

A GROUP OF SAXON AND MEDIEVAL FINDS FROM THE SITE OF THE NEOLITHIC CAUSEWAYED ENCLOSURE AT STAINES, SURREY, WITH A NOTE ON THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE AREA.

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction. *R. Robertson-Mackay.*
2. A note on the topography and morphology of the site. *Lyn Blackmore.*
3. The later history of the site. *Lyn Blackmore.*
4. The Saxon and medieval pottery. *Philip Jones and Stephen Moorhouse.*
5. Two Saxon bone combs. *Leslie Webster.*
6. An imported stoneware spindlewhorl, with some preliminary comments on stoneware spindlewhorls in England, their dating and origin. *Stephen Moorhouse and John Hurst.*
7. A 16th-17th-century buckle. *Lyn Blackmore.*

1. INTRODUCTION

By R. Robertson-Mackay

This paper describes a small group of post-Roman finds recovered from the site of the Earlier Neolithic causewayed enclosure (TQ024726) at Staines, Surrey (formerly Middlesex), which was excavated under the direction of the author between 1961–63 for the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, D.O.E. (then the Ministry of Works), in advance of total destruction by gravel extraction (Robertson-Mackay 1962, 1965). The causewayed enclosure was situated in the middle of the Colne Valley delta (Fig. 1), approximately one third of a mile to the north of the River Thames, half a mile to the north-west of St. Mary's Church, Staines, and two thirds of a mile to the south of Yeoveney Farm. The site lay between the meandering stream known as the County Boundary Ditch and Yeoveney Lodge and within the lands of the former Manor of Yeoveney, which from the 11th century until 1868 belonged to Westminster Abbey. The topography of the area and the later history of the site are both discussed below.

In all a total of approximately 28,500 square feet was excavated on a selective basis within the interior of the enclosure. This revealed a palimpsest of features in all areas, which, although badly eroded by ploughing, produced, in addition to many Neolithic finds, a small amount of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery, evidence for extensive Romano-British agricultural activity, comprising

various field ditches and a 'D' shaped enclosure, and a small but highly interesting group of Saxon and medieval finds, the majority of which form the subject of this paper. Being outside the scope of the main report on the Neolithic and Romano-British sites, it was felt that these finds would be better placed in the context of regional and local studies, particularly in the field of Saxon pottery, where work on larger groups of a similar date from the town of Staines is now in progress. My grateful thanks are due to all those who have contributed to the present report and also to Lyn Blackmore for undertaking the editorial work. Roger Warren and Christine Sutton of the D.O.E. Drawing Office drew Figs. 1, 2, and 3, and C. Boddington and Sandra Hooper of the D.O.E. Illustrator's Office Figs. 5 and 7. The Saxon pottery was drawn by Philip Jones, the spindlewhorls by Stephen Moorhouse.

2. A NOTE ON THE TOPOGRAPHY AND MORPHOLOGY OF THE AREA.

By Lyn Blackmore

In summarising the evidence for the incorporation of earlier land-marks and land divisions in the laying out of medieval furlongs and on the orientation of the plough strips in certain parts of Warwickshire, Ford (1978, 162-3) concluded that 'If it is known that medieval field reorganisation included some pre-existing boundaries while excluding others, and if some minor Roman and prehistoric land divisions have survived in the geography of the present day parishes, then the survival of major boundaries is also feasible'.

In producing evidence for the coincidence of certain Neolithic ditches with two minor, i.e. field, boundaries, and for the juxtaposition of a major prehistoric earthwork with three more important boundaries (namely the western boundary of the medieval manors of Staines and Yeoveney, and of the civil parish of Staines, and the county boundary which divided Middlesex and Buckinghamshire, see Figs. 1, 2), the excavation of the causewayed enclosure at Staines lends further weight to the above hypothesis. While, being outside the original excavation brief, evidence for agrarian continuity on the site is slight, it was felt that attention should be drawn to these phenomena, since although the influence of the topography of the area on the siting and layout of some Neolithic causewayed enclosures has been noted (e.g. Hedges, 1978, 248), and some analysis made of their contemporary environment (e.g. Whittle 1977: Barker and Webley 1978, 161-186) the role of these earthworks in the subsequent morphology of the landscape remains largely unstudied. The purpose of the following note is to place Saxon and medieval finds discussed below within a topographical framework, and to point out the possible relationship between the medieval and post-medieval landscape and the earlier occupations on the site. While the geography of the area was clearly of major importance in the location and form of the Neolithic site, and may subsequently also have influenced the placing of certain later boundaries, the correspondence of the land divisions described below would appear to be more than coincidental, and it is suggested that the role of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure in their evolution may be not only of indirect but direct importance.

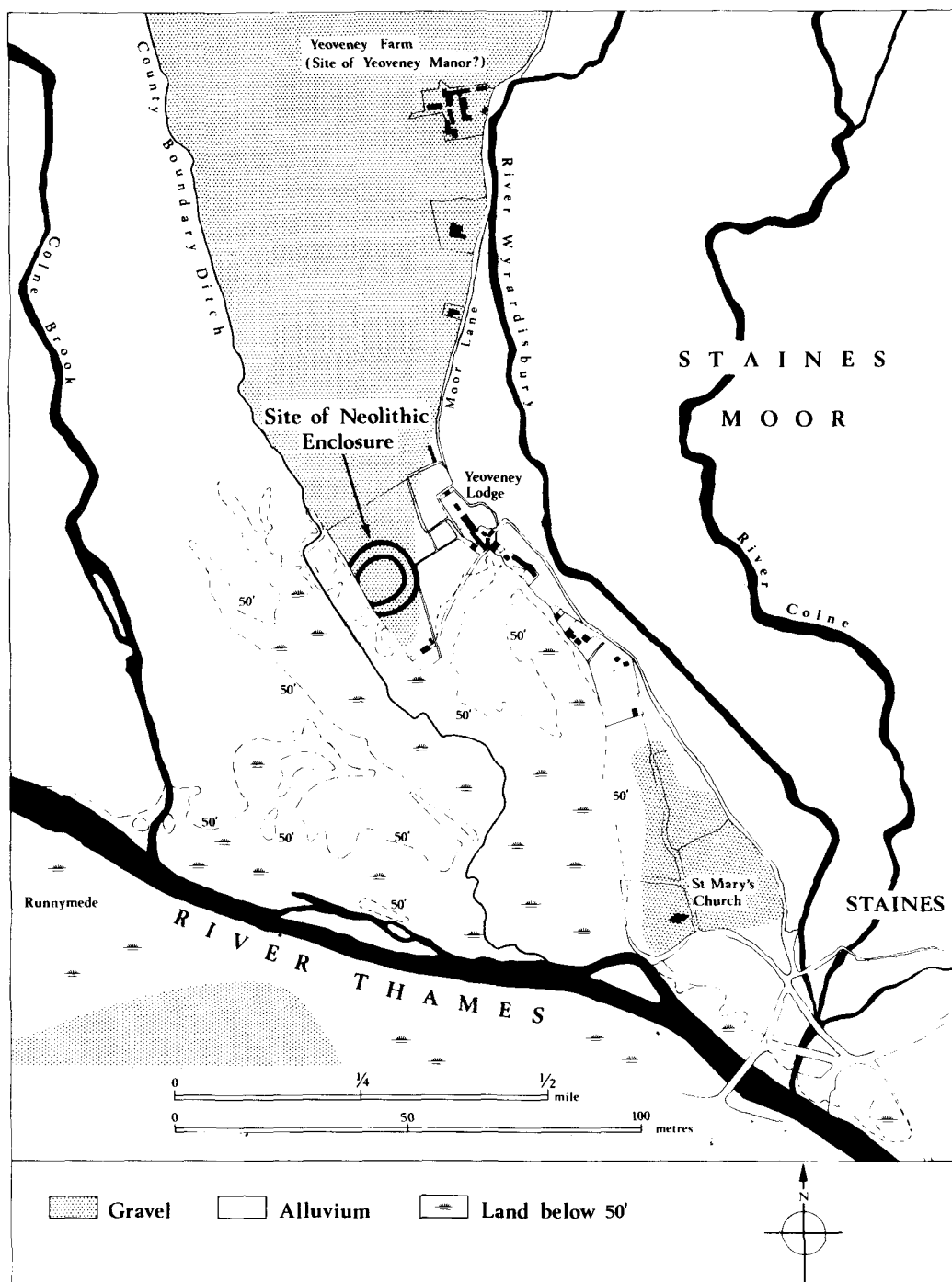


Fig. 1. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: The Location and Geology of the Site. Based on the O.S. Map of 1961 and the Geological Map of 1969. (Crown Copyright Reserved) (The Plan of the Ditches is Diagrammatic only).

The Field Boundaries

At the time of excavation the Neolithic earthwork lay in a large 'L' shaped field which by its form suggests a connection with an earlier system of open field farming (Figs. 1, 2). This to some extent is borne out by cartographic evidence (see below p. 119). In the 19th century the field was divided by a boundary which ran approximately westwards from Yeoveney Lodge. This bisected the Neolithic site, giving a large rectangular field on the northern side, and a smaller, sub-rectangular field to the south. In the 18th century, however, only the latter (then known as Stern Hill) was enclosed, being apparently surrounded by open fields or common land. The northern boundary of this field then extended as far west as the County Boundary Ditch (then known as the Shire Ditch), but the western boundary of the modern field (Fig. 1) already existed as the division between the arable land to the east and the meadow to the west. Archaeological evidence, however, suggests that this boundary may be of considerably greater antiquity. In 1961 this field division was marked by a lynchet and hedge which ran the whole length of the modern field (Fig. 3). This in itself was not dateable, but when sectioned was found to directly overlie not only the inner ditch of the Neolithic enclosure, but also, just within the line of the latter, and running parallel to it, a Romano-British ditch. There are therefore, at least three phases of boundaries at this point, which cover a period of more than four millenia. There are indications that this may also be the case on the eastern side of the site, where the modern field boundary directly followed the line of the outer ditch of the Neolithic enclosure for some way before turning east towards Yeoveney Lodge (Figs. 2, 3). No excavation was undertaken at this point because of the extant tree line and depth of alluvial deposits, but the parallel course of the two ditches may be clearly seen on an aerial photograph (Fairey Air Surveys No. 1594/002).

The above is in itself already of some interest. That these two modern boundaries should moreover coincide with two apparent adjustments to the otherwise concentric plan of the Neolithic earthwork is remarkable. Neolithic causewayed enclosures are notoriously irregular, and the great majority would appear to have never been complete circuits (Hedges and Buckley 1978, 248), notably where these meet or have been constructed against a natural obstacle such as a river, as at Abingdon (Leeds 1927, 1928), or a steep slope, as at Combe Hill, Sussex (Musson 1950). Others however, such as Robin Hood's Ball, Wilts. (Thomas 1964) and Whitesheet Hill, Wilts. (Piggott 1952) have had an obviously predetermined centre (Smith 1971, 111), but where the ditch circuit has encountered some obstacle, the circumference of the earthwork has been accordingly flattened or adjusted. The latter seems to have been the case at Staines, where the circular course of the ditches was apparently adjusted twice at the points described above, presumably to avoid some obstacle. (It should here be noted that the ditches shown in Fig. 1 are diagrammatic only). The nature of this obstacle may now only be surmised, but, if not of human origin, was probably geological. As shown in Fig. 1 the Neolithic causewayed enclosure was sited on the extreme southern tip of a long island of Lower Thames Flood Plain gravels which rises above the surrounding alluvium

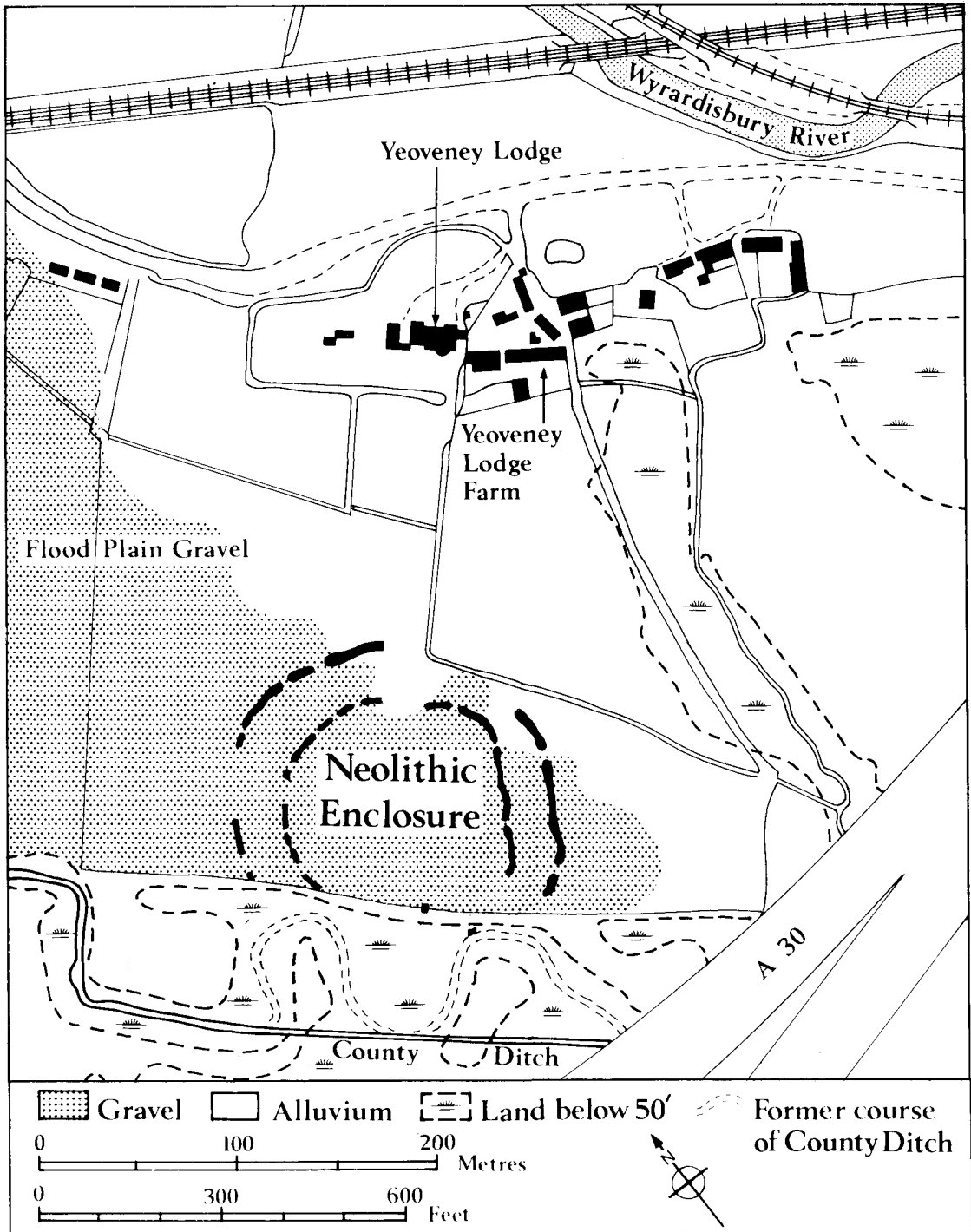


Fig. 2. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: The Location and Immediate Topography of the Site. Based on the O.S. Map of 1961. (Crown Copyright Reserved).

deposited by the various branches of the Colne Brook and the River Colne, a situation which in many respects resembles that of the causewayed enclosure at Abingdon (Leeds 1927, 1928). A fuller geological and topographical account will be included in the forthcoming monograph on the Neolithic and Romano-British aspects of the site. The Staines enclosure lay just above the 50 foot contour O.D., being bounded to the east by the alluvial deposits of the Wyrardisbury River, and to the west by the County Boundary Ditch. These natural features were undoubtedly key factors governing the configuration of the Neolithic earthwork. On the south-western side the outer ditch must have come very close to the original course of the meandering County Boundary Ditch (Fig. 2), and was probably adjusted to avoid either this or the marshy

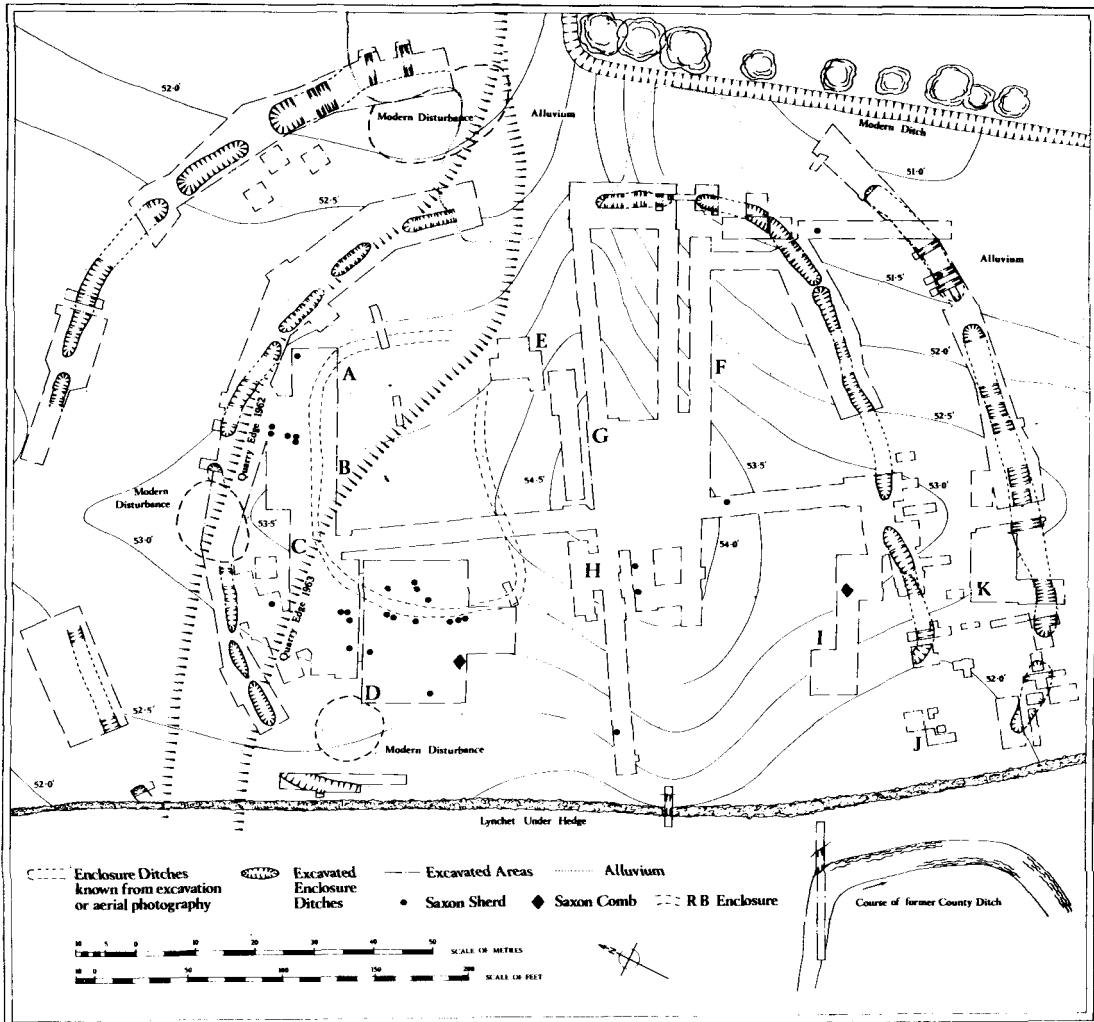


Fig. 3. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: Outline Plan of the Site Showing the Areas of Excavation (A-K) and the Distribution of the Saxon Finds. Based on a Land Survey by M. P. B. W. (Crown Copyright Reserved).

land in the area of this stream. On the north-eastern side of site, the sudden northward swing of the outer ditch was almost certainly occasioned by the increasing depth of alluvial deposits overlying the gravels at this point. From these two irregularities, it would seem that the constructors of the causewayed enclosure were determined to confine their earthwork to the area of gravel available to them in the location they had chosen.

The configuration of the Neolithic site therefore probably conformed to a logic imposed by the topography of the area. The coincidence of the two changes in the plan of the causewayed enclosure and the two modern field boundaries, however, is not so easily explained. Three reasons may be offered: that this coincidence is purely fortuitous; that these boundaries were designated in the prehistoric period and possibly respected as such throughout the intervening millenia; that the modern systems ignore the former land divisions on the site, but conform to the same constraints imposed by the topography of the area. The answer probably lies in a combination of the latter two hypotheses.

The whole area is flat and low-lying, and despite the cutting of extensive field ditches during the Romano-British and later periods, would long have remained marshy and liable to flooding. Even in 1961 the excavation of the outer ditch of the Neolithic enclosure in the lower field was greatly impeded by the high level of the water-table at this point. This in itself may in the Romano-British period have necessitated the creation of a field boundary and the cutting of a drainage ditch just above the 50 foot contour and perpendicular to the majority of Romano-British field ditches, which, as one would expect, ran approximately east-west across the site toward the watercourses on either side. On the eastern side of the field, however, the reason for the coincidence of the Neolithic and modern boundaries is less clear. It may be argued that the latter merely represents the limit of the medieval furlong at this point, and, as on the western side, the division between the arable cultivation on the gravels, and some other use of the alluvial deposits. This, however, is somewhat unconvincing, since this area of the modern field apparently disregarded the variations in the underlying subsoil, and included a considerable area of alluvial deposits, particularly in the northern half of the field, where these extended as an irregular feathered edge over the gravels (Fig. 2). (The representation of the gravel deposits in Fig. 1 is considerably simplified, and represents the deeper, rather than the superficial extent of the gravel island.) If the reason for the eastern boundary of the field formerly known as Stern Hill was geological, why did this boundary not continue across the northern half of the site, but turn sharply westwards? The isolated nature of Stern Hill in the 18th century in itself suggests a sociological rather than a geological reason for the boundaries of this field. Evidence for the influence of Romano-British field systems and enclosures on the arrangement of the medieval open fields is now widespread, and has been recently summarised by Taylor and Fowler (1978, 159–60), citing examples in Cambridgeshire, Yorkshire, Somerset and Warwickshire. At Staines the western boundary of the field known as Stern Hill is known to overlie a Romano-British ditch, while the northern boundary ran approximate-

ly 10 feet to the south of another Romano-British ditch. The presence of a third Romano-British ditch on the eastern side of the field may now only be inferred, but on the evidence of the above is considered to be likely. The origin of Stern Hill would therefore appear to be in at least the Romano-British period. The direct relationship of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure and a Romano-British sub-rectangular enclosure has long been known at Knap Hill (Cunnington 1911–12; Connah 1965), where, although occupying different areas of land, the two enclosures share a common side, the ditch of the later enclosure both intersecting and following for some 180 feet that of the Neolithic enclosure. In discussing the evidence for agrarian continuity on some sites in Warwickshire, Ford (1979, 163) stated that the ‘relationship between ring ditches, barrow sites and headlands of furlongs is such that continuity of some prehistoric boundaries into the medieval period must be given serious consideration.’ At Staines this would certainly seem to be so. At Hambledon Hill (R. Mercer pers. comm.) a Romano-British lynchet was recently found to overlie, and therefore to have utilised, the boundary established by the extant Neolithic bank of the Stepleton enclosure. At Staines however, the banks of the Neolithic enclosure having apparently disappeared by the Romano-British period, it may be assumed that the eastern and western boundaries of Stern Hill are of pre-Roman date. The point at which the latter were first established must remain conjectural, but where these respect the ditches of the causewayed enclosure, the banks of which must still have been visible in the Late Neolithic period at least, it is possible that these boundaries were created in the mid Bronze Age with the further expansion of agriculture, if not in the earliest post-enclosure period.

The Manorial, Parish And County Boundaries.

As noted above it may be argued that these three boundaries ignored the earlier functions and history of the site, and that they were primarily influenced by the topography of the area, since the complex watercourses, marshes, and alluvial floor of the Colne Valley serve as a natural boundary dividing the gravel terraces on either side. Nonetheless until the recent re-organisation of the county boundaries of Surrey and Middlesex, the southern portion of the county boundary of Middlesex and Buckinghamshire pursued an extremely irregular course, and was obviously influenced by the delineation of the medieval manors, particularly in the area of the adjacent manors of Poyle and Yeoveney (O.S. 1 inch sheet 170). To what extent the manorial boundaries in this area were at Domesday influenced by the Saxon occupation of the area is problematical due to the considerable loss of archaeological evidence as a result of urbanisation and gravel extraction, recently summarised by Longley (1975, 8–12). At Yeoveney the Saxon finds discussed below suggest that there was some form of occupation in the vicinity of the Neolithic enclosure in the 6th–8th century, while the Saxon origin of the place name (see p. 117 suggests that some part of the southern area of the gravel ‘island’ was occupied in the late Saxon period, albeit not the site of the Neolithic enclosure. As argued by Sawyer (1979, 2–3) the omission of a place-name from the Domesday book does not necessarily mean that there was no settlement there, merely that this

paid its taxes through the main manor. Such may have been the case with any settlement on 'Geofa's island' if this were encompassed within the lands granted together with Staines to Westminster Abbey in *c.* 1053–66 (see p. 118). If this were so the boundaries of the Saxon settlement may have influenced or been incorporated in the boundaries of the 11th-century manor of Staines. As in the 18th century the stream known as the Shire Ditch (later the County Boundary Ditch) certainly marked the western edge of the Yeoveney estate, it seems likely that if the creation of Yeoveney manor in the 13th century represented a fragmentation of the original manor of Staines, this stream or the adjacent marshes served as a land boundary not only in the 13th century, but at Domesday, and in the late Saxon period if not earlier.

The coincidence of pagan Saxon burial sites with the boundaries of the ancient parishes, many of which survive in the boundaries of the present-day civil parishes is now well attested (Bonney 1979, 41–51; Canham 1979, 110–113). Documentary and archaeological evidence, however, both show that the boundaries of the Saxons were themselves greatly influenced both by the topography of the area and the existing field monuments of the locality. The Saxon charter for Sunbury-on-Thames, for example, shows that the boundaries of this estate made considerable use of the watercourses and earthworks of the area (Tapp and Draper 1951, 302–5), while in Warwickshire it has been suggested (Ford 1979, 146–8) that the boundary of the 8th-century kingdom of the Hwicce may in part have been defined both by a number of probable pre-Saxon earthworks and a natural no-mans-land of woodlands, wastes and marshes. At Yeoveney natural boundaries are indisputably present in the numerous tributaries of the River Colne and in the Colne Valley itself, while although the earthworks of the Staines causewayed enclosure were almost certainly not in evidence in the 6th–8th century, some areas of the Neolithic banks and ditches may, as argued above, have been fossilised in the Bronze Age and Romano-British landscapes. In the light of recent research, which has produced a substantial body of evidence to demonstrate that the arrangement of many medieval and later parish boundaries, particularly in Essex (Rodwell 1978, 97), and Wessex (Bonney 1972, 169, 171, 174–5, 181–2), have their origins in alignments of earthworks dating to the Bronze and Iron Ages no less than in natural features, the juxtaposition of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Staines with, on the western side, a belt of marshes and a stream which until recently served a manorial, parish and county boundary, would now seem to be more than purely fortuitous.

The function of causewayed enclosures is at present far from clear, and has been extensively discussed elsewhere (e.g. Smith 1972), and most recently by Whittle (1977) who suggests that these earthworks probably served a variety of purposes. If so it is likely that their influence on the surrounding landscape will be equally differential. Sites which produce evidence of occupation, such as Staines, however, may be considered potentially influential. While the agricultural possibilities of the immediate area would appear to have been limited by the marshes to the east and west of the site, the economic potential of the extensive river pastures and numerous watercourses of the area was

certainly considerable. The causewayed enclosure at Staines was obviously constructed as a centre of some importance. Strategically placed within a naturally defended environment, commanding the mouth of the Colne Valley, and perhaps exploiting the resources of that valley, the socio-economic possibilities of such a centre may have resulted in the establishment of an estate, and in the Bronze Age if not within the Neolithic period. In Essex it has recently been postulated that certain parishes in the Roding Valley may reflect a series of pre-Roman estates, which although ignored in the Roman period, have nonetheless survived as territorial units in the post-Roman period (Rodwell 1978, 97 and Fig. 11.8). While in the absence of sufficient excavated sites evidence other than geographical for possible pre-Saxon estates in the Staines region is at present severely limited (Canham 1979, 113), it is nonetheless feasible that the Staines Neolithic causewayed enclosure may indirectly, if not directly, have influenced the subsequent development, both physical and administrative, of the local landscape, and caused the selection of a minor stream as a triple manorial, parish and county boundary at this point, rather than the larger watercourse of the Colne Brook, which divides the alluvial floor of the Colne Valley to the west of the site. In this little studied area of the Thames Valley even such slight evidence for the perpetuation of land divisions from the Neolithic to the present day is of considerable interest and potential importance.

3. THE LATER HISTORY OF THE SITE

By Lyn Blackmore

Following the Romano-British period the site seems to have been abandoned until the 7th century, and some at least of the Romano-British pits and field ditches left to silt up naturally. As the distribution of the Saxon pottery (Fig. 3) in Area D both follows and crosses the line of the Romano-British 'D' shaped enclosure, it would seem that this ditch had probably disappeared by the early-middle Saxon period. The presence of some sherds and fragments of two Saxon combs on the surface of six apparently pre-Saxon features, however, suggests that these may still have existed as minor declivities in the 7th century.

With the exception of a few isolated sherds and part of a Saxon comb (Fig. 5, No. 2), the Saxon pottery discussed below and part of another Saxon comb (Fig. 5, No. 1) appear to form two or possibly three clusters. Comb No. 2 (see p. 124) lay in the upper fill of a large, irregular, shallow hollow (2.6×1.3m), which may possibly represent the remains of a ploughed out 'Grubenhau'. Although the original Saxon name for Yeoveney, 'Geofa's island' (Ekwall 1970, 519) or 'Geofa's well-watered place' (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1942, 19-20) may refer more specifically to a centre further north, perhaps nearer the probable site of the 13th-century manor house at Yeoveney Farm, rather than to the gravel island as a whole, the fact that early-middle Saxon domestic pottery has also been recovered from the nearby sites of Wraysbury, Thorpe, Egham, Shepperton Green (Canham 1979), Stanwell (Poulton 1978, 240, 242)

and the modern town of Staines (Jones and Shanks 1976, 101–114; Jones forthcoming) shows that there was a considerable amount of Saxon activity in the area. It is therefore suggested that while no definite Saxon structures were identified in the excavations of 1961–63 (this problem will be more fully discussed in the main report), there may also have been a Saxon settlement in the vicinity of the Neolithic enclosure, if not on the site itself. In this case such a location may reflect some aspect of the economy, such as the exploitation of the adjacent marshes and the facilities afforded by such proximity to the River Thames. The dating of the two combs (see below) as mid 6th–late 7th century, and the pottery, the Ipswich ware having a general range of c. 650–850, the grass-tempered ware a general range of 6th–8th century, all point to an approximate date of c. 650–750 for this occupation.

Throughout the late Saxon and medieval periods, the history of Yeoveney, which was known variously as Giucneya, Gyveneya, Jvenay, Jeveneye, Heveneye, Yeveneyc, Evenay and Iveny (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1942, 19), was closely associated with that of the manor of Staines. The site of the latter is unknown, but may perhaps have been on the gravel island to the south of Yeoveney, upon which now stands St Mary's church (Fig. 1). The manor of Staines was certainly well established in the mid 11th century, when it was granted by Edward the Confessor, together with its berewicks and soke of 35 hides, to Westminster Abbey. The precise date of this gift is not known, but is believed to have been c. 1053–1066 (Gelling 1979, 121 No. 255; Sawyer 1968, 338 No. 1142). The lands within the soke of Staines are not specified, but may have comprised a number of hides at Exeфорde (Ashford), Leleham (Laleham) and Cerdentone (Charlton) (Pinder 1969, 109). Although not mentioned by name, it is generally accepted that Yeoveney was included in this grant (Harvey 1977, 355; Reynolds 1962, 18–19).

It certainly seems most probable that the western boundary of the later manor house of Yeoveney was already defined at Domesday (see p. 115). Possession of this land, however, may not have been secure until the later 11th century, for there seems to have been some dispute over the land in the reign of William I, when Walter fitz Other, who owned the nearby manors of Stanwelle (Stanwell), Bedefunde and Westbedefunde (East and West Bedfont) tried to gain possession of the Staines estate and thereby a substantial belt of land. The Abbey successfully fought the claim (Pinder 1969, 109; Reynolds 1962, 19), and by Domesday was the undisputed owner of the manor of Staines and its four berewicks. These are not named, but are commonly thought to have been Ashford, Laleham, Halliford and Teddington (Reynolds 1962, 18; Harvey 1977, 394). During the reign of William II, Gyveneya (Yeoveney) is referred to only as '*pastura de manerio de Stanes*' (Reynolds 1968, 18; Pinder 1969, 109). This would suggest that it was not a berewick but part of the commonland of the main manor of Staines, and at that time uncultivated.

According to the surviving records, the population of Yeoveney would appear to have been minimal until the establishment of a new manor house there in the 13th century. At Domesday Staines manor had six mills, one of which may have stood on the site of the medieval mill at Yeoveney, on the

Wyrardisbury River (Reynolds 1962, 21, 22). In the latter half of the 12th century, there was however at least one freehold (Reynolds 1962, 20, 22) which may have been the precursor of the 13th century manor house. By the 13th century there was a chapel at Yeoveney (Harvey 1977, 409), and by the 14th century a substantial complex of manorial buildings, including a hall, gatehouse, various barns and outbuildings and two granges. By this time there were 7½ customary tenements on the estate (Reynolds 1962, 22). The manor of Yeoveney was worked together with that of Staines under one reeve, but as a distinct unit of 200–300 acres. The actual boundary between the two manors is unknown (see below), but the lands of Yeoveney seem always to have lain to the north of St Mary's church, and to the west of Moor Lane (Reynolds 1962, 16) although in the post-medieval period at least they extended across the Lane to the north of Staines Moor. In the 13th century the main product was apparently grain or hay, but in the 14th century the farming became more mixed, although with apparently little division between the meadows and the arable, which was farmed in furlongs supporting a variety of crops at any one time. Further details of the farm may be found elsewhere (Reynolds 1962, 19, 23; Harvey 1977).

The hamlet at Yeoveney had probably disappeared by the end of the 14th century (Reynolds 1962, 22). In 1555 only three tenants are recorded as living on the estate (Reynolds 1962, 23), one of them perhaps near Yeoveney Lodge, where a timber-framed cottage still stands today. The 16th-17th century pottery, spindlewhorl and buckle found on the site may derive from this source.

From 1363 Yeoveney was almost continually leased out by the monks and later by the Dean and Chapter notably to the Durdant family, who were lessees from the late 15th century; the Dolbens, from 1665, and the Gyll family, formerly of Wraysbury, who brought the lease in 1775 (Reynolds 1962, 19). Some of the most useful information regarding the later history of the estate may be gained from three maps held by the Greater London Record Office (Nos. ACC. 325/4; ACC. 1524/7; ACC. 809/MISC/58). Of these the earliest, a fine terrier in water-colours (ACC. 325/4) by George Richardson of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, was presumably commissioned by William Gyll on his acquisition of the estate. This shows the house and outbuildings of Yeoveney Farm, which had been rebuilt by 1758 (Reynolds 1962, 19) as an imposing Georgian residence set in ornamental gardens and orchards, together with the freehold and leasehold properties on the estate, and the areas given over to arable or to meadow. The site of the Neolithic enclosure was at that time leased by two tenants. The southern half of the enclosure, which by then had become known as Stern Hill (see p. 114), possibly because it appeared as a slight rise when seen from the County Boundary Ditch (Fig. 3) was leased by William Gyll, and used for arable in the eastern half, and meadow in the western half by the Shire Ditch. The northern half of the site was leased by a Mr. Holcomb, who also held the land to the north and east of the site, and a few smaller fields within the estate of William Gyll. Although being a freehand representation the accuracy of this map is open to doubt, it is nonetheless interesting to note that

the meander of the Shire Ditch to the west of the Neolithic site was much less advanced on the north-western side of the enclosure than in the 19th century or as shown in Fig. 2, apparently running along the edge of the gravel island as far as the north-western section of the inner ditch of the Neolithic enclosure before entering the first meander.

In 1775 there was virtually no occupation in the area of the Neolithic enclosure, but by the mid-19th century the landscape had changed considerably with the cluster of buildings which had grown up around Yeoveney Lodge, which was built in the first quarter of the century. The basic field systems had changed little but the tithe map and accounts of 1843 (ACC. 1524/7) show that considerably more fields had been enclosed, and that at least 13 people and their dependants were by then living in the area and working the land. The bulk of the estate, including the northern part of the Neolithic site, was leased from Brooke Hamilton Gyll by one R. Stevens, but some of this tenants land, including Stern Hill, was leased directly from Westminster. In 1869, however, the estate was transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who later sold it to the farmer in residence at that time. In the 20th century the land passed to the County Council. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s the site of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure was used for market gardening but in 1954 the orchards were removed, the County Ditch canalised (see Figs. 1, 2), and the land once again put under the plough until gravel extraction commenced in 1961, resulting in the total destruction of this multi-period site by 1963, and subsequently that of the greater part of the Yeoveney Estate. Yeoveney Farm and Willow Farm were both demolished in 1965 to make way for the new Staines Reservoir. No excavation was undertaken on the probable site of the medieval manor house, but fortunately a photographic record of the 18th-century house and 17th-century barns of Yeoveney Farm was made by the late Mrs. A. E. Pearce of the Staines Local History Society prior to their destruction. This may be consulted in the Greater London Record Office (PRO/190/12-28), together with four photographs by the National Buildings Record (PR/67/7, 8, 11, 13, 14) showing the house and barns in 1943 and 1957.

The Saxon and medieval finds discussed below are therefore of considerable interest in that they not only enlarge the currently limited knowledge of pre-Domesday rural settlement in the London region, but also provide what is probably the only archaeological, artefactual record of the Saxon and medieval landscape which has now been lost.

4. THE SAXON AND MEDIEVAL POTTERY

By Philip Jones and Stephen Moorhouse

(i) Introduction

A total of eighty-eight post-Roman sherds were recovered from the site, either from within the overburden of topsoil removed by bulldozer, or else from the exposed surfaces of infilled features of prehistoric or Roman date. These were examined with the aid of a binocular microscope ($\times 20$) to identify the inclusions within the clay body, using the methods adopted by Peacock

(1977, 26–32). The size, shape and frequency of the inclusions were then quantified and it was found that seven pottery fabric types were present within the assemblage.

Three fabric-types (A, B and C), represented by thirty sherds of poorly-fired, hand-manufactured pottery contained inclusions similar to that of pottery of known Saxon date from within the area. This is confirmed by the forms of some of the more identifiable sherds which are comparable to vessels of Saxon type. All but five of these sherds (Fabrics B and C) are in a grass/chaff-tempered ware (Fabric A).

The four other pottery-fabric types (D, E, F and G) are predominantly tempered with quartz-sand and were manufactured on a fast wheel. All but three of these sherds (Fabrics D and E) were found to be of Surrey white-ware pottery of the medieval and post-medieval period (Fabrics F and G). The majority fabrics within the whole assemblage are medieval white-wares of the 13/14th century, represented by forty-two sherds.

There are therefore at least three separate periods of post-Roman pottery from the site; a Saxon group of mainly grass/chaff-tempered sherds; forty-seven sherds of local sandy wares of the 13/14th century; and 11 sherds of Ash/Farnborough Hill-type white ware of the 16/17th century.

Results of the microscopic analysis of the sherds are itemized below as a fabric type series which incorporates a catalogue of illustrated sherds. This section also includes the dating evidence for the later medieval and post-medieval wares whilst the Saxon pottery is more fully discussed within Section (ii).

Fabric A: Grass/Chaff-tempered fabrics.

Twenty-five sherds including the rims of two hemispherical bowls (Fig. 4, Nos. 1 and 2) and the rim and body sherd of a cooking-pot probably of round-based form (Fig. 4, No. 3). Seventeen other sherds were of a fairly standard fabric-type that has also been found in the town of Staines. (Jones, forthcoming, fabric MA 1). This fabric contains frequent inclusions of carbonized chaff that was added to the original clay body as well as rare to sparse sub-rounded quartz grains and even rarer fragments of flint and chalk that more probably characterize the clay source or come from debris on the production site. Only seven sherds were found to contain a higher proportion of quartz-sand that may have been deliberately added along with the organic material to temper the clay. This latter variety is not always easy to separate from the standard type either here or in the modern town of Staines, and the division may be less real than imagined. The pottery was hand-made and most of the sherds have a black or drab brown core with frequently more oxidised brown surfaces. Surface treatment is confined to rough smoothing of the exterior of some of the sherds, and of the interior of the two bowls. (Fig. 4, Nos. 1 and 2).

Fabric B: Ipswich-type ware.

Two joining sherds from the sagging base of a cooking-pot (Fig. 4, No. 4). This vessel was hand-made with fairly thick-walls (0.3–1.0cm) and has a smoothed external finish. The colour is a drab blue-grey but is sooted externally on the base. The clay body contains a dense granular ground of very frequent angular quartz grains up to 1mm in size, with rare ironstone flecks and larger angular grits of quartz.

This fabric-type has not so far been found within the town of Staines except for some uncommon vessels produced (somewhat disconcertingly) in the late Roman period. A rim and base sherd of Ipswich-type ware found in excavations at Old Windsor (O'Neil 1958, 183–5), 3 miles north-west of the present site. This was found under microscopic examination to be

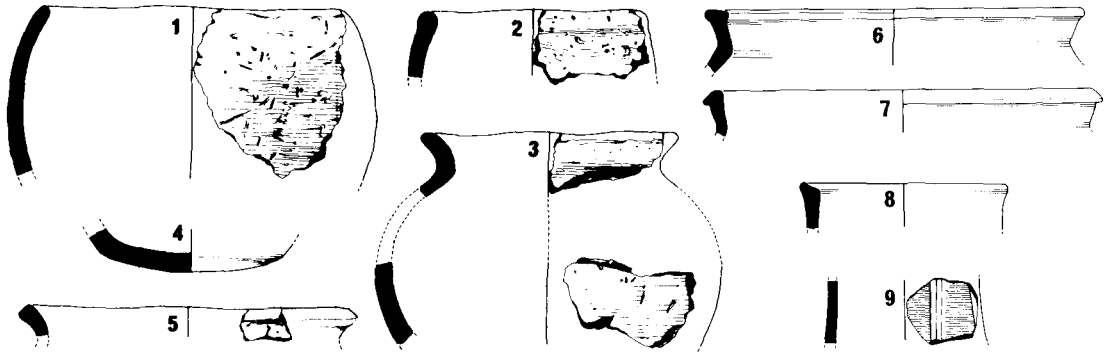


Fig. 4. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: The Saxon and Medieval Pottery ($\frac{1}{4}$).

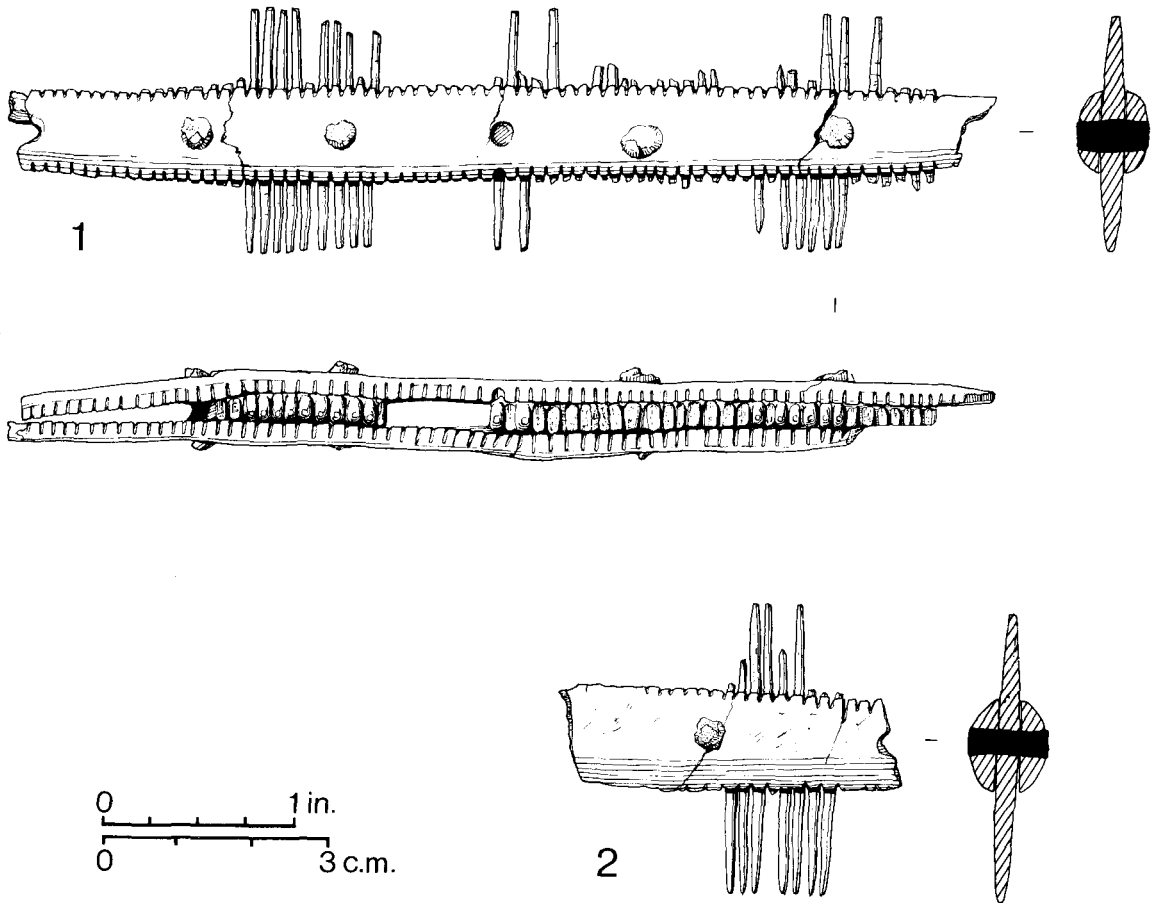


Fig. 5. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: The Saxon Combs ($\frac{1}{1}$).

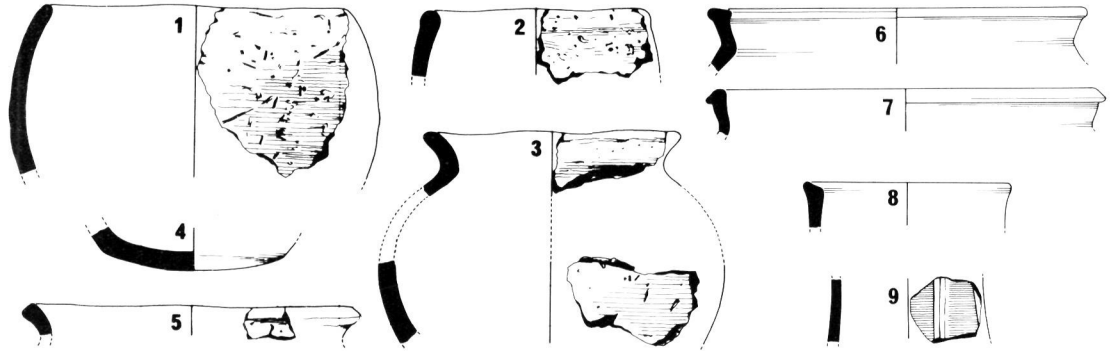


Fig. 4. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: The Saxon and Medieval Pottery (1/4).

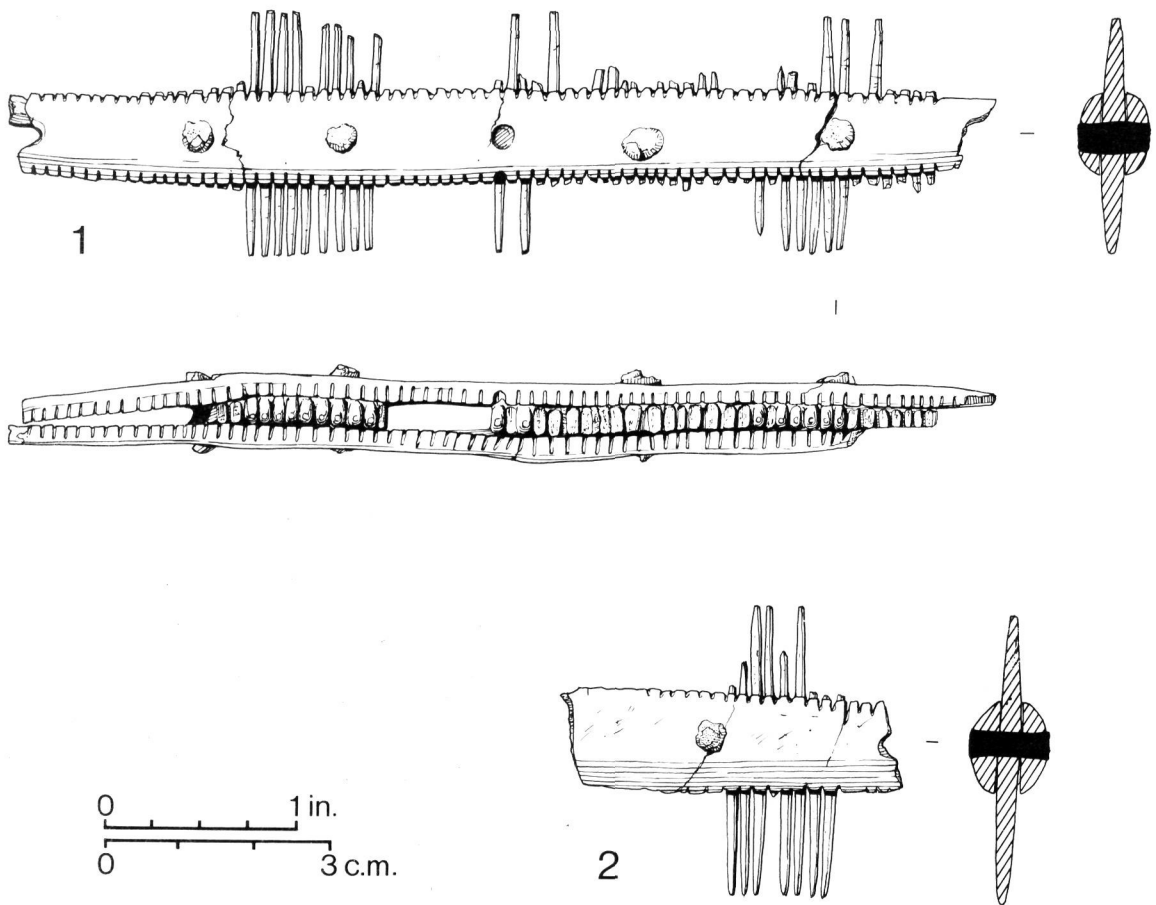


Fig. 5. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: The Saxon Combs (1/1).

dissimilar to the present example in that the fabric included larger quartz grains and was both harder and better made. Other sherds of a similar fabric-type have been found in middle Saxon deposits further east in the Thames Valley, as at the Treasury site, Whitehall, Westminster (Green, 1963, 1004–7), Battersea, S.W. London (pers. comm. S. McCracken) Arundel House, Strand (Haslam 1975, 221 and Fig. 6, No. 1) and Waltham, Essex (Huggins 1976, 104). At the latter site Dr. D. F. Williams identified a sherd recovered from a mid-late Saxon wall foundation as an example of his Ipswich-type ware Group 3 fabric characterized by angular quartz grains with an average size of *c.* 0.1mm. The sherds from the Staines causewayed enclosure could belong either to this variety or to his Group 2 which has a somewhat smaller range of quartz grains. Neither the basal sherds from Old Windsor or from the site of the Staines enclosure were knife trimmed above the base-angle, a common feature of cooking-pot wasters of the Ipswich kilns.

Fabric C:

Three sherds (Fig. 4, No. 5) in a pottery fabric of late Saxon/early Medieval type which has also been found within the town of Staines (Jones, forthcoming, fabric MHb). This vessel, probably a cooking-pot with simple everted rim, was handmade and has a glossy black and pimply surface. The inclusions are frequent subangular quartz grains *c.* 4–8mm, with moderate amounts of large angular flint fragments, and rare ironstone and chalk grits. An early date within the duration of this fabric-type may be indicated by its handmade manufacture.

Fabric D:

Three joining sherds from a fast-wheeled vessel with relatively thin walls (*c.* 0.4cm). The inclusions are moderate to frequent amounts of ill-sorted quartz grains (2–10mm but with an average size of *c.* 4–5mm) and sparse ironstone grits (*c.* 3–6mm). These sherds have a black core and a red-brown external surface; probably 13th century (not illus.).

Fabric E:

Two sherds of grey sandy ware (not illus.), both with external sage green glaze. The inclusions are well-sorted and very frequent subangular quartz grains (*c.* 3–5mm) with some sparse ironstone grits of a similar size; probably 13th century.

Fabric F: Medieval White Ware.

Forty-two sherds, including rim fragments of two cooking pots (Fig. 4, Nos. 6 and 7), one of which has splashes of green glaze on the interior and rim-top; one rim-fragment of a jug with external green glaze splashes (Fig. 4, No. 8); one sherd decorated with rilling and vertical grooves covered with an overall green glaze (Fig. 4, No. 9); a fragment of a thumbled base angle (not illus.); part of a strap handle decorated with diagonal slashing along each edge and covered with a green glaze (not illus.); and two sagging-base angles, one of which was glazed internally. Six other sherds display splashes of green glaze.

The fabric contains frequent well-sorted and sub-rounded quartz grains (*c.* 4–5mm, although occasionally larger, up to 7–8mm) mostly of red to pink colour, and sparse to moderate amounts of ironstone (*c.* 4–5mm). Although generally cream to off-white in colour, some sherds from cooking-pots such as Fig. 4, No. 6 are reduced to grey in patches.

Pottery of this type with a preponderance of pink to red quartz grains is typical of the town of Staines in assemblages of the late 13th–14th century (Crouch 1976, 108 and Fig. 19). Although these could possibly be from kilns in the Kingston-upon-Thames area, excavated wasters from the Eden Street kiln (Hinton, 1980, 380) and descriptions of Kingston-type white ware from the Angel Court, London site (Blurton 1977, 82) do not seem to be of the same fabric which is so common in the Staines area.

Fabric G: Post-medieval white ware.

Eleven sherds, including rim fragments of two open dishes, one with internal yellow glaze and the other with internal and external apple-green glaze; and a corrugated rim of a bowl with crooked yellow glaze (not illus.). The fabric is fairly smooth with frequent well-sorted quartz

grains of average size *c.* 0.5–1mm and sparse ironstone inclusions. The forms, glaze and fine fabric of this ware are similar to the products of the Ash and Farnborough Hill kilns of the Surrey-Hampshire border area (Holling 1971, 57–88) and a late 16th–17th-century date is likely.

(ii) Discussion of the Saxon Pottery

More precise dating of grass/chaff-tempered pottery within the early to mid Saxon periods is difficult to assess in the absence of other wares with a more limited period of production. It has been found with decorated pottery of early Saxon type within the immediate area in Staines at the Friends Burial ground (Crouch, forthcoming) and Shepperton Green (Canham 1979, 115) and also at many other sites within the south-east. At Old Windsor, Berks. and Waltham, Essex however, such pottery was a significant element within mid or mid-to-late Saxon assemblages that also included handmade shelly wares and rare sherds of Ipswich-type ware. (O'Neill 1958, 183–5; Huggins 1976, 104 and Fig. 36). The frequently cited survival of the grass-tempering tradition to *c.* 1050 at Old Windsor may more reasonably indicate the accumulation of earlier sherds within 11th century levels as the percentage of this ware declines after Phase IIIb, considered by the excavator to be of or before the beginning of the 9th century. Plain hemispherical bowls similar to Fig. 4, Nos. 1 and 2, have been found on early Saxon sites, as at Dorchester (Frere 1962, Fig. 21, No. 1), and Walton, Bucks. (Farley 1976, Figs. 13, 14 and 15) in grass/chaff-tempered ware or in association with sherds of the same. A bowl very similar to Fig. 4, No. 1 however, was excavated within the town of Staines and bears the scar of an upright lug projecting from the rim, which is a common feature of mid Saxon pottery. Bag-shaped cooking-pots with weak shoulders and simple everted rims typical of Fig. 4, No. 3 seem to have begun fairly early at Sutton Courtenay (Leeds 1947, Pl. 216), but the general form continued to be made throughout the Saxon period and was absorbed into the early medieval repertoire of vessel shapes. Cooking-pots of Phase IIIb at Old Windsor, and therefore late within the duration of grass-tempered pottery manufacture, were however, better-potted than most similar vessels from the area and also have higher, and more pronounced shoulders.

On the basis of the above, the date of the grass/chaff tempered pottery from the site of the Staines enclosure is considered to be of mid Saxon date *c.* AD 650–850, and the presence of Ipswich-type ware confirms this general conclusion. There are some grounds for believing that the material may be early within the period as no shelly-ware sherds were found on the site. These may begin within this area by as early as the late 8th century. The unsophisticated nature of the grass-chaff-tempered vessel forms may also preclude their manufacture after the later 8th or 9th century.

5. TWO ANGLO-SAXON COMBS

By Leslie Webster

i) Stratification (R.R.-M.)

In addition to the pottery discussed above, fragments of two antler combs were also recovered (Fig. 5), of which No. 1 came from the topmost layer of a

pit or gully in Area D and No. 2 from the uppermost layer of a large, shallow oval shaped feature in Area I (Fig. 3).

As the lower layers of both features contained Neolithic flints (presumably residual) and Romano-British pottery but no post-Roman material, these combs are unfortunately not securely stratified. Owing to the heavily ploughed nature of the site, it is not likely however that these relatively delicate objects could have travelled far, if at all.

ii) Description and discussion (L.W.)

1. A fragmentary double-sided composite antler comb, now consisting of four double-sided tooth-plates held between two undecorated, bevelled median bars. The whole construction is secured by five iron rivets. (L. 130mm, W. 32mm). Site location: Box 77, F201 layer 1.
2. Fragments of a double-sided composite antler comb consisting of (i) a length of undecorated bevelled median bar (L. 45mm) attached to a complete section of tooth plate (L. 38mm) which is fixed to the bar with an iron rivet, (ii) a separate length of median bar as before (L. 28mm) and (iii) a fragment of tooth plate with two adjacent teeth (L. 19mm). Site location: Box 217, F322 layer 1.

Both combs belong to the same well-known class of double-sided composite comb constructed of a series of separate short tooth plates fixed between two horizontal bars riveted together. These are often described as bone in the literature, but antler is in fact the usual medium. The teeth were invariably cut into the tooth plate blanks after the comb was assembled, as the saw marks along the edges of the bars show here (Fig. 5).

The two combs are quite undecorated and since their ends do not survive, there is no means of telling what shape their end plates might have been. Double-sided composite combs occur in continental Germanic and Anglo-Saxon contexts from the first half of the 6th century until the middle of the 7th century, when they are gradually superseded by the single-sided comb.

Similar examples occur at Bradstow School, Broadstairs, grave 77, (unpublished); Buckland, Dover, graves 30 and 110, (unpublished), and Köln-Junkersdorf; graves 159 and 163 (La Baume 1967, 107-8, Pls. 10 and 43, No. 8). More locally, a number of both plain and decorated combs were recovered from the 5th-7th century Saxon settlement at Walton, Buckinghamshire (Farley 1978, 206 and Fig. 20, 216 and Fig. 25).

Close dating of these two combs is not possible beyond a general bracket of mid 6th to late 7th century.

6. AN IMPORTED STONEWARE SPINDLEWHORL, WITH SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON STONEWARE SPINDLEWHORLS FOUND IN ENGLAND, THEIR DATING AND ORIGIN.

By Stephen Moorhouse and John Hurst.

Introduction

During excavation of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Staines a stoneware spindlewhorl was found in the topsoil in Area B (Fig. 6, No. 1). It was not associated with any contemporary occupation on the site and can be regarded as a casual find. The Staines spindlewhorl belongs to a group of

stoneware spindlewhorls whose source of manufacture probably lay in the Rhineland. This note draws attention to imported stoneware spindlewhorls found in this country (Stephen Moorhouse) and to their sources of manufacture and wider date range in the Rhineland and Low Countries (John Hurst).

STONEWARE SPINDLEWHORLS FOUND IN ENGLAND (S. M.)

This note is based on a very brief survey of material held by the principal London museums, the Ashmolean Museum Oxford and a few sites of post-medieval date in the London area. It was initiated to provide some background dating evidence for the spindlewhorl from the Staines causewayed enclosure, and although no further research work has been carried out since 1972, it was thought worth publishing the material then gathered together to draw attention to stoneware spindlewhorls and encourage further work on their study. At present three types of spindlewhorl may be provisionally defined by their form and fabric:

Type 1

This is the most common type found in this country. The wide variation in size and detail is shown in Fig. 4, Nos. 1–12. Although there is some variety in diameter, the diameter to height ratio appears to be consistent. Some are slightly taller than others while the ends of the spindle hole on some examples are chamfered. Horizontal annular girth grooves, either incised or created during manufacture, are a feature of this type. Some of the grooving extends to corrugation, as in Fig. 6, No. 2, resembling the corrugated sides on the Raeren stoneware mugs so common in this country, a source from which many of the spindlewhorls are likely to have originated. The fabric is a uniform fine grained dark grey stoneware covered in a light brown to bronze coloured salt glaze, occasionally with a light grey mottling. In some cases the glaze has partially or completely worn away or decayed due to the material in which the spindlewhorl was deposited when discarded.

Type 2

This type is distinguished from Type 1 both in form and fabric. The base is much broader than the top, giving the profile of a truncated cone. They appear to lack intentional girth grooves and are otherwise generally smooth surfaced. The fabric is much lighter in colour and finer than those of Type 1, Nos. 13 and 15, being very similar to the smooth Siegburg products.

Type 3

A bi-conical form the diameter of which is much greater than its height. The brief survey revealed only one example of this type, suggesting it is the rarest form.

Few of the spindlewhorls examined have come from a dated context. Most were chance finds. Three stoneware whorls have been found in 16th-century deposits: one came from Waltham Abbey, Essex, in a context dated *c.* 1540–1600 (Huggins 1969, 76 Fig. 26, No. 7; 57, 63, 77–8), a second from a pottery kiln site at Boreham Street, East Sussex, dating to the late 15th or early 16th century (Crossley 1972, 64, note 47) and the third from Barking Abbey, which was dissolved in 1539 (Huggins 1969, 78). The only example of Type 3

(No. 16) so far recognised in this country came from Whitehall Palace in a pit dating *c.* 1530. A recent find of a Type 1 spindlewhorl from Kingston-upon-Thames came from a general layer of the period 1600–1650 (pers. comm. S. Nelson). The only possible evidence for an earlier date comes from the Staines causewayed enclosure, where, although the spindlewhorl was unstratified and unassociated, the majority of post-Saxon pottery on the site is dated to the 13th–14th centuries, with only eleven sherds of 16th–17th century date (see above). While this must remain uncertain it is in keeping with the early evidence for stoneware spindlewhorls now being identified on the continent (see below), although the 16th–17th century buckle (see below) may support a later date for the Staines example.

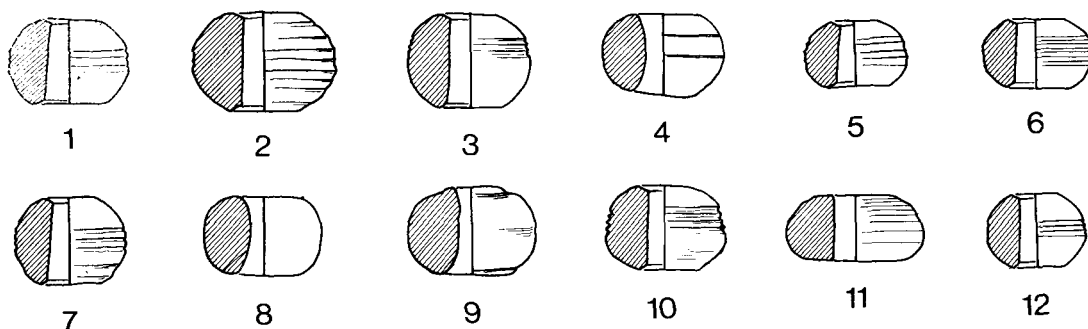
Spindlewhorls were used as fly-wheels on the lower end of the distaff spindle, on which the wool thread was spun from the distaff. They were made in a variety of materials, either purposely as spindlewhorls or fashioned from waste or discarded objects. Those wrought or cast from metal ores could be very ornate and decorative, particularly those made of lead. This is in contrast to the stoneware examples, whose only attempt at decoration is in the horizontal incision or girth grooves found in Type 1. It seems likely that some stoneware forms were copying spindlewhorls in other materials, particularly the biconical form of Type 3 which is commonly found in lead whorls. It is probable that some spindlewhorls made from natural geological materials could be mistaken for stoneware spindlewhorls; and *visa versa*, particularly where the glaze has come off the surface of hard fired fine grained stoneware examples.

Why do spindlewhorls appear to be imported into this country in large numbers during a period when woollen thread was produced mechanically? Although the spinning-wheel appears to have superseded the distaff method of spinning during the 14th century, the earlier method was still retained for fine warp threads, and in many rural areas distaff-spinning was common into the 19th century. This is reflected by the many rural finds of spindlewhorls. Stoneware examples are known from Shefford (Bedfordshire), Burford (Oxfordshire), Halton (Cambridgeshire) and Malton (Cambridgeshire), Fig. 6, Nos. 4, 11, 13 and 15 respectively. There was, therefore, a need for spindlewhorls throughout the post-medieval period, and it seems likely that the stoneware potters took advantage of this ready market.

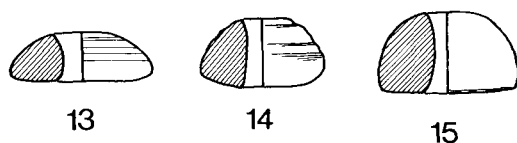
This brief survey of stoneware spindlewhorls is based on about 50 examples mainly from south-eastern England. Many more examples could have been illustrated, particularly from the collections of the former London Museum and Guildhall Museum, now housed in the Museum of London. Museum collections in the provinces should now be examined, the relatively large number of spindlewhorls in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, suggesting that other collections may exist elsewhere in the country. Independent dating is needed for their currency, particularly as the continental evidence suggests a starting date in the 14th century while the English material suggests a currency during the 16th century. Further work is required on the validity of the types as defined above, which are based on shape variations, and may modify the types, for example merging Types 1 and 2. Stoneware spindlewhorls, originating

from the numerous German factories, are particularly common in northern Europe, and a closer study of these may provide a better basis on which to define those found in this country.

Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

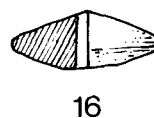


Fig. 6. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: A Stoneware Spindlewhorl (No. 1) and Comparative Examples (1/2).

SOME EXAMPLES OF IMPORTED SPINDLEWHORLS IN ENGLAND (Fig. 6)

Type 1

1. Light blue-grey fine stoneware; covered with a light orange-brown glaze, except on the angles, where it has worn away. Staines causewayed enclosure.
2. Grey stoneware with shiny lustrous yellowish brown glaze. The Aquarium site, Westminster. Museum of London. Acc. No. A 9666.
3. Light grey stoneware with dull light brown mottled glaze. London. Museum of London. Acc. No. A 4754.
4. Grey stoneware with light grey-brown mottling. Shefford, Bedfordshire. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Acc. No. 1927.5965g, FL 189.
5. Grey stoneware with bright lustrous dark bronze and grey mottling. Horse-shoe Wharf. Museum of London. Acc. No. A 4801.
6. Grey stoneware, dark brown and grey mottling with burnt pimply surfaces. Found in Newgate Street, London. Museum of London. Acc. No. A 5195.
7. As No. 6. Unprovenanced. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
8. Light buff fine-grained stoneware with slight patches of clear glaze. Brasenose College, Oxford. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Acc. No. 1887.3209.
9. Off-white stoneware, crudely made, chipped in places, with traces of a yellow khaki glaze. Bodleian Extension, Oxford. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Rawlinson bequest.

10. Dark brown and grey glaze. Newgate Street, London. Museum of London. Acc. No. A 5194.
11. Light blue-grey stoneware with traces of sparse greeny-brown glaze and a white substance which appears to be under the glaze. Burford, Oxfordshire. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Acc. No. 1940. 10.
12. Light grey stoneware with shiny lustrous light grey glaze. 'Blue Eyed Maid' site, Southwark. Museum of London. Acc. No. A 12015.

Type 2

13. Unglazed light grey very fine smooth stoneware. Harlton, Cambridgeshire, Acc. No. 1927, 5965a.
14. Light grey stoneware with badly rubbed khaki glaze. Angel Inn, Oxford. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Acc. No. 1883.45.
15. Unglazed light grey smooth stoneware with dark purple colouring to body. Malton, Cambridgeshire, 1871. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Acc. No. 1927.5965b.

Type 3

16. Light grey stoneware covered all over with shiny lustrous light grey glaze. Whitehall Palace, Westminster, Pit T3. Museum of London. I am grateful to H. J. M. Green for bringing this whorl to my attention, and to J. Charleton for allowing its publication here in advance of the final report.

KILN SOURCES AND DATING (J. H.)

Quantities of dark grey stoneware spindlewhorls with grey or brown saltglaze have been found in waster heaps excavated at Raeren (pers. comm. Dr O. E. Mayer and H. J. E. Van Beuningen), a large number of which may be seen in the Van Beuningen Collection at Langbroek. They have also been found at kiln sites in Aachen where very similar wares to Raeren were made (Hugot 1977, 251, Pl. 19). At both Raeren and Aachen Type 1 is the most common, but there are also variations of Type 2 (with girth grooves like Type 1) and Type 3 (with a central collar not a plain biconic form). These finds are datable to the 16th century and examples were doubtless exported to Britain with the ubiquitous Raeren stoneware drinking mugs (Hurst 1964, 142–3).

This dating is, however, deceptive because excavations in Amsterdam have produced a range of stoneware spindlewhorls, in contexts ranging from the early 14th century up to the 17th century replacement of the distaff by the spinning wheel; these were mainly of Type 1 but also Type 2, so there appears to be no obvious typological evolution (Baart 1977, 126–9). Type 1 spindlewhorls in the local Low Countries grey ware (Baart 1977, 128–9, Nos. 99–102), and more angular versions of Type 2 in lead were also found in Amsterdam (Baart 1977, 128–9, Nos. 104 and 106). Elsewhere in the Low Countries stoneware spindlewhorls have been reported from Hasselt (dated 14–15th century) and Overijssel (dated second half of the 15th century, (de Jong 1980, 105–6, Nos. 53–5), while in Haarlem blue-grey examples of Type 1 spindlewhorls may be as early as the 12th or 13th century (Van Regteren and Numan 1980, 34 Fig. 4). As the pottery industries at Raeren and Aachen do not seem to have got fully underway until the second half of the 15th century the earlier examples presumably come from Langerwehe which produced a similar dark grey stoneware (Hurst 1977); wasters have, however, not so far been noted from the kiln sites. Light grey stoneware spindlewhorls of Type 1, with both single and multiple grooves, were made at Siegburg in the 14th and 15th centuries (Beckmann 1957, 334 XII 1.26 and Fig. 96 Nos. 7–8).

It is unfortunate that most English finds of stoneware spindlewhorls are undated, but those from Waltham Abbey and Boreham Street (see above) confirm their 16th-century importation. In view of the wide date range, and the presence both of 13th/14th and 16th/17th-century pottery on the site of the Neolithic enclosure, the Staines spindlewhorl therefore cannot be closely dated at this time. More stratified examples are badly needed but it is likely that stoneware spindlewhorls of similar types were imported into Britain from the 14th to the 17th centuries, so they do not provide satisfactory dating evidence.

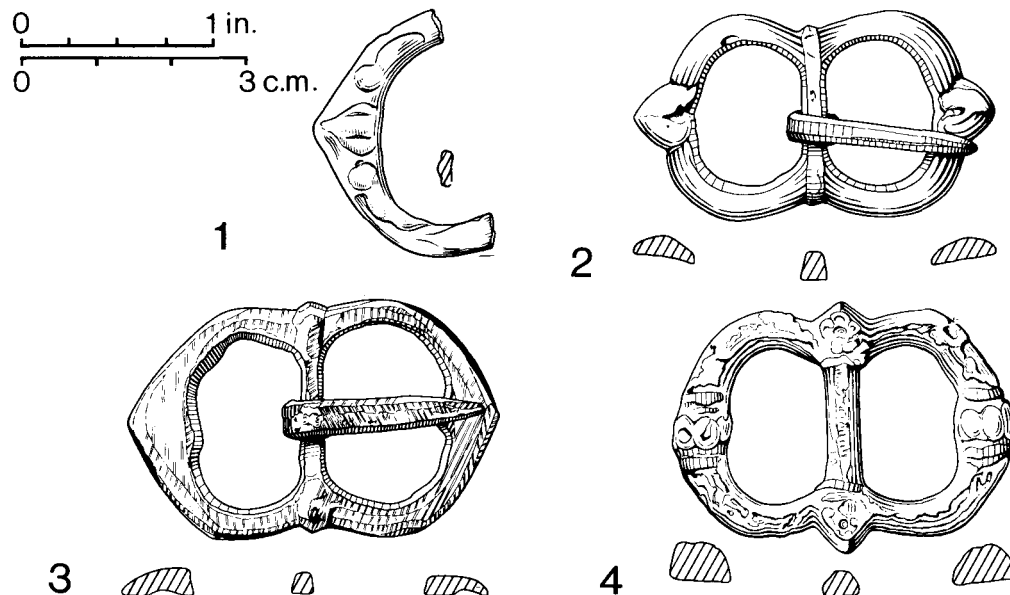


Fig. 7. Staines Causewayed Enclosure: A Bronze Buckle (No. 1) and Comparative Examples (1/1).

7. A 16th–17th-CENTURY BRONZE BUCKLE By Lyn Blackmore

Part of an open-cast bronze buckle of 'ogival' or 'heart-shaped' form (Fig. 7, No. 1) was found during the course of stripping Areas A and B. The casting is of a reasonable standard, having no rough edges, but artistically the piece is of inferior quality, being decorated with a devolved Renaissance design in low and indistinct relief. Measuring *circa* 1¼ inches or 3.35 cm across at the widest point, the fragment would appear to be rather narrower than the average shoe buckle, and is probably from a belt or horse-trapping. The nature of the fracture suggests that this may originally have been a double or 'spectacle' buckle, consisting of two loops with a central bar, combining the main stylistic features of three unprovenanced examples in the Museum of London, which are illustrated here for comparison. Of these No. 3 (A4298) is most similar to the Staines example in form, but slightly smaller, undecorated, and apparently cast in a mould. No. 2 (A01711, Layton Collection) bears a similar, but more stylised, 'heart' or 'pip' which forms an addition to, rather than an integral part of, the main loop. Possibly deriving from the terminal knob or leaf on the belt chapes of the 14th century, this design feature may indicate an earlier date for this example, and a later date for that from Staines, where the 'heart' is absorbed into the loop of the buckle. No. 4 (A4308), the most elaborate, is, like the Staines example, open-cast, but decorated in a more neo-classical style.

As a single buckle attached to a strap end, a simpler 'ogival' or 'heart-shaped' form of the Staines buckle was already in use in the 14th century (London Museum Medieval Catalogue No. 7 1940, 272 and Plate LXXV, Nos. 1, 2, 7, 8). Representations of double buckles on memorial brasses show that these were an innovation of the later 15th century, but the majority of these buckles are of post-medieval date. On stylistic grounds the Staines example is probably of late 16th–17th-century date, and therefore likely to be contemporary with the spindlewhorl and the post-medieval pottery discussed above.

Thanks are due to John Clark and the Museum of London for their help, and for allowing these buckles to be studied and published in this paper.

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APPENDIX

Since the completion of the above report two radio-carbon dates are now available for the Saxon activity on the site. Although somewhat later than the probable 6th-7th century date of the two antler combs discussed above, the two uncalibrated dates of a.d. 820 ± 40 (BM-796) and 900 ± 70 (BM-797) are in broad agreement with the pottery dates, which may now be extended to include three sherds of Late Saxon-early medieval shell-tempered ware. Of the two dates, the earlier was derived from a crescent-shaped deposit of charcoal, bone and daub which overlay the outer Neolithic ditch on the northern side of the enclosure (Trench 14). The later date was obtained from the upper fill of a pit within the interior of the enclosure (F32), which produced in addition fragments of daub and two sherds of Ipswich-type pottery (Fig. 4, No. 4).