

EXCAVATIONS AT OLD FORD, 1972-1975

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INTRODUCTION

Rescue excavations at Old Ford began late in 1969 at Lefevre Road where the Roman London-Colchester Road and a late Roman settlement alongside it were discovered. The work continued in 1971 with the examination of sites at Parnell and Appian roads. Here further evidence of the road and settlement was obtained together with traces of inhumation burials to the north of the highway. Other burials, also north of the Road, were located in Armagh Road and just west of it in 1972.

This article contains reports on the most recent excavations in Old Ford, at Morville Street (1972-73) and Usher Road (1974-75). At Morville Street, c. 300m south of the Roman Road, part of a field system in use during the late 1st and 2nd centuries was found, while at Usher Road, between c. 25 and 65m north of the highway, pits and ditches of mid 3rd- to late 4th-century date likewise suggested agricultural activity.

There is also an account of the cremation burial, probably of mid 2nd-century date, found early in 1969 by the contractors during the Lefevre Road redevelopment prior to the commencement of archaeological work. In an appendix, brief summaries of three trial excavations carried out in 1971-72 at Maverton Road, Old Ford Road and Autumn Street are given.

The excavations reported on here were carried out for the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society and were supported by grants from the Department of the Environment.

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EXCAVATIONS AT MORVILLE STREET, E3

Irene Schwab

INTRODUCTION

Excavations at Morville Street, E3, were carried out in 1972 and 1973 on behalf of the Department of the Environment and the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. Although somewhat to the south of the known Roman settlement at Old Ford, evidence of Roman burials had been recorded when the houses were constructed in the late 1860s.¹ It was hoped to investigate the burial area in order to determine whether these were isolated graves or part of a cemetery.

An initial season of excavation took place in February 1972 on a bomb site where Nos. 14-20 Morville Street had once stood (TQ 3715 8320) (Fig. 1). Three trial trenches were excavated by hand and a feature of late Roman date (7) was uncovered. However the top 0.50m of deposits had been badly disturbed by post-medieval ploughing and so when a further area (94.5 sq. m) was excavated, it was first stripped by machine to the level of the surviving undisturbed deposits, c. 10.50m O.D.

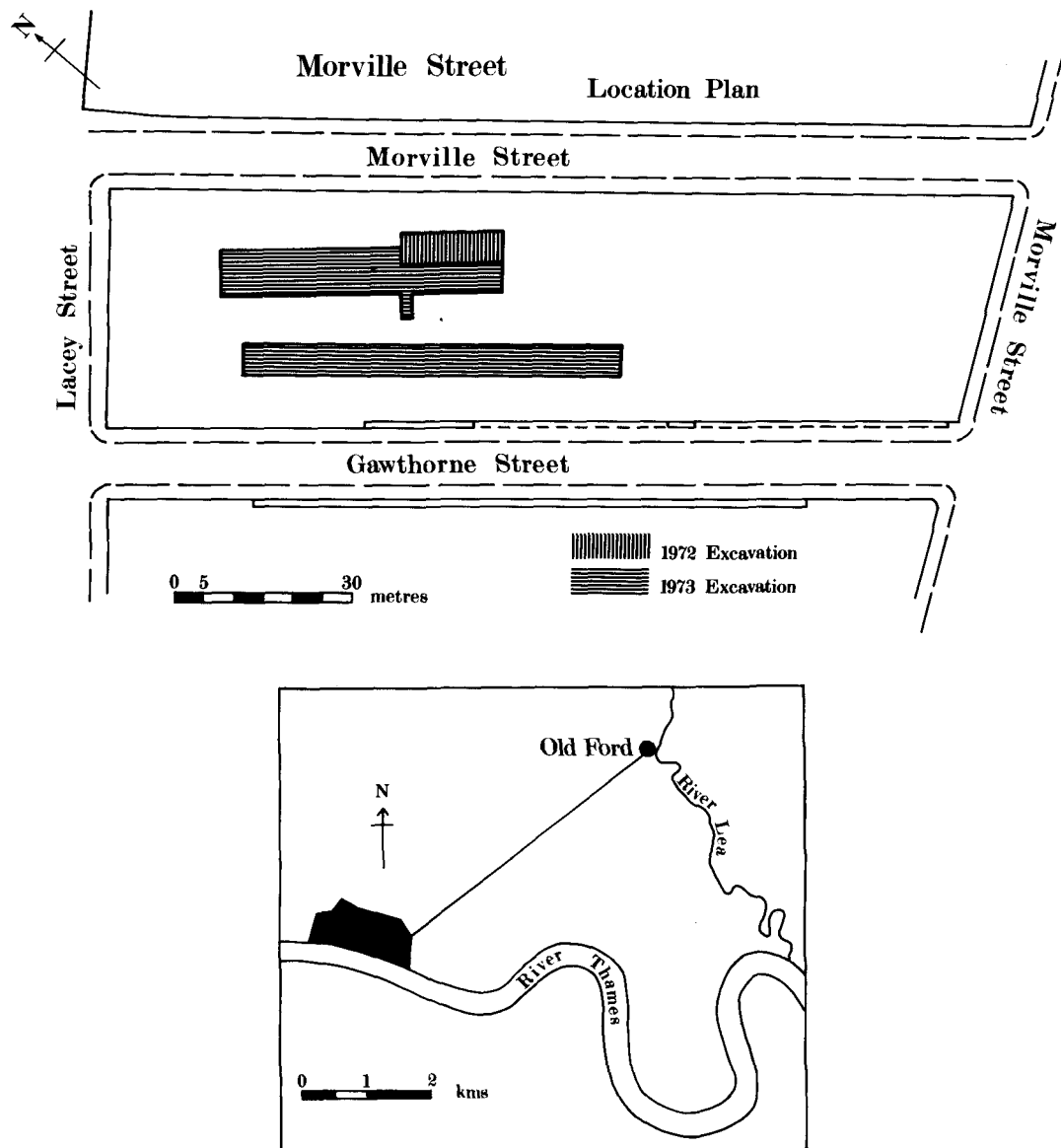


Fig. 1 Morville Street : Site Location Plan.
Inset shows Old Ford in relation to the Roman city of London.

In June 1973 a second season of excavation was begun after most of the houses in Morville Street and the adjacent Gawthorne Street had been demolished prior to redevelopment. Two large trenches covering a total area of 767 sq. m were mechanically excavated to a depth of c. 10.50m O.D., i.e. to the top of the undisturbed levels. The trenches were placed in those areas least likely to have been disturbed by cellars and air-raid shelters, although much modern disturbance was still encountered, particularly in the northern trench (Fig. 2).

The site lies on the Higher Flood Plain gravel terrace which is capped, over much of the site, by patches of brickearth. The Roman features were all cut into the brickearth, but the Roman ground surface had been destroyed by later activity and only the bottom parts of cut features such as pits and ditches remained.

DESCRIPTION OF FEATURES

Features uncovered in the excavations have been divided into three phases of activity, Phase I early Roman, Phase II late Roman and Phase III post-Roman.

The features in Phases I and III consisted exclusively of ditches and a description of these, together with the details of the pit from Phase II, have been presented in Table I with a summary of the dating evidence and the other finds. Information additional to that presented in the table is included in the text below.

Most of the cut features contained a homogeneous brown sandy clay fill sometimes intermixed with pebbles. The similarity of the fills, together with the truncation of all the deposits, probably by ploughing, meant that in most cases it was not possible to determine stratigraphic relationships between features.

Only ten fragments of animal bone were recovered from the site, none of which could be identified.²

PHASE I – EARLY ROMAN

DESCRIPTION

Four ditches (1, 2, 3, 4) all aligned east-west can be assigned with some certainty to this period. Two further ditches (5, 6) lay to the north of 4. They were on a different alignment (Fig. 2) and contained only a small amount of undiagnostic Roman pottery, although 5 also contained a sherd of Flavian samian (see samian report). Although they are not closely datable, they may be associated with an early Roman field system and are therefore described within this phase.

With the exception of 1, all the ditches in Phase I had “U” shaped profiles (Fig. 3). Ditch 1 had a slightly stepped profile. Ditches 2 and 3 converged as they ran westwards (Fig. 2) but because of their identical fills it was not possible to determine their stratigraphic relationship. It is at least a possibility that they were contemporary and designed to merge and continue as one ditch. Ditches 3a and 3b, which were on the same line (Fig. 2), have been described as one although there was no physical connection between the two parts and no dating evidence was obtained from 3b.

DISCUSSION

Ditches 1, 2, 3 and 4 and possibly 6 and 7 were likely to have been part of one or more early Roman field systems, originating in the late 1st/early 2nd century and continuing in use through the 2nd century. The ditches probably represent field boundaries although 1 and 2, which had distinct gradients, may also have been for drainage.

Ditches 1, 2 and 3 are too close together to delineate separate fields and many indicate slight changes in a boundary line. Ditches 1, 2 and 3 were all roughly parallel to ditch 4, but it was not possible to determine which, if any, of these were contemporary with 4. The ditch most likely to have been part of the same system as 4 is 3, both in terms of date and of alignment. Ditch 6, which lay roughly at right-angles to 4, might well have been part of the same system, but the alignment of 5 is closer to that of the post-Roman ditches. None of the ditches in this phase are aligned on the Roman London-Colchester Road (Fig. 29).

MORVILLE STREET site plan

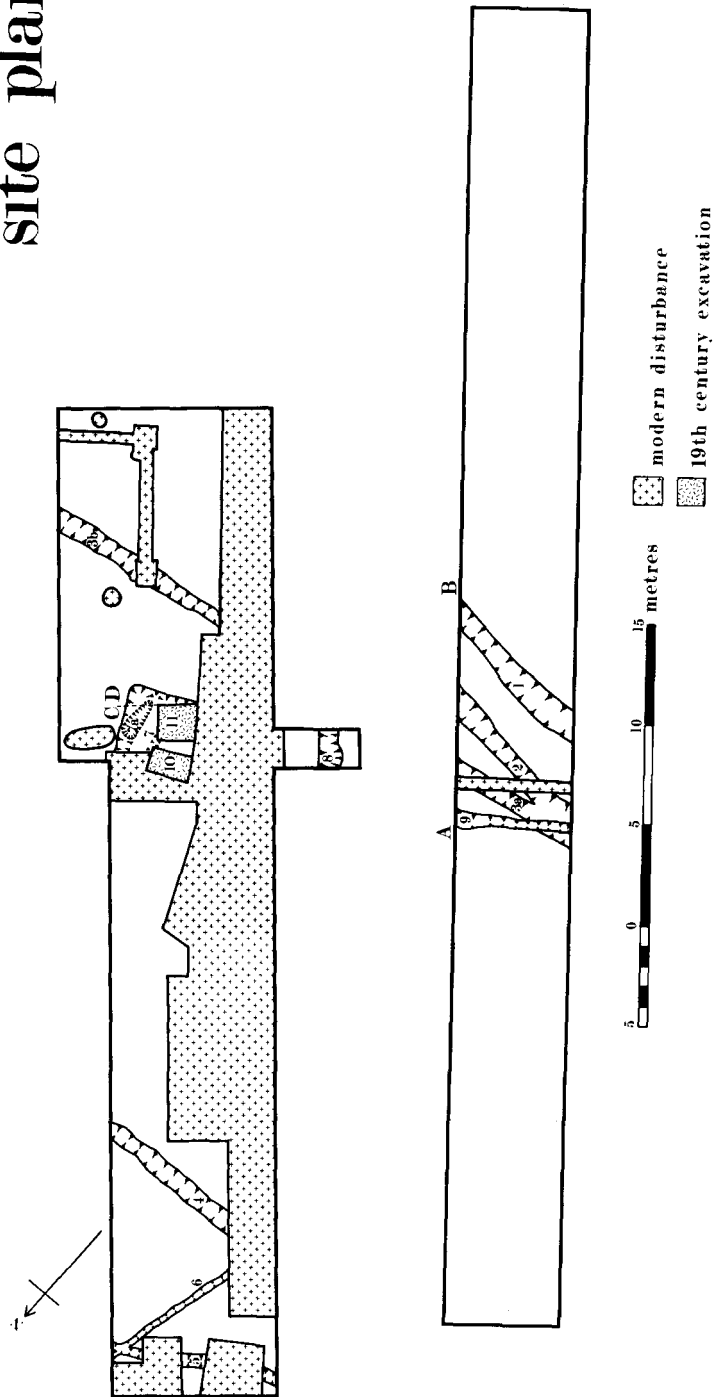


Fig. 2 Morville Street : Site Plan.

PHASE II

DESCRIPTION

A single feature or group of features (7, 7a) was found during the 1972 excavations (Figs. 2, 3 and Table I). It took the form of a shallow rectangular pit (7), the only undisturbed area of which had straight sides and a rounded corner. As with the other features on the site, the top of this pit had been lost, but it retained a depth of 0.25m and had a flat base except in three areas where it had been cut somewhat deeper, to a depth of c. 0.35m. These depressions appeared to be only unevennesses in the base of the pit rather than separate features. Within the easternmost of these depressions was a still deeper cut (7a) which in contrast to the other depressions, had steep, almost vertical sides. It was of sub-rectangular shape, tapering slightly towards the south. It had been cut through the brickearth down into the natural gravel and contained two layers of fill (Table I). In Layer 1 there were no finds apart from four iron nails at the base of the layer. Towards the top of Layer 2 were found two crushed pots (No. 31 and Fig. 5, No. 33). The upper fill of 7a (Layer 2) was identical to that which filled the whole of Feature 7. It was thus not possible to determine the relationship of the deep cut to the shallower surrounding pit. It seems quite possible that they were all part of a single feature.

DISCUSSION

The pottery from this feature dates to the late 3rd-4th century. It is the only late Roman feature on the site with the exception of the burials discovered in 1868 whilst building the houses at Nos. 12 and 14 Morville Street.³ At that time two oolitic limestone coffins and a truncated amphora were found containing a total of six skeletons.

The northern trench included the sites of Nos. 12 and 14 Morville Street, and although this area was heavily disturbed, two features (10, 11) containing Victorian material could be isolated from the surrounding modern disturbance (Fig. 2). It is likely to have been from these that the burials were removed in 1868 although their position does not precisely tally with the published plan of 1870.⁴ This should not be too surprising however, as J. E. Price, who reported on the finds, was not himself present at the discovery and apparently received the plan at second or third hand.⁵

These two Victorian pits (10, 11) cut 7 and if these were the sites of the original burials, they would have lain within the perimeter of 7. Seen within the context of the other burials, it is possible that 7a was also a grave pit. No trace of skeleton or coffin survived except for four nails at the base of the feature. However, the pit is the right size and shape for a grave and the lack of bones is not surprising considering the extremely fragmentary nature of the animal bone from the site. Moreover, the two crushed pots found near the top of 7a are strongly suggestive of grave offerings.

If this were to have been a grave, the shallow pit (7) in which all the burials seem to have lain, would have delineated the burial area. It is just possible that the depressions at the base of 7 may have held marker posts or a timber monument or mausoleum.

There is no evidence to say whether all the burials were deposited at one time or at different stages. J. E. Price reported⁶ that in one coffin, which contained three skeletons, the third body had been interred at a later date than the others. The two skeletons in the amphora, moreover, could only have been placed in that receptacle after decomposition had taken place. If, however, this burial plot was in use for any period of time, there was no stratigraphic evidence in the 1972-3 excavations to indicate separate depositions.

PHASE III

DESCRIPTION

Ditch 8 was found in a small trench excavated between the two main trenches. It was aligned north-west-south-east and a bulge in its south-western edge suggests it might have cut or been cut by a posthole or small pit. If so, it was not possible to isolate this feature in plan.

Ditch 9 was aligned north-east-south-west and it cut Ditch 3.

DISCUSSION

Ditch 8 is the first recorded medieval feature from excavations at Old Ford. The nearest medieval settlement centre was at Bow, c. 900m to the south of Old Ford. It grew up around Bow Bridge, which was constructed in the 12th century to replace the ford crossing of the River Lea. The earliest detailed maps of the district show it as fields.⁷ Morville Street appears to lie within an area of one or more fields, bounded on the north by Barebinder Lane, now Tredegar Road, and on the east by a track, which later became Fairfield Road. When this parcel of land was sold off for building in the 19th century, it seems probable that the street lines would have been laid out along the former property boundaries. The fragments of medieval and

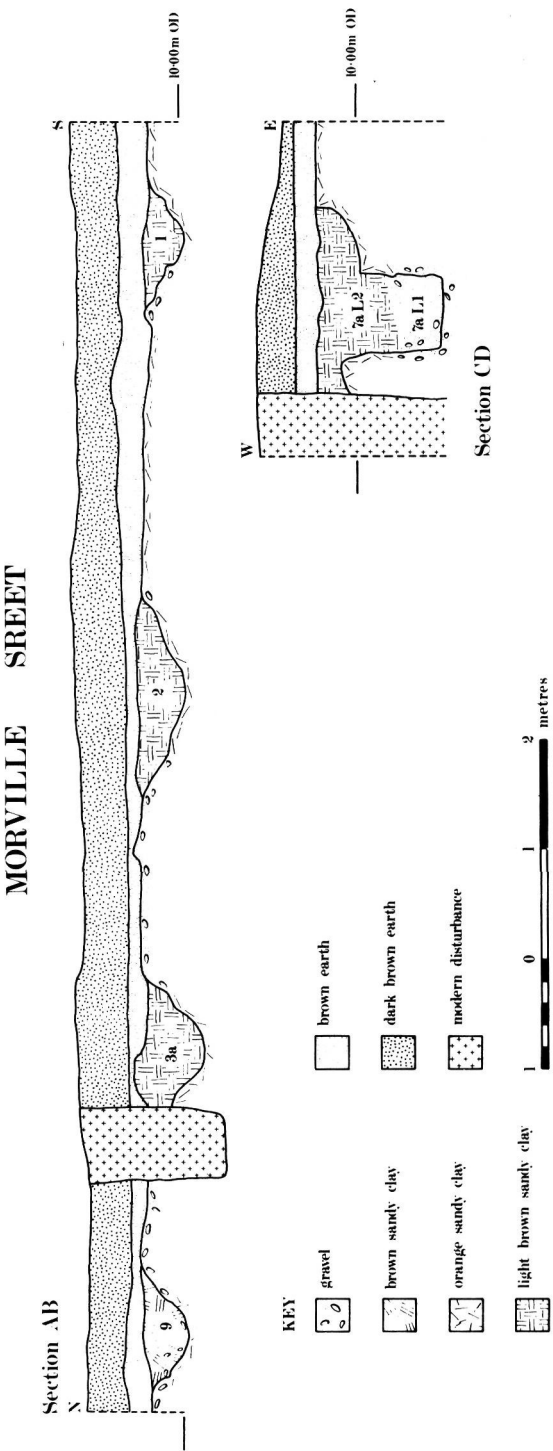


Fig. 3 Morville Street : Sections AB and CD.

post-medieval ditches found at Morville Street align with the 19th-century street pattern and were probably subdivisions of a field.

CONCLUSIONS

The Morville Street ditches of Phase I represent a period of activity stretching from perhaps the late 1st century through the 2nd century, and, with the exception of two 2nd-century features at Lefevre Road⁸ and the cremation from the Lefevre Road development site (see below), they are the clearest evidence of early Roman activity in Old Ford after the building of the road. Indeed, virtually all the evidence from the 1969-1975 excavations belongs to the mid 3rd century and later and suggests a late date for the Old Ford settlement.

However, an early settlement would not necessarily have been located in exactly the same place as the later settlement and as the archaeological work has been geographically restricted, it may not have been carried out within the area affected by early Roman occupation. The Morville Street site lies c. 300m south of the Roman Road and none of the ditches appear to be aligned on it (Fig. 29).

Only one other find of Roman date⁹ has been recorded this far south of the Road. It is not possible to say whether the fields belonged to those living at a roadside settlement to the north of Morville Street or to a farmstead located south of the Road, or perhaps near to the River Lea.

At Usher Road (see below) the fields furthest from the road seemed to be the largest ones. The lack of any late Roman ditches at Morville Street might similarly suggest the use of larger fields.

The possible burial complex may have belonged to some of the wealthier late Roman inhabitants of the area, particularly if a mausoleum had been erected.

NOTES

1. J. E. Price "Notes on Roman remains recently discovered in London and Middlesex" *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 3 (1870) 208-212 and Plate 6.
2. The animal bones were examined by Alison Locker.
3. Price *op. cit.* in note 1, 208.
4. Price *idem.*
5. Price *idem.*
6. Price *ibid.* 211.
7. Gascoyne 1703; Cardwell, survey of the Parish of St. Mary

- Stratford, Bow 1768; Horwood 1819 edition, published by W. Faden.
8. H. L. Sheldon "Excavations at Lefevre Road, Old Ford, E.3" *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 23 part i (1971) 64.
9. W. J. Owen, I. Schwab and H. L. Sheldon "Roman burials from Old Ford, E.3" *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 24 (1973) 145 Appendix, No. 12. The Lacey Street burial (Appendix, No. 5) is probably a duplicate reference to one of the Morville Street coffins.

Table I

Feature No.	Length (in metres)	Breadth (in metres)	Depth (in metres)	Fill Description	Finds	Pottery dating
Phase I						
1	8.00+	1.00 at east 1.40 at west	0.36 at east 0.50 at west	Light brown sandy clay.	Bone, BM, SF 2	L.1st-E.2nd C.
2	6.50+	1.20 at east 0.70 at west	0.42 at east 0.28 at west	Light brown sandy clay containing some pebbles.		2nd C.
3	29.60+			Light brown sandy clay containing some pebbles.		First half of 2nd C.
3a	6.60	0.90	0.50			
3b	9.40	1.10 at east 0.60 at west	0.50 at east 0.30 at west			
4	7.50+	1.00	uneven 0.26-0.50	Brown sandy clay.	Bone, BM, SF 1	Mid 2nd C. Samian : Hadrianic - E. Antonine
5	8.30+	0.55	0.17	Brown sandy clay.		Samian : Flavian
6	7.00+	0.30	0.20	Brown sandy clay.		Roman

Feature No.	Length (in metres)	Breadth (in metres)	Depth (in metres)	Fill Description	Finds	Pottery dating
Phase II						
7	3.80+	3.50+	uneven 0.25-0.35	Light brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal.	BM	L.3rd-4th C.
7a	2.30	0.75	1.12	Orange gravelly sand.	4 iron nails	L.3rd-4th C.
L1				Light brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal.		
L2						
Phase III						
8	1.90+	0.95	0.35	Grey-brown sandy clay with a thin layer of gravel on the SW slope.	BM	13th-14th C.
9	5.40+	0.80 at NW 0.40 at SW	0.20	Brown sandy clay.	Bone, BM	L.16th/E.17th C.

Table I Morville Street : Description of features and dating. (+ after a figure indicates that the full measurement was not obtainable. BM refers to building material; MD to modern disturbance; SF to small finds; the numbers refer to objects in finds reports).

THE FINDS

SAMIAN POTTERY

by Joanna Bird

1. Dr 37, Central Gaul, Trajanic – Hadrianic (From 4).

2. Dr 18R, South Gaul, Flavian, slightly burnt (From 4).
3. Dr 18/31, Central Gaul, Hadrianic-early Antonine, some sherds burnt (From 4).
4. Decorated fragment, South Gaul, Flavian (From 4).
5. Dr 18, South Gaul, Flavian (From 5).

ROMAN POTTERY

by Wendy McIsaac

The pottery from the Roman features on the site has been illustrated and described below. The surfaces of all the sherds had been badly affected by weathering and while they indicate the date of the features, the groups of pottery are too small to provide a basis for any discussion of the pottery industry or trade.

Ditch 1. Late 1st-early 2nd century (Fig. 4)

Jars

1. Dark grey with red surfaces; very soft fine sandy vesicular fabric, grogged.
2. Black; fairly soft grogged vesicular fabric; burnished rim; handmade.
3. Light grey with red surfaces; very soft sandy fabric.
4. Grey; fairly soft grogged fabric.
5. Grey with brownish grey surfaces; very soft grogged fabric; burnished.
6. Black; soft vesicular fabric.
7. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; very soft fine sandy fabric; burnished.
8. Reddish brown with grey exterior; very soft fine sandy fabric; rim and shoulder slipped and burnished. May have been a poppy beaker but only a few possible traces of barbotine dot decoration remain.
9. Brown with grey surfaces; soft sandy fabric.

Bowls and Dishes

10. Grey with red-brown surfaces; fairly soft fine sandy fabric, grogged. Possible traces of burnishing.
11. Black with red to black surfaces; very soft fine sandy fabric, grogged.
12. Brownish grey core, red margins and brown surfaces; soft fine sandy fabric; burnished, rouletted decoration.

Ditch 3. First half of 2nd century (Fig. 4)

Jars

13. Grey with red surfaces; soft fine sandy fabric, grogged.
14. Black core with red margins and grey-brown surfaces; fairly soft fine sandy fabric; burnished.
15. Grey; soft fine sandy fabric; light grey slip.

Mortarium

16. Grey; fairly hard sandy fabric, grogged; burnt.

Ditch 4. Mid 2nd century (Fig. 4, Nos. 17-20; Fig. 5, Nos. 21-30)

Flagons

17. White to buff; slightly soft granulated fabric. Verulamium region.
18. Red; soft sandy fabric; cream slip on surfaces.

Jars

19. Red; soft grogged vesicular fabric.
20. Light grey with brown surfaces; soft fine sandy fabric; rim and exterior slipped and burnished dark grey with barbotine dot decoration.
21. Grey with slightly darker surfaces; soft grogged fabric.
22. Pinkish orange with buff surfaces; soft sandy fabric.
23. Grey; soft fine sandy fabric, grogged.
24. Buff; slightly soft sandy fabric.
25. Grey; soft fine sandy fabric.

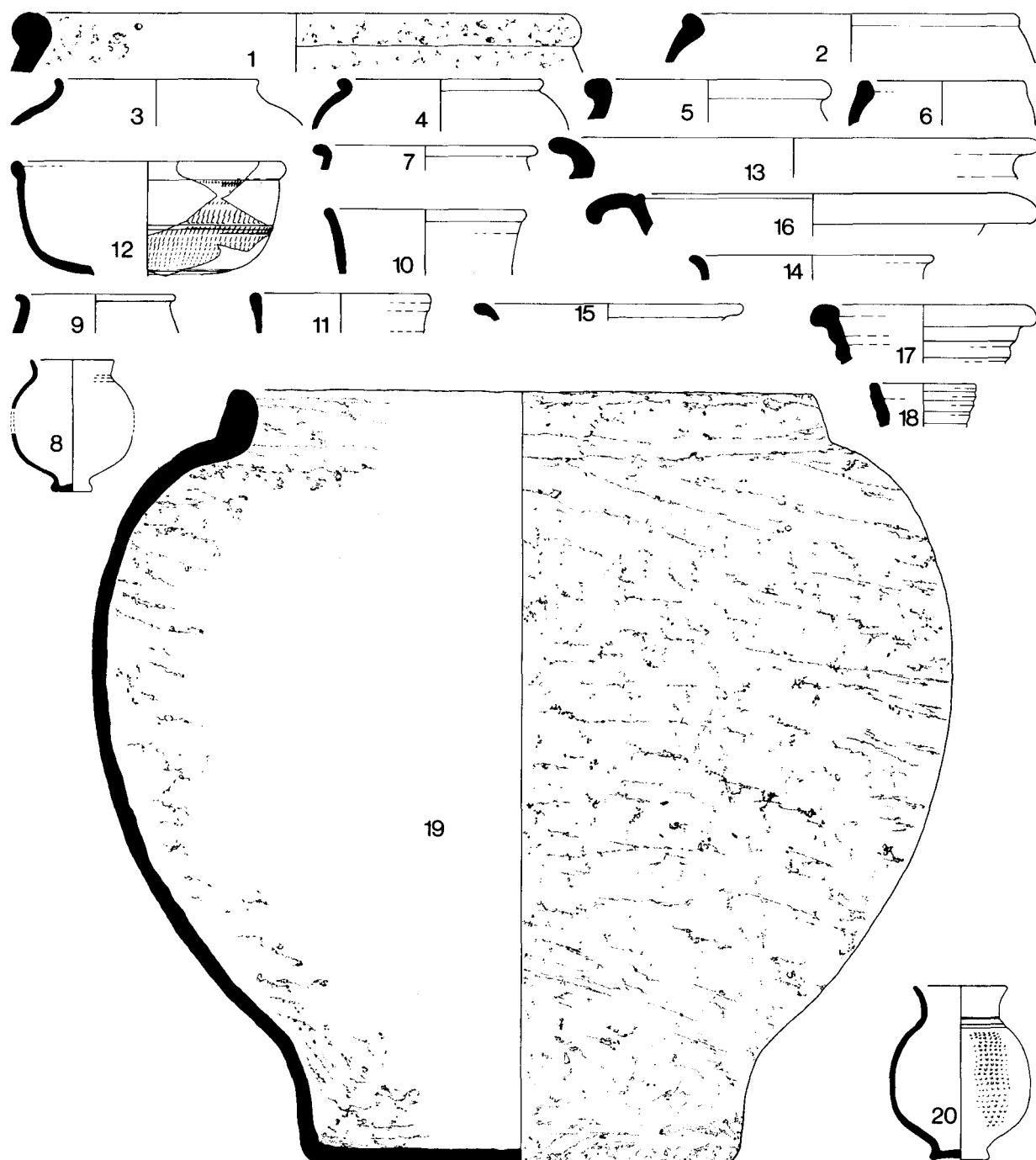


Fig. 4 Morville Street : Roman pottery Nos. 1-20 Phase I. (4)

26. Black; soft fine sandy fabric.
 27. Grey; fairly soft fine sandy fabric, grogged.
 28. Grey; fine sandy fabric.
 29. Brown with grey surfaces; fairly soft sandy fabric; burnished.

Lid

30. Grey with red surfaces; fairly soft sandy fabric, grogged; white slip on exterior.

Bowl

34. Grey; fairly hard fine sandy fabric; traces of burnishing. Features 7 and 7a. Late 3rd-4th century (Fig. 5)

Jars

31. Red with grey exterior surface; slightly soft sandy fabric (Not illustrated).
 32. Grey with greyish brown surfaces; fairly hard sandy fabric.
 33. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; fairly hard sandy fabric.

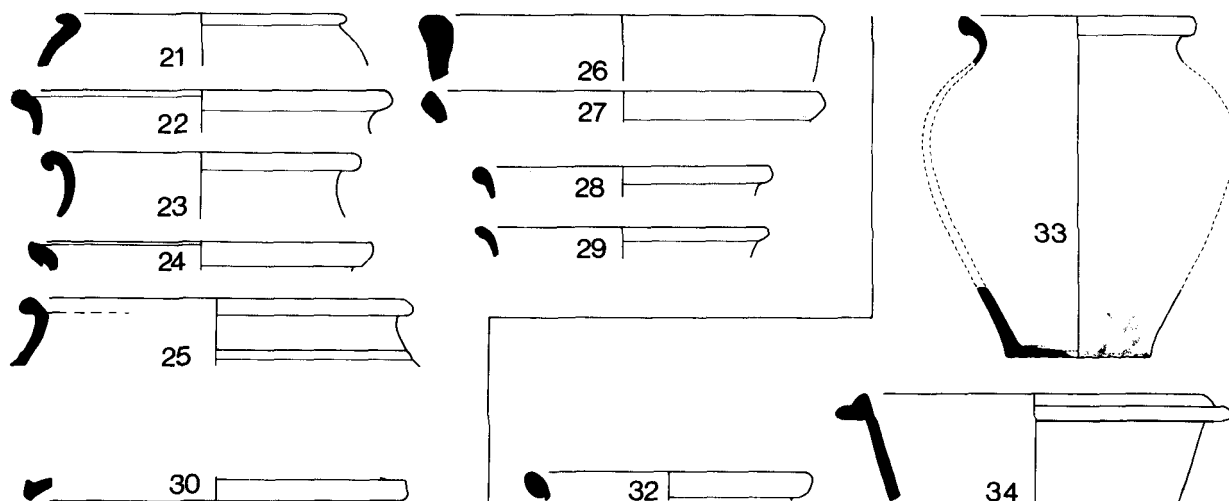


Fig. 5 Morville Street : Roman pottery Nos. 21-30 Phase I; 32-34 Phase II (4)

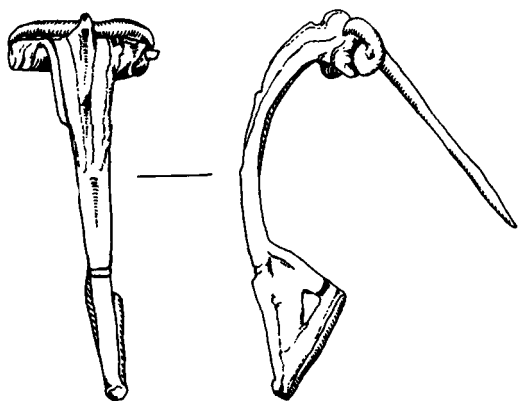


Fig. 6 Morville Street : Bronze brooch. (1/1)

SMALL FINDS

1. Bronze brooch. Camulodunum type IV. Partially covered spring and pierced catchplate. Late 1st – early 2nd century. Illustrated (Fig. 6) (From 4).
2. Fragment of quern or mill. Very worn. 135mm x 92mm. Thickness 118mm. Niedermendig lava (basalt) from the Mayen area of Germany. This stone is common in the London area, see Chapman (1976, 127). (From 1).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chapman (1976) in K. Crouch "The Archaeology of Staines and the Excavation at Elmsleigh House" *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 27 (1976) 127.

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The pottery and brooch were drawn by Doreen Millard; the plans and sections by Dorrie Orchard and Nigel Swift. The quern was examined by Hugh Chapman and Martyn Owen; Geoff Marsh, Tony MacKenna and Harvey Sheldon commented on the Roman pottery. The medieval and later pottery was identified by Elizabeth Platts. Alison Locker examined the animal bones and Bernard Nurse provided help with the documentary evidence. The brooch was conserved by Margaret Garlake. The report was typed by Alison Bristow.

EXCAVATIONS AT USHER ROAD, E.3.

Wendy McIsaac and Irene Schwab

INTRODUCTION

The site (grid ref: TQ 3690 8357) was situated in the Old Ford area of Tower Hamlets (Figs. 1, 7). It was bounded on the north by Old Ford Road, on the south by Roman Road, and lay between Usher Road and Parnell Road. Excavation took place between the summer of 1974 and the spring of the following year.

The aim of the excavation was to investigate further the Roman settlement at Old Ford prior to the redevelopment of the site which covered a total area of c. 7200 sq. m. However, it was decided to concentrate on the southern portion which lay closer to the Roman London to Colchester Road¹ as this seemed the best way of locating associated settlement.

The excavation began after most of the houses fronting on to Parnell and Usher roads had been demolished, and involved the rear parts of these houses and their back gardens. The front parts of the houses were not excavated because they were basemented. Within the excavated area (c. 900 sq. m.), some modern disturbance was encountered, particularly in the gardens where air-raid shelters had been erected. Initially two trenches were dug, one (33.5m x 8.25m) on the eastern and one (20.5m x 8.25m) on the western side of the site. Subsequently the area between these two trenches was excavated and the eastern trench was also extended to the north. The top c. 0.75m was removed by machine as the stratigraphy here had been subjected to post-medieval disturbance.

The site lies on the Higher Flood Plain gravel which, in this area, is overlain by layers of natural sand and brickearth. The features recorded had been cut into the brickearth and some were also dug through into the underlying sand.

DESCRIPTION OF FEATURES

The basic information concerning features on the site has been set out below in two tables. Table II contains a description of the fill, dimensions and OD heights of features. Table III indicates stratigraphic relationships, dating evidence and material including that described in specialist reports. In each table the individual contexts have been grouped under the main types of feature found on the site, i.e. ditches, pits and dark earth. Where information additional to that presented in the two tables is necessary it has been included in the text below.

The truncation of deposits, apparently by ploughing, the recutting of features – particularly ditches, the concentration of features in certain areas, and the similarity in

the colour and texture of their fills made some of the stratigraphic relationships difficult to determine.

The features, consisting mainly of pits and ditches, were concentrated in the southern part of the excavated area (Fig. 8). The ditches had been dug on two alignments at right angles to each other, north-south and east-west.

The total quantity of material recovered from the site was not large, the bulk of it

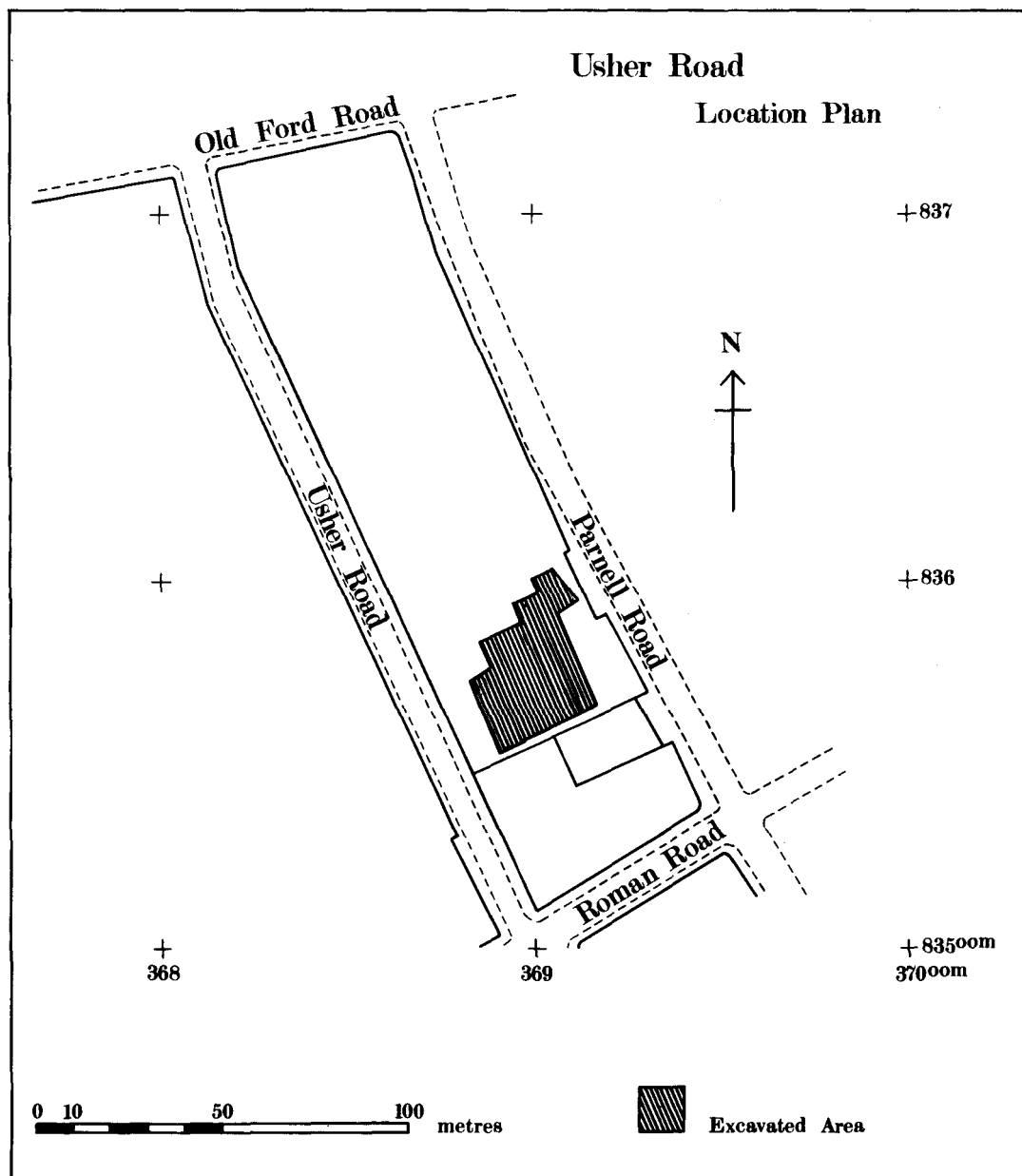


Fig. 7 Usher Road : Site Location Plan.

coming from the ditches. The pottery tended to be fragmentary and abraded. Building material was found in most features, although there was no other evidence of structures. Iron slag was also present in many contexts, but there was no indication that metal working had taken place on the site. Bone was not well preserved, and shell rarely survived (for contexts see Table III).

(The ditches are numbered in Roman numerical sequence, the other features with Arabic numerals).

DITCHES

(Figs. 8, 9)

DESCRIPTION

The profile of most of the ditches on the site was 'U'-shaped, although probably this had been emphasised by weathering. Their dimensions varied; most had widths of one to two metres. A few, particularly the north-south ditches, had been dug through the brickearth into the top of the underlying sand. Their gradients were also variable and no drainage pattern could be discerned.

East-West Ditches

Ditch II probably ran into III which had been cut at right angles to it. The junction of the two had been removed by a later north-south ditch, XIV.

Ditch VI. Modern disturbance precluded the excavation of more than a small portion of this feature although its elongated shape suggests that it was more likely to have been a ditch than a pit.

Ditch VIII had a stepped profile and although it appears in the table as one ditch containing two layers it is possible that Layer 2 could have been a recut.

Ditches IX and X. From the central part of the site, IX and X are listed in the tables as two separate ditches; however it is possible that they were both part of the same ditch. An oolitic limestone statue, probably of Mercury, was discovered lying at the base of IX (see specialist report, Fig. 26 and Plates 1, 2). While east-west ditches VII, IX, X and XVI appeared to run into north-south ditches XII, XIII and XVII, the relationships had been obscured by recutting.

North-South Ditches

Ditches III and XIV appeared to continue in the north-east part of the site, but towards the north it became increasingly difficult to differentiate between their fills.

Ditch XIII. On removal of a modern feature in the north of the site, the western edge of a ditch running north-south was seen in section. This may have been a continuation of XIII as it lay on the same alignment. An area of modern disturbance made it impossible to trace a physical connection between the two.

Ditch XX. Evidence for a ditch was found when a basement was removed to the north of the excavated area on the Usher Road frontage. Only the western edge of the ditch was seen in the section, but it appeared to run north-south and its upper portion had been truncated by ploughing.

43 Dark Earth. A deposit of dark earth filled the hollows left in the top of ditches XVI, XVII and immediately adjacent features (Fig. 13).

DISCUSSION

The quantity of material recovered from the ditches was greater than that from most of the pits, although the earliest ditches contained very little. In general the finds from the ditches in the western part of the site appear to be less abraded than those from the east. The date of the material from the ditches covers the period from mid/late 3rd century-4th century+.

The ditches, which appeared to belong to the same system, were laid out along two main alignments, north-south and east-west. They lay at an angle to the postulated line of the London-Colchester Road which ran 20-28m to the south of the site (Fig. 29). Their primary function was probably to demarcate field boundaries. They may also have served as drainage channels, particularly those dug into the top of the sand, although the level base of some ditches and the inconsistent slope of others suggests this may have been a secondary consideration.

The fields defined by the ditches were rectangular, but it was not possible to excavate a large enough undisturbed area to obtain their full dimensions. It appears that the fields nearer to the road tended to be smaller than those further north. Ditches found in 1976 during trial trenching to the west of Usher Road (Fig. 29) seem to fit this pattern².

PITS

(Figs. 8, 9)

DESCRIPTION

The pits, which varied in size and shape, were concentrated in the southern part of the excavated area. Most pits had their bases in the natural brickearth but 25, 28 and 29 had been dug through this level well into the underlying natural sand.

Most of the pit fills were fairly similar i.e. a brown sandy clay containing flecks of charcoal and burnt clay, with little associated material. Those with unusual characteristics are described below.

Pit 3 had four layers of backfill including one, Layer 3, of structural debris, consisting of fist-sized lumps of burnt clay with stick and grass impressions. Sherds from the same vessel were found scattered throughout the layers and were less abraded than much of the pottery from the site.

Pits 25, 28, 29. The relationship between 25, 28 and 29, situated in the central part of the site, was unclear. They could be separate pits or possibly part of the same feature. Pit 25 contained the skeleton of a dog (see bone report).

DISCUSSION

The undifferentiated fills of most pits, the absence of any apparent silting and the small amount of material they contained suggests that they were backfilled fairly quickly. Where pits and ditches coincide the former are usually stratigraphically earlier. The material contained in the pits ranges in date from the mid 3rd-late 4th century +; most belongs to the late 3rd-mid 4th century. As with the ditches, the bone, pottery and building material recovered from the pits was in an abraded condition, particularly on the eastern part of the site, with the exception of that from 42.

There is little evidence to indicate the function of most of the pits. Pits 21 and 22 which seemed to be associated although there was no stratigraphic relationship, were situated in the north-west part of the site. Pit 22 was very shallow and although it contained no skeleton, its size (1.85m x 0.65m) and shape suggest a possible grave. Pit 21, located immediately east of 22, may have been a post hole for a grave marker. If this feature were a grave, it would conform to the usual pattern of burials in the Old Ford area which are generally found on agricultural land, singly or in small groups³.

Pit 42 was located on the eastern part of the site. This feature contained a thin layer of charcoal representing burning which probably had occurred *in situ* as the underlying earth had been baked. The burnt area and the shape of 42 suggest it may originally have been an oven, but it was subsequently used as a rubbish pit.

Most of the pits seem to respect some sort of boundary c. 37m north of the postulated northern edge of the London-Colchester Road. Only 7% of the pits lay to the north of this 'line'. The pits may have been dug for the extraction of brickearth, although this would have had to have been on a very small scale and in an *ad hoc* manner. It is possible that they had some agricultural function. The quantity of material from Pits 3, 20, 30 and 42 suggests that whatever their original purpose they had been used for rubbish disposal.

CHRONOLOGY

It is clear that not all the features on the site were in use at the same time. To clarify the sequence of activity the features have been divided into four phases.

Phase I (Fig. 10). Mid-late 3rd century (Nos. I-III, 1-3). This is the earliest phase of activity on the site. Pit 3 can be dated to the mid 3rd century, but ditches in this phase are probably slightly later. Only a few pits date to this period.

Phase II (Fig. 11). Late 3rd-mid 4th century (Nos. IV-XV, 4-39). The early ditches went out of use. A new system incorporating VII, IX, XII, XIV and probably IV and VI was laid out. Ditch XIV was dug along the same alignment as III (Phase I). During the phase some of these ditches were recut; IV was cut by V, VII by VIII, IX by X and XII by XIII.

Most of the pits also date from this period although the paucity of material made some of them difficult to date. However, their general character suggests they belong to this phase.

Phase III (Fig. 12). Mid-late 4th century (Nos. XVI-XVIII, 40). Ditches in the west went out of use but the system was continued in the central and eastern parts of the site; XVII replaced XIII, XVIII replaced XIV, and XVI replaced X. Only one pit, 40, belongs in this phase.

Phase IV (Fig. 13). Late 4th century+ (Nos. XIX, 41-43). By this time all the east-west ditches and the central north-south ditches had been discontinued. However, on the eastern part of the site XVIII was replaced by XIX. Pit 42, a possible oven, was in use and subsequently served as a rubbish dump. In the central part of the excavated area a dark earth, 43, filled in the hollows left in the top of the Phase III ditches.

USHER ROAD site plan

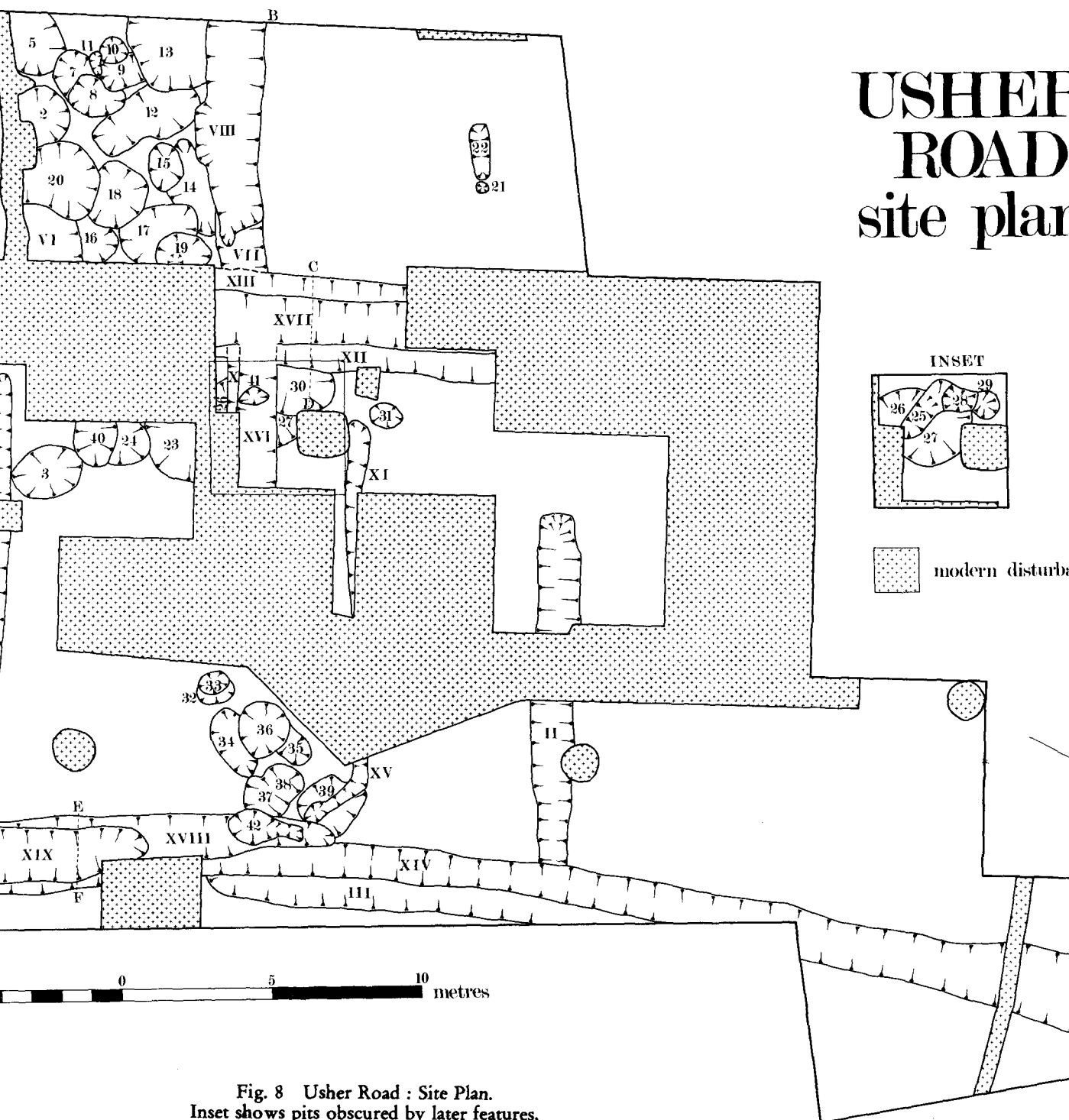


Fig. 8 Usher Road : Site Plan.
Inset shows pits obscured by later features.

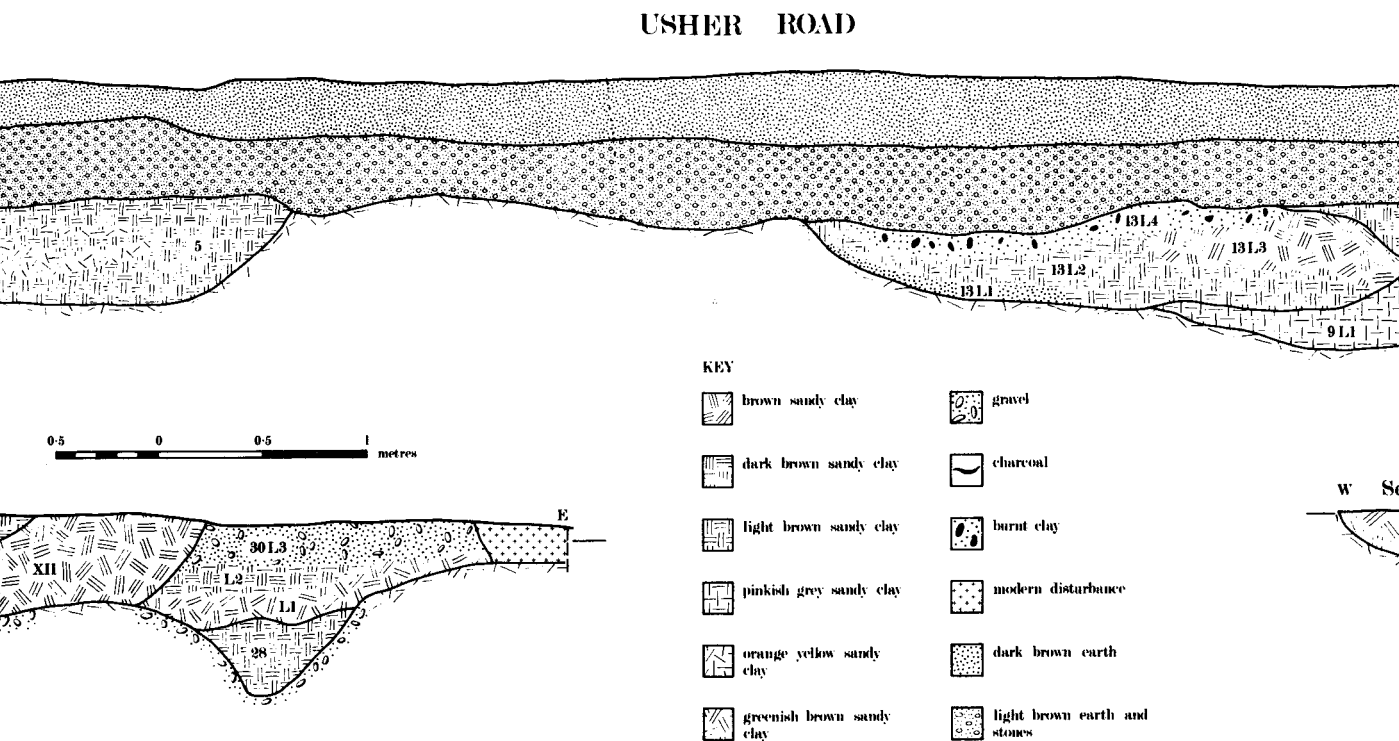


Fig. 9 Usher Road : Sections AB, CD and

CONCLUSIONS

At Usher Road a large area, c. 900 sq. m., was examined and as at other sites in Old Ford⁴, the top c.0.75m of deposits had suffered from plough damage and the Roman ground surface had been lost. However enough survived of the features to indicate that in the later Roman period the site was utilised for fields and not for settlement. The ditches were almost certainly field boundaries although they may also have had other functions.

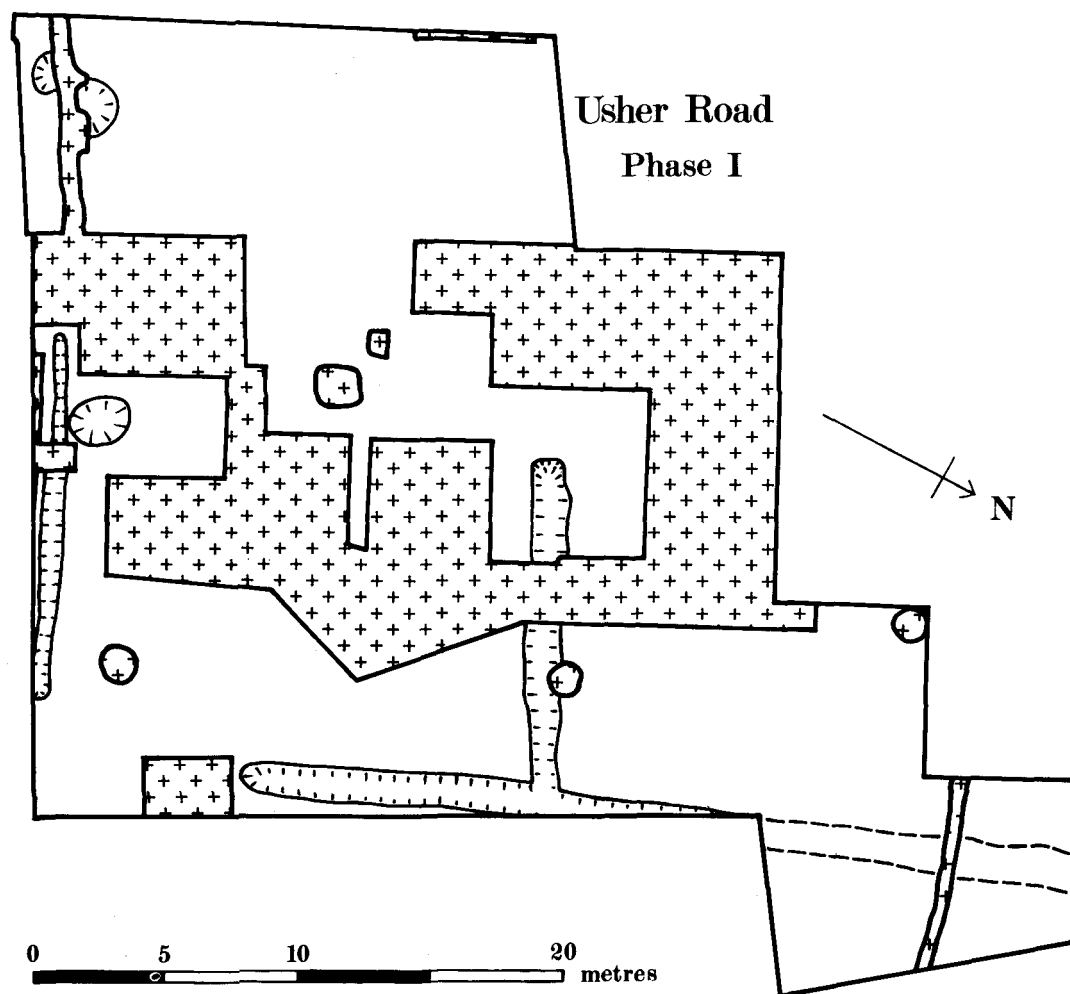


Fig. 10 Usher Road : Plan of features in Phase I.

Within the excavated area 19 ditches were recorded, covering a date range of c.150 years. The system was first laid out in the mid-late 3rd century and was renewed at least four times, apparently once every generation. Throughout the period the fields to the north appeared to be larger than those to the south, although it was not possible to obtain the exact dimensions of any one field.

The earliest system (Phase I) was replaced in the late 3rd-mid 4th century (Phase II) by

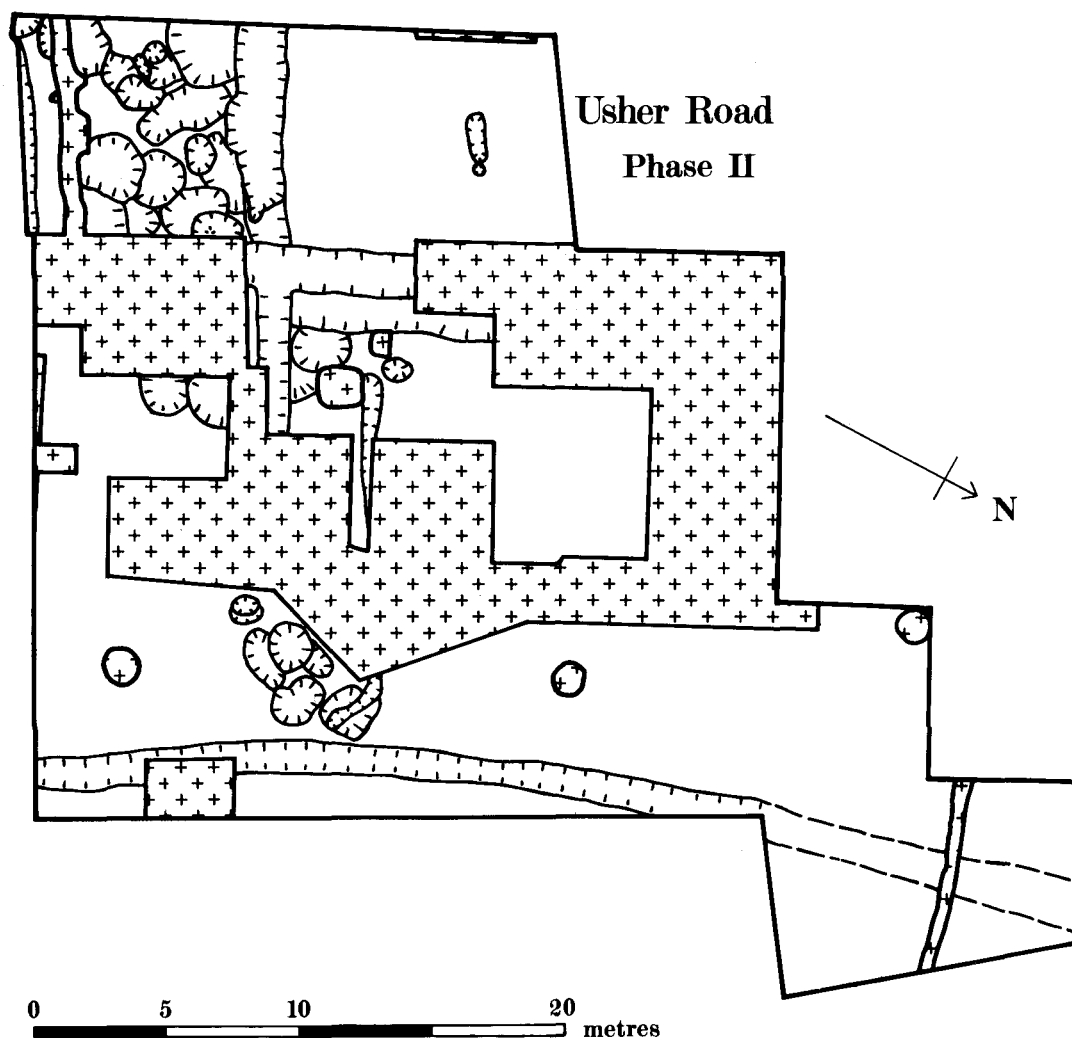


Fig. 11 Usher Road : Plan of features in Phase II.

one involving more ditches, which, at least in some cases, seemed to enclose smaller areas. After the mid 4th century there were again fewer divisions and activity on the western part of the site ceased. Features dating to phases III and IV were only found towards the east of the excavated area. This might imply a return to larger fields or that the settlement contracted or moved further to the east. The latter might also be suggested by the coin distributions (see coin report p. 77).

Only one ditch alignment remained in use through all four phases and it seemed to indicate the continuity of a boundary running north-south along the eastern edge of the site. From the mid-late 4th century the line did not stretch as far north as previously.

The London-Colchester Road, which lay only 20-28m from the southern edge of the site, was in use throughout the period of Roman occupation⁵. If its proposed line is correct⁶, the fields do not appear to have been aligned on it (Fig. 29).

Unlike the ditches, the rough boundary that the pits seemed to respect, 37m north of the highway, appears to have been parallel to the road line.

The majority of the pits (90%) were backfilled between the late 3rd and the mid 4th century, averaging out at about one pit every two years. The function of some pits can be identified, i.e. rubbish pits, oven, grave pit, but for most it remains obscure.

Soil samples from both pits and ditches were examined⁷ but, apart from unidentifiable flecks of charcoal, the only surviving environmental remains were animal bones. The small quantity of bone recovered from the site provides little evidence on which to base detailed conclusions about the economy of the area.

Apart from a few residual sherds and coins, there is no evidence for activity at Usher Road before the mid 3rd century. The most substantial use of the site appears to have been in the late 3rd-mid 4th century and there was very little evidence of activity after the late 4th century. Indeed, there is no reason to suppose that any feature continued in use after the beginning of the 5th century.

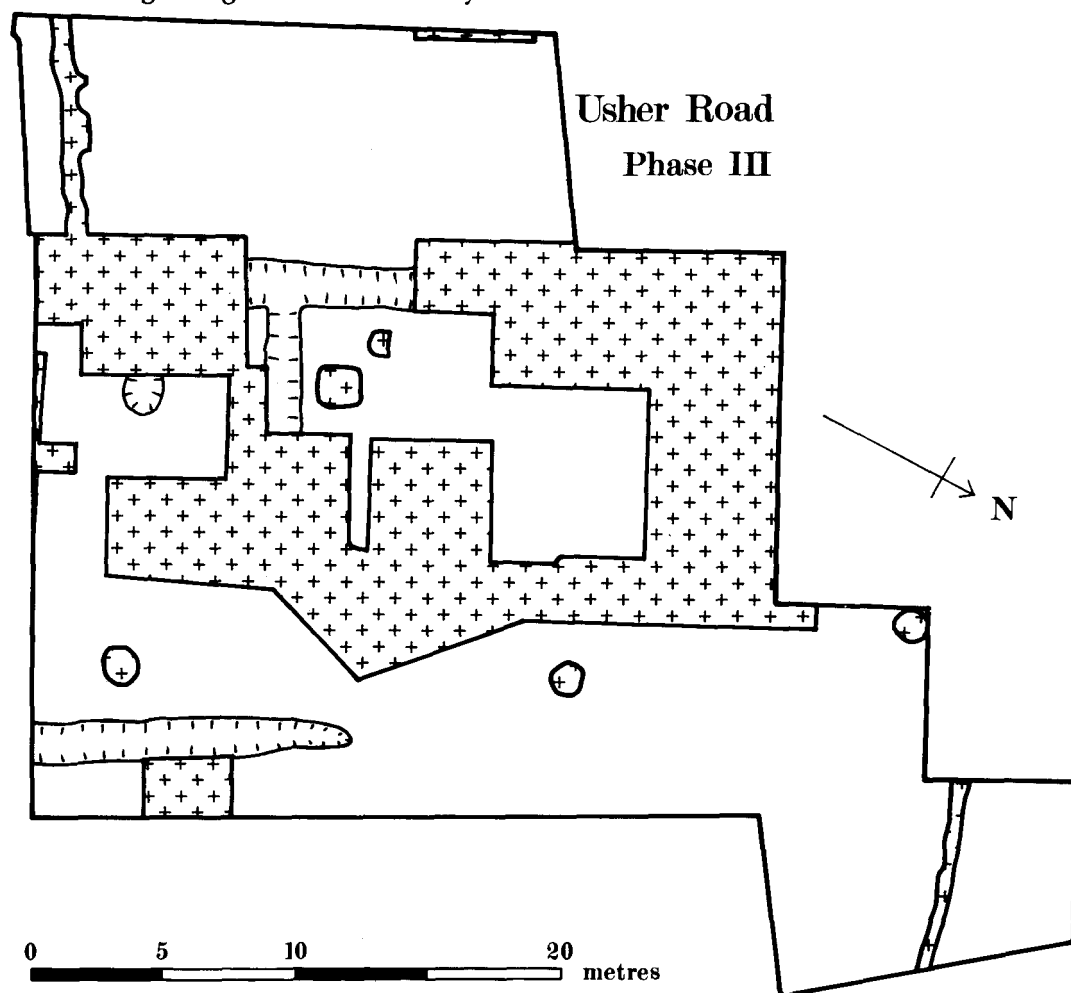


Fig. 12 Usher Road : Plan of features in Phase III.

NOTES

1. The most recent alignment of the road is that published in Owen *et al* 'Roman burials from Old Ford, E3' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 24 (1973) 135, Fig. 1.
2. Inner London Archaeological Unit 'Sites investigated by the Inner London Archaeological Unit 1974-1976' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 28 (1977) 256.
3. Owen *op. cit.* in note 1. 135-145; see also p.44 present volume.
4. H. L. Sheldon 'Excavations at Parnell Road and Appian Road, Old Ford, E3' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 23, part ii (1972) 106, Fig. 4.
5. *Op. cit.* in note 2 'Parnell Road/Usher Road, Old Ford, E3', 255 and 'Usher Road/Armagh Road, Old Ford, E3', 256.
6. I. Schwab 'Excavations at Morville St, E3' present volume p.40.
7. H. L. Sheldon 'Excavations at Lefevre Road, Old Ford, E3' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 23, part i (1971) 42.
8. See note 1.
9. The examinations were carried out by Alison Locker and Penny Spencer.

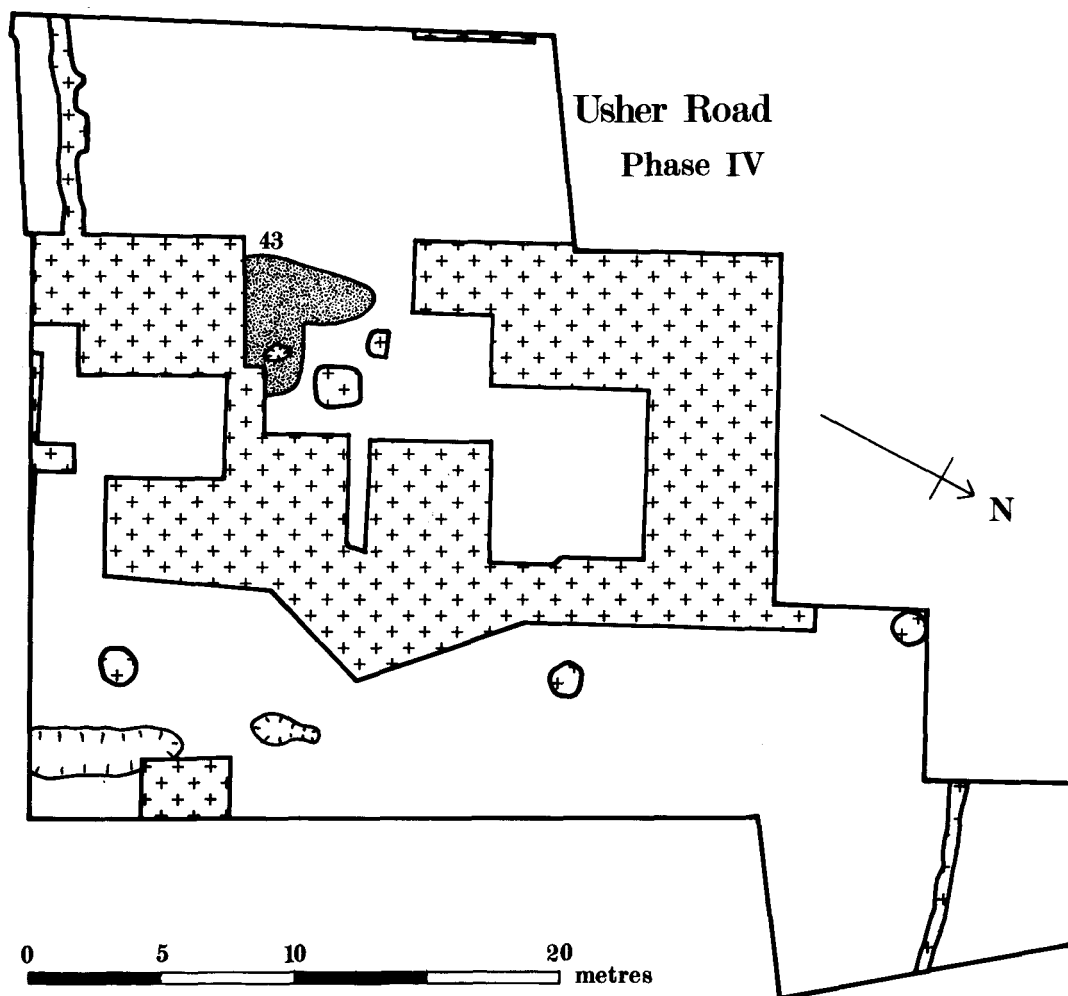


Fig. 13 Usher Road : Plan of features in Phase IV.

Table II Usher Road. Description of Features

(For abbreviations see Table I)

Context	Fill Description	Length (in metres)	Breadth (in metres)	Depth (in metres)	Height of base + O.D. (in metres)
Ditches					
I		14.00	0.60	0.35	10.55
Layer 1	Light pink orange sandy clay with flecks of charcoal, separated from Layer 2 by a spread of charcoal in one area.				
Layer 2	Light brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal.				
II	Orange-light brown clay, lenses of grey silty clay with burnt material and flecks of charcoal.	12.00	1.40	0.50	10.40
III	Light brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	37.50+	1.30	0.50	10.30-10.60
IV		5.30+	0.60+	0.40	10.12
Layer 1	Yellowish green sandy clay				
Layer 2	Grey-green sandy clay with flecks of charcoal.				
V		7.60+	0.60+	0.80	10.48
Layer 1	Orange sandy gravel.				
Layer 2	Brown sandy clay with flecks of burnt clay and charcoal.				
Layer 3	Patch of grey-brown sandy clay at east end.				
Layer 4	Patch of yellow clay with flecks of burnt clay and charcoal at east end.				
Layer 5	Patch of brown earth with flecks of burnt clay at east end.				
Layer 6	Small patch of yellow clay with flecks of burnt clay and charcoal.				
Layer 7	Dark grey-brown earth.				
VI		3.45+	1.85+	0.77	10.40
Layer 1	Mixture of dark grey and pinkish sandy clay.				
Layer 2	Pinkish grey sandy clay.				
Layer 3	Pinkish clay with grey streaks.				
Layer 4	Orange sandy gravel.				
Layer 5	Yellow clay with flecks of burnt clay and charcoal.				
VII	Pinkish grey sandy clay.	8.30+	1.50+	0.58	10.50
VIII		7.50+	1.85	0.63	10.53
Layer 1	Light greyish brown sandy clay with flecks of burnt clay.				
Layer 2	Dark brown sandy clay.				
IX	Grey sandy clay with gravel patches, also lumps of yellow clay towards the top, flecks of charcoal.	3.50+	0.80+	0.50	10.34

Context	Fill Description	Length (in metres)	Breadth (in metres)	Depth (in metres)	Height of base + O.D. (in metres)
X	Brown-grey sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and iron staining.	3.50+	0.85+	0.40	10.50
XI	Brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal.	6.60+	0.70	0.25	10.70
XII	Mottled light brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks.	9.75+	0.80+	0.55	10.30-10.48
XIII	Light brown to brown soft sandy clay with charcoal flecks.	9.75+	1.00+	0.70	10.25-10.50
XIV	Light brown to brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks.	39.50+	1.20	0.50	10.40-10.70
XV	Mottled brown soft sandy clay with a green tinge.	3.00+	0.45	0.40	10.40
XVI	Brown fairly loose sandy clay with fragments of burnt clay and charcoal flecks. Towards the top of the feature patches of yellow clay became common.	4.75+	1.25	0.40	10.50
XVII	Dark brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks.	9.75+	1.60	0.65	10.25-10.48
XVIII	Brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks.	12.00+	1.50	0.60	10.40-10.60
XIX		5.75+	1.80	0.50	10.57-10.74
Layer 1	Dark brown fairly loose sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.				
Layer 2	Dark brown-black sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. Patches of orange clay are common at the base of this layer.				
XX	Brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	5.00+	0.55+	0.50	
Pits					
1	Grey sandy clay with streaks of yellow clay.	1.55	0.75+	0.24	10.78
2		2.20	1.65+	1.00	9.99
Layer 1	Dark grey silt with flecks of charcoal.				
Layer 2	Light brown sandy clay.				
3		2.40	1.55	0.65	10.35
Layer 1	Light brown sand with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.				
Layer 2	Brown-black sandy clay with a few lumps of burnt clay.				
Layer 3	Sandy clay matrix containing charcoal and numerous fist-sized lumps of burnt clay.				
Layer 4	Black sandy clay with small lumps of burnt clay and flecks of charcoal.				
4	Grey earth.	0.40	0.30+	0.10	10.89
5	Light brown sandy clay with streaks of yellow clay.	3.00	2.30	0.30	10.72

Context	Fill Description	Length (in metres)	Breadth (in metres)	Depth (in metres)	Height of base + O.D. (in metres)
6	Very dark brown earth.	1.25+	0.80+	0.45	10.88
7	Blue-grey sandy clay.	1.40	1.00+	0.16	10.68
8	Grey-brown sandy clay.	1.65	1.30	0.45	10.44
9		3.20	1.05	0.45	10.50
Layer 1	Light pinkish grey sandy clay.				
Layer 2	Light brown sandy clay with a patch of darker clay in the middle.				
10	Mottled yellow and grey sandy clay.	0.90	0.90	0.35	10.57
11	Grey-brown sandy clay.	0.80	0.35	0.07	10.79
12		3.65	1.85	0.57	10.41
Layer 1	Pinkish grey sandy clay.				
Layer 2	Grey-brown sandy clay.				
13		2.60+	2.40+	0.49	10.70
Layer 1	Dark brown earth with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.				
Layer 2	Light brown sandy clay.				
Layer 3	Brown sandy clay with streaks of yellow clay.				
Layer 4	Dark brown earth containing fragments of burnt clay and charcoal.				
14		3.35	1.45+	0.40	10.50
Layer 1	Pinkish grey sandy clay.				
Layer 2	Gravel in an orange clay matrix.				
15	Light brown sandy clay.	1.60	1.10	0.25	10.82
16	Pinkish grey sandy clay containing lenses of gravel.	1.60+	1.35+	0.30	10.47
17	Brown sandy clay.	2.65	1.85+	0.35	10.64
18	Light brown sandy clay.	2.20	1.90	0.50	10.49
19	Grey sandy clay with patches of yellow clay.	1.80	1.05+	0.40	10.56
20	Dark brown clayey earth.	2.55+	2.60	0.15	10.76
21	Brown earth.	0.40	0.40	0.10	10.89
22	Brown sandy clay.	1.85	0.65	0.06	10.93
23	Light brown sandy clay with patches of yellow clay, flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.80+	1.70+	0.40	10.50
24	Light brown to brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.70	1.50+	0.30	10.53
25	Lenses of sand and clay varying from yellow to mottled grey with iron staining and flecks of charcoal. The deposit immediately surrounding the dog skeleton was green.	2.50	0.85	0.83	9.65
26	Mottled orange and grey sandy clay with numerous charcoal flecks and some burnt clay.	1.20+	1.10+	0.40	10.60
27	Light brown-orange sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	2.50	1.30+	0.55	10.29

Context	Fill Description	Length (in metres)	Breadth (in metres)	Depth (in metres)	Height of base + O.D. (in metres)
28	Very light brown sandy clay.	0.90+	0.50+	0.90	9.70
29	Light brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.00	0.90+	0.60	10.44
30		2.50	1.60	0.50	10.55
Layer 1	Greenish brown sandy clay with numerous charcoal flecks.				
Layer 2	Dark brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.				
Layer 3	Dark brown, gravelly earth with numerous charcoal flecks.				
31	Very light brown, sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.05	0.85	0.32	10.71
32	Light brown-pinkish grey sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.25	0.55	0.50	10.35
33	Dark brown-black sandy clay containing patches of clay.	1.00	0.55	0.40	10.44
34	Brown fairly sandy clay containing patches of orange clay, flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	2.45	1.25	0.40	10.43
35	Brown sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.00+	1.00	0.35	10.45
36	Brown, soft sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.90	1.60	0.40	10.43
37	Brown clay with a few flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.70	1.00+	0.50	10.50
38	Brown clay with a few flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.30	1.00+	0.50	10.50
39	Light brown sandy clay with flecks of burnt clay.	2.35	2.10	0.40	10.40
40	Light brown to brown sandy clay with patches of yellow clay, flecks of charcoal and burnt clay.	1.55+	1.40	0.30	10.53
41	Black, loose fine grained earth with charcoal flecks.	1.00	0.50	0.30	10.85
42	Dark brown sandy clay with a thin layer of charcoal just above the bottom. The sandy clay immediately underlying the charcoal had been burnt.	2.50	1.20	0.28	10.54
Dark earth 43	Dark brown-black fairly clayey earth with flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. The bottom of this layer at its northern end consisted of a spread of charcoal.	irregular – see Fig. 13	irregular – see Fig. 13	0.20	10.95

Table III Usher Road. Stratigraphic relationships and dating.
(For abbreviations see Table I. Only the latest coin in each feature is given.)

Context	Cuts	Cut by	Pottery dating	Coin dating	Other finds
Ditches					
I		MD	Possibly pre L. 3rd C.		BM, slag, glass 1
II		XIV, MD	Possibly pre L. 3rd C.		Bone, BM, SF 1
III		XIV, MD	Possibly pre L. 3rd C.		Bone, BM
IV		V, MD	Probably L. 3rd C.		Bone, BM, slag
V	IV	6, MD	L. 3rd-E. 4th C.	270s-80s	Bone, BM, slag, SF 2, 18, 19
VI	2, 16	20, MD	L. 3rd C.		Bone, BM, SF 3
VII	12, 13, 14	VIII, XIII	L. 3rd-E. 4th C.		Bone, BM
VIII	VII, 12, 13, 14		First half of 4th C.	330-335	Bone, BM, slag, SF 4, 30
IX	25, 26	X, MD	L. 3rd-4th C.	259-68	Bone, BM, sculpture
X	IX, XII, 27	XVI, XVII, MD	Up to mid 4th C.		Bone, BM, glass 10, SF 23
XI		MD	320-50		Bone, BM
XII	30	X, XIII, XVI, XVII, MD	Early 4th C.		Bone, BM
XIII	VII, XII	XVII, MD	E.-mid 4th C.		Bone, BM, SF 9, 26
XIV	II, III	XVIII, XIX, MD	L. 3rd-E. 4th C.	318	Bone, BM, slag, SF 21
XV	39	XVIII, MD			BM, slag
XVI	X, XII, 25, 27, 30	41, underlies 43; MD	Mid 4th C.	350s-360s	Bone, BM, slag, SF 25
XVII	IX, X, XII, XIII	underlies 43; MD	Mid-L. 4th C.	388-402	Bone, BM, SF 10, 11
XVIII	XIV, XV, 37, 39	XIX, 42, MD	Mid-L. 4th C.		Bone, BM
XIX	XIV, XVIII	MD	L. 4th C. +	367-78	Bone, BM, slag, glass 7, 8, SF 7, 17
XX					
Pits					
1		4, 5, MD	Up to L. 3rd C.		BM
2		VI, 20, MD	Up to L. 3rd C.		Bone, BM, slag, SF 20
3		40	Mid 3rd C.		Bone, BM
4	1	MD			
5	1	6, 7, MD			Bone, BM, slag, glass 9
6	V, 5		Late Roman		Bone
7	5	8, 11			Bone, BM
8	7, 12	9	Late Roman		BM, slag
9	8	10, 11, 12, 13	L. 3rd-4th C.		Bone, BM, slag, glass 2
10	9	11	Late Roman		
11	7, 9, 10				SF 5
12	9	VIII, 8, 13	L. 3rd-4th C.		Bone, BM, slag
13	9, 12	VII, VIII	First half of 4th C.	270s-80s	Bone, BM, slag, glass 3, 4, SF 16
14		VII, VIII, 15, 17	L. 3rd-4th C.		Bone, BM
15	14		Mid 4th C.	293-296	BM
16		VI, 18, 20, MD	L. 3rd-4th C.		Bone, BM, SF 27
17	14	18, 19, MD	L. 3rd-4th C.		Bone, BM, glass 5, SF 31
18	16, 17	20	L. 3rd-4th C.		Bone, BM, slag
19	17	MD	Late Roman	287-90	
20	VI, 2, 16, 18	MD	Probably 320-360	270s-80s	Bone, BM, glass 6, 11, 12, SF 14, 24, 28
21			Roman		
22			Roman		
23		24, MD	L. 3rd-E. 4th C.	111	Bone, BM, slag
24	23	40, MD	E.-mid 4th C.		Bone, BM
25	26, 27 (relationship to 28 is ambiguous)	IX, XVI, 30, MD	4th C. probably 300-60	c. 250-90	Bone (dog skeleton), BM, slag
26		IX, 25, MD	300-50		Bone, BM
27		X, XVI, 25, 28, 30, MD	4th C. probably 300-60E. 3rd C.		Bone, BM
28	27 (relationship to 25 and 29 is ambiguous)	30	4th C.		BM
29	(relationship to 28 is ambiguous)	30	4th C.		BM
30	25, 27, 28, 29	XII, XVI, MD	320-70	287-90	Bone, BM, SF 15
31			4th C.		BM
32		33	L. 3rd-E. 4th C.		BM
33	32		300-360		BM
34		36	Roman		BM
35		36	Late Roman		BM

Table III *continued*

Context	Cuts	Cut by	Pottery dating	Coin dating	Other finds
36	34, 35		Late Roman		BM
37	(relationship to 38 is ambiguous)	XVIII, 42	Late Roman		BM
38	(relationship to 37 is ambiguous)		Late Roman		BM, SF 6
39		XV, XVIII			
40	3, 24	MD	Mid 4th C.	287-90	Bone, BM
41	XVI, 43		L. 4th C.	270s-80s	BM
42	XVIII, 37		L. 4th C.	388-402	Bone, BM, SF 8, 12, 29
Dark Earth					
43	overlies XII, XIII, XVIII	41, MD	L. 4th C.	388-402	Bone, BM, SF 13

THE FINDS STAMPED SAMIAN

by B. R. Hartley and Brenda Dickinson

MITY II 8 (I.1) in the mould of form 37. Die 2a, Libertus iii of Lezoux. This is a good example of the ovolo used by this rare potter; the rosette is also characteristic. Stamp 2a was also used

on forms 79 and 80, and occurs at Malton and Castlecary, so c. AD 155-185 is a likely date (*Fig. 14*).
(From XIV).

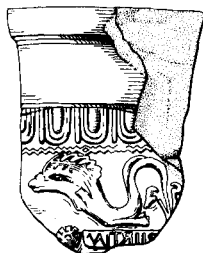


Fig. 14 Usher Road : Stamped samian. (½)

ROMAN POTTERY

by Wendy McIsaac

INTRODUCTION

The late Roman pottery described and illustrated below has been set out in the four phases mentioned in the text of the excavation report above. The material has been presented by feature within each phase.

The samian from features which were dated on the basis of the coarseware to the mid-late 3rd century was examined by Geoff Marsh. It was fragmentary and of 2nd-century date and therefore with the exception of one unusual stamp reported above, it has not been published. Possible residual coarseware has not been removed as its inclusion was considered less likely to perpetuate misconceptions concerning the occurrence of certain vessel types than its omission. A large number of vessels has been included in this report. This is because the evidence for the correlation of features across the site is based largely on the pottery dating.

Joanna Bird dated the pottery. The Alice Holt material was identified by Malcolm Lyne; Chris Young commented on the Oxfordshire and Much Hadham products and Geoff Marsh looked at the Black Burnished ware. The numbers following the Oxfordshire vessels refer to types defined by Young (1977).

DISCUSSION

The sherds recovered from the excavation were in an abraded condition as would be expected from an agricultural site and no complete vessels were found. The assemblages presented below appear to be fairly representative of the number and type of vessel from the site, although everted rim jars are probably slightly underrepresented due to the manner in which they break. The Mayen ware and several Oxfordshire forms have not been illustrated (see below).

The place of manufacture of the bulk of the Roman coarsewares from Usher Road cannot be identified. However, the site's location on the London-Colchester Road and the pottery itself suggests much of it came from the Essex sites (e.g.: *cf.* material from Mucking, Rodwell (1973, 19-47)).

Black Burnished ware has not been designated in the pottery descriptions because of the difficulties involved in identifying it with any certainty. Possible BB1 vessels include Nos. 1, 3, 6, 46, 47, 48, 86. There are others which are similar to BB1 types, but it is possible that these are local copies. Most of the Black Burnished ware and its derivatives were found in Phases I and II. Other identifiable sources include the Much Hadham kilns. The number of these sherds, found in Phases II, III and IV is not large, but its contribution to the total amount of pottery is greater than that from the Alice Holt industry. The latter is confined mainly to Phase IV. Vessels of the so called "Romano-Saxon" type occur only in the early-mid 4th century on the site.

Almost all the colour-coated wares come from either the Oxfordshire or Nene Valley kilns (although it is possible that some of the vessels designated as Nene Valley could be from Colchester). Oxfordshire and Nene Valley products were both introduced in Phase II, but the former were more common. While the majority of the Oxfordshire wares are red colour-coated types, the Parchment ware is well represented in Phases II and III. All the illustrated examples of the latter are open forms, however a few body sherds from closed vessels were recovered. Not illustrated also is an Oxfordshire sherd, form C.75, Young (1977, 164) found in Context 43. It has a white coating unlike most other vessels of this type which are usually coated red. It is not possible to tell if this was intentional or accidental. The only similar example known is from Bath, Young (1977, 316).

Apart from the few sherds of colour-coated beaker which may have come from Germany, Fulford (1977, 303) the only imports consisted of a couple of tiny fragments from central Gaul and two body sherds of Mayen ware found in Phase II and III ditches.

Many of the vessels present at Usher Road have parallels from the Appian Road, Hammerson (1972, 111-127) and Lefevre Road, Sheldon (1971, 54-64) sites in Old Ford. However, the composition of these assemblages reflects their later date (*cf.* coin report). Pit 42, which may have originally been an oven, contained a pottery assemblage which differs from most of the other Usher Road groups in having larger sherds and an unusually large proportion of colour-coated vessels.

Jars 172, 245, 246 and 252 are reminiscent of late Iron Age/early Roman forms and they may be residual. Although Nos. 245 and 246 are very fragmentary, 172 and 252 are not. Indeed the latter two vessels are in better condition than most other examples of early Roman pottery from the Old Ford area and compare favourably with the late Roman material from the site. It is possible that these vessels are contemporary with the deposits in which they were found and that there may have been a revival of earlier "Belgic" forms in the 4th century. A local parallel for 172 at Appian Road, Hammerson (1972, Fig. 11, No. 29) came from a late 4th-century+ context. The shell-tempered bead rim jars at Usher Road (Nos. 245, 246, 252) occur only in its latest phase. Similar vessels were found in a late 4th-century+ context at a nearby site in Lefevre Road, Sheldon (1971, Fig. 9, Nos. 20 and 21).

The mortaria from the site came from the Oxfordshire region with the exception of two from Phase I and one from Phase II. At Usher Road in Phases III and IV the proportion of mortaria to other classes of vessel seems to decline. A brief look at other sites in the London area (e.g. Staines, Crouch (1976); Brentford, Laws (1976); Southwark, Hammerson and Murray (1978); Lefevre Road, Sheldon (1971); Appian Road, Hammerson (1972)) also suggests that the proportion of mortaria is generally lower in the 4th century than earlier in the Roman period, although the percentages vary from site to site. The decrease in mortaria at Usher Road therefore appears to be part of a general trend and is particularly noticeable from the mid 4th century onwards. Young (1977, 239) states that there was little change in the 4th-century pattern of pottery supply from the Oxford region, the centre which supplied most of the London area's mortaria in the late Roman period. London seems to have been an exception to this pattern. It is possible that this decline was due to difficulties in the industry itself and it might be possible to verify this by examining other areas supplied by the Oxfordshire potters. However, the supply of colour-coated wares does not seem to have suffered and apparently no other production centre stepped in to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of the Oxfordshire

mortaria. The decline in mortaria may reflect a reduced demand for this type of vessel. If so, the decrease in the proportions of mortaria to other vessels at Usher Road and elsewhere may be indicative of a change in methods used in food preparation in the 4th century.

PHASE I Mid-late 3rd century

(Fig. 15)

Ditch I. Possibly pre late 3rd century

Jars

1. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished rim and shoulder.
2. Grey with lighter surfaces; slightly soft micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished exterior.
3. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished rim and exterior.
4. Grey; hard sandy fabric.

Dish

5. Black with lighter grey surfaces; hard granular fabric; burnished.

Ditch II. Possibly pre late 3rd century

Jar

6. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished rim and exterior.

Bowls and Dishes

7. Grey with slightly lighter surfaces; fairly hard sandy fabric; light grey slip on rim and upper half of vessel.
8. Brown with black surfaces; slightly soft micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
9. Grey core, brown margins and dark grey surfaces; slightly soft micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.

Ditch III. Possibly pre late 3rd century

Jars

10. Orange core with buff surfaces; fairly soft sandy fabric.
11. Grey core with orange-buff surfaces; fairly soft sandy fabric, grogged.

Bowl

12. Reddish brown with grey surfaces; fairly hard sandy fabric.

Pit 3. Mid 3rd century

Flagon

13. Orange-buff; fairly hard micaceous sandy fabric.

Jars

14. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
15. Grey; fairly hard sandy fabric.
16. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
17. Grey core and surfaces with red margins; hard micaceous sandy fabric; light grey or white slip; burnished; incised wavy line decoration.
18. Black; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
19. Light grey core, brown margins and grey surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric.
20. Off-white; hard fine sandy fabric; dark grey colour-coat. Nene Valley/German. There are difficulties in telling some Nene Valley products from those of the Rhineland, Fulford (1977, 303).

Mortaria

21. Orange; hard sandy fabric with inclusions possibly of chalk or limestone; translucent white trituration grits.
22. White; hard fairly fine sandy fabric; mainly translucent white trituration grits.

Bowls and Dishes

23. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard sandy fabric; burnished.
24. Black to red; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished; burnt.

25. Red; hard granular fabric; burnished; burnt.
26. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished surfaces; burnt.
27. Grey with black surfaces; hard granular fabric; burnished interior and on exterior to angle below rim.
28. As for 26. Burnished arc decoration.

(Fig. 16)

Pit 1. Up to late 3rd century

Dish

29. Black; fairly hard granular fabric; burnished.

Pit 2. Up to late 3rd century

Jar

30. Grey core and surfaces with orange margins; hard sandy fabric.

PHASE II Late 3rd-mid 4th century

Ditch IV. Probably late 3rd century

Jars

31. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
32. Grey to buff with dark grey exterior; hard fairly coarse sandy fabric.

Bowls and Dishes

33. Dark grey; hard granular fabric; burnished interior, rim and flange.
34. Brown with dark grey surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.

Ditch V. Late 3rd-early 4th century

Jars

35. Grey; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished. Mis-shapen probably during firing.
36. Grey; hard fairly fine sandy fabric but with uneven texture and containing inclusions of up to 4 mm.
37. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard fairly fine sandy fabric.
38. Brown with grey surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished.
39. Grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric.
40. Buff; hard fine sandy fabric; dark brown colour-coat. Nene Valley.

Bowls and Dishes

41. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
42. Brown with grey surfaces; hard sandy fabric.
43. Black with brown surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished.
44. Light grey with darker grey/red surfaces; hard fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
45. Grey; hard fairly fine sandy fabric; grogged; burnished. Surface finish has a metallic sheen.
46. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished flange, rim and interior.
47. As for 46.
48. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished interior.
49. "Castor box". Orange-buff; hard fine sandy fabric; orange colour-coat on rim and interior, brown exterior below shoulder; rouletted decoration. Mis-shapen during firing. Nene Valley.

Ditch VI. Late 3rd century

Jars

50. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard sandy fabric.
51. Grey; hard fairly fine sandy vesicular fabric.

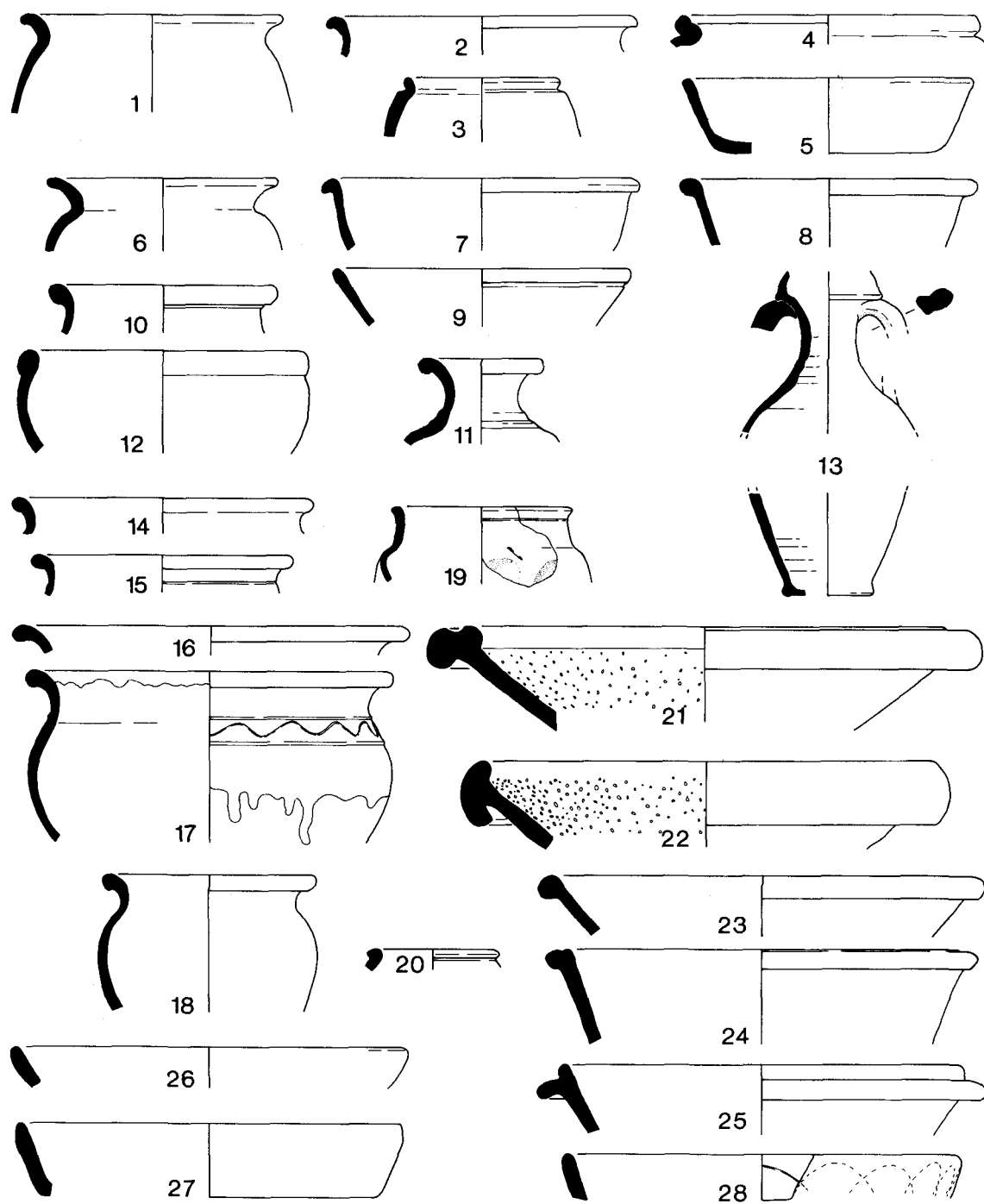


Fig. 15 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 1-28 Phase I. (4)

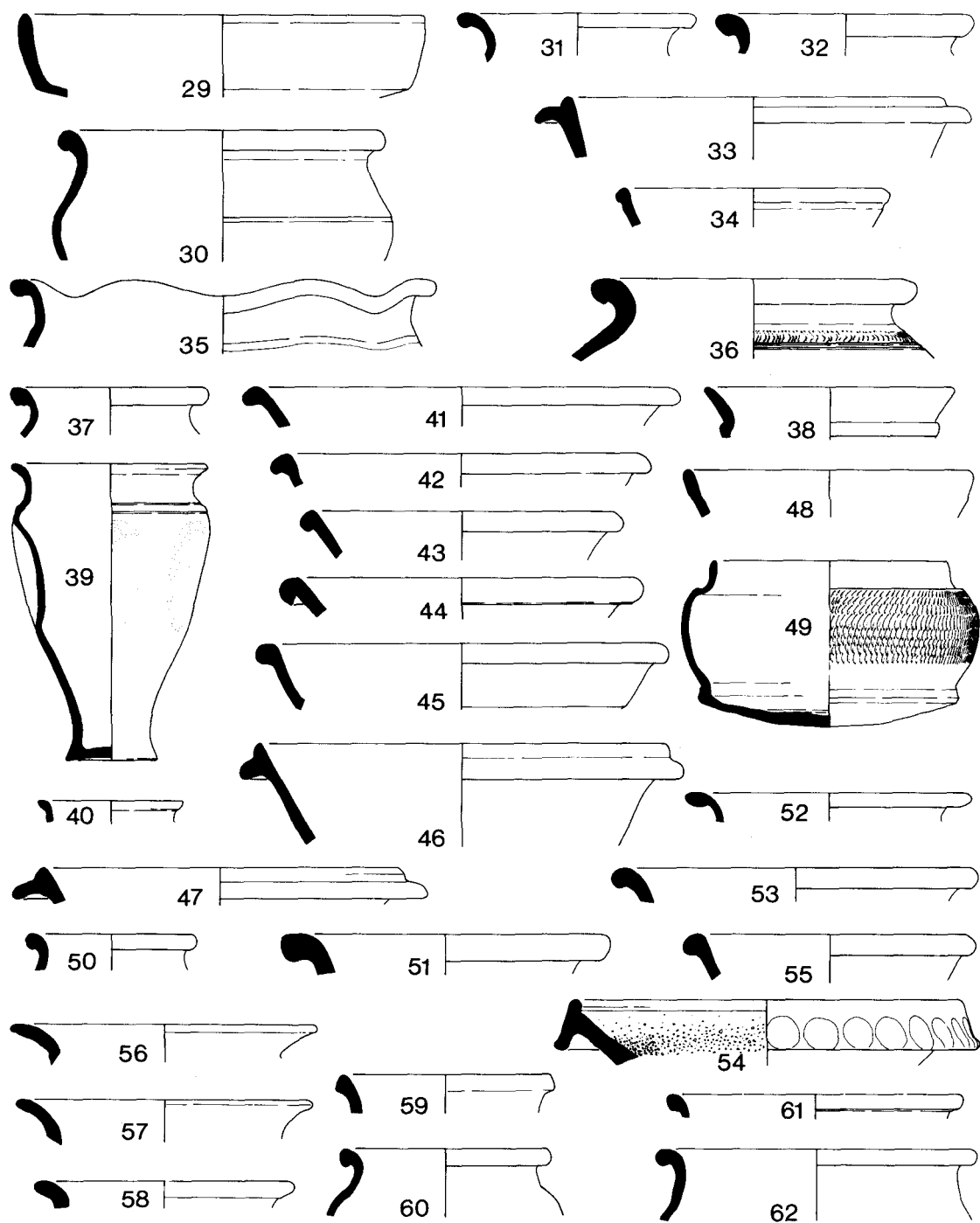


Fig. 16 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 29-30 Phase I; 31-62 Phase II. (4)

52. As for 50. Burnished neck and rim.
 53. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard micaceous sandy fabric, black slip and burnishing on top of rim and exterior.

Mortarium

54. White; fine paste; red painted circles on rim; ironstone trituration grits. Nene Valley.

Bowl

55. Black; hard granular fabric.

Ditch VIII. First half of 4th century

Jars

56. Grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished rim.
 57. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished rim.
 58. Grey; fairly hard sandy fabric; surfaces slipped white or light grey; burnished interior of rim.
 59. Grey; hard gritty fabric.
 60. Grey; hard sandy fabric.
 61. Orange; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric. Much Hadham.
 62. Grey with slightly darker surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished on interior of rim.

(Fig. 17)

63. Orange; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished rim and exterior. Much Hadham.
 64. Orange; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric, grogged; burnished. Much Hadham.
 65. Orange; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric, grogged. Much Hadham.
 66. Grey core with orange surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished neck and rim. Much Hadham.
 67. Dark grey with lighter surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
 68. Off-white; hard fine sandy fabric; dark grey colour-coat. Nene Valley/German. For some vessels it is difficult to distinguish between the two sources, Fulford (1977, 303).
 69. Off-white, hard fine sandy fabric; dark brown colour-coat. Nene Valley.
 70. Buff; hard fine sandy fabric; dark brown colour-coat. Nene Valley.
 71. Orange; hard fine sandy fabric; dark brown colour-coat. Nene Valley.
 72. Grey core with buff surfaces; hard fine sandy fabric; dark brown colour-coat. Nene Valley.
 73. As for 70.

Bowls and Dishes

74. Grey with darker surfaces; hard sandy fabric.
 75. White with grey surfaces; fairly hard, fairly sandy fabric.
 76. Orange; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric, grogged; interior and exterior above flange burnished.
 77. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished interior.

Mortarium

78. Red to orange, fairly hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat with white dot decoration. Oxfordshire, C.98.

Lid

79. Lid of "castor box". Reddish buff; hard fine sandy fabric; brown colour-coat; rouletted decoration. Nene Valley.

Ditch IX. Late 3rd-4th century

Bowls and Dishes

80. Grey; hard sandy fabric; burnished interior, rim and flange.
 81. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished interior.
 82. Pinkish; hard fine sandy fabric; red painted bands. Oxfordshire Parchment ware, P.24.

Ditch X. Up to mid 4th century

Jars

83. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; slip and burnishing on rim.
 84. Grey; hard sandy fabric.

Bowls and Dishes

85. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
 86. Brown to black; hard sandy fabric; burnished.
 87. Red with black surfaces; hard granular fabric; burnished interior.
 88. White; hard fine sandy fabric; red painted bands. Oxfordshire Parchment ware, P.24.

Ditch XI.A.D.320-50

Jar

89. Grey; hard fine sandy fabric.

Bowl

90. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished interior and flange.

Ditch XII. Early 4th century

Jar

91. Grey with lighter surfaces; hard sandy fabric; black slip.

Dish

92. Grey-brown with grey surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; interior and upper half of exterior burnished.

Ditch XIII. Early-mid 4th century

Jar

93. Orange; fairly hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; modelled decoration - possibly an animal. Much Hadham.

Bowls and Dishes

94. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; burnished.
 95. Grey core with red surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat. Oxfordshire, C.51

(Fig. 18)

Ditch XIV. Late 3rd-early 4th century

Jars

96. Grey core with brown margins and black surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished.
 97. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric.
 98. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard sandy fabric; burnished bands on neck and rim.
 99. Grey core and surfaces; fairly hard sandy fabric.
 100. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
 101. Orange; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished exterior, unburnished bands.
 102. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
 103. Light grey core with pale orange surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished rim and exterior.

Mortaria

104. White; hard fine sandy fabric; grey trituration grits. Probably Oxfordshire.
 105. White with off-white surfaces; hard fine sandy fabric; pink, red, grey trituration grits. Oxfordshire, M.22.

Bowl

106. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished rim and flange.

Pit 9. Late 3rd-4th century

Jar

107. Grey; fairly hard fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.

Pit 12. Late 3rd-4th century

Jar

108. Black; hard sandy fabric.

Pit 13. First half of 4th century

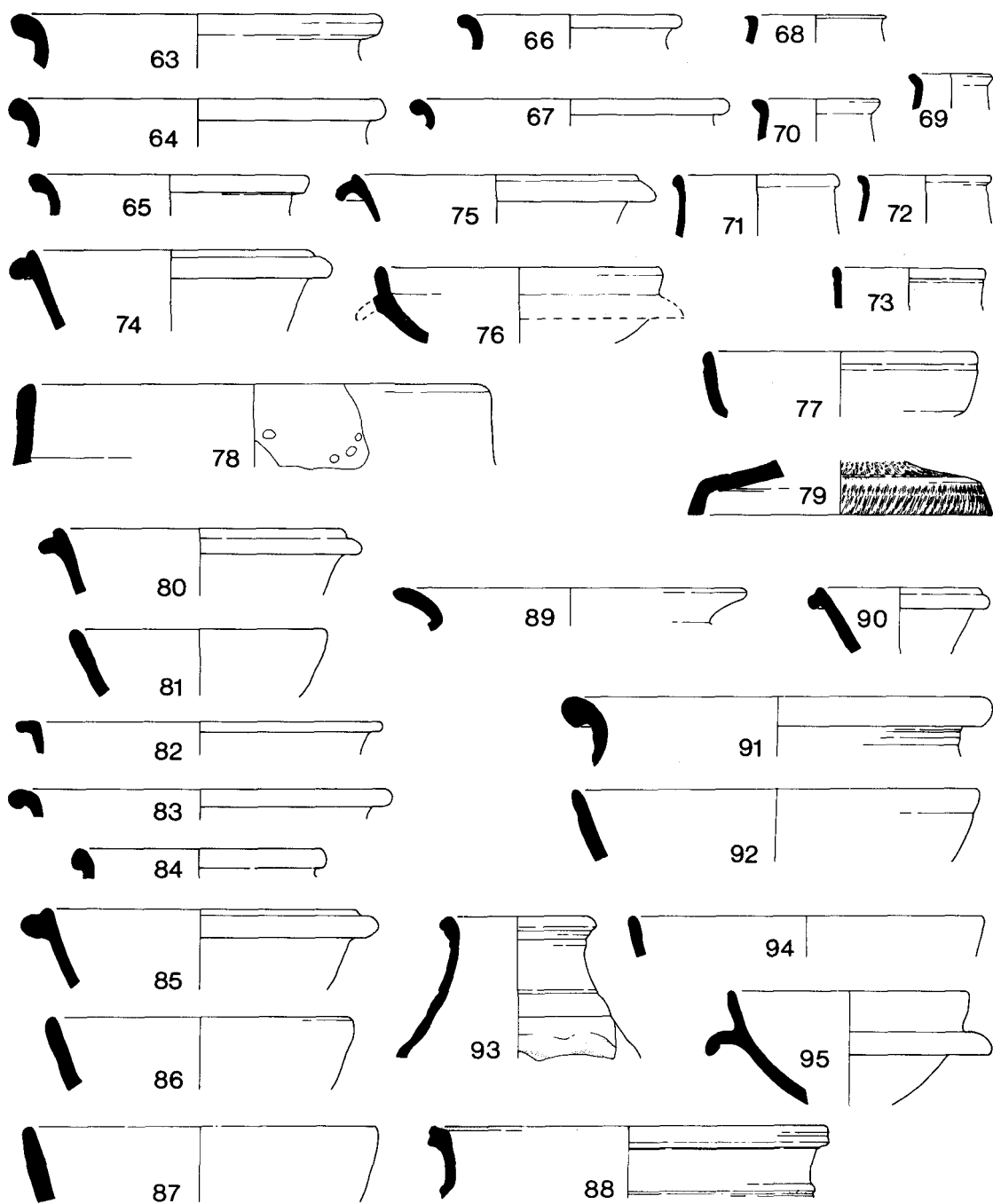


Fig. 17 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 63-95 Phase II. (4)

Jars

- 109. Grey; fairly hard sandy fabric; burnished.
- 110. Light grey with darker surfaces; fairly hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 111. Grey; hard sandy fabric.
- 112. Grey with buff surfaces; fairly hard shell-tempered fabric.

Mortaria

- 113. White; hard fine sandy fabric; red, pink, grey and white trituration grits; burnt. Oxfordshire, M.17.
- 114. White-buff; hard fine sandy fabric; pink and grey trituration grits. Oxfordshire, M.17.

Bowls and Dishes

- 115. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 116. Grey core, orange-red margins and surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat; rouletted decoration. Oxfordshire, C.41-50.

Pit 15. Mid 4th century

Jar

- 117. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.

Dishes

- 118. Brown with black surfaces; slightly soft micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
- 119. Black; hard granular fabric; interior burnished.

Pit 14. Late 3rd-4th century

Jar

- 120. Grey core and surfaces with orange margins; hard sandy fabric.

Pit 17. Late 3rd-4th century

Bowl

- 121. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished interior, rim and flange.

Pit 18. Late 3rd-4th century

Jar

- 122. Light grey with slightly darker surfaces; fairly hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished band on rim.

(Fig. 19)

Pit 20. Probably A.D.320-60

Jars

- 123. Brown with black surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished rim and shoulder.
- 124. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished neck and rim.
- 125. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 126. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished rim and decoration.
- 127. Brown with grey surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 128. Orange; hard micaceous sandy fabric. Much Hadham.
- 129. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 130. Brown with grey surfaces; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric.
- 131. Brown with greyish surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 132. Grey core with buff surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; brown colour-coat. Oxfordshire, C.23.
- 133. Red; hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; reddish colour-coat.

Mortaria

- 134. Buff with white surfaces; hard fine sandy fabric. Oxfordshire, M.17.
- 135. Red; hard fine micaceous sandy fabric; red colour-coat; red, pink and white trituration grits. Oxfordshire, C.97.
- 136. Red with grey core in places; hard micaceous fine fabric; red colour-coat; pink and red trituration grits. Oxfordshire, C.97.

Bowls and Dishes

- 137. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard granular fabric.
- 138. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished interior and upper part of exterior.
- 139. Grey with black surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
- 140. Grey with a brown interior and black exterior surface; hard granular fabric; burnished.
- 141. Grey with black surfaces; fairly hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
- 142. Light grey with black surfaces; fairly hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
- 143. Black; hard granular fabric; interior burnished.
- 144. Black; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
- 145. Red; fairly hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat; rouletted decoration. Oxfordshire, C.55.
- 146. Buff with white surfaces; hard fine sandy fabric; red painted bands. Oxfordshire Parchment ware, P.24.

Pit 25. Probably A.D.300-60

Dish

- 147. Black; hard sandy fabric; burnished, burnished arc decoration.

Pit 26. A.D.300-50

Jars

- 148. Light grey; hard sandy fabric.
- 149. Brown with grey surfaces; hard sandy fabric.

Pit 27. Probably A.D.300-60

Jar

- 150. Grey with brown surfaces; hard fairly coarse sandy fabric.

Pit 28. 4th century

Jar

- 151. Grey; hard sandy fabric.

Dish

- 152. Grey with darker surfaces; hard sandy fabric.

Pit 30. A.D.320-70

Jars

- 153. Brown with grey surfaces; hard granular fabric; burnished.
- 154. Light grey core with darker surfaces and brown margins; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 155. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 156. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
- 157. Grey; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.

(Fig. 20)

- 158. Reddish brown with dark grey surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 159. Brown with grey surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
- 160. Grey; hard sandy fabric.
- 161. Light grey with dark grey surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
- 162. Grey; hard sandy fabric.
- 163. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 164. Light grey core with darker surfaces and brown margins; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 165. As for 164.
- 166. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
- 167. Brown with grey surfaces; hard granular fabric.
- 168. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard sandy fabric.
- 169. Orange with red surfaces; fairly hard micaceous sandy fabric. Possibly Much Hadham.
- 170. Grey; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.

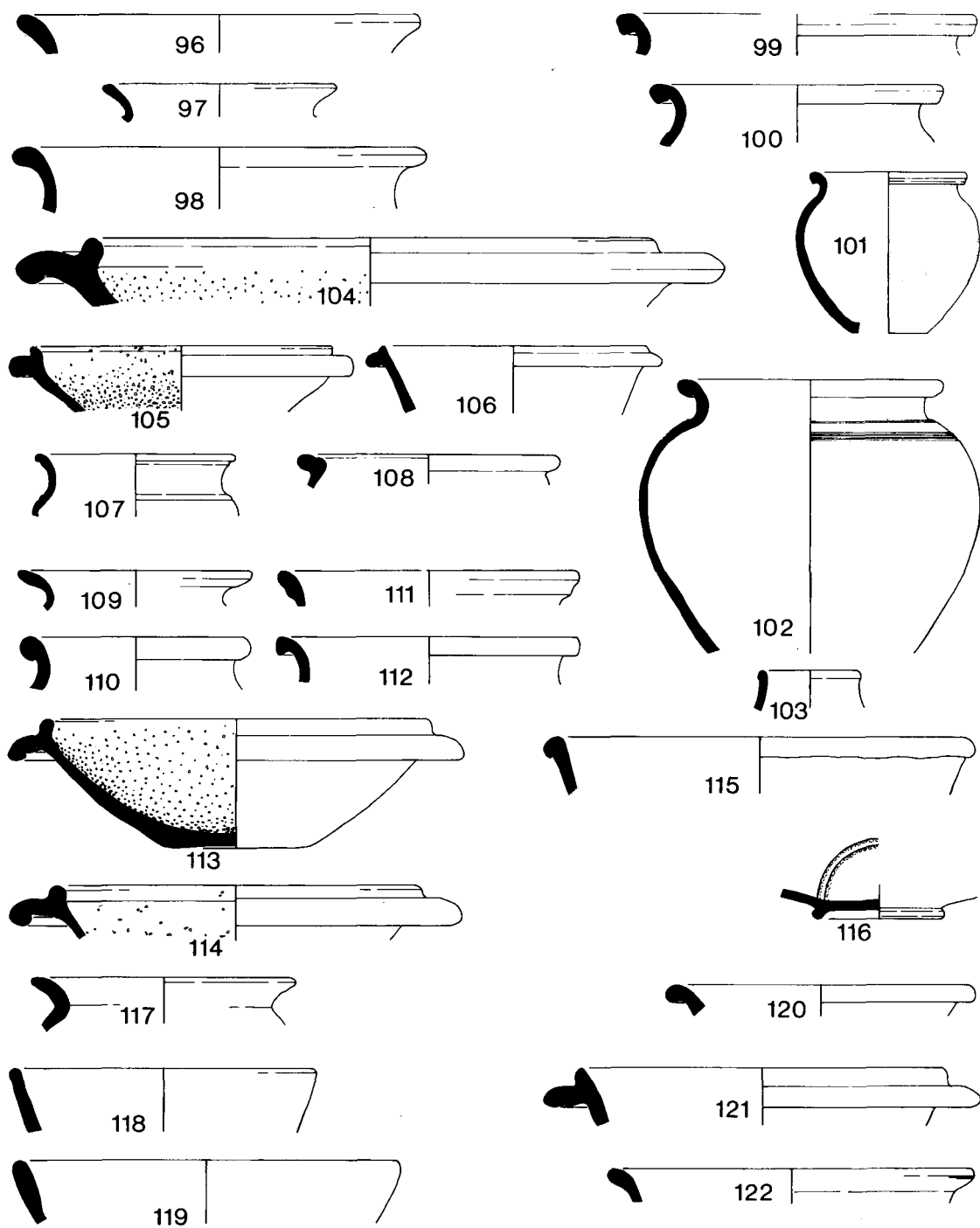


Fig. 18 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 96-122 Phase II. (4)

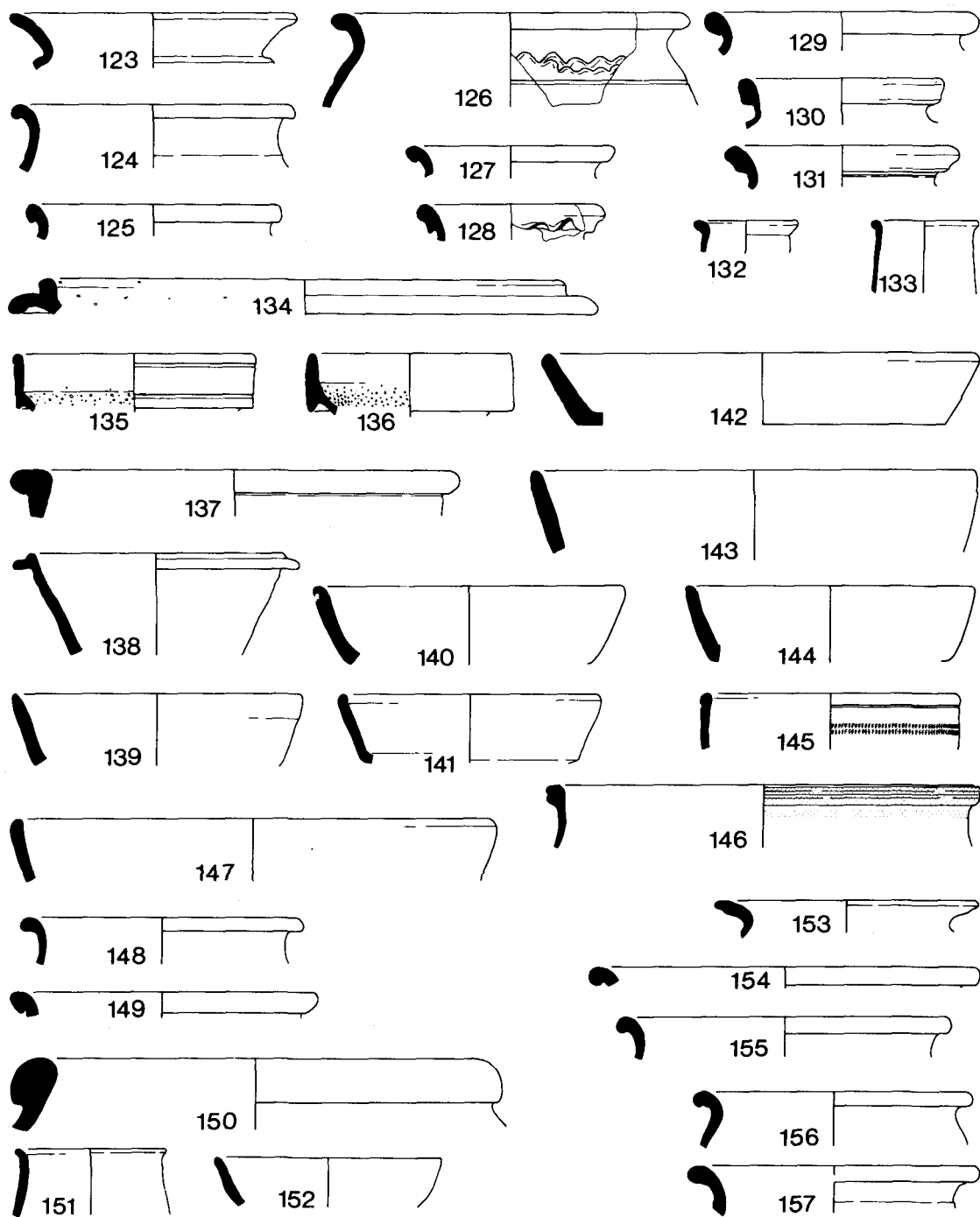


Fig. 19 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 123-157 Phase II. (4)

171. Light grey with darker grey surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
172. Brown with black surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
173. Light greyish buff with dark grey surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; burnished with burnished line decoration and bosses.
174. Red with brown surfaces; fairly hard grogged fabric; burnished neck.
175. Buff; fine sandy fabric; brown colour-coat. Probably Nene Valley.

Mortaria

176. Grey; hard fine sandy fabric; burnt. Oxfordshire, M.22.
177. Off-white; hard fine sandy fabric; white and pink trituration grits. Oxfordshire, M.22.

Bowls and Dishes

178. Grey with black surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
179. Light grey with black surfaces; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
180. As for 179.
181. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished rim.
182. Black with red surfaces; hard granular fabric; white slip and burnishing on rim, flange and interior; burnt.
183. Light grey with darker surfaces; fairly hard, fairly fine sandy fabric.
184. Brown with black surfaces; hard granular fabric; burnished.
185. Reddish brown with grey surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished interior.
186. Grey core with brown margins and black surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
187. Black with brown interior surface; hard granular fabric; burnished.
188. Brownish grey with black surfaces; hard granular fabric; burnished.
189. Black; hard granular fabric; burnished.
190. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished interior.

(Fig. 21)

191. Grey core with brown margins and black surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished interior.
192. White; hard fine sandy fabric; reddish brown painted bands. Oxfordshire Parchment ware, P.24.

PHASE III Mid-late 4th century

Ditch XVI. Mid 4th century

Jars

193. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
194. Light grey with black surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
195. Light grey core with brown margins and black surfaces; hard sandy fabric.
196. Light grey; hard sandy fabric.
197. As for 196. Burnished.
198. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; fairly hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished rim. Unclear if dip in rim was intentional or accidental.
199. Light grey with darker surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
200. Brown with black surfaces; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.

Bowls and Dishes

201. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.

202. Light grey with brownish surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; notches on rim and flange.
203. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
204. Grey with black surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished.
205. Grey with black surfaces; hard granular fabric; burnished.
206. Orange; fairly hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; brown colour-coat and rouletted decoration. Oxfordshire, C.97.
207. White; hard fine sandy fabric; red painted bands. Oxfordshire Parchment ware, P.24.

Ditch XVII. Mid-late 4th century

Jars

208. Grey; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; white slip, burnished. Possibly Alice Holt.
209. Orange; fairly hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric. Possibly Much Hadham.
210. Grey core and surfaces with orange margins; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric.
211. Grey; hard sandy fabric.
212. Orange with brown core and grey surfaces; hard fairly coarse sandy fabric.
213. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
214. Buff with grey surfaces; hard shell-tempered fabric.
215. Orange-buff; hard fine sandy fabric; dark brown colour-coat. Nene Valley.

Mortarium

216. Red; slightly soft micaceous fine sandy fabric; traces of white slip on surfaces; pink and red trituration grits. Oxfordshire, WC.7.

Bowls and Dishes

217. Grey with black surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished rim, flange and interior.
218. Light grey with brownish grey surfaces; hard sandy fabric.
219. Black; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished.
220. As for 219.
221. Grey core with orange surfaces; slightly soft micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat with traces of white painted decoration on rim, rouletted base. Oxfordshire, C.48.
222. White; hard fine sandy fabric; reddish brown colour-coat with white painted decoration. Nene Valley.

Ditch XVIII. Mid-late 4th century

Jars

223. Red with grey surfaces; fairly hard micaceous sandy fabric, grogged; burnished.
224. Grey core with red margins and brown surfaces; hard fairly coarse sandy fabric.
225. Grey; hard granular fabric.

Bowls and Dishes

226. Brown; fairly hard fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished notched decoration.
227. Off-white; hard granular fabric; black slip on surfaces, interior burnished.

(Fig. 22)

228. Buff core with white surfaces; hard fine sandy fabric; red painted bands. Oxfordshire Parchment ware, P.24.

Pit 40. Mid 4th century

Jars

229. Light grey with slightly darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; interior burnished.
230. Grey; hard sandy fabric.
231. Light grey; hard sandy fabric with chalk or limestone inclusions.
232. Reddish brown with grey surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.

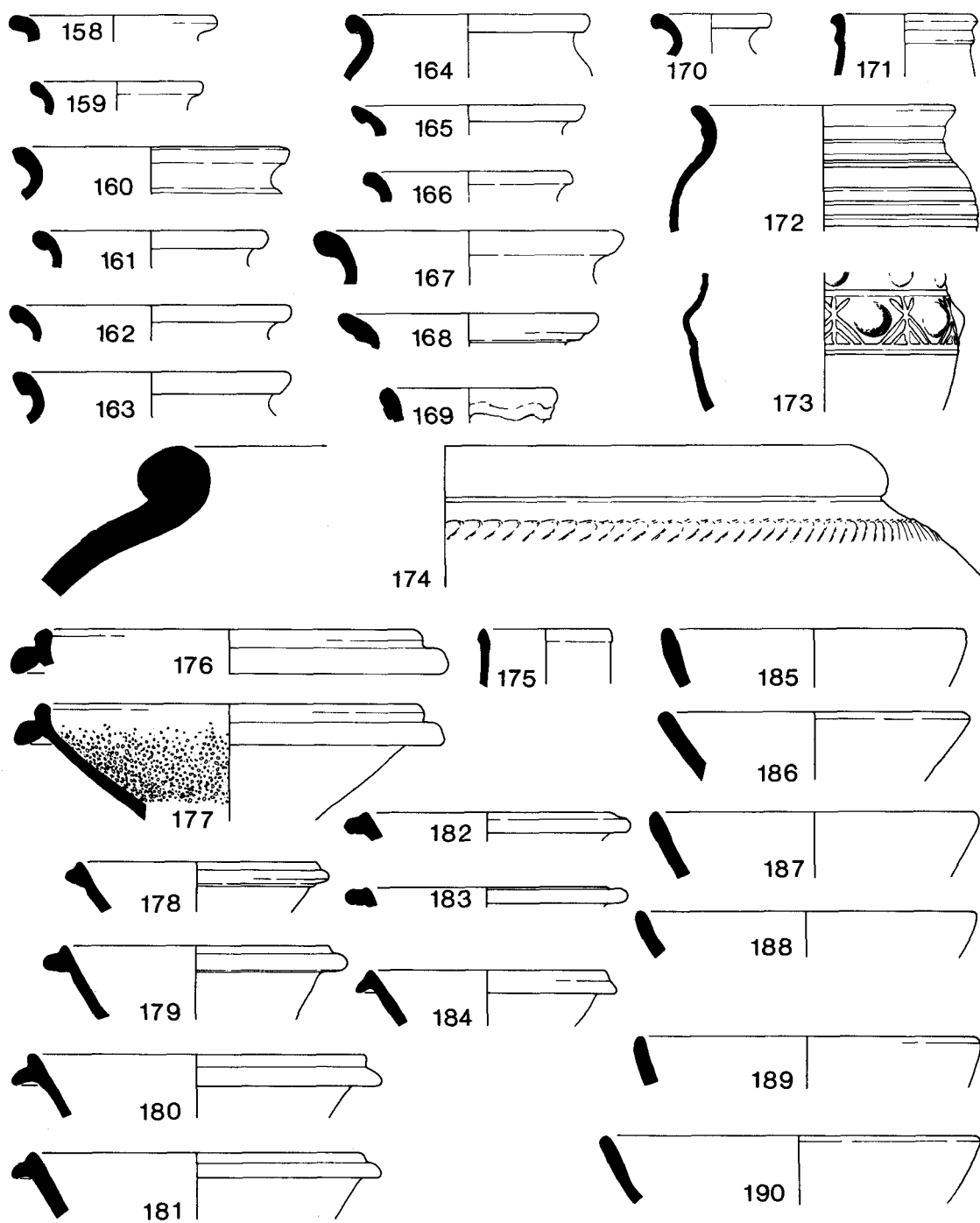


Fig. 20 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 158-190 Phase II. (4)

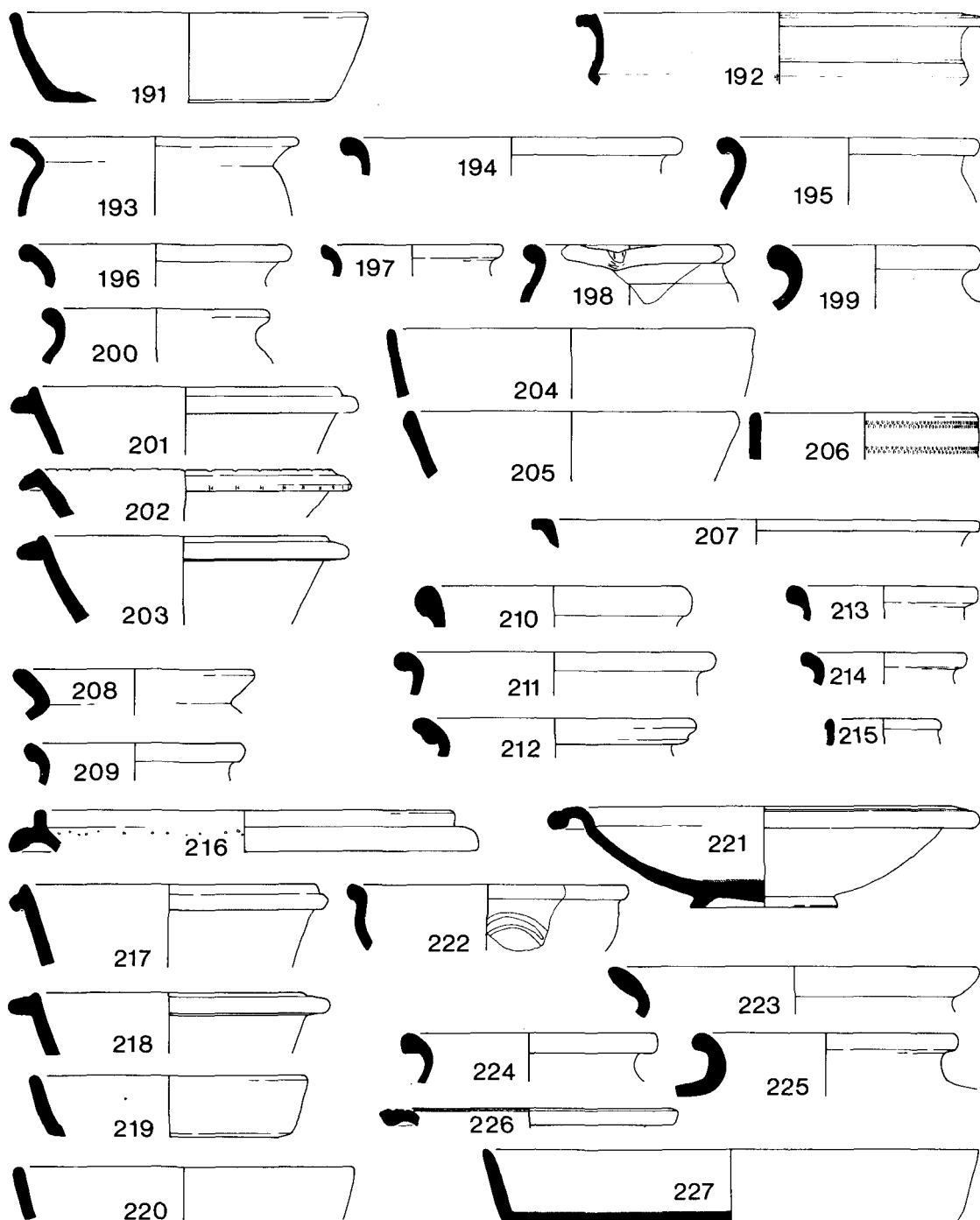


Fig. 21 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 191-192 Phase II; 193-227 Phase III. (4)

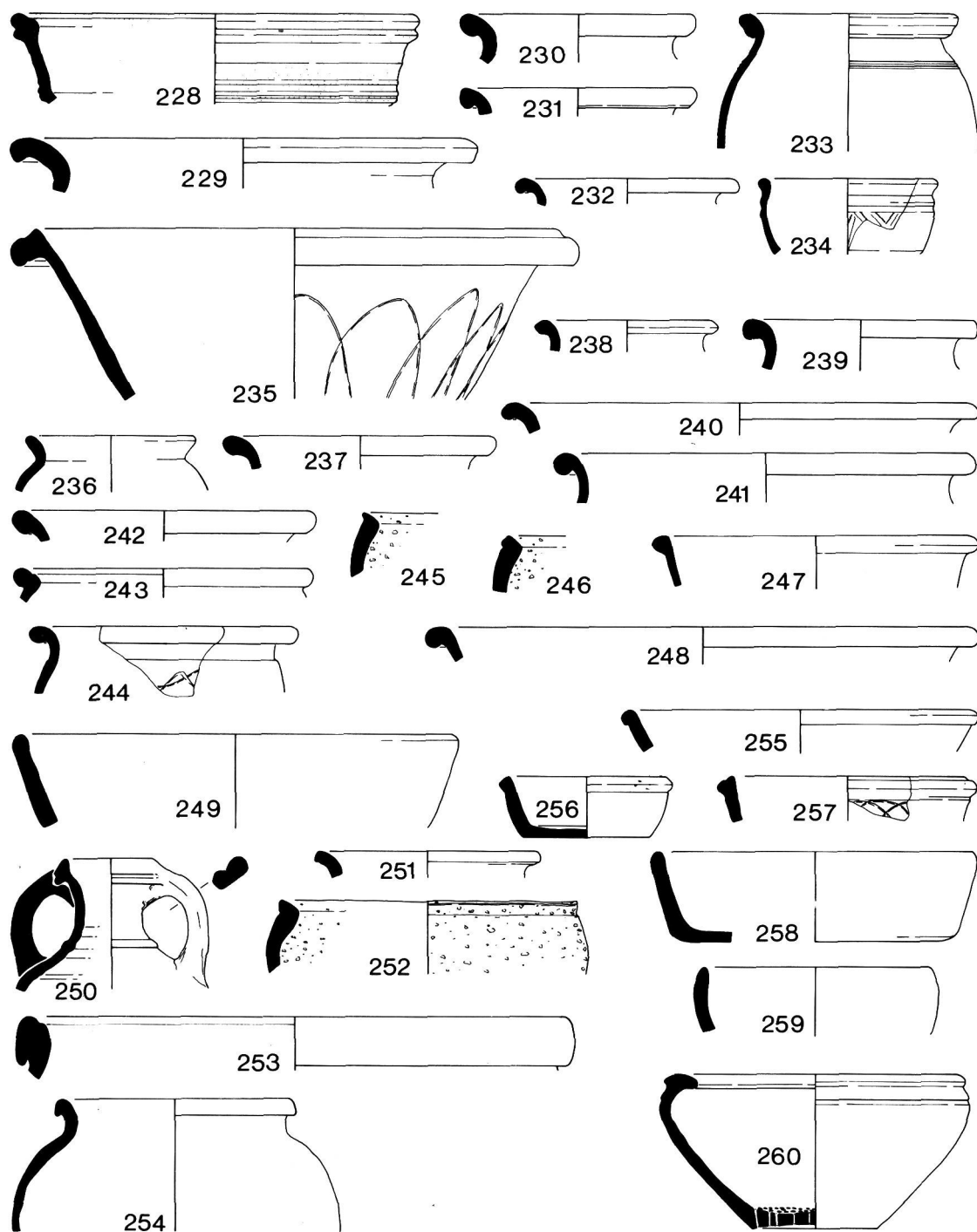


Fig. 22 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 228-235 Phase III; 236-260 Phase IV. (4)

233. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.

Bowls

234. Light grey with slightly darker surfaces; hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; burnished rim and decoration.
235. Grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard granular fabric; burnished interior, rim and flange; burnished arc decoration.

PHASE IV Late 4th century plus

Ditch XIX. Late 4th century plus

Jars

236. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; lighter grey slip; burnished.
237. Brown-grey; hard micaceous shell-tempered fabric.
238. Orange; hard micaceous sandy fabric. Much Hadham.
239. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric.
240. Grey with brown surfaces; hard sandy fabric; burnished.
241. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
242. Red; hard sandy fabric.
243. Brown with grey surfaces; hard sandy fabric.
244. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished with burnished decoration.
245. Black; hard shell-tempered vesicular fabric; handmade.
246. As for 245.

Bowls and Dishes

247. Grey; hard sandy fabric; burnished.
248. Grey with black surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
249. Grey with black surfaces; hard sandy to granular fabric; burnished interior.

Pit 42. Late 4th century

Flagon

250. White; hard fine sandy fabric, grogged; black colour-coat. Nene Valley.

Jars

251. Light grey; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric.
252. Black; hard micaceous shell-tempered vesicular fabric; handmade.
253. Grey; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished. Alice Holt.
254. Light grey core and surfaces with brown margins; hard micaceous fairly fine sandy fabric.

Bowls and Dishes

255. Dark red with lighter surfaces; hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat. Oxfordshire, C.45.
256. Light grey with darker surfaces; hard micaceous sandy fabric; burnished.
257. Brown with black surfaces; hard micaceous granular fabric; burnished.
258. Off-white; hard fine sandy fabric; chocolate brown colour-coat. Nene Valley.
259. Light grey with darker surfaces and brown margins; hard fairly fine sandy fabric; burnished. Alice Holt.
260. "Honey strainer". Grey; hard fairly fine sandy fabric; rim slipped white/light grey, burnished. Alice Holt.

(Fig. 23)

261. Grey core with red surfaces; hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat. Oxfordshire, C.51.
262. Red; hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat. Oxfordshire, C.51.
263. Red; hard micaceous fine sandy fabric; red colour-coat with white painted decoration. Oxfordshire, C.77.



Fig. 23 Usher Road : Roman pottery Nos. 261-263 Phase IV. (¼)

GLASS

by John Shepherd

12 fragments of glass vessel, 11 beads, and one gaming counter were recovered.

- Three fragments from the base of a beaker. Blown; tubular pushed-in base ring, slight kick in centre. Blue-green glass, many strain cracks probably as a result of contact with fire. (From I)
- Small fragment from the base of a bowl or beaker. Blown; pushed-in base ring. Blue-green glass. (From 9)
- Fragment of blue-green glass from the body of a bowl or beaker. (From 13)
- Fragment from the body of a beaker or bowl. Blown; greenish colourless glass. (From 13)
- Fragment from the base of a cylindrical bottle (Isings form 51). Blown; blue-green glass. (From 17)
- Three fragments from the body of a beaker. Blown; decorated with faint wheelcut lines. Thin greenish colourless glass. Late 3rd-4th century. (From 20)
- Small body fragment from a bowl or beaker. Mould-blown; decorated with a random floral (?) pattern. Blue-green glass, slightly dulled through weathering. (From XIX)
- Base of a beaker (Isings form 106c). Blown; centre slightly pushed in with a pointed tool. Dull green glass, pontil mark visible. Late 3rd-4th century. (From XIX)
- Small ring bead of opaque green glass. 3mm diameter. (From 5)
- Small flattened spherical opaque blue glass bead. 2mm diameter. (From X)
- Nine opaque blue glass beads with diamond section. Length 5mm, width 4mm, thickness 2mm. (From 20)
- Opaque pale blue-white glass gaming counter. 15mm diameter. (From 20)

COMMENTS

None of the fragments of glass vessels would be out of place in a late 3rd- to 4th-century context except perhaps No. 5, which is a type of vessel not particularly common after the 2nd century. No. 7 could also be from an earlier context but with so little of the vessel remaining it is not possible to say confidently what type of decorated mould-blown vessel it is. No. 8 is the base of a common type of beaker that is frequently found in later glass assemblages. The nature of the glass metal of Nos. 6 and 8, being greenish colourless with many fine impurities, immediately suggests a late 3rd- to 4th-century date.

COINS

by M. J. Hammerson

All coins are bronze, unless stated otherwise.

Abbreviations: RIC – *Roman Imperial Coinage*, Mattingly and Sydenham etc., various volumes (1925+).

LRB1/2 – *Late Roman Bronze Coinage*, parts 1 and 2, R. A. G. Carson, P. V. Hill and J. P. C. Kent (1965).

Probable condition at time of deposition: as a guide to the length of time a coin might have been in circulation, state of wear is indicated by the following categories: A = unworn, B = light wear only, C = average wear, D = fairly heavy wear, E = very heavily worn.

Identification	Coin date	Context	Wear
1. Trajan. AR Denarius, RIC 234	111	23	D
2. Plated bronze copy of Denarius of Caracalla, as RIC 80b but Mars not holding branch	Early 3rd C.	27	A
3. Gallienus. Ant., RIC (Sole) 164, APOLINI CONS AVG	259-268	IX	D
4. Gallienus. Ant., rev. uncertain	253-268	13	B
5. Claudius II. Ant., RIC 25, CONCO EXERC	268-270	40	C
6. Claudius II. Ant., RIC 54, IOVI VICTORI	268-270	XVII	C
7. Claudius II. Ant., rev. illegible	268-270	XVII	C
8. Quintillus, Ant., RIC 33, VICTORIA AVG	270	XVI	C
9. Victorinus, Ant., RIC 40, AEQVITAS AVG	268-270	40	B
10. Victorinus, Ant., RIC 114, INVICTVS	268-270	clearing	B
11. Victorinus, Ant., RIC 118, PAX AVG	268-270	43	C
12. Tetricus I. Ant., RIC 135, SPES PVBLICA	270-273	clearing	C
13. Tetricus I. Ant., RIC 136, SPES PVBLICA	270-273	XVI	B
14. Tetricus I. Ant., RIC 148, VIRTVS AVGG	270-273	40	B
15. Tetricus I. Ant., rev. uncertain	270-273	43	C
16. Tetricus I. Ant., rev. uncertain	270-273	40	B
17. Tetricus I or Victorinus, Ant.	268-273	13	D
18. Tetricus II. Ant., RIC 272, SPES PVBLICA	270-273	40	B
19. Tetricus II. Ant., rev. uncertain	270-273	43	D
20. Tetricus II. Ant., (possibly)	?270-273	clearing	?
21. Gallic Empire. Ant., rev. uncertain	259-273	XIV	?
22. Irregular copy, Claudius II, rev. Eagle type. 17 mm	270s-280s	clearing	C
23. Irregular copy, Tetricus I, rev. uncertain. 17 mm	270s-280s	VIII	B
24. Irregular copy, Tetricus I, rev. uncertain. 17 mm	270s-280s	clearing	B
25. Irregular copy, Tetricus I, rev. uncertain. 11½ mm	270s-280s	clearing	D
26. Irregular copy, probably Tetricus I, rev. uncertain. 15 mm	270s-280s	XIX	C
27. Irregular copy, Tetricus II, type PRINC IVVENT. 17 mm	270s-280s	43	B
28. Irregular copy, Gallic empire. 19 mm	270s-280s	XVII	?
29. Irregular copy, Gallic empire. 18½ mm	270s-280s	clearing	?
30. Irregular copy, Gallic empire. 18 mm	270s-280s	20	?
31. Irregular copy, Gallic empire. 15 mm	270s-280s	13	?
32. Irregular copy, Gallic empire. 13 mm	270s-280s	V	?
33. Irregular copy, Gallic empire. 11½ mm	270s-280s	41	?
34. Irregular copy, Gallic empire. 11½ mm	270s-280s	clearing	?
35. Irregular copy, Gallic empire. 10 mm	270s-280s	clearing	?
36. Illegible, probably antoninianus. 17 mm	c.250-290	25	?
37. Illegible, probably irregular radiate. 14 mm	?270s-280s	XIX	E
38. Illegible, probably irregular radiate. 8½ mm	?270s-280s	clearing	E
39. Illegible, probably irregular radiate. 8 mm	?270s-280s	XVI	?
40. Illegible, possibly irregular radiate. 9 mm	?270s-280s	clearing	?
41. Carausius. Ant., RIC 155-7, SALVS AVG (ML)	c.287-290	19	B
42. Possibly Carausius. Rev. uncertain	c.287-290	30	D
43. Possibly Carausius. Rev. uncertain. Clipped	c.287-290	40	C
44. Allectus "Quinarius", RIC 55-59, VIRTVS AVG(QL)	293-296	15	B

Identification	Coin date	Context	Wear
45. Allectus "Quinarius", rev. type VIRTUS AVG	293-296	15	B
46. Constantine I. Follis, RIC(London) 153, COMITI AVGG NN	310-318	clearing	C
47. Constantine I. Follis, rev. type SOLI INVICTO COMITI	313-318	clearing	C
48. Constantine I. Follis, RIC(London) SOLI INVICTO COMITI	318	XIV	B
49. House of Constantine, AE3, rev. type VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP	319-320	43	C
50. Constantine I. AE3, LRB1-62, GLORIA EXERCITVS (2 st.)	330-335	VIII	A
51. Urbs Roma. AE3, LRB1-85	330-335	clearing	C
52. Urbs Roma. AE3. Small flan; may be irregular copy	330-335	XVII	B
53. Constantius II, AE3, GLORIA EXERCITVS (1 standard)	337-341	42	C
54. Constantius II, AE3, LRB1-147, VICTORIAE DD AVGGQ NN	347-348	XIX	A
55. Constans, AE3, LRB1-261 or 263	347-348	XVII	B
56. Constans, AE3, rev. type VICTORIAE DD AVGGQ NN	347-348	43	C
57. Irregular copy, Constantinopolis	330s-340s	clearing	D
58. Irregular copy, Constantius II, type of Fallen Horseman. 14mm	350s-360s	XIX	A
59. Irregular copy, Constantius II, type of Fallen Horseman. 9mm	350s-360s	XVI	A
60. Irregular copy, Constantius II, type of Fallen Horseman. 8mm	350s-360s	XVI	A
61. Irregular copy, Constantius II, type of Fallen Horseman. 7mm	350s-360s	XVI	B
62. Possible irregular copy, Constantius II, type of Fallen Horseman. 7mm	?350s-360s	43	B
63. Irregular copy, Magnentius, rev. chi-rho monogram	350s-360s	XVI	B
64. Valentinian I. AE3, LRB2-512, GLORIA ROMANORVM	367-378	XIX	B
65. Gratian. AE3, LRB2-349, SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	367-375	42	C
66. House of Valentinian. AE3, rev. GLORIA ROMANORVM	364-378	clearing	E
67. Theodosius I. AE4, rev. SALVS REIPVBLICAE	388-395	43	C
68. Arcadius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	43	D
69. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	clearing	B
70. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	XVII	B
71. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	43	C
72. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	43	C
73. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	43	D
74. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	43	E
75. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	clearing	B
76. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	43	E
77. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG	388-402	42	E
78. House of Theodosius. AE4, rev. SALVS REIPVBLICAE	388-402	43	C
79. Probably House of Theodosius. AE4	379-402	XVII	E
80. Illegible. AE 13mm	4th C.	clearing	?
81. Token 1d. FRANCIS HARRIS BAKER/PYE CORNER HIS PENNY	Mid 17th C.	clearing	
82. Victoria, 1d	1853	clearing	
83. Victoria, 1d	1891	clearing	
84. George V, 1d	1920	clearing	

Two totally illegible bronze coins.

A far higher percentage of the Usher Road coins is of the later 3rd century than is the case for Lefevre Road (Hammerson, 1971, 66-72) and Parnell and Appian roads (Hammerson, 1972, 129-136): 55% as compared with 27% and 25%, although all sites relate to the same settlement. The figures for the Constantinian period (310-364) are very similar from all these sites (22.5%, 24% and 25% respectively). Those for the Valentinianic (364-378) and Theodosian (378-402) periods show a lower proportion of late Roman coins from Usher Road and may suggest a local shift in the intensity of occupation during the 4th century within the Old Ford settlement area. It is intended to examine the overall coin evidence in more detail in a forthcoming study of the settlement.

SMALL FINDS

R. Tribbick reported on the metal objects and metallurgical residues.

BRONZE (Fig. 24)

1. Suspension ring. Wear pattern is at an angle to the apparent vertical. Illustrated. (From II)
2. Stud head. Decorated. Illustrated. (From V)
3. Ring. Four facets with crude cross decoration. Illustrated. (From VI)
4. Strap fitting. Wrapped strip 13mm to 15mm wide. Illustrated. (From VIII)
5. Ring. Irregular octagonal form. Undecorated. Illustrated. (From 11)
6. Tweezers. Illustrated. (From 38)
7. Hair-pin. Glass bead head of irregular hexagonal prism form. Illustrated. (From XIX)
8. Vessel foot. Traces of a white metal at the joint suggest that it could have been removed from a vessel possibly for melting. Illustrated. (From 42)

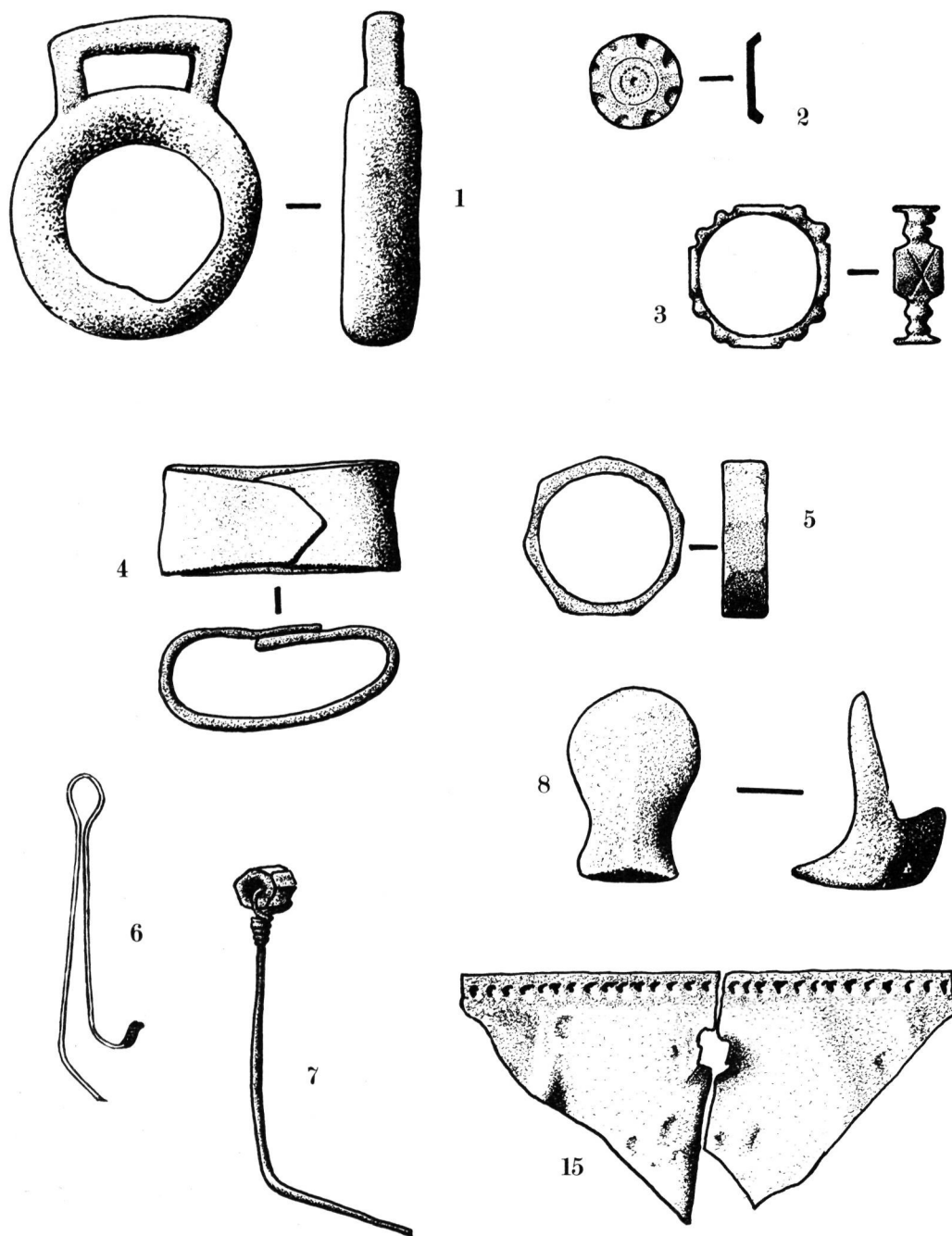


Fig. 24 Usher Road : Roman small finds, bronze. Nos. 1-8 and 15. (1/1)

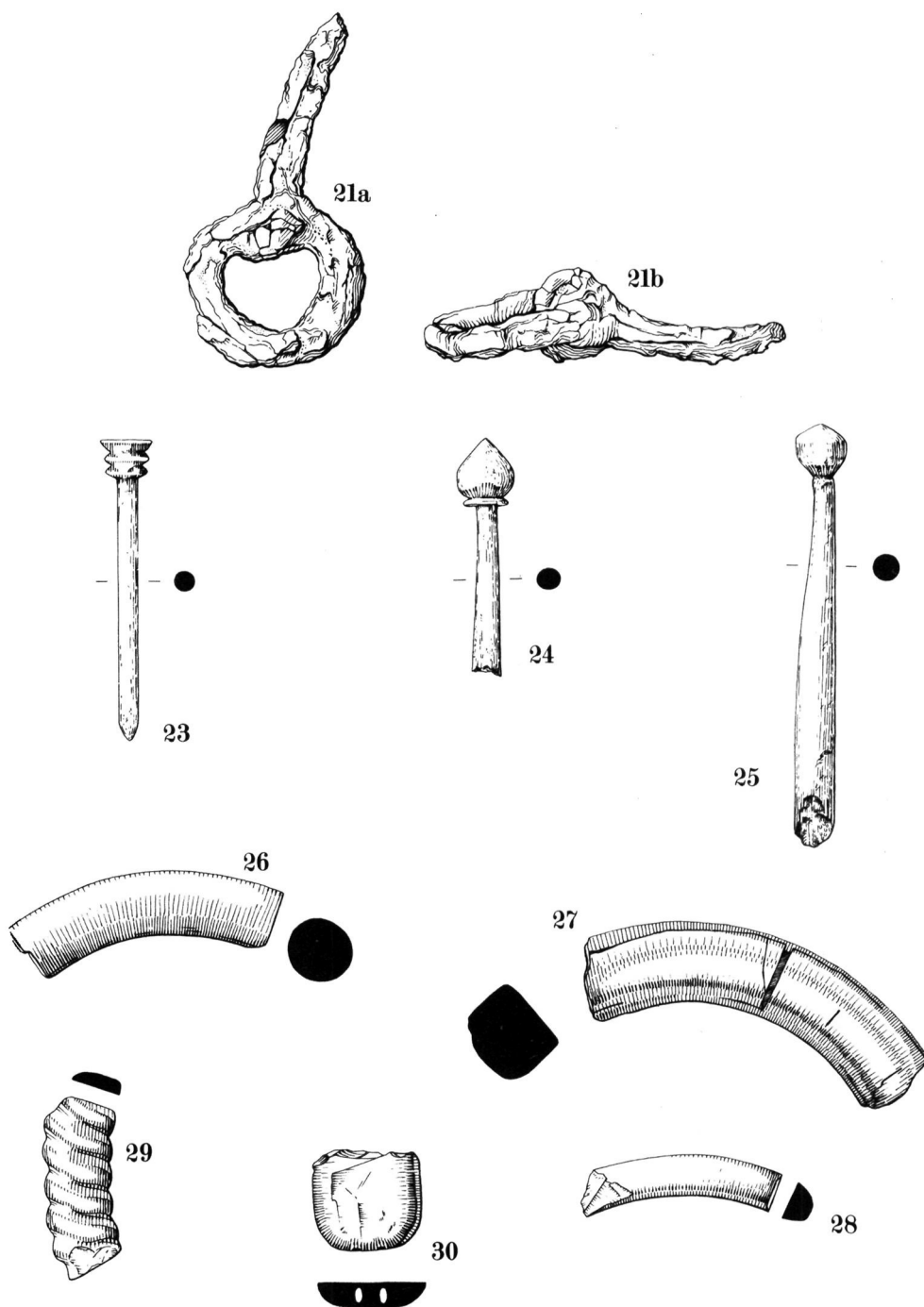


Fig. 25 Usher Road : Roman small finds, iron. No. 21 ($\frac{1}{2}$); bone Nos. 23-25; shale Nos. 26-29; jet No. 30. (1/1)

9. Bracelet fragment. Twisted, 3 strand. Circular form 2.5 mm diameter. (From XIII)
10. Bracelet fragments. 4 strand, plaited. 3 mm diameter. (From XVII)
11. Bracelet fragments. Solid oval section, plain. (From XVII)
12. Bracelet fragments. Twisted, 2 strand and flattened at inside diameter. 4 mm wide. Terminal hook present. (From 42)
13. Bracelet fragments. Twisted, 2 strand terminal hook present. 3 mm diameter, flattened after coiling. (From 43)
14. Finger ring. Fragment. Undecorated. (From 20)
15. Sheet fragment. Decorated at edge. Apparently cut from object, perhaps for melting. Illustrated. (From 30)
16. Nail. Flat head. 18 mm diameter. (From 13)
17. Nail. Dome head. 20 mm diameter. (From XIX)

IRON (Fig. 25)

18. Chain. 34 figure-of-eight links 45 mm long. Proportions suggest this may have been part of a horse bit. (From V)
19. Chisel. Blade 25 mm wide, shank 100 mm long. (From V)
20. Blade fragment. (From 2)
21. Ring and eye-bolt. Ring 50 mm diameter, bolt 70 mm long. Illustrated. (From XIV)

METALLURGICAL RESIDUES

22. A total of 32.3 Kg of iron-working slags were recovered. These showed the typical iron silicate structures resulting from accidental combination at high temperature of iron oxide scale with the hearth lining, or with sand deliberately used to remove the scale during hammer welding. Most of

the slags (62%) came from the western part of the site with the greatest concentration (5.25 Kg) from pit 2.

No evidence of bronze working was obtained from this site.

BONE (Fig. 25)

23. Pin. Head cut into three disks. Handcut. Lightly polished. Illustrated. (From X)
24. Pin. Pear-shaped with disk beneath. Broken shaft. Handcut. Polished. Illustrated. (From 20)
25. Pin. Roughly spherical head. Broken shaft. Handcut. Lightly polished. Illustrated. (From XVI)

SHALE AND JET (Fig. 25)

26. Fragment of shale bracelet. Illustrated. (From XIII)
27. Fragment of shale bracelet. Split longitudinally. Illustrated. (From 16)
28. Fragment of shale bracelet. Split longitudinally. Illustrated. (From 20)
29. Fragment of shale bracelet. Twisted decoration. Split longitudinally. Illustrated. (From 42)
30. Jet bead with two parallel perforations. Broken at one end. Illustrated. (From VIII)

CERAMIC

31. Pottery counter. Fine sandy brown fabric with grey surfaces, one burnished. Cut from vessel. 22 mm diameter, 4 mm thick. (From 17)

THE STONE SCULPTURE

by T. F. C. Blagg

The statue of a male figure, naked except for a cloak which is clasped at the right shoulder and draped over the left shoulder, is carved in a medium-grained cream oolitic limestone. Its surviving height is 465 mm and it is 200 mm wide and 125 mm from front to back. The head has been broken off obliquely below the chin. The right arm is broken at the elbow, the left at the shoulder. The right leg, upon which the weight of the body was poised, is missing below the knee, and the left leg is slightly bent at the knee and broken just above the ankle. The figure is considerably weathered, but details of the drapery and of the musculature of the torso are still visible (Plate 1, 2; Fig. 26).

The figure was intended to be free-standing, though part of it has been executed in deep relief. Although stone has been left between the right arm and the body and along the left side, detail of the drapery has been delineated on the back (Plate 2, Fig. 26), with the cloak gathered round the neck and hanging down in stiff vertical folds from the shoulders to the back of the knees. The fold on the right side, where the cloak is drawn back from the shoulder, has been carved as a raised ridge.

Enough of the right arm survives to show that it was slightly flexed at the elbow, with the forearm continuing downwards in a naturally relaxed attitude, and held away from the body. The fact that part of the background remains by the left side of the neck, whereas the right shoulder stands free, suggests that the left arm was bent upwards and held an object resting on the shoulder. If this was so, the continuation of the background all the way down the left leg suggests the possibility of an adjoining figure, either of human form or an animal. The inside of the leg and the underside of the cloak behind it are fully carved, showing that the lower part of the figure was not wholly set against a relief background. This manner of carving the figure, partly in relief and partly free-standing, has meant that the thickness of the lower left leg from front to back is greater than natural.

The reason for the technique was apparently to avoid the risk of fracture which would follow from cutting out stone where the spaces were narrow. The background surface is smooth and is not the result of the sculptor's failure to finish his work. Indeed the figure is quite competently carved in a classical manner, though the torso is a little large in relation to the limbs. No toolmarks are visible, either from the original

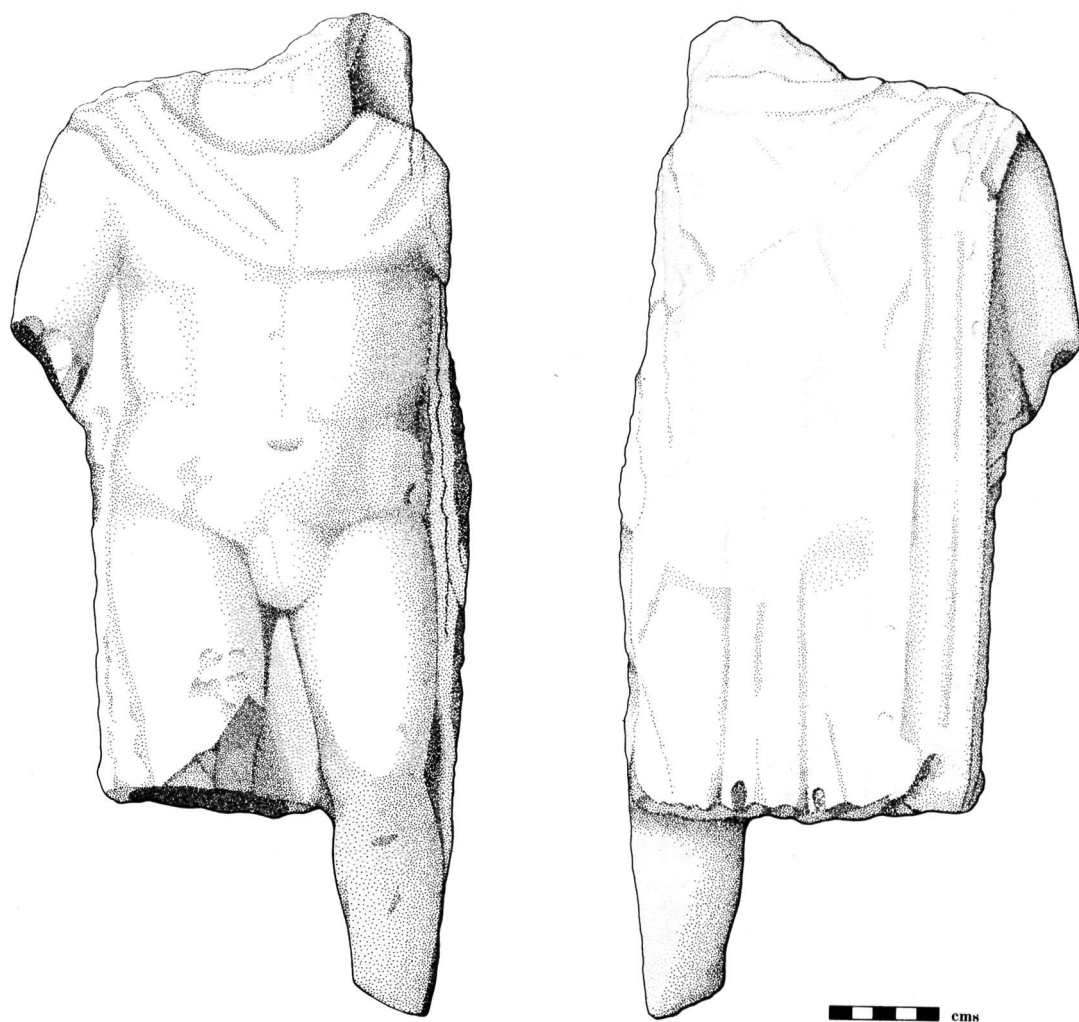


Fig. 26 Usher Road : Roman sculpture. Scale in centimetres.



Plate 1 Usher Road : Roman sculpture, front view. Scale in centimetres and inches.

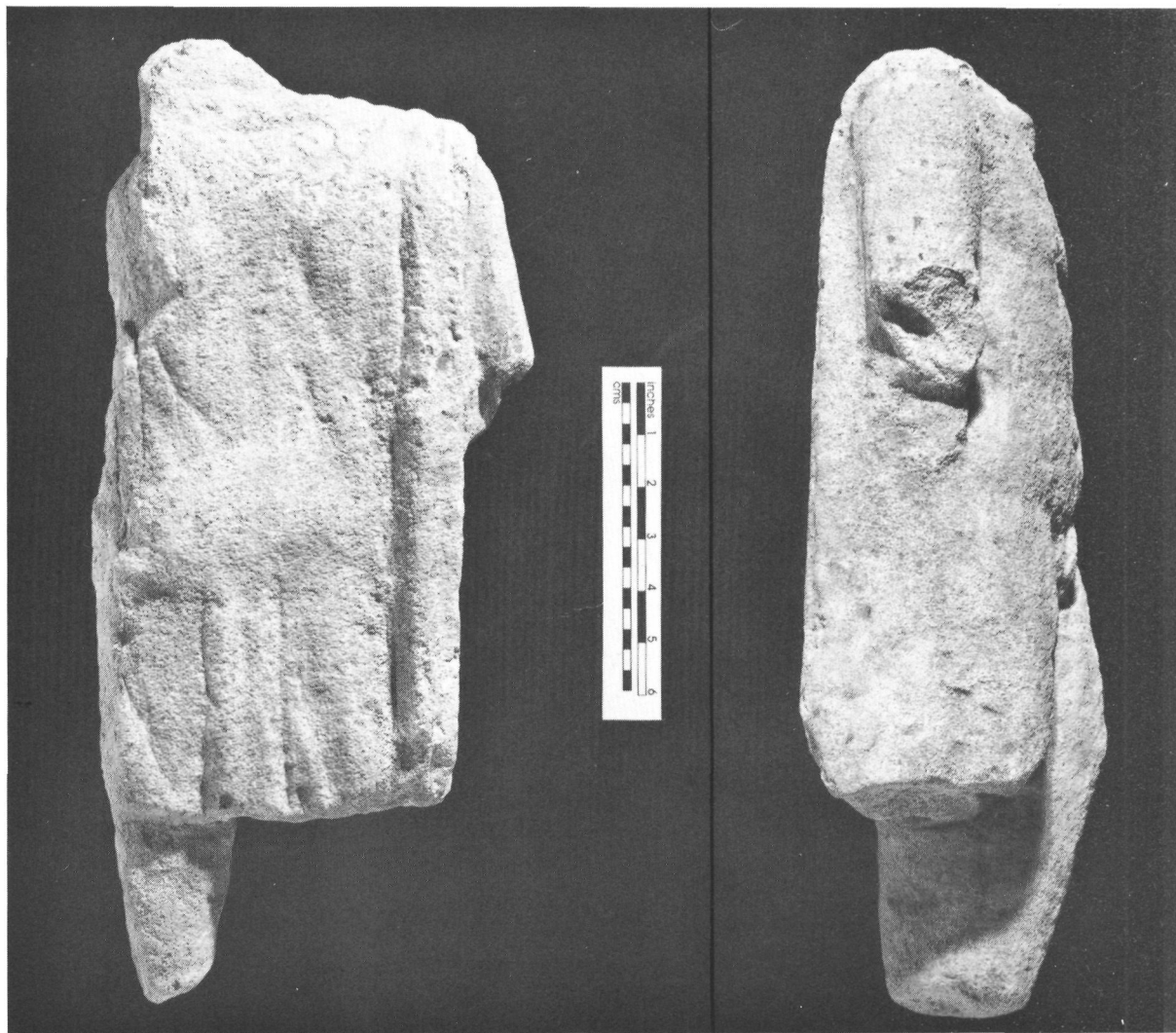


Plate 2 Usher Road : Roman sculpture, back and side views. Scale in centimetres and inches.

carving nor along the fractured surfaces. The nature of the breaks, however, by which almost all of the extremities have been removed, strongly suggests that the damage was caused deliberately and violently.

There is little doubt that the figure is of a god. Since his head and any attributes he once carried are lost, only his dress now serves to identify him. Among major divinities, Apollo, Mars and Mercury may all be represented virtually naked save for a lightly-worn cloak. None of these can be eliminated, though Mars is usually portrayed cuirassed and Apollo might be expected to have a quiver strapped across his right shoulder. Although Mercury may often wear his cloak hanging over one shoulder, as in the fine example from Cirencester, Wilson, (1975, 273 note 162 and Plate XXIB), he is also found with it worn as here, for example on an altar from Carlisle, otherwise dissimilar in its treatment, Wright & Phillips (1975, 69-70, No. 180 and Plate iiiC), and in the bust of the god from the Monumental Arch at London, Blagg (forthcoming). Another Cirencester relief of Mercury, showing the god with caduceus held in his left hand and resting on his shoulder, a purse in his outstretched right hand and accompanied by a cock and a ram, Toynbee (1964, 156 and Plate XIA), provides the best British parallel for the stance and possible disposition.

While these citations show that the Usher Road figure is within the general range of representations of Mercury, a positive identification is impossible in its damaged state. It could indeed be one of a number of lesser mythological figures. In this connection it is of interest to compare it with a relief of a Dioscurus from the Walbrook, Toynbee (1962, 151 and Plate 69), as the carving of its drapery and of the musculature of the torso is very similar, though the Walbrook figure is distinguished from it by having both arms raised to hold a spear and the horse's reins. Nevertheless, the technical similarities suggest that both pieces may be seen as belonging to the same school of sculpture.

The date is very uncertain. The archaeological context, in the fill of Ditch IX, is late 3rd-4th century, but there is no sure means of telling how much earlier the statue was carved. From what building or site it originally came is equally a matter of guesswork.

ANIMAL BONE

by Alison Locker

A total of 1104 animal bones was recovered from pits and ditches. Preservation was poor and no sieving was carried out: both these factors may be reflected in the recovery of only one bird bone. There was a large number of unidentifiable fragments (418 bones which equals 37.8% of the total) and many loose teeth which suggest a high degree of fragmentation.

The charts show the contribution of each species by the total number of bones in each context. No counts of the number of anatomies of each species have been included as no meat joint selection was observed, and the small quantity of bone invalidated any statistical work.

Measurements were taken whenever possible and these are available on request.

Phase I

Mid-late 3rd century

	Ox	Horse	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog	Unident	Total
Pits							
1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
2	7	—	—	—	—	2	9
3	6	—	2	3	—	16	27
Total	13	—	2	3	—	19	37
Ditches							
II	—	—	—	—	—	21	21
III	4	13	—	—	1	—	18
Total	4	13	—	—	1	21	39

This earliest phase of occupation produced only 76 bones, 40 of which were unidentifiable. The proportion of horse is over-represented by 11 loose teeth.

A metatarsal of an ox from Ditch III had a hole drilled down through the proximal surface.

Phase II

Late 3rd-mid 4th century

Pits	Ox	Horse	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog	Dom Fowl	Unident	Total
5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
9	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	4
12	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
13	21	—	—	1	—	—	16	38
14	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	6
16	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
17	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
18	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
20	16	—	5	—	—	—	4	25
23	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	9
24	5	—	1	—	—	—	2	8
25	5	—	—	—	9	—	10	24
26	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
27	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
28	3	—	—	—	—	—	10	13
30	27	2	5	3	1	—	14	52
33	4	—	2	1	—	1	—	8
Total	108	2	16	6	11	1	69	213

Ditches	Ox	Horse	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog	Dom Fowl	Unident	Total
IV	4	3	—	—	—	—	20	27
V	6	2	6	2	1	—	25	42
VI	19	—	3	2	—	—	14	38
VII	17	—	—	—	—	1	50	68
VIII	23	3	5	1	—	—	26	58
IX	3	1	—	—	—	—	3	7
X	12	—	4	2	—	—	—	18
XI	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
XII	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	9
XIII	9	—	3	—	—	—	8	20
XIV	65	25	10	3	5	—	50	158
Total	161	34	31	10	6	1	203	446

The largest quantity of bone (55%) came from this phase, which is approximately double the time span of the other phases and also has many more features. The relative proportion of species and unidentifiable bone is approximately the same as the other phases. The only indication of wild game in the diet is suggested by a red deer metatarsal from Ditch VII.

Apart from the nine dog bones from Pit 25, this feature also produced 89 bones belonging to one male adult individual. This was not included in the chart as it would have over represented the relative proportion of dog against other species.

Measurements of this individual were taken to estimate the shoulder height based on the total length of the bone and the mid shaft diameter, Harcourt (1974, 151-177).

The given range for Romano-British dogs
(Harcourt (1974, 166, Table II))

	OR	Ht
Radius	66-220mm	23-72cm
Tibia	82-229mm	25-68cm
Humerus	79-208mm	26-69cm
Ulna	87-235mm	25-66cm

Usher Road dog

OR	Ht
130.0mm	43.3cm
147.0mm	43.9cm
148.0mm	44.2cm
132.0mm	42.6cm
152.0mm	42.9cm
151.0mm	42.6cm

(OR = Observed range of total length measurement)

(Ht = Estimated shoulder height)

Msd index range 5.8-12.7mm. Mean 10.1.

5.131-8.030mm Mean 6.9

Skull measurements (only two were possible).

Given range (Harcourt (1974, 165))

Usher Road dog

II 71-117mm (Occipital protuberance to junction of nasal and frontal bones)

89.6mm

X 30-68mm (Palatal width between PM4 and M1)

51.2mm

The measurements suggest an individual which belongs to the lower range of shoulder height known from this period; it also indicates that the animal was of slight build, shown by the mid shaft diameter index.

Comparison with modern reference material showed a close parallel in shoulder height with AML reference specimen number 14, which is a small female collie of shoulder height 43.2cms. The total lengths compare well with the Usher Road individual, but the mean of the mid shaft diameter is higher (10.5mm) and therefore the Usher Road individual was probably of more slender build than the collie.

There appears to be no significant difference between the material from the pits and ditches except that horse is not found in any pit with the exception of two fragments from Pit 30. This is perhaps because horseflesh was not eaten at this site (no butchery marks were noted) and they were probably only used for riding and traction. Conversely dog is found in both pits and ditches and no butchery marks were found on dog.

Phase III

Mid-late 4th century

	Ox	Horse	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog/cat	Unident	Total
Pits							
40	5	—	—	5	1 (cat)	6	17
Total	5	—	—	5	1	6	17
Ditches							
XVI	40	—	4	5	1	10	60
XVII	52	3	3	—	—	—	58
XVIII	43	7	6	4	7	—	67
Total	135	10	13	9	8	10	185

Over half the animal bone from this small group of Phase III belongs to ox, with most of the material coming from the ditches.

Phase IV

Late 4th century

	Ox	Horse	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog	Unident	Total
Ditches							
XIX	38	2	3	4	4	35	86
Total	38	2	3	4	4	35	86
Oven?							
42	17	—	1	1	—	50	69
Black earth							
43	7	—	—	—	—	5	12
Total	24	—	1	1	—	55	81

This last phase of occupation in the Roman period produced a very small amount of bone (167) showing much the same trend as the other phases, i.e. a predominance of ox over other species in both the number of bones and meat weight. There was also a high degree of fragmentation.

In conclusion, the animal bone from Usher Road suggests similar husbandry and dietary practices throughout the four phases of occupation. Ox is the dominant species with lesser numbers of sheep and pig. Butchery marks were noted on all three species, and no particular joint selection was observed, all parts of the

skeleton being present. Most bones achieved full epiphyseal fusion and most mandibles showed full dentition and tooth wear, suggesting that the animals were not slaughtered until fully mature.

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