine	24.5	42
House of Valentinian	9.5	3.5
House of Theodosius	17.5	21
Illegible	17.5	3.5

Allowing for the fact that most of the Old Ford illegible specimens are Constantinian or Theodosian, the numbers will approximate more closely. The figures for both sites are typical of sites occupied throughout the third and fourth centuries; the Old Ford pattern is characteristic of sites with intensive continuous occupation possibly into the fifth century, whereas the Elmsleigh pattern is more that of sites which saw their maximum prosperity during the Constantinian period.

Interesting specimens

The Sesterius of Vespasian, reverse IVDAEA CAPTA, is a scarce coin. The POP ROMANVS issue of Constantinople is an unusual find from Britain, as is the Theodosius I VICTORIA AVG (two victories facing) from the mint of Thessalonika.

Small Finds by David Barker

(Numbers refer to Figs. 24–28)

Copper alloy

Roman

1. A disc brooch with ten lugs. Champlevé enamelled in red and turquoise. Retains spring of two turns, pin and catch-plate. This type usually associated with a central boss or stud. (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
2. Pair of tweezers. (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
3. Pair of tweezers. (Z50 Post-medieval plough soil.)
4. A two piece manicure set comprising tweezers and nail cleaner attached to a ring. (Drawn separately.) (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
5. An unfolded expanding ring decorated with 'S' shaped punched decoration. Neal (1974, 138, Nos. 135 and 140). (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
6. Part of a bangle with notched decoration on the outer edge. (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
7. Ligula or unguent spoon. Hole for suspension at one end and small cupped hollow on the opposite end. (Z35 Roman gravel surface.)
8. Stylus case? (Z3 Post-medieval layer.)
9. Length of wire with a small ring bonded to the middle. Probably an unfolded bangle. Frere (1972, 119, No. 35). (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
10. Fragment of a ring with raised bezel. (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
11. Ear-ring. Tapered oval section. One end cleft to receive other tip. Bushe-Fox (1949, No. 108). (Z8 Foundation trench of seventeenth century building.)
12. Part of a circular plate c. 2mm thick with pierced decoration presumed to be part of a buckle. Bushe-Fox (1928, 50, No. 64. Other examples from Roman military sites). (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
13. Part of a lathe turned bracelet. Internal diameter 40mm. (Z8 Foundation trench of seventeenth century building.)

Not illustrated:

- Heavy undecorated domed stud, c. 30mm diameter.
- Small fragment from the shank of a ring.

Medieval and post-medieval

14. Dress pin. Head of circular section. (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
15. Plain buckle, possibly from a harness. (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)
16. Belt fitting. Gilt with punched decoration on one side. (Z10 Medieval plough soil.)

17. Shoe buckle. Flat cast. 2mm thick. (Z50 Post-medieval plough soil.)
18. Spherical-headed pin. Roman? or medieval? (Z4 Demolition layer of out-building II.)
19. Knife handle. Late seventeenth century. Champlevé enamelled decoration of stylised flowers and leaves in red, white and blue. Contains original 'loading' of resin. Probably English.

Other small fragments of bronze, mainly from the plough soil, were found. Mainly very small fragments of wire and sheet incapable of interpretation or dating owing to the mixed nature of the deposit. A noticeable feature of much of the copper alloy finds was the excellent state of preservation of many of the objects, many only having a light patination.

Iron

20. Knife. End of blade broken and possibly also plate tang end *cf.* London Museum Medieval Catalogue (53, Plate 13, No. 8). (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)
21. Knife, complete. Tang of rectangular section. (Z52 Late medieval pit.)
22. Knife. Tang broken short. (Z52 Late medieval pit.)
23. Knife. Blank? Tang? of rounded triangular section. (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)
24. Knife. End of blade and plate tang broken. Cutlers mark a crescent. Steeled cutting edge c. 4mm wide. (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)
25. Knife. Blade and plate tang broken. Rivet holes c. 2.5mm diameter. (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)
26. Knife. Blade broken short. The notch on the blade is damage as the blade is probably of brittle steel. General seventeenth century date, *cf.* finds from Basing House, Moorhouse (1971, 36, No. 8). (Z11 Eighteenth century garden soil.)

In all 17 knife blades or parts of blades were found during excavation, although the majority of these are represented by fragments. Those illustrated show the broad range of types present. As with the bronze, much of the iron material was from medieval plough soil, containing both Roman and medieval material. Although the majority of knives would seem to be of general medieval form, No. 23 possible knife blank is of interest and may suggest a bladesmith's workshop in the vicinity as although a knife was a basic item of personnel equipment the numbers found on the site would seem to represent more than ordinary loss.

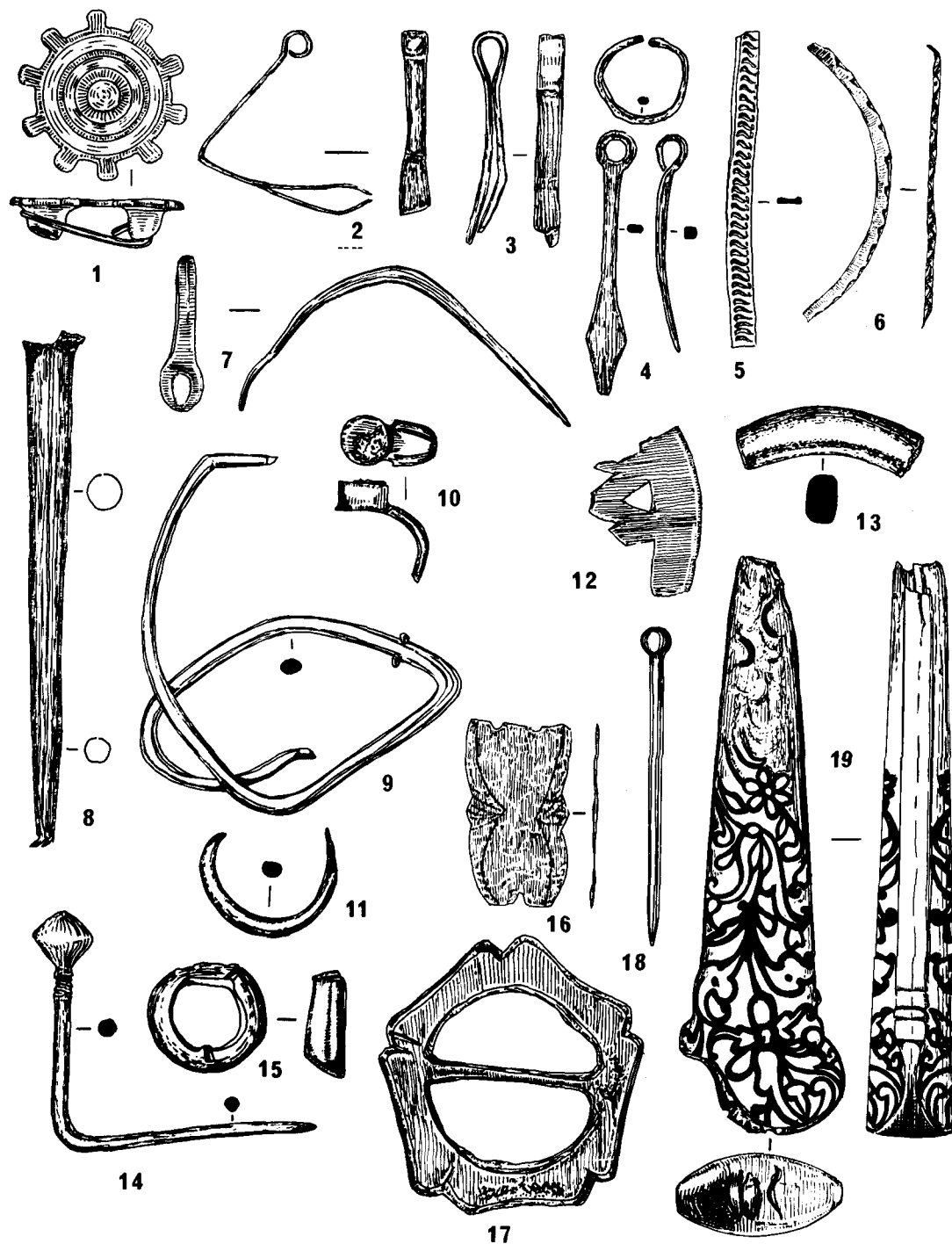


Fig. 24. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Small finds; copper alloy, Nos. 1-19 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

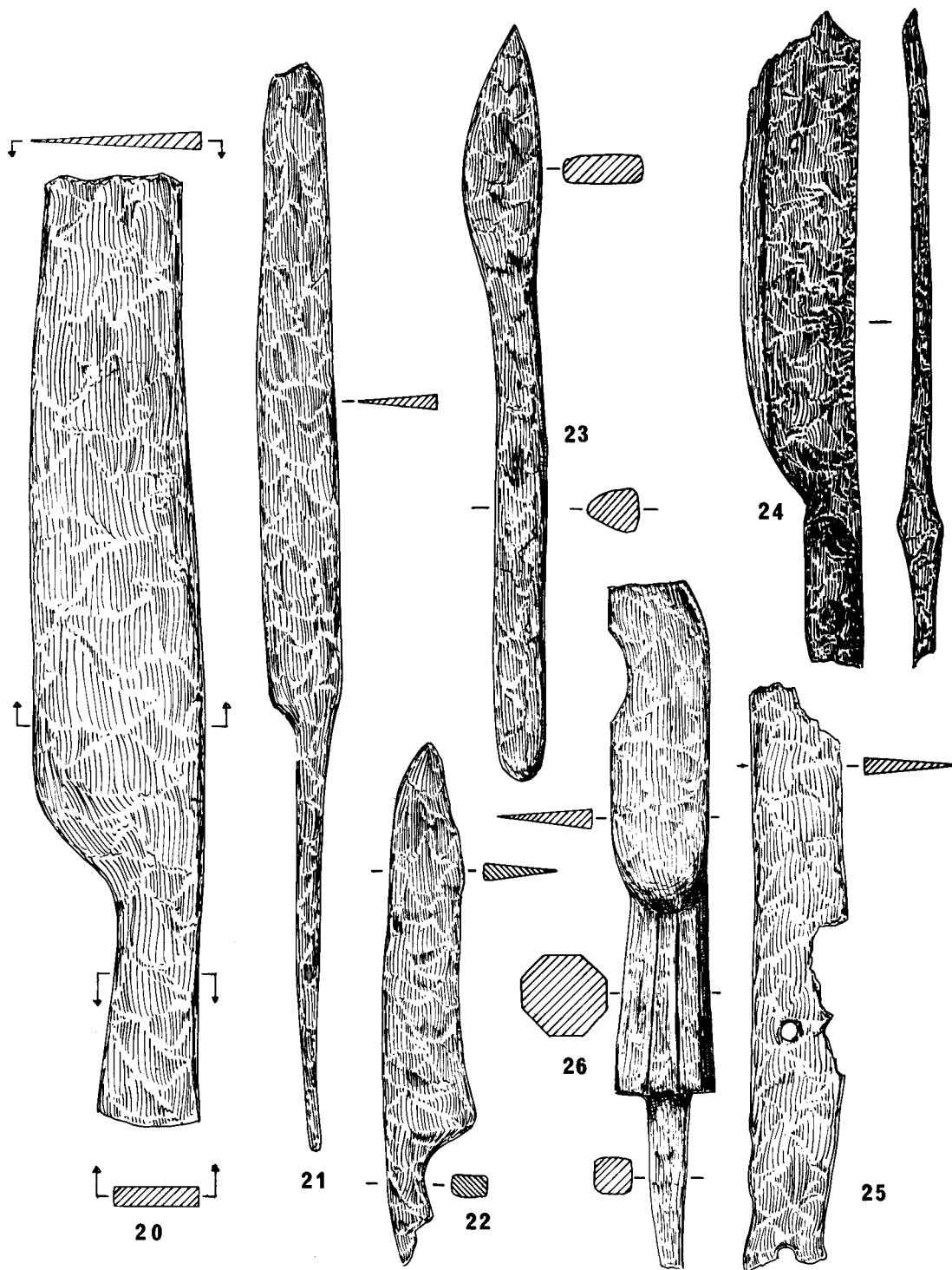


Fig. 25. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Small finds; iron knives, Nos. 27-32 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

Iron miscellaneous

27. Key? Possibly a type of casket key of the general type 9, *cf.* London Museum Medieval Catalogue (135). Its large size and the asymmetrical form may suggest another unknown function. (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)
28. Handle. Possibly from a knife or key and of Roman date. (Z23 Medieval gravel surface.)
29. Key. General Type 4 *cf.* London Museum Medieval Catalogue (135). Hollow shank, bored to a depth of 15mm. Dated to fourteenth-fifteenth centuries. (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)

Bone

33. Lathe turned roundel. A pattern of circles and studs in relief. Holes drilled around edge to allow it to be attached by sewing, probably to fabric. (Topsoil.)
34. Double sided bone comb. A common seventeenth century type. (Z15 Sixteenth century gully.)
35. Lathe turned bone object with an intricately carved decoration of lozenges and ovals. A hole 10mm diameter bored in one end, perhaps a handle for a tool or knife. Considerable wear on one side and damage at base. (Z8 Foundation trench of sixteenth century building.)

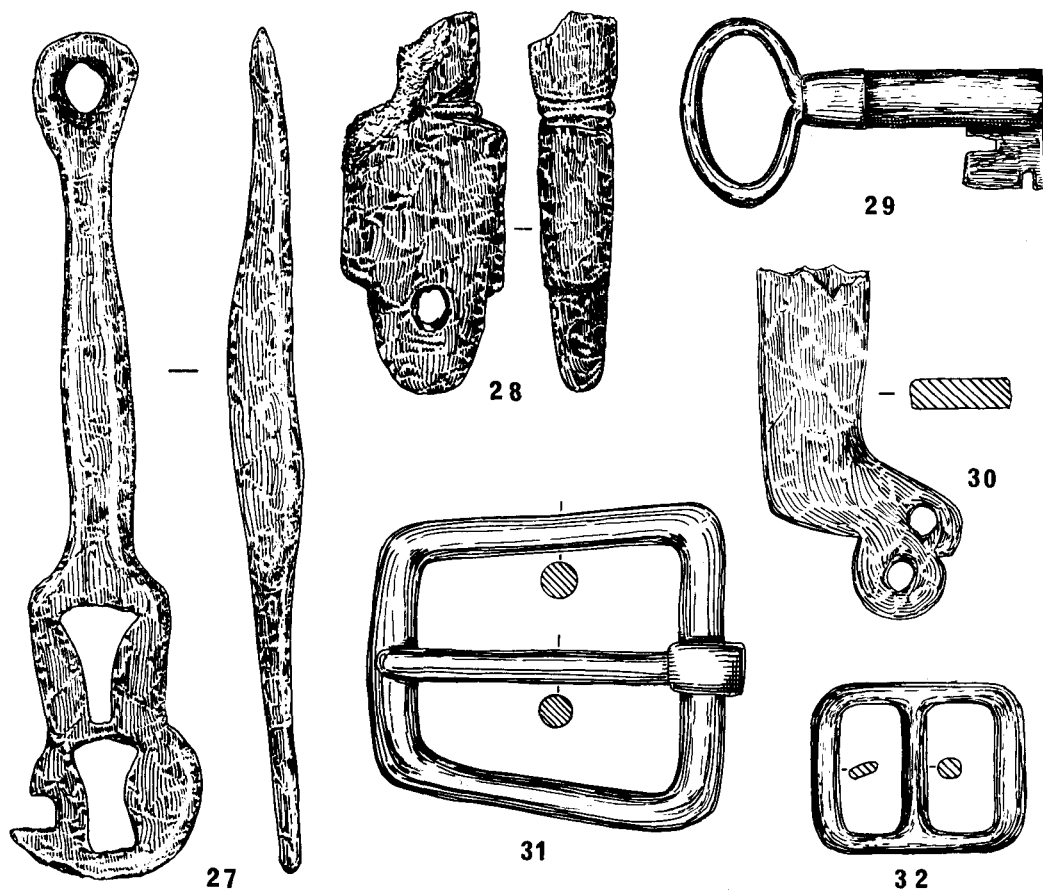


Fig. 26. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Small finds; miscellaneous iron, Nos. 27-32 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

30. Spur terminal. Fifteenth century, *cf.* London Museum Medieval Catalogue (103-112). (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)
31. Buckle. Frame and pin of circular section. Tudor or later. (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)
32. Buckle frame. Seventeenth-eighteenth century. (Z6 Out-building demolition Phase 1.)

36. Pointed implement made of a rib bone. All surfaces are polished as from considerable use. A leather working or pottery-making tool? (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)
37. Antler hammer. A tapered hole bored to receive a handle. The tines trimmed with a metal tool. Considerable wear on hammer face. Probably used to

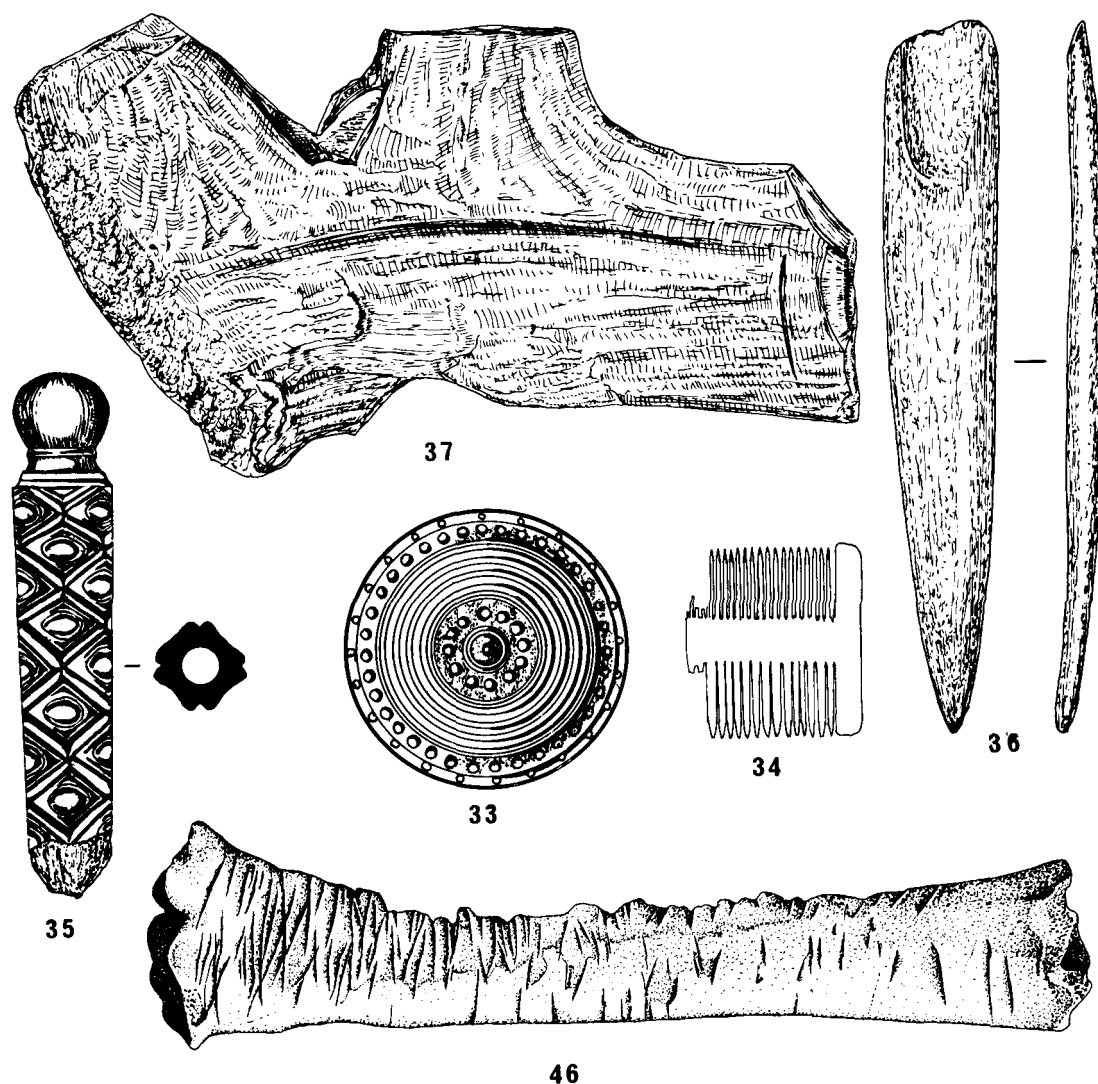


Fig. 27. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Small finds; bone, Nos. 33-37 and 46, all ($\frac{1}{4}$) except No. 34 ($\frac{1}{2}$).

work soft metals such as lead or copper without damaging the surfaces. For Roman antler tools, Philp (1974, 143). (Z4)

Small Finds Miscellaneous

38. Decorated floor tile. This example is probably a second, being badly warped and has glaze over one of the fractured edges. Cf. London Museum Medieval Catalogue (244, No. 34). (Z100)

39. Fragment of whetstone. Micaceous sandstone.

40. Fragment of whetstone. Micaceous sandstone.

41. Fragment of whetstone. Micaceous sandstone. All post-medieval.

42. Pipe clay figurine. (Z6)

43. Baked clay loom weight. Probably late Saxon. Bun shaped type. Dunning (1959, 24). (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)

44. Lead token. Scales and skittle? and W.B. in relief. (Topsoil.)

45. Glass bead, blue. (Z100 Medieval plough soil.)

46. Sheep radius with numerous cut marks. Use unknown.

Not illustrated

Strip of five lead shot attached to a sprue. Diameter of shot 5mm.

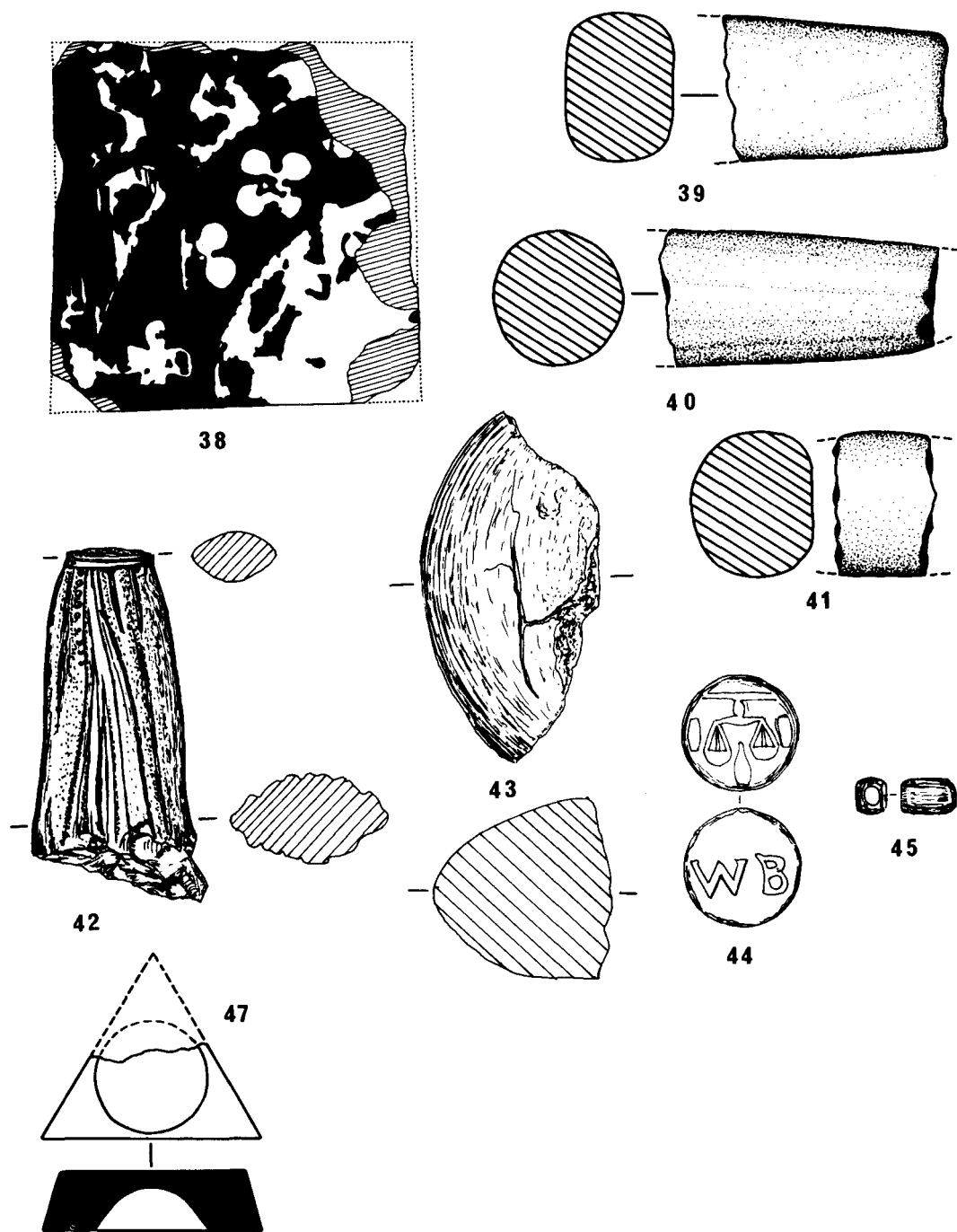


Fig. 28. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Small finds; miscellaneous, Nos. 38-41, 47 ($\frac{1}{2}$), Nos. 42-45 ($\frac{1}{1}$).

47. Earthen tin-glaze salt? D. M. Archer, Assistant Keeper, Department of Ceramics, Victoria and Albert Museum writes: "Salts are known with a triangular upper part with a depression in the centre, but there are no signs of this piece ever having feet. This does not mean that it was not used as a salt, but it

is just as likely that it was meant for some form of unguent or possibly for mixing up ingredients of some kind like paint. Late seventeenth-early eighteenth century and could have been made in England or on the continent."

The Querns by Hugh Chapman

Roman

1. (Z25) Fragment of bottom stone of Mayen basalt lava quern. Rough dressing marks visible on underside. 58 × 26 × 62 (thickness) mm.

Roman material residual in post-Roman contexts

2. (Z7) Worn fragments of bottom (?) stone of lava quern. 120 × 124 × 30mm.
3. (Z33) Fragment of lower stone of lava quern. 90 × 50 × 30mm.
4. (Z39) Fragment of top (?) stone of lava quern. Both sides appear to have been worn. 108 × 44 × c. 22mm.
5. (Z46) Fragment of bottom stone of lava quern. Dressing marks visible on underside. 94 × 64 × 50mm.

6. (Z52) Edge fragment of (upper?) stone of lava quern. Striations and vertical tooling on edge visible. 81 × 75 × 25mm.
7. (Z53) Fragment of upper stone of quern of concave grinding surface. Diameter c. 460mm.
8. (Z99) Fragment of lava quern.
9. (Z100) Seventeen fragments of lava quern (upper and lower stones). Largest fragment 150 × 90 × 32mm.
10. (Z131) Five fragments of lava quern. Four very small; the fifth, fragment of upper (?) stone, grinding surfaces slightly concave. 190 × 200 × 55mm, diameter c. 460mm.
11. Eleven unstratified fragments.

With the exception of No. 7 above, all the quern fragments from this site at Staines are of basalt lava and are examples of the well-known trade at all periods in milling equipment between the Mayen district of Germany and Britain, Hörter *et al.* (1950-51). The broken nature of the fragments means that it is not possible to identify the number of complete stones represented, but it is considerable for the size and nature of the site.

There are indications that London was the centre of the trade in the Roman period and acted as a distribution point. It is perhaps not surprising therefore that Staines, situated on the main Roman road to the west, has apparently a larger than normal number of imported quern stones. The lack of suitable local stone would have intensified a dependence on imported products.

Wood Samples by Alison Locker

Oak (*Quercus sp.*) Nine fragments, three probably belong to the same piece. (Phase 1. Late fourteenth-

early sixteenth century building.)
Also five root fragments which could not be identified.

The Glass by Mary Wood (Numbers refer to Fig. 29)

Roman

1. Fragment of greenish glass from rim of vessel. Down (1974, 134).
Fragment of pale green glass, part of a base. Sheldon (1974, 103 and Fig. 50, No. 11).

Late medieval

Two fragments of pale green glass. One slightly curved, possibly from the neck of a vessel. Dating of pottery from this layer gives latest date of early sixteenth century.

Seventeenth century

2. A glass bottle, pale green colour. Probably an apothecary's phial, in this case the earliest example from the site. Possibly sixteenth century Venetian— Influenced bulging or oviform phial. Thorpe (1961). This phial could be later than sixteenth century, in spite of distinctive shape. Found with token dated 1656 and pipe 1660-80, in floor of late seventeenth century out-building.

3. Glass goblet knob, in colourless glass. From a design by Measey and Greene, importers of Venetian glass which was popular until around 1680, after which Ravenscroft's lead crystal was preferred, Hume (1970, 190).
4. Almost complete neck of apothecary's phial, similar in size and thickness and colour (pale green) to Nos. 13 and 14 (below). Neck flares outward from rim. Hume (1970, Fig. 17, 3, 4). Associated with late seventeenth-early eighteenth century material and coin of Queen Anne.

Eighteenth century

- Four bases from bottles; three alike (one complete, two large fragments). Similar to example from out-building I, demolition layer (below).
5. Neck from apothecary's phial.
 6. Bottleneck, flaring out sharply into a globular or cylindrical body. In light green glass with flat wide flange. Wine bottle?

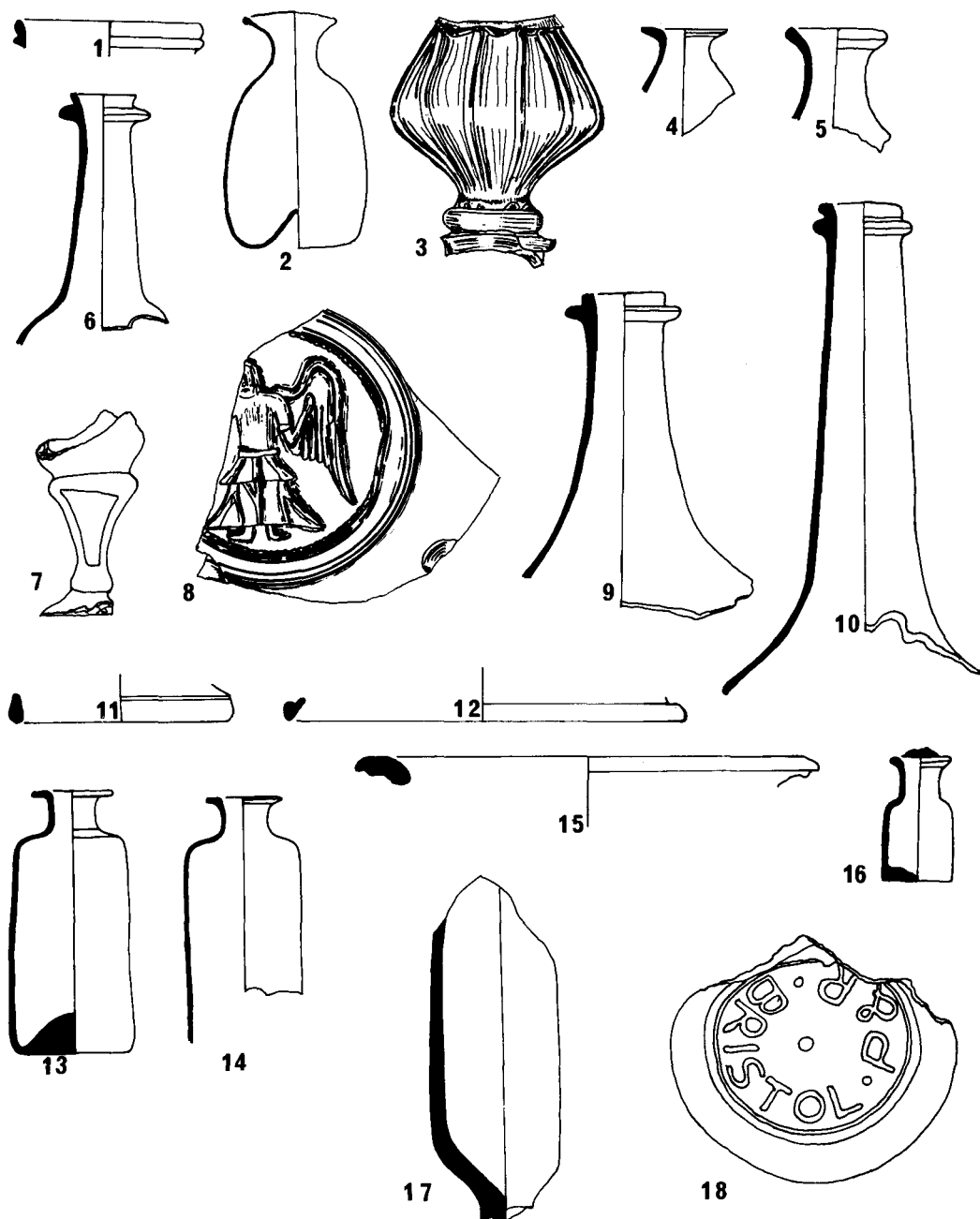


Fig. 29. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Glass, Nos. 1-18 ($\frac{1}{2}$) except 3 and 8 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

7. Goblet stem in coloured glass. Pipes from 1640–1710 with pottery of similar dates. (Rubble of late seventeenth–early eighteenth century out-building 1.)
8. Part of a bottle seal in dark green glass. The design on the seal is the picture of an angel and suggests that the seal is from a bottle made for the Angel Inn, High Street, Staines. Probable date 1720–30.
Fragments of wine bottles, consisting of four necks (one incomplete). Nine bases and base sherds and approximately 30 body sherds; dating generally to between 1729–1800. All bottles manufactured by blowing. Dark green colour.
9. With two others (not illustrated) an early example. Short and flared. (Similar to one dated 1733 in Hume [1970] or 1732 in Davis [1972, 24].)

(Z51) Mid eighteenth century pit

10. Long neck and narrower than No. 9. It is difficult to tell from the surviving sherd whether it had a globular (early) or straight (late), and in view of dating of other material from this pit (Z51) most likely the later.
11. Fragment from drinking glass featuring the 'folded foot'.
12. Fragment from drinking glass featuring the 'folded foot'. 'Folded foot' was seldom added to glasses after 1750, due to the increased duty on glass.
13. Apothecary's phial. Broad flattened lip, cylindrical shape with shoulder, faintly tinted green glass.

Clay Pipes by David Barker
(Fig. 30)

Previous excavations in Staines have produced many hundred clay tobacco pipes and although these must now be regarded as coming from unstratified contexts certain observations may be made on the group as a whole.

No very early pipes (i.e. sixteenth century) are represented and no makers marks before the eighteenth century are found in the group. In general the quality of many of the bowls of the seventeenth century is poor, the finish and firing variable, and many examples exhibit a distinctly sub-standard appearance. In general the typology of the pipes from Staines follows the main London sequences published by Atkinson and Oswald (1969) whose type numbers are referred to in the text. Two pipes from the Reeves site and two burnt wasters from the Elmsleigh House site are of interest and provide possible evidence for the manufacture of clay pipes in Staines. The two burnt wasters from Elmsleigh House are of Type 15 and 21 and may provide evidence for the manufacture of clay pipes in Staines during the seventeenth century, although no detailed documentary research has been undertaken yet to prove this. The two pipes from Reeves site are of Type 25 (1700–70), with an incuse stamp on the stem 'STAINS' (*sic*). A single letter M on the heel is presumably the surname of the maker (No. 1).

Elmsleigh House site

Over 135 pipe bowls were recovered during excavation although the majority of these were from unstratified or topsoil contexts. An interesting sequence from post-medieval building provides the first securely stratified group from the town. Of the 25 dateable bowls, from post-medieval pit cut into the foundation trench of the sixteenth century building (Z8), the majority give a typological date 1660–80, 18 bowls of Type 13, 15, 18 being found. One stem fragment had been moulded into a barley sugar form (No. 2).

A rubble layer (Z6) produced a total of 15 pipes with a date range 1660–1710; eight bowls of Type 18, six bowls of Type 25 and one bowl of a variant of Type 15 (No. 3).

A second rubble layer (Z4); from the eight bowls found, a date range of 1660–1770 is indicated. Four bowls of Type 25, (three of which have maker's mark of a crowned star, Atkinson and Oswald [1969] [No. 4]), and two each of Type 15 and 18. A variant of Type 18 is illustrated (No. 5).

14. Neck of phial without shoulder. Broad flattened lip. Also from pit (Z51). Sherd incorporating part of neck and shoulder from bottle similar to No. 14. Base of straight sided bottle in colourless glass. One sherd of thin colourless glass, completely flat, probably window glass. One semi-circular flat fragment; shape suggests it was part of some type of lens. Spectacles?

(Z50) Post-medieval layer

15. Rim sherd from a vessel in dark green glass. Appears to be some type of bowl.
Two sherds of dark green bottle glass. Two pieces of flat thin colourless glass. Window glass, as larger of two pieces shows the line along which it was cut to form a diamond shaped pane.

Nineteenth century

16. Small bottle, complete with cork.
17. Sherd of what appears to have been a cylindrical phial; rounded base with break where possibly stem attached.
18. Base sherd from dark green wine bottle. Has very shallow kick, and lettering 'Bristol. P and R'. After the early eighteenth century Bristol was a more important centre of glass making even than London. The 'P and R' probably refers to the Bristol firm Powell and Ricketts, and dates the bottle after 1856: before this date the firm was known as Powell, Ricketts and Filer. Wills, (1968).

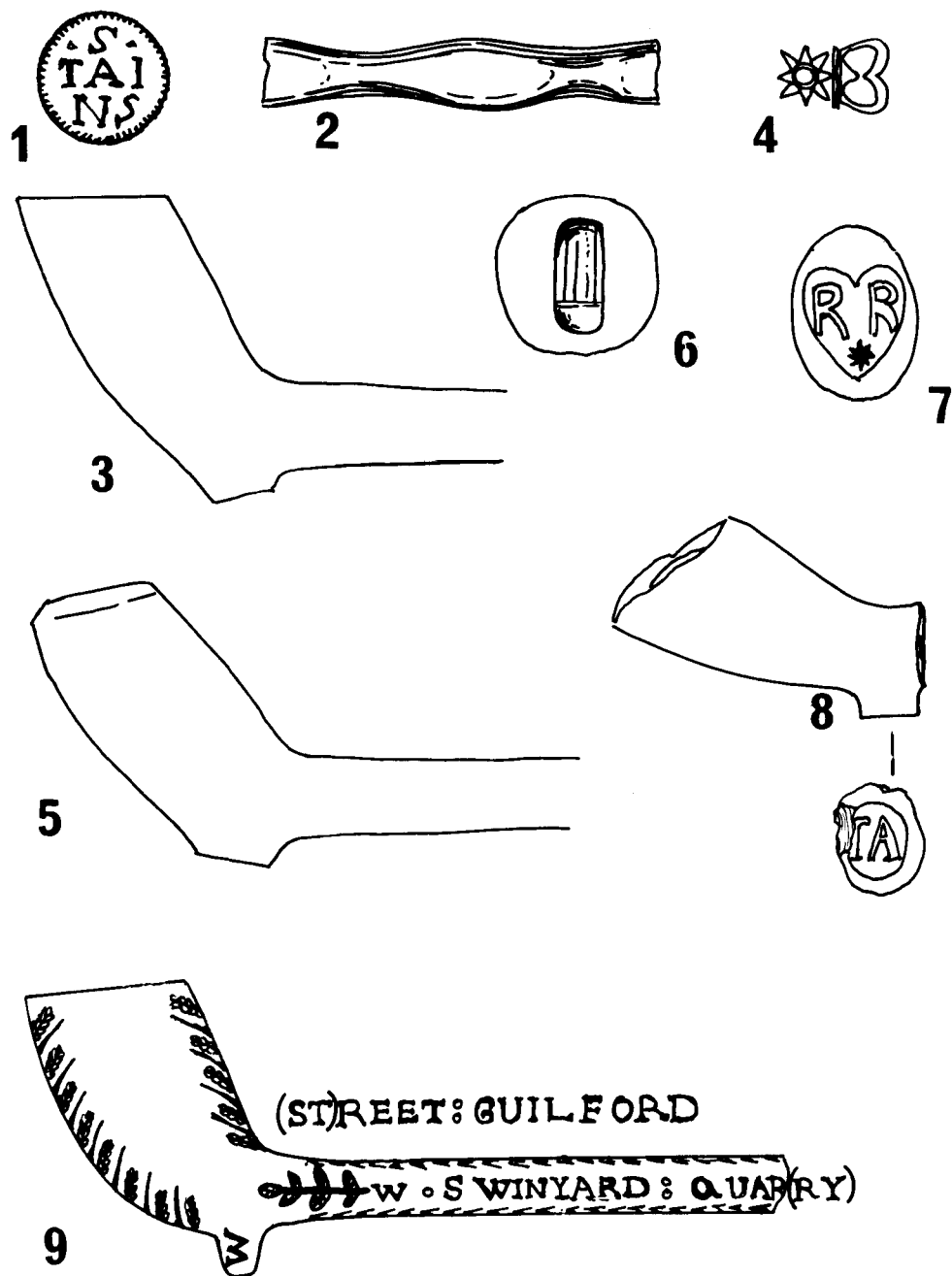


Fig. 30. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Clay pipes, Nos. 2-3, 5, 8-9 ($\frac{1}{4}$) and Stamps, Nos. 1, 4, 6-8 ($\frac{3}{4}$).

Unstratified

Three seventeenth century pipes from unstratified levels have maker's marks in relief on the bottom of the heel (No. 6) of Type 16, is the monkey paw mark of the Gauntlet family of Amesbury, Wiltshire, Atkinson (1970, 179). No. 7, Type 18 with initials R. R. is possibly the product of a Salisbury maker. Atkinson (1970, 179). No. 8, initials I?A., is possibly one of the many Bristol makers with those initials, working during the latter part of the seventeenth century. All three pipes have well made burnished bowls, another characteristic of west country types. A bowl of Type 20 (1690–1710) has a small contemporary knife cut hole (c. 2mm square) in the base of the bowl just above the heel. This curious feature is perhaps explained as an attempt to obtain a better 'draw' by providing a vent at the bottom of the bowl.

A pipe decorated with the royal coat of arms, maker's initials M. H., is the fourth example to come from sites in Staines. All are of Type 26 and by the same maker who is not recorded by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 197). Unfortunately the quality of the moulding on this example is poor and details of the coat of arms and legend unclear, Hume (1970).

Late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century pipes from the topsoil include twelve examples of the Type 27 (1780–1820). Maker's initials found are; I. C., I. F., M. N., R. P., W. S. and W. W. A pipe of c. 1850 is decorated with sprigs of leaves and marked W. SWINYARD. QUAR(RY) STREET. GUILFORD (*sic*) in relief, Oswald (1975, 196) (No. 9). William Swinyard worked between 1832 and 1859.

The three west country pipes are of interest but should not be regarded as evidence for trade in pipes, but rather as representing individual pipes discarded by eastward bound traffic. Recent excavations of a mid eighteenth century inn rubbish dump at Egham, Surrey also produced examples of pipes stamped by west country makers.

Many of the other pipes may possibly come from local makers. Clay pipe manufacture was established at Eton, Buckinghamshire from at least 1666, Ayto (1972) and Oswald (1975, 161), and eighteenth century makers are recorded at Brentford, Kingston on Thames and Guildford. A 'Pipe House' is shown on Rocques map of Surrey c. 1768 at Thorpe Lea (TQ019 701) although the maker and its origins is not yet known. Thus Staines was in a position to receive pipes from many makers within approximately 15 mile radius, no attempt has been made to assign late eighteenth and early nineteenth century pipes to particular makers owing to the duplication of initials and the use of common mould types.

Animal and Bird Bone by John Chapman and Norman Shanks*Introduction*

The animal bone was generally in a good condition, although very few complete bones were recovered, most having their proximal or distal extremities missing. The cause of this, and the large amount of fragmentary bone, is considered to be a direct result of ploughing, dating from the eleventh–sixteenth centuries. The report, therefore, does not contain a minimum number analysis or percentage calculation.

A catalogue of bones for each feature or layer (Z numbers) was made. This has not been published. The following table (Fig. 31) gives an indication of the animals/birds found on the site. The full report is available on request.

Conclusion

As can be seen from the table (Fig. 31), the predominant bone type excavated was that of cattle (*Bos*). As no age analysis was carried out it is difficult to say if this indicates a cattle bias in the diet or that a large number of mature animals were kept as beasts of burden. In contrast to this the horse bones showed signs of butchery which suggests that they were used as a supplement to the diet, or the bone used for the manufacture of artefacts, as well as the normal role as work-animals. Bones of donkey proportions were also found, as were those of a pony (New Forest type).

Pig (*Sus*) and Sheep/goat (*Ovis*) bones were also present, in all phases, but in smaller quantities. One complete skull of a dog (*Canis*) was found and identified as that of a hunting dog. Associated with this were bones of a cat (*Felis*), Red Deer (*Cervus*), Hare (*Lepus*), Rabbit (*Oryctolagus calcanulus*) and wild fowl.

Z. Number,	ANIMAL									BIRD				
	Cat	Cattle	Dog	Deer	Hare	Horse	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Rabbit	Chicken	Crow	Duck	Goose	Mallard
3		0				0	0							
4		0				0	0	0		0				0
6		0				0	0							
7		0				0	0	0					0	
8		0				0	0	0		0		0		
9						0								
10/100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11		0				0	0							
12						0								
15		0												
16		0				0		0						
23		0				0								
30		0												
33		0		0		0	0	0						
35		0												
39		0												
40		0												
42		0				0								
43		0												
46		0												
48		0												
50	0	0												
51							0	0						
52		0	0		0		0	0					0	
79		0				0	0							
99							0	0						
101		0												
102		0												
103		0												
106		0	0			0	0							0
108		0												
112		0				0	0							
113		0												
117		0					0							
119		0					0							
124		0				0	0	0	0					
131		0	0			0	0							
132		0												
134		0												
135		0				0				0				

Fig. 31. Elmsleigh House, Staines: Table of animal and bird bones. 0 = bones present.

A sheep's radius (Fig. 27, No. 46) has many irregular cut and chop marks and this is due probably to use in a post-medieval manufacturing process (e.g. wire tensioning). A left tibia from cattle also contained an unusual chop mark. This was a 'V' shape, 20mm wide and 10mm deep, cut into the shaft through to the medullary cavity.

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