

EXCAVATIONS AT 120–124 KING STREET, HAMMERSMITH

Ron Humphrey

With contributions by Frances Raymond and Nigel Jeffries

SUMMARY

An excavation in advance of development at 120–124 King Street, Hammersmith revealed two large, parallel ditches, which ran 5m apart for over 25m across the site and continued beyond its limits. The ditches were thought to be contemporary and pottery finds suggested that their origin was Late Bronze Age. These were longstanding landscape features as the middle and upper fills of the ditches contained Middle to Late Iron Age pottery. The ditches either served a defensive function or perhaps marked a major, potentially longstanding, landscape division. Associated settlement was suggested by the presence of three shallow Late Bronze Age pits and three postholes, which are imprecisely dated but probably also of this date. In addition, moderately large quantities of pottery and other finds of a domestic nature were recovered from the ditch fills.

Post-medieval features included a property boundary ditch that ran along the length of the site from the street frontage, building remains and numerous pits, reflecting intensive backyard activity from the 17th to the 20th century, associated with buildings either fronting or set back from King Street.

INTRODUCTION

The excavation at 120–124 King Street, Hammersmith, London W6, was conducted by AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of BDL Hotels Ltd over three weeks in March and April 2000. The area of evaluation was defined as the areas where significant ground disturbance would take place as a result of the redevelopment, which resulted in the excavation of an irregular shaped area measuring approximately 665m².

The site was located on the north side of King Street (Fig 1). The area of excavation was set back from the street frontage, which was occupied by basemented buildings dating from the turn of the 20th century.

The plot of land immediately west of the development area at Albion Mews was subject to archaeological evaluation and watching brief by the Museum of London Archaeology Service in November 1996, January 1997, and March 1997 (5–15 Galena Road, Partridge 1998). A large ditch was revealed, which was thought to represent a linear boundary and was dated by pottery to the Middle to Late Iron Age. It ran east–west across the site, parallel to King Street, on an orientation that suggested that it would traverse the northern part of the proposed development area, should it continue. No evidence for the nature of settlement related to the boundary was revealed.

The development area lies on or close to the projected line of the Roman road that ran from London to Silchester, via settlements at Brentford and Staines. King Street shows a noticeable curve to the south at this point and it is possible that the Roman road may have kept to a straighter course to the north of King Street. No traces of the Roman road were discovered during the archaeological work at 5–15 Galena Road.

EXCAVATION RESULTS

Late prehistoric (c.1000 BC to AD 43)

The majority of the pottery collected from features of this phase is of Late Bronze Age date

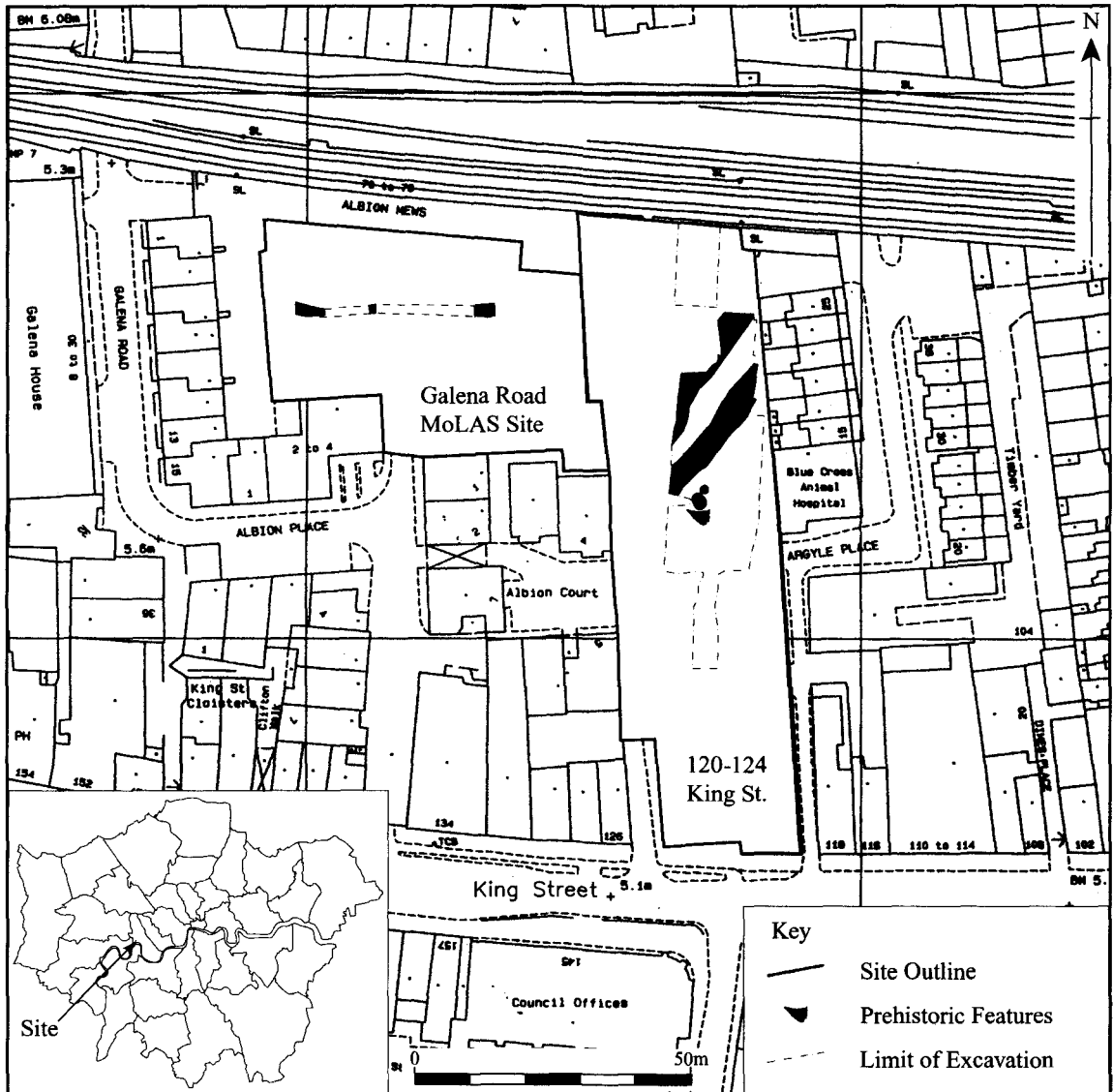


Fig 1. Site location

and may have been produced over a broad period of time between 1000 and 600/550 BC. The remainder can be assigned to the Middle and Late Iron Age (c.350 BC to AD 43). Two ditches, three pits, and three postholes have been dated to this period (Fig 2).

The two large ditches [1050/1063] and [1038/1043] ran parallel, 5m apart, for over 25m north-east to south-west across the site and beyond its limits. Both ditches were c.5m wide and 1.4m deep, with 45° sloping sides and wide, flat bases. Section 1 revealed a pronounced,

deeper groove on the south-east side of the base of the north ditch (Fig 2). The ditches were filled with a succession of naturally accumulated silts containing a moderate quantity of pottery, fired clay fragments (loom weight fragments, daub, hearth lining), fire cracked flint, and occasional very small and fragmentary pieces of animal bone and metalworking slag. It seems probable that the ditches were contemporary and that they had an origin in the Late Bronze Age as the lowest dated fills contained Late Bronze Age pottery in relatively unabraded condition. These

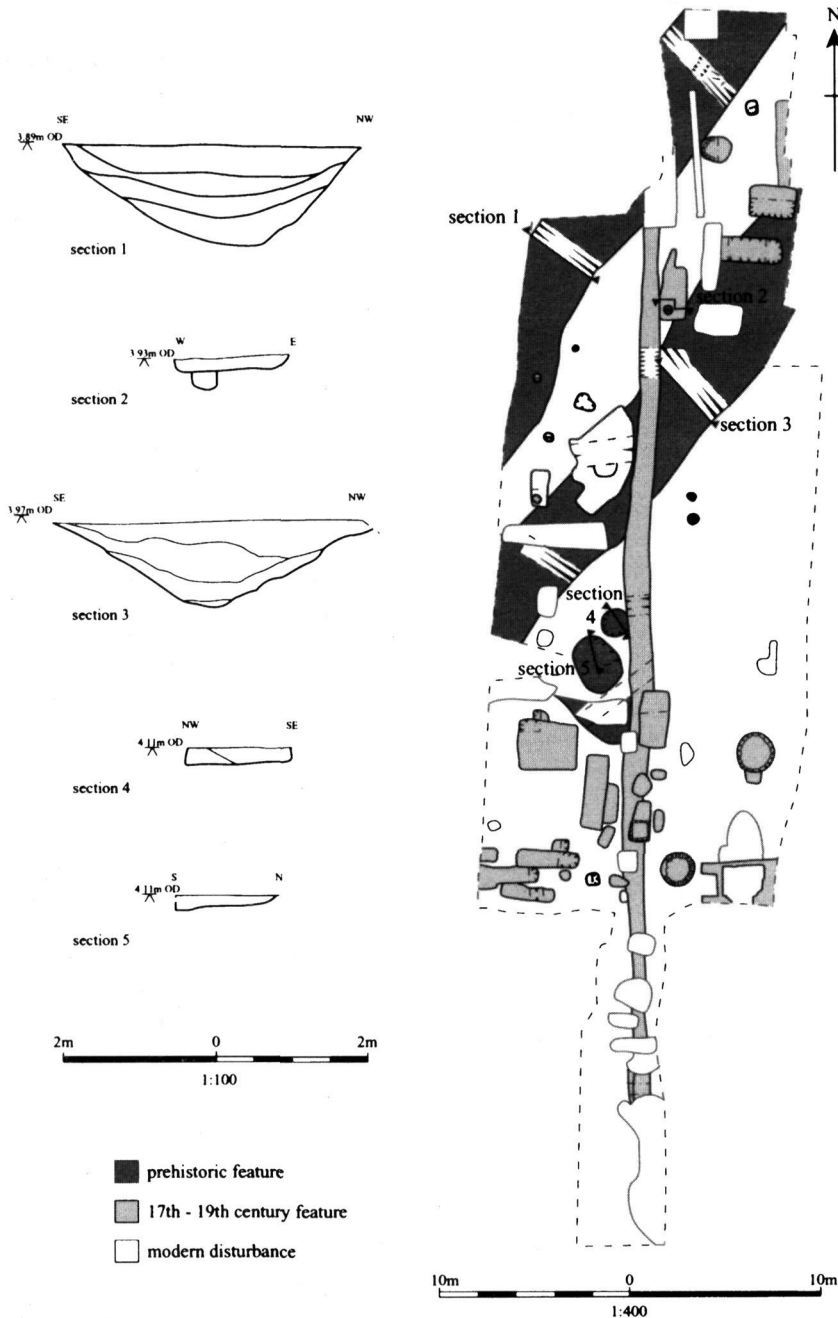


Fig 2. Plan and sections

assemblages may, however, be too small to provide reliable dating evidence, particularly as the middle and upper fills of both ditches also contained Middle and Late Iron Age pottery, and even a few sherds of Roman pottery (see late prehistoric pottery report). No recutting of

the ditches was apparent in any of the excavated sections and it is likely that they remained as stable, partly silted, visible landscape features throughout these periods, during which time pottery and other finds, as well as residual material, was incorporated into the silts that

gradually filled them. Given the size of the ditches and their relative position to each other, they may be interpreted as having originally served a defensive function. Another possibility is that they marked a major, potentially long-standing, landscape division or droveway.

Three small, shallow pits [1013, 1015, 1105] were clustered together on the south-east side of the southern ditch. All had naturally accumulated silt fills, which contained a moderate quantity of Late Bronze Age pottery, fired clay (as above) and fire cracked flint, and very occasional, small fragments of animal bone. The pits contained sufficient quantities of pottery to date them to the late 9th or 8th century BC (see late prehistoric pottery report).

Three postholes [1021, 1065, 1067] were also recorded; one was located between the ditches, the other two were located 1m apart on the south-east side of the southern ditch. The fill of posthole [1021] contained two sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery, the other fills contained no finds but were of a similar nature to the dated prehistoric fills observed on site. It was not possible to reconstruct buildings or structures from the postholes but they serve to demonstrate that there was structural activity on site.

The presence of pits and postholes in association with the large ditches, together with the moderately large quantity of pottery and other finds of a domestic nature such as daub and loomweight fragments, suggests that the site was the location of a Late Bronze Age settlement, that demonstrates continuity into the Middle to Late Iron Age. At present, it is unclear whether the large ditches enclosed the settlement or whether they marked a landscape boundary or droveway.

Roman

No features were securely dated to this period. However, a few Roman pottery sherds were recovered from the upper fills of the large prehistoric ditches on the site. The sherds were all heavily abraded; the diagnostic sherds suggest a 1st-century date. Roman ceramic building material was recovered from a small number of post-medieval features, but it is unclear how far this had travelled prior to deposition.

Medieval

No features of medieval date were recorded on site, but a few sherds of medieval pottery were collected from post-medieval features. Some of the ceramic building material recovered from these features may be attributed to the late medieval or early post-medieval period.

Post-medieval

The earliest post-medieval feature appeared to be a property boundary ditch [1011] that ran north-south along the length of the site (Fig 2). This contained 16th- to 18th-century pottery, glass, clay pipe fragments, and animal bone, as well as some residual late medieval or earlier post-medieval pottery (15th- to 16th-century). A clay pipe bowl from the ditch was dated to 1680-1710.

Building remains recorded on the site included three brick-lined wells, a small brick cellar and a brick soakaway, all of 17th- to 18th-century date. Several 19th-century brick building foundations were also revealed.

The site contained numerous 18th- and 19th-century pits (Fig 2). Some of these were obviously rubbish pits, which contained good finds assemblages, but others may have been secondarily backfilled with debris after fulfilling another function. Three small postholes with post-medieval fills were also recorded.

FINDS

Late prehistoric pottery

Frances Raymond

Introduction

A small assemblage of late prehistoric pottery, comprising 471 sherds weighing 4.229kg, was recovered from the site. The majority of sherds are of Late Bronze Age date and could have been produced over a broad period of time between 1000 and 600/550 BC. Although much of this pottery is residual, the character and quantity of the material suggest that it is derived from nearby settlement. The assemblage also includes a small group of Middle to Late Iron

Age sherds, dating between approximately 350 BC and AD 43.

Methodology

The analysis of the pottery was carried out according to the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). Detailed records of fabric, form, decoration, surface treatment, colour, sherd size, condition, and food residues are available in the archive. For the purposes of this report, the fabrics have been amalgamated into general ware groups and, where possible, the Late Bronze Age forms have been keyed into the type series devised for Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1991). The featured sherds are mostly small, providing only limited information about vessel profiles. Furthermore, many are residual and in the absence of key groups or unusual forms have not been illustrated. All percentages quoted in the text are based on sherd number.

The Late Bronze Age pottery

General character and contextual associations

At least 72% (340 sherds, weighing 2931g, derived from a minimum of 34 vessels) of the prehistoric sherds date to the Late Bronze Age. Much of this pottery was found alongside Middle to Late Iron Age and early Roman ceramics in the upper fills of two ditches [1038/1043] and [1050/1063], where it was clearly residual. However, exclusively Late Bronze Age assemblages were recovered from the lower contexts within these same ditches and from three pits [1013, 1015, and 1105] and a posthole [1021]. Most of these groups are too small to be utilised as reliable dating evidence, particularly as up to 96% of the pottery in Middle Iron Age contexts is of Late Bronze Age date, suggesting that there is a high potential for the redeposition of earlier material on this site.

The only possible exceptions are two of the pits [1013] and [1015], which produced slightly larger numbers of sherds (between 28 and 32 fragments) and may be Late Bronze Age features. In each case, the assemblage is dominated by body fragments in variable condition, typical of material derived from household midden deposits. Part of a cabled or 'pie crust' rim and a fingertip decorated shoulder were found in pit [1013],

while pit [1015] contained a carinated shoulder and a plain rim, revealing little about the vessel from which it was derived. The majority of sherds are made from the flint or flint and sand filled fabrics of Ware Groups 1 to 3 and in both assemblages the sandier wares of Group 3 predominate (86% of sherds in pit [1013]; and 59% of sherds in pit [1015]).

The precise phasing of this pottery to the earlier 'plain ware' or the later 'decorated' horizon of the Late Bronze Age is problematical. The forms represented are present in assemblages assigned to both stages in the Thames Valley, although fingertip impressed shoulders are largely a feature of the 'decorated' groups of ceramics, which seem to have emerged towards the end of the 9th or during the 8th century BC. The relatively high proportions of the sandier Group 3 fabrics in both pits may also point to this period. On sites in the Colne Valley area to the west, fabric contrasts have been tentatively attributed to a chronological trend: examples include Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980; 1991), Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1986), and Jewsons Yard, Uxbridge (Barclay 1995), where there seems to have been a shift away from the earlier coarse flint gritted wares, towards the increased production of sandier fabrics during the latter part of the Bronze Age.

The residual wares: forms and decoration

The number of featured sherds is relatively low and most are too fragmentary to provide evidence of vessel form. Enough survives, however, to confirm activity between approximately 800 and 600/550 BC, when 'decorated' assemblages were in current use. An earlier origin for some of the pottery during the preceding 'plain ware' horizon is also possible, but is difficult to demonstrate in the absence of securely stratified groups. Although some of the forms represented at King Street appear in 'plain ware' assemblages, they are also a feature of the 'decorated' horizon and cannot be closely dated once they are out of context.

The majority of diagnostic sherds are derived from Class I shouldered jars (as defined by Barrett 1980), which were in use throughout the Late Bronze Age. The more complete examples are from tripartite forms, including vessels similar to the Type 12 jars at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1991). Where decoration occurs it is mostly confined to the shoulder and almost

exclusively comprises a single row of fingertip impressions. The position of these motifs suggests a date in the latter part of the Bronze Age between the late 9th and 7th centuries BC (*cf* Russell 1989). Rows of fingertip impressions also occur on the rim of one vessel and on three pinched-out neck or shoulder cordons. Similar cordons, but mostly applied, are a recognised feature of Late Bronze Age assemblages, occurring at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980; 1991), Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1986), Stanwell (O'Connell 1990), Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton (Adkins & Needham 1985), and Caesar's Camp, Heathrow (Grimes & Close-Brooks 1993). Other forms of decoration represented at King Street include deep diagonal slashes on one shoulder and irregular pre-firing incised lines on a body sherd. This is an unusual motif, which has also been recorded at Stanwell, but on vessels with earlier Deverel Rimbury affinities (O'Connell 1990, 45, fig 28).

The assemblage additionally incorporates a few shoulders from carinated bowls and several sherds from vessels which were probably produced during the 7th or early 6th century BC. These were found in the upper fills of ditches [1038/1043] and [1050/1063] and include parts of two furrowed bowls and three body sherds decorated with deeply impressed geometric motifs. The more complex comprise swags in-filled with oval impressions and a zigzag motif composed of parallel lines bordered with rows of dots, which is reminiscent of a sherd from Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1986, fig 54, no. 243).

Surface treatment

The sherds exhibit a wide range of surface treatments. Most of the flint-gritted wares of Groups 1 and 2 are either smoothed or crudely wiped, sometimes with traces of prominent vertical finger smearing. The sandier wares exhibit similar characteristics, but incorporate a higher proportion of burnished sherds, including one example with a red burnished surface coating typical of later 'decorated' assemblages. In general, oxidised colours predominate, ranging from light reddish yellows, through yellow/browns and red/browns, to dark brown, but greys and black are also represented. There are, in addition, a few bases with common to abundant (20–40%) flint grits or with the impressions of organic material on the exterior.

Heavily flint-gritted bases have been noted in Late Bronze Age assemblages across southern England, with local examples recorded at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980), Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1986), Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton (Adkins & Needham 1985), and Caesar's Camp, Heathrow (Grimes & Close-Brooks 1993). Although impressions of either grass or straw on base sherds occur during the Late Bronze Age in Wessex, they are seemingly less common in the Thames Valley. An example has been recorded at Petters Sports Field, where it was interpreted as the product of chance (O'Connell 1986).

Commentary on the fabrics

The Late Bronze Age wares are described in detail below. In very general terms, the fabric range at King Street is consistent with other Thames Valley Late Bronze Age ceramic groups. The assemblage is dominated by wares tempered with calcined flint or containing a mixture of sand and flint (Table 1, Ware Groups 1–4 and 6). These seem to have been the most commonly produced fabrics in the area and are in the majority at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980; 1991), Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1986), Stanwell (O'Connell 1990), Weston Wood (Russell 1989), Jewson's Yard, Uxbridge (Barclay 1995), and Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton (Adkins & Needham 1985).

Shell-tempered fabrics are also represented at

Table 1. The relative proportions of pottery assigned to each ware group

Ware Group	Sherd No.	% No.	Sherd Wt	% Wt
Group 1	35	7.4	305	7.2
Group 2	126	26.8	1164	27.5
Group 3	165	35.0	1368	32.3
Group 4	2	0.4	8	0.2
Group 5	4	0.9	9	0.2
Group 6	2	0.4	5	0.1
Group 7	2	0.4	17	0.4
Group 8	29	6.2	323	7.6
Group 9	9	1.9	50	1.2
Group 10	44	9.4	462	10.9
Group 11	42	8.9	436	10.5
Group 12	10	2.1	77	1.8
Group 13	1	0.2	5	0.1
TOTALS	471	100.0	4229	100.0

King Street (Table 1, Ware Groups 5 and 7), but are in the minority. Similarly low proportions of shell-tempered sherds were recorded at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1991), while shelly fabrics are a more prominent feature of the 'decorated' assemblage from Snowy Fielder Waye, Isleworth (Timby 1996). Although in this particular case most of the pottery was derived from a single feature (*ibid*), so that the relative proportions of wares are not necessarily representative of more general patterns in the area.

The furrowed bowls from King Street are made from micaceous sandy wares (Ware Group 10), while the sherds decorated with complex geometric motifs occur in sandy fabrics containing flint (Ware Group 3) or shell (Ware Group 8). This pottery is likely to have been made during the 7th or 6th centuries BC and its character is entirely consistent with the suggested trend towards the production of a new fabric repertoire by the end of the Bronze Age (*cf* Longley 1980; 1991; O'Connell 1986).

The Middle to Late Iron Age pottery

General character and contextual associations

Only 12% of the prehistoric pottery (56 sherds, weighing 571g, derived from a minimum of 12 vessels) can be attributed to the Middle or Late Iron Age. With the exception of a single Late Iron Age sherd from a post-medieval boundary, all of this material was derived from the upper and central fills of two ditches [1038/1043] and [1050/1063]. The pottery from the upper fills ([1044] and [1045]) of ditch [1038/1043] is certainly residual, since it occurred alongside heavily abraded Roman ceramics dating to the second half of the 1st century AD.

Most of the Iron Age pottery is fragmentary in character and there are too few featured sherds to allow for refined phasing, although the diagnostic fragments are exclusively from Middle Iron Age vessels in current use between c.350 and 100/50 BC. Potentially Late Iron Age material is confined to a few body sherds made from Ware Group 12, also found in the upper and central fills of ditches [1038/1043] and [1050/1063]. The presence of these sherds either indicates that the assemblage is transitional between the Middle and Late Iron Age or suggests that the Middle Iron Age pottery is

residual. Unfortunately, the ceramic group is too small and fragmentary to provide the evidence necessary to resolve such uncertainties.

Forms and decoration

The only relatively complete vessel is part of a hemispherical bowl, represented by 13 well-preserved sherds weighing 208g, found in the central fill [1035] of ditch [1038/1043]. The vessel is made from a sandy fabric (Ware Group 11) and its upper part is decorated with a shallow-tooled zigzag motif, bordered at the top and bottom by a single horizontal line (Fig 3). Bowls of this type were produced throughout the Middle Iron Age. This particular vessel is either a late example or is residual, since it was found in the same context as a few sherds of Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware.

The other featured sherds include two small sandy rims from a high-shouldered jar and a storage jar (Ware Group 11), and two rims from similar vessels made from shelly fabrics (Ware Group 8). A body fragment decorated with a shallow tooled geometric motif in a micaceous sandy ware (Ware Group 10) is also present.

Commentary on the fabrics and surface treatment

75% of the Iron Age sherds are made from the Group 11 sandy wares (see Table 1). These are either smoothed or burnished and the majority are black to dark grey in colour. Much of the rest of the pottery is made from the Group 12 wares which contain either grog or clay pellets. Shell- and sand-tempered wares (Group 8) and

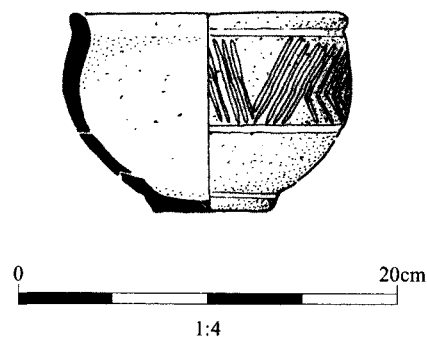


Fig 3. Middle Iron Age bowl, Context [1035]

micaceous sandy wares (Group 10) similar to fabrics current during the Late Bronze Age form a minor component of the assemblage.

The fabrics

Thirteen general ware groups have been identified (Table 1) and are described below. Groups 1–7 date exclusively to the Late Bronze Age, while Groups 11–12 were produced during the Middle to Late Iron Age. Groups 8 and 10 recur during both periods and can only be assigned to a specific phase where diagnostic sherds are present. Groups 9 and 13 are represented by body fragments derived from contexts with mixed period assemblages and cannot be dated closely.

Group 1: hard flint-tempered wares. These fabrics date to the Late Bronze Age and are tempered exclusively or predominantly with calcined flint ranging up to 4 or 6mm in size. The flint in the Group 1 wares is either very common (30%) or moderate (10–15%). All sherds with moderate quantities of flint tempering also contain sparse (3–7%) clay pellets, while most examples (75%) have similar quantities of medium sized sand. Rare particles of very fine mica are present in the sand-free fragments. Apart from a single sherd decorated with a fingertip impression, all of the Group 1 wares are body fragments.

Group 2: hard flint- and sand-filled wares. These wares are of Late Bronze Age date and are characterised by similar proportions of burnt flint and sand, or contain slightly more sand than flint. The group includes a range of fabrics with flint and sand in variable quantities from sparse (3–7%) to very common (20–25%). The flint in 77% of the sherds assigned to Group 2 is very coarse with a size range of up to 5 or 7mm, while it ranges up to 1.5 or 3mm in the remainder. Contrasts in the character of the sand may indicate the exploitation of two different clay sources. 75% of the sherds contain a slightly micaceous very fine to medium sub-angular sand, while 25% include a medium to coarse or very coarse sub-rounded sand with no mica. Rare to sparse (1–7%) iron minerals are the only other inclusion type noted in the Group 2 fabrics. All of the featured sherds are likely to have been derived from shouldered jars. In most cases the fragments are too small to provide an indication of the vessel profile, but the more complete examples are from tripartite forms including

examples comparable to the Type 12 jars at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1991).

Group 3: sandy wares with flint. The Group 3 wares date to the Late Bronze Age and in all cases sand is the predominant inclusion type. Calcined flint is also present, but in lower proportions (10 to 25% less than the sand). The sand is common to abundant (20–50%) in 94% of the sherds and moderate in the remainder, while the flint is sparse in 64% of the sherds and moderate in the other 36%. 43% of the pottery assigned to Group 3 contains very fine to medium sand, and 56% includes medium to very coarse sand. Apart from one exception, where very coarse flint of up to 11mm occurs, none of the flint exceeds 4mm and there is a greater proportion of sherds with flint of up to 1.5 or 3mm than in the Group 2 wares (56% as opposed to 23%). Other non-plastics are present in rare to sparse amounts (1–7%) in some of the fabrics, including clay pellets, iron minerals, mica, and linear voids left by organic material. The featured sherds are derived from different vessel types including shouldered jars and carinated bowls.

Group 4: soft glauconitic sandy ware with flint. This ware dates to the Late Bronze Age and contains moderate quantities (10–15%) of both fine to medium sand and glauconite, which has been altered to limonite by heating. Sparse amounts (3–7%) of crushed burnt flint up to 2mm in size are also present.

Group 5: soft shell- and flint-tempered ware. Although there are no featured sherds from the site, this fabric occurs in pit [1013]. The ware contains similar sparse amounts (3–7%) of shell (surviving as voids) and calcined flint. The shell measures up to 2mm and the flint is up to 4mm.

Group 6: vesicular wares with flint. The occurrence of a sherd from this ware group in pit [1015] suggests that it is of Late Bronze Age date. The fabrics are characterised by sparse flint (3–7%) up to 4mm in size, and abundant (40–50%) sub-rounded voids of up to 1mm, which may be the result of misfiring or refiring. Sparse (3–7%) medium sand is also present in one of the sherds.

Group 7: soft shell-tempered ware. This fabric dates to the Late Bronze Age and is tempered exclusively with common quantities (20–25%) of shell up to 2mm in size (surviving as a series of voids).

Group 8: shell- and sand-filled wares. These wares occur in both the Late Bronze Age and the Middle Iron Age and contain variable proportions of both shell (surviving as voids) and sand. The shell occurs in greater quantities than the sand in 85% of the sherds. These have moderate to common quantities (10–25%) of shell measuring up to 5mm, alongside sparse to moderate amounts (3–15%) of a medium to coarse slightly micaceous sand. The remaining 15% of the Group 8 sherds contain common (20–25%) very fine to medium sand and sparse (3–7%) shell with a size range of up to 5mm. The diagnostic sherds include a Late Bronze Age body sherd with deeply impressed swags in-filled with oval stab marks, a rim from a Middle Iron Age storage jar, and a Middle Iron Age high shouldered jar rim.

Group 9: hard sandy vesicular ware. This fabric cannot be dated closely, since none of the sherds are featured and all are from deposits containing both Late Bronze Age and Middle to Late Iron Age pottery. The ware contains moderate quantities (10–15%) of both fine to medium sand and rounded to sub-rounded voids up to 3mm in size, which may represent calcareous inclusions.

Group 10: micaceous sandy wares. These wares occur in both the Late Bronze Age and the Middle Iron Age and all are filled with a slightly micaceous, sub-angular sand. In 98% of the sherds this is either very common or abundant (30–50%) and is sparse (3–7%) in the remainder. The sand is very fine to fine in 66% of Group 10 pottery, and fine to medium in the remaining 34%. Sparse iron minerals are also present in 27% of the sherds. There are only four featured fragments represented including three Late Bronze Age examples and one of Middle Iron Age date. The Late Bronze Age sherds include the shoulders of two furrowed bowls; while the Middle Iron Age example is decorated with shallow tooled geometric motifs.

Group 11: hard sandy wares. These fabrics date to the Middle Iron Age and contain common amounts (20–25%) of sand, which is either medium to coarse, or medium to very coarse. They were used for a range of vessels including high shouldered jars, storage jars, and hemispherical bowls.

Group 12: wares filled with sand and grog or clay pellets. These fabrics date to the Middle or Late Iron

Age and contain sparse to moderate amounts (3–15%) both of fine to medium sand and grog or clay pellets with a size range of up to 3mm. The grog-tempered ware also contains rare particles of mica, flint, and quartzite.

Group 13: organic-tempered ware. This fabric is represented by a single body sherd, which cannot be dated closely, since it is derived from a deposit containing both Late Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age pottery. The ware contains moderate amounts (10–15%) of organic tempering, now visible as a series of linear voids, and sparse quantities (3–7%) of fine to coarse sand.

Post-Roman pottery

Nigel Jeffries

Introduction

The post-Roman pottery assemblage consists of 406 sherds from up to 286 vessels. Ten of these are residual medieval sherds but the majority of the pottery dates between the late 16th and the early 19th century. The pottery indicates that most of the features were filled between c.1800 and 1850.

Fabric and forms

The complete range of fabrics and forms recovered is listed in the site archive. The stonewares found consist of a variety of English wares (Black Basalt, Blue Dry-Bodied, English, Midlands Purple, Nottingham and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed) and Rhenish made fabrics (Frechen and Westerwald-type), some of which (Black Basalt, Nottingham and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed wares) were used as teawares (Fig 4, No. 1). The other stoneware fabrics were used for beverage consumption or storage (bottles, jars, mugs, and tankards) and include two near complete black leading bottles. The earthenwares consist of the white (Brown-glazed Border ware and both Green and Yellow-glazed Surrey/Hampshire Border ware) and the later, more frequent, red-fired products of the Surrey/Hampshire Border ware industry (Brown and Green-glazed Red Border ware and Red Border ware with slip trailed decoration). Border wares served a variety of mundane functions and were

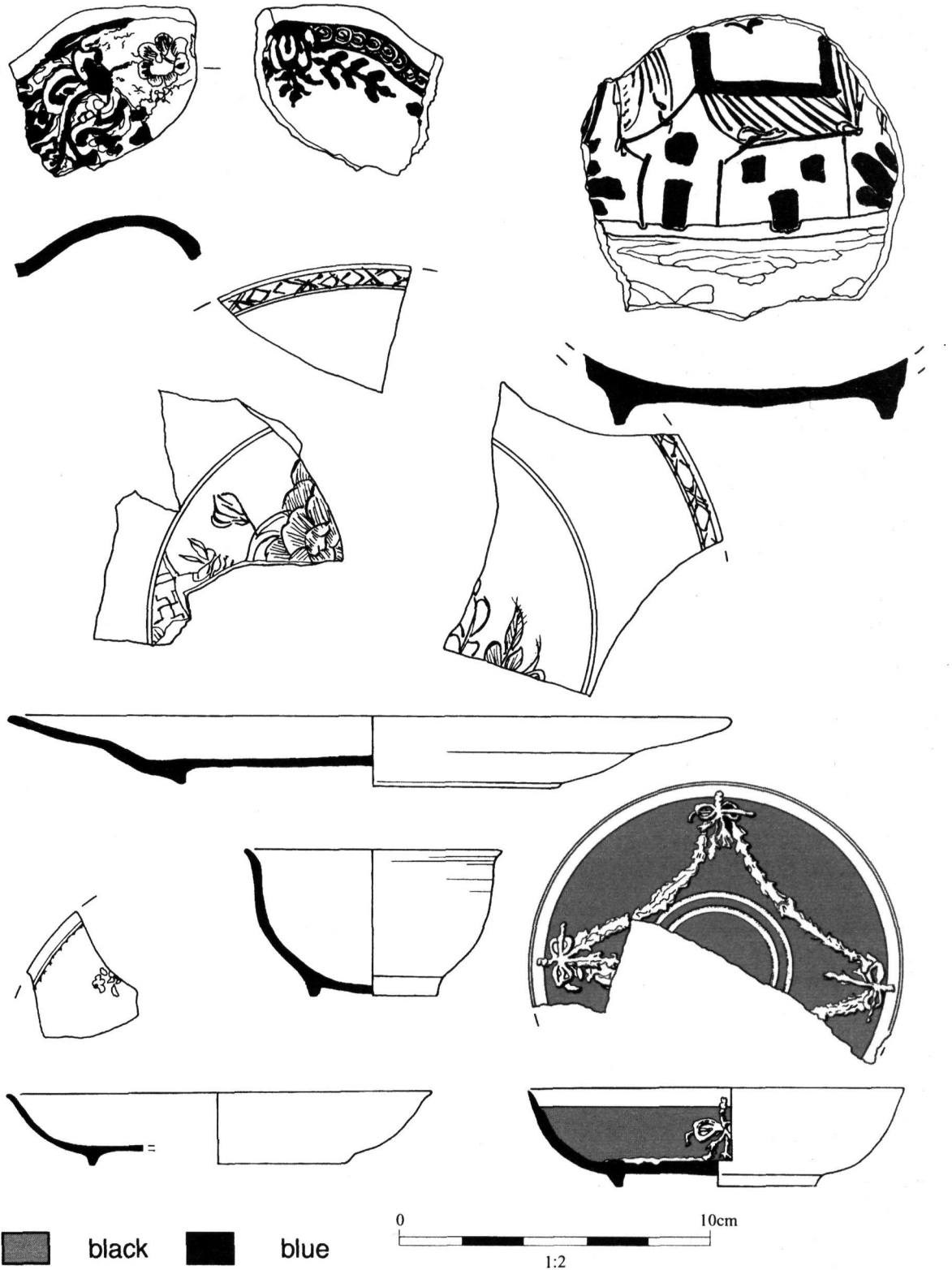


Fig 4. Post-medieval pottery

mainly found as chamber pots, with a smaller group of rounded and handled bowls and dishes serving as food distribution and kitchen vessels. The ubiquitous London area red earthenware (Post-medieval Earthenware) was also identified. In common with Border ware, this was produced in a range of forms that served a wide range of domestic functions, and was found primarily as kitchen vessels, but also in a small range of flowerpots.

The functions of the earthenwares contrast with the industrial finewares. Amongst the largest group of finewares is Creamware found in a limited range of scalloped edged plates, meat dishes, jugs, and chamber pots. Some of these vessels have the butter coloured glaze applied that is characteristic of Creamware produced around the mid 18th century. Also found was a variety of different and finely decorated Creamware (Blue-painted decorated, Banded, Marbled slip decorated, and Tortoiseshell decorated) identified in a range of rounded bowls, ointment pots, and small, cylindrical jars. The rounded bowls may have served as drinking vessels that could be used either for the consumption of tea, coffee, or punch. Large quantities of Pearlware (including transfer-printed and painted Pearlware) also characterise the assemblage, being found as plates, tea bowls, and dishes (Fig 4, No. 2). The transfer-printed designs applied are in the usual range of Chinese inspired landscapes, and include the ubiquitous Willow pattern design. The painted Pearlwares are decorated in the Chinese landscape 'tree-fence-post-fence-house' style and form a small set of teacups and saucers. The Pearlware also includes a range of plates with blue and green feather shell-edged rims. A small group of European (English Porcelain, Painted English Porcelain, and Underglaze Transfer English Porcelain) and Chinese porcelain (Chinese Porcelain and Famille Verte Chinese Porcelain) was found in a small range of teaware vessels (Fig 4, Nos 3 & 4). None of the English porcelain is seemingly derived from a matching set and seems to have been discarded in part, although these vessels were likely to be well looked after and subject to less use; subsequently they are less common in the archaeological record. Chinese blue and white porcelain is the main type of porcelain in the assemblage and includes the profiles from a small number of plates (therefore used as dining pieces) and also a matching teacup and saucer.

Discussion

Two main groups of pottery, from the single backfills of pits [1019] and [1070], provide the main focus for the wider discussion of the post-medieval assemblage. Both groups appear to have been discarded between 1807 and 1850. The first date is derived from the advent of stippling on transfer-printed wares, and the last reflects the considered date for the end of production of Pearlware. The small amount of tin-glazed ware found also attests to a later 18th- to early 19th-century date for the discarding of these groups (Fig 4, Nos 5 & 6). By this date tin-glazed ware was becoming unfashionable and was increasingly replaced by creamware and pearlware. The identification of cross-joining sherds from the same Green-glazed Red Border ware chamber pot in both pits suggests that these features were simultaneously backfilled with pottery from the same property.

The pits that contained these groups were dug in the backyards of the group of buildings identified either on, or set back from, the King Street frontage shown on John Roque's map of 1746 (Fig 5). The closely datable nature of the pottery from these pits, together with the high proportion of vessels that have complete profiles or could be reconstructed as substantially complete, and the range and quality of the pottery make them interesting groups. Utilitarian earthenwares and stonewares used for baking, cooking, and storage were discarded alongside wine and medicine bottles, ointment pots, tea and table wares, and chamber pots, indicating that these pits received rubbish from different elements of the household. The pit fills may represent a policy of deliberate backfilling as part of a wider abandonment or rebuilding of the structures in the area and suggest that the backyard and garden areas of houses were perceived as acceptable areas for the digging of pits for household rubbish.

DISCUSSION

Late Bronze Age

Archaeology of this period had not been anticipated, but is potentially, as a new discovery for the area, of the greatest significance. Archaeological discoveries over the last 25 years have identified the Lower Thames Valley as an

intensively settled landscape in the Late Bronze Age period (Merriman 2000), with traces of circular post-built houses set among extensive field systems linked by trackways (Brown & Cotton 2000). Until now, no Late Bronze Age archaeological remains have been recorded in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

The ditches recorded at the King Street site and the earthwork (long since destroyed by ploughing) resultant from the spoil created would have been a substantial landscape feature. The nature of this feature is uncertain at present as only a relatively small area of the ditches and surrounding area was excavated, but it does appear to have an origin in the Late Bronze Age, probably within the period between the late 9th and 7th centuries BC.

The size of the ditches may suggest that they formed part of a defended enclosure. Large circular enclosures (ring-forts) are characteristic of the Late Bronze Age period. Examples are known from the Greater London region, such as Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton (Adkins & Needham 1985) and a double-ditched example at Mayfield Farm, which may date to the Late Bronze Age (Lewis 2000), and more commonly from Essex, such as Springfield Lyons (Buckley & Hedges 1987). These sites have been interpreted as important foci within the Late Bronze Age and probably represent particular enclosed elements within much larger settlement activity, formerly described as extramural (Needham 1991). The size of the King Street ditches is consistent with the ditch of the ring-fort at Carshalton (Adkins & Needham 1985) but, as over 25m of the King Street ditches was exposed and no appreciable curve was detected, it seems unlikely that they formed part of a circular ring-fort enclosure. This does not necessarily mean that the ditches do not form part of an enclosure; an enclosure in the Lower Thames area, which may be contemporary and which has a quadrangular layout, was recorded at Heathrow, Greater London (Grimes 1960). A double-ditched sub-rectangular Late Bronze Age enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex (Brown 1988) may be a good parallel for the King Street site, although the ditches at Lofts Farm were smaller and closer together, just 1.2–2m apart. The enclosure was a settlement with a single central roundhouse and a rectangular structure in one corner.

It is also possible that the ditches delineated a

major trackway, droveway, or land division. A feature of this type was excavated in Holloway Lane, Hillingdon (Cotton *et al* 1986), where over 400m of a sinuous east–west aligned feature, consisting of two parallel ditches some 5m apart, was revealed. The profile of the ditches was very similar to the King Street ditches, though the Holloway Lane ditches were slightly smaller. The Holloway Lane ditches were also considered to have been accompanied by high banks that had been destroyed by ploughing. This feature was probably used for driving flocks and herds between neighbouring farmsteads, although no farmsteads were located within the area available for excavation. The pottery from the Holloway Lane ditches indicated an origin in the Late Bronze Age and use through the Iron Age and even that one of the ditches may have been visible as a grass-grown depression in the Roman period. This dating and longevity is mirrored by the King Street ditches.

It is uncertain exactly where the Late Bronze Age settlement was located in relation to the King Street ditches. Late Bronze Age pits were located to the south of the ditches, as were two of the three postholes (the other was located between the ditches). Whether the ditches were part of an enclosure or a major trackway, droveway, or land division, associated settlement would be expected and is suggested by these peripheral features and the quantity and character of the finds within the ditches. The nature of the settlement is not well elucidated by the archaeological evidence. The site would have been favourably located close to the Thames (which would have been closer than at present, due to the gradual reclamation of marshy land), in an area of broad river valley terraces and possibly an unwooded, farmed landscape. Riverfront settlements are also characteristic of the Late Bronze Age period of the Lower Thames region (Merriman 2000). These sites are sometimes located at the confluence of the Thames and a tributary, for example the Runnymede-Petters complex (Needham 1991). Outside London at Reading Business Park, eight settlement foci were found within six square kilometres at the confluence of the Kennet and the Thames. Excavation here revealed post-built roundhouses, four- and six-post structures, pits, ponds, wells, fences, and ditches (Moore & Jennings 1992). The King Street site is also located close to a tributary: the Stamford Brook/The Creek joins the Thames just to the east of the site. In 1936

this was filled in and the water channelled through a culvert (Fulham and Hammersmith Historical Society (FHHS) 1965).

A large quantity of Late Bronze Age metalwork has been recovered from the Thames, much through dredging during the 19th and early 20th century (Brown & Cotton 2000). The King Street site contributes to providing a context for this material. Further archaeological work will hopefully be able to expand the knowledge of the Late Bronze Age of the Hammersmith area. It will be particularly important to ascertain the nature of the settlement at King Street, the economy of the site, and how it may have functioned within the wider landscape as, crucially, at present there is not enough evidence to really understand the primary function of the large ditches.

Iron Age

Pottery and occupation debris within the large ditch fills suggest that the two large ditches were still extant through the Iron Age and that settlement continued into the Middle to Late Iron Age, though the focus of activity may have shifted during this time as no features dated solely to these periods were recorded on site. The ditch dated as Middle to Late Iron Age, recorded by MoLAS at 5–15 Galena Road (Partridge 1998), did not extend into the King Street site. This would suggest that it either terminated or turned sharply to the north or south before it reached the site. Although no structural features of Iron Age date were recorded on the King Street site, the presence of Middle to Late Iron Age occupation debris within the large ditches suggests that structures must have existed in close proximity. Therefore, whilst the Galena Road ditch itself may still be either a landscape division, such as a field boundary, or part of a settlement enclosure, there now exists clear evidence that a local Iron Age settlement existed. The small quantity of animal bone collected from the Middle to Late Iron Age fills of the ditch was very fragmentary and suggests little more than cow was part of the diet and economy of this settlement.

Roman

It is probable that the large ditches were still a slight landscape feature in the Roman period as

Roman sherds were incorporated into the upper fills, probably as a result of manuring and ploughing during the Roman period. It is reasonable to assume that if there had been Roman settlement in the vicinity of the site, then greater quantities of Roman finds would have been recovered.

No evidence for the Roman road or any other roadside activity other than agriculture north of King Street was recorded on the site. By the Roman period, the two large ditches were heavily silted. It is probable that any earthwork associated with the ditches would have been denuded by this time as well. It seems unlikely therefore that the ditches would have presented a significant enough landscape feature to cause a divergence of the Roman road. If the Late Iron Age settlement here had some influence in a diversion of this route to the south of its projected straight line course, then it was probably a lot more substantial than has been revealed to date.

Medieval

King Street follows the medieval road from Brentford to London. There may have been some settlement along this road but the few residual medieval sherds that were recovered suggest that the King Street site was within agricultural land during the medieval period.

Post-medieval

The hamlet of Hammersmith gradually expanded in the post-medieval period, as indicated by the building of a chapel in Hammersmith in about 1624, which residents would have attended instead of the parish church in Fulham (FHHS 1965). Throughout the whole of the 1640s and 1650s, Hammersmith and its neighbourhood were in the forefront of the Civil War and Cromwell and other important officers were quartered here for a while (FHHS 1965). When the Commonwealth was over and the King was restored, Hammersmith became a favourite area for country residences. By 1700 it was expanding fast and was a noted stopping point for travellers on roads leading west from London. King Street received its name in 1794, having previously been known as the turnpike road to Brentford (FHHS 1965). The 17th- to 19th-century remains on site reflect general backyard activity associated

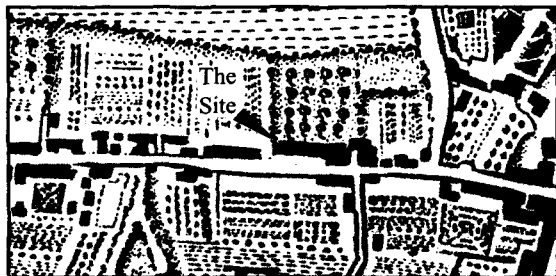


Fig 5. *Roque's map of 1745*

with buildings either fronting King Street or set back from this frontage.

The site underwent much change during the post-medieval period. During the 18th and into the 19th centuries, the area was well known for market gardening and nurseries, whose success was due to the close proximity of the area to London. The Hammersmith market gardener would have taken produce into London by cart in the morning, returning with a cartload of manure in the evening. The mid 18th-century John Roque map (Fig 5) indicates that the site street frontage was fairly heavily built-up, with more open gardens and orchards behind, and it is probable that the site was, at least in part, the location of a small market garden during this period. The early boundary ditch described above may represent one of the boundaries shown on the map, but the scale of the map and the potential for even small inaccuracies makes this impossible to prove. A very similar picture is shown on John Salter's map of Hammersmith (1830). By the 19th century the frontage of King Street consisted mainly of commercial properties: Piggot's Directory (1839) lists many different trades working along King Street, for example James Cromwell, Brewer; Thomas Miller, coach builder; Richard Thomas, comb maker; Wright and Collick, varnish makers.

It is probable that the early 19th-century rubbish pits contained everyday debris from the household and commercial properties that occupied the site at that time.

Roberts' map of the Parish of Hammersmith (1853) and a map of the London Suburbs (1860) show the site with a built up frontage and open area to the rear. The 1860 map names the Plough public house as one of the buildings fronting the site. The Hammersmith Directory of 1860 lists:

King Street	Tenant or Owner	Landuse
120	Seldon and Beeny	Furnishing, Ironmongers
122	John Hardwick	Plough & Harrow PH
124	Henry C Gibson	Smith

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1871 shows that by this time buildings had been added to the site to the rear of the street frontage and the railway line that forms the rear site boundary had been constructed. The Hammersmith Directory of 1872 lists:

King Street	Tenant or Owner	Landuse
120	Charles Doe	Confectioner
122	James Seldon	Ironmonger, Stone and Kitchen Range Manufacturer
122	Robert Blade	Plough & Harrow PH
124	Thomas William Ayres	Furniture Dealers

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1897) shows the site to be almost completely built on. The public house is still extant at this date but the site frontage was rebuilt around the turn of the century.

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