

EXCAVATIONS AT ELSTREE HILL SOUTH, 1981–1983

GEORGE SALVESON and LYN BLACKMORE

SUMMARY

Chalk and pebble surfaces overlay two ditches, pits and post-holes of 13th/14th-century date, which produced a quantity of medieval pottery in the South Hertfordshire tradition. Elsewhere a pebbled surface with a possible beam slot was uncovered.

INTRODUCTION

Elstree is situated on a low hill of Claygate beds capped with pebble and gravel (Wooldridge 1969, 2), with an elevation at its highest point of 138m OD at approximately one mile north of Brockley Hill (Fig. 1b). The present-day village has a complex topography. It straddles the boundary between Middlesex and Hertfordshire, and on the Middlesex side is further divided between the boroughs of Barnet and Hendon by the A5/Elstree Hill South, which follows the line of Watling Street from Brockley Hill, the probable Roman settlement of Sullonicae, c. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the south-west, to Verulamium (The Viatores 1964, 21–2). The northern side of the village borders onto the large estate of Aldenham Park, but the remainder is surrounded by farmland. The greater part of the village, including the oldest standing buildings, lies in Hertfordshire, but the excavations described below show that part at least of the Middlesex side was occupied in the medieval period. That part of the village which lies in Harrow now consists almost entirely of modern council developments. In 1980 these surrounded a large playing field which formerly belonged to a private school accommodated in the 18th-century property Elstree Hill House situated opposite the field on the Barnet side of the A5 (now used as a rehabilitation centre for patients from Shenley Mental Hospital).

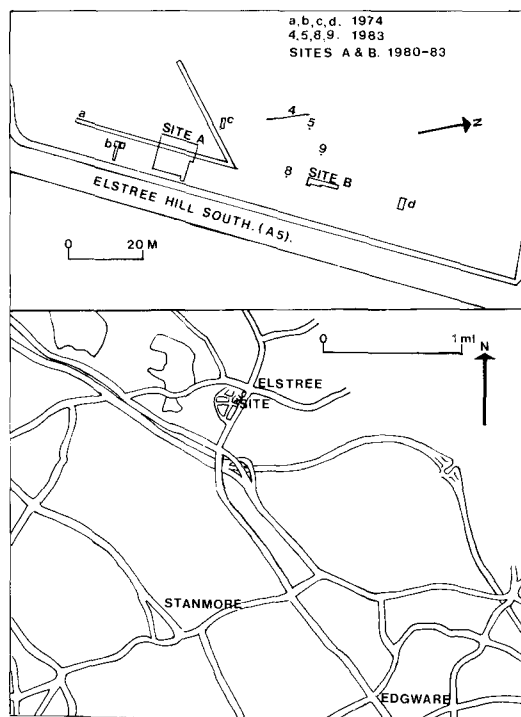


Fig. 1a) Elstree 1981–83: Location of excavations. Fig. 1b) Elstree 1981–83: Location of site within the immediate locality.

In 1980 the Harrow Borough Council were considering plans for the development of the playing field as a council estate. Previous archaeological work and documentary evidence suggested that there were potential Roman and medieval sites in this area, and at the suggestion of Mr S. Castle that further investigation of the field was required, the Stanmore and

Harrow Historical Society obtained permission from the Council to carry out rescue excavations in advance of the proposed development of the site. These were carried out between 1980–83, mainly at weekends, by members of the Society, who excavated a total of 67.5sq.m by hand. The finds are housed in the Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre; the site records are with the director of the excavations (G. Salvesson). In 1983 further site-watching was undertaken by Robert Ellis of The Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (Fig. 1a, Nos 4, 5, 8, 9; see below); site records are with the D.G.L.A.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

The name of Elstree derives from the Anglo-Saxon 'Tidwulf's tree', the 'T' being lost in a wrong division of 'aet Tidwulfes treo' (Gover *et al* 1938, 74; Ekwall 1960, 165). The earliest mention of 'Tidulfres treow' is in an 11th-12th century transcript of a charter dated AD 785 (Birch 1885–93, No. 245; Sawyer 1968, 103, No. 124), in which lands at Altenham (Aldenham) were granted by Offa to the Abbey of St. Peter at Westminster. The authenticity of this document, however, is doubtful (*ibid*, 103). The name alters from Tythufes in the 10th century through Tydolvestre in 1188 (Gover *et al* 1938, 74), Tydulnestre in 1253 (Webb 1921, 485), Idelstree in 1374 (Webb 1921, 169), to Ilstrey in the 16th century (*ibid*, 356). At the time of the Norman conquest the village was divided between Cashio Hundred (Herts.) and Spelthorne Hundred (Middx.). The latter, which lay in the Manor of Stanmore Parva, or Little Stanmore, was granted by William I to Roger de Rames, who also held the Manor of Charlton, Middlesex, and other estates in Essex and Suffolk (Pinder 1969, 100, 109, 116). The Manor of Little Stanmore was valued at 9.5 Hides in 1066, and at 9

Hides and 2 Virgates in 1086 (*ibid*, 137–8). By 1130 Little Stanmore was divided between Roger II de Ramis and Robert de Ramis (Bayliss, 1957, 5). The northern part of the estate was held by Robert, while Roger II held that part which lay to the south of a road leading from Stone Grove, on Watling Street, towards Watford. Both Roger II and Robert gave grants of land and church buildings to the Cannons of St. Bartholomew's Priory, Smithfield, including the church of St. Bartholomew's at Tydulfnestre, given by Robert. The church of St. Lawrence at Little Stanmore was donated by Roger II, while further grants of land in Eggesware and in Essex were made by Roger's son William de Rames, or Reymes (Webb 1921, 102). These grants (and others made to the monastery during the first 64 years after its foundation) were later confirmed in a charter of Henry II, dated to between 1175–79 (*ibid*, 100, 102, 354), and are also referred to in a charter of Henry III, dated 1253 (*ibid*, 485, No. 16). There appears, however, to have been some confusion over the possessions of St. Bartholomew's in the Elstree area (*ibid*, 357). There is no record of a church or chapel in the Rental for Elstree itself; instead this appears in the Rental for Aldenham, although the latter place is not mentioned in any charter. This Rental (Bodleian Library, MX Roll 1), thought to be a transcript made in the reign of Henry VII of the Rental of 1306, refers to two crofts in the parish of Boshey (Bushey), for which the rent was 2s 6d to be paid yearly on the feast of St. Bartholomew's, at the 'cappella' at Idelstree (*ibid*, xxv, 456).

PREVIOUS WORK

Interest in the archaeological potential of this field was initially raised by the existence of a low bank running along the west side of Aldenham Park, identified as

the ‘agger’ of a minor Roman road, route 169 (The Viatores 1964, 201–203–4). It was suggested that if the line of this bank were projected through the field, it would meet Watling Street at the approximate midpoint of the field’s frontage with the road (*ibid.*, 203, Map 405). Other Roman sites in the area include the settlement at Brockley Hill, the probably site of Sul-lonicae, where excavations have revealed evidence for occupation from the Belgic period until the 4th century (Vulliamy, 1930, 300–07; Celoria and Macdonald, 1969, 66 and refs. therein; see also publications by S. Castle in these *Transactions*, 1972–1976). Tile and pottery kilns, exploiting the natural sandy clays of the area, were in operation at Brockley Hill *c.* AD 70–80; other kilns have been found *c.* 5 miles to the north at Radlett, in Herts, (Page 1897–99, 261–70), while in Elstree itself Roman pottery and a tile kiln were found only 520m to the north of the present site (O’Neil 1951, 229–33). In the medieval period, charters referring to a chapel of St. Bartholomew at Elstree (see above) suggest that this was on the Middlesex side of the village, and to the west of Watling Street. In 1950 finds of redeposited sherds of 13th-century pottery, some apparently wasters, derived from road-works nearby in Barnet Lane (Biddle 1961, 65–9; finds now in Watford Museum), also suggested medieval occupation in the area. In 1974, therefore, when plans for the development of the field were first before the Borough Council, it was decided to mount a trial excavation to assess the evidence for the Roman roads and medieval chapel (Castle and Hammerson 1978, 151–2). Two machine trenches and three small hand-cut trenches were examined (Fig. 1a, a–d). These produced no evidence for the features being sought, but two shallow ditches containing small amounts of medieval pottery were revealed in one of

the hand-dug trenches, while Roman and medieval sherds were found in a pit excavated in the north-eastern part of the field. The following year gypsy encroachment onto the site led to the excavation in 1976 of a ditch immediately alongside the pavement of Elstree Hill South in order to prevent motor access to the field. This produced a further quantity of medieval pottery, including an almost complete cooking pot (Castle and Hammerson 1978, 151–152). This pottery, and that recovered from the 1980–83 excavations is very like that derived from Barnet Lane (Biddle 1961, 65–9).

THE EXCAVATION

The 1980–83 excavation was designed to examine a wider area than was possible in 1974, and to recover further information for the two medieval ditches. Two areas were examined (Fig. 1, Sites A and B), both excavated entirely by hand. Site A (*c.* 67.5sq.m) comprised four trenches, Areas 1–2, excavated in 1980–81, and Areas 2–4, excavated in 1982–83. Area 1 (*c.* 20sq.m) lay *c.* 45m north of the south-east corner of the playing field and 10m in from Elstree Hill South (A4); this was later extended to the south-east by a further 12.5sq.m (Area 2), and northwards by Area 3 (25sq.m), leaving a 1m baulk between Areas 1 and 3. Area 3 was later extended towards the south-east by Area 4 (10sq.m adjacent to Area 2). Following exploratory auger tests in 1983, Site B, a trench 2m by 8m, was excavated 43.75m to the north of Site A and 10m in from the road.

SITE A

PHASE 1a (Figs 3, 8)

The earliest features were eight post-holes (F26, F38–F44), and a shallow ditch (F32). The post-holes would appear to represent the south-west end of a post-built rectangular timber structure constructed on a NE–SW alignment. F42 is slightly misaligned with post-holes F26 and F41,

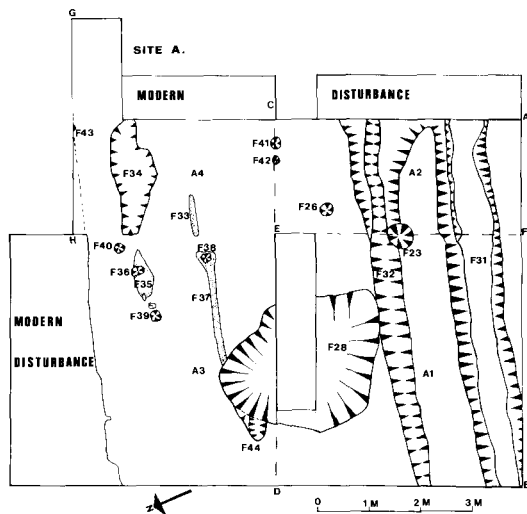


Fig. 2 Elstree 1981-83: Site A. Composite plan of Phases 1a, b and c.

but is probably also a part of this structure. A ninth post-hole, F36, may also be a part of this phase (see Phase 1b).

No pottery was found in the fill of the post-holes, and only one sherd of S. Herts. grey ware was found in F37, but the structure lay just to the north of, and appeared to be contemporary with, a narrow east-west ditch (F32). The eastern end of this ditch produced a quantity of pottery dating to the mid 13th-century, including an almost complete cooking pot, and numerous

large sherds up to 14cms across (Figs 13, 14). The ditch was *c.* 1.0m deep at the eastern end, where the ground level rises toward the present road, but became very shallow toward the western limit of excavation, where it was barely visible. Other finds from this feature include a fragment of a Niedermendig lava quern, and an iron arrow-head (Fig. 19). This ditch may have served as a drainage ditch, or as a boundary to the property. It appears to have been left open, rather than deliberately backfilled, but eventually silted up with two silty deposits (L119, lower and L118, upper), distinguished by slight variations in colour.

PHASE 1b (Figs 4, 8)

Cutting into L118 was a large post-hole, F23. This post-hole, which was filled with a silty clay (L64), may be aligned with two smaller post-holes (F36, and F38). Two gullies (F33, F37, both 5cm-10cm deep), a pit or sump (F44) and a silty deposit (F35) around F36 may also belong to this phase. The first gully (F33, *c.* 75cm long) lay to the north-east of, and stopped *c.* 35cm short of, F38; the second (F37) continued the line of F33 towards F44. The fill of F44, like that of F33 and F37, was of a silty nature, with only a few pebbles and occasional small fragments of Roman tile. Gully F37 was cut by a large pit (F28), which destroyed all evidence of its relationship with F44. The association of post-holes F36 and F38 with areas of water collection is unclear. It is possible that water collected around posts F36 and F38, and

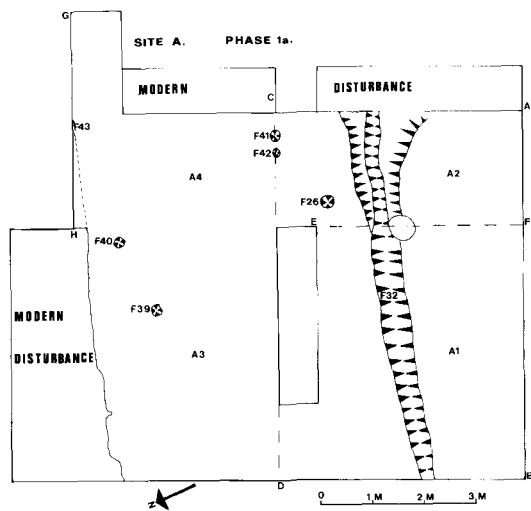


Fig. 3 Elstree 1981-83: Site A. Phase 1a.

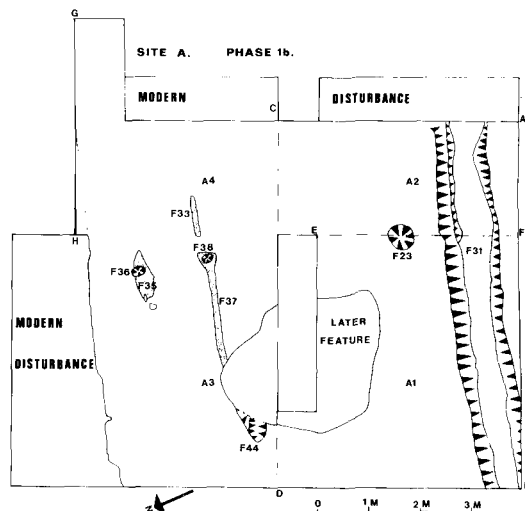


Fig. 4 Elstree 1981-83: Site A. Phase 1b.

that gully F38 was cut in order to drain water off into F44; F36, however, appeared to be cut through F35, and may therefore be a part of the Phase 1a rectangular structure.

To the south of F23 was an east-west ditch (F31), broader and deeper than F32, which may indicate a slight enlargement of the property. The ditch, which was 0.75m deep, and 1.0m wide, was filled with silts (L117) which seemed to extend over the surrounding area.

PHASE 1c (Figs 5, 8)

Three features (F24/25 and F28 and part of a pebble surface (L68, over L117), are clearly later than those in Phase 1b. A long shallow pit (F34) c. 40cms deep, just to the north-east of post-holes F36 and F40, however, although cut at the eastern end by a modern feature (F3), has no stratigraphic association with the earlier features, and its function is obscure. Pit F34 contained two deposits, the lower (L121) a dark grey silt, the upper (L122) an orange-grey silt with flecks of charcoal, and fragments of Roman tile. This pit is dated to the 13th century by one sherd of S. Herts grey ware, but may belong to either Phase 1b or Phase 1c.

F24/25 was a complex feature cut into the silty deposit sealing the Phase 1b ditch (F31), which comprised two elements. F24 was a shallow bi-lobed pit (max. 50cm deep) which overlay L117 and partly cut through the fill of ditch F32. It was filled with a deposit of silt with ash (L225) which contained numerous pebbles and much charcoal, including beech (*Fagus sp.*), willow (*Salix sp.*), oak (*Quercus sp.*) and hawthorn (*Pomoidiae*). The western half of F24 was sealed with a circular pad of clay (L75). F25 was a long, narrow feature extending from the south-east corner of F24, filled with a fine silt with occasional pebbles. F25 appears on plan to be cut by F24, but it also cut L117, and seemed to be contemporary with F24. F24/25 produced a quantity of 13th-century pottery (mainly located in F24), including substantial fragments from two cooking pots with soot-blackened outer surfaces (Fig. 18, Nos 22, 25). These, together with the lack of wasters, suggest that F25/25 was a hearth, rather than a kiln.

F28 was a large deep pit (max. depth c.1.50m), which cut gully F37 and also F44. It apparently extended through the baulk between Areas 1 and 3, and was therefore not totally excavated. The greater part of the pit lay in Area 1, where the upper fill consisted of numerous tips of silty material (L105, L108-L113), differentiated by slight variations in

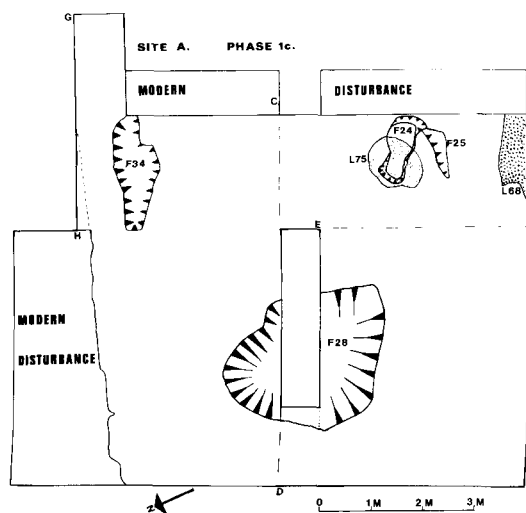


Fig. 5 Elstree 1981–83: Site A. Phase 1c.

colour. The lower fill (L114, L114a) comprised layers of reddish silty clay with much charcoal, including oak (*Quercus sp.*), beech (*Fagus sp.*) and willow (*Salix sp.*), suggesting that some burning had occurred in the pit. These deposits were not seen in Area 3, where there were fewer layers in the pit (L115, L116, L107, L106); these slumped down towards Area 1. The very wet conditions at the time of excavation (winter 1980–81) and the collapse of part of the baulk prevented a section drawing of the pit in Area 1, but a section was obtained in Area 3, which was excavated later in the year (Fig. 9). The pit contained a few fragments of Roman tile, some quite large (c. 20cm by 30cm), and also a rim sherd from a Brockley Hill, type mortarium. Only a small amount of medieval pottery was found in F28, compared with that found in the eastern lobe of F24, and the function of the feature is unclear.

The dating of this phase is problematical, since the pottery from F24/25 is very similar to that from the ditches; it would appear that there was a frequent change of land-use, and that all three phases may be dated to the 13th century, with Phase 1c possibly continuing into the early 14th century.

PHASE 2a (Figs 6, 8)

At some time between Phase 1c and Phase 2b a thin pebbled surface was laid (L48, 5–10cm deep), which sealed the site. This produced a few small sherds of S. Herts. grey ware, and a silver 3d coin of Elizabeth I, dated to 1582. If

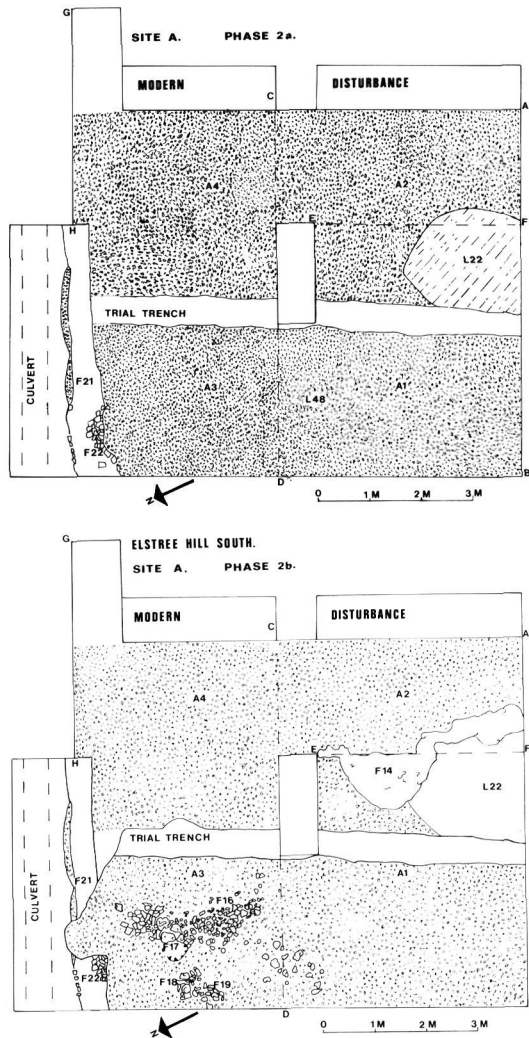


Fig. 6 Elstree 1981-83: Site A. Phases 2a and 2b.

not intrusive, this suggests that the site lay undisturbed for some 250 years before the surface was laid, probably shortly before the development of the site in the late Tudor or early Stuart period. During Phase 2a most of the excavated area appears to have served as a yard; the pebbled surface (L48) survived in patches, and a layer of compacted peg-tile (L22) over part of the ditch F31 may have been laid in order to consolidate the possibly less stable or wetter ground in this area. This deposit produced a small amount of late 16th-/early 17th-century pottery, including fragments of blackglazed tyg and green glazed white wares.

The area was bounded by an east-west wall on the northern side of Area 3. This had been robbed out (F21), but survived at the western end as a line of bricks (F20) and a small area of poorly laid foundation (F22) comprising three courses of incomplete brick laid untidily and without mortar. This structure cannot be closely dated since the deposits in the immediate vicinity of the wall had been greatly disturbed in the late Georgian period by the construction trench for a brick culvert from Elstree Hill House, which ran parallel to the north-eastern side of the wall. The small amount of pottery from the undisturbed levels consisted of red wares typical of the 17th-18th centuries. Part of F22 was sealed by a small extension of the pebbled surface (L60) which was interleaved with Phase 2b deposits. It would appear, therefore, that the wall was constructed in the early Stuart period, and demolished some time before the later buildings on the site were constructed.

PHASE 2b (Figs 6, 8)

Following the demolition of the wall the rubble was apparently cleared away, since there was no destruction level; the pebbled surface (L60) was partly repaired. An enigmatic pile of flints (F14) around the tile layer (L22), and in some places sealing it, may represent some Phase 2b building material surplus to requirements. The main features in this phase comprise a number of flint clusters lying on the later pebble surface (L60). Four large flints (F17) were evenly laid in a roughly square arrangement. A second group of seven flints (F18) lay *c.* 1.0m to the west of F17, adjacent to which was a cluster of smaller flints (F19). Numerous isolated flints lying on the pebbled surface were revealed in the excavation of the baulk between Areas 1 and 3, but these formed no coherent pattern, and perhaps represent later demolition debris. An area of brick and flint rubble (F16) between F17 and the south-east edge of Area 3, and a further pile of tile fragments with some brick and flint (L58) to the north of F17 may also constitute further demolition rubble. It is suggested that these features represent the destruction of part of a timber-framed building. The date of this activity depends on a George II halfpenny, lost no earlier than the 1720s, and a knife handle of mid-late 18th-century type. There was very little pottery.

PHASE 2c (Figs 7, 8:E-F)

In the mid-late 18th century the Phase 2b structure was demolished and two layers of chalk

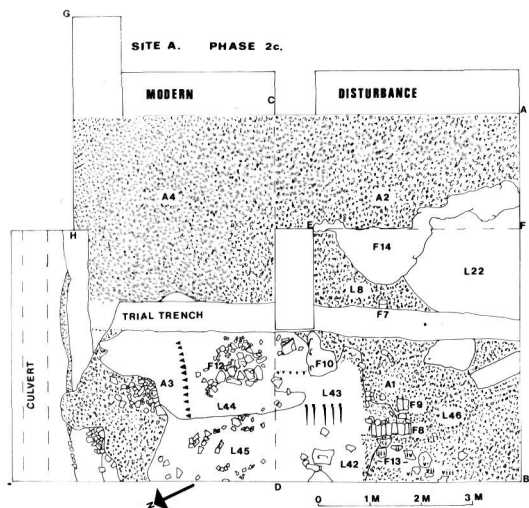


Fig. 7 Elstree 1981–83: Site A. Phase 2c.

were laid. The lower, *c.* 25cms thick (L42 in Area 1; L45 in Area 3) extended some 5m along the western limit of excavation through Areas 1 and 3, and some 1.5–2m to the east, where it was partly overlain by a second deposit, *c.* 20cms thick, of fairly clean chalk (L43 in Area 1; L44 in Area 3). The western edge of L44 was defined by a step of *c.* 25cm down onto L45. A quantity of brick and tile rubble lay against this edge, and also covered much of L45. The transition between the two deposits in Area 1 was again a steep slope. Lying along the eastern edge of L43 and L44 was a line of flint nodules of unknown function (F10 in Area 1; F12 in Area 3). The southern edge of the chalk surface in Area 1 was partly overlain by a pebble surface (L46), which extended across Area 1. Constructed on layers 43 and 46 was the corner of a brick-built feature. The north-south wall (F8) survived as two courses, of which the upper comprised seven complete bricks laid header fashion; the east-west wall (F9) consisted of two headers only. There was a gap between F8 and F9, which was filled with a loose half-brick. Two half-bricks (F7) embedded in a pebble layer (L8) may represent part of an eastern continuation of F9. To the west of F8 were a number of flints (F13i–viii) which continued into the western edge of the excavation. The quantity of bone and the mundane nature of the pottery (mainly kitchen-wares with slipware dishes and some green-glazed white-ware) from the deposits sealing these features suggest that they were associated with one, or possibly two out-buildings.

Towards the end of Phase 2c the large bricks culvert from Elstree Hill House was constructed in a deep trench which ran east-west across the northern side of Area 3. The construction trench for the culvert contained sherds of red-ware with some black-glazed wares; the culvert itself was not excavated.

PHASE 2d

The destruction of the Phase 2c building(s) was evidenced by a tumble of large brick and tile fragments (L19, L21) over the brick sill (F8) and the flints adjacent to it. The demolition debris (L40) over the chalk surfaces in Area 3 was sealed by a layer of pebbles with some tile fragments (L32, max. depth *c.* 25cm). This deposit was also found to the east of the flint nodules (F12), although here it contained more gravel and seemed to be part of a thick pebble layer (L12) which covered the eastern part of the site. The distinction of two deposits here was prevented by the location of the 1974 trial trench. This pebble layer and the destruction debris L40 were later covered and levelled with dumps of clay of variable depth (L9, L10, L11, L12, L18, L20, L31), on which a final pebbled surface was laid (L8, partly shown on Fig. 7).

Modern features include a sand-pit, probably used by the school, a service trench (F3) back-filled with yellow clay, and a shallow feature (F5), *c.* 3m long and with rounded ends, which lay on an east-west alignment.

SITE B (Figs 9, 10, 15–18)

Exploratory auger core tests carried out by G. Salveson some 40m to the north of Site A produced quantities of medieval pottery from all depths, and revealed a hard surface 0.75m below the modern ground surface. It was therefore decided to investigate this area.

The initial trial trench (1m by 2m) revealed that the area had been greatly disturbed by the construction of a modern concrete floor. This was sealed by a mixed deposit (L2) of clay, loam, turf, brick and concrete rubble. In the southern part of the trench, however, a small area of pebbled surface (F17) survived, sealed by deposits of silt (L16, grey; L3 and L4, darker blue grey) which contained medieval pottery. Following this discovery the trench was extended by a further 4m to the south, where it was found that the pebbled surface (L17) continued across the entire area examined, with patches of natural hard grey, ferruginous concretion. A small extension from the south-east corner of the trench showed that the pebble layer became thicker at

this point, but that it was cut away by a post-medieval ditch filled with mixed clay and building debris. In the main trench, L17 was cut by an east-west feature (F3, 20–40cm wide, *c.* 25cm deep), possibly a beam slot, which was filled with a fine blue-grey silt with some large pebbles (L18). Along the northern edge of F3 was a line of larger pebbles, flint nodules and some large fragments of Roman tile, perhaps part of the packing still in place. It was not possible to extend the excavation in order to obtain a fuller plan, but two possible hearths observed during the subsequent building works (Fig. 1a, 8, 9; Fig. 11, F8, F9) suggest that there may have been a timber building of some kind in this area. As in the first trench, layer 17 was sealed by a silty deposit ranging from grey to dark grey streaked with orange (L16); this contained much medieval pottery similar to that from Site A, although the sherds were generally smaller in size. The greater part of L16 was sealed by a deposit of light-tinger-coloured sandy clay (L10), and a fine ginger-grey soil just below the turf-line (L3). These layers contained a quantity of medieval pottery together with later material.

DISCUSSION

The medieval features revealed suggest that in the 13th and early 14th centuries the village of Elstree covered a more extensive area than in later periods (until 20th century), and that the area fronting onto the west side of Watling Street may have been divided into various properties by boundary ditches. On

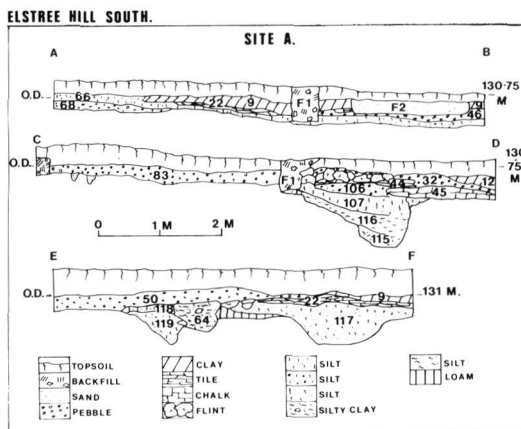


Fig. 8 Elstree 1981–83: Site A. Sections A-B, C-D, E-F, Phases 1 and 2.

ELSTEE HILL SOUTH.

SITE B.

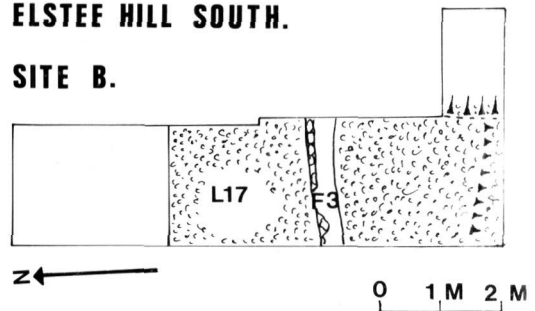


Fig. 9 Elstree 1981–83: Site B. Plan.

the northern side of the village low mounds and a possible causeway, noted previously (O'Neil 1951, 10, 232) and visible to this day (1986), suggest that the medieval settlement may have extended further in this direction also.

Three phases of medieval features were identified, although their precise chronology is hindered by the homogeneous nature of the pottery recovered; it is suggested however that Phase 1a dates to the early-mid 13th century, Phase 1b to the mid-late 13th century, and phase 1c to the late 13th-early 14th century. The association of the Phase 1a building with the early ditch F32 is tentative, but similar post-built structures adjacent to shallow boundary ditches have been noted on a number of sites, such as Broadfield, Phase 1, dated to *c.* 1220 (Klingelhofer 1974, 8, 17, Fig. 8), and Wythemail, Phase 1, dated to the early 13th century (Hurst and Hurst 1969, 173–4, Fig. 52). At Elstree one or two fragments of burnt daub with wattle impressions were found, but the archaeological remains gave no conclusive evidence for the nature of the superstructure, which can only be deduced from other sites. At Goltho, in Lincolnshire (Beresford 1976, 21, Fig. 11), and at Barton Blount, in Derbyshire (Beresford, 1976, Figs 9, 10), where the plans of similar structures were recovered, it was postu-

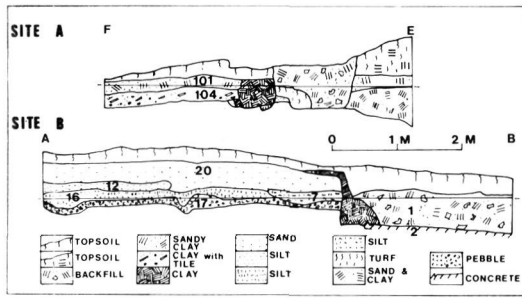


Fig. 10 Elstree 1981–83: Site A. Section G-H, Site B. Section A-B.

lated that the timber uprights were enclosed in a thick clay wall (Beresford 1976, 37–40). The association of the Phase 1b features is tentative, but is supported by the homogenous nature of the deposits found in them. Conclusive

evidence for a later building is lacking, but it is clear that the property was slightly enlarged by a new, deeper drainage ditch, perhaps an attempt to cope with the apparently wetter conditions at this time. The silty deposits associated with the end of this phase all point to a deterioration in climate such as has been noted elsewhere in the late 13th and early 14th centuries (Beresford 1979, 142–6). The Phase 1c features may have been related to occupation outside the area of excavation, but appear to have been short-lived, and the area was then abandoned until the post-medieval period. The cycle of mild wet winters and cold damp summers and resulting poor harvests attested at this time (Beresford 1979, 142–6), the onset of cattle murrain (Davis 1973, 6, 12), and the later Black Death may all have contributed to a shrinkage in the size of the village, but an excavation inside No. 12 High Street produced evidence for continuing occupation of this site in the medieval period (Castle pers. comm., showing that Elstree was never fully deserted. The post-medieval structures revealed during the 1980–83 excavation were ephemeral, but suggest yard surfaces and out-buildings associated with a farm.

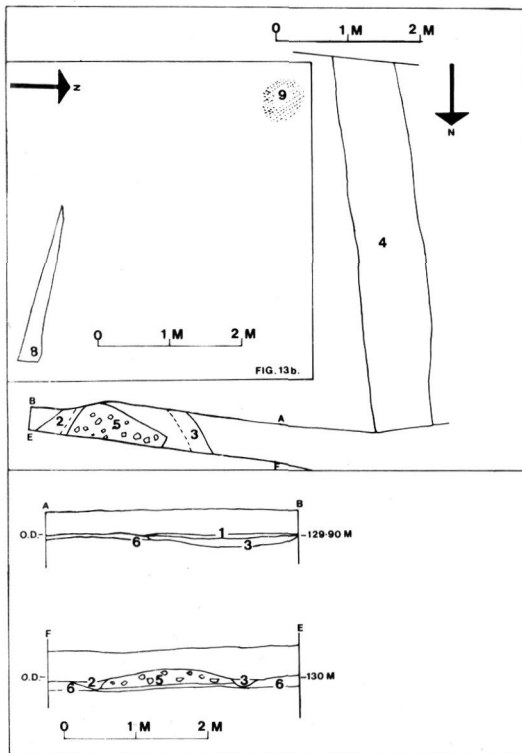


Fig. 11 Elstree 1981–83: Features noted during site watching. Fig. 11a, hearth (5) and ditch (4). Fig. 11b features (8) and (9), Fig. 11c Sections A-B and E-F.

SITE-WATCHING AT ORANGE HILL PLAYING FIELDS, ELSTREE, 1983

by ROBERT ELLIS

Between May and July 1983 the Department of Greater London Archaeology carried out site-watching during redevelopment at Orange Hill Playing Fields, Elstree (TQ 1765 9515). Extensive trenching took place for the foundations of houses, provision of services, and construction of roads.

A number of features of archaeological significance were recorded, principally a hearth and a probable ditch dating to the 13th century (Figs 11a, b, c). A portion of what appeared to be the remains of a hearth (5) was exposed and examined (Fig. 11a). This comprised a central raised plinth of clay, burnt red on its upper surface, with cobbles, tile fragments, and one large flint fragment. It may originally have been square (c. 1.95 m. width), with what appeared to be a surrounding gully containing ash (2 and 3). It was not possible to ascertain its function; pottery recovered from 2, 3, and 5 was dated to the 13th century (fabric types 2ib, 2ii, 3). To the south-west of the hearth was a linear feature, apparently a ditch, running c. N-S. It was exposed for c. 5 m of its length and was c. 1 m wide (plan 2). It was not possible to determine its depth; a small quantity of 13th century pottery was recovered from the fill (pottery groups 1, 2, and 3), and also a fragment of ? Roman tile. A layer of grey-brown mottled clay (8) was also exposed (Fig. 11c). It had the appearance of being composed of dumped material rather than being associated with an occupation level. Some 175 sherds of 13th-century pottery were recovered from 8 (fabric types 1, 2, 3), including poorly fired examples and some daub. An area of burnt clay (9), perhaps another hearth (Fig. 11c), was noted by a member of the Stanmore and Harrow Historical Society (Barry Wilson), and a quantity of 13th-century pottery was recovered (Fig. 18), Nos. 89-94, fabric types 2 and 3) together with some fired clay waste and daub.

CONCLUSIONS

The extensive trenching which took place gave the opportunity for a large portion of the site to be examined. The means of excavation (mechanical excavator) precluded the possibility of discerning archaeological features of an insubstantial nature which may have been present, such as post-holes or beam slots. It is probable, however, that more substantial remains normally associated with occupation in the medieval period, such as rubbish pits, or industrial activity such as a kiln, would have been observed had they been present. The features observed during site-watching suggested limited activity,

perhaps including occupation, during the 13th century. Although much of the pottery recovered appeared to be waste material, no evidence was observed for the presence of a kiln on the site.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTEXTS

1. Burnt clay (? daub) mixed with small gravel, some charcoal, and brown loam.
2. Charcoal, ash, burnt clay with small gravel.
3. Charcoal, ash, burnt clay with small gravel.
4. Linear feature running N-S c. 5 m long by c. 1 m wide filled with grey-brown sandy clay with numerous small—medium pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks; not excavated; appears to be a ditch.
5. Hearth, possibly square, of clay, burnt red on upper surface, with large cobbles, tile fragments, and large flint fragment; gully containing ash (filled with 2 & 3) around central raised plinth.
6. Clayey loam with numerous small—medium pebbles baked in parts (from heat of hearth).
7. Grey-brown sandy clay and loam with small gravel; bottom of top soil/plough-soil lying immediately over 1. Possibly belonging to 1, but not certain.
8. Grey-brown mottled red-brown clay with numerous small—medium pebbles and organic inclusions; some ash and charcoal; contains frequent pottery sherds; has the appearance of a dumped layer.
9. Area of burnt clay (? hearth), not seen by M. O. L., recorded by Barry Wilson; eroded pottery and fired clay waste recovered.

THE POTTERY

The excavations produced a total of 11,074 sherd of medieval pottery which probably date to the mid-late 13th century. A sample of the pottery from Site B and the hearth area was examined by Lyn Blackmore who prepared the following fabric descriptions; the remainder was processed by the author. A full pottery catalogue is included in the archive.

FABRIC ANALYSIS

by LYN BLACKMORE

Three basic fabric types were identified with ten to eleven sub groups. Precise identification is in some cases prevented by the small size and

Fabric	1	2ia	2ib	2ii	3i	3iia	3iib	3iic	3iiaa	3iiib	3iiic
Site A											
Quantity	53	193	164	131	50	19	17	12	62	10	8
Percent	7.4	26.8	22.8	18.2	7.0	2.6	2.4	1.7	8.6	1.4	1.1
Site B											
Quantity	794	1838	1818	1342	950	1766	497	273	842	182	53
Percent	7.7	17.7	17.6	13.0	9.2	17.0	4.8	2.6	8.1	1.8	0.5

Fig. 12. Elstree 1981-83: Fabric Analysis For Medieval Pottery From Sites A and B.

abraded state of many sherds. The pottery ranges in colour from reduced grey to dull red and brown oxidised wares. The pottery is almost certainly the product of the same kiln. Many sherds are poorly and unevenly fired and some are misshapen. These would appear to be substandard products, possibly wasters.

- 1) Sand-tempered (fine). Finely sand-tempered ware with very rare flint inclusions.
- 2ia) Sand-and-flint tempered (medium). Sand-tempered ware with occasional fine/medium flint grits and moderate/abundant rounded quartzsand

- 2ib) As above, but slightly less sandy and more highly fired.
- 2ii) Sand-and-flint tempered (coarse). Sand tempered ware with moderate medium/large flint grits and abundant medium/large rounded quartzsand grains.
- 3i) Flint-tempered (fine). Flint fabric with sparse medium and occasional large flint grits.
- 3iia) Flint-tempered (medium). Fine body with moderate fine/medium and occasional large flint grits. Some fine quartzsand. Badly fired.
- 3iib) Flint-tempered (medium). Fine body with moderate flint grits of all sizes and more sand than with type (a). Better fired.

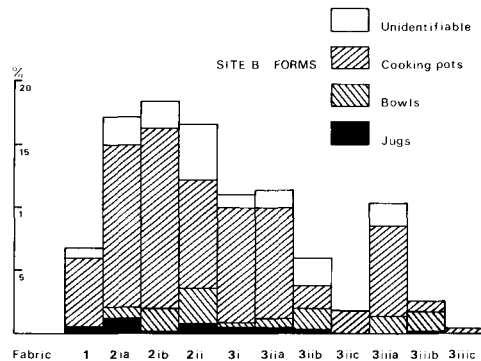
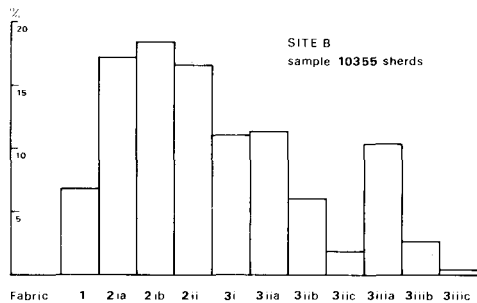
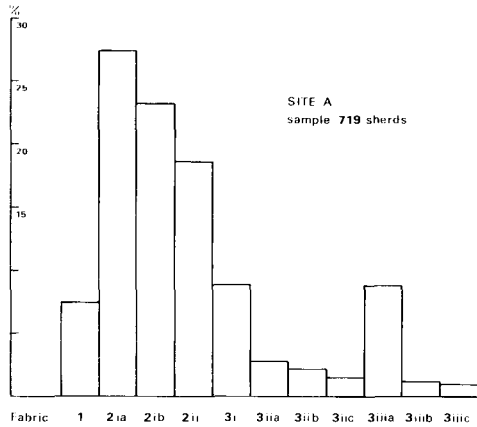


Fig. 13 Elstree 1981-83: Histograms. Fig 13a pottery from site A. Fig. 13b pottery from site B. Fig. 13c Ratio of Cooking pot, jug and bowl rims from site B.

Fabric	1	2ia	2ib	2ii	3i	3iia	3iib	3iic	3iia	3iib	3iic
Quantity	48	125	133	121	80	81	43	12	74	19	2
Percent	6.5	16.9	18.0	16.4	10.8	11.0	5.8	1.6	10.0	2.6	0.3
Cooking											
Pots	41	110	117	86	68	68	28	12	63	7	2
Percent	5.5	14.9	15.9	11.7	9.2	9.2	3.8	1.6	8.5	0.9	0.3
Bowls	0	7	13	26	7	9	14	0	11	11	0
Percent	0	0.9	1.8	3.5	0.9	1.2	1.9	0	1.5	1.5	0
Jugs	4	9	2	7	4	4	1	0	0	1	0
Percent	0.5	1.2	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.1	0	0	0.1	0

Fig. 14. Elstree 1981–83: Total Rim Sherds From Site B (738 sherds = 7.13% of total)

- 3iic) Flint-tempered (medium As types (a) & (b) but highly-fired.
 3iia) Flint-tempered (coarse). Fine body with abundant medium/large flint inclusion and some quartzsand. Generally poorly fired.
 3iib) Flint-tempered (coarse). As (a) but more sand and better fired. Flint-tempered (coarse).
 3iic) As (a) and (b) but very highly fired.

The assemblage has affinities with ceramics produced in South Hertfordshire and North Middlesex throughout the 13th century and found on sites in the surrounding area.

The sand-and-flint-tempered wares resemble Northolt Fabric K (Hurst 1961, 255, 263–5) and sherds from Euston Road Fabrics HFc and HFd (Whytehead and Blackmore 1983, 84). The flinty wares resemble Northolt Fabric J and Euston Road HFa and HFb.

The above parallels suggest a date between AD 1150–1325, for the assemblage, probably mid to late 13th century. This agrees well with the later 13th-century date proposed by Biddle for redeposited pottery from Barnet Lane (Biddle 1961, 65–69), which may have come from the same kiln(s) as the 1980–83 assemblage. A number of similar forms are represented in both groups, including a tubular spout from an open bowl. Other traits include thumbled strips, stabbing on the rim, and thumbing on the handles. Biddle, however noted, that a number of sherds in his group were micaceous, (this is not noticeable in the present group) and that the tubular spout was not in the same fabric as the rest of the material (Biddle 1961).

During excavations and site watching in 1983 a total of 392 sherds of pottery was recovered together with a quantity of daub, tile, and kiln furniture. The pottery consists mainly of oxidised, underfired, laminated body sherds; a few of these are decorated with applied thumb strips but no glazed sherds were found. Some thirty rims were found, three from bowls, the remainder from sagging-based cooking pots with

simple everted, or everted and seated rims typical of the mid-late 13th century. Rim diameters range between 26–30cm for the bowls and 19–28cm for the cooking pots; of the latter seventeen examples are of 20–24cm diameter. The fabrics represented conform entirely to those described above, the most common being types 2ib and 2ii. A number of coarse flint-tempered wares (type 3) are present but finer wares (type 1) are very much in the minority.

The pottery from the second hearth discovered during the 1983 site watching (9) (Fig. 20, Nos 89–94), is basically the same as the above but shows less variety in fabrics/inclusions.

DISCUSSION

by G. SALVESON

Apart from the medieval pottery, one sherd of a Roman mortarium was found in the top layer of F28 and a quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the later layers. This material is not dealt with in this report but is available for inspection on contacting the author.

The pottery analysis covers all the medieval pottery from sites A and B and from the hearth (9). There are only minor differences between the fabric distribution patterns in each sample, but there is however a difference in the spatial distribution of the fabrics between sites A and B.

The fabric distribution analysis for sites A and B is illustrated in Fig. 12, and the associated histograms (Figs 13a, 13b and 13c), which show that the sand-and-flint-tempered medium range fabrics 2ia and 2ib are most common, with the sand- and flint-tempered coarse fabric 2ii coming a close second.

The only departure from a general conformity for the two groups is the high peak of 17.00% for the flinty coarse fabric (3iia) from site B. The flinty fabrics are generally not well represented and indeed the more highly fired products (3iic

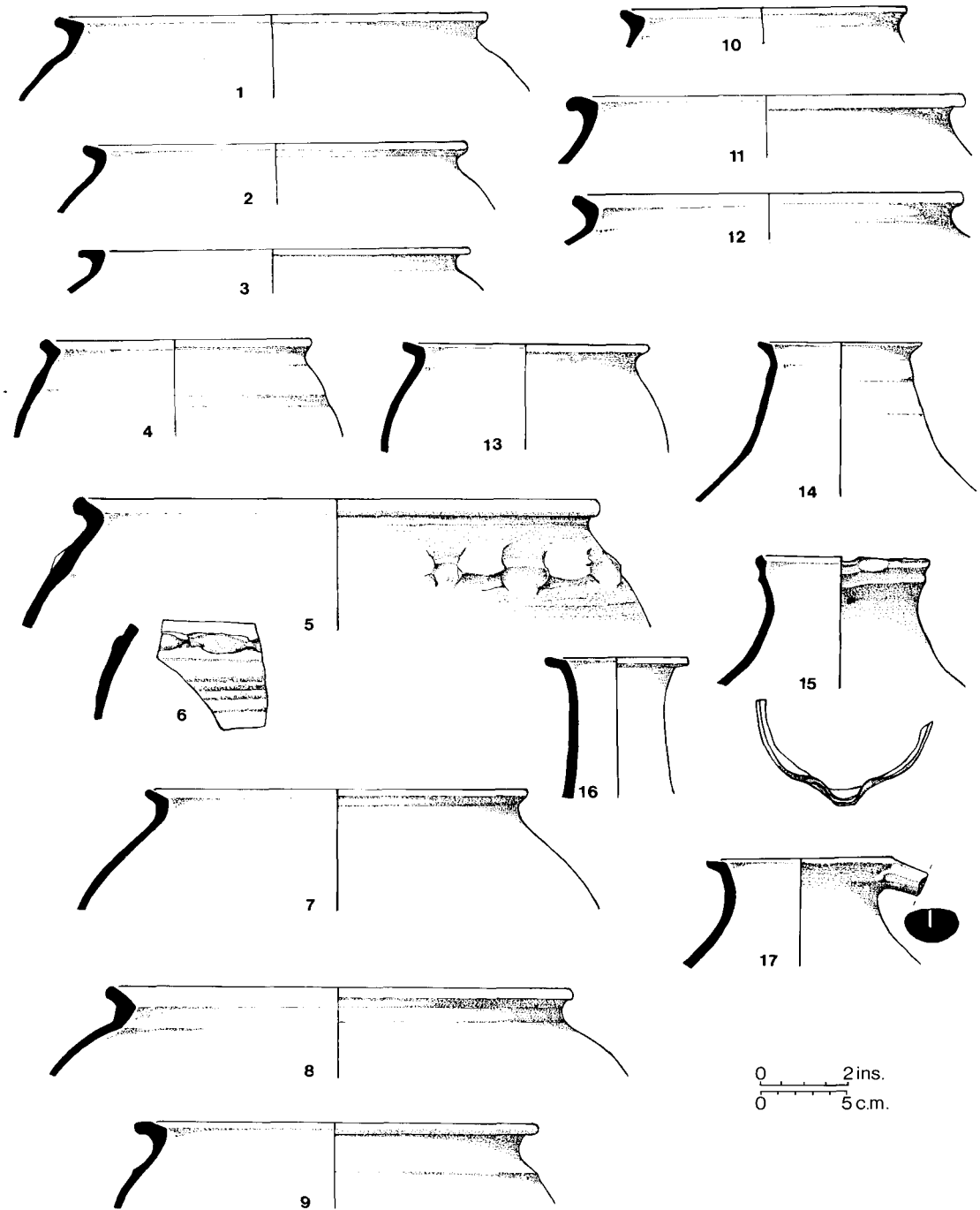


Fig. 15 Elstree 1981-83: Medieval pottery from Site A, F32, 1:4.

and 3iiic) are rare on both sites. However, as the sample sizes are so diverse it could be argued that were the size of sample A closer to B then the anomaly of the high peak for fabric 3iia would be resolved.

The assemblage from site A consists mainly of large sherds, many of which join. The material from site B comprises much smaller sherds which appear to derive from a large number of vessels, as very few joining sherds were found. Most sherds from Site A were found in sealed contexts, whereas with the exception of a concentration of pottery in the silty layer (L16) just above the pebbled surface (L17), the pottery from site B was randomly distributed across the whole area.

The fact that the sherds from Site A were protected from further damage in sealed contexts such as the early ditch, (F32), whereas those on Site B were exposed on the surface on which they were deposited, may go some way to account for the differences in the sherd size and vessel equivalents in the two groups, and the number of reconstructable vessels from Site A. It is nonetheless suggested that there is a real difference in the distribution patterns which reflects differences in the original sources and disposal of the material. The pottery from Site A appears to represent domestic refuse deposited in convenient ditches and pits just outside dwellings, whereas that from Site B represents a large quantity of waste material, possibly from a kiln, being deposited on a dumping ground, rather than occupation scatter.

The information from the fabric analysis can be interpreted in two ways. The emphasis on the sand-and-flint-tempered fabrics might suggest that the kiln(s) were producing much more of this type of pottery and that this was the general form of Elstree pottery; the finer flinty wares would this be a departure from normal, or even accidental overfired wasters. This assumes that the sample size for each fabric represents the proportionate waste from the quantity produced. Comparison of the material from Site A, which represents a usage pattern, with the possible production pattern from Site B supports this interpretation.

However, it may also be argued that the kiln(s) were producing two types of pottery, a sand-and-flint-tempered ware for local usage and a harder, flint-tempered, highly fired product for sale outside the area, and that possibly lower temperatures and different types of inclusion used for the local wares produced a greater num-

ber of badly fired vessels. Of the total sample of 10,355 sherds from Site B, 738 (7.13%) were rims. Of this total 81.57% were from cooking pots, 13.28% from bowls and only 4.34% were from jugs. These statistics are illustrated in Table 2, and the associated histogram (Fig. 13c). As the sample from Site A was so dissimilar with regards to the vessel equivalent factor, and because of the small size of the sample (719 sherds), it was felt that little useful information would be gleaned from comparative analysis with group B, and so no table or histogram were drawn up for group A.

The most useful information for dating the assemblage comes from the jug handles, of which 35 were found. These include both plain undecorated rod and strap handles, and examples (of both types) with the thumbled decoration typical of the South Hertfordshire tradition. A number of these closely resemble examples from a range of handles from excavations at Trig Lane and Seal House (held in the Museum of London), which came from contexts associated with timber wharfing which has been dated by dendrochronology.

The earliest dateable handle is (Fig. 20. No. 95) which is paralleled by a handle from Seal House SH 74 (386) dated to *c.* AD 1240. This handle is a typical S. Herts. ware form with a double row of thumbled depressions, each with an oval stab mark in the centre. This is very similar to the two handles included in the pottery found at Barnet Lane in 1950 (Biddle 1961, 67, Nos 1 and 2). A second example was found with other S. Herts ware material at Otterspool, near Watford in 1934 (Biddle 1961, 75, No. 44).

Similar handles have been found at Northolt (Hurst 1961, 272, No 26), and at the Customs House excavation in 1973 (Tatton-Brown 1973, 149, No. 410).

A variation of this type is the strap handle with only one row of thumbled depressions, with or without stab marks (Fig. 20 Nos 96 to 100). Although not noted in the Trig Lane and Seal House groups these are probably of a similar date. This is quite a common form at Elstree which is noted elsewhere at Kings Langley (Neal 1977, 151 No. 31) and at the Customs House (Tatton-Brown 1973, 149, No. 424).

The simplest form is the plain rod handle with no decoration an example from the Elstree collection (not illustrated) can be paralleled with an example (TL No. 74 47) from Trig Lane dated to between AD 1283 and AD1305.

Overlapping this date range are rod handles with three rows of stabbing (Fig. 20 Nos 105,

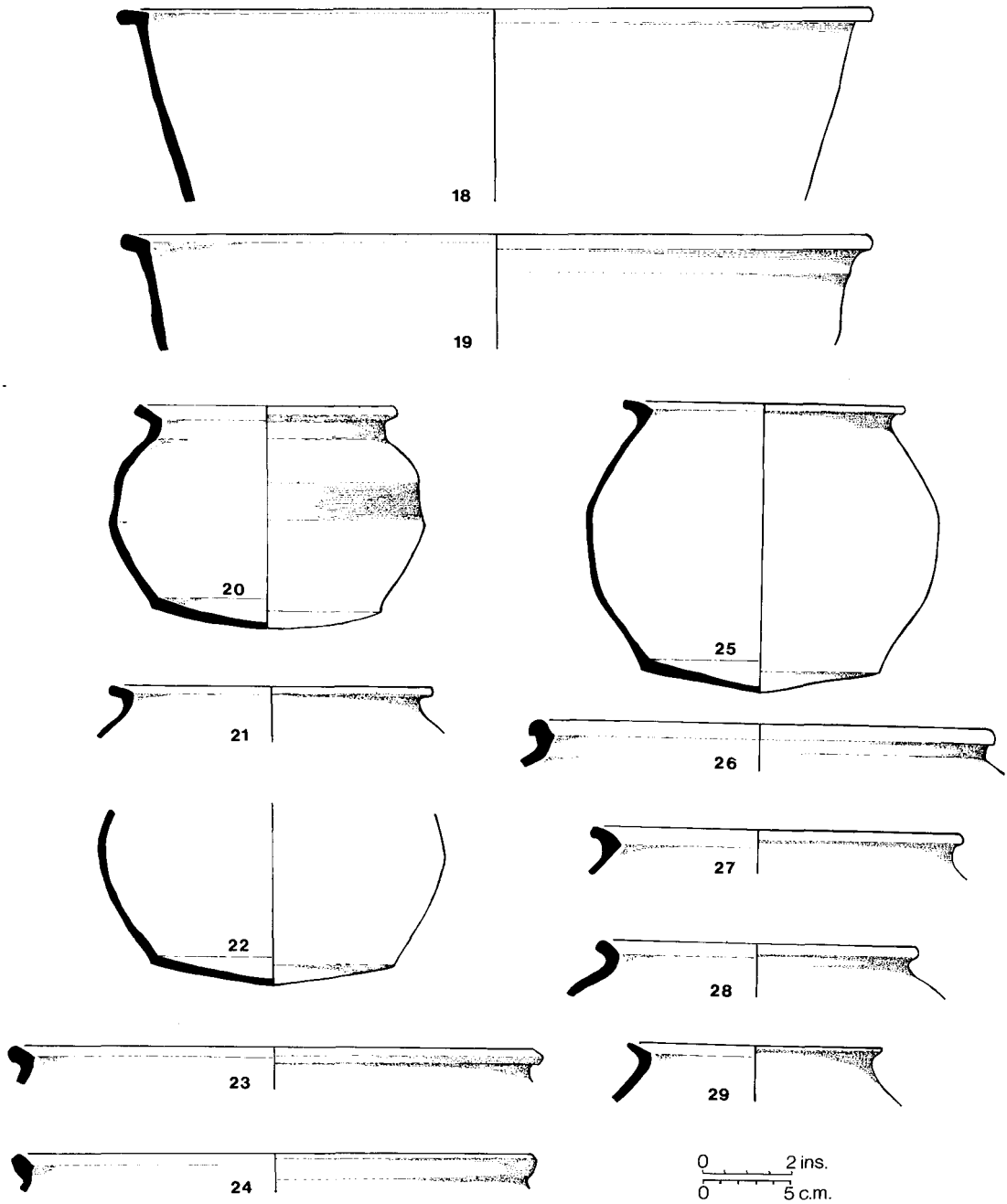


Fig. 16 Elstree 1981-83: Medieval pottery from Site A, F32. 1:4.

106 and 108) paralleled by an example from Trig Lane (TL No. 74 2417) dated to between AD 1270 and 1290. An intermediate example is the rod handle (Fig. 20 No. 103) with a row of intermittent stabbing. This form is paralleled at Kings Langley (Neal 1977, 149, No. 15), although this is of a different fabric and is glazed.

The pottery from Site B, which on the whole is very much abraded and includes almost certain waster material, is best explained as dumped wasters from a kiln. However, the majority of the sherds are smaller than 50mm measured across the longest axis and may represent secondary dumping of kiln waste removed some distance from the site of production.

It has been stated (Haslam 1978, 20) that Elstree was a pottery producing village, but with little actual proof. The pottery found in 1950 in Barnet Lane, reported to have come from a road works trench was actually found in soil from the trench dumped some 0.5 mile away. As the trench had been backfilled by the time the source of the pottery was traced, the type of features producing the material is unknown, (Biddle 1961, 65). However, as Biddle noted that some of the sherds were underfired examples, he suggested that there had been a kiln in produc-

tion somewhere nearby (Biddle 1961, 66).

The only feature observed in the 1980–83 excavations which could possibly be interpreted as a kiln is F24/F25. If so, the small size of the feature (1.5m in length) suggests that it would have been of clamp or bonfire type rather than a single flue-kiln such as was found at Pinner (Sheppard 1977, 31–35), which was over 2.5m in length. In view of the shallowness of F24/25, and the lack of burning in it, it is more probable that this feature was a hearth rather than a kiln, but further work on the local pottery industry is required in order to establish whether bonfire kilns were used as well as the more developed flued-kilns in the medieval period.

The wasters found in 1980–83 and previously, suggest that there may well have been kilns in the area, although none were noted during site watching by the Department of Greater London Archaeology when two areas of burnt clay were noted: one (F8) was almost definitely a hearth; the second (F9), noted by Mr Barry Wilson on a weekend and destroyed before it could be properly recorded was also probably a hearth, although some sizeable pieces of pottery (F19, Nos 89–94), together with some burnt clay and possible kiln bars were recovered from its vicinity.

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED POTTERY.

(Figs 15–20)

A). Site A. Pottery from Feature No 32.

No.	Fabric	Diameter in cm's	Number of sherds	Comments
1.	2ib	22	2	Cooking pot, flanged rim, shirt neck; light grey.
2.	2ia	20	2	As 1; yellow-brown core, blue grey surfaces.
3.	2ia	20	3	As 1, undercut; light-grey to grey-brown.
4.	2ia	14	4	Everted CP rim; slight external girth marks; brown.
5.	2ic	28	1	Flanged undercut CP rim with heavy applied thumbled strip; light-grey int., pale grey-brown ext.
6.	2ic	—	1	Applied thumbled strip, girth marks; as 5,? same pot.
7.	2ii	20	6	Everted CP rim, grey-brown int., red core, brown ext.
8.	2ii	24	1	CP flanged rim, undercut; grey core, red margins, surfaces red-brown to brown-grey.
9.	3iic	20	5	As 8, slightly undercut, rilled; grey throughout.
10.	3iia	14	2	CP rim, everted; grey throughout.
11.	2ia	20	2	CP rim, flanged; pale grey.
12.	2ib	20	4	CP rim, everted pale grey.
13.	2ii	12	2	CP, flanged rim.
14.	2ia	8	8	Jug, flanged rim; pale grey.
15.	2ii	9	1	Beaded jug rim; grey-brown to red-brown.
16.	3iia	6	1	Jug/bottle, flanged rim; brown, reddish ext.
17.	3iia	9	7	Jug, flanged rim; grey.
18.	2ii	40	1	Flanged bowl rim, undercut; grey.
19.	3iib	40	6	Bowl, flanged rim; dark grey.
20.	3iib	12	25	Almost complete CP; everted rim, girth marks; pale brown.

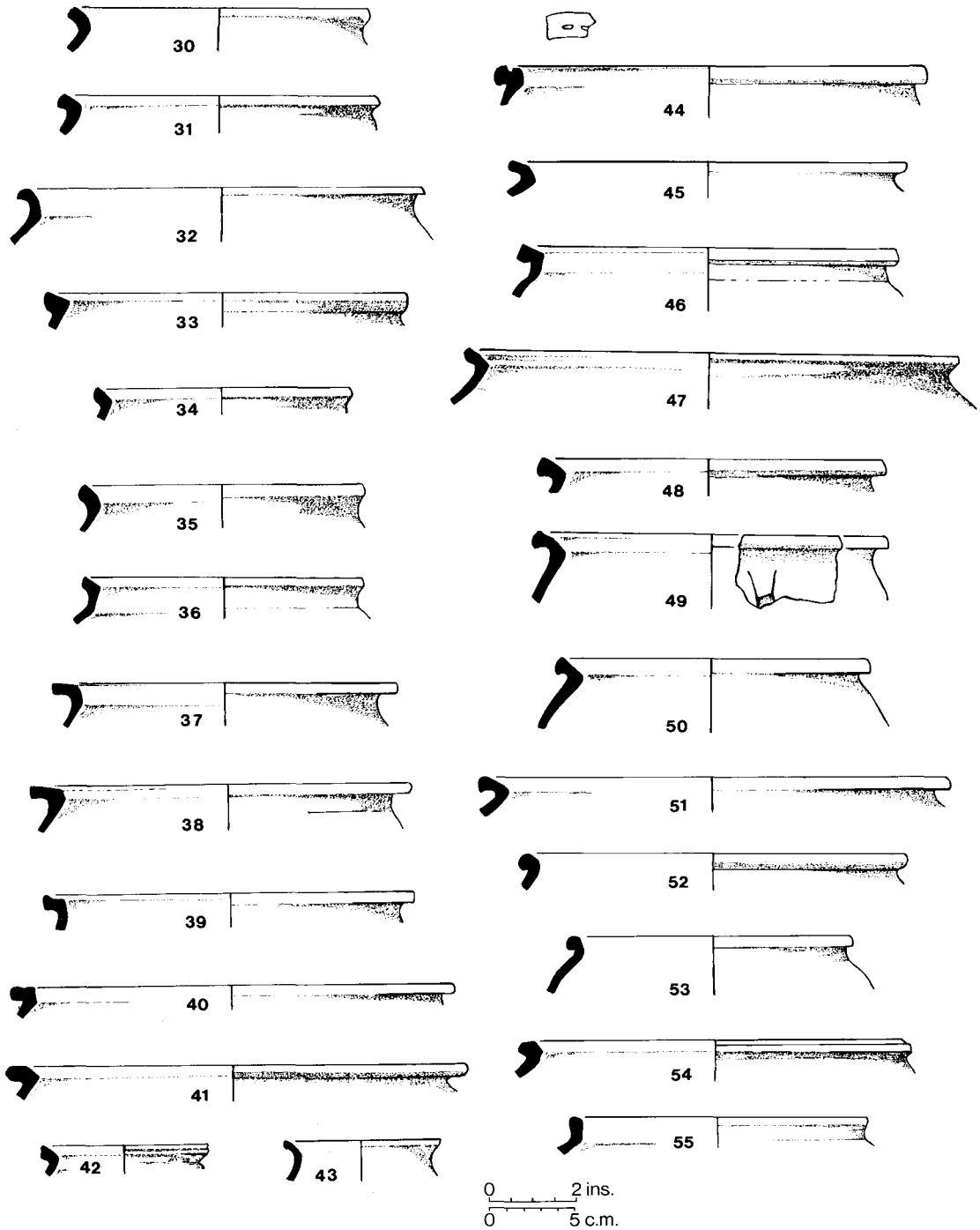


Fig. 17 Elstree 1981-83: Medieval pottery from Site B. 1:4.

No.	Fabric	Diameter in cm's	Number of sherds	Comments
21.	2ib	16	3	CP, flanged rim, slightly undercut; grey core, yellow brown margins, light grey surfaces.
22.	2ib	—	18	CP, soot-blackened around base; as 21; no margins.
23.	3i	28	1	Flanged CP rim, undercut; dull grey.
24.	3i	28	1	Bevelled CP rim; pale grey.
25.	2ia	13	52	CP, flanged rim; yellow-brown body and int., grey-brown ext., soot-blackened.
26.	3i	24	1	CP, flanged rim, undercut, short neck; grey.
27.	2ia	16	2	CP, flanged rim, undercut; grey.
28.	2ii	16	2	CP, everted rim; red-brown body, yellow-brown surfaces.
29.	2ia	14	1	CP, everted rim; yellow-brown body, dark grey surfaces.
B. Pottery from Site B.				
30.	3iiia	15	1	CP, everted rim; dull grey core, yellow-brown margins and surfaces.
31.	2ib	16	1	CP rim; blue-brown; (Klingelhofer 1974, Fig. 18 No 18, No 39).
32.	3iiia	21	1	Everted CP rim; grey core, brown surfaces; (Klingelhofer 1974, Fig. 21 No. 78).
33.	1	18	1	Bevelled CP rim; grey.
34.	2ib	13	1	As 34.
35.	2ib	14	1	As 34.
36.	2ii	14	1	CP rim, bevelled, neck; red-brown, dull blue-brown surfaces; (Biddle 1961, Fig. 2 No. 5, and Sheppard 1977, Fig. 3 No. 9).
37.	1	16	1	Flanged CP rim; grey.
38.	2ii	19	1	Flanged CP rim; grey-brown, black int.; abraded.
39.	3iia	19	1	As 38; yellow-brown body, brown surfaces.
40.	2ii	23	1	As 38; dull pale brown.
41.	2ia	23	1	As 38; red-brown, blue-brown to grey int.
42.	1	8	1	Everted small CP rim; light grey.
43.	2ia	7	1	As 43; grey-brown.
44.	3iib	22	1	Flanged CP rim, stab marks; greyish-red, black surfaces.
45.	2ib	21	1	Flanged CP rim; dull blue-grey.
46.	2ib	19	1	As 45, undercut; grey core, light grey surfaces.
47.	1	26	1	Everted CP rim; light grey core, yellow-brown surfaces.
48.	2ii	17	1	Flanged CP rim, undercut; black body, red-brown surfaces. (Sheppard 1977, Fig. 3 No. 1).
49.	3iiia	17	1	CP, flanged rim, applied thumbed strip; light grey core, grey-brown surfaces.
50.	3iiic	15	1	Flanged CP rim, undercut; dark blue-grey.
51.	2ib	24	1	As 50; dull grey.
52.	2ib	19	1	Beaded CP rim; grey.
53.	3i	19	1	As 52; grey brown.
54.	3iiib	20	1	CP, square rim; light grey; abraded.
55.	1	18	1	Beaded CP rim; body dull yellow-brown, surfaces blue-brown.
56.	2ii	17	1	Beaded jug rim, rilled; Greyish-red.
57.	1	17	1	Jug, upright rim, rilled; light grey.
58.	3iib	16	1	Jug, everted rim, rilled; yellow-brown body, black surfaces.
59.	2ia	10	1	Jug, everted rim; grey; abraded.
60.	2ia	9	1	Jug, upright rim; rilled.
61.	2ii	7	1	Jug, bevelled rim; grey core, yellow-brown margins, grey-brown surfaces.
62.	2ii	7	1	As 61, rilled; greyish-red. Jug, upright rim, rilled; grey core, yellow-brown margins, brownish-grey surfaces.
63.	2ia	12	1	As 63; grey.
64.	2ib	14	1	As 63; grey.
65.	2ia	16	1	Small bowl, flanged rim; blue-brown body, black surfaces.
66.	3iiib	15	1	As 65, thumbed on inner rim edge; core yellow-brown, surfaces blackened. Small bowl, bevelled rim, stab marks, thumbed inner edge; light grey core, reddish-grey surfaces.
67.	2ii	21	1	Bowl, bevelled rim; dark brown body, blue-brown to black surfaces.
68.	3iib	34	1	As 68; grey.
69.	3iiia	30	1	As 68; yellow-brown body, black surfaces.
70.	2ib	27	1	As 68; yellow-brown.
71.	2ia	40	1	As 68, stab marks, thumbed inner edge; light grey.
72.	3ia	36	1	Flanged bowl rim, stab marks; brown.
73.	3iib	40	1	Flanged bowl rim, wavy line on rim and inner surface; brown.
74.	3iib	40	1	

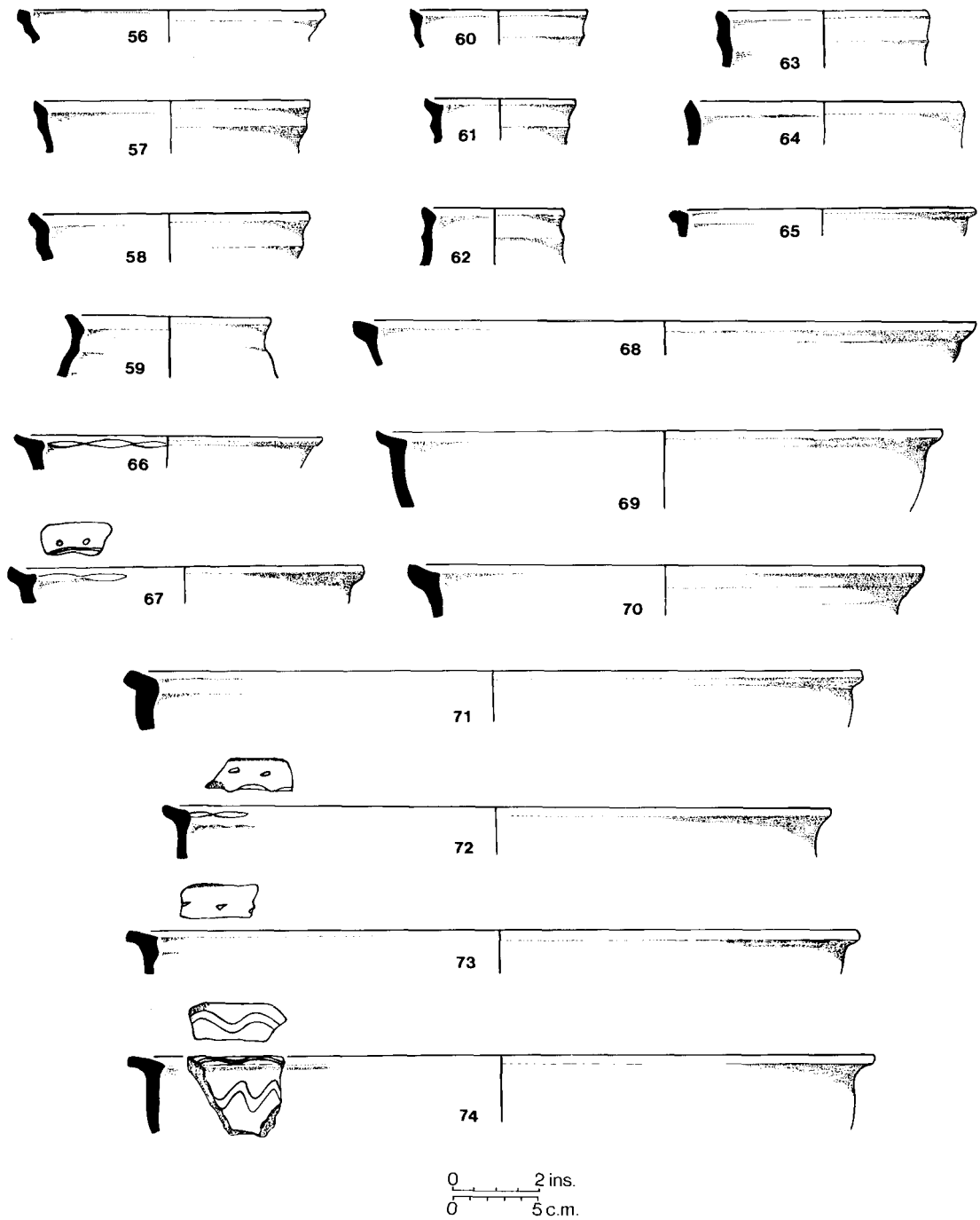


Fig. 18 Elstree 1981-83: Medieval pottery from Site B. 1:4.

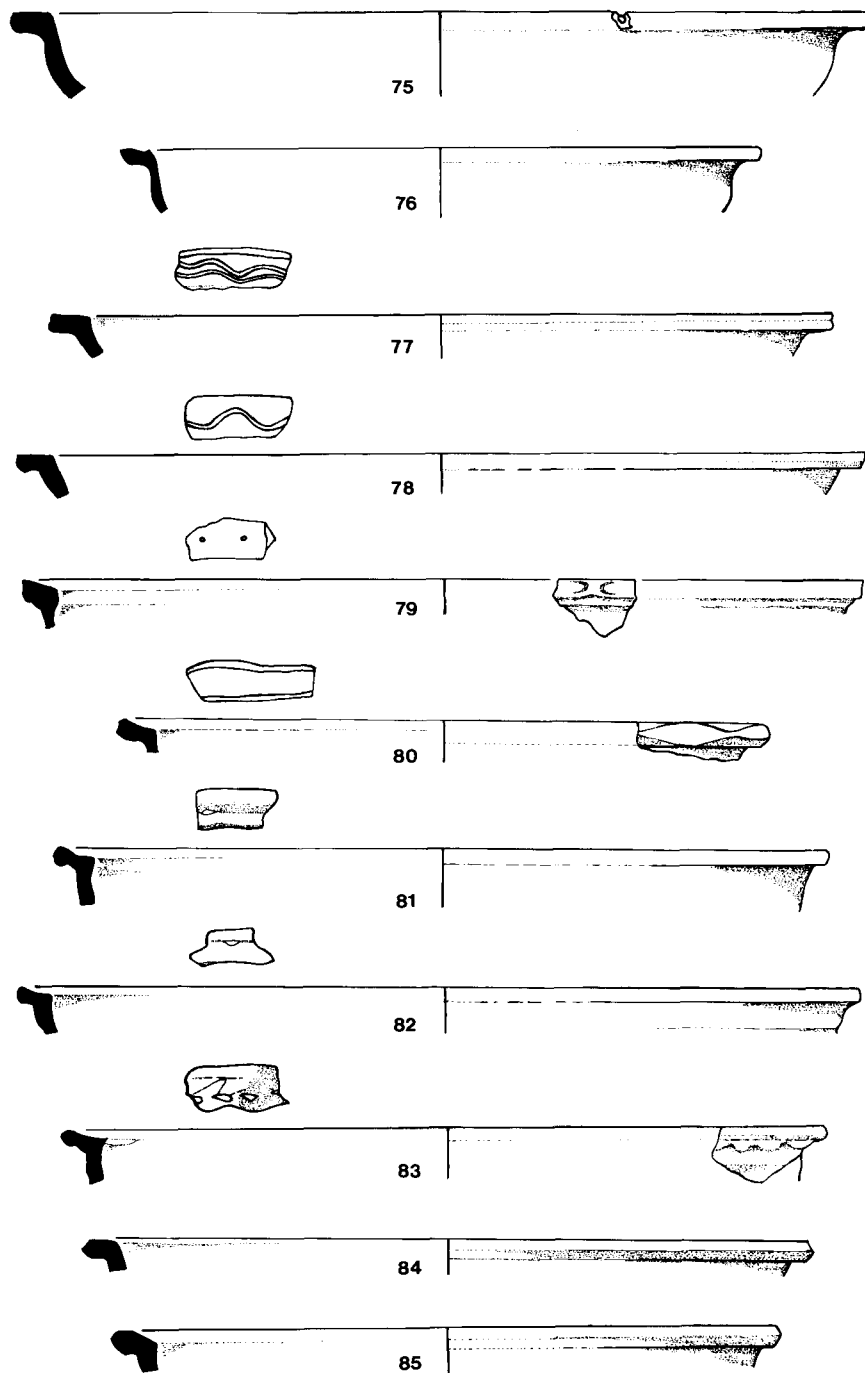


Fig. 19 Elstree 1981-83: Medieval pottery from Site B. 1:4.

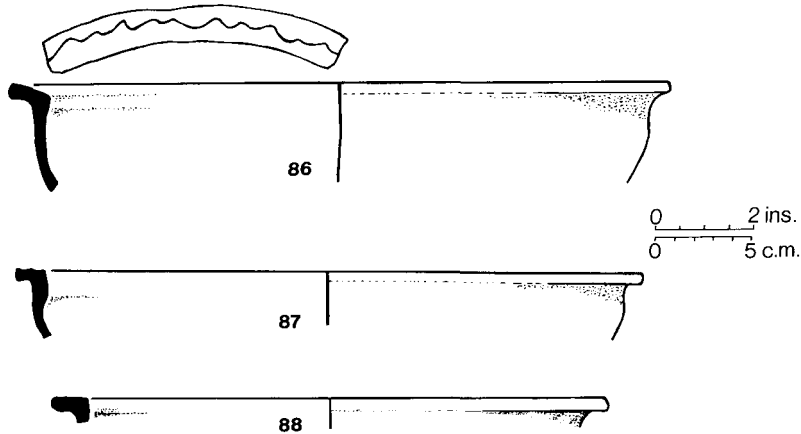


Fig. 20 Elstree 1981–83: Medieval pottery from Site B. 1:4.

No.	Fabric	Diameter in cm's	Number of sherds	Comments
75.	2ib	38	1	Flanged bowl rim; yellow-brown core, blue-grey margins and surfaces.
76.	3iia	20	1	As 75; yellow-brown.
77.	3iia	40	1	As 75, double wavy line on rim; core and int. grey, ext. red-brown.
78.	3iib	40	1	As 75, wavy line on rim; dull brown, ext. soot-blackened.
79.	2ib	40	1	As 75, stab marks, thumb inner edge; blue-brown body, greyish surfaces.
80.	2ii	30	1	As 75, fluted and faceted rim, yellow-brown core, brown surfaces, ext. blackened.
81.	3iib	40	1	As 75, stab marks; red-brown to black, dull reddish-black surfaces.
82.	3iib	40	1	Bowl, stab marks; brown, ext. blackened.
83.	2ib	35	1	Bowl, flanged rim, undercut, stab marks over wavy line design; grey throughout.
84.	3iia	34	1	Flanged bowl rim; yellow-brown.
85.	3iib	30	1	As 84; yellow-brown, blackish surfaces; abraded.
86.	2ia	20	1	As 84, wavy line design; dull yellow-brown.
87.		29	1	Flanged bowl rim.
88.	2ia	25	1	Flanged bowl rim, undercut; yellow-brown core and surfaces, margins dark grey.
89.	3iia	22	1	Everted CP rim, applied thumb stripe; abraded.
90.	2ia	20	1	Flanged CP rim, undercut, rilled; grey-brown core, yellow-brown surfaces.
91.	1	17	1	As 90, core brown, bluish-brown ext.
92.	2ib	22	1	Bevelled CP rim; yellow-brown.
93.	1	17	1	Flanged CP rim; grey core, yellow-brown margins and int., blue-brown ext.
94.	2ib	16	1	As 93, necked; brown core, dark brown surfaces.
95.	3iib	—	1	Handle, double row thumbed depressions with oval stab marks; red-brown body, surfaces black; (Biddle 1961, Fig. 2, Nos 1 and 2).
96.	3iia	—	1	Strap handle, single row thumbed depressions with oval stab marks; grey; (Tatton-Brown 1973, 149 Fig. 24 No. 424).
97.	3ii	—	1	Strap handle, single row thumbed depressions with stab marks; grey.
98.	2i	—	1	As 97; yellow-brown.
99.	2ia	—	1	As 97; grey.
100.	2ib	—	1	Strap handle with rim portion, single row thumbed depressions with stab marks; body yellow-brown, surfaces blue-grey.
101.	2ib	—	1	Strap handle with rim portion, double row of thumbed depressions; grey.
102.	2ib	—	1	Rod handle with rim portion, double row thumbed depressions; grey.
103.	2ia	—	1	Rod handle, single irregular row of stab marks; light grey; (Neal 1977, 149, Fig. 55 No. 15).
104.	2ib	—	1	Strap handle, fluted; yellow-brown, grey surfaces.
105.	3iia	—	1	Rod handle, three rows triangular stab marks; greyish yellow-brown surfaces.
106.	3iic	—	1	Rod handle, three rows stab marks; blue-grey.

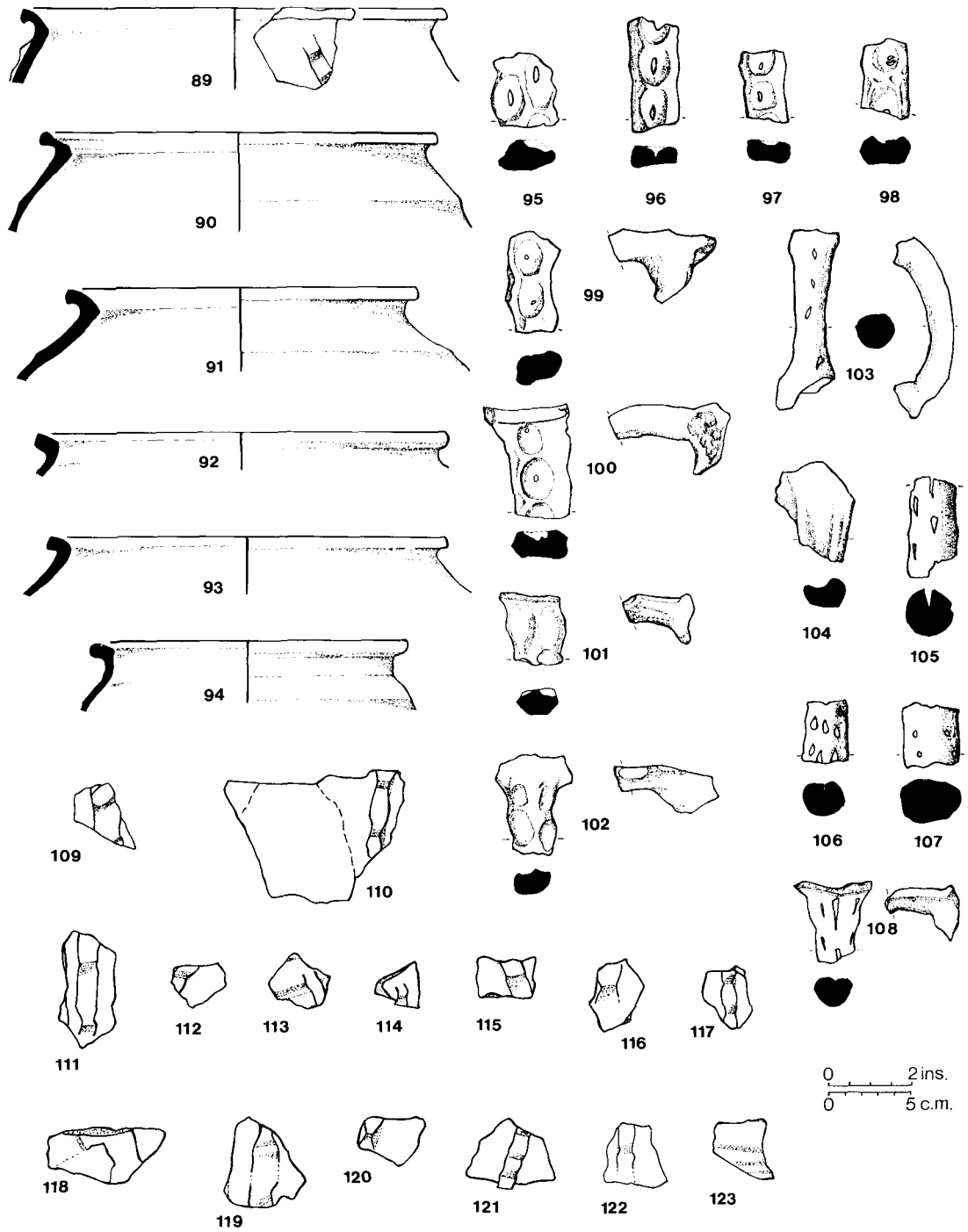


Fig. 21 Elstree 1981-83: Medieval pottery from hearth (Site watching F9) 89-94, and from Site B, 95-123.

No.	Fabric in	Diameter cm's	Number of sherds	Comments
107.	2ii	—	1	Rod handle, two rows stab marks; blue-grey to brown.
108.	3i	—	1	Rod handle with rim portion, three rows of triangular stab marks; grey.
109.	2ia	—	1	Sherd, applied thumbed strip; brown.
110.	3iiib	—	3	Applied thumbed strip.
111.	2ib	—	1	Applied thumbed strip; brown-grey.
112.	1	—	1	As 111; brown.
113.	2ia	—	1	Applied thumbed strip over rilling; brown.
114.	2ii	—	1	Applied thumbed strip; brown-red.
115.	2ii	—	1	As 114; brown.
116.	3iiia	—	1	As 114; yellow-brown.
117.	2ii	—	1	As 114; core brown: surfaces grey-brown.
118.	2ii	—	1	As 114; brown; ext. black.
119.	3iia	—	1	As 114; core yellow-brown, int. brown, ext. grey.
120.	3i	—	1	As 114; grey.
121.	3i	—	1	As 120.
122.	3i	—	1	Rilled; grey.

THE SMALL FINDS

A small number of iron, bone and stone artifacts were recovered, none of which are illustrated, but are listed below.

IRON

1. Arrow head, probably 13th century, found in feature F32, the early ditch, associated with 13th-century pottery.
2. Pair of scissors, late 18th or early 19th-century.
3. Portion of rowel spur, terminals missing, possibly early to mid 18th-century.

4. Claw hammer head, weight 1lb, late 18th-century.
5. White bone knife handle, late 18th-century.
6. Speckled bone knife handle, mid to late 18th-century.

STONE

- (geological identification by Paul Wilthew).
1. Fragment of quernstone, Neidermendig basalt; imported.
 2. Honestone, micaceous sandstone.
 3. Honestone, micaceous sandstone.
 4. Possible hammerstone.

Reign	Date	Value	Comments
George VI	?	Farthing	
George V	1912	Penny	
Victoria	1889	Halfpenny	
Victoria	1876	Penny	
Victoria	1865	Penny	
Victoria	1860	Halfpenny	
Victoria	1860	Penny	
Victoria	1839	Silver 3d Piece	
?	1873	Halfpenny	
Georgian	?	Penny	Very corroded
Georgian	?	Penny	Very corroded
Georgian	?	Penny	Very corroded
Georgian	?	Penny	Very corroded
Georgian	?	Penny	Very corroded
George II	1720-1760	Halfpenny	
William / Mary	1694	Copper Farthing	
Charles I	1635	Silver Half Groat	Obr. Illegible. Rev. IVSTITIAT. . . . Tower Mint.
Elizabeth I	1582	Rose Silver 3d	

Fig. 21 Elstree 1981-83: Summary of coin finds.

THE COINS

by G. SALVESON

A small range of coins were found on both sites covering the Post-Medieval period which were identified by S. Castle and conserved by the British Museum. Excluding coinage of the present Reign of which a few 1/2 and 1p pieces were found in the topsoil the list is as below.

EXAMINATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL MATERIAL

by PAUL WILTHEW

(Ancient Monuments Laboratory)

The material examined included slag, hearth

lining, corroded iron objects, mortar, fired clay and natural concretions and deposits. Only a small proportion of the material was of any direct technological significance.

Two samples of iron smithing slag (123), (419) were found. Several small samples of iron slag (4), (20), (24), (25), (101) and (325) were also found, but it was not possible to say with certainty if they were produced during iron smelting or iron smithing, although it is highly probable that they were all iron smithing slag. Samples of fuel ash slag (20) which result from a high temperature reaction between silica rich material such as clay or sand and ash, and hearth lining (7) were also present. They may have been associated with iron working, but

Group	Ox	Ox-size	Ovicap.	Ovicap.-size	Pig	Horse	Unident.	Total
1	4	5	3	—	1	—	15	22
2	15	13	7	4	1	3	60	103
3	8	10	3	1	3	—	16	41
4	6	12	4	1	—	1	26	50
5	5	12	4	—	2	—	17	40
6	6	11	1	1	—	1	21	41
7	2	2	—	1	—	—	2	7
8	4	3	2	—	3	1	12	25
9	—	7	1	—	1	—	—	9
10	8	10	1	—	—	—	—	19
11	3	14	—	—	—	—	—	17
12	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
13	1	4	1	—	2	1	25	34
14	10	17	5	—	5	2	51	89
15	6	5	1	—	1	—	31	44
16	5	—	—	—	—	—	42	47
17	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	6
18	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	85	126	35	8	19	10	321	604

- Group 1 = Context Nos 4,308
 Group 2 = Context Nos 8, 13, 311, 321
 Group 3 = Context Nos 12, 20, 33, 61
 Group 4 = Context Nos 310, 313, 315, 319
 Group 5 = Context Nos 66, 328, 329
 Group 6 = Context Nos 340, 345, 347, 352, 367, 371, 375
 Group 7 = Context Nos 325, 326, 327
 Group 8 = Context Nos 26, 29, 32, 41, 44, 60, 65
 Group 9 = Context Nos 330, 331, 332, 333
 Group 10 = Context Nos 336, 337, 338
 Group 11 = Context Nos 27
 Group 12 = Context Nos 25, 62
 Group 13 = Context Nos 63, 64
 Group 14 = Context Nos 322
 Group 15 = Context Nos 72, 79
 Group 16 = Context Nos 17, 14, 25
 Group 17 = Context Nos 18
 Group 18 = Context Nos 16

Fig. 22 Elstree 1981-83: Animal Bone Summary.

could have been produced in any sufficiently hot fire. The amount of iron slag found suggests that blacksmithing took place on or near the site, but probably only on a small scale.

None of the four stone objects were made from a stone which was likely to have been found in the area of the site, (113) was a quernstone made from Niedermendig basalt, a vesicular stone imported for use as quernstones. (20) and (26) were probably hones, made from a micaceous sandstone and (225) might have been a hammerstone.

The remaining material was of no technological significance and consisted of natural ferruginous concretions (L61), (42) and (43), iron nails and fired clay (8), a calcite (CaCO_3), hard water deposit (65) and two very similar samples of lime mortar with quartz filler, (30.3) (30.4).

THE ANIMAL BONES

by ALISON LOCKER

A total of 604 animal bones were recovered by hand during excavation. The following species were identified: ox (*Bos* sp.). Ovicaprid (*Ovis* sp./*Capra* sp.). pig (*Sus* sp.) and horse (*Equus* sp.). The table represents the number of bones found in each group.

Most of the bone was post-medieval in date, including groups 3, 4 and 5, which form part of an 18th century farm complex. The exception is context 25 in group 16 which contained 13th century pottery.

On the whole the bone was in poor condition, both eroded and friable; this is probably due to the nature of the deposits which are mainly layers containing pebbles and fragments of building material.

Ox, (including ox-sized fragments) was the most frequently occurring species: many of these bones were butchered as were the bones of ovicaprid and pig. All the measurable pig bones were within the large domestic size range. These bones all came from the farm complex. Horse bones were confined to loose teeth and first and third phalanges. The small size of the sample and its poor condition restrict any interpretation; all that can be stated is that the bone represents domestic food debris, all butchered, except horse which is probably an incidental inclusion. Details of individual identifications are lodged with the author.

THE CHARCOAL

by JOY EDE

Charcoals were identified from four contexts.

Context No. 151 (C13th pit F28).

Quercus sp. Oak.
Fagus sp. Beech.
Salix sp. Willow.

Context No. 221 (C13th Shallow Pit F24).

Pomoideae Hawthorn type
Fagus sp. Beech
Salix sp. Willow

Context Nos 228 / 9 (C13th Shallow Pit F24).

Fagus sp. Beech
Salix sp. Willow
Quercus sp. Oak

Context No. 105 (C13th pit F28).

Quercus sp. Oak
Fagus sp. Beech
Salix sp. Willow
Betula sp. Birch

All these species were probably obtained locally.

THE SHELLFISH

by ALISON LOCKER

Fragments of oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) were found in the following contexts:

Context No. 8, 2 fragments.
Context No. 12, 1 fragment.
Context No. 327, 5 fragments.
Context No. 14, 1 valve.
Context No. 41, 1 valve.
Context No. 68, 2 valves.
Context No. 32, 2 fragments.
Context No. 355, 4 fragments.

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