

EXCAVATIONS AT SHEPPERTON GREEN 1967 AND 1973

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During May 1967 a report was received at the London Museum that a number of human skeletons had come to light on a construction site in Shepperton in an area that was some distance from the nearest church and not known to have been used as a graveyard, at least within recorded history. The information was given by Dr David Foster, who acting in his capacity of duty police surgeon visited the site in order to establish whether the remains were of recent date. Having concluded that the burials were more of archaeological than forensic interest, Dr Foster plotted the positions and made contact with the London Museum. During the investigation of these burials it soon emerged that there were also a number of settlement features, and since these had fared rather better than the skeletons during the top-soil stripping, attention was focused on them. On two subsequent occasions areas adjacent to the 1967 site were excavated and the results of all three sessions of work are dealt with jointly in the following pages.

The excavations were located in the parish of Shepperton on part of the former Rose Acre Nurseries, south of Briar Road, Shepperton Green (NGR TQ 0705 6770, Figs. 1 and 2). The construction work comprised a new school with ancillary buildings, subsequently named the Saxon County Junior School. The site lies some 300m south-west of what may tentatively be regarded as the centre of the medieval settlement at Shepperton Green and about 1.5 km from the original centre of Shepperton (Fig. 2). The site is located on the Upper Floodplain terrace at an altitude of 12m above Ordnance Datum. The land to the south and west has been extensively quarried for gravel.

TOPOGRAPHY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SHEPPERTON AREA

The final section of the report is devoted to a discussion of the Saxon and medieval discoveries in relation to the topographical form of the area and what little is known of the pattern of settlements and land colonisation within it. However a few preliminary comments will serve as background to the work of excavation.

A line drawn from Staines to Brentford would define approximately the northern limit of the upper floodplain terrace of the Thames, a wide and level gravel deposit which bears in a number of localities the brickearth sheet that is commonly found in the Thames Basin. Since the river describes a wide southerly arc between these two towns the terrace is well-preserved, the Thames having worked its way close to the Eocene beds of north Surrey.

South of the Staines Road (which runs from Staines through Sunbury and Hampton to Kingston) lies a sector of the upper floodplain that had evaded development as a London suburb until the 1970s, being somewhat distant by road and poorly served by rail. It contains the villages of Laleham, Littleton, Shepperton Green, Shepperton and Upper and Lower Halliford, and the excavations reported here were located more or less in its centre, close to the western boundary of the parish of Shepperton.

Although the area probably supported a moderate to dense tree cover in its natural

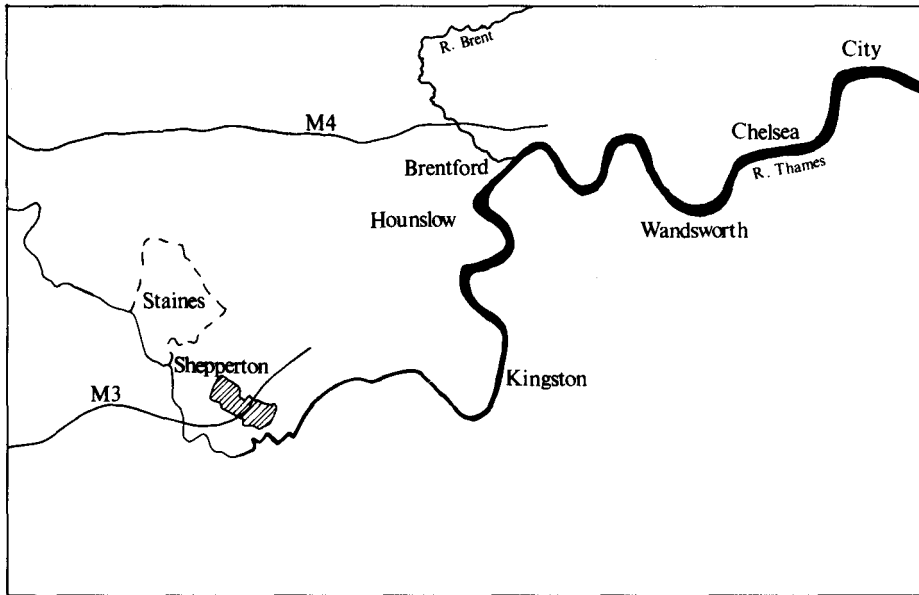


Fig. 1 Location of the Shepperton Area.

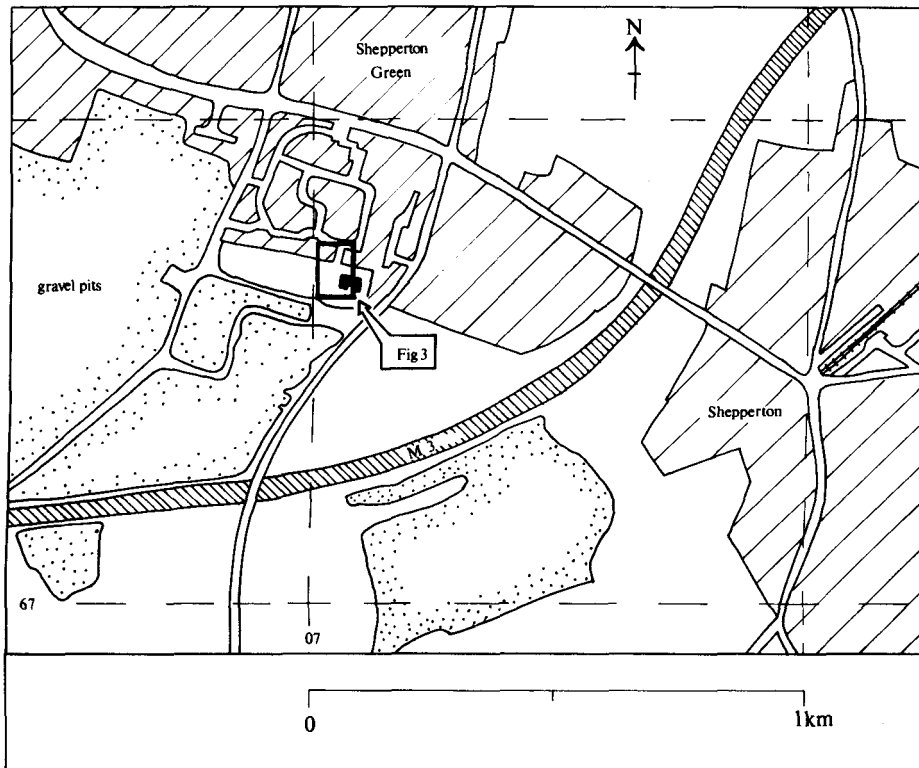


Fig. 2 Shepperton Green : Location of the excavation site.

state this is nowhere apparent at the present time. The demands of agriculture have long since stripped away the woodlands, while excavation of gravel in large quantities has brought some drastic alterations to the scenery, especially in eliminating many of the tiny streams which once drained the region. The construction of the Queen Mary Reservoir at Littleton swallowed up a huge amount of farmland and with it, no doubt, a number of early settlement sites.

In recent years the construction of housing estates has gone some way towards infilling the open land between the ancient villages, masking the position of the original nucleus of these communities. On numerous occasions archaeological finds have been chanced upon during the process of upheaval but rarely have the remains been examined *in situ* by fieldworkers trained to record and interpret such discoveries.

Evidence of prehistoric settlement in this southern portion of the Middlesex gravel plain is extremely rare. To the north of the area middle bronze age cemeteries have been discovered at Littleton and Sunbury¹, with indications of a third reported from Hampton². It is possible to argue that such aspects of occupation would have been sited on marginal land at the edge of the settled and colonised zone, but this type of overall pattern could only be verified by a concentration of fieldwork and aerial survey which has not been possible in this region. Activity in the early iron age is denoted by the coin hoard from Shepperton Green, which is discussed below.

The principal discoveries consist of scattered indications of Romano-British settlement and portions of three Anglo-Saxon cemeteries; at Walton Bridge Green, at War Close, and in Upper West Field which is situated a few hundred metres south of the excavation site³. These finds are discussed in more detail below, but it may be observed that in view of the scarcity of such indications in Middlesex generally they form a cluster of material evidence suggestive of continuous habitation.

There are some circumstantial points that need to be made concerning the recovery of archaeological data. Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have always far outnumbered archaeologically attested settlements of the same period, largely because grave goods and skeletons are spectacular finds that attract attention while settlement traces are rarely reported as chance finds. Hence our knowledge of three such cemeteries within the single parish of Shepperton, and the lack of supporting traces of settlement prior to these excavations. A second point concerns the excavations for gravel which have affected so much of the area. Since these Upper Floodplain deposits have never been found to contain much in the way of palaeolithic flint implements, little or no inspection of them was conducted by the late 19th- early 20th century fieldworkers of the London region, who in the favoured localities such as Ealing, Acton and Yiewsley-West Drayton sometimes chanced upon archaeological remains of post-palaeolithic date. Thus the material remains by which we attempt to judge just how long the gravel terrace of the Shepperton locality has been utilised by farming settlers may be far from representative.

THE EXCAVATIONS OF 1967 and 1973

Since many tons of earth had been scraped from the construction area before archaeological excavations were attempted, there was no chance in 1967 to investigate the upper part of the stratification (Fig. 3; Areas A and B). In the same year members of the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society opened up four trenches immediately west of the Museum excavation and adjacent to it. The excavation was not apparently

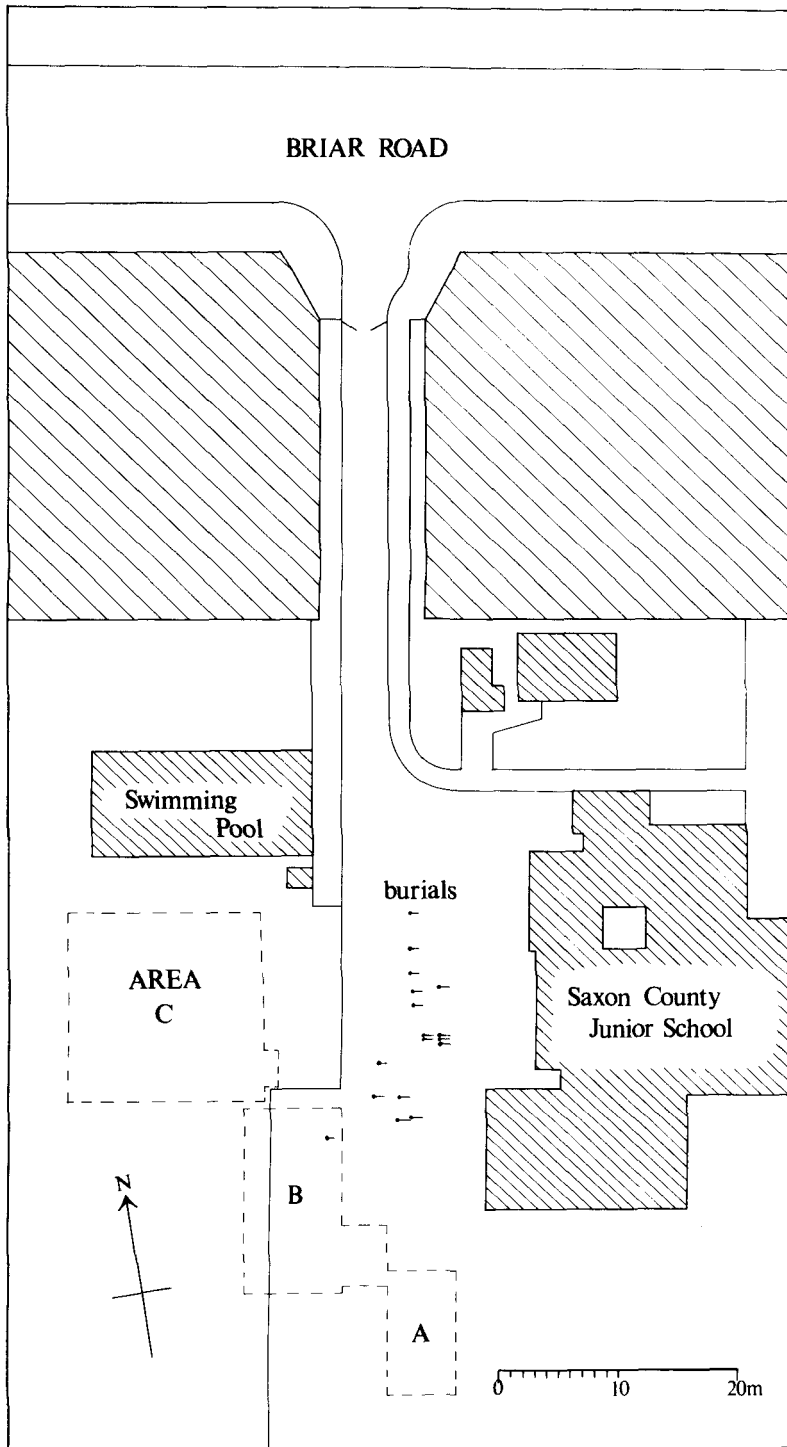


Fig. 3 Shepperton Green : General Site Plan.

taken down to the natural level, but it appears that a number of features containing sherds of medieval pottery were identified in the topsoil strata. The construction of a covered swimming pool within the playing field in March 1969 provided another opportunity to add to the evidence, but little resulted from this. The depth of the pool was partially obtained by building up rather than cutting down, and this may explain why no trace of occupation was observed.

The most productive excavation was carried out in April-May 1973 (Fig. 3, Area C). Since the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments had scheduled the whole of the playing field area in 1968, notice was received of plans to construct a new classroom unit to the north west of the original excavation site.

The opportunity was taken to examine the 256 sq. m. plot required for this before building commenced. About 0.40 m of turf and soil were removed by mechanical means, and the surface of the remaining dark earth was carefully trowelled. Although isolated sherds of pottery gave promise of archaeological remains at a greater depth, the outlines of features could not be discerned at this level. With the removal of the remaining topsoil, it rapidly became apparent that the square was packed with the characteristic ditches and excavations that indicate settlement.

The surface geology of the site consisted of a layer of yellow brickearth (0.50-0.75 m in depth) resting on the gravel of the Upper Floodplain terrace. The deposit seems to run across the entire Laleham-Shepperton sector, as may be witnessed in the sections of the gravel pits which abound in the area. On the surface of the gravel was a thin deposit of humus, merely a few centimetres in thickness but quite distinct and, as far as is known, not to be found in other parts of Middlesex. In places the brickearth contained patches of a red-brown sand, not as horizontal bands but oddly contorted as though indicative of periglacial conditions.

PHASE 1: THE TIMBER STRUCTURE

(Fig. 4, Pl. 1)

During the initial inspection of the construction site in 1967, it was observed that Area B contained a concentration of circular and oval marks that were presumed to be postholes. Fortunately, this part of the site was designated as a car park and so it was possible to spend some time in planning and excavating the features. Close on 200 postholes were recorded, of which about two-thirds were actually excavated. The filling of each consisted of a stiff orange clay, which could be distinguished from the natural clay into which they had been dug only by continuous damping of the excavation. A small number yielded tiny fragments of fired clay, but no dating evidence. In one case only was a subdivision of posthole filling observed, distinguishing the dimensions of the post from the packing material placed around. Thus it appears that whatever structure was represented by these features was dismantled rather than left to rot, and the filling was a silt derived from the brickearth, to which it closely corresponded in texture and colour. This rather implies that in this phase topsoil cover was thin or non-existent but whether this was the natural condition or whether it resulted from human activity is not clear. Numerous postholes had the form of an inverted cone, as if they mirrored fairly closely the sharpened base of stakes. Some certainly may have been driven in, but many were probably too large for this and the excavation of a pit to receive them would have been essential.

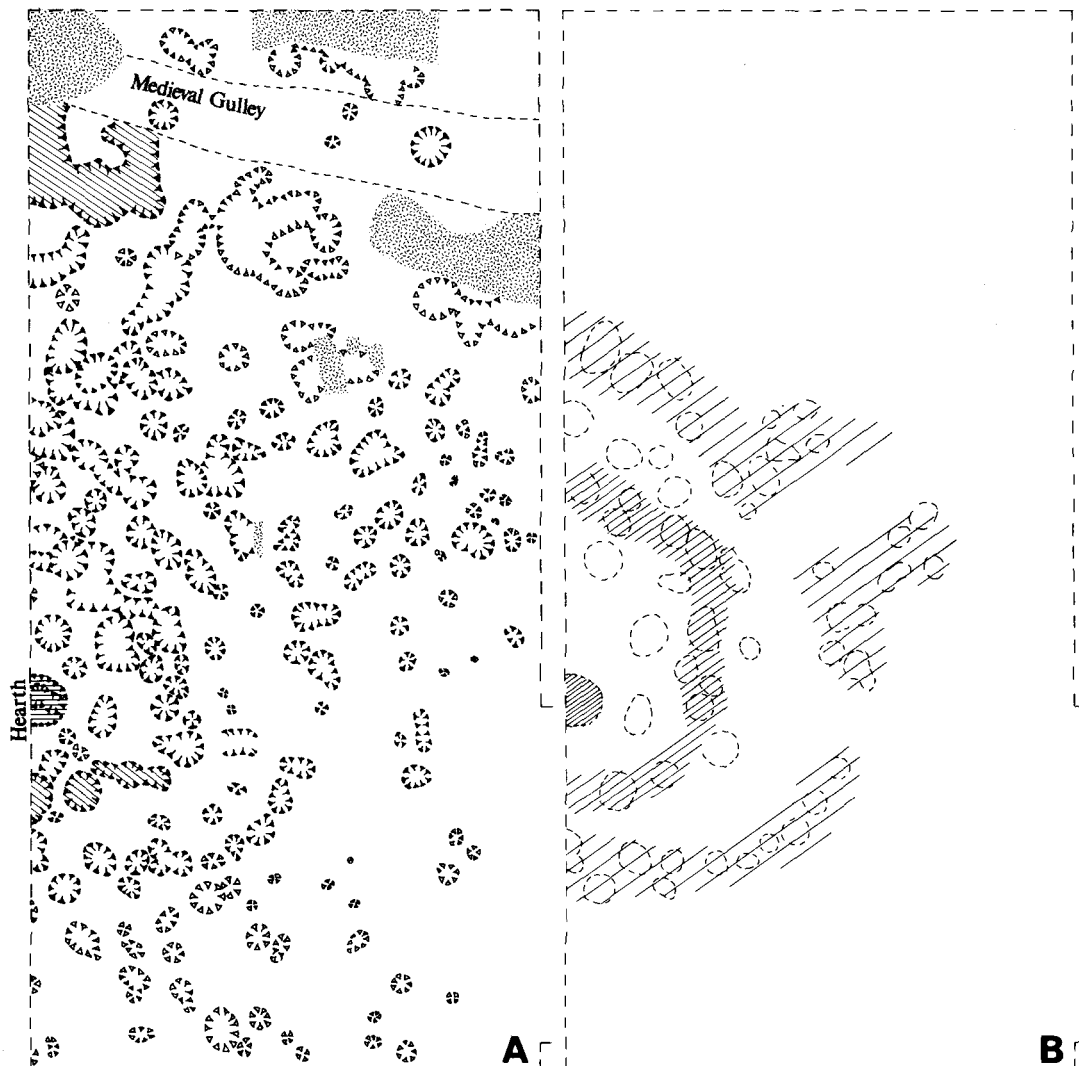


Fig. 4 Shepperton Green : A (left) Plan of prehistoric hut site, Area B. B (right) Interpretation of hut features.

Within the complex were too small sub-groups of postholes, the perimeters of which were marked by a thin lining of burnt humus. This brown-purple crust was first perceived in plan view, and upon excavation was found to line the entire posthole wall. In addition, the structure apparently had a hearth, for a pit filled with burnt brickearth was found against the western edge of the excavation (Fig. 4A).

From the complexity of the plan, there is no doubt that a succession of structures were erected in Area B during this phase. In the interpretive plan (Fig. 4B) post positions have been linked to portray the outline of a circular building to which it is felt that the majority of the larger postholes belonged. Only the eastern half of the structure was exposed in Area B, and its approximate centre being determined by the position of the hearth. Both an inner circle of large postholes and an outer ring of smaller ones were conveniently concentric to the hearth, and it is possible to distinguish the outline of a covered entrance or porch on the eastern perimeter. To judge from the frequency of continuous or overlapping postholes there was considerable repairing or even rebuilding of the original structure, including the entrance.

No dating evidence was associated with features of this phase, but a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of the building is provided by the observation that features of phase 2 had cut through and destroyed the postholes of phase 1. The structure, therefore, is earlier than c. AD 1200, and in view of the contrast in the silting of the two periods (orange clay in phase 1, dark humus in phase 3) the difference in time was probably considerable.

In spite of the lack of associated artefacts the structure has obvious parallels in round houses of bronze age or iron age date⁴. A scatter of coarse flint-gritted sherds from the site includes pieces of early iron age type, suggesting a date of c. 550-300BC for the house.

PHASE 2: SAXON-EARLY MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT

In Areas A, B and C, pottery sherds were recovered which will provide a chronology ranging from the early-Saxon period to roughly the 13th century. This material included grass-tempered ware (5% of the total), shell-tempered wares of 10th-12th-century date (15%), and varieties of well-made hard, sandy fabric of 11th-13th-century date (15%). The greater part of the collection occurred in topsoil. Consequently the dating of the many features is insecure. Some are undoubtedly of the 11th-13th century, on the basis of stratified pottery in reliable quantities, but many of the features excavated produced so little that nothing more than a weakly established *terminus post quem* can be suggested. Accordingly, no attempt is made here to construct a chronological subdivision of the features. The following mode of description is offered as an alternative:

1. Description of the individual features, quoting such dating evidence as was found.
2. A consideration of the general plan formed by the features.
3. An account of the dating parameters for the complex as a whole.

This, at minimum, should ensure that too heavy reliance is not placed on the small quantity of stratified material. Further, it may serve to underline aspects of the discoveries that suggest a continually occupied settlement, which in view of the dating range of the finds is historically probable.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE FEATURES

THE BURIALS (Fig. 3)

It was the discovery of inhumation burials that first brought the site to notice. Since this occurred during the removal by machinery of the topsoil, considerable damage occurred to the skeletons and no adequate recording was found to be possible. At least twenty individuals were represented, each buried with the head to the west in Christian fashion and without grave goods. In one instance the digging of a grave had cut through an earlier inhumation, the disturbed bones being re-interred with the new burial. One of the inhumations had been partially removed by the digging of a medieval feature. Judging from this and the presence of medieval settlement features in the general area of the burials (presumably not contemporary), it is probable that the cemetery was not in use after *c.* AD 1000.

FEATURES IN AREAS A AND B (Fig. 8)

Feature 17. In the northern part of Area A postholes of phase 1 were cut through by a shallow ditch (Feature 17), the brown soil filling of which contrasted with the yellow clay filling the postholes. The shallow profile of the ditch, its width and its filling made it closely comparable to the complex of ditches found in 1973 in Area C. A large sherd of possibly 9th-century date was found in the filling.

Features 18 and 19. These consisted of narrow trenches or slots with a number of apparently associated postholes, all filled with a fine dark soil. Parts of the system had cut into the filling of phase 1 postholes. The features are likely to represent the timbers and wall-slots of a medieval building.

Feature 20. Like most of the features in Areas A and B this was somewhat disturbed by earthmoving. It contained the dark soil filling as seen in 18 and 19, and was a vertical-sided trench about 0.30m deep adjoined by a shallow, irregular scoop. It may have been a sewage pit.

Features 21 and 22. Also filled with dark soil, these features had much of the character of 18 and 19, and interpretation as wall-slots for a timber building is probably correct. Pottery from 20, 21 and 22 suggests a date in the period 1050-1150.

FEATURES IN AREA C (Fig. 5)

The ditches

Features 4, 5 and 6 (Fig. 7, C-C'). Three shallow ditches aligned east-west and spaced closely together. The depth of these features is 0.25m. Feature 4 produced a bone spoon and an iron buckle (Fig. 13, No. 12) and is probably Saxon. Feature 5 contained the rim of a Saxon pot and Feature 6 the rim of a cooking pot dated *c.* 1050-1150. All were filled with fine brown soil containing fragments of animal bone.

Feature 8 (Fig. 7, H-H'). A ditch 1.7m wide showing evidence of recutting. Brown soil filling, no dateable finds.

Feature 9. Portion of a ditch found in the south west corner of excavation. No finds.

Features 11 and 12 (Fig. 7, G-G'). Identified as two ditches but essentially part of the same system. Brown soil filling, no dateable finds.

Feature 13 (Fig. 7, D-D'). A distinctly V-shaped ditch, 1.05m wide and 0.6m deep. Stratigraphically later than Features 11-12. It contained pottery of the period 1050-1150 and a number of small finds including a coin of Offa (see p. 121).

Feature 14 (Fig. 7, E-E' and F-F'). A narrow ditch of varying depth. The filling was distinguished from that of other features by its gravel content. Stratigraphically later than Feature 13, it contained a rim-sherd of early-medieval date.

Feature 16. Wide ditch of uncertain date.

The pits

Feature 3. A small pit forming the terminal of ditch 4.

Feature 7 (Fig. 7, B-B'). A circular pit 2m in diameter and 0.8m deep. It had been dug through the brickearth, which was deep in this area, to the surface of the gravel. The filling was mainly a fine brown material in common with the majority of the ditches. Pottery sherds date the feature to the period 1050-1150.

Feature 15 (Fig. 5). A shallow pit or basin showing signs of much recutting; no dateable finds.

The grubenhaus

Feature 10 (Figs. 5 and 6, Pl.2). The single hut discovered was roughly square in plan (2.5 m by 2.2 m), and 0.9 m deep as measured from the brickearth surface. Its filling consisted of a fine brown soil, in which no sign of silting, tip-lines or other subdivisions were observed. The lower half of the fill was in a few places stained green, but these traces were slight. Postholes were found in each of the four corners, and near the mid-point of the western edge was a pair of stake holes. The very small quantity of pottery found within the feature included one sherd of grass-tempered ware but no rim-fragments or other material worthy of illustration, except for a number of small finds.

2. FUNCTION OF THE FEATURES

The structural elements in the overall plan are clear, consisting of a grubenhaus (10) and indications of two early medieval buildings (18-19 and 21-22), probably rectangular in

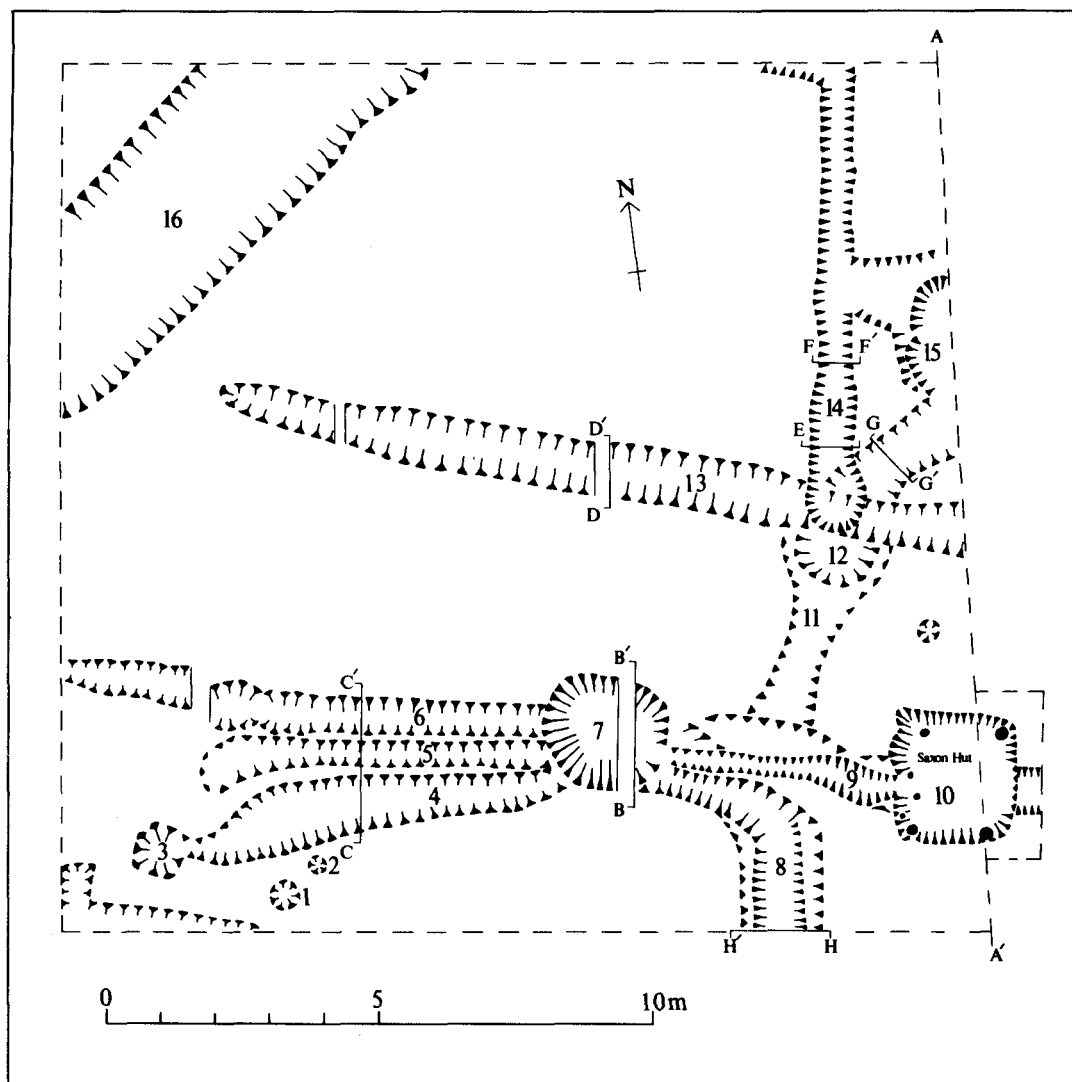


Fig. 5 Shepperton Green : Plan of features, Area C.

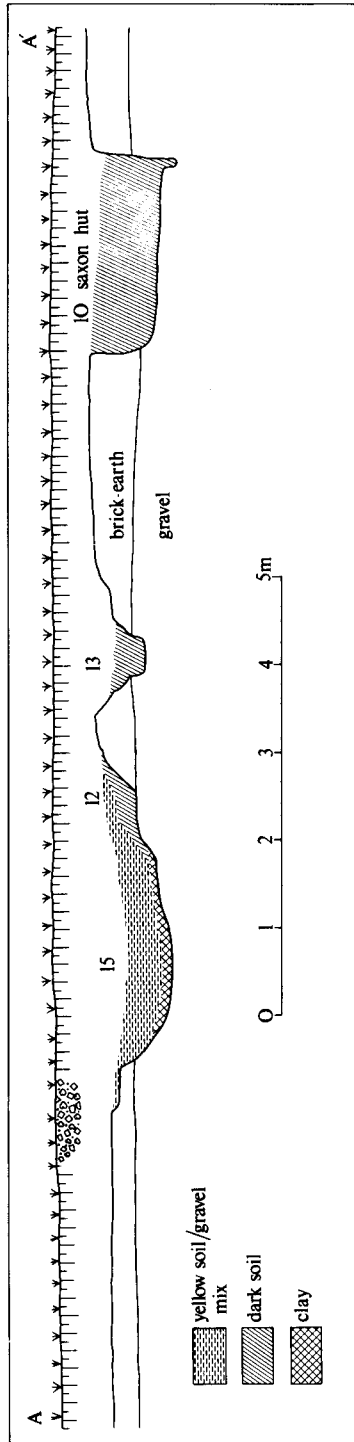


Fig. 6 Shepperton Green : East section of Area C showing grubenhaus.

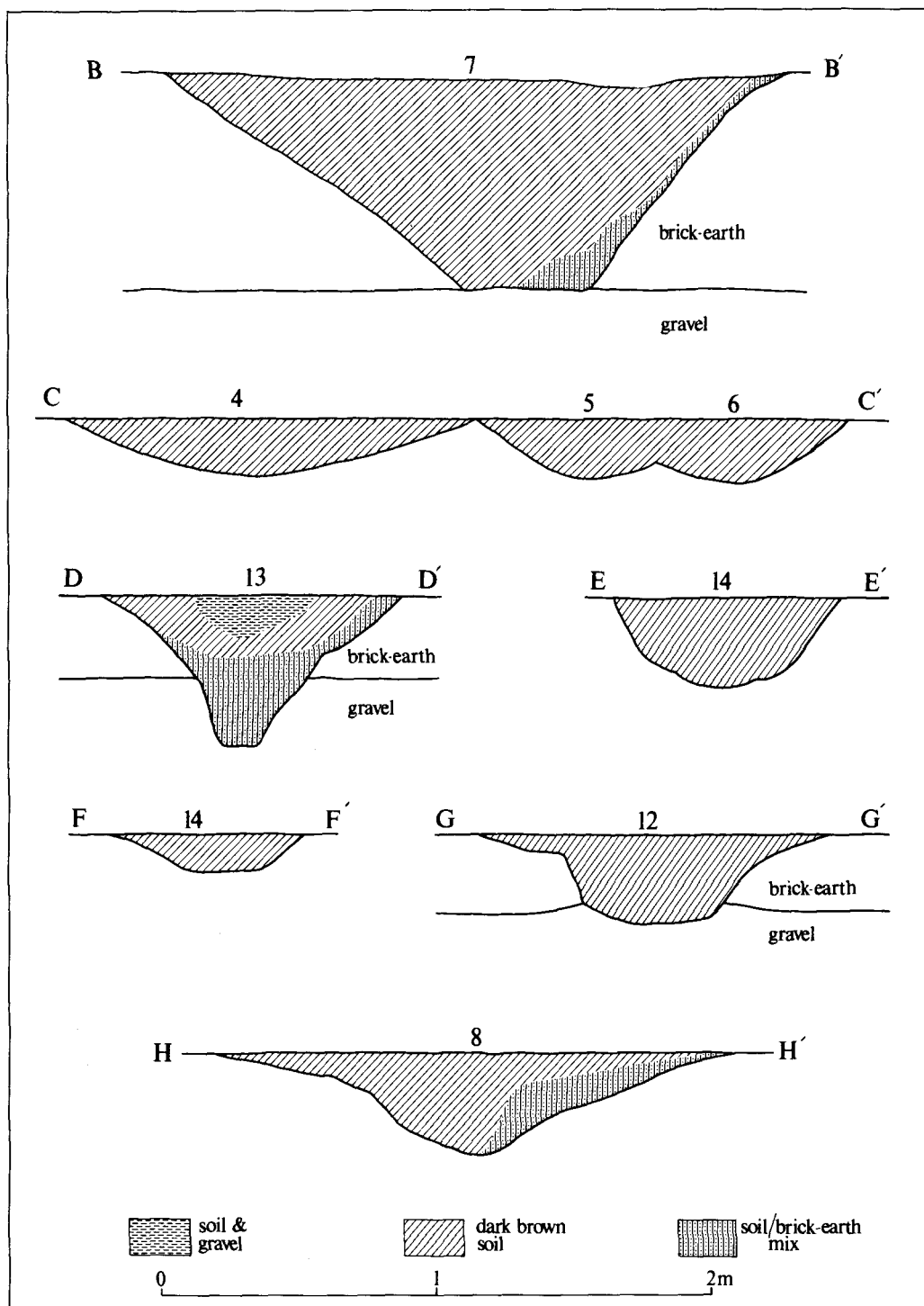


Fig. 7 Shepperton Green : Sections of features, Area C.

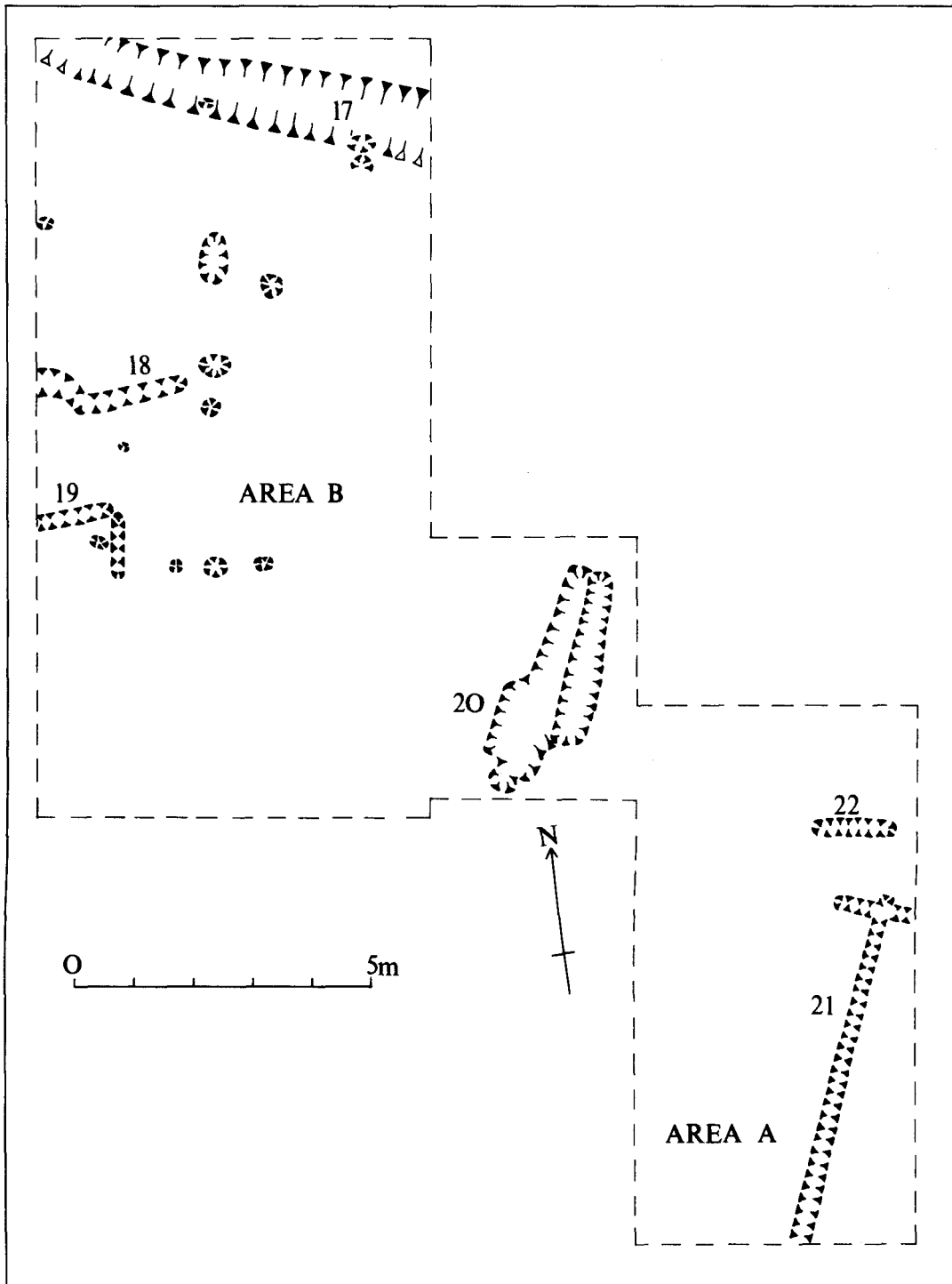


Fig. 8 Shepperton Green : Plan of features, Areas A and B.

plan. The postholes in the area of 18-19 might be an indication of an earlier or later building on the same spot in which a different technique of construction was employed. The period IE plan at Northolt (1225-1300)⁵, exhibits a similar combination of narrow trenches and postholes. It is noteworthy that these two medieval buildings and the possible sewage pit were located in an area not crossed by any of the ditches so common on site C, and thus may define an area into which occupation spread in the 11th to 13th centuries.

The ditches appear to divide the land into rectangular plots. The close proximity of ditches 4, 5 and 6 must indicate a sequence of events in which one of the plot boundaries was periodically re-established. The intersection of ditch 9 and the grubenhaus was examined with care, and the conclusion was reached that the ditch was later than the hut. It may be that ditch 9 represents a re-organisation of the plot layout, extending the system eastwards across the region of the hut site after the latter had fallen out of use. Ditch 14, one of the north-south elements, was found to be stratigraphically later than the ditches with which it was associated, and produced a rim sherd from a shell-tempered cooking pot dated to the period 1050-1150.

Ditch 13 bore little relation to the rest of the system. Its distinct V-shaped profile also contrasted with the shallow cross-sections of other features (Fig. 7) and if this represents a time in which the organisation of the settlement was becoming loose then the digging of ditch 14 (eliminating ditch 13) may have rectified matters. Ditch 17 (in Area B) was the most southerly element in the ditch complex. Beyond it the nature of the occupation evidence was of a different kind, as noted above.

The three pits (3, 7 and 15) were positively associated with the ditch system and presumably acted as drainage sumps or water catchments. The same intention seems to have been expressed in the bulbous terminal to ditch 12.

3. ASSESSMENT OF DATE

The pottery sherds range from material of early-Saxon type to fragments of large cooking pots of the early medieval period. While a few features produced no diagnostic sherds later than early Saxon, the paucity of finds from all contexts save the topsoil makes the assessment of date hazardous. An extreme, but nonetheless viable, interpretation would be that the majority of features relate to the development of settlement on the site in the late Saxon-Norman period. It is perhaps more probable that some part of the ditch system was contemporary with the Saxon grubenhaus, particularly the well-established north-south boundary element which ran close to its western side. Even this sunken hut is not dateable to the early-Saxon period, however, since the bronze pin from its filling is probably of the 8th or 9th century.

The two remarkable Saxon coins originated from Area C. It is suggested in the coin report that both specimens are likely to have been deposited within about 20-30 years of their date of issue. Taken with the evidence of pottery and other small finds, the coins help to suggest that the time-span of the ditch system was from the 5th or 6th century to the 12th century. The coin of Offa (date of issue c. 792-796) was discovered in the filling of Feature 13, shown by excavation to be a late (though not final) element in the complex. The two rim sherds from the feature are later than the suggested date of deposit for the coin, which together with the other dateable small finds from this filling must be regarded as stray finds. The 10th-century coin was found in the topsoil.

The cooking pot fragments, many of which were from topsoil, have close affinities with the forms and fabrics found at Northolt Manor within contexts assigned to periods IC and ID (c. 1050-1225). However, some specimens of St. Neots ware are present, suggesting occupation prior to the Norman Conquest. The middle-Saxon period seems to be poorly represented, but the date range of the plain sherds of Saxon type is impossible to determine. Fortunately, the dating of a number of the small finds to the middle-Saxon period provides firm ground for propounding that the occupation of the site was maintained throughout the Saxon period.

4. THE NATURE OF THE SETTLEMENT AND ITS PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH

A certain amount of worked flint found during the excavations specifies activity during the prehistoric period, at some time prior to the arrival of the iron age settlers. It constitutes no more than the usual collection of such material which results from fieldwork in the Middlesex gravel terrace region. Firm evidence of pre-Roman settlement was established by the recovery of a round-house plan, with which the scatter of early iron age sherds has been linked. In contrast to this material, which belongs to an early phase of the iron age, stands the coin hoard discovered in Jessiman Terrace in 1955 about 200m east of the site. At the time of discovery an occupation feature (either a pit or a ditch) was noticed and it is therefore possible that the later prehistoric occupation may have been of some duration⁶.

The Romano-British sherds found are small and abraded, typical of the finds resulting from manure-scattering of domestic refuse on arable land. A more substantial indication of the settlement of this period was perceived in the 19th century when pottery and portions of tessellated pavements were recorded 'near Shepperton Saxon cemetery'⁷. The location of the cemetery, somewhere in Upper West Field, is discussed below, but it is probable that the Saxon settlers inherited land which had been farmed (and no doubt kept well-drained) for several centuries.

Although the area of excavation was not extensive, sufficient detail of the Saxon and medieval settlement has emerged to allow comparison with other sites. The scatter of Saxon sherds makes it clear that occupation had certainly commenced by the 6th century, and it is to that period that some of the shallow ditches may be tentatively assigned. Although grubenhauer are mostly found in areas of early-Saxon settlement⁸, the Shepperton Green hut belongs not to this phase but to the 8th or 9th century at least, and is thus a demonstration of occupation continuing through the first millenium AD. The ditches were used and modified throughout this period.

The ditch system, viewed in combination with the grubenhaus, invites comparison with the results of larger scale excavations in which the general plan of Saxon settlements has emerged. At Linford in Essex, Barton was able to trace the development of a pagan Saxon ditch system, part of which enclosed a rectangular house. He described the features as part of a well-laid out scheme and concluded that the purpose was not defensive but merely the definition of a given area⁹. The shallow profiles of the Linford ditches support his interpretation. The profiles of the Shepperton features were, with one exception, identical.

The excavation of a late-Saxon settlement at Little Paxton (Hunts) has provided a more detailed plan of similar arrangements. Addyman interpreted the main ditched elements as

an enclosure and a droveway, but suggested that the remaining slots and trenches might indicate the limits of holdings within the settlement, or alternatively something in the nature of home fields¹⁰. Shallow ditch profiles were again recorded. The Shepperton ditches were clearly maintained or periodically re-established over the centuries, and to judge from the dating evidence this process was in operation for most of the Saxon period, with the possibility of a phase of desertion in middle-Saxon times.

The features to the south-east of the ditch system (in Areas A and B) appear to represent two rectangular timber buildings of the 11th to 12th centuries. Their location may indicate an extension of settlement from the Anglo-Saxon nucleus. The dark, humic nature of the fillings stood in contrast to the lighter soils in the ditches, and this too may be a reflection of a shift from the original centre onto former arable land. The range of archaeological evidence ends with the scatter of 14th-15th-century Surrey ware sherds, minutely fragmented and suggestive of manuring with domestic waste. Probably a further shifting had occurred and this area had been returned to arable.

Do these aspects of the site relate to what is known of the form of minor holdings or hamlets in the Anglo-Saxon landscape? The hints of settlement mobility – expansion, contraction or merely shifting of the occupied area – are well-established traits in the history of the English village¹¹. The definition of land-plots within or near Saxon settlements is widely attested, and there is little doubt that the Shepperton Green site is a further example. Interpretation of the function of the plot system may vary. First, it may be that the settlement itself was neatly subdivided, as the Linford evidence appears to indicate. In which case it is tempting to see this as the origin, or relation, of the often well-preserved ‘toft and croft’ arrangement preserved in deserted or shrunken medieval villages, especially on claylands. Secondly, the plots may be the home fields attached to the borders of the settlement, to follow one of Addyman’s suggestions for the Little Paxton pattern. Thirdly, since the nature of Anglo-Saxon fields is unknown and the origin of the strip-field system obscure, it is worth pondering whether such ditch systems may reflect the general arrangement of arable land in the Anglo-Saxon period.

Some attempt may be made to visualise this minor settlement in its contemporary landscape. Shepperton Green is first mentioned, as Upper Shepperton, in 1293¹². But for the archaeological evidence one might have concluded that it was a subsidiary settlement established from the village of Shepperton in a period of expanding population. Its pre-Conquest, indeed pagan Saxon, origin cannot now be denied, and the pagan Saxon cemetery discovered in Upper West Field implies that originally it was a place of some substance. The exact location of the cemetery is in some doubt, but since Upper West Field ran at least as far as the southern boundary of the site it is probable that the burials found during construction work were a part of it, namely the Christian-Saxon portion.

Since there is no reference to the place in Domesday Book one must conclude that it formed at that period only a minor holding in the parish. To return briefly to the Little Paxton site, likewise without specific reference in Domesday, its excavator suggested that it may have been an example of the estates within parishes referred to in many Anglo-Saxon charters, perhaps an individual farm unit with its own buildings and home fields, and droveway connecting it to the village centre¹³. To consider the applicability of this arrangement to the present site one must examine what is known of the origin of the parish within which it lies. The parish of Shepperton (Fig. 9) is a more-or-less equilateral triangle about two miles on each side, the apex positioned at Shepperton Green and the

base on the River Thames. As a territorial unit its shape indicates that it was intended to provide its inhabitants with a substantial length of the river-bank. The same determination is preserved in the shapes of the parishes of Sunbury and Hampton to the east, and in the form of Staines further upstream to the west. Immediately upstream from Shepperton are the parishes of Laleham and Littleton, to the latter of which this interpretation cannot apply since it has less than a mile of riverside. However, there is evidence that Littleton was formed in the late 11th century¹⁴, and if Littleton is removed from the map the resultant early form of Laleham conforms to the river-oriented design of the other parishes.

This in itself confirms a pre-Conquest origin for the parish boundaries, which is hardly surprising. Are there indications of the date of these territorial units and the significance of Shepperton Green within them? In connection with the latter, there is an odd northern

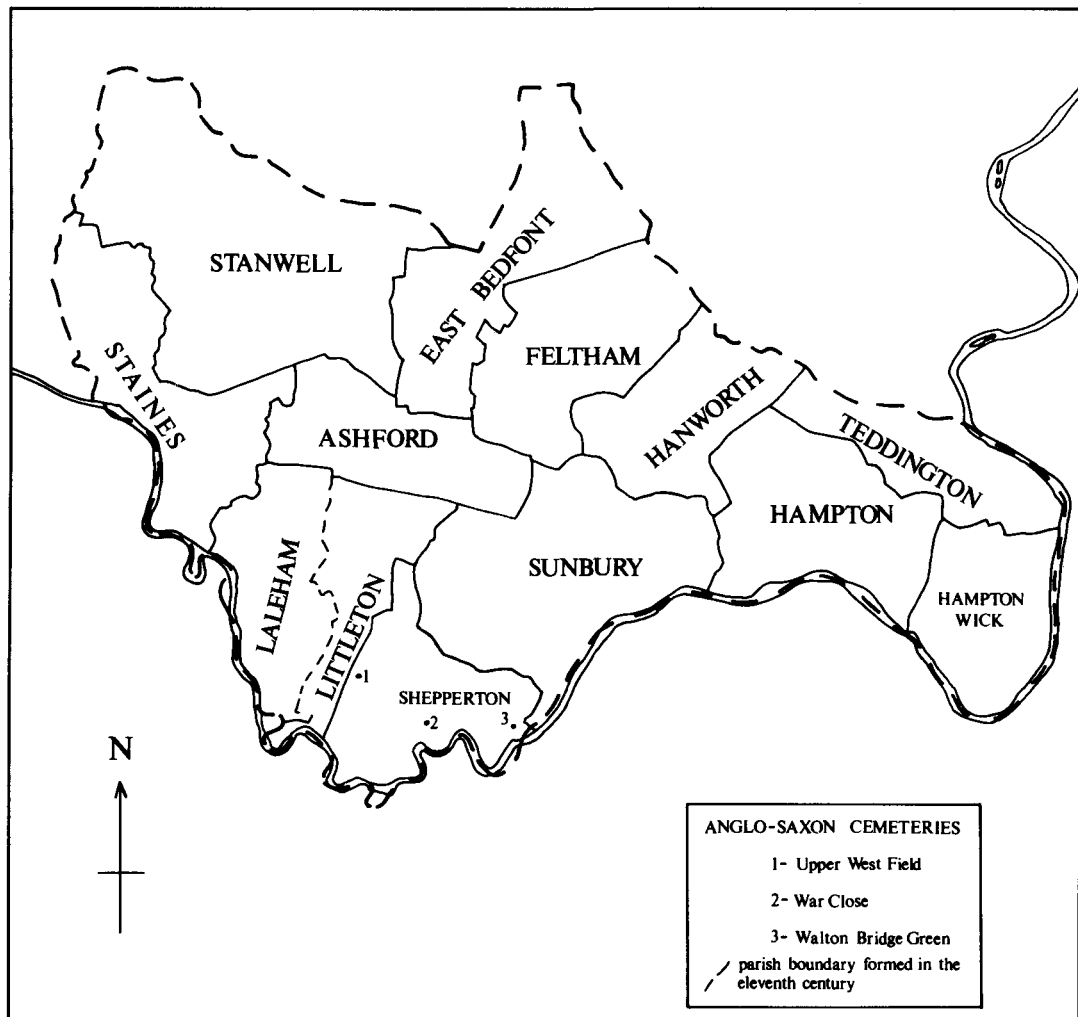


Fig. 9 Spelthorne Hundred.

projection of the parish (or rather, there was until its recent incorporation in Littleton) beyond the village which has the appearance of some additional grant of land, perhaps dating to the time of the formation of Littleton. With this removed, the natural boundary of the River Ash would have been utilised for almost the entire length of Shepperton's north-eastern border, and Shepperton Green is seen to fit quite tightly into the apex of the triangle (Fig. 10). The parish has yielded three Saxon burial grounds¹⁵, Upper West Field near Shepperton Green, War Close in the old centre of Shepperton village, and Walton Bridge Green. The first was adjacent to the excavated Saxon and medieval settlement, the second at the heart of the principal medieval (and presumably Saxon) village, and the third was within 500 m of Lower Halliford (first mentioned as Halliford in 962). Of the three, Shepperton was located centrally, while Shepperton Green and Lower Halliford were sited in the north-west and south-east of the parish near parish boundaries. Since the Thames formed the southern boundary War Close and its presumed settlement may also be said to be near a parish boundary. It is possible to trace the track which connected the three places; Walton Lane from Walton Bridge Green, Chertsey Road to Lord's Bridge, and thence the footpath to Pool End. This route reaches Shepperton Green not at the modern focal point on the Laleham Road but in the precise area of the excavation site.

The relationship between pagan Saxon cemeteries and parish boundaries has been much discussed. Bonney has summarised the literature on the subject, covering not only the discovery of cemeteries on or near boundaries but also the numerous references in late-Saxon charters to heathen burials¹⁶. He has pointed out that parish boundaries (in some areas at least) are likely to have preserved the boundaries of the estates from which the parishes were compounded, and that such estates may be considered to be pagan Saxon or earlier¹⁷. The mechanism by which a proportion of cemeteries came to be situated on or near boundaries remains obscure. Meaney judged it to be a religious principle, 'to keep the spirits of the dead away from the dwelling places of the living'¹⁸, but that interpretation is ruled out in the case of the Upper West Field burial ground and is certainly suspect for the other two cemeteries of the parish.

An early origin for some of the Wiltshire parishes has been confirmed by the observations that Wansdyke (which is mentioned in 9th-century charters) cuts across their boundaries¹⁹. Perhaps more relevant to West Middlesex are the studies of early boundaries in Essex. According to Rodwell²⁰ there is convincing evidence that parts at least of the parish boundary network pre-date the Roman road system, and thus have fossilised aspects of the pre-Roman landscape. Against this background it is instructive to examine the distribution of archaeological sites in and around the parish of Shepperton (Fig. 10). The number of known sites is small, but it is evident that not only Saxon sites but also those of the Roman period occur close to parish boundaries. The range of information from Shepperton Green defines a long period of occupation. Would the other find-spots have yielded such a range had they been investigated more thoroughly? The case is perhaps sufficiently interesting to encourage research into the antiquity of territorial units in Middlesex.

NOTES

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2. Dick Sheppard 'Two Bronze Age Urns from Kempton Park' *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 26 (1975) 282.
3. Audrey Meaney *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites* (London 1964) 167-8.
4. Stuart Piggott *Ancient Europe* (Edinburgh 1965) Fig. 133.
5. J. G. Hurst 'The Kitchen area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex' *Medieval Archaeol.* 5 (1961) 211-299 and Fig. 59.
6. Museum of London Archaeological Records, E.69.

7. *Ibid.*, F 417.
8. P. V. Addyman 'The Anglo-Saxon house; a new review' P. Clemoes (ed.) *Anglo-Saxon England I* (Cambridge 1972) 281 and 302.
9. K. J. Barton 'Settlements of the Early Iron Age and Pagan Saxon period at Linford, Essex' *Trans. Essex Archaeol. Soc. Third series I* (1962) 57-104 esp. 64 and Fig. 2.
10. P. V. Addyman 'Late Saxon Settlements in the St Neots Area' *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.* 62 (1969) 59-93 esp. 76.
11. Maurice Beresford and John G. Hurst (eds.) *Deserted Medieval Villages* (London 1971) 124-31.
12. *Victoria County History of Middlesex* Vol. 3 (1969) 2.
13. Addyman *op. cit.* in note 9.
14. *V.C.H. Middx.* Vol. 2 (1911) 401.
15. Meaney *op. cit.* in note 3, 167-8.
16. D. J. Bonney 'Two Tenth-Century Wiltshire Charters concerning lands at Avon and at Collingbourne' *Wiltshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.* 64 (1969) 64.
17. D. J. Bonney 'Pagan Saxon Burials and Boundaries in Wiltshire' *Wiltshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.* 61 (1966) 27.
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19. H. Stephen Green 'Wansdyke Excavations 1966 to 1970' *Wiltshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.* 66 (1971) 141.
20. Warwick Rodwell 'Relict Landscapes in Essex' in H. C. Bowen and P. J. Fowler (eds) *Early Land Allotment in the British Isles* 89-98 esp. 97, *Brit. Archaeol. Reports* 48 (Oxford 1978).

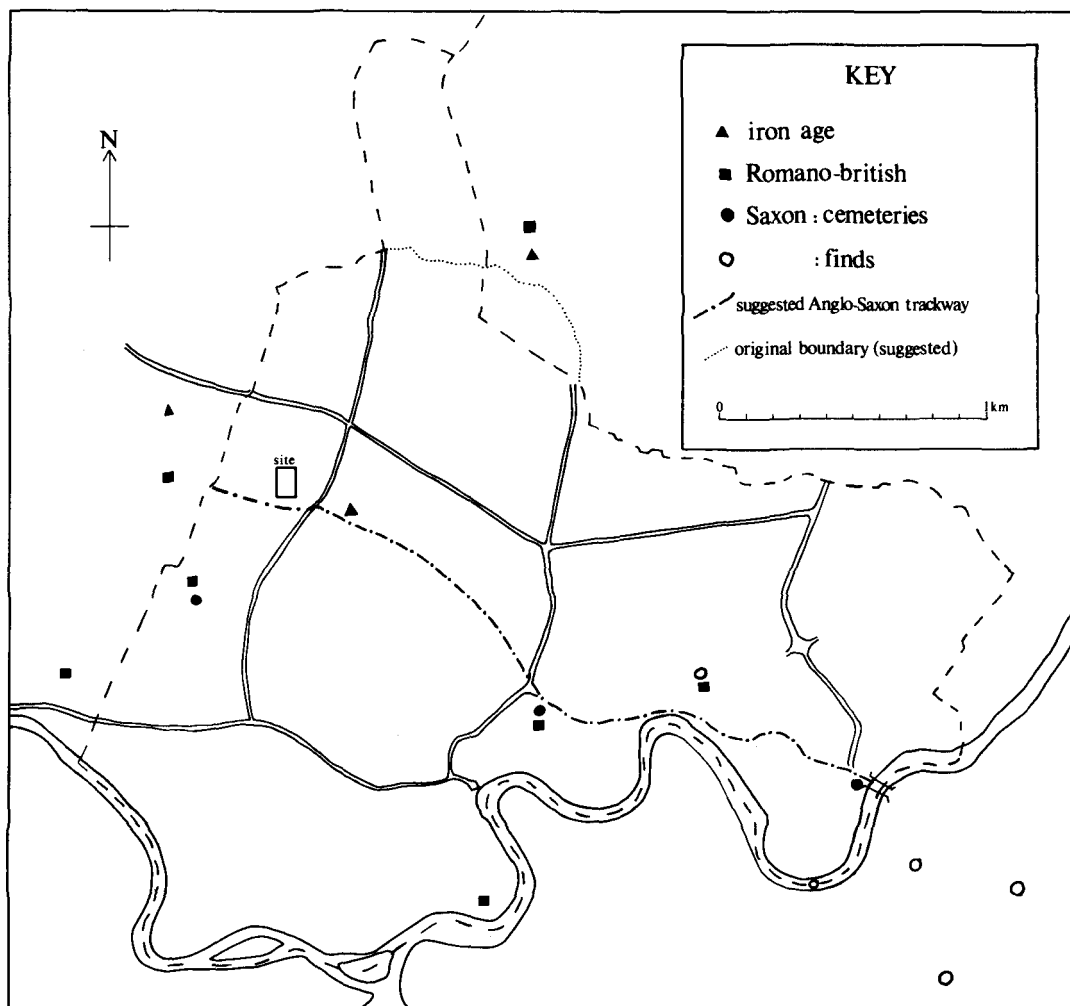


Fig. 10 The Parish of Shepperton with archaeological sites and finds.

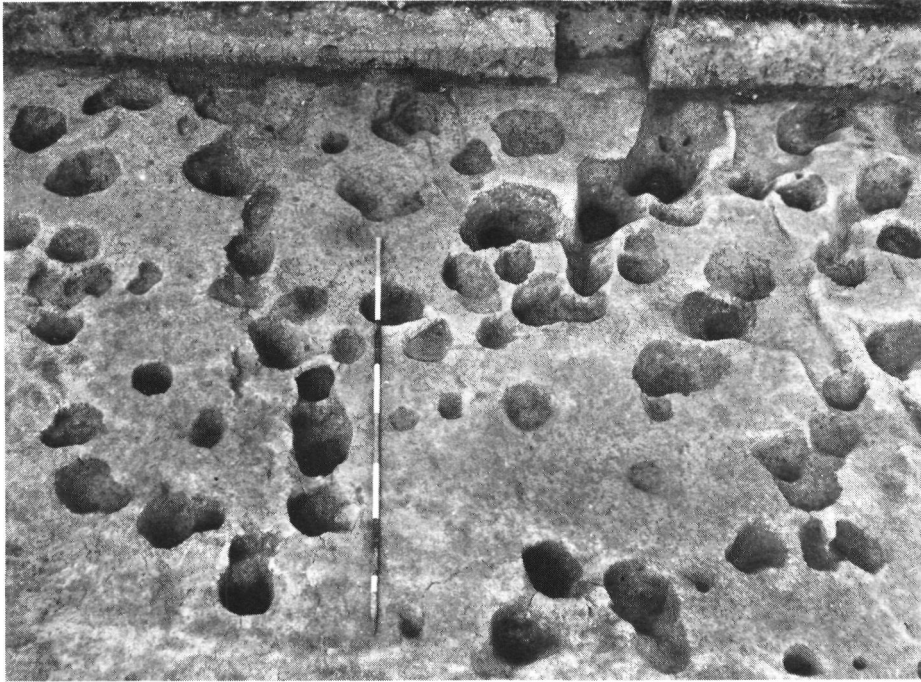


Plate 1. Shepperton Green : The prehistoric hut.

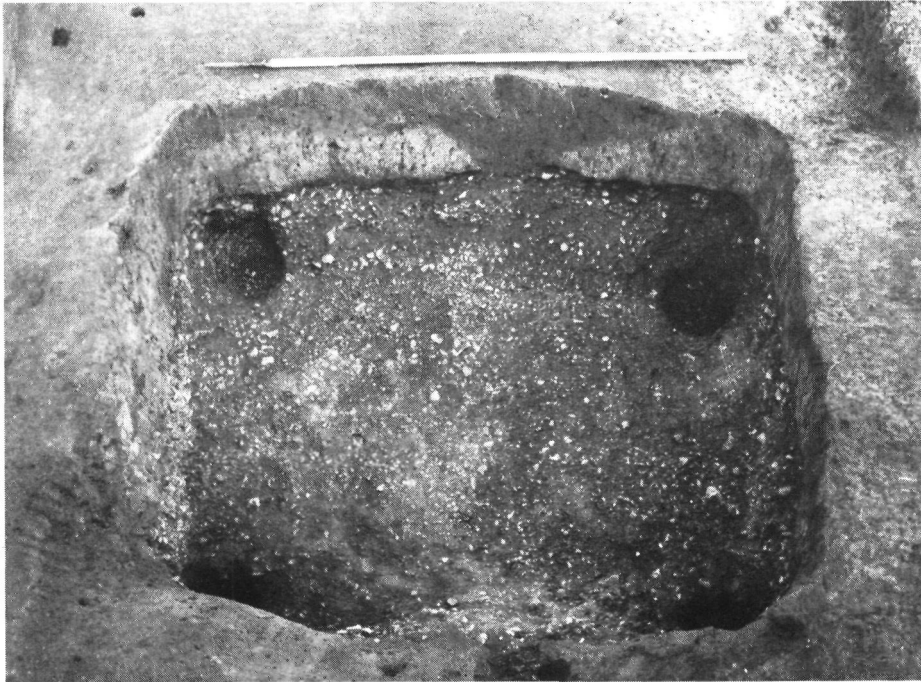


Plate 2. Shepperton Green : The Saxon grubenhaus.



Plate 3. Shepperton Green : Roman silver snake-head ring (approx. x 4) (see No. 1 p. 117).



Plate 4. Shepperton Green : *Left:* obverse of the Eadred penny (x 3).
Right: reverse of the Offa penny (x 3) (see pp. 121-122).

THE FINDS

THE POTTERY

The majority of sherds were found in the topsoil, and were collected both by searching the spoil-dump accumulated during the machine stripping of the site prior to building work and by hand excavation in the later 1967 and 1973 operations.

Prehistoric

The collection includes several hundred coarse, flint-gritted sherds, mostly small and eroded, which are probably early iron age. At least three of these sherds (not illustrated) exhibit the prominent shoulder of typical iron age angular vessels, one of the three bearing slight finger-nail impressions just below the shoulder angle. The group are presumably contemporary with the round-house (phase 1). There remains the possibility that some of these sherds are Saxon. Hurst reported six sherds of coarse, flint-gritted ware at Northolt (1961, 256) which he believed to be Saxon.

Romano-British

About 20 sherds were found, most of them being small and eroded. Both the topsoil and many of the features produced small fragments of Romano-British tile.

Anglo-Saxon

Three wares are present:

1. soft burnished ware, usually with a dark grey-brown or black fabric and brown/black surfaces. The decorated sherds are mostly in this material.
2. similar but with grass-tempering.
3. sandy ware, usually brown/black fabric with red/black surfaces.

The Saxon sherds are too small to permit the reconstruction of profiles, and the date range is thus difficult to establish. The presence of a group of stamp-decorated sherds implies a period of activity in the sixth century (Myres 1977, 121), but this does not rule out a 5th-century date for some of the plain wares.

Saxo-Norman/early medieval

A number of the wares found at Northolt Manor are well represented. The dates quoted are those used in the Northolt report (Hurst 1961).

1. St Neots ware (900-1050). A few cooking pot forms and dish fragments similar to those from St Neots were found (Addyman 1973, Figs. 14 & 15). Unlike Northolt, the shell tempering is not finely crushed but large and abundant.
2. Developed St Neots ware (1050-1150). There is a problem concerning the identification, in that the group lacks the sandy texture described by Hurst (1961, 258). However the forms have parallels at Northolt and at St Neots. The fabric differs from ware 1 in being slightly harder, less soapy to the touch, and in having more finely crushed shell tempering.
3. Early Medieval ware (1050-1150). A well-made, hard sandy ware.
4. Hard Medieval Grey ware? (1225-1325). This finely produced material in a hard, light grey fabric is similar in all respects to the Northolt type save that it is tempered with fine sand, not the flint grit described by Hurst. The developed rim-forms resemble closely the Northolt range.
5. Off-white Surrey ware (1300-1400). Six small sherds only.

These wares comprise the bulk of the pottery. Material of local manufacture is also present, consisting of wheel-turned vessels not so well finished as the majority of the above and lightly tempered with sand. The parallels suggest a date range of c. 900 to the 13th century.

(Fig. 11 Nos. 1-25)

Feature 4

1. Rim of a large cooking pot; grey fabric, slightly sandy with shell tempering, pink/brown surfaces. Developed St Neots ware, cf Hurst (1961, Fig. 66, 12-13).
2. Hard grey-brown sandy fabric. Decoration of horizontal lines and stamped ornament. Pagan Saxon.

Feature 5

3. Fragment of a small bowl with vertical rim, dark brown slightly sandy fabric with burnished surfaces. Pagan Saxon.

Feature 7

4. Rim of bowl in dark brown/black fabric with soapy surface. Tempering is mainly shell with some sand and large grits. Developed St Neots ware, cf Hurst (1961, Fig. 66, 17-18).

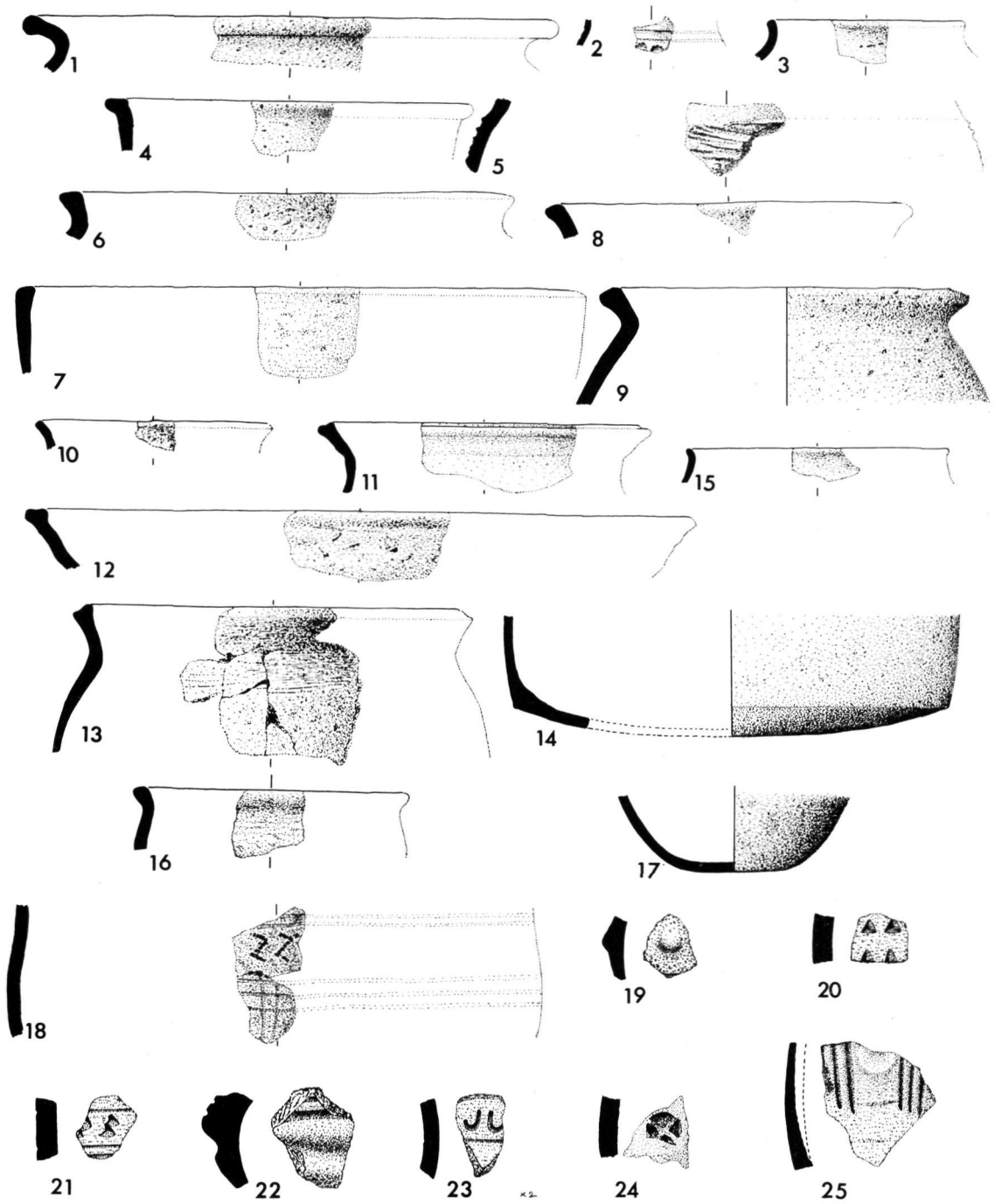


Fig. 11 Shepperton Green : The pottery, Nos. 1-25 (4).

5. Wall sherd of large globular vessel in well made hard sandy fabric, buff with black inner surface. The fabric resembles Northolt Early Medieval ware (Hurst 1961, 259-60) dated 1050-1150. Examples of this style of rough rilling were found at Portchester (Cunliffe 1976, Fig. 127, 492 and 501) in late-Saxon contexts. It appears at Northolt on vessels of Developed Medieval ware dated to the twelfth century (Hurst 1961, Fig. 69, 92-93).

Feature 13

6. Rim of cooking pot in soft shell-tempered grey fabric with red surfaces. Probably Developed St Neots ware.
7. Rim of bowl or dish in hard grey-brown sandy fabric. Two Northolt bowls in Early Medieval ware are of this type (Hurst 1961, Fig. 67, 33-4).

Feature 14

8. Rim sherd probably from a small cooking pot; soft shell-tempered fabric, grey with red-brown surfaces. Much of the shell is burnt out. Developed St Neots ware.

Feature 17

9. Upper part of cooking pot in hard shell-tempered ware, orange brown surfaces with grey core. I am indebted to Mr Michael Rhodes for the following identification:
Fabric is known as 'Saxon Shelly 1' in London. Good parallels from New Fresh Wharf (Rhodes, forthcoming) from 9th-century contexts. The distribution covers the Thames Valley from London to Oxford.
10. Rim of small bowl in black grass-tempered ware, burnished buff-coloured exterior. Saxon.

Feature 20

11. Rim of cooking pot in grey-buff hard sandy fabric with some red grit. Probably Northolt Early Medieval ware, dated 1050-1150.
12. Soft soapy-textured ware with large and abundant shell tempering, grey fabric with purple/brown surfaces. St Neots ware. Dishes and bowls with expanded rims of this kind have been found at St Neots (Addyman 1973, Fig. 15, 12).
13. Upper part of cooking pot in St Neots ware.

Feature 21

14. Sagging base of large cooking pot; hard grey-buff fabric tempered with much sand and red grit. Probably Northolt Early Medieval ware.

*Unstratified pottery**Anglo-Saxon*

15. Rim of small bowl in fine sandy dark grey fabric. Pagan Saxon.
16. Upper part of globular bowl in black slightly sandy fabric with burnished surfaces. Similar to some of the Staines forms (Crouch 1976, Fig. 20, 145-9).

17. Base of round-bottomed vessel with slight flattening. Ware identical to 16, probably the same pot.
18. Decorated wall sherd from large vessel, dark brown fine sandy with some grass tempering, burnished exterior. The decoration is rouletted.
19. Wall sherd with boss, hard sandy black fabric with some grass tempering.
- 20-24. Pagan-Saxon decorated sherds in black slightly sandy ware with burnished surfaces. 22 is a fragment of a small carinated vessel, cf Myres (1977, Fig. 89, 2668).
25. Hard grey ware with black surfaces, similar to Romano-British pottery. The decoration is of the 'grouped vertical line' type (Myres 1977, Fig. 214) with an indentation here separating the groups.

(Fig. 12 Nos. 26-41)

26. Rim sherd of cooking pot in hard grey fabric with fine grit, reddish surface. Form and fabric of Northolt Early Medieval ware.
27. Rim sherd of bowl in Developed St Neots ware, cf Hurst (1961, Fig. 66, 17-18).
28. Rim sherd of cooking pot in buff gritty fabric with smoothed surfaces. Resembles Northolt Early Medieval ware.
29. Rim sherd of cooking pot in shell-tempered fabric, probably Developed St Neots ware.
30. Rim sherd of cooking pot in hard grey fabric with some fine grit inclusions. At Northolt vessels in Hard Medieval Grey ware (1225-1325) have this form, but the flint grit described by Hurst is not present.
31. Rim sherd of cooking pot in soft shell-tempered fabric, probably St Neots ware.
32. As 31 but with soapy texture.
- 33-34. Rim sherds of cooking pots in hard shell-tempered ware, probably Developed St Neots ware.
35. Rim sherd of cooking pot in soft dark brown ware, sand and shell tempering with some large flint grit.
36. Tubular spout. The form was found at Southampton in a 10th-century context (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, Fig. 135, 8).
37. Rim of dish, grey fabric with red grits, brown surfaces. Resembles Northolt Early Medieval ware.
38. Rim sherd of cooking pot in hard grey sandy fabric with harsh texture. Identical to 19.
39. Handle with roughly square section, stamp decoration. Developed St Neots ware.
40. Cooking pot rim with stamp decoration on upper surface. Hard gritty grey fabric, surfaces smoothed and fired orange-brown.
41. Rim sherd of small jar, apparently wheel-turned. The fabric is black with finely crushed shell-tempering. Possibly an example of St Neots ware, although the pot may be Romano-British.

THE SMALL FINDS

ROMAN

by Hugh Chapman

(Fig. 13 No. 1)

1. Silver finger ring; unstratified; the hoop is formed of thick rounded wire, the ends of which taper and overlap. They were then bent back forming a loop on either side, each terminating in a snake's head. One of these has broken away and an unsuccessful attempt made to detach the other,

which survives pointing downwards and not in its original position parallel to the top of the loop.

Finger rings with one or two snakes' heads are common from the Roman world (see, for example, Guiraud 1975). Two close British parallels suggest that originally it was a more complex ring and also indicate that it represents a Romano-British object re-acquired in the Anglo-Saxon period. Of the two parallels one is of gold and comes from the Backworth Hoard, Northumberland, while the second was made of silver and was found in Buckinghamshire, see Marshall (1907, 152 No. 943, Pl. 24, and 181 No. 1144, Pl. 28; both dated to the 2nd century A.D.). They provide a close parallel not only because of their similar size

(diameters c. 25-26mm.) and form, but also because the shape of the snake's head and the moulded depiction of the scales on top are identical. The two complete examples have a large pellet flanked on either side by two smaller pellets, each surrounded by a thick beaded wire, and soldered onto the hoop between the snake's heads. The Buckingham example has additional decoration in the form of a beaded wire twisted into a scroll in the hollow by the snakes' necks. All three rings might well be the product of a single workshop and there can be little doubt that the Shepperton ring was originally decorated with applied pellets.

SAXON-EARLY MEDIEVAL AND UNDATED

by John Clark

(Fig. 13 Nos. 2-23)

1. Finds from Feature 10 (grubenhäus).

Copper alloy

2. Pin, broken, with faceted head having an incised ring and dot on each face except the top. Pins of this form are recorded from a number of middle to late-Saxon sites such as Maxey (Addyman 1964, 62 Fig. 17 No. 2), Southampton *Hamwib* (Addyman and Hill 1969, 68 Fig. 26 Nos. 5-8), Whitby (Peers and Radford 1943, 63-64 Fig. 13 No. 4 and Fig. 14) and York (Waterman 1959, 76-77 Fig. 11 Nos. 5-7). Unfortunately none of these published examples is closely dated, but a single example from Portchester (Cunliffe 1976, 217 Fig. 139 No. 54) comes from a context assigned to the early 8th century, which would be consistent with the general date-range of the other sites, particularly Maxey and Whitby.

Iron

3. Small knife of so-called 'scramasax' form with angled back. Similar knives occur throughout the Saxon period and closer dating is not feasible.

Bone

4. Implement shaped to two prongs at each end. Function not known.

Other finds from this feature (not illustrated) were the much-corroded and unidentifiable remains of two small iron objects, a flint flake and an unworked fragment of sandstone.

2. Finds from Feature 13 (ditch c. 1050-1150)

Copper alloy

5. Pin, ovoid head with moulding below it, the shaft swelling slightly to the middle with a group of four grooves round it.
6. Pin, ovoid head with moulding below it, the head with 'writhen' decoration of oblique grooves, the shaft swelling slightly to the middle. Pins of both these, clearly related, forms are recorded from a number of sites: the plain-headed type from Southampton *Hamwib* (Addyman and Hill 1969, 68 Fig. 26 Nos. 1-3), Walton, Bucks. (unstratified but perhaps associated with a 10th-century context - Farley 1976, 248 Fig. 39 No. 2), Whitby (Peers and Radford 1943, 63 Fig. 14), Whitehall (in a 9th-century context - information from H. J. M. Green; cf. Green 1963, 1005 Fig. 5) and York (Waterman 1959, 78 Fig. 11 Nos. 8, 9); the writhen-headed type from *Hamwib* (Addyman and Hill 1969, 68 Fig. 26 No. 9), North Elmham (in a 9th-10th-century context - Wade-Martins 1970, 67 Fig. 19 B), Waltham Abbey (only the upper part of the

head grooved; in a 'Viking period' context - Huggins 1976, 115 Fig. 41 No. 2) and Walton (similar to the Waltham Abbey example; in an 11th-century context, perhaps residual - Farley 1976, 241 Fig. 35 No. 8). A 9th-10th-century date for the type thus seems appropriate.

7. Tweezers, the arms brazed or soldered together at the top, which is broken. The arms expand to the tips, with an incised line along each edge; the tips (one is broken) were bent inwards at right angles to meet edge to edge. The parallels quoted below would indicate that the top was originally bent into a loop, with a wire ring for suspension.

A similar pair of tweezers is recorded from a mid 9th-10th-century context at North Elmham (Wade-Martins 1970, 67 Fig. 20 D) and others from Whitby (Peers and Radford 1943, 62 Fig. 13 Nos. 6, 13). However, the type would appear to have a long life, since tweezers from 7th-8th-century contexts at Shakenoak (Brodrick *et al.* 1972, 69 Fig. 30 Nos. 134, 135) are clearly related, and they are not easily distinguished from tweezers from pagan Anglo-Saxon graves (e.g. Baldwin Brown 1915, 392 Pl. 87 No. 5; Myres and Green 1973, 105 Fig. 59 No. X29C).

Iron

- 8, 9. Two hooks or keys, made from bar of rectangular section with a small loop at one end and a double-curved hook at the other. Perhaps a pair. Items of similar form with double-curved ends, from pagan Anglo-Saxon burials, have been identified as keys (Lethbridge 1936, 23 Fig. 11 No. 1; Green and Rogerson 1978, 26 Fig. 82 Nos. Hviii, Hix); that illustrated by Lethbridge, from *Shudy Camps* (? 7th century), is of similar size to the Shepperton examples. Their general similarity to objects from such graves more immediately recognizable as keys (cf. Baldwin Brown 1915, Pl. 88 Nos. 4, 5) makes this identification a reasonable one, though their function is not clear. The smallness of the loop at the top, inadequate for the fastening of any substantial means of support, makes their use as functional hooks, for the suspension of heavy objects, unlikely.

Bone

10. Point, broken, probably from a thread-picker (see below No. 18).

Other finds from this feature were a coin of Offa (reported below, p. 121) and a number of flints (below, p. 122, e.g. No. 7).

3. Other finds from the 1967 and 1973 excavations.

Copper alloy

11. (A6, date uncertain) Tweezers, bent from a single strip of bronze with a looped top, with incised decoration around the loop and on the ends of the arms. These tweezers are of thicker metal than and lack the broad inturned tips of the type represented by No. 7 above. Similarly decorated tweezers are recorded from Whitby (Peers and Radford 1943, 62 Fig. 13 No. 10) and frequently in pagan Anglo-Saxon graves, apparently continuing a Roman tradition (Myres and Green 1973, 105); however, I have located no published examples identical with the Shepperton tweezers - particularly in the narrowness of the arms - and their date remains uncertain.

Iron

12. (Feature 4, ditch c. 1050-1150) Buckle with oval loop, penannular or perhaps corroded through.

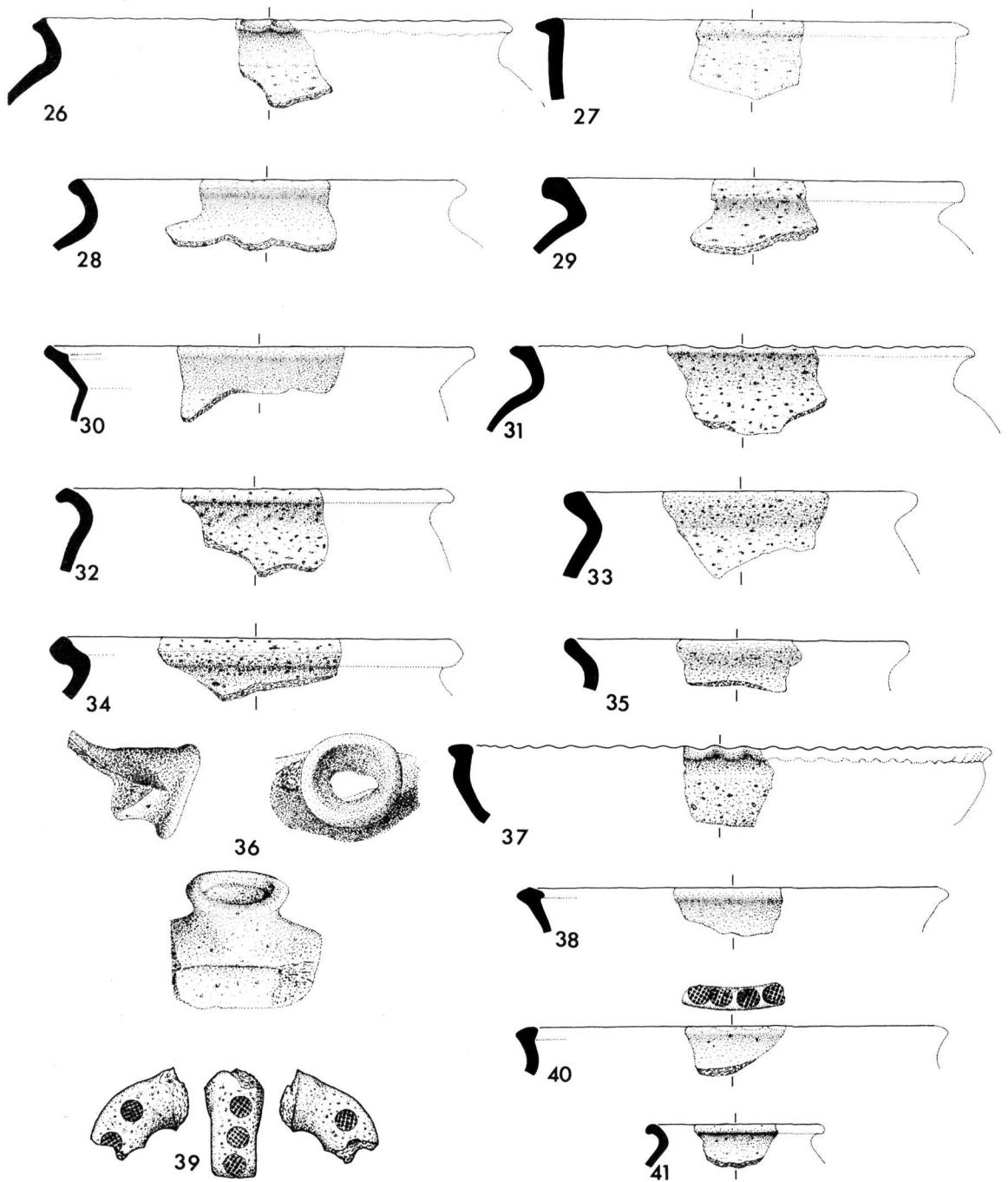


Fig. 12 Shepperton Green : The pottery, Nos. 26-41 (1).

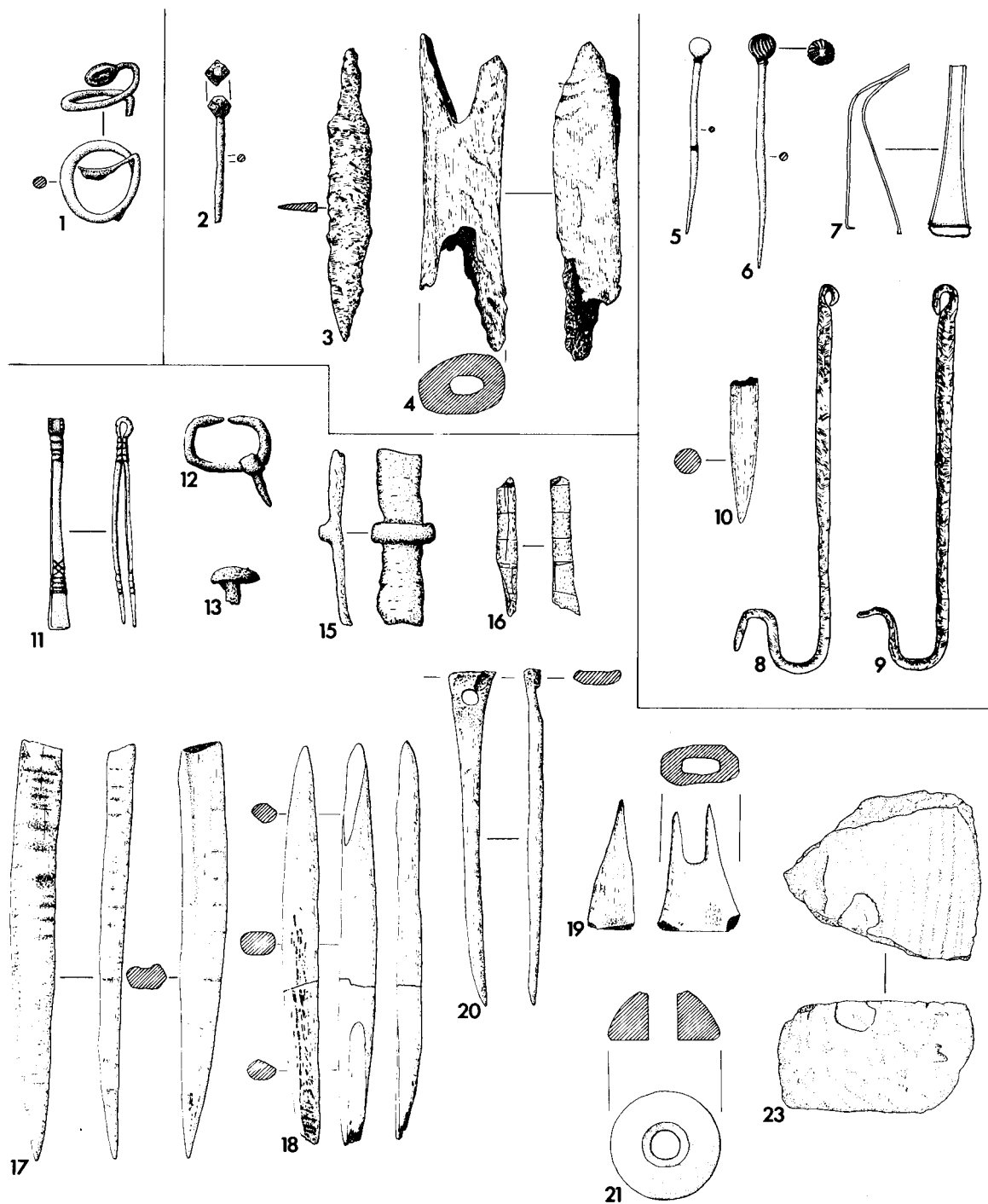


Fig. 13 Shepperton Green : The small finds (all $\frac{1}{2}$, except Nos. 8-9 $\frac{1}{4}$).

13. (Feature 4) Stud or nail with round domed head, square section shank.
14. (Feature 8, ditch, date uncertain) Nail with round slightly domed head, square section shank. (Not illustrated).
15. (A6, date uncertain) Fragment of bar with raised moulding.

Bone

16. (Feature 4, ditch c. 1050-1150) Fragment of spoon or spatula, the handle decorated with incised lines. Bone spoons or spatulae are recorded from Shakenoak (? 7th-8th century - Brodrribb *et al.* 1972, 122 Fig. 59 Nos. 71, 72). However, the chronological relationship between such plain spoons and the late Saxon/early medieval type with an animal-head at the junction of bowl and handle (London Museum 1940, 128 Pl. 25; Waterman 1959, 87 Fig. 15) is not clear, and the two types may have been in contemporary use.
17. (Feature 4) Pointed implement, the upper end broken. Slight grooves on the edges of the upper part may be functional or due to wear.
18. (1967 excavations) Thread-picker or pin-beater: highly polished double-ended pin. Implements of this type, probably used in weaving to beat down individual threads in the weft (Wilson 1976, 271-272), are found at all dates within the Anglo-Saxon period (Addyman 1964, 64).
19. (1967 excavations) Implement with two prongs. A similar object from Portchester (Cunliffe 1976, 219 Fig. 140 No. 68), from a context of apparently 9th-century date, shows similar signs of wear on the prongs. Another of 11th-century date from Lund, Sweden (Blomqvist and Mårtensson 1963, 174 Fig. 179, and *cf.* 57-58 Fig. 41) was there identified as used for 'twisting threads'; there seems to be no evidence to support or contradict this suggestion.
20. (1967 excavations) Pin, with pierced triangular head. Parallels are common from mid-late Saxon and Viking-age sites such as Portchester (Cunliffe 1976, 219 Fig. 140 No. 66), Southampton *Hamwib* (Addyman and Hill 1969, 76 Pl. 6(b)) and York (Waterman 1959, 83-85 Fig. 12 Nos. 10-11, Fig. 14 Nos. 1, 2, 18-21, Pl. 16), while there are many from London in the Museum of London collections (London Museum 1927, 49-50 Fig. 27). They are probably dress-pins rather than needles, often being decorated on the head with ring-and-dot or incised interlace patterns.
21. (Feature 5, ditch ? Saxon) Spindle-whorl of limestone, blackened on the exterior, of shallow conical form, decorated with rough concentric lines. Spindle-whorls vary greatly in form and material and no firm date can be assigned to this one; it is certainly not out of place in a Saxon context.
22. (Feature 11, 12, ditches, date uncertain) Fragments of basalt lava; probably from a quern (not illustrated).
23. (1967 excavations) Fragment of quern of sandstone, with grooves, very worn, on the grinding surface.

THE COINS

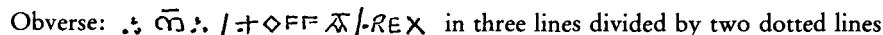
by Marion Archibald

(Pl. 4)

1. Mercia

Offa 757-796

Penny, Heavy Coinage c. 792-6

Obverse:  in three lines divided by two dotted linesReverse:  Greek cross with a pellet in the centre.

Weight: 1.33gm = 20.5gr (edge chipped)

Moneyer: Ealhmund

Mint: Uncertain.

This coin from Feature 13 is the same type as *BMC 44* = *CEB 89* but from different dies (Blunt 1961). Coins of the three-line type have generally been attributed to the mint of Canterbury, but more recent research has suggested that some of the earlier coins of Offa, including issues by Ealhmund, may have been struck at a mint in Mercia, possibly London. The style and reverse type of this coin are somewhat different from others of the three-line type which can, because of their close affinities with issues in the name of the Archbishop of Canterbury, be reasonably confidently assigned to the Canterbury mint and it is possible that the group of coins to which the Shepperton piece belongs were also struck in Mercia and possibly at London. Coins of Offa with known provenances which might help with this problem are surprisingly scarce and no hoard deposited in the reign of Offa has been recorded since scientific publication of coin-finds began in the eighteenth century. It is therefore very important to have a secure provenance for this particular type near London. The date of issue of c. 792-6 provides a *terminus post quem* for its deposition but the lack of hoard evidence again makes it difficult to suggest the likely *terminus ante quem* within narrow limits. Although one must always allow for the possible stray survivor at a later period the evidence which is available suggests that the issues of Offa had ceased to be a significant proportion of the currency before 830 and that, for the period, prolific issues of Coenwulf had probably reduced the representation of Offa's coins in circulation substantially by the end of Coenwulf's reign in 822. This coin was therefore most probably deposited sometime within the bracket c. 792-820 with the possibility of a slightly later survival.

2. England

Eadred 946-55

Penny BMC type V (Topsoil, area C)

Obverse: + EADRED REX Crowned bust to right.

Reverse: + REINGRIMMONETA Small cross in centre.

Weight: 1.37gm = 21.1gr.

Moneyer: Reingrim

Mint: Uncertain.

The moneyer Reingrim is not represented in this type in the British Museum nor is he listed in J. J. North (1963) but he is now known from a coin in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, *Sylloge 378*, from different dies from the Shepperton example. Reingrim is however known in the crowned-bust type (BMC VI) for Edmund: BMC 156 and BM 1935/11/17/446 and two further coins in Oxford, *Sylloge 356* – from the same dies as BM 1935 – and *Sylloge 357* – from the same obverse die as BMC 156 but from a different reverse die. The Oxford *Sylloge* leaves the mint of 378 as uncertain but lists 356 and 357 as ‘? Oxford’. The letters ‘O’ and ‘X’ which appear at the end of the reverse inscription on all the dies mentioned may be read as the first two letters of the mint signature of Oxford but it is possible that they could be an annulet and a cross, symbols rather than letters and some form of space-filling or mint control marks which appear from time to time on coins of this period. They are however not characteristic of coins of the crowned-bust type. I am inclined to accept the attribution to Oxford since the style of lettering is acceptable and since four different dies from two reigns have either ‘C’ or ‘OX’ for this moneyer suggesting that it is not mere chance that it is this moneyer and not others who has those letters after MONETA on the reverse of his coins. The internal chronology of the issues of Eadred is uncertain and so a narrower date for the issue of this coin than that of the reign itself cannot be given at present. A *terminus ante quem* for the deposition of this coin is provided by the recoinage which took place at the end of the reign of Eadgar c. 973 after which all earlier issues apparently disappeared rapidly.

BMC = *A Catalogue of English Coins in the British Museum. Anglo-Saxon Series* (London, 1887).

THE FLINTWORK

by Margaret Wooldridge

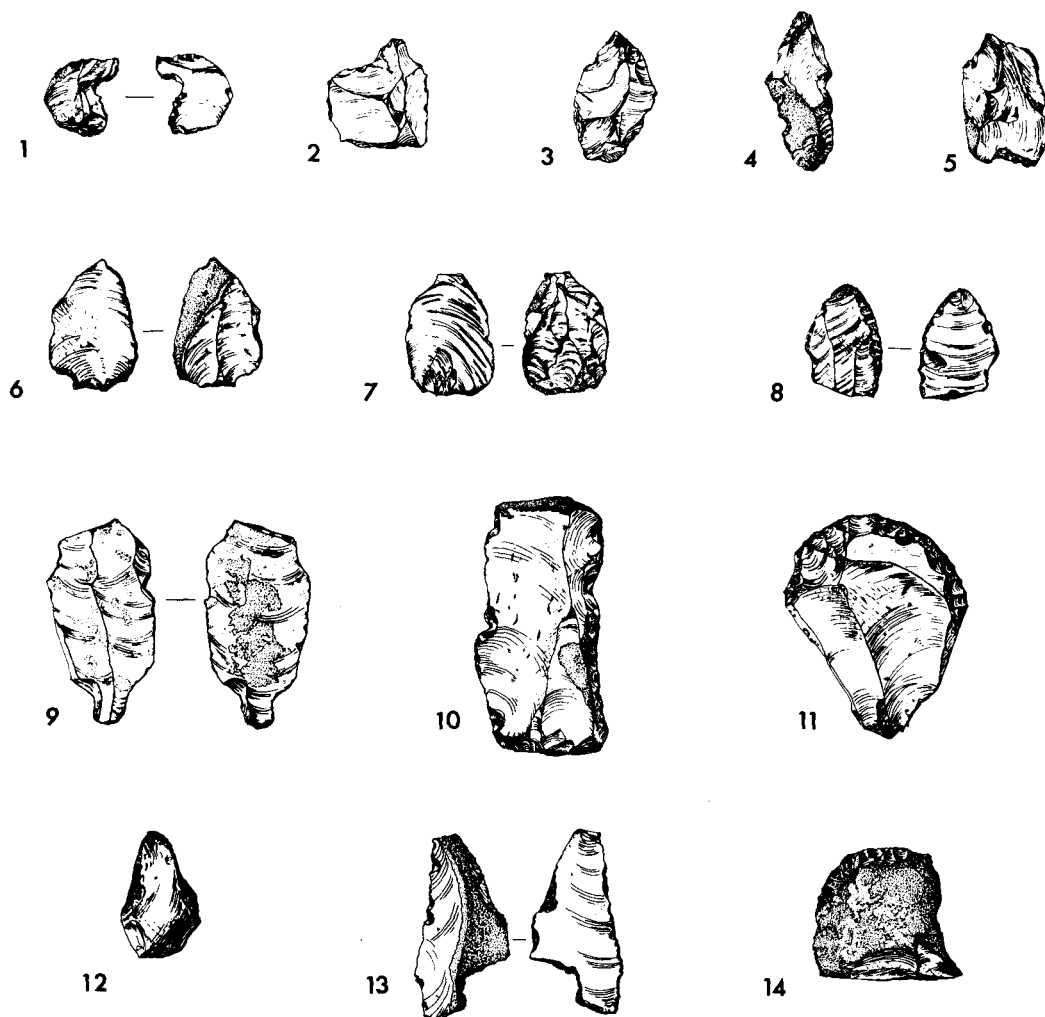
A total of 44 pieces of flint recovered from the excavation came mainly from unstratified contexts and the majority can be identified as being struck by man. The unworked flint includes eight flakes, eight small blades and four blade portions, the latter blade portions have been snapped but it is not possible to say when the fractures occurred.

In addition there were four pieces of fire crackled flint, or ‘pot boilers’. The material illustrated includes a convex scraper No. 11 which can be compared with late Neolithic material found at Marden (Wainwright and Longworth 1971 Fig. 20, 14). The delicate leaf shaped arrowhead No. 8 is very similar to the Neolithic specimens from Hurst Fen (Clark, Higgs and Longworth 1960 Fig. 13) and Orsett Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure (Hedges and Buckley 1978 Fig. 27,2) throws up a parallel for snapped scraper No. 14. The tanged blade with broken tip and dense white patina No. 9 has secondary working at the tanged and showing variation in the patination indicating two separate periods of working and it has been suggested that this may be Paleolithic material which has been re-used at a later time.

The flint varies in colour from light to dark grey and several pieces retain cortex. This type of flint falls within the range of flints that are found in the West Middlesex area of the Thames Valley, particularly during field walking activities, in the way of surface finds.

The illustrated flint
(Fig. 14 Nos. 1-14)

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small snapped, honey coloured blade, some re-trimming. 2. Snapped blade, re-touched to rather blunted point. Pale grey flint. 3. Pale grey flint blade, slight re-touch to point. 4. Blade, notched and worked at point end, possible graver, some cortex remains. 5. Primary flake, cortex remaining on one surface, fine re-touch to form a point, possible graver, very rolled. 6. Very thin translucent blade with bulbous end finely worked, perhaps missile. 7. Thick, coarse pointed blade, snapped at tip. The bulb has been removed and there is coarse flaking on the top of the opposing face. Possibly arrowhead. 8. A snapped leaf shaped arrowhead of pale grey translucent | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Dense, white flint tanged blade, broken tip. 10. Thick, coarse blade, one long edge re-touched, possible backed blade. The opposing edge has been notched and the platform re-touched. An attempt made to remove bulb. 11. Convex scraper. Can be compared with those from Hurst Fen (Clark, Higgs and Longworth 1960 Fig. 11). 12. Small coarse blade, pointed. Cortex remaining on one long edge and fine re-touch on opposing edge. 13. Triangular blade, some cortex, could be a knife, there is slight re-touch on both long edges which are very sharp. 14. Snapped end scraper, large area of cortex. Similar to fragment from Orsett Causewayed Enclosure (Hedges and Buckley 1978 Fig. 27 No. 2). |
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Fig. 14 Shepperton Green : The flintwork ($\frac{1}{2}$).

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