

# EXCAVATIONS AT BURLINGTON ROAD, FULHAM, LONDON SW6

PETER S. MILLS

## INTRODUCTION

During August 1978 a small excavation was carried out in Fulham (TQ 24437625) adjacent to Burlington Road, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site prior to a residential redevelopment close to the documented centre of the mediaeval settlement (Feret, 1900, 68).

Following a machine cut trial trench which indicated that *c.* 1m of stratified deposits survived over the natural sand and gravel, an area 4m by 8m was examined on the eastern side of the site. Because of the expense of the excavation and the limited range of the data retrieved no further archaeological work was undertaken.

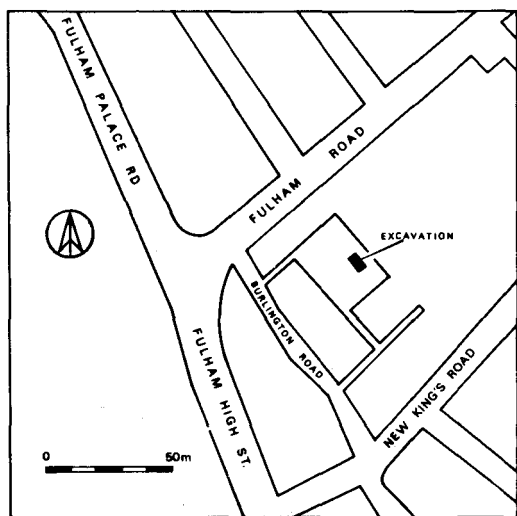


Fig. 1 Burlington Road: Site Location.

## THE EXCAVATION PHASE 1

A series of mid 18th cent. pits were found cut into the natural. Some, F42, F65, F109, appeared to have been quarry pits cut for gravel and sand extraction and filled by side slippage. A number of shallower pits were used for the disposal of household rubbish, F31, F36, F101, F103, F135, F107, F145, F50. A large shallow pit F15 occupied most of the northern half of the excavation. This might have been a quarry pit originally but became filled with domestic refuse. There were also two postholes F84 and F161.

## PHASE 2

Covering these pits and postholes was a gravelly loam, F20, probably representing a late 18th century period of agriculture/horticulture.

## PHASE 3

Three features, F34, F46, F48, all containing late 18th century pottery, subsequently cut the loam, F20. One feature, F46, a steeply sloping sided cut, might have been the terminal of a ditch running north-south, perhaps serving as a field boundary. Cutting this was a deep vertically sided subcircular pit F48, possibly a well or soakaway. The sand and gravel fill of this pit indicated that, if a well, it was abandoned uncompleted and filled by the collapsing subsoil. The remaining feature, F34, a steeply sloping sided posthole, lay on the east side of the excavation.

A small amount of kiln furniture found in these features probably came from the major stoneware pottery founded by John Dwight *c.* 1672 at the junction of Burlington Road and New King's Road.

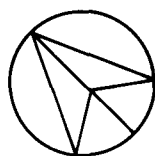
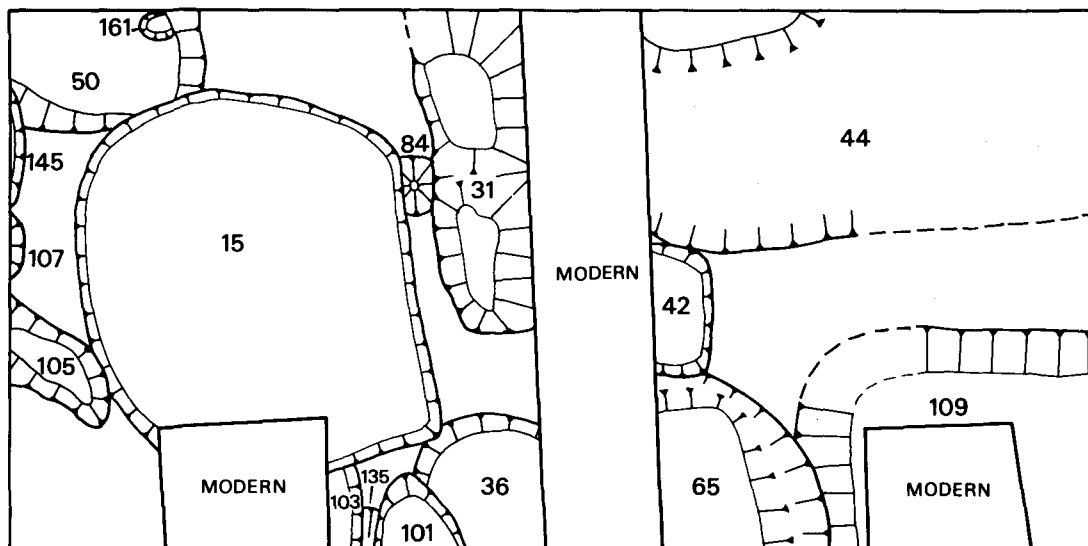
## PHASE 4

The features of Phase 3 were in turn buried beneath a layer of gravelly loam, F19, which, to judge from maps of Fulham, was apparently used for market gardening until the mid 19th century.

## CONCLUSIONS

The area, extensively pitted during the 18th and 19th centuries, nonetheless

# PHASE 1



# PHASE 3

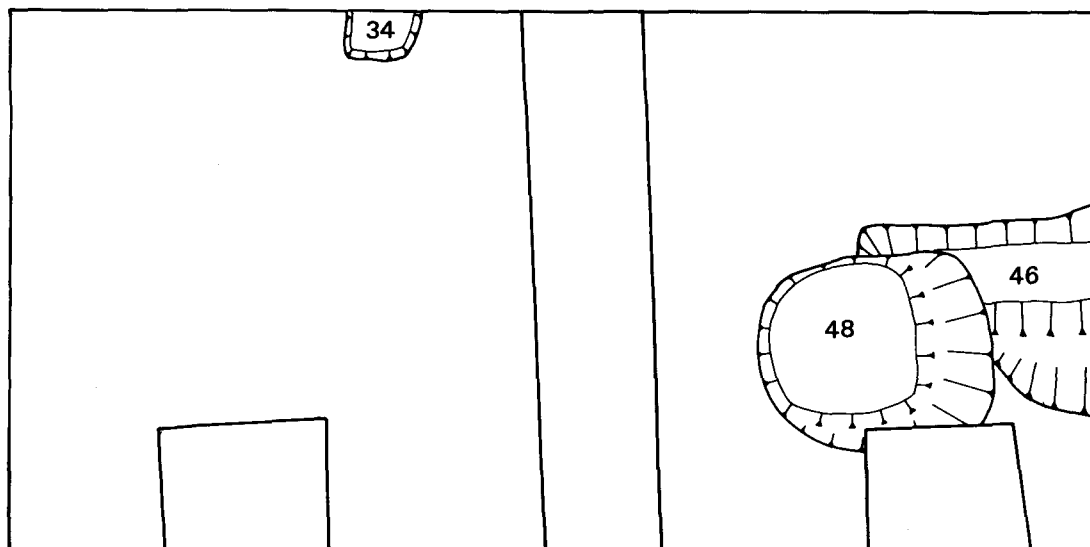


Fig. 2 Burlington Road: Phases 1 and 3.

yielded a small mount of residual mediaeval pottery no doubt derived from nearby Fulham. The settlement of Fulham, located between the High Street and Burlington Rd, formerly called Back Lane or Sowgelders' Lane (Ferret 1900, 123), small throughout the mediaeval and post mediaeval periods, lay in the centre of an area used for market gardens supplying London (Ferret 1900, 24). Previous excavation by the Fulham and Hammersmith Historical Society in 1975 at nearby Landridge Road showed an area was similarly used for post mediaeval rubbish pits, having been ploughed during the late 13th century (Canvin 1975, 257). The land usage at Burlington Road during the mediaeval period is unknown: perhaps the lack of pottery indicates the land was pasture or meadow. However, the nearby evidence of ploughing in the 13th century may indicate general arable use in the area, the evidence for this having been later destroyed by the post mediaeval pits.

The Phase 1 pits found during the excavation were numerous, the date span limited, arguing a brief, intensive use in the 18th century. The pottery assemblage seemingly represents an adjacent property being cleared *c.* 1760, probably one of those shown on Rocque's map of 1746. Conjoining sherds from several pits, F15, F31, F36 and F65 indicate that these pits, at least, were open at about the same time.

The phases of loam (2 and 4) belong to the documented period of market gardening that dominated the landscape of post mediaeval Fulham. The three features of Phase 3 might be directly related to the period of agriculture, particularly the cut F46, if interpreted as a boundary ditch terminal.

The site should be seen as being in more or less continuous agricultural use during the post mediaeval period. At one

point was presumably convenient for rubbish disposal and limited sand and gravel quarrying.

## THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

by LYN BLACKMORE

### INTRODUCTION

A total of 1048 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered, of which approximately one third (387 sherds) was derived from the large pit F15. In view of the small size and the homogeneous nature of the assemblage, which dates mainly to the 17th–18th centuries, the pottery is presented here in broad period and fabric groups only. Full details of the assemblage are available in the pottery archive, which is housed together with the finds and site records at The Department of Greater London Archaeology, Museum of London, London Wall, EC2.

#### 1. MEDIEVAL

Thirty-eight sherds of medieval pottery dating from *c.* 1150–1450, including two sherds of imported pottery, were recovered from nineteen features, mainly F15 (see Fig. 3). This is disappointing considering the proximity of the site to the documented medieval settlement of Fulham, although excavations in 1971 on the nearby site of the Fulham Pottery encountered a similar lack of pre-16th century material (Christophers and Haselgrove 1973, 115; Christophers *et al* 1977, 1). The group is dominated by Surrey white wares, both Kingston (Fig. 4 Nos 1–4; F31, F20, F15, F48 respectively) and coarse border ware (Fig. 4 No. 5, F19; No. 6, F20). One sherd may be of prehistoric or medieval date. Three flints, a battered hollow-edged scraper, part of a core and a flake were also found on the site (F50, F65, F105 respectively), so that a prehistoric date cannot be completely ruled out.

#### POST-MEDIEVAL

A total of 1010 sherds representing twenty fabric types was recovered (Fig. 3). The pottery from the Phase 1 pits and the Phase 2 loam forms a homogeneous group of mid-18th century wares which complements that from a late 18th century pit at 8–10 Crosswall in the City of London (Vince *et al* 1981). Most of the pottery is of a rather mundane nature, and none of the other finds categories (vessel glass, bronze, iron, clay-pipe) contained anything of particular note. The bias towards coarse wares, and the presence of sizeable vessel fragments suggests, as at Crosswall, the

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Flint-tempered			1	
South Herts.		1		
Sandy-gritty	1			
Gritty-shelly	1			
London	1			
Kingston	12	4	3	2
Coarse Border ware	6	2	1	1
Pseudo-Cistercian ware	2		2	
Coarse red ware Type A	82	4	21	12
Fine red ware Type B	64	11	8	15
Fine red ware Type C	21	7	5	4
Red Border ware	19	5	3	8
Fine Surrey white ware	48	7	3	8
Staffordshire				
coarse red ware	21	1		
slipware	10		2	2
Agate/marbled ware	9		1	
butterpot	2		5	
white salt-glazed ware	48	26	10	16
Metropolitan slipware	20			
English stoneware	57	24	14	17
English tin-glazed	115	33	34	21
English china	1	1		49
Saintonge	1			
Spanish amphora	1			
Martincamp stoneware	2		1	
Rhenish stoneware				
Langerwehe/Raeren		1	1	1
Cologne/Frechen	16	4	6	1
Westerwald	25	4	3	
Chinese porcelain	23	8	4	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>169</b>

Fig. 3 Burlington Road: The distribution of the medieval and post medieval pottery.

clearance of a nearby kitchen or scullery, possibly in one of the adjacent properties shown on Roque's map of c. 1746.

The red-wares comprise two roughly equal-sized groups of glazed and unglazed pottery, the latter mainly from flower-pot type vessels. Forms include some types present at Crosswall, but also a wider range of small bowls. The larger dishes/basins seen at Crosswall (Vince 1981, Fig. 2 Nos 4, 5), are however, apparently absent. Three fabric types,

both unglazed and glazed (mainly clear or orange-brown, some green) are present:

Type A; densely tempered with ill-sorted medium to coarse white quartzsand, sparse rose quartz, flint and grog (Fig. 5 No. 7, F15, F19, F48, F65; No. 9, F12, F15).

Type B; moderately tempered with ill-sorted fine white sand; slightly fused surfaces with a sandy feel (Fig. 9 No. 8, F36).

Type C; a very fine dull pinkish-red ware (Fig. 5 No. 10, F12, F15). This fabric group includes some more micaceous sherds, and a small number of sherds in a more orange ware with fine grog inclusions.

Other coarse wares include red Border Ware

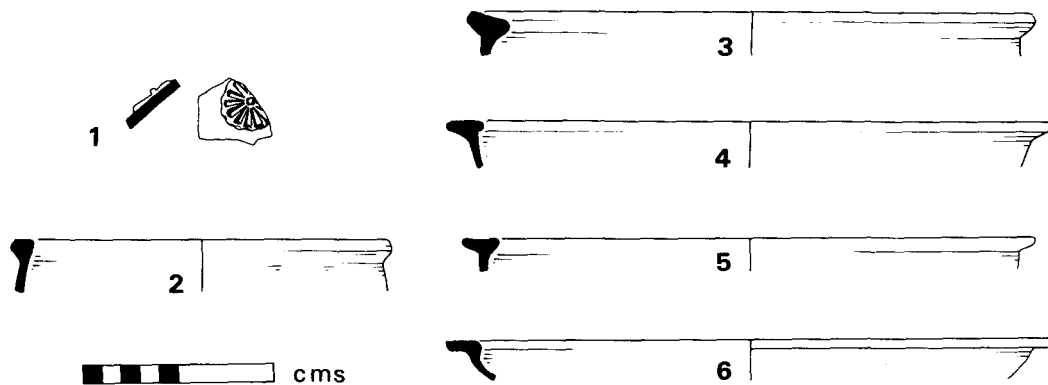


Fig. 4 Burlington Road: Pottery 1-6 (4).

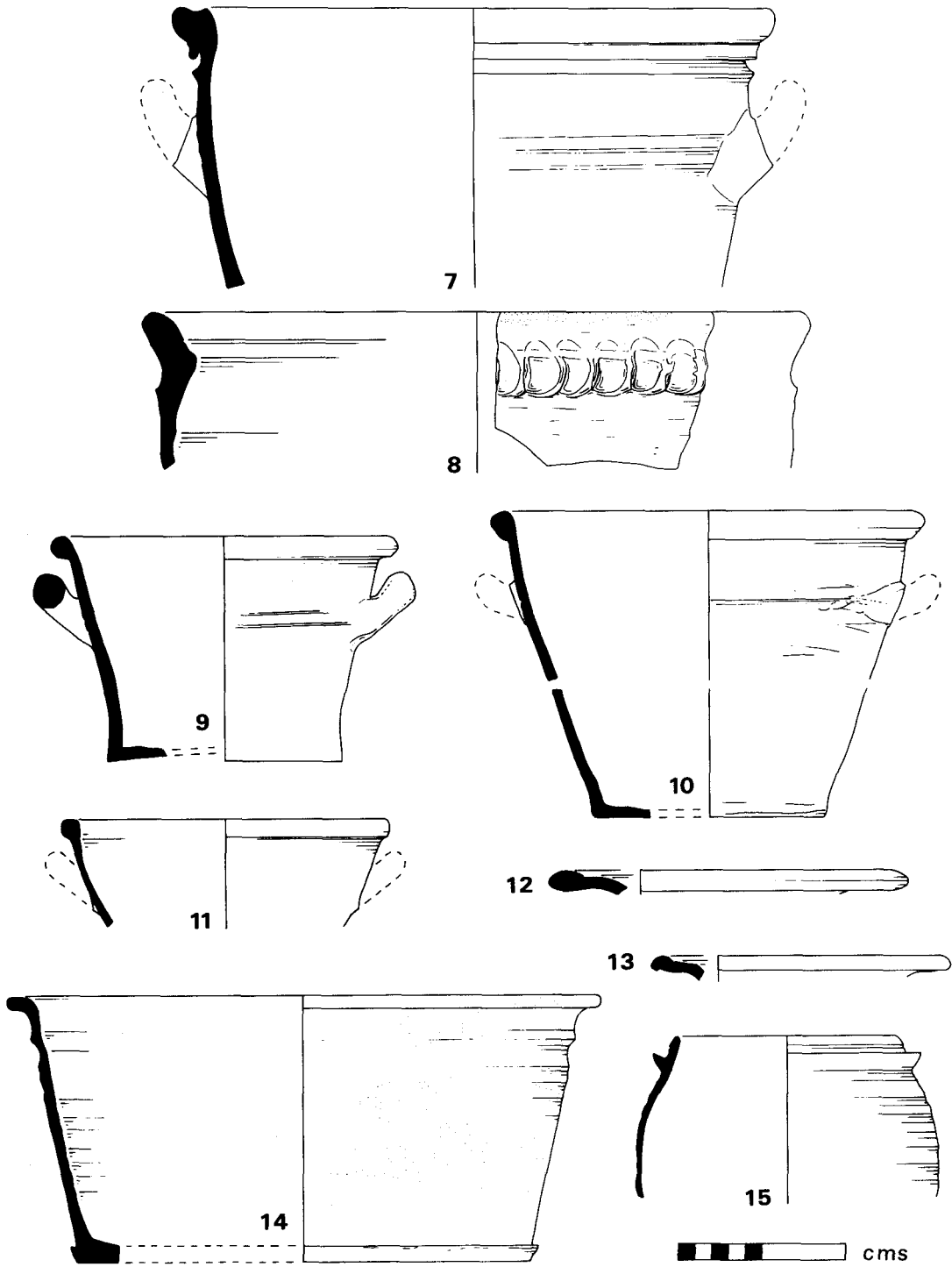


Fig. 5 Burlington Road: Pottery 7-15 (4).

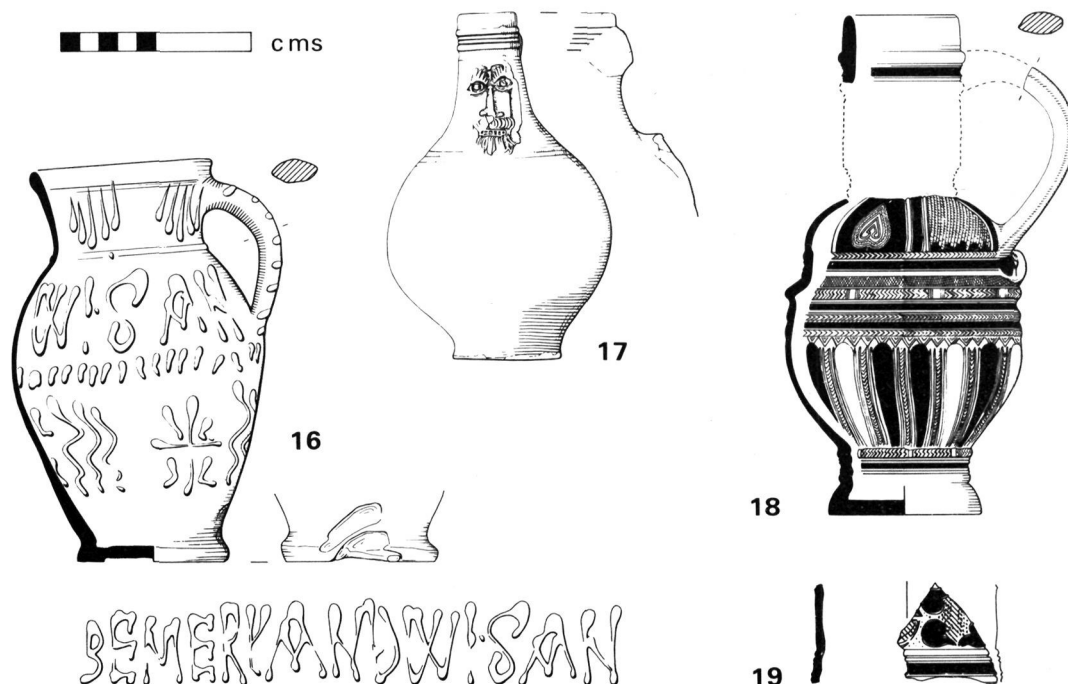


Fig. 6 Burlington Road: Pottery 16-19 (4).

bowls and dishes (Fig. 5 Nos 11-3, all F15), A Staffordshire marbled ware basin with a rich brown glaze over a thick cream slip (Fig. 5 No. 14, F15), and a fine border ware cooking pot with seated rim and internal olive glaze. The most notable finds are the three largely complete jugs (Nos 16-18), which are of 17th- rather than 18th-century date, and which may have been kept for display only. Slipware jugs such as No. 16 were common from the earlier 17th-later 18th centuries, the main local production centre being at Harlow in Essex (Newton *et al* 1959, 358-77; Cooper 1968, 22-30), where decorated jugs both with and without dates and inscriptions of varying degrees of piety were manufactured. An example dated 1645 may be seen in the Museum of London (Celoria 1966, Pl. 16; A14709). No. 16 (F31) has a good orange glaze and decoration of dots, stripes and continuous motto "be mery and wis an" in white slip around the girth of the pot. Although initially well made, two thumb prints below the handle indicate that jug was distorted in the attempt to remove it from the wheel. This fault has been accentuated by the thick accumulation of badly fired glass on the underside of the vessel. The Cologne/Frechen bellarmine bottle (Fig. 6 No. 17, F20) is complete but for the handle. The style of the mask and the small size of the vessel suggest a late 16th-17th century

date. The Westerwald jug (Fig. 6 No. 18, F31, F48, F65) is probably of mid-17th century date; the absence of the upper part of the handle suggests that the piece may have been mounted with a silver or pewter lid hinged at the handle.

Tin-glazed wares comprise fragments of ointment and drug jars ranging from 38mm to 900mm base diameter (Fig. 7 Nos 20-1, both F19), and sherds from a variety of table wares (Fig. 7 Nos 22-3, both F15). The drug jars are mainly plain white, but some decorated with blue or blue and yellow stripes (cf. Bloice 1971, Figs 55, 58; Vince *et al* 1981, Fig. 3 No. 12). The style of decoration on No. 23, with purple or blue backgrounds was adopted *c.* 1740 by the four main production centres of Lambeth, Bristol, Wincanton and Liverpool. The mottled effect of the background was achieved by placing paper shapes over the areas reserved for decoration and sprinkling cobalt or manganese over the remaining surface. Near parallels for No. 23 may be found in both Wincanton ware (Godden 1966, Pl. 269), and Lambeth ware (Garner 1948, 17, Pl. 60c). The reserved panels on Wincanton ware are less frequently outlined in blue, while the background of Lambeth ware is generally denser and darker than that of Bristol, Wincanton or Liverpool (Garner and Archer 1972, 66).

The small group of Chinese porcelain (*c.* 25

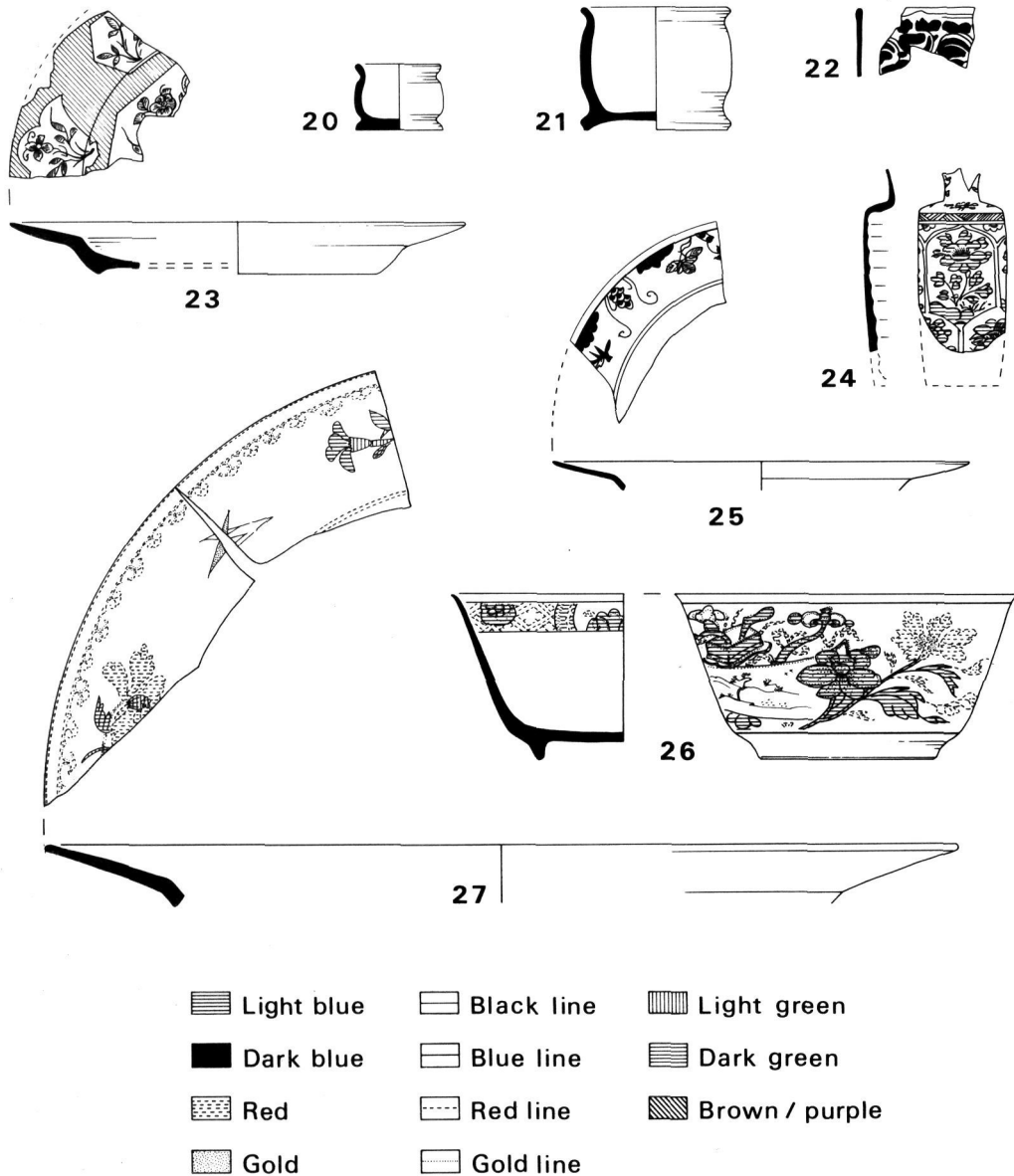


Fig. 7 Burlington Road: Pottery 20-27 (4).

vessels) is typical of many post-medieval sites. It comprises one fragment Batavian or dead-leaf ware, sherds from six Chinese Imari cups, bowls and plates (Fig. 7 No. 26, F20), fragments of Famille Rose (Fig. 7 No. 27, F15; probably Kanghsi, 1662-1722) as well as blue and white wares. The latter include a perfume bottle (Fig. 7 No. 24,

F15; No. 25, F15, F19). All appear to be of an earlier, purely Chinese type rather than the later mass export material where the designs are influenced by western tastes.

The Phase 1 and Phase 3 pits F15 and F48 and the Phase 4 loam F19 also produced nine fragments of stoneware kiln saggar. These presumably derive

from the kilns established *c.* 1672 by John Dwight, which were situated just to the south-west of the site, between Burlington Road and Fulham High Street and which have yielded fragments of similar kiln furniture (Christophers and Haselgrove 1971; 255–58; Christophers and Haselgrove 1973, 114–20, and Fig. 7 Nos 8–10; Christophers *et al* 1977, 9, Nos 1–3).

The three later pits contained much similar material as those in Phase 1, and are probably of late 18th century date. The phase 4 loam may be dated to the mid-19th century by the presence of transfer-decorated English china.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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