

EXCAVATIONS AT TOTTENHAM COURT, 250 EUSTON ROAD, NW1

ROBERT WHYTEHEAD AND LYN BLACKMORE

SUMMARY

Excavation and site-watching on the supposed site of the medieval manor-house of Tottenham Court revealed evidence for Early Saxon activity, and a series of 13th–14th century yard surfaces, the remains of medieval and Tudor walls and a garderobe pit which were all probably part of the medieval manor-house or rebuilt Tudor farmhouse.

INTRODUCTION

From May to June 1979 excavations were undertaken by the then Inner London Archaeological Unit, now the Department of Greater London Archaeology, on the site of 250 Euston Road, London NW1 (TQ 29308240) in order to examine in advance of redevelopment the probable site of the medieval manor-house of Totenhal or Tottenham Court, the manor being entered in Domesday Book as a prebendal manor belonging to St. Paul's. The site formed a block of land bounded by the Hampstead and Euston Roads, North Gower Street, and Tolmers Square (Fig.1.). Only a limited area (8 × 9m) was available for a systematic excavation, but the subsequent redevelopment of the site was also monitored. The site was found to have been badly disturbed by 19th-century development and the widening of Euston Road in the 1960s. In addition the excavated area was cut by 19th-century foundations, an 18th-century cellar and modern drains. The site records and finds archive may be consulted at the offices of the Department of Greater London Archaeology, 42 Theobalds Road, London WC1.

THE HISTORY OF THE SITE

The documentary evidence for the manor, manor-house and farmhouse is summarised in the LCC Surveys of 1938 (Lovell and Marcham 1938, 10–9, 140–2) and 1949 (Godfrey and Marcham 1949, 120–1, Pls. 69a, 69b, 70). Of particular note are two surveys of the property, that by Necton in 1591, in which he states that the buildings were in a dilapidated condition and had been partially demolished to repair those that remained (Godfrey and Marcham 1949, 120), and that by D. Nicoll *et al* in 1649 giving a complete list of every room in the moated building of that date, which was then 'much out of repair' (Godfrey and Marcham 1949, 120).

Pictorial evidence dates back to a copy made by W. Burden in 1801 of a painting supposed to date to 1743. This depicts an apparently Elizabethan brick building with timber-framed east wing (Godfrey and Marcham 1949, Plate 69a). It is hard to compare the view of this building with the description of 1649. The timber-framed wing, which by the 19th century had been divided into three tenements, did however survive until 1808 when several sketches, now in the GLC collection, were made of it prior to its demolition. The best drawings are those made in 1805 by J. Carter for an engraving in Lysons and labelled 'King John's Palace' as

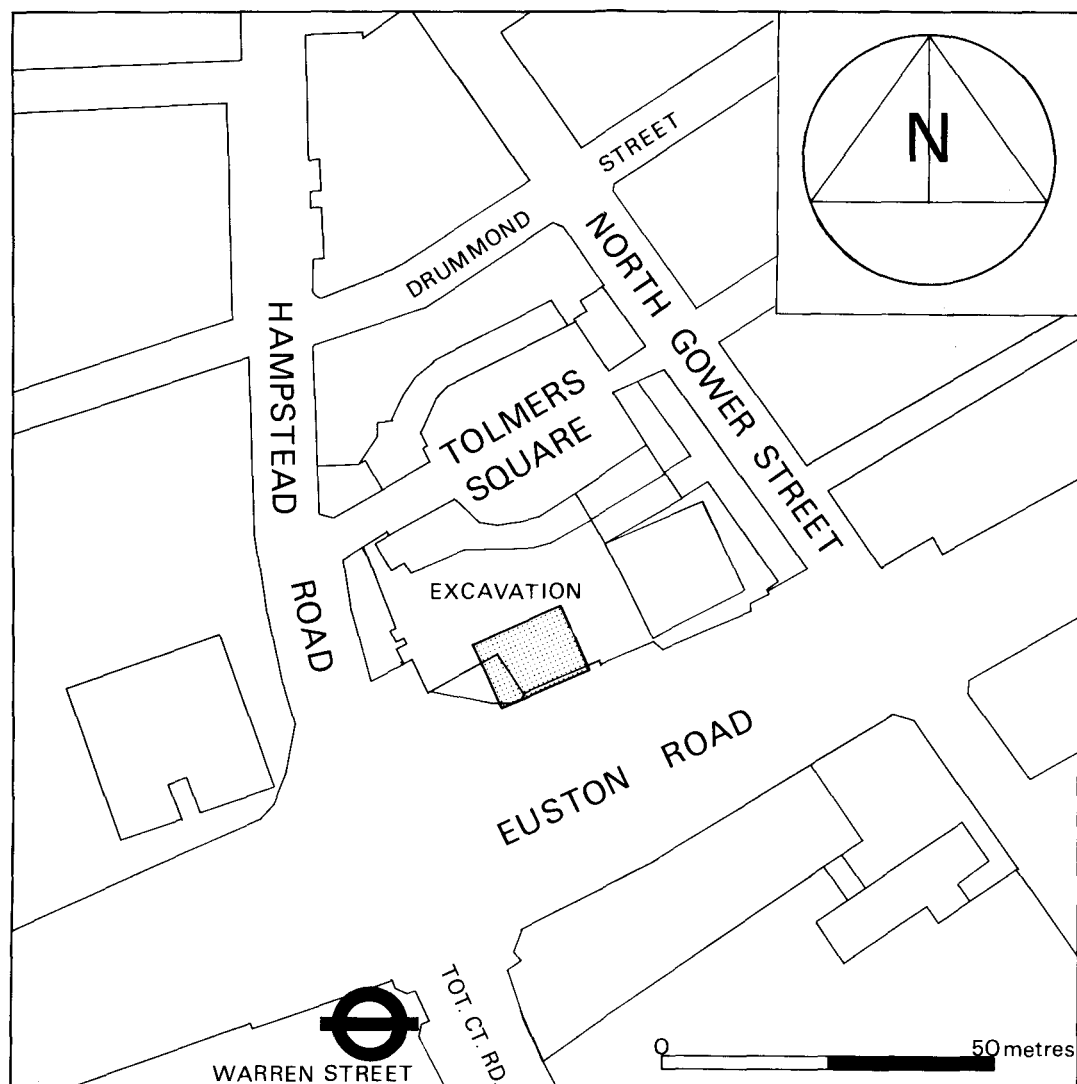


Fig. 1 Tottenham Court. Site location plan.

the building had become known (GLC Printroom, Accession Nos. St.P.K 1616-7, 1622-3).

THE EXCAVATION (Fig. 2)

Geology

The natural subsoil is London Clay overlain by Taplow Gravels, which were covered by a 2 m deep stratum of mottled brown sandy silty clay, surface height *c.* 25.30 m OD.

The Ploughsoil (Phase A)

The earliest deposit identified was a ploughsoil (119) composed of medium to dark greenish grey sandy clay loam containing scattered brick, charcoal and ironpan flecks, and some small, round gravel pebbles, which lay over the entire excavated area to an average depth of 0.20 m to 0.25 m, (Figs. 4, 5a, b). The bulk of the pottery from this deposit is of late 12th-mid 13th-century date (Fig. 8, Nos. 5-24) and suggests that the ploughsoil was only in use for a short period of time. Some thirty sherds of chaff-tempered pottery however are of early-mid Saxon

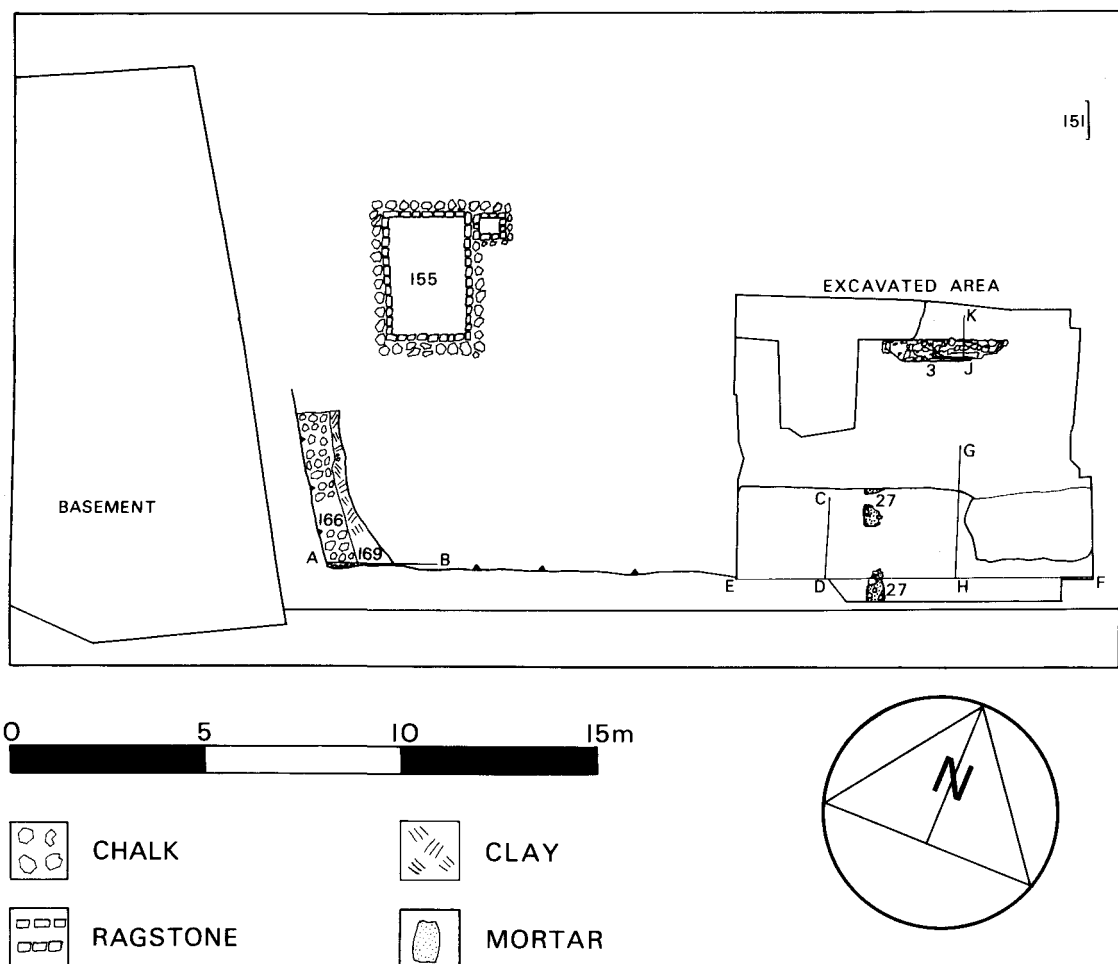


Fig. 2 Tottenham Court. Site plan.

date (Fig. 8 Nos. 1–4); these finds, which constitute the most important discovery of the excavation, are discussed below.

The Yard (Phases B, C, D)

The ploughsoil was overlain in the southern half of the site by a series of overlapping gravel layers interpreted as two phases of yard surfaces. Four stages could be discerned in the sequence although the three initial gravel deposits would appear to have been laid in close succession (Figs. 4, 5a, b) since sherds from the same pottery vessels (Fig. 9, Nos. 25–36), some already noted in Phase A, are scattered throughout all these layers.

The first deposit (Phase B1: layers 12, 98, 93, 78, and possibly 101, 100) was perhaps based on a clay layer (12, Fig. 3), with the subsequent layers being laid in apparently two phases (Phase B2: layers 79, 80, 82, 83, 92

and Phase B3: layers 68, 69, 73). All were well compacted but varied in the density of the gravel in each layer. On the evidence of the small amount of Kingston ware and Mill Green ware Phase B would appear to date to c. 1260–70.

These gravel deposits were cut by a number of post-holes (features 36, 57, replaced by 25; 76, 87, 70, 84, replaced by 44; and possibly 94: Fig. 6a,b); these contained little pottery and formed no coherent pattern, but as several were re-cut the structure to which they related may have been in use for some time.

A final gravel deposit (Phase D: layers 53, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 65) marked the repair of the earlier surfaces but this was itself very worn and pockets of sand had accumulated in it. This surface produced a high proportion of residual pottery, but also sherds of 14th-century Mill Green ware. The absence of any coarse Surrey-Hants border ware however indicates a probable date of pre-1350 for this phase.

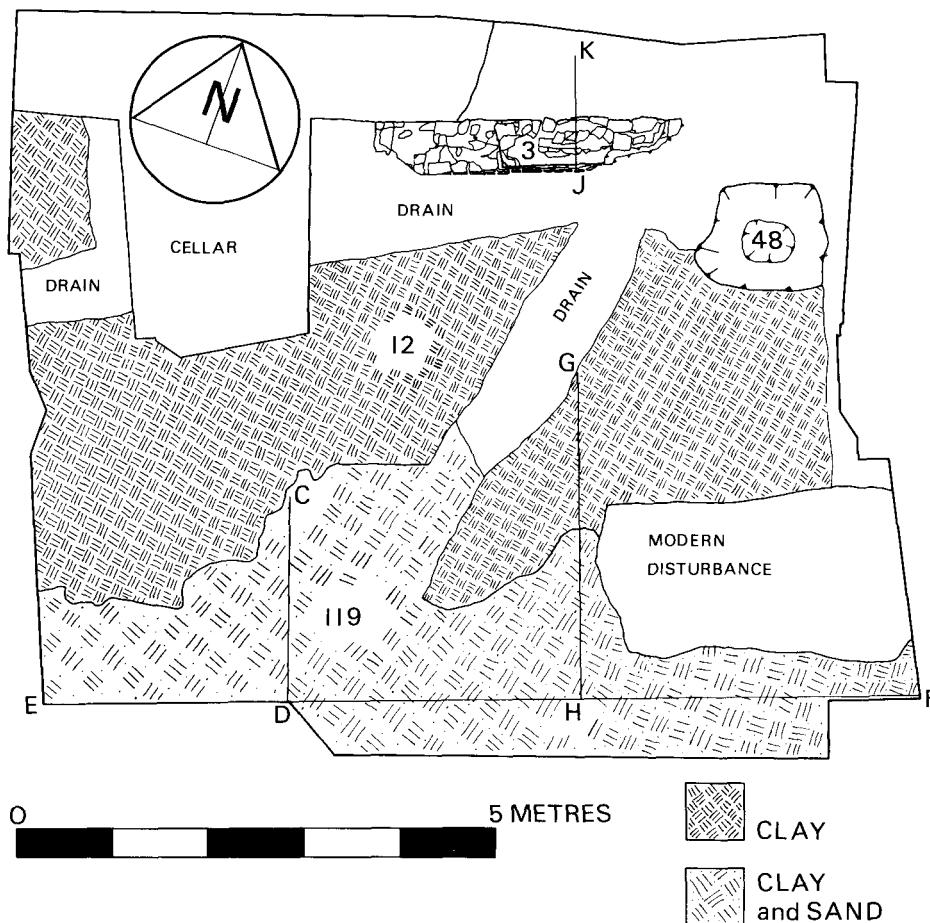


Fig. 3 Tottenham Court. Plan of excavated area.

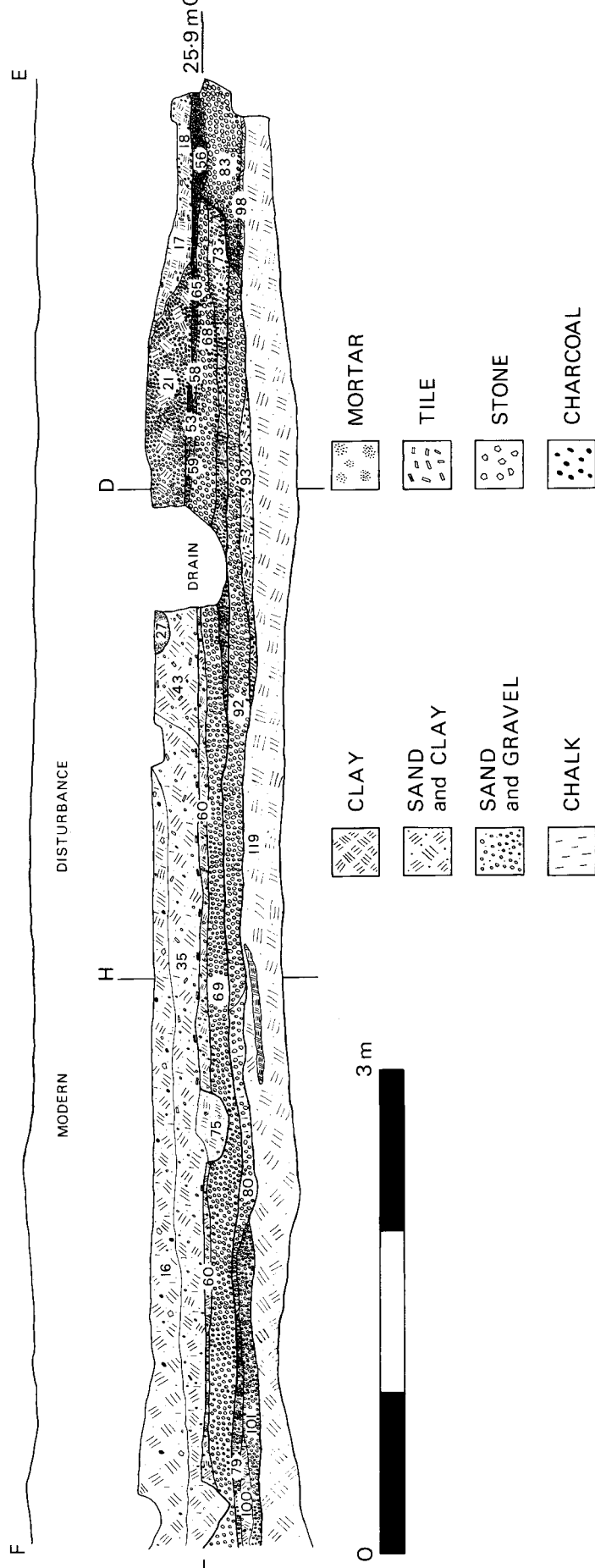


Fig. 4 Tottenham Court. North-facing section E-F, south side of site.

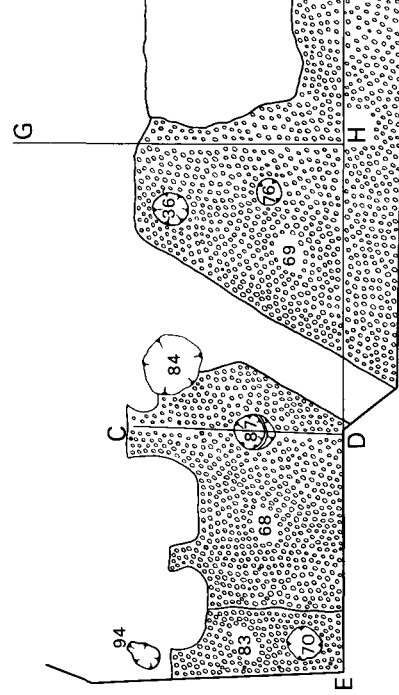
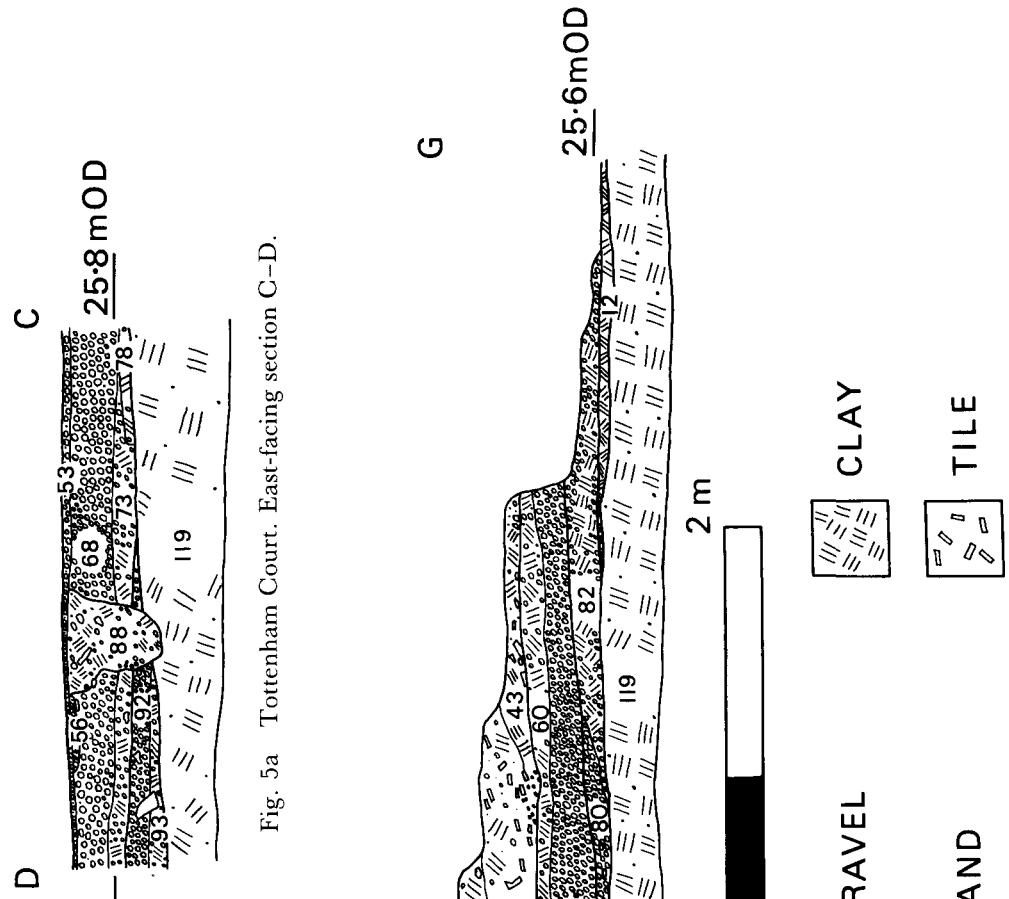


Fig. 6a Tottenham Court. Plan of yard surface,

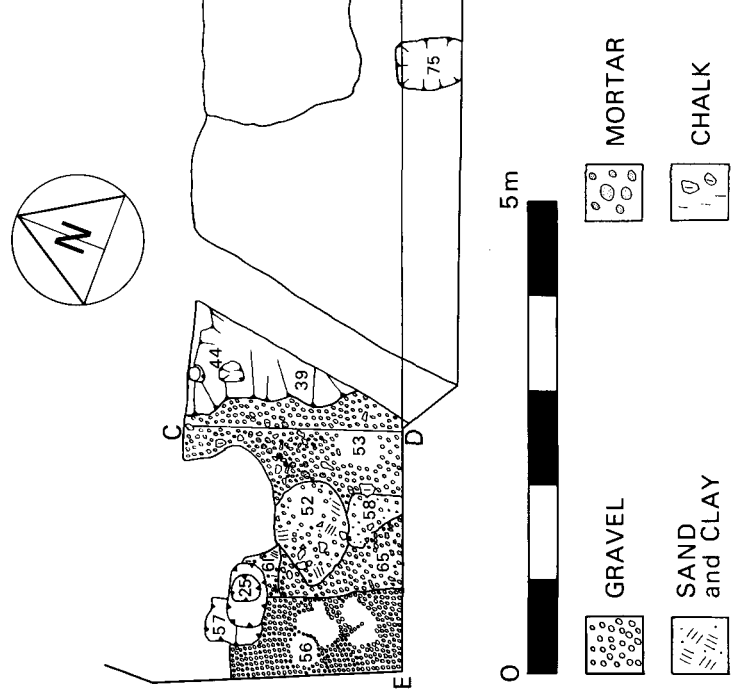


Fig. 6b Tottenham Court. Plan of yard surface,

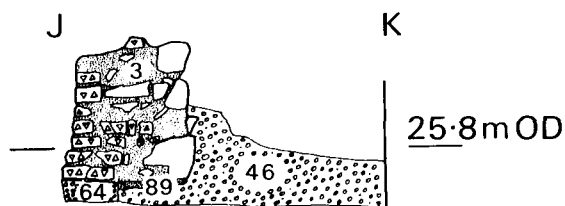


Fig. 7a Tottenham Court. East-facing section J-K, Wall 3.

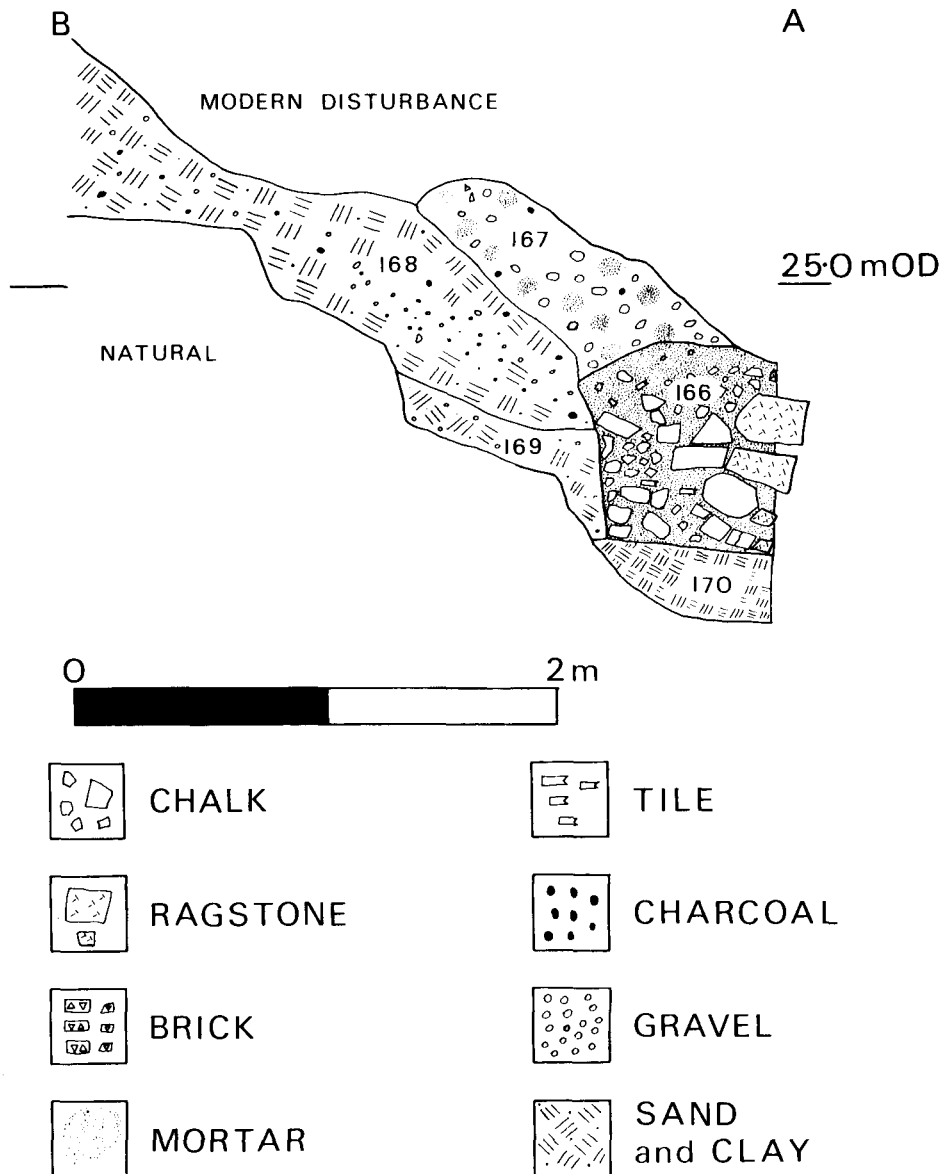


Fig. 7b Tottenham Court. North-facing section A-B, Wall 166.

A pit, feature 75, cut into the surface of the eastern half of the second phase of gravels (Fig. 6b), produced pottery contemporary with that in Phase B (Fig. 9, No. 31).

Post Medieval (Phases E, F, G)

The subsequent deposits (Phase E, layers 17, 18, 21) overlying the final gravel surface (Phase D), were heavily disturbed, and survived up to only 0.25 m deep (Fig. 4); these layers appear to be dumping dated to the late 15th or early 16th centuries.

Three further deposits (Phase F, layers 16, 35, and 43), had accumulated above the gravels. Of these, layers 43 and 35 contained broken pegtile and pottery (Fig. 9 No. 39) and were overlain by clay (layer 16) containing building material, (Fig 5b, 4). These layers probably date from a demolition phase of the manor-house in the early-mid 16th century, although they contained mainly residual pottery. Layers 35 and 43 were cut by an irregular gully (feature 27) filled with mortar set with lumps of limestone and chalk (Phase G, Figs. 2, 4). This was orientated north-south and possibly represented the foundation for a flimsy wall or fence. Finds from other later features (Phase G) include pottery (Fig. 9, Nos. 39–43) and a redeposited Nuremburg jeton dated 1580–1610.

Only a small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the site. In all contexts ox is the commonly occurring category and on the whole the bone was heavily fragmented. Most of the bone appears to be domestic food refuse, much of it butchered, and both immature and mature animals are present.

Other Features

Two features located in the northern half of the excavated area were stratigraphically isolated from the rest of the site but would appear on ceramic evidence to be contemporary with the first yard surfaces and post-holes. In the north east corner the clay layer 12 (Fig. 3) was cut by a roughly square pit (48), which was internally stepped down into a smaller centre. This feature contained three sherds of 13th-century pottery.

To the west of this pit lay a fragment of wall (3) measuring 3.25 m long, 0.56 m wide, 0.76 m deep, which was cut on all sides by modern disturbance (Figs. 3, 7a). The wall, which was aligned east-west, rested on a foundation of gravel (layer 64), the north edge being cut into another gravel deposit, layer 46 (Fig. 7a). Layer 64 yielded one sherd from a London copy of a Rouen jug (mid 13th century) similar to No. 24 from the ploughsoil. Layer 47 contained two sherds of 13th-century London ware and one sherd (intrusive) of modern china. On its south side the wall was faced with brick in English bond tied to a rubble backing of chalk and Reigate stone; no evidence survived for a north face. Much of the Reigate stone had been dressed and one piece was chamfered; it appears to be re-used medieval building material. The mortar contained pebble, flint and tile inclusions. No conclusive dating evidence was obtained for the wall but it resembles the southern wall of the Tudor farmhouse illustrated in J. Carter's sketches (GLC Printroom), and is tentatively ascribed to it.

Finds made during Redevelopment of the Site

The contractor's machine excavation showed that the whole site had been comprehensively developed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Cellars and wall foundations had removed most earlier deposits at least to the depth of the natural clay. The following isolated earlier features did survive but could only be hurriedly recorded.

A pit (151), containing sherds of 13th-century South Herts. ware cooking pot (Fig. 9, No. 44) lay to the north of the excavated area (Fig. 2). A number of decorated medieval floor-tiles (Fig. 9, Nos. 51–4) were found re-used as the base for a Victorian rubble structure (145).

Traces of a wall (166, Fig. 2), possibly the remains of a cellar or undercroft, were found in the south-west corner of the site. The upper portion of the wall had been robbed and the level from which the structure was inserted could not be ascertained. It may however be significant that the construction trench for the wall was cut to the same depth as the base of the garderobe pit (see below). A section across this wall survived between two later cellar walls (Fig. 7b). A foundation trench with a gently curved edge and flat bottom was filled to a depth of 0.25 m with dark grey clay (170). The wall was constructed of chalk rubble with some limestone, brick and tile, set in a lumpy grey mortar, and measured 0.70 m wide. Further traces of the rubble were noted spreading for 3.70 m along the western edge of the site. Set in the west face of the rubble, 0.25 m from its base, two courses of squared limestone, two stones deep, survived in section (Fig. 7b). These facing stones appeared to slope outwards, and may represent the base for an arch or vault. A 19th-century cellar dug immediately on the west side of the wall removed any evidence for the function of the associated structure.

The construction trench for the wall was filled by a layer of clay (169, Fig. 7b), and the ground level to the east built up by a layer of dark brown clay (168). The wall had apparently been robbed and the robber trench back-filled with mortar and small lumps of mortar (167), but no dating evidence was obtained for this event. The limited amount of pottery in the construction trench (Fig. 9, Nos. 45–50) is almost entirely of later 13th-century date and would appear to be contemporary with or derived from the yard surfaces in Phase B. A date of post c. 1270 seems likely for the wall, which may therefore relate to an outbuilding of the medieval manor-house.

A stone-built garderobe pit (155) (Plate 1), its southern side removed by machine, was located to the west of the excavated area (Fig. 2). The top of the structure was 0.90 m below ground surface; the east wall had been cut as a foundation for a modern wall. The pit was roughly rectangular, measuring between 1.68 m and 1.85 m wide and between 3.04 m and 3.20 m long. The pit floor lay at 23.40 m OD and the stonework survived to a height of 2.75 m above it. A square vertical chute measuring 0.45 m square internally was bonded into the outside of the west wall of the pit at its north end. A steeply angled stone at the base of the chute sloped down to 0.40 m above the garderobe floor. The pit was lined with squared and faced ragstone, two squared flints, small lumps of Reigate stone, and tile; the walls were packed behind with chalk rubble. The thickness of the pit walls varied between 0.52 m and



Plate 1 Tottenham Court. Garderobe Pit. 2m scale

0.60 m; the chute walls were between 0.30 m and 0.43 m thick. Two roughly square putlog holes were built into the walls, one in the west and the other, higher up in the east face.

The lower 0.40 m of the garderobe pit was filled with organic material in which three layers were discerned. The lowest deposit (160), which had clearly entered the garderobe pit from the chute, consisted of dark reddish-brown clayey organic matter *c.* 0.10 m deep containing mussel shells, oyster shells and pottery dated to the late 15th–early 16th century (Fig. 10, Nos. 55–7). Overlying this a spread of dark brown soft clayey organic matter *c.* 0.20 m deep (159), filled the whole pit to the level of the base of the chute. This contained a collection of fruit seeds including those of grape, fig, bramble and plumstones. The mouth of the chute was half filled by a deposit (158) which spread down the chute and spilled out in a fan shape into the pit. This layer was composed of light brown and grey clay and contained a large amount of oyster shell and some pottery including Cistercian ware and a complete late 15th or 16th-century Raeren drinking mug (Fig. 10, Nos. 58–60). The remainder of the pit was filled with an homogenous deposit of roof tile and chalk rubble which included some light brown clay. This demolition rubble was presumably derived from the destruction of the buildings to which the garderobe was attached.

CONCLUSIONS

The excavation confirmed the position of the medieval manor-house of Totenhall. Although there was a suggestion of Early Saxon activity on or near the site, continuous occupation can only be demonstrated from the early 13th century and

despite the break in the ceramic sequence documentary evidence shows this was maintained into the 19th century. The fine quality of the construction of the garderobe pit would suggest that the medieval building was a substantial one, perhaps used as a residence by the Prebends of St. Paul's. In the 16th century, when the manor was under royal patronage, the buildings were in poor condition and were remodelled. Part of the 16th-century building survived until 1808 when it was finally demolished.

THE ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Lyn Blackmore

Introduction

Excluding unstratified material, the 1979 excavations on the site of the medieval manor-house of Tottenham Court produced a total of 1370 sherds of pottery. The largest single group came from the ploughsoil which underlay the yard surfaces, and is of late 12th to mid 13th-century date. The most significant find consists of a small group of Anglo-Saxon pottery, also from the ploughsoil, for which a late 6th or early 7th-century date is proposed. The pottery is discussed in four main groups:

- a. The Anglo-Saxon pottery
- b. The medieval pottery from the ploughsoil and yard surfaces, (summarised in phases as described above)
- c. The pottery associated with the wall 166
- d. The pottery from the garderobe pit 155

The fabric types represented and their distribution throughout the various groups and phases is illustrated in Table 1. References to parallels for published sherds are to be found in the catalogue (Table 2). Supporting tables, fabric descriptions, detailed discussion of the medieval pottery (groups b and c), full catalogue of published material and details of all unpublished material are available for consultation together with the finds, which are housed with the Department of Greater London Archaeology, 42 Theobalds Road,

London W1. Details of the stamped Anglo-Saxon sherd are also incorporated in the archive of Anglo-Saxon pot stamps compiled by Lady Briscoe (reference no. GLC 7).

a. The Anglo-Saxon pottery. Fig. 8, Nos. 1–4.

The earliest pottery from the site consists of three eroded sherds of flint-tempered ware and twenty-seven sherds, including three rim sherds, of sand-and-grass/chaff-tempered ware. The former comprise two sherds of fine micaceous ware sparsely tempered with ill-sorted fine and medium flint grits up to 5 mm and one sherd, either gently carinated or with a sagging base, sparsely tempered with very fine flint grits, and possibly burnished. All three sherds are low-fired and reddish-grey in colour. The purely flint temper and possible carination suggest a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date for these sherds but it is nonetheless possible that the flint-tempered wares are also of post-Roman date (Hurst 1976a, 61). Sherds at Northolt (Hurst 1961, 255: fabric c, very similar to the above sherds), and at Sewardstone Street, Waltham Abbey (Huggins, 1969, 71); ambiguous prehistoric/Saxon flint-gritted wares have also been found at Rectory Grove, Clapham (Densem and Seeley pers. com.), Althorpe Grove, Battersea (McCracken in prep.), Shepperton Green (Canham 1979, 115), and Wraybury, Bucks. (S. Lobb pers. com.)

The grass/chaff-tempered wares derive from a minimum of four vessels, including two sub-biconical or globular urns (Nos. 2, 3), one vessel probably of similar form (No. 1) with stamped decoration dateable to the later 6th or early 7th century (Myres 1977, 121), and one small plain-rimmed cup or bowl (No. 4). While it cannot be proved that the sherds are contemporary, their close proximity and the homogeneous nature of the fabric suggest that they are probably of one date. All sherds are additionally tempered with varying quantities of quartz-sand and occasional larger quartz inclusions. The pottery is low-fired and the sherds are soft, small and abraded, the largest being only 30 × 35 mm (max); colouring varies from pale grey to grey-black with reddish-brown exterior to black throughout. The fabric is as a rule either dense or laminated; four sherds however clearly were made with a coil technique, as at Rectory Grove, Clapham (Densem and Seeley 1982, 181), the nearest apparently contemporary site in the London region. The crudely applied stamped decoration (No. 1) appears on first inspection to consist of a devolved rosette (Briscoe 1981, 6, Type A5ai), measuring approximately 12 mm across. In view of the nature of the fracture however this is not certain, and the motif may conceivably be a segmented oval (Briscoe 1981, 11, Type D3ai); the broad central division and the use of both triangles and rectangles in the design would support this interpretation. The stamp is placed just below a single horizontal line which is surmounted by a vertical line.

Discussion.

The above pottery is of importance as

possibly the earliest ceramic indication of Anglo-Saxon activity in north Inner London which is also in close proximity to the walls of the Roman city. Excluding Romano-Saxon pottery (Roberts, 1982, 170), other possibly Early Saxon pottery consists of chance finds from the site of the Savoy (Wheeler 1935, 139–40; Myres 1937, 433) and from Drury Lane (Myres 1937, 432; Myres 1969, 30), the dating of which is disputed (see below). The longevity and typology of vegetable-tempered wares remains the subject of some debate (Hurst 1976b, 293–4), although the former assumption that it continued in use until the 11th century at Old Windsor (Wilson 1958, 183–5) is now considered unlikely (Jones and Moorhouse 1981, 123). The presence of a stamped sherd among the group from Tottenham Court is thus of particular importance in attaching a probable late 6th or early 7th-century date (Myres 1969, 31–5; 1977, 121) to this residual and otherwise undateable assemblage. The sub-biconical or globular forms span the Early and Middle Saxon periods; the tradition of stamped decoration however is a predominantly Early Saxon trait (Hurst 1976b, 295). It is more common on funerary vessels, but also found on domestic pottery. Pending future discoveries the origin (settlement or cemetery) of the Tottenham Court sherds must remain in doubt.

The rosette (Briscoe Group 5ai) is one of the more easily produced stamps, and thus more frequently found Anglo-Saxon motifs (Briscoe 1981, 21). The known distribution however is mainly confined to East Anglia and north-east England (127 examples). If the Tottenham Court stamp belongs to this group the closest known parallel is a sherd from Thurmaston, Leics. (Myres 1977, Fig. 239, No. 3173; Briscoe Archive Ref. No. THU 25). Forty-four examples are however known in Southern England, of which twenty-eight derive from four sites in the Lower Thames Valley, notably at Mucking (eg. Myres 1977, Fig. 107, and the remainder from seven sites in Kent, Sussex and Hampshire. The nearest local parallel is to be found on a fine ware vessel from Brentford (Sheppard 1978, 85, Fig. 99, No. 1). Geographically therefore the Tottenham

Court stamp would be by no means out of place in this group, forming an important link between the Mucking examples and those from Brentford, and Walton Bridge Green (Myres 1977, No. 159; Briscoe Archive Ref. No. SUR 5) in Surrey; Frilford (Myres, 1977, No. 360) in Berkshire and Brighthampton in Oxfordshire (*ibid.*, No. 54).

The segmented oval stamp (Briscoe 1981, Type D3ai) is much less common than the rosette, being as yet identified on only five sites (Briscoe in prep.), of which only one lies near the Thames Estuary, on the River Darent at Horton Kirby in Kent (Briscoe Archive Ref. No. KEN 2). This site however provides a potential parallel for the Tottenham Court stamp, although the component segments are rather more openly spaced. Similar, albeit rather more 'tree-shaped' stamps (Briscoe 1981, Type D3aai) have been found nearby at Northfleet in Kent, and at Mucking. The arrangement of the decoration on the Tottenham Court sherd is also of interest. While the combination of similar stamps below multiple horizontal or diagonal lines is frequently found on early Anglo-Saxon pottery, the use of only a single horizontal line is less common, but is found locally on a Clapham sherd (Densem and Seeley 1982, Fig. 4, No. 29). The vertical line is unusual, but is perhaps in keeping with the idiosyncratic nature of the stamp.

The immediate proximity of the Tottenham Court, Drury Lane and Clapham finds to the City of London prompts a reappraisal of the enigmatic period between the 4th and 7th centuries AD. The former lack of evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in or near London in the 4th–6th centuries, and the distribution of Early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in Middlesex and Surrey, (Hurst 1976a, 61; for map see Clark 1980, 4), led to the theory (Wheeler 1935, 54–6, Fig. 2; 115–139) that in the countryside between Colchester, Verulamium, London and Canterbury, called the 'sub-Roman triangle', the existing population remained a dominant controlling force to the extent that the area was positively avoided by the Anglo-Saxon people. In the City of London, however, Wheeler proposed that the situation was one of mutual

adjustment, with the sub-Roman population in the Roman city to the east of the Walbrook, the new Saxon settlement to the west. This dichotomy, disputed even at the time of publication (Wheeler 1934, 290–303; Myres 1934, 437–42; Wheeler 1934, 443–47; Myres 1936, 87–92) remains largely unresolved. Both Biddle (1973, 18) and Hurst (1976a, 60) pointed to the evidence for the presence of Anglo-Saxon mercenaries in the Thames Valley and estuary in the late 4th and early 5th centuries, but in the immediate London area there is no satisfactory explanation for the lack of finds and cemeteries of the 5th and 6th centuries. Biddle suggested (1973, 18, 19) that Anglo-Saxon settlement in the London area was limited and the new culture was immediately absorbed, only reasserting itself at a later date, and disputed (*ibid.*, 21) the validity of the east/west division within the city. Grimes (1968, 153–60) and Hurst (1976a, 60) accepted that the emphasis of the Saxon occupation within the City of London was to the west of the Walbrook, but drew attention to the negative results of excavations in this area and the non-urban character of Saxon occupation in other Roman towns such as Winchester. The possibility was raised (Grimes 1968, 153–4) that occupation may have been strictly limited to the area of St. Paul's (founded AD 604); later however Hurst (1976a, 60) recognised that in the Middle Saxon period evidence for settlement was in fact more extensive outside the City than within.

In the City of London, even in the area of St. Paul's Cathedral, stratified Saxon finds are noticeably absent until the late 9th–10th centuries (Vince 1983, 33–7); to the west of the City however there is a growing body of material, recently collated by Vince (1984). This derives mainly from sites at the Savoy (Wheeler 1935, 139–40; Hurst 1959a, 23, Fig. 4), at Arundel House in the Strand (Haslam 1975, 221–2), at Whitehall (Green 1963, 1004–7), all sites at which Middle Saxon Ipswich-type pottery (c. 650–850) or later pottery has been found. To the south of the Thames contemporary material has been found at Althorpe Grove, Battersea (McCracken in prep.). These finds have led to

the hypotheses that by the 8th–9th century AD there may have been a series of small farms (Haslam 1975, 222), or a widely scattered settlement (Hurst 1976a, 60), along the edge of the gravel terrace just to the north of the Thames, and most recently to the suggestion (Vince 1984) that the flourishing town referred to by Bede was in fact not within the Roman city but in the area of the Strand. In the case of the Savoy site however it is possible that occupation may have spanned both the Early and Middle Saxon periods, since in addition to a sherd of stamped Ipswich ware, a small pot in a smooth black burnished ware and four Early-Mid Saxon loom-weights were recovered (Wheeler 1935, Pl. VI) which Myres (1937, 433) considered to be of similar date as the chaff-tempered pot from Drury Lane (c. 600 AD). The presence of more than one type of loom-weight (annular and intermediate) in the Savoy group supports the possibility of a long-lived settlement in the area, but also illustrates the dangers of dating by typologies (Hurst 1959, 24). Numerous Early-Mid Saxon loom-weights have been found in the area of the Strand (Vince 1984) and also in excavations at Fetter Lane, where a fragment, undated at the time, was recovered from a post-medieval context by the Inner London Archaeological Unit (Platts 1978, 28). A further possible indication of Early Saxon activity in the area consists of a 6th-century ring (Ashmolean No. 1930, 630; Burlington Fine Arts Club Catalogue 1930, Pl. XVII) set with a coin of Theodosius (408–50), which was found in 1880 in George Street, Euston Square (now North Gower Street), only half a mile from the site of Tottenham Court. With the exception of the Fetter Lane site, the above were all chance finds, and their archaeological associations are sadly not known, although the fact that the Drury Lane pot was found intact, and that a human mandible was found close by (Myres 1937, 424–37) raises the possibility of a cemetery in this area. To the south of the Thames the evidence for early settlement is more substantial, with the important group from Rectory Grove (although as yet Saxon finds are absent in Southwark). Taken together the above finds would suggest that there may have been pockets of Anglo-Saxon

activity within close proximity to the City of London by the late 6th century; whether this indicates a movement out from the City or in towards it remains in doubt, although the present evidence suggests that the initial 5th century settlements were to the south and west of London (Sheldon and Schaff 1978, 73, 81).

The Early Saxon pottery from Tottenham Court and from Rectory Grove, Clapham was only discovered through proper archaeological excavation. Further research on the Anglo-Saxon pottery and settlements of the London region may go some way toward answering the many problems associated with this enigmatic period, but the picture must remain incomplete due to the amount of evidence which has almost certainly been missed in the course of earlier development, and theories based on negative evidence should be treated with caution. Every effort should be made to ensure that future developments on sites in locations favoured by the Anglo-Saxons (particularly the edges of the gravel terraces with a good water supply) do not go unwatched, regardless of whether there is no pre-existing evidence of Saxon activity in the area.

b. The medieval pottery from the ploughsoil and yard surfaces.

Phase A. The ploughsoil. Fig. 8, Nos. 5–24.

The ploughsoil yielded a quantity of medieval pottery (see Table 1), dating to c. 1150–1250, including a number of sherds representing sizeable portions of half dozen or so vessels which suggest a probable date of 1225–1250 for the assemblage as a whole. The closest local parallels to the group are to be found at Northolt, Middlesex (Hurst 1961); in groups 1–3, dated to pre-1350, at Toppings Wharf, Southwark (Orton 1974, 65–71); in Phases 2–3 of the Misericorde at Westminster Abbey (Platts 1976, 158–167), dateable to pre-1266; and scattered amongst the pottery in the dumped deposits at the Custom House (Thorn 1975).

The majority of sherds derive from cooking pots (Nos. 6–13) in five grades of South Herts. grey ware (Types HA, HB and HC predominantly flint-tempered, Type HD sandy, Type HE fine), which have parallels at Northolt (Hurst 1961, 255, 263–65, fabrics j,k), Elstree (Biddle 1961; Castle and Hammerson 1978, 151) and Pinner (Sheppard 1977). No. 10 is of interest as a possible crucible, with a near parallel at Cannon Street. A similar rim form from an early post-Roman feature at St. Mildred's Church however was assigned an early Saxon date. A curfew handle (unillust.) in Fabric HB has parallels at Northolt (Hurst 1961, Fig. 69, No. 85) and Toppings Wharf (Orton 1974, 73 Fig. 34, No. 45, shell-tempered).

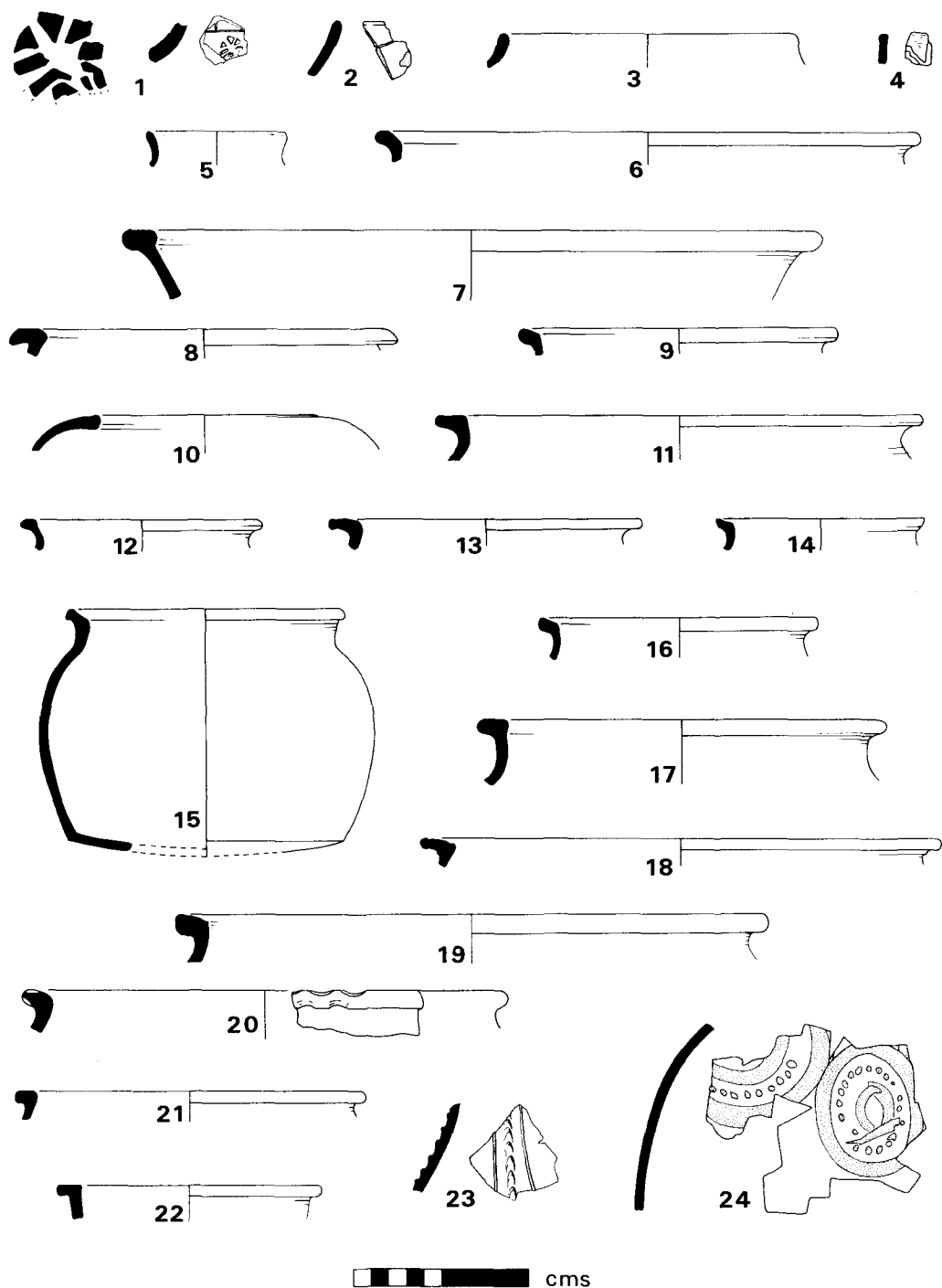


Fig. 8 Tottenham Court. Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery from the Ploughsoil (Phase A).

Also present are two grades of late 12th-early 13th-century sandy-gritty ware (Nos. 14–16) in the South Herts. tradition (cf. fabric i at Northolt); a gritty-shelly ware (No. 17); a low-fired, oxidised sandy-shelly ware (Nos. 18–22) and sherds from fourteen London ware jugs (Nos. 23–4). These include sherds from two 'copies' of Rouen jugs, the originals of which have a conventional date of *c.* 1240–1325, but which in London appear to date *c.* 1210–1290 (Vince and Pearce forthcoming). The circular decoration on No. 24 is less common than the geometric, but has a local parallel dated to pre-1266 (?*c.* 1240) at Westminster Abbey (Black 1976, 147–8). Minority wares comprise a single sherd of Kingston ware; a sherd of glazed Mill Green coarse ware (*c.* 1270–1350), which may have been trampled in from the subsequent deposits; a single body sherd of yellow-glazed Stamford ware (unillus.), and fragments from a Rhenish blue-grey ware pipkin or ladle (No. 5).

Phases B, C, D. Fig. 9, Nos. 25–38, 44, 51–54.

The distribution of the wares in these phases (Table 1) shows a clear trend away from the reduced grey wares toward a variety of jugs. In Phases B and C these are London ware baluster jugs (Nos. 31, 34), Rouen 'copies' and decorated globular or conical Mill Green ware jugs (Nos. 33, 35–8); in Phase D squatter forms typical of the 14th century appear. Sherd counts quoted for the London and Mill Green wares jugs are misleading: in Phase D the London ware sherds derive from over thirty vessels, the Mill Green wares represent only a dozen or so jugs; the total London ware jugs from the entire site (*c.* 58) is over double that of the Mill Green wares jugs (*c.* 22). Kingston-type Surrey wares remain in the minority, but include two sherds (No. 29) from a decorated jug (No. 48), and a copy of a Rouen-type jug with mini spurs on the handle (No. 30).

Fragments of printed floor tiles (Nos. 51–4) probably from the Penn kilns in Buckinghamshire (LMMC 1975, 229–53), from a Victorian feature (Pit 1245), may also derive from these phases.

Phases E, F, G. Fig. 9, Nos. 39–43

Excepting a few sherds of coarse border ware (*c.* 1350–1500) in Phase E, there is a noticeable hiatus in the ceramic sequence between the 14th–16th centuries. Even in the post-medieval period (Phases F, G) contemporary ceramic finds are sparse (see Table 1), and imported pottery amounts to only twenty-five sherds (six vessels). These include one sherd each of Montelupo tin-glazed ware (No. 41) and decorated Cologne stoneware (No. 40), recently paralleled at West Drayton (Cotton 1983, 121–9). A few unstratified sherds of china and tin-glazed ware are the only ceramic finds dateable to post *c.* 1625, although fragments of clay pipe may be dated to *c.* 1610–40, 1610–1660, and 1640–60. A central date of *c.* 1620–50 seems likely for Phases F–G.

Pottery associated with Wall 166. Fig. 9, Nos. 45–50.

A number of sherds in this group have internal parallels in Phases B–D, notably several sherds from a highly decorated Kingston ware jug (No. 48), which on the evidence of recent finds from Trig Lane (Orton 1983, Fig.

61, No. 1) may date to *c.* 1250. A sherd from an almost identical jug was found in an early 14th-century well at 201–211 Borough High Street (Thorn 1978). Other sherds include fragments of 'North London ware' (Nos. 46–7, 49) and Mill Green ware jugs (No. 45) which together indicate a date of *c.* 1275 for the construction of the wall.

The Garderobe Pit 155. Fig. 10, 55–61.

This feature produced a small but classic sequence of late 15th-mid 16th-century pottery. The lowest fill (layer 159) contained the greater parts of a Cheam ware bioconical jug (No. 55) and cooking pot (No. 57), and a Farnborough Hill ware bowl (No. 56) all dating to the last quarter of the 15th century. Above this in layer 158 lay a complete Raeren mug (No. 58) dateable to *c.* 1475–1550. With this were one Raeren rim sherd, probably from a similar mug, two Cistercian ware cups (Nos. 59, 60), and three sherds of Tudor Green and Kingston red ware. A date of *c.* 1525 is suggested for this deposit. Layer 157, the rubble backfill produced three sherds of Cheam white ware and Cologne stoneware, while the fill of the chute contained a Cheam ware money box (No. 61). Maintenance of the garderobe would thus appear to have ceased *c.* 1500–25, and the pit was probably filled in and abandoned by *c.* 1550. The group is therefore contemporary with that from the Tudor cess-pit at Arundel House (Hammerson 1975, 214–16), which, although considerably richer in finds, included an almost identical assemblage (Haslam 1975, 229, Fig. 7, No. 17; Fig. 12, Nos. 1, 7, 16, 23–4). Similar groups have also been recovered from the Tudor features at Toppings Wharf (Orton 1974, 76–87) and from the fill of a late 15th-century cellar at 1–7 St. Thomas Street (Orton 1978, 378–80, Fig. 172), and from a late 15th-century pit at Westminster Abbey (Hurst 1960, 181–194).

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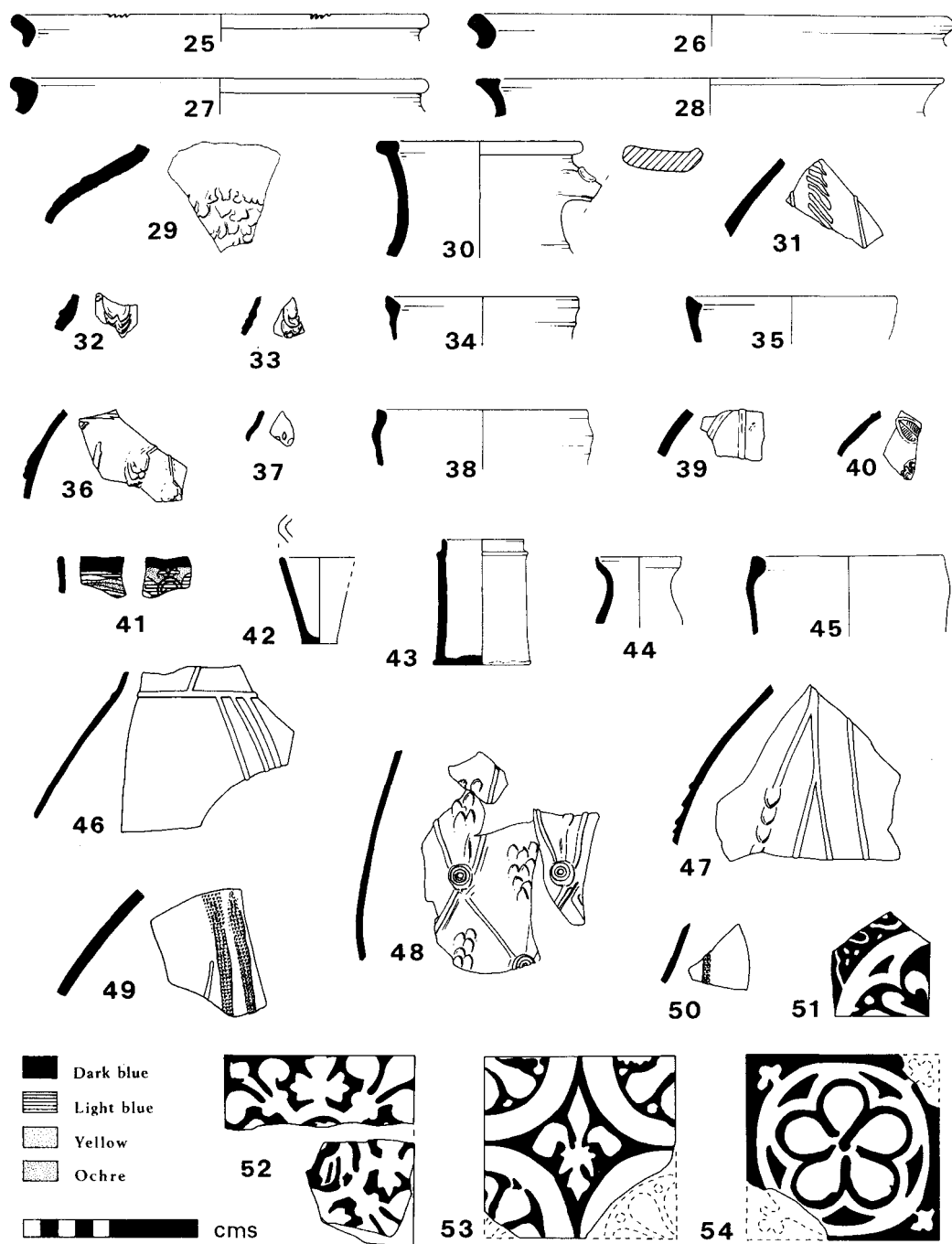


Fig. 9 Tottenham Court. Medieval pottery from Phases B, D, F, G and unstratified (Nos. 25-43), pit 151 (No. 44) and wall 166 (Nos. 45-50); medieval floor-tiles from pit 145 (Nos. 51-4).

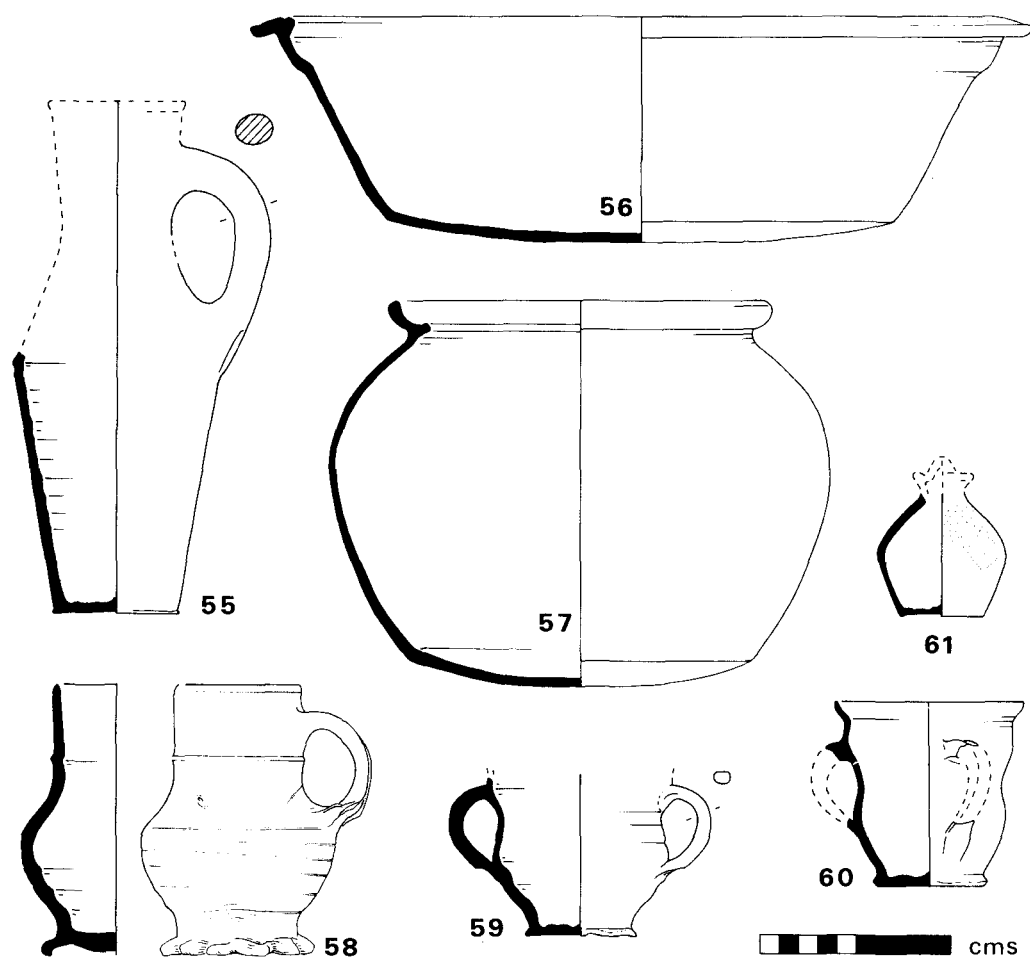


Fig. 10 Tottenham Court. Late 15th-early 16th-century pottery from the garderobe pit 155.

<i>Fabric type and code.</i>		<i>The phases</i>									
		<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>F166</i>	<i>F155</i>	<i>Misc.</i>
SFT	Saxon flint-tempered	3									
SCT	Saxon chaff-tempered	25	1								
ST	Stamford ware	1									
HA	South Herts. type A	48	18		1						1
HB	South Herts. type B	17	10								
HC	South Herts. type C	41	26				1	1			
HD	South Herts. type D	30	7					1	3		
HE	South Herts. type E	34	19	1	2		4				38
GS	Gritty-sandy ware	105	7								1
GSH	Gritty-shelly ware	30	20								1
SH	Shell-tempered ware	43	6								
L	London ware jugs	44	143	4	12	5	23	2	4		8
LS	London sandy ware	1	6		10			1	18		
OS	Other sandy ware				4	4	2		1		
K	Kingston white ware	1	33	1	31	8	28	5	16		1
MGF	Mill Green fine ware		31	2	78	27	112		9		2
MGC	Mill Green coarse ware	1					1		1		
CB	Coarse Border ware					5	8	3			
CH	Cheam white ware									11	
TG	Tudor Green						1			2	
KR	Kingston red ware							4		1	1
FB	Fine Border ware						5	4		42	
CIST	Cistercian ware						1			10	
PMR	Post-med. red ware							1			
PMB	Post-med. black ware							4		1	
TGW	English tin-glazed							3			
CH	China/porcelain							3			
BG	Rhenish blue-grey ware	6									
SNM	Low Countries maiolica						1				
IM	Italian Montelupo						1				
FM	Martincamp stoneware							11			
L/R	Langerwehe/Raeren						1			2	
C/F	Cologne/Frechen						1	10		2	

Table 1. The distribution of the stratified pottery.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Phase Layer</i>	<i>Fabric Code</i>	<i>Total Sherds</i>	<i>Internal Parallels</i>	<i>References to External Parallels</i>
Fig. 8					
1	A (114)	SCT	3	A (19, 116)	
2	A (19, 117)	SCT	2		Hurst 1976a, Fig. 7.4, No. 3
3	A (116)	SCT	1		Hurst 1976a, Fig. 7.4, No. 1
4	A (119)	SCT	1		
5	A (19)	BG	6		Thorn 1975, Fig. 22, No. 373
6	A (19)	HA	1		
7	A (105)	HA	3	B (80)	
8	A (105)	HA	1		
9	A (114)	HA	1		
10	A (19)	HC	2 = 1		Rhodes 1975, 203, Fig. 13, No. 202 Orton 1979a, 32, Fig. 16, No. 108 Sheppard 1977, Fig. 3, No. 22
11	A (107)	HC	1		
12	A (19)	HC	1		
13	A (19)	HC	1		
14	A (19)	GS	1		
15	A (19, 114, 117)	GS	47		Hurst 1961, Fig. 70, No. 1
16	A (114)	GS	1 + 45	A (108, 116, 120); B (102, 111, 115, 82)	
17	A (119)	GSH	2 + 48	A (114, 115, 117); B (102, 111, 112)	Orton 1974, Fig. 33, No. 5 Thorn 1975, Fig. 21, No. 368
18	A (19)	SH	1 + 43?		
19	A (115)	SH	1		
20	A (116)	SH	1 + 43		Orton 1974, Fig. 33, Nos. 10, 13 Thorn 1975, Fig. 21, No. 366 Orton 1974, Fig. 33, No. 4
21	A (115)	SH	1		
22	A (19)	SH	1 + 43?		
23	A (108)	L	3 + 19	B (92, 93, 69, 73); C (86); No. 31	Thorn 1975, Fig. 24, No. 423
24	A (19, 108, 114)	L	36	B (12, 82) F (16)	Thorn 1975, Fig. 8, No. 85 Platts 1976, 161, Fig. 14, No. 40 Haslam 1978, Fig. 15, 1
Fig. 9					
25	B (79)	HE	1		Hurst 1959b, Fig. 9, Nos. 4, 5, 14
26	B (82)	HE	1		Hurst 1959b, Fig. 9, Nos. 4, 5, 14
27	B (82)	HE	1		Hurst 1959b, Fig. 9, Nos. 4, 5, 14
28	B (93)	K	1		Hinton 1980, Fig. 3, No. 15
29	B (78)	K	2	D (59)	Rackham 1972, Pl. 11 Thorn 1976, 360, No. 1 Haslam 1978, Fig. 17, Nos. 9, 10
30	B (12, 92, 112)	K	26	F (24) G (2)	
31	B (92)	L	1 + 44	B (68, 78, 93, 98); C (88); D (75); F (24, 35, 43); No. 23	Thorn 1975, Fig. 18, No. 284
Fig. 9					
32	B (92)	K	2	No. 48	
33	B (93)	MGF	1		
34	B (80)	L	1		
35	B (73)	MGF	4	No. 36	
36	B (69)	MGF	6 = 5	No. 35	Thorn 1975, Fig. 18, No. 289
37	D (60)	MGF	1		

No.	Phase Layer	Fabric Code	Total Sherds	Internal Parallels	References to External Parallels
38	D (61)	MGF	4	D (52, 54, 55, 69); E (40, 54) F (24, 35); G (2)	
39	F (35)	K	1		
40	G (10)	C/F	1		Cotton 1983, Fig. 8, No. 239
41	F (16)	IM			
42	U/S	CH	1		
43	U/S	CB	1		
44	(151)	LS?	5 = 1		
Pottery Associated with wall F166					
45	(170)	MGF			
46	(169)	LS	2	No. 47	
47	(169)	LS	1	No. 46	
48	(170)	K	15	No. 32	Rackham 1972, Pl. 74 Thorn 1975, Fig. 23, No. 392 Thorn 1978, Fig. 52, No. 22 Haslam 1978, Fig. 16, Nos. 4, 5
49	(169)	LS	3		
50	(168)	MGF	1		
13th-Century Penn Floor Tiles from F145					
51					LMMC 1975 Fig. 76, No. 6 (?)
52					LMMC 1975 Fig. 80, No. 49 (?)
53					LMMC 1975 Fig. 77, No. 15
54					LMMC 1975 Fig. 76, No. 8
Pottery from the Garderobe Pit F155					
Fig. 10					
55	(160)	CH	7		Orton 1979b, Fig. 2, Nos. 1-3
56	(160)	FB	26		Haslam 1975, Fig. 12, Nos. 1, 16, 24
57	(160)	FB	15		Orton 1978, Fig. 172, No. 160
58	(158)	R	1		Hurst 1960, Fig. 2, No. 1 Orton 1978, Fig. 172, Nos. 163-7
59	(158)	CIST	9		Le Patourel 1966, 262-71
60	(158)	CIST	1		Le Patourel 1966, 262-71
61	(163)	CH	1		Holling 1969, Fig. 6, F4 Haslam 1975, Fig. 12, No. 23 Orton 1978, Fig. 172, No. 176

Table 2. Excavations at Tottenham Court 1979, Catalogue.

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