

EXCAVATIONS AT ROMAN ROAD/PARNELL ROAD, OLD FORD, LONDON E3

PETER S. MILLS

SUMMARY

The Roman London–Colchester road, dating from the 1st–4th centuries, was examined. Successive phases, generally paralleled by phases of construction found during earlier work were identified.

INTRODUCTION

During June–September 1980 the Inner London Archaeological Unit carried out a limited excavation across the line of the main, Roman London–Colchester road. The site, at the junction of Roman Rd/Parnell Rd (TQ 36978355), was to be landscaped forming a public garden. The area threatened with destruction (max. length 22m, max. width 6m) lay near sites investigated by Harvey Sheldon on behalf of the London Museum during 1969–70 and 1971 (Sheldon 1971, 1972) at Lefevre Rd, Appian Rd and Parnell Rd. On these sites the road, as well as inhumations and features associated with a possible Roman settlement, were examined (Fig. 1).

THE EXCAVATION PHASE I

(Fig. 2)

The initial phase comprised a raised bank of brickearth (194, 196, 198) over dark gravel (210). This gravel appeared to be the base foundation for the road but though examined it was not bottomed. Sheldon, however, found a comparable gravel overlay the natural sand and gravel. Capping the brickearth bank were two layers (0.25m thick) of rammed gravel (165, 188) which formed the main *agger* of the road, 6.5m wide. Running parallel to this consolidated track were two auxiliary roadways at a lower level. To the north a hollow-way (215) worn down to the gravel (210) formed a path some 5m wide. This was bounded on the north by a slight bank (192) running parallel to the main track. This may have been the upcast of a small northern ditch destroyed by later features.

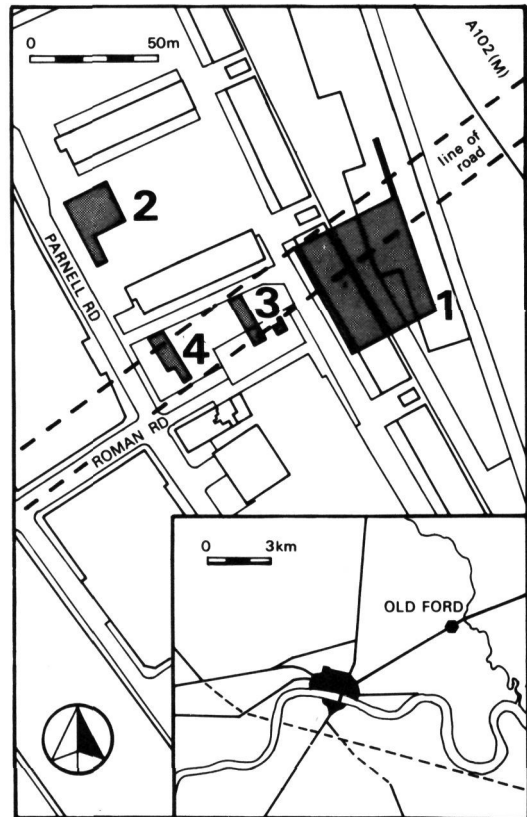


Fig. 1 Roman Rd/Parnell Rd: Inset Roman London and Old Ford; Site Locations: 1 Lefevre Road Sept 1969–June 1970; 2 Parnell Road Oct. 1970–Feb. 1971; 3 Appian Road Feb–April 1971; 4 Roman Road/Parnell Road June–Sept 1980.

To the south of the main track ran a thinly metalled pathway (151), with an excavated width of 3.5m, over a bedding of brickearth (200, 202) on the gravel (210).

The total width of the road during this phase was 15m.

The heavy traffic using the central *agger* resulted in the surface becoming deeply cut by ruts. There was evidence that this surface was maintained by isolated patching and backfilling of the ruts. As neither the south nor north pathways showed any signs of ruts they are likely to have been used by pedestrians and livestock.

This layout of a triple lane road was found by Sheldon at his previous excavations (Sheldon 1971, 1972) and he lists the documentary evidence for such roads.

Little dating material was recovered though some fragments of mid 1st century pottery were noted.

PHASE IA

Cut into the north bank (192) was a small gully (133) with a rounded terminal cut at its west end by a posthole (135): the gully produced some early Roman material.

The north side of the central track, damaged by heavy traffic, was remetalled with gravel (155).

PHASE II

The north bank was raised (131) and a dump of compact sand (125), gritty loam (123) and sandy clay (213) with patchy gravel metalling (147) laid over the northern hollow-way. The new metalling in the hollow-way spread slightly up the bank, increasing the width of the road to 16.3m.

A more evenly distributed gravel resurfacing (117) over sandy gravel (71) brought the northern track up to a similar height to that of the southern.

PHASE III

(Fig. 2)

A major rebuilding of the road involved raising the height of the southern subsidiary pathway and remetalling it.

On the south side a bank of gritty sand (127) was laid over the earlier surface and capped with gravel of variable thickness (121). At this time the central track was still higher than the south path, the two having a total width of 9m.

During this period the north roadway was cut by a posthole (184) and buried beneath an accumulation of soft sand and loam (84). Such a deposit suggests the north track had fallen into disuse by this point. A patchy scatter of gravel (109) over this was probably not metalling but debris thrown up by traffic passing along the main carriageway.

PHASE IIIA

(Fig. 2)

At the north end of the site a pit (80) cut through the raised bank (131). This pit and two possible ditches (66, 68) were extensively cut away by a linear ditch (73) parallel to the road. Notable amongst the pottery from this ditch (73) was a mid 1st century AD vessel in the native tradition, possibly derived from an earlier ditch. The ditch (73) was recut, though the new ditch (33) was not as wide or deep.

The pit (80) had some mid-late 2nd century sherds in its fill. The two early ditches (66, 68) produced early-mid 2nd century pottery. Both the ditch (73) and the narrower recut (33) contained some Antonine (138-180) material.

Unfortunately, due to modern disturbance truncating the stratigraphy, it is not clear if this ditch was contemporary with Phase III or Phase IV.

PHASE IV

(Fig. 2)

A number of postholes (90, 105, 107) and a shallow gully (167), containing late 2nd-early 3rd century pottery, cut into both the main and north tracks indicate that these parts of the road had fallen into disuse. The postholes and the main *agger* were sealed by an accumulation of fine loam (46), itself cut by a gully (69). This loam contained pottery *c.* AD 240 and the gully some 4th century sherds.

On the south side very sandy loam (74, 104, 115, 119) also accumulated, but gravel surfaces (62, 78, 102) over the loam implied it was still used by traffic. This section of the road, now slightly higher than the central track, had an excavated width of 4.1m. It has been noted elsewhere (Sheldon, 1971, 48) that the north side was abandoned, the road alignment seemingly shifting to the south.

PHASE V

The southern gravel surfaces were later cut by a posthole (60), indicating that even the south roadway had been abandoned.

On the south further loam (53) covered the posthole (60) and gully (69), while on the north loam (35, 41) covered the northern side of the road.

PHASE VI

The area apparently remained open ground until the 19th century when small terraced houses were built on the site. Their associated foundations and services caused some disturbance to the Roman stratigraphy.

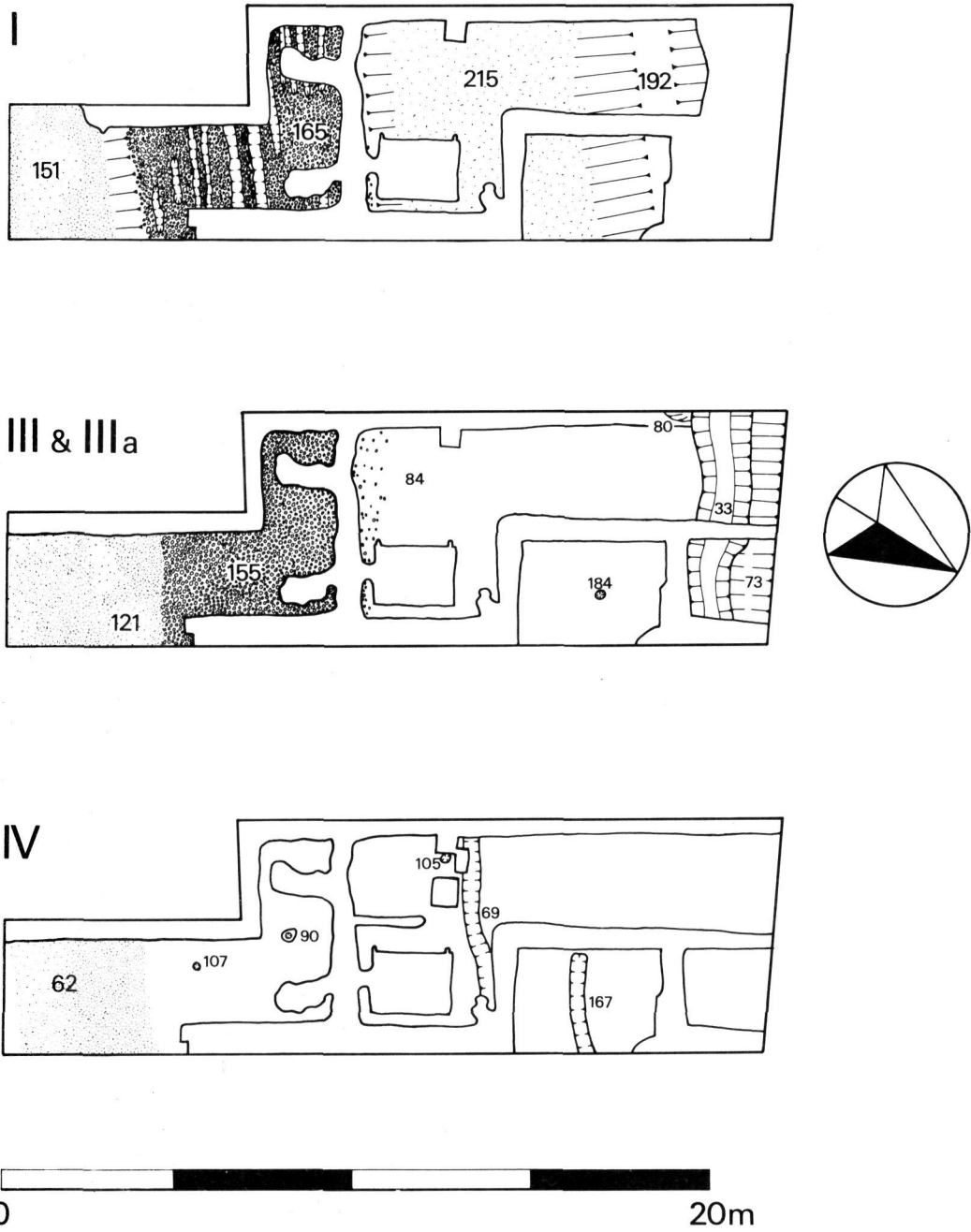
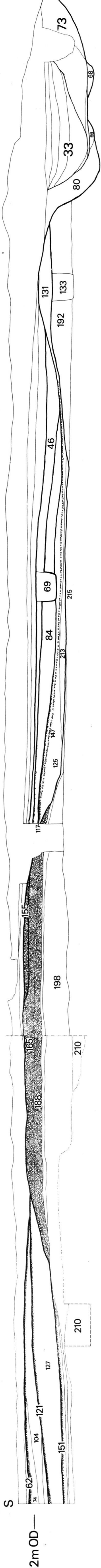
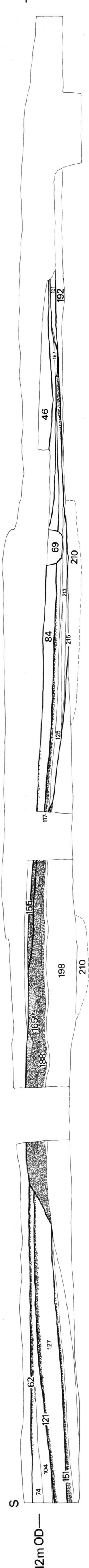


Fig. 2 Roman Rd/Parnell Rd: Phases I, III, IV.

WEST SECTION



EAST SECTION



10m

0



Fig. 3 Roman Rd/Parnell Rd: Sections at Roman Road; East Section Reversed.

DISCUSSION

Previous work on the road indicated variations in construction. The main phases found are summarised below:

Lefevre Road (exc. 1969–70)

Phase I: Raised central carriageway; low south path, lower north path (=I Appian Rd, I Roman Rd). ? post Conquest.

Phase II: North pathway raised to level of south (=II Roman Rd). ? Flavian (69–95).

Phase III: South track raised to height of centre *agger*; north pathway abandoned (=II Appian Rd, III Roman Rd). ? Traj-Had (98–138), some Antonine (138–192) material.

Phase IV: South track raised above height of centre *agger* (?=IV Roman Rd). Both carriageways apparently in use until the late 4th century.

Appian Road (exc. 1971)

Phase I: Raised central track with two lower auxiliary pathways; the central track had no compacted gravel core, only a thin gravel spread (=I Lefevre Rd, I Roman Rd). No dating material ? post-Conquest.

Phase II: South tract raised to height of central *agger*; ? north side abandoned (=III Lefevre Rd, III Roman Rd). One piece of late 1st/early 2nd century pottery from the gritty sandy bank (=Roman Rd 127), but an early 3rd century coin (218–222) from a gravel surface similar to that found near the south track may indicate a later date.

The quantity of material present at Appian Rd and Lefevre Rd indicated the proximity of a settlement; this was absent at Roman Rd/Parnell Rd. Furthermore the pottery at Roman Rd/Parnell Rd was predominantly 2nd century, whereas the material from the other sites was mainly late Roman: these variations may indicate a shifting settlement centre. However, the

areas examined to date have not revealed even the exact location of the settlement, let alone details of its development.

In broad terms the excavation at Roman Rd/Parnell Rd confirms the general development on the road shown by Sheldon at Appian Rd and Lefevre Rd. Curiously, the sequence of alterations is almost identical at Roman/Parnell Rd and Lefevre Rd although the Appian Rd excavation, with its variant construction, lay between them. Sheldon suggested that the Lefevre Rd site had a sturdier construction to account for the slope to the River Lea where heavy traffic would cut deeper into the hill. However, as Roman Rd/Parnell Rd shows a very similar design it appears that the Appian Rd section is anomalous for reasons unknown.

THE POTTERY

The Samian

By Joanna Bird

Phase II

Feature 169

Dr 31, Central Gaul, Antonine.

Dr 31, Central Gaul, early-mid Antonine.

Phase IIIa

Feature 73

Dr 37 foot, Central Gaul, Antonine. Context 208.

Dr 31, Central Gaul, Antonine. Context 208.

Dr 31 R probably, Central Gaul, later 2nd century. Context 56.

Dr 18/31, Central Gaul (Les Martres), early 2nd century. Context 57.

Feature 33

Dr 36, Central Gaul, Antonine. Context 206.

2 × Dr 33, Central Gaul, Antonine. Context 206.

Dr 33 foot, Central Gaul. Context 206.

Dr 33 base, stamped (see following report SF16); the base has been deliberately trimmed down. Context 34.

Dr 33, Central Gaul, Antonine. Context 50.

Dr 30 or 37, Central Gaul, mid-late Antonine. Context 206.

Dr 31, Central Gaul, Antonine; slightly burnt. Context 34.

2 × Dr 31, Central Gaul, Antonine. Contexts 34 and 37.

Dr 31, Central Gaul, mid-late Antonine. Context 50.

Dr 31, stamped (see following report SF9). Context 55.

Dr 31, Central Gaul, Antonine. Context 206.

Dr 31 R probably, Central Gaul, later 2nd century. Context 56.

Dr 18/31, Central Gaul (Les Martres), early 2nd century. Context 57.

Dish sherd, East Gaul, Antonine—early 3rd century. Context 206.

Dish sherd, Central Gaul, probably Hadrianic. Context 34.

Dish sherd, Central Gaul, Hadrianic-Antonine. Context 37.
2 Central Gaulish sherds. Context 206.

Phase IV

Feature 69

Dr 31 or 31R, stamped (see following report SF50)

Phase IV or V

Feature 58

Dr 33, Central Gaul, Antonine.

Dr 35, Central Gaul, Antonine.

Phase V

Feature 41

Bowl foot, Central Gaul, Antonine.

Dr 18/31 or 31, East Gaul, Antonine.

Walters 79, Central Gaul, later 2nd century East Gaulish sherd.

Feature 29

Dr 31R, Central Gaul, later 2nd century.

Dr 33, Central Gaul, Antonine.

Walters 79R or Lud TgR, Central Gaul, late 2nd century.

Phase VI

Feature 145

Dr 31, Central Gaul, mid 2nd century; burnt.

Feature 1

Dr 37 in the style of Paternus II of Lezoux. The beadrow is on Stanfield & Simpson, 1958, pl. 105, no. 13, the medallion, cupid, circle and terminal on pl. 105, no. 12; the other motifs are not identifiable. *c.* AD 160–90.

Dr 31R/Lud Sb, East Gaul, late 2nd century—mid 3rd century.

Dr 31R, Central Gaul, later 2nd century.

Dr 31, Central Gaul, Antonine.

Walters 79 or Lud Tg probably, Central Gaul, later 2nd century.

Dr 33, Central Gaul, Antonine.

Rim. Dech 72 probably, Central Gaul, Antonine.

Sherd, closed form with incised decoration; Central Gaul, Antonine.

Feature 16

36. Dr 36/Curle 15 variant, East Gaul (Trier). The broad rim is decorated with three bands of barbotine, comprising short spirals between rows of commas. Later 2nd Century—mid 3rd century. Illustrated Fig. 5.

Feature 25

Dr 31R, Central Gaul, later 2nd century.

Feature 121

Dr 33, East Gaul, later 2nd century—mid 3rd century.

Feature 183

Dr 36, South Gaul, Flavian.

The Stamped Samian Brenda M. Dickinson.

Feature 33

SF16

Carantinus 5a 33 CARANTIN retrograde Lezoux.b.

Carantinus's forms link with Cinnamus ii. His stamped, and unstamped, decorated bowls turn up in Scotland and one of his plain forms occurs at Inveresk. *c.* AD 145–175.

SF9

Crucuro ii 1a 31 CVR [CVROFEC] Lezoux.a.

This stamp has been noted on form 38. His output also includes

forms 18/31R—31R (from Corbridge) and 27 (several, one with stamp from Camelon). *c.* AD 140–170.

Feature 69

SF50

Quadratus iii 1b 31 or 31R QV[ADRATI] Lezoux.b.

A stamp noted on form Ludowici Tg and, many times, on form 31R. He also made forms 79 and 79R and his stamps turn up on Hadrian's Wall and at Malton. *c.* AD 160–190.

Notes

a. A die found at the kiln site.

b. Other dies of this potter found at the kiln site but not this one.

Roman Coarse Pottery By Wendy McIsaac

Introduction

This report describes the more diagnostic coarse pottery from the more significant contexts of the site. A complete catalogue of the Roman pottery is part of the site archive, which may be consulted at the offices of the Department of Greater London Archaeology (North Section), Museum of London, Imex House, 42 Theobalds Road, London, WC1.

In reading the report, it should be remembered that the inclusions were identified at 20× binocular magnification. The 'Southwark' forms refer to the typology of Marsh and Tyers (1978).

Phase I

Feature 198

Two sherds brown with red-brown margins, very worn rough surface with protruding flint *c.* 0.5–3.0mm in matrix \leq 0.1mm, mica.

Seven sherds red-brown with darker core, very worn. Clear, white and pink quartz, 0.2–0.6mm and occasionally larger, red iron ore up to 1.5mm. These are similar to sherds from the earliest phase at Lefevre Rd (Sheldon, 1971, 44). Mid 1st century. Probably from the Essex area (P. Tyers, *pers comm*).

Phase Ia

Feature 133

This feature contained only four small sherds, which cannot be given a closer date than 'early Roman'.

Phase II

Feature 123

This feature contained two very small sherds of unidentified Roman grey ware.

Features 71

This feature contained 22 sherds (325g) in total. The majority were in 2nd century fabrics (eg Verulamium region, grey wares and worn S. Spanish amphora sherds), but there were seven sherds (145g, probably all from the same vessel) in late Roman shelly ware. These appear to be contamination from a later feature.

Phase III

Feature 84

This feature contained two sherds of unusual mortaria, which have not been matched locally, and one sherd of amphora, probably Cr. 20.

Phase Feature	III			IIIa			IV		IV/V		V		
	82	84	66	68	80	73/207	33/204	167	46	69	58	41	29
Verulamium region:													
white						127	165					5	5
grey						20							
red			30		160	37	20				30		5
Other red wares					860*	162	154	360			340	240	
'grey' wares:													
BB1								50	5				
Colchester 306													800
Tilford?												35	
other				25	72	772	1651	870	2	150	480	1830	732
Amphora:													
Dr 20		110		225			420						450
other			75			5					210		525
Grogged wares										145	10		325
Veg.-tempered ware													20
Shelly wares:													
'type 1'						905	450						
'type 2'							860						10
late Roman										45	15		75
other				100		1075	355				20		
Mortaria:													
Oxfordshire white								5			10	50	130
other	25												
Fine wares:													
roughcast ccw						15	40						
Oxfordshire ccw										100			
Nene Valley ccw										10	5	230	50
Samian						60	480			10	10	15	90
Total	25	110	105	350	1092	3178	4645	1235	7	460	1130	3810	1892

Fig. 4. Roman Rd/Parnell Rd: Amounts of Roman pottery in Phases III–V, by broad Fabric groups, expressed as weight (gr).

Phase IIIa

Feature 66

This feature contained sherds of the jar (no. 3), see Feature 80, as well as four of white-slipped flagon and three of amphora, probably S. Spanish.

Feature 68

This feature contained one sherd each of amphora (probably Dr 20) and hand-made shelly ware (probably 1st century), and four very small sherds of very fine grey wares, Southwark forms IIE and IIIF, 2nd century.

Feature 80 (Fig. 5)

Flagon

1. Ring-necked. Grey with cream surfaces. White-grey quartz, 0.2–0.5mm. Verulamium region. Cf Southwark form IB9, AD 130–180/200+.

Jars

2. BB2. Slipped and burnished. Quartz 0.2–0.5mm.
3. Red with grey to buff core; off white-cream slip on exterior, rouletting on shoulder. White, colourless, clear and pink quartz, 0.2–0.8mm; red iron ore 1.0mm; ?black iron ore; limestone 1.0–1.5mm; mica. Sherds from this jar were also found in Features 66, 73 and 33.

Bowls and dishes

BB2. Lattice decoration. Quartz <=0.1mm, occasionally larger up to 1.0mm; mica. Cf Southwark form IVH3? AD 130–140+. Not illustrated.

Feature 73

Flagons

4. Ring-necked. Red with off white slip. Quartz 0.2–0.5mm; red iron ore; grog; frequent mica. Cf Southwark form IB9. AD 130–180/200+. Context 57.

5. Ring-necked. Buff with red core and greyish surfaces. White, clear and grey quartz, 0.2–0.5mm. Verulamium region. Cf Southwark form IB2 or (probably) 5. Hadrianic. Context 209.

Jars

6. Bead rim. Hand-made brown to black fabric with frequent shell c. 1.5–2.00mm, occasional quartz up to 1.0mm, soft red inclusions = ?red iron ore c. 2.5mm. Context 209.

Slipped and burnished. Quartz <=1mm. Possibly Southwark form IIE. Context 56. Not illustrated.

Slipped and burnished, well finished. Quartz <=0.1mm, occasionally larger. Possibly Southwark form IIE. Context 57. Not illustrated.

BB2. Slipped and burnished. Quartz 0.2–0.5mm, occasionally larger; ?fint. Context 57. Not illustrated.

7. Slipped and burnished with barbotine dot decoration. Quartz <=0.1mm. Cf Southwark form IIIF6. Mid-late 2nd century. Context 57.

8. Slipped and burnished. Quartz <=0.1mm. Cf Southwark form IIIF4. 2nd century up to mid Antonine. Context 57.

Red with grey core; brown colour-coat, clay pellets on exterior. Roughcast AD 70–150. See Greene (1978) 17. Contexts 56 and 57. Not illustrated.

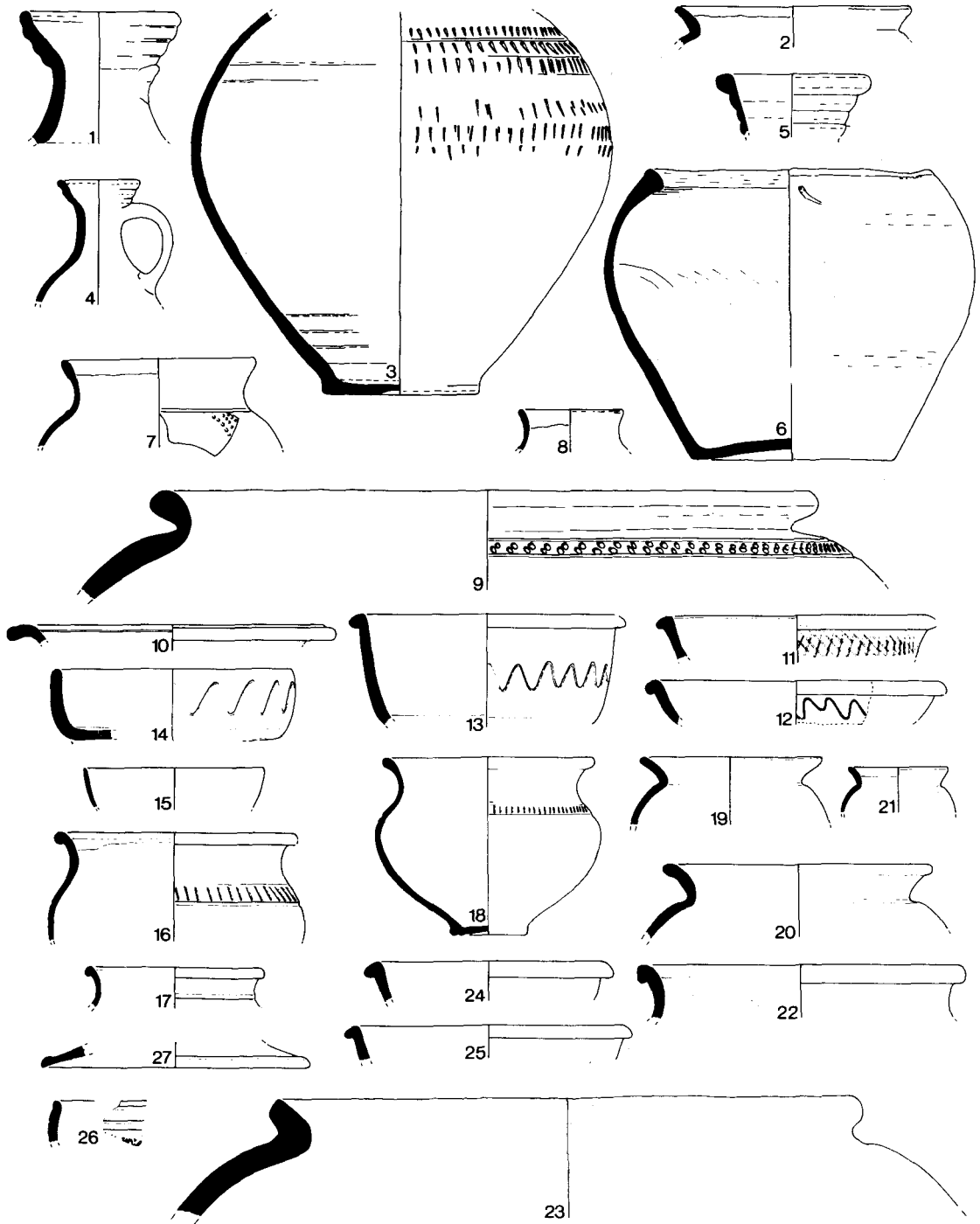


Fig. 5 Roman Rd/Parnell Rd: Pottery from Roman Road Nos 1-27. (1/4).

Slipped and burnished. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. Contexts 208 and 209. Not illustrated.

Slipped and burnished. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. Context 209. Not illustrated.

9. Hand-made brown to black fabric with zone of impressed decoration on shoulder. Fairly frequent shell up to 2.0mm; occasional quartz *c.* 0.3mm; occasional red iron ore; mica. *Cf* Southwark form IIM. Context 209. 1st/2nd century.

Bowls and dishes

10. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm, occasionally up to 3.0mm. *Cf* Southwark form IVF. Up to mid 2nd century. Context 64.

BB2. Slipped and burnished, lattice decoration. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm, occasionally up to 0.3mm. *Cf* Southwark form IVH1. AD 130+. Context 57. Not illustrated.

11. BB2. Slipped and burnished, lattice decoration. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm, occasionally up to 2.0mm. *Cf* Southwark form IVH1. AD 130+.

12. BB2. Slipped and burnished, wavy line decoration. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm, occasionally up to 3.0mm. *Cf* Southwark form IVH, no. 1256. Context 57.

13. BB2. Burnished, wavy line decoration. Burnt. Clear and white quartz, 0.2–0.5mm; occasional limestone, *c.* 0.5mm; possibly black iron ore. Possibly *cf* Southwark form IVH. Context 208.

14. BB2. Burnished, wavy line decoration. Mainly clear and white quartz, 0.2–0.8mm. Friable fabric. Possibly *cf* Southwark form IVJ2. AD 120/130+. Context 208.

15. Eggshell ware. See Marsh (1978) 129, and 147 type 13. Context 56.

Lids

Red-brown to black surfaces with red margins and grey core. Clear, white and colourless quartz 0.3–0.5mm; red iron ore. Context 57. Not illustrated.

Grey. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. Context 64. Not illustrated.

Feature 33

Jars

16. Slipped and burnished with vertical lines on shoulder. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. *Cf* Southwark form IIE. Context 34.

17. Slipped and burnished. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. Possibly *cf* Southwark form IIE. Context 34.

Slipped and burnished. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. *Cf* Southwark form IIE. Context 50. Not illustrated.

Slipped and burnished. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. Southwark form IIE/IIF. Context 55. Not illustrated.

18. Slipped and burnished with vertical line decoration on shoulder. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. *Cf* Southwark form IIE. Context 206.

19. BB2. Slipped and burnished. Quartz 0.3–0.5mm. *Cf* Southwark form IIF?5. Context 50.

BB2. Burnished, lattice decoration. Clear, rose and grey quartz, 0.3–0.5mm. Southwark form IIF. Context 206. Not illustrated.

BB1. Burnished. Quartz *c.* 0.3mm. Context 34. Not illustrated.

20. BB1. Burnished. Quartz *c.* 0.2mm. Context 206.

Sherds of roughcast colour-coat beaker. Context 34. Not illustrated.

Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm, occasionally up to 0.5mm. Context 34. Not illustrated.

21. Burnished with well finished surfaces. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. Context 55.

22. Slipped and burnished. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. Context 206.

Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. Not illustrated. Context 206.

23. Handmade vesicular laminated fabric, reddish brown with grey core; a little shell *c.* 2.0mm; occasional soft white inclusions (?limestone); red iron ore up to 1.2mm; occasional flint up to 5mm. Here referred to as 'type 2': probably from Essex.

1st/2nd century (P. Tyers, *pers comm.*) This example from Context 138, but several similar sherds from Context 206.

Handmade vesicular fabric. Dark grey with reddish brown core. Occasional red or grey quartz 0.2–0.5mm; vegetable tempering; occasional red iron ore up to 0.5mm; mica. Not illustrated. Context 50.

Mortarium rim. Verulamium region white ware. Burnt. Not illustrated. Context 206.

Bowls and Dishes

24. BB2. Slipped and burnished. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm, occasionally up to 0.3mm. *Cf* Southwark form IVH, AD 120/130+. Context 34.

BB2. Slipped and burnished. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm. *Cf* Southwark form IVH. Not illustrated. Context 50.

25. BB2. Slipped and burnished. Quartz 0.1–0.2mm. *Cf* Southwark Form IVH1, AD 130+. Context 50.

BB2. Burnished with diagonal line decoration. Quartz 0.2–0.5mm. *Cf* Southwark form IVH? Not illustrated. Context 206.

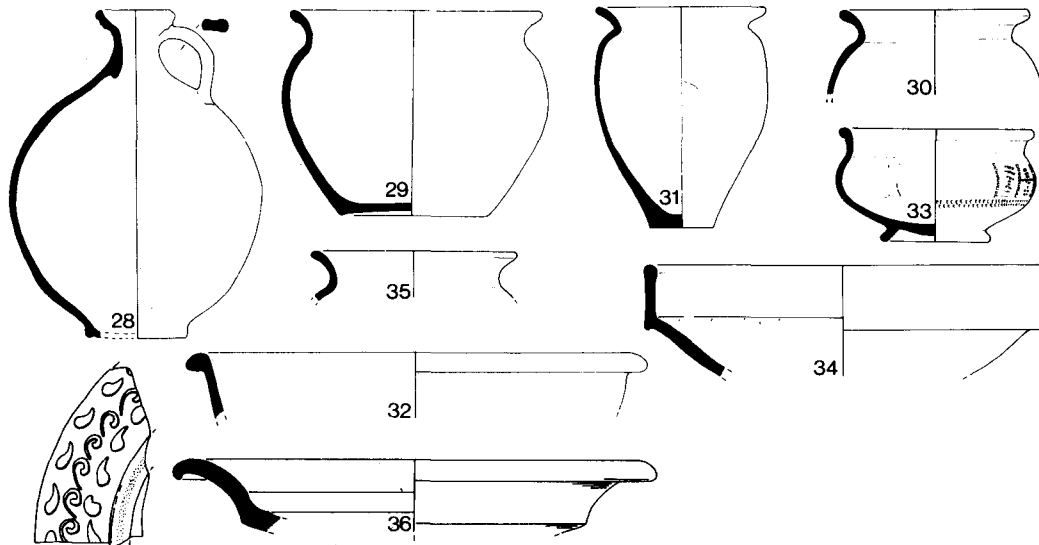


Fig. 6 Roman Rd/Parnell Rd: Pottery from Roman Road Nos 28–36. (1/4).

BB1. Burnished with lattice decoration. Cf Southwark form IVJI? AD 120–180/200. Not illustrated. Context 206.

26. Essex/London ware. Red; stamped decoration. Quartz *c.* 0.5mm; very micaceous; a little black iron ore. Cf Rodwell type 2C (1978, 239). Context 206.

Clear and white quartz 0.2–0.5mm. Southwark form IVH5–7. Not illustrated. Context 34.

Lid

27. Reddish buff with grey core. Clear and colourless quartz *c.* 0.3mm; red iron ore *c.* 0.4mm. Context 206.

Also sherd of folded beaker from Context 34.

Phase IV

Feature 167 (Fig. 6)

Flagons

28. Ring-necked flagon. Grey with red exterior and reddish-brown interior surface; off-white to orange slip. Quartz ≤ 0.1 mm, rarely up to 0.3mm; grog *c.* 0.5mm; red iron ore *c.* 0.3mm. Similar to Southwark form IBB, although body of this example appears more rounded and less pear-shaped.

Grey Wares

Jars

29. Clear, white and yellow/brown quartz, 0.2–0.6mm.

30. As no. 29.

Everted rim. Slipped. Clear and colourless quartz, 0.2–0.3mm; some flint. Not illustrated.

Everted rim. Slipped, clear and white quartz, 0.2–0.4mm. Not illustrated.

Folded beakers

31. Slipped. Clear and colourless quartz, 0.2–1.0mm; flint; mica.

Quartz (≤ 0.1 mm; a little black iron ore. Not illustrated. Base. Clear and colourless quartz, 0.2–0.6mm; mica. Not illustrated.

Bowls and dishes

32. BB2. Burnished. Clear, white and colourless quartz, *c.* 0.6mm; grog. Southwark form IVH.

This group of pottery was relatively well preserved. The forms suggest at least a later 2nd century date. The absence of samian and colour-coated wares, and the less common fabrics, eg the grogged bowl and those containing flint, might suggest an early 3rd century date.

Feature 69

Colour-coated wares

All but one sherd was from the Oxfordshire potteries. These included vessels:

33. Form C. 97, AD 240–400+ (Young, 1977, 173).

34. Form C. 78, AD 340–400+ (*ibid.*, 166).

Grey Ware

35. Everted rim jar, burnished. Clear, white and pink quartz, *c.* 0.2mm; possibly some grog; mica.

Shell tempered

Probably late Roman shelly ware. Black to brown with abundant shell up to 2.0mm; some mica. Not illustrated.

Grogged storage vessels

Red-brown with grey core, wheelmade or finished. Clear, white, red and pink quartz, 0.3–0.5mm, occasionally larger. Not illustrated. Also found in other late features, eg 58 and 41.

Phase V

Feature 41

See Fig. 4 for details. The pottery suggests ploughsoil with some contamination. There are some intrusions, but the dating is mainly 4th century.

Feature 35

See Fig. 4. Although overlying 41, the pottery was much less

broken up. The types, eg Colchester 306, suggest that it may be derived from an individual feature earlier than 41.

Summary

The material from the excavations at Roman Road was predominantly Roman. It ranged in date from the mid 1st century to the 4th century. Very little pottery was found associated with phases I–III. None of the road surfaces had any pottery on them although two brooches of 1st/2nd century date were recovered (see below). The greatest quantity of pottery came from a ditch to the north of the road (Phase IIIa, see Fig. 4), probably of Antonine date.

Comparisons with excavations by Sheldon at Appian and Lefevre Roads (Sheldon 1971; 1972) show a difference in the emphasis of the date of the assemblages. In both these excavations the features lay mainly to the south of the road. A small amount of 2nd century material was recovered, but most, including nearly 200 coins from Appian Road, was late Roman. This contrasts with the site reported on here, which lay on the north side of the road. Only four coins were recovered and the material from features was predominantly 2nd century in date.

THE COINS

By M. J. Hammerson

Phase V

Possibly Antoninianus. Date uncertain, possibly *c.* AD 250–85. Feature 53.

Illegible copper alloy coin, *c.* 15mm diameter. Probably irregular, later 3rd—mid 4th century. Feature 41.

Quartered copper alloy coin. Illegible. Possibly an As (1st–2nd century), but more likely a mid-4th century Centenionalis. One break looks recent, suggesting a halved coin. Feature 41.

Copper alloy coin. House of Theodosius, AD 379–402. Reverse illegible. Feature 41.

Phase VI

Irregular copy, Claudius II; type of AD 270, DIVO CLAUDIO, with reverse of CONSECRATIO with altar. Produced *c.* 270–90 (copy of R.I.C. 257ff.) Copper alloy, 16mm. Feature 1.

Constantinian, *c.* AD 325–350. Possibly irregular. Copper alloy, 17mm. Feature 25.

SMALL FINDS

(Fig. 7)

By Wendy McIsaac

Copper alloy

1. Part of brooch. Only spring and spring cover survive. Appears closest to Collingwood Group E or H. Mid 1st–2nd century. Feature 151, Phase I.

2. Object in very poor condition. Possibly a corner fitting for a casket. Feature 198, Phase I. Not illustrated.

3. Head stud brooch (Collingwood Group Q) with vertically corrugated sidewings and cover containing traces of red enamel. There is a headstud and at least four rectangles on the bow from

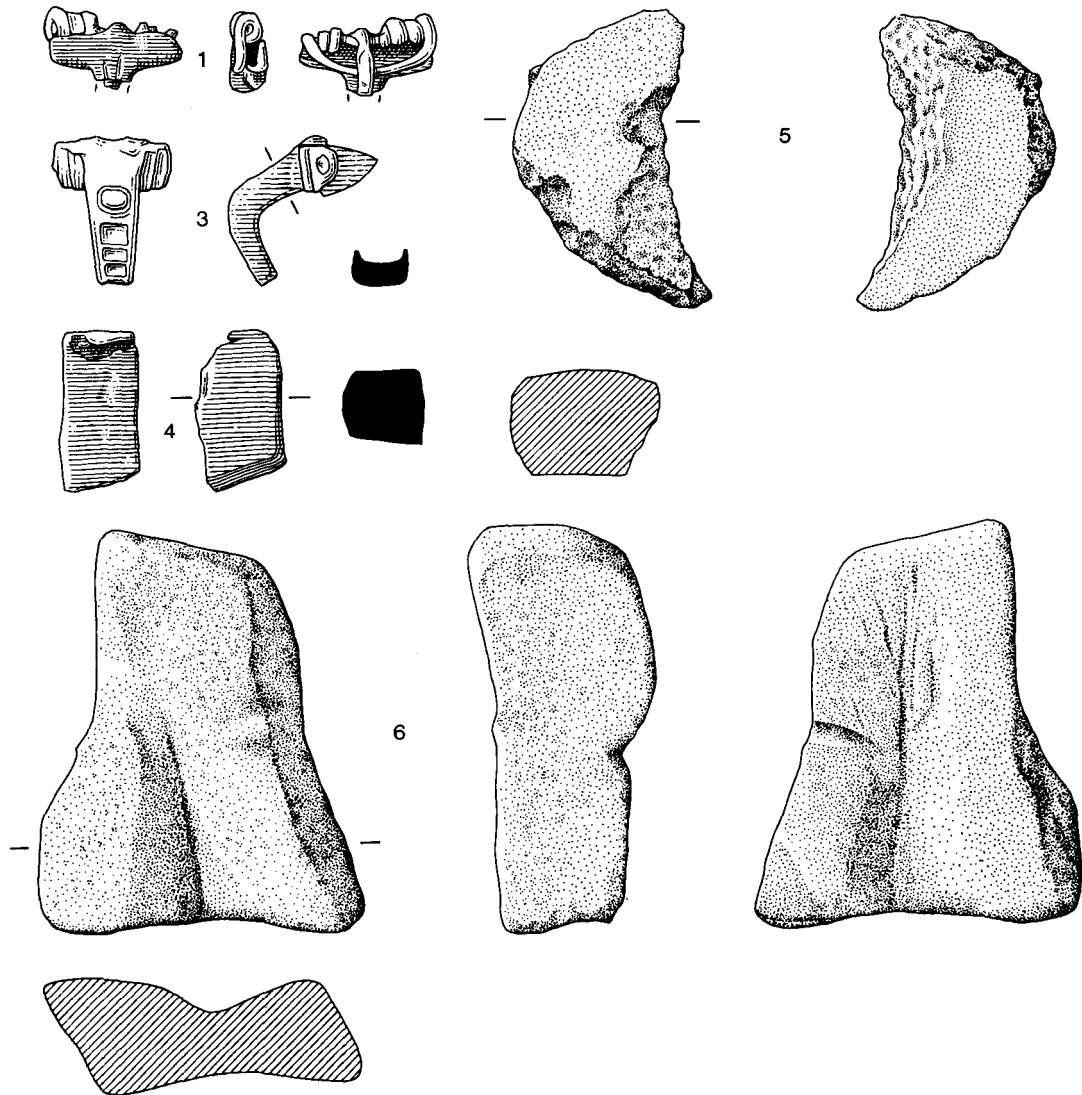


Fig. 7 Roman Rd/Parnell Rd: Small Finds from Roman Road. Nos 1, 3, 4 (1/1; nos 5, 6 (1/2)).

which the enamel has been lost. Part of the bow and catchplate are missing. This brooch is similar to an unstratified example in the Museum of London, Acc. No. 81.282/6. Group Q brooches are thought to have been manufactured from the third quarter of the 1st century and continued well into the 2nd century (Bateson, 1981, 21). Feature 117, Phase II.

4. Rectangular shaped object tapering to a point at one end. At the opposite end there is a corroded iron deposit. The shape of the object suggests a plumb-bob—an inverted conical weight with a small knob pierced to take a string. The object was recovered from a Roman context and is likely to be of Roman date. This layer did suffer from a small amount of contamination from overlying post-Roman deposits. Feature 41, Phase V. The illustration is of a very similar, but broken, object from Feature 25, Phase VI.

ABRASIVE STONES

By Clive Orton

5. Roughly semi-circular fragment of stone object in a microcline and muscovite-bearing sandstone. Probably Pennant Grit of the Bristol Coalfield area. It has two parallel surfaces, one (shown here as the lower) very smooth and slightly concave, the other less smooth. The edges are irregular. Probably part of a rubbing stone, ie the upper stone of a non-rotating quern (Curwen, 1937, 134). From Feature 41, Phase V).

6. Roughly trapezoidal stone object, probably a whetstone. Microcline, muscovite and clay-bearing sandstone, either Pennant Grit or (more likely) Millstone Grit of the north of England. Each face has a longitudinal V-shaped groove, presumably caused by

sharpening metal blades on the stone. From Feature 29, Phase V.

There were also small fragments of Niedermendig lava quernstones from Feature 169, Phase II.

THE ANIMAL BONES

By Alison Locker

A small group of animal bones were recovered, ox (*Bos* sp.), sheep/goat (*Ovis* sp./*Capra*.), pig (*Sus* sp.) and horse (*Equus* sp.) were identified, all except the horse showing signs of butchery and representing food debris.

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Fig. 4 was produced by C. Orton.

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